

MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA OCTOBER 2023

Issued: 7 November 2023

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

- During October, significant rainfall events were confined to the south and south-eastern parts of the country.
- The expected production of wheat is 2,167 million tons, which is 2,7% 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 449 182 tons, which includes imports of 1,600 million tons. It is also 19,4% 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 2,986 million tons, which is 52,8% more than the previous years' ending stocks.
- The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 22 436 tons, which is 52,2% less than the previous years' ending stocks.
- The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for current 2023/24 marketing year are 86 457 tons, which is 17,6% more than the previous years' ending stocks.
- The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2023/24 marketing year are 359 447 tons, which is 109,1% more than the previous years' ending stocks.
- The annual percentage change in the CPI was higher at 5,4% in September 2023.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was higher at 5,1% in September 2023.
- October 2023 tractor sales of 1 031 units were almost 19% less than the 1 268 units sold in October 2022.



**agriculture, land reform
& rural development**

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1. Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for October 2023

During October, significant rainfall events were confined to the south and south-eastern parts of the country (**Figure 1**). Comparing rainfall totals to the long-term average for October, rainfall received was above-normal mainly in the south-eastern parts of the country and in Limpopo. The central and some eastern parts of the country received near-normal rainfall (**Figure 2**). The remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall.

(Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management of Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development)

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for October 2023

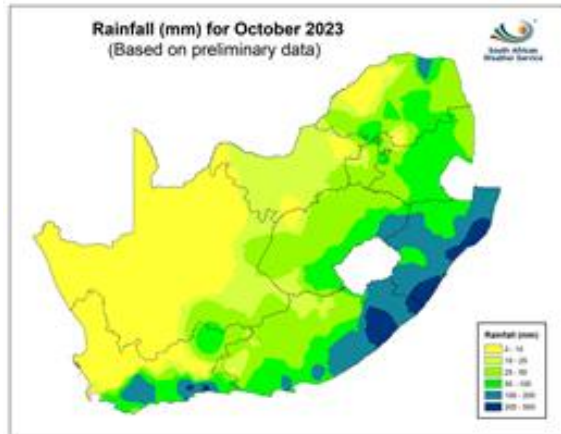
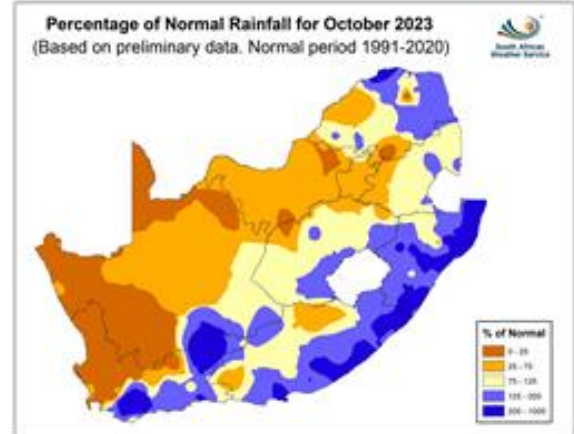


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for October 2023



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 30 October 2023 indicates that the country has approximately 87% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 1,0% less as compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The dam levels in the Western Cape (24%), Eastern Cape (14%), North West (10%), KwaZulu-Natal (4%) and Mpumalanga provinces (3%) all show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2022. However, the Northern Cape (-14%), Free State (-5%) and Gauteng provinces (-4%), all show decreases in full supply capacity, while the Limpopo 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, 30 October 2023

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	30/10/2023 (%)	Last Year (2022) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2023 vs. 2022
Eastern Cape	1 729	88	74	14,0
Free State	15 657	89	94	-5,0
Gauteng	128	92	96	-4,0
Kindom of Lesotho*	2 363	87	87	-
Kingdom of Eswatini*	334	97	89	8,0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 910	81	85	4,0
Limpopo	1 480	82	82	-
Mpumalanga	2 539	91	88	3,0
North West	867	80	70	10,0
Northern Cape	147	82	96	-14,0
Western Cape	1 868	94	70	24,0
Total	32 022	87	88	1,0

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2023

The area planted estimate and ninth production forecast of summer grains for the 2023 season was released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 26 October 2023, and is as follows:

Table 2: Commercial summer crops: Area planted and 9th production forecast - 2023 season

CROP	Area planted 2023 Ha (A)	9 th forecast 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	729 110	670 700	845 550	-13,77
Soybeans	1 148 300	2 755 300	925 300	2 230 000	23,56
Groundnuts	31 300	51 910	43 400	48 500	7,03
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	20 076 165	4 342 500	18 749 780	7,07

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 729 110 tons, which is 13,77% or 116 440 tons less than the 845 550 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,31 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 51 910 tons – which is 7,03% or 3 410 tons more than the 48 500 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,66 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 final production estimate for summer field crops for 2023 will be released on 28 November 2023.

2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2022

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

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

CROP	Area planted 2023 Ha (A)	3 rd Forecast 2023 Tons (B)	Area planted 2022 Ha (C)	Final estimate 2022 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
Wheat	537 950	2 166 825	566 800	2 110 000	2,69
Malting barley*	107 600	380 120	101 000	302 000	25,87
Canola	131 200	237 450	123 510	210 000	13,07
Cereal oats*	27 500	41 600	27 000	27 550	51,00
Sweet lupines	16 000	19 200	21 000	15 750	21,90
Total winter cereals	820 250	2 845 195	839 310	2 665 300	6,75

* 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 2 166 825 tons, which is 2,69% or 56 825 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 2 110 000 tons, whilst the expected yield is 4,03 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 380 120 tons, which is 25,87% or 78 120 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 302 000 tons. The expected yield is 3,53 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 41 600 tons and the area planted is 27 500 ha. The expected yield is 1,51 t/ha. In the case of **sweet lupines**, the production forecast is 19 200 tons. The area estimate of sweet lupines is 16 000 ha, with an expected yield of 1,20 t/ha.

Please note that the fourth production forecast for winter cereals for 2023 will be released on 28 November 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%.

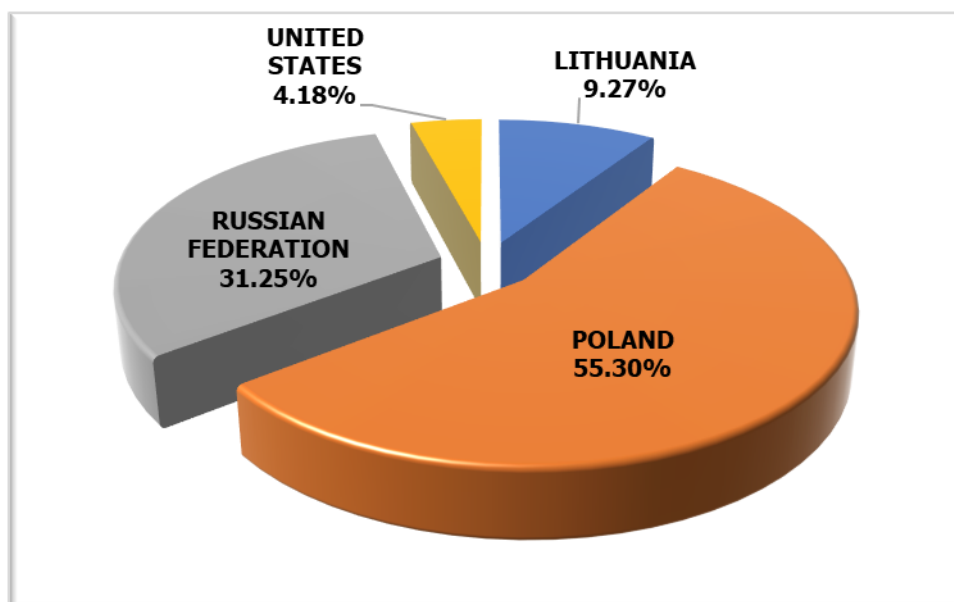


3. Cereal balance sheets

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 OCT23 Annexure A.

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

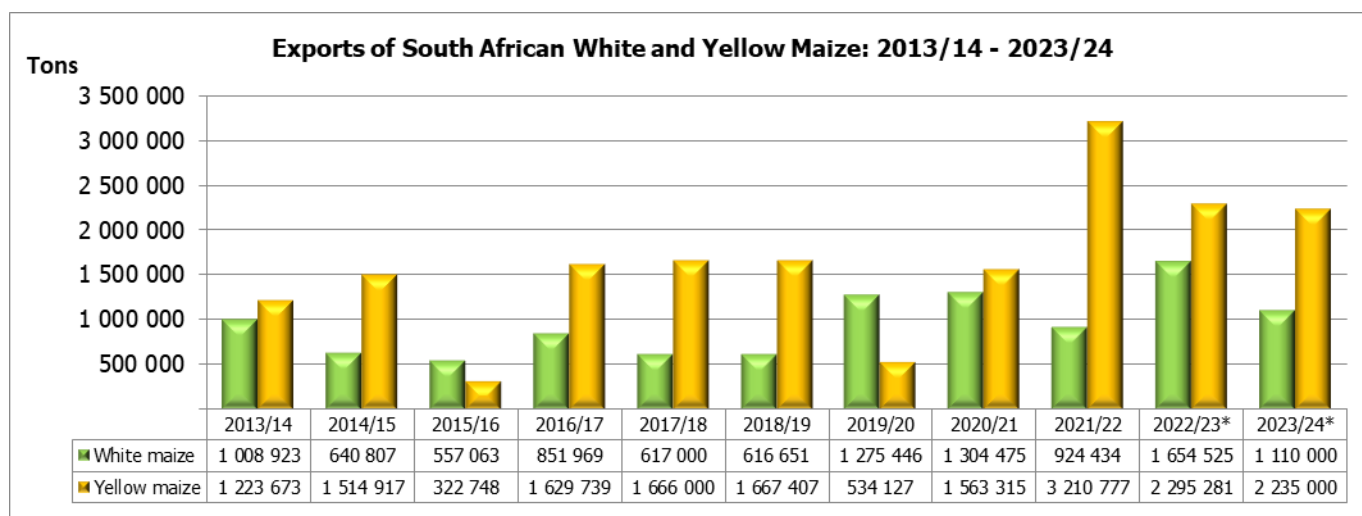
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2023/24 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2023/24 marketing year (30 September to 27 October 2023) amount to 260 052 tons, with 55,30% or 143 809 tons from Poland, followed by 31,25% or 81 266 tons from the Russian Federation, 9,27% or 24 112 tons from Lithuania and only 4,18% or 10 865 tons from the United States. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 5 123 tons, of which 56,86% or 2 913 tons went to Zimbabwe, 21,92% or 1 123 tons went to Lesotho and 21,22% or 1 087 went to Namibia.

3.2 Exports of South African white and yellow maize

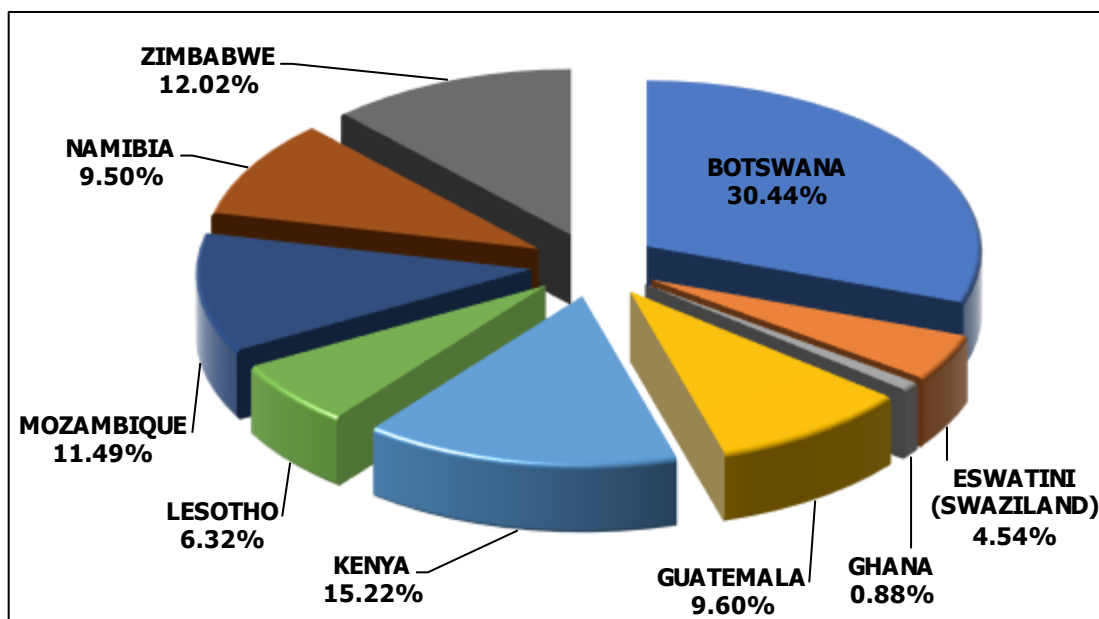
Graph 2: Exports of South African white and yellow maize: 2013/14 - 2023/24 marketing year



*Projection

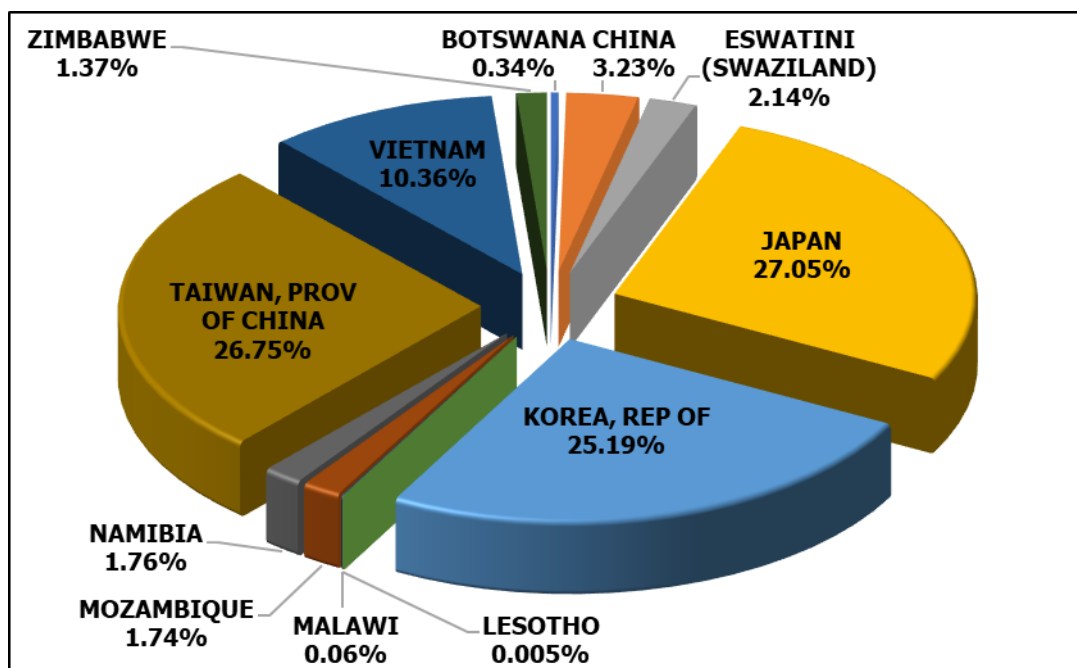
- The exports of white maize for the 2023/24 marketing year are projected at 1,110 million tons, which represents a decrease of 32,91% or 544 525 tons compared to the 1,654 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 2,235 million tons, which represents a decrease of 2,63% or 60 281 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 27 October 2023, progressive white maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 445 467 tons, with the main destinations being Botswana (30,44% or 135 604 tons), followed by Kenya (15,22% or 67 792 tons), Zimbabwe (12,02% or 53 542 tons), Mozambique (11,49% or 51 162 tons), Guatemala (9,60% or 42 770 tons), Namibia (9,50% or 42 310 tons), Lesotho (6,32% or 28 167 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (4,54% or 20 211 tons) and Ghana (0,88% 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 27 October 2023, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2023/24 marketing year amount to 1,731 million tons, with the main destinations being Japan (27,05% or 468 303 tons), followed by Taiwan (26,75% or 463 086 tons), Republic of Korea (25,19% or 436 041 tons), Vietnam (10,36% or 179 330 tons), China (3,23% or 55 960 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (2,14% or 36 994 tons), Namibia (1,76% or 30 553 tons), Mozambique (1,74% or 30 132 tons), Zimbabwe (1,37% or 23 709 tons), Botswana (0,34% or 5 958 tons),

Malawi (0,06% or 1 012 tons) and Lesotho (0,005% or 78 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 5,4% in September 2023, up from 4,8% in August 2023. The CPI increased by 0,6% month-on-month in September 2023.
- The main contributors to the 5,4% annual inflation rate were:
 - Food and non-alcoholic beverages (increased by 8,1% year-on-year and contributed 1,4%);
 - Housing and utilities (increased by 5,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,3%);
 - Miscellaneous goods and services (increased by 6,0% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%); and
 - Transport (increased by 4,2% year-on-year and contributed 0,6%).
- In September, the annual inflation rate of goods was 6,8%, up from 5,6% in August; and for services it was 4,0%, unchanged from August.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 5,1% in September 2023, up from 4,3% in August 2023. The producer price index (PPI) increased by 1,5% month-on-month in September 2023.
- The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were:
 - Food products, beverages and tobacco products (increased by 4,4% year-on-year and contributed 1,1%);
 - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment (increased by 6,5% year-on-year and contributed 1,0%);
 - Paper and printed products (increased by 11,8% year-on-year and contributed 0,9%); and
 - Transport equipment (increased by 7,8% year-on-year and contributed 0,7%).
- The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products (increased by 5,1% month-on-month and contributed 1,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was -2,9% in September 2023 (compared with -0,5% in August 2023). The index decreased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-2,4%) and basic and fabricated metals (-1,4%). The main negative contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (-1,3%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,4% in September 2023 (compared with 17,9% in August 2023). The index decreased by 27,3% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 15,2% and water contributed 1,2% to the annual rate. Electricity contributed -27,3% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was -4,8% in September 2023 (compared with 2,8% in August 2023). The index decreased by 0,5% month-on-month. The main negative contributors to the annual rate were coal and gas (-5,5%) and non-ferrous metal ores (-4,7%). The main negative contributors to the monthly rate were coal and gas (-1,0%) and stone quarrying, clay and diamonds (-0,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 8,3% in September 2023 (compared with 6,3% in August 2023). The index increased by 4,5% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were agriculture (6,6%) and fishing (1,3%). The main contributor to the monthly rate was agriculture (4,5%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 5: Closing prices on Monday, 6 November 2023

	6 November 2023	6 October 2023	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (Nov. 2023 contract)	R3 994,00	R4 135,00	-3,41
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (Nov. 2023 contract)	R3 690,00	R4 038,00	-8,62
RSA Wheat per ton (Nov. 2023 contract)	R5 840,00	R6 200,00	-5,81
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (Nov. 2023 contract)	R9 150,00	R8 951,00	2,22
RSA Soya-beans per ton (Nov. 2023 contract)	R9 281,00	R9 384,00	-1,10
Exchange rate R/\$	R18,25	R19,35	-5,68

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- October 2023 tractor sales of 1 031 units were almost 19% less than the 1 268 units sold in October 2022. On a year-to-date basis tractor sales are now approximately 8% down on last year. Thirty-nine combine harvesters were sold in October 2023, five more than the 34 units sold in October 2022. On a year-to-date basis combine harvester sales are now almost 36% more than last year.
- Most summer and winter cropping areas have had at least three and up to five good rainfall years. Current predictions are that, although fair planting rains have fallen already, rainfall in the summer cropping areas will now be below average, with the El Niño phenomenon taking effect. This has resulted in farmers taking a more risk-averse stance on investing in agricultural machinery. It is likely, therefore, that year-on-year comparative tractor sales will continue to show a downward trend in the next few months, after the excellent sales earlier in the year.
- Industry forecasts for tractor sales for the 2023 calendar year are still that they will be between 10 and 15% down on last year. It is expected that combine harvester for the 2023 calendar year will now be between 20 and 25% up on last year.

Table 6: Agricultural machinery sales

Equipment class	Year-on-year		Percentage Change %	Year-to-date		Percentage Change %
	October			October		
	2023	2022		2023	2022	
Tractors	1 031	1 268	-18,69	7 158	7 743	-7,56
Combine harvesters	39	34	14,70	440	324	35,80

Source: SAAMA press release, November 2023

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for November 2023 will be released on **7 December 2023**.



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