

Shaping Tomorrow: An Economic Overview of the Wheatbelt





Acknowledgement of Country

The Wheatbelt Development Commission respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather today, the Ballardong people of the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their enduring connection to country — a connection rooted in deep knowledge, stewardship and culture.

Their contributions continue to shape the story of this region and remain central to its sustainable growth and prosperity.



The Wheatbelt Today

\$8.99 billion

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

30,706

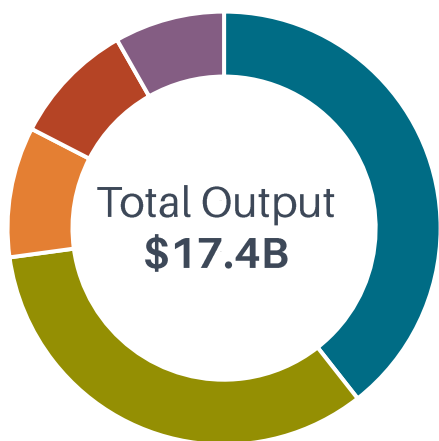
TOTAL JOBS

3.66%

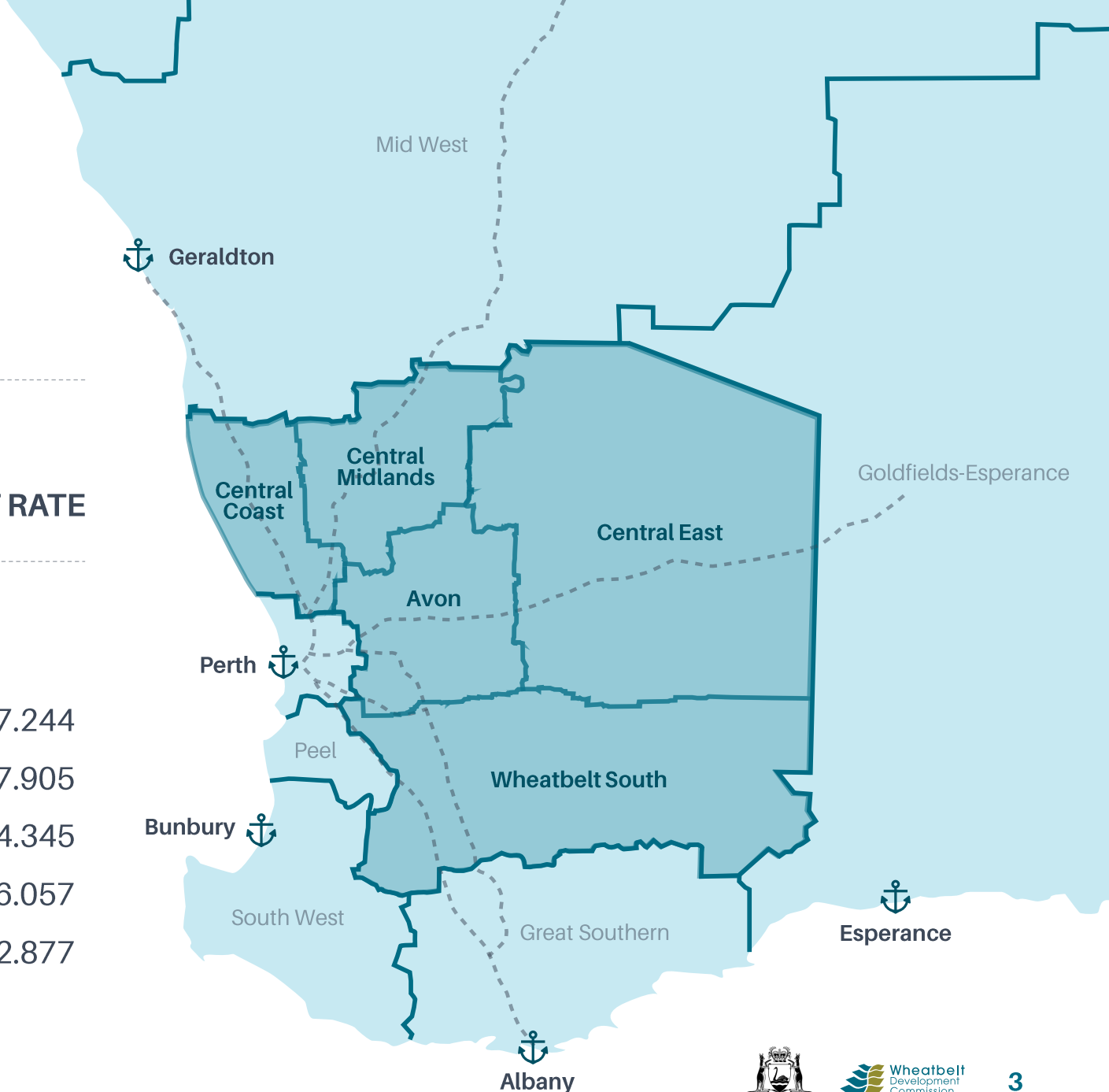
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Top 5 Industries by Regional Economic Output (\$M)

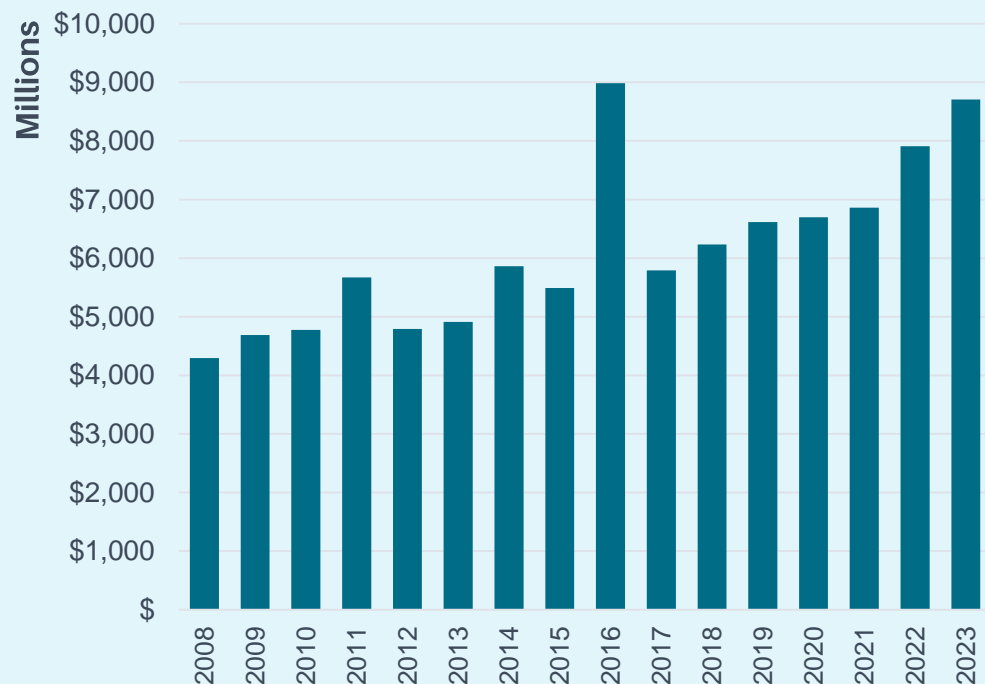


	Agriculture	\$4,997.244
	Mining	\$4,237.905
	Construction	\$1,234.345
	Manufacturing	\$1,166.057
	Rental & Hiring	\$1,042.877

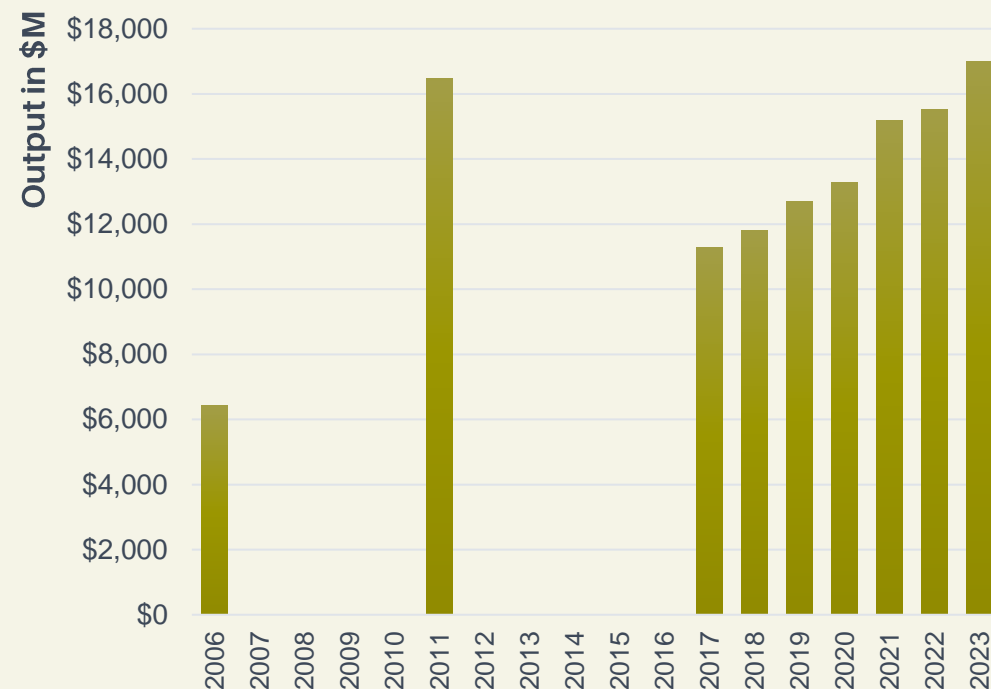


The Wheatbelt Today

Nominal Gross Regional Product
doubled since 2008



Economic Output almost
tripled since 2006



Source: REMPLAN Economy – Wheatbelt (2023R2)

© Wheatbelt Development Commission 2025

Strengthening the Foundations



Digital Connectivity

- Data demand is rising fast — and the Wheatbelt is preparing to meet it.
- The **Telstra Intercity Dark Fibre Network**, running through the region, delivers ultra-fast speeds (up to 83.6 Tbps).
- Positions towns like **Northam** and **Merredin** for growth in data-driven industries.



Freight and Logistics

- Efficient supply chains are vital to regional competitiveness.
- **More than \$387.5 million** has been invested across key freight programs.
- Projects like **AvonWest** will strengthen national transport links and the **Bindoon Bypass** will unlock RAV 10 access to Port Hedland.



Liveable Communities

- Regional migration is accelerating — the Wheatbelt is part of this shift.
- **15% population growth** in the Central Coast (Chittering, Gingin, Dandaragan).
- To sustain growth, towns must offer services, infrastructure and a high quality of life.

Focus for the Future

Opportunities



Agriculture Downstream Processing

Local food manufacturing and export-ready value-adding.



Mining Downstream Processing

Critical minerals and support industries powering green growth.



Manufacturing and Construction Services

Regional hubs driving fabrication and supply chain activity.



Renewable Energy and Biofuels

Wind, solar and clean fuels attracting large-scale investment.



Tourism and Visitor Economy

Iconic destinations and events drawing 1.1 million visitors.



Lifestyle and Liveability

Population growth supported by housing, services and liveability.



Transport & Logistics

Freight hubs and networks strengthening trade and industry.

Challenges

Workforce Shortages

Limited skilled labour is affecting key industries such as agribusiness, energy, manufacturing, childcare, and health.

Infrastructure Gaps

Insufficient industrial land and utility services (water, power, and sewage) are constraining business growth.

Supply Chain Vulnerabilities

Logistics inefficiencies are driving up costs and reducing regional competitiveness.

What is WDC doing?



The WDC is tracking **23 wind and 6 solar projects** across the Wheatbelt, with greater than **\$20 billion** in estimated capital investment.



Northam is being positioned as a **major freight and logistics hub** through collaboration with local government and industry.



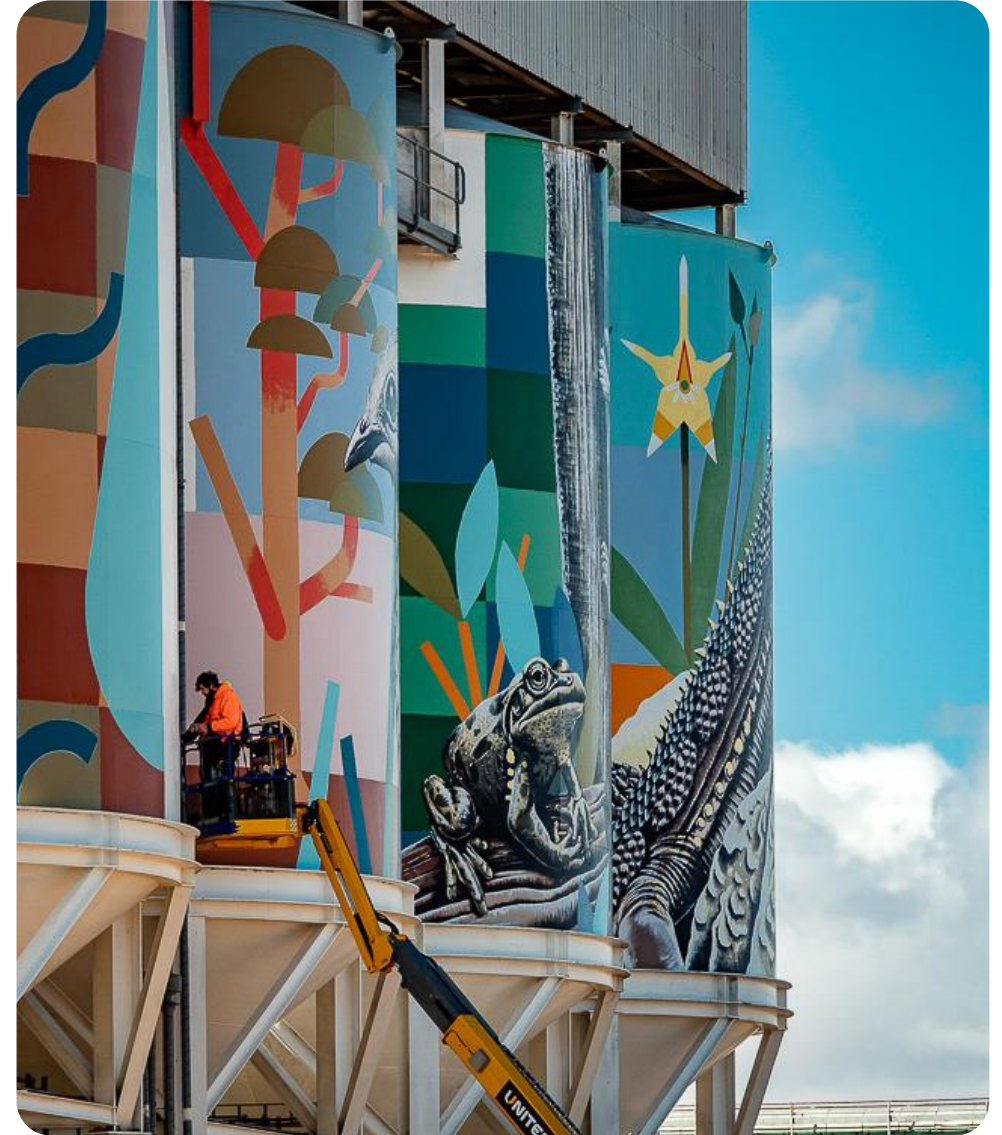
Work is underway to **unlock residential and industrial land** and secure investment in enabling infrastructure and supply chains.



The Wheatbelt Regional Housing Initiative is progressing with 16 local governments to **deliver shovel-ready housing** for key workers.



The Commission is **enhancing liveability** through digital connectivity upgrades, tourism development, and the Living Well in the Wheatbelt strategy.



The Wheatbelt of Tomorrow

We are laying strong foundations.

Investing in digital connectivity, freight and logistics, and regional liveability to drive long-term growth.

We are focused on the future.

Growing future industries, adding value locally and supporting the green energy transition.

We are investing in our people.

Because vibrant, connected communities are what truly power regional prosperity.



Wheatbelt
Development
Commission

wheatbelt.wa.gov.au