

# Australian wine grape production projections to 2010-11

From ABARE research report [09.7](#)

- This report provides estimates of wine grape production for the 2007-08 vintage and production projections for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. Estimates have been made for specialist, multi-purpose and minor wine grape varieties in each of Australia's wine grape producing regions.
- Wine grape production in 2007-08 is estimated to have been 1.8 million tonnes, around 30 per cent higher than the 2006-07 harvest of 1.4 million tonnes. The increase in production in 2007-08 was largely caused by a recovery in yields relative to 2006-07. Yields increased because growers purchased water to meet irrigation requirements and growing conditions in non-irrigated regions improved.
- In 2007-08, warm climate regions continued to account for the majority of wine grapes produced in Australia, with a share of around 60 per cent of total production. This share was lower than in 2006-07 (67 per cent), reflecting the improvement in seasonal conditions which occurred in cool climate regions in 2007-08. Cool climate regions accounted for around 60 per cent of the total increase in wine grape production in 2007-08.
- Reflecting the predominance of red wine grapes in cool climate regions and the relatively large increase in production which occurred in these regions, red wine grapes accounted for the majority of grapes produced in 2007-08. This represents a return to the historical norm, after the unusual predominance of white wine grape varieties in 2006-07. In 2007-08, shiraz accounted for the largest share of wine grape production with 24 per cent of the total, followed by chardonnay with 23 per cent and cabernet sauvignon with 14 per cent.
- Wine grape production in 2008-09 is forecast to be 1.6 million tonnes, a reduction of 13 per cent from 2007-08. This forecast fall reflects ongoing shortages of water for irrigation in some regions, high temperatures in late January and early February 2009, and bushfires in Victoria. These factors have placed stress on wine grape production, particularly in south-eastern Australia.
- Declines in overall grape production in 2008-09 are forecast to be greatest in the warm inland regions of Murray-Darling – Swan Hill and the Riverland. Production is also forecast to fall in many cool climate regions, particularly the Barossa Valley, the Yarra Valley and the Adelaide Hills.
- Assuming seasonal conditions improve, wine grape production in 2009-10 is forecast to increase by 14 per cent to 1.8 million tonnes. This forecast primarily reflects higher yields, because the bearing area of wine grapes is expected to increase only slightly. Continuing this trend, wine grape production is projected to rise to 1.9 million tonnes in 2010-11. The expected increase in the bearing area of vines reflects the maturation of recently planted vines and the assumption that there will be no net vine removals over the projection period.

## Production of wine grapes in Australia

	estimated production	projected production		
	2007-08 kt	2008-09 kt	2009-10 kt	2010-11 kt
<b>Premium white</b>				
Chardonnay	428	363	412	432
Colombard	59	51	60	66
Semillon	100	94	103	106
Other	169	152	175	183
Total	757	660	750	787
<b>Non-premium white</b>	7	6	7	7
<b>Premium red</b>				
Cabernet sauvignon	258	225	259	264
Merlot	125	110	124	125
Shiraz	442	384	435	449
Other	93	77	86	88
Total	919	795	904	927
<b>Non-premium red</b>	28	24	28	29
Total*	1837	1594	1819	1902