



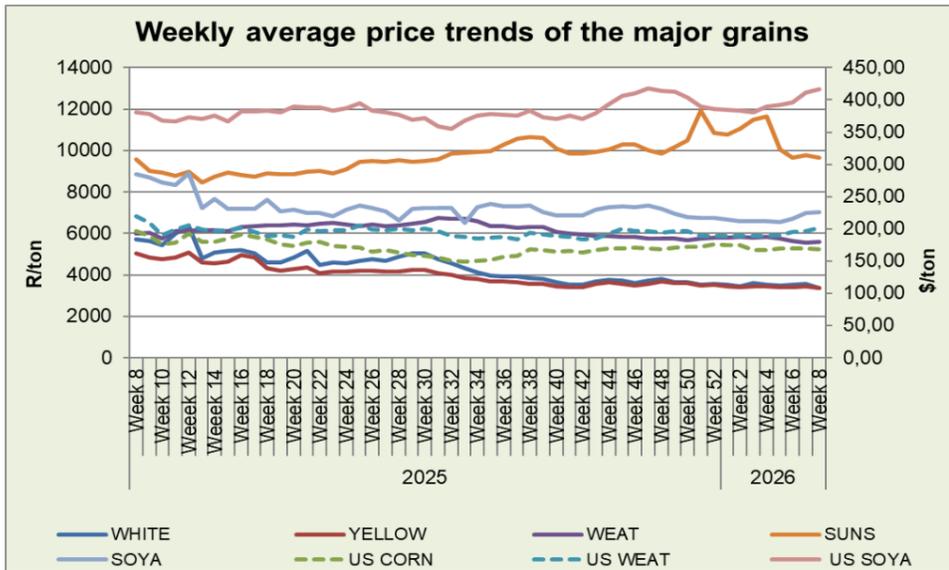
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 20 February 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

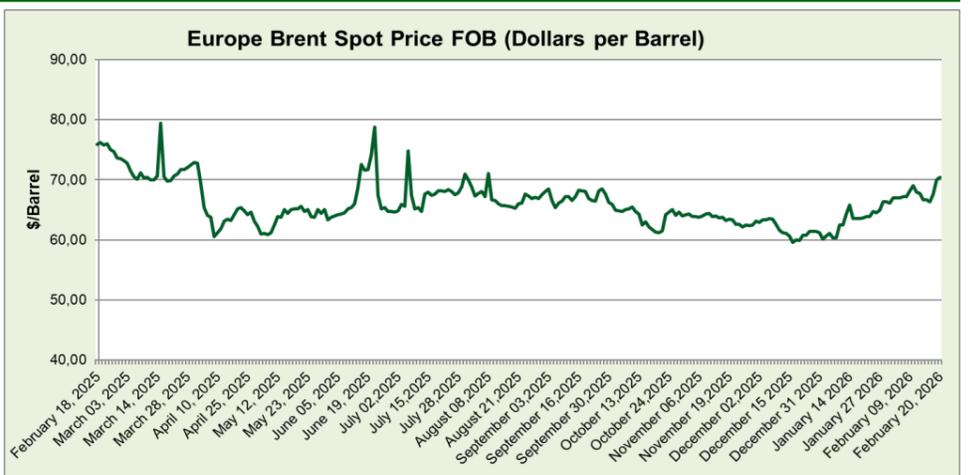
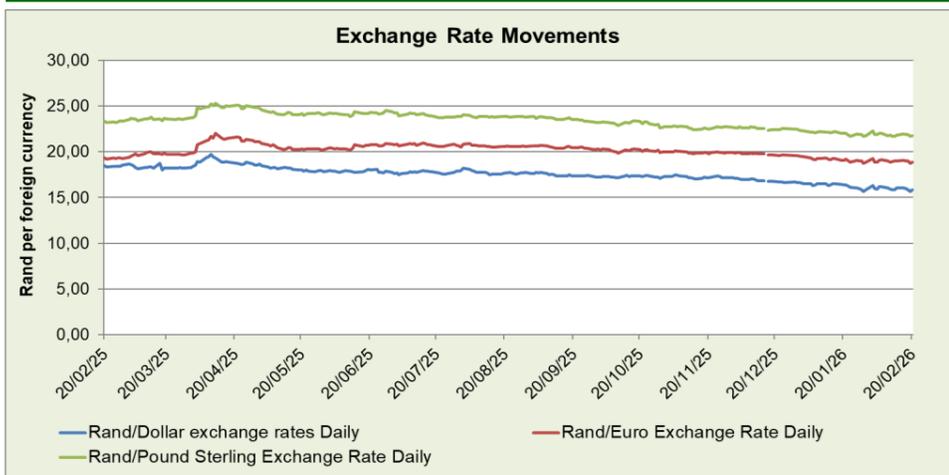
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



The International and local market traded lower this week when compared to the previous week. The average prices of domestic white maize, yellow maize and sunflower seed decreased by 5.5%, 2.6% and 1.3% respectively, whilst wheat and soya bean increased by 1.1% and 0.9% week on week. Food inflation holding steady at 4.4 % in January as indicated by Stats SA on Wednesday drew mixed reactions from experts and civil society groups. Wandile Sihlobo, the chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz), said that South Africa's consumer food price inflation will likely moderate in 2026. Sihlobo said the new season also looks encouraging. South Africa has been receiving favourable rainfall since the start of the season. "The farmers have also planted quite a sizable area. For example, South Africa's 2025-26 preliminary area plantings for summer grains and oilseeds are 4.54 million hectares, up 2% from the previous season. Internationally, the grain prices of US wheat and US soybean both increased by 2.4% and 1.4% respectively, while US corn decreased by 0.2% when compared to the previous week.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 8 (17-02-25 to 21-02-25)	Last week Week 7 (09-02-26 to 13-02-26)	This week Week 8 (14-02-26 to 20-02-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R5 699,60	R3 562,60	R3 365,00	-5,5%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R5 029,80	R3 448,00	R3 359,80	-2,6%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$196,04	\$168,97	\$168,57	-0,2%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 030,00	R5 607,40	R5 666,60	1,1%
USA Wheat per ton	\$219,14	\$196,65	\$201,44	2,4%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R8 851,40	R6 976,60	R7 041,20	0,9%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$381,21	\$411,25	\$417,00	1,4%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 587,60	R9 773,40	R9 644,00	-1,3%
Crude oil per barrel	\$75,88	\$67,91	\$68,20	0,4%



The SA rand depreciated by 0.48% against the US dollar, while appreciated by 0.05% against the Euro and by 0.18% against the Pound sterling when compared to the previous week. The rand has been bolstered by soaring precious-metals prices, a stable and reform-driven coalition government and signs of an economic recovery. Many investors remain bullish on the rand, expecting the budget to deliver on investors' expectations, including a possible reduction in local-currency bond issuance.

The price of Brent crude oil increased by 0.4% this week compared to the previous week and ended the week at \$68.20 this week from \$67.91 the previous week. Oil prices retreated from near seven-month highs scaled earlier in the session on Tuesday, Iran said it was prepared to take any necessary steps to reach a deal with the United States ahead of nuclear talks later this week.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 6 (02/02/2026 to 08/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 7 (09/02/2026 to 15/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10132	64,30	65,75	Class A2	9624	62,54	63,65
Class A3	634	64,69	68,18	Class A3	378	63,34	67,34
Class C2	1352	56,67	61,28	Class C2	1259	55,75	58,79

The units sold for class A2, A3 and C2 beef decreased by 5.0%, 40.4% and 6.9% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef decreased by 2.7%, 2.1% and 1.6% respectively, week on week. The average selling price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef decreased by 3.2%, 1.2% and 4.1% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 6 (02/02/2026 to 08/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 7 (09/02/2026 to 15/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	103,37	103,70	105,39	Class A2	17048	102,19	100,84
Class A3	97,26	105,47	106,17	Class A3	2562	96,76	100,28
Class C2	81,21	88,94	89,23	Class C2	827	81,01	90,03

The units of lamb traded this week for class A3 and C2 decreased by 4.5% and 36.8% respectively, while class A2 increased by 18.8% week on week. The average purchase prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb decreased by 1.1%, 0.5% and 0.2% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average selling prices for class A2 and A3 lamb decreased by 2.8% and 4.9% respectively, whilst class C2 lamb increased by 1.2% week on week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 6 (02/02/2026 to 08/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 7 (09/02/2026 to 15/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3399	40,81	Class BP	3681	40,87
Class HO	7647	39,38	Class HO	9949	39,62
Class HP	18570	39,39	Class HP	17039	39,44

The quantities of pork traded this week for class BP and HO increased by 8.3% and 30.1% respectively, while class HP pork decreased by 8.2% week on week. The average purchase price for class BP, HO and HP pork increased by 0.1%, 0.6% and 0.1% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

As foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) continues to wreak havoc on South African livestock farms, disrupting auctions, halting exports and placing enormous financial strain on producers, three significant developments this week are offering a measure of hope to an embattled industry. The arrival of large-scale vaccine consignments, the expansion of vaccination capacity through private veterinarians, and the establishment of a national FMD Control Centre signal a shift from crisis response to coordinated recovery. The first and most immediate boost comes in the form of vaccine supply. One million doses of FMD vaccine from Argentine manufacturer Biogénesis Bagó which arrived in South Africa on 21 February. Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen officially received the shipment at OR Tambo International Airport. In his response to President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address earlier this month, Steenhuisen described the consignment as the single largest quantity of FMD vaccine ever imported into South Africa at one time. This delivery marks the first phase of a broader agreement with the company, with a further five million doses scheduled to arrive in March. Additional supplies are also on the way. Steenhuisen confirmed that 960 000 doses from the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) and one million doses of the Dollvet vaccine from Turkey are expected later this month. BVI has already supplied two million doses during recent outbreaks and will continue providing doses monthly.

State of the Nation Address solutions impossible without policy reform, say economists. A constrained economy and lack of business support could render President Cyril Ramaphosa's proposed solutions to South Africa's most pressing issues redundant, panellists said during a North-West University Business School webinar on the State of the Nation Address (SONA). Dawie Roodt, chief economist at the Efficient Group, said SONA 2026 was one of the better speeches Ramaphosa had delivered, since it identified most of the urgent issues facing the country and gave very practicable solutions. Panellists agreed that, since the National Budget, to be announced on 25 February, is likely to be similar to last year's, implementing the solutions will prove challenging without an increase in funds. However, an increase requires a change in policy direction. Sanisha Packirisamy, chief economist at Momentum, noted that the recent uptick in commodity prices is not enough to tackle South Africa's challenges. She noted that the private sector has demonstrated a healthy appetite for investing in projects that drive infrastructure growth. However, greater investment will depend on the terms and conditions of participation and the policies governing the business environment.

The agriculture sector helped to boost employment in South Africa at the end of 2025, with farm jobs reaching their highest level since Q3 in 2023, according to Statistics South Africa's (Stats SA) latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) released earlier this week. The QLFS for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2025 showed that gains in the agriculture sector formed part of a modest overall improvement in the labour market. Stats SA reported that the official unemployment rate fell slightly from 31,9% in Q3 2025 to 31,4% in Q4. The number of employed people increased by 44 000 to 17,1 million, while the number of unemployed decreased by 172 000 to 7,8 million over the same period. Formal-sector employment increased by 320 000 to 12,3 million, while informal-sector jobs declined by 293 000 to 3,7 million. In agriculture, while challenges remain in the livestock industry and youth employment, Agbiz chief economist Wandile Sihlobo said strong performances in field crops and horticulture supported overall job growth. The Stats SA data show that the number of farm jobs increased by 3% year-on-year in Q4 2025 to reach 950 000, well above the long-term average of 799 000.

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