

Supply and Demand

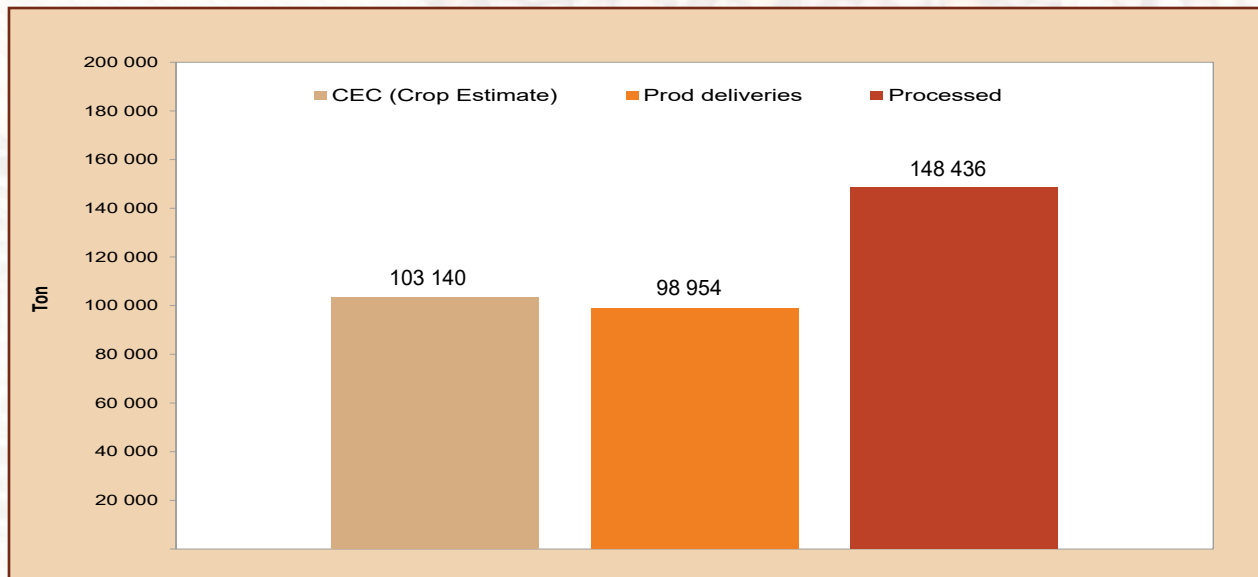
The sorghum marketing season dates from March to February. According to SAGIS supply and demand figures for the 2022/23 marketing season to date (March 2022 to January 2023), opening stock increased by 105% compared to the previous marketing season and is also 68% higher than the ten-year average.

To date, only 706 tons of sorghum have been imported, compared to the 4 147, 6 546 and 59 253 tons of the previous three seasons respectively. The ten-year import average is 39 434 tons. China is the main importer of sorghum in the world and imported 10 991 thousand metric tons (92.5% of all imports) during the 2021/22 season. To date (2022/23 season), China has imported 4 800 thousand metric tons of sorghum (*United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS), April 2023 report*).

Of the 148 436 tons of sorghum processed in South Africa so far this season, 39% was used for malting purposes and of this 21% was indoor malting and 79% floor malting. Sorghum processed as meal, rice and grits amounted to 44%. The remainder of the sorghum was processed for pet food, as well as poultry and livestock feed. The previous season 152 058 tons of sorghum was processed. The ten-year average is 162 330 tons.

Local exports to date amount to 10 425 tons, compared to 9 058 tons and 5 380 tons of the last two seasons respectively. The ten-year export average of 15 157 tons. Globally, the United States was by far the largest exporter of sorghum up to the 2021/2022 season. During the 2022/23 season to date, the USA exported 2 250 thousand metric tons of the total amount of 6 487 thousand metric tons. Australia is a close second with 2 200 thousand metric tons, followed by Argentina with 1 700 thousand metric tons (*USDA FAS, April 2023 report*).

*Graph 11: Sorghum supply and demand overview for the current marketing season
(Mar 2022 - Jan 2023)*



Information provided by SAGIS.