MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA JUNE 2024

Issued: 4 July 2024

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- **During June 2024, significant rainfall was received mainly in the Western and Eastern Cape, the southern parts of the Northern Cape and southern Free State, as well as over the north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal.**
- **The final crop of wheat for 2023 is 2,050 million tons, which is 2,8% 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 555 459 tons, which includes imports of 1,710 million tons. It is also 1,4% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop for 2024 is 13,405 million tons, which is 18,4% 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 1,448 million tons, which is 39,8% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 72 758 tons, which is 26,0% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 70 964 tons, which is 44,2% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 156 477 tons, which is 51,2% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was unchanged at 5,2% in May 2024.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was lower at 4,6% in May 2024.**
- **May 2024 tractor sales of 566 units were approximately 14% less than the 655 units sold in May 2023.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for June 2024

During June 2024, significant rainfall was received mainly in the Western and Eastern Cape, the southern parts of the Northern Cape and southern Free State, as well as over the north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal (**Figure 1**). Comparing rainfall totals to the long-term average for June, above-normal rainfall was received in the eastern parts of the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape, south-eastern parts of the Northern Cape, southern Free State, as well as isolated areas in the North West and KwaZulu-Natal provinces (**Figure 2**). The remainder of the country received predominantly below-normal rainfall. (Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management of Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development).

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for June 2024

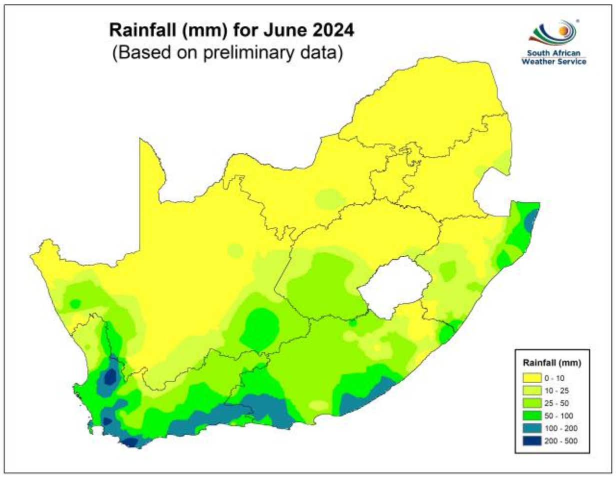
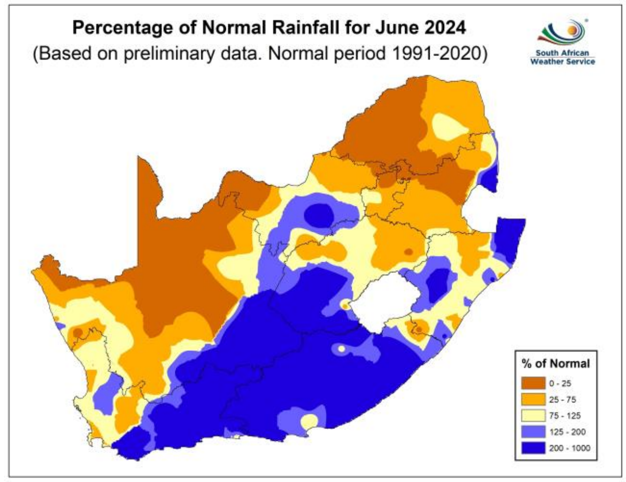


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for June 2024



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 1 July 2024 indicates that the country has approximately 85% 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 Eastern Cape (4%) Province show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2023. However, the Northern Cape (-29%), Western Cape (-17%), Free State (-14%), North West (-14%), Gauteng (-14%), Limpopo (-6%), Mpumalanga (-4%) and KwaZulu-Natal (-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, 1 July 2024

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	**01/07/2024 (%)**	Last Year (2023) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2024 vs. 2023
Eastern Cape	1 729	83	79	4,0
Free State	15 657	85	99	-14,0
Gauteng	128	85	99	-14,0
Kingdom of Lesotho*	2 363	88	98	-10,0
Kingdom of Eswatini*	334	99	99	-
KwaZulu-Natal	4 910	90	91	-1,0
Limpopo	1 483	82	88	-6,0
Mpumalanga	2 539	94	98	-4,0
North West	867	74	88	-14,0
Northern Cape	146	64	93	-29,0
Western Cape	1 868	71	88	-17,0
Total	**32 024**	**85**	**95**	**-10,0**

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2024

The area planted and fifth production forecast for summer grains for the 2024 season was released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 27 June 2024, and is as follows:

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

CROP	**Area planted 2024 Ha (A)**	**5th 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**	**7 056 900**	1 064 800	7 925 000	-10,95
Total Maize	**2 636 250**	**13 404 600**	2 586 100	16 430 000	-18,41
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**	**54 440**	31 300	53 000	2,72
Sorghum	**42 100**	**95 830**	34 000	94 360	1,56
Dry beans	**39 550**	**52 190**	36 650	50 260	3,84
TOTAL	**4 438 600**	**16 035 100**	4 392 050	20 117 620	-20,29

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 13 404 600 tons, which is 18,41% or 3,025 million tons less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023). The yield for maize is 5,08 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 7 056 900 tons, which is 10,95% or 868 100 tons less than the 7 925 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 6,53 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 54 440 tons – which is 2,72% or 1 440 tons more than the 53 000 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,32 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 52 190 tons, which is 3,84% or 1 930 tons more than the 50 260 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,32 t/ha.

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

2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2024

Please note that the preliminary area estimate of winter crops for 2024 will be released on 26 July 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 3: 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

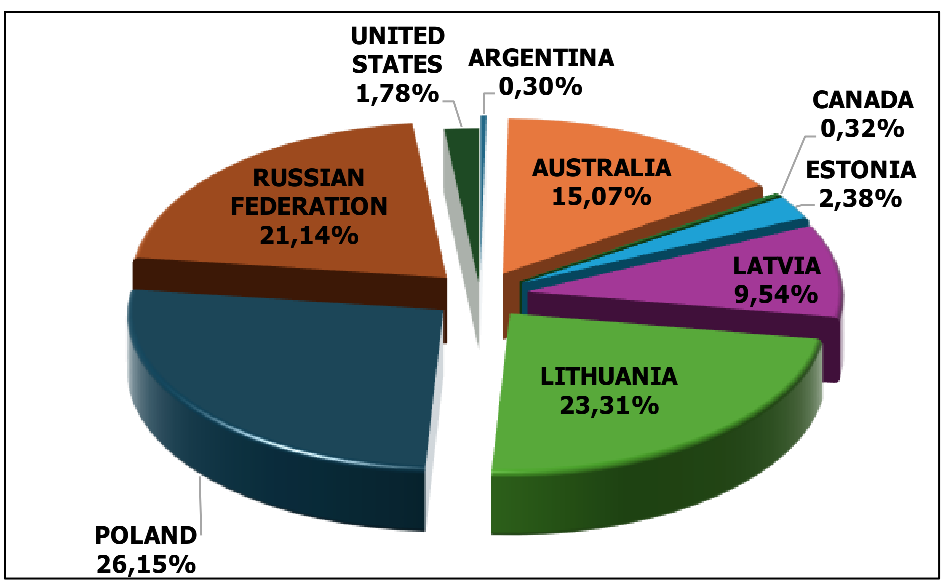
The area planted to maize in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 347 000 ha, which represents a decrease of 3,24%, compared to the 358 620 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 575 000 tons, which is 13,41% less than the 664 040 tons of last season. 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 JUNE24 Annexure A.

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

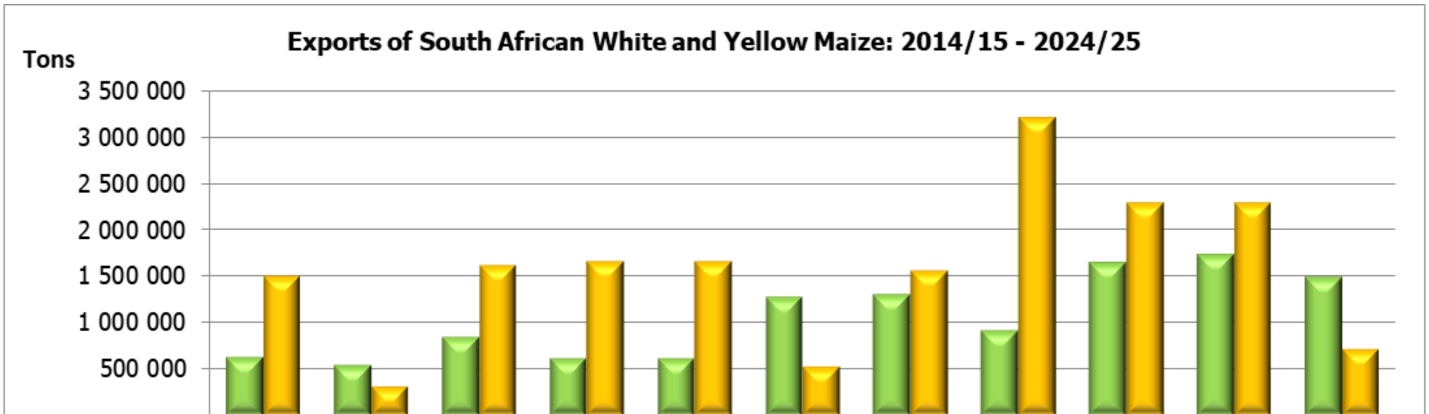
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September 2023 to 28 June 2024) amount to 1 353 421 tons, with 26,15% or 353 970 tons from Poland, followed by 23,31% or 315 474 tons from Lithuania, 21,14% or 286 163 tons from the Russian Federation, 15,07% or 204 006 tons from Australia, 9,54% or 129 181 tons from Latvia, 2,38% or 32 256 tons from Estonia, 1,78% or 24 057 tons from the United States, 0,32% or 4 300 tons from Canada and only 0,30% or 4 014 tons from Argentina. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 158 915 tons, of which 30,40% or 48 311 tons went to Zimbabwe, 23,63% or 37 553 tons went to Botswana, 21,18% or 33 664 tons went to Zambia, 20,21% or 32 123 tons went to Lesotho, 4,28% or 6 794 tons went to Namibia and only 0,30% or 470 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

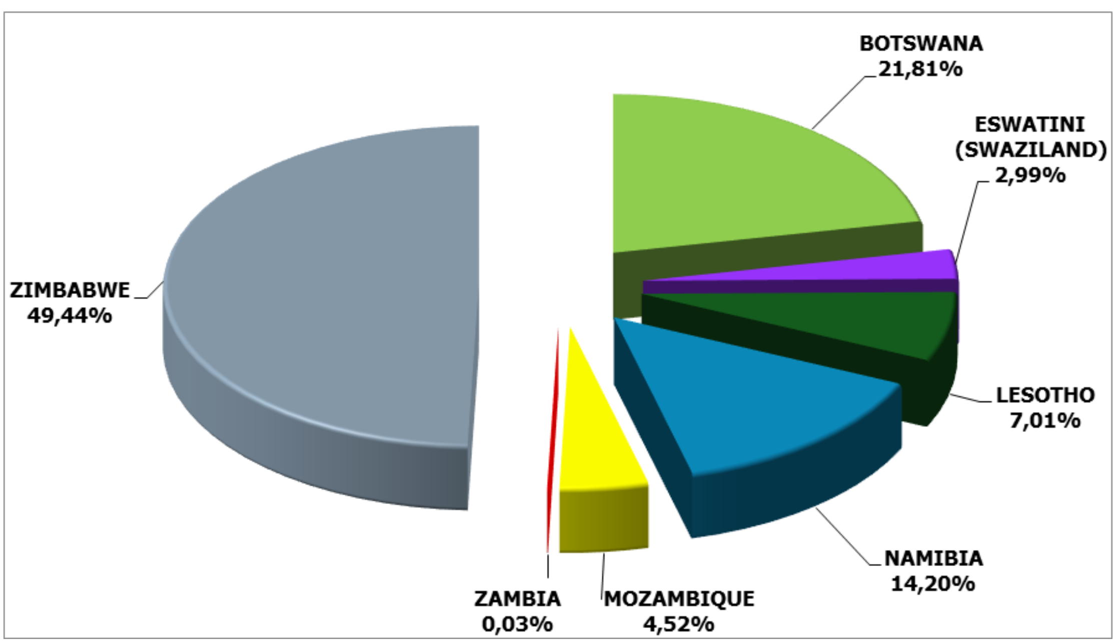


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
White maize	640 807	557 063	851 969	617 000	616 651	1 275 446	1 304 475	924 434	1 654 525	1 734 933	1 500 000
Yellow maize	1 514 917	322 748	1 629 739	1 666 000	1 667 407	534 127	1 563 315	3 210 777	2 295 281	2 296 110	720 000

*Projection

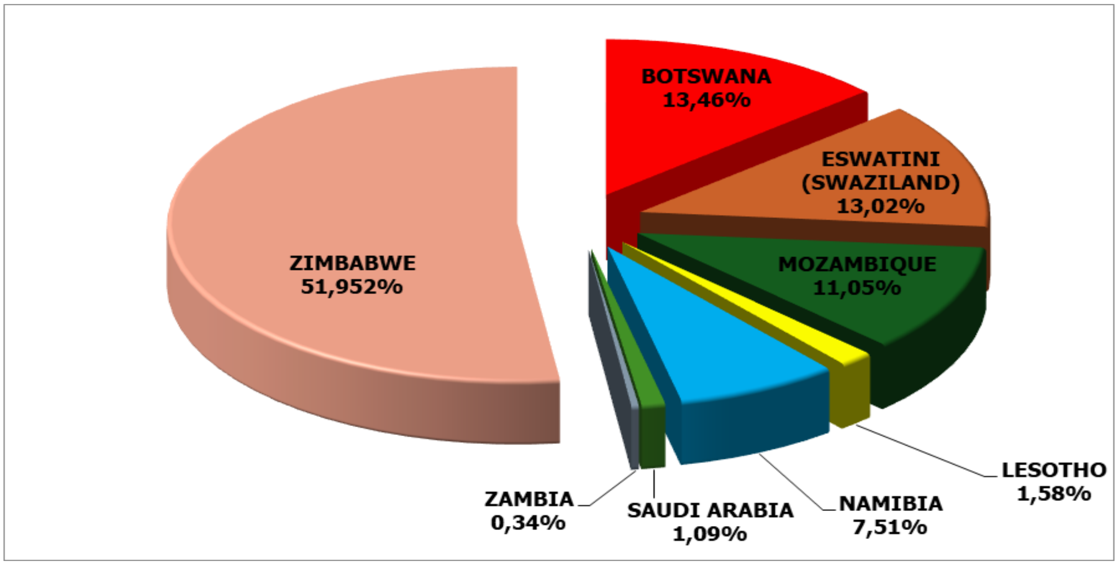
- The exports of white maize for the 2024/25 marketing year are projected at 1,500 million tons, which represents a decrease of 13,54% or 234 933 tons compared to the 1,735 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 720 000 tons, which represents a decrease of 68,64% or 1,576 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 28 June 2024, progressive white maize exports for the 2024/25 marketing year amount to 205 721 tons, with the main destinations being Zimbabwe (49,44% or 101 704 tons), followed by Botswana (21,81% or 44 875 tons), Namibia (14,20% or 29 216 tons), Lesotho (7,01% or 14 418 tons), Mozambique (4,52% or 9 291 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (2,99% or 6 148 tons) and Zambia (0,03% or 69 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 28 June 2024, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2024/25 marketing year amount to 121 981 tons, with the main destinations being, Zimbabwe (51,95% or 63 371 tons), followed by Botswana (13,46% or 16 414 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (13,02% or 15 878 tons), Mozambique (11,05% or 13 476 tons), Namibia (7,51% or 9 165 tons), Lesotho (1,58% or 1 928 tons), Saudi Arabia (1,09% or 1 331 tons) and Zambia (0,34% or 418 tons). The imports of yellow maize for the mentioned period amount to 92 491 (100%) tons from Argentina.

4. Market information

4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Annual consumer price inflation was 5,2% in May 2024, unchanged from April 2024. The CPI increased by 0,2% month-on-month in May 2024.
- The main contributors to the 5,2% annual inflation rate were:
  - Housing and utilities (increased by 5,8% year-on-year and contributed 1,4%);
  - Miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 7,1% year-on-year and contributed 1,1);
  - Transport (increased by 6,3% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%); and
  - Food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 4,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%).
- In May 2024, the annual inflation rate of goods was 5,7%, unchanged from April 2024; and for services, it was 4,7%, up from 4,6% in April 2024.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

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

    - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 5,5% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%).
- The positive contributors to the headline PPI monthly increase were:
    - Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 0,8% month-on-month and contributed 0,2%);
    - Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 0,8% month-on-month and contributed 0,2%); and
    - Electrical machinery and communication and metering equipment (increased by 3,4% month-on-month and contributed 0,1%).
- The negative contributor was transport equipment (decreased by 4,5% month-on-month and contributed -0,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 12,1% in May 2024 (compared with 14,4% in April 2024). The index increased by 1,7% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 10,8% and water contributed 1,4% to the annual rate. Electricity contributed 1,8% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -6,4% in May 2024 (compared with -5,5% in April 2024). The index decreased by 0,8% month-on-month. The main negative contributor to the annual rate was non-ferrous metal ores (-10,6%). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was coal and gas (-0,8%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 8,6% in May 2024 (compared with 9,7% in April 2024). The index decreased by 1,3% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (8,5%). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (-1,1%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 4: Closing prices on Wednesday, 3 July 2024

	3 July 2024	3 June 2024	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (July 2024 contract)	R5 123,00	R5 230,00	-2,04
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (July 2024 contract)	R3 839,00	R4 047,00	-5,14
RSA Wheat per ton (July 2024 contract)	R6 168,00	R6 805,00	-9,36
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (July 2024 contract)	R8 801,00	R9 337,00	-5,74
RSA Soya-beans per ton (July 2024 contract)	R8 810,00	R9 112,00	-3,31
Exchange rate R/$	R18,48	R18,74	-1,39

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- May 2024 tractor sales of 566 units were approximately 14% less than the 655 units sold in May 2023. Year-to-date tractor sales are now almost 22% down on last year. Twenty-five combine harvesters were sold in May 2024, 40 less than the 65 units sold in May 2023. On a year-to-date basis, combine harvester sales are now almost 61% down on last year. Sentiment amongst farmers attending the NAMPO Harvest Days in Bothaville in May was generally positive, although cautious. This caution expressed itself as uncertainties in terms of the then forthcoming elections, weather prospects and crop harvest expectations. These uncertainties still prevail, to a lesser or greater extent. However, once summer crop harvesting has been completed and preparations for the forthcoming summer-cropping season are in place, the agricultural machinery industry should settle down to a new, lower, level, after the excellent sales levels experienced in the past few years. Industry expectations for the 2024 calendar year are that tractor sales will be between 15 and 20% % down on last year.

Table 5: Agricultural machinery sales

Equipment class	Year-on-year May 2024	Year-on-year May 2023	Percentage Change %	Year-to-date May 2024	Year-to-date May 2023	Percentage Change %
Tractors	566	655	-13,59	2 449	3 125	-21,63
Combine harvesters	25	65	-61,54	103	263	-60,84

Source: SAAMA press release, June 2024

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for July 2024 will be released on **6 August 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