



RSA Grain Import Watch – 23 June 2016

Background

Wheat – In the first two weeks of June, South Africa received a further 79 701 tons of wheat – (64 682 tons in week 37 (June 4th to June 10th 2016) and 14 874 tons in week 38 (June 11th to June 17th 2016)), bringing the total import volumes close to 1 482 726 tons. All of the wheat came from Eastern Europe (48% from Lithuania; 26% from Poland and 26% from Russia). In the two weeks referred, 70% passed through Durban harbour while 30% passed through East London harbour.

Yellow Maize – South Africa received 63 295 tons of yellow maize from Argentina during the week of June 4th and June 10th 2016. No yellow maize imports were received in week 7 (June 11th and June 17th 2016). This brings the total yellow maize imports for the current marketing season to 234 007 tons, all sourced from Argentina. So far, South Africa has imported 9% of the expected import requirement of 2.7 million tons.

White maize – No white maize imports have been received since the 22 260 tons that came from the United States during the week of May 14th and May 20th 2016.

Discussion and Outlook

Wheat – For the remainder of the marketing year (2015/16), the country will need to import 551 284 tons of wheat, or 27% of the projected import requirement. Currently, South Africa's wheat imports average 39 019 tons per week, 0.2% lower than the desired average of 39 116 tons per week required to fulfil the import requirement.

White Maize – concerns remain over global white maize supplies. The possibility of meeting the required 1.1 million tons of white maize imports looks unlikely, given the tight supply situation in the regional and global market. Average white maize imports currently stand at 3 024 tons per week, instead of the desired 21 154 tons per week.

Yellow Maize – With null imports in week 7 (June 11th to June 17th 2016), the import average fell 14% from 39 000 tons per week to 33 430 tons per week. The desired average is 51 923 tons per week, which is 55% more than the prevailing average.



Harbour activity

From an import perspective, overall harbour activity for grains (white maize, yellow maize and wheat) declined by 34%, as overall grain import volumes fell from 191 763 tons (week May 28th – June 3rd 2016), to 142 996 tons in the two week period June 4th to June 17th 2016. Regarding the latter, 57% of the grain volumes passed through Durban harbour, (17%) Cape Town harbour, (16%) East London Harbour, and (10%) Port Elizabeth. The largest increase harbour activity was in Cape Town, where grain volumes doubled, while Durban imports actually declined by half, over the same period. Grain volumes received in Port Elizabeth declined by 10% over the considered period.

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