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# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **South Africa - Republic of**

### **Grain and Feed Annual**

**This report focuses on the supply and demand for grains and  
feed in South Africa**

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**Report Highlights:**

Post forecasts that South Africa's wheat imports for the 2018/19 MY will decline marginally to 1.8 million tons, on an expected increase in local production. Wheat imports are expected to double in the 2017/18 MY to 2.0 million tons, due to the drought in the Western Cape province. Meanwhile, corn exports are expected to drop to 1.0 million tons in the 2018/19 MY, due to a decrease in commercial production. Post estimates that South Africa will export about 2.0 million tons of corn in the 2017/18 MY, drawing from an expected commercial crop of above 12.0 million tons and a relatively large carry-over stock from the 2016/17 MY. Rice imports are expected to be around 1.0 million tons in the 2018/19 MY.

## **Executive Summary**

Post forecasts that the declining trend in hectares planted with wheat in South Africa will continue in the 2018/19 MY. Post estimates producers will plant about 480,000 hectares of wheat which could, on average yields, realize a wheat crop of about 1.7 million tons. However, wheat imports for the 2018/19 MY, at 1.8 million tons, will be marginally less than in the 2017/18 MY. South Africa produced 1.5 million tons of wheat in the 2017/18 MY, which represents a decrease of 20 percent from the previous year, due to extreme drought in the Western Cape Province. As a result, wheat imports could double to 2.0 million tons in the 2017/18 MY.

Post estimates that South Africa's commercial corn producers will cut area by 10 percent to 2.1 million hectares in the 2018/19 MY. Under normal climatic conditions and taking into account the subsistence farming sector, South Africa's corn crop for the 2018/19 MY could reach 11.0 million tons, which is 15 percent less than the expected corn crop of 13.0 million tons in the 2017/18 MY. Post estimates that South Africa's corn exports will drop to about 1.0 million tons in the 2018/19 MY, mainly due to a decrease in commercial production. Post estimates that South Africa will export about 2.0 million tons of corn in the 2017/18 MY, drawing from a commercial crop of above 12.0 million tons and relatively large carry-over stock from the 2016/17 MY.

In the 2018/19 MY, South Africa's rice imports are expected to increase by 3 percent to 1.03 million tons on a marginal increase in demand. In the 2017/18 MY post estimates South Africa will import about 1.0 million tons of rice, which is at the same level as rice imports in the 2016/17 MY.

US\$1 = Rand 11.97 (3/16/17)

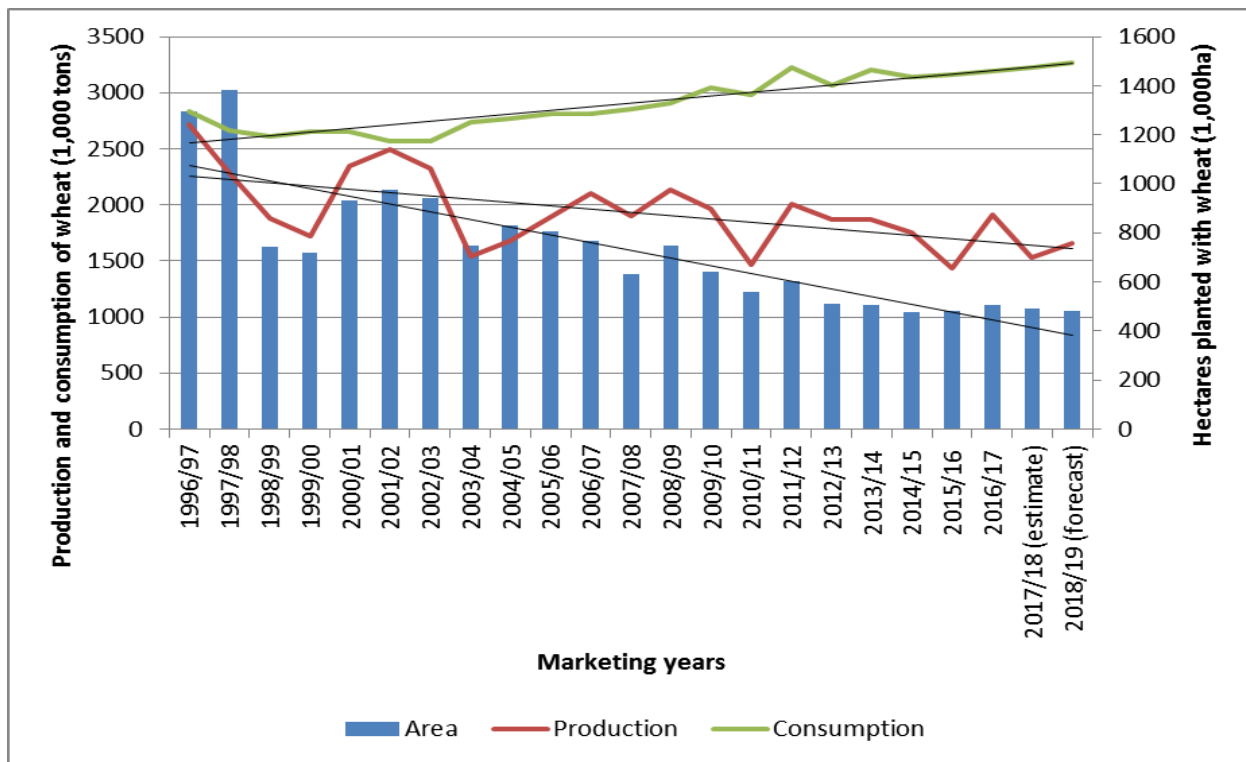
<sup>[1]</sup> The marketing years (MY) used in the text refers to the USDA marketing years in the PS&D table, and do not necessarily correspond with the marketing years used by the South African grain industry.

## **WHEAT**

## Production

In the 2017/18 MY (October 2017 to September 2018), South Africa planted 491,600 hectares of wheat, almost a million hectares less than 20 years ago, before the deregulation of the wheat market. In a free market environment producers prefer to plant more profitable crops such as canola, oats, corn and soybeans. Figure 1 below illustrates the declining trend in hectares planted with wheat and the resulting gap between the production and demand for wheat in South Africa. Post forecasts that the declining trend in hectares planted with wheat will continue in the 2018/19 MY, due to the crop's decreasing profitability. Post estimates producers will plant about 480,000 hectares of wheat which could, on average yields, realize a wheat crop of about 1.7 million tons.

The wheat industry in South Africa identified factors that could assist in reviving the industry. These included higher yielding cultivars, changes in the wheat grading regulations, and an end-point royalty system to counter farm saved seed. However, unless drastic technology changes occur that could improve wheat yields, producers will continue to switch to more profitable crops and the decreasing trend in hectares planted with wheat in South Africa will continue.



**Figure 1: The trends in wheat production, consumption and area planted in South Africa (1996/97 MY – 2018/19 MY)**

On February 27, 2018, the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) released its final estimate for wheat production in South Africa for the 2017/18 MY. The CEC estimated that South Africa produced 1.5 million tons of wheat which represents a decrease of 20 percent from the previous year due to extreme drought in the Western Cape Province. Two-thirds or 326,000 hectares of South Africa's wheat area was planted in the Western Cape Province in the 2017/18 MY. Wheat production in the Western Cape

Province dropped by almost 50 percent, from 1.1 million tons the previous season to 586,800 tons in the 2017/18 MY. The drought in the Western Cape province diminished yields from an annual average of 3.4 tons per hectare to 1.8 tons per hectare. Fortunately, wheat production on the irrigated fields of the Northern Cape province, increased by 17 percent to 311,600 tons on higher yields. The Northern Cape province crop represents about 20 percent of South Africa's total wheat crop. The Free State province planted 27 percent less wheat area, but the crop increased marginally to 328,000 tons due to favorable climatic conditions. These three provinces produced together about 80 percent of the wheat crop in South Africa in the 2017/18 MY.

The following table indicates the area planted and production figures of wheat in South Africa for the 2016/17 MY (actual), 2017/18 MY (estimate) and 2018/19 MY (forecast).

**Table 1: Area planted and production of wheat in South Africa**

<b>MY</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>	<b>Yield (tons/ha)</b>	<b>Production (1,000 tons)</b>
<b>2016/17 (actual)</b>	508,365	3.8	1,910
<b>2017/18 (estimate)</b>	491,600	3.1	1,525
<b>2018/19 (forecast)</b>	480,000	3.4	1,650

**Source:** The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)

### **Consumption**

South Africa's annual wheat consumption increased on average by about 1 percent per annum the past ten years. Post expects this trend to continue in the 2018/19 MY with wheat consumption reaching 3.27 million tons. Due to slow economic growth and the availability of cheaper alternatives like corn and rice, major increases in the consumption of wheat are not foreseen. Wheat demand in the 2017/18 MY is expected to be around 3.23 million tons (also refer to Table 2), in line with a 1 percent growth rate and marginally higher than the 3.19 million consumed in the 2016/17 MY.

In Table 2, the consumption of wheat in South Africa is illustrated for the 2016/17 MY (actual), 2017/18 MY (estimate) and 2018/19 MY (forecast).

**Table 2: Consumption of wheat in South Africa**

<b>Wheat (1,000 tons)</b>					
<b>Marketing year</b>	<b>Human</b>	<b>Animal</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2016/17 (actual)</b>	3,160	3	24	3	3,190
<b>2017/18 (estimate)</b>	3,200	3	22	5	3,230
<b>2018/19 (forecast)</b>	3,240	5	20	5	3,270

**Source:** The South African Grain Information Services (Sagis) and Grain SA

### **Trade**

Post forecasts that South Africa’s wheat and wheat products imports for the 2018/19 MY, at 1.8 million tons, will be marginally less than in the 2017/18 MY, mainly due to an expected increase in local production.

Post estimates that wheat and wheat products imports in the 2017/18 MY could double to 2.0 million tons as a result of a 20 percent drop in production, due to the drought in the Western Cape province. For the first five months of the 2017/18 MY, South Africa already imported 1.1 million tons of wheat, mainly from Russia, Lithuania, Germany, and Argentina (see also Table 3). For the 2016/17 MY, South Africa’s wheat and wheat products imports decreased by 50 percent to 1.0 million tons due to a five-year high local wheat crop of 1.9 million tons.

South Africa also exports wheat to nearby countries in the Southern Africa region and acts as a conduit for imported grain. South Africa’s wheat and wheat products exports are expected be around 150,000 tons in the 2018/19 MY. Post estimates wheat and wheat products exports in the 2017/18 MY to drop to 100,000 tons on lower production. In the 2016/17 MY, South Africa exported 195,000 tons of wheat and wheat products to neighboring countries.

**Table 3: South Africa’s imports and exports of wheat by country**

	<b>2016/17 MY</b>	<b>2017/18 MY<sup>1</sup></b>
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	(Oct 1, 2016 – Sept 30, 2017) Tons	(Oct 1, 2017 – Sept 30, 2018) Tons
<b>Import Suppliers</b>		
United States	61,680	72,496
Argentina	35,613	138,698
Australia	24,816	0
Canada	27,841	0
Czech Republic	144,402	0
Germany	237,508	136,287
Latvia	17,098	114,284
Ukraine	13,568	124,337
Poland	76,912	0
Romania	112,334	101,147
Lithuania	0	162,409
Russia	182,993	293,035
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>934,765<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,142,693</b>
<b>Export destinations</b>		
Botswana	19,168	2,217
Lesotho	18,326	5,905
Mozambique	2,992	0
Namibia	9,367	4,345
Swaziland	2,529	3,917
Zambia	15,312	0
Zimbabwe	25,204	474
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>92,898<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>16,858</b>

**Source:**  
Sagis  
**Notes:**

1. Preliminary export and import data from October 1, 2017 to March 9, 2018  
2. Trade figures in the PS&D table include the trade in wheat flour

*and other wheat products like uncooked pasta and couscous.*

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between South Africa and the European Union (EU) that came into effect in 2016 allows for duty-free imports of 300,000 tons of wheat from countries in the EU annually. This duty-free allowance is effective from February 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018. The current import tariff for wheat imports into South Africa is R716.30 per ton (\$60/ton) effective from December 15, 2017, which is higher than the previous import tariff of R910.00 (\$76/ton). An annual quota of 108,279 tons of wheat was also announced by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) that can enter South Africa at a rebate of 14.4 percent on the full duty (see also Table 4).

**Table 4: South Africa's import tariffs for wheat**

General	European Union (EU)	European Free Trade	Southern Africa	Minimum Market Access
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		<b>Association (EFTA)</b>	<b>Development Community (SADC)</b>		
				<b>Annual quota</b>	<b>Extent of rebate</b>
R716.30/ton	New EPA trade agreement - 300,000 tons import tariff free from February 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018. Outside quota R716.30/ton.	R716.30/ton	Free	108,279	Full duty less 14.4%

**Source:** South African Revenue Services (SARS), Sagis

### Prices

Two factors are currently influencing the local wheat prices, namely, the value of the Rand against the United States dollar and the import tariff. Over the past year, the Rand has strengthened by more than 10 percent against the United States dollar. Additionally, the wheat import tariff decreased by 40 percent. As a result, year-on-year local wheat prices decreased by 10 percent. Local wheat prices are now trading at around R3,656/ton (\$305/ton) and close to import parity levels to reflect the lower wheat crop of the 2017/18 MY. As already mentioned this is mainly due to the drought in the Western Cape Province (see also Figure 2 and Table 5).

**Table 5: Local prices for wheat**

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Futures prices (as of 03/13/2018)</b>			
	<b>2018/03</b>	<b>2018/05</b>	<b>2018/07</b>	<b>2018/09</b>
Wheat	R3,656/t (\$305/t)	R3,718/t (\$310/t)	R3,755/t (\$314/t)	R3,735/t (\$312/t)

**Source:** Safex

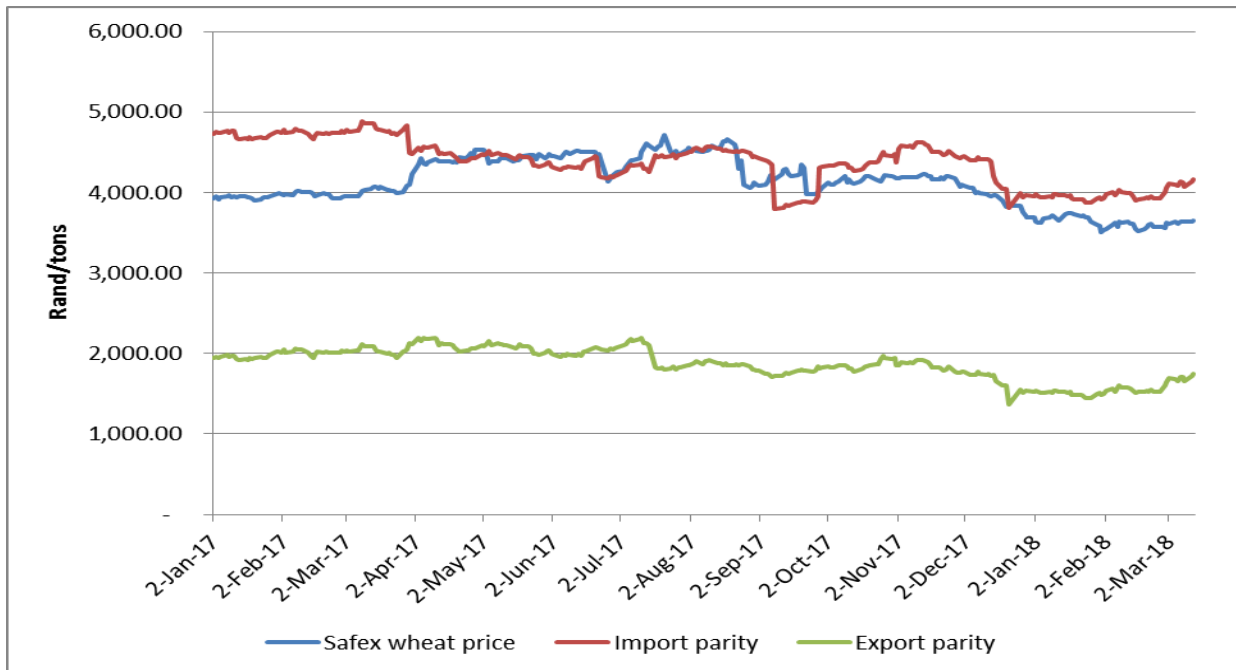


Figure 2: The trend in the SAFEX price for wheat since January 2017

Table 6: PS&D Table for Wheat

Wheat Market Begin Year South Africa	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
	Oct 2016		Oct 2017		Oct 2018	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	508	508	492	492	0	480
Beginning Stocks	969	969	482	427	0	522
Production	1910	1910	1525	1525	0	1650
MY Imports	1037	1043	1950	2000	0	1800
TY Imports	1220	1220	1950	1950	0	1600
TY Imp. from U.S.	45	45	0	100	0	100
Total Supply	3916	3922	3957	3952	0	3972
MY Exports	104	195	100	100	0	150
TY Exports	109	109	100	100	0	150
Feed and Residual	30	30	30	30	0	30
FSI Consumption	3300	3270	3350	3300	0	3330
Total Consumption	3330	3300	3380	3330	0	3360
Ending Stocks	482	427	477	522	0	462
Total Distribution	3916	3922	3957	3952	0	3972
Yield	3.7598	3.7598	3.0996	3.0996	0	3.4375

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)



## **CORN**

### **Production**

Post estimates that South Africa's commercial corn producers will cut area by 10 percent to 2.1 million hectares in the 2018/19 MY. A relatively large carry-over stock from the 2016/17 MY, sluggish exports and a commercial crop of above 12.0 million tons in the 2017/18 MY is suppressing local corn prices and will continue to the next planting season. As a result, producers are projected to switch more corn fields to oilseeds, especially soybeans. Under normal climatic conditions and taking into account the subsistence farming sector, South Africa's corn crop for the 2018/19 MY could reach 11.0 million tons, which is 15 percent less than the expected corn crop of 13.0 million tons in the 2017/18 MY (also refer to Table 7).

Post increased its estimate for the 2017/18 MY South African corn crop (including commercial and subsistence producers) by eight percent to 13.0 million tons, after good rainfall the past two months broke the mid-summer drought in most of the corn producing areas. As a result, the corn crop is mostly in a fairly good condition across the country. Post's estimate is in line with the Crop Estimate Committee (CEC) first production estimate for the 2017/18 MY summer crops which were released on February 27, 2018. According to the CEC, the expected commercial corn crop is 12.2 million tons on 2.3 million hectares. This represents a decrease of 27 percent from the 2016/17 MY commercial record corn crop of 16.8 million tons. Both the commercial white corn crop and yellow corn crop are estimated at 6.1 million tons. The commercial white corn crop is 38 percent less than the previous season, while the commercial yellow corn crop is 11 percent less than the previous season.

The CEC finalized the size of the 2016/17 MY commercial corn crop on February 15, 2018 at 16.8 million tons, after taking into account producer deliveries and on-farm usage. Hence, South Africa's record total corn crop (including commercial and subsistence farming) for the 2016/17 MY was finalized at 17.6 million tons on 3.0 million hectares, which is 114 percent higher than the 2015/16 MY's crop of 8.2 million tons. Commercial white corn production was finalized at 9.9 million tons, 190 percent higher than the previous season, while commercial yellow corn production was finalized at 6.9 million tons, and 58 percent higher than the previous season.

The following table details area planted and production figures for commercial white corn and yellow corn as well as corn produced by subsistence farmers for the 2016/17 MY (actual), 2017/18 MY (estimate), and 2018/19 MY (forecast).

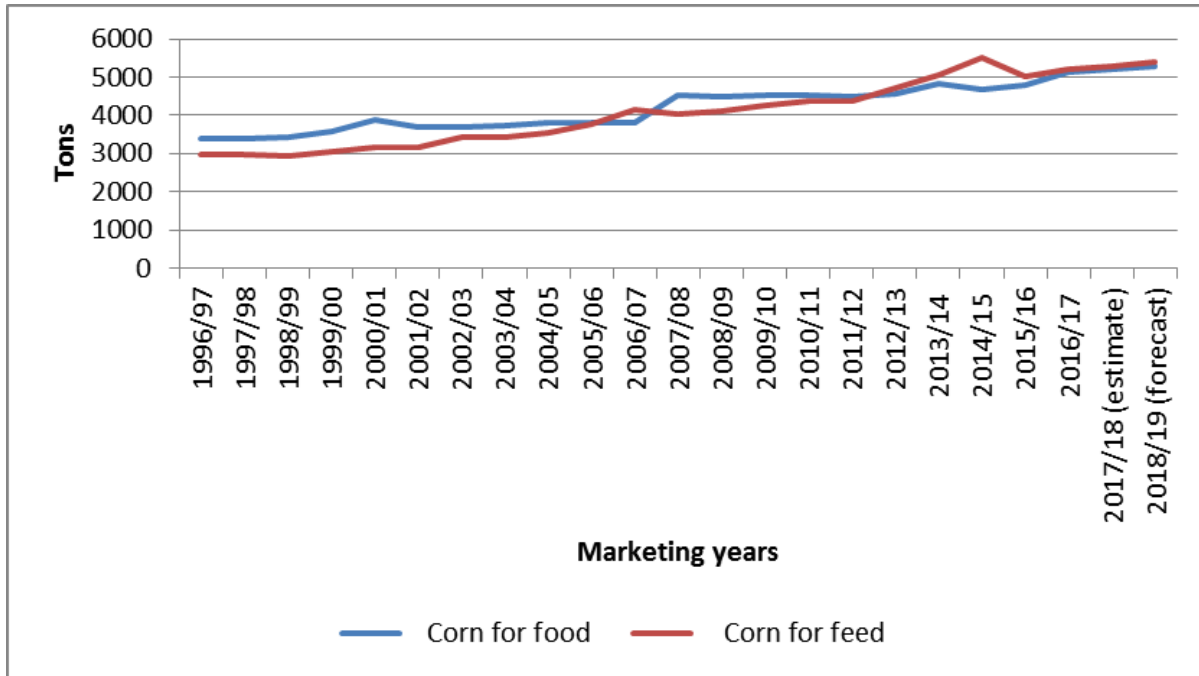
**Table 7: Area planted and production of commercial and subsistence corn in South Africa**

	Area 1,000h a	Yiel d t/ha	Prod. 1,000 t	Area 1,000h a	Yiel d t/ha	Prod. 1,000 t	Area 1,000h a	Yiel d t/ha	Prod. 1,000 t
<b>MY</b>	<b>2016/17</b>			<b>2017/18</b>			<b>2018/19</b>		
<b><u>Commercial corn</u></b>									
White	1,643	6.0	9,916	1,255	4.9	6,110	1,130	4.5	5,100
Yellow	986	6.9	6,904	1,045	5.9	6,120	940	5.5	5,200
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>16,820</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>12,230</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b><u>Subsistence corn</u></b>									
White	249	1.9	464	300	1.8	550	300	1.6	500
Yellow	118	2.3	266	100	2.2	220	100	2.0	200
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>17,550</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>11,000</b>

Source: CEC

### Consumption

The commercial demand for corn increased, on average, only marginally per annum the past ten years (also refer to Figure 3). Post projects that this marginal increase in demand for corn will continue in the 2018/19 MY. South Africa's economic growth is expected to continue to be sluggish in the next few years, despite a change in leadership, as structural and policy constraints still need to be resolved. The South African government estimates economic growth of less than two percent in 2018 and 2019, which would likely limit the increase in the demand for corn. As a result, the demand for corn is expected to increase marginally to 11.0 million tons in the 2018/19 MY. The human demand for corn, the staple food for many South Africans, especially for the lower to middle income group, is expected to grow in correlation with population growth to 5.3 million tons. The per capita consumption of corn has stagnated at around 90kg per annum the past 10 years. Corn usages for animal feed is expected to increase by two percent to 5.4 million tons (also refer to Table 8).



**Figure 3: The commercial consumption of corn in the food and feed markets of South Africa since the 1996/97 MY.**

Post increased the commercial demand for corn in the 2017/18 MY to 10.8 million tons to incorporate a marginal growth rate from the 2016/17 MY’s consumption. Post expects 5.2 million tons of corn will be used for human consumption and 5.3 million tons will be milled for animal feed.

Post kept the commercial demand for corn in the 2016/17 MY unchanged at 10.7 million tons, after taking into consideration the current consumption information from Sagis. However, there was a shift of more white corn usage for animal feed as substitute for yellow corn, as more white corn is available on the market. Post expects that South Africa will use 5.2 million tons of corn for human consumption and the same amount of corn for animal feed.

Table 8 outlines the commercial consumption for white corn and yellow corn in South Africa for the 2016/17 MY (actual), 2017/18 MY (estimate) and 2018/19 MY (forecast).

**Table 8: The commercial consumption of white and yellow corn in South Africa**

<b>CORN 1,000 Mt</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>MY</b>	<b>2016/17</b>			<b>2017/18</b>			<b>2018/19</b>		
<b>Human</b>	4,600	550	5,150	4,650	550	5,200	4,750	550	5,300
<b>Animal</b>	2,000	3,200	5,200	500	4,800	5,300	400	5,000	5,400
<b>Other</b>	100	200	300	100	200	300	100	200	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>11,000</b>

**Source:** SAGIS; Grain SA

**Note:** Please note that consumption figures in the PS&D table also include corn utilized by the subsistence farming sector and commercial on-farm usages.

## **Trade**

Post estimates that South Africa's corn exports will drop to about 1.0 million tons in the 2018/19 MY, mainly due to a decrease of 16 percent in commercial production. Post estimates that South Africa will export about 2.0 million tons of corn in the 2017/18 MY, drawing on a commercial crop of above 12.0 million tons and a relatively large carry-over stock from the 2016/17 MY.

Post decreased its estimate of South Africa's corn exports in the 2016/17 MY to 2.1 million tons after taking into account the newest export figure from Sagis. In the past ten months of the 2016/17 MY (May 1, 2017 to March 9, 2018), South Africa has exported 2.0 million tons of corn, which included 619,424 tons of white corn and 1.4 million tons of yellow corn (see also Table 9). In the past few weeks corn exports were sluggish as local corn prices traded higher than export parity, making it difficult for traders to export corn competitively from South Africa. This will leave a relatively large carry-over stock, especially in white corn, for the next marketing year. White corn was mainly exported to Kenya (247,250 tons) and Botswana (155,689 tons). The major markets for South Africa's yellow corn were Japan (765,668 tons), Taiwan (261,914 tons) and South Korea (211,943 tons).

**Table 9: South Africa's exports and imports of white and yellow corn (1,000 tons)**

	<b>2016/17 MY<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<b>May 1, 2017 – Apr 30, 2018</b>		
	<b>White corn</b>	<b>Yellow corn</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Export Destinations</b>			
Angola	0	2	2
Botswana	156	15	171
North Korea	0	2	2
Kenya	247	0	247
Lesotho	64	1	65
Japan	0	766	766
Mozambique	57	18	75
Namibia	37	40	77
Qatar	0	5	5
South Korea	0	212	212
Swaziland	23	73	96
Taiwan	0	262	262
Uganda	25	0	25
Zimbabwe	10	1	11
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>2,016</b>
<b>Imports</b>			
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Source:** SAGIS

**Note:** 1. Preliminary export and import data from May 1, 2017 to March 3, 2018

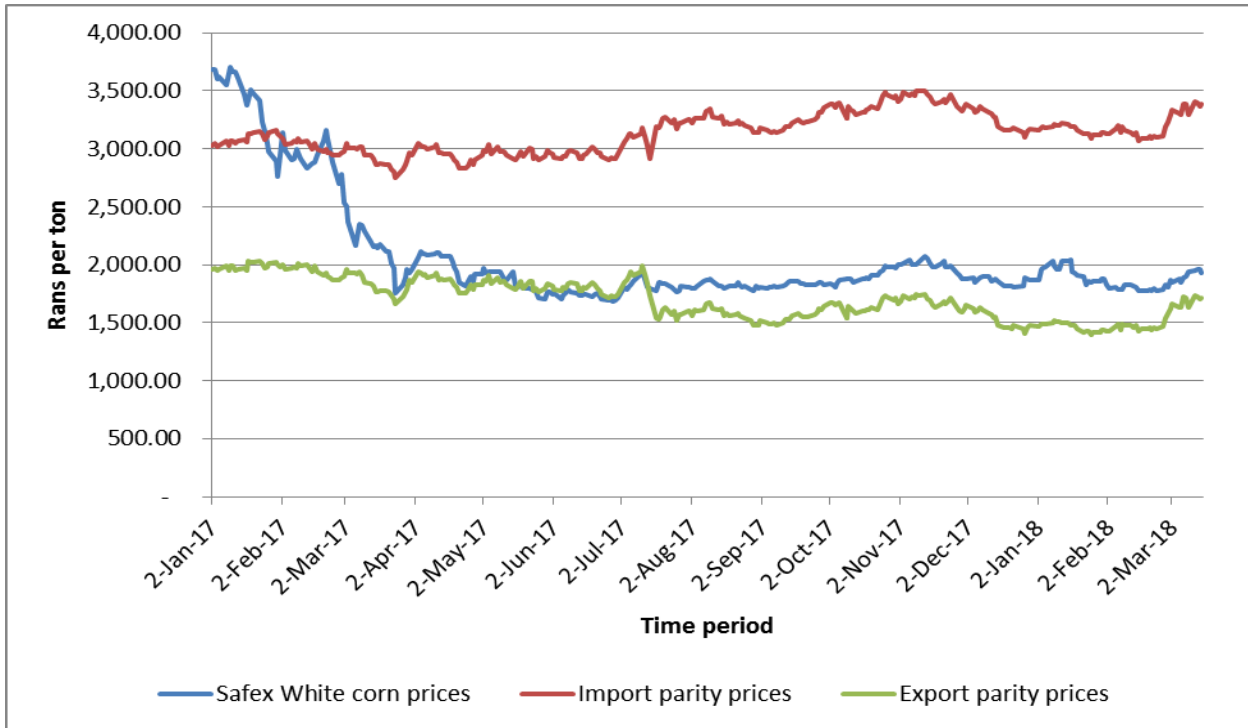
## Prices

Since March last year, local corn price have traded in a narrow band of between R1,800 per ton (\$150/ton) and R2,100 per ton (\$175/ton) and close to export parity prices. On March 13, 2018, local yellow corn was trading at R2,048 per ton (\$171/ton) and white corn at R1,955 per ton (\$163/ton) (see also Table 10). With the oversupply of corn in the local market, especially white corn, and slower exports, corn prices are likely to trade close to export parity levels for the remainder of 2018 (see also Figures 3 and Figure 4).

**Table 10: Local corn prices**

	<b>Futures prices (as of 03/13/2018)</b>				
<b>Commodity</b>	<b>2018/03</b>	<b>2018/05</b>	<b>2018/07</b>	<b>2018/09</b>	<b>2018/12</b>
White corn	R1,955/t (\$163/t)	R2,014/t (\$168/t)	R2,059/t (\$172/t)	R2,109/t (\$176/t)	R2,173/t (\$182/t)
Yellow corn	R2,048/t (\$171/t)	R2,102/t (\$176/t)	R2,130/t (\$178/t)	R2,183/t (\$182/t)	R2,236/t (\$187/t)

**Source:** Safex



**Figure 4: The trend in the SAFEX price for white corn since January 2017**



**Figure 5: The trend in the SAFEX price for yellow corn since January 2017**

**Table 11: PS&D Table for Corn**

Corn Market Begin Year	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
	May 2017		May 2018		May 2019	
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	3000	3000	2700	2700	0	2470
Beginning Stocks	1096	1096	2996	4666	0	3596
Production	17475	17550	13000	13000	0	11000
MY Imports	50	0	100	0	0	0
TY Imports	1171	1171	100	0	0	0
TY Imp. from U.S.	284	284	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	18621	18646	16096	17666	0	14596
MY Exports	2500	2100	1700	2000	0	1000
TY Exports	2110	2110	1900	1900	0	1000
Feed and Residual	7125	6080	6300	6120	0	6200
FSI Consumption	6000	5800	5900	5950	0	6000
Total Consumption	13125	11880	12200	12070	0	12200
Ending Stocks	2996	4666	2196	3596	0	1396
Total Distribution	18621	18646	16096	17666	0	14596
Yield	5.825	5.85	4.8148	4.8148	0	4.4534

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)

## **RICE**

### **Production**

South Africa is dependent on rice imports to meet the local demand as rice production is insignificant in the country, due to the high water requirements of the crop. As a result, rice imports are duty free and local consumption is derived from import data as supplied by the Global Trade Atlas.

### **Consumption**

Post forecasts only a marginal increase in South Africa's rice consumption in the 2018/19 MY to 860,000 million tons (see also Table 12), due to the continuation of relatively low corn prices. Consumers can substitute rice, wheat and corn products based on price and taste preferences. More than 90 percent of rice consume in South Africa is parboiled with the balance made up primarily of Basmati.

Post increased its previous local rice consumption estimate for the 2017/18 MY by 20,000 tons to 840,000 tons based on updated trade data. However, Post lowered the estimated consumption of rice in the 2016/17 MY to 860,000 tons, after taking into account the actual trade data.

**Table 12: Consumption of rice in South Africa**

<b>Marketing years</b>	<b>2016/17 (actual)</b>	<b>2017/18 (estimate)</b>	<b>2018/19 (forecast)</b>
<b>Consumption (1,000 tons)</b>	860	840	860

### **Imports**

In the 2018/19 MY, South Africa's rice imports are expected to increase by three percent to 1.03 million tons on a marginal increase in demand. In the 2017/18 MY post estimates South Africa will import about 1.0 million tons of rice, which is at the same level as rice imports in the 2016/17 MY. So far in the 2017/18 MY (May, 2017 to January, 2018), South Africa imported about 810,000 tons of rice (see also Table 13). Thailand and India, together, supply about 90 percent of South Africa's rice demand.

**Table 13: South Africa imports of rice (metric tons)**



Countries	2016/17 MY	2017/18MY <sup>1</sup>
	(May 1, 2016 – Apr 30, 2017) (1,000 tons)	(May 1, 2017 – Apr 30, 2018) (1,000 tons)
Imports form:		
United States	2	1
Thailand	632	642
India	272	118
United Arab Emirates	31	7
Vietnam	23	4
Others not Listed	47	38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>810</b>

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Note: 1. Preliminary import data from May 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

## Exports

South Africa imports rice to export to neighboring countries, especially to Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Botswana. These exports show an increasing trend in recent years. In the 2016/17 MY South Africa exported about 140,000 tons of rice to neighboring countries, eight percent higher than the previous year. Hence, post estimates rice exports would increase to about 150,000 tons in the 2017/18 MY and to 160,000 tons in the 2018/19 MY.

**Table 14: PS&D Table for Rice**

Rice, Milled Market Begin Year	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
	May 2016		May 2017		May 2018	
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks	10	10	42	12	0	22
Milled Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rough Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milling Rate (.9999)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports	1002	1002	950	1000	0	1030
TY Imports	1000	1000	950	950	0	1000
TY Imp. from U.S.	1	1	0	1	0	0
Total Supply	1012	1012	992	1012	0	1052
MY Exports	140	140	120	150	0	160
TY Exports	120	120	120	120	0	150
Consumption and Residual	830	860	840	840	0	860
Ending Stocks	42	12	32	22	0	32
Total Distribution	1012	1012	992	1012	0	1052
Yield (Rough)	0	0	0	0	0	0

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)