

KEY POINTS

The latest ABARES estimate for South Australia's 2023-24 winter crop production is 8.7 million tonnes (largely unchanged from the previous forecast). The latest forecast is 31% lower than the 2022-23 winter crop but 8.9% above the five-year average.

National winter crop production in 2023-24 is estimated to be 46.7 million tonnes, 32% lower than 2022-23 and 6.9% below the five-year average. This is a small upward revision, reflecting improved production in Victoria and New South Wales.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

AUSTRALIA

Australian winter crop production is estimated to fall by 32% in 2023-24.

Seasonal conditions across Australian winter cropping regions have been mixed. Favourable timing of rainfall boosted production across major cropping regions in southern New South Wales, Victoria and parts of South Australia, while persistent dryness reduced yield potential in Queensland, northern New South Wales and Western Australia.

Winter crop harvesting is now complete, having commenced earlier and at a faster pace than in recent seasons, driven by hot and dry conditions in Queensland, northern New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Area planted to winter crops in Australia is estimated to be 5.0% lower than in 2022-23 at 23 million hectares. The fall is mostly driven by a 17% decrease in area planted in Queensland, a 6.3% decrease in Western Australia and a 6.2% decrease in New South Wales.

Table 1: Winter Crop Production 2023-24

	2023-24 Estimate (million tonnes)	Change from previous year (%)
NSW	11.0	-28.9
VIC	10.4	-5.6
QLD	1.7	-47.9
SA	8.7	-31.2
WA	14.7	-44.0
AUST	46.7	-32.2

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian winter crop production is estimated to fall 31% to 8.7 million tonnes in 2023-24, 8.9% above the 5-year average.

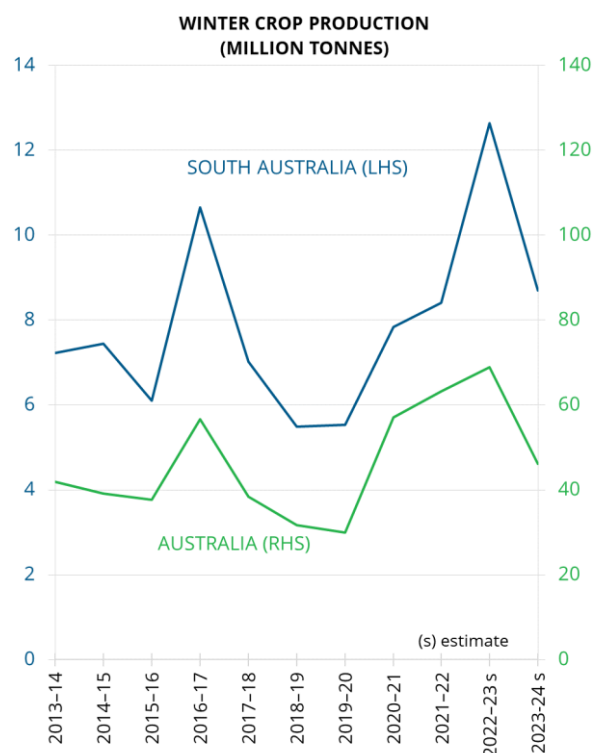
ABARES comments that despite drier climate conditions, growing conditions across the state remained favourable with high levels of subsoil moisture due to timely summer rainfall.

Below average spring rainfall and warmer than average temperatures, resulted in an earlier and faster winter crop harvest than in recent seasons. The earlier harvest has a high grain quality with very high protein, particularly through the Eyre and York Peninsulas. Rainfall in late December caused some grain quality downgrades in the Southeast.

Wheat production in 2023-24 is estimated to fall 35% to 4.8 million tonnes. With no change to area planted this reflects a 35% fall in yield.

Barley production is estimated to fall by 29% to 2.1 million tonnes, reflecting a 3.6% reduction in area planted and a 27% fall in yield.

Canola production is estimated to fall by 26% to 570,000 tonnes. There was no change to area planted but a 26% fall in yield.



Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 4 June 2024