



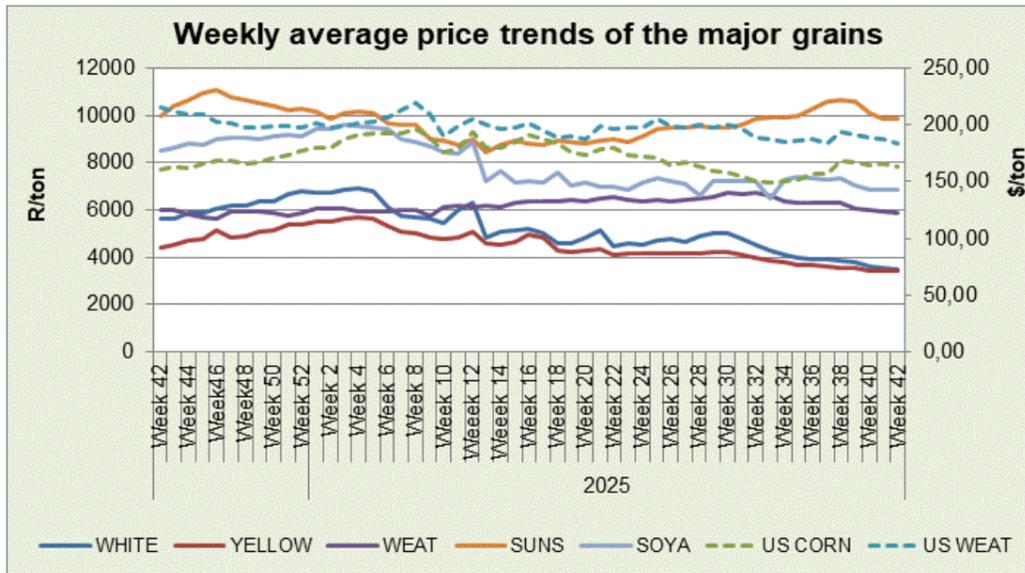
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 17 October 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

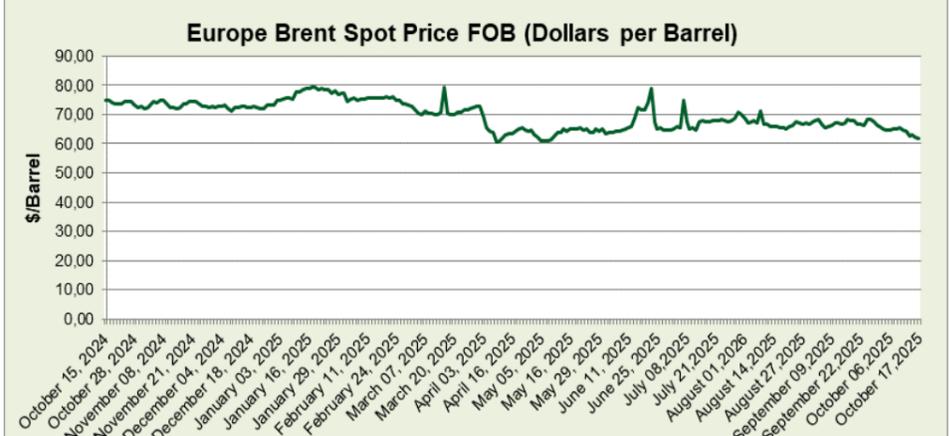
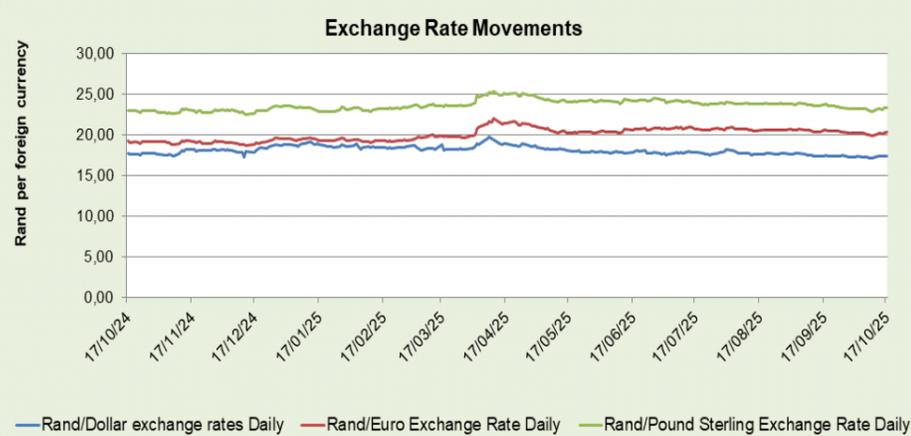
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



This week, local grain markets showed a mixed performance, while international grain prices trended lower. The domestic white maize, yellow maize, soybeans and sunflower seeds prices declined by 1.7%, 1.4%, 0.9% and 0.3% respectively compared to the previous week; meanwhile wheat local prices went down by 1.3%. Internationally, the price of US yellow maize, US wheat and US soybean recorded week-on-week decline of 0.8%, 1.4% and 1.4% respectively. This follows a period of pressure on markets, driven by a global surplus and a favourable local harvest, which has contributed to prices and is positive for food inflation. However, local factors like the exchange rate, input costs, and potential import tariff changes continue to influence specific commodities. Trade concerns between the U.S. and China also created volatility.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

| | 1 year ago Week 42 (14-10-24 to 18-10-24) | Last week Week 41 (06-10-25 to 10-10-25) | This week Week 42 (13-10-25 to 17-10-25) | w-o-w % change |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|----------------|
| RSA White Maize per ton | R 5 623.80 | R 3 531.60 | R 3 505.20 | 1.7% |
| RSA Yellow Maize per ton | R 4 440,20 | R 3 406,80 | R 3 405,40 | 1.4% |
| USA Yellow Maize per ton | \$ 160,32 | \$ 165.39 | \$ 163.36 | -0.8% |
| RSA Wheat per ton | R 5 976,40 | R 5 956.40 | R 5 889.80 | -1.3% |
| USA Wheat per ton | \$ 215.90 | \$ 187.24 | \$ 183.44 | -1,4.% |
| RSA Soybeans per ton | R 8 488.80 | R 6 863.20 | R 6 887.20 | 0.9% |
| USA Soybeans per ton | \$ 364.57 | \$ 375.46 | \$ 370.20 | -1.4% |
| RSA Sunflower seed per ton | R 9 956.80 | R 9 843.00 | R 9 851.80 | 0.3% |
| Crude oil per barrel | \$ 75.10 | \$ 65.00 | \$ 62.76 | -3.4% |



The South African rand weakened during the reporting week against stronger foreign currencies, depreciating by 0.8% against the US dollar, also 0.8% against the euro, and 0.7% against the pound sterling. Similar to other risk-sensitive currencies, South Africa's rand is largely influenced by global factors, particularly U.S. monetary policy and economic data. Meanwhile, local investors turned their attention to next week's release of September consumer price inflation data, seeking insights into domestic inflationary pressures. Analysts expect a slight uptick to 3.5%, up from 3.2% in August.

Brent crude oil averaged \$62.76 during the reporting week, which reflects a 3.4% decrease from the previous week's average of \$65.00. Speculation continues around potential OPEC+ production quota increases, despite subdued global demand. Rising U.S.-China trade tensions, sparked by the U.S. President's threat of 100% tariffs on Chinese goods following Beijing's rare-earth mineral export restrictions, sent U.S. crude oil futures tumbling, deepening concerns over global economic growth. The United States stocks increased by 3,5 million barrels to 423.8 million.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

| Week 40 (29/09/2025 to 06/10/2025) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price | Week 41 (06/10/2025 to 12/10/2025) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Beef | | | | | | | |
| Class A2 | 9 091 | 71,97 | 75,76 | Class A2 | 9752 | 71,77 | 75,86 |
| Class A3 | 485 | 71,77 | 76,66 | Class A3 | 333 | 72,39 | 77,14 |
| Class C2 | 1 306 | 61,05 | 64,11 | Class C2 | 1067 | 61,37 | 65,31 |

The beef market displayed mixed trades during the week under review, with average selling prices showing bullish momentum across all classes. During the reporting week, the average selling prices for Class A2, A3, and C2 beef increased by 0.1%, 0.6%, and 1.9% respectively, compared to the previous week. In contrast, unit sales declined for Class A3 and C2 by 31.3% and 18.3% respectively, while Class A2 saw a week-on-week increase in unit sales of 7.3%. During the same week, the weekly average purchase prices for class A3 and C2 beef rose by 0.9% and 0.5% respectively, whereas the weekly average purchase price for class A2 experienced a decline of 0.3% week-on-week. There is an expected temporary shortages of beef supply, following the FMD outbreaks on facilities of the biggest feedlot in the country also as some provinces are still trying to contain the spread of the disease despite the ongoing vaccination rollout.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

| Week 40 (29/09/2025 to 06/10/2025) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price | Week 41 (06/10/2025 to 12/10/2025) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Avg Selling Price |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lamb | | | | | | | |
| Class A2 | 14 518 | 108,99 | 111,16 | Class A2 | 14099 | 109,8 | 110,45 |
| Class A3 | 1 918 | 105,47 | 108,24 | Class A3 | 1757 | 107,12 | 108,29 |
| Class C2 | 1 224 | 83,30 | 88,78 | Class C2 | 1320 | 82,57 | 87,56 |

The lamb market showed mixed performance during the week. Unit sales of class A2 and class A3 decreased by 2.9% and 8.4% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week while unit sales of class C2 lamb saw an increase of 7.8% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for Class A2 and Class A3 lamb increased by 0.7% and 1.6% respectively, while the price for Class C2 lamb declined by 0.9% during the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, and C2 lamb fell by 0.6% and 1.4% respectively, while class A3 rose by marginal 0.05%. Increased export demand, especially to the Middle East, also contributes to the higher prices, alongside concerns over the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak which can further restrict supply and cause price volatility.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

| Week 40 (29/09/2025 to 06/10/2025) | Units | Avg Purchase Price | Week 41 (06/10/2025 to 12/10/2025) | Units | Avg Purchase Price |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Pork | | | | | |
| Class BP | 2 099 | 36.85 | Class BP | 10261 | 35,73 |
| Class HO | 10 492 | 36.22 | Class HO | 6088 | 36,47 |
| Class HP | 15 805 | 35.88 | Class HP | 8422 | 36,2 |

Pork prices traded mixed week-on-week. During the reporting week, unit sales of Class HO and Class HP pork declined by 42.0% and 46.7%, respectively, compared to the previous week. In contrast, unit sales of Class BP pork surged by 388.9% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class HO and class HP pork went up by 0.7% and 0.9%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Conversely, the weekly average purchase price for class BP pork decreased by 3.1% week-on-week.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, signed a landmark trade protocol in Shanghai with Sun Meijun of China's General Administration of Customs. This agreement opens the door for the export of five South African stone fruit varieties to the Chinese market for the first time. The fruits included in this agreement are apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, and prunes. It marks the first instance where China has granted market access to multiple fruit types from a single country under a unified framework. Minister Steenhuisen described the deal as a significant milestone for South African producers and exporters, highlighting that it will promote agricultural diversification and reduce reliance on traditional export markets. He further mentioned that opening the Chinese market could unlock approximately R400 million (about US\$22 million) for South Africa over the next five years, with expectations of that figure doubling within the next decade. The inaugural 2025/26 export season is projected to generate around R28 million (approximately US\$1.5 million), rising to R54 million (US\$3 million) in the 2026/27 season, according to Minister Steenhuisen in an official government statement. During his visit to Shanghai, the Minister also discussed the possibility of resuming South Africa's beef exports to China. He noted that Chinese infrastructure investments under the Belt and Road Initiative are already aiding improvements in South Africa's logistics systems. Steenhuisen emphasized that the bilateral relationship has been "strengthened over more than a decade," and both countries are committed to deepening cooperation in agriculture and trade. Over the next decade, this protocol is expected to create a sustainable market that will generate new direct employment opportunities on farms and in packhouses, as well as additional jobs across related sectors such as transport and packaging.

The Agricultural Conditions Committee (ACAC) latest report, as of mid-October 2025, notes an "uneven but hopeful recovery" for South Africa's agricultural sector, with the wine sector showing particularly strong volume and quality. While conditions are generally favourable, particularly for summer crops, there are concerns about input costs like fertilizer and uneven rainfall in some areas. The livestock industry faces a challenging environment, while other sectors see a promising outlook for higher volumes compared to the previous season. Beef and dairy producers continue to operate in a difficult environment, primarily due to persistent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and challenges related to vaccination efforts. The widespread impact of FMD has significantly disrupted livestock production, with industry reports indicating that the continued spread is largely driven by the uncontrolled and often illegal movement of animals. As a result, both slaughter volumes and carcass weights have declined. However, one positive development is the ongoing decline in feed costs, as observed by the Agricultural Commodity Analysis Committee (ACAC), supported by strong soybean and maize harvests. In Field crop production has increased in the 2024/25 season, supported by favourable rainfall and an expanded planting area. Notably, South Africa's summer grains and oilseeds harvest is estimated at 19.94 million tonnes representing a 28% year-on-year increase. This total includes maize, soybeans, sunflower seed, sorghum, dry beans, and groundnuts. As a result of the abundant harvest, commodity prices are generally under downward pressure.

Agibz's Chief Economist, Wandile Sihlobo, noted that Zimbabwe has temporarily lifted its ban on maize imports, as confirmed by a new statutory instrument from the Agricultural Marketing Authority. The maize import ban was enacted to support local farmers, with Zimbabwean authorities requiring the use of local maize supplies before permitting imports. However, this approach has undermined consumer welfare and created uncertainty around supply, especially since there is no clear evidence of sufficient local maize production. Currently, South Africa's maize exports for the 2025-26 marketing year total 729,690 tonnes, well below the forecast of 2.2 million tonnes, with Zimbabwe making up 18% of these exports. The rest goes to other Southern African countries and markets like Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Vietnam. With the ban lifted, Zimbabwe's share of South Africa's maize exports is expected to rise, particularly for white maize for human consumption.

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

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.