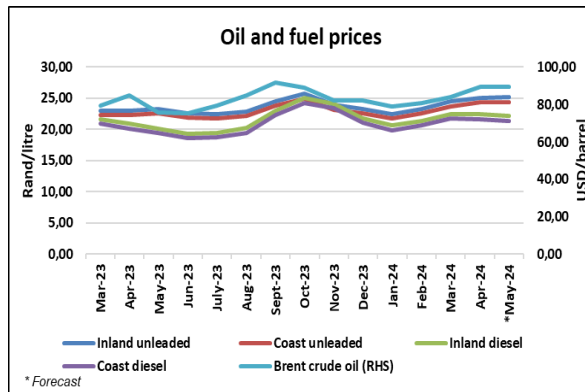
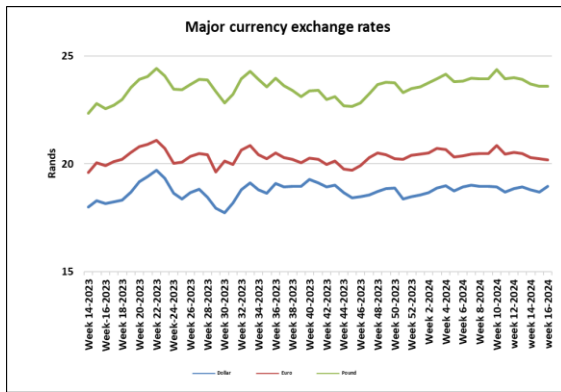




Summary

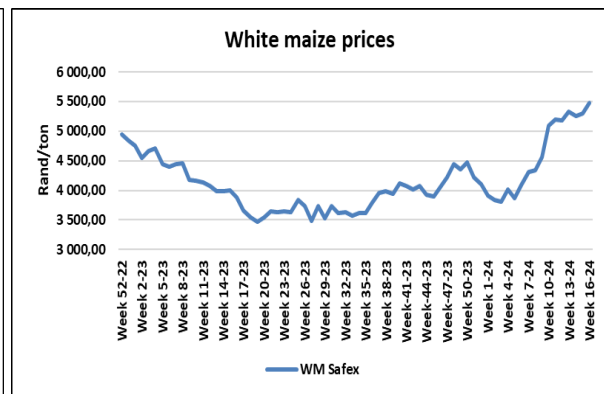
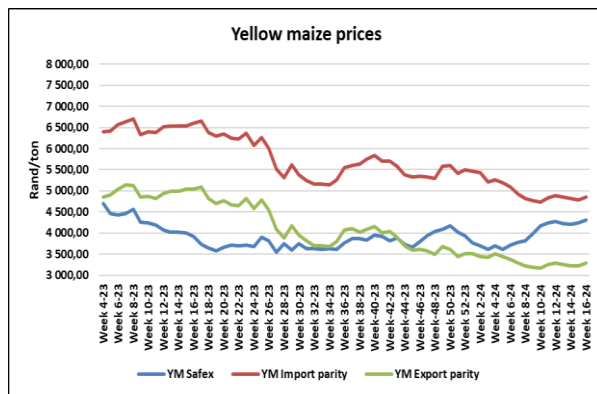
South Africa's agricultural machinery sales remain moderate. In March 2024, tractor sales receded by 26% y/y, with 498 units sold. Combine harvester sales were also down by 33% y/y, with 26 units sold. The decline can be attributed to a normalisation of sales following a couple of years of robust sales. South Africa's summer crops are currently not in their best shape due to persistent heatwaves and dry conditions induced by El Niño in several production areas. With the winter crop planting season starting at the end of this month, these weak machinery sales do not necessarily indicate a restrained winter crop planting outlook. The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) is due to release the data of farmer intentions to plant winter crops on 25 April 2024. Global grain and oilseed supplies are at comfortable levels for the 2023/24 marketing year (MY), meaning international prices should continue to moderate. Brent crude oil prices were up this morning following reports that Israel had struck targets in Iran. The oil price increased on concerns of a potentially wider regional conflict that could impact global crude oil supplies.

Exchange Rates and Oil Prices



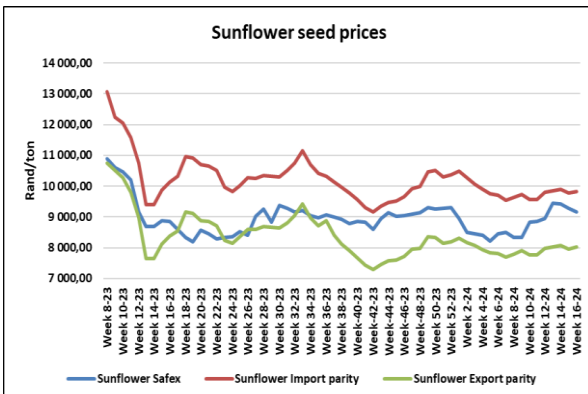
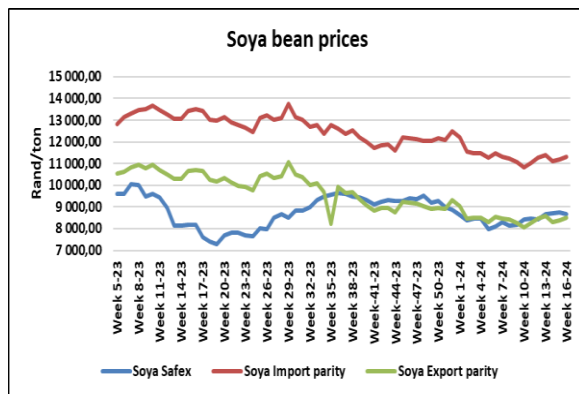
- This week, the **rand** averaged R18.95/US\$, weaker by 1.4% w/w and by 4.3% y/y. The local currency weakened on the strengthening of the US\$. This was due to the escalating tensions in the Middle East, strong US economic data, coupled with sticky inflation which resulted in investors relying on the safety of the dollar.
- This week's **Brent crude oil** price averaged US\$89.51/barrel, marginally down by 0.8% w/w but up by 5.4% y/y. The simmering tensions in the Middle East pose supply side risks, especially if the conflict coalesces.
- Since the start of this month, Brent crude oil prices have increased, but the rand/US\$ exchange rate has appreciated to some degree. Nonetheless, uncertainty is mounting in the Middle East, a key oil producing region. Therefore, market concerns will continue to be priced in Brent crude oil for the foreseeable future. As a result, the following local fuel price changes are predicted for 01 May 2024: petrol (95 unleaded) to increase by 3c/l; diesel 500 ppm and 50ppm to decrease by 26c/l and 30c/l, respectively.

Yellow and White Maize



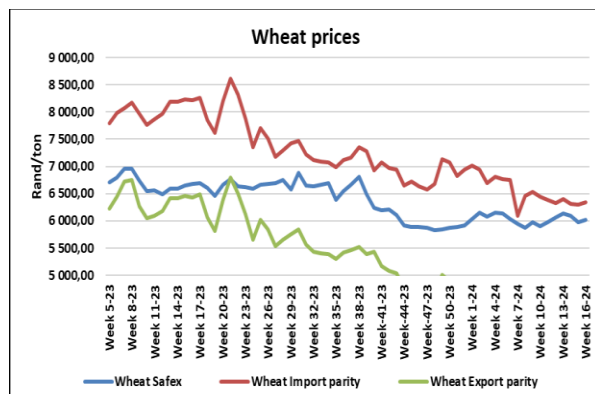
- This week, the **yellow maize** price averaged R4 319/ton, up by 1.7% w/w and by 10% y/y. The **white maize** price averaged R5 478/ton, up by 3% w/w and by over 40% y/y. South African maize prices were supported by the weaker rand.
- Chicago maize prices traded lower this week, pressured by US planting progress and spillover weakness from soya beans.
- In week-50 of the domestic 2023/24 maize MY, 15.642 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 3.327 million tons.
- The top three export destinations of white maize were Zimbabwe (412 482 tons), Namibia (163 886 tons), and Mozambique (133 503 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 667/ton, down marginally by 0.8% w/w but up by 6% y/y. The **sunflower seed** price averaged R9 163/ton, down slightly by 1.1% w/w but up by 3% y/y.
- Despite the weaker rand, local oilseed prices were pressured by weaker international soya bean prices. This weakness was triggered by harvesting progress in South America, that will majorly boost global stocks.
- Cumulative domestic oilseed deliveries by week-07 of the 2024/25 MY stood at 344 178 tons of soya bean and 89 225 tons of sunflower seed.

Wheat



- The **wheat** price averaged R6 019/ton, up by 0.8% w/w but down by 10% y/y.
- Domestic wheat prices were supported by the weaker rand and higher Chicago prices, as dry weather persists over large portions of the Central and Southern Plains.
- In week-28 of the local 2023/24 MY, cumulative deliveries were at 1.945 million tons.
- In the same week, cumulative wheat imports stood at 959 989 tons, with 317 271 tons coming from Poland, 229 168 tons from Lithuania, and 129 053 tons from Latvia, amongst others.

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