Sudan Transparency and Policy Tracker

Sudan Economic Brief # 3

October 2026

Covering the period: October 2026

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Quick Snapshot

Indicator	Value
Parallel market dollar rate	10,203 buying, 10,313 selling as of October 22; about 10,200 on October 25; about 8,330 on October 3.[1][2]
Official bank rate (selling)	Omdurman National Bank: 4,533.75 on October 22, up 20% in a week; the parallel rate is about 2.3 times higher.[3]
Customs dollar rate	5,631 SDG from October 19 (+29.5%); 3,960.24 in the September brief.[4]
Annual inflation (CBS)	28.29% in September (26.14% in August); prices up 7.50% in the month; imported goods 70.70%.[5]
Petrol, per gallon	About 37,000–39,000 SDG at stations; about 70,000 on the Khartoum black market on October 25 (diesel about 80,000).[6]
Bread and flour	Two loaves for 1,000 SDG in most Khartoum bakeries (three before); a 50 kg flour sack up 42% in about ten days.[7]
Raw gold (24k), per gram	1,329,143 SDG (about $130.3) on October 22: up 36% in pounds, down about 8% in dollars since September 10.[8]

[1] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u.
[2] Radio Dabanga (Arabic), "Drug import companies halt activity because of exchange-rate volatility," October 26, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/yrxjnkmr
[3] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u.
[4] Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Unprecedented rise in the customs dollar, exchange rates, and gold in Sudan," October 19, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320147.
[5] Central Bureau of Statistics (Sudan), Sudan Report: Consumer Price Indices of Goods and Services and Annual Rates of Change (Inflation), September 2026, October 21, 2026 (document supplied directly; no public link). Prices are collected in 17 states, with Central Darfur's estimated.
[6] Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Fuel scarcity worsens Khartoum's transport crisis and bread expected to reach 1,000 pounds," October 25, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320396; Al-Jarida (Kuwait), citing dpa, October 22, 2026, available at: https://www.aljarida.com/article/148243.
[7] Atar team (Arabic), "After the rise in the price of a loaf: what do people eat in Sudan?" issue 143, October 22, 2026, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=36036; Ahmed bin Omar, "The bread price crisis in Sudan," issue 143 economic supplement, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=35939.
[8] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94uf.

Indicator	Value
Old 500-pound notes	All remaining notes issued in 2023 or prior are to be withdrawn from circulation nationwide October 1–December 31; replacement will target the states of Kordofan and Darfur where replacement has not occurred to date; legal-tender status ends January 1, 2027.[9]
Bank of Khartoum services	Bankak is operating again; USSD (October 4) and iBOK (October 6) relaunched; POS, ATM, and card services unconfirmed.[10]
Food import bans	Burhan directed on October 21 that bans be lifted; the cabinet decision of October 26 exempts flour, lentils, rice, beans, edible oils, chickpeas, and peas from duties and VAT.[11][12]
Food security	IPC alert of October 12 warns of rising famine risk in Greater Darfur and Kordofan; WFP has $276 million, under half of last year's budget.[13][14]
Banking restructuring deadline	End of 2026, carried forward from the September brief

Most Significant Developments

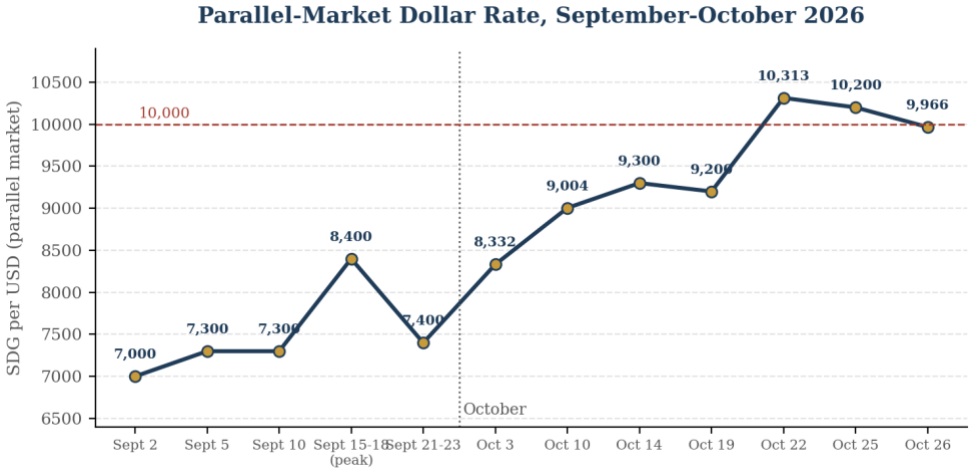
Exchange rate and currency

- **The parallel-market dollar passed 10,000 SDG on October 22, about 24% above its October 3 level, while the official bank rate is less than half of that.** Atar recorded 10,203 buying and 10,313 selling on October 22; Radio Dabanga reported 10,150 and 10,200 on October 25, and another bulletin listed 9,966 on October 26. Omdurman National Bank raised its rate by 20% in a week to 4,533.75, but the parallel rate stayed about 2.3 times higher (own calculation). The central bank's August 24 circular let banks set their own rates, and no new rate measure has been reported since. The volatility is already disrupting trade: a medicine supplier said the gap between the parallel rate and the rate used by the medicines pricing council has halted some imports, and gold dealers in northern mining markets stopped trading on October 22.[15]

[9] Central Bank of Sudan (Arabic), "The Central Bank announces the withdrawal of old editions of the 500-pound note from circulation," announcement of September 30, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3t4nyewy; Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Bank of Sudan withdraws old editions of the 500-pound note," September 30, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/319425.
[10] Tiryag News (Arabic), "Bank of Khartoum announces a comprehensive upgrade of its systems," October 3, 2026, available at: https://tryagnews.com/85467; Tag Press (Arabic), Bank of Khartoum launches a new free service to ease pressure on Bankak app," October 5, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/26xmd7du; Asda'a Sudania (Arabic), "Bank of Khartoum Announces that Bankak Will Be Closed Today And Tomorrow At These Times," October 15, 2026, available at: https://asdaasudania.com/15/113279/.
[11] Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Sudan exempts food goods from customs and taxes and cancels the import ban on others," October 26, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320460.
[12] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, "News brief," October 22, 2026, pp. 3–4, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94uf.
[13] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "SUDAN: New evidence reveals rapidly worsening conditions across Greater Darfur and Kordofan," October 12, 2026, available at: https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-157/en/; UNICEF, FAO, and WFP, May 15, 2026, available at: https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/risk-famine-persists-nearly-195-million-people-face-acute-food-insecurity-sudan.
[14] Reuters, via Arab News, "New famine risk haunts war-torn Sudan with El Niño-driven drought," October 23, 2026, available at: https://www.arabnews.com/middle-east/new-famine-risk-haunts-war-torn-sudan-with-el-ni%C3%B1o-driven-drought-3007873.
[15] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94uf; Radio Dabanga (Arabic), "Drug import companies halt activity because of exchange-rate volatility," October 26, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/yrxjnkmr: Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Bank of Sudan liberalises exchange rates and cancels earlier controls," August 24, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/317824

Dollar rates, October 2026 (SDG per USD)

Rate	SDG per USD
Parallel market, average selling, Oct 3	8,331.83
Parallel market, average selling, Oct 10 / Oct 14	9,004.27 / about 9,300
Six banks, selling, Oct 15	3,778 (Omdurman National) to 6,448 (Bank of Nile)
Atar bulletin, parallel market, Oct 22 (buying / selling)	10,203 / 10,313
Omdurman National Bank, Oct 22 (buying / selling)	4,500 / 4,533.75
Parallel market, Oct 25 (buying / selling)	10,150 / 10,200
Parallel market, another bulletin, Oct 26	9,966



- **The customs dollar was raised 29.5% to 5,631 SDG on October 19, the fifth increase this year.** The new rate is about 42% above the September figure and about 45% below the October 25 parallel rate (own calculation). Because the customs rate sets the base on which duties are assessed, each increase raises the cost of imports. Two days later the authorities exempted key foods from duties (see discussion below).[16]
- **Annual inflation increased to 28.29% in September from 26.14% in August, with prices up 7.50% in a single month and imported goods up 70.70%**. The Central Bureau of Statistics reported on October 21 that food and beverages, which carry 52.89% of the basket, rose 17.26% in the month (36.81% a year), urban inflation reached 40.35% against 21.18% in rural areas, and core inflation fell to 25.68%, the lowest in 13 months. Inflation on imported goods, which is closely linked to the exchange rate, jumped from 52.46% to 70.70%. State figures are indicative, since Central Darfur's prices are estimated.[17]

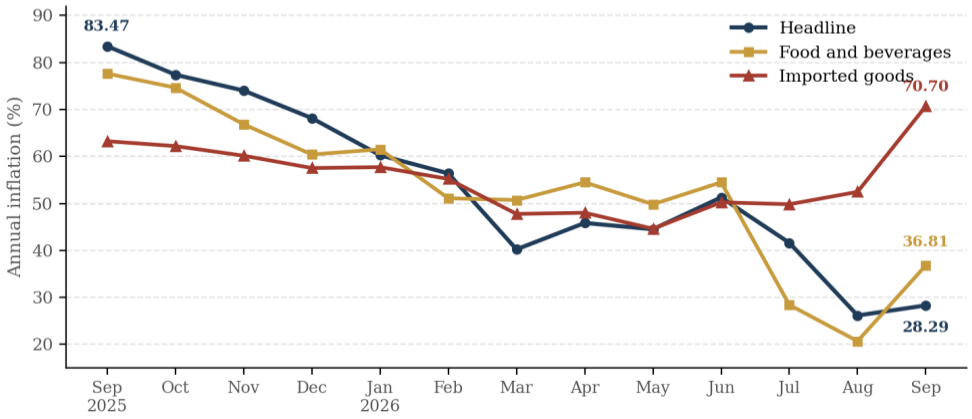
[16] Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Unprecedented rise in the customs dollar, exchange rates, and gold in Sudan," October 19, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320147.

[17] Central Bureau of Statistics (Sudan), Sudan Report: Consumer Price Indices of Goods and Services and Annual Rates of Change (Inflation), September 2026, October 21, 2026 (document supplied directly; no public link). Prices are collected in 17 states, with Central Darfur's estimated.

Consumer price inflation, September 2026 (Central Bureau of Statistics; 2007=100)

Indicator	September 2026
General price index	798,530.55 (August 742,830.07; +7.50% in the month, the highest in 13 months)
Annual headline inflation	28.29% (August 26.14%; July 41.61%; September 2025 83.47%)
Core annual inflation	25.68% (August 27.87%)
Imported goods, annual inflation	70.70% (August 52.46%; highest in 13 months)
Food and beverages, annual inflation	36.81% (August 20.68%); +17.26% in the month
Urban / rural annual inflation	40.35% / 21.18%
Highest states, annual	North Kordofan 65.41%; Khartoum 59.98%; Blue Nile 57.68%

Annual Inflation, September 2025 to September 2026 (CBS)



- **The Central Bank's began withdrawing old 500-pound notes on October 1.** All bills issued in 2023 or earlier are withdrawn nationwide until December 31, 2026, but exchange in this phase is limited to the states of Kordofan and Darfur, which have not been covered by other exchanges, by deposit at face value into bank accounts at commercial bank branches; the notes lose legal-tender status on January 1, 2027.[18] The fact that exchanges can only be done through deposits burdens those without an account or a nearby branch.

Payments and banking

- Bankak was disrupted in early October and was operating again by October 15. Users in several cities could not log in or transfer funds; Bank of Khartoum apologized on October 3, launched USSD on October 4 and its browser-based iBOK on October 6, and by October 15 was announcing scheduled archiving stoppages for the app, which implies service had resumed. POS, ATM, and card services were still listed as pending,

[18] Central Bank of Sudan (Arabic), "The Central Bank announces the withdrawal of old editions of the 500-pound note from circulation," announcement of September 30, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3t4nyewy.

and the bank gave no cause or compensation arrangements. ATMs and POS terminals are the channels that turn balances into cash and goods, the gap the September brief documented in Darfur and Kordofan.[19]

- **The board of the central bank's financial-services company directed a faster launch of government securities, a gold certificate, and bank *sukuk*** *(a sharia compliant financial tool similar to a bond)***.** Meeting on October 10, it directed securities for open-market operations and deficit financing on the lines of the Shahama certificates and reviewed a capital increase.[20] No volumes, yields, or dates were given; the design of these instruments, and who buys them, will have an impact of the value of the pound.

- **Al-Salam Bank (Sudan) opened its headquarters in Khartoum in late September, one of the first commercial banks back in the capital.** Its Emirati chairman, elected by the general assembly in April, attended the ceremony with the Khartoum governor and banking leaders. The bank had reopened its Omdurman branch on February 8. A commentator describes it as a joint bank with Arab investors that met the central bank's conditions, but its shareholder breakdown is not available in the sources reviewed by STPT.[21]

Fuel, bread, and consumer prices

- **The fuel shortage persisted into the week of October 25, with black-market prices still rising**. Althoug prices differ by day and source, diesel sold for about 80,000 SDG a gallon and petrol for about 70,000 on the Khartoum black market, against about 37,000–39,000 at stations; some stations ran out of stock, fares rose on several routes, and commuters walked to work. Outside Khartoum, petrol reached 62,000 in Nyala and 100,000 in Daein on October 22).[22]

- **Atar ties the queues to a financing bottleneck: importers must post 200 kg of gold and then wait for subsidized dirhams from the Central Bank.** Only eight of about 31 active fuel importers reportedly qualified as official importers, and dirhams are supplied at a preferential rate 33–38% below the parallel rate. Delays add an estimated $45,000 a day to the invoice, while the fuel bill itself rose with world prices: petroleum imports were $1.495 billion in the first half of 2026, a third of all imports (Table 4). Burhan re-established the Sudanese Petroleum Corporation on October 20, after assigning the fuel file to Lt. Gen. Kabbashi on September 23; [23] the decree does not say how imports will be financed.[24]

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[19]Tiryag News (Arabic), "Bank of Khartoum announces a comprehensive upgrade of its systems," October 3, 2026, available at: https://tryagnews.com/85467; Tag Press (Arabic), Bank of Khartoum launches a new free service to ease pressure on Bankak app," October 5, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/26xmd7du; Asda'a Sudania (Arabic), "Bank of Khartoum Announces that Bankak Will Be Closed Today And Tomorrow At These Times," October 15, 2026, available at: https://asdaasudania.com/15/113279/.

[20] Atheer News (Arabic), "Bank of Sudan directs the issuance of new securities," October 11, 2026, available at: https://www.atheernews.net/225027/.

[21] Mataris News (Arabic), "Emirati Al Sinan from Khartoum: the opening of Al-Salam Bank is a return of life to the capital," early October 2026, available at: https://matarees.net/1467/al-sinan-the-emirati-from-khartoum/; Al-Mal wal-Masaref (Arabic), on the February 8, 2026 reopening of the Omdurman branch, available at: https://almalwalmassaref.com/details/4184.

[22] Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Fuel scarcity worsens Khartoum's transport crisis and bread expected to reach 1,000 pounds," October 25, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320396; Al-Jarida (Kuwait), citing dpa, 22 October 2026, available at: https://www.aljarida.com/article/148243; Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u

[23] Atar (English), issue 61, "Sudan's Fuel Crisis: Tankers Wait on the Dirham," by Ahmed bin Omar, October 19, 2026 (first published in Arabic in issue 141, October 8, 2026. Figures come from an importers' paper and cost sheets reviewed by Atar.

[24] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, "News brief," October 22, 2026, pp. 3–4, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u; Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Burhan restores the Sudanese Petroleum Corporation seven years after its dissolution," October 21, 2026, available at:

Fuel import financing: key figures (Atar, issue 61)

Item	Figure
Central bank requirement (from June 16)	200 kg of 21-karat gold per importing company (about $22.9 million at Atar's October 22 price;)
Monthly need (diesel and gasoline)	240,000 tons: $240–288 million a month at $1,000–1,200 a ton

- **Most Khartoum bakeries now sell two loaves for 1,000 SDG instead of three, and the cost of a 50 kg flour sack rose 42% in about ten days.** The price of flour has been increasing as have the prices of other ingredients. The Omdurman bakers' committee reports that the cost of yeast nearly doubled and a jerrycan of oil increased by 300,000 in under two months. Grain prices are easing where harvesting is underway (a sack of sorghum in Gezira fell from 720,000 to 500,000 in Atar's bulletin), but the government kept the sorghum export ban.[25]

Bread prices by city, October 2026 (Atar survey)

City	Price and weight
Khartoum	3 loaves for 1,000 SDG before; 2 for 1,000 in most bakeries
Kosti / Port Sudan	3 for 1,000 before; 2 for 1,000 (some bakeries in Port Sudan)
El Obeid	3 for 1,000, unchanged
Wad Madani	3 for 1,000 before; 5 for 2,000 or 2 for 1,000
Gedaref	400 SDG a loaf, up from 200–300

- **Staples, meat, and building materials kept rising in the week to October 22, while pay lags.** In Omdurman, oil rose from 12,000 to 18,000 SDG a pound, rice from 20,000 to 25,000 a kilogram, a sack of wheat from 500,000 to 700,000, and cement from 1.9 to 2.45 million a ton (see below); Atar reports increases in the price of staples in more than eight states. Khartoum teachers struck on October 21–22 for an increase in the minimum wage from 12,000 to 500,000 SDG.[26]

Selected prices in Omdurman, October 15 and 22, 2026 (SDG)

Item	Oct 15 to Oct 22
Sugar (kg)	7,000 to 8,000
Lentils (kg)	22,000 to 25,000

https://sudantribune.net/article/320260; Azza Press (Arabic), October 20, 2026 (board composition), available at: https://azzapress.com/archives/152046.

[25] Atar team (Arabic), "After the rise in the price of a loaf: what do people eat in Sudan?" issue 143, October 22, 2026, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=36036; Ahmed bin Omar, "The bread price crisis in Sudan," issue 143 economic supplement, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=35939: Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Fuel scarcity worsens Khartoum's transport crisis and bread expected to reach 1,000 pounds," October 25, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320396; Al-Jarida (Kuwait), citing dpa, October 22, 2026, available at: https://www.aljarida.com/article/148243.

[26] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u; Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 142, price bulletin and tables, October 15, 2026 (photographed copy of the print edition; no direct public link); Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, "News brief," October 22, 2026, pp. 3–4, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u

Item	Oct 15 to Oct 22
Rice (kg)	20,000 to 25,000
Cooking oil (pound)	12,000 to 18,000
Wheat (sack)	500,000 to 700,000
Sorghum (sack)	600,000 to 685,000
Cement (ton)	1.9 million to 2.45 million

Food security and agriculture

- **The IPC warned on October 12 of a growing risk of famine in Greater Darfur and Kordofan, and WFP says aid and harvests are failing.** An drought related to El Niño now affects more than half the country. WFP had $276 million as of October 17, less than half of last year's budget, and forecasts 350,000 more people will experience severe hunger by the end of 2026 and 1.2 million by August 2027; rations in Tawila have been halved. Sudan's agriculture minister said on October 8 that the harvest would be lower but not significantly so.[27]

Food-security and funding indicators

Indicator	Figure
IPC analysis, May 2026	About 19.5 million in Phase 3+; more than 5 million in Phase 4; 14 hotspots at risk of famine
IPC alert, October 12	Growing famine risk in Greater Darfur and Kordofan; El Niño drought across more than half of Sudan
WFP funding and forecast (Oct 17–23)	$276 million available; 350,000 more people in severe hunger by end-2026, 1.2 million by August 2027
FAO response plan (Sept 25)	$193 million needed; about $44 million received

- **Domestic wheat covers about 14% of need, so bread prices follow the exchange rate and fuel.** FAO estimates 2025/26 wheat production at 433,500 tons against a need of about 3.0 million tons. First-half 2026 wheat imports more than doubled (+115% in tons, +163% in value) while flour imports fell 80%, and the combined bill rose 41.5% to $406.7 million, constituting about a tenth of all imports.[28]
- **Diesel shortages threaten the summer-crop harvest and winter-crop preparation in the Gezira scheme and rural Gedaref.** Gezira farmers pay 80,000–90,000 SDG a gallon for irrigation diesel; the scheme obtained 300,000 gallons for canal dredgers, but farmers in at least five sections said none reached them, and Atar's reporter saw no winter-crop preparation in ten of the 21 irrigation sections. In rural Gedaref

[27] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, "SUDAN: New evidence reveals rapidly worsening conditions across Greater Darfur and Kordofan," October 12, 2026, available at: https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-157/en/; UNICEF, FAO, and WFP, May 15, 2026, available at: https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/risk-famine-persists-nearly-195-million-people-face-acute-food-insecurity-sudan; Reuters, via Arab News, "New famine risk haunts war-torn Sudan with El Niño-driven drought," October 23, 2026, available at: https://www.arabnews.com/middle-east/new-famine-risk-haunts-war-torn-sudan-with-el-ni%C3%B1o-driven-drought-3007873.
[28] Atar team (Arabic), "After the rise in the price of a loaf: what do people eat in Sudan?" issue 143, October 22, 2026, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=36036; Ahmed bin Omar, "The bread price crisis in Sudan," issue 143 economic supplement, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=35939.

a can of diesel sells for 250,000–340,000 SDG on the parallel market. A retired army lieutenant general was appointed chairman of the scheme's board, the first military officer in the post, and farmers say water, financing, guaranteed prices, and diesel matter more than who chairs it (own analysis: the diesel shortage hits the crops the drought is already reducing).[29]

- **Local officials in Central Darfur's Nertiti report that the farming season is failing, with staple prices up two- to four-fold and aid covering about 5% of needs.** The locality's agriculture head expects only 20–25% of the harvest to succeed; a *malwa* of millet rose from 7,000 to 24,000 SDG and of sorghum from 4,000 to 15,000, a 50 kg sack of onions from 80,000 to 230,000. These are single-area accounts from local officials and have not been independently verified.[30]

Gold

- **Local gold prices rose 36% in pounds between September 10 and October 22 but are about 8% lower in dollars, and trading in northern mining markets halted on October 22.** Atar converts at the parallel buying rate, which rose about 49% over the period, so the implied dollar price of raw 24-carat gold fell about 8.5% by October 15 and has been flat since. Buying and selling stopped in markets including Dar Mali, Abu Hamad, and Dalgo because dealers could not price deals. Separately, the Sudanese Minerals Resources Company reported gold export proceeds of $2.292 billion for January–September 2026 and said last year's output was about 70 tons against 14 tons of officially recorded exports.[31]

Gold prices, September 10 and October 22, 2026 (SDG per gram; implied US dollars in brackets)

Item	Sept 10 to Oct 22
Raw gold, 24k	977,143 ($142.4) to 1,329,143 ($130.3): +36.0% in SDG, −8.5% in USD
Worked gold, 21k, selling	850,000 ($123.9) to 1,070,000 ($104.9): +25.9% in SDG, −15.3% in USD
Worked gold, 21k, buying new	1,000,000 ($146) to 1,280,000 ($125): +28.0% in SDG, −14.4% in USD
Parallel buying rate used by Atar	6,862.9 to 10,203: +48.7%

Trade and ports

- **Burhan directed on October 21 that food-import bans be lifted and key foods admitted duty-free, and on October 26 the Prime Minister issued the formal decision, after a strike closed the Ashkeit border crossing from October 11 to 17**. The cabinet decision exempts flour, lentils, rice, beans, edible oils, chickpeas, and peas from customs duties and taxes, including VAT, and cancels the ban on importing some other goods, which the statement does not name; the finance and trade ministries, customs, and the

[29] Atar (Arabic), "Fuel in the states: price increases and supply crises weigh on citizens and farmers," October 15, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3vce3h5z; Osama Abdelhai (Arabic), "First military man to chair the Gezira Scheme board," Atar issue 143, October 22, 2026, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=35994.
[30] Atar (Arabic), "Sudan Notebook (142): from Nertiti, Deira, and Tawila," October 15, 2026 (article in issue 142). Based on interviews with local agriculture officials in an area held by the Sudan Liberation Movement–Abdelwahid; figures not independently verified.
[31] Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, price bulletin and tables of exchange rates and gold prices, October 22, 2026, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/ATAR-%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%AA%D9%80%D9%80%D8%B1-%D9%86%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1-143.pdf; Atar magazine (Arabic), issue no. 139, September 10, 2026, price and exchange-rate tables (photographed copy; no direct public link), as cited in the September brief; Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Sudanese gold exports exceed two billion dollars with record revenues," October 6, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/319674 (figures from the Sudanese Minerals Resources Company).

intelligence service were told to implement it. The National Chamber of Importers welcomed it and asked for a lower customs dollar and an end to the advance cargo declaration system. Wadi Halfa protesters had demanded the lifting of the luxury-import ban (in force since May 10) and the halt to personal imports; vegetables that reached the crossing on October 19 cut the price of tomatoes in the town from 30,000 to about 10,000 SDG a kilogram. The statement gives no effective date and does not name the other goods whose ban was cancelled. The exemption removes duties on the foods that matter most to household budgets just as the higher customs dollar raises them on other goods (own analysis).[32]

- **Sawakin port reopened on October 3 after a three-day blockade over the transfer of its director, and the ports authority announced steps toward a new port at Abu Amama with a Chinese company**. The Sawakin dispute was settled by reappointing the director to the Northern Port; the Abu Amama studies and establishment are expected by the end of 2027, and the financial terms have not been disclosed.[33]
- **Livestock trade is shifting from Omdurman's Mouweileh market toward Chad and Libya, with Adre in West Darfur the main outlet.** These accounts come from traders and officials in areas held by the Tasees authorities and are not independently verified. Traders cite an August 2024 RSF decision banning exports to army-held areas; the export fee is 40,000 SDG a head of cattle, planned quarantine posts are not yet working, and a currency dealer says traders leave with their cash proceeds, draining banknotes from the local market.[34]

Economic diplomacy

- **Sudan sent a delegation led by Finance Minister Jibril Ibrahim to the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok (October 12–18), aiming to prepare an Extended Credit Facility program leading to debt relief**. No financing outcome has been reported, but the central bank said it agreed with the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department to update and regularize its monetary and balance-of-payments data and named focal points. On October 2, Sudan and Belarus signed the second part of their export-financing agreement (initial financing above $100 million for 17 grain silos and a tractor assembly line), and Sudan's energy minister discussed fuel imports through Aramco, Red Sea oil blocks, a Port Sudan refinery, and electricity with Saudi officials. These are statements of intent; no financing or delivery dates were reported. No other economic-diplomacy announcements were found for October 20–27.[35]

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[32] Sudan Tribune (Arabic), "Sudan exempts food goods from customs and taxes and cancels the import ban on others," October 26, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/320460; Atar magazine (Arabic), weekly issue no. 143, "News brief," October 22, 2026, pp. 3–4, available at: https://tinyurl.com/3m7kj94u; Radio Dabanga (Arabic), "General strike in Wadi Halfa closes the customs yard and Ashkeit crossing," October 11, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/5brhv7zf; Ultra Sudan (Arabic), October 20, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/44e4eeva.

[33] Ultra Sudan (Arabic), October 3, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/ykw2xcve; Sudani Net (Arabic), October 2026, available at: https://www.sudaninet.net/86084; Al-Sudani (Arabic), late September 2026 (Abu Amama port), available at: https://alsudaninews.com/?p=204836.

[34] Atar Network (Arabic), "Sudan's war redraws the livestock trade map in Darfur and Kordofan," issue 143, October 22, 2026, available at: https://atarnetwork.com/?p=36012 (statements by traders and officials in areas held by the *Tasees* authorities; not independently verified).

[35] Al-Sudani (Arabic), "Sudan participates in the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok," October 2026, available at: https://alsudaninews.com/?p=205181; Central Bank of Sudan (Arabic), "The central bank's participation in the IMF and World Bank annual meetings," October 20, 2026, available at: https://tinyurl.com/4r9pf5rj; Sudan Tribune (Arabic), October 2, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/319526; Attaqa (Arabic), October 15, 2026 (Saudi energy talks), available at: https://tinyurl.com/wr84u45m.

Economic-diplomacy engagements, August–October 2026

Partner and date	Engagement
IMF and World Bank (Oct 12–18)	Finance Minister-led delegation seeking an Extended Credit Facility path to debt relief; central bank agreed a regular data flow with the IMF department
Belarus (Oct 2)	Part two of export-financing agreement; over $100 million for silos and tractor assembly
Saudi Arabia (October)	Energy talks: Aramco fuel imports, Red Sea oil blocks, Port Sudan refinery, electricity
China (late September)	Steps toward Abu Amama port; studies expected by end-2027
Kuwait (Aug 19–21)	Ministerial visit on resuming development financing; no October follow-up found[36]

Recommendations

- **International financial institutions:** Tie any Extended Credit Facility discussions to a unified, transparent exchange-rate framework and disclosure of central-bank intervention.
- **Central Bank and banking sector:** Publish the central rate and bank rates daily; set outage-reporting and compensation rules for payment providers; publish dirham coverage and settlement times for fuel importers.
- **Federal authorities:** Coordinate customs-dollar changes with duty exemptions on essentials and publish the official rate and its basis daily.
- **Federal and state authorities:** Prioritize diesel for the harvest and canal cleaning in the Gezira scheme and rural Gedaref.
- **UN and humanitarian agencies:** Increase funding and access to Greater Darfur and Kordofan in line with the IPC alert, using delivery channels that do not depend on a single payment app.
- **Health authorities and the medicines pricing council:** Review the exchange rate used in medicine pricing so that importers are not forced to stop supplying.

[36]Sudan Tribune (Arabic), August 21, 2026, available at: https://sudantribune.net/article/317716.