



National Agricultural
Marketing Council

Strategic positioning of South African Agriculture
in dynamic global markets

Trouble in the Land of Plenty: Food (In) Security and Productivity Gains in South African Agriculture

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Introduction

Shift in policy in South Africa

Apartheid Era:

- Self-sufficiency in food, fibre, beverages, & supply of raw materials
- Gains in agricultural productivity (research & extension funding, albeit skewed)

Democratic Era (Post 1994):

- Food security

Food security defined...

Food security exists “*when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy lifestyle* (FAO, 2005:1)

Thus, availability and access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food are preconditions to food security.

- South Africa is highly dual society with gross inequalities (Gini Index of 0.58)
- Hunger and poverty exist in the midst of abundance (Alexander-Sandton/ Khayelitsha-Constantia scenario)

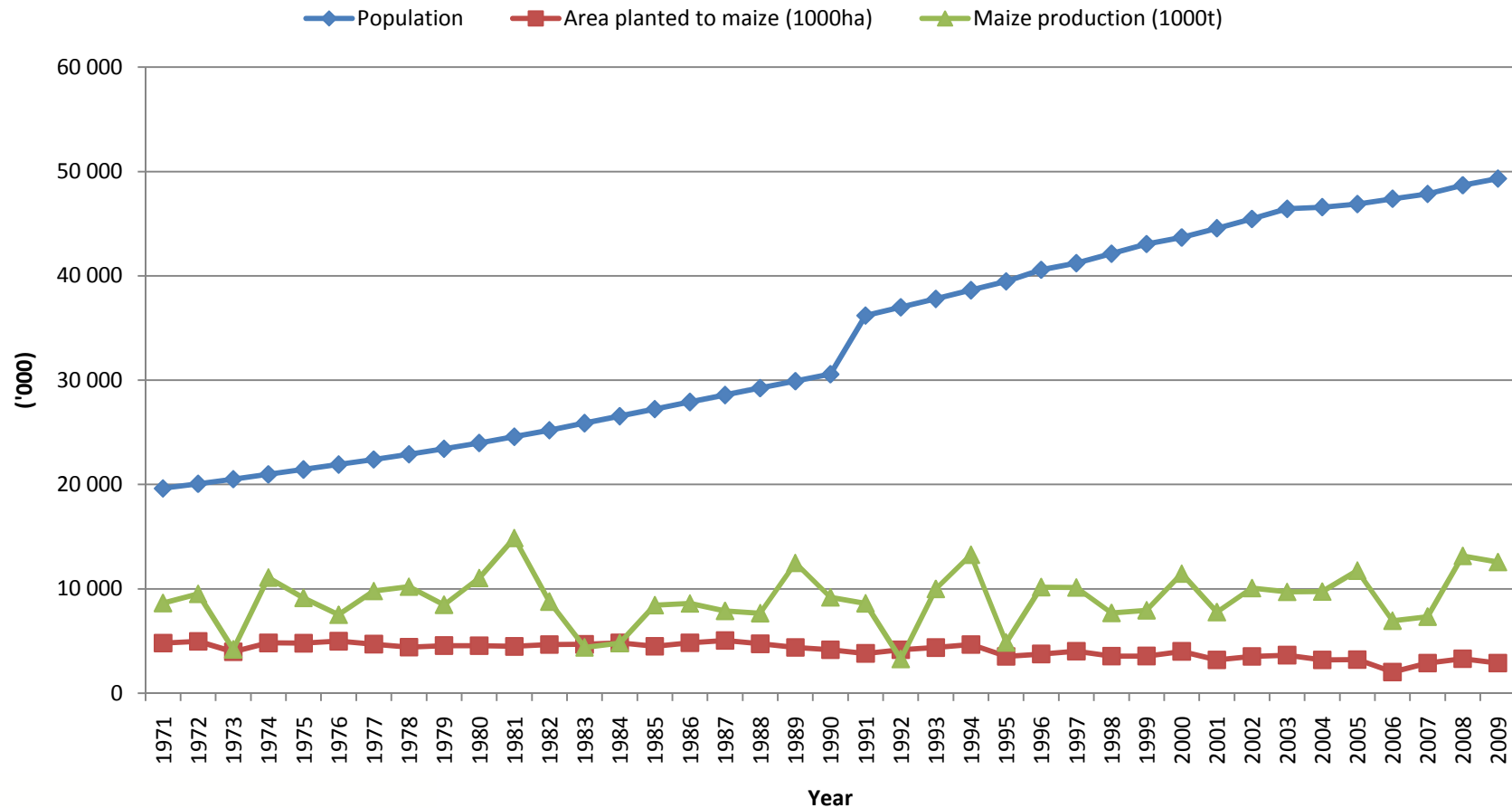


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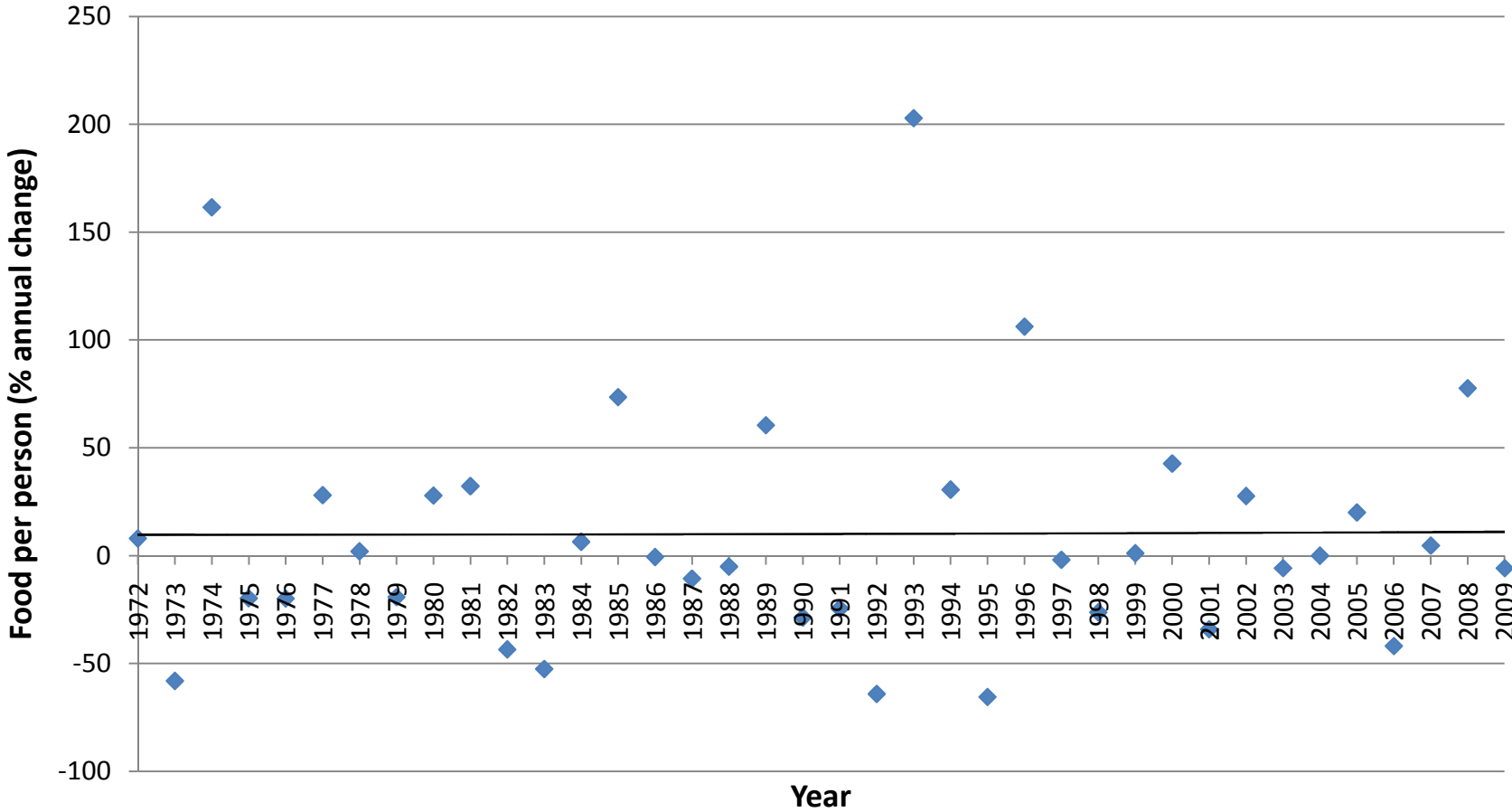
Painting the picture in South Africa

Population, area planted to maize and production



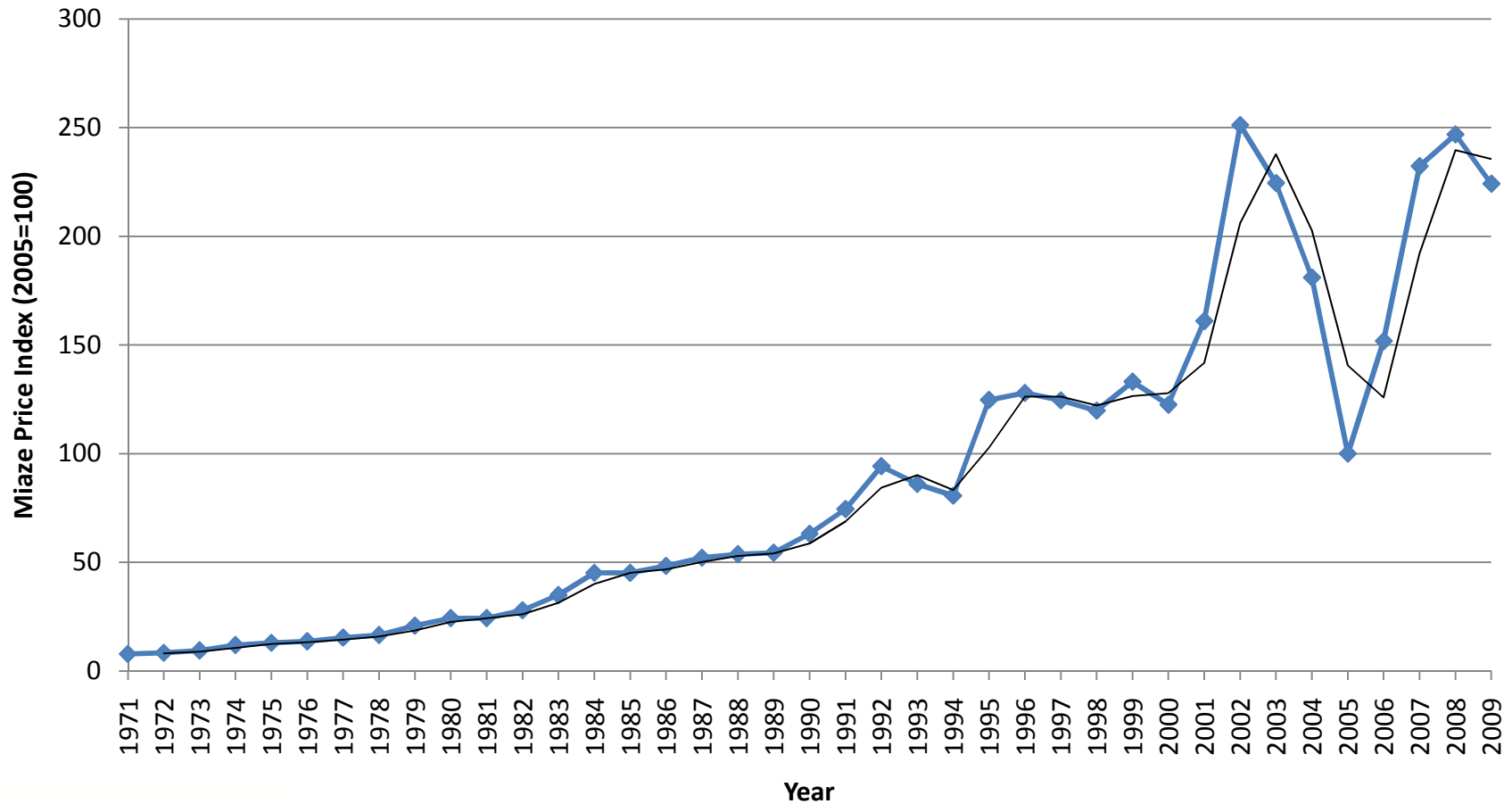
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Annual % change in per capita food



Shocks: High Food Prices

The 2008 food crisis exposed the insufficiency of global governance systems on food security in protecting those most at risk

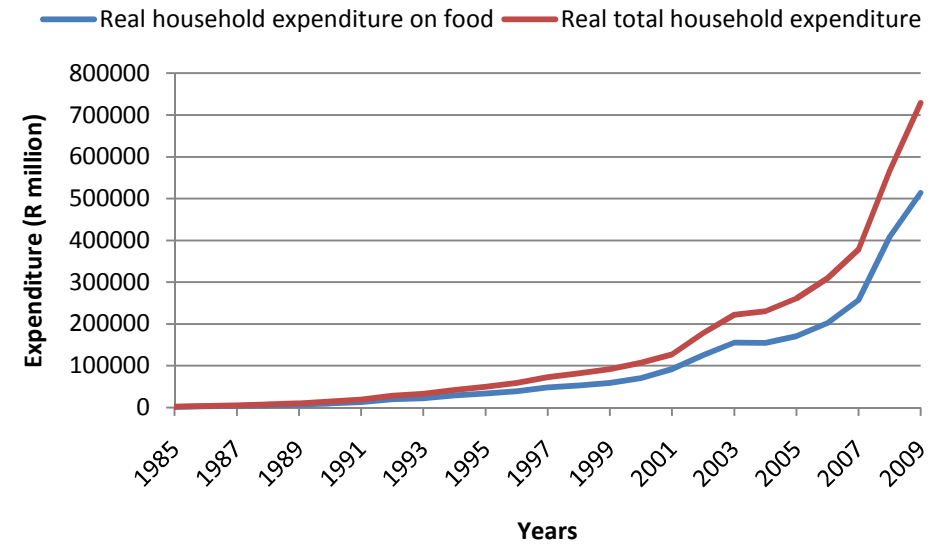
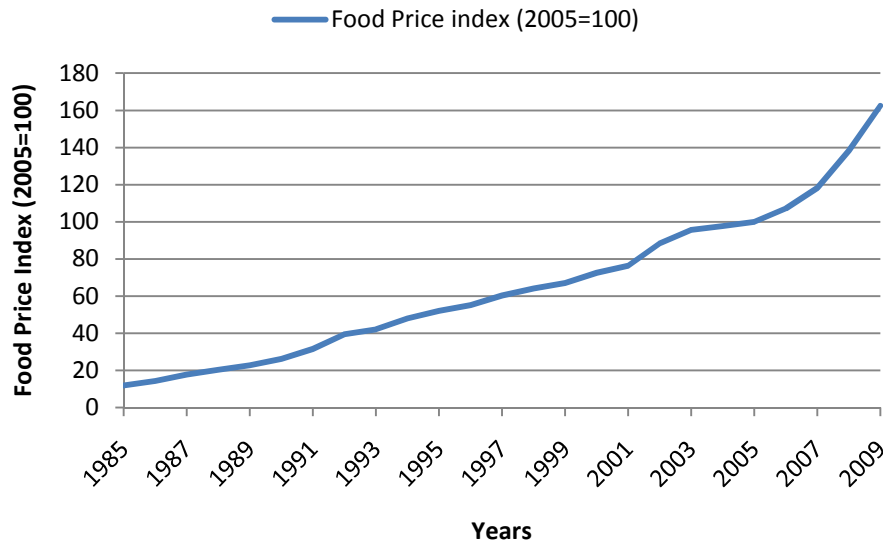


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Most South African households spend a big proportion of their income on food.

Food prices have been rising unabated thus eroding the poor's buying power and ability to save



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So what can be done? Policy issues

- High Food Prices
 - Safety nets for the most vulnerable – welfare (short-term)
 - Increase agricultural productivity to stabilize food prices (long-term), including subsistence and urban agriculture
 - Employment creation (equitable economic growth to reduce poverty)
- Local Markets
 - Development of local markets: rural stores, farmers' markets vs reliance on supermarkets. Rural folk in SA consume locally-produced food via the supermarket in town!
 - Centralized fresh produce markets in urban areas (wholesale)

Policy issues continued...

- Infrastructure Development
 - Paucity of facilities in rural areas such as: roads, irrigation, marketing, credit, etc.
 - Improve research and extension



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