

Please refer to pages 91 – 95 for the methodologies followed.

The maize crop quality survey is performed annually by the Southern African Grain Laboratory NPC (SAGL). SAGL was established in 1997 on request of the Grain Industry. SAGL is an ISO 17025 accredited testing laboratory and participates in a number of proficiency testing schemes, both nationally and internationally, as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The results of this, the 28th survey, as well as previous years' surveys are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). The report, in an easy to page format, is also available on the website. Hard copy reports are distributed to industry stakeholders and interested parties.

Crop quality results are summarised and reported on a per region, per colour and from this report going forward, also a per province basis. In addition to the quality information, production figures (obtained from the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)) relating to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained on a national as well as provincial basis, over an eleven-season period, are provided in this report. SAGIS (South African Grain Information Service) supply and demand figures over several years are provided in table and graph format, also import and export data. Information on maize processed per province as well as the manufacture, import and export of maize products is also included in this report. The national grading regulations as published in Government Gazettes of 16 February 2024 as well as 1 March 2024, are provided on pages 100 to 110.

The long-term goal of this quality survey is the annual determination of the quality of the commercial maize crop on a national level. This valuable data set reveals general tendencies, highlights quality differences in the commercial maize produced in different local production regions for local market requirements and provides important information on the quality of commercial maize intended for export. During seasons when maize is imported for domestic use, the quality of the imported maize can be compared to that of locally produced maize.

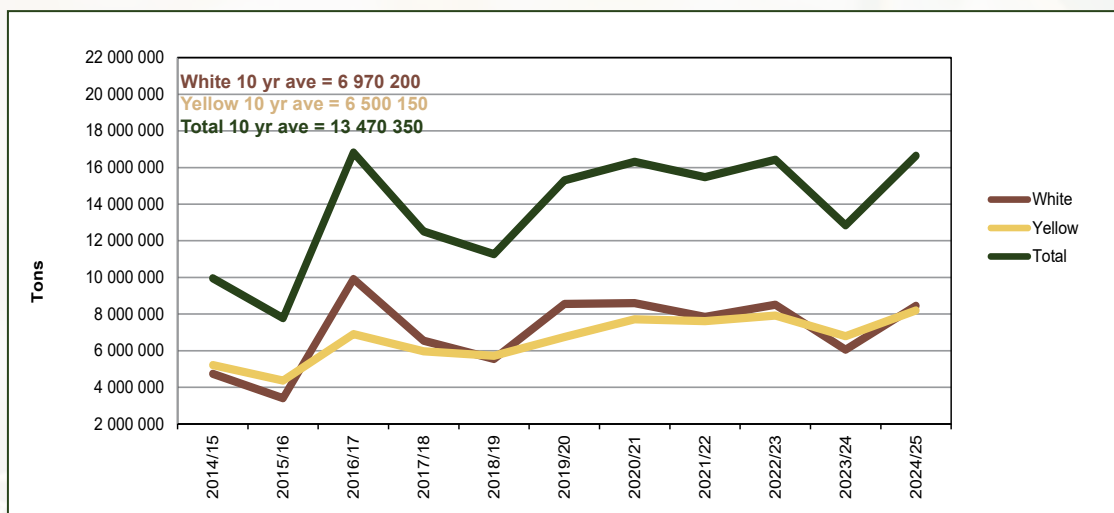
The quality data generated is also referred to by various role players in the maize industry, adds value to research projects and serves as the basis for discussions when maize grading regulations have to be revised.

With funding from the Maize Trust, a data mining project on thirteen season's crop quality data was conducted and the results transferred to a Geographic Information System (GIS) map system, reflecting all the maize producing areas of South Africa. These maps are updated annually.

Production

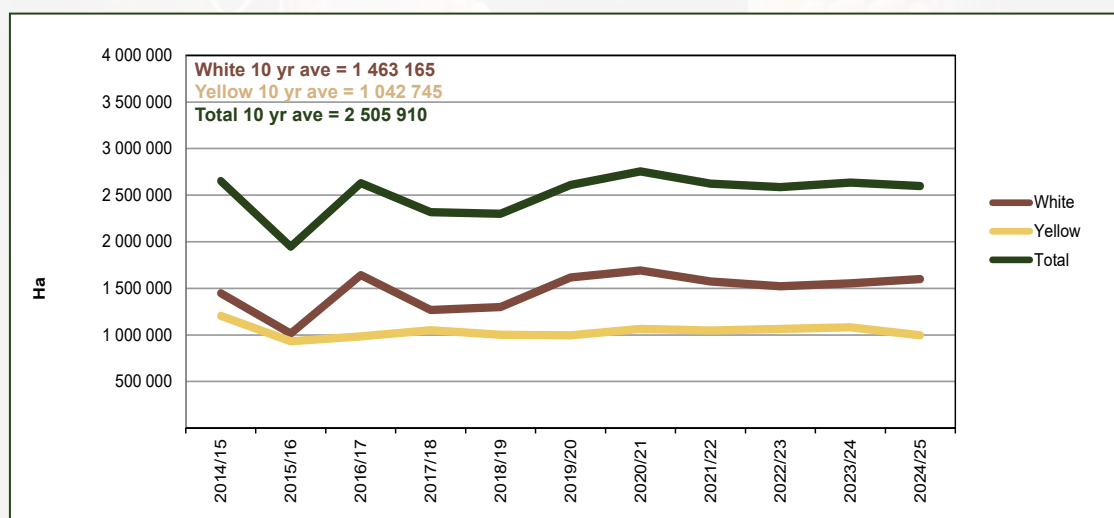
The final figure for the 2024/25 season's commercial maize crop, as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC), is 16 650 000 tons (Graph 2). This is the second largest crop following the all-time high record crop of 16 820 000 tons produced in the 2016/17 season. This season's crop is also almost 24% higher than the previous 10-year crop average (2014/15 - 2023/24) of 13 470 350 tons. White maize's contribution to the total production was 8 450 000 tons (50.8%) and that of yellow maize 8 200 000 tons (49.2%).

The national Crop Estimates Committee's (CEC) estimated total production figures were revised, using the South African Grain Information Services' (SAGIS) published figures of actual deliveries as basis for the calculations. Figures from the maize utilisation survey, conducted by the Department of Agriculture and the National Crop Statistics Consortium (NCSC) to determine on-farm usage and retentions, were added to the SAGIS delivery figures to calculate the final crop production figures.



Graph 2: Maize production in RSA from 2014/15 to 2024/25

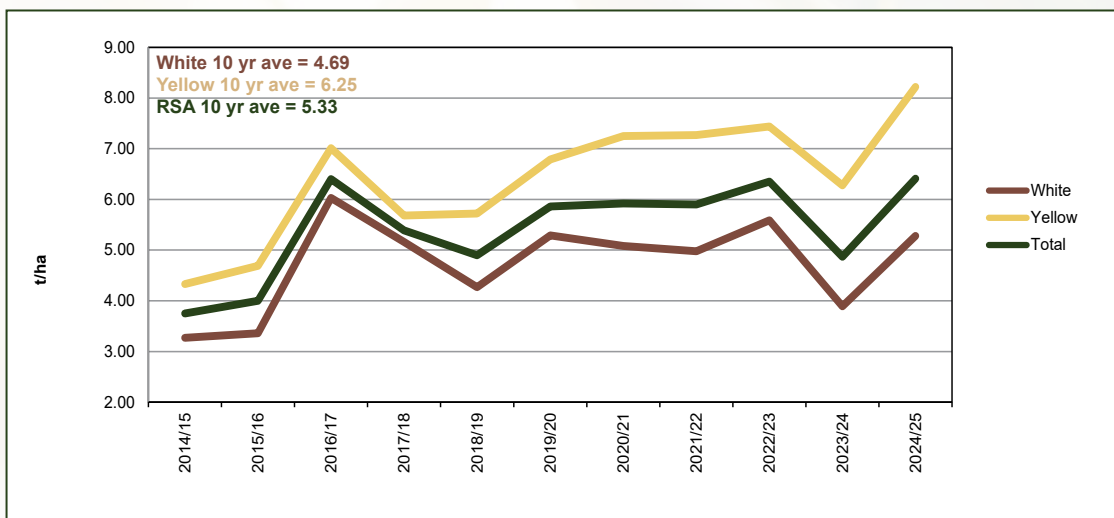
As shown in Graph 3, the total area utilised for maize production in the 2024/25 season was 2 596 700 hectares, representing a 1.5% decrease compared to the previous season and a 3.6% increase compared to the previous 10-year average (2014/15-2023/24). White maize was produced on 1 599 700 hectares and yellow maize on 997 000 hectares (1 554 750 and 1 081 500 hectares respectively in the 2023/24 season).



Graph 3: Total RSA area utilised for maize production from 2014/15 to 2024/25

Graph 4 depicts the maize yield of 6.41 tons per hectare (t/ha), which was almost 32% higher than the previous season (4.87 t/ha) and also 20.3% higher than the previous 10-year average (2014/15 - 2023/24) of 5.33 t/ha. White maize yielded 5.28 t/ha and yellow maize 8.22 t/ha (3.89 t/ha and 6.28 t/ha respectively during the previous season).

According to the CEC, the maize area planted in the non-commercial agricultural sector is estimated at 358 000 ha, representing a 3.17% increase compared to the 347 000 ha of the previous season. The expected maize crop for this sector is 621 500 tons, which is 8.09% more than the 575 000 tons of last season. Approximately 46.75% of non-commercial maize is produced in the Eastern Cape, followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 20.88% and Limpopo with 20.65%.



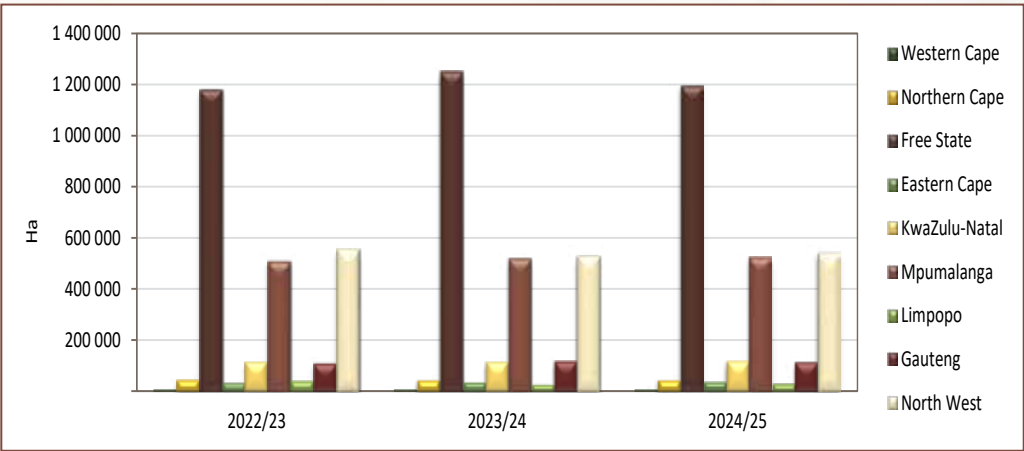
Graph 4: RSA Maize yield from 2014/15 to 2024/25

The major commercial maize-producing provinces are the Free State, Mpumalanga and North West, contributing 81.9% of the total maize production in the RSA (Table 1). The Free State produced 6 870 900 tons of maize on 1 195 000 hectares with a yield of 5.75 t/ha. Mpumalanga produced 4 080 000 tons of maize on 524 000 hectares with a yield of 7.79 t/ha and North West produced 2 690 850 tons of maize on 540 000 hectares yielding 4.98 t/ha. Yellow maize contributed 73% of the total maize production in Mpumalanga while the majority of maize produced in the Free State (63%) and North West (82%) was white.

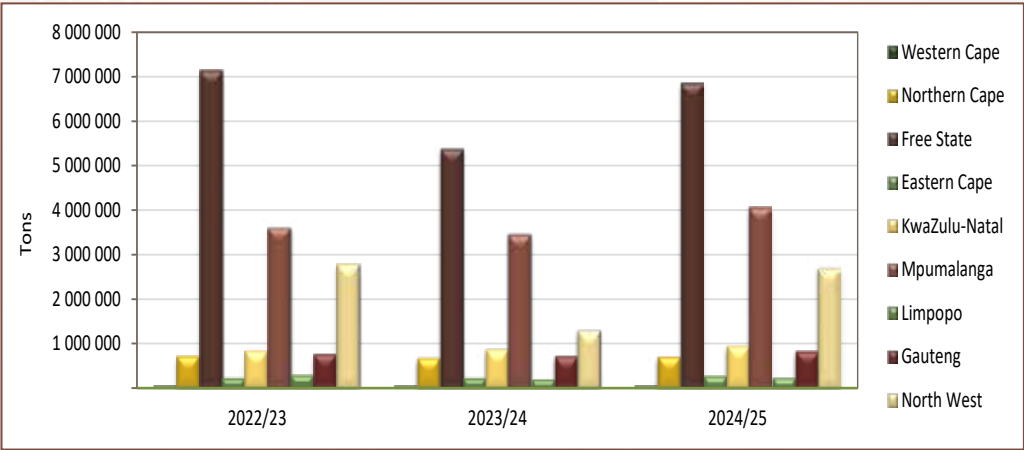
Table 1: Maize production overview (2024/25 season)							
Province	Type of production	White			Yellow		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	200	1 800	9.00	3 500	33 850	9.67
	Total	200	1 800	9.00	3 500	33 850	9.67
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	1 500	18 750	12.50	42 000	680 400	16.20
	Total	1 500	18 750	12.50	42 000	680 400	16.20
Free State	Dryland	826 000	4 139 400	5.01	307 000	2 072 300	6.75
	Irrigation	24 000	195 600	8.15	38 000	463 600	12.20
	Total	850 000	4 335 000	5.10	345 000	2 535 900	7.35
Eastern Cape	Dryland	4 000	19 000	4.75	17 000	89 000	5.24
	Irrigation	2 000	23 600	11.80	11 000	149 000	13.55
	Total	6 000	42 600	7.10	28 000	238 000	8.50
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	42 000	234 000	5.57	46 000	365 100	7.94
	Irrigation	8 000	86 000	10.75	20 000	252 000	12.60
	Total	50 000	320 000	6.40	66 000	617 100	9.35
Mpumalanga	Dryland	152 400	990 600	6.50	340 000	2 703 000	7.95
	Irrigation	9 600	102 900	10.72	22 000	283 500	12.89
	Total	162 000	1 093 500	6.75	362 000	2 986 500	8.25
Limpopo	Dryland	4 000	12 800	3.20	6 500	28 400	4.37
	Irrigation	6 000	58 200	9.70	12 000	134 400	11.20
	Total	10 000	71 000	7.10	18 500	162 800	8.80
Gauteng	Dryland	52 000	330 250	6.35	51 800	396 200	7.65
	Irrigation	3 000	30 000	10.00	5 200	65 500	12.60
	Total	55 000	360 250	6.55	57 000	461 700	8.10
North West	Dryland	443 500	1 994 250	4.50	58 500	303 900	5.19
	Irrigation	21 500	212 850	9.90	16 500	179 850	10.90
	Total	465 000	2 207 100	4.75	75 000	483 750	6.45
RSA	Dryland	1 523 900	7 720 300	5.07	826 800	5 957 900	7.21
	Irrigation	75 800	729 700	9.63	170 200	2 242 100	13.17
	Total	1 599 700	8 450 000	5.28	997 000	8 200 000	8.22

Figures provided by the CEC.

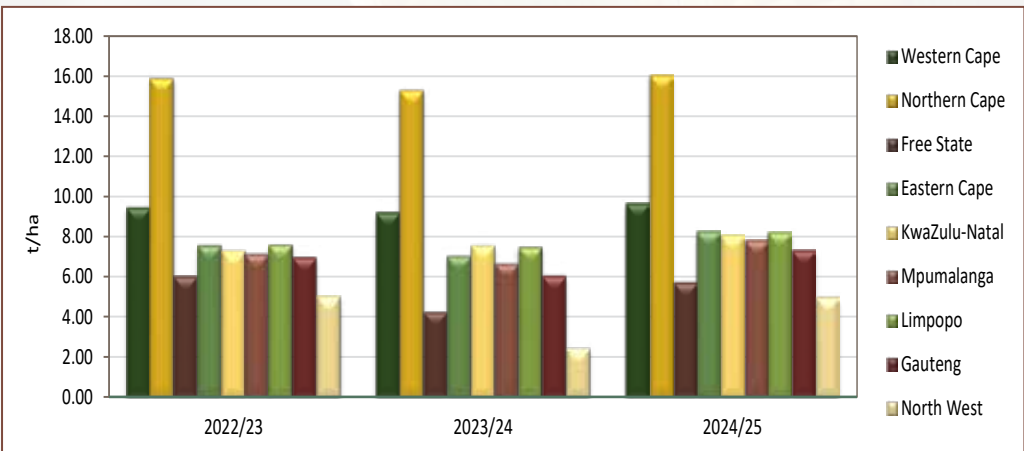
Figures for area planted, production and yield per province over the last three seasons, are provided in Graphs 5 to 7.



Graph 5: Area utilised for maize production (dryland and/or irrigation) per province over three seasons



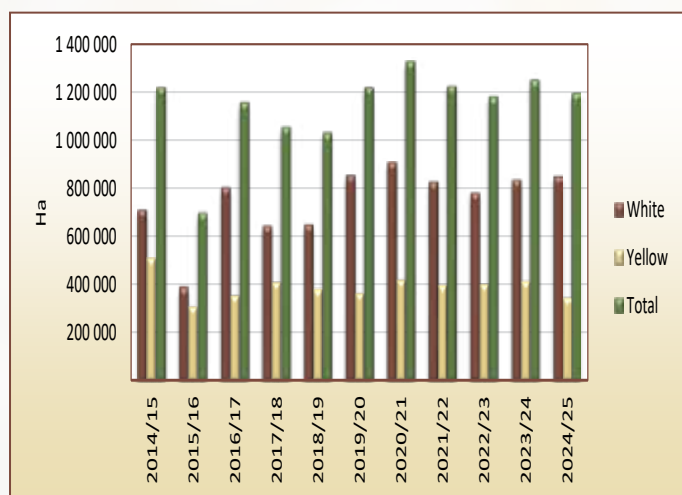
Graph 6: Maize production (dryland and/or irrigation) per province over three seasons



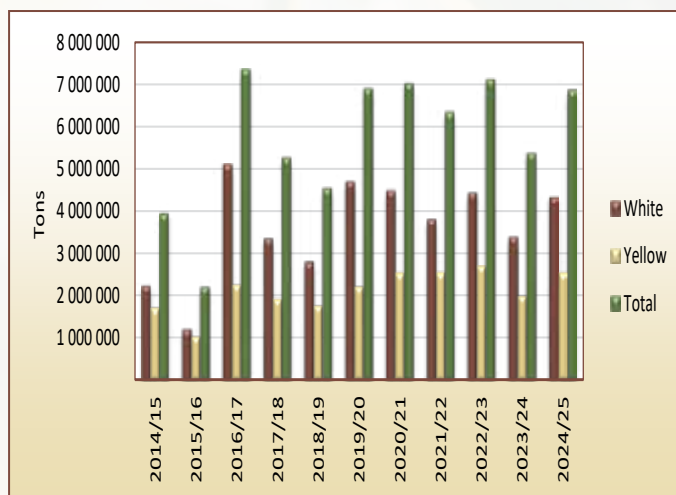
Graph 7: Maize yield (dryland and/or irrigation) per province over three seasons

Figures provided by the CEC.

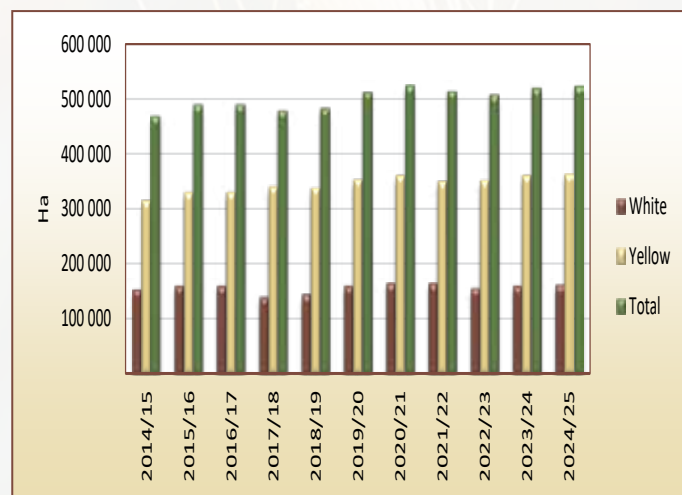
Graphs 8 to 13 provide an overview of the area planted as well as the production figures for the Free State, Mpumalanga and North West provinces since the 2014/15 season.



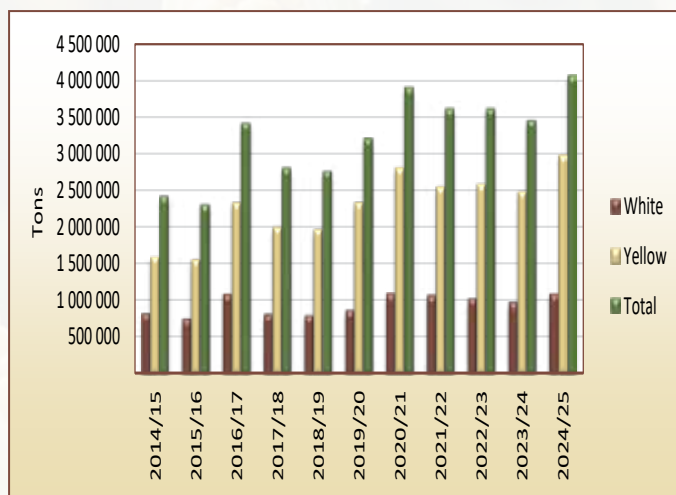
Graph 8: Area utilised for maize production in the Free State since 2014/15



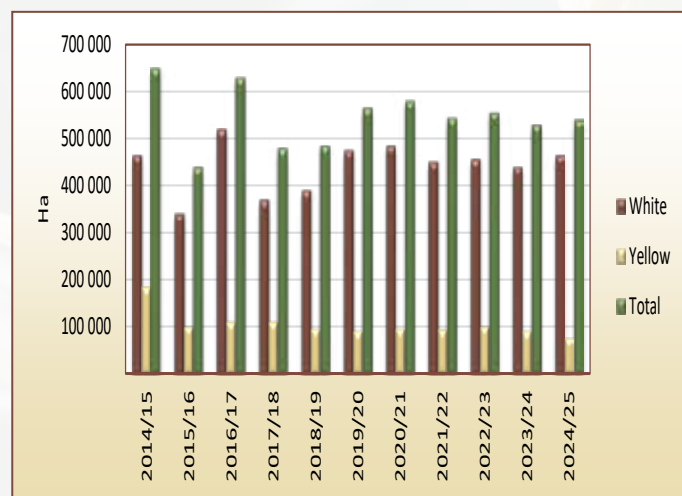
Graph 9: Maize production in the Free State since 2014/15



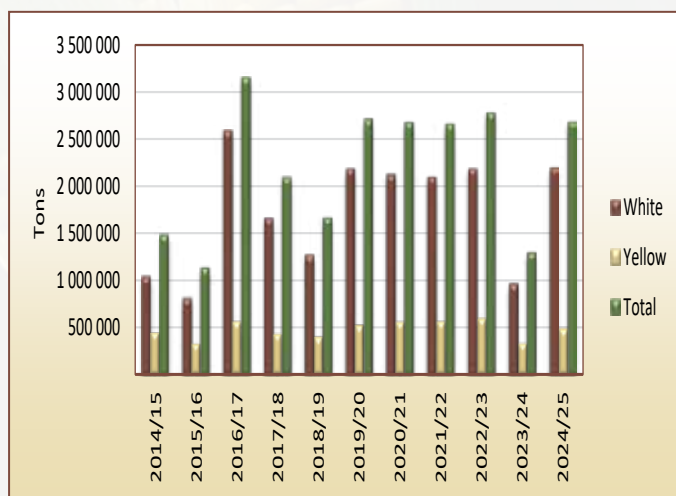
Graph 10: Area utilised for maize production in Mpumalanga since 2014/15



Graph 11: Maize production in Mpumalanga since 2014/15



Graph 12: Area utilised for maize production in North West since 2014/15



Graph 13: Maize production in North West since 2014/15

Figures provided by the CEC.