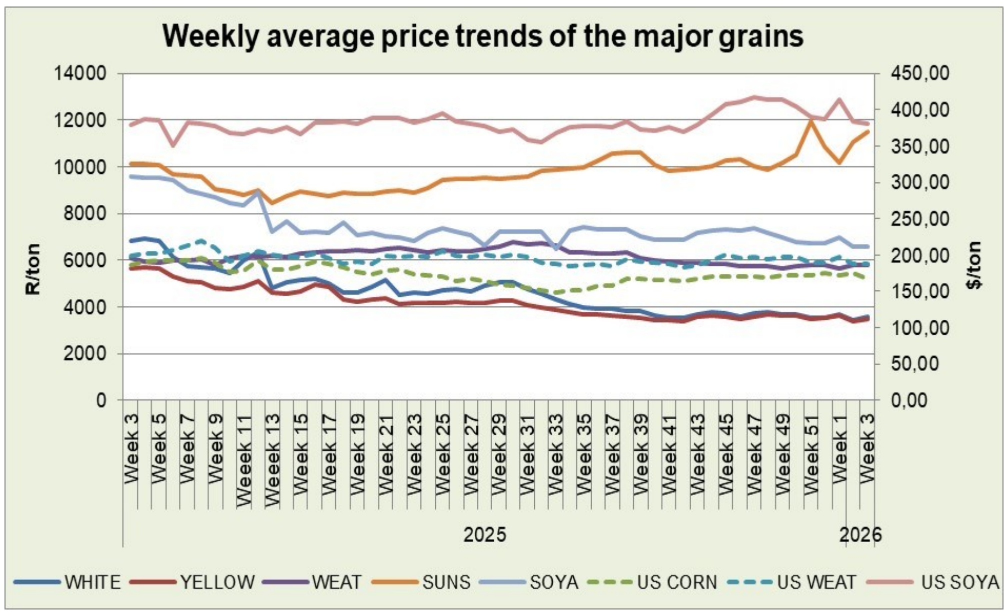
# agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Weekly Price Watch: 16 January 2026

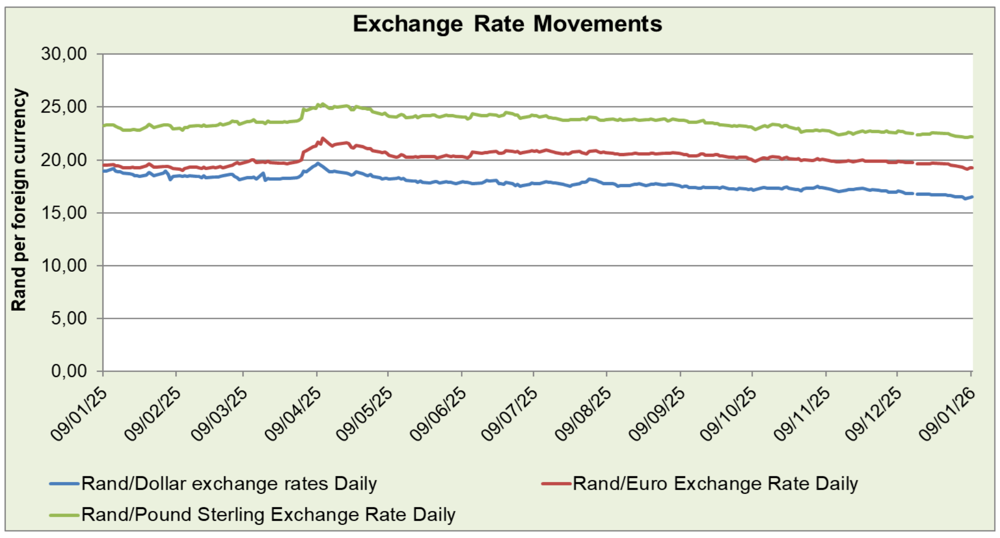
## Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

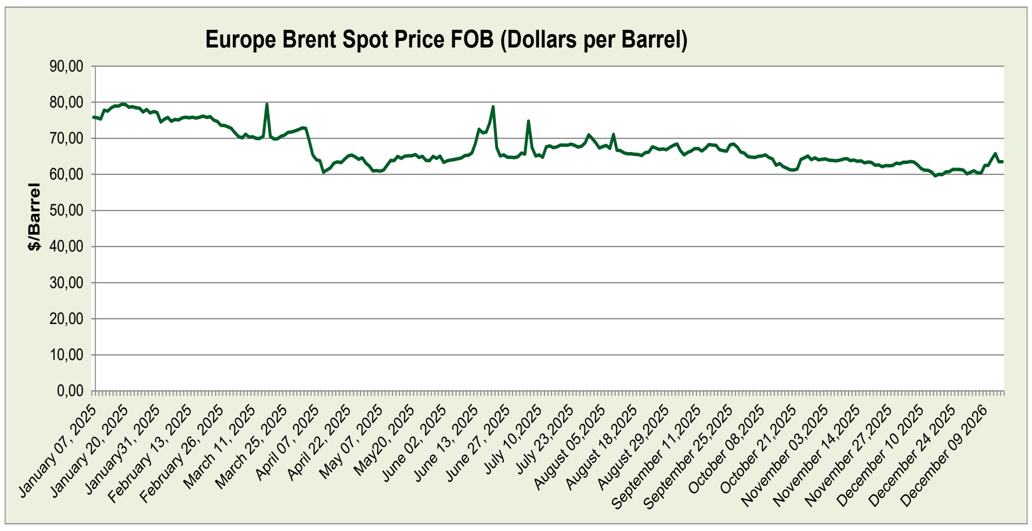
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis




Domestic grain prices in South Africa moved in different directions during the week under review and did not follow the weaker trend seen in global markets. Locally, white and yellow maize prices increased by 4.5% and 1.9% week-on-week, supported by strong local demand, while soybean prices slipped slightly by 0.3%. Wheat prices rose marginally by 0.4%, and sunflower seed prices increased strongly by 3.9% due to higher demand and some supply pressures. In contrast, global grain prices were mostly lower, with US yellow maize falling by 4.0%, US wheat remaining almost unchanged, and US soybean prices declining by 0.6%. Overall, the data show that South African grain prices were firmer than international prices during the week.

| Spot price trends of major grains commodities | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1 year ago**<br>**Week 3**<br>**(13-01-25 to 17-01-25)** | **Last week**<br>**Week 2**<br>**(05-01-26 to 09-01-26)** | **This week**<br>**Week 3**<br>**(12-01-26 to 16-01-26)** | **w-o-w % change** |
| RSA White Maize per ton | R6 839,40 | R3 430,60 | R3 584,40 | 4,5% |
| RSA Yellow Maize per ton | R5 662,40 | R3 390,60 | R3 455,80 | 1,9% |
| USA Yellow Maize per ton | $186,94 | $174,67 | $167,61 | -4,0% |
| RSA Wheat per ton | R6 078,80 | R5 791,20 | R5 814,20 | 0,4% |
| USA Wheat per ton | $198,87 | $188,51 | $188,24 | -0,1% |
| RSA Soybeans per ton | R9 592,20 | R6 595,40 | R6 574,60 | -0,3% |
| USA Soybeans per ton | $379,15 | $383,60 | $381,25 | -0,6% |
| RSA Sunflower seed per ton | R10 128,60 | R11 054,60 | $11 491,00 | 3,9% |
| Crude oil per barrel | $ 78,66 | $60,99 | $63,90 | 4,8% |




The South African rand strengthened modestly over the week, appreciating by 0.3% against the US dollar, 0.6% against the euro, and 0.6% against the pound compared to the previous week. This improvement reflects firmer sentiment toward emerging market currencies, supported by a slightly weaker US dollar and improved global risk appetite, which encouraged inflows into higher-yielding currencies such as the rand.

During the week under review, Brent crude oil prices rose by 4.8%, ending the week at $63.90 from $60.99 the previous week. This increase was largely driven by geopolitical and supply-risk concerns, including potential disruptions from tensions involving Iran and other oil-producing regions, which added a risk premium to crude prices as traders anticipated tighter supply and it kept upside pressure on the market.

## National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

| Week 1 (29/12/2025 to 04/01/2026) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price | Week 2 (05/01/2026 to 11/01/2026) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A2 | 9111 | 70,1 | 75,62 | Class A2 | 9401 | 66,51 | 73,52 |
| Class A3 | 393 | 69,3 | 77,15 | Class A3 | 312 | 64,86 | 74,26 |
| Class C2 | 223 | 61,76 | 66,35 | Class C2 | 716 | 61,05 | 65,05 |

Market activity in the beef sector showed mixed movements between Week 1 and Week 2, as reflected in both volumes and prices. Unit sales increased slightly for Class A2 by 3.2%, indicating steady demand, while Class A3 volumes declined sharply by 20.6%. In contrast, Class C2 recorded a strong rebound in activity, with unit sales more than doubling (+221.1%) week-on-week. Despite these volume shifts, prices generally softened. Average purchase prices declined across all classes, falling by 5.1% for Class A2, 6.4% for Class A3, and 1.1% for Class C2. Similarly, average selling prices also eased, decreasing by 2.8% for Class A2, 3.7% for Class A3, and 2.0% for Class C2, suggesting weaker price support despite improved throughput in some categories.

## National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

| Week 1 (29/12/2025 to 04/01/2026) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price | Week 2 (05/01/2026 to 11/01/2026) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A2 | 11896 | 116,17 | 121,23 | Class A2 | 15297 | 114,4 | 116,82 |
| Class A3 | 1646 | 116,61 | 115,27 | Class A3 | 2488 | 111,91 | 115,47 |
| Class C2 | 563 | 85,43 | 94,76 | Class C2 | 647 | 83,45 | 91,33 |

Trading conditions in the lamb market were mixed between Week 1 and Week 2, with volumes improving strongly while prices generally softened. Unit sales increased across all classes, led by a notable rise in Class A2 volumes (+28.6%) and a sharp increase in Class A3 (+51.2%), while Class C2 also recorded a moderate gain (+14.9%). Despite the higher throughput, average purchase prices declined across the board, easing by 1.5% for Class A2, 4.0% for Class A3, and 2.3% for Class C2. Selling prices followed a similar downward trend, with Class A2 and Class C2 both falling by 3.6%, while Class A3 was relatively stable, edging up marginally by 0.2%.

## National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

| Week 1 (29/12/2025 to 04/01/2026) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Week 2 (05/01/2026 to 11/01/2026) | Units | Avg Purchase Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class BP | 3288 | 40,32 | Class BP | 3230 | 40,89 |
| Class HO | 6334 | 39,75 | Class HO | 8803 | 39,33 |
| Class HP | 11791 | 39,58 | Class HP | 18092 | 39,22 |

Unit sales for Class BP pork decreased slightly by 1.8% week-on-week, indicating relatively stable demand, while Class HO and Class HP recorded strong increases in volumes traded, rising by 39.0% and 53.4%, respectively. Despite the higher units for HO and HP classes, average purchase prices softened for these categories, declining by 1.1% for Class HO and 0.9% for Class HP. In contrast, Class BP purchase prices increased by 1.4% week-on-week.

## Latest News Developments

The Western Cape is facing a severe wildfire season alongside worsening drought conditions, with more than 100 000 hectares already burnt and firefighting resources under extreme pressure. The province's R17 million aerial firefighting budget has been fully spent, forcing internal funding shifts to keep 21 aircraft operating through the peak fire months. The Overstrand and Cape Winelands have been among the hardest hit, where over 500 firefighters have worked to protect communities, farms, and natural areas, while agricultural losses have been significant. In Overstrand alone, fire damage since early January has cost an estimated R6-7 million, destroying grazing land and farm infrastructure in areas such as Pearly Beach and Stanford, leaving farmers urgently needing feed to sustain livestock. Officials warn that continued drought and escalating fires could push food prices higher, especially meat, and a provincial disaster declaration is being considered to fast-track relief and support affected farming communities.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which grants duty-free access to the US market for many African exports, expired in late September 2025, raising concerns among economists about potential trade disruptions and weakened business confidence. The US House of Representatives has since voted overwhelmingly to extend AGOA until December 2028, with the bill now awaiting approval by the Senate and final sign-off by President Donald Trump. In 2024, South Africa's agricultural exports to the US reached US$536 million worth of agricultural products to the United States, increasing from US$385 million in 2020, signalling a robust commercial partnership. With processed goods like apple juice and ice cream leading growth, and open opportunities for expanding value-added exports. However, South Africa's continued participation remains uncertain due to strained relations with the US over trade and foreign policy issues, including its military engagements with China, Russia, and Iran. In an effort to ease tensions ahead of the House vote, reports suggest South Africa asked Iran to withdraw from a joint naval exercise in False Bay to avoid further damaging ties with the United States.

Declaring Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) a national state of disaster under the Disaster Management Act (No. 57 of 2002) would empower the National Disaster Management Centre to bypass standard bureaucratic hurdles, unlocking emergency funding and critical resources like vehicles and diagnostic kits. This legislative shift would allow for the rapid deployment of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the National Defence Force (SANDF) to enforce livestock movement restrictions and man checkpoints, addressing a critical gap in current containment efforts. Industry leaders from organizations such as Red Meat Industry Services and Kwanalu emphasize that while nearly two million animals have been vaccinated, vaccines alone cannot stop the spread without strict biosecurity, traceability, and law enforcement. The economic stakes are exceptionally high, as farmers face severe financial distress due to disrupted cash flows and export bans from key partners like China, Namibia, and Botswana. By granting the government emergency procurement powers and making non-compliance a criminal offense, a disaster declaration aims to provide a decisive, time-limited intervention to stabilize the agricultural sector and prevent irreversible damage to the national economy.

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.*