

# South African

## Commercial sunflower quality for the 2024/25 Season

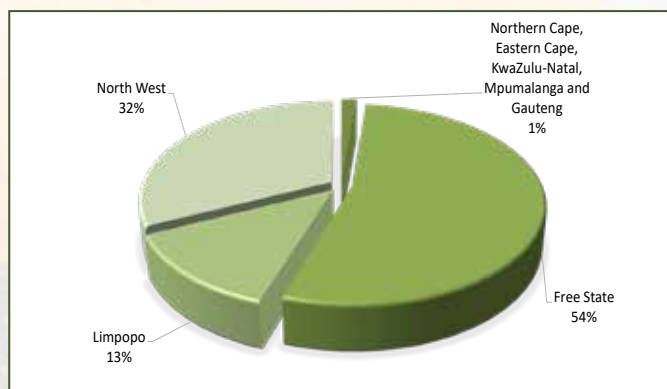
### Acknowledgements

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- **Agbiz Grain and its members for providing the samples for this survey.**
- **The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture (NDA) for providing production related figures.**
- **South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing sunflower related supply and demand figures.**

## Introduction

The final calculated commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2024/25 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 700 000 tons. This is 1.17% less than the final crop estimate figure of 708 300 tons. The crop increased by almost 11% (68 000 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed almost 86% to the total crop.



Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2024/25 sunflower crop

Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflower seed was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations at the various grain intake points. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 28. One hundred and thirteen (113) composite sunflower samples, representing the different production regions, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat, crude fibre and ash content.

This is the thirteenth annual sunflower crop quality survey performed by The Southern African Grain Laboratory NPC (SAGL). SAGL was established in 1997 at request of the Grain Industry. SAGL is an ISO 17025 accredited testing laboratory and participates in various proficiency testing schemes, both nationally and internationally, as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The goal of this crop quality survey is the compilation of a detailed database, accumulating quality data collected over several seasons on the national commercial sunflower crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies and highlight quality differences in the commercial sunflower seed produced in different production regions nationally.

Results of previous surveys are available on the SAGL website ([www.sagl.co.za](http://www.sagl.co.za)). Reports are available for reading in an easy to page format or for download. Hard copy reports are distributed to Directly Affected Groups and interested parties.

In addition to the quality information, production figures (obtained from the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)) relating to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained on a national as well as provincial basis, over an eleven-season period, are provided in this report. SAGIS (South African Grain Information Service) supply and demand information is provided in table and graph format. Import and export figures over several seasons as well as information on the manufacture, import and export of oil seed products, are also included.

The report of the Evaluation of sunflower cultivars for the 2024/25 season, conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Corteva (Pannar & Pioneer), Syngenta and Limagrain Field seeds, is included in totality and as received. The national grading regulations published in Government Notice NO. 45 of 22 January 2016 are also provided.

## Production

World sunflower seed production for the 2024/25 season stands at 55.4 million metric tons with Russia and the Ukraine contributing 53% to this total. An area of 30.4 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 1.82 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2025/26 season is 56.6 million metric tons harvested on 33.0 million hectares with a yield of 1.71 metric tons/hectare.

Please see Table 1 for the world sunflower seed supply and disappearance figures.

<b>Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Disappearance (October through September)</b>						
<b>Season</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2023/24 (Revised)</b>	<b>2024/25 (Forecast)</b>
<b>Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)</b>	<b>28 045</b>	<b>29 877</b>	<b>29 983</b>	<b>29 822</b>	<b>30 400</b>	<b>33 017</b>
<b>Yield (MT/Ha)</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>1.71</b>
<b>Production (1 000 MT)</b>						
Argentina	3 200	3 360	4 130	3 840	5 170	5 750
European Union	8 969	10 389	9 520	9 983	8 717	8 538
China	2 750	2 880	2 930	3 000	3 100	3 200
Russia	13 420	15 660	17 100	18 600	17 500	18 300
Ukraine	13 900	16 900	12 680	15 100	12 100	11 400
United States	1 353	864	1 276	1 024	520	1 053
South Africa	678	846	720	632	708	700
Turkey	1 580	1 750	1 730	1 280	1 250	1 130
Other	4 995	5 652	5 947	5 970	6 366	6 480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50 845</b>	<b>58 301</b>	<b>56 033</b>	<b>59 429</b>	<b>55 431</b>	<b>56 551</b>
<b>Seed Import (1 000 MT)</b>						
Turkey	844	673	981	301	794	900
European Union	817	1 807	1 466	834	587	771
Other	1 308	1 639	1 492	1 480	1 343	1 373
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 969</b>	<b>4 119</b>	<b>3 939</b>	<b>2 615</b>	<b>2 724</b>	<b>3 044</b>
<b>Seed Export (1 000 MT)</b>						
Argentina	178	158	91	80	133	220
United States	72	69	63	47	36	50
Russia	528	280	285	324	267	275
Ukraine	186	1 793	1 685	302	69	52
Other	1 907	1 875	1 755	1 964	2 475	2 385
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 871</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>3 879</b>	<b>2 717</b>	<b>2 980</b>	<b>2 982</b>
<b>Oilseed crushed</b>	<b>45 568</b>	<b>48 315</b>	<b>52 180</b>	<b>55 470</b>	<b>49 741</b>	<b>51 478</b>

National Sunflower Association website [www.sunflowermsa.com](http://www.sunflowermsa.com),  
Table updated January 14, 2026; Source: Oil World & USDA.