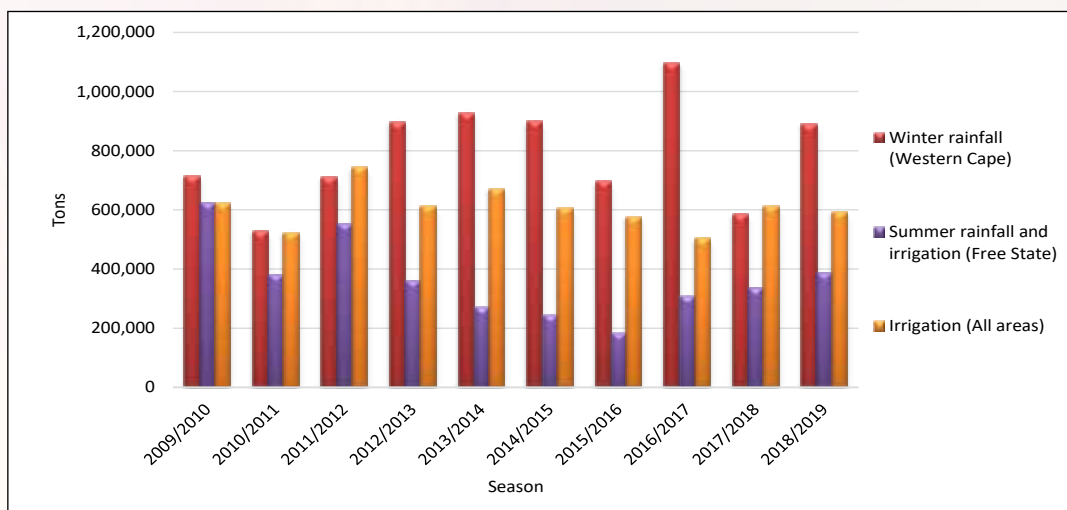


The final production figure of 1 868 000 tons is 4% higher than the ten-year production average of 1 789 800 tons (2008/2009 to 2017/2018 seasons). The Western Cape produced 890 500 tons of wheat this season, contributing 47.7% of the total crop, compared to the 38.2% of the drought stricken previous season. The Free State's wheat production (385 000 tons) was the highest of the last seven seasons. This figure was also the second highest nationally. The irrigation areas of the Northern Cape, the third largest wheat producing area this season, produced 294 500 tons, 17 150 tons less than last season. The remainder of the wheat was produced mainly in Limpopo with 128 000 tons, representing a decrease of 3% compared to the 2017/2018 season and North West, where production increased by 2% to 85 330 tons. Please see Graphs 1 and 2.

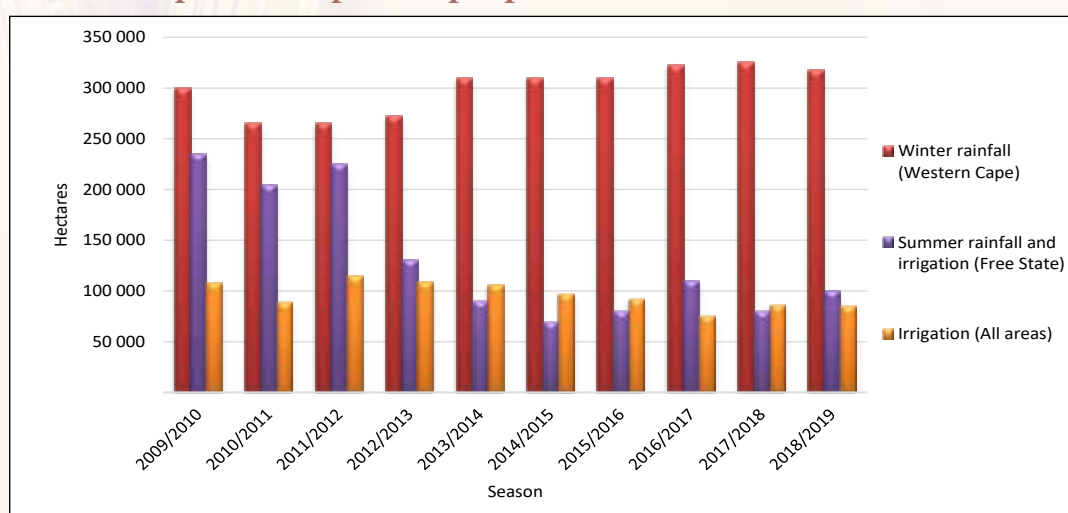
Graph 2: Wheat production figures per production area over ten seasons



Figures provided by the CEC.

The area utilized for wheat production increased by 2.4% to 503 350 hectares from 491 600 hectares in the previous season. Hectares cultivated under wheat in the Western Cape declined by 2.5%, while a 25% increase was observed in the Free State. Nationally, dry land area increased by 2.9% year on year and irrigation area showed a slight increase of almost 1%. Please see Graph 3.

Graph 3: Area planted per production area over ten seasons



Figures provided by the CEC.

The yield in the main production areas ranged from 2.80 tons per hectare (t/ha) in the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape to 3.85 t/ha in the Free State (summer rainfall and irrigation) to 7.75 t/ha for irrigation wheat produced in the Northern Cape. The national yield average increased from 3.12 t/ha in the previous season to 3.71 t/ha. Please see Graph 4 as well as Table 1 on the next page.