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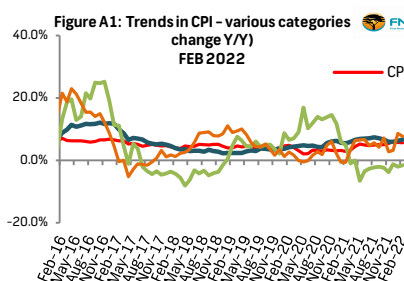
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Paul Makube | Tumi Kgasago | Vhutshilo Mabela | 29 MAR 2022

Weekly update – Fruit and Vegetable Markets

- Our analysis of the latest trends on the fresh produce market shows that fruit and vegetable prices were under pressure during March with 71% and 75% of the commodities in the two categories posting moderate to sharp losses month-on-month (m/m) during March 2022. This was underpinned by a rebound in supplies following a tight early year due to the inclement weather that had a negative impact on vegetable output.
- In the vegetable category, the big-ticket items such as tomatoes posted the biggest losses of 38% m/m and were 21% lower year-on-year (y/y) at R 8.62/kg (figure B1). The average price of tomatoes for the year-to-March 2022 (YTD) is however almost 14% higher relative to the same period in 2021.
- Avocados and oranges were the biggest losers in the fruit category with decreases of 51% and 45% respectively m/m and were 5% and 25% lower y/y at R 11.62/kg and R6.49/kg (figure B2). For the YTD, the average avocado and orange prices are down 11% and 9% respectively relative to the 2021 levels at R23.20/kg and R9.93/kg.
- On the inflation front, Statistics South Africa's (StatsSA) February 2022 consumer price inflation print steadied at 5.7% y/y (figure A1). Its food subcomponent however increased by 0.7% m/m and 6.7% y/y as spill over global price pressures continued to influence local market conditions.
- Although the CPI for fruits jumped by 1.8% m/m in February 2022, it remained in negative territory for the 10th consecutive month at -1.6% y/y (figure A2). A drill-down into the data reflects a sharp decline of 33%, 28%, 26%, 16%, and 13% y/y respectively in prices paid by consumers for pawpaw, apples, pineapples, pears, and avocados for the selected commodities tracked (figure A4). In the vegetable category, the CPI decelerated to 0.1% m/m and 7.7% y/y in February 2022 from 3.4% m/m and 8.6% y/y in January 2022 (figure A3). Except for carrots whose prices fell 15.7% y/y, most of the big-ticket items remained elevated with pumpkins leading the pack with an increase of 55.3% y/y followed by tomatoes, cabbages, onions, and potatoes which were up 29%, 18%, 7%, and 4% respectively y/y (figure A4).



Source: StatsSA.

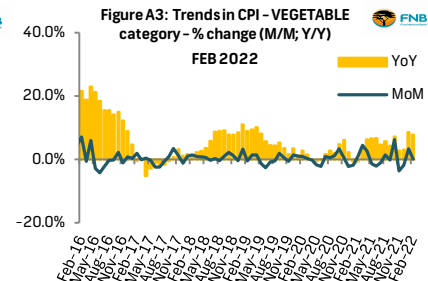
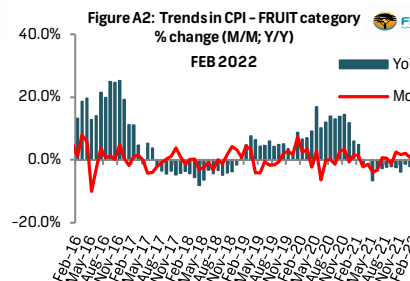
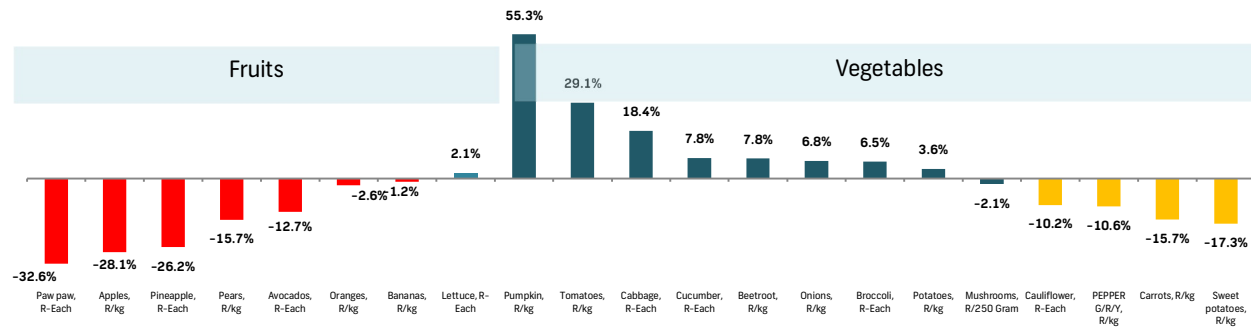


Figure A4: Consumer price inflation by selected commodity
Fruit and vegetable - (% change y/y) - MAR 2022



Source: StatsSA.

Figure B1: Changes in average monthly vegetable prices on South Africa's major Fresh Produce Markets (% Δ m/m, y/y)
Avg for MAR 2022

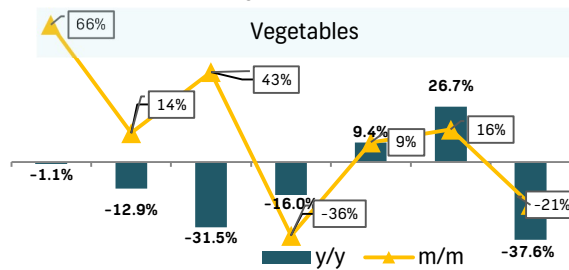
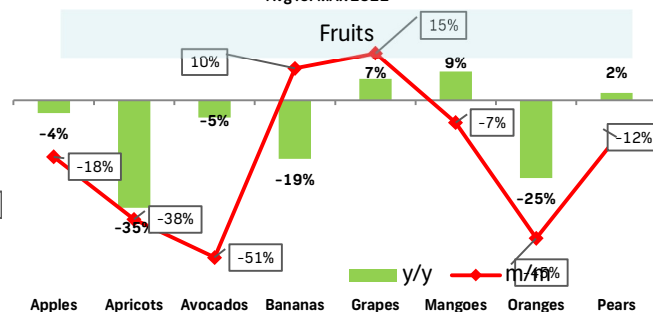


Figure B2: Changes in average monthly fruit prices on South Africa's major Fresh Produce Markets (% Δ m/m, y/y)
Avg for MAR 2022



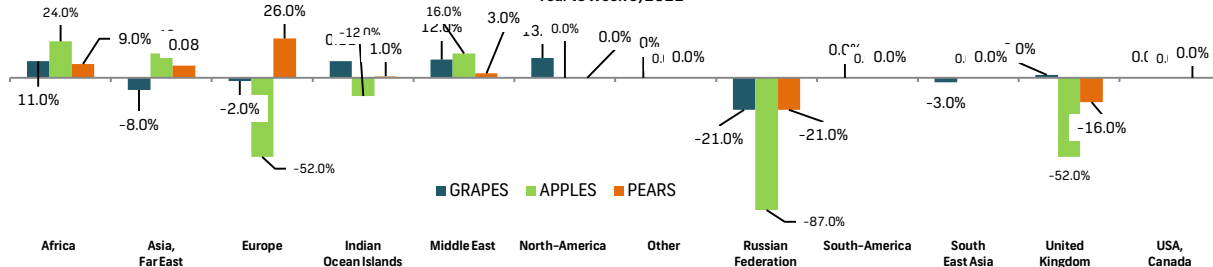
Source: Own calculations from FNB AgriComms.

- As reflected in figure B1 and B2, indications so far are that the weakness in fresh produce prices during March 2022 could have provided some benefit for consumers thus expectations of a further deceleration in the CPI outcomes in the April update.

South Africa's fruit exports

- The latest data on South Africa's fruit exports is that volumes are way ahead of the 2021 levels despite global logistics challenges, a volatile exchange rate, and the Russia/Ukraine war in the mix.
- In the pome category, apples and pears posted sharp growth of 11% and 8% respectively y/y in cumulative year-to-week 11 of the export season at 4.06 million cartons (12.5kg) and 5.28 million cartons (12.5kg). Grapes advanced marginally by 0.5% y/y to a cumulative weekly total of 62.95 million cartons (4.5kg) of week 11 of the 2021/22 season.
- Africa continues to dominate the market share for apples, accounting for 45% of the total and further posting a significant growth of 24% y/y for the cumulative YTD (figure C). Russia which accounted for 9% of total SA apple exports in 2020 has so far imported only 0.4% of the total for the season to date and saw a sharp decline of 87% y/y in volumes shipped.
- Europe remains the leading market for pears so far, accounting for 45% of the cumulative total for the YTD with an increase of 26% y/y. Volumes of pears to Russia fell 21% y/y for the YTD and accounted for 13% of the cumulative total SA shipments – its share of total SA pears in 2020 was 21%.

Figure C: Changes in South Africa's cumulative YTD fruit exports (% Δ y/y)
Year to Week 9, 2022

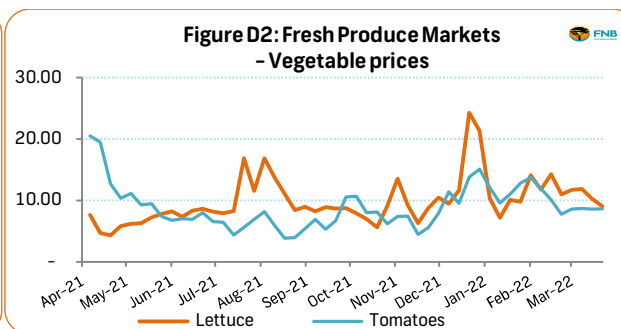
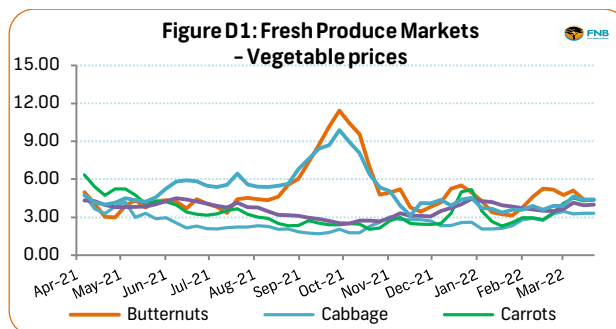


Source: Own calculations - AgriHub data.

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

Week ending 25 MAR 2022	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change w/w	Price change y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Butternuts**	4.38	-14.1%	69.0%	1042	-17.1%	-17.3%
Cabbage	3.31	-0.2%	-26.6%	1,201	-0.1%	-5.6%
Carrot	4.36	1.3%	-24.6%	2,097	-1.3%	-0.8%
Lettuce**	10.29	-13.1%	-17.0%	370	0.3%	16.7%
Onion	3.98	1.0%	8.1%	7,250	-0.8%	5.5%
Potato	4.40	1.0%	20.8%	8,019	-0.9%	0.0%
Tomato	8.61	0.5%	-35.0%	3,746	-0.6%	26.7%

Source: FNB AgriComms; **including all other markets

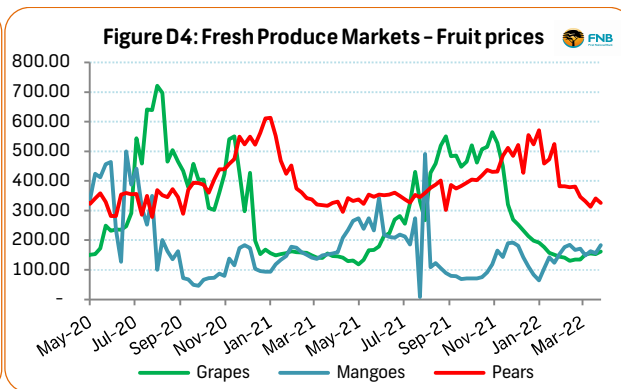
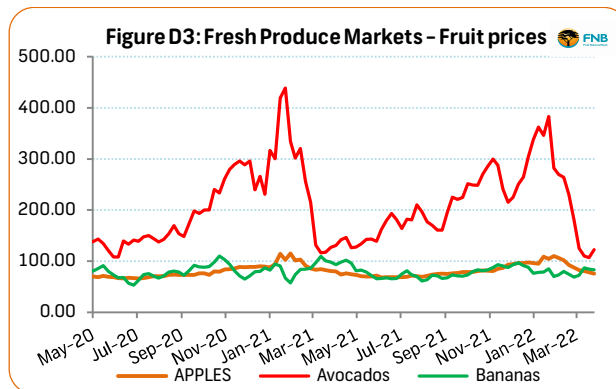


Source: FNB AgriComms

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

Week ending 25 MAR 2022	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change w/w	Price change y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Apples	7.59	-2.9%	-5.9%	1,928	-9.4%	-1.3%
Avocados	12.25	14.5%	-3.4%	390	-23.3%	-1.7%
Bananas	8.36	-1.2%	-14.8%	3,405	-0.7%	49.6%
Grapes	16.23	5.5%	11.0%	561	-12.3%	-6.4%
Mangoes	18.28	16.8%	17.2%	129	-45.9%	-41.4%
Pears	5.45	0.4%	-14.0%	768	-8.8%	9.8%

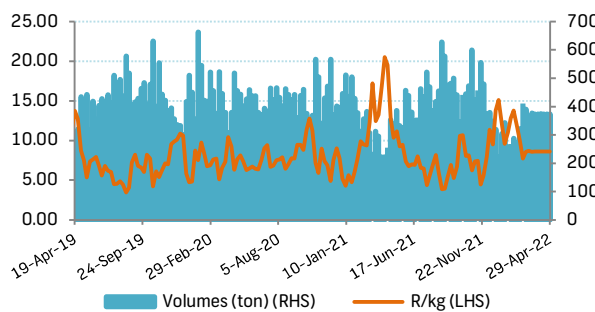
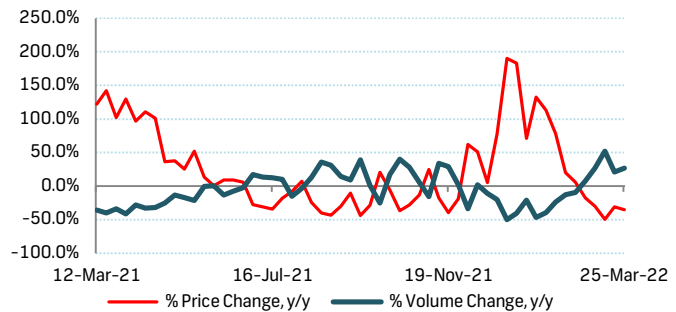
Source: FNB AgriComms



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 1a: Fresh Produce Markets
– Tomato prices****Figure 1aa: Fresh Produce Markets
– Tomato prices**

Source: FNB AgriComms

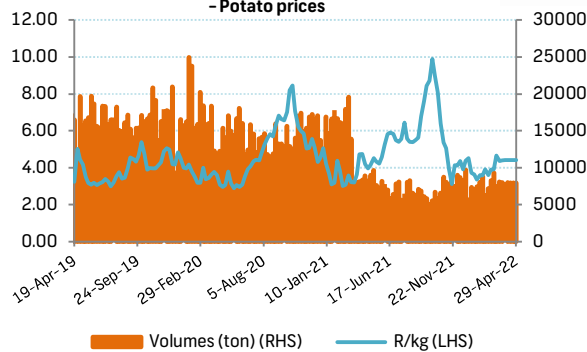
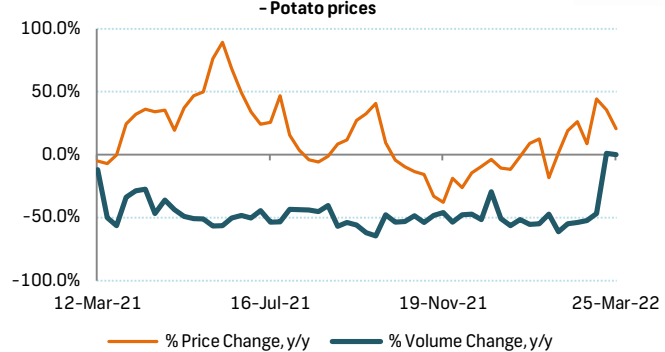
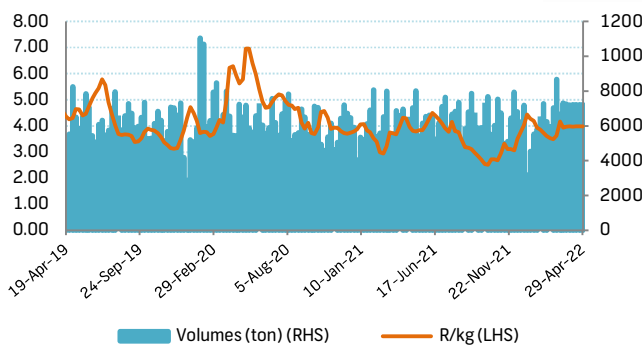
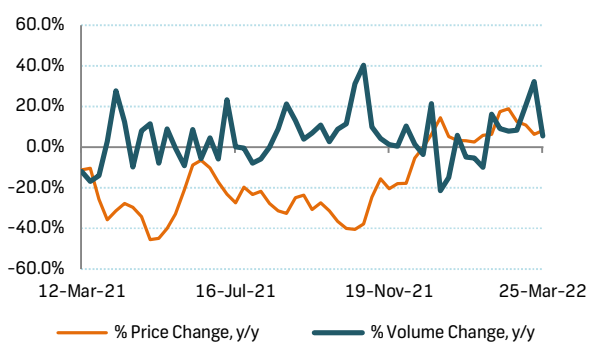
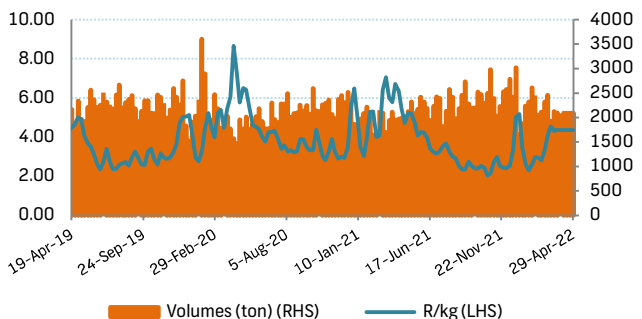
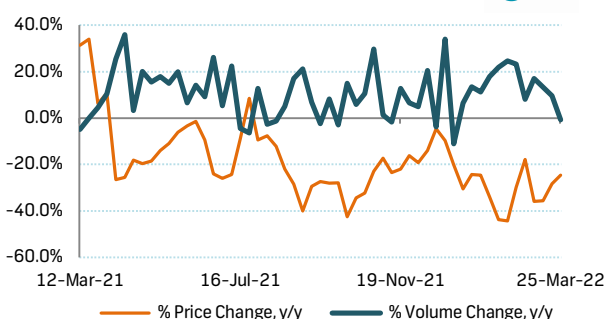
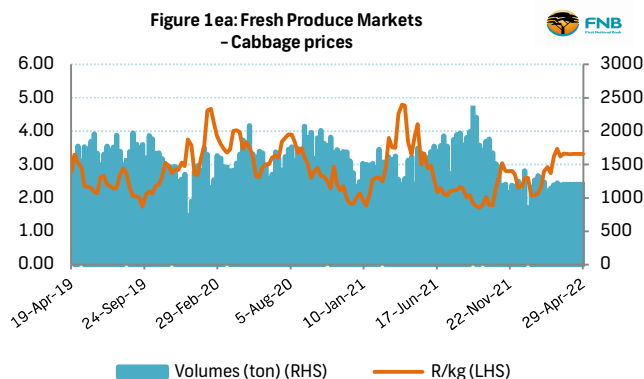
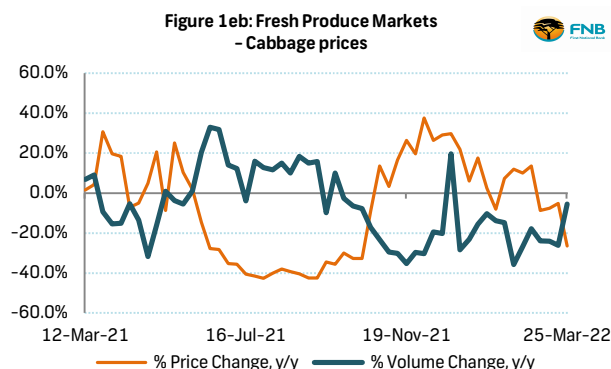
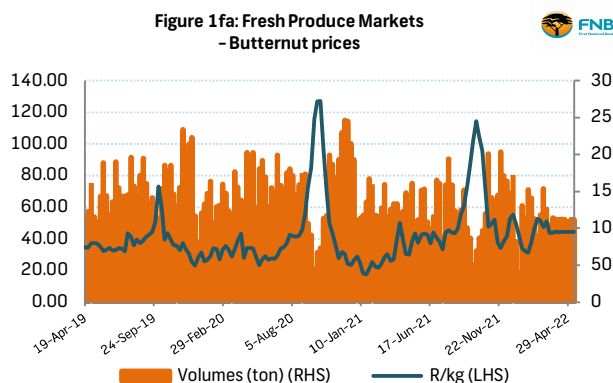
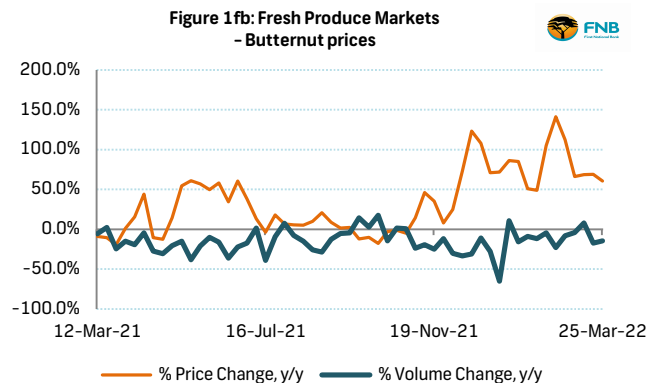
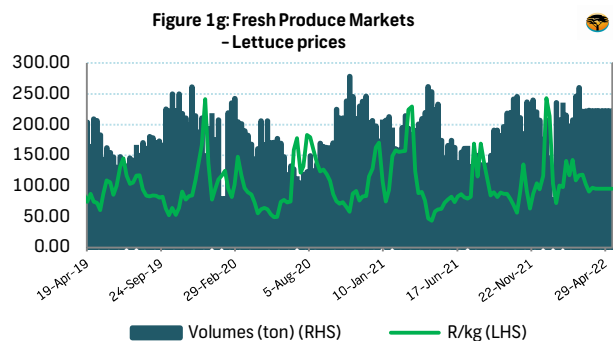
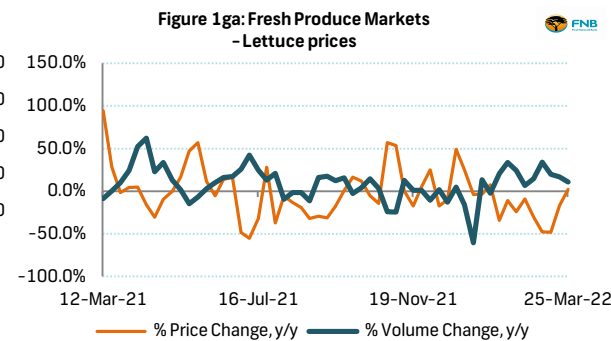
**Figure 1b: Fresh Produce Markets
– Potato prices****Figure 1ba: Fresh Produce Markets
– Potato prices****Figure 1c: Fresh Produce Markets
– Onion prices****Figure 1ca: Fresh Produce Markets
– Onion prices****Figure 1d: Fresh Produce Markets
– Carrot prices****Figure 1da: Fresh Produce Markets
– Carrots prices**

Figure 1ea: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage pricesFigure 1eb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices

Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure 1fa: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut pricesFigure 1fb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut pricesFigure 1g: Fresh Produce Markets
- Lettuce pricesFigure 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)

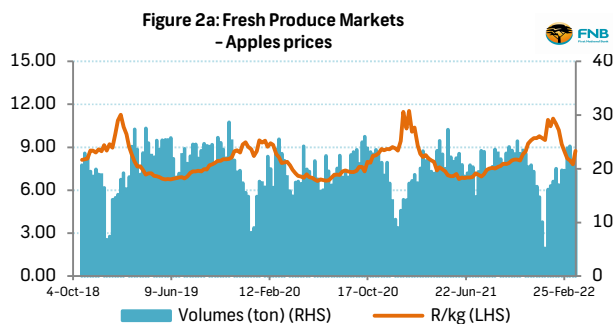
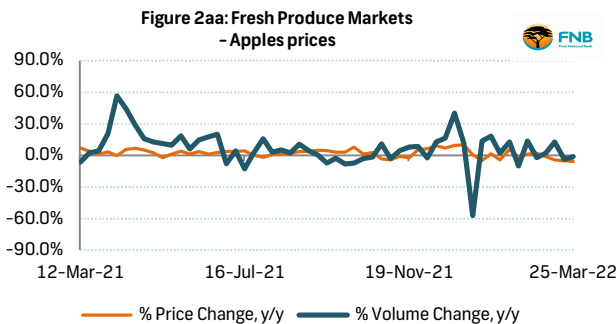
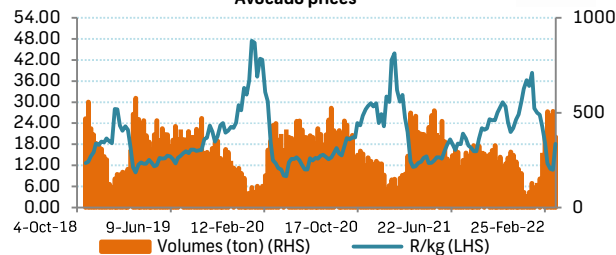
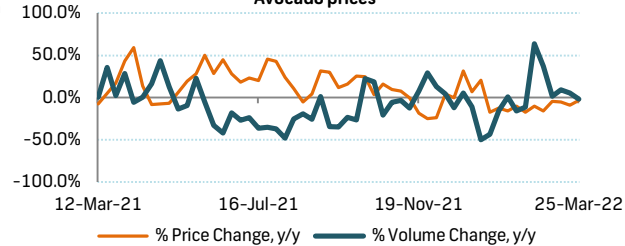
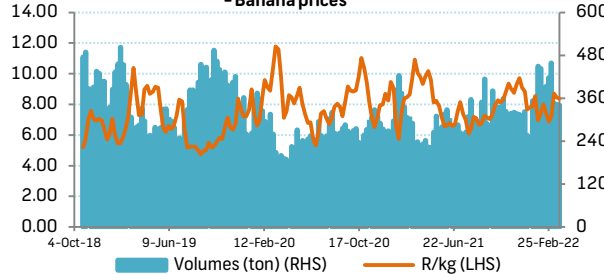
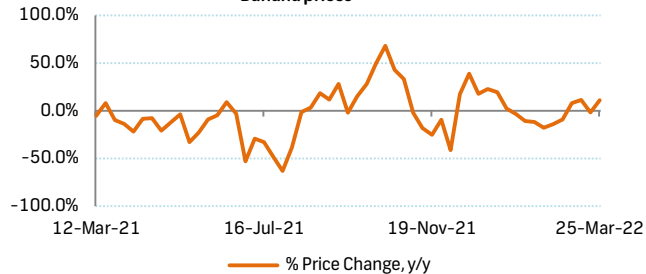
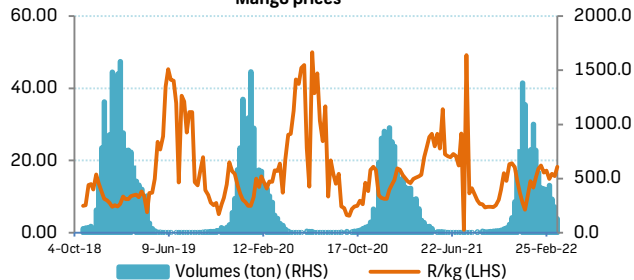
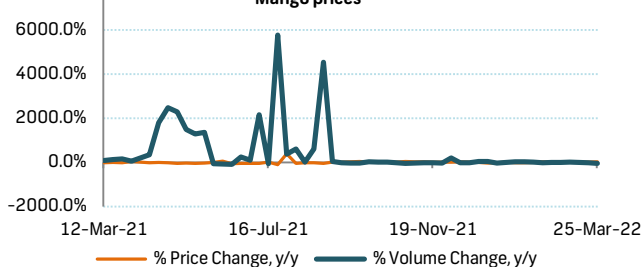
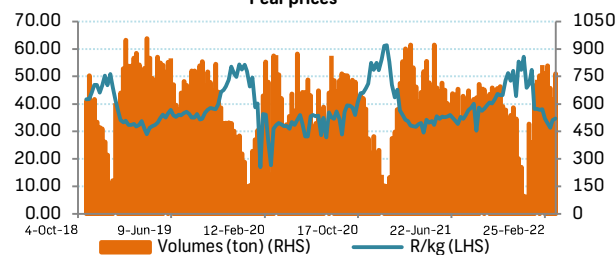
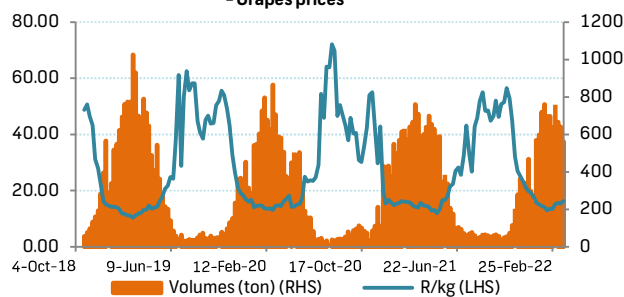
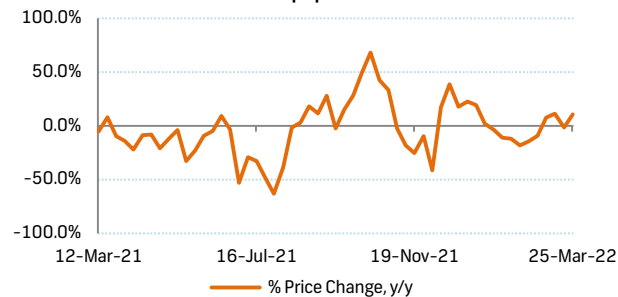
Figure 2a: Fresh Produce Markets
- Apples pricesFigure 2aa: Fresh Produce Markets
- Apples prices

Figure 2b: Fresh Produce Markets
- Avocado prices

Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure 2ba: Fresh Produce Markets
- Avocado pricesFigure 2c: Fresh Produce Markets
- Banana pricesFigure 2ca: Fresh Produce Markets
- Banana pricesFigure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Mango pricesFigure 2da: Fresh Produce Markets
- Mango pricesFigure 2e: Fresh Produce Markets
- Pear pricesFigure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Pear pricesFigure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grapes pricesFigure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grape prices

Source: FNB AgriComms.

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