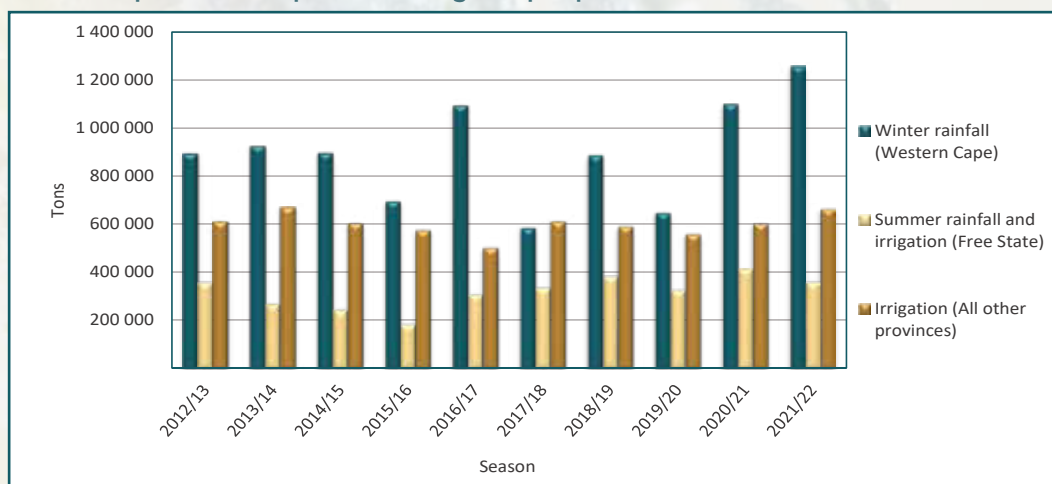


The final production figure of 2 285 000 tons is 28% higher than the ten-year production average of 1 790 300 tons (2011/12 to 2020/21 seasons). The Western Cape produced 1 260 000 tons of wheat this season, representing a year on year increase of 14% and contributing 55% of the total crop. The Free State's wheat production (360 000 tons) declined by 13% year on year. The irrigation areas of the Northern Cape, the third largest wheat producing area this season, produced 275 125 tons, 1% more than last season. The remainder of the wheat was produced mainly in Limpopo with 176 220 tons, representing an increase of 20% compared to the 2020/21 season and North West, where production increased by almost 17% to 95 900 tons. Please see Graphs 1 and 2.

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



Figures provided by the CEC.

The area utilised for wheat production increased by 3% to 523 500 hectares compared to the previous season. Hectares cultivated under wheat in the Western Cape increased by 10% year on year, while the wheat production area in the Free State declined by 26% this season. Nationally, dry land and irrigation areas increased by 3% and 1% 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 3.50 tons per hectare (t/ha) in the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape to 7.75 t/ha for irrigation wheat produced in the Northern Cape. The Free State (summer rainfall and irrigation areas) averaged 5.14 t/ha. The national yield average increased from 4.16 t/ha in the previous season to 4.36 t/ha this season. These two figures represent the two highest average wheat yields reported nationally over all seasons. Please see Graph 4 as well as Table 1 on the next page.

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

Table 1 provides an overview of the dry land versus irrigation wheat production over the last two seasons.