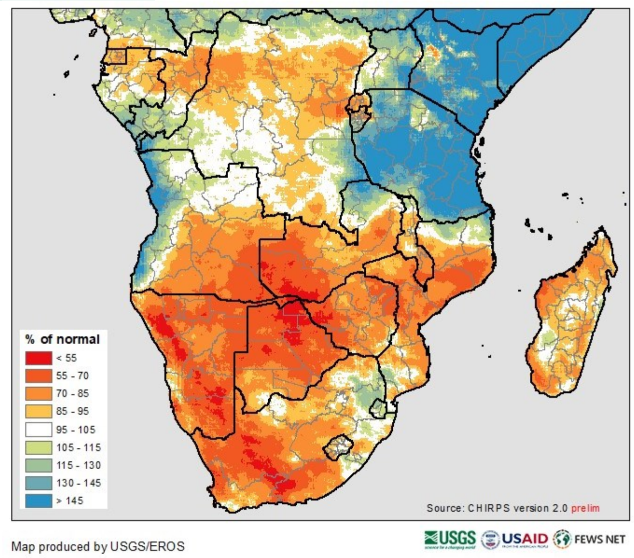
FEWS NET
Famine Early Warning Systems Network

Southern Africa Regional Supply and Market Outlook Update

April 23, 2024

Key Messages

Figure 1 **Seasonal rainfall accumulation percent of normal by pentad 2023-2024 season Oct-May**



Source: USGS/EROS (2024)

- Supplies from the 2024 cereal harvest are expected to be insufficient to cover regional requirements for Marketing Year (MY) 2024/25 due to extended dry periods, high temperatures, and early end of the rainy season driven by El Niño conditions (Figure 1). Apart from Tanzania and Madagascar, all countries in the region will have below average staple production in MY 2024/25. Malawi is expected to be 45 percent below the five-year average, Mozambique 41 percent, South Africa 10 percent, Zimbabwe 55 percent, and Zambia 34 percent.
- While intra-regional trade will help to alleviate maize deficits in the region, it will not meet overall regional needs; an estimated 5 million tons (at minimum) of imported maize will be necessary to meet regional demand. Imports will likely remain below the six million-plus tons imported following the strong El Niño in 2015/16. Due to the reduced maize availability in 2024, prices in most markets are projected to increase atypically early after a brief period of stabilization. Increases are expected to be most pronounced in the deficit-producing regions of southern Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique.
- As the Marketing Year (MY) 2023/24[1] concludes, maize supplies in Southern Africa are 12.3 percent higher than the five-year average and 8.5 percent higher than MY 2022/23 (Figure 2). MY 2023/24 ending stocks are estimated to be above average.
- By the end of March 2024, South Africa had exported 3.2 million MT of maize at a slightly quicker pace than at the same time in MY 2022/23. Of this total, 1.4 million MT was delivered to the SADC region, and 72 percent was white maize.[2] There have been no formal exports of maize grain from Zambia since April 2023. Tanzania has been an active exporter of maize to the region following an above-average 2023 harvest. An estimated 296,850 MT was exported from Tanzania since May 2023 to Kenya, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, and Malawi.
- Maize prices in local currencies increased seasonally for much of the MY 2023/24 as the lean season progressed and market supplies dwindled. Prices were above the previous year and five-year average in most markets. Reference prices in Randfontein for white maize increased significantly during this period due to strong export demand from the region.

This report summarizes changes to regional maize availability estimates and markets in countries monitored by FEWS NET in southern Africa. It updates the Regional Maize Supply and Market Outlook Report published in October 2023. FEWS NET gratefully acknowledges partner organizations, national ministries of agriculture, national market information systems, regional organizations, and others for their assistance in providing the harvest estimates, commodity balance sheets, trade, and price data used in this report.

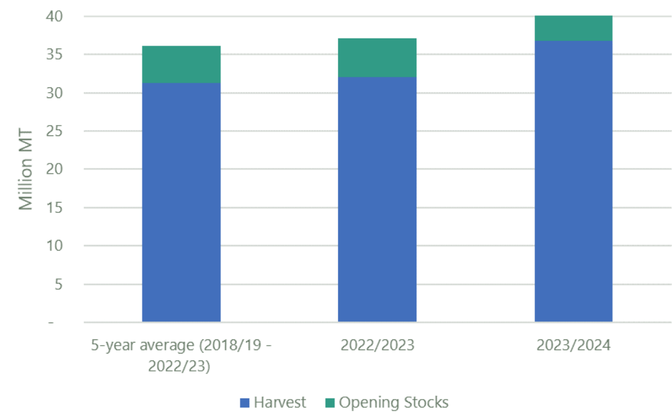
[1] The marketing year (MY) begins May 1, 2023, and ends April 30, 2024.

[2] White maize is generally more important for human consumption, while yellow maize is more widely used for animal feed and processing.

FEWS NET Southern Africa
southernafrica@fews.net
www.fews.net/southernafrica

Current Market Trends

Figure 2 **Regional maize supply estimates for MY 2023/24**



Source: FEWS NET

- Southern Africa began MY 2023/24 with a total maize supply 12 percent above average despite opening stocks at 21 percent below average (Figure 2). However, the 2023 harvest covered the supply gaps, ensuring the region had a net supply 23 percent higher than the five-year average and higher than MY 2022/23 levels. The ending stocks of MY 2023/24 are estimated at above-average levels and will be necessary given the estimated production shortfalls in MY 2024/25.
- As the marketing season unfolded, concerns emerged regarding the availability of supplies in Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Although official estimates suggested these countries were self-sufficient in MY 2023/24, market prices rose abnormally, reflecting tight supplies; for example, imports were flowing into Zimbabwe as early as September 2023, five months after harvest. In Malawi, discrepancies between near-average official production estimates and market dynamics were registered as early as July when prices started the seasonal increase earlier and more aggressively than expected. Further, informal maize imports to Malawi from Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia increased immediately after harvest as traders could not source supplies locally. Zambia, which officially reported above-average harvests in 2023, saw maize prices rise by more than 10 percent during the harvest and immediate post-harvest period, providing an early indication of thin market supplies.
- Carry-over stocks are an essential source of regional maize supply. South Africa remains the regional leader in total carry-over stock tonnage. The state marketing boards in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi have lost the financial capacity to carry sufficient strategic reserves. As a result, carry-over stocks from above-average 2022 harvests in these countries were below average. These stocks failed to offset the effects of a seemingly below-average national production in MY 2023/24. Going into MY 2024/25, stocks are particularly low in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, and the regional closing stocks for MY 2023/24 are expected to be 10 percent below average, leading to reduced supplies. Throughout MY 2023/24, South Africa's total maize closing stock estimates were lowered from 1.47 to 1.13 million MT due to increased exports of white maize to the region. At the start of MY 2024/25, South Africa is expected to have below-average white maize opening stocks and will not be able to meet regional demand for white maize in MY 2024/25.

Trade flows

- Maize grain and maize meal flowed at average levels from surplus to deficit areas of the region during MY 2023/24 through formal and informal trade channels. A notable exception was the restriction of outflows from Zambia since April 2023 and the imposition of an export ban in February 2024. Responding to signals of a supply deficit, Zambia stopped exporting maize in April 2023 and positioned security personnel on crucial trade routes to restrict informal maize grain and flour exports. At the same time, the government allowed the duty-free importation of maize flour to be re-exported to the DRC to fulfill the trade agreement between the two countries. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe relaxed its grain movement restrictions immediately after the 2023 harvest, allowing only registered traders to purchase maize from farmers. In September 2023, authorities in Zimbabwe also permitted private traders to import maize grain and flour duty-free to augment dwindling domestic supplies. Maize imported from South Africa is GMO, and the general policy across SADC countries is not to grow GMO maize; the imported stock must be handled under strict conditions to avoid contamination. Imports must be stored appropriately in special storage facilities and milled before being utilized as food or feed.
- As projected, South Africa was the leading maize exporter in MY 2023/24, exceeding its average export levels and the combined volumes of Zambia and Tanzania (typically the region's other significant exporters). Import demand within the region was atypically high due to reduced domestic availability. With four weeks remaining in MY 2023/24, South Africa had

exported 3.24 million MT of maize (Table 1), similar to MY 2022/23. Of this total, 1.4 million MT were delivered to the SADC region, 72 percent of which was white maize. A third of South Africa's total maize exports to SADC were exported to Zimbabwe, 22 percent to Botswana, 16 percent to Mozambique, 15 percent to Namibia, and the balance to Eswatini and Lesotho (Table 1). The Asia market (South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, and China) is the primary (82 percent) export destination for South Africa's yellow maize. Zambia has not imported maize grain from South Africa but is considering imports from Tanzania. There have been no formal exports of maize grain from Zambia since April 2023.

- Tanzania has been an active exporter of maize to regional neighbors following an above-average 2023 harvest. An estimated 296,850 tons have been exported since May 2023, with 69 percent of flows destined for Kenya, 6 percent to Burundi, 7 percent to DRC, 14 percent to Malawi, and the balance to Rwanda and Uganda.
- Malawi (in December 2023) and Zambia (in March 2024) imposed phytosanitary import requirements for maize grain from Tanzania. They banned imports, including transit shipments, to prevent the introduction and spread of the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) virus. This followed a similar import ban by Tanzania in December 2023 on Malawi's maize and soybean exports to Tanzania. However, in March 2024, the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) reported that an assessment of domestic maize supplies was undertaken, and MLND was absent. Following this, Malawi and Zambia removed the import restrictions on Tanzanian maize.
- Around October 2023, midway through MY 2023/24, the larger share of cross-border trade flows from Tanzania shifted away from East African markets towards Malawi and DRC. As of February 2024, Malawi had imported 44,212 MT of maize grain. The first consignment of a targeted 23,009 MT of maize flour imported from Tanzania started arriving in Malawi in February 2024. Shipments to DRC are predominantly made of maize flour.

Table 1: Updated net maize supply estimates ('000 MT) for selected countries in MT (May 2023 to March 2024)

Country	5-Yr average net supply (2018/19 – 2022/23)	2023/24 Net supply (before trade)	2023/24 Maize grain trade as of March 29, 2024	2023/24 Maize meal trade as of March 2024	2023/24 Net supply after trade
South Africa	3,567	4,901	3,242 (net exports)	486 (net exports)	1,173
Zambia	727	471	50 (net exports)	50 (net exports)	371
Tanzania	554	1555	296 (net exports)	87 (net exports)	1,172
Malawi	319	274	63 (net imports)	25 (net exports)	362
Zimbabwe	-595	6	461 (net imports)	(net imports)	467
BLNE	-534	-634	619 (net imports)	(net imports)	-15
Mozambique	202	202	183 (net imports)	(net imports)	385

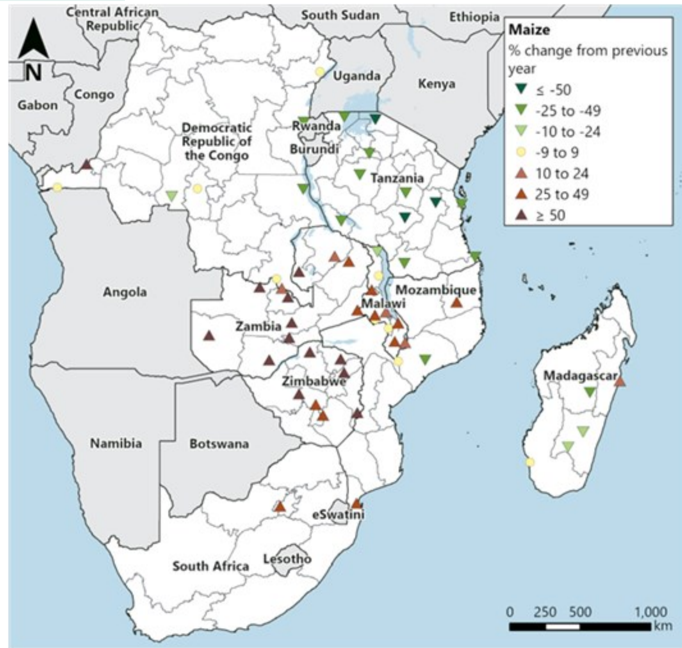
Source: FEWS NET/SAGIS estimates, 2024

- The demand and importance of rice as a dietary energy source is increasing in Southern Africa due to population growth, urbanization, and changes in consumer preferences. This trend is fueling a surging reliance on imported rice supplies. During MY 2023/24, rice imports by Madagascar, South Africa, and Mozambique were forecasted at 436,800 MT, 1.1 million MT, and 700,000 MT, respectively (FEWS NET & USDA). The import bill for imported rice is expected to increase as India, the leading source of rice for the region, banned exports of some rice varieties and introduced export taxes on other varieties, causing global rice prices to increase. Although the ban has caused minor supply disruptions for Southern Africa, the rise in export prices will impact off-take by regional traders. March retail prices of imported rice in Toamasina, the main port city of Madagascar, were at 0.76 USD/kg, nearly 17 percent above the two-year average levels.

Price trends

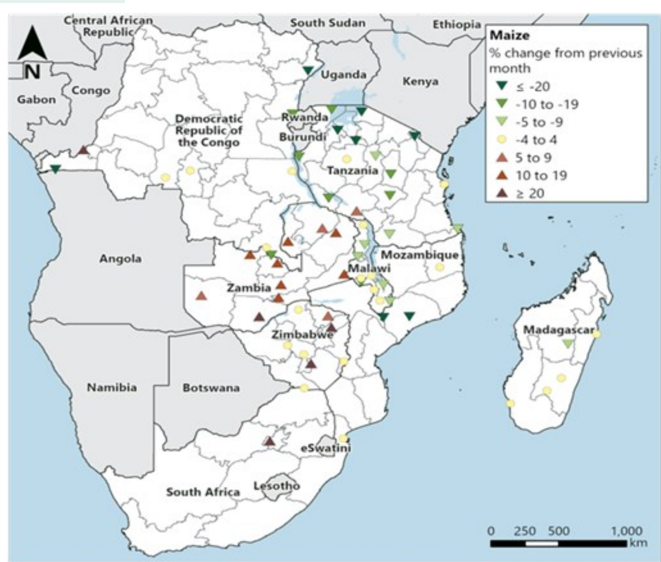
- Evidence of domestic maize deficits and thin market supplies have been reflected in prices in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. Reference maize market prices across Zambia and Zimbabwe in March 2024 were at least 25 percent above their respective March 2023 levels (Figure 3). Market prices in central and southern Malawi, southern Mozambique, and South Africa's SAFEX were also significantly above their corresponding levels a year ago. However, maize prices were well below last year's levels across most markets in Tanzania, central Madagascar, parts of DRC, and northern Malawi due to above-average domestic availability in MY 2023/24.
- In March 2024, market prices were seasonally trending upwards across Zambia, parts of Zimbabwe, and South Africa's SAFEX as the lean season progressed and supplies dwindled (Figure 4). Significant monthly increases for white maize in Randfontein, South Africa, were registered because of the region's strong export demand. However, the 2024 harvesting period had commenced across Tanzania and Malawi, and prices dipped from the peak levels registered during the lean season. In several other markets in Zimbabwe, USD maize grain prices were stable due to the consistent availability of industrially milled maize flour.
- In USD, March prices were lowest (0.21 to 0.30 USD/kg) in South Africa and Tanzania and highest (above 0.40 USD/kg) in central and southern Zambia, central and southern Malawi, across Zimbabwe, DRC, and southern Madagascar (Figure 5). In the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy, maize prices were atypically high across Malawi, reaching levels above 0.70 USD/kg in markets such as Ntcheu and Balaka in the south and Mzuzu and Karonga in the north. The difference between South Africa's and Tanzania's maize prices and those of the rest of the region explains why South Africa and Tanzania are the only sources of maize exports. However, prices of maize sourced from the southern highlands of Tanzania (Iringa, Mbeya, and Sumbawanga) can effectively compete with South Africa in supplying the Lilongwe (Malawi) and Lusaka (Zambia) markets. Maize from Tanzania has the advantage of being non-GMO, a preference that remains prioritized in the northern parts of Southern Africa. Parity prices for markets in northern Zambia and northern Malawi were in the middle range (0.31 to 0.40 USD/kg), given the proximity to Tanzania's maize surplus regions.

Figure 3 **March 2024 maize grain price trends compared to March 2023 in select markets**



Source: FEWS NET estimates (2024)

Figure 4 **March 2024 maize grain price trends compared to February 2024 in select markets**

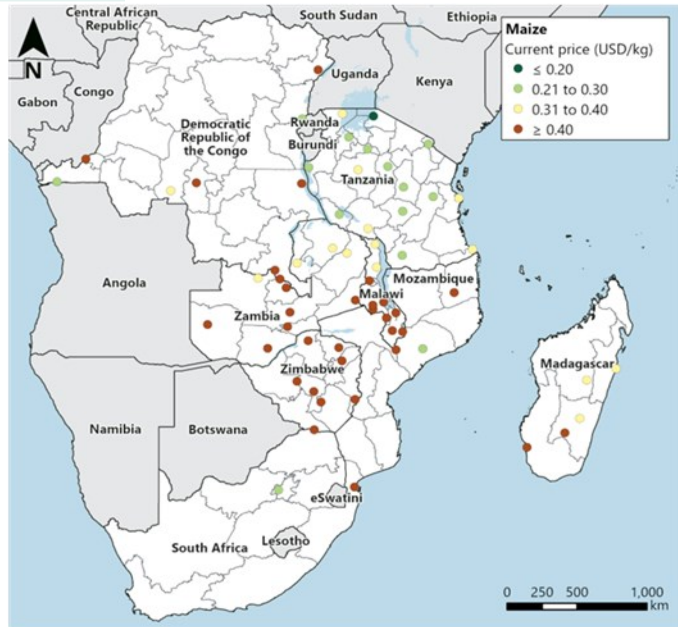


Source: FEWS NET estimates (2024)

- Given reduced 2024 harvests, maize market supplies will remain pressured. With increased dependence on imports, maize grain and maize flour prices are expected to remain elevated, driving elevated food inflation.

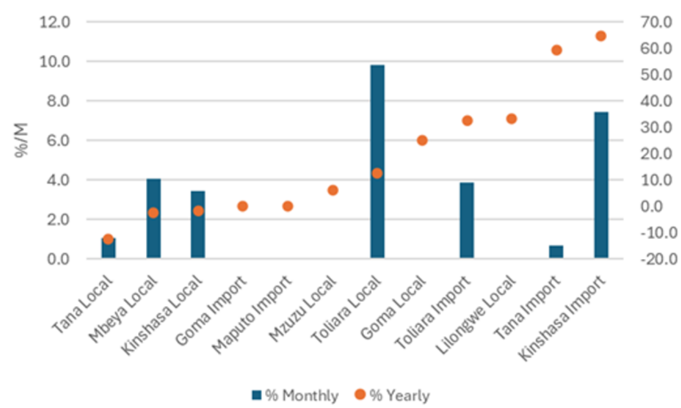
- Rice is the main staple in Madagascar and a close substitute for maize in Mozambique and Tanzania. Monthly rice prices were stable (<2.5 percent) in February 2024 across most markets in the region because of readily available stocks of local rice (Figure 6). March 2024 prices were comparable to last year's corresponding levels for local rice. However, imported rice prices in Antananarivo and Toliara in Madagascar and the Kinshasa market in DRC were higher than last year. Typically, local rice is more expensive than imported rice in Madagascar markets, averaging 17 percent higher in Antananarivo over the past two years. However, local rice prices in March in the port city of Toamasina in Madagascar were atypically similar to imported rice because of export taxes imposed by India, a major exporter to the region. Imported rice consumption is expected to decline as the main local rice harvest starts in May and June 2024.
- Although cassava is not widely considered a substitute for maize, it remains an essential staple in DRC, southern Madagascar, Tanzania, northern Mozambique, and, to some extent, northern Zambia. March prices for cassava chips and flour were seasonally stable in DRC and Malawi. They were trending downwards in several markets in the surplus region of Ihosy in southeast Madagascar. March prices for cassava chips and flour were also stable compared to a year ago.

Figure 5 **March 2024 maize parity prices in select reference markets in Southern Africa**



Source: FEWS NET estimates (2024)

Figure 6 **March 2024 milled rice price trends compared to February 2024 and March 2023 in select markets**

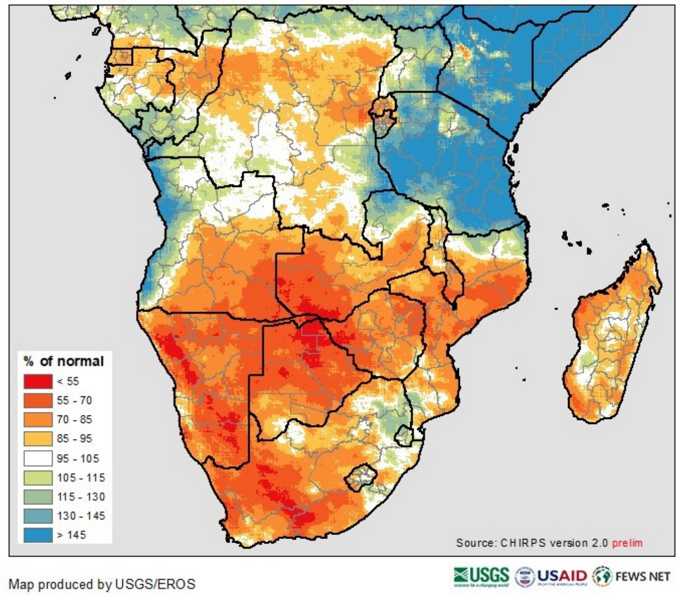


Source: FEWS NET estimates (2024)

Projected Maize Supply and Market Trends for MY 2024/25

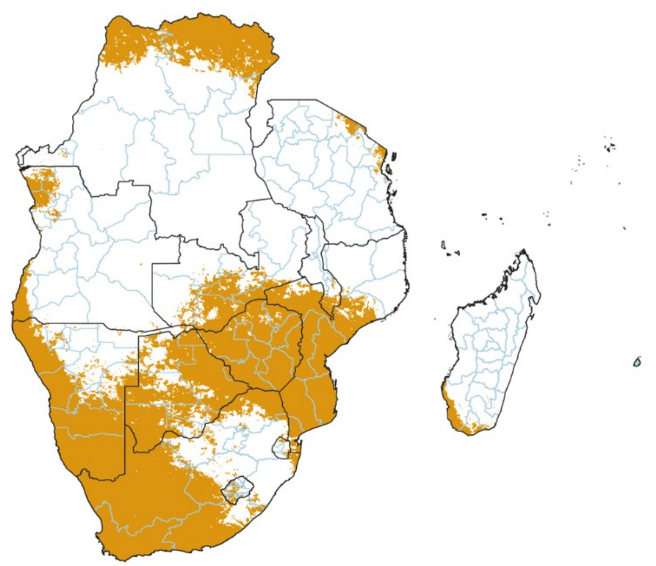
- In Southern Africa, the effective start of the 2023/24 rainy season began around 10 to 30 days late. From October to March, cumulative rainfall was below average in central Mozambique, Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, southern and northwestern Madagascar, southern DRC, parts of the maize triangle in South Africa, most of Zambia, and southeastern Angola (Figure 7). Central areas of the region registered the driest February since 1920. However, well-above-average cumulative rainfall was recorded in most of Tanzania and northern parts of Zambia, Mozambique, and Malawi.
- Between December 2023 and March 2024, significant areas across the region experienced at least one period of 30 or more consecutive dry days (Figure 8). Affected areas include northwestern South Africa, southern and central Zambia, much of Zimbabwe, central and southern Mozambique, and central and southern Malawi. In addition to dryness, land surface temperatures were above average in February 2024. The extended dry spell and extreme heat damaged the maize crop during the tasseling stage for late plantings and the cobbing stage for the early planted crop.
- The crop prospects for 2024 are poor, with below-average harvests expected. Maize yields are expected to be below average for Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Crop yields in South Africa dropped from an average of 5.64 MT/ha to 5.03 MT/ha (CEC, March 2024), although better than the 3.7 MT/ha realized in the 2015/16 El Niño season harvest. In Zimbabwe, preliminary estimates suggest yields fell from an average of 1.02 MT/ha to 0.62 MT/ha, slightly above the 0.5 MT/ha recorded in the 2015/16 El Niño season. Officially, the government has acknowledged production of about 697,000 MT, one of the lowest on record, though higher than the 2016 harvest. In Malawi, yields are expected to fall from an average of 2.02 MT/ha to 1.62 MT/ha. The decline represents a 16.5 percent reduction from the 2010 to 2023 average harvest of 3,490,000 MT. In Zambia, the government has stated that more than 1 million hectares out of 2.2 million hectares planted were severely damaged due to weather shocks.
- There is an acknowledgment of a general crop failure in Southern Africa's main summer grain regions due to record-high temperatures and dry conditions. The governments of Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe have declared natural disasters because of the El Niño-induced drought crisis.
- Harvesting of main season cereals is complete or nearing completion across the region, but the prospects for the 2024 aggregate cereal supply in the region are unfavorable (Table 2). Preliminary estimates from UCSB-CHC and NASA FEWS NET

Figure 7 **Seasonal rainfall accumulation percent of normal by pentad 2023-2024 season Oct-May**



Source: USGS/EROS (2024)

Figure 8 **Areas that had >=30 consecutive dry days between December 2023 and March 2024**



Source: SADC Climate Service Center (2024) science partners indicate that the regional 2024 summer cereal harvest will be around 28.2 million tons, 14 percent lower than the five-year average and 24 percent lower than the 2023 harvest. Additionally, the opening stocks for MY 2024/25 will be around 14 percent below average due to strong import demand in MY 2023/24, driving tight regional supplies.

- A tight market supply is expected for maize in Southern Africa due to significant reductions in South Africa and Zambia harvests, two of the largest maize producers in the region. Given the poor harvest prospects, Zambia will likely maintain export restrictions this year. South Africa, generally the leading supplier for Zimbabwe and other structural deficit countries, may not be able to provide Zimbabwe with the total required volume of white maize this year; Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Zambia will likely also require maize imports to supplement their domestic annual needs. Tanzania will likely export maize and maize meal to Zambia, Malawi, and DRC.
- Although intra-regional trade will soften national deficits in Southern Africa, it will not meet regional needs in MY 2024/25. At least 5 million MT of imports from outside the region are required to meet regional maize demand. Fortunately, the anticipated regional deficit is substantially lower than that following the 2015/16 strong El Niño, when over 6 million tons were imported. Southern Africa will likely import maize from the United States, South America, Ukraine, and Russia. While there have been notable slowdowns at the Port of Durban resulting from increased cargo traffic around the Cape of Good Hope, there is no indication that port congestion will impact regional import capacity.

Table 2: Projected Supply (2024/25 Marketing Year)

Country	Commodity	Average production status	Projected opening stocks 2024/25	Projected 2024 harvest	Projected aggregate supply 2024/25
DRC – Haut Katanga	White maize	Deficit	▼	▼	▼
Lesotho	White maize	Deficit	▶	▼	▼
Madagascar	Yellow maize	Deficit	▶	▶	▶
Madagascar	Rice	Deficit	▶	▶	▶
Malawi	White maize	Self-sufficient	▼	▼	▼
Mozambique	White maize	Self-sufficient	▶	▼	▼
South Africa	White maize	Surplus	▶	▼	▼
South Africa	Yellow maize	Surplus	▶	▼	▼
Tanzania	White maize	Surplus	▲	▲	▲
Zambia	White maize	Surplus	▼	▼	▼
Zimbabwe	White maize	Deficit	▼	▼	▼

Note: ▶ = Average, ▼ = Below average, ▲ = Above average

Source: UCSB-CHC and NASA FEWS NET Science Partners, 2024

- Headline inflation across the region is expected to accelerate due to higher import prices and elevated production and energy costs. An increase in import demand and a strengthening USD is expected to weaken domestic currencies. Power rationing is expected to drive elevated energy price inflation and high prices of alternative electricity sources, such as gas and firewood.
- Due to the reduced availability of maize, prices in most reference markets are projected to stabilize briefly during the post-harvest period as is typical, but then increase atypically quickly as market demand increases. Prices are expected to be higher than last year in South Africa, Zambia, and Mozambique but lower than last year in Tanzania and Madagascar (Annex I). In Malawi, price projections are expected to remain close to their corresponding levels in 2023.
- Seasonal weather forecasts signaled an early end of the 2023/24 rainy season. There is a high probability of low flows in the Kafue, Zambezi, and Luangwa River basins. Water flows in the Zambezi River are less than a quarter of what they were a year ago. According to the Zambezi River Authority, water levels at Lake Kariba have plunged to 13.5 percent of usable storage by April 8, compared to 21.9 percent one year earlier. Lake Kariba's decreased inflows this season are due to the El Niño. This will undermine hydroelectric power generation and worsen the electricity supply deficit in 2024. Zambia and Zimbabwe rely on hydropower for about 83 percent of their electricity supplies. In March, Zambia started eight hour-long load shedding daily, while Zimbabwe increased the severity of its rolling blackouts to more than 12 hours a day. Most domestic economies will continue implementing power rationing throughout 2024 due to insufficient water supply for hydropower generation and maintenance issues at gas-fired power plants. However, the Shire River basin in Malawi is expected to have high flows because of the controlled water flow release at the barrage at Liwonde in Balaka District. These constraints on power supply will put increased financial pressure on regional economies as productive sectors are disrupted and power importation becomes necessary. Additionally, increased production costs and reduced power availability for irrigation and processing will put further upward pressure on prices and negatively impact winter season production.

National Overviews for MY 2024/25

- National maize production in Zimbabwe is expected to be below average (Table 2). Official reports suggest that Zimbabwe will likely produce 697,000 MT, at least 1.6 million MT below the national requirement of 2.3 million MT. Zimbabwean traders have set up and are already operating a substantial import program to consistently supply maize flour to the domestic market up to March 2025. As of March 2024, traders had secured 0.6 million MT of maize from South Africa and intend to procure another 0.5 million MT from South and North America via the Beira port of Mozambique.
- In Malawi, national maize production is expected to be 1.92 million MT, around 45 percent below the five-year average of 3.5 million MT (Annex III) due to extended dry spells in the central and southern regions. Malawi will benefit from typical cross-border maize inflows from Tanzania and Mozambique and commercial imports to meet the national requirement of 3.52 million MT.
- In Mozambique, maize production outcomes are expected to be around 41 percent below the five-year average of 2.05 million MT (Annex III) due to extended dry spells in the central and southern regions. Typical inflows of maize imports from South Africa into Maputo are expected to be below average and unable to cover the national requirement of 2.32 million MT. Sourcing maize from the international market is the most likely scenario for commercial and humanitarian needs.
- In Tanzania, maize output is expected to be 8.3 million MT (31 percent above average) and a national surplus of over 1.5 million MT. Tanzania will remain a net exporter in MY 2024/25 with an above-average opening stock. However, the suspected presence of MLND virus in its maize is deterring some of Tanzania's neighbors from importing grain, preferring to import maize flour instead because of the fear of possible contamination of domestic seed systems.
- The production forecast for white maize in South Africa is 6.27 million MT, a 26 percent decline from last season's bumper harvest and 19 percent lower than the five-year average. The yellow maize production forecast for South Africa is 6.97 million MT, 12 percent lower than last season but 3 percent above the five-year average. With 1.1 and 1 million MT of carry-over white and yellow maize, respectively, and below-average production, the overall supply of maize is expected to be 10 percent below average. The supply and demand estimates for South Africa suggest that the country will profit more from exporting white maize to the BLNE and the rest of the region but retain the more affordable yellow maize for the domestic

animal feed industry. Maize imports into South Africa's coastal areas and re-exports to neighboring countries are likely later in the MY 2024/25.

- In Zambia, preliminary estimates put national maize production at 1.76 million MT, which is 34 percent below average and 25 percent below average requirements. Large quantities of imported cereals will be required to fulfill consumption needs. Zambia has already signaled interest in securing maize from Tanzania and Uganda to cover the supply gap caused by the El Niño-induced drought.

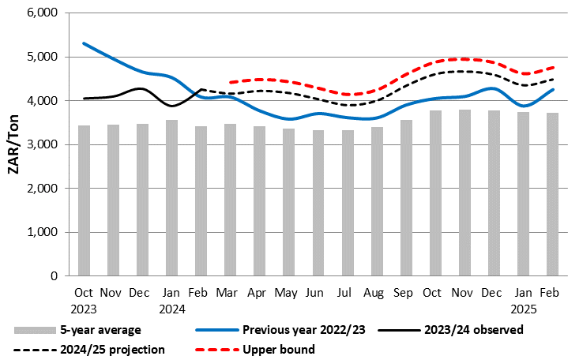
Market monitoring indicators for the 2024/25 marketing year

Indicator	Justification
Crop estimates	The size of the commercial maize crop is still being revised in several countries. The second preliminary forecast for South Africa was revised downward due to the extended dry spell. Further reductions in maize yield for South Africa are expected in the third and final crop forecast, and crop assessment estimates should be monitored closely.
Risk of increased food inflation	There is an increased fear of rising food inflation in the region due to the rising food prices that will be passed on to the consumer. Maize prices will likely remain above the five-year average and last year's because of the drop in harvest across the region, high market demand, and likely high cost of imports.
Foreign reserves and depreciation of domestic currencies	The extent to which imports offset the effects of poor regional production will depend on the availability of foreign reserves. The high costs of importing maize will draw down these reserves and reduce the ability of central banks to defend the domestic exchange rates. In the face of high demand for foreign exchange, the stability of domestic exchange rates must be monitored.
Imposition of restrictions on regional maize trade flows	South Africa and Tanzania are expected to maintain their status as net exporters of maize in MY 2024/25. While most deficit countries have removed import duties for maize and other grains, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations will likely act as a non-tariff barrier to regional trade. Zambia is the only country in the region with an export ban for the rest of the marketing year. Meanwhile, Malawi imposed phytosanitary import requirements and effectively banned maize grain imports, including transit shipments from Tanzania, to prevent the introduction and spread of the MNLD virus. In late March, the TPHPA indicated their assessment found no trace of MLND in the domestic maize supplies. Malawi's position followed a similar import ban by Tanzania in December 2023 on Malawi's maize and soybeans. Trade flow must be monitored as price spikes generally follow movement restrictions.
No seasonal decline in maize prices	Prices typically decline rapidly over March and April as households consume from green harvests and supplies from the harvest reach the markets. Given the anticipated poor harvest, prices are expected to be especially high and variable across the region, particularly in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique during the post-harvest period.
The absence of maize grain and the dominance of industrial maize meal in the market	Maize grain is unlikely to be available on markets throughout the marketing year. Instead, markets will primarily supply industrial maize meal, especially in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Given the concentration of the milling industry, maize meal prices are expected to remain high throughout 2024.
Shortages of white maize supplies	Given the expected below-average harvest in 2024, the region is poised to have limited regional supplies of white maize for human consumption. Unless enough white maize is sourced and imported from the Black Sea area, the Southern African region will likely substitute white maize with yellow maize from South America.

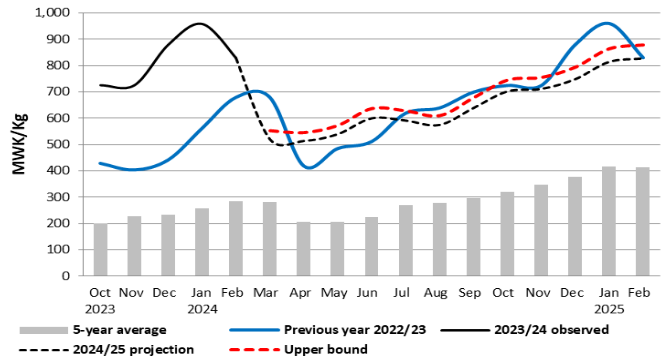
Annex I. Southern Africa Price Projections

Figure 9: Price projections for selected regional markets: March 2024 – February 2025

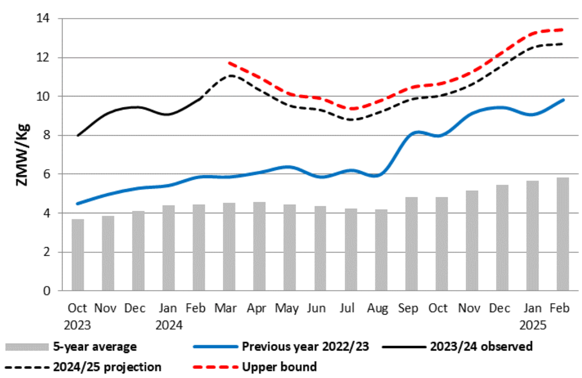
Randfontein (South Africa) White Maize



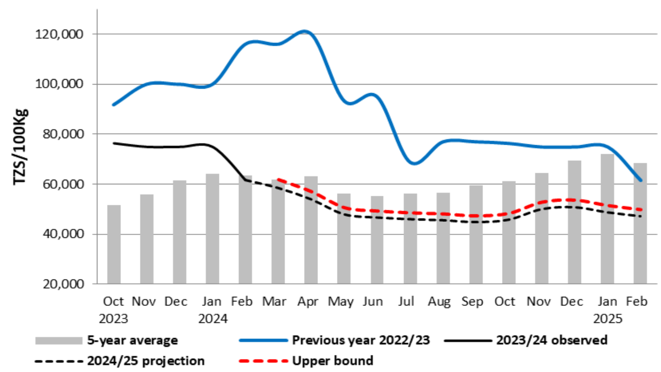
Mitundu (Malawi) White Maize



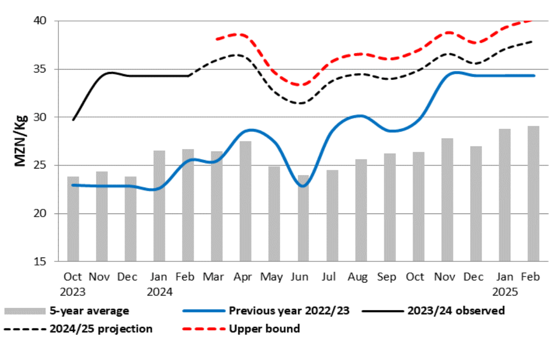
Lusaka (Zambia) White Maize



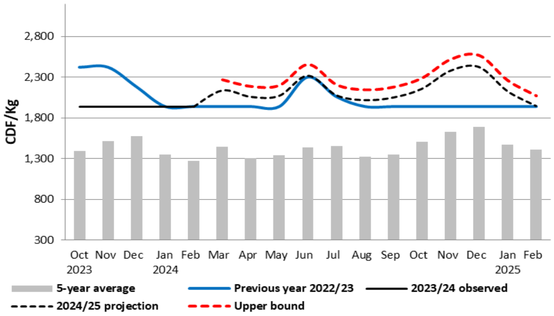
Iringa (Tanzania) White Maize



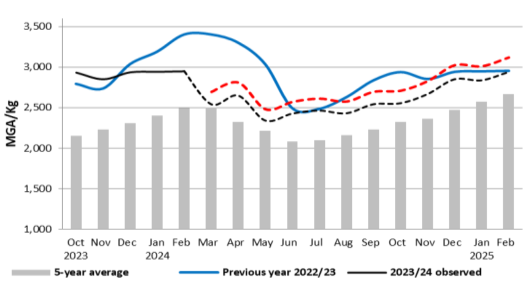
Maputo (Mozambique) White maize



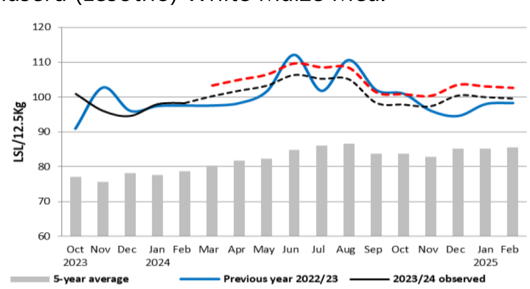
Goma (DRC) White Maize Meal



Antananarivo (Madagascar) Local Rice



Maseru (Lesotho) White Maize Meal



Source: FEWS NET estimates based on national market information system data 2024

Annex II. Regional maize balance sheet, including Tanzania and DRC-Haut Katanga (May 2024– April 2025) in ‘000 MT

Item	2022/23	2023/24	5-year average (2018/19 - 2022/23)	% Change over one year	% change over five years	Change one year	Change 5-year average
Harvest	32,401	36,829	31,380	13.7%	17.6%	▲	▲
Opening Stocks	5,042	3,801	4,854	-24.6%	-21.7%	▼	▼
Supply	37,443	40,630	36,184	8.5%	12.3%	▲	▲
Requirements	32,224	34,442	29,995	6.9%	14.8%	▲	▲
SGR Carryover	2,574	1,775	2,621	-31.0%	-32.3%	▼	▼
Net Supply	2,645	4,414	3,568	66.8%	23.7%	▲	▼
Self-sufficiency	108%	112%	111%	4.6%	1.2%	►	►

Note: This table considers data from Botswana, DRC (Haut-Katanga), Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Self-sufficiency is defined as supply divided by the sum of requirements and the SGR carryover. ► denotes less than 5 percent and greater than 10 percent decrease; ▲denotes greater than or equal to 10 percent increase; ▼denotes less than or equal to 10 percent decrease.

Source: *FEWS NET, IAPRI, WFP Estimates based on SAGIS, SADC, FAO/GIEWS, and Ministry of Agriculture data.*

Annex III. Maize balance sheets by country (in '000 MT)

Country	Item	2022/23	2023/24	5-year average (2018/19 - 2022/23)	% Change over one year	% change over five years	Change one year	Change 5-year average
Angola	Harvest	2778	2800	2,798	0.8%	0.1%	▶	▶
Angola	Opening Stocks	248	808	297	225.4%	171.7%	▲	▲
Angola	Supply	3026	3608	3,095	19.2%	16.6%	▲	▲
Angola	Requirements	4,000	4258	4,053	6.4%	5.1%	▲	▲
Angola	SGR Carryover	119	708	141	495.6%	401.9%	▲	▲
Angola	Net Supply	-1,093	-1,358	-1,099	24.3%	23.6%	▲	▲
Angola	Self-sufficiency	73%	73%	74%	-0.8%	-1.1%	▶	▶
Botswana	Harvest	44	44	24	0.0%	82.2%	▶	▲
Botswana	Opening Stocks	0	0	7	-100.0%	-100.0%	▼	▼
Botswana	Supply	45	44	32	-0.8%	39.5%	▶	▼
Botswana	Requirements	150	340	199	126.7%	70.5%	▲	▲
Botswana	SGR Carryover	5	5	11	0.0%	-53.3%	▶	▼
Botswana	Net Supply	-110	-301	-170	172.6%	76.5%	▲	▲
Botswana	Self-sufficiency	29%	13%	16%	-16.0%	-3.1%	▼	▶
DRC – H. Katanga	Harvest	543	450	268	-17.1%	68.2%	▼	▲
DRC – H. Katanga	Opening Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
DRC – H. Katanga	Supply	543	450	268	-17.1%	68.2%	▼	▲
DRC – H. Katanga	Requirements	874	906	820	3.7%	10.5%	▶	▲
DRC – H. Katanga	SGR Carryover	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
DRC – H. Katanga	Net Supply	-331	-456	-553	37.8%	-17.5%	▲	▼
DRC – H. Katanga	Self-sufficiency	62%	50%	33%	-12.5%	17.0%	▼	▲
Eswatini	Harvest	87	120	98	37.9%	22.3%	▲	▲
Eswatini	Opening Stocks	0	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	▶	▶
Eswatini	Supply	87	120	100	37.9%	19.8%	▲	▲
Eswatini	Requirements	189	184	153	-2.4%	20.8%	▶	▲
Eswatini	SGR Carryover	30	0	13	-100.0%	-100.0%	▼	▼
Eswatini	Net Supply	-132	-64	-65	-51.2%	-1.4%	▼	▶
Eswatini	Self-sufficiency	40%	65%	60%	25.3%	4.6%	▲	▶
Lesotho	Harvest	28	56	44	100.3%	28.3%	▲	▲
Lesotho	Opening Stocks	25	27	33	8.0%	-17.5%	▲	▼
Lesotho	Supply	53	83	76	56.7%	8.7%	▲	▲
Lesotho	Requirements	269	272	264	1.0%	3.2%	▶	▶
Lesotho	SGR Carryover	1	0	0	-100.0%	-100.0%	▼	▼
Lesotho	Net Supply	-217	-189	-187	-12.9%	0.8%	▼	▶
Lesotho	Self-sufficiency	20%	31%	29%	10.9%	1.6%	▲	▶
Madagascar	Harvest	267	225	232	-15.7%	-2.9%	▼	▶
Madagascar	Opening Stocks	0	6	0	0.0%	0.0%	-	-

Country	Item	2022/23	2023/24	5-year average (2018/19 - 2022/23)	% Change over one year	% change over five years	Change one year	Change 5-year average
Madagascar	Supply	267	231	234	-13.5%	-1.3%	▼	▶
Madagascar	Requirements	336	293	293	-12.8%	-0.1%	▼	▶
Madagascar	SGR Carryover	0	4	0	0.0%	0.0%	-	-
Madagascar	Net Supply	-69	-66	-59	-4.3%	11.4%	▶	▲
Madagascar	Self-sufficiency	79%	78%	80%	-1.7%	-2.0%	▶	▶
Malawi	Harvest	3,716	3,510	3,504	-5.6%	0.2%	▼	▶
Malawi	Opening Stocks	139	383	315	175.5%	21.6%	▲	▲
Malawi	Supply	3,855	3,893	3,819	1.0%	1.9%	▶	▶
Malawi	Requirements	3,822	3,519	3,442	-7.9%	2.2%	▼	▶
Malawi	SGR Carryover	25	100	58	300.0%	73.0%	▲	▲
Malawi	Net Supply	8	274	319	3131.1%	-14.2%	▲	▼
Malawi	Self-sufficiency	100%	108%	109%	7.4%	-1.6%	▲	▶
Mozambique	Harvest	2,383	2,479	2,052	4.0%	20.8%	▶	▲
Mozambique	Opening Stocks	300	200	345	-33.3%	-42.0%	▼	▼
Mozambique	Supply	2,683	2,679	2,397	-0.1%	11.7%	▶	▲
Mozambique	Requirements	2,311	2,319	2,307	0.3%	0.5%	▶	▶
Mozambique	SGR Carryover	9	10	9	10.6%	13.0%	▲	▲
Mozambique	Net Supply	202	350	49	73.2%	612.0%	▲	▲
Mozambique	Self-sufficiency	109%	115%	104%	6.3%	11.5%	▲	▲
Namibia	Harvest	82	106	67	28.6%	58.4%	▲	▲
Namibia	Opening Stocks	7	24	32	258.2%	-25.7%	▲	▼
Namibia	Supply	89	130	99	45.9%	31.0%	▲	▲
Namibia	Requirements	198	200	192	1.1%	4.2%	▶	▶
Namibia	SGR Carryover	10	10	10	0.0%	0.0%	▶	▶
Namibia	Net Supply	-109	-70	-93	-35.7%	-	▼	-
Namibia	Self-sufficiency	43%	62%	49%	19.0%	12.8%	▲	▲
South Africa	Harvest	14,713	16,395	14,562	11.4%	12.6%	▲	▲
South Africa	Opening Stocks	2,127	1,955	2,438	-8.1%	-19.8%	▼	▼
South Africa	Supply	16,840	18,350	17,000	9.0%	7.9%	▲	▲
South Africa	Requirements	13,386	14,862	11,997	11.0%	23.9%	▲	▲
South Africa	SGR Carryover	1,303	640	1,435	-50.9%	-55.4%	▼	▼
South Africa	Net Supply	2,151	2,848	3,567	32.4%	-20.2%	▲	▼
South Africa	Self-sufficiency	115%	118%	127%	3.7%	-8.2%	▶	▼
Tanzania	Harvest	6,540	8,109	6,356	24.0%	27.6%	▲	▲
Tanzania	Opening Stocks	441	611	494	38.5%	23.6%	▲	▲
Tanzania	Supply	6,981	8,720	6,851	24.9%	27.3%	▲	▲
Tanzania	Requirements	6,320	6,897	6,061	9.1%	13.8%	▲	▲
Tanzania	SGR Carryover	241	268	235	11.2%	13.8%	▲	▲

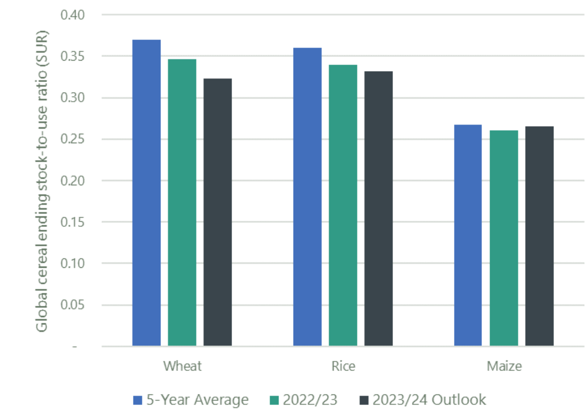
Country	Item	2022/23	2023/24	5-year average (2018/19 - 2022/23)	% Change over one year	% change over five years	Change one year	Change 5-year average
Tanzania	Net Supply	420	1,555	554	270.2%	180.7%	▲	▲
Tanzania	Self-sufficiency	106%	122%	109%	15.3%	12.9%	▲	▲
Zambia	Harvest	2,706	3,262	2,823	20.5%	15.6%	▲	▲
Zambia	Opening Stocks	1,503	451	768	-70.0%	-41.3%	▼	▼
Zambia	Supply	4,209	3,713	3,591	-11.8%	3.4%	▼	▶
Zambia	Requirements	2,505	2,742	2,304	9.5%	19.0%	▲	▲
Zambia	SGR Carryover	500	500	560	0.0%	-10.7%	▶	▼
Zambia	Net Supply	1,204	471	727	-60.9%	-35.2%	▼	▼
Zambia	Self-sufficiency	140%	115%	125%	-25.5%	-10.8%	▼	▼
Zimbabwe	Harvest	1,558	2,298	1,532	47.5%	50.0%	▲	▲
Zimbabwe	Opening Stocks	500	150	418	-70.0%	-64.1%	▼	▼
Zimbabwe	Supply	2,058	2,448	1,950	19.0%	25.5%	▲	▲
Zimbabwe	Requirements	2,200	2,200	2,255	0.0%	-2.4%	▶	▶
Zimbabwe	SGR Carryover	450	242	290	-46.2%	-16.6%	▼	▼
Zimbabwe	Net Supply	-592	6	-595	-101.0%	-101.0%	▼	▼
Zimbabwe	Self-sufficiency	78%	100%	77%	22.6%	23.6%	▲	▲

Source: *FEWS NET, IAPRI, WFP Estimates based on SAGIS, SADC, FAO/GIEWS, and Ministry of Agriculture data.*

Annex III. Global Cereal Supplies

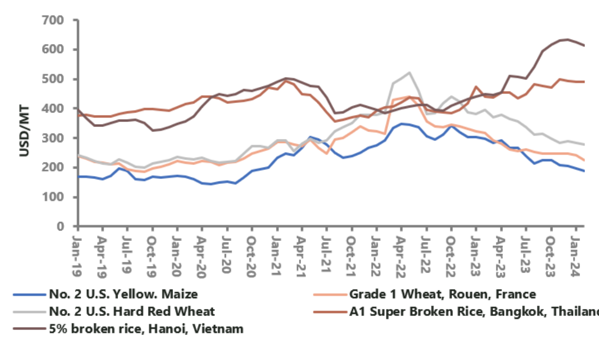
- Global stock-to-use ratios (SURs) for wheat and rice are expected to decline and remain below their five-year averages in 2023/24, driven by reduced stocks, while the global maize SUR is expected to increase by 2 percent (Figure 10). Global cereal output in MY 2023/24 is forecast to increase marginally, driven primarily by maize production in the European Union (USDA and IGC). Ending wheat stocks are expected to decline due to a decline in inventories in the Russian Federation. Rice ending stocks are expected to marginally increase primarily due to an upward revision to inventories in Indonesia (FAO). Global cereal trade is expected to increase slightly in MY 2023/24, driven by increased barley trade (FAO).
- High prices and market volatility are expected to ease in MY 2023/24 (AMIS). However, global commodity markets remain vulnerable to climate change, conflict, weak global growth, and trade restrictions. While maize and wheat markets have eased from the price spikes in early 2022, rice prices remain elevated due to heightened consumption and low stocks (Figure 11).
- In response to Russia's compromise of the Solidarity Lanes in the Black Sea, Ukraine established an alternative shipping corridor along the western coast of the Black Sea, passing through Romanian and Bulgarian territorial waters. This route connects Ukrainian ports to the Bosporus Strait, with Reni and Izmail on the Danube River serving as critical hubs for exporting grain like wheat, corn, sunflower oil, and barley to markets in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Ukraine will export its entire grain harvest from 2023 through this new corridor (CSIS).
- The World Meteorological Organization recognized the development of an El Niño event in June 2023, forecasted to persist and potentially intensify into a moderate to strong event through the northern hemispheric winter of 2023-2024 (NOAA). Global supplies of grains are not expected to experience significant changes due to El Niño conditions in 2023/24 due to mixed effects on major grain producers (Figure 12). Global wheat production in 2023/24 is forecast to decline slightly from the previous marketing year, and USDA forecasts increased rice production in the prior marketing year.
- FEWS NET will continue to monitor global cereal, fertilizer, and fuel markets, as 2023/24 global commodity supply estimates are provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), International Grains Council (IGC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Figure 10 **Global commodity ending stock-to-use ratio.**



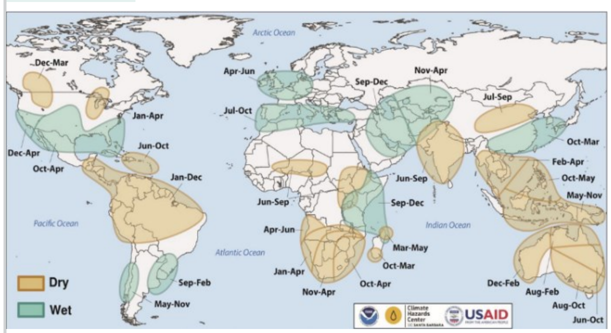
Source: FEWS NET calculations based on USDA September 2023 data

Figure 11 **Global Commodity Prices, 2018-2024**



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank, 2023

Figure 12 **Typical Global El Niño Impacts**



Source: FEWS NET