



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update



15 November 2012

The full report is available from www.daff.gov.au/abares

Summary of key issues

- Frost events associated with cooler than average night-time temperatures across much of southern Australia this week, may result in some production losses in late maturing crops.
- Parts of the southern Queensland and New South Wales have received falls of up to 100 millimetres this week, which has reportedly delayed the grain harvest in some areas.
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin have decreased by 78 gigalitres this week and are at 95 per cent of total capacity.
- Low reliability water allocations in the Broken and Campaspe systems (Victoria) have increased to 40 per cent and 81 per cent respectively.
- The world wheat indicator price (US No. 2 hard red winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$378 a tonne in the week ending 13 November 2012, largely unchanged from the previous week.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US No. 2 yellow corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$319 a tonne for the week ending 14 November 2012, largely unchanged from the previous week.
- The world canola indicator price (Rapeseed, Europe, free on board Hamburg) averaged US\$606 a tonne in the week ending 13 November 2012, around 3 per cent lower than the US\$622 a tonne it averaged in the previous week.
- Saleyards lamb prices rose in all states, except South Australia, in the week ending 9 November 2012 with the largest increase recorded in New South Wales where the lamb indicator price (18–22kg fat score 2–4) rose by 7 per cent to 376 cents a kilogram.
- The Queensland young cattle indicator price (330–400 kg live weight C3) fell 8 per cent to 324 cents a kilogram in the week ending 9 November 2012.
- The wholesale prices of fruit are generally lower than the same time last year.

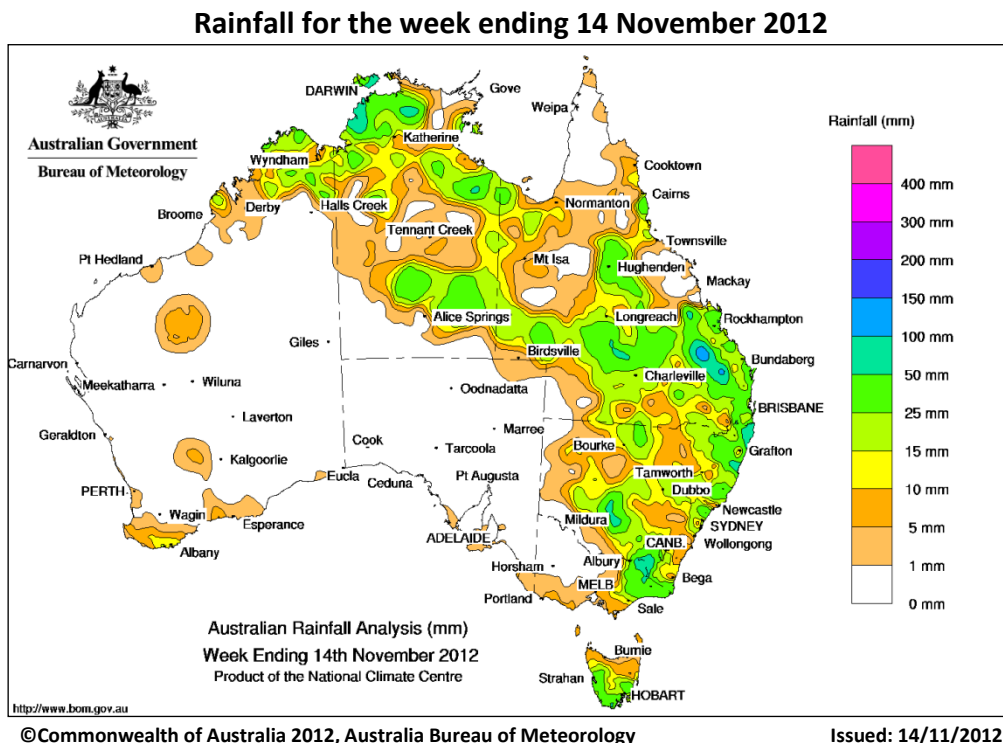
1. Climate

1.1. Notable events

- Cooler than average night-time temperatures have been recorded across much of southern Australia this week. These cooler than average conditions have prompted some concern that associated frosts events may result in lost production in late maturing crops especially across southwest Victoria.
- Parts of the southern Queensland and New South Wales have received falls of up to 100 millimetres this week. While the rain has reportedly delayed the grain harvest in many areas, it is too early to establish if there has been any loss in grain quality in unharvested crops.
- A large influx of wild ducks has reportedly damaged emerging rice crops in the New South Wales Murray region. Producers are reporting higher numbers than last year, with wet conditions during the 2011-12 summer providing ideal breeding conditions.
- Cool spring conditions across the southern agricultural region of Western Australia have reportedly slowed locust hatchings, reducing the potential impact on crops and pastures (Department of Agriculture and Food, 'Cool spring delays locusts', 8 November 2012). The risk of significant infestation in southern and eastern Australia remains relatively low this spring, however recent heavy rainfall may encourage localised hatchings.

1.2. Rainfall this week

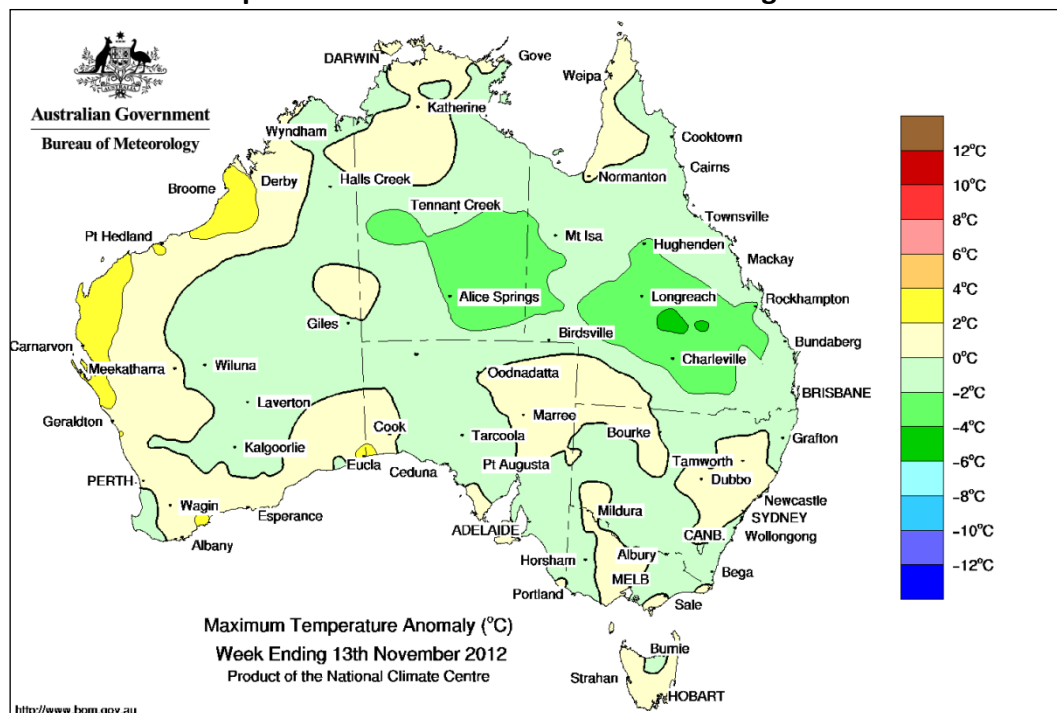
For the week ending 14 November 2012, falls of between 15 and 50 millimetres were recorded over much of eastern and northern Australia with localised falls in excess of 100 millimetres. The highest measured rainfall total for the week was 176 millimetres at Berrimah, near Darwin in the Northern Territory. For further information, go to www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/weeklyrain.shtml.



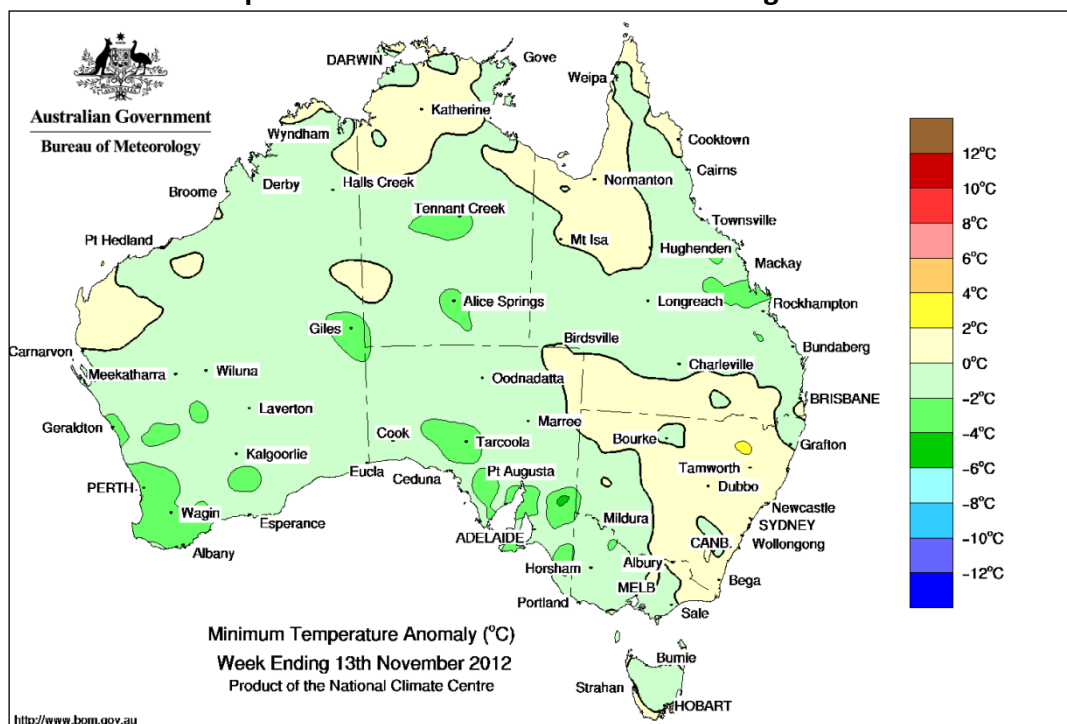
1.3. Temperature anomalies this week

Spatial temperature analyses are based on historical weekly temperature data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. These temperature anomaly maps show the departure of the maximum and minimum from the long-term average. Temperature anomalies are calculated using high resolution gridded datasets from 1911 onwards. For further information on temperature anomalies, go to www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/.

Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 13 November 2012



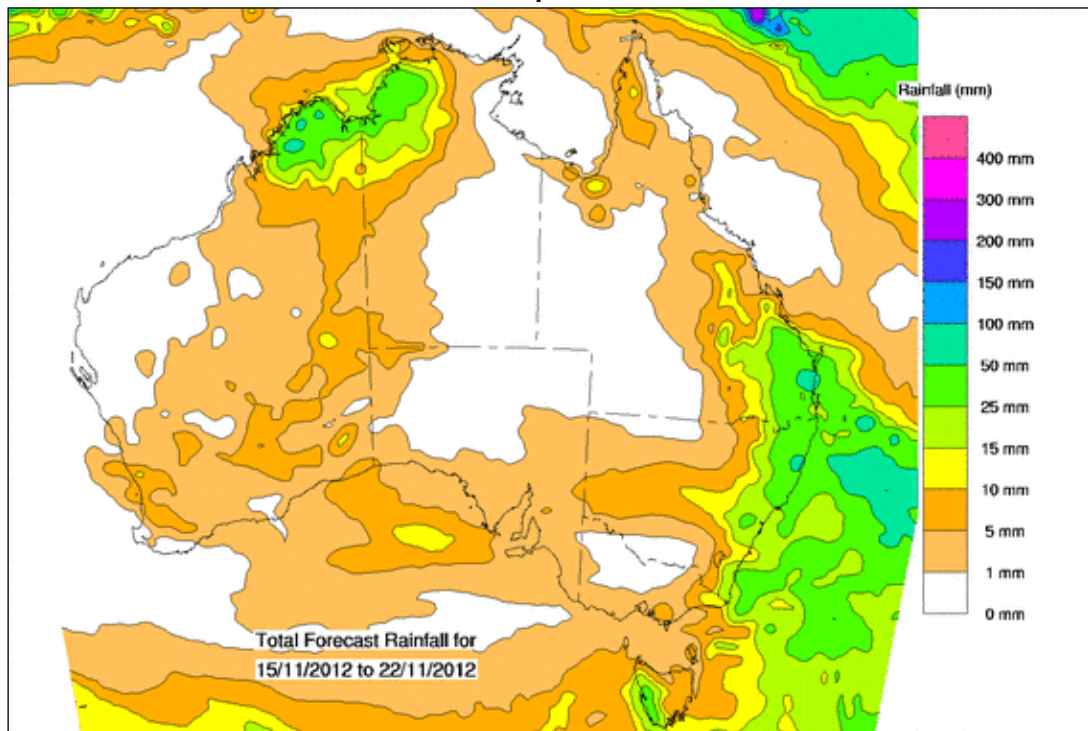
Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 13 November 2012



1.4. Rainfall outlook

The rainfall forecast below is produced from computer models. As it contains no input from weather forecasters, it is important to also check local forecasts and warnings by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 15 to 22 November 2012



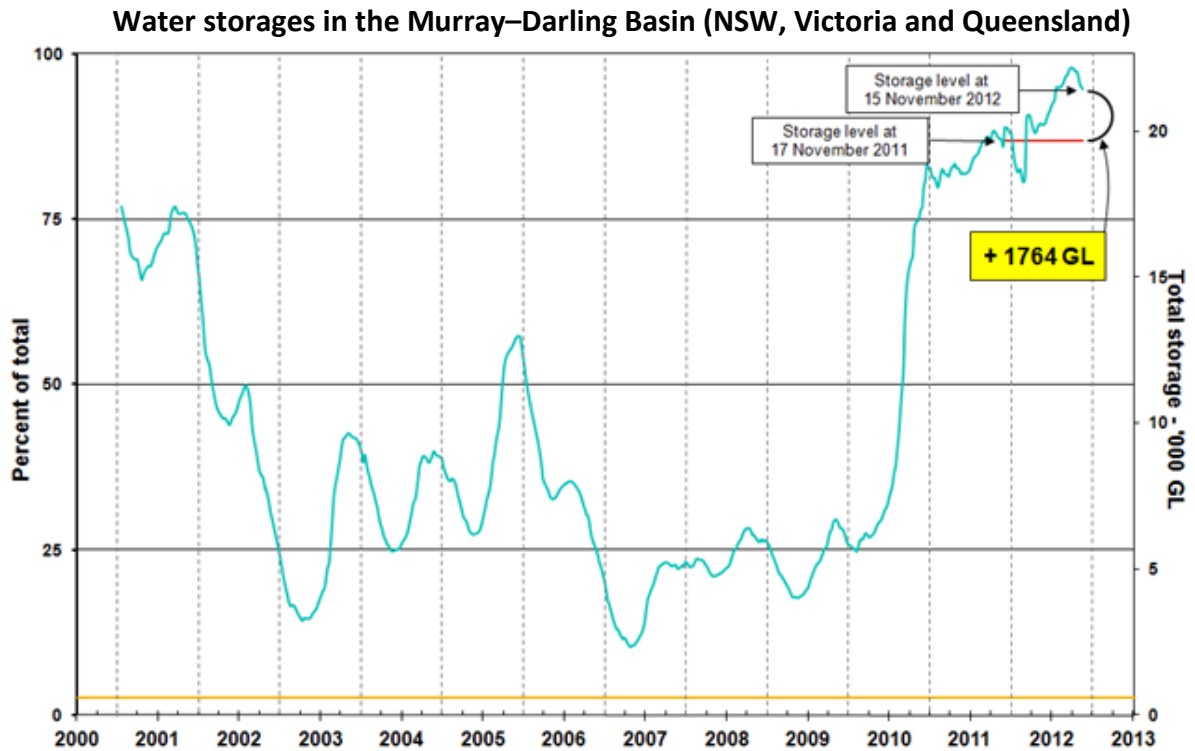
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Issued: 14/11/2012

2. Water

2.1. Water availability

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin have decreased by 78 gigalitres (GL) this week and are at 95 per cent of total capacity. This is 8 percentage points or 1764 GL more than this time last year.



Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 15 November 2012 is shown above. The top horizontal (red) line indicates the storage level at the similar time last year. The bottom horizontal (orange) line indicates the amount of ‘dead’ or unusable storage.

2.2. Water allocations

The current water allocations for the 2012–13 water trading season for licence holders in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia water systems are summarised in the following table.

- Low reliability allocations in the Broken (Victoria) system have increased to 40 per cent and low reliability allocations in the Campaspe (Victoria) system have increased to 81 per cent.

	Allocations at	1 November 2012 (%)	15 November 2012 (%)
NSW Murray Valley			
High security		100	100
General security		100*	100*
NSW Murrumbidgee Valley			
High security		95	95
General security		64*	64*
NSW Lower Darling			
High security		100	100
General security		100*	100*
NSW Macquarie Valley			
High security		100	100
General security		58*	58*
NSW Hunter Valley			
High security		100	100
General security		100	100
NSW Lachlan Valley			
High security		100	100
General security		0*	0*
NSW Lower Namoi			
High security		100	100
General security		32*	32*
NSW Upper Namoi			
High security		100	100
General security		100*	100*
NSW Gwydir Valley			
High security		100	100
General security		150*	150*
NSW Border Rivers			
High security		100	100
General security		100	100
NSW Peel Valley			
High security		100	100
General security		78*	78*
Victoria Murray Valley			
High reliability		100	100
Low reliability		0	0
Victoria Goulburn			
High reliability		100	100
Low reliability		0	0
Victoria Campaspe			
High reliability		100	100
Low reliability		69	81
Victoria Loddon			
High reliability		100	100
Low reliability		0	0
Victoria Bullarook			
High reliability		100	100
Low reliability		100	100
Victoria Broken			
High reliability		100	100
Low Reliability		16	40
South Australia Murray Valley			
High security		100	100

*Carryover water may also be available.

3. Commodities

3.1. Production and commodities

- The world wheat indicator price (US No. 2 hard red winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$378 a tonne in the week ending 13 November 2012, largely unchanged from the previous week.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US No. 2 yellow corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$319 a tonne for the week ending 14 November 2012, largely unchanged from the previous week.
- The world canola indicator price (Rapeseed, Europe, free on board Hamburg) averaged US\$606 a tonne in the week ending 13 November 2012, around 3 per cent lower than the US\$622 a tonne it averaged in the previous week.
- The Australian canola indicator price (Portland, Victoria) averaged \$542 a tonne in the week ending 12 November 2012, compared with \$558 a tonne in the previous week.
- The world cotton indicator price (the Cotlook 'A' index) averaged US 79.9 cents a pound in the week ending 14 November 2012, largely unchanged from previous week.
- The world sugar indicator price (Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, No. 11 contract) averaged US19.2 cents a pound in the week ending 14 November 2012, largely unchanged from previous week. It is the lowest the sugar indicator price has been since week ending 11 August 2010 when it averaged US18.2 cents a pound.
- Brazil Sugar Industry Association's data indicates that, as at the end of October 2012, sugar output from Brazil's major sugar growing region had reached 29.34 million tonnes this season (April to March season), around 30 000 tonnes higher than at the same time last year.
- Saleyard lamb prices rose in all states, except South Australia, in the week ending 9 November 2012. The largest increase was in New South Wales where the lamb indicator price (18–22kg fat score 2–4) rose by 7 per cent to 376 cents a kilogram. The rise largely reflected increased re-stocker demand and reduced yardings following recent rain in major producing regions. In other states, the lamb indicator price increased by 3 per cent in Western Australia and 1 per cent in Victoria and remained largely unchanged in South Australia.
- The Queensland young cattle indicator price (330–400 kg live weight C3) fell 8 per cent to 324 cents a kilogram in the week ending 9 November 2012.
- The Australian Eastern Market Indicator price for wool fell 4 per cent in the week ending 8 November 2012 to 1003 cents a kilogram clean. The total number of bales offered at auction declined by 9 per cent compared with the previous sale week.
- Wholesale fruit prices were generally higher or unchanged in the week ending 10 November 2012 with watermelon (seedless) and apple (royal gala) prices increasing. However, wholesale prices of fruit are generally lower than the same time last year. Avocados (hass), lemons (eureka) and passionfruit (purple) were the exceptions (Figure A).
- Vegetable wholesale prices were generally lower in the week ending 10 November 2012 with falls in the prices of cauliflower, broccoli, iceberg lettuce, pumpkin (grey bulk), peas (green), tomatoes (field gourmet) and beans (round). In contrast, the price of onions (brown) increased. Unlike fruit wholesale prices, year-on-year changes to vegetable wholesale prices have been mixed (Figure B).

Figure A: Year-on-year changes in selected fruit prices, Melbourne wholesale market, 10 November 2012

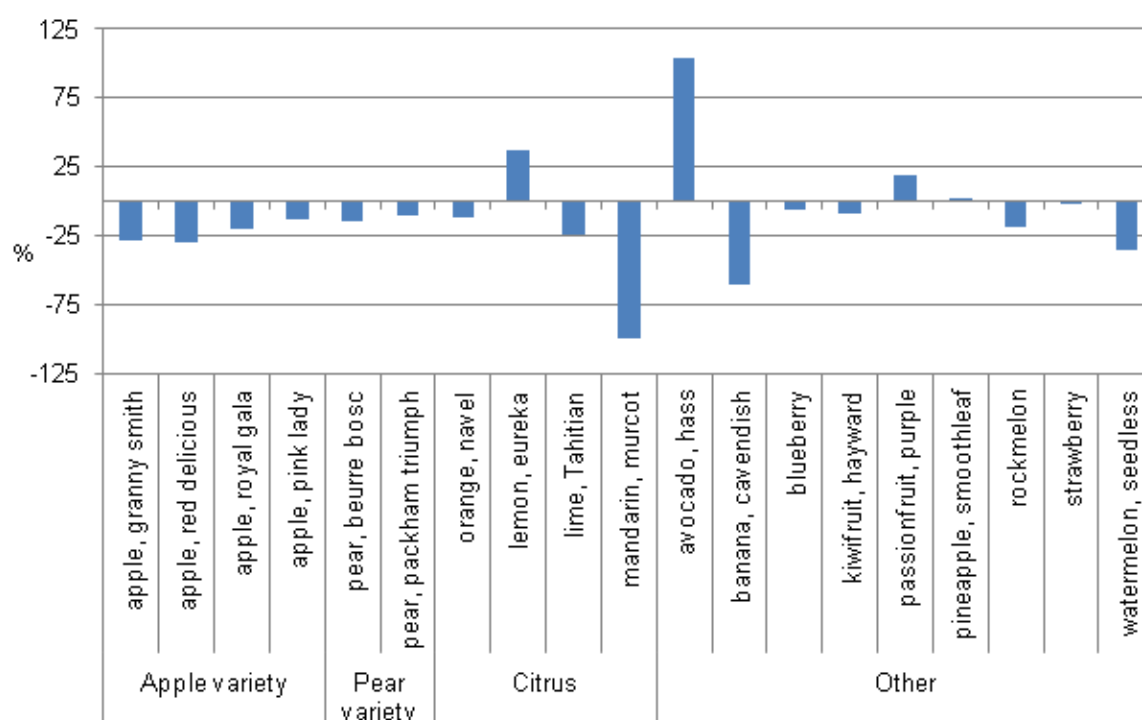
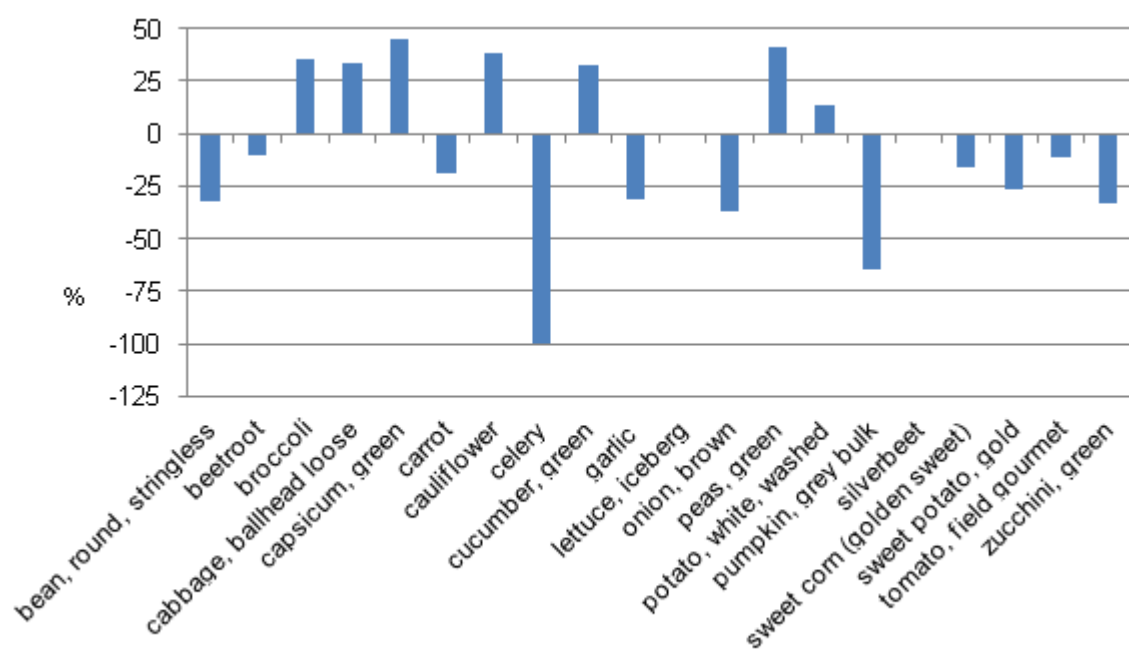
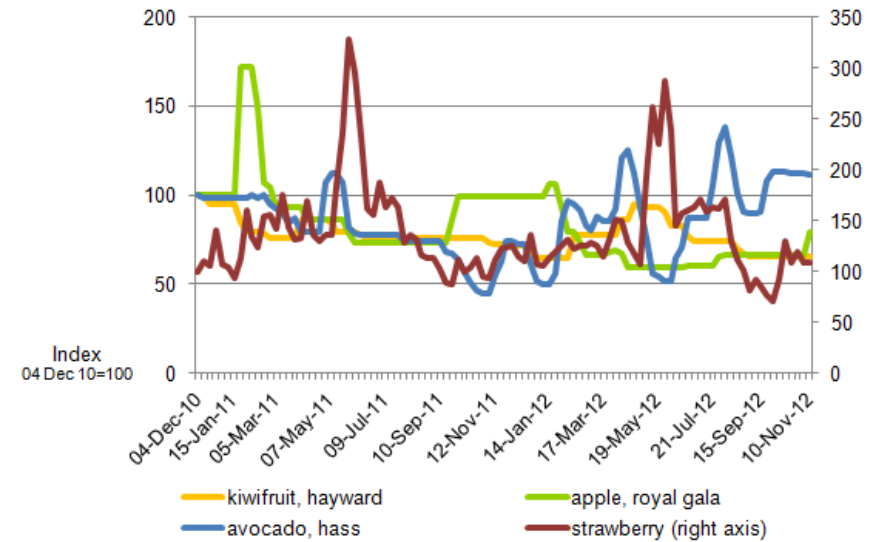
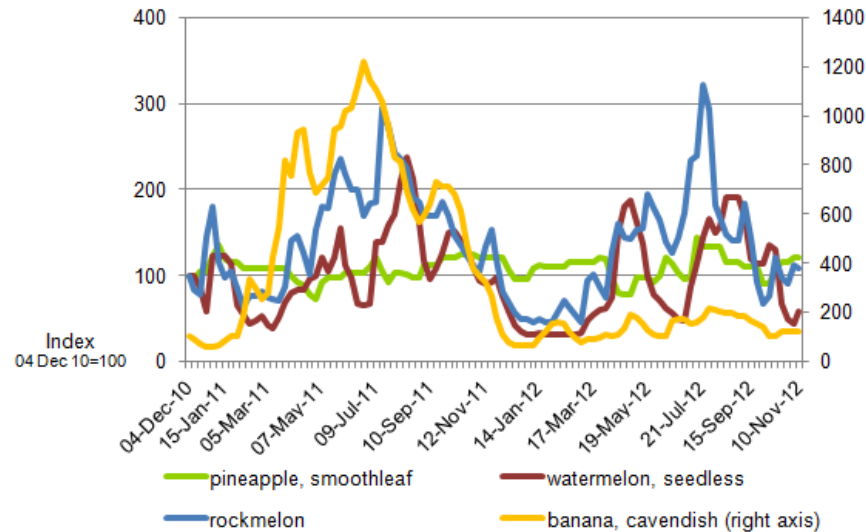


Figure B: Year-on-year changes in selected vegetable prices, Melbourne wholesale market, 10 November 2012

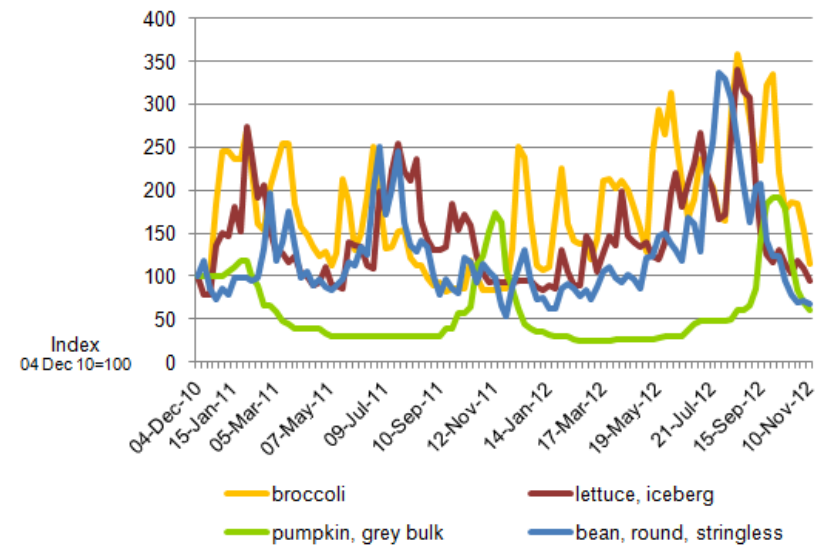
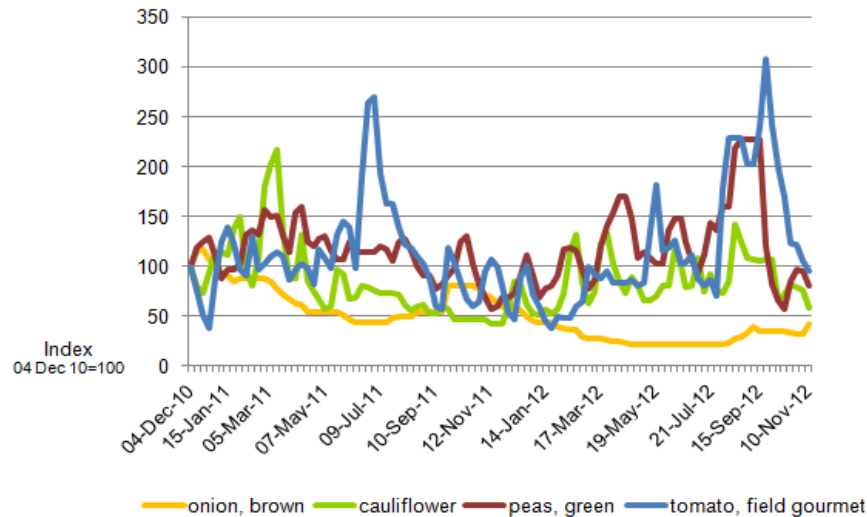


3.2. Recent movements in fruit and vegetable prices

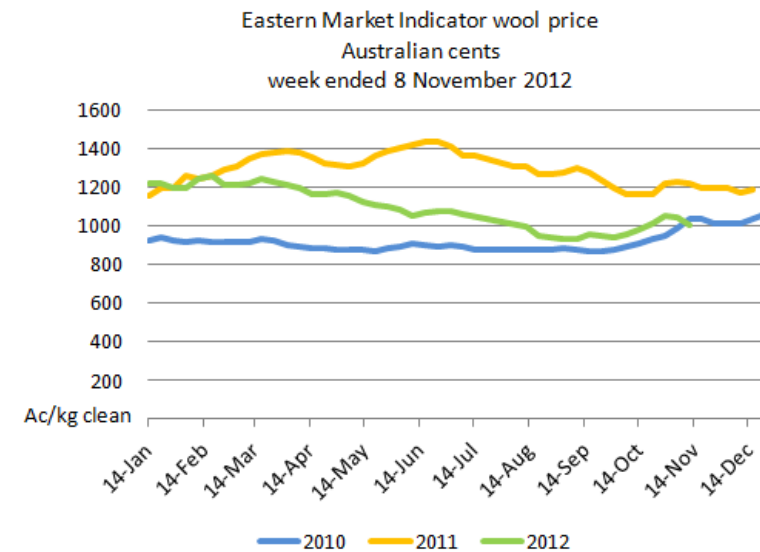
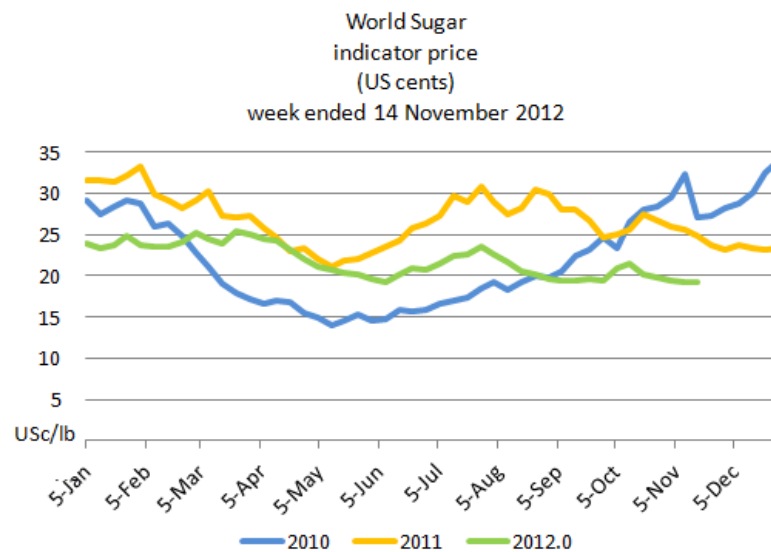
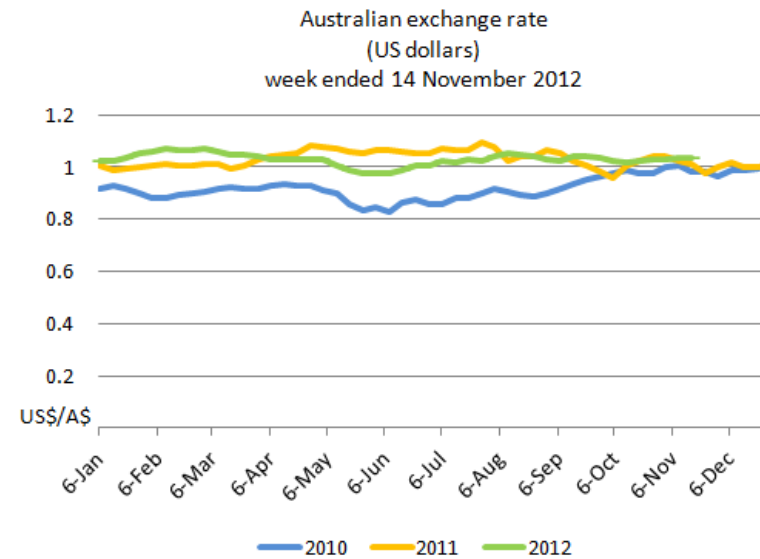
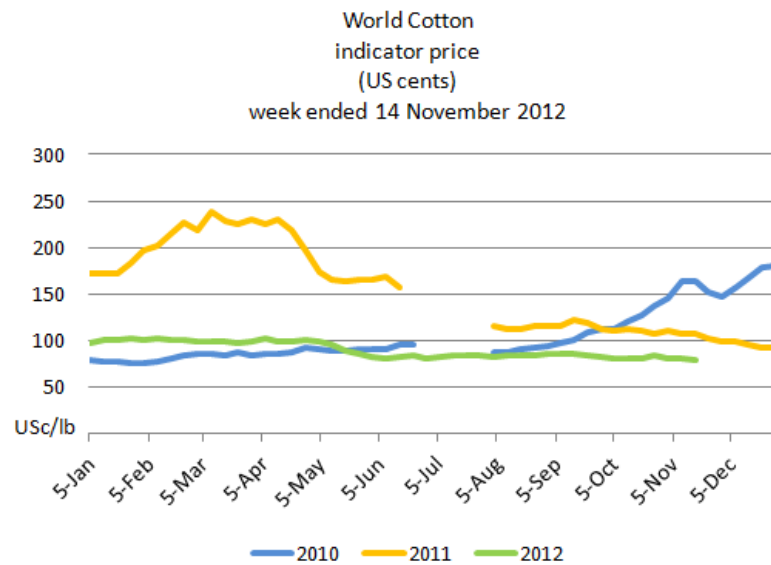
Weekly wholesale prices for selected fruit, Melbourne market



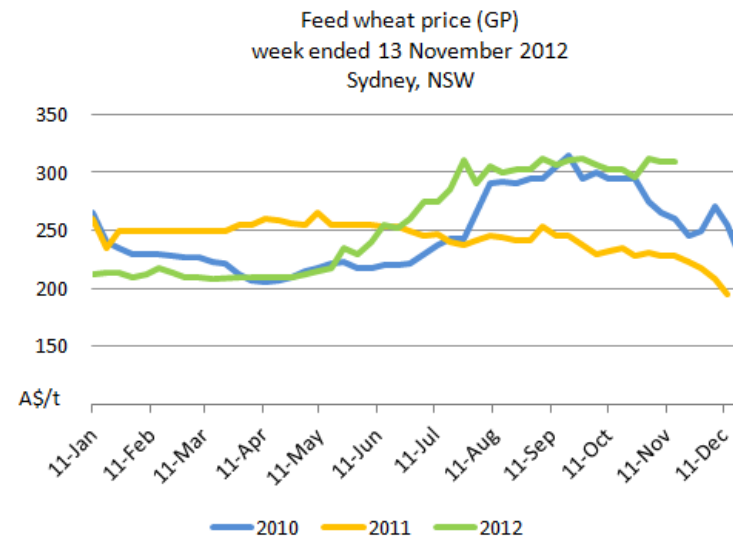
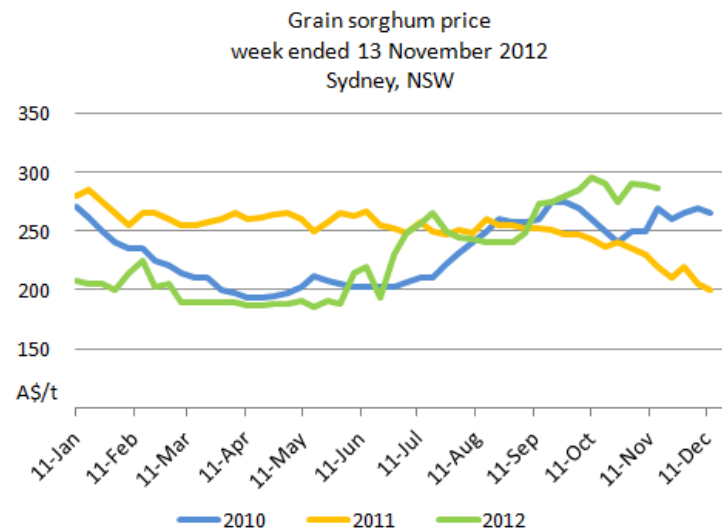
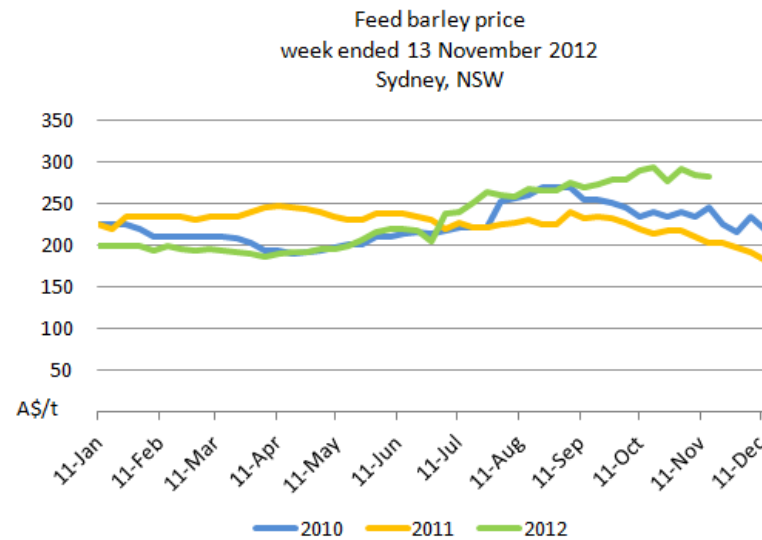
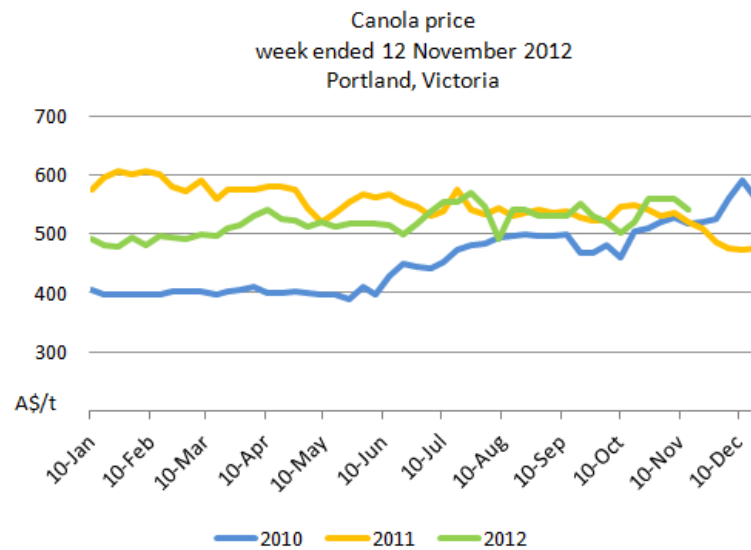
Weekly wholesale prices for selected vegetables, Melbourne market



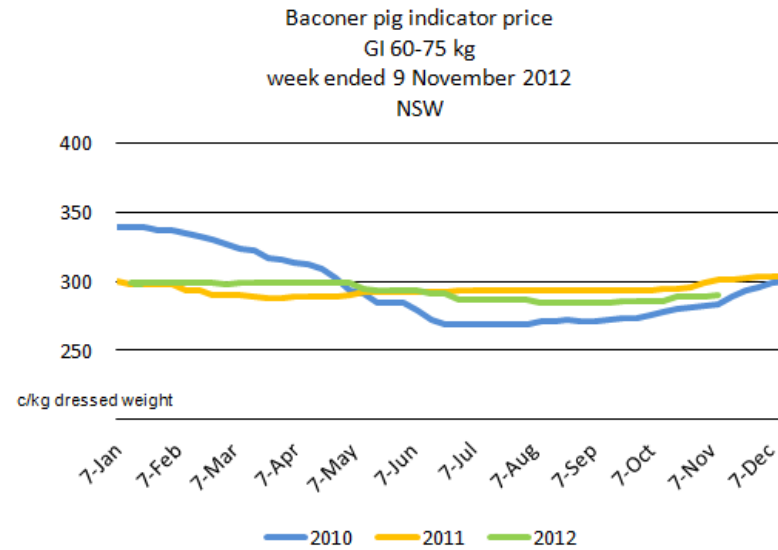
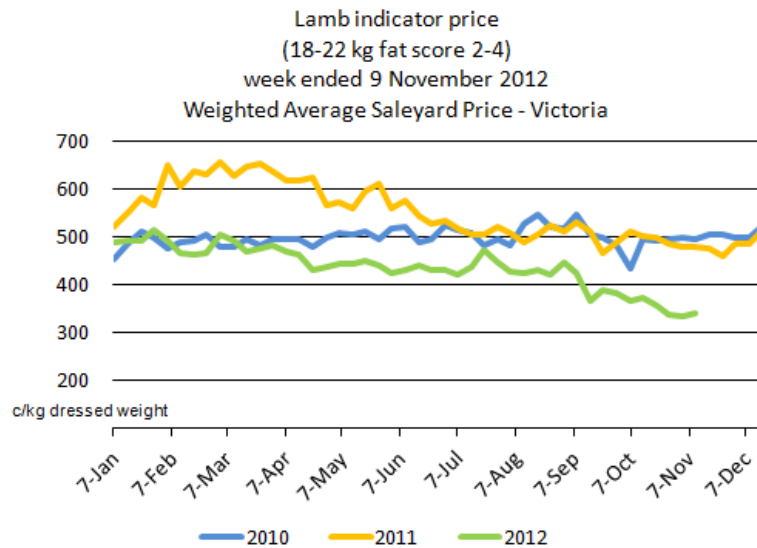
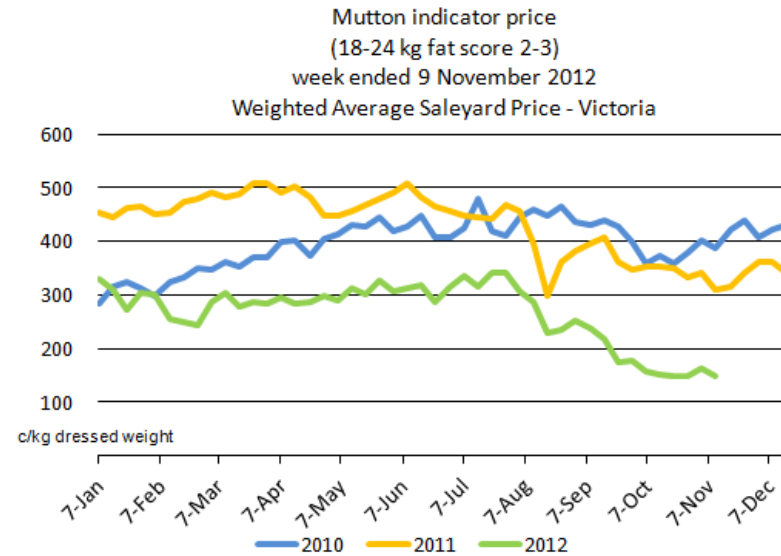
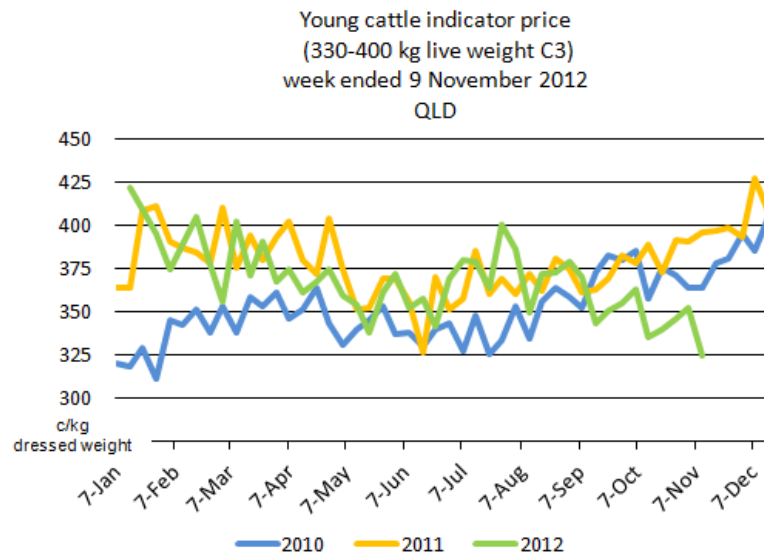
3.3. Selected world indicator prices



3.4. Crop indicator prices



3.5. Livestock indicator prices



4. Data attribution

Climate

Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/rain/index.jsp
- Monthly and last 3-months rainfall percentiles: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/
- Temperature anomalies: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead
- Drought statement: www.bom.gov.au/climate/drought/drought.shtml
- ENSO Wrap-Up: www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/
- Soil moisture (BoM, CSIRO and the former Bureau of Rural Sciences): www.eoc.csiro.au/awap/

Water

New South Wales

- New South Wales Water Information: <http://waterinfo.nsw.gov.au/>
- New South Wales Office of Water, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water: www.water.nsw.gov.au/Home/default.aspx
- Available water determinations register: www.wix.nsw.gov.au/wma/DeterminationSearch.jsp?selectedRegister=Determination
- Snowy Hydro: www.snowyhydro.com.au/lakeLevels.asp?pageID=47&parentID=61&grandParentID=4

Queensland

- Sunwater: www.sunwater.com.au
- seqwater: <http://seqwater.com.au>

South Australia

- SA Water: www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm
- South Australian Department of Water: www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/

Victoria

- Goulburn–Murray Water: www.g-mwater.com.au

Water trading

- Waterexchange: www.waterexchange.com.au

Commodities

Fruit and vegetables

- Datafresh: www.datafresh.com.au

Mutton, lambs, wheat, barley and grain sorghum

- The Land: hardcopy or online at <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/markets.aspx>

Cattle, mutton, lambs and pigs

- Meat and Livestock Australia: www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-markets

Canola

- Weekly Times: hardcopy