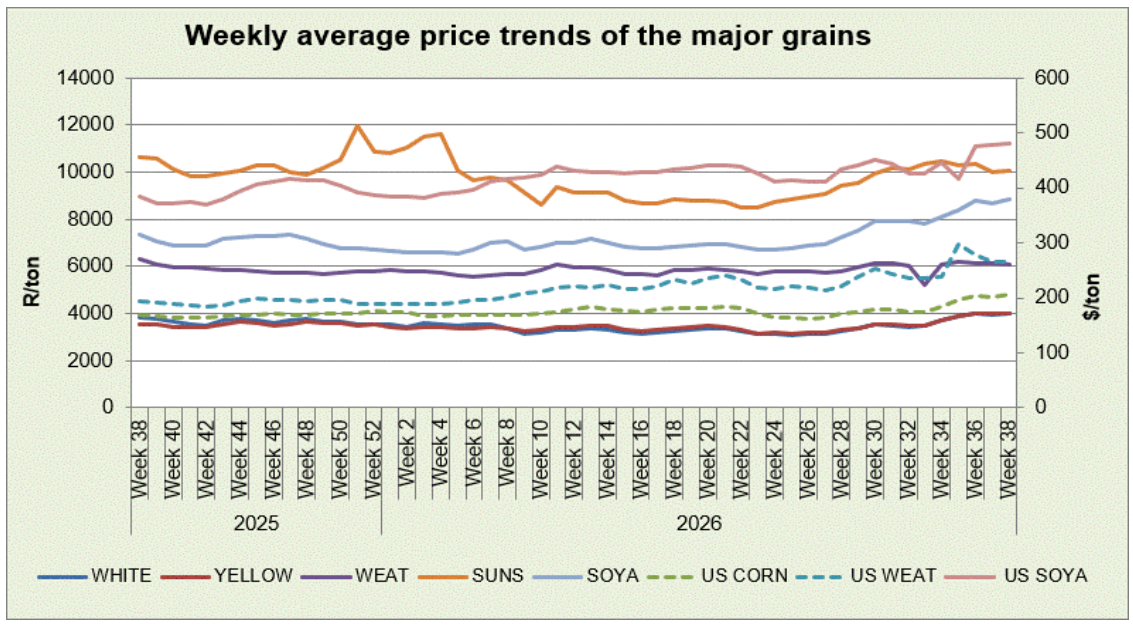
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 18 September 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

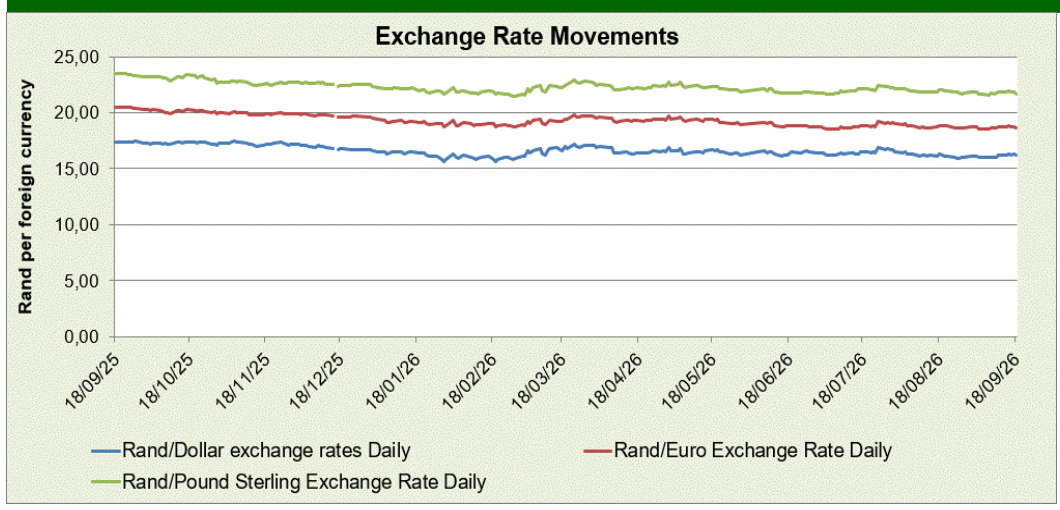


Both domestic markets and international grain markets displayed mixed performance over the reporting week at the back of the stronger rand against major foreign currencies. Locally, the prices for white maize and soybeans increased by 0,1% and 2,6%, respectively, compared to the previous week. In contrast, the prices for yellow maize, wheat and sunflower seeds showed a fall declining by 0,1%, 0,6% and 3,7% respectively.

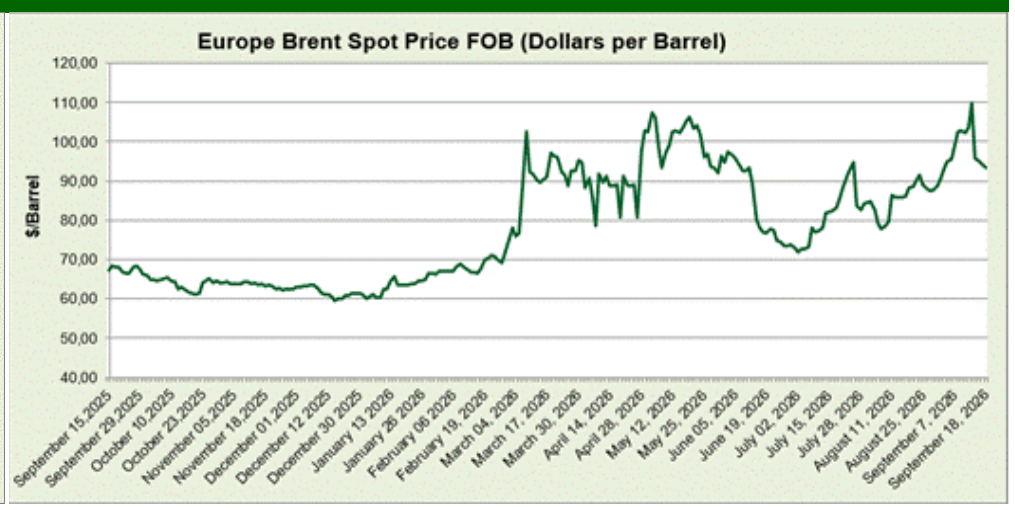
On the international front, the price of US yellow maize and US soybeans went up by 2,4% and 0,3% respectively, meanwhile the price of US wheat declined by 0,1%. Mixed grain price movements during the reporting week, reflected harvest-related supply pressures, USDA projections of long-term supply reductions, and geopolitical uncertainties ahead of major trade negotiations.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 38 (15-09-25 to 18-09-25)	Last week Week 37 (07-09-26 to 11-09-26)	This week Week 38 (14-09-26 to 18-09-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R3 841,60	R3 973,00	R3 977,20	0,1%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R3 567,40	R3 990,00	R3 984,20	-0,1%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$167,93	$201,63	$206,48	2,4%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 319,40	R6 114,80	R6 079,80	-0,6%
USA Wheat per ton	$193,62	$264,73	$264,56	-0,1%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 334,60	R8 649,40	R8 876,00	2,6%
USA Soybeans per ton	$383,56	$478,01	$479,42	0,3%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R10 637,60	R9 986,40	R10 082,00	-3,7%
Crude oil per barrel	$67,91	$100,16	$97,62	-2,5%



The South African rand appreciated against major currencies compared with the previous week, strengthening by 1.4% against the US dollar, 0.4% against the euro, and 0.7% against the pound sterling. The rand's performance during the reporting week was influenced by shifts in global monetary conditions and regional geopolitical developments, resulting in heightened volatility in the foreign exchange market.



Brent crude oil decreased by 2,5% during the reporting period, falling from $100.16 per barrel to $97,62 per barrel. Oil prices declined following reports that China, at Saudi Arabia's request, urged Iran to limit Houthi attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, which threaten a second major Middle Eastern oil export route. However, despite this diplomatic intervention, the short-term oil market outlook remains uncertain due to ongoing geopolitical risks.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 36 (31/08/2026 to 06/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 37 (07/09/2026 to 13/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10395	66,56	67,39	Class A2	6206	65,19	68,66
Class A3	701	66,76	69,95	Class A3	526	65,74	69,84
Class C2	1280	56,99	59,85	Class C2	1063	56,62	58,95

The beef market displayed mixed trades during the week under review, with average purchase prices and unit sales showing bearish momentum across all classes. During the reporting week, the average purchase prices for Class A2, A3, and C2 beef declined by 2.1%, 1.5% and 0.6% respectively. Similarly, unit sales went down for Class A2, A3 and C2 by 40%, 25% and 17%. During the same week, the weekly average selling prices for class A3 and C2 beef fell by 0.2% and 1.5% respectively, meanwhile Class C2 beef prices increased by 1.9%. Domestic beef prices are influenced by local supply, environmental conditions, and international economic pressures, with distinct trends across farm-gate prices, processing costs, and retail demand.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 36 (31/08/2026 to 06/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 37 (07/09/2026 to 13/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	13637	109,63	112,52	Class A2	12649	109,22	108,74
Class A3	2270	104,16	108,77	Class A3	2033	104,07	106,8
Class C2	745	84,32	90,07	Class C2	594	83,53	89,78

The lamb market recorded bearish price movements during the week, indicating weaker prices amid subdued market demand and activity. Unit sales for Class A2, Class A3, and Class C2 declined by 7.2%, 10.3%, and 20.3%, respectively, during the reporting week. Similarly, the average purchase prices for Class A2, A3, and C2 fell by 0.4%, 0.1%, and 0.9%, respectively, compared with the previous week. The average selling price of Class A2, A3 and C2 lamb also went down by 3.4%, 1.8% and 0.3% week-on-week. September and October typically mark the peak of lambing season in South Africa, resulting in increased availability of young and slaughter-ready lambs and higher market supply volumes, placing downward pressure on lamb prices.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 36 (31/08/2026 to 06/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 37 (07/09/2026 to 13/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	2202	28,99	Class BP	1911	28,97
Class HO	6732	28,69	Class HO	7422	29,32
Class HP	15560	29,06	Class HP	16132	29,50

The pork market recorded mixed trading activity during the week under review. Unit sales for Class HO and HP pork increased by 10.2% and 3.7%, respectively, compared with the previous week, while Class BP recorded a decline of 13.2%. The weekly average purchase prices for Class HO and HP pork increased by 2.2% and 1.5% respectively, in contrast Class BP declined marginally by 0.1% on a week-on-week basis.

Latest News Developments

The 2026–2027 season prognosis is becoming the focus of discussions in the South African farming industry. According to Agbiz, as the new season begins in mid-October, Agbiz indicated that Farm input costs continue to rise due to supply constraints on the Strait of Hormuz and the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran. By August 2026, local fertilizer prices had risen approximately 20% compared to the previous year, while fuel costs have not increased as sharply as they did immediately following the U.S.-Iran conflict's onset, they remain elevated relative to year-ago levels.

Agbiz projects that fuel prices may face additional upward pressure as Brent crude oil maintains levels above US$100/bbl, particularly affecting the diesel sector where refining margins have widened considerably. Additionally, Russia's continued destruction of infrastructure in Ukraine's export regions undermines global food security in the Black Sea area, contributing to elevated commodity prices. Agbiz expresses concern that these price increases pose challenges for wheat-importing nations, including South Africa. The organization indicates that weather patterns remain uncertain as farmers navigate rising and volatile input costs. El Niño forecasts represent an ongoing concern. Conversely, elevated soil moisture could facilitate seed germination and extend grazing pasture productivity, potentially creating favourable early-season conditions according to Agbiz. Nevertheless, uncertainties persist regarding potential heat stress and El Niño intensity as the season unfolds. The agricultural community must navigate these interconnected challenges.

Rooibos growers maintain optimism as rain revitalizes planting prospects, this is according to the Rooibos Tea Producers Association (RTPA). Following recent rainfall that provided much-needed relief following a postponed planting season, focus has shifted toward producer profitability, market dynamics, industry insights, and the long-term viability of the rooibos sector. Rooibos Tea Producers Association chairperson, Werner Nieuwoudt affirmed that the organisation is dedicated to preserving producers' influential position within an industry centred on the world's sole commercially farmed rooibos crop. Nieuwoudt noted that arid conditions had disrupted planting throughout much of the production region after precipitation ceased in mid-June. According to Nieuwoudt, the planting season is during June, July, and August; however, rainfall diminished around mid-June, leaving producers without an adequate planting window. Nieuwoudt observed that numerous seedlings remained in nurseries as growers awaited adequate soil moisture levels. Nevertheless, recent September rainfall has enabled planting operations to resume throughout the region. This precipitation could also deliver a beneficial impact to mature rooibos fields in preparation for the upcoming harvest period. According to Nieuwoudt, precipitation occurring from September through November has the potential to increase elder tea plant productivity by 20% to 30%. Nevertheless, Nieuwoudt cautioned that the sector's continued viability requires maintaining equilibrium between market supply and consumer demand. While markets are growing, product scarcity drives up prices, creating hardship for buyers. Similarly, surplus stock burdens producers. Nieuwoudt emphasized, achieving balance across the entire value chain is essential.

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.