Section 4

Economic Activity

4.1 Business locations

Why is this important?

The ABS Business Register provides details of the number of 'Business Locations by Industry by Employment Size' for LGAs at September 1998. These data provide another view of business and economic activity in a region. For each sector an indication of the number of small, medium and large businesses in terms of employment size, can be analysed.

Table 4.1.1 shows the number of business locations by employment size in the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania at September 1998. Locations are included if they have one or more persons employed. Non-employing businesses are not within the scope of the dataset except for the Agriculture Sector. Farms are included if their annual estimated value of operations exceeds $5,000. Table 4.1.1 shows details for each of the LGAs in the Region and also for the Region as a whole.

Please note that these data provide the latest available comprehensive overview of business location data produced by ABS. They should be used as a guide only as it is likely that there have been changes since 1998.

At September 1998, there were 6,982 businesses located in the Region. The sector with the largest number was Agriculture, forestry and fishing with 1,957 businesses (or 28% of the total). The next largest was Retail trade with 1,168 businesses. There were 579 business locations in the Construction sector and 504 Property and business services locations.

Of the business locations in the Region, 43 employed 100 or more persons, of which 16 were Manufacturing establishments, 7 were Health and community services (mainly hospitals), 6 were in the Mining sector and a further 6 were engaged in Retail trade.

- ***At September 1998 there were 6,982 business locations in the Region. Of these 1,957 or 28% were in Agriculture, forestry and fishing and 1,168 or 17% in Retail trade.***
- ***Forty-three business locations in the Region employed 100 or more persons. Around 90% of businesses employ less than 10 persons.***

4.1 Business locations *continued*

4.1.1 Count of Business Locations by Industry and Employment Size, LGAs, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—September 1998

	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED......................				
Industry	*Less than 10*	*10–49*	*50–99*	*100 or more*	*Total*
	BURNIE (C)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	161	4	2	—	167
Mining	3	1	—	—	4
Manufacturing	48	14	1	5	68
Electricity, gas and water supply	2	—	1	—	3
Construction	87	11	1	1	100
Wholesale trade	63	18	—	—	81
Retail trade	249	22	2	2	275
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	37	14	1	—	52
Transport and storage	56	13	2	—	71
Communication services	1	3	—	—	4
Finance and insurance	44	7	—	—	51
Property and business services	113	23	—	1	137
Government administration and defence	19	4	—	1	24
Education	13	16	4	1	34
Health and community services	109	10	2	3	124
Cultural and recreational services	19	6	—	—	25
Personal and other services	62	3	—	1	66
Total	*1 086*	*169*	*16*	*15*	*1 286*
	CENTRAL COAST (M)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	368	6	—	—	374
Mining	5	2	—	—	7
Manufacturing	35	12	—	1	48
Electricity, gas and water supply	7	1	—	—	8
Construction	104	2	1	—	107
Wholesale trade	35	3	—	—	38
Retail trade	166	10	2	—	178
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	44	8	1	—	53
Transport and storage	60	2	—	—	62
Communication services	4	1	—	—	5
Finance and insurance	14	2	—	—	16
Property and business services	68	6	—	—	74
Government administration and defence	5	2	—	—	7
Education	7	8	3	—	18
Health and community services	40	9	1	1	51
Cultural and recreational services	15	—	—	—	15
Personal and other services	61	2	—	—	63
Total	*1 038*	*76*	*8*	*2*	*1 124*

4.1 Business locations *continued*

4.1.1 Count of Business Locations by Industry and Employment Size, LGAs, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—September 1998 *continued*

	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED......................				
Industry	*Less than 10*	*10–49*	*50–99*	*100 or more*	*Total*
CIRCULAR HEAD (M)					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	440	5	—	—	445
Mining	2	—	—	1	3
Manufacturing	14	7	1	2	24
Electricity, gas and water supply	3	1	—	—	4
Construction	41	1	—	—	42
Wholesale trade	16	2	1	—	19
Retail trade	88	5	—	1	94
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	22	3	—	—	25
Transport and storage	41	2	—	—	43
Communication services	2	1	—	—	3
Finance and insurance	8	2	—	—	10
Property and business services	30	—	—	—	30
Government administration and defence	5	1	—	—	6
Education	9	6	1	—	16
Health and community services	19	5	1	—	25
Cultural and recreational services	13	1	—	—	14
Personal and other services	32	—	—	—	32
Total	*785*	*42*	*4*	*4*	*835*
DEVONPORT (C)					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	103	5	—	—	108
Mining	3	—	—	—	3
Manufacturing	53	22	2	6	83
Electricity, gas and water supply	1	3	1	—	5
Construction	140	7	1	—	148
Wholesale trade	91	13	—	—	104
Retail trade	339	24	2	1	366
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	56	16	1	—	73
Transport and storage	63	10	2	1	76
Communication services	8	3	—	—	11
Finance and insurance	48	7	—	—	55
Property and business services	143	12	—	—	155
Government administration and defence	15	5	1	—	21
Education	10	8	5	1	24
Health and community services	86	16	2	—	104
Cultural and recreational services	32	11	1	1	45
Personal and other services	73	6	1	—	80
Total	*1 264*	*168*	*19*	*10*	*1 461*

4.1 Business locations *continued*

4.1.1 Count of Business Locations by Industry and Employment Size, LGAs, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—September 1998 *continued*

	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED......................				
Industry	*Less than 10*	*10–49*	*50–99*	*100 or more*	*Total*
	KENTISH (M)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	217	—	—	—	217
Mining	2	1	—	—	3
Manufacturing	9	—	—	1	10
Electricity, gas and water supply	3	2	—	—	5
Construction	20	—	—	—	20
Wholesale trade	4	—	—	—	4
Retail trade	23	1	—	—	24
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	23	2	1	—	26
Transport and storage	11	—	—	—	11
Communication services	3	—	—	—	3
Finance and insurance	2	—	—	—	2
Property and business services	7	—	—	—	7
Government administration and defence	1	1	—	—	2
Education	2	1	1	—	4
Health and community services	12	1	—	—	13
Cultural and recreational services	6	—	—	—	6
Personal and other services	19	—	—	—	19
Total	*364*	*9*	*2*	*1*	*376*
	KING ISLAND (M)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	189	1	—	—	190
Mining	—	—	—	—	—
Manufacturing	4	—	2	1	7
Electricity, gas and water supply	3	—	—	—	3
Construction	14	1	—	—	15
Wholesale trade	8	—	1	—	9
Retail trade	16	2	—	—	18
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	8	3	—	—	11
Transport and storage	16	—	—	—	16
Communication services	2	—	—	—	2
Finance and insurance	1	—	—	—	1
Property and business services	7	—	—	—	7
Government administration and defence	1	1	—	—	2
Education	2	1	—	—	3
Health and community services	7	2	—	—	9
Cultural and recreational services	1	—	—	—	1
Personal and other services	8	—	—	—	8
Total	*287*	*11*	*3*	*1*	*302*

4.1 Business locations *continued*

4.1.1 Count of Business Locations by Industry and Employment Size, LGAs, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—September 1998 *continued*

	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED......................				
Industry	*Less than 10*	*10–49*	*50–99*	*100 or more*	*Total*
	LATROBE (M)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	166	2	—	—	168
Mining	1	—	—	—	1
Manufacturing	9	2	—	1	12
Electricity, gas and water supply	2	1	—	—	3
Construction	38	1	1	—	40
Wholesale trade	6	4	1	—	11
Retail trade	49	2	—	—	51
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	15	2	—	—	17
Transport and storage	19	—	1	—	20
Communication services	1	—	—	—	1
Finance and insurance	2	—	—	—	2
Property and business services	21	1	—	—	22
Government administration and defence	—	—	1	—	1
Education	6	2	1	—	9
Health and community services	11	3	—	1	15
Cultural and recreational services	14	—	—	—	14
Personal and other services	25	1	—	—	26
Total	*385*	*21*	*5*	*2*	*413*
	WARATAH/WYNYARD (M)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	265	3	—	—	268
Mining	7	—	—	—	7
Manufacturing	31	5	1	—	37
Electricity, gas and water supply	3	1	—	—	4
Construction	67	4	—	—	71
Wholesale trade	18	3	—	—	21
Retail trade	96	2	—	1	99
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	27	2	—	—	29
Transport and storage	43	—	—	—	43
Communication services	2	—	—	—	2
Finance and insurance	7	2	—	—	9
Property and business services	53	3	1	—	57
Government administration and defence	2	2	—	—	4
Education	3	4	3	—	10
Health and community services	34	3	3	2	42
Cultural and recreational services	13	—	—	—	13
Personal and other services	35	—	—	—	35
Total	*706*	*34*	*8*	*3*	*751*

4.1 Business locations *continued*

4.1.1 Count of Business Locations by Industry and Employment Size, LGAs, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—September 1998 *continued*

	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED......................				
Industry	*Less than 10*	*10–49*	*50–99*	*100 or more*	*Total*
	WEST COAST (M)				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	19	1	—	—	20
Mining	6	2	1	4	13
Manufacturing	15	1	—	—	16
Electricity, gas and water supply	6	1	—	—	7
Construction	29	7	—	—	36
Wholesale trade	5	1	—	—	6
Retail trade	56	6	—	1	63
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	38	15	—	—	53
Transport and storage	19	2	—	—	21
Communication services	3	—	—	—	3
Finance and insurance	4	1	—	—	5
Property and business services	14	1	—	—	15
Government administration and defence	4	2	—	—	6
Education	3	6	—	—	9
Health and community services	28	5	—	—	33
Cultural and recreational services	17	—	—	—	17
Personal and other services	20	1	—	—	21
Total	*286*	*52*	*1*	*5*	*344*
	TOTAL CRADLE COAST REGION TASMANIA				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1 928	27	2	—	1 957
Mining	33	6	3	6	48
Manufacturing	214	63	5	16	298
Electricity, gas and water supply	30	10	2	—	42
Construction	540	34	4	1	579
Wholesale trade	246	44	3	—	293
Retail trade	1 082	74	6	6	1 168
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	270	65	4	—	339
Transport and storage	328	29	5	1	363
Communication services	26	8	—	—	34
Finance and insurance	130	21	—	—	151
Property and business services	456	46	1	1	504
Government administration and defence	52	18	2	1	73
Education	55	52	18	2	127
Health and community services	346	54	9	7	416
Cultural and recreational services	130	18	1	1	150
Personal and other services	335	13	1	1	350
Total	**6 201**	**582**	**66**	**43**	**6 892**

Source: ABS, Business Register, September 1998, data available on request.

4.2 Manufacturing

Manufacturing is an important sector in the Region. At the 2001 Census 5,650 persons were employed in this sector, however, over the last ten years manufacturing employment has declined by 800 (12.4%) from 6,450 in 1991.

The latest year for which regional manufacturing operations data are available from ABS is 1996–97. Table 4.2.1 shows that manufacturing sector turnover in the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania was $1,421m in 1996–97, up from $1,257m in 1993–94. It is expected that regional Manufacturing data for the financial year 2001–02 will become available in late 2003. Data are not available for intervening years.

In 2003, the major manufacturing establishments in the Region included:

Bonlac Foods	Cheese, dairy products	Wynyard, Spreyton (Devonport)
Lactos	Cheese, dairy products	Burnie
King Island Dairy	Cheese, dairy products	King Island
Simplot	Vegetable processors	Ulverstone, Devonport
McCain Foods	Vegetable processors	Smithton
Australian Weaving Mills	Woven towelling products	Devonport
Ulster Tascot	Woven carpets	Devonport
Australian Paper (PaperlinX)	Paper manufacturers	Burnie, Wesley Vale
Cement Australia	Cement production	Railton
Caterpillar Elphinstone	Mining machinery and equipment	Burnie

Other manufacturing activities to be found in the Region include meat processing, milk processing, seafood processing, sawmilling and wood product manufacturing, printing and publishing, basic iron and steel, fabricated metal products and furniture making.

The Burnie pulp mill closed its operations in 1998 proving to be a setback for regional employment. Much of the pulp feedstock for the two paper mills (at Burnie and Wesley Vale) is now imported.

- *Manufacturing industry turnover in 1996–97 was valued at $1,421m.*
- *Food processing (particularly dairy foods and vegetables) and paper manufacturing are major manufacturing activities in the Region.*
- *The closure of the Burnie pulp mill in 1998 was a setback for the Region.*

4.2 Manufacturing *continued*

4.2.1 Manufacturing Industry, Summary of Operations, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1993–94 and 1996–97

Manufacturing Industry Subdivision	*Locations at 30 June* no.	*Employment at end of June* no.	*Wages and salaries* $m	*Turnover* $m
1993–94				
Food, Beverage and tobacco manufacturing	47	2 364	64	600
Textile, clothing, footwear and leather manufacturing	8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Wood and paper product manufacturing	38	1 318	41	306
Printing, publishing and recorded media	16	344	9	21
Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated product manufacturing	14	352	10	94
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	20	272	n.p.	n.p.
Metal product manufacturing	28	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Machinery and equipment manufacturing	45	410	8	28
Other manufacturing	31	132	2	7
Total manufacturing	**246**	**6 146**	**165**	**1 257**
1996–97				
Food, beverage and tobacco manufacturing	40	2 031	64	555
Textile, clothing, footwear and leather manufacturing	10	532	n.p.	n.p.
Wood and paper product manufacturing	44	1 109	55	417
Printing, publishing and recorded media	19	287	10	27
Petroleum, coal, chemical and associated product manufacturing	16	207	7	48
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	13	312	n.p.	n.p.
Metal product manufacturing	49	416	12	49
Machinery and equipment manufacturing	34	637	22	106
Other manufacturing	23	79	1	7
Total manufacturing	**248**	**5 611**	**200**	**1 421**

Source: ABS, data available on request, Manufacturing Census.

4.3 Agriculture

Agriculture in the Region is largely confined to a narrow coastal strip approximately 150 kms long and 25–30 kms wide on the north west coast between Cape Grim/Smithton and Devonport/Latrobe, and also on King Island. The mild climate, relatively high rainfall and fertile soils of this area are ideal for dairying, vegetable growing and beef cattle—the principal agricultural activities.

In 2000–01 there were 3,237 square kms of land devoted to agriculture, or 14% of the total area of the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania. The majority of the remainder of the Region is mountainous and not suitable for agriculture.

As shown in table 4.3.1, the value of agricultural commodities produced in the Region in 2000–01 was $315.1m. The contribution by each of the nine LGAs ranged from $95.8m in Circular Head LGA to $0.3m in West Coast LGA.

The Circular Head LGA, in the far north-west corner of Tasmania, is the largest dairying and prime beef producing area in Tasmania. In 2000–01 the dairy farmers of Circular Head produced milk to the value of $53.7m, or 36% of Tasmania's total value of milk production. Most of this milk is sent for processing within the Region (e.g. to Bonlac, Lactos, Cadbury), for cheese production or milk powder production, etc. Cattle sold for beef production totalled $22.9m. Potatoes and other vegetables are also grown within the Circular Head LGA. Its main town, Smithton, is the location of a McCain Foods vegetable processing plant with contract growers all along the north-west coast.

The agriculture sector in Central Coast LGA ($60.3m in 2000–01) is dominated by vegetable growing. Vegetables (including vegetables for seeds) produced in Central Coast were valued at $34.1m in 2000–01 and included mainly potatoes, onions and carrots, as well as broccoli, cauliflowers, peas and beans. Vegetables are mainly grown under contract for one of the large processors in the district—such as Simplot or McCain Foods. Simplot have a processing plant in Ulverstone, the main town in Central Coast. Hops, milk and beef cattle are other farm products of the Central Coast LGA.

The Latrobe LGA, in the east of the Region, with agricultural production valued at $44.0m in 2000–01, is also mainly a vegetable producer. However, apple orchards can also be found in Latrobe. Burnie, Devonport, Kentish and Waratah/Wynyard combine vegetable production with dairying and beef production.

The north west district also has significant production of oil poppies and pyrethrum but data for these individual crops are not available. However the value of production of oil poppies and pyrethrum is included in the total value of crops and the total value of agriculture in tables 4.3.1 and 4.3.3. Eucalypt woodlots are another alternative land use for farmers in the Region, however the value of farm forestry is outside the scope of the ABS Agricultural Census.

King Island is renowned for its high quality dairy produce, particularly cheeses, and also beef. King Island grass fed beef is some of the best and most sought after beef in Australia. The King Island 'brand' is well known throughout Australia and is synonymous with high quality gourmet food products.

- ***The Region's agricultural production of $315m in 2000–01 comprised 41.7% of the total for Tasmania. The Region had 64.7% of the value of the state's vegetable production, 59.6% of its milk production and 55.1% of its beef cattle production.***
- ***Of the LGAs in the Region, Circular Head ($96m) had the highest value of agricultural production.***

4.3 Agriculture *continued*

4.3.1 Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, LGAs, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—2000–01

Commodity	Burnie (C) $'000	Central Coast (M) $'000	Circular Head (M) $'000	Devonport (C) $'000	Kentish (M) $'000	King Island (M) $'000	Latrobe (M) $'000	Waratah/ Wynyard (M) $'000	West Coast (M) $'000	Total Region $'000
Pastures cut for hay	685	1 797	4 868	173	1 347	2 409	671	1 390	3	13 343
Pasture seed	—	101	1 959	n.a.	—	n.a.	92	—	—	2 152
Cereals for grain	—	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	224	—	234	262	—	876
Hops	—	3 149	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 149
Oil poppies	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.
Pyrethrum	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.
Nurseries, flowers etc.	184	1 545	640	968	206	—	276	1 722	—	5 541
Potatoes for seed	1 128	3 706	151	—	863	—	383	547	—	6 777
Potatoes	3 126	13 768	4 606	2 728	3 289	—	9 522	5 937	—	42 976
French and runner beans	137	734	239	141	257	—	2 030	351	—	3 889
Broccoli	204	1 247	838	n.a.	n.a.	—	1 219	n.a.	—	3 677
Brussels sprouts	—	188	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	233	—	—	456
Cabbages	15	186	—	407	n.a.	—	n.a.	—	—	617
Carrots	671	6 575	477	1 289	971	—	5 423	1 503	—	16 910
Cauliflowers	n.a.	1 463	n.a.	471	192	—	330	—	—	2 544
Mushrooms	—	—	—	4 007	—	—	—	—	—	4 007
Onions – white and brown	—	3 857	468	1 071	737	—	2 984	2 506	—	11 622
Peas – green	n.a.	530	n.a.	163	n.a.	—	1 354	217	—	2 816
Pumpkins, triambles, etc.	n.a.	189	n.a.	149	—	—	284	—	—	704
Swedes	255	422	393	—	n.a.	—	n.a.	500	—	1 753
Other vegetables	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	3 036
Total vegetables	*4 541*	*30 302*	*7 492*	*11 279*	*6 169*	*n.a.*	*24 193*	*11 027*	—	*95 007*
Apples	—	—	—	1 785	749	—	4 539	—	—	7 074
Cherries	—	249	n.a.	n.a.	269	—	161	119	—	818
Other fruit	—	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	303	—	421	—	—	904
Total value of fruit	—	*305*	*41*	*1 889*	*1 320*	—	*5 121*	*119*	—	*8 796*
Total value of crops	*7 231*	*45 481*	*17 846*	*15 482*	*11 612*	*2 519*	*35 641*	*17 132*	*3*	*152 948*
Wool	n.a.	346	626	n.a.	801	1 357	659	192	—	4 171
Milk	2 890	7 212	53 697	310	5 872	7 957	1 425	8 696	—	88 059
Eggs for human consumption	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	—	663	n.a.	—	915
Honey and beeswax	—	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	—	n.a.	—	788
Total value of livestock products	*2 946*	*7 840*	*54 461*	*696*	*6 981*	*9 314*	*2 747*	*8 949*	—	*93 934*
Sheep and lamb disposals	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	2 690
Cattle and calf disposals	3 230	6 609	22 903	542	4 451	14 200	3 406	5 887	261	61 489
Other livestock disposals	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	—	4 017
Total value of livestock disposals	*3 351*	*7 007*	*23 465*	*1 283*	*5 193*	*14 587*	*5 605*	*7 444*	*261*	*68 195*
Total value of agriculture	**13 527**	**60 328**	**95 771**	**17 461**	**23 786**	**26 421**	**43 993**	**33 525**	**264**	**315 077**

Source: ABS Agricultural Census, 2000–01, data available on request.

4.3 Agriculture *continued*

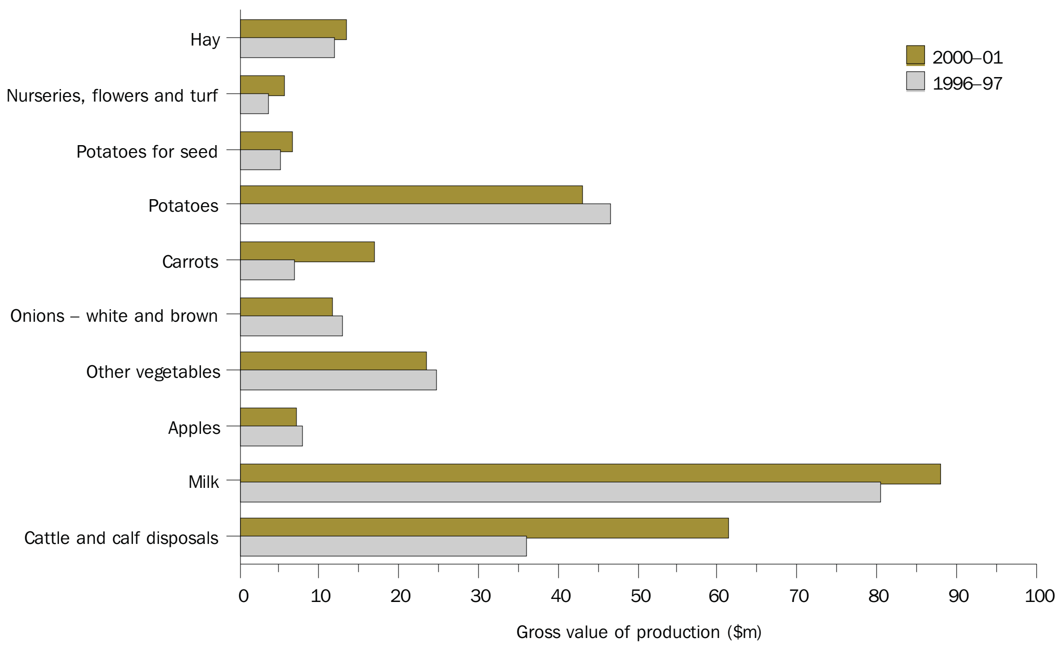
Overall, the Region's total agricultural production of $315m in 2000–01 comprised 41.7% of the total value of production for Tasmania ($755m). The Region produces 64.7% of the value of the state's vegetable production, 59.6% of its milk production and 55.1% of its beef cattle disposals for slaughtering.

The value of agricultural production in the Region has increased from $259.6m in 1996–97 to $315.1m in 2000–01. Beef cattle, carrots and milk stand out as commodities which have shown significant increases over this four-year period.

The Region benefits greatly from Tasmania's 'clean, green' image with its exports to mainland Australia and to the rest of the world.

The implementation of the national Dairy Deregulation Program (on 1 July 2000) has lead to some restructuring within the sector, such as amalgamation and consolidation of dairy farms and the increased efficiency of some producers.

4.3.2 Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1996–97 and 2000–01



Source: ABS, Agricultural Census, 1996–97 and 2000–01, data available on request.

4.3 Agriculture *continued*

4.3.3 Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Cradle Coast Region—Tasmania—1996–97 and 2000–01

Commodities and commodity groups	*1996–97* $'000	*2000–01* $'000
Pastures cut for hay	12 035	13 343
Pasture seed	125	2 152
Cereals for grain	1 328	876
Hops	2 411	3 149
Oil poppies	n.a.	n.a.
Pyrethrum	n.a.	n.a.
Nurseries, flowers and turf	3 657	5 541
Potatoes for seed	5 148	6 777
Potatoes	46 623	42 976
French and runner beans	4 059	3 889
Broccoli	4 215	3 677
Brussels sprouts	1 117	456
Cabbages	956	617
Carrots	7 012	16 910
Cauliflowers	2 272	2 544
Mushrooms	n.a.	4 007
Onions – white and brown	13 000	11 622
Peas – green	5 160	2 816
Pumpkins, triambles and trombones	461	704
Swedes	1 467	1 753
Other vegetables	5 159	3 036
Total vegetables	*91 501*	*95 007*
Apples	7 907	7 074
Cherries	311	818
Other fruit	659	904
Total value of fruit	*8 876*	*8 796*
Total value of crops	*133 247*	*152 948*
Wool	3 455	4 171
Milk	80 450	88 059
Eggs produced for human consumption	979	915
Honey and beeswax	909	788
Total value of livestock products	*85 792*	*93 934*
Sheep and lamb disposals	1 621	2 690
Cattle and calf disposals	36 066	61 489
Other livestock disposals	2 901	4 017
Total value of livestock disposals	*40 588*	*68 195*
Total value of agriculture	**259 626**	**315 077**

Source: ABS Agricultural Census, 1996–97 and 2000–01, data available on request.

4.4 Tourism

Why is this important?

Tourism is a significant industry in Tasmania and provides employment opportunities in the Region.

Tasmania continues to attract many visitors, both from the Australian mainland and from overseas. It has a widely recognised clean, green 'brand' or image and is renowned for its extensive Wilderness World Heritage Areas, its National Parks, clean air, pure water, heritage, culture, wine and food.

Interstate and international visitors

The small size of Tasmania means that many visitors travel extensively throughout the island and, for many, the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania is an integral and essential part of visiting Tasmania. Table 4.1.1 shows details of visitor numbers to Tasmania over each of the last five years.

It should also be noted that intrastate tourism is also important with many of the 473,000 Tasmanians travelling widely within their state.

4.4.1 Visitors to Tasmania, Tasmanian Visitor Survey(a)—1997–98 to 2001–02

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–00*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
Scheduled air and sea visitors:					
Overseas visitors	73 900	71 500	89 300	98 200	96 700
Interstate visitors	427 600	452 600	442 300	430 300	422 800
Not stated	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2 500	500
Total	*501 600*	*524 200*	*531 500*	*531 000*	*519 900*
Cruise ship visitors	16 400	34 700	31 500	28 500	48 200
Navy ship visitors	3 700	18 400	7 900	8 100	7 300
Singapore charter flight visitors	1 300	1 000	1 000	800	600
Total visitors to Tasmania	**522 900**	**578 200**	**572 000**	**568 400**	**576 000**
Estimated visitor nights	4 867 600	5 071 000	4 915 000	4 822 800	5 170 500
Average stay per visit (nights)	9.3	8.8	8.6	8.5	9.0

(a) Scope of survey:
From 2000–01— covers day and overnight visitors aged 14 years and over who stay in Tasmania for less than a year.
Prior to 2000–01—covers overnight visitors aged 15 years and over who stay in Tasmania for less than a year.

Source: Tourism Tasmania: Tasmanian Visitor Survey.

- ***Just under a half of the visitors to Tasmania in 2001–02 visited the North West Tourism Region which includes the LGAs of Burnie, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe and Waratah/Wynyard. Just under one-third visited the West Coast Tourism Region (i.e. the West Coast LGA).***

4.4 Tourism *continued*

Table 4.4.2 shows details of visitor numbers to towns and cities in the North West and West Coast Tourism Regions in 2001–02. Just under half these visitors travelled within the North West Tourism Region, the majority of whom stayed overnight. Devonport and Burnie were the most visited towns in this Tourism Region. (Note: The North West Tourism Region includes the LGAs of Burnie, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe and Waratah/Wynyard.) Just under one-third of all visitors to Tasmania ventured to the West Coast Tourism Region—to Strahan, Queenstown, Zeehan and other parts. (The West Coast Tourism Region is the West Coast LGA.) A relatively recent addition to the West Coast tourism infrastructure is the restored West Coast Wilderness Railway, from Queenstown to Strahan on Macquarie Harbour. It was officially opened in April 2003 (for more information see page 84).

Tourist accommodation—hotels, motels and serviced apartments

Table 4.4.3 shows data from the ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation for the year ending June 2002. The data are for hotels, motels, guest houses and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms, of which there were 41 establishments in the Region in the June quarter 2002.

Strong seasonal variations see room occupancy rates in the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania reach their peak in the March quarter (55.9% in 2002), compared with a low point of 27.0% in the September quarter. This seasonal variation is also reflected in the takings from accommodation, with takings of $6.6m in the March quarter compared with $2.8m in the September quarter.

4.4.2 Scheduled Air and Sea Visitors to Tasmania(a) by Region/Town Visited, North West and West Coast Tourism Regions(b), Tasmanian Visitor Survey—2001–02

	Passed through	*Stopped and looked around*	*Stayed overnight*	*Total visitors (c)*	*Pro-portion (d)*
	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
Sheffield	27 900	60 600	9 100	97 700	18.8
Devonport	37 400	94 000	62 500	193 900	37.3
Burnie	35 500	67 700	29 300	132 500	25.5
Wynyard	31 000	40 400	15 200	86 500	16.6
Stanley	9 100	44 600	27 300	81 000	15.6
Smithton	12 700	24 500	9 100	46 300	8.9
Other North West	—	—	71 600	71 600	13.8
Total North West Tourism Region(b)	**88 300**	**162 400**	**176 000**	**251 800**	**48.4**
Zeehan	42 000	50 300	8 000	100 300	19.3
Strahan	7 800	30 400	93 700	131 900	25.4
Queenstown	41 000	61 800	37 200	139 900	26.9
Other West Coast	—	—	28 700	28 700	5.5
Total West Coast Tourism Region(b)	**62 900**	**94 300**	**136 900**	**157 200**	**30.2**

(a) Covers day and overnight visitors aged 14 years and over who stay in Tasmania for less than a year.

(b) North West Tourism Region comprises the LGAs of Burnie, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe and Waratah/Wynyard. West Coast Tourism Region comprises the LGA of West Coast.

(c) Note that visitors can stay overnight in several places within the same region. For this reason the sum of the towns and cities will always be greater than the regional totals.

(d) Proportion of all scheduled air and sea visitors to Tasmania in 2001–02 (i.e. 519,900 persons).

Source: Tourism Tasmania, Tasmanian Visitor Survey

4.4.3 Tourist Accommodation, Hotels, Motels, Guest Houses and Serviced Apartments(a), Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—By Quarter, 2001–02

	Sep qtr 2001	*Dec qtr 2001*	*Mar qtr 2002*	*Jun qtr 2002*
Establishments (no.)	39	41	41	41
Employment (no.)	637	736	737	671
Rooms (no.)	1 307	1 396	1 402	1 386
Guest arrivals (no.)	32 115	63 148	79 728	49 485
Room nights occupied (no.)	32 523	51 204	70 544	51 263
Room occupancy rates (%)	27.0	39.9	55.9	40.6
Takings from accommodation ($'000)	2 783	4 852	6 642	4 248

(a) Only hotels, motels, etc. with 15 or more rooms included in survey.

Source: ABS, Survey of Tourist Accommodation.

4.4 Tourism *continued*

Table 4.4.4 shows data for the latest available three years for hotels, motels, guest houses and serviced apartments from the ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation for each of the two designated 'Tourism Regions'—i.e. North West Tourism Region and West Coast Tourism Region. For each of the last three years the two combined Tourism Regions attracted around 23% of Tasmania's total guest arrivals. Annual takings from accommodation have remained steady at around $18m for each of the last three years, representing 18–19% of the total for Tasmania.

4.4.4 Tourist Accommodation, Hotels, Motels, Guest Houses and Serviced Apartments(a), North West(b) and West Coast(c) Tourism Regions—1999–2000 to 2001–02

	North West Tourism Region(b)	*West Coast Tourism Region(c)*	***Total Cradle Coast Region Tasmania***	*Tasmania*	*Region as % of Tasmania*
		1999–2000			
Establishments at June quarter (no.)	32	10	**42**	131	—
Employment at June quarter (no.)	532	180	**712**	3 921	18.2
Rooms at June quarter (no.)	986	412	**1 398**	5 496	25.4
Guest arrivals (no.)	158 170	78 743	**236 913**	1 039 044	22.8
Room nights occupied (no.)	151 777	60 460	**212 237**	1 073 246	19.8
Room occupancy rates (%)	42.1	40.9	**41.7**	53.0	—
Takings from accommodation ($'000)	13 087	4 596	**17 683**	93 333	18.9
		2000–01			
Establishments at June quarter (no.)	31	10	**41**	129	—
Employment at June quarter (no.)	512	158	**670**	3 796	17.7
Rooms at June quarter (no.)	976	416	**1 392**	5 478	25.4
Guest arrivals (no.)	144 658	80 060	**224 718**	990 079	22.7
Room nights occupied (no.)	136 547	63 251	**199 798**	1 022 912	19.5
Room occupancy rates (%)	38.7	41.8	**39.6**	51.1	—
Takings from accommodation ($'000)	12 600	4 824	**17 424**	97 953	17.8
		2001–02			
Establishments at June quarter (no.)	31	10	**41**	127	—
Employment at June quarter (no.)	490	181	**671**	3 785	17.7
Rooms at June quarter (no.)	970	416	**1 386**	5 557	24.9
Guest arrivals (no.)	146 129	78 347	**224 476**	969 005	23.2
Room nights occupied (no.)	143 358	62 176	**205 534**	1 032 315	19.9
Room occupancy rates (%)	41.0	41.0	**41.0**	51.2	—
Takings from accommodation ($'000)	13 651	4 874	**18 525**	99 510	18.6

(a) Only hotels, motels etc. with 15 or more rooms included in survey.

(b) North West Tourism Region comprises the LGAs of Burnie, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe and Waratah/Wynyard.

(c) West Coast Tourism Region comprises the LGA of West Coast.

Source: ABS, Survey of Tourist Accommodation.

4.4 Tourism *continued*

Tourist accommodation—caravan parks

Tasmania's caravan park sector is relatively small. In 2000 there were 312,000 caravan park 'site nights occupied' in the North West Tourism Region (40% of Tasmania's total caravan park 'site nights occupied') while $2.7m was taken for caravan park accommodation (31.7% of total Tasmania). Caravan park details are not available for the West Coast Tourism Region, as there were too few establishments.

4.4.5 Tourist Accommodation, Caravan Parks(a), North West Tourism Region(b)—1997 and 2000

	North West Tourism Region(b)	*Tasmania*	*North West Tourism Region as % of Tasmania*
	1997		
Establishments (no.)	18	46	39.1
Total capacity (sites)	1 940	5 372	36.1
Site nights occupied (no.)	272 200	731 200	37.2
Site occupancy rates (%)	38.4	37.3	—
Takings from accommodation ($'000)	2 407	6 954	34.6
	2000		
Establishments (no.)	18	44	40.9
Total capacity (sites)	2 263	5 507	41.1
Site nights occupied (no.)	311 700	778 500	40.0
Site occupancy rates (%)	37.6	38.6	—
Takings from accommodation ($'000)	2 706	8 536	31.7

(a) Only caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites, cabins, etc. are included in the survey.

(b) North West Tourism Region comprises the LGAs of Burnie, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport, Kentish, King Island, Latrobe and Waratah/Wynyard. Data is not available for the West Coast Tourism Region.

Source: ABS, Survey of Tourist Accommodation.

4.4 Tourism *continued*

West Coast Wilderness Railway[1]

The Australian Government contributed $20.45 million from the Centenary of Federation Fund to help re-establish the heritage railway between Strahan and Queenstown on Tasmania's West Coast. The project, managed by the Tasmanian Department of State Development, administered the federal government's contribution according to a Deed of Grant.

The original railway was completed in the late nineteenth century by the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company. Its primary purpose was to transport processed copper, extracted from the Mount Lyell Mine at Queenstown, to the port of Strahan where it could be exported from Tasmania.

Construction proved to be a major engineering feat as the railway passed through some of Tasmania's most rugged terrain. To navigate the steep inclines the locomotive, pulling each of the 'Abt system trains', had the ability to engage a cog in a third rail that enabled the train to pull itself along. This invention, designed by Swiss engineer, Dr Roman Abt, subsequently became known as an Abt railway and that description has continued to present times.

When the railway ceased operation in 1963, action was taken to remove those sections of the track which could be cost effectively dismantled. Consequently, the vast majority of the railway iron was removed as well as the timber sleepers in most of the non-forest areas. Maintenance ceased on more than 30 wooden bridges and on the two bridges with a large steel component. Old station buildings were dismantled or left to fall into a state of disrepair. At Queenstown, the station that existed at the close of the railway was extended for use, primarily as a supermarket, but in late 1998 was destroyed by fire.

The restoration project has now been completed and the historic Abt railway has been restored as a tourist attraction linking Queenstown and Strahan. It was officially opened by the Prime Minister on 3 April 2003. Now known as the West Coast Wilderness Railway, it is operated by Federal Hotels and Resorts. Trains leave twice daily from both Strahan and Queenstown.

- ***The restored West Coast Wilderness Railway between Strahan and Queenstown was opened by the Prime Minister in April 2003.***

1 *Source:* Department of Transport and Regional Development <www.dotars.gov.au/transprog/rail/abt.htm> and Discover Tasmania <www.discovertasmania.com.au>.

4.5 Forestry[1]

A significant proportion of the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania is forested. At the 2001 Census, 530 persons in the Region were employed in the Forestry and logging industry. A further 1,032 were also employed in Sawmilling and Wood and paper product manufacturing.

Forestry policy and planning tends to be dealt with on a state-wide basis and discussion and information in this Section is for Tasmania as a whole.

Almost half of Tasmania's land is forested, including cool temperate rainforest, wet and dry eucalypt forest and plantations. Today, forests cover a total of about 3,357,000 hectares or 49% of the state's area, compared with 59% at the time of European settlement.

Tasmania has a wide range of native forest-based industries. These vary from woodcraft to wood fuels, from veneer manufacture and sawmilling to woodchip, pulp, newsprint and fine-paper making. Other important forestry sector industries include leatherwood honey production, tourism, and recreational and educational activities based in multiple-use forests.

The Commonwealth Government and the State Government share a vision of ecologically sustainable management of the forest estate that integrates environmental, commercial and community values and uses. These values are embodied in the Regional Forest Agreement negotiated with the Tasmanian Government.

Following the 1992 National Forest Policy, the Tasmanian **Regional Forest Agreement (RFA)** was signed between the Commonwealth Government and the Tasmanian Government in November 1994. In January 1999, in association with this agreement, the two governments signed the joint Statement on Sustainable Forest Management.

The first of its kind in Australia, the statement provides assurance to domestic and international customers that wood has been harvested in Tasmania in a manner where environmental values are well protected, both in reserves and through appropriate sustainable forest management practices in wood production forests.

The RFA covers the whole state, including all public and private forests. Key components of the RFA include:

- the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system that meets nationally agreed criteria;
- improved certainty of access to production forests for the wood-based industries with resource maintained at least at current levels;
- a program of intensive forest management on state forests to increase the supply of wood and boost employment in the industry;
- provision for future growth and development of Tasmanian industries associated with forest and timber products;
- improvements to the systems for the ecological sustainable management of Tasmania's forests;
- assistance with developing forest-based tourism and recreational opportunities based on Tasmania's environmental advantages; and
- further development of forest-based research.

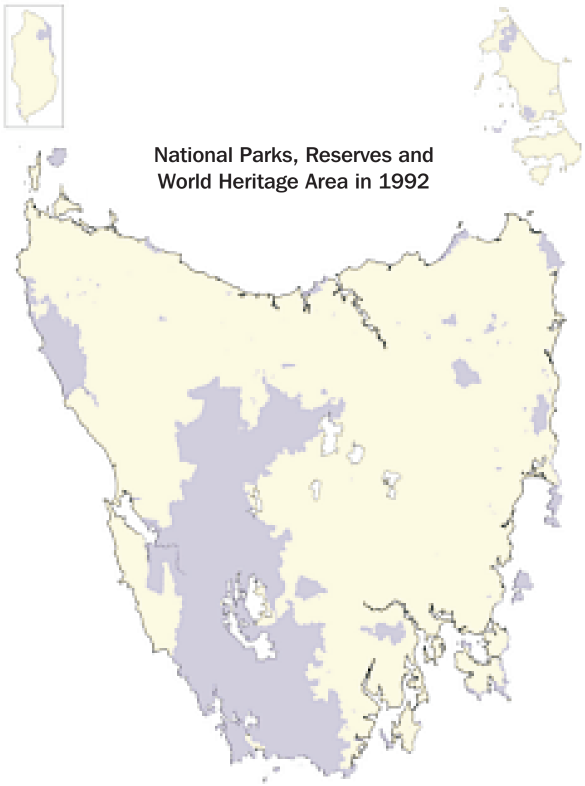
Following the Regional Forest Agreement, the Tasmanian Government announced a Forestry Growth Plan in November 1998. The plan involves partnerships between the State Government, Forestry Tasmania and industry. The plan includes:

- building new road infrastructure;
- investigating partnership opportunities between Forestry Tasmania and private tree growers and sawmillers;
- introducing merchandising flitch mills; and
- investigating the feasibility of new port facilities to improve export opportunities.

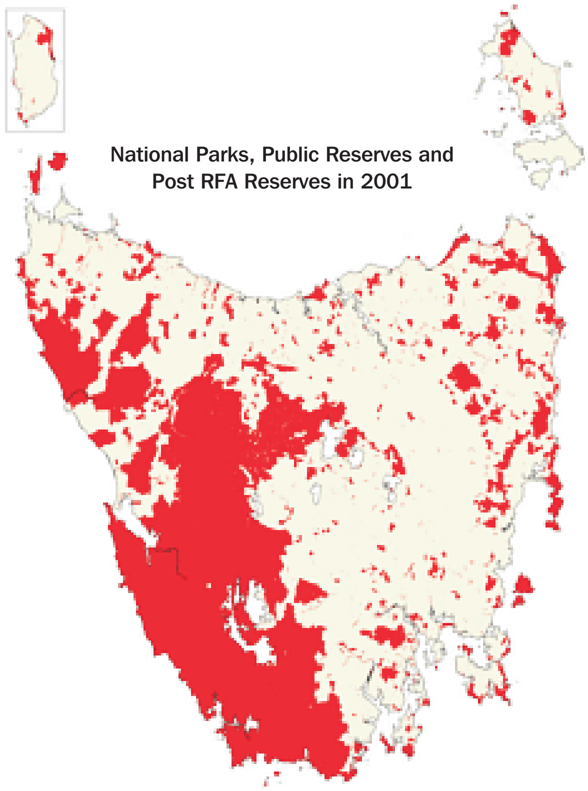
In June 1999 after a three-year program supported by successive State Governments, Forestry Tasmania entered into a joint venture arrangement with international fund manager GMO Renewable Resources, to develop state-owned softwood plantations to world scale. This joint venture involved a 50% sale of the northern softwood plantation resource for $48.8m and accelerated investment in plantation expansion.

1 *Source:* Forestry Tasmania and ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (then select Themes/Tasmania/Statistics – Tasmania/Forestry).

4.5 Forestry *continued*



Source: Forestry Tasmania.



Source: Forestry Tasmania.

4.6 Mining

For well over 100 years the mining of metallic minerals has been the main economic activity of the West Coast and, in more recent years, parts of Waratah/Wynyard (Savage River). The towns of Queenstown, Rosebery, Zeehan and Savage River are closely associated with mining activity. By its very nature, the mining sector experiences volatility caused by large rises and falls in base metal prices, fluctuations in the value of the $A, mine closures and corporate investment and restructuring decisions. Such volatility can have a major impact on a small regional economy. A recent example of this is the closure of the Renison Bell tin mine at Zeehan in June 2003.

Table 4.6.1 shows Tasmanian production details of metallic minerals in 1991–92, 1996–97 and 2000–01. As the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania covers practically all of the metallic minerals mined in Tasmania, the data is a reasonable proxy for production in the Region. In 2000–01 the value of production of metallic minerals was $444.8m, down slightly on the $460.9m produced in 1996–97, but up (in current price terms) on the $388.8m produced in 1991–92. It can be seen that over the past ten years, volumes of zinc and lead have declined, while iron ore pellets and gold have increased.

Graph 4.6.2 and table 4.6.3 show that there has been quite a substantial downturn in employment levels in the mining sector in the Region over the last twenty or so years. In the 1970s and early 1980s mining employment levels were above 3,500 persons, but by 2001 had declined to around 1,100—or less than one-third of the level of twenty years ago. The populations of west coast mining towns, such as Queenstown, Rosebery and Zeehan have shown a substantial decline (see table 2.1.3).

Employment in the Tasmanian mining industry has fallen over the past 20 years because of mine closures, productivity-driven retrenchment programs and a trend towards the use of contractors. Contractors are classified to the activity they are performing (e.g. construction, transport, mining) rather than to the industry they are serving (mining). Also, mining operations have tended to become more mechanised and less labour-intensive over the last twenty years.

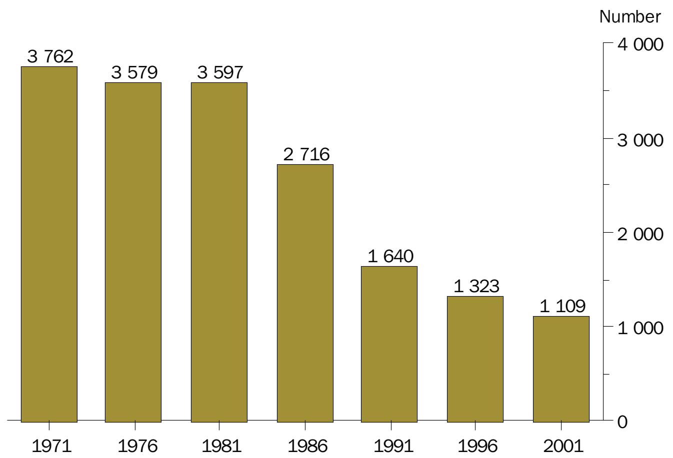
4.6.1 Production of Principal Metallic Minerals, Tasmania(a)—1991–92, 1996–97 and 2000–01

	1991–92	*1996–97*	*2000–01*
	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
Gold	1.70	2.44	6.55
Silver	104	166	101
Zinc	210 853	186 406	77 430
Copper	27 292	24 759	30 127
Lead	73 853	65 724	30 290
Tin	5 729	8 732	8 985
Tungsten	229	2	—
Iron ore pellets	1 451 585	809 359	2 027 324
	$'000	$'000	$'000
Total value of metallic minerals	388 780	460 907	444 841

(a) Data is for total Tasmania, however, nearly all of the metallic minerals are mined in the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania.

Source: Mineral Resources Tasmania.

4.6.2 Employed Persons, Mining Industry, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1971 to 2001 Censuses



Source: ABS, 1971 to 2001 Censuses.

- *In 2000–01, the value of production of metallic minerals in Tasmania was $444.8m. Nearly all of this production comes from the mines on the West Coast.*

4.7 Building approvals

Why is this important?

ABS Building Approvals data are a leading economic indicator. Demand for new housing fluctuates according to a range of determinants such as interest rates, first home buyer incentive schemes, household formation rates, growth or decline in employment opportunities and house price signals. Non-residential building approvals are an indicator of investment in a region while residential building approvals may indicate the availability of financial resources and commitment to live in an area.

In 2001–02 the total value of building approvals in the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania was $67.9m. This was made up of $33.6m for new residential dwelling approvals and $34.3m for non-residential building approvals. The value of all building approvals rose by 39% between 2000–01 and 2001–02. The year 2000–01 saw lower than normal building activity, possibly as a consequence of the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2000.

According to the 2001 Census, there were 2,161 people engaged in the building industry within the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania, making up around 5.5% of the Region's total employment.

4.7.1 Building Approvals, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1991–92 to 2001–02

Year	New residential dwelling units approved (no.)	Value of new residential dwelling units approved ($m)	Proportion of Tasmania's value of new dwelling unit approvals (%)	Value of non-residential building approvals ($m)
1991–92	632	42.2	16.2	22.6
1992–93	730	50.7	18.4	23.3
1993–94	689	48.6	16.1	48.2
1994–95	662	51.3	21.0	33.4
1995–96	520	43.3	19.9	35.1
1996–97	379	32.4	20.6	46.1
1997–98	316	27.0	19.0	20.2
1998–99	248	22.2	16.9	29.4
1999–00	319	30.4	15.7	24.3
2000–01	218	24.4	19.1	24.6
2001–02	300	33.6	15.0	34.3

Source: ABS, Building Approvals Collection, data available on request.

4.7 Building approvals *continued*

Residential

There has been a general decline in demand for new housing in the Region over the last ten years. In the early to mid 1990s the number of new dwellings approved was around 600–700 per year whereas in the latest several years it has ranged between 200–350. A similar downward trend is observable for Tasmania as a whole but the trend is less severe.

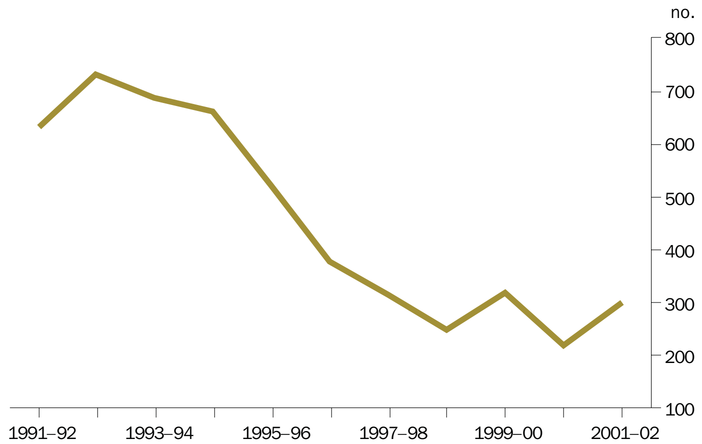
In 2001–02 there were 300 new dwellings approved in the Region, of which Central Coast (64), Devonport (61), Latrobe (60) and Waratah/Wynyard (32) LGAs had the most approvals. This compares with 1993–94 when there were 689 new dwellings approved with Central Coast (155), Devonport (149), Latrobe (102) and Burnie (90) LGAs having the most approvals.

Non-residential building approvals

Over the last ten years the value of non-residential building approvals in the Region has tended to fluctuate between $20m and $50m per year.

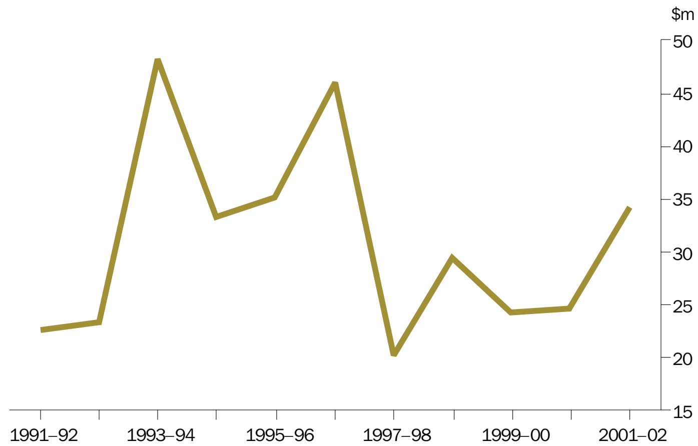
In 2001–02, non-residential buildings to the value of $34.3m were approved. Of this total, $10.9m was for education buildings, $8.5m for aged care facilities, $3.9m for accommodation facilities (such as hotels, motels, boarding houses or hostels) and $2.3m for retail or wholesale trade buildings. Devonport comprised $19.4m of the total, Kentish $5.1m, Latrobe $2.0m and Central Coast also $2.0m.

4.7.2 Number of New Dwellings Approved, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1991–92 to 2001–02



Source: ABS, Building Approvals Collection, data available on request.

4.7.3 Value of Non-residential Building Approvals, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1991–92 to 2001–02



Source: ABS, Building Approvals Collection, data available on request.

4.8 Median sales value of houses

Why is this important?

Changes in residential property prices are worth examining as an economic indicator. To some extent they can be regarded as a litmus test of confidence (or otherwise) in the future of a region, although broader influences come into play that impact at a national, state or capital city level.

According to Land Information System Tasmania (LIST), median sales values for houses in Burnie and Devonport, the two largest cities in the Region, have essentially remained flat or have declined over the last five years. Devonport's median house price was $81,000 in 1996–97 and had increased slightly to $84,000 in 2001–02. Burnie's median house price has declined over the same period, from $70,000 to $60,000. In comparison, median house prices in Greater Hobart have risen from $104,000 to $124,000 over the same period.

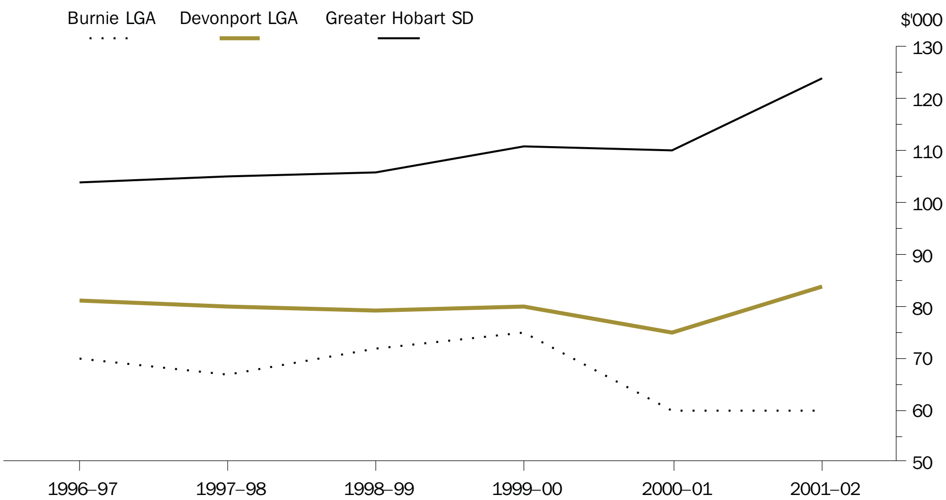
Both Burnie and Devonport have experienced declines in their populations over this period, with Burnie's rate of decline greater than that of Devonport. This may partly explain why residential property values in these two cities are so restrained.

4.8.1 Median Sales Values of Houses, Burnie, Devonport and Greater Hobart—1996–97 to 2001–02

	1996–97 $'000	*1997–98* $'000	*1998–99* $'000	*1999–00* $'000	*2000–01* $'000	*2001–02* $'000
Burnie LGA	70.0	67.0	72.0	75.0	60.0	60.0
Devonport LGA	81.0	80.0	79.0	80.0	75.0	84.0
Greater Hobart SD	104.0	105.0	106.0	111.0	110.0	124.0

Source: Land Information System Tasmania, Tasmanian Government.

4.8.2 Median Sales Values of Houses, Burnie, Devonport and Greater Hobart—1996–97 to 2001–02



Source: Land Information System Tasmania, Tasmanian Government.

4.9 New motor vehicle registrations

Why is this important?

Registrations of new motor vehicles are another indicator of economic activity. For individuals it shows the availability of financial resources to outlay on expensive commodities. (Note: Data should be treated with care as a distorted picture may emerge if large multi-location businesses register fleets of new vehicles within a region that will be used elsewhere.)

The number of new motor vehicle registrations in the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania has fluctuated over the last few years with a high of 3,274 in 1998–99 and a low of 2,676 in 1995–96. In 2000–01 the number of new motor vehicle registrations was 2,941. As a proportion of Tasmania, these registrations fell from 23.5% in 1993–94 to 18.3% in 1999–2000 and 2000–01. In comparison, the Region had 22.6% of Tasmania's total population in 2001.

4.9.1 New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Cradle Coast Region Tasmania—1993–94 to 2000–01

	1993–94	*1994–95*	*1995–96*	*1996–97*	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–00*	*2000–01*
Burnie–Devonport SSD	2 432	2 414	1 966	2 098	2 333	2 417	2 008	2 244
North Western Rural SSD	536	557	514	622	643	682	625	546
Lyell SSD	105	177	196	146	156	175	141	151
Total Cradle Coast Region Tasmania	**3 073**	**3 148**	**2 676**	**2 866**	**3 132**	**3 274**	**2 774**	**2 941**
Tasmania	13 051	14 419	13 673	14 994	16 514	15 713	15 119	16 091
Region as % of Tasmania	23.5	21.8	19.6	19.1	19.0	20.8	18.3	18.3

Source: ABS New Motor Vehicle Registrations, data available on request

4.10 Energy infrastructure

As a result of National Competition policy, Hydro Tasmania was formed in 1998 from the Hydro-Electric Commission (HEC) and is responsible for the generation of electricity within Tasmania. Two other entities (Transend Networks and Aurora Energy) now transmit and retail the electricity.

Hydro Tasmania has around 40% of its hydro-electric generation capacity within the Cradle Coast Region Tasmania.

The Mersey Forth Power Development was started in 1963 and completed in 1973. It is largely within the Kentish and Devonport LGAs and comprises seven power stations (Fisher, Rowallan, Lemonthyme, Wilmot, Cethana, Devils Gate and Paloona), three major tunnels and associated penstocks, canals and flumes. The combined generating capacity of the seven power stations is 308 MW and they contribute around 16% of the state's energy needs.

On the West Coast, the Pieman River Power Development commenced construction in 1974 and was completed in 1987. The development consists of three power stations (Mackintosh, Bastyan and Reece), five dams and a range of associated works. The combined generating capacity of the three power stations is 391MW contributing around 20% of Tasmania's energy needs. Tullah was the main construction and administration town for this project.

The last hydro-electric development in Tasmania was the Anthony Power Development, completed on the west coast in 1994. It was closely associated with the Pieman River Power Development.

There have been no major hydro-electric projects under construction in Tasmania since 1994 and it is generally accepted that further hydro-electric developments are no longer viable for Tasmania, either economically or environmentally. In the decades up to the early 1990s many thousands of Tasmanians were employed on major hydro-electric construction projects. In more recent times, Hydro Tasmania has invested in wind farms as an alternative clean, green, renewable energy option. In 2002, Hydro Tasmania opened Stage 1 of its Woolnorth Wind Farm near Cape Grim on the state's north west tip. Site work commenced in 2003 for Woolnorth Stage 2, a 54 MW development. There are plans for a 160MW wind farm at remote Heemskerk on the coast near Zeehan within the West Coast LGA.

An important development for Tasmania's energy sector is Basslink. Basslink is a project to construct a cable under Bass Strait to link Tasmania to the National Energy Market (NEM). Construction of the Basslink cable has commenced in Italy, and it is expected that Tasmania's electricity will be flowing into the national market by 2005.

The benefits of the Basslink project include: purchasing low priced off peak power from the National Energy Market; selling power generated in Tasmania into high priced NEM peak periods; increasing the supply of electricity in Tasmania for future use; and reducing the impact of low rainfall on Tasmania's hydro-electricity supply.

Another important new development is the Tasmania natural gas project. Natural gas is now piped under Bass Strait from Victoria to Tasmania. The availability of natural gas as an alternative and competitive energy source and means of additional electricity generation will boost industrial development in Tasmania. Initially, the Bell Bay Power Station and a number of large industrial and commercial customers are to be connected to natural gas.

- ***There have been no hydro-electric development projects since 1994. Prior to this, the Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) schemes were a major employer of construction and engineering workers in the Region.***
- ***The Basslink project, to link Tasmania to the National Energy Market with an under sea cable, has the potential to benefit the economies of Tasmania and the Region.***