



**Western Cape
Government**
FOR YOU

Agriculture



Western Cape Department of Agriculture

WESTERN CAPE AGRICULTURAL PRICE TRACKER

How global shocks are driving local
agricultural costs

19 - 30 October 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

19–30 October 2026 Agricultural Price Tracker



GLOBAL MARKETS

- Brent eased to US\$109.86/bbl by 16 October.
- Below the US\$130.80/bbl mid-September peak.
- Middle East supply and shipping risks persisted.



FUEL COSTS

- October 50 ppm diesel rose by R3.24/l.
- Coastal petrol 95 increased by R3.33/l.
- Fuel remained a key farm input cost.



FREIGHT & LOGISTICS

- Shipping risks continued to affect import costs.
- Higher fuel prices added to transport expenses.
- Logistics remained a key cost-transmission channel.



EXCHANGE RATE

- The rand averaged R16.20/US\$ in September.
- Traded near R16.50/US\$ by mid-October.
- A weaker rand reduced imported-cost relief.



AGRICULTURAL COSTS

- October fuel hikes added to farm cost pressures.
- Freight and fertiliser risks persisted.
- Impacts varied across crops and value chains.



OCTOBER 2026 MONITORING FOCUS

- Brent eased to US\$109.86/bbl by 16 October, but remained above US\$100/bbl.
- October fuel increases: 50 ppm diesel +R3.24/l and petrol 95 +R3.33/l.
- The rand traded around R16.50/US\$ by mid-October, weakening earlier relief.
- Freight and fertiliser risks continued to pressure agricultural input costs.



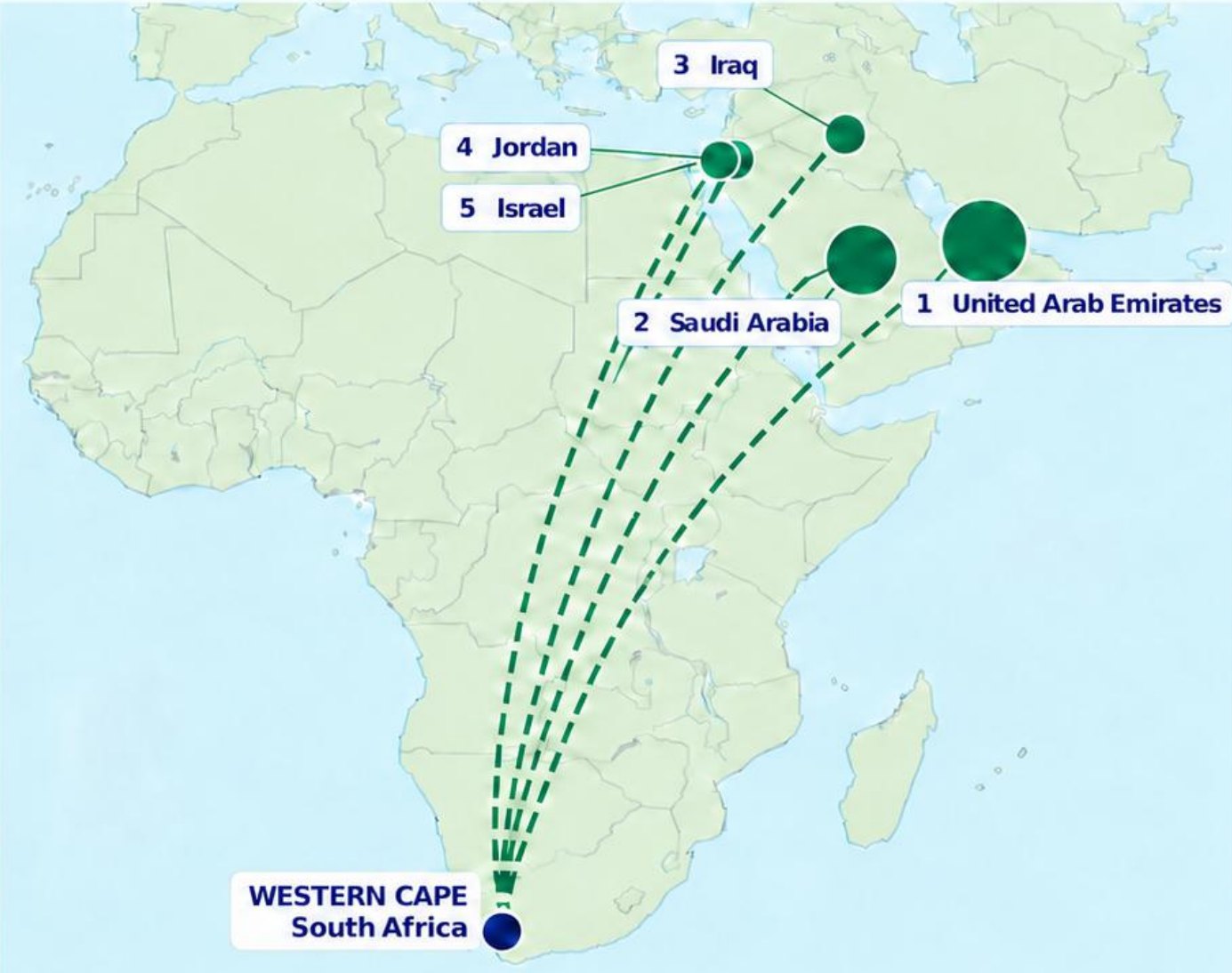
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Source: EIA, SARB, DMPR, Reuters; updated 19 October 2026.

Leading Middle Eastern export markets

Aug 2025–Jul 2026 totals (R million) | Product changes: 12 months versus previous 12 months

Large percentage increases reflect low starting values.



1

United Arab Emirates
12-month total **R5,601m**
12-month change: ▲ 7.8% Mar–Jul change: ▼ 13.1%

Top products | 12-month value change

1. Oranges ▼ 7.1%	2. Apples ▲ 0.6%	3. Lemons & limes ▲ 34.5%
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2

Saudi Arabia
12-month total **R3,039m**
12-month change: ▲ 64.2% Mar–Jul change: ▲ 95.1%

Top products | 12-month value change

1. Lemons & limes ▲ 295.4%	2. Apples ▲ 93.9%	3. Oranges ▼ 7.7%
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3

Iraq
12-month total **R462m**
12-month change: ▼ 39.7% Mar–Jul change: ▼ 69.5%

Top products | 12-month value change

1. Oranges ▼ 14.3%	2. Lemons & limes ▼ 36.5%	3. Mandarins ▼ 84.0%
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4

Jordan
12-month total **R409m**
12-month change: ▲ 112.6% Mar–Jul change: ▲ 74.9%

Top products | 12-month value change

1. Fresh lamb carcasses ▲ 1,022.6%	2. Other sheep carcasses ▼ 4.0%	3. Boneless beef ▲ 10,021.5%
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5

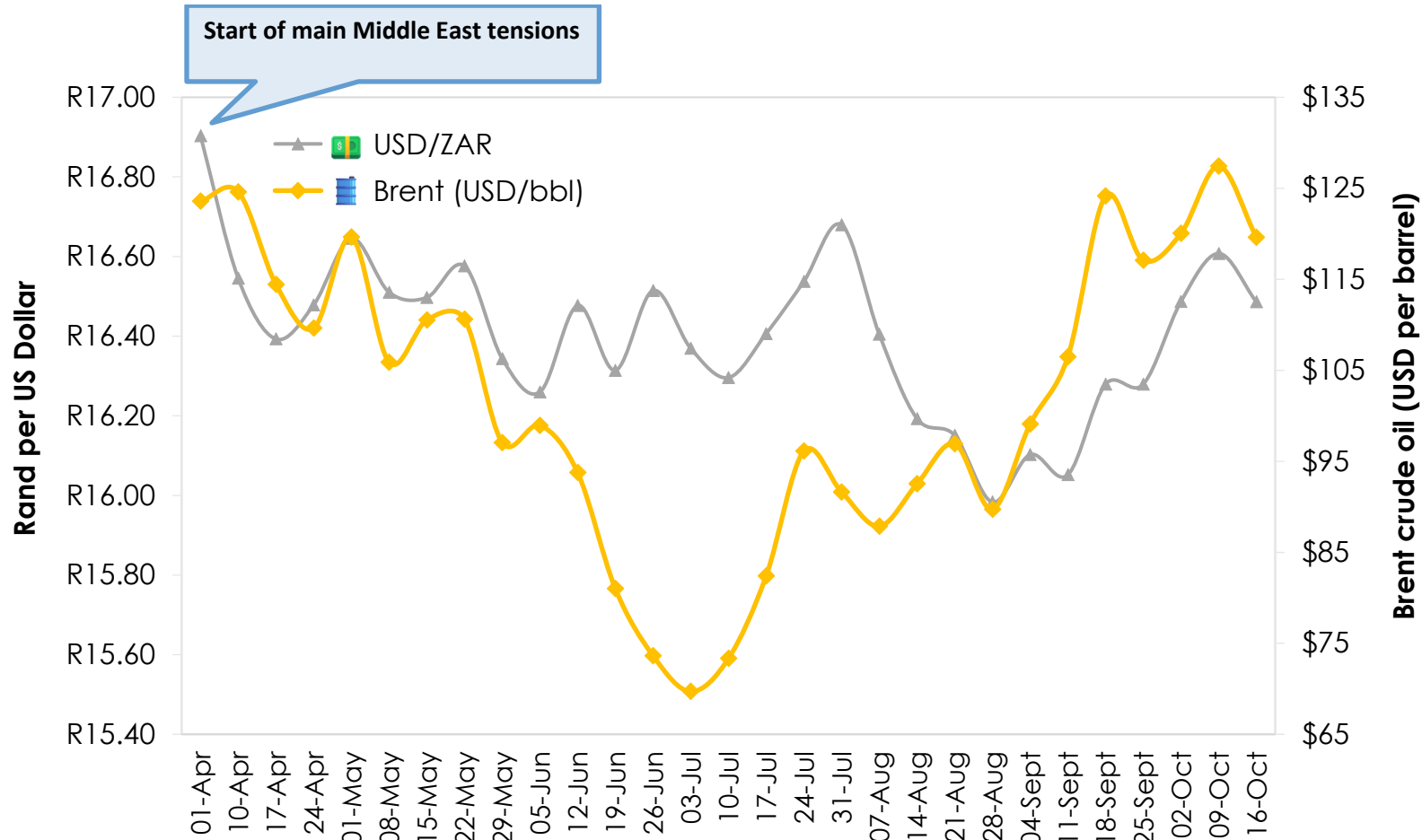
Israel
12-month total **R404m**
12-month change: ▼ 16.6% Mar–Jul change: ▼ 61.2%

Top products | 12-month value change

1. Fresh grapes ▼ 20.4%	2. Frozen hake ▲ 235.8%	3. Other fruit juices ▼ 55.1%
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12-month comparison: Aug 2025–Jul 2026 versus Aug 2024–Jul 2025.
Additional comparison during Middle East geopolitical tensions: Mar–Jul 2026 versus the same months in 2025.
Source: Quantec EasyData / SARS, TRD11, Western Cape (P1), all ports, HS chapters 01–24. Rankings among selected countries.

WEEKLY BRENT CRUDE PRICES AND USD/ZAR EXCHANGE RATE

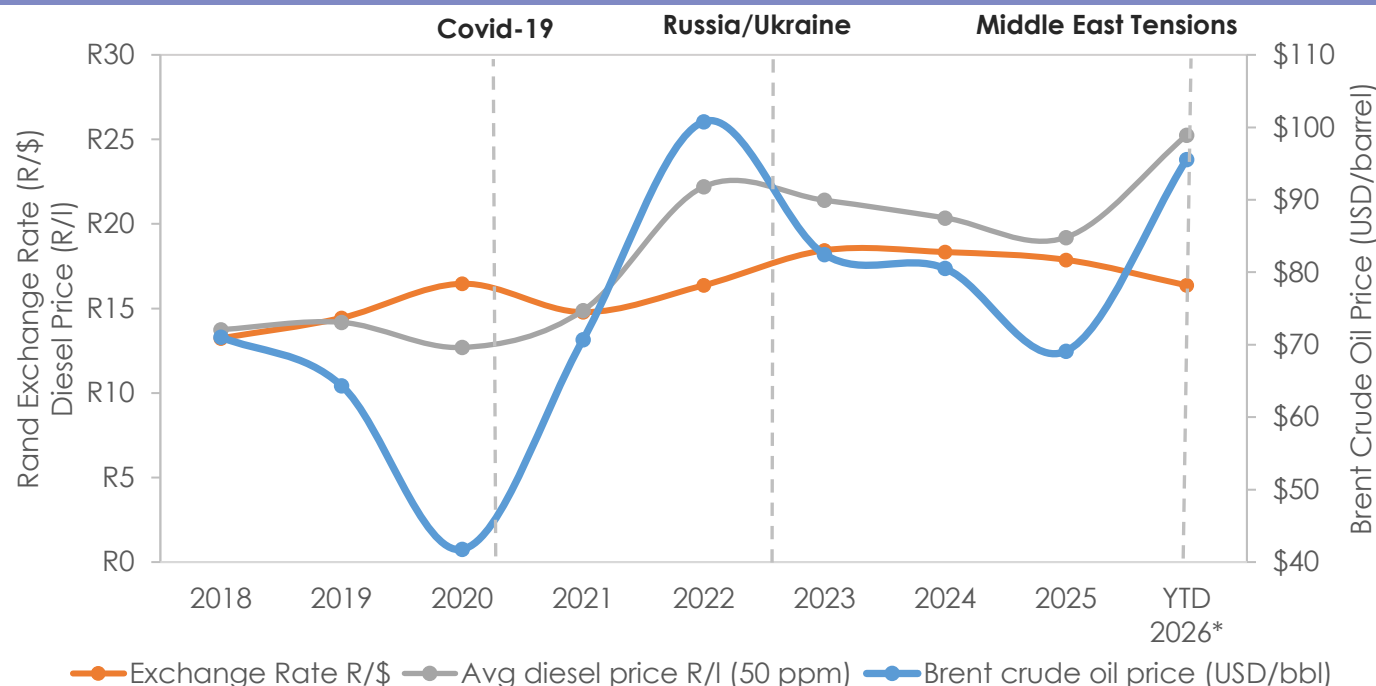


Brent eased from its mid-September peak of US\$130.80/bbl to US\$109.86/bbl by 16 October.

The rand weakened from a September average of R16.20/US\$ to around R16.5/US\$ by mid-October.

Oil remained above US\$100/bbl through mid-October, keeping fuel-cost and supply risks elevated.

KEY DRIVERS OF DIESEL PRICES: BRENT, USD/ZAR AND GLOBAL SHOCKS



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

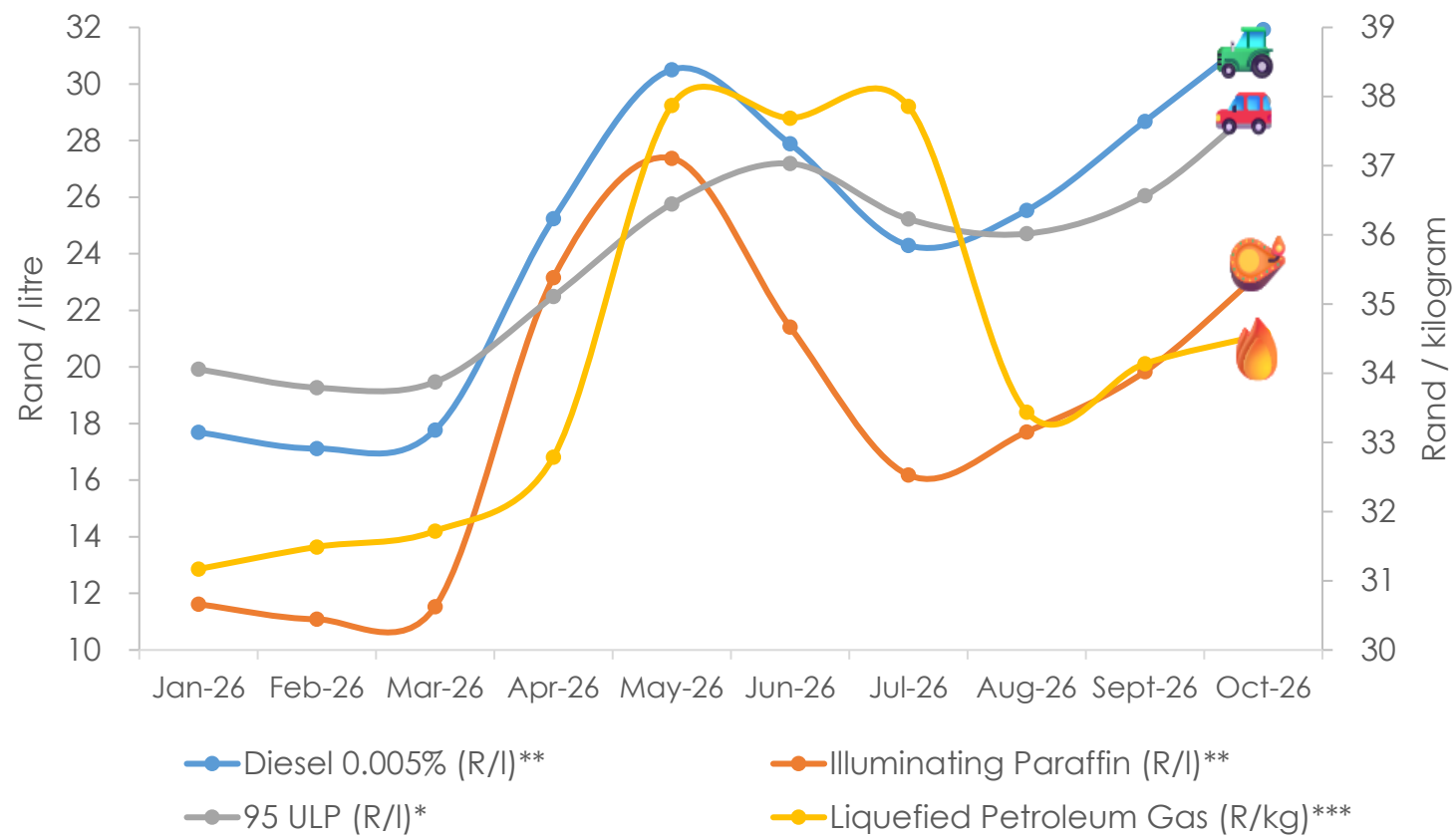
	Brent crude oil price (USD/bbl)	Exchange Rate R/\$	Avg. diesel price R/l (50 ppm)
Jan-26	66.60	16.26	R 18.14
Feb-26	70.89	15.99	R 17.57
Mar-26	103.13	16.62	R 18.22
Apr-26	117.29	16.54	R 25.73
May-26	100.52	16.48	R 31.25
Jun-26	86.11	16.40	R 28.63
Jul-26	83.76	16.46	R 24.79
Aug-26	91.08	16.18	R 26.27
Sept-26	112.38	16.20	R 29.42
Oct-26	123.80	16.56	R 32.41

● **Mar–May 2026:** Brent and diesel prices rose sharply.

● **Jun–Jul 2026:** Lower oil prices provided temporary relief.

● **Aug–Oct 2026:** Brent climbed to **US\$123.80/bbl**, while diesel rose to **R32.41/l** despite a relatively firm rand.

COASTAL FUEL PRICES



 **Diesel:** Increase sharply again in October, remaining the strongest fuel-cost pressure.

 **Petrol:** Increased further in October after a relatively stable Q3.

 **Paraffin:** Continued to rise in October, but remained below its May peak.

 **LPG:** Increased moderately in October, remaining below its Q2 high.

CONSUMER INFLATION





NEWS ROUNDUP

Farmers urge urgent support for resilient local supply chains



<https://www.foodformzansi.co.za/farmers-urge-urgent-support-for-resilient-local-supply-chains/>

Government plans drought measures as 2026/27 El Niño threatens South African farmers



<https://capetimes.co.za/news/2026-10-15-government-plans-drought-measures-as-202627-el-nio-threatens-south-african-farmers/>

Failure to activate Hormuz fertilizer plan could trigger food crisis, UN official says



<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/failure-activate-hormuz-fertilizer-plan-could-trigger-food-crisis-un-official-2026-10-14/>

Fertilizer Costs Stay Elevated as Global Supply Disruptions Persist

<https://www.global-agriculture.com/crop-nutrition/fertilizer-costs-stay-elevated-as-global-supply-disruptions-persist/>





WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: VEGETABLE MARKET TRENDS

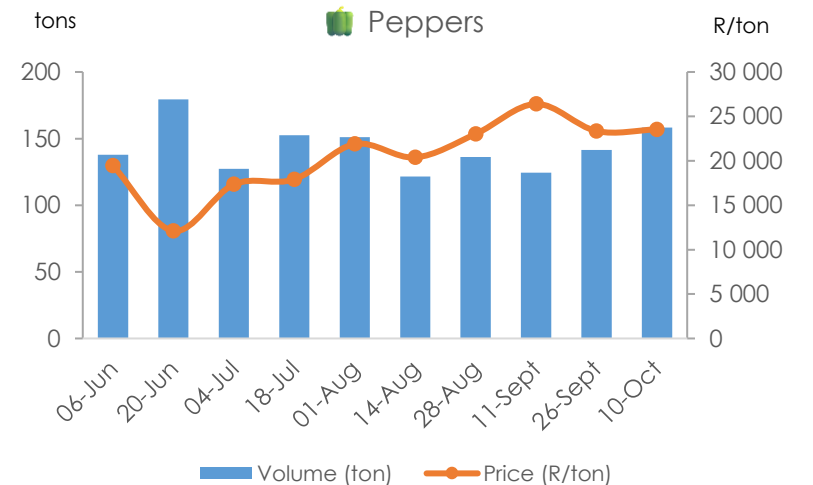
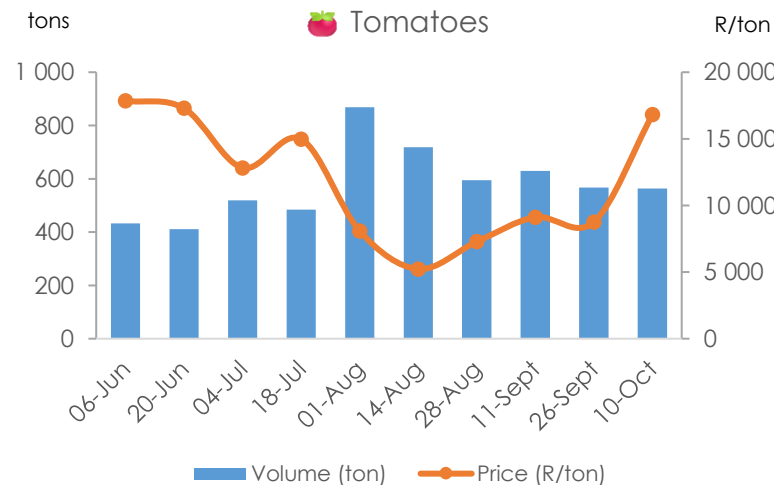
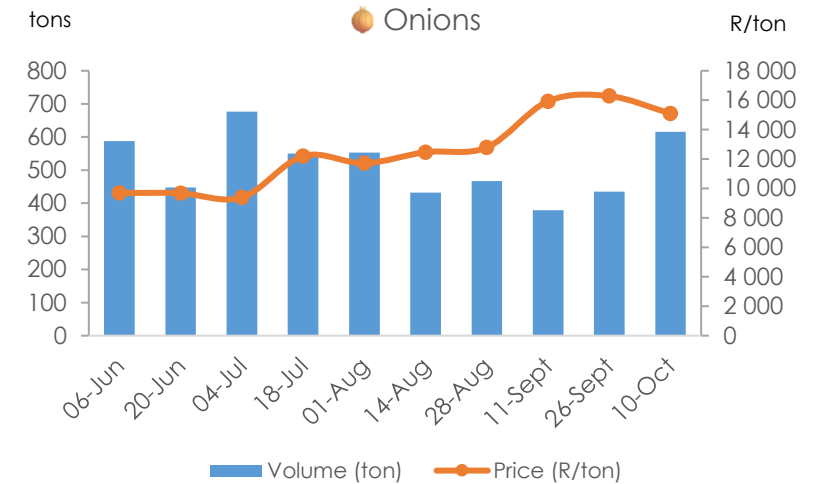
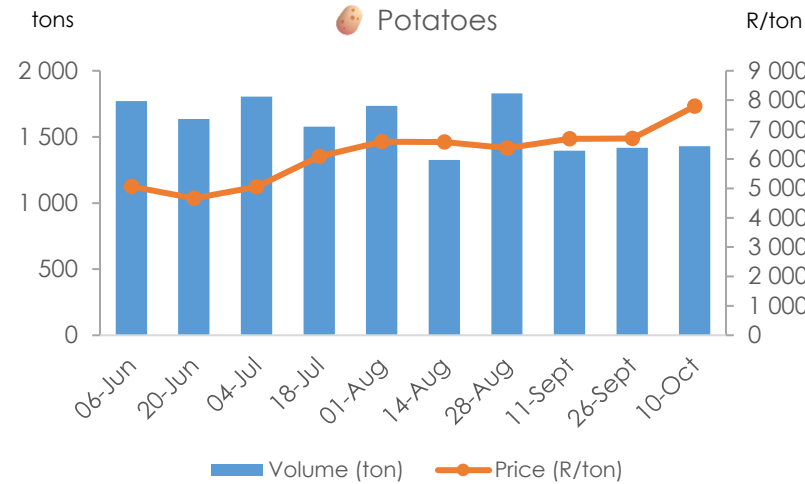
Farmer implication: Firmer potato and recovering tomato prices support revenue prospects, while higher onion volumes and softer pepper prices may temper returns.

Potatoes ↑: Prices strengthened further into early October on broadly stable volumes.

Onions ↓: Higher early-October volumes coincided with some price easing.

Tomatoes ↑: Prices rebounded sharply in early October after their August lows.

Peppers ↓: Prices eased from their September high but remained elevated.





WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: FRUIT MARKET TRENDS

Farmer implication:

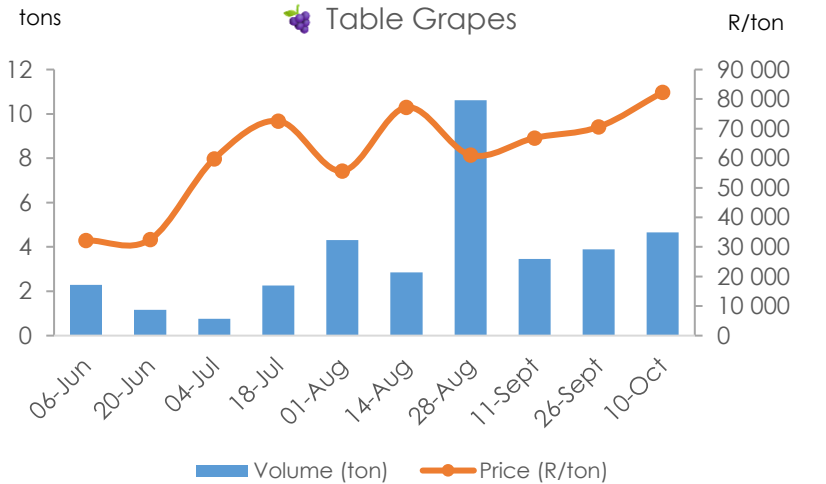
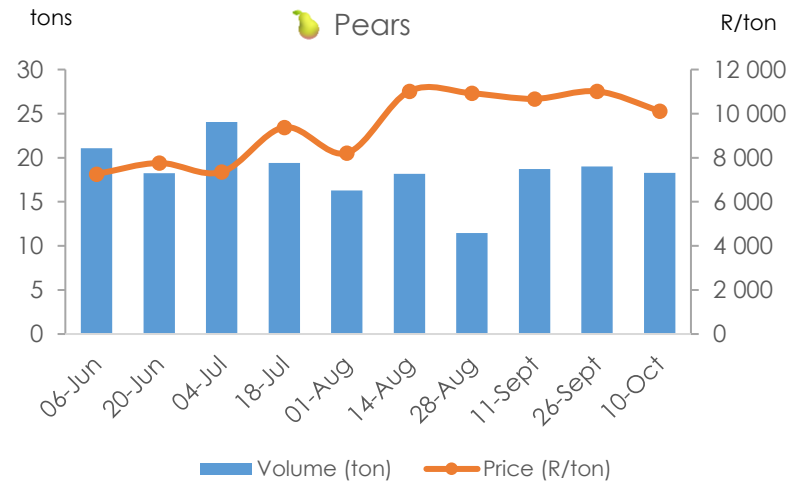
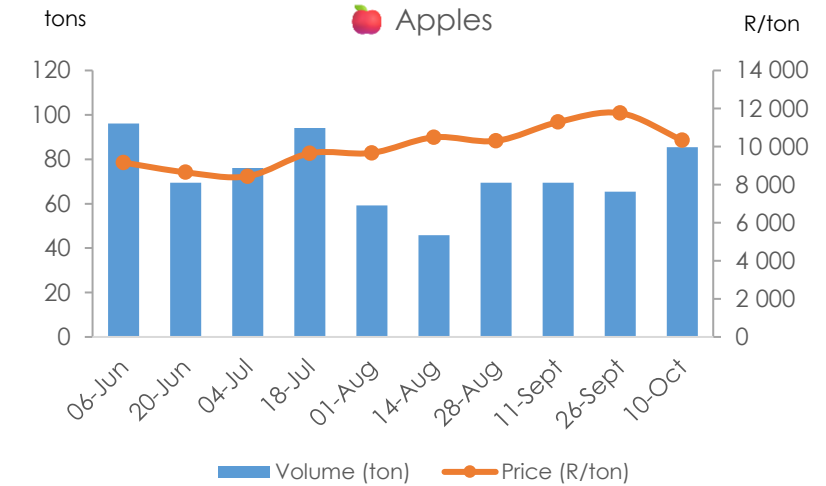
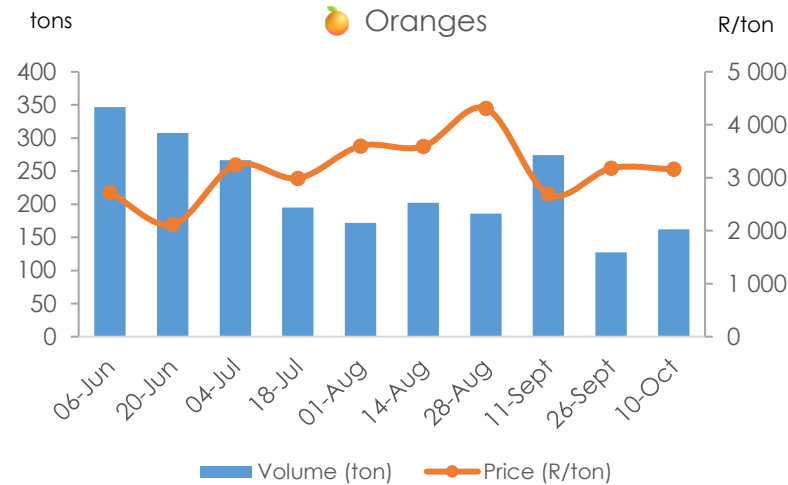
Strong table-grape prices support returns, while softer apple and pear prices may limit gains.

 **Oranges** →: Prices remained broadly stable as volumes recovered slightly.

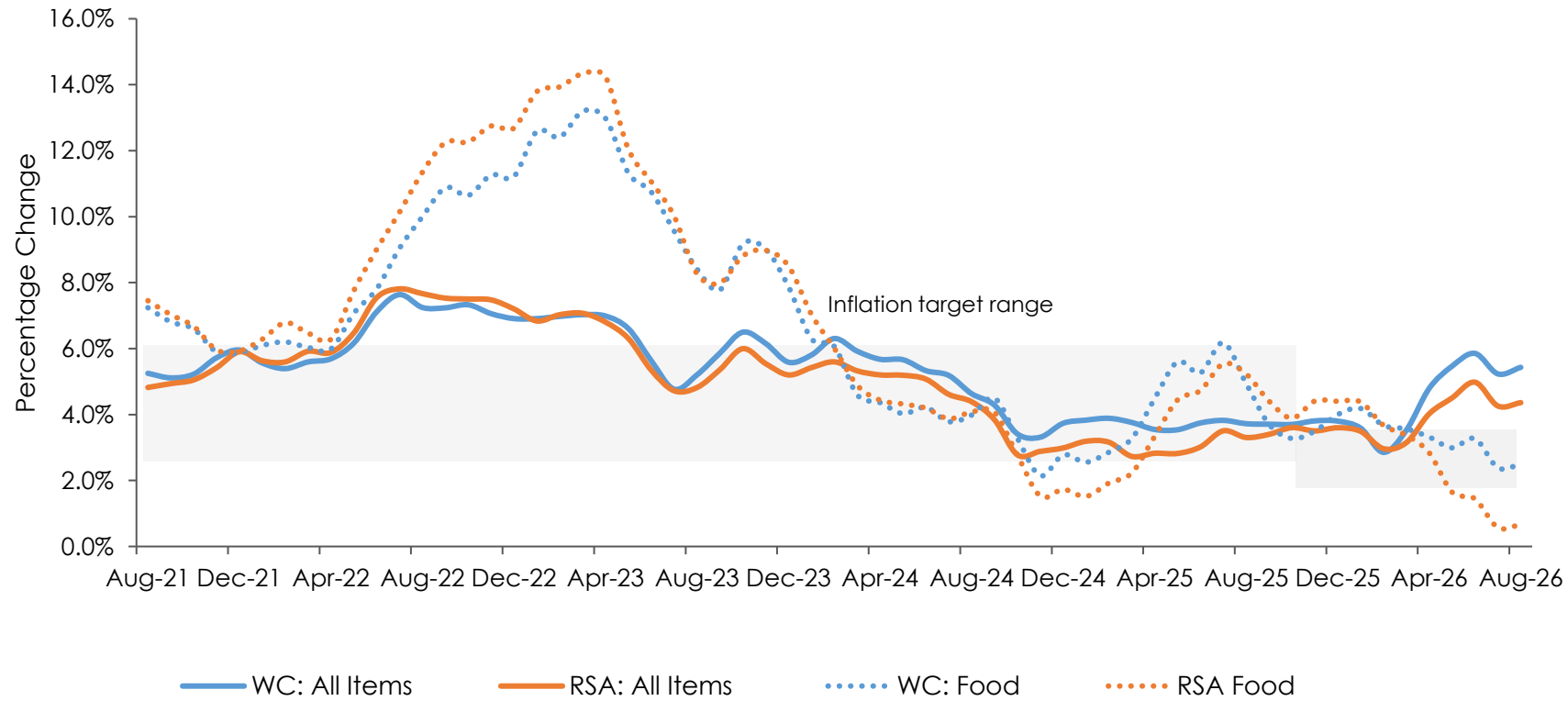
 **Apples** ↓: Higher October volumes coincided with softer prices.

 **Pears** ↓: Prices eased slightly while volumes remained broadly stable.

 **Table grapes** ↑: Prices strengthened further despite improving market volumes.



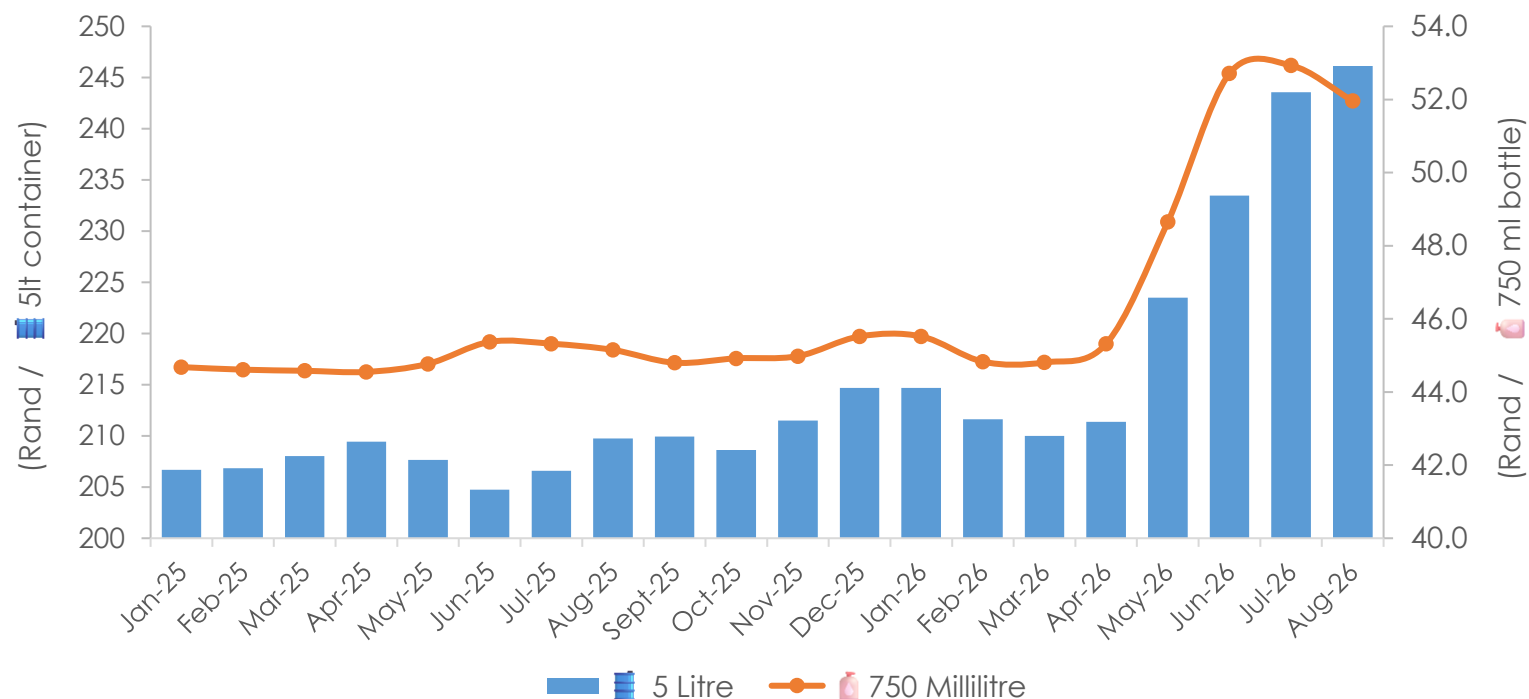
SOUTH AFRICA AND WESTERN CAPE CONSUMER INFLATION: FIVE-YEAR TREND



 Food inflation peaked at 14.4% nationally and 13.2% in the Western Cape in early 2023, before easing considerably.

 By August 2026, headline inflation reached 5.4% in the Western Cape versus 4.4% nationally, while food inflation remained lower at 2.5% and 0.6%, respectively.

URBAN SA PARAFFIN PRICES: MONTHLY PACK-SIZE TRENDS, JAN 2025–AUG 2026



🏠 Around 2–3% of South African households still rely on paraffin, with greater dependence among lower-income households.

📦 From May to August 2026, the 5 L price rose from about R223 to R246, while the 🍷 750 ml bottle increased from about R49 to R52.

WHY PACK SIZE MATTERS

Paraffin prices, August 2026

5 L container



5 L

Price:
R246

Cost per litre:
R49.20/L

- Higher upfront cost
- Lower cost per litre

750 ml bottle



750 ml

Price:
R52

Cost per litre:
R69.33/L

- Lower upfront cost
- Higher cost per litre



Small packs cost more per litre.

Households may still buy smaller bottles because the upfront cost is lower.



Economic insight

Buying paraffin in bulk is more cost-effective per litre, but cash-constrained households may prefer smaller packs because they are cheaper to buy at one time.

ENERGY, MARKET AND FINANCE DEVELOPMENTS: IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Key drivers for the 19–30 October 2026 Price Tracker



1. Global oil market
(Brent crude)



2. Fuel prices
(diesel, petrol, paraffin, LPG)



3. Exchange rate & finance
(ZAR and interest rates)



4. Fresh-produce markets
(fruit and vegetables)



5. Weather & grain outlook
(El Niño and wheat)

Key message: fuel and finance costs stay high, while oil relief is partial and weather risks persist.



Higher domestic fuel and borrowing costs

Fuel-price increases effective 7 October and a 7.25% repo rate added pressure to transport, irrigation and working-capital costs.



Oil has eased, but relief remains limited

Brent fell to US\$109.86/bbl by 16 October from its September peak. The rand near R16.50/US\$ and shipping risks limited the benefit.



Brent crude
US\$109.86/bbl
on 16 October

Down from the
US\$130.80/bbl
mid-September peak.



USD/ZAR
~R16.50/US\$
by mid-October

Weaker than the September
average of R16.20/US\$.



Fuel prices
↑ Higher
from 7 October

Diesel +R3.24/l; petrol 95
+R3.33/l; paraffin
+R3.58/l.



Fresh-produce prices
↕ Mixed
into early October

Potatoes and tomatoes
firmer; onions and peppers
softer.



Repo rate
↑ 7.25%
after September MPC

25 bps rise increased
financing costs for
producers.



Take-away:

Fuel and financing costs remain the main immediate pressures on agriculture.
Lower Brent offers some relief, but rand, freight, produce-market and weather risks remain.

Oil market: Brent crude eased **US\$109.86/bbl (16 Oct)** and remained above **US\$100/bbl**, reflecting ongoing Middle East supply and shipping risks.

Exchange rate: The rand traded near **R16.50/US\$** by mid-October, weaker than September's **R16.20/US\$** average. Further weakness could raise imported fuel, fertiliser and machinery costs.

Logistics and freight: Shipping disruptions and fertiliser supply constraints remain key risks for imported agricultural inputs.

Weather outlook: El Niño conditions are expected to persist into early 2027, increasing drought and heat-stress risks. Western Cape rainfall deficits require continued monitoring.

Agricultural costs & finance: October fuel increases of R3.33/l (petrol 95) and R3.24/l (50 ppm diesel), together with the 7.25% repo rate, continue to pressure operating and financing costs.



KEY ECONOMIC DATES

**21
Oct**



Consumer Price Index (CPI)

What to monitor: Headline, food and transport inflation.

**21
Oct**



Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement

What to monitor: Fiscal outlook, spending priorities and rand sentiment.

**27
Oct**



Crop Estimates Committee

What to monitor: Winter-crop forecast, especially Western Cape wheat and import needs.

**27-28
Oct**



US Federal Reserve meeting

What to monitor: Rate signals and effects on the US dollar and rand.

**29
Oct**



Producer Price Index (PPI)

What to monitor: Upstream cost pressures in agriculture and manufacturing.

**30
Oct**



SARS Trade Statistics

What to monitor: Export, import and trade-balance trends.

Focus on releases most relevant to prices, costs, trade and financial conditions.



Thank you

Riekie Cloete

Email: riekie.cloete@westerncape.gov.za

Tel no: 021 808 5207