

Maize Supply and Demand SA

LOWEST MAIZE STOCK LEVELS IN TEN YEARS!

Maize supply and demand overview:

White maize:

- The complete Supply & Demand is illustrated in **Table 1**.
- Looking at month-to-month consumption trends S.A total maize balance indicates a shortfall in the local market, suggesting that local maize prices will trade close to import parity and possible further imports.
- Tight stock levels may lead to price support, particularly for white maize, which has a larger supply gap.
- There has been a significant increase in yellow maize usage for animal feed compared to the three-year average. In the 2024/25 production season, an average of 500 000tons has been utilised monthly.
- White maize exports have increased significantly, increased quantities in Zimbabwe reflects dependence on S.A supply.
- Overall Southern Africa's imports have increased compared to 2023/24 (See Graph 1) due to adverse weather variability in those countries.

Crop Estimates 2025 (Preliminary area planted):

- The total commercial maize area is estimated at 2.646 million hectares, marking a 0.38% increase (+9,950 ha) from the 2.636 million hectares planted in the previous season. This figure also exceeds the October 2023/24. planting intentions estimate by 0.23% (6,100 ha), indicating slight adjustments in planting decisions.
- **White maize:** Planted area increased to **1.60 mil ha**, up **2.89%** (+44,950 ha) compared to 2024.
- **Yellow maize:** Planted area decreased to **1.046 mil ha**, down **3.24%**

The free market's role in supply and demand:

The free market is of critical importance in the maize market in South Africa for several reasons. In a free market, prices are determined by supply and demand. This enables farmers and traders to determine the actual market value of maize. If there is a surplus of maize, prices fall, conversely, if there is a shortage, prices rise. From the trading of white and yellow maize prices, it is evident the free market is working.

Graph 1: White maize exports

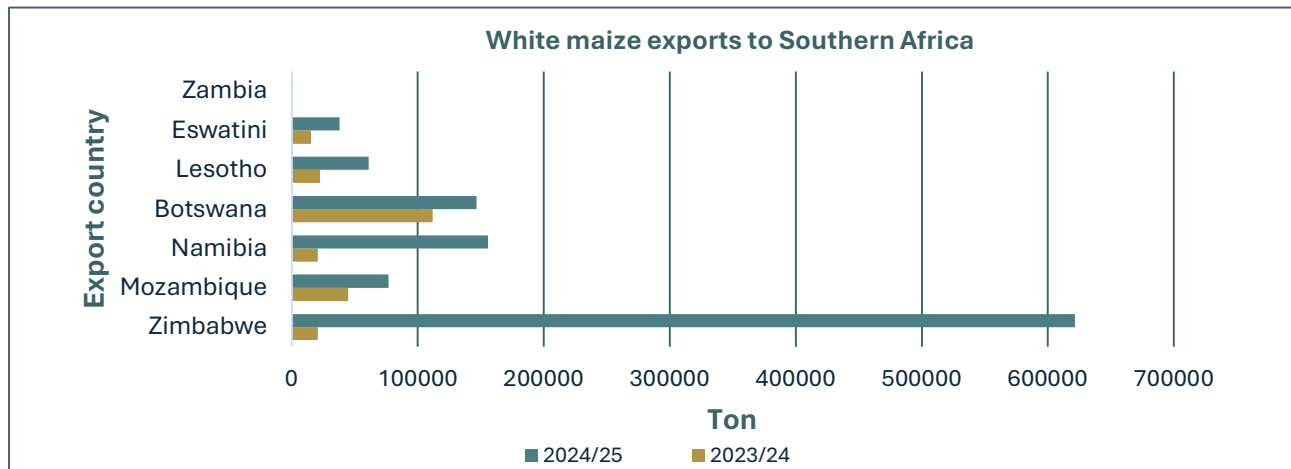


Table 1: Maize Supply & Demand

SUPPLY & DEMAND FOR MAIZE IN RSA	GSA PROJECTION WHITE MAIZE 2024/25*	GSA PROJECTION YELLOW MAIZE 2024/25*	GSA PROJECTION TOTAL MAIZE 2024/25*
29-Jan-2025	(FINAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE)	(FINAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE)	(FINAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE)
	('000 ton)	('000 ton)	('000 ton)
CEC (Crop Estimate 000ton)	6 007	6 717	12 724
Stock			
Available for commercial use	6 215	7 006	13 221
Opening Stock (1 May)	1 347	1 058	2 405
Imports	68	700	768
Surplus	21	9	30
Total supply	6 304	7 715	14 019
Demand			
Food	4 982	600	5 582
Feed	80	6 195	6 275
Other	8	12	20
Total RSA consumption	5 079	6 836	11 915
Products	390	116	506
Whole maize	1 549	1 780	3 329
Total exports	1 805	896	2 701
Total Demand	6 884	7 732	14 616
Pipeline stock (Ton)	321	223	544
Stock in the pipeline (months)	0.1	0.0	0.1



Deliveries

Maize deliveries have reached 98% of the adjusted Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) estimate, with white maize slightly outpacing yellow maize. This positive trend suggests strong fulfilment of anticipated production. With 200 848 tons still outstanding, the remaining 5 weeks will require an average delivery pace of 40 170 tons per week for total maize to avoid potential shortages. The looming maize shortage can be mitigated through, early deliveries which are expected to provide some relief, though their precise volumes remain uncertain at this stage. It is reported that harvesting has begun in some regions, particularly from early plantings under irrigation.

The quality concerns surrounding recently imported maize might cause hesitation in the local market to rely on foreign supply, reinforcing a preference for domestically produced maize. This reluctance to import, combined with the need for consistent deliveries, underscores the importance of monitoring both domestic supply movement and potential value chain constraints in the up-coming weeks.

Table 2: Deliveries

2024/25 Marketing year				
	White/Wit	Yellow/Geel	Total/Totaal	
Early deliveries (Mar & Apr) (tons) (Note 1)	398 292	709 366	1 107 658	Vroeë lewerings (Mrt & Apr) (tonne) (Nota 1)
Deliveries (May-Feb) (tons) (Note 2)	5 355 897	5 449 647	10 805 544	Lewerings (Mei-Febr) (tonne) (Nota 2)
Total deliveries (tons) (Note 3)	5 754 189	6 159 013	11 913 202	Totale lewerings (tonne) (Nota 3)
CEC Final production estimate (tons)	6 007 100	6 716 950	12 724 050	NOK Finale' produksieskatting (ton)
Adjustment for on-farm consumption & storage (tons) (Note: 4) (Retention)	190 000	420 000	610 000	Aanpassing vir op-plaas verbruik en stoor (Terughoudings)
Crop estimate MINUS farm consumption, storage, seed retention etc	5 817 100	6 296 950	12 114 050	Produksieskatting MIN plaasverbruik, stoor, saad terughoudings ens
Deliveries as % of CEC estimate minus retentions (%)	98,9%	97,8%	98,3%	Lewerings as % van die NOK skatting minus terughoudings(%)
Outstanding after adjustment (tons)	62 911	137 937	200 848	Uitstaande op NOK na aanpassings (tonne)
Remaining weeks for delivery (Note 5)	5	5	5	Uitstaande weke vir lewering (Nota 5)
Delivery tempo needed to obtain CEC estimate	12 582	27 587	40 170	Lewerings tempo benodig
Notas/Notes				
<i>Nota 1: Maart en April 2024 se lewerings word geneem as vroeë lewerings. Ouseisoenlewerings is moontlik maar waarskynlik minimaal</i>				
<i>Nota 2: Slegs lewerings vanaf Mei tot Feb word in ag geneem omdat 'n aanname vir Maart en April se vroeë lewerings reeds gemaak is</i>				
<i>Nota 3: Totale lewerings tot datum in 52 weke periode (Let op: Periode geneem as Mar - Feb en nie volgens amptelike bemarkingsjaar, Mei - Apr)</i>				
<i>Nota 4: Aanname: Volgens NOK se opnamesyfer onder produsente einde van Nov elke jaar - sien ook Graan SA se vraag- en aanbodbalansstaat.</i>				
<i>Nota 5: [52 weke minus (Aantal vroeë lewerings weke plus weke sedert Meimaand)]</i>				

The report was compiled by the applied economics and membership team of Grain SA. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the economics team: <https://www.grainsa.co.za/pages/about-grain-sa/organisational-structure>

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