

ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT, SEPTEMBER 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 a downward revision of 4.1% from the ABARES forecast published in June 2017.

National winter crop production in 2017-18 is forecast to be 36.3 million tonnes, 16% below the five-year average and down 39% (or 23 million tonnes) on 2016-17. This represents a downward revision of 9.4% from the ABARES forecast published in June 2017.

Further Analysis

Australia

Seasonal conditions were mixed for crops during winter and as a result the condition of crops at the start of spring varied significantly. Rainfall in June was well below average in most cropping regions and was highly variable in July and August. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting spring rainfall to be around average in most cropping regions in Australia. The area planted to winter crops is forecast to be 1.6% lower in 2017-18 and production is forecast to fall by 39%, reflecting an expected fall in average yields following the exceptionally high 2016-17 yields.

ABARES is forecasting substantial production declines in 2017-18 in all cropping states—Queensland (down 45%), New South Wales and South Australia (both down 43%), Western Australia (down 35%) and Victoria (down 34%).

South Australia

Seasonal conditions during autumn and winter were mixed for the establishment and development of the South Australian 2017-18 winter crop. Rainfall on Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and the lower north was well below average between March and June. Yields are expected to be below average in these major

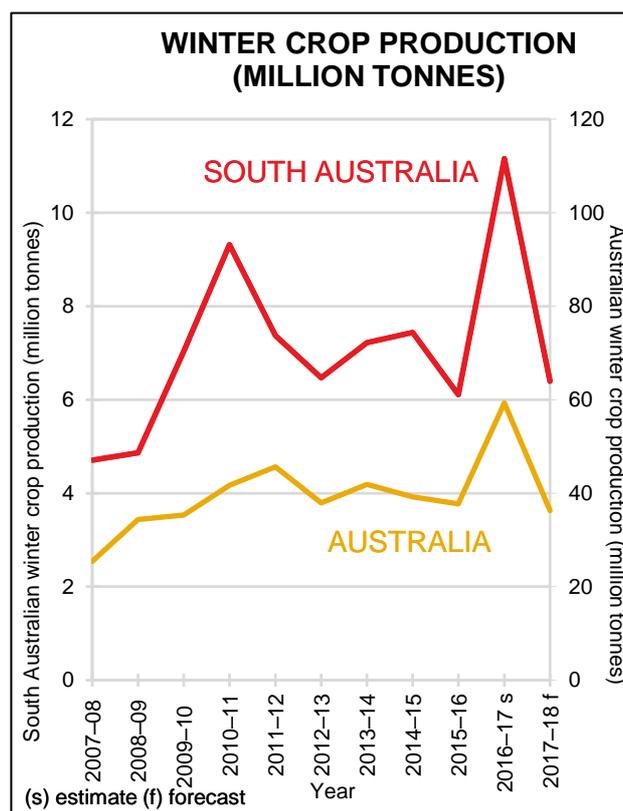
production regions and may fall further if there is heat stress during late crop development.

The total area planted to winter crops is forecast to fall by 1.1% in 2017-18 to 3.5 million hectares. This reflects forecast falls in the area planted to wheat (down 1.5%) and barley (down 1.0%), partly offset by a rise in the area planted to canola (up 7.1%).

Wheat production in 2017-18 is forecast to fall substantially (down 43%) to 3.8 million tonnes, largely reflecting a 42% decline in the yield.

Barley production is forecast to decline by 44% to 1.7 million tonnes, largely reflecting a decline of 43% in the yield.

Canola production is forecast to decrease by 31% to 270,000 tonnes, reflecting a 35% decrease in the yield, more than offsetting the increase in area planted.



12 September 2017

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 5 December 2017