



WHEAT USE AND STOCKS, AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 10 MAR 2011

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of Findings	4
List of Tables	6

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Abbreviations	3
Explanatory notes	13
Glossary	16

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

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
February 2011	7 April 2011
March 2011	16 May 2011
April 2011	10 June 2011



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication provides monthly estimates of stocks and use for wheat, and quarterly estimates for barley as well as selected other grains and pulses 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. Estimates from the surveys are combined with export trade data to provide monthly estimates of the volume of wheat grain stored, used, or committed for use.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) uses these data to compile a monthly report on the Australian wheat industry. The current scope and coverage of the collections is understood to account for the majority of Australia's grain stored, used and committed.

For more information on stocks of grain held by bulk grain handlers, including barley and selected other grains, see *Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders, Australia* (cat. no. 7122.0.55.001).

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 Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre, Australian Bureau of Statistics, GPO Box 66, Hobart TAS 7001. Alternatively, email <agriculture.statistics@abs.gov.au> or phone (03) 6222 5939.

Further information may be obtained by emailing <agriculture.statistics@abs.gov.au> or by calling (03) 6222 5909.

EFFECT OF FLOODS ON FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

Extensive flooding began in late December 2010 in Queensland and was more extensive in both Queensland and other states in January 2011. The impact of these floods and those in other states, has begun to be reflected in this January 2011 release. The floods have caused harvesting delays and crop damage in many areas. The effect is that the typical cycle for wheat stored (minimum around October and maximum around December) appears to have been delayed by one or two months. Further information will be provided in subsequent releases of this publication.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

ABBREVIATIONS

'000 t	thousand tonnes
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSBR	Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
AS	Agricultural Survey
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
Aust.	Australia
BAS	Business Activity Statement
cat. no.	Catalogue number
DAFF	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

WHEAT GRAIN STORED

Total wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers, growers and users at the end of January 2011 was 24.7million tonnes.

Wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers at the end of January 2011 was 22.2 million tonnes, of which 12.5 million tonnes (56%) was graded for milling and 9.7 million tonnes (44%) graded for feed.

Wheat grain growers and users stored 2.5 million tonnes of wheat grain at the end of January 2011, which was an increase of 420 thousand tonnes (20%) from December 2010, but due to the wet weather and flooding was 620 thousand tonnes (19%) below the level of this time last year.

WHEAT GRAIN USED

The estimate of wheat grain used in January 2011 was 2.2 million tonnes. Wheat grain exports increased by 41% to 1.8 million tonnes, while domestic use increased by 1% to 471 thousand tonnes.

WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED

In January 2011, wheat grain committed for domestic use or export increased to 7.1 million tonnes, a 10% increase from December 2010 and an increase of 43% from January 2010.

Of the total wheat grain committed, 5.5 million tonnes were contracted for export. In January 2011, all states reported increased export commitments from December 2010. South Australia showed the largest increase with 500 thousand tonnes (51%), up to 1.5 million tonnes.

Compared to December 2010, wheat grain committed for domestic use rose by 1% to 1.6 million tonnes in January 2011. This almost matches the comparative total of 1.7 million tonnes from January 2010.

LIST OF TABLES

page

WHEAT USE AND STOCKS

1	Stocks of wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers, at month end	7
2	Stocks of wheat grain stored by growers and users, at month end	8
3	Wheat grain used	10
4	Wheat grain committed, at month end	12

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

	WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY STATE						WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY GRADE(a)	
	NSW(b)	Vic.(c)	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.	Milling	Feed
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
2009–10(d)								
January	3 856	1 734	1 044	3 789	6 621	17 044	14 642	2 402
February	3 345	1 624	1 006	3 644	5 945	15 564	13 424	2 140
March	2 951	1 450	940	3 475	5 252	14 068	12 133	1 935
April	2 667	1 301	821	3 178	4 803	12 770	11 043	1 727
May	2 238	1 137	694	2 895	4 186	11 150	9 729	1 421
June	1 997	986	608	2 566	3 727	9 884	8 642	1 242
July	1 451	678	457	2 177	3 137	7 900	7 025	875
August	1 351	603	397	1 723	2 613	6 687	5 938	749
September(d)	972	487	320	1 393	1 943	5 115	4 530	585
2010–11(d)								
October	567	300	193	898	1 482	3 440	3 066	374
November	2 687	218	1 105	906	3 534	8 450	6 316	2 134
December	5 974	2 048	1 217	4 044	4 927	18 210	11 308	6 902
January	7 825	3 426	1 150	5 415	4 346	22 162	12 468	9 694

(a) Wheat grain is graded by quality.

(b) Includes ACT.

(c) Includes Tas.

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

STOCKS OF WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY GROWERS AND USERS(a)(b), at month end

	NSW(c)	Vic. (d)	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
TOTAL (e)						
2009-10(f)						
January	^ 1 183.3	^ 522.8	*500.3	^ 437.8	^ 472.0	3 116.3
February	^ 1 053.6	^ 531.9	*392.8	^ 314.8	^ 461.7	2 754.9
March	^ 932.3	^ 405.7	^ 315.2	^ 249.8	^ 410.6	2 313.6
April	^ 816.4	^ 289.6	^ 264.7	^ 218.9	^ 395.5	1 985.1
May	^ 735.3	^ 216.2	^ 246.9	^ 190.0	^ 214.8	1 603.2
June	^ 609.6	^ 172.9	^ 176.6	^ 153.4	*175.5	^ 1 288.0
July	^ 484.3	^ 148.0	^ 154.4	^ 121.0	*145.7	^ 1 053.3
August	^ 406.1	^ 113.7	*116.8	^ 115.7	^ 92.5	^ 844.9
September(f)	^ 304.7	^ 97.2	*91.0	^ 102.0	^ 87.7	682.7
2010-11(f)						
October	^ 160.6	^ 92.9	^ 77.4	83.0	*111.1	524.9
November	^ 616.7	^ 72.8	**363.4	*181.5	^ 350.9	^ 1 585.2
December	^ 928.6	^ 211.6	*275.6	*256.8	^ 403.0	^ 2 075.7
January	^ 1 140.8	^ 342.2	*271.8	^ 275.5	^ 465.8	2 496.2
GROWERS (e)						
2009-10(f)						
January	na	na	na	na	na	na
February	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	na	na	na	na	na	na
April	^ 537.1	*188.5	*162.1	^ 125.8	^ 351.6	^ 1 365.1
May	^ 472.8	*121.2	*141.6	*98.8	*181.5	^ 1 015.9
June	*360.9	*85.8	*96.1	*65.1	*147.8	^ 755.8
July	*268.3	*69.9	*75.0	**35.0	*120.1	^ 568.3
August	*219.4	*51.2	**57.4	**30.4	*71.1	^ 429.5
September(f)	*136.3	*41.1	**38.8	**22.5	*63.4	^ 302.1
2010-11(f)						
October	*56.8	*38.5	**13.1	*3.8	*81.7	^ 193.9
November	*419.8	**27.4	**274.9	**97.1	*290.5	^ 1 109.8
December	^ 570.1	*141.3	**220.2	*156.7	^ 352.8	^ 1 441.1
January	^ 723.4	*250.0	**189.9	*162.0	^ 404.3	^ 1 729.5

^ 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

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

na not available

(a) Not all users of wheat grain are included. For more information on scope and coverage, refer to the Explanatory Notes.

(b) From April 2010, stocks of wheat grain stored by users has been split to show sub-totals for Growers and Users. See Explanatory Notes for further information.

(c) Includes ACT.

(d) Includes Tas.

(e) From December 2009, the scope and coverage of the Wheat Use Survey were expanded. As a result, data collected prior to the December 2009 reference period are not directly comparable with data collected from December 2009 onwards. Refer to the Explanatory Notes for more information.

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

	NSW(c)	Vic.(d)	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
USERS (e)						
2009–10(f)						
January	na	na	na	na	na	na
February	na	na	na	na	na	na
March	na	na	na	na	na	na
April	^ 279.3	101.1	^ 102.6	93.1	43.9	620.0
May	262.5	95.1	^ 105.3	91.2	33.3	587.4
June	248.7	87.1	80.5	88.3	27.7	532.2
July	216.0	78.0	79.4	86.0	25.6	485.0
August	186.7	62.5	59.4	85.3	*21.4	415.4
September(f)	168.4	56.1	^ 52.2	79.6	24.3	380.6
2010–11(f)						
October	103.8	54.4	^ 64.3	79.1	*29.4	331.0
November	*196.8	45.4	88.5	84.4	^ 60.3	^ 475.5
December	^ 358.6	^ 70.4	^ 55.4	100.1	^ 50.2	^ 634.6
January	417.4	^ 92.3	^ 81.9	113.6	^ 61.5	766.7

^ 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

na not available

(a) Not all users of wheat grain are included. For more information on scope and coverage, refer to the Explanatory Notes.

(b) From April 2010, stocks of wheat grain stored by users has been split to show sub-totals for Growers and Users. See Explanatory Notes for further information.

(c) Includes ACT.

(d) Includes Tas.

(e) From December 2009, the scope and coverage of the Wheat Use Survey were expanded. As a result, data collected prior to the December 2009 reference period are not directly comparable with data collected from December 2009 onwards. Refer to the Explanatory Notes for more information.

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

WHEAT GRAIN USED (a)

	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
EXPORTS							
2009–10(c)							
January	212.4	110.8	67.1	200.0	795.2	—	1 385.5
February	297.0	151.9	38.1	132.0	607.5	—	1 226.4
March	237.1	251.1	68.0	163.5	727.7	—	1 447.3
April	106.1	167.8	87.4	218.7	472.0	—	1 051.9
May	207.3	185.7	111.0	323.1	637.1	—	1 464.2
June	150.1	150.8	82.2	301.6	453.4	—	1 138.1
July	286.2	239.6	111.3	386.6	581.4	—	1 605.0
August	r143.4	187.9	83.3	462.7	506.7	—	r1 384.0
September(c)	191.9	73.8	82.8	345.5	658.8	—	1 352.9
2010–11(c)							
October	r193.3	249.2	108.6	524.5	565.8	—	r1 641.3
November	98.6	113.5	70.2	219.5	412.4	—	914.2
December	r275.4	r78.8	r119.4	r436.5	r335.4	—	r1 245.5
January	302.0	199.7	146.0	524.7	582.1	—	1 754.5
DOMESTIC USE (d)							
2009–10(c)							
January	220.6	^126.0	^97.0	35.2	38.1	^7.8	524.8
February	220.4	112.7	^91.4	39.4	42.2	^4.6	510.6
March	213.0	113.9	82.6	42.6	39.7	^4.7	496.5
April	197.0	106.0	84.6	41.9	37.5	^4.9	472.0
May	196.9	108.8	86.3	44.2	40.9	^5.1	482.3
June	210.4	100.1	84.7	42.9	40.5	^5.4	484.0
July	209.5	108.0	81.1	43.3	41.6	^5.1	488.6
August	207.7	109.9	^71.9	44.2	40.3	^4.8	478.8
September(c)	197.2	123.1	71.4	40.7	38.4	^5.2	476.1
2010–11(c)							
October	203.8	113.4	71.5	39.9	42.5	^5.4	476.5
November	188.8	111.7	72.7	39.8	48.1	^5.3	466.3
December	184.2	113.4	73.7	39.5	^47.8	^5.4	464.2
January	189.8	126.0	64.2	37.8	47.4	^5.4	470.6

^ 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) Not all users of wheat grain are included. For further information on scope and coverage, refer to the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes ACT.

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

(d) From December 2009, the scope and coverage of the Wheat Use Survey were expanded. As a result, data collected prior to the December 2009 reference period are not directly comparable with data collected from December 2009 onwards. Refer to the Explanatory Notes for more information.

WHEAT GRAIN USED (a) *continued*

	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
TOTAL (c)							
2009–10(d)							
January	433.1	236.8	164.1	235.3	833.3	^ 7.8	1 910.3
February	517.3	264.6	^ 129.4	171.3	649.7	^ 4.6	1 737.0
March	450.1	364.9	150.6	206.1	767.4	^ 4.7	1 943.8
April	303.0	273.8	172.0	260.6	509.5	^ 4.9	1 523.9
May	404.2	294.5	197.3	367.3	678.0	^ 5.1	1 946.4
June	360.5	250.9	166.9	344.5	493.9	^ 5.4	1 622.2
July	495.6	347.6	192.4	429.9	623.0	^ 5.1	2 093.6
August	r351.1	297.8	155.2	506.9	547.0	^ 4.8	r1 862.8
September(d)	389.1	196.9	154.2	386.3	697.2	^ 5.2	1 829.0
2010–11(d)							
October	r397.1	362.5	180.1	564.4	608.3	^ 5.4	r2 117.8
November	287.5	225.2	142.8	259.3	460.5	^ 5.3	1 380.5
December	r459.6	r192.2	r193.1	r476.0	r383.3	^ r5.4	r1 709.7
January	491.8	325.7	210.3	562.5	629.5	^ 5.4	2 225.1

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

r revised

- (a) Not all users of wheat grain are included. For further information on scope and coverage, refer to the Explanatory Notes.
- (b) Includes ACT.
- (c) From December 2009, the scope and coverage of the Wheat Use Survey were expanded. As a result, data collected prior to the December 2009 reference period are not directly comparable with data collected from December 2009 onwards. Refer to the Explanatory Notes for more information.
- (d) The end of September is used to represent the closing stocks of wheat grain prior to the commencement of the next harvest period (October to September).

WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED(a), at month end

	CONTRACTED FOR EXPORT, BY STATE OF ORIGIN(b)						CONTRACTED FOR DOMESTIC USE	TOTAL COMMITTED
	NSW(c)	Vic. (d)	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.	Aust.	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
2009-10(e)								
January	535.9	393.1	247.8	439.6	1 666.8	3 283.1	1 664.4	4 947.5
February	647.5	362.6	232.8	361.9	1 884.4	3 489.1	1 417.2	4 906.2
March	653.7	493.1	227.7	425.9	1 925.1	3 725.5	1 357.2	5 082.7
April	445.3	481.1	330.4	564.1	1 665.8	3 486.7	1 219.1	4 705.8
May	604.0	659.3	361.5	616.5	1 731.4	3 972.7	1 078.0	5 050.7
June	606.5	522.0	316.0	731.6	1 694.8	3 870.9	983.0	4 853.9
July	481.3	372.1	243.8	847.8	1 694.3	3 639.4	780.8	4 420.2
August	808.8	447.8	327.4	842.6	1 629.5	4 056.1	698.5	4 754.6
September(e)	944.9	610.3	328.6	919.0	1 475.0	4 277.7	591.3	4 869.1
2010-11(e)								
October	916.0	567.5	291.1	1 106.9	1 104.0	3 985.5	1 098.0	5 083.4
November	1 170.4	736.1	540.0	1 235.7	1 236.1	4 918.2	1 310.8	6 229.0
December	1 096.4	1 037.0	338.6	984.9	1 424.9	4 881.7	1 530.6	6 412.3
January	1 203.2	1 050.5	362.1	1 485.5	1 428.2	5 529.6	1 552.3	7 081.9

(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.

(d) Includes Tas.

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

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 and Sciences (ABARES) uses the data in this publication to prepare a monthly report on the Australian wheat industry. This information informs 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 in the Wheat Use Coverage Survey (WUSC) conducted in late 2008. 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.

3 Approximately 3,000 businesses were surveyed in a second Wheat Use Coverage Survey (WUSC) conducted in late 2009. The sample was largely comprised of dairy operators and wheat growers.

4 Commencing with the December 2009 reference period, monthly Wheat Use Surveys (WUS) are based on a sample of approximately 1,000 businesses using the combined coverage derived from the Wheat Use Coverage Surveys (WUSC).

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

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

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

7 The coverage of the Grain (Wheat) Handlers Stocks Survey (GHSS) was all major bulk grain handlers. The GHSS was previously conducted on a quarterly basis, but from March 2009 the GHSS has been conducted and data published on a monthly basis.

8 Commencing with the December 2009 reference period, the scope of the Wheat Use Survey (WUS) was agricultural businesses, manufacturing businesses, dairy operators and wheat growers either using or storing wheat grain, that were 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).

9 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.

10 The coverage of the WUS included animal feedlot operators, dairy operators, manufacturing businesses using or storing wheat grain, and wheat growing businesses. 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
- Dairy operators
 - 0160 - dairy cattle farming

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

continued

- 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
- Wheat growing businesses
 - 0145 - Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming
 - 0149 - Other Grain Growing

11 From April 2010, the total stocks of wheat grain stored by users has been split to show sub-totals for both Growers (wheat growing businesses) and Users (animal feedlot operators, dairy operators and manufacturers). Refer to the paragraph above for the relevant ANZSIC codes. Sub-totals for months prior to April 2010 are not available.

12 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. From December 2009, the scope was expanded to include dairy operators and also agricultural businesses reporting wheat production in the 2008-09 Agricultural Survey.

13 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.

COMPARABILITY

14 Prior to the December 2009 reference period, data compiled from the WUS excluded on-farm storage and use, apart from animal feedlot operators and manufacturing businesses as previously defined. Commencing with the December 2009 reference period, the coverage of the WUS was expanded to include on-farm storage and use, and the scope expanded to include wheat growers and the dairy sector. As a result, wheat grain stocks and use data for wheat users for periods prior to December 2009 are not directly comparable with data collected from December 2009 onwards.

BARLEY AND OTHER GRAINS

15 Previously, estimates of stocks and use of barley and selected other grains and pulses have been reported on a quarterly basis in data cubes attached to the web version of this publication. As a result of an ongoing review of the various associated collections and changing data needs amongst key clients, collection of these data will cease.

16 Commencing from September 2010, this publication will include data on stocks of barley and selected other grains and pulses only. Updated estimates of stocks of barley and selected other grains and pulses will be provided in the March 2011 edition of this publication. Data on use of barley and selected other grains and pulses are no longer collected. The publication of monthly data on wheat stocks, use and commitments will continue unchanged.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

17 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.

18 A minimum response rate of at least 90% is generally achieved for the monthly wheat collections.

19 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

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

continued

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.

20 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.

21 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.

ROUNDING

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

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

23 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

24 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*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

25 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).

26 A range of other publications relevant to the Agriculture sector is 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)
- *Livestock and Meat, Australia* (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)
- *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0)
- *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0)

27 Detailed merchandise exports data are available by contacting the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070. 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.

28 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed under the *Topics @ a Glance* 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.

GLOSSARY

Harvest	The collection of grain once it has reached optimal maturity. The wheat grain harvest in Australia typically occurs from October through to December each year.
Wheat grade	Wheat grain is graded by quality to determine if it is suitable for human or animal consumption. The wheat grain classifications in <i>Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia</i> (cat. no. 7307.0) are milling and feed.
Wheat grain committed	<p>For the export sector 'committed' means there is a contract in place for the export of wheat grain.</p> <p>For the domestic 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 grain growers	Growers refers to wheat growing businesses. For more information, refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Wheat grain used	<p>For the export 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 domestic sector, 'used' means consumed by end users, whether they be flour millers, feedlots, 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 users	Users include beef cattle feedlots, poultry, and pig producers, dairy operators and manufacturers using or storing wheat grain. For more information, refer to the Explanatory Notes.

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.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

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.

PHONE 1300 135 070

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au

FAX 1300 135 211

POST Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

WEB ADDRESS www.abs.gov.au