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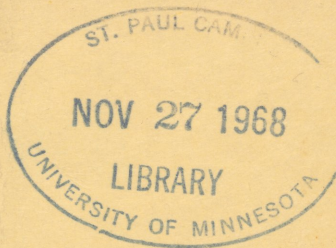
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# Economic tendencies in the South African agriculture

Developments in various agricultural economic spheres are reflected in the accompanying graphs. Further details appear under Statistics. The latest trends may be summarised as follows:

## RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES

During 1967 the increase in the retail price index was somewhat less pronounced than in 1966. The biggest increase again appeared in the prices of food. The percentage increases in the various groups were as follows:

Price index for:	Percentage increase	
	1966	1967
All items	3.6	3.3
Food	3.7	3.5
Non-food	3.6	3.2

The wholesale price index, with November 1960 as base, increased from 108.3 in 1965 to 112.5 in 1966 and reached 115.2 in 1967. The rate of increase in 1967 was less sharp, and the biggest increase still occurred in the prices of South African commodities. The percentage increases for the respective groups were as follows:

Price index for:	Percentage increase	
	1966	1967
All items	3.9	2.4
S.A. commodities	4.5	3.2
Imported commodities	3.0	1.7

## PRODUCERS' PRICES

The combined index for producers' prices increased more sharply during 1966/67 than during 1965/66 notwithstanding slightly smaller increases in the prices of field crops and livestock products. For the respective groups of products the percentage price changes were as follows:

Price index for:	Percentage change	
	1965/66	1966/67
All agricultural products	3.0	3.6
Field crops	3.5	2.7
Horticultural crops	-1.7	4.7
Livestock products	3.9	3.7

For the more important industries the price changes during 1966/67 were as follows: increases of 3 per cent in summer grains, 5 per cent in winter cereals, 7 per cent for fruit and vegetables, 9 per cent for slaughter-stock, 3 per

cent for dairy products and a decline of 6 per cent for wool.

## FARMING REQUISITES

During 1967/68 the combined index for farming requisites increased by only 1.1 per cent as compared to an increase of 3.5 per cent during the previous year. Prices of short-term requisites remained largely unchanged. For the respective groups the percentage increases were as follows:

Price index for:	Percentage increase	
	1966/67	1967/68
All requisites	2.5	1.1
Machinery and tools	1.2	1.4
Materials for fixed improvements	1.9	1.6
Short-term requisites	3.5	0.7

## VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The index of the volume of agricultural production, with 1947-50 as basis, was 179 in 1965/66 and a year later it reached 226 - an increase of 26.3 per cent. This sharp increase is accounted for by favourable weather conditions which resulted in record summer grain crops. Field crops increased by about 68 per cent compared to the previous season. The 1967 maize crop amounted to 106 million bags and that of grain sorghum to nearly 9 million bags.

On the other hand production of horticultural and livestock products showed no marked increases. Deciduous fruits decreased by 3 per cent while citrus production increased by 4 per cent. Wool production showed a decline of about 8 per cent, while the output of slaughter-stock and dairying remained about constant.

## GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The gross value of agricultural production reached the record amount of R1,307 million during 1966/67. For the groups of products the values were as follows:

- Field crops - an increase of 56 per cent to R637 million
- Horticultural crops - an increase of 4 per cent to R162 million
- Livestock products - an increase of 4 per cent to R508 million.

EKONOMIESE TENDENSE IN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE LANDBOU/  
ECONOMIC TENDENCIES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

Indekse van produksie en pryse van landbou-enverwante produkte/  
Indices of production and prices of agricultural and related products  
1947/48 - 1949/50 = 100

