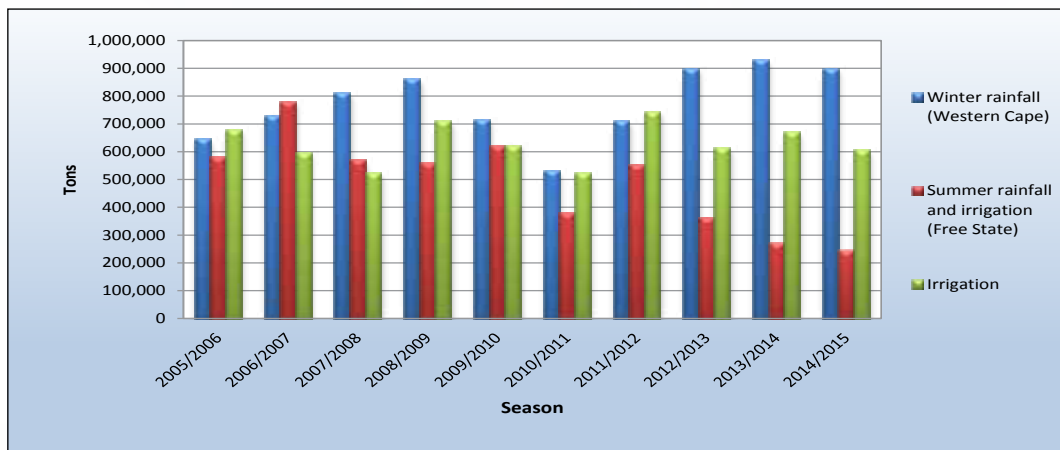


The final figure of 1 750 000 tons is 7% lower than the 10 year production average of 1 885 800 tons (2004/2005 to 2013/2014 seasons). The Western Cape produced 899 000 tons of wheat this season, contributing 51% of the total crop. The Free State's production was 24 500 tons lower than the previous season at 245 500 tons. The Northern Cape's irrigation areas, although still the second largest producer of wheat with 285 000 tons, produced 35 000 tons less than the previous season. The remainder of the wheat were produced in mainly Limpopo (137 500 tons) and North West (107 100 tons).

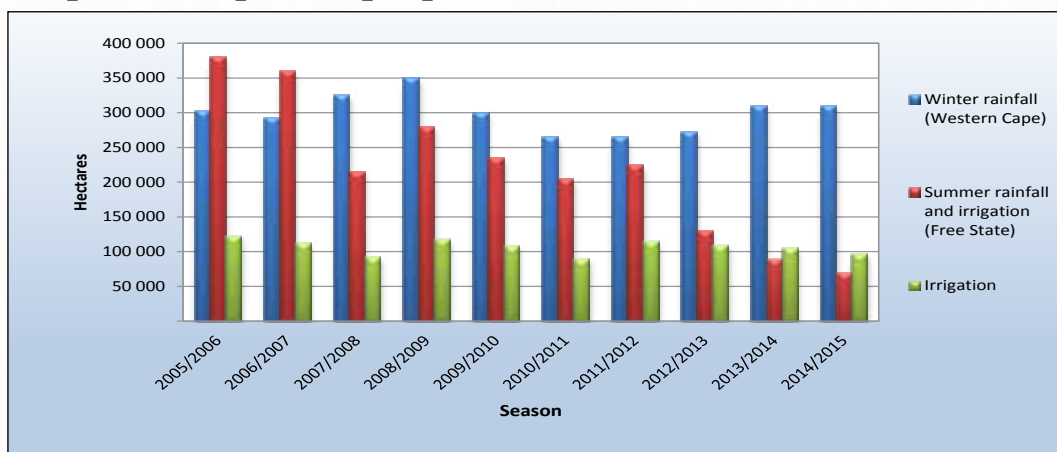
**Graph 2: Wheat production figures per production area over seasons**



Figures obtained from the CEC.

The area utilized for wheat production continued its declining trend, decreasing by almost 43% from the 2004/2005 season and by 6% compared to the 2013/2014 season. Decreased plantings by dry land wheat producers in the summer rainfall area (Free State province), mainly due to a shift from wheat to summer crops like maize and soybeans, are the largest contributing factor to this observed decline.

**Graph 3: Area planted per production area over seasons**



Figures obtained from the CEC.

The yield in the main production areas ranged from 2.90 tons per hectare (t/ha) in the winter rainfall area (Western Cape) to 7.50 t/ha for irrigation wheat produced in the Northern Cape. The national yield average varied only 0.04 t/ha over the last three seasons.