MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA NOVEMBER 2023

Issued: 7 December 2023

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- **During November 2023, significant rainfall events were confined to the eastern parts of the country.**
- **The expected production of wheat is 2,152 million tons, which is 2,0% more than the previous seasons' crop of 2,110 million tons.**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 450 684 tons, which includes imports of 1,600 million tons. It is also 20,0% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop for 2023 is 16,395 million tons, which is 6,0% more than the 15,470 million tons for the previous season.**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 3,101 million tons, which is 58,7% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 22 006 tons, which is 53,1% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for current 2023/24 marketing year are 99 477 tons, which is 35,3% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 304 997 tons, which is 77,4% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was higher at 5,9% in October 2023.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was higher at 5,8% in October 2023.**
- **November 2023 tractor sales of 685 units were approximately 3% less than the 703 units sold in November 2022.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for November 2023

During November 2023, significant rainfall events were confined to the eastern parts of the country (**Figure 1**). Comparing rainfall totals to the long-term average for November 2023, rainfall received was below-normal throughout the country with a patch of near-normal rainfall in the Mpumalanga Province (**Figure 2**).
(Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management of Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development)

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for November 2023

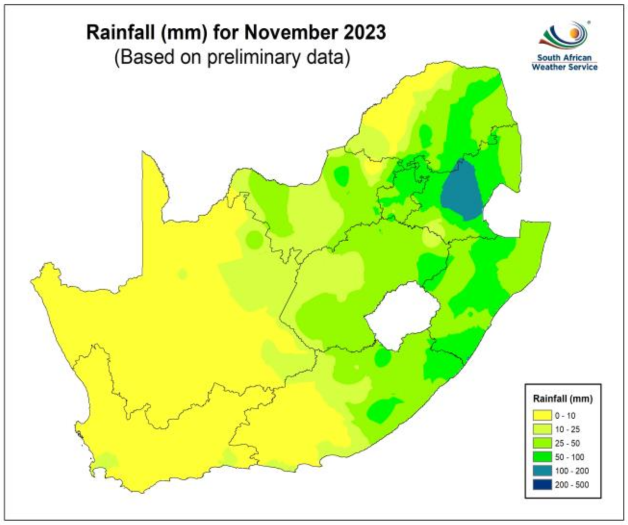
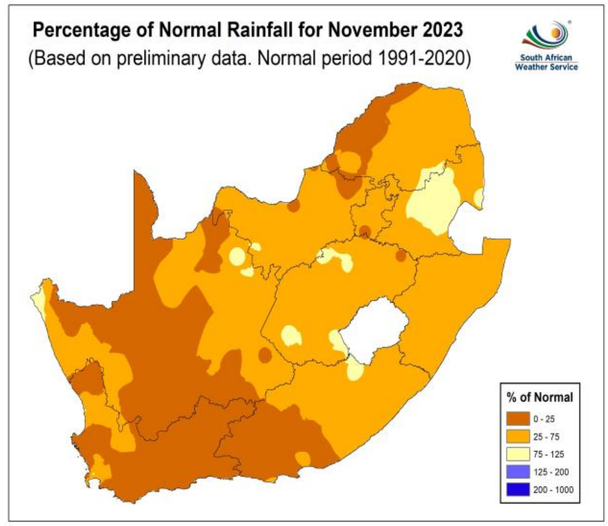


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for November 2023



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 4 December 2023 indicates that the country has approximately 85% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 8,0% less as compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The dam levels in the Western Cape (27%) and Eastern Cape (10%) provinces all show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2022. However, the Northern Cape (-23%), Free State (-15%), Gauteng (-11%) Limpopo (-7,0%), KwaZulu-Natal (-5%) and Mpumalanga (-2%) provinces, all show decreases in full supply capacity, while the North West Province remained unchanged in the full supply capacity as compared to 2022 for the above-mentioned period. The provincial distribution of South Africa's water supply including Lesotho and Swaziland is contained in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Level of dams, 4 December 2023

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	**04/12/2023 (%)**	Last Year (2022) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2023 vs. 2022
Eastern Cape	1 729	85	75	10,0
Free State	15 657	86	101	-15,0
Gauteng	128	90	101	-11,0
Kindom of Lesotho*	2 363	88	100	-12,0
Kingdom of Eswatini*	334	100	100	-
KwaZulu-Natal	4 910	80	85	-5,0
Limpopo	1 480	79	86	-7,0
Mpumalanga	2 539	91	93	-2,0
North West	867	80	80	-
Northern Cape	146	81	104	-23,0
Western Cape	1 868	89	62	27,0
Total	**32 022**	**85**	**93**	**-8,0**

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2023

The area planted estimate and final production estimate of summer grains for the 2023 season was released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 28 November 2023, and is as follows:

Table 2: Commercial summer crops: 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:					
White maize	**1 521 300**	**8 499 965**	1 575 000	7 850 000	8,28
Yellow maize	**1 064 800**	**7 895 260**	1 048 000	7 620 000	3,61
Total Maize	**2 586 100**	**16 395 225**	2 623 000	15 470 000	5,98
Sunflower seed	**555 700**	**724 110**	670 700	845 550	-14,36
Soybeans	**1 148 300**	**2 755 300**	925 300	2 230 000	23,56
Groundnuts	**31 300**	**52 660**	43 400	48 500	8,58
Sorghum	**34 000**	**94 360**	37 200	103 140	-8,51
Dry beans	**36 650**	**50 260**	42 900	52 590	-4,43
TOTAL	**4 392 050**	**20 071 915**	4 342 500	18 749 780	7,05

Note: Estimate is for calendar year, e.g. production season 2022/23 = 2023

- The area estimate for maize is 2 586 100 ha, which is 1,41% or 36 900 ha less than the 2 623 000 ha planted for the previous season.
- The expected **commercial maize crop** is 16 395 225 tons, which is 5,98% or 925 225 tons more than the 15 470 000 tons of the previous season (2022). The yield for maize is 6,34 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **white maize** is 1 521 300 ha, which represents a decrease of 3,41% or 53 700 ha compared to the 1 575 000 ha planted last season. The production forecast of white maize is 8 499 965 tons, which is 8,28% or 649 965 tons more than the 7 850 000 tons of last season. The yield for white maize is 5,59 t/ha.
- In the case of **yellow maize,** the area estimate is 1 064 800 ha, which is 1,60% or 16 800 ha more than the 1 048 000 ha planted last season. The yellow maize production forecast is 7 895 260 tons, which is 3,61% or 275 260 tons more than the 7 620 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 7,41 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **sunflower seed** is 555 700 ha, which is 17,15% or 115 000 ha less than the 670 700 ha planted the previous season. The production forecast for sunflower seed is 724 110 tons, which is 14,36% or 121 440 tons less than the 845 550 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,30 t/ha.
- It is estimated that 1 148 300 ha have been planted to **soybeans**, which represents an increase of 24,10% or 223 000 ha compared to the 925 300 ha planted last season. The production forecast is 2 755 300 tons, which is 23,56% or 525 300 tons more than the 2 230 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 2,40 t/ha.
- For **groundnuts**, the area estimate is 31 300 ha, which is 27,88% or 12 100 ha less than the 43 400 ha planted for the previous season. The expected crop is 52 660 tons – which is 8,58% or 4 160 tons more than the 48 500 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,68 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **sorghum** decreased by 8,60% or 3 200 ha, from 37 200 ha to 34 000 ha against the previous season. The production forecast for sorghum is 94 360 tons, which is 8,51% or 8 780 tons less than the 103 140 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 2,78 t/ha.
- For **dry beans**, the area estimate is 36 650 ha, which is 14,57% or 6 250 ha less the 42 900 ha planted for the previous season. The production forecast is 50 260 tons, which is 4,43% or 2 330 tons less than the 52 590 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,37 t/ha.

Please note that the preliminary area planted estimate for summer field crops for 2024 will be released on 30 January 2024.

2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2022

The area estimate and fourth production forecast for winter cereals for the 2023 season was also released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 29 November 2023, and is as follows:

Table 3: Commercial winter cereals: Revised area planted and 4th production forecast - 2023 season

CROP	**Area planted 2023 Ha (A)**	**4th Forecast 2023 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2022 Ha (C)	Final estimate 2022 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
Wheat	**537 950**	**2 151 625**	566 800	2 110 000	1,97
Malting barley*	**107 600**	**360 220**	101 000	302 000	19,28
Canola	**131 200**	**237 450**	123 510	210 000	13,07
Cereal oats*	**27 500**	**36 200**	27 000	27 550	31,40
Sweet lupines	**16 000**	**16 800**	21 000	15 750	6,67
Total winter cereals	**820 250**	**2 802 295**	839 310	2 665 300	5,14

* 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 2 151 625 tons, which is 1,97% or 41 625 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 2 110 000 tons, whilst the expected yield is 4,00 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 360 220 tons, which is 19,28% or 58 220 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 302 000 tons. The expected yield is 3,35 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 36 200 tons and the area planted is 27 500 ha. The expected yield is 1,32 t/ha. In the case of **sweet lupines,** the production forecast is 16 800 tons. The area estimate of sweet lupines is 16 000 ha, with an expected yield of 1,05 t/ha.

Please note that the fifth production forecast for winter cereals for 2023 will be released on 19 December 2023.

2.3 Non-commercial maize - 2023

The CEC released the preliminary area planted and production estimate of the non-commercial maize sector for the 2023 season on 26 April 2023.

Table 4: Non-commercial maize: Preliminary area planted and production estimate - 2023 season

CROP	**Area planted 2023 Ha (A)**	**Production 2023 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2022 Ha (C)	Final crop 2022 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Non-commercial agriculture:					
White maize	**278 655**	**472 765**	296 950	482 000	-1,92
Yellow maize	**79 965**	**191 275**	81 850	185 000	3,39
Maize	**358 620**	**664 040**	378 800	667 000	-0,44

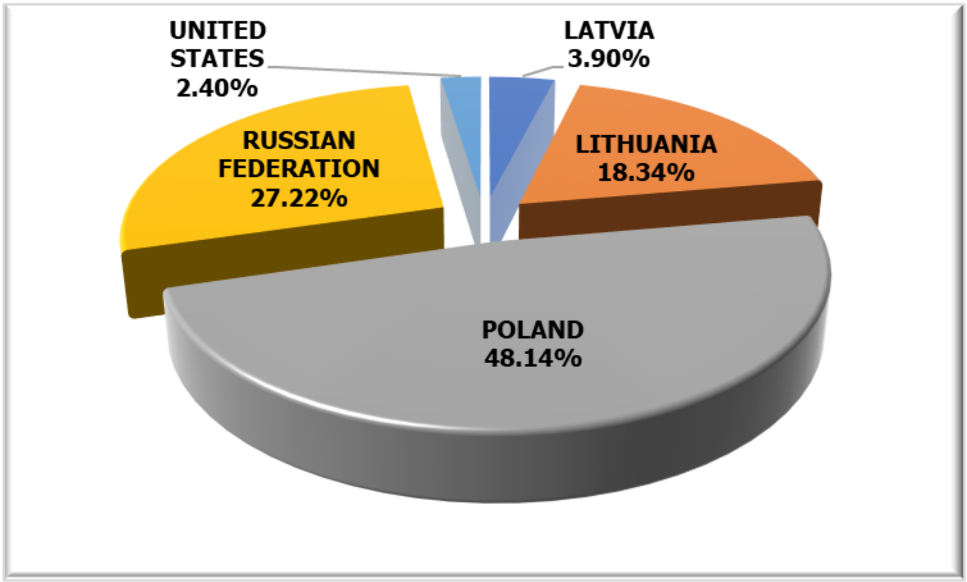
- The preliminary area planted to maize in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 358 620 ha, which represents a decrease of 5,33%, compared to the 378 800 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 664 040 tons, which is 0,44% less than the 667 000 tons of last season. It is important to note that about 48% of the maize produced in the non-commercial sector, is planted in the Eastern Cape, followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 21%.

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 NOV23 Annexure A.

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

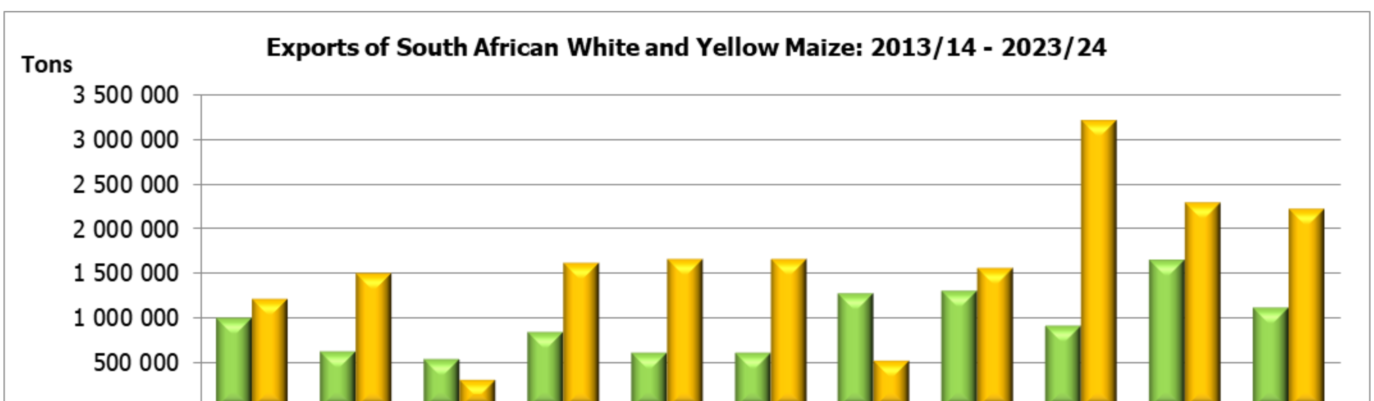
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September to 24 November 2023) amount to 453 288 tons, with 48,14% or 218 235 tons from Poland, followed by 27,22% or 123 384 tons from the Russian Federation, 18,34% or 83 147 tons from Lithuania, 3,90% or 17 657 tons from Latvia and only 2,40% or 10 865 tons from the United States. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 16 457 tons, of which 74,93% or 12 331 tons went to Zimbabwe, 10,94% or 1 800 tons went to Lesotho, 9,13% or 1 502 tons went to Namibia and only 5,01% or 824 tons went to Botswana.

- **3.2 Exports of South African white and yellow maize**

Graph 2: Exports of South African white and yellow maize: 2013/14 - 2023/24 marketing year

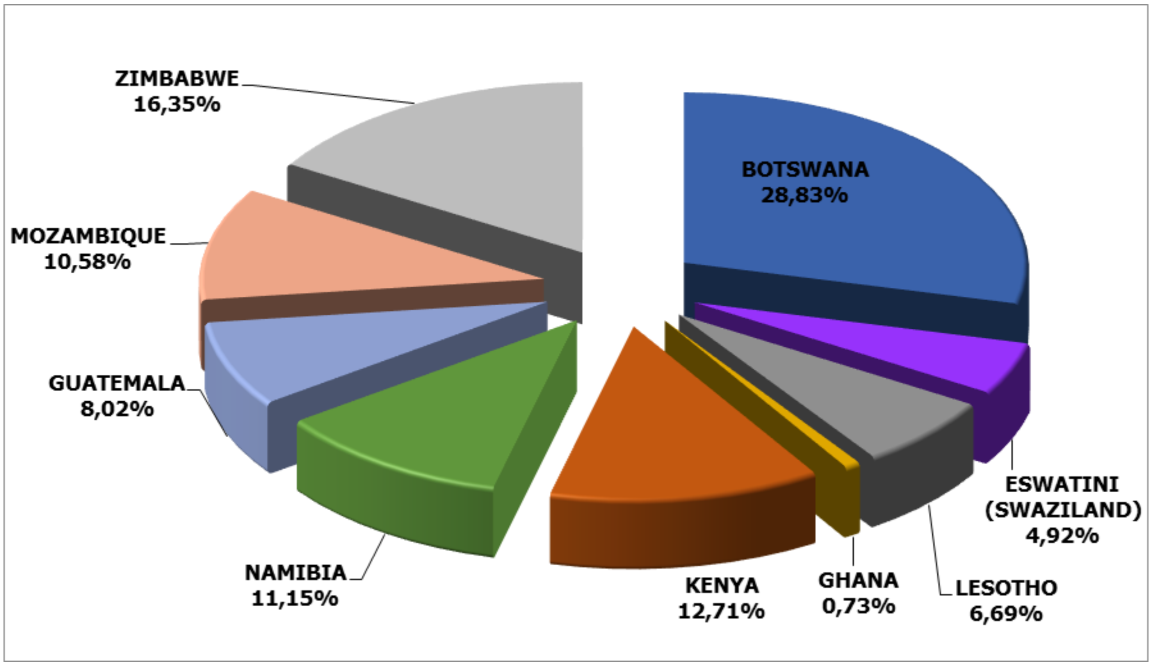


	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*	2023/24*
White maize	1 008 923	640 807	557 063	851 969	617 000	616 651	1 275 446	1 304 475	924 434	1 654 525	1 130 000
Yellow maize	1 223 673	1 514 917	322 748	1 629 739	1 666 000	1 667 407	534 127	1 563 315	3 210 777	2 295 281	2 225 000

*Projection

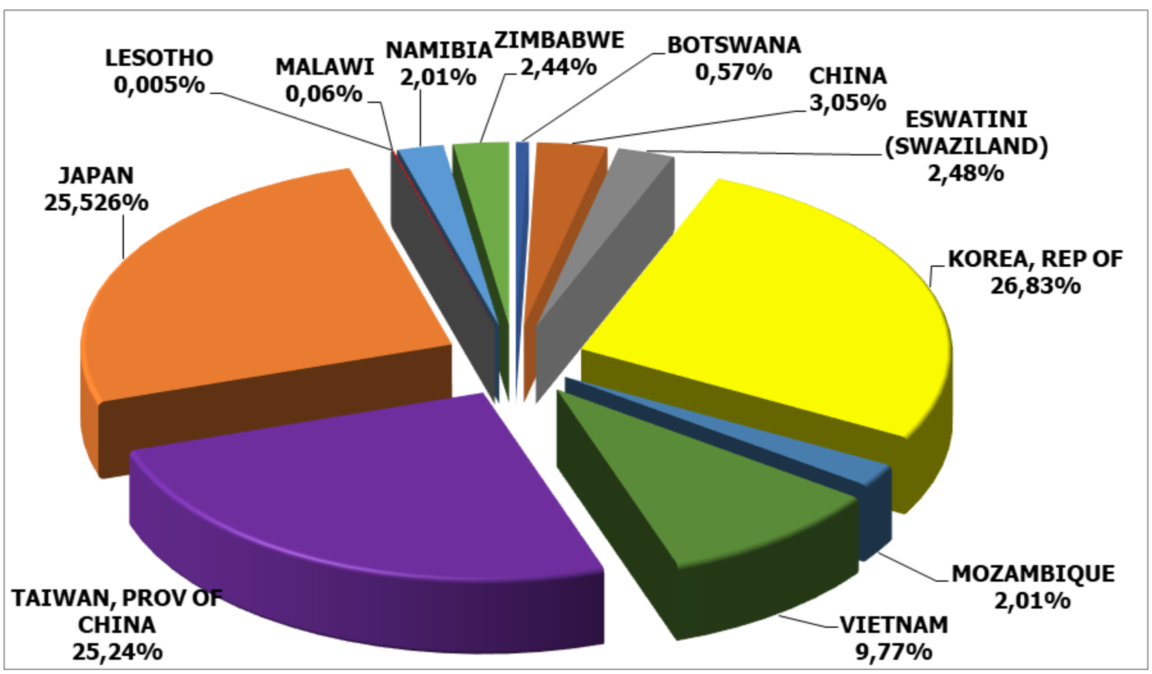
- The exports of white maize for the 2023/24 marketing year are projected at 1,130 million tons, which represents a decrease of 31,70% or 524 525 tons compared to the 1,654 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 2,225 million tons, which represents a decrease of 3,06% or 70 281 tons compared to the 2,295 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 to 24 November 2023, progressive white maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 533 168 tons, with the main destinations being Botswana (28,83% or 153 728 tons), followed by Zimbabwe (16,35% or 87 172 tons), Kenya (12,71% or 67 792 tons), Namibia (11,15% or 59 443 tons), Mozambique (10,58% or 56 422 tons), Guatemala (8,02% or 42 770 tons), Lesotho (6,69% or 35 688 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (4,92% or 26 244 tons) and Ghana (0,73% or 3 909 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 to 24 November 2023, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 1,835 million tons, with the main destinations being Republic of Korea (26,83% or 492 252 tons), followed by Japan (25,53% or 468 303 tons), Taiwan (25,24% or 463 086 tons), Vietnam (9,77% or 179 330 tons), China (3,05% or 55 960 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (2,48% or 45 583 tons), Zimbabwe (2,44% or 44 734 tons), Namibia (2,01% or 36 918 tons), Mozambique (2,01% or 36 890 tons), Botswana (0,57% or 10 384 tons), Malawi (0,06% or 1 077 tons) and Lesotho (0,005% or 86 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 5,9% in October 2023, up from 5,4% in September 2023. The CPI increased by 0,9% month-on-month in October 2023.
- The main contributors to the 5,9% annual inflation rate were:
    - Food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 8,7% year-on-year and contributed 1,6%);
    - Housing and utilities (increased by 5,4% year-on-year and contributed 1,3%);
    - Transport (increased by 7,4% year-on-year and contributed 1,1%); and
    - Miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 5,3% year-on-year and contributed 0,8%).
- In October the annual inflation rate of goods was 8,1%, up from 6,8% in September; and for services it was 3,8%, down from 4,0% in September.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

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

contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (10,4%) and fishing (1,3%). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (6,8%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 5: Closing prices on Wednesday, 6 December 2023

	6 December2023	6 November 2023	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (Dec. 2023 contract)	R4 387,00	R3 863,00	13,56
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (Dec. 2023 contract)	R4 123,00	R3 711,00	11,10
RSA Wheat per ton (Dec. 2023 contract)	R5 847,00	R5 840,00	0,12
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (Dec. 2023 contract)	R9 326,00	R9 172,00	1,68
RSA Soya-beans per ton (Dec. 2023 contract)	R9 285,00	R9 328,00	-0,46
Exchange rate R/$	R18,98	R18,25	4,00

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- November 2023 tractor sales of 685 units were approximately 3% less than the 703 units sold in November 2022. On a year-to-date basis tractor sales are now approximately 7% down on last year. Thirty-four combine harvesters were sold in November 2023, eleven more than the 23 units sold in November 2022. On a year-to-date basis combine harvester sales are now almost 37% more than last year.
- Despite the rainfall pattern in the east of the country being quite patchy, most farmers have now planted their summer crops. There is still time in the western areas of the country for summer crop plantings and farmers will be busy planting up until Christmas-time. The market for agricultural machinery, particularly tractors, has not fallen as much as was initially expected. Circumstances have meant that older equipment could be replaced and this has stabilised the market. As we move into 2024, it is inevitable that the sales will turn down further and that the market will become even more competitive.
- Tractor sales for the 2023 calendar year will be approximately 10% down on last year and combine harvester sales will now be approximately 30% up on last year.

Table 6: Agricultural machinery sales

	Year-on-year November		Percentage Change %	Year-to-date November		Percentage Change %
Equipment class	**2023**	**2022**		**2023**	**2022**	
Tractors	685	703	-2,56	7 843	8 446	-7,14
Combine harvesters	34	23	47,83	474	347	36,60

Source: SAAMA press release, December 2023

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for December 2023 will be released on **15 January 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