

Supply and Demand

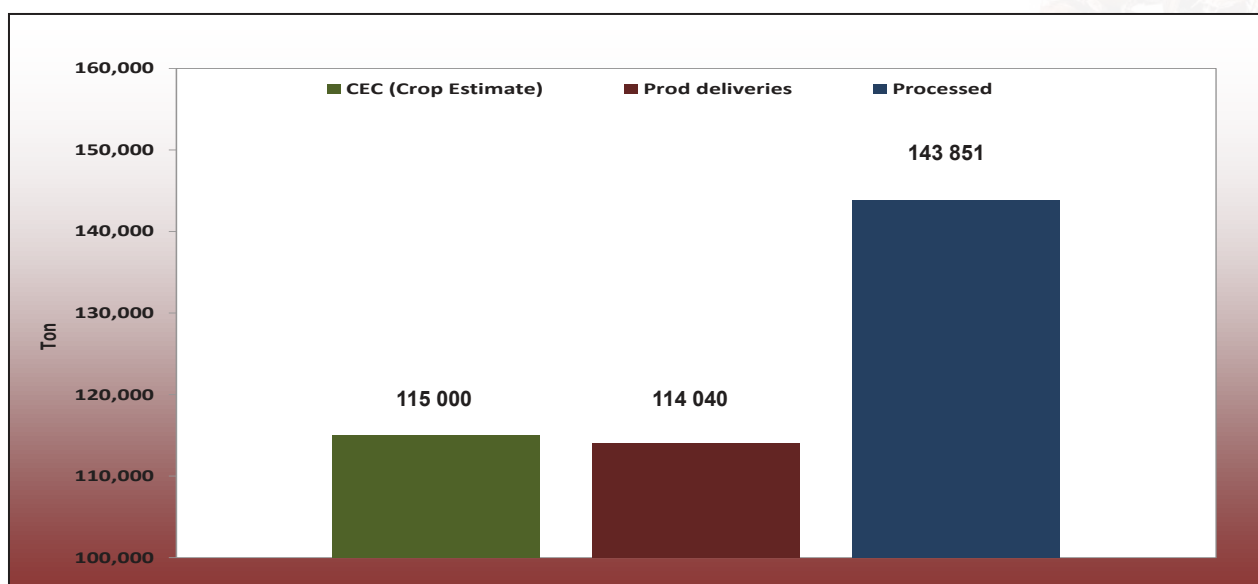
The sorghum marketing season dates from March to February. According to SAGIS supply and demand figures for the 2018/2019 marketing season to date (March 2018 to January 2019), opening stock increased by 68% compared to the previous marketing season, but is still 20% lower than the ten-year average.

To date, 27 803 tons of sorghum have been imported, compared to the 55 824 and 74 957 tons of the previous two seasons respectively. South Africa is expected to remain a net importer of sorghum during the period 2018 to 2027, according to BFAP.

Of the 143 851 tons of sorghum processed so far, 36% was used for malting purposes and 57% was processed as meal, rice and grits. This ratio has remained steady for the last five years. The remainder of the sorghum was processed for pet food and animal feed.

Exports to date amount to 8 962 tons, compared to 13 599 tons last season and the ten-year average of 25 811 tons. Globally, the United States are by far the largest exporter of sorghum, followed by Australia (*United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS), February 2019 report*).

**Graph 11: Sorghum supply and demand overview for the current marketing season
(Mar 2018 - Feb 2019)**



Information provided by SAGIS.