

## KEY POINTS

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2023-24 winter crop production is 7.7 million tonnes, 39% lower than the 2022-23 winter crop and 3.0% below the five-year average.

National winter crop production in 2023-24 is forecast to be 44.9 million tonnes, 34% lower than 2022-23 and 10% below the five-year average.

## FURTHER ANALYSIS

## AUSTRALIA

The start to the 2023-24 winter cropping season has been mixed. Early autumn rainfall in some major cropping regions in southern Victoria, southern New South Wales, southern Queensland, South Australia and central cropping regions in Western Australia replenished soil moisture levels and provided favourable planting conditions.

However, autumn rainfall in northern and southern cropping regions in Western Australia, northern New South Wales, northern Victoria and parts of southern and Central Queensland has been lower than average and soil moisture levels have remained low. Much of the crop in these regions has been dry sown and will need timely follow up rainfall to allow for crops to germinate and establish.

Area planted to winter crops in Australia is forecast to fall but remain historically high in 2023-24 at 23.3 million hectares, 4.4% above the 5-year average to 2022-23. High crop prices, good seasons and record farm cash incomes over the last three years mean that many growers are in a strong financial position, incentivising planting a crop this season.

**Table 1: Winter Crop Production 2023-24**

	2023-24 Forecast (million tonnes)	Change from previous year (%)
NSW	10.8	-28.3
VIC	7.0	-34.9
QLD	2.2	-34.5
<b>SA</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-38.7</b>
WA	17.0	-33.8
<b>AUST</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>-33.7</b>

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian winter crop production is forecast to fall 39% to 7.7 million tonnes in 2023-24, 3.0% below the 5-year average.

Production in 2023-24 is forecast to fall significantly from the record of 2022-23 due to drier conditions expected across the growing season negatively impacting crop yields, particularly in the northern growing regions of South Australia.

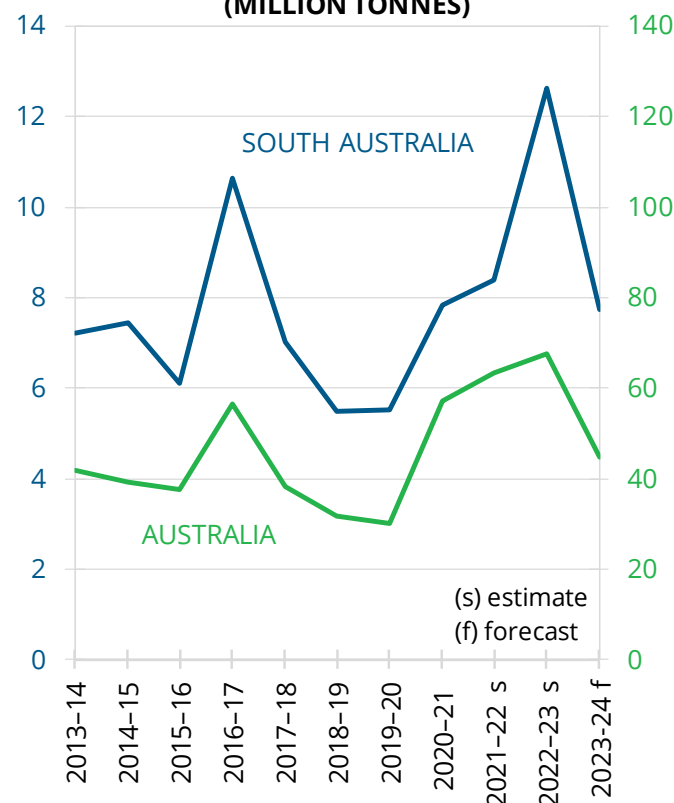
Area planted to winter crops is expected to remain high in 2023-24, falling by just 0.9% from 2022-23 to 3.9 million hectares. South Australia had a strong start to the 2023-24 cropping season with above average soil moisture across most cropping regions in April which encouraged early crop plantings.

Wheat production in 2023-24 is forecast to fall by 39% to 4.5 million tonnes, reflecting a 39% fall in the yield and no change in the area planted.

Barley production is forecast to fall by 35% to 1.9 million tonnes, reflecting a 3.6% increase in the area planted but a 37% fall in yield.

Canola production is forecast to fall by 46% to 413,000 tonnes, reflecting a 5.0% fall in the area planted and a 46% fall in the yield.

**WINTER CROP PRODUCTION  
(MILLION TONNES)**



Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 5 September 2023