

Introduction

This chapter provides a comparison of the data for the selected regions. The data items included here are the headline indicators and selected other data items.

Median age of farmers

All of the selected regions show an increased median age of farmers from 1996 to 2001. In 2001, the lowest median age was 42 years in VRD Pastoral District, and the highest was 51 years in Ord.

1.1 MEDIAN AGE OF FARMERS,
1991, 1996 and 2001

<i>Region</i>	1991 years	1996 years	2001 years
Desert Uplands	44	47	47
Darling Riverine Plains	44	46	48
Gascoyne-Murchison	44	48	48
Ord	43	46	51
Gawler	46	47	50
VRD Pastoral District	35	42	42

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 1991, 1996 and 2001.

Total family farm income

Data for total family farm income was only available for Desert Uplands and Darling Riverine Plains.

1.2 TOTAL FAMILY FARM INCOME,
1996-97 to 2001-02

<i>Region</i>	Three year average 1996-97 to 1998-99 \$	Three year average 1999-2000 to 2001-02 \$
Desert Uplands	83,142	*75,789
Darling Riverine Plains	41,137	*83,600

Source: ABARE data available on request, Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industries Survey.

* Data subject to sampling variability between 25% and 50%. Estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Farms with property management plans

Data for the proportion of farms with property management plans was only available for Desert Uplands and Darling Riverine Plains.

1.3 PROPORTION OF FARMS WITH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANS, 1998-99 and 2001-02

	1998-99	2001-2
<i>Region</i>	%	%
Desert Uplands	na	*48
Darling Riverine Plains	20	*17

Source: ABARE data available on request, Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industries Survey.

* Data subject to sampling variability between 25% and 50%. Estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Age dependency ratio

The age dependency ratio is the number in the dependent age groups (aged under 15 years and 65 years and over) as a proportion of the number in the productive age groups (aged 15 to 64 years). In 2001 the highest age dependency ratio was 0.57 in Desert Uplands, and the lowest was 0.42 in Gascoyne-Murchison.

1.4 AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO, 1991 to 2001

<i>Region</i>	1991	1996	2001
Desert Uplands	0.53	0.55	0.57
Darling Riverine Plains	0.54	0.55	0.56
Gascoyne-Murchison	0.42	0.39	0.42
Ord	0.46	0.42	0.43
Gawler	0.49	0.49	0.48
VRD Pastoral District	0.60	0.63	0.50

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 1991, 1996 and 2001.

Net migration of young people

Data from the 2001 Census indicated that there was a negative net migration from 1996 to 2001 of young people (defined as persons aged from 15 to 24 years), in a majority of the specified regions. The exceptions were Ord where there was effectively zero net migration, and VRD Pastoral District, which was the only selected region to show positive net migration.

1.5 NET MIGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, 1991 to 1996 and 1996 to 2001

Region	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001
	%	%
Desert Uplands	-11.2	-16.4
Darling Riverine Plains	-21.3	-18.3
Gascoyne-Murchison	-4.3	-11.1
Ord	-1.0	0.0
Gawler	-11.3	-15.1
VRD Pastoral District	+9.0	+7.8

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 1991, 1996 and 2001.

Population

In contrast to the data for net migration of young people, most regions showed an increased population from 1996 to 2001. The exception was Desert Uplands, where the population decreased by 3%. In 2001 the population of the selected regions ranged from 2,303 in VRD Pastoral District to 47,328 in Darling Riverine Plains.

1.6 POPULATION AND CHANGES IN POPULATION, 1991 to 2001

Region	Population in 2001	Population Change from 1991 to 1996	Population Change from 1996 to 2001
	No.	%	%
Desert Uplands	3 737	-1.5	-2.8
Darling Riverine Plains	47 328	-2.7	0.3
Gascoyne-Murchison	26 298	2.0	1.7
Ord	11 177	12.4	13.8
Gawler	20 371	1.6	2.5
VRD Pastoral District	2 303	7.6	10.0

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing 2001.

Number of farmers

In 2001 the number of farmers ranged from 42 in VRD Pastoral District to 3,152 in Darling Riverine Plains. The proportion of employed persons that were farmers was highest in Desert Uplands (22%) and Darling Riverine Plains (16%), and lowest in Gawler (2%).

1.7 NUMBER OF FARMERS, 2001

Region	Farmers	Proportion of employed persons
	No.	%
Desert Uplands	378	22.1
Darling Riverine Plains	3 152	15.9
Gascoyne-Murchison	844	6.9
Ord	204	4.5
Gawler	131	1.6
VRD Pastoral District	42	4.6

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing 2001.

Qualifications of farmers

In 2001 the proportion of farmers with a qualification of certificate or higher ranged from 18% in Desert Uplands to 43% in VRD Pastoral District.

1.8 PROPORTION OF FARMERS WITH QUALIFICATIONS, 2001

Region	Proportion of farmers with qualification of Certificate or higher	Proportion of farmers with no qualifications
	%	%
Desert Uplands	18.3	75.7
Darling Riverine Plains	30.5	64.1
Gascoyne-Murchison	21.6	72.2
Ord	33.8	60.3
Gawler	26.0	69.2
VRD Pastoral District	42.9	54.8

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing 2001.

Income of farmers

In 2001, Gascoyne-Murchison (34%) had the highest proportion of farmers with a weekly individual income of less than \$300 per week, and the lowest proportion of farmers (17%) with a weekly income in excess of \$700 per week.

1.9 WEEKLY INDIVIDUAL INCOME OF FARMERS, 2001

Region	Proportion of farmers with income < \$300 per week %	Proportion of farmers with income > \$700 per week %
Desert Uplands	27.5	29.1
Darling Riverine Plains	26.7	30.9
Gascoyne-Murchison	34.1	17.3
Ord	25.4	35.8
Gawler	28.0	20.5
VRD Pastoral District	14.3	23.8

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing 2001.