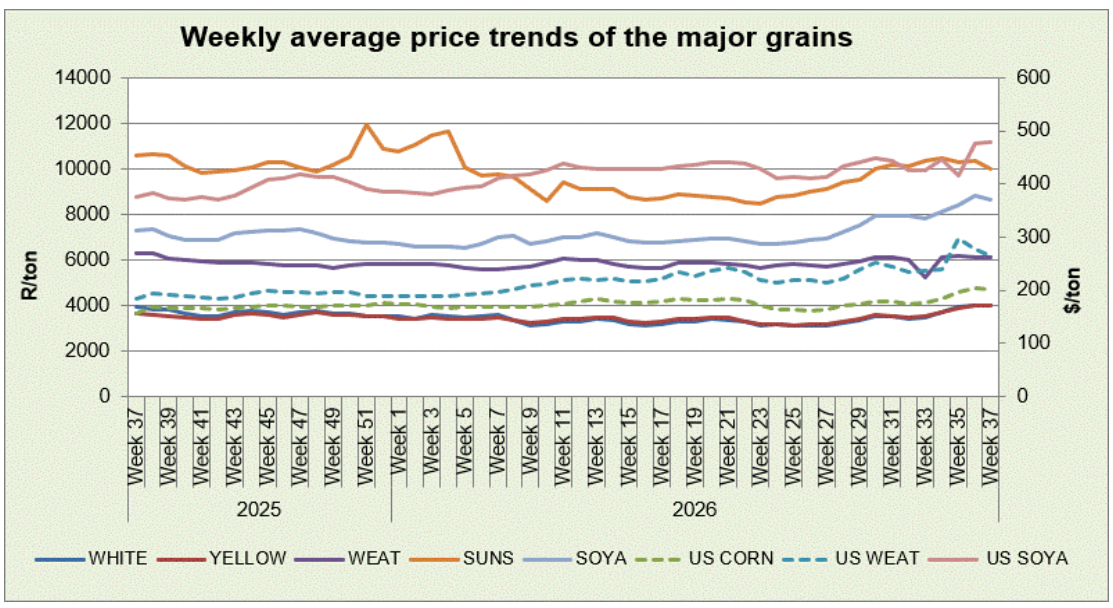
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 11 September 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

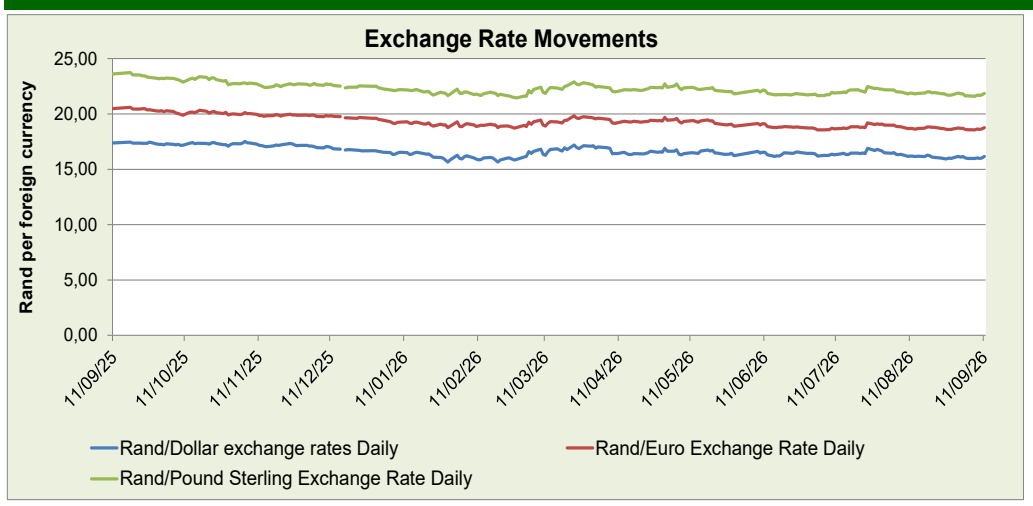
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



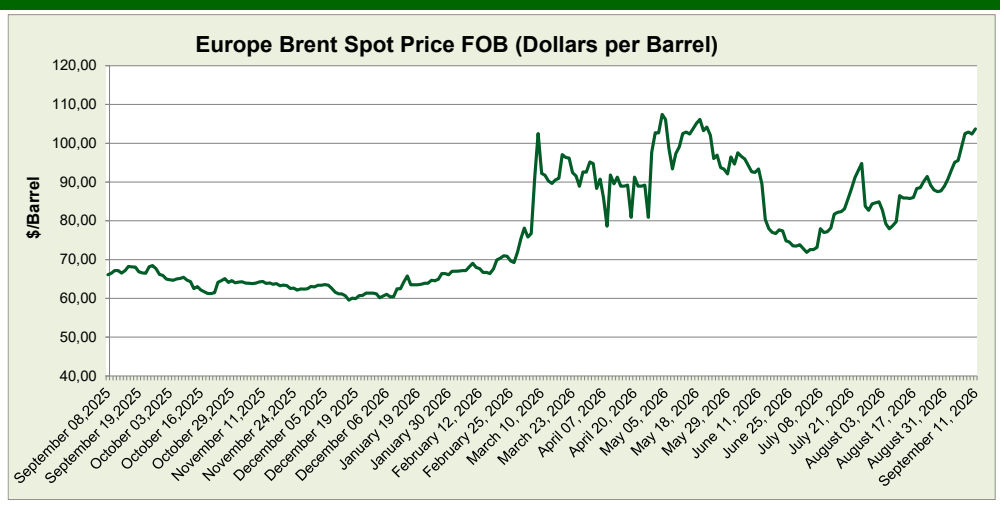
Local grain markets were generally weaker during the week under review. White maize and wheat prices declined marginally by 0.1% and 0.3%, respectively, while yellow maize remained unchanged. Soybean prices decreased by 1.7%, while sunflower seed recorded the largest decline of 3.7%. Domestic prices remained under pressure from the record 2026 harvest and abundant regional grain supplies, which continued to limit upward price movements. Internationally, US corn and wheat prices declined by 0.8% and 4.6%, respectively, while US soybean prices increased by 0.6%. Wheat prices were weighed down by profit taking and expectations of higher global stocks, while the approaching US harvest and limited surprises in the September USDA supply report placed pressure on corn prices. In contrast, soybean prices received support from improved Chinese demand, including purchases of approximately one million tonnes of US soybeans, as well as tightening inventories in Brazil.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 36 (08-09-25 to 12-09-25)	Last week Week 36 (31-08-26 to 04-09-26)	This week Week 37 (07-09-26 to 11-09-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R3 923,20	R3 975,40	R3 973,00	-0,1%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R3 625,40	R3 991,20	R3 990,00	0,0%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$157,43	$203,32	$201,63	-0,8%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 292,40	R6 130,80	R6 114,80	-0,3%
USA Wheat per ton	$184,09	$277,63	$264,73	-4,6%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 297,60	R8 797,40	R8 649,40	-1,7%
USA Soybeans per ton	$375,23	$475,16	$478,01	0,6%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R10 586,00	R10 371,60	R9 986,40	-3,7%
Crude oil per barrel	$66,68	$92,67	$100,16	8,1%



The South African rand recorded modest gains against major currencies, appreciating by 0.3% against the US dollar, 0.1% against the euro and 0.2% against the pound sterling. The currency initially came under pressure from a firmer US dollar, rising oil prices and concerns about disruptions to Middle Eastern oil supplies, which increased fears of higher domestic inflation and a wider import bill.



Brent crude oil prices increased by approximately 8.1%, rising from $92.67 to $100.16 per barrel. Prices were driven higher by intensified attacks on oil tankers and strategic shipping routes in the Middle East, which heightened fears of prolonged supply disruptions. Escalating US and Iran hostilities, threats to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, and attacks on Russian refinery infrastructure added a substantial geopolitical risk premium.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 35 (24/08/2026 to 30/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 36 (31/08/2026 to 06/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	12958	66,4	70,17	Class A2	10395	66,56	67,39
Class A3	788	66,87	71,13	Class A3	701	66,76	69,95
Class C2	1084	58,06	60,63	Class C2	1280	56,99	59,85

The beef market recorded mixed movements during the week under review. Class A2 and A3 units declined by 19.8% and 11.0%, respectively, while Class C2 units increased by 18.1%. Average purchase prices remained relatively stable for Class A2, increasing marginally by 0.2%, whereas Class A3 and C2 purchase prices declined by 0.2% and 1.8%, respectively. Average selling prices weakened across all three classes, with Class A2 falling by 4.0%, Class A3 by 1.7% and Class C2 by 1.3%.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 35 (24/08/2026 to 30/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 36 (31/08/2026 to 06/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	12843	109,4	111,29	Class A2	13637	109,63	112,52
Class A3	2610	105,85	109,3	Class A3	2270	104,16	108,77
Class C2	1096	88,63	92	Class C2	745	84,32	90,07

The lamb market recorded mixed movements during the week under review. Class A2 units increased by 6.2%, while Class A3 and C2 units declined by 13.0% and 32.0%, respectively. Average purchase prices for Class A2 increased marginally by 0.2%, whereas Class A3 and C2 purchase prices decreased by 1.6% and 4.9%, respectively. Average selling prices followed a similar pattern, with Class A2 rising by 1.1%, while Class A3 declined by 0.5% and Class C2 by 2.1%. Overall, market activity and prices strengthened for Class A2 lamb, while the lower demand for Class A3 and particularly Class C2 placed downward pressure on both volumes and prices.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 35 (24/08/2026 to 30/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 36 (31/08/2026 to 06/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	1570	27,8	Class BP	2202	28,99
Class HO	7407	28,53	Class HO	6732	28,69
Class HP	16370	28,38	Class HP	15560	29,06

The pork market recorded mixed trading activity during the week under review. Class BP units increased substantially by 40.3%, while Class HO and HP units declined by 9.1% and 4.9%, respectively. Despite the lower volumes recorded for HO and HP, average purchase prices increased across all three classes. Class BP recorded the largest price increase of 4.3%, followed by Class HP at 2.4% and Class HO at 0.6%. Overall, Class BP showed the strongest market performance, with significant growth in both trading volumes and average purchase prices.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's cherry industry has achieved a historic breakthrough following the signing of a new export protocol that allows locally produced cherries to enter the Chinese market for the first time. China is one of the world's largest importers and consumers of cherries, with strong demand for fresh, high quality fruit. Access to this market therefore presents South African producers with an important opportunity to increase exports, earn additional foreign revenue and reduce their dependence on traditional markets. South Africa's relatively early harvesting season may also provide exporters with an opportunity to supply Chinese consumers before larger volumes from some competing countries become available. The agreement could encourage further investment in cherry orchards, irrigation systems, packing facilities, refrigerated storage and transport infrastructure. It may also support employment and business activity in rural production areas by creating additional opportunities for farmworkers, packhouses, transport companies and exporters.

South African agribusiness confidence recorded a notable recovery during the third quarter of 2026, with the Agbiz and Industrial Development Corporation Agribusiness Confidence Index increasing by eight points from 45 to 53. This placed the index above the neutral level of 50 for the first time after two consecutive quarters of weaker sentiment and indicated that agricultural businesses had become more positive about operating conditions. The improvement was mainly supported by greater optimism among financial institutions, grain traders, agricultural input suppliers and the animal feed industry. Strong grain, oilseed, fruit and vegetable harvests also contributed to the improved outlook, while agricultural exports reached approximately US$7.8 billion during the first half of 2026, representing an increase of 11 percent compared with the same period in 2025. Confidence regarding export volumes and capital investment also strengthened considerably. However, the overall improvement should be viewed with caution because several serious risks remain.

South Africa has strengthened protection for its domestic sugar industry by increasing the dollar based reference price for imported sugar from US$680 per tonne to US$785 per tonne. As a result, the customs duty on imported sugar increased from 483.72 cents per kilogram to 697.92 cents per kilogram. The adjustment was welcomed by sugarcane growers and millers who have faced growing pressure from large volumes of cheaper imported sugar entering the domestic market. These imports have displaced locally produced sugar, reduced domestic sales and forced local producers to sell more of their output on the international market, where prices are often lower and less profitable.

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

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

Disclaimer: DOA will not be liable for results of actions based on this price watch.