

# ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT, DECEMBER 2016

## Summary

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2016–17 winter crop production is 9.8 million tonnes, 37% above the five-year average and up 37% (or 2.6 million tonnes) from 2015–16. The 2016–17 winter crop production forecast is the highest on record.

National winter crop production in 2016–17 is estimated to be 52.4 million tonnes, 28% above the five-year average and up 32% (or 12.8 million tonnes) on 2015–16, and is also a record high. Higher production is forecast for every state.

Favourable seasonal conditions in most cropping regions during spring boosted the production potential of crops, which were generally in very good condition at the end of winter. Furthermore, mild temperatures during late spring helped extend the development period. By late spring, harvesting was underway in most cropping regions.

ABARES comments in its latest three-month rainfall outlook that summer was likely to be drier and warmer than average, aiding harvesting.

## Further Analysis

### Australia

The 32% rise in winter crop production is largely driven by significant increases in forecast production for Victoria (up 30%), New South Wales (up 25%), South Australia (up 23%) and Queensland (up 22%).

ABARES is forecasting a 109% increase in production for Victoria, a 37% increase for South Australia, a 32% increase for New South Wales and a 25% rise for Queensland.

Wheat production is forecast rise by 35% to 32.6 million tonnes. Barley production is estimated to increase by 24% to 10.6 million tonnes and canola production by 22% to around 3.6 million tonnes. Wheat and barley production are both forecast to be at record highs.

### South Australia

The state recorded favourable seasonal conditions during spring, boosting prospective yields of winter crops. Spring rainfall was above average, particularly during September.

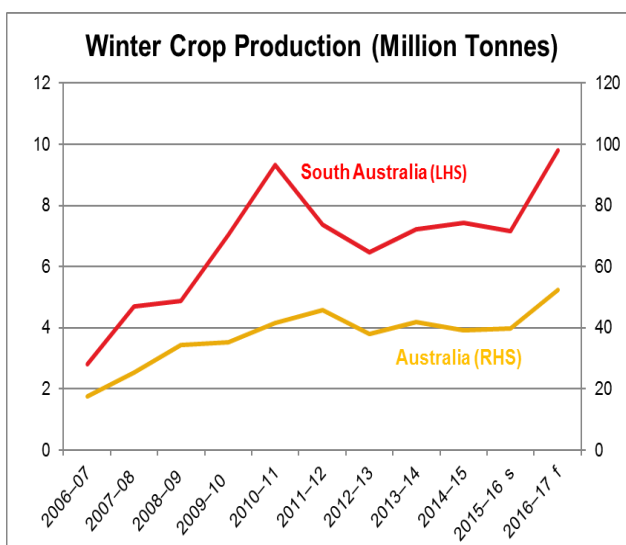
While spring weather events adversely affected crops in some regions (e.g. several frost events and two severe storms with strong winds, hail and heavy rainfall), ABARES expects the impact on state production to be minimal.

The total area planted to winter crops is estimated to have risen by 1.6% to 3.6 million hectares.

Wheat production in 2016–17 is forecast to rise by 42% to 6.2 million tonnes, reflecting a 5.0% increase in the area planted and a 35% rise in the yield.

Barley production is forecast to rise by 20% to 2.3 million tonnes, reflecting a 3.7% decline in the area planted offset by a 24% rise in the yield.

Canola production is forecast to rise by 27% to 375,000 tonnes, reflecting a fall of 2.2% in the area planted offset by a 30% increase in the yield.



6 December 2016

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 14 February 2017