

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT 2



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A PROJECT OF
THE MURRAYLANDS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC

Murraylands Economic Outlook Report: Standard Economic Analysis (Summary)

A report prepared for



MURRAY LANDS
**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD INC**

The logo features the text 'MURRAY LANDS' in blue, with 'MURRAY' and 'LANDS' separated by a blue wavy line. To the right of this text is a yellow pennant with a red border. Below this, the words 'REGIONAL', 'DEVELOPMENT', and 'BOARD INC' are stacked vertically in blue.

Prepared by



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The logo consists of a stylized black symbol resembling a lowercase 'e' or a swirl, followed by the word 'econsearch' in a lowercase, italicized serif font.

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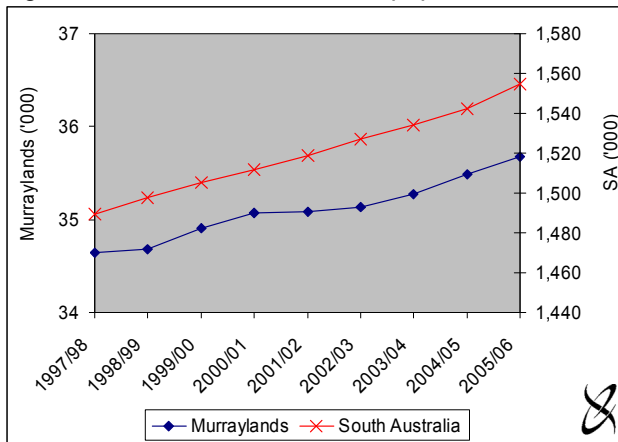




Demographic Profile

In 2005/06 the estimated resident population in the Murraylands was 35,679 persons (Figure 1), representing 2.3 per cent of the SA total (approximately 1,555,000 persons).

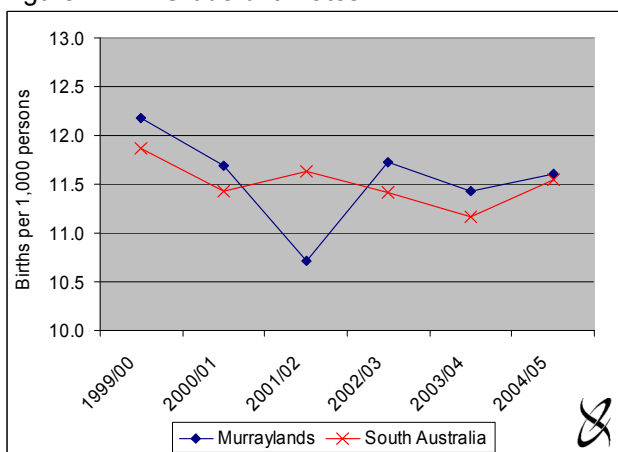
Figure 1 Estimated resident population



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The number of births in the Murraylands fell from 425 in 1999/00 to 412 in 2004/05. The number of births in SA fell from 18,005 to 17,800 (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Crude birth rates

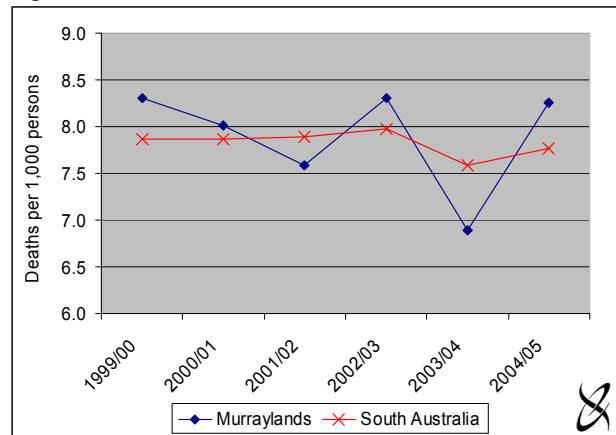


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The number of deaths in the Murraylands fluctuated over the six years to 2004/05, but generally following a decreasing trend. In 1999/00, there were 290 deaths in the region, while in 2003/04 there were 243. The number of deaths increased in 2004/05 to 293, a death rate of 8.3 (Figure 3).

In SA the number of deaths and the death rate increased slightly between 1999/00 and 2002/03. In 1999/00 there were 11,843 deaths in SA, by 2002/03 this had increased to 12,185. The crude death rate for SA increased from 7.9 in 1997/98 to 8.0 in 2002/03. The number of deaths in SA decreased in 2003/04 to 11,629 before increasing to 11,984 in 2004/05 (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Crude death rates



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Compared with SA, the Murraylands has a higher concentration of both younger people (aged 0 to 14 years) and people aged 65 and over and, consequently, a lower than average share of persons aged 15 to 64 years (Table 1).

Table 1 Population age distribution

Age	Murraylands		South Australia	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
0 to 14	7,327	6,848	287,648	280,825
15 to 64	21,670	22,076	966,662	1,000,381
65 or older	4,987	5,760	215,747	233,130
Total	33,984	34,684	1,470,057	1,514,336

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

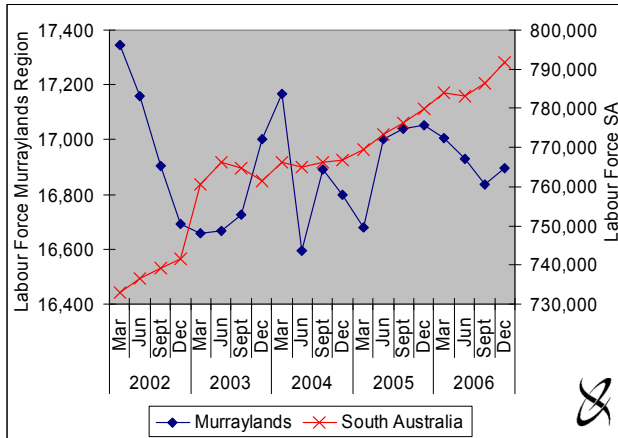
The Murray Bridge Urban Growth Management Plan indicates that the total population in the Rural City of Murray Bridge is expected to increase by between 27 and 45 per cent between 2006 and 2016 (QED 2007).

The latest Murraylands Growth and Investment Survey update (2007) indicates that business owners and managers within the Murraylands region expect the number of new jobs to grow by almost 2,600 over the three years ending at the close of 2008. It is anticipated that the new positions will be concentrated in the retail trade and manufacturing sectors (Clifford, 2007).

Labour Force Indicators

The total number of persons in the labour force in the Murraylands, fluctuated over the years 2002 to 2006 ranging between 16,597 (June 2004) and 17,344 (March 2002). Despite some fluctuations, the labour force in SA increased over the five years, from 732,900 in March 2002 to 791,700 in December 2006 (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Number of persons in the labour force

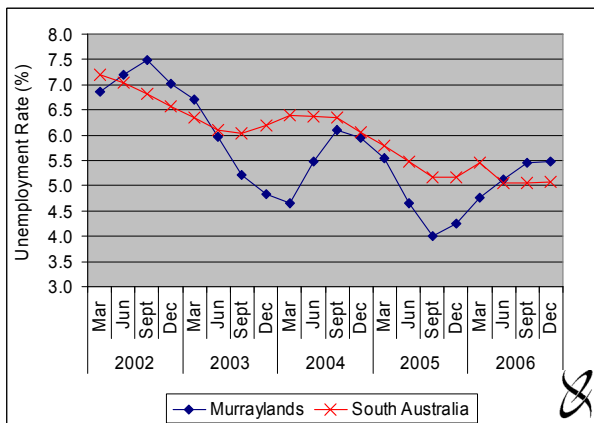


Source: DEWR

The number of unemployed persons in the Murraylands fluctuated over the period 2002 to 2006, decreasing by 22 per cent overall. The number of unemployed persons in SA decreased by 24 per cent, despite some fluctuations.

The unemployment rate in the Murraylands generally followed a declining trend. The unemployment rate in the Murraylands was in general slightly lower than the rate for SA (Figure 5).

Figure 5 Unemployment rate



Source: DEWR and EconSearch analysis.

The labour force participation rate in the Murraylands decreased slightly between 2001/02 and 2003/04, from 62 per cent to 59 per cent. The participation rate in the Murraylands increased slightly between 2003/04 and 2004/05 to almost 60 per cent. The labour force participation rate in SA fluctuated slightly over the four years, ranging between 59 and 62 per cent.

Education and Training

Total enrolments for government and non-government schools located within the Murraylands region and SA are detailed in Table 2 for the three census years 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Table 2 Primary and secondary school enrolments

	Census Year		
	1996	2001	2006
Murraylands			
Pre-school	448	499	429
Primary			
- Government	3,324	2,974	2,392
- Non-Government	533	812	1,038
Total Primary Student	3,857	3,786	3,430
Secondary Students			
- Government	1,634	1,662	1,524
- Non-Government	147	377	470
Total Secondary Students	1,781	2,039	1,994
South Australia			
Pre-school	17,218	18,256	18,577
Primary			
- Government	112,199	104,183	93,512
- Non-Government	38,615	43,264	46,003
Total Primary Student	150,814	147,447	139,515
Secondary Students			
- Government	55,044	57,938	52,037
- Non-Government	27,665	31,712	35,259
Total Secondary Students	82,709	89,650	87,296

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing

The total number of Murraylands residents enrolled in primary school decreased by 11 per cent between 1996 and 2006. This decrease was comprised of a 28 per cent decrease in enrolments in government schools and a 95 per cent increase in enrolments at non-government schools.

The total number of Murraylands residents enrolled in secondary school increased slightly between 1996 and 2006. The increase was comprised of a 7 per cent decrease in government school enrolments and a 220 per cent increase in non-government school enrolments.

Enrolments in non-government schools accounted for 28 per cent of total school enrolments by Murraylands residents in 2006. In 2001 the proportion of enrolments in non-government schools was 12 per cent.

The number of residents in the Murraylands with a non-school qualification increased steadily over the three Census years (1991, 1996 and 2001). When compared with SA, persons aged 15 and over in the Murraylands had a below average level of qualifications in all three Census years, particularly for bachelor degree and higher qualification levels.

Enrolments at universities, technical colleges and other education institutes for three census years (1996, 2001 and 2006) are summarized in Table 3 for the Murraylands region and South Australia.

Between 1996 and 2006 the total number of Murraylands residents enrolled in an higher education institute increased by 68 per cent. This is significantly greater than for SA as a whole, with the total number of residents undertaking higher education increasing by 33 per cent.

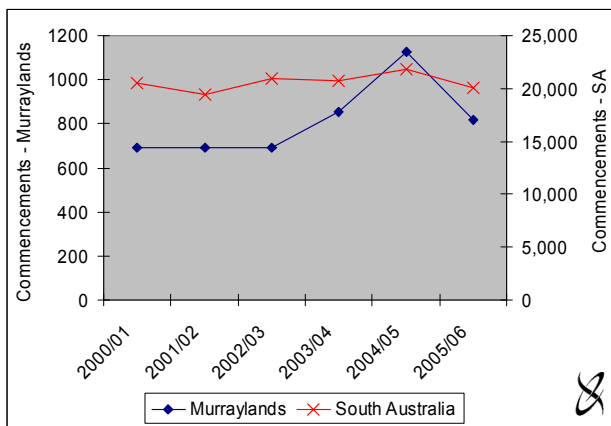
Table 3 Higher education enrolments

	Census Year		
	1996	2001	2006
Murraylands			
TAFE	548	643	593
University or other tertiary institution	180	217	268
Other education institution ^a	1,509	1,769	2,893
Total higher education students	2,237	2,629	3,754
South Australia			
TAFE	34,331	37,144	32,747
University or other tertiary institution	47,153	49,352	53,726
Other education institution ^a	70,372	65,466	115,538
Total higher education students	151,856	151,962	202,011

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing

The number of contract of training commencements in the Murraylands generally followed an increasing trend over the 5 year period to 2005/06 (Figure 6).

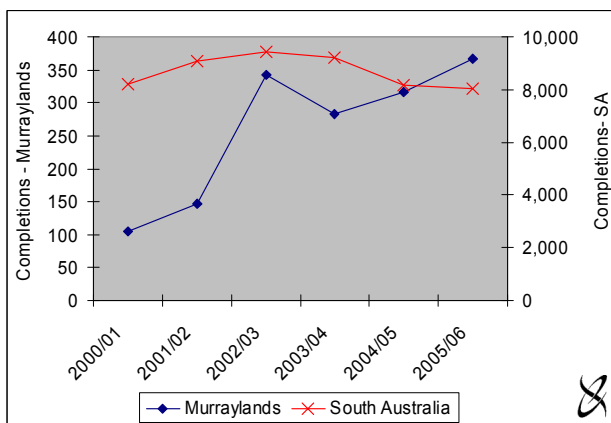
Figure 6 Contract of training commencements



Source: DFEEST

The number of contract of training completions in the Murraylands fluctuated over the 5 year period, but generally followed an increasing trend (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Contract of training completions



Source: DFEEST

Income

The proportion of taxable individuals (compared to non-taxable individuals) in the Murraylands fluctuated slightly over the eight years, ranging from 75 per cent to 79 per cent. Despite a slight decrease over the seven year period (from 84 per cent to 81 per cent), the proportion of taxable individuals in SA as a whole was greater than the Murraylands in all years. (Table 4).

The mean individual taxable income in the Murraylands was consistently lower than the state average, over the period 1997/98 to 2004/05, in both nominal and real terms. (Table 4).

Table 4 Taxable individuals and income

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Murraylands								
Taxable individuals (%)	79%	77%	78%	76%	77%	76%	76%	176%
Mean income - nominal (\$)	25,962	27,481	28,128	29,775	32,425	32,720	33,833	34,723
Mean income - real (\$)	25,962	27,124	27,081	27,121	28,738	27,573	27,686	27,815
South Australia								
Taxable individuals (%)	84%	82%	83%	81%	81%	81%	81%	181%
Mean income - nominal (\$)	30,474	31,961	32,865	35,256	36,406	37,857	39,644	41,513
Mean income - real (\$)	30,474	31,546	31,642	32,114	32,266	31,902	32,441	33,254

Source: Australian Taxation Office and Australian Bureau of Statistics

In the Murraylands, the proportion of total income sourced from Commonwealth benefits and payments generally followed a declining trend over the period 1997/98 to 2003/04, but increased slightly in 2004/05. The proportion of total income sourced from Commonwealth benefits and payments in the Murraylands was generally higher than for SA as a whole.

The proportion of total income sourced from salaries and wages, in the Murraylands remained relatively stable ranging between 49 and 53 per cent. The proportion of salaries and wages remained relatively stable in SA averaging around 77 per cent over the eight years 1997/98 to 2004/05.

The proportion of total taxable income attributable to other income sources fluctuated slightly over the period 1997/98 to 2004/05 in the Murraylands, ranging between 46 and 50 per cent. For SA the proportion of total income attributable to other income sources remained relatively stable over the eight years at around 22 per cent.

In the Murraylands, tax as a proportion of total income averaged around 15 per cent. For SA, the proportion of tax also remained relatively stable averaging around 23 per cent over the eight years.

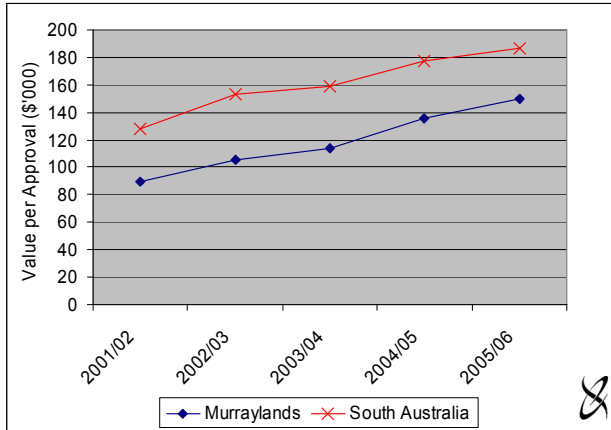
Building Approvals

The total number of building approvals in the Murraylands generally followed an increasing trend over the period 2001/02 to 2005/06. The total value of approvals also increased, from \$20.8 million in 2001/02 to \$36.1 million in 2005/06, an increase of 74 per cent.

In SA the total number of approvals was 3 per cent greater in 2005/06 than in 2001/02, while the total value was 51 per cent higher.

The average value of residential building approvals in the Murraylands region increased from \$89,000 in 2001/02 to \$150,000 in 2005/06, an increase of 68 per cent. Over the same period the value per approval in South Australia increased from \$128,000 to \$180,000, an increase of 46 per cent (Figure 8).

Figure 8 Average value per approval

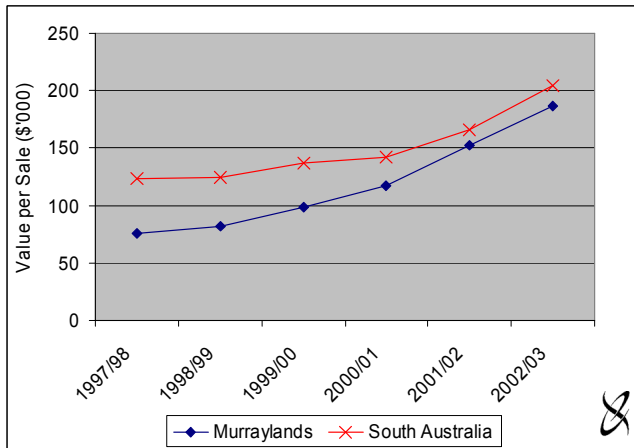


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Property Sales

The average value of residential sales in the Murraylands increased by 146 per cent between 1997/98 and 2002/03. The value per sale in SA was consistently higher than in the Murraylands (Figure 9).

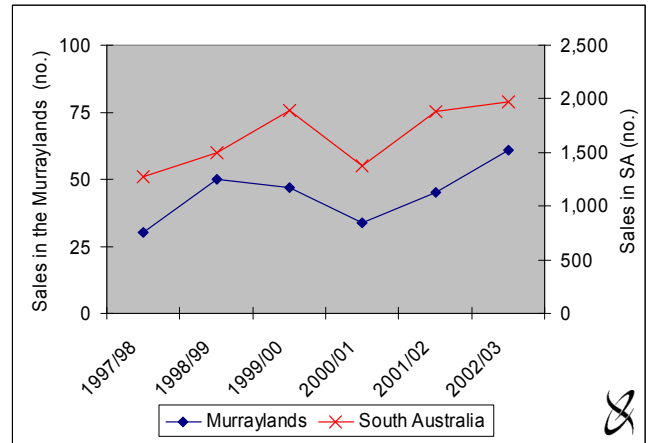
Figure 9 Average value of residential sales



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The number of commercial sales in the Murraylands generally followed an increasing trend over the six years, despite decreases in 1999/00 and 2000/01 (Figure 10).

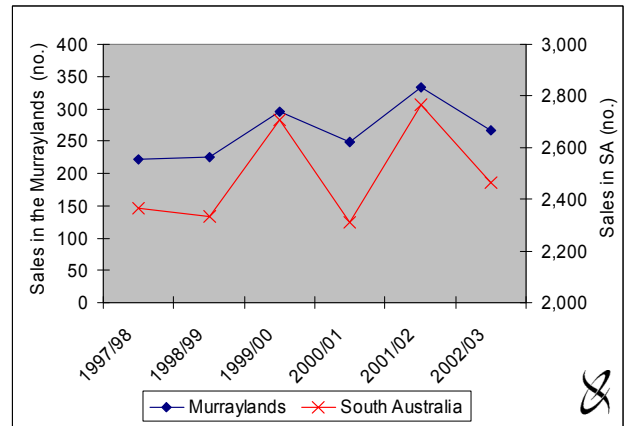
Figure 10 Number of commercial sales



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The total number of primary production sales in the Murraylands and SA both fluctuated over the six years, but generally followed an increasing trend (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Number of primary production sales



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Motor Vehicles

The number of registered vehicles in the Murraylands increased by approximately 2.9 per cent over the three years, while registrations in SA increased by 5.6 per cent (Table 5).

Table 5 Motor vehicle registrations

Vehicle Type	Number of Registrations							
	Murraylands				South Australia			
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Campervans	136	133	128	138	4,393	4,306	4,176	4,076
Light rigid trucks	83	81	85	94	4,155	4,382	4,605	4,971
Heavy rigid trucks	937	898	885	861	21,467	21,557	21,559	21,916
Buses	102	101	114	112	4,285	4,174	4,233	4,413
Motorcycles	763	782	762	844	28,454	29,382	30,676	33,772
Passenger vehicles	12,660	12,847	12,883	13,045	873,449	886,931	897,332	915,059
Light commercial vehicles	4,613	4,718	4,761	4,760	132,754	137,252	141,041	145,643
Articulated trucks	228	241	246	244	6,436	6,224	6,344	6,389
Non freight carrying trucks	20	20	21	20	1,761	1,715	1,746	1,718
Total	19,542	19,821	19,885	20,118	1,077,154	1,095,923	1,111,712	1,137,957

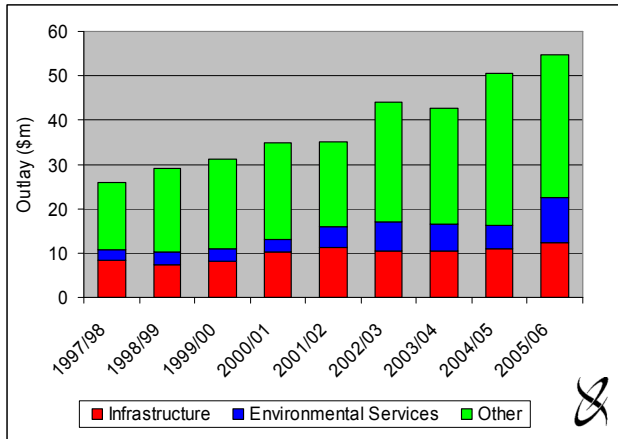
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Local Government Finance

Despite a slight decrease in 2003/04, total local government outlay in the Murraylands followed an increasing trend over the nine years, 1997/98 to 2005/06. (Figure 12).

Over the nine years, on average, expenditure on infrastructure accounted for approximately 26 per cent of total outlay in the Murraylands and 20 per cent in SA. Outlay on environmental services accounted for 12 per cent of total outlay in the Murraylands and 13 per cent in SA.

Figure 12 Local government outlay - Murraylands



Source: SA Local Government Grants Commission

Business Registrations

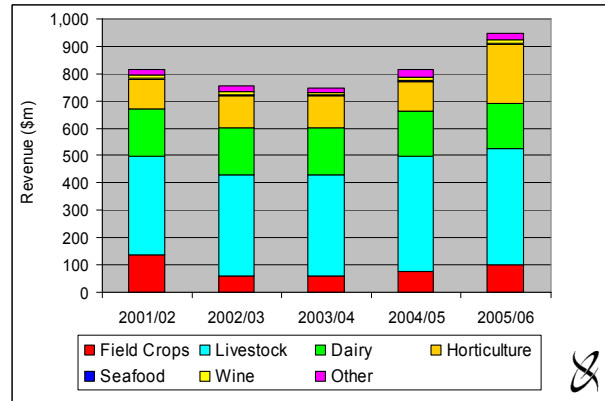
The breakdown of business registrations by industry highlights some differences between the Murraylands and SA. The most significant differences occurred in the following sectors:

- agriculture, forestry and fishing – 51.8 per cent in the Murraylands and 15.3 per cent in SA;
- property and business services – 9.0 per cent in the Murraylands and 19.0 per cent in SA; and
- finance and insurance – 1.8 per cent in the Murraylands and 9.6 per cent in SA.

Value of Food Production

Agricultural activities in the Murraylands are concentrated in the livestock, dairy and horticulture sectors which, in 2005/06, accounted for approximately 85 per cent of the region's gross food revenue. The Murraylands region's gross food revenue of \$949.2 million in 2005/06 represents 9.4 per cent of the state's gross food revenue (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Value of food production – Murraylands



Source: Primary Industries and Resources South Australia

Tourism

The occupancy rate in the Murraylands averaged 55 per cent over the three years, while the rate in SA was slightly greater at 58 per cent.

Average takings per room in the Murraylands (around \$75) were lower than for SA (around \$108).

Gross Regional Product

Table 6 Gross regional production

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Murraylands				
- GRP (\$m)	840	899	919	964
- Nominal growth over previous year (%)	-	7.1%	2.2%	4.8%
- Real growth over previous year (%)	-	4.0%	0.1%	1.0%
South Australia				
- GRP (\$m)	53,611	57,155	59,457	62,798
- Nominal growth over previous year (%)	-	6.6%	4.0%	5.6%
- Real growth over previous year (%)	-	3.5%	1.8%	1.7%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and EconSearch analysis

The Murraylands and SA GRP/GSP were \$840 million and \$53,611 million, respectively, in 2002/03. The GRP of the Murraylands comprised approximately 1.5 per cent of the SA GSP over the four years.

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