

MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA: APRIL 2012

Issued: 4 May 2012

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

Highlights:

- **Rainfall occurrences over the summer rainfall region for April 2012 were limited to between 10 to 25 mm, while the winter rainfall region received between 25 to 50 mm of rainfall.**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the current 2011/12 marketing year is 550 000 tons, which includes imports of 1,5 million tons.**
- **Early indications are that producers intend to plant 547 200 ha of wheat for the 2012 season, which is 9,5% less than the area planted to wheat in 2011.**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the coming 2012/13 marketing year is 566 000 tons, which includes imports of 1,7 million tons.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop is 11,121 million tons, which is 7,4% more than the 10,360 million tons of the previous season.**
- **The projected closing stocks of maize for the 2011/12 marketing year is 613 000 tons, which is 73,8% less than the previous year.**
- **The projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2012/13 marketing year is 657 000 tons, which 7,2% more than the previous year.**
- **The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in March 2012 was lower at 6,0%.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI was lower at 7,2% in March 2012.**
- **March 2012 tractor sales of 645 units were 13% higher than the sales of 569 units reported in March 2011.**



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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for April 2012

Rainfall occurrences over the summer rainfall region for April 2012 were limited to between 10 to 25 mm, while the winter rainfall region received between 25 to 50 mm of rainfall (Figure 1), which indicates a slow start to the winter rainfall season.

Unfavourable climatic conditions in the largest part of the summer rainfall region continued during April with frost occurrences reported during the first part of April 2012.

Comparing the rainfall totals for April 2012 with the long term average, most of the summer rainfall region recorded below-normal rainfall, especially the central parts (Figure 2). However, the winter rainfall region was characterised by near-normal rainfall with isolated areas of above-normal rainfall for the mentioned period.

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for April 2012

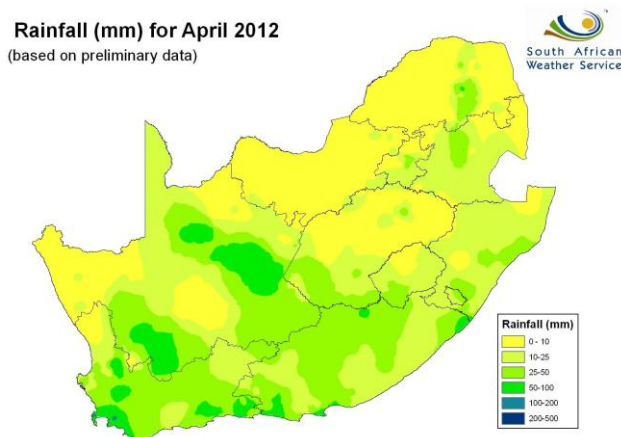
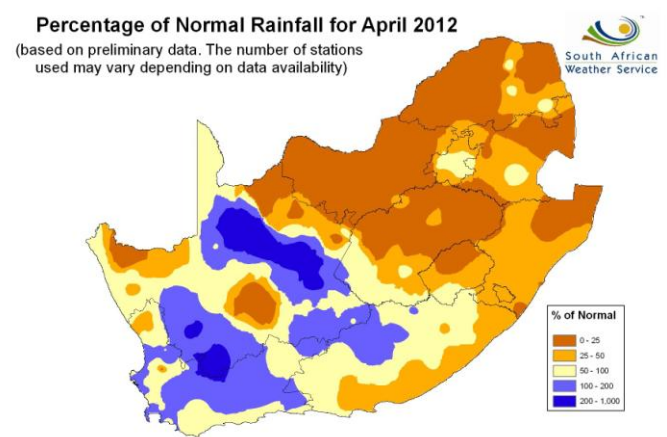


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for April 2012



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 30 April 2012 indicates that the country has approximately 82% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, the same as last year. The provincial distribution of South Africa's water supply (including Lesotho) is contained in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Level of dams, 30 April 2012

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	30/4/2012 (%)	Last Year (%)
Eastern Cape	1 822	85	73
Free State	15 968	87	100
Gauteng	115	93	101
KwaZulu-Natal	4 530	77	86
Lesotho*	2 376	78	100
Limpopo	1 159	80	87
Mpumalanga	2 520	90	99
North West	808	82	93
Northern Cape	146	88	109
Western Cape	1 851	43	43
Total	31 295	82	92

Source: Department of Water Affairs

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops

The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) released the area planted and third production forecast for summer crops for 2012 for commercial summer crops on 24 April 2012.

Table 2: Summer crops: Area planted and third production forecast - 2012

CROP	Area planted 2012	3rd forecast 2012	Area planted 2011	Final crop 2011	Change
	Ha	Tons	Ha	Tons	%
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(B) ÷ (D)
White maize	1 636 200	6 415 200	1 418 300	6 052 000	+6,00
Yellow maize	1 063 000	4 705 850	954 000	4 308 000	+9,24
Maize	2 699 200	11 121 050	2 372 300	10 360 000	+7,35
Sunflower seed	453 350	515 005	642 700	860 000	-40,12
Soya-beans	472 000	711 750	418 000	710 000	+0,25
Groundnuts	45 450	65 540	55 150	64 250	+2,01
Sorghum	48 550	140 600	69 200	155 000	-9,29
Dry beans	39 750	47 315	41 900	41 980	+12,71
TOTAL	3 758 300	12 601 260	3 599 250	12 191 230	+3,36

Note: Estimate is for calendar year, e.g. production season 2011/12 = 2012

- The size of the expected commercial **maize crop** has been set at 11,121 million tons, which is 7,4% or 761 050 tons higher than 10,360 million tons the previous marketing season. The area estimate for maize is 2,699 million ha, which is 13,78% or 326 900 ha more than the 2,372 million ha of the previous marketing season. The expected yield is 4,12 t/ha as against 4,37 t/ha of the previous season. The area estimate for white maize is 1,636 million ha and for yellow maize it is 1,063 million ha.
- The production forecast of **white maize** is 6,415 million tons, which is 6,0% or 363 200 tons more than the 6,052 million tons of the previous season. The yield for white maize is 3,92 t/ha as against 4,27 t/ha of the previous season. In the case of **yellow maize** the production forecast is 4,706 million tons, which is 9,2% or 397 850 tons more than the 4,308 million tons of the previous season. The yield for yellow maize is 4,43 t/ha as against 4,52 t/ha of the previous season.
- The production forecast for **sunflower seed** is 515 005 tons, which is 40,1% or 344 995 tons less than the 860 000 tons of the previous season. The revised area estimate for sunflower seed is 453 350 ha, which is 189 350 ha less than the 860 000 ha of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,14 t/ha as against 1,34 t/ha of the previous season.
- The production forecast for **soya-beans** is 711 750 tons, which is 0,3% or 1 750 tons more than the 710 000 tons of the previous season. It is estimated that 472 000 ha have been planted to soya-beans, whilst the expected yield is 1,51 t/ha as against 1,70 t/ha of the previous season.
- The expected groundnut crop is 65 540 tons, which is 3,1% or 1 290 tons more than the 64 250 tons of the last season. For **groundnuts** the area estimate is 45 450 ha, whilst the expected yield is 1,44 t/ha as against 1,17 t/ha of the last season.



- The production forecast for **sorghum** is 140 600 tons, which is 9,3% or 14 400 tons less than the 155 000 tons of the previous season. The area estimate for sorghum is 48 550 ha. The expected yield is 2,90 t/ha as against 2,24 t/ha of the previous season.
- In the case of **dry beans** the production forecast is 47 315 tons, which is 12,7% or 5 335 tons more than the 41 980 tons of the previous season. For dry beans, the area estimate is 39 750 ha, and the expected yield is 1,19 t/ha as against 1,00 t/ha of the previous season.

Please note that the fourth production forecast for summer field crops for 2012 will be released on 24 May 2012.

2.2 Winter cereal crops

The intentions to plant winter cereals for the 2012 production season was also released by the CEC on 24 April 2012, and is as follows:

Table 3: Commercial winter crops: Intentions to plant - 2012 production season

CROP	Intentions* 2012 Ha (A)	Area planted 2011 Ha (B)	Final estimate 2011 Tons (C)	Change % (A) ÷ (B)
Commercial:				
Wheat	547 200	604 700	1 905 280	-9,50
Malting barley	82 800	80 150	309 000	+3,30
Canola	50 000	43 510	59 490	+14,90
Total	680 000	728 360	2 273 770	-6,64

* Based on conditions at the middle of April 2012

- Early indications are that producers intend to plant 547 200 ha of **wheat** for the 2012 season. This is 57 500 ha or 9,5% less than the area planted to wheat in 2011. This is also the smallest area planted to wheat since the early 1900's. The main producing areas are within the Western Cape with 265 000 ha (48%), followed by the Free State with 168 000 ha (31%) and the Northern Cape with 44 000 ha (8%).
- According to producers the decrease in the expected plantings of wheat can mainly be attributed to low prices (no longer profitable), as well as grading regulations. With specific reference to the Free State, producers also indicated that they are going to plant less wheat due to low soil moisture levels.
- The expected area planted to **malting barley** is 82 800 ha, which is 2 650 ha or 3,3% more than the 80 150 ha of the previous year.
- The expected area planted to **canola** is 50 000 ha, which is 6 490 ha or 14,9% more than the 43 510 ha planted in 2011. On record, this is the largest area planted to canola.

Please note that the preliminary area estimate for winter cereals for 2012 will be released on 24 July 2012.

3. Cereal balance sheets

Supply and demand data for March 2012 was released by SAGIS on 23 April 2012. *(Preliminary information is subject to change on a monthly basis.)*

3.1 Winter cereals



Table 4: Supply and demand for Wheat as at 3 May 2012

Marketing year (October to September)	2010/11*	2011/12*	2012/13*
Production & Calendar year	2010	2011	2012
Supply			
Opening stocks: 1 October	579	478	550
SAGIS opening stocks	579	478	550
Gross production	1 436	1 913	1 607
Commercial production	1 401	1 876	1 570
Retentions by producers	29	29	29
Non-commercial	6	8	8
Total domestic supply	2 015	2 391	2 157
Plus: Imports	1 649	1 500	1 700
Total supply	3 664	3 891	3 857
Demand			
Commercial consumption	3 001	3 079	3 059
Human	2 944	2 904	2 904
Animal	1	120	100
Retentions by producers	29	29	29
Seed for planting purposes	13	26	26
Other consumption (released to end con's+withdrawn by prod's+retentions)	14	0	0
Non-commercial	6	8	8
Total domestic consumption	3 007	3 087	3 067
Plus: Exports	179	254	224
Products	24	24	24
Whole grain	155	230	200
Total demand	3 186	3 341	3 291
Closing stocks: 30 September	478	550	566
Pipeline requirements (80 days of human consumption)	645	637	637
Domestic shortfall / surplus	-1 637	-1 333	-1 547
Import gap	1 637	1 333	1 547
Surplus above pipeline	-167	-87	-71

*Projection, Source: SAGIS, Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- The projected closing stocks (30 September 2012) of wheat for the current 2011/12 marketing year is 550 000 tons, which is 15,1% more than the previous year (478 000 tons). It is also 4,2% less than the five year average of 528 000 tons. The year-on-year increase can mainly be attributed to the larger wheat crop for the current marketing year.
- The animal feed usage of wheat for the first six months of the current marketing year is estimated at 120 000 tons which is the highest number recorded since the 175 000 tons in the 1996/97 marketing year.
- The progressive wheat imports from 1 October 2011 to 27 April 2012, stand at 1,014 million tons, with the largest quantity (309 213 or 30,5%) imported from Argentina followed by Brazil (165 125 or 16,3%), Australia (149 389 tons or 14,7%) and Russia (124 938 tons or 12,3%).
- There were also wheat exports from South Africa to the BLNS countries. Progressive exports (October to April) to the BLNS countries, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique stand at 173 869 tons.



- The projected production figure of the coming 2012/13 marketing year is 1,599 million tons, which is 16,1% less than the 1,905 million tons produced during the previous year. The projected closing stocks (30 September 2013) of wheat for the same year is 566 000 tons, which is slightly (2,9%) more than the previous year (550 000 tons).

3.2 Summer grains

Table 5: Supply and demand for White Maize as at 3 May 2012

Marketing Year: May – April	2010/11	2011/12*	2012/13*
Calendar Year	2010	2011*	2012*
Supply	1 000 tons	1 000 tons	1 000 tons
Opening Stocks: 1 May	1 362	1 609	337
SAGIS Opening Stocks	1 362	1 609	337
Gross Production	8 164	6 448	6 811
Commercial production	7 623	5 952	6 315
Retentions by producers	119	100	100
Non-commercial	422	396	396
Total Domestic Supply	9 526	8 057	7 148
Imports	-	130	15
Total Supply	9 526	8 187	7 163
Demand			
Commercial Consumption	6 370	5 725	5 580
Human	4 159	4 150	4 250
Animal	1 658	1 250	1 000
Gristing	56	55	60
Retentions by producers	102	85	85
Seed for planting purposes	16	15	15
Other consumption (released to end-con & withdrawn by producers)	379	170	170
Non-commercial	422	396	396
Total Domestic Consumption	6 792	6 121	5 976
Exports	1 124	1 730	905
Products	75	60	70
Whole grain	1 049	1 670	835
Total Demand	7 916	7 851	6 881
Closing Stocks: 30 April	1 610	336	282
Pipeline Requirements (45 days of human & animal consumption + gristing)	724	673	655
Domestic Shortfall / Surplus	2 010	1 263	517
Surplus/ Shortage above pipeline	886	-337	-373

**Projection, Source: SAGIS, Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis*

- Projected closing stocks of white maize for the 2011/12 marketing year is 336 000 tons, which is the lowest total recorded since the 294 000 tons in the 1995/96 marketing year. It is also 79,1% less than the previous year (1,609 million tons). This decrease can mainly be attributed to the lower production figure of white maize during the 2011 calendar year as well as a significant increase in exports.
- From 1 May 2011 up to 27 April 2012, progressive white maize exports stand at 1,731 million tons.



- The progressive white maize imports from 1 May 2011 to 27 April 2012, stand at 127 745 tons, with Zambia the main source of imports.
- Projected closing stocks of white maize for the current 2012/13 marketing year is 282 000 tons, which is 16,1% more than the previous year (336 000 tons). This increase can mainly be attributed to the expected increase in the production figure of white maize for the 2012 calendar year.

Table 6: Supply and demand for Yellow Maize as at 3 May 2012

Marketing Year: May - April Calendar Year	2010/11 2010	2011/12* 2011*	2012/13* 2012*
Supply	1 000 tons	1 000 tons	1 000 tons
Opening Stocks: 1 May	769	727	277
SAGIS Opening Stocks	769	727	277
Gross Production	5 133	4 476	4 874
Commercial production	4 541	3 934	4 332
Retentions by producers	408	374	374
Non-commercial	184	168	168
Total Domestic Supply	5 902	5 203	5 151
Imports	-	350	300
Total Supply	5 902	5 553	5 451
Demand			
Commercial Consumption	3 924	4 329	4 539
Human	356	390	400
Animal	2 613	3 150	3 350
Gristing	17	15	15
Retentions by producers	394	360	360
Seed for planting purposes	14	14	14
Other consumption (released to end-con & withdrawn by producers)	530	400	400
Non-commercial	184	168	168
Total Domestic Consumption	4 108	4 497	4 707
Exports	1 068	780	370
Products	51	70	60
Whole grain	1 017	710	310
Total Demand	5 176	5 277	5 077
Closing Stocks: 30 April	726	276	374
Pipeline Requirements (45 days of human & animal consumption + gristing)	368	438	465
Domestic Shortfall / Surplus	1 426	268	-21
Import gap			21
Surplus/ Shortage above pipeline	358	-162	-91

**Projection, Source: SAGIS, Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis*

- Projected closing stocks of yellow maize for the 2011/12 marketing year is 276 000 tons, which is the lowest total recorded since the 124 000 tons in the 1992/93 marketing year. It is also 62% less than closing stocks of 726 000 tons for the 2010/11 marketing year. This decrease can mainly be attributed to the lower yellow maize crop for the 2011 calendar year.



- From 1 May 2011 up to 27 April 2012, progressive yellow maize exports stand at 711 250 tons.
- The tight stock situation has resulted in imports from (141 297 tons) Romania and (149 498 tons) Ukraine, bringing the progressive total (1 May 2011 to 27 April 2012) to 290 795 tons.
- Projected closing stocks of yellow maize for the current 2012/13 marketing year is 374 000 tons, which 35,5% more than the previous year (276 000). This increase can mainly be attributed to the expected increase in the production figure of yellow maize for the 2012 calendar year.

Table 7: Supply and demand for Maize as at 3 May 2012

Marketing Year: May - April	2010/11	2011/12*	2012/13*
Calendar Year	2010	2011*	2012*
Supply	1 000 tons	1 000 tons	1 000 tons
Opening Stocks: 1 May	2,131	2,336	614
SAGIS Opening Stocks	2,131	2,336	614
Gross Production	13 298	10 924	11 685
Commercial production	12 165	9 886	10 647
Retentions by producers	527	474	474
Non-commercial	606	564	564
Total Domestic Supply	15 429	13 260	12 299
Imports	-	480	315
Total Supply	15 429	13 740	12 614
Demand			
Commercial Consumption	10 295	10 053	10 118
Human	4 515	4 540	4 650
Animal	4 271	4 400	4 350
Gristing	73	70	75
Retentions by producers	497	445	445
Seed for planting purposes	30	29	29
Other consumption (released to end-con & withdrawn by producers)	909	569	569
Non-commercial	606	564	564
Total Domestic Consumption	10 901	10 617	10 682
Exports	2 192	2 510	1 275
Products	126	130	130
Whole grain	2 066	2 380	1 145
Total Demand	13 093	13 127	11 957
Closing Stocks: 30 April	2 336	613	657
Pipeline Requirements (45 days of human & animal consumption + gristing)	1 092	1 111	1 119
Domestic Shortfall / Surplus	3 436	1 533	497
Surplus/ Shortage above pipeline	1 244	-497	-462

**Projection, Source: SAGIS, Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis*

- The projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2011/12 marketing year is 613 000 tons, which is 73,8% less than the previous years' closing stock of 2,336 million tons. This is the lowest total recorded since the 595 000 tons in the 1995/96 marketing year.



- From 1 May 2011 up to 27 April 2012, the progressive grand total of exports is 2,442 million tons and for imports the progressive grand total is 418 540 tons.
- Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2012/13 marketing year is 657 000 tons, which 7,2% more than the previous year (613 000 tons). This increase can mainly be attributed to the expected increase in the production figure of total maize for the 2012 calendar year.

Table 8: Supply and demand for Sorghum as at 3 May 2012

Marketing year: April - March Production year Calendar year	2010/11 2009/2010 2010	2011/12* 2010/11* 2011*	2012/13* 2011/12* 2012*
Supply			
Opening stocks: 1 April	93,2	58,1	56,7
SAGIS opening stocks	93,2	58,1	56,7
Gross production	226,0	187,0	163,9
Commercial production	196,5	163,7	140,6
Non-commercial	29,5	23,3	23,3
Total domestic supply	319,2	245,1	220,6
Plus: Imports	-	62,5	88,0
Total supply	319,2	307,6	308,6
Demand			
Food consumption	181,8	181,9	181,9
Malt	79,2	81,3	81,3
Meal	102,6	100,6	100,6
Brew	-	-	-
Feed consumption	8,6	7,0	7,0
Pet food	1,1	1,1	1,1
Poultry	4,8	5,5	5,5
Other feed	2,7	0,4	0,4
Total commercial consumption	190,4	188,9	188,9
Other consumption	13,4	11,0	11,0
Balancing item	3,6	2,5	6,5
Non-commercial	29,5	23,3	23,3
Total domestic consumption	236,9	225,7	229,7
Plus: Exports	24,2	25,2	25,2
Exports through border posts	20,3	21,4	21,4
Exports through harbours	0,6	-	-
Products to African countries	3,3	3,8	3,8
Total demand	261,1	250,9	254,9
Closing stocks	58,1	56,7	53,7
Pipeline Requirements (45 days of human & animal consumption + gristing)	23,5	23,3	23,3
Domestic surplus / deficit	58,8	-3,9	-32,4
Import gap		3,9	32,4
Surplus/ Shortage above pipeline	34,6	33,4	30,4

*Projection, Source: SAGIS, Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis



- The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the 2011/12 marketing year show a surplus of 56 700 tons. It is only 2,4% less than the previous years' closing stock of 58 100 tons, as well as 14,6% less than the five year average of 66 400 tons. Imports of sorghum for the same year are projected at 62 500 tons and it is the highest recorded since the 75 100 tons in the 2002/03 marketing year.
- The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2012/13 marketing year show a surplus of 53 700 tons, which is 5,3% less than the previous year (56 700 tons) and can be attributed to lower expected production figure for 2012. Imports of sorghum for the mentioned year are projected at 88 000 tons, which is 40,8% more than the 62 500 tons of the previous year.

4. Market information

4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in March 2012 was 6,0%. This rate was 0,1% lower than the corresponding annual rate of 6,1% in February 2012. On average, prices increased by 1,1% between February 2012 and March 2012.
- The food and non-alcoholic beverages index increased by 0,3% between February 2012 and March 2012. The annual rate decreased to 8,6% in March 2012 from 9,6% in February 2012. The following components in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index increased: Sugar, sweets and desserts (3,6%), milk, eggs and cheese (2,3%), hot beverages (2,2%), other food (1,2%), fish (0,8%), cold beverages (0,3%), bread and cereals (0,2%) and vegetables (0,2%). The following components decreased: Meat (-1,1%), oils and fats (-0,2%) and fruit (-0,1%).
- The alcoholic beverages and tobacco index increased by 4,9% between February 2012 and March 2012, mainly due to increases in excise duties. The annual rate increased to 7,6% in March 2012 from 6,4% in February 2012.
- The housing and utilities index increased by 0,9% between February 2012 and March 2012, mainly due to 1,4% monthly increase in actual rentals for housing and 1,3% monthly increase in owners' equivalent rent. The annual rate was unchanged at 6,6% in March 2012.
- The transport index increased by 0,9% between February 2012 and March 2012, mainly due to a 28c/litre increase in the price of petrol. The annual rate decreased to 6,6% in March 2012 from 6,8% in February 2012.
- The education index increased by 9,0% between February 2012 and March 2012. The annual rate increased to 9,0% in March 2012 from 8,6% in February 2012.
- The restaurants and hotels index increased by 1,7% between February 2012 and March 2012. The annual rate increased to 6,0% in March 2012 from 5,6% in February 2012.
- The miscellaneous goods and services index increased by 0,4% between February 2012 and March 2012, mainly due to a 3,2% increase in financial services. The annual rate remained unchanged at 5,5% in March 2012.
- The provinces with an annual inflation rate lower than or equal to headline inflation were Gauteng (5,8%) and Western Cape (5,5%). The provinces with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Northern Cape (7,7%), Eastern Cape (6,8%), KwaZulu-Natal (6,6%), Mpumalanga (6,6%), North West (6,5%), Limpopo (6,5%) and Free State (6,4%).

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- The Producer Price Index (PPI) for domestic output shows an annual rate of change of 7,2% in March 2012 (i.e. the PPI in March 2012 compared with March 2011). This rate is 1,1% lower than the corresponding annual rate of 8,3% in February 2012.
- This lower annual rate in March 2012 can be explained by decreases in the annual rate of change in the Producer Price Index for:
 - Mining and quarrying: The annual rate decreased from 8,2% in February 2012 to 6,6% in March 2012;
 - Products of petroleum and coal: The annual rate decreased from 25,5% in February 2012 to 19,1% in March 2012;
 - Food at manufacturing: The annual rate decreased from 10,9% in February 2012 to 9,6% in March 2012;
 - Agriculture: The annual rate decreased from 4,6% in February 2012 to 4,1% in March 2012;
 - Other manufactures: The annual rate decreased from 9,5% in February 2012 to 7,8% in March 2012;



- Chemical and chemical products: The annual rate decreased from 6,1% in February 2012 to 4,1% in March 2012;
- Tobacco products: The annual rate decreased from 11,8% in February 2012 to 5,7% in March 2012; and
- Basic metals: The annual rate decreased from 1,3% in February 2012 to -0,8% in March 2012.
- These decreases were partially counteracted by increases in the annual rate of change for:
 - Electricity: The annual rate increased from 26,6% in February 2012 to 27,6% in March 2012;
 - Wearing apparel: The annual rate increased from 4,9% in February 2012 to 5,7% in March 2012; and
 - Non-metallic mineral products: The annual rate increased from 1,5% in February 2012 to 4,3% in March 2012.
- From February 2012 to March 2012 the PPI for domestic output decreased by 0,1%.
- The monthly decrease of 0,1% in the PPI for domestic output was mainly due to monthly contributions from decreases in the price indices of agriculture (-0,1%), mining and quarrying (-0,1%), basic metals (-0,1%), other manufactures (-0,1%) and all other groups (-0,1%). These decreases were partially counteracted by increases in the price indices of beverages (0,1%), paper and paper products (0,1%), products of petroleum and coal (0,1%), and non-metallic mineral products (0,1%).

4.3 Future contract prices and the exchange rate

Table 9: Closing prices on Thursday, 3 May 2012

	3 May 2012	2 April 2012	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (May contract)	R2 060,00	R2 325,00	-11,4
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (May contract)	R1 965,00	R2 182,00	-9,9
RSA Wheat per ton (May contract)	R2 660,00	R2 722,00	-2,3
RSA Soya-beans per ton (May contract)	R3 956,00	R3 780,00	+4,7
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (May contract)	R4 788,00	R4 712,00	+1,6
Exchange rate R/\$	R7,72	R7,64	+1,0

Source: SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- March tractor sales of 645 units were 13% higher than the sales of 569 units reported in March 2011. On a year-to-date basis the sales for 2012 are 37% higher than the 2011 sales. March combine harvester sales of 23 units were significantly higher than the 14 units sold in March 2011. On a year-to-date basis combine harvester sales are now approximately 14% up on last year.
- Fundamentals in the market still remain positive. Recent deliveries on government tenders have given the market a boost. The market remains very competitive. Unfortunately some areas have been adversely affected by a lack of rain late in the season and this has adversely affected some maize and soya-bean crops. Crop prices are still holding up well, with stock levels being finely balanced between supply and demand. This will have a bearing on crop prices as local and international grain stocks are limited.
- Industry predictions for tractor sales for the 2012 calendar year are currently between 6 700 and 7 200 units, up to 10% down on 2011 sales.

Table 10: Agricultural machinery sales

Equipment class	Year-on-year		Percentage Change %	Year-to-date		Percentage Change %
	March			March		
	2012	2011		2012	2011	
Tractors	645	569	13,4	2 235	1 630	37,1
Combine harvesters	23	14	64,3	56	49	14,3

Source: SAAMA press release, April 2012



5. Acknowledgements

The Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis makes use of information sourced from various institutions and organisations within South Africa in order to compile the monthly report on South Africa's Food Security Situation. This report has been compiled with the aid of information and reports sourced from the following institutions and organisations:

- Agfacts
- Department of Water Affairs (DWA)
- Farmer's Weekly
- Grain South Africa (GrainSA)
- IGC Grain Market Report
- National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)
- South African Agricultural Machinery Association (SAAMA)
- South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX)
- South African Reserve Bank
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
- The South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)
- The South African Weather Service (WeatherSA)
- USDA Foreign Service
- UT Grain Management (Pty) Ltd
- Weekly Price Watch, DAFF