



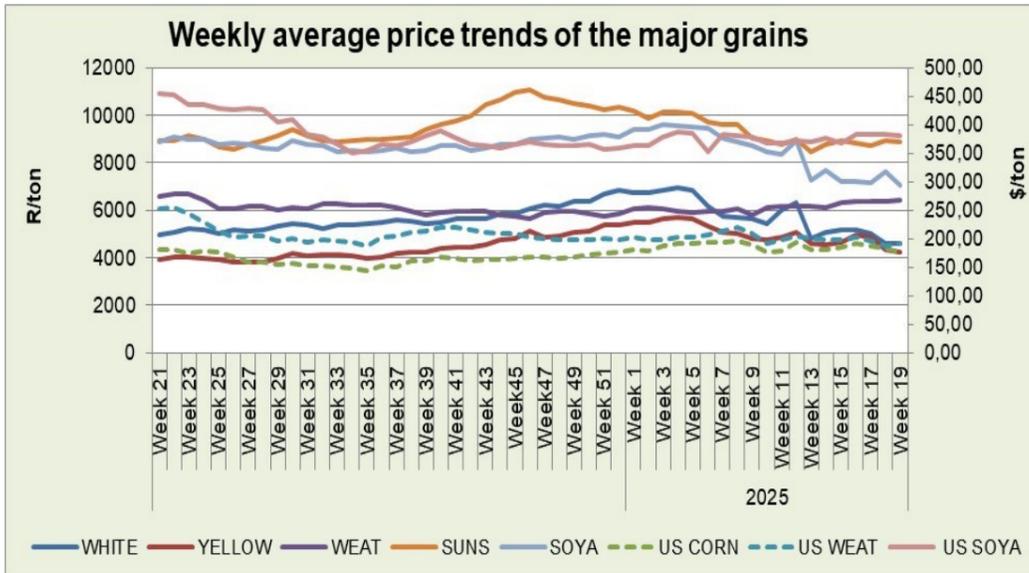
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 09 May 2025

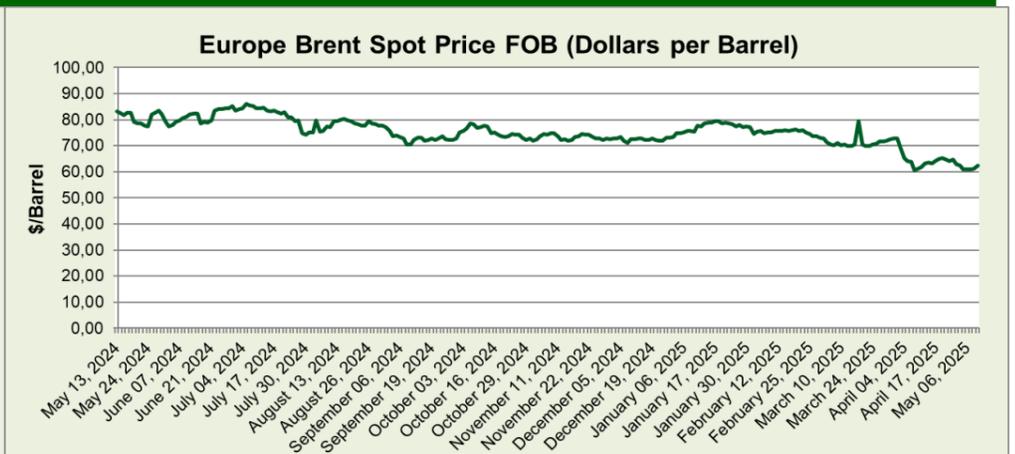
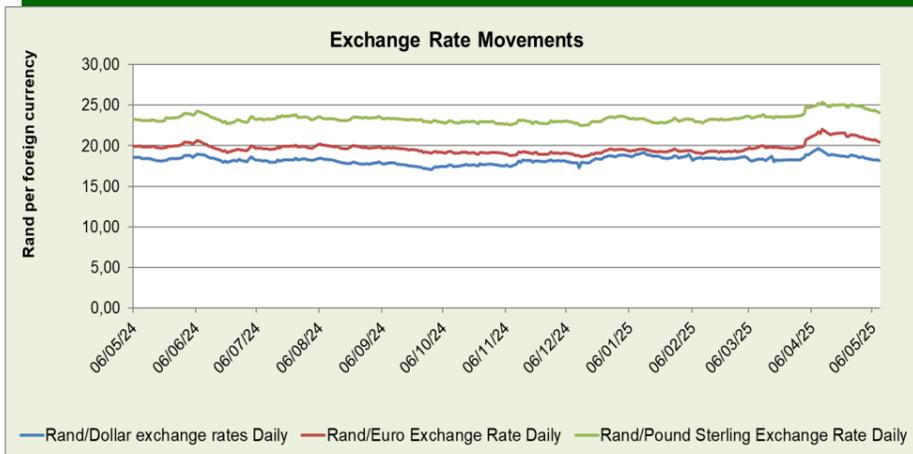
Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



In both local and international markets, prices for most major grains fluctuated this week compared to the previous week, with the weaker rand against other currencies contributing to price movements during the reporting period. The domestic prices for white maize, yellow maize, soybeans and sunflower seed decreased by 0.2%, 2.3%, 7.1%, and 0.7% this week when compared to the previous week respectively, meanwhile price for wheat went up by 0.5% this week. This follows the Crop Estimates Committee's forecast of South Africa's 2024/25 summer grain and oilseed production at 18.01 million tons, 16% higher than the 2023/24 season. Internationally, the price of US yellow maize recorded a significant week-on-week decline of 4%, while the price of US soybeans fell by 0.6%. Markets were mostly mixed as traders weighed potential outcomes from the upcoming meeting between U.S. and Chinese officials. So far, headlines surrounding trade talks have offered little positive momentum for grain markets.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities				
	1 year ago Week 19 (06-05-24 to 10-05-24)	Last week Week 18 (28-04-25 to 02-05-25)	This week Week 19 (05-05-25 to 09-05-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 034,60	R 4 597.67	R 4 590,60	-0,2%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 103,00	R 4 311.67	R 4 213,60	-2,3%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$176,81	\$ 183.72	\$175,98	-4%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 306,00	R 6 392.67	R 6 422,40	0,5%
USA Wheat per ton	\$227,69	\$ 188.15	\$190,38	1,2%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 811,60	R 7 606.33	R 7 069,40	-7,1%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$446,33	\$ 383.75	\$381,27	-0,6%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 8 901,20	R 8 912.00	R 8 849,60	-0,7%
Crude oil per barrel	\$83,14	\$ 63.33	\$61,33	-3,2%



The domestic currency weakened against all major currencies this week compared to the previous week, with the rand depreciating by 0.02% against the US Dollar, Euro, and Pound Sterling, respectively. The rand extended its losses against the dollar amid growing concerns over a potential escalation in the global trade war and political instability within the country's ruling alliance. Additionally analysts have cautioned that the current weakness of the rand could offset any potential fuel price reductions anticipated in May.

The average prices of Brent crude oil decreased by 3.2% and averaged \$61.33 this week compared to \$63.33 reported in the previous week. OPEC+, comprising the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies like Russia, agreed to accelerate oil production increases for a second consecutive month, raising output by 411,000 barrels per day by June. Analysts noted that the OPEC+ decision relates more to the strength of underlying fundamentals and external influences than to concerns about members overproduction. It is now expected that OPEC+ will begin phasing out the additional voluntary production adjustments by October 2025, while U.S. oil output growth is also projected to slow down slightly.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 18 (28/04/2025 to 04/05/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Beef							
Class A2	9022	66,50	70,40	Class A2	6779	67,76	70,51
Class A3	349	66,12	71,10	Class A3	257	67,35	69,80
Class C2	1014	51,57	53,22	Class C2	1071	51,82	56,12

Beef weekly average prices were mixed across the different classes however. Weekly average selling prices for class A2 and C2 beef increased by 0.0.2% and 5.4% respectively in the reporting week, meanwhile average selling prices for class A3 went down 1.8%. Weekly average purchase prices for class A2,A3 and C2 beef went up by 1.9%, 1.9% and 0.5% respectively. Unit sales for class A2 and A3 decreased by 24.9% and 26.4% respectively. Meanwhile C2 unit sales increased by 5.6%. The volatility of the South African economy also leaves farmers vulnerable during periods when consumer spending declines and demand for meat decreases.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 18 (28/04/2025 to 04/05/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Lamb							
Class A2	12430	101,9	104,36	Class A2	10261	102,72	105,25
Class A3	1927	97,07	101,86	Class A3	1763	100,86	104,72
Class C2	1974	65,54	72,01	Class C2	1989	64,93	71,01

Local demand for lamb was rather mixed in the reporting week with some consumer resistance to high lamb prices. Units sales of class A2, A3 lamb experienced declines of 17.4% and 8.5% respectively, meanwhile class C2 units increased by 0.8% when compared to the previous week. Weekly average selling prices for class A2 and A3 lamb increased by 0.9% and 2,8% respectively. The weekly average purchase price for class A2 and A3 lamb increased by 0.8% and 3.9% respectively, while C2 decreased by 0.9% week-on-week. Unit sales for class A2 and A3 lamb decreased by 17.4% and 8.5% respectively end of week, while C2 went up by 0.8%. Analysts anticipate continued price fluctuations throughout the year; however, average red meat prices are expected to be at least 10% higher than last year.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 18 (28/04/2025 to 04/05/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Pork					
Class BP	11383	31,76	Class BP	12058	31,81
Class HO	3754	28,82	Class HO	3234	31,01
Class HP	4452	30,29	Class HP	4360	31,37

Units sales of class BP, class HO and class HP pork increased by 7.3%,8.7% and 18.8%, respectively, during the reporting week in comparison to the previous week. Concurrently, the weekly average purchase price for class BP and class HO pork fell by 0.7%, 7.5% and 3.8%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. The fluctuations in the broader meat protein market influenced pork pricing.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's red meat industry has suffered a significant setback following China's immediate suspension of all beef imports, after confirmation that foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has spread beyond KwaZulu-Natal into Mpumalanga and Gauteng. China's unexpected decision, despite being South Africa's largest trading partner, comes in the wake of a landmark memorandum of understanding signed just last year, which aimed to safeguard trade during outbreaks by permitting exports from FMD-free zones. The Department of Agriculture stated that confirmation of the outbreak was made on 7 May 2025 by the National Veterinary Reference Laboratory, following a report from a local private veterinarian who observed clinical signs suggesting foot-and-mouth disease in a dairy herd on the farm on 30 April 2025. The FMD outbreak follows remarks by the chairperson of the Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO), who noted that while red meat producers are not yet seeing substantial profits, improved carcass and weaner calf prices over the past two months have brought many farmers close to breaking even.

The Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz) has reported a notable rise in agricultural machinery sales, offering a welcome boost for farmers and industry stakeholders. They further indicated that recent data shows a sharp increase in the sale of tractors and combine harvesters in April 2025, signalling renewed confidence in the agricultural sector. Wandile Sihlobo, Chief Economist at Agbiz, highlighted that tractor sales rose by 5% year-on-year, with 527 units sold in April, extending a positive growth trend that has persisted over the past four months; remarkable were the figures for combine harvesters, which surged by 77% year-on-year, with 46 units sold. Additionally, this strong performance has helped ease concerns about crop quality, especially following the heavy rains that recently disrupted agricultural activities. "Although the heavy rains in April raised concerns about crop quality, there is still optimism about overall yields, an outlook that continues to support strong machinery sales. This follows the Crop Estimates Committee's forecast that South Africa's 2024–25 summer grain and oilseed production will reach 18.01 million tons, 16% higher than the 2023–24 season, signalling a solid recovery from the recent drought.

According to Grain SA, farmers across much of the summer rainfall region are still struggling to access their fields due to persistent wet conditions. These harvesting delays are evident in the lower-than-usual deliveries to silos as reported by the SA grain information service (SAGIS). They further noted that with the new maize marketing year having commenced on 1 May, there is an urgent need for sustained sunny days following recent heavy rainfall. Encouragingly, weather forecasts for the remainder of the month appear favourable for much of the summer rainfall region, although light showers are still expected in parts of the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape, and sections of the Northern Cape. This month, farming operations in the Western Cape will begin land preparation for the 2025–26 winter crop production season. In contrast, Excessive rainfall in the northern regions of South Africa has subsided, allowing producers to shift their focus to harvesting. Attention now turns to the Western Cape, a key winter crop area, where the hope is for sufficient rainfall to support the upcoming season, similar to the favourable conditions recently seen in the summer crop regions. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) has issued a concerning forecast, indicating that the south-western interior, as well as the southern and eastern coastal regions, are likely to receive below-normal rainfall throughout early, mid-, and late winter. This includes the Western Cape, which accounts for more than two-thirds of South Africa's winter crop production.

The Minister of Electricity and Energy has issued a warning that South Africa faces a looming gas crisis as its primary supply from Mozambique shows signs of decline, posing a serious threat to key industries and thousands of jobs. Currently, more than 85% of South Africa's natural gas, approximately 160 petajoules annually is imported from Mozambique, with a single major industrial user consuming nearly 125 petajoules. This supply underpins over 13,000 direct jobs and is estimated to contribute around 5% to the national GDP. However, production from Mozambique's Pande gas fields is expected to begin declining between 2026 and 2028, posing a significant risk to this critical energy source. South Africa's gas supply crisis could have serious implications for the agricultural sector, potentially contributing to increased load shedding. This, in turn, may lead to reduced crop yields, livestock losses, and rising production costs, posing a direct threat to food Security.

For more information contact: Directorate Statistics & Economic Analysis (SEA) at HeidiP@Nda.gov.za or 0123198194.

Source: SAFEX, Standard bank, Stats SA, Reuters, Red Meat Abattoir Association, FNB, Agbiz and Absa Bank.

Disclaimer: DOA will not be liable for results of actions based on this price watch.