



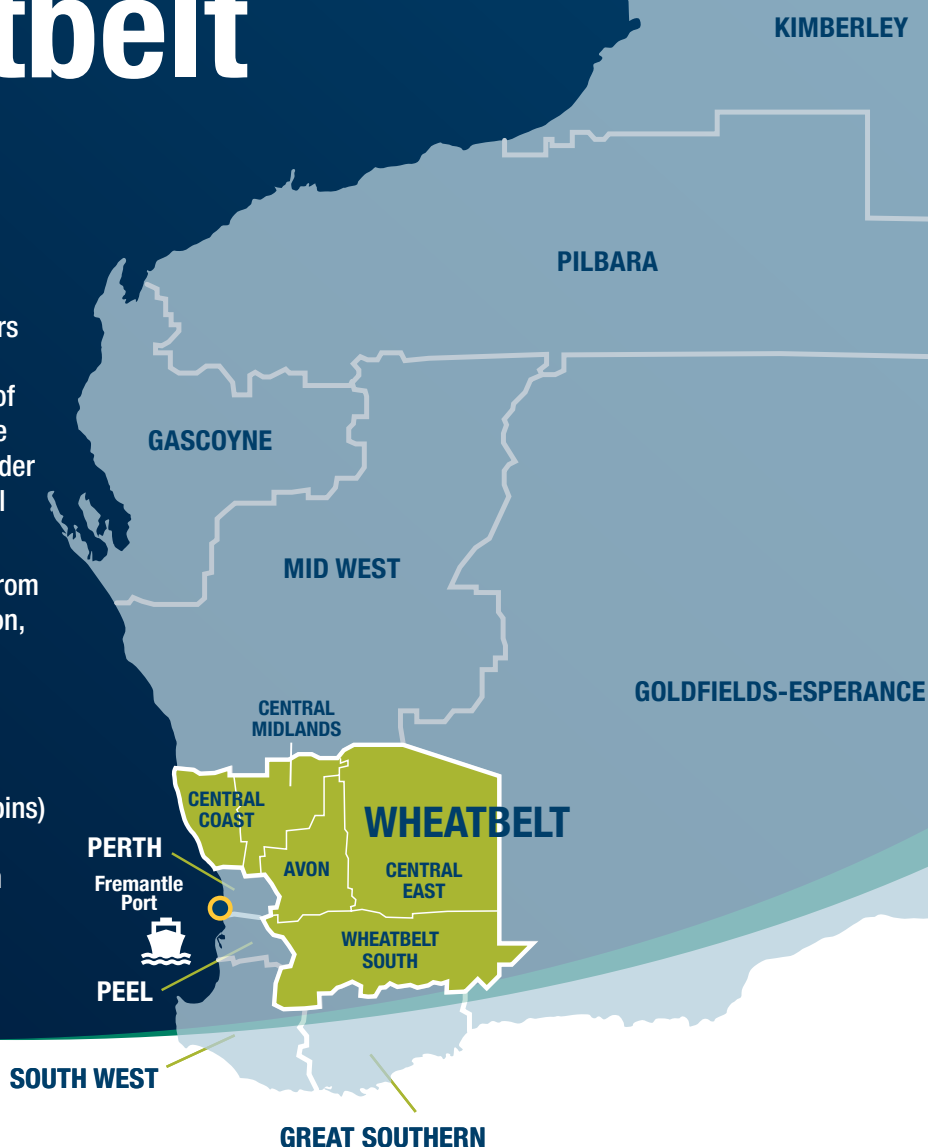
Western Australian broadacre agriculture

REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS

Wheatbelt

At a glance

- The Wheatbelt region covers an area of 15.7 million hectares, with about 55% of this dedicated to broadacre agriculture and the remainder to tourism, fishing, pastoral farming and mining.
- The region extends north from Perth to the Mid West region, and east to the Goldfields-Esperance region and comprises five subregions.
- Broadacre crops (wheat, barley, canola, oats and lupins) generate about 68% of the region's annual \$3.3 billion agricultural value.



Wheatbelt region agricultural statistics


Just over half of all land in the Wheatbelt region is arable with primary industries covering about 8.6 million hectares. The region's 150 kilometres of coastline is a significant tourism area while pastoral farming and mining industries occur in the eastern fringe. Broadacre grain production is the dominant enterprise generating about 68% of the region's annual \$3.3 billion agricultural value. Livestock (sheep, cattle, pigs and chickens) account for about 26% of the region's annual agricultural value with horticulture (vegetables, nurseries, fruit and grapes) accounting for about 4%.

 **6,705,000**
Broadacre sheep numbers
(2015-16)


57% of WA grainbelt total

 **2,657 ha**
Average property size (2019)²

23% of properties are larger than 4,000ha. Median land value (2020)³ \$2,500/ha

 **160,000**
Broadacre cattle numbers
(2015-16)

33% of WA grainbelt total

 **6,921,800 tonnes**
Annual broadacre crop production
(five-year average 2016-20)¹

44% of WA grainbelt total

Jurien Bay

Dalwallinu


Moora

Merredin

Northam

Fremantle Port


Narrogin

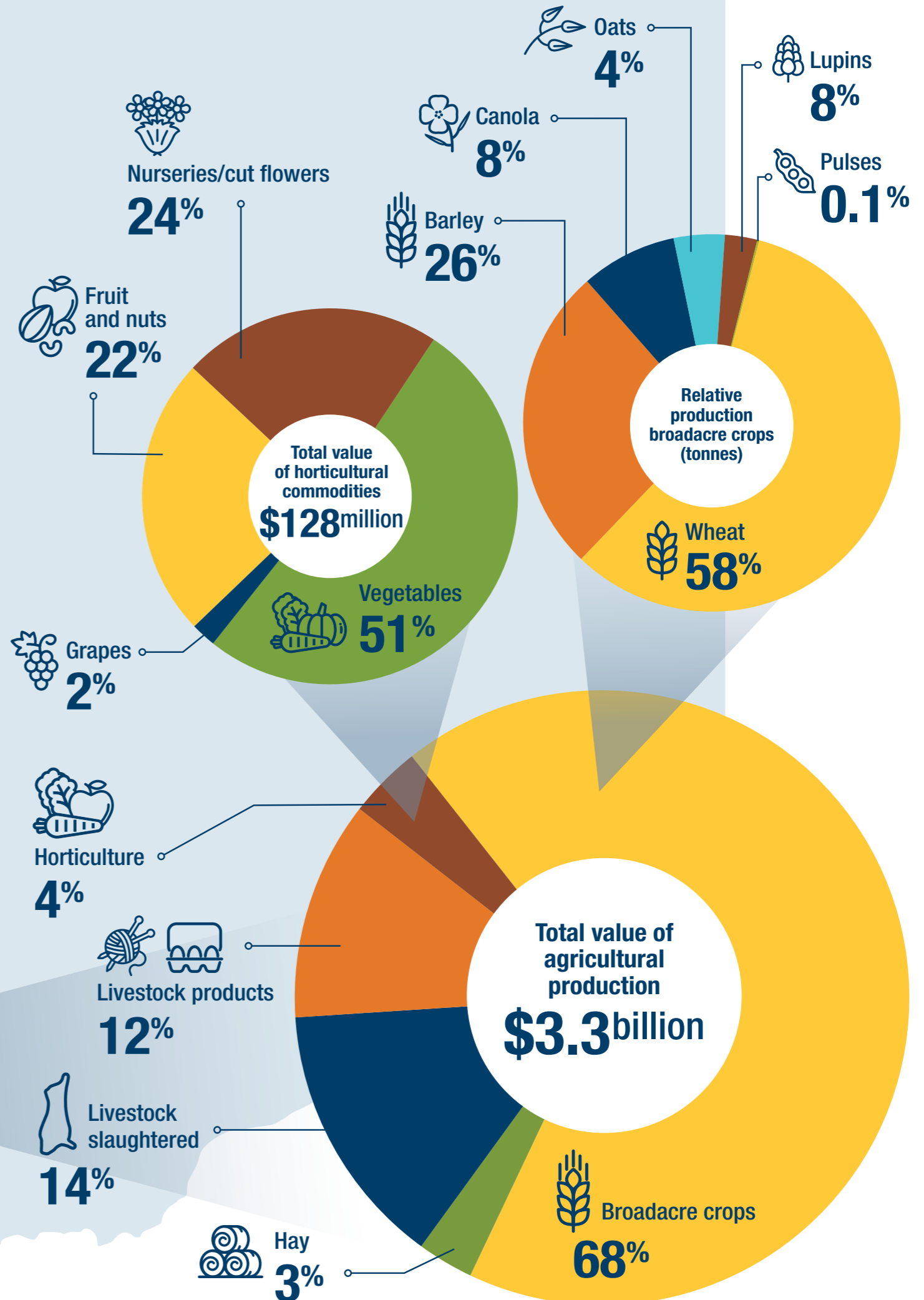
 **2,860**
Number of agricultural holdings
(2015-16)

45% of entire WA grainbelt

 **\$128 million**
Horticulture production (2015-16)

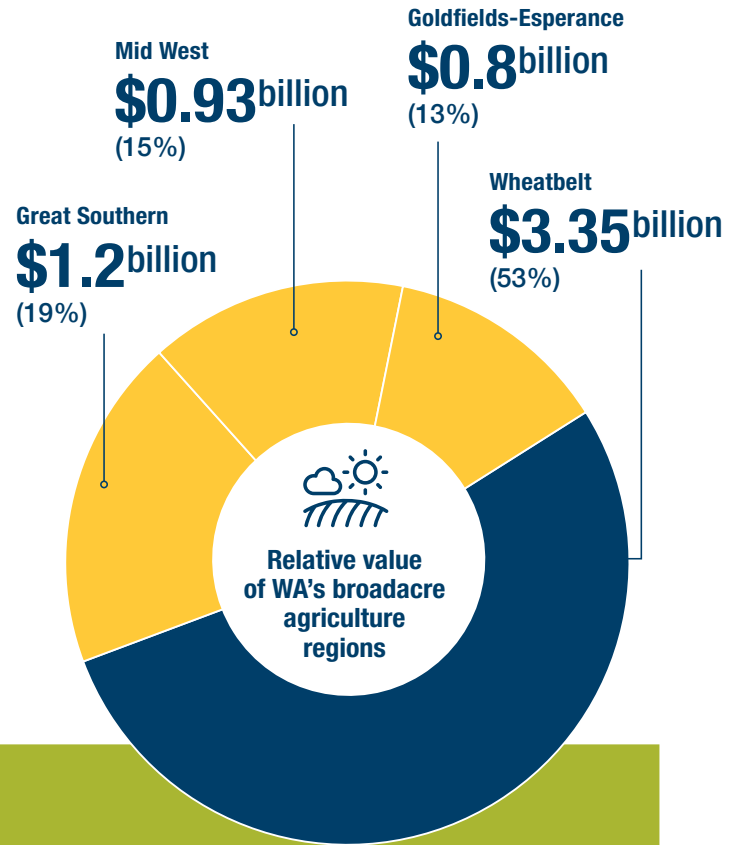
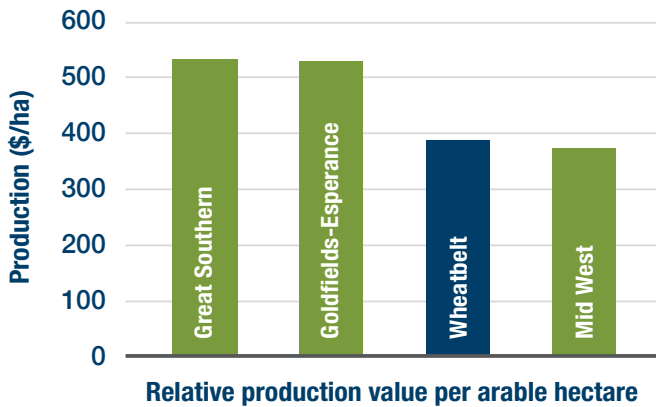
13% of WA total

 In 2020, 5.2 million tonnes of grain and 670,000 head of livestock were exported through Fremantle Port⁴.





Region Comparisons



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



Regional Trends



Population (as at 2020)

- 73,690 people in the Wheatbelt.
- 37% of entire WA grainbelt.



Employment (as at 2017)

- 17% (7,178) of employed population in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- 46% (4,196) of businesses in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.



Rainfall

- Annual rainfall in the Wheatbelt region ranges from 450-700mm in the west to less than 175mm in the north east. Average annual rainfall over the past 20 years has declined significantly compared to the region's 100-year average.



Crops

- Wheat dominates broadacre cropping and agricultural exports (3-5Mt/year) in the Wheatbelt but barley production has been increasing over the past decade (1.5-2Mt/year).



Livestock

- The Wheatbelt region has a stable livestock industry with the majority of enterprises comprising livestock and cropping. In recent times, private investments have been made in poultry, cattle feedlots and pigs.



Horticulture

- Horticulture is a significant and growing sector in the Wheatbelt region and is valued at \$128 million. Oranges, carrots, lettuce and broccoli represent the most valuable crops grown.



Aquaculture

- Aquaculture in the Wheatbelt region is currently under-developed but has potential due to the area's moderate water temperatures and close proximity to domestic and international markets. Valuable finfish, rock lobster and yabbie industries are in development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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