

# Western Australian broadacre agriculture

## REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

# Goldfields-Esperance (Esperance Port Zone)

### At a glance

- The Goldfields-Esperance region covers more than 95 million hectares and has a mixed economy of agriculture, mining and fisheries.
- Broadacre agriculture in the region is concentrated in the south-western area in the Esperance Port Zone and generates about \$800 million in value each year.
- Wheat and barley are the predominant crops, and generate about 70% of the region's annual production value.



# Esperance Port Zone agricultural statistics

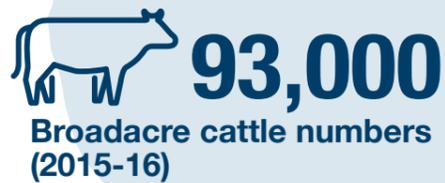
The Esperance Port Zone occupies about 6% of the Goldfields-Esperance region and covers about 5.4 million hectares, of which 28% is arable. Agriculture, fisheries and increasingly aquaculture are the major primary industries of the area. Agriculture is dominated by wheat and barley production, which along with canola, oats, pulses and lupins generate more than 85% of the region's annual agricultural production value of \$800 million and about one fifth of WA's total cereal production each season. Livestock (sheep, cattle and poultry) account for about 13% of the the area's annual agricultural value.



**20%** of WA grainbelt total



**≈10%** of entire WA grainbelt



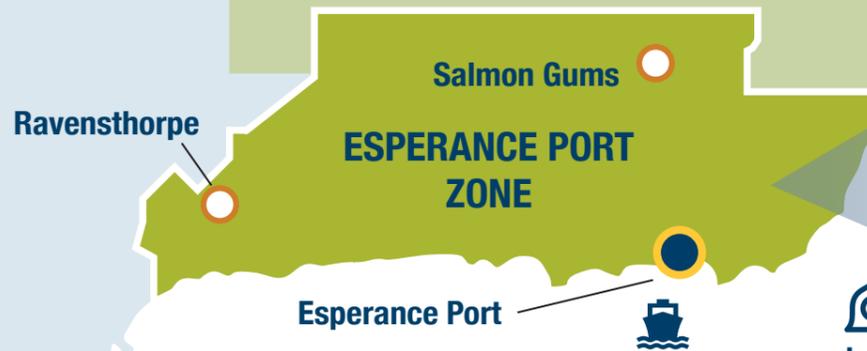
**19%** of WA grainbelt total



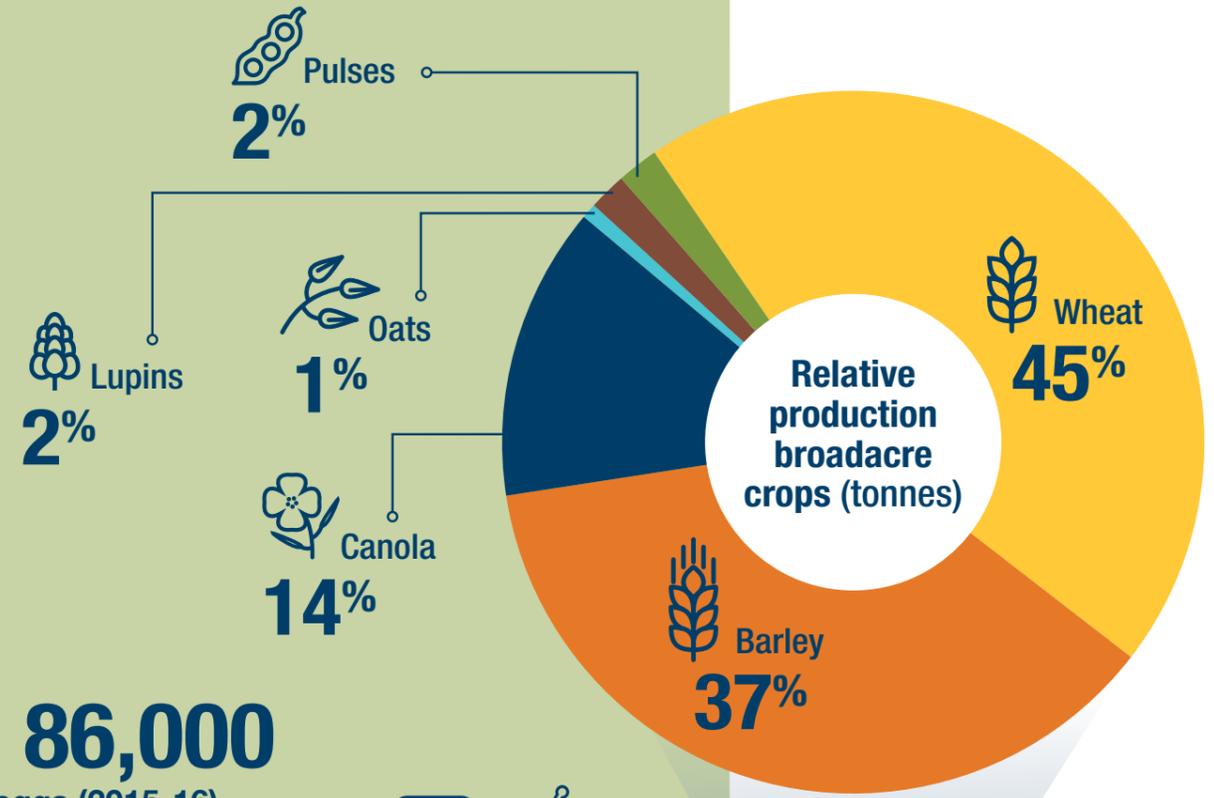
**30%** of properties are larger than 4,000ha. Median land value (2020)<sup>3</sup> \$2,500/ha



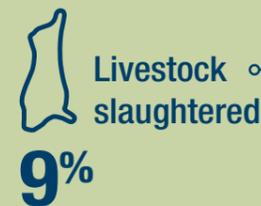
**6%** of WA grainbelt total



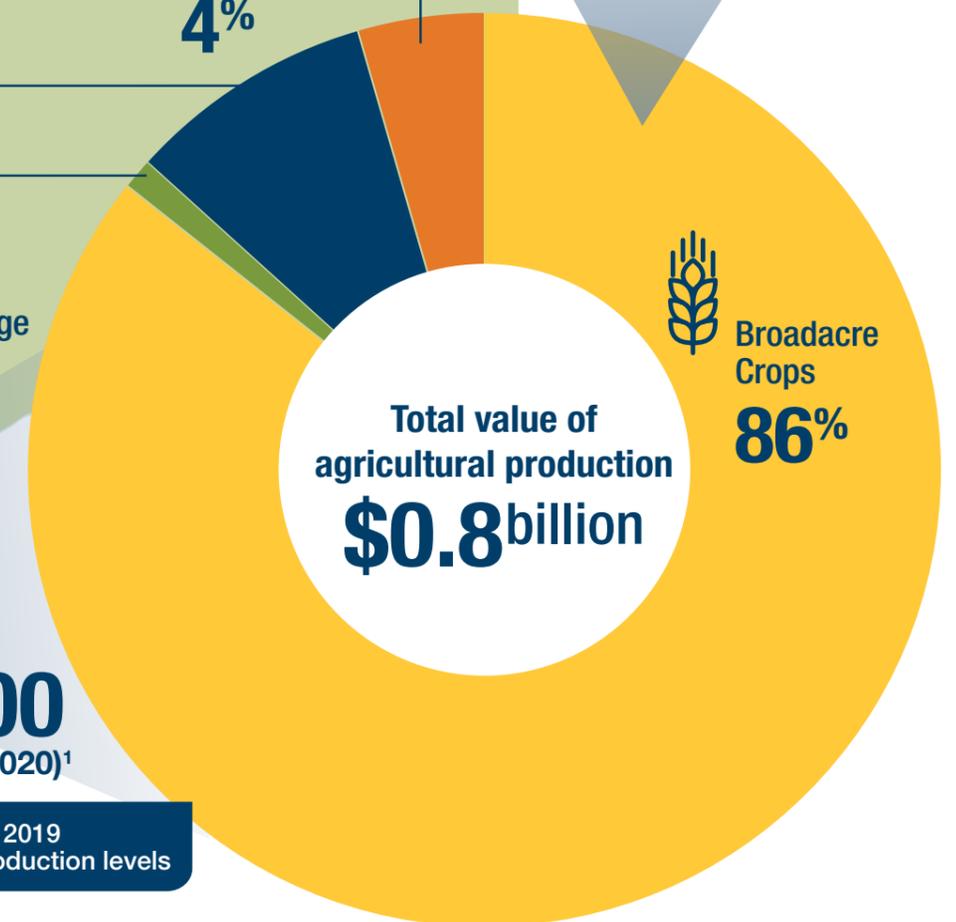
In 2020, 2.25 million tonnes of grain was exported through the Esperance Port<sup>4</sup>.



**4%** of WA's production

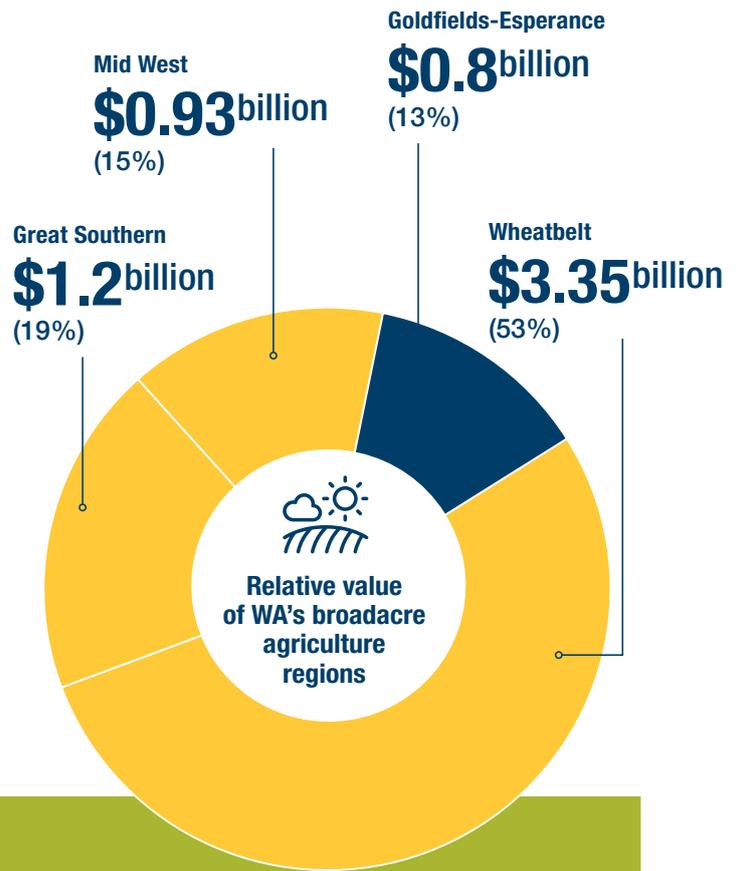
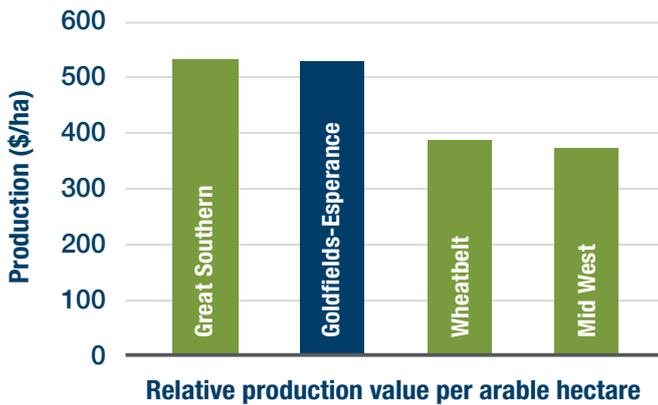


Up by **300%** on 2019 production levels





## Region Comparisons



Production values per arable hectare across the regions reflect differences in annual rainfall.



## Region Trends



### Population (as at 2020)

- 53,363 people in the Goldfields-Esperance region with a median age of 35.
- 15,786 (29%) of these in the Esperance Port Zone.



### Employment

- 13% (1380) of employed population in Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.
- 36% (721) of businesses in Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.



### Rainfall

- Annual rainfall in the Esperance Port Zone ranges from 175–225mm in the north to 450–700mm in the south. Average annual rainfall over the past 20 years has declined significantly compared to the region's 100-year average.



### Crops

- The Esperance Port Zone is dominated by cereal production – wheat, barley and canola, with stable crop production from 2013–2018. Pulse crops are on the rise (from a low base) with farmers value adding by marketing and selling direct to market through the Esperance Port.



### Livestock

- Livestock numbers (sheep) are declining in the Esperance Port Zone with producers on-selling animals in the past few years due to high prices and dry seasons.



### Aquaculture

- Esperance has an emerging shellfish industry and an established abalone industry.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### Important disclaimer

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