



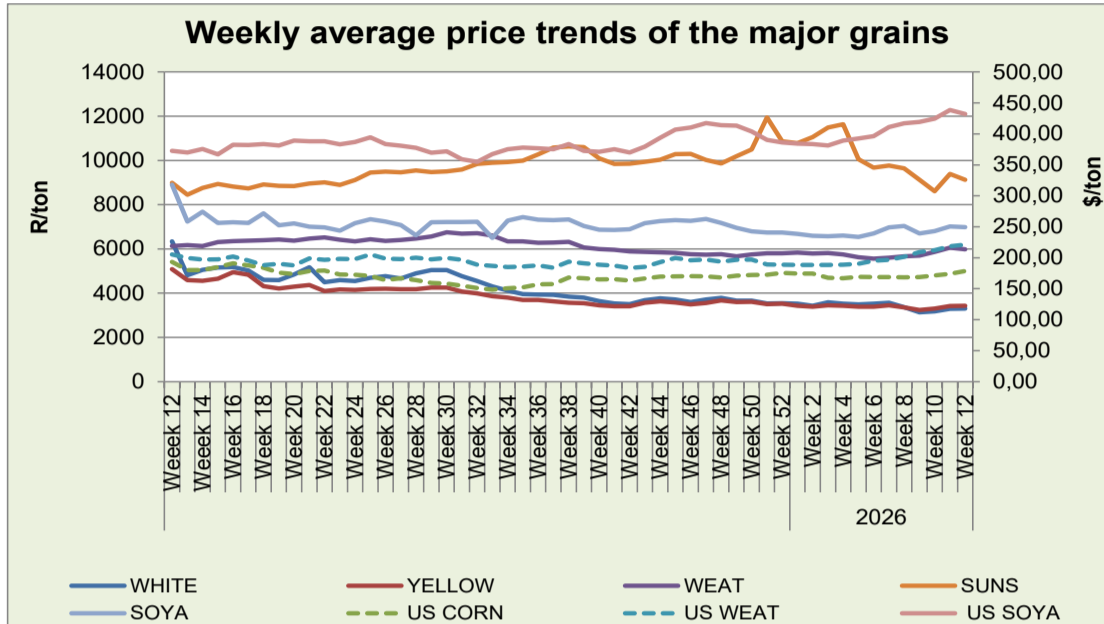
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 20 March 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

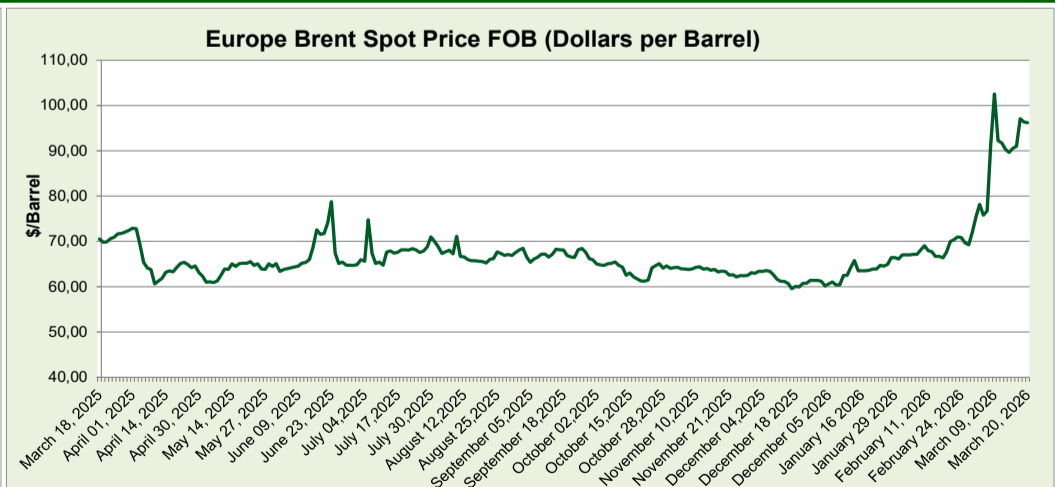
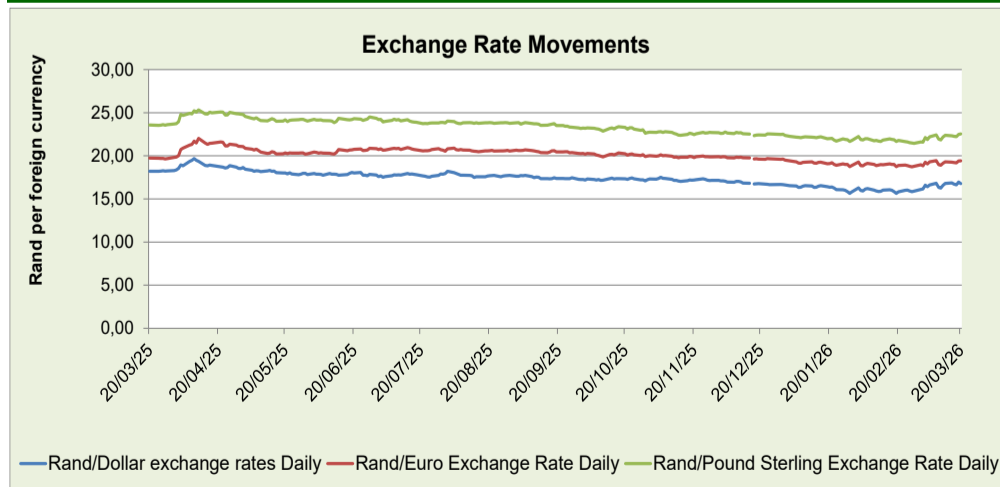
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



The domestic grain prices for white and yellow maize prices increased for two consecutive weeks by 0.6% and 0.1% respectively this week compared to the previous week. After an increase in the previous week the local wheat, soybean, and sunflower seed prices decreased by 1.1%, 0.4% and 2.7% respectively compared to the previous week. On the international front, the prices of US yellow maize and wheat increased by 2.7% from the previous week. During the same period the US soybean prices decreased by 1.4%. Corn gained more ground on Wednesday, supported by robust demand and expectations that US farmers will plant fewer acres this spring, tightening supply prospects. Wheat rose on worries about dryness hurting the US winter crop.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 12 (17-03-25 to 20-03-25)	Last week Week 11 (09-03-26 to 13-03-26)	This week Week 12 (16-03-26 to 20-03-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 6 338.00	R 3 289.20	R 3 307.80	0.6%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 5 088.75	R 3 424.20	R 3 427.80	0.1%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$ 193.24	\$ 174.24	\$ 178.69	2.5%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 133.25	R 6 052.00	R 5 985.20	-1.1%
USA Wheat per ton	\$ 205.23	\$ 218.58	\$ 221.37	1.3%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 905.00	R 7 019.00	R 6 988.20	-0.4%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$ 372.51	\$ 438.42	\$ 432.16	-1.4%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 8 985.50	R 9 386.00	R 9 131.40	-2.7%
RSA Sweet Sorghum per ton	\$ 72.41	\$ 93.28	\$ 94.22	1.0%
Crude oil per barrel				



The rand depreciated by 1.4% against the US dollar week-on-week, the rand depreciated by 0.9% against the Pound Sterling this week compared to the previous week and rand depreciated by 0.7% against the Euro during the same period. Amid a renewed surge in oil prices after attacks on key energy facilities in the Gulf region. High oil price are fuelling concerns about SA's economic outlook

Brent crude oil averaged \$94.22 a 1.0% increase this week compared to the previous week, increase of 17.4% compared to the previous week's increase. Oil prices gained on Friday despite leading European nations, Japan and Canada offering to join efforts to secure safe passage for ships through the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. outlining moves to boost oil supply.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 10 (02/03/2026 to 08/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 11 (09/03/2026 to 15/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10 298	62,29	64,66	Class A2	10 154	62,12	64,26
Class A3	646	62,65	65,34	Class A3	820	62,37	66,03
Class C2	914	56,01	58,12	Class C2	895	57,79	59,74

After an increase last week units sold for class A2 and class C2 beef decreased by 1.4% and 2.1% respectively this week compared to the previous week, meanwhile the unit sold for class A3 beef increased significantly by 26.9% week-on-week. During the same period the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 and class A3 beef fell for two consecutive weeks by 0.3% and 0.5% respectively. While the weekly average purchase price for class C2 beef experienced an increase of 3.2% week-on-week. The weekly average selling prices for class A2 decreased by 0.6% this week compared to the previous week. The weekly average selling price for class A3 beef and class C2 beef increased by 1.1% and 2.8% respectively during the same period.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 10 (02/03/2026 to 08/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 11 (09/03/2026 to 15/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	15 080	101,45	101,31	Class A2	16 034	101,87	102,31
Class A3	3 094	97,76	101,47	Class A3	2 569	96,29	101,44
Class C2	987	79,19	87,44	Class C2	1 759	80,13	86,34

After a decline last week the units sold for class A2 and Class C2 lamb increased significantly by 6.3% and 78.2% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, whereas unit sales of class A3 lamb saw an decrease of 17.0% after an increased last week. During the same period the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 and class C2 lamb increased by 0.4% and 1.2% respectively. Whilst the weekly average purchase price for class A3 declined by 1.5% during the same period. The weekly average selling prices for class A2 increased by 1.0%, while the weekly average selling price for class C2 lamb dropped by 1.3% week-on-week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 10 (02/03/2026 to 08/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 11 (09/03/2026 to 15/03/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3 102	40.83	Class BP	3 705	41.99
Class HO	8 075	39.63	Class HO	8 240	40.03
Class HP	18 253	39.70	Class HP	17 138	39.97

Unit sales of class BP and class HO pork increased by 19.4% and 2.0%, respectively, this week compared to the previous week, meanwhile the units sold for class HP pork decreased by 6.1% this week compared to the previous week. During the same period the weekly average purchase prices for class BP, class HO and class HP pork all increased by 2.8%, 1.0% and 0.7% respectively.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's annual inflation rate fell for the second month to 3% in February 2026, the lowest since June 2025, slightly below market forecasts of 3.1%. The continued slowdown was largely driven by a 2.1% drop in transportation prices, following a 0.2% fall the previous month, reflecting a sharper decline in fuels (-10.1% vs -3.7%). The slower price growth in food and non-alcoholic beverages (3.7% vs 4.4%) and in health (4.4% vs 5%) also contributed. On the other hand, price increases were most notable for alcoholic beverages & tobacco (5% vs 4.5%); housing & utilities (4.8% vs 4.8%); restaurants & hotels (3.8% vs 3.5%). The annual core inflation rate, which excludes food, non-alcoholic beverages, fuel, and energy, eased to a seven-month low of 3% in February, down from January's 3.4%. On a monthly basis, the CPI rose by 0.4%, after a 0.2% increase in the previous month.

According to Wandile Sihobo, the latest data released last week by Statistics South Africa has not accounted for the Middle East war and still indicates a moderating food price inflation path, underpinned by ample domestic grain, fruit, and vegetable supplies. The data show that consumer food price inflation slowed to 3.7% in February 2026, down from 4.0% in January. Essentially, the lower grain, fruit, and vegetable prices on the back of ample domestic and global supplies, and moderating vegetable oil prices, are among the factors that will underpin the softening of price inflation. From now on, meat presents minimal risks to inflation. Likely will see base effects on meat, along with continued cattle slaughtering, continue to help. As the conflict in the Middle East persists, there are clear risks to energy, gas, and fertiliser supplies, and this has been a major focus in recent weeks. However, the conflict may also disrupt exports of various products to the region. For South Africa's agriculture, the region is a key agricultural export markets in the region. From a product-specific perspective, citrus, apples and pears, ort market, accounting for an average of 8% of agricultural exports by value over the past 5 years. South Africa's agricultural exports to the world market were at a record US\$15.1 billion in 2025, up 10% from a year ago, according to data from Trade Map. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, and Qatar are some of South Africa's key agricultural export markets in the region. From a product-specific perspective, citrus, apples and pears, beef, strawberries, goat and sheep meat, grapes, apricots, cherries, peaches, various nuts, and maize are some of the key agricultural products South Africa exports to this region.

South African motorists and farmers face a severe fuel price shock from 1 April 2026, with potential hikes of over R6/liter for petrol and R10/liter for diesel due to global oil supply disruptions (US-Iran conflict) and a weak Rand. South African motorists have enjoyed a relatively stable start to 2026, with the relief of January and February's price cuts still fresh in our minds. However, the honeymoon is officially over. As we approach April 2026, a perfect storm of geopolitical conflict, currency volatility, and annual tax adjustments is brewing, and it's headed straight for your wallet.

For more information contact: Directorate Statistics & Economic Analysis (SEA) at DSEA@nda.gov.za or 0123198454.