SUDAN

IFPRI

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MARKET PRICES AND AVAILABILITY REPORT 21 October 2026

Essential Commodities Prices, Availability, and Market Actors' Perceptions

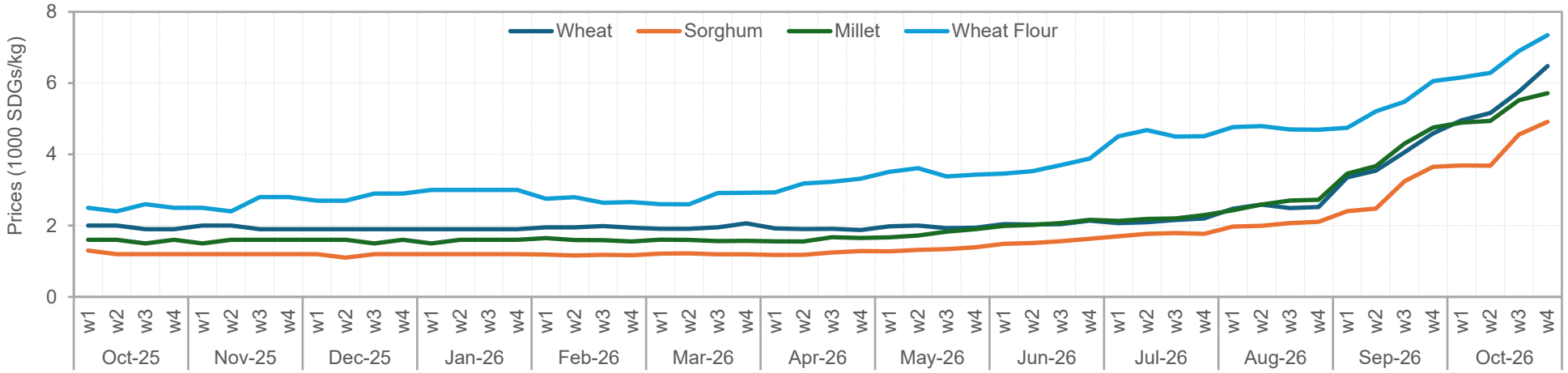
Key Takeaways | October 2026

In October 2026, Sudan's monitored markets experienced widespread increases in food and agricultural input prices, alongside declining reported availability of key staples. Prices rose for wheat, sorghum, millet, wheat flour, rice, lentils, and pigeon peas, while the share of traders reporting high availability of these commodities fell. Cooking oil, fava beans, seeds, fertilizers, and parallel-market fuel also became more expensive. Price disparities remained pronounced across states, particularly in Darfur and Kordofan, while the parallel-market exchange rate climbed to roughly twice the official rate.

Among 164 surveyed merchants, 29 percent reported supply-chain and logistical challenges, up from 23 percent in September, and 30 percent faced financial or liquidity constraints, up from 21 percent. Despite these pressures, 74 percent expected to continue trading as usual over the next one to three months, while 18 percent planned to increase trade volumes.

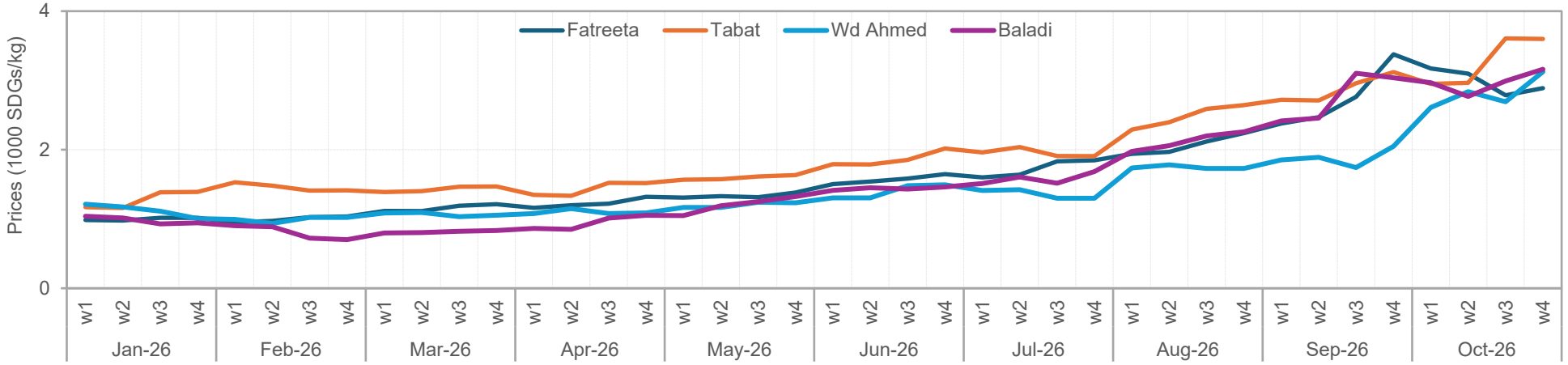
Cereals and Flour

The figure below shows weekly average local prices of cereals and wheat flour (SDG/kg) from October 2025 to October 2026. In October 2026, prices of all four commodities continued to rise sharply compared with September 2026, with wheat flour recording the highest prices.

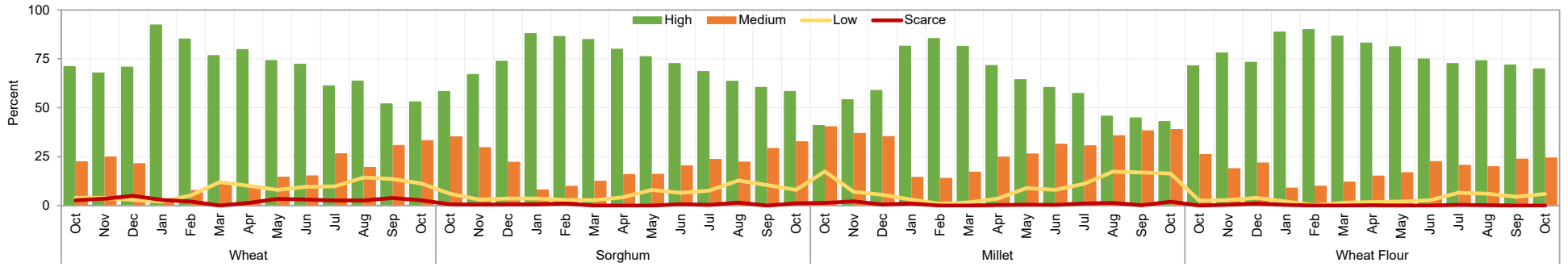


Sorghum Varieties

The figure below shows weekly average local prices of sorghum varieties (SDG/kg) from January to October 2026. In October Fatreeta prices declined slightly compared with the last week of September, while prices of Tabat, Wd Ahmed, and Baladi increased modestly towards the end of the month.



The figure below shows traders' perceptions of cereal and wheat flour availability from October 2025 to October 2026. In October 2026, the share of traders reporting high availability continued to decline for all four commodities, extending the downward trend observed in August and September 2026.

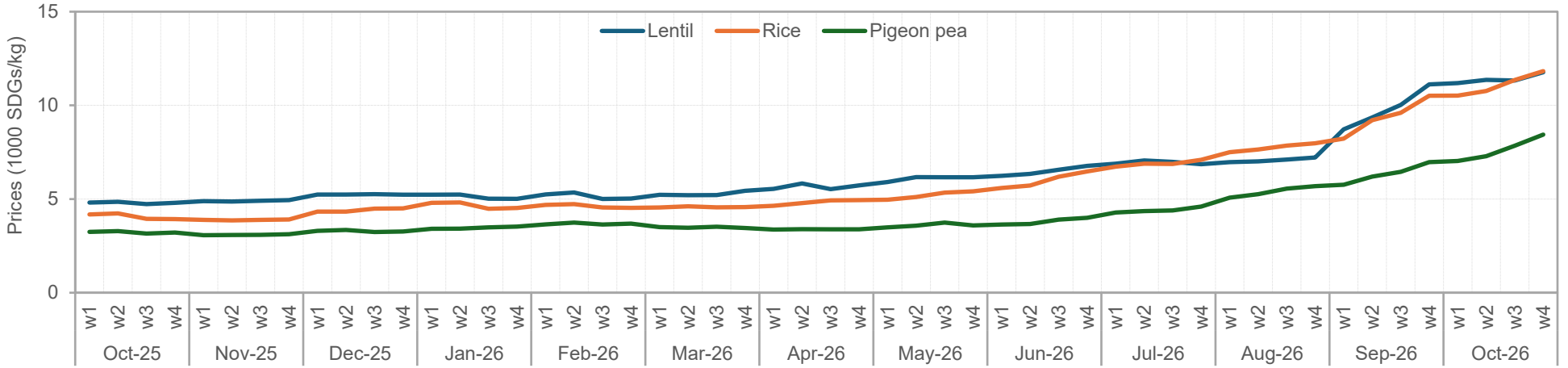


The heatmap shows substantial variation in cereal and wheat flour prices across states in September and October 2026, with prices continuing to rise in most states. Wheat prices were highest in West and North Darfur and West Kordofan in both months, while the lowest prices were recorded in Al Gezira and South Kordofan. Sorghum and millet prices were highest in Northern, River Nile, and Khartoum states, with Kassala also recording high sorghum prices. The lowest prices for both commodities were recorded in South Kordofan, with sorghum prices also relatively low in Blue Nile and Darfur states. Wheat flour prices were highest in North Darfur and West and South Kordofan.



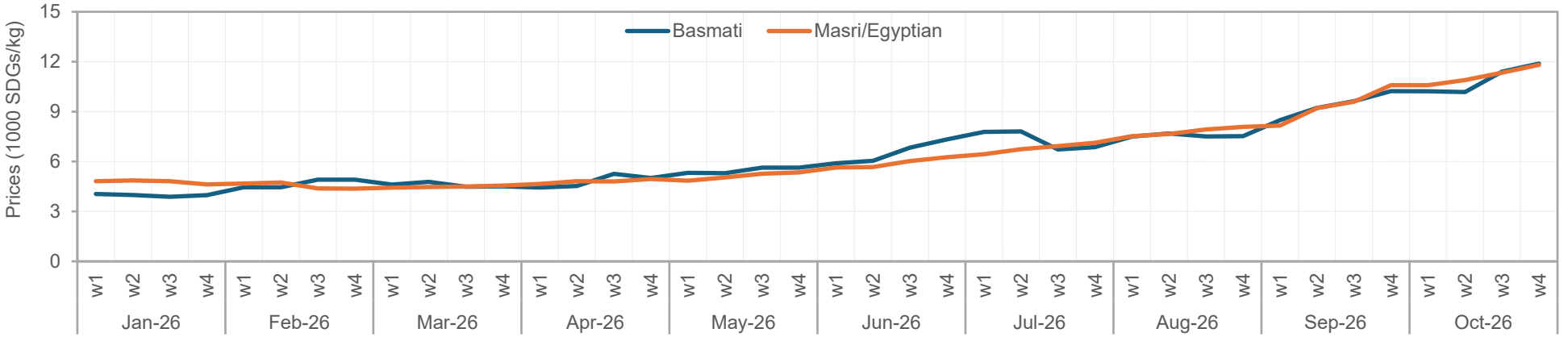
Lentils, Rice, and Pigeon Peas

The figure below shows weekly average local prices of lentils, rice, and pigeon peas (1,000 SDG/kg) from October 2025 to October 2026. Prices of all three commodities continued to rise in October 2026, with particularly sharp increases in pigeon pea and rice prices.

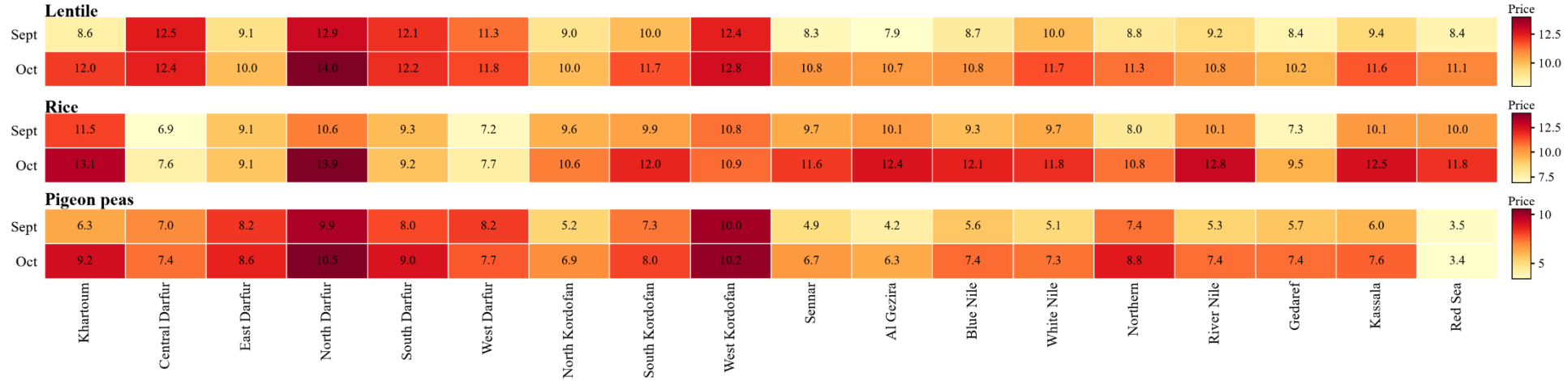


Rice Varieties

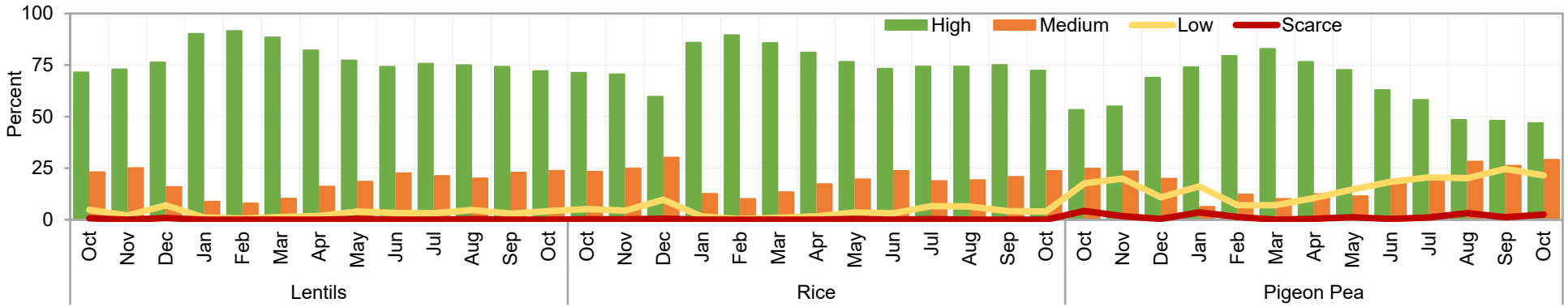
The figure below presents weekly average local prices of Basmati and Masri (Egyptian) rice (1,000 SDG/kg) from January to October 2026. Prices of both rice varieties continued to rise steadily throughout August, September, and October 2026.



The heatmap below shows monthly average prices of lentils, rice, and pigeon peas across states (1,000 SDG/kg) in September and October 2026. Prices of all three commodities increased in most states in October compared to September. North Darfur consistently recorded the highest prices across all three commodities followed by West Kordofan. In contrast, relatively lower prices were recorded in North Kordofan and East Darfur for lentils, Central and West Darfur for rice, and Red Sea and Al Gezira for pigeon peas.

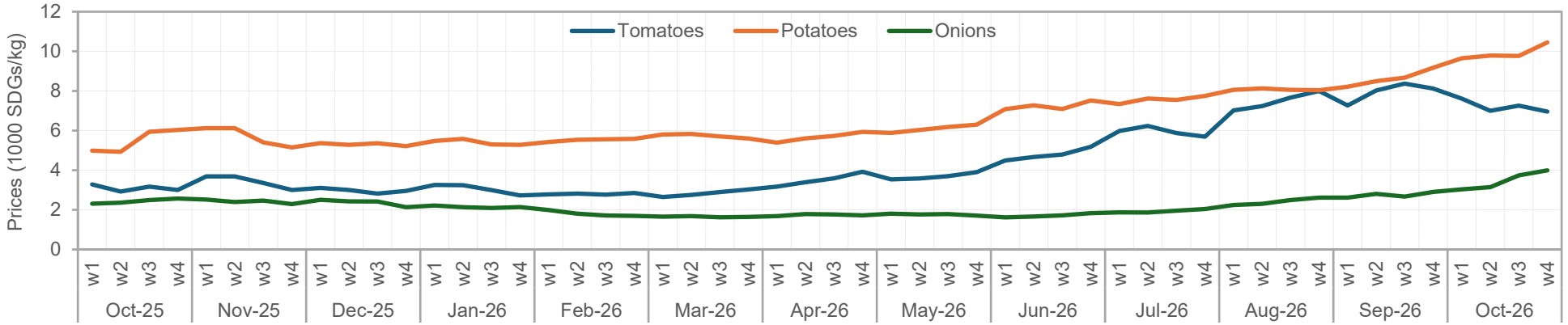


The figure below shows traders' perceptions of lentil, rice, and pigeon pea availability from October 2025 to October 2026. Since April 2026, the share of traders reporting high availability has generally declined, remaining relatively stable between August and September before declining further in October.

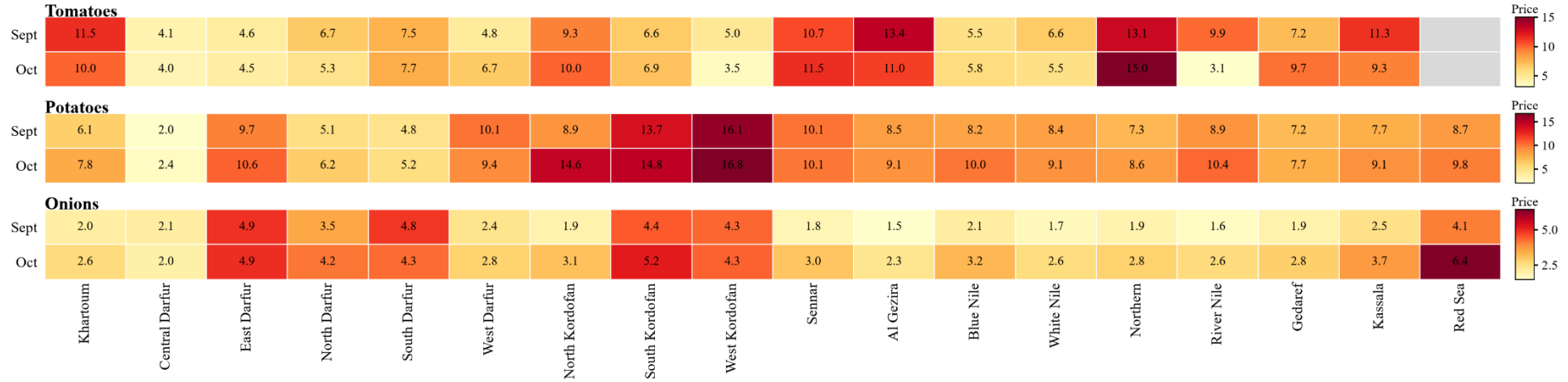


Vegetables

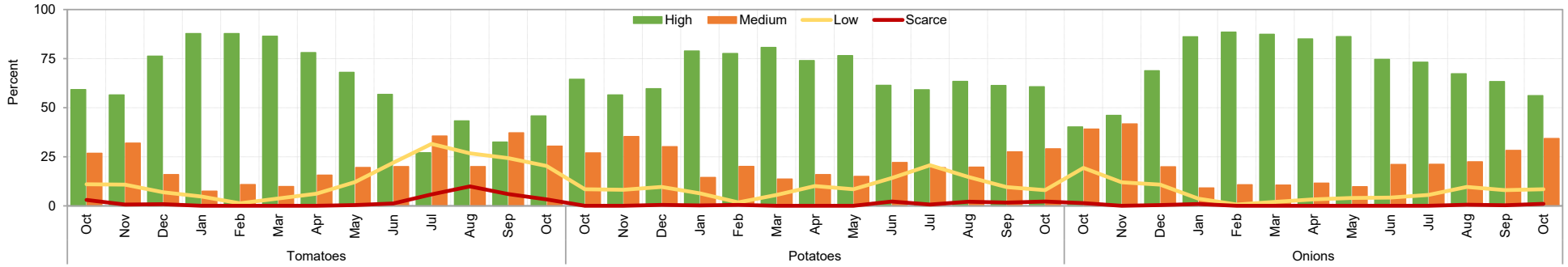
The figure below shows weekly average vegetable prices (SDG/kg) from October 2025 to October 2026. In October, potato and onion prices continued to rise, while tomato prices declined slightly compared with September.



The heatmap compares vegetable prices across states in September and October 2026. In October, the highest tomato prices were recorded in Northern state, followed by Sennar and Al Gezira, while prices declined sharply in River Nile and West Kordofan. Potato prices were highest in the Kordofan states, while the lowest prices were recorded in Central Darfur. Onion prices also increased in most states, with the highest prices recorded in Red Sea, South Kordofan, and East Darfur.

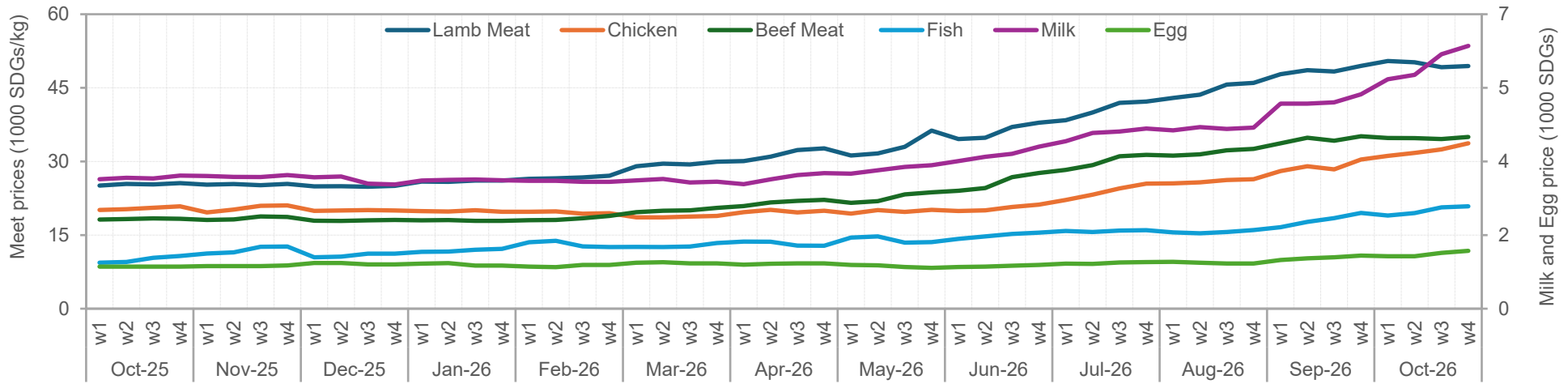


The figure below shows traders' perceptions of vegetable availability from October 2025 to October 2026. In October 2026, the share of traders reporting high availability showed mixed trends across the three vegetables compared with September. Perceived high availability increased for tomato, remained largely unchanged for potato, and declined for onion.

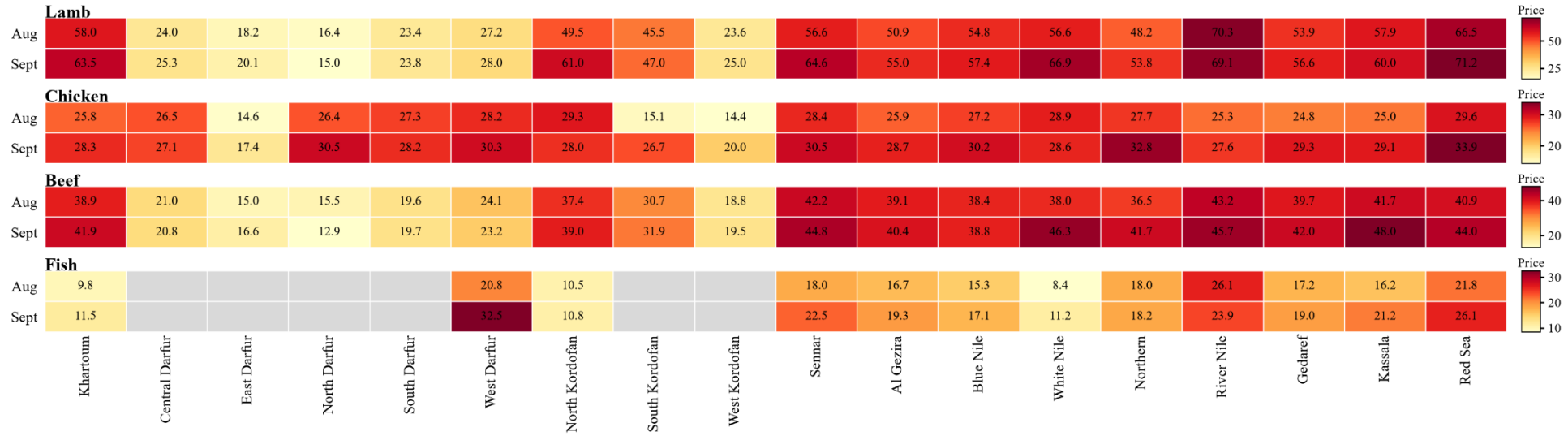


Meat and Animal Products

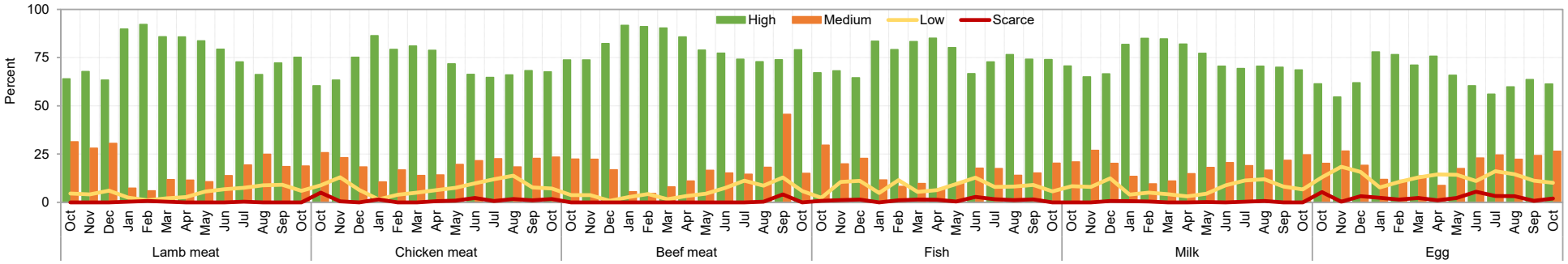
The figure below shows weekly average retail prices of meat and animal products (1,000 SDG/kg) from October 2025 to October 2026. In October 2026, lamb, beef, and egg prices remained relatively stable, while milk prices continued its sharp increase of late September.



The heatmap compares lamb, chicken, beef, and fish prices across states in September and October 2026. Prices increased in most states, with fish prices particularly high in West Darfur in both months. In October, Darfur states recorded relatively low lamb and beef prices, while lamb prices were highest in Red Sea, River Nile, White Nile, and Sennar; chicken prices in Red Sea and Northern; and beef prices in Kassala, White Nile, River Nile, and Sennar.

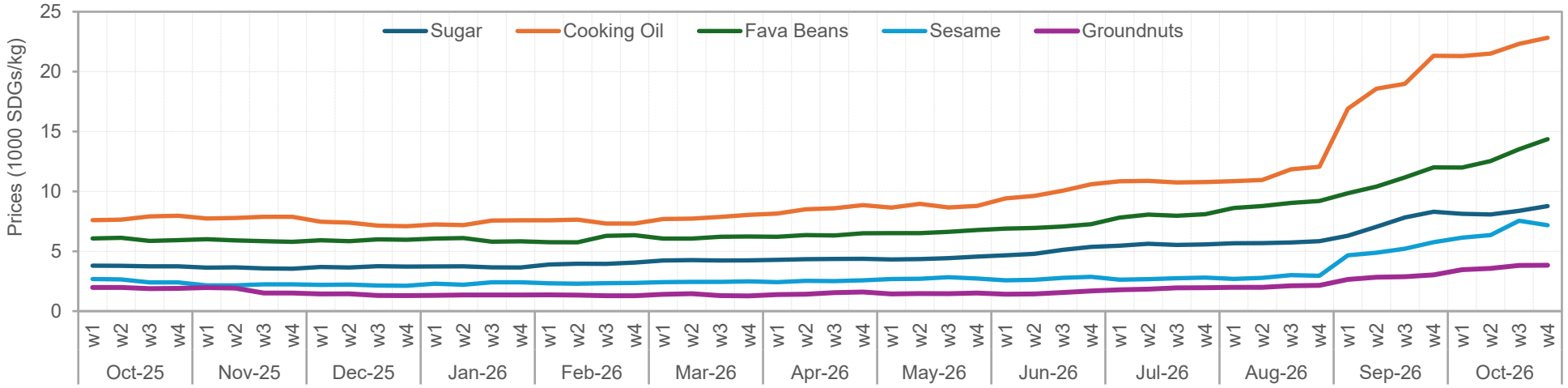


In October 2026, the share of traders reporting high availability increased for lamb and beef, declined slightly for milk and eggs, and remained largely unchanged for chicken and fish compared with September.



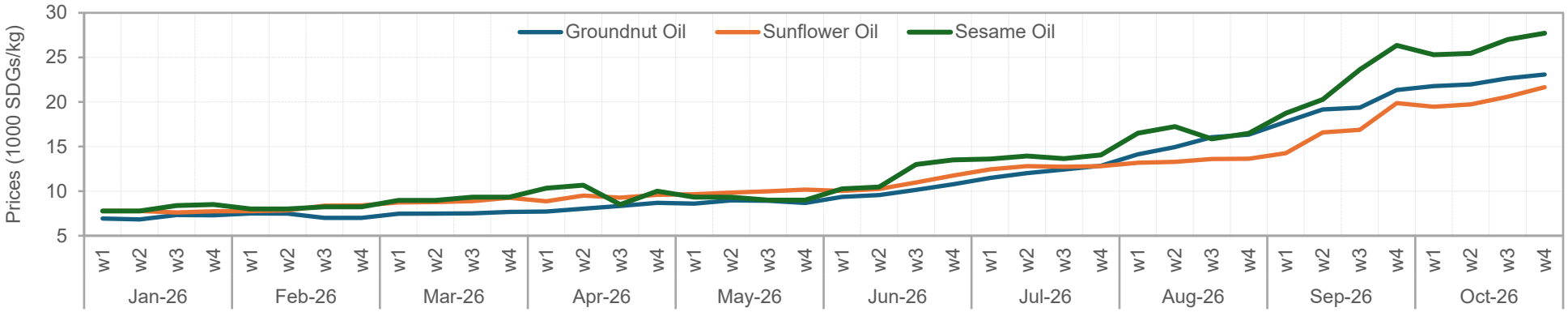
Oilseeds, Cooking Oil, Sugar, and Fava Beans

Retail prices of sugar, groundnuts, sesame, and fava beans (1,000 SDG/kg), as well as cooking oil (1,000 SDG/liter), continued to rise throughout September and October 2026, with cooking oil and fava beans recording the sharpest increases in October.



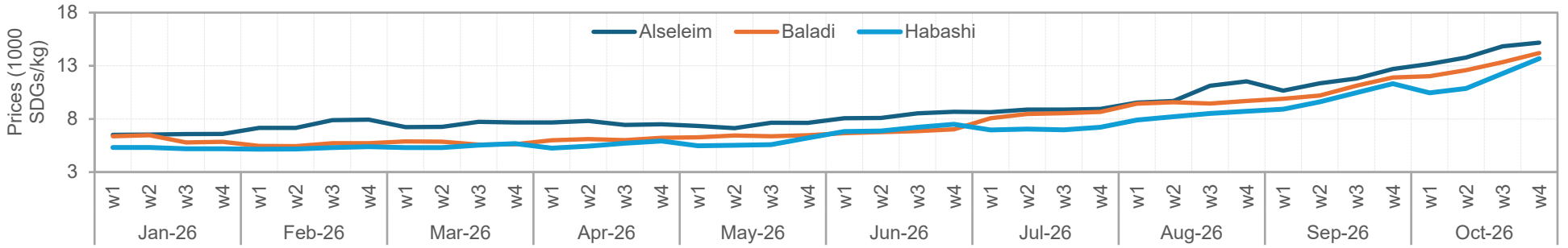
Cooking Oil Varieties

The figure below shows weekly average local prices of groundnut, sunflower, and sesame oils (1,000 SDG/liter) from January to October 2026. Prices of all three varieties continued to rise. Sesame oil remained the most expensive throughout September and October.

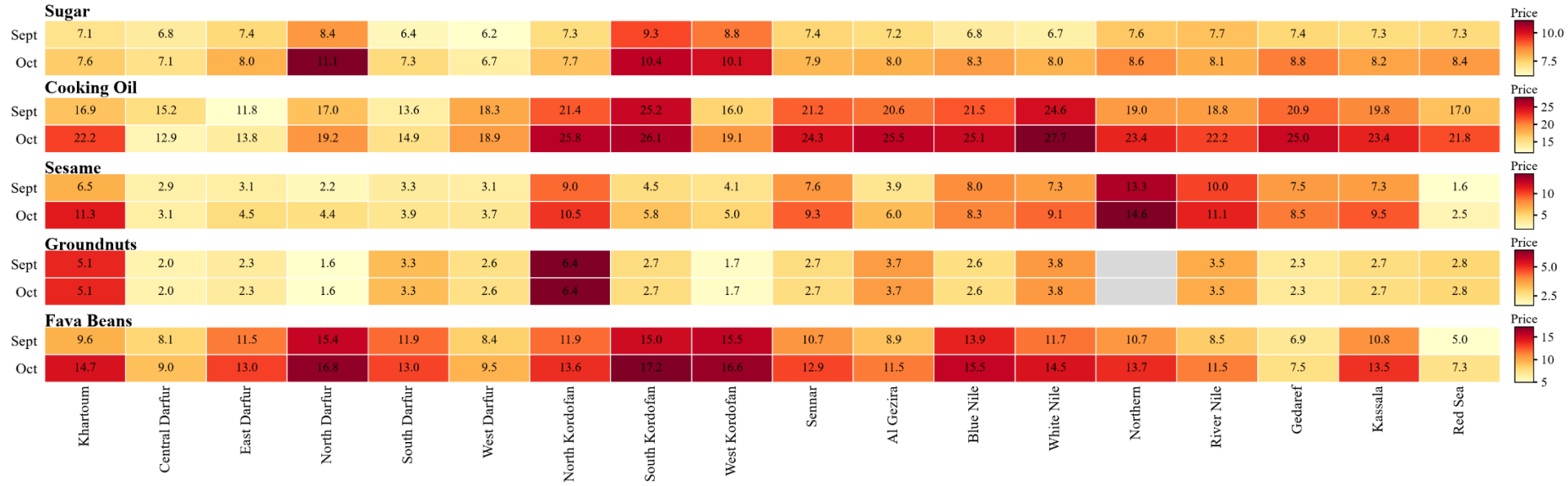


Fava bean Varieties

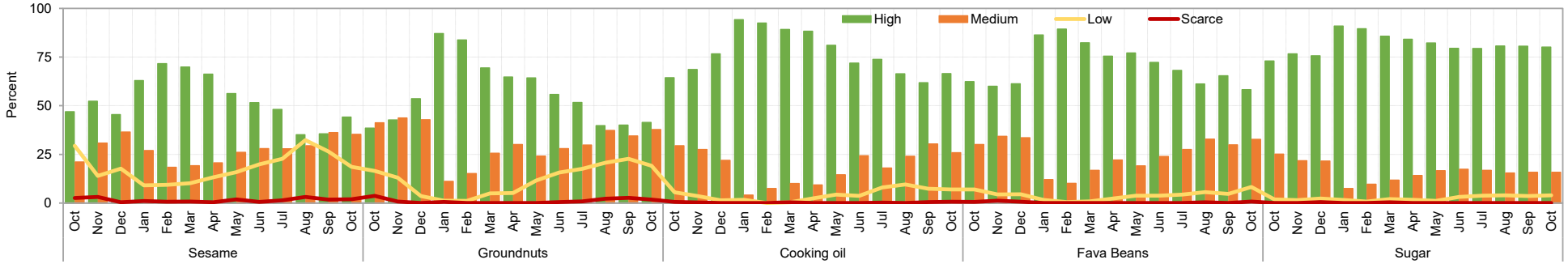
The figure below shows weekly average local prices of three fava bean varieties – Alseleim, Baladi, and Habashi (1,000 SDG/kg) – from January to October 2026. Prices generally increased modestly, with Alseleim remaining the most expensive and rising sharply in the second half of October. Habashi prices declined in early October before rebounding and exceedingly late-September levels.



The heatmap shows prices of oilseeds, cooking oil, sugar, and fava beans across states in September and October 2026 (1,000 SDG). During this period, Darfur states generally recorded relatively lower prices for cooking oil, sesame, groundnuts, and sugar – except North Darfur – while recording higher fava bean prices. South and West Kordofan recorded the highest sugar prices, while cooking oil prices were highest in White Nile state.

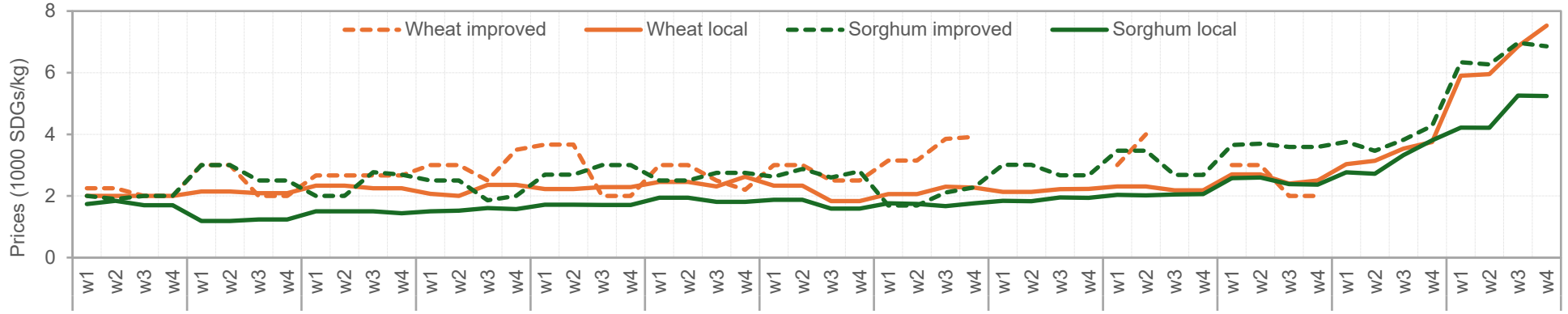


The share of traders reporting high availability increased for sesame, groundnuts, and cooking oil, while declined for fava beans and sugar in October 2026 compared with September.



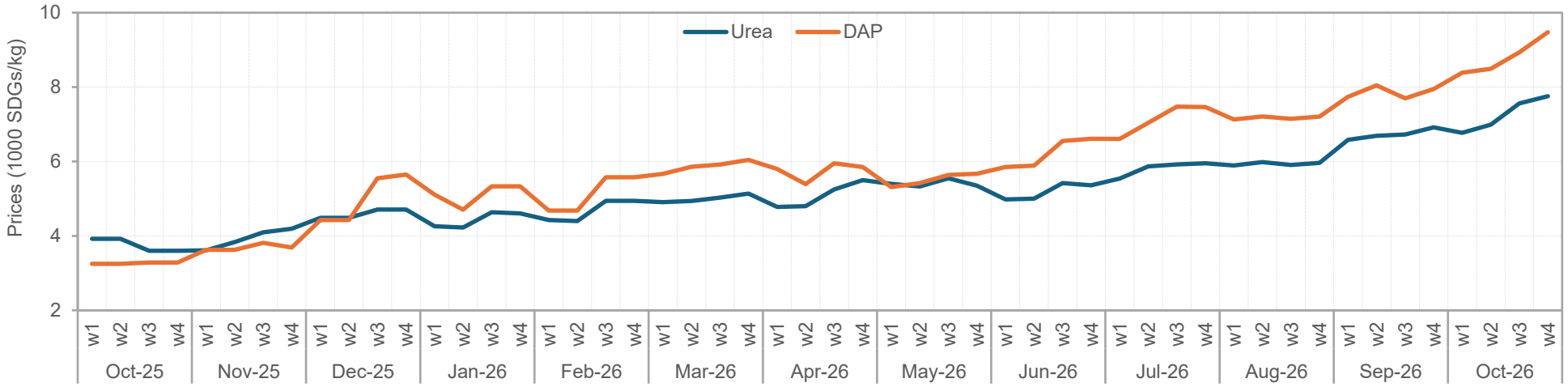
Seeds (Improved and Local)

The figure below shows weekly average retail seed prices (1,000 SDG/kg) from October 2025 to October 2026. Prices of local wheat and sorghum seeds and improved sorghum seed continued to rise sharply throughout October and September 2026 compared with August 2026.

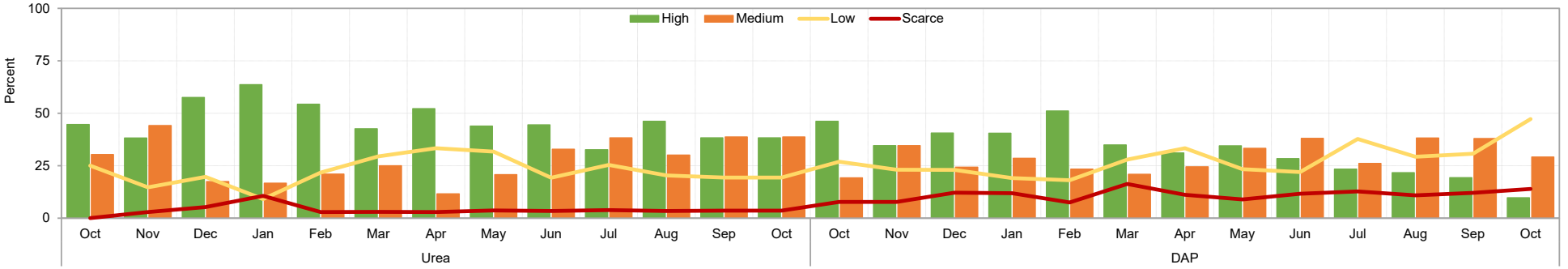


Fertilizers

Retail fertilizer prices (1,000 SDG/kg, weekly averages) continued to rise in September and October 2026 after remaining relatively stable in August. Urea prices declined slightly in early October before rebounding and exceeding September levels towards the end of the month. DAP prices remained consistently higher than urea prices throughout this period.

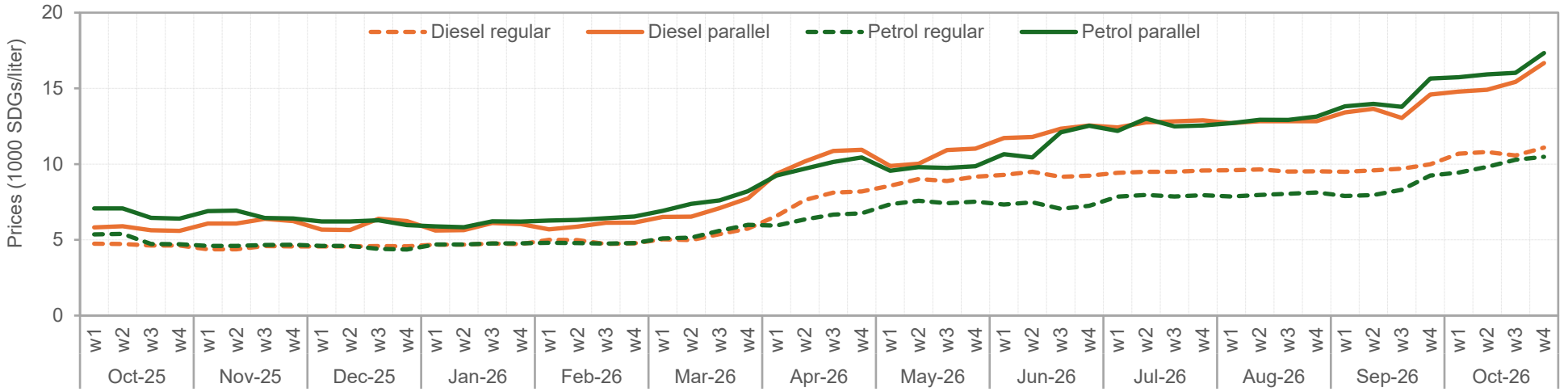


Traders' perceptions of fertilizer availability from October 2025 to October 2026 show that, in October 2026, the shares reporting high, medium, and low urea availability of Urea remained unchanged compared with September. In contrast, the share reporting high DAP availability declined sharply.

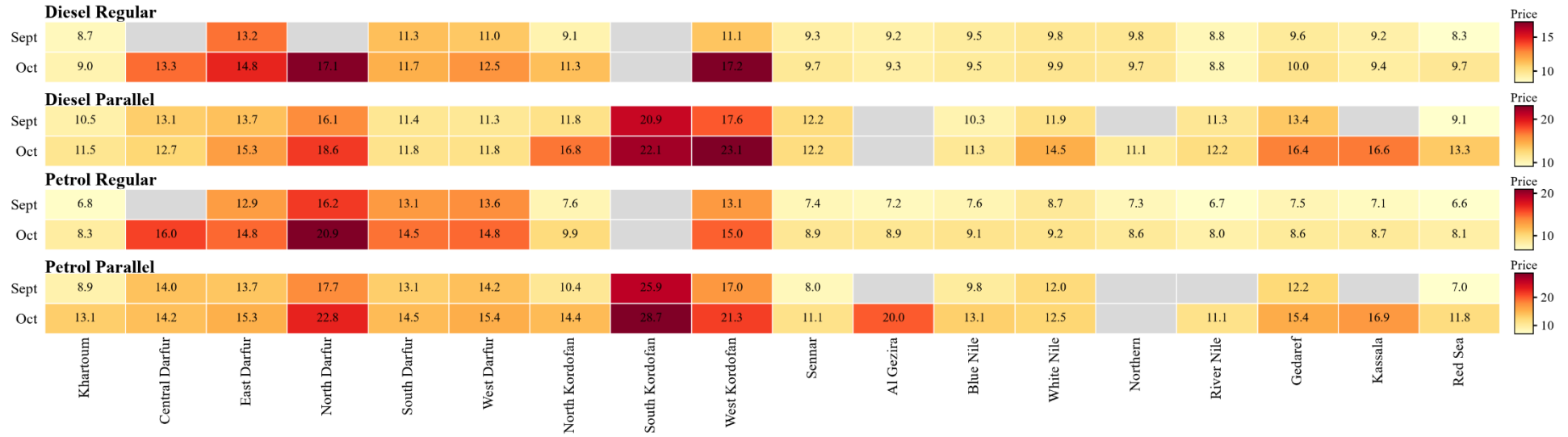


Diesel and Petrol

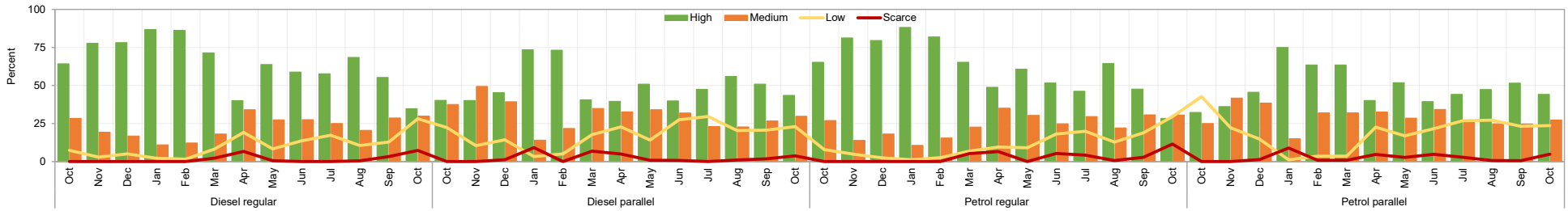
Weekly average retail fuel prices (SDG/liter) from October 2025 to October 2026 show that parallel-market prices continued to rise sharply in September and October 2026. Official-market prices, which had remained relatively stable since June, also increased slightly over the same period.



The heatmap of retail fuel prices across states (1,000 SDG/liter) in September and October 2026 shows that prices remained substantially higher in Darfur and Kordofan states than elsewhere. Parallel-market prices were highest in South Kordofan, followed by West Kordofan and North Darfur.

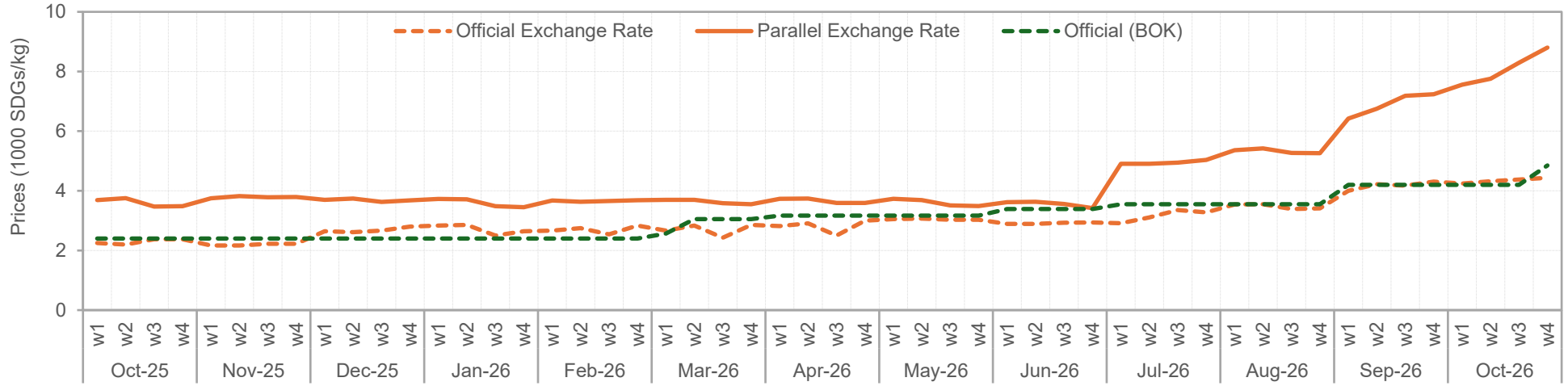


Traders' perceptions of fuel availability from October 2025 to October 2026 show that, in October, the share reporting high petrol availability declined sharply in both regular and parallel markets compared with September. High availability declined more sharply in the regular market than in the parallel market.



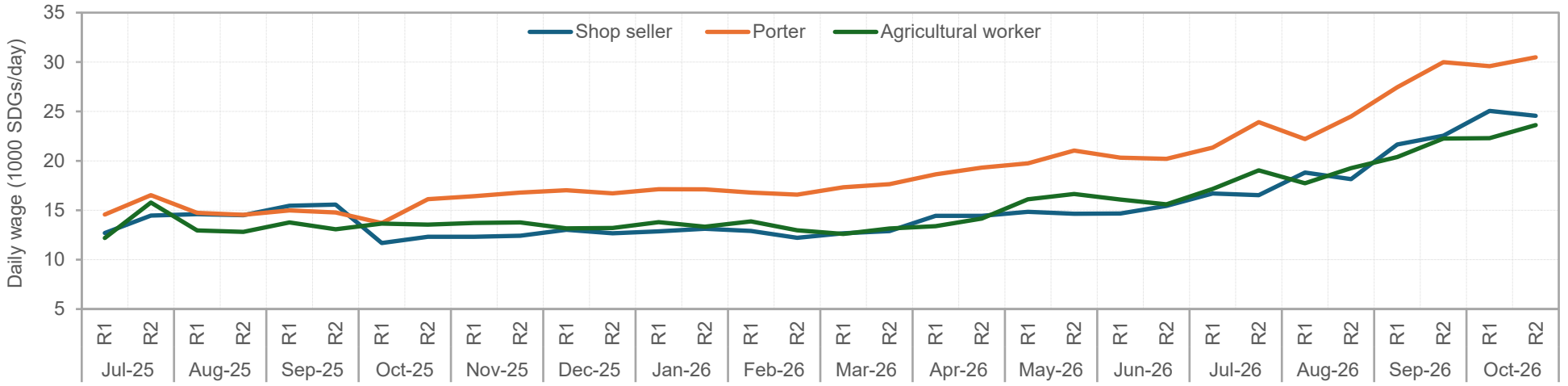
Exchange Rates

The parallel-market exchange rate (SDG per US dollar) rose sharply throughout September and October 2026. In October, the official rate reported by traders remained stable and almost identical to that of the Bank of Khartoum. The gap between official and parallel-market rates widened with the parallel-market rate reaching almost more than twice the official rate.

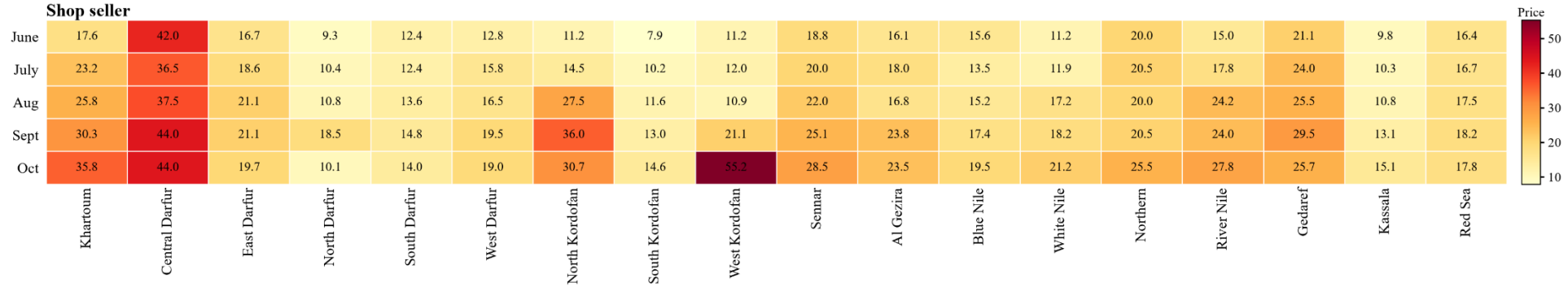


Labor wages

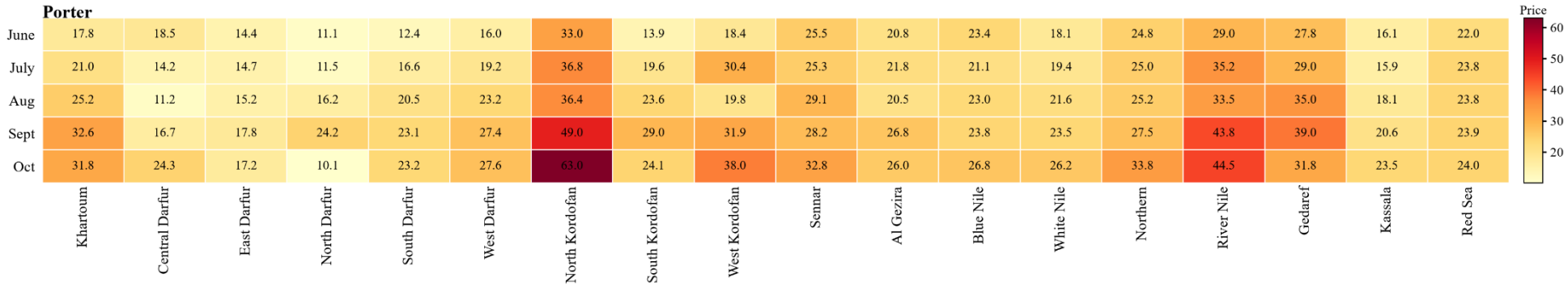
The figure shows average daily wages (1,000 SDG/day) for shop sellers, porters, and agricultural workers from July 2025 to October 2026. Overall, wages increased in September and October compared with August. In October, shop seller and agricultural worker wages rose slightly.



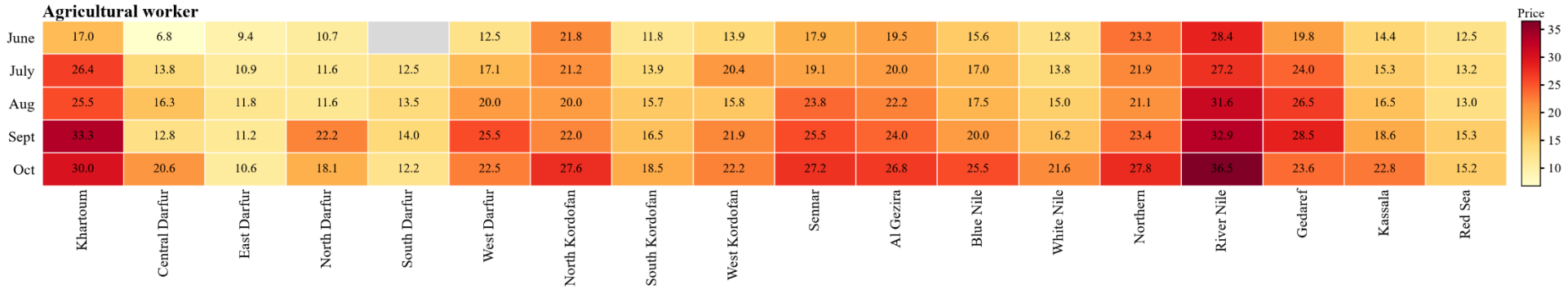
The heatmap of shop sellers' daily wages across states (1,000 SDG/day) from June to October 2026 shows that wages increased slightly in October compared with September in most states. During October, wages were highest in West Kordofan, followed by Central Darfur and Khartoum. Central Darfur wages are the highest during the period on average.



For porters, wages increased notably in October compared with September across some states. In September and October, porter wages were highest in North Kordofan and River Nile, followed by Khartoum and West Kordofan.



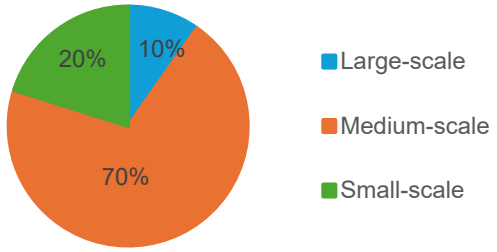
For agricultural workers, the highest October wages were recorded in River Nile, Khartoum, Northern, and Al Gezira. Darfur states, Red Sea, South Kordofan, and White Nile recorded lower wages during September and October. Throughout the five months, wages are consistently higher in River Nile state.



Market Actors' Perceptions

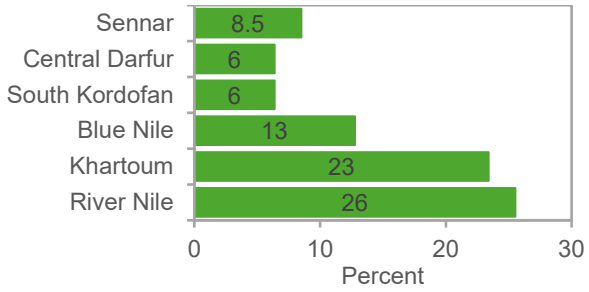
Size of merchants in the market

The distribution of merchants by trading scale (N=164) indicates that medium-scale traders account for 70 percent of all merchants and are primarily concentrated in Khartoum, South Kordofan, and River Nile states. Large-scale traders are predominantly located in Blue Nile, North Darfur, and White Nile states, while small-scale traders are more common in Blue Nile, West Kordofan, Khartoum, and White Nile states.



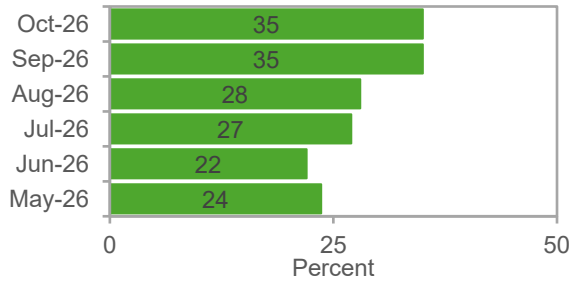
Supply Chain and Logistical Challenges Facing Merchants

In October 2026, 29 percent of merchants reported facing supply chain and logistical challenges (23 percent in September 2026). The highest proportion of reported challenges (N=47) was observed in River Nile (26 percent), followed by Khartoum (23 percent).



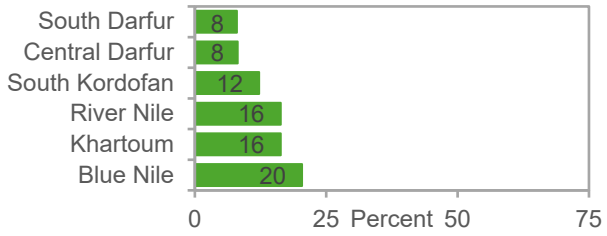
Changes in Demand Conditions

In October 2026, 35 percent of merchants reported changes in demand conditions (like September 2026). Merchants in Khartoum, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan states comprise the highest share of those reporting changes.



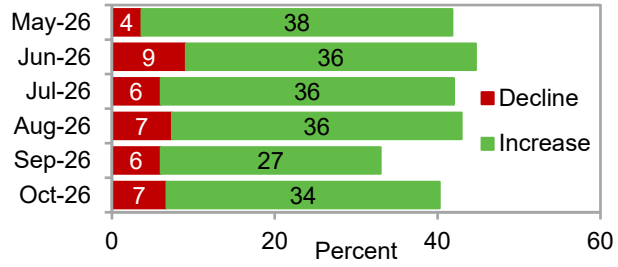
Financial and Liquidity Constraints

In October 2026, 30 percent of merchants reported facing financial and liquidity challenges compared to 21 percent in September (N=49). Merchants in Blue Nile state comprise the highest proportion of merchants reporting financial and liquidity constraints (20 percent), followed by Khartoum (16 percent), and River Nile (16 percent).



Profits and Profitability Trends

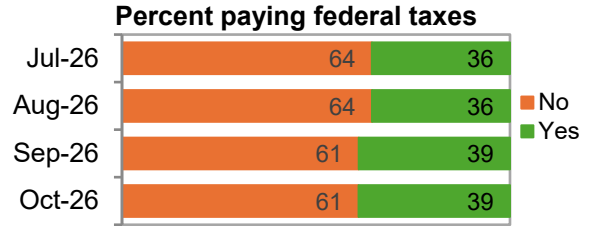
The share of merchants (May 2026 - October 2026) reporting increased profit margins rose to 34 percent in October, compared to 27 percent in September 2026.



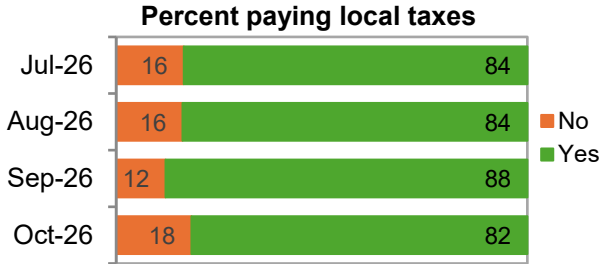
The highest shares of merchants reporting profit increases are in South Kordofan, White Nile and West Kordofan states, while Khartoum, Blue Nile, and North Kordofan states have the highest shares of merchants reporting stable profit margins. Declines in profit margins were limited, however concentrated in Sennar, Central Darfur and West Darfur states.

Taxes and Fees

The share of merchants reporting payments of federal taxes and government fees (September 2026 – October 2026) remained unchanged at 39 percent in October. Most merchants reporting federal tax payments were in River Nile, Northern, Khartoum and Gedaref states.



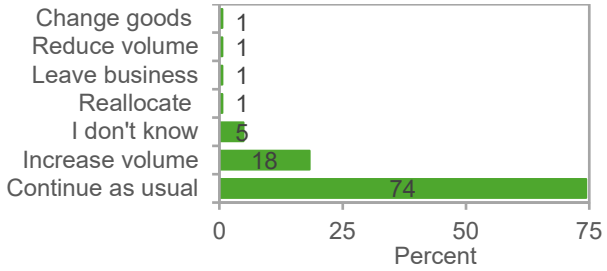
The share of merchants paying state and locality-level fees decreased to 82 percent in October 2026, compared to 88 percent in September 2026, with most payments reported in Blue Nile, Khartoum, and River Nile states.



Traders' Future Outlook

Traders' outlook for the next 1–3 months indicates that 74 percent of surveyed merchants plan to continue trading as usual, while 18 percent plan to increase the volume of goods traded.

Merchants in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan states accounted for the highest share of merchants intending to increase trade volumes.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Tarig Rakhy is a Research Analyst in IFPRI's DSG Unit, based in Elobied, Sudan. **Shima Mohamed** is a Research Analyst in IFPRI's DSG Unit, based in in Cairo, Egypt. **Hala Abushama** is a Research Analyst in IFPRI's DSG Unit, based in Cairo, Egypt. **Halefom Yigzaw Nigus** is a Research Collaborator in the DSG Unit of IFPRI, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **Isra Fagir** is a Research Analyst in IFPRI's DSG Unit, based in Northern state, Sudan. **Cindy MohamedKheir** is a Trainee with IFPRI-Sudan, based in Cairo, Egypt. **Khalid Siddig** is Senior Research Fellow in IFPRI's DSG Unit and the Leader of IFPRI's Sudan and Kenya Strategy Support Programs, based in Nairobi, Kenya and an Associate Professor at Khartoum University, Sudan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported by the Netherlands Embassy for Sudan. This partnership enables sustained production and use of timely, reliable, and publicly available market data in one of the world's most challenging contexts.

Citation: Rakhy, Tarig; Mohamed, Shima; Abushama, Hala; Nigus, Halefom Yigzaw; Fagir, Isra; MohamedKheir, Cindy; and Siddig, Khalid. 2026. Essential commodities prices, availability, and market actors' perceptions: October 2026. Sudan Market Prices and Availability Report 21. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

The Sudan Strategy Support Program (SSSP) is managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This publication has been prepared as an output of the SSSP and has not been independently peer reviewed. Any opinion expressed here belongs to the author(s) and is not necessarily representative of or endorsed by IFPRI.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A sustainable world free of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition

IFPRI is a CGIAR Research Center

IFPRI Sudan, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), 7th Amarat Street | P.O. Box 474 – 11111 | Khartoum, Sudan

Email: ifpri-sudan@cgiar.org | https://sudan.ifpri.info/

© 2026, copyright remains with the author(s). All rights reserved.