# Comparing the 2021-22 agricultural season to previous years - August 2022

Australia exported a record $65 billion in agricultural products in 2021-22. While 2021-22 was an unusual year, domestic and international conditions mean we could be in for another year of high production and high prices in 2022-23.

## Consecutive La Niña events and high commodity prices

* The value of agricultural exports is largely determined by production conditions at home and commodity prices abroad.
* Above average rainfall and strong prices are good news for the agriculture sector.
* Rising input costs and storm damage have offset the benefits in some regions.

## How do Australian grain exports in 2021-22 compare to previous years?

* High production and high prices led to record grain exports in 2021-22.
* Figure 1 shows the volume and value of grain exports for every year since
2000-01 and the forecast for 2022-23.
	+ Data points further to the right indicate higher export volumes, while data points towards the top indicate higher export values.
* Price changes the relationship between the total volume and total value of exports.
	+ For example, high prices in 2012-13 meant the value of exports was higher than in 2016-17, despite lower export volumes.
* 2021-22 (orange dot) had both the highest volume and value of trade over the last two decades by a substantial margin.
* The forecast for 2022-23 (red dot) indicates that another unusual season could be on the way

Figure - The value and volume of Australian grain exports 2000-01 to 2022-23*f*



## How do Australian meat exports in 2021-22 compare to previous years?

* Beef and sheepmeat producers are rebuilding their herds after years of drought. This has reduced Australian meat production and export volumes.
	+ Competition between farmers to purchase stock and strong global demand for meat have pushed average Australian saleyard [prices higher since 2018-19.](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/livestock#domestic-factors-to-have-strongest-impacts-on-livestock-sector-prices)
* Figure 2 shows the impact of high prices on the total value of Australian meat exports.
* The volume of Australian meat exports in 2021-22 (orange dot) was slightly below the 2000-2021 average.
* Despite lower than average export volumes, the value of meat exports in 2021-22 were the third highest since 2000-01.
	+ This shows that high prices offset the impact of reduced export volumes in terms of overall export value.

Figure - The value and volume of Australian beef and sheepmeat exports 2000-01 to 2022-23*f*



## Will we see another year like 2021-22?

* Forecasts for 2022-23 (maroon dot) indicate that another ‘unusual’ year could be on the way.
* There is a [50% chance](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/) of a third consecutive La Nina developing later in 2022.
* Wet conditions and high international food prices increase the likelihood of a similar season in 2022-23.