



SEPTEMBER 2011

7307.0

WHEAT USE AND STOCKS, AUSTRALIA

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

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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

October 2011

7 December 2011

November 2011

12 January 2012

December 2011

9 February 2012

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication provides monthly estimates of stocks and use for wheat grain 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, 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.

IN THIS AND FORTHCOMING ISSUES

This issue of *Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia* (cat. no. 7307.0) is the last in its current format. From the October 2011 issue, the data will be presented in line with changing user needs and expectations. The PDF publication will no longer be produced, and will be replaced with enhanced on-line content, in an e-magazine style. Data produced will refer mainly to stocks of wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers and exports data. All data collected will also be available in downloadable data cubes. The name of the publication will also change to *Wheat Stocks and Exports, Australia* (cat. no. 7307.0). It is expected that more improvements will be made in the future to further enhance the relevance, accessibility and timeliness of the 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
GHSS	Grain Handlers Stocks Survey
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 September 2011 was 9.0 million tonnes.

Wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers at the end of September 2011 was 8.3 million tonnes, of which 4.2 million tonnes (51%) was graded for milling and 4.0 million tonnes (49%) graded for feed.

Wheat grain growers and users stored 721 thousand tonnes of wheat grain at the end of September 2011, which was a decrease of 157 thousand tonnes from August 2011. Despite the poor harvest conditions, this year's total was 38 thousand tonnes more than in September 2010.

WHEAT GRAIN USED

The estimate of wheat grain used in September 2011 increased by 142 thousand tonnes to 2.1 million tonnes from August 2011. Wheat grain exports also increased, to 1.5 million tonnes. Domestic use rose by 6% to 564 thousand tonnes from August 2011.

WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED

In September 2011, wheat grain committed for domestic use or export fell to 4.7 million tonnes, a decrease of 166 thousand tonnes from August 2011. This was also a decrease of 136 thousand tonnes compared to September 2010.

Of the total wheat grain committed, the amount contracted for export fell slightly to 3.6 million tonnes. In September 2011, only two states reported increases in export commitments with New South Wales up by 28 thousand tonnes and Victoria up by 114 thousand tonnes. As in August 2011, South Australia and Western Australia again had the highest total commitments, with 841 thousand tonnes and 1.1 million tonnes respectively in September 2011.

Compared to August 2011, wheat grain committed for domestic use decreased by 38 thousand tonnes to 1.1 million tonnes in September 2011. This compares to a total of 591 thousand tonnes in September 2010.

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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)								
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
February	7 010	3 343	1 066	5 105	3 847	20 371	11 551	8 820
March	6 661	3 085	929	4 589	3 476	18 740	10 280	8 460
April	6 169	3 162	838	4 229	2 909	17 307	9 487	7 820
May	5 509	2 912	772	3 747	2 355	15 295	8 354	6 941
June	4 935	2 556	578	3 235	2 061	13 365	7 254	6 111
July	4 455	2 188	420	2 722	1 662	11 447	6 093	5 354
August	3 809	1 947	322	2 371	1 345	9 794	5 097	4 697
September	3 391	1 650	292	1 822	1 097	8 252	4 227	4 025

(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
GROWERS (e)						
2009–10(f)						
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
February	^ 885.1	*482.2	**154.4	^ 212.6	^ 328.6	^ 2 062.9
March	*846.8	*428.0	**83.5	*117.1	^ 285.8	^ 1 761.1
April	*805.8	*370.5	**55.9	*133.2	^ 301.5	^ 1 667.0
May	*639.6	*378.7	**46.1	*69.7	*146.5	*1 280.6
June	*344.9	*269.7	**47.5	**23.9	*61.5	^ 747.5
July	*308.1	*174.3	**49.2	*32.4	*32.2	*596.3
August	*223.1	*160.9	**32.9	*37.2	*29.6	^ 483.8
September	^ 130.6	*92.5	**32.4	*36.7	*32.4	^ 324.5
USERS (e)						
2009–10(f)						
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
February	416.5	^ 100.5	^ 81.1	108.0	86.5	792.7
March	^ 449.5	106.7	^ 97.6	90.8	54.9	799.6
April	^ 386.6	78.7	^ 80.2	84.0	27.6	657.1
May	^ 369.1	^ 83.6	44.9	69.6	23.6	590.7
June	^ 323.9	^ 96.3	^ 46.4	82.8	17.3	566.6
July	^ 304.2	^ 76.5	53.6	71.0	18.5	523.8
August	^ 184.6	^ 69.7	50.1	68.9	20.7	394.0
September	^ 187.9	^ 62.4	48.3	77.5	20.1	396.3

^ 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

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

(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).

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

	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)						
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
February	^ 1 301.7	*582.7	*235.5	^ 320.6	^ 415.0	^ 2 855.6
March	*1 296.3	^ 534.7	^ 181.1	^ 207.9	^ 340.6	^ 2 560.7
April	*1 192.4	*449.2	*136.1	^ 217.3	^ 329.1	^ 2 324.1
May	*1 008.6	*462.3	*90.9	^ 139.3	*170.1	^ 1 871.3
June	^ 668.8	^ 365.9	*93.9	^ 106.7	*78.8	^ 1 314.1
July	^ 612.3	^ 250.8	*102.8	^ 103.5	^ 50.8	^ 1 120.1
August	^ 407.7	^ 230.6	*83.1	^ 106.1	^ 50.3	^ 877.7
September	^ 318.5	^ 154.9	*80.7	^ 114.2	^ 52.5	720.8

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(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)							
September(c)	191.9	73.8	82.8	345.5	658.8	—	1 352.9
2010–11(c)							
October	193.3	249.2	108.6	524.5	562.3	—	1 637.8
November	101.1	109.6	70.2	219.5	412.4	—	912.8
December	275.4	78.8	120.4	436.5	335.4	—	1 246.4
January	300.7	211.6	146.0	527.4	569.6	—	1 755.3
February	478.2	265.1	62.4	481.8	549.1	—	1 836.6
March	293.9	294.3	124.9	508.1	457.0	—	1 678.2
April	383.2	195.7	138.8	457.8	514.1	—	1 689.6
May	377.4	334.1	87.6	560.5	467.6	—	1 827.4
June	241.6	279.7	127.3	502.2	287.2	—	1 438.0
July	336.0	289.3	102.6	r536.2	405.4	—	r1 669.5
August	r350.7	r310.7	75.1	341.0	305.9	—	r1 383.4
September	234.0	425.7	58.1	539.0	235.0	—	1 491.8
DOMESTIC USE (d)							
2009–10(c)							
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
February	212.0	122.7	67.7	37.6	52.2	^ 5.0	497.1
March	213.3	135.8	^ 67.8	45.6	47.5	^ 5.1	515.1
April	216.9	126.1	80.1	^ 53.5	49.1	^ 5.7	531.5
May	259.5	^ 149.5	^ 65.9	^ 104.2	^ 165.1	3.7	747.9
June	218.1	145.0	62.1	55.1	^ 110.6	^ 4.6	595.4
July	209.9	134.1	58.5	55.2	^ 47.6	3.7	509.2
August	226.9	145.8	56.2	52.4	^ 44.5	^ 5.0	530.7
September	240.6	167.6	^ 57.8	^ 54.1	37.3	*6.3	563.8

^ 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) 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)							
September(d)	389.1	196.9	154.2	386.3	697.2	^ 5.2	1 829.0
2010–11(d)							
October	397.1	362.5	180.1	564.4	604.8	^ 5.4	2 114.3
November	290.0	221.2	142.8	259.3	460.5	^ 5.3	1 379.1
December	459.6	192.2	194.2	476.0	383.2	^ 5.4	1 710.6
January	490.5	337.6	210.2	565.2	617.0	^ 5.4	2 225.9
February	690.2	387.8	130.1	519.3	601.3	^ 5.0	2 333.6
March	507.2	430.2	192.6	553.7	504.5	^ 5.1	2 193.3
April	600.2	321.8	218.9	511.3	563.2	^ 5.7	2 221.1
May	636.9	483.5	153.5	664.7	632.7	3.7	2 575.3
June	459.6	424.7	189.4	557.3	397.8	^ 4.6	2 033.4
July	545.9	423.4	161.2	r591.4	453.1	3.7	r2 178.7
August	r577.6	r456.5	131.3	393.4	350.3	^ 5.0	r1 914.1
September	474.7	593.3	115.9	593.1	272.3	*6.3	2 055.7

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* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% 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)								
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
February	1 162.1	1 291.3	436.8	1 499.4	1 941.2	6 330.8	1 342.6	7 673.4
March	913.0	976.9	380.7	1 655.3	1 642.8	5 568.7	1 332.8	6 901.4
April	701.3	970.7	450.7	1 630.1	1 720.7	5 473.4	1 267.0	6 740.4
May	617.9	780.0	379.8	1 321.0	1 005.8	4 104.4	^ 1 226.6	^ 5 331.0
June	621.3	847.2	277.4	1 297.6	946.8	3 990.3	1 009.2	4 999.5
July	613.7	720.4	190.6	1 099.9	1 046.9	3 671.5	990.6	4 662.1
August	551.5	634.2	360.3	1 012.0	1 173.4	3 731.5	1 168.2	4 899.6
September	579.2	748.1	358.1	840.8	1 076.9	3 603.2	1 130.2	4 733.4

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

(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 has now ceased.

16 The final updated estimates of stocks of barley and selected other grains and pulses for March 2011 were provided in the March 2011 edition of this publication.

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 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

continued

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, 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 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.

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