



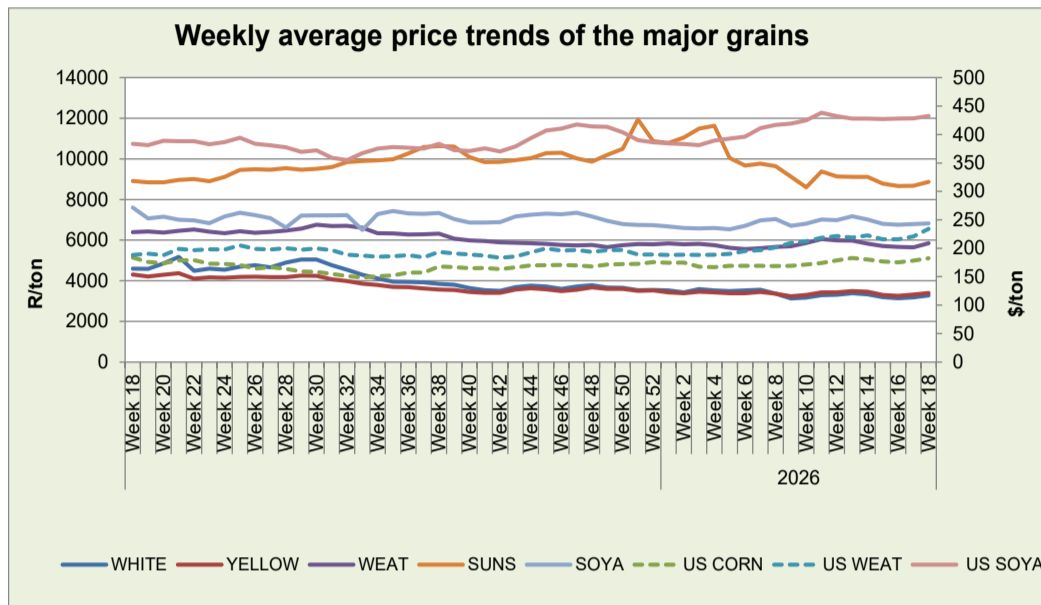
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 01 May 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

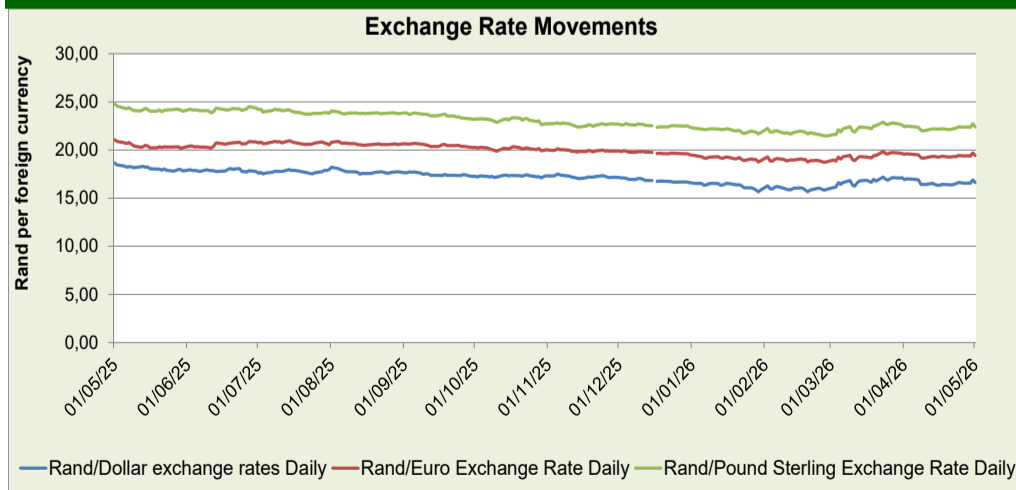
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



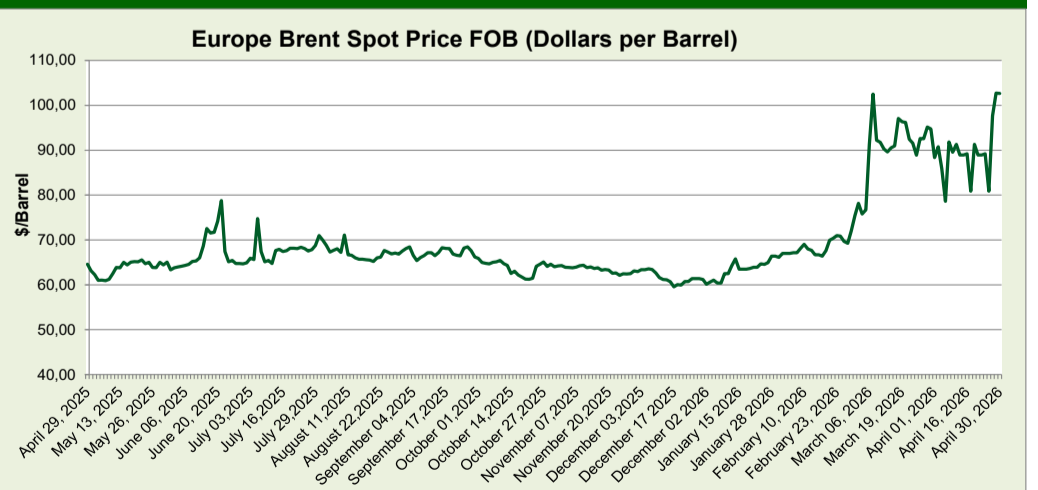
Both Domestic and international grain prices have increased this week compared to the previous week, with local white and yellow maize prices increased by 1.1% and 0.9% respectively this week compared to the previous week. Meanwhile local wheat, sunflower seed and soybean prices increased by 1.7%, 1.1% and 0.2% respectively during the same period. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize increased by 1.9% this week compared to the previous week. The price of US wheat increased by 4.4% during the same period. This might be due to news of a large wheat import tender by Saudi Arabia, which is seeking 710,000 metric tons, also lent impetus to wheat prices. During the same period the price of US soybean increased by 1.6%. Both corn and soybean futures edged higher, though technical resistance curbed their gains.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 18 (29-04-25 to 02-05-25)	Last week Week 17 (20-04-26 to 24-04-26)	This week Week 18 (27-04-26 to 01-05-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R4 597,67	R3 187,00	R3 280,67	1,1%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 311,67	R3 317,00	R3 395,33	0,9%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$183,72	\$178,24	\$182,69	1,9%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 392,67	R5 643,60	R5 852,00	1,7%
USA Wheat per ton	\$188,15	\$220,68	\$234,26	4,4%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 606,33	R6 787,80	R6 820,33	0,2%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$383,75	\$428,50	\$428,50	1,6%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R8 912,00	R8 675,00	R8 870,00	1,1%
Crude oil per barrel	\$63.33	\$90,56	\$101,03	11,6%



The rand depreciated further by 1.0% against both the US dollar and the Pound Sterling week-on-week. The rand depreciated by 0.7% against the Euro week-on-week. In April the rand traded against the US Dollar within a range of approximately R16.30 to R16.85 per dollar and rand showed volatility due to geopolitical tensions, including U.S.-Iran conflicts impacting oil prices, and generally hovered around 16.30–16.60 toward the end of the month.



Brent crude oil further increased significantly by 11.6% and averaged \$101.03 compared to \$90.56 in the previous week. Weekly losses on hopes for an imminent end to the 10-week-old conflict that would allow oil transit through the Strait of Hormuz. Despite reassuring noises that back channels are still open and the parties are talking, US and Iran are as far away from agreement as when this supposed ceasefire started, PVM Oil Associates analyst John Evans said.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 16 (13/04/2026 to 19/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 17 (20/04/2026 to 26/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10189	61,09	61,77	Class A2	13093	60,78	62,43
Class A3	602	60,84	64,11	Class A3	950	60,78	64,21
Class C2	1368	56,99	59,27	Class C2	1435	56,77	60,04

Units sold for class A2, class A3 and C2 beef all increased by 28.5%, 57,8% and 4.9% respectively this week compared to the previous week, units sold for class A3 beef increased significantly after a decline last week. During the same period the weekly average purchase price for all classes declined for two consecutive weeks with class A2, class A3 and class C2 beef fell by 0.5%, 0.1% and 0.4% respectively. After a decline last week the weekly average selling prices for class A2, class A3 and class C2 beef increased by 1.1%, 0.2% and 1.3% respectively this week compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 16 (13/04/2026 to 19/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 17 (20/04/2026 to 26/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	13612	100,59	98,46	Class A2	17681	98,74	98,64
Class A3	2749	93,09	98,32	Class A3	3389	91,88	98,33
Class C2	1105	76,16	81,53	Class C2	1438	75,62	81,21

Unit sold of class A2, class A3 and Class C2 lamb all increased by 29.9%, 23.3% and 30.1% respectively this week compared to the previous week. Meanwhile after an increase last week, the weekly average purchase prices for all classes with class A2, class A3 and class C2 lamb decreased by 1.8%, 1.3% and 0.7% respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2 lamb increased by 0.2%, meanwhile the weekly average selling prices for class C2 lamb declined by 0.4%. The weekly average selling prices for class A3 remained flat this week compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 16 (13/04/2026 to 19/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 17 (20/04/2026 to 26/04/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3547	40,61	Class BP	3142	40,41
Class HO	9063	39,23	Class HO	7280	38,96
Class HP	16214	39,39	Class HP	16224	39,18

After an increase last week Unit sold of class BP and class HO pork decreased by 11.4% and 19.7%, respectively, this week compared to the previous week, meanwhile unit sold for class HP increased by 0.1 week-on-week. During the same period the weekly average purchase prices for all classes with class BP, class HO and class HP pork decreased for two consecutive weeks by 0.5%, 0.7% and 0.5% respectively.

Latest News Developments

Effective from the 6 of May 2026, both grades of petrol will increase by R3,27/ℓ, while diesel will rise by R6,19/ℓ, pushing the inland wholesale price of 0,005% sulphur diesel to a record R32,30/ℓ. These adjustments are expected to have immediate consequences for agricultural production, where diesel remains a critical input. The latest price hikes are largely attributed to geopolitical instability in the Middle East, particularly tensions between the US and Iran, which drove Brent crude oil prices above \$100/barrel. A weaker rand, averaging around R16,63 to the US dollar, further compounded the increases by raising the basic fuel price. Despite the severity of the increases, government has extended its temporary fuel levy relief measures until June 2026. The general fuel levy on petrol remains reduced by R3/ℓ, while the diesel levy has effectively been cut to zero, providing some short-term relief. However, industry bodies warn that these interventions fall short of addressing deeper structural challenges. AgriSA and Agbiz welcomed the extension of the fuel levy relief but cautioned that farmers remain under significant strain due to rising input costs and ongoing fuel supply disruptions. The intervention provides important short-term cost relief to farmers and consumers amid sustained global oil price volatility.

The major development in South Africa's agriculture this past weekend was on trade. The China-Africa Framework Agreement on Economic Partnership for Shared Prosperity (CAEPA) came into effect on 1 May 2026. China established the CAEPA as a framework to promote the common development of China and Africa, through boosting trade and investment. The CAEPA opened a two-year window for zero tariffs on agricultural products from South African suppliers to China, with quotas in some, mainly grains. For the majority of the agricultural products that South Africa typically exports to the world market and seeks to advance, such as various fruits, nuts, raisins, wine, and meats, the Chinese market is now available tariff-free for the next two years, before the advancement of the current trade arrangement, subject to meeting the prescribed Rules of Origin, including product-specific requirements, and on submitting a valid Certificate of Origin for customs clearance in China. This is a positive development for the South African agricultural sector, as it helps efforts to diversify exports. The South African agricultural sector is export-oriented, and deepening access at tariff-free rates in key markets such as China also supports agriculture's long-term growth agenda, which hinges not only on expanding domestic production but also on broadening exports.

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