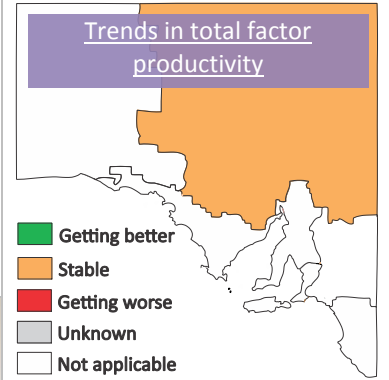


2014 Regional Snapshot

Is the productivity of our primary industries improving?

The success and productivity of South Australia's agriculture and pastoral industries depend upon the health and sustainable management of our natural resources.

This report card uses Total Factor Productivity (TFP, calculated by [ABARES](#)) as a measure of the efficiency of our cropping (\$2 million Gross Value of Production in 2011) and livestock (\$132 million GVP) industries in the South Australian Arid Lands NRM region. TFP measures the values of the total goods that industries produce relative to inputs they use (e.g. labour, land and capital).



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (1994–2010)

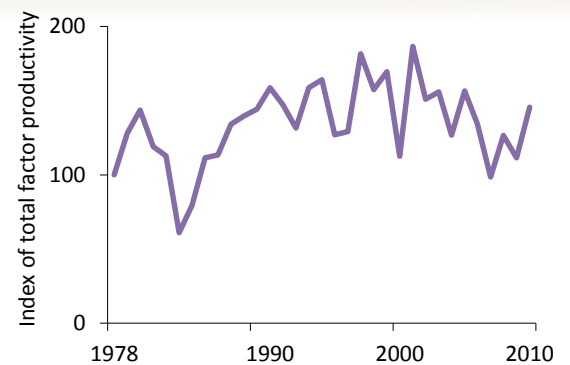
Stable

Cropping and livestock productivity was almost stable between 1994 and 2010

TFP is influenced by rainfall and demand for commodities, but investment in pastoral management research and development drives long term trends. TFP increases (1978–2010) resulted from advances in technology in plant and animal breeding, advances in machinery and cell or rotational grazing techniques. These changes have improved the condition of our land and water resources.

From 1978 to 2010, the TFP growth of our cropping and livestock industries averaged 0.8 per cent each year in the SA Arid Lands NRM region, less than the national average of 1.2 per cent (graph on right). TFP has dropped by a rate of 1.4 per cent each year between 1994 and 2010.

The NRM region experienced an extended drought during this time, which is likely to have affected productivity rates.



Where we are at (2013)

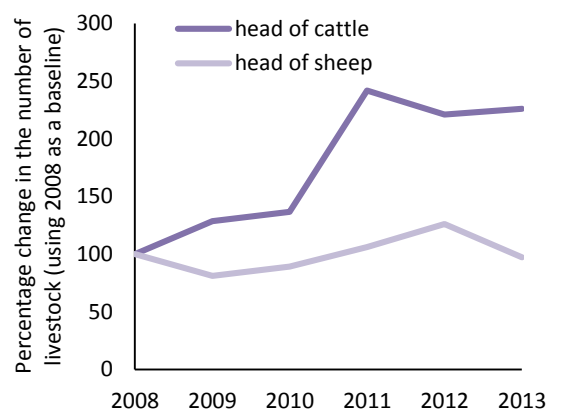
Good

The value of livestock and cropping production is at or near record highs

To aid the interpretation of TFP, the graph on the right shows the total head of cattle and sheep in the SA Arid Lands NRM region. The livestock industry has increased in production in recent years.

Pastoral and agricultural productivity in the NRM region is driven by climate. Reduced rainfall and [changing climate](#) patterns is placing increased pressure on our land managers to maintain productivity and increase moisture efficiency.

It is not clear what will provide the next boost to productivity, but management of our natural resources remains important. Government and industry invest in research and development so that we can produce more with less and manage the impacts of land use planning, balance the need for land between conservation and production, and maintain soil fertility. For example, the [New Horizon](#) program undertaking research to increase soil productivity.



Reliability of information



Very good for our cropping and livestock industries

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), [Why has productivity slowed since 1994?](#), [How does climate affect productivity?](#), [What drives productivity?](#)