

ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT, DECEMBER 2017

Summary

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2017-18 winter crop production is 6.4 million tonnes, 17% below the five-year average and down 43% (or 4.8 million tonnes) from the 2016-17 record. This is unchanged from the ABARES forecast published in September 2017.

National winter crop production in 2017-18 is forecast to be 35.1 million tonnes, 19% below the five-year average and down 41% (or 24 million tonnes) on 2016-17. This represents a downward revision of 3.3% from the ABARES forecast published in September 2017.

Further Analysis

Australia

Seasonal conditions were mixed for crops during spring. Of most significance for national level production were crop prospects in Western Australia and New South Wales. While favourable seasonal conditions in Western Australia boosted crop prospects (up 9.4%), unfavourable seasonal conditions during spring in New South Wales adversely affected crop prospects (down 23%). The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a wetter than average December in south-east cropping regions. The area planted to winter crops is forecast to be 0.7% lower in 2017-18 and production is forecast to fall by 41%, reflecting well below average yields in most regions.

ABARES is forecasting substantial production declines in 2017-18 in all cropping states—Queensland and New South Wales (both down 56%), South Australia (down 43%), Victoria (down 32%) and Western Australia (down 28%).

South Australia

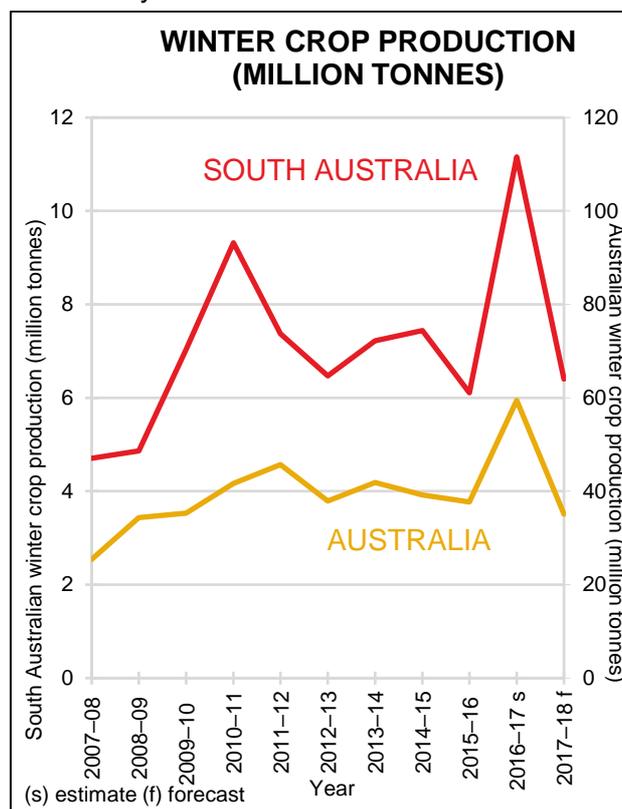
Seasonal conditions during spring were mixed. In southern areas including the lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and the south-east, rainfall was average in September, assisting crop flowering. In contrast, northern areas of the Eyre Peninsula, the upper north and northern Murray Mallee regions recorded rainfall well below average with daytime temperatures above

average, reducing soil moisture and hampering crop development in these regions. Furthermore, strong winds, hail and frost damage during October and November adversely affected crop prospects in some regions.

The total area planted to winter crops is forecast to rise by 2.8% in 2017-18 to 3.6 million hectares. This reflects forecast increases in the area planted to canola (up 5.8%) and chickpeas partly offset by falls in the area planted to wheat (down 1.5%) and barley (down 1.3%).

Wheat production in 2017-18 is forecast to fall substantially (down 45%) to 3.7 million tonnes, largely reflecting a 44% decline in the yield.

Barley production is forecast to decline by 45% to 1.7 million tonnes, largely reflecting a decline of 44% in the yield.



Canola production is forecast to decrease by 36% to 250,000 tonnes, reflecting a 39% decrease in the yield, more than offsetting the increase in area planted.

5 December 2017

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 13 February 2017