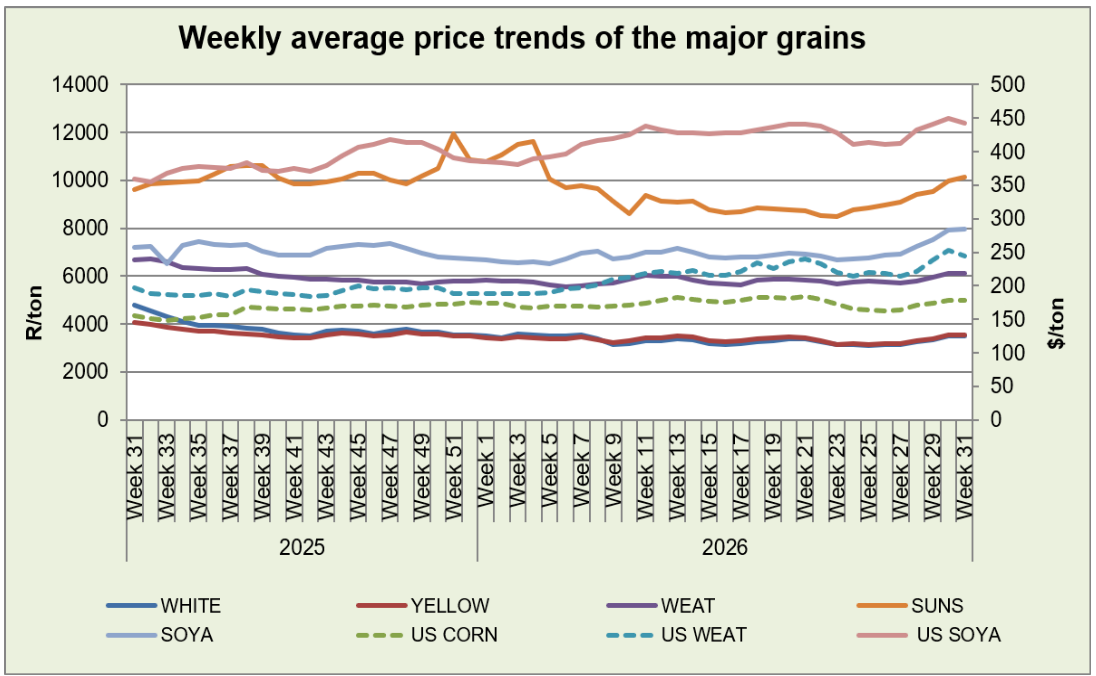
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 31 July 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

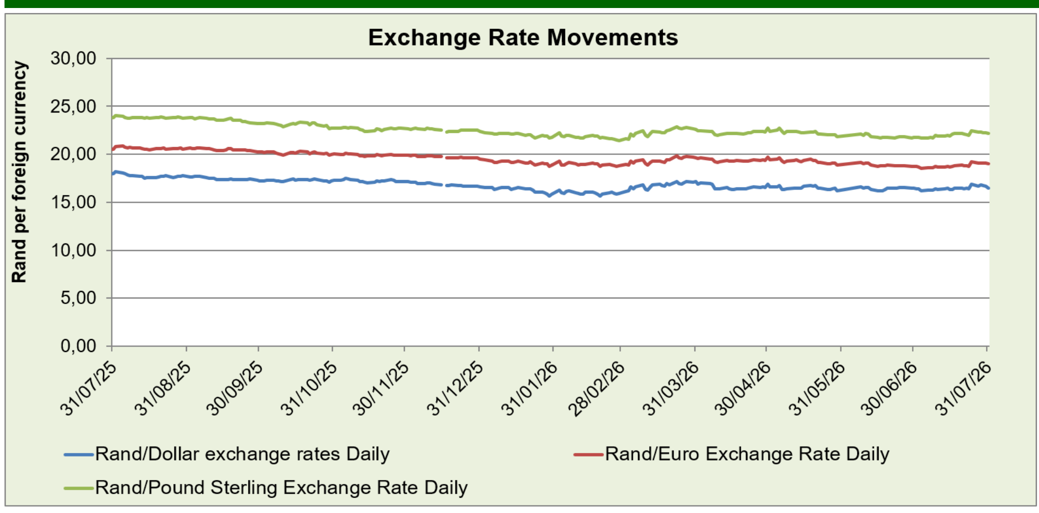
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



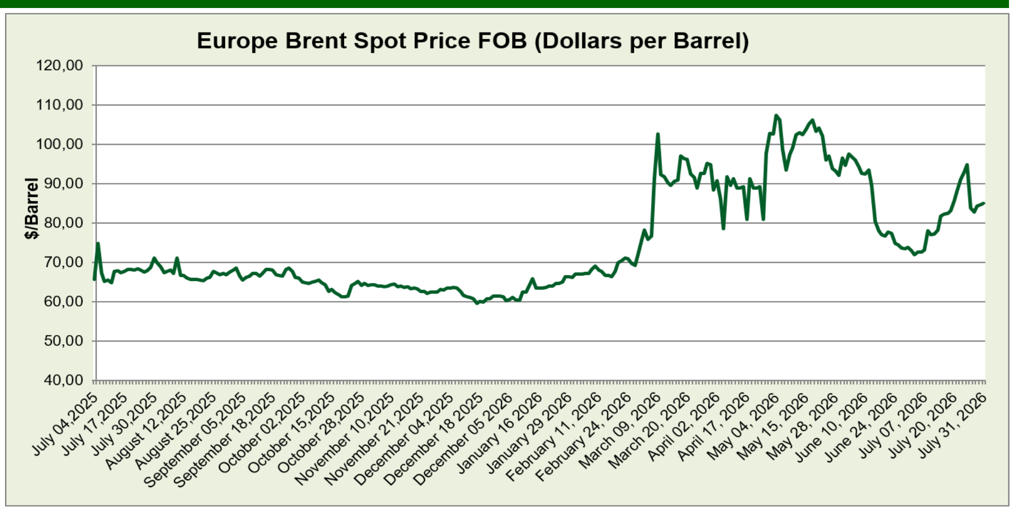
The International and local market traded lower this week when compared to the previous week. The average prices of domestic white maize, yellow maize and wheat decreased by 0.67%, 0.08% and 0.11% respectively, whilst soya bean and sunflower seed increased by 0.46% and 1.82% respectively week on week. According to the government's Crop Estimates Committee (CEC), South African farmers are expected to harvest 4.3% more maize in the 2025/2026 season compared with the previous one. The CEC's sixth summer crop forecast estimated 2026 maize harvest at 17.363 million metric tons, up from 16.65 million metric tons harvested the season before. Internationally, the grain prices of US corn, US wheat and US soybean decreased by 0.17%, 3.26% and 1.58% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 31 (28-07-25 to 01-08-25)	Last week Week 30 (20-07-26 to 24-07-26)	This week Week 31 (27-07-26 to 31-07-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R4 772,20	R3 522,40	R3 498,80	-0,67%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 075,60	R3 557,20	R3 554,20	-0,08%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$154,94	$178,94	$178,64	-0,17%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 691,80	R6 130,60	R6 123,80	-0,11%
USA Wheat per ton	$196,72	$252,53	$244,30	-3,26%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 220,20	R7 917,40	R7 954,20	0,46%
USA Soybeans per ton	$359,21	$449,76	$442,66	-1,58%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 594,40	R9 970,6	R10 152,40	1,82%
Crude oil per barrel	$69,27	$87,64	$84,07	-4,08%



The SA rand depreciated by 0.84% against the US dollar, by 0.96% against the Euro and by 0.49% against the Pound sterling when compared to the previous wee, after the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) unexpectedly kept interest rates unchanged.



The price of Brent crude oil decreased by 4.08% this week compared to the previous week and ended the week at $84.07 this week from $87.64 the previous week. Oil prices dropped to a three-week low after U.S. President Donald Trump cancelled planned military strikes against Iran and announced the start of peace negotiations.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 29 (13/07/2026 to 19/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 30 (20/07/2026 to 26/07/2026	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9978	68,04	71,92	Class A2	12021	69,51	76,27
Class A3	733	68,10	73,06	Class A3	987	71,05	76,94
Class C2	1501	60,42	64,75	Class C2	1636	60,51	64,69

The units sold for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 20.48%, 34.65% and 8.99% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 2.16%, 4.33% and 0.15% respectively, week on week. The average selling price for class A2 and A3 beef increased by 6.05% and 5.31% respectively, whilst class C2 beef decreased by 0.09%, when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 29 (13/07/2026 to 19/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 30 (20/07/2026 to 26/07/2026	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	12328	113,01	113,01	Class A2	14426	111,43	115,55
Class A3	1771	107,75	112,04	Class A3	2263	108,05	114,53
Class C2	1117	85,79	91,87	Class C2	786	86,39	92,88

The units of lamb traded this week for class A2 and A3 increased by 17.02% and 27.78% respectively, whilst class C2 lamb decreased by 29.63% week on week. The average purchase prices for class A2 lamb decreased by 1.40%, while class A3 and C2 lamb increased by 0.28%, and 0.70% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average selling prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb increased by 2.25%, 2.22% and 1.10% respectively, week on week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 29 (13/07/2026 to 19/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 30 (20/07/2026 to 26/07/2026	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3495	29,98	Class BP	1857	29,27
Class HO	7597	29,43	Class HO	7532	28,89
Class HP	11640	30,13	Class HP	14424	29,05

The quantities of pork traded this week for class BP and HO decreased by 46.87% and 0.86% respectively, whilst class HP pork increased by 23.92% week on week. The average purchase price for class BP, HO and HP pork decreased by 2.37%, 1.83% and 3.58% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

South Africa has a strong summer grain and oilseed harvest, with production estimated at about 19.8 million tonnes. Wandile Sihlobo explains how abundant local and global supplies could suppress grain prices, squeeze crop-farming margins and provide relief to livestock, poultry and consumers. According to the latest estimates from the Crop Estimates Committee, total production could reach around 19.8 million tonnes, only slightly down from the record-breaking 2024/25 season. With favourable rainfall across key production regions, crops such as maize, soybeans, sunflower seed, sorghum and groundnuts are generally in good condition. While floods in the north and dry spells in parts of the Eastern Cape created some concerns earlier in the season, these events have had limited impact on the core grain-producing areas. As a result, South Africa is still expected to produce a maize crop of about 16.1 million tonnes, comfortably above the long-term average. However, strong production locally and globally is creating a different challenge, oversupply. Large harvests in regions like the Black Sea, the EU, the US and China have kept global grain prices under pressure, slowing South Africa's export pace.

As farmers prepare for the 2026/27 summer grain season, Wandile Sihlobo examines how renewed conflict in the Middle East could raise fertiliser and fuel costs, disrupt global supply chains and further squeeze farm profitability. He explains why geopolitical developments are becoming as important as local weather conditions and considers the implications for producers, agribusinesses and regional food security. As South African farmers prepare for the 2026/27 summer grain season, geopolitical tensions have once again emerged as a major source of uncertainty. In this episode of AgriView, Wandile Sihlobo explains how renewed conflict in the Middle East could affect fertiliser and fuel prices, disrupt global supply chains, and place additional pressure on farm profitability at a time when commodity prices are already under strain. The discussion unpacks why global events are becoming just as important as local weather patterns for South African agriculture, and what these developments could mean for producers, agribusinesses and food security across the region.

Wandile and Agriculture Director-General Mooketsa Ramasodi discusses the policies and partnerships needed to sustain agricultural growth, improve biosecurity, and market access, strengthen food security, and build a more resilient, innovative, and inclusive sector. Recorded on the sidelines of the Agbiz Congress 2026 in Gqeberha. Reflecting on a sector that continues to deliver record harvests, expanding exports and rising employment, the discussion explores the policy priorities needed to sustain South Africa's agricultural growth while responding to ongoing challenges such as foot-and-mouth disease, extreme weather events and market access constraints. The conversation also examines the future of South African agriculture through the lens of food security, blended finance, biosecurity, digitalisation and innovation.

Agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo examines what the developing El Niño could mean for South Africa's 2026/27 summer crop season. Despite the risk of drier conditions, healthy dam levels, good soil moisture, record grain harvests and strong carryover stocks leave the country relatively well prepared. He also considers the possible effects on food prices, grain exports, neighbouring countries and regional food security should El Niño intensify.

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

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