

KEY POINTS

The ABARES forecast for South Australia's 2024-25 winter crop production is 8.3 million tonnes, 5.8% lower than the 2023-24 winter crop and 4.1% below the five-year average.

National winter crop production in 2024-25 is forecast to be 51.3 million tonnes, 9.3% higher than 2023-24 but 3.6% below the five-year average.

FURTHER ANALYSIS

AUSTRALIA

National winter crop production in 2024-25 is forecast to be above average, rising by 9.3%. If realised, the forecast level of production would be the fifth highest on record. The forecast reflects improved production in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia underpinned by a generally favourable winter rainfall outlook.

Variable conditions at the start of the season are apparent. Conditions are most favourable in Queensland and northern and central New South Wales following above average summer rainfall and timely autumn rainfall that improved soil moisture profiles. In contrast, autumn rainfall has been below average in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia with soil moisture in these areas remaining low.

The Bureau of Meteorology's 3-month outlook issued on 23 May 2024 indicates a 40-60% chance of above average rainfall in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This favourable rainfall outlook is expected to support the germination of dry-sown crops.

Table 1: Winter Crop Production 2024-25

	2024-25 Forecast (million tonnes)	Change from previous year (%)
NSW	15.0	36.5
VIC	9.2	-12.9
QLD	2.9	68.5
SA	8.3	-5.8
WA	15.9	7.3
AUST	51.3	9.3

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

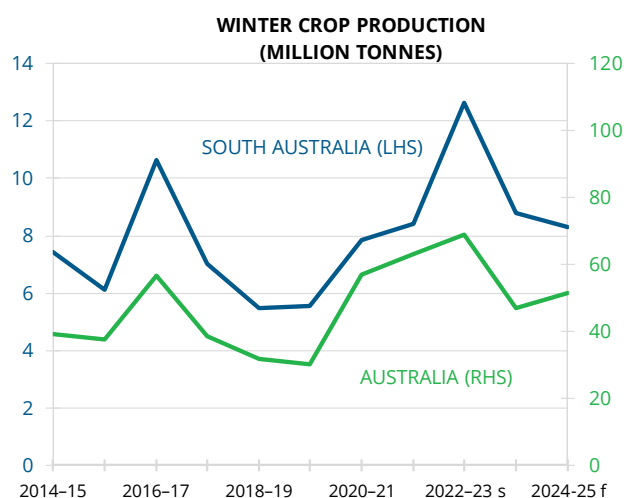
South Australian winter crop production is forecast to fall 5.8% to 8.3 million tonnes in 2024-25, 4.1% below the 5-year average. The lack of rainfall during May and declining soil moisture across most cropping regions is driving the reduced production prospects.

Area planted to winter crops is expected to fall by 3.8% in 2024-25 reflecting well below average autumn rainfall. Canola is expected to see the largest decline as persistent dryness affected planting. Area planted to wheat, barley and canola is expected to fall, especially in the Eyre Peninsula where some farmers have increased plantings of lentils to take advantage of higher prices.

Wheat production in 2024-25 is forecast to fall by 4.4% to 4.6 million tonnes, reflecting a 4.5% fall in the area planted and an increase of 0.2% in the yield.

Barley production is forecast to fall by 4.9% to 2.0 million tonnes, reflecting a 2.4% decrease in the area planted and a 2.5% fall in yield.

Canola production is forecast to fall by 18% to 470,000 tonnes, reflecting a 10% fall in the area planted and an 8.0% fall in the yield.



(s) estimate (f) forecast

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 3 September 2024