

Supply and Demand

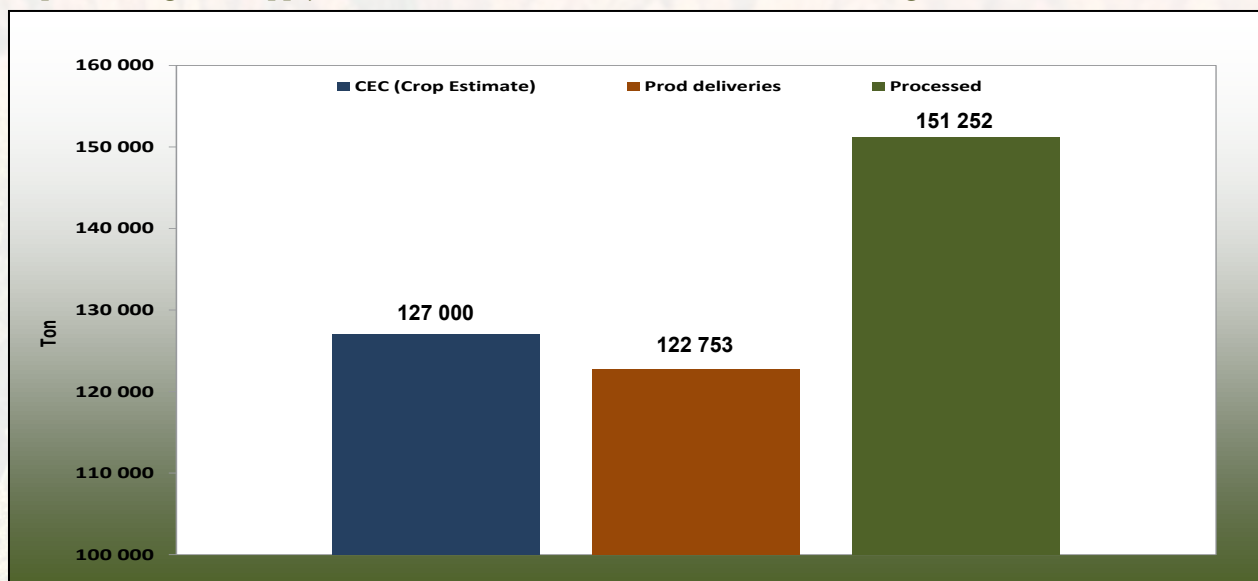
The sorghum marketing season dates from March to February. According to SAGIS supply and demand figures for the 2019/20 marketing season to date (March 2019 to January 2020), opening stock decreased by 12% compared to the previous marketing season and is 30% lower than the ten-year average.

To date, 59 014 tons of sorghum have been imported, compared to the 45 739 and 55 824 tons of the previous two seasons respectively. A subsample of all samples drawn by inspectors of the South African Agricultural Food, Quarantine and Inspection Services (SAAFQIS) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF/DALRRD) is forwarded to the SAGL for analysis. Please see pages 30 and 31 for the quality of the sorghum imported from the USA and Argentina between March 2019 and February 2020.

Of the 151 252 tons of sorghum processed so far, 36% was used for malting purposes and 58% was processed as meal, rice and grits. This ratio has remained steady for the last six years. The remainder of the sorghum was processed for pet food and animal feed.

Exports to date amount to 6 886 tons, compared to 9 482 tons last season and the ten-year average of 23 419 tons. Globally, the United States are by far the largest exporter of sorghum, followed by Argentina (*United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS), March 2020 report*).

Graph 11: Sorghum supply and demand overview for the current marketing season (Mar 2019 - Feb 2020)



Information provided by SAGIS.