

KEY POINTS

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2020-21 winter crop production is 8.4 million tonnes (upwardly revised by 8.8% from the September report), **39%** higher than the 2019-20 winter crop and 19% higher than the five-year average.

National winter crop production in 2020-21 is forecast to be 51.4 million tonnes, 76% higher than in 2019-20, a 7.4% upward revision from the September report, and 33% higher than the five-year average.

ABARES says winter crop production in Australia was boosted by very favourable seasonal conditions during spring in most cropping regions in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Crops in these states were generally in very good condition at the end of winter and favourable rainfall during September and October increased soil moisture levels during the critical grain development period.

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 106%, barley production is forecast to rise by 33% and canola production is forecast to rise by 59%.

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	17.6	427.1
VIC	9.3	23.6
QLD	1.7	147.1
SA	8.4	39.5
WA	14.4	23.8
AUST	51.5	75.7

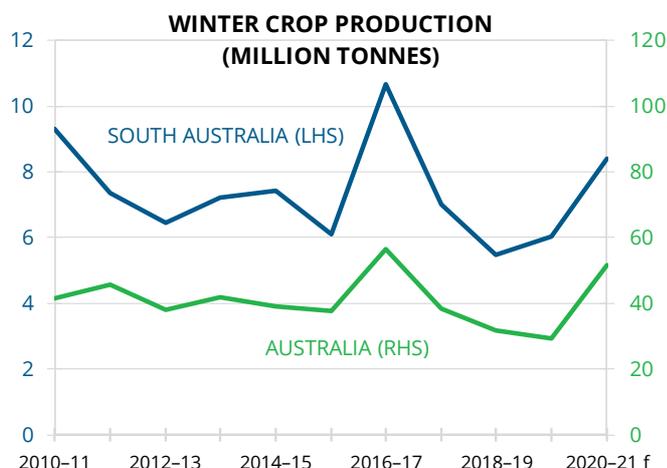
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ABARES states that above average rainfall in most major cropping regions in South Australia in September and October boosted yield prospects. In southern cropping regions, including the lower Eyre Peninsula, the lower Yorke Peninsula, the mid-north, the lower Murray and the south east, yield prospects are well above average. In northern cropping regions, the September and October rainfall boosted yield prospects in the upper North and the Mallee, but generally arrived too late to benefit large parts of the upper Eyre Peninsula.

Winter crop production in South Australia is forecast to increase by 39% in 2020-21 to 8.4 million tonnes.

Harvesting was slowed in some regions by rain and strong winds in mid-November but the quality of early receivals of cereals and pulses was reported to be good. Harvesting and grain supply chains in South Australia were unaffected by restrictions introduced in the state between 19 November to 21 November to contain a COVID-19 cluster.

- **Wheat** production in 2020-21 is forecast to increase by **53%** to 4.9 million tonnes, reflecting a 44% increase in the yield and a 6.4% increase in the area planted.
- **Barley** production is forecast to increase by **24%** to 2.3 million tonnes, reflecting a 25% increase in the yield, only slightly offset by a 0.6% decline in the area planted.
- **Canola** production is forecast to increase by **25%** to 375,000 tonnes, reflecting a 22% increase in the yield and a 2.3% rise in the area planted.



(f) forecast

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 16 February 2021