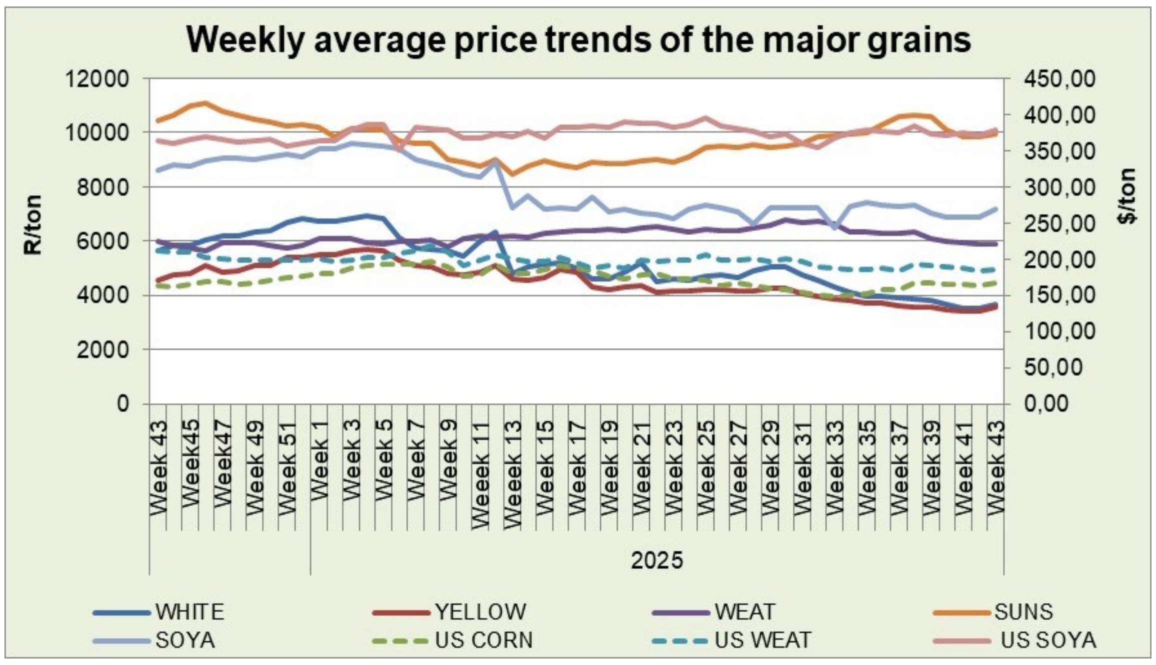
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 24 October 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

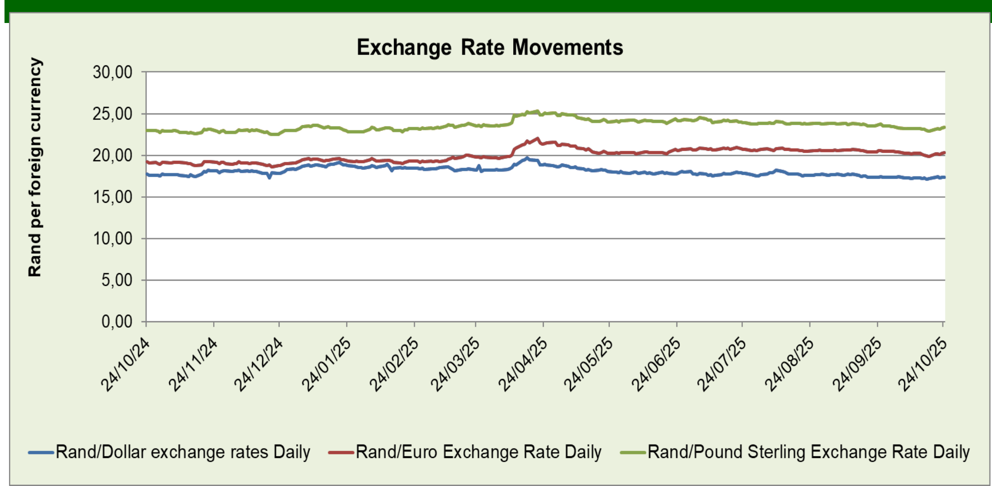
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

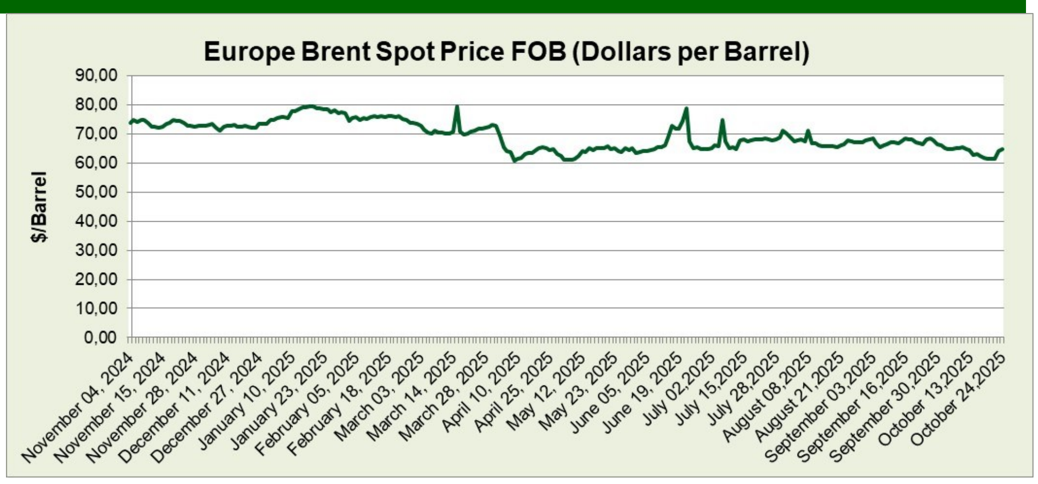


This week, domestic grain markets experienced mostly upward price movements compared to the previous week. Local white maize increased by 5.8%, yellow maize strengthened by 5.5%, and sunflowers posted a marginal gain of 0.9%, while soybeans also advanced by 3.8% week-on-week. By contrast, wheat edged lower by 0.4%. On the international front, US yellow maize declined slightly by 1.6%, while US wheat rose by 1.3% and US soybeans improved by 2.6% compared to the previous week. During this week, global grain prices were mostly lower because there is plenty of grain available around the world and crops are growing well in major producing countries. This created less demand and reduced price pressure in international markets. However, in South Africa, local grain prices increased because of strong demand from nearby countries, limited local supplies for some crops, and normal harvest activities.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 43 (21-10-24 to 25-10-24)	Last week Week 42 (13-10-25 to 17-10-25)	This week Week 43 (20-10-25 to 24-10-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 623,80	R 3 505.20	R 3 687,20	5.8%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 440,20	R 3 405,40	R 3 564,00	5.5%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$ 160,32	$ 163.36	$ 166,62	1.6%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 5 976,40	R 5 889.80	R 5 866,00	-0.4%
USA Wheat per ton	$ 215,90	$ 183.44	$ 185,56	1,3%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 488,80	R 6 887.20	R 7 164,60	3.8%
USA Soybeans per ton	R 364,57	$ 370.20	$ 379.25	2.6%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 9 956,80	R 9 851.80	R 9 935,40	0.9%
Crude oil per barrel	$ 74.10	$ 62.76	$ 62.55	-0.3%





South African rand showed mixed movements against major foreign currencies. The rand remained unchanged against the US dollar on a week-on-week basis, while it depreciated slightly by 0.2% against the euro and 0.1% against the pound sterling. South African rand weakened because the U.S. dollar got stronger and global risk appetite dropped a bit. At the same time, local inflation came in slightly higher than expected, raising doubts about when the South African Reserve Bank might start cutting interest rates. On the positive side, discussions about South Africa exiting the grey list.

Brent crude oil futures averaged $62.55, reflecting a 0.3% decrease from the previous week. Global oil supply increased last week as OPEC+ continued lifting production cuts and non-OPEC countries like the United States and Brazil added more output. At the same time, global demand growth remained weak, which created concerns about a possible oversupply in the market. This imbalance between rising supply and slower demand placed downward pressure on oil prices. Concerns about slower economic growth, influenced by weaker market conditions, also contributed to the slight downward movement in oil prices.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 41 (06/10/2025 to 12/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 42 (13/10/2025 to 19/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9752	71,77	75,86	Class A2	9225	71,49	75,60
Class A3	333	72,39	77,14	Class A3	414	72,11	76,20
Class C2	1067	61,37	65,31	Class C2	581	60,96	62,14

The beef market showed mixed performance during the week under review. Average selling prices recorded slight declines across all categories, with Class A2, A3 and C2 selling prices easing by 0.3%, 1.2% and 4.9% respectively compared to the previous week. Unit sales also varied, as Class A3 increased sharply by 24.3%, while Class A2 and C2 declined by 5.4% and 45.5% respectively. On the cost side, average purchase prices softened moderately for all classes, with Class A2, A3 and C2 decreasing by 0.4%, 0.4% and 0.7% week-on-week. Beef prices declined mainly because demand weakened for certain grades, buyers shifted their preference toward higher-quality classes, and market uncertainty from the FMD outbreak made buyers cautious.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 41 (06/10/2025 to 12/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 42 (13/10/2025 to 19/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	14099	109,8	110,45	Class A2	13545	106,52	107,81
Class A3	1757	107,12	108,29	Class A3	2095	107,1	109,78
Class C2	1320	82,57	87,56	Class C2	900	83,14	88,87

The lamb market showed mixed performance during the week under review. Unit sales for Class A2 declined by 3.9% week-on-week, while Class C2 recorded a sharp drop of 31.8%. In contrast, Class A3 unit sales increased by 19.2% as demand shifted toward higher-grade cuts. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price decreased by 3.0% for Class A2, remained unchanged for Class A3, and increased slightly by 0.7% for Class C2. During the same period, average selling prices fell by 2.4% for Class A2, while Class A3 and C2 selling prices rose by 1.38% and 1.5% respectively. Weaker consumer spending in the local market reduced demand for certain products, causing some classes to see lower sales or slower price growth.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 41 (06/10/2025 to 12/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 42 (13/10/2025 to 19/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	10261	35,73	Class BP	2238	37,49
Class HO	6088	36,47	Class HO	10207	36,57
Class HP	8422	36,2	Class HP	17267	36,42

The pork market displayed mixed performance during the week under review. Unit sales for Class BP pork declined sharply by 78.2% week-on-week, while Class HO and Class HP pork recorded strong increases of 67.7% and 105.0% respectively, reflecting shifting buyer demand across categories. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for Class HO and Class HP pork rose slightly by 0.3% and 0.6%, supported by stronger demand, while the average purchase price for Class BP increased by 4.9% as buyers competed for limited volumes.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's consumer food price inflation slowed for the second consecutive month, easing to 4.4% in September 2025 from 5.2% previously, driven mainly by price declines in fruit and nuts, vegetables, oils and fats, as well as milk and other dairy products. The moderation in grain-related inflation also reflects the benefit of an abundant harvest and softening grain prices at farm level, which has helped keep cereal price pressures contained. Similarly, ample supplies of fruit, nuts, and vegetables have supported notable price declines over the past few months. Meat prices, however, remain relatively elevated, initially fuelled by panic buying rather than actual product shortages, although slaughter activity has resumed in major feedlots across the country. The persistence of higher meat prices suggests that consumer demand may still be strong and retail price adjustments may be lagging. Looking ahead, food inflation is expected to continue easing, supported by strong harvests across grains, oilseeds, fruit, and vegetables. However, foot-and-mouth disease remains a key upside risk, as disease outbreaks can restrict exports and increase domestic meat supply, typically exerting downward pressure on prices though this year's earlier panic buying has disrupted normal trends. Meanwhile, overall headline inflation increased marginally to 3.4% in September from 3.3% in the previous month.

South Africa has concluded an exceptionally strong 2024-25 summer grain and oilseed production season, with the latest (9th) Crop Estimates Committee report revising the harvest upward by 1% to 20.08 million tonnes 30% higher than last season. The improvement is mainly driven by a larger maize crop, supported by favourable rainfall, increased planting areas, and a recovery from last year's drought. Maize output reached 16.32 million tonnes, well above annual consumption needs of 12 million tonnes, ensuring a comfortable surplus for exports. Oilseed production also performed impressively, with soybeans rising by 49% year-on-year to 2.75 million tonnes, sunflower seed up 12% to 708,300 tonnes, groundnuts up 18%, sorghum up 48%, and dry beans increasing by 79%. This abundant supply is expected to maintain downward pressure on commodity prices and support the easing of food inflation. Looking ahead, the outlook for the 2025-26 summer production season is positive, with farmers planning to expand the planted area to 4.49 million hectares and early planting already progressing well in key producing regions. Expected La Niña rainfall further boosts confidence in another favourable harvest. If these conditions materialise, food price inflation could continue to ease into 2026, although risks remain, particularly from potential disruptions linked to foot-and-mouth disease.

South Africa's Mango Growers Association (SAMGA) and the Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC) have entered into a three-year memorandum of understanding aimed at stopping the unethical practice of selling immature mangoes that have been artificially ripened with ethylene gas. This agreement follows repeated incidents where buyers purchased unripe fruit under the pretext of making achar, but then treated the mangoes with ethylene to enhance their colour and resold them at high early-season prices as ripe fruit, despite the fruit remaining sour and of poor eating quality. The practice has damaged consumer confidence, with research showing that customers who have a bad mango experience often avoid buying mangoes for up to 12 weeks, negatively affecting market demand and producer returns. The MoU sets out joint actions, including monitoring early-season mango deliveries at national fresh produce markets, alerting Prokon inspectors to check fruit maturity, tracking blocked consignments, and taking action against agents who sell immature fruit. SAMGA and APAC will also issue annual reminders to market agents in October, discouraging the trading of ethylene-ripened immature mangoes and will host training sessions on proper mango maturity standards, the risks of artificial ripening, and its long-term impact on consumer behaviour and industry profitability.

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Source: SAFEX, Standard bank, Stats SA, Reuters, Red Meat Abattoir Association, FNB, Agbiz and Absa Bank.