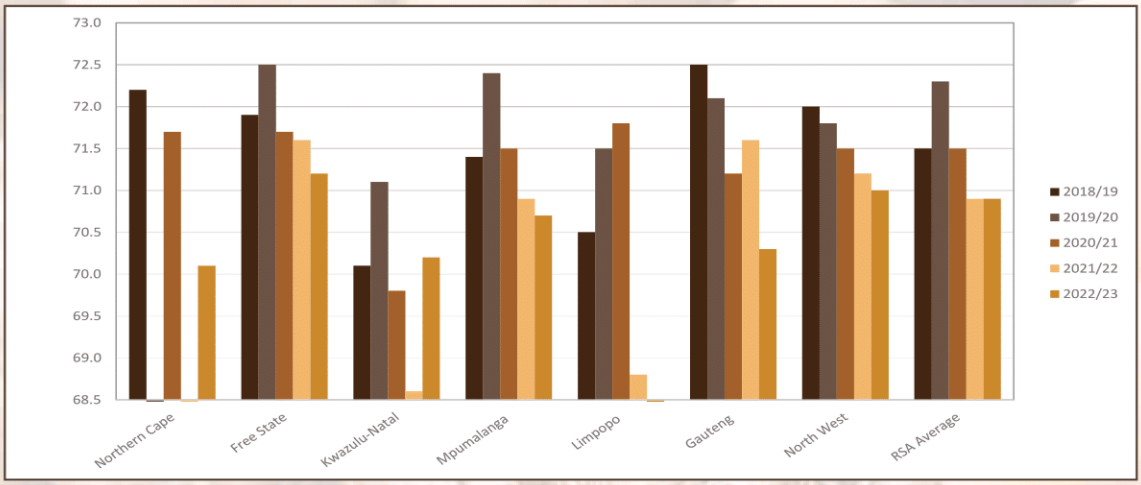
Graph 21: Comparison of the test weight per province over five seasons



The nutritional component analyses, namely crude protein, - fat, - fibre and ash are reported on a dry/moisture-free basis (db) for the current as well as the previous surveys. For comparison purposes the national average 'as is' or wet basis results for the last five seasons are provided in Table 3. These 'as is' average values were calculated by converting each individual value from dry basis to 'as is'.

Table 3: Comparison of weighted average nutritional component values on a dry and 'as is' basis over five seasons

Season	2022/23		2021/22		2020/21		2019/20		2018/19	
Moisture, % (17hr, 103°C)	8.2		8.2		7.5		7.2		7.0	
Moisture basis	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**
Crude protein, %	40.19	36.90	39.54	36.31	39.96	36.95	39.99	37.12	40.43	37.60
Crude fat, %	19.9	18.3	19.6	18.0	19.5	18.0	18.0	16.7	19.1	17.8
Crude fibre, %	7.1	6.5	7.2	6.6	6.8	6.3	7.0	6.5	6.8	6.3
Ash, %	4.54	4.17	4.63	4.25	4.55	4.21	4.63	4.19	4.67	4.34
No. of samples	***174***		***150***		***150***		***150***		***150***	

The weighted average crude protein content this season was 40.19% compared to the 39.54% of the previous season. Limpopo (one sample) reported the highest value (41.16%) and the Northern Cape the lowest average (36.90%). The Free State and Mpumalanga averaged 40.19% and 40.50% respectively. The weighted average crude fat percentage of 19.9% was the highest since the 2011/12 season when this survey commenced. The samples from the Northern Cape had the highest weighted average crude fat content, namely 21.3%. The lowest fat average was observed in Gauteng province with 18.6%.

The weighted average percentage crude fibre varied from 6.1% in KwaZulu-Natal to 7.5% in Gauteng. The RSA weighted average was 7.1% compared to the 7.2% of the previous season. This season, the average ash content was 4.54%, the lowest average value of the twelve seasons that this survey has been conducted. Averages ranged from 5.24% in the Northern Cape to 4.70% in KwaZulu-Natal.

Graphs 22 to 25 on page 18 provide comparisons between provinces over seasons for the nutritional components mentioned above.