



# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update



18 October 2012

The full report is available from [www.daff.gov.au/abares](http://www.daff.gov.au/abares)

## Summary of key issues

- Recent frost events across many of Australia's key grain-growing areas have prompted industry groups to encourage grain growers to inspect crops as soon as possible to gain a clear picture of the impact.
- Some South Australian wine growers are expecting crop loss of up to 70 per cent, after wintry conditions last week have reportedly caused extensive damage to vineyards in Barossa and Clare Valleys. The full extent of damage will not be revealed until after fruit set.
- Locust numbers in New South Wales are likely to remain low over the upcoming summer months.
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin increased by 2 gigalitres this week and are at 97 per cent of total capacity.
- The world wheat indicator price (US No. 2 hard red winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$373 a tonne in the week ending 16 October 2012, compared with US\$369 a tonne in the previous week.
- Wheat stocks held by bulk handling companies and grain traders at the end of September 2012 were around 7.1 million tonnes, 14 per cent lower than one year earlier.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US No. 2 yellow corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$321 a tonne in the week ending 17 October 2012, largely unchanged compared with the previous week.
- The world canola indicator price (Rapeseed, Europe, free on board Hamburg) averaged US\$626 a tonne in the week ending 16 October 2012, compared with \$631 a tonne in the previous week.
- Wholesale prices of vegetable were generally lower in the week ended 13 October 2012, compared with the previous week.

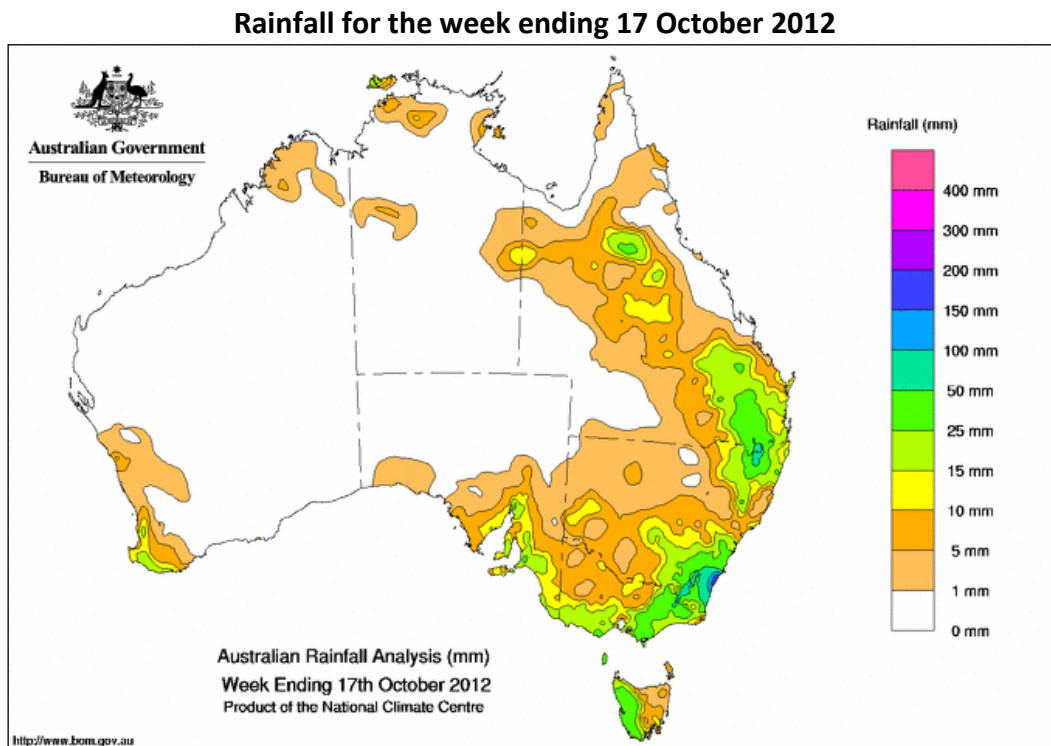
# 1. Climate

## 1.1. Notable events

- Recent frost events across many of Australia's key grain-growing areas have prompted industry groups to encourage grain growers to inspect crops as soon as possible to gain a clear picture of the impact.
- Some South Australian wine growers are expecting crop loss of up to 70 per cent, after wintry conditions last week have reportedly caused extensive damage to vineyards in Barossa and Clare Valleys. The full extent of damage will not be revealed until after fruit set. Meanwhile, world bulk wine prices are expected to remain strong as smaller harvests in Australia and Europe restrict supply.
- Locust numbers in New South Wales have remained low with cold, wet weather and bacterial infection keeping the population in check. Numbers are expected to remain low over the summer months.
- Favourable seasonal conditions of the last two years have reportedly resulted in a rapid rise in wild pig numbers across Queensland. Producers are likely to experience a rise in crop damage and grazing pressure on pastures as result of the higher pig numbers.
- The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting average to slightly below average tropical cyclone activity for the Australian region for the period 1 November 2012 to 30 April 2013 (2012–2013 Australian Tropical Cyclone Season Outlook: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/tc.shtml>).

## 1.2. Rainfall this week

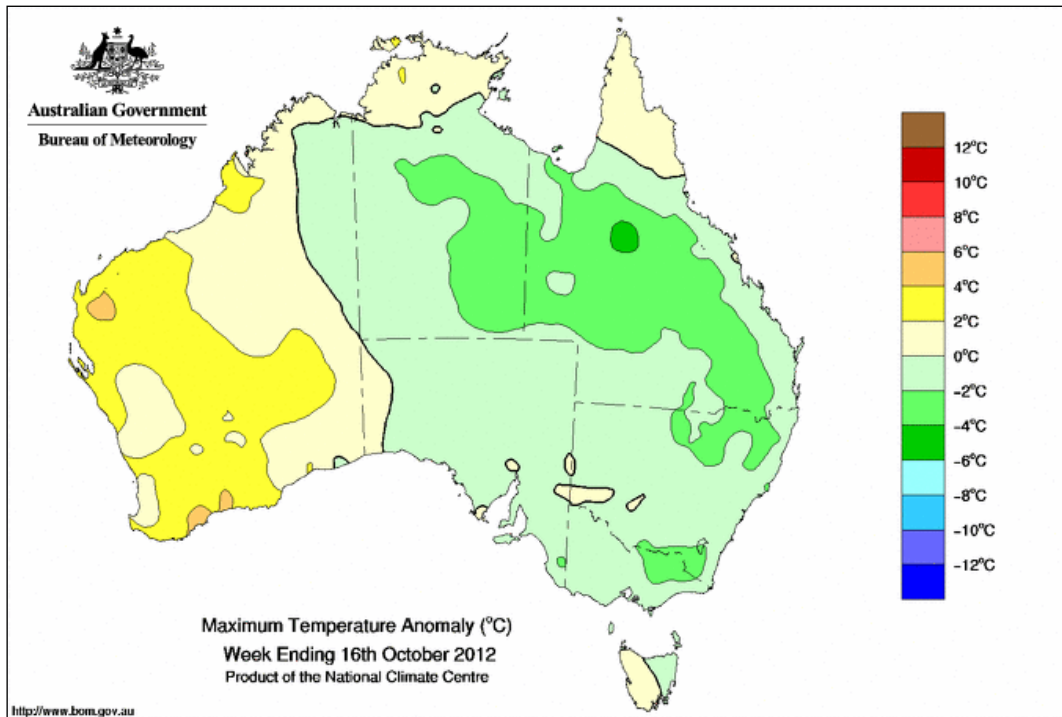
For the week ending 17 October 2012, light to moderate rain fell over most of eastern Australia, southern South Australia and south-west Western Australia. Patchy rain fell in the country's north. Falls exceeding 50 mm were recorded on the south coast of New South Wales and on the New South Wales – Queensland border. The highest measured rainfall total for the week was 254 millimetres at Ulladulla on the New South Wales south coast. For further information, go to [www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/weeklyrain.shtml](http://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/](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/).

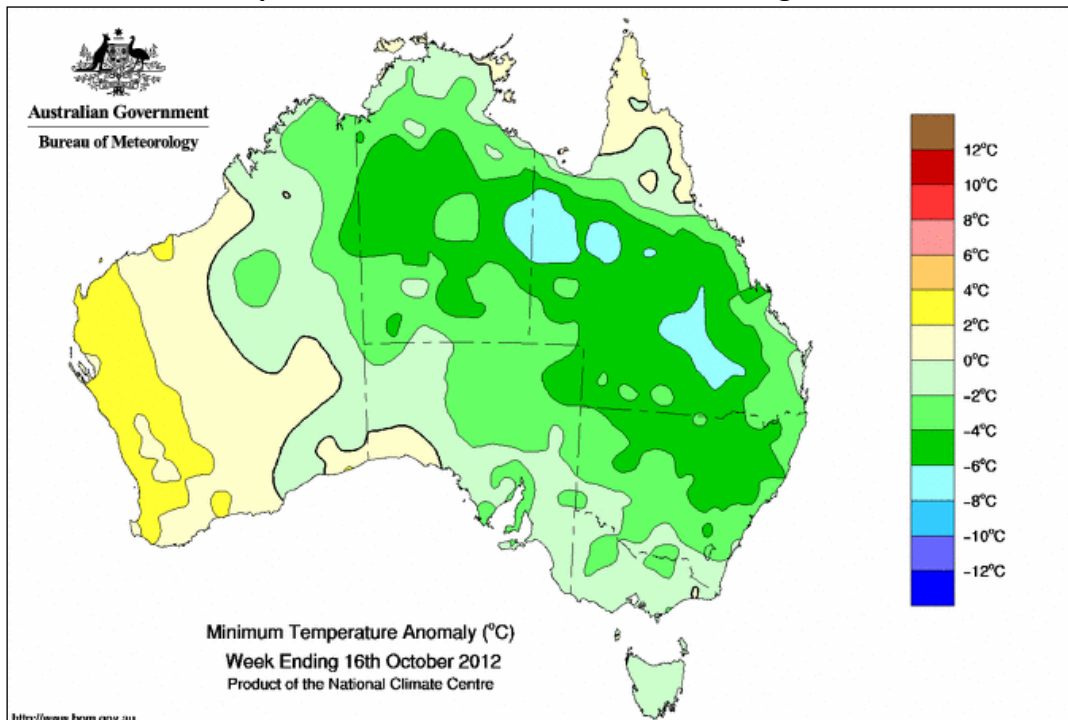
#### Maximum temperature anomalies for the week ending 16 October 2012



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Issued: 17/10/2012

#### Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 16 October 2012



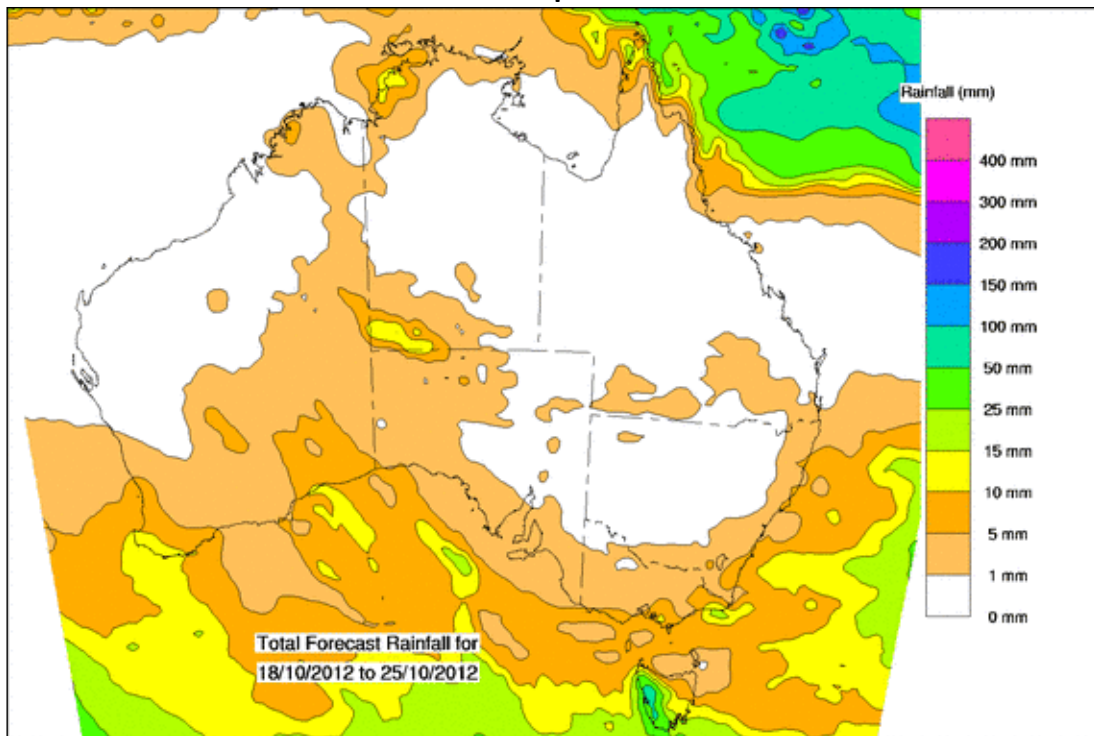
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Issued: 17/10/2012

## 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 18 to 25 October 2012**



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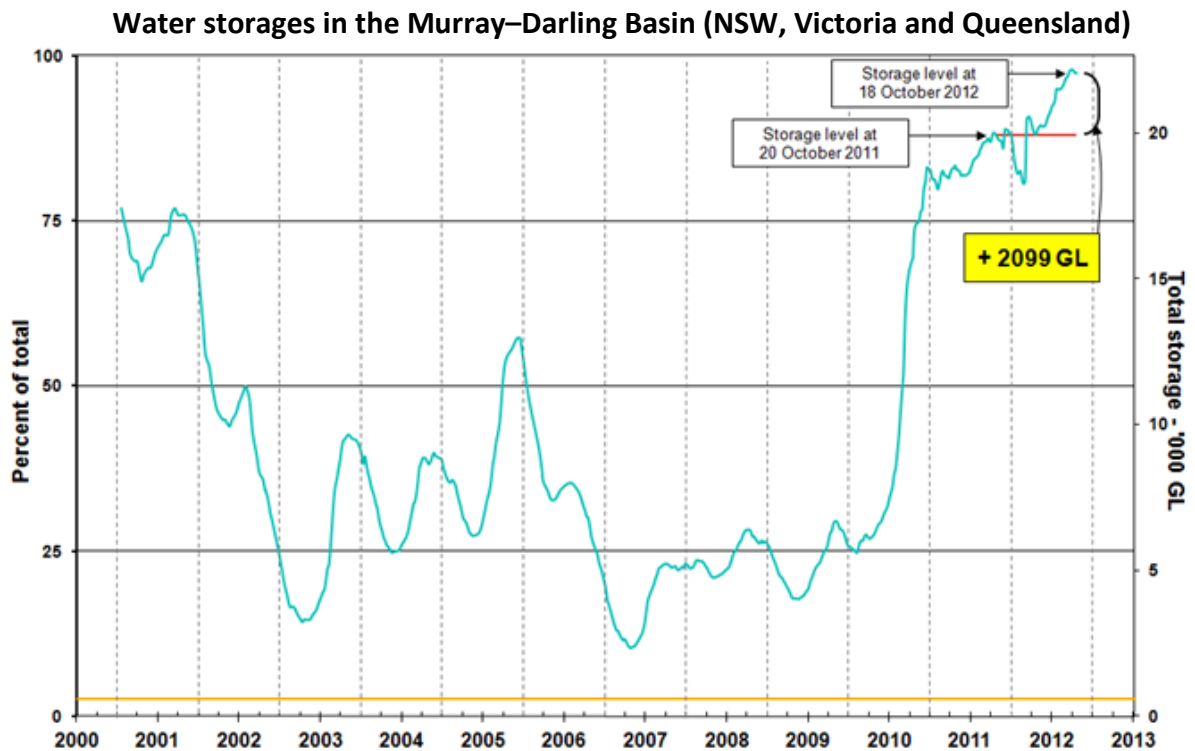
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## 2. Water

### 2.1. Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased this week by 2 gigalitres (GL) and are at 97 per cent of total capacity. This is 9 percentage points, or 2099 GL, more than this time last year.

### 2.2. Water storages



Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 18 October 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.

## 2.3. 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.

	Allocations at 10 October 2012 (%)	Allocations at 17 October 2012 (%)
<b>NSW Murray Valley</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	100*	100*
<b>NSW Murrumbidgee Valley</b>		
High security	95	95
General security	64*	64*
<b>NSW Lower Darling</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	100*	100*
<b>NSW Macquarie Valley</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	58*	58*
<b>NSW Hunter Valley</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	100	100
<b>NSW Lachlan Valley</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	0*	0*
<b>NSW Lower Namoi</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	32*	32*
<b>NSW Upper Namoi</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	100*	100*
<b>NSW Gwydir Valley</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	150*	150*
<b>NSW Border Rivers</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	100	100
<b>NSW Peel Valley</b>		
High security	100	100
General security	78*	78*
<b>Victoria Murray Valley</b>		
High reliability	81	95
Low reliability	0	0
<b>Victoria Goulburn</b>		
High reliability	100	100
Low reliability	0	0

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<b>Victoria Campaspe</b>		
High reliability	100	100
Low reliability	67	68
<b>Victoria Loddon</b>		
High reliability	100	100
Low reliability	0	0
<b>Victoria Bullarook</b>		
High reliability	100	100
Low reliability	100	100
<b>Victoria Broken</b>		
High reliability	47	100
Low Reliability	0	0
<b>South Australia Murray Valley</b>		
High security	100	100

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\*Carryover water may also be available.

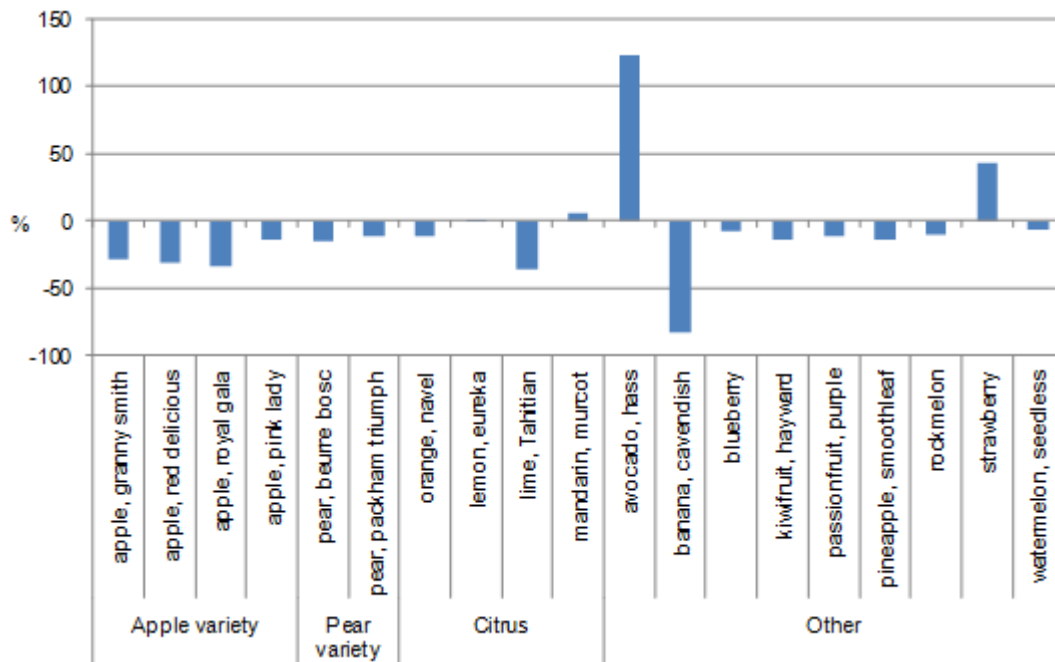
## 3. Commodities

### 3.1. Production and commodities

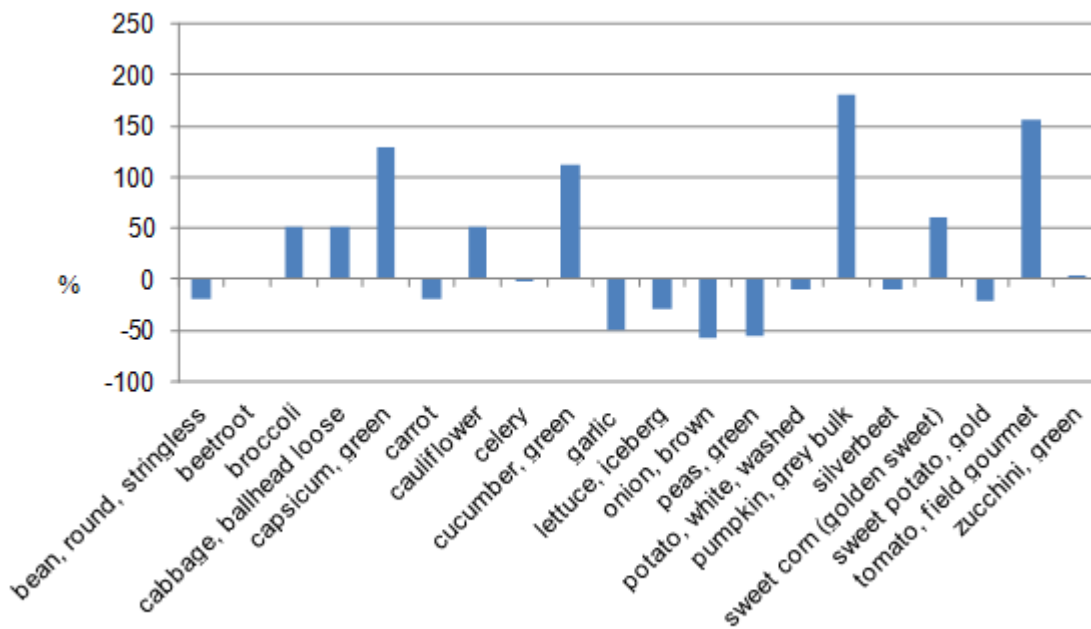
- The world wheat indicator price (US No. 2 hard red winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$373 a tonne in the week ending 16 October 2012, compared with US\$369 a tonne in the previous week.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that wheat stocks held by bulk handling companies and grain traders at the end of the 2011-12 wheat marketing year (October to September) were around 7.1 million tonnes, 14 per cent lower than one year earlier.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US No. 2 yellow corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$321 a tonne in the week ending 17 October 2012, largely unchanged compared with the previous week.
- According to the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, harvesting of that country's winter and spring grain crops is largely complete with an average grain yield of 1.9 t/ha, compared with 2.3 t/ha for the last drought-affected harvest in 2010.
- The world canola indicator price (Rapeseed, Europe, free on board Hamburg) averaged US\$626 a tonne in the week ending 16 October 2012, compared with \$631 a tonne in the previous week.
- The Australian canola indicator price (Portland, Victoria) averaged \$520 a tonne in the week ending 15 October 2012, compared with \$501 a tonne in the previous week.
- The world cotton indicator price (the Cotlook 'A' index) averaged US81.1 cents a pound in the week ending 17 October 2012, largely unchanged from the previous week.
- The world sugar indicator price (Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, No. 11 contract) averaged US20.1 cents a pound in the week ending 17 October 2012, 6.2 per cent lower than in the previous week.
- The Government of India has decided to allow sugar exports under the open general licence scheme again this year as India is likely produce more than it consumes for the third consecutive year, according to the Indian Food Ministry.
- Wholesale prices of banana, pineapple, rockmelon and strawberry were higher in the week ended 13 October 2012 compared with the previous week, but seedless watermelon prices were lower. Wholesale prices of most fruit types were lower than at the same time in 2011, apart from avocado (hass) and strawberry (figure A).
- Vegetable wholesale prices were generally lower in the week ended 13 October 2012 compared with the previous week, with the exception of cauliflower. Wholesale prices of root vegetables — carrot, garlic, onion, potato and sweet potato — were generally lower than at the same time in 2011, but most other vegetable prices were higher (figure B).
- The Queensland young cattle indicator price (330-400 kg live weight C3) fell 8 per cent to 335 cents a kilogram in the week ending 12 October 2012.
- Saleyards lamb prices were mixed in the week ending 12 October 2012. The lamb indicator price rose by 2 per cent in Victoria and 1 per cent in New South Wales, to 373 and 384 cents a kilogram, respectively. In contrast, the indicator price declined by 8 per cent in Western Australia to 305 cents per kilogram and 3 per cent in South Australia to 378 cents per kilogram. Lower prices in Western Australia and South Australia largely reflect reduced demand as a result of poor seasonal conditions, which have negatively affected lamb quality and reduced the carrying capacity of pastures.
- The Australian Eastern Market Indicator price for wool rose by 2 per cent in the week ending 11 October 2012 to 975 cents a kilogram clean. The total number of bales offered at sale declined by 16 per cent compared with the previous week.



**Figure A: Year-on-year changes in selected fruit prices, Melbourne wholesale market, 13 October 2012**

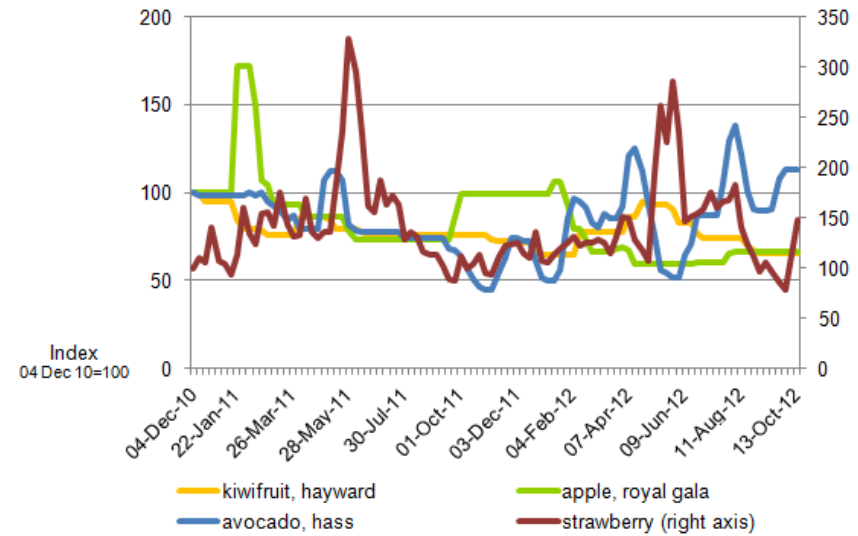
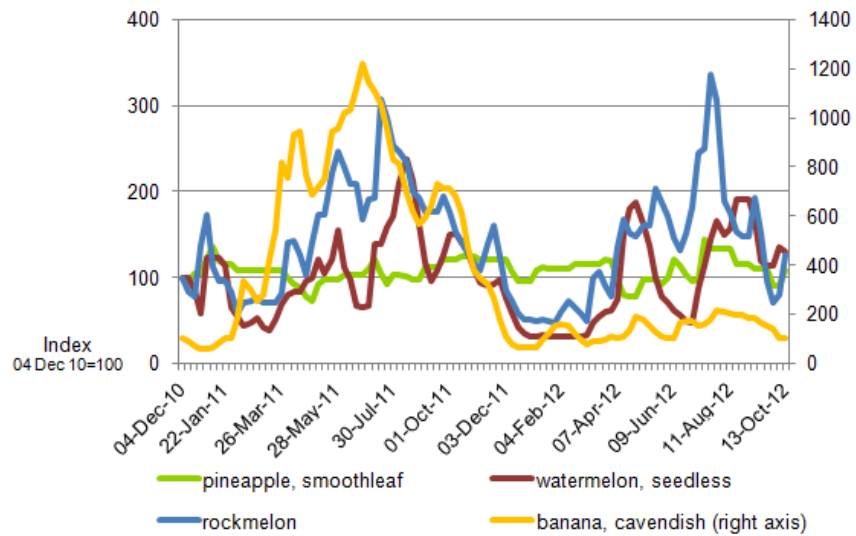


**Figure B: Year-on-year changes in selected vegetable prices, Melbourne wholesale market, 13 October 2012**

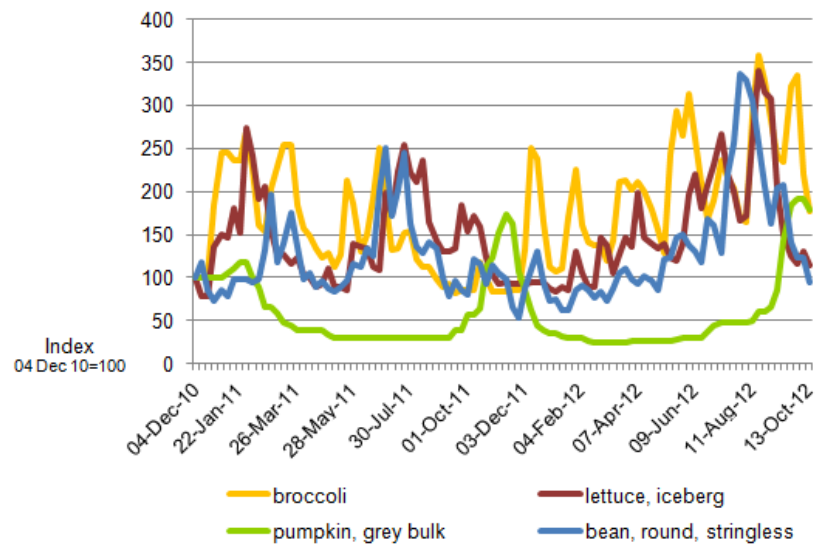
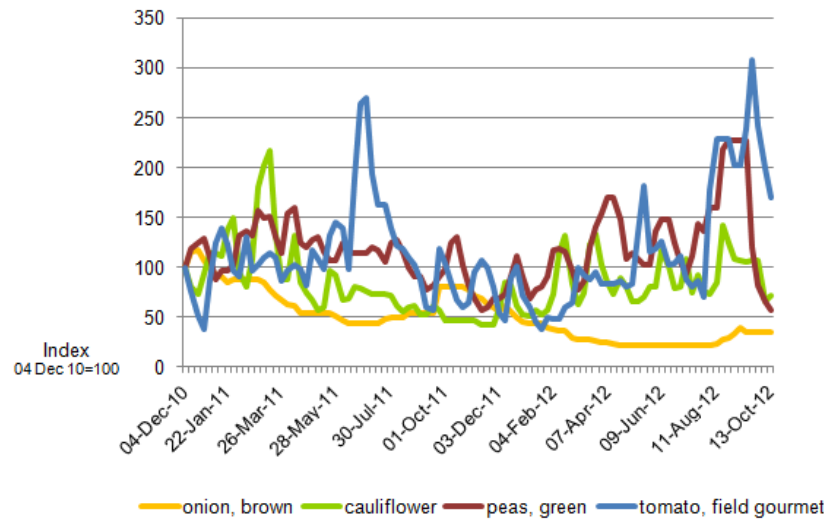


### 3.2. Recent movements in fruit and vegetable prices

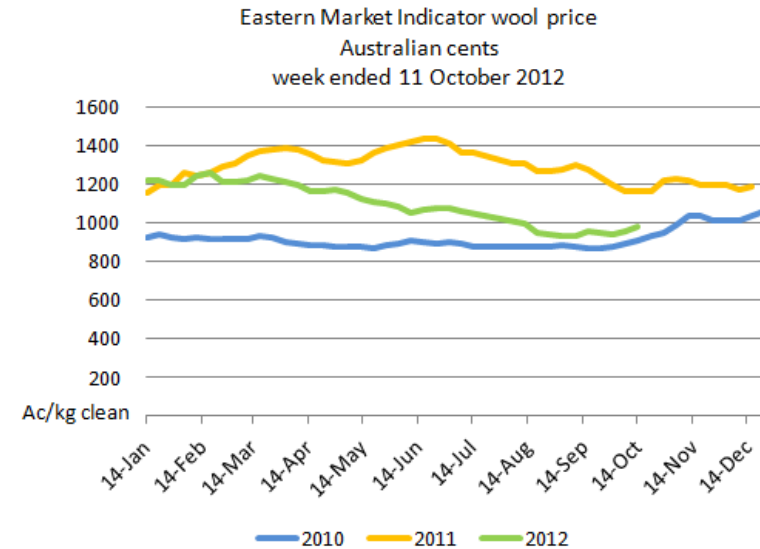
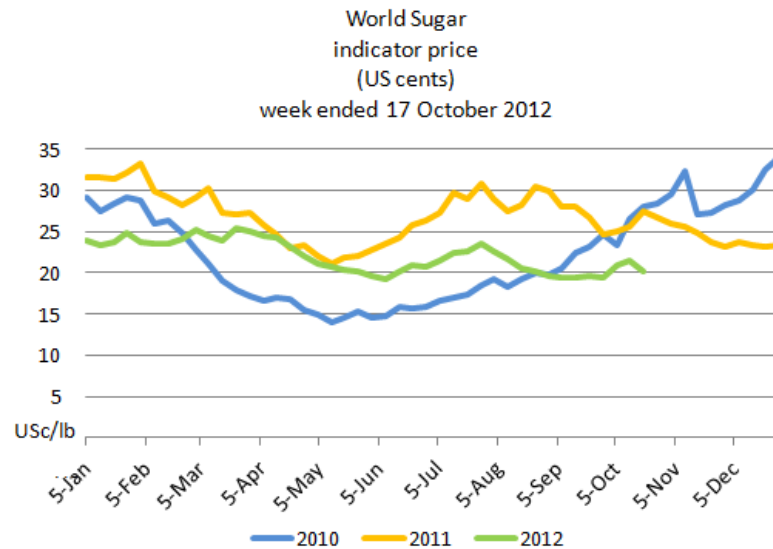
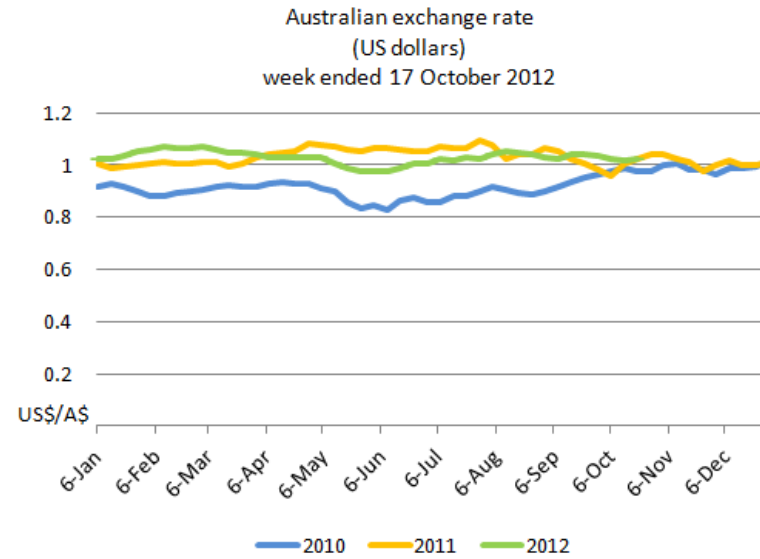
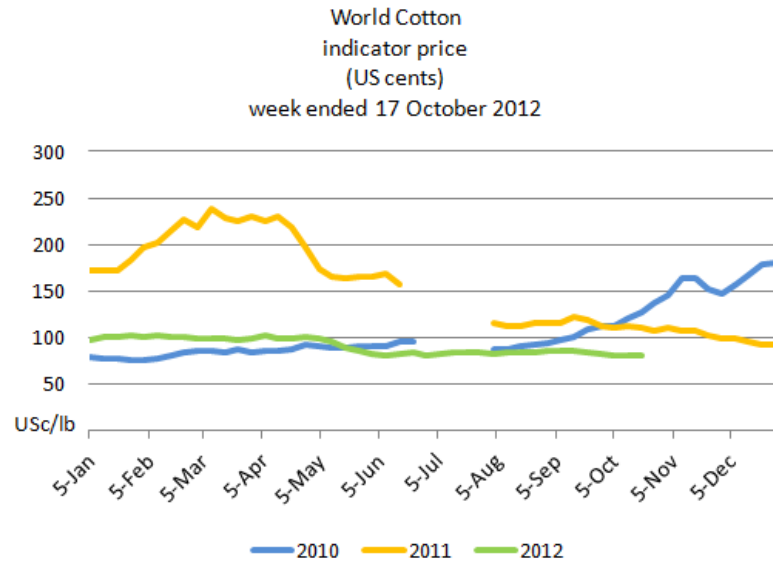
Weekly wholesale prices for selected fruit, Melbourne market



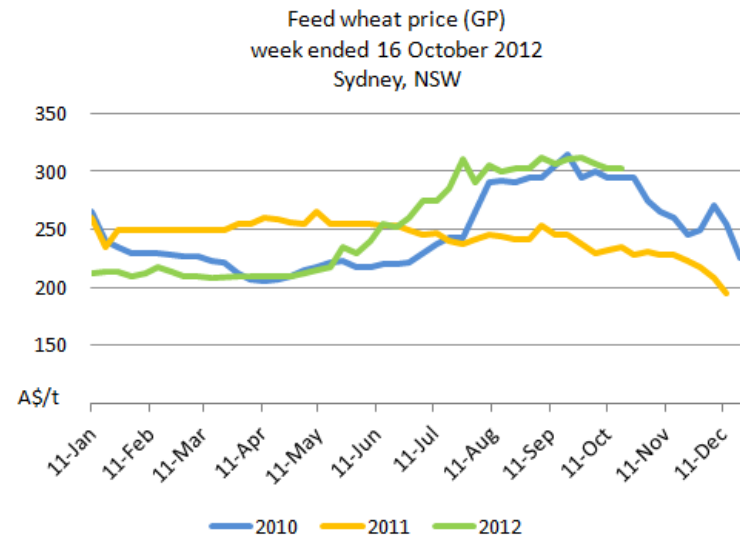
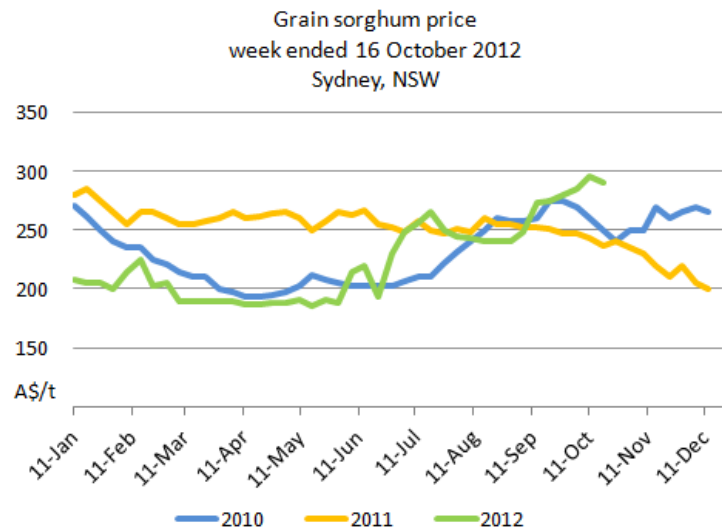
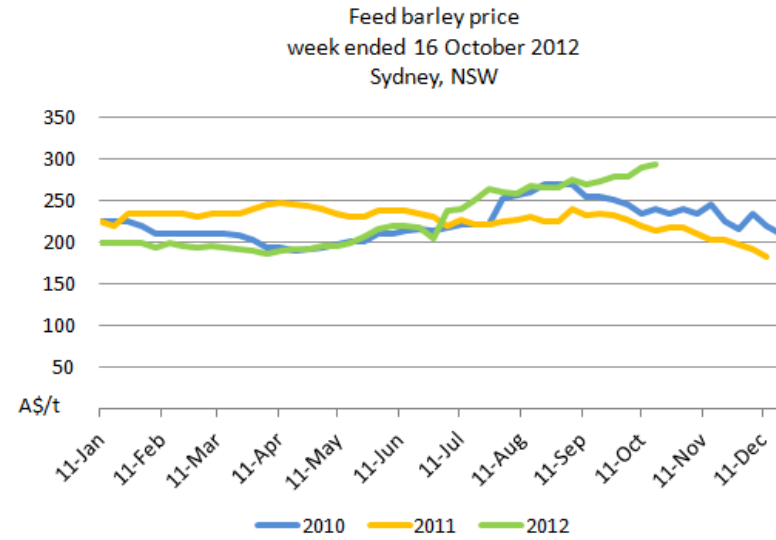
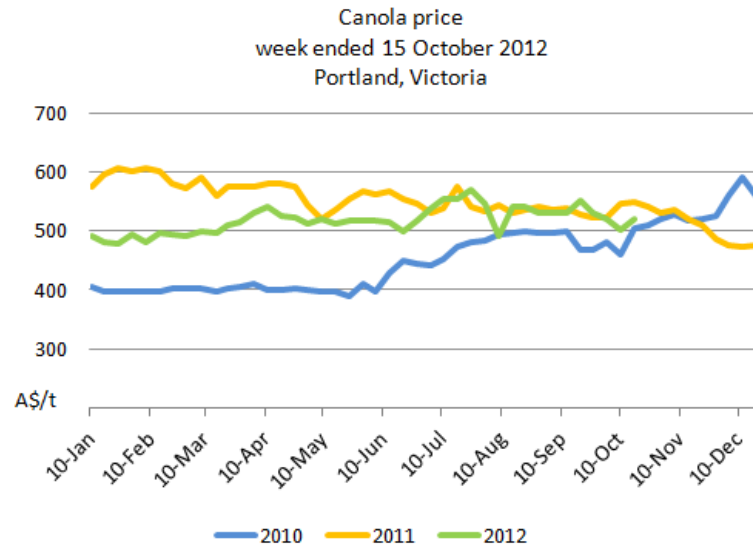
Weekly wholesale prices for selected vegetables, Melbourne market



### 3.3. Selected world indicator prices



### 3.4. Crop indicator prices





# 4. Data attribution

## Climate

### Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/rain/index.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/rain/index.jsp)
- Monthly and last 3-months rainfall percentiles: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/)
- Temperature anomalies: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/)
- Rainfall forecast: [www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp](http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp)
- Seasonal outlook: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead)
- Drought statement: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/drought/drought.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/drought/drought.shtml)
- ENSO Wrap-Up: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/)
- Soil moisture (BoM, CSIRO and the former Bureau of Rural Sciences): [www.eoc.csiro.au/awap/](http://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](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Home/default.aspx)
- Available water determinations register: [www.wix.nsw.gov.au/wma/DeterminationSearch.jsp?selectedRegister=Determination](http://www.wix.nsw.gov.au/wma/DeterminationSearch.jsp?selectedRegister=Determination)
- Snowy Hydro: [www.snowyhydro.com.au/lakeLevels.asp?pageID=47&parentID=61&grandParentID=4](http://www.snowyhydro.com.au/lakeLevels.asp?pageID=47&parentID=61&grandParentID=4)

### Queensland

- Sunwater: [www.sunwater.com.au](http://www.sunwater.com.au)
- seqwater: <http://seqwater.com.au>

### South Australia

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

### Victoria

- Goulburn–Murray Water: [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)

### Water trading

- Waterexchange: [www.waterexchange.com.au](http://www.waterexchange.com.au)

## Commodities

### Fruit and vegetables

- Datafresh: [www.datafresh.com.au](http://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](http://www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-markets)

### Canola

- Weekly Times: hardcopy