

Supply and Demand

The sorghum marketing season dates from March to February. According to the 2023/24 marketing season figures (March 2023 to February 2024) in the SAGIS supply and demand table on page 8, opening stock decreased by 56% compared to the previous marketing season and is almost 30% lower than the ten-year average.

83 049 tons of sorghum were imported, compared to the 768 and 4 147 tons of the previous two seasons respectively (see Graph 13). The ten-year import average is 37 332 tons. China is the main importer of sorghum in the world and imported 7 500 thousand metric tons (83% of all imports) during the 2023/24 season (United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS), May 2024 report).

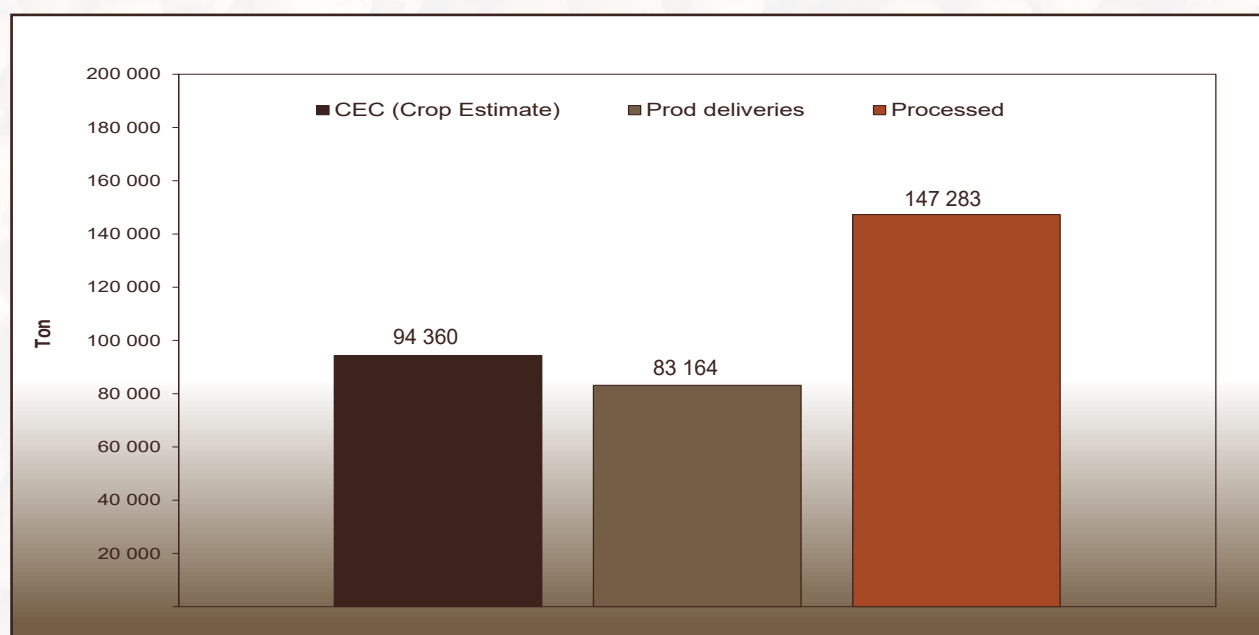
Of the 147 283 tons of sorghum processed in South Africa during the 2023/24 season, 36% was used for malting purposes and of this 25% was indoor malting and 75% floor malting. Sorghum processed as meal, rice and grits amounted to 55%. The remainder of the sorghum was processed for pet food, as well as poultry and livestock feed. The previous season 160 241 tons of sorghum was processed. The ten-year average is 159 529 tons.

Local exports amounted to 12 395 tons, compared to 10 841 tons last season and the ten-year average of 13 626 tons. Globally, the United States is by far the largest exporter of sorghum. During the 2023/24 season the USA exported 6 200 thousand metric tons (68% of the total amount of 9 069 thousand metric tons) followed by Australia and Argentina (USDA FAS, May 2024 report).

Refer to the tables on page 10 for South African imports and exports per country and harbour.

Graph 11 provides a supply and demand overview for the 2023/24 marketing season.

Graph 11: Sorghum supply and demand overview for the current marketing season
(Mar 2023 - Feb 2024)



Information provided by SAGIS.