MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA MAY 2024

Issued: 5 June 2024

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- **During May 2024, significant rainfall events were limited to south and east coast areas of the country.**
- **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 561 459 tons, which includes imports of 1,710 million tons. It is also 0,3% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop for 2024 is 13,310 million tons, which is 19,0% less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023).**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 1,514 million tons, which is 36,9% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 28 718 tons, which is 50,2% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 79 464 tons, which is 37,5% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2024/25 marketing year are 154 927 tons, which is 51,7% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was lower at 5,2% in April 2024.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was higher at 5,1% in April 2024.**
- **April 2024 tractor sales of 500 units were approximately 8% less than the 543 units sold in April 2023.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for May 2024

During May 2024, significant rainfall events were limited to south and east coast areas of the country (**Figure 1**). Comparing rainfall totals to the long-term average for May 2024, rainfall received was below-normal over most parts of the country, with isolated areas of above-normal rainfall evident over northern parts of KwaZulu-Natal and the southern parts of the Western Cape Province (**Figure 2**). (Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management of Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development).

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for May 2024

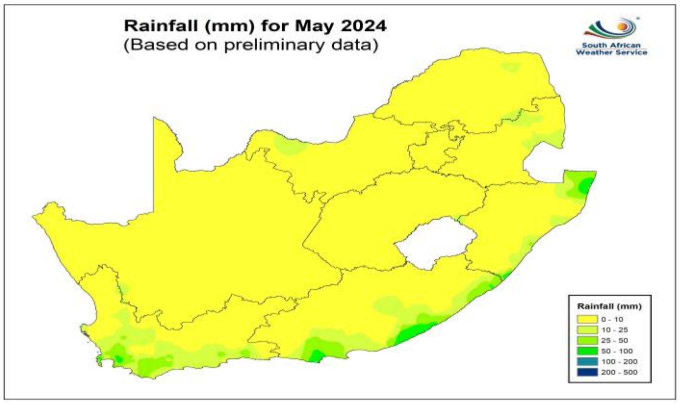
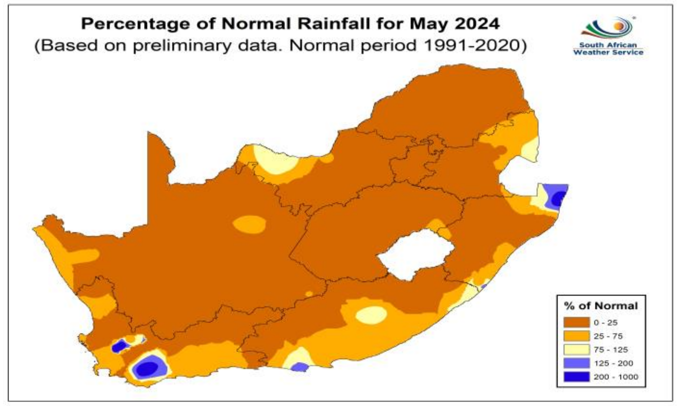


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for May 2024



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 27 May 2024 indicates that the country has approximately 86% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 7,0% less as compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The dam levels in the Eastern Cape (4%) and Western Cape (3%) provinces show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2023. However, the Free State (-13%), North West (-12%), Northern Cape (-12%), Gauteng (-11%), Limpopo (-6%) and Mpumalanga (-3%) provinces, all show decreases in full supply capacity as compared to 2023. With reference to KwaZulu-Natal, the full supply capacity remained unchanged 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, 27 May 2024

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	**27/05/2024 (%)**	Last Year (2023) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2024 vs. 2023
Eastern Cape	1 729	82	78	4,0
Free State	15 657	86	99	-13,0
Gauteng	128	89	100	-11,0
Kingdom of Lesotho*	2 363	92	99	-7,0
Kingdom of Eswatini*	334	99	100	-1,0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 910	91	91	-
Limpopo	1 483	83	89	-6,0
Mpumalanga	2 539	96	99	-3,0
North West	867	75	87	-12,0
Northern Cape	146	72	84	-12,0
Western Cape	1 868	57	54	3,0
Total	**32 024**	**86**	**93**	**-7,0**

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2024

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

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

CROP	**Area planted 2024 Ha (A)**	**4th 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**	**6 343 350**	1 521 300	8 505 000	-24,42
Yellow maize	**1 081 500**	**6 966 500**	1 064 800	7 925 000	-12,09
Total Maize	**2 636 250**	**13 309 850**	2 586 100	16 430 000	-18,99
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**	**15 940 350**	4 392 050	20 117 620	-20,76

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, and 0,11% or 3 000 ha less than the area estimate of 2 639 250 ha released in February 2024.
- The expected **commercial maize crop** is 13 309 850 tons, which is 18,99% or 3,120 million tons less than the 16 430 000 tons of the previous season (2023). The yield for maize is 5,05 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 6 343 350 tons, which is 25,42% or 2,162 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 6 966 500 tons, which is 12,09% or 958 500 tons less than the 7 925 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 6,44 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 a decrease 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 fifth production forecast for summer field crops for 2024 will be released on 27 June 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

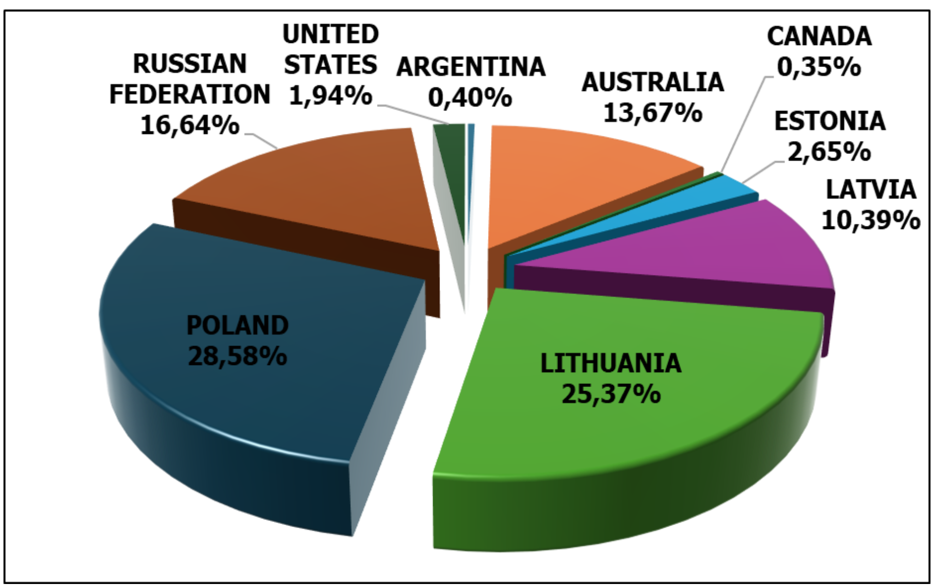
The area planted to maize in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 347 000 ha, which represents a decrease of 3,24%, compared to the 358 620 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 575 000 tons, which is 13,41% less than the 664 040 tons of last season. 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 MAY24 Annexure A.

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

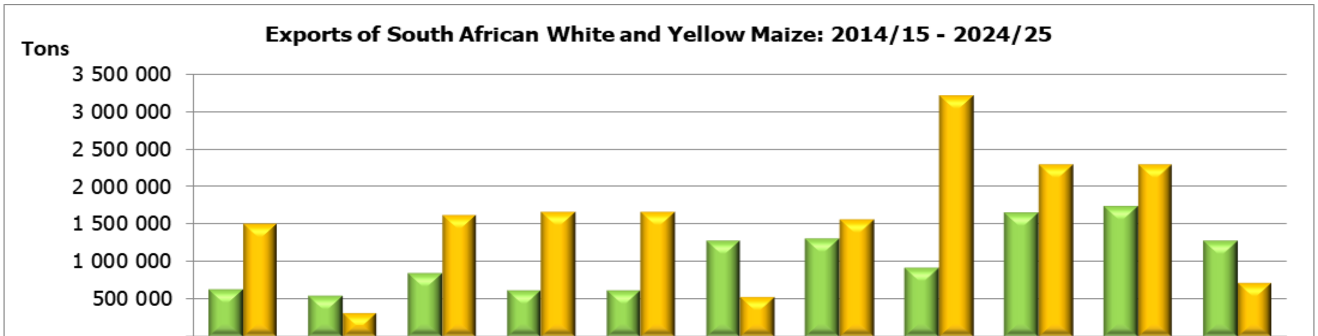
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September 2023 to 24 May 2024) amount to 1 242 787 tons, with 28,58% or 355 230 tons from Poland, followed by 25,37% or 315 313 tons from Lithuania, 16,64% or 206 850 tons from the Russian Federation, 13,67% or 169 942 tons from Australia, 10,39% or 129 181 tons from Latvia, 2,65% or 32 910 tons from Estonia, 1,94% or 24 057 tons from the United States, 0,40% or 5 004 tons from Argentina and only 0,35% or 4 300 tons from Canada. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 131 443 tons, of which 30,11% or 39 575 tons went to Zimbabwe, 24,44% or 32 123 tons went to Lesotho, 24,23% or 31 843 tons went to Botswana, 16,43% or 21 591 tons went to Zambia, 4,44% or 5 841 tons went to Namibia and only 0,36% 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

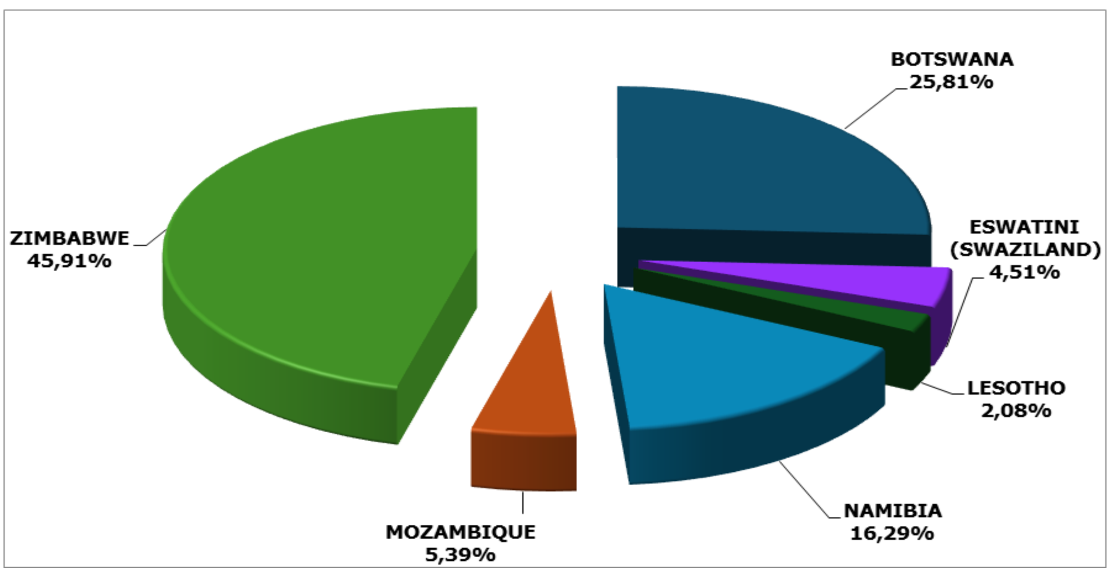


	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
White maize	640 807	557 063	851 969	617 000	616 651	1 275 446	1 304 475	924 434	1 654 525	1 734 813	1 275 000
Yellow maize	1 514 917	322 748	1 629 739	1 666 000	1 667 407	534 127	1 563 315	3 210 777	2 295 281	2 295 594	720 000

*Projection

- The exports of white maize for the 2024/25 marketing year are projected at 1,275 million tons, which represents a decrease of 26,51% or 459 813 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.

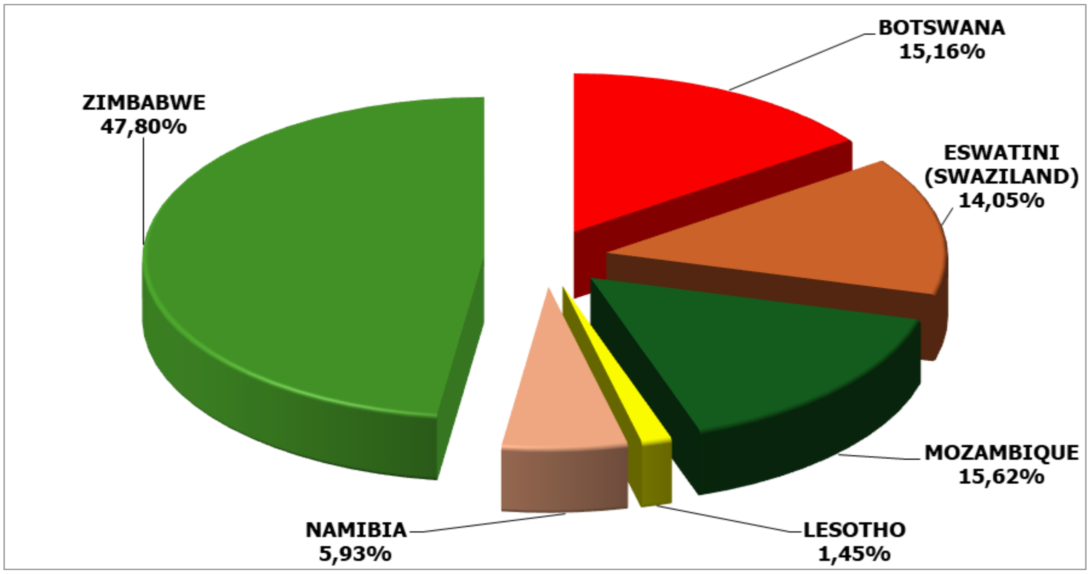
Graph 3: Major countries of white maize exports from South Africa: 2024/25 marketing year



- From 27 April to 24 May 2024, progressive white maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 90 786 tons, with the main destinations being Zimbabwe (45,91% or 41 682 tons), followed by Botswana (25,81% or 23 431 tons), Namibia (16,29% or 14 791 tons), Mozambique (5,39% or 4 894 tons), Eswathini

(Swaziland) (4,51% or 4 096) and Lesotho (2,08% or 1 892 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 24 Mayl 2024, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 48 132 tons, with the main destinations being, Zimbabwe (47,80% or 23 005 tons), followed by Mozambique (15,62% or 7 519 tons), Botswana (15,16% or 7 297 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (14,05% or 6 762 tons), Namibia (5,93% or 2 853 tons) and Lesotho (1,45% or 696 tons). The imports of yellow maize for the mentioned period amount to 49 644 (100%) tons from Argentina.

4. Market information

4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Annual consumer price inflation was 5,2% in April 2024, down from 5,3% in March 2024. The CPI increased by 0,3% month-on-month in April 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 7,2% year-on-year and contributed 1,1%);
  - Food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 4,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%); and
  - Transport (increased by 5,7% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%).
- In April 2024, the annual inflation rate of goods was 5,7%, unchanged from March 2024; and for services, it was 4,6%, down from 5,0% in March 2024.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 5,1% in April 2024, up from 4,6% in March 2024. The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0,5% month-on-month in April 2024.
- The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:
  - Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 6,9% year-on-year and contributed 1,6%);
  - Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 3,2% year-on-year and contributed 1,0%); and
  - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 6,4% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%).
- The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 0,8% month-on-month and contributed 0,2%).

- The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 1,8% in April 2024 (compared with 1,7% in March 2024). The index increased by 1,4% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,9%) and basic and fabricated metals (0,5%). The main contributors to the monthly rate were basic and fabricated metals (0,7%) and chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,5%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 14,4% in April 2024 (compared with 15,6% in March 2024). The index increased by 5,2% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 12,8% and water contributed 1,4% to the annual rate. Electricity contributed 4,8% and water contributed 0,3% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -5,5% in April 2024 (compared with -12,7% in March 2024). The index increased by 5,0% month-on-month. The main negative contributor to the annual rate was non-ferrous metal ores (-9,6%). The main contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (2,2%) and non-ferrous metal ores (2,2 %).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 9,7% in April 2024 (compared with 7,7% in March 2024). The index increased by 2,5% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (9,3%). The contributors to the monthly rate were agriculture (2,1%) and forestry (0,4%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 4: Closing prices on Monday, 3 June 2024

	3 June 2024	3 May 2024	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (June 2024 contract)	R5 192,00	R5 052,00	2,77
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (June 2024 contract)	R4 001,00	R4 220,00	-5,19
RSA Wheat per ton (June 2024 contract)	R6 704,00	R6 302,00	6,38
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (June 2024 contract)	R9 200,00	R8 929,00	3,04
RSA Soya-beans per ton (June 2024 contract)	R9 020,00	R8 698,00	3,70
Exchange rate R/$	R18,74	R18,53	1,13

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- April 2024 tractor sales of 500 units were approximately 8% less than the 543 units sold in April 2023. Year-to-date tractor sales are now almost 24% down on last year. Twenty-six combine harvesters were sold in April 2024, 78 less than the 108 units sold in April 2023. On a year-to-date basis, combine harvester sales are now almost 61% down on last year.
- While farmers are showing caution in their buying decisions as they harvest their summer crops, the overall mood of the industry is positive. With El Niño having expressed itself during the latter part of the season, summer crop yields have been variable, particularly in the west of the country and where crops were planted late. The situation with winter crops in the western Cape is less positive as there has been very little rain there up until now. In regard to agricultural machinery sales, these are bound to fall from the highs, particularly of combine harvester sales, of recent years. There is no doubt that the market will continue to be very competitive. Industry expectations are that for the 2024 calendar year tractor sales will be between 15 and 20% down on last year.

Table 5: Agricultural machinery sales

	Year-on-year		Percentage	Year-to-date		Percentage
	April		Change	April		Change
Equipment class	**2024**	**2023**	**%**	**2024**	**2023**	**%**
Tractors	500	543	-7,92	1 883	2 470	-23,76
Combine harvesters	26	104	-75,00	78	198	-60,61

Source: SAAMA press release, June 2024

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for June 2024 will be released on **5 July 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