



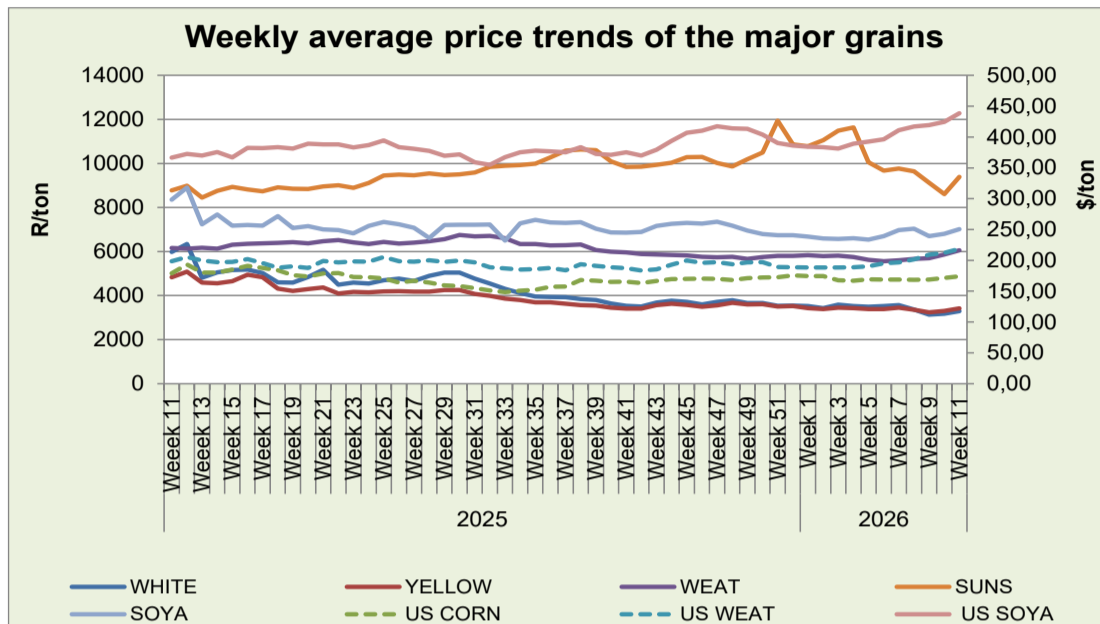
# agriculture

Department:  
Agriculture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Weekly Price Watch: 13 March 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

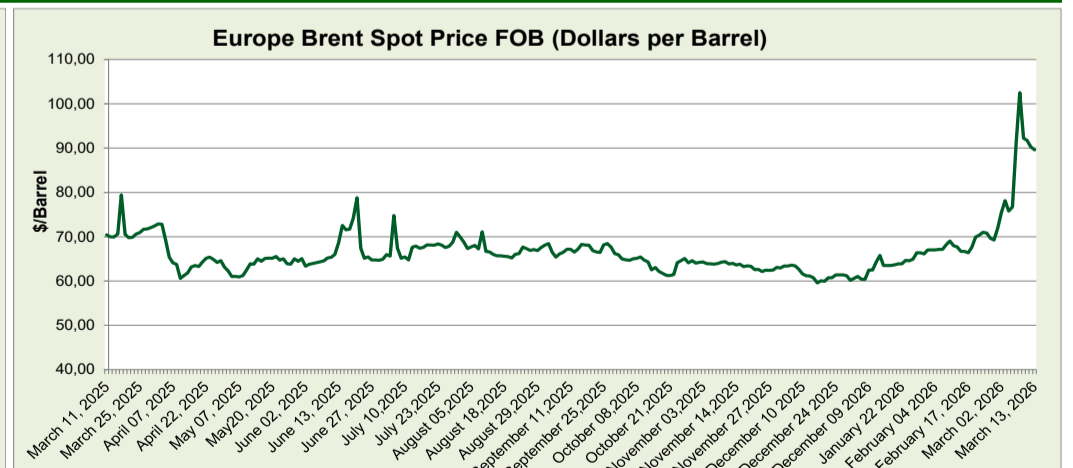
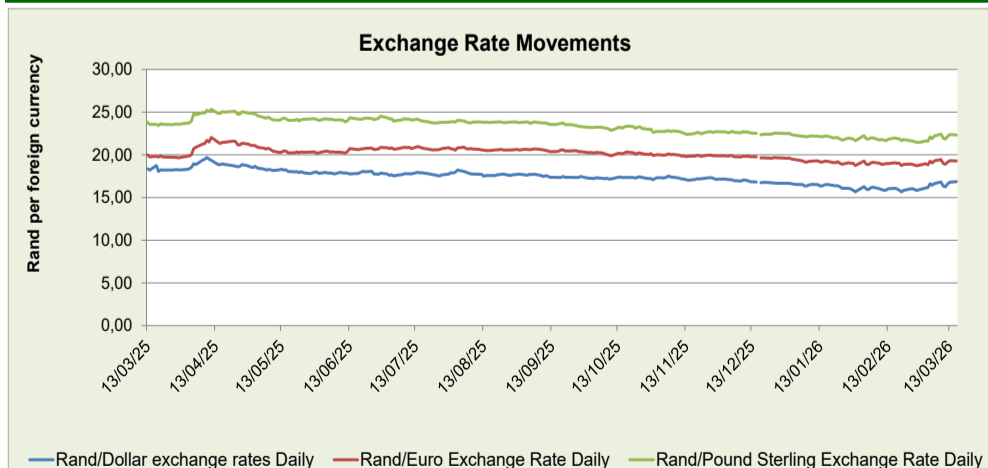
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



The domestic grain market strengthened trend in the reporting week as the agricultural sector is bracing for a “cost squeeze” as rising global oil and Middle East tensions could push up diesel and fertilizer prices. During the reporting week, local white and yellow maize prices increased by 3.7% and 3.6% respectively, while local wheat, soybean, and sunflower seed prices increased by 3.2%, 3.1% and a significant 9.1% respectively compared to the previous week. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize increased by 1.6% from the previous week, supported by rising crude oil prices which strengthened the broader commodity complex. The price of US wheat saw a week-on-week rise of 3.0%, supported by strength across the broader grain complex and rising energy markets. Additionally, the price of US soybean rose by 3.2% week-on-week, mainly supported by rising crude oil prices which boosted soy oil values. Increased investor involvement and technical purchases by traders provided additional support, which helped drive the price upward.

### Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 11 (10-03-25 to 14-03-25)	Last week Week 10 (02-03-26 to 06-03-26)	This week Week 11 (09-03-26 to 13-03-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 976.75	R 3 171.60	R 3 289.20	3.7%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 824.75	R 3 304.40	R 3 424.20	3.6%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$ 178.83	\$ 171.57	\$ 174.24	1.6%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 178.25	R 5 862.50	R 6 052.00	3.2%
USA Wheat per ton	\$ 199.44	\$ 212.16	\$ 218.58	3.0%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 363.75	R 6 809.00	R 7 019.00	3.1%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$ 365.71	\$ 424.82	\$ 438.42	3.2%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 8 741.50	R 8 606.40	R 9 386.00	9.1%
Crude oil per barrel	\$ 70.25	\$ 79.48	\$ 93.28	17.4%



The rand depreciated by 1.1% against the US dollar week-on-week, as concerns over the war persisted and the global economic forecast became increasingly bleak, complicating the inflation outlook and heightening risk aversion. The rand depreciated by 1.3% against the Pound Sterling week-on-week, as worries regarding the economic repercussions of the conflict in the Middle East prompted investors to seek refuge in the Pound. The rand depreciated by 0.4% against the Euro week-on-week, as geopolitical tensions escalated and crude oil prices increased, resulting in a diminished risk appetite.

Brent crude oil averaged \$93.28 during the reporting week, which signifies a substantial increase of 17.4% compared to the previous week's average of \$79.48. The ongoing disruptions pose a significant risk of entirely severing the United Arab Emirates's (UAE) last crude export channel to international markets as the crisis in the Middle East escalates. Furthermore, the daily production of crude oil from the UAE, which ranks as the third largest producer in the Opec cartel, has decreased by more than fifty percent since the onset of the conflict.



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

Week 9 (23/02/2026 to 01/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 10 (02/03/2026 to 08/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
<b>Beef</b>							
Class A2	12 088	62,34	63,99	Class A2	10 298	62,29	64,66
Class A3	629	62,86	64,63	Class A3	646	62,65	65,34
Class C2	809	55,57	58,67	Class C2	914	56,01	58,12

Units sales of class A3 and class C2 beef rose by 2.7% and 13.0% respectively during the reporting week compared to the previous week, whereas unit sales of class A2 beef saw a decline of 14.8% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 and class A3 beef fell by 0.1% and 0.3% respectively, relative to the previous week, while the weekly average purchase price for class C2 beef experienced an increase of 0.8% week-on-week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2 and class A3 beef rose by 1.0% and 1.1% respectively in the reporting week compared to the preceding week, while the weekly average selling price for class C2 beef fell by 0.9% week-on-week. The trajectory of beef prices will be heavily impacted by the effectiveness of disease containment measures and the pace at which slaughter operations recover, both of which will determine the rate of supply normalization.

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

Week 9 (23/02/2026 to 01/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 10 (02/03/2026 to 08/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
<b>Lamb</b>							
Class A2	16 510	102,63	103,34	Class A2	15 080	101,45	101,31
Class A3	2 881	98,84	102,77	Class A3	3 094	97,76	101,47
Class C2	1 347	82,18	90,28	Class C2	987	79,19	87,44

Units sales of class A2 and Class C2 lamb experienced declines of 8.7% and 26.7% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, whereas unit sales of class A3 lamb saw an increase of 7.4% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A2, class A3 and class C2 lamb decreased by 1.1%, 1.1% and 3.6%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, class A3, and class C2 lamb dropped by 2.0%, 1.3% and 3.6% respectively week-on-week. Any escalation in geopolitical tensions could place further pressure on lamb prices in the months ahead.

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

Week 9 (23/02/2026 to 01/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 10 (02/03/2026 to 08/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
<b>Pork</b>					
Class BP	3 358	40.95	Class BP	3 102	40.83
Class HO	7 277	39.54	Class HO	8 075	39.63
Class HP	16 686	39.66	Class HP	18 253	39.70

Unit sales of class HO and class HP pork rose by 11.0% and 9.4%, respectively, during the reporting week in comparison to the previous week, while unit sales of class BP pork fell by 7.6% week-on-week. Regarding pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class HO and class HP pork saw an increase of 0.2% and 0.1% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, whereas the weekly average purchase price for class BP pork experienced a decline of 0.3% week-on-week. In order to reduce biosecurity concerns and avoid quarantine-related disruptions, local producers are delaying slaughter owing to the uncertainty around potential epidemics. This effectively limits short-term availability.

## Latest News Developments

South Africans will soon be greatly impacted by a rise in the price of oil globally, especially at the gas pump and food stores. Experts warn that rising geopolitical tensions are already raising the price of vital agricultural supplies like fertilizer and diesel, placing an increasing financial strain on farmers. Food for Mzani News reported that exporters may face pressure as their competitiveness declines due to rising production and transportation expenses. However, since rising fuel and agricultural input costs permeate the supply chain and enhance the potential of higher food prices in the upcoming months, consumers may see the most significant impact. According to Gavin Kelly, CEO of the Road Freight Association (RFA), the country's whole food value chain would probably feel the squeeze in the upcoming weeks due to the most recent fuel price hike, which is connected to changes in global energy markets. According to Kelly, the rise in fuel costs in March 2026 is a direct result of higher pressure on the international oil price due to supply and logistical threats following the onset of hostilities between Iran, the United States, and Israel. RFA noted that diesel prices are expected to rise by 60 to 65 cents per litre, which might result in higher diesel costs and an immediate effect on transportation costs. According to latest projections and data from the Central Energy Fund (CEF), diesel under-recovery may surpass R7 per liter. However, it is projected that the true consumer price increase will be between R4 and R5 per litre if present circumstances persist.

According to the latest GDP data from Statistics South Africa, the economy expanded by 0.4% in the fourth quarter of 2025, marking the fifth consecutive quarter of growth. That performance helped lift annual GDP growth to 1.1% for 2025, the strongest expansion since 2022. The growth, however, remains uneven. From the industry's side, the largest contributions came from the finance and trade industry. Agriculture remained positive, supported by the impact of favourable weather conditions on field crops and horticulture, which offset the drag from livestock. For 2025, the economy grew by 1.1%, up from 0.5% in 2024. Looking ahead, the economy will be driven by consumer spending, which will be supported by decreasing interest rates, comparatively low inflation, and continuous real income growth. Simultaneously, improved financial conditions, ongoing structural changes, and a stable macroeconomic environment are likely to sustain the rebound in fixed investment. Although China and other Asian nations pose a serious threat to exporters, the extension of AGOA and reduced US tariffs will offer some respite.

To support the grain producers in South Africa, Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen has called for stable policies, improved infrastructure, and a reduction in regulatory barriers. During his address at the Grain SA Congress at NampoPark in Bothaville, Free State, Steenhuisen emphasized that despite increasing structural challenges, grain producers remain vital to the agricultural economy and food security of the nation. According to Steenhuisen, very little in South Africa's food system occurs without the efforts of grain farmers. He highlighted that the decisions made on farms across the country serve as the foundation for essential products such as bread, maize meal, and animal feed. When considering the broader agro-processing value chain, agriculture contributes 6% to 7% to the nation's GDP. With agricultural exports exceeding US\$15 billion last year and a trade surplus surpassing US\$7 billion, this sector remains a crucial source of foreign revenue for the country. The Minister emphasized that maize production continues to be one of the key pillars of the broader agricultural industry. However, the country's ongoing dependence on wheat imports remains a concern. Steenhuisen noted that the increasing gap between farm earnings and production expenses has emerged as a critical challenge for the grain sector overall. Steenhuisen indicated that this gap signifies a convergence of challenges that producers must navigate concurrently, including rising input costs, climate variability, infrastructure inefficiencies, and fluctuations in the global market. The Minister highlighted that research and innovation will be vital for the sustainable future of grain production, particularly as climate change heightens the risks related to weather conditions.

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