















# Trends in the Australian Agricultural Workforce

What can data from the Census of Population and Housing tell us about changes in agricultural employment?

## Changes in the agricultural workforce

	2001	2006	2011	2016
 Nursery & floriculture	16,141	8,810	6,940	12,897
 Vegetables	17,218	17,347	15,791	20,412
 Fruit and nut trees	38,195	31,836	25,027	28,950
 Sheep	24,847	21,710	19,319	20,459
 Grains	18,675	18,928	19,177	21,397
 Beef	49,022	50,970	47,819	50,920
 Mixed grain-livestock	60,128	46,799	38,812	24,408
 Other crops	18,300	11,343	8,803	8,529
 Dairy	29,185	22,905	19,247	22,619
 Poultry & pigs	10,485	9,720	8,127	11,504
 Other livestock	5,291	6,206	5,883	6,251
 Services to agriculture	17,499	13,627	11,641	15,994
 Meat & poultry processing	26,566	36,487	36,240	42,332
 <b>Total</b>	<b>287,587</b>	<b>246,603</b>	<b>219,269</b>	<b>228,372</b>

Note: All Agriculture is defined through the reaggregation of ANZSIC 2006 4 digit codes to include the following production industries; nursery and floriculture, vegetable and mushrooms, fruit and nut, sheep farming, beef farming, mixed livestock and grain, grain growing, other cropping (rice, sugar, cotton), dairy, poultry and pig, and other livestock (deer, horse, bees). Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

## Spatially diffuse but concentrated in key regions

State/Territory	2016
New South Wales	62,565
Victoria	54,096
Queensland	52,738
South Australia	25,436
Western Australia	23,998
Tasmania	7,563
Northern Territory	1,483
Australian Capital Territory	468
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>228,372</b>

Source: Australian Bureau Statistics



**One-third**  
of workers live in the  
Murray-Darling Basin

## Farmers remain the most common occupation



**56%**

of agricultural workers are farmers and farm managers



**22%**

of agricultural workers are labourers

## Owner-operators are steadily declining in numbers

Employment status (%)	2001	2006	2011	2016
Owner-operators	56	45	43	37
Higher skill employees	16	13	15	16
Lower skill employees	25	23	22	29
Unpaid family workers	–	18	20	18

## Age of owner-operators continues to rise



Median age increases to

**56**

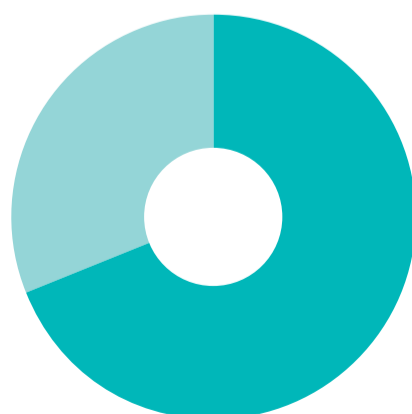
in 2016 from 51 in 2011

Median age in beef industry exceeds

**60**



## Gender composition remains consistent and distinct in some occupations



**31%**  
of agricultural workers are female

**69%**  
of agricultural workers are male



**3%**  
of shearers are female



**96%**  
of book keepers are female