

Supply and Demand

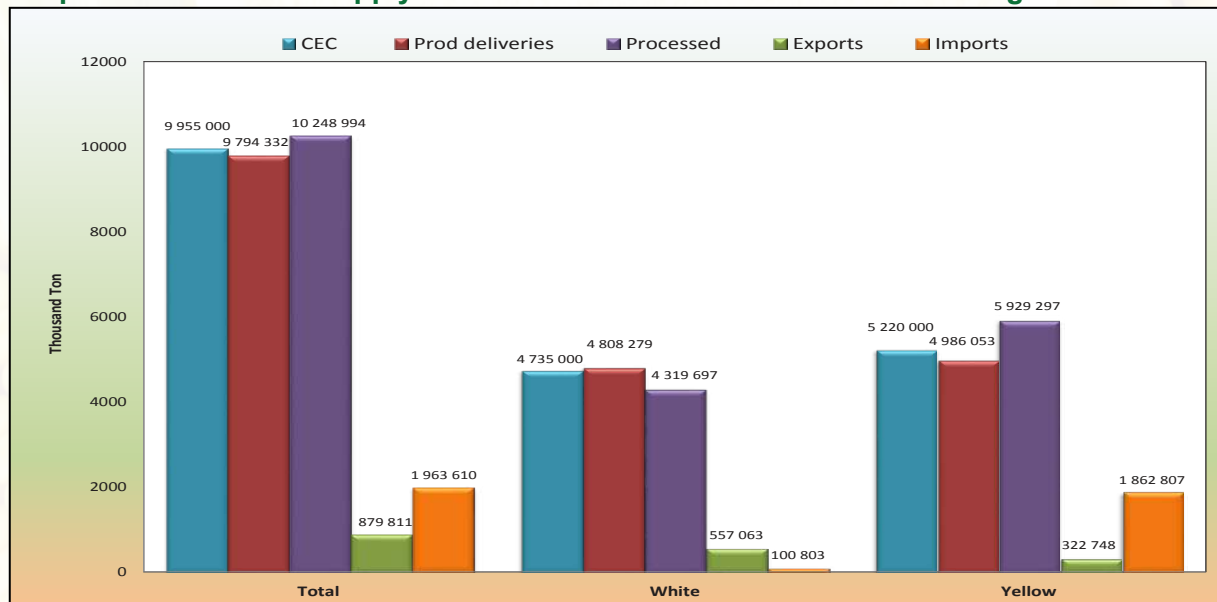
World maize production for the 2015/2016 season is estimated at 973.9 million tons according to the *International Grains Council Grain Market Report GMR 476 – 27 April 2017*, with the major maize producing countries being the USA, China and Brazil. The USA, Brazil, Argentina and Ukraine are the biggest exporters of maize. Maize usage figures are estimated at 110.3, 267.3 and 567.5 million tons respectively for food, industrial and feed purposes. World production for the 2016/2017 season is forecasted at 1 058.8 million tons.

According to the *BFAP Agricultural Outlook 2016 – 2025*, the area planted for commercial maize is projected to reach 2.37 million hectares by 2025 (2.78 million hectares, if the area planted by the informal sector is included). This represents a decline from the figures in 2015 (2.65 million hectares, 3.10 million hectares total). The major contributing factor to this decline is white maize, as producers continue to increase planting of yellow maize and oilseeds in response to rising demand for animal feed. Commercial white maize area is projected to decrease on average 1.5% per annum over the outlook period, while yellow maize area is projected to expand by 1.4% annually. As a result, the area planted to yellow maize is set to exceed that of white maize by 2025. The animal feed sector's maize consumption is projected to surpass 6.5 million tons by 2025, representing a 2% expansion per annum over the 2016 – 2025 period.

The South African weather service indicates that the 2015/2016 season represented the lowest annual rainfall in South Africa since 1904. White maize imports during May 2016 to February 2017 increased from 100 803 tons during 2015/2016 to 653 942 tons. The ten year average for white maize imports is 29 180 tons. Yellow maize imports decreased over the corresponding period from 1 862 807 tons to 1 340 202 tons. The ten year import average for yellow maize is 435 374 tons.

Please see local Supply and Demand figures provided by SAGIS in graphs and tables below and on pages 8 to 13.

Graph 14: Total maize supply and demand overview 2015/2016 marketing season



Information provided by SAGIS.