

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.

Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Disappearance (October through September)						
Season	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24 (Revised)	2024/25 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)	28 045	29 877	29 983	29 822	30 400	33 017
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.81	1.95	1.87	1.99	1.82	1.71
Production (1 000 MT)						
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
TOTAL	50 845	58 301	56 033	59 429	55 431	56 551
Seed Import (1 000 MT)						
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
TOTAL	2 969	4 119	3 939	2 615	2 724	3 044
Seed Export (1 000 MT)						
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
TOTAL	2 871	4 175	3 879	2 717	2 980	2 982
Oilseed crushed	45 568	48 315	52 180	55 470	49 741	51 478

National Sunflower Association website www.sunflowermsa.com,
Table updated January 14, 2026; Source: Oil World & USDA.

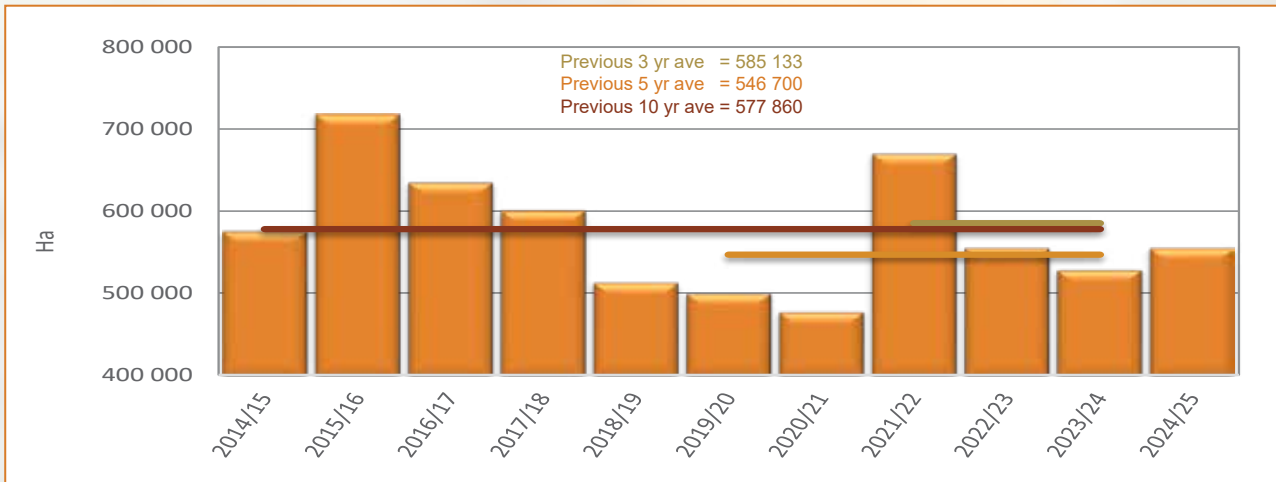
Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions. Sunflower plants are drought tolerant and thus a crucial risk diversification crop going forward. The deep root system of a sunflower plant enables the plant to perform better than other crops during dry seasons. Planting sunflowers is also advantageous when rainfall occurs late in the season, due to the late planting window relative to that of maize.

The area utilised for sunflower production increased by 5% to 555 700 ha, compared to the 529 000 ha of the previous season. The national yield average increased by almost 6% from to 1.19 t/ha in the previous season to 1.26 t/ha this season.

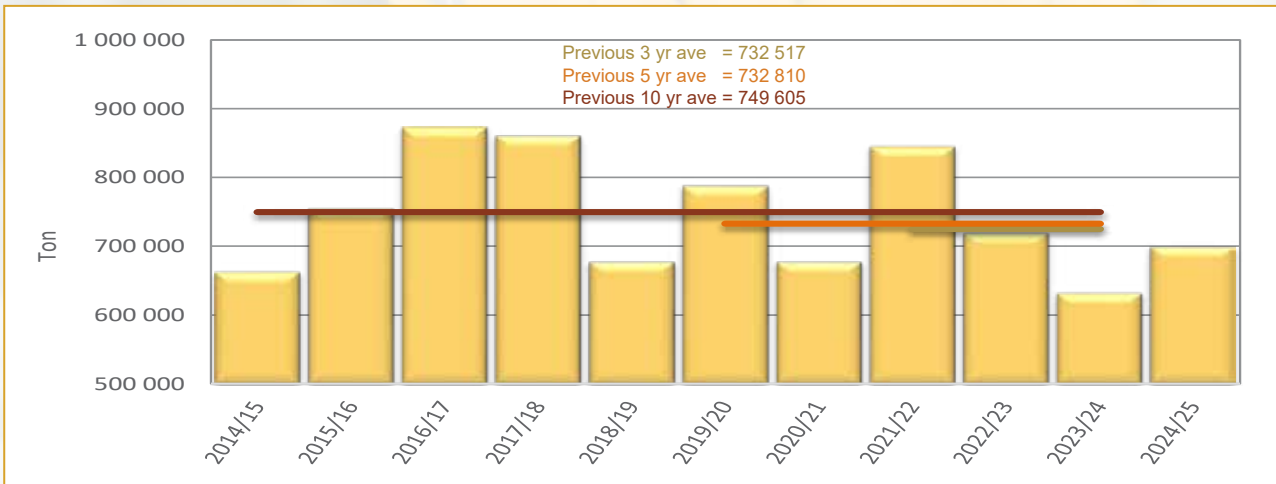
Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2024/25 season, compared to the 2023/24 season. Graphs 2 to 4 provide national figures with regards to hectares planted, tonnage produced and yields obtained over the last 11 seasons and Graphs 5 to 10 similar figures for the major sunflower producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West as well as Limpopo.

Table 2: Sunflower production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2024/25			2023/24		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	1 000	2 300	2.30	2 000	4 600	2.30
	Total	1 000	2 300	2.30	2 000	4 600	2.30
Free State	Dryland	262 500	367 025	1.40	250 000	341 250	1.37
	Irrigation	2 000	8 200	4.10	5 000	12 750	2.55
	Total	264 500	375 225	1.42	255 000	354 000	1.39
Eastern Cape	Dryland	700	1 400	2.00	700	1 400	2.00
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	700	1 400	2.00	700	1 400	2.00
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	1 000	2 000	2.00	300	600	2.00
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 000	2 000	2.00	300	600	2.00
Mpumalanga	Dryland	2 500	3 625	1.45	3 500	4 900	1.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 500	3 625	1.45	3 500	4 900	1.40
Limpopo	Dryland	88 600	87 480	0.99	89 000	61 200	0.69
	Irrigation	1 400	2 520	1.80	1 000	1 800	1.80
	Total	90 000	90 000	1.00	90 000	63 000	0.70
Gauteng	Dryland	985	1 177	1.19	2 500	3 000	1.20
	Irrigation	15	23	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 000	1 200	1.20	2 500	3 000	1.20
North West	Dryland	193 900	221 280	1.14	172 000	193 500	1.13
	Irrigation	1 100	2 970	2.70	3 000	7 000	2.33
	Total	195 000	224 250	1.15	175 000	200 500	1.15
RSA	Dryland	550 185	683 987	1.24	518 000	605 850	1.17
	Irrigation	5 515	16 013	2.90	11 000	26 150	2.38
	Total	555 700	700 000	1.26	529 000	632 000	1.19

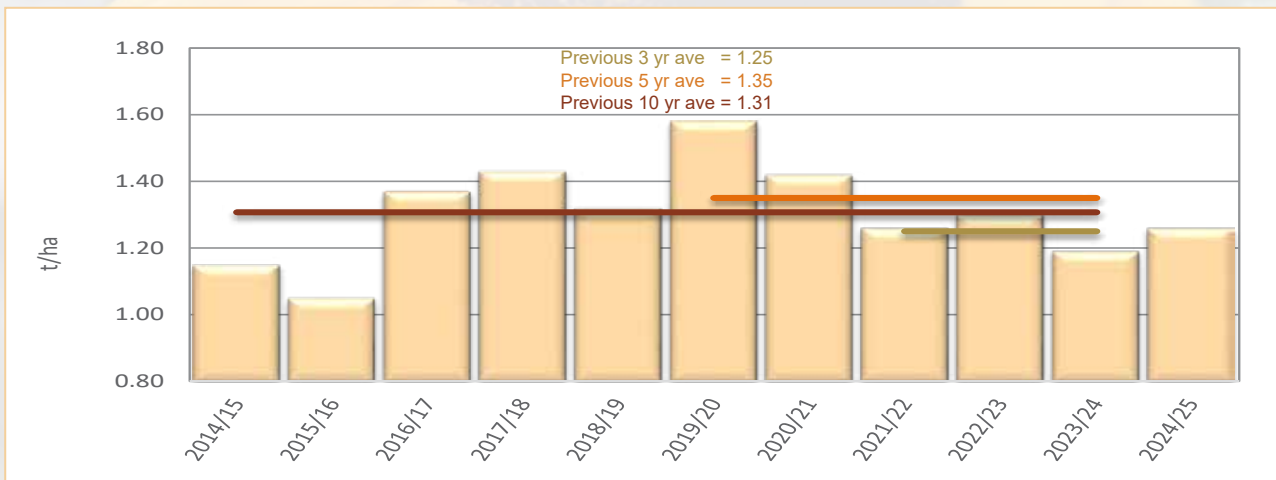
Figures provided by the CEC.



Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for sunflower production from 2014/15 to 2024/25

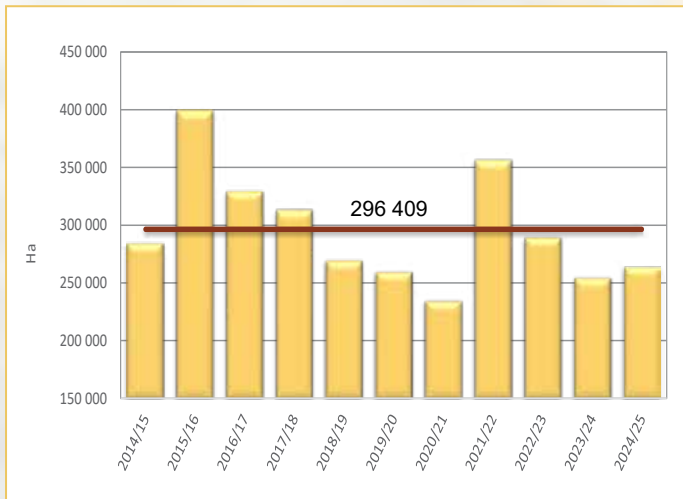


Graph 3: RSA Sunflower production from 2014/15 to 2024/25

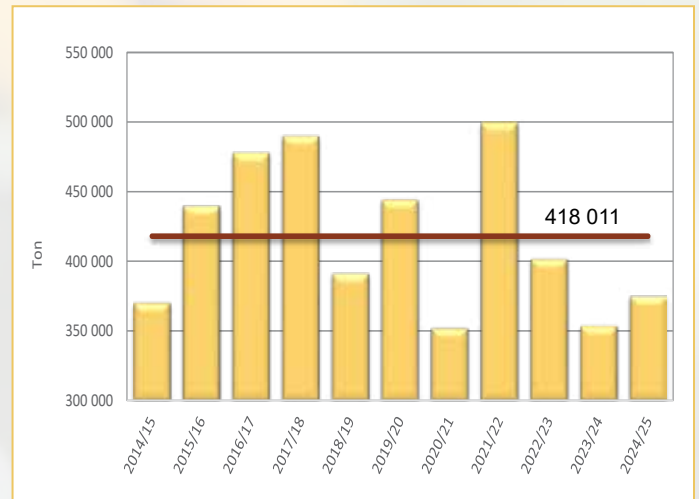


Graph 4: RSA Sunflower yield from 2014/15 to 2024/25

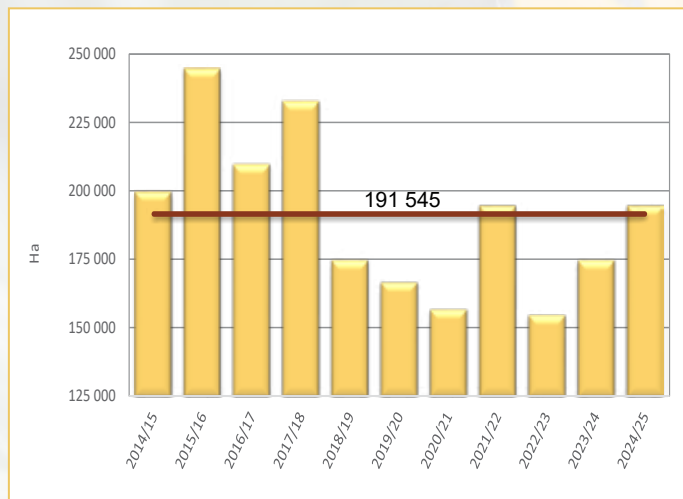
Figures provided by the CEC.



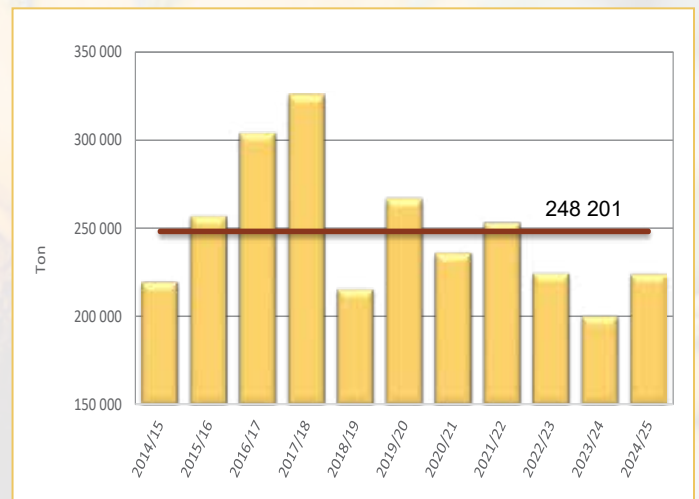
Graph 5: Area utilised for sunflower production in the Free State since 2014/15



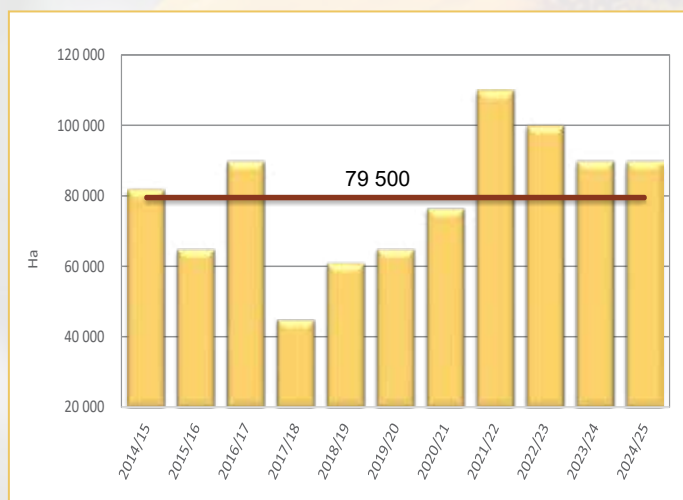
Graph 6: Sunflower production in the Free State since 2014/15



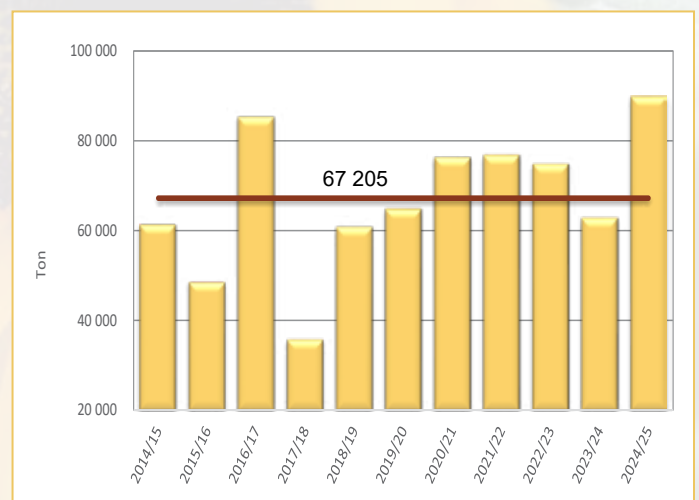
Graph 7: Area utilised for sunflower production in North West since 2014/15



Graph 8: Sunflower production in North West since 2014/15



Graph 9: Area utilised for sunflower production in Limpopo since 2014/15



Graph 10: Sunflower production in Limpopo since 2014/15

Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average