

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 are also included.

The national sorghum grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette of 8 January 2016 are provided as the last section of the report.

Production

Sorghum is a tropical grass grown primarily in semi-arid regions of the world. Sorghum can grow in areas too dry for maize and is deemed to be the fifth most important grain crop grown in the world (after maize, wheat, rice and barley).

World sorghum production for the 2023/24 season was 59.1 million tons and for the 2024/25 season 63.4 million tons. The United States of America remains the largest contributor (8.7 million tons in the 2024/25 season). See Table 1a for the world sorghum trade (export and import figures) as well as production, consumption and stocks figures in Table 1b.

Table 1a: World Sorghum Trade October/September Trade Year, Thousand Metric Tons					
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 Sep
Trade Year Exports					
Australia	2 267	2 753	2 060	2 700	2 600
Argentina	1 800	800	1 100	1 400	1 400
Brazil	10	1	93	175	75
India	41	37	33	40	50
Nigeria	50	50	50	50	50
Ukraine	72	66	36	40	45
Paraguay	21	38	63	135	35
Others	170	85	86	97	102
Subtotal	4 431	3 830	3 521	4 637	4 357
United States	7 387	2 965	5 964	2 400	5 400
World Total	11 818	6 795	9 485	7 037	9 757
Trade Year Imports					
China	10 991	4 863	8 341	5 500	7 600
Mexico	362	176	60	500	600
European Union	167	38	16	200	200
Japan	258	241	127	130	200
Kenya	79	152	24	160	75
Eritrea	95	63	162	70	60
Ethiopia	12	35	14	275	50
Somalia	50	50	50	50	50
Sudan	75	110	60	75	50
Taiwan	55	50	51	55	50
Others	386	310	475	549	303
Subtotal	12 530	6 088	9 380	7 564	9 238
Unaccounted	- 712	707	104	- 528	519
United States	0	0	1	1	0
World Total	11 818	6 795	9 485	7 037	9 757

Note:

Unaccounted: This term includes grain in transit, reporting discrepancies in some countries and trade to countries outside the USDA database.

All trade tables contain Trade Year (TY) data which puts all countries on a uniform, 12-month period for analytical comparisons: Sorghum Oct/Sep, irrespective of the different local marketing years. TY 2024/25 corresponds to Oct 2024 to Sep 2025.