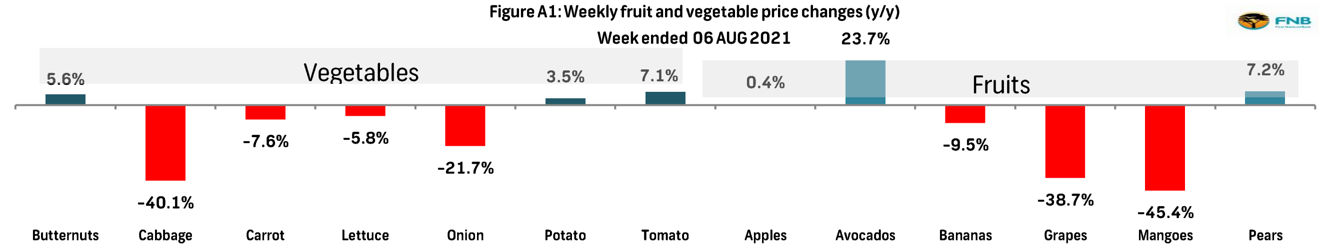
Paul Makube | Tumi Kgasago | Vhutshilo Mabela| 10 AUG 2021

Weekly update – Fruit and Vegetable Markets

- Our analysis of the weekly prices on the domestic fresh produce markets shows declines across most commodities in the vegetable complex while 67% of the fruit commodities tracked retained the uptrend in the first week of August 2021. Earlier disruptions due to the recent riots added further challenges but the situation seems to have normalised recently.
- Inclement weather which saw frost in some areas in the past few weeks affected production and availability of quality produce and caused an uptick in prices of certain commodities as the impact was varied.
- Weekly potato prices eased from the recent highs to close last week down 3% week-on-week (w/w) but were almost 4% higher year-on-year (y/y) at R5.41/kg. Although the weekly volume of sales rebounded slightly last week by 2.8% w/w, they were down by a whopping 44% y/y due to seasonal decline in production caused by unfavourable weather conditions earlier during the growing stages of the crop.
- After being hit by heavy rains earlier in the year, tomatoes were again affected by bad weather as frost damaged crops. This saw a strong uptick in tomato prices to R8.16/ kg in last week's trade, which is an 18.4% increase w/w and 7% higher y/y. Other vegetables that recorded losses include carrots which led with weekly losses of 6.7% w/w and 7.6% y/y at R3.01/kg. Onions saw further losses under pressure from increased availability and remained sharply lower by almost 22% y/y at R3.77/kg.
- The situation in the fruit complex was however different with most commodities posting good gains on strong uptake across markets. Mangoes and avocados were however the exception and posted massive losses relative to the week earlier. Weekly mango prices plunged by 77.8% w/w and 45.4% y/y to close last week at R10.93/ kg. Avocado prices fell by almost 10% w/w but were still 24% ahead of the 2020 levels for the same period at R17.71/kg.
- Gainers in the fruit complex were apples, pears, bananas, and grapes supported by good uptake ahead of the Women's Day long weekend. Grape prices however led the pack on the back of a sharp contraction in volumes with a weekly increase of a whopping 60.4% at R42.82/kg but were still down on last year by almost 39% y/y. Our analysis of yearly trends still shows declines across most commodities which is positive for fruit and vegetable inflation outcomes, see figure A1.

Figure A1: Weekly fruit and vegetable price changes (y/y)
Week ended 06 AUG 2021



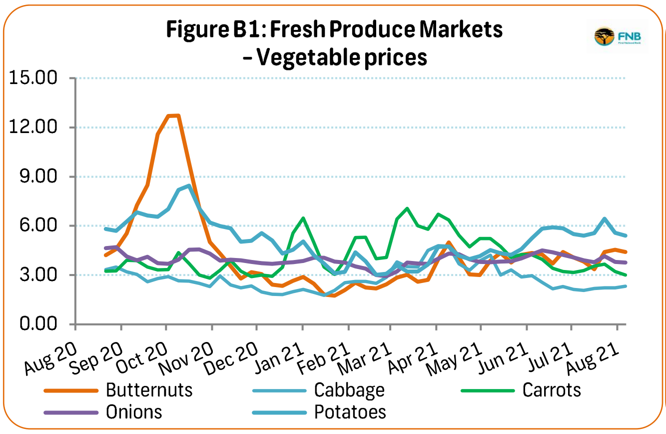
Source: Own calculations from FNB AgriComms.

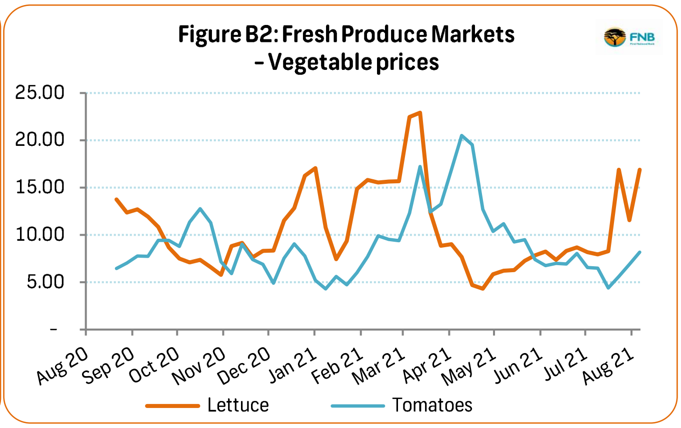
- Other gainers in the fruit complex included bananas and pears with slight to moderate advances of 5.5% and 4.5% respectively w/w at R37.65/kg and R37.65/kg, while apples gained just 2.1% on the week at R7.10/kg.
- The earlier challenges of extreme wetness and frost in some areas will continue to constrain the supplies of adequate volumes of some of the vegetables in the short to medium term. The seasonal rainfall outlook however paints a positive picture of a potential La Nina weather pattern which is characterised by above normal rainfall in Southern Africa. Further, the country heads into the 2021/22 season summer rainfall season with overall country dam levels at good levels of 81.6% as of the week ended 09 August 2021. Except for the Eastern Cape which is currently at 50.5% full, all provinces have reached levels above 70% full.
- The EC's critical dams for agriculture are at extreme low levels. The Kouga dam is almost empty at 4.4% full while Water down is at 21.3% full. Hopefully regional weather will turn positive and replenish the dams and soil moisture levels in the months ahead as the new rainfall season begins.

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

Week ending 06 AUG 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	4.41	-2.9%	5.6%	1589	-18.1%	-7.4%
Cabbage	2.33	4.3%	-40.1%	1 969	1.1%	11.6%
Carrot	3.01	-6.7%	-7.6%	2 422	-5.8%	-2.7%
Lettuce	16.89	46.3%	-5.8%	225	-9.6%	-9.4%
Onion	3.77	-1.0%	-21.7%	7 359	7.6%	-5.9%
Potato	5.41	-3.0%	3.5%	8 279	2.8%	-43.5%
Tomato	8.16	18.4%	7.1%	4 177	5.8%	-3.4%

Source: FNB AgriComms



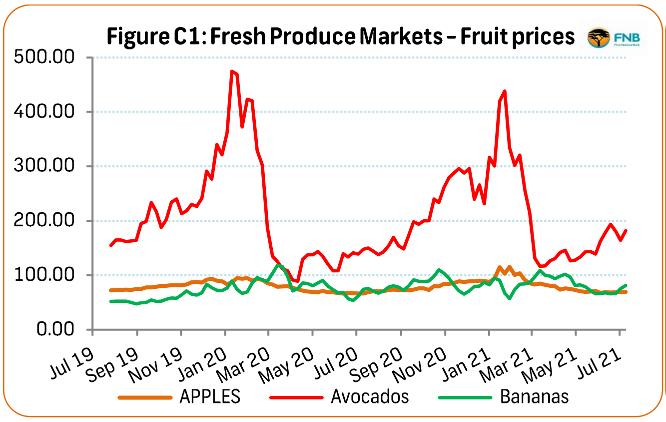


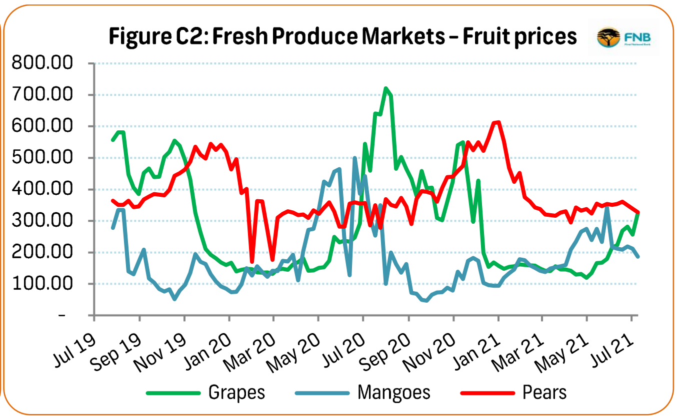
Source: FNB AgriComms

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

Week ending 06 AUG 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	7.10	2.1%	0.4%	2 320	-0.7%	3.1%
Avocados	17.71	-9.8%	23.7%	272	-6.1%	-48.0%
Bananas	6.44	5.5%	-9.5%	3 564	15.2%	11.5%
Grapes	42.82	60.4%	-38.7%	60	-21.1%	83.3%
Mangoes	10.93	-77.8%	-45.4%	0	4.2%	614.3%
Pears	37.65	4.5%	7.2%	673	7.1%	-22.0%

Source: FNB AgriComms



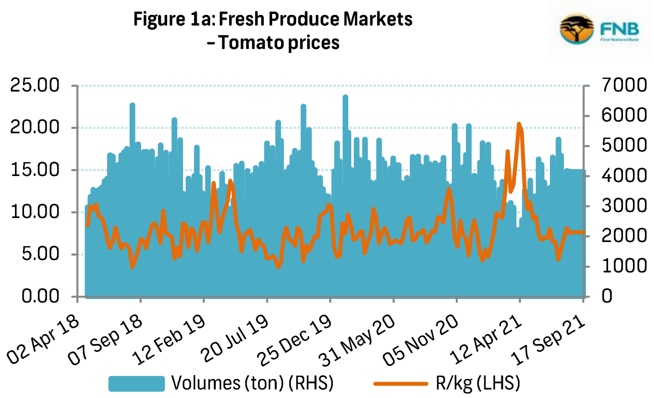


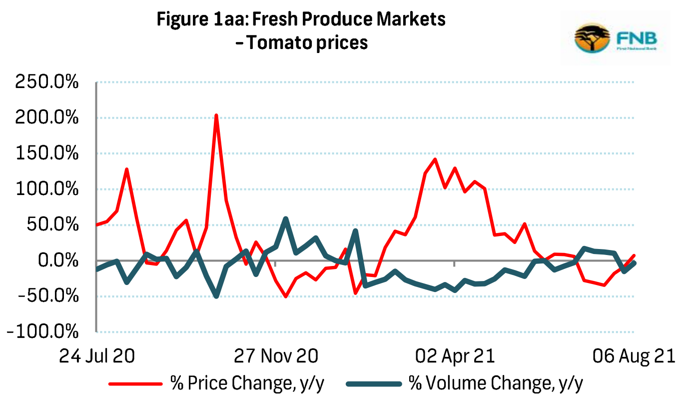
Source: FNB AgriComms

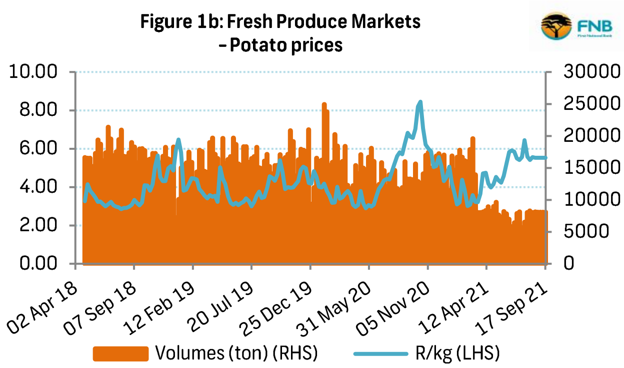
Vegetable trends on 5 Major Fresh Produce Markets in SA (Figures 1a to 1e)

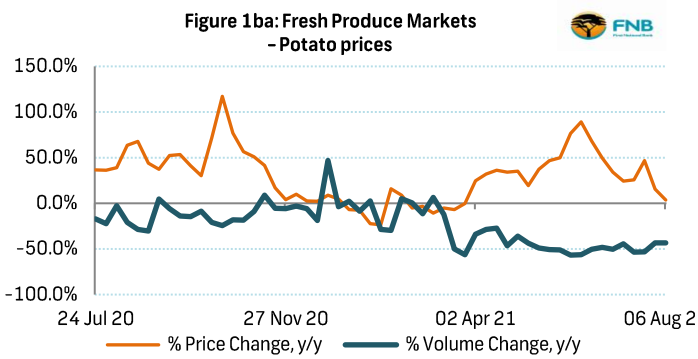
(Average 5 major markets - Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban)

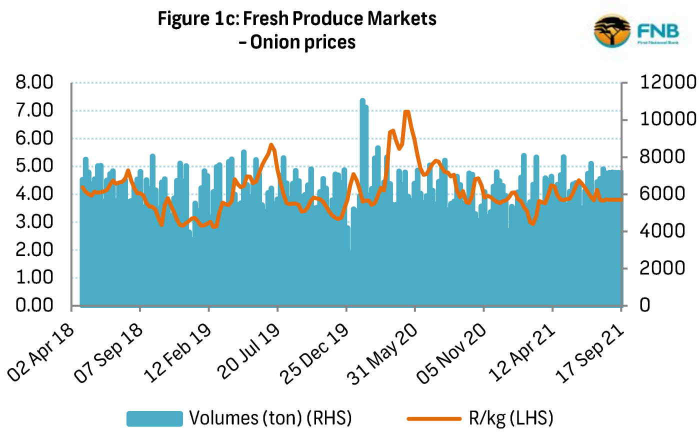
**Note: The last six data points are preliminary for all vegetable prices and quantity graphs.*











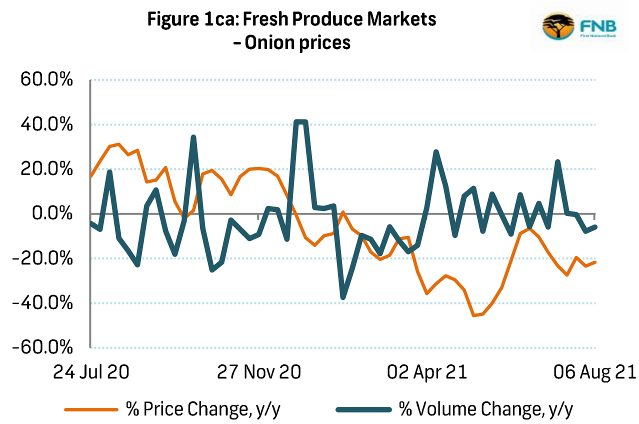


Figure 1d: Fresh Produce Markets - Carrot prices

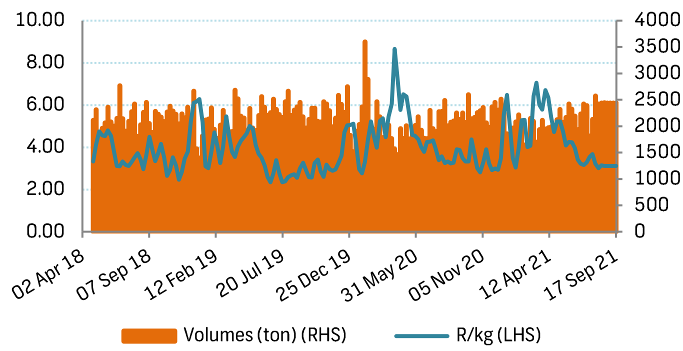


Figure 1da: Fresh Produce Markets - Carrots prices

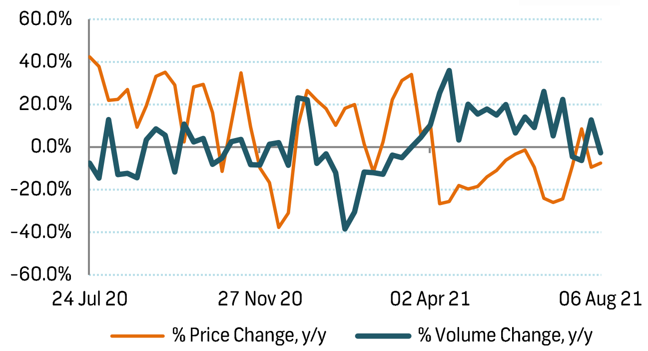


Figure 1ea: Fresh Produce Markets - Cabbage prices

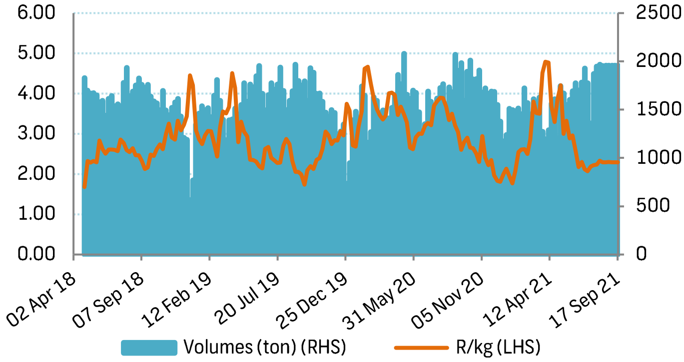


Figure 1eb: Fresh Produce Markets - Cabbage prices

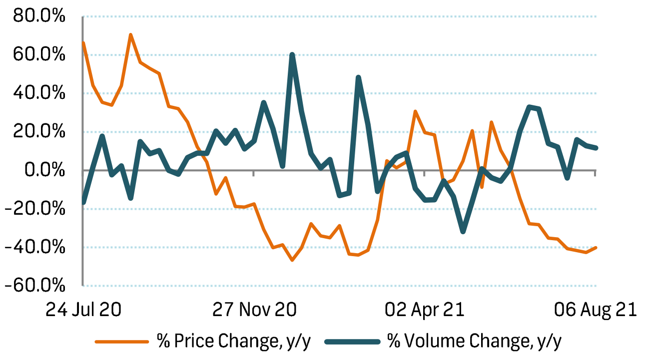


Figure 1fa: Fresh Produce Markets - Butternut prices

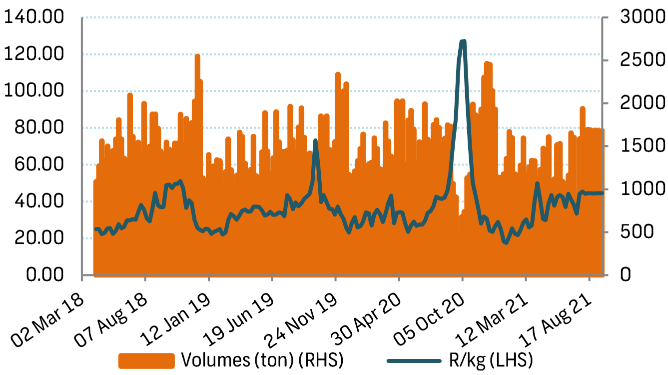


Figure 1fb: Fresh Produce Markets - Butternut prices

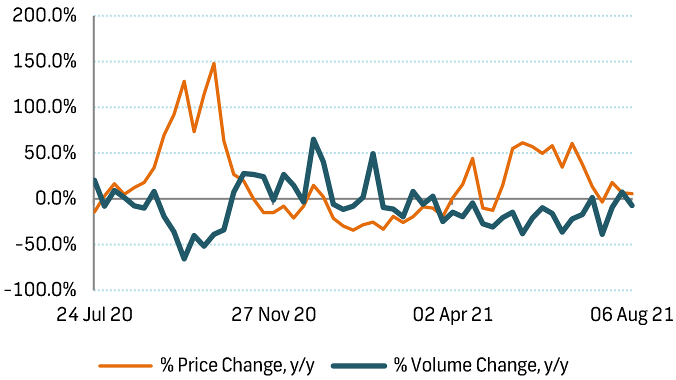


Figure 1g: Fresh Produce Markets - Lettuce prices

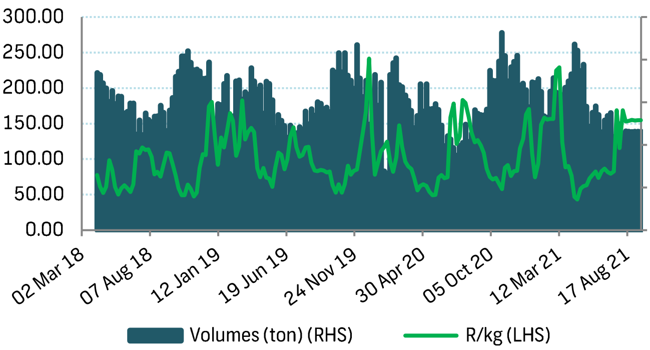
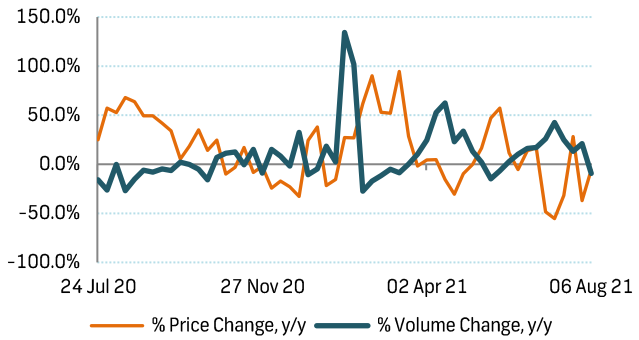


Figure 1ga: Fresh Produce Markets - Lettuce prices



Source: FNB AgriComms

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

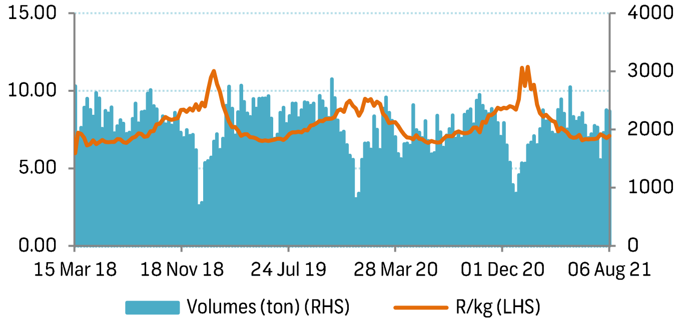


Figure 2aa: Fresh Produce Markets - Apples prices

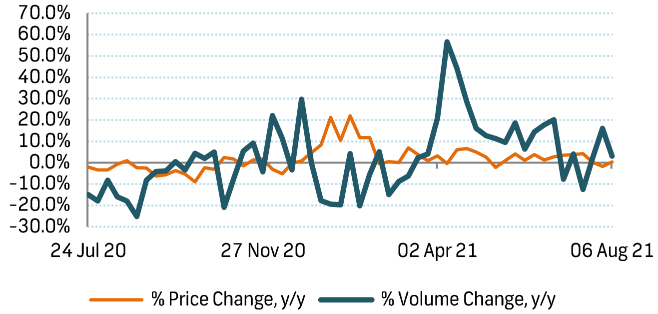


Figure 2b: Fresh Produce Markets - Avocado prices

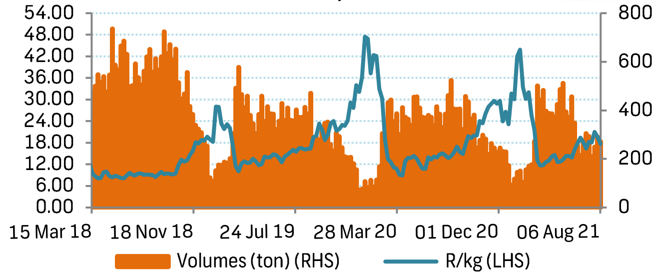


Figure 2ba: Fresh Produce Markets - Avocado prices

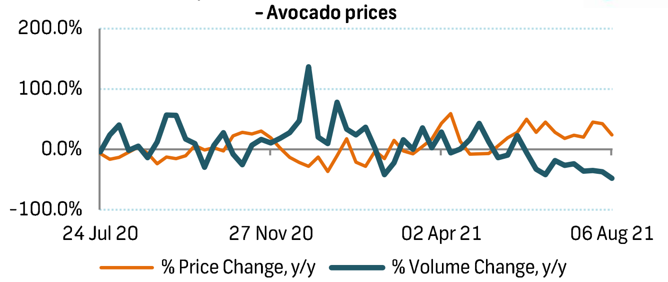


Figure 2c: Fresh Produce Markets - Banana prices

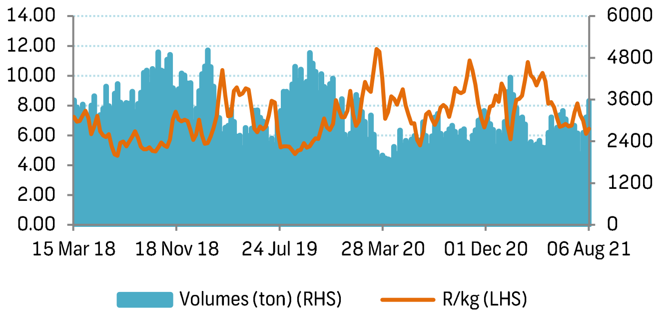


Figure 2ca: Fresh Produce Markets - Banana prices

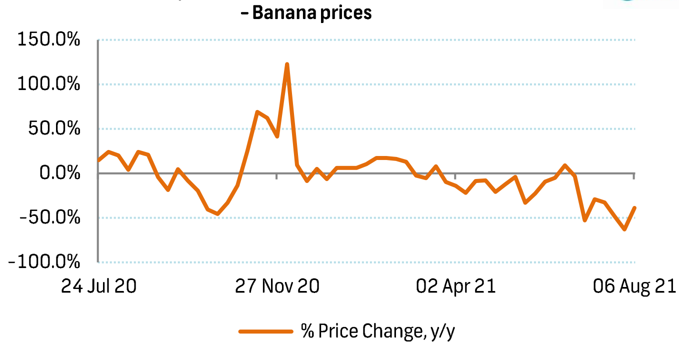


Figure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets - Mango prices

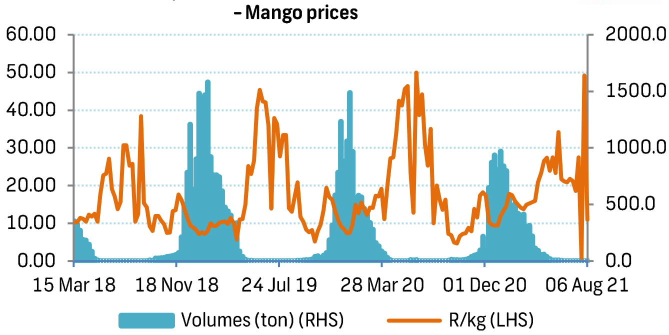


Figure 2da: Fresh Produce Markets - Mango prices

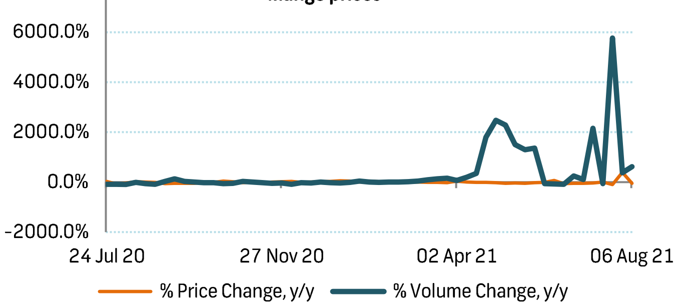


Figure 2e: Fresh Produce Markets - Pear prices

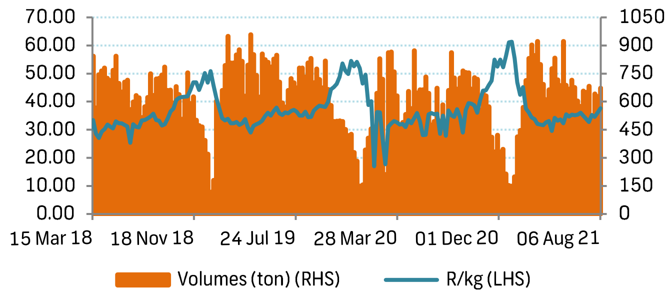


Figure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets - Pear prices

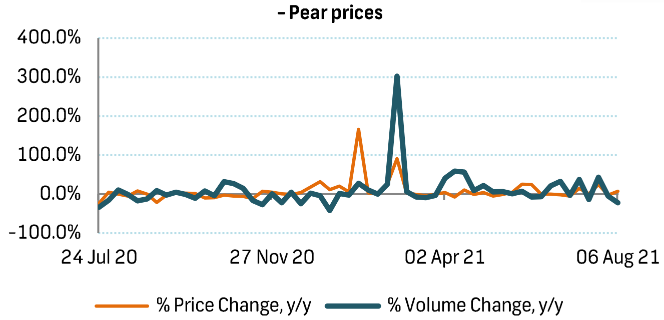


Figure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets - Grapes prices

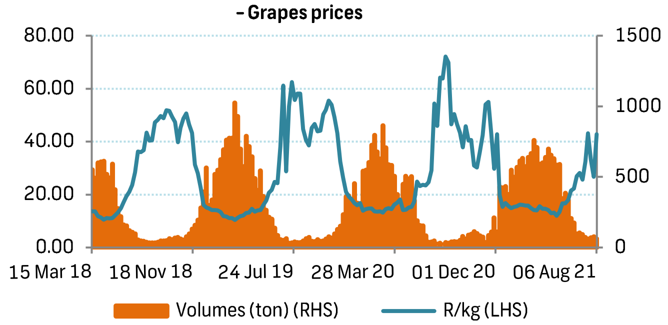
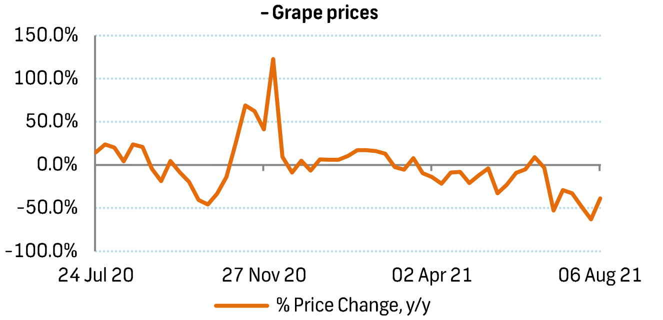


Figure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets - Grape prices



Source: FNB AgriComms.

To find out more or to speak to one of our **agricultural specialists**, please contact us.

Name	City	Cell	Email
Grewar, Oosthuizen	Eastern Cape - Port Elizabeth	071 607 6850	**grewar.oosthuizen@fnb.co.za**
Edmund, De Beer	Eastern Cape - Port Elizabeth	084 656 5634	**edebeer1@fnb.co.za**
Fred, Terblanche	Eastern Cape - Graaff Reinet	064 500 5880	**frederik.terblanche@fnb.co.za**
Martin, Louw	Free State - Theunissen	082 784 8880	**mlouw1@fnb.co.za**
Chris, Bekker	Free State - Bloemfontein	082 560 1894	**cbekker@fnb.co.za**
Leon, Bergman	Free State - Bethlehem	083 387 7977	**leon.bergman@fnb.co.za**
Krohn, Jo-Ann	Free State - Bloemfontein	064 542 3548	**Jo-Ann.Krohn@fnb.co.za**
Humphreys, Freddy	Free State - Bloemfontein	060 975 0273	**freddy.humphreys@fnb.co.za**
Voutsas, Philip	Gauteng - Sandton	082 820 4202	**philip.voutsas@rmb.co.za**
Da Silva, Kristin	Gauteng - Sandton	079 693 8268	**Kristin.DaSilva@fnb.co.za**
Greg, Sparrow	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	071 684 8420	**greg.sparrow@fnb.co.za**
Sarah, van der Merwe	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	082 371 1040	**sarah.vandermerwe@fnb.co.za**
Bertram, July	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	061 518 7165	**bertram.july@fnb.co.za**
Strydom, Marc	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	082 497 4781	**mstrydom@fnb.co.za**
De Klerk, Arno	Limpopo - Polokwane	082 538 5970	**arno.deklerk@fnb.co.za**
Moseki, Papi	Limpopo - Polokwane	071 136 4090	**papi.moseki@fnb.co.za**
Theo, Verwey	Mpumalanga - Emalahleni	082 419 6086	**tverwey@fnb.co.za**
Gao, Ngakantsi	Mpumalanga - Emalahleni	072 471 6040	**gaopalelwe.ngakantsi@fnb.co.za**
Du Plessis, Hanro	Mpumalanga - Emalahleni	082 895 1762	**hanro.duplessis@fnb.co.za**
Pedrie, Van der Merwe	Northern Cape - Kimberley	071 351 3439	**pedrie.vandermerwe@fnb.co.za**
Johan, De Klerk	North West - Brits	082 776 3477	**jdeklerk2@fnb.co.za**
Johan, Beukes	Western Cape - Stellenbosch	082 372 4656	**johan.beukes@fnb.co.za**
Michelle, Swarts	Western Cape - Willowbridge	072 020 5181	**michelle.Swarts@fnb.co.za**
Andries, Van Zyl	Western Cape - Willowbridge	073 280 8703	**andries.vanzyl@fnb.co.za**