

KEY POINTS

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) forecast for South Australia's 2026-27 winter crop production is 11.3 million tonnes. This forecast is 24% higher than the 2025-26 winter crop estimate and 28% above the five-year average. This forecast has been revised up by 24% from the June 2026 crop report.

National winter crop production in 2026-27 is forecast to be 60.9 million tonnes, 12% lower than the 2025-26 estimate and 1.8% lower than the five-year average.

AUSTRALIA

Australian winter crop production is forecast to decrease by 12% in 2026-27 but to be the fourth largest winter crop on record and 12% higher than forecast in the June 2026 crop report.

Despite the below average winter rainfall outlook in May, seasonal conditions throughout winter have been much better than expected, with timely winter rainfall and mild temperatures boosting production prospects across most major southern cropping regions.

The forecast reflects excellent growing conditions in South Australia, Victoria, and southern New South Wales being more than offset by closer to average conditions in Western Australia and poor conditions in northern New South Wales and Queensland.

Despite significant uncertainty around the price and availability of fuel and fertiliser at the start of the season, it has not resulted in any significant impacts on production potential, with growers able to access inputs, albeit at a higher price.

Table 1: Winter Crop Production 2026-27

	Forecast (million tonnes)	Change from previous year (%)
NSW	13.1	-29.9
VIC	11.3	12.0
QLD	2.2	-43.6
SA	11.3	24.3
WA	22.8	-16.0
AUS	60.9	-11.9

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian winter crop production is forecast to increase by 24% to 11.3 million tonnes in 2026-27 and be 28% above the 5-year average.

South Australia is experiencing one of the best growing seasons to date, with production in 2026-27 forecast to be the second highest on record.

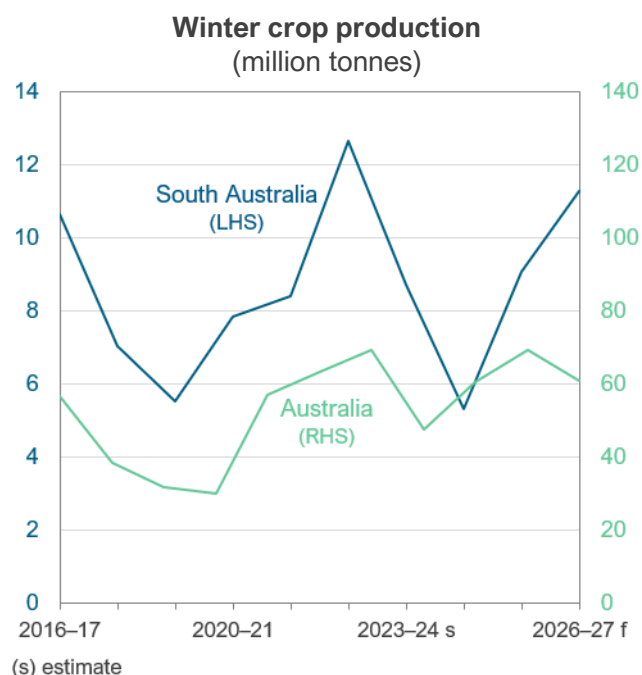
Average to above average rainfall across cropping regions in June and July maintained soil moisture, while mild winter temperatures has advanced crops up to 4 weeks ahead of where they would normally be at this stage in the season. Despite a dry and hot outlook, the exceptional condition and advanced development of most crops mean they are expected to be more resilient to heat stress later in the season.

Wheat production in 2026-27 is forecast to increase by 27% to 6.0 million tonnes, reflecting a 23% increase in yield and 2.5% increase in area planted.

Barley production is forecast to increase by 35% to 2.9 million tonnes, reflecting a 28% increase in yield and a 5.4% increase in area planted.

Lentil production is forecast to rise by 7.8% to 1.2 million tonnes, reflecting a 3.4% increase in area planted and a 4.2% rise in yield.

Canola production is forecast to increase by 15% to 630,000 tonnes, reflecting a 12% increase in area planted and a 2.3% rise in yield.



Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 1 December 2026.