Supply and Demand

World maize production for the 2023/24 season was set at 1 233.7 million tons according to the *International Grains Council Grain Market Report GMR 570 – 23 October 2025*, with the major maize producing countries being the USA (389.7 million tons), China (288.8 million tons) and Brazil (131.9 million tons). The USA (58.2 million tons) and Brazil (54.0 million tons) were the biggest exporters of maize during the 2023/24 season, followed by Ukraine and Argentina. World maize usage figures were 140.9, 325.3 and 727.0 million tons respectively for food, industrial and feed purposes. World production for the 2024/25 season is estimated at 1 238.8 million tons and the 2025/26 figure is forecasted to be 1 297.3 million tons.

During the 2024/2025 marketing year, South Africa imported a total of 937 559 tons of maize. This is the largest amount of maize imported since the 2016/17 marketing season. The 10-year import average is 586 011 tons.

Yellow maize comprised 87% of the imported maize, with Argentina the main country of origin (86%). Yellow maize was also imported from Brazil and the USA. See Table S5 and Graph 28 on page 16.

119 394 tons of white maize was imported from the USA. The 10-year white maize import figure is 87 192 tons. See Table S4 and Graph 27 on page 15.

Please see also pages 17 to 21 for a summary of the quality of imported yellow and white maize compared to that of the local crop.

4 918 377 tons of white maize was processed (24% less than during the previous marketing season), with 98% going towards human consumption and the remainder towards animal feed/industrial use and gristing.

The amount of yellow maize processed increased by 26% to 6 649 505 tons compared to the 2023/24 marketing season. Almost 91% of this amount was used for animal feed/industrial use.

South African whole white maize exports amounted to 1 491 687 tons, with 97% exported to neighbouring countries, mainly Zimbabwe, but also Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique. Last season, 1 269 650 tons of white maize was exported. The 10-year average is 952 960 tons.

Whole yellow maize exports totaled 780 994 tons, a decline of 64% compared to the 2 173 348 tons of the previous season and the 10-year average of 1 345 588 tons. Neighbouring countries like Zimbabwe and Botswana was also the main buyers of local yellow maize.

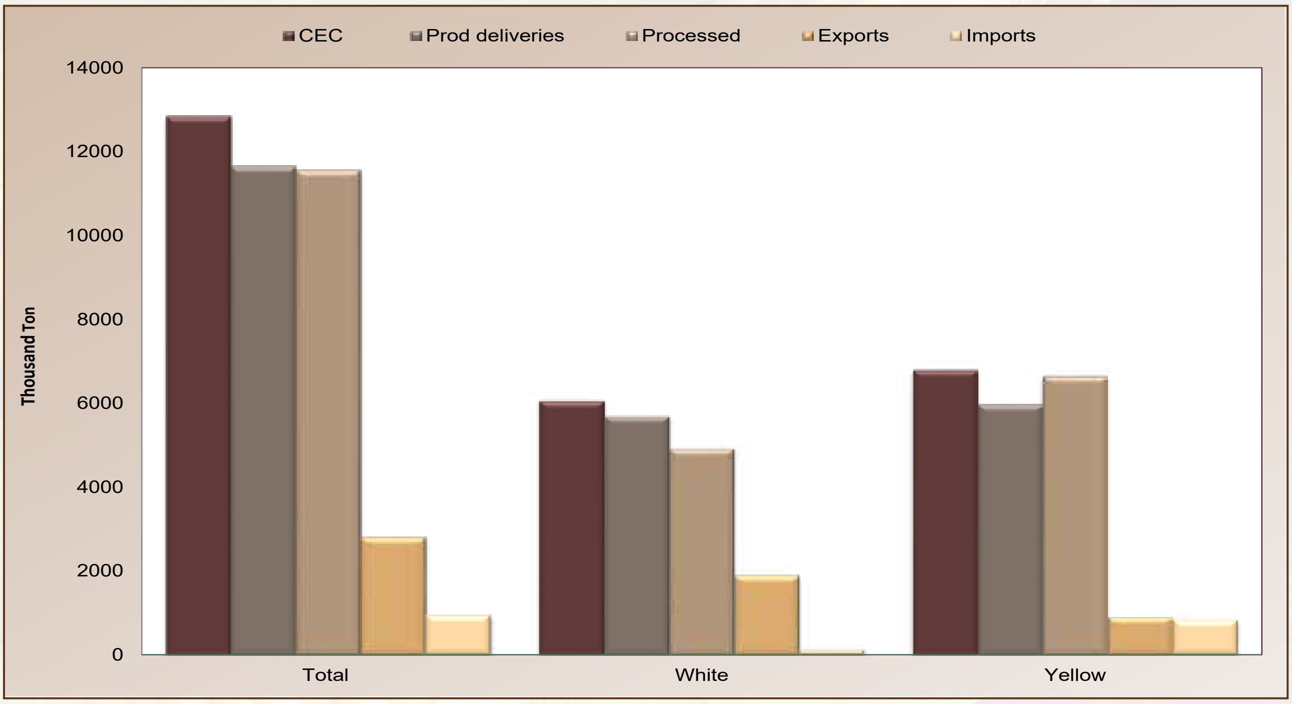
White maize ending stock as on 30 April 2025 was 365 498 tons, 73% less than at the end of the 2023/24 marketing season and 70% less than the 10-year figure of 1 222 282 tons.

Yellow maize ending stock was 288 292 tons, 73% less than the previous season and 64% less than the 10-year average of 794 943 tons.

Please refer to the tables and graphs on pages 9 to 14 for supply and demand figures of total, white and yellow maize over several seasons.

Whole maize (total/white/yellow) processing figures per province as well as maize product (manufactured/imported/exported) figures over several seasons are provided on pages 22 to 24 and pages 25 to 28.

Local Supply and Demand figures for the 2024/25 marketing season are provided in Graph 14 below.



Graph 14: Maize supply and demand overview 2024/25 marketing season

Information provided by SAGIS.