

## Supply and Demand

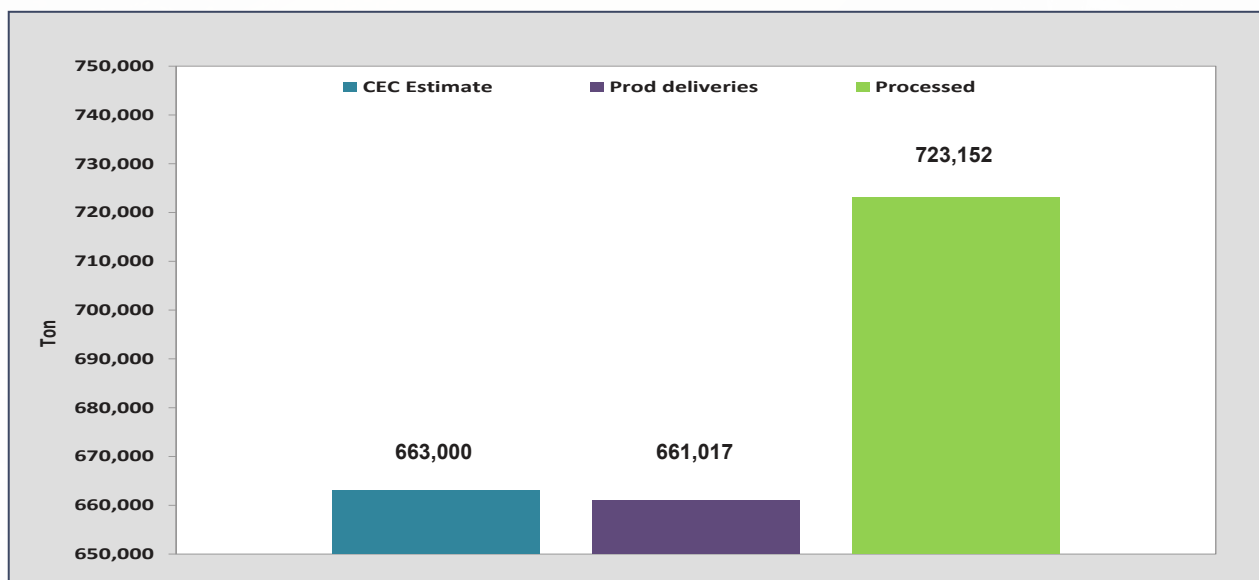
The sunflower seed marketing season dates from March to end of February. According to SAGIS supply and demand figures for the 2015/2016 marketing season to date (March 2015 to January 2016), opening stock almost doubled to 92 927 tons compared to the previous marketing season and is also higher than the ten year average.

To date 35 598 tons of sunflower and sunflower seed products were imported compared to the 63 180 and 94 475 tons of the previous two seasons respectively. South Africa is a net importer of vegetable oils. Sunflower oil currently has the largest share in locally produced vegetable oil. This share is projected to decrease over the next ten years due to the increase in soybean and canola production compared to that of sunflower. Sunflower oil imports are projected to increase from 125 000 tons in 2014 to 182 000 tons by 2024 (*BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2015 – 2024*).

Of the 723 152 tons of sunflower seeds processed so far, only 807 tons were used for human consumption and 8 050 tons for animal feed (mainly pet bird feeds). The vast majority of sunflower seed is crushed to produce oil and oilcake. The 714 295 tons of sunflower seeds crushed to date, are 15.4% less than during the 2014/2015 marketing season (844 322 tons). According to *BFAP*, the domestic consumption of sunflower oilcake is projected to increase from 417 000 tons in 2015 to 433 000 tons by 2024. Most of the increase in consumption will be provided for by imports. Imports are projected to increase to 100 000 tons by the end of the baseline period.

Exports to date amount to 206 tons (48 tons during 2014/2015). Globally, Ukraine and the United States followed by Argentina are the largest exporters of sunflower seeds. Ukraine and Russia are the largest exporters of sunflower oil (combined 70% of total oil exports) (*2015 U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report*).

**Graph 11: Sunflower supply and demand overview for the current marketing season (Mar 2015 - Jan 2016)**



Information provided by SAGIS, includes data up to January 2016