



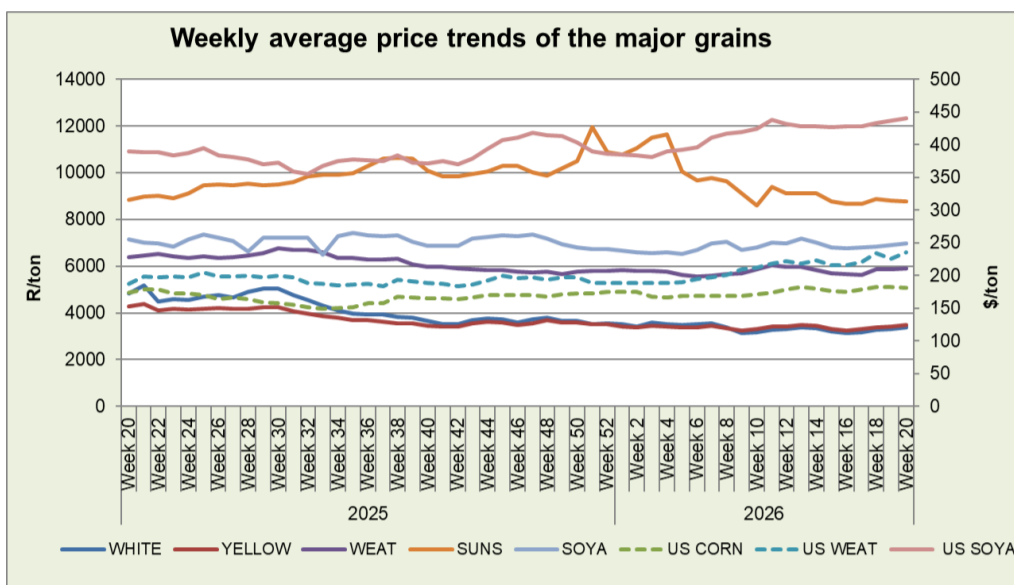
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 15 May 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

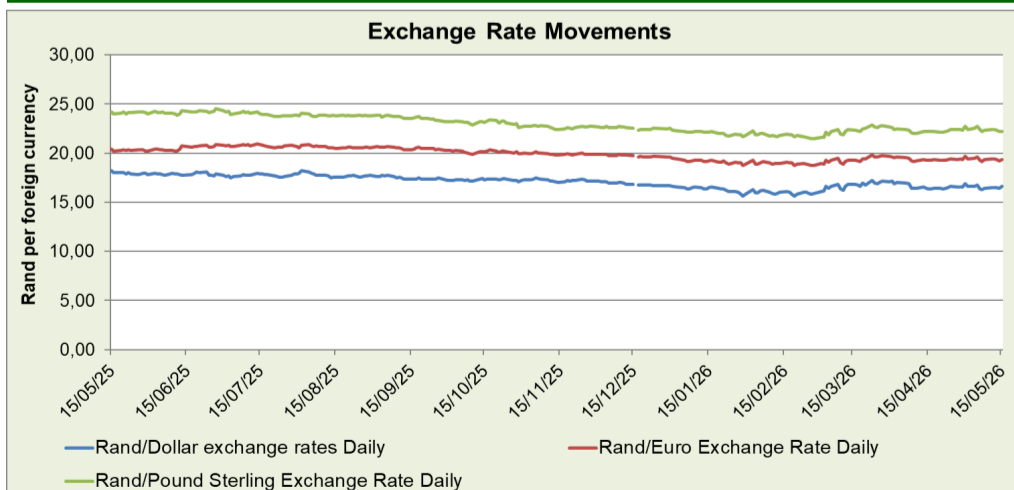
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



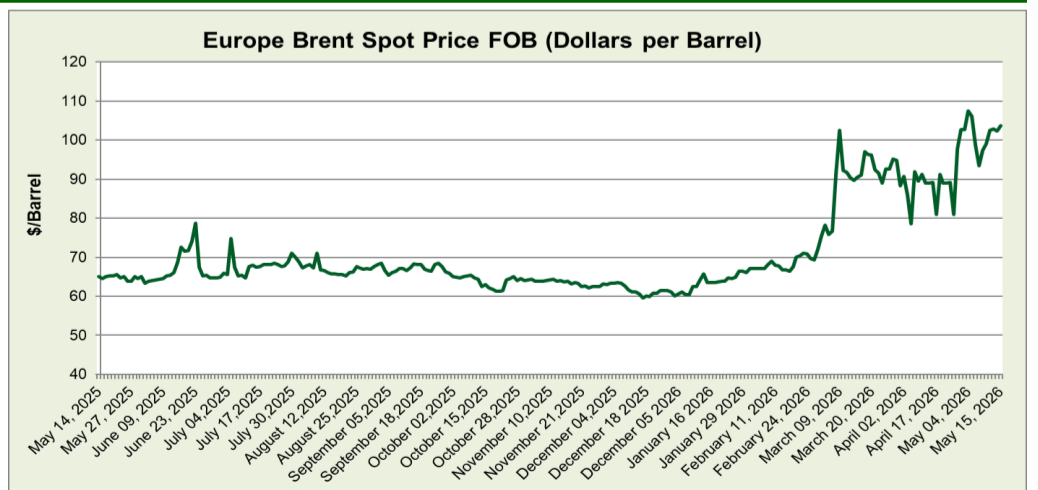
The International and local market traded lower this week when compared to the previous week. The average prices of domestic white maize, yellow maize, wheat and soya bean increased by 2.3%, 1.4%, 0.4% and 0.9% respectively, whilst sunflower seed decreased by 0.3% week on week. South African consumers are continuing to experience relatively low food inflation despite rising global commodity prices, with strong local agricultural production helping to offset mounting international pressures. According to Annabel Bishop, Investec's Chief Economist, global agricultural commodity prices have been rising steadily this year, particularly following the escalation of conflict in the Middle East. Internationally, the grain prices of US wheat and US soybean both increased by 4.2% and 0.8% respectively, while US Maize decreased by 0.5% when compared to the previous week.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 20 (12-05-25 to 16-05-25)	Last week Week 19 (04-05-26 to 08-05-26)	This week Week 20 (11-05-26 to 15-05-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R4 848,20	R3 307,40	R3 382,00	2,3%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 292,60	R3 419,20	R3 468,40	1,4%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$173,57	\$182,07	\$181,27	-0,5%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 374,20	R5 869,20	R5 893,60	0,4%
USA Wheat per ton	\$187,86	\$226,18	\$235,65	4,2%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 150,40	R6 895,00	R6 959,60	0,9%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$389,15	\$437,00	\$440,69	0,8%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R8 842,40	R8 797,40	R8 767,60	-0,3%
Crude oil per barrel	\$64,45	\$101,39	\$102,11	0,7%



The SA rand depreciated by 0.1% against the US dollar, while appreciated by 0.2% against the Euro and by 0.6% against the Pound sterling when compared to the previous week. The South African rand weakened towards 16.7 per USD, the lowest level since early May, weighed by a stronger dollar and falling prices of key precious mates due to Iran-related inflation risks.



The price of Brent crude oil increased by 0.7% this week compared to the previous week and ended the week at \$102.11 this week from \$101.39 the previous week. The oil prices rose, since the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively disrupted and President Donald Trump has intensified rhetoric on Iran as hopes for a swift resolution fade.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 18 (27/04/2026 to 03/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 19 (04/05/2026 to 10/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9237	61,33	63,65	Class A2	11751	61,75	64,10
Class A3	818	61,33	64,93	Class A3	765	62,01	64,57
Class C2	724	56,88	60,17	Class C2	1021	57,19	59,74

The units sold for class A2 and C2 beef increased by 27.2% and 41.0% respectively, while class A3 beef decreased by 6.5% when compared to the previous week. The average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 0.7%, 1.1% and 0.5% respectively, week on week. The average selling price for class A3 and C2 beef decreased by 0.6% and 0.7% respectively, whilst class A2 beef increased by 0.7% when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 18 (27/04/2026 to 03/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 19 (04/05/2026 to 10/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	13186	100,94	102,87	Class A2	14346	102,93	105,81
Class A3	2055	97,08	99,48	Class A3	2209	99,72	104,07
Class C2	662	72,10	82,31	Class C2	887	77,74	85,80

The units of lamb traded this week for class A2, A3 and C2 increased by 8.8%, 7.5% and 34.0% respectively, when compared to the previous week. The average purchase prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb increased by 2.0%, 2.7% and 7.8% respectively, week on week. The average selling prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb increased by 2.9%, 4.6% and 4.2% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 18 (27/04/2026 to 03/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 19 (04/05/2026 to 10/05/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	2790	39,44	Class BP	3087	39,15
Class HO	6336	38,78	Class HO	10742	38,15
Class HP	10539	38,76	Class HP	16465	37,50

The quantities of pork traded this week for class BP, HO and HP increased by 10.6%, 69.5% and 56.2% respectively, week on week. The average purchase price for class BP, HO and HP pork decreased by 0.7%, 1.6% and 3.3% respectively, when compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen formally rescinded the disease management area (DMA) through a Government Gazette notice published on 15 May, ending measures that had been in place since 2021. The gazette repeals the control measures introduced under Government Notice No. 5997 of March 2025, with the Minister acting under Section 9(1) of the Animal Diseases Act (No. 35 of 1984) to formally rescind the FMD management area in KZN. The decision marks a significant turning point in South Africa's ongoing battle against FMD, which has repeatedly disrupted livestock production, auctions, feedlot operations, and export opportunities since outbreaks began to intensify in KZN in 2019. The DMA was originally introduced to contain the spread of FMD through strict movement controls on cloven-hoofed animals. However, over time, producers within the DMA increasingly argued that the restrictions were no longer scientifically justified, particularly as outbreaks spread beyond the original containment boundaries. Speaking during a media briefing in Cape Town earlier this week, Steenhuisen said the epidemiological situation in KZN had changed substantially since the DMA was first declared. The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) livestock farmers have welcomed government's decision to officially lift the province's foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) management area, describing it as a long-overdue breakthrough after years of costly restrictions that have weighed heavily on the province's agricultural economy.

At Nampo Harvest Day 2026, during a Nation in Conversation session, the panel discussed the challenges and opportunities in the biofuels industry. The panel comprised Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen; Prof Ferdi Meyer, managing director of the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy and an extraordinary professor in agricultural economics at Stellenbosch University; Peter Starling, executive chairperson of AlcoNCP; and Derek Mathews, former chairperson of Grain SA and a farmer in Lichtenburg, Northwest province. The session, which took place on 13 May, was facilitated by Theo Vorster, investment strategist and CEO of Galileo Capital. Positioned as a solution for energy security, rural development, and meeting climate commitments, the opportunities for developing this industry appear compelling. The panel deliberated biofuels as a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Renewable fuels derived from crops such as maize, sorghum, and sugar cane hold the potential to help reshape South Africa's energy industry. Against the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have contributed to uncertainty in global trade, higher oil prices, and disruptions in fertiliser markets, biofuels rank high on political, agricultural, and societal agendas.

According to Steenhuisen, biofuels are not merely a technological solution but represent a profound shift towards energy independence, ecological balance, and social resilience. Some of the questions the panel addressed were: Are biofuels a viable option in South Africa, particularly at farm level? Are current investments aligned with the realities of the country's agriculture sector? What will happen when oil prices drop and maize prices rise? How can government, industry, and agriculture work together to unlock the full potential of biofuels? The discussion also reinforced the strategic importance of biofuels as part of South Africa's future agricultural growth trajectory and the societal responsibility of pursuing more sustainable and affordable energy options. According to Mathews, the development of a biofuel industry could be a game-changer for South Africa, offering farmers an important lifeline. However, he warned that all scenarios regarding oil and maize prices must be considered.

For more information contact: Directorate Statistics & Economic Analysis (SEA) at 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.