

Economic Review
of the
South African
Agriculture

2024/25

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



agriculture

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2025

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FOREWORD

The value of primary agricultural production in South Africa increased by 6,8%, reaching an estimated R477 454 million in 2024/2025, compared to R446 972 million in 2023/2024. Over the past decade, primary agriculture recorded an average nominal growth rate of 8,5% and a real growth rate of 2,9% per year. Agriculture's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose from 2,1% in 2014 to 2,7% in 2024 in nominal terms, and from 2,3% in 2014 to 2,5% in 2024 in real terms.

Despite its relatively small share of the total GDP, primary agriculture is an important sector in the South African economy. Agriculture remains a significant provider of employment, especially in the rural areas, and a major earner of foreign exchange.

Agriculture's prominent, indirect role in the economy is a function of backward and forward linkages to other sectors. Purchases of goods such as fertilisers, chemicals and implements form backward linkages with the manufacturing sector, while forward linkages are established through supplying raw materials to the manufacturing industry. About 70% of the agricultural output is used as intermediate products in the sector. Agriculture is therefore a crucial sector and an important engine of growth for the rest of the economy.

This publication, which appears every six months, offers easy-to-find information to paint a picture of the macroeconomic position of agriculture. The focus areas calculate agriculture's contribution to the national economy and determine trends regarding the most important agricultural economic indicators.

Whether you are involved directly or only have an interest in agriculture, you will find this publication useful and informative. We welcome your observations on its content and format. If you have comments or questions, please contact the Director: Statistics and Economic Analysis.

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September 2025

ECONOMIC REVIEW OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Summary

Gross farming income generated from all agricultural products increased marginally by 0,2% to R457 487 million for the period ended 30 June 2025, as opposed to R456 709 million earned in the previous corresponding period. This can be attributed mainly to the increase in income from horticultural and animal products by 5,8% and 5,2%, respectively.

The average price received by farmers for agricultural products increased by 6,0% in 2024/2025, compared to 6,5% in 2023/2024.

The prices paid for farming requisites, including machinery and implements, material for fixed improvements as well as intermediate goods and services decreased by 1,8% in 2024/2025, compared to the decrease of 8,0% in 2023/2024. This was caused by the decrease in prices of animal health and crop protection by 10,8%, fuel by 6,5% and fertilisers slightly by 0,7%.

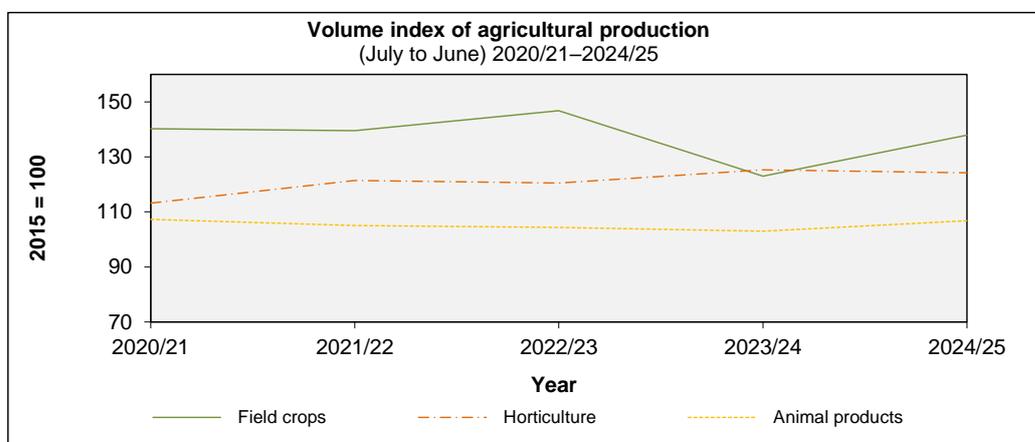
The domestic terms of trade increased by 7,6% from 1,19 to 1,28, because of better prices received from agricultural products and decreased production costs.

The values of imported and exported agricultural products increased by 7,0% and 4,2%, respectively, in 2024/25.

Volume of agricultural production

The estimated volume of agricultural production in 2024/25 was 4,5% more than in 2023/24.

The volume of field crop production increased by 12,2% during 2024/25, mainly because of an increase in the



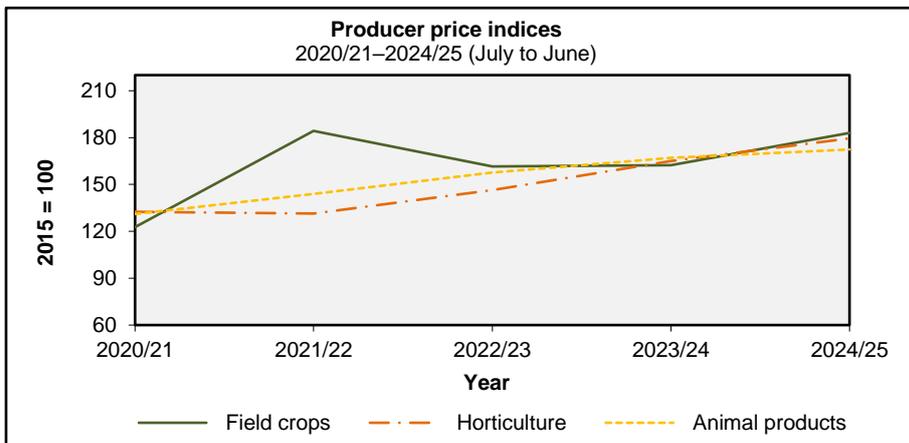
production of summer crops (maize and sorghum), oilseeds (sunflower seed, soya beans and groundnuts), as well as dry beans. Furthermore, the production of winter crops (oats and canola) also increased as compared to 2023/24.

Horticultural production decreased by 0,8% for the above-mentioned period, which can mainly be attributed to a decrease in the production of subtropical fruits (guavas, mangoes, avocados, litchis, bananas and pineapples), as well as deciduous fruits (apricots and apples). Furthermore, the production of dried fruits and nuts also contributed to a decrease in horticultural products as compared to the previous season.

Animal production increased by 3,7%, mainly because of an increase in the production of stock slaughtered (cattle, sheep and lamb, pork and goat), eggs and poultry meat, as well as pastoral animal products (wool, mohair and ostrich feathers) as compared to 2023/24.

Producer prices of agricultural products

The prices received by farmers for agricultural products increased by 6,0% on average in 2024/2025, compared to an average increase of 6,5% in 2023/2024.



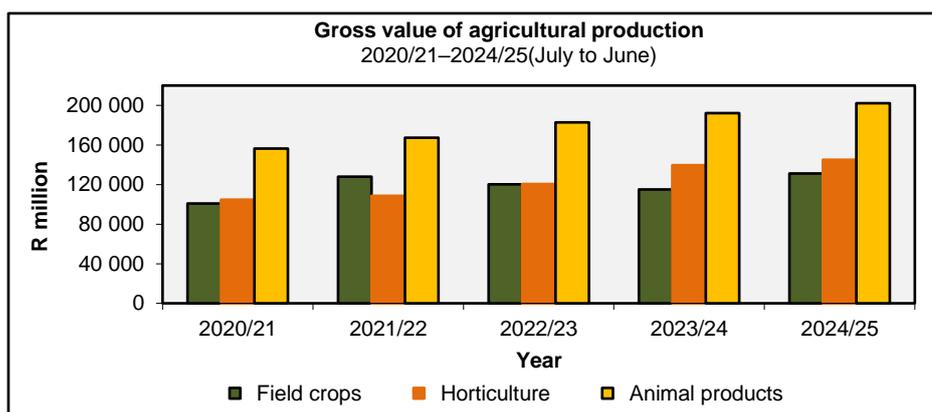
The average price of field crops increased by 12,8% due to the increase in prices of summer grains by 27,5%, tobacco by 24,9%, dry beans by 13,3% and sugar cane by 11,6%. The prices of hay decreased by 12,7%, winter grains and oilseeds by 3,2% each and cotton slightly by 0,3%.

The average price of horticultural products increased by 5,4% and was driven by the increase in prices of fruit by 9,5% and viticulture by 7,4%. The price of vegetables decreased slightly by 0,1%.

The average price of animal products increased by 3,2% due to the increase in prices of slaughtered stock by 7,4%, milk by 3,5% and poultry meat slightly by 0,8%. The price of pastoral products decreased by 8,1%.

Gross value of agricultural production

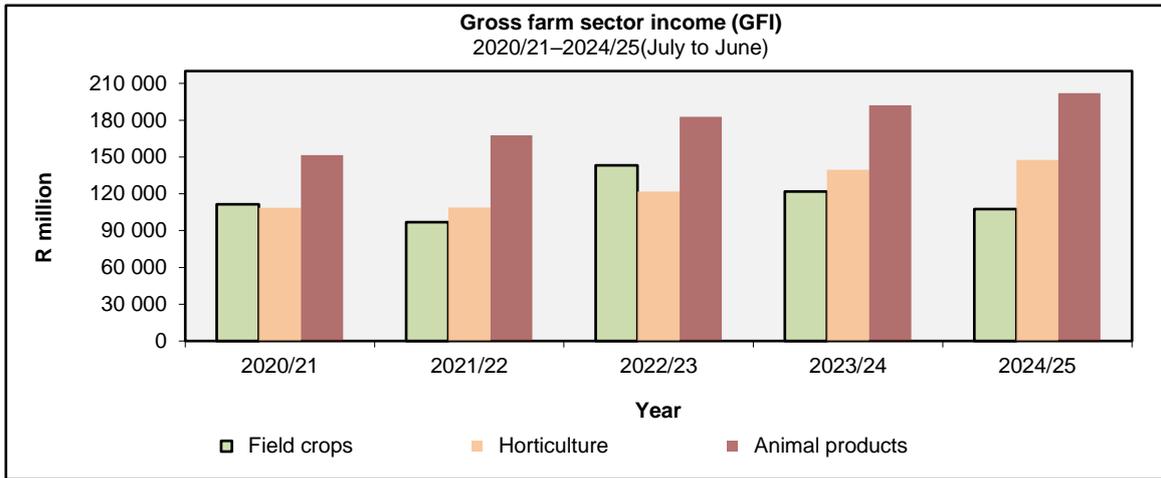
The *total gross value of agricultural production* (total production during the production season valued at the average basic prices received by producers) for 2024/25 is estimated at R478 418 million, compared to R446 972 million the previous year—an increase of 7,0%. This increase can mainly be attributed to the increase in the value of field crops and animal products by 13,9% and 5,2%, respectively.



The gross value of animal products contributed 42,3% to the total gross value of agricultural production, horticultural products with 30,3% and field crops with 27,4%. The poultry meat industry made the largest contribution with 15,3%, followed by maize with 14,0% and cattle and calves slaughtered with 10,1%.

Farming income

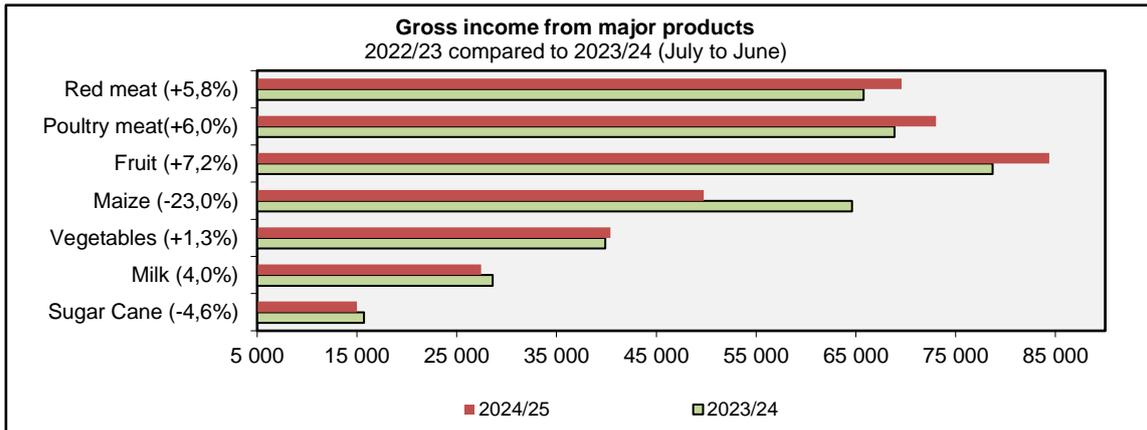
The *gross income of producers* (the value of sales and production for other uses, plus the value of changes in inventories) increased slightly by 0,2% and is estimated at R457 487 million in 2024/2025, compared to R456 709 million in 2023/2024. The increase in gross farming income was largely driven by the increase in income generated from horticultural and animal products by 5,8% and 5,2%, respectively.



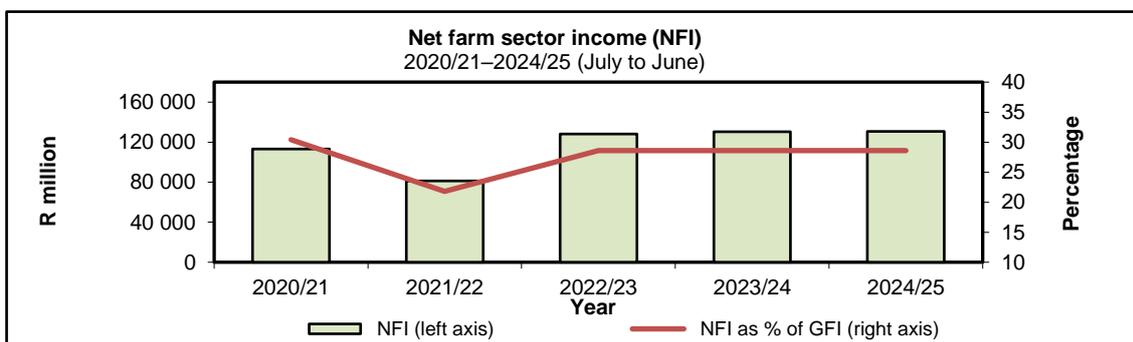
The gross income earned from field crops decreased significantly by 13,8% to R107 629 million in 2024/2025, from R124 889 million of the previous period. The reason for the decrease in income from field crops was the decrease in income derived from sunflower seed by 78,0%, maize and cotton (23,0%) each, wheat (9,5%), sugar cane (4,6%), grain sorghum (2,9%) and barley (2,4%).

The gross income from horticultural products increased by 5,8% and amounted to R147 740 million in 2024/2025, compared to R139 604 million in 2023/2024. This was influenced by the increase in income from citrus fruit by 12,8%, deciduous and other fruit by 5,5% and vegetables by 1,3%. The income obtained from subtropical fruit decreased by 6,9% and viticulture by 2,2%.

The gross income from animal products increased by 5,2% and amounted to R202 118 million for the year ended June 2025, as compared to R192 217 million the previous period. This can be attributed to the increase in income from sheep slaughtered by 12,3%, cattle and calves slaughtered by 7,0%, poultry meat by 6,0% and eggs by 2,8%. The income earned by milk producers decreased by 4,8%.



The *net farm income* (after the deduction of all production expenditure, excluding expenditure on fixed assets and capital goods) increased marginally by R230 million or 0,2% in 2024/2025. Salaries and wages that were paid to workers by farmers are estimated at R57 470 million for the year ended June 2025 and represented

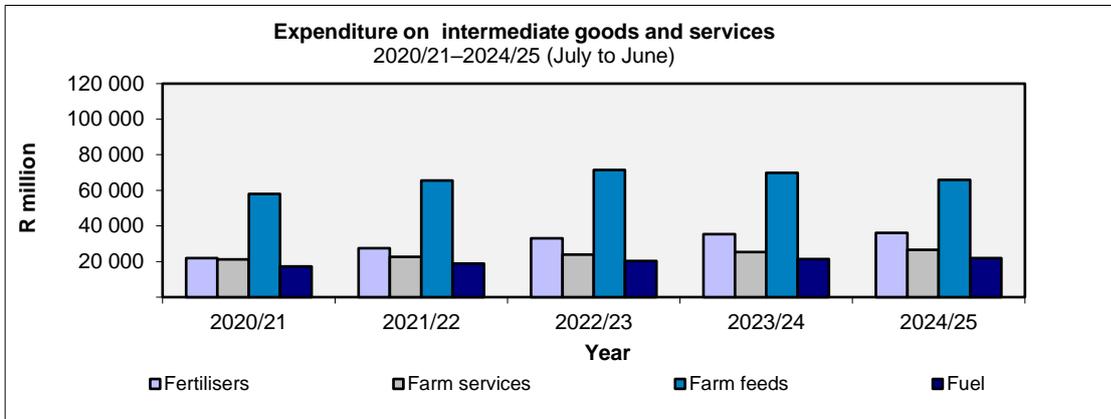


17,1% of the total farming costs. Interest paid by farmers to banks and other financiers is estimated to be R18 377 million, representing 5,5% of the total farming costs.

Expenditure on intermediate goods and services

Intermediate expenditure refers to the value of goods and services that were purchased for consumption as inputs during the production process.

Expenditure on intermediate goods and services decreased by 1,1% and is estimated at R245 788 million for the period ended 30 June 2025. The increase can be attributed to the decrease in expenditure on farm feeds by 6,8%, animal health and crop protection by 6,1%, seed and plants by 4,9% and packing material by 1,3%.

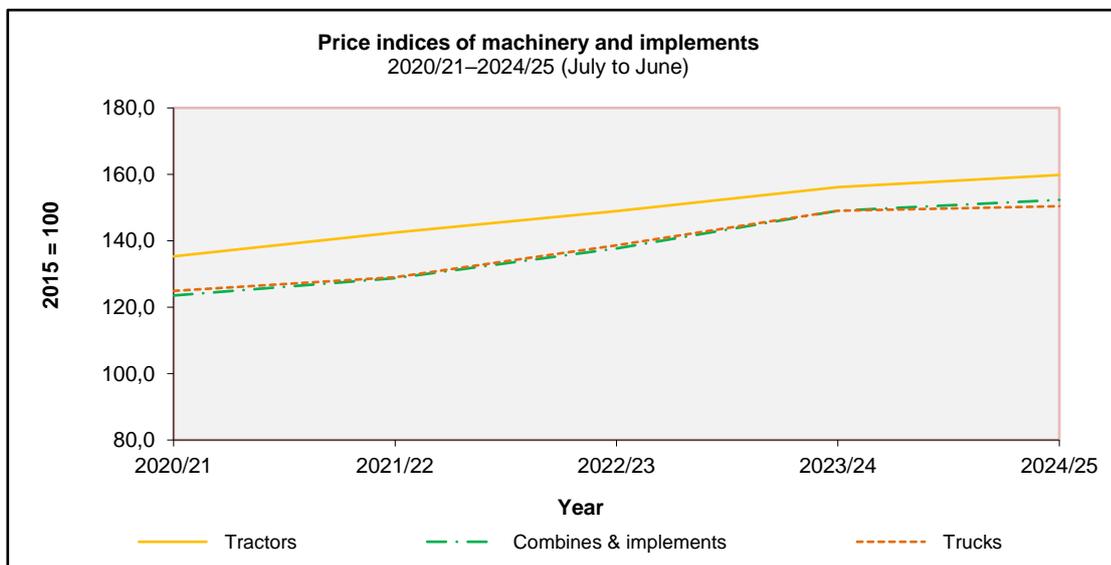


Farm feeds accounted for the largest share of 26,8% to total expenditure on agricultural inputs, followed by fertilisers (14,7%), farm services (10,8%), maintenance and repairs of implements and machinery (9,5%), fuel (8,9%), seed and plants (6,4%), packing material (5,3%), building and fencing material (4,7%) and animal health and crop protection (4,1%).

Prices of farming requisites

The prices paid for farming requisites, including machinery and implements, material for fixed improvements as well as intermediate goods and services decreased by 1,8% in 2024/2025, compared to the decrease of 8,0% in 2023/2024. This was caused by the decrease in prices of animal health and crop protection by 10,8%, fuel by 6,5% and fertilisers slightly by 0,7%.

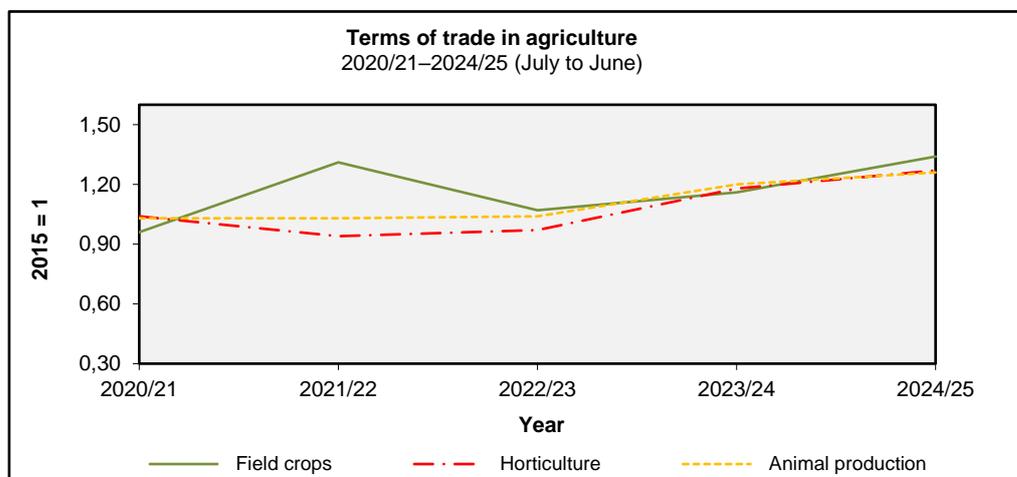
The combined price index of materials for fixed improvements increased by 4,6% and machinery and implements by 1,8%, while that of intermediate goods and services decreased by 2,8%.



Domestic terms of trade in agriculture (2015 = 1)

The terms of trade indicate the extent to which producer prices received by farmers kept pace with the prices paid for farming requisites.

The domestic terms of trade increased by 7,6% from 1,19 to 1,28 because of better prices received from agricultural products. The terms of trade for field crops increased by 15,5% (from 1,16 to 1,34), horticultural products by 7,6% (from 1,18 to 1,27) and animal products by 5,0% (from 1,20 to 1,26).



Contribution of agriculture to value added at basic prices

Value added is the value of total output less the value of intermediate consumption during the production period.

The summary below shows the agricultural sector's overall contribution to the South African economy. The contribution of agriculture to value added for the year ended 31 December 2024 is estimated at R181 889 million, which represents 2,7% of the total value added to the economy.

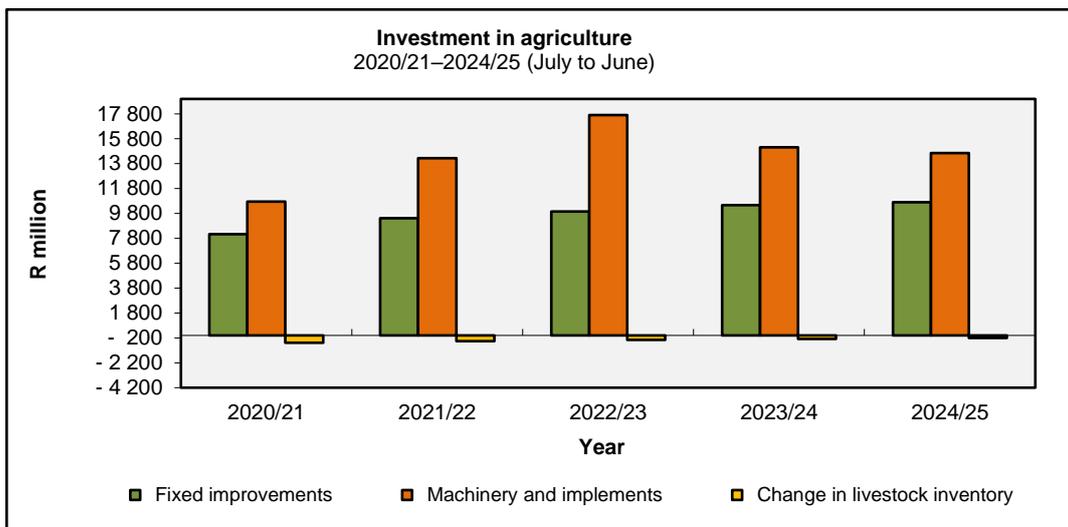
Year	Total value added	Contribution of agriculture to value added	Contribution of agriculture as percentage of total value added
	R' million	R' million	%
2014	3 738 791	77 331	2,1
2015	3 981 758	86 908	2,2
2016	4 288 841	101 116	2,4
2017	4 592 450	111 443	2,4
2018	4 829 603	106 696	2,2
2019	5 058 166	96 544	1,9
2020	5 035 875	126 231	2,5
2021	5 592 551	134 250	2,4
2022	5 990 574	152 870	2,6
2023	6 321 218	157 007	2,5
2024	6 625 579	181 889	2,7

Capital assets and investment in agriculture

The value of capital assets in agriculture showed an increase of R27 643 million (3,9%) to R744 111 million for the period ended June 2025, compared to R716 468 million the previous corresponding period.

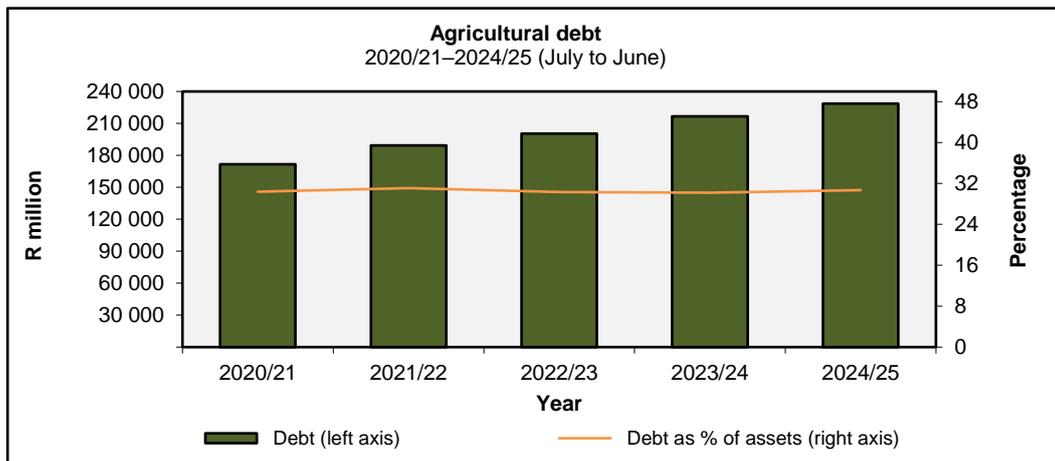
The proportion of land and fixed improvements to the total value of capital assets was R473 600 million (62,9%), machinery and implements (R142 342 million or 19,1%) and livestock (R128 169 million or 17,2%).

The gross investment in fixed improvements increased by 2,2% (R10 700 million) for the period ended June 2025, machinery and other equipment decreased by 3,1% (R14 653 million) and transport vehicles decreased by 0,2% (R2 272 million). Livestock inventory was estimated at 28,7% (R61 million) more than in the previous period.



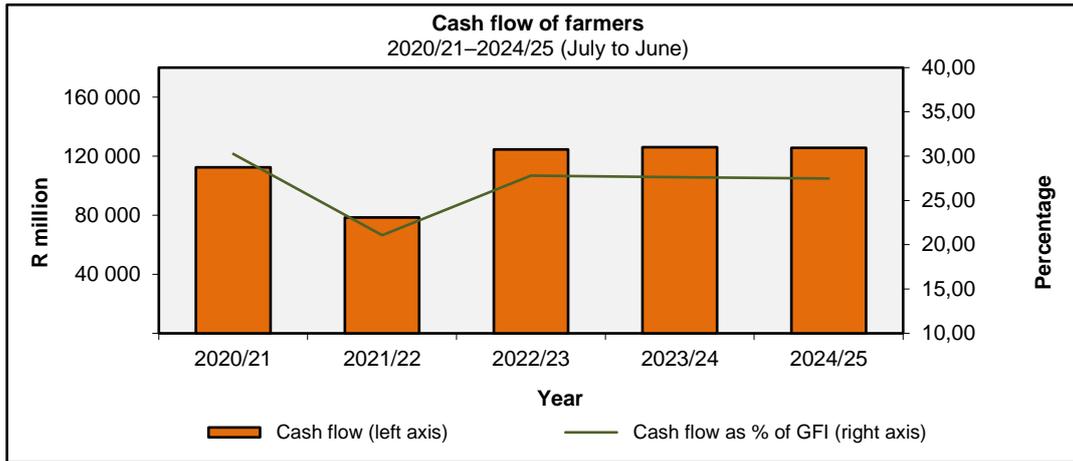
Farming debt

The total farming debt has increased by 5,5% and is estimated at R228 550 million for the year ended June 2025, compared to R216 653 million at the end of June 2024.



Cash flow of farmers

The farmers' cash flow decreased by 0,4% and is estimated at R125 659 million in 2024/25, as opposed to R126 126 million in 2023/24.



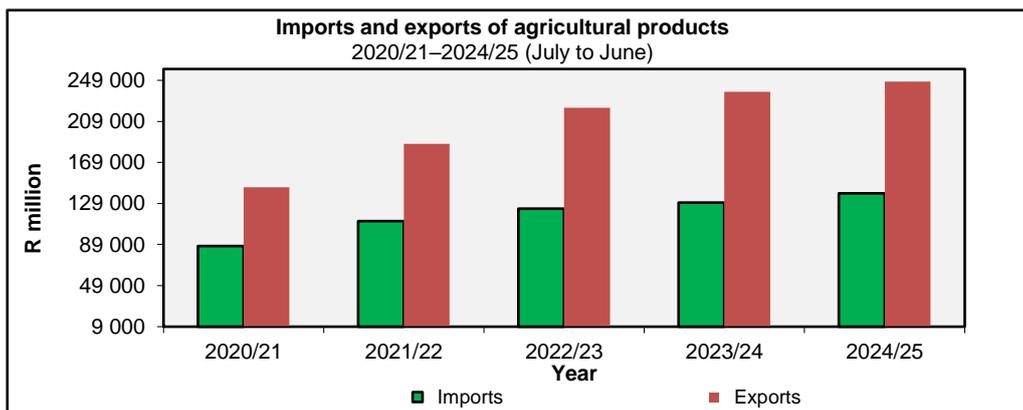
Consumer prices

The consumer prices of all agricultural products increased by 3,3% in 2024/25, as compared to an increase of 5,3% in 2023/24. The consumer prices of grain products increased by 4,4%, non-food items by 3,2%, food by 2,9%, milk, eggs and cheese by 2,0% and meat by 1,4%.

The consumer prices of coffee and tea increased by 14,3%, sugar by 6,0%, fruit by 5,2%, fish by 5,0%, vegetables by 4,1%, other food by 2,9% and fats and oils by 2,2%.

Imports and exports of agricultural products

The estimated value of imports for 2024/25 amounted to R138 950 million, an increase of 7,0% from R129 818 million in 2023/24. The value of exports increased by 4,2%, from R237 841 million in 2023/24 to R247 875 million in 2024/25.



According to the 2024/25 export values, oranges (R14 176 million), maize (R13 400 million), grapes (R11 569 million), soft citrus (R11 153 million) and apples (R10 782 million), were the most important agricultural export products. Milled rice (R10 889 million), palm oil (R10 308 million), wheat (R10 025 million), sugar cane (R4 378 million) and food preparations (R3 292 million) accounted for the highest imports in terms of value.

During 2024/25, the Netherlands, with exports to the value of R25 883 million, Zimbabwe (R21 191 million), the United Kingdom (R18 908 million), Botswana (R14 142 million) and Namibia (R14 059 million) were the five largest trading partners of South Africa in terms of export destinations for agricultural products.

The five largest trading partners for South Africa's imported agricultural products during 2024/25 were Thailand (R9 865 million), China (R9 459 million), Brazil (R9 322 million), Eswatini (R8 651 million) and Indonesia (R7 575 million).