



GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 26-August-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production expected to remain at above-average level in 2022 owing to large acreage
- Exports of maize forecast to fall in 2022/23, but remain at above-average level
- Wholesale prices of cereals at elevated levels despite easing moderately since June; retail food prices continued to increase

Cereal production well above-average in 2022

Harvesting of the 2022 summer coarse grain crops concluded in July, while winter wheat and barley crops are expected to be harvested from October onwards. Total cereal production in 2022 is forecast at 18.4 million tonnes, 7 percent higher than the previous five-year average, but below the all-time high in 2021.

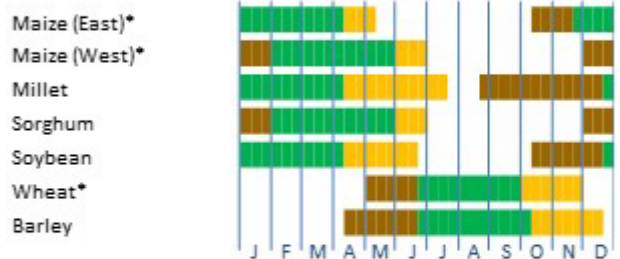
The large output in 2022 is mostly underpinned by a sizeable maize outturn, the primary cereal produced in the country, estimated at 15.5 million tonnes. The higher-than-average harvest results from an above-average maize acreage, as farmers responded positively to remunerative prices during the planting period in late 2021. Yields declined marginally compared to the average, which in part reflects the adverse effects of excessive rains during the early stages of the cropping season; weather conditions in the subsequent months were generally conducive for crops. Sorghum production, the secondary summer cereal crop, was estimated at a marginally below-average level in 2022, owing to a reduction in the area planted. Production of wheat, which is grown during the winter months, is forecast at 2.3 million tonnes in 2022, nearly 23 percent above the recent average. A large acreage, spurred by attractive producer prices, underlies this year's favourable production outlook. However, moderate rainfall deficits since the start of the planting in May in Western Cape, the largest wheat-producing province, may curb yields relative to the current good prospects.

Outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in 2022 are affecting the livestock industry, with 56 outbreak cases confirmed by April. To combat the spread of the disease, the government suspended the movement of all cattle across the country for 21 days, from 16 August 2022.

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2017-2021 average	2021	2022 forecast	change 2022/2021 percent
	000 tonnes			
Maize	15 076	16 951	15 500	-8.6
Wheat	1 869	2 285	2 300	0.7
Barley	399	334	422	26.3
Others	212	290	202	-30.4
Total	17 555	19 860	18 424	-7.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

For the subsequent 2023 cropping season, planting of cereal crops will begin from October. The current high cost of inputs, domestic prices of the main fertilizers had more than doubled in the 12 months to May 2022, are influencing profit expectations, and despite the elevated grain prices, the increased production costs could result in a modest cutback in the area planted with maize in 2023. Estimates on farmers' planting intentions will be available in October.

Ample supplies and large maize exports in 2022/23

Reflecting the large output in 2022, the country is expected to maintain its net exporting status for maize in the 2022/23 marketing year (May/April). Exports of maize are forecast to reach an above-average level of 3 million tonnes, albeit down by 0.7 million tonnes from the record quantity exported in 2021/22. In the first four months of 2022/23, an estimated 1.23 million tonnes had been shipped, mostly yellow maize (generally used as animal feed) to Asian countries. About 220 000 tonnes of white maize were exported to neighbouring Southern African countries, where import needs this year have risen on account of weather-reduced harvests in 2022. Despite the lower total export forecast in 2022/23, the average weekly pace of exports is quicker than the rate in the previous year.

Regarding wheat, the country is a net importer. In 2022/23, imports are foreseen to remain at a similar level to the previous year's below-average quantity, amid the high global prices and expectations of a large domestic harvest in October that would curb import needs.

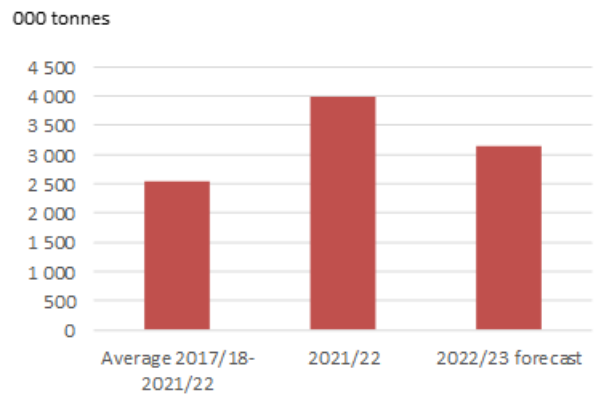
Prices of cereals eased slightly, but remain at high levels

Wholesale prices of maize and wheat eased in recent weeks following the record and near-record highs reached in May. However, as of August 2022, the monthly values were still between 27 and 43 percent higher on a yearly basis. The elevated levels this year are largely attributable to the price trends in the international market, as well as domestic exchange rate movements; the national currency, South African rand, had weakened since April 2022, amplifying the spill-over effects of the high global prices. Countering some of these upward pressures are the large domestic grain supplies, and this is evidenced by the domestic maize prices trading below the export parity levels for much of 2022.

Reflecting the dynamics in the wholesale market, retail prices are also at elevated levels. The annual food inflation rate was estimated at 9 percent in July 2022, up from 7 percent in July 2021. Cereal products, together with oils and fats, registered the highest annual rates of increase. The overall headline inflation rate was estimated at 7.8 percent in July 2022, a 13-year high and above the South African Reserve Bank's upper bound inflation target of 6 percent. This prompted the Reserve Bank to make the largest upward revision to the benchmark interest rate in 20 years (75 basis points to 5.5 percent) to curb the inflationary pressure and maintain a positive interest rate differential with the United States of America, which is hoped will stem financial outflows and currency depreciation.

South Africa

Cereals Exports

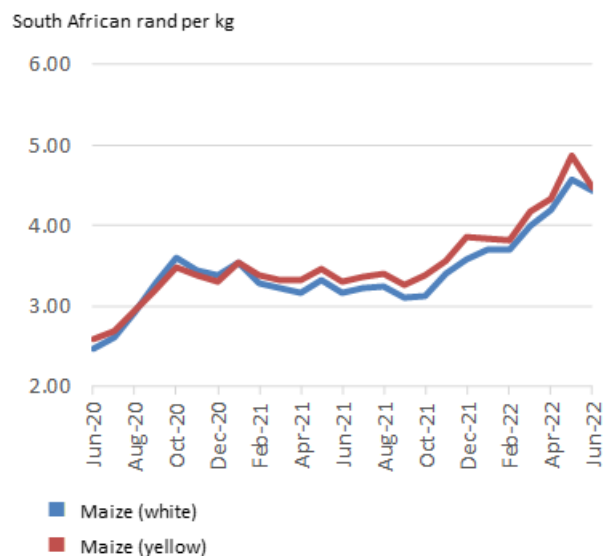


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

These elevated prices are eroding households' purchasing power and combined with a slowdown in economic growth in 2022 that will constrain income-generating opportunities, as well as a higher year on year unemployment rate, could worsen food insecurity in 2022.

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GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 05-November-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Positive production outlook for 2022 cereal crops, reflecting large acreage expectations and forecasts of favourable seasonal rainfall**
- **Record cereal outturn estimated in 2021, bolstering national stocks and maintaining above-average exports of maize in 2021/22 marketing year**
- **Prices of maize declined moderately on account favourable supplies and declining international benchmark prices**

Cereal acreage expected to remain high in 2022

Planting intentions for the 2022 summer cereal crops, currently being sown, indicate an above-average acreage. The key factors underpinning the good expectations are the remunerative domestic grain prices and favourable weather outlook that points to a higher probability of average to above-average rainfall amounts throughout the cropping season. However, the prevailing high input prices, including fertilizers that account for about one-third of a farmer's input cost, have dented profit expectations for grains and consequently are anticipated to prevent an expansion in the acreage this year.

Monthly cumulative rainfall amounts in October, the start of the planting period, have been near average in the main cereal producing provinces and, with soil moisture at adequate levels, are expected to favour crop establishment.

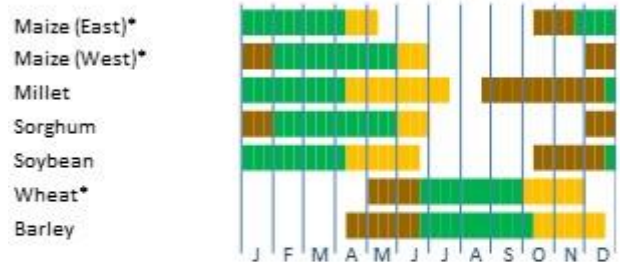
Record cereal output in 2021

Cereal production in 2021, including a forecast for the winter wheat crop currently being harvested, is pegged at 19.7 million tonnes, a record outturn. Most of this output is comprised of maize, estimated at 16.8 million tonnes, about 3.5 million tonnes above the five-year average. The large maize harvest reflects a well above-average sown area and excellent weather conditions throughout the season that maintained above-average yields. Wheat production is forecast at an above-average level of 2.1 million tonnes and almost unchanged on yearly basis. Barley production, also grown in the winter months, is forecast to decline year on year in 2021, as the COVID-19-related restrictions on alcohol sales decreased demand for the grain and induced farmers to scale back the barley acreage.

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2016-2020	2020	2021	change
	average		estimate	2021/2020
000 tonnes				
Maize	13 329	15 966	16 848	5.5
Wheat	1 794	2 120	2 096	-1.1
Barley	403	588	520	-11.6
Others	182	224	271	21.0
Total	15 707	18 898	19 735	4.4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Large maize export quantity forecast in 2021/22

Exports of maize are forecast at an above-average level of 2.9 million tonnes in the 2021/22 marketing year (May/April), underpinned by a favourable supply situation following the bumper output in 2021 and ample stocks built-up from the large harvest in 2020. The export forecast has, however, been cut back moderately compared to earlier expectations, reflecting large maize outturns in neighbouring countries, particularly in Zimbabwe, which have in turn reduced their export demand for South African grain. As of October 2021, half-way through the marketing year, about 1.9 million tonnes of maize were exported, mostly yellow maize to Asian countries.

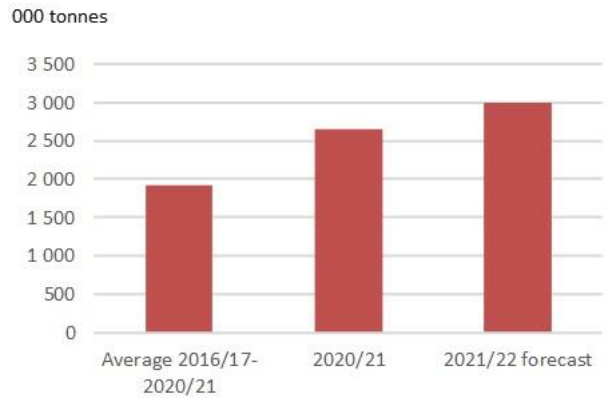
Prices of maize declined on supply pressure

Wholesale prices of maize grain have gradually declined since the start of the year and, in October 2021, they were at comparable levels year on year. The decline is mostly due to the large domestic supplies, which have generally outweighed the upward pressure from the high international benchmark prices and resulted in domestic prices trading near or below the export parity levels since May. As early production prospects point to another bumper harvest in 2022 and benchmark international maize prices have fallen in recent months, the declining trend of domestic wholesale prices is expected to continue in the coming months.

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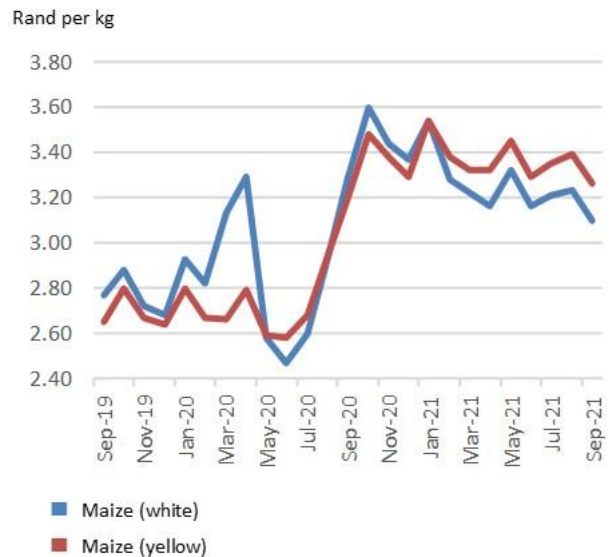
Cereals Exports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 17-May-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production of cereals in 2021 expected to reach near-record high, owing to excellent weather conditions and large plantings
- Export quantities of maize forecast at above-average level in 2021/22 marketing year, underpinned by ample supplies
- Prices of maize decline moderately in first months of 2021, reflecting favourable supply outlook
- Food insecurity worsened by effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Near-record cereal output expected in 2021

Harvesting of the 2021 maize crop is underway and expected to conclude at the end of June. The area planted with maize is estimated at an above-average level of 2.75 million hectares, primarily reflecting the positive effects of remunerative prices and conducive weather during the planting period in the last quarter of 2020. Maize yields are also expected to be well above the average, owing to almost ideal weather conditions during the cropping season. As a result, the 2021 maize production from both commercial and non-commercial sectors is forecast at 16.7 million tonnes, about 25 percent above the five-year average and less than 1 million tonnes below the record output of 2017.

Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop is expected to begin at the end of May and early indications point to a small expansion in the area sown, owing to the prevailing high crop prices. By contrast, barley sowings are forecast to fall sharply in 2021, as the large output in 2020 combined with a slump in demand for the grain, due to bans on alcohol sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, has led to an oversupply that is foreseen to curb incentives to plant.

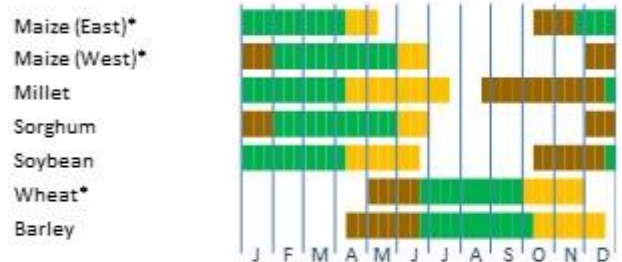
Large maize export quantity forecast in 2021/22

Exports of maize are forecast at an above-average level of 3 million tonnes in the 2021/22 marketing year (May/April). This outlook is underpinned by a favourable supply situation following the 2020 bumper output and the expected near-record harvest in 2021. Additionally, high international maize prices, which helped to push up the export parity price above domestic April 2021, has provided further incentives to export.

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	13 329	15 966	16 700	4.6
Wheat	1 794	2 120	2 000	-5.7
Barley	403	588	520	-11.6
Others	182	224	251	12.0
Total	15 707	18 898	19 471	3.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

The bulk of maize exports are expected to be delivered to countries outside of Southern Africa, as neighbouring countries are also anticipated to gather large harvests in 2021, reducing their import needs. National stocks are expected to be maintained at an above-average level of around 3 million tonnes in 2021/22.

Prices of maize declined on supply pressure

Wholesale prices of maize grain decreased moderately between January and April 2021, driven primarily by favourable domestic supply conditions. The downward pressure more than outweighed the effects of the high prices on the international market and a weakening of the national currency that normally contribute to price increases.

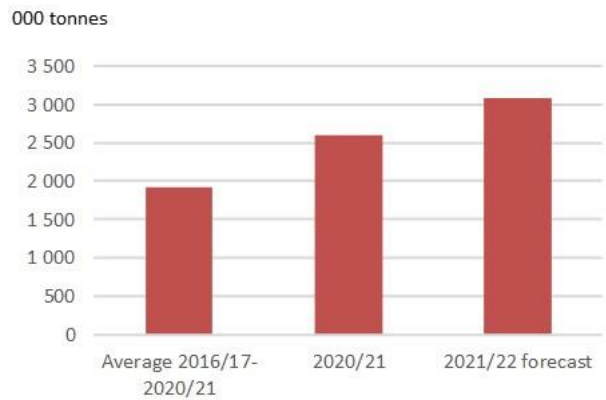
Widespread job losses worsen food insecurity

Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had minimal impacts on the agriculture and food sectors, households' food security conditions worsened due to the lockdown measures that caused widespread income losses and consequently, decreased households' ability to access sufficient quantities of nutritious foods. According to data from Statistics South Africa, nearly 600 000 jobs were lost in 2020. Estimates from the first and latest IPC analysis for the country, indicated that 11.8 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity between January and March 2021.

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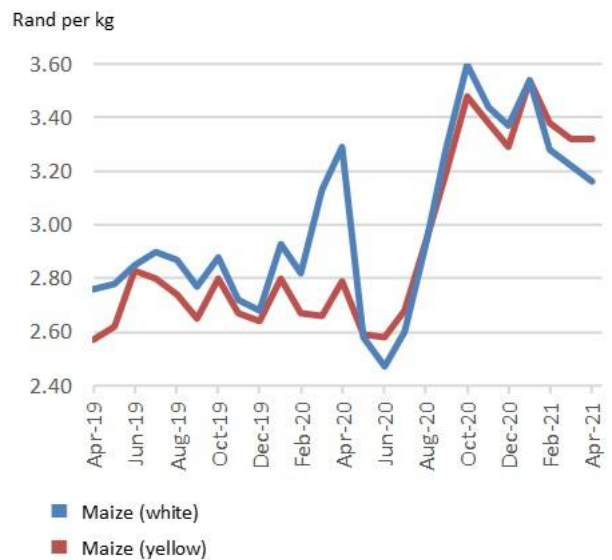
Cereals Exports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 07-October-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable production outlook for 2021 cereal crops
- Second largest cereal harvest estimated in 2020, following reduced output in previous year
- Export quantities of maize forecast to rise in 2020/21 marketing year, driven by weaker currency and large domestic supplies
- Prices of maize strengthened in recent months and were higher on yearly basis as of September
- Food insecurity aggravated by effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Favourable planting prospects for 2021 cereal crops

Planting of the 2021 maize crop, the principal cereal grown in the country, is expected to begin in October in eastern regions. In western growing areas, the optimal planting period falls between November and December.

The maize planted area is foreseen to remain broadly unchanged compared to the above-average 2.6 million hectares sown in the previous season. This expectation is underpinned by a generally favourable weather outlook and moderately higher year-on-year maize prices. Weather forecasts, reflecting the prevailing albeit weak La Niña event, indicate a slightly higher probability of above-average rainfall between November 2020 and January 2021. However, weather conditions in October are expected to be mixed and this may slow down planting activities in some areas. The second factor supporting the favourable planting prospects are the higher year-on-year prices of maize grain, which farmers are expected to respond positively to and sustain a similar acreage.

Second largest maize output harvested in 2020

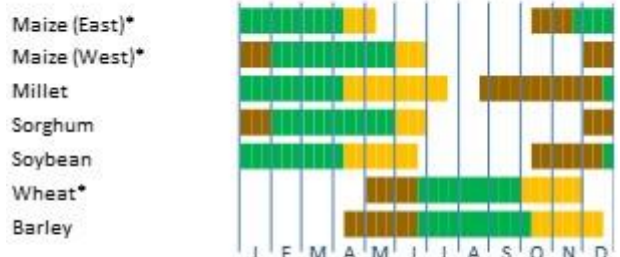
Harvesting of the 2020 winter wheat crop is expected to conclude in November. Wheat production is forecast at approximately 2 million tonnes, well above the five-year average and, if it materializes, would be the largest output since 2008. The buoyant expectations are driven by favourable yield prospects, with weather conditions in the main growing western regions particularly conducive for crop growth.

The summer cereal crops were harvested by July and the total output, mostly comprised of maize, was estimated at 16.1 million

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average		2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 261	11 807	15 966	35.2
Wheat	1 659	1 535	2 024	31.9
Barley	352	345	389	12.8
Others	172	189	212	12.1
Total	14 445	13 876	18 591	34.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

tonnes, a well above-average level. This year's production upturn was the result of favourable weather conditions and an above-average planted area.

Overall, the 2020 cereal output is forecast at 18.6 million tonnes, nearly 30 percent higher than the five-year average and the second largest output on record.

Cereal exports expected to grow significantly in 2020/21

The substantial domestic cereal output and a weak national currency, which has boosted the competitiveness of South African grain in the international market, are expected to lead to a sizeable growth in maize exports in the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April). Exports of maize are forecast to reach at least an above-average level of 2.5 million, more than 1 million tonnes above the previous year's level. About 1.5 million tonnes of maize have already been exported between May and September, mostly yellow maize shipped to Asia. Exports of white maize are generally concentrated within the region, with Zimbabwe foreseen to be one of the main destinations in consideration of the well below-average harvest in 2020 and the lifting of import restrictions on genetically modified grains, mainly produced in South Africa.

Imports of cereals, mainly rice and wheat, are forecast to fall by nearly 40 percent in 2020/21, reflecting the bumper 2020 domestic harvest that will satisfy a larger share of national consumption requirements.

In addition to the reduction in import requirements, the large harvest is also expected to lead to an increase in maize stocks, with national inventories forecast at the high of level of about 3 million tonnes, 1 million tonnes above the previous year's level.

Prices of maize strengthened in recent months

Wholesale prices of maize grain increased for the third consecutive month in September 2020, underpinned by robust export demand, particularly for yellow maize from East Asian countries and white maize from Zimbabwe. On a yearly basis, prices of maize were above those in September 2019, as upward pressure from export demand and the effects of a weaker currency offset the downward supply pressure from this year's bumper harvest.

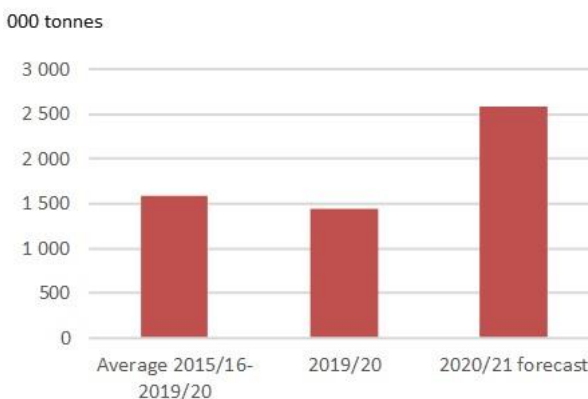
Prices of wheat remained relatively stable since August, following the sharp increases in the previous months, as the market responded to an upturn in domestic production prospects.

Loss of income aggravates food insecurity

Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had minimal impacts on the agriculture and food sectors, households' food security conditions are expected to have worsened as the lockdown measures to contain the virus slowed down and, in some cases, halted economic activities, causing widespread job losses. As such, the shock to food insecurity has been channeled not through the lack of food, but due to a decrease in households' capabilities to access sufficient quantities of nutritious foods. Official statistics indicate a year-on-year decrease of 2.2 million people in employment in the April-June 2020 period. However, job losses in the agriculture sector were comparatively small, reflecting the designation of this sector as an essential service.

South Africa

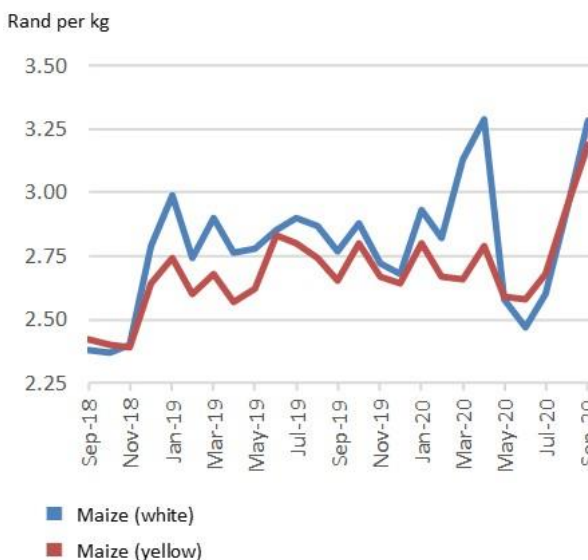
Cereals Exports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Although daily wages earners are expected to have been impacted most by the slowdown in the economy, social safety net mechanisms, including cash transfers, have partially offset the impact of wage reductions. The containment measures were scaled back on 1 October 2020, allowing the resumption of most economic and social activities, if sanitary protocols are adhered to. In addition, 18 land borders that had previously been partially closed became fully operational, while 35 land borders still remained closed. Although the easing of the movement restrictions is anticipated to help recuperate economic activities, serious concerns about the overall food insecurity situation are expected to remain in the near term.

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GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 24-July-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output in 2020 forecast at well above-average level, driven by significant rebound in maize production
- Export quantities of maize forecast to rise in 2020/21, underpinned by large domestic supplies and weak currency
- Prices of maize fall, following steep rises in preceding months due to effects of COVID-19 pandemic
- Food insecurity and poverty levels expected to increase due to COVID-19

Upturn in cereal production in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 main summer season cereal crops is almost complete, slightly later than normal following a delayed start of the season in the last quarter of 2019. Most of the summer cereal output is comprised of maize and the 2020 harvest is estimated at 16 million tonnes, the second largest on record. Underpinned by favourable weather conditions, an increase in maize yields helped drive up production, while an above-average sown area, prompted by high prices, further supported the production gain.

Planting of the 2020 winter wheat crop was completed in June and the harvest is expected to start in October. Production is forecast at an average level of 1.65 million tonnes in 2020. Offsetting earlier expectations of a large decline in the planted area, improved rainfall in June in the high producing western regions and record high prices of wheat during the planting period, are expected to have spurred farmers to sow more than initial intentions, lessening the year-on-year decline in plantings. With weather forecasts pointing to conducive conditions for the remainder of the season, an upturn in yields, following the below-average levels of 2019, is foreseen to be the main factor driving up production in 2020.

Overall, the 2020 cereal production is forecast at 18.3 million tonnes, about 30 percent higher than the five-year average and showing a significant recovery over the reduced output in 2019.

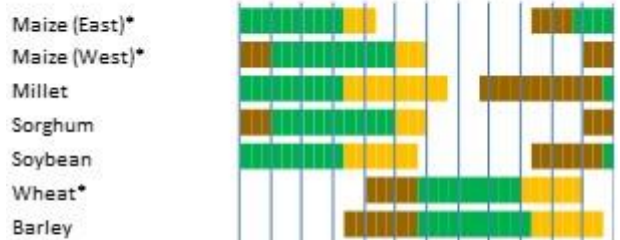
Cereal exports expected to grow significantly in 2020/21

Maize exports are forecast to reach at least an above-average level of 2.5 million in the 2020/21 marketing year (May/April),

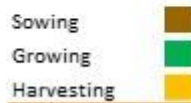
South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average		2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	average	2019	forecast	percent
	000 tonnes			
Maize	12 261	11 807	16 057	36.0
Wheat	1 659	1 535	1 650	7.5
Barley	352	345	389	12.8
Others	172	189	165	-12.6
Total	14 445	13 876	18 261	31.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

more than 1 million tonnes above the previous year's level. The expected export growth mostly reflects the ample domestic supplies due to the large 2020 maize harvest, while the weak national currency, driven by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, is further supporting the outlook given the increased competitiveness of locally produced maize in the international market. Disaggregated by type, exports of white maize will most likely be concentrated within the region, with Zimbabwe foreseen to be one of the main destinations in consideration of the well below-average harvest in 2020 and the lifting of import restrictions on genetically modified grains, mainly produced in South Africa. The bulk of yellow maize exports are expected to be shipped to East Asia, notably the Republic of Korea, Japan and Taiwan, which combined have already imported nearly 0.5 million tonnes of yellow maize since May 2020.

The large 2020 maize harvest is also expected to result in a replenishment of national inventories that, depending on the level of exports, could reach around 3 million tonnes.

Prices of maize fall following earlier spikes

Following spikes in March and April 2020 amid the sharp depreciation of the national currency coupled with strong export demand, wholesale prices of maize declined between May and early July. The arrival of the new supplies from the 2020 harvest and a modest strengthening of the currency triggered the decreases. On a yearly basis, prices of maize were also lower. Prices of wheat, which had reached record highs in May, due to the significant depreciation of the country's currency, fell in June in response to the recent currency appreciation and the low prices in the international market.

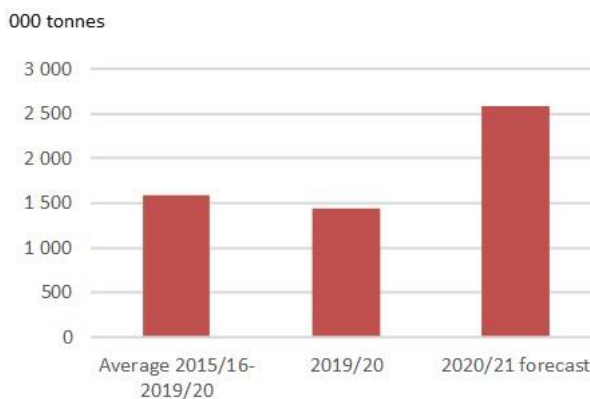
Food security expected to worsen due to COVID-19

A nationwide lockdown was implemented on 27 March 2020 and, although regulations were scaled down moderately from May, a surge in COVID-19 cases led to the reintroduction of some restrictions in July, including a nighttime curfew and a ban on alcohol sales. The impact of the lockdown restrictions has led to a steep decline in economic activity, with growth forecasts indicating that the economy could contract by as much as 8 percent in 2020. The downturn has already caused income and job losses, placing enormous constraints on low-income households' ability to purchase food. Reports from the country also indicate significant disruptions to the operations of informal traders, who required permits to work during the lockdown phases. Such disruptions are expected to not only have a direct impact on the livelihoods of traders, but also curtail local food supplies, which would be especially detrimental for the vulnerable households that rely on informal markets. Although social safety net mechanisms, including cash transfers, have partially offset the impact of wage reductions, the overall food insecurity conditions are expected to worsen in 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

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South Africa

Cereals Exports

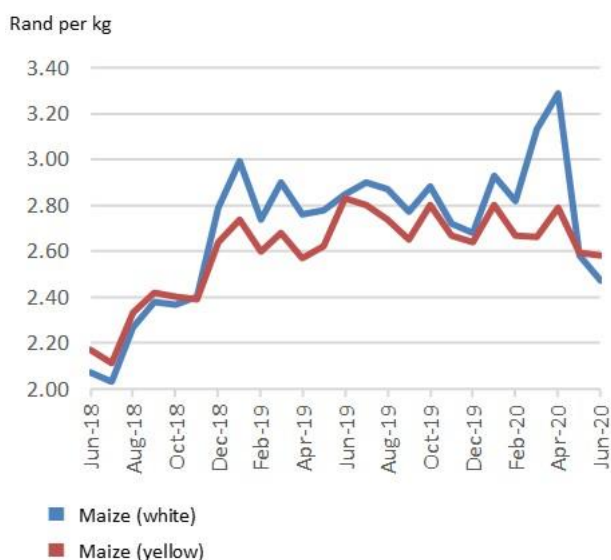


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 30-April-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production of maize in 2020 forecast at above-average level
- Increase in maize exports forecast in 2020/21
- Sharp uptick in prices of maize in March 2020, underpinned by COVID-19-induced depreciation of national currency

Maize production expected to recover strongly in 2020

Harvesting of the 2020 maize crop started in April and is expected to conclude in June.

Maize plantings in the commercial sector, which accounts for almost the entire national output, are estimated at 2.6 million hectares, an above-average level and about 12 percent larger than the previous year. The area expansion was mostly driven by higher year-on-year prices, particularly for white maize and consequently improved profit expectations.

Yield prospects are also favourable, resting on conducive seasonal rains. Remote sensing vegetation indexes indicated above-average conditions in most cropped areas as of early April, reinforcing the buoyant yield prospects. Early estimates indicate that national maize yields will range from 5.5 tonnes to 6 tonnes per hectare, an above-average level.

Overall, production of maize in 2020 is forecast at 15.8 million tonnes, including the output from the non-commercial sector, which would place this year's outturn as the second largest on record. Barley production is also forecast at an above-average level in 2020. The 2020 wheat crop, which is currently being planted, is expected to recover from the reduced outturn obtained in 2019.

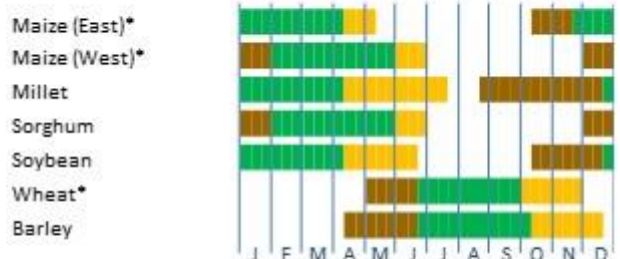
Upturn in domestic production foreseen to boost maize export prospects in 2020/21

On account of a reduced harvest in 2019, domestic maize supplies contracted in the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April), particularly compared to the above-average levels in the previous two years. As a result, exports of maize declined from an above-average level of 2 million tonnes to about 1.4 million tonnes in 2019/20 and closing stocks are estimated to have shrunk to about 1.8 million tonnes compared to the five-year average of 2.4 million tonnes.

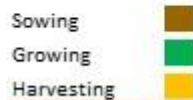
South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 261	11 807	15 800	33.8
Wheat	1 653	1 502	1 635	8.9
Barley	347	321	385	20.0
Others	172	189	162	-14.2
Total	14 433	13 819	17 982	30.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

In the 2020/21 marketing year, the forecasted upturn in production would boost supplies and support an increase in maize exports, which are estimate to exceed 2 million tonnes. Whilst large quantities of maize are foreseen to be exported to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia, the main destination of maize grains for South Africa is likely to be Zimbabwe as the country is expecting a below-average harvest for a second consecutive year and lifted import restrictions on genetically modified grain in late 2019.

Further supporting the outlook for export growth in 2020/21 is the sharp depreciation of the Rand, the national currency, in the first quarter of 2020, driven by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The low value of the Rand has increased the competitiveness of South African maize grain in the international market. The depreciation is also expected to spur a rise in exports of yellow maize, which declined to a below-average level of 400 000 tonnes in 2019/20. However, the COVID-19 pandemic poses a risk to trade prospects in general, particularly through the interruptions to logistics services and supply chains, more broadly.

Stocks are likely to be replenished in 2020/21 and national inventories could reach around 2 million tonnes. The extent of the yearly increase will, however, largely depend on export quantities.

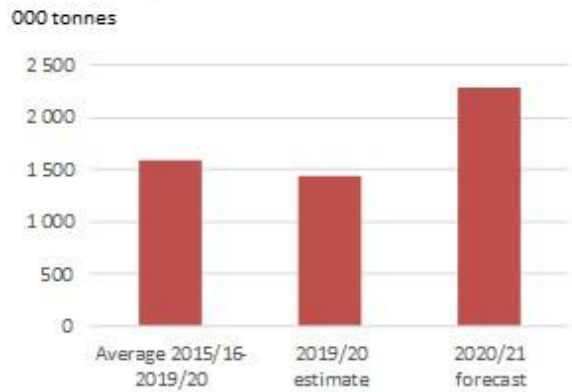
Prices of white maize spiked in March

Prices of white maize spiked in March following the sharp depreciation of the country's currency coupled with strong export demand, largely from Zimbabwe. At the March level, the price of white maize was about 7 percent higher year on year, while the price of yellow maize was at a comparable level.

Although the favourable supply outlook for maize has partly contained the upward pressure from the effects of COVID-19, prices of imported food staples are likely to increase owing to the currency's loss of value. This scenario would apply to rice, which is almost entirely imported, and to wheat, as domestic production only accounts for approximately half of the national consumption needs.

South Africa

Cereals Exports

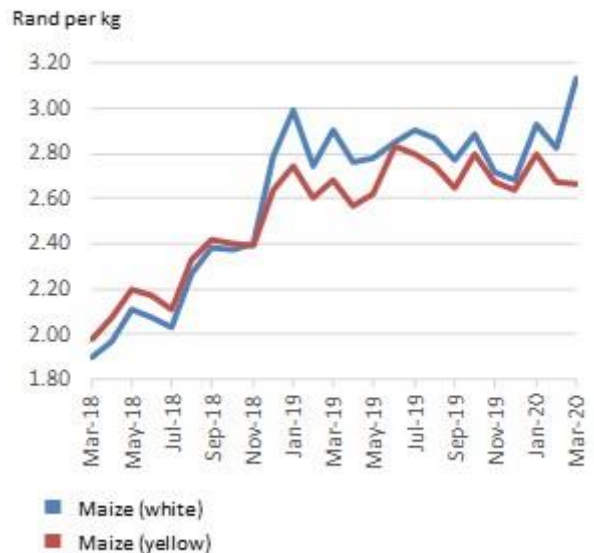


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

In consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government declared a national state of disaster on 15 March 2020. A nationwide lockdown was implemented on 27 March, but from 1 May regulations will be scaled down moderately.

Regulations that will remain in place include, the requirement for all persons to remain at home, other than to obtain essential services and goods, and to travel to work. All productive and commercial activities within the food supply chain were declared as essential and, therefore, continued to be exempt from lockdown regulations, including trade and mobility of the workforce employed in the sector.

However, a primary concern is related to a slowdown in trade for small-scale producers and informal traders, and associated income losses. Reports from the country indicate significant disruptions to the operations of informal traders, who now require permits to continue their activities. Such disruptions are expected to not only directly impact the livelihoods of traders but also curtail local food supplies, which would be especially detrimental for vulnerable households that rely on these informal markets.

To ease the economic burden to the agriculture sector and keep food production operating, the Department of Agriculture has allocated ZAR 1.2 billion (about USD 64 million) to financially assist small scale farmers. In addition, the South Africa Reserve Bank has cut interest rates, which will ease the financial pressures across the agriculture sector.

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GLEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 31-January-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Recent conducive rains and larger plantings boost 2020 maize production prospects
- Domestic maize supplies in 2019/20 marketing year estimated satisfactory, despite decline in 2019 harvest
- Prices of maize fell in late 2019, reflecting favourable production outlook for 2020 crop

Larger maize plantings and beneficial rains boost 2020 production prospects

Harvesting of the 2020 maize crop is expected to start from April and, despite early seasonal rainfall deficits, crop condition and the overall production outlook are favourable.

Rainfall deficits in October and November 2019 delayed maize plantings and resulted in larger areas of land being sown outside of the optimal planting period, raising the possibility that late-planted crops could be affected by frost in the coming months. Nonetheless, the overall area planted in the commercial agriculture sector (which accounts for almost the entire domestic maize output) is estimated to have increased to an above-average level of over 2.5 million hectares, reflecting a larger area sown with white maize (mainly used for food). The area expansion was mostly driven by higher year-on-year grain prices and consequent improved profit prospects.

Rainfall in December and January was generally favourable, leading to an increase in soil moisture reserves and minimizing the impact of earlier dry weather conditions. As a result, crop conditions were reported to be good across most of the country by the end of January. Weather forecasts for the February-April period indicate that the cumulative amount of rainfall is likely to be average, underpinning the favourable expectations for maize yields in 2020.

Overall, production of maize in 2020 is forecast at a near-average level of about 13 million tonnes.

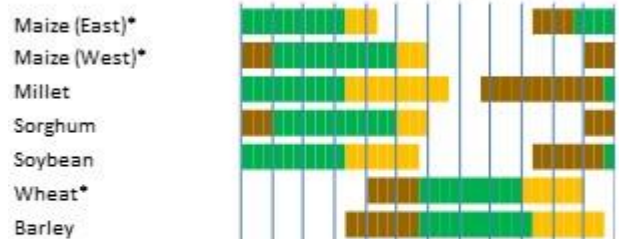
Supplies of cereals tighten in 2019/20, but remain sufficient for domestic needs

The maize harvest in 2019 was estimated at 11.6 million tonnes, 10 percent lower than the five-year average, reflecting significant rainfall deficits that caused a contraction in the area harvested

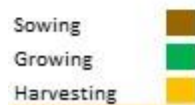
South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 885	13 104	11 807	-9.9
Wheat	1 704	1 868	1 599	-14.4
Barley	344	422	321	-23.9
Others	195	165	189	14.5
Total	15 128	15 559	13 915	-10.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

and lowered yields. Total cereal production was estimated at just under 14 million tonnes, about 1.2 million tonnes below the average.

Despite the decline in production, domestic maize supplies are estimated to be sufficient to satisfy national consumption requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April). At the same time, the volume of maize exports are forecast at 1.2 million tonnes, below the five-year average of 1.65 million tonnes.

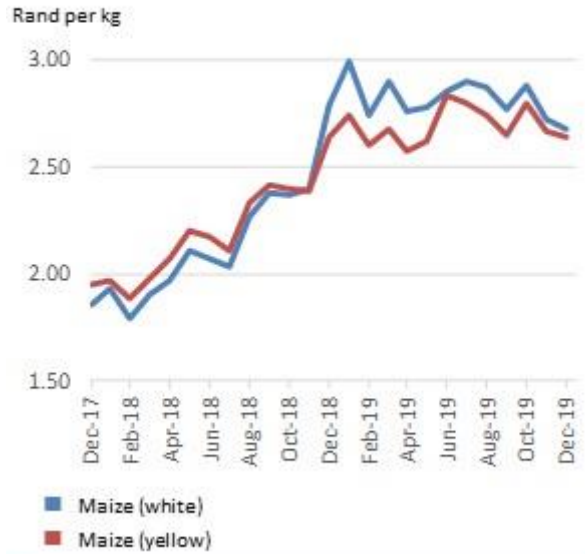
About 500 000 tonnes of yellow maize are expected to be imported to bolster domestic availabilities to be used as animal feed.

Maize prices declined to lower year-on-year levels

In December 2019, wholesale prices of maize grain declined to lower year-on-year levels for the first time in 2019. The drop in prices mainly reflected the effect of beneficial weather conditions on production expectations for the 2020 crops, raising the likelihood of an improved supply situation in the 2020/21 marketing year. Partly offsetting this downward pressure was a weaker currency and higher international quotations that limited larger price falls.

South Africa

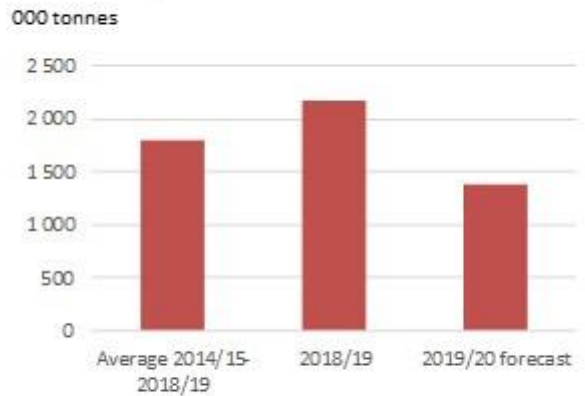
Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

South Africa

Cereals Exports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

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GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 18-December-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Higher year-on-year grain expected to spur expansion in plantings of 2020 maize crop, but weather forecasts point to increased chance of unfavourable rains
- Cereal production declined to below-average level in 2019
- Despite decrease in production, national maize supplies in 2019/20 marketing year estimated to still be satisfactory, due to large opening stocks
- Prices of maize remained steady although higher on yearly basis, reflecting lower harvest

Projected area expansion for 2020 crops

Planting of the 2020 maize crop, to be harvested from next April, is underway in western regions, with sowing activities mostly concluded in eastern parts. Dry weather conditions in October, which delayed plantings in the east, were followed by enhanced rainfall in November and early December that facilitated sowings and crop germination. Although official estimates of the area planted to maize will only be available early next year, farmers' intentions point to an expansion in sowings to an above-average level of 2.52 million hectares. The expected rise largely rests on higher year-on-year grain prices and, consequently, improved profit prospects.

Although the foreseen increase in plantings augurs well for crop prospects in 2020, the weather forecast for the January 2019-March 2020 period points to a higher probability of below-average rainfall. In addition, temperatures are expected to be higher than normal over these months, exacerbating the negative impact of reduced rains on crop productivity.

Maize production in 2019 declined to below-average level

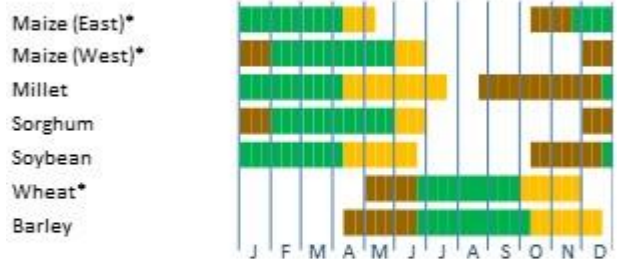
The 2019 maize crop was harvested by June and aggregate production, which includes outputs from the commercial and subsistence farming sectors, is estimated at 11.6 million tonnes, 10 percent lower than the five-year average. The reduced cereal outturn is mainly the result of rainfall deficits that caused a contraction in the area harvested and lowered yields.

Harvesting of the 2019 wheat crop was finalized in early December and production is pegged at about 1.6 million tonnes. At this level, the wheat harvest is estimated to be 6 percent below

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 885	13 104	11 807	-9.9
Wheat	1 704	1 868	1 618	-13.4
Barley	344	422	359	-14.8
Others	195	165	189	14.5
Total	15 128	15 559	13 973	-10.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

the five-year average, reflecting persistent dry weather conditions in the main wheat-producing province of Western Cape, which led to reduced crop yields.

Adequate cereal supplies in 2019/20 marketing year

In the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April), supplies of maize are estimated to be sufficient to satisfy domestic consumption requirements, but exports are forecast at a below-average level of about 1.3 million tonnes. Normally, white maize accounts for about 40 percent of total maize exports, which are predominantly shipped to neighbouring Southern Africa countries. Yellow maize exports account for the other 60 percent and are mostly delivered to countries outside the subregion, primarily in Asia. By the end of November, the bulk of the export quantity has been white maize, reflecting the impact of weather-reduced harvests in other countries of the subregion and consequently higher import requirements within Southern Africa.

Although the country is an exporter of maize, about 500 000 tonnes of yellow maize are forecast to be imported to bolster supplies following the below-average harvest in 2019.

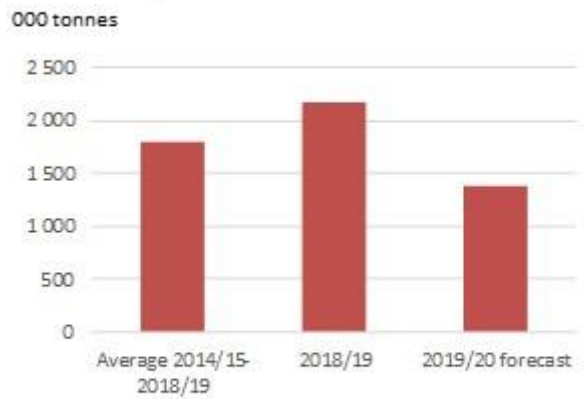
Maize prices steady, but above levels of previous year

Wholesale prices of maize grain have been comparatively steady since mid-2019 and month-on-month variations were mostly related to changes in exchange rates and international prices. More recently, prices dipped in November on prospects of an expansion in the area planted to maize. On a yearly basis, as of November 2019, prices were more than 10 percent higher on account of the impact of the reduced 2019 harvest on domestic supplies.

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South Africa

Cereals Exports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GLEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 18-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable seasonal weather outlook and higher year-on-year grain prices likely to instigate expansion in 2020 maize plantings
- Cereal production in 2019 estimated at below-average level due to adverse weather conditions
- Despite reduced 2019 output, large stocks shored up domestic supplies in 2019/20 marketing year
- Prices of maize declined in past three months, but remained higher year on year reflecting production decline

Projected area expansion for 2020 crops

Planting of the 2020 maize crop, to be harvested from April next year, has recently started in the eastern provinces and is expected to progress to western areas by November. Higher year-on-year maize prices, combined with a favourable seasonal weather outlook that points to an increased likelihood of average to above-average rainfall between November 2019 and January 2020, are likely to trigger an expansion in the area planted to maize.

Rainfall deficits resulted in below-average 2019 maize output

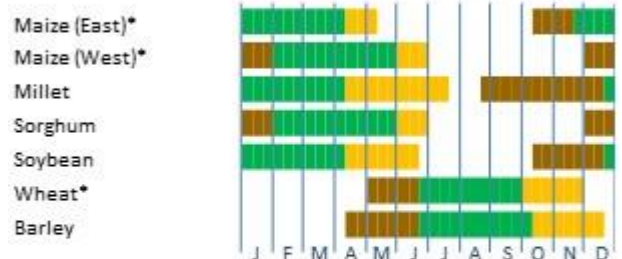
The 2019 maize crop was harvested by last June and aggregate production, which combines outputs from the commercial and subsistence farming sectors, is estimated at 11.6 million tonnes, 10 percent lower than the five-year average. The reduced cereal output is a result of the rainfall deficits that caused a contraction in the area harvested and lowered yields. Disaggregated by variety, production of white maize, which is mainly produced in western provinces and primarily utilized as food, declined by about 15 percent compared to the previous year's level. Production of yellow maize, which is mostly utilized as animal feed, decreased by only 7 percent on a yearly basis, as crops are largely concentrated in eastern provinces that were less affected by the rainfall deficits.

Harvesting of the 2019 wheat crop is underway and production is forecast at 1.8 million tonnes, 6 percent above the five-year average. This level is, however, below earlier expectations, due to persistent dry weather conditions in the main wheat-producing province of Western Cape, which have diminished yield prospects.

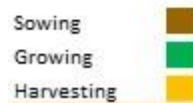
South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 885	13 104	11 630	-11.2
Wheat	1 704	1 868	1 806	-3.3
Barley	344	422	359	-14.8
Others	202	197	221	12.2
Total	15 134	15 591	14 017	-10.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Adequate cereal supplies in 2019/20 marketing year

In the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April), supplies of maize are estimated to be sufficient to satisfy domestic consumption requirements, but exports are forecast at a below-average level of about 1.4 million tonnes. Normally, white maize accounts for about 40 percent of total maize exports, which are predominantly shipped to neighbouring Southern Africa countries. Yellow maize exports account for the other 60 percent and are mostly delivered to countries outside of the subregion, primarily in Asia. As of mid-October, the bulk of the export quantity has been white maize, reflecting the impact of weather-reduced harvests in other countries of the subregion and consequently higher import requirements.

Although the country is an exporter of maize, about 400 000 tonnes of yellow maize are forecast to be imported to buffer supplies following the lower harvest in 2019. So far, approximately 285 000 tonnes have been imported from Argentina, where the depreciation of the local currency has lowered import costs.

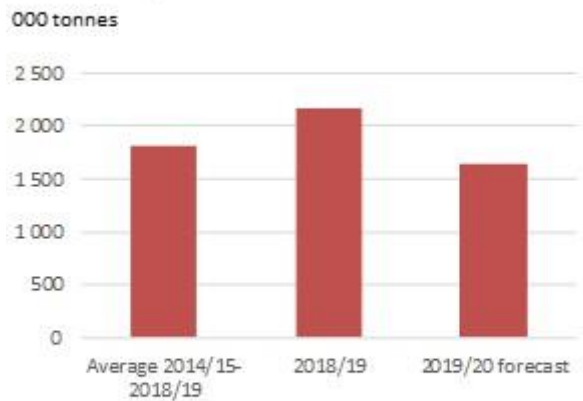
Maize prices higher year on year

Prices of maize grain declined for the third consecutive month in September, following trends in the international market and in response to a slight appreciation of the national currency. However, prices of yellow and white maize varieties remained above their year-earlier levels on account of the overall reduction in maize supplies compared to the previous year's levels. The higher grain prices have translated into increased costs for consumers, with retail prices of maize meal products rising by about 23 percent on a yearly basis as of August 2019.

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South Africa

Cereals Exports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 15-July-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize output forecast at below-average level in 2019, reflecting rainfall deficits
- Despite lower production, supply levels estimated to be satisfactory in 2019/20 marketing year (April/March), reflecting above-average stocks
- Recent uptick in maize prices, triggered by increasing international prices, reinforced high price levels

Rainfall deficits result in below-average 2019 maize harvest

Harvesting of the 2019 cereal crops is expected to be finalized by the end-July. According to the latest estimates, the 2019 aggregate maize harvest (including outputs from the commercial and non-commercial sectors) is set at a below-average level of 11.5 million tonnes. Rainfall deficits, particularly at the start of the season and in western provinces, were the driving factor affecting yields. Despite more conducive weather conditions in the latter stages of the season, the average maize yield was 12 percent lower in 2019 compared to previous year's above-average level. In addition, the area planted also declined compared to 2018. Disaggregated by crop, production of white maize, which is predominantly produced in western provinces and almost entirely utilized as food, declined by approximately 1 million tonnes, year on year, compared to a decrease of about 0.5 million tonnes for yellow maize, which is used as feed.

Sorghum production is estimated at an above-average level of 163 000 tonnes, mostly on account of an expansion in the planted area. For the 2019 winter cereal crops (barley and wheat), which were planted in June and are expected to be harvested from October, production is forecast to remain above average, based on an anticipated increase in the area sown.

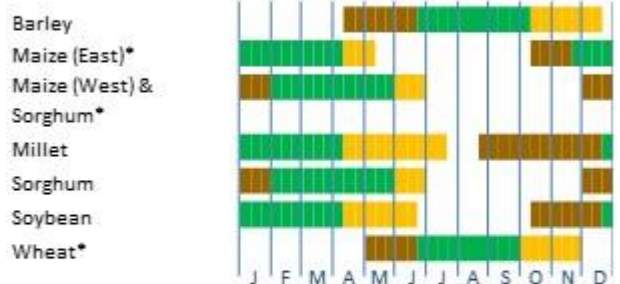
Supply conditions satisfactory in 2019/20

Despite a below-average maize harvest, the 2019 output is still estimated to be sufficient to cover domestic consumption requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (May/April). With the addition of carryover stocks, estimated at an above-average 3 million tonnes, supply conditions are generally satisfactory and the country is expected to remain a net exporter of maize in 2019/20. Maize exports are forecast at 1.5 million tonnes, a below-average level and down from the 2 million tonnes exported in the previous marketing year. The country is also forecast to

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



lean period

Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 885	13 103	11 482	-12.4
Wheat	1 704	1 868	1 900	1.7
Barley	344	422	359	-14.8
Others	195	165	221	34.2
Total	15 128	15 558	13 963	-10.3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

import approximately 0.5 million tonnes of yellow maize, in consideration of lower stocks.

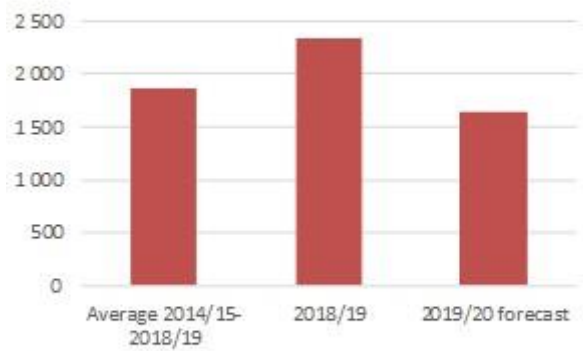
Maize prices rise higher year on year

Prices of maize increased sharply from October 2018, the start of the 2018/19 cropping season, to January 2019, primarily reflecting the unfavourable production prospects at the beginning of the season. However, the more favourable rains from February 2019 onwards improved harvest expectations and eased pressure on prices. In recent months, however, there was an uptick in maize prices and, by June, prices were about 30 percent above their year-earlier levels. The more recent increases mainly resulted from the spill-over effects from the international market, with prices of maize from the United States of America, the world's leading maize producer, climbing sharply in response to the impact of overly wet conditions that undermined production outlook in the United State of America and, consequently, prospects for global supplies. A weakening of the country's currency provided further support to price increases.

South Africa

Cereals Exports

000 tonnes



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein

Rand per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

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GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 08-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Plantings of 2019 maize crop foreseen to expand under generally favourable rainfall conditions
- High probability of El Niño event later in season presents downside to production outlook
- Supply levels in 2018/19 satisfactory, reflecting above average 2018 maize harvest and large carryover stocks
- Maize prices higher on yearly basis, but favourable supply outlook contains larger price gains

Maize sowings forecast to rise for 2019 crop

Sowing of the 2019 cereal crops is underway. Early indications point to an area of 2.45 million hectares sown to maize, a 6 percent year-on-year expansion that would push plantings up to an average level (2014-2018). The expected increase is related to generally beneficial weather conditions at the start of the 2018/19 season and favourable forecasts for the first half of the season coupled with higher grain prices and the application of crop rotation practices. Reflecting the current rainfall forecasts and anticipated area planted, the 2019 maize production is expected at an average level of between 12 and 13 million tonnes.

However, the downside risk to this outlook is the high probability of an El Niño event occurring later in the cropping season, which is normally associated with an anomalous reduction in rainfall. If this weather phenomenon transpires, it would be expected to adversely affect yields and area harvested.

For sorghum, a secondary cereal crop also planted in the summer season, sowings are estimated to increase by up to 50 percent compared to 2018, but still remain at below-average levels. The area sown to soybeans is foreseen to expand by about 8 percent to a well above-average level, while a 4 percent decrease in sunflower plantings is envisaged compared to the previous year's near-average cultivated area.

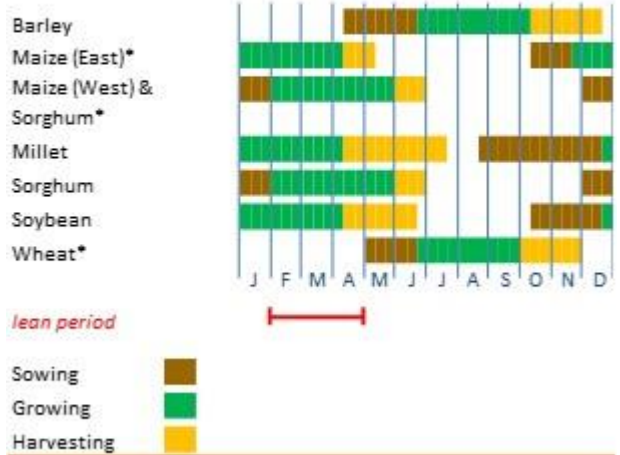
Maize production surpasses average levels in 2018

Although total cereal production in 2018 is estimated to have declined by 19 percent to 15.8 million tonnes from the record high of level in 2017, the output remains above the five-year average. The bulk of the yearly contraction is associated with maize, with

South Africa

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

South Africa

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 761	17 551	13 525	-22.9
Wheat	1 708	1 535	1 800	17.3
Barley	313	310	322	3.9
Others	201	191	160	-16.3
Total	14 983	19 587	15 807	-19.3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

production estimated at 13.5 million tonnes, 20 percent lower than the previous year, but still above average. A larger decline was expected earlier in the season following an extended period of reduced mid-season rains. However, precipitation improved during the second half of the cropping season, pushing yields to above average levels.

Production of wheat in 2018, with the crop currently being harvested, is forecast at an above average level of 1.8 million tonnes, 17 percent higher than the preceding year. Most of this increase rests on higher yields due to generally beneficial weather conditions and adequate water availability for irrigation.

Supply conditions remain healthy in 2018/19

Supply conditions for maize are estimated to be satisfactory in the 2018/19 marketing year (May/April). This reflects a 2018 output that exceeded the national maize consumption requirements and significantly above-average stocks of nearly 4 million tonnes.

The plentiful supplies augur well for trade prospects with exports forecast at 2.4 million tonnes in 2018/19, nearly unchanged compared to the previous year. Approximately 1.6 million tonnes of maize had already been shipped between May and October, the bulk of which was yellow maize delivered to Viet Nam.

For wheat, the expected higher 2018 output will boost domestic supplies and result in a reduced import volume in 2018/19, forecast at about 1.4 million tonnes, down from nearly 2 million tonnes in the preceding year.

Prices of maize increase, but at moderate rate

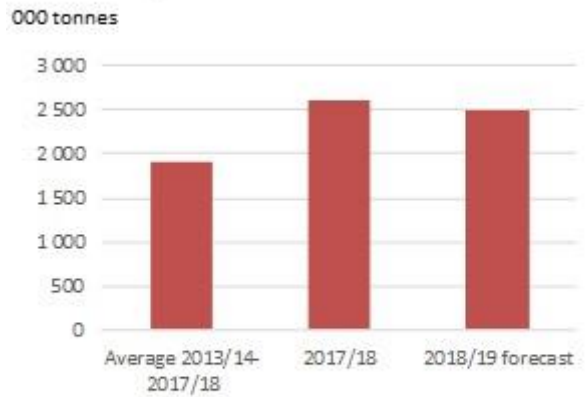
The overall favourable supply outlook has suppressed significant price gains for maize during most of 2018. However, a combination of a weak currency, spill-over effects from higher international prices and a decrease in the 2018 output (which still remained above average) exerted upward pressure on prices of white and yellow maize, which increased by 25 and 20 percent, respectively, if compared to their values a year earlier. These higher year-on-year price levels also reflect concerns over a potential El Niño, which could suppress 2019 production.

Prices for wheat were 5 percent higher on a yearly basis as of October, mostly on account of increased international quotations given South Africa's position as a net importer. However, favourable prospects for the 2018 output capped further rises.

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South Africa

Cereals Exports

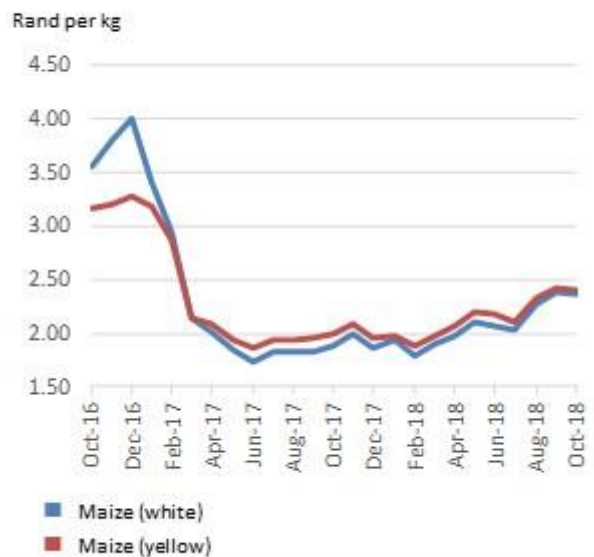


Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.



GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 27-June-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2018 forecast to decline, but to remain higher than average
- Supply situation expected to be favourable in 2018/19, partly reflecting well above-average opening stocks
- Maize prices strengthened in recent months due to weaker currency and higher international quotations

Maize production in 2018 forecast to decline, but remain above average

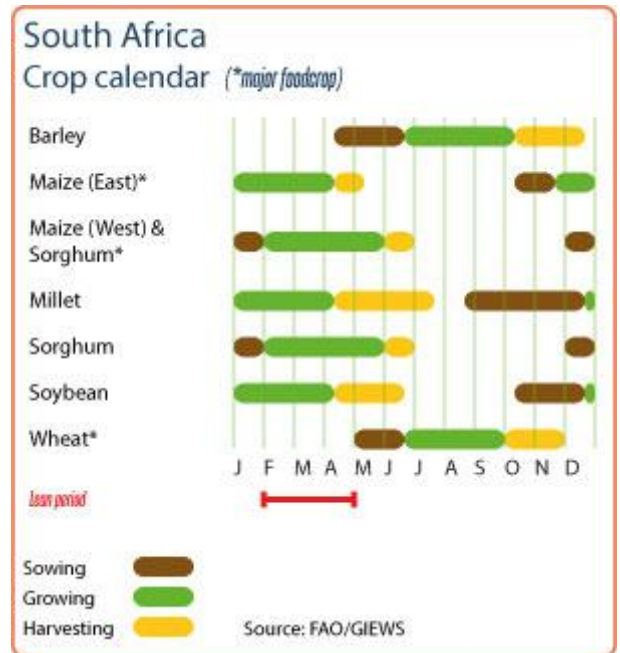
Under generally favourable weather conditions, harvesting of the 2018 maize crop is expected to be completed in western regions in June, while the harvest was finalized in eastern areas in May.

Although total cereal production is forecast to decline by 18 percent in 2018 from the record high of 2017, this year's harvest is still expected to remain above average. The bulk of the contraction in the cereal output is related to maize, with production forecast at 13.4 million tonnes, 20 percent lower than last year. The anticipated decrease is mostly a result of a price-induced contraction in plantings – total commercial maize plantings decreased by 12 percent on a yearly basis – and lower yields, due to an extended period of below-average rainfall in January and early February. Rains, however, improved in late February, averting a larger decline in yields relative to the previous year.

For the winter wheat crop, which is expected to be harvested from October, recent favourable rains in the main western growing regions improved soil moisture levels and benefitted crop development. Furthermore, continued favourable rains are predicted over the main wheat-producing Western Cape Province for the next three months (July-September), boosting the production outlook. Although early in the season, production is foreseen to slightly increase compared to the below-average output of the previous year.

Domestic supplies forecast to remain favourable in 2018/19

Domestic maize supplies are estimated at a well above-average 17.7 million tonnes in the 2018/19 marketing year (May/April), which also significantly exceeds the annual domestic needs of



South Africa
Cereal production

	2013-2017	2017	2018	change
	average		forecast	2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 615	16 820	13 420	-20
Wheat	1 696	1 475	1 535	4
Barley	311	298	319	7
Others	218	215	206	-4
Total	14 840	18 808	15 480	-18

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

about 11.5 million tonnes. The good supply situation reflects both the above-average harvest and large stocks.

Reflecting the ample supplies, maize exports are forecast to remain nearly unchanged compared to the previous year, forecast at an above-average level of 2.4 million tonnes in 2018/19. Since the start of the marketing year, maize exports have reached almost 400 000 tonnes, 45 percent more than last year's volume over the same period (May to mid-June). The current higher export rate reflects large volumes shipped to East Asian countries, particularly to Viet Nam.

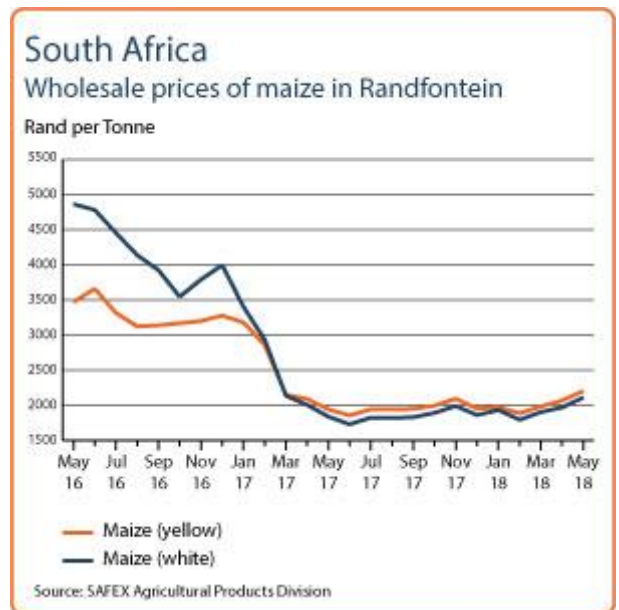
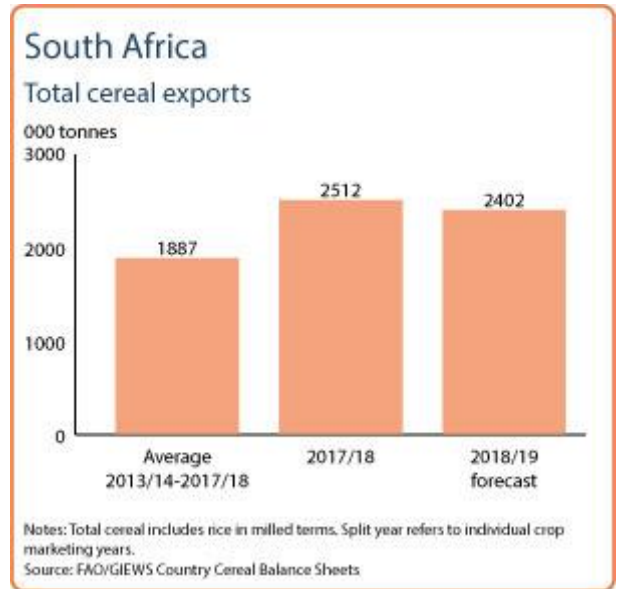
Closing stocks at the end of 2018/19 marketing year are forecast at 4 million tonnes, 7 percent less than last year, but still well above the previous five-year average.

Prices of maize strengthened in recent months

Prices of maize have been increasing steadily – around 5 percent each month – since February 2018 and, as of May, they were about 20 percent above their year-earlier levels. The price trend reflects the upward pressure from a weaker currency and higher international quotations, while earlier concerns related to the dry weather conditions also contributed to pushing up prices. However, prices of maize still remained at relatively low levels on account of the continued good supply situation that curbed larger price gains in 2018.

For wheat, prices were 12 percent down on a yearly basis as of May, mostly reflecting favourable production prospects in 2018.

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GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 15-December-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospect favourable for 2018 maize crop
- Beneficial weather boosts maize production to record high in 2017
- Exports expected to increase sharply in 2017/18 and stocks forecast at above-average level
- Maize prices remained stable and at lower year-on-year levels

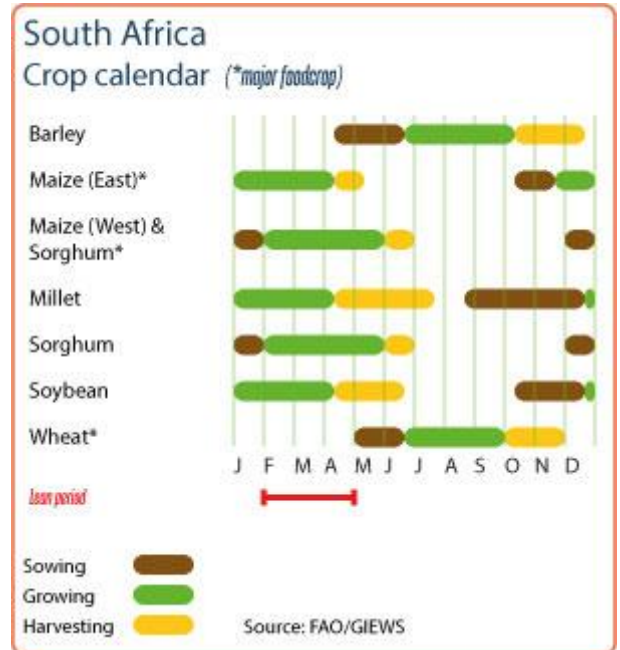
Favourable prospects for 2018 cereal crop

Planting of the 2018 maize crop is virtually complete in eastern areas and is expected to be finalized in western regions in early 2018. Although mostly below average rains were received at the beginning of the planting period between October and early November, precipitation levels were mostly sufficient for plantings and crop establishment in eastern parts. In western areas and some parts of the main producing Free State Province, however, moisture deficits were observed in October and November, causing some delays to planting operations and resulting in below average vegetation conditions of newly-emerged crops. Nonetheless, with heavy rains received at the start of December, crop conditions were reported to be generally satisfactory and are expected to improve should favourable rains, forecast for early next year, materialize.

Total commercial maize plantings for 2018 are foreseen to contract by 6 percent on a yearly basis to a near-average level, driven by lower sowings for white maize. The reduction mostly results from lower profitability for maize reflecting reduced prices in 2017, while abundant subregional supplies and consequently diminished export demand compared to the previous year also weighed negatively on planting intentions. Although the cereal output is expected to decline in 2018 from the record 2017 level, preliminary forecasts suggest it will remain above average.

Record high maize output in 2017

Maize production in 2017 reached a record high of about 17.5 million tonnes (both commercial and non-commercial), more than double the level of 2016 and well above the previous five-year average. The significant production upturn reflects a 35 percent increase in plantings, which was spurred by higher prices, and bumper yields, mostly owing to wetter conditions following the dry weather conditions experienced in the previous season.



South Africa
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	11 803	8 214	17 475	113
Wheat	1 777	1 919	1 560	-19
Barley	310	354	268	-24
Others	221	137	215	57
Total	14 111	10 624	19 518	84

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Sorghum production also increased sharply in 2017, mostly on the back of higher yields. However, for the 2017 winter barley and wheat crops, with the harvest expected to be finalized in December, moisture conditions in the major producing areas curbed yields and as a result production of both cereals fell to below-average levels.

Overall, cereal production in 2017 is estimated at a well above-average level of 19.5 million tonnes, an increase of 84 percent compared with the drought-affected and below-average 2016 output.

Large increase in maize exports

The country is expected to export around 2.4 million tonnes of maize in the 2017/18 marketing year (April/May), and consequently return to being a net exporter, in contrast to the previous year when an above average volume of nearly 2.4 million tonnes had to be imported.

Given the ample subregional supply situation, most of South Africa's maize exports are expected to be delivered outside of Southern Africa. Between April and November, about 60 percent of the exported amount was shipped to East Asia, notably Japan, while a significant volume was also exported to Kenya.

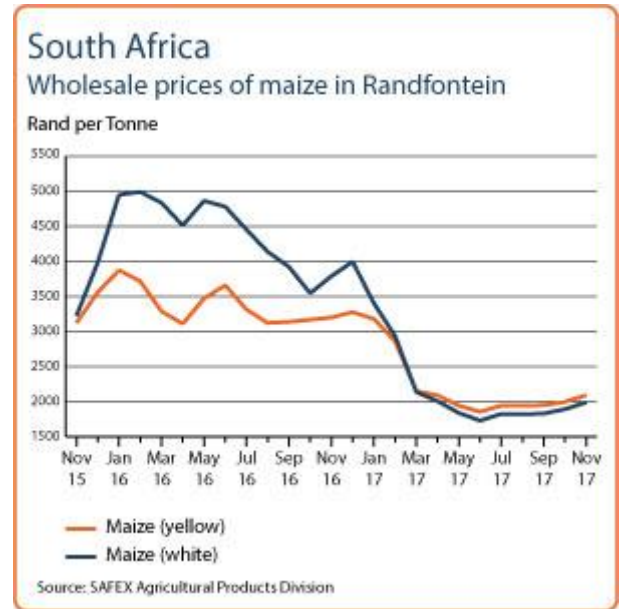
In addition to increased exports, closing stocks at the end of 2017/18 are forecast to rise by almost four times to an above-average level compared to the reduced stocks in 2016/17.

Prices of maize stable

Prices of maize were generally stable in the previous months as upward pressure from a weaker currency and some earlier dry conditions during the start of the planting period for the 2018 maize crop were partly offset by forecasts pointing to good seasonal rainfall prospects. In addition, the abundant national supplies have continued to exert downward pressure, maintaining prices below their year-earlier levels.

For wheat, prices were slightly higher on a yearly basis as of November, mostly reflecting the impact of dry conditions that are expected to curb production of the 2017 winter wheat crop.

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GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 30-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

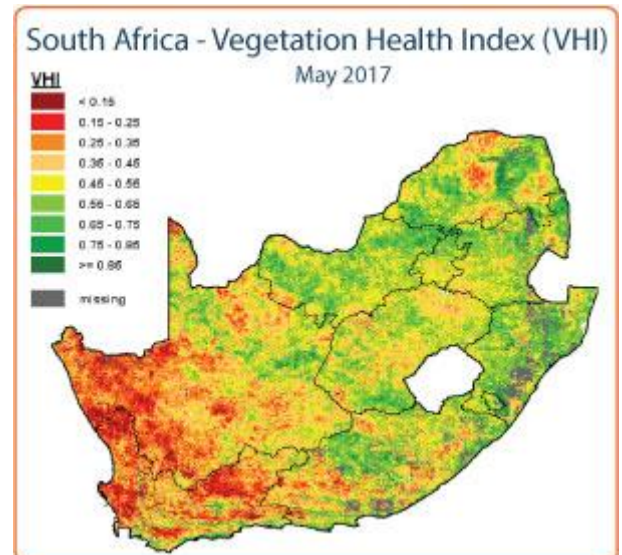
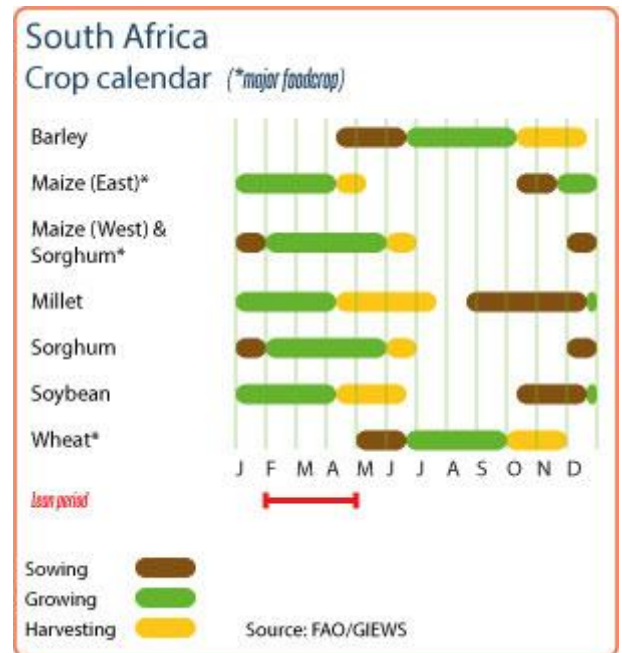
- Production in 2017 forecast to rebound strongly to record high
- Country expected to return to being net exporter of maize in 2017/18 marketing year, following importing well above-average volume in previous year
- Maize prices continued to decline steeply, driven by favourable supply outlook

Maize production forecast at record high in 2017

Harvesting of the 2017 maize crop is well underway and is expected to conclude in western areas in the next weeks under generally favourable weather conditions. Recently released official figures, including the non-commercial sector, confirm a record high production of 16.4 million tonnes. The forecasted year-on-year production gain reflects a 35 percent increase in plantings, spurred by higher prices and anticipated bumper yields, mostly owing to wetter conditions this season. Disaggregated, white maize accounts for the bulk of the expected increase, forecast to nearly double from the reduced output of 2016, while yellow maize is anticipated to increase by 41 percent. This year's output would be in stark contrast to 2016's drought-reduced production, when the dry weather cut yields to well below-average levels.

Sorghum production is also forecast to rise and a bumper soybean crop is projected in 2017. For the winter wheat crop, which will be harvested during the last quarter of 2017, dry weather conditions in the main-producing southwestern regions at the start of the cropping period in April/May delayed plantings and preliminary forecasts point to a year-on-year contraction in the area sown. However, with a large proportion of the crop grown under irrigation, the impact of the suppressed rains will be partly abated in some provinces given the replenished dam levels from the abundant summer rains. Although in the largest producing Western Cape Province, dam levels are very, 15 percent down compared to the previous year as of the end of June 2017. The wheat crop is still tentatively forecast to fall moderately to a near-average level, driven by both lower plantings and yields.

Overall, cereal production in 2017 is forecast at a well above-average level of 18.7 million tonnes, with an increase of 76 percent compared with the drought-affected 2016 output.



South Africa expected to return to being net exporter of maize

In the current 2017/18 marketing year (April/May), reflecting the bumper output, the country is expected to return to being a net exporter, with minimal import levels forecast. Exports are anticipated to rise significantly to about 2.8 million tonnes. Given that most countries in the subregion are also expecting large domestic outputs, the subregional import demand is forecast to be significantly reduced and, therefore, most of South Africa's maize is expected to be delivered outside of the subregion during the first two months of 2017/18, about 50 percent of the exports were delivered to East Asia.

Maize imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (April/May) reached 2.35 million tonnes, approximately 0.4 million tonnes higher on an annual basis and well above average, to compensate for the below average 2016 harvest.

In consideration of the vastly improved maize supply situation, in addition to increasing export volumes, the country is also forecast to bolster stocks. At the close of the 2017/18 marketing year, maize stocks are forecast at about 2.7 million tonnes, more than double the opening stock level.

Prices of maize well down on yearly basis

Maize prices declined steeply in the first half of 2017, continuing a trend that began in mid-2016 when they reached record highs. Most of the recent declines are a result of the expected improved supply situation in 2017/18, which has pushed prices of white maize below their export parity level, while an appreciation of the currency has also added downward pressure. On an annual basis, wholesale prices of white and yellow maize in June 2017 were down 62 and 44 percent, respectively. The decreasing wholesale prices have also instigated recent small declines for maize meal products; however, prices still remain close to their year-earlier levels.

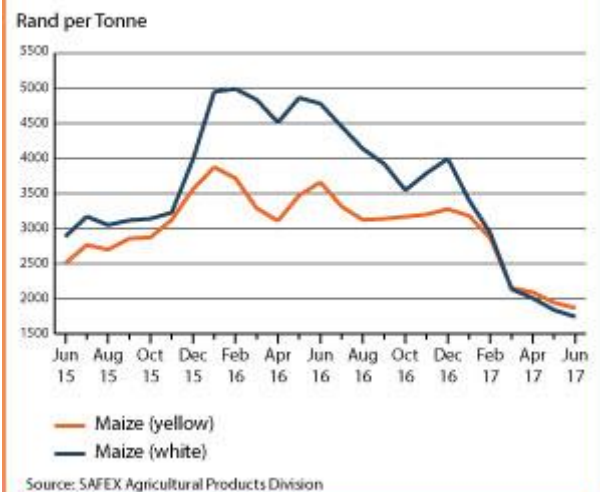
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South Africa Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	11 803	8 214	16 362	99
Wheat	1 777	1 919	1 800	-6
Barley	310	354	334	-6
Others	226	162	205	27
Total	14 116	10 650	18 701	76

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein





GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 04-April-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production in 2017 forecast to rebound strongly to near-record high
- Imports of maize up on a yearly basis in 2016/17, but country is expected to return to being net-exporter in 2017/18 marketing year
- Maize prices fall sharply, on the back of expected bumper crop that will ease supply pressure

Maize production forecast to reach near-record high in 2017

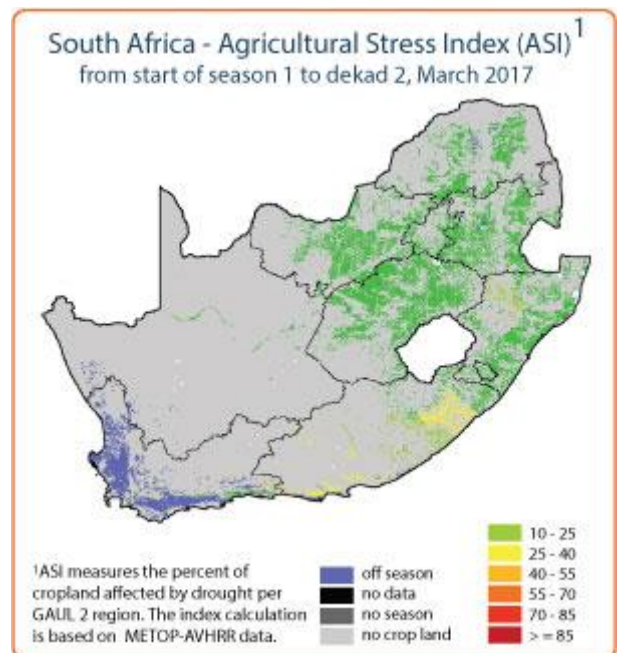
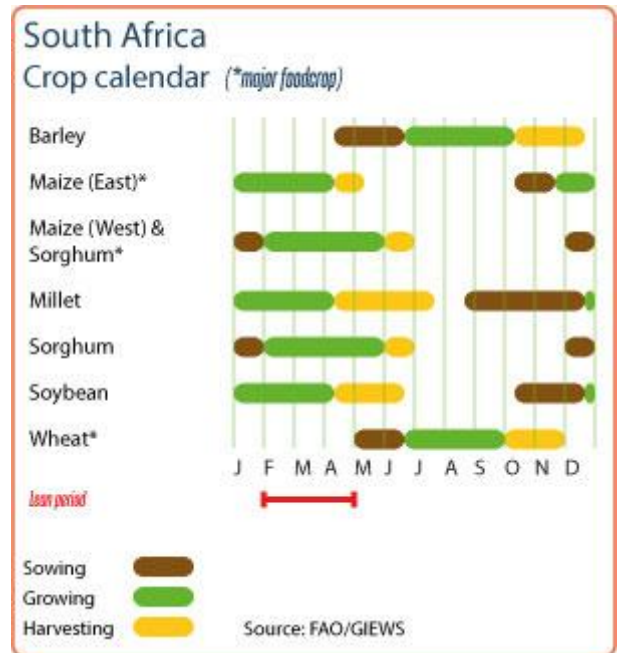
Harvesting of the 2017 maize crop will commence in late April in eastern areas and progressively move west until June. Current prospects indicate a strong production rebound, with the aggregate output in 2017 forecast at 14.5 million tonnes, about 75 percent above the drought-reduced 2016 level. This would put the 2017 harvest at the second highest level on record. The forecasted year-on-year production gain reflects a 30 percent increase in plantings spurred by higher prices and expectations of bumper yields, owing to wetter conditions this season. Disaggregated, white maize accounts for the bulk of the expected increase, forecast to nearly double from the reduced output of 2016.

Sorghum production is also forecast to rise and a bumper soybean crop is projected.

Maize imports up on a yearly basis, reflecting reduced 2016 output

Maize imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (April/May) are estimated at around 2.4 million tonnes, approximately 0.4 million tonnes up on an annual basis. The increase is on account of the drought-reduced 2016 maize harvest that cut domestic supplies, while a draw-down in stocks helped to bridge the supply gap. As of March 2017, about 2.3 million tonnes of maize had been imported, mainly yellow maize from Argentina. White maize imports are currently estimated at 0.68 million tonnes, mostly originated from Mexico.

As of March, about 0.73 million tonnes of maize were exported, mostly yellow maize, with the bulk of this quantity shipped to Botswana and Zimbabwe.



In the next 2017/18 marketing year (April/May) reflecting the expected bumper output, South Africa is expected to return to being a net-exporter, with minimal import levels forecast and exports are expected to rise significantly to around 2 million tonnes.

Prices of maize continued to decline steeply

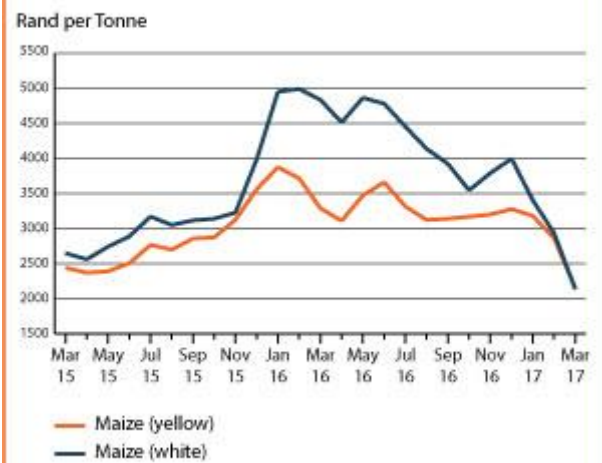
Maize prices continued to decline in 2017, mostly owing to the expectations of a significantly improved supply situation following the tight conditions in 2016. White maize prices decreased at a steeper rate compared to yellow varieties and in March 2017 were 54 percent below their year earlier levels. At this level, the white maize spot price was below the export parity level. This is in contrast to much of 2016 when prices were above import parity, indicating that it was less costly to import than to purchase domestic supplies. In addition, white maize prices fell below yellow maize prices for the first time in over two years.

South Africa Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	11 803	8 214	14 500	77
Wheat	1 777	1 919	1 600	-17
Barley	310	354	334	-6
Others	226	163	205	26
Total	14 116	10 650	16 639	56

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein





GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 12-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize plantings for 2016/17 cropping season expected to rebound to near-average levels
- Drought-reduced 2016 harvest results in tighter maize supplies and increased import requirements in 2016/17
- Maize prices declined, mostly on back of stronger rand and favourable production prospects for 2017 crop

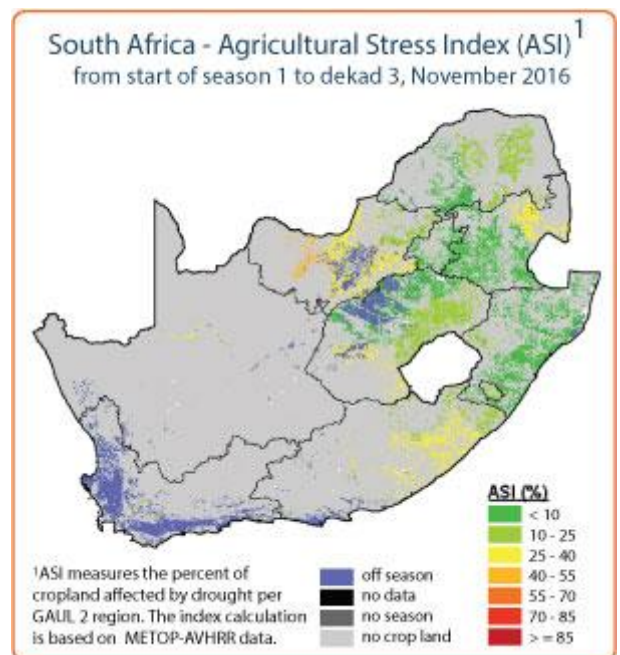
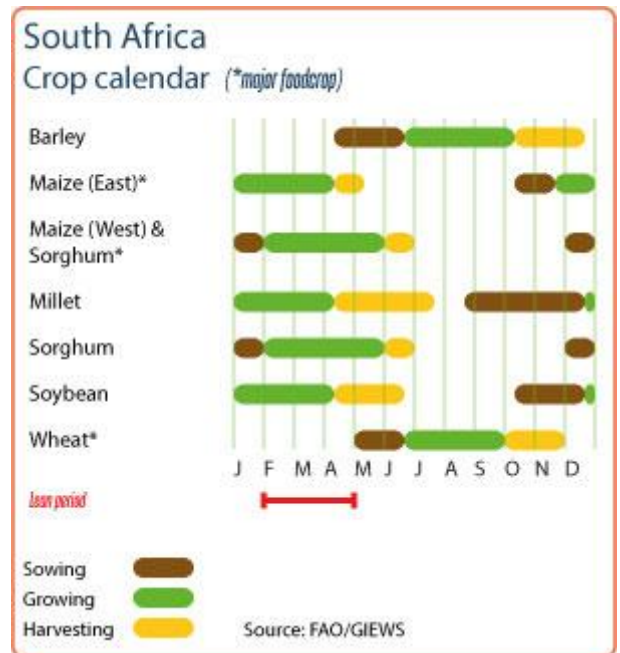
Plantings of 2017 maize crop expected to rebound

Planting activities in the eastern maize belt are virtually complete under generally beneficial weather conditions, while they are ongoing in western parts with reports of some early seasonal dryness. Current indications point to a rebound in the area sown to maize by nearly 30 percent compared to the reduced level in 2016, which would imply a similar area to the previous five-year average. Higher domestic prices and favourable weather conditions, including seasonal forecasts that point to an enhanced chance of above-normal rainfall until March 2017, are mainly behind this year's plantings upturn. Although at a preliminary stage of the season, the 2017 production outlook is positive, particularly in comparison to the drought-affected 2016 output; FAO forecasts the aggregate maize crop at about 12 million tonnes.

Drought conditions sharply reduced 2016 maize production

Aggregate maize production (commercial and non-commercial crop) in 2016 is estimated at about 7.7 million tonnes, down 27 percent from the previous year's already reduced output. The steep decline is mainly attributed to the El Niño-related drought conditions that curbed white maize yields by 25 percent compared to the five-year average, while an overall reduction in the area planted also contributed to the smaller harvest. Sorghum production in 2016, the other summer season cereal crop but produced on a much smaller scale, is estimated to have decreased by 30 percent on a yearly basis to about 107 000 tonnes.

By contrast, the 2016 winter wheat crops, with the harvest virtually complete, is estimated at 1.74 million tonnes, 20 percent



higher than the previous year, reflecting an expansion in plantings and weather-improved yields. Despite the recent upward revisions, the barley output is estimated to be 10 percent down from the previous year, mainly resting on a reduction in plantings.

Overall, cereal production in 2016 is estimated at 10.2 million tonnes, 19 percent (almost 4.5 million tonnes) down on the average.

Tight domestic supplies result in larger import needs in 2016/17

Maize imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (April/May) are forecast at 3 million tonnes, about 1 million tonnes more than the previous year, mainly reflective of the reduced 2016 maize harvest resulting in a shortage of domestic supplies. As of November, about 1.6 million tonnes of maize had been imported since May, mostly yellow maize from Argentina, while white maize imports, estimated at about 580 000 tonnes, largely originated from Mexico.

South Africa is expected to be a net importer this year, with exports forecast at approximately 0.85 million tonnes. Nearly all of this volume is expected to remain in the subregion, where most neighbouring countries recorded sharp decreases in domestic harvests resulting in augmented import requirements. As of November, 0.5 million tonnes had been exported since the start of the current marketing year, mostly to Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Maize prices down from record highs, but remain up on a yearly basis

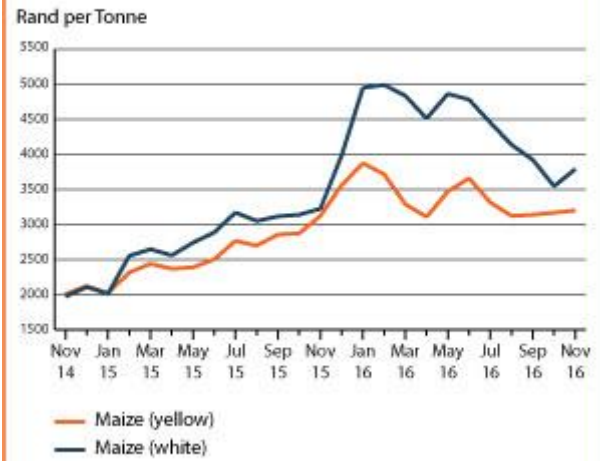
Given the increased proportion of maize imports in national supplies this year, currency fluctuations are exerting more influence on market dynamics, with monthly maize price movements mirroring changes in the South African rand/US dollar exchange rate. Since reaching a record high in February 2016, prices of white maize have since dropped by 24 percent up to November, reflecting the rand's appreciation from a low at the start of the year. The early favourable production outlook for the 2017 maize crop has also added further downward pressure in recent months. However, the overall tight supply situation has sustained higher year-on-year price levels for both white and yellow maize.

South Africa Cereal production

	2011-2015	2015	2016	change
	average		estimate	2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12 345	10 629	7 973	-25
Wheat	1 796	1 449	1 743	20
Barley	302	332	300	-10
Others	254	218	166	-24
Total	14 696	12 628	10 182	-19

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein





GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 03-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Drought-reduced 2016 harvest results in tighter maize supplies
- Imports of maize forecast at over 3 million tonnes in 2016/17, more than double previous year's level
- Strengthening South Africa rand contributes to declining maize prices

Maize production in 2016 decreases steeply for second consecutive year

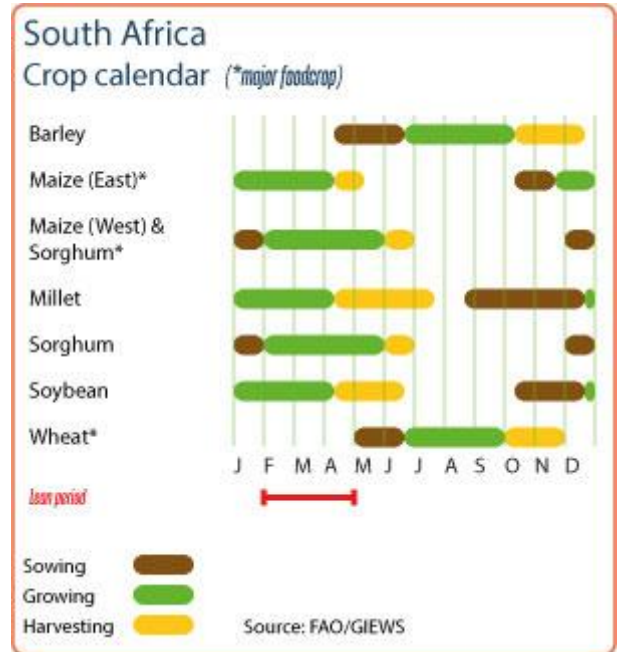
With harvesting of the main summer season cereal crops complete, the latest official estimate for aggregate maize production (commercial and non-commercial crop) stands at approximately 7.7 million tonnes, down 27 percent from the previous year's weather-affected output. The steep decline is mainly attributed to the El Niño-related drought conditions that resulted in a near 25 percent decrease in white maize yields compared to the five-year average, while an overall reduction in the area planted also contributed to the smaller harvest.

Sorghum production in 2016, the other summer season cereal crop but produced on a much smaller scale, is forecast to contract by 30 percent on a yearly basis to about 107 000 tonnes. By contrast, the 2016 winter wheat crop, which is about to be harvested, is forecast at just approximately 1.7 million tonnes, up 17 percent from the previous year, reflecting an expansion in plantings and improved yield prospects following beneficial weather.

Overall, cereal production is forecast at just under 9.9 million tonnes, 32 percent (almost 5 million tonnes) down on the average, mainly driven by the severe dry conditions.

Imports of maize forecast to more than double in 2016/17

As a result of the sharply lower production in 2016, imports of maize, mostly yellow varieties, are forecast at over 3 million tonnes for the 2016/17 marketing year (May/April). This is about 1 million tonnes above the volume imported in the previous year and a significant rise relative to the average. As of September about 1 million tonnes of maize had been imported since May, approximately one-third of the estimated import requirement.



South Africa Cereal production

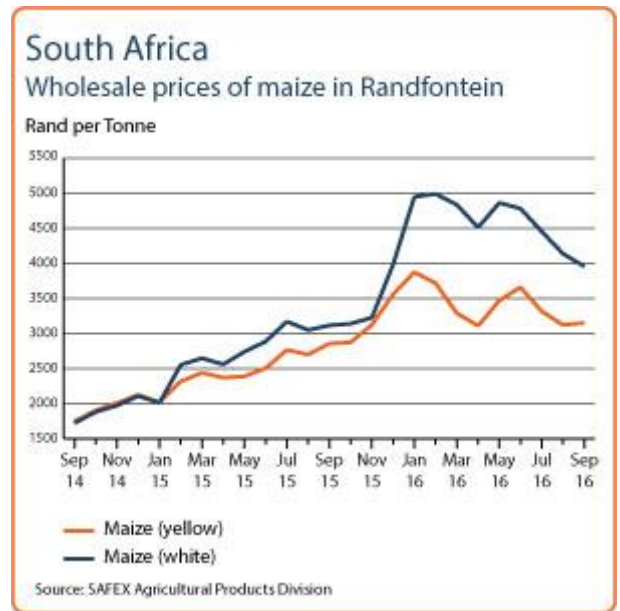
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 345	10 629	7 733	-27
Wheat	1 796	1 449	1 692	17
Barley	302	332	272	-18
Others	254	218	174	-20
Total	14 696	12 628	9 871	-22

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Despite the sizeable import requirement, South Africa is still forecast to export approximately 0.85 million tonnes of mostly white maize, mainly bound for the drought-affected neighbouring countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. As of September, 300 000 tonnes had been exported since the start of the current marketing year, the bulk of which was delivered to Botswana. This level is slightly higher than the quantity exported over the same period in the preceding year, mainly reflecting increased volumes exported to Zimbabwe.

Maize prices continued to decline from record highs

In recent months, maize grain prices have been falling and by September prices of yellow and white maize were 19 and 21 percent down, respectively, from their record highs at the start of the year. With imports accounting for a greater share of the national supplies, the South Africa rand/United States dollar exchange rate is having a greater influence on price movements, and recent strengthening of the rand since May contributed to the falling price levels. In addition, recent upward revisions to the 2016 crop estimate and lower international quotations have put further downward pressure on prices. However, grain prices still remain higher on a yearly basis, reflecting the tighter supply situation this year.





GIEWS Country Brief South Africa

Reference Date: 25-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2016 declines steeply due to El Niño-induced drought conditions
- Imports of maize forecast at about 3.5 million tonnes in 2016/17, more than double previous year's level
- Maize prices remain at elevated levels mainly reflecting tight supply situation

Maize production in 2016 declines steeply for second consecutive year

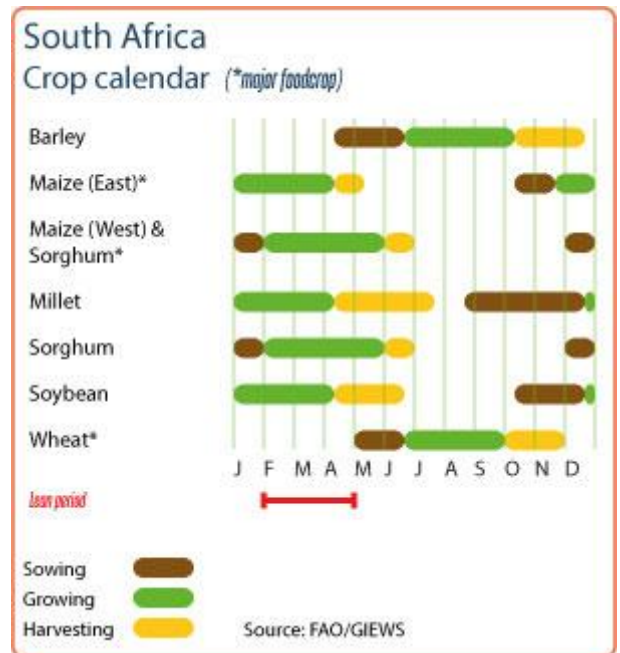
With the harvest expected to conclude in July, the aggregate 2016 maize output (commercial and non-commercial crop) is forecast at 7.6 million tonnes, 29 percent down from last year's reduced harvest and a significant 39 percent below the previous five-year average. The steep decline is mainly attributed to the El Niño-related drought conditions that resulted in a 25 percent decrease in white maize yields compared to the five-year average, while an overall reduction in the area planted also contributed to the smaller harvest.

Sorghum production in 2016, the other summer season cereal crop but produced on a much smaller scale, is forecast to contract by 26 percent on a yearly basis to 114 000 tonnes. While the winter wheat crop, to be harvested from October, is forecast at about 1.5 million tonnes, a similar level to 2015's output. Overall, cereal production is forecast at 9.7 million tonnes, 34 percent (5 million tonnes) down on the average, mainly driven by the severe dry conditions.

Imports of maize forecast to more than double in 2016/17

As a result of the sharply lower production in 2016, imports of maize, mostly yellow varieties, are forecast at approximately 3.5 million tonnes for the 2016/17 marketing year (May/April). This is a substantial 1.5 million-tonne increase compared to the previous year and a significant rise relative to the average. About 370 000 tonnes of maize have already been imported since May, more than double the level of the corresponding period in 2015.

Despite the sizeable import requirements, South Africa is still forecast to export approximately 0.85 million tonnes of mostly white maize, mainly bound for the drought-affected neighbouring countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. As of July, 160 000 tonnes had been exported since the start of the



South Africa
Cereal production

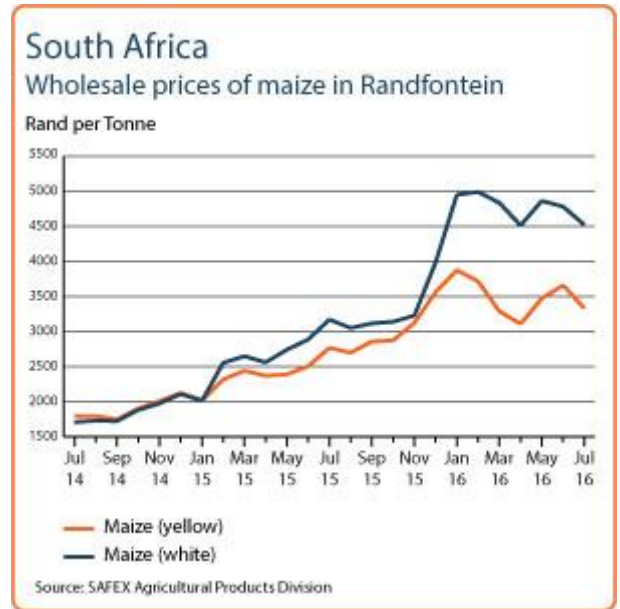
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	12,345	10,629	7,597	-29
Wheat	1,796	1,449	1,551	7
Barley	302	332	334	1
Others	254	218	181	-17
Total	14,696	12,628	9,663	-23

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

current marketing year, the bulk of which was delivered to Botswana. This level is slightly higher than the quantity exported over the same period in the preceding year, mainly reflecting increased volumes exported to Zimbabwe.

Maize prices exhibit mixed trends, but remain at elevated levels

In recent months, maize grain prices exhibited mixed trends with yellow maize prices increasing for a second consecutive month in June, reducing the gap with declining white maize prices. Both prices still remained at elevated levels and as of June 2016, white and yellow maize prices were 66 percent and 46 percent above their year-earlier values, respectively. These substantially higher year-on-year gains principally reflect the tight supply situation stemming from two consecutive below-average outputs. The upturn in international quotations since April also added upward pressure. However, an appreciation of the Rand in June tempered larger price gains. Higher cereal prices are also contributing to driving up inflation, with the annual inflation rate in June estimated at 6.3 percent, compared to 4.7 percent in June 2015.



Reference Date: 23-March-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2016 forecast to fall steeply from previous year's below-average output, on account of El Niño-related drought conditions
- Tight maize supplies instigated increased imports of maize in 2015/16, with further rises expected in 2016/17
- Maize prices declined from record highs, but remain at elevated levels

Maize production forecast to decline steeply in 2016 for second consecutive year

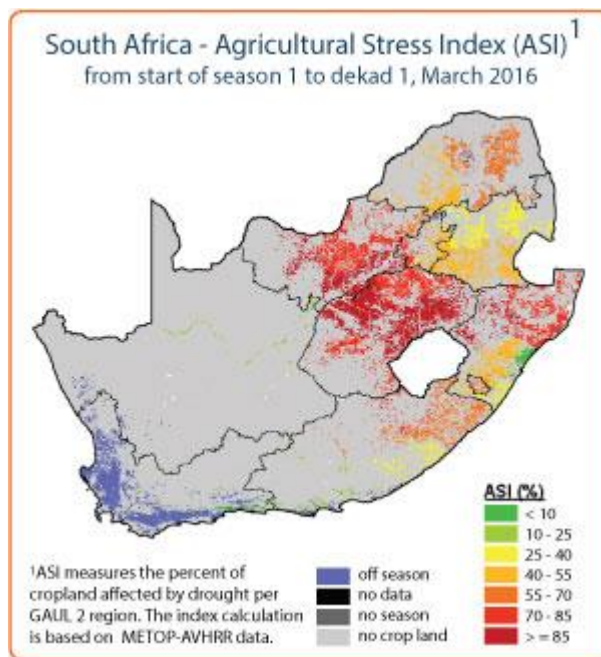
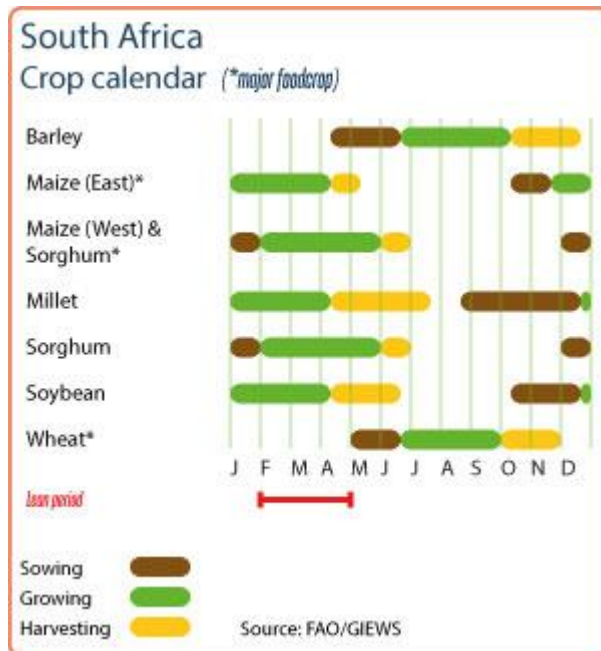
Harvesting of the 2016 summer cereal crops is expected to commence in April and current prospects indicate a sharp production decline with the maize output forecast at 7.7 million tonnes (commercial and non-commercial crop), 28 percent down from the below-average 2015 harvest. Despite some improved rains in 2016, record high temperatures and overall severely suppressed seasonal rainfall between October 2015 and February 2016, attributed to the prevailing but weakening El Niño episode, are behind the acutely unfavourable production outlook. Across most of the large cereal-producing provinces, vegetation conditions are severely stressed, confirming expectations of reduced yields, which are anticipated to fall by up to 25 percent, while a reduction in the area harvested is also forecast.

Outputs of the other 2016 summer crops are also expected to decline, except sunflower seeds, which are forecast to increase, on account of an expansion in plantings.

Large maize imports in 2015/16

Exports of yellow maize have declined significantly in the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April), reflecting tight supplies following the reduced 2015 harvest. With approximately one month of the current marketing year remaining, yellow maize exports are forecast to reach about 200 000 tonnes, compared to 1.4 million tonnes registered in the previous year. The bulk of the decrease reflects reduced deliveries to Asia. Exports of white maize, the main food staple in Southern Africa, are anticipated to reach 430 000 tonnes, with Botswana and Namibia the main recipients. At this projected level, the volume of white maize exports is about 100 000 tonnes down on the previous year, with the record high prices partly attributed to the lower quantities in 2015/16.

To boost domestic supplies, given an expected second consecutive below-average harvest this year, maize imports (mostly yellow) in 2015/16 are forecast at 1.45 million tonnes, substantially above the negligible volumes of last year. In 2016/17, imports are forecast to rise further, to between 3.5 and 4 million tonnes. However, global export availabilities of white maize are comparatively limited as it is only produced in significant volumes in Mexico and the United States of America, and this might result in the need to substitute foods.



Maize prices declined at start of 2016, but remain at elevated levels

Both yellow and white maize prices declined in February and the beginning of March, partially reversing the strong gains of the preceding months. Sharper decreases were recorded for yellow maize prices, increasing the spread between the two commodities, with white maize prices about ZAR 1 500 per tonne higher at the start of March. The price differential was primarily driven by the substantial imports of yellow maize, mostly from South America, that boosted supplies and exerted downward pressure. While for white maize, expectations of a steeper production fall in 2016 and relatively limited availabilities on the international market sustained upward pressure and limited the declines. The slight strengthening of the South African Rand in February also contributed the recent price falls.

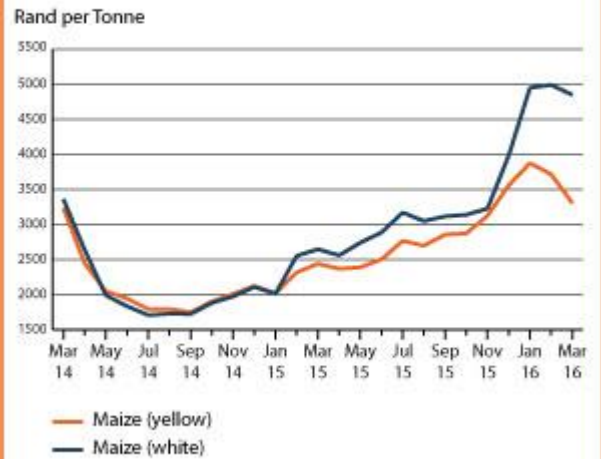
The drought-induced inflationary pressure resulted in a rise in the national consumer price index, which surpassed the inflation target range set by the South African Reserve Bank, in January 2016.

South Africa Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 345	10 629	7 706	-28
Wheat	1 808	1 511	1 551	3
Barley	304	341	334	-2
Others	254	218	185	-15
Total	14 711	12 699	9 776	-23

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 11-January-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- El Niño-associated drought conditions result in unfavourable 2016 crop prospects
- Maize supplies tighter in 2015/16 marketing year (May/April) on account of weather-reduced 2015 harvest
- Exports well down on last year's level, while imports increase
- Maize prices at record levels in December 2015

Drought conditions adversely impact 2016 cropping activities and early crop development

Sowing of the 2016 cereal crops is still underway, with many farmers planting later-than-normal due to severe water deficits resulting from erratic and well below-average seasonal rains since October 2015 (related to the ongoing El Niño). Planting estimates will be available by the end of January and, while the current high maize prices could support an increase in plantings, the prevailing dry conditions are likely to result in a decline from last year. Early planting expectations for the 2016 maize crop already point to an area of 2.55 million hectares, 4 percent down from last year, with most of the contraction reflecting an anticipated reduction for yellow maize.

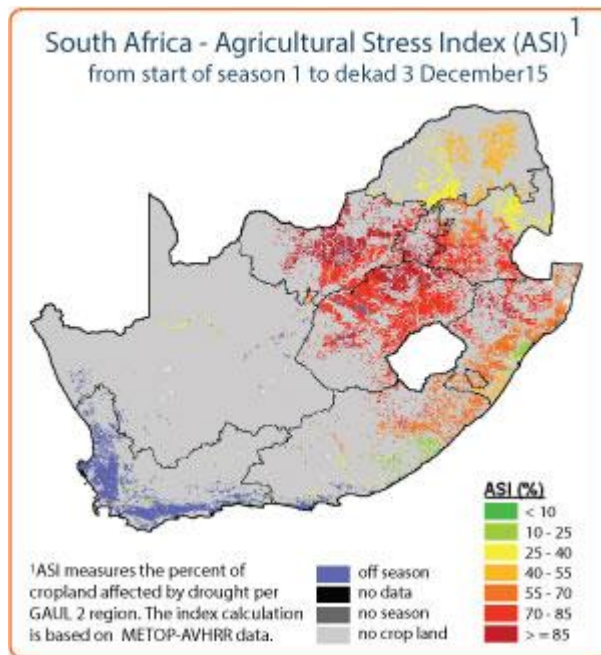
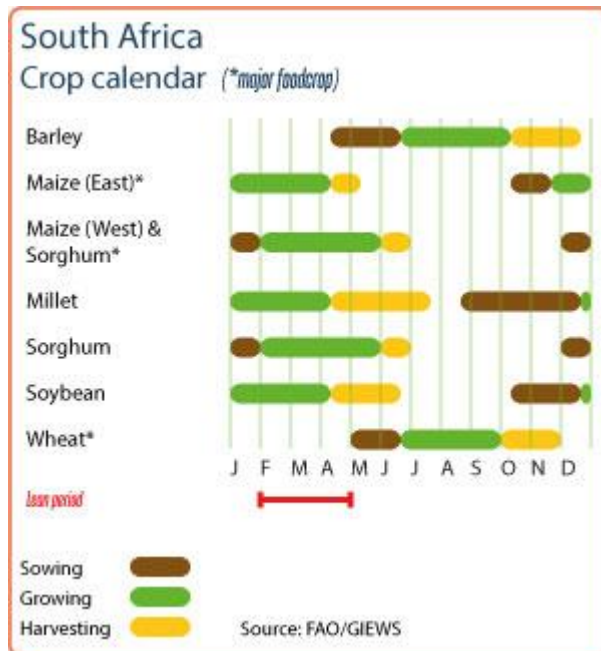
Five provinces that represent the main maize-producing regions have been declared drought disaster areas: North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Free State. Vegetation conditions in these provinces are below-average, implying retarded crop development where planting has taken place. Overall, despite some improved rainfall at the start of January 2016, production prospects are unfavourable.

Tighter supplies and reduced exports in 2015/16

Maize production in 2015 was estimated at 10.5 million tonnes, 30 percent below the bumper production of 2014, reflecting an extended period of dry weather that caused a decrease in yields. The reduced 2015 harvest resulted in a tighter maize supply situation in the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April) and consequently exports are anticipated to be lower than the previous year.

Between May and December 2015, about 450 000 tonnes of maize were exported, compared to approximately 1.7 million tonnes over the same period in the previous year. Most of the difference mainly reflects significantly lower yellow maize exports to Asia. Reduced volumes of white maize exports, relative to last year, have also been recorded, attributed to both the high prices and the availability of alternative supplies from Zambia.

Despite higher opening stock levels in 2015/16, the reduced 2015 output instigated the importation of approximately 740 000 tonnes of maize, mostly yellow maize from South America. With four months of the marketing year remaining and production prospects weakened due to the on-going El Niño episode, imports could reach nearly 1 million



tonnes.

In the scenario of a second consecutive reduced maize output in 2016, the country will likely need to import larger volumes of white and yellow maize in the 2016/17 marketing year. However, with white maize supplies relatively limited on the international market (the other main producers are Mexico and the United States of America) compared to yellow maize, there is likely to be a decrease in the domestic use of white maize for livestock feed to compensate for any production falls and to limit the import needs.

Prices of maize at record levels at end of 2015

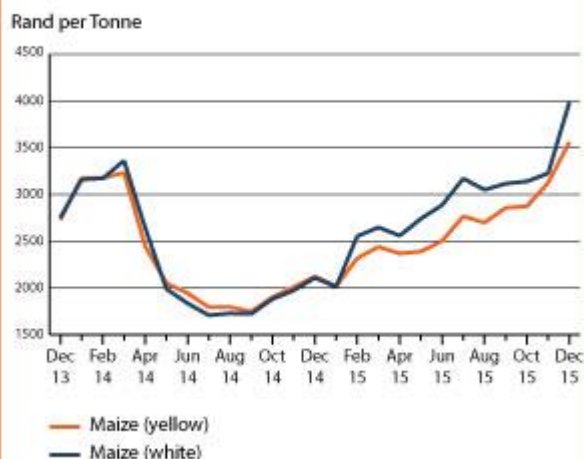
Prices of yellow and white maize grain reached record levels in December 2015, with quotations of white maize nearly double their year-earlier values and well above import parity levels. Tighter national supplies and the continued El Niño-associated dry weather that has weakened the 2016 production outlook, are the main drivers behind the record price levels. The persistent depreciation of the national currency has also exacerbated the strong upward trend.

South Africa Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 903	14 925	10 513	-30
Wheat	1 793	1 759	1 700	-3
Barley	275	302	334	11
Others	265	327	212	-35
Total	15 236	17 313	12 759	-26

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 03-September-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Maize production in 2015 decreased by 30 percent compared to bumper 2014 harvest, on account of poor rains
- Reduced 2015 output results in tighter supply situation for 2015/16 marketing year (May/April) and lower exports
- Maize prices are significantly above last year

Sharp decrease for 2015 maize production

The aggregate (commercial and non-commercial) 2015 maize output is estimated at 10.5 million tonnes, 30 percent below the bumper production of the previous year due, largely, to an extended dry-weather period during the first quarter of 2015. The most pronounced yield decreases were registered in the large producing provinces of Free State and Northwest that contribute nearly two-thirds to the national output. White maize production declined by a significant 40 percent in the commercial sector and accounts for the bulk of the aggregate production decline, while the yellow maize crop declined by only 22 percent, reflecting more favourable weather conditions in eastern provinces where production is concentrated. Sorghum production is about half of the level of 2014, while the winter wheat crop, to be harvested in October, is forecast to decline by 3 percent to 1.7 million tonnes, mostly reflecting an expected decrease in yields.

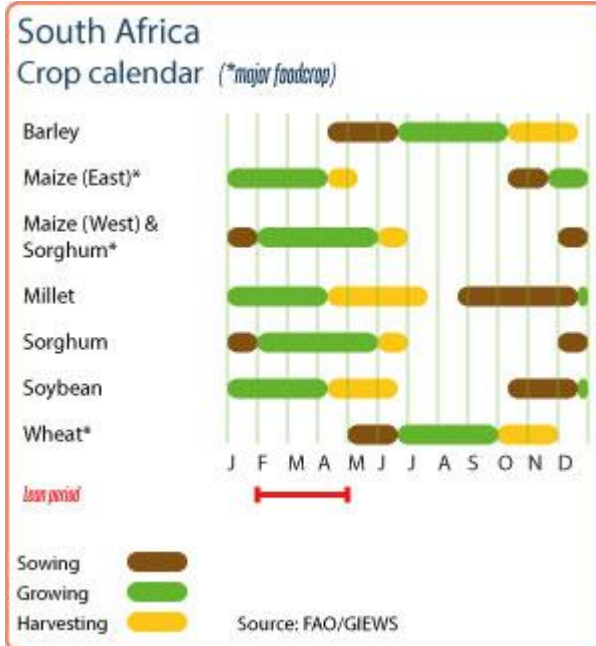
Overall, the 2015 aggregate cereal output is forecast at 12.76 million tonnes, below the five-year average and about 26 percent down on the 2014 bumper harvest.

Tighter supplies and low exports in 2015/16

The reduced 2015 harvest has resulted in tight national maize supplies in the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April) and consequently exports are forecast to decrease significantly compared to the previous year. Stocks, however, are well above the previous year's level (boosted by last year's bumper harvest), while maize imports, forecast between 0.6 and 0.7 million tonnes for 2015/16 will also help to stabilize domestic supplies.

Between May and August, about 200 000 tonnes of maize were exported, compared to approximately 1.7 million tonnes over the same period in the previous year. Most of this variation is on account of significantly lower yellow maize exports to Asia. Cumulative maize imports by the end of August exceeded the export volume, estimated at 219 000 tonnes.

As a result of the lower export availabilities, importing countries in southern Africa, which are normally supplied by South Africa, may need to source maize imports from other countries both within and outside the subregion. Zambia, which has become a distant second exporter, is another country in the subregion with exportable supplies.



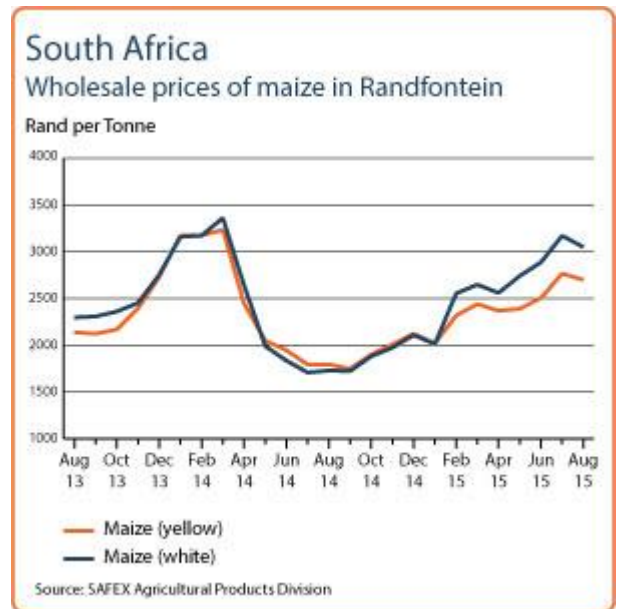
South Africa Cereal production

	2010-2014	2014	2015	change
	average		estimate	2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 903	14 925	10 513	-30
Wheat	1 793	1 759	1 700	-3
Barley	275	302	334	11
Others	265	327	212	-35
Total	15 236	17 313	12 759	-26

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Maize prices increase steeply

Spot prices of maize recorded strong gains this year, mainly due to the sharply reduced 2015 maize output and consequent tighter supplies. In August, however, prices declined slightly following a small upward revision in the 2015 production estimate and mirroring the international price trend. Despite the modest decline, white and yellow maize prices in August were 77 and 49 percent, respectively, higher than their year-earlier levels. The weaker price increase of yellow maize is mainly a result of the smaller production decrease in 2015 and relatively sluggish export rate.



Reference Date: 27-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary production forecasts point sharp reduction in 2015 maize crop, due to dry weather
- Following favourable supply situation in 2014/15 (May/April), lower production forecast for 2015 is expected to result in tighter supply situation and low export availabilities
- Maize prices increased rapidly in last month in response to unfavourable production prospects. However, overall good supply situation in 2014/15 has maintained prices below their year-earlier levels

Sharp decrease forecast for 2015 maize production

Harvesting of the 2015 summer cereal crops will begin in April and is expected to be completed in June/July. Maize crop conditions deteriorated significantly in February in parts of the large producing provinces of Free State and Northwest, which contribute nearly two-thirds to the national output, following a cessation of rains. Moisture deficits during this period have critical impact on maize yields and early forecasts point to a 35 percent decrease in yields in 2015 for white maize (commercial sector) from the above-average level of the previous year. Although a resumption of rains in late February helped improve conditions, preliminary forecasts (including the non-commercial sector) point to an aggregate 2015 maize crop of around 10 million tonnes. However, if favourable weather conditions continue in the remaining two to three months of the cropping season, some upward revision of production estimates may follow.

Bumper maize crop estimated in 2014

Aggregate (commercial and non-commercial) maize production in 2014 was estimated at 14.9 million tonnes, about 20 percent above both the previous year's reduced level and the five-year average. The increase is largely attributed to higher yields, particularly for white maize, following the drought-affected harvest in 2013. White maize from the commercial sector increased by 37 percent, while only a small increase was estimated for yellow maize. Sorghum production is estimated to be up by a substantial 74 percent to 255 700 tonnes, following a rise in yields and a larger planted area.

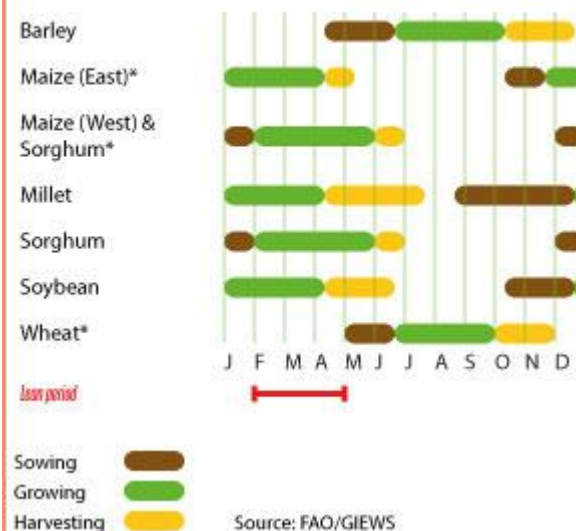
The final estimate for the winter wheat crop, harvested at the end of 2014, stands 1.79 million tonnes, only 4 percent below last year's average harvest. The drop is largely on account of a 6 percent decrease in plantings, in response to lower prices and poor soil moisture at planting time (May and June 2014). The lower plantings were, however, partly offset by higher yields.

Reduced maize exports forecast for forthcoming 2015/16 marketing year

Based on the latest 2015 production forecast and consequent expectation of a tighter supply situation, exports are forecast to decrease significantly in the 2015/16 marketing year (May/April). As a result, importing countries in the subregion, which normally import large

South Africa

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



South Africa

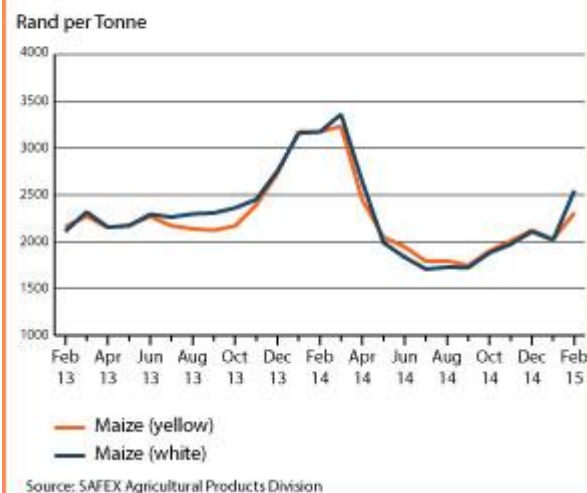
Cereal production

	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		estimate	2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12,431	12,486	14,982	20
Wheat	1,835	1,879	1,800	-4
Barley	258	268	318	19
Others	275	225	331	47
Total	14,799	14,858	17,431	17

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



quantities of South African grain, may need to source their supplies from other countries both within and outside the subregion. The availabilities of alternative export supplies in Southern Africa will largely depend on the outturn in Zambia, which has become a distant second exporter. South Africa may also need to import maize to stabilize national supplies.

In the current 2014/15 marketing year, approximately 1.8 million tonnes of maize have been exported between May 2014 and the start of February 2015, a similar quantity compared to the corresponding period in the previous marketing year. About 75 percent of this volume is accounted for by yellow maize, mostly shipped to Asia. The total volume of white maize exports, mainly to countries in the subregion, is below its levels of last year, reflecting larger national 2014 harvests in Southern Africa and consequently reduced import needs, particularly in Zimbabwe.

Sharp monthly price increases reflect unfavourable production prospects

Spot prices of white maize increased rapidly in the first two weeks of February, in response to the deteriorating production prospects for the 2015 crop. The current monthly average for February stands at ZAR 2 545 per tonne, about 26 percent higher than January; however, prices still remain 20 percent below their year-earlier values reflecting the overall favourable supply situation in 2014/15 following the bumper 2015 harvest. Similarly, yellow maize prices increased by about 14 percent on a monthly basis in February, as crop conditions remained comparatively more favourable than those of white maize.

Reference Date: 12-December-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary indications point to small reduction in maize plantings for 2015 crop
- Improved supply situation in 2014/15 marketing year (May/April), following bumper 2014 maize harvest, estimated at about 14.9 million tonnes
- Maize prices increased in last months, but good supply situation helped keep prices well below their year-earlier levels

Early indications point to a small reduction in 2015 maize plantings

Planting of the 2015 summer cereal crops, to be harvested next May, is expected to be completed in early January. Preliminary indications point to a small reduction compared to last year in the area planted to maize. The expected decline is largely a result of lower white maize prices, as farmers opt to switch to more profitable crops.

Rains in October were generally poor, leading to some early seasonal dryness. However, above-normal precipitation in November and during the start of December has improved vegetation conditions, benefiting crop establishment. Although it is still early in the season, preliminary expectations still indicate an above-average maize crop in 2015.

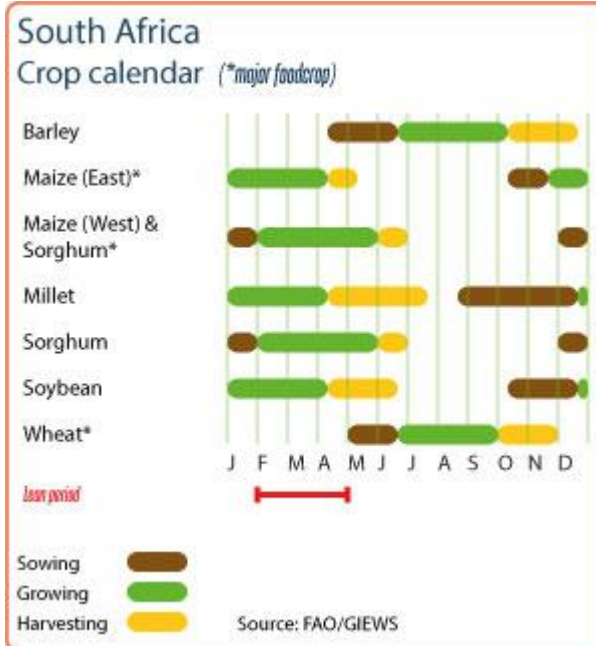
Bumper maize crop estimated in 2014

Aggregate (commercial and non-commercial) maize production in 2014 is estimated at 14.9 million tonnes, about 20 percent above both the previous year's reduced level and the average of the previous five years. The increase is largely attributed to higher yields, particularly for white maize, following the drought-affected harvest in 2013. White maize from the commercial sector increased by 37 percent, while only a small increase was estimated for yellow maize. Sorghum production is estimated to be up by a substantial 74 percent to 255 700 tonnes, following a rise in yields and a larger planted area.

Harvesting of the 2014 winter wheat crop is nearing completion. Continuing the overall decreasing trend and in response to lower prices and poor soil moisture at planting time (May and June 2014), the area sown to wheat declined by 6 percent to approximately 477 000 hectares. However, the reduced plantings is estimated to be partly offset by higher yields and the wheat output is now estimated at about 1.79 million tonnes, only 4 percent below last year's average harvest.

Lower white maize exports to Southern Africa

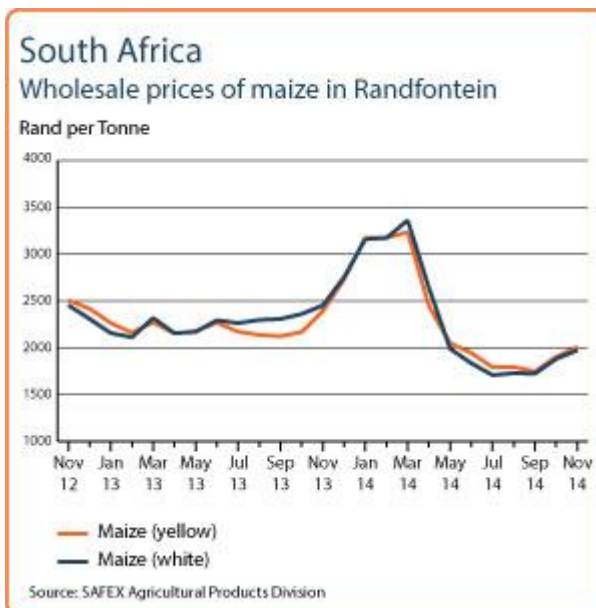
Approximately 1.67 million tonnes of maize have been exported between May and the start of December, a similar volume compared to the corresponding period last year. About 80 percent of this volume is accounted for by yellow maize, mostly shipped to Asia. The total volume of white maize exports, mainly to countries in the subregion, is below its levels of last year, reflecting larger national 2014 harvests in Southern Africa and consequently reduced import needs, particularly in Zimbabwe. Total exports are expected to reach about 2 million tonnes



South Africa Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12,431	12,486	14,982	20
Wheat	1,835	1,879	1,800	-4
Barley	258	268	318	19
Others	275	225	331	47
Total	14,799	14,858	17,431	17

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



in the 2014/15 marketing year (May/April).

Maize prices remain lower than last, but increased in past months

In October and November, under pressure from higher international quotations and a weaker exchange rate, maize prices increased by about 15 percent compared to September's levels. However, increased maize availabilities in 2014/15, following the tighter supply situation of 2013/14, exerted strong downward pressure on prices earlier in the year, helping to maintain lower year-on-year levels. In November 2014, yellow and white maize prices were about 16 and 20 percent, respectively, below their year-earlier levels.

Reference Date: 05-August-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A bumper maize crop estimated at about 14.7 million tonnes, was gathered in 2014
- Positive supply outlook for the 2014/15 marketing year (May/April)
- The improved supply situation, as well as lower international quotations, resulted in a sharp decrease in maize prices

Well above-average maize output in 2014

South Africa's aggregate (commercial and non-commercial) maize production in 2014 is estimated at 14.7 million tonnes, about 18 percent above the previous year's output. The increase is mainly attributed to increased yields, particularly for white maize, following the drought-affected harvest in 2013. White maize from the commercial sector increased by 37 percent, while only a small increase is seen for yellow maize. Sorghum production is expected to register a large annual increase of about 74 percent to 255 700 tonnes, following a rise in yields and a larger planted area.

The winter wheat crop, to be harvested from October, is forecast to decrease this year. Lower prices and poor soil moisture in May and June, contributed to a contraction in plantings to 484 000 hectares, about 4 percent below 2013's level. Assuming near-average yields, an output in the proximity of 1.7 million tonnes, compared to 1.9 million tonnes in 2013, is foreseen.

Increased maize supply expected to replenish stocks in 2014/15

The increased availability of maize in the 2014/15 marketing year (May/April) contrasts to the tight conditions experienced last year. The large harvest would enable stock replenishment, forecast to more than double this year compared to the low level (less than 1 million tonnes) of 2013/14.

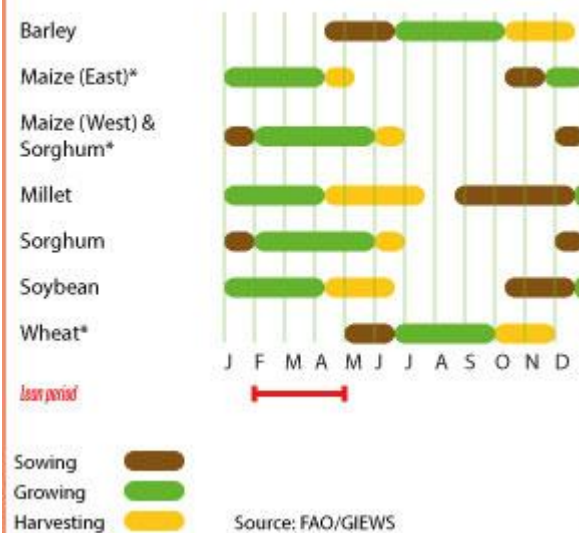
Maize exports in 2014/15 are forecast at a comparable level to the 2.1 million tonnes exported in the previous year. Already, between May and July, about 721 000 tonnes have been exported, mainly yellow maize to Asia. However, given the production recoveries in several countries in Southern Africa in 2014, as well as the availability of maize supplies in Zambia, exports to neighbouring countries are expected to decline moderately.

Sharp price declines reflect improved supply outlook

Reflecting the positive supply outlook, prices of maize declined sharply since March, but month-on-month decreases slowed in July. At ZAR 1 708 (white) and ZAR 1 792 (yellow) per tonne, prices are 25 and 17 percent below their year-earlier values and are trending close to their export-parity levels. In addition, the favourable global maize production outlook and the consequent lower international prices have also put downward pressure on South Africa's grain prices.

South Africa

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



South Africa

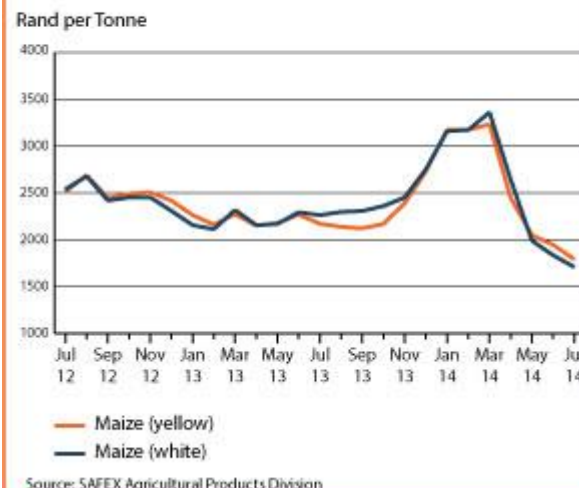
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12,431	12,486	14,692	18
Wheat	1,835	1,879	1,700	-10
Barley	258	268	294	10
Others	275	225	318	41
Total	14,799	14,858	17,004	14

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Reference Date: 15-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of the 2014 maize crop is well underway and production is estimated at a bumper level of 13.6 million tonnes
- Improved outlook for the 2014/15 marketing year (May/April), following a tight supply situation last year
- Maize prices, after record highs in March 2014, plummeted in April, reflecting improved production prospects

Large maize output estimated for 2014

Harvesting of the maize crop is currently underway and is expected to be finalized in July. Latest production estimates indicate a substantial maize output of 13.6 million tonnes (including the contribution from the non-commercial sector). At this level, the maize output is expected to be about 9 percent above the below-average harvest of 2013, which was recently revised upwards following higher than expected farm deliveries. Despite uncertain prospects at the start of the season in October-November, due to moisture deficits in the Northwest Province (which contributes, on average, about 20 percent to the national output), favourable rains from December onwards improved vegetation conditions and led to an estimated rebound in yields, particularly for the commercial white maize crop, which is set to increase on an annual basis by about 1.5 million tonnes. In contrast, a small contraction in the yellow maize crop is foreseen, after a sizeable production gain in the previous year.

For other cereal crops, sorghum production is estimated to increase by nearly 60 percent to about 233 000 tonnes, while the winter wheat crop, currently being sown, is projected to decline on account of an expected contraction in plantings. Furthermore, production gains are estimated for the soybean and sunflower crops.

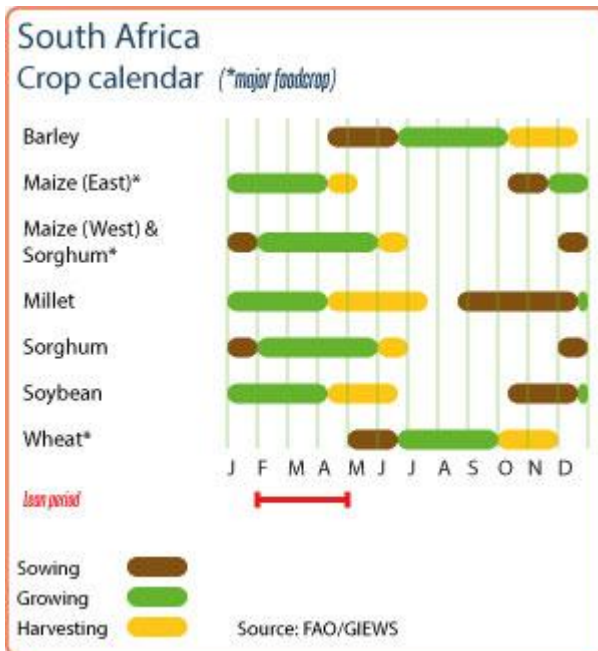
Improved supply outlook in 2014/15 marketing year

In contrast to last year, when maize supplies were comparatively tight, the outlook for the 2014/15 marketing year (May/April) is positive, with closing stocks forecast to more than double to 1.2 million tonnes. Exports, however, are forecast to decline moderately to under 2 million tonnes, compared to an average of about 2.1 million tonnes in the last five years, partly reflecting the improved production outlook in neighbouring import-dependent countries as well.

Large volumes of yellow maize exported in 2013

Significant volumes of maize were exported in the previous 2013/14 marketing year, mostly yellow maize to Asia. In total, just over 2 million tonnes were exported of which 900 000 tonnes were white maize. Zimbabwe, with a larger domestic supply gap, was the biggest importer in Africa. Similarly, larger volumes were also delivered to Botswana and Namibia to compensate for their reduced domestic harvests in 2013. To buffer against any potential supply shortfalls, South Africa imported a small quantity of maize from Ukraine, estimated at about 80 000 tonnes.

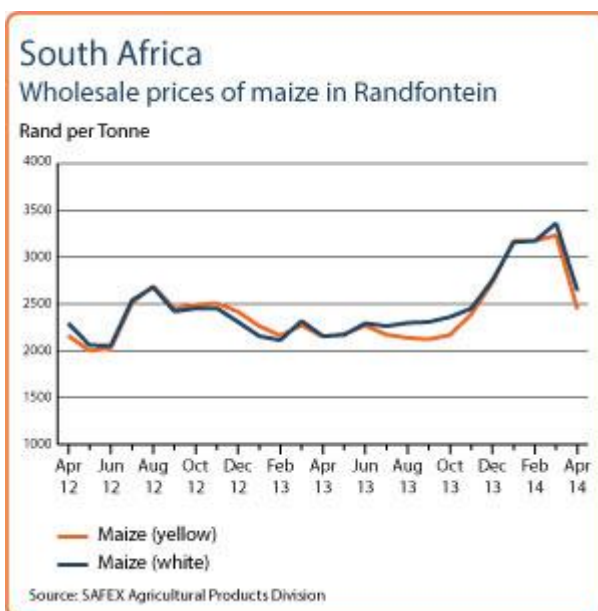
Sharp price declines reflect improved supply



South Africa Cereal production

	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average			
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 431	12 486	13 629	9
Wheat	1 835	1 879	1 700	-10
Barley	258	268	294	10
Others	275	225	295	31
Total	14 799	14 858	15 918	7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



outlook

Following a rapid price increase, on account of tight national supplies in 2013/14, improved production estimates instigated a sharp decline in April, reversing the strong gains observed since November 2013. Month-on-month prices in April fell by nearly one-quarter to ZAR 2 641 (white) and ZAR 2 446 (yellow) from their record highs in March, but still remain well above their year earlier quotations. In the first weeks of May, prices have continued to decline moderately and are nearing import-parity levels, creating more conducive conditions for exports.

Reference Date: 08-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early prospects for the 2014 maize crop uncertain in western areas
- Increased yellow maize output in 2013 partially offsets sharp reduction in white maize
- Large volumes of yellow maize exported during the first half of 2013/14 marketing year (May/April)
- Maize prices increase rapidly at the end of 2013, reaching record levels, reflecting tight supply expectations in 2014

Early prospects for the 2014 maize crop uncertain due to expectations of lower plantings and dry weather in parts

Planting intentions for the 2014 maize crop indicate a 4 percent contraction to 2.7 million hectares. Farmers reportedly opted to plant oilseeds instead, while early season dryness in October and November also contributed to the expected decrease in the area planted to maize. Rains improved towards the end of 2013, bringing some relief to the North West main growing province, which was declared a drought area in September. However, vegetation activity in western parts still remains below average and enhanced rains are required to improve crop performance. Forecasts for the next two-week period point to an increased chance of below normal rains over northwestern areas. The release of the preliminary planting estimates at the end of January will provide a clearer production outlook for the 2014 crop.

Increased yellow maize output in 2013 partially offsets sharp reduction in white maize

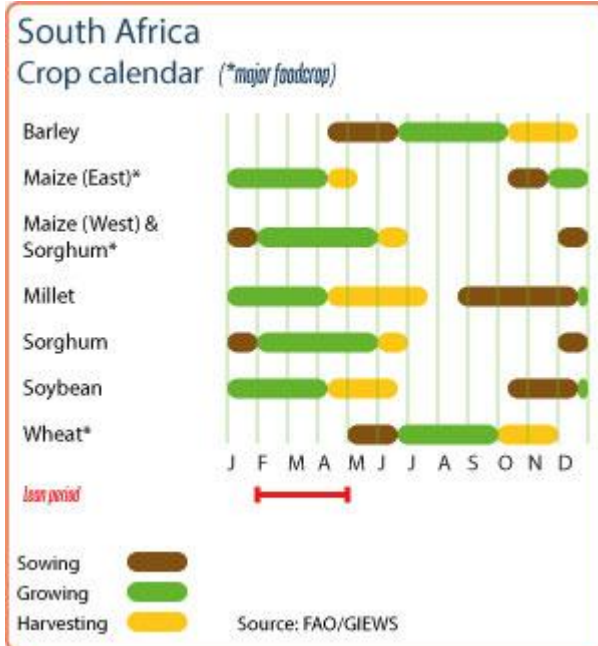
The final aggregate (commercial and non-commercial) production estimate for the 2013 maize crop is put at 12.4 million tonnes, close to the previous five-year average. Despite a sharp reduction in white maize production (approximately -20 percent) significant production gains (about 18 percent) were recorded for the yellow maize crop - predominantly used for animal feed. Yellow maize production in 2013 surpassed that of white maize for the first time in 19 seasons, contributing to the near-average aggregate output.

Harvesting of the winter wheat crop is complete and the latest estimate points to an output of about 1.75 million tonnes, approximately 6 percent below the previous year's harvest. A small reduction in the area planted and lower yields account for the decrease this year.

Large volumes of yellow maize exported in 2013

Maize exports in the current 2013/14 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to reach nearly 2 million tonnes, similar to last year's level. By December, nearly 1.7 million tonnes had been exported, of which approximately 1.1 million tonnes were yellow maize, including nearly 600 000 tonnes to Japan. In the previous marketing year, a total of 413 000 tonnes of yellow maize were exported, significantly below the large volumes exported in 2013.

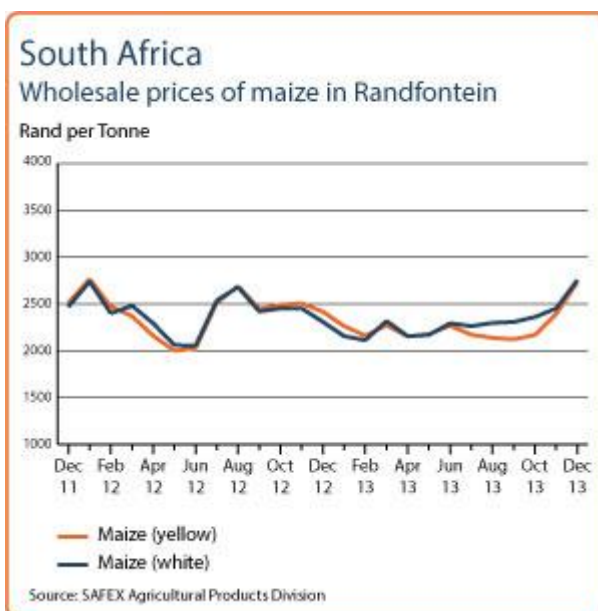
Exports to the structurally cereal deficit neighbouring countries of



South Africa Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 567	12 759	12 365	-3
Wheat	1 893	1 879	1 760	-6
Barley	242	298	264	-11
Others	290	229	225	-2
Total	14 993	15 165	14 614	-4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) are estimated at approximately 350 000 tonnes, satisfying about 70 percent of their combined import requirements. Exports to Zimbabwe have reached 152 000, as the country seeks to bridge its larger national deficit in 2013/14.

Maize prices increased to record levels in December

Expectations of a tight supply situation this year fuelled a rapid increase in the price of maize in December to record levels. The downward revision of the closing stocks for the 2013/14 marketing year (May/April), forecast to be about half the level of 2012/13, combined with lower planting intentions for the 2014 crop and poor crop conditions in western parts of the maize triangle, put upward pressure on prices. In December, white and yellow maize prices averaged about ZAR 2 740 per tonne, 19 and 13 percent above their year earlier levels, respectively. Prices at the start of January have hovered around the ZAR 3 000 per tonne level. If these high maize prices persist, upward pressure on domestic prices in the structurally deficit countries of the subregion could transpire.

Reference Date: 25-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite a mid-season dry spell, the aggregate 2013 maize production is estimated at a near-average level
- Wheat production in 2013, for harvest at the end of October, is expected at a slightly lower level than in 2012
- Large quantities of maize exported during the first half of 2013/14 marketing year (May/April)
- Maize prices lower than previous year, but white maize prices increasing slightly, reflecting tighter supply expectations

Favourable rains forecast for 2013/14 cropping season

Land preparation and plantings for the 2013/14 cropping season (October-July) are well underway. Planting intentions indicate a 4 percent contraction for maize to 2.7 million hectares, while a 12 percent increase is foreseen for sorghum. Farmers are reportedly opting to plant oilseeds instead; however, improved precipitation in the next month may help to stimulate an increase in the area planted to maize. Although effective rains have yet to start in the main maize growing regions, forecasts indicate an increased chance of normal to above normal rains for the season, with a higher likelihood heavier precipitation during the first quarter of 2014. This is expected to bring some relief to the North West province, which was declared a drought area in September.

Output in 2013 recovers following mid-season dry spell

The final aggregate (commercial and non-commercial) production estimate for the 2013 maize crop is put at 12.4 million tonnes, slightly below the above-average level of the previous year. Despite a sharp reduction in production forecasts earlier in the year, following a dry spell in the first quarter of 2013, estimates were revised upwards for the yellow maize crop - predominantly used for animal feed and mostly grown in the eastern provinces where seasonal rains were more favourable. However, moisture deficits adversely impacted white maize production, and final estimates for this crop were 19 percent lower than 2012's output. Yellow maize production in 2013 surpassed that of white maize for the first time in 19 seasons, contributing to the near-average aggregate output.

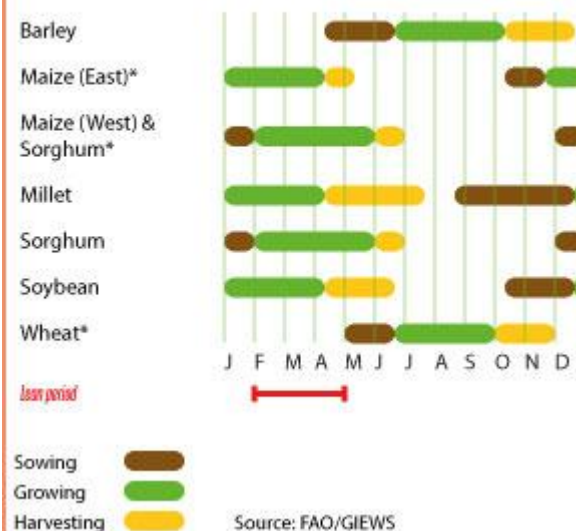
Harvesting of the winter wheat crop will begin at the end of October, and is forecast to reach 1.8 million tonnes, 2 percent below the previous year's production. A small reduction in the area planted and lower projected yields account for the anticipated decrease this year.

Maize exports decline in 2012/13

Maize exports in the current 2013/14 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to reach nearly 2 million tonnes, similar to last year's level. By October, half way through the marketing year, over 1.4 million tonnes had been exported, with approximately 600 000 tonnes of yellow maize delivered to Japan. Given the high average monthly rate recorded so far, the pace of exports is expected to decline over the next six months.

South Africa

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



South Africa

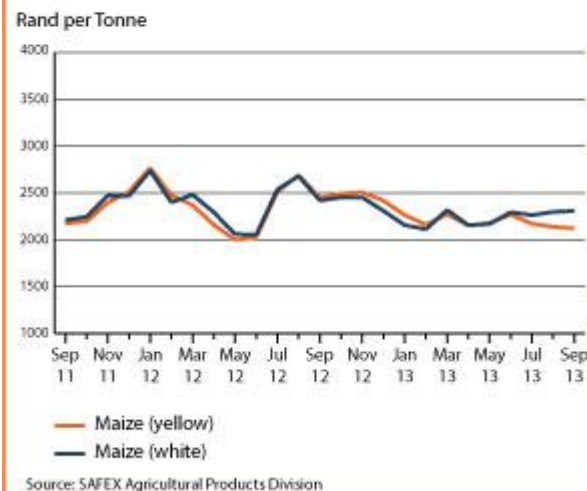
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	12 567	12 759	12 398	-3
Wheat	1 893	1 879	1 700	-10
Barley	242	298	294	-1
Others	286	209	229	10
Total	14 989	15 145	14 621	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa

Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein



Exports to the structurally cereal deficit neighbouring countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) are estimated at approximately 213 000 tonnes, satisfying about 45 percent of their combined import requirements. Exports to Zimbabwe have exceeded 80 000 tonnes, as the country seeks to bridge its larger national deficit in 2013/14.

Overall lower maize prices, but diverging trends for yellow and white maize

Reflecting the differing production performances, prices of yellow and white maize have diverged since June, but both remain below their levels of one year earlier. White maize prices in September were about Rand 185 per tonne higher than those of yellow maize, as expectations of tighter supplies at the end of 2013/14, as a result of a reduced output, have put upward pressure on price levels. While the higher output for yellow maize has pushed prices down by 6 percent since July. Overall, the lower year-on-year prices of both commodities are underpinned by reduced international prices, but strong export demand and a weaker Rand has tempered further declines.

Reference Date: 18-March-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Dry weather in late February and early March negatively impacts crop conditions in western parts of South Africa's maize triangle
- Larger plantings are forecast for the 2013 maize crop
- Exports of maize in the current 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) estimated at lower levels than in 2011/12
- Maize prices begin to firm up following concerns about the impact of dry weather

Larger maize plantings for 2013 crop, but dry weather adversely impacts on crop development

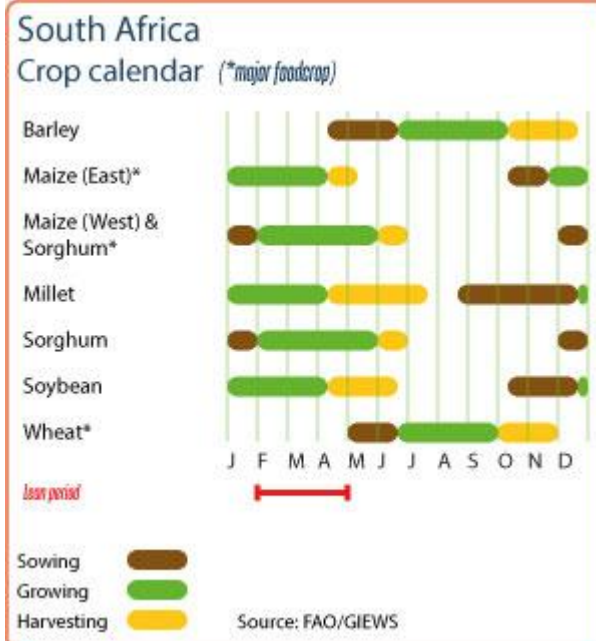
The first official crop production forecast, released in February, for the 2012/13 cropping season (October-July) estimates a 4 percent increase in commercial maize production to 12.35 million tonnes, mainly reflecting a 10 percent expansion in plantings for yellow maize. However, despite the generally beneficial weather conditions in between October and January, rains diminished in late February and March, at a critical stage in the maize crop's development. This led to moisture deficits in western parts of the large producing provinces of Free State and North West, adversely impacting prospects for the white maize crop, which is predominantly grown in these areas.

Maize exports decline in 2012/13

Current maize exports in the 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) are estimated at approximately 1.4 million tonnes, and are forecast to reach about 1.6 million tonnes by the end of April, compared to 2.5 million tonnes exported in 2011/12. Lower opening stocks, as well as high prices recorded in 2012 that lowered South Africa's competitiveness, contributed to the reduced exports. As in the previous year, Mexico remains the dominant importer of South African maize, with imports estimated at 778 000 tonnes (white maize only). While the structurally cereal deficit neighbouring countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) have imported approximately 430 000 tonnes, as of the beginning of March, satisfying over 90 percent of their combined import requirements.

Dry weather pushes up maize prices in March

Monthly prices of maize continued their decline in February, on the back of a favourable official production forecasts released during the same month, and were about 12 percent below those of a year earlier. However, concerns about the adverse impact of the recent dry spell, particularly on white maize production, has caused prices to strengthen in March. Latest daily prices (March 18) of yellow and white maize are 8 and 11 percent, respectively, above the February monthly average. The weaker Rand has also provided some underlying support to the increasing prices.



South Africa
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	11,347	10,924	12,468	14
Wheat	1,899	2,013	1,793	-11
Sorghum	230	178	159	-11
Others	281	365	347	-5
Total	13,757	13,480	14,767	10

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 13-December-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Increased maize plantings and good rains at the start of the 2012/13 main cropping season
- Final 2012 maize production estimates indicate a larger than previously expected output
- Exports of maize in the current 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) forecast to be lower than in 2011/12
- Maize prices stabilise at high levels

Increased plantings and generally favourable weather at start of 2012/13 cropping season

The 2012/13 main cropping season (October-July) began with generally favourable rainfall in eastern parts of the country supporting planting and early crop development. Relatively below normal rains were received in central and western areas where planting usually commences a little later in November/December. However, rainfall levels picked up in December, relieving some moisture deficits. Early indications point to a marginal expansion in maize plantings for the 2013 crop. The rise reflects farmers' positive reaction to the higher prices in 2012 and crop rotation practices.

Larger than anticipated harvest in 2012

The final production figure of the 2012 maize crop, harvested in May-June, shows a slight increase over the previous forecast. Larger irrigated area together with higher than expected yields, led to the upward revision. The aggregate cereal output in 2012 is estimated at 14.8 million tonnes, 10 percent higher than in 2011.

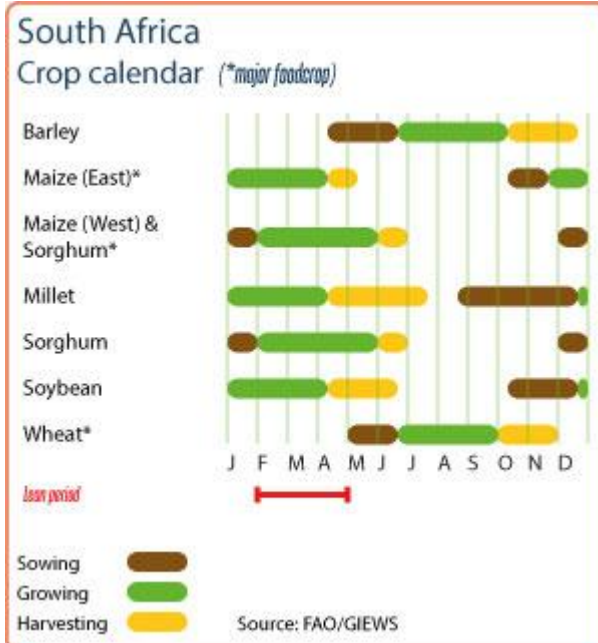
Lower opening stocks and exports in 2012/13

Maize exports in 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at only 1.6 million tonnes compared to 2.5 million tonnes in 2011/12 due to low opening stocks. Mexico, Mozambique and the structurally cereal deficit neighbouring countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) are the largest importers of South African maize. As of November, BLNS imported approximately 300 000 tonnes, satisfying about two thirds of their combined import requirements.

Maize prices stabilise at high levels

Rising international prices since July 2012 and high demand for South African maize, particularly from Mexico, have sustained an upward pressure on maize prices. However, prices stabilised in October and November following relatively ample supplies from the good harvest in 2012 and larger planting intentions in the 2012/13 cropping season. In November 2012, at Rand 2507 and 2453 per tonne respectively, wholesale prices of yellow and white maize were at comparable levels to those of last year.

On the other hand, wheat prices, at Rand 3680 per tonne in November 2012, were about one third above a year earlier following high international prices and lower production in 2012. Reflecting high wholesale prices, domestic maize meal prices are also significantly above those of last year, negatively impacting on food security

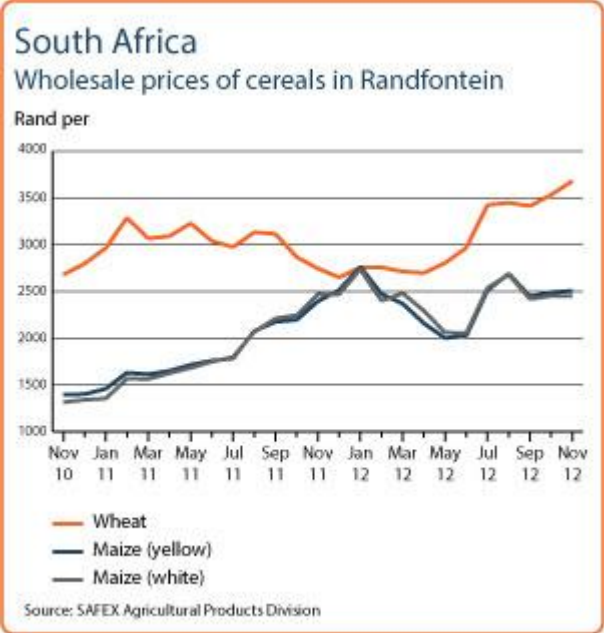


South Africa Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	11,347	10,924	12,468	14
Wheat	1,899	2,013	1,793	-11
Sorghum	230	178	159	-11
Others	281	365	347	-5
Total	13,757	13,480	14,767	10

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

conditions of low income households.



Reference Date: 23-July-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adverse weather conditions in 2012 led to a downward revision of crop forecast
- Exports of maize in the current 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) forecast to be lower than the large quantities recorded in 2011/12
- Maize prices rise sharply in July, buoyed by higher international prices

Dry weather impacts maize production prospects

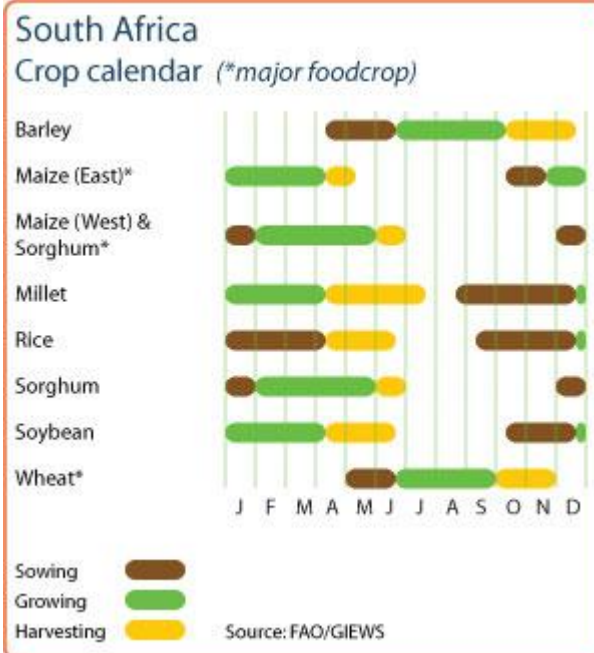
Harvesting of the 2011/12 summer season crops, mainly maize, was completed in mid-July, while planting of the winter wheat crop commenced last May. Despite larger maize plantings - 14 percent higher than the previous season - a protracted dry period during the second half of the rainy season (January-March 2012) negatively impacted on crop growth. As a result, yield estimates were lowered and latest production estimates indicate an aggregate maize crop of 11.7 million tonnes, including approximately 640 000 tonnes from the non-commercial sector. At this level, the national maize output is still 7 percent up on the 2011 harvest. Sorghum production (commercial and non-commercial), estimated at 160 000 tonnes, is 10 percent lower than the previous season. A notable 39 percent decrease is registered in sunflower seed production to an estimated 527 000 tonnes in 2011/12 season.

The planting intention for the 2012 winter wheat crop, for harvest from October, is provisionally forecast at 547 200 hectares, 10 percent below last year. The reduction in planted area to wheat follows the comparatively low domestic prices in 2012. In addition, dry weather and low soil moisture during the start of the planting season in the main producing Free State province was also cited as a reason for the reduction. During the first half of June however, precipitation levels improved, assisting planting activities.

Significant quantities of maize exported in 2011/12 marketing year

An estimated 2.4 million tonnes of maize were exported in the 2011/12 marketing year (May/April), up by about 20 percent on the previous year. Mexico was the largest importer, importing about 1.1 million tonnes. There was a notable decline in exports to neighbouring southern African countries following the generally favourable harvests in several countries and the consequent reduction in import demand. In addition, the sizeable exportable surpluses available in Malawi and Zambia, limited the export opportunities of South African maize in the subregion. In 2011/12 approximately 520 000 tonnes of maize, about 18 percent below the previous year, and 26 percent lower than 2009/10, were delivered to southern African countries, mainly to the structurally cereal deficit countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

South Africa imported approximately 420 000 tonnes of maize in 2011/12 to help improve supplies following large exports and the lower harvest in 2011. Consequently, opening stocks for the current 2012/13



South Africa Cereal production

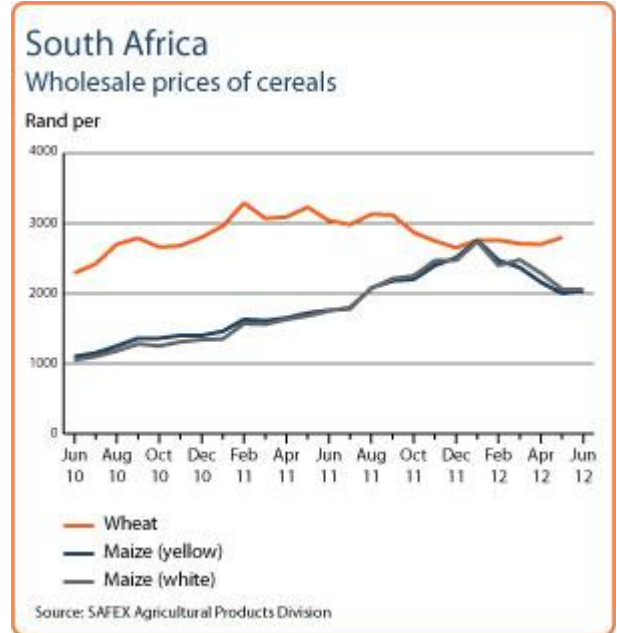
	2007-2011	2012		change
	average	2011	forecast	
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	11 347	10 924	11 694	7
Wheat	1 899	2 013	1 615	-20
Sorghum	230	178	160	-10
Others	281	365	303	-17
Total	13 757	13 480	13 772	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

marketing year were reduced significantly compared to the previous year. Early forecasts indicate that exports for the 2012/13 marketing year will decrease relative to the preceding year. So far, between May and June 2012, progressive exports are less than half of the quantity recorded in 2011/12 over the same period.

Maize prices in July 2012 reach near record levels

During the beginning of July 2012 domestic prices of maize increased sharply, buoyed by escalating international prices. This followed a decline from their record levels in January 2012, given the forecast of a larger 2012 maize harvest, compared to the previous year. Daily spot prices on 19 July reached Rand 2 667 (yellow) and 2 688 (white) per tonne, fractionally below their record levels observed at the beginning of 2012. The increasing prices in the US (the benchmark international price), which reached record levels in July following lower 2012 production estimates induced by dry weather conditions, drove export and import parity prices higher in South Africa, exerting upward pressure on domestic prices. The comparatively tight supply situation in South Africa for 2012/13 marketing year compared to the previous year, has also contributed to maintaining prices at high levels.



Reference Date: 26-June-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Adverse weather conditions in 2012 led to a downward revision of crop forecast
- Exports of maize in the current 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) forecast to be lower than the large quantities recorded in 2011/12
- Maize prices continue to decline since reaching record levels in January 2012

Dry weather impacts maize production prospects

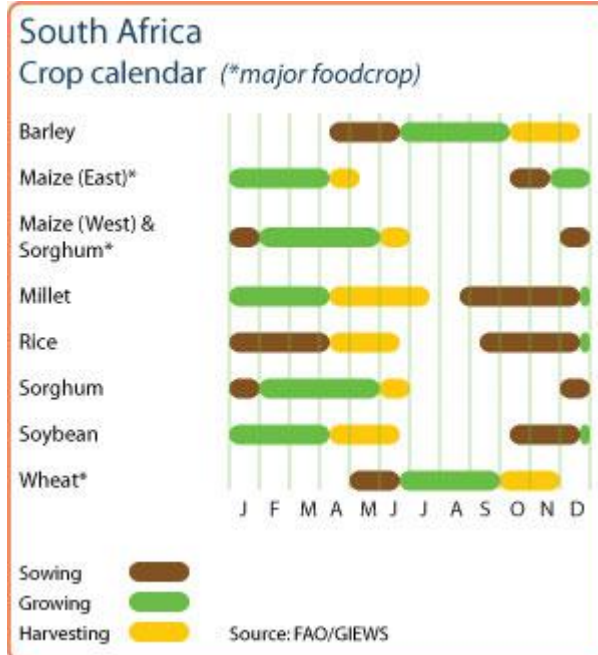
Harvesting of the 2011/12 summer season crops, mainly maize, is about to conclude, while planting of the winter wheat crop commenced in May. Despite larger maize plantings - 14 percent higher than the previous season - a protracted dry period during the second half of the rainy season (January-March 2012) negatively impacted on crop growth. As a result, yield estimates were lowered and latest production estimates indicate an aggregate maize crop of 11.7 million tonnes, including approximately 640 000 tonnes from the non-commercial sector. At this level, the national maize output is still 7 percent up on the 2011 harvest. Sorghum production (commercial and non-commercial), estimated at 160 000 tonnes, is 10 percent lower than the previous season. A notable 39 percent decrease is registered in sunflower seed production to an estimated 527 000 tonnes in 2011/12 season.

The planting intention for the 2012 winter wheat crop, for harvest from October, is provisionally forecast at 547 200 hectares, 10 percent below last year. The reduction in planted area to wheat follows the comparatively low domestic prices in 2012. In addition, dry weather and low soil moisture during the start of the planting season in the main producing Free State province was also cited as a reason for the reduction. During the first half of June however, precipitation levels improved, assisting planting activities.

Significant quantities of maize exported in 2011/12 marketing year

An estimated 2.4 million tonnes of maize were exported in the 2011/12 marketing year (May/April), up by about 20 percent on the previous year. Mexico was the largest importer, importing about 1.1 million tonnes. There was a notable decline in exports to neighbouring southern African countries following the generally favourable harvests in several countries and the consequent reduction in import demand. In addition, the sizeable exportable surpluses available in Malawi and Zambia, limited the opportunities for South African maize in the subregion. In 2011/12 approximately 520 000 tonnes of maize, about 18 percent below the previous year, and 26 percent lower than 2009/10, were delivered to southern African countries, mainly to the structurally deficit countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

South Africa imported approximately 420 000 tonnes of maize in 2011/12 to help improve supplies following large exports and the lower harvest in 2011. Consequently, opening stocks for the current 2012/13 marketing year were reduced significantly compared to the previous



South Africa Cereal production

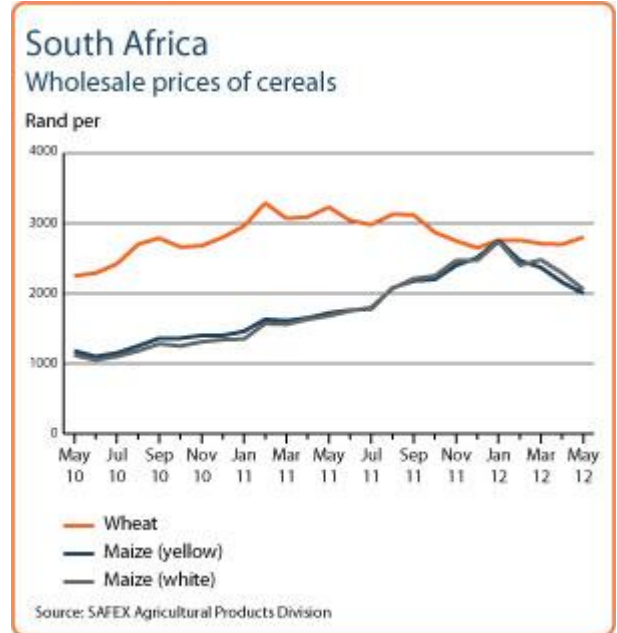
	2007-2011	2012		change
	average	2011	forecast	2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
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year. Early forecasts indicate that exports for the 2012/13 marketing year will decrease relative to the preceding year. So far, between May and June 2012, progressive exports are less than half of the quantity recorded in 2011/12 over the same period.

Maize prices fall on the back of an improved supply situation in 2012

Prices of maize have declined from their record levels in January, but still remain above last year's levels. In May 2012, year-on-year price increases for yellow and white maize were 17 and 22 percent, respectively. The lower maize crop in 2011 and strong export demand maintained an upward pressure on prices through much of 2011 and the start of 2012. However, expectations of a larger maize crop in 2012, and improved production forecasts globally, have led to a drop in prices between February and May. Wheat prices meanwhile, have remained stable, and in May 2012 were 13 percent below their level of one year earlier.



Reference Date: 27-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- A downward revision of crop forecasts following unfavourable weather
- Monthly exports of maize decline from highs in August 2011
- Maize prices decrease in February 2012

Below normal rains since start of 2012 affect crop production prospects

Following a slow start of the 2011/12 rainy season (October-March) which delayed planting activities, a protracted period of below normal rains, coupled with higher than average temperatures led to a revising down of the commercial maize production forecast. The latest projection points to a crop of about 11.3 million tonnes, down by 400 000 tonnes from March's forecast, but still 6 percent higher than the 2011 output. The planted area is up on last season by 14 percent following higher domestic maize prices that induced farmers to expand maize plantings. However, yields have been negatively impacted by the unfavourable weather conditions in the main growing region, therefore limiting a potentially larger harvest.

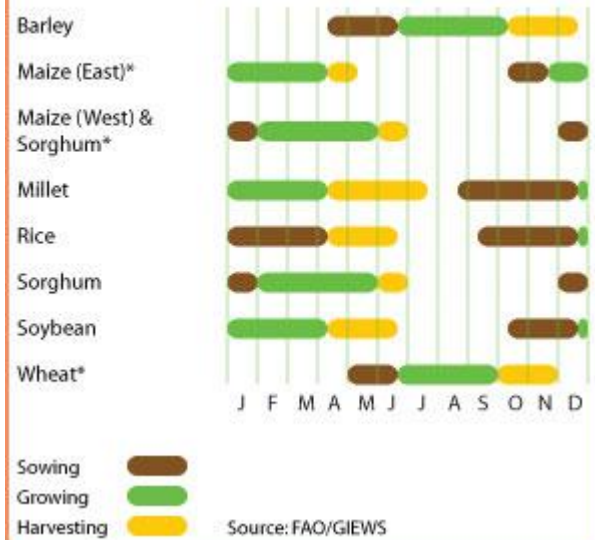
Strong exports during 2011/12 marketing year

Maize closing stocks for the 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) are forecast to fall by approximately 1.9 million tonnes compared to the previous year, to 473 000 tonnes. Lower production in 2011 and strong export demand contributed to the anticipated tight supply situation. However, a larger harvest in 2012 will assist in recovering domestic stock levels, while imports, estimated at about 292 000 tonnes during the on-going 2011/12 marketing year, have helped buffer current supply levels. Total maize exports, as of mid-March 2012, have reached about 2.3 million tonnes. Despite a gradual slowdown in the monthly export rate since August 2011, coinciding with reduced demand from Asian countries, total maize exports, currently estimated at 2.3 million tonnes, are expected to surpass the 2.5 million tonnes in 2011/12. Mexico has been the largest importer of South African maize, importing 1.1 million tonnes, more than twice the total for all of Southern Africa.

Maize prices decline in 2012, but wheat prices remain firm

In February 2012, monthly prices of yellow and white maize dropped for the first time in the 2011/12 marketing year, by about 11 and 12 percent, respectively, relative to January's levels. The expected tighter supply situation coupled with a strong export demand have fuelled the increases to Rand 2 473 (yellow maize) and Rand 2 399 (white maize) per tonne, just over 50 percent above their levels of February 2011. Wheat prices, which declined following the favourable harvest in late 2011, remained stable during the first two months of 2012 and are at similar levels to the previous year.

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

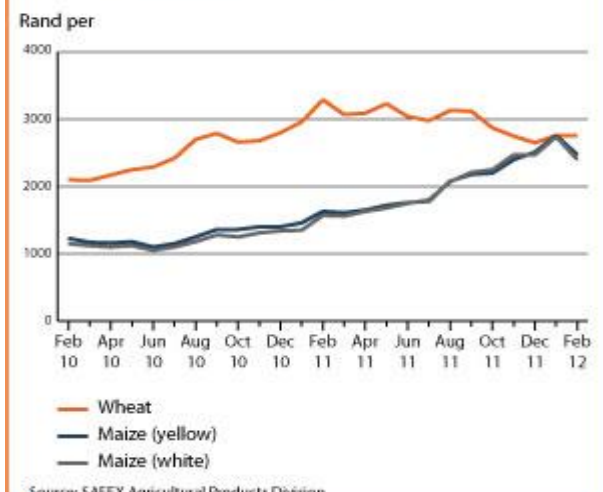


South Africa Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		estimate	2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	10 525	13 297	10 924	-18
Wheat	1 917	1 436	1 913	33
Sorghum	214	226	178	-21
Others	265	247	362	47
Total	12 921	15 206	13 377	-12

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of cereals



Reference Date: 10-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slow start to the 2011/12 rainy season, but precipitation levels improve in December 2011
- Maize planting intentions for the current 2011/12 cropping season show an increase relative to the previous season
- Decline in 2010/11 maize output; but wheat production increased
- Maize (yellow) prices continue to rise in December 2011

Improved rains towards the end of 2011

The slow start of the 2011/12 rainy season (October-March) resulted in early seasonal water deficits and lower than normal vegetation conditions in north-eastern areas, particularly impacting Free State, the largest maize producing province. However, rains picked-up in December helping to reduce moisture deficits in the main maize growing regions. Planting intentions for the current agriculture campaign indicate a 10 percent increase for maize compared with last year's level, largely seen as a response to the high maize prices during 2011. More firm estimates on the planted area for the 2011/12 season will be available in the next month.

Decline in cereal output in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 winter wheat crop was completed at the end of November 2011 and latest estimates point to a harvest of about 1.78 million tonnes. The latest figure is slightly lower than the previous forecast, as a result of dry conditions, particularly in Free State, during September/October, but production still remains 24 percent above the 2010 output. Aggregate cereal production for 2011 is estimated at 13.2 million tonnes, 13 percent below the harvest of 2010.

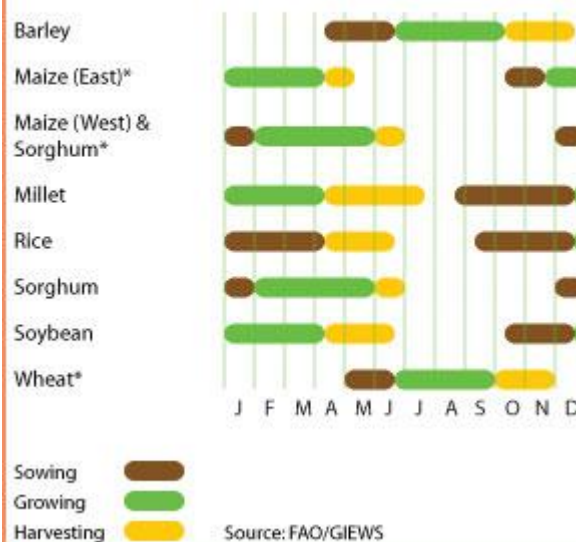
Strong maize exports during 2011/12 marketing year (May/April)

Maize exports, so far (May-November 2011), are estimated at 1.86 million tonnes, more than twice their level a year earlier. Robust demand from Asia and Central America has driven the high level of exports this season, which have been supported by the comparatively low price of South Africa maize (white) relative to the international market price. Exports to Southern African countries are below their levels of last year and constitute only 15 percent of total exports. Furthermore, given the forecast of a tighter stock situation at the end of the current 2011/12 marketing year, South Africa has already imported small quantities of maize.

Maize prices continue to gain strength

Following low prices in 2010, the monthly price of yellow maize continued its upward trend and reached a record level of Rand 2 512 per tonne in December 2011, compared to Rand 1 400 in December 2010. White maize prices remained firm at Rand 2 469 per tonne, but were still significantly higher than Rand 1 341 recorded a year earlier. The rising prices have been fuelled by higher international prices, lower production in 2011 and strong export demand. Wheat prices, by contrast, fell during the last quarter of 2011, reflecting lower

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

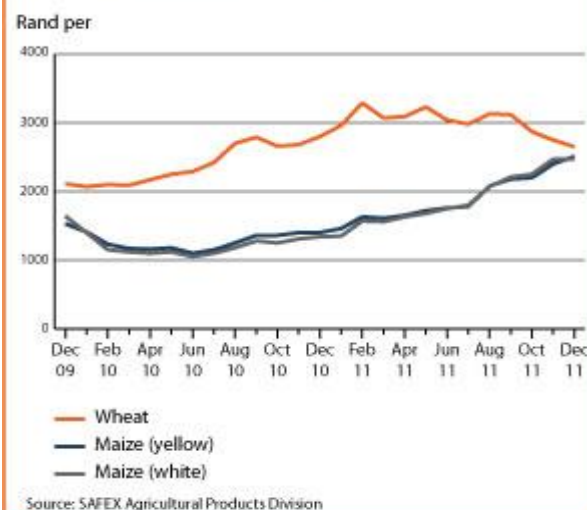


South Africa Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		estimate	2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	10 525	13 297	10 924	-18
Wheat	1 917	1 436	1 779	24
Sorghum	214	226	181	-20
Others	265	247	337	36
Total	12 921	15 206	13 221	-13

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of cereals



international prices, and were 5 percent below last year's level.

Reference Date: 21-November-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Preliminary estimates show increased maize plantings in the current 2011/12 cropping season
- Decline in 2010/11 maize output; but wheat production increased due to larger plantings in 2011
- Maize prices reach record highs in October 2011

Higher prices spur expansion in maize plantings

Recently released planting intentions for the 2011/12 agriculture season (October/June) indicate a 10 percent increase for maize compared with last year's level, largely seen as a response to the high maize prices during 2011. The final cultivated area, however, will depend on rainfall conditions, which were erratic and below average in much of the country during October and the beginning of November. While good rains were received in the northern provinces of Limpopo and parts of Mpumalanga, benefiting planting activities, below average rains have been observed in the two major producing provinces of Free State and North West at the start of the season. Furthermore, the increase in the cost of diesel, by over 30 percent, year-on-year (November 2010-November 2011), may also influence planting decisions.

Decline in cereal output in 2011

Harvesting of the 2011 winter wheat crop is expected to be completed at the end of this month and current estimates point to a harvest of about 1.85 million tonnes. The latest figure is slightly lower than the previous forecast, as a result of unfavourable weather during September/October, but still remains 29 percent above the 2010 harvest. Aggregate cereal production for 2011 is estimated at 13.5 million tonnes, 11 percent below the output of 2010.

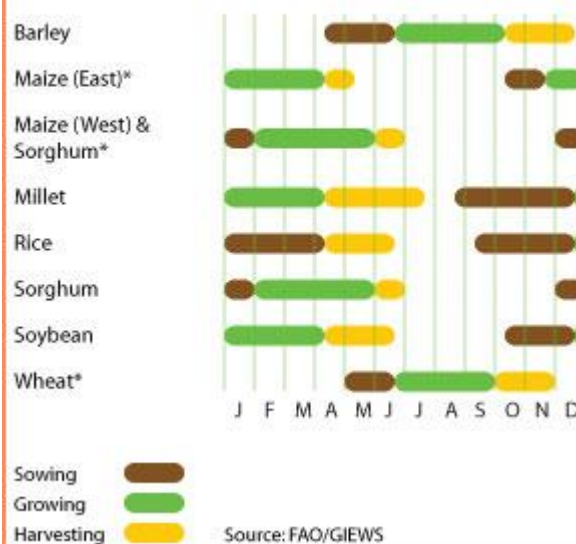
Strong maize exports during 2011/12 marketing year (May/April)

Maize exports, so far (May-October 2011), are estimated at 1.64 million tonnes, more than twice their level a year earlier. Robust demand from Asia and Central America has driven the high level of exports this season, which have been supported by the comparatively low price of South Africa maize (white) relative to the international market price. Exports to Southern African countries are below their levels of last year and constitute only 17 percent of total exports.

Maize prices continue to gain strength

Following low prices in 2010, monthly prices of both yellow and white maize reached record levels of Rand 2 245 and Rand 2 196 per tonne respectively in October 2011, compared to Rand 1255 and Rand 1361 a year earlier. The rising prices have been fuelled by higher international prices, lower production in 2011 and strong export demand.

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



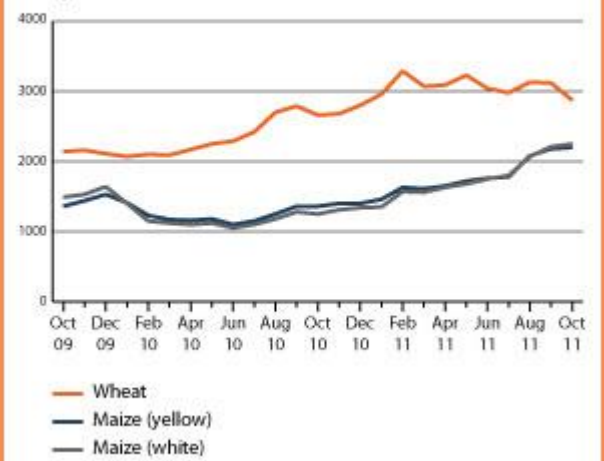
South Africa Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		forecast	2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	10 525	13 297	11 173	-16
Wheat	1 917	1 436	1 848	29
Sorghum	214	226	181	-20
Others	265	247	305	23
Total	12 921	15 206	13 507	-11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of cereals

Rand per



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 19-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Decline in the area planted results in smaller maize harvest in 2011
- Wheat production estimated to increase due to larger plantings in 2011
- Maize prices reach record highs in August 2011, reflecting lower production and higher international prices

Reduced planted area lowers maize production

Harvesting of main 2010/11 summer grain crops was completed in July. Latest production estimates indicate a total maize crop (including the non-commercial sector) of 11.2 million tonnes, 16 percent below last season's output. The fall in production is principally attributed to a contraction in the planted area, on account of low market prices at the time of planting in 2010, which induced farmers to switch to alternative crops. In addition, heavy rains caused disruption to harvesting activities and dampened yield levels in some areas, consequently lowering production estimates compared to earlier forecasts. North West Free State and the Northwest Province were particularly affected by the unusually wet conditions. Commercial sorghum production is estimated to fall relative to last year's harvest of 196 500 tonnes, with an expected output of about 160 000 tonnes.

The 2011 winter wheat crop is estimated at 1.86 million tonnes, a 30 percent increase over the 2010 harvest. Production gains this year are primarily a result of the higher wheat prices that spurred an increase in the planted area for the 2010/11 agricultural season and favourable growing conditions. Harvesting is scheduled to begin in October.

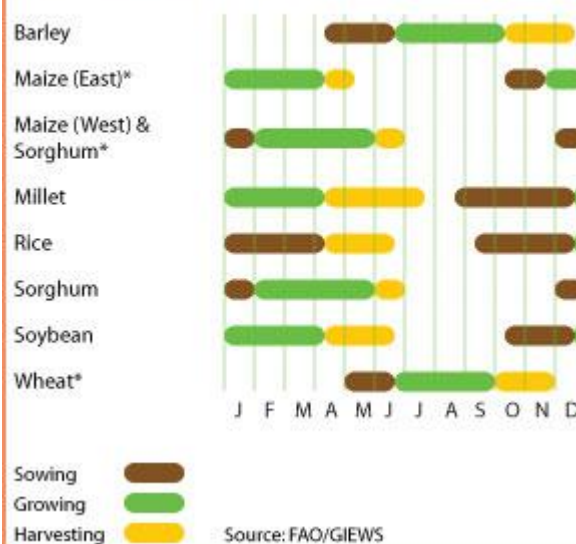
Strong maize exports during the start of the 2011/12 marketing year

Maize exports for current 2011/12 marketing year (May/April) are forecast at about 2 million tonnes, slightly lower than the previous year's total. Between May and August 2011, total maize exports are estimated at about 1.2 million tonnes, already accounting for approximately 60 percent of the preliminary export forecast. Although exports to Southern African countries are at a similar level compared to the previous year for the same period, increased demand from Asian countries and Mexico raised the monthly export rate and contributed to the large quantities of exported maize for the current year.

Record maize prices in August 2011

Following the low price levels observed in 2010, monthly prices of both yellow and white maize, which have been increasing since June 2010, reached record levels of Rand 2077 and Rand 2067 per tonne, respectively, in August 2011. The rising prices have been fuelled by higher international prices, a depreciated Rand and lower production in 2011. The lower domestic prices in combination with the weaker national currency have supported strong export demand, fuelling further price increases.

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



South Africa Cereal production

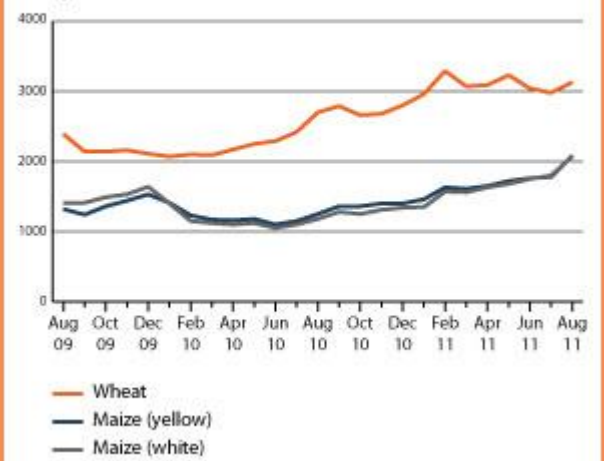
	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		forecast	2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	10 362	13 421	11 243	-16
Wheat	1 917	1 436	1 868	30
Barley	212	194	248	28
Others	251	243	252	4
Total	12 742	15 294	13 611	-11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa

Wholesale prices of cereals

Rand per



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 17-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Decline in area planted result in lower estimates of maize production in 2011
- Wheat plantings increase in 2011 in response to higher prices
- Maize export exceed two million tonnes in 2010/11
- Maize prices increase, following lower production estimates and higher international prices

Smaller harvest for the 2010/11 maize crop

Harvesting of main 2010/11 summer grain crops began in April in eastern provinces, and is expected to commence in June in western areas. However, harvesting of some crops was delayed due to the wet conditions that followed the heavy rains in April. Overall, the latest estimates indicate the 2011 maize harvest will reach 11.5 million tonnes, approximately 14 percent lower than last year's output. The estimate includes 10.9 million tonnes from the commercial sector and 606 000 tonnes from the subsistence sector. The fall in production is principally attributed to a smaller planted area on account of low market prices at the time of planting. Additionally, heavy rains in January and a dry spell in February had a negative impact on yields. Commercial sorghum production estimates are slightly higher than last year's harvest of 196 500 tonnes, with output anticipated to reach just over 200 000 tonnes.

Initial planting intentions for the 2011 winter wheat crop, for harvest from October, indicate an increase of 7 percent, with the prevailing high wheat price cited as the primary reason for increased plantings. In 2010, the winter wheat crop was estimated at 1.43 million tonnes.

Maize exports reach over 2 million tonnes

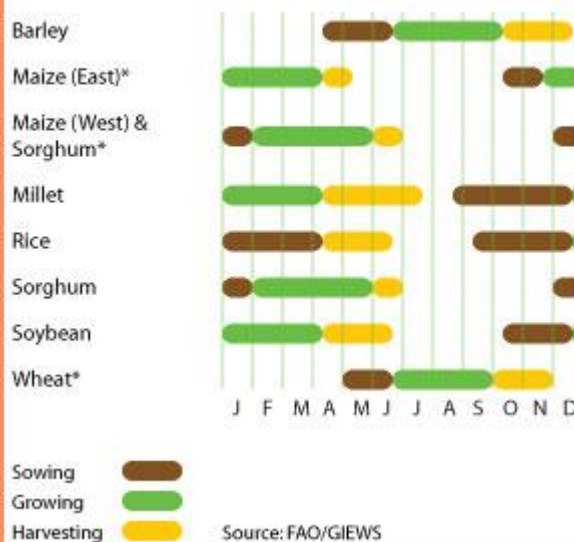
During the last 2010/11 marketing year (May/April), over 2 million tonnes of maize were exported, with South Korea importing approximately 763 000 tonnes. For wheat, imports for the 2010/11 marketing year are expected to reach 1.6 million tonnes, about a quarter more than the previous year, due to the lower domestic harvest in 2010. National production is estimated to satisfy just under one half of the country's consumption requirements.

Maize prices increase following expected drop in production

Bumper harvests and healthy stock levels of maize resulted in low levels of domestic prices until the first half of 2010. However, since July 2010 monthly prices of both white and yellow maize have started to increase and in April 2011, prices were approximately 47 and 43 percent above last year's levels respectively. The rising prices reflect both expectations in production decline and higher international prices.

Wheat prices have also followed a similar trend since 2010 and at Rand 3 092 per tonne in April 2011, the average price level was about 43 percent higher than at the same time last year.

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



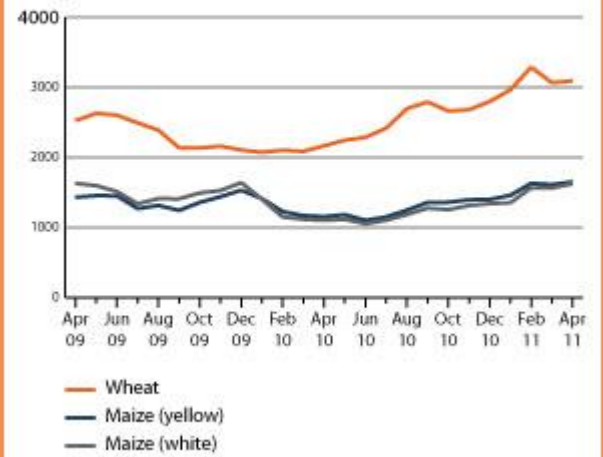
South Africa Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		forecast	2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	10 549	13 421	11 489	-14
Wheat	1 917	1 437	1 684	17
Sorghum	216	236	241	2
Others	266	286	291	2
Total	12 950	15 351	13 682	-11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Wholesale prices of cereals

Rand per tonne



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 03-January-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Mixed rains recorded at the beginning of the 2010/11 season
- Wheat production estimated to be about one fifth lower than last season's harvest
- Latest estimates point to a near record maize crop for the 2009/10 season
- Maize prices remain at low levels, supported by a bumper 2010 harvest and large domestic stocks

Mixed rains observed during November and early December

Sowing of the 2010/11 summer grain crops is nearly complete in most regions across South Africa; however, some areas have experienced insufficient moisture levels that led to delays in planting activities, particularly in the North West Province. Nationally, preliminary estimates indicate that the area planted with maize is likely to decline by about 10 percent compared to last season's level, principally attributed to the current low market prices and consequently expected weaker profits for the crop.

Harvesting of the winter wheat crop is complete and latest estimates show a decline in production by one fifth relative to last year's output and the 10-year average (2000-2009), to 1.58 million tonnes. The lower harvest is due to a contraction in the area planted, continuing the declining trend since the late 1980s.

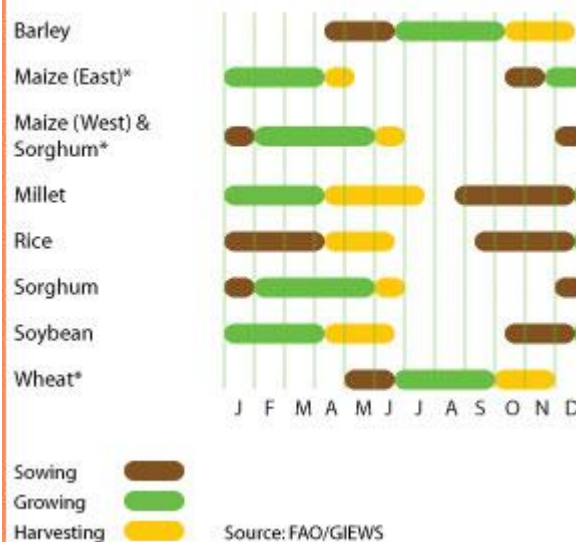
Near record maize crop estimated for 2009/10 season

The latest official crop estimates indicate that total commercial maize production increased by about 6 percent over last year's output, to 12.8 million tonnes for the 2009/10 season. Favourable weather conditions and increased plantings, particularly for white maize, contributed to a near record maize crop. In regard to the subsistence sector, production is estimated at 605 864 tonnes, marking a 17 percent increase compared to last season's harvest, primarily due to a 33 percent growth in yellow maize plantings and an increase in yields. By contrast, national sorghum production is estimated to have declined by 13 percent. Total cereal production for the 2009/10 season, including the winter wheat crop, is estimated at 15 518 million tonnes.

Large quantity of exports expected for current marketing season

Under the prevailing conditions, South Africa is expected to export around 1.7 million tonnes of maize. The latest estimates for maize exports are lower than initial figures forecast at the beginning of the marketing year, due to better than anticipated maize production in South Africa's traditional importers. Total exports between May and October 2010 are lower than the previous two years for the same period; however, unlike last year, the number one importer of South African maize is the Republic of Korea, importing 300 313 tonnes. South Africa is still expected to retain a significant closing stock at the end of 2010/11 marketing year, estimated to be just over 3 million

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

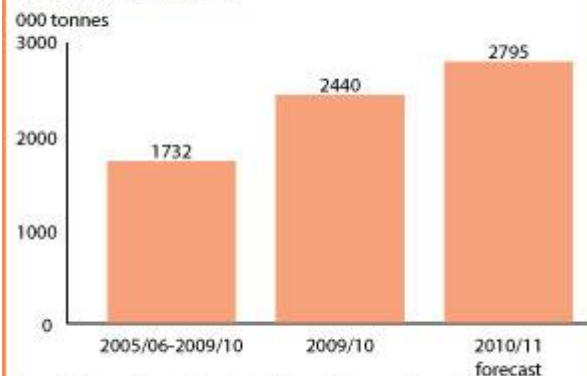


South Africa Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	10208	12567	13421	7
Wheat	2011	1967	1578	-20
Sorghum	221	277	240	-13
Others	274	269	279	4
Total	12714	15080	15518	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Total cereal exports



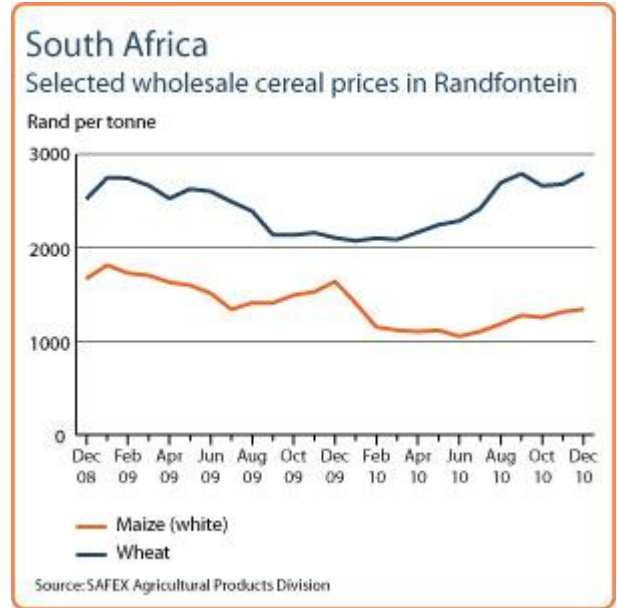
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

tonnes.

For wheat, imports for the 2010/11 marketing year are anticipated to reach 1.45 million tonnes, marking an increase over last year, due to the lower domestic harvest. National production is expected to satisfy just under over one half of the country's consumption requirements. In response to the increasing international wheat prices, the import tariff for wheat was reduced to zero from Rand 260.90 per tonne in August.

In spite of some recent increases domestic maize prices remain low, but wheat prices are higher than last year

Consecutive bumper maize harvests and a build up of national maize stocks have contributed to maintaining low domestic prices. White maize prices, at Rand 1341 per tonne in December, were 18 percent below the level one year earlier, but have been rising gradually since July mainly reflecting the increase in international market prices. Yellow maize prices have also appreciated at a similar rate over the last few months, but are, however, at a comparable level to last year's prices. The price of wheat levelled out during October and November, after rising by 15 percent between July and September reflecting higher world markets prices. In December, wheat prices increased again to Rand 2797 per tonne, and remain about one third higher than at the same time last year.



Reference Date: 14-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Latest estimates point to a near record maize crop for the 2009/10 season.
- Three consecutive bumper harvests result in large carry-over stocks.
- Reduction in the area planted for wheat continues declining trend; wheat production estimated to be lower than the 2009 output.
- Sharp decline in maize prices following bumper harvest.
- Wheat prices increase in August, reflecting higher world market prices.

Near record maize crop estimated for 2009/10 season

The latest official crop estimates indicate that total commercial maize production increased by about 9 percent over last year's output, to 13 million tonnes for the 2009/10 season. Favourable weather conditions and increased plantings, particularly for white maize, contributed to a near record maize crop for this season. In regard to the subsistence sector, production is estimated at 605 864 tonnes, marking a 17 percent increase compared to last season's harvest, primarily due to an expansion in yellow maize plantings and an increase in yields. By contrast, sorghum production is estimated to have declined by 16 percent. Total 2009/10 cereal production, including a forecast for the wheat crop yet to be harvested, is estimated at just under 16 million tonnes.

Land preparation and planting for the 2010/11 maize crop is expected to start in October in the eastern regions of the maize growing belt.

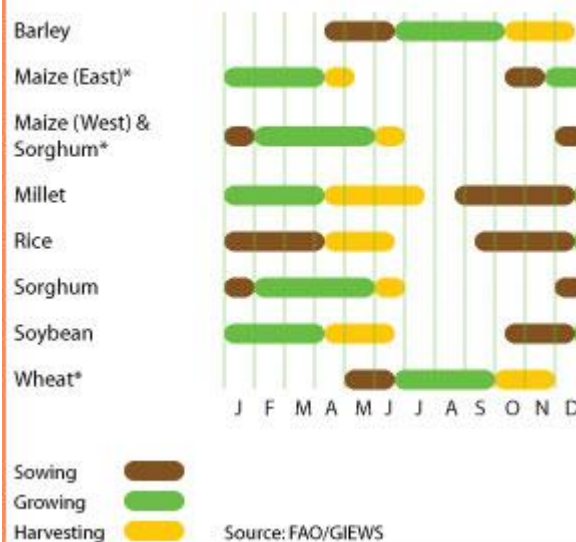
Contraction in area planted for wheat continues declining trend

The winter wheat harvest is expected to be below the average output of the 2008/09 season by some 13 percent, currently forecast at 1.7 million tonnes. The fall is a result of a contraction in the area planted, continuing the declining trend since the late 1980s. However, improving yields over the same period have, to some extent, off-set the diminishing wheat plantings, as production levels have remained comparatively stable, averaging 2 million tonnes over the last 10 seasons (2000/01 - 2009/10).

Large quantity of exports expected for current marketing season

Under the prevailing conditions, South Africa is expected to export around 2.5 million tonnes of maize, following consecutive bumper harvests and a build-up of stocks. Neighbouring Southern African countries are expected to be importing the bulk of South Africa's exportable surplus; however, by August the number one importer of South African maize was the Republic of Korea, importing 158 066 tonnes since the start of the marketing year in May. Despite the large quantity of exports, South Africa is still expected to retain a significant

South Africa Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

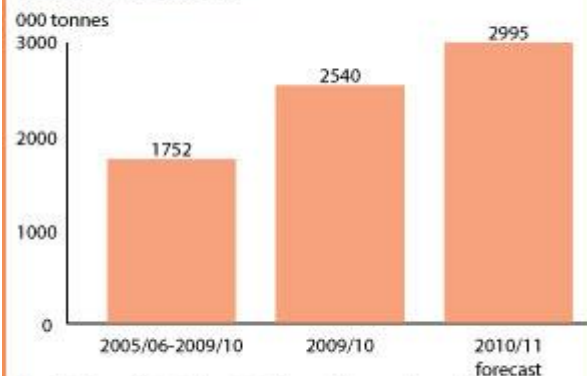


South Africa Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	10208	12567	13699	9
Wheat	2009	1958	1695	-13
Sorghum	221	277	232	-16
Others	274	269	292	9
Total	12712	15071	15918	6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Total cereal exports



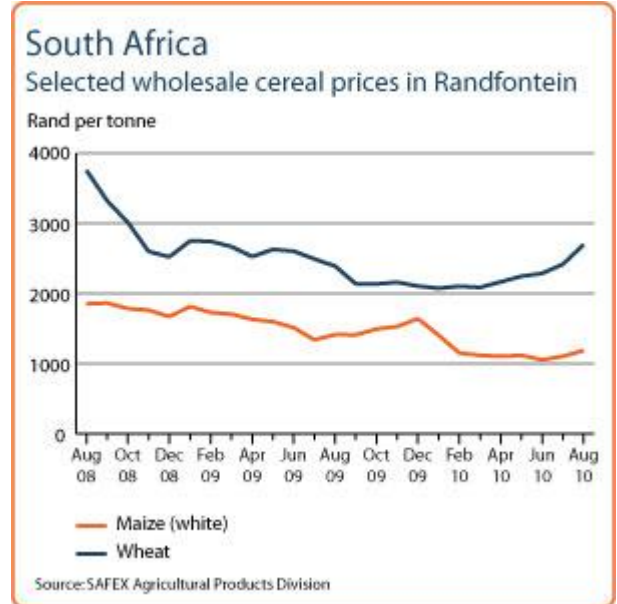
Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

closing stock for the 2010/11 marketing year, estimated to be just over 3 million tonnes.

Wheat imports for the 2010/11 marketing year are anticipated to be similar to the previous year, with domestic production satisfying just under two-thirds of the national consumption requirements. In response to the increasing international wheat prices, the import tariff for wheat was reduced to zero from Rand 260.90 per tonne on August 24. The tariff will be updated when the three-week average of the international reference wheat price (US Hard Red Wheat, No.2 fob Gulf) deviates from the domestic base price (currently set at USD 215 per tonne) by more than USD 10 per tonne, for three consecutive weeks.

Maize prices decline sharply reflecting ample supplies

The monthly average price of maize has decreased by about 16 percent since the beginning of the year to Rand 1185 per tonne in August 2010, reflecting ample supplies from the recent maize harvest. Prices have shown some increases in the first week of September, though this price movement is similar in previous years and conforms to seasonal trends. The lower grain prices are reflected in the price of maize meal which was about 7 percent lower in July 2010, relative to one year earlier. By contrast, the price of wheat has increased by 12 percent between July and August reflecting higher world markets prices, and at Rand 2695 per tonne, was 13 percent above the price recorded in the same month last year.



Reference Date: 22-April-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Third forecast confirms a near record maize crop this year reflecting increased plantings and favourable weather.
- Near record maize export surplus anticipated for 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) reflecting a third year of above average crops in succession.
- The reduction in 2009 wheat crop confirmed by late estimates with a further reduction in plantings for the 2010 crop anticipated.
- Maize prices have dropped sharply reflecting the prospects of ample supplies for domestic consumption and exports in 2010/11. Wheat prices remained low in line with world market prices.

Near record maize crop forecast for 2010

Favourable weather and increased plantings are estimated to result in a near record maize crop this year. The third official forecast issued on 22 April indicates maize production (commercial and subsistence agriculture) for 2010 at 13.7 million tons 9 percent above the previous year and 33 percent above the average of the previous five years. The increase is entirely in the form of white maize which is forecast to rise by 16 percent, while output of yellow maize is expected to decline slightly.

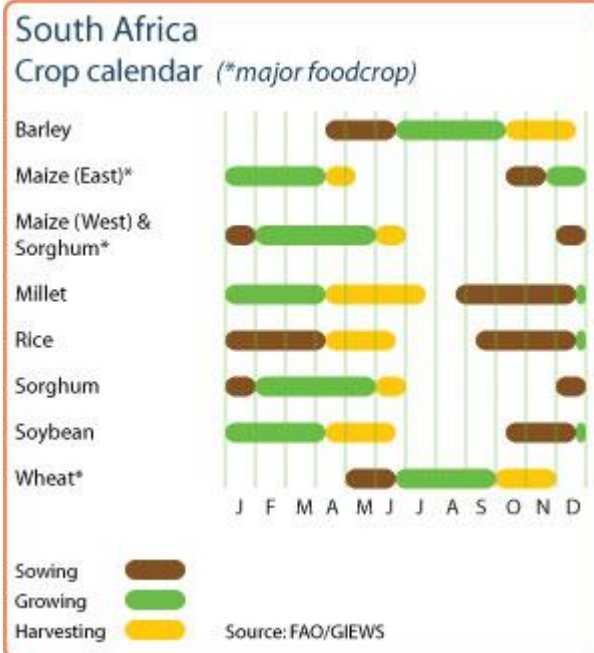
Maize export surplus and stocks at near record levels in 2010/11

Assuming that current forecast for 2010 maize production materializes, South Africa would have harvested above average maize crop for three years in succession. This has led to a large increase in maize exports since the 2008/09 marketing season and to an accumulation of carryover stocks in the last two years. Due to a combination of high opening stocks and the large production expected this year, the exportable surplus of maize from South Africa during the 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at over 3 million tonnes, against actual estimated exports in 2009/10 of around 2 million tonnes.

Decline in 2009 wheat production confirmed, prospects for further reduction in 2010

The latest estimate of the 2009 winter wheat crop is 1.92 million tonnes. This represents a drop of some 10 percent compared to the previous year's output, due to a 14 percent reduction in the area planted in response to lower wheat prices at sowing time, only partially offset by increased yields per hectare. Domestic production normally covers about two-thirds of annual consumption requirements. Imports of some 1.2 millions tonnes of wheat will be required in 2009/10 (October/September).

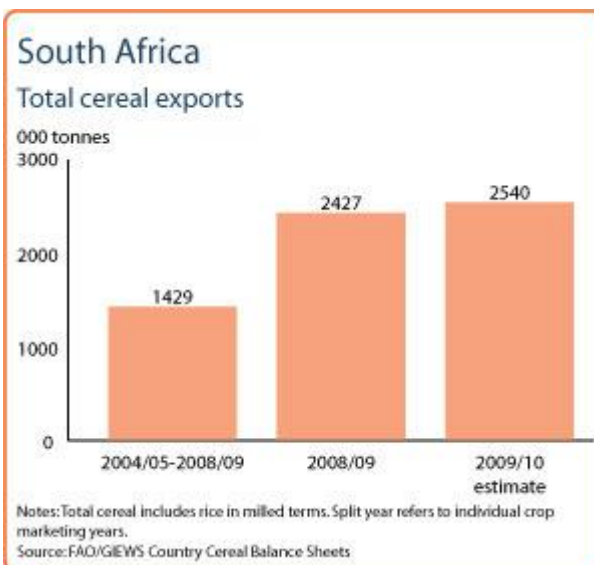
The first official planting intention report indicates that the wheat area to be planted to 2010 wheat will decline by about 15 percent this year mainly reflecting the continuing low wheat prices in international markets which have eroded the profitability of wheat production in South Africa. Assuming average yields, wheat output in 2010 could fall



South Africa Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	10344	12567	13531	8
Wheat	2007	1946	1900	-2
Sorghum	229	316	293	-7
Others	275	277	254	-8
Total	12855	15106	15978	6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



by about 8 percent from the already reduced 2009 level.

Maize prices decline sharply reflecting prospect for ample supplies in 2010/11

The price of maize in South Africa has dropped considerably in recent months reflecting the expectations that, as a result of another large crop, availabilities for domestic consumption and exports will be more than ample to meet demand in 2010/11 and that a further accumulation of stocks was likely. In March the price of white maize was Rand 1 118 per tonne, 21 percent from January and 27 percent below the corresponding period in 2009. Prices of yellow maize followed a similar trend. The price of wheat continued to remain low in line with the trend of wheat prices in international markets.



Reference Date: 25-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Second forecast confirms a near record maize crop this year reflecting increased plantings and favourable weather.
- Near record maize export surplus anticipated for 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) reflecting a third year of above average crops in succession.
- The reduction in 2009 wheat crop confirmed by late estimates with a further reduction in plantings for the 2010 crop anticipated.
- Maize prices have dropped sharply reflecting the prospects of ample supplies for domestic consumption and exports in 2010/11. Wheat prices remained low in line with world market prices.

Near record maize crop forecast for 2010

Favourable weather and increased plantings are estimated to result in a near record maize crop this year. The second official forecast issued on 24 March indicates maize production (commercial and subsistence agriculture) for 2010 at 13.5 million tons about 8 percent above the previous year and 31 percent above the average of the previous five years. The increase is entirely in the form of white maize which is forecast to rise by over 15 percent, while output of yellow maize is expected to decline slightly.

Maize export surplus and stocks at near record levels in 2010/11

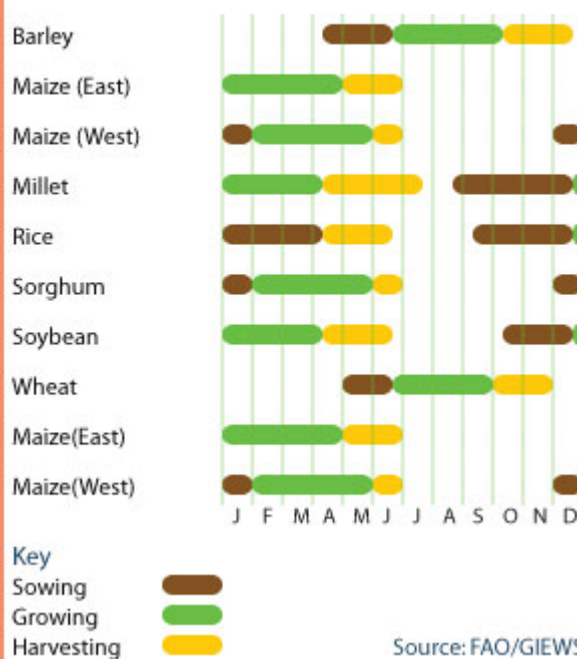
Assuming that current forecast for 2010 maize production materializes, South Africa would have harvested above average maize crop for three years in succession. This has led to a large increase in maize exports since the 2008/09 marketing season and to an accumulation of carryover stocks in the last two years. Due to a combination of high opening stocks and the large production expected this year, the exportable surplus of maize from South Africa during the 2010/11 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at about 3 million tonnes, against actual estimated exports in 2009/10 of around 2 million tonnes.

Decline in 2009 wheat production confirmed, prospects for further reduction in 2010

The latest estimate of the 2009 winter wheat crop is 1.92 million tonnes. This represents a drop of some 10 percent compared to the previous year's output, due to a 14 percent reduction in the area planted in response to lower wheat prices at sowing time, only partially offset by increased yields per hectare. Domestic production normally covers about two-thirds of annual consumption requirements. Imports of some 1.2 millions tonnes of wheat will be required in 2009/10 (October/September).

Indications are that the wheat area to be planted to 2010 wheat will decline further this year mainly reflecting the continuing low wheat prices in international markets which have eroded the profitability of wheat production in South Africa.

Crop calendar South Africa



South Africa Cereal production

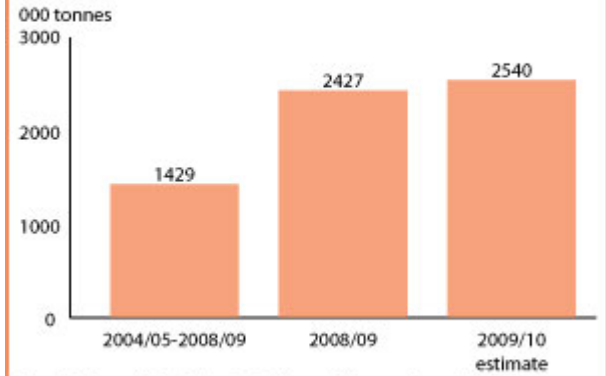
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	10344	12567	13531	8
Wheat	2007	1946	1900	-2
Sorghum	229	316	293	-7
Others	275	277	254	-8
Total	12855	15106	15978	6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Maize prices decline sharply reflecting prospect for ample supplies in 2010/11

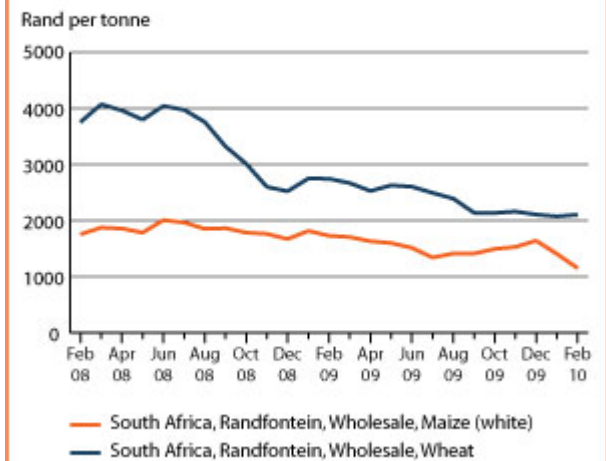
The price of maize in South Africa has dropped considerably since February as a result of the expectations that, due to the large crop about to be harvested, availabilities for domestic consumption and exports will be more than ample to meet demand in 2010/11. In February the normal seasonal rising trends in the second half of the marketing season was reversed and the wholesale price of white maize fell to Rand 1 151 per tonne, 18 percent below the previous month and 33 percent below the corresponding period in 2009. Prices of yellow maize followed a similar trend. The price of wheat continued to remain low in line with the trend of wheat prices in international markets.

South Africa Total cereal exports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Selected cereal prices



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 21-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for the 2010 maize crop favourable so far reflecting good rainfall and increased plantings.
- In 2009 both wheat and maize crops were lower than in the previous year due to reduced plantings but still above average, leaving a sizeable maize exportable surplus for 2009/10. Large normal wheat imports will be required.
- Maize and wheat prices are much lower than their 2008 peaks, but have been rising somewhat in recent months

Maize crop conditions favourable so far

Weather has been mostly favourable so far for the planting and early development of the 2010 maize crop. Normal to above normal rains were received in the main producing areas from November till mid-January 2010 favouring crop establishment and development. The first official estimate of area planted to all maize released on 21 January 2010 indicates an increase of 8.2 percent from the previous year, a larger increase that had been anticipated in the farmers planting intention report issued in October. The largest increase (10.9 percent) is expected in the area under white maize while that for yellow maize is seen to rise by only 3.9 percent.

Decline in 2009 wheat production confirmed

The latest estimate of the recently concluded harvest of the 2009 winter wheat crop is 1.95 million tonnes. This represents a drop of some 9 percent compared to the previous year's output, due to a 12 percent reduction in the area planted in response to lower wheat prices at sowing time, only partially offset by increased yields per hectare. Domestic production normally covers about two-thirds of annual consumption requirements. Imports of some 1.2 millions tonnes of wheat will be required in 2009/10 (October/September).

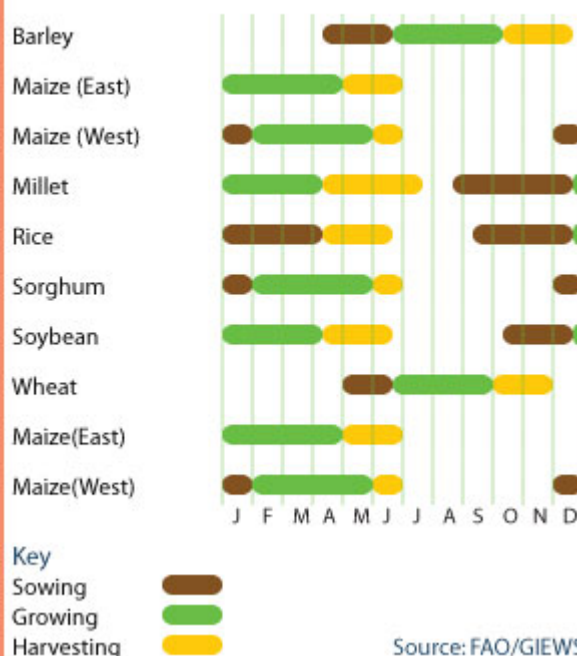
Above average maize harvest in 2009 results in sizeable export surplus for 2009/10

The final estimate for the 2009 maize output is 12.3 million tonnes (commercial and subsistence sector), somewhat lower than earlier anticipated and 7 percent below the record 2008 harvest, on account of a decline in the area planted (by just over 13 percent), due to falling maize prices at planting time. The exportable surplus of maize from South Africa during the 2009/10 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at over 2 million tonnes. As of end December 2009 a total of 1.2 million tonnes of maize had already been exported to maize deficit countries in the sub-region and other overseas destinations.

Prices much below 2008 peaks, seasonally rising

In line with the trend of prices in international markets, wholesale prices of white maize and wheat in South Africa have declined from their peaks in mid 2008 and are below their year earlier levels. In the last three months there has been an increase in maize prices, mainly reflecting normal seasonal trends in the second half of the marketing season and a weaker rand.

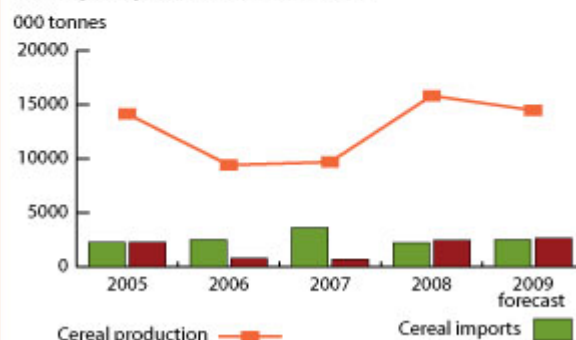
Crop calendar South Africa



Cereal production and imports South Africa

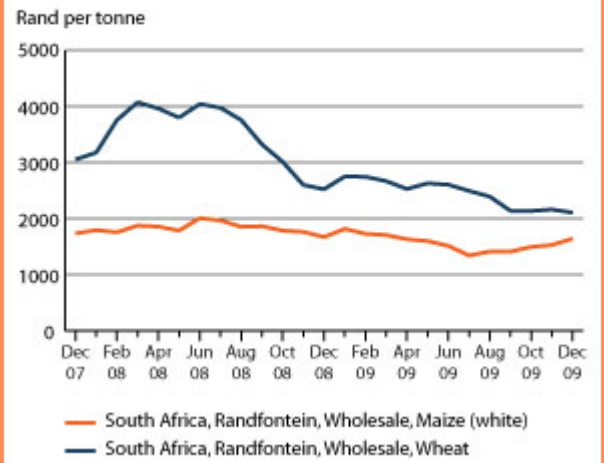
Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change* 2009/2008
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	9773	13164	12120	-7.9%
Wheat	1945	2130	1810	-15%
Sorghum	240	296	301	1.7%
Other	273	243	252	3.7%
Total Cereals	12222	15833	14483	-8.5%

* Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

South Africa Selected cereal prices



Source: SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Reference Date: 21-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Commercial maize production in South Africa is estimated at 12.1 million tonnes, 8 percent below the bumper harvest last year
- Carry over stocks from last year and very good harvest this year result in near record level of exportable surplus of white maize
- Maize prices continue their downward trend since peaking at the end of 2008, but higher prices are expected towards the end of the year

Higher input costs prior to planting period

Prospects for the planting of the 2009/10 maize crop, scheduled to begin in October, are uncertain. Lower maize prices than a year earlier, combined with higher input costs and concerns about the occurrence of an El Niño dry-weather pattern during the forthcoming season, could result in planting reductions. Farmers have been advised to plant fast growing crop varieties as early as possible.

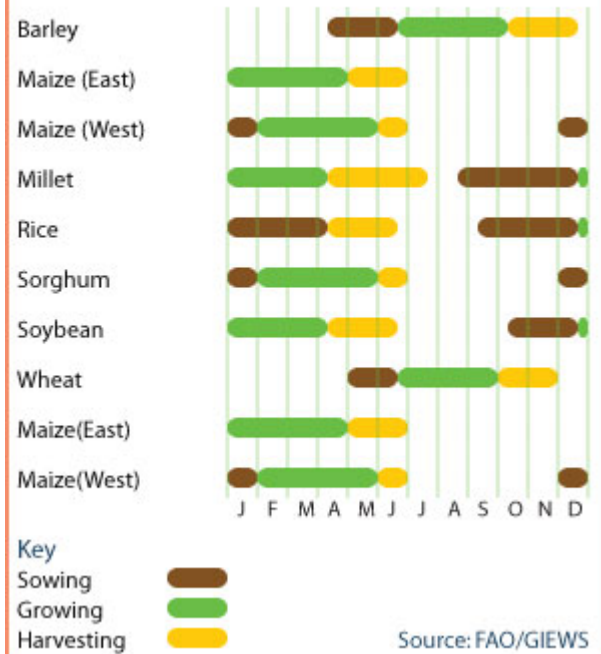
Decline in wheat production continues decreasing trend

The 2009 winter wheat crop, to be harvested from November, received normal to above normal rainfall during the cropping season improving yields, with production currently forecast at 1.8 million tonnes. This represents a drop of 15 percent compared to last year's output, due to a reduction in the area planted in response to lower wheat prices at sowing time.

Above average harvest gathered from 2009 main season cereals

The latest estimate for the 2009 maize output, by the Crop Estimation Committee (CEC), is 12.1 million tonnes (commercial and subsistence sector), a decrease of almost 8 percent relative to last season's bumper harvest, on account of a decline in the area planted (by just over 13 percent), due to falling maize prices at planting time. The exportable surplus of maize from South Africa during the 2009/10 marketing year (May/April) is estimated at about 2 million tonnes. This amount is sufficient to meet the import needs of the maize deficit countries in the region.

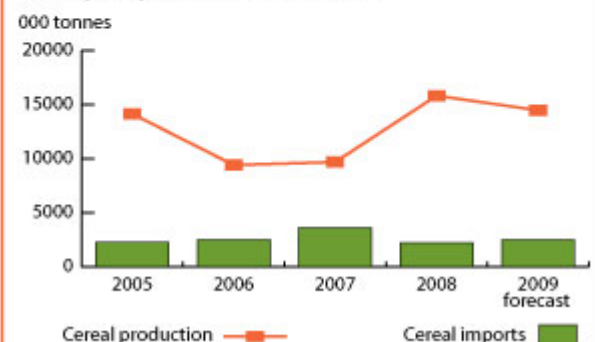
Crop calendar South Africa



Cereal production and imports South Africa

Cereal production	2004-2008	2008	2009	change* 2009/2008
	average		forecast	
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	9773	13164	12120	-7.9%
Wheat	1945	2130	1810	-15%
Sorghum	240	296	301	1.7%
Other	273	243	252	3.7%
Total Cereals	12222	15833	14483	-8.5%

* Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Price decline since peaking in 2008, but higher prices expected in late 2010

Following international trends, white maize prices in Randfontein, South Africa, have been declining since reaching a peak of ZAR 2 060 per tonne in June 2008. Prices recorded in August 2009, at ZAR 1315 per tonne are 28 percent below prices one year ago. However, future's prices on SAFEX reveal an upward trend for white maize, reaching ZAR 1420.00 per tonne in December 2009.

