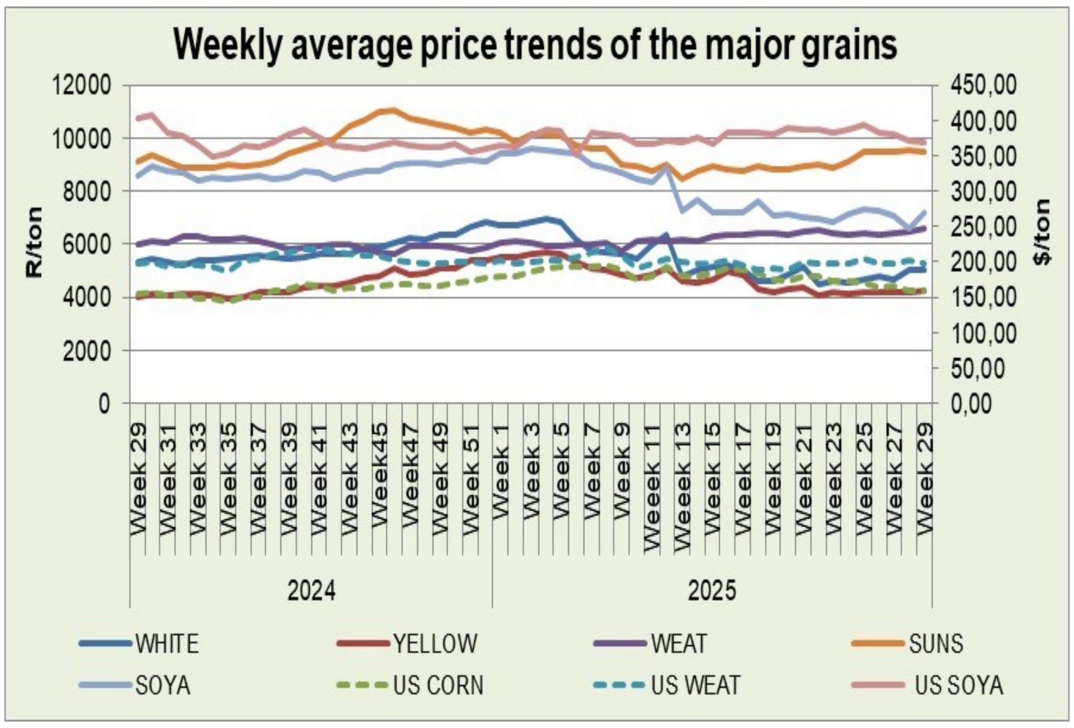
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 18 July 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

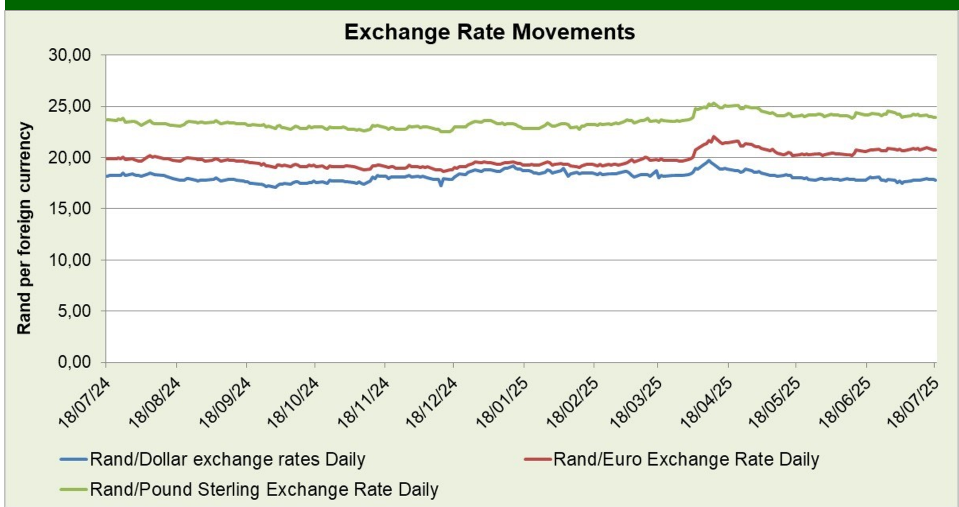
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



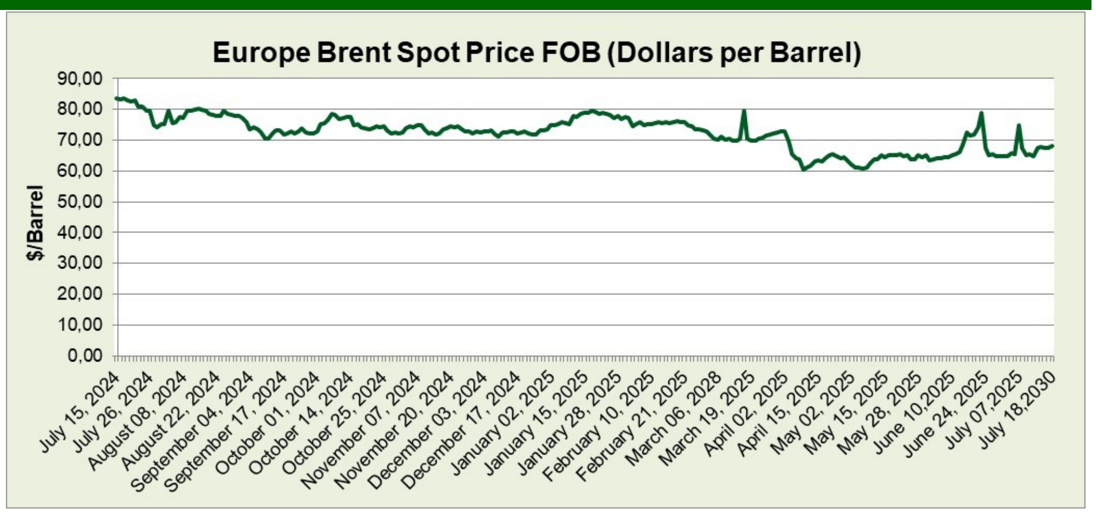
The international and local grain markets showed mixed performance this week compared to the previous week. Domestically, the average spot prices of white maize, yellow maize, wheat, soya beans, and crude oil recorded week-on-week increases of 3.08%, 1.08%, 1.51%, 8.89%, and 0.44% respectively. In contrast, the price of sunflower declined slightly by 0.77%. Internationally , US corn, wheat, and soya beans showed week-on-week decreases of 2.70%, 1.31%, and 2.06%, respectively. Despite the recent uptick in local white maize prices, corn prices remain under pressure, declining by 5.0% month-on-month, influenced by favourable crop conditions in major producing regions and the ongoing harvest of Brazil's Safrinha crop. The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) revised yellow maize production upwards by approximately 2%, while white maize projections remained unchanged month-on-month. Looking ahead, SAFEX yellow maize prices are expected to trade sideways around R4,200/ton in the short term.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 29 (15-07-24 to 21-07-24)	Last week Week 28 (07-07-25 to 11-07-25)	This week Week 29 (14-07-25 to 18-07-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 320,00	R 5 025,00	R 5 048,00	3.08%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 3 987,20	R 4 208,00	R 4 257,20	1.08%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$155,52	$160,39	$159,36	-2.70%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 019,80	R 6 494,00	R 6 566,00	1.51%
USA Wheat per ton	$196,61	$202,16	$197,48	-1.31 %
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 581,20	R 6 586,00	R 7 206,80	8.89%
USA Soybeans per ton	$404,06	$371,99	$369,70	-2.06%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 9 148,60	R 9 547,00	R 9 471,20	-0,77%
Crude oil per barrel	$83,16	$67,44	$67,74	0,44%



The SA rand depreciated by 0.65% against the US dollar, increase slightly by 0.08% against the Euro and 0.66% against the Pound sterling when compared to the previous week. The US dollar decline can be attributed Speculation about potential interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve influencing the dollar's value.



During the reporting week, the average future Brent crude oil price stood at $67.74 per barrel, reflecting a 0.44% increase from the previous week's average of $67.44 per barrel. This upward movement was supported by a tighter-than-expected global oil market, as highlighted by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Both of which contributed to a more bullish outlook on oil prices.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 27 (30/06/2025 to 06/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 28 (07/07/2025 to 13/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	11930	76,89	79,67	Class A2	10385	70,83	74,16
Class A3	495	73,6	80,74	Class A3	535	69,49	75,24
Class C2	1960	57,01	59,94	Class C2	1971	56,08	59,73

Units of beef sold this week for Class A2 dropped sharply by 13.0%, while Class A3 saw an 8.1% increase, and Class C2 remained relatively stable with a slight increase of 0.6%. The average purchase prices decreased across all classes, with Class A2 falling by 7.9%, Class A3 by 5.6%, and Class C2 by 1.6%. Similarly, average selling prices declined by 6.9% for Class A2, 6.8% for Class A3, and 0.4% for Class C2.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 27 (30/06/2025 to 06/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 28 (07/07/2025 to 13/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	13599	106,04	107,08	Class A2	12881	106,09	106,91
Class A3	1805	103,63	105,05	Class A3	1905	104,39	105,55
Class C2	1982	72,17	78,77	Class C2	973	72,01	78,25

Lamb trade volumes showed mixed performance across the different classes. Class A2 recorded a 5.3% decline in units traded, while Class A3 rose by 5.5%. In contrast, Class C2 experienced a sharp drop of 50.9% in units sold compared to the previous week. Average purchase prices remained relatively stable, with no change for Class A2, a 0.7% increase for Class A3, and a slight 0.2% decrease for Class C2. On the selling side, prices declined by 0.2% for Class A2, increased by 0.5% for Class A3, and dropped by 0.7% for Class C2.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 27 (30/06/2025 to 06/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 28 (07/07/2025 to 13/07/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	12554	33,88	Class BP	13334	33,89
Class HO	4469	32,42	Class HO	4489	33,02
Class HP	5070	32,67	Class HP	5033	32,67

Pork market activity reflected mixed trends across different classes. Class BP recorded a 6.2% increase in volumes traded, although the average purchase price remained unchanged at 0.0%. Class HO saw a slight rise of 0.4% in traded volumes, accompanied by a modest 1.9% increase in the average purchase price. In contrast, Class HP experienced a 0.7% decline in volumes traded, with the purchase price also remaining unchanged at 0.0%.

Latest News Developments

South Africa is battling a widespread outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) affecting five provinces, including a major incident at the Karan Beef feedlot near Johannesburg. In response, authorities have stepped up containment efforts by ordering over 900,000 vaccine doses and enforcing quarantine zones in impacted areas. The outbreak has triggered trade bans from key partners such as China and Namibia, heightening pressure on the country’s livestock industry. Farmers and industry leaders are calling for the formal declaration of a national crisis and the implementation of tighter biosecurity measures to prevent further spread and economic fallout. With supply chains already strained and export losses mounting, stakeholders warn that urgent government intervention is needed to limit both local and international disruptions.

Producers can’t keep up with global demand for goat meat. Global demand for goat meat continues to grow, driven by health trends, cultural preferences, and religious practices. According to the Observatory of Economic Complexity, international trade in goat meat has increased at an average annual rate of 1.76% over the past five years. In 2023, the leading importers were the United Arab Emirates (30.3%), the United States (17.4%), and South Korea (9.9%). Demand is also rising in other regions, with Trinidad and Tobago recording an 18% year-on-year increase in 2024. Australia remains the dominant force in global goat meat exports, supplying 55% of the world’s traded volume, as reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The United States has been Australia’s primary export destination, consistently receiving around 60% of its goat meat shipments over the last five years. As a result, fluctuations in Australia’s export activity have a major influence on global supply dynamics and market trends.

South African and global fertiliser prices are expected to rise ahead of the upcoming summer planting season, driven by ongoing trade restrictions and geopolitical tensions. In 2024, China slashed its nitrogen fertiliser exports by over 90% year-on-year to stabilise domestic supply and prices—measures that have remained in place through 2025. Phosphate exports from China have also been limited, while sanctions against Russia and Belarus have further constrained global supply. These developments, combined with global urea production falling short of demand, have contributed to sharp price increases across key fertiliser types. Market conditions are anticipated to remain tight in 2025, especially for urea, with prices forecast to rise by 15% before easing slightly in 2026 as new production capacity comes online in East Asia and the Middle East. Diammonium phosphate (DAP) prices rose by 23% in the second quarter of 2025 and could climb even higher due to potential supply disruptions and rising input costs such as ammonia and natural gas. Similarly, muriate of potash (MOP) prices are projected to increase by about 5% in 2025, with stability expected the following year.

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.