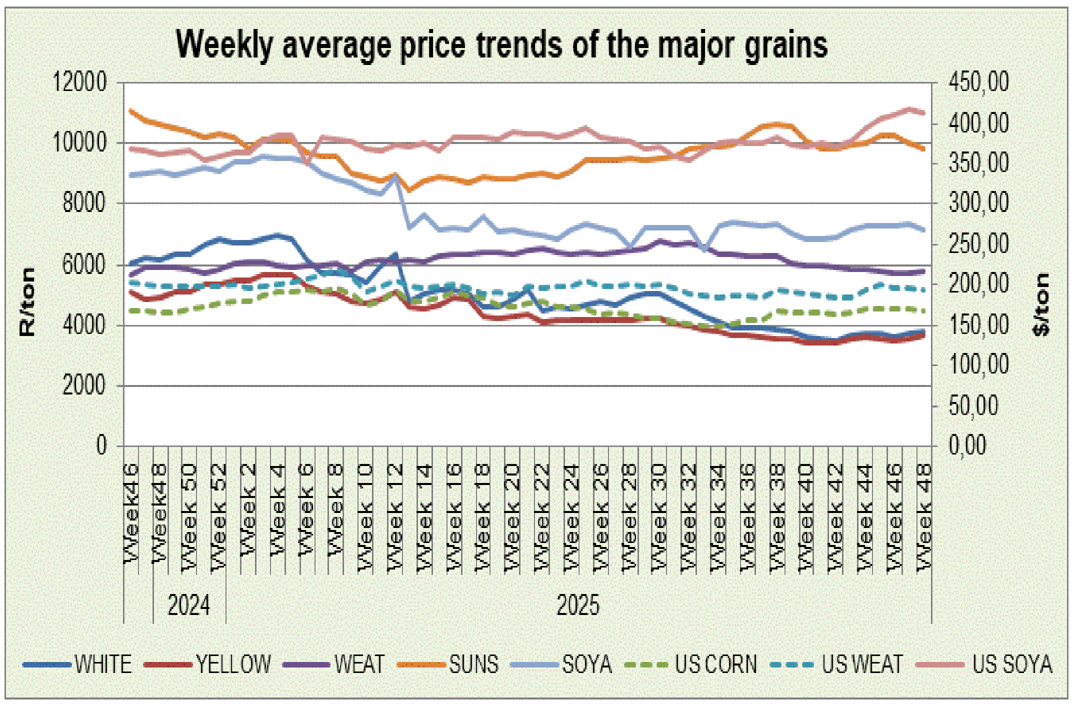
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 28 November 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

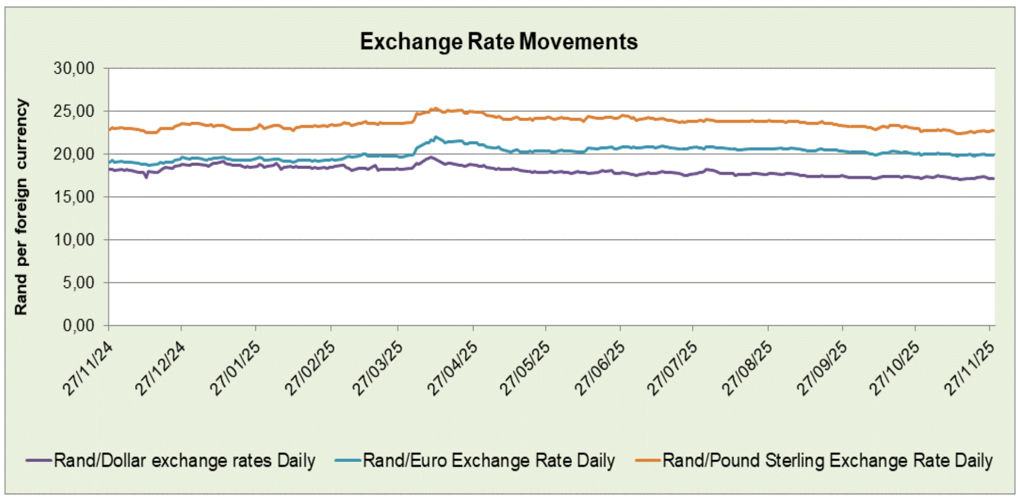
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



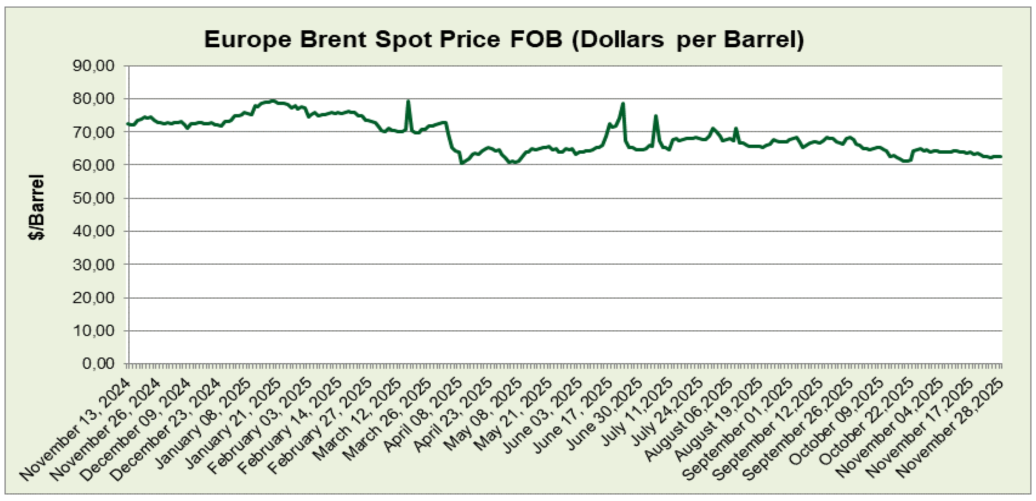
This week, local grain markets showed a mixed performance, while international grain prices trended lower. The domestic white maize, yellow maize and wheat prices went up by 1.9%, 3.4% and 0.3% respectively compared to the previous week; meanwhile soybeans and sunflower seeds local prices went down by 2.5% and 1.6% respectively. Internationally, the price of US yellow maize, US wheat and US soybean recorded week-on-week decline of 1.01%, 1.8% and 0.8% 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. Farmers are currently preparing land for the 2025/26 season, with plans to expand the planted area by approximately 2.7%. This increase underscores improved producer confidence and a favourable outlook for the upcoming season's weather and production conditions. South Africa remains a key regional supplier, having exported more than one million tonnes of maize at this stage of the marketing season, with Zimbabwe accounting for a significant share of these shipments.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 48 (25-11-24 to 29-11-24)	Last week Week 47 (17-11-25 to 21-11-25)	This week Week 48 (24-11-25 to 28-11-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R6 180,60	R3 713,20	R3 784,60	1,92%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 900.00	R3 557,00	R3 676,20	3,35%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$165,44	$169,87	$168,15	-1,01%
RSA Wheat per ton	R5 937,40	R5 741,40	R5 760,60	0,33%
USA Wheat per ton	$198,00	$197,05	$193,59	-1,75%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R9 061,80	R7 351,80	R7 171,20	-2,46%
USA Soybeans per ton	$362,27	$417,54	$414,15	-0,81%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R10 652,20	R10 027,60	R9 866,40	-1,61%
Crude oil per barrel	$72,84	$63,27	$62,42	-1,34%



The South African rand weakened during the reporting week against stronger foreign currencies, depreciating by 0.21% against the US dollar, 0.18% against the euro, and 0.66% against the pound sterling. South Africa reduced its repo rate by 25 basis points last week, but the rand weakened as the probability of a comparable 25-basis-point cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve at the upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting declined to 35% during the reporting week.



Brent crude oil averaged $62.42 during the reporting week, which reflects a 1.3% decrease from the previous week's average of $63.27. Crude futures declined marginally over the reporting week as investors reassessed the geopolitical risk premium amid protracted Russia–Ukraine peace discussions, while also monitoring the upcoming OPEC+ meeting for indications of potential production adjustments. Analysts caution that details remain limited, but if no agreement is reached, Russia's oil exports could face even tighter sanctions.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 46 (10/11/2025 to 16/11/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 47 (17/11/2025 to 23/11/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10939	72,24	76,03	Class A2	11142	73,37	78,01
Class A3	540	72,84	76,75	Class A3	651	74,50	77,78
Class C2	1076	64,87	68,27	Class C2	1566	64,82	67,48

The beef market displayed mixed trades during the week under review, with unit sales showing bullish momentum across all classes. During the reporting week, the unit sales for Class A2, A3, and C2 beef increased by 1.9%, 20.6%, and 45.5% respectively, compared to the previous week. In contrast, the weekly average purchase prices for Class C2 dropped by 0.08%, while Class A2 and A3 saw a week-on-week increase of 1.6% and 2.3% respectively. During the same week, the weekly average selling prices for class A2 and A3 beef rose by 2.6% and 1.3% respectively, whereas the weekly average selling price for class C2 experienced a decline of 1.2% week-on-week. Beef price fluctuations are occurring as government implements a national herd-vaccination programme., while this decision may cause temporary logistical challenges it is expected to have long-term benefits.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 46 (10/11/2025 to 16/11/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 47 (17/11/2025 to 23/11/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	19066	109,7	109,23	Class A2	17629	109,15	108,71
Class A3	2140	106,28	108,63	Class A3	2765	105,75	107,42
Class C2	1124	83,64	89,79	Class C2	957	82,40	88,55

The lamb market displayed a mixed performance during the week, with average purchase prices and average selling prices across all classes declining over the reporting period. The weekly average purchase prices for Class A2, A3 and Class C2 decreased by 0.50%, 0,50% and 1.5% respectively; additionally the weekly average selling prices for class A2, A3 and C2 lamb fell by 0.5%, 1.1% and 1.4% respectively, Unit sales of class A2 and class C2 decreased by 7.5% and 14.9% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week while unit sales of class A3 lamb went up by 29,2% week-on-week. While demand generally picks up in December for the festive season, November prices are expected to move sideways before the final pre-holiday rush.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 46 (10/11/2025 to 16/11/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 47 (17/11/2025 to 23/11/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	3904	39,08	Class BP	3813	39,63
Class HO	10416	37,93	Class HO	11325	38,29
Class HP	17560	37,93	Class HP	17759	38,12

The pork market exhibited a mixed performance during the week, though average purchase prices across all classes rose over the reporting period. During the reporting week, unit sales of Class HO and Class HP pork went up by 8.7% and 1.1%, respectively, compared to the previous week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class BP, HO and class HP pork went up by 1,4%, 1.0% and 0.5%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Due to outbreaks affecting other red meat supplies, consumers may switch to other proteins like pork, increasing demand and driving up its price, on the other hand December is a period of high demand for meat products as people prepare for holidays and gatherings.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's Crop Estimates Committee reports that the 2025/26 winter crop harvest is projected at 2.76 million tonnes, a slight 0.5% decrease from the previous month's estimate. The revision reflects modest reductions in wheat (0.3%), barley (1%), and oats (6%), while the estimate still covers wheat, barley, canola, oats, and sweet lupines. Despite the month-to-month decline, overall winter crop production is expected to be 4% higher than in the 2024/25 season, indicating continued solid harvest levels. Overall, South Africa's 2025/26 winter crop harvest is progressing well, with yields appearing solid across key production regions. Based on current output estimates, combined with ample global wheat supplies, the outlook is favourable for a continued moderation in food price inflation.

Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen has announced a nationwide cattle vaccination program to combat foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), with millions of doses planned for rollout in 2026. The initiative will involve partnerships with both domestic and international partners, including China and Argentina, to secure vaccine supplies and technical support given that South Africa currently relies on imports of the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, mainly from Botswana . In the short term, vaccination efforts are being intensified in affected areas such as Kokstad, Estcourt, and surrounding regions in KwaZulu-Natal. The strategy also emphasizes stricter enforcement of animal movement controls and a commitment to enhancing laboratory capacity for faster and more accurate diagnostics. Windile Sihlobo, Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa, described the vaccination plan as a "massive but courageous" undertaking, given the threat posed by foot-and-mouth disease. He noted that South Africa is following a precedent set by countries such as Argentina and Brazil, which have also implemented vaccination programs for cattle. Typically, vaccination programs are paused once a country successfully controls the disease. With a national herd of approximately 7.2 million cattle, South Africa's decision underscores a proactive approach to safeguarding its livestock while maintaining a focus on sustaining red meat exports.

While 2025 has largely been a positive year for fuel prices, it is set to close on a higher note. According to the latest data from the Central Energy Fund (CEF), petrol prices are expected to rise by approximately 30 cents, while diesel prices may increase by 70 cents (500ppm) to 85 cents (50ppm). A 30-cent rise would push the price of 95 Unleaded to around R20.59 at coastal areas and R21.42 in Gauteng, while 93 Unleaded could reach R21.27. Despite these increases, petrol prices remain below levels seen at the start of 2025, when 95 ULP cost R20.80 at the coast. The December price adjustments are primarily driven by higher international product prices, partially offset by a stronger rand, which provides modest relief of about three cents. Diesel prices are under upward pressure heading into the year-end, as colder weather in the northern hemisphere boosts demand for heating oil, which shares the same crude oil components. During the reporting week, Brent crude prices eased slightly, as another inventory build offset concerns over potential disruptions from Russia-related sanctions. Increased fuel prices mean higher production costs for South African farmers during planting season, which can reduce profit margins and increase overall food prices.

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

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