



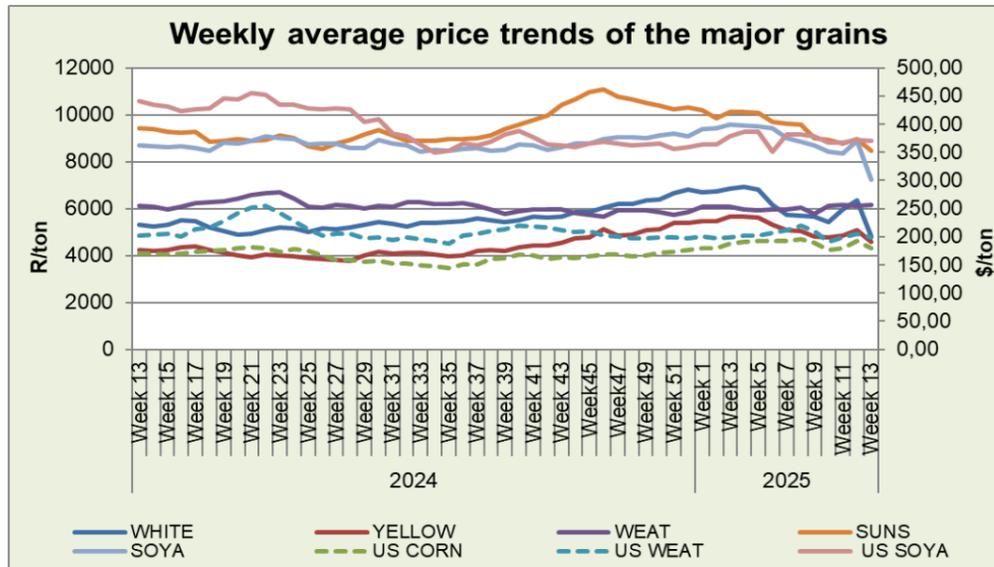
agriculture, land reform & rural development

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

Weekly Price Watch: 28 March 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

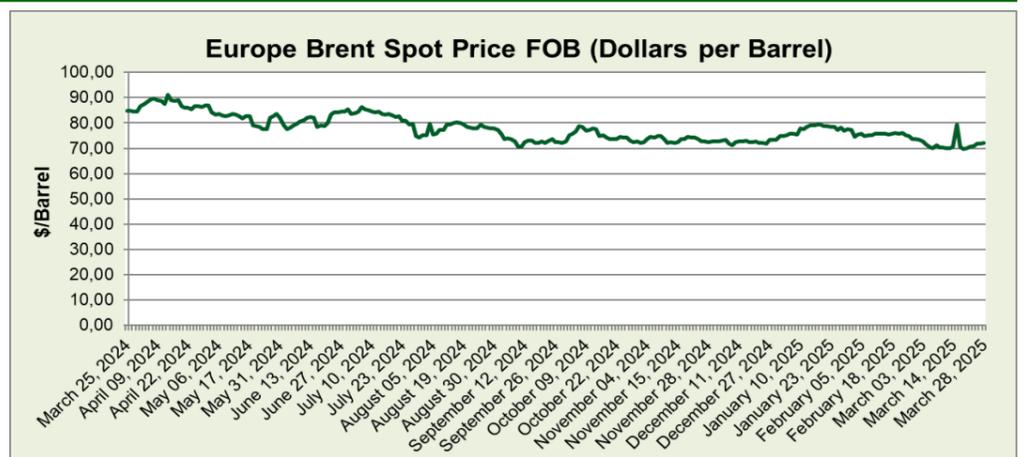
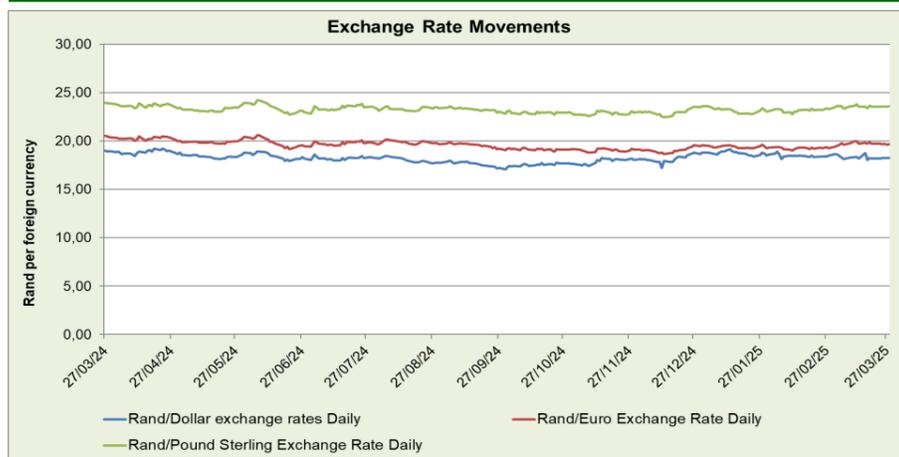
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



The International and local market traded lower this week when compared to the previous week. The average prices of domestic white maize, yellow maize, soya bean and sunflower seed decreased by 24.1%, 9.7%, 18.7% and 6.0% respectively, whilst prices for wheat increased by 0.6% week on week. The local markets highlight that, SAFEX maize prices have dropped in response to improved weather prospects. The recent favourable weather forecasts are promising for the season's production outlook, with weather remaining a key variable to monitor. Internationally, the grain prices of US corn, US wheat and US soybean decreased by 6.8%, 2.7% and 0.7%, respectively when compared to the previous week. International markets indicates that, corn prices were notably higher year-on-year supported by forecasted lower global ending stocks for the 2024/25 production season and lower production for Argentina.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 13 (25-03-24 to 29-03-24)	Last week Week 12 (17-03-25 to 21-03-25)	This week Week 13 (24-03-25 to 28-03-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R5 315,50	R6 338,00	R4 809,60	-24,1%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 234,00	R5 088,75	R4 595,20	-9,7%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$170,84	\$193,24	\$180,10	-6,8%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 139,25	R6 133,25	R6 171,00	0,6%
USA Wheat per ton	\$202,13	\$205,23	\$199,65	-2,7%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R8 714,00	R8 905,00	R7 237,80	-18,7%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$440,28	\$372,51	\$370,08	-0,7%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 435,00	R8 985,50	R8 449,80	-6,0%
Crude oil per barrel	\$84,72	\$72,41	\$71,40	-1,4%



The South African rand appreciated by 0.4% against the US dollar, by 0.5% against the Euro and depreciated by 0.08% against the Pound sterling when compared to the previous week. The South African rand was volatile last week amid deadlocked budget negotiations and apprehension over U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff plans.

Brent crude oil price averaged \$71.40/barrel in the reporting week which is 1.4% lower than \$72.41/barrel week on week. The oil prices fell on last week particularly following the release of data indicating an increase in U.S. weekly stockpiles. The decrease in oil prices was primarily driven by a rise in commercial oil inventories in the United States last week.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 11 (10/03/2025 to 16/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 12 (17/03/2025 to 23/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10530	56,81	58,75	Class A2	9519	57,31	59,97
Class A3	464	56,82	57,05	Class A3	448	56,98	58,51
Class C2	609	46,26	47,92	Class C2	433	48,21	47,80

The units sold for class A2, A3 and C3 beef decreased by 9.6%, 3.4% and 28.9% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 0.9%, 0.3% and 4.2% respectively, week on week. The average selling price for class A2 and A3 beef increased by 2.1% and 2.6% respectively, whilst class C2 beef decreased by 0.3% when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 11 (10/03/2025 to 16/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 12 (17/03/2025 to 23/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	13244	101,94	101,06	Class A2	13710	100,57	101,36
Class A3	2099	98,71	100,18	Class A3	2010	98,44	98,78
Class C2	1822	65,82	69,55	Class C2	1387	64,41	68,06

The units of lamb traded this week for class A2 increased by 3.5%, whilst class A3 and C2 decreased by 4.2% and 23.9% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average purchase prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb decreased by 1.3%, 0.3% and 2.1% respectively, week on week. The average selling prices for class A2 lamb increased by 0.3%, whilst class A3 and C2 lamb decreased by 1.4% and 2.1% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 11 (10/03/2025 to 16/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 12 (17/03/2025 to 23/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	15128	32,00	Class BP	13863	31,97
Class HO	3260	31,35	Class HO	3753	31,3
Class HP	3148	31,81	Class HP	3826	31,78

The quantities of pork traded this week for class BP decreased by 8.4%, whilst class HO and HP increased by 15.1% and 21.5% respectively, week on week. The average purchase price for class BP, HO and HP pork decreased by 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.1% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

Farmers in Free State are battling an African armyworm invasion, threatening crops and pastures. With cases rising fast, authorities urge livestock owners to relocate animals and follow pesticide guidelines. African armyworms are spreading rapidly in the Free State, with 31 cases reported in just two days. The MEC of agriculture, rural development and environmental affairs, Elsabé Rockman, said they have called on the national government to assist with pesticides to curb the spread. According to the department, African armyworms are notorious for covering large areas of grass, pasture, and small maize or sorghum fields in dense swarms, potentially causing severe damage to crops. Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, operations and stewardship manager at CropLife South Africa, said that South Africa recently experienced one of its biggest infestations of African armyworm on record, with the outbreak spread across the summer rainfall region. While African armyworm usually only attacked pastures and veld, soya bean, maize and sunflower crops were also struck this season due to the large scale of the infestation. Fortunately, damage to these crops have been minimal, said Verdoorn. A team of agricultural experts from Lesotho's ministry of agriculture, food security, and nutrition is working tirelessly to contain the spread of African armyworm in Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng, minister Thabo Mofosi has confirmed. Mofosi raised an alarm over the severity of the outbreak, warning that it poses a direct threat to the country's food security. He revealed that the armyworm infestation has primarily affected several areas in Mohale's Hoek, including Liphiring, Makhalleng, and Taung, as well as parts of the Mafeteng district.

A new outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) has been confirmed in Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal, bringing the province's total to 147 active outbreaks out of the 165 reported in South Africa. The recent outbreak in Bergville highlights the continued risk of FMD spread even beyond the newly declared Disease Management Area (DMA) boundaries. This reaffirms the importance of biosecurity and movement control to prevent further outbreaks," said a statement by the Department of Agriculture. According to the statement, traceback investigations have confirmed that the Bergville outbreak was linked to earlier infections within the DMA before its formal extension. Two additional suspect cases outside the DMA are under investigation, and all affected areas have been placed under quarantine. Surveillance and vaccination efforts are being intensified within the DMA and a 10km radius around the infected locations to control the disease. The statement said that FMD in the Eastern Cape appeared more contained, though vigilance remained high. The province reported 40 outbreaks with 39 still open. The department is conducting further surveillance in the affected areas and anticipates that, once additional testing confirms the absence of the virus, restrictions in the Eastern Cape may be eased. In a move to support farmers, targeted relief measures are being introduced. Farms whose herds have consistently tested negative will now be allowed to process milk for local consumption through single pasteurisation, a more cost-effective option than the previously required double pasteurisation or UHT treatment.

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