



**Western Cape
Government**
FOR YOU

Agriculture



Western Cape Department of Agriculture

WESTERN CAPE AGRICULTURAL PRICE TRACKER

How global shocks are driving local
agricultural costs

5 - 16 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

September 2026 Agricultural Price Tracker



GLOBAL MARKETS

- Brent averaged US\$112.38/bbl in September
- Prices peaked at US\$130.80/bbl in mid-September
- Middle East supply and shipping risks remained elevated



FUEL COSTS

- Higher oil prices increased fuel-cost pressures
- Fuel remains a key farm input cost
- October fuel hikes signalled further cost pass-through



FREIGHT & LOGISTICS

- Shipping risks continued to influence import costs
- Freight affected landed prices of key inputs
- Logistics remained an important transmission channel



EXCHANGE RATE

- The rand averaged about R16.20/US\$ in September
- A firmer rand provided limited imported-cost relief
- Exchange-rate support offset only part of global price pressures



AGRICULTURAL COSTS

- Earlier input-cost increases remained embedded
- Fuel and logistics continued to affect production costs
- Impacts varied across commodities and value chains



SEPTEMBER 2026 MONITORING FOCUS

- Brent remained above US\$100/bbl in September, averaging US\$112.38/bbl.
- The rand offered some cushioning, but did not offset higher oil and freight costs.
- Freight and logistics remained key transmission channels into input costs.
- Fuel remained an important driver of agricultural production costs.

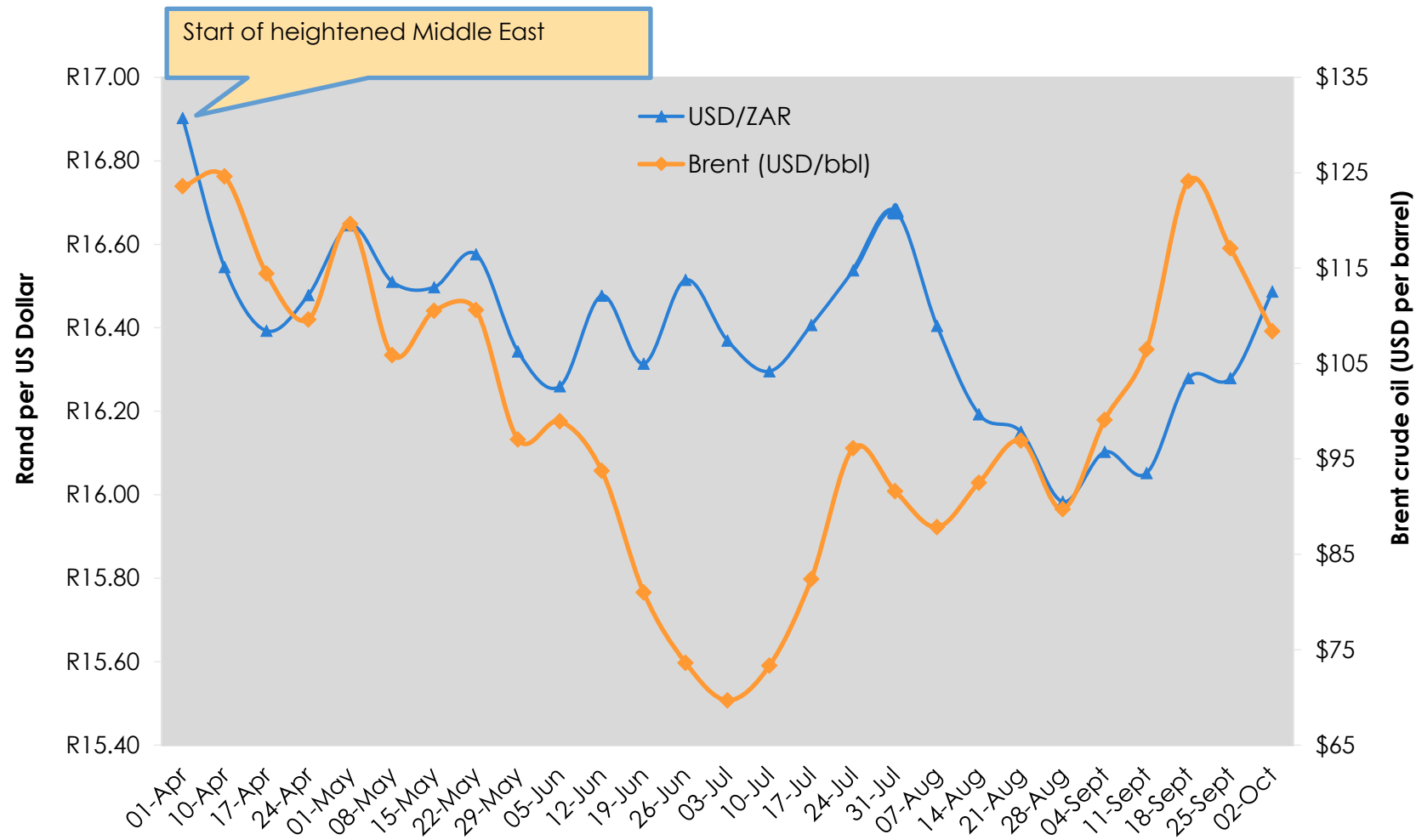


MIDDLE EAST TRADING COUNTRIES



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

WEEKLY BRENT CRUDE PRICES AND USD/ZAR EXCHANGE RATE

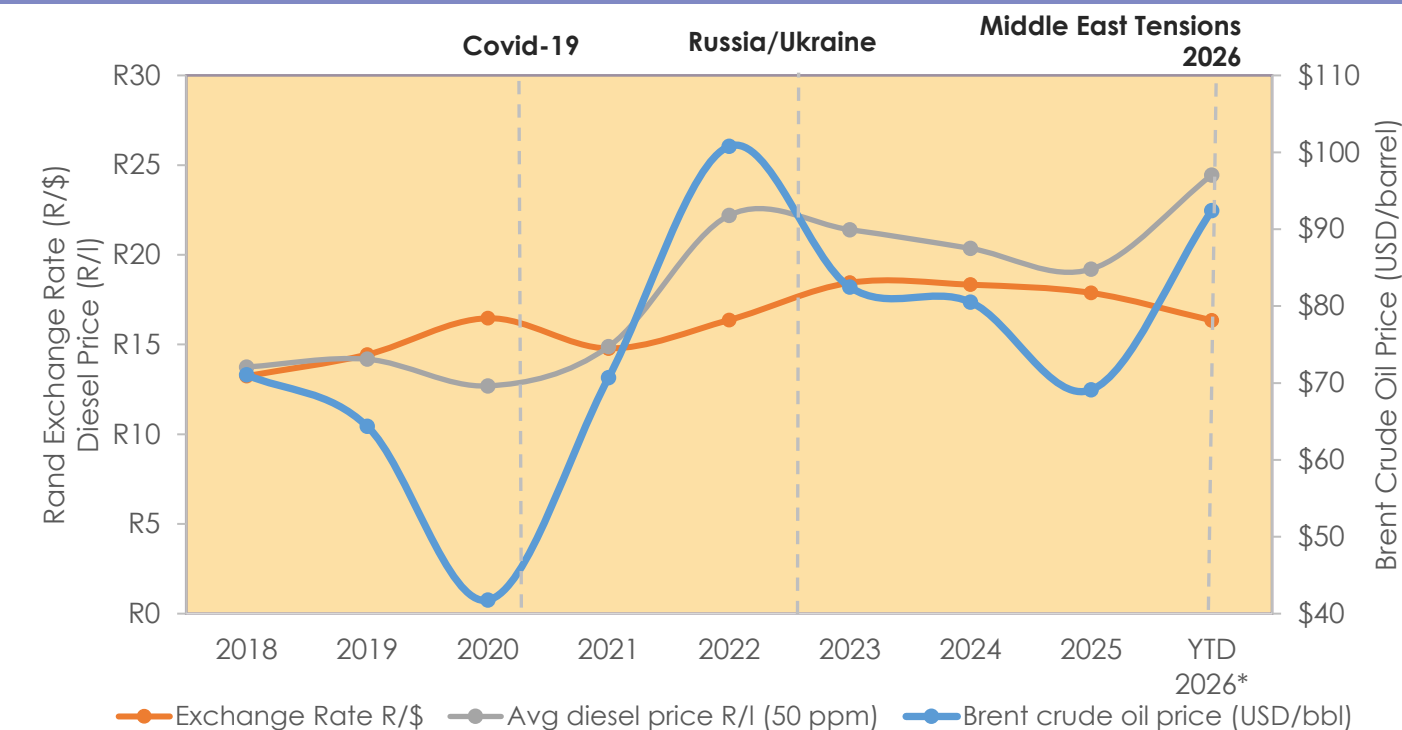


🇺🇸 Brent averaged US\$112.38/bbl in September, near April's US\$117.29/bbl.

💵 The rand weakened from about R16.20/US\$ in September to R16.63/US\$ in early October.

🇺🇸 Brent peaked at US\$130.80/bbl in mid-September before easing to about US\$102/bbl by 2 October.

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



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

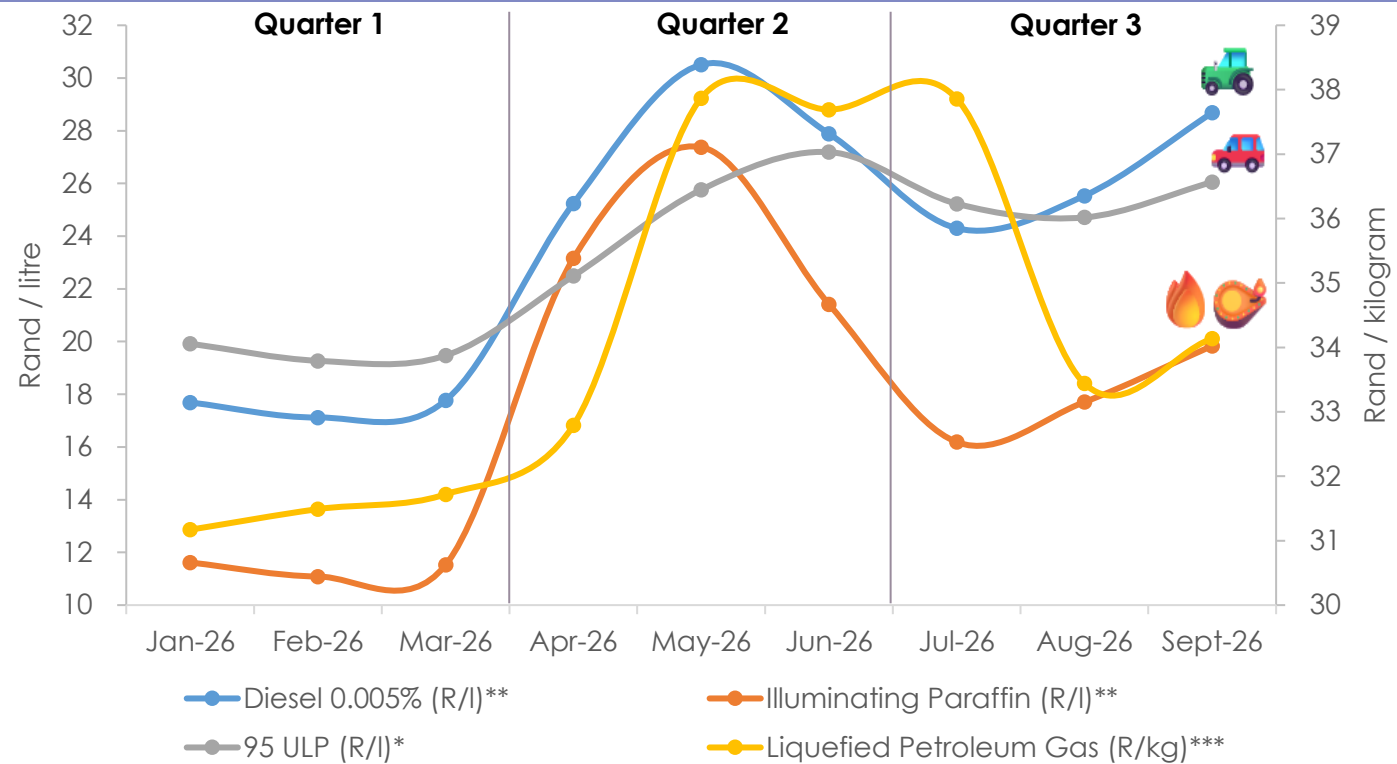
	Brent crude oil price (USD/bbl)	Exchange Rate R/\$	Avg. diesel price R/l (50 ppm)
Jan-26	66.60	16.26	R 18.14
Feb-26	70.89	15.99	R 17.57
Mar-26	103.13	16.62	R 18.22
Apr-26	117.29	16.54	R 25.73
May-26	100.52	16.48	R 31.25
Jun-26	86.11	16.40	R 28.63
Jul-26	83.76	16.46	R 24.79
Aug-26	91.08	16.18	R 26.27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

● **Mar–May 2026:** Brent rose sharply, with diesel prices following higher despite a relatively stable rand.

● **Jun–Jul 2026:** Lower oil prices provided temporary relief, although diesel prices remained elevated.

● **Aug–Sep 2026:** Brent rebounded to **US\$112.38/bbl**, while diesel averaged **R29.42/l** despite a firmer rand.

COASTAL FUEL PRICES



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.

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%

- From 7 Oct:
- Diesel 50 ppm R3.24/l
 - Petrol 95 R3.33/l
 - Paraffin R3.58/l
 - LPG R0.48/kg

CONSUMER INFLATION



Sharp fuel price increases



<https://businesstech.co.za/news/energy/878120/here-is-the-official-petrol-price-for-october-8/>

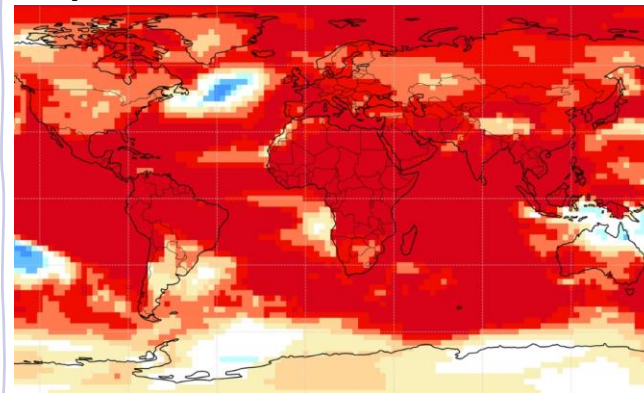
Fuel	Change
Petrol 95	↑ R3.33/l
Diesel 500 ppm	↑ R2.84/l
Illuminating paraffin	↑ R3.58/l
LPG	↑ 42c/kg

Oil slips as Mideast exports, G7 stockpile ease supply concerns

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-prices-slip-traders-weigh-strong-mideast-exports-against-gulf-tensions-2026-10-06/>



Cabinet intensifies preparations for El Niño impact



<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/cabinet-intensifies-preparations-for-el-nino-impact/>

El Niño 2026/27: the signals SA farmers should look out for



<https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/south-africa/el-nino-2026-27-the-signals-sa-farmers-should-look-out-for/>

South Africa Faces Fifth Straight Wheat Output Decline, With Import Needs Set to Rise

<https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-agriculture/0110-59379-south-africa-faces-fifth-straight-wheat-output-decline-with-import-needs-set-to-rise>





WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: VEGETABLE MARKET TRENDS

From May to late September, vegetable price trends remained mixed.

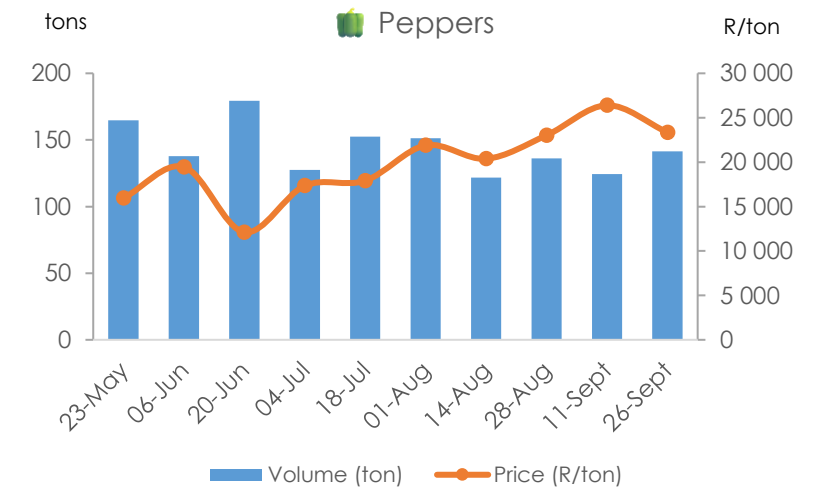
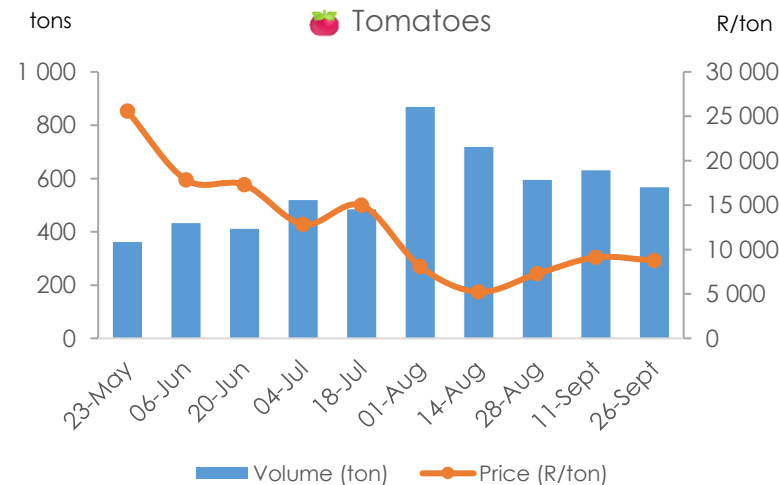
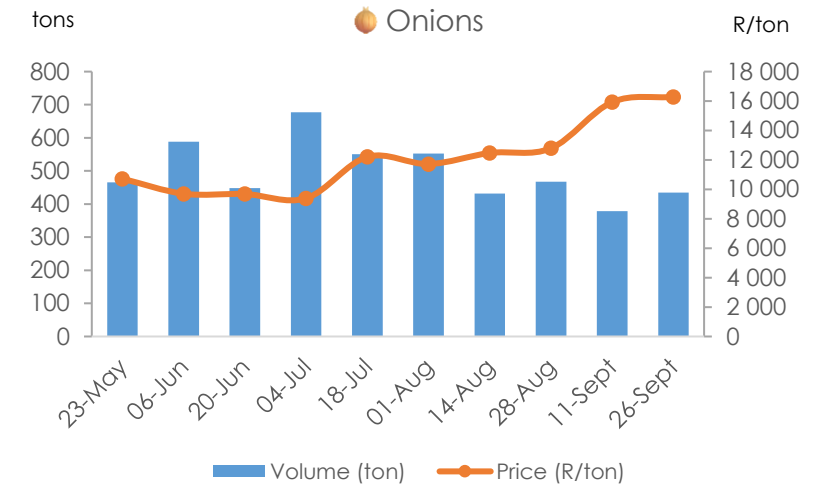
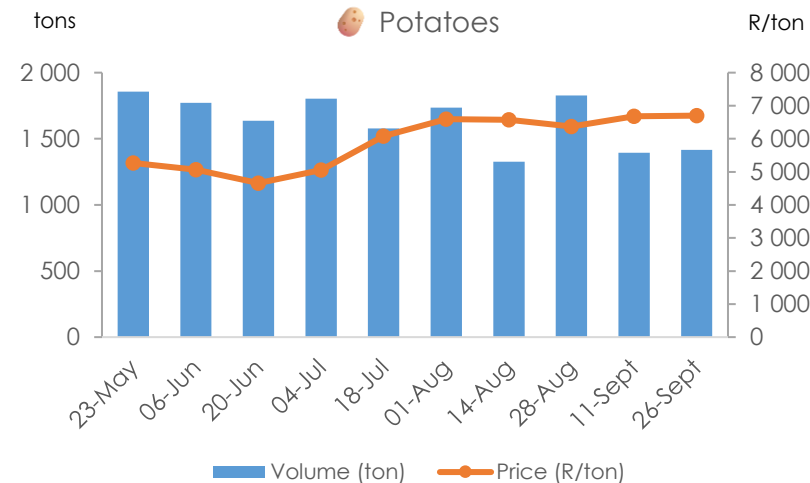
🥔 **Potatoes**, 🧅 **onions** and 🌶️ **peppers** strengthened, while 🍅 **tomatoes** remained well below their May peak.

🥔 **Potatoes** ⬆️: Firmer prices coincided with lower late-season market volumes.

🧅 **Onions** ⬆️: Lower September volumes coincided with a sharp price rise.

🍅 **Tomatoes** ⬇️: Higher winter volumes eased prices well below the May peak.

🌶️ **Peppers** ⬆️: Lower market volumes supported firmer September prices.





WESTERN CAPE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET: FRUIT MARKET TRENDS

From May to late September, fruit price trends remained mixed.

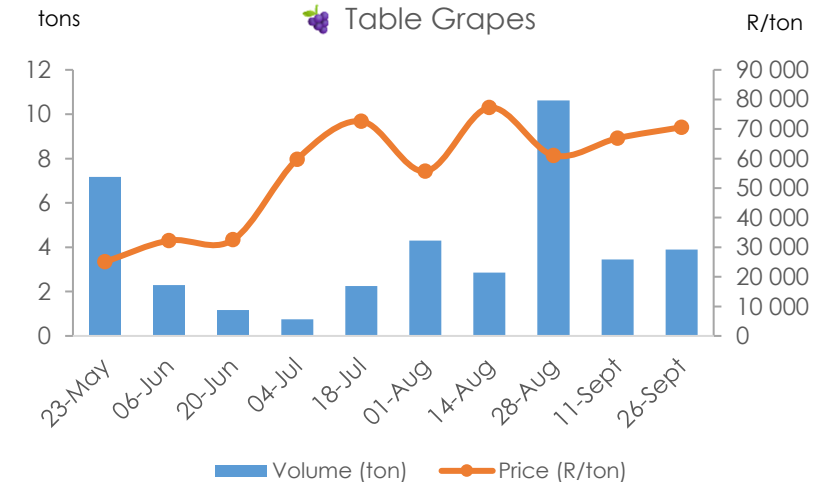
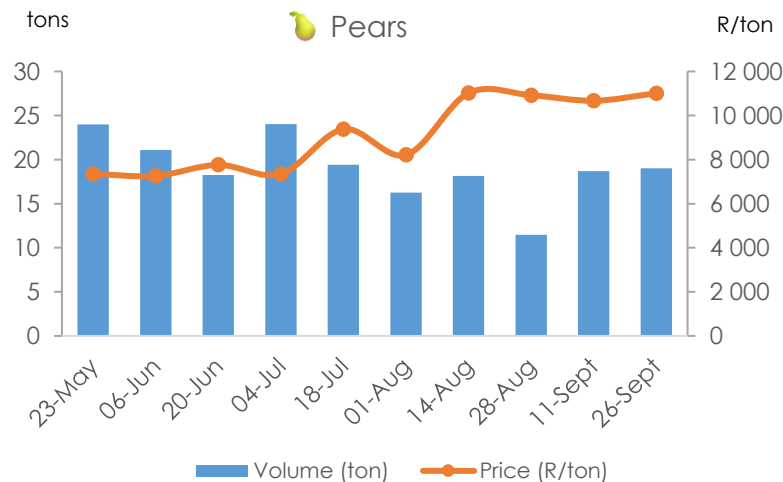
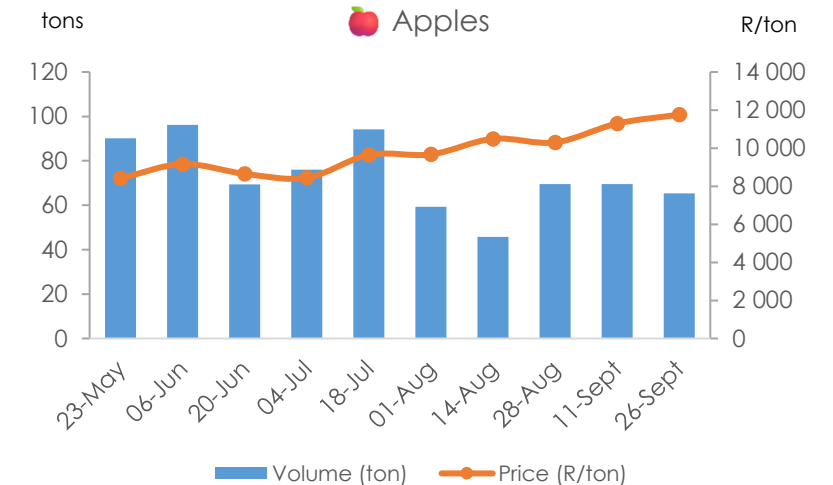
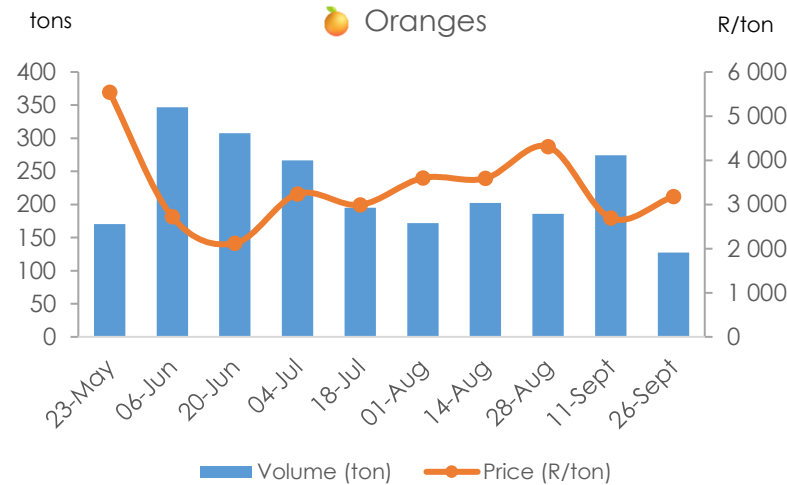
Oranges softened overall, while **apples**, **pears** and **table grapes** strengthened.

Oranges ↓: Higher winter market volumes coincided with softer prices.

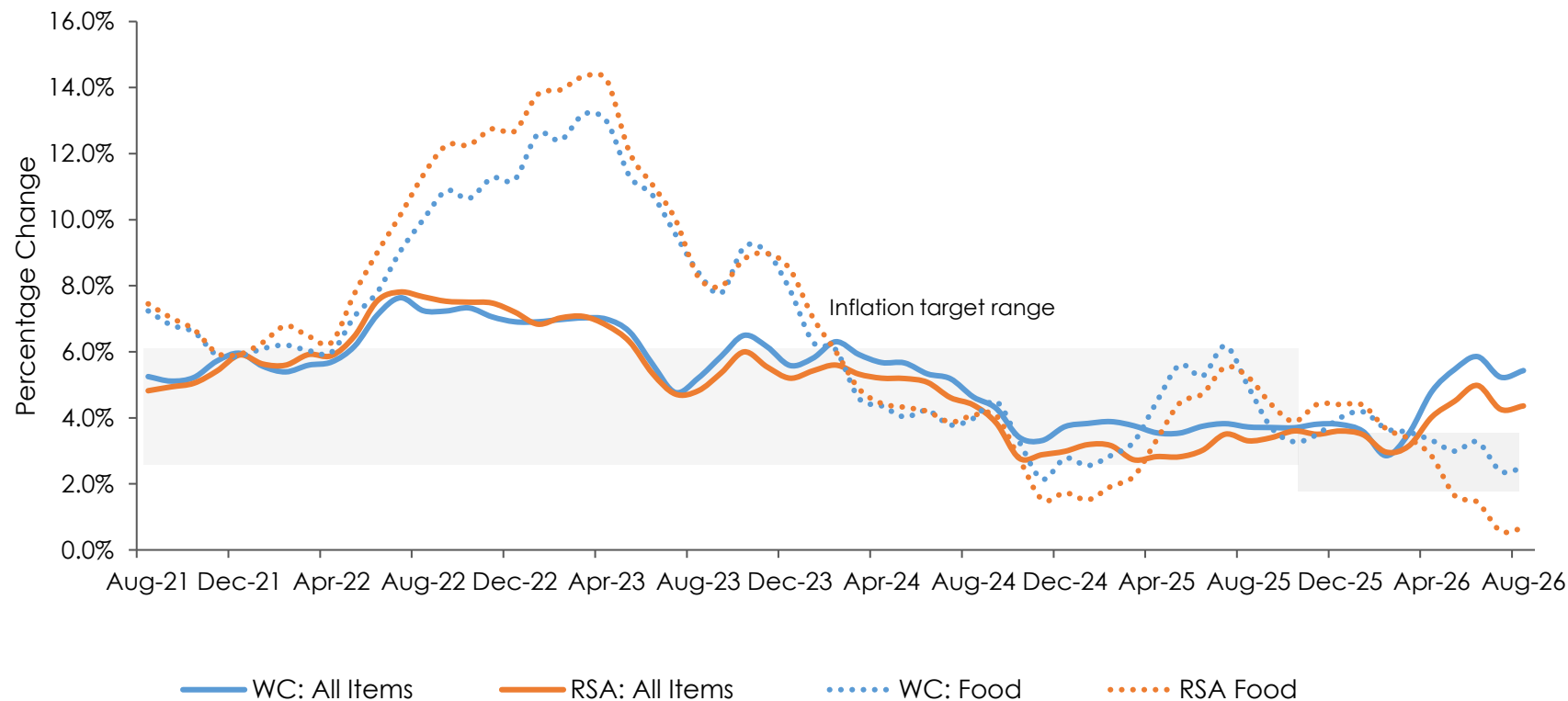
Apples ↑: Lower market volumes supported firmer prices.

Pears ↑: Firmer prices coincided with relatively lower late-season volumes.

Table grapes ↑: Tight market volumes kept prices elevated despite some volatility.



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

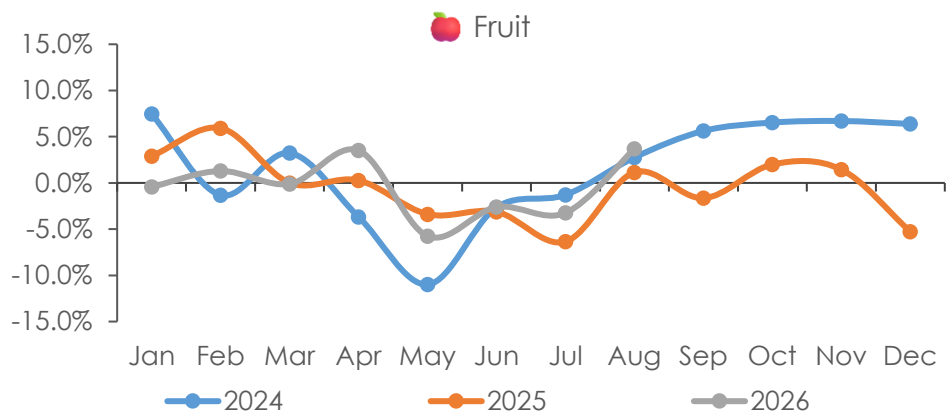


 Food inflation peaked at 14.4% nationally and 13.2% in the Western Cape in early 2023, before easing considerably.

 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.

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

 Food-price movements remained mixed in 2026, with vegetables showing the largest monthly swings, while sugar products and other food remained relatively stable.

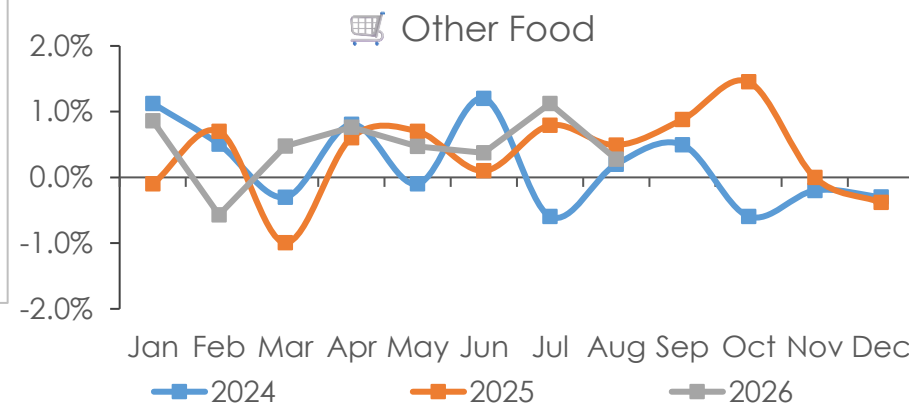
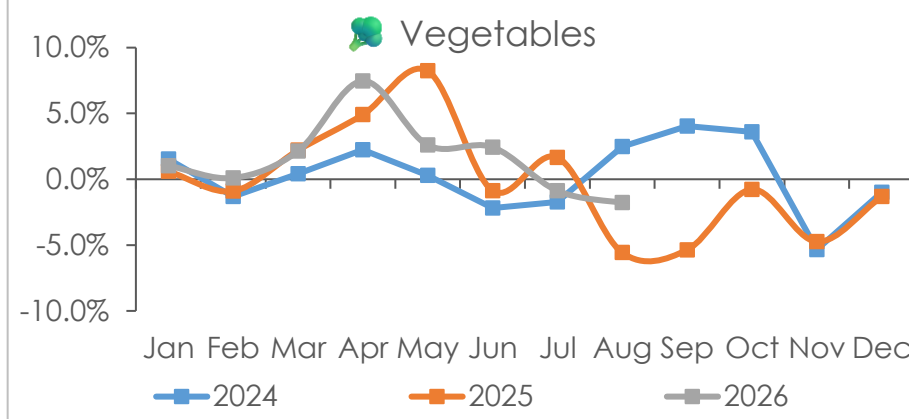


 **Fruit:** Prices fell notably in May, before turning positive again in August.

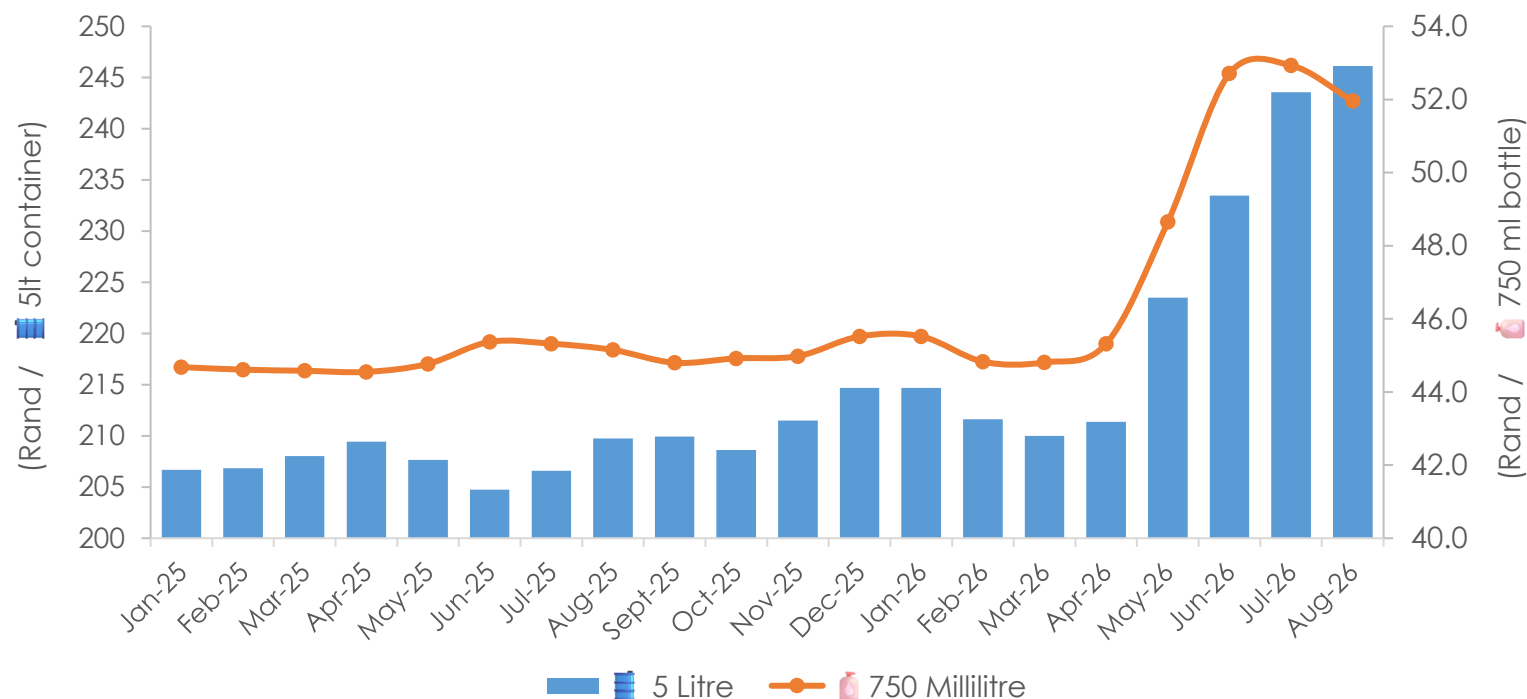
 **Vegetables:** The most volatile category, rising sharply in April before moderating.

 **Sugar, sweets & desserts:** Monthly changes remained contained, generally within $\pm 1\%$.

 **Other food:** Prices remained broadly stable, with only modest monthly movements.



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



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.

🏠 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.

Absolute Prices (Monthly): All Urban at national level

Food Basket for South Africans

Product Purchased	Unit of Measure	Aug-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	M-on-M (%)	Y-on-Y (%)
Rice	2 Kg	R42.66	R39.46	R39.00	R38.78	R38.13	37.86	37.52	R37.84	R37.42	-1.1%	-12.3%
Maize meal	5 Kg	R74.92	R70.97	R72.59	R69.52	R68.88	68.51	67.31	R65.09	R65.26	0.3%	-12.9%
Tomatoes	Per Kg	R28.67	R26.15	R26.70	R29.00	R31.69	34.12	36.31	R35.39	R30.66	-13.4%	6.9%
Carrots	1 Kg	R17.24	R15.73	R15.64	R15.97	R17.14	20.57	20.86	R19.07	R18.12	-5.0%	5.1%
Onions	Per Kg	R25.79	R20.95	R20.16	R20.84	R23.75	24.83	27.89	R28.47	R29.49	3.6%	14.3%

  **Rice and maize meal** : Both were about **13% below** year-earlier levels.

 **Onions** : Prices rose **14.3% y/y** and **3.6% m/m**.

 **Tomatoes** : Prices fell **13.4% m/m**, but remained **6.9% above** a year earlier.

ENERGY, MARKET AND FINANCE DEVELOPMENTS: IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Key drivers for the 5–16 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)

Global energy, exchange-rate and weather developments continue to shape input costs, financing conditions and market risks for agriculture.



Domestic fuel costs rise sharply

From 7 October, petrol, diesel, paraffin and LPG prices increased sharply, raising transport, irrigation and other farm-cost pressures.



Some external relief, but risks remain

Brent eased below US\$100/bbl in early October and the rand remained relatively resilient near R16.6/US\$, helping to cushion part of the international cost pressure.



Brent crude
<US\$100/bbl
in early October

September averaged US\$112.38/bbl; geopolitical risks remain elevated.



USD/ZAR
~R16.6/US\$
in early October

Weaker than the September average, but still relatively resilient.



Fuel prices ↑
Sharp October increases
from 7 October

*95 petrol +R3.33/l;
50 ppm diesel +R3.24/l;
paraffin +R3.58/l.*



Fresh-produce prices
↔ **Mixed**

Remained mixed.

Vegetable and fruit prices continued to move unevenly across products.



Repo rate ↑
7.25%

after the September MPC

The 25 bp increase added financing pressure for producers.



Take-away: Brent eased in early October, but sharp domestic fuel-price increases and the higher repo rate continued to add pressure. The rand provided only partial relief, while fresh-produce prices remained mixed and weather risks stayed important.

 **Oil prices:** Brent eased below US\$100/bbl early October as Middle East exports recovered and G7 emergency-stock releases reduced immediate supply fears, although geopolitical risks remain elevated.

 **Exchange rate:** The rand traded near R16.63/US\$ early October, weaker than the September average of about R16.20/US\$, but remained relatively resilient.

 **Logistics and freight:** Middle East oil flows improved, but shipping disruptions and constrained refined-product supply continue to pose freight and imported-input risks.

 **Weather outlook:** A strong El Niño remains the key seasonal risk, with below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures favoured over much of South Africa during October–December. Recent rainfall has improved starting conditions but has not removed the risk.

 **Agricultural costs & finance:** From **7 October**, petrol 95 rises **R3.33/l** and 50 ppm diesel **R3.24/l**. The SARB also raised the repo rate by **25 basis points to 7.25%**, adding financing pressure alongside higher fuel and input costs.

 **Wheat outlook:** South Africa's 2026/27 wheat crop is estimated at **1.81 million tonnes, down 5% y/y and the lowest in eight years**, with Western Cape dryness contributing to weaker prospects and imports likely to rise toward **2 million tonnes**. (African Farming)



Thank you

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