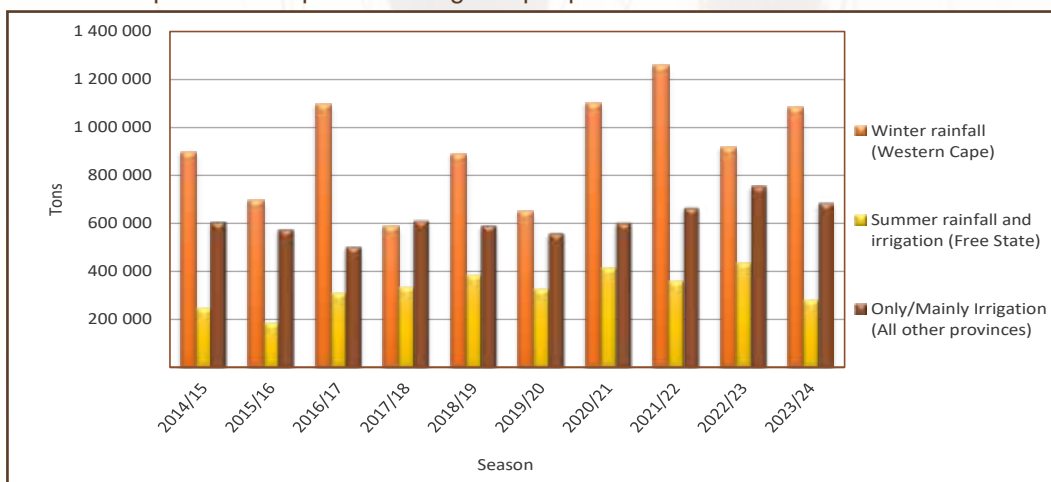


The final production figure of 2 050 000 tons is 11% higher than the ten-year production average of 1 842 300 tons (2013/14 to 2022/23 seasons). The Western Cape produced 1 084 000 tons of wheat this season, representing a year-on-year increase of 18% and a 53% contribution to the total crop. The irrigation areas of the Northern Cape, the second largest wheat producing area this season, produced 292 000 tons, 14% less than last season. The Free State's wheat production (280 800 tons) decreased by 36% year-on-year. The remainder of wheat was produced mainly in Limpopo with 195 000 tons, representing a 4% increase compared to the 2022/23 season and North West, where production decreased by 28% to 67 650 tons. Please see Graphs 1 and 2 for national wheat production figures and wheat production figures per production area over ten seasons.

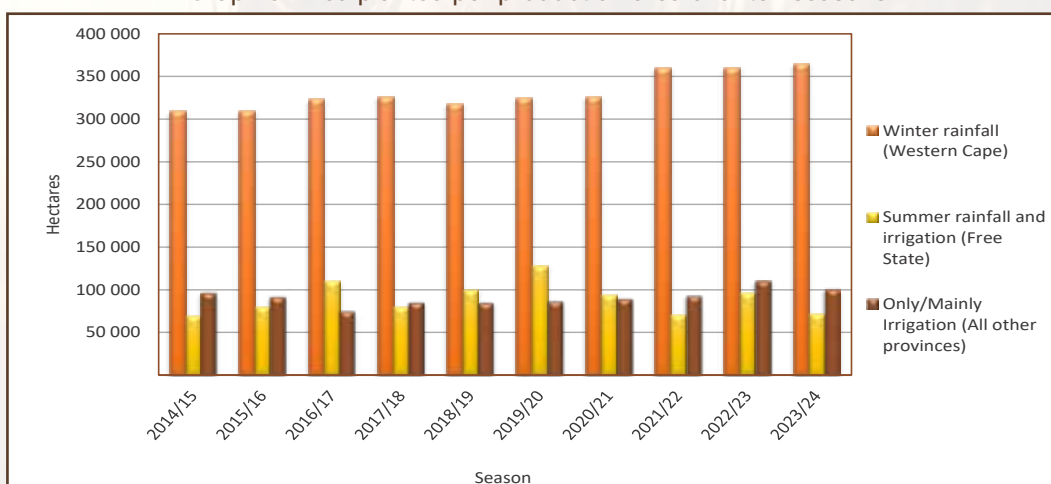
Graph 2: Wheat production figures per production area over ten seasons



Figures provided by the CEC.

The area utilised for wheat production decreased by 5% to 537 950 hectares compared to the 2022/23 season. There was a slight increase (1%) in the hectares cultivated under wheat in the Western Cape, while the wheat production area in the Free State decreased by 25% year-on-year. Nationally, dry land and irrigation areas decreased by 2% and 14% respectively year on year. Please see Graph 3.

Graph 3: Area planted per production area over ten seasons



Figures provided by the CEC.

The yield in the main production areas ranged from 2.97 tons per hectare (t/ha) in the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape to 7.30 t/ha for irrigation wheat produced in the Northern Cape. The Free State (summer rainfall and irrigation areas) averaged 3.90 t/ha. The national yield average increased by 2.4% from 3.72 t/ha in the previous season to 3.81 t/ha this season. Please see Graph 4 for the average yield per production area over ten seasons.

The figures illustrated in Graphs 2 to 4 are based on the production figures per province as provided by the CEC and reported in Table 1.