



Australian Government

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and  
Resource Economics and Sciences

## Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

16 June 2011

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

### Summary of key issues

- Heavy rainfall in the mid-north coast of New South Wales has resulted in flooding and required some beef and dairy farmers to relocate livestock onto higher ground or to other regions.
- Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance arrangements for the June 2011 flooding event has been made available to the local government areas of Bellingen, Clarence Valley, Kempsey and Upper Hunter.
- Wet and mild conditions in late 2010 have reportedly increased the risk of pathogen infection for the 2011 chickpea crop.
- Mice have reportedly damaged chickpea crops in parts of Victoria. Baiting programs are underway in most southern cropping regions.
- Most fruit and vegetable prices were steady or lower in the week ending 11 June 2011, apart from increases for bananas, broccoli and beans.
- The world wheat indicator price (US Hard Red Winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$350 a tonne for the week ending 14 June 2011, a 3 per cent fall from the previous week.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US Corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$327 a tonne in the week ending 15 June 2011. This compares with last week's average of US\$321 a tonne.
- In the latest edition of Australian Crop Report, released by ABARES on 15 June 2011, the total area sown to winter crops is forecast to rise by 4 per cent in 2011–12 to 22.9 million hectares.
- The Eastern Market Indicator price for wool rose by 1.6 per cent for the week ending 10 June 2011 to 1420 cents a kilogram clean. This is the fifth consecutive week that the indicator price has risen.

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Science and economics for decision-makers

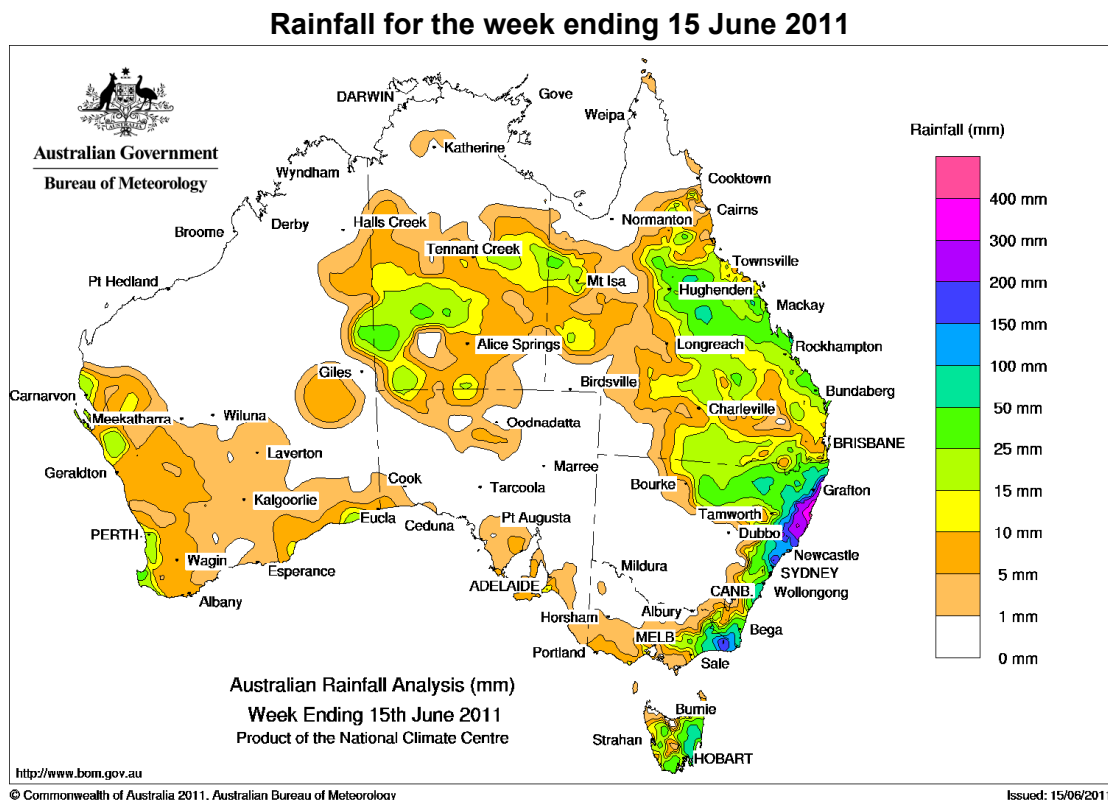
# 1. Climate

## 1.1. Notable events

- For the week ending 15 June 2011, rainfall was mostly recorded across southern, central and eastern Australia. The highest measured total for the week was 592 millimetres at Macleay River in New South Wales.
- Heavy rainfall in the mid-north coast of New South Wales has resulted in flooding and required some beef and dairy farmers to relocate livestock onto higher ground or to other regions. River station data shows that minor to major flooding was present in some areas of the Hunter, moderate flooding was recorded in the Manning and minor floods recorded in the Bellingen–Nambucca, Hastings and Karuah districts (Bureau of Meteorology, Mid North Coast Rainfall and River Conditions, 16 June 2011).
- Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance arrangements for the June 2011 flooding event have been made available to the local government areas of Bellingen, Clarence Valley, Kempsey and Upper Hunter.
- Frequent rainfall, mild temperatures and long cloudy periods in late 2010 have reportedly increased the risk of infection for chickpea crops in 2011 from pathogens.
- Mice have reportedly damaged chickpea crops in parts of Victoria. Baiting programs are underway in most southern cropping regions.
- Mango leaf hoppers that impact on the ability of trees to produce fruit have been found in the Northern Territory.

## 1.2. Rainfall this week

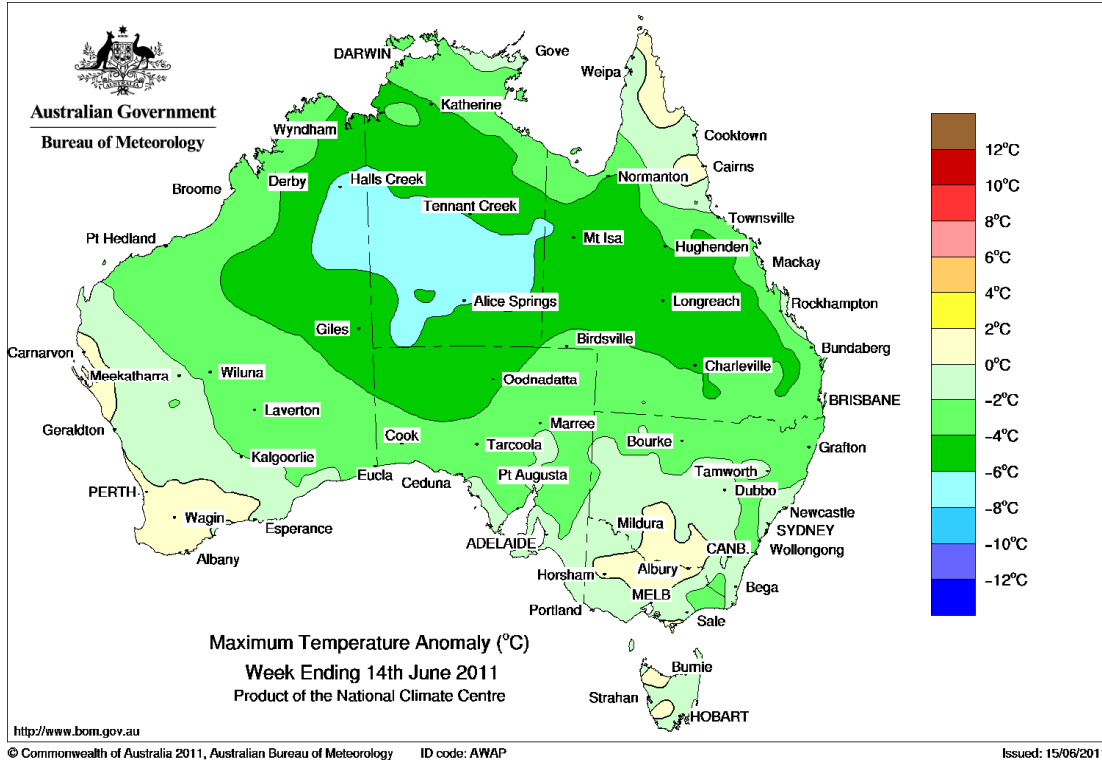
For the week ending 15 June 2011, rainfall was mostly received across parts of southern, central and eastern Australia. For further information, go to [www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/weeklyrain.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/weeklyrain.shtml).



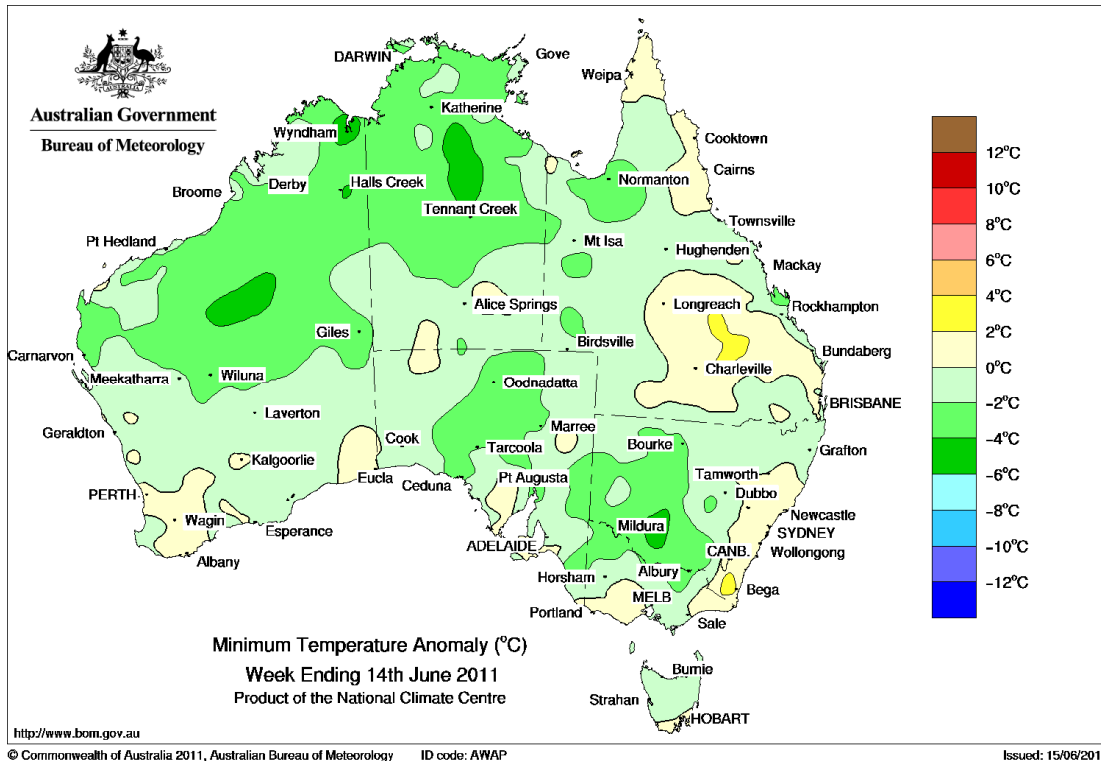
### 1.3. Temperature anomalies this week

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 14 June 2011**



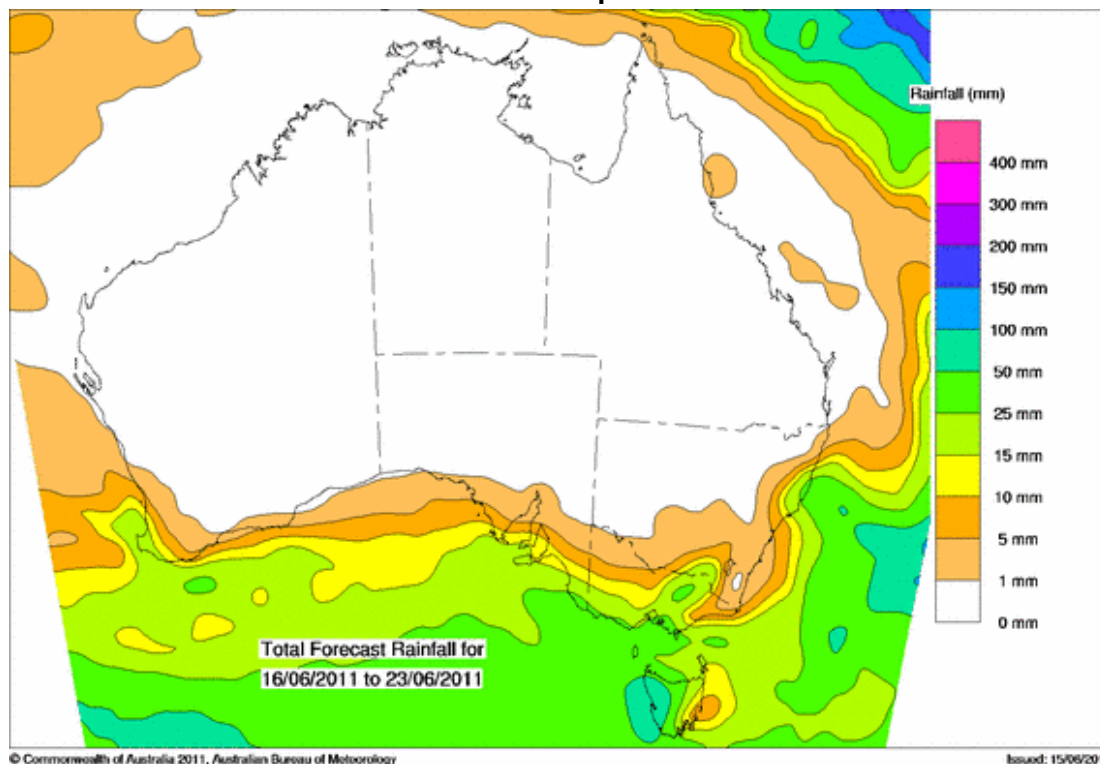
**Minimum temperature anomalies for the week ending 14 June 2011**



## 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 16–23 June 2011**



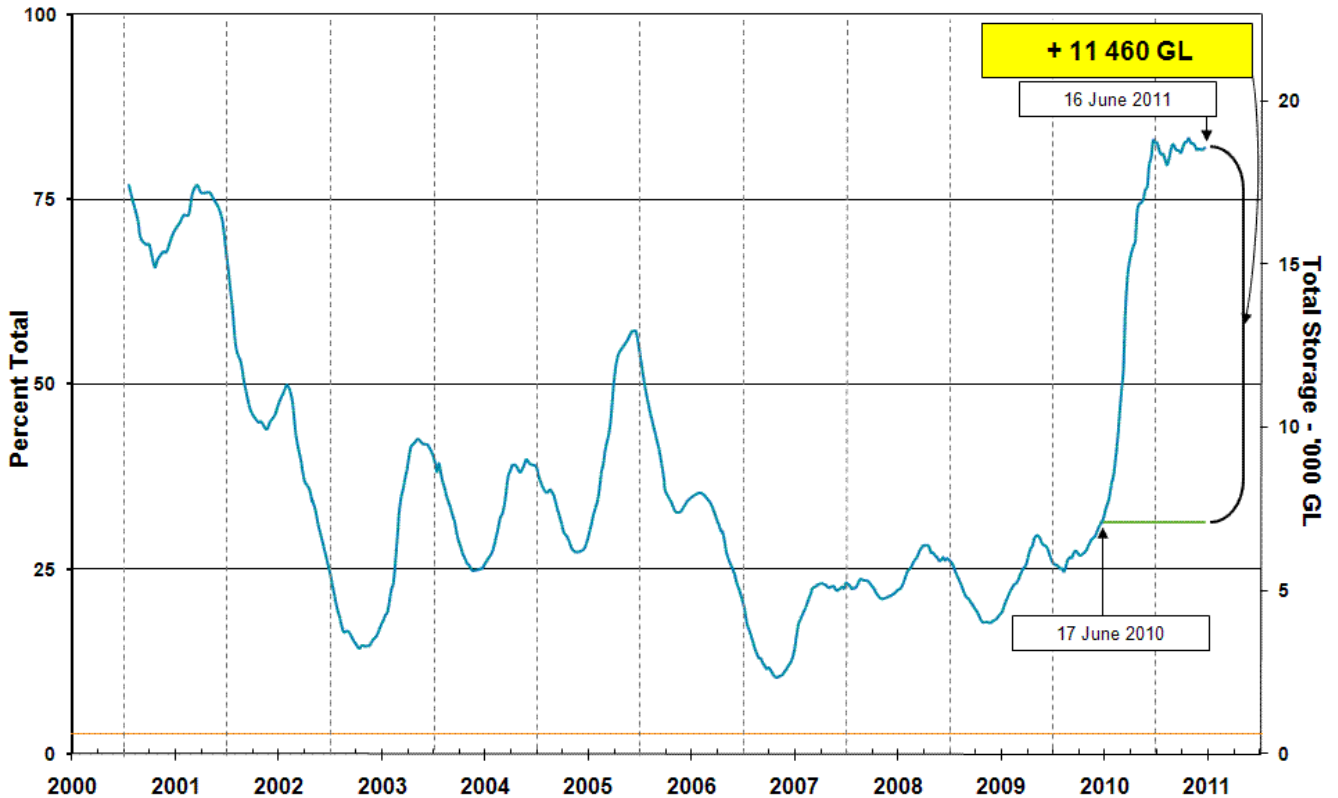
## 2. Water

### 2.1. Water availability and trading

- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) increased this week by 51 gigalitres (GL) and remained at approximately 82 per cent of total capacity. This is 51 percentage points or 11 460 GL more than this time last year.
- There was no trade in the three representative major temporary water markets over the past week.

### 2.2. Water storages

Water storages in the Murray–Darling Basin (NSW, Victoria and Queensland)



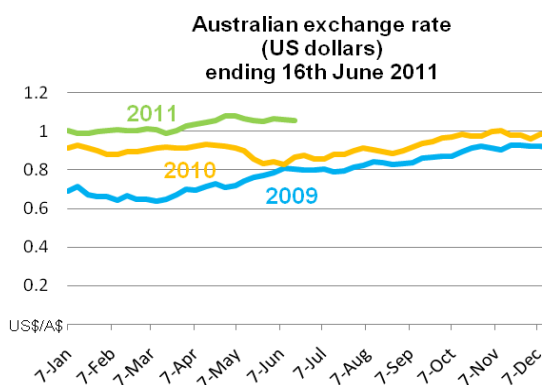
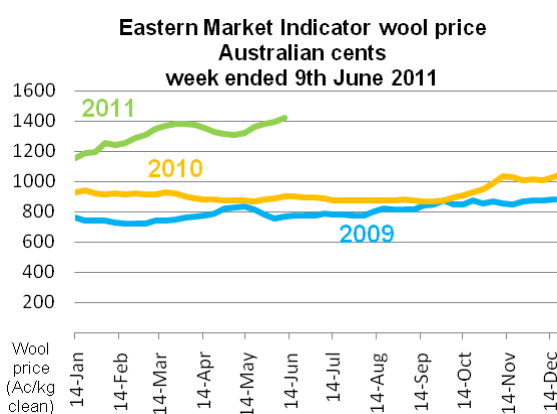
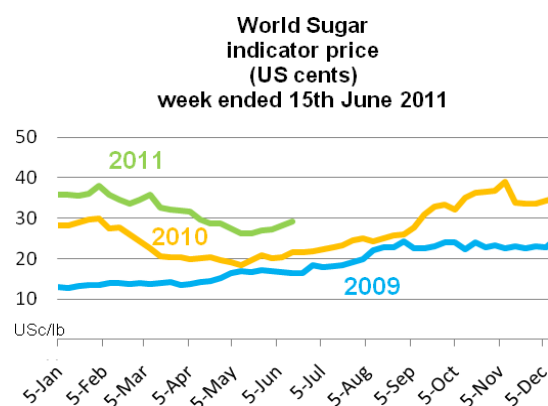
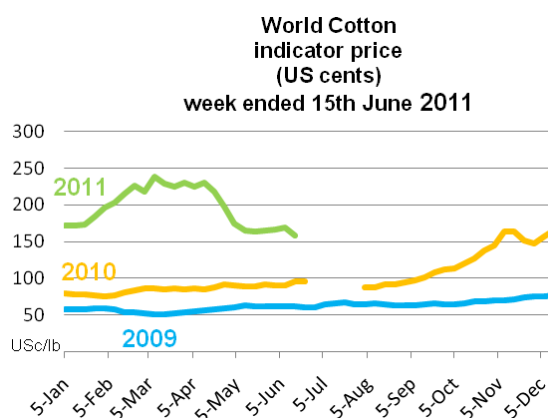
Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 16 June 2011 is shown above. The green line indicates the storage level at the same time last year. The orange line indicates the amount of 'dead' or unusable storage.

## 3. Commodities

### 3.1. Production and commodities

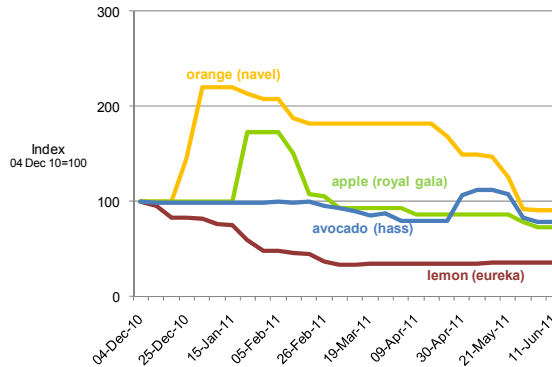
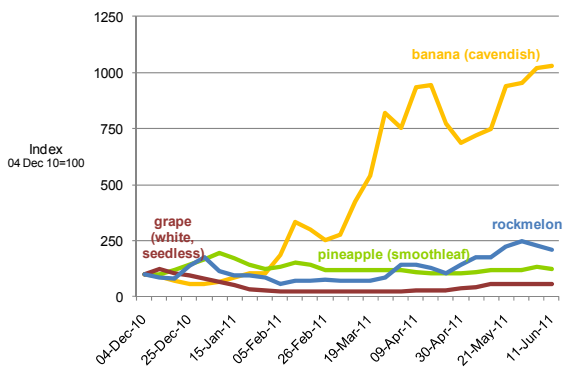
- Most fruit prices were steady or lower in the week ending 11 June 2011, especially for new season pome, citrus and avocado crops. However, there was an increase in banana prices.
- Most vegetable prices were also steady or lower in the week ending 11 June 2011, apart from broccoli and beans.
- The world cotton indicator price (the Cotlook 'A' index) was around US158c a pound in mid-June 2011, compared with a high of around US244c in early March.
- The world wheat indicator price (US Hard Red Winter, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$350 a tonne for the week ending 14 June 2011, a 3 per cent fall from the previous week.
- The world coarse grains indicator price (US Corn, free on board Gulf ports) averaged US\$327 a tonne in the week ending 15 June 2011. This compares with last week's average of US\$321 a tonne.
- In the latest edition of Australian Crop Report, released by ABARES on 15 June 2011, the total area sown to winter crops is forecast to rise by 4 per cent in 2011–12 to 22.9 million hectares. While the total area planted is forecast to increase, production is expected to be slightly lower than last year under the assumption that crop yields in most states will be below last season's record yields. The area planted to wheat is forecast to reach a record 14.3 million hectares, 7 per cent higher than 2010–11.
- Australian milk production for the first ten months of 2010–11 was 0.8 per cent higher compared with the corresponding period of last year.
- The Eastern Market Indicator price for wool rose by 1.6 per cent for the week ending 10 June 2011 to 1420 cents a kilogram clean. This is the fifth consecutive week that the indicator price has risen.

### 3.2. Selected world indicator prices

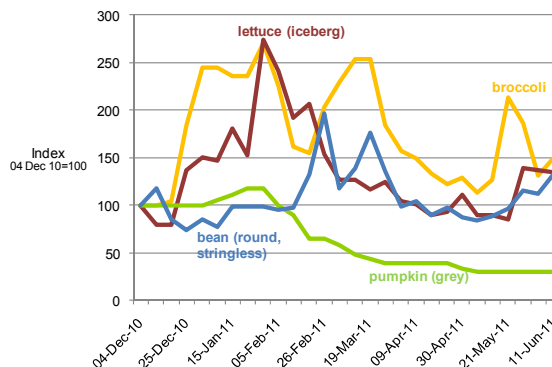
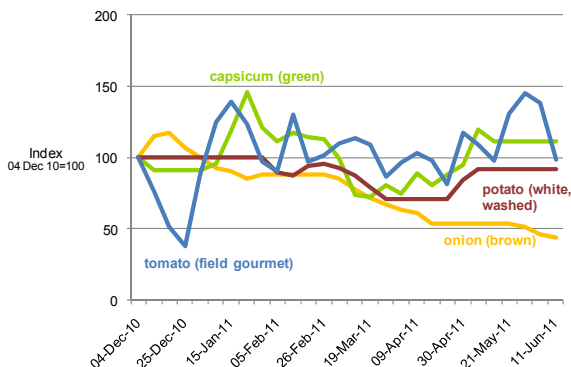


### 3.3. Recent movements in fruit and vegetable prices

Weekly wholesale prices for selected fruit, Melbourne market

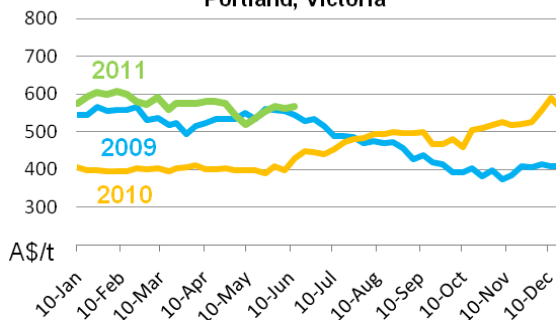


Weekly wholesale prices for selected vegetables, Melbourne market

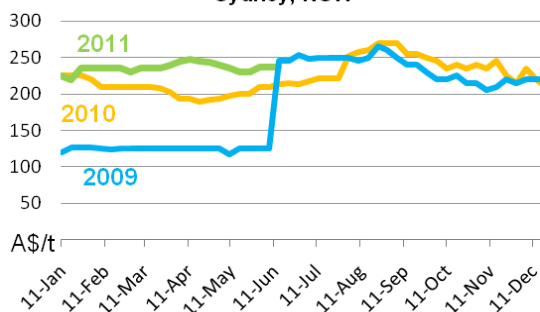


### 3.4. Crop indicator prices

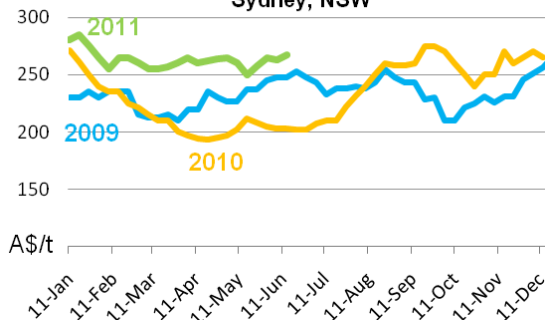
Canola price  
week ended 13th June 2011  
Portland, Victoria



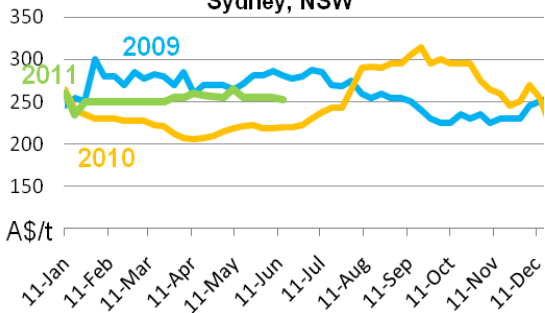
Feed barley price  
week ended 14th June 2011  
Sydney, NSW



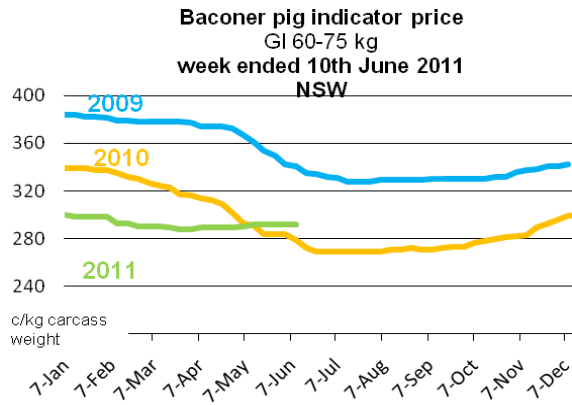
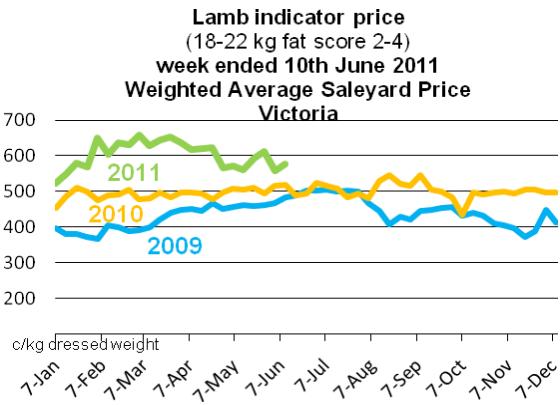
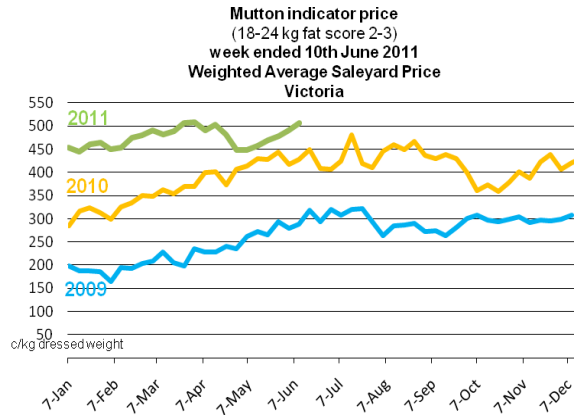
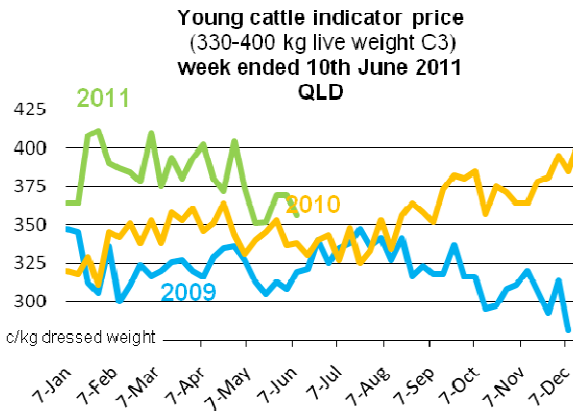
Grain sorghum price  
week ended 14th June 2011  
Sydney, NSW



Feed wheat price (GP)  
week ended 14th June 2011  
Sydney, NSW



### 3.5. Livestock 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 <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](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

#### Murray–Darling Basin

- Murray–Darling Basin Authority: [www.mdba.gov.au/water/waterinstorage](http://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](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