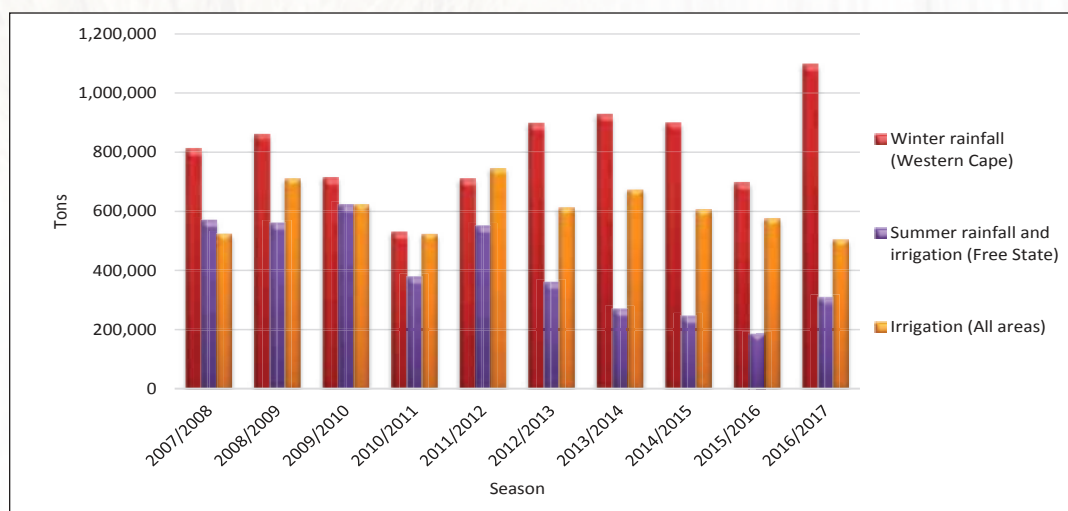


The final production figure of 1 910 000 tons is 3.5% higher than the ten year production average of 1 846 300 tons (2006/2007 to 2015/2016 seasons). The Western Cape produced 1 098 200 tons of wheat this season, contributing 57.5% of the total crop. The Free State's wheat production (308 460 tons) was the highest of the last four seasons and 131 960 tons higher than the previous season. This figure was also the second highest nationally. The irrigation areas of the Northern Cape, the third largest wheat producing area this season, produced 266 000 tons, 6 800 tons more than last season. The remainder of the wheat was produced in mainly Limpopo with 103 700 tons, representing a decline of 28% compared to the 2015/2016 season and North West, where production decreased by 18.6% to 69 600 tons. Please see Graphs 1 and 2.

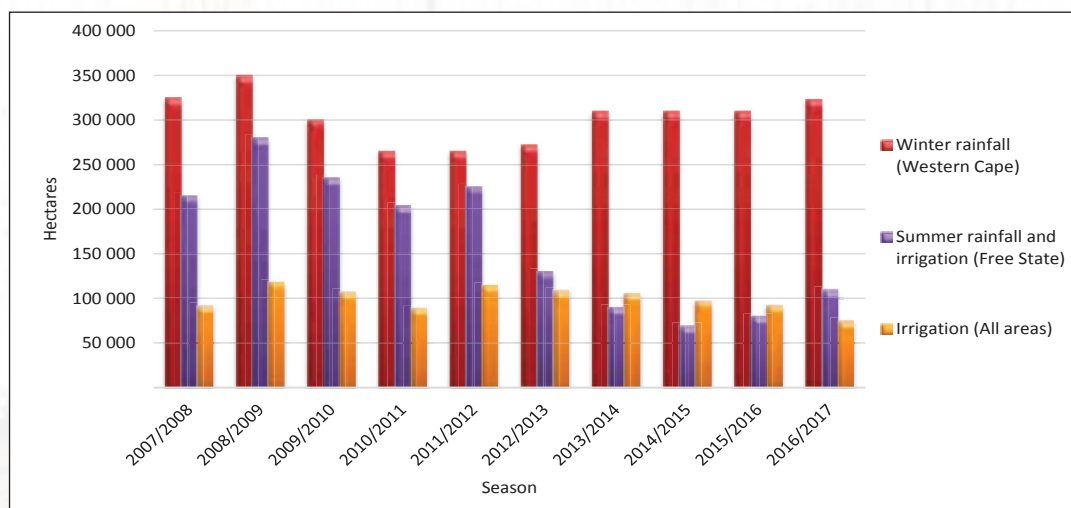
**Graph 2: Wheat production figures per production area over seasons**



Figures provided by the CEC.

The area utilized for wheat production increased by 5.4% to 508 365 hectares from 482 150 hectares in the previous season, see Graph 3. The Free State, where plantings increased with 30 000 hectares compared to the previous season, was the main contributor to this increase.

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



Figures provided by the CEC.

The yield in the main production areas ranged from 2.80 tons per hectare (t/ha) in the primarily summer rainfall area (Free State) to 7.60 t/ha for irrigation wheat produced in the Northern Cape. The national yield average increased from 2.99 t/ha in the previous season to 3.76 t/ha. This is the highest average yield over the nineteen seasons that this particular survey has been conducted. Please refer to Graph 4.