

Australian wine grape production projections to 2009-10

from ABARE research report 08.5

- This report provides estimates of wine grape production for the 2006-07 vintage, as well as production projections for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. Estimates have been made for specialist wine grape, multi-purpose and minor varieties in each of Australia's wine grape producing regions.
- Wine grape production in 2006-07 is estimated to have been 1.4 million tonnes, which is approximately 27 per cent less than the 2005-06 harvest of 1.9 million tonnes. This reduction was caused by several factors, including dry seasonal conditions, limited availability of water for irrigation, frosts and bushfires.
- In contrast to previous drought years such as 2002-03 when warm climate areas were substantially affected, the decline in wine grape production in 2006-07 was greatest in cool climate regions. This was related to exceptionally adverse seasonal conditions in cool climate regions, including very low rainfall and frost. In the warm climate regions frosts were less frequent and there was irrigation water available, although at reduced levels.
- Reflecting the predominance of white varieties in warm climate regions, in 2006-07 the production of white wine grape varieties exceeded that of red varieties for the first time since 1998-99. By variety, chardonnay represented the largest proportion of total production (27 per cent), followed by shiraz (20 per cent) and cabernet sauvignon (13 per cent).
- ABARE forecasts wine grape production in 2007-08 to be around 1.67 million tonnes, an increase of 19 per cent from 2006-07. Favourable seasonal conditions, particularly in cool climate regions, and better than expected production in the Riverina and Riverland, have helped boost production above estimates made earlier in the season. However, the lack of irrigation water in key production areas of south-east Australia is expected to keep this year's harvest 13 per cent lower than the record 2004-05 crop.
- Following improved seasonal conditions in cool climate regions, production of red wine grape varieties is expected to increase relatively more than that of white wine grape varieties in 2007-08. Production of both red and white wine grape varieties in warm climate regions is likely to remain constrained by continued shortages of irrigation water.
- Assuming average seasonal conditions, ABARE forecasts wine grape production in 2008-09 to be 1.78 million tonnes. This expectation is based on an average yield of 10.1 tonnes per hectare and incorporates the relatively small increases in bearing area from plantings that have occurred in the past three years. Production of red varieties is expected to be greater than that of white varieties, a return to the historical norm after the unusual predominance of white varieties in 2006-07. Continuing this trend, wine grape production is projected to reach 2.0 million tonnes in 2009-10.

Estimated and projected wine grape production in Australia,
by variety

	estimated production		projected production	
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	kt	Kt	kt	kt
Premium White				
Chardonnay	381	413	419	477
Chenin Blanc	8	9	9	10
Colombard	57	51	52	72
Muscadelle	1	1	1	1
Pinot Gris	14	21	27	34
Riesling	32	39	39	42
Sauvignon Blanc	40	49	51	63
Semillon	77	88	94	103
Traminer	9	10	10	11
Verdelho	15	17	17	18
Total	633	698	720	833
Non premium White				
Crouchen	2	2	2	2
Doradillo	2	2	2	2
Palomino	1	1	1	1
Trebbiano	3	3	3	3
Total	7	7	7	8
Premium Red				
Cabernet Franc	3	4	4	4
Cabernet Sauvignon	186	255	274	286
Malbec	2	3	3	3
Merlot	95	114	125	138
Petit Verdot	15	17	18	20
Pinot Noir	28	36	37	39
Ruby Cabernet	15	16	17	18
Shiraz	286	388	434	467
Total	631	832	912	976
Non premium red				
Grenache	16	19	20	22
Mataro	7	8	8	8
Total	22	27	27	30
Multipurpose	65	58	60	87
Minor Varieties	39	47	53	63
Wine Grapes Total				
Red	674	884	967	1040
White	723	784	811	958
Total	1397	1668	1780	1998

Report: Jackson, T, Shaw, I and Dyack, B 2008, Australian wine grape production projections to 2009-10, ABARE research report 08.5 for the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra, May.