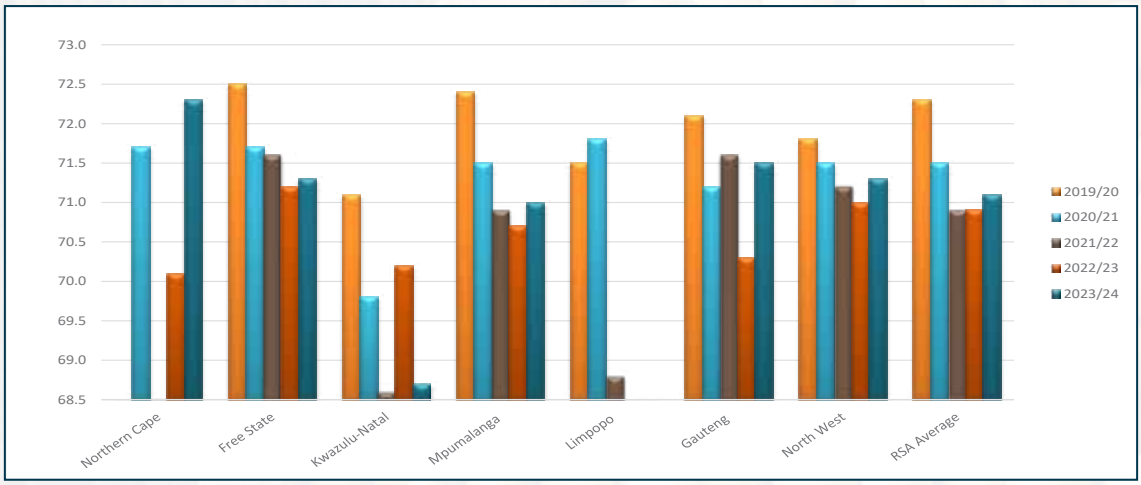
Graph 21: Comparison of the test weight per province over five seasons



The nutritional component analyses, namely crude protein, - fat, - fibre and ash are reported on a dry/moisture-free basis (db) for the current as well as the previous surveys. For comparison purposes the national average 'as is' or wet basis results for the last five seasons are provided in Table 3. These 'as is' average values were calculated by converting each individual value from dry basis to 'as is'.

Table 3: Comparison of weighted average nutritional component values on a dry and 'as is' basis over five seasons

Season	2023/24		2022/23		2021/22		2020/21		2019/20	
Moisture, % (17hr, 103°C)	7.6		8.2		8.2		7.5		7.2	
Moisture basis	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**	**Dry basis**	**As is**
Crude protein, %	40.26	37.21	40.19	36.90	39.54	36.31	39.96	36.95	39.99	37.12
Crude fat, %	20.5	19.0	19.9	18.3	19.6	18.0	19.5	18.0	18.0	16.7
Crude fibre, %	6.6	6.1	7.1	6.5	7.2	6.6	6.8	6.3	7.0	6.5
Ash, %	4.61	4.26	4.54	4.17	4.63	4.25	4.55	4.21	4.63	4.19
No. of samples	***200***		***174***		***150***		***150***		***150***	

The weighted average crude protein content this season was 40.26%, similar to the 40.19% of the previous season. The averages between provinces ranged from 39.35% in the Northen Cape to 40.49% in Gauteng. The weighted average crude fat percentage of 20.5% was the highest since the 2011/12 season when this survey commenced. The samples from KwaZulu-Natal had the highest average crude fat content, namely 22.2%. The lowest fat average was observed in Gauteng province with 20.4%.

The weighted average percentage crude fibre varied from 6.2% in North West to 6.9% in the Northern Cape. The RSA weighted average was 6.6% compared to the 7.1% of the previous season. This season, the weighted average ash content was 4.61%, last season's average was 4.54%. Averages ranged from 4.57% in Mpumalanga to 4.81% in the Northern Cape.

Graphs 22 to 25 on page 22 provide comparisons between provinces over seasons for the nutritional components mentioned above.