

KEY POINTS

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2020-21 winter crop production is 7.7 million tonnes (upwardly revised by 1.6% from the June report), 28% higher than the 2019-20 winter crop and 7.1% higher than the five-year average.

National winter crop production in 2020-21 is forecast to be 47.9 million tonnes, 64% higher than in 2019-20, a 7.6% upward revision from the June report, and 39% higher than the five-year average.

ABARES says winter crop prospects in Australia are generally average to above average at the beginning of spring. Despite variable rainfall in June and July, close to average yield potentials were preserved across most cropping regions due to a drawdown of soil moisture reserves built up during late summer and autumn. August rainfall was generally average to above average in most cropping regions, except for some southern cropping regions in Western Australia and South Australia.

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest climate outlook for September to November (issued on 3 September 2020) suggests spring rainfall is likely to be above average in most cropping regions.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

AUSTRALIA

The area planted to winter crops in Australia in 2020-21 is forecast to be 23% higher than in 2019-20 with NSW accounting for the majority of the increase.

National wheat production is forecast to rise by 91%, barley production is forecast to rise by 25% and canola production is forecast to rise by 47%.

ABARES forecasts production rises in 2020-21 in all states—see Table 1.

Table 1: Winter Crop Production 2020-21

| | Million Tonnes | Change from previous year (%) |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| NSW | 14.8 | 343.5 |
| VIC | 7.9 | 5.6 |
| QLD | 1.7 | 146.8 |
| SA | 7.7 | 28.2 |
| WA | 15.7 | 35.0 |
| AUST | 47.9 | 63.6 |

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ABARES states that most cropping regions in South Australia had sufficient levels of soil moisture at the beginning of winter to sustain crops through June and July, when rainfall was below average.

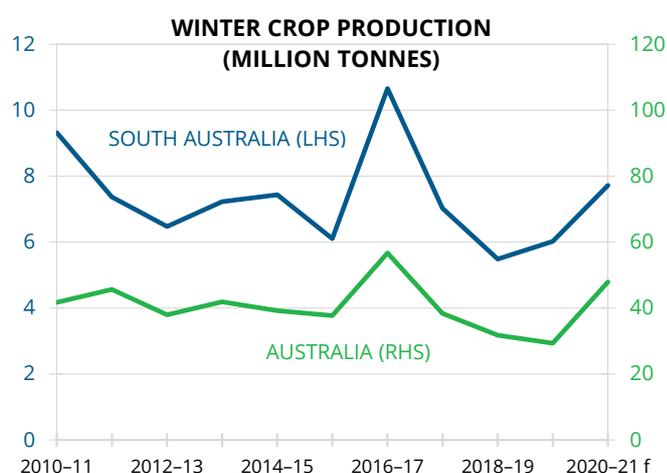
August rainfall was timely and sufficient in most cropping regions, however below average rainfall in early winter is expected to have reduced yield prospects in parts of the upper Eyre Peninsula and northern Mallee.

According to the latest three-month seasonal outlook (September to November) issued by the Bureau of Meteorology on 3 September 2020, spring rainfall in South Australia is likely to be above average in all cropping regions.

Winter crop production in South Australia is forecast to increase by 28% in 2020-21 to 7.7 million tonnes.

Winter crop area in South Australia is forecast to increase by 3.4% in 2020-21, in response to favourable autumn rainfall and is larger than each of the previous three years, driven by increases in the northern cropping regions.

- Wheat production in 2020-21 is forecast to increase by 41% to 4.5 million tonnes, reflecting a 32% increase in the yield and a 6.4% increase in the area planted.
- Barley production is forecast to increase by 14% to 2.1 million tonnes, reflecting a 14% increase in the yield, only slightly offset by a 0.6% decline in the area planted.
- Canola production is forecast to increase by 10% to 330,000 tonnes, reflecting a 7.6% increase in the yield and a 2.3% rise in the area planted.



(f) forecast

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 8 December 2020



Government of South Australia

Department of Treasury and Finance