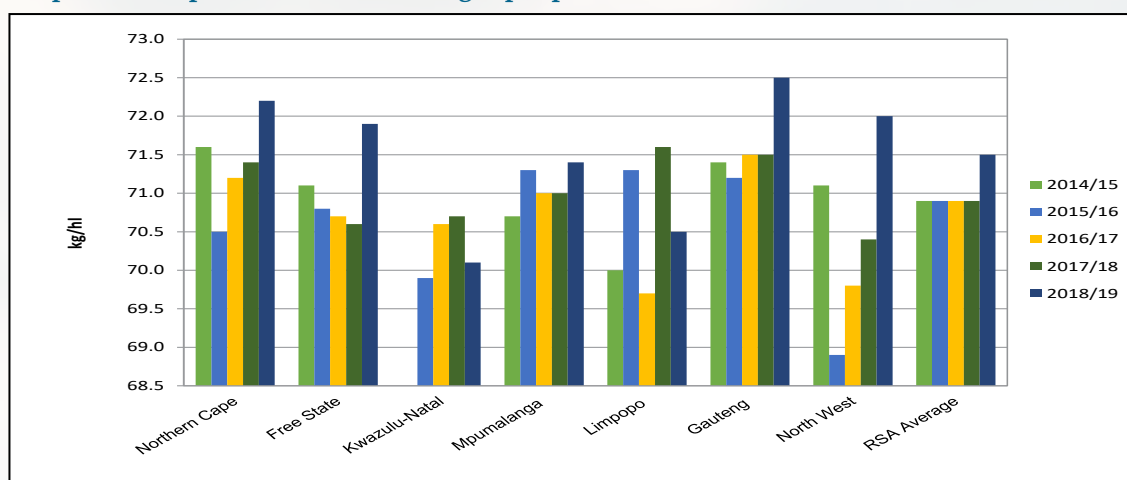


**Graph 21: Comparison of the test weight per province over five seasons**



The nutritional component analyses, namely crude protein, - fat, - fibre and ash are reported on a dry/moisture-free basis (db) for the current as well as the previous surveys. For comparison purposes the national average ‘as is’ basis results are provided in Table 3. These ‘as is’ averages values were calculated by converting each individual value from dry basis to ‘as is’.

**Table 3: Comparison of weighted average nutritional component values on a dry and ‘as is’ basis over four seasons**

Season	2018/19		2017/18		2016/17		2015/16	
Moisture, % (17hr, 103°C)	7.0		7.4		7.4		7.4	
<b>Moisture basis</b>	<b>Dry basis</b>	<b>As is</b>	<b>Dry basis</b>	<b>As is</b>	<b>Dry basis</b>	<b>As is</b>	<b>Dry basis</b>	<b>As is</b>
Crude protein, %	40.43	37.60	40.18	37.40	40.15	37.20	40.22	37.22
Crude fat, %	19.1	17.8	19.3	18.0	19.8	18.5	19.4	17.9
Crude fibre, %	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.5	5.9	5.4	7.3	6.8
Ash, %	4.67	4.34	4.59	4.27	4.58	4.24	4.61	4.27
<b>No. of samples</b>	<b>150</b>		<b>150</b>		<b>150</b>		<b>143</b>	

The weighted average crude protein content this season was 40.43% compared to the 40.18% of the previous season. As in the previous two seasons, Limpopo had the highest weighted average crude protein content (41.60%). The Free State (39.76%) and Gauteng (40.05%) again reported the lowest averages. The weighted average crude fat percentage of 19.1% was slightly lower than the 19.3% in the previous season and also the lowest of the last six seasons. The samples from KwaZulu-Natal had the highest weighted average crude fat content, namely 20.6%. The lowest average fat contents were observed in the Northern Cape and Free State provinces, both with 18.6%.

The weighted average percentage crude fibre varied from 6.3% in KwaZulu-Natal to 7.5% in the Northern Cape. The RSA weighted average, 6.8%, was the second highest of the annual surveys since the 7.3% reported in the 2015/16 season. A small variation of only 0.09% is observed with regards to the national weighted average ash content over the eight seasons that this survey has been conducted. This season, the average ash content was 4.67%, the highest of the eight seasons and 0.08% higher than the previous season. Samples from the Northern Cape and Limpopo, as well as North West to a lesser extent, tend to show higher ash contents over seasons compared to the other provinces.

Graphs 22 to 25 on page 18 provide comparisons between provinces over seasons for the nutritional components mentioned above.