

South African 2017/18 grape crop estimates drops

The South African Table Grape Industry (SATI) released the 3rd Crop Estimate for the 2017/18 table grape season with upper and lower limits about 12,2% and 18% lower, respectively than the previous 2016/2017 season. The new estimate is between 55,4 million and 59,3 million cartons.

Table 1: 3rd Crop Estimate in 4.5 kg carton equivalents

CROP ESTIMATE 2017/2018 SEASON						
REGION	THIRD CROP ESTIMATE 16 JANUARY 2018		SECOND CROP ESTIMATE 15 DECEMBER 2017		FRIST CROP ESTIMATE 03 NOVEMBER 2017	
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
Northern Provinces	6 000 000	6 500 000	6 000 000	6 500 000	6 000 000	6 500 000
Orange River	18 500 000	19 000 000	18 500 000	19 800 000	21 500 000	22 500 000
Olifants River	2 500 000	2 800 000	2 500 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000
Berg River	11 200 000	12 500 000	11 200 000	12 500 000	11 200 000	12 500 000
Hex River	17 200 000	18 500 000	17 200 000	18 500 000	17 200 000	18 500 000
TOTAL	55 400 000	59 300 000	55 400 000	60 300 000	58 900 000	63 000 000

This development is mainly due to the persistent drought in the Western Cape, where three of the five production regions in South Africa are situated. The extreme heat and reduced water allocations to agriculture in the drought stricken production regions are impacting the harvest.

South African producers and exporters expect harvesting to continue with close to normal export volumes for the next 4 to 6 weeks. However, they foresee a shorter harvest period compared to previous years due to the drought and hotter than usual temperatures.

Table 2: Volumes of previous seasons

ACTUAL PACKED VOLUMES		
2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
5 537 784	4 730 931	4 510 726
20 532 515	18 642 605	17 686 726
3 968 073	3 157 059	3 788 287
15 426 175	12 599 726	13 062 448
22 110 612	18 849 218	20 331 091
67 575 159	57 979 539	59 379 279

Producers are still committed to meet programs and contracted business with a focus on the well-known South African quality offering and taste.

Crop estimates are done in co-operation with industry experts who are in close contact with growers in all regions, with the expectation that the best information available was used. This structure enables SATI to be more responsive to in-season developments and deviations.