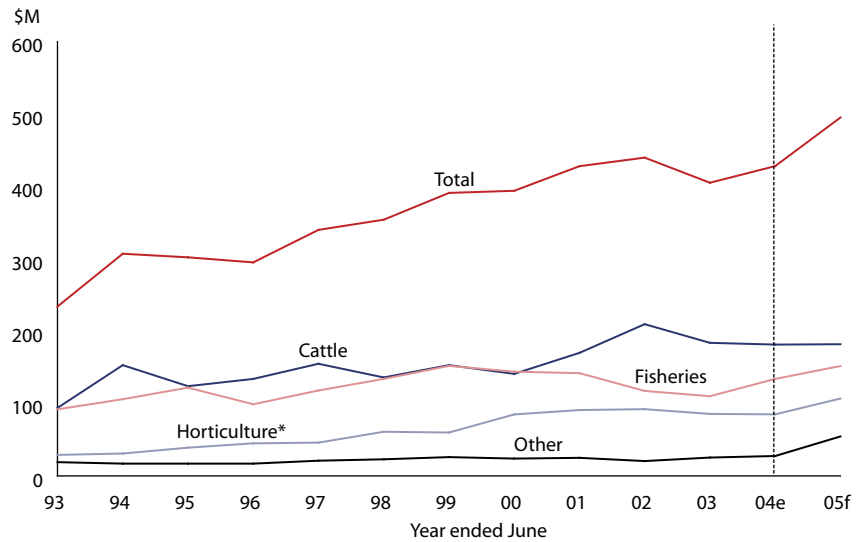


- Rural industries in the Territory comprise cattle and other livestock (including buffalo, crocodiles, poultry, pigs and camels), horticulture (fruit, vegetables, nursery and cut flowers) and cropping (field crops, hay and seeds). Fisheries include harvesting of wildstock and aquaculture.
- The Territory enjoys certain comparative advantages due to its capacity to supply markets with a range of early-season and out-of-season produce, as well as its 'clean' image.
- Output growth in the industry tends to be volatile due to variable weather, exchange rate and demand conditions. In the Territory, average annual output growth has been below broader economic growth over the past 10 years.
- Rural industries and fisheries accounted for 2.6 per cent of Territory Gross State Product in 2002-03, slightly above the national proportion.
- The value of rural industries and fisheries production was estimated at \$428 million in 2003-04, an increase of 5.7 per cent from 2002-03.
- The value of production is forecast to increase by 16 per cent to \$495 million in 2004-05. Except for cattle production, the outlook is for strengthening production values.

Chart 8: Rural Industries and Fisheries Value of Production (nominal dollars)



* Data for Horticulture is for the previous calendar year

e: estimate f: forecast

Source: Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development