

# **Census of commercial agriculture 2002 (Summary)**

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## Key findings regarding the formal agricultural sector for the year ended February 2002

According to the results of the Census of Agriculture there were 45 818 active commercial farming units in South Africa in 2002. This is a decrease of 12 162 farming units since the last Census of Agriculture in 1993.

Even though there were fewer farming units, the gross farming income generated by these units was R53 billion compared with R39 billion in 1993 at 2002 constant prices.

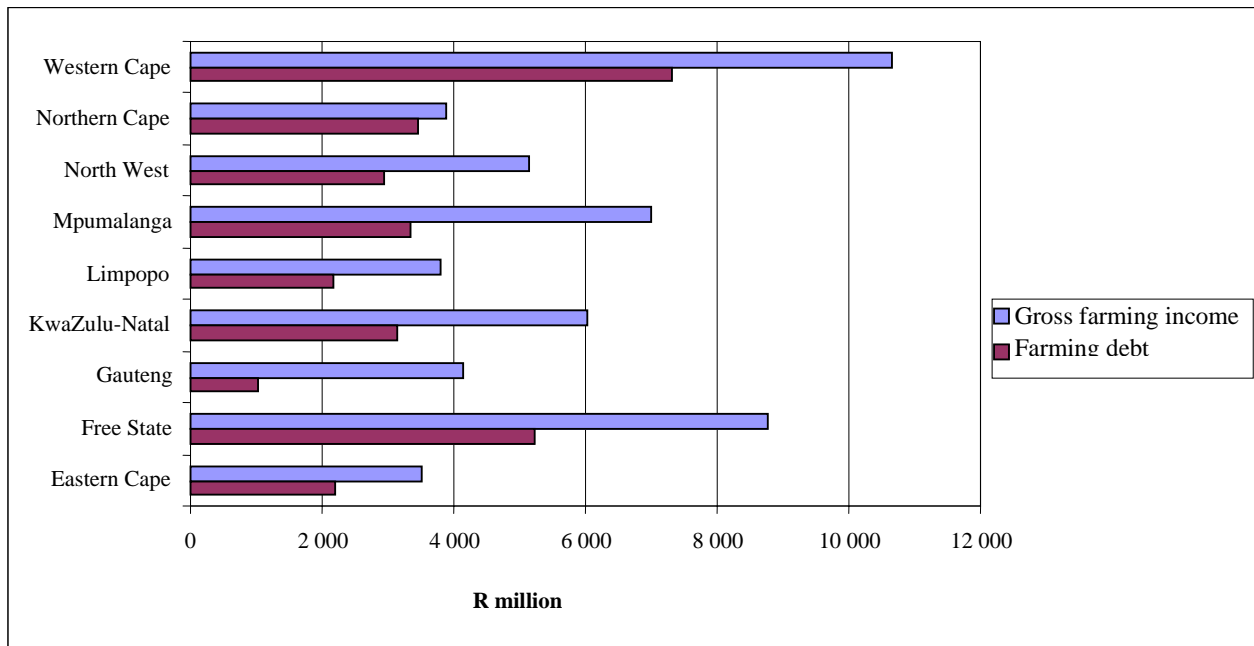
The number of paid employees in formal agriculture decreased by 13,9% (152 450 paid employees) from 1 093 265 to 940 815 over the nine years since 1993. Of the nine provinces, the Western Cape employed the largest number of paid employees (22,5% or 211 808), followed by Free State (13,1% or 123 429 paid employees), Mpumalanga (12,8% or 120 065 paid employees) and KwaZulu-Natal (12,4% or 117 207 paid employees).

The formal agricultural sector generated a gross farming income of approximately R53 billion. Over R21 billion (40,1%) of this was generated from commercial farming in animals and animal products. In 1993, the share of gross farming income generated by formal agriculture from animals and animal products was 49,8%. Field crops and horticultural products were the second and third largest sources of income in the sector, with contributions of 31,1% and 26,8% respectively. The percentage contribution of field crops and horticultural products has increased at the expense of the animals and animal products.

Total expenditure by the formal agricultural sector amounted to R42 billion. The ratio of farming debt to the market value of farming assets rose from 22,9% in 1993 to 31,3% in 2002.

Farming debt amounted to R31 billion. Western Cape was responsible for 23,7% of the farming debt, followed by Free State (16,9%) and Northern Cape (11,2%), while Gauteng had the lowest proportion of debt (3,4%) (see figure 1).

**Figure 1 – Gross farming income and farming debt per province**



**Please note:** This statistical release is a summary of selected findings. A detailed report will be published in December 2004.

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**Table 1 – Principal statistics: 1993 and 2002**

Item	Unit	1993	2002
Farming units	Number	57 980	45 818
with a VAT turnover of R300 000 and above			22 429
with a VAT turnover below R300 000			23 389
Employment	Number	1 161 912	986 842
Owners and family members		68 647	46 027
Paid employees		1 093 265	940 815
Employees' remuneration (at constant 2002 prices) (cash wages, salaries and cash bonuses)	R1 000	5 782 480	6 215 583
Gross farming income (at constant 2002 prices)	R1 000	38 813 291	52 971 214
Field crop products		9 901 329	16 476 933
Horticultural products		9 324 884	14 197 267
Animals and animal products		19 328 436	21 222 618
Other products excluding forestry		258 642	1 074 396
Expenditure (at constant 2002 prices)	R1 000	33 984 385	45 038 908
Current expenditure		29 671 164	42 092 135
Capital expenditure		4 313 221	2 946 773
Market value of farming assets (at constant 2002 prices)	R1 000	138 836 539	98 428 254
Farming debt (at constant 2002 prices)	R1 000	31 738 817	30 857 891

**Table 2.1 – Principal statistics by province: Total employment and employee remuneration**

Province	Total employment (Owners and paid employees)	Total paid employees	Total paid employee remuneration
	Number	Number	R1 000
Western Cape	219 091	211 808	1 682 857
Northern Cape	114 214	107 266	486 282
North West	90 174	84 658	453 359
Mpumalanga	124 012	120 065	765 342
Limpopo	78 955	75 890	468 224
KwaZulu-Natal	120 982	117 207	924 106
Gauteng	31 866	30 546	386 517
Free State	132 005	123 429	638 671
Eastern Cape	75 543	69 946	410 225
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>986 842</b>	<b>940 815</b>	<b>6 215 583</b>

**Table 2.2 – Principal statistics by province: Employment and employee remuneration**

Province	Owners/proprietors	Full-time workers		Casual and seasonal workers	
	Number	Number	Remuneration R1 000	Number	Remuneration R1 000
Western Cape	7 283	94 659	1 350 718	117 149	332 139
Northern Cape	6 948	34 195	350 200	73 072	136 081
North West	5 516	39 597	394 693	45 060	58 666
Mpumalanga	3 947	68 297	669 201	51 767	96 141
Limpopo	3 065	45 750	395 735	30 141	72 489
KwaZulu-Natal	3 775	79 662	817 415	37 545	106 691
Gauteng	1 320	21 492	363 827	9 054	22 690
Free State	8 576	61 277	565 024	62 152	73 647
Eastern Cape	5 597	36 442	345 438	33 504	64 787
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>46 027</b>	<b>481 371</b>	<b>5 252 251</b>	<b>459 444</b>	<b>963 331</b>

**Table 3 – Principal statistics by province: Gross farming income, expenditure, market value of assets and farming debt**

Province	Farming units	Gross farming income	Expenditure		Market value of assets	Farming debt
			Current	Capital		
	Number	R1 000				
Western Cape	7 185	10 653 332	8 642 186	682 574	26 270 432	7 304 531
Northern Cape	6 114	3 888 951	3 111 604	259 240	10 513 940	3 465 407
North West	5 349	5 145 873	4 080 047	205 049	8 360 915	2 934 093
Mpumalanga	5 104	7 013 824	5 680 245	335 448	10 931 965	3 355 846
Limpopo	2 915	3 811 054	3 086 507	326 118	7 739 138	2 172 560
KwaZulu-Natal	4 038	6 027 672	4 889 513	407 744	10 161 487	3 144 949
Gauteng	2 206	4 130 428	3 092 812	114 264	2 922 277	1 039 109
Free State	8 531	8 777 228	6 829 508	376 883	13 215 146	5 230 786
Eastern Cape	4 376	3 522 871	2 679 715	239 452	8 312 955	2 210 610
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>45 818</b>	<b>52 971 232</b>	<b>42 092 135</b>	<b>2 946 773</b>	<b>98 428 254</b>	<b>30 857 891</b>

**Table 4 – Ratios**

Province	Current expenditure/ Gross farming income	Salaries and wages/ Gross farming income	Farming debt/ Market value of assets	Farming debt/ Gross farming income
Western Cape	81,13	15,80	27,81	68,57
Northern Cape	80,01	12,50	32,96	89,11
North West	79,29	8,81	35,10	57,02
Mpumalanga	80,99	10,91	30,70	47,85
Limpopo	80,99	12,29	28,08	57,01
KwaZulu-Natal	81,12	15,33	30,95	52,18
Gauteng	74,88	9,36	35,56	25,16
Free State	77,81	7,28	39,59	59,59
Eastern Cape	76,07	11,64	26,60	62,75
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>79,46</b>	<b>11,73</b>	<b>31,35</b>	<b>58,25</b>



**Table 5 – Breakdown of gross farming income per type of division**

Province	Field crops	Horticulture	Animals	Animal products	Other products
	R1 000				
Western Cape	1 236 449	5 960 849	1 595 016	1 585 005	275 994
Northern Cape	933 623	1 180 459	1 535 298	224 705	14 865
North West	2 440 115	368 908	1 870 309	457 110	9 429
Mpumalanga	2 844 552	1 747 911	1 691 554	506 345	223 463
Limpopo	640 020	1 898 086	1 078 622	145 201	49 125
KwaZulu-Natal	2 602 930	657 259	1 517 821	864 954	384 708
Gauteng	580 319	882 498	1 720 488	874 982	72 140
Free State	4 983 194	646 671	2 318 940	803 560	24 862
Eastern Cape	215 730	854 624	1 218 863	1 213 843	19 811
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>16 476 933</b>	<b>14 197 267</b>	<b>14 546 912</b>	<b>6 675 706</b>	<b>1 074 396</b>

## **Explanatory notes and definitions**

### **1. General**

In 2002 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) undertook an agricultural census for the Republic of South Africa. This census covered the activities on commercial farms in South Africa. For the purpose of the census a commercial farm is a farm that is registered for Value Added Tax (VAT).

This statistical release is a summary of selected findings. A detailed report will be published in December 2004.

### **2. Scope of the commercial agricultural census**

For purposes of the census, farming means:

- the growing of field crops, fruit, grapes, nuts, seeds, trees in a nursery, bulbs, vegetables and flowers in the open air or under cover;
- operations at nurseries excluding those predominantly engaged in reselling;
- the operation of tea, coffee, sugar;
- the raising of livestock, game, poultry, rabbits, freshwater fish, furbearing and other animals; and
- the production of milk, wool, pelts/fur, eggs and honey

for commercial purposes.

Forestry, e.g. timber, wattle, wood and other plantations, ocean fishing and agricultural services were not included in the census.

Data in respect of agricultural smallholdings such as nurseries, vegetable gardens, flower farms and dairy farms are included in this report only in those cases where the products were intended for sale.

### **3. Census year**

Details relating to the area and market value of the farming unit, the number of owners, family members and employees involved in farming activities, and farming debt were collected as at 28 February 2002. Data on land utilisation, employees' remuneration, gross farming income and expenditure, equipment purchased, and amount spent on buildings erected and development work undertaken refer to the financial year ending on any date between 31 March 2001 and 28 February 2002, while the market value of movable farming assets was called for as at the end of the financial year.

### **4. Comparability with the previous census**

In comparing the results of this census with those of the previous census the following should be borne in mind.

- The 2002 census included commercial farmers in the former TBVC and self-governing states.
- The updating of the previous business register with data obtained from the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has resulted in an improved frame.

In addition, there have been:

- alterations in the boundaries of geographical areas;
- fluctuating climatic conditions; and
- alterations in branches of farming and rotation of crops.

## 5. Farming unit

The data is collected on a farming unit basis. A farming unit consists of one or more farms, smallholdings or pieces of land, whether adjacent or not, operated as a single unit and situated within the same province

A farming unit means any unit on which one or more of the following farming operations are carried out for commercial purposes:

- the cultivation in the open air or under cover of field crops, fruit, grapes, nuts, seed bulbs, vegetable plants or flowers;
- the operation of a tea, coffee, sugar;
- the breeding of livestock, poultry, game or other animals, including freshwater fish, furred animals and trade in livestock; and
- the production of milk, wool, fur, eggs or honey.

Forestry, e.g. timber, wattle, wood and other plantations, ocean fishing and agricultural services were not included in the census.

## 6. Employment

Owners and family members refer to individuals, family and partnerships.

## 7. Gross farming income

Gross farming income as reported by the farmer includes income earned from agricultural products sold, divided in this releases into field crops, horticultural products, animals and animal products, and all other products.

‘Animal and animal products’ include livestock, poultry, game and all other animals.

‘All other products’ include wild flowers, compost and firewood.

## 8. Current expenditure

Current expenditure is expenditure incurred by farming operations during the financial year in respect of the farming unit as reported by the farmer. These expenses include seed stock, poultry feeds, fertilisers, fuel, packing material, electricity purchased, interest paid, etc. Railage and rented transport are also included with the relevant purchases.

## 9. Farming debt

Farming debt includes all obligations incurred in respect of normal farming activities, such as mortgages, loans and credits received from organisations such as banks, co-operative societies and private persons. Debt in respect of other business enterprises is not included.

Particulars regarding farming debt are based on the data submitted by the relevant respondents.

## 10. Abbreviations and symbols used

TBVC	=	Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei
RSA	=	Republic of South Africa
R	=	rand
0	=	more than nil but less than 500

## 11. Rounding-off of figures

The figures in the tables have been rounded off to the nearest final digit shown. There may, therefore, be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

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