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SA AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

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July 2018: TRACTOR and COMBINE HARVESTER SALES

Retail sales of agricultural equipment during **July 2018** were as follows:

	Month July		Percentage change	Year-to-date July		Percentage change
	2018	2017	%	2018	2017	%
Tractors	525	508	3.3	3 930	3 557	10.5
Combine Harvesters	12	13	-7.7	136	144	-5.6

July tractor sales of 525 units were approximately 3% up on the 508 units sold in July last year. On a year-to-date basis, tractor sales for the first seven months of the year are almost 11% up on last year. July combine harvester sales of 12 units were one unit less than the 13 units sold in July last year. On a year-to-date basis combine harvester sales are now approximately 6% down on last year.

Tractor sales remain quite buoyant, in a market which is still very competitive. Overall crop prospects are good but maize harvesting, in particular, is running very late because crops in many areas are still quite moist. The recent strength of the market has been boosted by sales of smaller tractors in “non-traditional” areas, outside of the main grain-growing areas.

With these higher levels of tractor sales in recent months, industry forecasts are now running at a level of between 6 750 to 7 000 units, between 5 and 10% up on 2017 sales.

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