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SA AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

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May 2019: TRACTOR and COMBINE HARVESTER SALES

Retail sales of agricultural equipment during **May 2019** were as follows:

	Month May		Percentage change %	Year-to-date May		Percentage change %
	2019	2018		2019	2018	
Tractors	364	501	-27.3	2 310	2 836	-18.5
Combine Harvesters	27	16	68.8	91	99	-8.1

May tractor sales of 364 units were sharply (27%) down on the 501 units sold in May last year. Year-to-date sales for the first five months of 2019 are also significantly (almost 19%) down on last year. On a rolling 12-month basis tractor sales are now 8% down on last year. May combine harvester sales of 27 units were significantly up on the 16 units sold in May last year. Year-to-date sales are now 8% down on last year. On a rolling 12-month basis combine harvester sales are now 4% up on last year.

At the moment sentiment in the market is quite confused. Farmers in the east are harvesting their summer crops and some good yields are being reported. In the west, however, harvesting has been delayed and farmers are unsure of their crop prospects at this stage. Several macro-economic factors such as GDP growth and the rand value have turned negative in recent weeks and the market is probably waiting for these to stabilize.

The latest indications are that tractor sales will be at a level between 10 and 20% below the 6 700 units sold last year.

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