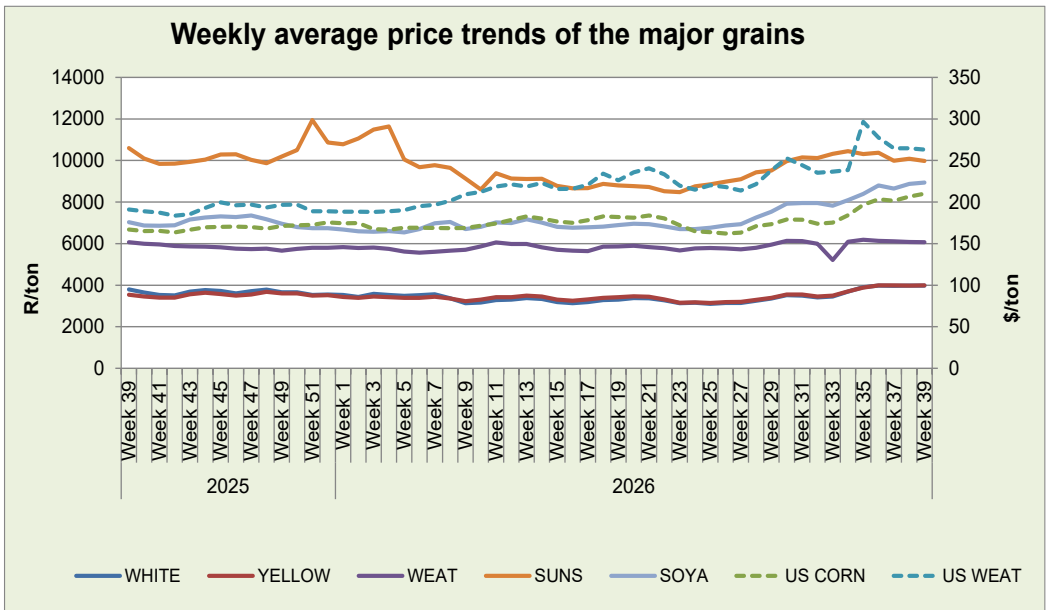
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 25 September 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

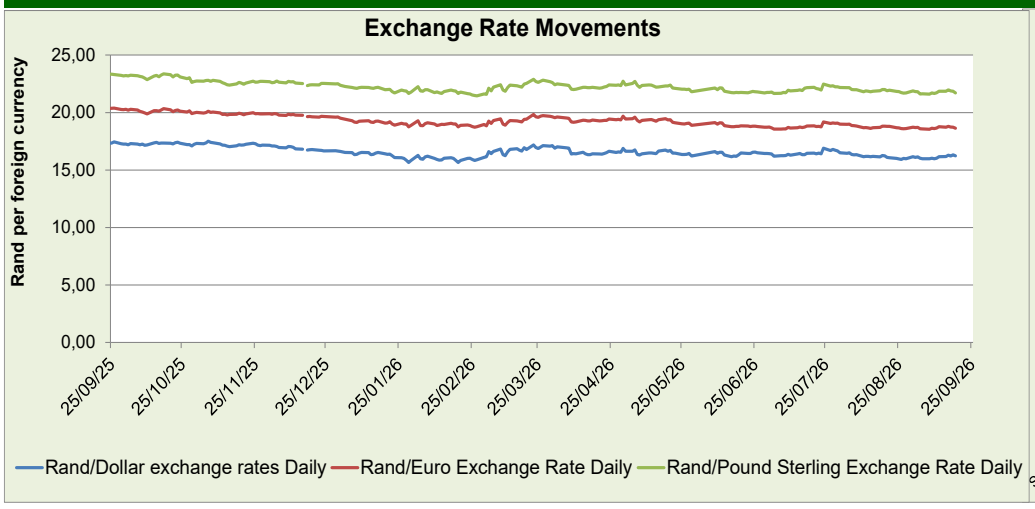
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis

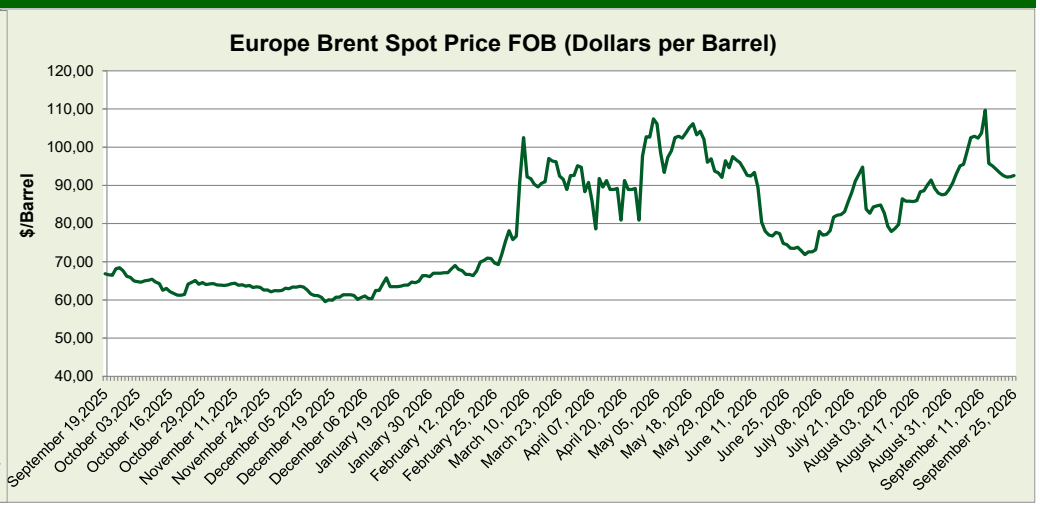


Domestic grain prices fluctuated in the reporting week relative to the preceding week, while forecasts of a possible return of El Niño continued to raise significant drought concerns among South Africa's agricultural communities. Local white maize, yellow maize and soybean prices rose by 0.02%, 0.1% and 0.7% respectively in reporting week compared to the previous week while local wheat and sunflower seed prices decreased by 0.2% and 1.0% respectively week-on-week. On the international front, the price of US yellow maize increased by 1.7% from the previous week, while traders paused to await positive news from the highly anticipated meeting between President Trump and President Xi. The price of US wheat fell by 0.5% compared to the previous week, due to sluggish US exports, expanding Southern Hemisphere crops, and more efficient Black Sea trade routes. Meanwhile, US soybean price increased by 1.1% week-on-week, attributed to persistent rains that delayed the early harvest, thereby tightening supplies.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

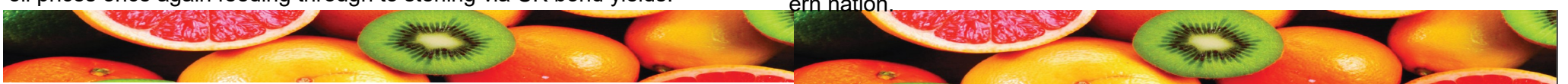
	1 year ago Week 39 (22-09-25 to 26-09-25)	Last week Week 38 (14-09-26 to 18-09-26)	This week Week 39 (21-09-26 to 25-09-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R3 771.33	R3 977.20	R3 978.00	0.02%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R3 537.67	R3 984.20	R3 988.50	0.1%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$166.84	$206.48	$210.07	1.7%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 071.00	R6 079.80	R6 065.75	-0.2%
USA Wheat per ton	$190.70	$264.56	$263.18	-0.5%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R6 980.33	R8 876.00	R8 940.75	0.7%
USA Soybeans per ton	$371.38	$479.42	$484.49	1.1%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R10 591.33	R10 082.00	R9 979.50	-1.0%
Crude oil per barrel	$67.41	$97.62	$92.39	-5.4%





The rand depreciated by 0.3% against the US dollar week-on-week, despite the South African Reserve Bank raising interest rates. The rand appreciated by 0.6% against the Euro week-on-week. Meanwhile, stronger German PMI data and improved business confidence increased expectations that the ECB may raise interest rates at least once more before year-end. The rand appreciated by 0.8% against the Pound Sterling week-on-week, on renewed rise in oil prices once again feeding through to sterling via UK bond yields.

Brent crude oil averaged $92.39 during the reporting week, reflecting a 5.4% decrease compared to the previous week's average of $97.62, driven by growing optimism regarding a potential ceasefire between the United States and Iran, alongside discussions concerning a prospective American prohibition on diesel shipments. Nevertheless, market participants remained apprehensive that intensifying assaults on Saudi Arabia perpetrated by Houthi militants could potentially interrupt supply flows originating from the Middle Eastern nation.



National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 37 (07/09/2026 to 13/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 38 (14/09/2026 to 20/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	6 206	65,19	68,66	Class A2	9 487	65,49	66,10
Class A3	526	65,74	69,84	Class A3	847	65,28	68,89
Class C2	1 063	56,62	58,95	Class C2	1 280	56,48	58,71

Unit sales for class A2, class A3 and C2 beef experienced substantial growth, increasing by 52.9%, 61.0%, and 20.4%, respectively, during the reporting week in comparison to the preceding week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A3 and class C2 beef decreased by 0.7% and 0.2%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week, whereas the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 beef increased by 0.5% week-on-week. Meanwhile, the weekly average selling prices for class A2, class A3, and class C2 beef decreased by 3.7%, 1.4% and 0.4%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week. Market analysts suggest that escalating consumer demand pressures may begin to constrain meat pricing trajectories in the forthcoming months, especially should interest rates and fuel costs experience upward movement.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 37 (07/09/2026 to 13/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 38 (14/09/2026 to 20/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	12 649	109,22	108,74	Class A2	11 678	109,63	109,65
Class A3	2 033	104,07	106,80	Class A3	1 757	105,20	106,67
Class C2	594	83,53	89,78	Class C2	614	82,12	89,19

The lamb market exhibited diverse reactions during the reporting week compared to the previous week, while South Africa's sheep and lamb sector face structurally tight supplies and sharp weekly price swings amid rising consumer pressure. During the reporting week, unit sales of class A2 and Class A3 lamb fell by 7.7% and 13.6% respectively in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while unit sales for class C2 lamb increased by 3.4% week-on-week. In terms of pricing, the weekly average purchase prices for class A2 and class A3 lamb increased by 0.4% and 1.1% respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week, while the weekly average purchase price for class C2 lamb decreased by 1.7% week-on-week. During the same period, the weekly average selling prices for class A3 and class C2 lamb fell by 0.1% and 0.7% respectively in the reporting week compared to the preceding week, while the weekly average selling prices for class A2 increased by 0.8% week-on-week. Throughout the coming months and into the early part of next year, sheep prices are anticipated to face continued downward pressure as increased livestock supply enters the market.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 37 (07/09/2026 to 13/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 38 (14/09/2026 to 20/09/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	1 911	28.97	Class BP	2 618	29,77
Class HO	7 422	29.32	Class HO	6 558	29,71
Class HP	16 132	29.50	Class HP	15 086	29,80

The pork meat market is undergoing a significant transformation, transitioning from concerns about insufficient supply to a state of substantial excess inventory. During the reporting week, unit sales for class HO and class HP pork fell by 11.6% and 6.5%, respectively, when compared to the previous week, whereas unit sales for class BP rose by 37.0% week-on-week. Regarding pricing, the average weekly purchase price for class BP, class HO, and class HP pork increased by 2.8%, 1.3%, and 1.0%, respectively, in the reporting week compared to the previous week.

Latest News Developments

According to the latest Consumer Price Index report released by Statistics South Africa, headline consumer inflation experienced a marginal increase, from 4.3% in July to 4.4% in August, driven predominantly by elevated costs in transportation, housing, and utilities. Food inflation similarly demonstrated a modest uptick as base effects commenced their reversal. Transportation inflation declined marginally from 8.9% to 8.8% in August 2026, attributable to a reduced rate of year-on-year fuel price inflation, which moderated from 20.6% to 20% following the August reduction in petrol prices. The food sector, representing another critical component, exerted upward pressure on overall inflation, increasing from 0.6% in July to 0.7% in August as the comparative base started to normalize. Notwithstanding this increase, food inflation remained subdued, with meat prices reflecting progress in foot-and-mouth disease vaccinations and crops benefiting from a healthy summer harvest.

According to Standard Bank Group Head of South Africa, Dr. Elna Moolman, this outcome proved unexpected, as economists and analysts had projected a more substantial increase to approximately 5.0% for the period. Dr. Moolman attributed the more modest figure primarily to reduced petrol prices during the month. Petrol prices declined by 52 cents per litre in August, providing relief to consumers' transportation expenses throughout the month. Conversely, producers and transporters experienced adverse effects as diesel prices increased by R1.23 per litre during the same period. Moolman noted that, in addition to lower petrol prices, the broader inflation basket demonstrated minimal inflationary pressures. According to Moolman, this represents an encouraging sign that we are not experiencing the anticipated second-round inflation consequences stemming from the substantial fuel cost increases observed this year. Nevertheless, Moolman emphasized that this assessment carries an important qualification: fuel costs in September and now anticipated for October have continued to escalate. According to Moolman, this indicates that the Reserve Bank will likely remain concerned about the second-round effects of inflation.

South Africa's exceptional maize harvest is offering considerable relief to livestock and poultry producers; however, the prospective emergence of El Niño conditions, escalating fuel expenses, and additional input cost pressures may constrain the degree to which farmers can capitalize on reduced feed expenses. According to Absa AgriTrends Spring 2026 edition, the maize market is anticipated to maintain adequate supply throughout the remainder of the current marketing season, underpinned by record-level production and significant carryover inventory. This situation is projected to restrict upward price movements in the immediate term. Nevertheless, focus is progressively directing toward the 2026/27 production season, wherein weather-related risks could affect pricing dynamics. According to feed director at Rainbow Chicken, Anina Hunter, record maize harvest had established a favourable domestic supply-and-demand equilibrium, however, cautioned that lower maize prices do not automatically translate into an equivalent reduction in the price of finished feed. For farmers, this means the maize surplus could provide some breathing room, but it should not be viewed as a guarantee of substantially cheaper feed.

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.