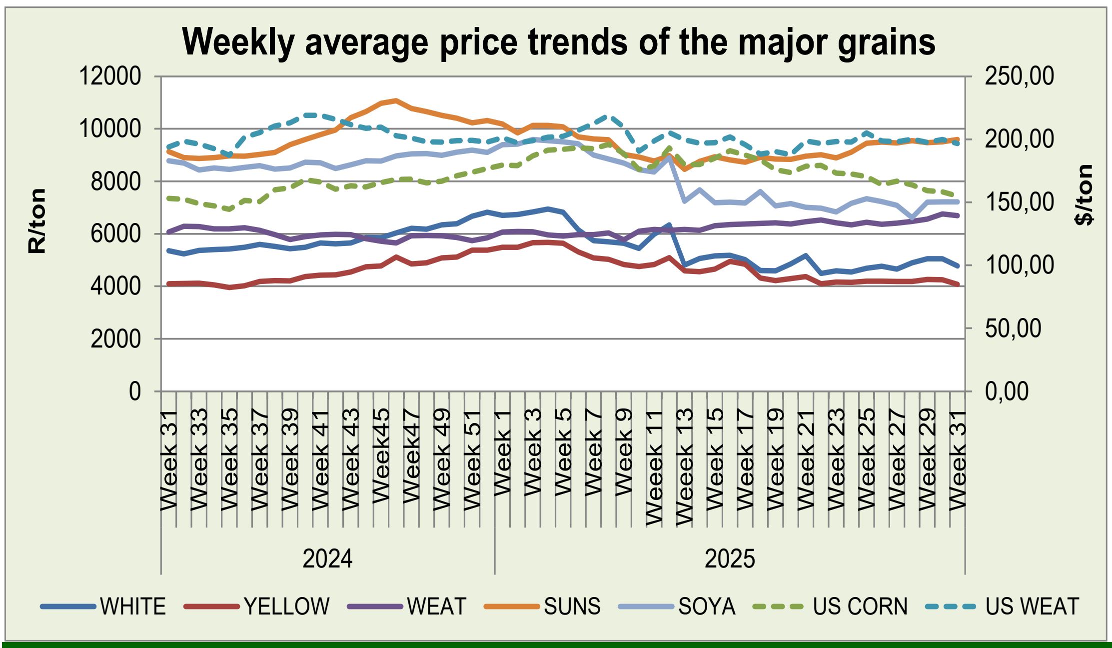
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 01 August 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

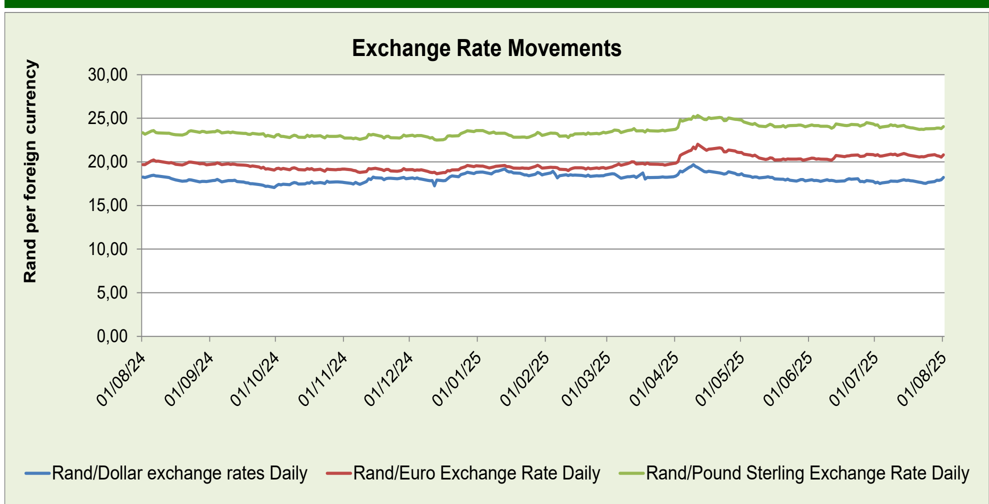
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

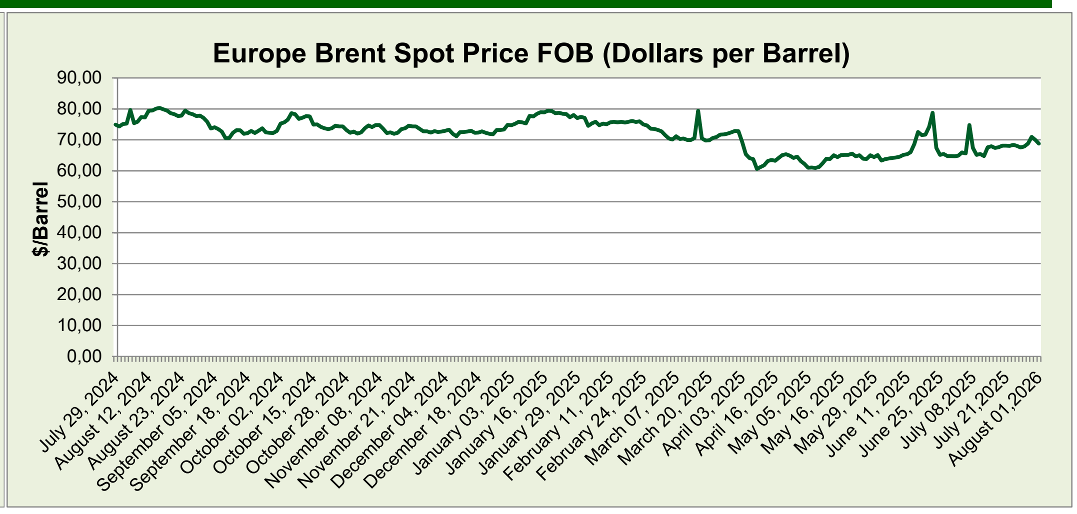


The domestic grain market weakened over the past week compared to the previous week, with the exception of oilseeds, as weaker international parity prices contributed to the downward trend on the SAFEX market The prices of local white and yellow maize decreased by 5.5% and 3.9% respectively, while local prices for wheat decreased by 1.0% week-on-week. On the contrary, local prices for soybean, and sunflower seed increased by 0.1% and 1.0% respectively week-on-week. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize decreased by 2.2% week-on-week. A strong US dollar, milder weather outlook, and expectations for a record US crop weighed on sentiment. During the same period, the price of US wheat decreased by 2.4% week-on-week. The crop condition ratings indicated that 49% of the spring wheat crop is in good/excellent condition while 80% of the winter wheat crop has been harvested. Similarly, US soybean decreased by 3.4% week-on-week, as fresh supplies from the US winter wheat harvest continue to weigh on wheat prices.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 31 (29-07-24 to 02-07-24)	Last week Week 30 (21-07-25 to 25-07-25)	This week Week 31 (28-07-25 to 01-08-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 339.00	R 5 048.80	R 4 772.20	-5.5%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 078,75	R 4 247.80	R 4 083,60	-3.9%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$ 152,50	$ 158,35	$ 154.94	-2.2%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 071.75	R 6 757.00	R 6 691.80	-1.0%
USA Wheat per ton	$ 194.21	$ 199.85	$ 194.96	-2.4%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 776.75	R 7 214.40	R 7 220.20	0.1%
USA Soybeans per ton	$ 379,58	$ 372.04	$ 359.21	-3.4%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 9 095.25	R 9 509.20	R 9 601.60	1.0%
Crude oil per barrel	$ 75.86	$ 68.05	$ 69.27	1.8%





The rand depreciated by 1.9% against the US dollar week-on-week, following the announcement by US President Donald Trump regarding the imposition of an additional 10% import tariff on the BRICS nations and any other economies associated with this coalition. The rand depreciated by 0.5% against the Pound Sterling week-on-week, as markets continue to digest the announcement of the trade deal between the EU and US. The rand depreciated by 0.4% against the Euro week-on-week, on expectations that the Bank of England is widely expected to cut interest rates by a quarter point to 4%.

Brent crude oil averaged $69.27 during the reporting week, reflecting a 1.8% increase from the prior week's average of $68.05. This rise is attributed to the persistent threat of supply disruptions stemming from the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, which are offering some degree of support. Analysts are largely maintaining their oil price predictions for 2025, as the anticipated increase in OPEC+ production and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding US tariffs continue to exert pressure on the market.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 29 (14/07/2025 to 20/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 30 (21/07/2025 to 27/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Beef							
Class A2	11 070	70,08	74,05	Class A2	12 355	71,77	78,40
Class A3	436	67,4	74,7	Class A3	689	71,82	78,53
Class C2	1 755	56,02	58,31	Class C2	1 791	58,17	61,24

Units sales of class A2, class A3 and class C2 beef increased by 11.6%, 58% and 2.1%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same week, the weekly average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef rose by 2.4%, 6.6% and 3.8% respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Similarly, the weekly average selling price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 5.9%, 5.1% and 5.0%, respectively, compared to the previous week. The supply limitations caused by the disease have been the driving force behind the increase in meat prices over the last three months. The foot and-mouth (FMD) disease outbreak has resulted in a temporary shortage due to the challenges faced in slaughtering livestock, particularly cattle.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 29 (14/07/2025 to 20/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 30 (21/07/2025 to 27/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Lamb							
Class A2	13 199	105,94	107,04	Class A2	11 433	105,25	108,46
Class A3	2 344	103,43	105,53	Class A3	1 803	103,53	106,73
Class C2	1 277	74,72	80,75	Class C2	1 021	76,94	84,05

Units sales of class A2 and C2 lamb experienced decreases of 13.4%, 23.1% and 20,0%, respectively, in comparison to the previous week. Regarding pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A3, and C2 lamb increased by 0.1% and 3.0%, respectively, whereas, the weekly average purchase price for class A2 lamb decreased by 0.7% week-on-week. Meanwhile, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, A3, and C2 lamb increased by 1.3%, 1.1%, and 4.1%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Analysts anticipate that lamb prices to rise over in the near term due to improved demand local demand conditions.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 29 (14/07/2025 to 20/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 30 (21/07/2025 to 27/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Pork					
Class BP	13 431	34,11	Class BP	14 423	34,15
Class HO	4 579	32,72	Class HO	4 515	33,17
Class HP	5 264	32,9	Class HP	4 605	33,26

Unit sales of class HO and class HP pork decreased by 1.4% and 12.6%, respectively, during the reporting week in comparison to the previous week, while unit sales of class BP pork rose by 7.4% week-on-week. During the same period, the weekly average purchase price for class BP, class HO and class HP pork increased by 0.1%, 1.4% and 1.1%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Analysts anticipate that pork prices will exhibit a slight upward trend over the near term, supported by higher beef prices.

Latest News Developments

On August 1, 2025, South Africa entered a new and concerning phase as a substantial 30% export tariff to the United States was implemented. This notable shift in policy has created waves throughout the country's economy, generating unease among both businesses and consumers. With no resolution in sight to alleviate this trade burden, South Africans are preparing for the consequences on local markets and international trade relations. According to Agbiz Chief Economist, Wandile Sihlobo, the increased tariffs place South African agricultural products at a competitive disadvantage compared to those from countries like Peru and Chile, which benefit from a significantly lower tariff of approximately 10%. The agricultural sectors most affected include ostrich products, table grapes, citrus fruits, nuts, and wines, among others. However, this situation is not the conclusion. The South African government remains engaged in negotiations. Senior officials from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), the Department of Agriculture, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), and The Presidency are expected to travel to the US soon to advocate for more favourable tariff conditions.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) reached an unanimous decision to decrease the repo rate by an additional 25 basis points (bps). This adjustment brings the repo rate down to 7%, while the prime lending rate is now set at 10.50%. This decision is primarily based on the observation that the inflation outlook remains favourable. As reported by Nedbank, the SARB presented a set of forecasts following the release of figures under both the '4.5% inflation target' scenario and the '3% inflation target' scenario during the May meeting. The MPC indicated that they will utilize forecasts aligned with the 3% target in upcoming meetings. The 3% scenario indicates that inflation is expected to remain well-controlled throughout the forecast period extending to 2027, with the committee assessing the risks to the outlook as balanced. The average inflation forecast for 2025 remains unchanged at 3.3%, whereas the forecasts for 2026 and 2027 have been revised down to 3.3% and 3%, respectively.

South Africa's grapefruit sector is making significant strides in Europe. Supported by the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA), local producers have initiated a focused marketing campaign designed to rejuvenate interest in domestically cultivated Star Ruby grapefruit. Nicci Stewart, the campaign manager for SummerStar Ruby, noted that the term 'summer' sets South African Star Ruby grapefruit apart from their European equivalents, which are harvested during the winter months in the Northern Hemisphere. "The South African grapefruit industry recognized the necessity of launching this campaign to coincide with the country's grapefruit season. According to the industry, planning commenced last year, which included the formulation of the marketing strategy. Following the completion of this strategy, the industry proceeded to develop the brand and its market positioning, constructing a campaign around it. By 2026, the industry intends to initiate their campaign earlier, targeting the end of March or the beginning of April," Stewart elaborated.

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) has published initial trade statistics indicating that the nation recorded a trade balance surplus of R22.0 billion for June 2025. This favourable balance is credited to strong export performance totalling R170.7 billion, in contrast to imports amounting to R148.6 billion, which encompasses trade activities with Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Namibia (BELN) as reported by Tralac. In a month-on-month comparison, exports decreased by R3.3 billion (-1.9%), falling from R174.0 billion in May to R170.7 billion in June. Imports also saw a reduction, declining by R5.3 billion (-3.5%) from R153.9 billion to R148.6 billion. The cumulative trade balance for 2025 now stands at R65.1 billion, slightly above the R64.8 billion surplus recorded during the same period in 2024. According to the Trade Law Centre (tralac), trade developments continue to be unpredictable due to changing global dynamics. Domestically, the environment is still favourable, with low inflation, declining interest rates, and a strong rand boosting import demand. Nevertheless, tralac observes that the global situation is generally adverse, marked by sluggish growth, weak demand, low commodity prices, and geopolitical challenges.

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