

## KEY POINTS

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2023-24 winter crop production is 8.1 million tonnes, 36% lower than the 2022-23 winter crop but 1.8% above the five-year average.

National winter crop production in 2023-24 is forecast to be 45.2 million tonnes, 34% lower than 2022-23 and 9.7% below the five-year average.

## FURTHER ANALYSIS

## AUSTRALIA

Seasonal conditions across Australian winter cropping regions have been mixed throughout 2023-24. Better-than-expected early winter rainfall boosted soil moisture levels and benefitted crop establishment and growth, most favourably in southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and southern cropping regions of Western Australia.

However, some winter crops have been experiencing moisture stress, causing yields forecast to be below average. This is most notable in Queensland, northern New South Wales and northern and eastern cropping regions in Western Australia. Rainfall outlooks indicate spring rainfall will be below average across Australian cropping regions, negatively impacting yield potential in regions with low soil moisture.

Area planted to winter crops in Australia is forecast to fall but remain historically high in 2023-24 at 23 million hectares, 4% above the 10-year average to 2022-23. The fall is mostly driven by a 6% decrease in area planted in New South Wales and Western Australia.

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

	<b>2023-24 Forecast (million tonnes)</b>	<b>Change from previous year (%)</b>
NSW	10.1	-33.4
VIC	8.6	-22.0
QLD	2.1	-37.9
<b>SA</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>-35.7</b>
WA	16.2	-37.3
<b>AUST</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>-33.6</b>

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian winter crop production is forecast to fall 36% to 8.1 million tonnes in 2023-24, 1.8% above the 5-year average.

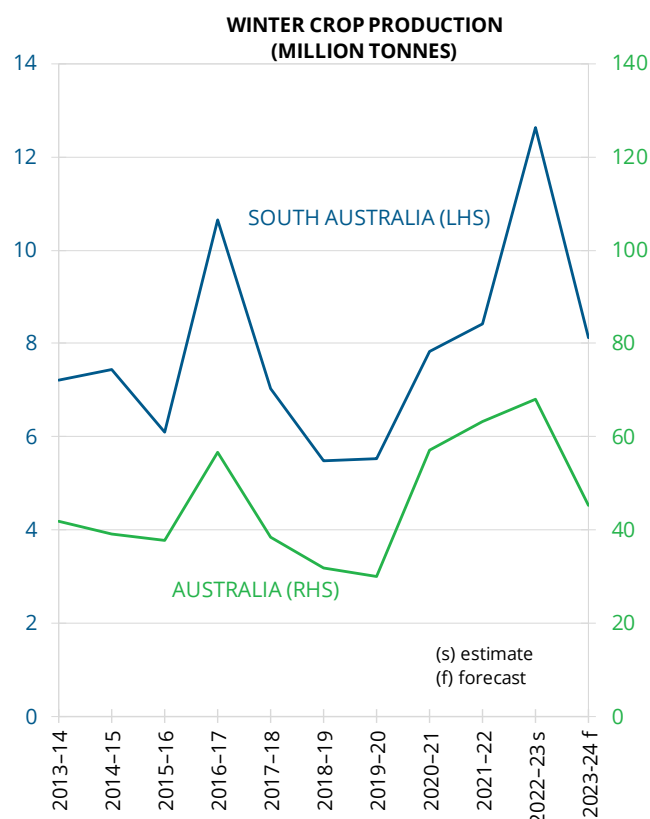
Production in 2023-24 is forecast to fall significantly from the record of 2022-23 due to the expected onset of drier El Niño conditions across most growing regions.

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

Wheat production in 2023-24 is forecast to fall 36% due to a drier rainfall outlook for the western and eastern Eyre Peninsula, where high proportions of wheat are typically planted.

Barley production is forecast to fall by 31% to 2.0 million tonnes, though barley yields historically hold up more during dry conditions.

Canola production is forecast to fall by 38% to 475,000 tonnes. This fall means canola production should remain in line with the 10-year average.



Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 5 December 2023