



# SAAMA

SA AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

**South African Agricultural Machinery Association**  
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### May 2017: TRACTOR and COMBINE HARVESTER SALES

Retail sales of agricultural equipment during **May 2017** were as follows:

	Month		Percentage change %	Year-to-date		Percentage change %
	2017	2016		2017	2016	
Tractors	493	422	16.8	2 559	2 567	-0.3
Combine Harvesters	24	26	-7.7	111	99	12.1

May tractor sales of 493 units were significantly, almost 17%, more than the 422 units sold in May last year. On a year-to-date basis tractor sales are now very similar to what they were this time last year.. May combine harvester sales of 24 units were two units less than the 26 units sold in May last year. Combine harvester sales for the year-to-date, however, are now almost 12% up on last year.

Overall, crop prospects look very good. The maize crop forecast has been revised upwards again this month, to an all-time record of 15.6 million tons, more than double last year's crop. Maize yield this season, forecast to be 5.95 t/ha, is the highest yield ever. The soya bean crop, at 1.23 million tons is also the largest crop ever produced. Although these excellent crop prospects have had an adverse effect on crop prices, the overall sentiment in the industry is positive. As harvesting is taking place, farmers are now better able to judge what their crops are yielding.

Expectations for 2017 are that overall tractor sales should be between 5 700 and 6 000 units, or at least as good as those in 2016.

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