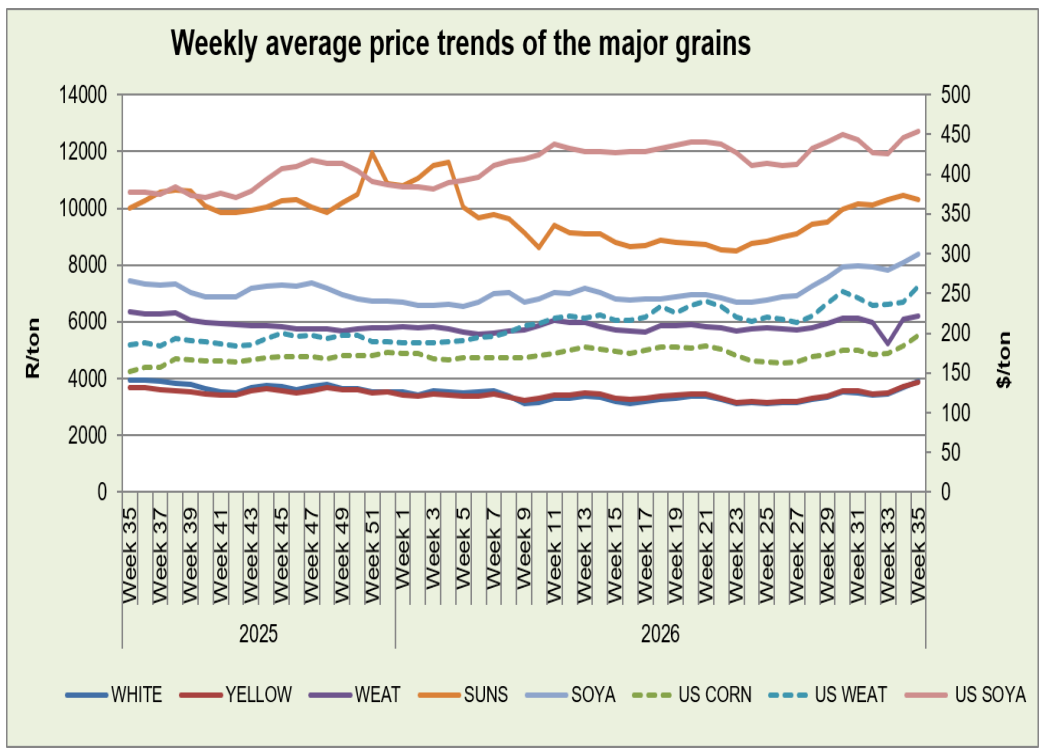
agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Weekly Price Watch: 28 August 2026

Directorate: Statistics & Economic Analysis

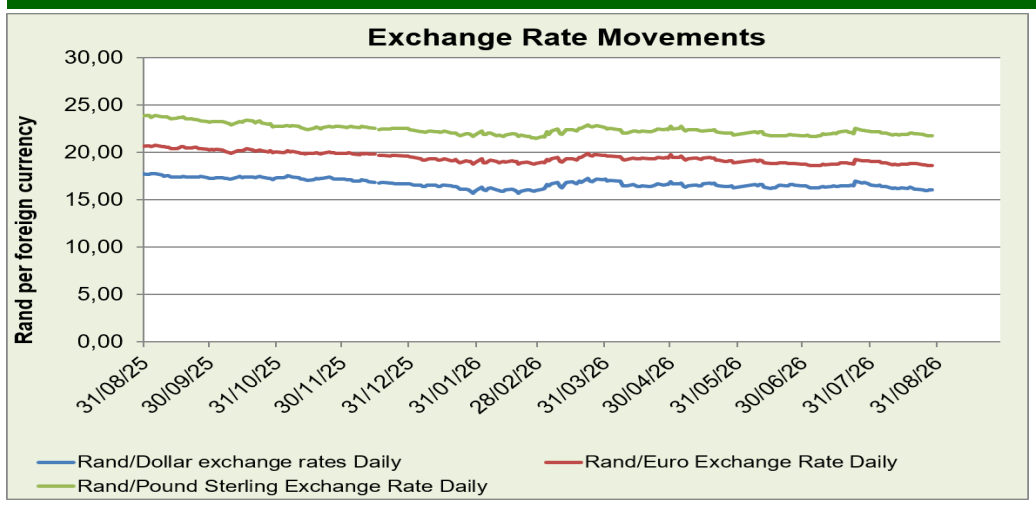
Sub-directorate: Economic Analysis



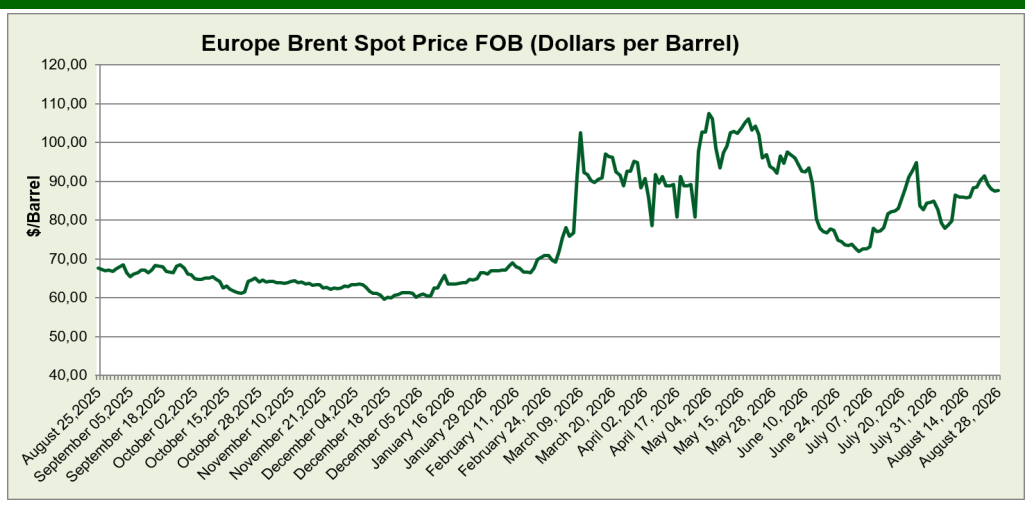
The local white and yellow maize price increased this week relative to the previous week, the white and yellow maize price increased by 5.9% and 4.9%. The USA maize price also increased this week by 6.9%. Local maize prices increased amidst mounting fears as prediction indicate that a strong El Nino is expected in the coming months and is expected to affect the 2026/207 crop season, with the 2026-27 summer crop planting expected to begin between October-to December. Additionally, the local production estimate rose slightly, as indicated by the crops Estimates Committee (CEC) from their previous forecast, whilst it declined for yellow maize. The price of local and international wheat increased by 1.7% while the USA wheat price increased sharply by 8.5%. The latest CEC Estimates show that the local wheat outlook is expected to be 7,50% less than the previous season, whilst the USA outlook is affected by tighter black sea export restrictions. Local and US soybeans prices increased by 3.8% and 2.7% due to local weather outlook and trimmed local soybean production estimate, while US soybean increased as international global supply constraints add pressure. Local sunflower price decreased by 1.4%.

Spot price trends of major grains commodities

	1 year ago Week 35 (18-08-25 to 22-08-25)	Last week Week 34 (17-08-26 to 21-08-26)	This week Week 35 (24-08-26 to 28-08-26)	w-o-w % change
RSA White Maize per ton	R3 954,20	R3 692,20	R3 910,40	5.9%
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	R3 698,20	R3 706.80	R3 887,20	4.9%
USA Yellow Maize per ton	$152,17	$184,15	$196,81	6.9%
RSA Wheat per ton	R6 336,20	R6 085,80	R6 187,80	1.7%
USA Wheat per ton	$185,85	$238,58	$258,78	8.5%
RSA Soybeans per ton	R7 436,60	R8 089,80	R8 393,40	3.8%
USA Soybeans per ton	$377,92	$442,24	$454,12	2.7%
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	R9 986,60	R10 448,00	R10 304,20	-1.4%
Crude oil per barrel	$67,15	$88,87	$88,77	-0.1%



The rand appreciated by 1.1%, 0.8% and 0.9% against the dollar, euro and pound. The rand strengthened against the dollar as global markets awaited news from the US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh on clues on the Fed's policy path. The South African benchmark 2035 government bond was slightly firmer amidst the uncertainties. The South Rand appreciated also as market awaited South African inflation data during the week.



The price of crude oil decreased by 0.1% this week relative to the previous week. The decline came as markets evaluated the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank's inflation fighting policy and rumours of a possible agreement between the USA and Iran on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Beef

Week 33 (10/08/2026 to 16/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 34 (17/08/2026 to 23/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	9 056	66,59	69,02	Class A2	9938	66,48	69,64
Class A3	679	66,34	71,02	Class A3	635	66,37	69,90
Class C2	999	58,80	61,98	Class C2	1153	58,23	60,62

The units of beef traded this week increased for class A2 and C2 beef by 9.7% and 15.4%, while decreasing by 6.5% for class A3 in relation to the previous week. The producer price for class A2 beef increased by 9.7%, remaining stable for class A3 and decreasing by a percentage point for class C2. The market price for class A2 increased by 0.9% while decreasing by 1.6% and 2.2% for class A3 and C2.

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Lamb

Week 33 (10/08/2026 to 16/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price	Week 34 (17/08/2026 to 23/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Avg Selling Price
Class A2	12 099	111,78	112,77	Class A2	13813	109,82	110,38
Class A3	1 988	106,22	109,53	Class A3	2520	106,30	107,61
Class C2	747	85,94	91,41	Class C2	655	84,80	89,98

The units of lamb traded this week increased for class A2 and A3 by 14.2% and 26.8% while decreasing by 12.3% for class C2 relative to the previous week. The producer price of class A2 and C2 lamb decreased by 1.8% and 1.3%,while increasing by 0.1% for class A3 . The market prices for all the represented classes decreased , the price of class A2, A3 and C2 lamb decreased by 2.1%, 1.8% and 1.6 respectively .

National South African Price information (RMAA) : Pork

Week 33 (10/08/2026 to 16/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price	Week 34 (17/08/2026 to 23/08/2026)	Units	Avg Purchase Price
Class BP	1 357	28,98	Class BP	1713	28,84
Class HO	9 433	28,01	Class HO	7676	28,09
Class HP	15 433	28,47	Class HP	15979	27,86

The units of pork traded this week increased for class BP and HP pork, units increasing by 26.2% and 3.5%;while decreasing by 18.6% for class HO pork. The producer prices for pork decreased for class BP by 0,5% and class HP by 2.1%. Class HO increased by 0.3%.

Latest News Developments

Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa (CGA) says the 2026 citrus season has become a uniquely challenging one for Southern African citrus growers. The industry body explained that the conflict in the Middle East is having a significant impact on the industry, with the US war on Iran having closed off routes to markets buy a large share of SA citrus. South Africa usually exports around 20% of its crop to the Middle East. Apart from this redirection affecting prices in markets, the war's economic repercussions have also led to a decline in global purchasing power this season, especially in middle class households. The export estimates for Valencia and Navel Oranges have been lowered to 58-million 15 kg cartons and 24.3-million 15 kg cartons, respectively, which marks a reduction of about 8% and 19% from the opening season estimates, respectively. The industry body indicated that further reductions to the export estimate will be made if current market conditions do not hold.

The Association of Meat Importers and Exporters (AMIE) raised concerns about the sharp increase in oxtail prices as import restrictions levied on Argentine constrain supply. According to AMIE oxtail that was retailing at about R79 to R99/kg between January and May this year is now selling for double price at about R169 to R199/kg. South Africa cannot produce enough oxtail to meet domestic demand and relies heavily on imports to make up the shortfall. Around 70% of the oxtail imported into South Africa comes from Argentina, making it a critical source of supply for the local market..

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Agriculture has elected Nomasonto Motaung as chairperson. She succeeds acting chairperson Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, Ms Motaung stated that agriculture is a critical vehicle to food security, economic growth, job creation and development of rural communities.

Gautrain Management Agency chairperson Professor Mfanelo Ntsobi stated that while the transport sector continues to play a critical role in South Africa’s economy and society, fragmentation remains one of the biggest challenges confronting the local sector. The Professor Ntsobi stated that commuters simply want to leave home in the morning and arrive at work safely, affordably and on time. That requires a rethink how transport is planned; therefore, for a shift away from siloed and fragmented modal systems towards an integrated transport system where the different modes of transport, such as rail, buses, minibus taxes, e-hailing systems, roads and non-motorised transport, should increasingly function as parts of one interconnected mobility ecosystem.

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.