

High ground in a volatile world

Australia agribusiness outlook 2026



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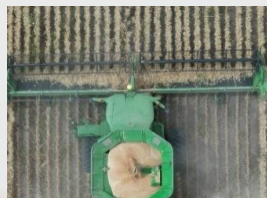
This report is based on information available as at 29/1/2026

2026 commodity outlooks



Climate

Initial conditions for 2026 show mixed moisture across regions, a developing El Niño signal and a warm start. This combination suggests the season may unfold differently from the past two, especially for rainfall volumes by the end of the season.



Wheat and barley

Global grain stocks have risen again on strong yields, keeping prices under pressure. A possible reduction in global wheat area due to poor profitability could offer modest price support later in 2026, and barley remains relatively resilient following the livestock sector's good moment.



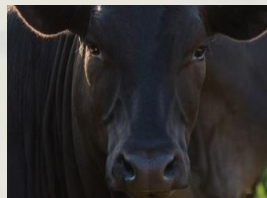
Canola

Australian expectations of shipping more canola to China in 2026 faded once Canada negotiated lower tariffs in the initial days of the year. The European demand is keeping the non-GM market much better supported, a scenario likely to persist as policy decisions reinforce canola oil demand.



Pulses

Global pulse markets face clear oversupply, with large stocks rises in the Northern Hemisphere following positive yields across the board. Strong South Asian production and falling prices point to potential import duties hikes in India, adding further price and demand headwinds.



Beef

RaboResearch expects Australia's beef production and cattle slaughter numbers to remain very similar to 2025 levels in 2026. Australian cattle prices are expected to track around January levels for the remainder of 2026, although risks exist with seasonal and trade disruptions possible.



Sheep

The year 2025 saw the largest contraction in lamb slaughter in over 40 years. This reduced supply is expected to continue supporting high lamb prices, but it also raises the possibility of a strong flock rebuild and a large increase in lambs late in 2026.



Other animal proteins

Production growth is expected to continue in pork, poultry and goats in 2026. Pig prices are expected to remain strong and goat prices are expected to rise.



Wool

Wool prices recovered sharply in 2025, pushing the Eastern Market Indicator to AUD 16.1/kg. The 2026 outlook will hinge largely on the strength of Chinese demand, which remains the primary determinant of price momentum.



Cotton

Global oversupply has dominated cotton market sentiment in recent months. However, early signs of acreage reductions among key producers suggest that a supply response is underway, which may help establish a price floor in 2026.



Sugar

Global sugar prices have fallen by more than 20% since early 2025, driven by expectations of a moderate global surplus in the 2025/26 season. Brazil is likely to harvest a larger cane crop in 2026, and although sugar margins are thin, shifting toward ethanol is challenging given the expansion of corn ethanol.



Farm inputs

Farmers continue to face stubbornly high input costs, with urea and phosphate prices remaining elevated. While urea prices may rise in the near term, softer gas prices and improving global supply suggest a likely easing later in the year.



Dairy

The big watch for 2026 is global market conditions which have weakened and are pushing farmgate prices lower in major dairy-export regions, excluding Australia. The downturn in commodity markets will find a floor in 2026, but markets remain well supplied in the near term.



Consumer foods

Food inflation should be less of an issue in 2026 for households, although some items will still face pressure. Australian consumers start this year on a stronger footing than at the same time last year. But there are headwinds for Australian households and affordability will continue to be a central food-purchasing theme.



Interest rate and FX

There is a good chance that the RBA cash rate might be on its way back up in 2026. A sharp pickup in economic growth and recent falls in the unemployment rate present upside risks to inflation that could lead to hikes. As a result, the Australian dollar is at a 14-month high and likely to head higher this year.



Oil and freight

Geopolitics will likely remain a significant driver for oil prices in 2026. That said, signs of oversupply have led RaboResearch to predict lower prices over the course of the year for both crude oil and diesel. We expect Brent crude to average USD 58/bbl in 2026.

Outlook themes and summary:

Australian agribusinesses remain well positioned amid geopolitical uncertainty. They are expected to navigate 2026 much as they did in 2025. Agri exports should continue their strong performance, while domestic consumer confidence faces renewed pressure due to limited interest-rate cuts. Livestock product prices are forecast to hold up well, whereas grain prices are likely to stay subdued given abundant global supply and growing inventories.

Major agricultural sectors enter 2026 from a position of strength. The recently harvested grain crop was the second largest on record – around 10% above last year's – and meat exports, including beef and sheep meat, remain resilient despite geopolitical tensions and tariffs.

The RaboResearch Australia Commodity Price Index is forecast to remain near its strong five-year average. Agri commodity prices are forecast to diverge in 2026. Prices for grains, oilseeds, pulses, cotton and sugar face continued pressure, while meat and wool are expected to perform well.

Soil moisture remains insufficient across much of the country – except northern Australia – making timely rainfalls critical for grain planting and pasture growth in those drier areas of the country. The Bureau of Meteorology's outlook through May calls for near- to below-normal rains, except for in the north.

Fertiliser and crop protection prices are expected to remain rangebound but elevated. While still above pre-Covid 19 levels, prices may be contained by tight global grain production margins that slightly reduce demand. However, geopolitical developments continue to pose upside risks.

Energy markets look oversupplied, but diesel costs are expected to remain elevated. Crude oil prices may trade below USD 60/bbl in 2026, although geopolitical risk remains a major wild card. Diesel is expected to stay comparatively expensive – both globally and in Australia, which relies heavily on imports.

Interest rate cuts appear less likely, with markets even pricing in possible increases. Sticky inflation remains a challenge and has limited prospects for further RBA rate reductions.

The global economic outlook for 2026 is somewhat subdued, with GDP growth slowing in the US, China and the Eurozone compared with last year's. Australia may be an exception, with RaboResearch forecasting a modest improvement to 2.3% in 2026 (up from 1.9% in 2025). **The Australian dollar has recently strengthened and is expected to stay stronger in 2026 than last year,** supporting import purchasing power but softening export returns in Australian dollar terms.

Geopolitics and shipping remain major areas of concern. With US President Trump not slowing down in the second year of his second term, further geopolitical surprises are likely. Commodity markets – from energy to fertilisers to agri goods – may feel the effects. Australia benefitted from strong US demand for beef in 2025 despite tariffs, but with most tariffs now removed, South American competition in the US market may intensify. Meanwhile, China's newly introduced beef import quotas present additional challenges for Australian and Brazilian exporters. Tariffs continue to be used actively by key trading

partners, even as some trade agreements progress – most notably the EU-Mercosur deal – while others, such as the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement, remain distant. Military actions and threats, including Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and new US military signals, add further uncertainty.

Key trends and drivers to watch in 2026:

Geopolitics will remain the dominant risk factor. While Australian agri commodities have so far held up well, fast-changing global trade rules and price volatility continue to pose risks across food and agri supply chains.

Climate and weather risks remain significant. Early 2026 has already brought severe bushfires and damaging floods. Agriculture will depend heavily on how conditions evolve. The Bureau of Meteorology's long-range forecast points to warmer-than-average temperatures and near-normal rainfall through April. El Niño is not fully off the cards. Some models see chances for El Niño patterns to emerge in the second half of the year.

The importance of the US dollar is challenged. China is increasingly pursuing commodity purchases in renminbi, while stablecoins are gaining traction in international commodity trade. Exporters may need to prepare for shifts in global payment practices in the coming years.

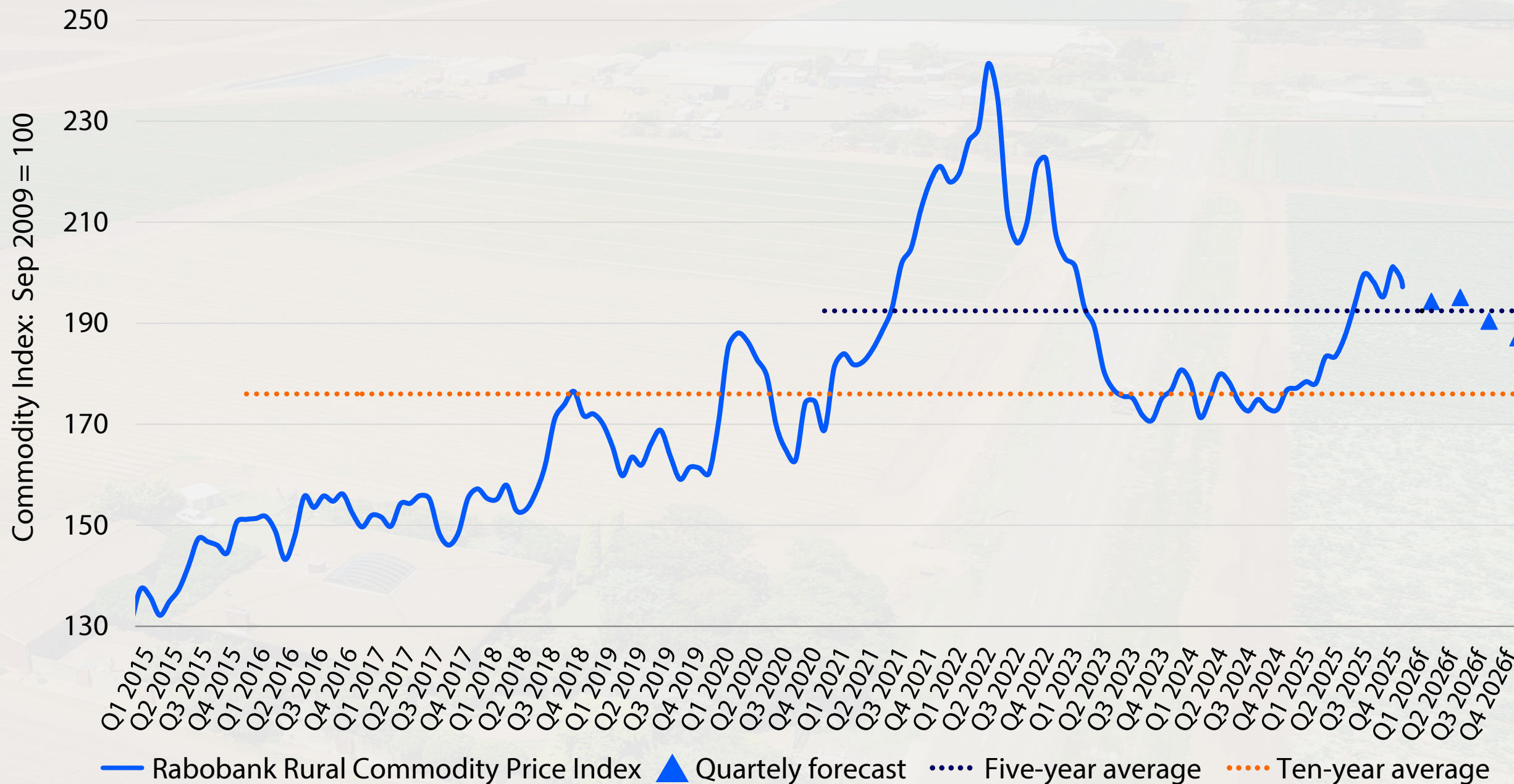
RaboResearch Rural Commodity Price Index

RaboResearch's Rural Commodity Price Index is expected to sit near the five-year average in 2026, amid anticipated small price improvements for most crops while livestock product prices might marginally weaken from the relatively strong values seen in the second half of 2025.

Price dynamics are likely to vary per sector:

- **The beef price outlook is one of modest optimism, given fundamentals should allow for continued strong exports.** RaboResearch expects US beef import demand to remain healthy, while recently introduced Chinese beef import quotas likely limit Australian and Brazilian shipments and result in redistribution of product to other destinations.
- **Grain markets are expected to grind through the large supplies from strong 2025 harvests in many key exporting countries including Australia.** Weather and growing conditions in the Northern Hemisphere will be closely watched, especially in May, a key month for yield outcomes in most major wheat-producing regions.
- **For dairy commodity markets, RaboResearch anticipates further small downside in 2026** due to ample global supplies, which had already pushed prices for key commodities such as butter, cheese and powder lower in 2H 2025.
- Across all commodities, a forecast **Australian dollar strength is expected to add price pressure** in 2026.

RaboResearch Rural Commodity Price Index (Australian dollar-based), Q1 2015-Q4 2026f



Source: Bloomberg, MLA, RaboResearch 2026

Note: Index is comprised of local prices for wheat, barley, canola, sorghum, beef, lamb, dairy, wool, sugar, and cotton, expressed in Australian currency and weighted according to their share of the value of production of Australian farmers (using the sum of the value of these products as the denominator).

Climate

Planning for tough times

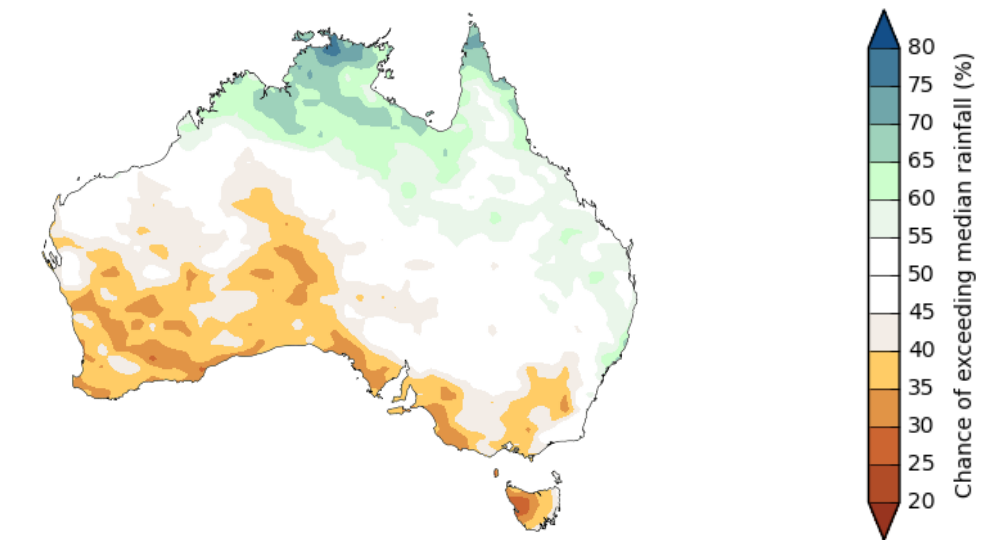
The year begins with average to below-average root-zone moisture across most of the country, except for northern Queensland, which experienced heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Koji. Further south, eastern Victoria has been affected by significant bushfires, and both regions have reported damage to agricultural and infrastructure assets.

In the short- to medium-term outlook, **sea-surface temperature anomalies in the El Niño 3.4 region – the standard diagnostic area for El Niño – indicate a potential warming trend.** This represents one of the two requirements for confirming an El Niño event, with trade-wind weakening being the other. If trade winds ease by mid-year, the east coast might have below-average rainfall by then. In Western Australia, the Indian Ocean Dipole Index is forecasted to remain range-bound through 1H, implying that rainfall is expected to be in line with long-term averages.

Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to sit above the median through 1H, particularly in Western Australia, Queensland and northern New South Wales. Combined with a softer rainfall forecast, this could pose challenges to crop and pasture germination.

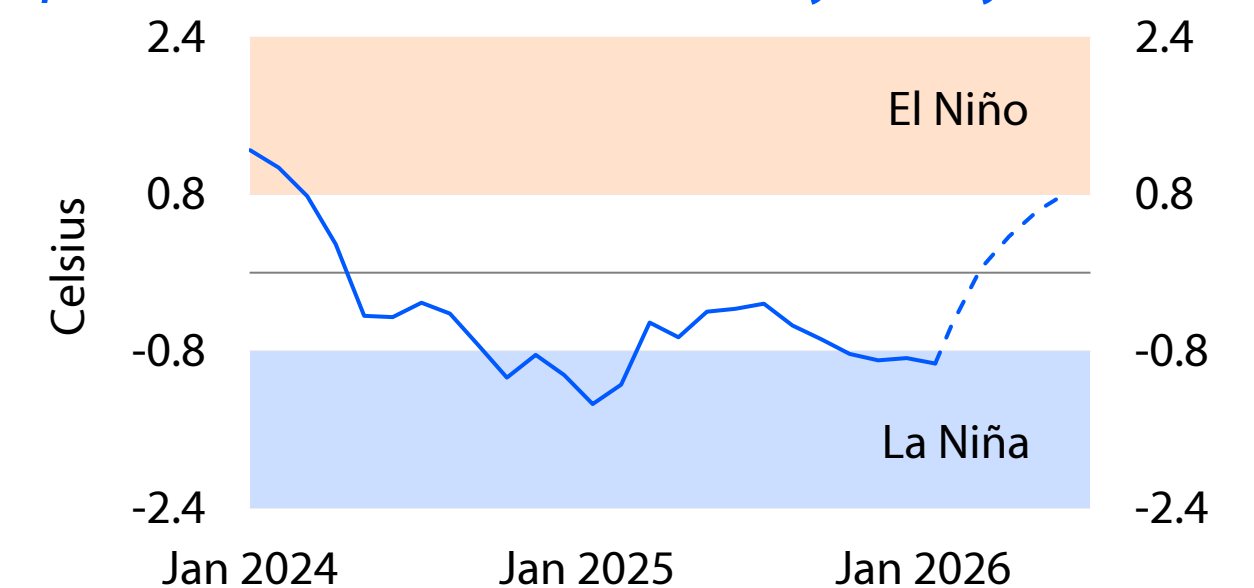
As of mid-January 2026, Murray–Darling Basin storages were at 57% of capacity, the same level seen by early June. Regionally, the northern basin is better supplied, while lower storage levels in the south have contributed to reduced cotton and rice cropping area this season as water prices surged.

March to May 2026 rainfall outlook



Note: As of 22 January 2026

Models' mean forecast for the Niño 3.4 region point to El Niño conditions by mid-year



Note: As of 17 January 2026

Source: BOM, RaboResearch 2026



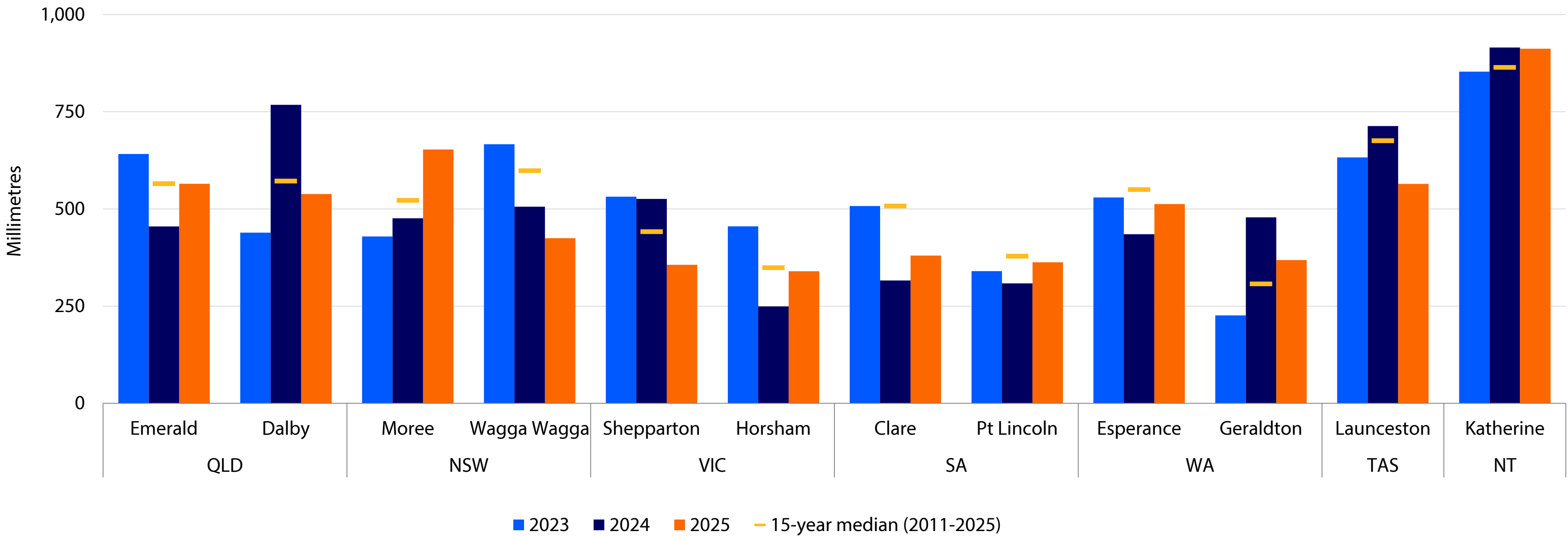
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Climate

National average rainfall was 8% higher than the climatic normal

Most of the farming regions received positive rainfall during 2025



Source: BOM, RaboResearch 2026

Wheat and barley

Surging grain stocks sink global prices

The year begins much like 2025, with larger year-on-year stocks driven by strong yields. Wheat stocks outside China are up by around 21m tonnes, barley by 2m tonnes, and corn by 8m tonnes. Naturally, prices followed in the opposite direction and the appreciation of the Australian dollar in the meantime turbocharged the deterioration in grain prices in Australian-dollar terms. **From mid-January 2025 to mid-January 2026, CBOT wheat dropped 10.9% to AUD 285/tonne, MATIF fell 11.8% to AUD 332/tonne, and ASX eased 3.6% to AUD 318/tonne.** European values remain higher than other benchmarks, particularly CBOT, as EU stocks continue to rebuild after a below-average 2024 harvest. The largest increases in stocks this season were in Canada with 2m tonnes and Argentina and Russia with 4m tonnes each.

Russia is again likely to be the key price-setter in 2026. Although wheat area may fall by up to 1m hectares due to softer margins, to around 25m hectares, this is unlikely to shift supply materially. **The bigger factor is the sharp appreciation of the rouble, up around 24% against the US dollar over the past year, which is squeezing farmgate returns** as domestic prices have also fallen back to mid-2024 levels. As seen in recent months, Russian exports have slowed

as sellers hold back in the hope of better prices.

Barley remains a positive outlier, with national port-average feed prices down just 1.3% YOY to AUD 302/tonne. Strong livestock demand is keeping grain onshore and competing with exports, a pattern that might again emerge in 2026. Over the last 12 months, east-coast barley exports rose only 4.8%, compared with 51.9% from Western Australia, and an 18.6% national increase to 8.3m tonnes.

The 2026 outlook suggests a possible reduction in global wheat area as weaker year-on-year returns weigh on seeding decisions, which could offer price support later in the year if Northern Hemisphere spring and summer conditions do not surprise to the upside as they did in 2025. CBOT values around USD 5.3 to USD 5.5 per bushel are on the cards and would translate to **ASX prices around AUD 320 to 340/tonne, assuming a typical Australian basis of AUD 10 to 30/tonne and an exchange rate of 0.69 by Q4 2026.** Notwithstanding, recent seasons show that fat tail-risk events should not be ignored, and that the geopolitical landscape remains fluid.

What to watch:

- **El Niño by mid year** – A potential El Niño during 2H could overturn local grain-market fundamentals. In typical El Niño seasons, lower production in Australia usually led to local prices diverging from global benchmarks, driven by competition between the livestock sector and overseas buyers.
- **Russia and Ukraine war** – It may seem a “boy who cried wolf” case, but an end to the Black Sea war would strengthen both countries’ competition in the global market, as farm-gate prices would improve and incentivise production. At present, grain sellers and traders are penalised by high freight insurance and other logistical costs associated with the ongoing conflict.



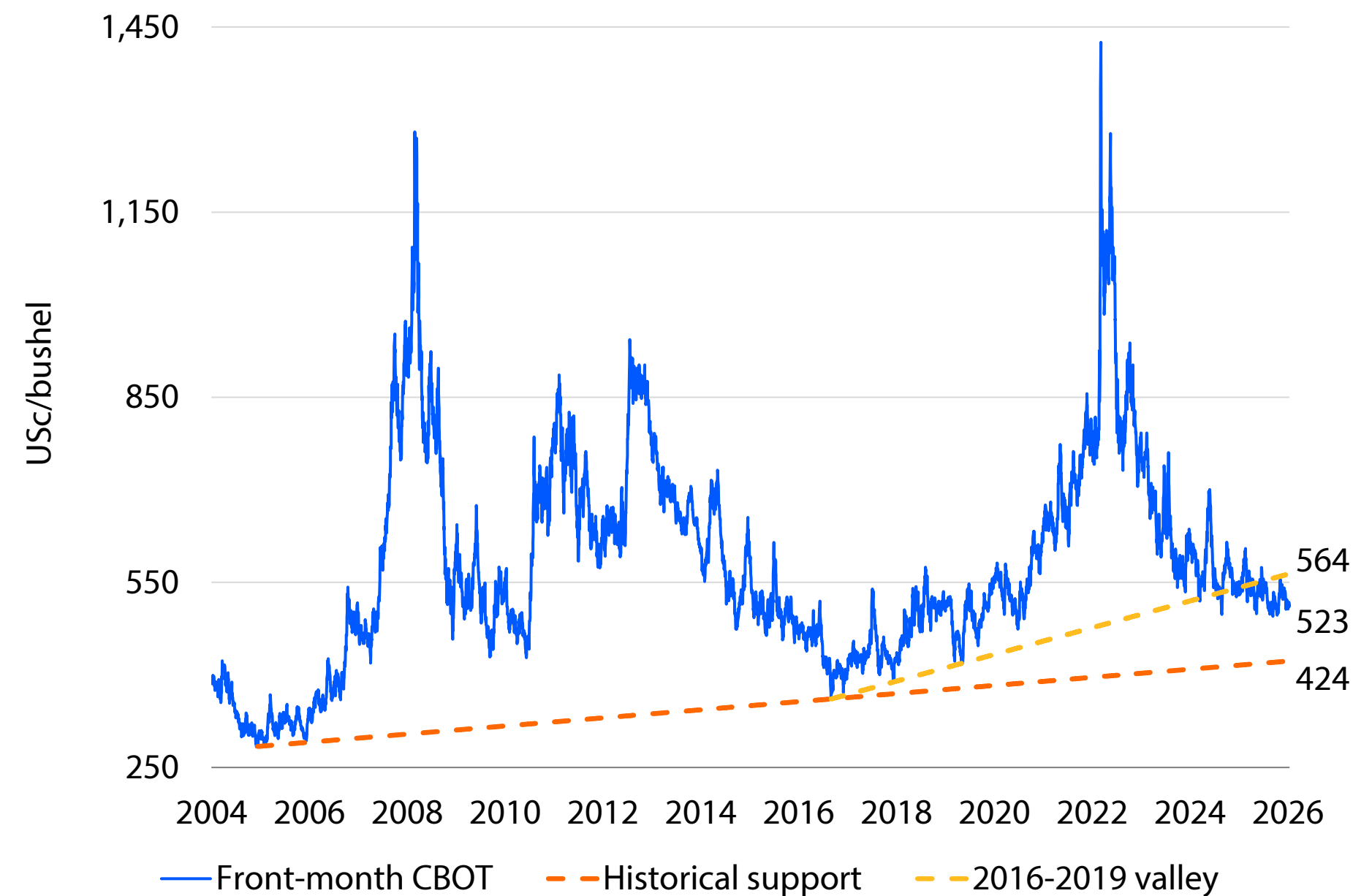
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Wheat and barley

Large global stocks pressure prices, but Australia's geographic advantage supports local prices

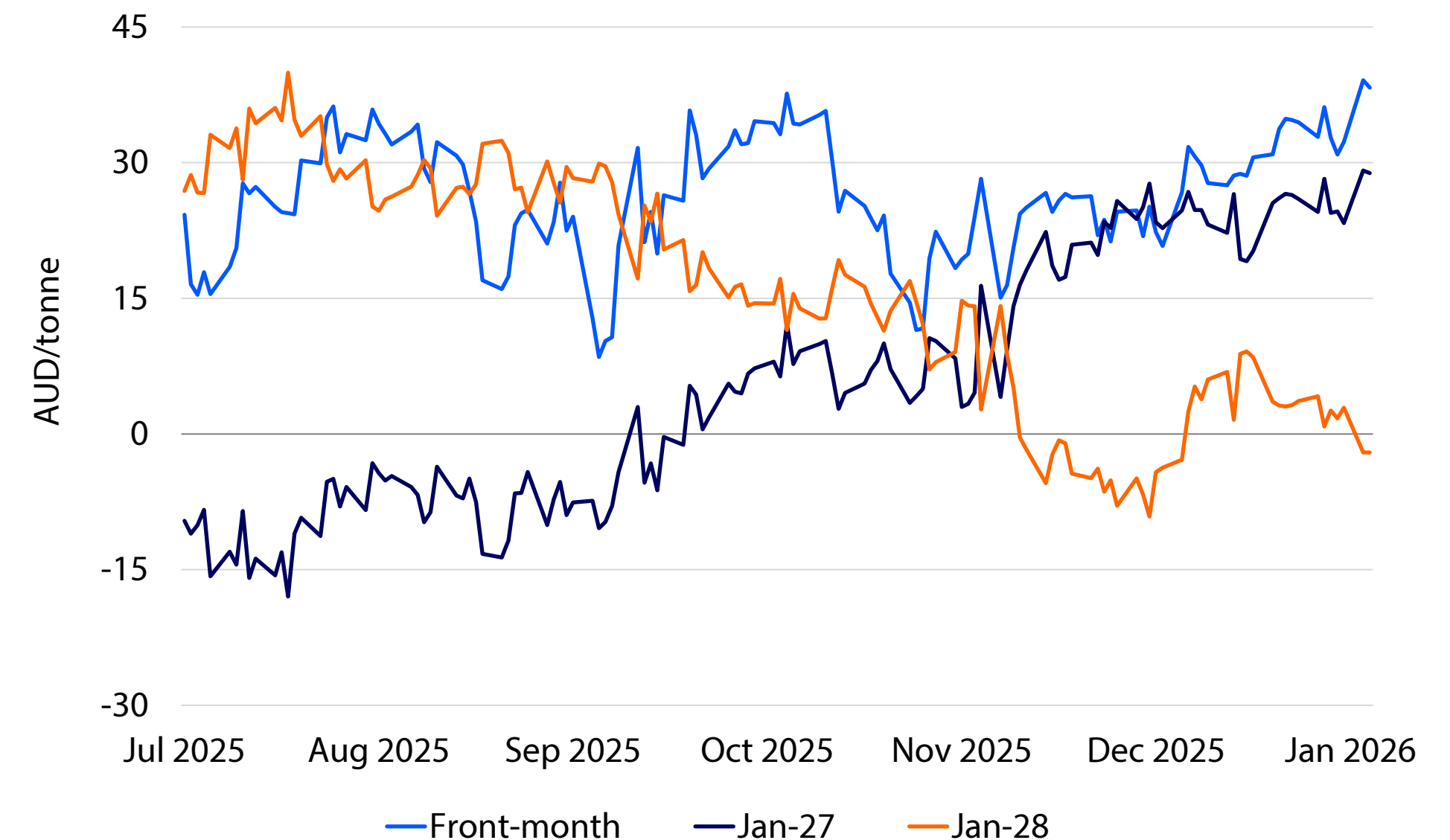
CBOT wheat price has been registering lower lows recently on the back of above-average global production in 2025



Note: As of 27 January 2026

Source: Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

The ASX-CBOT basis for the 2026/27 season is sitting within its typical range of a 10% to 13% price difference, reflecting a competitive export market



Source: Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

Canola

The tariff-driven market

A key talking point across the Australian cropping belt in early 2026 was the prospect of stronger Chinese demand for canola, potentially displacing Canada as the main supplier. That optimism faded quickly. **By mid-January, Ottawa confirmed a new tariff deal with Beijing, cutting duties on Canadian canola seed to 15% from 84.8%. Market sentiment shifted immediately.** Chinese traders booked Canadian canola vessels, and ICE front-month futures rose 4%, while Australian prices held steady. With Canada back in play, even under the 15% tariff, Australian canola flows into China remain far from straightforward, and the premium for non-GM is set to stay wide. In January 2025, GM averaged AUD 688/tonne and non-GM AUD 806/tonne, a 15% spread. By January 2026, the gap narrowed but remained notable at 11%, with prices of AUD 661/tonne and AUD 741/tonne respectively.

The ongoing softness in GM markets reflects ample supply. **Canada harvested a large 2025 crop, up 13.3% YOY to 21.8m tonnes, while Western Australia's GM-heavy crop reached 4.2m tonnes, up 45.3%.** With this growth, crushers in the United Arab Emirates, Japan and South Korea have a broader supply base of competitively priced GM canola to

source from.

Europe adds another layer to the GM and non-GM divide. The 2025 EU canola harvest totalled 20.1m tonnes, in line with historical levels yet still insufficient to rebuild stocks and push prices down. Eastern Europe's sunflower crop also fell short after a dry summer. Both factors continue to underpin firm non-GM demand and pricing. **Policy shifts add further support, following Germany's decision to end double-counting of specific feedstock-based biofuels in its greenhouse gas quota system. Canola oil is expected to be favoured** over used cooking oil for biodiesel blending.

The 2026 outlook mirrors recent years, with tariffs and regional production setting the tone for prices. Through 1H 2026, non-GM canola is expected to hold firm ahead of the Northern Hemisphere harvest, likely trading in the high AUD 700/tonne range, while GM works through large stocks and remains anchored in the mid-to-top AUD 600/tonne range. Canadian sowing by May will help gauge price trends, and the European harvest by mid-2026 will lay the final cornerstone of Australian values by year-end. **But broader geopolitical frictions and a tariff-driven canola market are poised to continue causing turbulence. Buckle up.**

What to watch:

- **Nitrogen fertiliser affordability** – Oilseed prices relative to nitrogen fertiliser costs are currently more favourable than cereal prices, meaning that any rise in fertiliser prices tends to shift seeding decisions toward oilseeds. This will be particularly important in Q2 2026 during the Northern Hemisphere spring sowing period.
- **Soybean market** – Brazil is set to harvest another large crop, potentially a record close to 180m tonnes, and with subdued US exports due to trade disruptions with China, soybeans and soy oil are expected to trade at a steep discount to other feedstocks, potentially gaining market share.



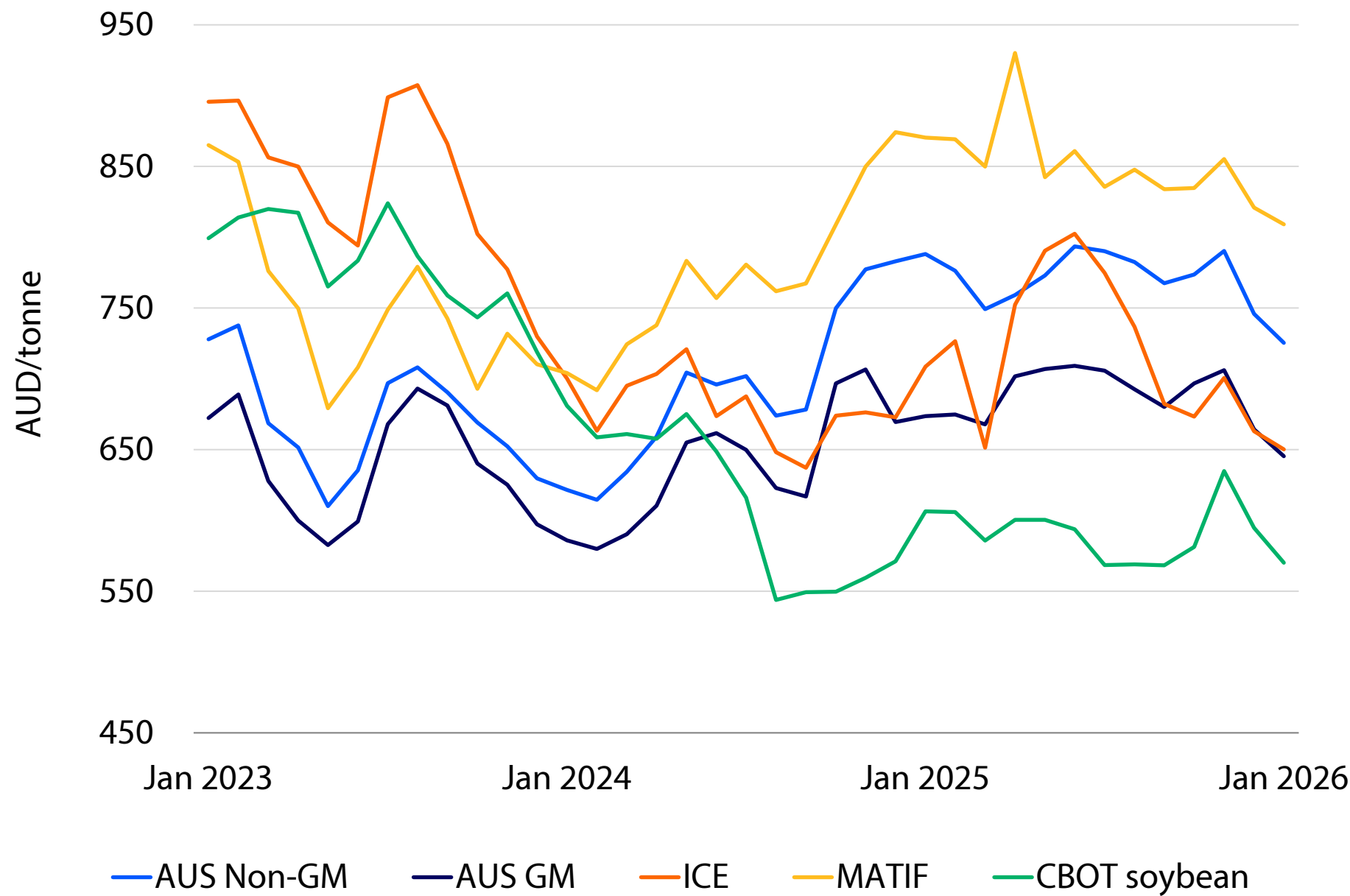
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Canola

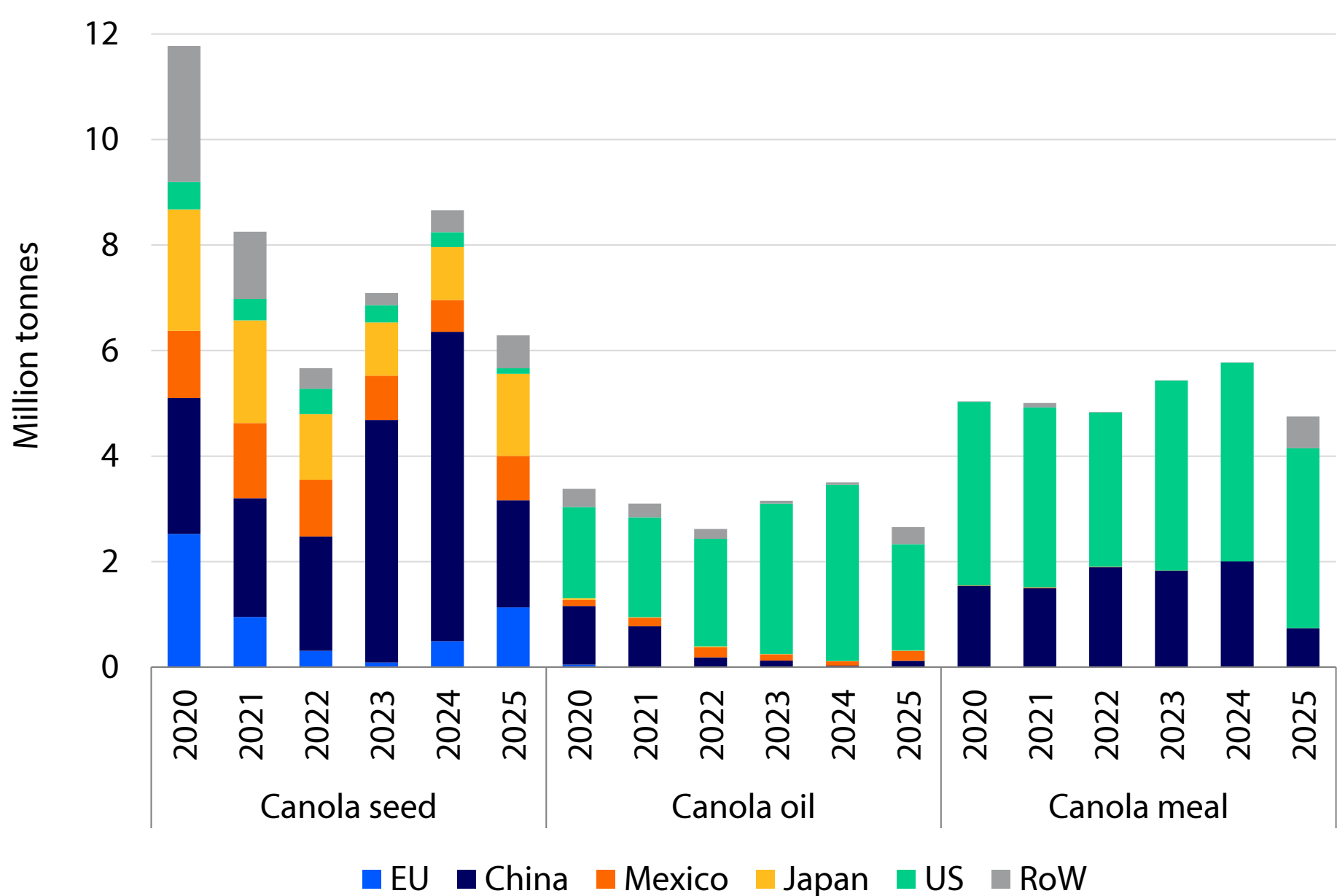
A wide price gap has opened between GM and non-GM canola due to tariffs and a large Canadian crop

European demand supports non-GM canola, while ongoing Canadian export headwinds keep GM prices under pressure



Note: Australian prices are the average port price for canola.
Source: Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

Canada’s canola export are softer year-on-year as Chinese tariffs severely impacted trade between the two countries



Note: 2025 data refers to the January to October period.
Source: Canola Council of Canada, RaboResearch 2026

Pulses

Softer prices remain the more likely outcome

As outlined last year, the main risk for global pulse markets was the potential for oversupply. This risk has now materialised, with major producers reporting a sharp build-up in production and ending stocks. While Canadian pea and lentil area rose by less than 10% YOY, peas stocks are set to jump by 0.8m tonnes to about 1.3m tonnes, a hefty increase of 159% YOY, and lentil stocks by 1.0m tonnes to 1.5m tonnes, a whopping 180% YOY increase. This massive surge reflects expectations that exports remain flat due to ample global supply, as well as the impact of China's tariffs on Canadian peas, which already put a dent in exports during 2H 2025. Ottawa's mid-January 2026 tariff relief for canola seed exports to China adds a new puzzling factor for the new crop. With duties now at 15% instead of 84.8%, canola may become "less problematic" to export than pulses later in 2026, potentially encouraging growers to favour oilseeds in their planting decisions. Regardless of the outcome, Canadian silos are likely to remain full for much of 2026, weighing on global prices.

Russia's pulse production has reached 8m tonnes, up 48% YOY, despite cropped area rising only 5.6%. With weak cereal returns, Russia and Kazakhstan are likely to favour pulses for the 2026 season, adding further downward pressure on global pulse.

Across South Asia – the heart of global pulse supply and demand – winter (rabi) crops have entered grain-fill under favourable conditions. **Soil-moisture levels are above average across north-west India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.** This points to a robust regional winter harvest by March, reflected in falling local prices since late September 2025.

India's total rabi pulse area has reached 13.6m hectares, up 2.8% YOY, with chickpeas and lentils gaining area over beans and peas. **Attention now turns to India's import-duty settings, with the current tariff regime on peas, lentils and chickpeas expiring on 31 March.** Following an above-average monsoon and softening domestic prices, **an increase in duties appears the most likely policy direction. Consequently, more global price headwinds are likely.**

What to watch:

- **Red Sea shipping "back to normal"** – The year 2026 started with a major carrier announcing plans to resume Red Sea services by Q1 2026, a move likely to prompt others to follow. For Australia's exports to South Asia, this is a price headwind as it erodes the significant freight advantage held over continental Europe and the Black Sea competitors.
- **Canadian and Russian exports by 1H 2026** – Both countries have recorded strong increases in 2025 pulse production,, particularly peas and lentils. With global output also rising, ending stocks are set to jump year-on-year. If spring in the Northern Hemisphere proves favourable, additional pressure could emerge as these stocks are liquidated quickly to clear silos for the new crop.



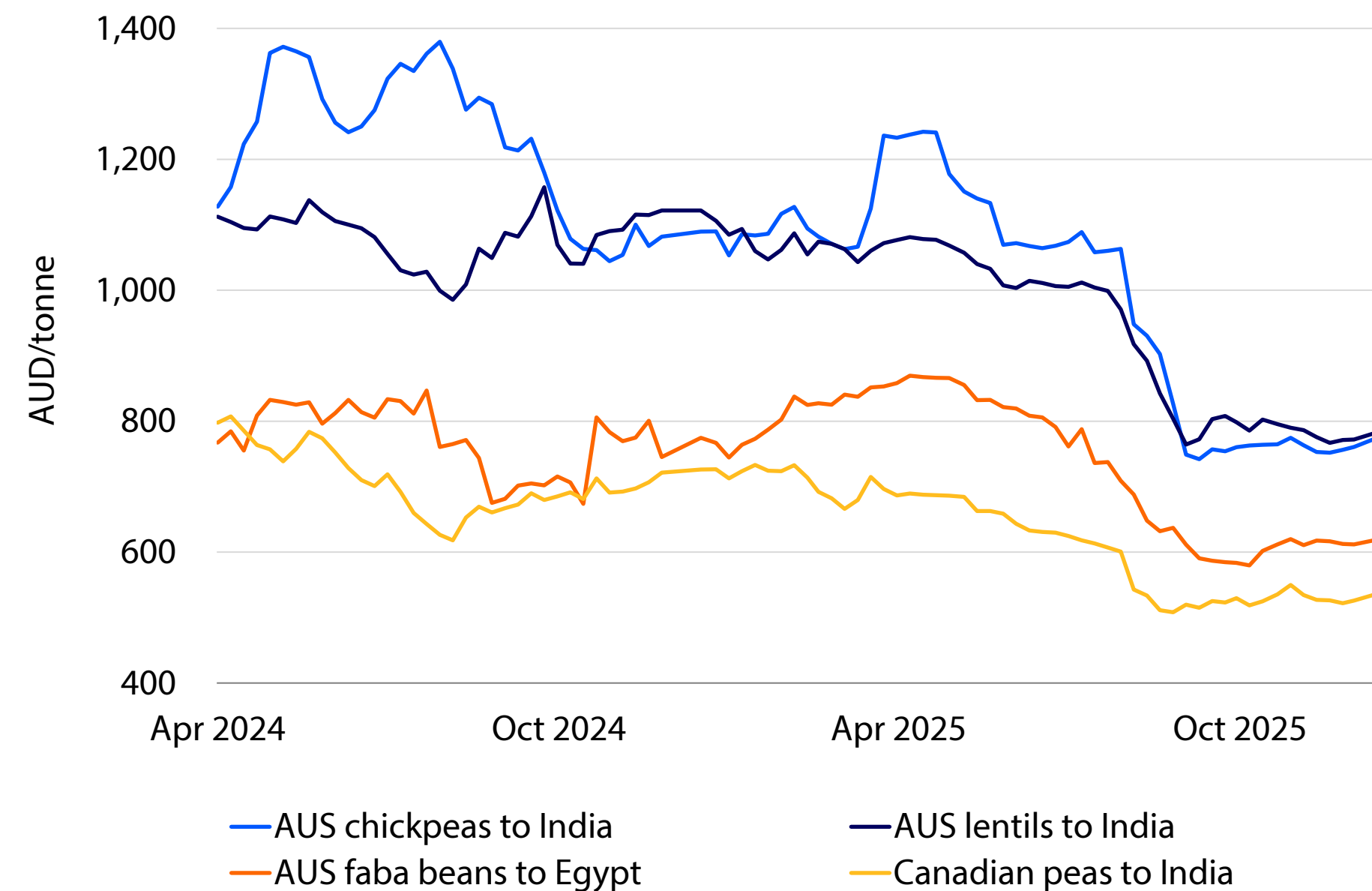
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Pulses

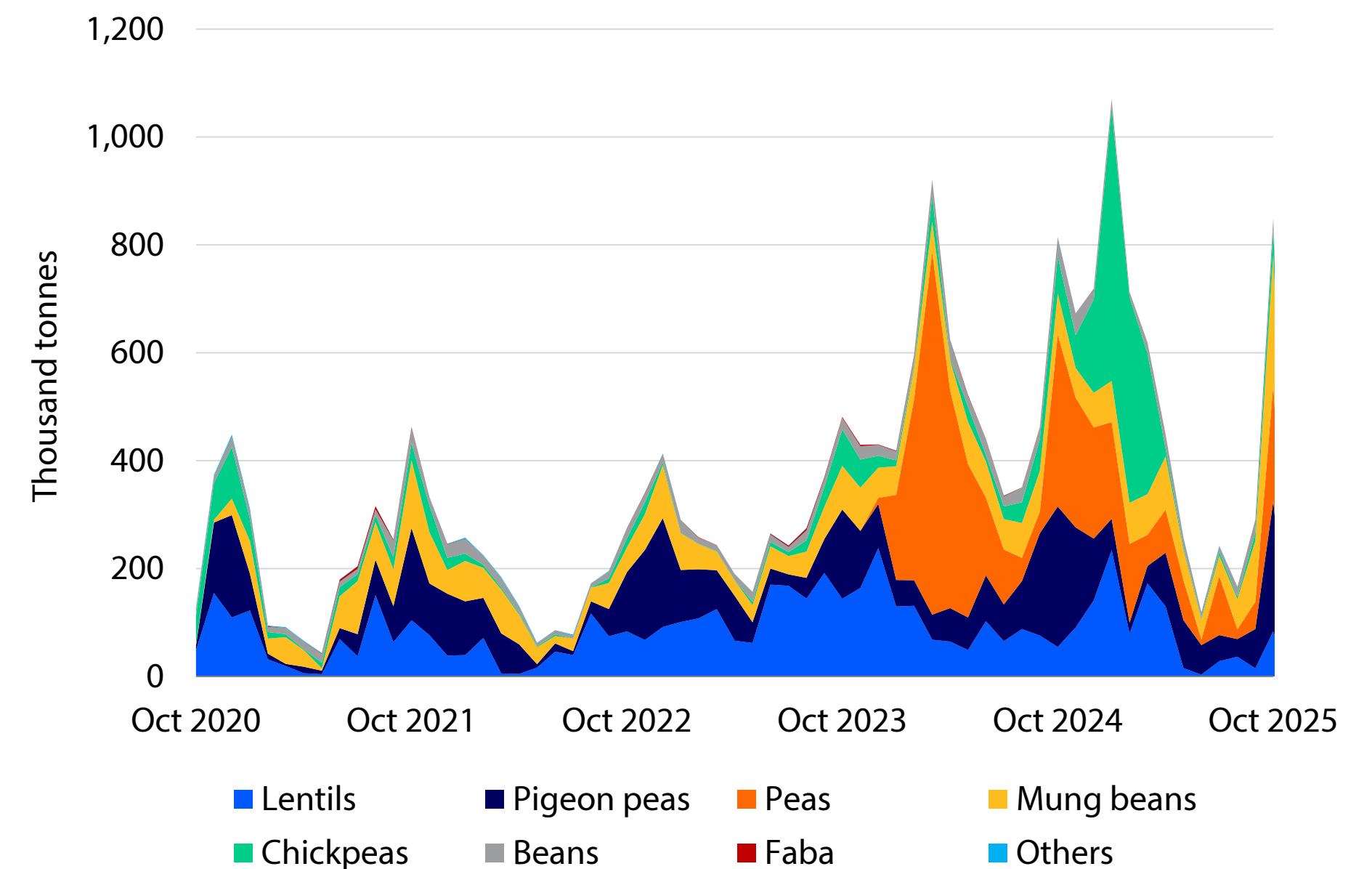
India's lower imports and softer prices signal a structural turning point in the global pulses market

Pulse import prices in key destinations reflect the recovery in India's stocks and the rise in global production



*Note: Import prices including cost and freight.
Source: GPC, Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026*

India's imports eased by mid-2025 after a good monsoon, suggesting 2026 may see further weakening in import momentum



Source: DGCIS, RaboResearch 2026

Beef

2026 looks to be another solid year, but risks exist

With ongoing high cattle inventory and favourable seasonal conditions, RaboResearch expects Australia's beef production and cattle slaughter numbers to remain very similar to 2025 levels in 2026. We estimate the 2025 cattle slaughter to be up 10% at 9.1m head, the second-largest volume since the 1970s. Heavier carcass weights – averaging around 309kg – make production a new record at an estimated 2.8m tonnes. We believe 2026 volumes will be closely in line with those of 2025, although any change to our assumed average seasonal conditions could lead to higher slaughter and production volumes.

A question in the calculations remains the high proportion of female cattle that have been slaughtered through 2025. We estimate 4.8m head of females were slaughtered in 2025, a 13% increase on 2024 and accounting for 52% of total cattle slaughter – a proportion usually associated with the liquidation of the herd. However, we do not believe it was a herd liquidation phase, but rather the combination of high cattle inventory and a young herd requiring fewer replacements, along with strong US markets looking for lean trimming and southern processors looking to fill out kill schedules. Female slaughter was up 20% in Victoria and New South Wales but up only 3% in Queensland.

Cattle on feed continued to increase through 2025, with Q2 setting a new record at 1.58m head. Grain-fed cattle turnoff

What to watch:

- **China's beef import quotas** – In late 2025, the Chinese government announced new beef import quotas to start in 2026. A total quota (2.7m tonnes) was set, along with specific country quotas, including Australia (205,000 tonnes) and Brazil (1.1m tonnes). Any imports above quota levels attract a 55% tariff. Based on Australia's estimated export volumes to China in 2025, it would have to reduce exports to China by about 33% in 2026 to avoid the tariff, while Brazil will require an even larger volumetric reduction. This redistribution of beef into other global markets could lead to downward price pressure. The other challenge lies in the timing. Quotas are for a whole year, and whether exporters and importers choose to front-load or back-load the year will also influence markets. The Australian industry is working on a program to try and manage the quota and avoid large market disruptions.

continued to rise to a new record of 962,436 head in Q3 (Q4 numbers not published at the time of writing). **We believe that with favourable feedlot margins, the number of cattle on feed will remain high through 2026, although the China import-quota application may take some heat out of the market.**

High cattle inventory and a promising start to the 2025/26 wet season lead us to believe live cattle export numbers will again be strong in 2026. Slaughter and feeder cattle export numbers (686,271 head) in 2025 were in line with 2024, with feeder-cattle shipments to Indonesia up 5% at 558,869 head. Although Southeast Asian consumer markets are not expected to improve dramatically, live export cattle prices in December and January indicate Indonesian importers are willing to compete for cattle with live export cattle prices in line with Australian markets.

The US will again be the main driver in global markets. While there are some questions on the strength of the US consumer, RaboResearch believes US cattle prices will be higher and demand for imports will remain strong – although competition from Brazilian beef will be considerable.

On balance we believe these forces will mean Australian cattle prices continue to track around the levels experienced in January for the remainder of 2026.



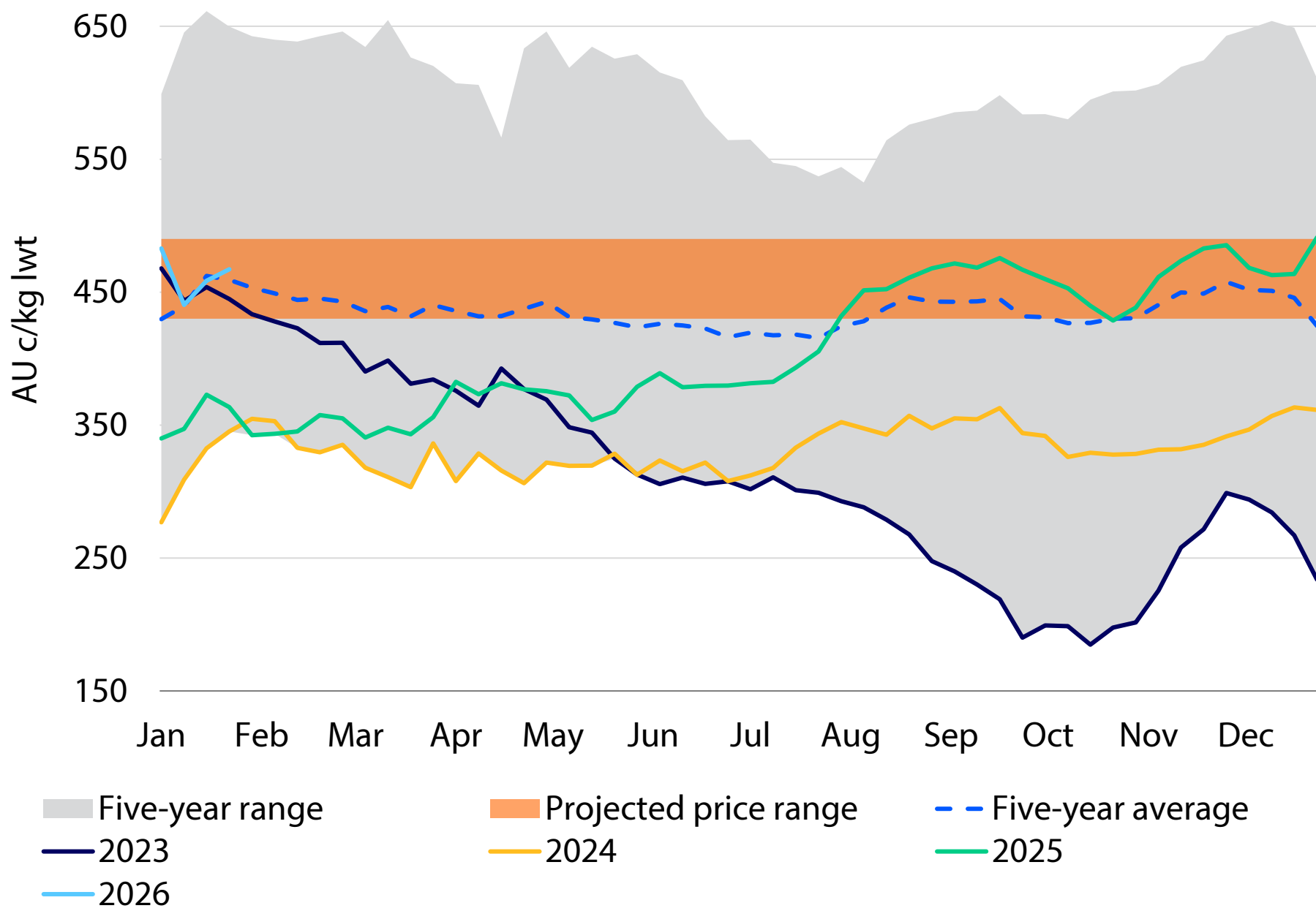
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Beef

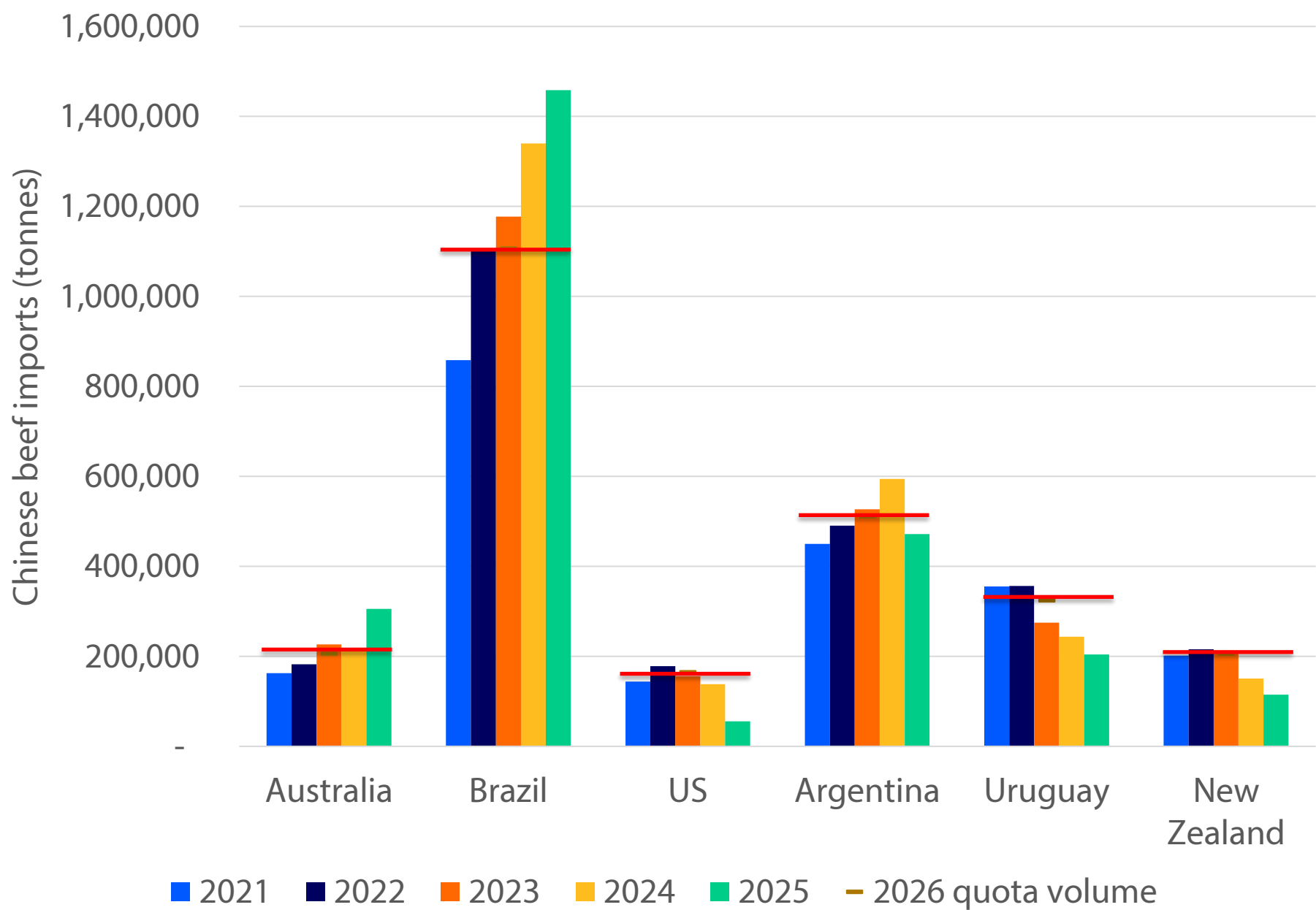
Australian cattle prices hold amid rising risks from seasonal conditions and Chinese beef import quotas

NYCI continues tracking sideways



Source: MLA, RaboResearch 2026

Chinese beef import quotas likely to disrupt global beef trade flows



Source: China Customs, RaboResearch 2026

Sheepmeat

Strong prices persist but uncertainty remains with volumes

The big challenge in reading the Australian lamb market remains the question of national sheep inventory and 2025 lamb crop. The impact of the extended period of high sheep slaughter through 2023 and 2024 started to show in 2025, with lamb slaughter in 2H down an estimated 18% on the same period in 2024. The question now, as we move into 2026, is how much of that contraction was due to lower lamb numbers and how much might be a result of producers retaining lambs for restocking and subsequently what that means for the 2026 lamb crop.

RaboResearch believes there will be a reduction in lamb and sheep slaughter in 2026. In our price modelling, to get lamb prices close to current market levels, we need to drop lamb slaughter to approximately 1.7m head per month. Assuming no additional lambs enter the system, and extending this rate through to August before increasing volumes to the five-year average for the remaining months, this would mean a reduction in lamb volumes of about 7% in 2026 compared with 2025.

The more limited supply situation will continue to

support lamb prices in 2026. Provided seasonal conditions hold, we believe this year will be a case of two distinct halves: the first governed by limited supply, the second by capacity consolidation and increasing lamb numbers. Low lamb numbers in the first half of the year are expected to keep lamb prices strong, between AUD 10 and AUD 11/kg, before the increase in new season lambs leads to a softening in prices.

Higher lamb prices pushed domestic retail lamb prices higher in 2025. Retail lamb prices were 13% higher in December 2025 compared with December 2024. High retail prices may be one of the reasons why exports now account for a larger proportion of total production. **We estimate that 70% of lamb production is now exported – the highest proportion in history.** Lamb production in 2025 is estimated to have contracted 8%, while exports contracted 4%.

The US remains the largest market (25% of exports) for Australian lamb. Average US import prices rose through 2025, and with record beef prices we believe this market should remain strong, supporting local processor/exporter operations.

What to watch:

- **Lamb retention** – While much focus is on lamb-slaughter numbers, we also need to be aware of any lamb-retention activity and what this could mean for lamb production in late 2026. The estimated almost 10% reduction in lamb slaughter in 2025 is the largest year-on-year decline in over 40 years. In the last 30 years, the average year-on-year contraction in lamb slaughter, when slaughter did contract, was 5%. Allowing for some retention in those previous years, could it be assumed that 6% of the 10% contraction is possibly due to the retention of lambs? If so, this could potentially mean an additional 1.5m ewes to lamb in 2026, taking 2026/27 lamb slaughter back up to some of the highest volumes in history – a very quick recovery.



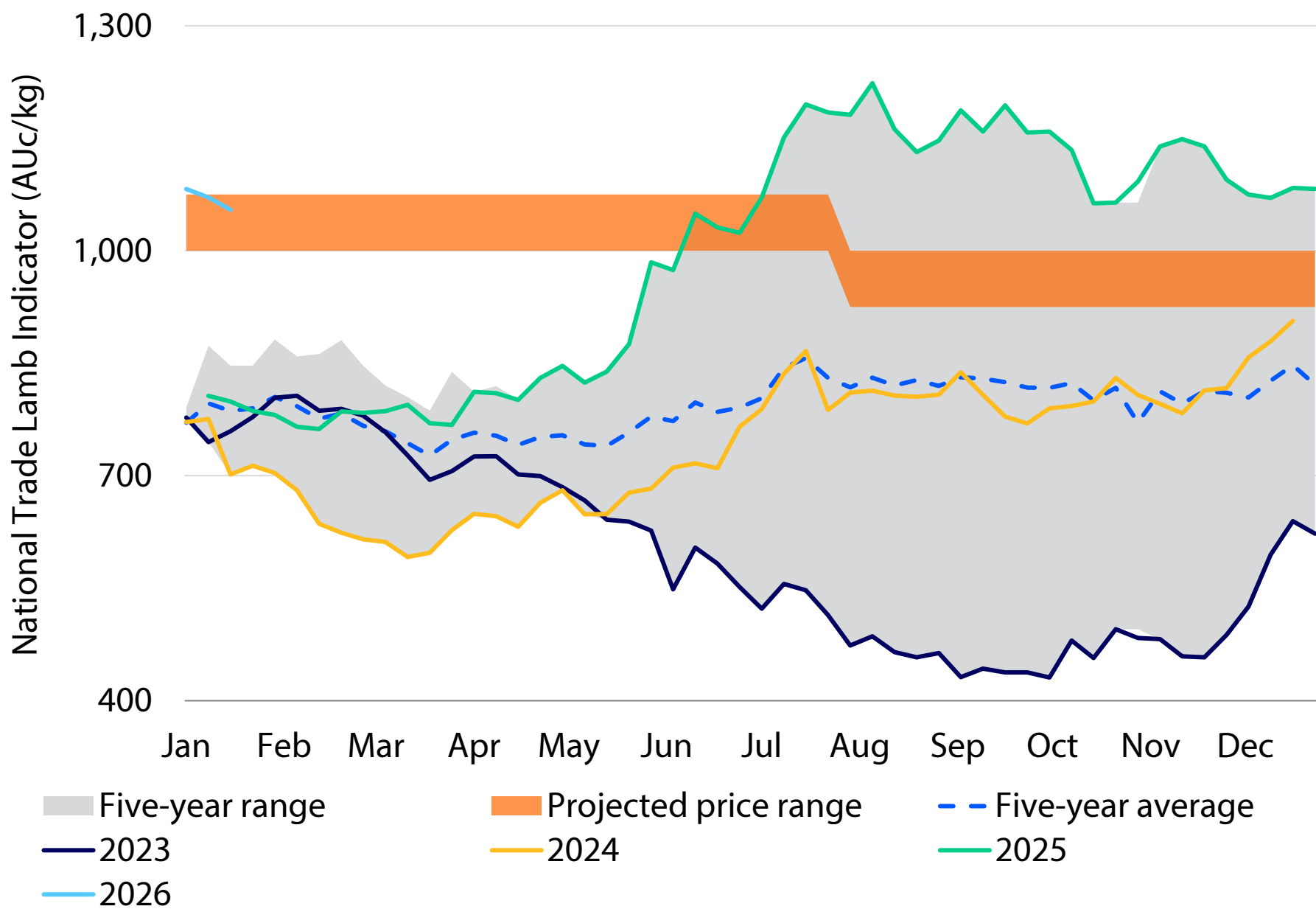
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Sheepmeat

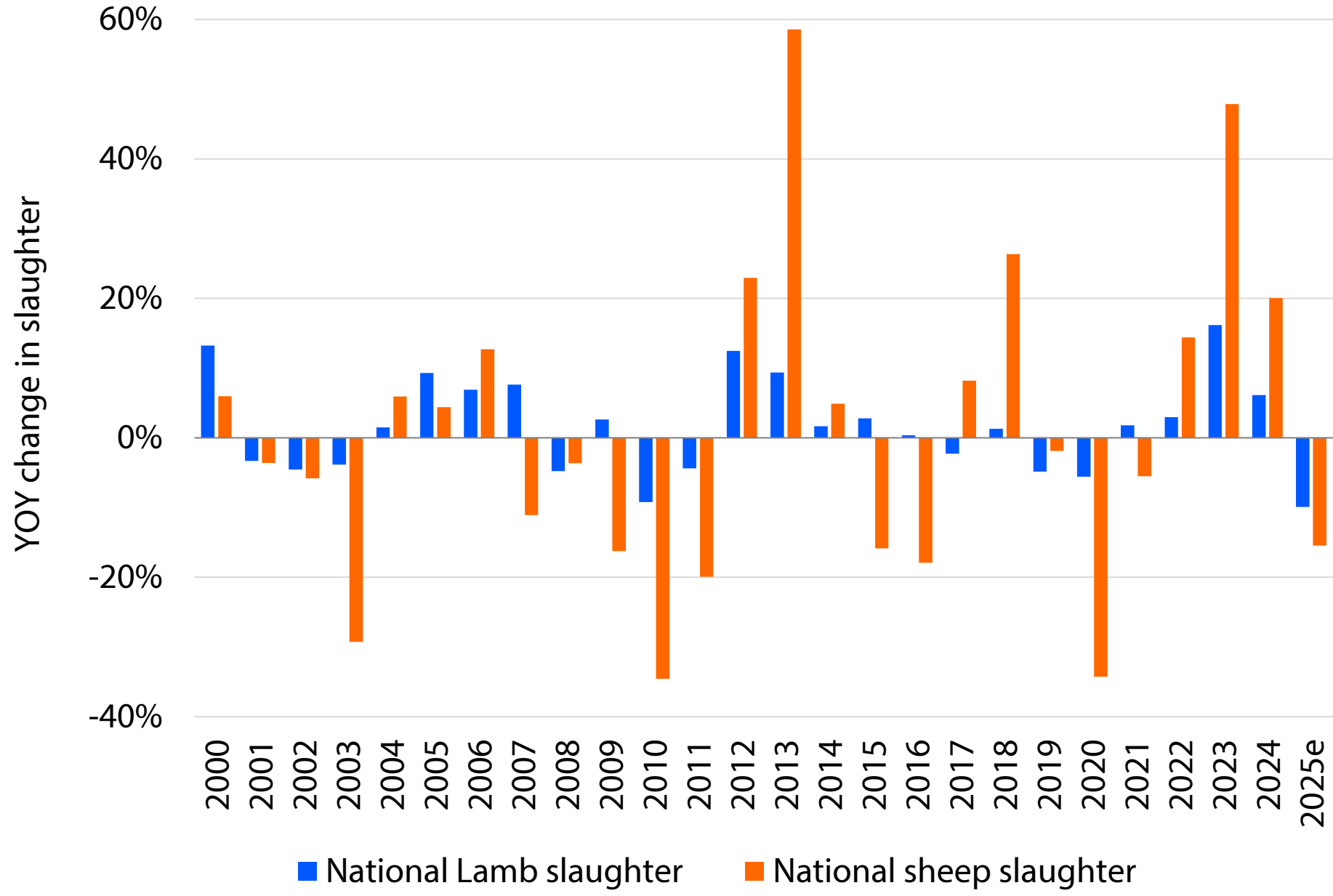
Lamb prices remain strong as lamb slaughter sees the largest contraction in over 40 years

National Trade Lamb Indicator (NTLI) remains elevated before dropping in the second half of 2026



Source: MLA, RaboResearch 2026

Is lamb retention and restocking contributing to largest year-on-year drop in lamb slaughter?



Source: ABS, RaboResearch 2026

Other animal proteins

Poultry

Australian poultry production is expected to continue growing in 2026. Production in 2025 is estimated to reach another record at 1.57m tonnes, a 6% increase on 2024 volumes and the largest increase in nine years. Allowing for exports, Australia's poultry consumption continues to slowly rise, now sitting close to 54kg per person per year – just under half of total per-capita protein consumption. The lower price point of chicken is proving to be beneficial, with anecdotal commentary suggesting retail and foodservice sales are performing well compared with other proteins. Chicken retail prices are up less than 1% for the 12 months to December 2025. **We expect chicken consumption to continue growing in line with population growth at around 2% to 3% in 2026, supporting a production growth of 2% to 3%.**

Pork

Pork production in 2025 is estimated to be a new record at 476,000 tonnes, and with historically high pig prices we believe 2025 should have been a profitable year for pig producers. **With little expected to change, we believe 2026 will be another profitable year.** Key global pork markets are expected to see small rises in production in 2026. US production is expected to increase by 1%, with a small increase in exports. European production is also expected to increase by 1%, but the existence of African swine fever in Spain and anti-dumping tariffs imposed by China will alter trade volumes. Pork prices in the US and Europe have been relatively strong through 2025, and we expect them to stabilise in 2026. With the expectation that Australia will not experience increased import pressure,

together with higher domestic beef and lamb prices, we believe it is unlikely that there will be any strong downward pressure on Australian pig prices. Pig prices were historically strong through 2025, rising 2% through the year to AUD 4.68/kg – a new record.

Goats

Australian goat production has increased dramatically since 2020, with a new record in 2024 of over 53,000 tonnes. Volumes for the first nine months of 2025 suggest **production would finish the year 10% higher at another new record of over 59,000 tonnes.** Favourable seasons, allowing for the build-up of rangeland goat numbers, the opening and growth of the Bourke abattoir, and the declining availability of sheep and lambs are all believed to have contributed to this increase. Matching this increase in production, Australian goat-meat export markets have also expanded, with strong growth in the traditional US market and further gains in South Korea and China. Continuing this growth, volumes to South Korea expanded by 22%, and to China by 28% for the eleven months to November 2025.

While it remains difficult to get a good grasp on goat-inventory numbers, **ongoing favourable seasons suggest goat-slaughter numbers should continue to remain high in 2026.** The lower numbers and higher prices for sheep may also mean processors look to goats to support ongoing abattoir throughput, leading to higher slaughter numbers. Such demand from processors, plus ongoing higher red-meat prices and a generally limited global supply of meat, are expected to keep goat prices firm. RaboResearch believes that with continued higher sheep and mutton prices, there is some possibility of upside for goat prices.



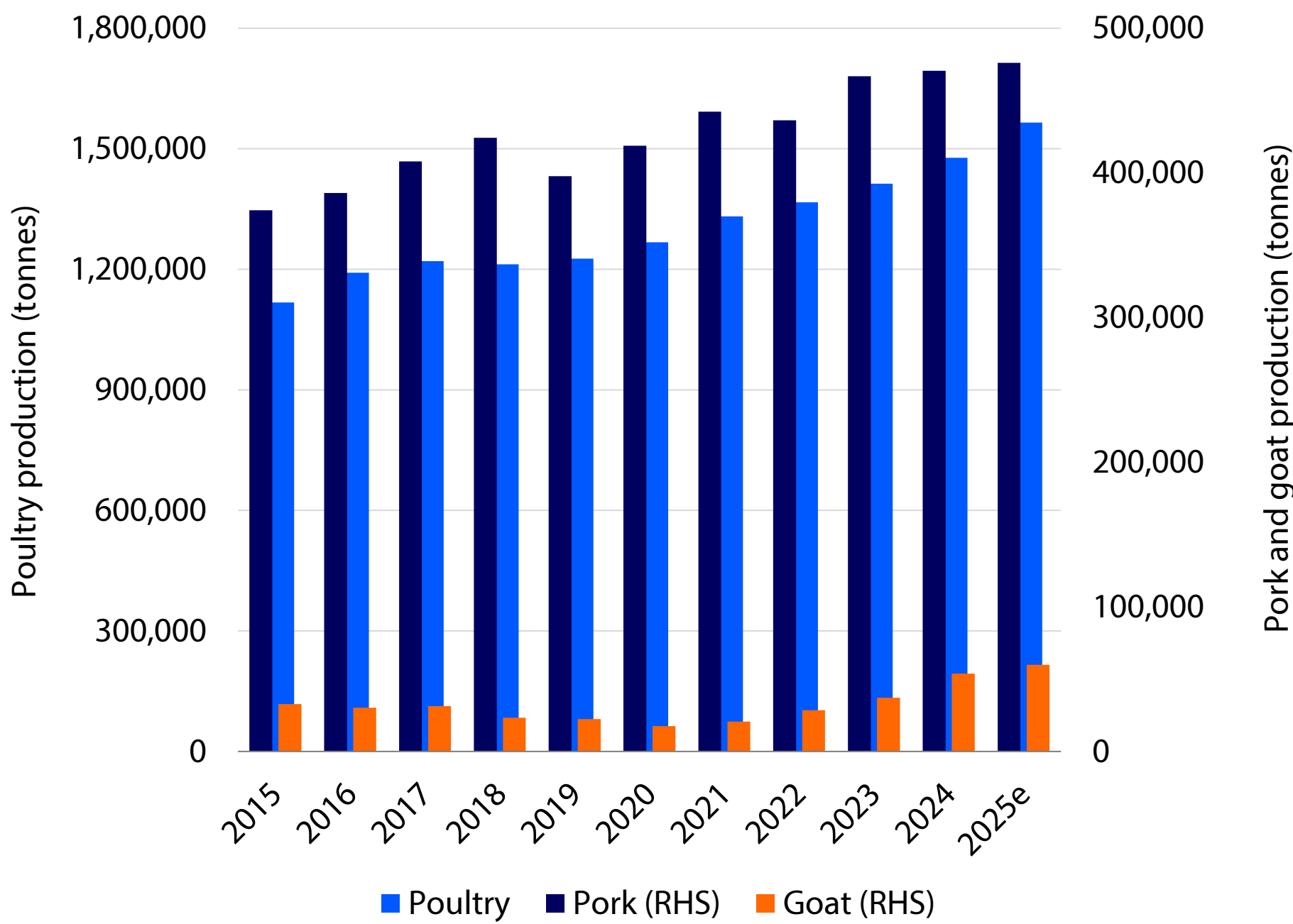
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Other animal proteins

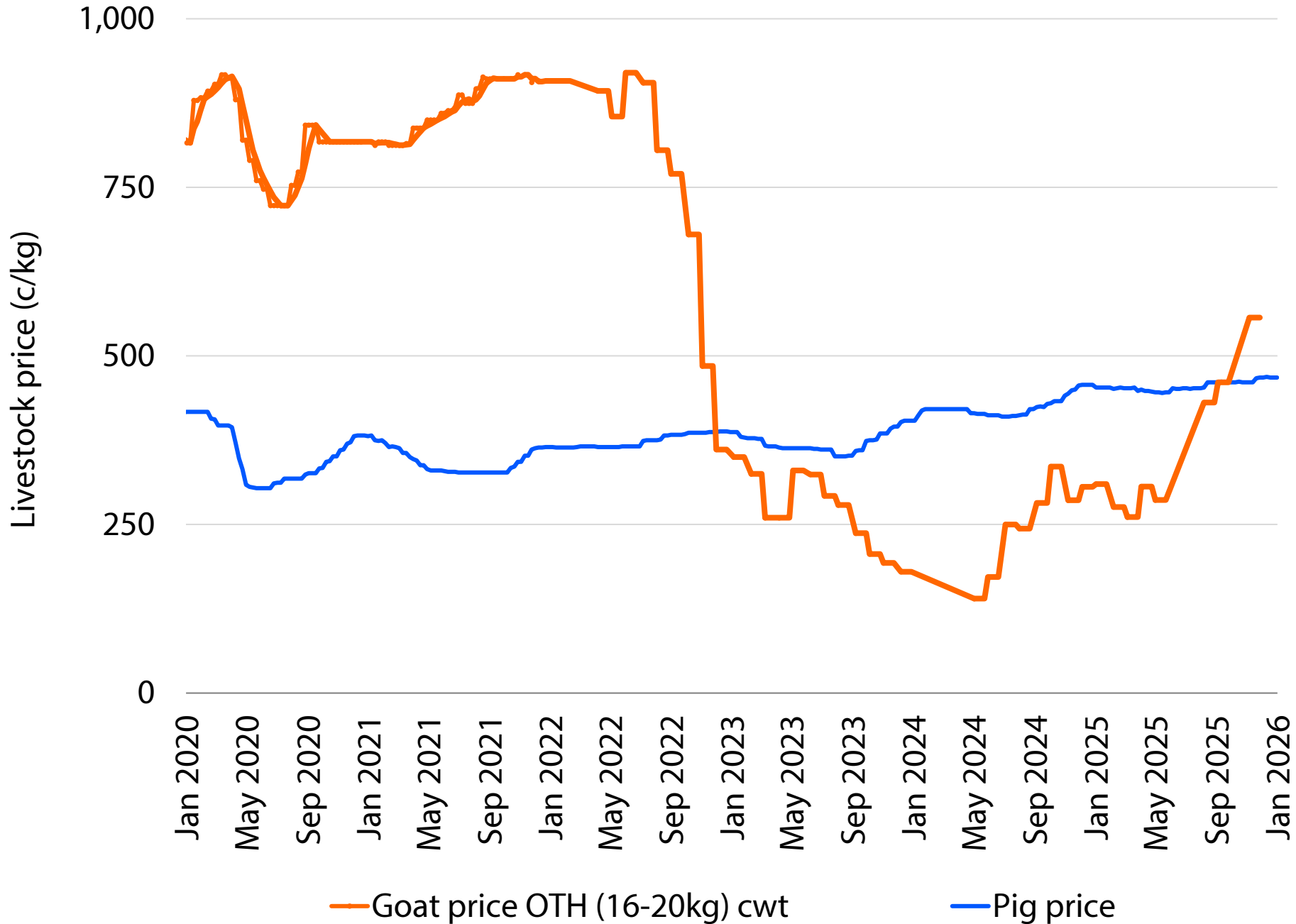
Poultry, pork and goat production and prices continue to rise

Poultry, pork and goat production all on the rise



Source: ABS, MLA RaboResearch 2026

Goat and pig prices on the rise



Source: APL, MLA, RaboResearch 2026

Wool

Mixed demand signals create price uncertainty for 2026

For wool markets, 2025 proved to be the best year for prices since 2020. The year 2026 has picked up where 2025 left off, with the Eastern Market Indicator reaching AUD 16.1/kg in the first auction of the new year.

In terms of micron performance over the past 12 months, the standout was 28-micron wool, which surged an incredible 67.7% to AUD 6.87/kg. Meanwhile, 30-micron wool rose 58.6% to reach AUD 5.75/kg. In the finer range, 20-micron wool increased 40.4% to AUD 19.95/kg. Barring 23-micron and 24-micron wool, which rose 14.3% and 26.8% respectively, all other microns recorded year-on-year upward price movements in the 30% to 40% range.

Although prices finished the year very strongly, it has been a challenging time for producers, with wool production down 12.6% YOY in the 2025/26 season, following an 11.8% drop in the season prior.

Looking ahead to 2026, market dynamics suggest that recent high prices could be sustained, with limited supply in Australia as the primary driver. That said, for prices to remain elevated, further positive signs in demand are needed. Supporting near-term demand is the likelihood that Chinese buyers are holding lower-than-normal wool stocks, given the hand-to-mouth buying observed throughout 2025.

Beyond this, the market will look to macro factors for demand signals. Chinese consumer confidence, although still historically low, has been trending upward over the past year. However, inflation stands at a near three-year high, and despite China's stimulus package, consumers remain cautious given current economic conditions. In other regions, the picture is more mixed. European retail sales volumes have been steadily rising since early 2024, with November data showing a 0.2% increase. In the US, despite tariff implications, headline retail sales were strong in November (+0.6% MOM).

What to watch:

- **Shifts in Chinese import activity** – The market will closely monitor whether Chinese importers shift their strategy in 2026 compared with 2025, when purchasing was largely on a hand-to-mouth basis. Any indication of larger purchases in upcoming ABS export reports could signal this change, as buyers may be concerned that declining Australian production will make sourcing more difficult later in the year.



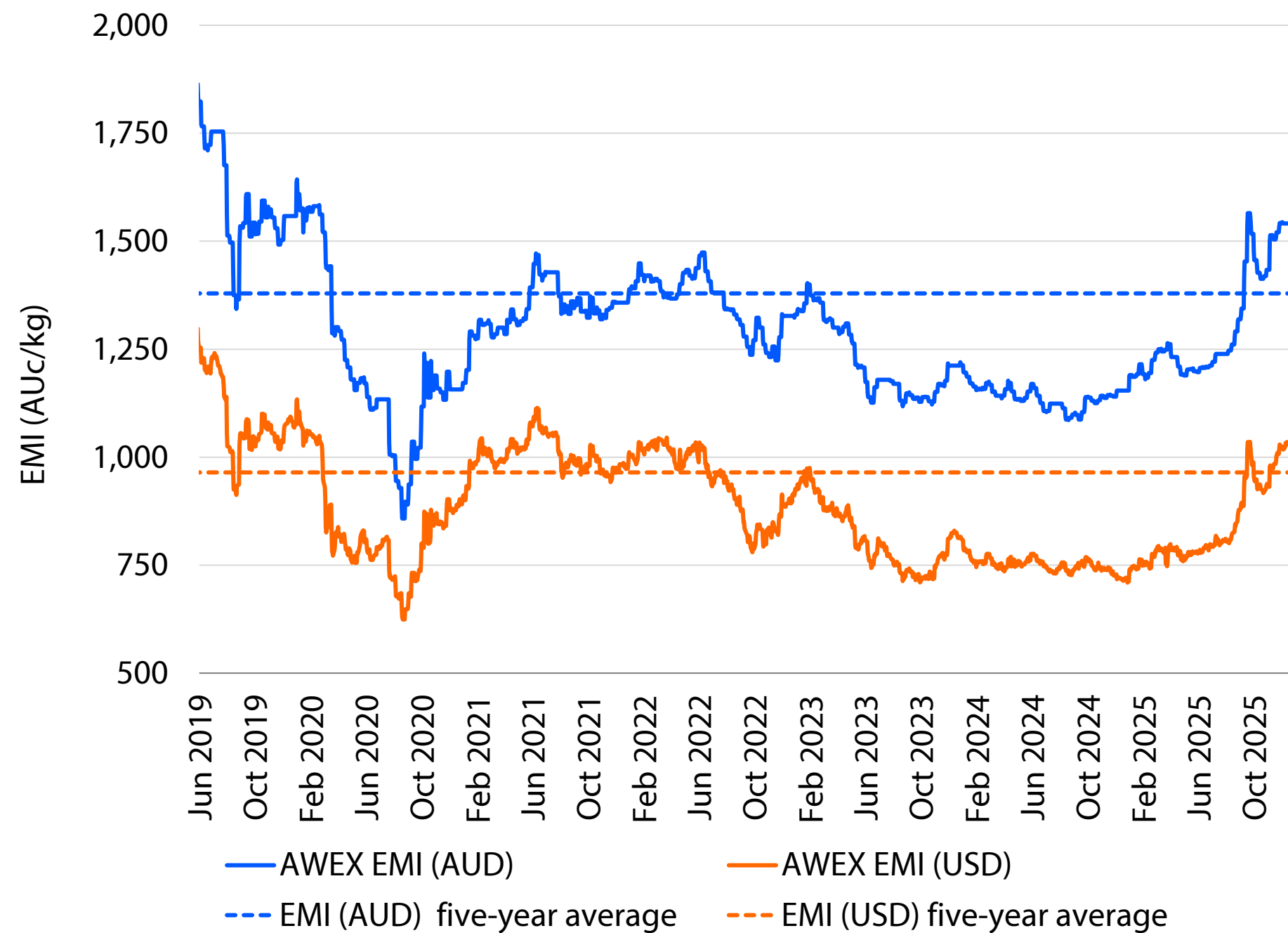
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Wool

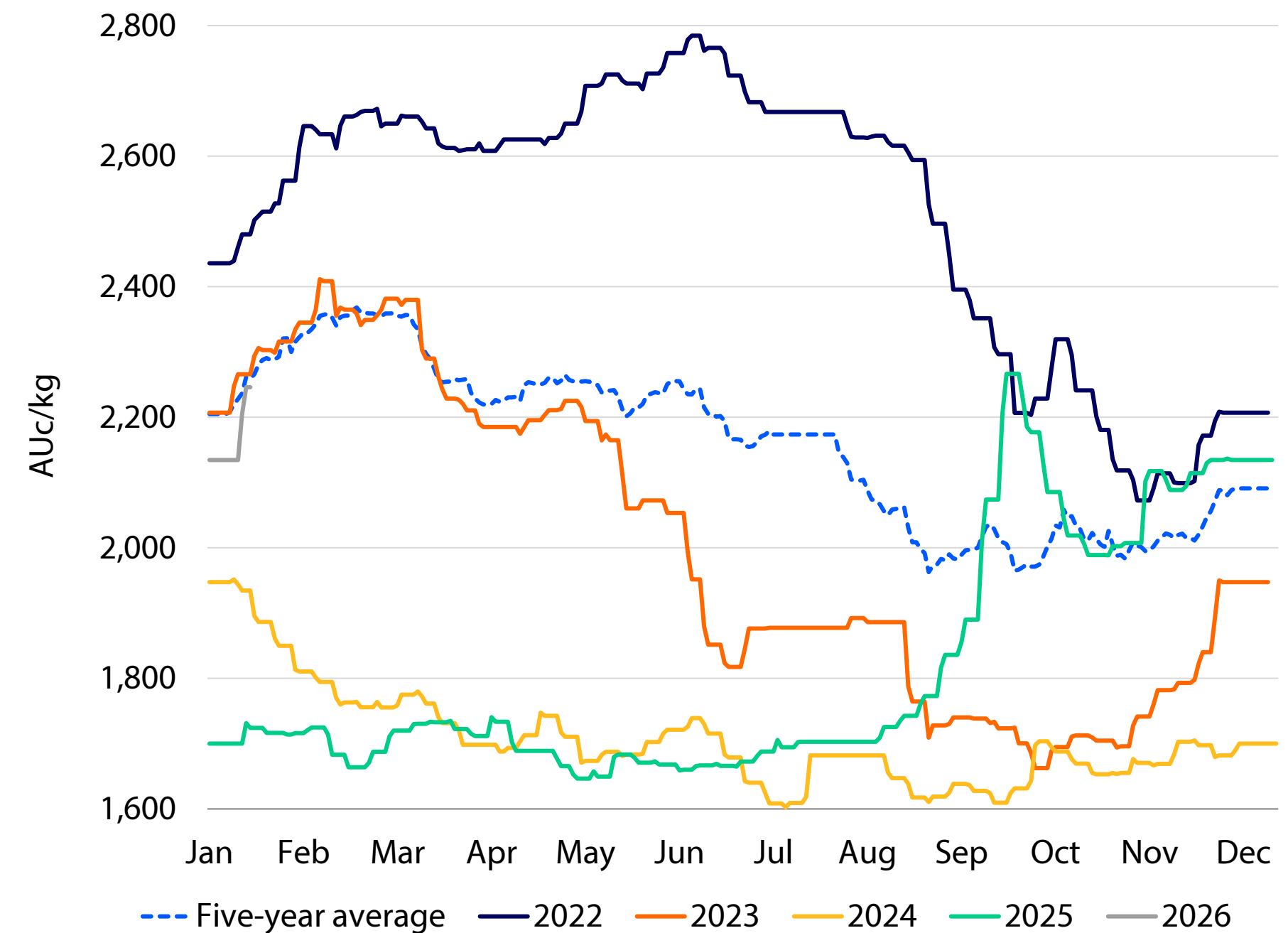
Mixed macro signals raise question marks about demand, suggesting EMI prices could be volatile

EMI prices have risen 38% over the past 12-months



Source: Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

17-micron prices have risen 30.3% over the past 12-months



Source: Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

Cotton

Global cotton production faces headwinds in 2026

Whichever way you look at it, 2025 was a tough year for cotton farmers, with global prices falling 6% over the full calendar year and Australian cash prices down 10%. With on-farm costs, such as fertiliser and machinery remaining elevated, margins have faced pressure. This has not just been an Australian issue; it has also been felt globally. Enormous Brazilian production growth has been one of the key catalysts behind falling prices, with the global balance sheet sitting in a state of oversupply. However, Brazil may prove to be the canary in the coal mine in terms of a global response by growers to weakening prices. Brazilian plantings, which took place in December and January, were likely weaker on a year-on-year basis, which means a drop in production is possible year-on-year. We could well see other producers follow suit in 2026, signalling that the bottom of the cotton market has been reached. That said, due to Brazil's heavy investment in ginning capacity and machinery acquisition, the drop in production is expected to be somewhat limited.

For 2026, the needle-mover may not necessarily be standard supply-and-demand dynamics. Instead, global (geo)politics will continue to be the main driver of prices. One

major issue cotton futures have experienced is tepid demand globally, but to see a sustained price rise the market needs to see signs of global demand picking up. Hand-to-mouth buying by importers can be partially attributed to uncertainty around supply chains and retail sentiment amid the 2025 tariff circus. However, with the US-China trade deal now active, and consumer confidence and retail sales showing some signs of improvement, supply-chain confidence has the potential to push higher in 2026 and help support demand.

One big question mark in 2026 is what will speculators do? Money Managers have undoubtedly had a major impact on cotton futures, with funds holding a massive net-short position throughout 2025 and into the new year. At its peak the Managed Money net-short position was around 8.5m bales; in recent weeks it's been cut to approximately 4.5m bales. A substantial drop, but still an abnormally large short position. Quantitative easing by central banks, alongside any signs of improving demand, could be enough to push more speculators out of their shorts, and this could support prices in 2026.

What to watch:

- **FX volatility** – FX volatility could be key for Australian cotton prices in 2026. Although market dynamics suggest ICE #2 Cotton futures could find some support in 2026, cash price movements could be more muted, given RaboResearch forecasts the AUD/USD cross to reach 0.69 on a 12-month view.
- **US corn-cotton competition** – In a similar vein to Brazilian growers, US farmers could also pull back on cotton acreage in 2026. Given corn is the competing crop, keeping a close eye on CBOT corn prices (and the spread to ICE #2 Cotton futures) will be critical in the coming months as farmers gear up to make planting decisions.



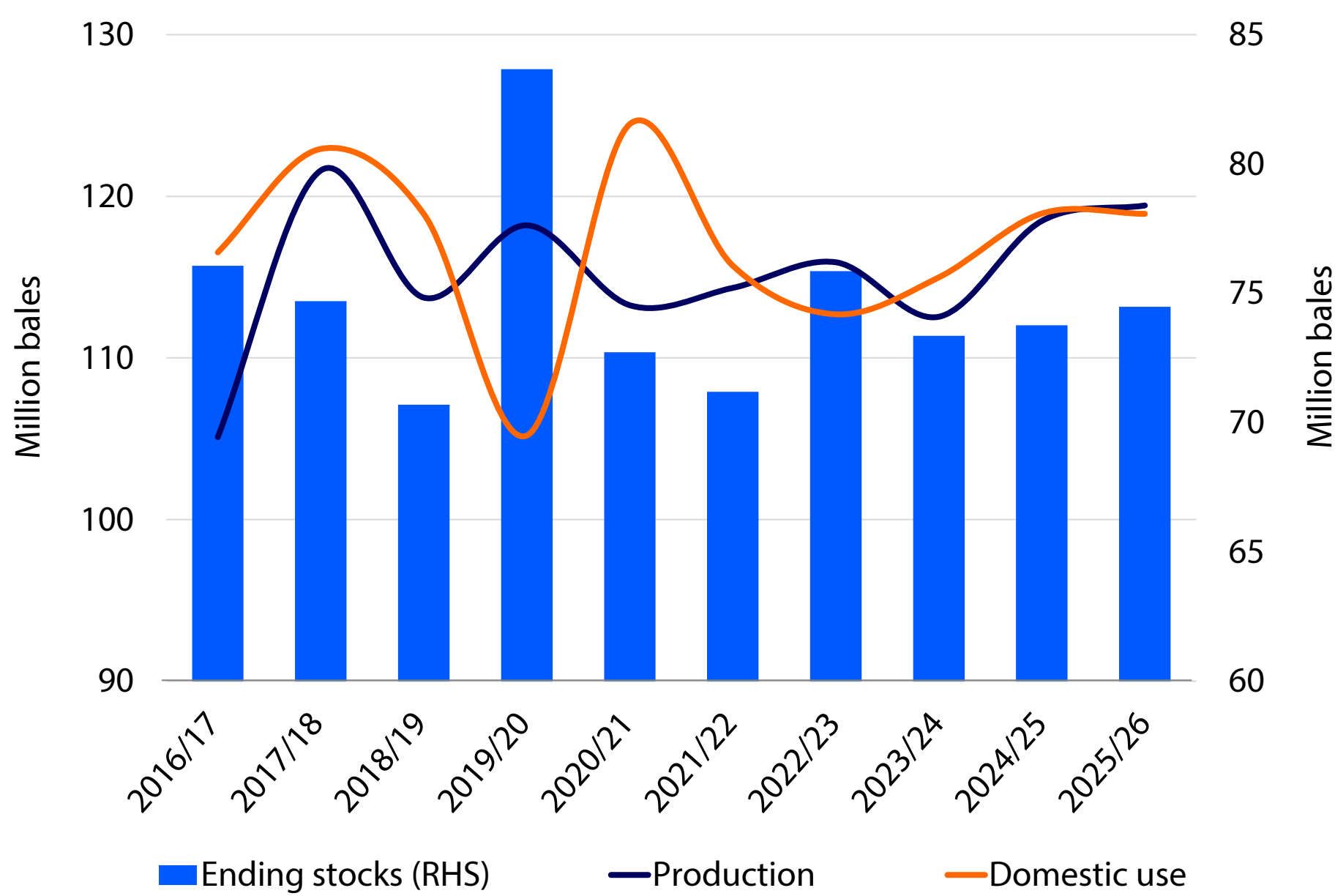
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Cotton

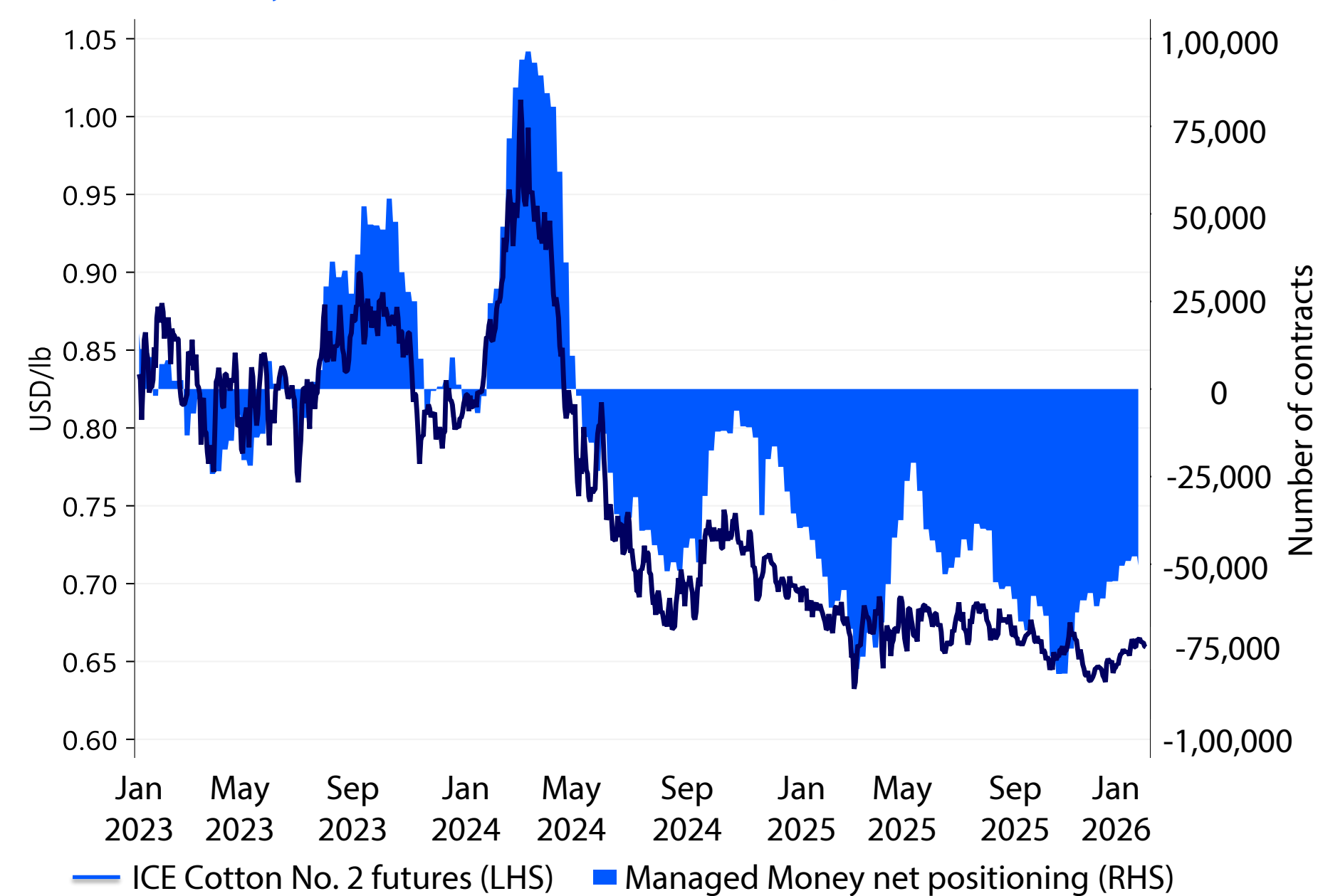
ICE #2 Cotton futures declined in 2025, but a market bottom could be nearing given slowing production

Global cotton stocks are high, however global production could pull back next season



Source: USDA, RaboResearch 2026

Funds trimmed their net-short position in recent months; however, they still hold a sizeable short position



Source: CFTC, Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

Sugar

2026 global surplus pressures prices lower

RaboResearch sees the global sugar market shifting into a surplus in the 2025/26 season (October to September), reversing last year's deficit. Despite an estimated 4.2m tonnes shortfall in 2024/25, stagnant consumption growth and prior stock accumulation have increased price pressure. Funds have reinforced the bearish market tone, holding a large net-short position in ICE Sugar #11, and futures have fallen more than 20% year-to-date through January 2026.

In Brazil, the 2024/25 season closed near 39.7m tonnes, supported by a higher-than-expected sugar mix, while ATR content fell short of early expectations. For 2025/26, RaboResearch projects further growth attributed to higher acreage and expected better yields and a rebound in ATR, reaching 39.5m to 42.1m tonnes. Brazilian sugar millers, after several years of good margins are financially solid, which provides resilience they might need as sugar margins, even for efficient millers, at current prices are

tight. A shift to more ethanol production would also prove challenging as corn ethanol production grows and an uptick in sugar-based ethanol would widen the discount of ethanol at the pump compared to gasoline.

India is expected to produce 35m tonnes, up more than 20% YOY, following beneficial monsoon rains, and Thailand's production is also forecast above the previous year at around 10.6m tonnes, both contributing to improved global supply. For India, the timing and size of an export quota remain pivotal.

For the 2025/26 international crop year, we forecast a global surplus of 3m tonnes, alongside consumption growth of only approximately 1.2% YOY, offering little impetus for stock drawdowns. This well-supplied backdrop should cap prices, with quarterly averages of USc 14.8/lb to USc 15.4/lb over 2026, well below recent highs.

What to watch:

- **Geopolitics and energy prices** – The expected continuation of the downward trend in international energy prices in 2026 has the potential to influence ethanol and sugar prices. Geopolitics remains a key price risk driver for energy prices in 2026.
- **Brazil crops and sugar mix** – Weather in Q1 2026 will be crucial for crop development. Brazilian ethanol stocks could support ethanol prices in Q1 2026, and a shift to more ethanol output, which would drive a lower-than-expected sugar mix in Brazil, could provide limited sugar price upside. Lastly, the Brazilian corn ethanol industry is rising rapidly and is providing continued competition.



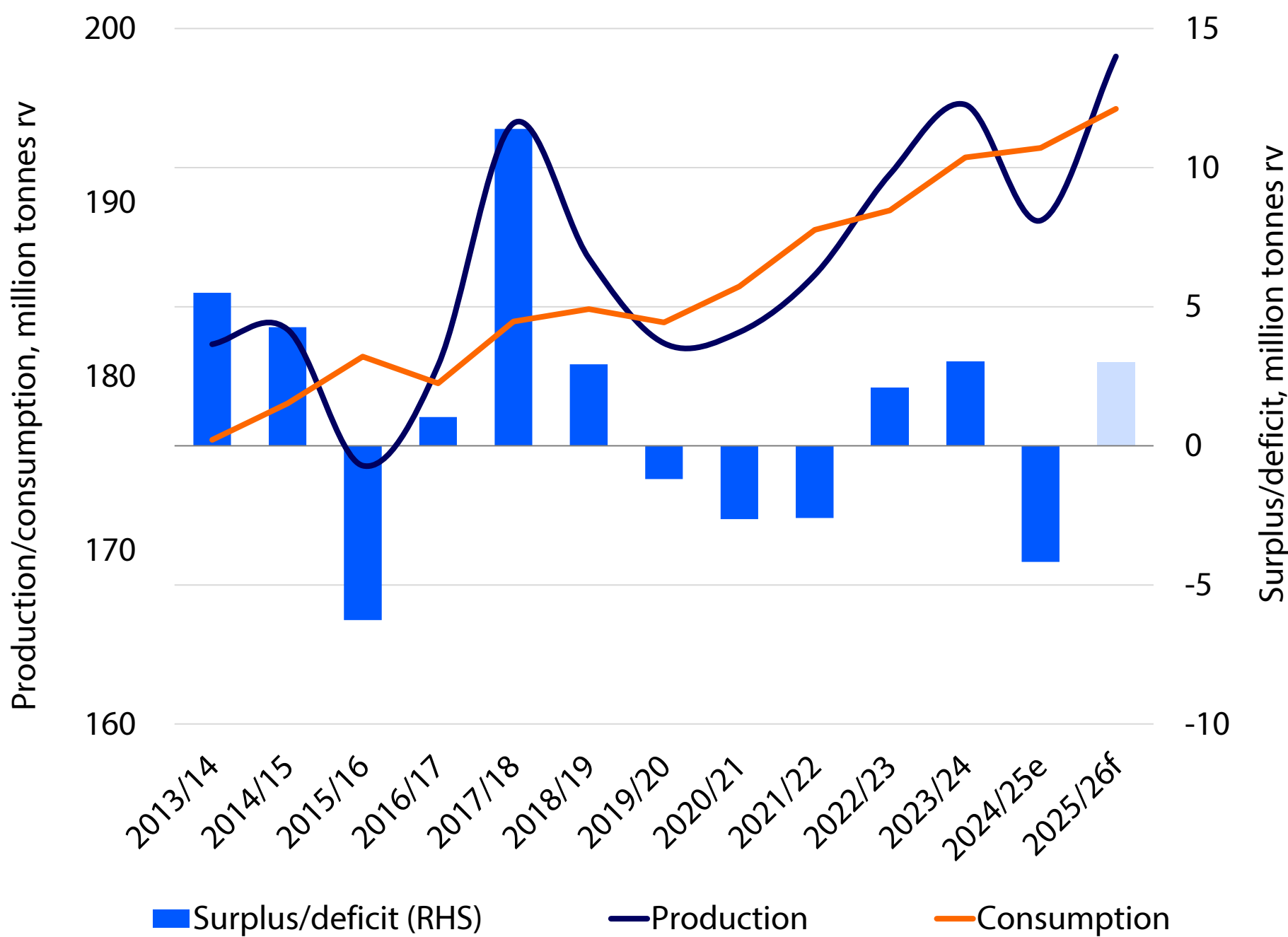
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Sugar

An expected shift to a global sugar surplus in 2025/26 pressures sugar prices

Modest global surplus forecast for 2025/26



Source: LMC, F.O. Licht, International Sugar Organization, RaboResearch 2026

Sugar prices pressured by expectations future surplus



Note: Current as off 28 January 2026

Source: Macrobond, RaboResearch 2026

Farm inputs

More volatility anticipated for urea prices in 2026

It's been a challenging year for farmers, with elevated on-farm input costs acting as a major headwind. At the same time, grains and oilseeds prices have come under sustained pressure, further squeezing margins. In Australian dollar terms, urea (+5%), phosphates (+8%), and potash (+13%) have all increased year-on-year.

Urea markets were highly volatile throughout 2025, and any hopes for greater stability in early 2026 were quickly dashed. One of the major early talking points this year has been developments in Iran following the killing of anti-government protesters. Geopolitical unrest there poses a direct risk to global urea supply chains, given Iran accounts for around 10% of global urea trade. Although the US appears to have softened its initial threat of involvement, any indication of escalating hostilities remains a key factor to watch, and urea prices could continue to move sharply on the back of these developments. **In the near term, one factor that may support urea markets is strong US purchasing activity.** Urea demand in the US is expected to be solid in early 2026 due to strong corn plantings. Combined with continued strong demand from India, this suggests prices could edge modestly higher over the short term before easing back later in the year.

For phosphates and urea, geopolitics aside, one of the key reasons we've seen prices rise over the past 12 months is strong demand from India alongside lower-than-normal domestic production. For 2026, import volumes will likely stay high given internal production is unlikely to meet requirements, and this will prevent prices from declining dramatically. In December, we saw India issue a tender for 1.5m tonnes of urea, signalling demand is still strong.

The good news from a supply perspective is that China's return to the export market in 2025 prevented prices from pushing even higher. We expect China's export volumes to steadily rise on a year-on-year basis in 2026, and this additional supply will help to partially alleviate the tight global supply-and-demand balance. China's export campaign will likely kick off in Q2 2026, given domestic demand needs in Q1.

One factor that could help partially offset on-farm costs in 2026, is RaboResearch's expectation of a stronger Australian dollar over the next 12-months. Given Australia's high reliance on imports, a projected rise to 0.69 for the AUD/USD cross would be a positive for pricing.

What to watch:

- **Gas price dynamics** – Given natural gas is the predominant feedstock for urea production, gas prices could have an outsized influence on urea prices in 2026. The good news from this perspective is that RaboResearch expects lower gas prices this year, with global LNG supply set to expand amid new projects.
- **Unrest in Iran** – This should be monitored closely, given the nation's importance as a major urea exporter.



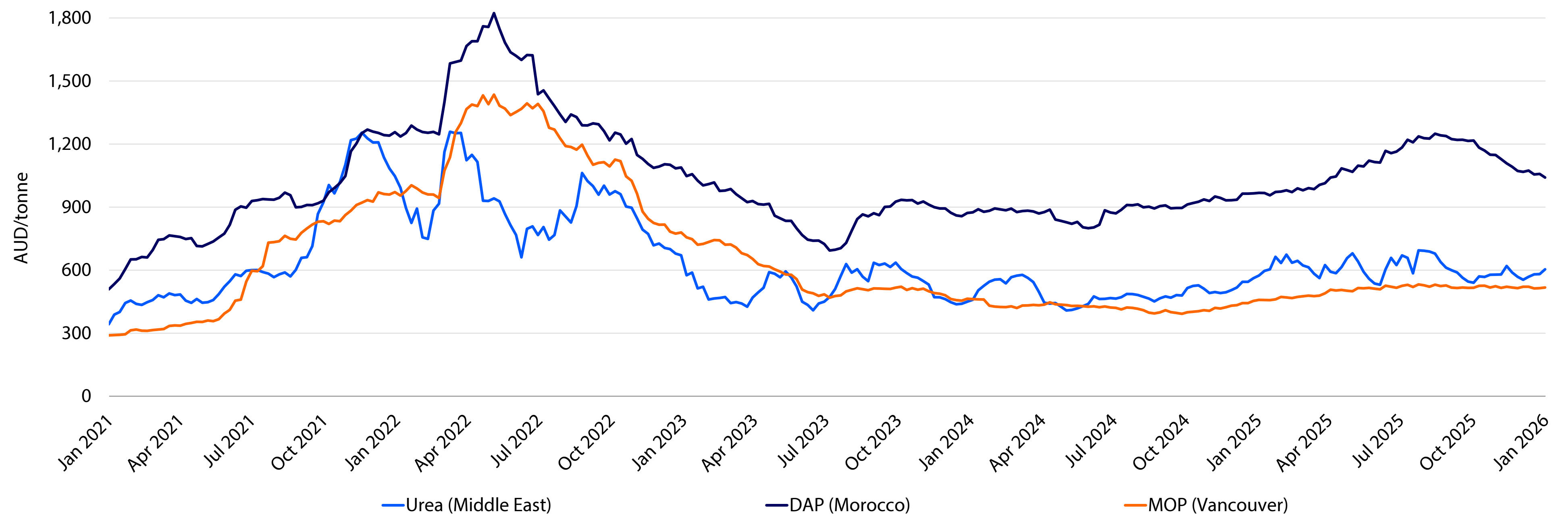
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Farm inputs

Mild price relief anticipated for urea and phosphate markets in 2026

However, Middle-East risks mean urea prices could be volatile given the region is a key energy and fertiliser supplier



Source: CRU, RaboResearch 2026

Dairy

Global markets will find a floor in 2026

Weather continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Australia's dairy sector. Adverse conditions and elevated production costs are weighing on milk flows in the 2025/26 season, compounded by a shrinking national herd and ongoing farm exits. While seasonal conditions have improved somewhat, it will take a strong year on the weather front to rebuild feed reserves.

On the input side, 2026 is shaping up as a relatively favourable market for Australian dairy farmers. Heat has eased in the fodder markets, and affordable supplementary feed and fertiliser are expected to remain available throughout the year, which will support farm margins.

Globally, the dairy complex starts 2026 with broad-based weakness in the global fundamentals. The surge in butter prices that dominated headlines in 2025 has now melted away. Oceania spot prices, which were at record highs in mid-2025, fell 32% by year-end, reaching their lowest levels since 2023.

Global fundamentals have shifted on the back of milk supply growth, which has accelerated amid lacklustre end-user demand, pointing to a well-supplied market. Output from the Big 7 is forecast to finish 2025 up 2.2% YOY, having peaked in Q3.

Growth is expected to slow sharply to just 0.12% in 2026 as margin pressure builds. **This suggests commodity markets will find a floor in 2026, but the key question remains: When will the balance shift and prices strengthen?**

Demand-side headwinds persist, with low- and middle-income consumers most affected. Foodservice channels remain sluggish, while consumer confidence is deteriorating in the US and remains fragile in China, where discretionary spending is under pressure.

Weaker commodity prices have already translated into softer farmgate returns globally. Milk prices in other export regions have fallen to multi-year lows, with Europe bearing the brunt. Locally, market and industry settings have so far shielded farmers from significant weakness. However, the question for 2026 is how much global forces will weigh on southern export region milk prices ahead of new season pricing.

At this stage, cautious budgeting for some level of softness in farmgate milk prices is advisable for farm businesses across the southern export region. On a bright note, local markets are holding up and competition for milk supply amid a shrinking milk pool will help provide a buffer to lower farmgate prices.

What to watch:

- **A bounce in Chinese import volumes** – Chinese dairy imports (on a liquid milk equivalent basis) are expected to increase. However, increases have been marginal so far. Milk prices are still low in China, and herd reduction is still underway, meaning that if demand improves more than expected, it could trigger a lift in import volumes, adding tension to the market.
- **Sticky milk supply growth** – The main risk is that if dairy commodity prices fall further and stay weak for longer, this weakness will eventually translate into lower farmgate prices. Farm margins will be squeezed by lower milk prices in 2026, but a benign outlook for inputs, and favourable weather, is offsetting this somewhat. A substantial slowdown in milk supply is already factored into RaboResearch's outlook.



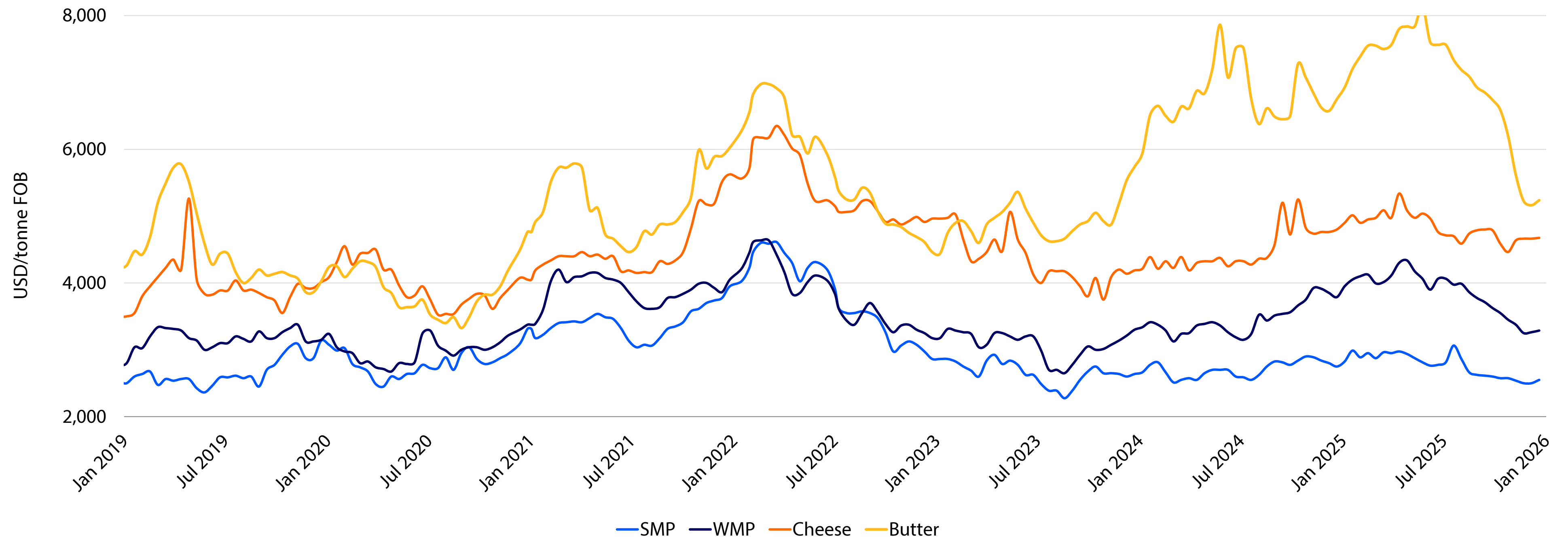
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Dairy

The global dairy market will face a period of weaker commodity prices

Oceania spot prices for dairy commodities, Jan 2019-Jan 2026



Source: USDA, RaboResearch 2026

Consumer foods

High protein boom to endure in 2026

Australian households enter 2026 on a stronger footing compared to last year, supported by easing inflation, lower interest rates, and the prospect of further tax cuts.

Discretionary spending is showing signs of recovery, and confidence levels have rebounded, yet caution remains a dominant theme for consumers. While the interest rate outlook has shifted, energy subsidies have rolled off, wage growth has slowed, and labour markets are expected to loosen slightly in 2026. Asset prices – particularly housing and equities – will be closely watched for their impact on household wealth. Against this backdrop, affordability will remain a key consideration in food purchasing decisions for Australian consumers.

High-protein demand was a major trend in 2025 and shows no signs of slowing as we head into 2026. Several factors are driving this momentum, including the health and wellness movement and the growing adoption of weight-loss medications such as GLP-1 agonists. Uptake of GLP-1 treatments is expected to accelerate across many markets, including Australia, with the anticipated introduction of a pill format set to further increase accessibility. This shift is creating new growth opportunities for high-protein products, fuelling innovation in categories like yogurt and ready-to-drink beverages. Food and beverage companies responded with a wave of product development in 2025, and this pace is likely to continue into 2026.

What to watch:

- **Australian Dietary Guidelines Review** – Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is reviewing the 2013 Dietary Guidelines, with new, updated guidelines expected in 2026. The highest-priority topics for the review include dietary patterns, nutritional needs across the life course, protein-rich foods, and ultra-processed foods.

Consumers should not fear a spike in retail food prices driven by high agricultural commodity costs. Historically, global commodity market pressures have been a key contributor to rising food prices, but RaboResearch expects 2026 to bring broadly lower agricultural commodity prices across much of the complex. This outlook reflects softer global fundamentals, with many markets now well supplied. Notably, some of the major drivers of previous price increases – such as cocoa, butter, and olive oil – had already declined in late 2025, signalling lower prices for chocolate and cooking oils ahead. However, it won't be entirely smooth sailing: Global coffee prices remain elevated at the start of the year.

Local dynamics will continue to influence consumer prices. Egg inflation is expected to normalise as domestic supply recovers, while higher Australian livestock prices are beginning to flow through to meat costs. Weather remains a critical factor, but barring major disruptions, fresh produce prices – which showed greater stability in 2025 – are likely to continue that trend into 2026.

The year 2026 shapes up as a better year in foodservice buoyed by the return of real income growth and a lift in discretionary spending. This renewed consumer confidence is positive for foodservice operators, but it also sets the stage for an intense battle for market share across formats and offerings.



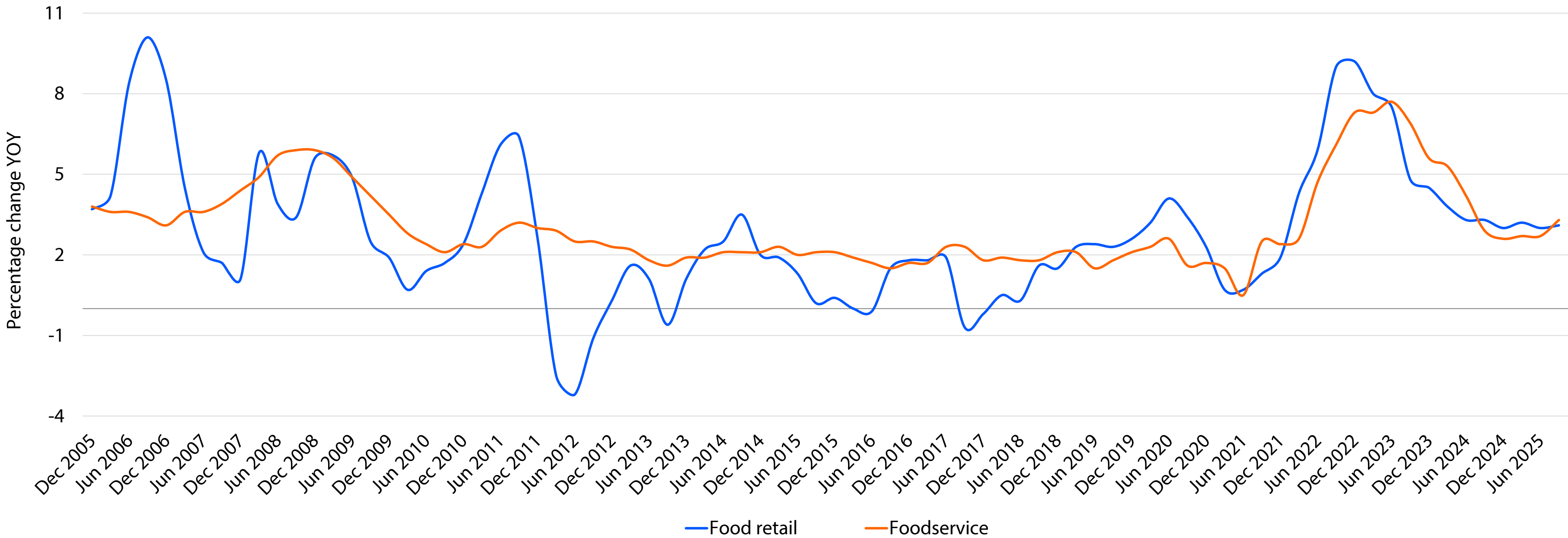
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Consumer foods

Fewer sticker shocks ahead in 2026

Quarterly inflation, food retail and foodservice, percentage change from corresponding quarter of previous year, Dec 2005-Jun 2025



Source: ABS, RaboResearch 2026

Interest rate and FX

Here we go again?

In 2025, the Reserve Bank cut the cash rate three times – prompting an acceleration in Australia’s economic growth. Growth has recovered despite export prices experiencing headwinds as the Australian dollar appreciated by almost five cents against the US dollar and the US imposed sweeping trade tariffs.

With the economy now turning over at a rate slightly higher than the RBA’s estimate of “potential growth” (the maximum rate at which the economy can grow sustainably) and capacity pressures re-emerging, it is unlikely that 2026 will see the cash rate cut in a similar fashion to 2025.

Indeed, it is now the case that the futures market and most private sector economists are pointing to the next move in the cash rate being upward. The futures market currently has two 0.25 percentage point rate hikes priced in for 2026, with the first hike expected to be delivered by the May RBA meeting.

December employment data released in late January confirmed strong hiring of 65,200 new positions. That was more than double the expected level, and the jobs were

mostly full-time positions. Taken together with a reasonably steady participation rate in the month, this was sufficient to see the unemployment rate unexpectedly fall from 4.3% to 4.1%, after having gradually risen for most of last year.

This presents a headache for the Reserve Bank, who had been expecting unemployment to average 4.4% in the final quarter of 2025. The jobs data has become just the latest indicator suggesting that the economy is running too hot – and generating renewed inflation pressures that have been reflected in higher consumer price index readings since July of last year.

Expectations that the RBA is likely to raise the cash rate at least once in 2026 have helped to drive the Australian dollar to its highest level since October 2024. At the time of writing, the Australian dollar is trading at 0.6840 against the US dollar, and RaboResearch expects it to trend higher still as interest rates fall in the US and rise in Australia.

We project the Australian dollar to finish 2026 around 0.6900 against the US dollar.

What to watch:

- **RBA cash rate decision, 3 February** – The futures market currently implies that a 0.25 percentage point rate hike in February has approximately a 70% probability. The first RBA meeting of the year is likely to set the tone for the direction of the cash rate in 2026.



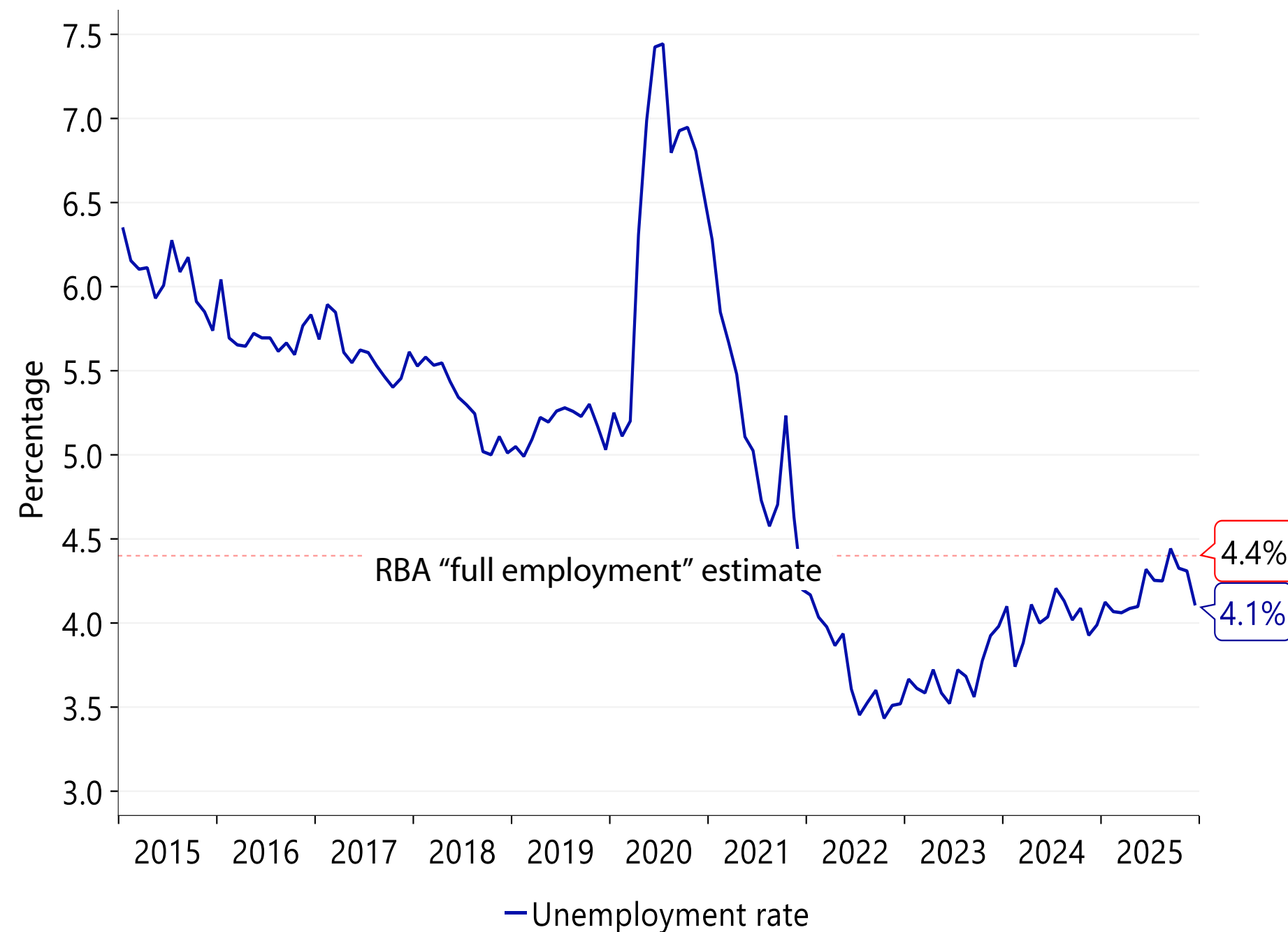
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Interest rate and FX

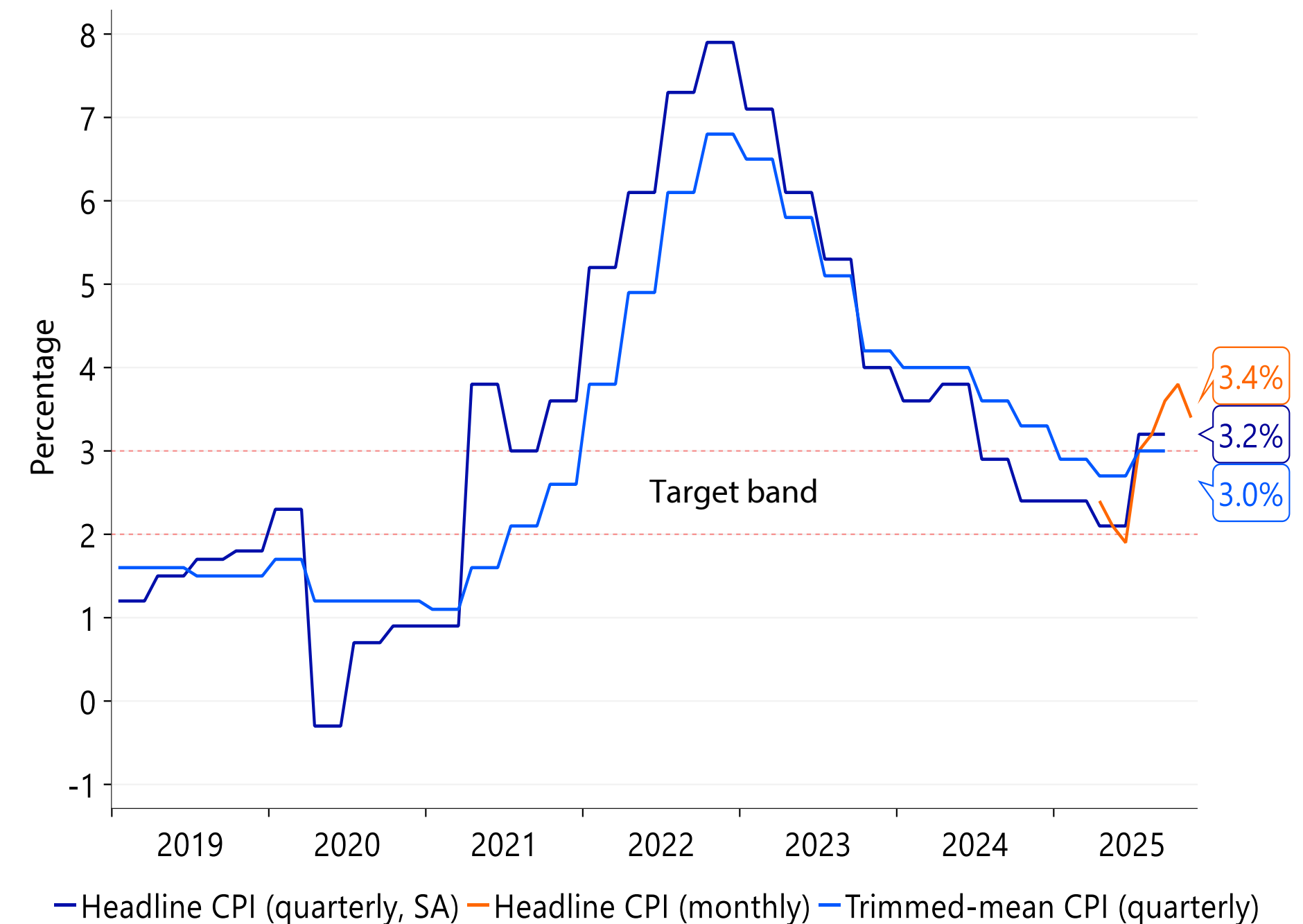
Resurgent inflation and a surprise fall in the unemployment rate increase pressure for a cash rate hike

Australian labour force indicators, 2015-2026



Source: Macrobond, ABS, RaboResearch 2026

Australian inflation indicators, 2019-2025



Source: Macrobond, ABS, RBA, RaboResearch 2026

Oil and freight

Strong supply likely to cap rallies in energy prices

Geopolitics will likely continue to be a driving theme for oil markets in 2026. At the time of writing, Brent crude prices have already risen almost 6% YTD after slumping in mid-December following the US's arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Prices have climbed as instability in Iran – a major oil producing nation – has once again injected additional risk premium into oil markets. That's despite continued signals of otherwise ample global supply that we expect to continue throughout the year.

While concerns over Iran have caused oil prices to be bid higher recently, RaboResearch expects that supply and demand will re-assert themselves over the course of the year, and that oil prices are likely to head lower.

We forecast Brent crude prices to average USD 58/bbl in 2026 – down from an average price of USD 60/bbl in the first quarter of the year.

We also project diesel prices to peak in Q1 before drifting lower in Q2 and Q3, with a small recovery expected in Q4.

What to watch:

- **Iran intervention** – The US has so far declined to intervene in Iran on behalf of anti-government protesters, but President Trump announced in late January that the US was deploying an “armada” to the region. While regime-change intervention is still considered a low probability, it could lead to higher oil prices if it were to occur.
- **Demand data** – Markets have been trading on an oversupply narrative for energy products for some time now, but US crude inventories are still low compared to historical levels. Faster-than-expected economic growth globally would likely lead to higher demand for transport fuels, despite the rapid shift to battery electric vehicles in China and Europe. Such growth could present upside risks to energy prices.

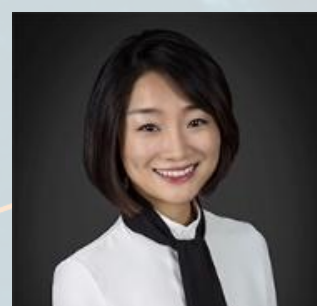
Maritime shipping in 2026 remains clouded by macroeconomic and geopolitical volatility. In the near term, US imports from Asia are unlikely to see the usual pre-Lunar New Year surge, as retailers remain cautious amid ongoing ambiguity around the Trump administration's tariff policies – extending year-on-year declines through the first half of the year. Medium-term uncertainty also surrounds the timeline for container carriers' full return to the Red Sea. Although a second Maersk vessel has transited the Suez Canal early in the new year, carriers remain divided on when to resume full operations, depending on how regional tensions evolve. Meanwhile, regulatory ambiguity continues to cloud the alternative-fuel transition, influenced in part by US lobbying. Still, alternative-fuel vessels account for about 75% of recent newbuild orders, even as these fuels remain significantly more expensive – raising carrier costs that may ultimately be passed on to shippers.

The Baltic Panamax index (a proxy for grain bulk freight) is steadily climbing on improved bulk cargo demand.



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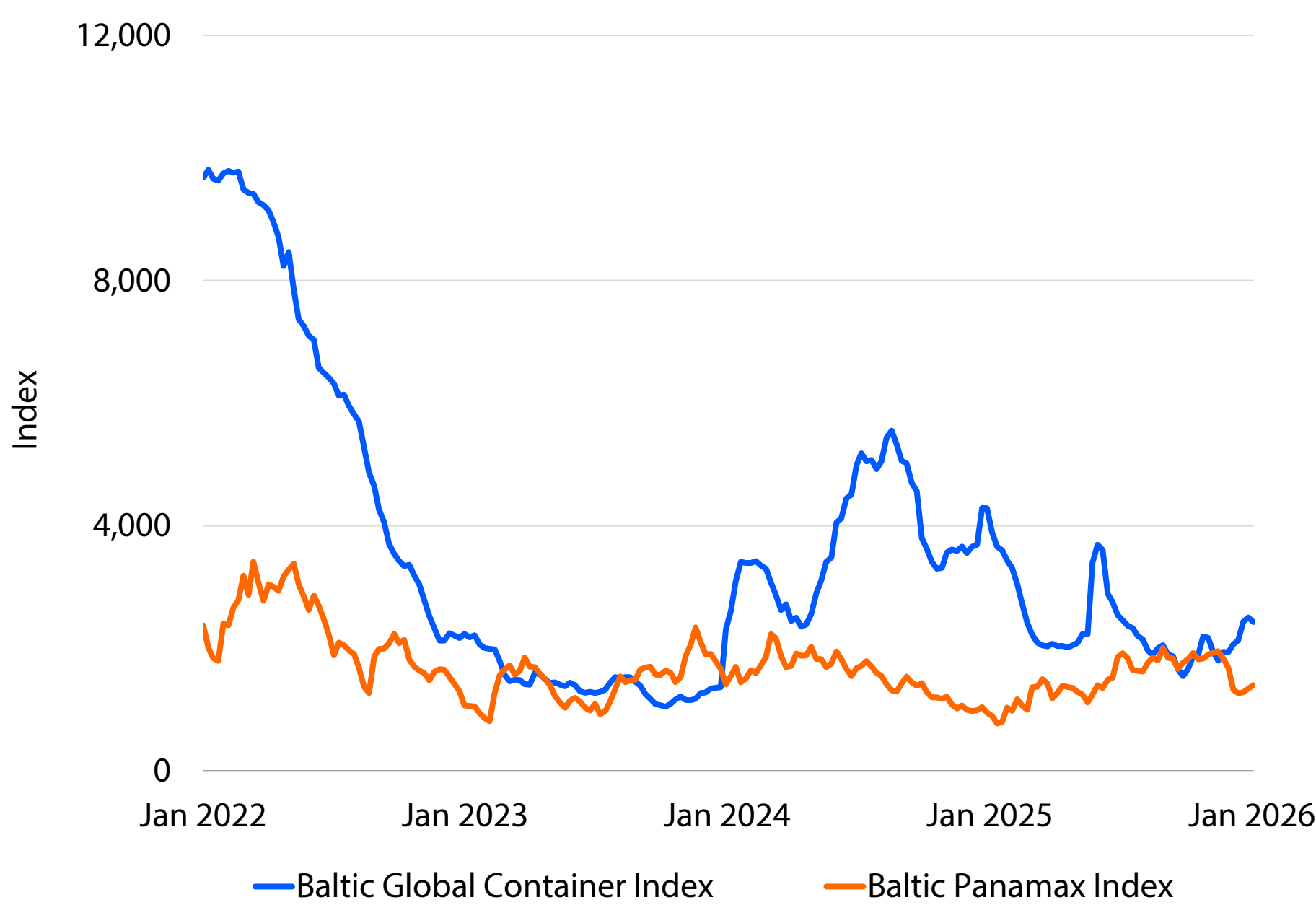
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Oil and freight

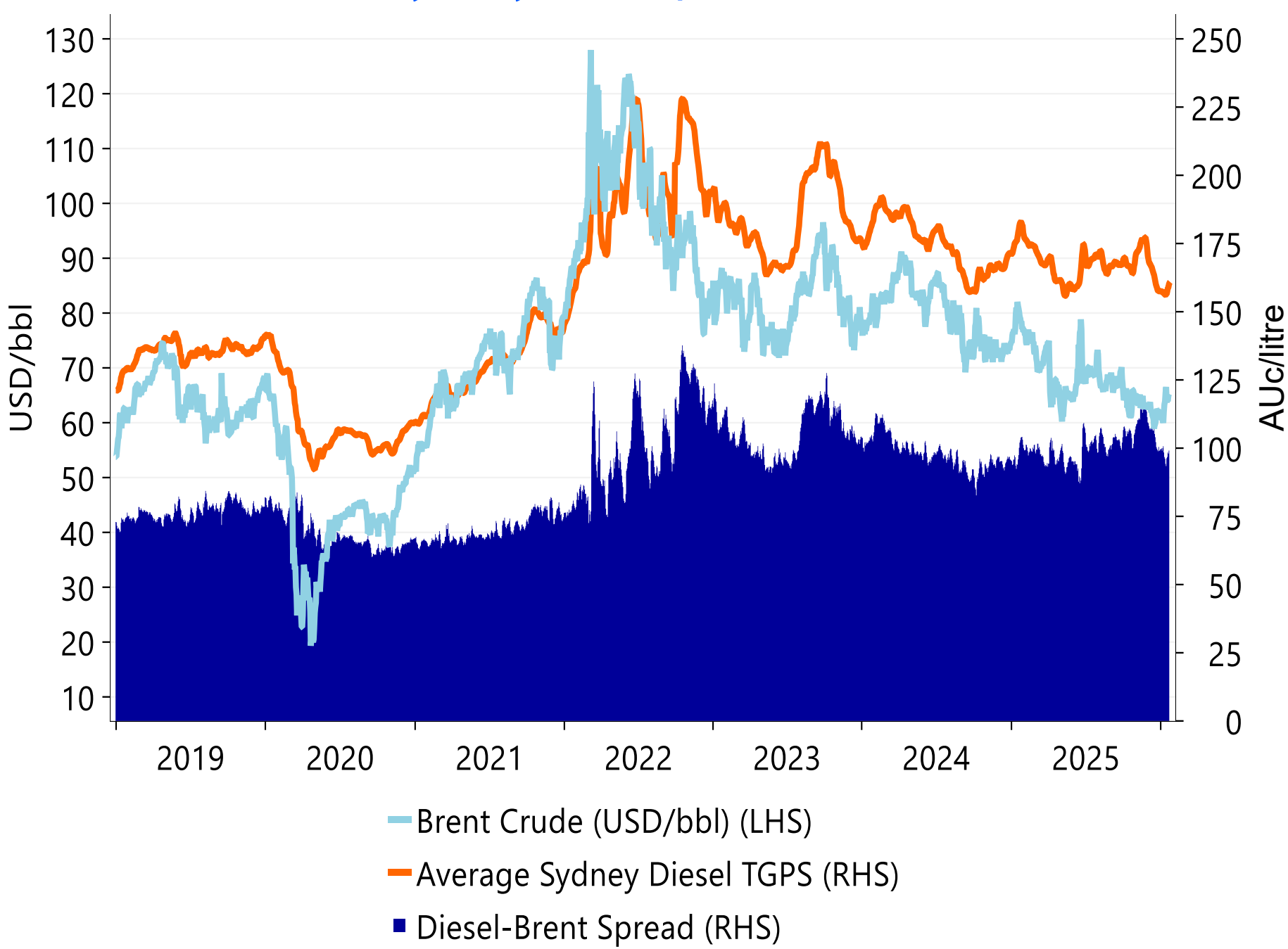
Oil prices to trend lower on themes of oversupply

Baltic Panamax Index and Dry Container Index, Jan 2022-Jan 2026



Source: Baltic Exchange, Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

Brent crude versus Sydney diesel prices, 2019-2026



Source: Macrobond, ICE, AIP, RaboResearch 2026

Agri price dashboard

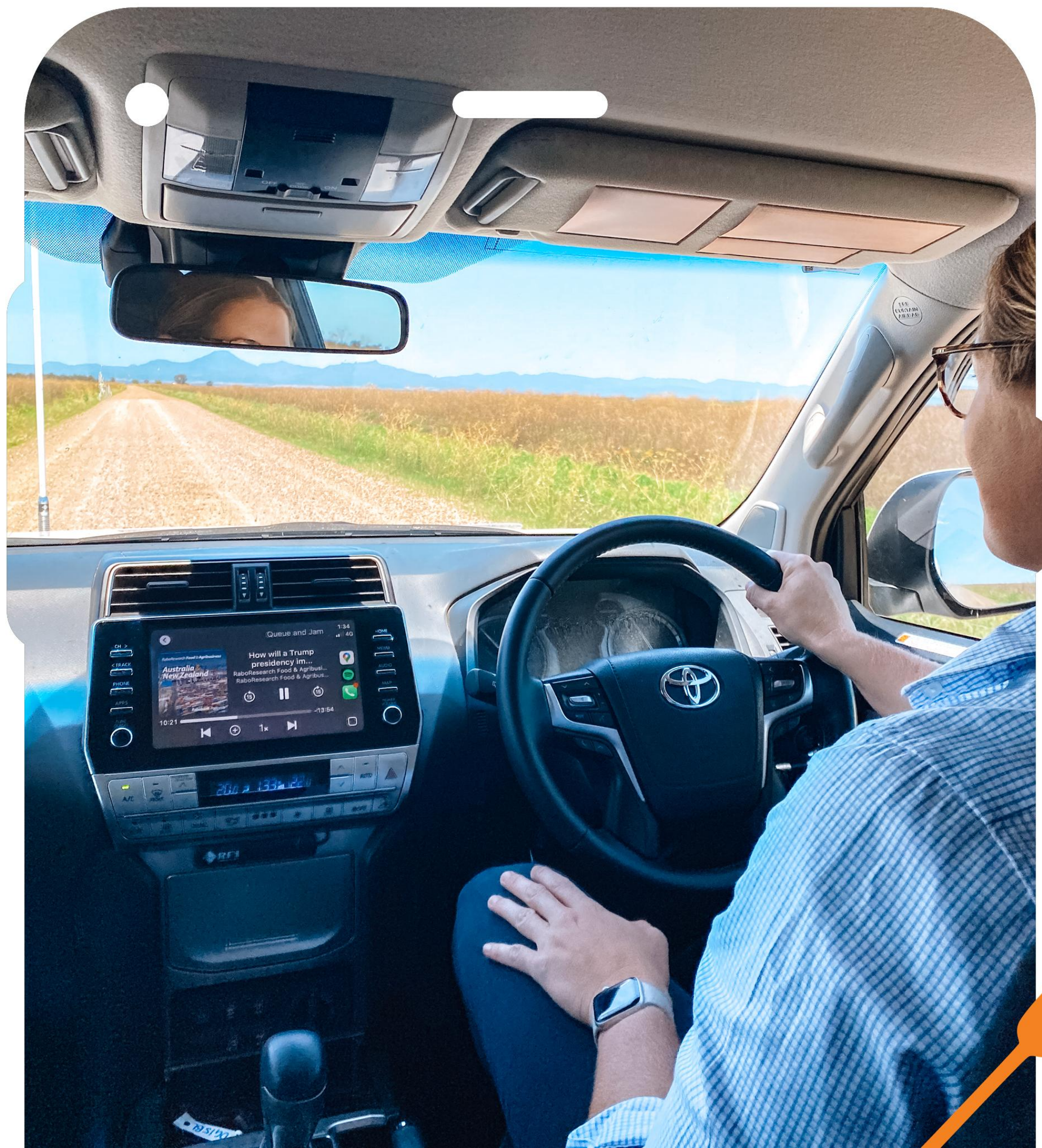
16/01/2026	Unit	MOM	Current	Last month	Last year
Grains & oilseeds					
CBOT wheat	USc/bushel	▲	518	508	546
CBOT soybean	USc/bushel	▲	1,058	1,052	1,043
CBOT corn	USc/bushel	▼	425	445	475
Australian ASX EC Wheat Track	AUD/tonne	▲	318	312	324
Non-GM Canola Newcastle Track	AUD/tonne	▼	732	742	783
Feed Barley F1 Geelong Track	AUD/tonne	▲	299	297	298
Beef markets					
Eastern Young Cattle Indicator	AUc/kg cwt	▼	855	897	712
Feeder Steer	AUc/kg lwt	▼	452	475	385
North Island Bull 300kg	NZc/kg cwt	•	945	945	720
South Island Bull 300kg	NZc/kg cwt	▲	915	875	690
Sheepmeat markets					
Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator	AUc/kg cwt	▼	1,071	1,073	807
North Island Lamb 17.5kg YX	NZc/kg cwt	▼	1,080	1,095	805
South Island Lamb 17.5kg YX	NZc/kg cwt	▼	1,080	1,095	780
Venison markets					
North Island Stag	NZc/kg cwt	•	1,045	1,045	920
South Island Stag	NZc/kg cwt	•	1,040	1,040	910
Oceanic Dairy Markets					
Butter	USD/tonne FOB	▼	5,238	5,613	6,575
Skim Milk Powder	USD/tonne FOB	▲	2,550	2,538	2,800
Whole Milk Powder	USD/tonne FOB	▼	3,288	3,375	3,850
Cheddar	USD/tonne FOB	▲	4,675	4,638	4,763

Source: Baltic Exchange, Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026

Agri price dashboard

16/01/2026	Unit	MOM	Current	Last month	Last year
Cotton markets					
Cotlook A Index	USc/lb	▲	74.8	73.3	78
ICE No.2 NY Futures (nearby contract)	USc/lb	▲	64.7	63.5	68
Sugar markets					
ICE Sugar No.11	USc/lb	▲	15.0	14.5	18.3
ICE Sugar No.11 (AUD)	AUD/tonne	▲	494	483	627
Wool markets					
Australian Eastern Market Indicator	AUc/kg	▲	1,544	1,434	1,188
Fertiliser					
Urea Granular (Middle East)	USD/tonne FOB	▲	411	393	353
DAP (US Gulf)	USD/tonne FOB	▲	658	628	610
Other					
Baltic Panamax Index	1000=1985	▲	1,458	1,389	906
Brent Crude Oil	USD/bbl	▲	64	60	80
Economics/currency					
AUD	vs. USD	▲	0.668	0.661	0.620
NZD	vs. USD	▼	0.575	0.578	0.560
RBA Official Cash Rate	%	•	3.60	3.60	4.35
NZRB Official Cash Rate	%	•	2.25	2.25	4.25

Source: Baltic Exchange, Bloomberg, RaboResearch 2026



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