



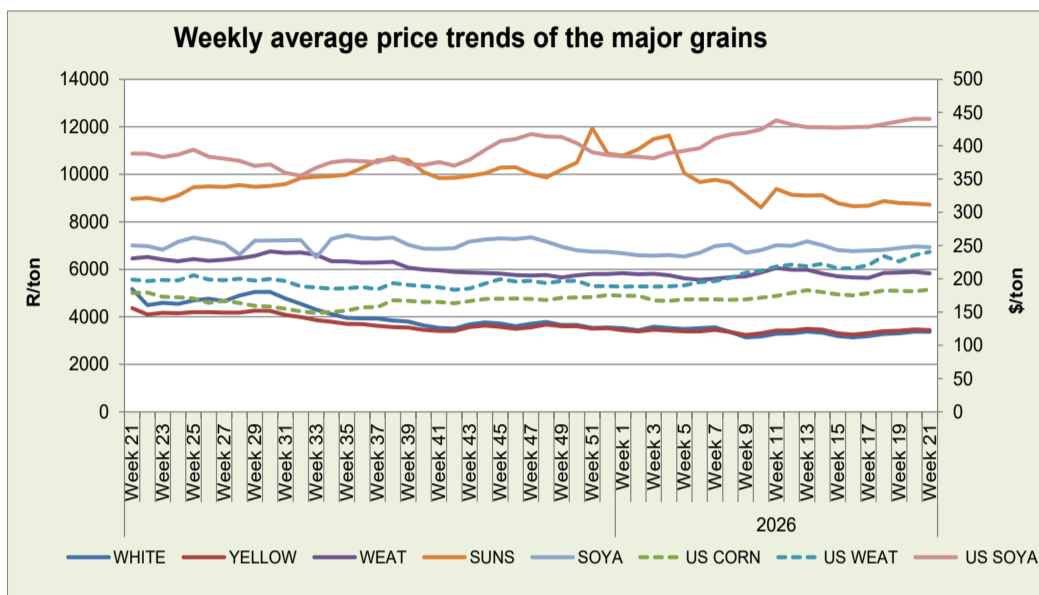
# agriculture

Department:  
Agriculture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Weekly Price Watch: 22 May 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

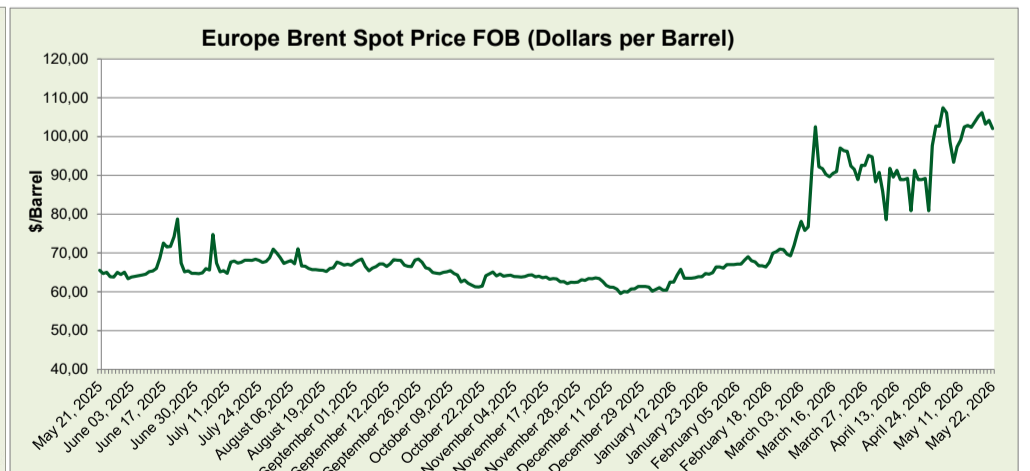
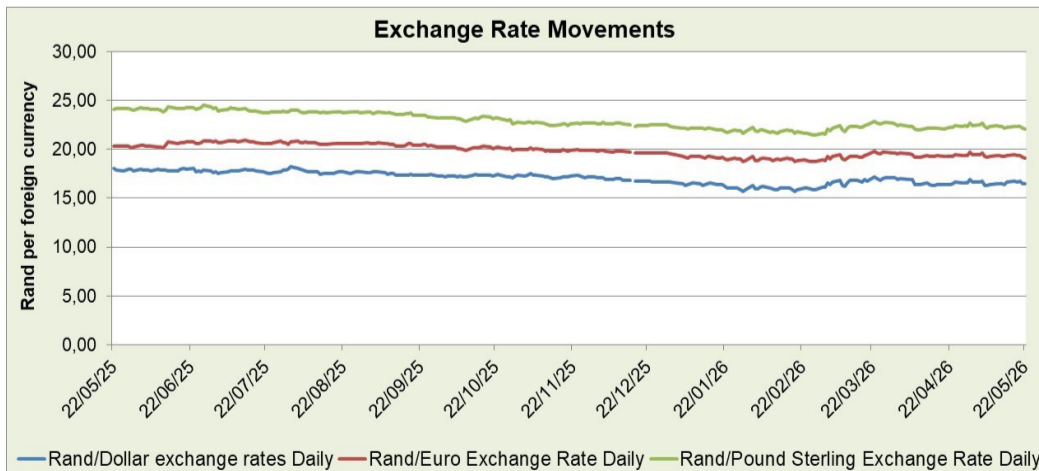
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



Local grain markets traded mixed during the week under review, with white maize, wheat, soybeans, and sunflower seed prices recording declines, while yellow maize edged slightly higher compared to the previous week. Domestic white maize prices decreased by 0.4%, wheat by 1.1%, soybeans by 0.3%, and sunflower seed by 0.5%. In contrast, yellow maize prices increased marginally by 0.7% week-on-week. The softer performance in most commodities was mainly influenced by expectations of adequate supply and improving production prospects, while continued demand from the feed industry provided support to yellow maize prices. International grain markets also delivered mixed results during the same period. US yellow maize and wheat prices increased by 1.5% and 2.1%, respectively. Meanwhile, US soybean prices remained relatively stable, declining slightly by 0.1% week-on-week.

### Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 21 (19-05-25 to 23-05-25)	Last week Week 20 (11-05-26 to 15-05-26)	This week Week 21 (18-05-26 to 22-05-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R5 173,60	R3 382,00	R3 367,00	-0,4%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 369,00	R3 468,40	R3 443,00	0,7%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$178,67	\$181,27	\$183,90	1,5%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 463,00	R5 893,60	R5 830,60	-1,1%
USA Wheat per ton	\$198,84	\$235,65	\$240,67	2,1%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 004,60	R6 959,60	R6 938,00	-0,3%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$388,28	\$440,42	\$440,69	-0,1%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R8 961,60	R8 723,00	R8 767,60	-0,5%
Crude oil per barrel	\$65,12	\$102,11	\$104,16	2,0%



During the week under review, the South African rand weakened by 0.6% against the US dollar, while appreciating by 0.2% against both the euro and pound sterling compared to the previous week. The currency's mixed performance was mainly driven by a stronger US dollar, supported by global risk aversion and expectations of higher US interest rates.

Brent crude oil prices increased by 2.0% during the week under review, rising from \$102.11 per barrel in the previous week to \$104.16 per barrel by the end of the current week. The increase in Brent crude oil prices was mainly driven by ongoing geopolitical tensions in key oil producing regions, expectations of stronger global energy demand.



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

Week 19 (04/05/2026 to 10/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 20 (11/05/2026 to 17/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	11751	61,75	64,1	Class A2	9964	61,86	63,44
Class A3	765	62,01	64,57	Class A3	995	62,04	63,56
Class C2	1021	57,19	59,74	Class C2	955	57,03	59,42

The beef market recorded mixed trends during the week under review, with weaker performance in both prices and volumes across most classes. Unit sales for Class A2 and Class C2 declined by 15.2% and 6.5%, respectively, while Class A3 recorded a notable increase of 30.1% week on week. On the pricing side, average purchase prices remained relatively stable, with Class A2 increasing marginally by 0.2%, Class A3 remaining unchanged, and Class C2 declining slightly by 0.3%. Average selling prices softened across all classes, decreasing by 1.0% for Class A2, 1.6% for Class A3, and 0.5% for Class C2 compared to the previous week.

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

Week 19 (04/05/2026 to 10/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 20 (11/05/2026 to 17/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	14346	102,93	105,81	Class A2	11461	108,86	112,2
Class A3	2209	99,72	104,07	Class A3	1907	111,06	112,07
Class C2	887	77,74	85,8	Class C2	781	77,85	86,37

The lamb market recorded weaker trading activity during the week under review, with unit sales declining across all classes. Volumes traded for Class A2, Class A3, and Class C2 decreased by 20.1%, 13.7%, and 12.0%, respectively, compared to the previous week. Despite lower trading volumes, pricing trends remained firm across most categories. Average purchase prices increased significantly for Class A2 and Class A3 by 5.8% and 11.4%, respectively, while Class C2 recorded a marginal increase of 0.1%. Similarly, average selling prices strengthened across all classes, rising by 6.0% for Class A2, 7.7% for Class A3, and 0.7% for Class C2 week-on-week.

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

Week 19 (04/05/2026 to 10/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 20 (11/05/2026 to 17/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3087	39,15	Class BP	3219	36,72
Class HO	10742	38,15	Class HO	8674	37,46
Class HP	16465	37,5	Class HP	15680	37,46

The pork market recorded mixed trading activity during the week under review. Unit sales for Class BP increased by 4.3%, while Class HO and Class HP declined by 19.3% and 4.8%, respectively, compared to the previous week. On the pricing side, average purchase prices weakened across all categories, with Class BP declining by 6.2%, Class HO by 1.8%, and Class HP easing marginally by 0.1% week-on-week.

## Latest News Developments

South Africa's sugar industry welcomed the approval of a block exemption by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Parks Tau, allowing greater collaboration among growers, millers, retailers, and food manufacturers in sourcing locally produced sugar. The exemption, granted under the Competition Act, is aimed at supporting the long-term sustainability of the sugar industry, protecting thousands of jobs, and strengthening rural economies in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. Industry stakeholders noted that the agreement would also support transformation initiatives and create opportunities for small-scale and black sugarcane farmers. The development was viewed as a significant step toward stabilising the local sugar value chain amid increasing competition from imported sugar and changing consumer preferences. The South African Sugar Association (SASA) indicated that the exemption would encourage investment in diversification projects, including biofuels and other value-added products, helping position the industry for improved resilience and future growth.

Concerns around South Africa's poultry industry remained in the spotlight as producers continued to face pressure from rising feed costs and ongoing competition from imported poultry products. Industry stakeholders highlighted that fluctuations in global maize and soybean markets, combined with higher logistics and energy-related expenses, were increasing production costs across the value chain. Poultry producers also expressed concern over the impact of weaker consumer spending, which continues to affect demand for higher-value meat products. Despite these challenges, the industry reported improved production conditions following favourable rainfall and better availability of feed ingredients. Analysts indicated that stable grain supply prospects could provide some relief to feed prices in the coming months, supporting profitability and helping stabilize poultry meat and egg production. The sector also continued to emphasize the importance of biosecurity measures and local industry support to strengthen competitiveness and protect employment within the poultry value chain.

South Africa's agricultural sector continued to benefit from favourable rainfall conditions across major summer crop regions, improving production prospects for maize, soybeans, and sunflower seed. The improved weather outlook boosted optimism among producers and strengthened expectations of a solid 2025/26 harvest. However, despite positive production conditions, grain producers remained concerned about lower global commodity prices and ongoing logistical challenges, including transport inefficiencies and rising input costs, which continue to place pressure on farm profitability. At the same time, agricultural confidence remained relatively firm, supported by improved electricity supply, easing interest rates, and better port performance. Industry analysts noted that while animal disease outbreaks and global market uncertainty remain key risks, stronger crop conditions and improving operational stability are helping to support sentiment across the sector.

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

Source: SAFEX, Standard bank, Stats SA, Reuters, Red Meat Abattoir Association, FNB, Agbiz and Absa Bank.  
Disclaimer: DOA will not be liable for results of actions based on this price watch.