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SA AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

South African Agricultural Machinery Association
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- PRESS RELEASE -

08-05-2018

April 2018: TRACTOR and COMBINE HARVESTER SALES

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

	Month April		Percentage change	Year-to-date April		Percentage change
	2018	2017	%	2018	2017	%
Tractors	459	398	15.3	2 331	2 066	12.8
Combine Harvesters	29	30	-3.3	83	87	-4.6

April tractor sales of 459 units were again significantly (15%) up on the 398 units sold in April last year. On a year-to-date basis, tractor sales for the first four months of the year are approximately 13% up on what they were this time last year. April combine harvester sales of 29 units were one unit less than the 30 units sold in April last year, but sales for the year-to-date are still approximately 5% down on last year.

The continued good tractor sales indicates that sentiment in the market is still good. The very recent weakening of the rand may have meant that some buyers have brought forward their buying decisions. Although most tractor sales are traditionally into the annual grain cropping areas, it is likely that current sales into perennial horticultural areas are now taking place as these farmers can now realise better prices for their exports.

With this recent upturn in tractor sales, industry forecasts have now been revised upwards to a level of up to 6 700 units, or approximately 5% up on 2017 sales.

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