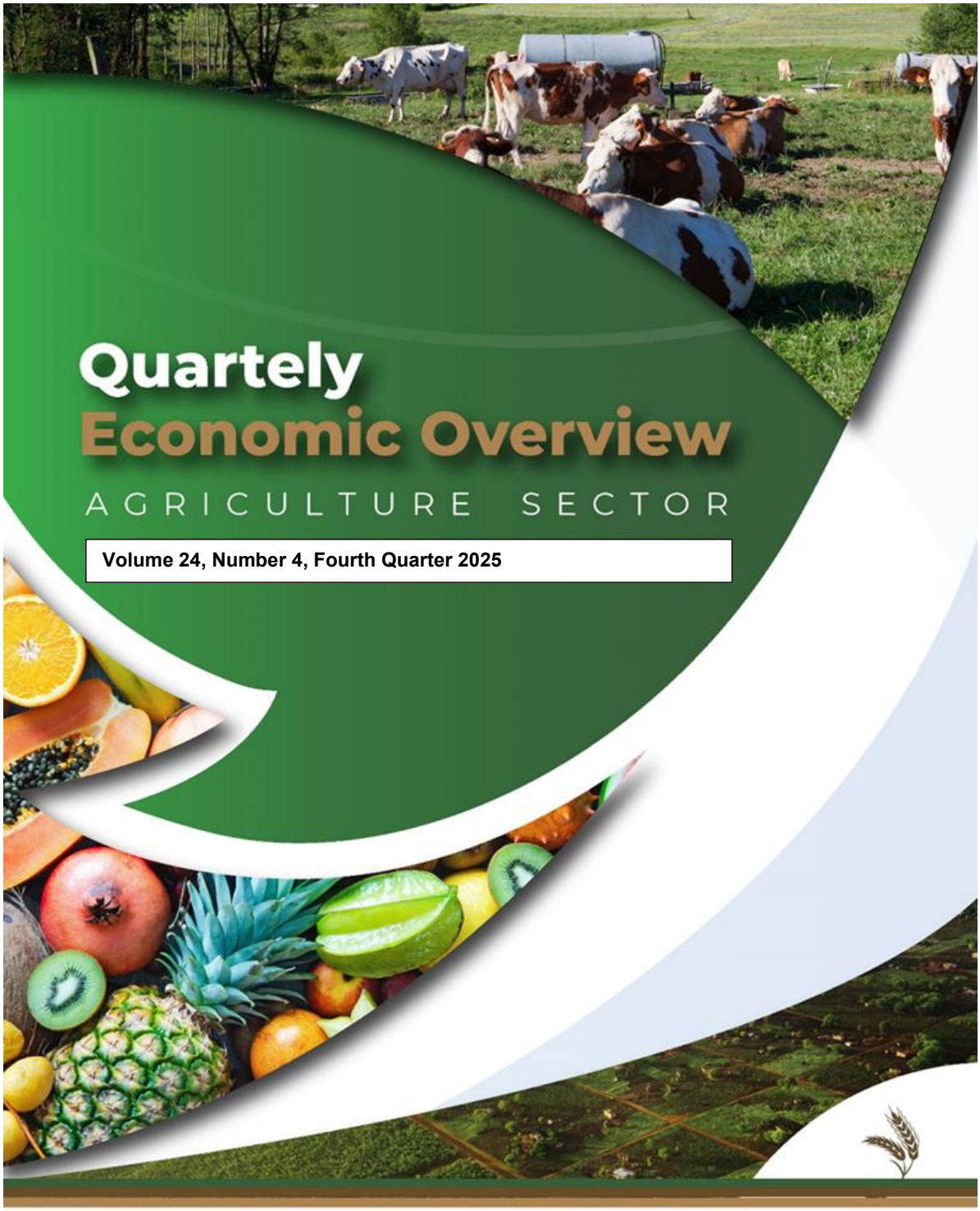


agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2030 NDP

STAY SAFE
VACCINATE TO SAVE 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: Q4, 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**: Global growth is projected at 3.3% for 2026 and 3.2% for 2027, revised slightly up since the October 2025 World Economic Outlook. The real GDP growth Rates for 2025 (Q4) in the advanced economies of the following countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United states and United Kingdom increased by 1.7%, 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.3%, 1.3%, 0.1% and 4.4% respectively, compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4)

**Emerging markets and developing economies:** GDP growth rates for 2025 (Q4) increased in the following countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria and Russia by 1.8%, 4.5%, 7.4%, 5.39%, 6.3%, 3.0%, 0.4% 4.07% and 0.5% respectively, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4) last year figures.

**Global grain supply forecast:** Global supply projections for 2025 (Q4) of wheat, coarse grains, rice milled, cotton, oilseeds, oil meals and vegetable oils increased by 3.16%, 2.86%, 2.51%, 1.62%, 5.08% and 2.69% respectively, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2024.

**South Africa's GDP:** South African economy grew by 0.4% quarter-on-quarter in the last quarter of 2025.This marked the fifth straight quarter of expansion, with growth recorded in five of the ten industries. The finance sector led the gains, rising 1.4% and contributing 0.3 percentage points to GDP. Trade increased 0.9% and personal services grew 0.4%. In contrast, manufacturing was the largest drag, falling 0.6%. From the demand side, household consumption (1.2%), government spending (0.5%) and fixed investment (1.3%) helped sustain positive momentum. Agriculture, forestry and fishing grew by 17,4% over the year and contributed 0,4 of a percentage point to the country's overall economic growth.

**Inflation:** The consumer price inflation (CPI) was 3,6% in the last quarter of 2025.The main positive contributors to the 3,6% annual inflation rate were, housing and utilities as well as food and non-alcoholic beverages.Food inflation for 2025 (Q4), decreased to an average 4.2% compared to an average 5.0% in the third quarter of 2025.

**Employment:** South Africa's official unemployment rate eased to 31.4% in the last quarter of 2025. Agriculture contributed 2.8% among the top 10 industries, with utilities

being the main contributor with 21%. The number of people employed in agricultural sector increased from 924 000 in the fourth quarter of 2024, to 950 000 people in the same quarter of 2025, which represent a decrease of 2.8%.

**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, milk and groundnuts, as well as the fruit and vegetable and meat industry reviews**.**

**Trade:** In Q4: 2025, South Africa's agricultural trade balance grew by 16.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, exports of agricultural products amounted to R 59.65 billion, up from R 54.56 billion recorded in the same quarter of 2024. The value of agricultural imports increased by 5.6% to R37.32 billion, up from R35.33 billion recorded in Q4: 2024.

# 1 GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMIES

## 1.1 Global Real GDP Growth Rates

Technology investment, fiscal and monetary support, accommodative financial conditions, and private sector adaptability offset trade policy shifts. Global inflation is expected to fall, but US inflation will return to target more gradually. Key downside risks are re-evaluation of technology expectations and escalation of geopolitical tensions. Policymakers should restore fiscal buffers, preserve price and financial stability, reduce uncertainty, and implement structural reforms. According to the World Economic Outlook report (January 2026), it indicates that Global growth is projected at 3.3% for 2026 and 3.2% for 2027, revised slightly up since the October 2025 World Economic Outlook. The real GDP growth Rates for 2025 (Q4) in the advanced economies of the following countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United states and United Kingdom increased by 1.7%, 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.3%, 1.3%, 0.1% and 4.4% respectively, compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4). See figure 1 below.

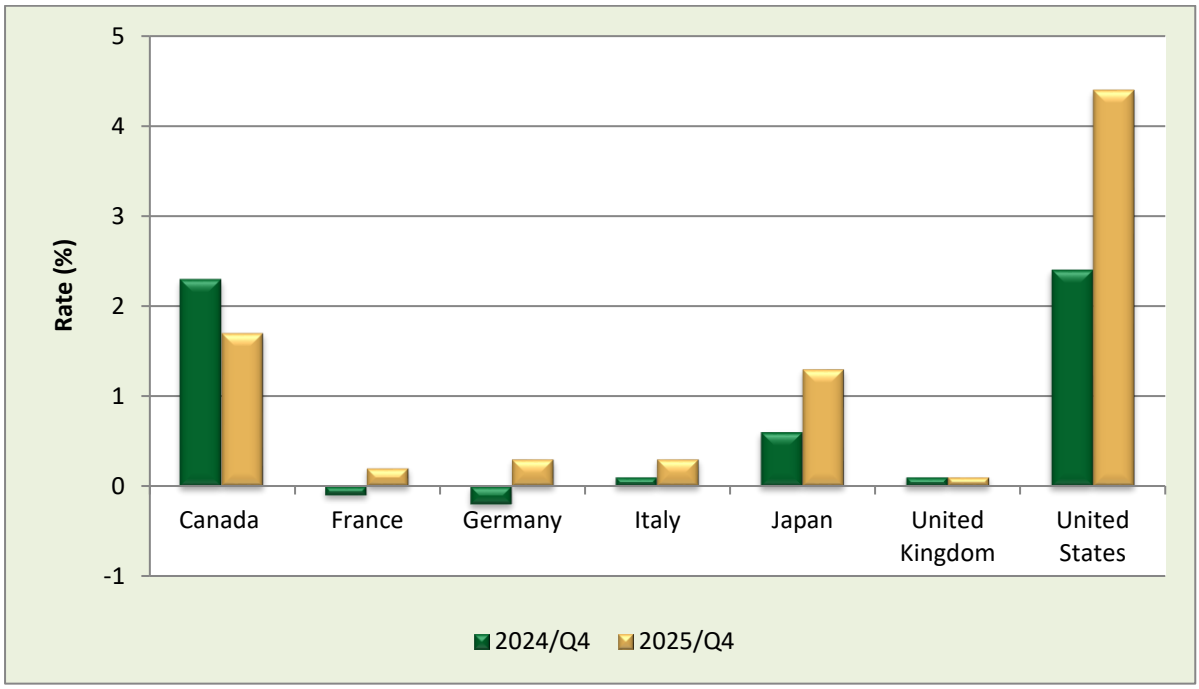


**Figure 1:** Advanced Economies Quarterly GDP Growth Rates
Data Source: Various Sources

Figure 2, Indicate that in the emerging markets and developing economies, the real GDP growth rates for 2025 (Q4) increased in the following countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria and Russia by 1.8%, 4.5%, 7.4%, 5.39%, 6.3%, 3.0%, 0.4% 4.07% and 0.5% respectively, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4) last year figures.

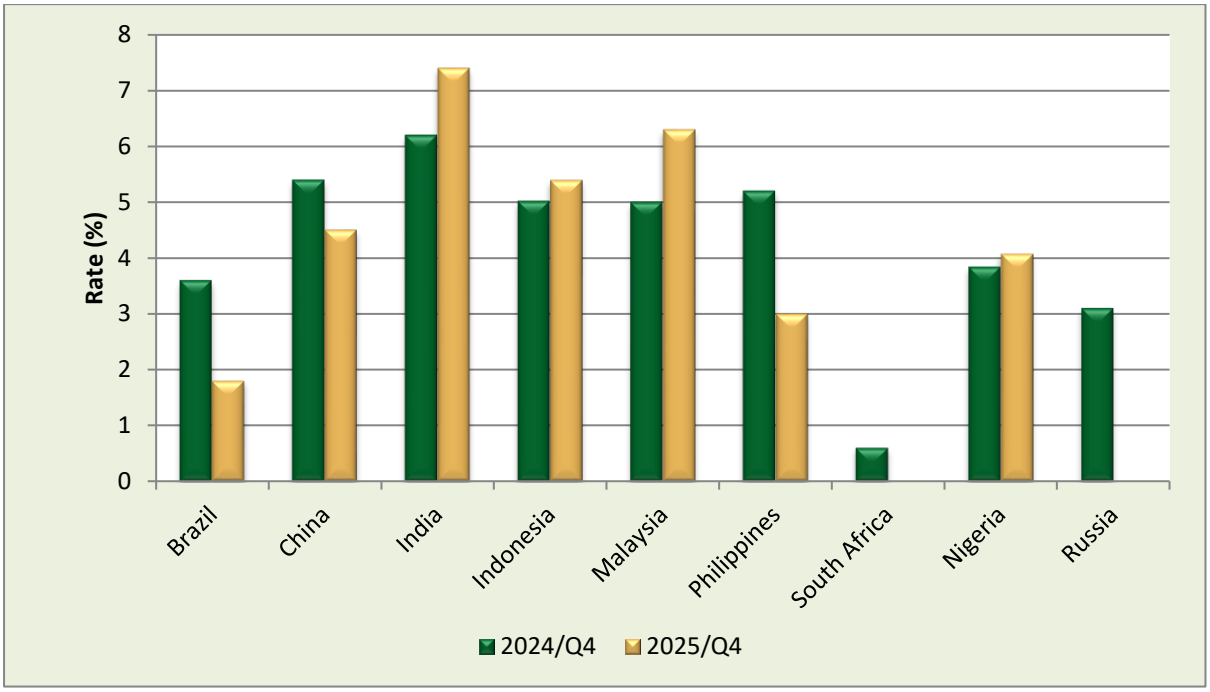


**Figure 2:** Emerging Markets and Developing Economies Quarterly GDP Growth Rates
Data Source: Various Sources

## 1.2 Global Grain forecast

The global grain supply forecast indicates a total grain increase of 2.88%, from 3.617 million metric tons in 2024 (Q4) to 3.721 million metric tons in 2025 (Q4). Global supply projections for 2025 (Q4) of wheat, coarse grains, rice milled, cotton, oilseeds, oil meals and vegetable oils increased by 3.16%, 2.86%, 2.51%, 1.62%, 5.08% and 2.69% respectively, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, see figure 3 below.

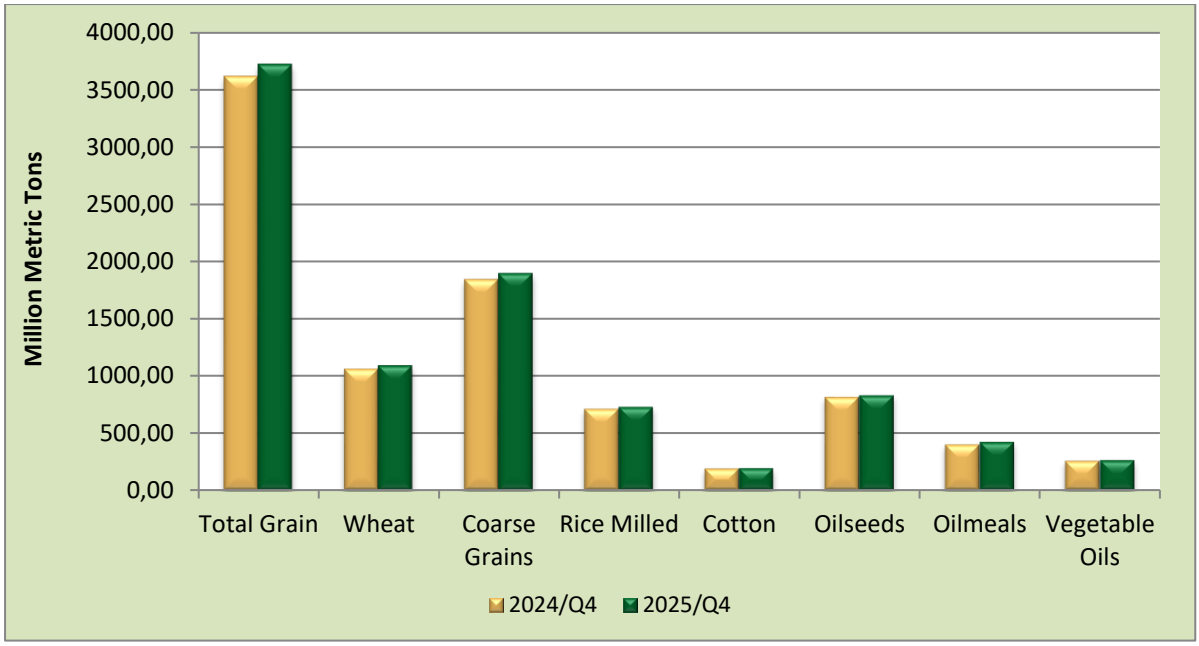


**Figure 3:** Quarterly global grain supply forecast
Data Source: USDA

## 1.3 Global Food Prices

Globally in 2025 (Q4) some major countries were paying less by 1.5% on food purchases compared to 2024 (Q4). The following global food products price indices in 2025 (Q4), dairy, cereals and sugar indices show a decrease of 3.5%, 6.2% and 27.1% respectively, whilst meat, dairy and oils indices show an increase of 5.2% and 4.3% respectively when compared to (Q4) of 2024, see figure 4.

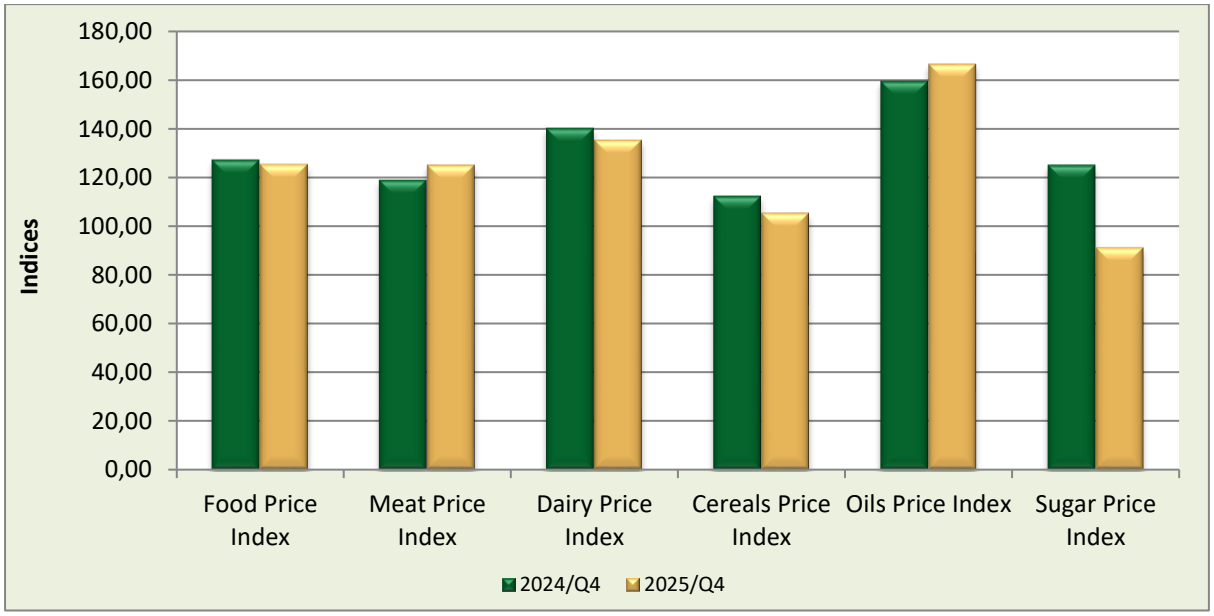


**Figure 4:** Quarterly global food price indices
Data Source: FAO

## 2. THE STATE OF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY & THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

### 2.1 Growth

The South African economy grew by 0.4% quarter-on-quarter in the last quarter of 2025, following a downwardly revised 0.3% growth in the third quarter of 2025 and slightly above analysts' forecasts of 0.3%. This marked the fifth straight quarter of expansion, with growth recorded in five of the ten industries. The finance sector led the gains, rising 1.4% and contributing 0.3 percentage points to GDP. Trade increased 0.9% and personal services grew 0.4%. In contrast, manufacturing was the largest drag, falling 0.6%. From the demand side, household consumption (1.2%), government spending (0.5%) and fixed investment (1.3%) helped sustain positive momentum. On an annual basis, the economy grew 0.8% in the fourth quarter of 2025, down from a 2.1% increase in the previous quarter and below forecasts of 1.8%. For the full year 2025, GDP grew by 1.1%, the strongest growth since 2022, following a revised increase of 0.5% in 2024.

South Africa’s agricultural sector was one of the strongest contributors to the country’s economic growth in 2025. The agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector grew by 0,4% in last quarter of 2025, mainly due to increased production of field crops and horticultural products. While the quarterly growth was modest, agriculture was one of the key drivers of economic growth over the full year. Agriculture, forestry and fishing grew by 17,4% over the year and contributed 0,4 of a percentage point to the country’s overall economic growth. The sector was among the largest contributors to GDP growth, alongside finance, real estate, and business services, which increased by 1,9% and contributed 0,5 of a percentage point; and trade, catering, and accommodation, which increased by 2,3% and contributed 0,3 of a percentage point.

The manufacturing; electricity, gas, and water; and construction industries all recorded negative growth last year. The last quarter 2025 GDP figures also showed mixed trends in trade affecting agriculture. Exports of goods and services declined by 0,6%, partly due to a decrease in exports of vegetable products, prepared foodstuffs, beverages, and tobacco. Imports increased by 0,5%, driven by increased trade in machinery and electrical equipment, vehicles and transport equipment, and live

animals and products. Household final consumption expenditure rose by 1,2% in the fourth quarter of 2025 and by 3,6% for the year, with spending on food and non-alcoholic beverages contributing to the increase. Overall expenditure on GDP increased by 1,4% in 2025, following an increase of 0,4% in 2024.

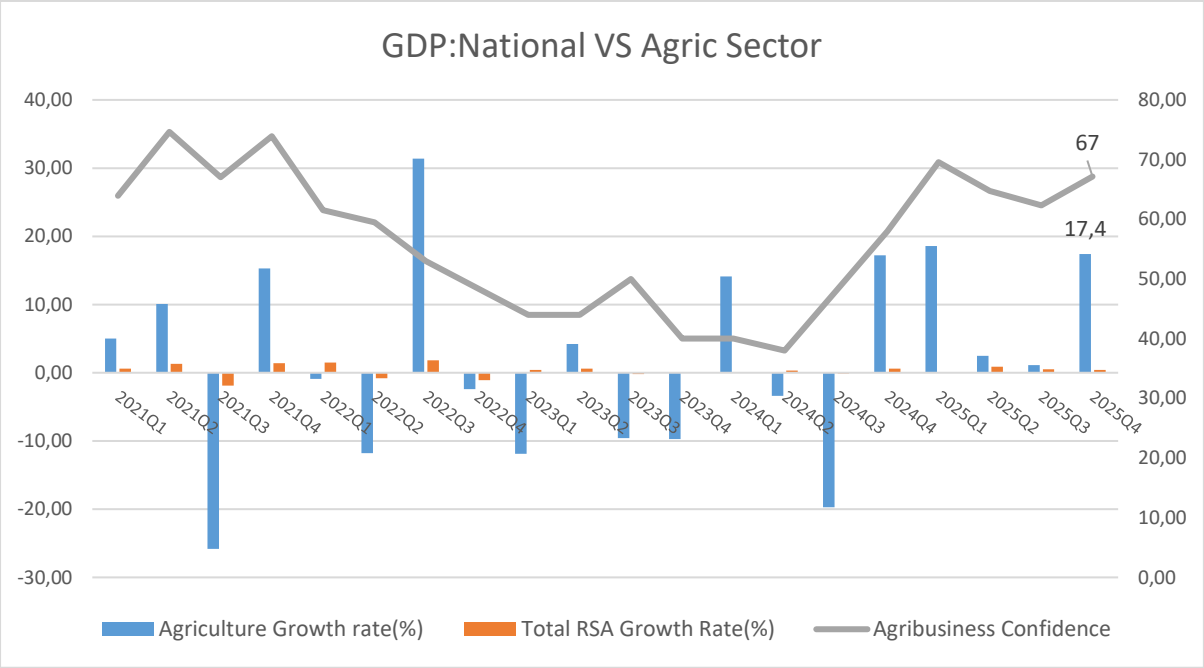


**Figure 5:** The GDP growth and Agriculture contribution to the GDP growth 2022 Q1 and 2025: Q4
Source: Stats SA

## 2.2 Inflation

South Africa's annual headline CPI and food inflation from the fourth quarter of 2025 as illustrated in figure 6 below. The consumer price inflation (CPI) was 3,6% in October, 3.5% in November and back to 3.6 in December 2025 respectively. The main positive contributors to the 3,6% annual inflation rate were, housing and utilities as well as food and non-alcoholic beverages.

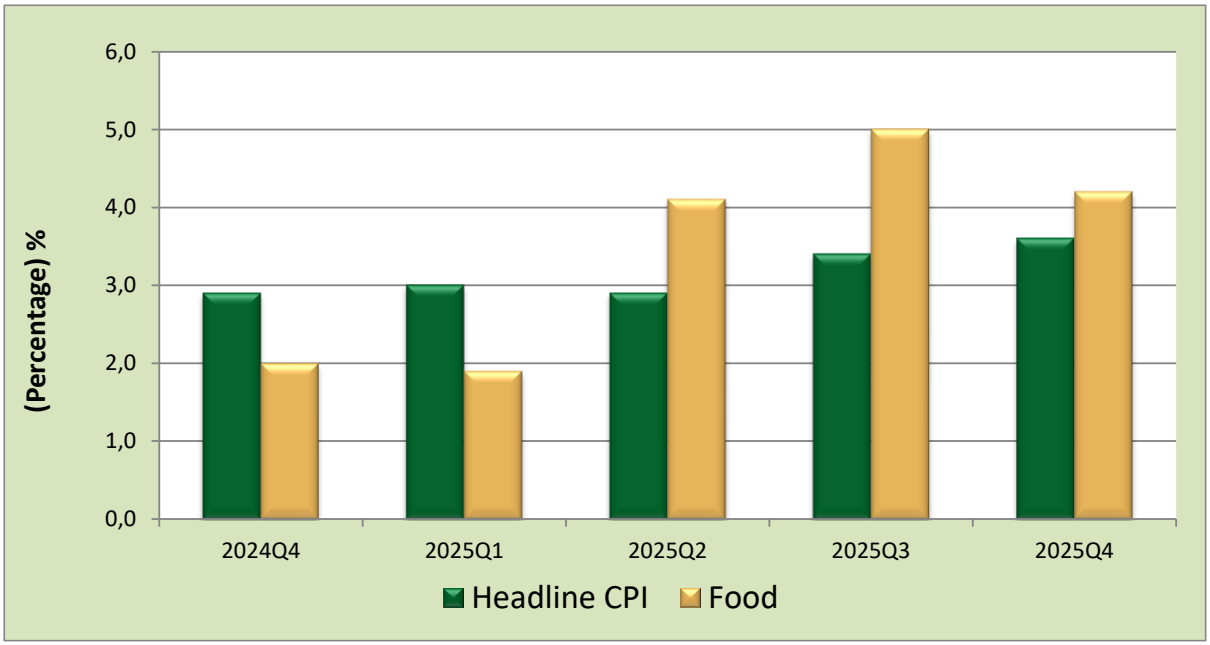


**Figure 6:** The headline consumer price index and food prices 2023: Q2 and 2025: Q2
Data Source: Stats SA

Figure 7 illustrates the consumer trends of selected food items for the fourth quarter of 2025. Food inflation for 2025 (Q4), decreased to an average 4.2% in the last quarter of 2025 compared to an average 5.0% in the third quarter of 2025. Compared to a year ago food inflation increased to an average 4.2% in the last quarter of 2025 compared to 2.0% in the same quarter of 2024. The last quarter of 2025 the main contributors to the average quarterly CPI of 3.6% were food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased by an average 4.2% in the fourth quarter of 2025 down from an average 5.0% in the previous quarter. In the last quarter of 2025 meat, fish, cereal products as well as oils & fats increased by 12.1%, 3.2%, 7.2%, 1.9% and 4.9% respectively compared to the previous quarter. Meanwhile fruits, vegetables and milk, eggs & cheese decreased by 3.3%, 3.2% and 1.3%respectively.

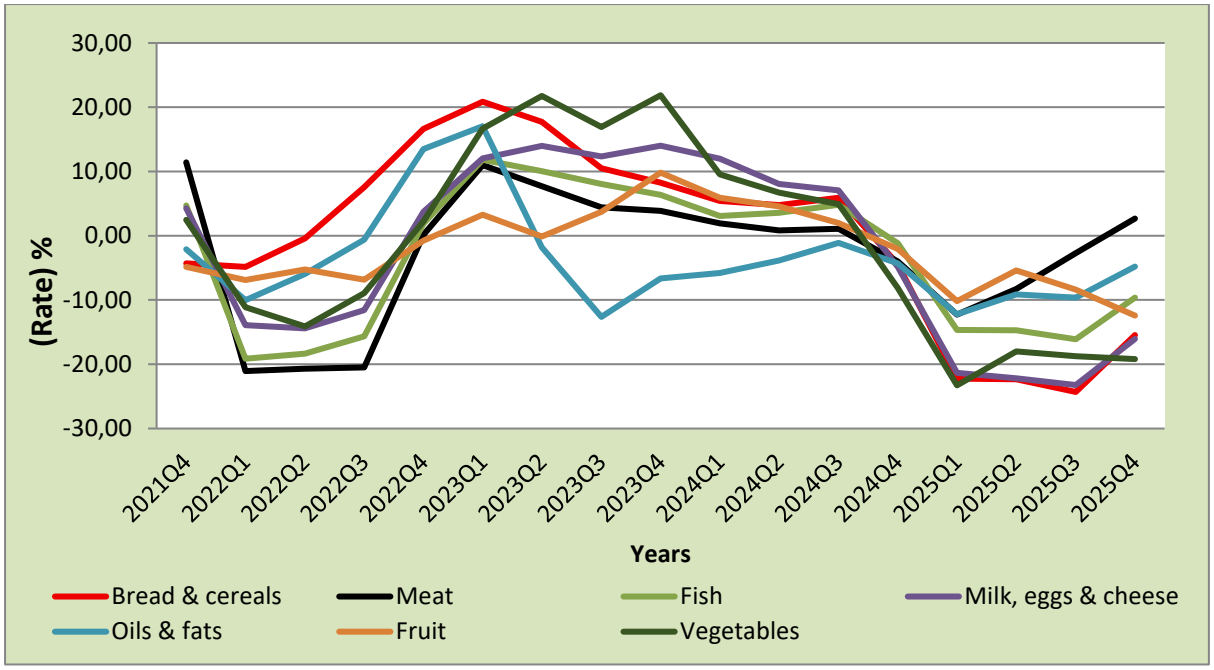


**Figure 7:** CPI for selected food items
Data Source: Stats SA

## 2.3 Employment

South Africa's official unemployment rate in 2025 fluctuated, starting at 32.9% in the first quarter, rising to 33.2% in second quarter, 31.9% in the third quarter and easing to 31.4% in the last quarter of 2025, marking the second consecutive decline. While the overall rate dropped to 31.4% by year-end, the youth (15–34) remained heavily impacted, with unemployment still extremely high, specifically 46.1% in second quarter of 2025. However, the country has added 2.6 million people to the number of unemployed over the past ten years, with shocking levels of youth unemployment persisting. According to Stats SA, this marks an increase of 44,000 people employed in the country, taking the total to 17.1 million. There was also a decrease of 172,000 unemployed people now down to 7.8 million with the labour force dropping by 128,000 people on a net basis. The changes in employment and unemployment led to the official unemployment rate decreasing, while the combined rate the new proxy for the previous expanded unemployment rate remains at 42.1% (down from 42.4% previously). The combined rate reflects the number of unemployed persons, as well as those who are available to work but are discouraged or not seeking employment. Stats SA noted that this is a different metric from the previous expanded unemployment rate, but it tracks very closely to that rate and will be used going forward.

This was the lowest reading since Q3 2020, as the number of unemployed fell by 172,000 to 7.8 million and employed individuals rose by 44,000 to 17.1 million. The labor force decreased by 128,000 to 24.9 million. The number of persons employed in the formal sector increased by 320,000 in last quarter of 2025 and those employed in the informal sector slipped by 293,000 over the same period. Seven of the 10 industries recorded job gains, led by community and social services (46,000), construction (35,000) and finance (32,000). Conversely, declines occurred in trade (98,000), manufacturing (61,000), and mining (5,000). The youth unemployment rate, measuring jobseekers between 15 and 24 years old, eased slightly to 57% from 58.5% in third quarter, but remains stubbornly high.

Over the fourth quarter, discouraged jobseekers increased by 233,000 to 3.7 million. Other available jobseekers decreased by 110,000 to 855,000, and unavailable jobseekers decreased by 41,000 to 42,000, resulting in a total net increase of 82,000 to 4.6 million in the potential labour force population. Others outside the labour force increased by 165,000 to 12.5 million. Outside the labour force, which is the total of the potential labour force and other outside the labour force, increased by 248,000 to 17.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2025.

In addition to the unemployment rate, other measures of labour underutilisation were measured. The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment decreased by 0.6 of a percentage point to 34.3%. The composite measure of labour underutilisation—which combines time-related underemployment, unemployment and potential labour force as a proportion of the extended labour force was 44.5% in the fourth quarter of 2025 (down from 44.9% in the previous quarter). These labour underutilisation measures highlight people in different situations and with different degrees of attachment to the labour market.

Overall, South Africa’s labour market shows improvements across all measures; however, the rates are still extremely high and reflect the persistent jobs crisis in the country. Between the fourth quarter of 2015 and fourth quarter of 2025, the number of unemployed persons in South Africa increased from 5.2 million to 7.8 million, with the proportion of those in long-term unemployment increasing from 66.9% to 79.7% over the same period. Youth unemployment also remains extremely high, with unemployment rates of those in the working age 25-34 sitting at 44.3%. Approximately

3.5 million out of 10.3 million (or 34.0%) young people aged 15-24 years are also not in employment, education or training (NEET).

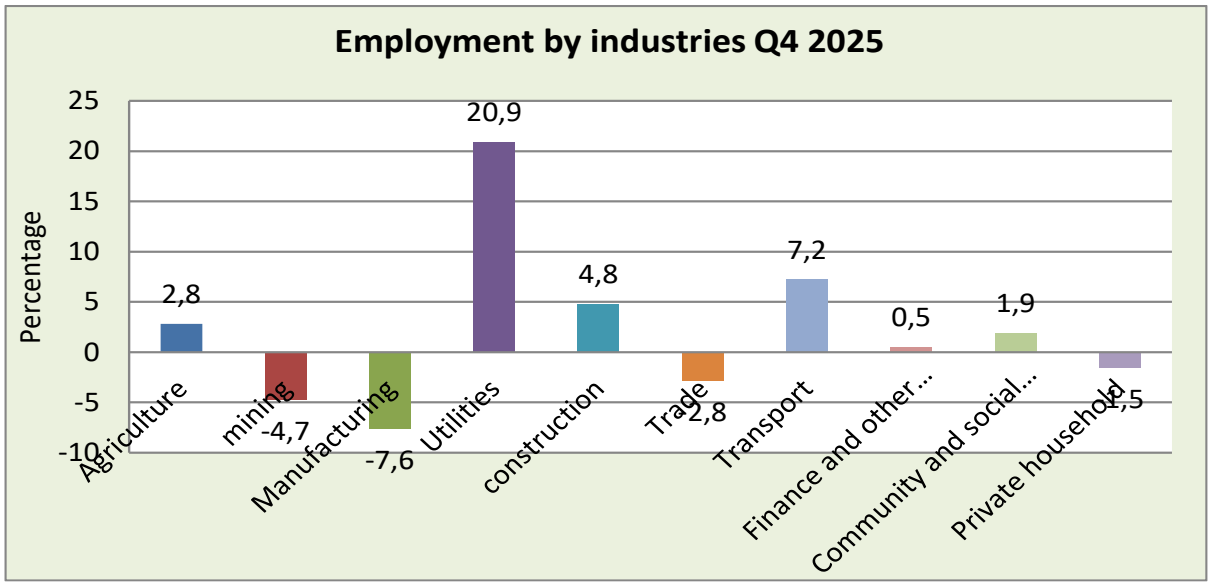


**Figure 8:** Total number of people employed by industries in 2025: Q4
Source: Stats SA

Figure 9 illustrate illustrate that the number of people employed in agricultural sector increased from 924 000 in the fourth quarter of 2024, to 950 000 people in the same quarter of 2025, which represent a decrease of 2.8%. Off the 26 000 jobs created by the sector, 41 000 jobs were created for men, meanwhile 15 000 jobs were lost by woman between the two quarters. During the same period in total, the agricultural sector had 669 000 men, and 281 000 women compared to 628 000 men and 296 000 women. However, on quarter-to-quarter the number of people employed in agriculture sector increased by 3.3%, from 920 000 in the third quarter of 2025 to 950 000 in the last quarter of 2025.

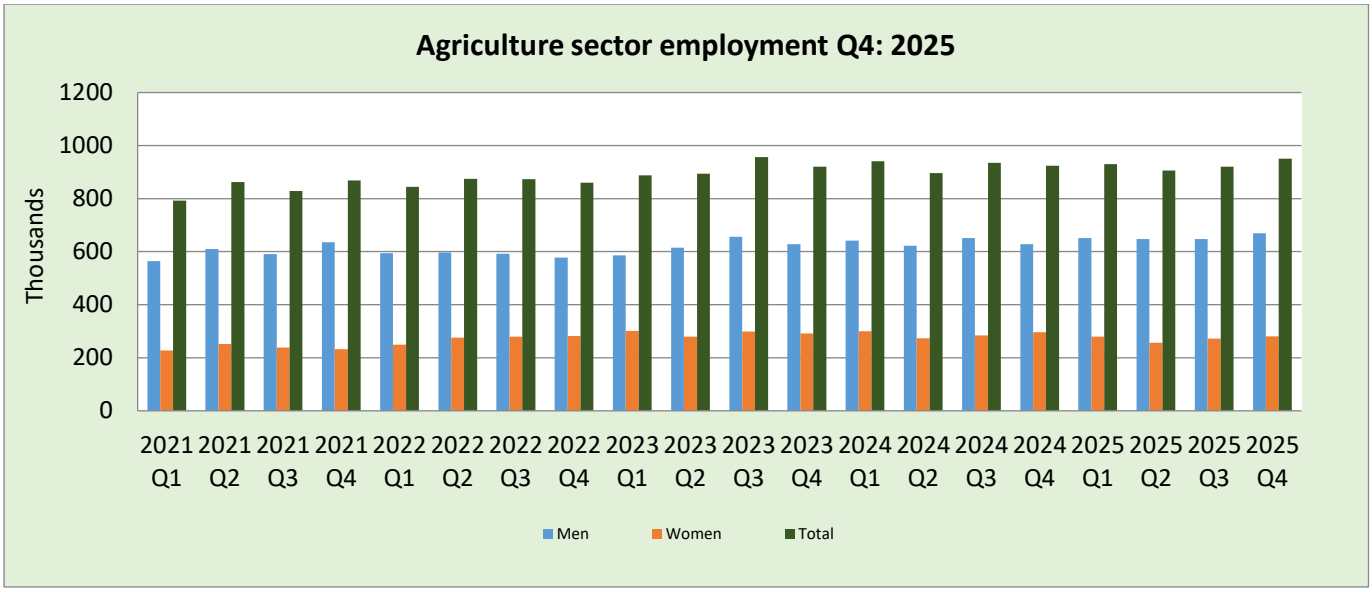


**Figure 9:** Total number of people employed in the agriculture sector between 2021: Q1 and 2025: Q4.
Source: Stats SA

Figure 10 shows that between the last quarter of 2024 and the last quarter of 2025, provincial agriculture employment increased in five provinces, such as Free state, Northern cape, Limpopo, Western cape and Northwest by 38.4%, 12.9%, 11.6%, 11.3% and 2.4% respectively. Meanwhile provincial agriculture employment decline in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern cape by 14.1%, 12.6%, 8.7%, and 8.2% respectively. During the same period the (QLFS) publication also indicates an increase of about 4.2% in the number of people involved in subsistence farming from 2.3 million people in the last quarter of 2024 to 2.4 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.

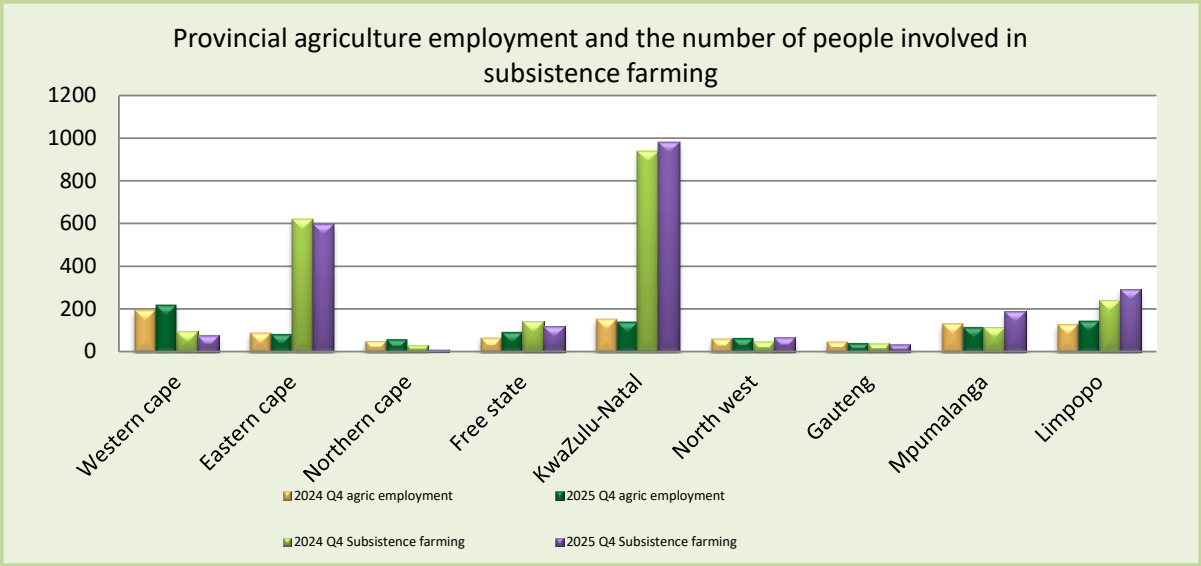


**Figure 10:** Provincial agriculture employment and subsistence farming between 2024: Q4 and 2025: Q4.
Source: Stats SA

## 2.4 Expenditure on intermediate goods and services by the agricultural sector

Figure 11 The performance of intermediate goods and services in the fourth quarter of 2025 was largely driven by seasonal crop production activities and changing livestock dynamics. Increased spending on fertiliser and seed and plant reflects heightened planting activity associated with the summer crop season, supported by favourable production conditions. The steady rise in farm services suggests continued reliance on mechanised and outsourced farm operations. Meanwhile, fuel expenditure remained relatively stable, indicating consistent operational activity. In the fourth quarter of 2025, spending on intermediate goods and services reflected a generally positive year on year performance across most input categories. Farm services expenditure increased by 6.0%, maintaining its steady upward trend, while fuel costs rose moderately by 3.6%. Spending on fertiliser also recorded a modest increase of 2.2%, suggesting some recovery following earlier declines. Meanwhile, seed and plant expenditure grew more strongly by 9.9%, indicating continued investment in crop production activities. In contrast, farm feed expenditure declined sharply by 18.0% year on year, reflecting persistent cost pressures within the livestock sector. On a quarter on quarter basis, movements were more mixed but suggest some seasonal adjustments. Fertiliser expenditure increased significantly by 28.7%, while seed and plant spending rose by 4.0%, pointing to intensified planting activity during the period. Farm feed costs edged up slightly by 1.2%, indicating marginal improvement in feed

demand. In contrast, fuel expenditure declined marginally by 0.2%, and farm services remained broadly unchanged (0.0%), suggesting relatively stable operational service costs during the quarter.

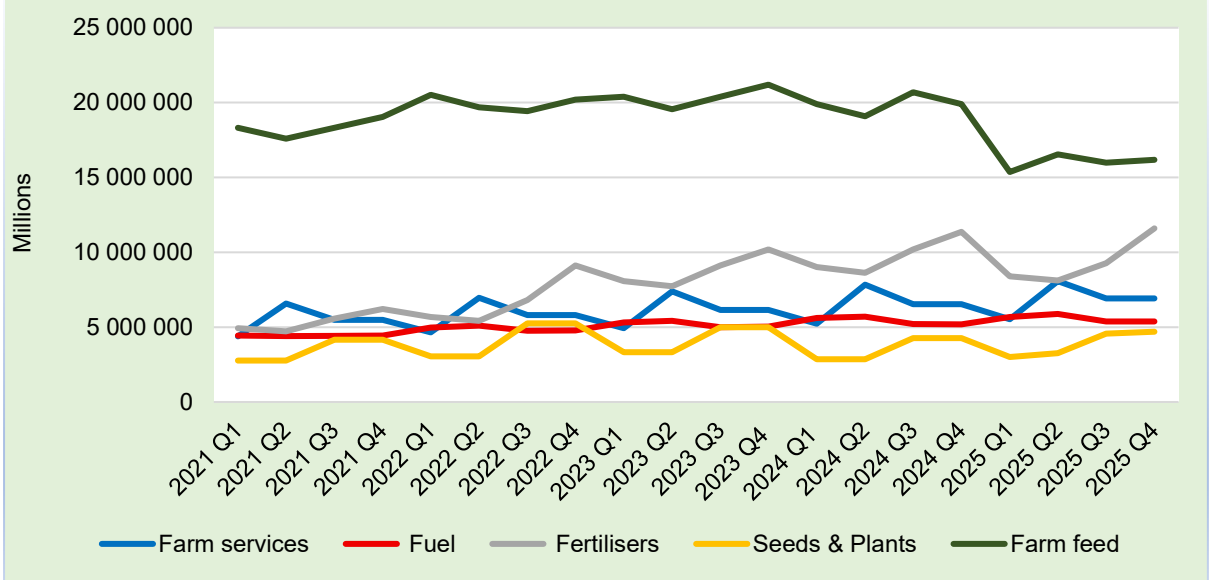


**Figure 11:** Trends in the expenditure on fuel, farm feeds, fertilisers, seeds and plants and farm services between 2020: Q4 and 2025: Q4

Source: DOA

## 2.5 fertilizer market review

### 2.5.1 South African fertiliser expenditure

Figure 12 illustrates Fertiliser expenditure recorded a modest increase in the fourth quarter of 2025, rising by 2.2% year on year, while quarter on quarter spending increased sharply by 25.8%. The strong quarterly growth largely reflects heightened fertiliser demand during the summer crop planting season, when producers typically increase nutrient application to support crop establishment and improve yield prospects. Global fertiliser markets during this period remained affected by elevated energy costs, supply constraints, and logistical challenges, while domestically, South Africa's reliance on imported fertiliser and exchange rate fluctuations continued to influence input costs. Overall, the increase in expenditure suggests that farmers expanded fertiliser purchases in response to seasonal production requirements despite ongoing pressures in input markets.

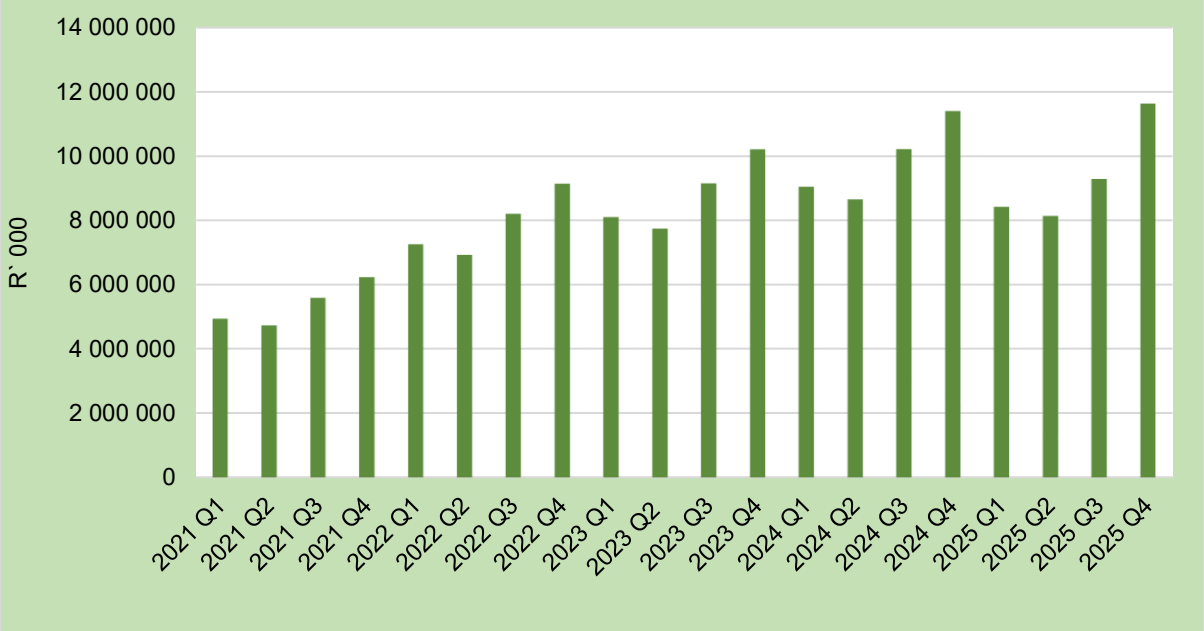


**Figure 12:** South Africa fertiliser expenditure

Source: DOA.

## 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 2.1% from R100.8 billion in the last quarter of 2024 to R102.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 2025. Meanwhile the net farm income is estimated at R11.2 billion in the last quarter of 2025 compared to R16.4 billion in the same quarter of 2024, a decrease of 31.6%. During the same period the decrease in net farm income was due to a decrease of 9,6% in income from field crops, whist the net farm income from horticulture and animal products increased by 7.5% and 4.3% respectively.

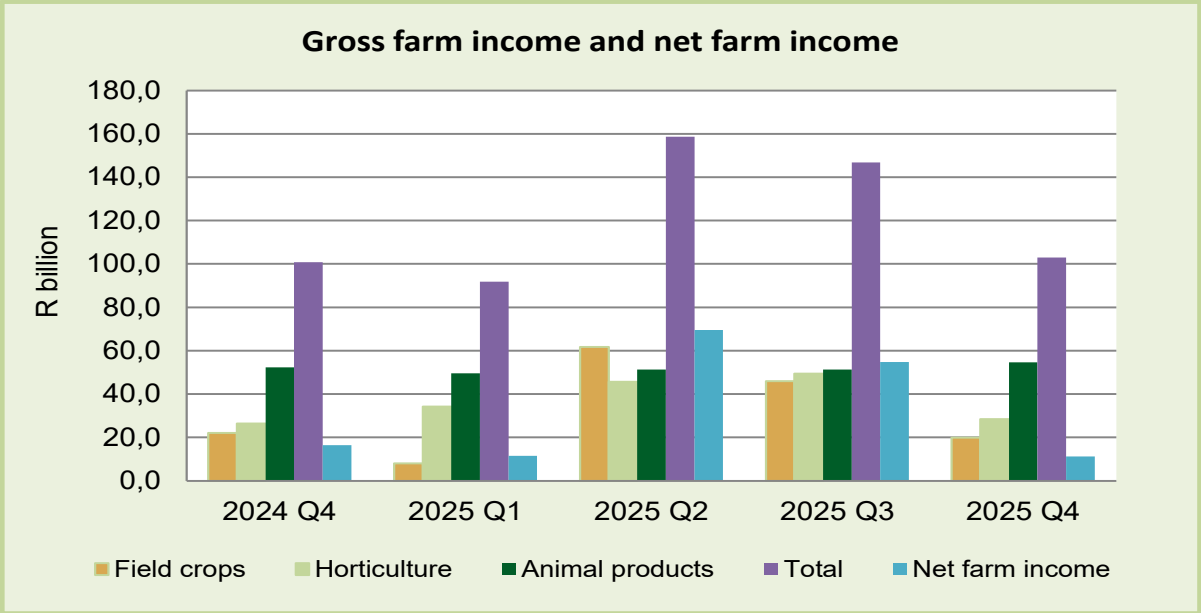


**Figure 13:** Trends in nominal gross farm income between 2024: Q4 and 2025: Q4
Source: DOA

## 2.9 Reviews of South Africa's water dam levels

The last quarter of 2025 signified the beginning of the rainy season in the summer rainfall areas of South Africa. The eastern regions of the country typically experience substantial rainfall during the spring and early summer months, whereas the southwestern tip of the nation is characterized by a Mediterranean climate, which includes hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Additionally, winter rainfall is prevalent in that area (DWS, 2025).

During the same period, the South African Weather Services (SAWS) Seasonal Climate Watch reported that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is shifting from a neutral phase to a weak La Niña phase (SAWS, 2025). Furthermore, SAWS forecasts suggest that we are approaching a weak La Niña event in the summer season. Nevertheless, this weak La Niña is expected to be brief during the mid- and late summer months. The anticipated impact of the La Niña phase on South Africa during the summer is an increased probability of above-normal rainfall in the northeastern regions of the country (DWS, 2025).

Furthermore, the SAWS Seasonal Forecasts indicated that more than two-thirds of South Africa is expected to experience above-average rainfall during December 2025, January, and February 2026 (DWS, 2025).

Meanwhile, the most recent climate report from the South African Weather Service suggested that both minimum and maximum temperatures are anticipated to be predominantly above normal for the majority of South Africa during the summer season, with maximum temperatures showing an uncertain trend as late summer transitions into early autumn (DWS, 2025).

In Q4: 2025, approximately 11% of national dams in the nice provinces exceeded 100% of their Full Supply Capacity (FSC). During the same period, around 56% of national storage levels surpassed 90%, while 33% of national storage levels reached 75% or more of their Full Supply Capacity. The increase in overall dam storage indicates higher stream flows, which can be linked to above-average rainfall observed in recent months (DWS, 2025).
The climate plays a crucial role in influencing water resources. Elevated temperatures lead to increased evaporation and diminished water supply, whereas severe weather occurrences, including droughts and floods, intensify water scarcity and pollution, respectively. Additionally, alterations in precipitation patterns further impact water availability (DWS, 2025).

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, South Africa saw a 3% decline in its national dam levels in Q4: 2025 in comparison to Q3. In December 2025, the rainfall patterns were generally consistent with climatological expectations in the summer rainfall region. The initial ten days of December 2025 experienced relatively low rainfall across the nation, following significant precipitation in the last ten days of November 2025. Notably, the second ten-day period of December exhibited a substantial rise in the percentage of normal rainfall throughout the country, reaching even the Western Cape, as well as extensive areas in the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape (DWS, 2025).

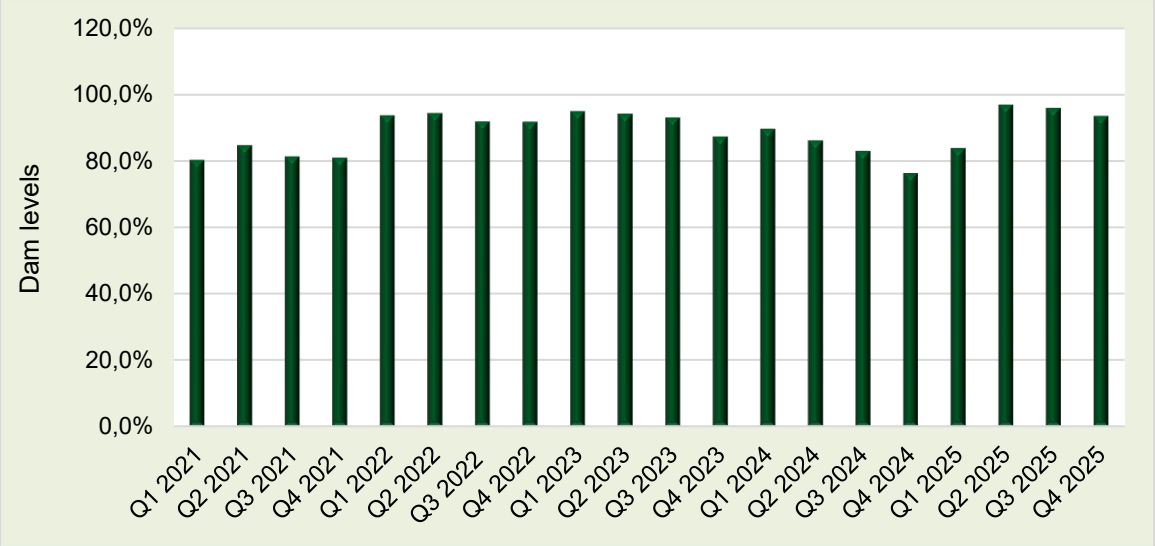


**Figure 14:** National dam levels

Source: Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

### 2.9.1 Provincial dam levels

Numerous weather patterns have been observed across the nation's nine provinces. During the spring and early summer months, the eastern regions tend to experience considerable rainfall. From early to mid-spring, the eastern and southeastern areas usually receive higher amounts of rainfall compared to the average, whereas the remaining regions of the country typically encounter below-average rainfall.

Recent statistics from the Department of Water and Sanitation reveals that dam levels in the Eastern Cape fell by 7% in Q4: 2025 when compared to the same quarter in 2024. This resulted in an average level of 76%, which is marginally lower than the previous average of 82%. The Department has reassured the public that the water supply for communities remains stable. Nevertheless, due to the province's given the province's unpredictable and fluctuating weather patterns, all residents are encouraged to utilize water responsibly and participate in conservation initiatives.

During the same period, the Free State experienced a remarkable 34% rise in dam levels in Q4: 2025 compared to the corresponding period in 2024, leading to average dam levels of 98%, which is a significant improvement from the previous average of 73%. This increase in dam water levels is primarily attributed to climatic factors, especially the substantial rainfall recorded over a wide area of the Free State. The Department of Water and Sanitation strongly urges all residents to prioritize water

conservation, notwithstanding the increase 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 17% in Q4: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, reaching an average level of 102%, an increase from the prior average of 87%. 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.

Similarly, during Q4: 2025, the water levels in dams throughout Kwazulu-Natal saw an increase of 14% when compared to Q4: 2024. During this period, the average water level in the dams escalated from 80% to 91%. The Department of Water and Sanitation persists in urging the residents of Kwazulu-Natal to practice water conservation, despite the notable increase in dam water levels across all major water sources.
Furthermore, Limpopo's dam water levels saw a remarkable increase of 18% in Q4: 2025 when compared to the corresponding period in 2024, reaching an average of 83%, a rise from 70%. The storage capacity within the province's primary water supply systems (WSS) has shown considerable improvement, and the majority of the dams in the province are maintaining levels that are considered satisfactory.

Dam levels in Mpumalanga rose by 22% in Q4: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, reaching average dam levels of 96%, an increase from 79%. The Department of Water and Sanitation has stressed to the public that South Africa is acknowledged as a water-scarce nation, placing it among the thirty driest countries globally. This underscores the urgent necessity for water conservation to be regarded as a national priority, despite the fact that the majority of dams in the Mpumalanga Province are nearly at full capacity. Natural resources represent only one aspect influencing a sustainable and reliable water supply; equally important is the responsible utilization of the available water by individuals.

The Northern Cape experienced a notable increase in dam levels, with a rise of 31% in Q4: 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, resulting in an average dam level of 94%, up from 72%. 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 Q4: 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 experienced a decline of 19% in Q4: 2025 compared to the corresponding period in 2024. The average dam levels decreased from 92% to 75%; however, the present condition of dams is regarded as favourable and is expected to satisfy consumer needs.

In the meantime, the Western Cape experienced a significant rise in dam levels, which increased by an impressive 58% in Q4: 2025 relative to the same quarter in 2024. This resulted in an average dam level of 92%, up from the previous average of 58%. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (2024), the total storage capacity of the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) remains above the median expected storage level, and currently, there are no restrictions on water usage for the operational year 2025.

The Department of Water and Sanitation encourages residents to be conscious of their water usage, considering that South Africa ranks among the driest countries globally and frequently faces varying dam levels. Furthermore, residents are advised to report any water leaks or infrastructure issues to the local authorities.

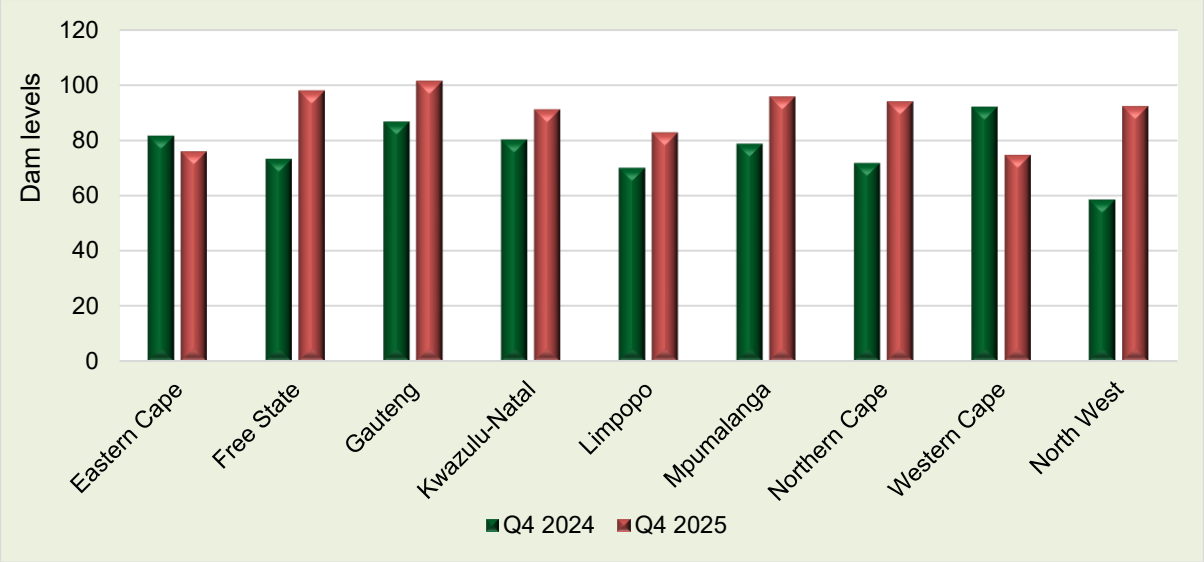


**Figure 15:** Provincial dam levels

Source: Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

Figure 16 depicts the water levels of dams in different provinces, particularly highlighting the period from Q4: 2024 to Q4: 2025. A comparison of dam levels between Q4: 2025 and Q3 reveals a general decrease in dam levels in the majority of provinces, with notable decreases observed, except for Gauteng and Northern Cape, which rose by 1.9% and 0.6% respectively. Specifically, dam levels in the Eastern Cape, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Western Cape and North West experienced decreases of 6%, 2%, 5%, 3%, 1%, 8% and 7%, respectively, on a quarter-on-quarter basis. Meanwhile, the 24-month Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI), which was examined at the conclusion of October 2025, in conjunction with the dam levels of November 2025 revealed that only certain areas of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality in the Eastern Cape faced extreme drought conditions over the past 24 months while various regions within Sarah Baartman, Chris Hani, and Ehlanzeni District Municipalities displayed a status of severe drought.

On the other hand, Gauteng province was subjected to severe and rapidly forming thunderstorms, fueled by robust convective activity characteristic of the summer rainfall region. These intense storms generated substantial hailstones in the East Rand and Pretoria North, resulting in extensive damage to vehicles, residences, and infrastructure. The South African Weather Service released several Level 4 warnings as the unstable atmospheric conditions exacerbated hail, flooding, and powerful

winds. Storm activity continued throughout mid-December, affecting adjacent provinces as well.

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 (DWS, 2025).

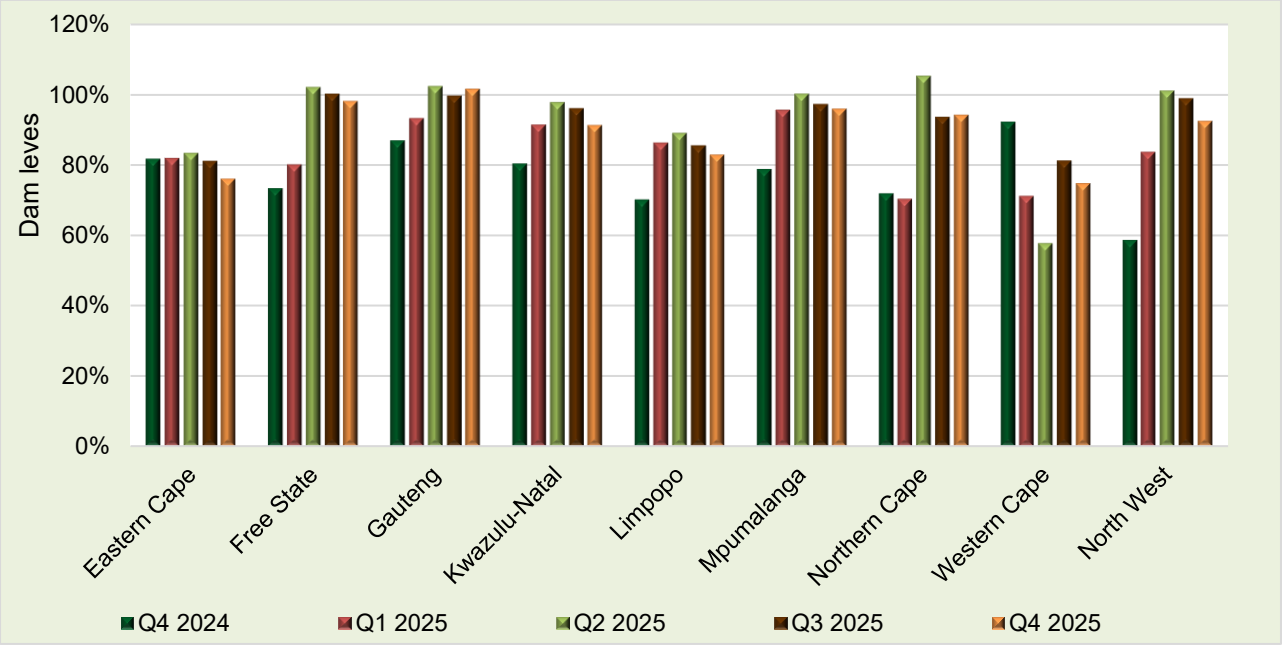


**Figure 16:** Average dam levels from Q4: 2024 to Q4: 2025

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

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. Imports are expected to remain the same while yellow maize imports have been 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 upwards 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.


**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, see Figure 18.

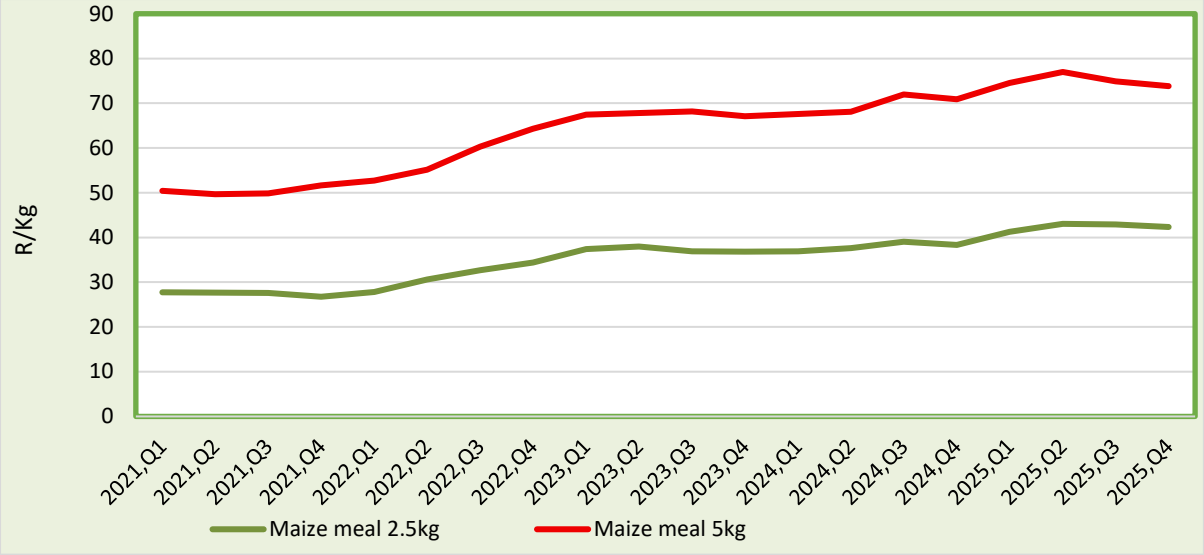


**Figure 18:** Retail prices vs white maize seed prices
Source: Safex/Stats SA

### 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 Q4 2020 to Q4 2025. Overall, prices were mixed during the quarter under review; the South African domestic wheat price traded at R5 816.44/ton in Q4 2025, down 4.9% from the previous quarter. The wheat import parity price traded at R6 124.40/ton, representing a price increase of 3.8%. The wheat export parity price traded at R3 529.80/ton, indicating a marginal increase of 0.02% in Q4 2025 compared to Q3 2025.

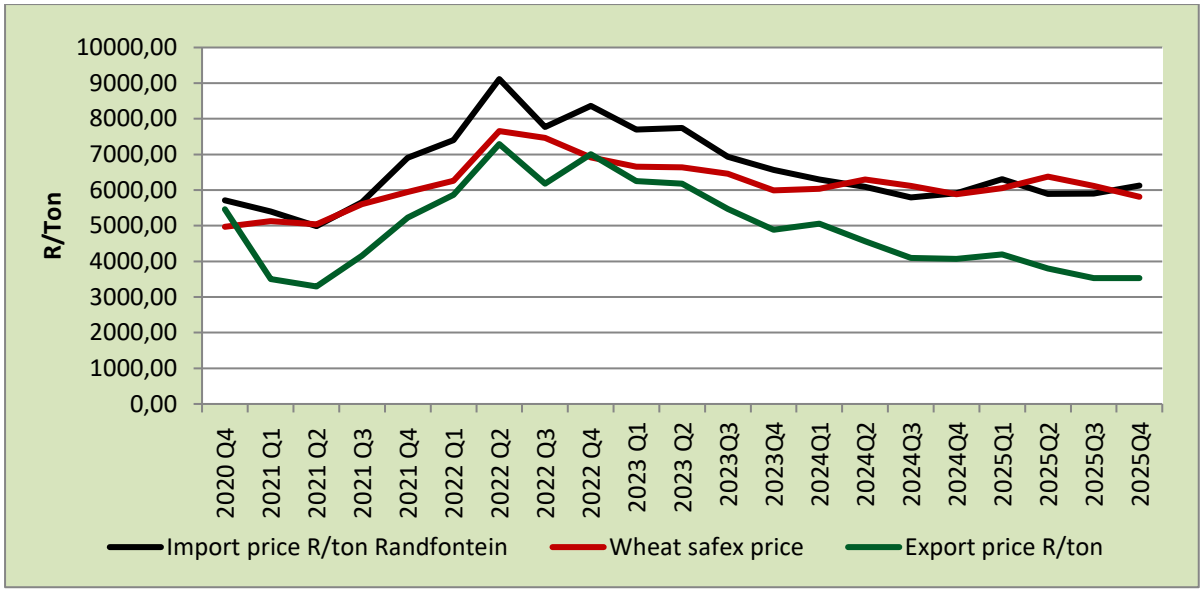


**Figure 19:** Wheat safex price, export parity price and Import parity price
Source: Sagis/Safex

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 Q4 2020 to Q4 2025. In the fourth quarter of 2025, the domestic wheat price decreased by 4.9% compared to the previous quarter, dropping from R6 117.63 per ton to an average of R5 816.44 per ton. During the same period, the prices of selected wheat by-products showed mixed trends relative to Q3 2025. The prices of white bread (700 g), brown bread (700 g), and bread flour (2.5 kg) increased by 1.31%, 0.69%, and 1.06% respectively. In contrast, the price of cake flour (2.5 kg) went down by 0.56% respectively.

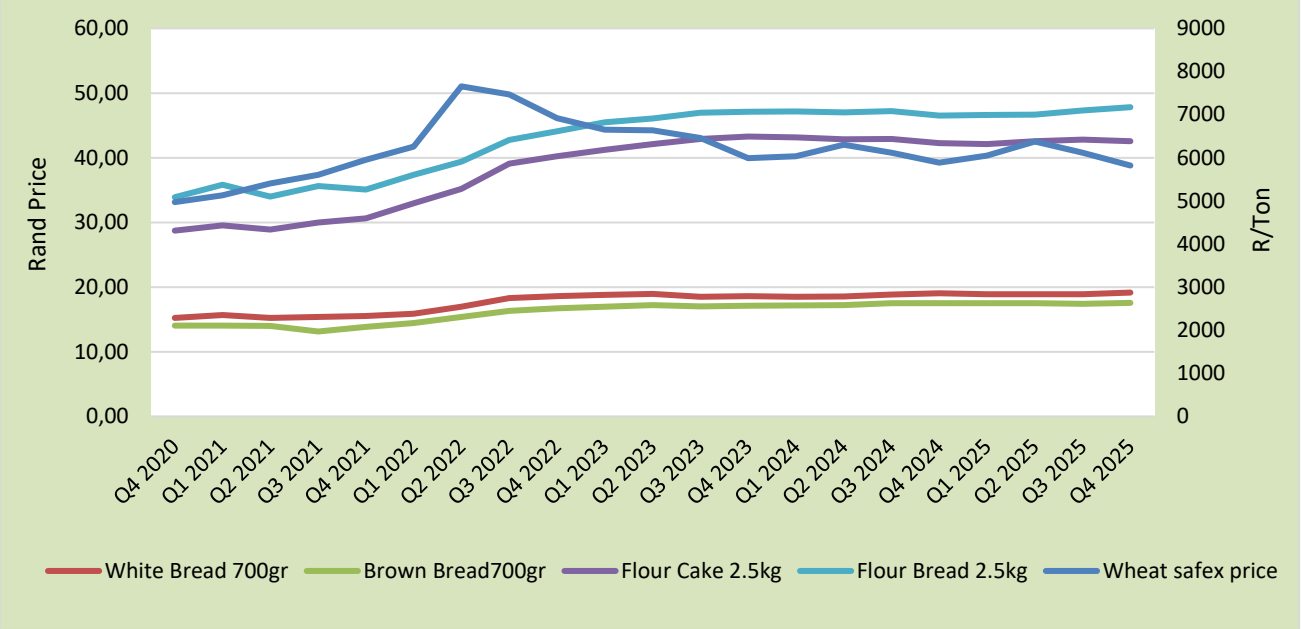


**Figure 20:** Retail bread price vs wheat import price
Source: Stats SA & Safex

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 for wheat in South Africa from 2021: Q4 to 2025: Q4. In the fourth quarter of 2025, domestic wheat deliveries increased significantly, from an average of 8 037 tons in Q3 2025 to 529 623 tons in Q4 2025. In contrast, local demand for wheat fell by 3.5%, decreasing to 298 594 tons in Q4 2025 from 309 289 tons in Q3 2025. Wheat imports went down by 27% in 2025: Q4 when compared to the previous quarter, 2025: Q3. Exports in 2025: Q4 experienced a significant decline, dropping by 73.7% compared to Q3 2025. Therefore, it is important to keep the marketing season fundamental aspects in place at all times to ensure long-term sustainability of wheat.

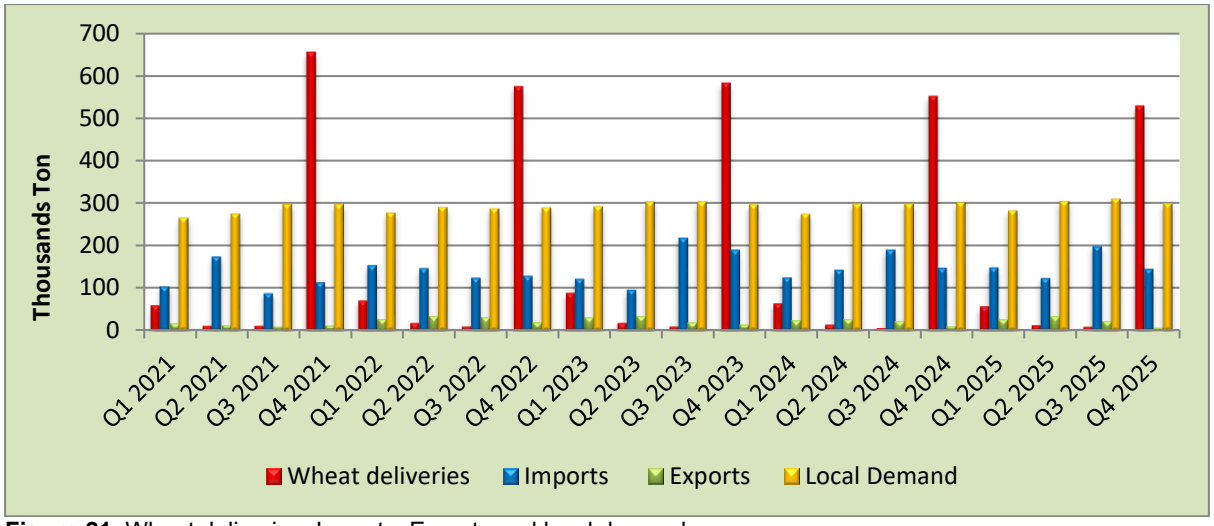


**Figure 21**: Wheat deliveries, Imports, Exports and local demand
Source: Stats SA & Safex

### 3.1.3 Soya beans

During the fourth quarter production, a total of 1.2 million hectares have been planted which is 5.3% higher than the hectares planted in 2025, but the outlook points to production being lower by 4% below last year's production figure and imports are also projected to be 10.6% lower. Total soybeans demand is expected to be 6.3% lower than it was last year, while local consumption is expected to increase by 10.2%, exports are expected to be 21.7% lower than last year.

**Table 3:** Soybeans Production and Demand outlook

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2 024 | 2 025 | *2026 Forecast* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beginning Stock | 84792 | 330535 | 502241 | 138455 | 46053 | 168 387 | 171 897 | 320 637 | 140 704 | 337 176 |
| Production | 1316000 | 1540000 | 1170345 | 1 245 500 | | 2 230 000 | 2 770 000 | 1 848 000 | 2 771 225 | 2 661 425 |
| Imports | 28000 | 6000 | 9500 | 116 103 | 13 448 | 5 000 | 3 480 | 154 288 | 12 300 | 11 000 |
| Total Supply | 1428792 | 1876535 | 1682086 | 1500058 | 59501 | 2 403 387 | 2 945 377 | 2 322 925 | 2 924 229 | 3 009 601 |
| Local Consumption | 1063783 | 1349294 | 1539631 | 1452945 | 1744496 | 1951490 | 2244740 | 1862221 | 2182700 | 2 404 300 |
| Exports | 414 | 25000 | 4000 | 1 060 | 42 295 | 280 000 | 380 000 | 320 000 | 300 000 | 235 000 |
| Total Demand | 1098257 | 1374294 | 1543631 | 1 454 005 | -108 886 | 2 231 490 | 2 624 740 | 2 182 221 | 2587053 | 2639300 |
| Closing Stocks | 330535 | 502241 | 138455 | 46 053 | 168 387 | 171 897 | 320 637 | 140 704 | 337 176 | 370 301 |

Source:DOA,NAMC,Sagis

The average price of soybeans was 18.8% lower on a year-on-year basis during the 4th quarter of 2025, while on a quarter-on-quarter basis the average price was 2.9% lower. High ending stocks and good rainfalls locally created a certainty in local markets. The soybeans price traded at 1.6% above the export parity price.

The international market soybeans prices rose during the 4th quarter as a result of larger exports from Argentina and Brazil ,with higher demand forecasted for China.

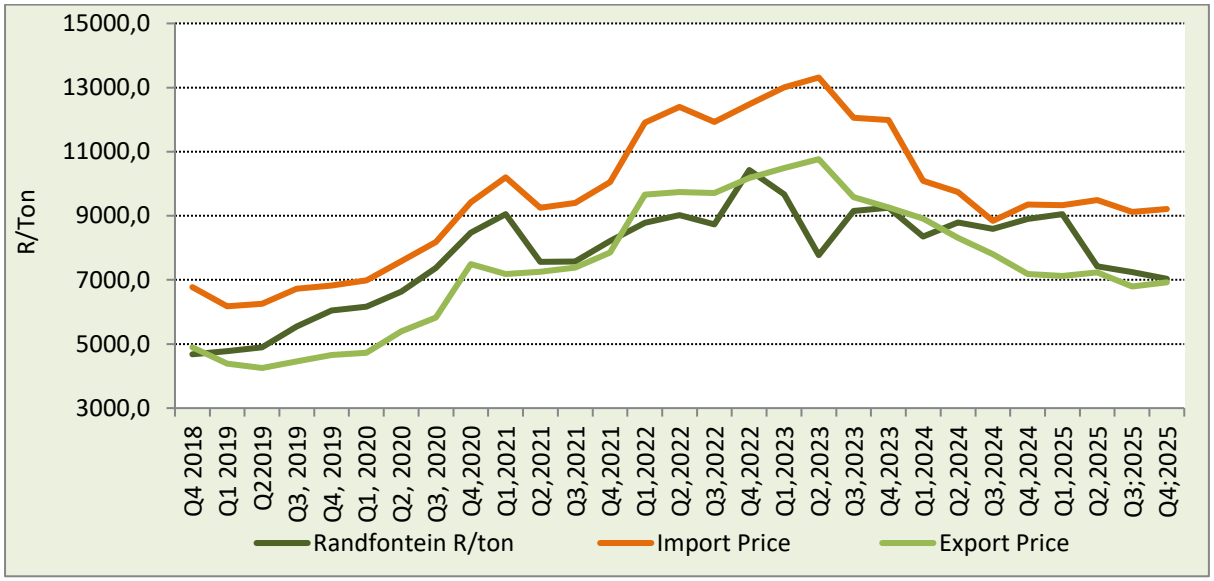


**Figure 22** Soya beans local price vs import price
Source: Safex/Sagis/USDA/World Bank

### 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 September estimate. Figure 23 shows producer deliveries, imports, local demand and exports of sunflower from Q4: 2022 to Q4: 2025.

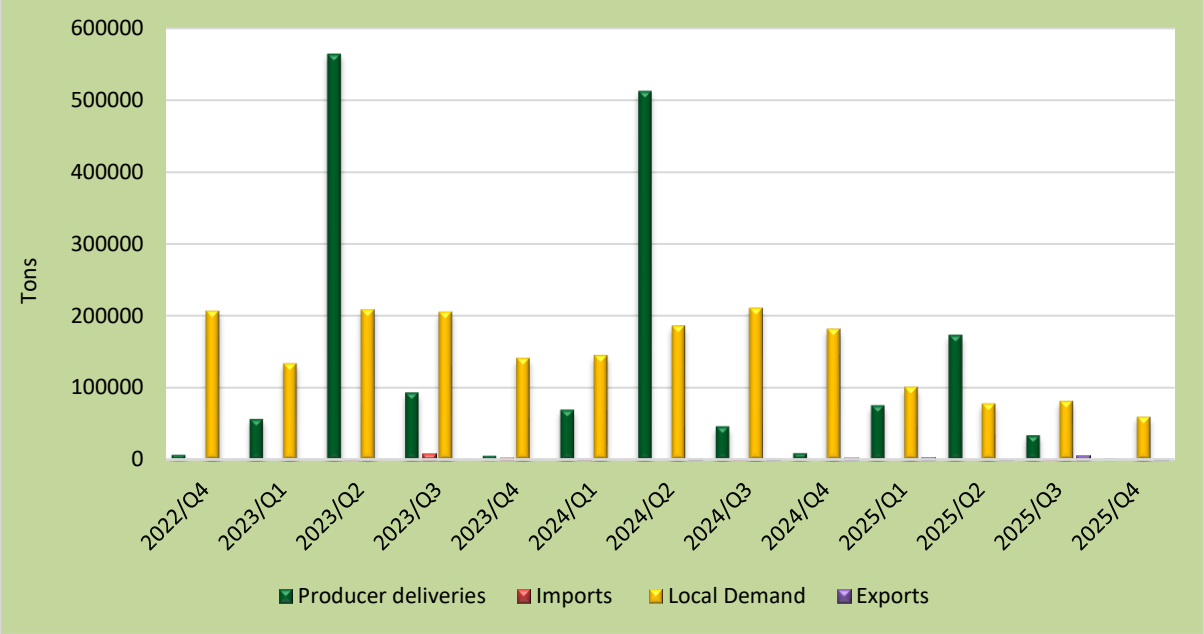


**Figure 23:** Sunflower seed deliveries; local demand and trade
Source: Sagis

Producer deliveries of sunflower seed declined by 91% in Q4: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, averaging 778 tons, down from 8 343 tons, as illustrated in figure 23. At the same time, sunflower seed imports declined by 62% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q4: 2024, dropping from 204 tons to 78 tons. local demand for sunflower seed decreased by 67% in Q4: 2025, averaging 59 486 tons, compared to 181 525 tons in Q4: 2024. Sunflower seed exports experienced a decline in Q4 2025 compared to Q4 2024, falling from 2 369 tons to 1274 tons.

During the fourth quarter of 2025, South Africa's sunflower seed prices traded below the import parity price; the import parity price is at R12 179/ton compared to R10 302 /ton in the fourth quarter of 2025, which is a drop of 18.2% compared to the fourth quarter of 2024(Q4). The price of sunflower seed decreased by 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 2025 (Q4 2025) compared to the same period in 2024 (Q4 2024). Additionally, when compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2025), the price of sunflower seed went up by 2%.

During the same period, the average market price for 750ml of sunflower oil increased by 4.8% year-on-year, rising from R35.21 in Q4: 2024 to R36.91 in Q4: 2025. Quarter-on-quarter, the price of 750ml sunflower oil increased by 1%, increasing from an average of R36,68 in Q3: 2025 to R36.91 in Q4: 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.

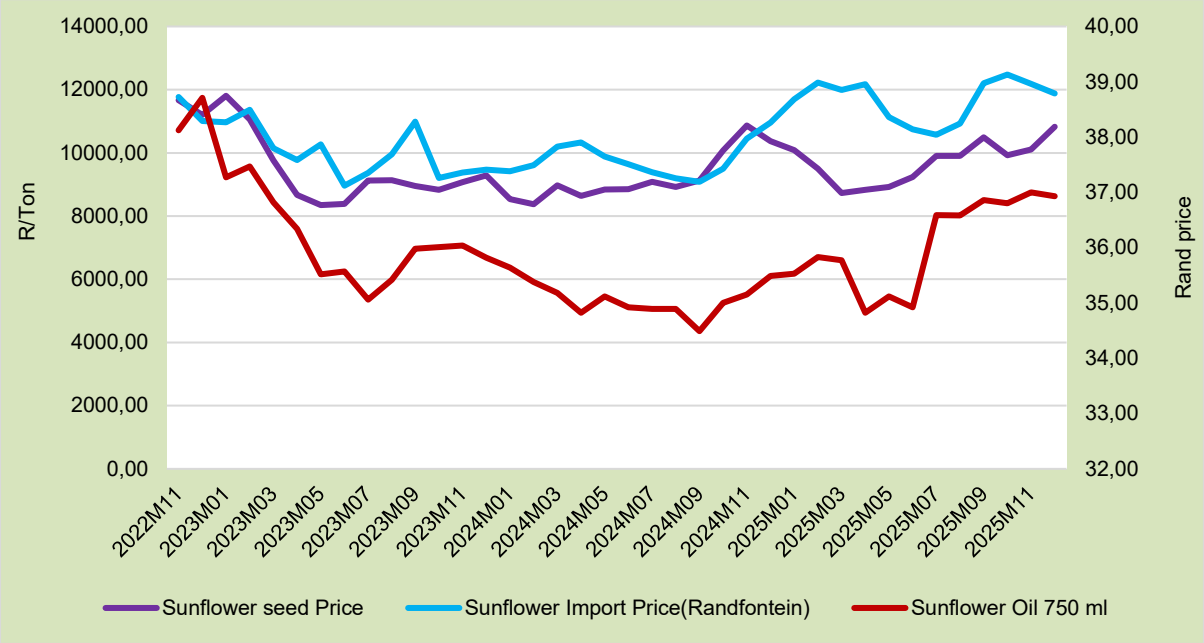


**Figure 24:** Sunflower local seed; import price (Randfontein) and Sunflower retail price
Source: Safex; USDA; Sagis; and Own calculations

### 3.1.5 Sorghum

The production forecast for sorghum, points to sorghum production being 10% lower than it was in 2025. The season planting during the 4th quarter began with high ending stocks since 2023. Zero imports are expected in 2026, while exports are forecasted to be 28% lower and total demand is expected to decrease by 1.2%.

**Table 4:** Sorghum Production and Demand outlook

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Opening stock | 35238 | 59246 | 51860 | 60 423 | 51 795 | 106 157 | 46 956 | 54 775 | 86 397 | 86 473 |
| Production | 152000 | 115000 | 127000 | 158000 | 215 000 | 103 140 | 94 360 | 98 000 | 146 605 | 131 888 |
| Imports | 55824 | 32500 | 59253 | 6546 | 4 147 | 700 | 85 300 | 50 500 | 5 000 | 0 |
| Total Supply | 244073 | 206746 | 238113 | 224969 | 270 942 | 209 997 | 226 616 | 203 275 | 238 002 | 218 361 |
| Local demand | 171027 | 142541 | 170390 | 167524 | 155727 | 153641 | 160841 | 95478 | 141 529 | 142 540 |
| Exports | 13800 | 12345 | 7300 | 5650 | 9 058 | 9 400 | 11 000 | 21 400 | 10 000 | 7 200 |
| Total Demand | 184827 | 154886 | 177690 | 173174 | 164785 | 163 041 | 171841 | 116 878 | 151529 | 149740 |
| Ending Stock | 59246 | 51860 | 60423 | 51795 | 106 157 | 46 956 | 54 775 | 86 397 | 86 473 | 68 621 |

Source:DOA,NAMC,Sagis

The price of sorghum decreased by 8.5% on year-on-year basis, while on a quarter-on-quarter basis, the price increased by 4.2% due to inter-alia weak local demand and ample substitute crops availability. World sorghum price was lower as Sorghum trade by USA to China fell by 90% down following the USA-China trade disputes.

World Sorghum prices started rising late during the 4th quarter of 2025 as USA farmers & markets received optimism from projected demand in the ethanol plants, as support is expected to come from the USA Section 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit rewards.

Section 45Z Clean Fuel Production is a U.S. federal income tax incentive from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for domestic producers of low-carbon transportation fuels (including SAF and RNG) sold between 2025 and 2027. Sorghum is back in ethanol plants demand and huge crops are expected to be bought as it is suggested that the U.S. will need more gallons. There are proposed blending targets for 2026 and 2027 which shows the seriousness which has created optimism in markets. Ethanol plants in USA Kansas, Texas and even a couple in places in the USA are leaning on sorghum again other places are grinding it exclusively.

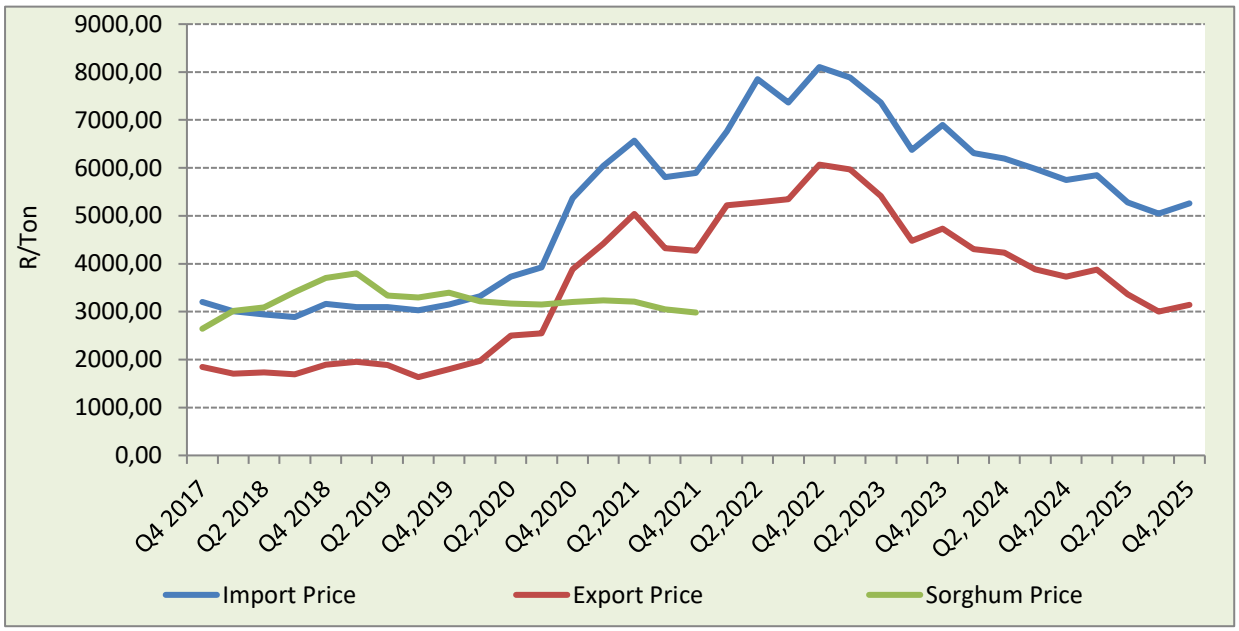


**Figure 25:** Sorghum Parity Price
Source: Safex, Sagis

### 3.1.6 Groundnuts

The weather outlook for South Africa during Q4:2025 was characterized by the transition into the summer rainy season, with a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall in the north-eastern parts and warmer-than-normal temperatures nationwide. 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 October 2025 forecast, which projects groundnut production for the 2025 season at 61 389 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 October 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 Q4: 2023 to Q4: 2025.

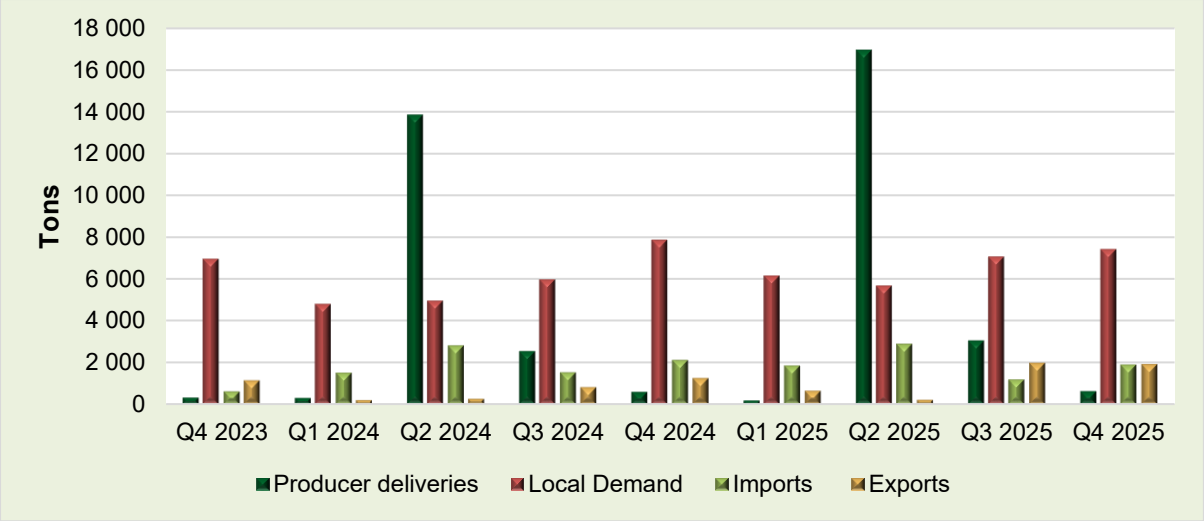


**Figure 26:** Producer deliveries, local demand, export and imports of groundnuts
Source: Sagis

Producer deliveries of groundnuts experienced an increase of 7% in Q4: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, averaging 638 tons, up from 596 tons, as illustrated in figure 26. In contrast, local demand for groundnuts decreased by 5.7% in Q4: 2025, averaging 7 399 tons, compared to 7 842 tons in Q4: 2024. While previous challenges, such as weak domestic demand and the drought 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 53% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q4: 2024, increasing to 1 899 tons from 1 240 tons. The growing demand for South African groundnuts has positively influenced the export market. During this period, Zimbabwe emerged as the leading market, representing a massive 42% of the total export value of South African groundnuts. Mozambique followed as the second-largest market, contributing 22% to the export value during this period. Belgium, Japan and the Netherlands ranked as the third, fourth, and fifth largest markets for South African groundnuts, accounting for 15%, 10%, and 7% of the export value, respectively, in Q4: 2025.

Moreover, South Africa experienced a decline in groundnut imports in Q4: 2025, which went down by 11% compared to the same period in 2024, reaching an average of 1 882 tons, a drop from 2 109 tons. Various elements influencing pricing may have contributed to a decline in groundnut imports in South Africa during Q4: 2025.

During this period, Brazil emerged as the primary importer, accounting for 75% of the total import value. India ranked as the second-largest supplier with a 16% share, while Malawi and China contributed 5% and 3%, respectively, to South Africa's overall groundnuts import value.

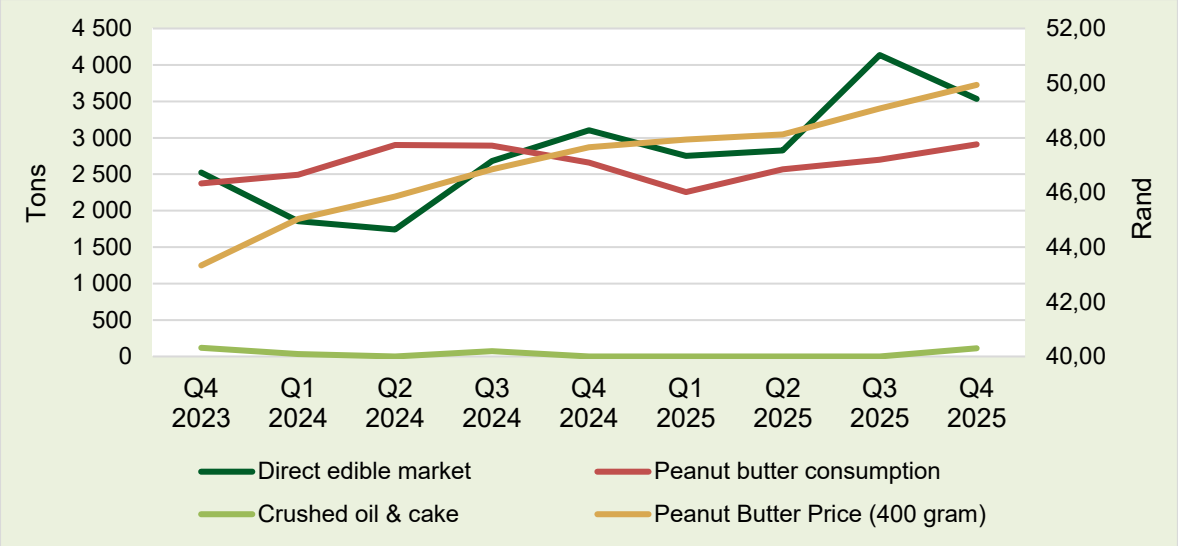


**Figure 27**: Prices of groundnuts products

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 Q4: 2025, the consumption of edible groundnuts surged by 14% compared to the same period in 2024, reaching an average of 3 533 tons, up from 3 104 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 increase of 9% in Q4: 2025 relative to Q4: 2024, averaging 2 910 tons, an increase from 2 658 tons. In Q4: 2025, there were 112 tons of crushed oil and cake, while no tons were recorded in Q4 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 Q4: 2025 compared to Q4: 2024, reaching an average market price of R49.94 per 400 grams, up from an average market price of R47.65 per 400 grams. Alfonso Visser, the President of SA Peanuts, noted that 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) Q4: 2023 to Q4: 2025.

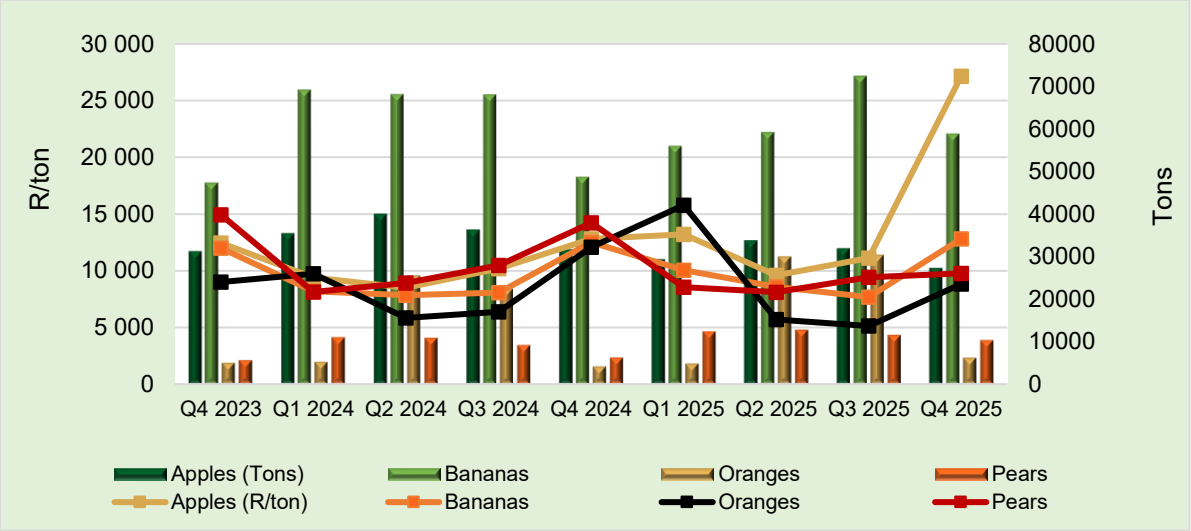


**Figure 28:** Average price and quantities of various fruits traded at fresh produce markets (FPMs)
Source: DOA

The average price of apples increased significantly by 112% in Q4 2025 compared to Q4 2024, but the quantities supplied decreased by 8.2% year-over-year. Early Gala strains of apples have begun to be harvested in the Free State, while Cripps Red apples from Controlled Atmosphere storage rooms continue to supply the market and therefore, prices are expected to decrease in the coming months once the fresh fruit is introduced to the market.

During the same period, the average price of bananas rose by 2.5% in comparison to Q4: 2024, whereas the quantities supplied increased by 9.8% in Q4: 2025 relative to Q4: 2024. The market is not oversaturated with bananas, and it is projected that South African banana production would be around 394.92 thousand metric tons in 2025, indicationg a slight decrease from the previous year.

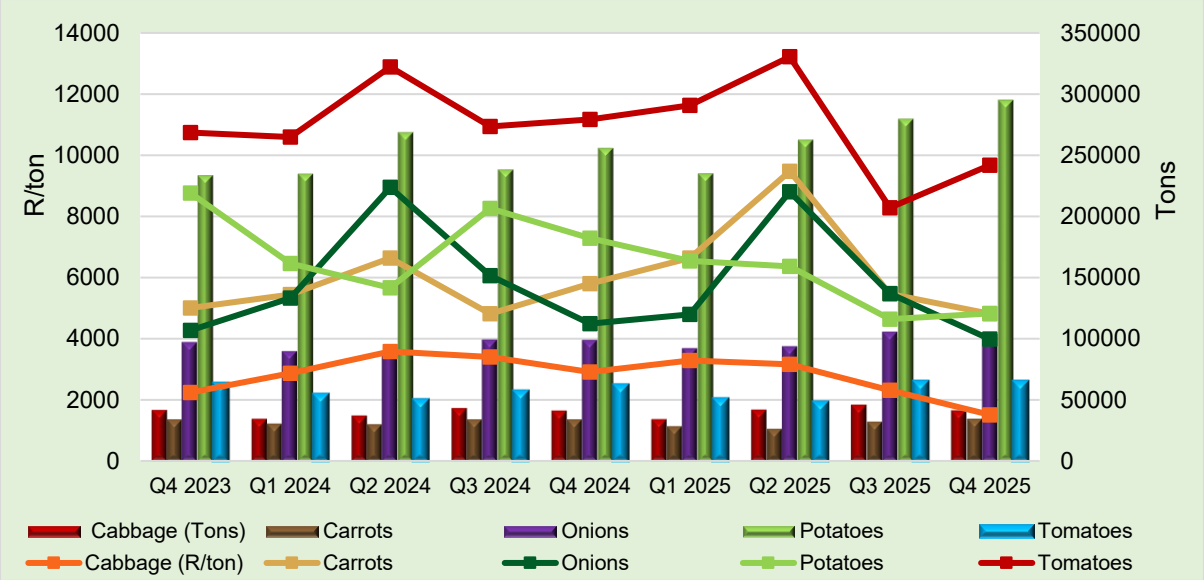


**Figure 29**: Average price and quantities of various vegetables traded at Fresh Produce Markets (FPMs)
Source: DOA

The pricing of vegetables at the Fresh Produce Markets is mainly determined by the dynamics of supply and demand. In Q4: 2025, significant variations were noted in the average prices and quantities supplied for cabbage, carrots, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes when compared to Q4: 2024.

In Q4: 2025, the average price of cabbage saw a significant decline of 48.1% when compared to the same quarter in 2024, while the quantities supplied also decreased by 12.5% 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 fell by 16.9% in Q4: 2025 relative to Q4: 2024, while quantities supplied increased by 1%. In 2025, carrot production in South Africa underwent considerable fluctuations, marked by early-year supply shortages that were subsequently followed by price declines resulting from oversupply later in the year.

Similarly, the average price of onions saw a decrease of 11.1% in Q4: 2025 compared to the corresponding period in 2024, whereas the year-over-year quantities supplied increased by 4.8%. Beneficial weather conditions, such as La Niña, supported onion

production in the northern regions when compared to previous seasons. Nevertheless, water-related limitations persisted, impacting production in regions like the Sandveld.

In the meantime, the average price of potatoes decreased by 33.8% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q4: 2024, but the amount supplied increased by 15.4% 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 13.3% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q4: 2024, while the year-on-year supply volumes increased by 4.8%. In Q4: 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 Q4: 2025, the average price of cabbages fell significantly by 34.6% compared to Q3, while the quantities supplied decreased by 12.5% 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 12.3% in Q4: 2025 relative to Q3, while quantities supplied increased by 5.1% quarter-on-quarter. Carrot production in South Africa is influenced by factors such as variations in harvesting cycles and climate changes, which operate independently of broader macroeconomic trends (Absa, 2025).

Meanwhile, during the same period, the average price of onions fell by 27% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q3, while the quantities supplied fell by 6.0% quarter-on-quarter. The majority of the onion market in South Africa is currently supplied by the Northern Cape, the Free State, and Ceres. Meanwhile, as the Cape's onion season comes to an end, prices are anticipated to rise in the upcoming months.

Conversely, the average price of potatoes increased by 12.4% in Q4: 2025 relative to Q3, while the quantities supplied saw a decrease of 4.5% from the preceding quarter.

Fluctuations in consumer demand are pivotal in driving price changes in the fresh produce market. Furthermore, Potatoes SA reports that during the first 43 weeks of this year, wholesale market sales of potatoes cultivated in Limpopo (10 kg bags) increased by 31% over the previous year, with 3.2 million more 10 kg bags sold than the region's five-year average.

Meanwhile, the average price of tomatoes increased by 21.5% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q3 while quantities supplied decreased by 8.7% quarter-on-quarter. South Africa’s tomato market has experienced fluctuations, as excessive rainfall has affected both quality and shelf life.

### 3.3 Meat industry review

As illustrated graphically in figure 30, total beef slaughtering decreased by 24.5% in fourth quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter of 2024. The price of beef per kg increased by 28.9% in the fourth quarter of 2025 when compared to the same period in 2024. Beef prices in Q4 2025 in South Africa are experiencing significant upward pressure, with meat inflation reaching a seven-year high of 12.2% in November 2025 due to tight supply and high demand. A2/A3 carcass prices are expected to remain elevated near R70–R75/kg, driven by foot-and-mouth disease-related supply constraints and holiday demand.

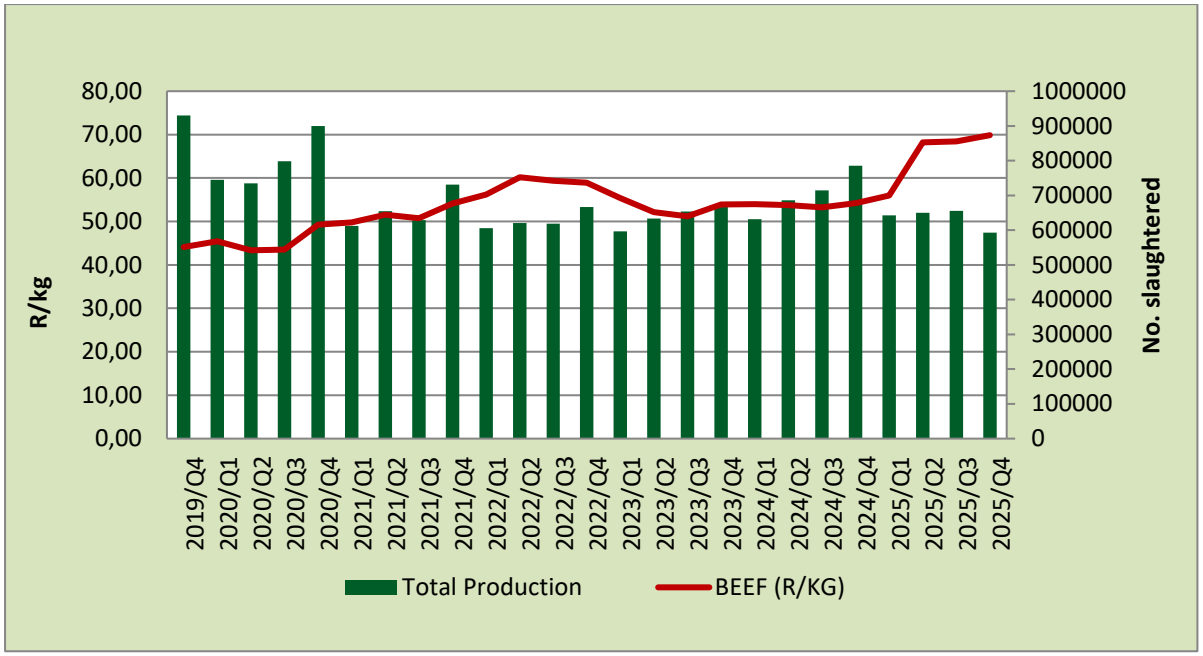


**Figure 30:** Beef production
Source, DOA

As illustrated graphically in figure 31, the trade balance for meat of bovine animal (fresh of chilled) increased by 32.52% in fourth quarter of 2025 compared to the previous quarter of 2025. The quantities of meat of bovine animal (fresh of chilled) exports and imports increased by 32.54% and 71.43% respectively, in the fourth quarter of 2025 when compared to the previous quarter in 2025.

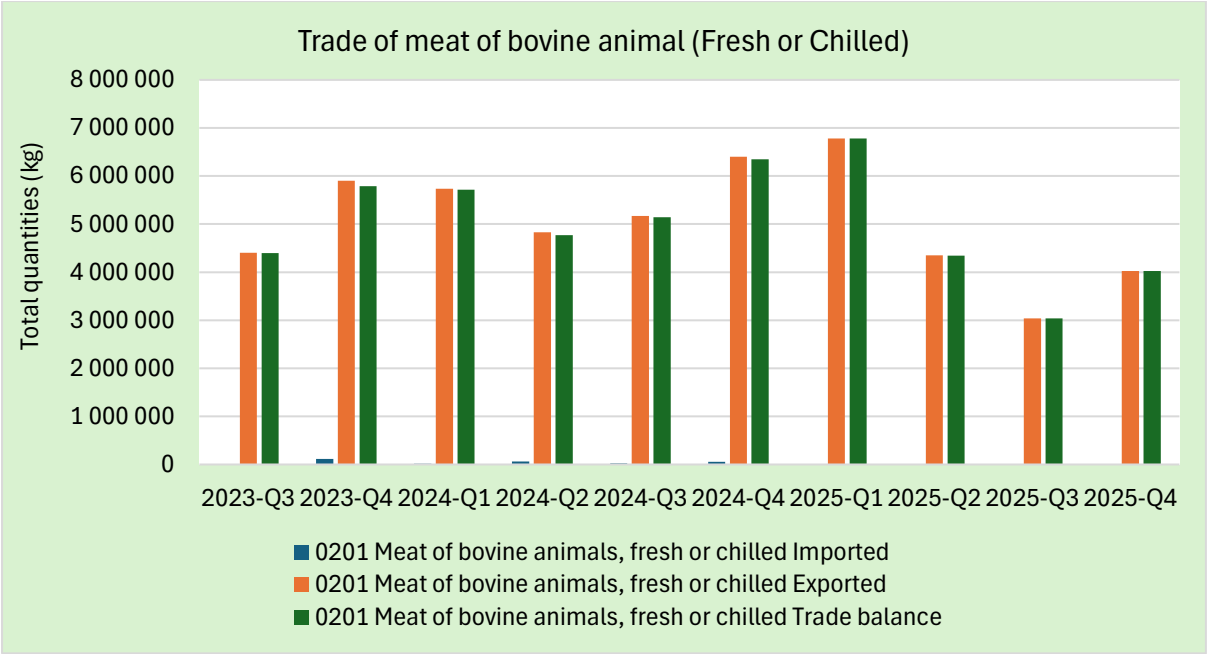


**Figure 31:** Trade of meat bovine animal (Fresh or Chilled)
Source: ITC Trade Map

As illustrated graphically in figure 32, the trade balance for meat of bovine animal (frozen) increased by 69.45% in fourth quarter of 2025 compared to the previous

quarter of 2025. The quantities of meat of bovine animal (frozen) exports increased by 18.53%, while import decreased by 26.59% in the fourth quarter of 2025 when compared to the previous quarter in 2025.

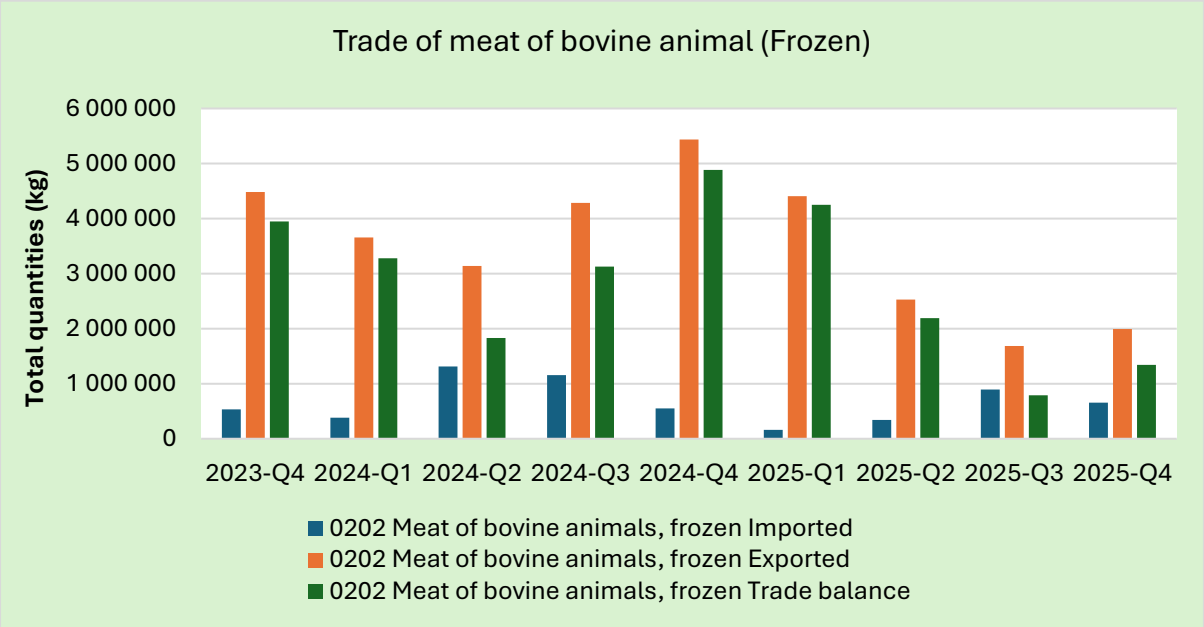


**Figure 32:** Trade of meat bovine animal (Frozen)
Source: ITC Trade Map

### 3.4 Poultry industry review

South Africa's poultry sector recorded modest growth in output during the fourth quarter of 2025, with production increasing by 1.4% year on year and rising more strongly by 5.4% quarter on quarter. Producer prices for poultry rose by 1.6% year on year and edged up by 0.6% quarter on quarter, providing limited but positive support to producer revenues. At the same time, the price of yellow maize, a key feed input, declined sharply by 27.3% year on year and fell by 8.9% quarter on quarter, significantly easing feed cost pressures for poultry producers.The sector's performance in Q4 2025 was largely supported by the substantial decline in yellow maize prices, which reduced feed costs and improved production margins. Lower input costs likely encouraged producers to increase output during the quarter. However, moderate producer price growth suggests that market conditions remained competitive, with demand side pressures continuing to constrain stronger price increases. Overall, the reduction in feed costs provided some relief to the industry and contributed to the observed recovery in poultry production during the quarter.

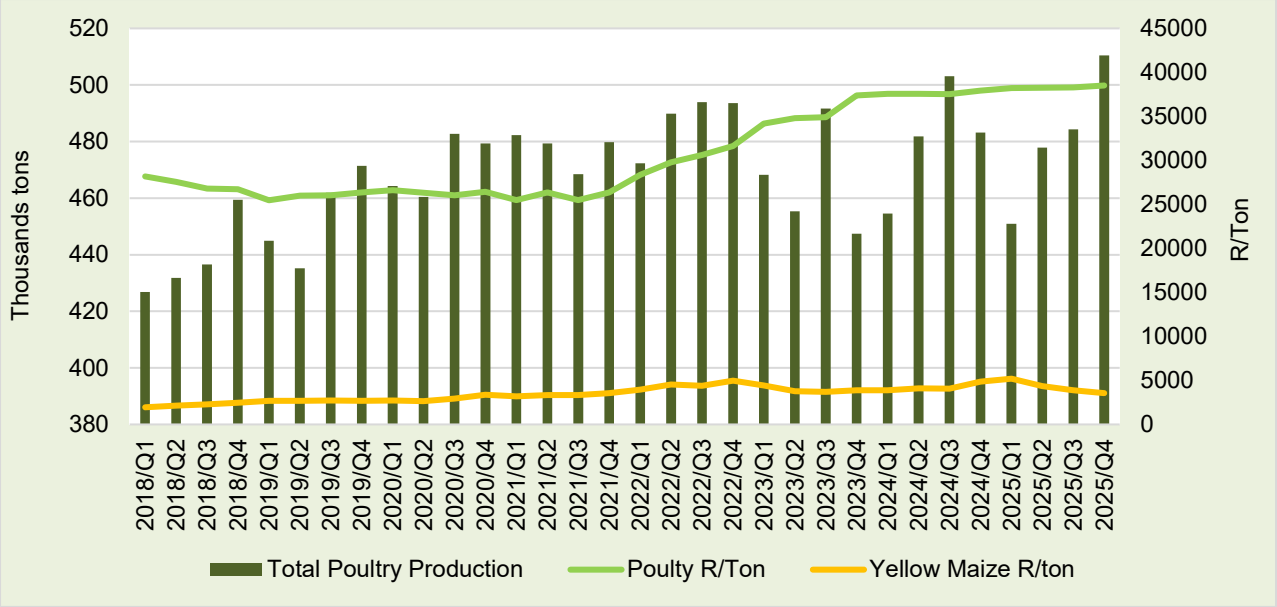


**Figure 33:** Poultry production and prices
Source: DOA

In the fourth quarter of 2025, poultry prices showed mixed movements across product categories, reflecting shifts in consumer demand and affordability considerations across fresh and frozen poultry products. Fresh whole chicken prices declined by 2.0% year on year but increased marginally by 0.4% quarter on quarter, suggesting modest short-term demand despite ongoing affordability pressures. Fresh chicken portions recorded stronger growth, increasing by 4.6% year on year and 1.7% quarter on quarter. Individually quick frozen (IQF) chicken portions showed the strongest price increase, rising by 6.2% year on year and 2.7% quarter on quarter, indicating sustained consumer demand and relatively firmer market conditions in this segment. Frozen chicken portions (non-IQF) also experienced moderate growth, increasing by 5.5% year on year and 1.9% quarter on quarter. Meanwhile, chicken giblets (including necks, gizzards, and hearts) increased by 4.2% year on year and remained unchanged quarter on quarter. Overall, the pricing trends suggest that affordability considerations continued to shape purchasing patterns, with relatively stronger demand observed in frozen and value-oriented poultry products.

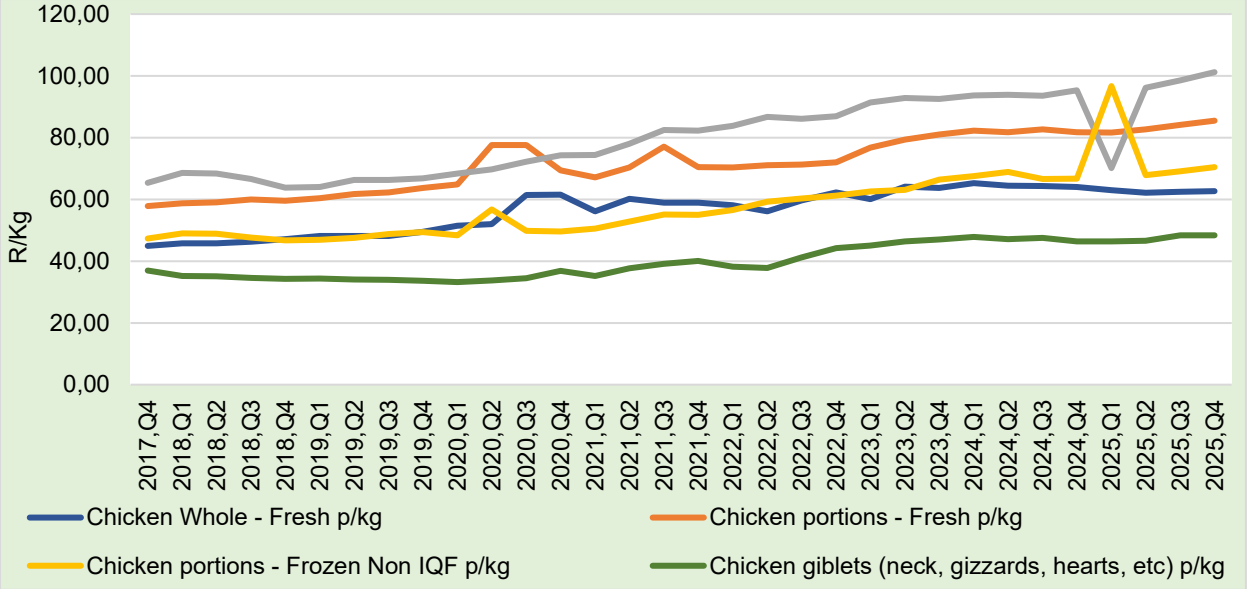


**Figure 34:** Poultry & Feed Price Indices
Source: Statistics SA.

Poultry trade activity in the fourth quarter of 2025 showed notable shifts in both import and export performance, reflecting changes in market demand and trade dynamics. Import values increased significantly by 57.2% year on year and surged by 117% quarter on quarter, indicating a substantial rise in the value of poultry imports during the period. In contrast, export values declined by 16.7% year on year but recorded a moderate recovery of 13% quarter on quarter, suggesting some short-term improvement in external demand despite weaker annual performance. In terms of volumes, import quantities declined sharply by 35.3% year on year but increased slightly by 4.3% quarter on quarter, pointing to a modest recovery in import volumes following earlier declines. Meanwhile, export quantities rose strongly by 53.1% year on year and increased significantly by 124.0% quarter on quarter, indicating a notable expansion in export shipments during the quarter. South Africa's poultry import market in the fourth quarter of 2025 remained highly concentrated among a few key suppliers. Brazil dominated imports, accounting for approximately 84.4% of the total import value, followed by the United States of America at about 7.8%, while Belgium contributed around 2.2%. Smaller shares were recorded for Thailand (1.7%) and Ireland (1.5%), with other suppliers such as Eswatini and the Netherlands accounting for less than 1% each. This distribution highlights South Africa's continued reliance on Brazil as the primary supplier of imported poultry products.

On the export side, South African poultry products continued to be largely absorbed within the Southern African region. Lesotho accounted for the largest share at approximately

59.6% of total export value, followed by Mozambique at 12.5%, Namibia at 6.1%, and Botswana at 5.8%, with Eswatini contributing about 5.7%. Beyond the region, the United Arab Emirates accounted for around 3.7%, while Ethiopia represented about 1.9% of exports. These figures indicate that although some diversification into Middle Eastern and East African markets is emerging, regional markets remain the dominant destination for South African poultry exports. In terms of product composition, poultry imports in Q4 2025 were largely dominated by frozen cuts and edible offal of fowls (Gallus domesticus), accounting for approximately 52.7% of total imports, followed by frozen fowls of the species Gallus domesticus, not cut in pieces, at about 43.2%. Frozen turkey cuts and edible offal represented around 3.3%, while other products such as frozen turkeys not cut into pieces and frozen duck products accounted for only a small share of total imports. Overall, the composition indicates that South Africa's poultry imports remain concentrated in a few key frozen product categories.

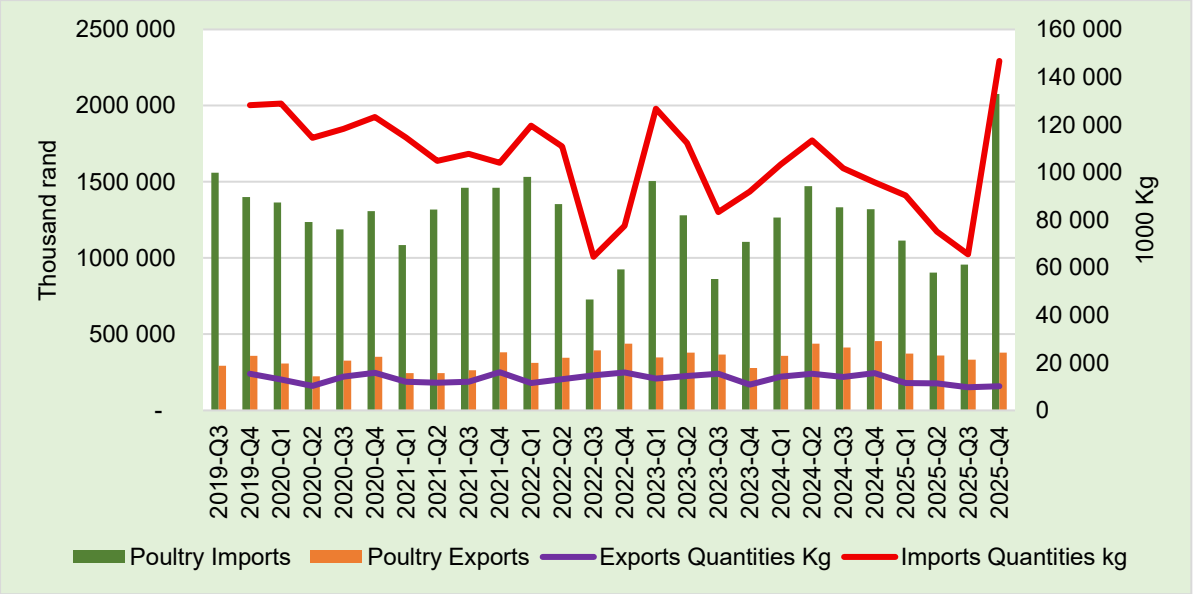


**Figure 35:** Poultry Trade data (indicate the tariff code used)
Source: Trade Map

### 3.5 Milk industry overview

Total milk production experienced a slight increase of 0.1% in Q4: 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024, increasing from 1 109 630 litres to 1 111 032 litres. Productivity serves as the main driver behind the increase in milk production worldwide. According to BFAP (2025), anticipated increases in yields per animal are expected to drive production growth in multiple regions, bolstered by improved

production systems, advancements in genetics, better animal health, and improved feed efficiencies.

According to a quarterly review, total milk production increased by 10% in Q4 of 2025 from 1 008 158 litres recorded in Q3. This quarterly increase in milk production can be attributed to better economic conditions and favourable climate conditions. Furthermore, it is critical to recognise that the industry operates in a highly uncertain environment with respect to consumer spending power, infrastructure, and service delivery, all of which are influenced by the macroeconomic landscape (BFAP, 2024).

In Q4 2025, the average producer price for a litre of milk fell from R7.19 to R6.92 per litre, signifying a 3.7% reduction in comparison to the same quarter in 2024. Meanwhile, a quarterly review of the average producer price per litre of milk reveals that, in Q4 2025, there was a 2% drop in the average producer price of milk relative to Q3, when the average price was R7,10 per litre. These variations observed in the annual and quarterly producer prices indicate that global market trends, the dynamics of supply and demand at different stages of the local value chain, along with cost pressures and challenges related to electricity supply that influence cold chain operations, all contribute to the pricing decisions within the dairy industry (BFAP, 2024).

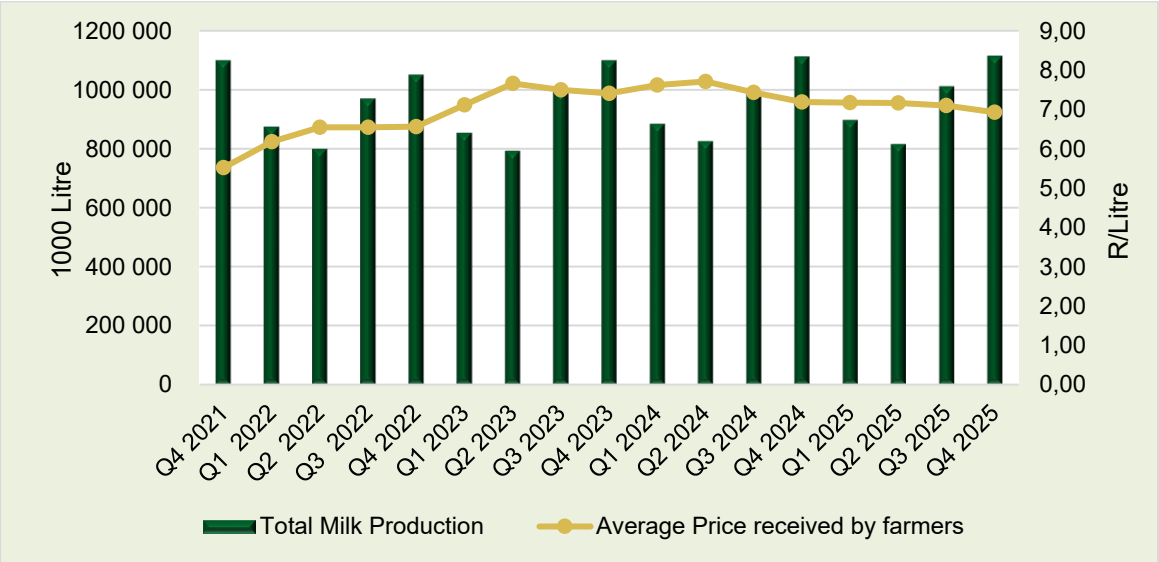


**Figure 36:** Trends in total production and average price of milk
Source: DOA

The trade balance for milk and cream (not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter) reached R 438.8 million in Q4: 2025, representing a 5.9%

rise from R 414.4 million recorded in Q4: 2024. This change was primarily driven by a 5.8% increase in the export value. The increase in the export value could be associated with improved yields per animal, optimised production systems within a lower cost input environment and improvements in the consumer market. During the period, the export value rose from R 419 million in Q4: 2024 to R 443.3 million in Q4: 2025. A significant portion of these exports were directed towards the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, with Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Eswatini and Namibia emerging as the top five destinations for South Africa's milk and cream (not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter) exports in Q4: 2025.

During the same period, the import value for milk and cream (not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter) fell from R 4.5 million in Q4: 2024 to R 4.4 million in Q4: 2025. Although imports represent a relatively small share of the domestic market, the reduction in milk imports may be linked to economic and environmental factors faced by South Africa, which are expected to persist and affect milk imports in the years ahead.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, South Africa experienced a 29.3% increase in the trade balance for milk and cream (not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter) in Q4: 2025 compared to Q3. During the period, the export value for milk and cream (not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter) increased by 29.5% in Q4: 2025 relative to Q3. The global demand for milk and dairy products remains robust, due to the nutritional advantages they offer to consumers. Dairy products are primarily enjoyed fresh, yet consumption habits differ significantly, influenced by income growth and regional tastes (BFAP, 2025). Meanwhile, during the same period, the import value for increased by 59.6%. The threat of animal disease outbreaks, including Foot and Mouth disease, posed a risk to production.

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).

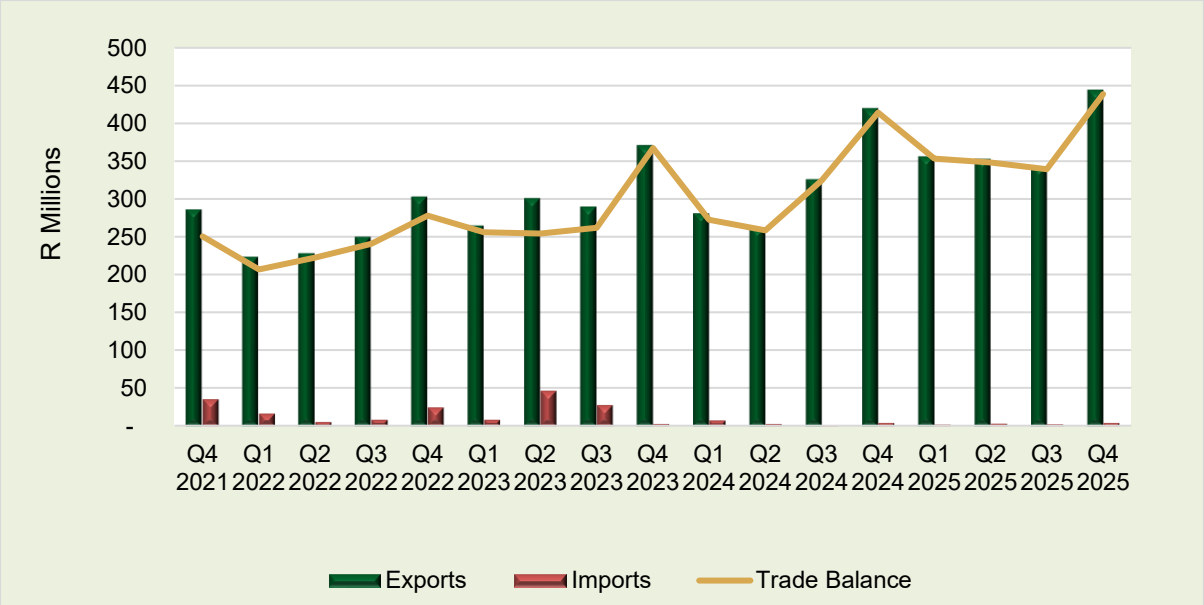


**Figure 37:** Trends in imports and exports of milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sweetening
Source: ITC, Trade map, 2025

### 3.6 Egg industry review

Figure 38 below, Egg production in South Africa expanded notably in the fourth quarter of 2025, increasing by 31.4% year on year and 17.9% quarter on quarter, reflecting continued recovery and expansion in flock numbers. In contrast, egg prices declined by 12.3% year on year but recorded a modest increase of 4.4% quarter on quarter. The

strong growth in production suggests that improved flock recovery and higher output continued to support supply in the market. However, the year-on-year decline in prices indicates that increased supply still exerted downward pressure on the market, even though the slight quarterly price increase may reflect some improvement in demand conditions or market adjustments toward the end of the year. Overall, the trends in Q4 point to a well-supplied egg market where production growth remained strong, while prices showed early signs of stabilisation following earlier declines.

Egg trade in South Africa showed mixed developments in the fourth quarter of 2025, reflecting changing domestic supply conditions and regional market demand. Egg exports increased significantly by 75% year on year and rose slightly by 3.5% quarter on quarter, indicating stronger external demand for South African eggs and improved access to regional markets over the year. The continued growth in exports suggests that higher domestic production levels may have created additional supply available for export.

In contrast, egg imports declined sharply by 42% year on year, reflecting reduced reliance on imported eggs as local production improved. However, imports increased by 25.1% quarter on quarter, which may indicate short-term adjustments in supply or temporary demand pressures in the domestic market. Overall, these trends suggest that South Africa’s egg sector remained relatively well supplied, with increased domestic output supporting export growth while reducing the need for imports on an annual basis.

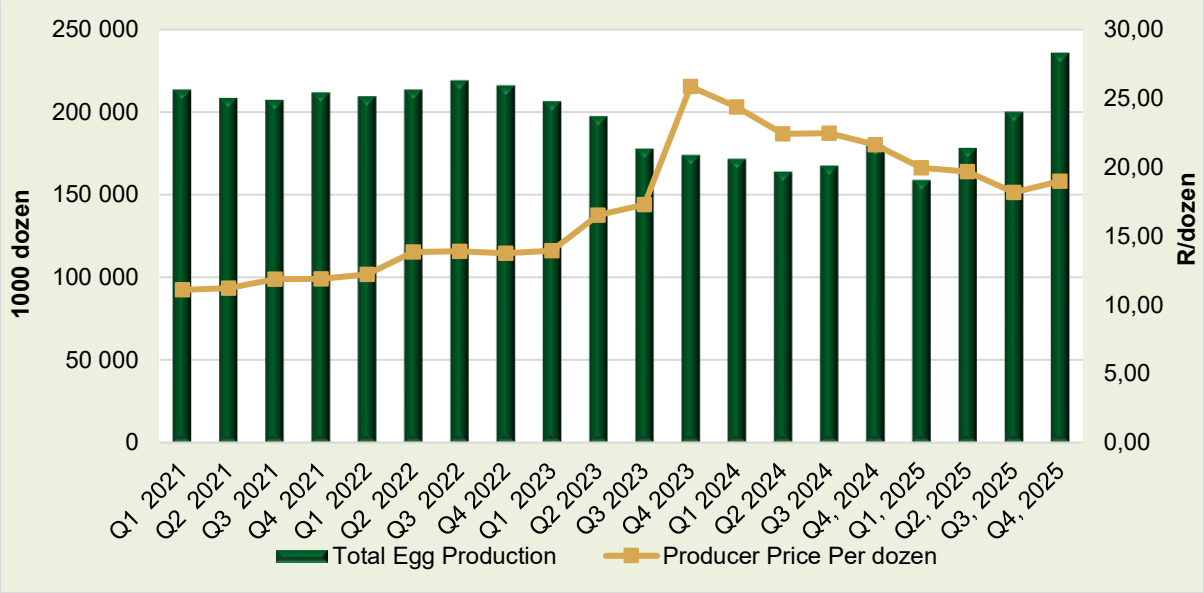


**Figure 38:** Egg production & Prices
Source: Trade Map

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.

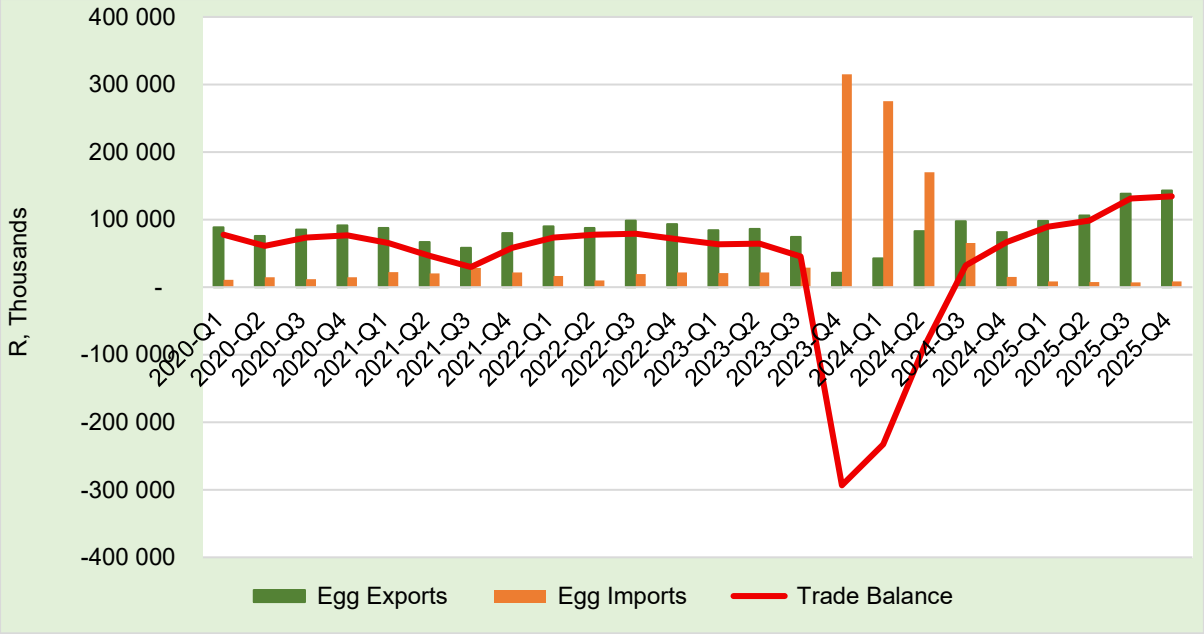


**Figure 39:** Trade balance (Total of all eggs)
Source: Trade map, 2025

### 3.7 Trade of agricultural products

As new policies emerge, the global economy risks unpredictable growth and changing regulations. While subsequent agreements have lowered effective tariff rates, instability continues to exist despite the initial substantial rise in US tariffs. South Africa's agricultural sector on the other side has maintained an optimistic outlook. La Niña's advantageous rains contributed to the bountiful harvests of a variety of crops, fruits, and vegetables as well as better grazing conditions. Furthermore, in 2025, the ports showed improved performance, especially during the first three quarters of the year, which contributed to maintaining strong export levels.

In Q4: 2025, South Africa's agricultural trade balance grew by 16.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, as reported by Trade Map. During this period, the agricultural trade balance reached R 22.34 billion, up from R 19.23 billion recorded in Q4: 2024.

During the period, exports of agricultural products amounted to R 59.65 billion, up from R 54.56 billion recorded in the same quarter of 2024. This increase may be linked to a rise in the volume of various agricultural exports and a substantial increase in the

prices of specific items during this period. The products that dominated the exports list in Q4: 2025 were mainly grapes, maize, berries, wine, citrus fruits, nuts, apples and pears, cane or beet sugar, water and nuts amongst other products. Even with the US imposing tariffs, we have seen notable gains compared to prior months, even though there is still room for improvement in port efficiency. This circumstance has increased export activity and demonstrates the advantages of ongoing legislative changes in South Africa's network industries.

In the same period, the value of agricultural imports increased by 5.6% to R37.32 billion, up from R35.33 billion recorded in Q4: 2024. This increase may be associated with an uptick in the quantities of essential imported commodities, including palm oil, rice, cane or beet sugar, poultry, wheat and meslin, alcoholic drinks, seeds, fruit juices, prepared food and water, among others, in line with South Africa's annual import patterns.

Upon reviewing the data on a quarterly basis, Q4: 2025 has displayed a downward trend for the sector. During Q4: 2025, South Africa's agricultural trade balance decreased by 54.6% compared to Q3, as indicated by Trade Map. The decrease can be attributed to a decrease in the export volume of various products. During the period, the export value of agricultural products fell by 28.9% in Q4: 2025 compared to Q3. On the contrary, the import value of agricultural product increased by 7.7% during the same period. Overall, the economy persists in navigating challenges, with investment essential for improving South Africa's growth and employment path. The ongoing alleviation of structural limitations, especially improvements in electricity provision and initiatives to boost capacity and operational efficiency in rail and ports, will be vital for maintaining economic growth in the short to medium term (FNB, 2026).

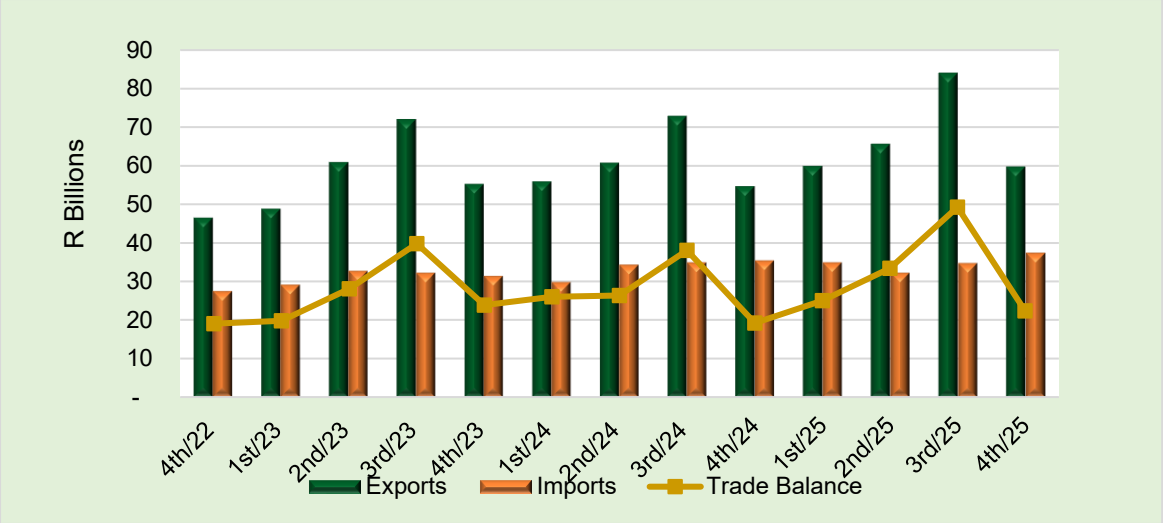


**Figure 40:** Trade balance of agricultural products
Source: Trade map, 2025

Table 5 illustrates that Q4: 2025, Zimbabwe became the leading destination for South Africa's agricultural exports, accounting for 10.9% of the total export value. Netherlands Kingdom followed as the second largest market, contributing 10.0% to the overall export value, while Mozambique secured the third position, accounting for 7.8% of South Africa's agricultural exports in monetary terms during this period. On the supply side, Brazil was recognised as the main source of agricultural products for South Africa, with China positioned as the second largest supplier. Thailand 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 4th Quarter of 2025.

| Top three markets of agricultural products exported by SA | Value (Billion Rands) 4th Quarter 2025 | % Share of total agricultural exports in 4th Quarter 2025 | | Top three suppliers of agricultural products to SA | Value (Billion Rands) 4th Quarter 2025 | % Share of total agricultural imports in 4th Quarter 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | R 59,65 | 100 | | | R 37,32 | 100 |
| Zimbabwe | R 6,52 | 10.9% | | Brazil | R 3,05 | 8.2% |
| Netherlands | R 5,96 | 10.0% | | China | R 2,89 | 7.7% |
| Mozambique | R 4,65 | 7.8% | | Indonesia | R 2,76 | 7.4% |

Source: Trademap, 2025

Figure 41 depicts the top five agricultural products imported by South Africa in Q4: 2025. The primary agricultural products imported by South Africa during this period include of palm oil at 27%, rice at 21%, cane or beet sugar at 18%, meat and edible offal of fowls at 17% as well as wheat and meslin at 17%. Collectively, these five commodities had a substantial impact on the food import bill for the Q4: 2025. During the same period, Figure 42 presents the top 5 agricultural products exported by South Africa during the corresponding quarter of 2025. The exports comprised of fresh or dried grapes (25%), maize or corn (22%), fresh strawberries, raspberries and blackberries (19%), wine (17%) and citrus fruits (either fresh or dried) at 17%.

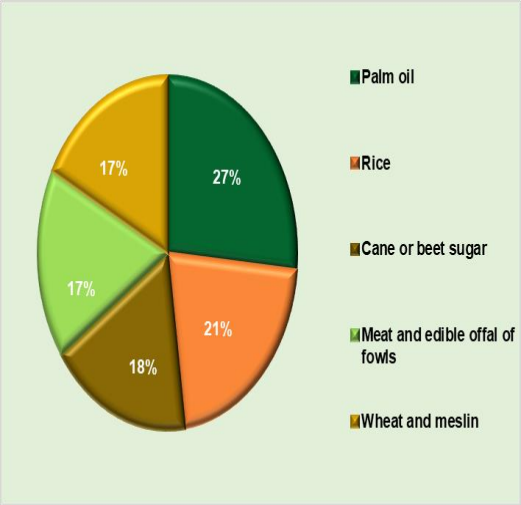


**Figure 41:** Top five agricultural products imported by SA
Source: Trademap, 2025

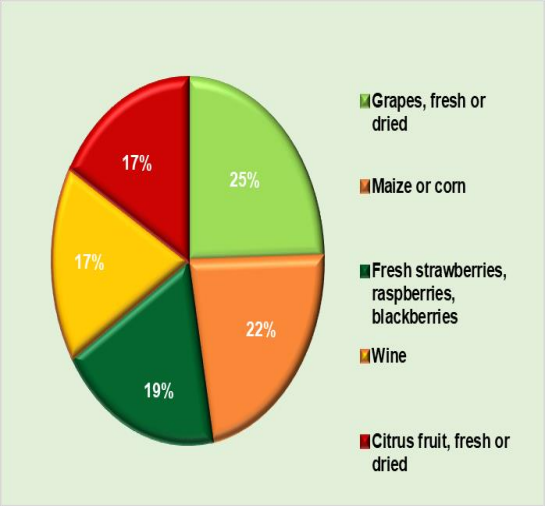


**Figure 42:** Top five agricultural products exported by SA

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. As reported by Agbiz (2025), 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 in light of tariffs imposed by the US. Agbiz (2025) notes that 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 to other regions. According to Agbiz (2025), 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 (Agbiz, 2025).

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 (Agbiz, 2025).

## 4. Conclusion

Globally Q4:2025 has seen the escalation of geopolitical tensions, policymakers should restore fiscal buffers, preserve price and financial stability, reduce uncertainty, and implement structural reforms. The South African economy performed better than expected in 2025, and there was an improvement in the trade surplus despite the imposition of US tariffs. South African economy grew by 0.4% quarter-on-quarter in the last quarter of 2025.This marked the fifth straight quarter of expansion, with growth recorded in five of the ten industries.

South Africa's agricultural sector was one of the strongest contributors to the country's economic growth in 2025. The agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector grew by 0,4% in last quarter of 2025, mainly due to increased production of field crops and horticultural products. While the quarterly growth was modest, agriculture was one of the key drivers of economic growth over the full year. Agriculture, forestry and fishing grew by 17,4% over the year and contributed 0,4 of a percentage point to the country's overall economic growth.

The fourth quarter of 2025 highlighted both resilience and challenges within the agriculture sector. Despite global economic headwinds and climate-related pressures, the sector demonstrated steady growth in key outputs, supported by technological adoption and improved market access. Export performance remained a vital driver, while domestic demand showed signs of stabilization. However, rising input costs and supply chain disruptions continue to weigh on profitability, underscoring the need for policy support and innovation.

The recent lowering of U.S. tariffs, further monetary easing and the U.S. government's one-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) should support growth ahead. Still, the conflict in the Middle East muddies the outlook, as South Africa is a net oil importer, higher oil prices will raise the import bill. Higher inflation tied to a protracted conflict threatens domestic demand by delaying further interest rate cuts.

South Africa's agricultural sector maintained an optimistic outlook. La Niña's advantageous rains contributed to the bountiful harvests of a variety of crops, fruits, and vegetables as well as better grazing conditions. The sector continues to struggle with foot and mouth disease, which will add financial pressures to the livestock

industry, and lingering trade concerns, there remain some risks to South Africa's farming jobs.

Looking ahead, the sector’s sustainability will hinge on balancing productivity with environmental stewardship, strengthening value chains, and leveraging digital transformation. Overall, agriculture remains a cornerstone of economic stability, with opportunities for expansion if structural challenges are addressed proactively.

## 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

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), (2025): Gross Domestic Product, Quarter 4, 2025: Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), (2025): Quarterly Labor Force Survey, Quarter 4, 2025: Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), (2025): Consumer Price Index, 2025: Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za