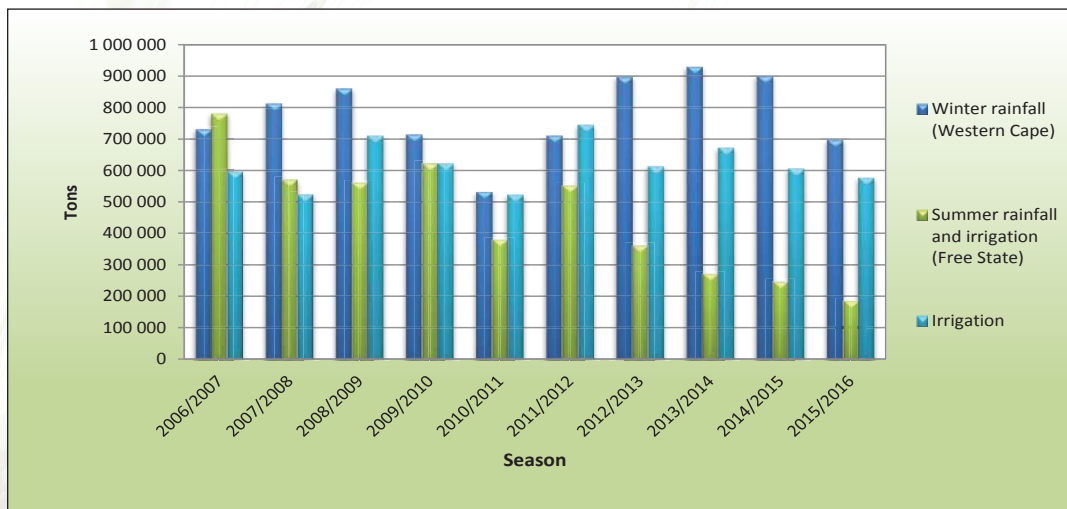


The final figure of 1 440 000 tons is 24% lower than the ten year production average of 1 892 800 tons (2005/2006 to 2014/2015 seasons). The Western Cape produced 697 500 tons of wheat this season, contributing 48% of the total crop. The Free State's production (184 000 tons) continued its declining trend and was 61 500 tons lower than the previous season. The Northern Cape's irrigation areas, the second largest producer of wheat with 259 200 tons, produced 25 800 tons less than the previous season. The remainder of the wheat were produced in mainly Limpopo with 151 200 tons representing an increase of 10% compared the 2014/2015 season and North West, whose production decreased by 18.8% to 87 000 tons. Please see Graphs 1 and 2.

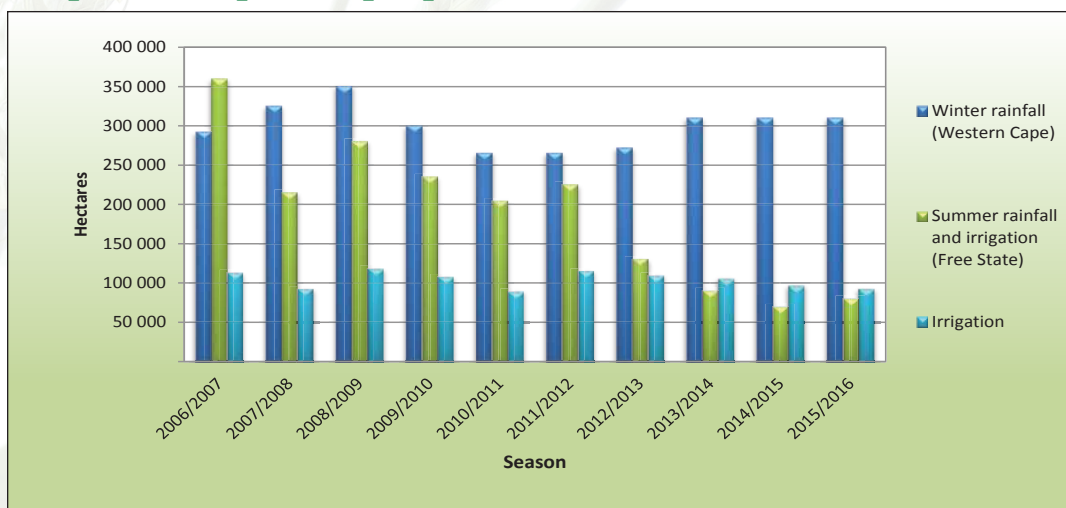
Graph 2: Wheat production figures per production area over seasons



Figures provided by CEC.

The area utilized for wheat production increased slightly by 1.2% to 482 150 hectares from 476 570 hectares in the previous season, see Graph 3. The effect of the drought conditions experienced in both the winter and summer rainfall areas is clear, seeing the reduction of 17.7% in the production figure.

Graph 3: Area planted per production area over seasons



Figures provided by CEC.

The yield in the main production areas ranged from 2.25 tons per hectare (t/ha) in the winter rainfall area (Western Cape) to 7.20 t/ha for irrigation wheat produced in the Northern Cape. The national yield average declined from 3.67 t/ha in the previous season to 2.99 t/ha. This is the lowest average yield over the last five seasons. Please refer to Graph 4.