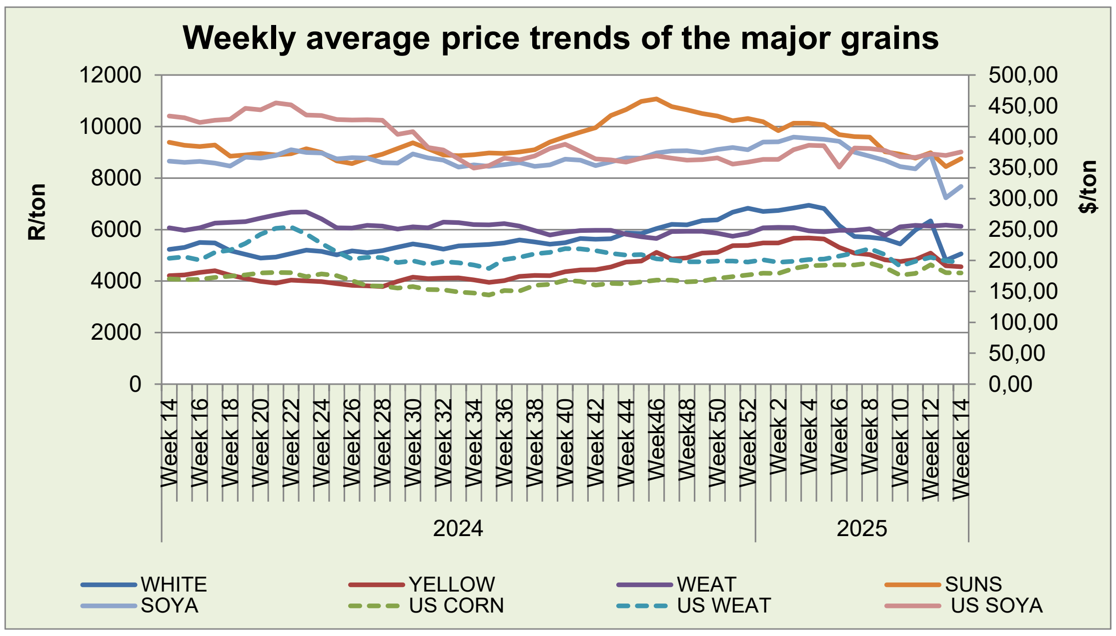
Department: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 04 April 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

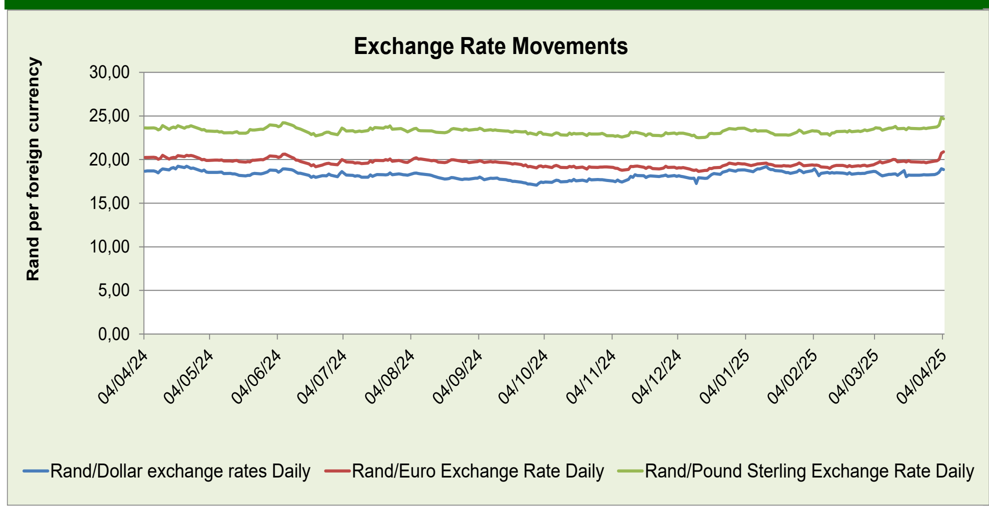
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

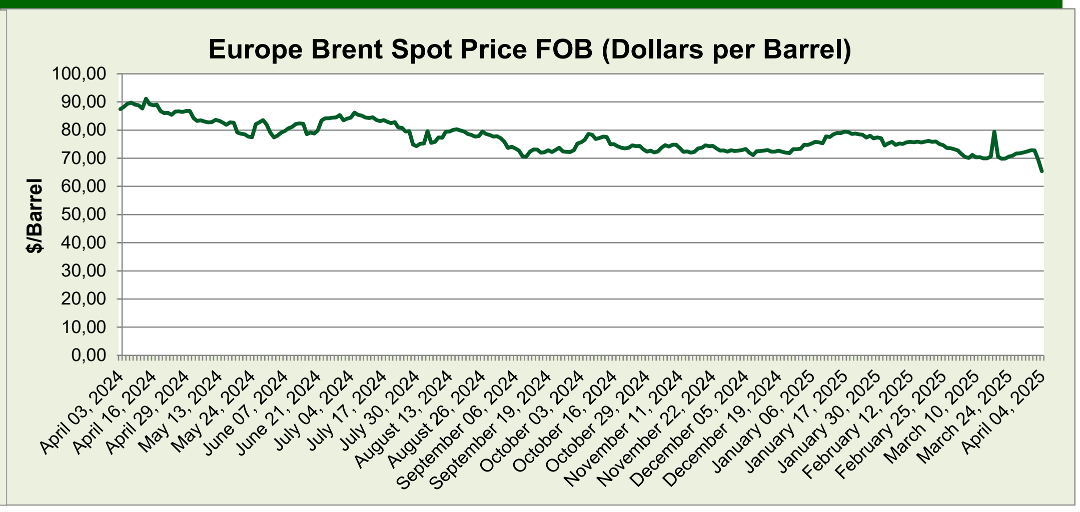


The domestic grain market experienced variations over the past week compared to the previous week, largely driven by fluctuations in the exchange rate and ongoing global events that continue to affect market dynamics. During the reporting period, the prices of yellow maize and wheat decreased by 0.9% and 0.7%, respectively, from the previous week. In contrast, the prices of white maize, soybean, and sunflower seed increased by 5.2%, 6.1%, and 3.6%, respectively, week-on-week. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize saw a marginal rise of 0.01% week-on-week, amid growing concerns about possible retaliatory measures from trading partners following the US's recent implementation of broad tariffs on several countries. Conversely, US wheat prices fell by 0.7% week-on-week, as the market continues to face challenges stemming from weak global competitiveness and low export demand. Meanwhile, US soybean prices increased by 1.5% week-on-week, supported by the USDA's announcement of a private sale of 135,000 MT of soybean meal to the Philippines.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 14 (02-04-24 to 05-04-24)	Last week Week 13 (24-03-25 to 28-03-25)	This week Week 14 (31-03-25 to 04-04-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 234.00	R 4 809.60	R 5 057.80	5.2%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 214.50	R 4 595.20	R 4 553.60	-0.9%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$ 170.13	$ 180.10	$ 180.09	0.01%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 072.50	R 6 171.00	R 6 128.60	-0.7%
USA Wheat per ton	$ 203.41	$ 199.65	$ 197.00	-1.3
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 655.50	R 7 237.80	R 7 677.80	6.1%
USA Soybeans per ton	$ 433,74	$ 370.08	$ 375.71	1.5%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 9 393.00	R 8 449.80	R 8 757.60	3.6%
Crude oil per barrel	$ 87.92	$ 71.40	$ 70.57	-1.2%





The rand depreciated by 2.0% against the US dollar week-on-week, fueled by investor apprehensions about the potential effects of extensive tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump and the stability of South Africa's coalition government. The rand depreciated by 2.5% against the Pound Sterling and by 2.9% against the Euro week-on-week, as investors grew more wary of risk-sensitive assets, driven by increasing uncertainty surrounding global trade policies and heightened fears of a potential recession linked to tariffs enacted by the US President Donald Trump.

Brent crude oil recorded an average price of $70.57 in the reporting week, representing a decline of 1.2% from the previous week's average of $71.40. This price marks the lowest level for Brent crude in over three years, attributed to China's decision to increase tariffs on US products. The intensification of the trade dispute has led investors to anticipate a higher probability of an imminent recession. Additionally, China, the leading oil importer globally, announced plans to implement an extra 34% tariff on all US goods starting April 10.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 12 (17/03/2025 to 23/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 13 (24/03/2025 to 30/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Beef							
Class A2	9 519	57,31	59,97	Class A2	11 575	58,83	65,48
Class A3	448	56,98	58.51	Class A3	438	58,69	63,72
Class C2	433	48,21	47,80	Class C2	647	48,54	49,93

Units sales of class A2 and class C2 beef experienced significant growth, rising by 21.6% and 49.4%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Conversely, unit sales of class A3 beef saw a decline of 2.2% week-on-week. Regarding pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 2.7%, 3.0% and 0.7% respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling price for class A2, class A3, and class C2 beef rose by 9.2%, 8.9%, and 4.5%, respectively, compared to the previous week. The beef market is showing signs of price improvement, attributed to a decrease in slaughter rates.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 12 (17/03/2025 to 23/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 13 (24/03/2025 to 30/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Lamb							
Class A2	13 710	100,57	101,36	Class A2	14 960	100,81	103,68
Class A3	2 010	98,44	98,78	Class A3	1 984	97,64	102,75
Class C2	1 387	64,41	68,06	Class C2	1 590	64,89	69,88

Units sales of class A2 and C2 lamb experienced increases of 9.1% and 14.6%, respectively, during the reporting week compared to the previous week. Conversely, unit sales for class A3 lamb experienced a decline of 1.3% week-on-week. Regarding pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 and class C2 lamb increased by 0.2% and 0.7%, respectively, compared to the previous week, while the weekly average purchase price for class A3 lamb decreased by 0.8% week-on-week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, class A3 and class C2 lamb increased by 2.3%, 4.0% and 2.7%, respectively, compared to the previous week. Lamb prices extended gains due to supply tightness. Favourable production conditions encouraged producers to retain their stock.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 12 (17/03/2025 to 23/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 13 (24/03/2025 to 30/03/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Pork					
Class BP	13 863	31,97	Class BP	14 247	31,99
Class HO	3 753	31,30	Class HO	4 449	31,35
Class HP	3 826	31,78	Class HP	3 986	31,63

Units sales of class BP, class HO and class HP pork units rose by 2.8%,18.5% and 4.2%, respectively, during the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average purchase price for class BP and class HO pork saw increases by 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while the weekly average purchase price for class HP pork experienced a decline of 0.5% week-on-week. The rise in pork prices can be attributed to restricted supply.

Latest News Developments

South Africa has been subjected to a 30% tariff on all exports to the United States. Nedbank reports that this action effectively ends the country's duty-free access to the U.S. under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), although the future of AGOA remains uncertain at this time. Exports from South Africa, particularly in the automotive, steel, and aluminum sectors, will face a 25% tariff, which takes effect immediately following the U.S. decision to impose these tariffs on related imports. Consequently, the repercussions of these elevated U.S. import tariffs will be evident in local automotive export figures.

In the meantime, Wandile Sihlobo, Chief Economist at Agbiz, has emphasized the critical need for South African authorities to diversify the nation’s export markets. He noted that the Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation, as well as Trade Industry and Competition, have committed to intensifying efforts to broaden export destinations, focusing on markets throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. Additionally, where appropriate, these initiatives may include bilateral agreements that align with national interests. Sihlobo asserts that this push for export diversification is essential in light of the ongoing trade tensions with the U.S. and as part of South Africa's agricultural growth strategy. He believes that the advantages of this initiative will become more evident in the medium term. Negotiations with various countries, particularly concerning agricultural products, will require time and a methodical approach. In the interim, the priority regarding the U.S. should be to secure a trade agreement while encouraging businesses to explore opportunities to increase exports to other regions whenever feasible.

South Africa is optimistic about increasing its avocado exports to China in the upcoming season, as stated by Derek Donkin, CEO of the South African Subtropical Growers’ Association, following the opening of the Chinese market to South African avocados. In 2024, South Africa exported a 40-foot container containing 21 tons of avocados to China. Donkin noted that this amount constituted only 0.03% of the country's total avocado exports, which reached 81,012 tons. However, he emphasized that the Chinese market offers significant growth potential for South African exporters and producers, particularly due to the rapidly expanding upper-middle class in China, which could transform the country into a major avocado market. This perspective is shared by Hans Boyum, the commercial director for Africa at Westfalia Fruit, the first company to export avocados to China. Boyum concurred with Donkin, highlighting that the demand for avocados in China is anticipated to grow steadily, especially as consumer awareness of the health benefits associated with avocados increases. He believes that South Africa can establish itself as a dependable supplier, offering fresher products due to shorter shipping times compared to its competitors. Boyum added that with ongoing market education and the development of distribution networks, China could emerge as one of South Africa's primary export destinations in the years ahead.

The Department of Agriculture has announced a new case of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Bergville, KwaZulu-Natal, raising the total number of active outbreaks in the province to 147 out of 165 reported across South Africa. The Department indicated that traceback investigations have established a connection between the Bergville outbreak and previous infections within the Disease Management Area (DMA) prior to its official extension. Additionally, two more suspected cases outside the DMA are currently under investigation, and all affected regions have been placed under quarantine. The Department is intensifying surveillance and vaccination efforts within the DMA and a 10-kilometer radius around the infected sites to manage the disease. Meanwhile, the situation in the Eastern Cape appears to be more stable, although caution remains essential. This province has reported 40 outbreaks, with 39 still active. The Department has highlighted that there has been no indication of viral circulation in the 39 ongoing cases for more than six months. It has also declared that these outbreaks are not considered active, fostering hope that restrictions in the DMA may soon be removed.

For more information contact: Directorate Statistics & Economic Analysis (SEA) at HeidiP@dalrrd.gov.za or 0123198194.

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