

# ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT, FEBRUARY 2018

## Summary

The ABARES estimate for South Australia's 2017-18 winter crop production is 6.9 million tonnes, 9.6% below the five-year average and down 38% (or 4.2 million tonnes) from the 2016-17 record. This represents an upward revision of 12% from the ABARES forecast published in December 2017.

National winter crop production in 2017-18 is estimated to be 37.8 million tonnes, 12% below the five-year average and down 36% (or 21 million tonnes) on 2016-17. This represents an upward revision of 8.4% from the ABARES forecast published in December 2017.

## Further Analysis

### Australia

During the period November 2017 through to January 2018, rainfall was well below average to extremely low in the cropping regions in Queensland and below average in northern New South Wales. Rainfall was mostly average in cropping areas in central New South Wales, western Victoria, eastern South Australia and south-east Western Australia.

ABARES is forecasting substantial production declines in 2017-18 in all cropping states—Queensland (down 58%), New South Wales (down 55%), South Australia (down 38%), Victoria (down 25%) and Western Australia (down 19%)—see Table 1.

**Table 1: Winter Crop Production 2017-18**

	Million Tonnes	Change from previous year
NSW	7.18	-55.4
VIC	7.63	-25.0
QLD	1.39	-57.9
<b>SA</b>	<b>6.94</b>	<b>-37.8</b>
WA	14.62	-19.0
<b>AUST</b>	<b>37.82</b>	<b>-35.7</b>

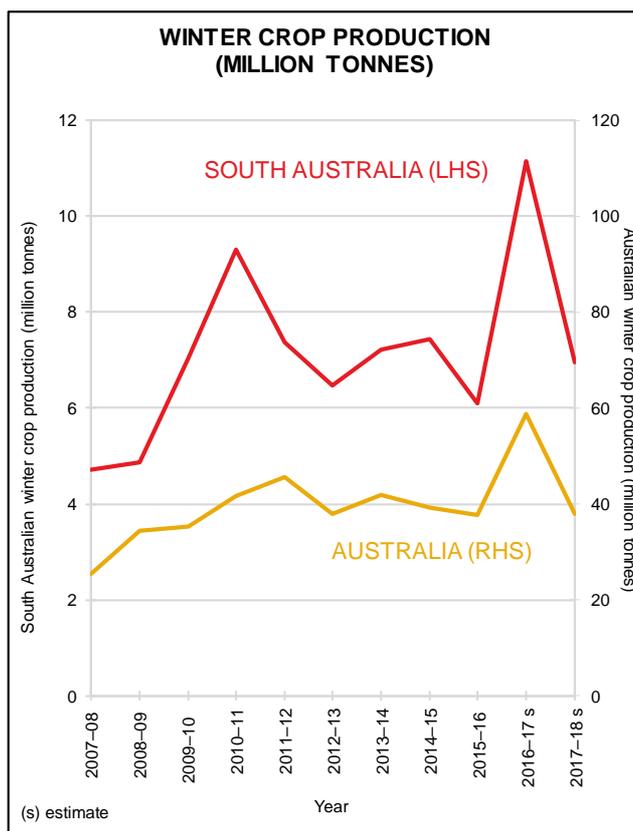
### South Australia

Seasonal conditions were variable during the winter crop season. Below average rainfall was recorded in northern cropping regions while there was above average rainfall in southern regions, including parts of the Yorke Peninsula, the southern Murray Mallee and the South East.

The total area planted to winter crops is forecast to fall by 0.5% in 2017-18 to 3.5 million hectares. This reflects forecast increases in the area planted to canola (up 19%) and chickpeas (up 58%) offset by falls in the area planted to wheat (down 1.5%) and barley (down 0.6%).

Wheat production in 2017-18 is forecast to fall substantially (down 38%) to 4.1 million tonnes, largely reflecting a 37% decline in the yield.

Barley production is forecast to decline by 40% to 1.8 million tonnes, largely reflecting a decline of 40% in the yield.



Canola production is forecast to decrease by 18% to 320,000 tonnes, reflecting a 31% decrease in the yield, offsetting the increase in area planted.

13 February 2018

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*Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 13 June 2018*

