Western Cape Government

FOR YOU

Agriculture

Western Cape Department of Agriculture

WESTERN CAPE AGRICULTURAL PRICE TRACKER

How global shocks are driving local agricultural costs

17-28 August 2026

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 🌍 **Special Focus: Middle East Shock — Where Are We Now?**
- 📈 **Consumer Prices (*CPI – Impact on households*)**
- 🚢 **Fresh Produce Market Movements *(Price and volume trends)***
- ✅ **Key Takeaways**
- 📡 **On the Radar (Weeks ahead)**
- 📰 **News**

Middle East Shock: What Matters in August?

From earlier input-cost pressure to renewed energy and freight risks

1

APRIL 2026

Initial price shock

- Oil, fertiliser and freight costs rose sharply.
- The shock coincided with winter-crop input procurement.

2

MAY–JUNE 2026

Costs became embedded

- Producers purchased and applied key inputs at elevated prices.
- Much of the 2026 crop-establishment cost was locked in.

3

JULY 2026

Relief then reversal

- Brent fell to US$68.68/bbl on 3 July, then rose to US$100.31/bbl on 24 July.
- The rand weakened to about R16.68/US$ by late July, adding imported cost pressure.

4

AUGUST 2026

Price Tracker focus

- Brent rebounded in August after earlier gains, keeping oil-price risk elevated.
- Strait of Hormuz traffic slowed sharply after tanker attacks, keeping freight risk elevated.
- A firmer rand provides some offset, but fuel and shipping risks remain.

For the August tracker: earlier input costs remain embedded, while higher oil prices, Hormuz shipping disruption and exchange-rate moves remain key risks to fuel, freight and production costs.

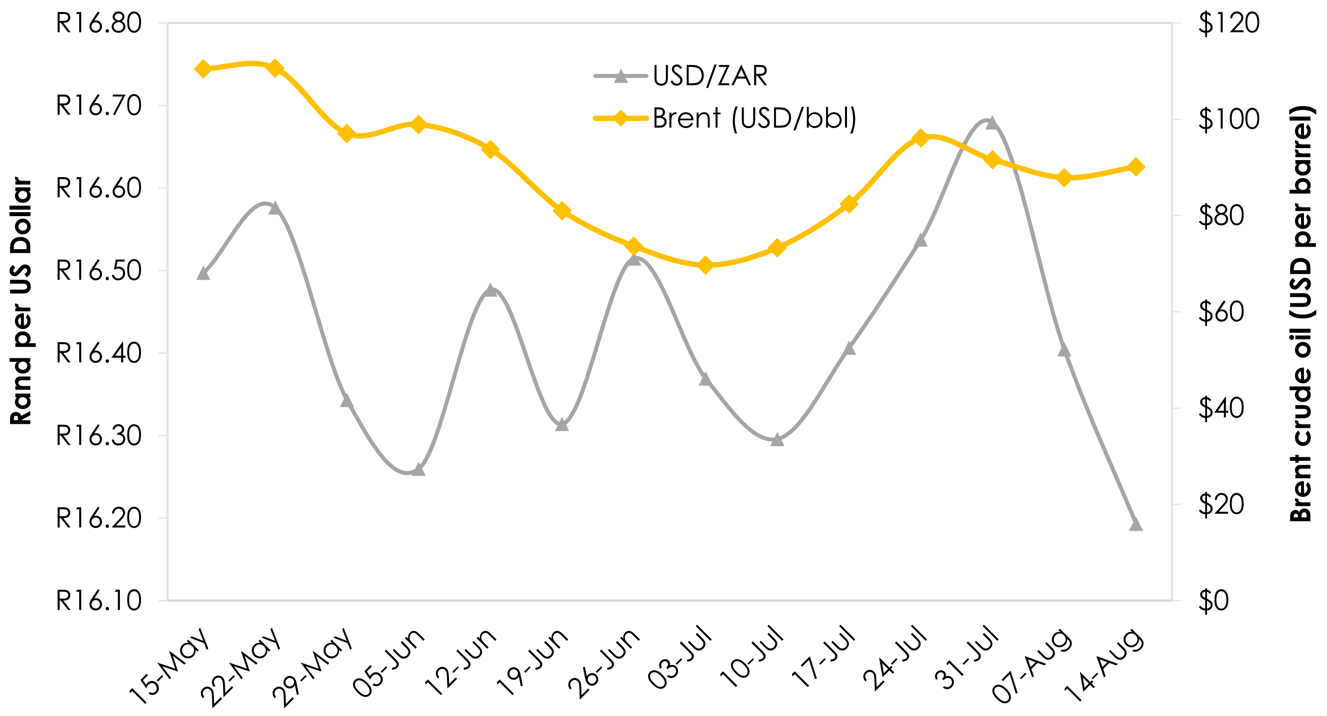
MIDDLE EAST TRADING COUNTRIES

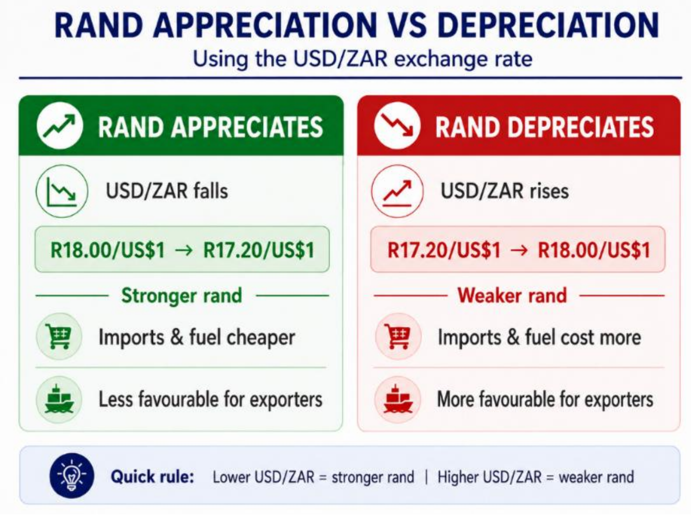
- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Palestinian Territory, Occupied
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

Western Cape Government

Source: www.factinstitute.com

WEEKLY BRENT CRUDE PRICES AND USD/ZAR EXCHANGE RATE

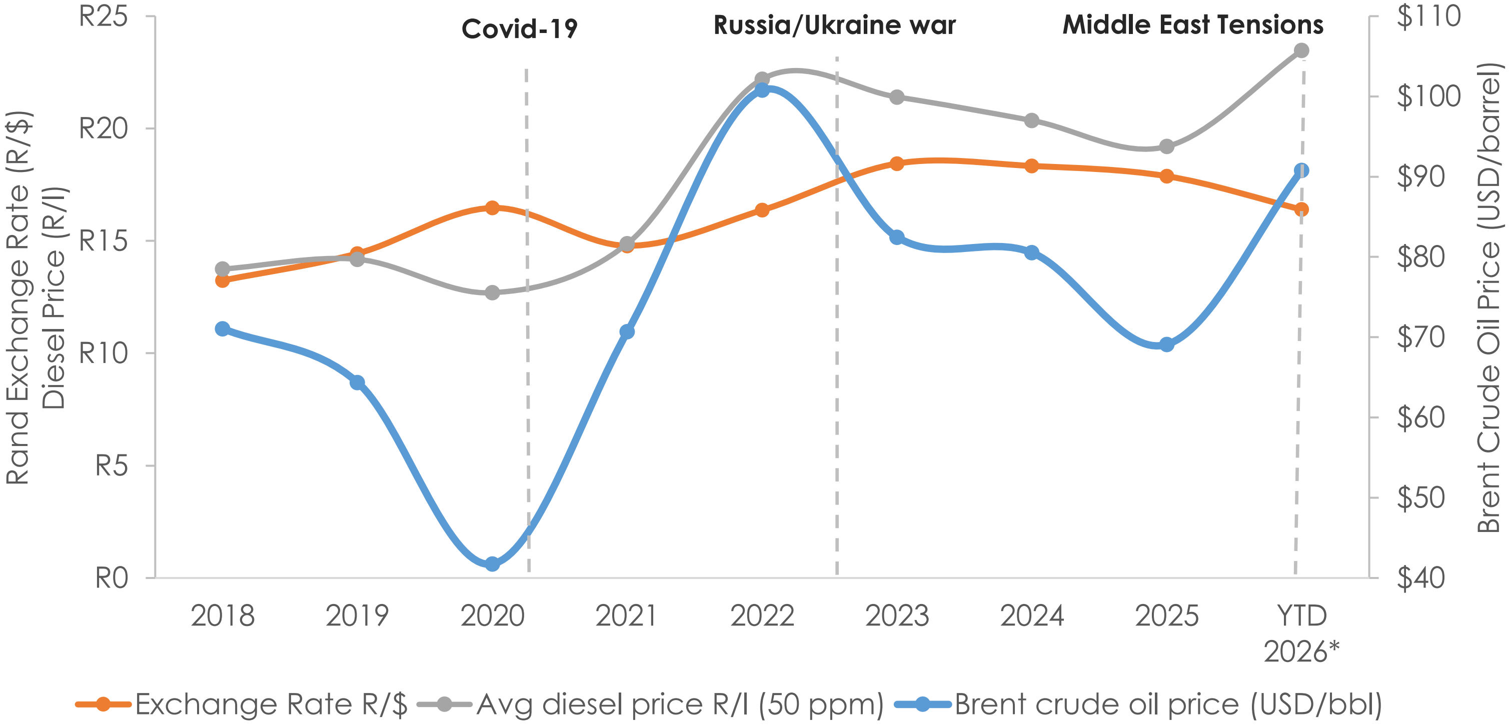




- 🛢️ Brent rebounded to US$88.52/bbl on 14 August, gaining 6% over the week as supply concerns intensified.
- 💱 The rand strengthened to around R16.19/US$ by 14 August, partly offsetting imported fuel-cost pressures.
- 🚢 Strait of Hormuz shipping slowed sharply after renewed tanker attacks, while stalled US–Iran talks kept supply risks elevated.

Source: US Energy Information Administration;
South African Reserve Bank; Reuters, 17 August 2026

KEY DRIVERS OF DIESEL PRICES: OIL PRICE, USD/ZAR EXCHANGE RATE AND GLOBAL SHOCKS

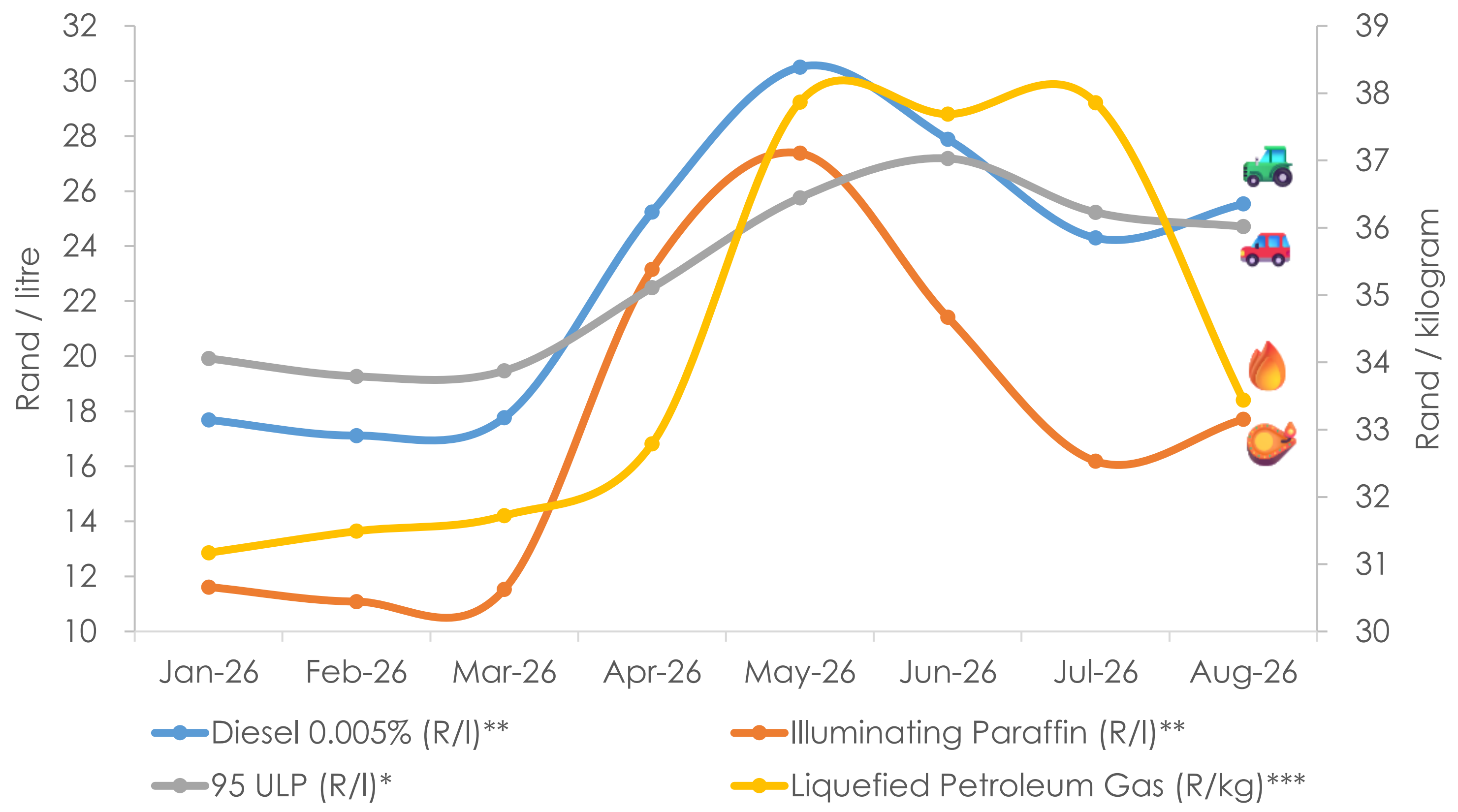


Note: Annual averages for 2018–2025; YTD average to July 2026.

- **Mar–May 2026:** The oil-price shock drove diesel costs sharply higher, with 50 ppm diesel rising R5.27/l in May.
- **Jun–Jul 2026:** Oil prices eased and 50 ppm diesel fell R3.59/l in July, providing some relief.
- **Aug 2026:** 50 ppm diesel rose **R1.23/l from 5 August**, while renewed Middle East risks pushed Brent back to **US$88.52/bbl by 14 August**.

Sources: EIA, Brent crude oil price; FRED, USD/ZAR exchange rate; DMRE, 50 ppm diesel price.

COASTAL FUEL PRICES



🚜 Diesel rebounded by R1.23/l to R25.53/l in August but remains below its May peak.

☄️ Paraffin increased by R1.52/l to R17.71/l, after the sharp May–July decline.

🚙 🔥 Petrol eased by R0.52/l, while LPG fell R4.42/kg in August, providing some relief to fuel costs.

Source: FIASA

CONSUMER INFLATION

NEWS ROUNDUP

⛽ September fuel prices expected to rise

Petrol 93: increase of R0.63 per litre
Petrol 95: increase of R0.74 per litre
Diesel 0.05% (wholesale): increase of R2.73 per litre
Diesel 0.005% (wholesale): increase of R2.89 per litre
Illuminating paraffin: increase of R2.15 per litre

https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/870198/here-is-the-expected-petrol-price-for-september-10/

🛢 Oil struggles for direction as US-Iran talks stall, Hormuz shipping slows

https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-treads-water-us-iran-peace-talks-stall-hormuz-shipping-slows-2026-08-17/

🌾 Dry winter takes its toll on Western Cape crops and veld

https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/south-africa/dry-winter-takes-its-toll-on-western-cape-crops-and-veld/

🍋 South Africa cuts 2026 citrus export estimate to 205.3 million cartons

https://www.freshplaza.com/north-america/article/9861496/south-africa-cuts-2026-citrus-export-estimate-to-205-3-million-cartons/

WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: VEGETABLE MARKET TRENDS

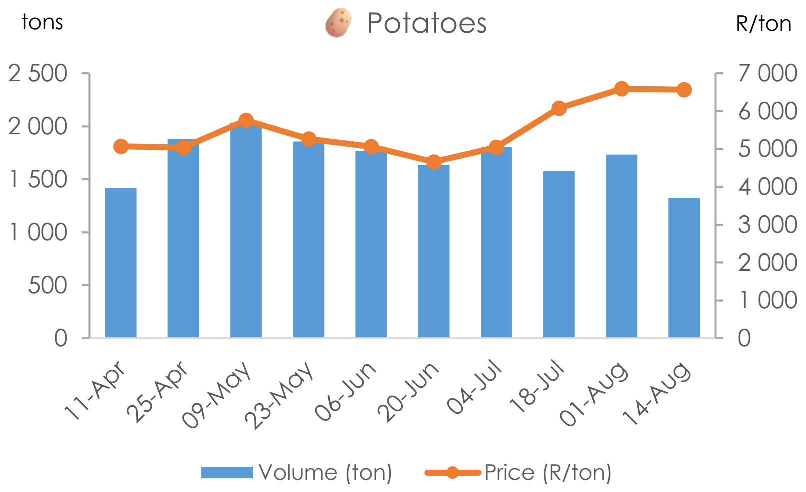
From April to mid-August, vegetable prices remained mixed. Potatoes and onions strengthened, tomatoes fell sharply from their May peak, while peppers partly recovered from June lows.

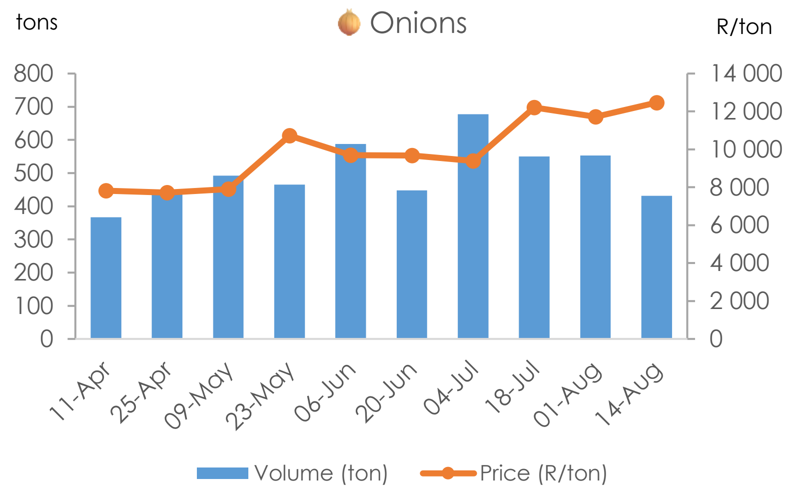
Potatoes: Firmed from about **R4,700/t in April to R6,100/t by mid-August**.

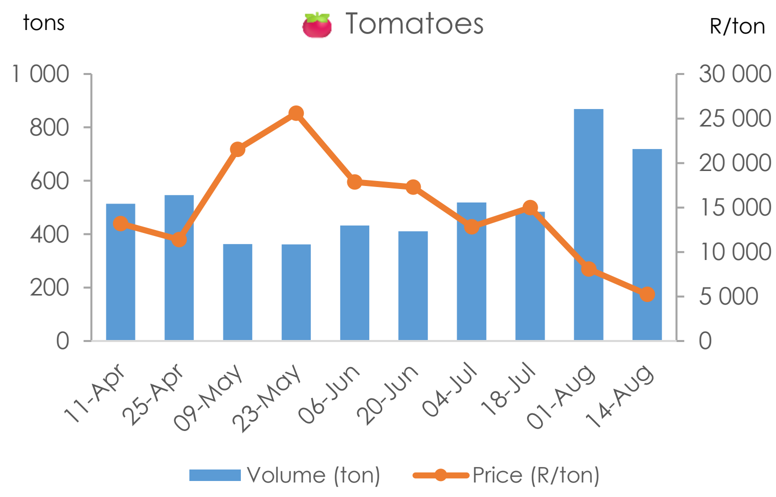
Onions: Increased from around **R8,000/t to about R12,000/t**.

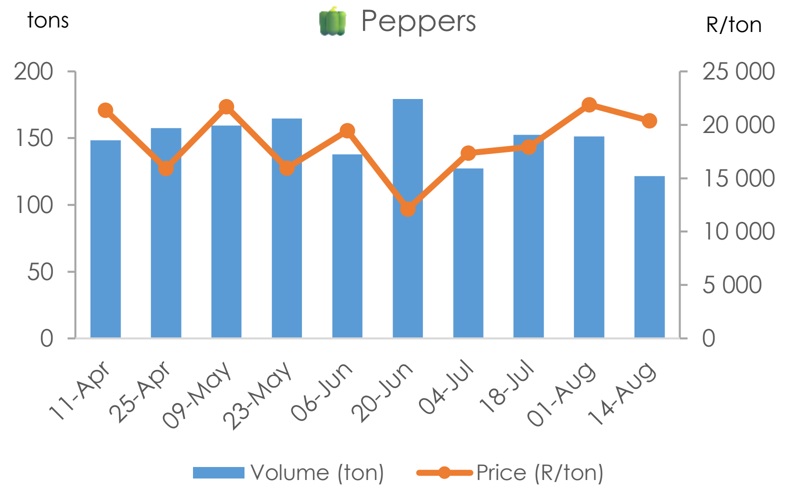
Tomatoes: Fell sharply from a **May peak near R26,000/t to below R10,000/t**.

Peppers: Recovered from about **R11,500/t in June to around R21,000–R22,000/t**.









Western Cape Government

Source: Techno Fresh, Cape Town Fresh Produce Market

WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: FRUIT MARKET TRENDS

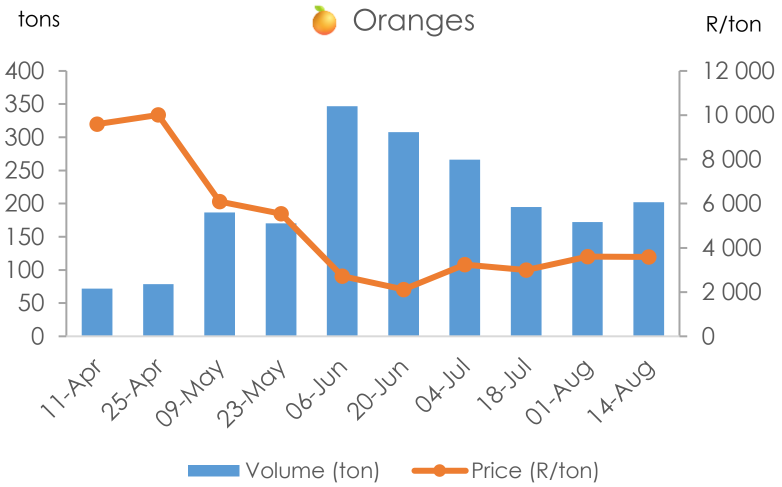
From April to mid-August, fruit prices remained mixed. Oranges declined sharply, apples stayed fairly stable, pears strengthened, and table grape prices surged on very low volumes.

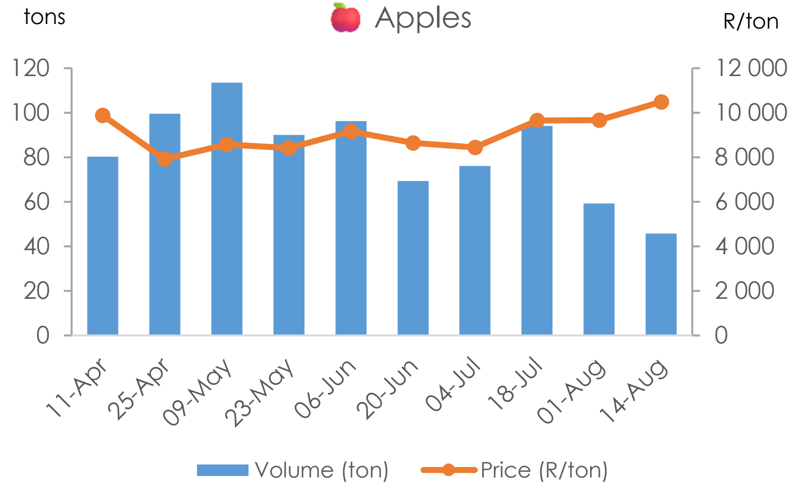
🍊 **Oranges:** Fell from about **R10,000/t in April to roughly R3,000–R4,000/t by July–mid-August**.

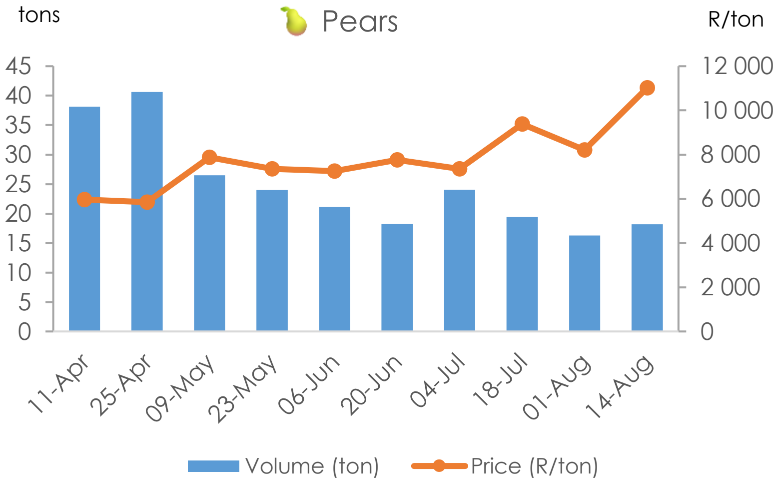
🍎 **Apples:** Remained relatively stable at around **R8,000–R10,500/t**.

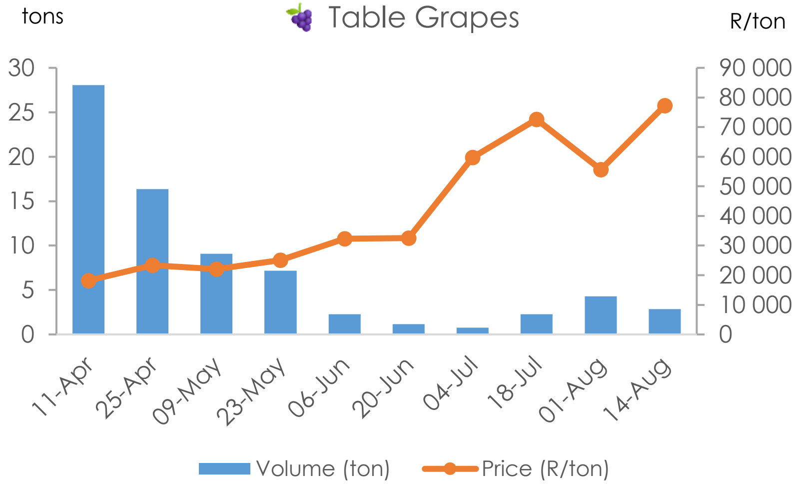
🍐 **Pears:** Increased from about **R6,000/t in April to around R11,000/t by mid-August**.

🍇 **Table grapes:** Rose sharply from roughly **R18,000/t in April to around R75,000–R80,000/t in August**, amid very low volumes.



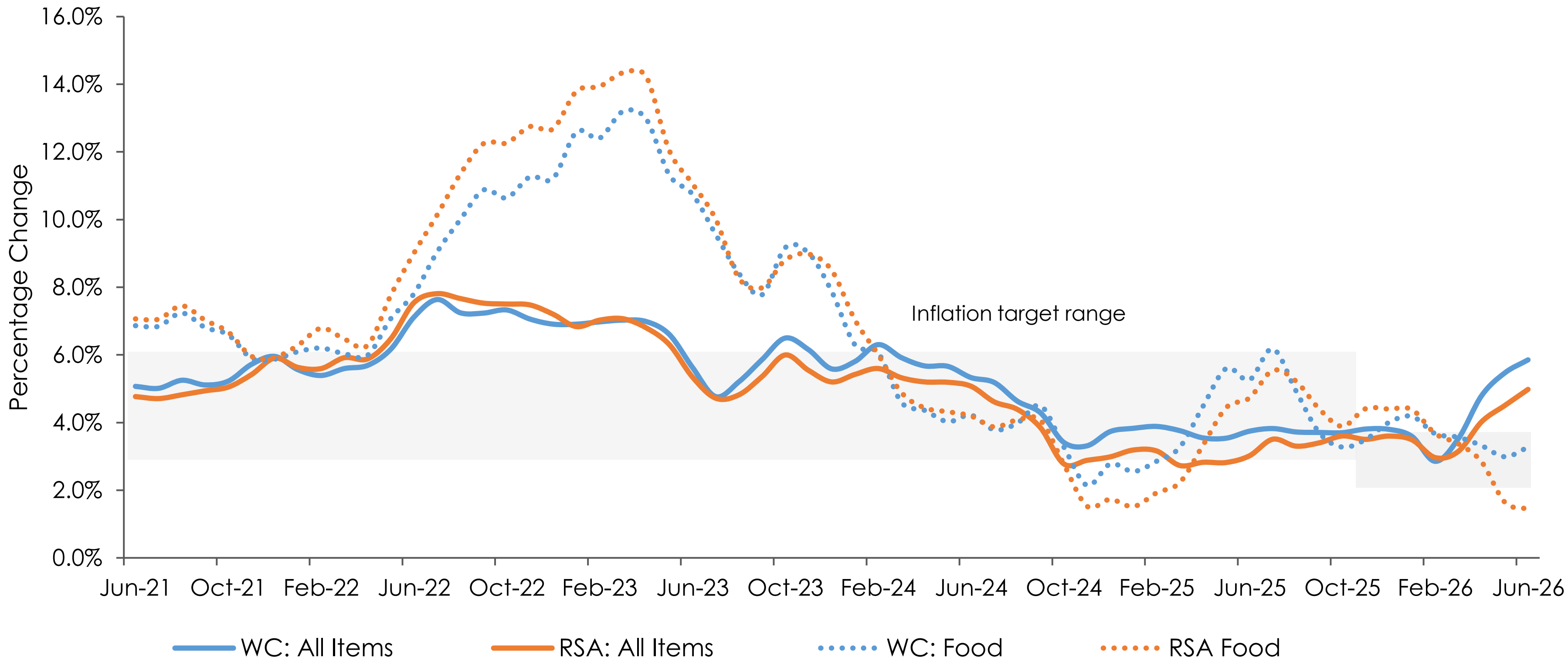






Source: Techno Fresh, Cape Town Fresh Produce Market

SOUTH AFRICA AND WESTERN CAPE CONSUMER INFLATION: FIVE-YEAR TREND



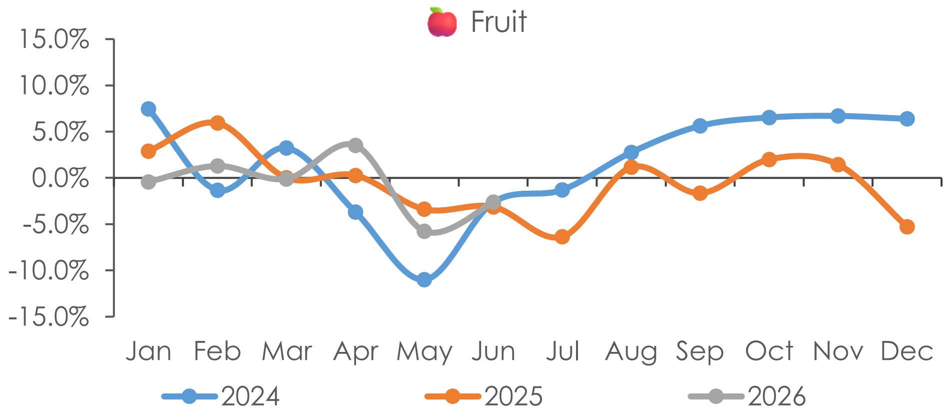
📈 Food inflation rose from about 7% in mid-2021 to peaks of 14.4% nationally and 13.2% in the Western Cape in early 2023, driven by post-Covid supply disruptions, the Russia–Ukraine commodity shock, rand weakness and higher energy costs.

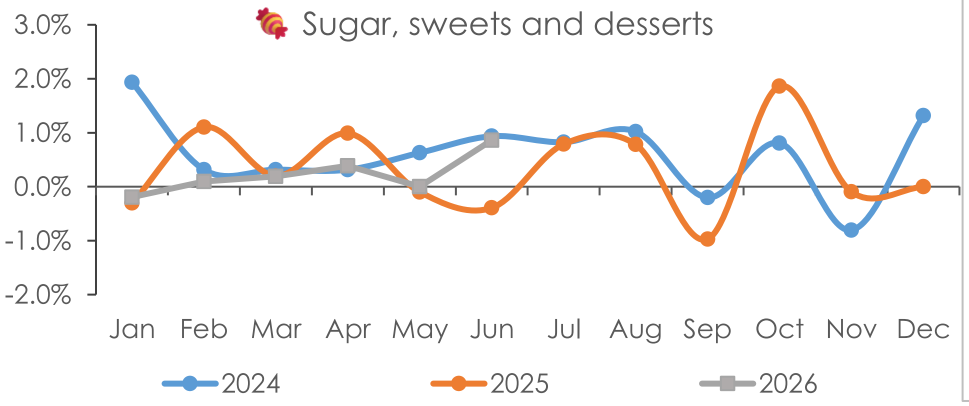
📉 By June 2026, food inflation had eased to 1.4% nationally and 3.2% in the Western Cape, while headline inflation rose to 5.0% and 5.8%, respectively, mainly because of higher fuel and passenger-transport costs.

Source: StatsSA

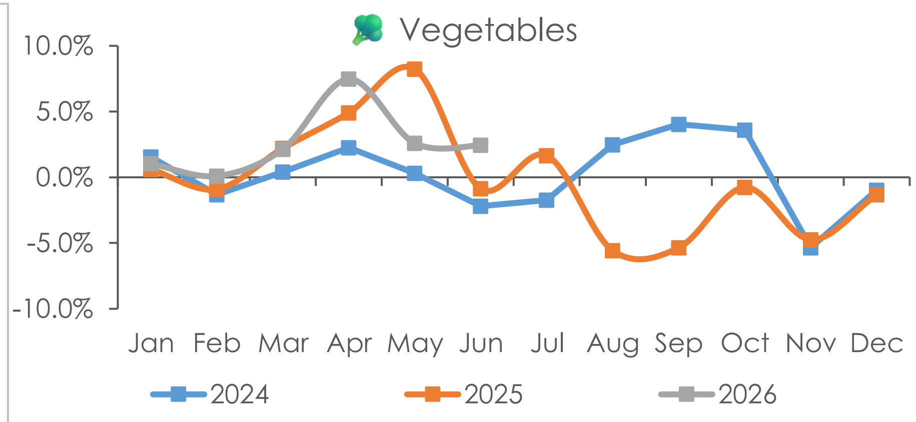
SELECTED PRODUCTS AVERAGE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX CHANGES MONTH-ON-MONTH (%)

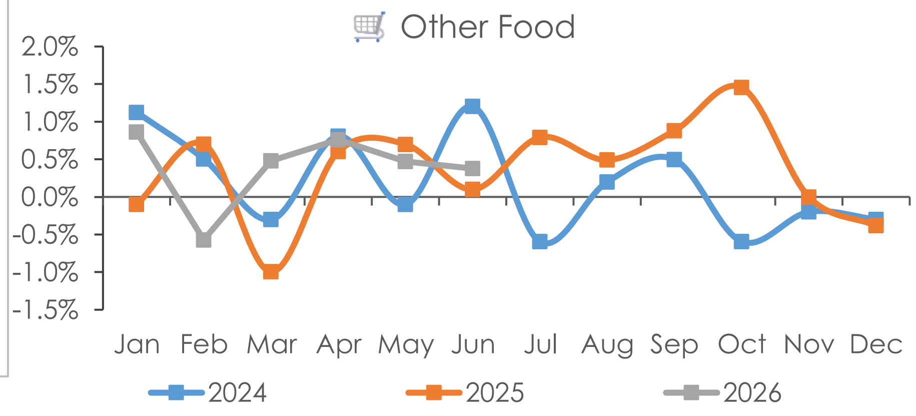
📊 **In early 2026, monthly food-price movements were generally moderate: vegetables rose by about 8% in April before easing, while fruit, sugar products and other foods mostly remained within a narrow range.**





- 🍎 **Fruit:** Prices fell by about **10% in May 2025** before recovering, while movements in early 2026 were considerably more moderate.
- 🥦 **Vegetables:** Prices rose by nearly **8% in May 2025** before declining later in the year as seasonal supply conditions changed.
- 🍬 **Sugar, sweets and desserts:** Monthly changes were generally limited to between **–1% and +2%**, indicating comparatively stable prices.
- 🛒 **Other food:** Price movements remained subdued, mostly within **±1.5% per month**, with no sustained upward trend.





Source : Stats SA, 2026

Absolute Prices (Monthly): All Urban at national level
Food Basket for South Africans

Product Purchased	Unit of Measure	Jun-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	M-on-M (%)	Y-on-Y (%)
IQF Chicken portions	2 Kg	R96.38	R102.10	R102.69	R102.08	R101.80	R101.69	102.33	1%	6%
Full cream milk – longlife	1 Litre	R20.04	R20.14	R20.12	R20.13	R20.17	R20.52	20.76	1%	4%
Sunflower-seed oil cooking oil)	2 Litre	R82.14	R83.18	R82.79	R82.45	R83.23	R83.75	85.45	2%	4%
Green/red/yellow pepper – fresh	Per Kg	R58.09	R61.24	R58.35	R59.65	R63.83	R63.67	61.88	-3%	7%
Onions - fresh	Per Kg	R27.03	R20.95	R20.16	R20.84	R23.75	R24.83	27.89	11%	3%

🧅 Onions recorded the sharpest monthly increase, rising by 11% to R27.89 per kilogram in June 2026.

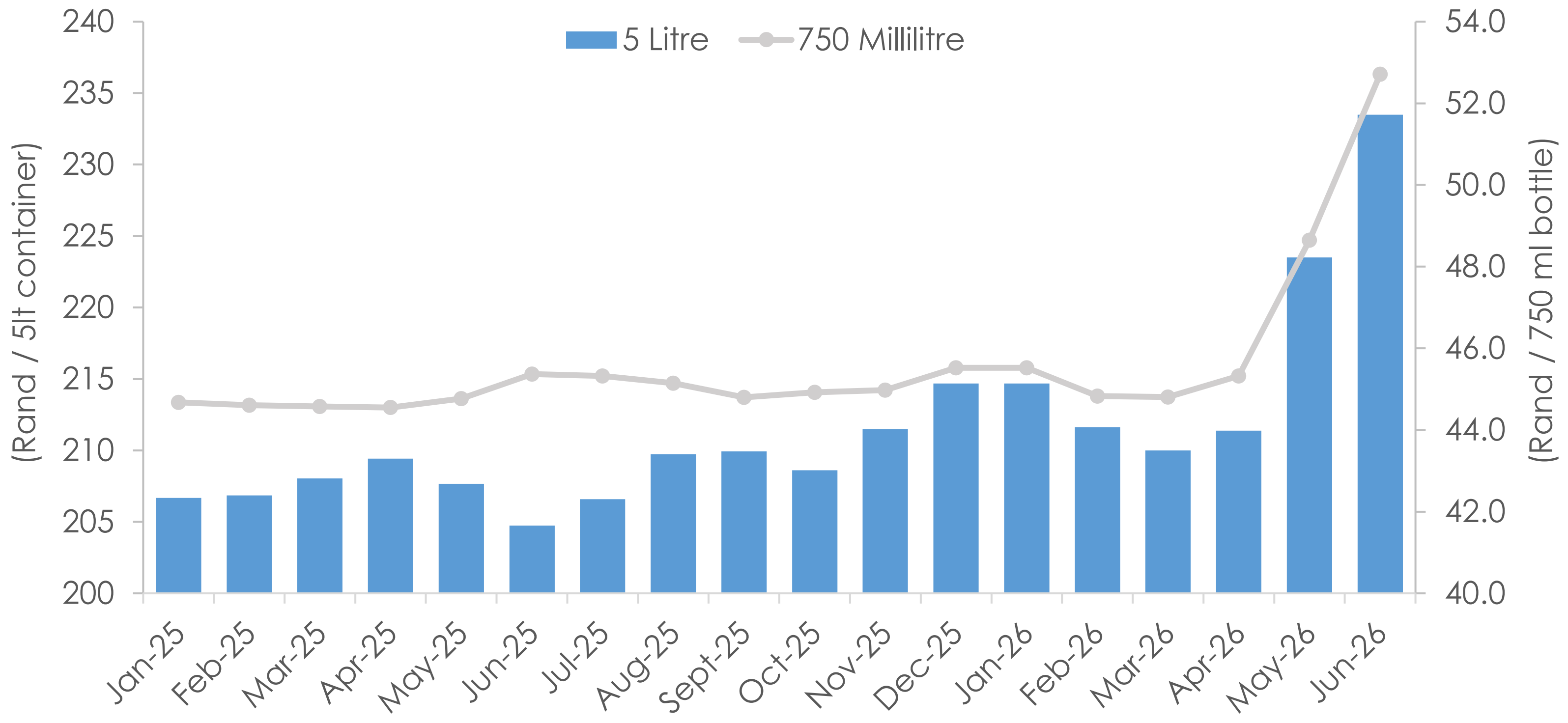
🌶️ Pepper prices declined by 3% month on month but remained 7% higher than a year earlier, the largest annual increase among the selected products.

🍗 Chicken prices were 6% higher year on year, while milk and sunflower oil each increased by 4%, indicating continued pressure on key household staples.

Western Cape Government

Source: StatsSA

Paraffin Prices (Urban SA): Monthly Trends by Pack Size
Jan 2025 – Jun 2026



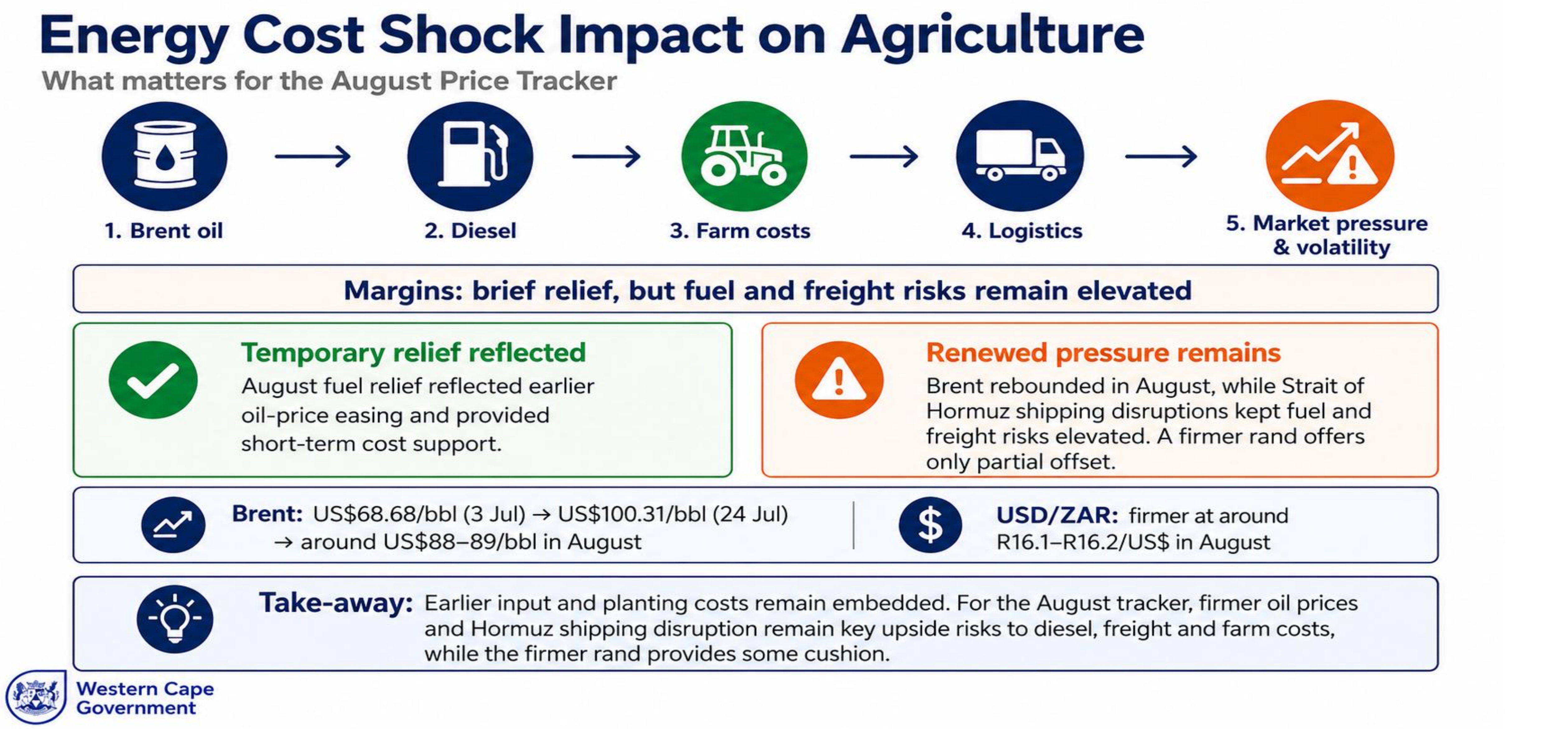
🔥 Paraffin prices rose sharply in May and June 2026, with the 5-litre container increasing to about R233 and the 750 ml bottle to approximately R53.

🏠 The increase places additional pressure on low-income households that depend on paraffin for cooking, heating and lighting, particularly during the winter months.

Western Cape Government

Source: StatsSA

TAKE AWAY MESSAGE:



17 – 28 AUGUST 2026

- **Oil price:** Brent near **US$89/bbl**, with Middle East risks keeping prices volatile.
- **Exchange rate:** Rand near **R16.14/US$**, easing some imported cost pressure.
- **Export logistics:** Hormuz traffic slowed sharply, raising freight and supply-chain risks.
- **Weather outlook:** El Niño remains a risk for the 2026/27 summer season.
- **Global inputs:** Fertiliser and energy costs remain elevated.
- **Global grains:** Supplies remain comfortable, but logistics and weather risks persist.

Key dates:

- **19 Aug:** SA CPI – July 2026
- **26 Aug:** Winter-crop forecast
- **27 Aug:** SA PPI – July 2026

Thank you

Riekie Cloete

Email: riekie.cloete@westerncape.gov.za

Tel no: 021 808 5207