AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT

13 February 2001 No. 117

ABARE

ISSN 1325-8931

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
GPO Box 1563 Canberra 2601

Telephone +61 2 6272 2000 Facsimile +61 2 6272 2001
Internet www.abareconomics.com

ABARE is a professionally independent government economic research agency.

This report was prepared by Geoff Bailey, Scott Turner, David Barrett, Amy Beasley and Fiona Alexander from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Branch.

For further information, contact the Manager, Agricultural Economics Section, Vince O'Donnell on +61 2 6272 2255. For subscription details for the *Australian Crop Report*, contact the Publications Order Department on 1 800 244 129. For general media inquiries, contact Margaret Day on +61 2 6272 2260.

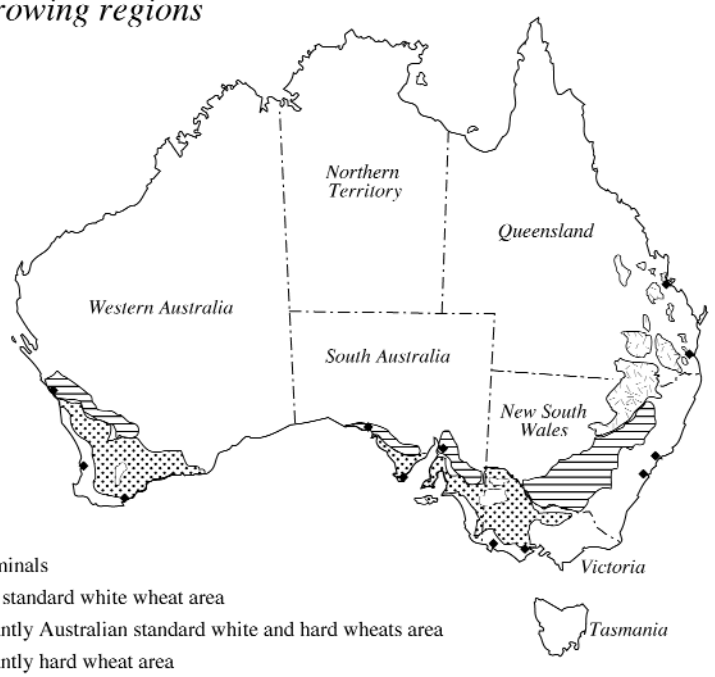
The next issue of the *Australian Crop Report* will be released on Tuesday, 5 June 2001.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE …
- 2000-01 final summer crop production estimates
- 2001-02 winter crop planting estimates

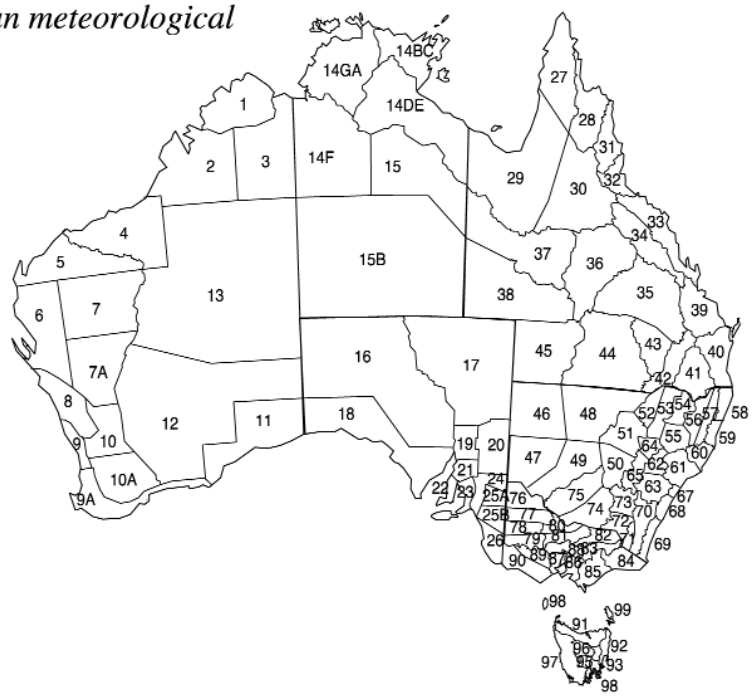
ABARE project 1076

Contents

Wheat growing regions



Australian meteorological districts



Overview

- ***Summer crop production is forecast to decrease by 3 per cent to around 4.9 million tonnes in 2000-01.***
- ***Heavy rains in early February in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland boosted the late sown summer crop, previously suffering from moisture stress.***
- ***Summer crop areas are marginally lower than last year, reflecting lower plantings in northern New South Wales and south east Queensland.***
- ***Australian winter crop production is estimated to have fallen by 13 per cent to 32 million tonnes in 2000-01, with record crops in South Australia and Victoria.***
- ***Wheat production is estimated to be down 15 per cent on the 1999-2000 harvest, to just under 21.2 million tonnes, and canola by 32 per cent to 1.7 million tonnes. In contrast, barley production is estimated to have increased by 11 per cent to nearly 5.6 million tonnes in 2000-01.***

Summer crop production

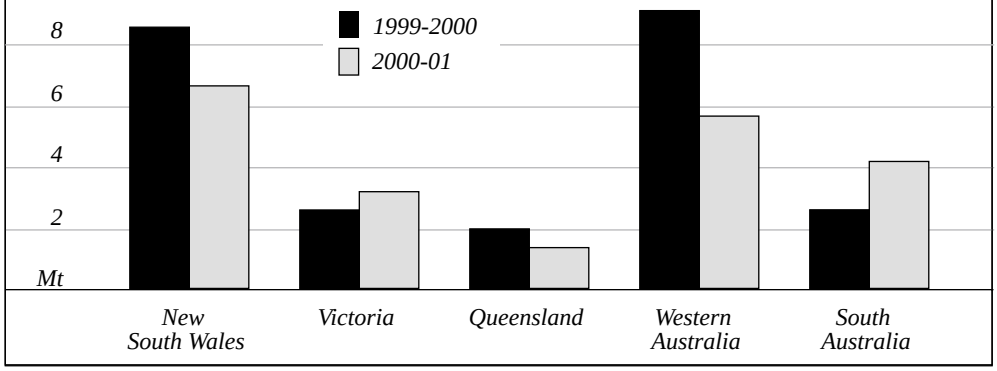
Total summer crop production is forecast to be close to 4.9 million tonnes in 2000-01, down 3 per cent when compared with last year's crop (table A). Crops in most summer cropping areas in northern New South Wales and central

A Australian summer crop plantings and production

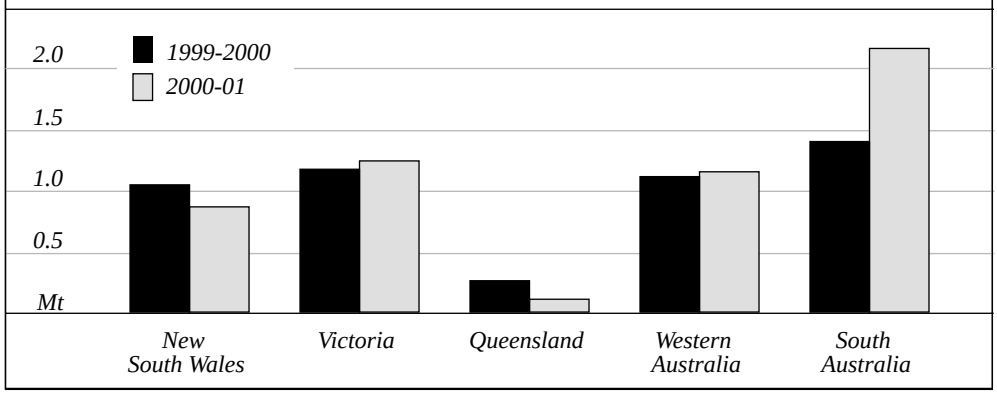
	New South Wales **a**		Queensland **a**		Australia **b**	
	'000 ha	Mt	'000 ha	Mt	'000 ha	Mt
1994-95	517	2.23	720	1.30	1 317	3.63
1995-96	579	2.28	794	1.56	1 466	3.98
1996-97	633	2.73	673	1.46	1 429	4.37
1997-98	606	2.57	620	1.12	1 341	3.84
1998-99	854	3.17	669	1.65	1 709	5.07
1999-2000	708	2.90	708	1.89	1 555	5.02
2000-01 **f**	734	3.36	685	1.33	1 544	4.87
% change	4	16	–3	–30	–1	–3

a State production includes sorghum, rice, cottonseed, maize and sunflowers. **b** Australian production includes sorghum, rice, cottonseed, maize, sunflowers, sorghum, mung beans, navy beans and peanuts. **f** ABARE forecast.

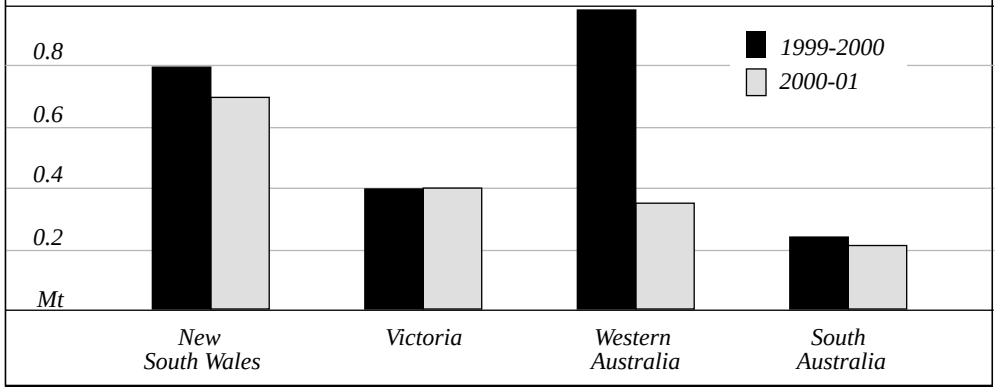
Wheat production, by state



Barley production, by state



Canola production, by state



Queensland have mixed potential following hot dry weather over December 2000 – February 2001.

The total area planted to summer crops in Australia is estimated at just over 1.5 million hectares, down by less than 1 per cent from last year. Good soil moisture profiles encouraged producers in most regions, except the Darling Downs, to plant summer crops following the early November rains. Summer crops previously lost as a result of flooding at that time were replanted mainly to sorghum.

Continued drought conditions in the south and eastern Darling Downs over summer did not provide a decent 'break' to plant summer crops. Apart from central Queensland, the later sown crops did not receive sufficient early post-sowing rains and suffered varying degrees of moisture stress by late January. Rain in early February arrived just in time for most of these crops, and if followup rains occur, yields for these crops should be around average.

Summer crops, particularly cotton, that were planted before November and were not affected by the flooding, are progressing well and are on track for an early harvest. Record production is forecast for the New South Wales cotton and rice crops.

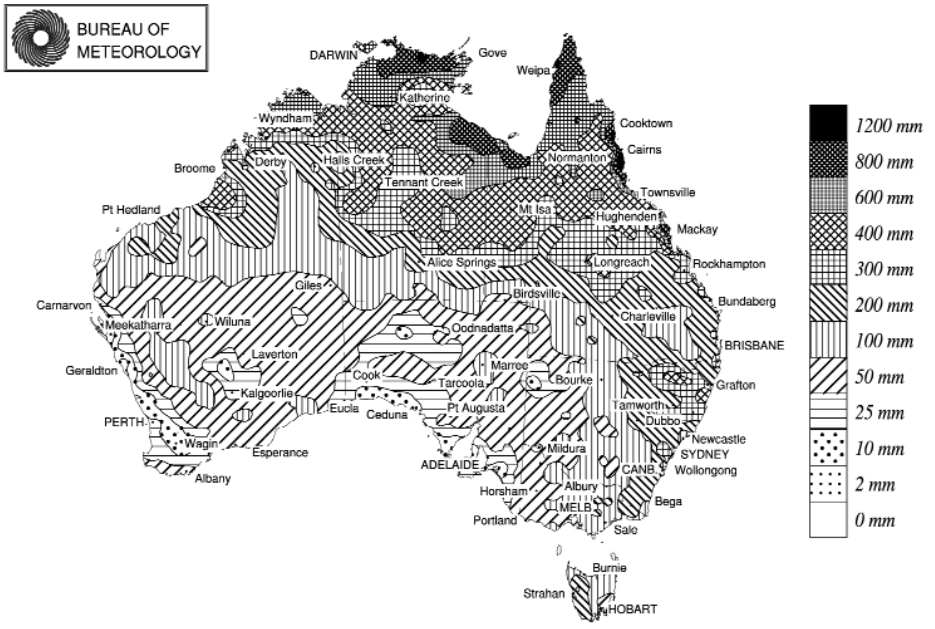
Winter crop production

Since the December crop report, the estimate for Australian winter crop production has been revised up from 30 to 32 million tonnes (table B). Production in New South Wales is now estimated to be down only 20 per cent to 8.9 million tonnes, whereas in December, it was forecast that production would be down by 28 per cent on the 1999-2000 harvest. Although remaining high, grain losses resulting from the heavy November rains and flooding in New South Wales were lower than originally estimated. Producers were able to harvest a larger area than previously expected. However, a substantial proportion of the crops in the northern and (to a lesser extent) the central region of the state were downgraded to feed.

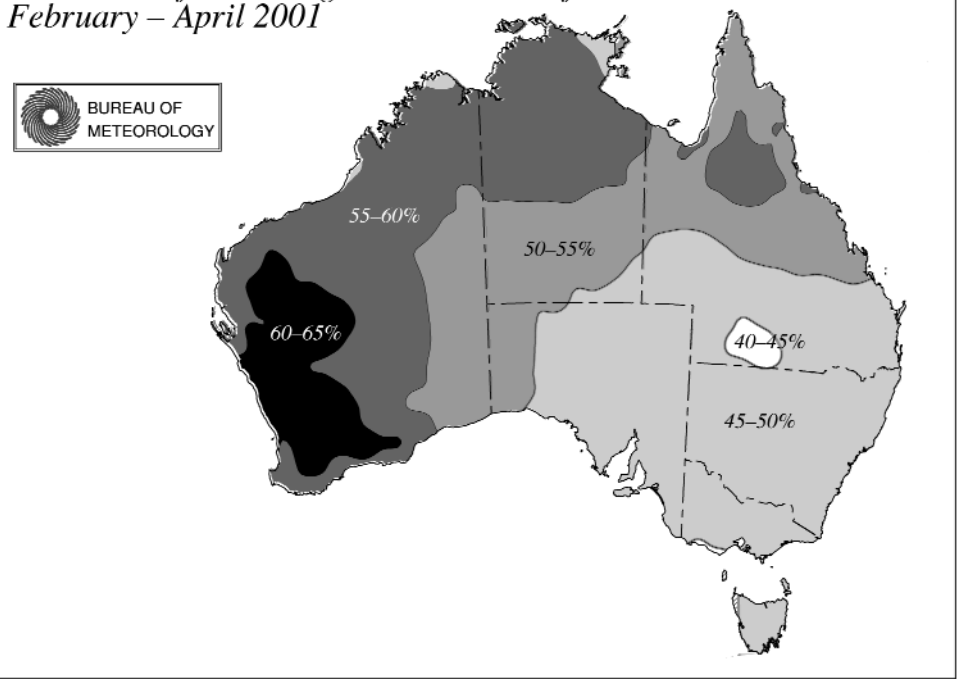
Victoria and South Australia grew record crops, with Victoria surpassing its previous record for winter crops of 5.3 million tonnes set in 1983-84.

The winter harvest in Western Australia was marginally higher than previously estimated, reflecting improved yields for the later harvested crops. Nevertheless, dry conditions during most of the growing phase of this year's crop resulted in sharply lower production for all crops, particularly wheat, lupins and canola.

1 Rainfall, 1 November 2000 – 31 January 2001



2 Chance of exceeding the median rainfall February – April 2001



B *Australian winter crop production* **a**

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	Western Australia	South Australia	Australia
	Mt	Mt	Mt	Mt	Mt	Mt
1994-95	1.47	1.80	0.31	7.91	2.98	14.66
1995-96	6.76	4.35	0.73	10.23	5.14	27.82
1996-97	11.27	4.55	2.59	11.32	5.36	35.89
1997-98	8.29	3.21	1.63	12.06	5.22	31.15
1998-99	9.52	3.56	2.57	12.12	6.24	34.76
1999-2000	11.12	4.79	2.29	13.48	4.65	36.99
2000-01 **f**	8.93	5.55	1.53	8.19	7.21	32.12
% change	–20	16	–33	–39	55	–13

a State production includes wheat, barley, oats, canola, lupins, field peas, chickpeas, faba beans and lentils. Australian totals also include triticale, linseed, safflower and vetch. Estimates for field peas, chickpeas, faba beans, lentils and vetch are sourced from Pulse Australia. **f** ABARE forecast.

Weather outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, conditions in both the Pacific and Indian Oceans indicate a chance of around 50 per cent of receiving above median rainfall during the February–April 2001 period for the summer cropping areas of central and southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.

For winter crop growing areas, there is a probability of a wetter than average period for the grain growing regions of Western Australia. An average chance of exceeding median rainfall exists for the eastern Australian grain belt.

New South Wales

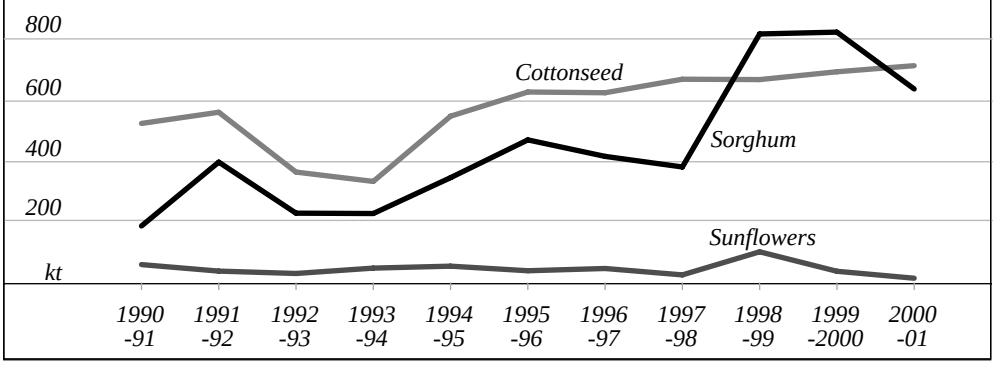
- ***Total summer crop production in 2000-01 is forecast to be 16 per cent higher at almost 3.4 million tonnes, as forecast record cotton and rice crops offset a 23 per cent fall in sorghum production.***
- ***Following heavy November rains, hot dry weather across the north of the state until late January, ensured a good start for earlier planted crops. Crops planted after the November rains, did not receive enough followup rain and were suffering from moisture stress. The early February rains came just in time for most regions, but followup rains are needed for crops to achieve average yields.***
- ***Total winter crop production in 2000-01 is estimated to have fallen by 20 per cent to 8.9 million tonnes, with lower production for all major crops when compared with 1999-2000.***
- ***Apart from the dry North West region of the state, where a large proportion of the crop had been harvested before the heavy November rains, the harvest in other regions was slowed by wet weather.***
- ***The heavy rains and flooding in November in northern and some parts of central New South Wales resulted in substantial areas of crop not being harvested, and a large percentage of the harvest being downgraded to feed grade. A high proportion of the southern New South Wales crop was also downgraded.***
- ***Results from a recent ABARE survey of grain growers reveals that although New South Wales grain growers had substantial quantities of grain downgraded to feed, they also managed to harvest more grain than was initially expected.***

Crop update

- ***Wheat*** production in 2000-01 is estimated to have fallen by 22 per cent to 6.7 million tonnes. Protein levels were well down when compared with previous years, with substantial downgrading of crops grown in the northern regions of the state. A large proportion of the crops grown in these regions were of feed or general purpose grade.

- Higher quality grain was harvested from crops grown in the central and southern regions of the state, although crops in most regions reported a higher than average proportion of wheat downgraded to feed. The wet finish

Summer crop production, New South Wales



for the crop also contributed to increased disease incidence, particularly take-all, crown rot and common root rot.

- ***Barley*** production is estimated to have fallen by 17 per cent to 870 000 tonnes in 2000-01. Dry seasonal conditions in the northern regions of the

New South Wales winter crop, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production** s	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	’000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Wheat	3 548	1.89	6 700	–22
Barley	420	2.07	870	–17
Canola	380	1.84	700	–13

s ABARE estimate.

New South Wales summer crop, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production** f	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	’000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Sorghum	195	3.28	640	–23
Sunflowers	15	0.93	14	–3
Cottonseed	309	2.32	719	3

f ABARE forecast.

state reduced yields and production while the November rains lowered grain quality. Overall, only a small proportion of the New South Wales barley harvest achieved malting grades.

- New South Wales ***canola*** production in 2000-01 is estimated to be 700 000 tonnes, a decline of 13 per cent from the previous year. Cooler weather in the late flowering phase enabled crops to achieve average yields. However, there was increased weather damage and fungal disease when compared with previous years. Overall, the oil content in New South Wales crops was excellent, achieving on average around 44 per cent.

- ***Sorghum*** production in New South Wales is forecast to fall by 23 per cent to 640 000 tonnes, mainly reflecting reduced areas sown. There are mixed prospects for the crop, reflecting the effects of variable seasonal conditions with the timing of when the crops were sown. Early (September–October) planted crops, that were not washed out, look on track to achieve well above average yields, because of the crop's ability to establish secondary roots before the hot and dry December–January period.

- A large proportion of the crop (including a large area replanted to sorghum that was planted to other summer crops) was planted after the November flooding and heavy rains. Although these crops were sown into high soil moisture, hot, dry weather from late November to the end of January 2001 caused young crops to suffer from moisture stress. Although rain in early February will minimise crop losses, these crops will require more followup rains to ensure average yields.

- The recent rains will benefit most of the New South Wales' ***sunflowers*** crop, most of which is at the flowering stage and prospects remain for average yields. Previously, poor prices for sunflowers earlier in the season discouraged planting, with the area down by nearly half to around 15 000 hectares.

- Although some crop losses caused by floods and isolated hail storms were experienced in the main growing regions, irrigated ***cotton*** areas are estimated to have fallen only by 2 per cent to 280 000 hectares. Dryland areas sown to cotton are forecast to have risen by 5 per cent to around 29 000 hectares.

- New South wales ***cottonseed*** production is forecast to be a record 719 000 tonnes, up 3 per cent from last year. Near record yields for irrigated crops are forecast, reflecting the hot and dry weather following the November floods, which enabled crops to recover quickly from waterlogging.

Victoria

- ***Total winter crop production in Victoria is estimated to be a record 5.6 million tonnes in 2000-01.***
- ***Favorable weather since early November enabled the harvest to be finished by early January, around three weeks ahead of normal.***
- ***Record production has been achieved following the substantial turnaround in seasonal conditions in the Mallee, when compared to its 'run' of dry seasons experienced over recent years. This year, the Victorian harvest had minimal interruptions following the long spell of hot and dry weather from mid-November to mid-January. Only local storms in a small number of regions led to minor downgrading because of fungal staining and some shot and sprung grain.***
- ***Offsetting the excellent year in the Mallee, the Wimmera region had a difficult season caused by low subsoil moisture at planting, dry weather in September and isolated frosts in October. Although highly variable across the region in overall terms, yields are reported to have been about average.***

Crop update

- Victoria's ***wheat*** crop, estimated to have been 3.2 million tonnes, was close to a record. Excellent yields in most parts of the Mallee offset patchy but otherwise average yields in the Wimmera and south west corner of the state. Although higher than average screenings were reported in some regions, overall grain quality was reported to be above average, with a small amount of downgrading in the earlier harvested Mallee region.

Victorian winter crop estimates, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production** s	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	'000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Wheat	1200	2.67	3 200	23
Barley	595	2.10	1 250	6
Canola	250	1.60	400	1

s ABARE estimate.

- The ***barley*** crop in Victoria benefited from the better than average season, with the crop estimated to have been 6 per cent larger than the previous year. Grower returns were boosted from above average yields combined with a higher share of the crop making malting grade. Overall, around 70 per cent of the state's barley achieved the malting grade, well above the usual proportion of around 60 per cent.

- ***Canola*** production is estimated to have been 400 000 tonnes, marginally higher than in 1999-2000. Although showing reasonable promise at flowering, hot weather in early October followed by frost and rains later in the month contributed to the disappointing yields, particularly in the southern and western parts of the Wimmera. Offsetting the fall in crop yields was the higher reported oil content recorded in most regions.

Queensland

- ***The production prospects for summer crops in Queensland are mixed. Seasonal conditions in central Queensland have been excellent, with early summer rains enabling good crop establishment and followup rains substantially lifting yield potential. In contrast, the south eastern Darling Downs region has had very poor seasonal conditions, with many areas experiencing record low rainfall.***
- ***The relatively good prices for sorghum at planting, together with adequate soil moisture, resulted in an expansion in the area sown to summer crops in central and south west Queensland, largely offsetting the fall in areas sown to summer crop in the south east. Overall, the area planted to summer crops in Queensland is estimated to be 3 per cent lower than last year.***
- ***With the harvest complete, total winter crop production is estimated to have fallen by 33 per cent to 1.5 million tonnes, with yields estimated to be well below those of last year.***

Crop update

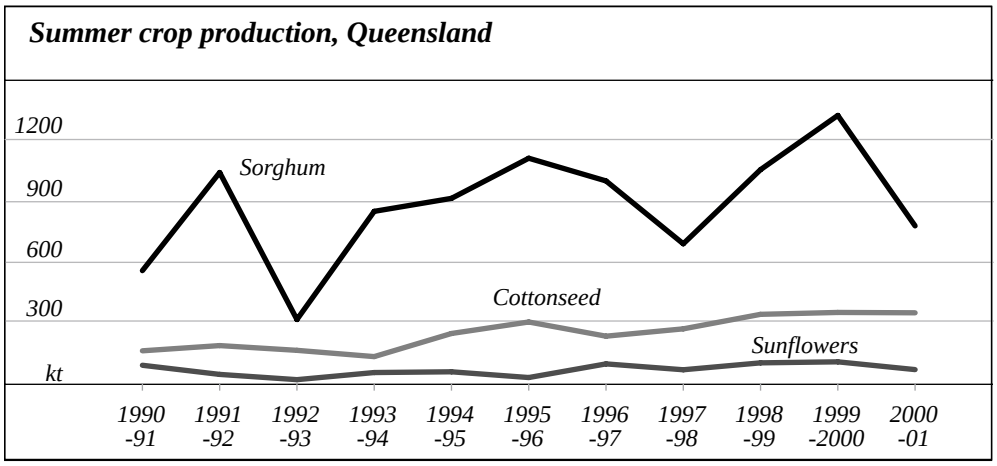
- Total production of ***wheat*** in 2000-01 is estimated to be around 31 per cent less than in 1999-2000, reflecting the poor harvest in the southern Queensland grain belt. Well below average rainfall over the growing season substantially reduced area and yields. The outcome in the southern regions was only partially offset by good wheat yields in central Queensland.

- Like wheat, ***barley*** production in the main growing regions of southern Queensland was substantially reduced in 2000-01. Overall, barley

Queensland winter crop estimates, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production** s	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	’000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Wheat	1 027	1.31	1 350	–31
Barley	91	1.16	106	–59
Chickpeas	90	0.78	70	56

s ABARE estimate.



production is estimated to have been 106 000 tonnes, nearly 60 per cent lower than in the previous year.

- ***Sorghum*** production in Queensland is forecast to be 780 000 tonnes in 2000-01, a fall of 41 per cent from the previous year. Although areas sown to sorghum in Queensland are down by 9 per cent, yields are also expected to fall sharply, from a record 3 tonnes per hectare in 1999-2000 to just below the five year average of 2.0 tonnes per hectare. Around 65 per cent of the normal area in the traditionally high yielding south eastern Queensland were planted. However, these crop yields are forecast to be only around 40–50 per cent of the longer term average.

- In contrast, the sorghum crop in central Queensland is well advanced, with some of the crops starting to head, after being sown into a high moisture profile and receiving good followup rains. At this stage there are no obvious disease problems.

Queensland summer crop estimates, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production** f	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	’000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Sorghum	400	1.95	780	–41
Sunflowers	72	0.93	67	–37
Cottonseed	175	1.99	349	–1

f ABARE forecast.

- ***Sunflower*** production in 2000-01 is forecast to be 67 000 tonnes, down 37 per cent on last year's crop. Areas sown to sunflowers in central Queensland are estimated to fall to around 50 000 hectares, reflecting expected lower returns from sunflowers relative to sorghum. However, good rains in central Queensland during January 2001 enabled additional plantings.

- The total area planted to ***cotton*** is estimated to have increased by 16 per cent to around 175 000 hectares in 2000-01, with the bulk of the increase in area (around 17 000 hectares) sown to dryland cotton.

- Queensland ***cottonseed*** production is forecast to be nearly 349 000 tonnes, just below last year's record crop. Warm weather has contributed to good yields throughout most of Queensland except for the Darling Downs, where continuing dry weather has had a negative impact on yield potential.

Western Australia

- ***Winter crop production in Western Australia is estimated to have fallen by 39 per cent from the record 1999-2000 crop, to 8.2 million tonnes, the smallest harvest since 1991-92.***
- ***Overall, yields for all crops were significantly lower, with wheat yields down by over 30 per cent. Earlier planted crops that were sown in May, generally achieved higher yields than crops sown later in the season.***
- ***The harvest started and finished early and without disruption. Grain quality was mixed, with wheat achieving better quality than previously expected. The dry season boosted protein levels, but it also resulted in downgrading of malting barley, noodle and soft wheats.***

Crop update

- ***Wheat*** production is estimated to have fallen by 38 per cent to 5.7 million tonnes, reflecting lower plantings combined with higher relative prices for barley encouraging producers to reduce wheat areas. Protein levels were higher than usual, reflecting the dry season, but screenings were also high across most regions.

- ***Barley*** production is estimated to have increased to nearly 1.2 million tonnes, reflecting a large increase in planted area which more than compensated for the decrease in yield caused by dry conditions. Around half the crop was downgraded to feed, compared to around 20–30 per cent in an average year.

Western Australia winter crop estimates, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production s**	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	’000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Wheat	4 327	1.32	5 700	–38
Barley	910	1.27	1 160	4
Canola	530	0.66	350	–65
Lupins	800	0.72	575	–65

s ABARE estimate.

- ***Canola*** production is estimated to fall by 65 per cent to 350 000 tonnes. This reduction occurred because of a large reduction in planted area (reflecting low price prospects at planting) and unfavorable dry weather throughout the season which lowered yields by more than 50 per cent. However, the average oil content in most canola crops made the critical 40 per cent, down from around 43 per cent in the previous year.

- Extremely dry conditions this season also contributed to lower ***lupins*** production in Western Australia, falling by 65 per cent to an estimated 575 000 tonnes in 2000-01. A large percentage of lupins are likely to be kept on farm to feed livestock, rather than be available for export.

South Australia

- ***Total winter crop production is estimated at a record 7.2 million tonnes, 55 per cent higher than last year and 16 per cent higher than the previous record set in 1998-99.***
- ***Very large crops grown in the large cereal growing regions of Yorke/Eyre Peninsula and the Upper North posed some logistical problems for the grain handling and storage system. Only the Upper South East and Lower South East regions recorded production at levels similar to last year, mainly due to a sharp reduction in plantings.***
- ***The record crop reflects the favorable growing conditions and dry finish in most grain growing districts, combined with a record area planted to winter crops. However, crop losses were reported in the Lower South East region which had a difficult season after initial waterlogging delayed crop development, followed by extremely dry conditions that reduced yields.***
- ***The bulk of the South Australian harvest was finished by mid-January, with only minor delays because of rain.***
- ***The incidence of disease was low with isolated leaf rust and yellow leaf spot affecting wheat; net blotch in barley; and blackleg in canola. Snails again affected canola and also contributed to a downgrading of some barley crops.***
- ***Overall grain quality was below average. Lower protein levels were reported for wheat where nitrogen was not applied to crops, leading to downgrading in some regions.***

South Australian winter crop estimates, 2000-01

	Area	**Yield**	**Production** s	***Production change from 1999-2000***
	’000 ha	t/ha	kt	%
Wheat	1 971	2.13	4 200	62
Barley	995	2.19	2 180	55
Canola	154	1.36	210	–12

s ABARE estimate.

Crop update

- South Australian ***wheat*** production is estimated to be 4.2 million tonnes, 62 per cent higher than in 1999-2000. Record yields were achieved in many areas of the state, with the Upper Eyre Peninsula and the Upper North harvesting record crops because of the large planted area and timely rain throughout the season. Although protein levels were lower than average, screenings were low, with the exception of the Eastern Eyre Pennisula region. Disease outbreaks were relatively low with reports of black point causing some downgrading in parts of the South East.

- The 2000-01 ***barley*** crop was 55 per cent larger than the previous year, reflecting improved seasonal conditions and a larger planted area. It is estimated that over 40 per cent of the crop achieved malting grade, which is significantly higher than during 1999-2000, but close to the long term average. Like wheat, areas of the Eastern Eyre Peninsula, plus areas of the Yorke Peninsula, had high screenings as a result of hot dry conditions in early September. Snails caused some downgrading and led to marketers establishing cleaning facilities to increase the quality of the crop.

- The reduction in ***canola*** production during 2000-01 reflects a 23 per cent reduction in area in response to poor price prospects at planting. Although earlier showing promise, canola yields — particularly in south eastern regions of the state — proved disappointing. This was mainly brought about the combination of hot weather during the October flowering phase as well as waterlogging earlier in the season. Oil yields were generally around average at 41–42 per cent.

1 *Crop production in Australia* At 7 February 2001

	Area planted				Yield				Production			
	Five year average a	**1999-00 current**	**2000-01 previous**	**2000-01 current**	**Five year average a**	**1999-00 current**	**2000-01 previous**	**2000-01 current**	**Five year average a**	**1999-00 current**	**2000-01 previous**	**2000-01 current**
	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	t/ha	t/ha	t/ha	t/ha	kt	kt	kt	kt
Wheat	10 094	12 338	12 079	12 079	1.75	2.03	1.62	1.75	18 100	25 012	19 568	21 168
Barley	3 127	2 545	2 983	3 023	1.75	1.98	1.72	1.85	5 580	5 043	5 116	5 596
Oats **b**	986	578	743	750	1.59	1.89	1.67	1.72	1 577	1 092	1 243	1 292
Triticale	295	263	286	279	1.76	1.98	2.10	2.15	533	521	600	601
Sorghum **b**	618	648	606	596	2.38	3.34	3.07	2.39	1 452	2 163	1 863	1 423
Maize	60	61	69	70	5.26	6.03	5.52	5.44	315	365	381	381
Canola	617	1 917	1 315	1 315	1.27	1.27	1.22	1.26	798	2 426	1 610	1 661
Sunflower	124	120	101	87	1.00	1.23	0.84	0.93	126	147	84	81
Cottonseed **c**	393	464	476	484	2.45	2.26	2.10	2.20	909	1 047	999	1 068
– lint					1.40	1.60	1.48	1.56	549	741	706	755
Rice **d**	148	152	159	186	8.41	8.26	8.81	9.44	1 239	1 101	1 400	1 753
Lupins	1 364	1 365	961	961	1.09	1.46	0.75	0.83	1 483	1 990	721	800
Field peas **e**	383	321	312	312	0.99	1.11	1.21	1.21	368	357	376	376
Chickpeas **e**	250	205	233	233	0.84	0.91	0.63	0.63	206	187	146	146
Faba beans **e**	111	125	178	178	1.28	1.32	1.25	1.42	141	166	223	253
Lentils **e**	31	75	117	117	1.19	1.37	1.24	1.39	26	103	145	163

a Based on data from ABS, *Selected Agricultural Commodities,* cat. no. 7112.0; ABS, *Agricultural Commodities, Australia,* cat. no. 7112.0; and ABARE estimates. **b** Area harvested for grain. **c** Cottonseed area is estimated harvested area. **d** *Source:* Rice Growers Cooperative Limited. **e** *Source:* Pulse Australia, January 2001.
Note: 'Previous' estimates are from the previous issue of the *Australian Crop Report*. The crop year refers to crops planted during the twelve months to 31 March. Winter crops are generally both sown and harvested within the nominated twelve month period. Slight discrepancies may appear between table 1 and tables 2, 3 and 4 as a result of the inclusion of the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in the Australian totals. Area and production estimates are from the sources detailed in footnotes to tables 2 to 4. Coverage is for all farms with an estimated value of agricultural operations of more than $5000.

2 *State production – principal crops* At 7 February 2001

	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		Western Australia		South Australia		Tasmania	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt
Wheat												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	3 548	6 700	1 200	3 200	1 027	1 350	4 327	5 700	1 971	4 200	6	18
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	3 548	6 000	1 200	2 800	1 027	1 350	4 327	5 500	1 971	3 900	6	18
1999-00 – latest ABS estimate	3 482	8 641	1 222	2 595	1 130	1 969	4 625	9 189	1 872	2 600	6	26
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	2 627	5 333	901	1 692	866	1 289	4 165	7 154	1 533	2 628	2	7
Barley												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	420	870	595	1 250	91	106	910	1 160	995	2 180	12	30
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	450	750	580	1 140	91	106	910	1 060	940	2 030	12	30
1999-00 – latest ABS estimate	450	1 052	580	1 181	130	259	530	1 120	846	1 410	9	20
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	602	1 092	578	955	148	244	812	1 474	973	1 782	13	32
Oats b												
1999-00 – latest ABS estimate	161	280	133	280	11	13	195	432	71	77	6	10
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	391	534	174	345	20	13	281	523	112	147	8	15
Lupins c												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	72	95	26	34	0	0	800	575	63	96	0	0
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	72	95	26	34	0	0	800	500	63	92	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABS estimate	125	229	36	45	0	0	1 133	1 637	71	79	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	90	95	48	43	0	0	1 144	1 253	82	91	0	0
Canola												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	380	700	250	400	1	1	530	350	154	210	0	0
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	380	663	250	400	1	1	530	300	154	246	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABS estimate	523	800	283	397	1	1	909	989	200	238	1	1
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	228	332	113	140	0	0	219	244	57	82	0	0
Sorghum												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	195	640	0	0	400	780	1	3	0	0	0	0
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	180	620	0	0	425	1 240	1	3	0	0	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABS estimate	207	828	1	2	437	1 328	2	3	0	0	1	2
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	158	488	2	5	457	957	1	2	0	0	0	0
Cottonseed d												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	309	719	0	0	175	349	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	308	664	0	0	168	335	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	313	697	0	0	151	350	0	0	0	0	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **a**	260	630	0	0	129	278	0	0	0	0	0	0

a Based on data from ABS, *Selected Agricultural Commodities,* cat. no. 7112.0; ABS, *Agricultural Commodities, Australia,* cat. no. 7121.0; and ABARE estimates. **b** Area harvested for grain; current season estimates, by state, are no longer produced because of difficulties in obtaining consistent data at the state level. **c** Includes albus lupins. **d** Cottonseed area is estimated harvested area.
Note: Zero area or production estimates may appear as a result of rounding to the nearest whole number, if production or area estimates are less than 500 tonnes or 500 hectares.

3 *State production – other major crops* At 7 February 2001

	New South Wales		Victoria		Queensland		Western Australia		South Australia		Tasmania	
	Area	**Prod.**	**Area**	**Prod.**	**Area**	**Prod.**	**Area**	**Prod.**	**Area**	**Prod.**	**Area**	**Prod.**
	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt	'000 ha	kt
Field peas												
2000-01 – latest estimate **a**	21	30	111	130	0	0	65	50	114	190	1	1
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	17	26	131	144	0	0	46	46	126	141	1	1
Five year average to 1998-99 **b**	21	18	178	147	1	0	38	31	145	185	1	1
Maize												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	29	232	1	7	38	133	2	9	0	0	0	0
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	29	232	1	7	37	133	2	9	0	0	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	28	240	1	6	30	110	2	9	0	0	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **b**	25	188	1	6	33	113	1	5	0	0	0	0
Chickpeas												
2000-01 – latest estimate **a**	90	40	6	9	90	70	45	25	2	2	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	60	66	15	15	60	45	63	57	7	4	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **b**	42	36	129	106	27	21	39	29	13	14	0	0
Sunflowerseed												
2000-01 – latest ABARE estimate	15	14	0	0	72	67	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000-01 – previous ABARE estimate	15	16	0	0	72	67	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	27	37	2	3	89	105	0	0	1	1	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **b**	45	53	2	3	76	69	0	1	1	1	0	0
Faba beans												
2000-01 – latest estimate **a**	45	35	60	80	0	0	13	8	60	130	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	22	24	40	58	0	0	10	10	53	74	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **b**	17	18	35	44	2	2	22	18	34	58	0	0
Lentils												
2000-01 – latest estimate **a**	2	3	80	100	0	0	5	2	30	58	0	0
1999-00 – latest ABARE estimate	1	1	55	77	0	0	2	2	17	23	0	0
Five year average to 1998-99 **b**	0	0	27	22	0	0	1	0	5	6	0	0

a Source: Pulse Australia, January 2001. **b** Based on data from ABS, *Selected Agricultural Commodities*, cat. no. 7112.0; ABS, *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* , cat. no. 7121.0 and ABARE estimates.

Note: Zero area or production estimates may appear as a result of rounding to the nearest whole number, if production or area estimates are less than 500 tonnes or 500 hectares.

4 Rainfall comparisons for principal Australian cropping districts

	October			November			December			January		
	Normal **a**	1999	**2000**	Normal **a**	1999	**2000**	Normal **a**	1999	**2000**	Normal **a**	2000	**2001p**
	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm
Queensland												
Central Highlands (35)	42	46	**93**	60	85	**131**	86	47	**93**	95	74	**49**
Maranoa (43)	46	66	**110**	58	88	**128**	69	105	**33**	75	81	**35**
West Darling Downs (42)	48	65	**84**	58	94	**102**	70	91	**33**	78	67	**41**
East Darling Downs (41)	62	84	**56**	73	96	**80**	93	112	**66**	91	77	**33**
Moreton South Coast (40)	77	110	**102**	95	82	**108**	130	140	**91**	154	83	**35**
New South Wales												
North West Plains (W) (52)	43	106	**100**	48	93	**181**	52	54	**8**	72	33	**79**
North West Plains (E) (53)	49	111	**92**	59	98	**178**	62	66	**31**	76	44	**86**
North West Slopes (N) (54)	61	138	**99**	70	102	**191**	78	80	**79**	84	42	**73**
North West Slopes (S) (55)	76	130	**115**	82	93	**199**	97	76	**58**	106	39	**35**
Northern Tablelands (N) (56)	62	147	**86**	65	107	**164**	74	99	**84**	83	55	**63**
Central West Plains (S) (50)	44	109	**75**	41	46	**101**	44	108	**16**	47	22	**16**
Central West Plains (N) (51)	41	78	**88**	41	73	**160**	43	99	**17**	55	28	**27**
Central West Slopes (N) (64)	54	130	**98**	56	79	**202**	62	77	**30**	77	50	**31**
Central West Slopes (S) (65)	56	142	**93**	51	51	**126**	52	113	**23**	59	30	**21**
Central Tablelands (N) (62)	58	152	**106**	61	67	**156**	62	86	**39**	71	76	**32**
Central Tablelands (S) (63)	76	182	**90**	75	59	**140**	82	102	**36**	94	44	**44**
Riverina (W) (75)	37	68	**48**	27	38	**71**	28	74	**7**	29	12	**31**
Riverina (E) (74)	48	69	**66**	34	40	**65**	35	83	**10**	35	25	**30**
South West Slopes (N) (73)	59	119	**85**	48	46	**91**	49	136	**20**	50	31	**24**
South West Slopes (S) (72)	83	104	**129**	61	65	**91**	59	133	**26**	54	40	**52**
Southern Tablelands (GM)(70)	65	124	**61**	61	44	**122**	61	123	**31**	62	37	**51**
Victoria												
North Mallee (76)	33	32	**49**	25	56	**42**	20	34	**23**	20	6	**11**
South Mallee (77)	38	37	**51**	27	50	**59**	23	42	**20**	21	6	**17**
North Wimmera (78)	42	45	**45**	30	46	**47**	25	51	**19**	22	3	**18**
South Wimmera (79)	50	46	**54**	36	51	**46**	29	64	**20**	26	9	**24**
Lower North (80)	44	38	**73**	31	53	**67**	28	61	**14**	29	14	**27**
Upper North (81)	51	45	**85**	37	53	**78**	33	79	**17**	34	16	**34**
Lower North East (82)	80	83	**140**	58	71	**107**	54	128	**25**	48	21	**46**
Upper North East (83)	109	85	**125**	81	59	**114**	71	110	**31**	60	40	**57**
North Central (88)	71	62	**110**	54	51	**86**	48	103	**27**	41	36	**34**
Western Australia												
North Coast (8)	18	27	**3**	10	6	**3**	8	23	**10**	11	46	**25**
Central Coast (9)	51	74	**6**	23	3	**14**	12	16	**2**	10	80	**4**
Northern Central (10)	19	28	**2**	13	14	**3**	11	30	**6**	13	104	**60**
South Coast (9A)	65	82	**21**	36	16	**26**	20	31	**10**	17	83	**14**
South Central (10A)	29	42	**4**	20	18	**9**	13	35	**4**	14	128	**19**
South East (12)	14	10	**15**	16	37	**23**	16	24	**11**	21	124	**35**
South Australia												
Upper South East (25B)	41	37	**53**	29	43	**25**	25	59	**11**	19	7	**9**
Murray Mallee (25A)	32	43	**36**	23	34	**18**	19	37	**15**	17	5	**10**
Murray River (24)	32	49	**40**	23	37	**20**	21	31	**17**	18	4	**16**
East Central (23)	53	59	**76**	34	42	**20**	29	34	**10**	22	5	**12**
West Central (22)	36	47	**74**	23	24	**13**	20	30	**7**	15	14	**5**
Lower North (21)	42	47	**52**	30	40	**37**	24	32	**13**	20	1	**14**
Upper North (19)	31	33	**29**	26	37	**36**	23	18	**30**	22	2	**15**
Western (18)	28	43	**31**	20	22	**19**	19	19	**7**	12	26	**5**
Tasmania												
Northern (91)	90	91	**133**	68	65	**77**	55	60	**56**	48	61	**44**
Midlands (93)	90	48	**86**	68	41	**57**	55	40	**28**	48	64	**30**

a The definition of normal rainfall reflects a simple arithmetic average of rainfall over the period 1913 to 2000. **p** Preliminary.
Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate meteorological districts (see map on page iv).
Source: Bureau of Meteorology monthly district rainfall reports (various issues).

5 Supply and disposal of Australian wheat, oilseeds and pulses [a]

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00 p	2000-01 s
	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt
Wheat						
Production	16 504	23 702	19 224	22 108	25 012	21 168
Domestic use	4 127	3 512	5 012	5 285	5 770	5 655
– human and industrial **b**	1 991	2 122	2 174	2 184	2 249	2 206
– feed **c**	1 626	904	2 385	2 341	2 830	2 900
– seed	510	486	521	538	526	526
Net exports	13 298	19 189	15 679	16 391	17 557	16 000
Change in stocks	- 921	1 001	-1 467	433	1 685	- 487
Canola						
Production	557	624	856	1 690	2 426	1 661
Domestic use	173	254	346	405	369	387
– crushers	171	251	339	396	362	380
– seed	2	3	6	9	7	7
Exports	384	330	555	1 356	2 057	1 297
Canola meal						
Production	94	137	191	222	203	213
Domestic use	94	137	191	222	202	212
Exports	0	0	0	0	1	1
Canola oil						
Production	72	106	138	162	148	156
Domestic use	66	93	101	114	110	99
Exports	7	15	38	50	40	59
Pulses – major crops						
Production **b**						
Lupins	1 559	1 523	1 561	1 696	1 990	800
Field peas	530	454	316	298	357	376
Chickpeas	287	288	199	188	187	146
Apparent domestic use **c**						
Lupins	632	618	600	643	566	406
Field peas	257	149	132	31	91	122
Chickpeas	31	0	34	28	27	31
Exports						
Lupins	927	905	961	1 261	1 424	446
Field peas	273	304	184	267	267	254
Chickpeas	155	369	200	120	220	164

a Wheat and legume export figures are for winter crop years defined as follows: October–September for wheat; November–October for canola (seed and products), peas and lupins. **b** Production may not equal the sum of apparent domestic use and exports in any one year due to reductions or increases in stock levels. Excludes wheat flour exports. **c** Calculated as a residual: production less exports less other domestic uses less change in stocks. **s** ABARE estimate. **p** Preliminary.
Note: The export data refer to market year export periods, so are not comparable with financial year export figures published elsewhere.
Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics; ABARE.

6 Supply and disposal of Australian coarse grains [a]

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00 p	2000-01 s
	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt	kt
Barley						
Production	5 823	6 696	6 482	5 987	5 043	5 596
Domestic use	2 061	2 212	2 082	2 144	1 788	1 869
– as malt and other human use	109	144	148	151	154	158
– feed	1 800	1 910	1 800	1 890	1 500	1 570
– seed	152	158	135	103	134	141
Export	4 042	4 331	3 463	4 765	3 292	3 600
Oats						
Production	1 875	1 653	1 634	1 798	1 092	1 292
Domestic use	1 620	1 503	1 481	1 550	957	1 143
– human	108	110	113	116	119	122
– feed	1 460	1 348	1 324	1 394	802	986
– seed	52	45	44	40	36	35
Export	255	150	154	248	135	149
Triticale [b]						
Production	469	674	633	708	521	601
Domestic use	469	674	633	708	521	601
– feed	450	656	620	695	507	587
– seed	18	18	13	13	14	14
Sorghum						
Production	1 591	1 425	1 081	1 891	2 163	1 423
Domestic use	993	1 194	897	1 399	1 499	925
– feed	990	1 192	894	1 396	1 496	922
– seed	3	3	3	3	3	3
Export	599	231	184	492	664	498
Maize						
Production	325	398	271	338	365	381
Domestic use	309	390	252	302	321	342
– human, industrial	92	94	96	94	96	99
– feed	216	295	155	207	224	242
– seed	1	1	1	1	1	1
Export	17	9	19	36	48	39
Total coarse grains						
Production	10 083	10 846	10 101	10 722	9 184	9 293
Domestic use	5 450	5 974	5 345	6 102	5 086	4 880
– human, industrial	309	348	357	361	369	378
– feed	4 916	5 400	4 793	5 582	4 528	4 307
– seed	226	225	196	160	188	195
Export	4 912	4 721	3 820	5 542	4 045	4 645

a Market years are November–October for barley, oats and triticale, and March–February for sorghum and maize. This means that the 1999-00 barley crop harvested in November 1999 to January 2000 is marketed from November 1999 to October 2000. The 1999-00 sorghum crop harvested in March to May 2000 is marketed from March 2000 to February 2001. The sum of domestic use and exports may differ from production as a result of changes in grain stock levels. **b** Excludes small quantities of triticale for export. **s** ABARE estimate. **p** Preliminary.
Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics; ABARE.

7 Australian grain prices [a]

	1999		2000				2001
	Jul–Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Feb p
	A$/t	A$/t	A$/t	A$/t	A$/t	A$/t	A$/t
Wheat							
Domestic							
Feed – Sydney	157	151	150	157	162	174	180
Export							
Australian standard white **b**	214	210	211	231	244	300	292
International							
US no.2 hard red winter, fob Gulf **b**	179	171	178	196	201	222	221
Barley							
Domestic							
2 row feed – Sydney	136	133	143	153	162	167	172
Export **c**							
Feed (bulk)	163	167	181	196	202	na	na
Malting (bulk)	183	209	264	262	260	na	na
International							
Feed – US no. 2 fob Portland **b**	157	161	169	182	180	209	214
Sorghum							
Domestic							
Feed – Sydney	130	130	127	135	139	168	163
Export **c**	143	140	152	159	166	na	na
International							
US del. Gulf **b**	124	131	153	156	136	180	187
Oats							
Domestic							
Feed – Sydney	96	94	105	117	120	124	122
Export **c**	186	185	209	246	253	229	201
International							
US heavy white, del. Portland **b**	156	163	170	181	178	185	188
Maize							
Domestic							
Feed – Sydney	154	154	164	170	179	189	185
International							
US no.2 fob Gulf **b**	132	134	151	156	134	167	172
Oilseeds							
Domestic							
Canola – del. Melbourne	277	289	280	287	287	293	313
Sunflower – del. Melbourne	247	225	228	260	360	290	290
Soybeans – US cif Rotterdam **b**	303	311	340	363	385	418	402
Pulses							
Domestic							
Lupins – del. Perth	140	133	139	141	148	164	174
Field peas – del. Melbourne	241	214	210	212	205	197	208
Chickpeas – del. Melbourne	363	380	348	390	410	390	375
Export **c**							
Chickpeas	467	449	442	488	501	518	572
Field peas	294	295	274	305	275	299	284

a Prices refer to bulk sales of grain delivered to Sydney region. Export prices for coarse grains are the average unit fob value of Australian exports recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Prices quoted only for months in which sizable export volumes were recorded. International prices are obtained from the Unicom Newswire service in US$ and converted to A$ using monthly average of daily exchange rates. **b** Average of daily offer prices made in US$, converted to A$ using monthly average of daily exchange rates. **c** Export unit values do not reflect current market prices but the average price received for grain exported over the quarter. Generally, there can be a long lag time between when prices were negotiated by exporters and the physical export of product. **na** Not available. **p** Preliminary.
Note: Prices used in these calculations exclude the GST.