

POCKET GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

About 12% of the country's surface area can be used for crop production. High-potential arable land comprises only 22% of total arable land. Some 1,3 million hectares (ha) are under irrigation.

Agricultural activities range from intensive crop production and mixed farming to cattle ranching in the bushveld, and sheep farming in the more arid regions.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is responsible for production and resource management; agricultural support services; trade and economic development; food safety and biosecurity; forestry; and marine aquaculture.

Economic contribution

Primary agriculture contributes about 3% to South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and about 7% to formal employment. However, there are strong linkages into the economy, so that the agro-industrial sector comprises about 12% of GDP.

For the past five years, agricultural exports have contributed on average about 6,5% of total South African exports. Exports increased from 5% (1988) to 46% (2009) of agricultural production.

The largest export groups are wine, citrus, maize, grapes, sugar, apples, pears and quinces. Other important export products are undermatured ethyl alcohol, avocados, pineapples, dates, preserved fruit and nuts, as well as hides and skins.

Production

Producer prices of agricultural products decreased on average by 1,7% from 2009 to 2010. The weighted average price of field crops dropped by 6,2%. This was mainly the result of lower prices received for summer grains, dry beans and cotton. However, prices of vegetables, fruit and viticultural products increased by 42,3%, 6,8% and 1,8% respectively.

Summer grains, dry beans and hay decreased by 18,6%, 8,9% and 1,4% respectively. Prices of sugar cane, tobacco, oilseeds and winter grains increased by 15,1%, 10,9%, 3,6% and 1,4% respectively.

The demand for meat remained strong and meat prices increased between 8% and 15%.

Gross value of agricultural production, 2010 (million)	
Field crops	
Maize	13 522
Wheat	3 191
Hay	3 116
Grain sorghum	314
Sugar cane	4 825
Groundnuts	453
Tobacco	346
Sunflower seed	1 504
Soya beans	1 431
Other	1 353
Total	30 055
Horticulture	
Viticulture	3 474
Citrus fruit	6 455
Subtropical fruit	2 088
Deciduous and other fruit	8 757
Vegetables	7 802
Potatoes	4 775
Other	2 172
Total	35 523
Animal products	
Wool	1 424
Poultry and poultry products	29 598
Cattle and cattle products	15 203
Sheep and goats slaughtered	3 677
Pigs slaughtered	2 924
Milk	9 253
Other	3 442
Total	65 521
Grand total	131 099

Source: Directorate: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

In September 2011, South Africa hosted the African Ministerial Conference on Agriculture. The conference aimed to share experiences and develop a common understanding among African ministers of agriculture of climate-smart agriculture.



Field crops and horticulture

The largest area of farmland planted with field crops is maize, followed by wheat and, to a lesser extent, sugar cane and sunflower seed. The grain industry is one of the largest in South Africa and is a very strategic one. According to the *Economic Review of South African Agriculture*, the gross income from field crops decreased by 14,1% to R27 617 million for the year ended 31 December 2009.

- Maize is the largest locally produced field crop, and the most important source of carbohydrates in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for animal and human consumption. South Africa is the main maize producer in the SADC region, with an average production of about 9,7 million tons (mt) a year over the past 10 years. It is estimated that more than 8 000 commercial maize producers are responsible for the major part of the South African crop, while the rest is produced by thousands of small-scale producers. Maize is produced mainly in North West, the Free State and Mpumalanga. A total of 13,4 Mt of maize were produced in 2009/10 on 3,3 million ha of land (non-commercial agriculture included).
- Wheat is produced mainly in the winter-rainfall areas of the Western Cape and the eastern parts of the Free State. In 2010, 1,52 Mt were produced on 558 000 ha of land.
- South Africa is the world's 12th-largest producer of sunflower seed, which is produced in the Free State, North West, on the Mpumalanga Highveld and in Limpopo. An area of 397 700 ha was planted in 2009/10, producing 509 000 t.
- The cane-growing sector comprises approximately 35 300 registered sugar-cane growers farming predominantly in KwaZulu-Natal, with a substantial investment in Mpumalanga and some farming operations in the Eastern Cape. Sugar is manufactured by six milling companies with 14 sugar mills operating in these cane-growing regions.
- South Africa is the leading exporter of protea cut flowers, which account for more than half of proteas sold on the world market.

Some other crops

- Deciduous fruit is grown mainly in the Western Cape and in the Langkloof Valley in the Eastern Cape. Smaller produc-

Production of important field crops and horticultural products, 2010 ('000 t)

Maize	13 431
Wheat	1 967
Sugar cane	16 866
Grain sorghum	226
Soya beans	566
Sunflower seed	509
Deciduous and other soft fruit	1 826
Citrus fruit	2 167
Subtropical fruit	670
Vegetables	2 506
Potatoes	2 089

Source: Directorate: Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

tion areas are found along the Orange River and in the Free State, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. In 2010, South Africa produced 656 884 t of subtropical fruit, which were 642 t more than in 2009.

- Citrus production is largely limited to irrigation areas and takes place in Limpopo (16 255 ha), Mpumalanga (11 681 ha), Eastern Cape (12 923 ha), KwaZulu-Natal (4 004 ha), Western Cape (9 524 ha) and Northern Cape (639 ha). Pineapples are grown in the Eastern Cape and in northern KwaZulu-Natal. Other subtropical crops such as avocados, mangoes, bananas, litchis, guavas, papayas, granadillas, and macadamia and pecan nuts are produced mainly in Mpumalanga and Limpopo, and in the subtropical coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.
- The 2011 overall wine-grape crop size was estimated at 1 279 017 t according to the South African Wine Industry Information and Systems. This was 1,4% more than the 2010 crop. With the exception of the Orange River, Breede Kloof and Worcester, all nine cultivation districts were expected to have bigger crops. The 2011 crop – including juice and concentrate for non-alcoholic purposes, and wine for brandy and distilling wine – was expected to amount to 992,5 million litres, calculated at an average recovery of

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About 8,5 million people depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their employment and income.



Guided by government's New Growth Path (NGP), the agricultural sector has been identified as one of the sectors that has significant potential to create jobs. The NGP targets job opportunities for 300 000 households in agriculture smallholder schemes, and a further 145 000 jobs in agroprocessing, which in turn will have the potential to upgrade conditions for 660 000 farm workers by 2020.

The department is committed to creating 130 000 jobs in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors by 2014.

776 litres per ton of grapes. This was 1% more than the 2010 wine crop.

Livestock

Nearly 80% of agricultural land in South Africa is mainly suitable for extensive livestock farming. Livestock are also kept in other areas, usually in combination with other farming enterprises. Numbers vary according to weather conditions. Stockbreeders concentrate mainly on developing breeds that are well adapted to diverse weather and environmental conditions. The livestock sector contributes up to 49% of agricultural output. South Africa generally produces 85% of its meat requirements, while the remaining 15% is imported from Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. The livestock industry is the largest national agricultural sector.

The South African dairy industry is important to the job market, with over 4 000 milk producers employing 60 000 farm workers and providing 40 000 people with indirect jobs within the value chain such as milk processing.

Support to smallholder farmers

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries aims to increase its support to new and existing smallholder farmers, working in close collaboration with the provinces to achieve its targets.

In the 2011/12 financial year, 15 000 smallholder farmers were targeted, including support provided to small-scale foresters and fishers.

A grant of over R1 billion was allocated to the nine provinces. By June 2011, the provinces had received the initial 10% of

Government has embarked on a mechanisation strategy aimed at stimulating production by smallholders, with a special focus on rural areas and the former homelands.



By August 2011, the initial 85 tractors had been increased to 272 and were used in 40 projects to till 12 835 ha of land, benefiting 1 608 people in Mpumalanga.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the 85 tractors were increased to 190 and were used by nearly 200 traditional leaders to service over 9 000 ha.

In Mpumalanga, a fleet of tractors is part of the Masibuyele Emasimini Programme, while in KwaZulu-Natal the State owns and manages a fleet of tractors and employs and trains the tractor drivers.

their allocation, which was followed by a further 20% in the next month, and the remaining allocations in October 2011 and January 2012.

The Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme has been reprioritised to respond timeously to the demands of the Land and Agrarian Reform Project (LARP). The LARP is aimed at accelerating and aligning land and agrarian reform in South Africa.

Climate change

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is a major role player in climate-change activities within the agricultural sector. The department has several climate change-related policies and programmes. These are in addition to the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and the National Disaster Management Framework, 2005, which address agricultural risk management and climate change. The department's climate-change programmes and policies are aligned with South Africa's National Climate-Change Response Policy. The Climate Change Sector Plan for Agriculture (Working Paper, April 2008) outlines measures of addressing agricultural sector challenges, namely creating awareness of climate change and the effects of climate change; improving knowledge on climate change; increasing capacity to respond to climate-change impacts; research; and funding research projects.

Forestry

The forestry industry is one of the strategic economic sectors in South Africa with a significant contribution towards economic growth and job creation.

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In terms of land use, the area under forestry totals about 1,275 million ha or approximately 1% of the total South African land area of 122,3 million ha. The forestry sector (forestry and forest products) contributes 1,20% to GDP. In terms of regional GDP, forestry contributes 4,5% in KwaZulu-Natal; 4,7% in Mpumalanga; 0,9% in the Eastern Cape; and about 0,5% in Limpopo. The value of exported forest products increased from R9,5 billion in 2001 to R13,4 billion in 2010.

The forestry sector employed around 201 025 people in 2009.

That year, the total investment in the forestry industry amounted to R24,8 billion. This comprised 58,5% in trees; 19,4% in land; 13% in roads; 6,2% in fixed assets; and 2,8% in moveable assets. Regarding investment in the forest-product sector by type of processing plant for 2009, the total book value of investments amounted to R15,7 billion. This investment comprised 82,7% in pulp and board plants; 11,8% in sawmills and veneer plants; 1% in pole plants; 0,3% in mining timber; and 4,2% in other plants. The industry was a net exporter of almost R3,9 billion worth of goods in 2010, of which more than 99% took the form of converted value-added products. The forest-product industry ranks among the top exporting industries in the country, having contributed 2,27% to total exports and 1,61% to total imports in 2010. Capital investment in the industry amounted to an estimated R45 billion in 2010.

Indigenous forests

There are about 530 000 ha of indigenous or natural forests in the country, which occur mainly along the southern and

South Africa has 183 primary wood-processing plants, 180 of which are owned by the private sector and three of which are owned by local and state authorities. Of these, 102 are sawmills; 13 are mining-timber sawmills; 44 are pole-treating plants; 19 are pulp, paper and board mills; one is a match factory; and four are charcoal plants.



The total roundwood intake into these processing plants in 2008 was 19,6 million m³, valued at R6 billion. The value of sales of timber products produced by these primary processing plants totalled R21,4 billion. Some R15,8 billion was invested in primary roundwood-processing plants (at book value). At market value, this increased to an estimated R40 billion.

Champion trees, protected under the National Forests Act, 1998, are proclaimed every year in the *Government Gazette*. These are individual trees and groups of trees (shortlisted by a panel of experts) considered to be of national conservation importance. Among the listed trees are the:



- Tsitsikamma Big Tree along the Garden Route
- Post Office Milkwood Tree of Mossel Bay
- Sagole Baobab in Limpopo (one of the largest trees in South Africa).

By May 2011, 56 trees and groups of trees had been declared protected as champion trees.

The oldest planted tree is a saffron pear, brought from the Netherlands and planted in the Company's Garden in Cape Town more than three centuries ago.

Historic trees include a poplar tree, which served as a landmark for refugees during the apartheid regime who found a safe haven in the Johannesburg house of Ruth Fischer (daughter of Bram Fischer, who was a founder member of the South African Communist Party).

The Champion Tree Project of South Africa is the only one of its kind in Africa.

eastern escarpment, the coastal belt and in sheltered kloofs or ravines.

There has been an increase in the use of natural forests as sources of medicine, building material, fuel wood and food. It is estimated that around 80% of South Africa's population still uses medicinal plants, most of which are sourced from natural habitats.

By mid-2009, the private sector owned 1 058 908 ha (or 83%) of the total plantation area of 1 274 869 ha, and virtually all the processing plants in the country.

The remaining 17% (215 961 ha) was under public ownership, although this figure included Komatland Forests (KLF), the remaining South African Forestry Company (Ltd) package. The extent of public ownership has decreased significantly in recent years because of restructuring.

In 2009, capital investment in these plantations stood at R24,8 billion, 59% of which was attributable to investment in trees. A further 19% was tied up in land, 13% in roads, 6% in fixed assets and 3% in machinery and equipment.

Fisheries

The South African coastline covers more than 3 200 km, linking the east and west coasts of Africa. South Africa's

In August 2011, a Sydney gum tree (*Eucalyptus saligna*), over 80 m tall, broke the previous South African tree height record held by two gum trees, known as the “Twin Giants of Magoebaskloof”, by a metre. This tree has also reached a new African tree height record. Three giant Mexican pine trees (*Pinus oocarpa*) measured over 50 m. Few pine trees anywhere in the world grow this tall. It is estimated that the pine trees, like their gum tree counterparts nearby, are more than a century old.



shores are particularly rich in biodiversity, with some 10 000 species of marine plants and animals having been recorded.

The productive waters of the west coast support a variety of commercially exploited marine life, including hake, anchovy, sardine, horse mackerel, tuna, snoek, rock lobster and abalone.

On the east coast, squid, linefish and a wide range of intertidal resources provide an important source of food and livelihood for coastal communities. Marine life that is not harvested, such as whales, dolphins and seabirds, is increasingly recognised as a valuable resource for nature-based tourism.

The South African fishing industry, which was once concentrated in the hands of a few, largely white-owned companies, has undergone intensive transformation over the past few years.

South Africa has a well-established fishery sector and is a net exporter of fishery products. However, most of South African fisheries are considered to be fully used and high-value fisheries such as abalone, prawns and linefish are largely overexploited.

The country also has a well-developed fisheries-management system and is one of the leading countries in the implementation of an ecosystem approach for fisheries management. South Africa plays an important role internationally, in the regional fisheries management organisations and regional programmes such as the Benguela Current Commission and other related programmes.

The programme aims to promote the equitable and sustainable management and efficient use of marine living resources.

The South African coast provides substantial opportunities for economic and social development. However, it is a resource at risk from inappropriate developments, pollution, poaching and over-use. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries plans to look at the economic prospects for marine culture, namely the husbanding and harvesting of sea plants for economic purposes.

The department plans to reduce the degradation of the marine environment through policies that promote conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources. It also aims to restore and maintain productive capacity and biodiversity of the marine environment and protect human health.

The projected increase in demand for high-end fishery products provides an opportunity for substantial increases in aquaculture production.

South Africa's commercial fishery industry is valued at about R2 billion annually and employs about 27 000 people.

The total annual fish production from marine fisheries is more than 600 000 t. Given the market trends, South Africa's environmental potential for aquaculture and the state of development of its industry, production could grow from 3 543 t (worth R218 million) to more than 90 000 t (worth R2,4 billion) over the next 10 to 20 years.

The fishing industry has an annual turnover of about R80 billion and contributes 0,5% to the GDP.

In 2010, a policy review process was developed and implemented for fishing rights allocations in the commercial sector. A strategy was also put in place for abalone and hake fishing.

