



# **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

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
January 2010	5 March 2010
February 2010	7 April 2010
March 2010	7 May 2010
April 2010	7 June 2010
May 2010	7 July 2010

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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication provides monthly estimates of stocks and use for wheat, and quarterly estimates for barley and 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 (ABARE) 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 5846.

## CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

To further increase the coverage of the collections, the scope has been expanded from the December 2009 reference period to account for a wider range of agricultural businesses (wheat growers and the dairy sector). As a result, stocks and use data for wheat users collected prior to the December 2009 reference period are not directly comparable with data collected from December 2009 onwards. Data are expected to be comparable over future collection cycles.

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### WHEAT GRAIN STORED

Total wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers and users at the end of December 2009 was 22.8 million tonnes.

At the end of December 2009, the amount of wheat grain stored by bulk grain handlers was 17.8 million tonnes, of which 15.3 million tonnes (86%) was graded for milling and 2.4 million tonnes (14%) graded for feed.

Wheat grain users stored 5.1 million tonnes of wheat grain in December 2009, with New South Wales and South Australia accounting for over half of the wheat grain stored.

### WHEAT GRAIN USED

The estimate of wheat grain used in December 2009 was 1.6 million tonnes.

Wheat grain exports were 1.1 million tonnes, while domestic usage was 556 thousand tonnes.

### WHEAT GRAIN COMMITTED

In December 2009, 3.2 million tonnes of wheat grain was committed for domestic use or export, an increase of 291 thousand tonnes from November 2009.

Of the total committed, 1.7 million tonnes was contracted for export and 1.5 million tonnes for domestic use. Increased commitments for export were reported in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Compared to December 2008, the total wheat grain contracted for export was 17% lower, and that contracted for domestic use showed a 15% increase.

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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
<b>2008</b>								
December	4 492	556	1 611	1 704	6 127	14 490	12 310	2 180
<b>2009</b>								
March(d)	3 685	466	1 327	1 151	4 838	11 467	8 918	2 549
April	3 412	447	1 286	879	4 084	10 108	7 799	2 309
May	3 036	378	1 139	671	3 502	8 726	6 778	1 948
June	2 548	302	973	519	2 656	6 998	5 416	1 582
July	2 108	260	874	511	2 065	5 818	4 503	1 315
August	1 730	168	690	362	1 544	4 494	3 452	1 042
September(e)	1 232	110	531	297	1 251	3 421	2 645	776
October	1 470	71	1 005	256	922	3 724	3 027	697
November	4 066	337	1 217	1 716	2 697	10 033	8 590	1 443
December	4 171	1 535	1 135	3 788	7 137	17 766	15 338	2 428

(a) Wheat grain is graded by quality

(b) Includes ACT.

(c) Includes Tas.

(d) From March 2009, the Grain Handlers Stock Survey (GHSS) has been conducted on a monthly basis. Refer to the Explanatory Notes.

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

## STOCKS OF WHEAT GRAIN STORED BY USERS(a), at month end

	NSW(b)	Vic. (c)	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
<b>2008</b>						
December	277.4	70.8	99.1	31.7	^ 32.9	511.9
<b>2009</b>						
January	^ 270.6	95.0	*109.7	^ 73.1	^ 80.3	^ 628.8
February	^ 289.6	101.9	^ 114.3	^ 65.0	^ 59.5	630.3
March	^ 286.3	98.5	^ 125.5	^ 50.2	^ 42.1	602.6
April	^ 249.6	97.1	^ 102.9	^ 54.2	^ 36.1	539.8
May	^ 241.0	95.6	^ 86.9	46.4	^ 27.0	496.9
June	^ 209.5	88.9	^ 81.9	43.5	24.1	447.8
July	^ 198.5	81.8	^ 63.2	50.8	18.5	412.8
August	160.7	74.4	^ 64.1	58.8	20.0	377.9
September (d)	124.1	63.8	^ 57.0	55.6	16.5	317.1
October	143.4	51.7	^ 83.2	53.4	19.4	351.1
November	^ 299.5	36.7	^ 121.8	65.4	69.5	592.8
December (e)	^ 1 677.9	^ 846.5	^ 628.1	^ 1 135.7	*768.3	^ 5 056.5

^ 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

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

(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 next harvest period.

(e) From December 2009, the scope and coverage of the Wheat Use Survey was 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), at month end

	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t	'000 t
EXPORTS							
<b>2008</b>							
December	94.5	94.8	76.6	271.0	622.7	—	1 159.5
<b>2009</b>							
January	228.1	44.9	92.9	132.7	764.0	—	1 262.7
February	268.7	58.4	82.2	229.2	669.5	—	1 308.0
March	323.6	195.0	164.1	268.6	1 044.3	—	1 995.5
April	378.1	120.8	105.0	235.6	778.4	—	1 618.1
May	213.1	68.2	184.2	230.3	598.2	—	1 294.1
June	473.2	88.8	145.3	140.6	792.6	—	1 640.5
July	r283.1	59.7	103.2	28.6	574.4	—	r1 049.0
August	310.4	98.3	201.0	139.0	492.9	—	1 241.5
September(c)	r333.7	63.6	206.2	40.6	312.2	—	r956.3
October	89.2	45.9	143.9	81.6	400.7	—	761.4
November	r120.9	r60.7	r43.6	r64.4	r477.5	—	r767.2
December	182.0	83.5	88.6	105.9	633.9	—	1 093.9
DOMESTIC USE(d)							
<b>2008</b>							
December	194.7	103.6	45.1	35.4	31.8	4.2	414.7
<b>2009</b>							
January	192.8	102.5	46.7	42.1	32.8	4.0	420.9
February	168.0	86.8	48.1	37.9	39.7	3.3	383.8
March	174.3	92.5	54.2	38.6	31.8	3.3	394.6
April	172.1	86.1	60.0	37.8	29.1	3.6	388.7
May	175.5	83.2	54.1	45.0	33.0	2.7	393.3
June	171.8	91.0	57.1	37.2	30.6	2.6	390.5
July	167.8	83.0	53.3	36.2	25.4	2.9	368.6
August	168.7	84.5	60.0	37.6	23.2	2.7	376.9
September(c)	183.1	89.4	67.5	35.7	21.7	2.3	399.7
October	178.0	83.8	64.3	37.8	21.8	2.5	388.2
November	193.2	80.7	72.4	36.5	30.4	2.1	415.3
December	240.7	134.4	91.3	42.3	38.0	9.0	555.7

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

r revised

(a) Not all users of wheat grain are included. For more 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.

(d) From December 2009, the scope and coverage of the Wheat Use Survey was 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), at month end *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)							
<b>2008</b>							
December	289.2	198.4	121.7	306.4	654.5	4.2	1 574.2
<b>2009</b>							
January	420.9	147.4	139.6	174.8	796.8	4.0	1 683.6
February	436.7	145.2	130.3	267.1	709.2	3.3	1 691.8
March	497.9	287.5	218.3	307.2	1 076.1	3.3	2 390.1
April	550.2	206.9	165.0	273.4	807.5	3.6	2 006.8
May	388.6	151.4	238.3	275.3	631.2	2.7	1 687.4
June	645.0	179.8	202.4	177.8	823.2	2.6	2 031.0
July	r450.9	142.7	156.5	64.8	599.8	2.9	r1 417.6
August	479.1	182.8	261.0	176.6	516.1	2.7	1 618.4
September(d)	r516.8	153.0	273.7	76.3	333.9	2.3	r1 356.0
October	267.2	129.7	208.2	119.4	422.5	2.5	1 149.6
November	r314.1	r141.4	r116.0	r100.9	r507.9	2.1	r1 182.5
December	422.7	217.9	179.9	148.1	671.9	9.0	1 649.6

r revised

(a) Not all users of wheat grain are included. For more 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 was 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.

## 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
<b>2008</b>								
December	^ 358.9	^ 40.4	^ 156.5	^ 289.8	^ 1 164.3	^ 2 010.0	1 334.0	3 343.9
<b>2009</b>								
January	381.0	155.9	403.0	459.7	1 920.9	3 320.6	1 323.2	4 643.8
February	471.5	248.7	445.7	518.2	1 989.9	3 674.1	1 071.0	4 745.1
March	668.3	334.7	495.9	523.8	2 056.7	4 079.4	1 027.7	5 107.1
April	670.6	215.3	601.3	370.9	1 462.9	3 321.1	888.4	4 209.5
May	609.9	250.7	566.4	361.7	1 741.1	3 529.8	850.9	4 380.7
June	584.3	197.3	476.0	275.2	1 270.2	2 803.0	840.3	3 643.3
July	332.8	171.1	313.2	183.0	1 173.2	2 173.3	689.7	2 863.0
August	354.0	185.3	360.2	170.5	1 110.4	2 180.4	744.4	2 924.8
September (e)	127.1	170.9	183.0	114.8	970.0	1 565.8	705.7	2 271.4
October	70.3	170.1	165.5	101.2	798.9	1 306.0	678.0	1 984.0
November	157.4	197.7	150.1	70.3	954.6	1 530.1	1 375.6	2 905.7
December	163.2	195.6	108.8	132.6	1 065.0	1 665.2	1 531.2	3 196.4

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

(c) Includes ACT.

(d) Includes Tas.

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

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

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

## 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 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** 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.

**12** 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

**13** 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.

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**14** 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.

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

**16** 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.

**17** 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.

**18** 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.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### GENERAL

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

### ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**20** 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

**21** 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

**22** 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).

**23** 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)
- *Livestock and Meat, Australia* (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)
- *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0)

**24** 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.

**25** 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

<b>Harvest</b>	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.
<b>Wheat grain users</b>	Users include beef cattle feedlots, poultry, and pig producers, dairy operators, manufacturers using or storing wheat grain, and wheat growing businesses. (For more information refer to the Explanatory Notes).
<b>Wheat grain used</b>	<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>
<b>Wheat grain committed</b>	<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>
<b>Wheat grade</b>	Wheat grain is graded by quality to determine whether 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.



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