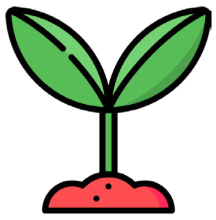
Western Cape Agriculture
First Quarter of 2026

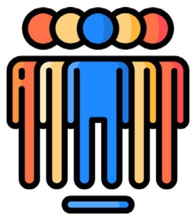
Economic Performance
- Provincial growth: +0.6% q/q | +2.0% y/y
- Agriculture growth: +4% q/q | +7% y/y
- Agriculture contributes 4.7% to provincial GDP

Agricultural Sector Trends
- Steady recovery since late 2024
- ~20% share of national agricultural GVA
- Growth driven by livestock and horticulture
- Exposed to global shocks and climate risks



Farm Income & Subsector Performance
- Total agricultural income increased by 9% y/y
- Livestock is the largest contributor
- Horticulture and field crops follow
- Horticulture generated R36bn (+6% y/y)
- Key shares: Deciduous fruit 52%, Vegetables 28%, Citrus strong growth (+16%)

Employment & Jobs
- Agriculture jobs: 249,270 (26% of SA total)
- Total agri + processing jobs: 344,971
- Quarterly growth: +16% agriculture, +10% combined
- Crop production drives 84% of jobs
- Livestock employment declined due to FMD



Global Shocks & Input Costs
- Key drivers: oil prices, exchange rate, diesel costs
- 2026: Oil ~ $93/barrel, Diesel ~ R22.18/litre
- Rising costs linked to geopolitical tensions

Food Inflation (April 2026)
- SA headline inflation: 4.02%
- Food inflation: SA 0.7%, WC 1.34%
- Price increases: vegetables, seafood, dairy, wine
- Price decreases: oils, fats, meat

Key Risks
- Geopolitical tensions
- Climate shocks (floods)
- Animal diseases
- Rising input costs

Conclusion
- Agriculture remains strategic for growth, employment, and food security
- Strong short-term recovery observed
- Long-term sustainability depends on resilience, value chains, and export competitiveness

Click on the link to access the full report:
https://www.elsenburg.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/WC-Agricultural-Economic-Quarterly-Report_Q1_2026.pdf

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Western Cape Government
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