Agriculture Sector

Data Bulletin – September 2026

Economic Research Department
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

HIGHLIGHTS

Paddy production in the 2026 Yala season is forecast at 2.16 million metric tons, a 6.5% decline from the previous Yala season. However, annual paddy production is expected to increase by 4.7%, supported by supported by higher production recorded during the Maha season



Domestic tea production decreased by 3.7% (y-o-y) in August 2026, mainly attributed to adverse weather conditions



Local rubber production also decreased in August 2026 by 2.2% (y-o-y)



Coconut production during July-August 2026 declined by 1.8% (y-o-y) following higher production levels recorded earlier in the year



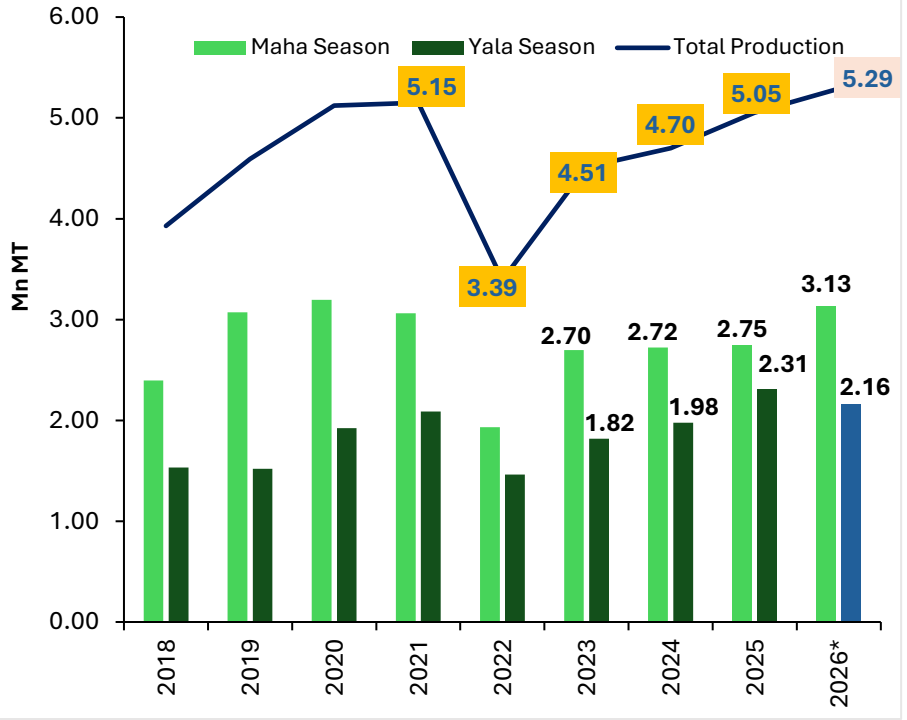
Marine fish production continued to decline in August 2026 (26.3% y-o-y decrease), reflecting the downward trend in fish catch



Datasets are accessible via: https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/statistics/statistical-tables/real-sector/production-indicators

PADDY

Paddy Production

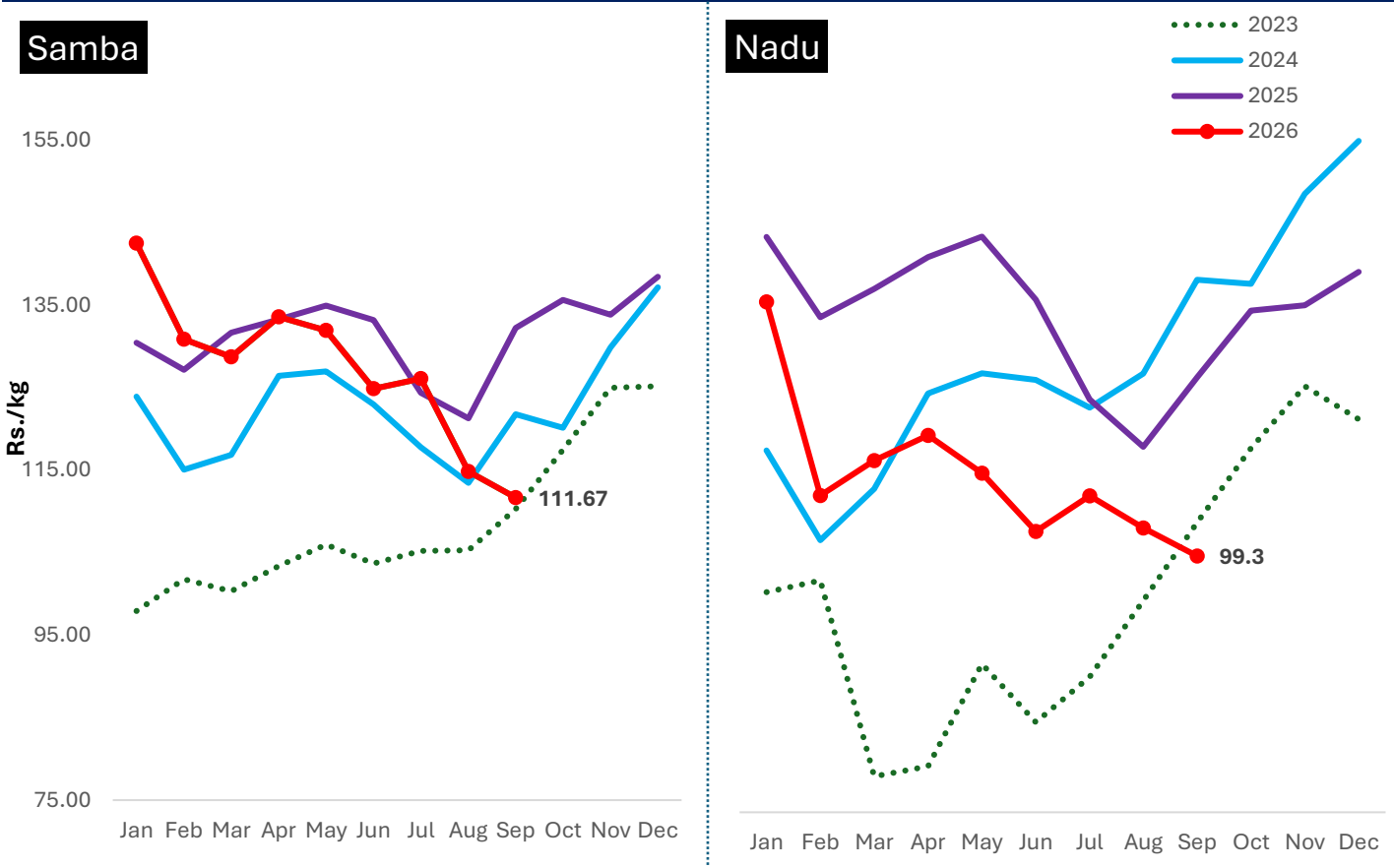


*2026 Yala season production is based on the Department of Agriculture forecast

Season	2024 (mn mt)	2025 (mn mt)	2026* (mn mt)	Growth % (y-o-y)
Maha	2.72	2.74	3.13	**14.2**
Yala	1.98	2.31	2.16	**(6.5)**
Annual	4.70	5.05	5.29	**4.7**

**2026 Yala season production is based on the Department of Agriculture forecast*

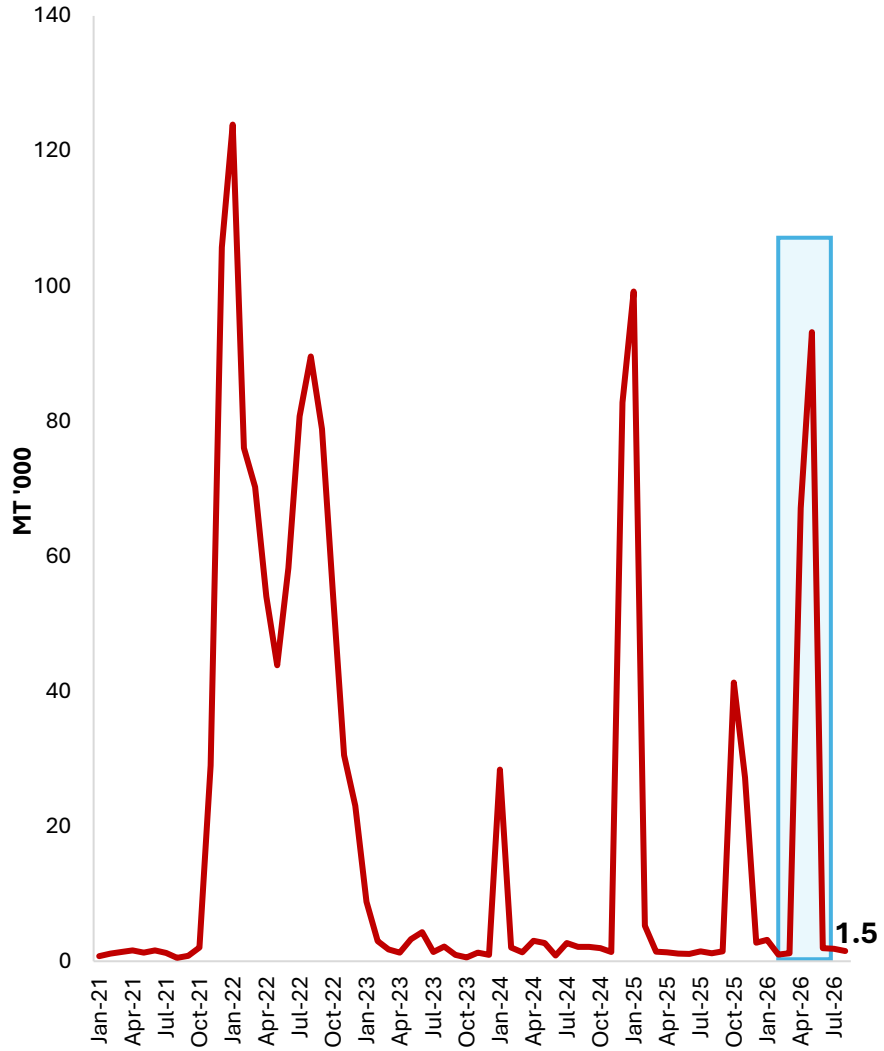
Farmgate/Producer Prices of Paddy



- **Paddy production for the 2025/26 Maha season is recorded at 3.13 million metric tons, a 14.2% increase from the previous Maha season, while production in the 2026 Yala season is estimated at 2.16 million metric tons, a 6.5% decline from the previous Yala season, based on the sown extent reported as at end-August 2026**
- **Accordingly, total paddy production estimate for 2026 is 5.29 million metric tons, representing a 4.7% increase from the previous year**

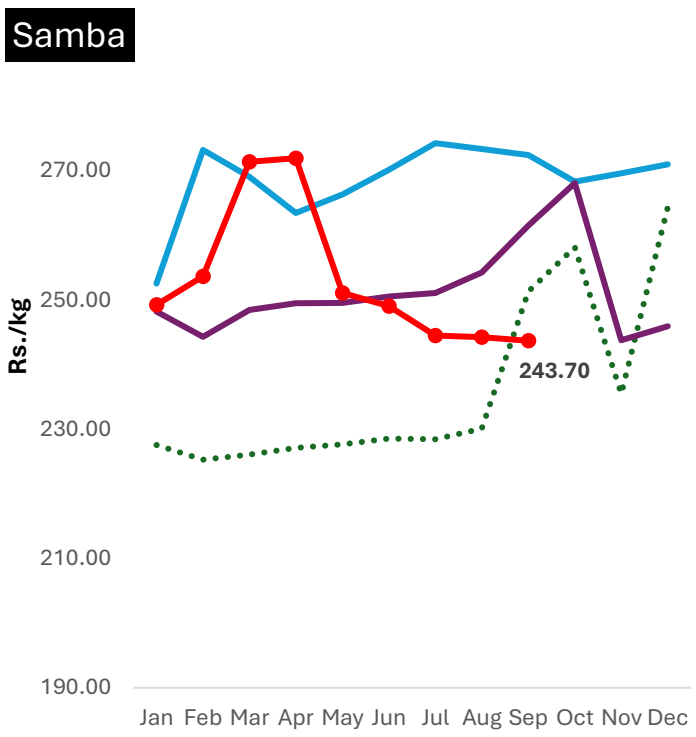
Sources: Department of Census and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

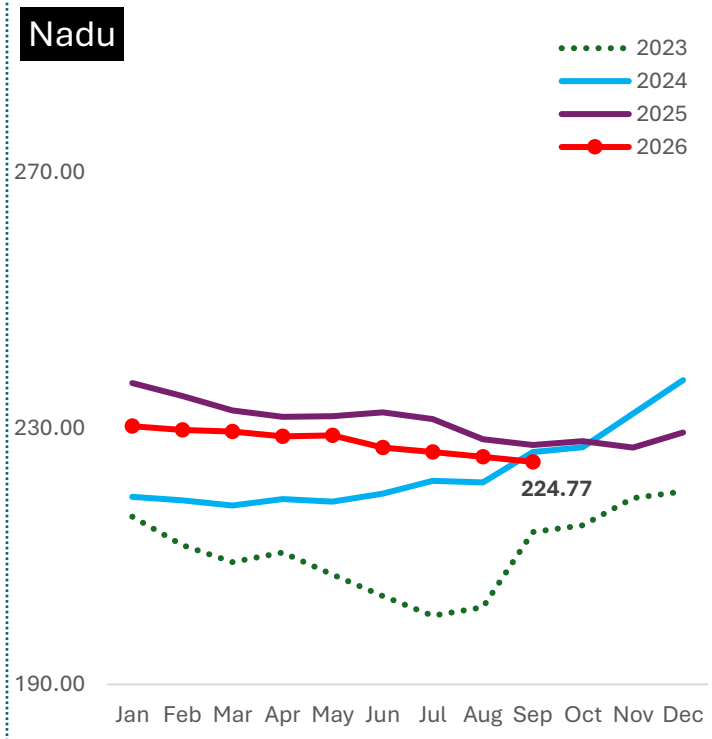
Rice Imports

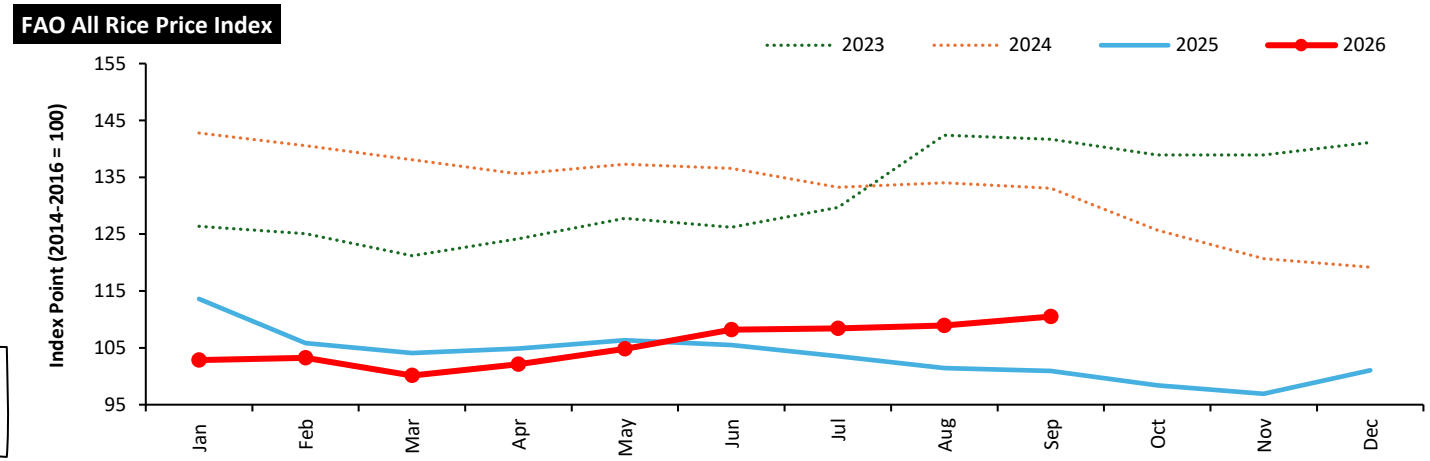


Rice imports continued to decline in August 2026 as the temporary relaxation of import restrictions ended

Retail Rice Prices



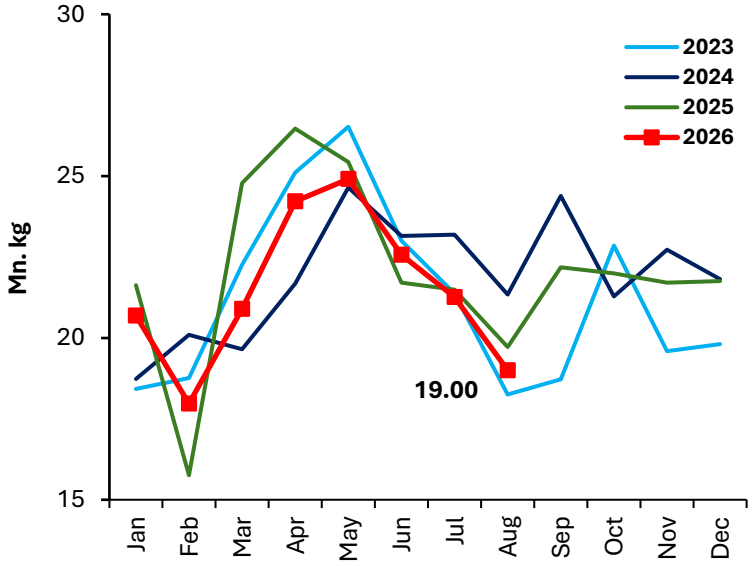




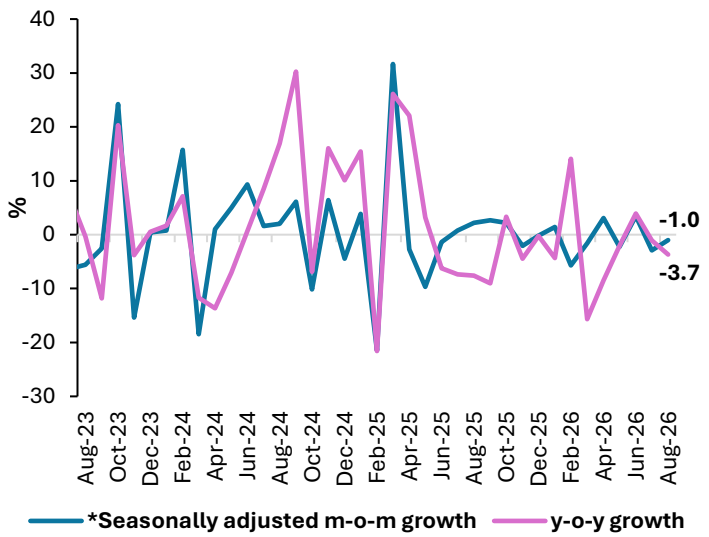
Sources: Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Census and Statistics, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Tea

Tea Production



Tea Production Growth



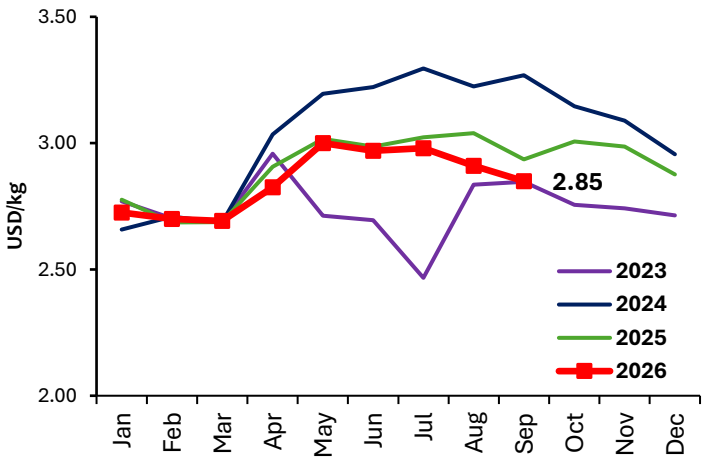
*Seasonally adjusted using X13 procedure

- **Domestic tea production marginally declined by 3.7% (y-o-y) in August 2026, mainly attributed to adverse weather conditions**
- **This also represents a 1.0% m-o-m (seasonally adjusted) decrease**

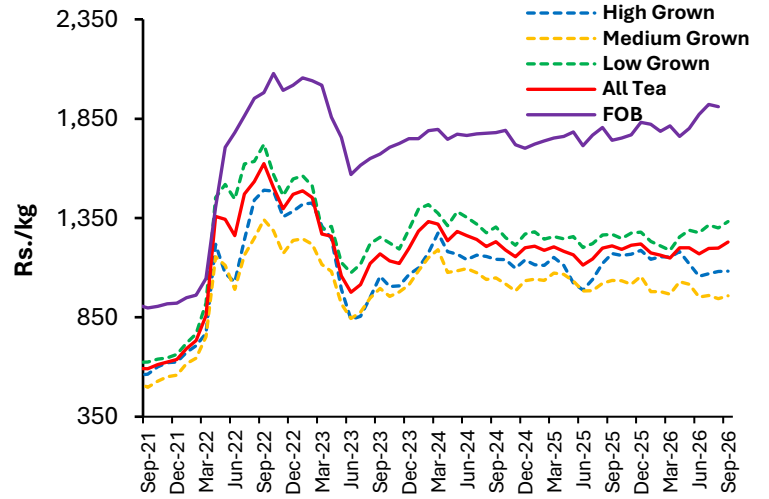
Global tea prices decreased in September 2026 compared to the previous month, with Kolkata auction recording a notable decline in the average price, while Colombo and Mombasa recorded increases

Tea Production (mn kg)	2025	2025 Jan-Aug	2026 Jan-Aug	Growth % (y-o-y)
High grown	56.5	38.2	38.0	(0.4)
Medium grown	47.7	32.5	30.4	(6.4)
Low grown	160.4	106.4	103.1	(3.1)
Total	**264.6**	**177.0**	**171.5**	**(3.1)**

International Tea Prices
(Average of Kolkata, Colombo, and Mombasa auction prices)



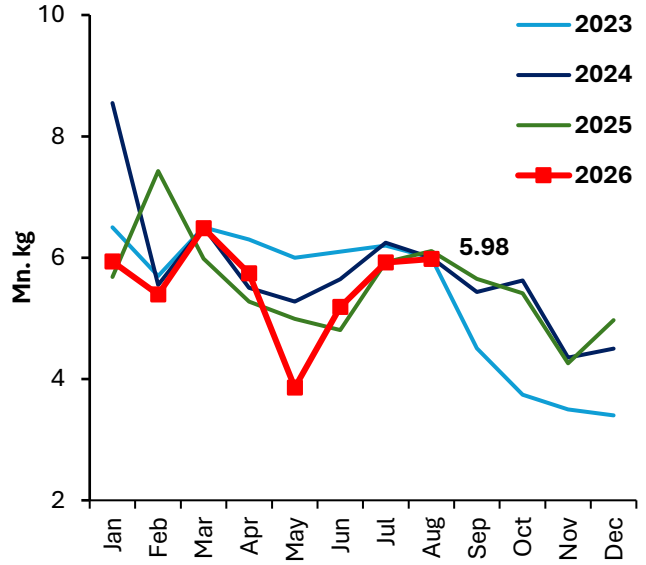
Tea Auction Prices & FOB Prices



Sources: Sri Lanka Tea Board, Colombo Tea Brokers' Association, Sri Lanka Customs, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, World Bank

Rubber

Rubber Production



Rubber Production Growth

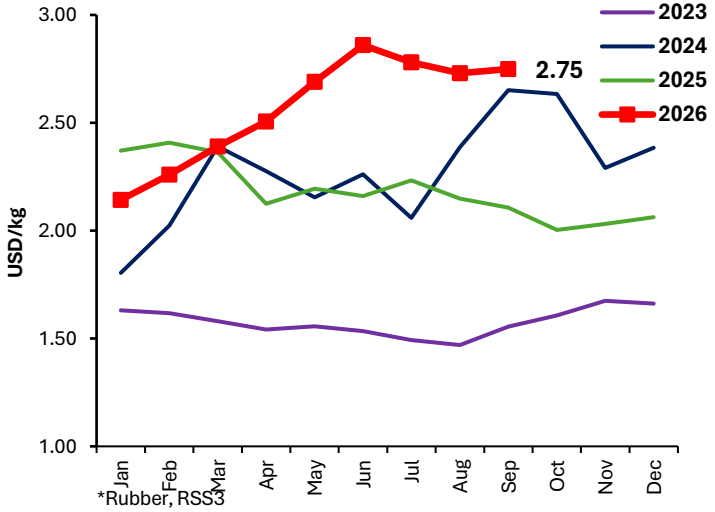


*Seasonally adjusted using X13 procedure

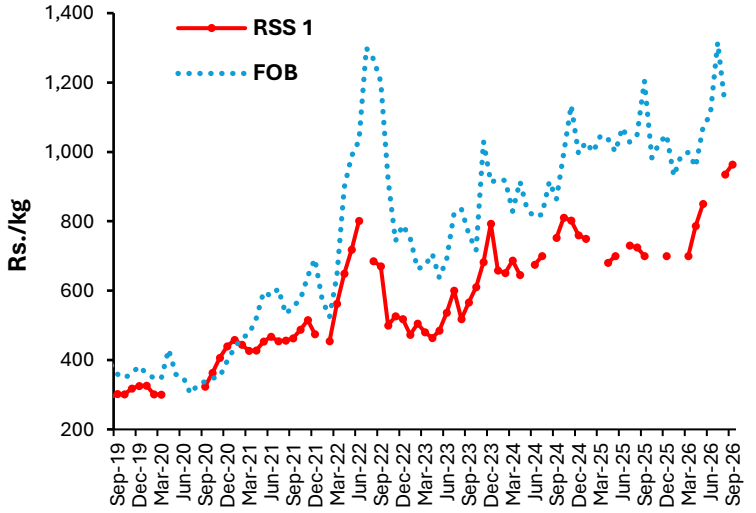
- **Domestic rubber production decreased by 2.2% (y-o-y) in August 2026. However, this represents a 1.5% m-o-m increase (seasonally adjusted).**
- **Global natural rubber prices increased slightly, as weather-related disruptions tightened supply from Asia**

Rubber Production (mn kg)	2025	2025 Jan-Aug	2026 Jan-Aug	Growth % (y-o-y)
Sheet Rubber	33.0	22.7	18.5	(18.5)
Crepe Rubber	11.1	7.3	7.1	(2.8)
Other	22.4	16.2	18.9	16.7
Total	**66.5**	**46.2**	**44.5**	**(3.7)**

International Rubber Prices



Rubber Auction Prices & FOB Prices

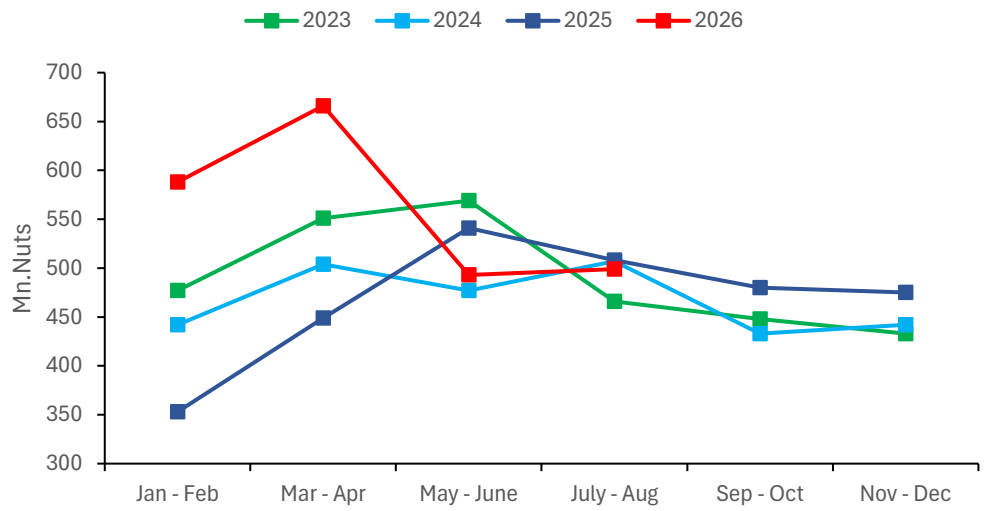


Sources: Rubber Development Department, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka Customs, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, World Bank

PLANTATION

Coconut

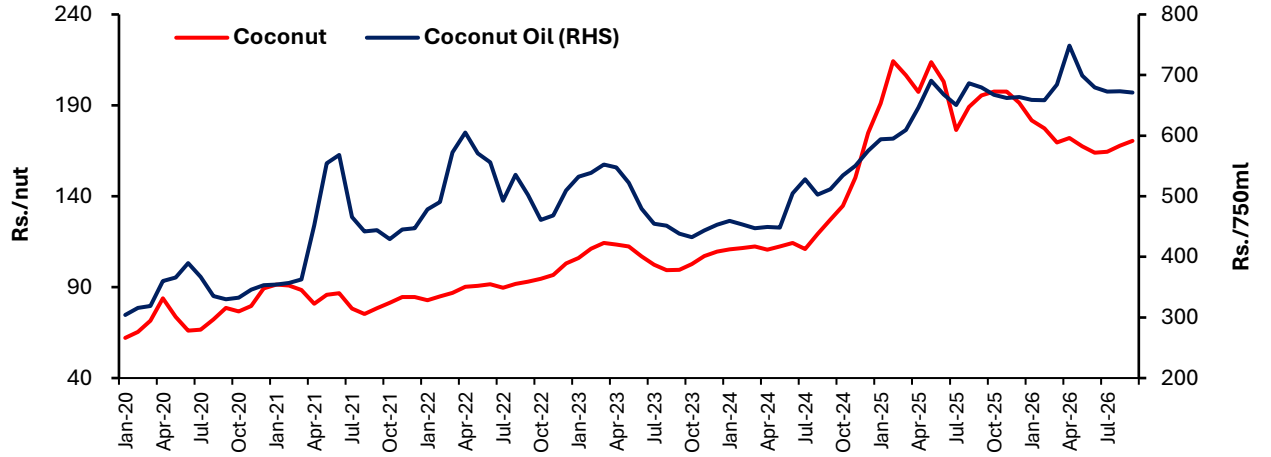
Coconut Production



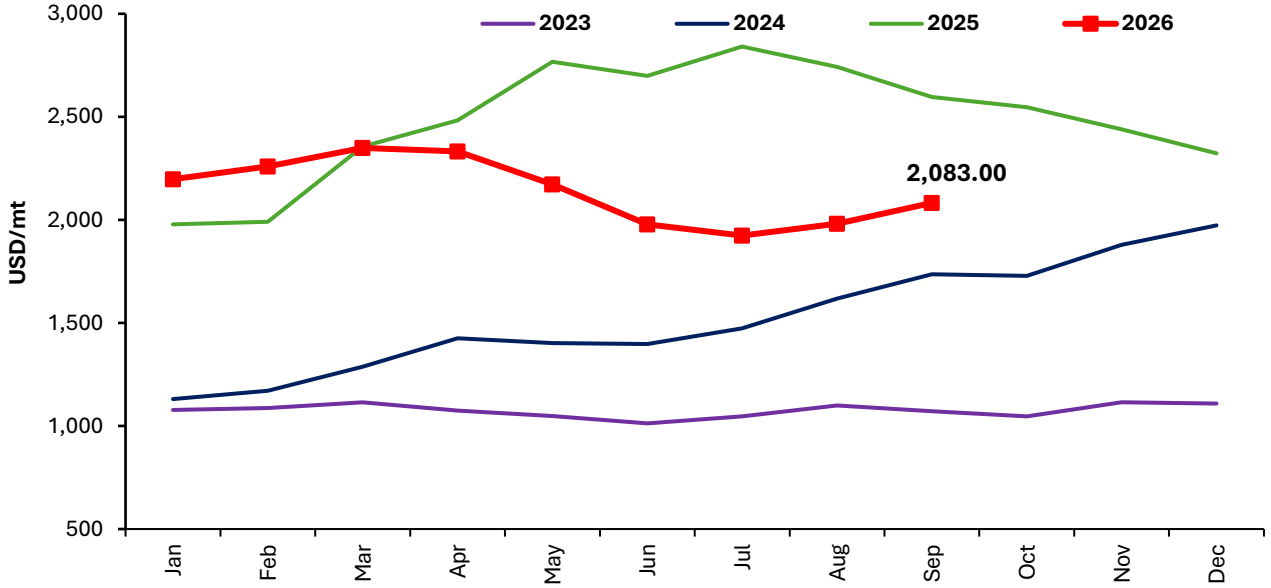
	2025	2025 Jan-Aug	2026 Jan-Aug	Growth % (y-o-y)
Desiccated Nut (MT)	34,381	20,085	27,271	35.8
Coconut Oil (MT)	33,696	22,007	30,485	38.5
Local consumption (Mn Nuts)	1,496	954	1,066	11.8

Coconut production during July-August 2026 declined by 1.8% (y-o-y), following higher production levels recorded earlier in the year

Retail Price of Coconut and Coconut Oil



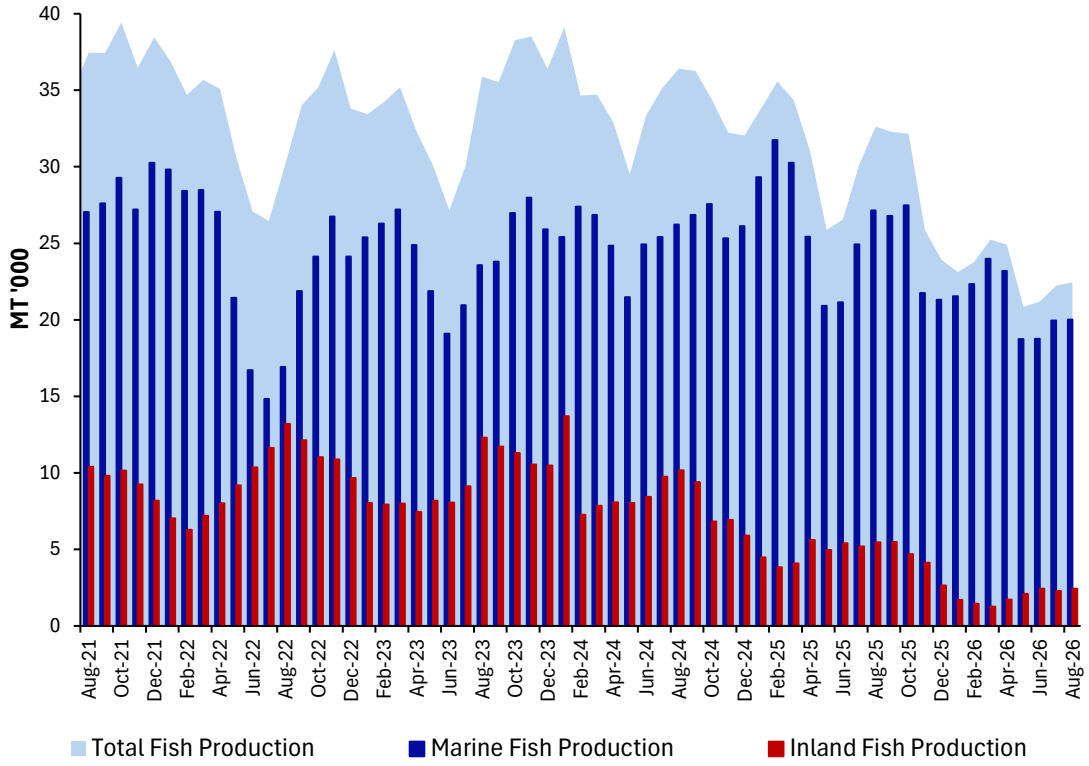
International Coconut Oil Prices



Sources: Coconut Development Authority, Coconut Research Institute, Department of Census and Statistics, World Bank

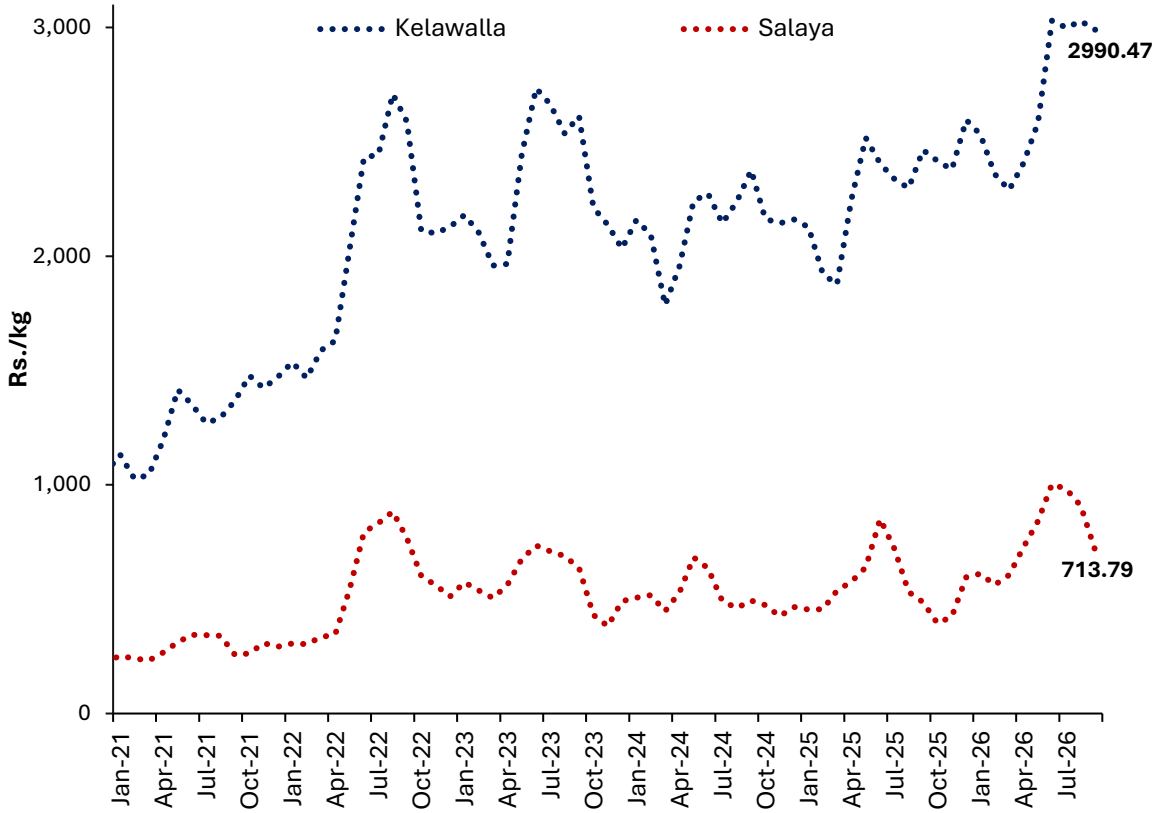
FISH

Fish Production



	2025	2025 Jan-Aug	2026 Jan-Aug
Marine Fish Production (MT '000)	308.2	210.9	168.4
Inland Fish Production (MT'000)	56.0	39.1	15.4

Retail Fish Prices



- According to provisional data, fish production declined by 31.2% (y-o-y) in August 2026, with decreases in both marine and inland fish production
- However, retail prices of selected fish varieties moderated in September 2026

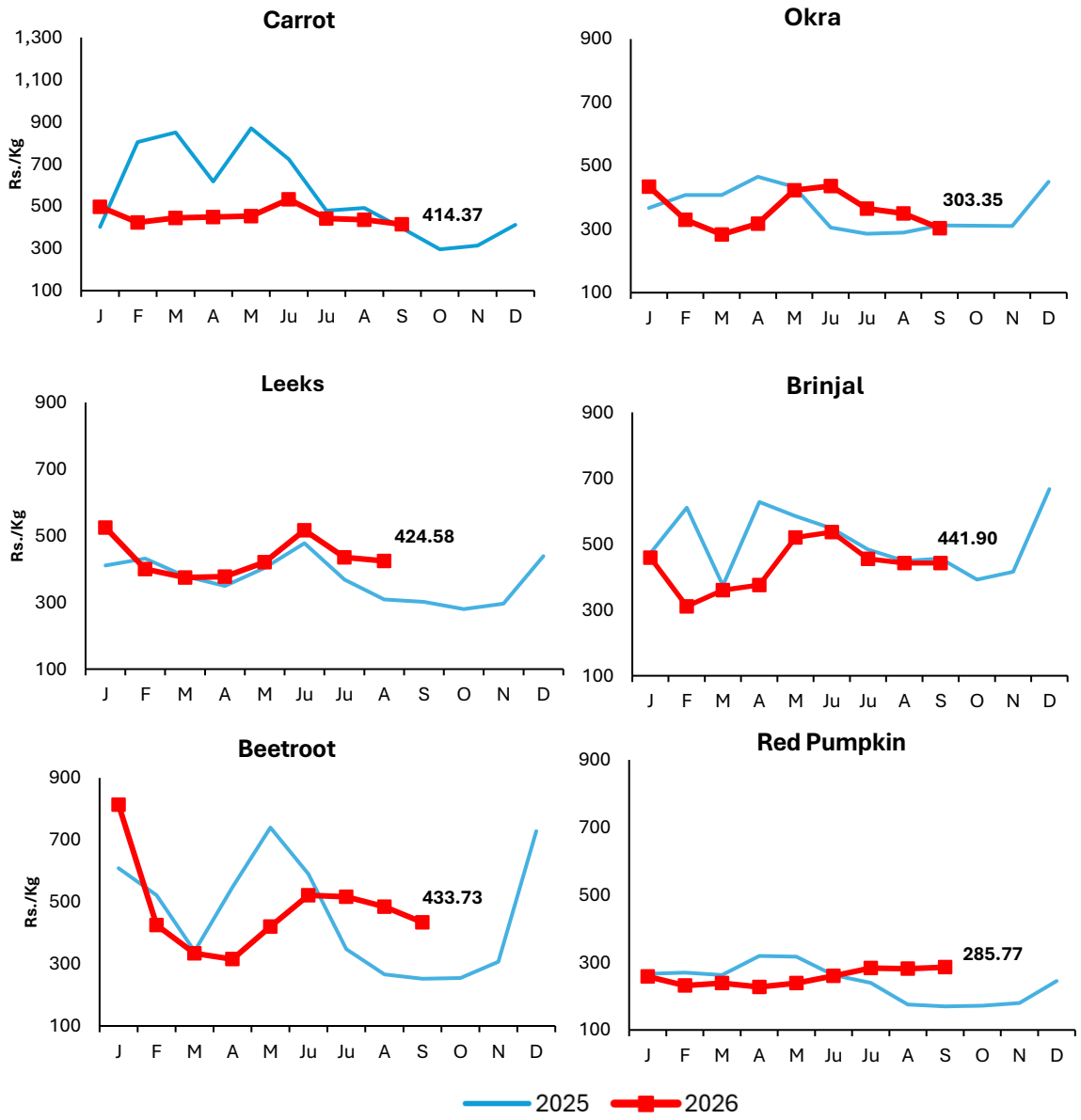
Sources: Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Census and Statistics

VEGETABLES

Vegetable Production (MT)

	2023 Yala	23/24 Maha	2024 Yala	24/25 Maha	2025 Yala	25/26 Maha	25/26 Maha Y-o-Y
Up Country							
Tomatoes	34,169	39,293	34,945	28,480	33,012	35,382	↑
Cabbage	47,773	58,552	48,242	41,811	20,495	42,971	↑
Carrot	25,267	48,836	24,374	25,604	18,886	28,602	↑
Beetroot	21,444	17,332	20,034	15,825	12,033	16,112	↑
Raddish	27,557	40,159	27,567	31,271	15,974	22,207	↓
Beans	25,287	36,345	26,128	20,468	26,225	43,438	↑
Low Country							
Luffa	18,417	22,225	18,521	20,465	18,670	19,982	↓
Okra	31,351	37,620	35,003	40,296	32,681	35,873	↓
Brinjal	54,450	69,584	54,660	64,545	55,578	64,252	↓
Cucumber	26,603	17,937	27,161	18,982	15,388	16,787	↓
Red pumpkin	41,779	46,890	42,565	48,389	42,975	44,897	↓
Ash plantain	22,833	33,783	24,477	29,506	22,124	29,701	↑
Long bean	27,456	35,539	28,855	34,926	29,515	33,281	↓

Retail Vegetable Prices



Source: Department of Census and Statistics

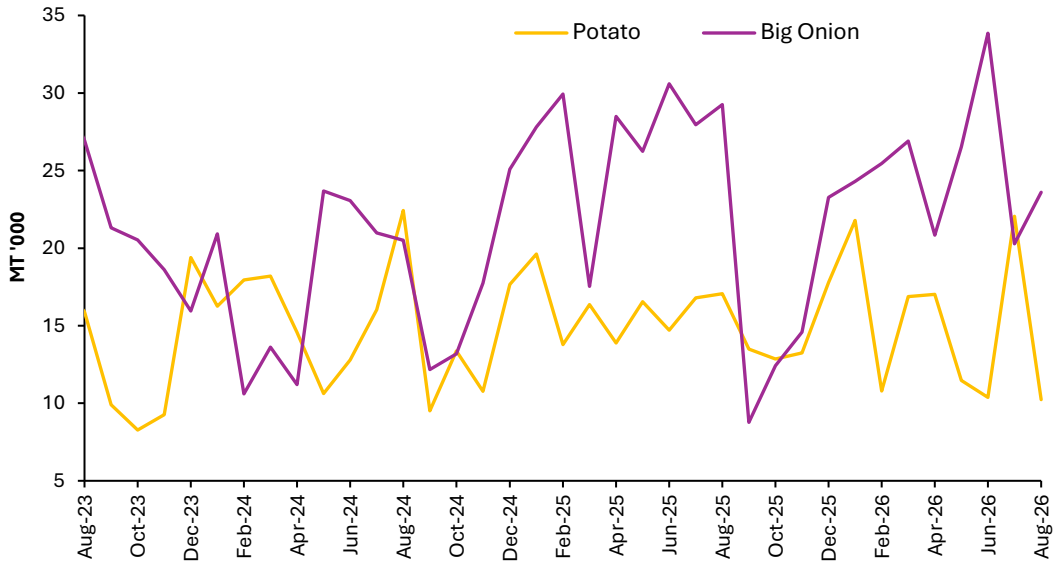
OTHER FIELD CROPS

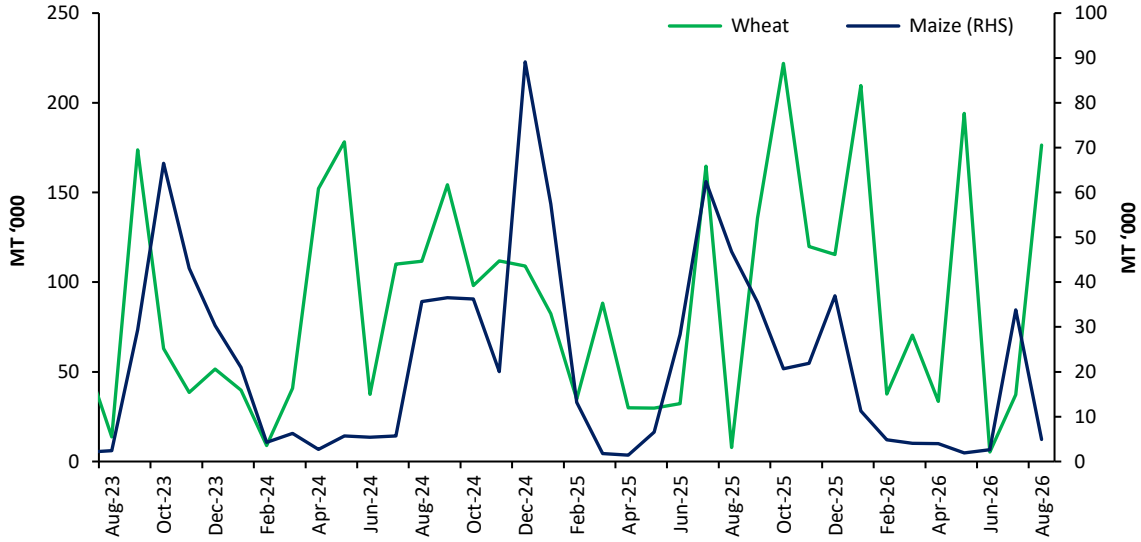
Other Field Crops

Production (MT)	2023 Yala	23/24 Maha	2024 Yala	24/25 Maha	2025 Yala	25/26 Maha	25/26 Maha Y-o-Y
Potato	21,026	21,291	20,916	15,010	14,360	10,687	↓
Red Onion	22,678	24,762	19,749	24,440	18,311	24,138	↓
Big Onion	4,755	257	8,572	395	20,994	201	↓
Green Chillie	25,128	40,438	26,200	38,285	23,136	37,037	↓
Cowpea	5,779	5,955	5,458	6,307	4,546	6,084	↓
Black gram	1,437	8,518	1,828	7,224	1,790	6,325	↓
Maize	22,647	196,871	26,626	245,351	26,705	229,865	↓
Ground Nut	10,666	17,336	11,626	18,751	10,594	14,972	↓
Gingelly	8,651	2,210	8,293	1,675	8,576	1,997	↑
Green gram	5,514	6,156	8,909	6,754	9,089	6,881	↑

Imports (MT)	2024	2025	2025 Jan - Aug	2026 Jan - Aug
Dhal	163,881	180,225	143,002	158,557
Potato	180,121	186,145	128,759	120,617
Big Onion	212,720	276,862	217,833	201,760

Import Trend of Selected Food Items





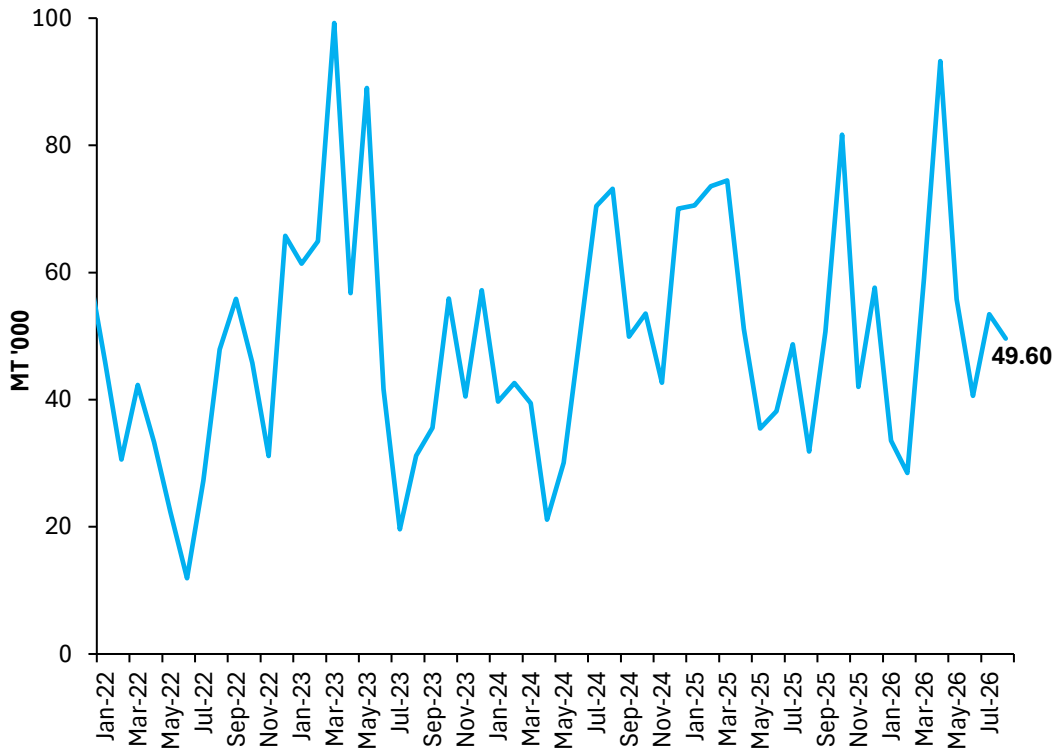
Sources: Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka Customs

Sugar

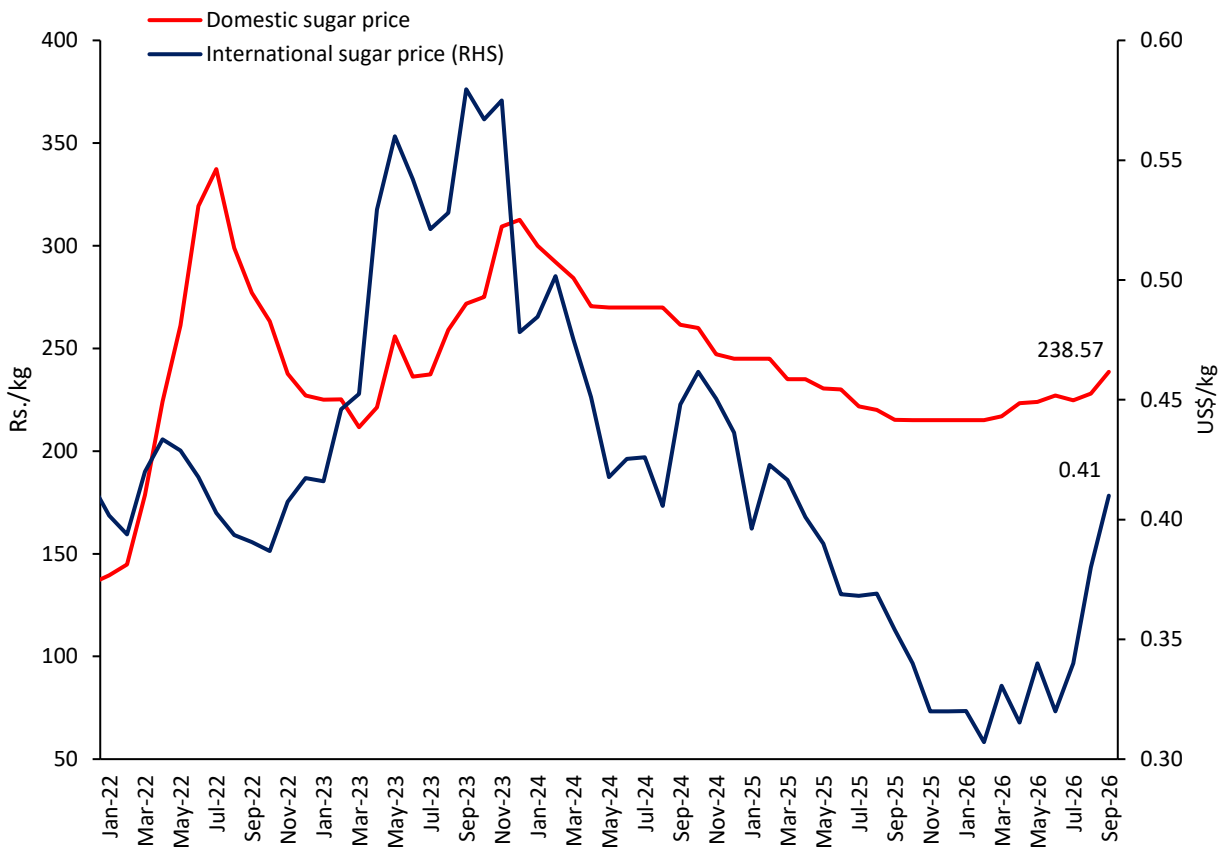
SUGAR

	2025 Jan - Aug	2026 Jan - Aug
Sugar Production (MT)	47,415	**46,295**
Sugar Imports (MT)	423,960	**413,756**

Sugar Import Trend



Sugar Price Trend



International sugar prices continued to increase in September 2026, driven by tighter global supplies amid lower production prospects in the EU, Thailand and India, and harvest disruptions in Brazil.

Sources: Sugar Companies, Sri Lanka Customs, World Bank

Livestock

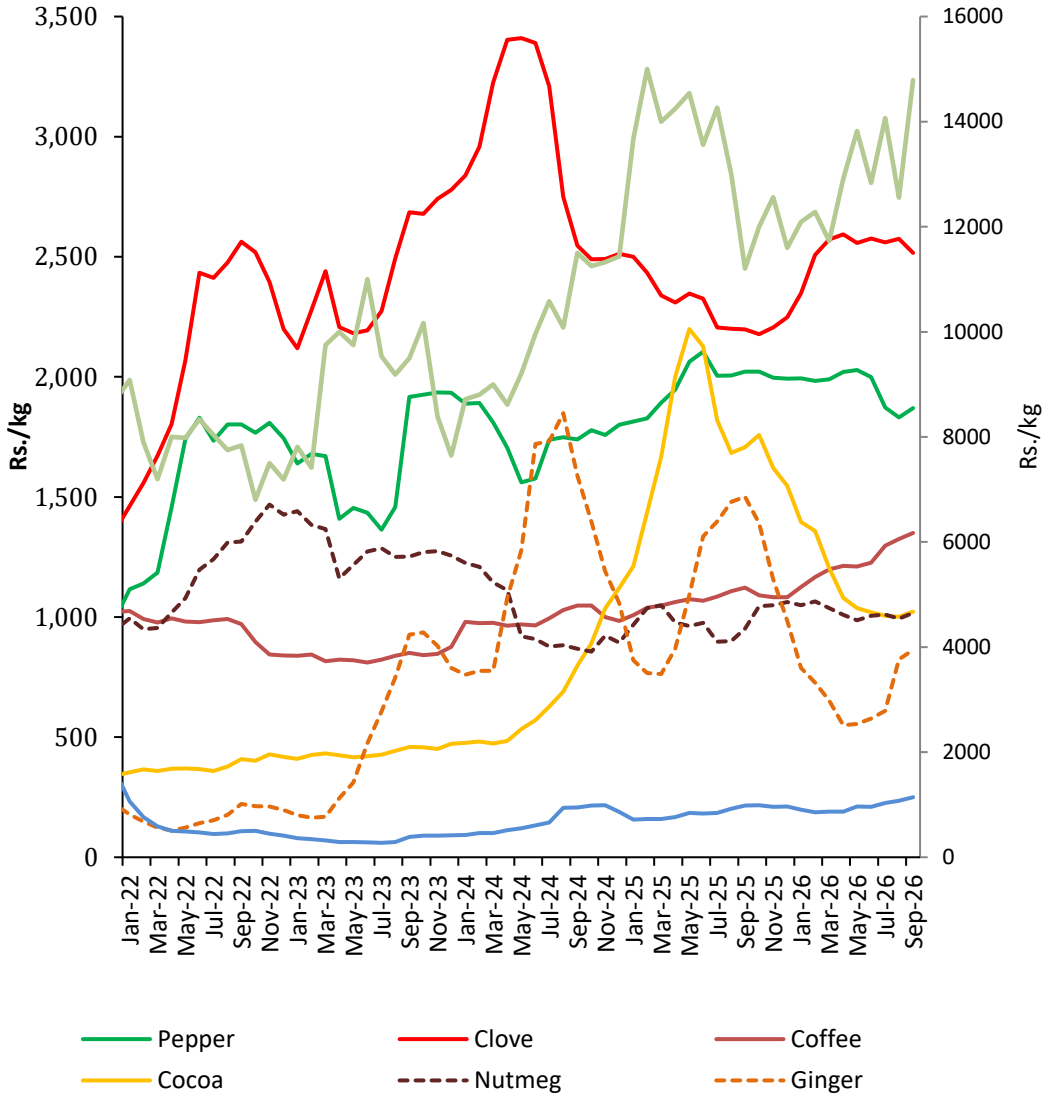
		2025 July	2026 June	2026 July
Production	Egg (mn)	305	297	**295**
	Chicken (000 MT)	23	25	**25**
Price	Egg-White (Rs./egg)	31.6	36.2	**41.5**
	Egg - Red (Rs./egg)	33.2	38.3	**42.7**
	Chicken (Rs./kg)	1,306.1	1,271.6	**1,292.4**
Cost of Production	Egg (Rs./egg)	28.1-31.8	32.3-34.5	**30.1-35.0**
	Chicken (Rs./kg)	799.0	879.1	**879.1**

Feed Ingredients (Rs./kg)	2025 July	2026 June	2026 July
Maize	157.5	174.0	**188.6**
Soya bean meal	180.0	221.9	**222.2**
Fish meal	380.0-503.3	422.2-640.0	**344.6-463.3**
Rice polish	137.7	131.3	**136.5**

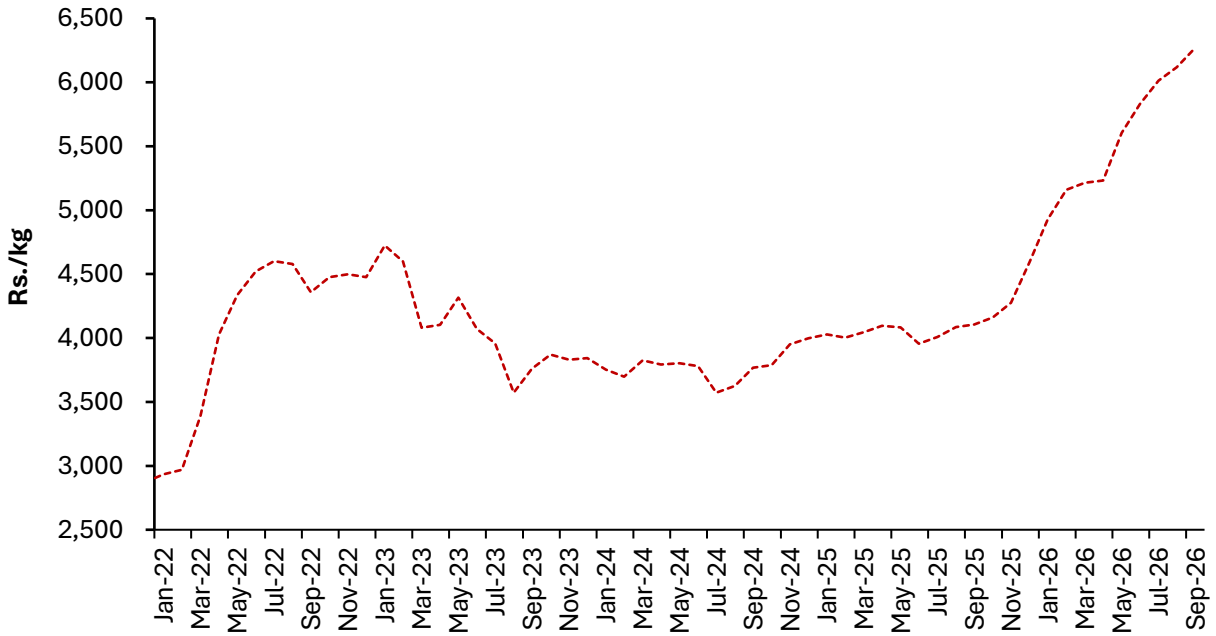
Source: Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH)

Other Export Agriculture

Farmgate/Producer Prices of Selected Export Agriculture Crops



Farmgate/Producer Prices of Cinnamon



- **In September 2026, market prices of export crops such as pepper, coffee, cocoa, cardamom, cinnamon, and turmeric increased (m-o-m), while prices of nutmeg, clove and ginger declined**

- **Earnings from spice exports recorded strong y-o-y growth in September 2026, mainly driven by increases in pepper and cinnamon exports**

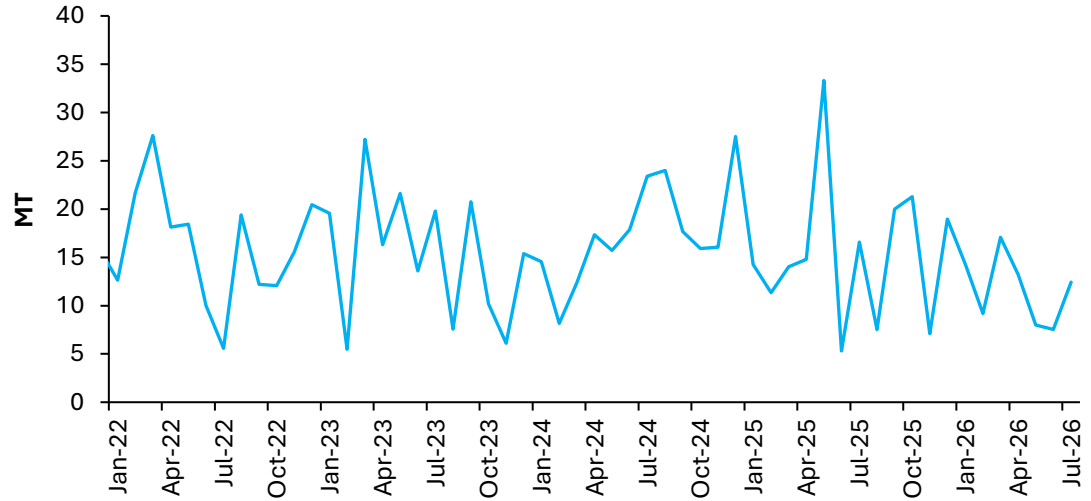
Source: Department of Export Agriculture

Import Trends of Agricultural Inputs

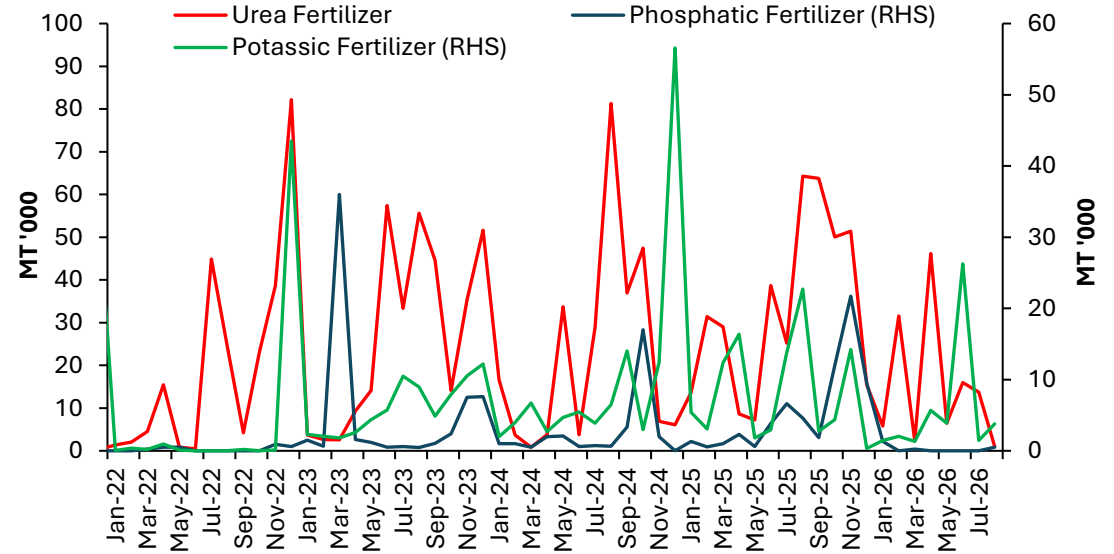
Imports	2024	2025	2025 Jan-Aug	2026 Jan-Aug
Plants and Seeds				
Vegetable seeds (MT)	211	185	117	**90**
Potato seed (MT)	773	1,002	100	**0.1**
Plants & parts (MT)	6,874	5,297	3,473	**4,442**
Live trees and other plants (No. '000)	1,248	972	538	**655**
Fertilizers (MT '000)				
Urea	270	399	218	**123**
Other nitrogenous fertilizers	68	95	62	**33**
Phosphatic	31	66	21	**2**
Potassic	122	100	78	**46**
Other fertilizers	16	53	22	**21**

Import Trends of Selected Agricultural Inputs

Vegetable Seeds



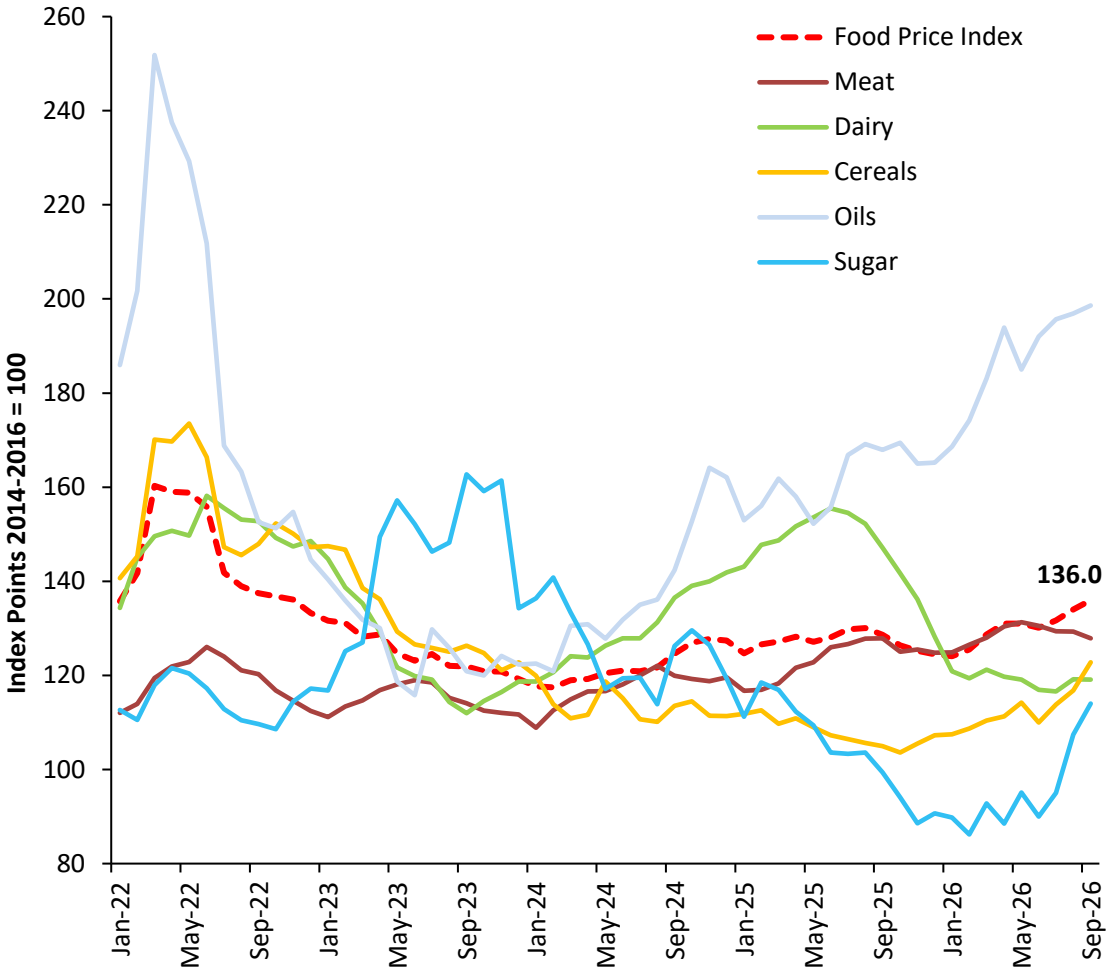
Fertilizers



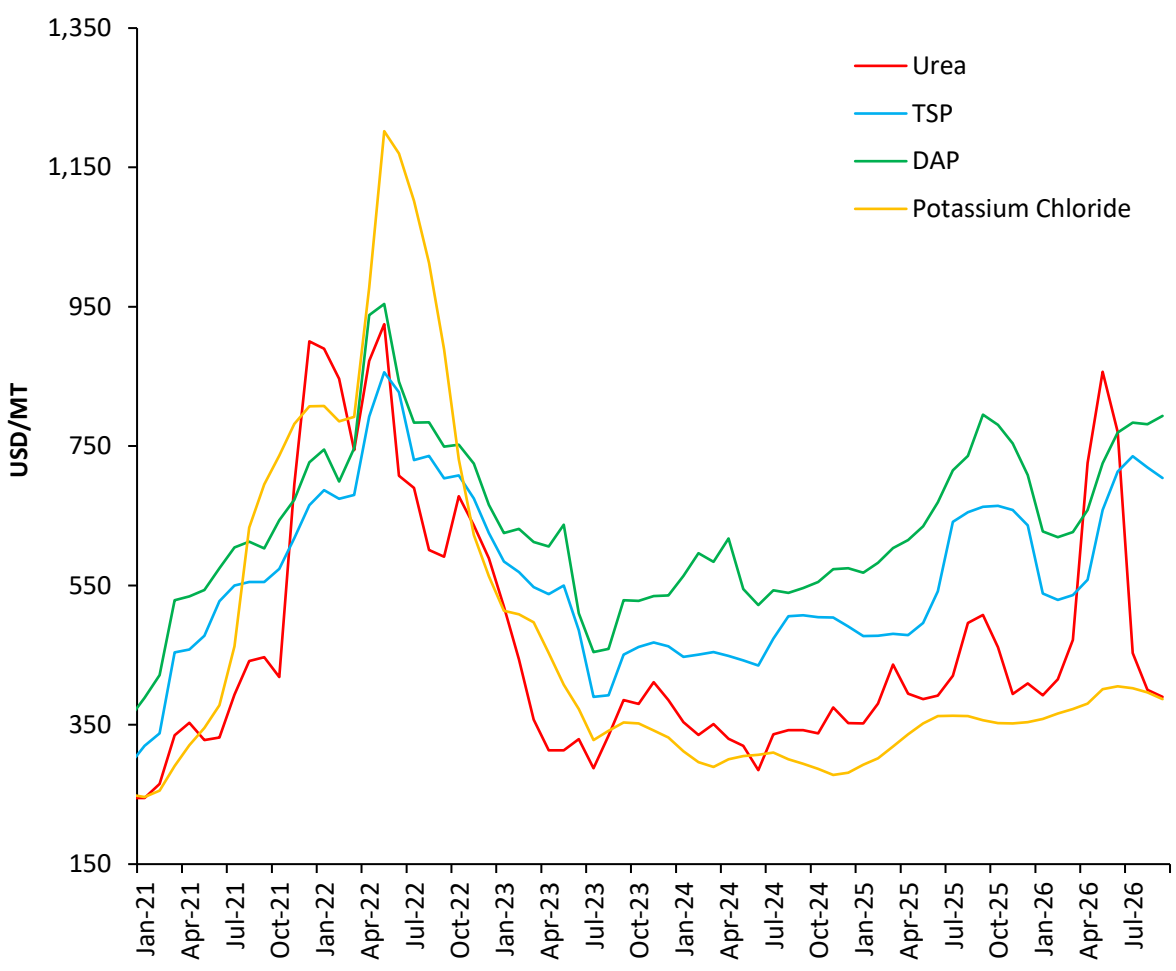
Source: Sri Lanka Customs

International Agricultural Commodity Prices

FAO Food Price Index



International Fertilizer Prices

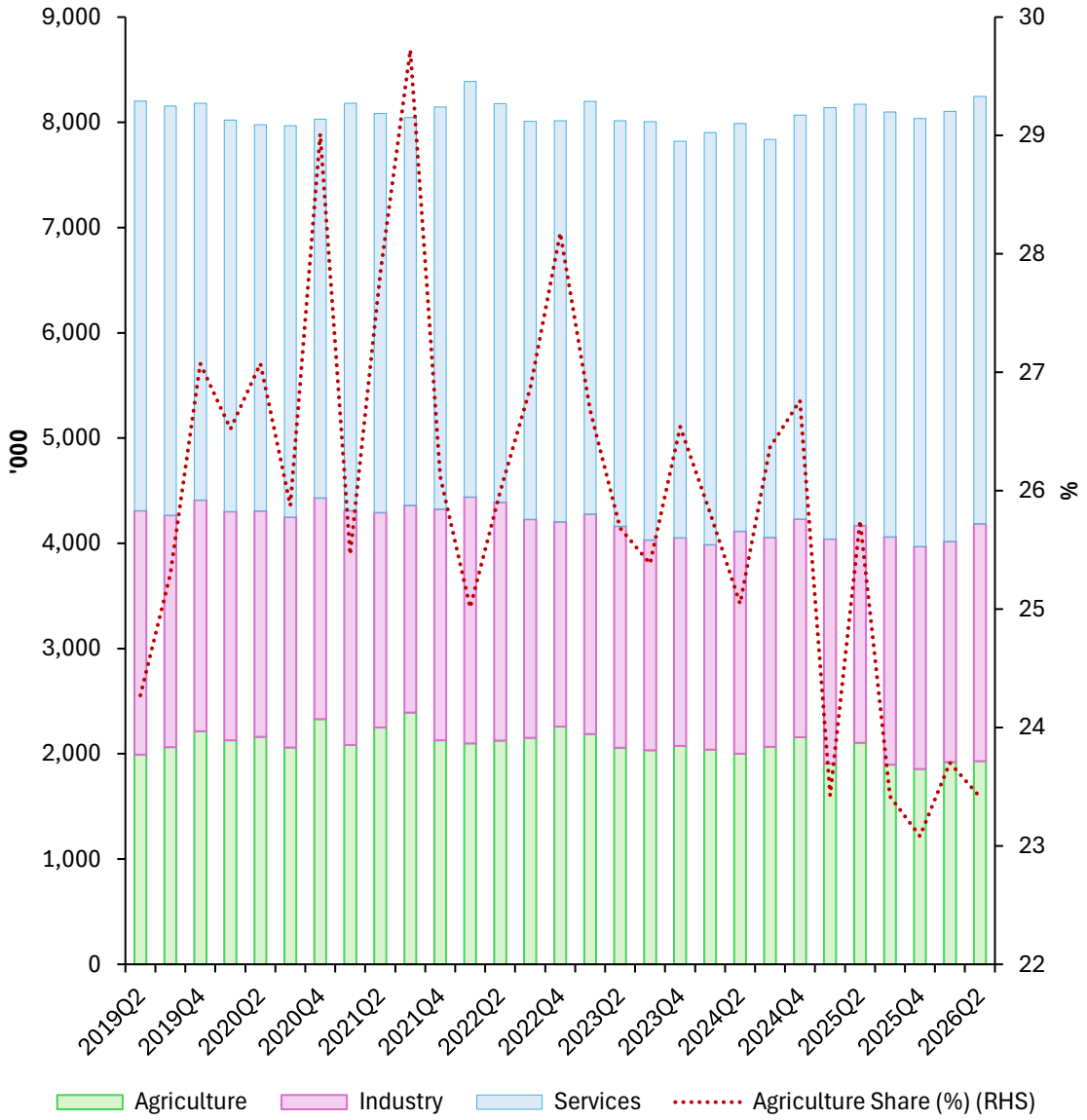


In September 2026, the FAO Food Price Index increased compared to the previous month, driven by higher prices of cereals, vegetable oils, and sugar, while meat prices declined and dairy prices remained unchanged

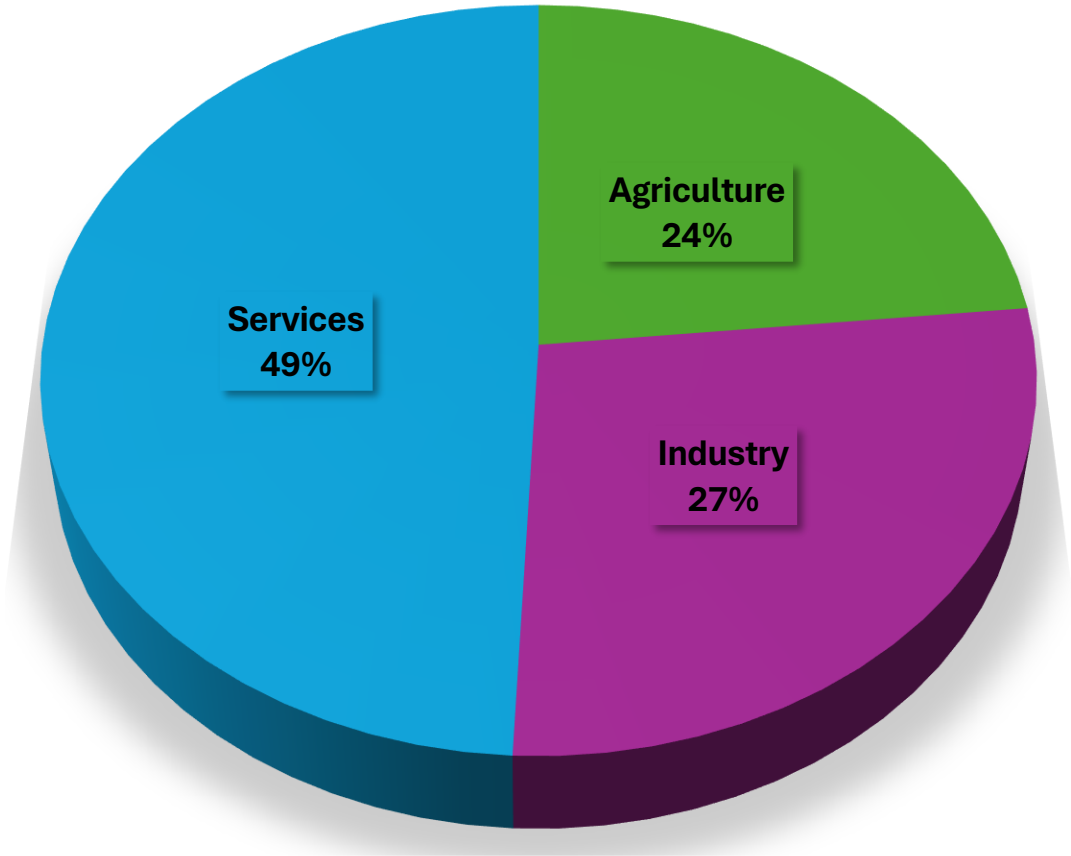
Sources: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Bank

Employment in Agriculture

Sector-wise Employed Population



Sector-wise Employed Population – 2026 Q2



The agricultural sector accounted for around 24% of the total employed population in Q2 2026

Source: Department of Census and Statistics



Datasets: https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/statistics/statistical-tables/real-sector/production-indicators

**The figures for 2024 and 2025 provided in this data summary are highly provisional.*

Economic Research Department
Central Bank of Sri Lanka