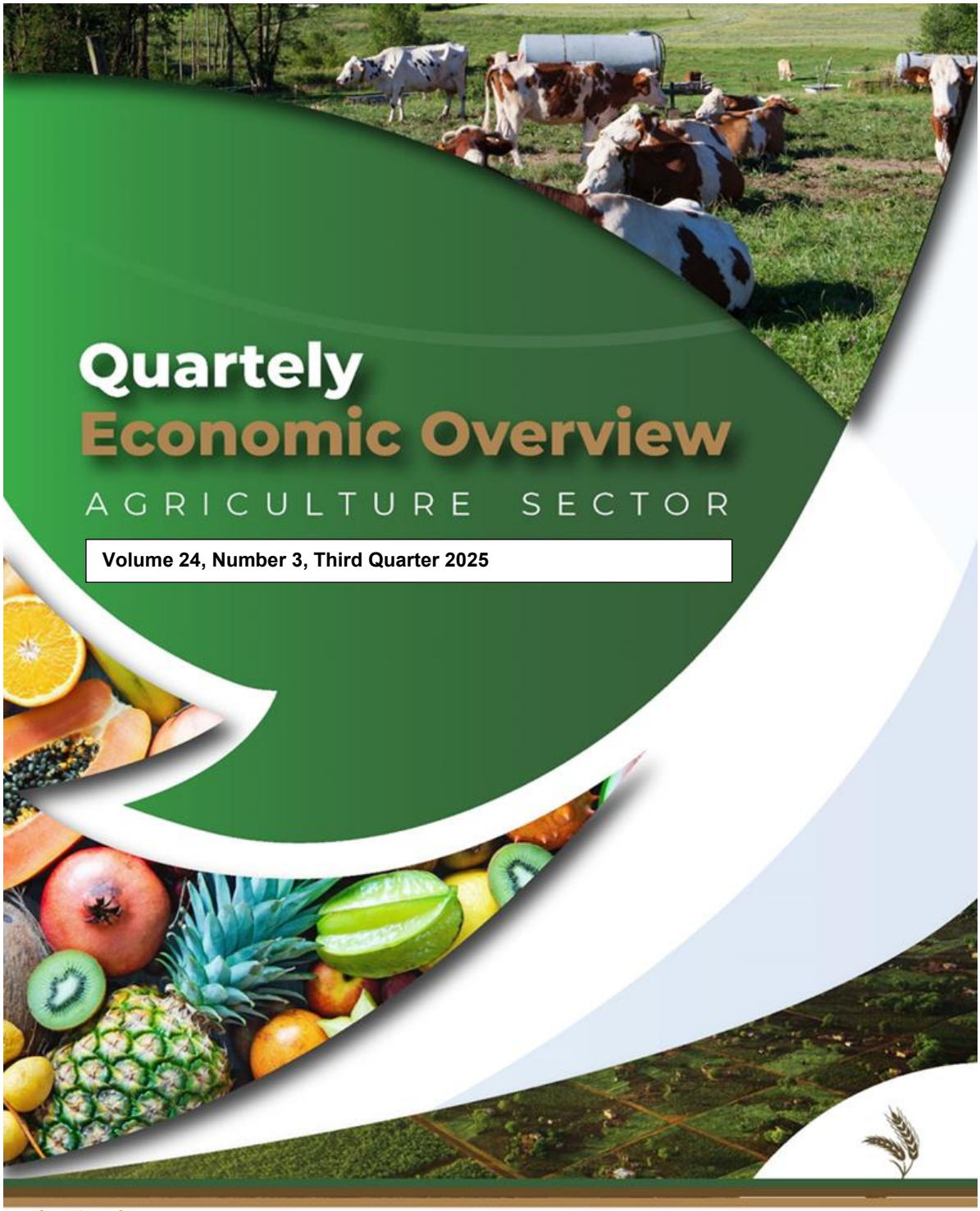

Quartely Economic Overview

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Volume 24, Number 3, Third Quarter 2025

agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PREFACE

The core business of the Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis is to provide economic and statistical services to monitor the economic performance of the agriculture, sector. To support this important task, the Economic and Statistical Research Unit conducts economic analyses of the performance of the agriculture sector, as well as the external impact on the agriculture sector and its industries.

This publication, the *Quarterly Economic Overview of the Agriculture, Sector*, was developed because of a need within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to be regularly informed on developments and expected economic trends in the agricultural sector. The quarterly report has been established as a regular feature in the directorate's workplan. Since the beginning of 2004, the report has also been published for outside use to add value to a number of regular economic publications about the agricultural sector. It is our vision to maintain the report as an indispensable reading for everyone interested in developments of the South African agriculture sector.

This issue looks at the economic developments in 2025: Q3, as well as the expected economic trends in the South African agriculture sector as the domestic and global economies continue to face economic uncertainties.

Compiled by Heidi Phahlane with inputs from:

Mthambeka Z.A., Lekganyane M.S., Mofolo K.M., Gininda P., D Nekhavhambe and F Dukuza.

All correspondence can be addressed to:

The Director: Ms Ellen Matsei

Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis

4th Floor, Sefala Building

503 Belvedere Street, Arcadia, South Africa

Tel.: +27(12) 319 8454

E-mail:DAS (Ellen Matsei) DSEA@nda.gov.za

List of figures

List of Tables

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global GDP growth prospects: The real GDP growth Rates for 2025 (Q3) in the advanced economies of the following countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United states and United Kingdom increased by 2.6%, 0.5%, 0.3%, 0.1%, 3.6% and 0.1% respectively, while Japan decreased by 0.6% when compared to the third quarter of 2024 (Q3).

Emerging markets and developing economies: Emerging markets and developing economies, the real GDP growth rates for 2025 (Q3) increased in the following countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria and Russia by 1.8%, 4.8%, 8.2%, 5.04%, 5.2%, 4.0%, 0.5% 3.98% and 0.6% respectively, when compared to the third quarter of 2024 (Q3) last year figures.

Global grain supply forecast: The global grain supply forecast indicates a total grain increase of 1.93%, from 3.609 million metric tons in 2024 (Q3) to 3.679 million metric tons in 2025 (Q3). Global supply projections for 2025 (Q3) of cotton decreased by 1.08%, whist wheat, coarse grains, rice milled, oilseeds, oil meals and vegetable oils increased by 1.27%, 1.73%, 3.43%, 2.16%, 5.38% and 1.96% respectively, when compared to the third quarter of 2024.

South Africa's GDP: South Africa's economy delivered a softer performance in the third quarter of 2025 with gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowing to 0.5% quarter-on-quarter, down from 0.9% in the previous quarter. In year-on-year terms, GDP expanded by 2.1% in the third quarter, better than economists' forecasts of 1.8% growth. The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry increased by 1,1%. This was primarily due to increased economic activities reported in field crops, horticulture and animal products.

Inflation: the annual average headline CPI for the third quarter of 2025 was -11.18%, which shows a decrease of 15.42% when compared to the same period last year. Food inflation for the third quarter of 2025 was -16.11%, which shows a decrease of 20.38% from 4.27% of the third quarter of 2024. Food inflation for 2025 (Q3), shows that bread & cereals, milk, egg & cheese, vegetables and fish were generally less expensive with CPI of -24.31%, -23.23%, -18.73% and -16.09% respectively, whilst oils & fats, fruits and meat were generally more expensive with CPI of -9.65%, -8.40%

and -2.69% respectively when compared to other food items in the same quarter last year 2024.

Employment: Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) reported that the number of employed people increased to 17.1 million, while the number of unemployed persons decreased by 360 000 to eight million between the second and third quarters of the year. According to Stats SA, six of 10 industries recorded job gains, led by construction, community, and trade, while losses were concentrated in manufacturing and finance sectors. The number of people employed in agricultural sector decreased from 935 000 in the third quarter of 2024, to 920 000 people in the same quarter of 2025, which represent a decrease of 1.6%.

The grain market review section: Reflects on quarterly price trends (domestic and international) and supply and demand of the following major products produced in South Africa: maize, wheat, soya bean, sorghum, sunflower and groundnuts, as well as the fruit and vegetable and meat industry reviews**.**

Trade: Agriculture remains a significant major earner of foreign exchange. In Q3: 2025, South Africa's agricultural trade balance grew by 29.6% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, amounted to R 49.26 billion, up from R 38.02 billion noted in Q3: 2024. During the period, agricultural product exports reached R 83.91 billion, an increase from R 72.80 billion noted in the same quarter of 2024, while the value of agricultural imports fell by 0.4% to R34.65 billion, a decline from R34.78 billion noted in Q3: 2024.

1 GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES ECONOMY

1.1 Global Real GDP Growth Rates

According to the World Economic Outlook report (October 2025), indicates global economy is adjusting to a landscape reshaped by new policy measures. Some extremes of higher tariffs were tempered, thanks to subsequent deals and resets. But the overall environment remains volatile, and temporary factors that supported activity in the first half of 2025 such as front-loading are fading *(Central banks may opt for larger, initial interest rate hikes rather than a gradual approach to curb inflation quickly, known as front-loaded tightening).*

As a result, global growth projections in the latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) are revised upward relative to the April 2025 WEO but continue to mark a downward revision relative to the pre-policy-shift forecasts. Global growth is projected to slow from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, with advanced economies growing around 1.5% and emerging market and developing economies just above 4%. The real GDP growth Rates for 2025 (Q3) in the advanced economies of the following countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United states and United Kingdom increased by 2.6%, 0.5%, 0.3%, 0.1%, 3.6% and 0.1% respectively, while Japan decreased by 0.6% when compared to the third quarter of 2024 (Q3). See figure 1 below.

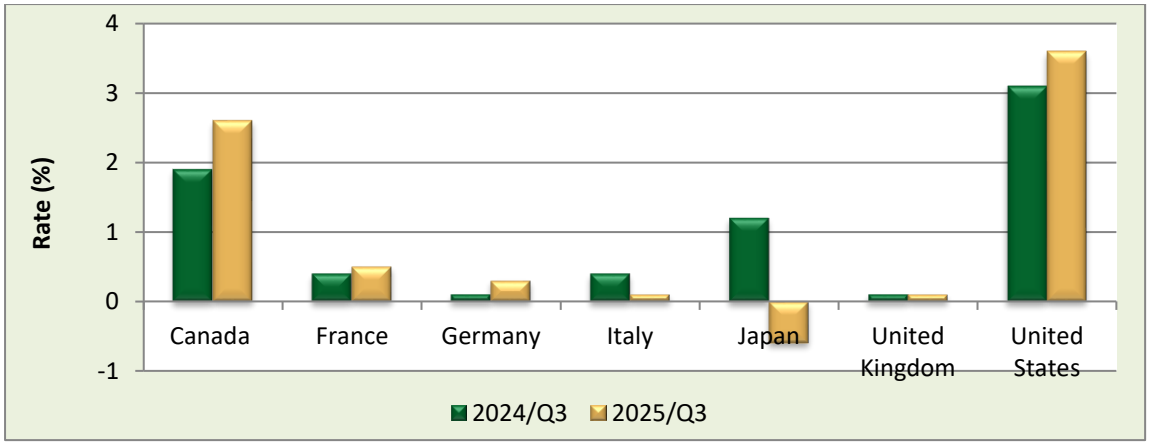

Figure 1: Advanced Economies Quarterly GDP Growth Rates
Data Source: Various Sources

Figure 2, Indicate that in the emerging markets and developing economies, the real GDP growth rates for 2025 (Q3) increased in the following countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria and Russia by 1.8%, 4.8%, 8.2%, 5.04%, 5.2%, 4.0%, 0.5% 3.98% and 0.6% respectively, when compared to the third quarter of 2024 (Q3) last year figures.

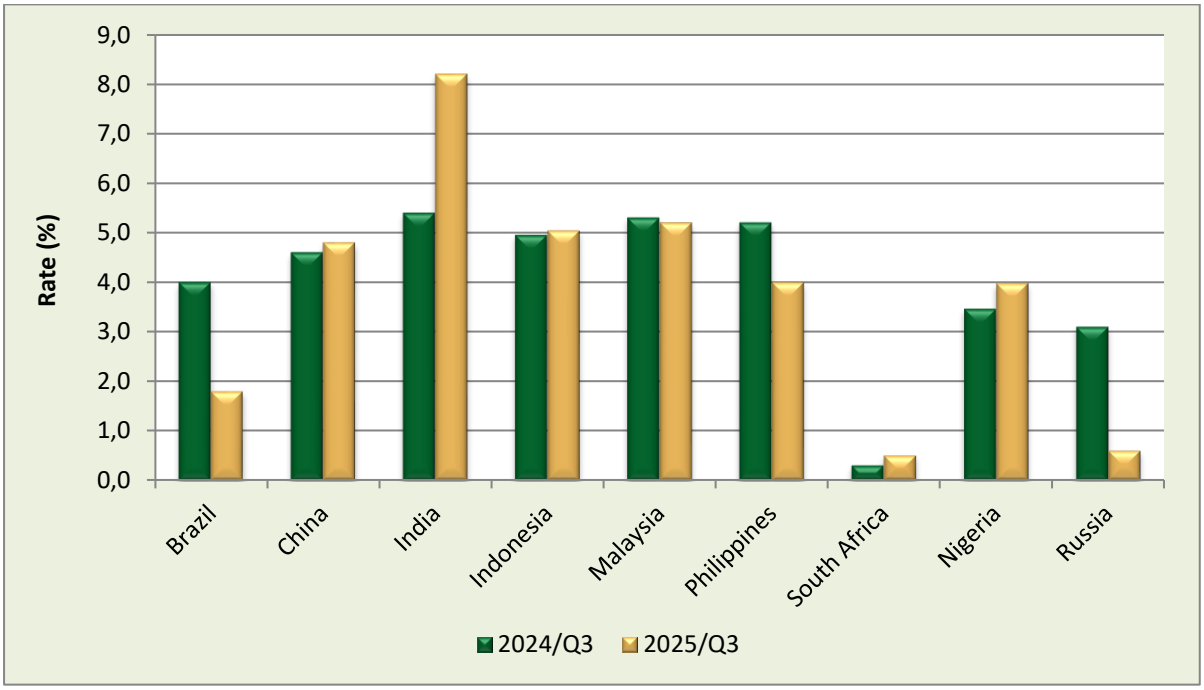

Figure 2: Emerging Markets and Developing Economies Quarterly GDP Growth Rates
Data Source: Various Sources

2. Global Grain forecast

The global grain supply forecast indicates a total grain increase of 1.93%, from 3.609 million metric tons in 2024 (Q3) to 3.679 million metric tons in 2025 (Q3). Global supply projections for 2025 (Q3) of cotton decreased by 1.08%, whist wheat, coarse grains, rice milled, oilseeds, oil meals and vegetable oils increased by 1.27%, 1.73%, 3.43%, 2.16%, 5.38% and 1.96% respectively, when compared to the third quarter of 2024, see figure 3 below.

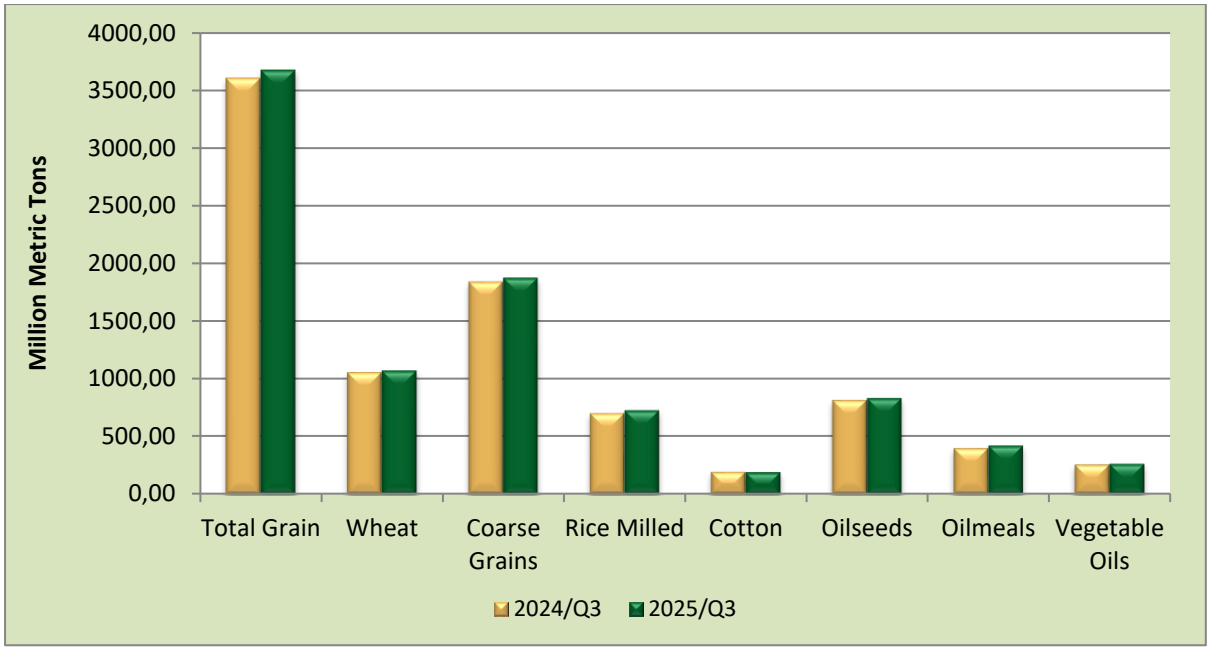

Figure 3: Quarterly global grain supply forecast
Data Source: USDA

3. Global Food Prices

Globally in 2025 (Q3) some major countries were paying more by 3.6% on food purchases compared to 2024 (Q3). The following global food products price indices in 2025 (Q3), cereals and sugar indices shows a decrease of 7.4% and 10.8% respectively, whilst meat, dairy and oils indices show an increase of 4.0%, 12.4% and 19.0% respectively when compared to (Q3) of 2024, see figure 4.

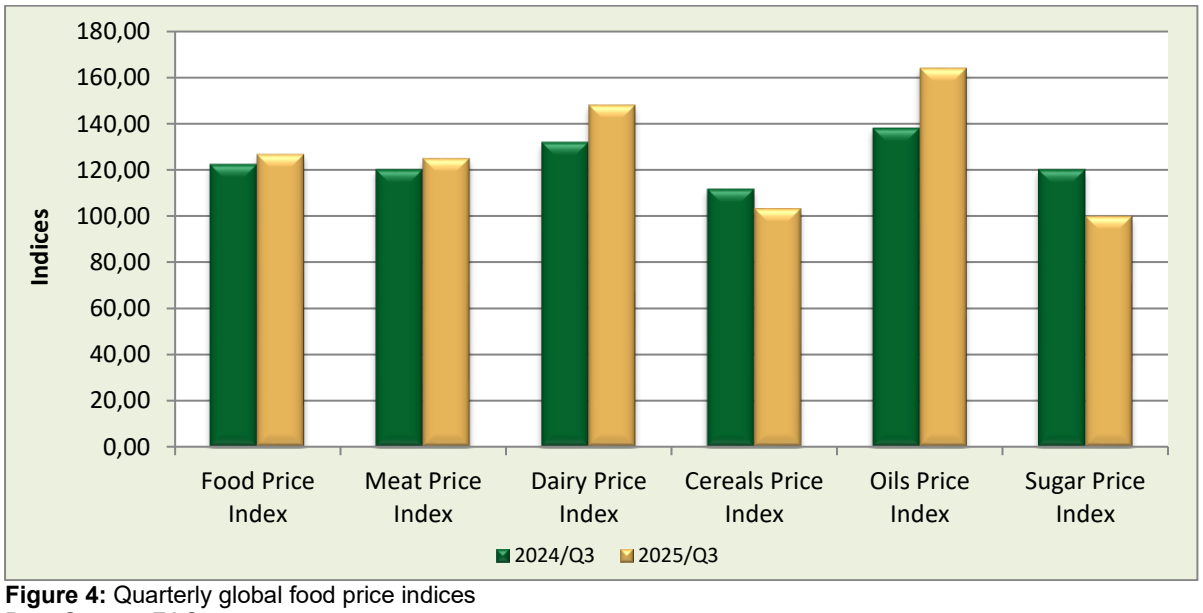

Figure 4: Quarterly global food price indices
Data Source: FAO

2 THE STATE OF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE

2.1 Growth

South Africa's economy delivered a softer performance in the third quarter of 2025 with gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowing to 0.5% quarter-on-quarter, down from 0.9% in the previous quarter. In year-on-year terms, GDP expanded by 2.1% in the third quarter, better than economists' forecasts of 1.8% growth. It is encouraging to see the progress toward more meaningful growth levels and If policy reform continues and fixed capital investment gains momentum, growth can be lifted sustainably above the current levels. Despite the softer headline number, industry performance was broadly constructive. Almost all major sectors contributed positively, including mining and construction, both of which have faced pressure in recent quarters. Mining delivered a strong contribution on the back of current commodity dynamics and equally encouraging is the return of construction to positive territory after multiple negative quarters. The only sector to contract this quarter was electricity, gas and water, reflecting declines in energy generation. The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry increased by 1,1%. This was primarily due to increased economic activities reported in field crops, horticulture and animal products.

Household consumption grew by 0.7%, slightly below the second quarter but still positive, despite elevated interest rates and a strained labour market. Consumers continue to keep their heads above water, highlighting resilience in the face of ongoing economic pressure. One of the strongest signals in the data is the improvement in gross fixed capital formation, which increased by 1.6% after three consecutive quarters of contraction. This is possibly the most positive takeaway from the third quarter; it may signal that private sector investment is beginning to return, and that structural reform is taking hold. With SA's investment ratio at 14% of GDP, compared to 24% a decade ago, sustained improvement in this area remains essential for long-term economic progress.

Several developments continue to support momentum in the recovery. Strong commodity prices, a fiscally disciplined budget, removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, an improved credit ratings outlook and inflation contained within the new 3% target all contributed positively. These factors create room for the South

African Reserve Bank (SARB) to potentially lower interest rates further, offering relief to consumers and supporting economic growth. While the quarter was softer, the broader trajectory is what matters. Growth above 2% is encouraging, but sustainable improvement will require continued policy reform and greater private sector participation. If the investment trend continues and reform gains momentum, the country may finally be turning the corner. The economy has struggled to build momentum over the past decade, with annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaging less than 1%. This year the picture has started to brighten, as investors have piled into South African stocks and bonds on signs of fiscal discipline and a decision to lower the country's inflation target. The National Treasury forecasts a slight pickup in growth this year and next year to 1.2% in 2025 and 1.5% in 2026 respectively.

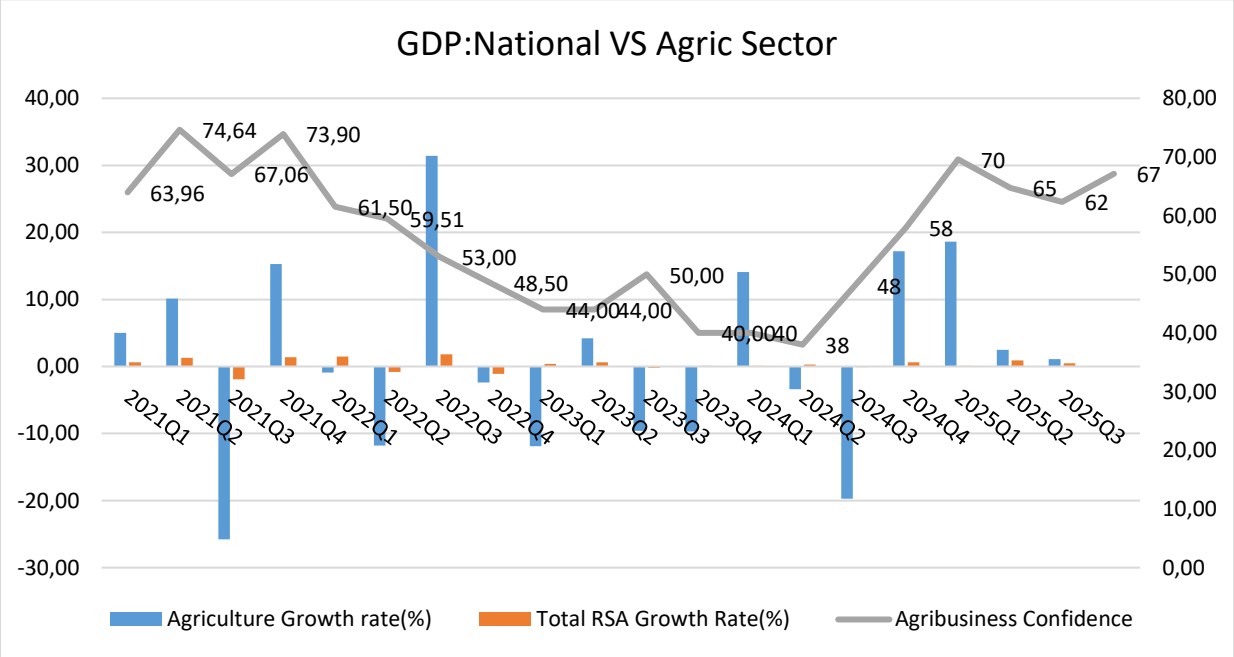

Figure 5: The GDP growth and Agriculture contribution to the GDP growth 2021:Q1 and 2025: Q3
Source: Stats SA

According to the Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index (ACI) fell for a second consecutive quarter by 2 points to 63 in Q3 2025, the survey was conducted during the last two weeks of August, covering agribusinesses operating in all agricultural subsectors nationwide. Foot-and-mouth disease and trade frictions with the U.S. where the main primary concerns for most respondents. Long term agribusinesses challenges highlighted includes poor service delivery by municipalities and slow progress in releasing government land to beneficiaries with title deeds to stimulate

agricultural expansion, as limiting factors. The favourable 2024-25 summer rains and improvements at the ports, which have enabled exports with minimal interruptions, are among the positives. The winter crop season is also looking positive for the 2025-26 harvest. Despite the slight decline, the current level of the ACI implies that South African agribusinesses remain optimistic about business conditions in the country.

2.2 Inflation

Figure 6 below shows the annual average headline CPI for the third quarter of 2025 was -11.18%, which shows a decrease of 15.42% when compared to the same period last year. Food inflation for the third quarter of 2025 was -16.11%, which shows a decrease of 20.38% from 4.27% of the third quarter of 2024.

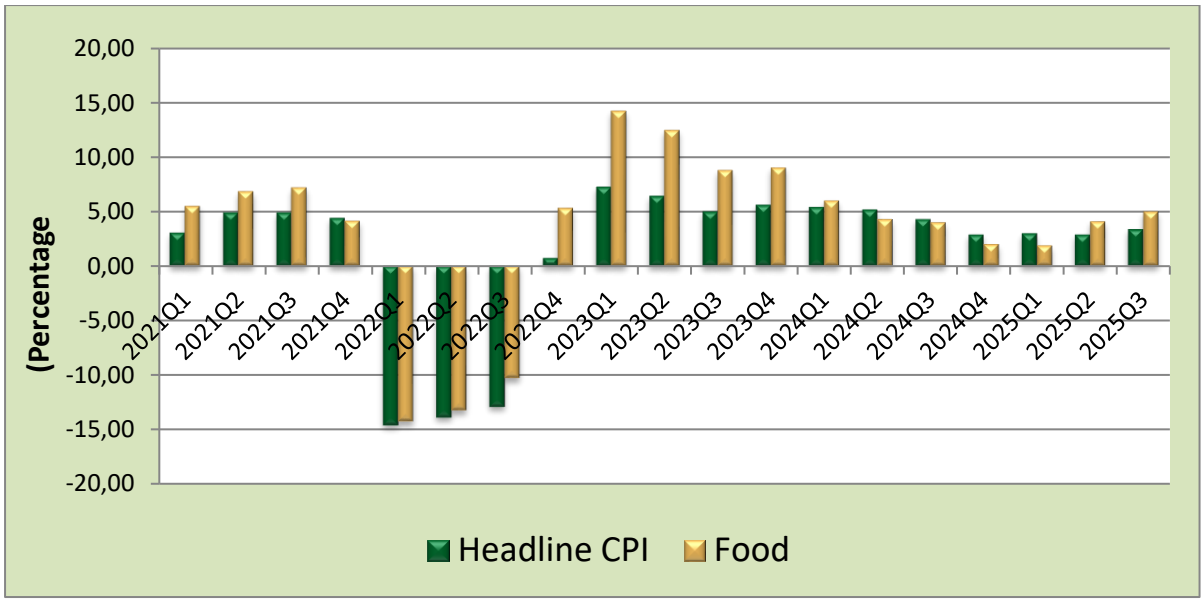

Figure 6: The headline consumer price index and food prices 2023: Q2 and 2025: Q2
Data Source: Stats SA

Figure 7 below illustrate the consumer trends of selected food items for the third quarter of 2025. Food inflation for 2025 (Q3), shows that bread & cereals, milk, egg & cheese, vegetables and fish were generally less expensive with CPI of -24.31%, -23.23%, -18.73% and -16.09% respectively, whilst oils & fats, fruits and meat were generally more expensive with CPI of -9.65%, -8.40% and -2.69% respectively when compared to other food items in the same quarter last year 2024.

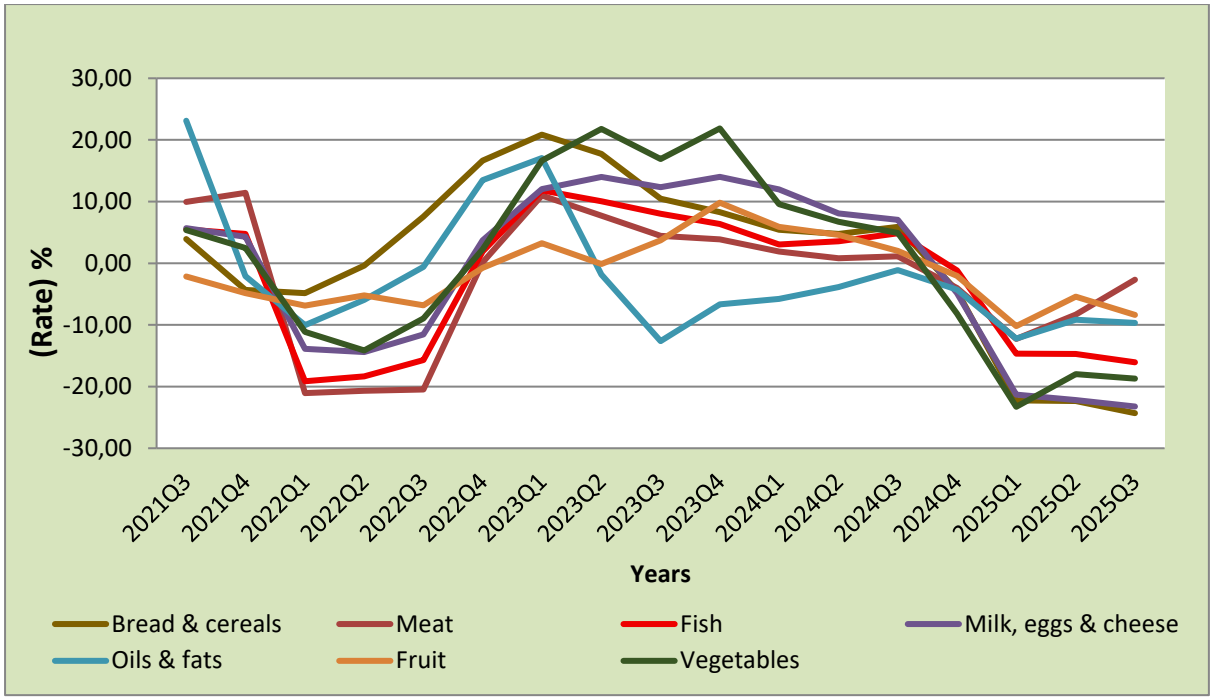

Figure 7: CPI for selected food items
Data Source: Stats SA

2.3 Employment

South Africa's official unemployment rate fell to 31.9% in the third quarter of 2025, the lowest level in nearly a year, as 248 000 more people found work between July and September. This jobless rate the lowest level since the fourth quarter of 2024, falling from 33.2% in the second quarter of 2025, marking the first decline this year. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) reported that the number of employed people increased to 17.1 million, while the number of unemployed persons decreased by 360 000 to eight million between the second and third quarters of the year. As a result, the overall labour force shrank slightly by 112 000 (0.4%), while the number of discouraged work-seekers rose by 36 000 to 3.5 million. Other available jobseekers increased by 130 000 to 965 000, and unavailable jobseekers by 64 000 to 83 000, leading to a net rise of 230 000 in the potential labour force population, now totalling 4.5 million. These shifts saw the official unemployment rate drop by 1.3 percentage points, while the expanded unemployment rate which includes discouraged jobseekers decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 42.4%. While the third quarter labour data offer a rare boost of optimism for South Africa's sluggish economy, experts agree that the recovery remains fragile and uneven as millions remain unemployed.

Taking a holistic view of the year, the country still experienced a net decrease in employment of 24 000, following a 291 000-job loss in the first quarter, a marginal increase of 19 000 in the second quarter, and 248 000 in the third quarter. As such, the rebound in third quarter is seen to be a recovery from earlier losses, not yet a sign of structural improvement. Nedbank economist Busisiwe Nkonki believe the outlook for the labour market remains fragile, but there are signs of cautious optimism. Nkonki added that Job creation will continue to be constrained by embedded structural inefficiencies, which undermine confidence and employment in the private sector.

Meanwhile, higher tariffs imposed by the US will add further strain on export-oriented industries. On the upside, consumer spending is expected to improve further, supported by rising real incomes, subdued inflation, lower interest rates and Two-Pot retirement withdrawals. As a result, a continued growth in job creation by the domestic trade sector is expected. The latest figures suggest that targeted stimulus, infrastructure investment, and seasonal hiring may be slowly easing the country's stubborn unemployment burden. Professor Raymond Parsons, a North-West University Business School economist, described the report as a positive signal that unemployment may have peaked for now. The latest labour trends suggest that unemployment may have peaked for now. Although unemployment is still unacceptably high, the present economic recovery has now become sufficient to make a modest dent in the unemployment level. It confirms that the emphasis in policy, including in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement must continue to strongly be on promoting job-rich growth.

According to Stats SA, six of 10 industries recorded job gains, led by construction, community, and trade, while losses were concentrated in manufacturing and finance sectors. Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa, said that agricultural employment rose by 2% quarter-on-quarter, with the sector now employing 920 000 people. The quarterly improvements are seen mainly in some field crops, horticulture, forestry, and in the production of organic fertiliser. The increase in jobs reflects the optimism generated by the abundant harvest in these subsectors. Similarly, Investec economist Lara Hodes highlighted construction as a standout performer, with the sector adding 130 000 jobs in the third quarter, a 10.3% quarterly increase. However, Hodes said the manufacturing sector

has been constrained by lacklustre domestic demand, global uncertainty which continues to weigh on new export orders and the myriads of structural challenges weighing on optimal activity. South Africa's official unemployment rate improved somewhat in the third quarter but remained elevated, reflective of a subdued economy with insufficient economic growth to drive sustainable job creation.

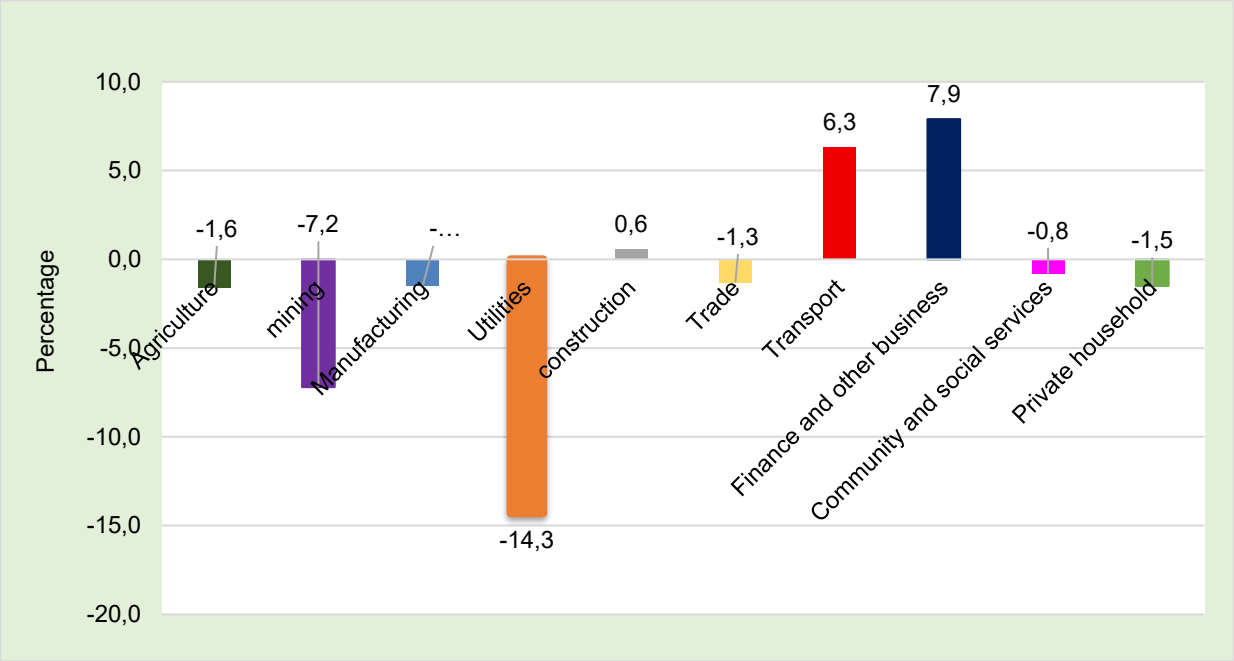

Figure 8: Total number of people employed by industries in 2025: Q3.
Source: Stats SA

Figure 9 illustrate that the number of people employed in agricultural sector decreased from 935 000 in the third quarter of 2024, to 920 000 people in the same quarter of 2025, which represent a decrease of 1.6%. Off the 15 000 jobs losses by the sector, 12 000 jobs were lost by men, meanwhile 3 000 jobs were lost by woman between the two quarters. During the same period in total, the agricultural sector had 648 000 men, and 272 000 women compared to 651 000 men and 284 000 women. However, on quarter-to-quarter the number of people employed in agriculture sector increased by 1.6%, from 906 000 in the second quarter of 2025 to 920 000 in the third quarter of 2025.

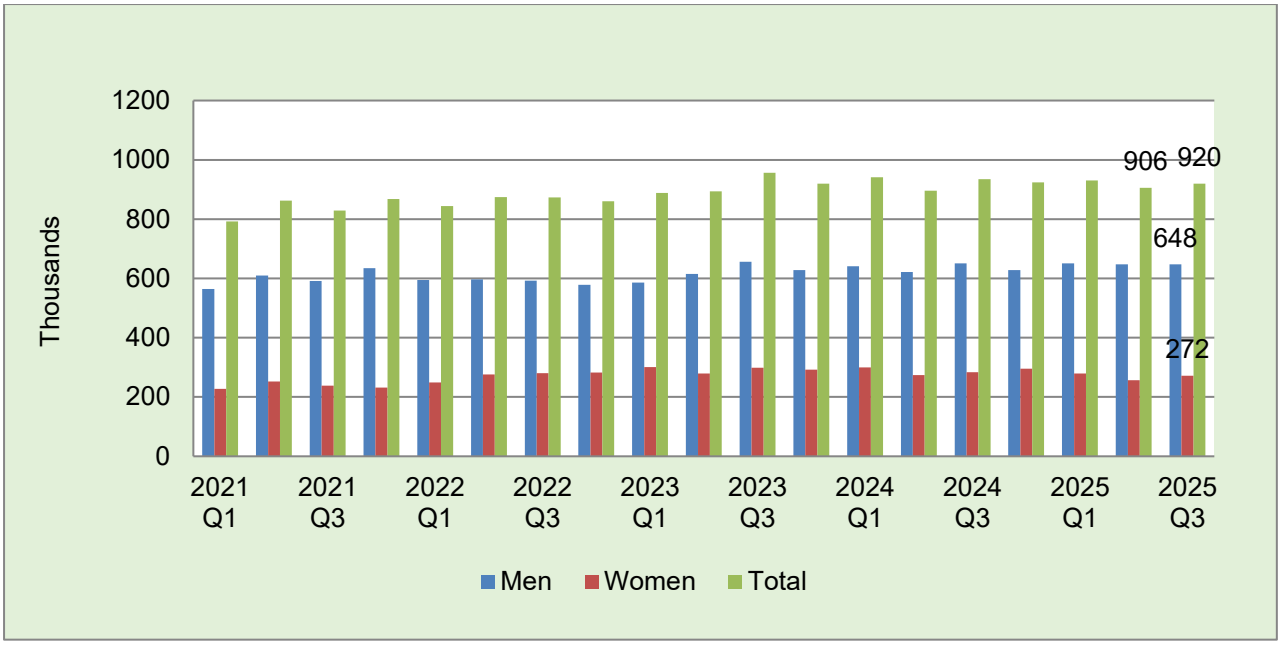

Figure 9: Total number of people employed in the agriculture sector between 2021: Q1 and 2025: Q3
Source: Stats SA

Figure 10 below shows that between the third quarter of 2024 and the third quarter of 2025, provincial agriculture employment increased in five provinces, such as Northwest, Limpopo, Western cape, Northen Cape and Mpumalanga by 12.8%, 8.8%, 8.7%, 8.4%, and 3.1% respectively. Meanwhile provincial agriculture employment declines in Gauteng, Eastern cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Free state by 18.3%, 16.2%, 15.9%, and 8.5% respectively. During the same period the (QLFS) publication also indicates an increase of about 6.9% in the number of people involved in subsistence farming from 1.9 million people in the third quarter of 2024 to 2.0 million in the same quarter of 2025. KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga remained with the highest number of people involved in subsistence farming during the same period.

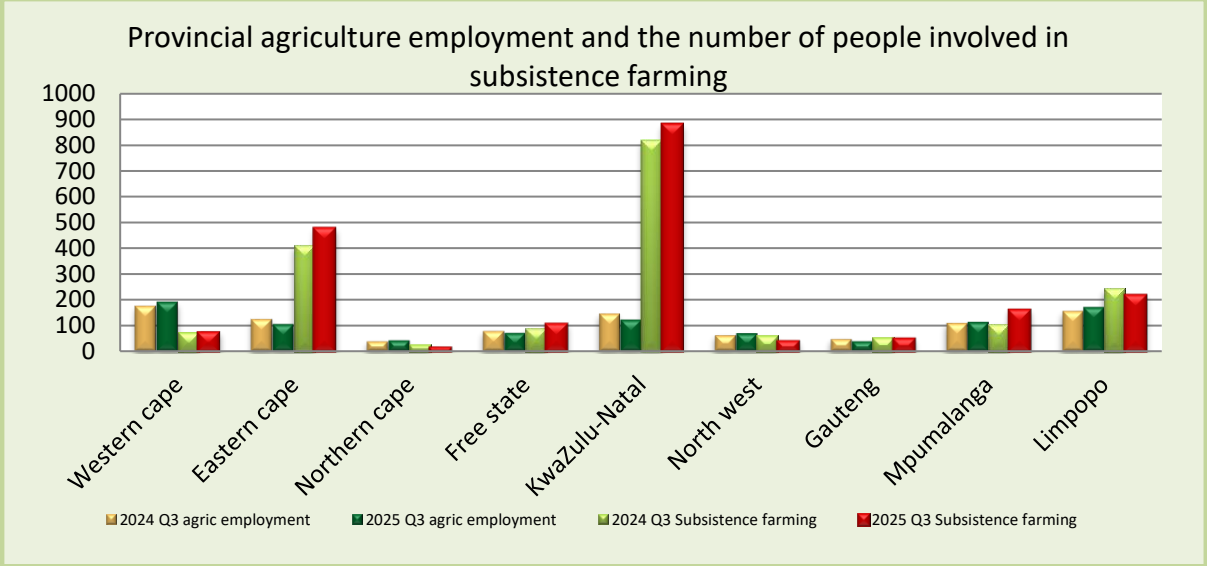

Figure 10: Provincial agriculture employment and subsistence farming between 2024: Q3 and 2025: Q3.
Source: Stats SA

2.4 Expenditure on intermediate goods and services by the agricultural sector

The mixed performance of intermediate goods and services in Q3 2025 reflects the combined effects of seasonal planting activity, global market volatility, and differing conditions across agricultural subsectors. Strong demand for crop inputs such as seeds, plants, and fertilizers was driven by the start of the planting season, while livestock producers continued to limit spending due to weak margins and earlier feed cost pressures. At the same time, fluctuations in global fertilizer, fuel, and feed prices along with the rand's volatility affected import dependent inputs unevenly. These factors, together with farmers' cost cutting in some areas and increased investment in others, produced the varied spending trends observed across categories.

In the third quarter of 2025, spending on intermediate goods and services showed a mixed performance across categories. Year on year, farm services continued to rise by 6%, while fuel and seed and plant expenditures increased moderately by 3.4% and 6.8% respectively. In contrast, fertilizer spending declined by 9.1% and farm feed costs dropped sharply by 22.8%, reflecting ongoing pressure on livestock producers. Quarter on quarter trends, however, point to shifting seasonal dynamics: seed and plant expenditure surged by 39.8%, and fertilizer spending increased by 14.1%, signalling heightened crop production activity. Meanwhile, farm services fell by 14.3%, fuel declined by 8.5%, and feed costs dipped slightly by 3.3%.

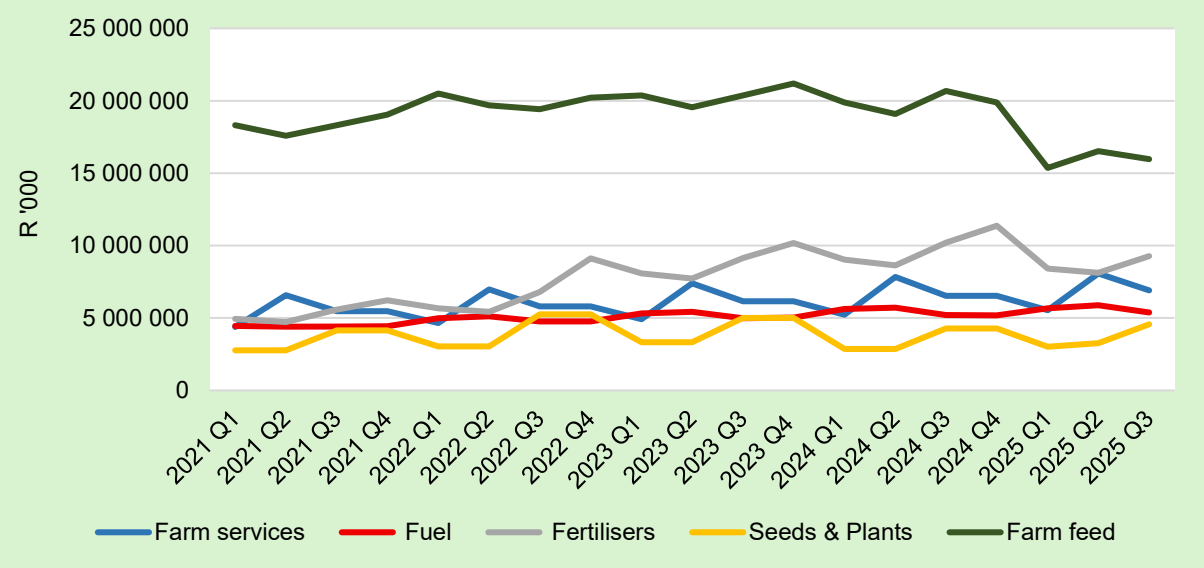

Figure 11: Trends in the expenditure on fuel, farm feeds, fertilisers, seeds and plants and farm services between 2020: Q2 and 2025: Q2
Source: DOA

2.5 fertilizer market review

2.5.1 South African fertiliser expenditure

Figure 12 illustrates that fertilizer expenditure declined by 9.1% year-on-year, dropping from R10.2 million in Q3 2024 to R9.2 million in Q3 2025. In contrast, quarter-on-quarter spending rose from R8.1 million in Q2 2025 to R9.2 million in Q3 2025, representing a 12.7% increase. Fertilizer price and expenditure trends in Q3 2025 were mainly driven by tight global supply, export restrictions from major fertilizer-producing countries, and elevated production costs linked to high energy and raw-material prices. Strong global demand, coupled with uncertainty that led some buyers to stockpile, further supported higher price levels. For South Africa, heavy import dependence, higher shipping and logistics costs, and rand volatility added additional pressure to domestic fertilizer prices. These combined factors help explain why fertilizer spending increased quarter-on-quarter in Q3 2025, despite showing a year-on-year decline as farmers adjusted usage in response to earlier price spikes.

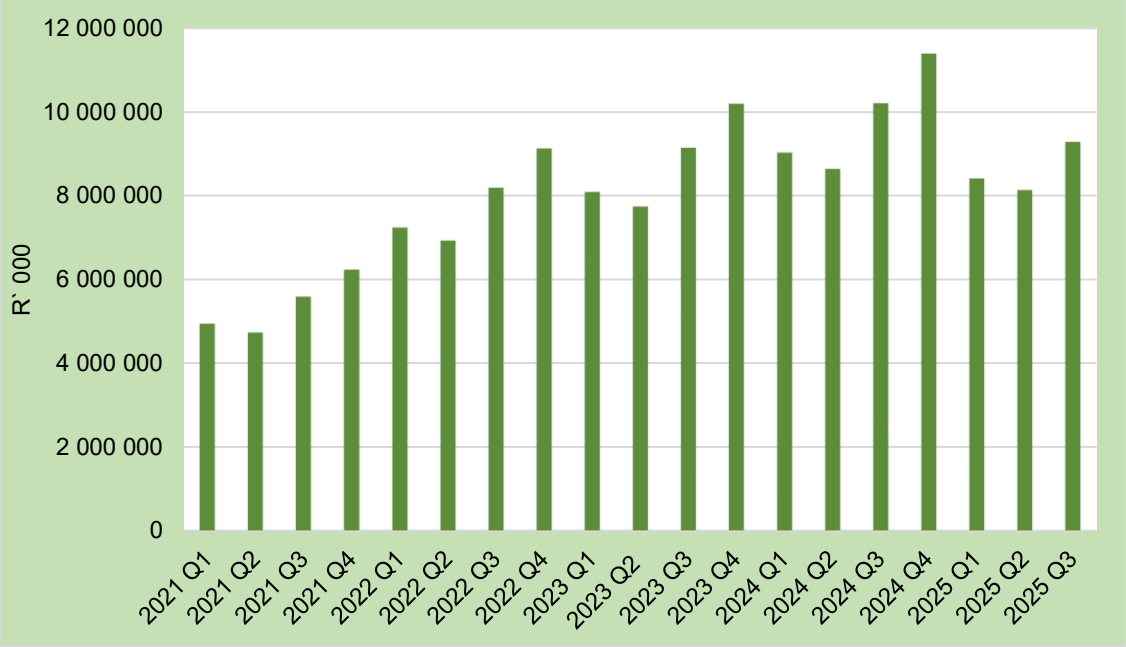

Figure: 12 South Africa fertiliser expenditure
Source: Grain SA

2.6 Nominal gross farm income and net farm income from agricultural products

The figure 13 illustrate that the gross income from all agricultural products increased by 29.4% from R115.2 billion in the third quarter of 2024 to R149.1 billion in the third quarter of 2025. Meanwhile the net farm income is estimated at R64.8 billion in the third quarter of 2025 compared to R30.1 billion in the same quarter of 2024, a huge increase of 115.3%. During the same period the increase in net farm income was due to a significant increase of 120,4% in income from field crops, whist horticulture and animal products increased by 12.4% and 5.7% respectively.

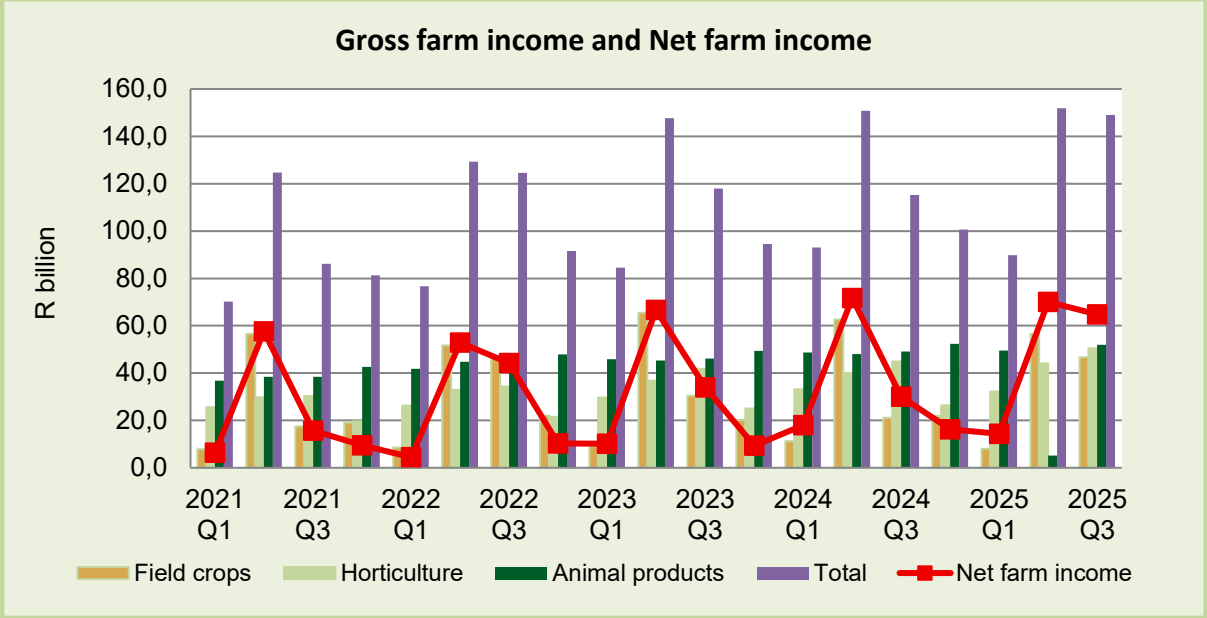

Figure 13: Trends in nominal gross farm income between 2024: Q2 and 2025: Q2
Source: DOA

2.9 Reviews of South Africa's water dam levels

The September 2025 report from the South African Weather Services (SAWS) revealed that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in a neutral state, with notable cooling observed in September (SAWS, 2025). SAWS forecasts suggest a potential shift towards a weak La Niña event in the forthcoming summer season. As summer approaches, confidence in the probability of a La Niña State increases. Generally, La Niña affects South Africa by improving the likelihood of above-normal rainfall in the northeastern parts of the country during the summer months. In essence, the northeastern part of South Africa encompasses most areas that typically receive substantial rainfall in late spring and summer. These areas are anticipated to experience above-average rainfall until mid-summer. Nevertheless, certain regions in Mpumalanga and Limpopo may encounter below-average rainfall during this period.

Furthermore, the latest climate report from the South African Weather Service indicated that both minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be above average during the late spring and summer months, except for the southwestern coastal regions, where maximum temperatures are expected to be below average (DWS, 2025).

In Q3: 2025, water storage levels of national dams reached approximately 96% of their Full Supply Capacity (FSC). This marks a 16% increase compared to the same quarter in 2024, when national storage levels were roughly 83% of the FSC. The rise in total dam storage levels suggests that stream flows have been higher than usual, attributed to the above-average rainfall experienced in recent months (DWS, 2025).

As spring and early summer commence, the eastern regions of the country typically begin to experience substantial rainfall (SAWS, 2025). In early to mid-spring, the eastern and southeastern parts were anticipated to receive higher-than-average rainfall, while majority of other regions were projected to have below-average precipitation. Conversely, during the late spring season, it is expected that most areas across the country will receive less than normal rainfall (DWS, 2025).

In the nine provinces during Q3 of 2025, only 11% of the dams reported storage levels surpassing 100% of their Full Supply Capacity, while 56% of the dams reported storage levels exceeding 90% of their Full Supply Capacity (FSC). At the same time, approximately 33% of the dams recorded storage levels of 80% or more of their Full Supply Capacity (FSC).

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, South Africa saw a 1% decline in its national dam levels in Q3: 2025 in comparison to Q2. Significant rainfall was observed in various regions of the country from the first to the fourth week of July, while the second week of August 2025 recorded comparatively higher rainfall nationwide. In contrast, the first week of September was relatively dry, whereas the fourth week of September 2025 experienced relatively higher rainfall throughout the country (DWS, 2025).

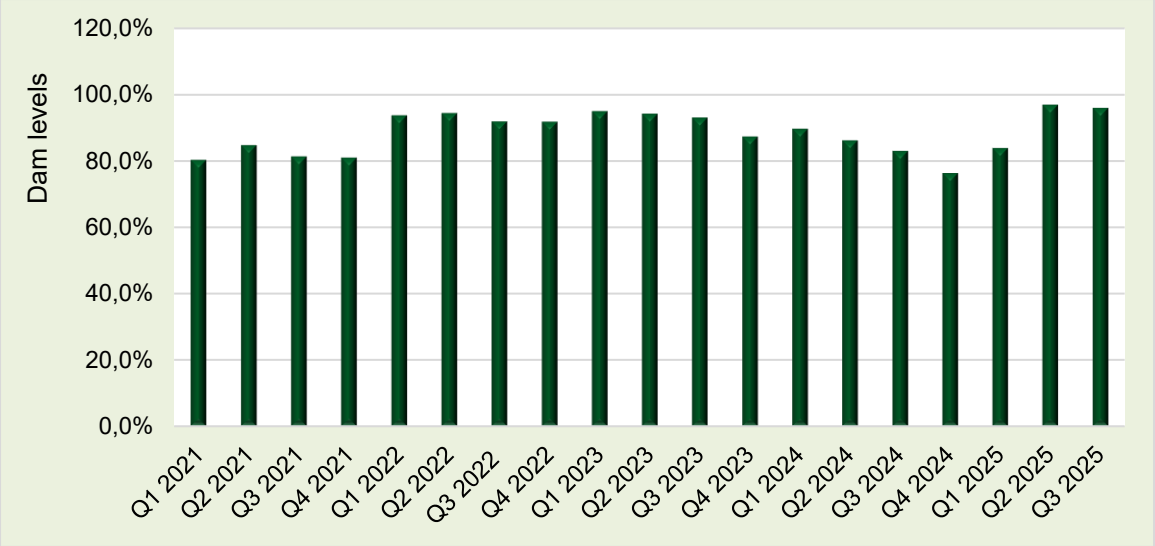

Figure 14: National dam levels
Source: Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

2.9.1 Provincial dam levels

Recent statistics from the Department of Water and Sanitation indicate that dam levels in the Eastern Cape increased by 1% in Q3: 2025 when compared to the same quarter in 2024. This led to an average level of 81%, slightly above the prior average of 80%. The Department has assured the public that the water supply for communities remains stable at this time. However, given the province's erratic and variable weather patterns, all residents are urged to practice responsible usage and engage in water conservation efforts.

During the same period, Free State saw an impressive 24% increase in dam levels in Q3: 2025 when compared to the same period in 2024, resulting in average dam levels of 100%, a notable improvement from the previous average of 81%. This increase in dam water levels is mainly attributed to climatic conditions, particularly the ample rainfall that was recorded across a large portion of the Free State. The Department of Water and Sanitation strongly encourages all residents to focus on water conservation, despite the rise in dam water levels. The shared responsibility of the community is crucial to guarantee a sustainable water supply for both present and future generations.

Similarly, dam water levels across Gauteng rose by 16% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, reaching an average level of 100%, an increase from the prior average of 86%. Despite this significant rise, the current state of the dams is considered favourable and is anticipated to meet consumer demands. Nonetheless, this is contingent upon the water usage habits of Gauteng residents and the conservation strategies implemented by municipalities, some of which are presently facing financial responsibilities to the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Likewise, in Q3: 2025, Kwazulu-Natal's dam water levels rose by 10% compared to Q3: 2024. During this period, the average dam water level climbed from 87% to 96%. The Department of Water and Sanitation continues to encourage residents of Kwazulu-Natal to conserve water, even with the significant rise in dam water levels across all major water sources.

Additionally, Limpopo's dam water levels increased by 10% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, reaching an average of 85%, up from 78%. The storage capacity in the province's main water supply systems (WSS) has demonstrated significant improvement, and most of the dams in the province are sustaining levels that are deemed satisfactory.

Dam levels in Mpumalanga rose by 9% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, reaching average dam levels of 97%, an increase from 90%. The Department of Water and Sanitation emphasized to the public that South Africa is recognized as a water-scarce country, ranking among the thirty driest nations worldwide. This highlights the critical need for water conservation as a national priority, even though most dams in the Mpumalanga Province are close to full capacity. Natural resources are just one factor affecting a sustainable and dependable water supply; equally crucial is the responsible use of the available water by individuals.

The Northern Cape experienced a notable increase in dam levels, with a rise of 22% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, resulting in an average dam level of 94%, up from 76%. Furthermore, the two main water supply systems in the Northern Cape, the Vaal River System and the Orange River System, also saw significant increases in Q3: 2025. The Department of Water and Sanitation urges residents and

water users in the Northern Cape to adopt water-saving measures, repair any burst or leaking pipes, and regularly monitor boreholes to ensure sustainable yields. Community-driven initiatives in water conservation will be crucial in addressing the water challenges faced by the province.

During the same period, dam levels in the North West province saw a notable rise of 41% in Q3: 2025 compared to the equivalent period in 2024. The average dam levels rose from 70% to 99%, primarily due to a significant amount of rainfall this season, which has been vital for the province's water supply. This positive trend is expected to offer relief to the province, and the department is hopeful that this upward trend will persist.

On the contrary, the Western Cape saw a reduction in dam levels, which fell by 11% in Q3: 2025 when compared to the same quarter in 2024, leading to an average dam level of 81%, a decrease from the previous average of 92%. As reported by the Department of Water and Sanitation (2024), the total storage capacity of the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) is still above the median expected storage level, and there are presently no restrictions on water usage for the operational year 2025.

The Department of Water and Sanitation urges residents to be mindful of their water consumption, given that South Africa is one of the driest nations in the world and often experiences fluctuating dam levels. Additionally, residents should notify local authorities of any water leaks or infrastructure problems.

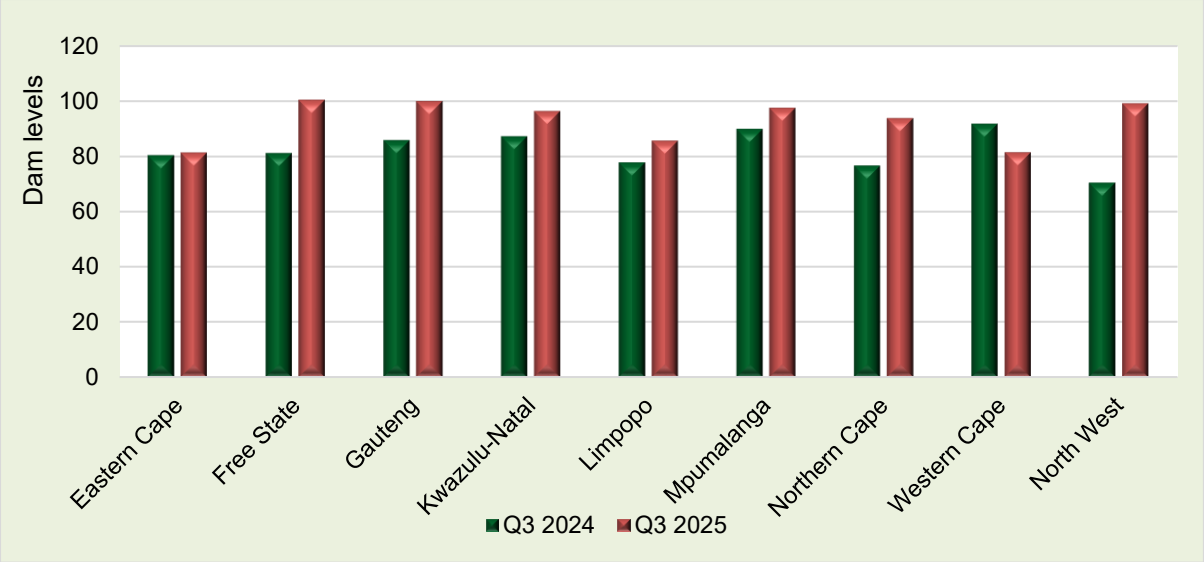

Figure 15: Provincial dam levels
Source: Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

Figure 16 depicts the water levels of dams in different provinces, particularly highlighting the period from Q3: 2024 to Q3: 2025. A comparison of dam levels between Q3: 2025 and Q2 reveals a general decrease in dam levels in the majority of provinces, with notable decreases observed, except for the Western Cape, which rose significant by 41% in its dam levels. Specifically, the dam levels in the Eastern Cape, Free State Province, Gauteng Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, and North West Province experienced decreases of 3%, 2%, 3%, 2%, 4%, 3%, 11%, and 2%, respectively, on a quarter-on-quarter basis. The 24-month Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) analysed at the end of August 2025 revealed that that certain regions in the Eastern Cape (Sarah Baartman DM) and Mpumalanga (Ehlanzeni DM) provinces faced significant drought conditions over the past 24 months. Additionally, several District Municipalities (DMs) reported a moderate drought status.

The Department of Water and Sanitation continues to encourage all citizens to use water responsibly and to adopt water-saving measures wherever they can in light of this circumstance. Every drop matters in this period of limited resources. Water users have been advised by the Department of Water and Sanitation to continue conserving water and use it responsibly in order to sustain livelihoods, boost the economy, and maintain stable water levels in the systems. To address the problems of water scarcity, cooperation with the provincial government is still ongoing. In order to address the

water scarcity, the Department of Water and Sanitation is actively working with municipalities and is committed to making sure that all provinces have a steady supply of water.

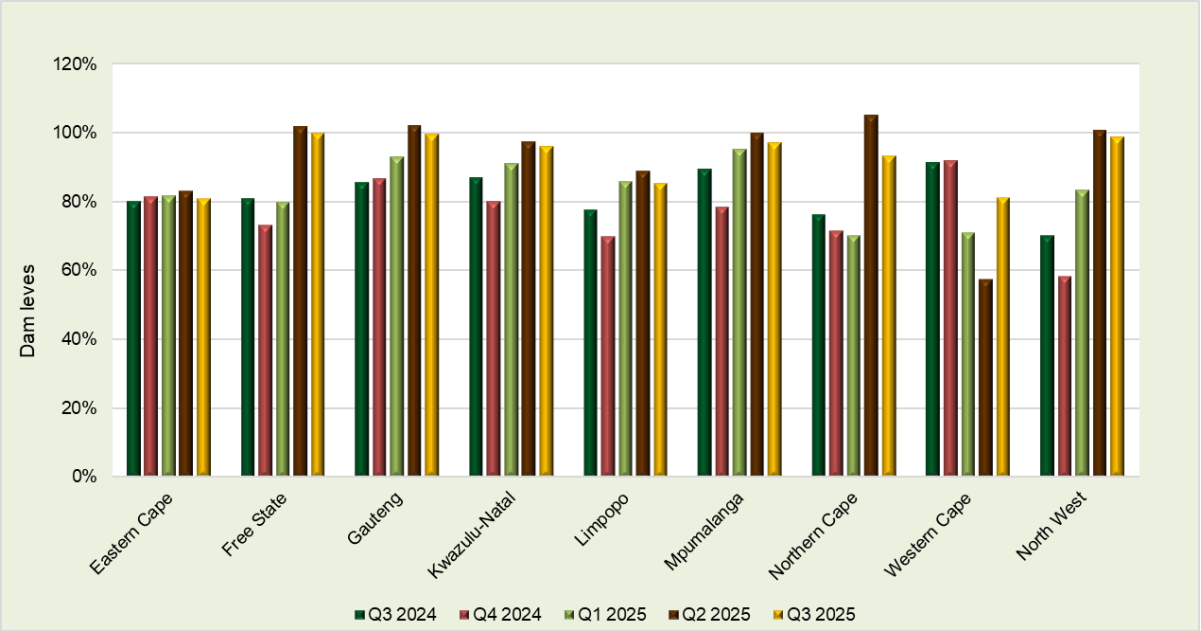

Figure 16: Average dam levels from Q1: 2024 to Q1: 2025
Source: Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

3. Review of Agricultural Markets

3.1 Grain market review

3.1.1 White and yellow maize

Maize is the most important grain crop in South Africa, being both the major feed grain and the staple food of the majority of the South African population. About 51,8% of maize produced in South Africa is white and the remaining 48,2% is yellow maize (2023). Most of the maize produced in South Africa is consumed locally; as a result, the domestic market is very important to the industry. South Africa is mainly a net exporter of maize as commercial production exceeds local consumption.

The last Crop estimate Committee (CEC) for white maize and yellow production for the 2025 season has been adjusted up by 3.7% and 4.4% respectively compared to the previous quarter forecasts, white maize production reduced by 27.3% in the last demand and supply estimates

Table 1: White Maize Production and Demand outlook

White Maize	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024*	*2025 Final Est*
Opening Stcok	943905	2037531	1764659	984293	3659675	2596119	1641965	2303688	1 465 537	1 082 640	1 346 876	365 498
Production	7710000	4735000	3408500	9916000	6540000	5545000	7569550	8600000	7 850 000	8 505 000	6 055 000	8 378 250
Imports	0	72531	630619	41797	0	0	0	7583	0	0	119 394	0
Total Supply	8653905	6845062	5803778	10942090	10199675	8141119	9211515	10911271	9255287	9 587 640	7 521 270	8 743 748
Consumption	5936023	4526795	4261956	6502005	6870019	5438928	5548151	8465901	6847647	7133205	5 262 087	5937086
Exports	680351	553608	557529	780410	733537	1060226	1359676	979833	1 325 000	1 080 000	1 893 685	1 320 000
Total Demand	6616374	5080403	4819485	7282415	7603556	6499154	6907827	9445734	8 172 647	8240764	7155772	7257086
Closing Balance	2037531	1764659	984293	3659675	2596119	1641965	2303688	1 465 537	1 082 640	1 346 876	365 498	1 486 662

Source: DOA, NAMC, Sagis.

Total white and yellow maize demand have been adjusted upwads by 0.9% and 4.2% in the last estimate, while exports are adjusted up by 0.4% and 12.5% respectively.

Table 2: Yellow Maize Production and Demand outlook

Yellow Maize	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	*2024*	*2025 Final Est*
Opening Stcok	678315	1289624	1097224	875351	1847267	1618654	1285087	1128098	658 682	871 291	1 057 664	288 292
Production	6540000	5220000	4370000	6904000	5970000	5730000	6752500	7715000	7 597 450	7 925 000	6 795 000	8 057 400
Imports	79682	1250059	2014174	256423	50812	598481	32476	0	0	0	818 165	400 000
sundries												
Total Supply	6961797	9079683	8331398	5501774	8802079	8187135	7047563	8843098	8256132	8 796 291	8 670 829	8 745 692
Consumption	4161363	7659117	7026279	2083656	5476723	6395682	4392111	4477346	4919841	5634617	7 477 434	6 781 212
Exports	1510810	323342	429768	1570851	1706702	506366	1527354	2809609	2465000	2 296 110	905 103	928 000
Total Demand	5672173	7982459	7456047	3654507	7183425	6902048	5919465	8 184 416	7 384 841	7738627	8 382 537	7709212
Closing Balance	1289624	1097224	875351	1847267	1618654	1285087	1128098	658682	871 291	1 057 664	288 292	1 036 480

Source: DOA, NAMC, SAGIS.

The bumper maize crop locally and internationally pushed international maize prices lower & local maize prices lower further during the 3rd quarter. The total local maize is estimated at 27,90% or 3,586 mill tons larger than the 2024 maize crop. Internationally maize prices were driven down by favourable crop conditions in the United States and strong export competition from South America and further upward revisions in crop outlook, since July, driven by upward adjustments in Brazil and Mexico.

The local price of white and yellow maize decreased by 19.3% and 4.4% on year-on-year(y/y) basis, while on quarter-on-quarter(q/q) basis prices decreased by 10% and 10.9% respectively. The price of white maize was 6.2% and 16.2% below the import price. Although the local maize prices traded above the export price, see Figure 17.

In field crops Lower maize prices are offering some relief to consumers, as basic food costs ease. Cheaper maize also reduces feed prices for livestock and poultry, which could help stabilise meat, dairy and chicken prices over time. However, Grain SA warns that the same drop is hurting local maize producers. Many farmers are earning nearly 50% less than a year ago, while production costs remain high.

Market data shows maize prices are down about 22% year-on-year, while input costs have increased by roughly 19%. This gap is making it difficult for farmers to remain viable, raising concerns for local food production and long-term food security.

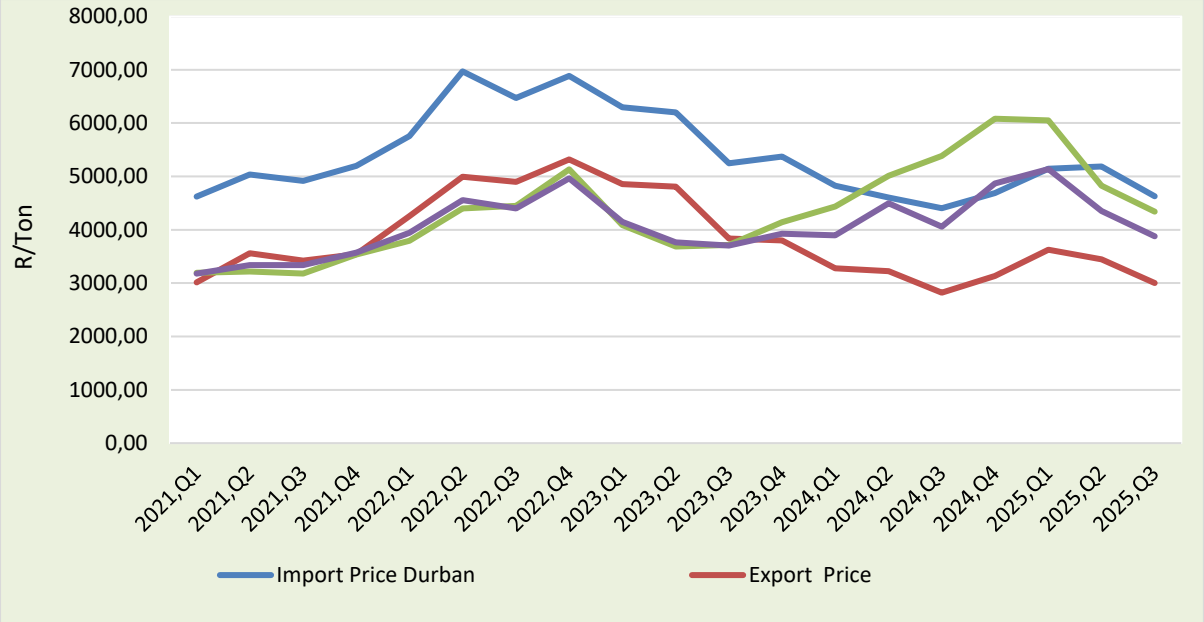

Figure 17: Maize prices
Source: DOA, Safex, World bank

The retail maize price for a 2.5kg and a 5kg maize meal increased by 9.9% and 4.1% respectively, while on a q/q price decreased by 0.3% and 2.7%. A modest downward revision in maize is expected because of the lag effect and conditions looking good for planting next year's crop. Lower maize prices are offering some relief to consumers, as basic food costs ease, see Figure 18.

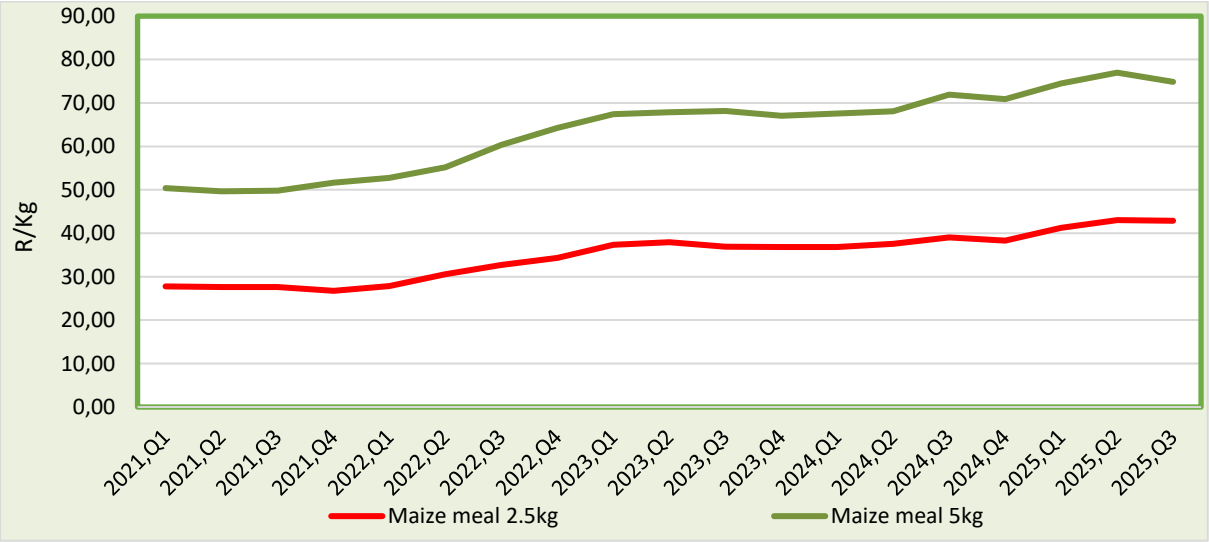

Figure 18: Retail prices vs white maize seed prices
Source: Safex/Stats SA

3.1.2 Wheat

South Africa is not self-sufficient in the production of wheat and therefore approximately 50% of its local consumption is imported. South Africa's dependency on imported wheat increased over time and hence the domestic price for wheat, as reported by Safex tends to be close to import parity. The wheat import tariff is crucial when local wheat production is considered, as it provides a support-base to domestic wheat prices and to some extent supports wheat producers' profitability.

Figure 19 shows the price trends of domestic wheat and international parity prices from Q3 2020 to Q3 2025. Overall, prices were mixed during the quarter under review; the South African domestic wheat price traded at R6 117.63/ton in Q3 2025, reflecting a decline of 4.1% compared to the previous quarter. The wheat imports parity price traded at R5 902.67/ton, representing a price increase of 0.2%. The wheat export parity price traded at R3 528.93/ton, indicating a decline of 7.1% in Q3 2025 compared to Q2 2025.

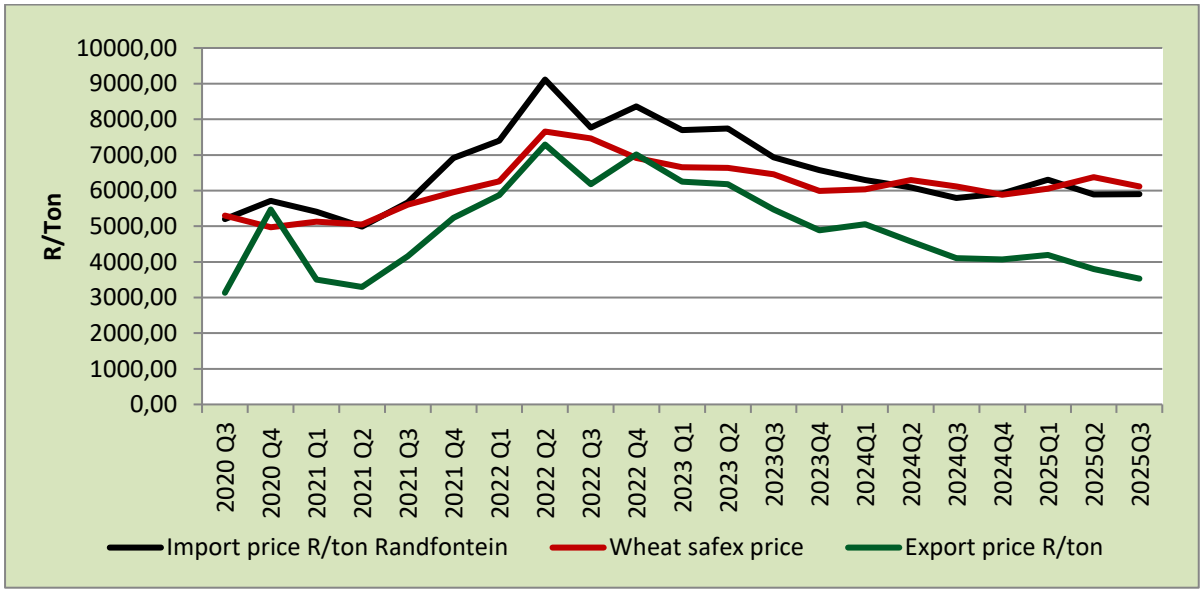

Figure 19: Wheat safex price, export parity price and Import parity price

Source: Sagis/Safex

The price consumers pay for bread versus the price producers obtain for their wheat presents a derived wheat producer price required to produce grams of wheat for one loaf of white/brown bread. The derived producer price is calculated by the average

annual Safex price for each marketing year and deducting the relevant costs, such as the location differential as well as handling and storage costs.

Figure 20 illustrates the relationship between retail bread prices and SAFEX wheat prices from Q3 2020 to Q3 2025. In the third quarter of 2025, the domestic wheat price decreased by 4.1% compared to the previous quarter, dropping from R6 378.82 per ton to an average of R6 117.63 per ton. During the same period, the prices of selected wheat by-products showed mixed trends relative to Q2 2025. The prices of white bread (700 g) and brown bread (700 g) decreased by 0.05% and 0.29% respectively. In contrast, the price of bread flour (2.5 kg) and cake flour (2.5 kg) went up by 1.3% and 0.7% respectively.

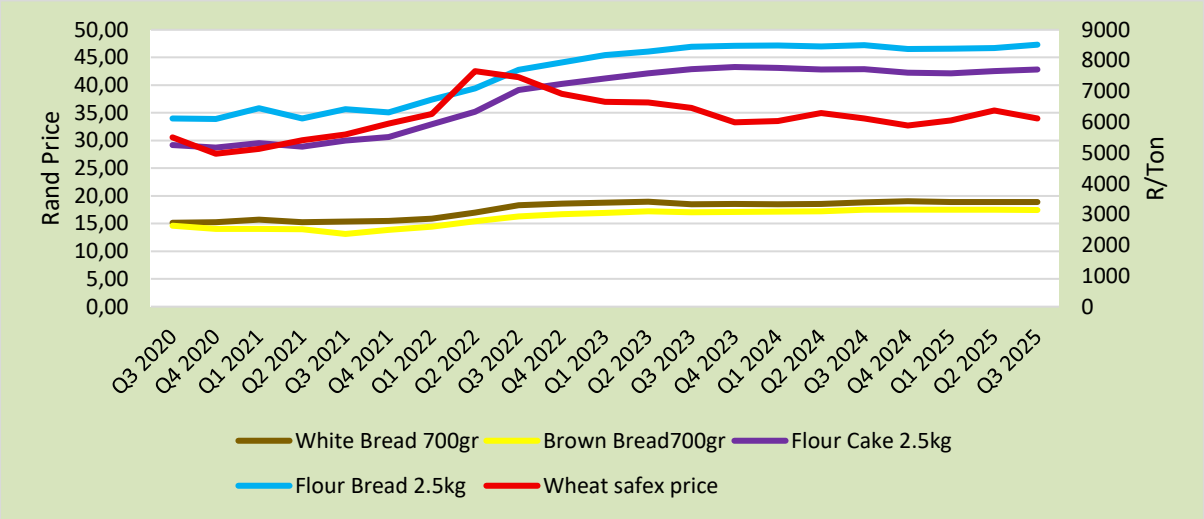

Figure 20: Retail bread price vs wheat import price

Source: Stats SA & Safex

The profitability of the local wheat producers and the growth towards self-sufficiency in terms of local wheat supply and demand are very important aspects for the local wheat market. Figure 21 presents the supply and demand of wheat in South Africa from 2023: Q3 to 2025: Q3. In the third quarter of 2025, domestic wheat deliveries experienced a significant decline of 35.5%, falling to an average of 8 037 tons, down from 12 436 tons in Q2 2025. In contrast, local demand for wheat rose by 1.6%, increasing to 309 289 tons in Q3 2025 from 304 350 tons in Q2 2025. Wheat imports went up by 61,2% in 2025: Q3 when compared to the previous quarter, 2025: Q2. Exports in 2025: Q3 experienced a significant decline, dropping by 30.9% compared to Q2 2025.Therefore, it is important to keep the marketing season fundamental aspects in place at all times to ensure long-term sustainability of wheat.

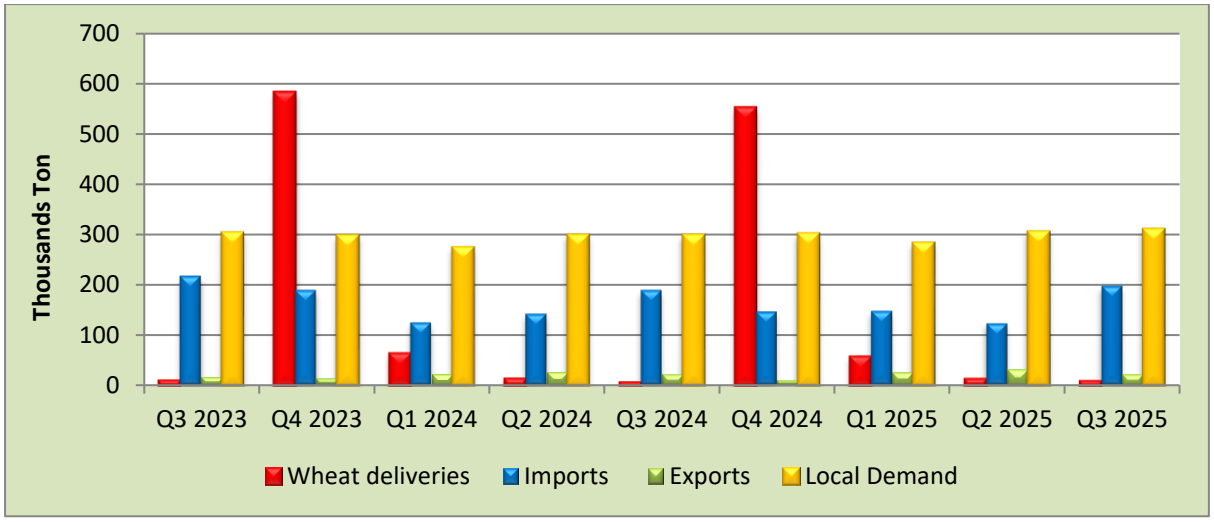

Figure 21: Wheat deliveries, Imports, Exports and local demand
Source: Stats SA & Safex

3.1.3 Soya beans

Soya beans contributed approximately 16,5% to the gross value of field crops during 2022/23 and is the second largest contributor towards the gross value of field crops in SA. The final soybean production estimates have been adjusted up by 0.7% for the 2025 season. The demand and supply estimates have been been revised down for soybeans Imports and exports by 3.9% and 14.3% from the previous 2nd quarter estimates. Total demand has been adjusted downwards by 0.7% from the previous quarter demand and supply estimates.

Table 3: Soybeans Production and Demand outlook

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2 024	2025 *Final Est*
Beginning Stock	63704	89128	84792	330535	502241	138455	46053	168 387	171 897	320 637	140 704
Production	1070000	742000	1316000	1540000	1170345	1 245 500		2 230 000	2 770 000	1 848 000	2 771 225
Imports	124981	271098	28000	6000	9500	116 103	13 448	5 000	3 480	154 288	12 300
Total Supply	1258685	1102226	1428792	1876535	1682086	1500058	59501	2 403 387	2 945 377	2 322 925	2 924 229
Local Consumption	1164880	1010689	1063783	1349294	1539631	1452945	1744496	1951490	2244740	1862221	2182700
Exports	4677	6745	414	25000	4000	1 060	42 295	280 000	380 000	320 000	300 000
Total Demand	1169557	1017434	1098257	1374294	1543631	1 454 005	-108 886	2 231 490	2 624 740	2 182 221	2482700
Closing Stocks	89128	84792	330535	502241	138455	46 053	168 387	171 897	320 637	140 704	441 529

Source:DOA,NAMC,Sagis

The price of soybeans decreased by 15.8% on a y/y basis while on a quarter-on-quarter basis the price decreased by 2.4%. The price of soybeans tracked record 2025

crop. Soybeans production has been adjusted up during the 3rd quarter bringing the total output to 50% above the 2024 crop, the highest on records.

Additonally; international fundamentals also pushed World price down as favorable weather conditions were experienced in Brazil, USA, Canada and also; in China planting continued under favourable conditions.

In Ukraine, harvesting is progressing with expected above average yields in the western region. Also, the Russian Federation reinstated approval for the import of genetically modified soybeans for processing into feed for export,

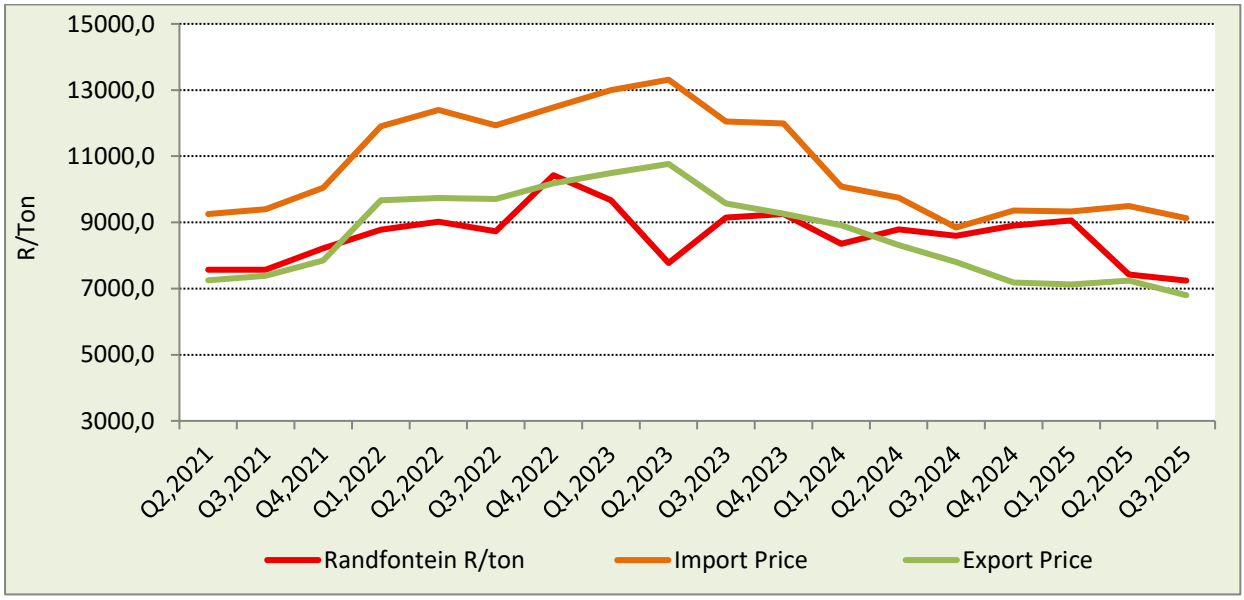

Figure 22 Soya beans local price vs import price
Source: Safex/Sagis/USDA/World Bank

3.1.4 Sunflower

The South African Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) predicted sunflower seed production would be around 708,300 tonnes; this forecast was unchanged from the August estimate. Producer deliveries of sunflower seed declined by 27% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, averaging 33 502 tons, up from 45 924 tons, as illustrated in figure 23. At the same time, sunflower seed imports declined by 16.2% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024, dropping from 679 tons to 569 tons. local demand for sunflower seed decreased by 61.3% in Q3: 2025, averaging 81 383 tons, compared

to 210 530 tons in Q3: 2024. Sunflower seed exports experienced a remarkable increase in Q3 2025 compared to Q3 2024, rising from 1 713 tons to 6 074 tons.

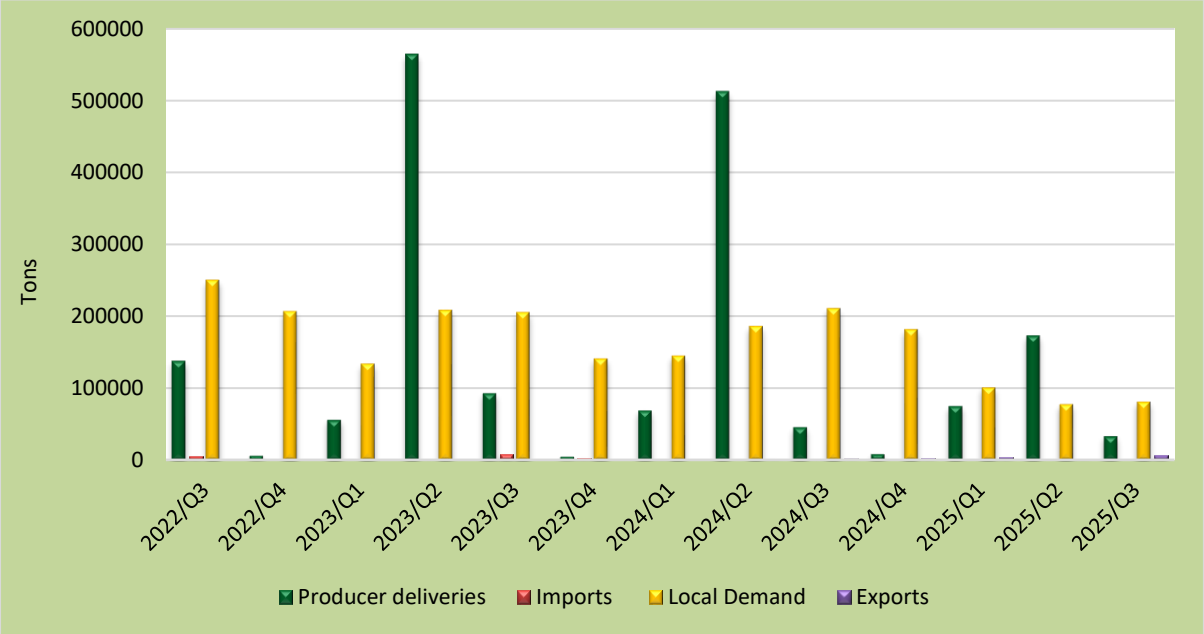

Figure 23: Sunflower seed deliveries; local demand and trade
Source: Sagis

During the third quarter of 2025, South Africa's sunflower seed prices traded below the import parity price; the import parity price is at R11 233,76/ton compared to R9 225,20/ton in the third quarter of 2025, which is a total increase of 21,8% compared to quarter three of 2024(Q3). The price of sunflower seed increased by 11.7% in the third quarter of 2025 (Q3 2025) compared to the same period in 2024 (Q3 2024). Additionally, when compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2025), the price of sunflower seed went up by 12.3%.

During the same period, the average market price for 750ml of sunflower oil increased by 5.5% year-on-year, rising from R34.76 in Q3: 2024 to R36.68 in Q3: 2025. Quarter-on-quarter, the price of 750ml sunflower oil increased by 4.9%, increasing from an average of R34.95 in Q2: 2025 to R36.68 in Q3: 2025. Sunflower oil and seed prices fluctuate due to a complex interplay of factors, primarily influenced by global supply and demand dynamics, weather conditions, geopolitical events – e.g., major sunflower-producing regions, like Ukraine, have experienced significant disruptions due to conflicts, impacting supply chains and driving up prices, and currency exchange rates. Variations in production levels, trade disruptions, and broader economic conditions all contribute to ongoing price volatility in these markets.

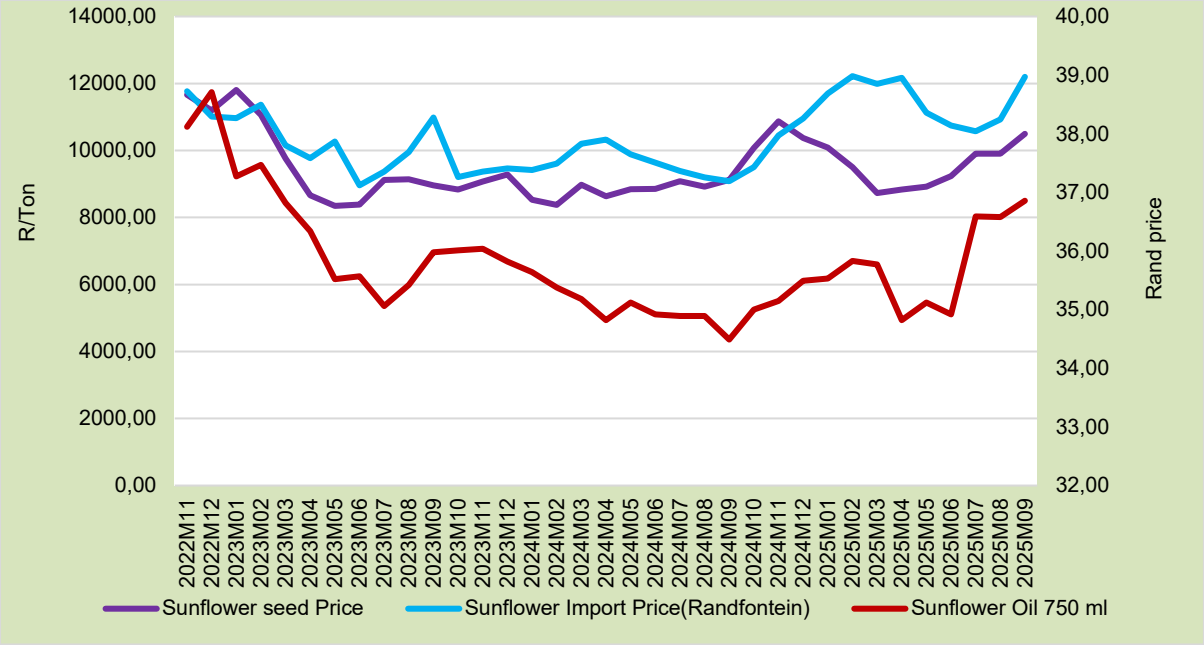

Figure 24: Sunflower local seed; import price (Randfontein) and Sunflower retail price
Source: Safex; USDA; Sagis; and Own calculations

3.1.5 Sorghum

Final production estimate has been adjusted up by 6.3% during the 3rd quarter compared the previous quarter estimate. There has been a downward adjustment of imports by 37.5%, while exports remained the same. Local demand had been adjusted downwards by 3% while total demand decreased by 2.9%.

Table 4: Sorghum Production and Demand outlook

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 *Final Est*
Opening stock	121812	83142	35238	59246	51860	60 423	51 795	106 157	46 956	54 775	86 397
Production	114700	70500	152000	115000	127000	158000	215 000	103 140	94 360	98 000	146 605
Imports	34316	74957	55824	32500	59253	6546	4 147	700	85 300	50 500	5 000
Total Supply	277713	226677	244073	206746	238113	224969	270 942	209 997	226 616	203 275	238002
Local demand	165532	178790	171027	142541	170390	167524	155727	153641	160841	95478	147 710
Exports	29039	12649	13800	12345	7300	5650	9 058	9 400	11 000	21 400	10 000
Total Demand	194571	191439	184827	154886	177690	173174	164785	163 041	171841	116 878	157710
Ending Stock	83142	35238	59246	51860	60423	51795	106 157	46 956	54 775	86 397	80 292

Source:DOA,NAMC,Sagis

Sorghum is a substitute product thus sorghum prices will track coarse grain prices and current statistics indicates that global coarse grains have been revised up and maize production revised up further from their previous upward revision. The price of sorghum as shown below on figure 31 decreased by 15.6% on a year-on-year basis, while on quarter-on-quarter basis the price decreased by 4.4%.

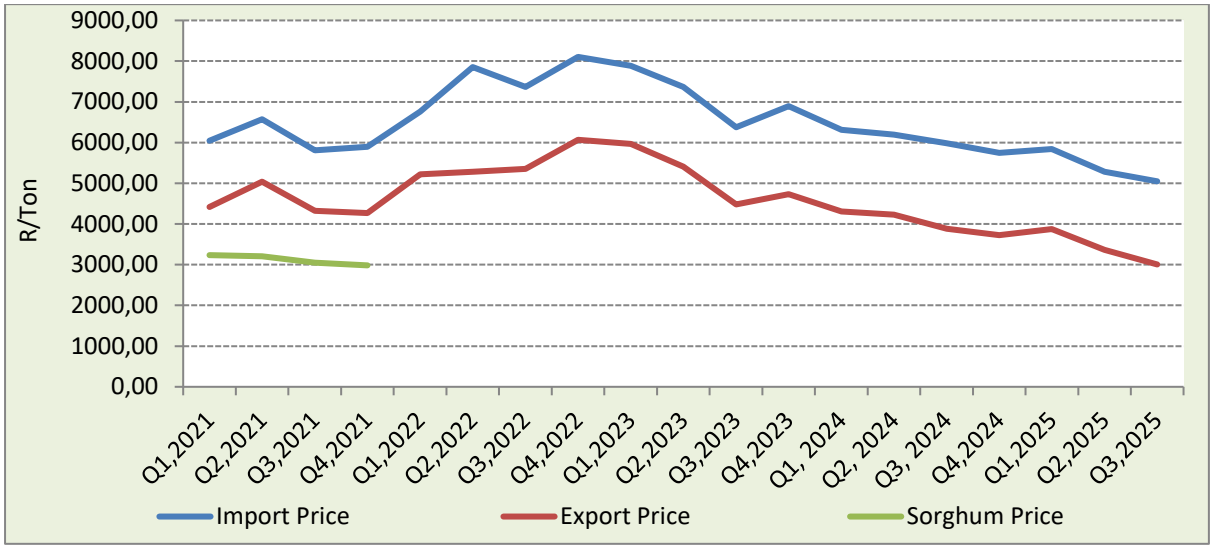

Figure 25: Sorghum Parity Price
Source: Safex, Sagis

3.1.6 Groundnuts

The weather outlook for South Africa during Q3:2025 was characterized by typical winter and early spring conditions for the Southern Hemisphere, with a focus on a generally cold and dry interior, contrasting with wetter conditions in southwestern and eastern coastal areas according to the South African Weather Service. This suggests potentially favourable conditions for winter crops in the key Western Cape region.
Although heavy rainfall in the previous quarter raised concerns about crop quality, there remains optimism regarding overall yields. This outlook is supported by the Crop Estimates Committee's September 2025 forecast, which projects groundnut production for the 2025 season at 63,389 tons. This estimate is based on an area of 48,125 hectares planted, with an average expected yield of 1.28 tons per hectare. The September report also highlighted that favourable summer rain conditions contributed to a strong recovery for summer crops following the earlier drought, with overall crop progress reported as positive.

Figure 26 shows producer deliveries, local demand of groundnuts as well as imports and exports of groundnuts from from Q3: 2023 to Q3: 2025.

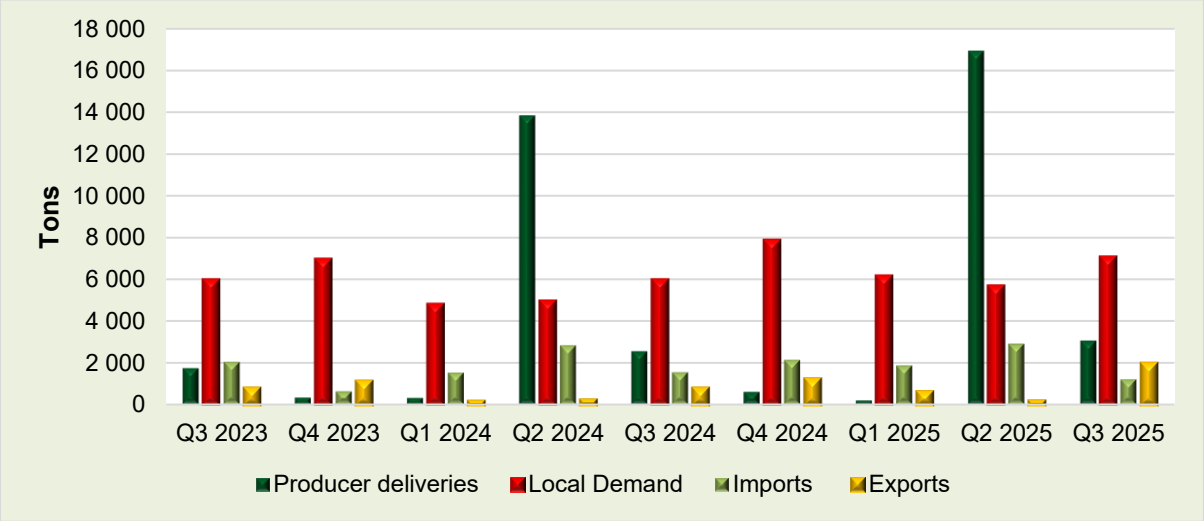

Figure 26: Producer deliveries, local demand, export and imports of groundnuts
Source: Sagis

Producer deliveries of groundnuts experienced an increase of 20% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, averaging 3 060 tons, up from 2 549 tons, as illustrated in figure 26. At the same time, local demand for groundnuts increased by 18.1% in Q3: 2025, averaging 7 039 tons, compared to 5 960 tons in Q3: 2024. While previous challenges, such as weak domestic demand and drought hit of 2024, had negatively impacted groundnut production, many of these issues have now subsided, paving the way for a modest recovery, which is expected to become more evident this season onward.

During the same period, groundnut exports went up by 141.2% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024, increasing to 1 966 tons from 815 tons. The growing demand for South African groundnuts has positively influenced the export market. During this period, Belgium emerged as the leading market, representing a massive 40% of the total export value of South African groundnuts. Mozambique followed as the second-largest market, contributing 25% to the export value during this period. Japan, Zimbambwe and Netherlands ranked as the third, fourth, and fifth largest markets for South African groundnuts, accounting for 14%, 11%, and 7% of the export value, respectively, in Q3: 2025.

Moreover, South Africa experienced a decline in groundnut imports in Q3: 2025, which went down by 22% compared to the same period in 2024, reaching an average of 1

183 tons, a drop from 1 522 tons. Various elements influencing pricing may have contributed to a decline in groundnut imports in South Africa during Q3: 2025. During this period, Brazil emerged as the primary importer, accounting for 34% of the total import value. Malawi ranked as the second-largest supplier with a 24% share, while India, Namibia and China contributed 23%, 9%, and 5%, respectively, to South Africa's overall groundnuts import value.

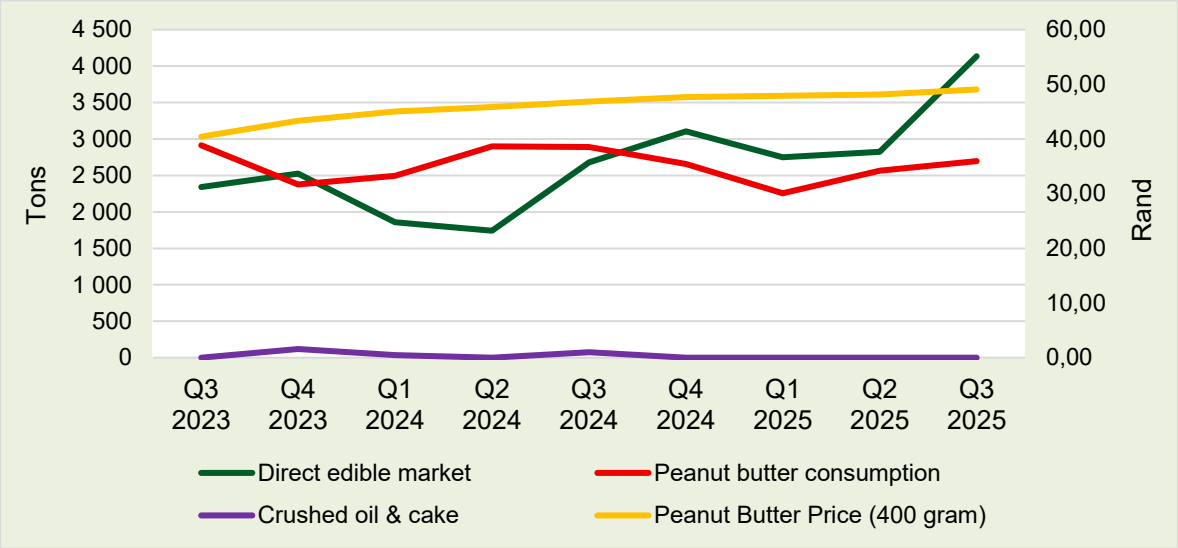

Figure 27: Producer deliveries, local demand, export and imports of groundnuts
Source: Sagis

South Africa's groundnut consumption is predominantly categorized into two primary forms: edible peanuts and processed peanut butter, which together constitute the bulk of the market. In Q3: 2025, the consumption of edible groundnuts surged by 54% compared to the same period in 2024, reaching an average of 4 136 tons, up from 2 681 tons. The demand for edible peanuts is heavily influenced by pricing, which is determined by the interplay of supply and demand for groundnuts. On the other hand, peanut butter consumption saw a significant decline of 7% in Q3: 2025 relative to Q3: 2024, averaging 2 699 tons, an increase from 2 892 tons. Notably, there was no recorded consumption of crushed oil and cake in Q3: 2025 and Q3: 2024. The activities related to groundnut crushing and oil production constitute a minor segment of the South African market.

During the same period, the average market price for peanut butter (400 grams) increased by 5% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024, reaching an average market

price of R49.07 per 400 grams, up from an average market price of R46.85 per 400 grams. According to Alfonso Visser, the President of SA Peanuts, over 50% of the peanuts used in peanut butter are imported, making the prices sensitive to international peanut market rates and the exchange rate of the rand against foreign currencies. Additionally, the source of the imported peanuts can also lead to price variations.

3.2 Fruit and vegetable market review

The following section looks at the average prices and quantities of fruits and vegetables traded at the Fresh Produce Markets (FPMs) from Q3: 2023 to Q3: 2025.

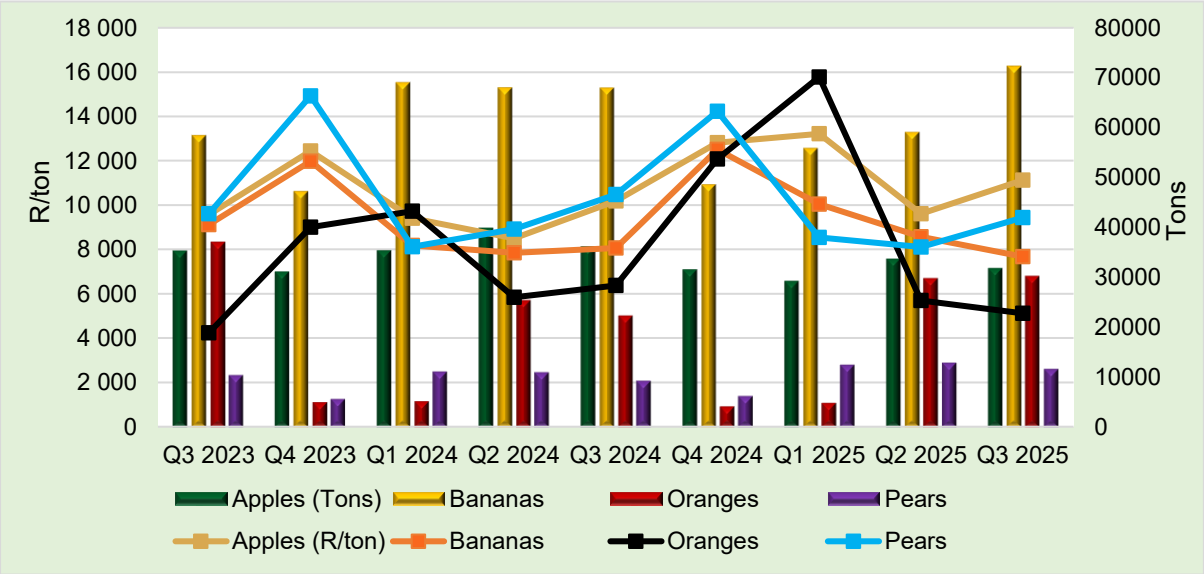

Figure 28: Average price and quantities of various fruits traded at fresh produce markets (FPMs)
Source: DOA

The average price of apples increased by 9.2% in Q3 2025 compared to Q3 2024, but the quantity supplied decreased by 12.0% year-over-year. In order to meet market demand, growers are concentrating on replacing older trees with newer varieties, which appears to have stabilized the area planted. In order to enhance the quality of fruit that can be exported, growers are also giving hail nets top priority (USDA, 2025).

During the same period, the average price of bananas fell by 4.9% in comparison to Q3: 2024, whereas the availability of bananas rose by 6.4% in Q3: 2025 when compared to Q3: 2024. The market is not oversaturated with bananas, and it was estimated that South African banana production would be around 394.92 thousand metric tons for 2025, representing a slight decline from the prior year.

Meanwhile, there was a slight adjustment in the pricing of oranges, with the average price decreasing by 19.6% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024. At the same time, the quantities supplied experienced a year-on-year rise of 35.6%. The citrus industry in Southern Africa has entered the 2025 season with a sense of cautious optimism. The strong growth trend that the industry has been witnessing has persisted thus far, fueled by favorable conditions, younger orchards, and improved logistics, with increases noted in soft citrus (mandarin/tangerine) and oranges, as indicated by preliminary reports and analyses linked to the USDA. However, serious challenges persist. A major concern for this season is the tariff instability that could affect the US market for some of SA growers.

During the same period, the average price of pears fell by 10% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024, while the quantities supplied rose by 25% year-on-year. A generally good harvest is anticipated in 2025. The increase in pear production is primarily due to favourable climatic conditions, including cooler nights (Hortgro, 2025).

In the meantime, when analysing the sales of fruits at the Fresh Produce Markets on a quarterly basis, in Q3: 2025 in comparison to Q2, it was observed that the average price of apples increased by 15.8% in Q3: 2025 relative to Q2, whereas the quantities supplied saw a reduction of 5.5% on a quarter-on-quarter basis. According to Hortgro, considering the trends in production, cultivars, logistics, new markets, and the increasing demand from existing markets, the future of the South African apple industry looks promising.

During the same period, the average price of bananas experienced a notable decrease of 10.5% in Q3: 2025 relative to Q2, while quantities supplied rose by 22.4% from one quarter to the next. Despite banana volumes in municipal markets being lower than in the previous two years, market participants indicate that prices continue to face downward pressure.

Similarly, in Q3: 2025, the average price of oranges saw a significant decrease of 10% compared to Q2, while the quantities supplied rose by 1.4% compared to the previous quarter. The Citrus Growers Association has released updated forecasts for the 2025

season, highlighting strong performance across different citrus categories, particularly in the late mandarin segment.

In the same period, the average price of pears rose by 16.3% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q2, while the quantities supplied experienced a quarter-on-quarter decrease of 9.9%. Early varieties such as Williams Bon Chrestien saw a slight decline compared to 2023/24 marketing year. Similarly, Packham's Triumph production was lower due to wet spring conditions that affected yield and quality (USDA, 2025).

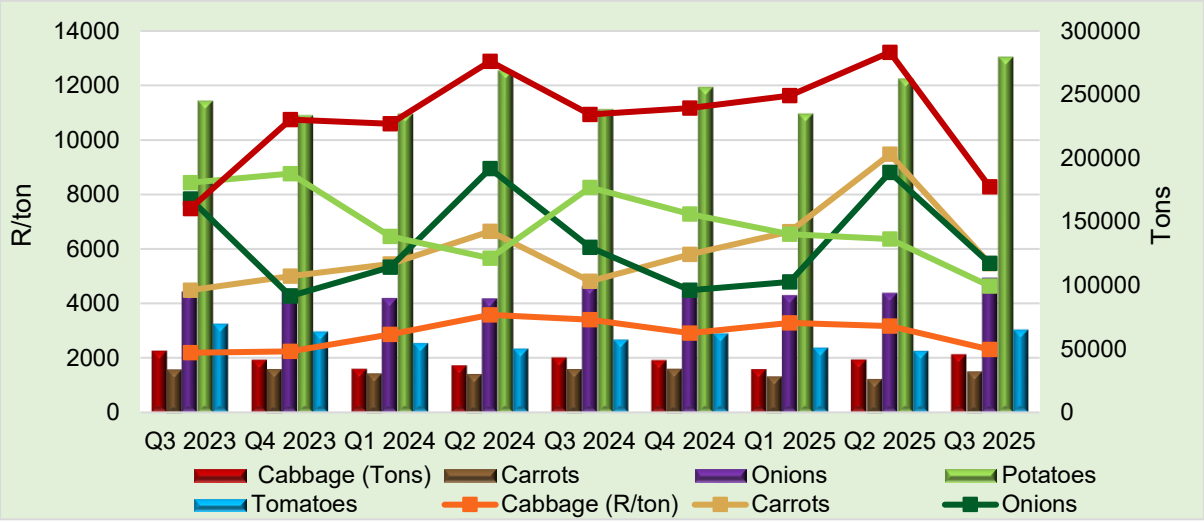

Figure 29: Average price and quantities of various vegetables traded at Fresh Produce Markets (FPMs)
Source: DOA

The pricing of vegetables at the Fresh Produce Markets is mainly determined by the dynamics of supply and demand. In Q3: 2025, significant variations were noted in the average prices and quantities supplied for cabbage, carrots, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes when compared to Q3: 2024.

In Q3: 2025, the average price of cabbage saw a significant decline of 32.1% when compared to the same quarter in 2024, whereas the quantities supplied experienced an increase of 6% year-on-year. The price variations of cabbage were prominently due to the shorter planting and harvesting cycles relative to other vegetables. Furthermore, consumer demand is a vital factor in affecting the price sensitivity of fresh produce.

During the same period, the average price of carrots rose by 13.5% in Q3: 2025 relative to Q3: 2024, while quantities supplied fell by 5.7%. Carrots were identified as

one of the two primary vegetables contributing to elevated vegetable prices during the first half of 2025. This increase was prompted by a short two-week supply decline due to heavy rainfall in the Northern Province and Western Cape. The adverse weather conditions resulted in crop damage and delayed harvesting, as some producers faced challenges operating machinery in saturated fields. Consequently, the market experienced a shortage in the final two weeks of February, leading to a price surge that seemingly has continued even through to Q3: 2025.

Conversely, the average price of onions saw a decrease of 9.8% in Q3: 2025 compared to the corresponding period in 2024, whereas the year-over-year quantities supplied increased by 6.4%. Onions experienced a low-price base in Q3: 2025 relative to Q3: 2024, following an oversupply in 2024, which was driven by higher production levels.

In the meantime, the average price of potatoes decreased by 43.8% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024, but the amount supplied increased by 17.3% year-on-year. The prices of potatoes were largely influenced by seasonal supply factors. Favourable yields, along with the lack of frost incidents that had previously affected production in July 2024, contributed to a consistent supply, leading to more supply and price fluctuations (Absa, 2025).

Meanwhile, the average price of tomatoes decreased by 24.3% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q3: 2024, while the year-on-year supply volumes increased by 13.7%. In Q3: 2025, there has been a significant decline in tomato prices. The ongoing weakness in consumer purchasing power is putting considerable pressure on the market.

When analysing the data on a quarterly basis, in Q3: 2025, the average price of cabbages fell significantly by 26.9% compared to Q2, while the quantities supplied increased by 9.8% quarter-on-quarter. It is crucial to acknowledge that consumer demand significantly impacts price variations in fresh produce markets.

During the same period, the average price of carrots saw a decrease of 42.4% in Q3: 2025 relative to Q2, while quantities supplied increased by 21.7% quarter-on-quarter.

Carrot production in South Africa is affected by elements like changes in harvesting cycles and climate fluctuations, which function separately from the larger macroeconomic trends (Absa, 2025).

Meanwhile, during the same period, the average price of onions fell by 37.9% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q2, while the quantities supplied rose by 12.7% from one quarter to the next. The Koue Bokkeveld onion season in the Western Cape coincided with the market supply of onions from Limpopo Province and Namibia. This occurred in a year characterized by climate difficulties, rising input costs, and limited export possibilities.

Conversely, the average price of potatoes decreased by 27.1% in Q3: 2025 relative to Q2, while the quantities supplied saw an increase of 6.5% from the preceding quarter. Fluctuations in consumer demand are pivotal in driving price changes in the fresh produce market.

Meanwhile, the average price of tomatoes decreased by 37.3% in Q3: 2025 compared to Q2 while quantities supplied increased by 34.7% quarter-on-quarter. South Africa's tomato market has experienced fluctuations, as excessive rainfall has affected both quality and shelf life. However, the volumes have increased, even though average prices have decreased.

3.3 Meat industry review

As illustrated graphically in figure 30, total beef slaughtering decreased by 8.2% in third quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter of 2024. The price of beef per kg increased by 28.6% in the third quarter of 2025 when compared to the same period in 2024. Beef prices in Q3 2025 showed upward trends globally, driven by tight supplies (partly from foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in South Africa), strong demand (especially from China), and recovering local economies, leading to higher carcass and retail prices, with South African prices potentially reaching R80-R85/kg for A2 carcasses and R130-R220/kg for retail cuts, while global indices also rose. Prices

were expected to remain firm or increase further into Q4 2025 due to sustained demand and ongoing supply recovery challenges, according to early Q3 reports.

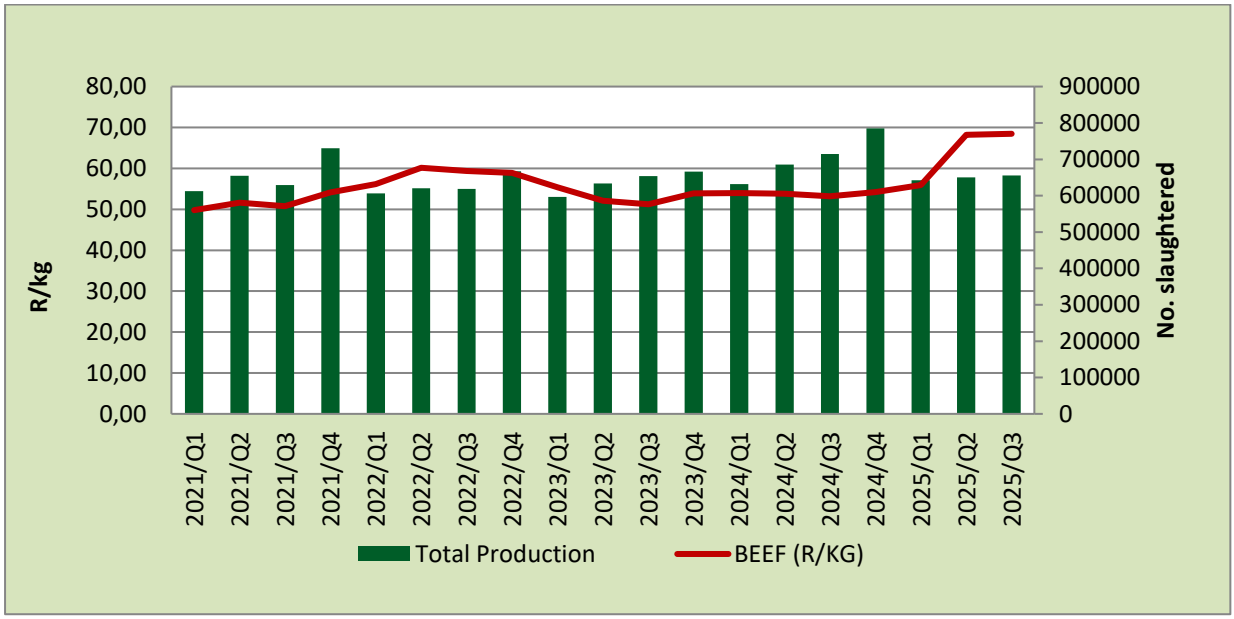

Figure 30: Beef production
Source, DOA

As illustrated graphically in figure 31, the trade balance for meat of bovine animal (fresh of chilled) decreased by 30.15% in third quarter of 2025 compared to the previous quarter of 2025. The quantities of meat of bovine animal (fresh of chilled) exports decreased by 30.12%, whilst imports increased by 831.90% in the third quarter of 2025 when compared to the previous quarter in 2025.

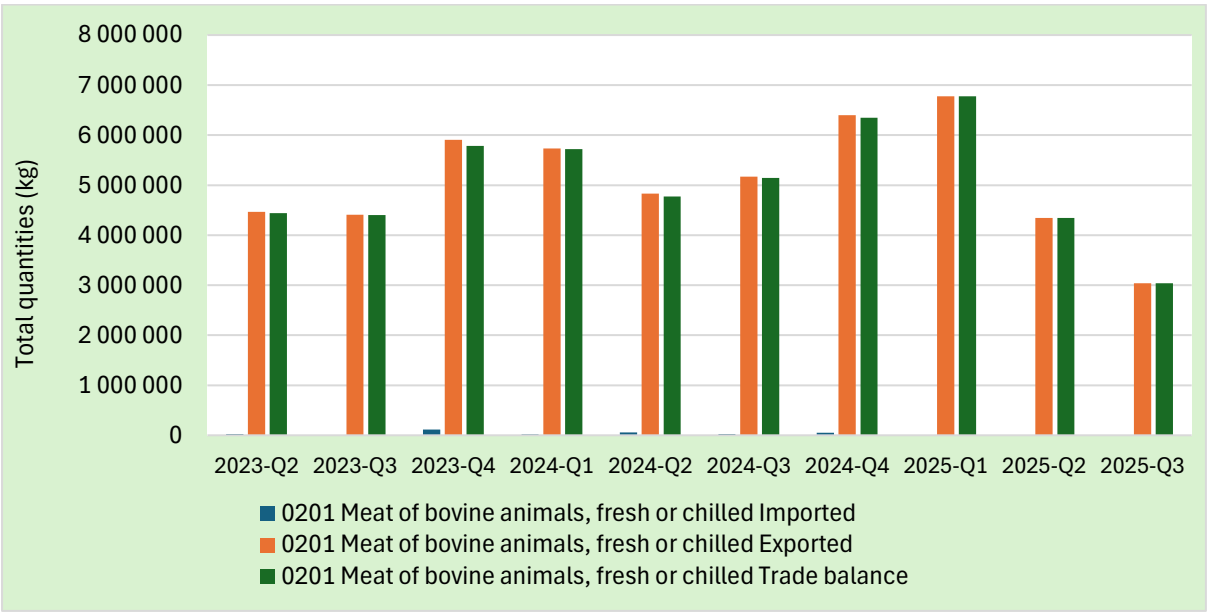

Figure 31: Trade of meat bovine animal (Fresh or Chilled)

Source: ITC Trade Map

As illustrated graphically in figure 32, it indicates that, the trade balance for meat of bovine animal (frozen) decreased by 63.87% in third quarter of 2025 compared to the previous quarter of 2025. The quantities of meat of bovine animal (frozen) exports decreased by 33.49%, while import increased by 160.89% in the third quarter of 2025 when compared to the previous quarter in 2025.

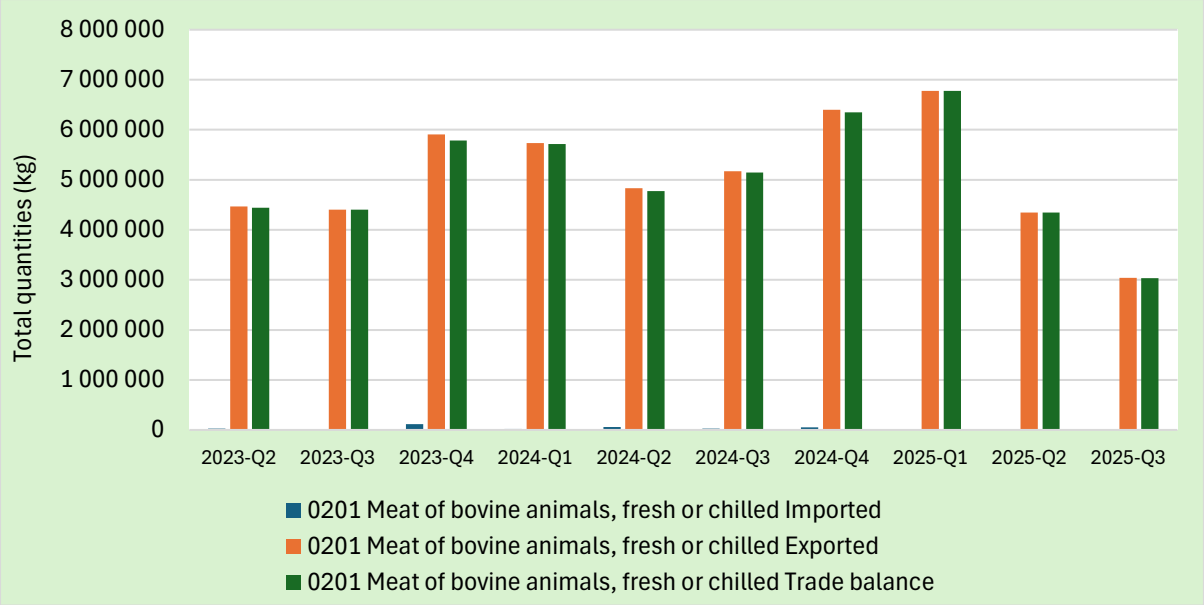

Figure 32: Trade of meat bovine animal (Frozen)
Source: ITC Trade Map

3.4 Poultry industry review

Poultry production in South Africa contracted by 3.7% year on year but improved modestly by 1.4% quarter on quarter, indicating a gradual recovery from earlier supply pressures. Producer prices strengthened by 2.1% y/y and remained broadly stable (0.1% q/q), offering only limited revenue support. By contrast, the cost of yellow maize a major feed component declined sharply by 10.6% q/q and fell 4.2% y/y, easing short term feed cost pressures for producers. South Africa's poultry sector performance in Q3 2025 was largely driven by a sharp drop in yellow-maize prices following a strong national harvest, which significantly reduced feed costs and helped improve producer margins. This easing of input costs supported a modest quarterly recovery in production despite annual output still being slightly lower. However,weak consumer demand, competitive market conditions and lingering sector pressures including previous disease related disruptions limited producer price growth, keeping the industry under strain even as costs temporarily softened.

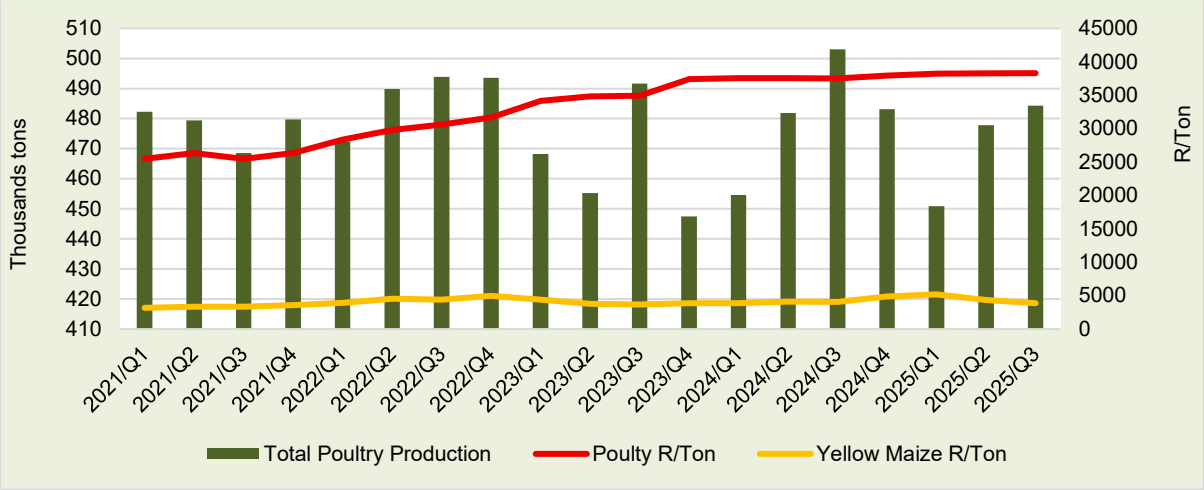

Figure 33: Poultry production and prices
Source: DOA

Retail poultry price movements in the third quarter of 2025 reflect a diverse performance across product categories, with gradual improvements supported by stronger household demand and steady gains in both IQF and non IQF frozen portions, even as overall consumer affordability remains a key influence on purchasing trends. Fresh whole chicken declined by 2.9% y/y but recorded a modest 0.4% q/q increase, suggesting slightly improved short-term demand despite ongoing consumer affordability pressures. Fresh chicken portions increased by 1.7% y/y and 1.7% q/q, supported by consistently firm household demand. Individually quick frozen (IQF) chicken portions showed stronger growth, rising 5.3% y/y and 2.4% q/q, reflecting sustained demand and tighter supply conditions. In contrast, non-IQF frozen chicken portions rose by 3.8% y/y and 1.7% q/q, indicating moderate recovery in that segment. Chicken giblets (neck, gizzards and hearts) increased by 1.7% y/y and posted a solid 3.7% q/q rise, supported by their affordability and continued demand from low-income consumers.

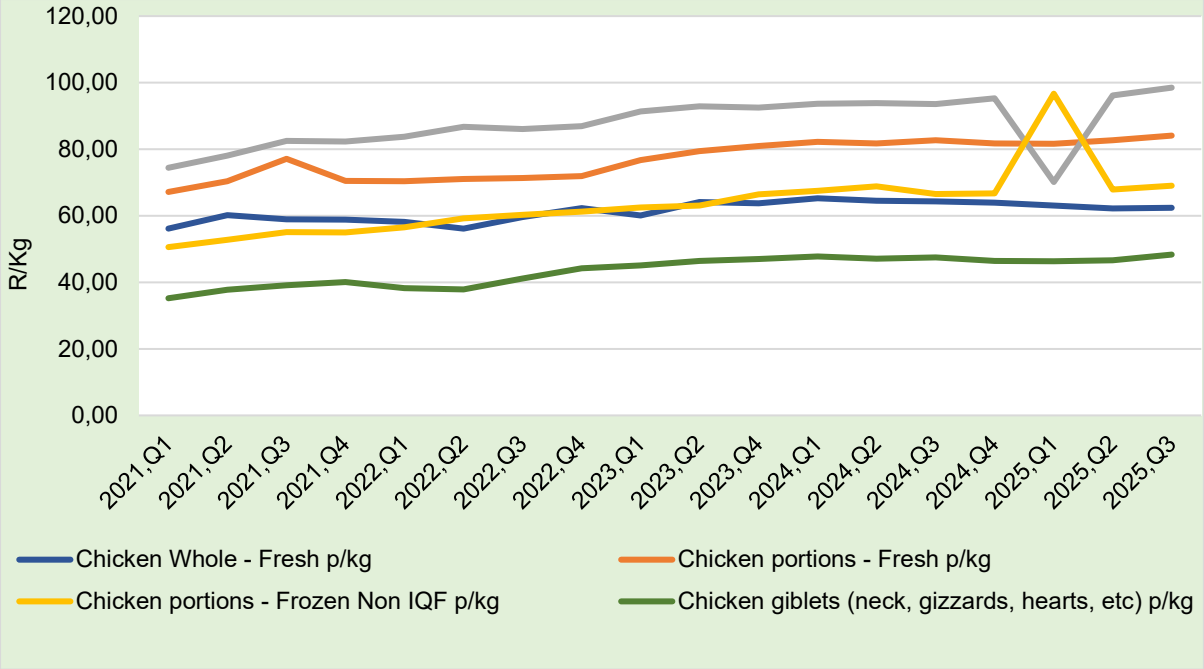

Figure 34: Poultry & Feed Price Indices
Source: Statistics SA.

Poultry trade performance weakened further in the latest quarter, with import values declining by 28.1% year on year despite a 6% q/q rebound. Export values also contracted by 19.4% y/y and 7% q/q, signalling subdued demand in key markets. In volume terms, imports fell sharply by 30.6% y/y and 14.7% q/q, while export quantities dropped by 35.6% y/y and 12.7% q/q. These trends highlight continued pressure on both domestic supply chains and external market competitiveness, contributing to an overall downturn in poultry trade flows. Brazil continued to dominate South Africa's poultry import market, supplying 63.7% of the total import value, with Argentina (11.4%), the United States (6.8%), and Ireland (5.9%) trailing far behind. On the export front, South African poultry products continued to be absorbed largely within the Southern African region. Lesotho accounted for the largest share at 51.8%, with Mozambique (17.7%) and Botswana (7.6%) also being key markets. Beyond the region, the United Arab Emirates (5%) and Ethiopia (3%) emerged as growing destinations, signalling gradual diversification into Middle Eastern and East African markets. In terms of product composition, poultry imports were dominated by frozen cuts and edible offal, representing 50.2% of total imports, followed by frozen fowls at 44.8%, and frozen turkey cuts and offal at 3.5%. Overall, the figures underscore South Africa's strong dependence on Brazil as its primary supplier, while export opportunities remain concentrated regionally, even as new international market channels slowly expand.

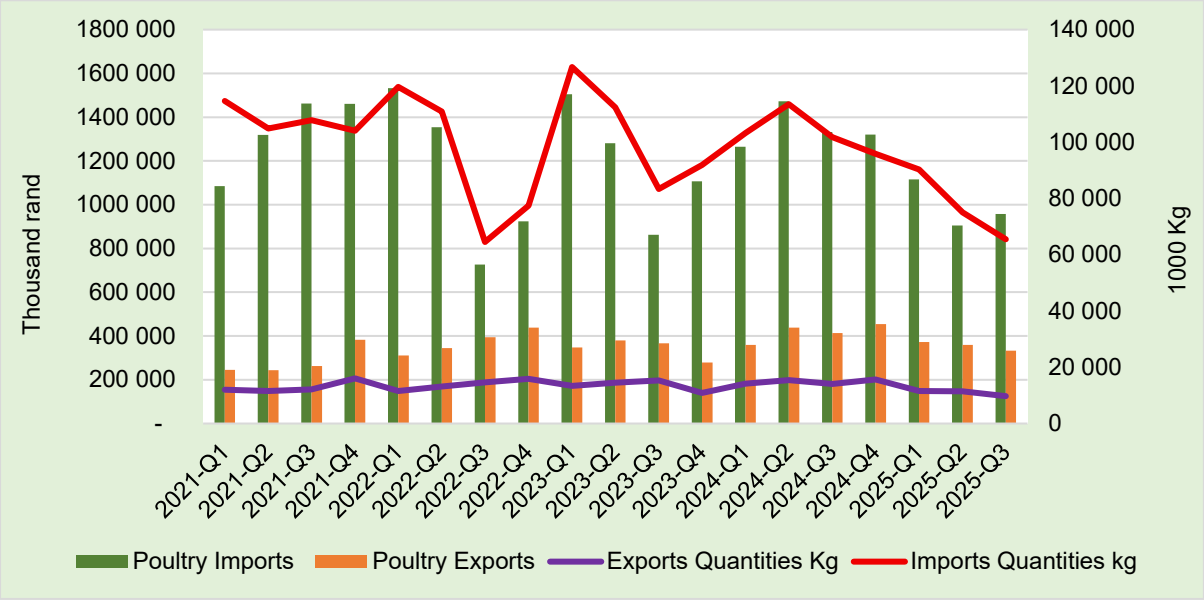

Figure 35: Poultry Trade data (indicate the tariff code used)
Source: Trade Map

3.5 Milk industry overview

Total milk production increased by 3.3% in Q3: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, increasing from 984 281 litres to 1 016 902 litres. Productivity serves as the main driver behind the increase in milk production worldwide. Sustainable production practices and the expansion of organic and pasture-based production systems will likely have an impact on milk production trends and, in some situations, result in a decrease (BFAP, 2024).

According to a quarterly review, total milk production increased by 25% in Q3 of 2025 from 812 698 litres recorded in Q2. This quarterly increase in milk production can be attributed to better economic conditions and favourable climate conditions. Furthermore, emphasis on the influence of the macroeconomic environment as a whole by (BFAP, 2024). It is critical to acknowledge that the industry operates in a highly uncertain environment with respect to consumer spending power, infrastructure, and service delivery.

In Q3 2025, the average producer price for a litre of milk fell from R7.43 to R7.20 per litre, representing a 3% decline compared to the same quarter in 2024. Meanwhile, a

quarterly review of the average producer price per litre of milk indicates that, in Q3 2025, there was a 3% increase in the average producer price of milk compared to Q2, during which the average price was R7,00 per litre. According to (BFAP, 2024),these fluctuations in the annual and quarterly producer prices suggest that global market trends, the dynamics of supply and demand at various stages of the local value chain, as well as cost pressures and challenges related to electricity supply that influence cold chain operations, all play a role in determining the pricing within the dairy sector.

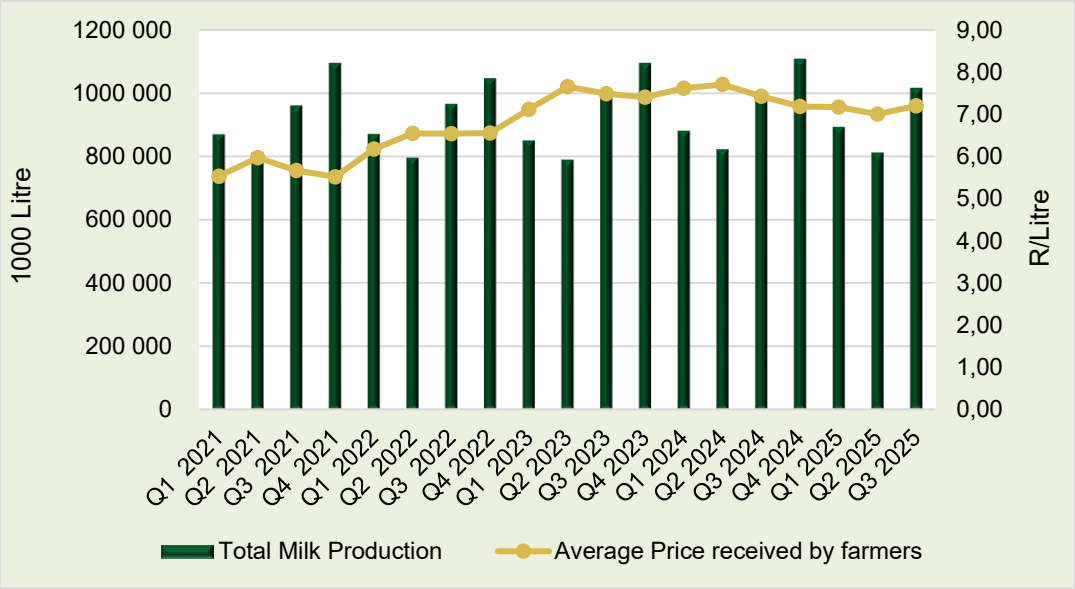

Figure 36: Trends in total production and average price of milk
Source: DOA

The trade balance for milk and cream (excluding concentrated forms and those with added sugar or sweeteners) reached R 339.4 million in Q3: 2025, marking a 4.5% rise from R 324.7 million recorded in Q3: 2024. This change was primarily driven by a 5.2% increase in the export value. The rise in the export value may be linked to improvements in the consumer market and growth in primary production within a lower cost input environment. During the period, the export value rose from R325.3 million in Q3: 2024 to R 342.2 million in Q3: 2025. A significant portion of these exports were directed towards the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, with Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Eswatini and Lesotho emerging as the top five destinations for South Africa's milk and cream (not concentrated and without added sugar or sweeteners) exports in Q3: 2025.

During the same period, the import value for milk and cream (not concentrated and without added sugar or sweeteners) rose significantly, from R 593 000 in Q3: 2024 to R 2.8 million in Q3: 2025. Although imports represent a relatively small share of the domestic market, this notable increase in imports could be associated with the uncertainty surrounding weather conditions, unreliable service delivery, and a complicated political and macroeconomic environment. Domestic supply and demand dynamics have a significantly stronger impact on the market compared to global trends, due to the characteristics of the product (BFAP, 2025).

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, South Africa experienced a 2.6% decrease in the trade balance for milk and cream, not concentrated and without added sugar or sweeteners in Q3: 2025 compared to Q2. This reduction can be partially explained by a 2.8% decline in the export value of milk and cream, not concentrated and without added sugar or sweeteners during the period, while the import value for milk and cream, not concentrated and without added sugar or sweeteners also decreased by 25.3% quarter-on-quarter. The significant drop points to increased reliance on locally produced milk, supported by improved milk supply and the absence of major supply chain disruptions (BFAP, 2025).

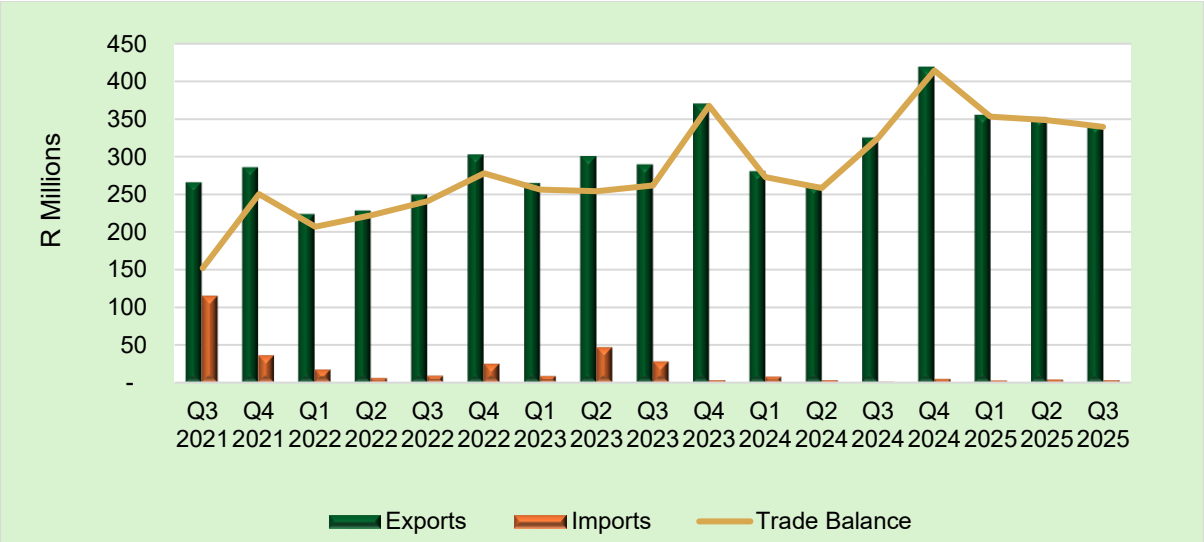

Figure 37: Trends in imports and exports of milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sweetening
Source: ITC, Trade map, 2025

3.6 Egg industry review

Figure 38 below, Egg production in South Africa continued its strong upward trajectory in the third quarter of 2025, rising by 19.5% year on year and 12.3% quarter on quarter. In contrast, egg prices declined sharply, falling by 19.2% y/y and 7.6% q/q. This combination of strong production growth and falling prices indicates that the market is experiencing an oversupply situation, where increased flock recovery and higher output have outpaced demand. Additionally, softer consumer spending and heightened competition among retailers have further contributed to downward pressure on prices. Overall, Q3 reflects a market adjusting to improved supply conditions following previous shortages, resulting in significantly lower pricing levels.

South Africa's egg trade performance strengthened markedly in Q3 2025, showing a substantial turnaround across key indicators. Egg exports increased by 42% year on year and 30.3% quarter on quarter, reflecting improved flock recovery and firmer regional demand. Imports, by contrast, fell sharply declining 89% y/y and 9.4% q/q as domestic production continued to improve and reliance on foreign supply diminished. As a result, the trade balance posted a robust 306% y/y surge and expanded by 33.4% q/q, underscoring the sector's strong recovery momentum. The improved egg trade performance in Q3 2025 is largely driven by a strong rebound in domestic production as layer flocks recovered from past HPAI losses, supported by lower feed costs that boosted output and reduced the need for imports. Strengthened biosecurity measures and more stable operating conditions further enhanced supply reliability, enabling higher export volumes and a significantly stronger trade balance.

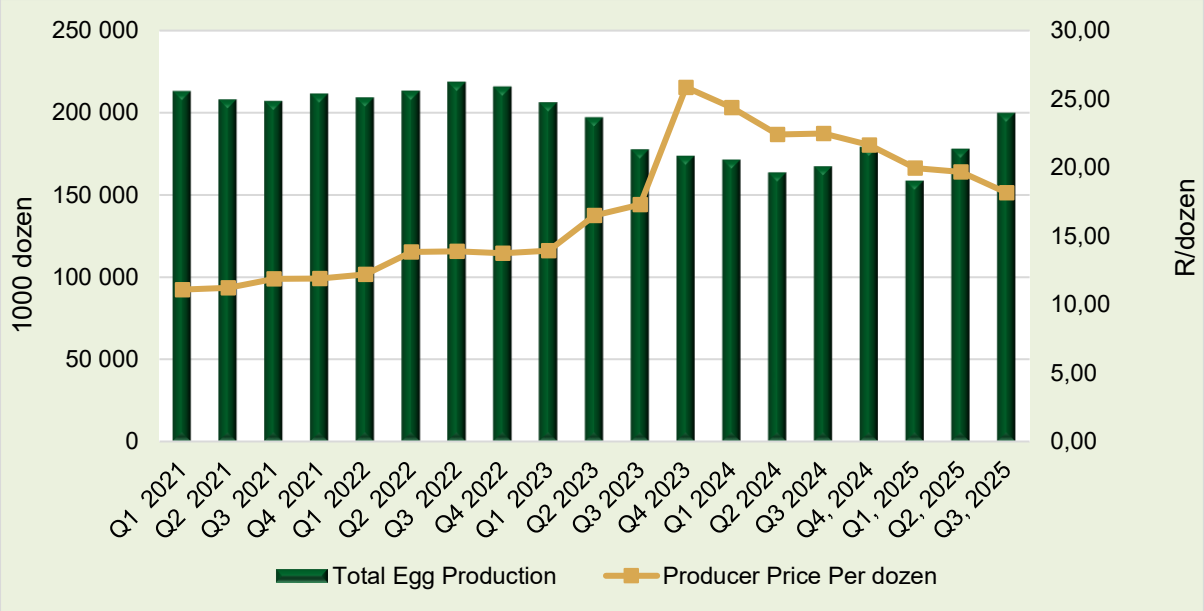

Figure 38: Egg production & Prices
Source: Trade Map

South Africa's egg trade performance strengthened markedly in Q3 2025, showing a substantial turnaround across key indicators. Egg exports increased by 42% year on year and 30.3% quarter on quarter, reflecting improved flock recovery and firmer regional demand. Imports, by contrast, fell sharply declining 89% y/y and 9.4% q/q as domestic production continued to improve and reliance on foreign supply diminished. As a result, the trade balance posted a robust 306% y/y surge and expanded by 33.4% q/q, underscoring the sector's strong recovery momentum. The improved egg trade performance in Q3 2025 is largely driven by a strong rebound in domestic production as layer flocks recovered from past HPAI losses, supported by lower feed costs that boosted output and reduced the need for imports. Strengthened biosecurity measures and more stable operating conditions further enhanced supply reliability, enabling higher export volumes and a significantly stronger trade balance.

Figure 39: Trade balance (Total of all eggs)
Source: Trade map, 2025

3.7 Trade of agricultural products

Despite the global focus on the evolving US policy, particularly the decision to implement a significant tariff on imports from South Africa and the swiftly changing circumstances in the Middle East, South Africa's agricultural sector maintained an optimistic outlook. This positivity stemmed from a robust 2024-25 season, which was marked by abundant harvests of diverse crops, fruits, and vegetables, alongside improved grazing conditions, all bolstered by the beneficial rains associated with La Niña.

In Q3: 2025, South Africa's agricultural trade balance grew by 29.6% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, as reported by Trade Map. During this period, the agricultural trade balance amounted to R 49.26 billion, up from R 38.02 billion noted in Q3: 2024.

During the period, agricultural product exports reached R 83.91 billion, an increase from R 72.80 billion noted in the same quarter of 2024. This growth is attributed to a rise in the volume of diverse agricultural exports and a substantial increase in the prices of specific items during this period. The products that dominated the exports list

in Q3: 2025 were mainly citrus, nuts, apples and pears, wine, maize, cane or beet sugar, fruit juices, water, berries amongst other products. Although there is still a necessity for improved efficiency at the ports, agricultural export activities in Q3: 2025 faced less disruption compared to previous periods.

In the same period, the value of agricultural imports fell by 0.4% to R34.65 billion, a decline from R34.78 billion noted in Q3: 2024. This drop could be linked to a reduction in the amounts of key imported goods, such as wheat and meslin, rice, palm oil, cane or beet sugar, alcoholic beverages, coffee and poultry, among others, in line with South Africa's annual import patterns.

When analysing the data on a quarter-on-quarter basis, Q3: 2025 has demonstrated a favourable trend for the sector. During Q3: 2025, South Africa's agricultural trade balance rose by 47.4% compared to Q2, as indicated by Trade Map. This increase can be attributed to both a rise in the export volume of various products and improved commodity prices. Notably, this growth is primarily fuelled by a 28% rise in the export value in Q3: 2025 compared to Q2. Meanwhile, the value of agricultural product imports also increased by 7.8% during the same period. The surge in imports may be as a result of businesses and consumers stocking up on goods ahead of the tariff hikes. Overall, the economy continues to muddle through, with investment needed to lift SA's growth and employment trajectory. According to Agbiz, as we near the conclusion of 2025, preliminary forecasts according to the South African Weather Service (SAWS) indicate that South Africa may be heading towards a second consecutive season of La Niña rains. However, as with any prediction, there exists a degree of uncertainty concerning both the timing and the intensity.

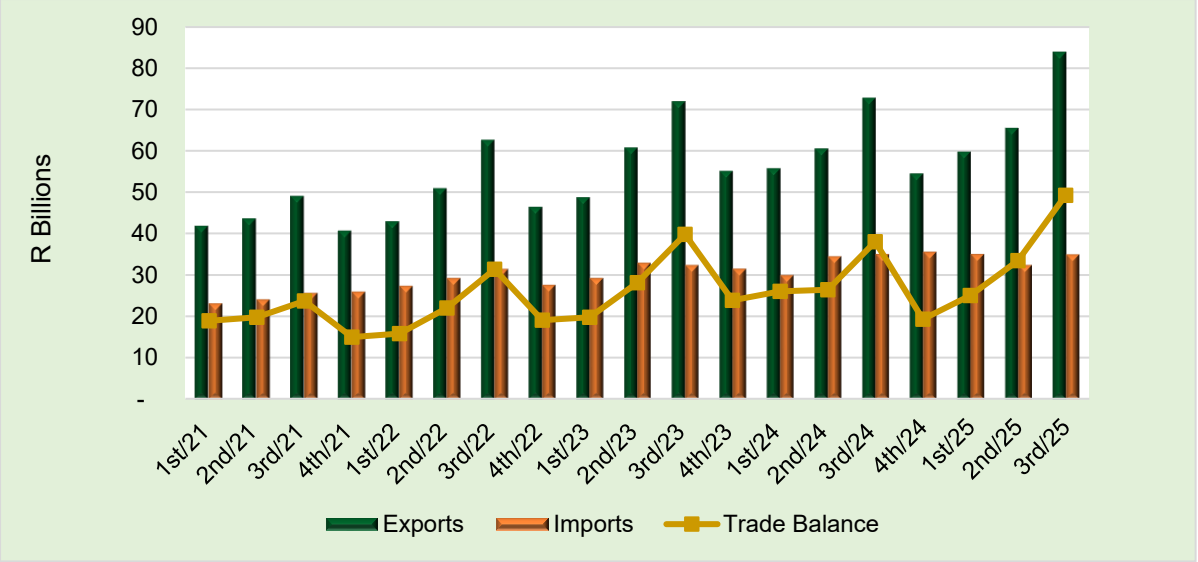

Figure 40: Trade balance of agricultural products
Source: Trade map, 2025

Table 5 illustrates that in Q3: 2025, Netherlands emerged as the leading destination for South Africa's agricultural exports, accounting for 12.2% of the total export value. United Kingdom ranked as the second largest market, contributing 6.9% to the overall export value, while China secured the third position, accounting for 6.4% of South Africa's agricultural exports in monetary terms during this period. On the supply side, Thailand was identified as the primary source of agricultural products for South Africa, with Eswatini ranking as the second largest supplier. Indonesia held the third position as a significant supplier of agricultural goods to South Africa during the same period.

Table 5: SA's top three largest export and import destinations of agricultural products in the 3rd Quarter of 2025.

Top three markets of agricultural products exported by SA	**Value (Billion Rands) 3rd Quarter 2025**	**% Share of total agricultural exports in 3rd Quarter 2025**		**Top three suppliers of agricultural products to SA**	**Value (Billion Rands) 3rd Quarter 2025**	**% Share of total agricultural imports in 3rd Quarter 2025**
Total	R 83,91	100			R 34,65	100
Netherlands	R 10,26	12.2 %		Thailand	R 2,57	7.4%

United Kingdom	R 5,81	6.9%		Eswatini	R 2,46	7.1%
China	R 5,41	6.4%		Indonesia	R 2,17	6.3%

Source: Trademap, 2024

Figure 41 depicts the top five agricultural products imported by South Africa in Q3: 2025. The primary agricultural products imported by South Africa during this period include of wheat and meslin at 25%, rice at 23%, followed by palm oil at 21%, cane or beet sugar at 16%, and alcohol at 15%. Collectively, these five items played a significant role in the food import bill for Q3: 2025. During the same period, Figure 42 presents the main agricultural products exported by South Africa during the corresponding quarter of 2025. The exports comprised of citrus fruits (either fresh or dried) at 66%, nuts (fresh or dried) at 12%, followed by fresh apples, pears, and quinces making up 10%, wine at 7% and other nuts (fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled) at 5%.

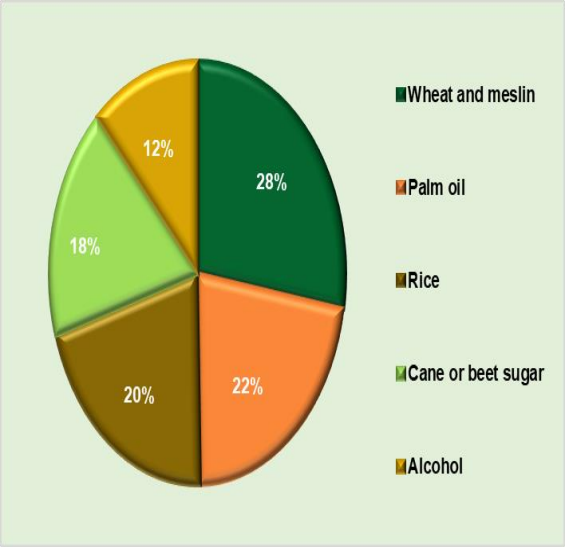

Figure 41: Top five agricultural products imported by SA.
Source: Trademap, 2025

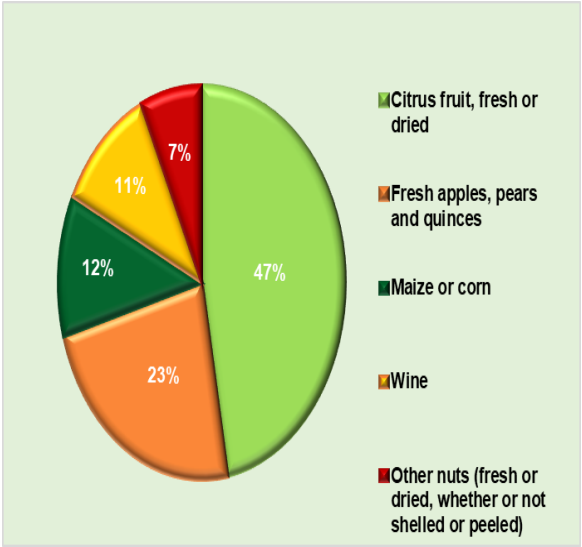

Figure 42: Top five agricultural products exported by SA.
Source: Trademap, 2025

The agricultural sector is significantly reliant on exports and has greatly benefited from trade agreements successfully negotiated by South African officials over the past few decades. The following interventions where highlighted by Agbiz (2025), firstly the ports showed improved performance in 2025, especially during the first three quarters of the year, which contributed to maintaining strong export levels. While there is still

potential for further improvements, recent months have seen noticeable improvements in agricultural exports, even considering tariffs imposed by the US. Secondly this has bolstered export activities and highlights the progress made through ongoing policy reforms in South Africa's network industries.

While South Africa is flourishing in Africa and Europe, which together represent approximately two-thirds of its agricultural export value, there remains room for expansion in other regions. Thirdly, discussions regarding trade policy must adopt a holistic perspective to ensure that agreements align with both business ambitions and national objectives. These interactions should establish a framework for facilitating trade and enhancing the global presence of South African agricultural products.

Lastly, the agricultural sector in South Africa has the capacity to generate additional employment opportunities, both at the primary level and throughout the value chains. Nevertheless, the sustainability and job creation within the sector depend on a well-rounded growth strategy.

4. Conclusion

The third quarter of 2025 reflects a period of cautious optimism for South Africa's agriculture sector, supported by favourable weather conditions, improved water availability, and strong production across several field crops, fruits, and vegetables. The positive impact of La Niña rains has been particularly evident in crop performance, grazing conditions, and national dam levels, contributing to improved agricultural output and sustained export momentum.

Despite these tailwinds, the sector continues to navigate a complex set of challenges. While lower maize and feed prices have offered relief to consumers and livestock producers, the decline in producer margins intensified by rising input costs and soft commodity prices has placed strain on farm viability. Similar pressures are evident in soybeans and sunflower markets, where output gains have not fully translated into producer profitability. Sustained downward pressure on farm-gate prices risks undermining future investment, especially in regions where production costs approach or exceed current market prices.

Animal production sectors experienced mixed outcomes. While poultry benefited from lower feed costs and improved production stability, the red meat sector continues to grapple with persistent foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks. These outbreaks have restricted movement, reduced slaughter rates, compromised export access, and elevated operational costs. The broader economic consequences extend beyond farm income, threatening employment, rural livelihoods, and value-chain stability. Effective and well-implemented national FMD vaccination and biosecurity programmes remain crucial to restoring industry confidence and protecting long-term production capacity.

On the trade front, agriculture remained a strong contributor to the country's export earnings. A favourable agricultural trade balance boosted by robust export volumes of citrus, nuts, maize, apples, pears, and other high-value commodities indicates resilience despite global uncertainty and tariff pressures. Improvements in port performance have further enabled this growth, though sustained investment in logistics and infrastructure remains essential to maintaining competitiveness.

Looking ahead, the early indications of a second consecutive La Niña season offer potential for another year of above-average rainfall. However, uncertainty persists regarding the timing and intensity of weather patterns, global market instability, geopolitical risks, and domestic structural challenges such as municipal service failures, infrastructure backlogs, and slow land-reform administration. These factors highlight the need for a balanced policy framework that promotes investment, enhances risk management, and strengthens market stability.

Overall, while 2025: Q3 demonstrates measurable progress and improved sector performance, long-term sustainability will depend on continued collaboration between government, industry stakeholders, and producers. A coordinated approach focusing on export-led growth, improved biosecurity systems, efficient logistics, and policy reforms will be essential to unlocking South Africa’s agricultural potential, improving rural livelihoods, and securing stable, competitive food systems for the future.

5.References

Absa 2025. Absa Agri Trends Spring 2025. [Online] Available: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://agrink.co.za/downloads/ABSA%20Agri%20Trends%202025%20Spring.pdf

Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) 2025. A comprehensive approach is needed to support export-led growth for SA agriculture, 25 August 2025. [Online] Available: https://agbiz.co.za/content/economic-research?page=agri-reports

Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) 2025. More reasons to be optimistic about the 2025-26 agricultural season in SA, 22 September 2025. [Online] Available: https://agbiz.co.za/content/economic-research?page=agri-reports

Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) 2025. Evolving factors shaping the outlook for SA agriculture in 2026, 1 December 2025. [Online] Available: https://agbiz.co.za/content/economic-research?page=agri-reports

Agriorbit (2025). SA citrus industry remains resilient amid challenges. [Online] Available: https://agriorbit.com/sa-citrus-industry-remains-resilient/

Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (2024). BFAP Baseline Agricultural Outlook 2024 – 2033. South African agriculture: Current realities and future expectations. [Online] Available: https://baseline.bfap.co.za/

Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (2025). BFAP Baseline Agricultural Outlook 2025 – 2034. Navigating export led growth in a dynamic and uncertain global trade environment. [Online] Available: https://baseline.bfap.co.za/

Department of Water and Sanitation (2025). Monthly State of Water Bulletin, July, 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/National%20State%20of%20Water%20Report/MonthlyBulletin.aspx

Department of Water and Sanitation (2025). Monthly State of Water Bulletin, August, 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/National%20State%20of%20Water%20Report/MonthlyBulletin.aspx

Department of Water and Sanitation (2025). Monthly State of Water Bulletin, September, 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.dws.gov.za/Projects/National%20State%20of%20Water%20Report/MonthlyBulletin.aspx

Freshfruitportal.com (2025). 'The future looks bright for South Africa's apple and pear industry': a look at the 2025 season, 06 March 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2025/03/06/the-future-looks-bright-for-the-sa-apple-pear-industry-a-look-at-south-africas-apple-and-pear-2025-season/

Freshplaza (2025). Global Market Overview Bananas: South Africa: High volumes pressure prices despite lower supply, 15 September 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.freshplaza.com/north-america/article/9738497/global-market-overview-bananas/

Freshplaza (2025). Global Market Overview Pear. South Africa: South Africa: Pear crop is unusually early, 15 September 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.freshplaza.com/north-america/article/9602736/global-market-overview-pears/

Freshplaza (2025). Potato and onion sectors see cautious recovery in 2025, 15 September 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.freshplaza.com/africa/article/9724845/potato-and-onion-sectors-see-cautious-recovery-in-2025/

Freshplaza (2025). Global Market Overview Tomatoes, 15 September 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.freshplaza.com/north-america/article/9724660/global-market-overview-tomatoes/

Global Market Overview Apples. South Africa: South Africa: Eastern demand strong, but export options narrow, 15 September 2025. [Online] Available: https://www.freshplaza.com/north-america/article/9742408/global-market-overview-apples/

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2025. United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual 02 December 2025. [Online] Available: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Pretoria_South%20Africa%20-%20Republic%20of_SF2025-0039.pdf

Trade Map (2025): Trade statistics for international business development. [Online] Available: https://www.trademap.org