Western Cape Government

FOR YOU

Agriculture

Western Cape Department of Agriculture

WESTERN CAPE AGRICULTURAL PRICE TRACKER

How global shocks are driving local agricultural costs

14 - 25 September 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)*
- Energy Cost Shock Impact on Agriculture
- On the Radar (Weeks ahead)
- News

GLOBAL PRICE RISKS AND AGRICULTURAL COST PRESSURES

September 2026 Agricultural Price Tracker

1 GLOBAL MARKETS

- Brent crude oil above US$100/bbl
- Oil-market volatility remains elevated
- Middle East supply and shipping risks persist

2 FUEL COSTS

- Higher oil prices raise fuel costs
- Fuel remains a key farm input cost
- Transport costs remain sensitive to energy prices

3 FREIGHT & LOGISTICS

- Shipping risks continue to affect input costs
- Freight influences landed import prices
- Logistics remain an important cost channel

4 EXCHANGE RATE

- Rand remained near R16.00/US$
- Provides partial imported-cost relief
- Can offset part of global price increases

5 AGRICULTURAL COSTS

- Earlier input costs remain embedded
- Fuel and logistics affect production costs
- Impacts vary across commodities

SEPTEMBER 2026 MONITORING FOCUS

- Brent crude oil moved above US$100/bbl.
- A firmer rand provided some imported-cost relief.
- Freight and logistics remain key transmission channels.
- Fuel costs continue to influence agricultural production expenses.

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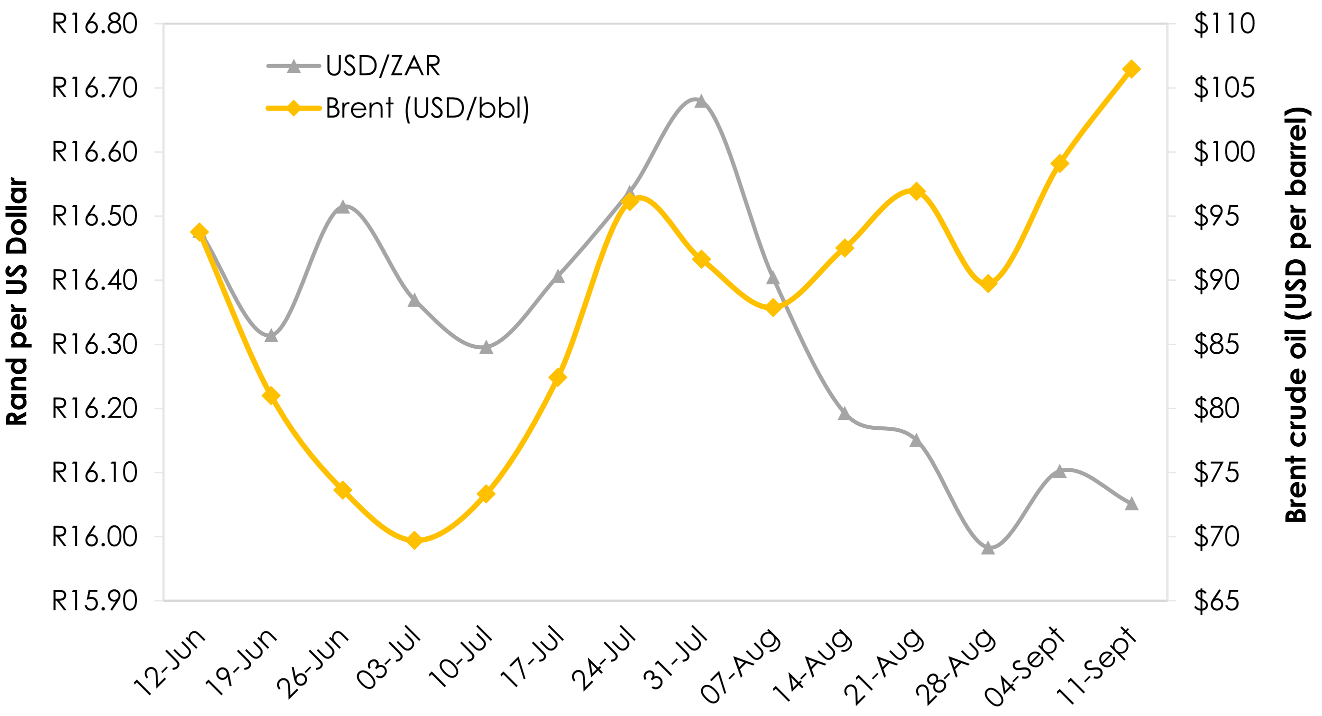
Source: EIA, SARB, DMRE, Reuters, September 2026.

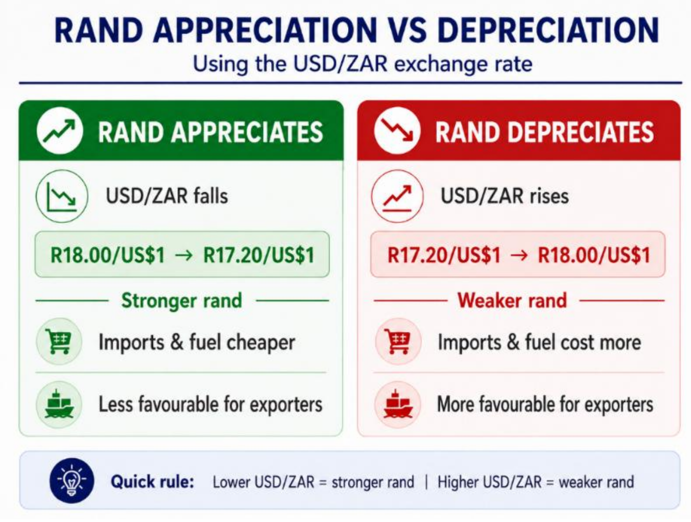
MIDDLE EAST TRADING COUNTRIES

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

Source: www.factinstitute.com

WEEKLY BRENT CRUDE PRICES AND USD/ZAR EXCHANGE RATE





- Brent surged above US$100/bbl, reaching about US$106/bbl by 11 September amid heightened supply risks.
- The rand remained relatively firm at around R16.05/US$, partly cushioning the impact of higher oil prices.
- Middle East shipping disruptions continued to drive oil-market volatility and upward price pressure.

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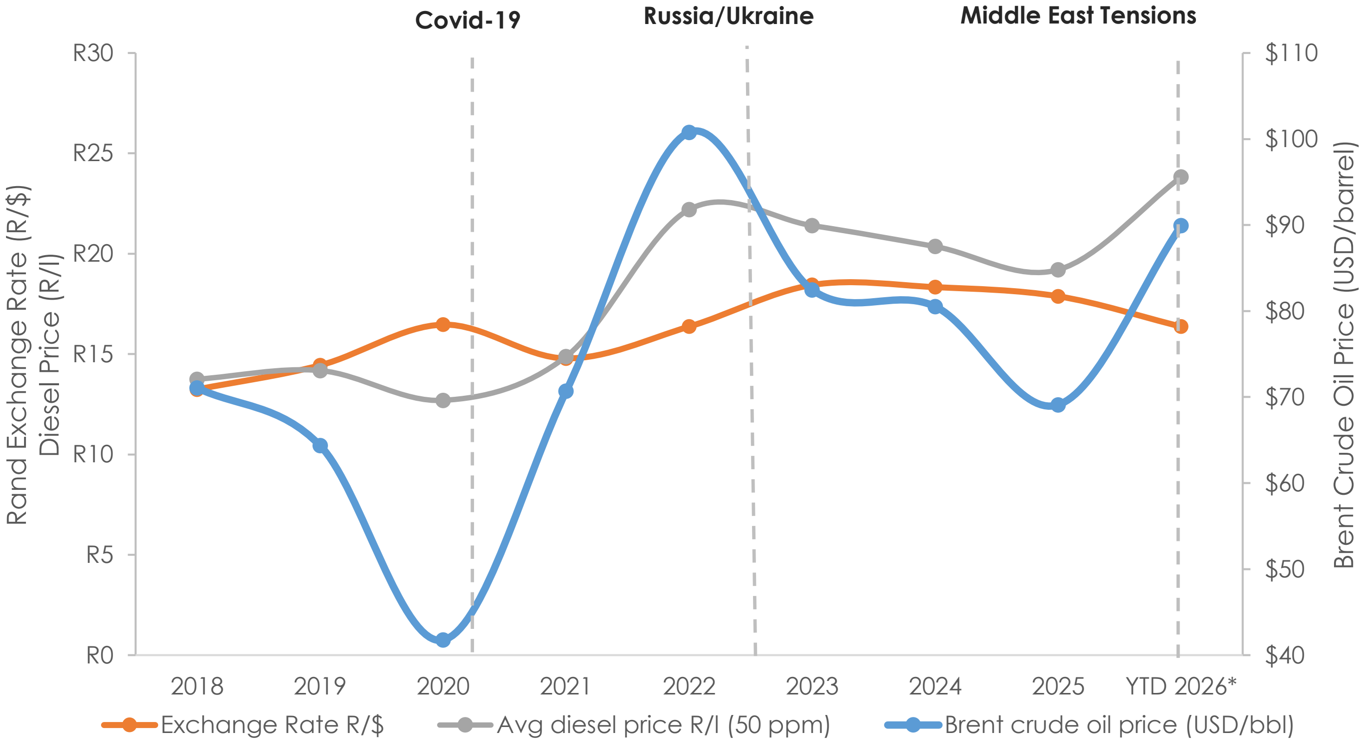
Source: US Energy Information Administration;
South African Reserve Bank; Reuters, 14 September 2026

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



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

- Jan-May 2026: Higher crude-oil prices and a weaker rand increased diesel-cost pressures.
- Jun-Jul 2026: Lower oil prices and exchange-rate support provided temporary relief in fuel costs.
- Aug–Sep 2026: Brent surged from around US$90/bbl to above US$100/bbl, renewing diesel-cost pressures despite rand strength.

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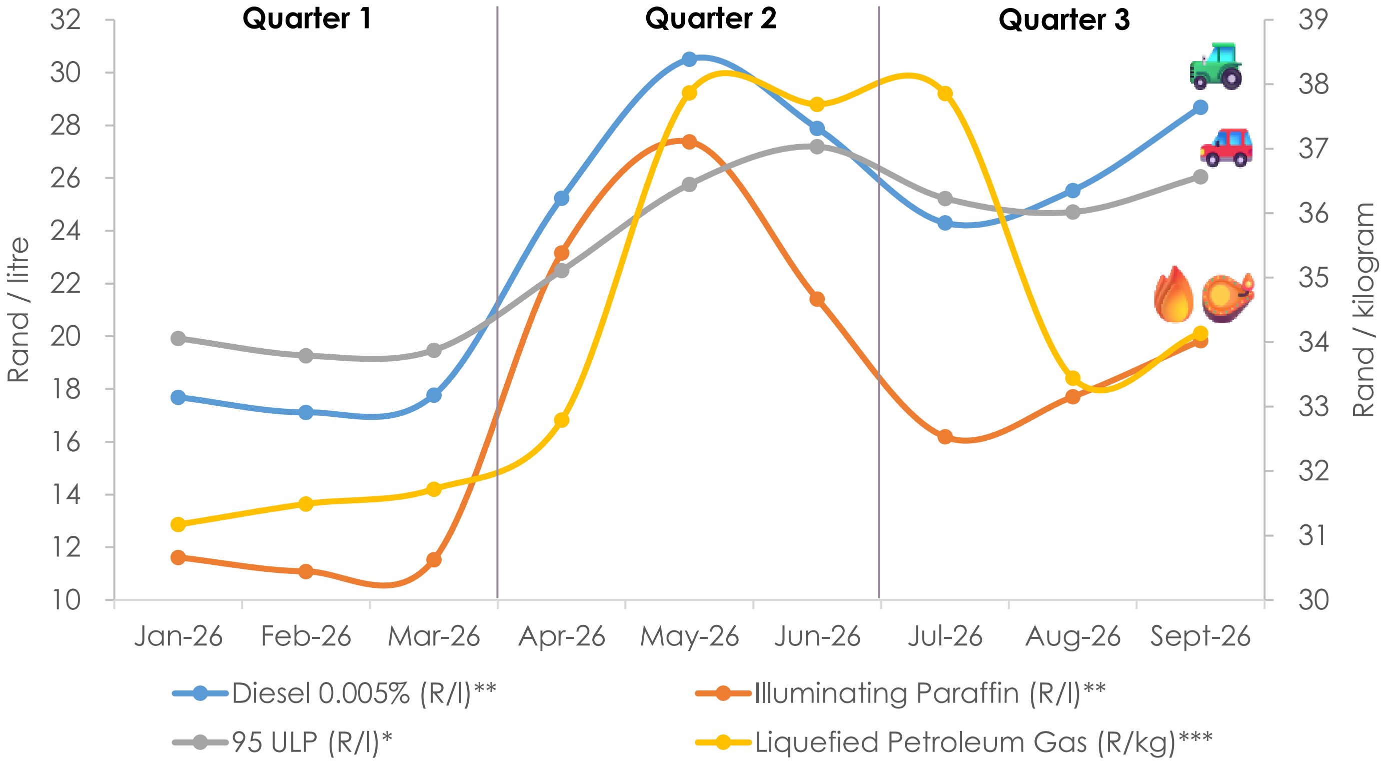
Sources: EIA, Brent crude oil price; FRED, USD/ZAR exchange rate; DMRE, 50 ppm diesel price.

COASTAL FUEL PRICES



Fuel Type	Q1 Ave (Jan–Mar)	Q2 Ave (Apr–Jun)	Q3 Ave (Jul–Sept)	Q2-Q3 change (%)
🚜 Diesel 0.005% (R/l)	17.53	27.88	26.17	**-6.1%**
🚗 Petrol 95 ULP (R/l)	19.55	25.15	25.33	**0.7%**
🪔 Illuminating Paraffin	11.41	23.98	17.91	**-25.3%**
🔥 LPG (R/kg)	31.46	36.12	35.15	**-2.7%**

🚜 Diesel increased by R3.15/l to R28.68/l in September, continuing its Q3 upward trend.

🚗 Petrol rose by R1.34/l to R26.05/l, while remaining broadly stable on average across Q3.

🪔 Paraffin increased by R2.13/l to R19.84/l but remained well below its May peak.

🔥 LPG edged higher by R0.70/kg to R34.14/kg, while its Q3 average remained below Q2.

Source: FIASA

CONSUMER INFLATION

NEWS ROUNDUP

US Senate's support of AGOA extension a boon for SA farmers
Trade relations

https://thenational.co.za/news/2026-08-17-us-senate-s-support-of-agoa-extension-a-boon-for-sa-farmers/

Brent Tops $107 as BRICS Summit Opens With UAE-Iran Trade War

https://discoveryalert.com/news/brics-summit-oil-prices-september-2026/

South Africa welcomes China cherry access

https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/south-africa-welcomes-china-cherry-access/272615.article

NAMPO CAPE 2026 NEWS: ‘Don’t panic, prepare’, experts tell farmers as El Niño fear spreads

Premier Winde addressing agriculture stakeholders

https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/south-africa/dont-panic-prepare-experts-tell-farmers-as-el-nino-fear-spreads/

WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: VEGETABLE MARKET TRENDS

From May to mid-September, vegetable price trends diverged.

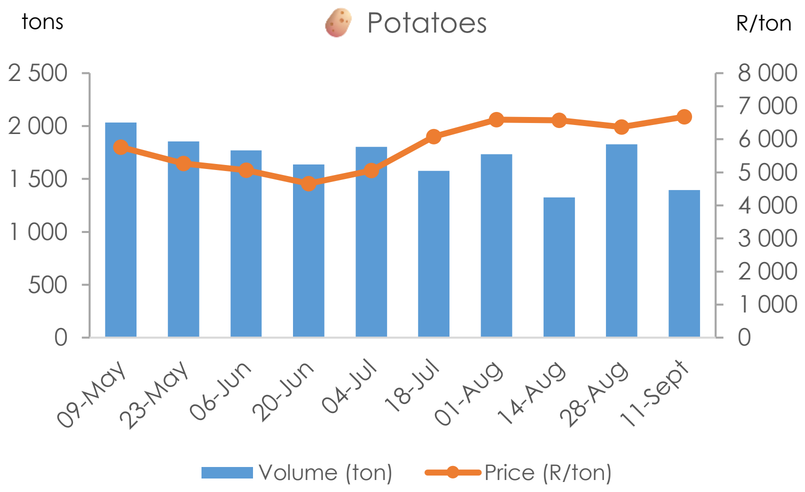
Potatoes, onions and peppers trended higher, while tomatoes remained well below their May peak.

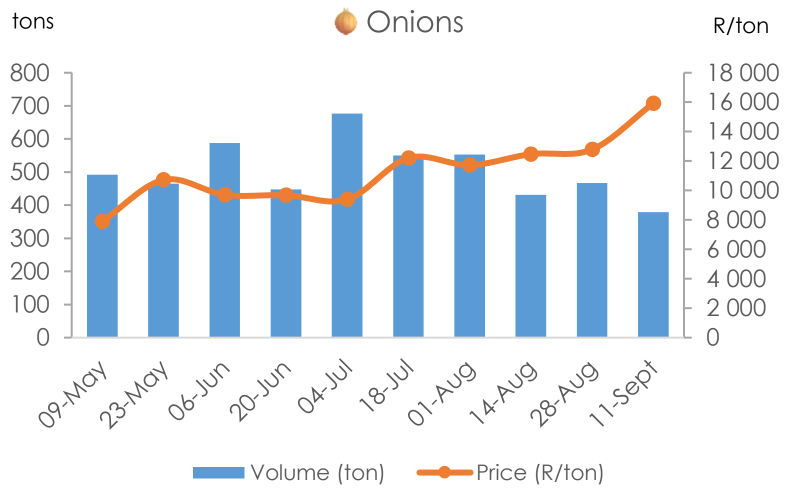
Potatoes ⬆: Lower available stocks supported prices.

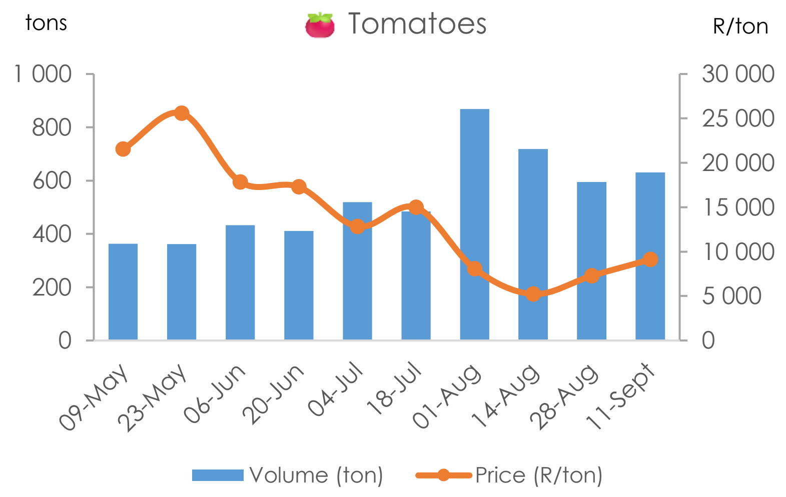
Onions ⬆: Tight supply and delayed market volumes pushed prices higher.

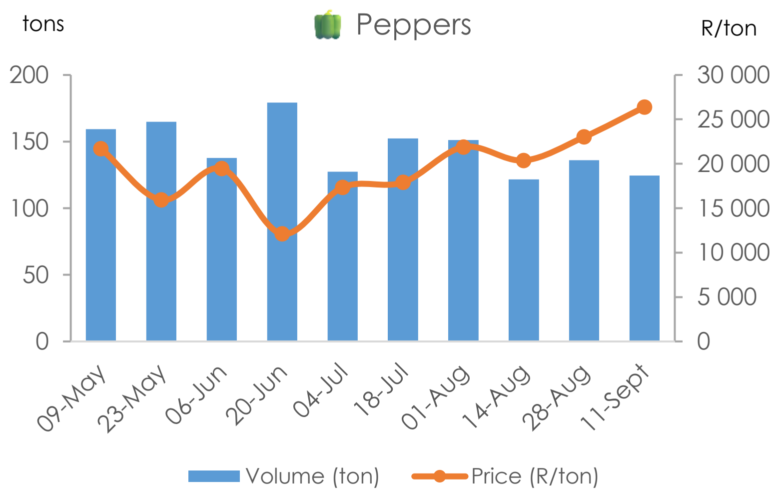
Tomatoes ⬇: Improved supply eased prices from the May peak.

Peppers ⬆: Lower seasonal volumes supported prices.









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Source: Techno Fresh, Cape Town Fresh Produce Market

WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: FRUIT MARKET TRENDS

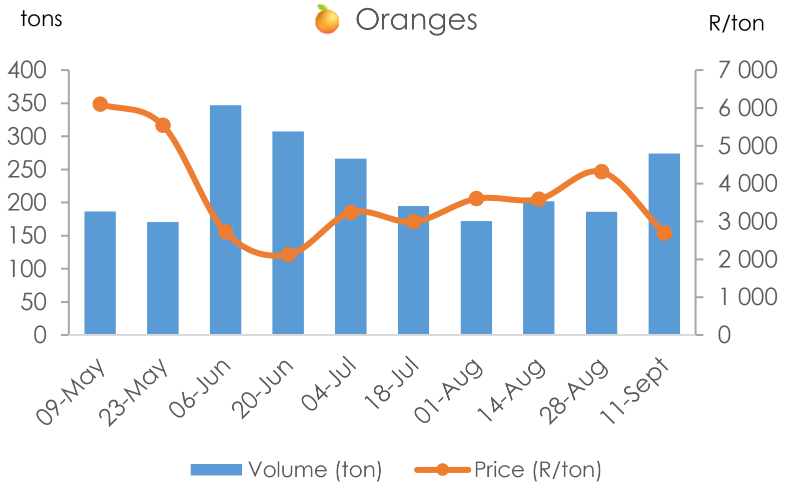
From May to mid-September, fruit price trends remained mixed. Oranges trended lower, while apples, pears and table grapes moved higher.

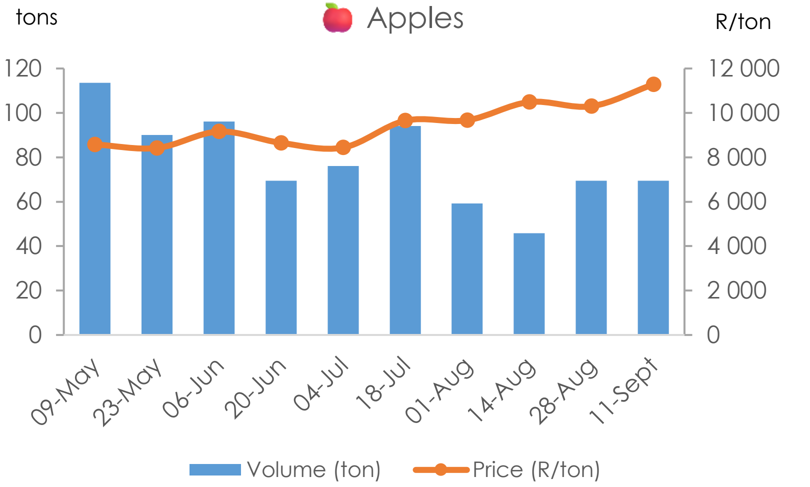
Oranges ⬇️: Higher market volumes weighed on prices.

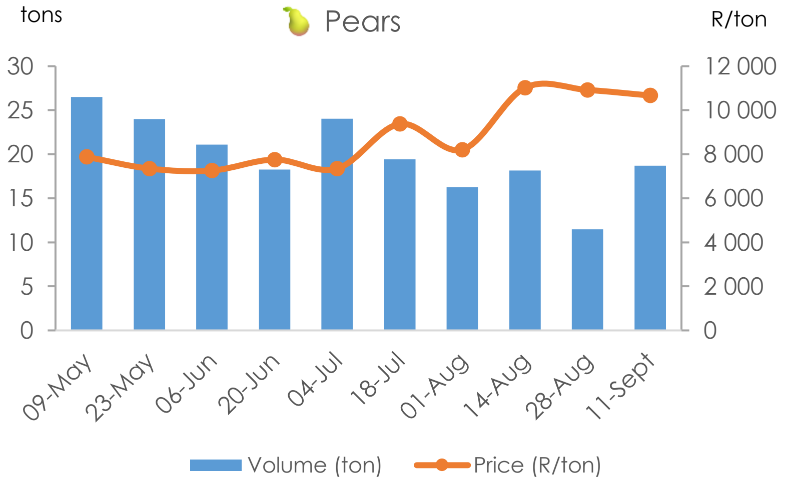
Apples : ⬆️: Lower market volumes supported higher prices.

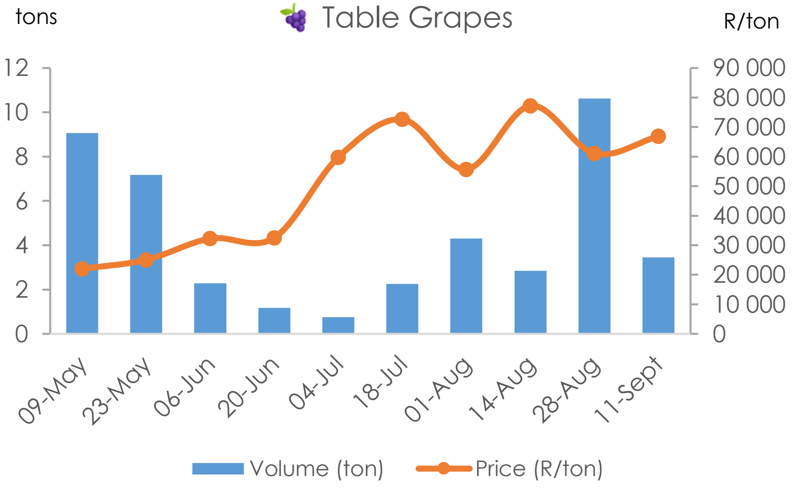
Pears ⬆️: Lower volumes supported firmer prices.

Table grapes ⬆️: Tight supply and low volumes kept prices elevated.



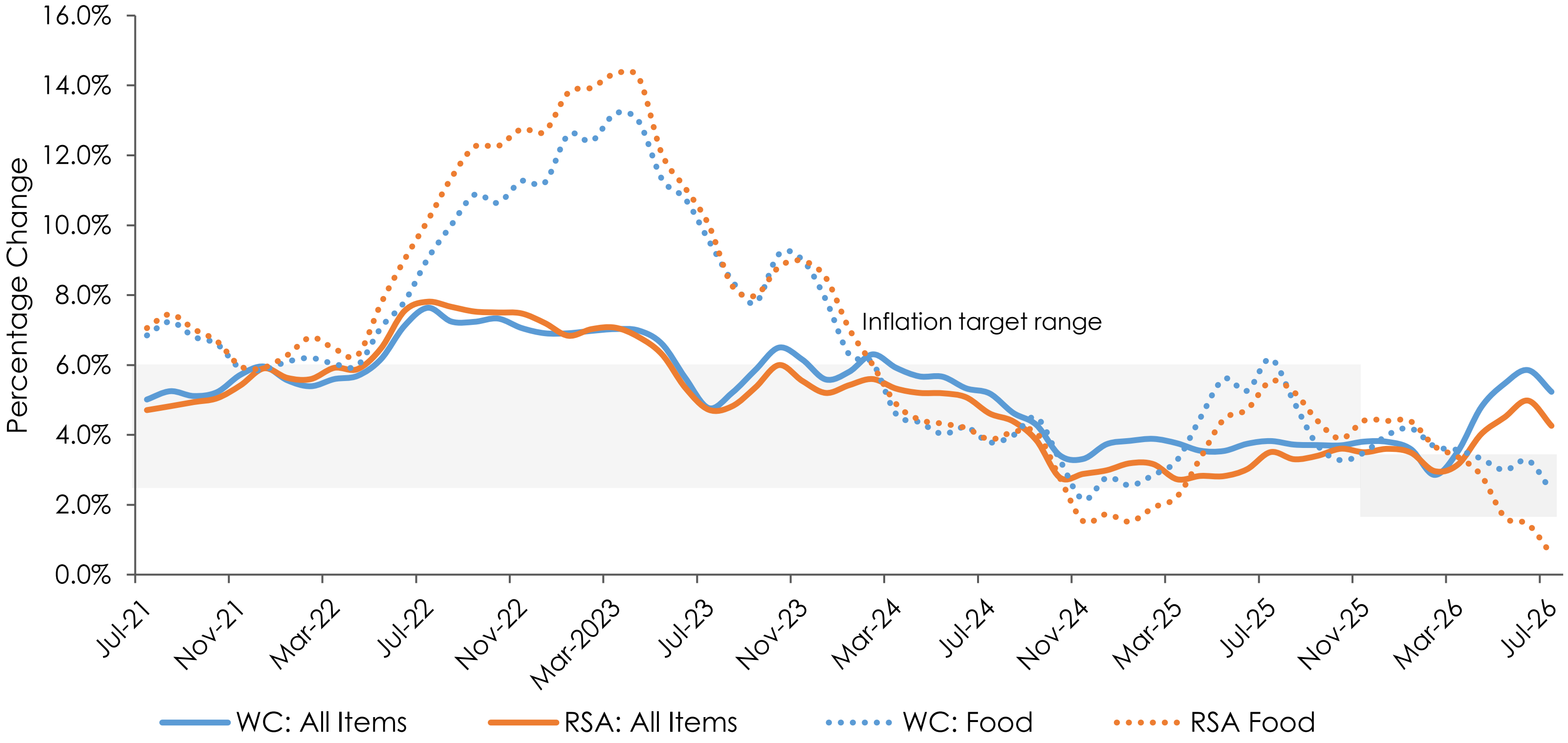






Source: Techno Fresh, Cape Town Fresh Produce Market

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



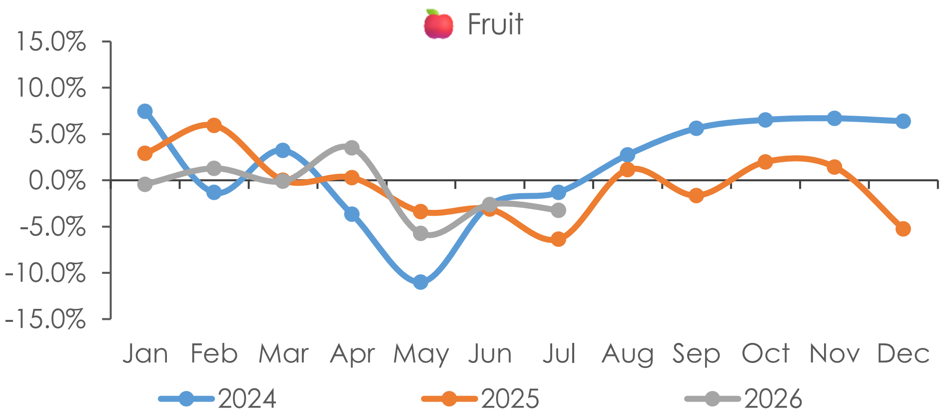
📉 Food inflation peaked at 14.4% nationally and 13.2% in the Western Cape in early 2023 amid global commodity and energy shocks.

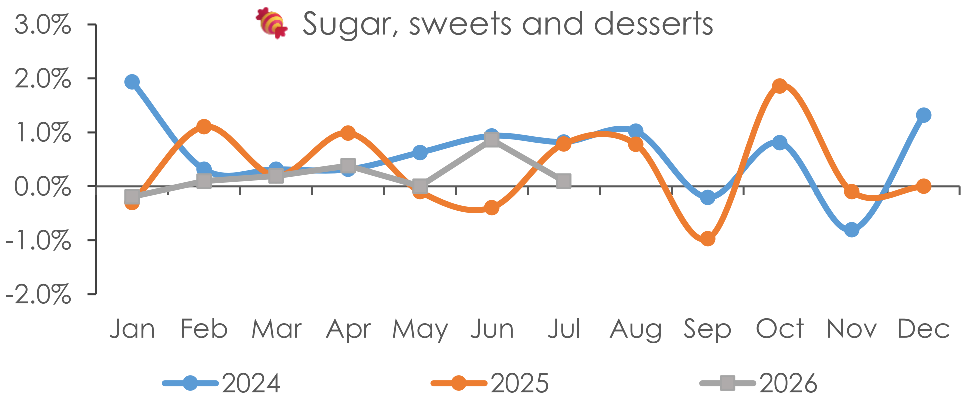
📈 By July 2026, food inflation had eased to 0.6% nationally and 2.4% in the Western Cape, while headline inflation stood at 4.3% and 5.2%, respectively.

Source: StatsSA

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

📊 Monthly food-price movements remained relatively moderate during early 2026, with vegetables showing the largest short-term fluctuations, while fruit, sugar products and other food categories remained broadly stable.



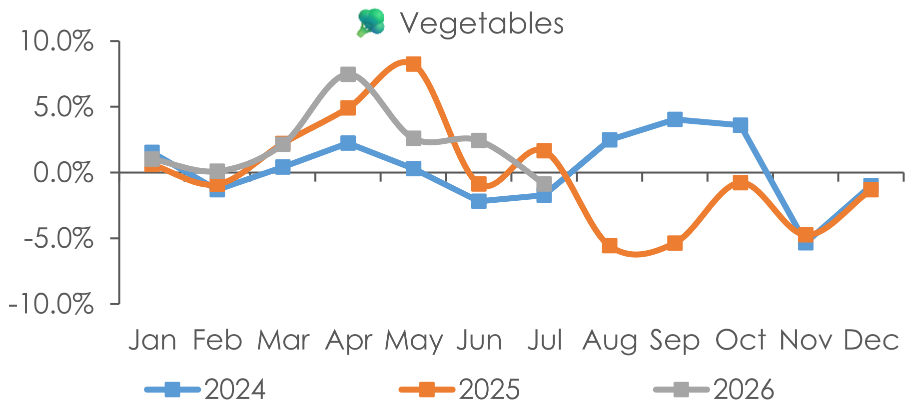


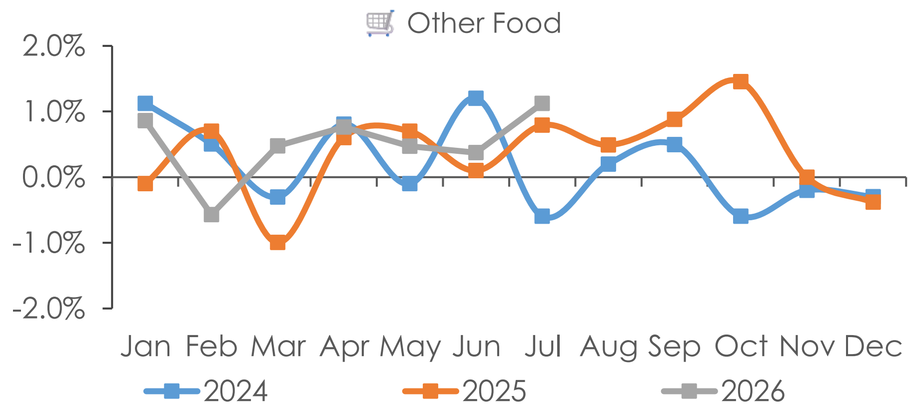
🍎 **Fruit:** Price volatility moderated during 2026 compared with the larger monthly swings observed in 2025.

🥦 **Vegetables:** The most pronounced movements occurred in the vegetable category, with prices rising by about 8% in April 2026 before moderating.

🍬 **Sugar, sweets and desserts:** Monthly price changes remained relatively contained, generally within ±1%.

🛒 **Other food:** Prices remained broadly stable, with monthly changes mostly limited to ±1.5%.





Source : Stats SA, 2026

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

Product Purchased	Unit of Measure	25-Jul	26-Jan	26-Feb	26-Mar	26-Apr	26-May	26-Jun	26-Jul	M-on-M (%)	Y-on-Y (%)
Rice	2 Kg	R43.37	R39.46	R39.00	R38.78	R38.13	R37.86	37.52	37.84	1%	-13%
Maize meal	5 Kg	R74.32	R70.97	R72.59	R69.52	R68.88	R68.51	67.31	65.09	-3%	-12%
Tomatoes	Per Kg	R30.69	R26.15	R26.70	R29.00	R31.69	R34.12	36.31	35.39	-3%	15%
Carrots	1 Kg	R18.87	R15.73	R15.64	R15.97	R17.14	R20.57	20.86	19.07	-9%	1%
Potatoes	Per Kg	R20.70	R18.05	R17.91	R17.83	R17.91	R18.17	17.98	18.12	1%	-12%

🌾 Rice and maize meal prices remained well below year-earlier levels, down 13% and 12%, respectively.

🍅 Tomato prices recorded the strongest annual increase among the selected products, rising 15% year-on-year despite a 3% monthly decline.

🥕 🥔 Carrot and potato prices showed limited monthly volatility, highlighting generally moderate inflationary pressures across key vegetables.

Source: StatsSA

ENERGY AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS: IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Key drivers for the September Price Tracker

1. Global oil market (Brent crude) → **2. Fuel prices** (diesel, petrol, paraffin, LPG) → **3. Exchange rate** (ZAR) → **4. Fresh-produce markets** (fruit and vegetables) → **5. Trade developments** (AGOA and China)

Global energy and trade dynamics continue to influence input costs, logistics and market opportunities for agriculture.

Higher oil prices and ongoing risk

Brent crude moved above US$100/bbl in September as Middle East tensions intensified, raising the risk of further supply disruptions and higher global fuel costs.

A firmer rand provides some relief

The rand remained relatively firm near R16/US$, helping to partially cushion the impact of higher international oil and input prices.

Brent crude
>US$100/bbl
in September
Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

USD/ZAR
~R16/US$
in September
A firmer rand partly offset higher global costs.

Fuel prices ↑
Moved higher in September.
Q3 averages for diesel, paraffin and LPG remained below Q2.

Fresh-produce prices ↔
Remained mixed.
Vegetables and fruit showed uneven supply-driven movements.

Trade outlook ↑
Positive developments.
AGOA extended to 2028 and new Chinese market access for South African cherries.

Take-away: Higher global oil prices and renewed geopolitical risks are adding pressure, while a firmer rand provides some relief. Fuel costs moved higher in September, fresh-produce prices remained mixed, and improved trade access through AGOA and China offers positive export opportunities for South African agriculture.

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Sources: Reuters (Sep 2026), IOL (Sep 2026), CEF (Sep 2026), SARB (Sep 2026), Techno Fresh (Sep 2026), DALRRD (Sep 2026)

ON THE RADAR

14 – 25 Sept 2026

🛢️ **Oil prices:** Brent rose to about **US$107.5/bbl** on 14 September as attacks on Saudi energy infrastructure and Gulf shipping intensified supply concerns.

💱 **Exchange rate:** The rand weakened to around **R16.24/US$**, with higher oil prices adding pressure to the currency.

🚢 **Logistics and freight:** Strait of Hormuz traffic remains heavily constrained, keeping **shipping, fuel and imported-input risks elevated**.

🌧️ **Weather outlook: El Niño conditions are strengthening**, increasing risks of hotter and drier conditions, fire danger and water stress into the 2026/27 summer.

🌱 **Agricultural inputs:** Fertiliser and fuel costs remain exposed to **higher oil, freight and exchange-rate pressures**, with Middle East disruptions adding supply risk.

🌾 **Global grains:** September WASDE points to **tighter corn and soybean stocks**, while the global wheat outlook remains comparatively better supplied.

Key dates:

📊 17 Sept: South Africa CPI (August 2026)

🏦 23 Sept: SARB MPC interest-rate decision

Thank you

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