Supply and Demand

World maize production for the 2024/25 season was set at 1 242.5 million tons according to the *International Grains Council Grain Market Report GMR 579 – 20 August 2026*, with the major maize producing countries being the USA (378.3 million tons), China (294.9 million tons) and Brazil (115.5 million tons). The USA (73.0 million tons), Argentina and Brazil (both 38.2 million tons) as well as the Ukraine (20.0 million tons) were the biggest exporters of maize during the 2024/25 season. World maize usage figures were 140.6, 341.3 and 733.1 million tons respectively for food, industrial and feed purposes. World production for the 2025/26 season is estimated at 1 345.8 million tons and the 2026/27 figure is forecasted to be 1 304.9 million 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.

During the 2025/26 marketing year, South Africa imported a total of 110 448 tons of maize. This is significantly less than the 937 559 tons of the previous season and also 72% less than the 10-year import average of 400 695 tons. All the maize imported for local use this year, was yellow maize from Argentina. See Table S5 on page 16. Table S4 on page 15 show the amount of white maize imported for the purpose of exports to Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

The quality of the imported yellow maize is summarised in Table 2 on page 17 and compared to the quality of the corresponding local crop (2024/25 harvesting season).

5 453 151 tons of white maize was processed for the local market (almost 11% more than during the previous marketing season), with 90% going towards human consumption and the remainder towards animal feed/industrial use and gristing.

The amount of yellow maize processed decreased by 4.5% year-on-year to 6 349 561 tons. The majority (89%) going toward animal feed/industrial use.

South African whole white maize exports amounted to 1 180 747 tons, with 90% exported to neighbouring countries, mainly Zimbabwe, but also Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Eswatini. Last season, 1 491 687 tons of white maize was exported. The 10-year average is 1 023 692 tons. See Table S4 and Graph 27 on page 15.

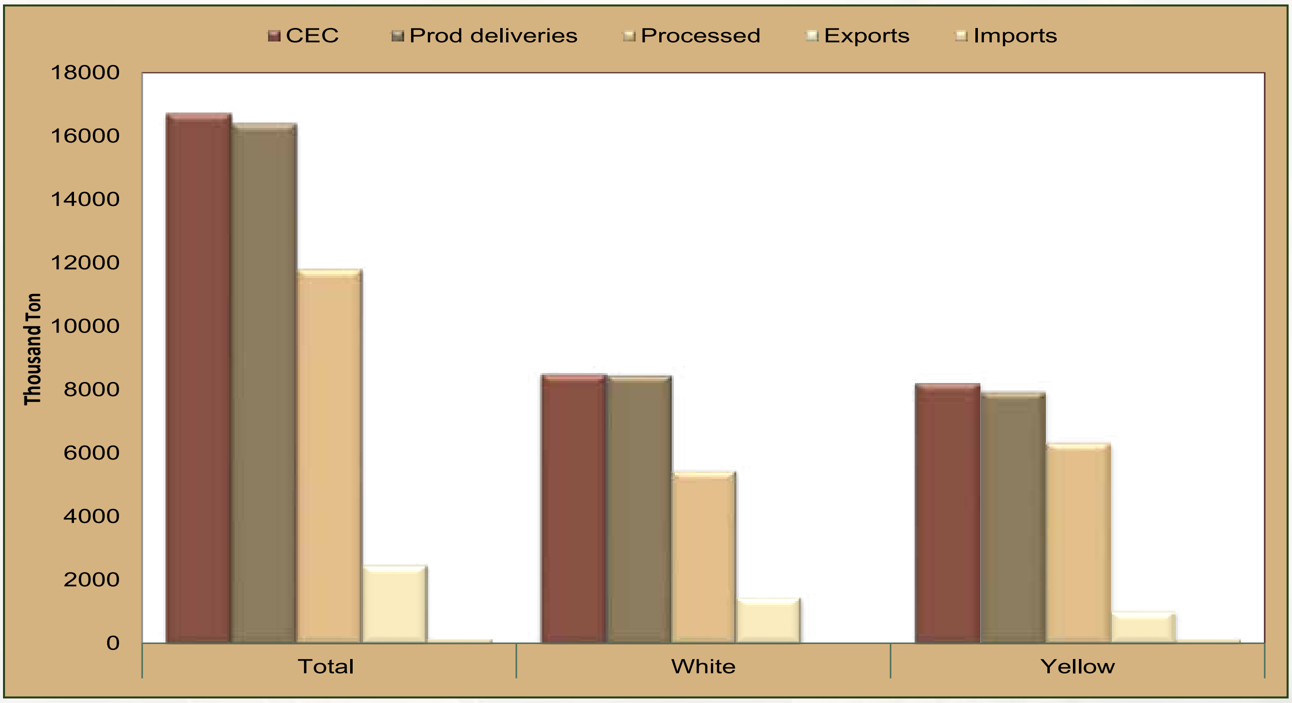
Whole yellow maize exports totaled 872 840 tons, an increase of almost 12% compared to the 780 994 of the previous season. The 10-year average is 1 345 588 tons. Neighbouring countries like Zimbabwe and Eswatini were also the main buyers of local yellow maize. See Table S5 and Graph 28 on page 16.

White maize closing stock as on 30 April 2025 was 1 937 498 tons, the highest since the 2017/18 season and more than 5 times higher than the previous season. The 10-year average is 1 285 245 tons.

Yellow maize closing stock was 988 289 tons, more than 3 times that of the previous season (288 292 tons) and 24% more than the 10-year average of 794 943 tons.

Whole maize (total/white/yellow) processing figures per province as well as maize product (manufactured/imported/exported) figures over several seasons are provided in Tables S6 to S8 on pages 18 to 20 and Tables S9 to S11 on pages 22 to 24.

Local Supply and Demand figures for the 2025/26 marketing season are provided in Graph 14.



Graph 14: Maize supply and demand overview 2025/26 marketing season

Information provided by SAGIS.