

South Africa – Census of Commercial Agriculture 2017– Main results

Holdings and area, by legal status		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	40 122	46 420 458
Civil persons	20 177	21 041 117
Juridical persons	15 542	21 108 507
Other	4 403	4 270 836

Land tenure		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	40 122	46 420 458
Owned	36 516	35 865 127
Leased/rented from government	16 996	886 990
Leased/rented from traditional administration	8 832	192 400
Leased/rented from other	29 915	9 475 940

Distribution of holdings by land size classes		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total area of holding	40 122	46 420 458
Holdings without land	2 454	
Holdings with land	37 668	46 420 458
1–1.99 ha	1 027	1 026
2–4.99 ha	1 825	5 217
5–9.99 ha	1 861	12 725
10–19.99 ha	2 522	35 744
20–49.99 ha	4 199	136 986
50–99 ha	3 764	269 224
100–199 ha	4 121	591 212
200–499 ha	5 591	1 820 104
500–999 ha	4 208	3 003 760
1 000 ha and over	8 550	40 544 460

Land use		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	40 122	46 420 458
Agricultural land	n.a.	44 151 332
Arable land	34 573	7 614 392
land used for crops	33 638	5 981 687
land under temporary meadow	27 509	1 306 241
land temporarily follow	21 116	297 111
land under protective cover	9 286	29 352
Permanent meadows and pastures	34 539	36 536 940
Forest and other wooded land	21 372	858 558
Other area not elsewhere classified	26 160	1 410 566

Members of holder's household engaged in agricultural activities on the holding, by sex		
	Number	
Total	8 380	
Male	3 525	
Female	4 852	

Holders, by sex and age		
	Number ¹	Area operated (ha)
Total	42 968	n.a.
Male	38 555	n.a.
Female	4 034	n.a.
Unspecified	380	n.a.
15–34 years	5 355	n.a.
35–44 years	8 597	n.a.
45–54 years	10 888	n.a.
55–64 years	10 492	n.a.
65 years and over	6 695	n.a.
Unspecified	941	n.a.

Hired managers and total employees working on the holding		
	Number	
Total managers	15 963	
Male	13 466	
Female	2 497	
Paid employees²	757 628	
Full-time employees	461 693	
Part-time and seasonal employees	295 934	

Livestock, by type		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	35 356	
Cattle	33 111	5 927 798
Sheep	29 365	8 041 577
Goats	18 086	627 603
Pigs/swine	16 900	1 465 774
Horses	18 904	18 190
Poultry	21 062	157 969 515
Broilers	14 336	134 545 022
layers	10 578	22 979 702
Ostriches	8 734	164 484
Other poultry	2 139	280 307

Machinery and equipment used on the holding		
	Holdings	Units
Total tractors of all kind	25 225	74 665
Harvesters	4 312	10 845
Other (machine-powered; to be specified, as case)		
Milking and dairy machines	817	4 286
Presses and crushers and similar machinery	391	690
Mechanical appliances for chemical applications	4 686	13 886
Dryers for agricultural products	555	8 637

Agricultural pesticides, by type	
	Holdings
Total holdings with Pesticides	7 865
Insecticides	6 536
Herbicides	6 842
Fungicides	4 606
Rodenticides	2 733
Other	229

Fertilizer, by type	
	Holdings
Total holdings with Fertilizers	7 559
Nitrogen	6 085
Phosphate	5 258
Potassium	4 877
Agricultural lime	4 876
Fertiliser mixtures (NPK)	5 416
Organic fertiliser (manure and compost)	3 889

Temporary crops harvested		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Cereals	n.a.	n.a.
Maize	20 567	2 173 371
White maize	16 359	1 262 433
Yellow maize	18 995	910 937
Grain sorghum	7 558	48 168
Wheat	17 113	325 909
Barley	4 884	61 878
Oats	11 823	57 317
Vegetables and melons	n.a.	n.a.
Beetroot	3 378	2 888
Cabbages	8 590	4 041
Carrots	3 317	6 110
Green beans	4 083	1 505
Onions	5 269	14 832
Pumpkins (excluding melon)	5 960	2 119
Tomatoes	5 646	5 638
Butternut	6 343	3 745
Peppers	4 961	2 934
Melons	1 560	1 270
Oilseed crops	n.a.	n.a.
Sunflower seeds	9 212	355 660
Groundnuts	4 846	32 144
Soya beans	12 753	470 169
Canola	2 570	35 018
Root/tuber crops	n.a.	n.a.
Potatoes	11 023	43 703
Sweet potatoes	2 672	3 059
Leguminous crops	n.a.	n.a.
Dry beans	178	20 471
Sugarcane	1 674	186 483
Other temporary crops	n.a.	n.a.
Fodder	24 140	296 458
Grass	16 636	129 358
Lucerne/alfalfa	15 618	87 003
Maize for silage	9 367	56 640
Other field crops	n.a.	222 465

Permanent crops		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Orchards	n.a.	n.a.
Tropical and subtropical fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Bananas	1 372	10 407
Pineapples	302	10 188
Avocados	2 286	13 367
Paw paws/papayas	599	1 716
Mangos	967	4 578
Citrus fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Oranges	5 154	49 371
Naartjies	4 868	11 925
Lemons	5 400	19 440
Grapefruit	2 377	17 348
Berries	3 646	2 519
Pome fruits and stone fruit	6 360	52 026
Apples	4 504	26 160
Pears	3 350	11 708
Peaches	3 891	8 751
Plums	3 491	5 406
Nuts	n.a.	n.a.
Macadamia nuts	2 590	34 431
Pecan nuts	9 078	20 019
Vineyards (grapes)	6 536	82 533
Wine grapes	5 749	59 935
Table grapes	5 090	22 597

¹Total holders does not correspond to total farms because a farming unit has more than one holder

²Paid employees included hired managers