

Supply and Demand

World wheat production for the 2017/2018 season is estimated at 757.92 million metric tons according to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report 579 of 12 July 2018*, world production for 2018/2019 is projected to be 736.26 million metric tons.

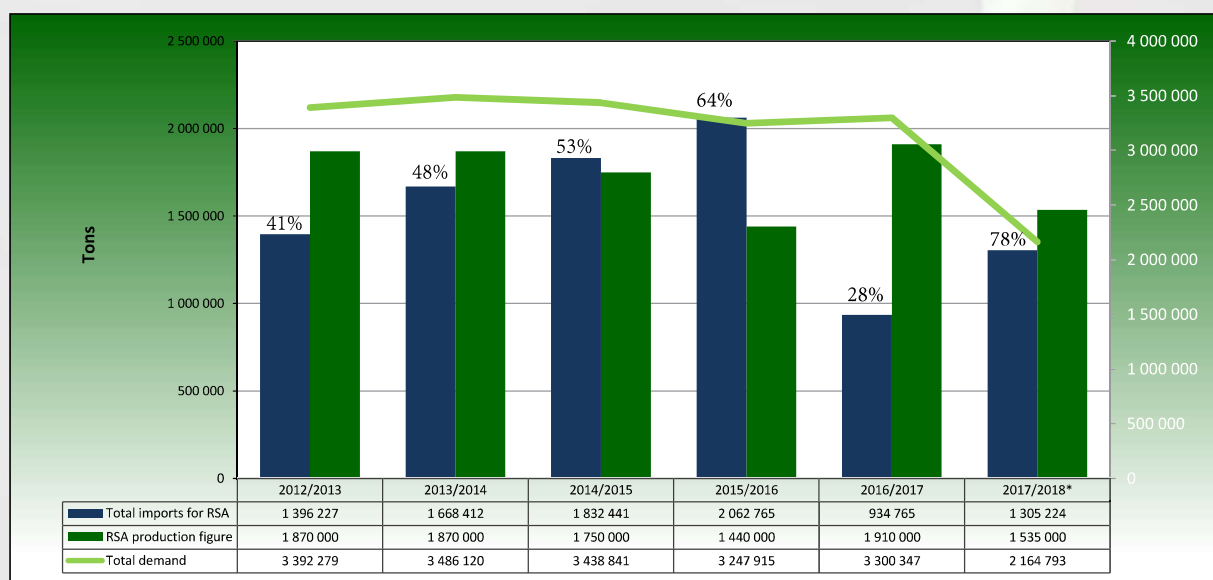
South Africa is a net importer of wheat and relies on imports to supply local demand. Demand for wheat processing (human, animal, and gristing) was fairly stable over the past four seasons, varying 63 116 tons between the highest and lowest. Eight months into the 2017/2018 season this figure stands at 2 066 592 tons, 65% of the previous season's figure.

During the 2016/2017 season 934 765 tons of wheat were imported for local use. This figure constitutes an almost 55% decrease compared to the severe drought stricken 2015/2016 season. A quarter (237 508 tons) of the total amount of wheat imported during the 2016/2017 season, originated in Germany, followed by 182 993 tons from the Russian Federation and 144 402 tons from the Czech Republic. Please see pages 86 to 107 for the quality of the wheat imported during 2016/2017. 92 898 tons of local wheat were exported to countries such as Zimbabwe, Botswana and Lesotho and Zambia during the corresponding period.

The amount of wheat imported for local consumption during the current marketing season (up to 13 July 2018), amounts to 1 677 162 tons according to SAGIS. Almost 36% of this wheat originated in the Russian Federation.

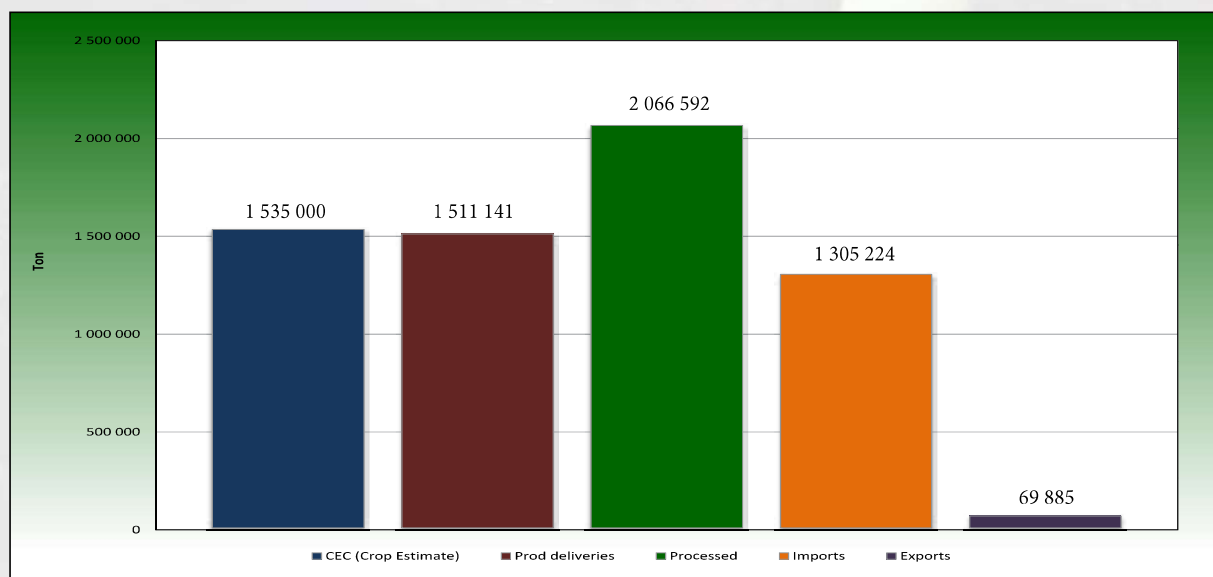
The RSA wheat marketing season commences on the 1st of October every year.

Graph 5: Wheat import figures as a percentage of the total demand over six seasons



*2017/2018 season figure includes imports and total demand from October to May.

Graph 6: Wheat supply and demand overview 2017/2018 season (Oct - May)



Figures provided by SAGIS, (Publication date: 2018-06-26)