MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY BULLETIN OF SOUTH AFRICA
FEBRUARY 2022

Issued: 7 March 2022

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

Highlights:

- **During February 2022, significant and widespread rainfall events were reported over the country with the exception of the south-western parts.**
- **The final production estimate of wheat for 2021 is 2,257 million tons, which is 6,5% more than the previous season (2020).**
- **The projected closing stocks of wheat for the current 2021/22 marketing year are 620 009 tons, which includes imports of 1,475 million tons. It is also 32,6% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The expected commercial maize crop for 2022 is 14 527 950 tons, which is 11,0% less than the previous season (2021).**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2021/22 marketing year are 2,670 million tons, which is 26,1% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **Projected closing stocks of maize for the coming 2022/23 marketing year are 2,026 million tons, which is 24,1% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the current 2021/22 marketing year are 109 770 tons, which is 111,9% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sorghum for the coming 2022/23 marketing year are 107 945 tons, which is 1,7% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for current 2021/22 marketing year are 21 719 tons, which is 64,4% less than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of sunflower seed for coming 2022/23 marketing year are 82 299 tons, which is 278,9% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the current 2021/22 marketing year are 169 053 tons, which is 267,1% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The projected closing stocks of soybeans for the coming 2022/23 marketing year are 225 953 tons, which is 33,6% more than the previous years' ending stocks.**
- **The annual percentage change in the CPI was lower at 5,7% in January 2022.**
- **The annual percentage change in the PPI for final manufactured goods was lower at 10,1% in January 2022.**
- **January 2022 tractor sales of 559 units were 20% more than the 465 units sold in January 2021.**

agriculture, land reform & rural development

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1) Weather conditions

1.1 Rainfall for February 2022

During February 2022, significant and widespread rainfall events were reported over the country with the exception of the south-western parts **(Figure 1)**. Comparing rainfall totals to the long term average for February 2022, rainfall received was near-normal with isolated areas of above-normal rainfall over the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces, as well as parts of Mpumalanga **(Figure 2)**. The remainder of the country received below-normal rainfall. (Source: Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management at Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development)

Figure 1: Rainfall (mm) for February 2022

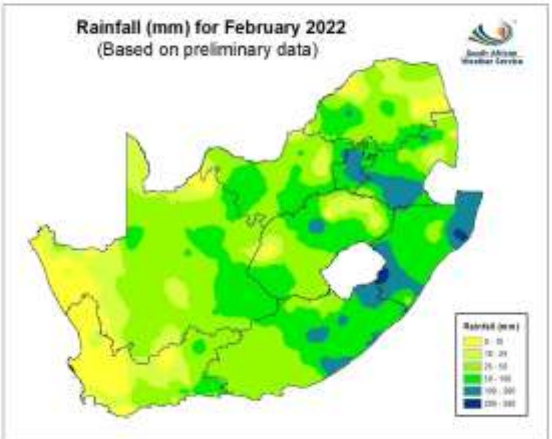
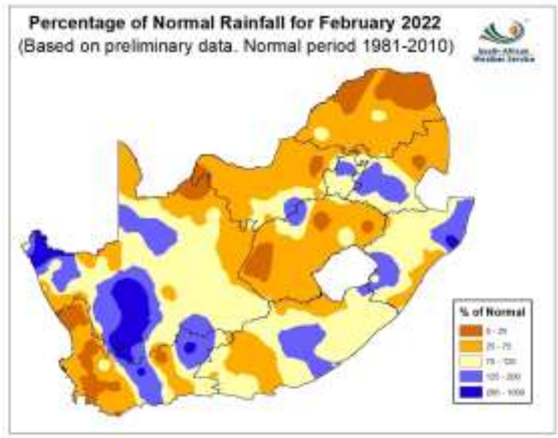


Figure 2: Percentage rainfall for February 2022



1.2 Level of dams

Available information on the level of South Africa's dams on 28 February 2022 indicates that the country has approximately 92% of its full supply capacity (FSC) available, which is 7% more than the corresponding period in 2021. The dam levels in KwaZulu-Natal (22%), Western Cape (9%), Eastern Cape (7%), Northern Cape (6%), Mpumalanga (5%), Free State (2%) and Limpopo (1%) show improvements in the full supply capacity as compared to 2021. The Gauteng Province remains unchanged and does not show any improvement. However, the North West Province (-10%) shows a decrease in full supply capacity as compared to 2021. The provincial distribution of South Africa's water supply including Lesotho and Swaziland is contained in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Level of dams, 28 February 2022

Province	Net FSC million cubic meters	**28/02/2022 (%)**	Last Year (2021) (%)	% Increase/Decrease 2022 vs. 2021
Eastern Cape	1 824	63	56	7,0
Free State	15 657	102	100	2,0
Gauteng	128	101	101	0,0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 912	88	66	22,0
Lesotho	2 363	89	64	25,0
Limpopo	1 480	88	87	1,0
Mpumalanga	2 539	93	88	5,0
North West	867	73	83	-10,0
Northern Cape	147	108	102	6,0
Swaziland	334	100	101	-1,0
Western Cape	1 866	66	57	9,0
Total	**32 117**	**92**	**85**	**7,0**

Source: Department of Water and Sanitation

2. Grain production

2.1 Summer grain crops - 2022

The revised area planted and first production forecast of summer grains for the 2022 season was released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 28 February 2022, and is as follows:

Table 2: Commercial summer crops: Revised area planted and first production forecast - 2022 season

CROP	**Area planted 2022 Ha (A)**	**1st forecast 2022 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2021 Ha (C)	Final crop 2021 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
White maize	**1 571 000**	**7 535 100**	1 691 900	8 600 000	-12,38
Yellow maize	**1 042 500**	**6 992 850**	1 063 500	7 715 000	-9,36
Total Maize	**2 613 500**	**14 527 950**	2 755 400	16 315 000	-10,95
Sunflower seed	**655 700**	**914 350**	477 800	678 000	34,86
Soybeans	**915 300**	**1 821 400**	827 100	1 897 000	-3,99
Groundnuts	**44 900**	**69 200**	38 550	64 300	7,62
Sorghum	**37 700**	**146 590**	49 200	215 000	-31,82
Dry beans	**42 900**	**59 690**	47 390	57 672	3,50
TOTAL	**4 310 000**	**17 539 180**	4 195 440	19 226 972	-8,78

Note: Estimate is for calendar year, e.g. production season 2021/22 = 2022

- The revised area estimate for maize is 2 613 500 ha, which is 5,15% or 141 900 ha less than the 2 755 400 ha planted for the previous season, and 0,15% or 3 800 ha more than the preliminary area estimate of 2 609 700 ha released in January 2022.
- The expected **commercial maize crop** is 14 527 950 tons, which is 10,95% or 1 787 050 tons less than the 16 315 000 tons of the previous season (2021). The yield for maize is 5,56 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **white maize** is 1 571 000 ha, which represents a decrease of 0,30% or 4 700 ha compared to the 1 575 700 ha planted last season. The production forecast of white maize is 7 535 100 tons, which is 12,38% or 1 064 900 tons less than the 8 600 000 tons of last season. The yield for white maize is 4,80 t/ha.
- In the case of **yellow maize,** the area estimate is 1 042 500 ha, which is 1,97% or 21 000 ha less than the 1 063 500 ha planted last season. The yellow maize production forecast is 6 992 850 tons, which is 9,36% or 722 150 tons less than the 7 715 000 tons of last season. The yield for yellow maize is 6,71 t/ha.
- The revised area estimate for **sunflower seed** is 655 700 ha, which is 37,23% or 177 900 ha more than the 477 800 ha planted the previous season. The production forecast for sunflower seed is 914 350 tons, which is 34,86% or 236 350 tons more than the 678 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,39 t/ha.
- It is estimated that 915 300 ha have been planted to **soybeans**, which represents an increase of 10,66% or 88 200 ha compared to the 827 100 ha planted last season. The production forecast is 1 821 400 tons, which is 3,99% or 75 600 tons less than the 1 897 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,99 t/ha.
- For **groundnuts**, the area estimate is 44 900 ha, which is 16,47% or 6 350 ha more than the 38 550 ha planted for the previous season. The expected crop is 69 200 tons – which is 7,62% or 4 900 tons more than the 64 300 tons of last season. The expected yield is 1,54 t/ha.
- The area estimate for **sorghum** decreased by 23,37% or 11 500 ha, from 49 200 ha to 37 700 ha against the previous season. The production forecast for sorghum is 146 590 tons, which is 31,82% or 68 410 tons less than the 215 000 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 3,89 t/ha.

- For **dry beans**, the area estimate is 42 900 ha, which is 9,47% or 4 490 ha less the 47 390 ha planted for the previous season. The production forecast is 59 690 tons, which is 3,50% or 2 018 tons more than the 57 672 tons of the previous season. The expected yield is 1,39 t/ha.

Please note that the second production forecast for summer field crops for 2022 will be released on 28 March 2022.

2.2 Winter cereal crops – 2021

The area estimate and final production estimate of winter cereals for the 2021 production season was also released by the CEC on 28 February 2022, and is as follows:

Table 3: Commercial winter crops: Area planted and final production estimate: 2021 season

CROP	**Area planted 2021 Ha (A)**	**Final estimate 2021 Tons (B)**	Area planted 2020 Ha (C)	Final crop 2020 Tons (D)	Change % (B) ÷ (D)
Commercial:					
Wheat	**523 500**	**2 257 205**	509 800	2 120 000	6,47
Malting barley	**94 730**	**331 100**	141 690	588 000	-43,69
Canola	**100 000**	**197 000**	74 120	165 200	19,25
Cereal oats	**36 250**	**69 950**	26 200	57 000	22,72
Sweet lupines	**22 000**	**28 600**	N/a	N/a	-

- The expected production of **wheat** is 2 257 205 tons, which is 6,47% or 137 205 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 2,120 million tons, whilst the expected yield is 4,31 t/ha. This is the largest expected wheat crop produced since 2002, when it was 2,427 million tons.
- The production forecast for **malting barley** is 331 100 tons, which is 43,69% or 256 900 tons less than the previous seasons' crop of 588 000 tons. The area planted is estimated at 94 730 ha, while the expected yield is 3,50 t/ha.
- The expected **canola crop** is 197 000 tons, which is 19,25% or 31 800 tons more than the previous seasons' crop of 165 200 tons. The area estimate for canola is 100 000 ha, with an expected yield of 1,97 t/ha.
- The expected crop for **oats (cereals)** for the 2021 season is 69 950 tons, which is 22,72% or 12 950 tons more than the 57 000 tons of the previous season. The area planted is 36 250 ha, while the expected yield is 1,93 t/ha.
- In the case of **sweet lupines**, the production forecast is 28 600 tons. The area estimate of sweet lupines is 22 000 ha, with an expected yield of 1,30 t/ha.

Please note that the intentions to plant winter cereals for 2022 will be released on 26 April 2022.

2.3 Non-commercial maize

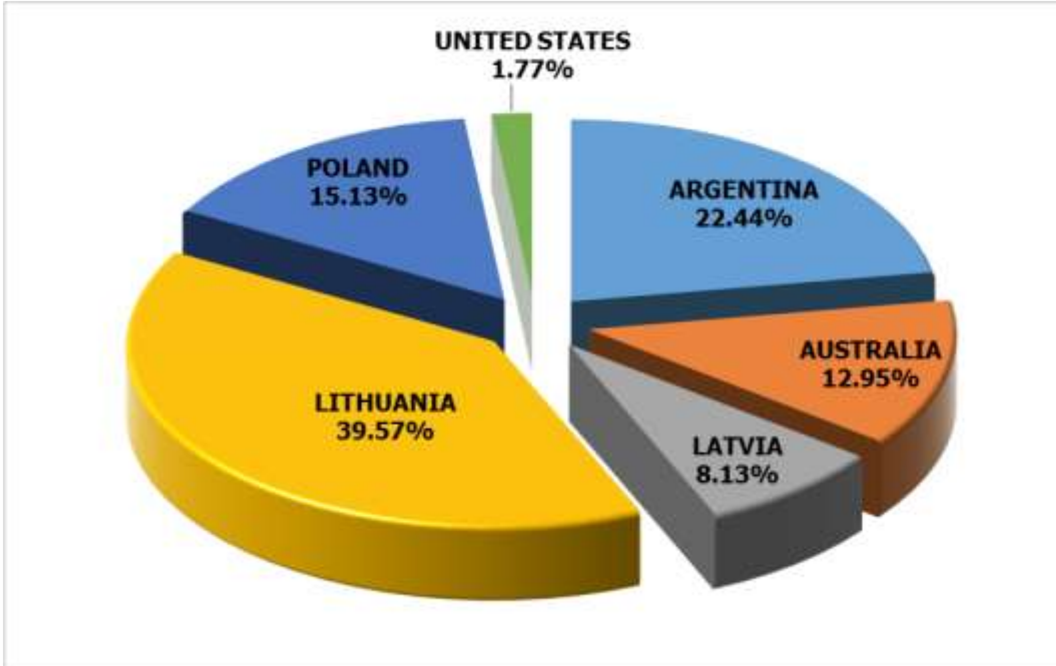
Please note that the CEC will release the preliminary area planted and production estimate of the non-commercial maize sector for the 2022 season on 26 May 2022.

3. Cereal balance sheets

For the latest Cereal Balance Sheets (supply and demand tables) on maize, wheat, sorghum, sunflower seed and soybeans please refer to the attachment called FSB FEB22 Annexure A.

3.1 Imports and exports of wheat for the 2021/22 marketing year

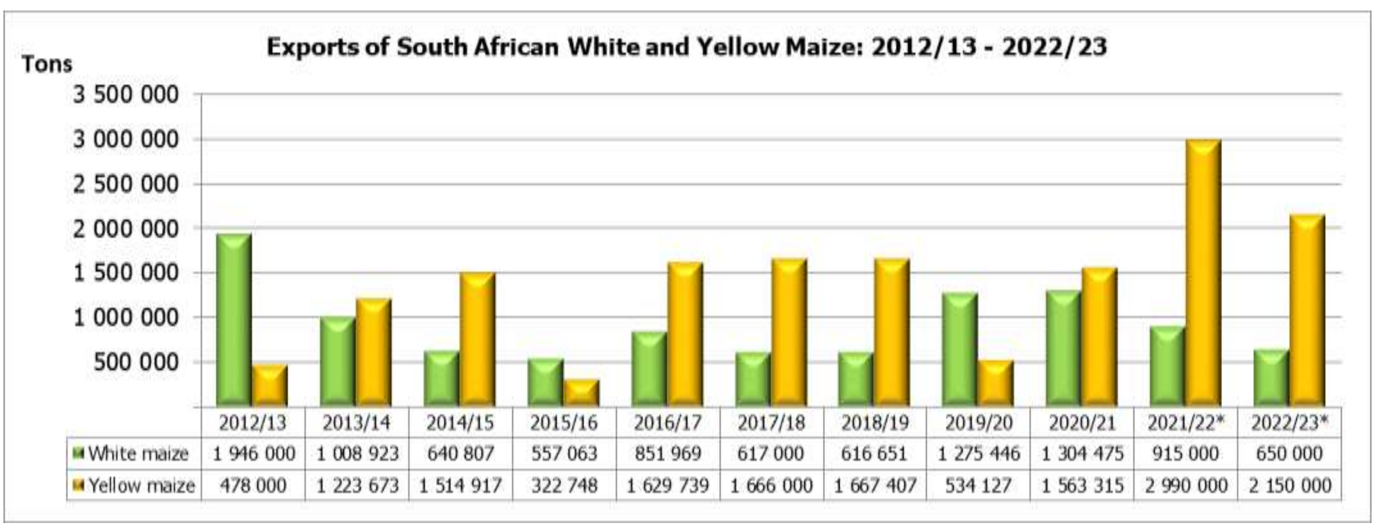
Graph 1: Major countries of wheat imports to South Africa: 2021/22 marketing year



- The progressive wheat imports (human consumption) for the 2021/22 marketing year (25 September 2021 to 25 February 2022) amount to 582 929 tons, with 39,57% or 230 644 tons from Lithuania, followed by 22,44% or 130 836 tons from Argentina, 15,13% or 88 217 tons from Poland, 12,95% or 75 509 tons from Australia, 8,13% or 47 391 tons from Latvia and only 1,77% or 10 332 tons from the United States. The exports of wheat (human consumption) for the above-mentioned period amount to 70 973 tons, of which 86,55% or 61 427 tons went to the BLNS countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini (Swaziland)), 11,40% or 8 093 tons to Zimbabwe and only 2,05% or 1 453 tons went to Zimbia.

3.2 Exports of South African white and yellow maize

Graph 2: Exports of South African white and yellow maize: 2012/13 - 2022/23



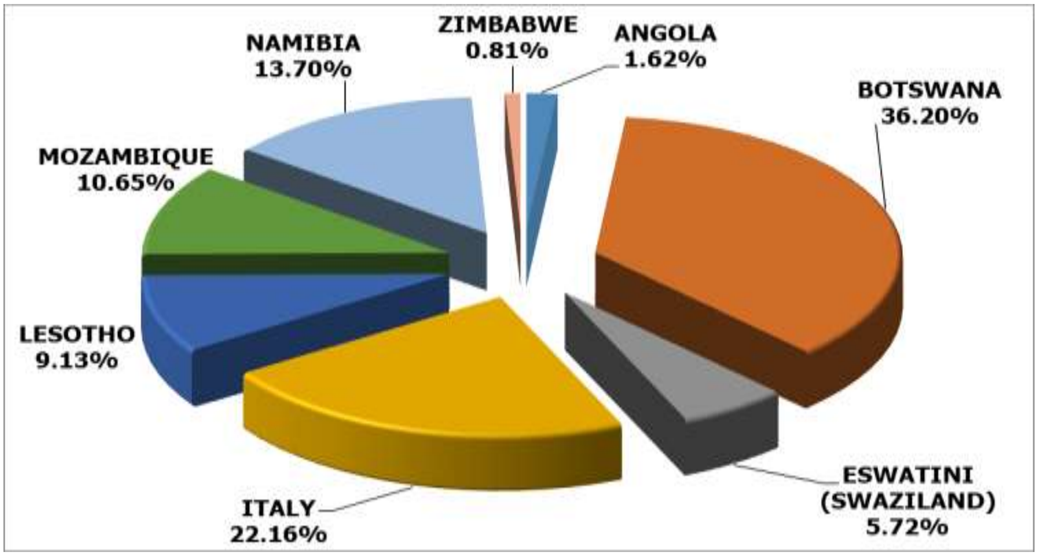
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22*	2022/23*
White maize	1 946 000	1 008 923	640 807	557 063	851 969	617 000	616 651	1 275 446	1 304 475	915 000	650 000
Yellow maize	478 000	1 223 673	1 514 917	322 748	1 629 739	1 666 000	1 667 407	534 127	1 563 315	2 990 000	2 150 000

*Projection

- The exports of white maize for the 2021/22 marketing year are projected at 915 000 tons, which represents a decrease of 29,86% or 389 475 tons compared to the 1,304 million tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 2,990 million tons, which represents an increase of 91,26% or 1,427 million tons compared to the 1,563 million tons of the previous marketing year.

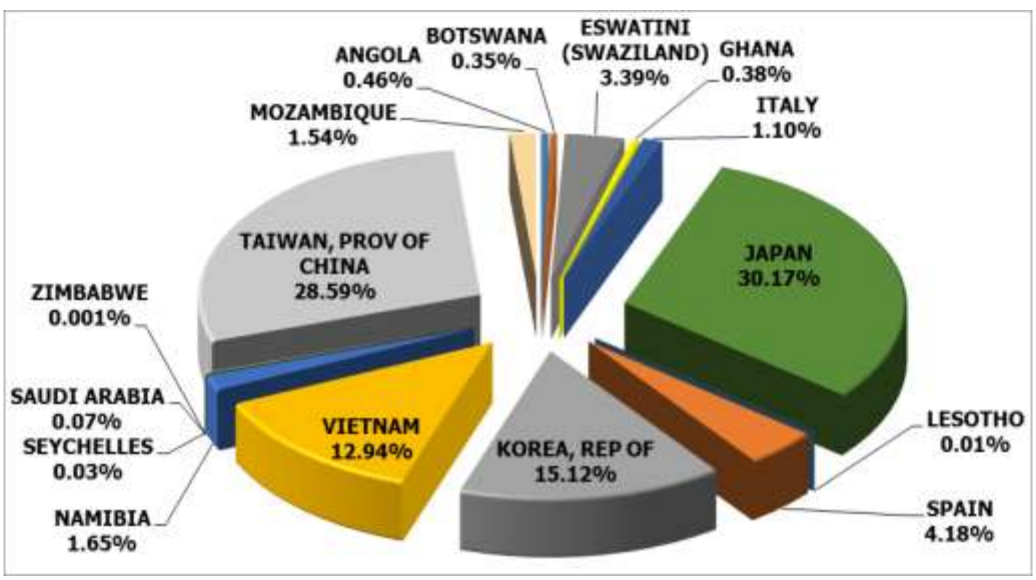
- The exports of white maize for the 2022/23 marketing year are projected at 650 000 tons, which represents a decrease of 28,96% or 265 000 tons compared to the 915 000 tons of the previous marketing year. Yellow maize exports for the mentioned period are projected at 2,150 million tons, which represents a decrease of 28,09% or 840 000 tons compared to the 2,990 million tons of the previous marketing year.

Graph 3: Major countries of white maize exports from South Africa: 2021/22 marketing year



- From 1 May 2021 to 25 February 2022, progressive white maize exports for the 2021/22 marketing year amount to 568 569 tons, with the main destinations being Botswana (36,20% or 205 843 tons), followed by Italy (22,16% or 125 995 tons), Namibia (13,70% or 77 878 tons), Mozambique (10,65% or 60 572 tons), Lesotho (9,13% or 51 903 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (5,72% or 32 536 tons), Angola (1,62% of 9 226 tons) and Zimbabwe (0,81% or 4 616 tons). The imports of white maize for the mentioned period amount to 7 549 tons, all from Zambia.

Graph 4: Major countries of yellow maize exports from South Africa: 2021/22 marketing year



- From 1 May 2021 to 25 February 2022, progressive yellow maize exports for the 2021/22 marketing year amount to 2,473 million tons, with the main destinations being Japan (30,17% or 746 265 tons), followed by Taiwan (28,59% or 707 186 tons), Korea, Republic of (15,12% or 374 078 tons), Vietnam (12,94% or 320 058 tons), Spain (4,18% or 103 410 tons), Eswathini (Swaziland) (3,39% or 83 865 tons), Namibia (1,65% or 40 821 tons), Mozambique (1,54% or 38 166 tons), Italy (1,10% or 27 150 tons), Angola (0,46% or 11 271 tons), Ghana (0,38% or 9 505 tons), Botswana (0,35% or 8 737 tons), Saudi Arabia (0,07% or 1 665 tons), Seychelles (0,03% or 769 tons), Lesotho (0,01% or 280 tons) and Zimbabwe (0,001% or 27 tons). The imports of yellow maize for the mentioned period amount to zero.

4. Market information

4.1 Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Annual consumer price inflation was 5,7% in January 2022, down from 5,9% in December 2021. The consumer price index increased by 0,2% month-on-month in January 2022.
- The main contributors to the 5,7% annual inflation rate were as follows:
    - Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 5,7% year-on-year, and contributed 1,0% to the total CPI annual rate of 5,7%;
    - Housing and utilities increased by 4,3% year-on-year, and contributed 1,1%;
    - Transport increased by 14,5% year-on-year, and contributed 1,9%; and
    - Miscellaneous goods and services increased by 4,6% year-on-year, and contributed 0,7%.
- In January the annual inflation rate for goods was 8,1%, down from 8,5% in December; and for services it was 3,4%, up from 3,3% in December 2021.

4.2 Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Annual producer price inflation (final manufacturing) was 10,1% in January 2022, down from 10,8% in December 2021. The producer price index increased by 0,2% month-on-month in January 2022.
- The main contributors to the headline PPI annual inflation rate were as follows:
    - Coke, petroleum, chemical, rubber and plastic products increased by 21,5% year-on-year and contributed 5,0%;
    - Metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment increased by 12,1% year-on-year and contributed 1,8%; and
    - Food products, beverages and tobacco products increased by 6,1% year-on-year and contributed 1,6%.
- The main contributor to the headline PPI monthly increase was metals, machinery, equipment and computing equipment, which increased by 1,4% month-on-month and contributed 0,2%.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for intermediate manufactured goods was 21% in January 2022 (compared with 23,1% in December 2021). The index increased by 0,6% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were chemicals, rubber and plastic products (11,1%), as well as basic and fabricated metals (9,3%). The main contributor to the monthly rate was chemicals, rubber and plastic products (0,4%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for electricity and water was 16,1% in January 2022 (compared with 15,4% in December 2021). The index decreased by 0,5% month-on-month. Electricity contributed 14,7% to the annual rate, and water contributed 0,9%. Electricity contributed -0,6% to the monthly rate.
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for mining was 6,4% in January 2022 (compared with 5,9% in December 2021). The index increased by 4,8% month-on-month. The main contributors to the annual rate were coal and gas (5,0%) and non-ferrous metal ores (3,4%). The main contributor to the monthly rate was gold and other metal ores (1,9%) and coal and gas (1,8%).
- The annual percentage change in the PPI for agriculture, forestry and fishing was 6,9% in January 2022 (compared with 8,4% in December 2021). The index increased by 0,1% month-on-month. The main contributor to the annual rate was agriculture (6,4%). The contributor to the monthly rate was fishing (0,1%).

4.3 Future contract prices

Table 4: Closing prices on Monday, 7 March 2022

	7 March 2022	7 February 2022	% Change
RSA White Maize per ton (Mar. 2022 contract)	R4 127,00	R3 703,00	11,45
RSA Yellow Maize per ton (Mar. 2022 contract)	R4 272,00	R3 843,00	11,16
RSA Wheat per ton (Mar. 2022 contract)	R7 250,00	R6 032,00	20,19
RSA Sunflower seed per ton (Mar. 2022 contract)	R12 264,00	R9 804,00	25,09
RSA Soya-beans per ton (Mar. 2022 contract)	R9 445,00	R8 701,00	8,55
Exchange rate R/$	R15,43	R15,50	-0,45

Source: JSE/SAFEX

4.4 Agricultural machinery sales

- January 2022 tractor sales of 559 units were 20% more than the 465 units sold in January 2021. Combine harvester sales of four units were one unit less than the five units sold in January 2021.
- Initial indications, based on preliminary estimates of maize plantings by the Crop Estimates Committee, are that the size of the maize crop currently on the land will be similar or less to what it was in 2021. The initial summer crop production figures released at the end of February by the Crop Estimates Committee confirmed a smaller maize crop for 2022. Initial industry forecasts for the 2022 calendar year are that tractor sales will be similar to those in 2021, with combine harvester sales approximately 10% lower than last year.

Table 5: Agricultural machinery sales

Equipment class	Year-on-year January		Percentage Change %	Year-to-date January		Percentage Change %
	2022	2021		2022	2021	
Tractors	559	465	20,22	559	465	20,22
Combine harvesters	4	5	-20,00	4	5	-20,00

Source: SAAMA press release, February 2022

PLEASE NOTE: The Food Security Bulletin for March 2022 will be released on **5 April 2022**.

5. Acknowledgements

The Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis makes use of information sourced from various institutions and organisations within South Africa in order to compile the monthly report on South Africa's Food Security Situation. This report has been compiled with the aid of information and reports sourced from the following institutions and organisations:

- Agbiz
- Agfacts
- BVG Commodities (Pty) Limited
- Department of Water and Sanitation
- Directorate: Climate Change and Disaster Management at DAFF
- Farmer's Weekly
- Grain South Africa (GrainSA)
- IGC Grain Market Report
- National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)
- South African Agricultural Machinery Association (SAAMA)
- South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX)
- South African Reserve Bank
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
- The South African Supply and Demand Estimates Report (SASDE)
- The South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS)
- The South African Weather Service (WeatherSA)
- USDA Foreign Service