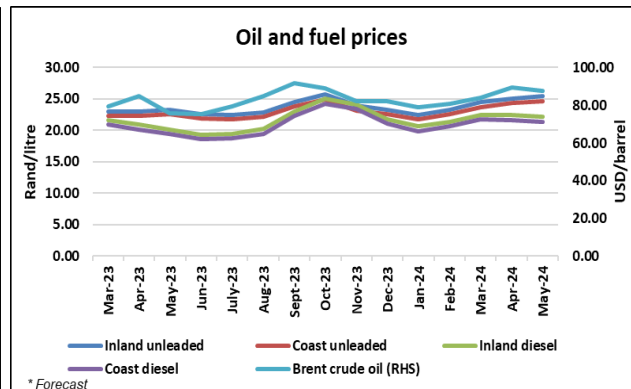
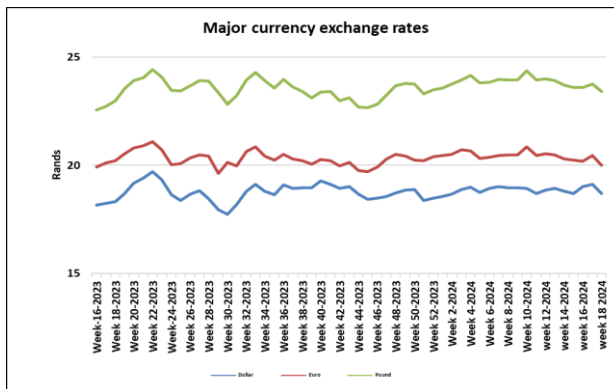




Summary

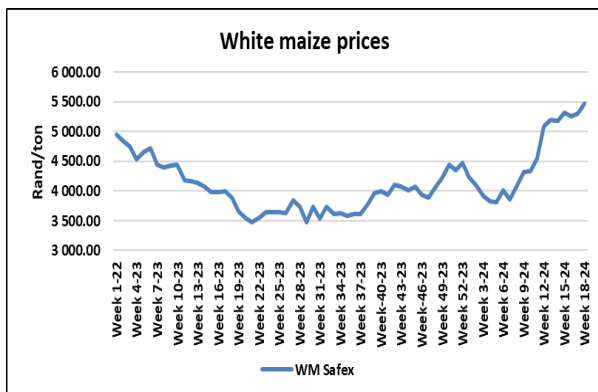
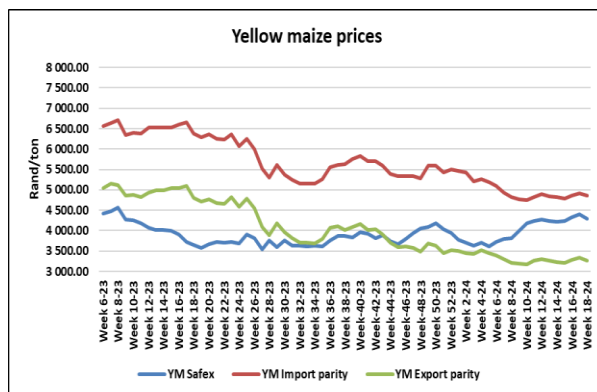
The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRICS) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (ABM) confirmed the end of the El Niño cycle, which caused a scorching summer season and significant regional crop failure in its wake. Following this challenging summer production season, South African farmers remain on high alert as they now carry out their operations for the 2024 winter cropping season. Data released by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) on 25 April 2024 shows that farmer intentions to plant winter crops could dip by 2.6% year-on-year (y/y) to 798 800 hectares on aggregate. The intentions to plant wheat, barley, oats, and sweet lupines are all expected to contract slightly on an annual basis. The only winter crop anticipated to buck the trend is canola, with a planted area projected to increase by 7.5% y/y to 141 100 hectares. In a glimmer of positive news, the total production of summer crops for the just-commenced 2024/25 marketing year (MY) was revised slightly upwards by 1% to 16.024 million tons on aggregate from the previous month's estimate. Gains recorded in maize, sunflower seed, and sorghum managed to more than offset a downward revision in groundnuts. Soya beans and dry beans remained unchanged on a monthly basis. Total maize production is now forecast at 13.392 million tons, up by 1% for the previous month's estimate (13.256 million tons).

Exchange Rates and Oil Prices



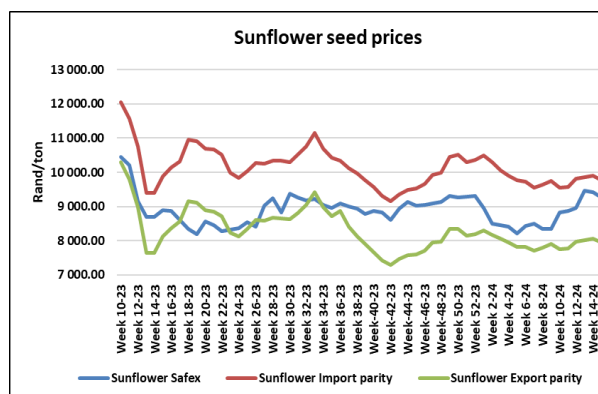
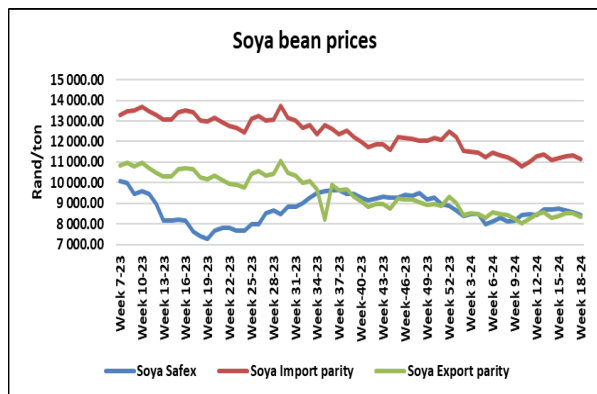
- This week, the **rand** averaged R18.70/US\$, stronger by 2.2% w/w but weaker by 2.1% y/y. The local currency posted gains from the weakening of the US\$ and the purchasing managers' index showing that local manufacturing activity had improved last month.
- This week's **Brent crude oil** price averaged US\$87.50/barrel, marginally down by 0.4% w/w but up by 12.1% y/y. The demand uncertainty and easing of tensions in the Middle East have reduced the supply risks, which ultimately places the crude benchmarks under pressure.
- The geopolitical risks from the Israel-Hamas war seem to be subsiding, with the two parties considering a temporary ceasefire. However, the easing of these concerns comes just weeks ahead of the next meeting of OPEC+, which could shift the oil price outlook once again.

Yellow and White Maize



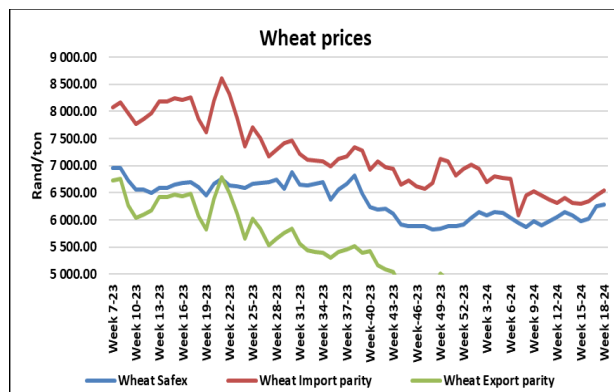
- This week, the **yellow maize** price averaged R4 282/ton, down by 2.7% w/w but up by 17% y/y. The **white maize** price averaged R5 286/ton, down by 3.6% w/w but up by 49% y/y. South African maize prices were pressured by the recovery of the rand.
- Chicago maize prices remained bullish this week due to technical buying as traders remained watchful for potential planting delays in the US and a lower production estimate from Argentina.
- In week-50 of the domestic 2023/24 maize MY, 15.189 million tons of white and yellow maize had cumulatively been delivered. In the same week, cumulative exports of white and yellow maize reached a combined 3.378 million tons.
- The top three export destinations of white maize were Zimbabwe (428 749 tons), Namibia (170 571 tons), and Mozambique (135 708 tons). The top three destinations of yellow maize were South Korea (492 252 tons), Japan (468 303 tons), and Taiwan (463 086 tons).

Soya Bean and Sunflower Seed



- This week, the **soya bean** price averaged R8 437/ton, down by 1.7% w/w but up by 13.7% y/y. The **sunflower seed** price averaged R8 898/ton, down by 4% w/w but up by 6% y/y.
- Despite local oilseed prices getting pressure from the rand's recovery, heatwaves and dryness continue to be the greatest challenges in the sunflower seed planted in the western region.
- The area planted is moderately down from the previous year, which means the primary drivers of the annual decline in the oilseed harvest are the expected poor average yields.
- Cumulative domestic oilseed deliveries by week-07 of the 2024/25 MY stood at 362 804 tons of soya bean and 35 343 tons of sunflower seed.

Wheat



- The **wheat** price averaged R6 291/ton, up by 0.6% w/w but down by 4.7% y/y.
- Despite the rand's recovery, **wheat prices** were supported by higher Chicago prices and dry weather conditions over large portions of the Central and Southern Plains.
- In week-29 of the local 2023/24 MY, cumulative wheat deliveries were at 1.955 million tons.
- In the same week, cumulative wheat imports stood at 969 480 tons, with 317 271 tons coming from Poland, 243 954 tons from Lithuania, and 129 053 tons from Latvia, amongst others.

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