Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ABARES

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

No. 2/2026 22 January 2026

Summary of key issues

- In the week ending 21 January 2026, rainfall was recorded across northern and eastern regions of Australia, while central and some southern areas remained comparably dry.
  - The remnants of Ex-Tropical cyclone Koji continued to influence rainfall outcomes in eastern regions, with rainfall totals of 100-300 millimetres in coastal New South Wales and the Northern Tropics.
  - Across cropping regions rainfall in Queensland and northern New South Wales has likely provided some benefit to soil moisture levels and the growth of summer crop.
- Over the 8-days to 29 January 2026, rainfall is forecast for the north and west of the country.
  - Continued heavy falls are forecast across major flood warning areas of northern Queensland. If realised these falls are likely to further exacerbate flooding, continue to slow recovery efforts and may lead to increased livestock losses due to a lack of feed and exposure to disease and illness.
  - The expected falls in Queensland are likely to further support soil moisture in summer cropping regions.
- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) remained unchanged between 15 January 2026 and 22 January 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,694 GL, equivalent to 57% of total storage capacity. This is 16% or 2,328 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke decreased from $436/ML on 15 January 2026 to $413/ML on 22 January 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

1. Climate

1.1. Rainfall this week

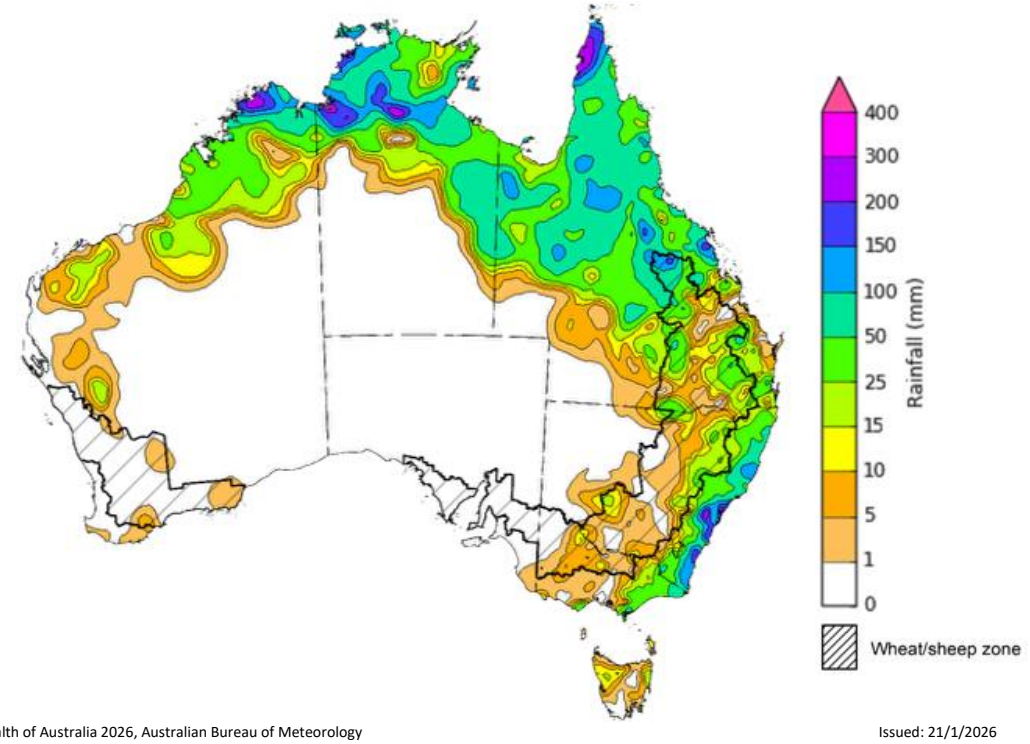
In the week ending 21 January 2026, coastal throughs brought heavy rainfall to large areas of eastern Australia, while low pressure systems brought continued rainfall to the Northern Tropics. Large areas of central, western, and southern areas remained largely dry.

- The remnants of Ex Tropical cyclone (TC) Koji continued to influence rainfall patterns in the east, with resultant coastal troughs bringing rainfall totals of 100-300 millimetres in parts of coastal New South Wales and the Northern Tropics.
- Continued rainfall across the Gulf region of north Queensland is likely to have exacerbated flooding impacts and delayed recovery efforts.

Across cropping regions, rainfall was generally low, with exceptions in the east:

- Northern Queensland cropping regions saw falls of up to 300 millimetres. Southern Queensland and northern New South Wales saw rainfall between 10-50 millimetres.
    - Heavy rainfall in northern cropping regions has led to some localised crop losses but is largely expected to benefit crop and pasture production across the broader region.
    - In other regions, rainfall is expected to support soil moisture storage for summer cropping and pasture growth.
- In cropping regions in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria, lower rainfall totals ranging between 0- 15 millimetres were observed.
- Little to no rainfall was recorded across much of western Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia cropping regions.

Rainfall for the week ending 21 January 2026



 Issued: 21/1/2026

Note: The rainfall analyses and associated maps utilise data contained in the Bureau of Meteorology climate database, the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology (ADAM). The analyses are initially produced automatically from real-time data with limited quality control. They are intended to provide a general overview of rainfall across Australia as quickly as possible after the observations are received. For further information go to http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall/

1.2. Rainfall forecast for the next eight days

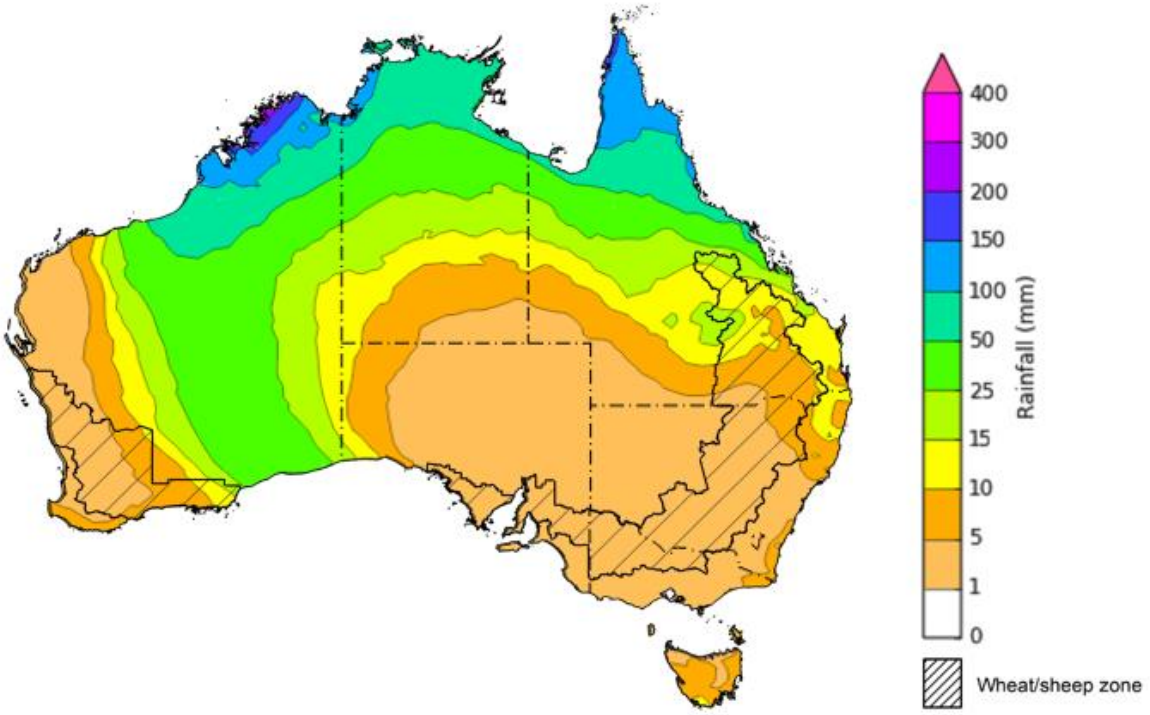
Over the 8 days to 29 January 2026, tropical lows are expected to bring considerable rainfall to much of the north of Australia, while south-eastern and far western regions of the country are forecast to remain largely dry.

- Forecast falls of between 50-150 millimetres are expected across major flood warning areas of northern Queensland. If realised these falls are likely to further exacerbate flooding, continue to slow recovery efforts and may lead to increased livestock losses due to a lack of feed and exposure to disease and illness.

Limited rainfall is expected across cropping regions this week, with exceptions in parts of Queensland.

- Falls of between 10-25 millimetres are forecast for most northern Queensland cropping regions , while central and southern Queensland are expected to see falls of 5-15 millimetres.
    - These expected heavier falls across Queensland are likely to support soil moisture in summer cropping regions and improve pasture growth.
- Remaining cropping regions are forecast to receive little to no rainfall.

Total forecast rainfall for the period 22 January to 29 January 2026



 Issued 22/1/2026
Note: This rainfall forecast is produced from computer models. As the model outputs are not altered by weather forecasters, it is important to check local forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

1.3. December precipitation percentiles and current production conditions

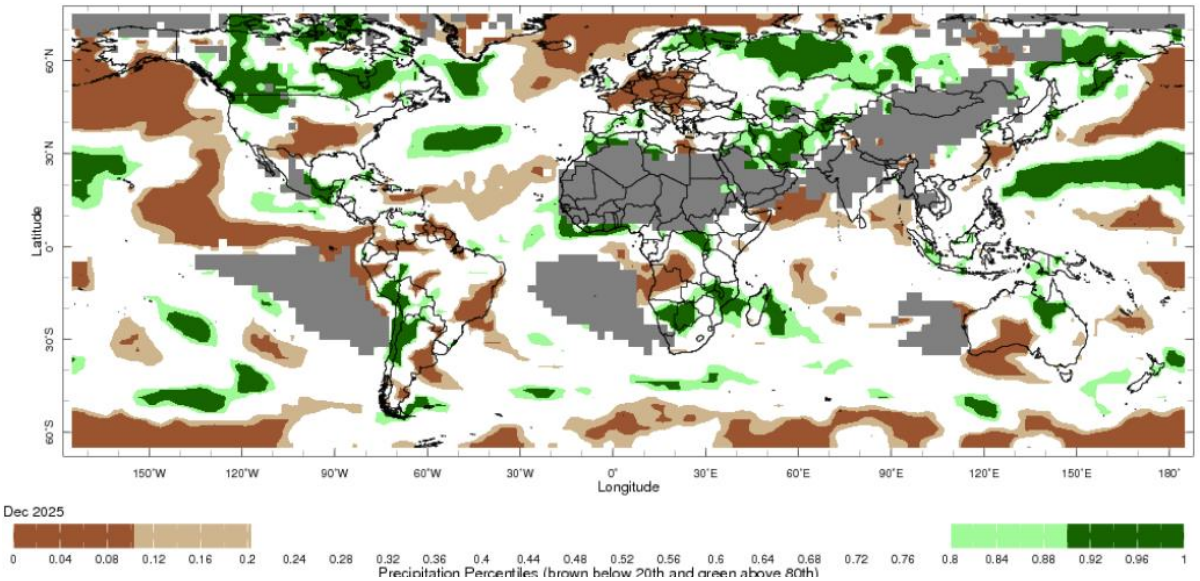
Crop production is affected by long-term trends in average rainfall and temperature, interannual climate variability, shocks during specific growth stages, and extreme weather events. Some crops are more tolerant than others to certain types of stresses, and at each growth stage, different types of stresses affect crop species in different ways.

Precipitation anomalies and outlooks presented below indicate the current and expected future production conditions for major grain and oilseed producing countries (responsible for over 80% of global crop production). This is an important input to assessing the global grain supply outlook.

Precipitation in December 2025 was variable across the world's major grain- and oilseed-producing regions:

- In the **southern hemisphere**, precipitation was above average across much of southern Africa, and Southeast Asia including Malaysia and parts of Indonesia. Below average precipitation occurred in parts of southern and western Brazil, eastern Argentina and southern Australia. Precipitation was generally average across the remaining major southern hemisphere grain- and oilseed-producing regions.
- In the **northern hemisphere**, precipitation was below average in much of the European Union and the western Black Sea region, the southern United States, and isolated parts of western China. Precipitation was above average across parts of the northwestern United States, much of the Russian Federation, much of Canada, and central Asia. Precipitation was generally average across remaining major northern hemisphere grain- and oilseed-producing regions.

Global precipitation percentiles, December 2025



Note: The world precipitation percentiles indicate a ranking of precipitation for December, with the driest (0th percentile) being 0 on the scale and the wettest (100th percentile) being 1 on the scale. Percentiles are based on precipitation estimates from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's Climate Anomaly Monitoring System Outgoing Precipitation Index dataset. Precipitation estimates for December are compared with rainfall recorded for that period during the 1981 to 2010 base period.
Source: International Research Institute for Climate and Society

The global climate outlook for February 2026 to April 2026 indicates that mixed rainfall conditions are expected for the world's major grain-producing and oilseed-producing regions. Outlooks and potential production impacts for major grain- and oilseed-producing countries are presented in the following table.

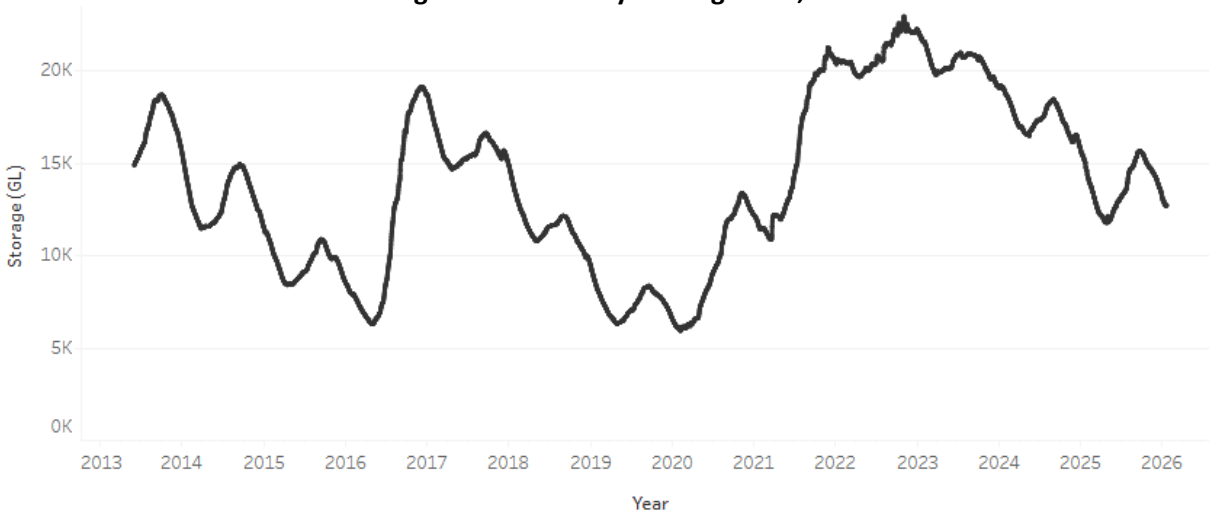
Precipitation outlook and potential impact on the future state of production conditions, February 2026 - April 2026

Region	Precipitation outlook	Potential impact on production
Argentina	Below average rainfall is likely across parts of eastern Argentina.	Below average rainfall in cropping regions in the east is likely to impact flowering of soybeans, rice, sorghum, and millet crops over February.
Black Sea Region	Close to average precipitation is expected for much of the Black Sea Region, with exceptions insolated parts of the Russian Federation.	Winter wheat and canola continue to remain in dormancy, and average precipitation in much of the Black Sea region is likely to provide sufficient snowpack to prevent winterkill.
Brazil	Rainfall outcomes across Brazil are expected to be below average in some southern and northern regions.	Below average expected rainfall in parts of Brazil may impair crop development stages over the coming months, including the critical flowering period for soybeans, corn, and cotton, as well as grain heading for key grains such as rice and sorghum.
Canada	Precipitation across much of Canada is expected to be average to above average, with some central areas more likely to see below average rainfall.	Generally average to above average precipitation is likely to provide sufficient snowpack to prevent winterkill in Canada's limited winter wheat areas from February to March. The precipitation outlook is favourable for spring snowmelt and boosting soil moisture for spring planting and establishment.
China	Below average precipitation is expected across parts of eastern and northern China, with average falls expected elsewhere.	Anticipated below average precipitation in some areas is likely to reduce the level of snowpack during crop dormancy and increase the risk of winterkill.
European Union	Average precipitation is more likely for much of the European Union, with parts of northern Europe, including Denmark and the Netherlands to see above average falls.	Average precipitation across much of the European Union is likely to support the dormancy of winter wheat and canola.
South Asia	Average rainfall is expected across much of India, with isolated areas of below average rainfall in the west and east.	Anticipated rainfall is likely to support the growth of crops in many areas, but below average rainfall could adversely affect the heading of wheat and canola in some regions.
Southeast Asia	Below average to average rainfall is likely across much of Southeast Asia.	Below average rainfall may facilitate the harvest of corn, rice, and soybean in many areas, but impede the establishment of crops elsewhere.
The United States	Below average precipitation is likely for much of southern United States, with above average precipitation more likely across the north and east.	Above average precipitation conditions expected across the northern US are likely to provide sufficient snow cover from February to protect winter wheat and canola through dormancy. However, below average precipitation across southern US presents a downside production risk for winter wheat.

1.4. Water markets – current week

Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) remained unchanged between 15 January 2026 and 22 January 2026. The current volume of water held in storages is 12,694 GL, equivalent to 57% of total storage capacity. This is -6% or 2,328 GL less than the same time last year. Water storage data is sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

Water storages in the Murray-Darling Basin, 2013–2026



Allocation prices in the Victorian Murray below the Barmah Choke decreased from $436/ML on 15 January 2026 to $413/ML on 22 January 2026. Trade from the Goulburn to the Murray is closed. Trade downstream through the Barmah Choke is closed. Trade from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray is open.

Water market prices, Southern Murray–Darling Basin

Region	$/ML
NSW Murray Above	422
NSW Murrumbidgee	347
Vic Greater Goulburn	421
Vic Murray Below	413

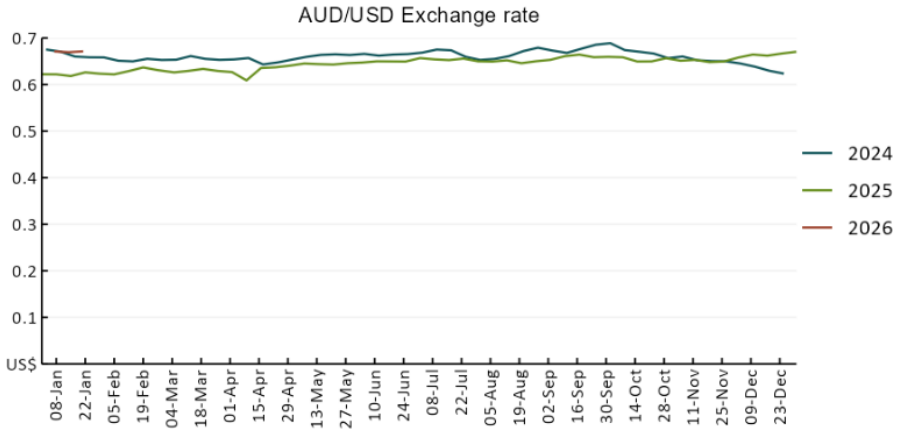
Note: The water allocation prices shown are volume weighted average prices based on the last 10 trades. Price data is sourced from Waterflow and current as at 22 January 2026.

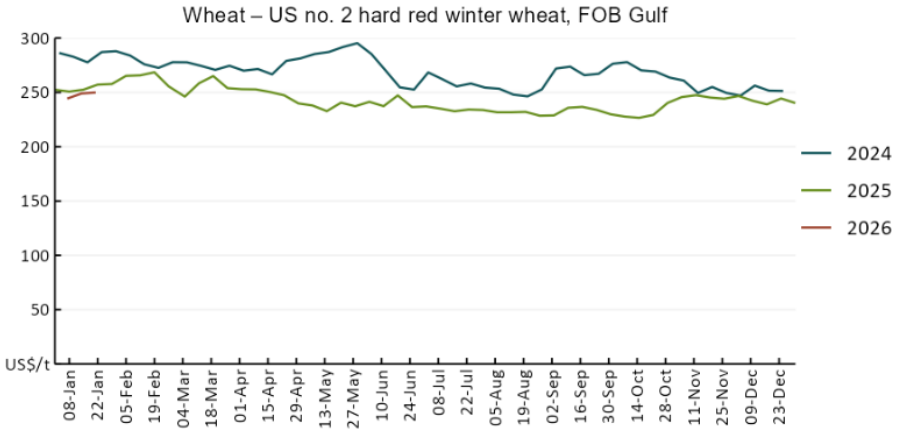
To access the full, interactive, weekly water dashboard, which contains the latest and historical water storage, water market and water allocation information, please visit https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/weekly_update/weekly-update-260122

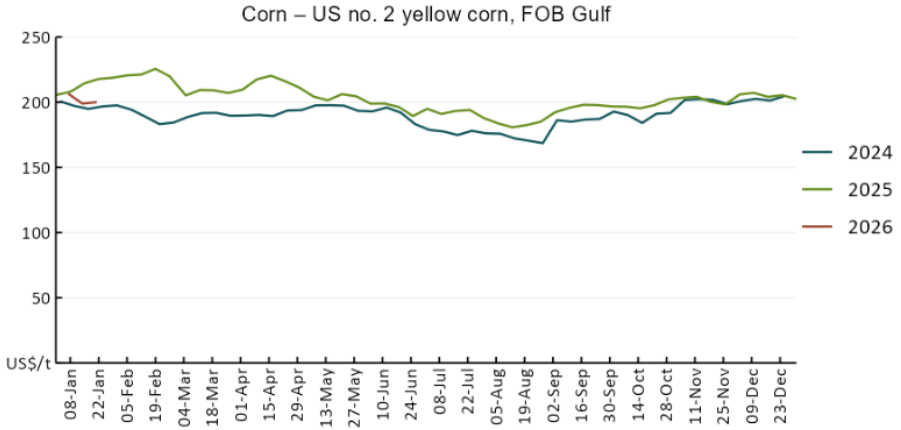
2. Commodities

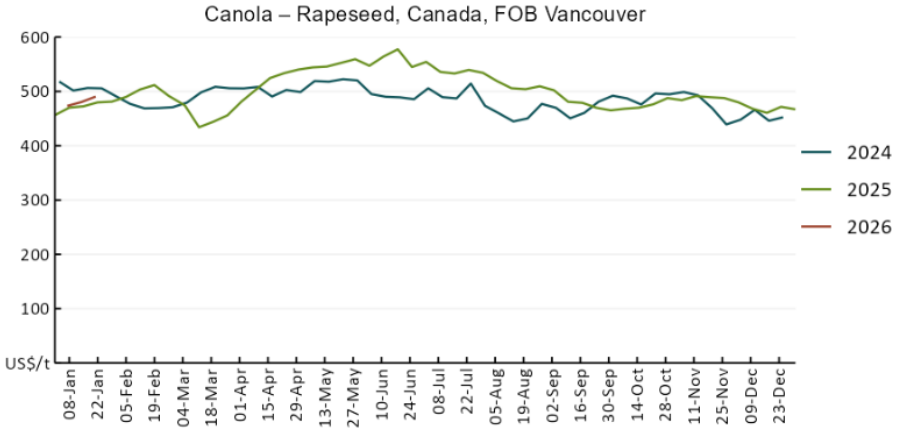
Indicator	Week average	Unit	Latest Price	Previous Week	Weekly change	Price 12 months ago	Annual change
Selected world indicator prices							
AUD/USD Exchange rate	21-Jan	A$/US$	0.67	0.67	0%	0.62	8%
Wheat – US no. 2 hard red winter wheat, FOB Gulf	21-Jan	US$/t	250	249	0%	254	-2%
Corn – US no. 2 yellow corn, FOB Gulf	21-Jan	US$/t	200	199	1%	213	-6%
Canola – Rapeseed, Canada, FOB Vancouver	21-Jan	US$/t	490	480	2%	472	4%
Cotton – Cotlook A Index	21-Jan	USc/lb	74.8	74.9	0%	78.3	-4%
Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract	21-Jan	USc/lb	14.8	14.8	0%	18.9	-21%
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator	21-Jan	Ac/kg clean	1,689	1,648	2%	1,189	42%
Wool – Western Market Indicator	21-Jan	Ac/kg clean	1,878	1,846	2%	1,336	41%
Selected Australian grain export prices							
Australian Premium White (APW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	21-Jan	A$/t	350	350	0%	404	-13%
Australian Standard White (ASW) Wheat, FOB Port Adelaide, SA	21-Jan	A$/t	346	348	-1%	394	-12%
Feed Barley – FOB Port Adelaide, SA	21-Jan	A$/t	337	337	0%	368	-8%
Canola – FOB Kwinana, WA	21-Jan	A$/t	769	772	0%	856	-10%
Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD	21-Jan	A$/t	436	431	1%	405	8%
Selected domestic livestock indicator prices							
Beef – Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	21-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	866	862	0%	692	25%
Mutton – Mutton indicator (18–24 kg fat score 2–3), VIC	21-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	754	755	0%	383	97%
Lamb – National Trade Lamb Indicator	21-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	1,062	1,062	0%	799	33%
Pig – Eastern Seaboard (60.1–75 kg), NSW buyer price	7-Jan	Ac/kg cwt	468	468	0%	453	3%
Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia	10-Dec	Ac/kg lwt	455	450	1%	353	29%
Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices							
Dairy – Whole milk powder	21-Jan	US$/t	3,449	3,407	1%	3,896	-11%
Dairy – Skim milk powder	21-Jan	US$/t	2,615	2,564	2%	2,706	-3%
Dairy – Cheddar cheese	21-Jan	US$/t	4,594	4,665	-2%	4,787	-4%
Dairy – Anhydrous milk fat	21-Jan	US$/t	6,191	6,011	3%	6,893	-10%

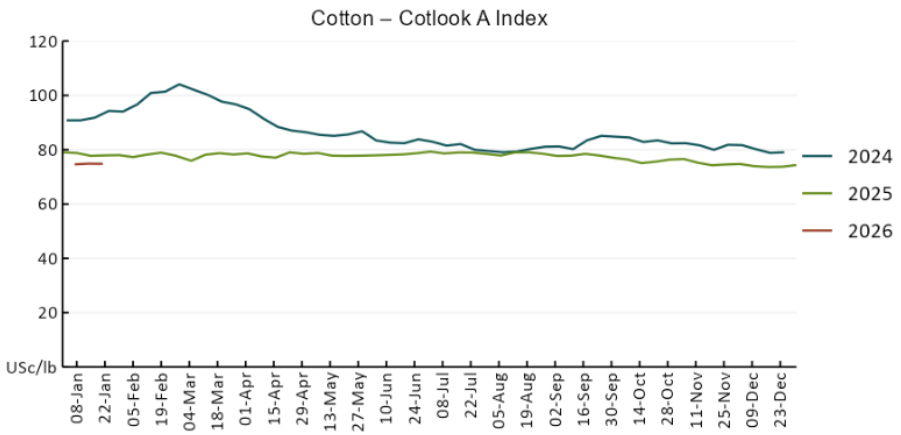
2.1. Selected world indicator prices










Cotton – Cotlook A Index
120
100
80
60
40
20
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
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09-Dec
23-Dec
2024
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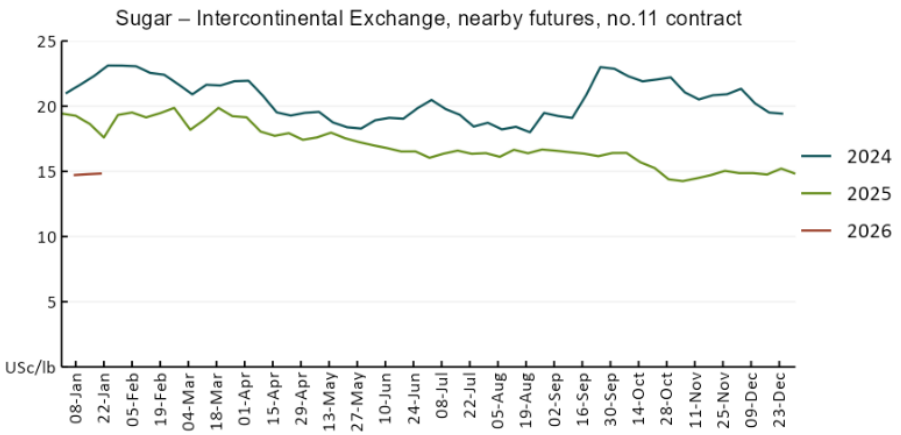
2026


Sugar – Intercontinental Exchange, nearby futures, no.11 contract
25
20
15
10
5
USc/lb
08-Jan
22-Jan
05-Feb
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04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
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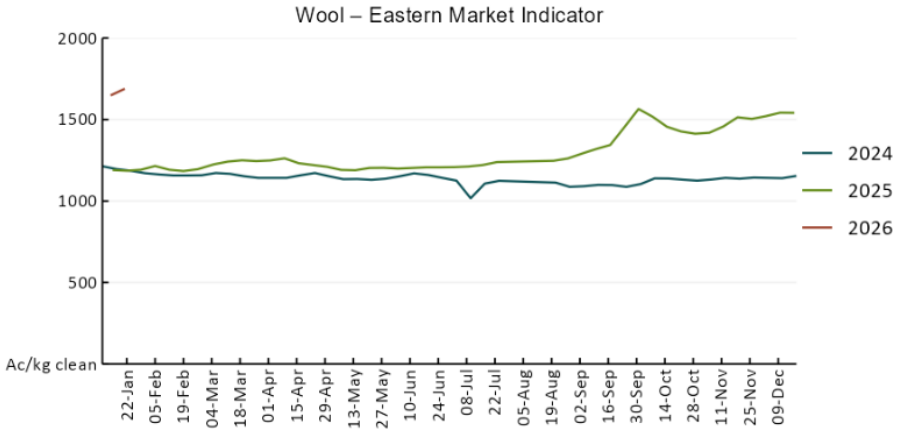
Wool – Eastern Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
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29-Apr
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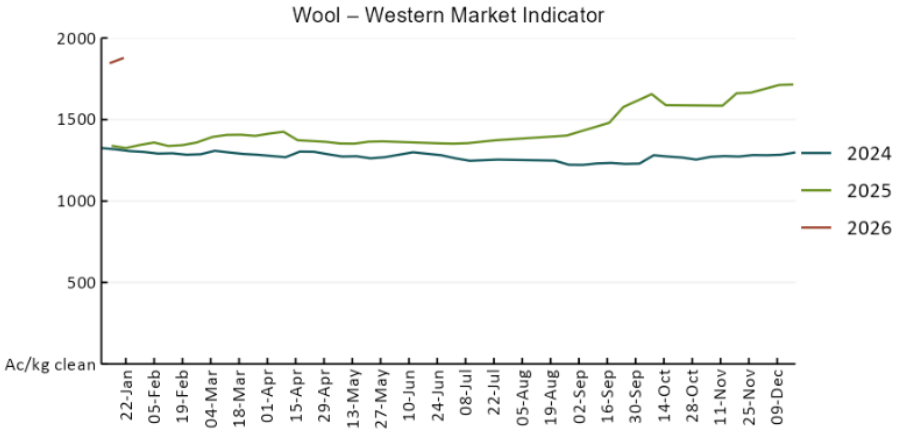
2025
2026


Wool – Western Market Indicator
2000
1500
1000
500
Ac/kg clean
22-Jan
05-Feb
19-Feb
04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
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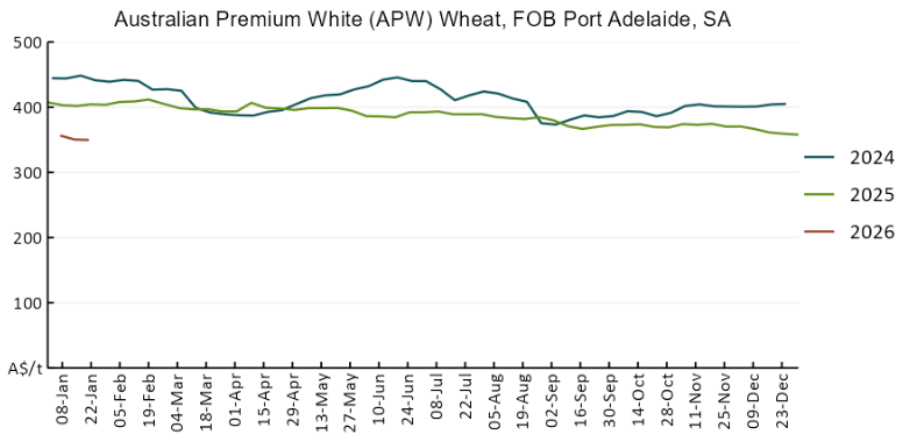
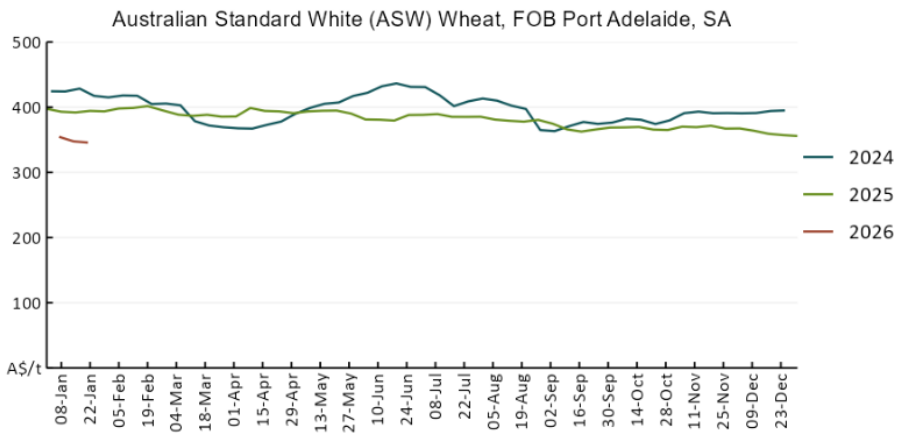
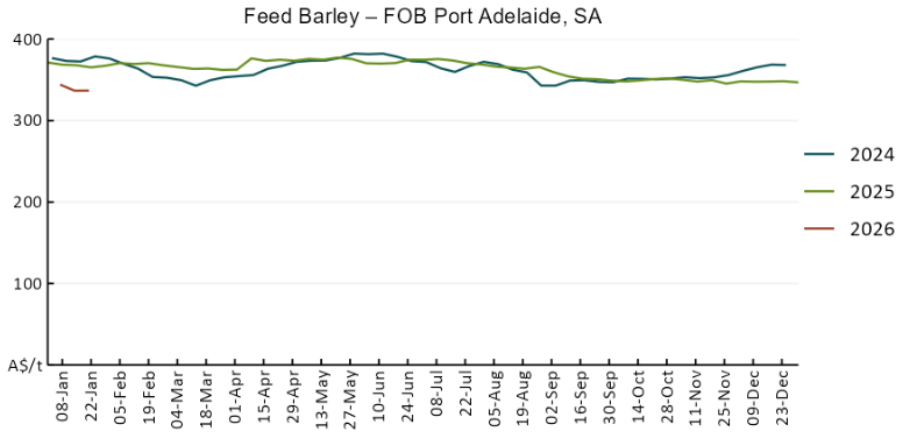
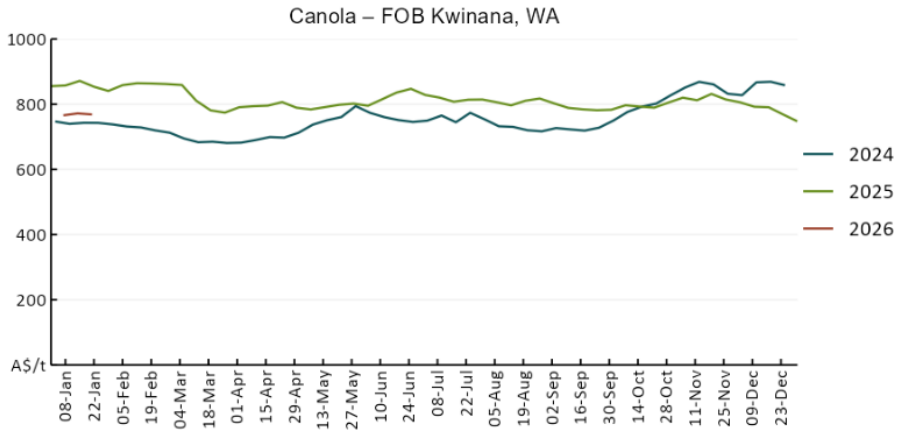
2025
2026

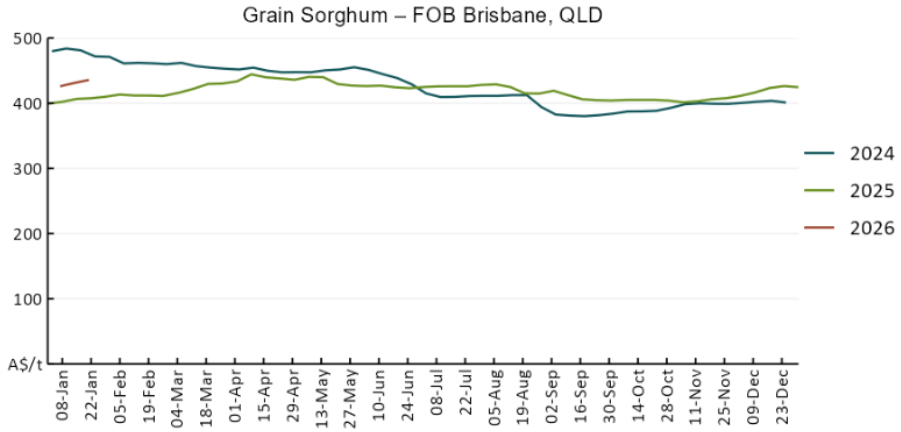
3.2 Selected domestic crop indicator prices










Grain Sorghum – FOB Brisbane, QLD
500
400
300
200
100
A$/t
08-Jan
22-Jan
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04-Mar
18-Mar
01-Apr
15-Apr
29-Apr
13-May
27-May
10-Jun
24-Jun
08-Jul
22-Jul
05-Aug
19-Aug
02-Sep
16-Sep
30-Sep
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25-Nov
09-Dec
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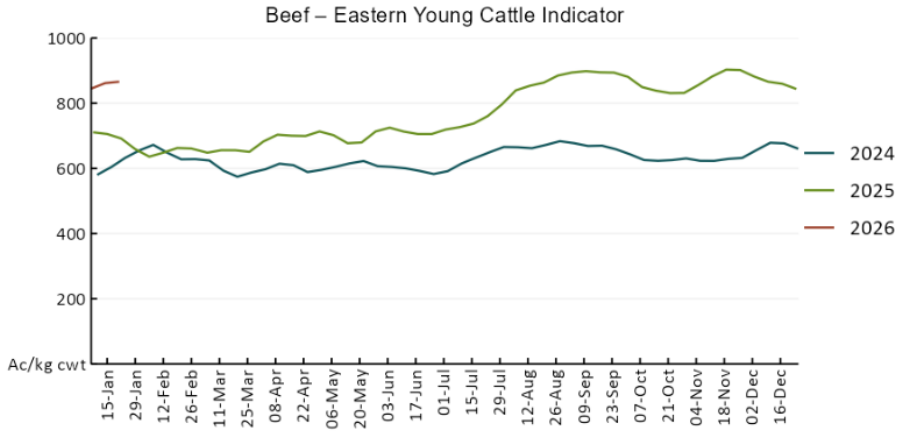
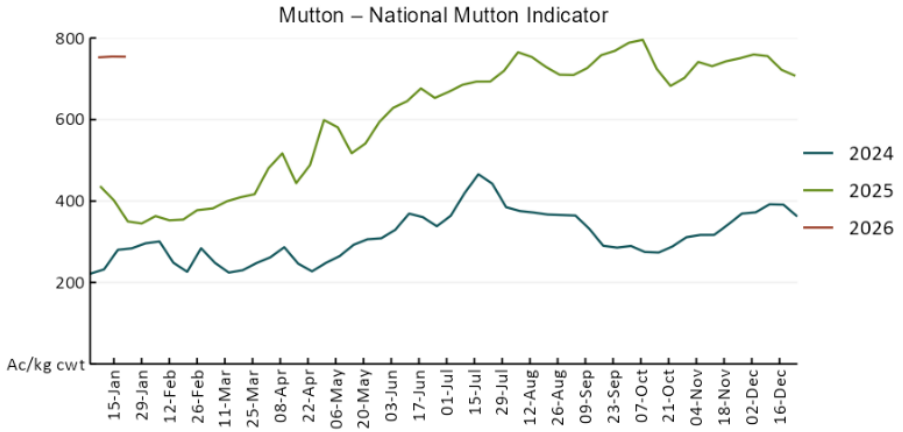
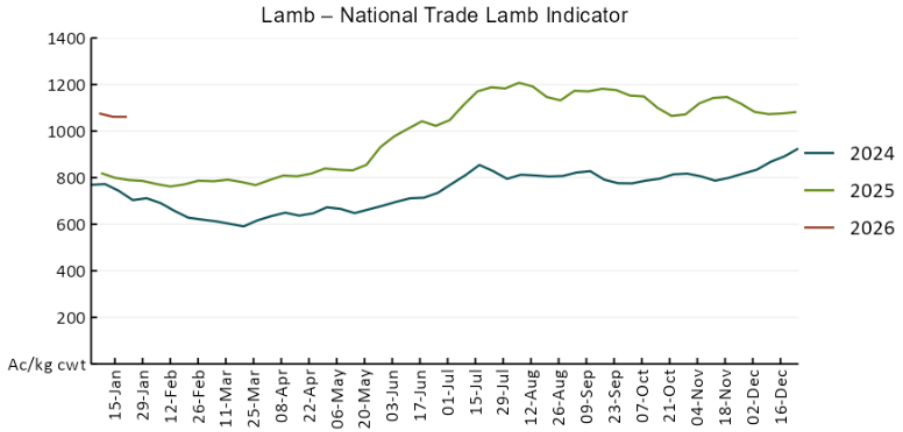
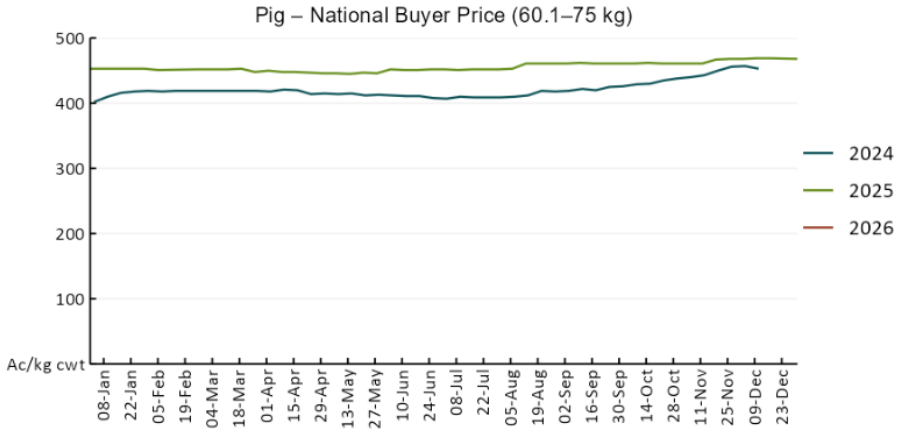
2024
2025
2026

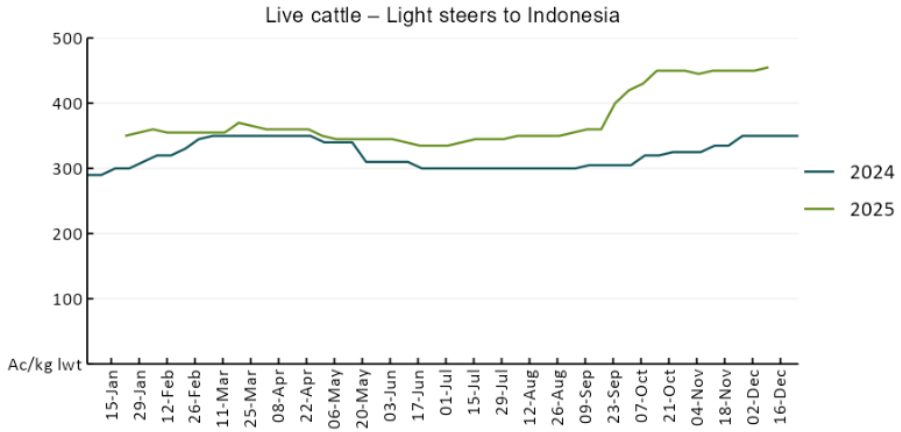
3.3 Selected domestic livestock indicator prices










Live cattle – Light steers to Indonesia
500
400
300
200
100
Ac/kg lwt
15-Jan
29-Jan
12-Feb
26-Feb
11-Mar
25-Mar
08-Apr
22-Apr
06-May
20-May
03-Jun
17-Jun
01-Jul
15-Jul
29-Jul
12-Aug
26-Aug
09-Sep
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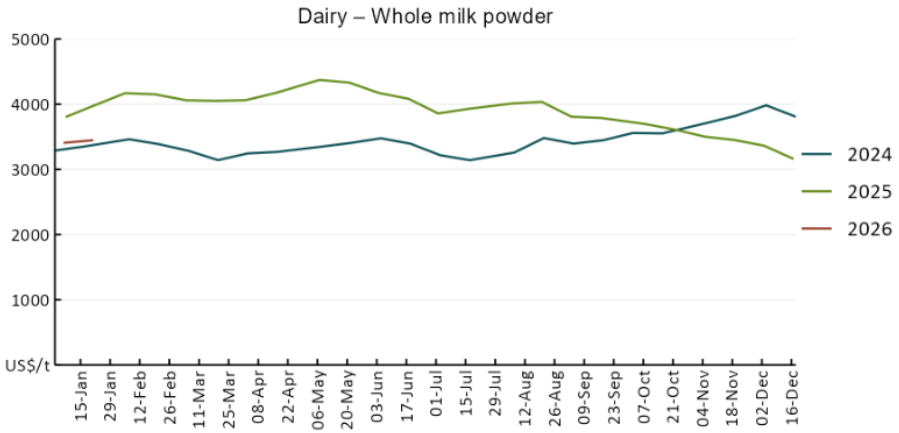
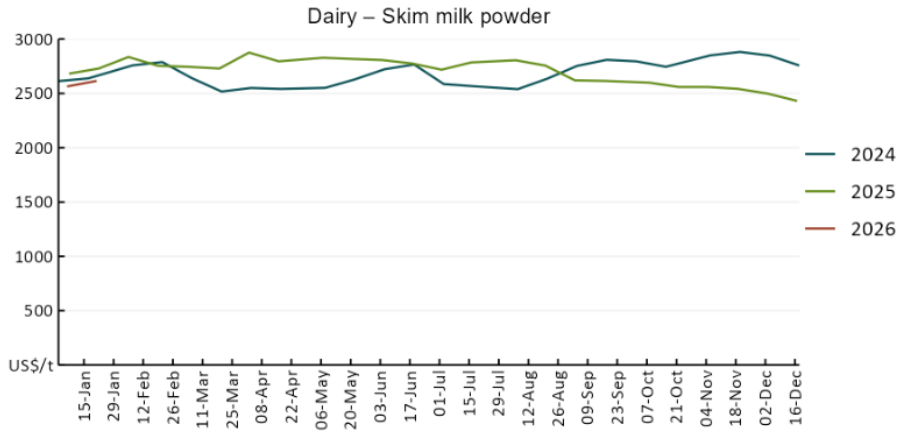
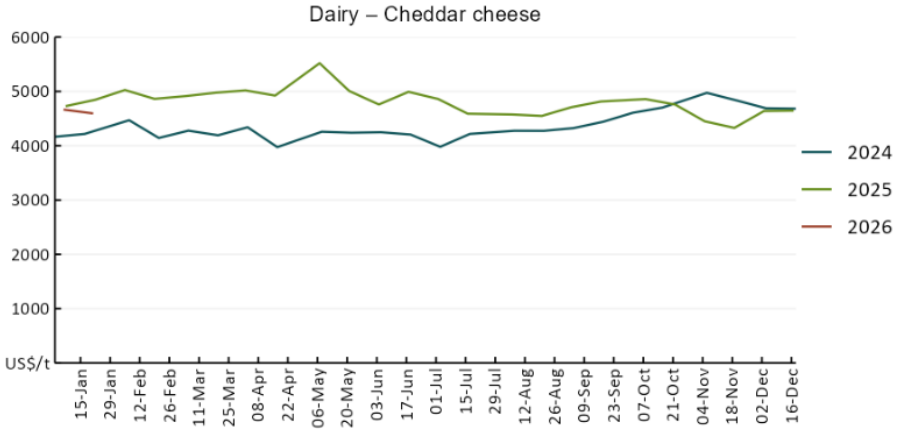
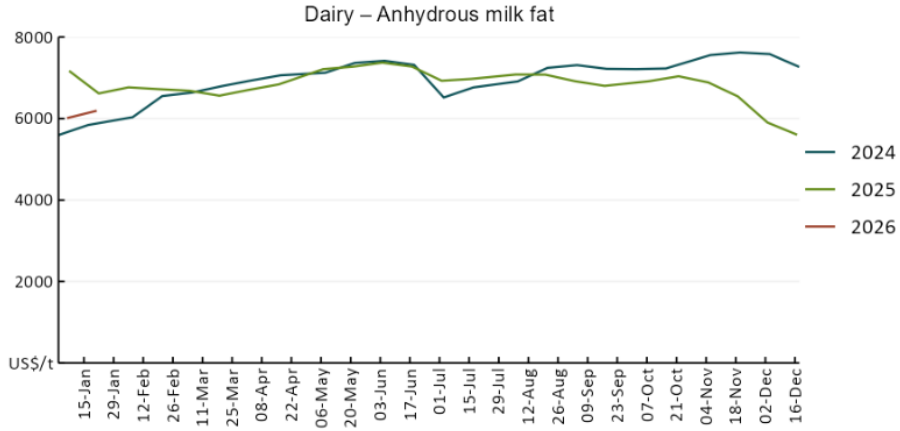
07-Oct
21-Oct
04-Nov
18-Nov
02-Dec
16-Dec
2024
2025

3.4 Global Dairy Trade (GDT) weighted average prices

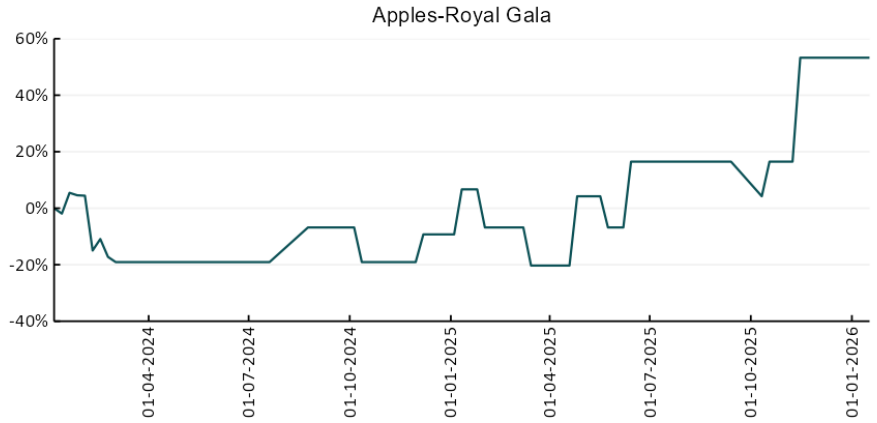


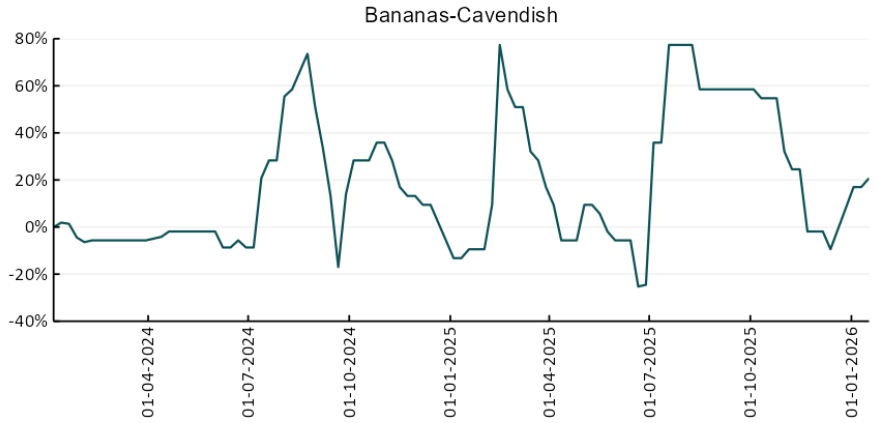


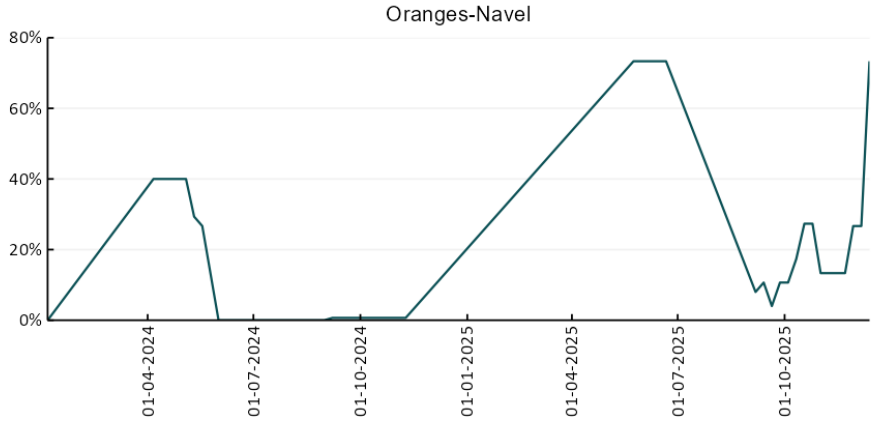


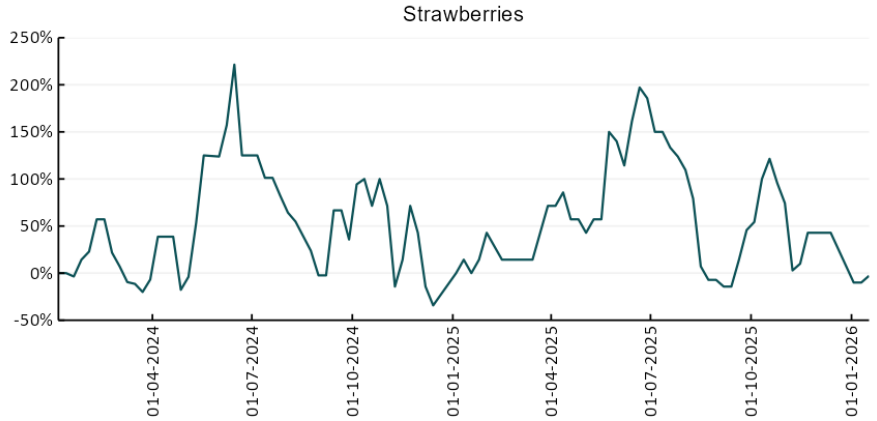


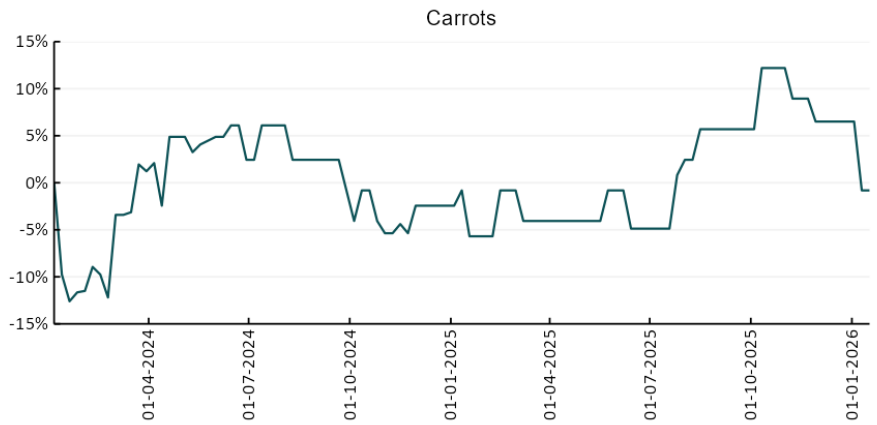
3.5 Selected fruit and vegetable prices

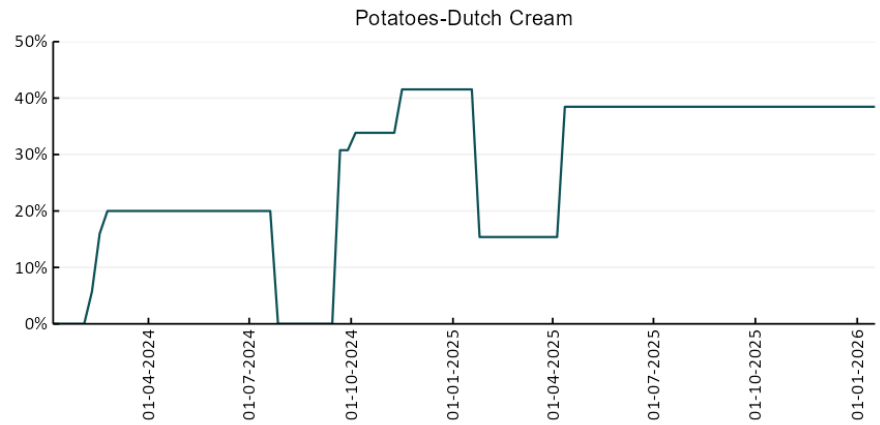


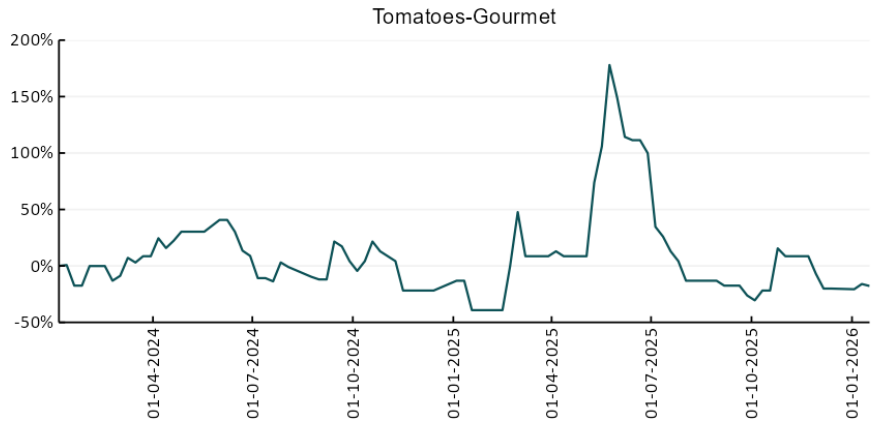


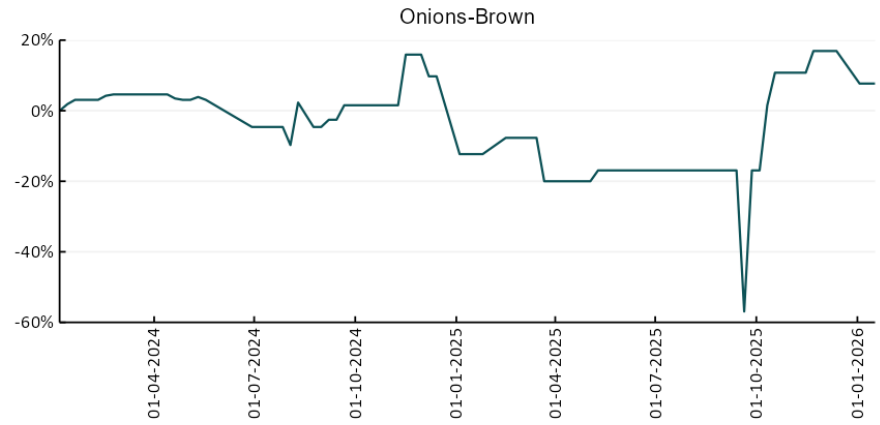




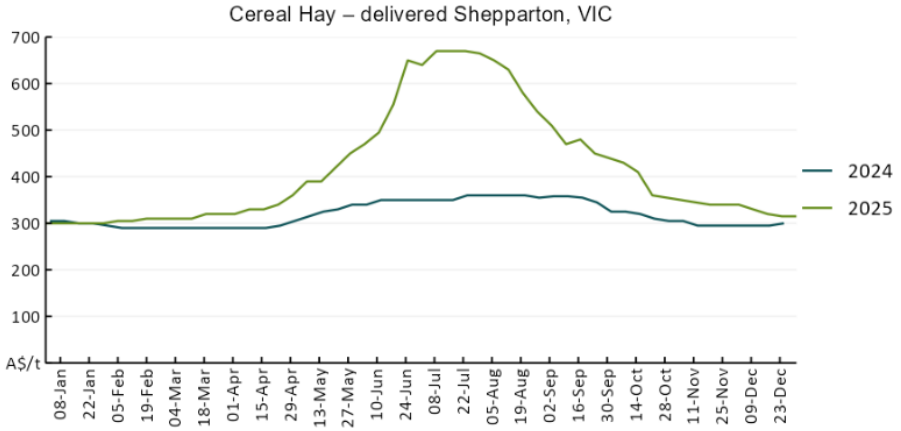

Carrots
15%
10%
5%
0%
-5%
-10%
-15%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026

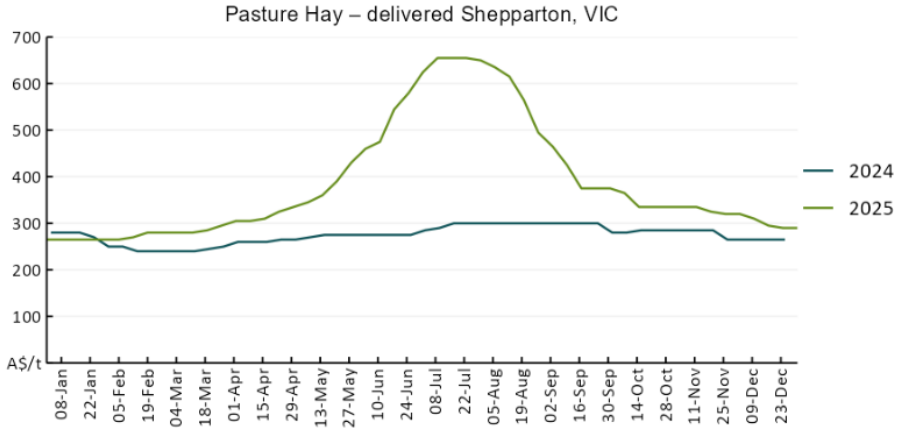

Potatoes-Dutch Cream
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026

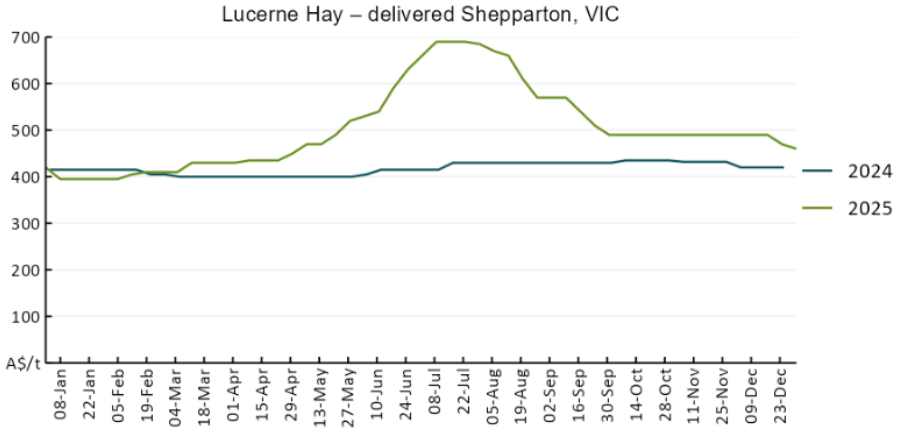

Tomatoes-Gourmet
200%
150%
100%
50%
0%
-50%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026


Onions-Brown
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
01-04-2024
01-07-2024
01-10-2024
01-01-2025
01-04-2025
01-07-2025
01-10-2025
01-01-2026

3.6 Selected domestic fodder indicator prices







4. Data attribution

Climate

Bureau of Meteorology

- Weekly rainfall totals: www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/rainfall/
- Monthly and last 3-month rainfall percentiles: https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/#moreMaps
- Rainfall forecast: www.bom.gov.au/jsp/watl/rainfall/pme.jsp
- Seasonal outlook: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary/
- Climate drivers: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/
- Soil moisture: https://awo.bom.gov.au/products/historical/soilMoisture-rootZone/

Other

- Pasture growth: www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/
- 3-month global outlooks: Environment and Climate Change Canada, NOAA Climate Prediction Center, EUROBRISA CPTEC/INPE, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Hydrometcenter of Russia, National Climate Center Climate System Diagnosis and Prediction Room (NCC), International Research Institute for Climate and Society
- Global production: https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/ogamaps/cropmapsandcalendars.aspx
- Autumn break: Pook et al., 2009, https://rmets-onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/epdf/10.1002/joc.1833

Water

Prices

- Waterflow: https://www.waterflow.io/
- Ruralco: https://www.ruralcowater.com.au/
- Bureau of Meteorology:
- Allocation trade: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-markets/mdb/at
- Storage volumes: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/dashboards/#/water-storages/summary/drainage

Trade constraints:

- Water NSW: https://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee
- Victorian Water Register: https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/TradingRules2019/

Commodities

Fruit and vegetables

- Datafresh: www.freshstate.com.au

Pigs

- Australian Pork Limited: www.australianpork.com.au

Dairy

- Global Dairy Trade: www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/

World wheat, canola

- International Grains Council
- https://www.igc.int/en/default.aspx
- United States Department of Agriculture

World cotton

- Cotlook: www.cotlook.com/

World sugar

- New York Stock Exchange - Intercontinental Exchange

Wool

- Australian Wool Exchange: www.awex.com.au/

Domestic wheat, barley, sorghum, canola and fodder

- Jumbuk Consulting Pty Ltd: Jumbuk AG | Agriculture Consulting

Cattle, beef, mutton, lamb, goat and live export

- Meat and Livestock Australia: https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/

Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators

About Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators

The Australian Agricultural Drought Indicators (AADI) links weather and agricultural data with a range of scientific and economic models to measure and forecast the effects of climate variability and drought on agricultural outcomes.

On AADI, projected broadacre farm profits are presented as percentile outcomes relative to simulated historical outcomes using the groupings:

Highest	95-100th percentile
Very much above average	85-95th percentile
Above average	65-85th percentile
Average	35-65th percentile
Below average	15-35th percentile
Very much below average	5-15th percentile
Lowest 5%	0-5th percentile

There are two AADI farm profit indicators:

- The AADI farm profit climate and price indicator shows the effect of climate and prices on broadacre farm business profits of current farms compared to the last 33 years.
- The AADI farm profit climate only indicator isolates the effect of climate on profits by holding prices fixed.

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