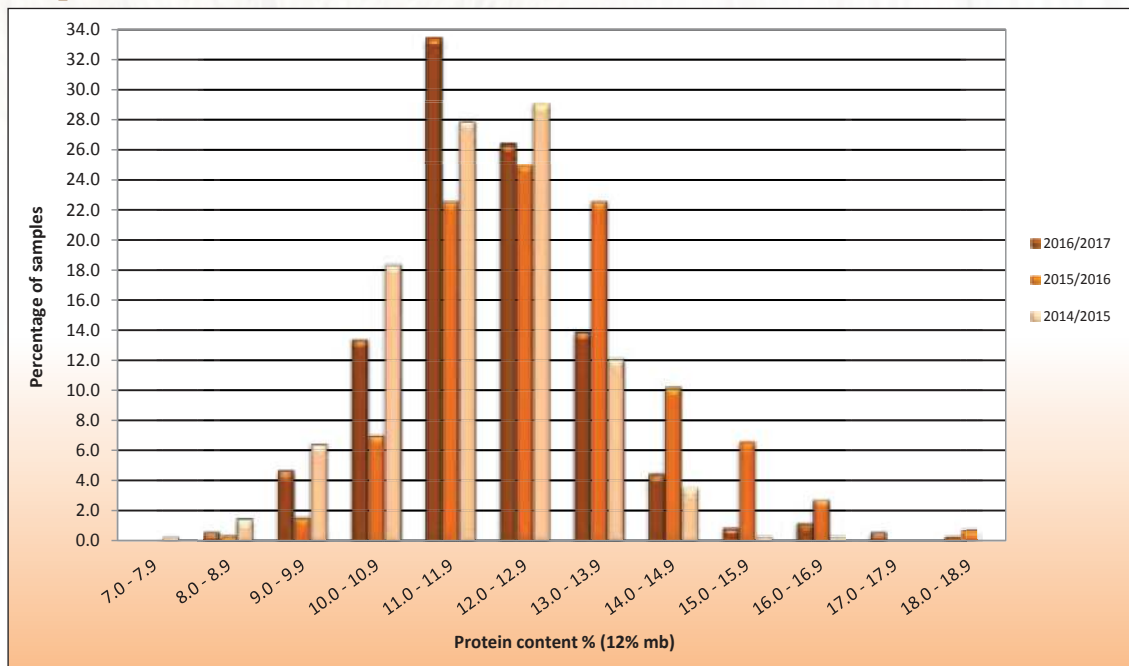


## Crop quality of the 2016/2017 season

All national, seasonal and regional averages provided in this report are weighted averages.

The national whole wheat protein average of 12.0% is the second highest since the 2010/2011 season. Protein content is generally a function of the environment (soil and climatic conditions) where the wheat was grown as well as fertilizer treatment. The percentage of samples with protein contents exceeding 13.0%, decreased significantly from the 43.2% of the previous season (which can be attributed to the extreme drought conditions experienced) to 21.4%, which compares better to the 16.4% and 18.3% respectively of the 2014/2015 and 2013/2014 seasons.

**Graph 19: Protein content distribution over the last three seasons**



The Winter rainfall areas reported the second highest whole wheat protein average (after last season) since the 2011/2012 season, namely 11.4%. The Irrigation areas averaged 12.3% and the production regions in the Free State province 14.3% (1.1% higher than last season).

**Graph 20: Protein content distribution between the three production areas**

