



Australian Government

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and
Resource Economics and Sciences

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

30 June 2011

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

Summary of key issues

- Light to moderate rainfall during the week in parts of the Western Australian wheat belt has further assisted growth of winter crops, following a dry start to the season.
- Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance for the June 2011 flooding event has been made available to a further 2 local government areas in north-eastern New South Wales.
- Mealybug damage has impacted on the export quality of citrus crops in South Australia's Riverland.
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased this week by 153 gigalitres (GL) to approximately 83 per cent of total capacity. This is 50 percentage points or 11 237 GL more than this time last year.
- The Eastern Market Indicator price for wool averaged 0.4 per cent higher for the week ending 23 June 2011 compared with the previous week, in line with seasonal trends of lower wool offerings.
- Banana prices in the week ending 25 June 2011 exceeded the peak reached in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Larry in 2006. Tomato, broccoli and bean prices were also sharply higher.
- The world wheat indicator price (US Hard Red Winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$311 a tonne in the week ending 28 June 2011 compared with US\$329 a tonne in the previous week. This recent decline largely reflects the anticipated removal of grain export restrictions in the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 1 July 2011.
- Saleyard prices for sheep and lambs in Victoria for 2010–11 as a whole, averaged around 30 per cent and 19 per cent higher, respectively, compared with the previous financial year. Higher prices reflect strong restocking activity in the eastern states in response to favourable demand and exceptional seasonal conditions.

For more information or to subscribe, email ClimateUpdate@daff.gov.au

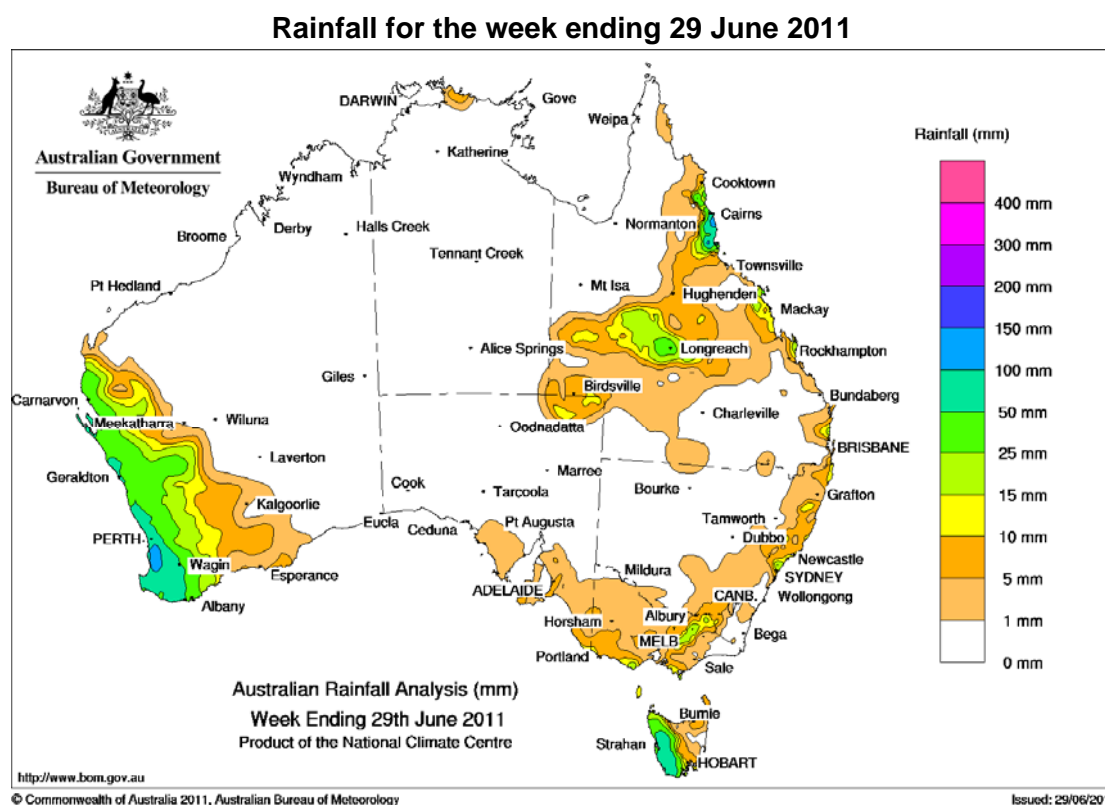
1. Climate

1.1. Notable events

- For the week ending 29 June 2011, rainfall was mostly recorded in south-western Western Australia, parts of central Queensland, the south-eastern coast of the Australian mainland and in Tasmania. The highest measured total for the week was 155.6 millimetres at Dwellingup in south-west Western Australia.
- Light to moderate rainfall during the week in parts of the Western Australian wheat belt has further assisted growth of winter crops, following a dry start to the season.
- Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance for the June 2011 flooding event has been made available to a further 2 local government areas (LGA) of north-eastern New South Wales. The 20 LGAs now receiving assistance are Armidale Dumaresq, Bellingen, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Dungog, Glen Innes- Severn, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Greater Taree, Guyra, Kempsey, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter and Walcha.
- Mealybugs have caused damage to citrus crops in South Australia's Riverland this season. Oranges which were intended for export to Japan have been rejected due to damage by the pest, with reports of up to 80 per cent of oranges being rejected.

1.2. Rainfall this week

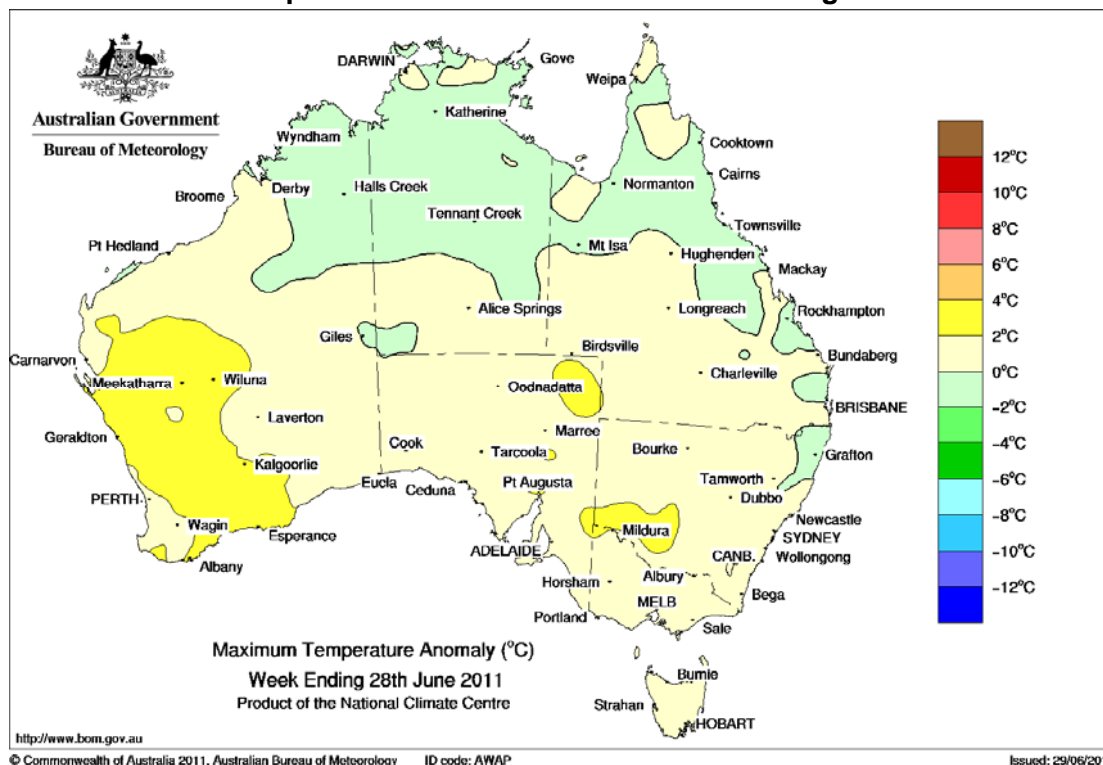
For the week ending 29 June 2011, rainfall was mostly received across parts of southern, central and eastern Australia. For further information, go to www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/weeklyrain.shtml.



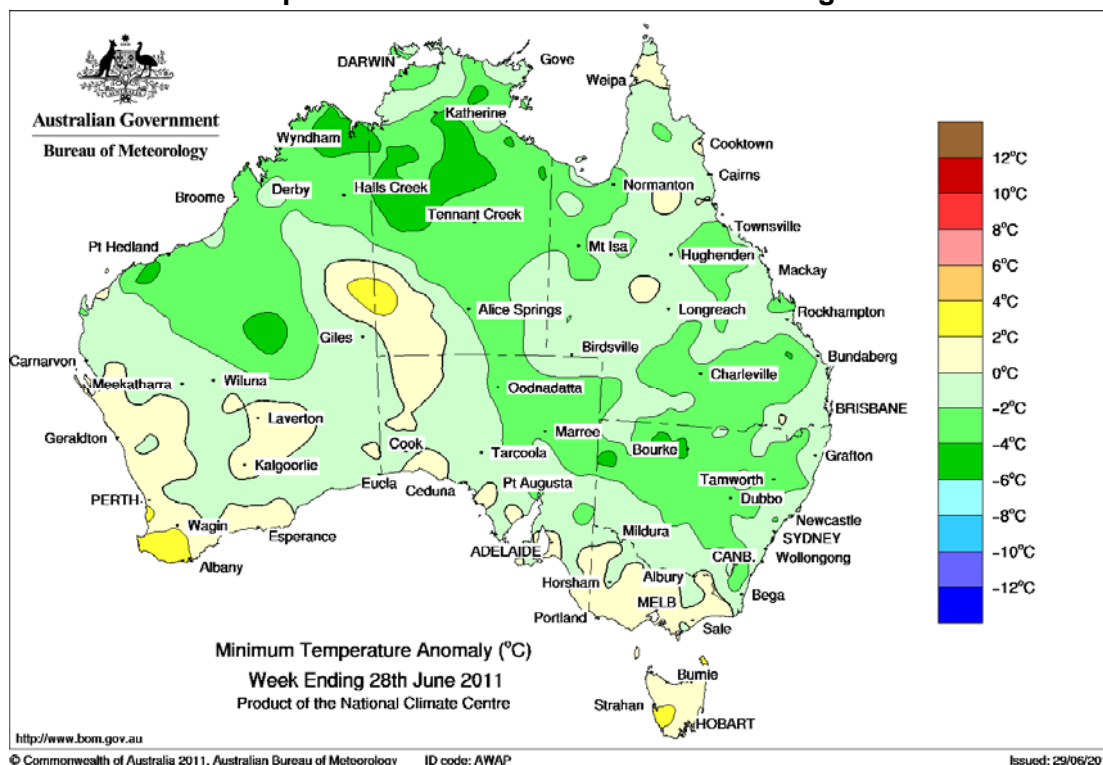
1.3. Temperature anomalies this week

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 28 June 2011



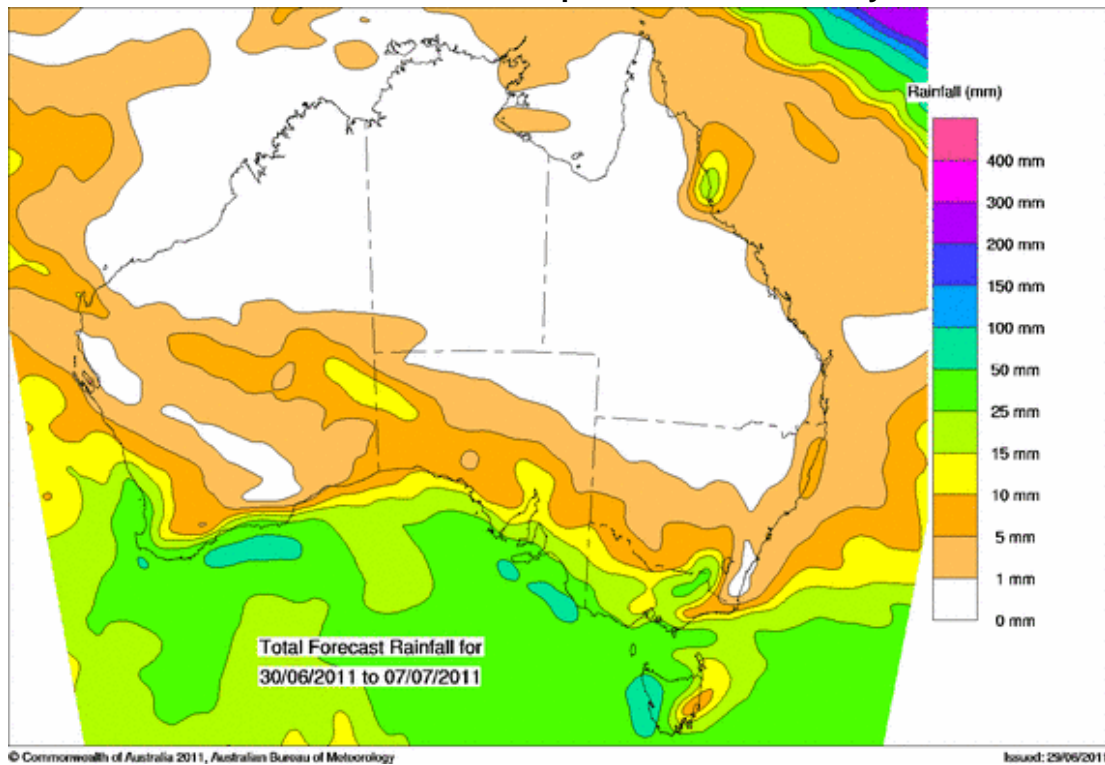
Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 28 June 2011



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 30 June – 7 July 2011

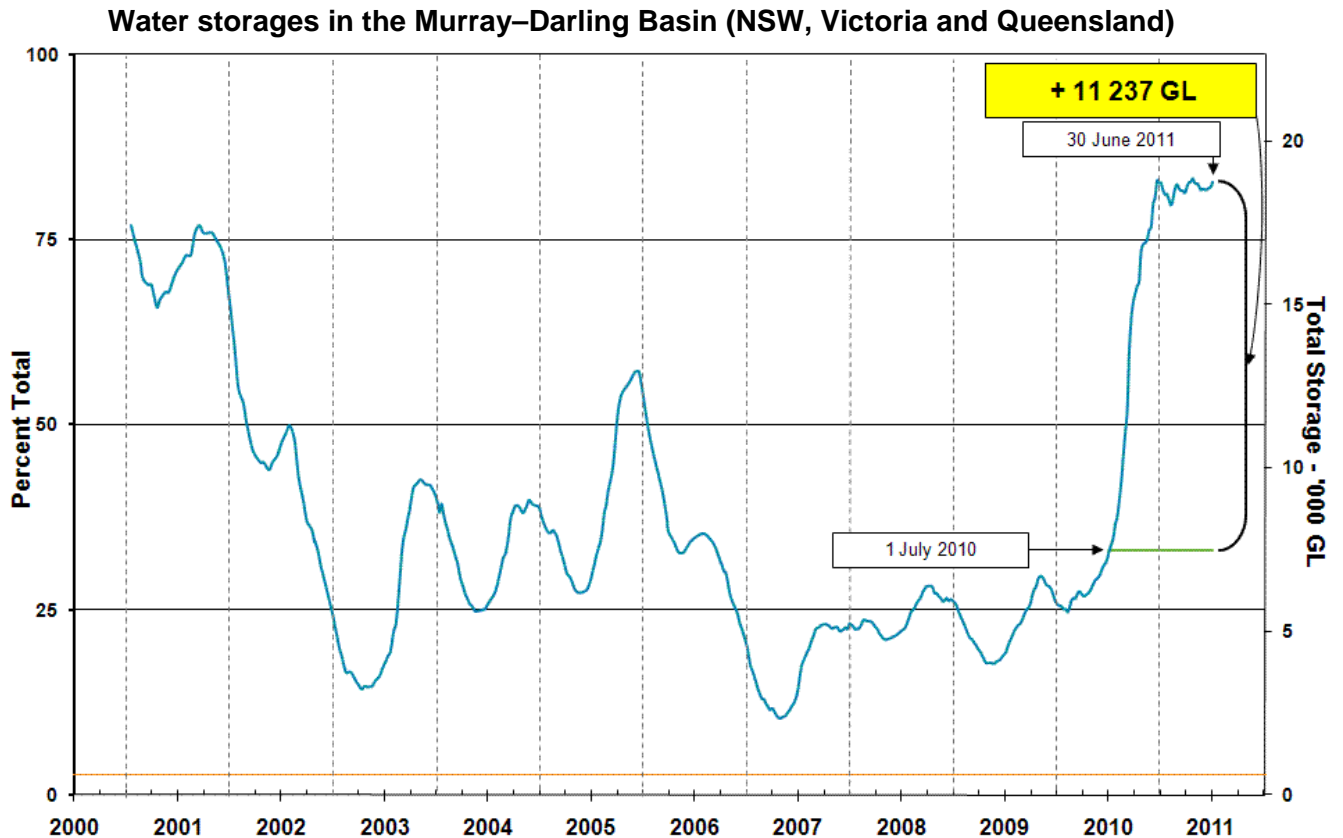


2. Water

2.1. Water availability and trading

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased this week by 153 gigalitres (GL) to approximately 83 per cent of total capacity. This is 50 percentage points or 11 237 GL more than this time last year.
- There was no trade in the three representative major temporary water markets over the past week.
- Announcements of irrigation allocations for New South Wales and Victoria for the 2011–12 water year expected to be released soon.

2.2. Water storages



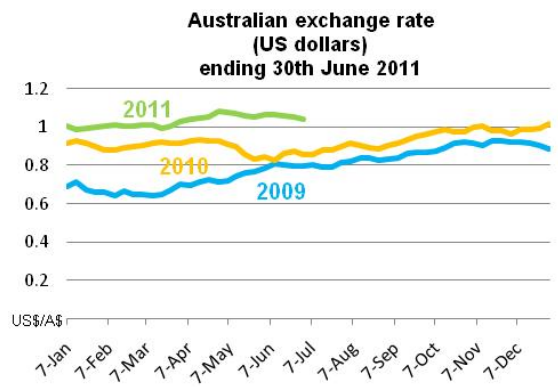
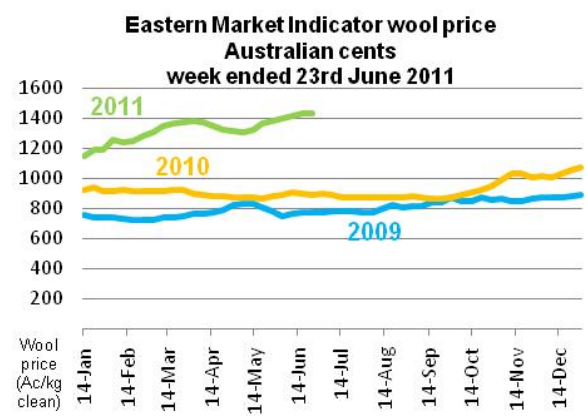
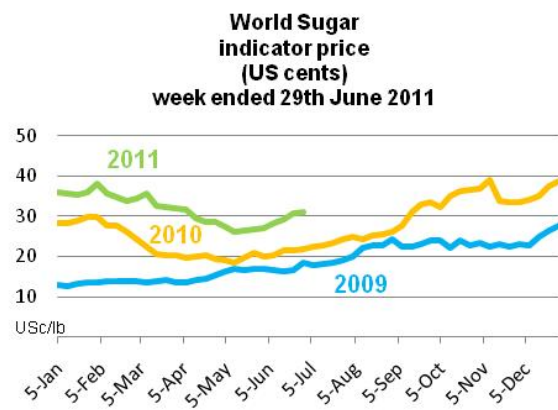
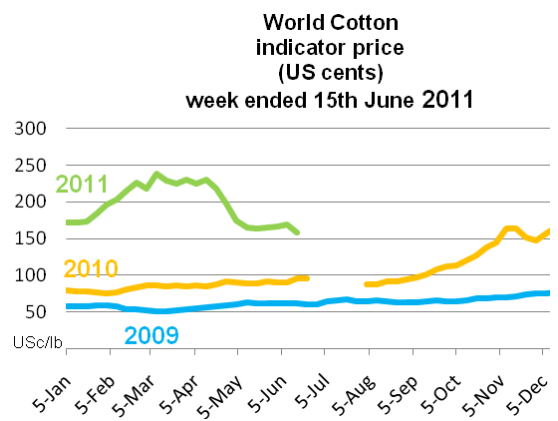
Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 30 June 2011 is shown above. The green line indicates the storage level at the same time last year. The orange line indicates the amount of 'dead' or unusable storage.

3. Commodities

3.1. Production and commodities

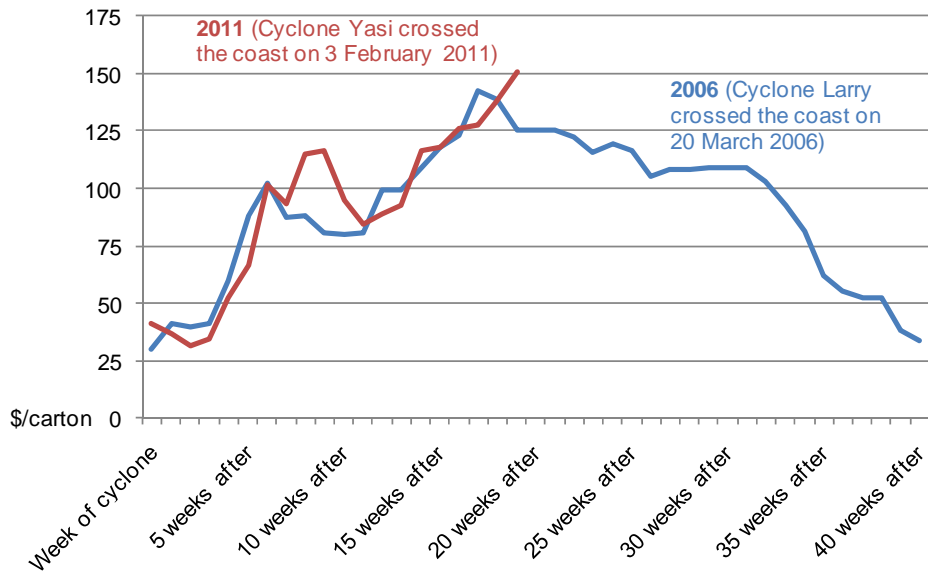
- The Eastern Market Indicator price for wool averaged 0.4 per cent higher for the week ending 23 June 2011 compared with the previous week, in line with seasonal trends of lower wool offerings.
- Banana prices were higher in the week ending 25 June 2011 than the peak reached in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Larry in 2006. Most other fruit prices were steady or lower.
- There were sharp increases in tomato, broccoli and bean prices in the week ending 25 June 2011.
- The world wheat indicator price (US Hard Red Winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$311 a tonne in the week ending 28 June 2011 compared with US\$329 a tonne in the previous week. This recent decline reflects the anticipated removal of grain export restrictions in the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 1 July 2011.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US Corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$292 a tonne in the week ending 29 June 2011 compared with US\$299 a tonne last week.
- The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) price fell 2 per cent to 373 c/kg for the week ending 24 June 2011. This represents a fall of 11 per cent from its peak of 421 c/kg, recorded on 25 March 2011. However, the EYCI is currently 6 per cent higher than the same time last year.
- Average weighted saleyard prices for sheep fell in all states except New South Wales for the week ending 24 June 2011 as saleyard sheep throughput increased. The largest fall occurred in South Australia, where prices averaged 11 per cent lower compared with the previous week at 409 cents a kilogram.
- Saleyard prices for sheep and lambs in Victoria in 2010–11 as a whole, averaged around 30 per cent and 19 per cent higher, respectively, compared with the previous financial year. Higher prices reflect strong restocking activity in the eastern states during 2010–11 in response to favourable demand and exceptional seasonal conditions.
- Average weighted saleyard prices for lambs fell in all states except Western Australia, for the week ending 24 June 2011, in response to higher lamb yardings in most states. The largest fall occurred in South Australia, where prices averaged 5 per cent lower compared with the previous week at 501 cents a kilogram.

3.2. Selected world indicator prices

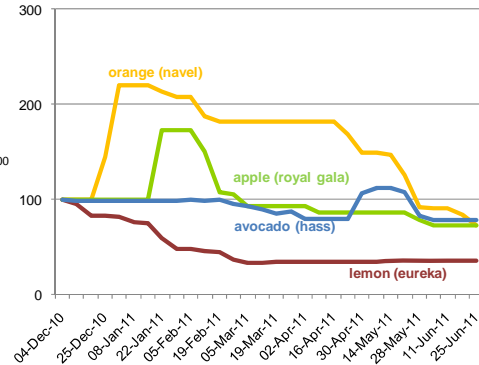
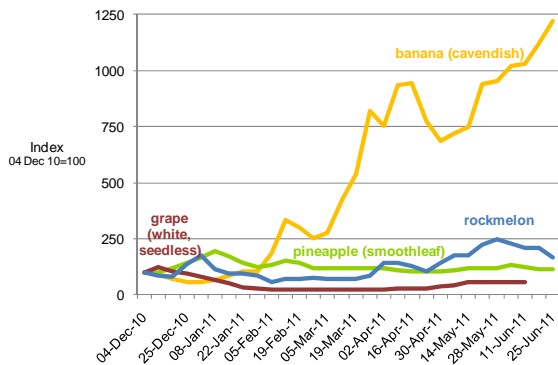


3.3. Recent movements in fruit and vegetable prices

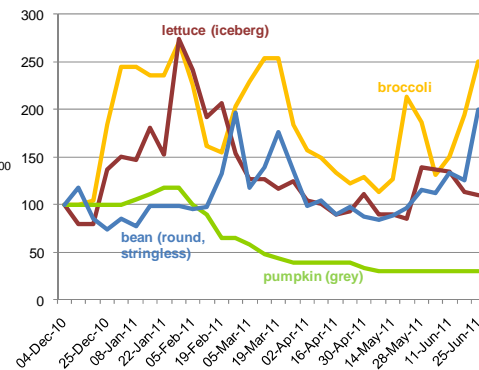
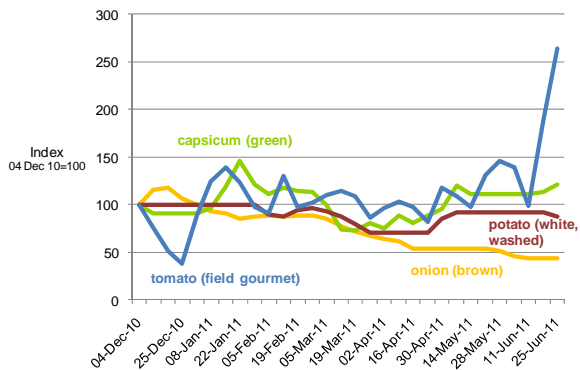
Banana (cavendish) prices, Melbourne wholesale market



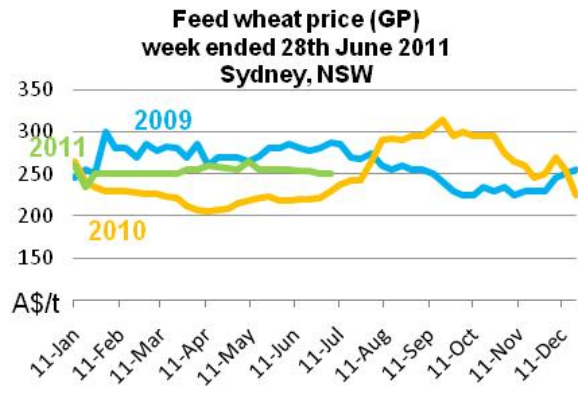
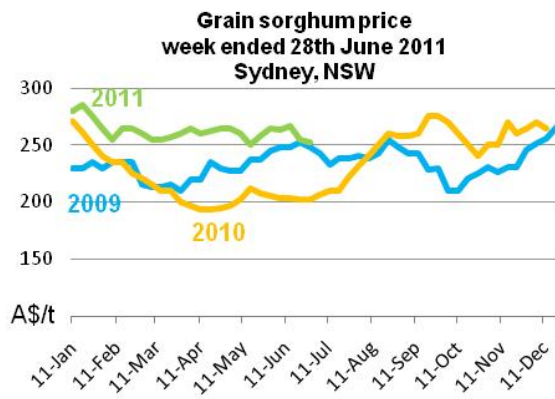
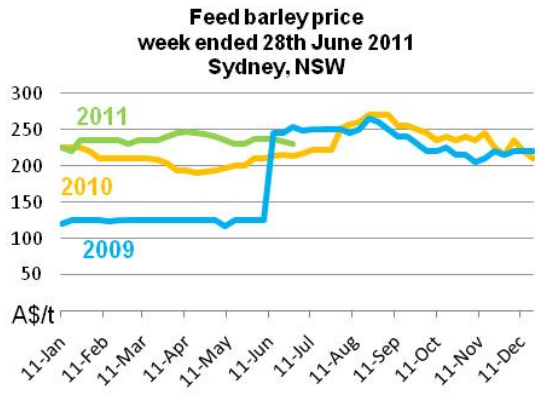
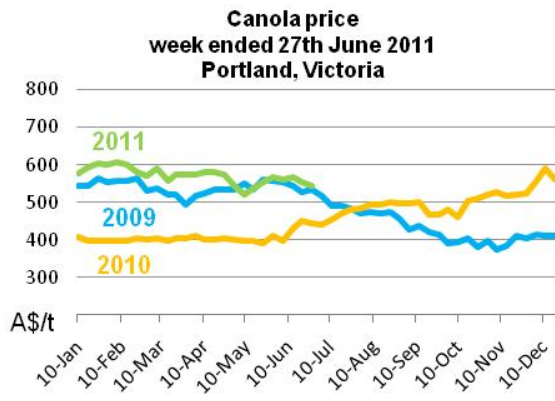
Weekly wholesale prices for selected fruit, Melbourne market



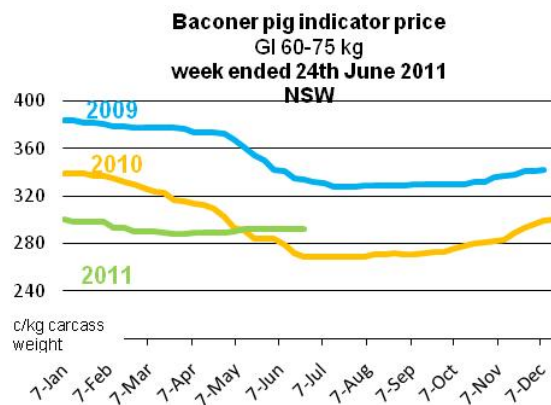
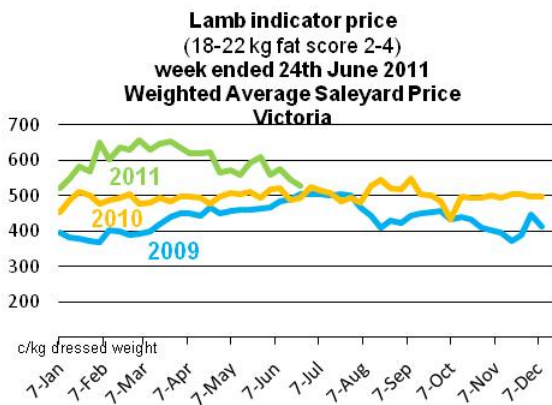
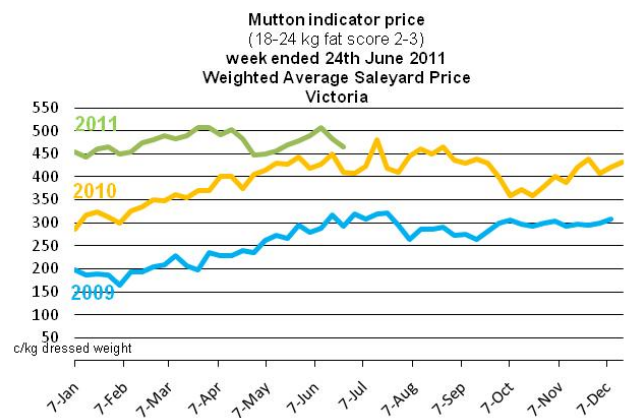
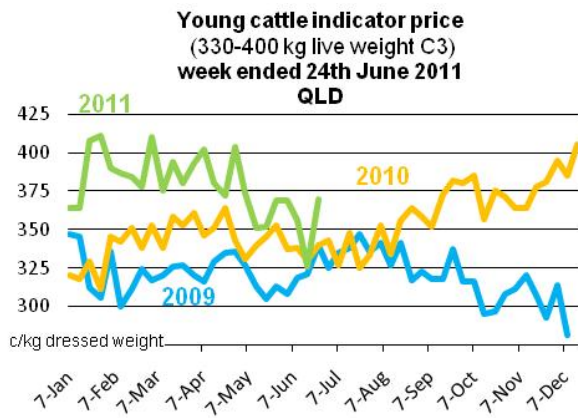
Weekly wholesale prices for selected vegetables, Melbourne market



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 <http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/awap/>
- Temperature anomalies <http://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

Murray–Darling Basin

- Murray–Darling Basin Authority: www.mdba.gov.au/water/waterinstorage

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