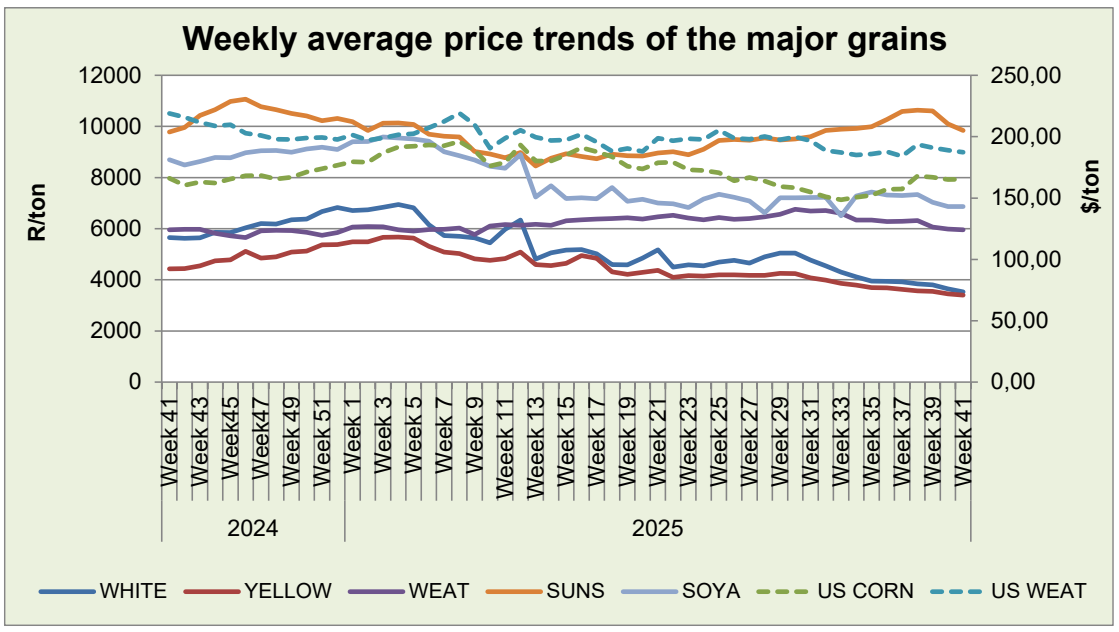
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 10 October 2025

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

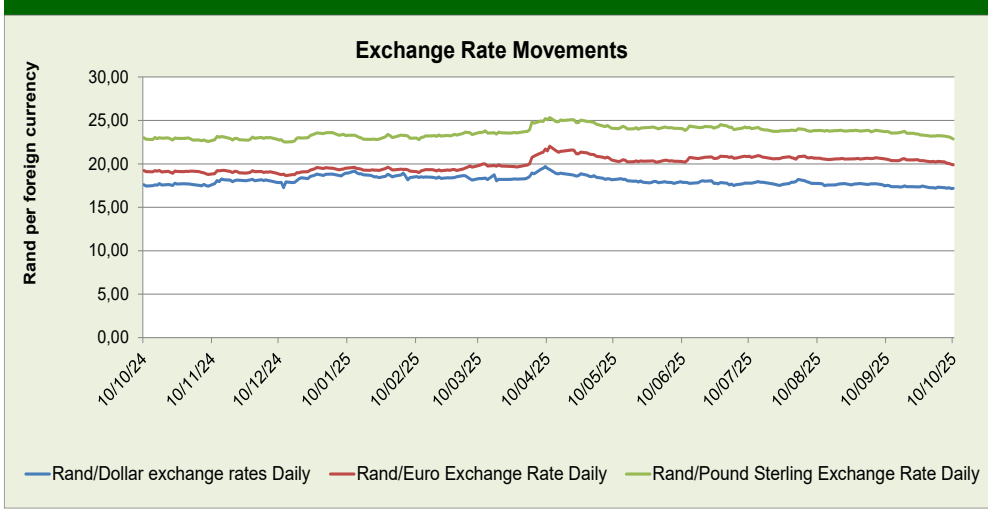
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

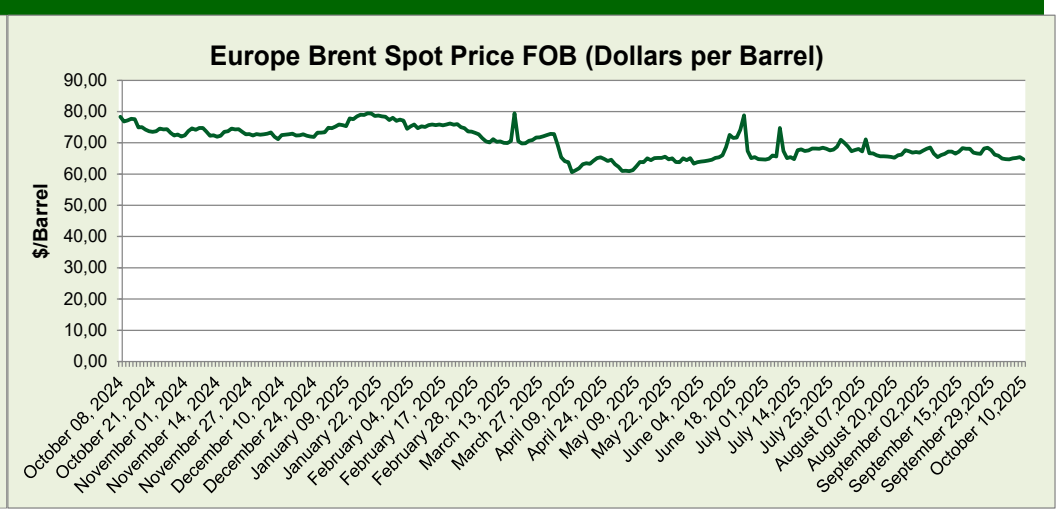


Domestic grain prices weakened over the past week in comparison to the week before. Significant production rebounds are anticipated in the 2024/25 season resulting in a decline in prices. The prices of local white and yellow maize decreased by 3.1% and 1.3% respectively in the reporting week, whereas local prices for wheat, sunflower wr seed and soybean prices saw reductions of 0.5%, 2.5% and 0.1% respectively during the reporting week in comparison to the prior week. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize rose by 0.2% compared to the previous week. The rise was primarily fuelled by worries regarding the Southern rust disease, which impacted US farms and posed a threat to the anticipated corn harvest. Conversely, the price of US wheat decreased by 0.9% week-on-week, as the increase in wheat supplies from major exporting nations exerted downward pressure on wheat prices. Meanwhile, US soybean price rose by 1.1% week-on-week, in the midst of a trade conflict initiated by President Donald Trump's assertive tariffs.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 41 (07-10-24 to 11-10-24)	Last week Week 40 (29-09-25 to 03-10-25)	This week Week 41 (06-10-25 to 10-10-25)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R 5 666.25	R 3 644.00	R 3 531.60	-3.1%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R 4 432,75	R 3 451.20	R 3 406,80	-1.3%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$ 165,94	$ 165,10	$ 165.39	0.2%
RSA Wheat per ton	R 5 966,00	R 5 988.80	R 5 956.40	-0.5%
USA Wheat per ton	$ 219.51	$ 188.92	$ 187.24	-0.9%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R 8 709.75	R 6 869.60	R 6 863.20	-0.1%
USA Soybeans per ton	$ 375.25	$ 371.15	$ 375.46	1.2%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R 9 820.25	R 10 093.80	R 9 843.00	-2.5%0
Crude oil per barrel	$ 77.73	$ 65.90	$ 65.00	-1.4%





The rand appreciated by 0.6% against the US dollar on a week-to-week basis, benefiting from expectations that the US will cut rates by more than previously forecast. The rand appreciated by 0.8% against the Pound Sterling week-to-week, as confidence in the UK's economic fundamentals remained tenuous, with traders cautious about increasing debt-servicing expenses. The rand appreciated by 1.2% against the Euro week-to-week, as Bank of England policymaker Catherine Mann adopted a hawkish stance, cautioning that inflation expectations continue to diverge from the target levels.

Brent crude oil averaged $65.00 during the reporting week, which reflects a 1.4% decrease from the previous week's average of $65.90.The price of Brent crude oil was affected by a warning from the International Energy Agency about a significant supply surplus expected in 2026, alongside ongoing trade tensions between the US and China, the two largest economies in the world. The International Energy Agency also forecasted that the global oil market could experience an even larger surplus next year, potentially reaching 4 million barrels per day, as OPEC+ producers and other competitors increase their output amid weak demand.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 39 (22/09/2025 to 28/09/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 40 (29/09/2025 to 06/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Beef							
Class A2	9 793	72,46	75,62	Class A2	9 091	71,97	75,76
Class A3	458	71,01	75,72	Class A3	485	71,77	76,66
Class C2	1 455	60,19	63,81	Class C2	1 306	61,05	64,11

Units sales of class A2 and class C2 beef fell by 7.2% and 10.2% respectively, in the reporting week in comparison to the previous week, while unit sales of class A3 saw an increase of 5.9% week-on-week. During the same week, the weekly average purchase prices for class A3 and C2 beef rose by 1.1% and 1.4% respectively, whereas the weekly average purchase price for class A2 experienced a decline of 0.7% week-on-week. Meanwhile, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 0.2%, 1.2% and 0.5%, respectively, compared to the preceding week. Beef prices have shown a consistent stability in recent weeks, indicating that although the market has adapted to new pricing levels, it has achieved a certain balance.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 39 (22/09/2025 to 28/09/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 40 (29/09/2025 to 06/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Lamb							
Class A2	12 319	109,38	110,98	Class A2	14 518	108,99	111,16
Class A3	1 863	105,92	110,45	Class A3	1 918	105,47	108,24
Class C2	1 480	83,75	89,54	Class C2	1 224	83,30	88,78

Units sales of class A2 and class A3 increased by 17.9% and 3.0% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week while unit sales of class C2 lamb saw a decline of 17.3% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A2, class A3, and C2 lamb decreased by 0.4%, 0.4% and 0.5%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A3, and C2 lamb fell by 2.0% and 0.8% respectively, while the weekly average purchase price for class A2 lamb increased by 0.2% from the previous week. The trends in livestock prices are indicative of multiple converging factors, such as the rising costs associated with feed, transportation, and the consistent demand for protein within the South African dietary framework.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 39 (22/09/2025 to 28/09/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 40 (29/09/2025 to 06/10/2025)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Pork					
Class BP	1381	36,89	Class BP	2 099	36.85
Class HO	16 522	35.78	Class HO	10 492	36.22
Class HP	10 657	36.00	Class HP	15 805	35.88

Unit sales of class BP, and class HP pork experienced increases of 52.0% and 48.3%, respectively, during the reporting week compared to the previous week. Conversely, unit sales of class HO pork decreased by 36,5% week-on-week . In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase price for class BP and class HP pork declined by 0.1% and 0.3%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Conversely, the weekly average purchase price for class HO pork increased by 1.2% week-on-week.

Latest News Developments

Agibz's Chief Economist, Wandile Sihlobo, has stated that South Africa is poised to achieve a record canola harvest in the 2025-26 season. At the end of September 2025, the Crop Estimate Committee published its second production forecast for canola, projecting a potential harvest of 311,640 tonnes, which reflects a 3% decline from the estimate made in August 2025. However, this figure is still 7% higher than that of the previous season. Sihlobo attributes the annual increases primarily to the expansion of planting areas. The anticipated crop yield of 311,640 tonnes marks a new record, further solidifying South Africa's status as a relatively recent exporter of canola products. Since the initiation of commercial canola cultivation by South African farmers on 17,000 hectares in the 1998-99 season, the cultivated area has expanded to an estimated 164,900 hectares by the 2025-26 season. Sihlobo noted that South Africa has transitioned into a net exporter of canola, having recently shipped products to nations such as Germany and Belgium. Although canola is a relatively new agricultural product in South Africa, it continues to be regarded as a success story.

Efficient Group Chief Economist Dawie Roodt emphasized that South Africa's fiscal situation is worsening due to the stagnant economy and increasing government expenditure. Roodt noted that these two elements have established a detrimental feedback loop for the National Treasury, where limited growth in tax revenue coincides with a demand for higher state spending. Over the past fifteen years, this has resulted in soaring state debt and escalating interest payments to manage these obligations. This debt load, now exceeding 76% of GDP, is becoming unmanageable, as the local economy will soon struggle to support it. Roodt pointed out that the interest rate on the state's debt surpasses the country's nominal GDP growth, indicating that the costs of servicing the debt are increasing at a rate quicker than the economy itself. Roodt indicated that debt as a percentage of GDP is increasing by approximately two to three percent annually, which will soon place South Africa in significant financial jeopardy. He described the national accounts as being in a critical condition. Roodt is concerned that South Africa is on the brink of severe financial difficulties. He believes that the nation is approaching a financial crisis. Roodt asserts that the country has limited avenues to escape this downward spiral, necessitating a blend of fiscal discipline and accelerated economic growth.

According to reports from the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), the National Agricultural Marketing Council, and a 2023 value chain profile by the Department of Agriculture, it is estimated that South Africa's national goat herd comprises approximately 7.8 million animals. This total includes Boer goats, Savannas, Kalahari Reds, Indigenous Veld Goats, and Angoras. Of these, around 1.8 million are classified as commercial goats, while the remainder is owned by smallholders, subsistence farmers, and rural households. In addition, the BFAP's Baseline 2025 report suggests that over three million goats are slaughtered each year in South Africa's informal market, which encompasses both household consumption and traditional, religious, or ceremonial practices. Various reports agree that only about 0.5% of these slaughterings occur in formal abattoirs, which would translate to approximately 15,000 animals annually out of the estimated three million. However, the chief operational officer at RMIS, Dr Phillip Oosthuizen, noted that more than 9,000 goats have been slaughtered through formal market channels this year, from November 2024 to the end of August 2025. According to Oosthuizen, these goats are those for which statutory levies have been collected, indicating they were processed at a commercial abattoir. Dr Frikkie Maré, CEO of the Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO), corroborated that there is a scarcity of formal statistics regarding goat meat in South Africa, with the majority of trade involving live animals sold for ritual or household slaughter. He further mentioned that data from formal channels has demonstrated an upward trend over the past three years. Information provided to the RPO by the industry body Agri Levy Services revealed that 11,578 goats were slaughtered at commercial abattoirs during the 2023/24 period, in contrast to 1,144 during the 2022/23 period.

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.