MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA FEBRUARY 2024

Issued: 5 March 2024

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- **During February 2024, significant rainfall events were confined to the central interior and the eastern parts of the country.**
- **The expected production of wheat is 2,078 million tons, which is 1,5% less than the previous seasons' crop of 2,110 million tons.**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 452 484 tons, which includes imports of 1,650 million tons. It is also 19,7% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop is 14 359 300 tons, which is 12,60% less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023).**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 2,387 million tons, which is 22,2% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the coming 2024/25 marketing year are 1,459 million tons, which is 38,9% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 57 736 tons, which is 23,0% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the coming 2024/25 marketing year are 38 496 tons, which is 33,3% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 122 367 tons, which is 66,4% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for the coming 2024/25 marketing year are 125 217 tons, which is 2,3% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 313 397 tons, which is 82,3% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the coming 2024/25 marketing year are 243 727 tons, which is 22,2% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was higher at 5,3% in January 2024.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was higher at 4,7% in January 2024.**
- **January 2024 tractor sales of 353 units were significantly less (25,5%) than the 474 units sold in January 2023.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for February 2024

During February 2024, significant rainfall events were confined to the central interior and the eastern parts of the country (**Figure 1**). Comparing rainfall totals to the long-term average for February, below-normal rainfall was received countrywide with above-normal rainfall patches evident in the Western Cape, northern Mpumalanga, southern Limpopo, and parts of KwaZulu-Natal (**Figure 2**). (Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management of Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development).

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for February 2024

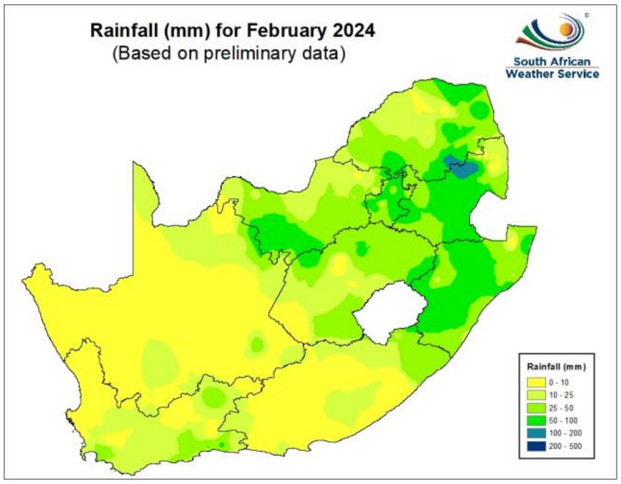
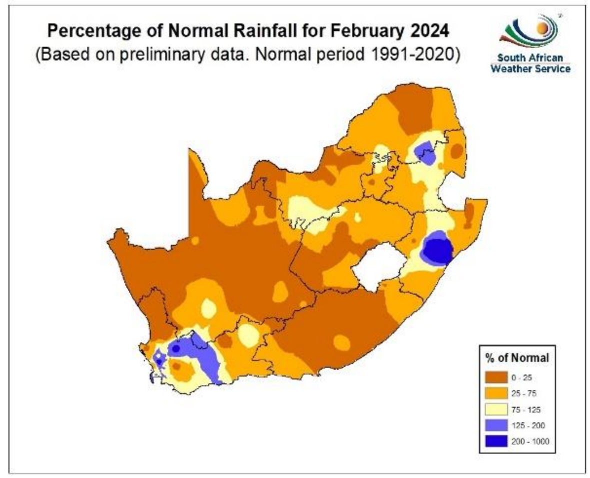


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for February 2024



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 26 February 2024 indicates that the country has approximately 89% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 9,0% less as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The dam levels in the Western Cape (17%) and Eastern Cape (5%) provinces, all show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2023. However, the Northern Cape (-47%), Free State (-17%), Gauteng (-14%), North West (-9%), Limpopo (-6%), KwaZulu-Natal (-2%) and Mpumalanga (-1%) 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, 26 February 2024

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	**26/02/2024 (%)**	Last Year (2023) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2024 vs. 2023
Eastern Cape	1 729	83	78	5,0
Free State	15 657	91	108	-17,0
Gauteng	128	87	101	-14,0
Kingdom of Lesotho*	2 363	97	101	-4,0
Kingdom of Eswatini*	334	100	101	-1,0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 910	89	91	-2,0
Limpopo	1 480	85	91	-6,0
Mpumalanga	2 539	99	100	-1,0
North West	867	77	86	-9,0
Northern Cape	146	80	127	-47,0
Western Cape	1 868	66	49	17,0
Total	**32 021**	**89**	**98**	**-9,0**

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2023

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

Table 2: Commercial summer grains: 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 estimate 2023 Tons (D)	Change 2024 vs 2023 % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
White maize	**1 557 750**	**7 040 900**	1 521 300	8 505 000	-17,21
Yellow maize	**1 081 500**	**7 318 400**	1 064 800	7 925 000	-7,65
Total Maize	**2 639 250**	**14 359 300**	2 586 100	16 430 000	-12,60
Sunflower seed	**559 500**	**671 100**	555 700	720 000	-6,79
Soybeans	**1 122 500**	**2 139 480**	1 148 300	2 770 000	-22,76
Groundnuts	**41 200**	**64 395**	31 300	53 000	21,50
Sorghum	**42 100**	**110 780**	34 000	94 360	17,40
Dry beans	**39 550**	**59 880**	36 650	50 260	19,14
TOTAL	**4 444 100**	**17 404 935**	4 392 050	20 117 620	-13,48

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

- The revised area estimate for maize is 2 639 250 ha, which is 2,06% or 53 150 ha more than the 2 586 100 ha planted for the previous season, and 0,06% or 1 500 ha more than the preliminary area estimate of 2 637 750 ha released in January 2024.
- The expected **commercial maize crop** is 14 359 300 tons, which is 12,60% or 2,071 mill. tons less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023). The yield for maize is 5,44 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **white maize** is 1 557 750 ha, which represents an increase of 2,40% or 36 450 ha compared to the 1 521 300 ha planted last season. The production forecast of white maize is 7 040 900 tons, which is 17,21% or 1,464 million tons less than the 8 505 000 tons of last season. The yield for white maize is 4,52 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 7 318 400 tons, which is 7,65% or 606 600 tons less than the 7 925 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 6,77 t/ha.
- The revised area estimate for sunflower seed is 559 500 ha, which is 0,68% or 3 800 ha more than the 555 700 ha planted the previous season. The production forecast for **sunflower seed** is 671 100 tons, which is 6,79% or 48 900 tons less than the 720 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,20 t/ha.
- It is estimated that 1 122 500 ha have been planted to **soybeans**, which represents a decrease of 2,25% or 25 800 ha compared to the 1 148 300 ha planted last season. The production forecast is 2 139 480 tons, which is 22,76% or 630 520 tons less than the 2 770 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,91 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 64 395 tons – which is 21,50% or 11 395 tons more than the 53 000 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,56 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 110 780 tons, which is 17,40% or 16 420 tons more than the 94 360 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 2,63 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 59 880 tons, which is 19,14% or 9 620 tons more than the 50 260 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,51 t/ha.

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

2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2022

The area planted and final production estimate for winter cereals for the 2023 season was also released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 28 February 2024, and is as follows:

Table 3: Commercial winter cereals: Area planted and final production estimate - 2023 season

CROP	Area planted 2023 Ha (A)	**Final estimate 2023 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2022 Ha (C)	Final estimate 2022 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
Wheat	537 950	**2 078 025**	566 800	2 110 000	-1,52
Malting barley*	107 600	**376 195**	101 000	302 000	24,57
Canola	131 200	**237 450**	123 510	210 000	13,07
Cereal oats*	27 500	**40 250**	27 000	27 550	46,10
Sweet lupines	16 000	**16 000**	21 000	15 750	1,59
Total winter cereals	820 250	**2 747 920**	839 310	2 665 300	3,10

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

- The area estimate for **wheat** is 537 950 ha, which is 5,09% or 28 850 ha less than the 566 800 ha planted for the previous season. The expected production of wheat is 2 078 205 tons, which is 1,52% or 31 975 tons less than the previous seasons' crop of 2 110 000 tons, whilst the expected yield is 3,86 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **barley** is 107 600 ha, which is 6,53% or 6 600 ha more than the 101 000 ha of last season. The production forecast for **barley** is 376 195 tons, which is 24,57% or 74 195 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 302 000 tons. The expected yield is 3,50 t/ha.
- The area planted to **canola** is 131 200 ha, which is 6,23% or 7 690 ha more than the 123 510 ha planted for the previous season. The expected **canola crop** is 237 450 tons, which is 13,07% or 27 450 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 210 000 tons. The expected yield is 1,81 t/ha.
- The expected crop for **oats** for the 2023 season is 40 250 tons and the area planted is 27 500 ha. The expected yield is 1,46 t/ha. In the case of **sweet lupines,** the production forecast is 16 000 tons. The area estimate of sweet lupines is 16 000 ha, with an expected yield of 1,00 t/ha.

Please note that the intentions to plant winter cereals for 2024 will be released on 25 April 2024.

2.3 Non-commercial maize - 2023

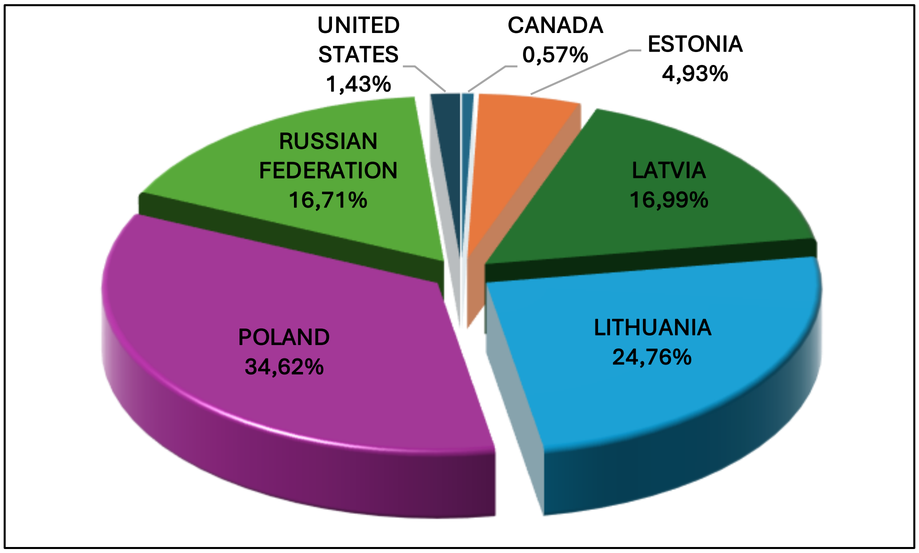
Please note that the preliminary area planted and production estimate of the non-commercial maize sector for the 2024 season on 25 April 2024.

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 FEB24 Annexure A.

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

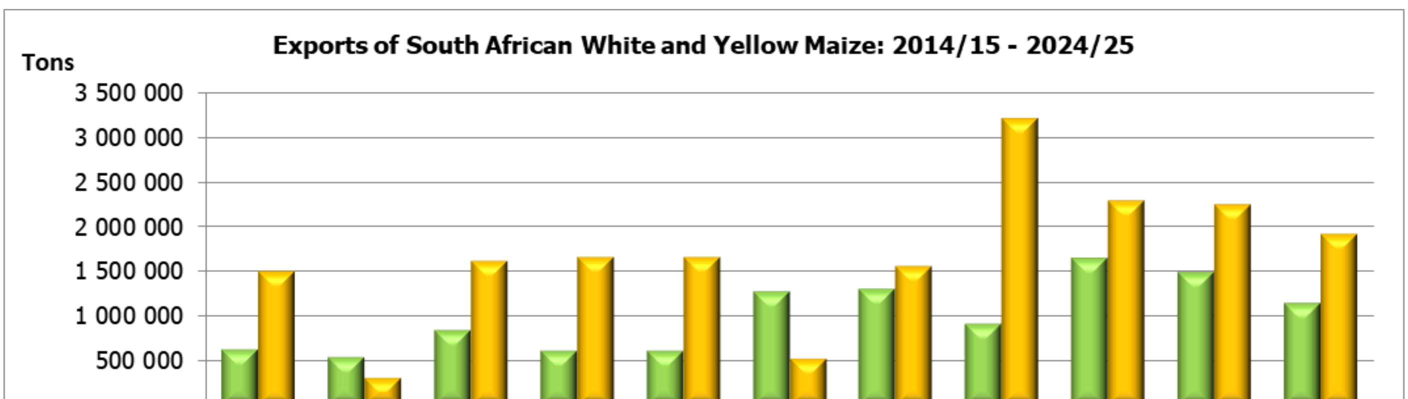
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September 2023 to 23 February 2024) amount to 758 804 tons, with 34,62% or 262 696 tons from Poland, followed by 24,76% or 187 845 tons from Lithuania, 16,99% or 128 922 tons from Latvia, 16,71% or 126 762 tons from the Russian Federation, 4,93% or 37 414 tons from Estonia, 1,43% or 10 865 tons from the United States and 0,57% or 4 300 tons from Canada. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 68 621 tons, of which 32,73% or 22 459 tons went to Zimbabwe, 32,46% or 22 272 tons went to Lesotho, 26,60% or 18 256 tons went to Botswana, 6,93% or 4 754 tons went to Namibia and only 1,28% or 880 tons went to Zambia.

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

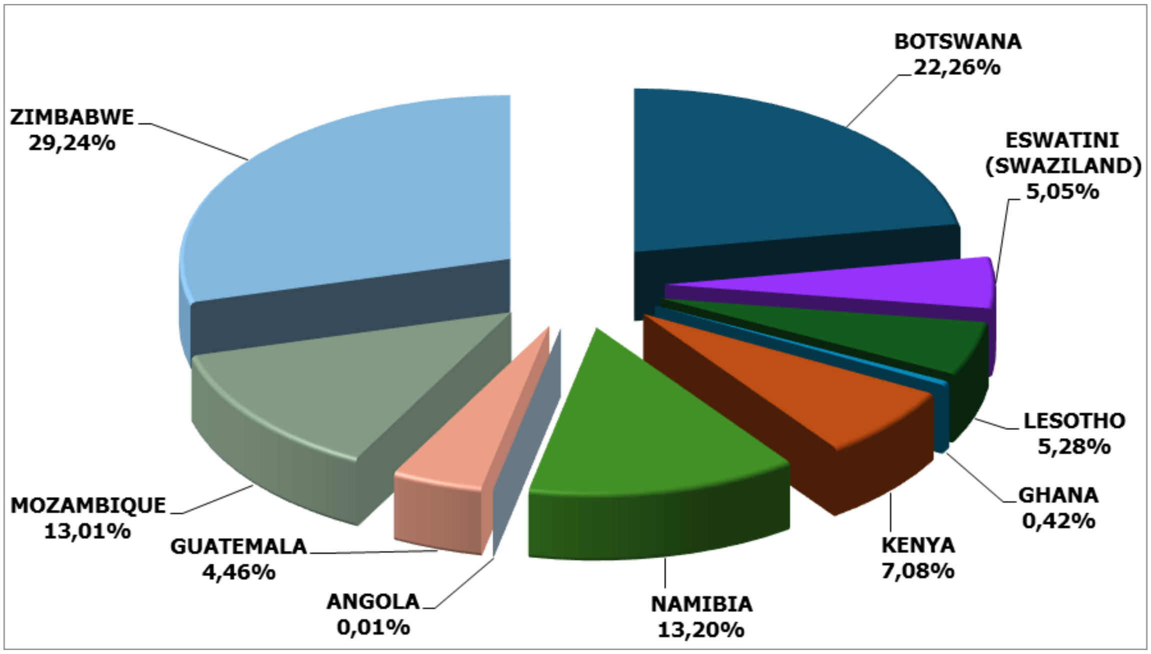


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*	2024/25*
White maize	640 807	557 063	851 969	617 000	616 651	1 275 446	1 304 475	924 434	1 654 525	1 500 000	1 150 000
Yellow maize	1 514 917	322 748	1 629 739	1 666 000	1 667 407	534 127	1 563 315	3 210 777	2 295 281	2 258 000	1 920 000

*Projection

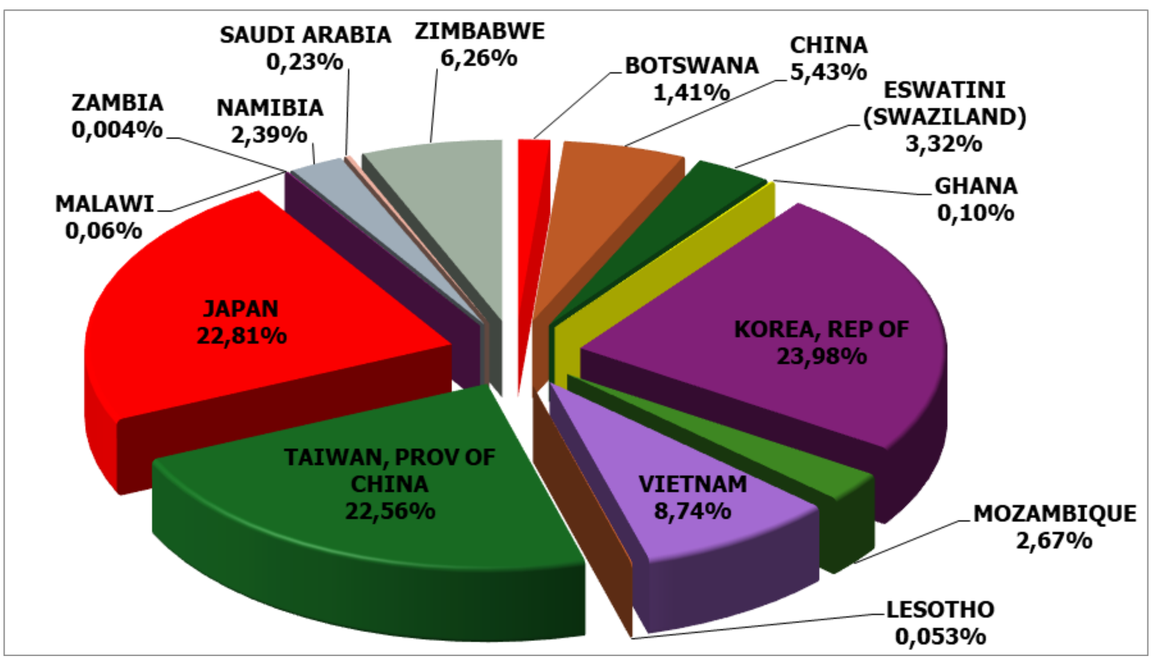
- The exports of white maize for the 2023/24 marketing year are projected at 1,500 million tons, which represents a decrease of 9,34% or 154 525 tons compared to the 1,654 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 2,258 million tons, which represents a decrease of 1,62% or 37 281 tons compared to the 2,295 million tons of the previous marketing year.
- The exports of white maize for the 2024/25 marketing year are projected at 1,150 million tons, which represents a decrease of 23,33% or 350 000 tons compared to the 1,500 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 1,920 million tons, which represents a decrease of 14,97% or 388 000 tons compared to the 2,258 million tons of the previous marketing year.

Graph 3: Major countries of white maize exports from South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- From 29 April 2023 to 23 February 2024, progressive white maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 958 120 tons, with the main destinations being Zimbabwe (29,24% or 280 116 tons), followed by Botswana (22,26% or 213 298 tons), Namibia (13,20% or 126 439 tons), Mozambique (13,01% or 124 613 tons), Kenya (7,08% or 67 792 tons), Lesotho (5,28% or 50 634 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (5,05% or 48 370 tons), Guatemala (4,46% or 42 770 tons), Ghana (0,42% or 4 018 tons) and Angola (0,01% or 70 tons). The imports of white maize for the mentioned period amount to zero.

Graph 4: Major countries of yellow maize exports from South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- From 29 April 2023 to 23 February 2024, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 2,053 million tons, with the main destinations being Republic of Korea (23,98% or 492 252 tons), followed by Japan (22,81% or 468 303 tons), Taiwan (22,56% or 463 086 tons), Vietnam (8,74% or 179 330 tons), Zimbabwe (6,26% or 128 512 tons), China (5,43% or 111 513 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (3,32% or 68 120 tons), Mozambique (2,67% or 54 845 tons), Namibia (2,39% or 49 060 tons), Botswana (1,41% or 28 850 tons), Saudi Arabia (0,23% or 4 720 tons), Ghana (0,10% or 1 969 tons), Malawi (0,06% or

1 145 tons), Lesotho (0,05% or 1 094 tons) and Zambia (0,004% or 72 tons). The imports of yellow maize for the mentioned period amount to zero.

4. Market information

4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Annual consumer price inflation was 5,3% in January 2024, up from 5,1% in December 2023. The CPI increased by 0,1% month-on-month in January 2024.
- The main contributors to the 5,3% annual inflation rate were:
  - Food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 7,2% year-on-year and contributed 1,3%);
  - Housing and utilities (increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,3%);
  - Miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 5,4% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%); and
  - Transport (increased by 4,6% year-on-year and contributed 0,7%).
- In January 2024, the annual inflation rate for goods was 6,6%, up from 6,4% in December 2023; and for services it was 4,0%, up from 3,8% in December 2023.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,7% in January 2024, up from 4,0% in December 2023. The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,1% month-on-month in January 2024.
- The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:
  - Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,0% year-on-year and contributed 1,2%);
  - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 5,8% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%);
  - Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 2,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,7%); and
  - Transport equipment (increased by 7,3% year-on-year and contributed 0,6%).
- The main positive contributors to the headline PPI monthly increase were metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 1,9% month-on-month and contributed 0,3%) and transport equipment (increased by 2,5% month-on-month and contributed 0,2%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 0,2% in January 2024 (compared with -2,2% in December 2023). The index increased by 0,7% month-on-month. The main positive contributor to the annual rate was sawmilling and wood (0,4%). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,8% in January 2024 (compared with 15,5% in December 2023). The index increased by 0,7% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 15,2% and water contributed 1,5% to the annual rate. Electricity contributed 0,7% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -5,9% in January 2024 (compared with -7,6% in December 2023). The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-12,3%) and coal and gas (-0,9%). The main contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (0,4%) and gold and other metal ores (0,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 6,6% in January 2024 (compared with 6,8% in December 2023). The index decreased by 3,7% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (5,6%) and fishing (0,9%). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (3,7%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 4: Closing prices on Tuesday, 5 March 2024

	5 March 2024	5 February 2024	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (Mar. 2024 contract)	R5 122,00	R3 891,00	31,64
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (Mar. 2024 contract)	R4 200,00	R3 676,00	14,25
RSA Wheat per ton (Mar. 2024 contract)	R5 892,00	R6 131,00	-3,90
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (Mar. 2024 contract)	R8 896,00	R8 269,00	7,58
RSA Soya-beans per ton (Mar. 2024 contract)	R8 600,00	R7 988,00	7,66
Exchange rate R/$	R18,99	R18,95	0,21

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- January 2024 tractor sales of 353 units were significantly less (25,53%) than the 474 units sold in January 2023. Eight combine harvesters were sold in January 2024, eight less than the 16 units sold in January 2023.
- In general, most of the summer crops are looking good, particularly in the eastern parts of the country. In the west, there are still some areas which require rain in the next week or two. The El Niño phenomenon which predicted lower rainfall in February, has expressed itself fully. Infrastructural problems regarding electricity, road and rail transportation and harbours are affecting agriculture negatively, namely, in the production and movement of equipment and products to and from local and overseas markets. Thus, while sentiment in the market is positive, caution in the market is now the prevailing sentiment and understandably so.
- It is still early in the year to be predicting overall 2024 calendar year tractor sales. Nevertheless, expectations are that, despite the market being very competitive and that this will probably drive sales, calendar year 2024 tractor sales will be of the order of 15% down on last year.

Table 5: Agricultural machinery sales

	Year-on-year		Percentage	Year-to-date		Percentage
	January		Change	January		Change
Equipment class	**2024**	**2023**	**%**	**2024**	**2023**	**%**
Tractors	353	474	-25,53	353	474	-25,53
Combine harvesters	8	16	50,00	8	16	50,00

Source: SAAMA press release, February 2024

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for March 2024 will be released on **9 April 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