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WHEAT USE AND STOCKS, AUSTRALIA

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I N Q U I R I E S

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
March 2009	8 May 2009
April 2009	9 June 2009
May 2009	10 July 2009
June 2009	7 August 2009
July 2009	4 September 2009
August 2009	7 October 2009



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication provides estimates of wheat grain stocks and use for selected manufacturing and agricultural businesses, licensed exporters and bulk grain handlers. These estimates are compiled from various surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the Grain Handlers Stocks Survey, Wheat Use Survey, Wheat Export Sales Survey, and from administrative data relating to wheat grain exports.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) use these data to compile a monthly report on the Australian wheat industry.

Estimates from these surveys are combined with final export trade data to provide monthly estimates of the volume of wheat grain stored, used, or committed for use.

The current scope and coverage of the collections is understood to account for the majority of Australia's wheat grain stored, used and committed. The scope and coverage of these collections may be expanded in the future, however, to account for a wider range of agricultural businesses.

The ABS welcomes any comments from readers regarding the usefulness, range and quality of the statistics presented in this publication. Comments can be forwarded to: The Director, Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre, Australian Bureau of Statistics, GPO Box 66, Hobart TAS 7001. Alternatively, email <adrian.bugg@abs.gov.au> or phone (03) 6222 5850.

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

WHEAT GRAIN STORED

Wheat grain stored by wheat grain users at the end of February 2009 increased by 0.2% from January 2009 to 630 thousand tonnes.

WHEAT GRAIN USED

The estimate of wheat grain used in February 2009 was 1.8 million tonnes, an increase of 10.5% from last month. Domestic usage accounted for 384 thousand tonnes (21.0%), and 1.4 million tonnes (79.0%) were exported.

The total wheat grain used since the end of September 2008 was 6.9 million tonnes. Domestic use of wheat grain continued to be highest in New South Wales at 168 thousand tonnes for the month of February 2009.

The main exporting state continued to be Western Australia (806 thousand tonnes) followed by New South Wales (267 thousand tonnes) for the month of February 2009.

WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED

At 28 February 2009, there were 4.7 million tonnes committed, i.e. under contract for domestic use within Australia or for export. This represented an increase of 2.2% from the January estimate of 4.6 million tonnes.

Of the total wheat grain committed in Australia, 3.7 million tonnes (77.4%) were contracted for export, and 1.1 million tonnes (22.6%) were contracted for domestic use.

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1

STOCKS OF WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY BULK GRAIN HANDLERS, at month ending

	NSW(a)	Vic. (b)	Qld	SA	WA	NT	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
2008							
30 September(c)	219.0	145.0	81.0	220.0	867.0	—	1 532.0
31 December	4 491.9	555.9	1 610.7	1 704.5	6 127.0	—	14 489.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes ACT.

(b) Includes Tasmania.

(c) The end of September is used to represent the closing stocks of wheat grain prior to the commencement of the next harvest period.

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STOCKS OF WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY BULK GRAIN HANDLERS, by wheat grade(a)

	2008	
	September	December
	'000 t	'000 t
Milling	1 313.0	12 309.6
Feed	219.0	2 180.3

(a) Wheat grain is graded by quality (refer to Glossary).

STOCKS OF WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY USERS, at month ending(a)(b)

	NSW(c)	Vic. (d)	Qld	SA	WA	NT	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
2008							
30 September	184.8	^ 116.3	^ 32.6	^ 54.2	^ 33.8	—	421.7
31 October	87.9	^ 52.7	^ 47.5	^ 39.6	^ 30.5	—	258.3
30 November	114.0	^ 46.0	90.3	34.8	^ 28.5	—	313.6
31 December	277.4	70.8	99.1	31.7	^ 32.9	—	511.9
2009							
31 January	^ r270.6	r95.0	*r109.7	^ 73.1	^ r80.3	—	^ r628.8
28 February	^ 289.6	101.9	^ 114.3	^ 65.0	^ 59.5	—	630.3

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

r revised

(a) This estimate excludes on-farm storage by other agricultural businesses (refer to paragraph 8 in the Explanatory Notes).

(b) Wheat grain users does not include all users of wheat grain (refer to Glossary).

(c) Includes ACT.

(d) Includes Tasmania.

WHEAT GRAIN USED, at month ending

	NSW(a)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
EXPORTS (b)(c)								
2008								
31 October	10.4	26.4	20.9	52.3	410.5	—	—	520.5
30 November	30.3	12.9	22.4	20.7	410.6	—	—	496.9
31 December	94.5	94.8	r76.6	271.0	622.7	—	—	r1 159.5
2009								
31 January	r226.4	r44.9	r92.9	132.7	r735.0	—	—	r1 231.9
28 February	266.7	58.9	83.2	229.5	805.9	—	—	1 444.3
Total	628.3	238.0	296.0	706.1	2 984.7	—	—	4 853.0
DOMESTIC USE (d)								
2008								
31 October	^ 204.9	^ 107.2	^ 44.3	^ 38.9	40.6	^ 4.4	—	440.3
30 November	182.4	103.7	48.9	39.2	44.7	^ 3.8	—	422.8
31 December	194.7	103.6	45.1	^ 35.4	31.8	^ 4.2	—	414.7
2009								
31 January	r192.8	r102.5	r46.7	42.1	r32.8	r4.0	—	r420.9
28 February	168.0	86.8	48.1	37.9	39.7	3.3	—	383.8
Total	942.8	503.8	233.1	193.5	189.6	19.7	—	2 082.5
TOTAL								
2008								
31 October	^ 215.3	133.6	65.2	91.2	451.1	^ 4.4	—	960.8
30 November	212.7	116.6	71.3	59.9	455.3	^ 3.8	—	919.7
31 December	289.2	198.4	r121.7	306.4	654.5	^ 4.2	—	r1 574.2
2009								
31 January	r419.2	r147.4	r139.6	r174.8	r767.8	r4.0	—	r1 652.8
28 February	434.8	145.7	131.3	267.4	845.6	3.3	—	1 828.1
Total	1 571.1	741.8	529.1	899.6	3 174.3	19.7	—	6 935.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

r revised

(a) Includes ACT.

(b) Wheat grain is considered used once it is exported (refer to Glossary).

(c) State/Territory in which the wheat grain was located when purchased for export.

(d) For notes on coverage of domestic use, refer to paragraphs 5 to 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED, at month ending(a)

	WHEAT GRAIN CONTRACTED FOR EXPORT, BY STATE OF ORIGIN(b)								WHEAT GRAIN CONTRACTED FOR DOMESTIC USE	TOTAL WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED
	NSW(c)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.	Aust.	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
2008										
31 October	238.9	19.5	84.5	194.7	166.6	—	—	704.2	^ 1 023.7	1 727.9
30 November	^ 339.8	^ 25.5	^ 130.1	^ 223.3	^ 828.3	—	—	^ 1 547.0	1 286.8	^ 2 833.7
31 December	^ 358.9	^ 40.4	^ 156.5	^ 289.8	^ 1 164.3	—	—	^ 2 010.0	1 334.0	3 343.9
2009										
31 January	381.0	155.9	403.0	459.7	1 920.9	—	—	3 320.6	r1 323.2	r4 643.8
28 February	471.5	248.7	445.7	518.2	1 989.9	—	—	3 674.1	1 071.0	4 745.1

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

r revised

(a) Wheat committed is wheat that is contracted for export or domestic use (refer to Glossary).

(b) State/Territory in which the wheat grain was located when purchased for export.

(c) Includes ACT.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents estimates from various Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) wheat surveys and from administrative data relating to wheat exports. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) use the data in this publication to prepare a monthly report on the Australian wheat industry. This information will inform policy and decision making following the passage of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill on 1 July 2008.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 Approximately 3,000 businesses were surveyed for the Wheat Use Coverage Survey. The sample comprised approximately 900 manufacturers and 2,100 animal feedlot operators. Responses from these businesses indicated that many of them were not direct users of wheat grain and they were consequently made out of scope of the collection. Subsequent (monthly) Wheat Use Surveys have been based on a sample of over 1,000 businesses using feedback from the Wheat Use Survey (WUSC).

3 Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from the following ABS surveys:

- Grain (Wheat) Handlers Stocks Survey (GHSS) – Sub-annual
- Wheat Use Survey (WUSC) – Annual Coverage
- Wheat Use Survey (WUS) – Monthly
- Wheat Export Sales Survey (WESS) – Monthly

4 The data on wheat grain exported were compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from information submitted by exporters or their agents to the Australian Customs Service. These data may be subject to revision.

5 The coverage of the Grain (Wheat) Handlers Stocks Survey (GHSS) was all major bulk grain handlers.

6 The scope of the Wheat Use Survey (WUS) was agricultural businesses, and manufacturing businesses using wheat grain, recorded on the ABS' Business Register (ABSBR). The ABSBR is sourced from the Australian Business Register (ABR) which is administered and maintained by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

7 For agricultural businesses, a minimum size cut-off of \$5,000 was applied to determine whether a business was in-scope for the WUS. The measure of size was based on the ABS' Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) where available; or where it was not available, a Business Activity Statement (BAS) turnover size was derived.

8 The coverage of the WUS (both annual and monthly) included animal feedlot operators and manufacturing businesses using wheat grain. The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06) was used to identify these businesses on the ABSBR, and the following ANZSIC06 codes were used:

- Animal feedlot operators
 - 0143 – beef cattle feedlots (specialised)
 - 0171 – poultry farming (meat)
 - 0172 – poultry farming (eggs)
 - 0192 – pig farming
- Manufacturers using wheat grain
 - 1161 – grain mill product manufacturing
 - 1162 – cereal, pasta and baking mix manufacturing
 - 1192 – prepared animal and bird feed manufacturing
 - 1812 – basic organic chemical manufacturing

9 Additionally, businesses reporting beef cattle feedlot activity in the 2005-06 Agricultural Census or 2006-07 Agricultural Survey were included in the coverage for the WUS.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

continued

10 Data compiled from the WUS exclude on-farm storage and use, apart from animal feedlot operators and manufacturing businesses as defined above. Coverage of agricultural businesses is expected to be expanded during 2009 and will provide additional information about on-farm storage and use.

11 The coverage of the Wheat Export Sales Survey (WESS) included businesses reporting wheat grain exports on documentation lodged with the Australian Customs Service and units on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Wheat Export Charge (WEC) levy register.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

12 Sample sizes for both the Grain (Wheat) Handlers Stocks Survey and Wheat Export Sales Survey were smaller than the sample size for the Wheat Use Survey, with the major grain handlers and approximately 50 major wheat exporters being surveyed.

13 The wheat surveys had a high level of response. The Wheat Use Survey had a response rate of 95% and the Wheat Export Sales Survey had a response rate of 97% for February 2009.

14 Some of the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from samples drawn from the total business population in scope of these collections. As such, estimates are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all businesses had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might vary by chance because only a sample was taken. There are about two chances in three that a 'sample' estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all businesses had responded, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

15 In this publication, 'sampling' variability of the estimates is measured by the relative standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers.

16 Most published national estimates have RSEs of less than 10%. However some state estimates have RSEs greater than 10%. Estimates that have an estimated RSE between 10% and 25% are annotated with the symbol '^'. These estimates should be used with caution as they are subject to sampling variability too high for some purposes. Estimates with an RSE between 25% and 50% are annotated with the symbol '*', indicating that the estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. Estimates with an RSE greater than 50% are annotated with the symbol '**' indicating that the sampling variability causes the estimates to be considered too unreliable for general use. Separate indication of the RSEs of all estimates is available on request.

GENERAL

17 Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

18 Not all data from these surveys are published here. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

19 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- 20** Additional information relating to grain stocks, including quality, is published in:
- *Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders, Australia*, cat. no. 7122.0.55.001.
- 21** A range of other publications relevant to the Agriculture sector are produced by the ABS, including:
- *Agricultural Commodities, Australia*, cat. no. 7121.0
 - *Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary*, cat. no. 7111.0
 - *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced Australia*, cat. no. 7503.0
 - *Water Use on Australian Farms*, cat. no. 4618.0
 - *Agricultural Survey, Apples and Pears, Australia*, cat. no. 7121.0.55.002
 - *Vineyards Estimates, Australia*, cat. no. 1329.0.55.002
 - *Australian Wine and Grape Industry*, cat. no. 1329.0
 - *Livestock and Meat, Australia*, cat. no. 7218.0.55.001
 - *Livestock Products, Australia*, cat. no. 7215.0
- 22** Detailed merchandise exports data are available by contacting the National Information and Referral Service. Value and quantity data can be produced according to a number of commodity classifications, with information available by state/territory of origin, and country of destination.
- 23** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed under the Statistics and Themes pages on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABBREVIATIONS

'000 t	thousand tonnes
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
AS	Agricultural Survey
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
Aust.	Australia
cat. no.	Catalogue number
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

GLOSSARY

Wheat grain users	Users include beef cattle feedlots, poultry, and pig producers and manufacturers using wheat grain. (For more information refer to paragraph 7 in the Explanatory Notes).
Wheat grain used	<p>For the <i>export</i> sector, 'used' means wheat exported from the country. It is assumed that wheat grain, once exported, cannot be re-imported without breaching quarantine rules and so is 'used' once it leaves the country.</p> <p>For the <i>domestic</i> sector, 'used' means consumed by end users, whether they be flour millers, feedlotters, etc. In this context, 'used' means wheat grain no longer available in its harvested form for other users to buy or use i.e. it has been transformed (e.g. to flour) or consumed (e.g. fed to animals).</p>
Wheat grain committed	<p>For the <i>export</i> sector 'committed' means there is a contract in place for the export of wheat grain.</p> <p>For the <i>domestic</i> sector 'committed' means a contract is in place to procure wheat grain for domestic use and/or processing. It does not mean an intention to acquire wheat grain over the remainder of the year. It is acknowledged that this may fluctuate as contracts are cancelled, but is a 'point in time' estimate. It relates to contracts held by end users of wheat grain, not intermediaries.</p>
Wheat grade	Wheat grain is graded by quality to determine whether it is suitable for human or animal consumption. The wheat grain classification in Wheat Use and Stocks (7307.0) are milling and feed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

INTERNET **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

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Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

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