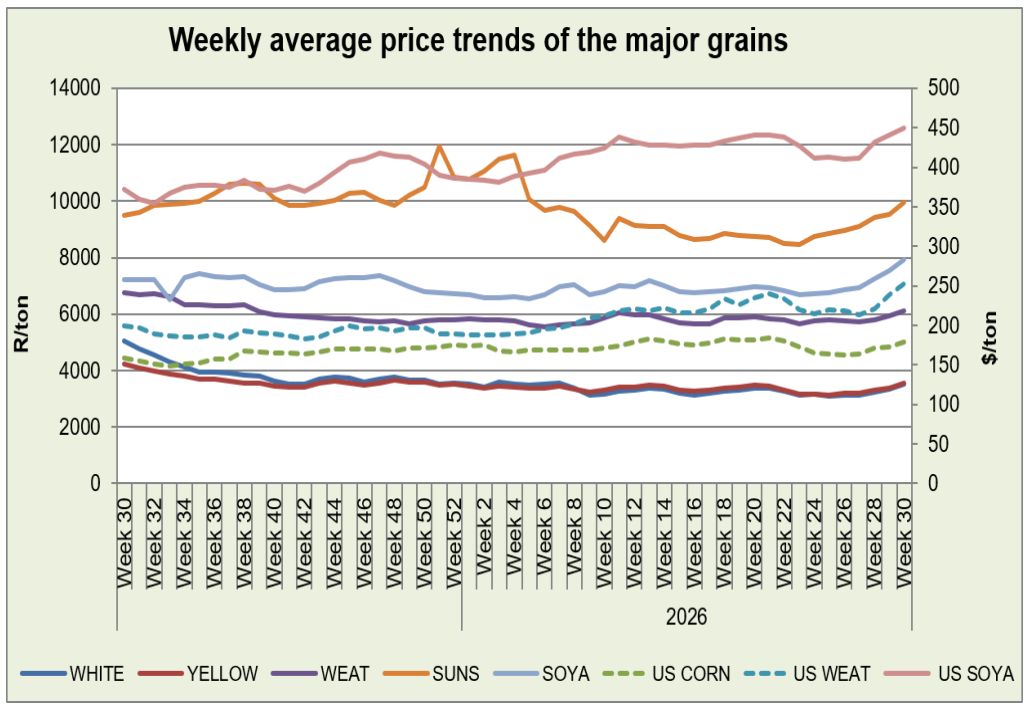
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 24 July 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

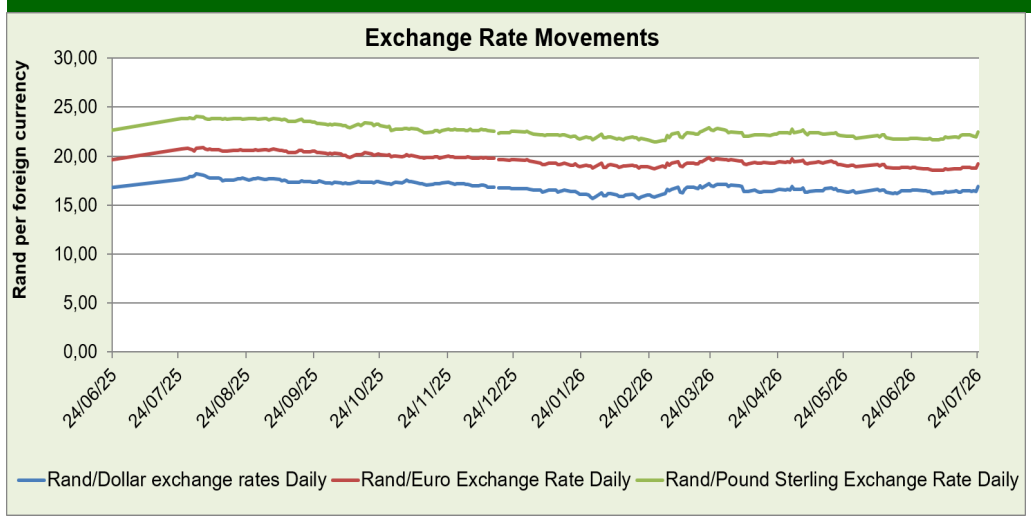
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



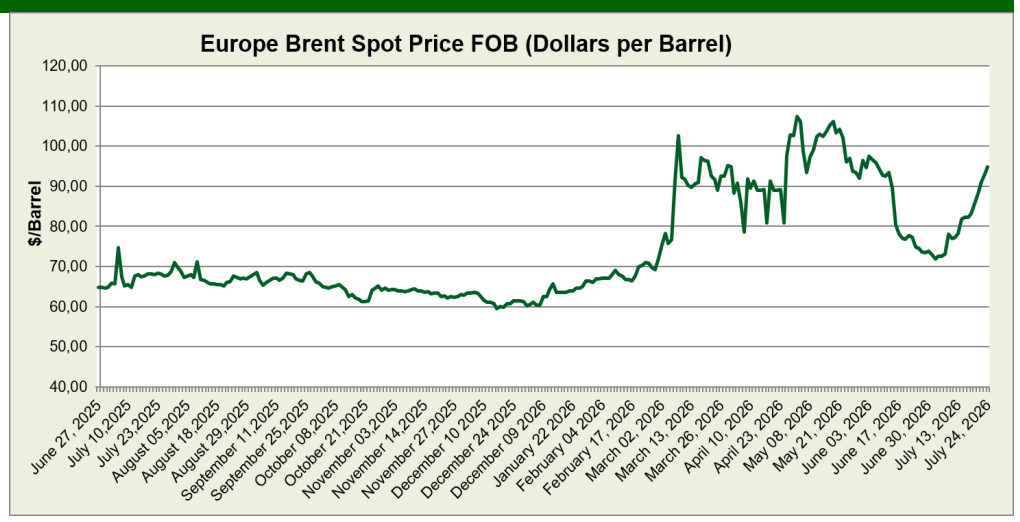
The price of local white and yellow maize increased by 5% and 4.8% compared to last week, while the price of USA Maize increased by 3.3%, as a result of elevated input costs: fertilizers, nitrogen and fuel costs. The price of local wheat increased by 2.9% and USA wheat by 6%, as the war between USA & Iran intensifies. USA wheat gained also as the hot dry weather hit the U.S. northern Plains thus expected to reduce yield potentials for crops in the region. Local soybeans price increased by 5% this week relative to the previous week, the USA soybeans price also increased by 2% this week. Soybean prices also rallied sharply during the reporting week as a result of Black Sea export limitations, surging energy prices as the war between USA & Iran intensified. The price of sunflower also tracked soybeans prices increasing by 4.8%.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 30 (21-07-25 to 25-07-25)	Last week Week 29 (13-07-26 to 17-07-26)	This week Week 30 (20-07-26 to 24-07-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R5 048,80	R3 354,60	R3 522,40	5,0%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R4 247,80	R3 395,00	R3 557,20	4,8%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$158,35	$173,27	$178,94	3,3%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 757,00	R5 955,60	R6 130,60	2,9%
USA Wheat per ton	$199,85	$238,22	$252,53	6,0%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 214,40	R7 539,80	R7 917,40	5,0%
USA Soybeans per ton	$372,04	$441,13	$449,76	2,0%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 509,20	R9 516,60	R9 970,6	4,8%
Crude oil per barrel	$68,05	$81,50	$87,64	7,5%



The rand exchange rate depreciated against the dollar, euro and pound by 0.9% , 0.7% and 0.6% relative to the previous week. The rand depreciated after the South African Reserve Bank left the interest rate unchanged against expectations and revised its inflation forecasts lower.



The price of oil increased by 7.5% relative to the previous week, the price increased as war uncertainty extended recent sharp gains and worries persisted over how long the U.S./Iran war will go on, even if the USA President said the U.S was talking to the leaders in Iran to reach an agreement to end hostilities.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 28 (06/07/2026 to 12/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 29 (13/07/2026 to 19/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	10288	67,76	71,00	Class A2	9978	68,04	71,92
Class A3	648	67,70	72,44	Class A3	733	68,10	73,06
Class C2	1052	60,42	64,75	Class C2	1501	60,42	63,83

Unit sales of class A2 beef decreased by 3%, relative to the pervious week, while class A3 and class C2 beef increased by 13.1% and 42.7% respectively. The Producer price increased for class A2, A3 and C2 beef increased by 0.4%, 0.6% and was stable for class C2 beef. The market prices for class A2 and A3 also increased by 1.3% and 0.9% while remaining stable for class C2.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 28 (06/07/2026 to 12/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 29 (13/07/2026 to 19/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	11332	111,73	113,82	Class A2	12328	113,01	113,01
Class A3	1911	108,00	112,72	Class A3	1771	107,75	112,04
Class C2	709	84,81	91,04	Class C2	1117	85,79	91,87

The unit sales for class A2 and class C2 lamb increased by 8.8% and 57.5% this week relative tot the previous week, while decreasing by 7.3% for class A3. The Producer price for class A2 and C2 lamb increased by 1.1% and 1.2% while it decreased by 0.2% for class A3 compared to the previous week. The Market price of class A2 and A3 lamb decreased this week by 0.7% and 0.6% while the market price of class C2 increased by 0.9% relative to the previous week.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 28 (06/07/2026 to 12/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 29 (13/07/2026 to 19/07/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	2 440	30,48	Class BP	3495	29,98
Class HO	7 678	30,05	Class HO	7597	29,43
Class HP	14 785	30,4	Class HP	11640	30,13

Unit sales of class HP pork increased by 43.2% while decreasing for class HO and HP by 1.1% and 21.3%. The producer price for class BP, HP and HO Pork decreased by 1.6%, 2.1% and 0.9% relative to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

South Africa's Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is seeking a new private terminal operator for the Duncan Dock Precinct, one of two multi-purpose terminals at the Port of Cape Town. The terminal is also one of nine of the port's 11 terminals that are currently privately operated, but the incumbent terminal operator's lease is due to expire in 2027.The State-owned entity has, issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the appointment of a new terminal operator, which will be expected to refurbish and operate the terminal over a 25-year concession period. The RFP indicates that the new operator will be expected to increase cargo throughput capacity at the terminal.

South Africa has launched the National Water Access Acceleration Programme, with a need to expand access to safe and reliable water to underserved communities across South Africa. The National Water Access Acceleration Programme is designed to FastTrack practical, sustainable and fit-for-purpose water solutions, with the aim of expanding access to safe and reliable water services for unserved and underserved communities across the country.

Vodacom, UJ, AWS launch AI partnership to build next generation of South Africa's digital talent. Vodacom Group has launched a new AI partnership with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and cloud computing platform Amazon Web Services (AWS) aimed at building South Africa's AI talent pipeline and strengthening collaboration between academia and industry. Speaking at the launch of the Vodacom AI Lab at Vodacom World, Vodacom Group CEO Shameel Joosub said Africa had an opportunity not only to participate in the latest global AI developments, but to help shape it by developing its own talent, innovation and solutions.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) stated in its Electricity Mid-Year Update that global electricity demand is expected to continue to grow faster in 2026 and 2027, with renewables expected to take over as the world's largest source of electricity generation in 2026. Global electricity demand is expected to grow by 3.6% in 2026 and 3.8% in 2027, up from 3% in 2025, the IEA said. The main growth drivers are expected to be industrial expansion, more appliances, greater use of air conditioning and heat pumps, electric vehicles and data centres.

Rail solutions company Traxtion stated as the rail networks expands and investment increases across Africa, demand for specialised rail skills will continue, including traditional technical roles, such as artisans, fitters, technicians and engineers, as well as emerging skills linked to digitalisation, automation and advanced maintenance. Nnoni Mohlaphuli added that the sector enters a period of renewal and growth, developing the next generation of rail professionals will be essential to ensuring that Africa can support its rail ambitions.

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.