



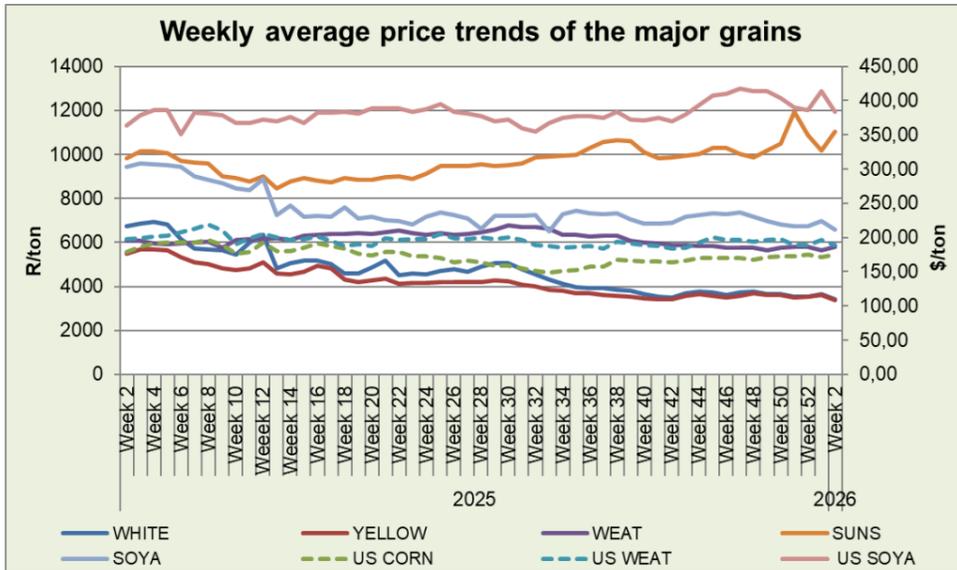
# agriculture

Department:  
Agriculture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Weekly Price Watch: 9 January 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

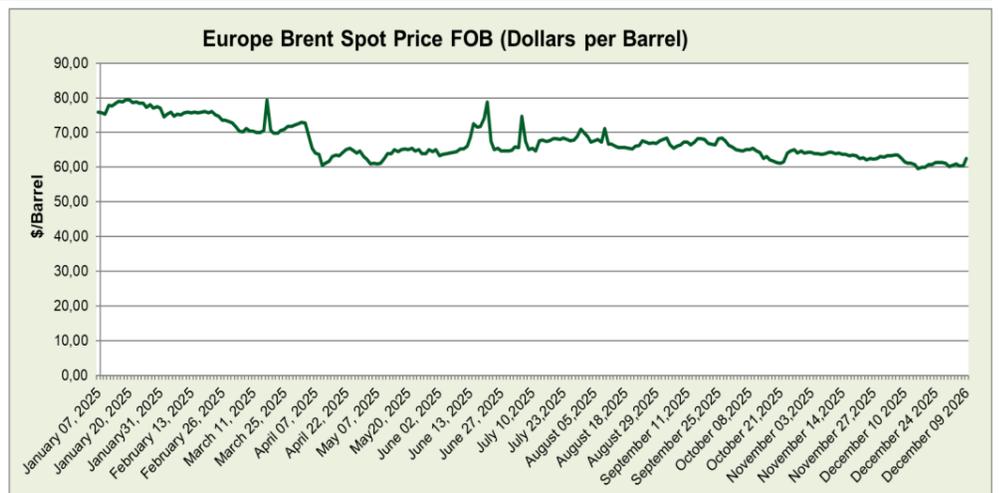
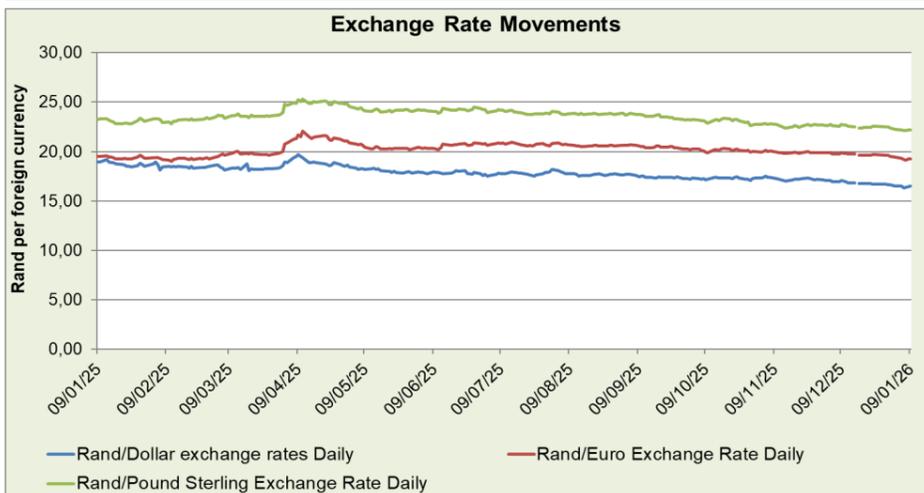
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



The International and local market traded lower this week when compared to the previous week. The average prices of domestic white maize, yellow maize, wheat and soya bean decreased by 2.7%, 1.2%, 0.8% and 1.2% respectively, whilst sunflower seed increased by 2.5% week on week. As about 90% of South Africa's summer grain crops, including sunflower, are predominantly rainfed, climate changes and rainfall patterns have a major impact on production. When looking at the 2025/26 season, the production outlook is cautiously optimistic for grain farmers. Given recent years of weather variability linked to El Niño and La Niña climate patterns, combined with lower investment returns and rising production costs, particularly in marginal areas, farmers are likely to remain cautious. Internationally, the grain prices of US corn and US wheat both increased by 0.1%, while US soybean decreased by 0.2% when compared to the previous week.

### Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 2 (06-01-25 to 10-01-25)	Last week Week 1 (29-12-25 to 02-01-26)	This week Week 2 (05-01-26 to 09-01-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R6 739,80	R3 661,80	R3 430,60	-2,7%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R5 484,80	R3 603,00	R3 390,60	-1,2%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$179,22	\$171,25	\$174,67	0,1%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 087,00	R5 661,00	R5 791,20	-0,8%
USA Wheat per ton	\$197,11	\$196,51	\$188,51	0,1%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R9 414,00	R6 955,40	R6 595,40	-1,2%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$363,41	\$413,38	\$383,60	-0,2%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 840,80	R10 192,00	R11 054,60	2,5%
Crude oil per barrel	\$ 76,16	\$ 61,02	\$60,99	-0,1%



The SA rand appreciated by 1.0% against the US dollar, by 1.6% against the Euro and by 1.1% against the Pound sterling when compared to the previous week. South Africa's rand kicked off the new year by climbing to the strongest level since 2022, backed by upbeat South African trends, including continuing economic reforms and rising metals prices.

The price of Brent crude oil decreased by 0.1% this week compared to the previous week and ended the week at \$60.99 this week from \$61.02 the previous week. The U.S. has tightened sanctions on Russia's oil trade, targeting tankers and supply routes to curb revenues, but analysts expect U.S. sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil to be short-lived, given U.S. President Donald Trump's push for low gasoline prices.



### National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 52 (22/12/2025 to 28/12/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 1 (29/12/2025 to 04/01/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9710	70,04	77,37	Class A2	9111	70,10	75,62
Class A3	509	69,73	77,73	Class A3	393	69,30	77,15
Class C2	609	62,20	68,57	Class C2	223	61,76	66,35

The units sold for class A2, A3 and C2 beef decreased by 6.2%, 22.8% and 63.4% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average purchase price for class A2 and C2 beef decreased by 0.6% and 0.7% respectively, while class A2 beef increased by 0.1%, week on week. The average selling price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef decreased by 2.3%, 0.7% and 3.2% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

### National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 52 (22/12/2025 to 28/12/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 1 (29/12/2025 to 04/01/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10047	113,18	120,62	Class A2	11896	116,17	121,23
Class A3	1944	111,02	123,99	Class A3	1646	116,61	115,27
Class C2	556	86,20	92,23	Class C2	563	85,43	94,76

The units of lamb traded this week for class A2 and C2 increased by 18.4% and 1.3% respectively, while class A3 decreased by 15.3% week on week. The average purchase prices for class A2 and A3 lamb increased by 2.6% and 5.0% respectively, whilst class C2 lamb decreased by 0.9% when compared to the previous week. The average selling prices for class A2 and C2 lamb increased by 0.5% and 2.7% respectively, whilst class A3 lamb decreased by 7.0% week on week.

### National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 52 (22/12/2025 to 28/12/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 1 (29/12/2025 to 04/01/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3234	40,82	Class BP	3288	40,32
Class HO	5436	39,52	Class HO	6334	39,75
Class HP	9042	39,32	Class HP	11791	39,58

The quantities of pork traded this week for class BP, HO and HP increased by 1.7%, 16.5% and 30.4% respectively, week on week. The average purchase price for class BP pork decreased by 1.2%, while class HO and HP pork increased by 0.6% and 0.7% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

## Latest News Developments

The Southern African Agri Initiative (Saai) and Agri All Africa Chairman Theo de Jager said the current foot-and-mouth outbreak is the worst livestock farming disaster in South African history. De Jager is a South African agricultural leader, farmer, and policy advocate, best known for his role in organised agriculture. Apart from his role as chairman at the Southern African Agri Initiative (Saai) and Agri All Africa, he was also the former President of the World Farmers Organisation (WFO). He shared statistics to show the rapid increase in the foot-and-mouth disease across South Africa. The country is experiencing one of the worst outbreaks in decades. It started in April 2025 in KwaZulu-Natal. Since then, it has spread country wide. The worst-affected provinces are KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, and the Northwest.

Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen has announced plans to vaccinate all the cattle in South Africa from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) starting in February 2026. In September 2025, Steenhuisen rejected claims from the Red Meat Producers Organisation that FMD was "out of control. A month later, experts sounded the alarm, calling the outbreak one of the most severe in South Africa's history. This triggered fears of export bans and soaring meat prices. Despite vaccinating 931,200 animals with vaccines purchased from Botswana for R72 million, the spread of the disease has not been contained. In November 2025, Steenhuisen admitted there were serious problems. We must be honest with the public and with our farming sector. This is a battle we are currently not winning. On 6 January 2026, De Jager described the current situation as the worst livestock farming disaster in South African history. He shared a chart which illustrates the scale of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak and why urgent action is needed. It shows the number of open cases of type 2 serotype of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) virus in the Southern African Territories (SAT), as reported by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

As the 2026 summer season hits its stride, the focus of South African agricultural innovation has undergone a radical shift from planting to protection. While the South prays for rain to break a lingering dry spell, the Grain Belt which comprising of the Free State, Mpumalanga, and Northwest province is struggling to stay afloat. Persistent La Niña-induced rains throughout late December have left the ground dangerously saturated, turning the 2026 season into a high-stakes battle of drainage and data. By New Year's Day, the Vaal Dam recorded a staggering 103.6% capacity, forcing the Department of Water and Sanitation to keep multiple sluice gates open to protect critical infrastructure. For maize and soybean farmers, this surplus of water is not a blessing, but a significant logistical hurdle. In many regions, tractors remain field-bound in muddy soil, hampering the final window for essential top-dressing and critical mid-season maintenance.

Tighter border controls on agri goods as travellers return to South Africa. As thousands of travellers return to South Africa this week after the festive season, the Border Management Authority has issued a strong warning about bringing agricultural products back into the country. Speaking to the media at the Beitbridge border post, South Africa's busiest entry point, Border Management Authority (BMA) Commissioner and CEO Dr Michael Masiapato said that, as part of the authority's festive season re-entry operations, officials are regularly intercepting fresh fruit and other plant products at border posts. Mangoes, watermelons, and similar produce are being seized and destroyed to stop the introduction of plant diseases and pests that could severely harm the South African agricultural sector.

For more information contact: Directorate Statistics & Economic Analysis (SEA) at [DSEA@nda.gov.za](mailto:DSEA@nda.gov.za) or 0123198454.