



Fact sheets

Sheets 1 to 10: South Africa and provinces

Sheets 11 to 13: Commodity groups

Sheets 14 to 15: Forestry and ocean (marine) fisheries

Version 2: published 17 April 2020

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 1 of 15



South Africa has 40 122 commercial farms. One in four of these are located in the Free State, the province that generates the second largest amount of income from commercial agriculture. Western Cape generates the most income. The country's largest outputs by volume are maize, sugarcane and potatoes.



40 122

The number of commercial farms in the country.



46,4 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing 38% of the total land area of South Africa.

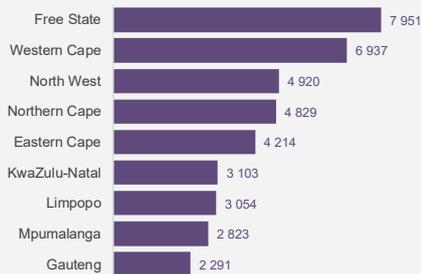


R332,8 billion

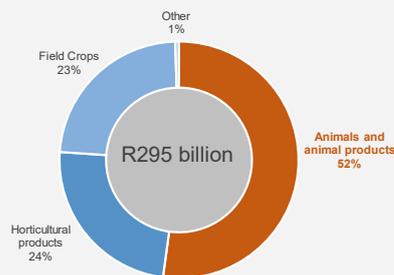
Income generated by commercial agriculture. Farming of animals is a major contributor (36%).

Did you know...

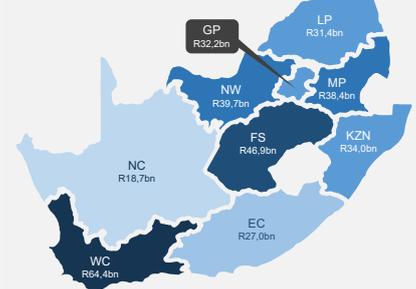
Free State has the largest number of commercial farms



Animals and animal products make up over half of total farming income



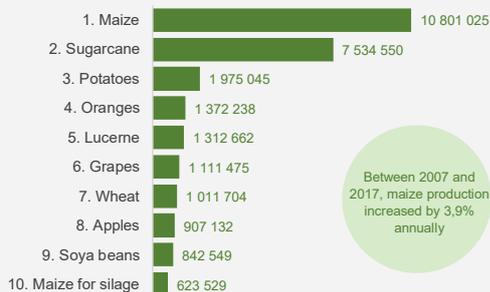
Western Cape generates the most income from commercial agriculture



What does the country produce?

Top 10 crops

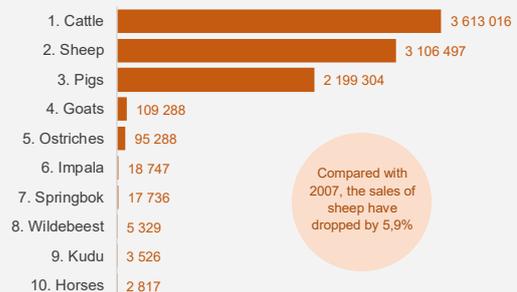
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Between 2007 and 2017, maize production increased by 3,9% annually

Top 10 animals

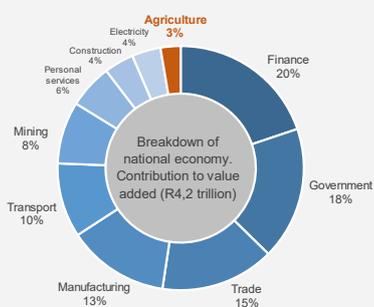
Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)



Compared with 2007, the sales of sheep have dropped by 5,9%

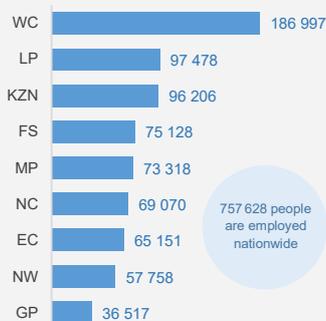
How important is agriculture to the economy?

Agriculture contributes 3% to national economic activity



Western Cape is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



77% of farming land is owned by the farmer

Percentage of 46,4 million hectares



EASTERN CAPE

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 2 of 15

Eastern Cape is goat country. Half of the nation's goat population resides in a single district. Sarah Baartman is home to over 300 000 goats. The province is the leading producer of pineapples and the second biggest producer of apples, lemons and oranges.



4 214

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents 11% of the national total.



5,7 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing 34% of the total land area of Eastern Cape.



R27,0 billion

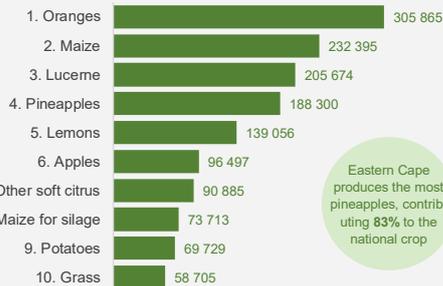
Eastern Cape is the 8th biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.



What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

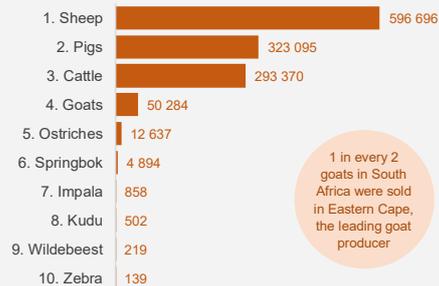
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Eastern Cape produces the most pineapples, contributing 83% to the national crop

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)

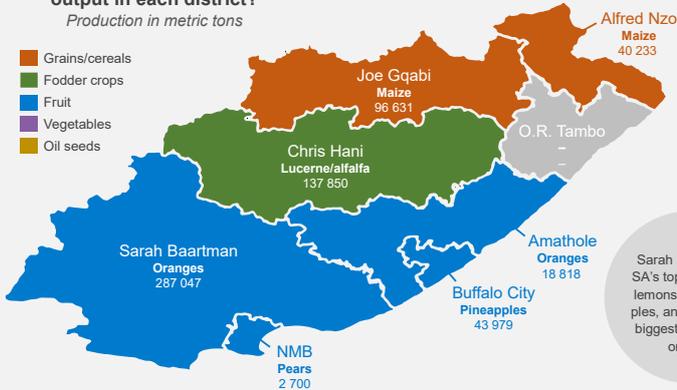


1 in every 2 goats in South Africa were sold in Eastern Cape, the leading goat producer

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

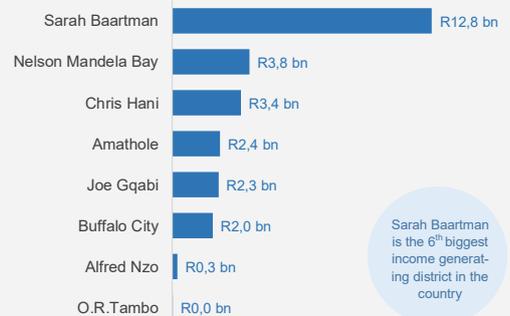
Production in metric tons



Sarah Baartman is SA's top producer of lemons and pineapples, and the second biggest producer of oranges

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

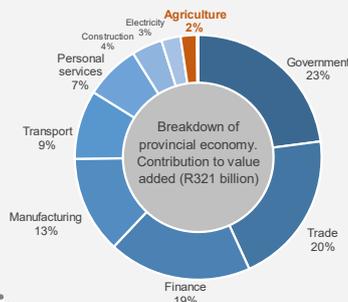


Sarah Baartman is the 6th biggest income generating district in the country

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

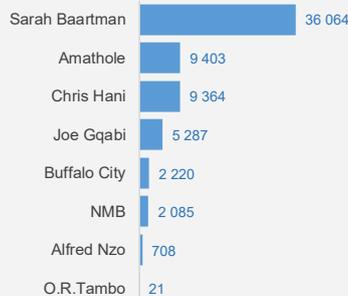
Agriculture contributes 2% to provincial economic activity

Lower than the national average of 3%



Sarah Baartman is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



81% of farming land is owned by the farmer

This is higher than the national average of 77%



FREE STATE

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 3 of 15



Free State is the top cattle producer. Thabo Mofutsanyane district has the highest population of cattle in the country (0,66 million). That's 11% of the nation's total cattle population. Free State is the leading producer of maize, which is important for food security in the country.



7 951

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents **20%** of the national total.



7,6 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing **59%** of the total land area of Free State.



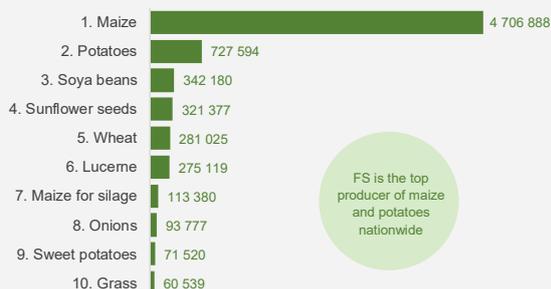
R46,9 billion

Free State is the **2nd** biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

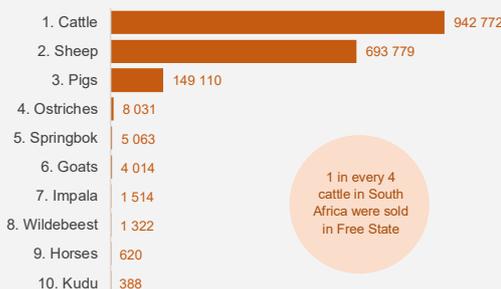
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



FS is the top producer of maize and potatoes nationwide

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)



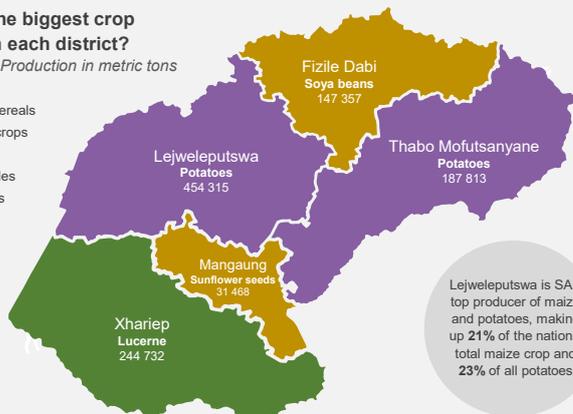
1 in every 4 cattle in South Africa were sold in Free State

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

Excluding maize. Production in metric tons

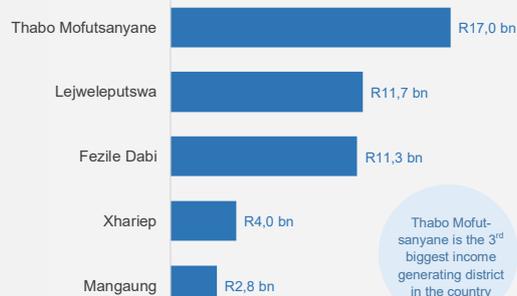
- Grains/cereals
- Fodder crops
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Oil seeds



Lejweleputswa is SA's top producer of maize and potatoes, making up 21% of the nation's total maize crop and 23% of all potatoes

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

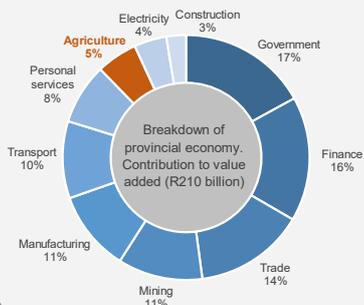


Thabo Mofutsanyane is the 3rd biggest income generating district in the country

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

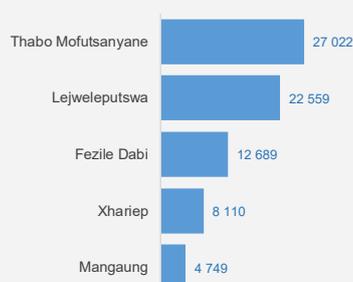
Agriculture contributes 5% to provincial economic activity

Higher than the national average of 3%



Thabo Mofutsanyane is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



71% of farming land is owned by the farmer

Lower than the national average of 77%



GAUTENG

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 4 of 15



Thank Gauteng for most of our carrots. The province is the top national producer of carrots and is ranked sixth for the production of both maize and potatoes. Gauteng is also the top seller of pigs and the second largest seller of cattle after Free State.



2 291

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents **6%** of the national total.



385 317

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing **21%** of the total land area of Gauteng.



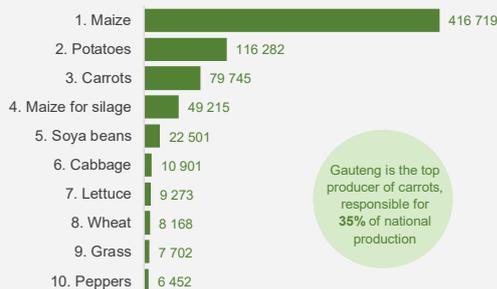
R32,2 billion

Gauteng is the **6th** biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

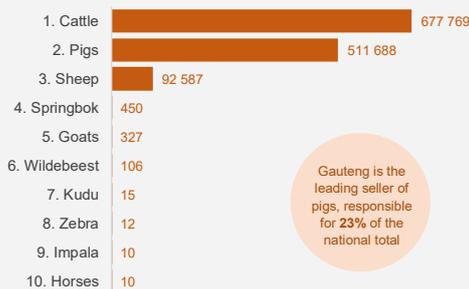
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Gauteng is the top producer of carrots, responsible for **35%** of national production

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)

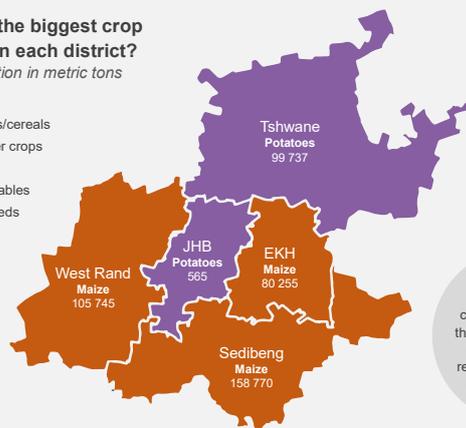


Gauteng is the leading seller of pigs, responsible for **23%** of the national total

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

Production in metric tons



West Rand's **2nd** biggest export is carrots. The district is the biggest producer of carrots nationwide, responsible for **31%** of national production

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

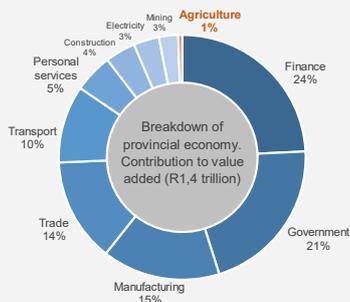


Tshwane is the **10th** biggest income generating district in the country

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

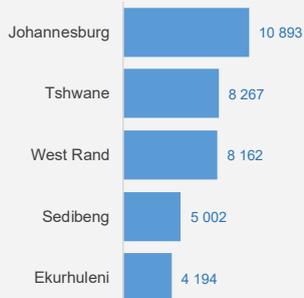
Agriculture contributes 1% to provincial economic activity

Lower than the national average of 3%



Johannesburg is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



81% of farming land is owned by the farmer

Higher than the national average of 77%



KWAZULU-NATAL

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 5 of 15



KwaZulu-Natal is the sugarcane capital, responsible for the bulk of national production. It also produces the most cabbage and is the second largest producer of pineapples. The province is the second biggest seller of pigs after Gauteng.



3 103

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents **8%** of the national total.



1,8 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing **20%** of the total land area of KwaZulu-Natal.



R34,0 billion

KwaZulu-Natal is the **5th** biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

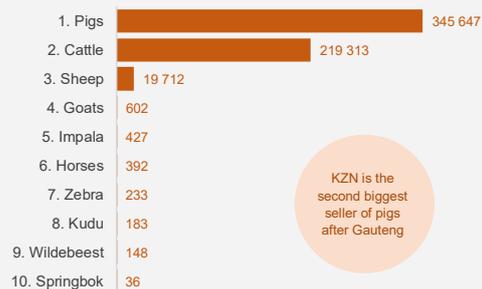
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



KZN is the top producer of sugarcane, responsible for **81%** of national production

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)

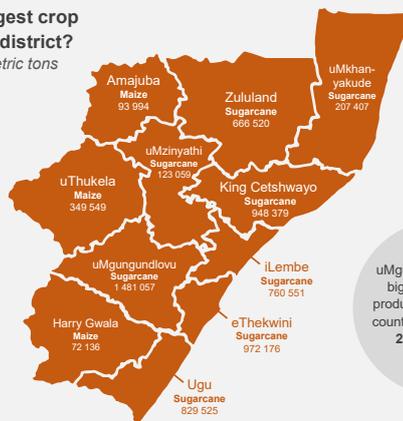


KZN is the second biggest seller of pigs after Gauteng

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

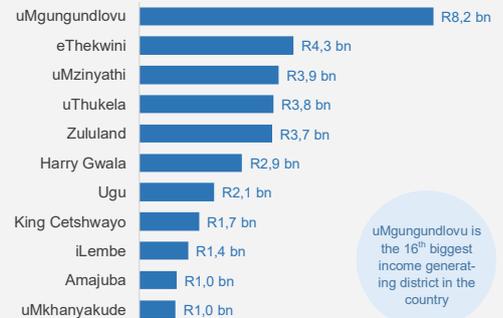
Production in metric tons



uMgungundlovu is the biggest sugarcane producing district in the country, responsible for **20%** of national production

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

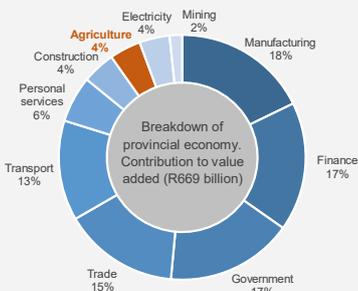


uMgungundlovu is the **16th** biggest income generating district in the country

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

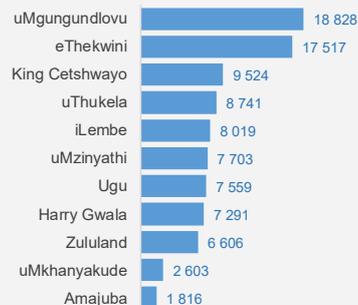
Agriculture contributes 4% to provincial economic activity

Higher than the national average of 3%



uMgungundlovu is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



78% of farming land is owned by the farmer

The same as the national average of 77%



LIMPOPO

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 6 of 15



Limpopo grows the bulk of our tomatoes. It is also a leading producer of citrus fruits (oranges, grapefruit, lemons, mangoes and naartjies). The province is also the number one producer of avocados and butternut. The region has the third biggest population of pigs after Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.



3 054

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents **8%** of the national total.



1,7 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing **14%** of the total land area of Limpopo.



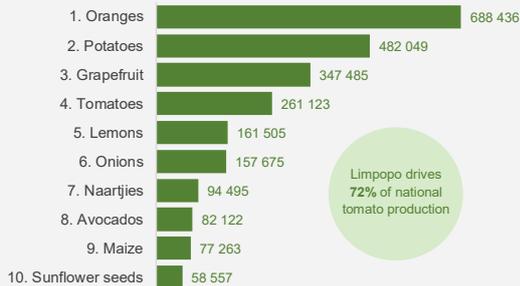
R31,4 billion

Limpopo is the **7th** biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

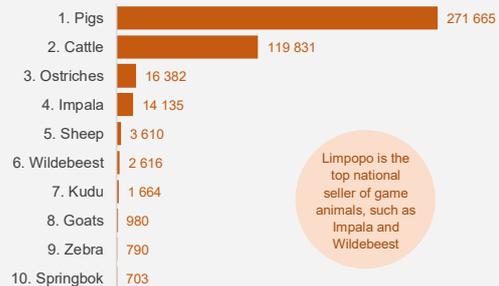
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Limpopo drives **72%** of national tomato production

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)



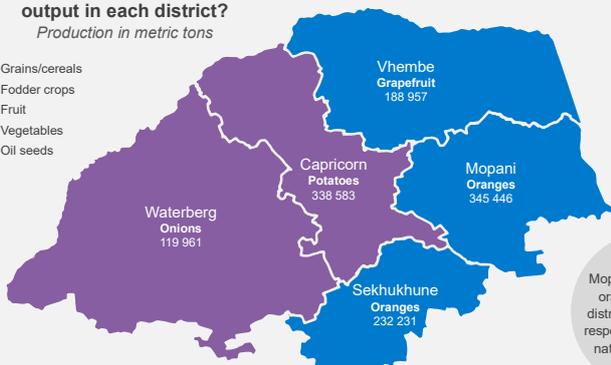
Limpopo is the top national seller of game animals, such as Impala and Wildebeest

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

Production in metric tons

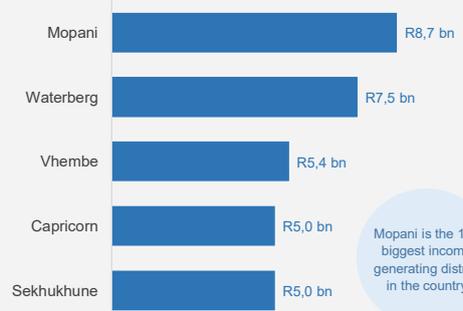
- Grains/cereals
- Fodder crops
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Oil seeds



Mopani is the largest orange producing district in the country, responsible for **25%** of national production

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

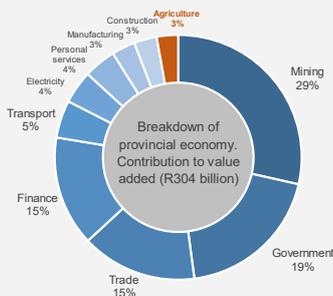


Mopani is the **14th** biggest income generating district in the country

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

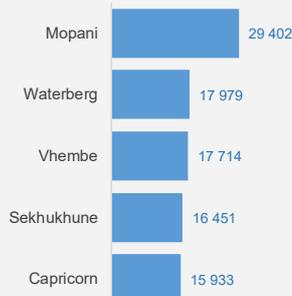
Agriculture contributes 3% to provincial economic activity

The same as the national average of 3%



Mopani is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



79% of farming land is owned by the farmer

This is higher than the national average of 77%



MPUMALANGA

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 7 of 15



Mpumalanga is banana country, producing over two-thirds of the nation's entire crop. It also produces most of our soya beans and macadamia nuts. The province is the second largest producer of both sugarcane (after KwaZulu-Natal) and maize (after Free State).



2 823

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents 7% of the national total.



2,5 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing 32% of the total land area of Mpumalanga.



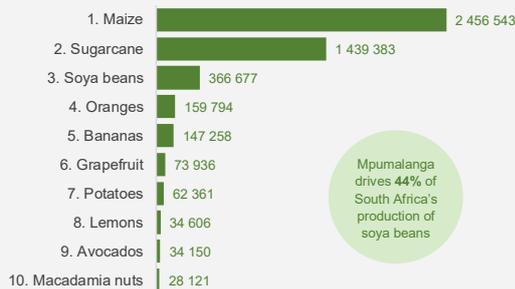
R38,4 billion

Mpumalanga is the 4th biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

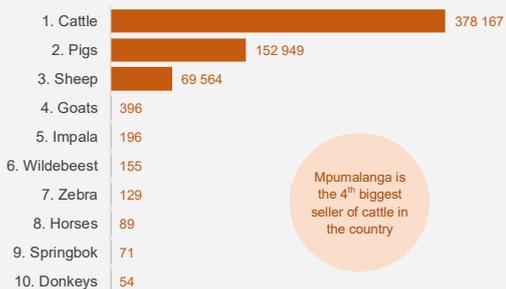
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Mpumalanga drives 44% of South Africa's production of soya beans

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)



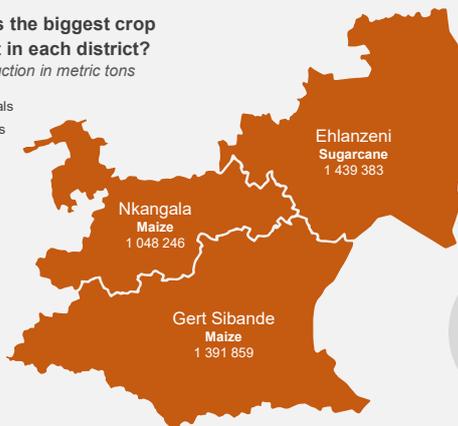
Mpumalanga is the 4th biggest seller of cattle in the country

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

Production in metric tons

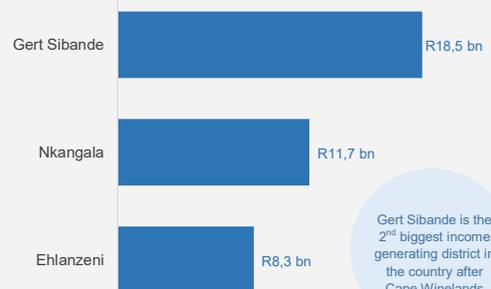
- Grains/cereals
- Fodder crops
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Oil seeds



Ehlanzeni's 2nd biggest export is bananas. The district produces 67% of the country's total banana crop

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

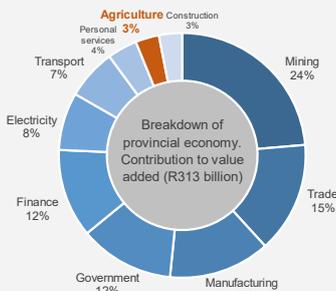


Gert Sibande is the 2nd biggest income generating district in the country after Cape Winelands

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

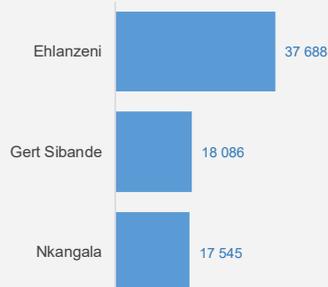
Agriculture contributes 3% to provincial economic activity

The same as the national average of 3%



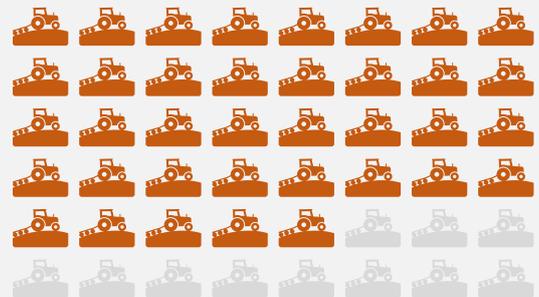
Ehlanzeni is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



78% of farming land is owned by the farmer

This is higher than the national average of 77%



NORTHERN CAPE

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 8 of 15



Sheep rule the Northern Cape. The province has the biggest sheep population. Pixley ka Seme district has the highest number (1,3 million or 16% of sheep nationwide) with sheep outnumbering people six to one! The region is also the top lucerne producer and the second biggest grape producer after Western Cape.



4 829

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents **12%** of the national total.



17,2 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing **46%** of the total land area of Northern Cape.



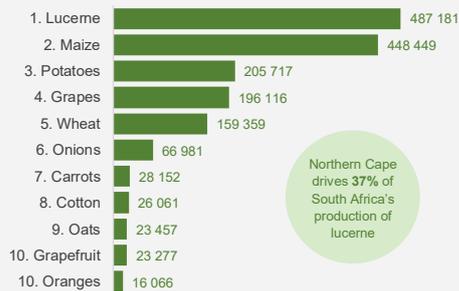
R18,7 billion

Northern Cape is the **9th** biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

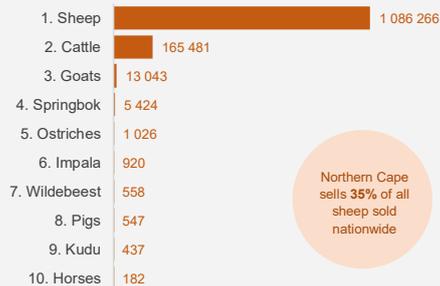
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Northern Cape drives **37%** of South Africa's production of lucerne

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)



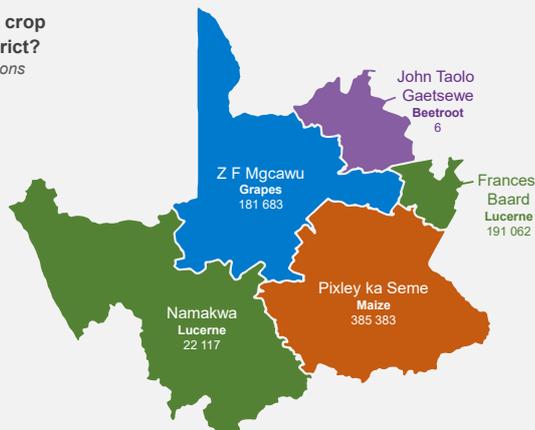
Northern Cape sells **35%** of all sheep sold nationwide

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

Production in metric tons

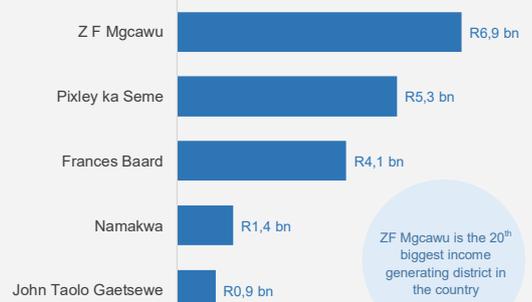
- Grains/cereals
- Fodder crops
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Oil seeds



Z F Mgcawu is the 2nd biggest grape producing district in the country after Cape Winelands

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

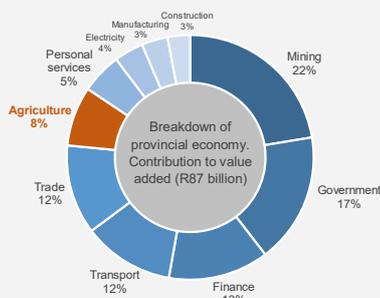


Z F Mgcawu is the 20th biggest income generating district in the country

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

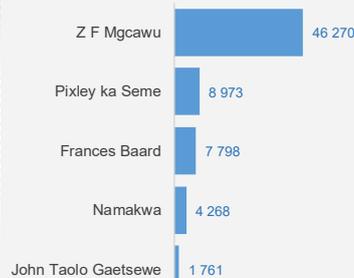
Agriculture contributes 8% to provincial economic activity

Higher than the national average of 3%



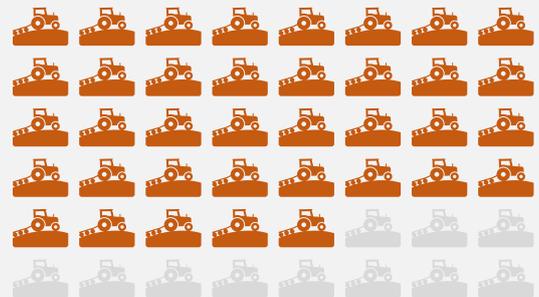
Z F Mgcawu is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



78% of farming land is owned by the farmer

This is higher than the national average of 77%



NORTH WEST

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 9 of 15

North West is the top beetroot producer, and the second biggest producer of sunflower seeds after Free State. The province is also the second biggest producer of carrots after Gauteng. Other main agriculture exports include maize, sunflower seeds, lucerne and cattle.



4 920

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents 12% of the national total.



5,3 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing 51% of the total land area of North West.



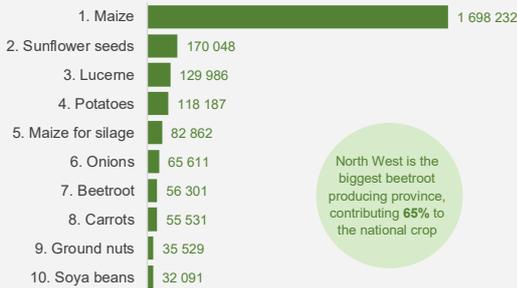
R39,7 billion

North West is the 3rd biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

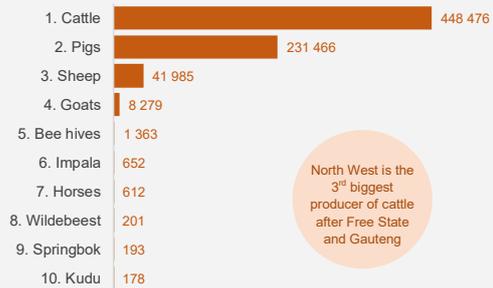
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



North West is the biggest beetroot producing province, contributing 65% to the national crop

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)

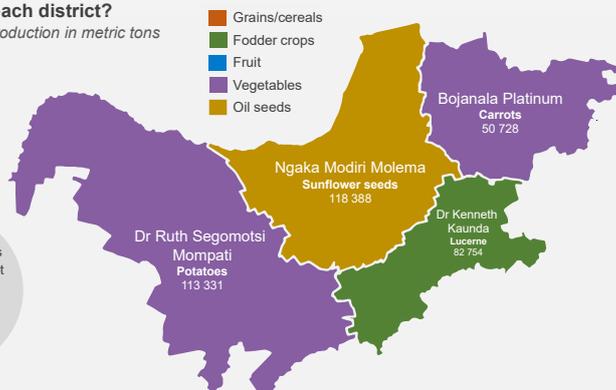


North West is the 3rd biggest producer of cattle after Free State and Gauteng

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

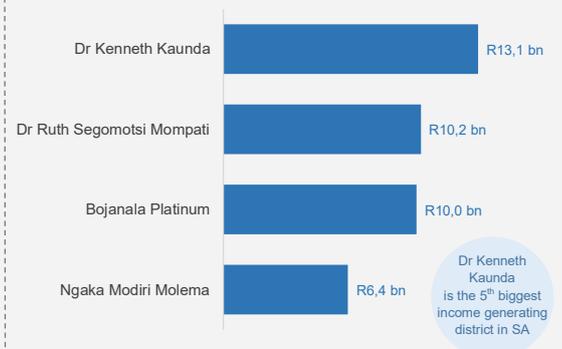
What is the biggest crop output in each district?

Excluding maize. Production in metric tons



Bojanala Platinum is the 2nd biggest carrot producing district in the country after West Rand in Gauteng

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

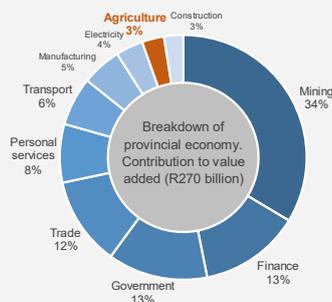


Dr Kenneth Kaunda is the 5th biggest income generating district in SA

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

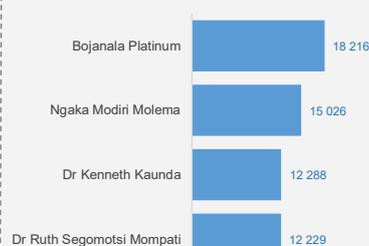
Agriculture contributes 3% to provincial economic activity

The same as the national average of 3%



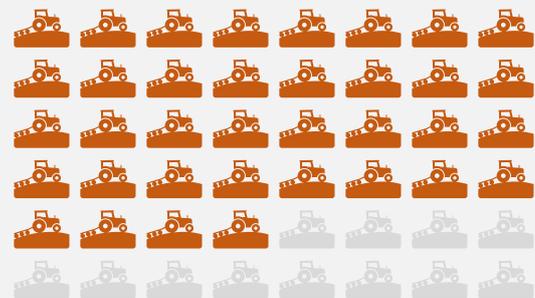
Bojanala is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



75% of farming land is owned by the farmer

This is lower than the national average of 77%



WESTERN CAPE

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 10 of 15

Western Cape's main business is grapes. It is also the leading producer of other deciduous fruits, such as apples, peaches, pears and plums. Many of these products are exported to other countries. The province is also the number one producer of wheat, barley and onions.



6 937

The number of commercial farms in the province. This represents 17% of the national total.



4,1 million

Hectares of land used by commercial agriculture, representing 32% of the total land area of Western Cape.



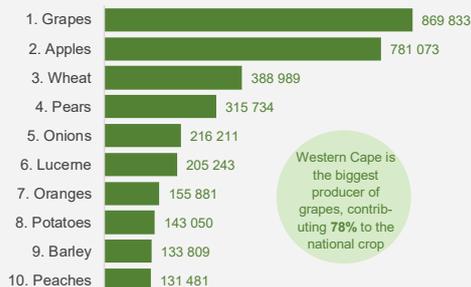
R64,4 billion

Western Cape is the biggest income generating province in terms of commercial agriculture.

What does the province produce?

Top 10 crops

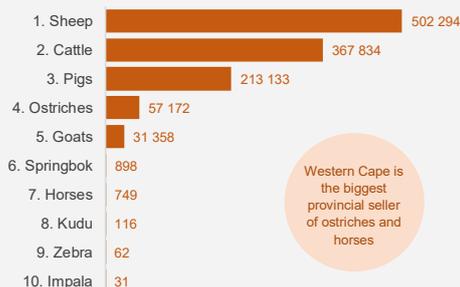
Total produced in 2017 (metric tons)



Western Cape is the biggest producer of grapes, contributing 78% to the national crop.

Top 10 animals

Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)

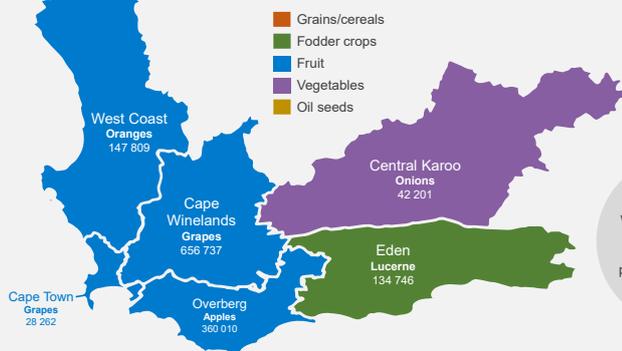


Western Cape is the biggest provincial seller of ostriches and horses.

Where is commercial agricultural activity concentrated?

What is the biggest crop output in each district?

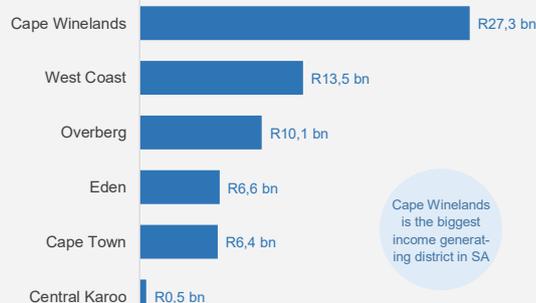
Production in metric tons



Overberg is the leading producer of wheat, apples, oats, barley and canola. Cape Winelands produces 59% of the nation's grapes.

Which districts drive agricultural production in the province?

Total income generated in 2017

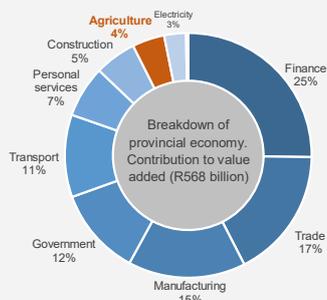


Cape Winelands is the biggest income generating district in SA.

How important is agriculture to the provincial economy?

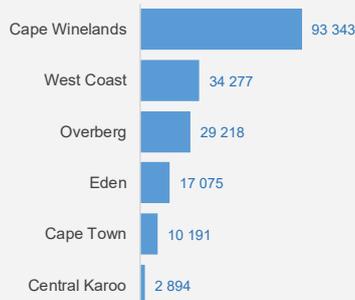
Agriculture contributes 4% to provincial economic activity

Higher than the national average of 3%



Cape Winelands is the biggest agricultural employer

Number of employees



84% of farming land is owned by the farmer

This is higher than the national average of 77%



FIELD CROPS

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 11 of 15



Field crops are important for food security, and they account for the largest portion of cultivated land in South Africa. In terms of area planted, the major field crops in both 2007 and 2017 were maize, soya beans, sunflower seeds, wheat and sugarcane.



R69,0 billion

The amount of income generated by field crops in 2017, **23%** of total farming income.



123 977

Employees working exclusively with field crops, representing **16%** of the commercial agricultural workforce.

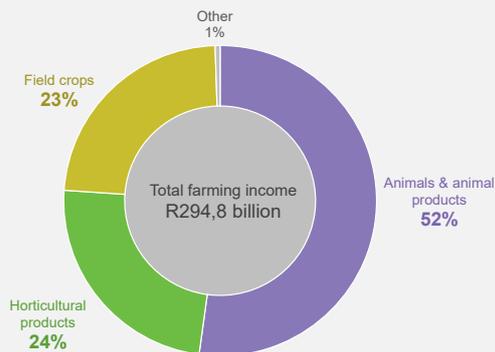


10,8 million

Maize production in metric tons. The country produced **47%** more maize in 2017 than it did in 2007.

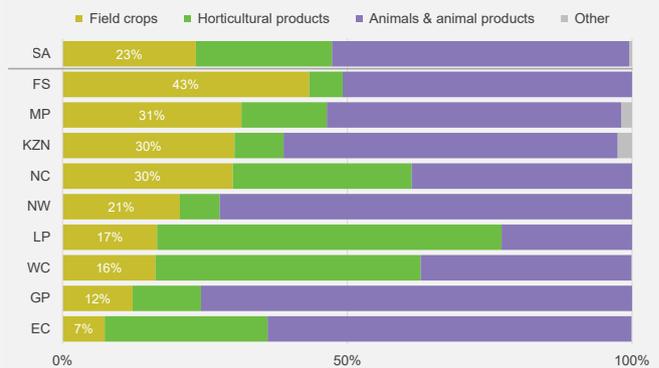
Did you know...

Field crops are the third biggest generator of farming income nationwide

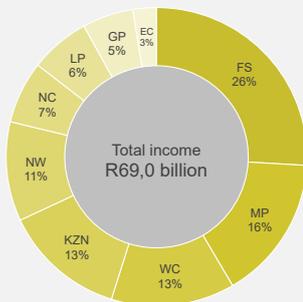


In Free State, 43% of farming income is generated from field crops

Breakdown of total farming income by commodity

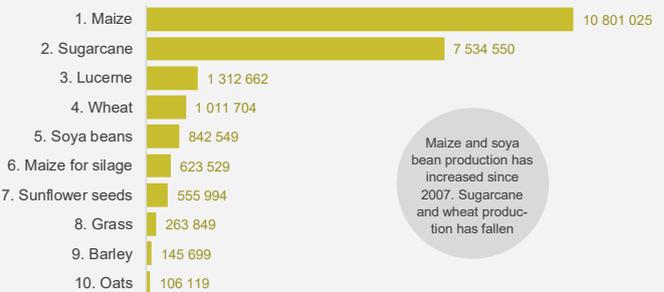


Free State generates 26% of South Africa's field crop income



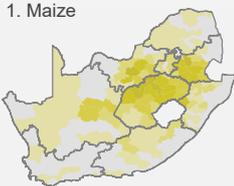
Maize is the biggest field crop

Top 10 field crop products, National production in 2017 (metric tons)

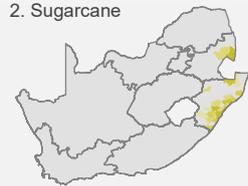


Where is field crop production concentrated?

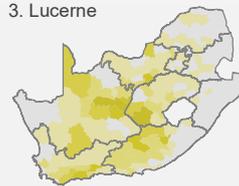
1. Maize



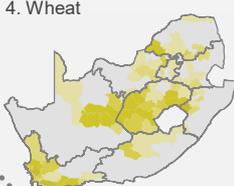
2. Sugarcane



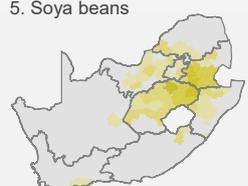
3. Lucerne



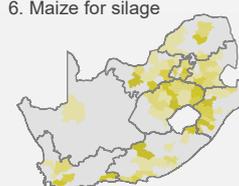
4. Wheat



5. Soya beans

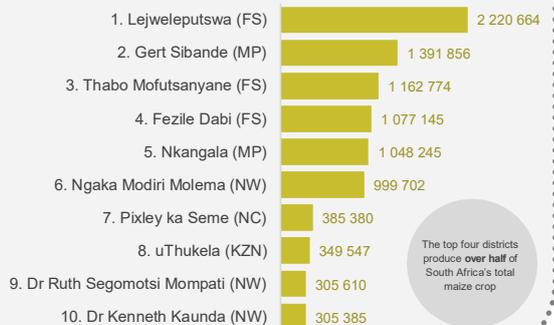


6. Maize for silage



Top 10 maize producing districts

Production in 2017 (metric tons)



HORTICULTURE

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 12 of 15



Fruits and vegetables account for almost a quarter of total farming income. In terms of production, the major horticultural crops in 2017 were potatoes, oranges, grapes and apples. Horticultural products are often produced for export. A significant amount of table grapes, pears and apples were exported in 2017.



R70,5 billion

The amount of income generated by horticulture in 2017, **24%** of total gross farming income.



268 740

Employees working exclusively with horticulture, representing **36%** of the commercial agricultural workforce.

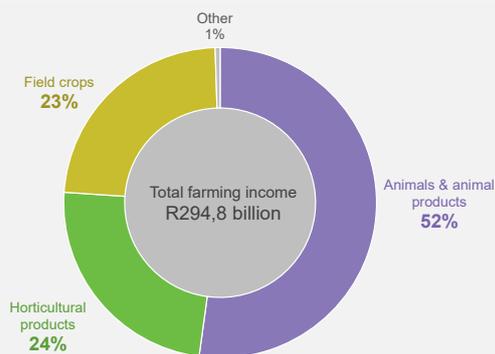


2,0 million

Potato production in metric tons. The country produced **37%** more potatoes in 2017 than it did in 2007.

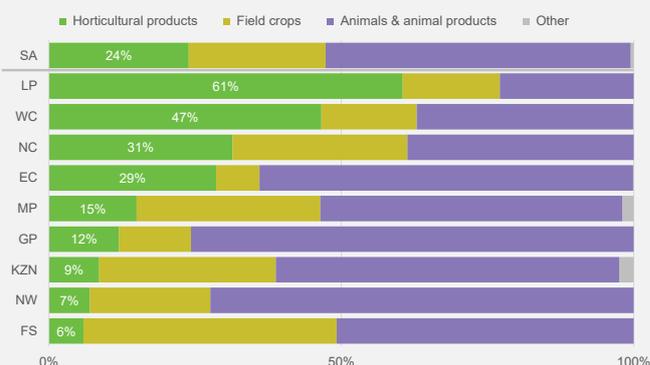
Did you know...

Horticulture is the second biggest generator of farming income

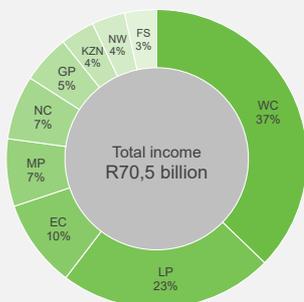


In Limpopo, 61% of farming income is generated from horticulture

Breakdown of total farming income by commodity

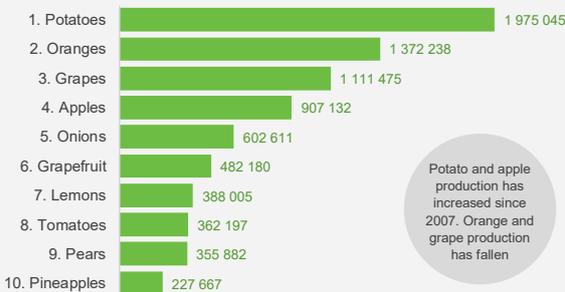


Western Cape generates 37% of South Africa's horticultural income



Potatoes are the biggest horticultural crop

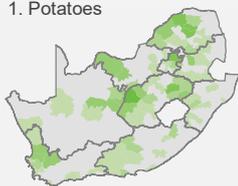
National production in 2017 (metric tons)



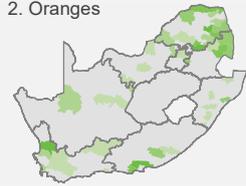
Potato and apple production has increased since 2007. Orange and grape production has fallen

Where is horticultural production concentrated?

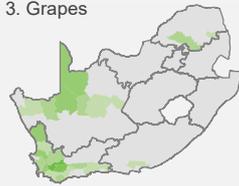
1. Potatoes



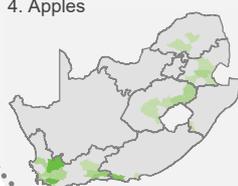
2. Oranges



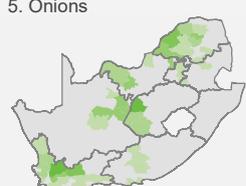
3. Grapes



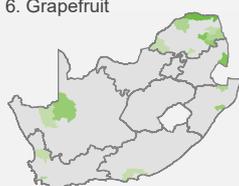
4. Apples



5. Onions

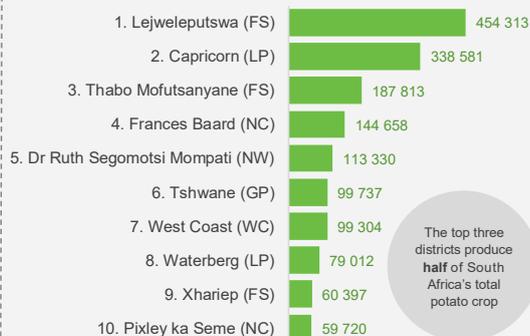


6. Grapefruit



Top 10 potato producing districts

Production in 2017 (metric tons)



The top three districts produce half of South Africa's total potato crop

ANIMALS

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 13 of 15



South African commercial farmers sold over a billion chickens in 2017. Almost a third of these were from farmers in Tshwane (Gauteng) and the Gert Sibande district (Mpumalanga). Other animals sold by commercial agriculture in South Africa include cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.



R153,8 billion

Amount of income generated by animals and animal products, 52% of total farming income.



162 116

Employees working exclusively with the farming of animals, 21% of the commercial agricultural workforce.

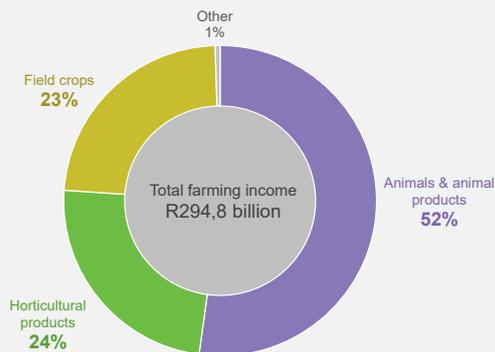


1,1 billion

The number of chickens sold by commercial agriculture in 2017, a rise of 14% compared with 2007.

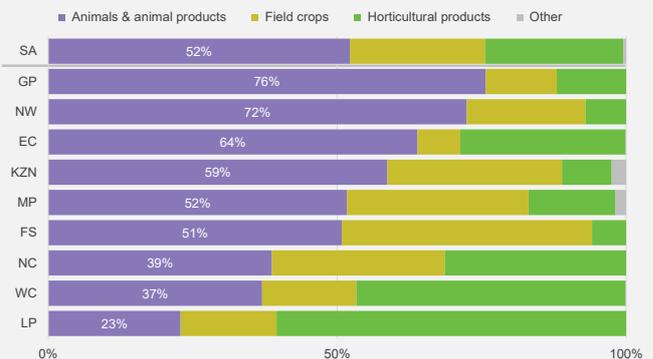
Did you know...

Animals and animal products are the biggest generator of farming income

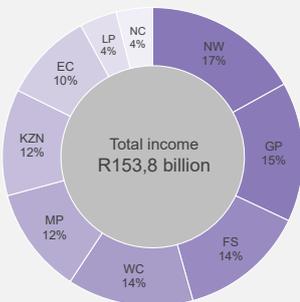


In Gauteng, 76% of farming income is generated from animals

Breakdown of total farming income by commodity

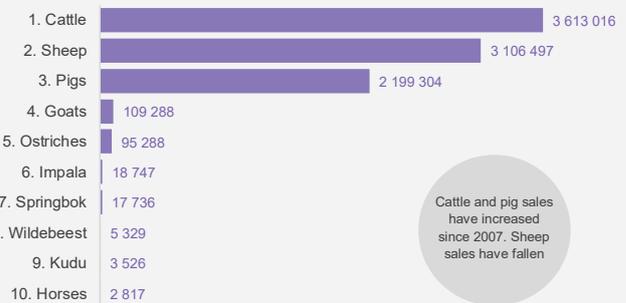


North West generates 17% of South Africa's animal product income



Top 10 national animal sales

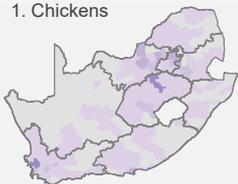
Total number sold in 2017 (excluding chickens)



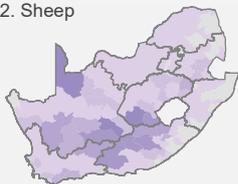
Cattle and pig sales have increased since 2007. Sheep sales have fallen

Where are animals concentrated?

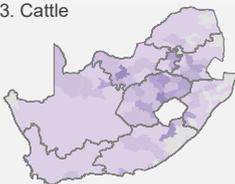
1. Chickens



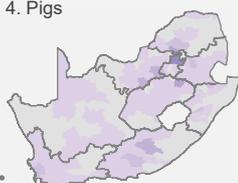
2. Sheep



3. Cattle



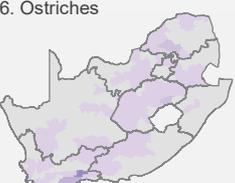
4. Pigs



5. Goats

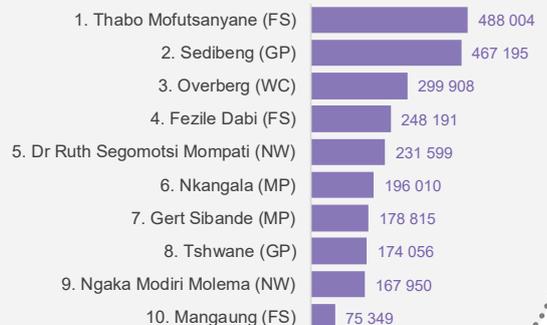


6. Ostriches



Top 10 cattle selling districts

Total number sold in 2017



FORESTRY

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 14 of 15



KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga dominate the South African forestry, logging and related services industry. Activities related to this industry occur in five of the nine provinces, with KwaZulu-Natal the biggest province in terms of income. The industry employs 40 482 people.



R23,0 billion

Amount of income generated by the industry.



40 482

Number of employed in the industry.

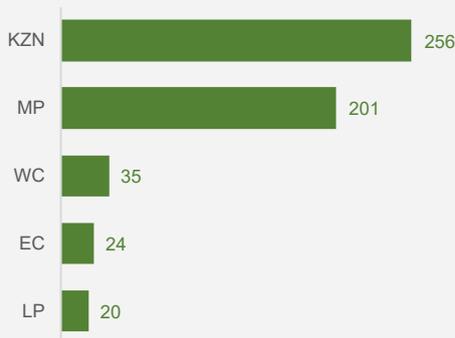


R96 184

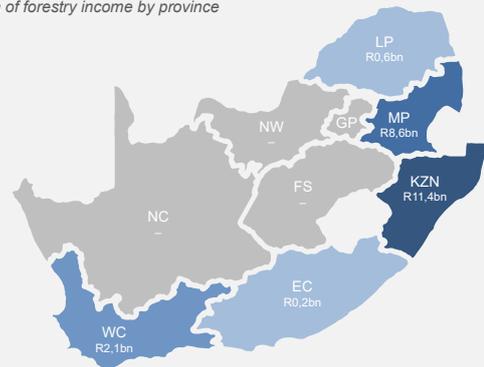
The average annual salary for employees.

Key statistics

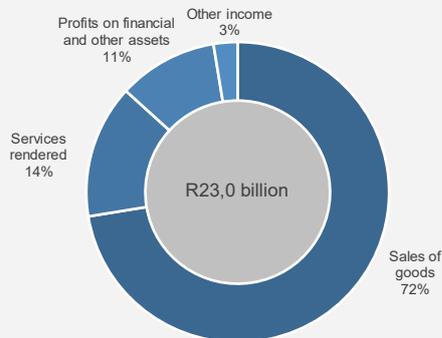
Nationwide, there are 536 commercial farms involved in forestry
Number of farms across the five provinces where there are forestry activities



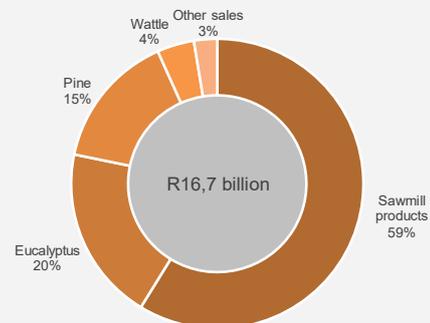
KwaZulu-Natal is the leading generator of forestry income, contributing half to the national total of R23,0 billion
Breakdown of forestry income by province



Income: The bulk of income in forestry is from sales of goods

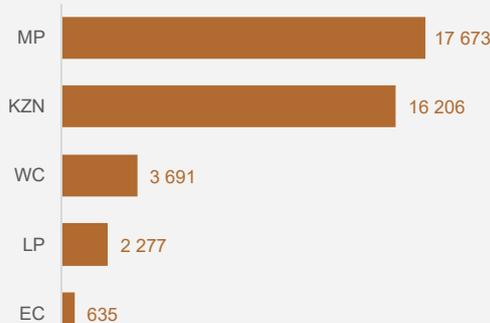


Sawmill products contributed 59% to sales of goods

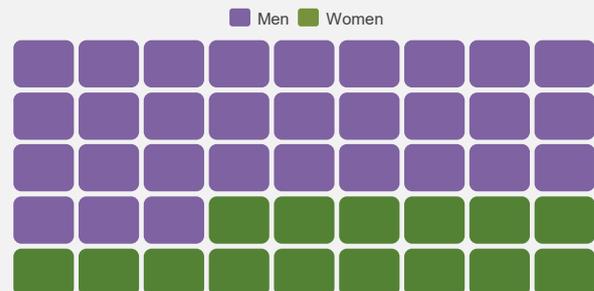


Employment

Mpumalanga employs the most number of people in forestry
Number of employed (40 482 nationwide)



Two-thirds of the forestry workforce are men
Number of employed by sex of employee



OCEAN (MARINE) FISHERIES

CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2017 Fact sheet 15 of 15

16 378 people work in the ocean (marine) fisheries and related services industry. The industry generated R16,1 billion in income in 2018, and spent R14,2 billion. The average annual salary for a worker was R167 200.



R16,1 billion

Amount of income generated by the industry.



16 378

Number of employed in the industry.

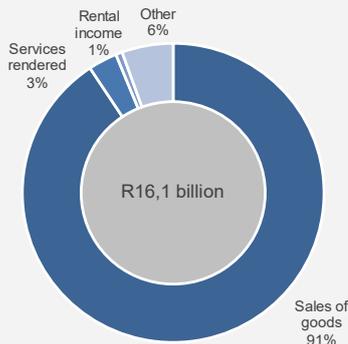


R167 200

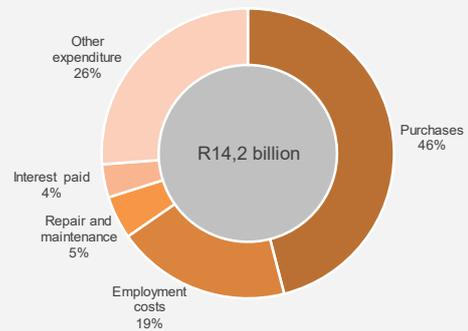
The average annual salary for employees.

Key statistics

Income: The bulk of income in fisheries is from sales of goods

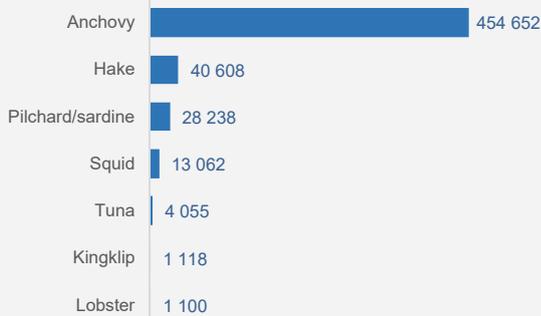


Spending: Employee costs take up 19% of total expenditure



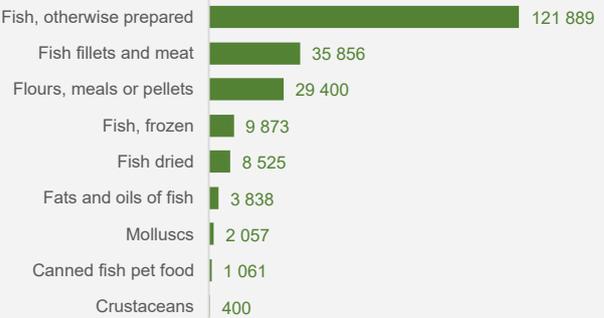
Items of fish caught

Metric tons



Items of fish processed

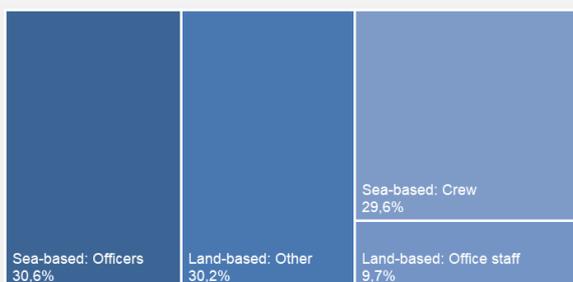
Metric tons



Employment

Sea-based officers make up 30,6% of the fishery workforce

Percentage of the employed (16 378 people)



Two-thirds of the workforce are men

Number of employed by sex of employee

