



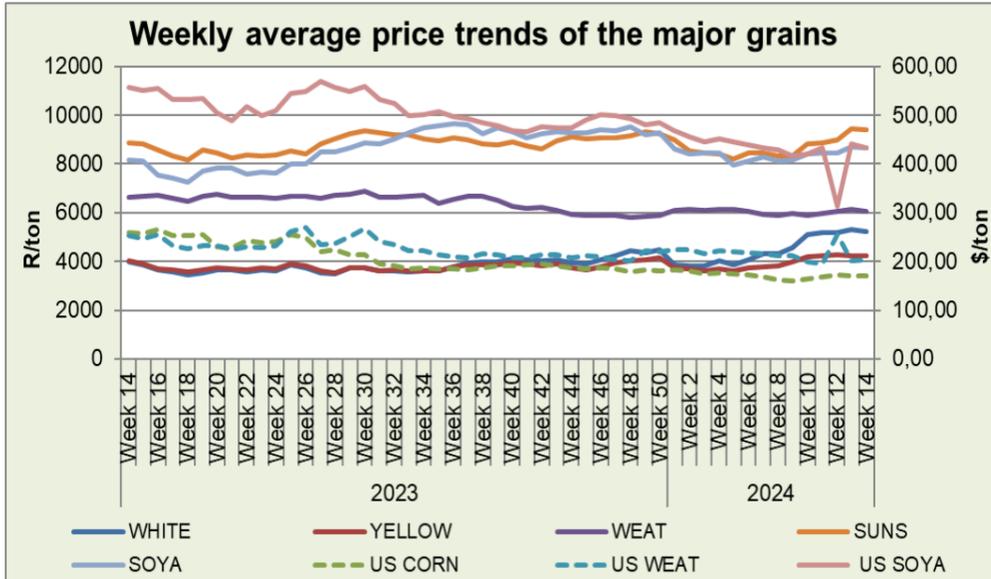
agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 5 April 2024

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

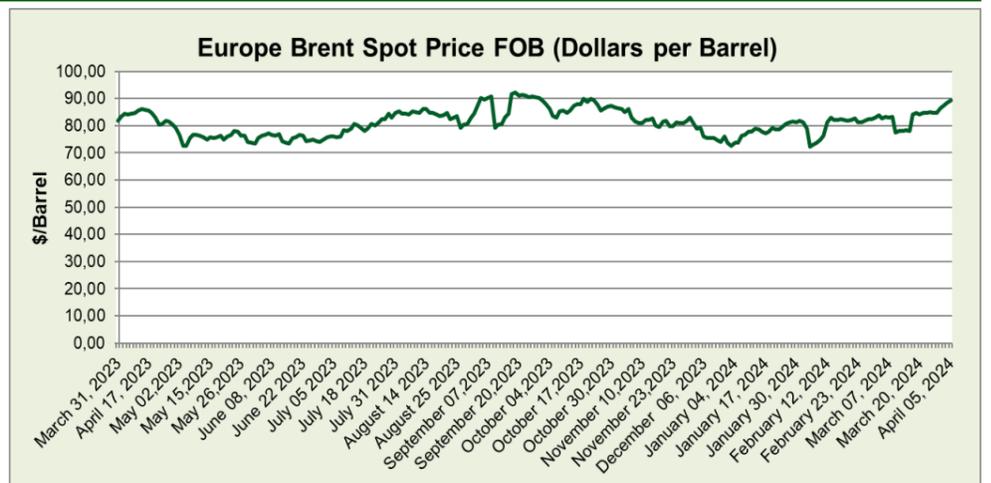
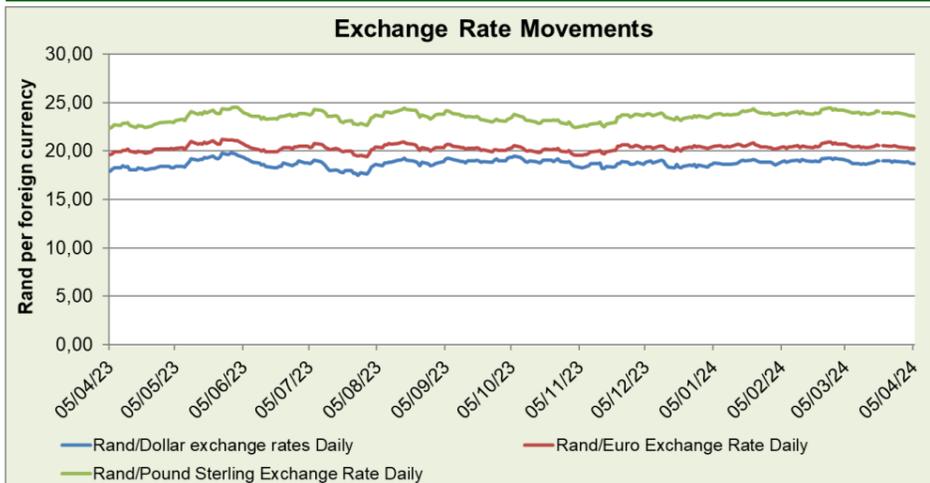
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



The International and local market traded marginally lower this week when compared to the previous week. The prices of domestic grains reported a decrease which seen the prices of white maize, yellow maize, wheat, soybeans and sunflower seed decreased by 1.5%, 0.5%, 1.1%, 0.7% and 0.4% respectively, when compared the previous week. Internationally, the grain price of US wheat increased by 0.6%, while prices for US corn and US soybean decreased by 0.4% and 1.5% respectively week on week. The prices decrease as result of weakening dollar and geopolitical news after Russia halted exports on some ships owned by one of the biggest local grain trading houses. Corn futures, too, firmed on short covering as the dollar weakened, though gains were limited by ample supplies and forecasts for good planting weather later this month on the heels of rainy, snowy conditions this week that improved soil moisture.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 14 (03-04-23 to 07-04-23)	Last week Week 13 (25-03-24 to 28-03-24)	This week Week 14 (02-04-24 to 05-04-24)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R4 005.50	R5 315.50	R5 234.00	-1.5%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 009.50	R4 234.40	R4 214.50	-0.5%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$258.28	\$170.84	\$170.13	-0.4%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 643.75	R6 139.25	R6 072.50	-1.1%
USA Wheat per ton	\$253.44	\$202.13	\$203.41	0.6%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R8 117.50	R8 714.00	R8 655.50	-0.7%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$556.28	\$440.28	\$433.74	-1.5%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R8 871.25	R9 435.00	R9 393.00	-0.4%
Crude oil per barrel	\$84.06	\$84.72	\$87.92	3.8%



The rand appreciated by 0.9%, 1.2% and 1.1% against the US dollar, the Euro and the Pound respectively, when compared to the previous week. The South African rand has been boosted by the price of gold, one of South Africa's key exports, which is hovering near a historic high.

Brent crude oil price averaged \$87.92/barrel in the reporting week which is 3.8% higher than \$84.72/barrel week on week. Brent crude oil prices settled higher to end last week after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+) conducted its joint ministerial monitoring committee meeting earlier this week and kept the supply policy unchanged till mid-2024.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 12 (18/03/2024 to 24/03/2024)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 13 (25/03/2024 to 31/03/2024)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9180	54,77	57,12	Class A2	8351	55,00	58,20
Class A3	695	54,35	55,43	Class A3	667	54,37	55,83
Class C2	823	42,62	43,78	Class C2	634	42,98	45,00

The units sold for classes A2, A3 and C2 beef decreased by 9.0%, 0.4% and 23.0% respectively when compared to the previous week. On the other hand average purchase prices for classes A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 0.4%, 0.04% and 0.8% respectively week on week. The average selling price for classes of A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 1.9%, 0.7% and 2.8% respectively when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 12 (18/03/2024 to 24/03/2024)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 13 (25/03/2024 to 31/03/2024)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	16742	82,43	82,11	Class A2	14639	82,82	84,00
Class A3	1607	80,71	81,21	Class A3	1800	79,16	83,98
Class C2	1364	50,28	56,25	Class C2	1343	50,83	57,01

The units of lamb traded this week for class A2 and C2 decreased by 12.6% and 1.5% respectively, while class A3 lamb increased by 12.0% when compared to the previous week. The average purchase prices for class A2 and C2 lamb increased by 0.5% and 1.1% respectively, class A3 lamb decreased by 1.9% week on week. The average selling prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb increased by 2.3%, 3.4% and 1.4% respectively relative to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 12 (18/03/2024 to 24/03/2024)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 13 (25/03/2024 to 31/03/2024)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	11717	31,63	Class BP	10295	31,67
Class HO	4988	31,30	Class HO	5914	30,99
Class HP	6775	31,38	Class HP	7576	30,94

The quantities of pork traded this week for class HO and HP increased by 18.6% and 11.8% respectively, while units sold for class BP pork decreased by 12.1% when compared to the previous week. The average purchase price for class BP pork increased by 0.1%, while class HO and HP pork decreased by 1.0% and 1.4% respectively, week on week.

Latest News Developments

The Department of Employment and Labour has announced a new R23.8 billion Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) Labour Activation Programme to provide training for employment and entrepreneurship programmes, to strengthen employment creation and mitigate unemployment. This was revealed by labour Minister Thulas Nxesi in a press conference, who said that this private-public collaboration has 333 earmarked projects to provide training, small enterprise support and employment opportunities to 704,000, people. However, the Minister said that this programme is not a silver bullet to end the challenge of unemployment, but a viable force multiplier that can be used together with other initiatives and interventions as part of the response. The training opportunities will run between 12 to 36 months where participants will either be trained to establish their own enterprises or have the opportunity to be employed post-training. The Minister said that the UIF would recover the R23.8 billion of funds invested through contributions from employers and employees, as well as investment-generated revenue. The program will be rolled out in stages across the country, starting with phase 1 on April 6 in Gauteng, which promises 55 different opportunities. However, more information is yet to be announced, including announcing the service providers who will offer training and employment opportunities, and an explanation of the operations for each project. Minister said that opportunities will be created across a wide range of sectors, including; agriculture, services, construction, information and communications technology, wholesale and retail, safety and security, hospitality, social services, textiles, transport, furniture manufacturing, education, energy, food and beverage, health and wellness, aviation, insurance, jewellery, hygiene, arts and culture, and the financial sector.

Power utility Eskom says that load shedding will continue to be suspended until further notice, after a week of no outages. Eskom said that this is a result of sustained available generation capacity as well as adequate emergency reserves. Moderation in demand – off the back of the Easter holidays and continuing this week – is also to thank. While delivering some good news on the load shedding front, the not-so-good news is that Eskom customers have been hit with another double-digit hike in electricity tariffs. Eskom was granted a 12.74% increase for its direct customers by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa). This increase is coupled with a 25.64% affordability subsidy. The average increase for key industrial and urban tariffs will be 13.29%, which is due to the increase in the affordability subsidy charge. The affordability subsidy charge is given as a subsidy to the Home light 20A tariff and is determined by Nersa. Eskom explained that it is paid by the non-municipal large industrial and urban tariffs and exists because of historically lower Home light 20A tariff increases. Nersa also granted a 12.72% increase to municipal customers. However, while Eskom's prices went up at the start of April, municipalities will only increase their customer tariffs on 1 July.

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