



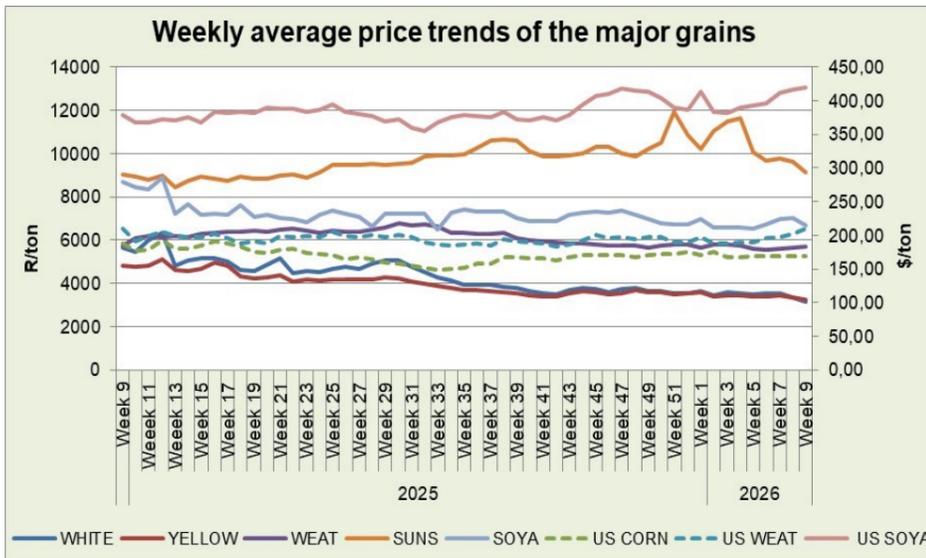
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 27 February 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

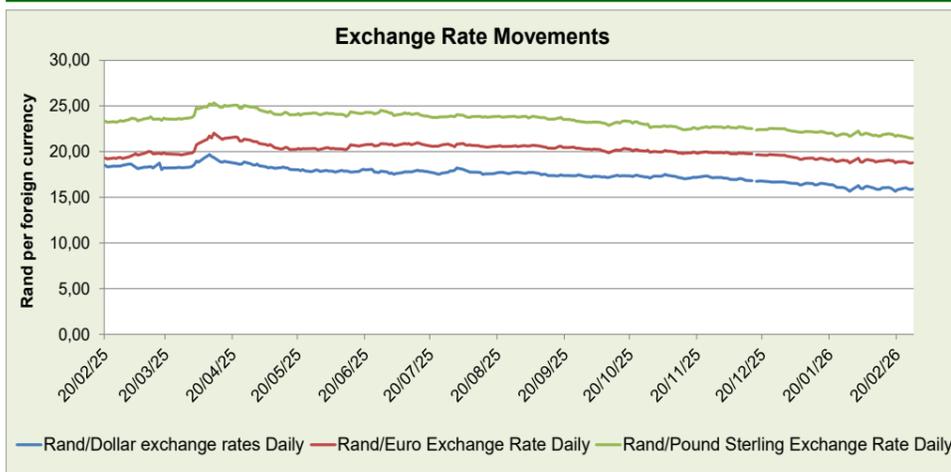
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



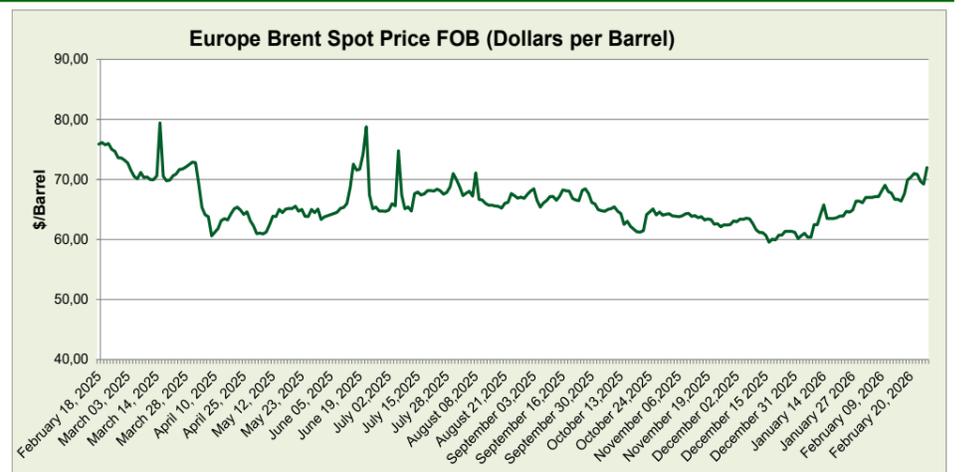
Domestic grain markets weakened during the week, with most local commodity prices declining compared to the previous week. White maize prices dropped sharply by 6.9%, while yellow maize fell by 3.7%. Soybean prices also decreased by 4.8%, and sunflower seed prices declined by 5.3%, reflecting improved supply expectations and softer market sentiment. In contrast, wheat prices in South Africa increased slightly by 0.6%. On the global front, grain prices were relatively stable to firmer, with US yellow maize edging up by 0.2%, US wheat increasing by 3.9%, and US soybean prices rising by 0.6%. Overall, the data indicate weaker domestic grain prices compared with relatively steady international markets during the week. Domestically, prices of white maize, yellow maize, soybeans, and sunflower seed declined largely due to favourable rainfall and expectations of a strong harvest, which increased anticipated supply in the market.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 9 (24-02-25 to 28-03-25)	Last week Week 8 (16-02-26 to 20-02-26)	This week Week 9 (23-02-26 to 27-02-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R5 640,80	R3 365,00	R3 132,40	-6,9%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 826,00	R3 359,80	R3 235,60	-3,7%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	\$188,65	\$168,57	\$168,97	0,2%
RSA Wheat per ton	R5 769,00	R5 666,60	R5 702,80	0,6%
USA Wheat per ton	\$209,75	\$201,44	\$209,25	3,9%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R8 691,40	R7 041,20	R6 700,80	-4,8%
USA Soybeans per ton	\$378,21	\$417,00	\$419,38	0,6%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 022,40	R9 644,00	R9 128,20	-5,3%
Crude oil per barrel	\$74,02	\$68,20	\$70,55	3,4%



The rand strengthened, appreciating by 0.49% against the US dollar, 0.64% against the euro, and 0.77% against the pound sterling compared to the previous week. The rand strengthened due to improved investor confidence and favourable global market conditions. Positive sentiment followed national budget announcement, which reassured investors about the government's commitment to fiscal stability and economic reforms.



During the week under review, Brent crude oil prices rose by 3.4%, ending the week at \$70.55 from \$68.20 the previous week. Brent crude oil prices increased mainly due to stronger global demand expectations and supply concerns in key oil-producing regions. Market sentiment was supported by signs of improving economic activity in major economies, which raised expectations of higher fuel consumption.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 7 (09/02/2026 to 15/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 8 (16/02/2026 to 22/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9624	62,54	63,65	Class A2	10207	61,64	64,23
Class A3	378	63,34	67,34	Class A3	485	62,83	65,73
Class C2	1259	55,75	58,79	Class C2	999	55,46	58,67

The beef market recorded mixed movements, with changes observed in both volumes and prices. Unit sales increased for Class A2 and Class A3 by 6.1% and 28.3%, respectively. In contrast, Class C2 volumes declined by 20.7% week-on-week. On the pricing side, average purchase prices softened across all classes, decreasing by 1.4% for Class A2, 0.8% for Class A3, and 0.5% for Class C2. Despite the lower purchase prices, average selling prices showed mixed trends, with Class A2 increasing by 0.9%, while Class A3 and Class C2 declined by 2.4% and 0.2%, respectively.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 7 (09/02/2026 to 15/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 8 (16/02/2026 to 22/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	17048	102,19	100,84	Class A2	17627	102,16	102,34
Class A3	2562	96,76	100,28	Class A3	2683	98,61	101,7
Class C2	827	81,01	90,03	Class C2	902	81,38	89,63

The lamb market recorded moderate growth, with increases in both volumes and some prices. Unit sales rose across all classes, with Class A2 increasing by 3.4%, A3 by 4.7%, and C2 by 9.1%. On the pricing side, average purchase prices remained relatively stable for Class A2 (0.0%), while increasing by 1.9% for Class A3 and 0.5% for Class C2. Average selling prices also showed mostly positive movement, rising by 1.5% for Class A2 and 1.4% for Class A3, while Class C2 recorded a slight decline of 0.4%. Overall, the market reflected firmer demand with moderate price improvements in most lamb categories.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 7 (09/02/2026 to 15/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 8 (16/02/2026 to 22/02/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3681	40,87	Class BP	4329	40,77
Class HO	9949	39,62	Class HO	7649	39,27
Class HP	17039	39,44	Class HP	17942	39,36

Week-on-week pork trading activity showed mixed results. Quantities traded increased for Class BP by 17.6% and for Class HP by 5.3%, while Class HO declined significantly by 23.1%. Average purchase prices decreased slightly across all classes, with Class BP and Class HP both down by 0.2% and Class HO declining by 0.9% compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

Western Cape Department of Agriculture warned farmers against retaining canola seed for replanting under normal circumstances. Lombard explained that most commercially available canola cultivars are hybrids developed by crossing carefully selected parent lines to combine desirable traits such as high yield potential, vigour and disease tolerance. When producers plant farm-saved seed from these hybrids, the second generation undergoes genetic segregation, resulting in the loss of uniformity and the yield advantage originally paid for, and even fungicide seed treatments cannot offset this genetic decline. Research trials conducted at Langgewens comparing six hybrid cultivars with their retained seed showed yield reductions of between 17% and 20%. With average canola yields in the Western Cape at approximately 1.8t/ha last season and a break-even level of around 1.5t/ha, such losses could easily shift a producer from marginal profitability into a financial loss. Lombard further noted that farmers who retain seed often do so due to financial strain and may simultaneously reduce fertiliser and crop protection inputs, compounding the negative impact on yields. He also cautioned against poor crop rotation practices, such as planting canola consecutively or expanding canola plantings in response to weak wheat returns, emphasising that international research and local trials consistently show yield declines when the same crop is planted in successive seasons.

AgriSA, Agbiz and Infrastructure South Africa have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in Bloemfontein to prioritise critical agricultural road corridors in the Free State. The agreement, formalised in the presence of Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson, establishes a data-driven pilot project to identify key provincial routes that are vital for transporting agricultural commodities efficiently from farms to storage, processing facilities and markets. The initiative aims to address deteriorating road infrastructure that has increased transport costs and reduced value-chain efficiency, thereby undermining regional competitiveness. It also follows ongoing collaboration between government and organised agriculture to align infrastructure investment with sector needs, further strengthened by the inclusion of AgriSA CEO Johann Kotzé and Agbiz CEO Theo Boshoff on the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Public Asset Management and Infrastructure Development. By jointly analysing freight flows and logistics routes, the partners intend to guide targeted infrastructure investment that enhances agricultural performance, supports rural economies and strengthens food security, starting with the Free State as a strategic pilot province.

The first shipment of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccines, supplied by Biogénesis Bagó, arrived in South Africa on 21 February 2026, marking the largest single consignment of FMD vaccines ever imported into the country. The vaccines form part of the Department of Agriculture's 10-Year Strategic Plan to protect the national herd, with vaccinations set to begin in high-risk areas before expanding to lower-risk regions. Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen will officially launch the mass vaccination campaign on 27 February 2026 at Colbourne Dairy Farm near Mooi River, followed by engagements with dairy farmers. Additional vaccine doses are expected to arrive soon to support the nationwide rollout.

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