MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA AUGUST 2024

Issued: 10 September 2024

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- **During August 2024, significant rainfall events were mainly evident in the south-western parts of the country.**
- **The expected commercial wheat crop for 2024 is 1,903 million tons, which is 7,2% less than the 2,050 million tons of the previous season (2023).**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 620 759 tons, which includes imports of 1,8 million tons. It is also 10,2% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the coming 2024/25 marketing year are 571 439 tons, which includes imports of 1,85 million tons. It is also 7,9% less than the previous years' ending stocks**
- **The expected commercial maize crop for 2024 is 13,060 million tons, which is 20,5% less than the 16,430 million tons of the previous season (2023).**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 1,080 million tons, which is 55,1% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 71 085 tons, which is 23,1% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 62 944 tons, which is 50,5% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 127 327 tons, which is 60,3% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was lower at 4,6% in July 2024.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was lower at 4,2% in July 2024.**
- **August 2024 tractor sales of 574 units were approximately 18% less than the 697 units sold in August 2023.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for August 2024

During August 2024, significant rainfall events were mainly evident in the south-western parts of the country (**Figure 1**). Comparing rainfall totals to the long-term average for August, normal to above-normal rainfall was received in the south-western parts of the country, north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal and parts of eastern Mpumalanga and Limpopo (**Figure 2**). The rainfall was below-normal for the remainder of the country. (Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management of Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development).

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for August 2024

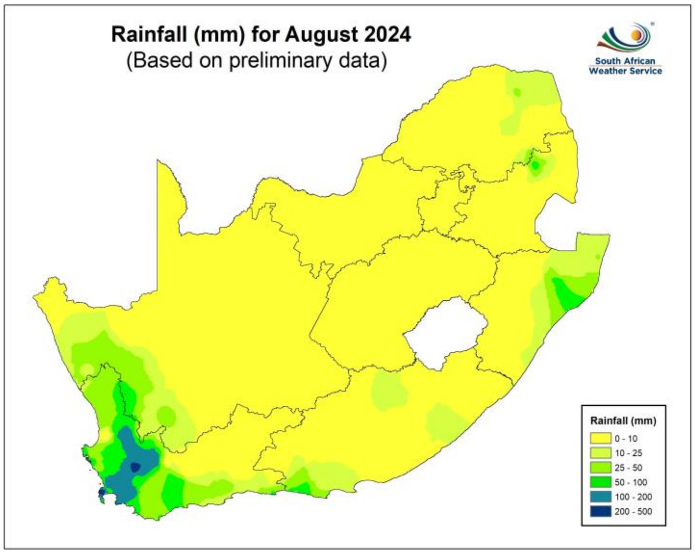
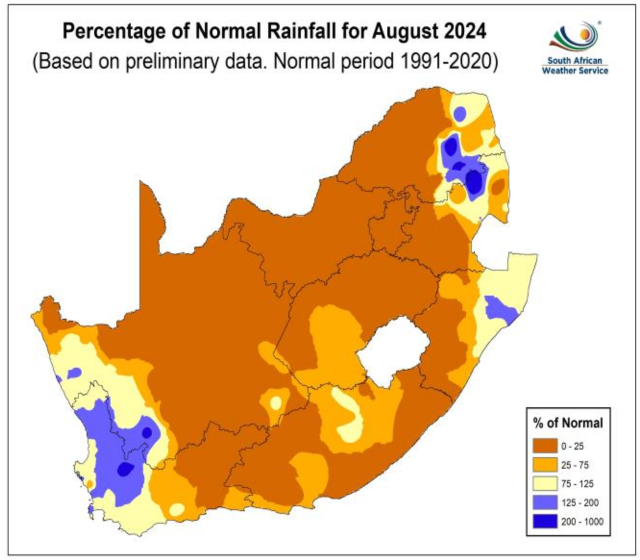


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for August 2024



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 9 September 2024 indicates that the country has approximately 81% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 11,0% less as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The dam levels in the Western Cape (2%) Province show an improvement in the full supply capacity as compared to 2023. However, the North West (-18%), Northern Cape (-16%), Free State (-15%), Gauteng (-12%), Limpopo (-10%), Mpumalanga (-8%), KwaZulu-Natal (-2%) and Eastern Cape (-2%) provinces, all show decreases in full supply capacity as compared to 2023. The provincial distribution of South Africa's water supply including Lesotho and Swaziland is contained in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Level of dams, 9 September 2024

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	**09/09/2024 (%)**	Last Year (2023) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2024 vs. 2023
Eastern Cape	1 729	78	80	-2,0
Free State	15 657	79	94	-15,0
Gauteng	128	84	96	-12,0
Kingdom of Lesotho*	2 363	79	91	-12,0
Kingdom of Eswatini*	334	86	98	-12,0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 910	85	87	-2,0
Limpopo	1 483	76	86	-10,0
Mpumalanga	2 539	87	95	-8,0
North West	867	67	85	-18,0
Northern Cape	146	74	90	-16,0
Western Cape	1 868	94	92	2,0
Total	**32 024**	**81**	**92**	**-11,0**

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2024

The area planted and seventh production forecast for summer grains for the 2024 season was released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 28 August 2024, and is as follows:

Table 2: Commercial summer grains: Area planted and seventh production forecast - 2024 season

CROP	**Area planted 2024 Ha (A)**	**7th forecast 2024 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2023 Ha (C)	Final estimate 2023 Tons (D)	Change 2024 vs 2023 % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
White maize	**1 554 750**	**6 188 100**	1 521 300	8 505 000	-27,24
Yellow maize	**1 081 500**	**6 871 850**	1 064 800	7 925 000	-13,29
Total Maize	**2 636 250**	**13 059 950**	2 586 100	16 430 000	-20,51
Sunflower seed	**529 000**	**649 250**	555 700	720 000	-9,83
Soybeans	**1 150 500**	**1 778 790**	1 148 300	2 770 000	-35,78
Groundnuts	**41 200**	**52 645**	31 300	53 000	-0.67
Sorghum	**42 100**	**95 830**	34 000	94 360	1,56
Dry beans	**39 550**	**50 495**	36 650	50 260	0,47
TOTAL	**4 438 600**	**15 686 960**	4 392 050	20 117 620	-22,02

Note: Estimate is for calendar year, e.g. production season 2023/24 = 2024

- The revised area estimate for maize is 2 636 250 ha, which is 1,94% or 50 150 ha more than the 2 586 100 ha planted for the previous season.
- The expected **commercial maize crop** is 13 059 950 tons, which is 20,51% or 3,370 million tons less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023). The yield for maize is 4,95 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **white maize** is 1 554 750 ha, which represents an increase of 2,20% or 33 450 ha compared to the 1 521 300 ha planted last season. The production forecast of white maize is 6 188 100 tons, which is 27,24% or 2,317 million tons less than the 8 505 000 tons of last season. The yield for white maize is 3,98 t/ha.
- In the case of **yellow maize,** the area estimate is 1 081 500 ha, which is 1,57% or 16 700 ha more than the 1 064 800 ha planted last season. The yellow maize production forecast is 6 871 850 tons, which is 13,29% or 1,053 million tons less than the 7 925 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 6,35 t/ha.
- The area estimate for sunflower seed is 529 000 ha, which is 4,80% or 26 700 ha less than the 555 700 ha planted the previous season. The production forecast for **sunflower seed** is 649 250 tons, which is 9,83% or 70 750 tons less than the 720 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,23 t/ha.
- It is estimated that 1 150 500 ha have been planted to **soybeans**, which represents an increase of 0,19% or 2 200 ha compared to the 1 148 300 ha planted last season. The production forecast is 1 778 790 tons, which is 35,78% or 991 210 tons less than the 2 770 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,55 t/ha.
- For **groundnuts**, the area estimate is 41 200 ha, which is 31,63% or 9 900 ha more than the 31 300 ha planted for the previous season. The expected crop is 52 645 tons – which is 0,67% or 355 tons more than the 53 000 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,28 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **sorghum** increased by 23,82% or 8 100 ha, from 34 000 ha to 42 100 ha against the previous season. The production forecast for sorghum is 95 830 tons, which is 1,56% or 1 470 tons more than the 94 360 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 2,28 t/ha.

- For **dry beans**, the area estimate is 39 550 ha, which is 7,91% or 2 900 ha more the 36 650 ha planted for the previous season. The production forecast is 50 495 tons, which is 0,47% or 235 tons more than the 50 260 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,28 t/ha.

Please note that the eighth production forecast for summer field crops for 2024 will be released on 26 September 2024.

2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2024

The CEC also released the revised area planted and first production forecast of the winter cereals for the 2024 season on 28 August 2024.

Table 3: Winter cereals: Revised area planted and first production forecast – 2024 season

CROP	**Area planted 2024** **Ha** **(A)**	**1st Forecast 2024** **Tons** **(B)**	Area planted 2023 Ha (C)	Final crop 2023 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
Wheat	**506 300**	**1 903 280**	537 950	2 050 000	-7,16%
Barley	**100 500**	**415 135**	107 600	377 000	10,12%
Canola	**154 200**	**265 750**	131 200	236 300	12,46%
Oats	**30 250**	**69 825**	27 500	41 000	70,30%
Sweet lupines	**16 000**	**18 400**	16 000	16 000	15,00%
Total winter	**807 250**	**2 672 390**	820 250	2 720 300	-1,76%

Commercial only. Excluding barley or oats used as pasture, silage, hay and/or on the farm as fodder for livestock

- The expected production of **wheat** is 1,903 million tons, which is 7,16 % or 146 720 tons less than the previous seasons' crop of 2,050 mill. tons, whilst the expected yield is 3,76 t/ha.
- The expected production in the Western Cape is 1,067 million tons (56%), which is 16 800 tons less than the 1,084 million tons produced in the previous season. In the Northern Cape, 277 400 tons (15%) is expected to be produced – 14 600 tons less than the 292 000 tons produced in the previous season. In the Free State, the expected production is 227 500 tons (12%), which is 53 300 tons less than the previous seasons' crop of 280 800 tons.
- The production forecast for **barley** is 415 135 tons, which is 10,12% or 38 135 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 377 000 tons. The area planted is estimated at 100 500 ha, while the expected yield is 4,13 t/ha.
- The expected **canola crop** is 265 750 tons, which is 12,46% or 29 450 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 236 300 tons. The area estimate for canola is 154 200 ha, with an expected yield of 1,72 t/ha.
- The expected crop for **oats** for the 2024 season is 69 825 tons and the revised area planted is 30 250 ha. The expected yield is 2,31 t/ha.
- In the case of **sweet lupines,** the production forecast is 18 400 tons. The area estimate of sweet lupines is 16 000 ha, with an expected yield of 1,15 t/ha.

Please note that the second production forecast of winter crops for 2024 will be released on 26 September 2024.

2.3 Non-commercial maize - 2024

The CEC also released the preliminary area planted and production estimate of the non-commercial maize sector for the 2024 season on 25 April 2024.

Table 4: Non-commercial maize: Preliminary area planted and production estimate - 2024 season

CROP	**Area planted 2024 Ha (A)**	**Production 2024 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2023 Ha (C)	Final crop 2023 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Non-commercial agriculture:					
White maize	**267 570**	**407 500**	278 655	472 765	-13,80
Yellow maize	**79 430**	**167 500**	79 965	191 275	-12,43
Maize	**347 000**	**575 000**	358 620	664 040	-13,41

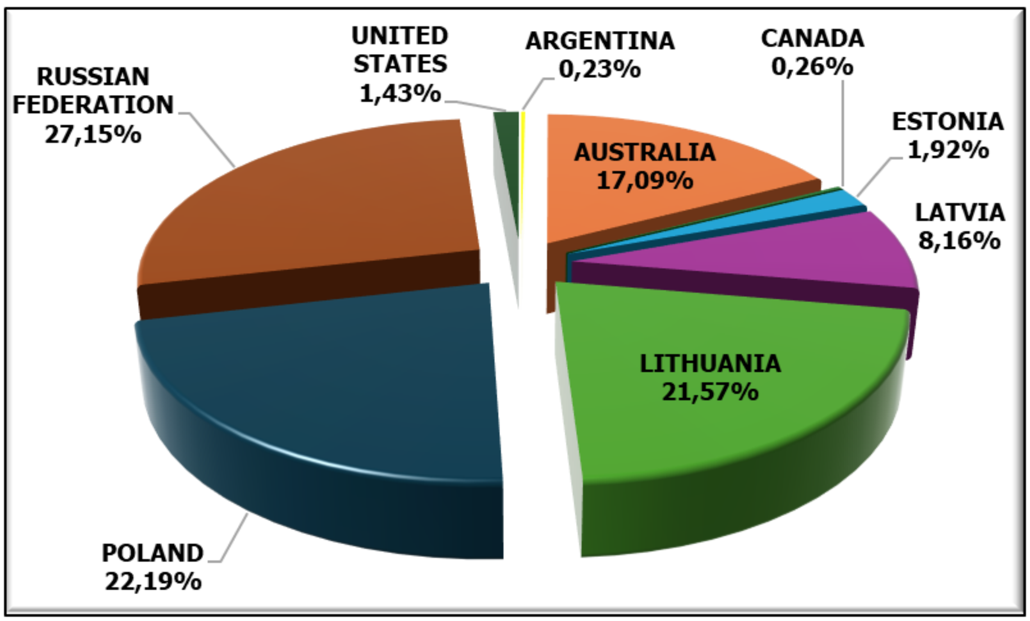
- The area planted to maize in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 347 000 ha, which represents a decrease of 3,24%, compared to the 358 620 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 575 000 tons, which is 13,41% less than the 664 040 tons of last season. It is important to note that about 46% of the maize produced in the non-commercial sector, is planted in the Eastern Cape, followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 22%.

3. Cereal balance sheets

For the latest Cereal Balance Sheets (supply and demand tables) on maize, wheat, sorghum, sunflower seed and soybeans please refer to the attachment called FSB AUG24 Annexure A.

3.1 Imports and exports of wheat for the 2023/24 marketing year

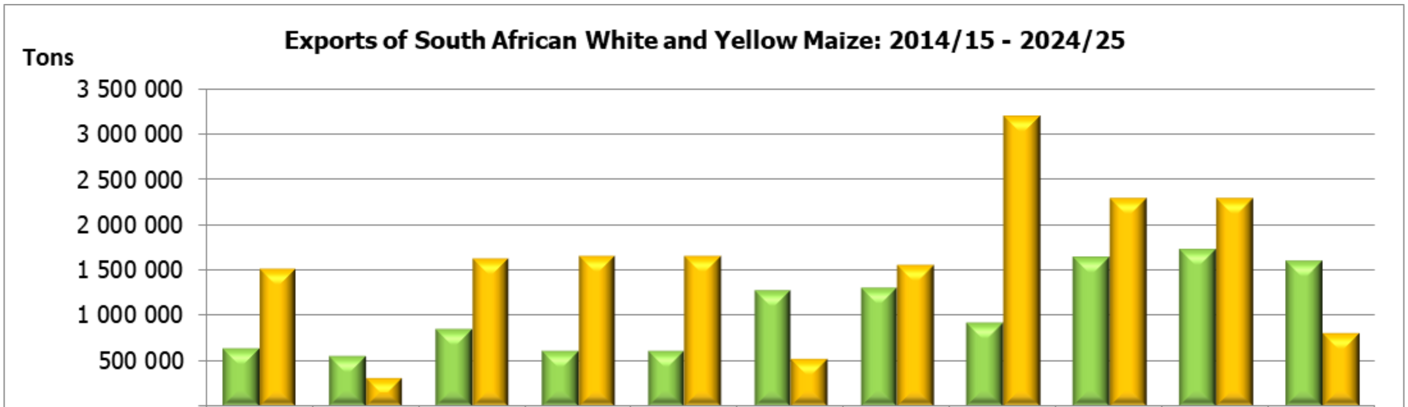
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September 2023 to 30 August 2024) amount to 1 685 837 tons, with 27,15% or 457 772 tons from the Russian Federation, followed by 22,19% or 374 098 tons from Poland, 21,57% or 363 585 tons from Lithuania, 17,09% or 288 052 tons from Australia, 8,16% or 137 633 tons from Latvia, 1,92% or 32 441 tons from Estonia, 1,43% or 24 057 tons from the United States, 0,26% or 4 300 tons from Canada and only 0,23% or 3 899 tons from Argentina. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 195 560 tons, of which 30,87% or 60 361 tons went to Zimbabwe, 26,05% or 50 942 tons went to Zambia, 20,71% or 40 508 tons went to Botswana, 16,74% or 32 728 tons went to Lesotho, 5,12% or 10 022 tons went to Namibia and only 0,51% or 999 tons went to Congo.

3.2 Exports of South African white and yellow maize

Graph 2: Exports of South African white and yellow maize: 2014/15 - 2024/25 marketing year

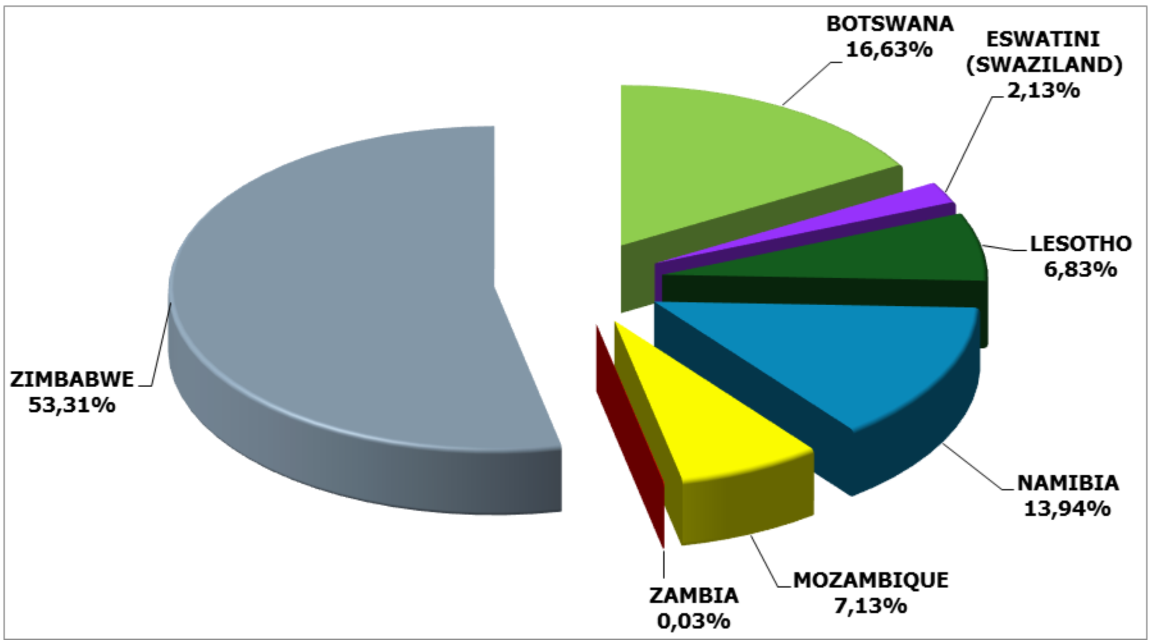


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
White maize	640 807	557 063	851 969	617 000	616 651	1 275 446	1 304 475	924 434	1 654 525	1 734 933	1 600 000
Yellow maize	1 514 917	322 748	1 629 739	1 666 000	1 667 407	534 127	1 563 315	3 210 777	2 295 281	2 296 110	815 000

*Projection

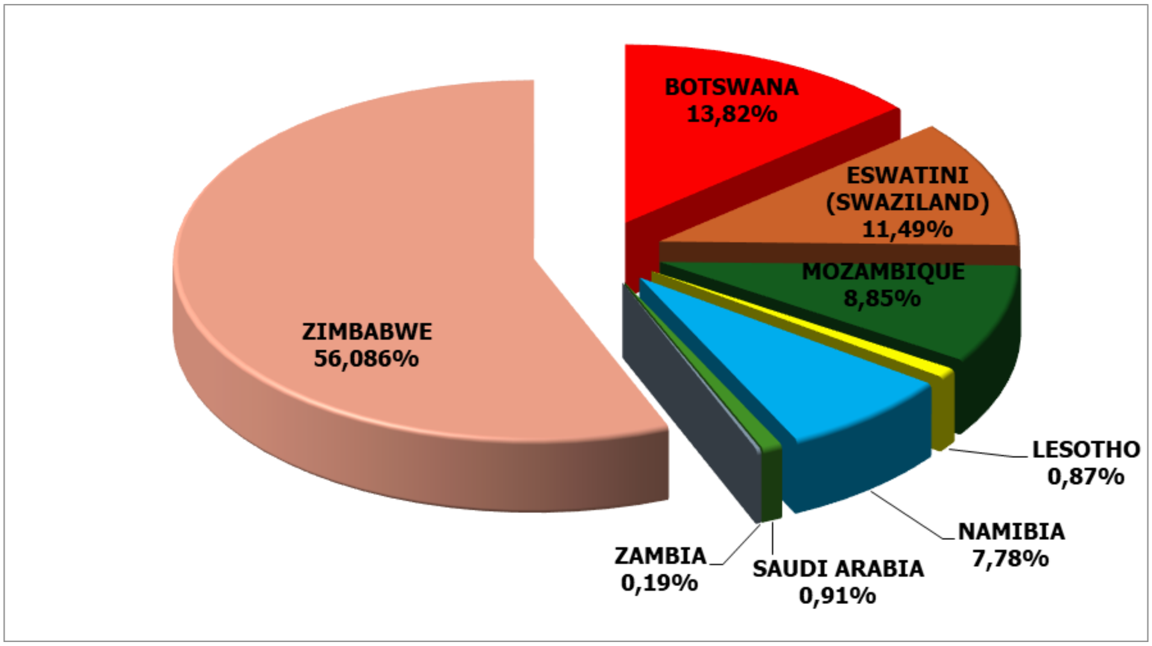
- The exports of white maize for the 2024/25 marketing year are projected at 1,600 million tons, which represents a decrease of 7,78% or 134 933 tons compared to the 1,735 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 815 000 tons, which represents a decrease of 64,51% or 1,481 million tons compared to the 2,296 million tons of the previous marketing year.

Graph 3: Major countries of white maize exports from South Africa: 2024/25 marketing year



- From 27 April to 30 August 2024, progressive white maize exports for the 2024/25 marketing year amount to 480 748 tons, with the main destinations being Zimbabwe (53,31% or 256 304 tons), followed by Botswana (16,63% or 79 937 tons), Namibia (13,94% or 67 029 tons), Lesotho (6,83% or 32 824 tons), Mozambique (7,13% or 34 258 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (2,13% or 10 259 tons) and Zambia (0,03% or 137 tons). The imports of white maize for the mentioned period amount to zero.

Graph 4: Major countries of yellow maize exports from South Africa: 2024/25 marketing year



- From 27 April to 30 August 2024, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2024/25 marketing year amount to 257 426 tons, with the main destinations being, Zimbabwe (56,09% or 144 379 tons), followed by Botswana (13,82% or 35 584 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (11,49% or 29 579 tons), Mozambique (8,85% or 22 772 tons), Namibia (7,78% or 20 040 tons), Saudi Arabia (0,91% or 2 333 tons), Lesotho (0,87% or 2 251 tons) and Zambia (0,19% or 488 tons). The imports of yellow maize for the mentioned period amount to 145 340 (100%) tons from Argentina.

4. Market information

4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Annual consumer price inflation was 4,6% in July 2024, down from 5,1% in June 2024. The CPI increased by 0,4% month-on-month in July 2024.
- The main contributors to the 4,6% annual inflation rate were:
  - Housing and utilities (increased by 5,3% year-on-year and contributed 1,3%);
  - Miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 7,0% year-on-year and contributed 1,0%);
  - Food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 4,5% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%); and
  - Transport (increased by 4,2% year-on-year and contributed 0,6%).
- In July 2024, the annual inflation rate of goods was 4,6%, down from 5,5% in June 2024; and services was 4,7%, up from 4,6% in June 2024.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,2% in July 2024, down from 4,6% in June 2024. The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,2% month-on-month in July 2024.
- The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:
  - Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 5,0% year-on-year and contributed 1,2%);
  - Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 3,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,0%); and
  - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 4,9% year-on-year and contributed 0,7%).

- The main negative contributor to the headline PPI monthly decrease was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (decreased by 1,5% month-on-month and contributed -0,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 4,2% in July 2024 (compared with 2,3% in June 2024). The index decreased by 0,2% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were basic and fabricated metals (2,3%) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (1,1%). The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-0,3%) and recycling and manufacturing n.e.c. (-0,2%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 10,2% in July 2024 (compared with 9,2% in June 2024). The index increased by 9,6% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 10,4% and water contributed 0,6% to the annual rate. Electricity contributed 9,1% and water contributed 0,4% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -2,1% in July 2024 (compared with -4,0% in June 2024). The index remained unchanged month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-3,8%) and coal and gas (-1,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 5,0% in July 2024 (compared with 9,0% in June 2024). The index decreased by 2,6% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (4,7%). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-2,7%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 5: Closing prices on Friday, 6 September 2024

	6 September 2024	6 August 2024	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (Sep. 2024 contract)	R5 507,00	R5 129,00	7,37
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (Sep. 2024 contract)	R4 088,00	R4 143,00	-1,33
RSA Wheat per ton (Sep. 2024 contract)	R6 183,00	R6 310,00	-2,01
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (Sep. 2024 contract)	R8 957,00	R9 052,00	-1,05
RSA Soya-beans per ton (Sep. 2024 contract)	R8 624,00	R8 760,00	-1,55
Exchange rate R/$	R17,71	R18,55	-4,53

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- August 2024 tractor sales of 574 units were approximately 18% less than the 697 units sold in August 2023. Year-to-date tractor sales are now approximately 25% down on last year. Five combine harvesters were sold in August 2024, 19 less than the 24 units sold in August 2023. On a year-to-date basis, combine harvester sales are now 64% down on last year.
- As the year unfolds, several different factors are affecting buying decisions in the market. As predicted, the overall market is now moving to a more realistic level, after three years where annual tractor sales were over 7 500 units. Market sentiment, whilst it is optimistic, it is also showing a strong degree of caution. Weighted against this is a short-term situation where conditions will be highly competitive in terms of pricing and availability of stock. Current industry expectations are that tractor sales will be between 20 and 25% down on last year.

Table 6: Agricultural machinery sales

Equipment class	Year-on-year August 2024	Year-on-year August 2023	Percentage Change %	Year-to-date August 2024	Year-to-date August 2023	Percentage Change %
Tractors	574	697	-17,65	4 073	5 412	-24,74
Combine harvesters	5	24	-79,17	137	383	-64,23

Source: SAAMA press release, September 2024

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for September 2024 will be released on **7 October 2024**.

5. Acknowledgements

The Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis makes use of information sourced from various institutions and organisations within South Africa 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:

- Agbiz
- Agfacts
- BVG Commodities (Pty) Limited
- Department of Water and Sanitation
- Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management at DAFF
- Grain South Africa (Grain SA)
- IGC Grain Market Report
- National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)
- South African Agricultural Machinery Association (SAAMA)
- South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX)
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
- The South African Supply and Demand Estimates Report (SASDE)
- The South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)
- The South African Weather Service (WeatherSA)
- USDA Foreign Service