

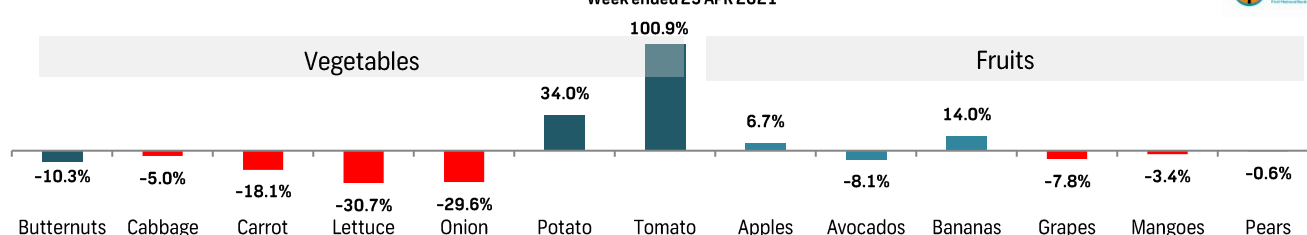


Paul Makube | Tumi Kgasago | Vhutshilo Mabela | 26 APR 2021

Weekly update – Fruit and Vegetable Markets

- Last week saw another weakness in the vegetable market as the recovery in supplies kept prices on the downside across most markets. After weeks of sharp increases due to shortages across markets, tomato prices posted the biggest fall last week at R12.71/kg which is down by 34.9% week-on-week (w/w) but almost 101% higher year-on-year. Production volumes have started to normalise, and expectations are that prices will return to normal seasonal trends in the short to medium term which will provide the much needed relieve for consumers.
- Meanwhile, Statistics South Africa's monthly consumer prices inflation (CPI) for March 2021 steadied month-on-month (m/m) at 07% but edged higher by 3.2% y/y. The food category accelerated by 0.8% m/m and 5.9% y/y. After slowing early in the year, the vegetable CPI jumped by 4.4% m/m and 3.4% y/y as shortages of tomatoes and other leafy vegetables that were negatively affected by the heavy rains caused a massive spike in prices across markets. The fruit CPI however came in on the downside with decreases of 2.3% m/m and 1% y/y as adequate seasonal supplies maintained downward pressure on prices.
- Prices were down across the vegetable complex with butternuts following tomatoes with a weekly decrease of 25% w/w and 10% y/y at R3.05/kg. They other losers were carrots, cabbages, lettuce, onions, and potatoes with weekly decreases in the range 5% to 12.8% w/w. At R4.72/kg, carrots were down by 12.8% w/w and 18% y/y. While potatoes fell by 5% w/w, the current prices are still sharply higher by 34% y/y.
- In the fruit complex, losses were recorded for most commodities except for grapes and mangoes which saw weekly gains of 1.8% and 13.6% respectively at R13.18/kg and R26.54/kg. The current grape and mango prices are however still down by 7.8% and 3.4% respectively y/y. The biggest losers were avocados which fell by 13.4% w/w and 8% y/y at R12.67/kg as higher volumes weighed heavily on the market. They were followed by bananas, pears, and apples with weekly declines of 5.4%, 3.1%, and 2.1% w/w at R9.64/kg, R33.21/kg, and R7.46/kg. Banana and apple prices are however still 14% and 6.7% higher y/y while pears are back 0.6% y/y.

Figure B: Weekly fruit and vegetable price changes (y/y)
Week ended 23 APR 2021



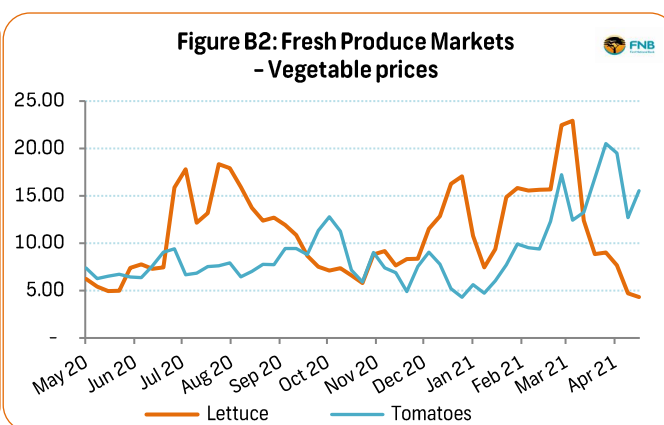
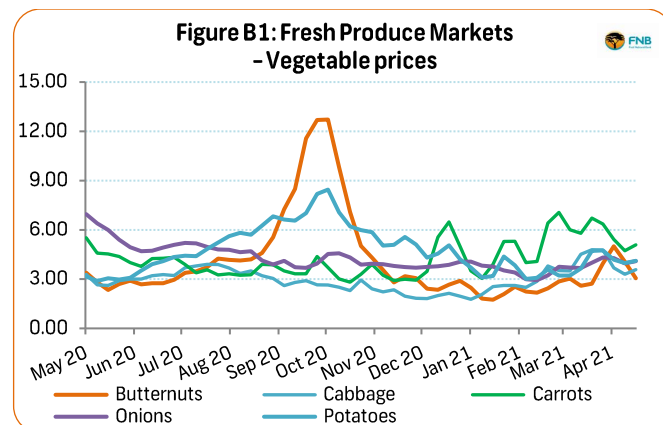
Source: Own calculations from FNB AgriComms.

- On the export front, pear volumes for week 15 of the 2021 export season fell by 11% y/y to 657,274 cartons (15kg). This brought the cumulative year-to-date (YTD) to 7.45 million cartons, which is 5% below the same period in 2020. The EU accounted for the bulk of the shipments with a share of 38% but the total volumes to the region were 2% below last year.
- With the export season at its infancy, grapefruit volumes for the YTD are 32% below the 2020 levels at 237,113 cartons with shipments for week 15 down by 57% y/y at 112,539 cartons. The EU and South East Asia accounted for the bulk of the exports with shares of 43% and 36% respectively but the volumes are so far down by 28% and 10% for the two destinations.
- In the case of oranges, volumes for week 15 were down by 65% y/y at 593,010 cartons which brought the YTD exports to 3.36 million cartons but still 28% lower than the levels achieved in 2020. Interestingly, the EU accounted for only 1% of the total while Middle East and Russia were the major destinations with shares of 61% and 19% respectively.

Table 1: Vegetable prices – South Africa's Major Fresh Produce Markets – (Average Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban)

Week ending 23 APR 2021	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change w/w	Price change y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Butternuts	3.05	-25.0%	-10.3%	1476	20.0%	-27.1%
Cabbage	3.30	-10.6%	-5.0%	1 611	3.0%	-13.5%
Carrot	4.72	-12.8%	-18.1%	2 018	1.2%	3.3%
Lettuce	4.32	-8.4%	-30.7%	422	-3.3%	23.0%
Onion	3.96	-7.5%	-29.6%	6 536	6.6%	-9.7%
Potato	3.98	-5.0%	34.0%	8 211	-7.9%	-46.7%
Tomato	12.71	-34.9%	100.9%	3 525	38.2%	-32.0%

Source: FNB AgriComms



Source: FNB AgriComms

Table 2: Fruit prices – South Africa's Major Fresh Produce Markets – (Average Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban)

Week ending 23 APR 2021	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change w/w	Price change y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Apples	7.46	-2.1%	6.7%	2 273	-9.9%	28.8%
Avocados	12.67	-13.4%	-8.1%	424	13.4%	16.3%
Bananas	9.64	-5.4%	14.0%	2 217	-0.5%	-1.3%
Grapes	13.18	1.8%	-7.8%	629	-3.9%	24.8%
Mangoes	26.54	13.6%	-3.4%	58	1.7%	1799.8%
Pears	33.21	-3.1%	-0.6%	716	-14.0%	9.3%

Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure C1: Fresh Produce Markets – Fruit prices

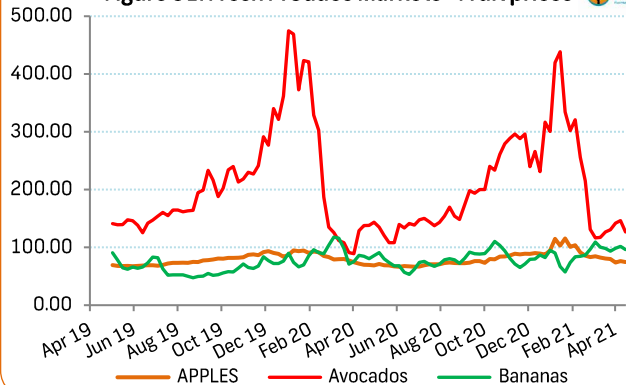
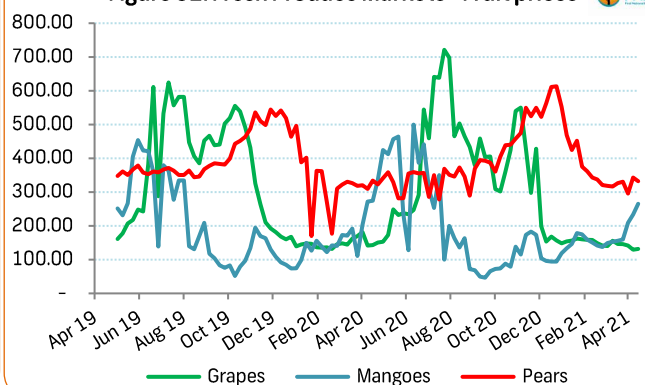


Figure C2: Fresh Produce Markets – Fruit prices



Source: FNB AgriComms

Vegetable trends on 5 Major Fresh Produce Markets in SA (Figures 1a to 1e)

(Average 5 major markets – Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban)

**Note: The last three data points are preliminary for all vegetable prices and quantity graphs.*

Figure 1a: Fresh Produce Markets – Tomato prices

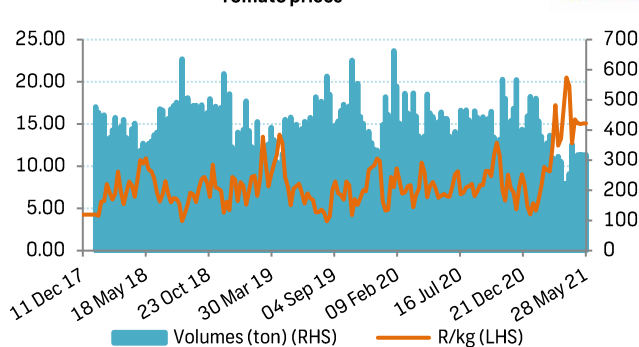


Figure 1aa: Fresh Produce Markets – Tomato prices

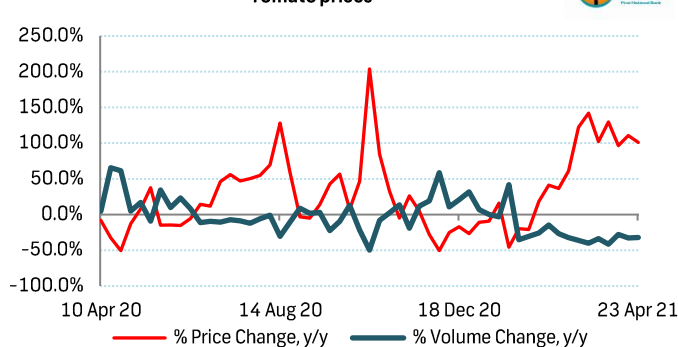


Figure 1b: Fresh Produce Markets – Potato prices

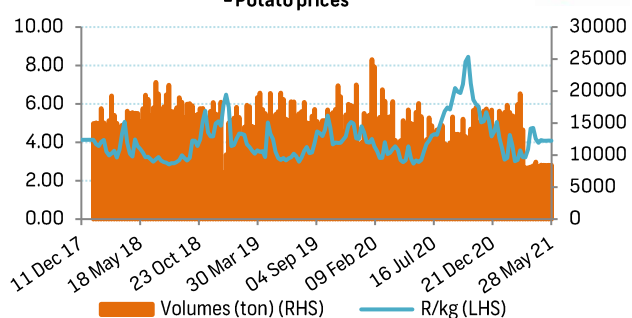


Figure 1ba: Fresh Produce Markets – Potato prices

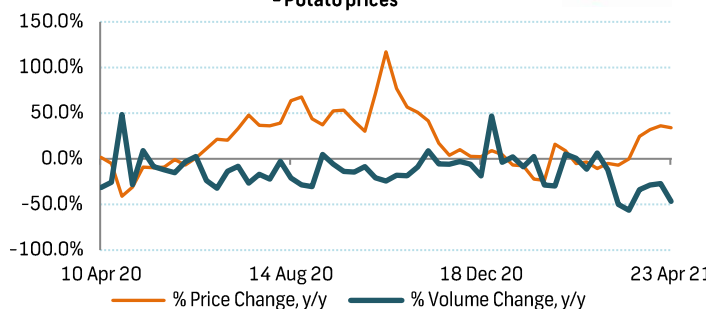


Figure 1c: Fresh Produce Markets – Onion prices

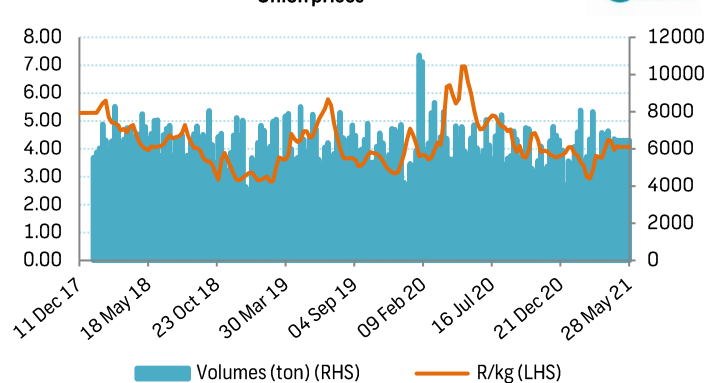


Figure 1ca: Fresh Produce Markets – Onion prices

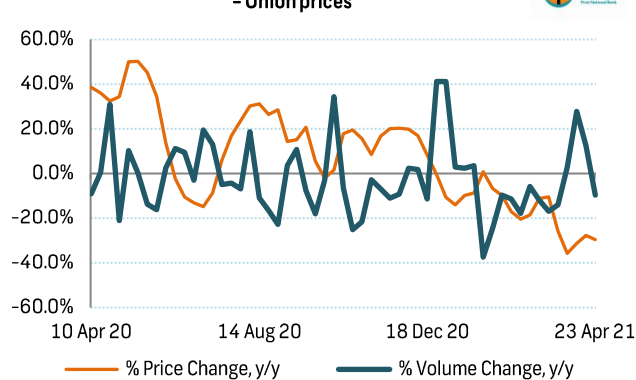


Figure 1d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Carrot prices

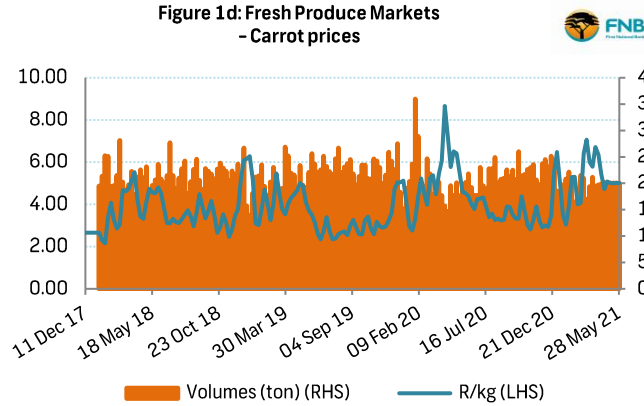


Figure 1da: Fresh Produce Markets
- Carrots prices

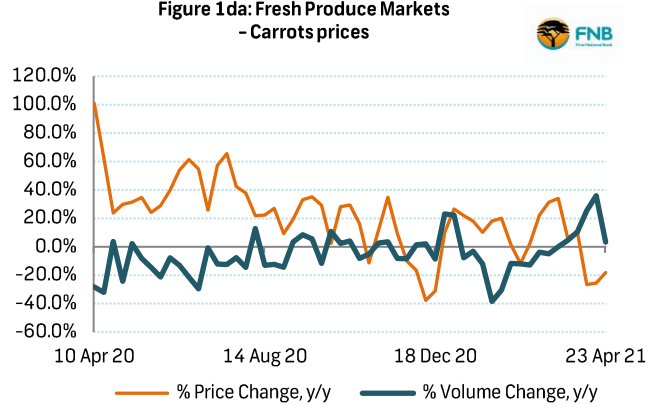


Figure 1ea: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices

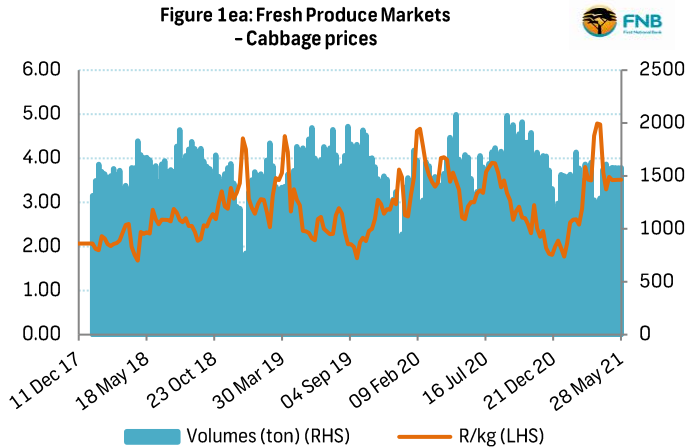


Figure 1eb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices

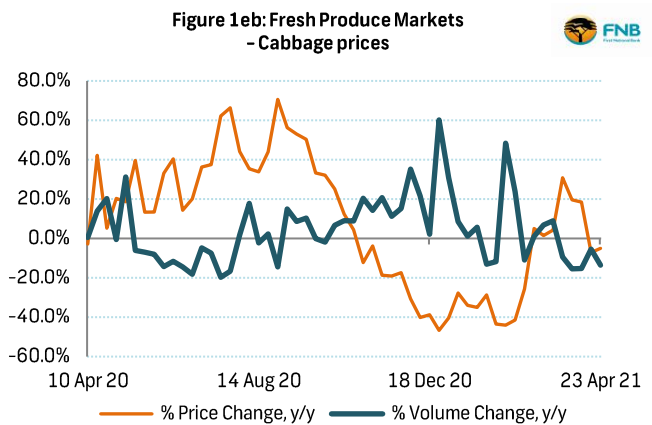


Figure 1fa: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut prices

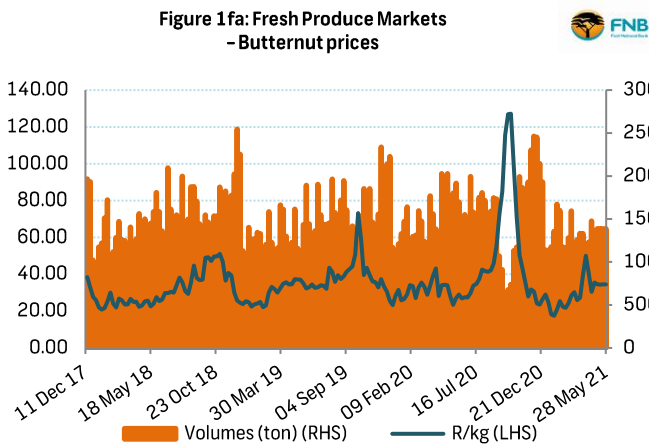


Figure 1fb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut prices

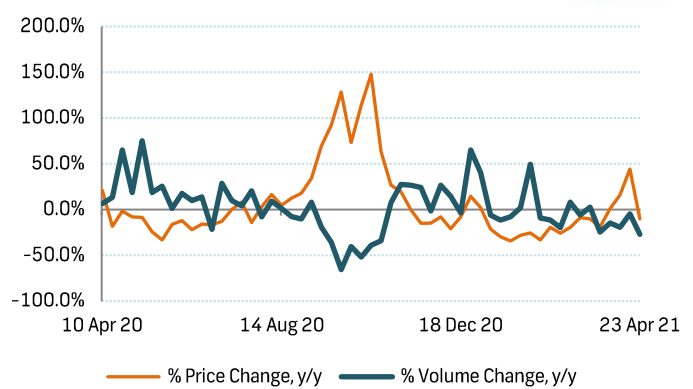


Figure 1g: Fresh Produce Markets
- Lettuce prices

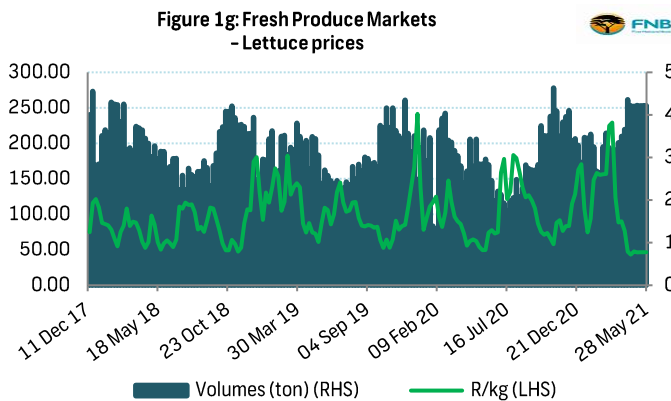
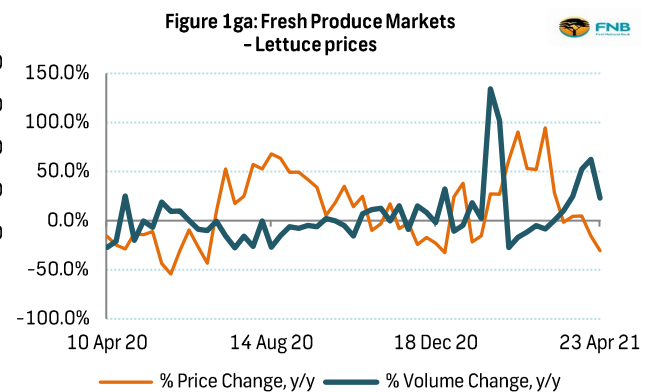


Figure 1ga: Fresh Produce Markets
- Lettuce prices



Fruit trends on Major Fresh Produce Markets in SA (figures 2a to 2f)

(Average 5 major markets – Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban)

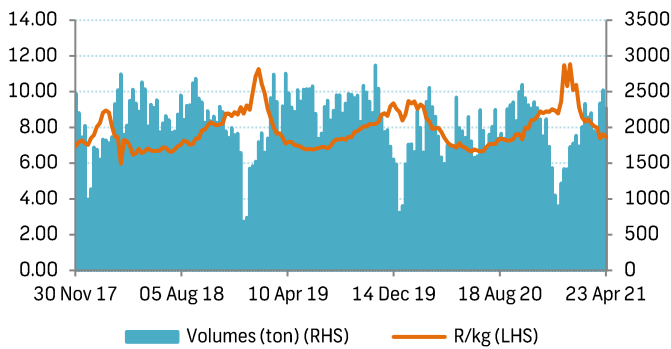
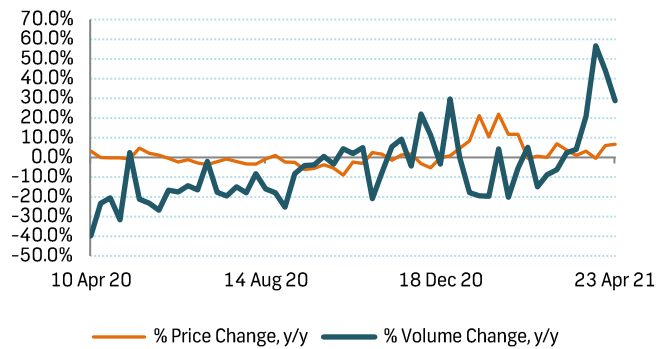
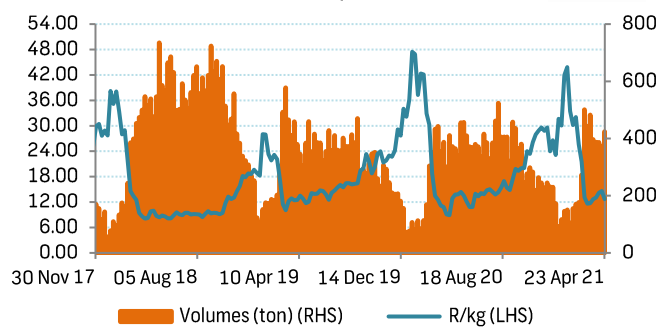
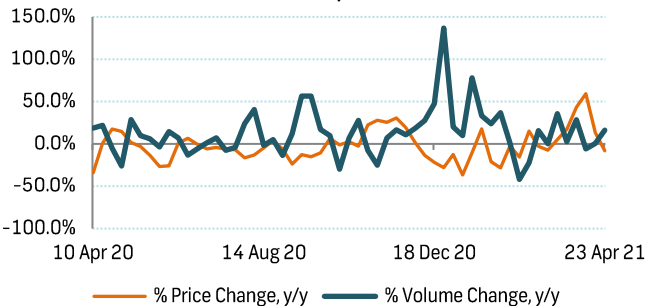
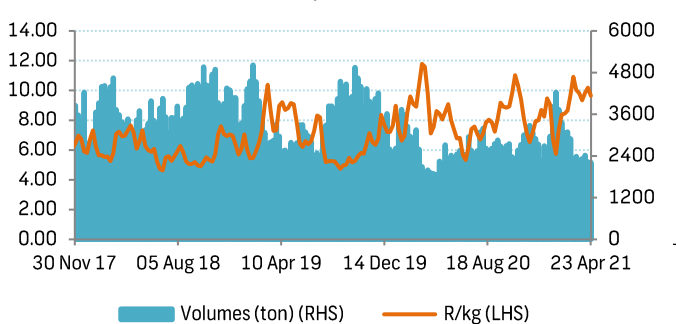
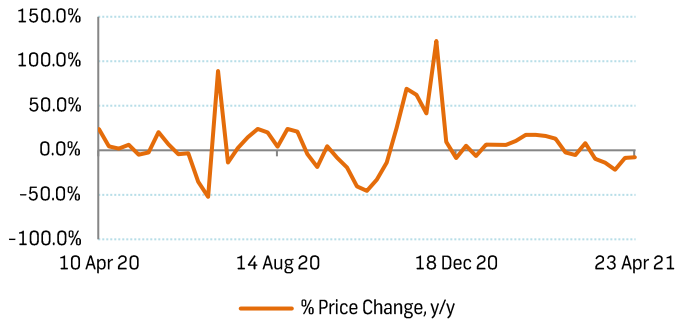
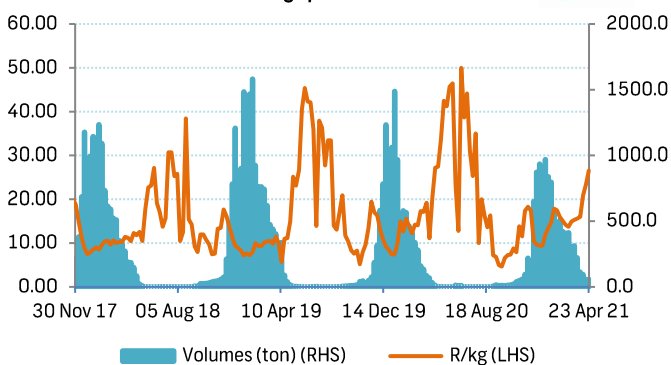
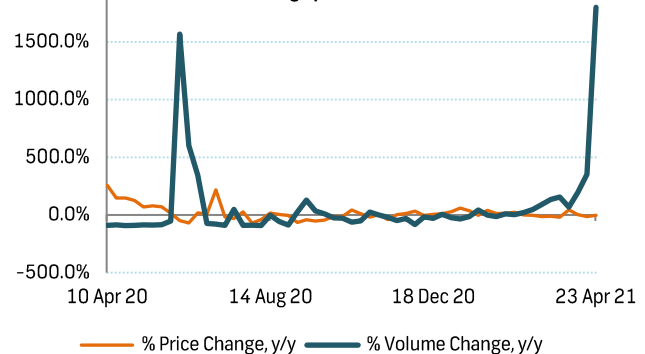
**Figure 2a: Fresh Produce Markets
– Apples prices****Figure 2aa: Fresh Produce Markets
– Apples prices****Figure 2b: Fresh Produce Markets
– Avocado prices****Figure 2ba: Fresh Produce Markets
– Avocado prices****Figure 2c: Fresh Produce Markets
– Banana prices****Figure 2ca: Fresh Produce Markets
– Banana prices****Figure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
– Mango prices****Figure 2da: Fresh Produce Markets
– Mango prices**

Figure 2e: Fresh Produce Markets
- Pear prices

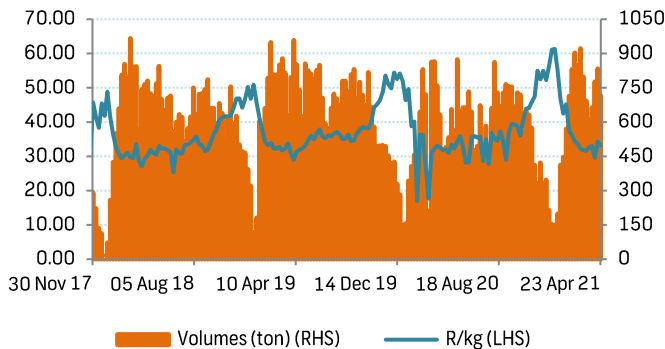


Figure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Pear prices

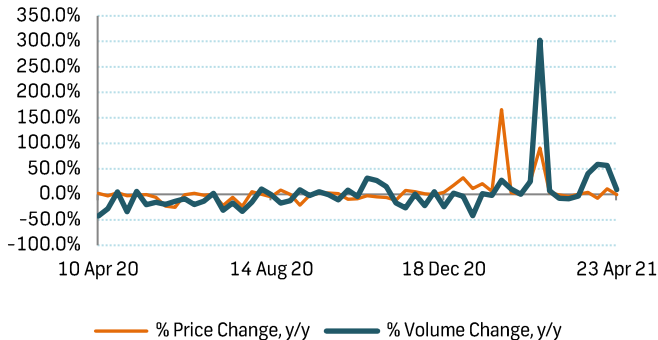


Figure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grapes prices

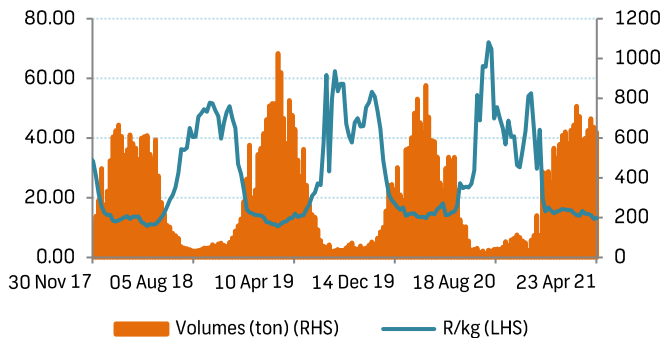
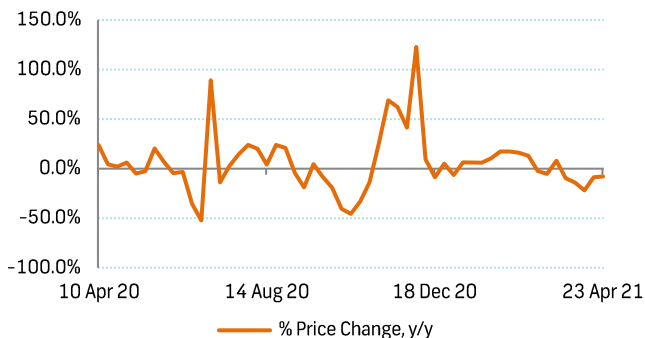


Figure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grape prices



Source: FNB AgriComms.

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