



ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT

Summary

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2015–16 winter crop production is 7.2 million tonnes, 3.7% below the five year average but up 4.4% (or 0.3 million tonnes) from a downwardly revised 2014-15 production estimate.

National winter crop production in 2015–16 is estimated to be 39.5 million tonnes, 3.7% below the five year average but up 3.9% (or 1.5 million tonnes) on 2014–15.

From the beginning of November, South Australian rainfall was average to above average although some areas received severely deficient falls in December. Unfavourable seasonal conditions affected the development of wheat and barley crops but yields remained above 10-year averages. Fires in November delayed harvest. While some farmers suffered losses due to fire, overall state production was not significantly affected.

Further Analysis

Australia

Harvesting of the 2015-16 winter crop is complete and production is estimated to have risen by 3.9%. Wheat production is estimated to have risen by 5.0%, and barley by 3.9% but canola production is estimated to have fallen by 15%.

All States recorded increases in production during 2015-16 except Victoria, which experienced unseasonal conditions. Production is estimated to have risen in Qld (up 39%), NSW (up 12%), SA (up 4.4%) and WA (up 0.8%). Victorian production is estimated to have fallen by 16%.

The total area planted to winter crops is estimated to have been 3.4% higher in 2015-16 reflecting an estimated increase in the area planted to wheat, barley and pulses, which was offset by a decline in the area planted to canola and a small decline in the area planted to oats.

South Australia

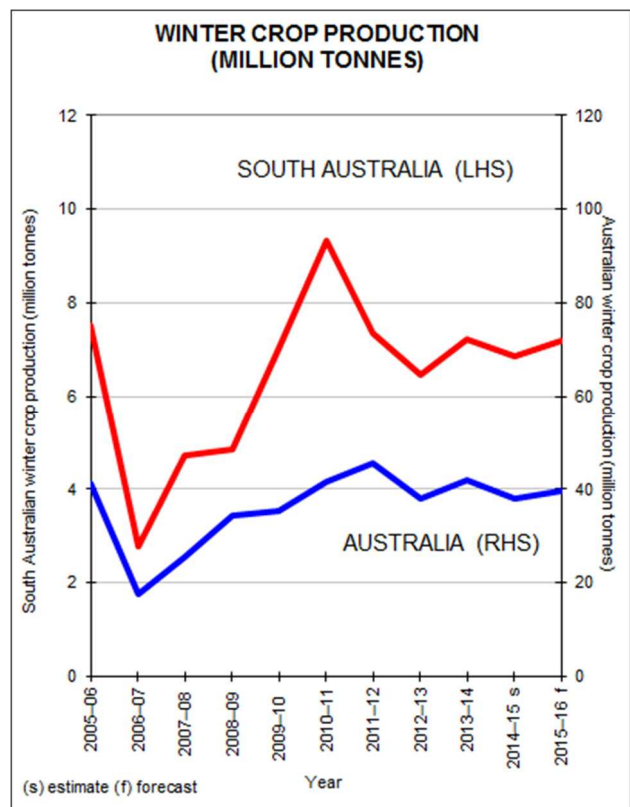
In spite of unseasonal conditions disrupting the development of some crops and fires, which delayed harvest and resulted in some losses, overall state winter crop production rose by 4.4% from a downwardly revised 2014-15 production estimate.

The total area planted to winter crops is estimated to have risen by 4.2% in 2015-16 to 3.6 million hectares. This reflects a rise in the area planted to cereals and pulses, which was largely offset by a reduction in the area planted to canola.

Wheat production in 2015-16 is estimated to have risen by 4.1% to 4.4 million tonnes, in spite of a modest 1.8% fall in the yield.

Barley production is estimated to have risen by 7.1% to 1.9 million tonnes, partly reflecting a 3.9% increase in the yield.

Canola production is estimated to have risen by 0.5% to 296,000 tonnes. While the area planted to canola was down by 22%, there was a 29% increase in the yield.





Note: State winter crops include wheat, barley, oats, lupins, canola, field peas, chickpeas, faba beans, and lentils. Australian winter crops also include triticale, linseed, safflower and vetch.