# MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA JULY 2024

**Issued: 6 August 2024**

**Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis**

- **During July 2024, significant rainfall events were mainly evident in the south-western parts of the country.**
- **The preliminary area estimate for wheat for 2024 is 502 000 ha, which is 6,7% less than the 537 950 ha planted for the previous season.**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 620 859 tons, which includes imports of 1,8 million tons. It is also 10,2% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop for 2024 is 13,333 million tons, which is 18,8% 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 1,357 million tons, which is 43,5% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 68 588 tons, which is 18,8% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 65 444 tons, which is 48,5% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 103 527 tons, which is 67,7% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was lower at 5,1% in June 2024.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was unchanged at 4,6% in June 2024.**
- **June 2024 tractor sales of 487 units were approximately 48% less than the 930 units sold in June 2023.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

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## 1. Weather conditions

### 1.1 Rainfall for July 2024

During July 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 July, above-normal rainfall was received in the south-western parts of the country, including parts of the Northern Cape Province (**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 July 2024**

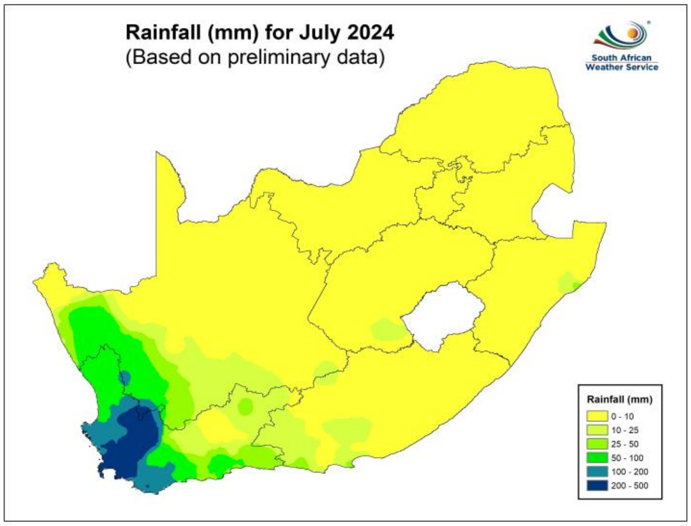
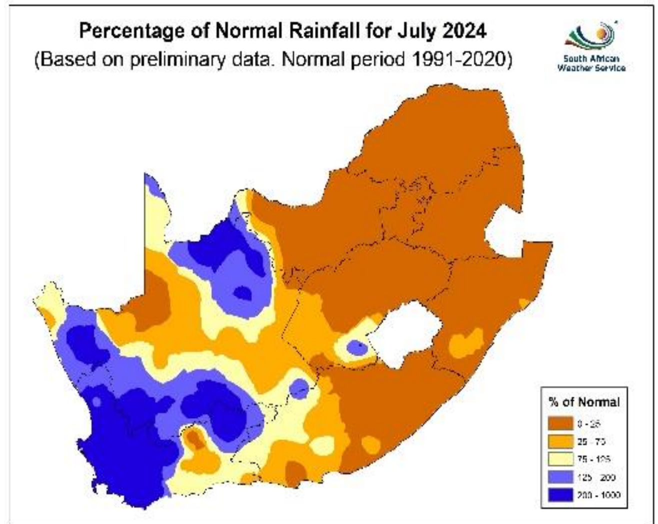



**Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for July 2024**




### 1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 5 August 2024 indicates that the country has approximately 84% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 10,0% less as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The dam levels in the Western Cape (2%) and Eastern Cape (1%) provinces show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2023. However, the Free State (-15%), North West (-15%), Northern Cape (-14%), Gauteng (-13%), Limpopo (-10%), Mpumalanga (-6%) and KwaZulu-Natal (-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, 5 August 2024**

| Province | Net FSC million cubic meters | 05/08/2024 (%) | Last Year (2023) (%) | % Increase/Decrease 2024 vs. 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Eastern Cape** | 1 729 | 82 | 81 | 1,0 |
| **Free State** | 15 657 | 82 | 97 | -15,0 |
| **Gauteng** | 128 | 84 | 97 | -13,0 |
| **Kingdom of Lesotho*** | 2 363 | 83 | 94 | -11,0 |
| **Kingdom of Eswatini*** | 334 | 94 | 100 | -6,0 |
| **KwaZulu-Natal** | 4 910 | 88 | 90 | -2,0 |
| **Limpopo** | 1 483 | 78 | 88 | -10,0 |
| **Mpumalanga** | 2 539 | 91 | 97 | -6,0 |
| **North West** | 867 | 73 | 88 | -15,0 |
| **Northern Cape** | 146 | 81 | 95 | -14,0 |
| **Western Cape** | 1 868 | 93 | 91 | 2,0 |
| **Total** | **32 024** | **84** | **94** | **-10,0** |

*Source: Department of Water and Sanitation*

## 2. Grain production

### 2.1 Summer grain crops - 2024

The area planted and sixth production forecast for summer grains for the 2024 season was released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 26 July 2024, and is as follows:

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

| CROP | **Area planted 2024 Ha (A)** | **6th 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** | **6 347 700** | 1 521 300 | 8 505 000 | -25,37 |
| Yellow maize | **1 081 500** | **6 985 650** | 1 064 800 | 7 925 000 | -11,85 |
| Total Maize | **2 636 250** | **13 333 350** | 2 586 100 | 16 430 000 | -18,85 |
| 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** | **53 755** | 31 300 | 53 000 | 1,42 |
| Sorghum | **42 100** | **95 830** | 34 000 | 94 360 | 1,56 |
| Dry beans | **39 550** | **49 560** | 36 650 | 50 260 | -1,39 |
| TOTAL | **4 438 600** | **15 960 535** | 4 392 050 | 20 117 620 | -20,66 |

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 13 333 350 tons, which is 18,85% or 3,097 million tons less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023). The yield for maize is 5,06 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 6 347 700 tons, which is 25,37% or 2,157 million tons less than the 8 505 000 tons of last season. The yield for white maize is 4,08 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 6 985 650 tons, which is 11,85% or 939 350 tons less than the 7 925 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 6,46 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 53 755 tons – which is 1,42% or 755 tons more than the 53 000 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,30 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 49 560 tons, which is 1,39% or 700 tons less than the 50 260 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,25 t/ha.

*Please note that the seventh production forecast for summer field crops for 2024 will be released on 28 August 2024.*

### 2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2024

The CEC also released the preliminary area planted estimate of the winter cereals for the 2024 season on 26 July 2024.

**Table 3: Winter cereals: Preliminary area planted estimate - 2024 season**

| **CROP** | **Area planted 2024 Ha (A)** | Intentions* Mid April 2024 Ha (B) | Area planted 2023 Ha (C) | Final crop 2023 Tons (D) | Change % (A) ÷ (C) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Commercial:** | | | | | |
| Wheat | **502 000** | 520 200 | 537 950 | 2 050 000 | -6,7% |
| Barley | **102 050** | 102 000 | 107 600 | 377 000 | -5,2% |
| Canola | **146 200** | 141 100 | 131 200 | 236 300 | 11,4% |
| Oats | **28 400** | 20 500 | 27 500 | 41 000 | 3,3% |
| Sweet lupines | **16 000** | 15 000 | 16 000 | 16 000 | 0,0% |
| Total winter | **794 650** | 798 800 | 820 250 | 2 720 300 | -3,1% |

* Intentions based on conditions at the middle of April 2024.
Commercial only. Excluding barley or oats used as pasture, silage, hay and/or on the farm as fodder for livestock

- The preliminary area estimate for **wheat** is 502 000 ha, which is 6,68% or 35 950 ha less than the 537 950 ha planted for the previous season.
- The preliminary area estimate for **barley** is 102 050 ha, which is 5,16% or 5 550 ha less than the 107 600 ha of last season.
- The area planted to **canola** is 146 200 ha, which is 11,43% or 15 000 ha more than the 131 200 ha planted for the previous season.
- The preliminary area estimate for **oats** for the 2024 season is 28 400 ha and for **sweet lupines** 16 000 ha.

*Please note that the revised area planted and first production forecast of winter crops for 2024 will be released on 28 August 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 |

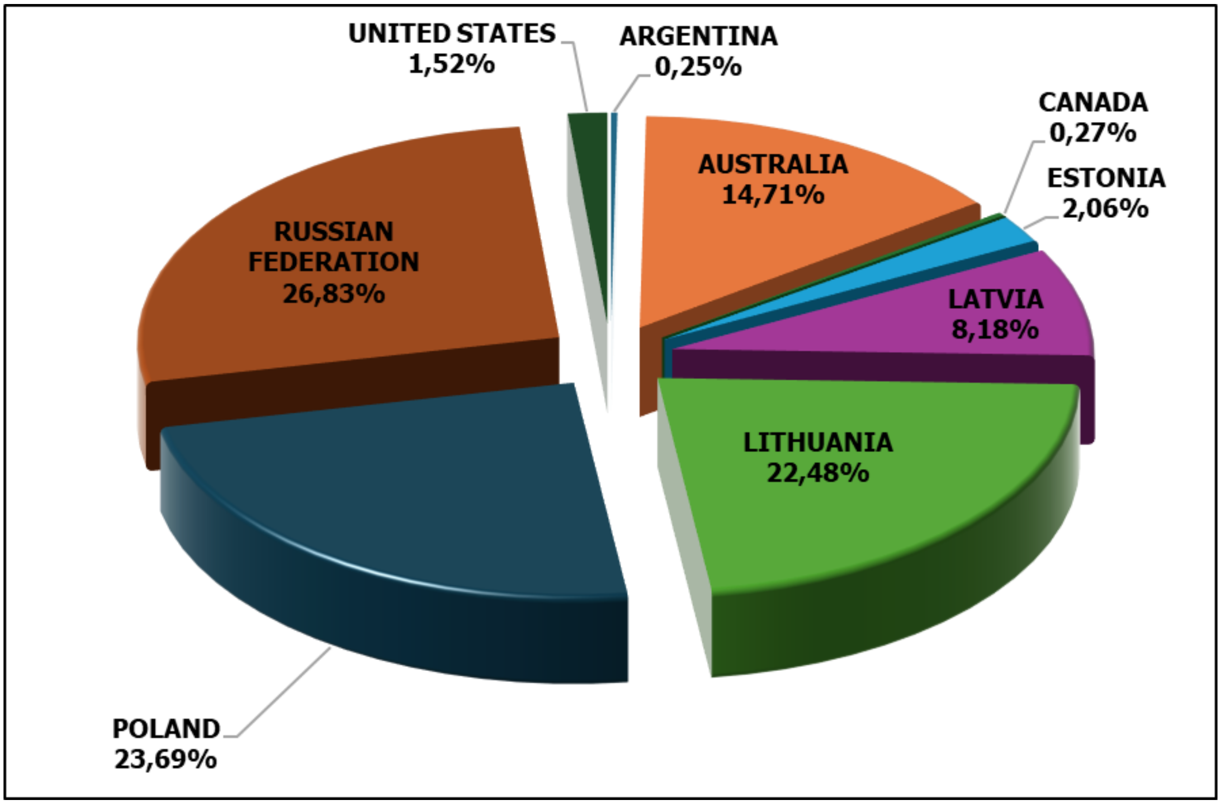
- The area planted to maize in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 347 000 ha, which represents a decrease of 3,24%, compared to the 358 620 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 575 000 tons, which is 13,41% less than the 664 040 tons of last season. 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 JUL24 Annexure A.

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

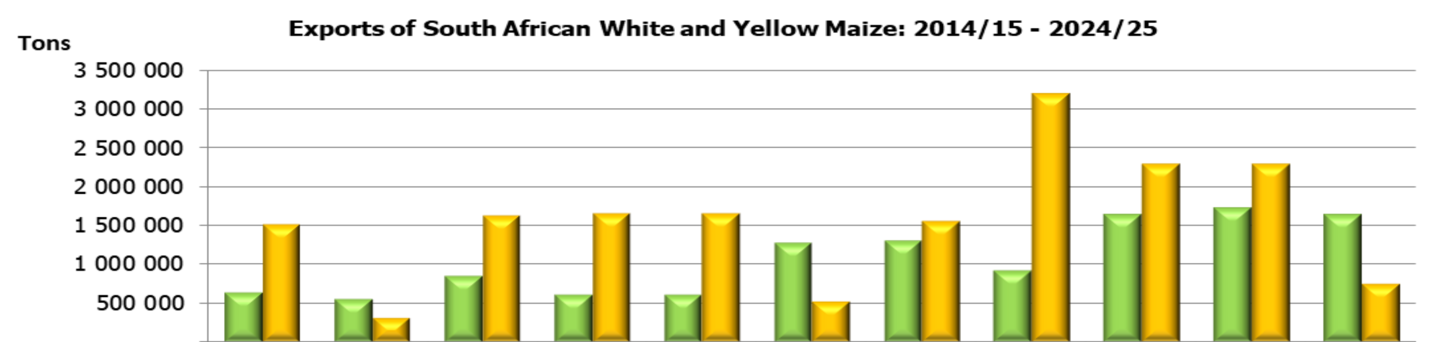
**Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year**




- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September 2023 to 26 July 2024) amount to 1 578 401 tons, with 26,83% or 423 505 tons from the Russian Federation, followed by 23,69% or 373 979 tons from Poland, 22,48% or 354 803 tons from Lithuania, 14,71% or 232 236 tons from Australia, 8,18% or 129 181 tons from Latvia, 2,06% or 32 441 tons from Estonia, 1,52% or 24 057 tons from the United States, 0,27% or 4 300 tons from Canada and only 0,25% or 3 899 tons from Argentina. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 174 382 tons, of which 30,93% or 53 945 tons went to Zimbabwe, 23,05% or 40 195 tons went to Botswana, 22,53% or 39 283 tons went to Zambia, 18,42% or 32 123 tons went to Lesotho, 4,49% or 7 837 tons went to Namibia and only 0,57% 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**

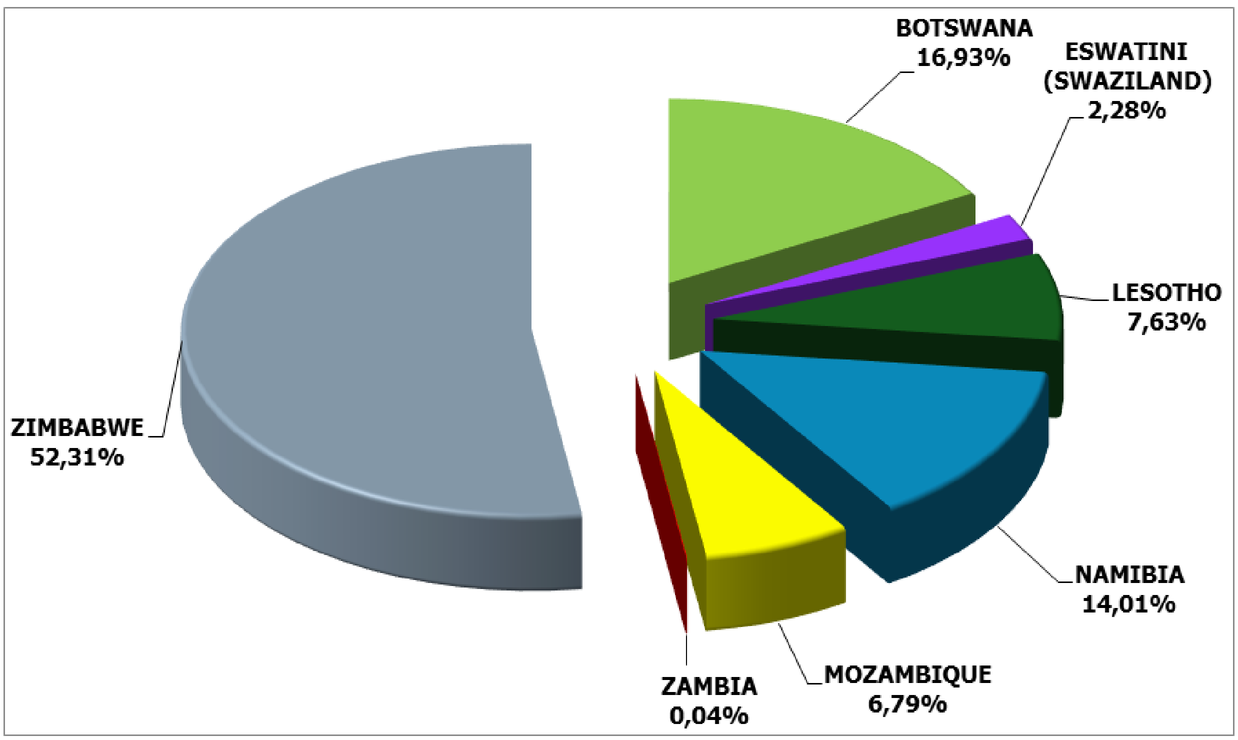



| | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| White maize | 640 807 | 557 063 | 851 969 | 617 000 | 616 651 | 1 275 446 | 1 304 475 | 924 434 | 1 654 525 | 1 734 933 | 1 650 000 |
| 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 | 760 000 |

*Projection

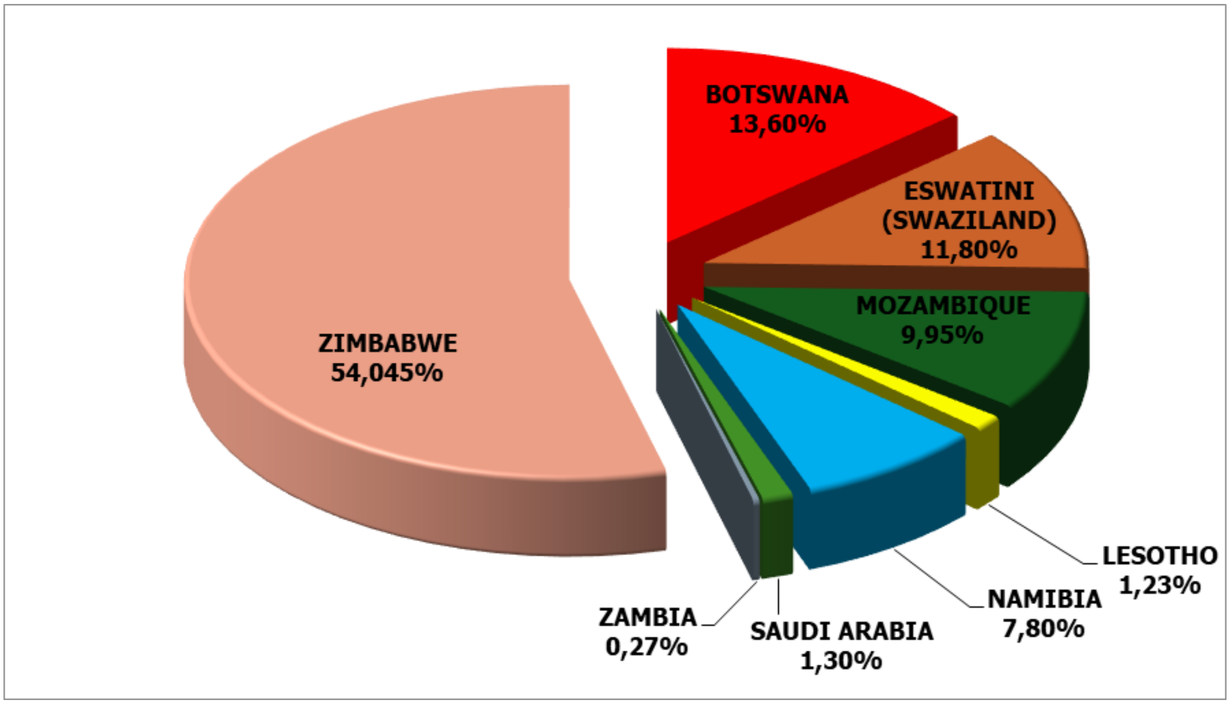
- The exports of white maize for the 2024/25 marketing year are projected at 1,650 million tons, which represents a decrease of 4,90% or 84 933 tons compared to the 1,735 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 760 000 tons, which represents a decrease of 66,90% or 1,536 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 26 July 2024, progressive white maize exports for the 2024/25 marketing year amount to 345 902 tons, with the main destinations being Zimbabwe (52,31% or 180 932 tons), followed by Botswana (16,93% or 58 575 tons), Namibia (14,01% or 48 478 tons), Lesotho (7,63% or 26 379 tons), Mozambique (6,79% or 23 502 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (2,28% or 7 899 tons) and Zambia (0,04% 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 26 July 2024, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2024/25 marketing year amount to 179 273 tons, with the main destinations being, Zimbabwe (54,04% or 96 888 tons), followed by Botswana (13,60% or 24 380 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (11,80% or 21 160 tons), Mozambique (9,95% or 17 831 tons), Namibia (7,80% or 13 989 tons), Saudi Arabia (1,30% or 2 333 tons), Lesotho (1,23% or 2 204 tons) and Zambia (0,27% or 488 tons). The imports of yellow maize for the mentioned period amount to 114 374 (100%) tons from Argentina.

## 4. Market information

### 4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Annual consumer price inflation was 5,1% in June 2024, down from 5,2% in May 2024. The CPI increased by 0,1% month-on-month in June 2024.
- The main contributors to the 5,1% annual inflation rate were:
  - Housing and utilities (increased by 5,5% 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 4,6% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%); and
  - Transport (increased by 5,5% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%).
- In June 2024, the annual inflation rate of goods was 5,5%, down from 5,7% in May 2024; and services was 4,6%, down from 4,7% in May 2024.

### 4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 4,6% in June 2024, unchanged from May 2024. The producer price index (PPI) decreased by 0,3% month-on-month in June 2024.
- The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:
  - Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 6,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,6%);
  - Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,0% year-on-year and contributed 1,2%); and
  - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%).

- The negative contributor to the headline PPI monthly decrease was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (decreased by 2,1% month-on-month and contributed -0,5%). The positive contributors were food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 0,3% month-on-month and contributed 0,1%) and electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment (increased by 2,4% month-on-month and contributed 0,1%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 2,3% in June 2024 (compared with 0,4% in May 2024). The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main positive contributor to the annual rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (1,6%). The main contributor to the monthly rate was basic and fabricated metals (0,3%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 9,2% in June 2024 (compared with 12,1% in May 2024). The index increased by 31,3% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 9,0% and water contributed 1,0% to the annual rate. Electricity contributed 31,3% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -4,0% in June 2024 (compared with -6,4% in May 2024). The index decreased by 0,2% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were non-ferrous metal ores (-7,7%) and coal and gas (-1,1%). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was coal and gas (-0,9%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 9,0% in June 2024 (compared with 8,6% in May 2024). The index increased by 1,2% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (8,9%). The contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (1,2%).

### 4.3 Future contract prices

**Table 5: Closing prices on Monday, 5 August 2024**

| | 5 August 2024 | 5 July 2024 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **RSA White Maize per ton (Aug. 2024 contract)** | R5 215,00 | R5 151,00 | 1,24 |
| **RSA Yellow Maize per ton (Aug. 2024 contract)** | R4 101,00 | R3 865,00 | 6,11 |
| **RSA Wheat per ton (Aug. 2024 contract)** | R6 200,00 | R6 174,00 | 0,42 |
| **RSA Sunflower seed per ton (Aug. 2024 contract)** | R8 950,00 | R8 941,00 | 0,10 |
| **RSA Soya-beans per ton (Aug. 2024 contract)** | R8 767,00 | R8 840,00 | -0,82 |
| **Exchange rate R/$** | R18,62 | R18,23 | 2,14 |

*Source: JSE/SAFEX*

### 4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- June 2024 tractor sales of 487 units were approximately 48% less than the 930 units sold in June 2023. Year-to-date tractor sales are now almost 28% down on last year. Twenty-one combine harvesters were sold in June 2024, 43 less than the 64 units sold in June 2023. On a year-to-date basis, combine harvester sales are now 62% down on last year.
- It was inevitable, after several years of excellent agricultural machinery sales, that the market would turn down. The industry has, however, been surprised at the speed with which it has turned down. Nevertheless, currently the market is characterised by the replacement of older machinery and markets will soon revert to a degree of normality. Overall sentiment in the market is still positive and it is expected that the market will stabilize itself, although at a lower level. Industry expectations for the 2024 calendar year are that tractor sales will be between 20 and 25% down on last year.

**Table 6: Agricultural machinery sales**

| Equipment class | Year-on-year June 2024 | Year-on-year June 2023 | Percentage Change % | Year-to-date June 2024 | Year-to-date June 2023 | Percentage Change % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tractors | 487 | 930 | -47,63 | 2 936 | 4 055 | -27,60 |
| Combine harvesters | 21 | 64 | -67,19 | 124 | 327 | -62,08 |

*Source: SAAMA press release, July 2024*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Food Security Bulletin for August 2024 will be released on **10 September 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