



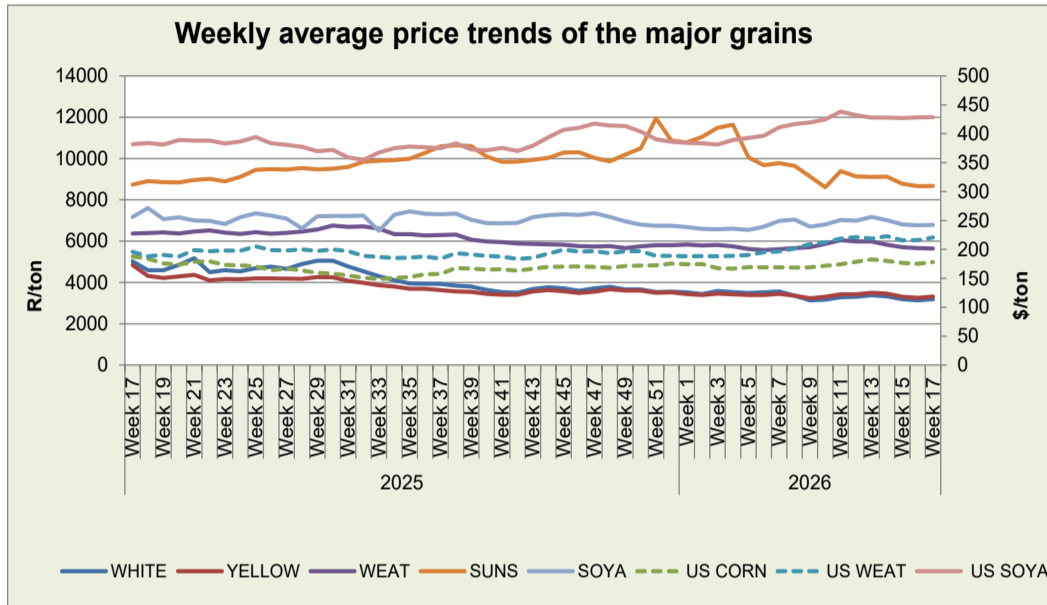
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 24 April 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

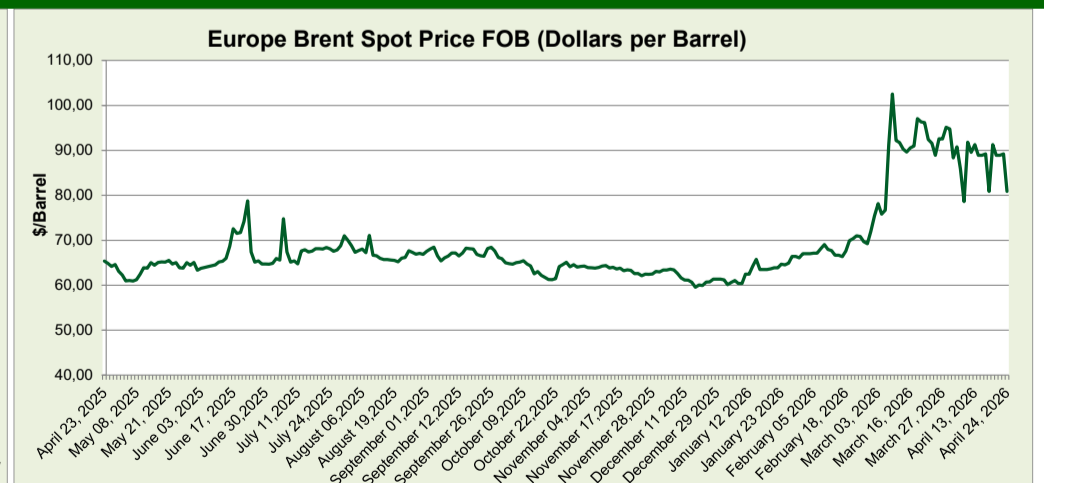
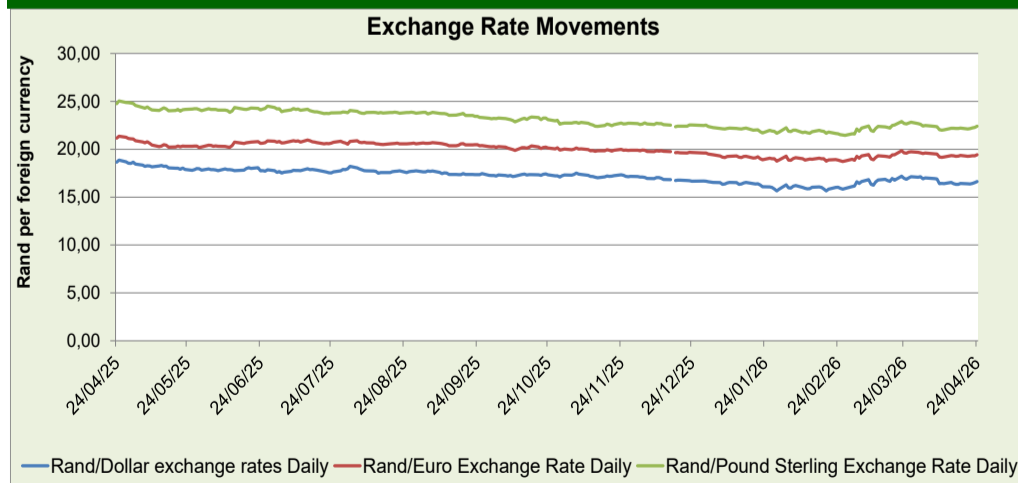
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



Domestic grain prices have shown an upward trend in the reporting week in comparison to the previous week, with the exception of wheat prices, which fell by 0.3% week-on-week. This decline in wheat prices is occurring despite projections that South African wheat plantings will hit an 11-year low due to escalating costs. In the reporting week, local white and yellow maize prices rose by 1.7% and 1.9% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while local soybean and sunflower seed prices increased by 0.3% and 0.2% respectively week-on-week. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize increased by 1.8% from the previous week, mainly due to weather uncertainty, which added a slight risk premium to prices. The price of US wheat rose by 2.2% week-on-week, largely bolstered by persistent dry conditions in crucial US production areas. Furthermore, the price of US soybean went up by 0.1% week-on-week, mainly supported by the strength of soybean oil and the rise in crude oil prices which enhanced the demand for biodiesel.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 17 (21-04-25 to 25-04-25)	Last week Week 16 (13-04-26 to 17-04-26)	This week Week 17 (20-04-26 to 24-04-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R4 637,00	R3 134,60	R3 187,00	1,7%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 418,67	R3 254,60	R3 317,00	1,9%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$186,98	\$175,09	\$178,24	1,8%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 368,33	R5 662,20	R5 643,60	-0,3%
USA Wheat per ton	\$195,09	\$215,65	\$220,68	2,2%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 201,33	R6 764,20	R6 787,80	0,3%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$383,14	\$428,17	\$428,50	0,1%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R8 770,67	R8 660,60	R8 675,00	0,2%
Crude oil per barrel	\$64.89	\$87,85	\$90,56	3,1%



The rand depreciated by 0.4% against the US dollar week-on-week, as investors sought the perceived safety of the dollar. The rand depreciated by 0.2% against the Pound Sterling week-on-week, as investors kept a close watch on developments in the Middle East. The rand depreciated by 0.1% against the Euro week-on-week, as investors anticipate the monetary policy announcements from the Fed and the European Central Bank scheduled for next week.

Brent crude oil averaged \$90.56 during the reporting week, reflecting a 3.1% increase compared to the previous week's average of \$87.85, even with the indefinite extension of the US-Iran ceasefire announced on 21 April. Transit volumes through the Strait of Hormuz are currently about 15-18% lower than the baseline established in March. Approximately 600 vessels, which include 325 tankers, are still stuck in the Gulf. Even with an immediate and continuous reopening, analysts from the International Energy Agency (IEA) anticipate that it will take several weeks to restore crude oil flows to pre-war levels.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 15 (06/04/2026 to 12/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 16 (13/04/2026 to 19/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	8385	61,76	63,15	Class A2	10189	61,09	61,77
Class A3	718	62,23	64,67	Class A3	602	60,84	64,11
Class C2	1145	57,16	58,98	Class C2	1368	56,99	59,27

The beef market displayed varied responses in the reporting week compared to the previous week. South Africa is proactively involved in managing the outbreak through an extensive nationwide vaccination program. Meanwhile, Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen has declared the arrival of two million doses of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine in South Africa, marking a crucial advancement in the nation's endeavors to curb the spread of the disease. Unit sales of class A2 and C2 beef rose by 21.5% and 19.5% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while unit sales of class A3 beef decreased by 16.2% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class A2, class A3 and class C2 beef fell by 1.1%, 2.2% and 0.3% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2 and class A3 beef decreased by 2.2% and 0.9% respectively in the reporting week compared to the preceding week, while the weekly average selling price for class C2 beef increased by 0.5% week-on-week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 15 (06/04/2026 to 12/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 16 (13/04/2026 to 19/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	15029	100,58	99,29	Class A2	13612	100,59	98,46
Class A3	2341	95,01	98,75	Class A3	2749	93,09	98,32
Class C2	680	75,54	84,46	Class C2	1105	76,16	81,53

The lamb market exhibited diverse reactions during the reporting week in comparison to the previous week, while the escalating conflict in the Middle East poses a significant downside risk. Unit sales of class A3 and Class C2 lamb experienced increases of 17.4% and 62.5% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while unit sales of class A2 lamb fell by 9.4% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 and class C2 lamb increased by 0.01% and 0.8% respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while the weekly average purchase price for class A3 lamb decreased by 2.0% week-on-week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, class A3, and class C2 lamb dropped by 0.8%, 0.4% and 3.5% respectively in the reporting week compared to the preceding week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 15 (06/04/2026 to 12/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 16 (13/04/2026 to 19/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	1600	40,63	Class BP	3547	40,61
Class HO	7163	39,66	Class HO	9063	39,23
Class HP	17594	39,81	Class HP	16214	39,39

The pork meat market displayed diverse reactions with fluctuations noted in both unit sales and prices across different classes due to uncertainty around potential outbreaks. Unit sales of class BP and class HO pork increased 121.7% and 26.5%, respectively, during the reporting week in comparison to the previous week, while unit sales of class HP fell by 7.8 week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class BP, class HO and class HP pork decreased by 0.05%, 1.1% and 1.1% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

According to the latest consumer price index (CPI), Statistics South Africa indicates that the cost of living rose by 3.1% for the year ending in March. This represents a slight increase compared to the 3.0% recorded in February. When looking at March 2026 in relation to February 2026, prices have increased by an average of 0.6%. Although this aligns with economists' forecasts, the inflation rate for March is expected to be the lowest in several months, influenced by developments in Iran. Inflation is anticipated to exceed 3.5% this month, driven by substantial hikes in fuel prices in April, which saw increases of over R3 for petrol and R7.50 for diesel. Meanwhile, the annual rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages (NAB) decreased to 3.6% in March, down from 3.7% in February and 4.4% in January. Out of the 11 food and NAB categories, four are experiencing deflation, which includes fruits and nuts, vegetables, cereal products, and milk, along with other dairy products and eggs. While there has been a slight reduction in food price inflation, Stats SA's data for March reveals that six out of the thirteen categories in the inflation basket namely; restaurants and lodging services, education, transportation, housing and utilities, communication, and recreation have experienced increases.

With the expectation of higher export volumes, South Africa's citrus sector is set for another prosperous season this year. Dr. Boitshoko Ntshabele, CEO of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa, has stated that in the coming weeks, both harvesting and exports are projected to rise, while in the following years, more fruit will be harvested from the trees. Ntshabele noted that if this is paired with improved market access, tens of thousands of new jobs could be created. Ntshabele noted that each season presents new global challenges for the citrus industry. This year, the challenge stems from the conflict in the Middle East, while last year it was the tariffs imposed by the US. Ntshabele remarked that the industry has faced tough times before however, CGA remains focused on the areas within its authority. The citrus season is expected to gain momentum in the coming weeks. So far, only a limited number of consignments have been affected, as it is still early in the season, and delays in shipments have occurred rather than outright disruptions.

Due to the war in Iran driving up the price of essential inputs like fuel and fertilizer, South African farmers will probably grow the least amount of wheat in almost ten years this year. According to the Crop Estimate Committee in its estimate for intention to plant winter crops, wheat growers intend to plant 48 640 hectares of land in 2026, a 6% decrease from the previous year. The area will be the smallest since 2015. About half of the nation's grain producers' production costs come from fuel and fertilizer, and since the US and Israel started attacking Iran on February 28, the cost of these inputs, the majority of which are imported has increased. Meanwhile, since the beginning of the conflict, generic wheat prices have increased by 6.9% on the South African Futures Exchange in Johannesburg.

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