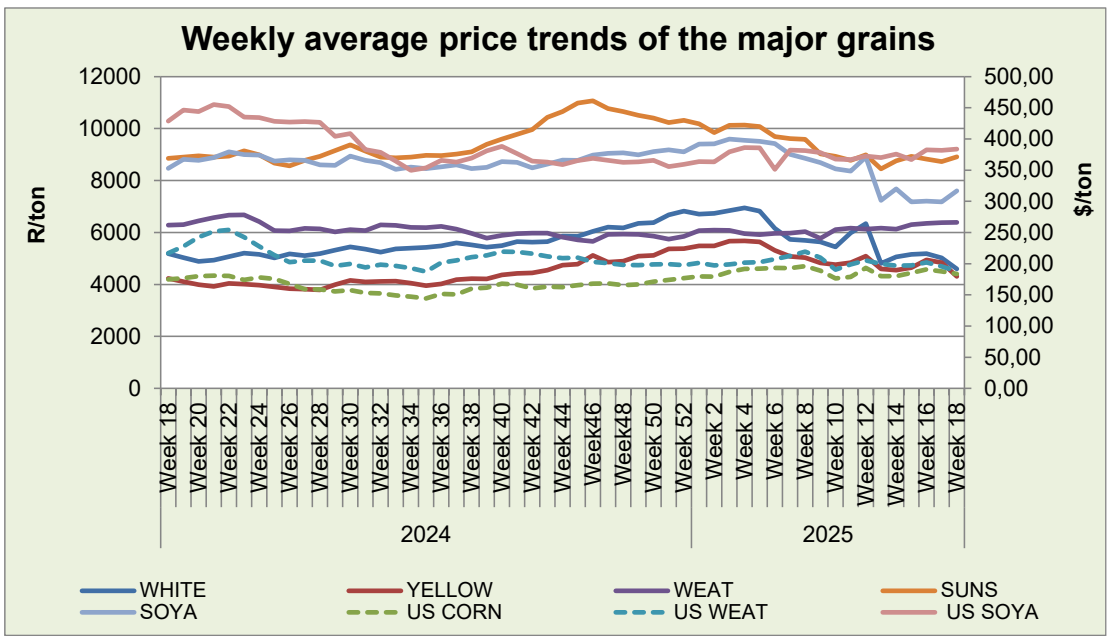
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 02 May 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

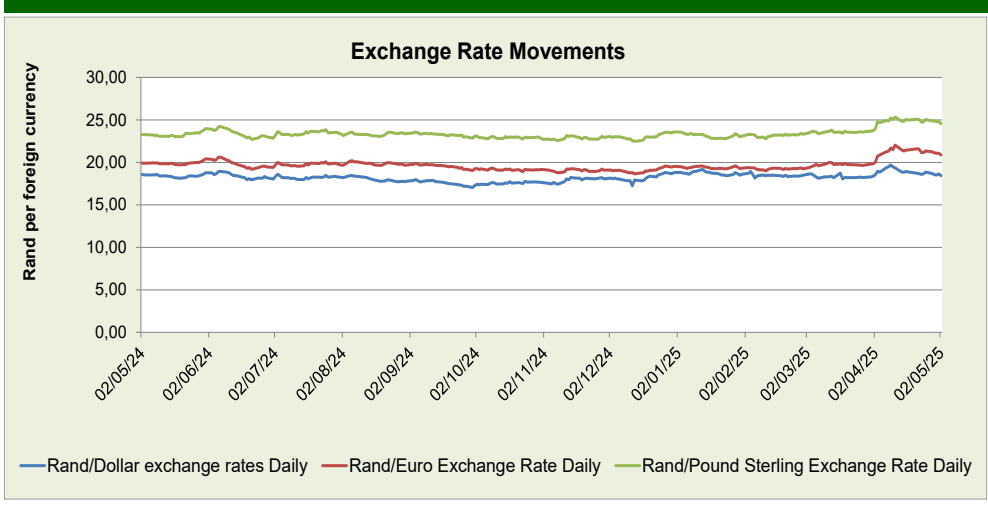
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

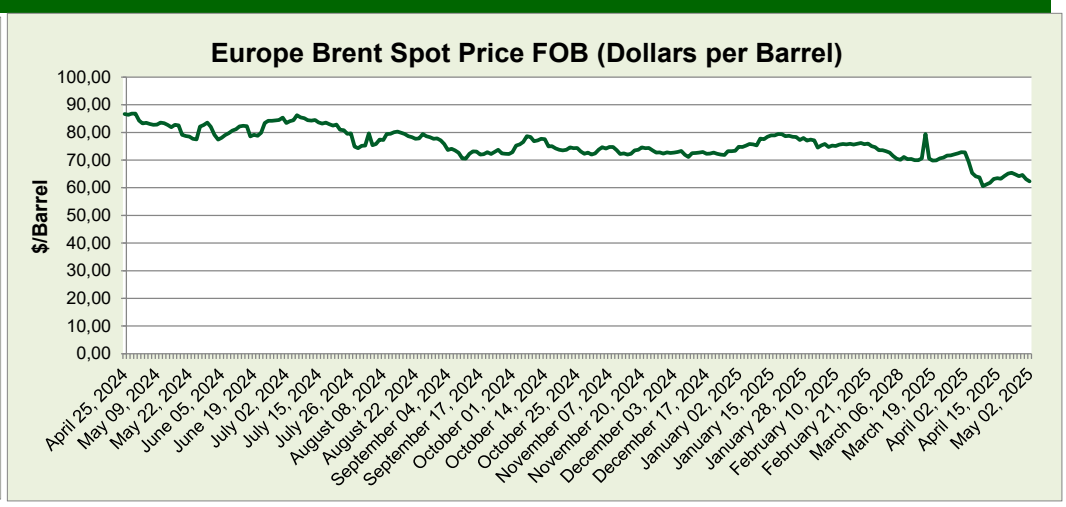


The domestic grain market underwent fluctuations over the past week in comparison to the previous week, amid a difficult trading environment. During this reporting period, the prices of white and yellow maize fell by 8.4% and 10.9% respectively compared to the previous week. SAFEX maize prices remained below the peaks observed at the start of the year, attributed to the expected production recovery. In contrast, the prices of wheat, soybean, and sunflower seed rose by 0.3%, 6.0%, and 2.1% respectively on a week-on-week basis. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize experienced a slight decrease of 0.2% week-on-week, as markets prepare for the May World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, with predictions of a larger new crop balance sheet. Conversely, US wheat price rose by 0.3% week-on-week, influenced by adverse weather conditions in certain regions of the Canadian Prairies. Additionally, US soybean prices increased by 0.5% week-on-week, while excessive rainfall has hindered fieldwork across key producing states, leading to delays in soybean planting.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 18 (29-04-24 to 03-05-24)	Last week Week 17 (21-04-25 to 25-04-25)	This week Week 18 (28-04-25 to 02-05-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 183.75	R 5 020.25	R 4 597.67	-8.4%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 232.25	R 4 837.25	R 4 311.67	-10.9%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$ 174.64	$ 187.63	$ 183.72	-2.0%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 6 278.75	R 6 374.50	R 6 392.67	0.3%
USA Wheat per ton	$ 216.90	$ 195.77	$ 188.15	-3.9%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 464.00	R 7 174.50	R 7 606.33	6.0%
USA Soybeans per ton	$ 428,58	$ 381.92	$ 383.75	0.5%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 8 852.75	R 8 732.25	R 8 912.00	2.1%
RSA Sweet Sorghum per ton	-	-	-	-
Crude oil per barrel	$ 85.28	$ 64.89	$ 63.33	-2.4%





The rand appreciated by 0.7% against the US dollar week-on-week, supported by reduced risk aversion since the implementation of Trump's tariffs on April 2. The rand appreciated by 0.6% against the Pound Sterling week-on-week, supported by market apprehension regarding potential trade agreements between the U.S. and other nations that could mitigate the impact of U.S. tariffs. The rand appreciated by 1.3% against the Euro week-on-week, despite the Eurozone economy experiencing growth in Q1:2025 due to heightened domestic demand.

Brent crude oil recorded an average price of $63.33 in the reporting week, representing a decrease of 2.4% from the previous week's average of $64.89. The decision by OPEC+ to accelerate its production increases has heightened concerns regarding a potential oversupply in the global market, particularly as the demand forecast remains ambiguous. Additionally, over the weekend, OPEC+ reached an agreement to further accelerate oil production increases for the second month in a row, with an output rise of 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) scheduled for June.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 16 (14/04/2025 to 20/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Beef							
Class A2	9 038	65,88	72,33	Class A2	9 022	66,50	70,40
Class A3	337	64,32	72,06	Class A3	349	66,12	71,10
Class C2	589	49,13	52,29	Class C2	1 014	51,57	53,22

Units sales of class A3 and class C2 beef experienced a remarkable increases of 3.6% and 72.2%, respectively, during the reporting week compared to the previous week. In contrast, unit sales of class A2 beef experienced a slight decrease of 0.2% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class A2, A3 and C2 beef rose by 0.9%, 2.8% and 5.0% respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling price for class C2 increased by 1.8% while the average selling price for class A2 and class A3 beef fell by 2.7% and 1.3%, respectively, compared to the previous week. Beef prices continue to trade in a narrow band due to the price dynamics within the broader meat complex.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 16 (14/04/2025 to 20/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Lamb							
Class A2	18 046	101,93	103,95	Class A2	12 430	101,90	104,36
Class A3	2 256	96,85	101,93	Class A3	1 927	97,07	101,86
Class C2	2 288	65,45	71,10	Class C2	1 974	65,54	72,01

Units sales of class A2, A3 and C2 lamb experienced declines of 31.1%, 14.6%, and 13.7%, respectively, when compared to the previous week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A3 and class C2 lamb saw increases of 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively, while the weekly average purchase price for class A2 lamb fell by 0.03% week-on-week. Concurrently, the weekly average selling prices for class A2 and class C2 lamb rose by 0.4% and 1.3%, respectively, compared to the previous week, whereas the weekly average selling price for class A3 lamb decreased by 0.1% week-on-week. The rise in lamb prices can be attributed to supply constraints, while favourable production conditions have led producers to hold onto their stock.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 16 (14/04/2025 to 20/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Pork					
Class BP	10 606	31,98	Class BP	11 383	31,76
Class HO	3 453	31,15	Class HO	3 754	28,82
Class HP	3 747	31,50	Class HP	4 452	30,29

Units sales of class BP, class HO and class HP pork increased by 7.3%,8.7% and 18.8%, respectively, during the reporting week in comparison to the previous week. Concurrently, the weekly average purchase price for class BP and class HO pork fell by 0.7%, 7.5% and 3.8%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. The fluctuations in the broader meat protein market influenced pork pricing.

Latest News Developments

The Reserve Bank is anticipated to have fewer opportunities to lower interest rates throughout 2025 as inflation rises towards the midpoint of its target range, according to Daily Investor. Despite inflation reaching a four-year low, global uncertainties have unsettled financial markets, limiting the Bank's options. South Africa's headline inflation rate decreased to 2.7% in March from 3.2% in February, marking the lowest level in four years and falling short of economists' predictions. The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has emphasized that its decisions are influenced not only by domestic inflation but also by international developments. A depreciating rand could increase the cost of imports, potentially reigniting inflation and prompting the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to reverse some of its interest rate reductions. FNB senior economist Koketso Mano noted that low inflation should help maintain stable inflation expectations. As price and wage setters align with the Reserve Bank's long-term goals, the necessity for strict monetary policy diminishes, allowing for potential interest rate cuts in the near future. However, the cautious committee may opt to postpone the resumption of rate cuts as global challenges emerge.

According to the South African Revenue Services (SARS), the trade balance increased to a surplus of R24.8 billion in March 2025, up from R20 billion in February. According to SARS, exports rose by 5.7% month-on-month, although according to a report from Nedbank, this was a slowdown from the 9.8% growth seen in February, yet it still outpaced import growth. Key contributors to this positive trend included machinery and electronics, which surged by 21%, indicating heightened shipments to the US in anticipation of reciprocal tariffs from the Trump administration. Additionally, mineral products saw an 18% increase. Notably, the unclassified goods category experienced a remarkable 467% rise; however, its impact on the overall figure is minimal since it represents less than 1% of total exports. %). Imports saw a rebound of 3.2% after a significant contraction of 13.5% in February, driven by a 156% increase in animal and vegetable fats, along with notable purchases of vehicles and transport equipment (28%), original equipment components (9%), and mineral products (7%). Year-on-year, exports improved by 6.3%, a recovery from 1.2%.

Chief Economist of Agbiz, Wandile Sihlobo has stated that the Southern Africa region plays a crucial role in the agricultural growth potential of South Africa. Sihlobo noted that out of the US$13.7 billion in agricultural exports from South Africa in 2024, approximately 44% was directed towards the African continent. He further mentioned that nearly 90 cents of every dollar earned from exports to other African nations originated from the Southern Africa region, underscoring the importance of South Africa's diplomatic efforts to address challenges and foster stability in this area. Sihlobo pointed out that in recent years, there have been instances of trade tensions in Southern Africa involving South Africa and its neighbouring countries. For example, there were restrictions on vegetable imports into Botswana (which have now been lifted) and Namibia (which remain in effect). The most recent issue involved Tanzania, which temporarily imposed restrictions on South Africa's agricultural imports, although this ban was quickly rescinded over the weekend. Sihlobo noted that a common theme among these import restrictions is the neighbouring countries' desire to enhance their domestic production capabilities. Additionally, he addressed misconceptions regarding the slow market penetration of these countries into the South African agriculture and food sector, which some attribute to restrictions. Sihlobo clarified that such claims often misrepresent the openness of South Africa's agricultural market, emphasizing that it is relatively accessible and that all these nations are part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Area. He explained that the slow market entry is either due to a lack of formal requests for market access, as seen with Tanzania's bananas, or because certain products may not be competitive enough in the South African market. Sihlobo suggests that for neighbouring countries to engage effectively in the South African market, they must consistently analyze South Africa's import list and focus on specific value chains, rather than those in which South Africa already has a competitive advantage and imports minimally. This approach should be a primary focus for countries like Tanzania as they seek to enhance regional agricultural trade.

For more information contact: Directorate Statistics & Economic Analysis (SEA) at HeidiP@Nda.gov.za or 0123198194.

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.