

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

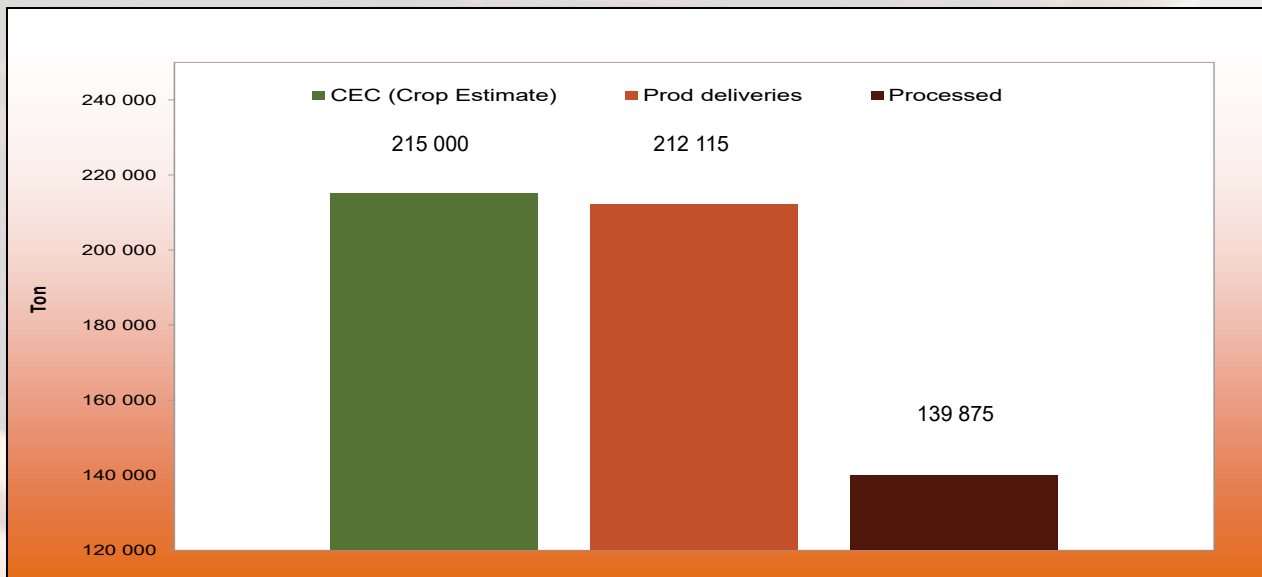
The sorghum marketing season dates from March to February. According to SAGIS supply and demand figures for the 2021/22 marketing season to date (March 2021 to January 2022), opening stock decreased by 14% compared to the previous marketing season and is also almost 21% lower than the ten-year average.

To date, only 4 147 tons of sorghum have been imported, compared to the 6 546 and 59 253 tons of the previous two seasons respectively. The ten-year import average is 44 799 tons. China is the main importer of sorghum in the world and imported 10 500 thousand metric tons (82% of all imports) during the 2021/22 season (*United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS), March 2022 report*).

Of the 139 875 tons of sorghum processed in South Africa so far this season, 42% 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 48%. The remainder of the sorghum was processed for pet food, as well as poultry and livestock feed. The previous season 165 908 tons of sorghum was processed. The ten-year average is 166 114 tons.

Local exports to date amount to 5 897 tons, compared to 5 380 tons last season and the ten-year average of 16 731 tons. Globally, the United States is by far the largest exporter of sorghum. During the 2021/22 season the USA exported 8 000 thousand metric tons (63% of the total amount of 12 728 thousand metric tons) followed by Argentina and Australia (*USDA FAS, March 2022 report*).

Graph 11: Sorghum supply and demand overview for the current marketing season (Mar 2021 - Feb 2022)



Information provided by SAGIS.