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Weekly update – Fruit and Vegetable Markets

- The citrus export season is showing some progress though at a slower pace following the earlier logistics challenges due to floods in KZN. So far, total citrus fruit exported is way off last year's level with orange, grapefruit, lemons, and soft citrus volumes coming in down by 94%, 27%, 38%, and 31% year-on-year (y/y) as per the latest export data for the year up to week 18 of 2022. It is however important to note that it is still early in the season and the pace is likely to pick up next few weeks.
- So far, major destinations for South African citrus are the Middle East (30%), Europe (25%), and South-East Asia (22%). Others included the United Kingdom (11%) and Russia which managed to source 6% of SA's total shipments despite the ongoing war-induced logistics challenges (figure A1).
- In the case of pomes (apples and pears), they were up by almost 5% with the largest destinations being the Far East and Asia (26.9%), Europe (23.5%), the Middle East (17.8%), and Africa (16.3%). They were followed closely by the United Kingdom at 6.6% of the total with Russia coming in at a modest 5.2% of the total (figure A2).
- Grapefruit cumulative total shipments to week 18 of the 2022 export season reached 2.37 million cartons (15kg cartons) which is 27% below the same period in 2021. Main destinations were Europe and South-East Asia with shares of 43% and 45% of the total respectively. Volumes to South-East Asia rose by 30% y/y while Europe saw a massive contraction of 43% y/y in total YTD volumes. Although accounting for only 1% of the total, Africa saw a 119% y/y increase in volumes of SA exports.
- The pace of lemon exports remained lacklustre with cumulative shipments for the YTD falling by 38% year-on-year (y/y) at 4.56 million cartons. The leading destinations were the Middle East, Europe, and South-East Asia with shares of 51%, 16% and 16% respectively of the cumulative total shipments. On positive note, the market with the biggest growth in shipments was the UK with an increase of 68% y/y although it accounts for only 5% of the total so far.

Figure A1: Citrus exports – total to week 18 of the 2022 season
(8.24 million cartons)

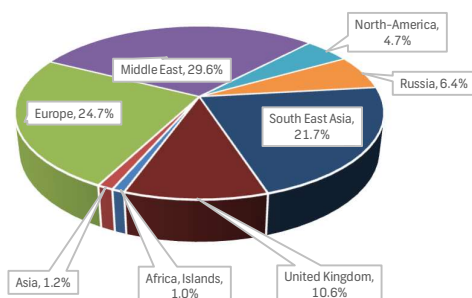
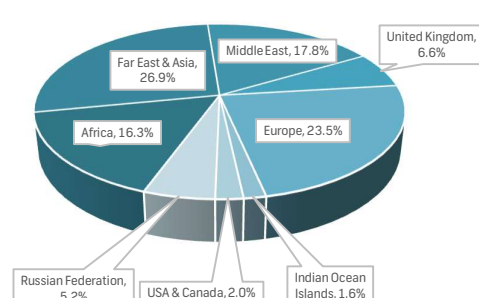
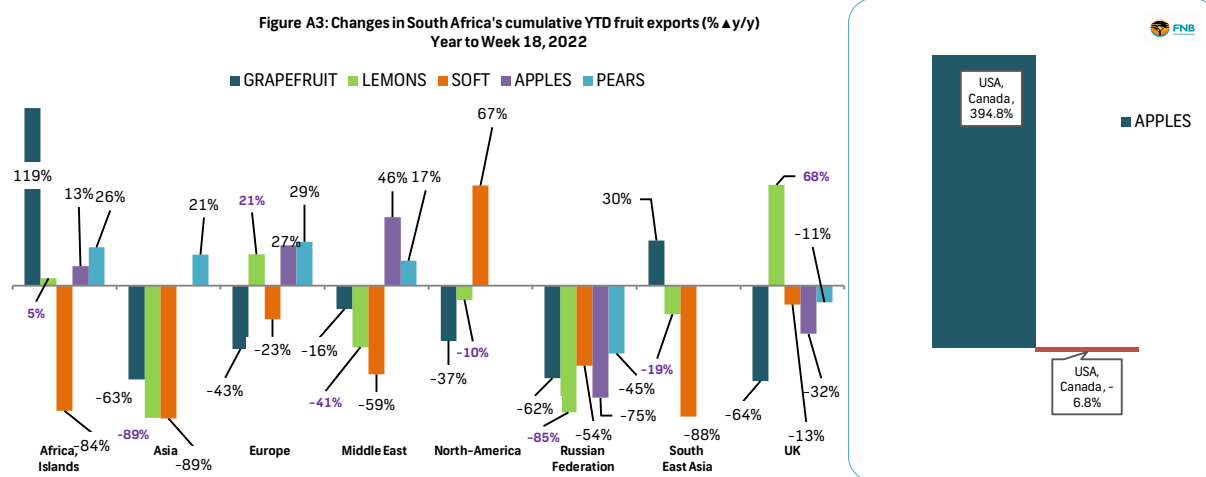


Figure A1: Pome exports – total to week 18 of the 2022 season
(21.93 million cartons)



Source: Own calculations - AgriHub data.

- Meanwhile, the latest Citrus Growers Association export estimates shows an upswing of 7% y/y in total citrus shipments for 2022 underpinned by increases for Valencias at 58.2 million cartons (+6% y/y), Navels at 28.7 million cartons (+6% y/y), and Lemons at 32.3 million cartons (+4% y/y). The grapefruit estimate came in on the downside at 14.8 million cartons (17kg equivalent), which is down 4% y/y.
- The pome market seems to be doing better with good gains in shipments. Apple shipments for the season to week 18 of the 2022 export season were 1% higher y/y at 11.49 million cartons (12.5kg cartons) with the largest destinations being Africa (29%), the Far East and Asia (36%), and the Middle East (18%). The Middle East and Africa posted sharp growth of 46% and 13% respectively y/y (figure A3).
- Pears exports are back on track with shipments for the YTD growing by 8% y/y to 10.44 million cartons (12.5kg cartons). Major destinations were Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and Asia, and Russia with shares of 44%, 18%, 17%, and 9% respectively. Meanwhile, pear volumes to Russia have so far contracted by 45% y/y.

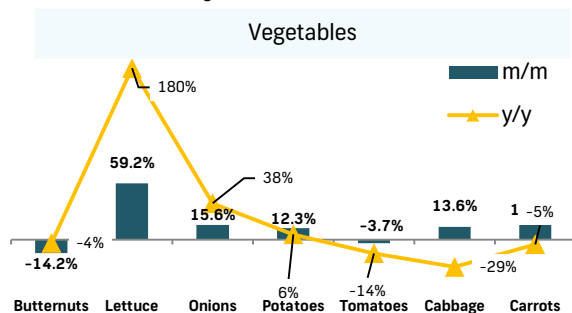


Source: Own calculations - AgriHub data.

Domestic market trends

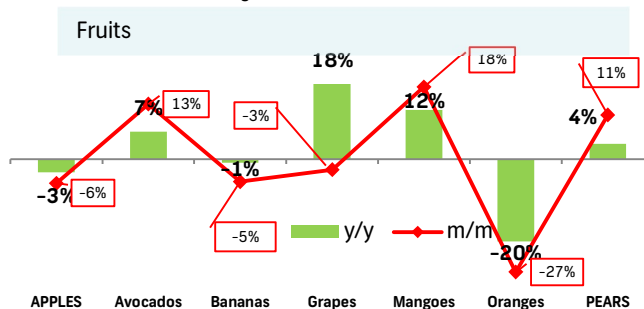
- Our analysis of the weekly trends on the fresh produce markets shows gains across fruit and vegetable prices during the first week of May 2022 supported by a combination of good uptake and a modest contraction in supplies across most categories.
- In the vegetable category, the average prices for big-ticket items such as tomatoes rose by 26% week-on-week (w/w) but still down by 14.5% month-on-month (m/m) and almost 15% year-on-year (y/y) at R9.56/kg. The average tomato price for the YTD shows a modest contraction of 3.7% relative to the same period in 2021 at R9.63/kg while the corresponding volumes of sales was almost unchanged y/y.
- They are followed closely by lettuce and cabbages with increases of 39.5% and 9.3% respectively w/w at R17.39/kg and R3/kg. At current levels, lettuce prices are 180% above the same week in 2021 with the average for the YTD reaching R11.51/kg which is 34% higher y/y.

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



Source: Own calculations from FNB AgriComms.

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

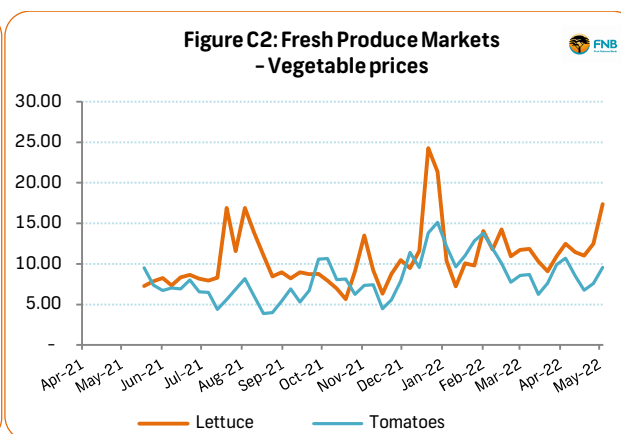
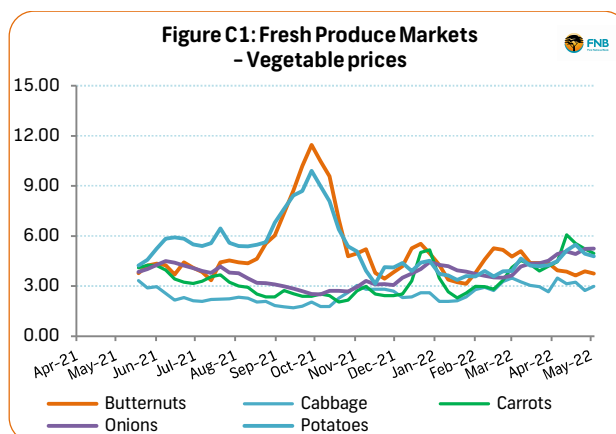


- In the potato market, prices retreated modestly by 3.3% w/w but still up 12% m/m and 5.7% ahead of the same week last year at R4.78/kg despite a slight contraction in volumes. The average potato prices for the YTD reached R4.19/kg which is 8% higher y/y. Some negative news is that Zimbabwe has reportedly halted the importation of potatoes from neighbouring countries as it seeks to support and promote domestic production.
- On the fruit market, mangoes were the biggest weekly gainers at R26.80/kg which is up by 9.4% w/w and 12% y/y. At this level, mango prices are way higher than the YTD average of R19.09/kg which is also 11% higher relative to the same period. Bananas, pears, and avocados managed to post slight gains of 2.6%, 2.3%, and 1.5% respectively w/w at R8.16/kg, R4.24/kg, and R14.28/kg. At the current level, avocado prices were 6.7% higher y/y but still lower than the average for the YTD of R20/kg.

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

Week ending 06 MAY 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**	3.75	-3.6%	-3.7%	1355	-0.2%	-15.8%
Cabbage	3.00	9.3%	-28.7%	1,498	3.0%	-14.1%
Carrot	4.96	-4.9%	-5.0%	2,222	-0.4%	-4.3%
Lettuce**	17.39	39.5%	180.1%	259	-8.0%	-33.4%
Onion	5.24	0.2%	38.2%	6,728	-3.6%	-16.0%
Potato	4.78	-3.3%	5.7%	8,121	-0.2%	-15.7%
Tomato	9.56	26.3%	-14.5%	3,583	-13.4%	-7.2%

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 06 MAY 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	6.82	-6.0%	-3.2%	2,197	3.5%	-19.5%
Avocados	14.28	1.5%	6.7%	417	-23.4%	-18.4%
Bananas	8.16	2.6%	-0.9%	3,546	-0.2%	14.5%
Grapes	15.92	0.1%	18.3%	511	3.0%	-13.2%
Mangoes	26.80	9.4%	12.0%	44	-20.0%	122.5%
Pears	4.24	2.3%	-20.0%	2,020	17.4%	34.5%

Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure D1: Fresh Produce Markets – Fruit prices

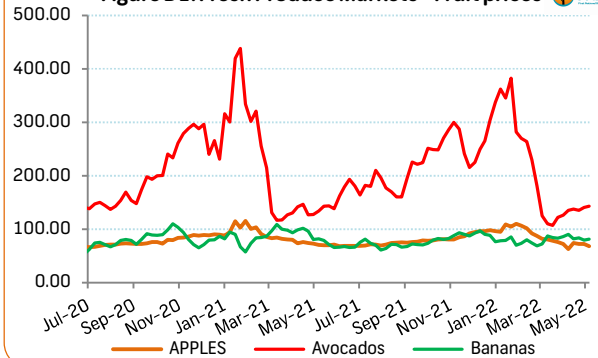
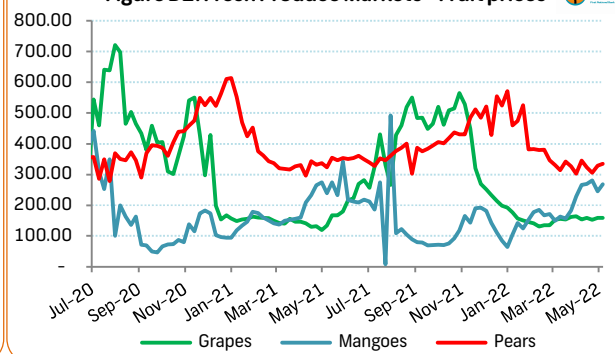


Figure D2: Fresh Produce Markets – Fruit prices



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 six data points are preliminary for all vegetable prices and quantity graphs.*

Figure 1a: Fresh Produce Markets – Tomato prices

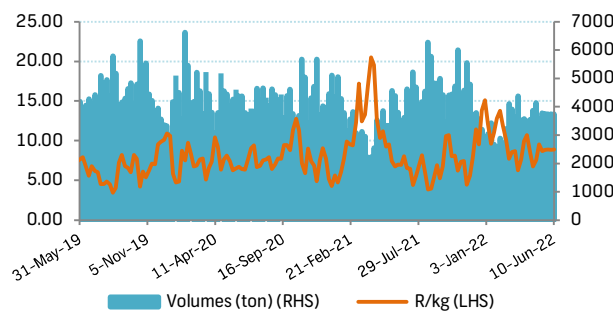
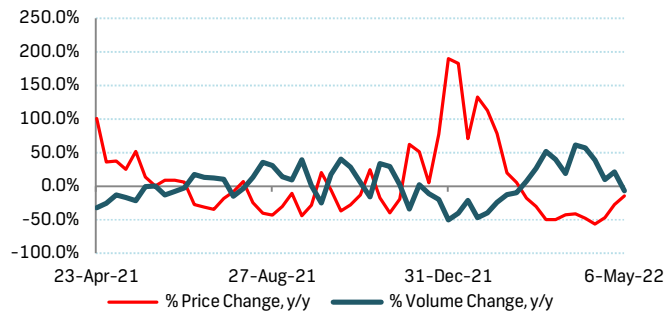


Figure 1aa: Fresh Produce Markets – Tomato prices



Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure 1b: Fresh Produce Markets – Potato prices

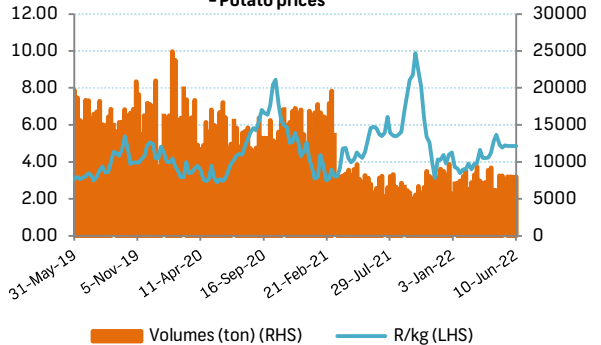


Figure 1ba: Fresh Produce Markets – Potato prices

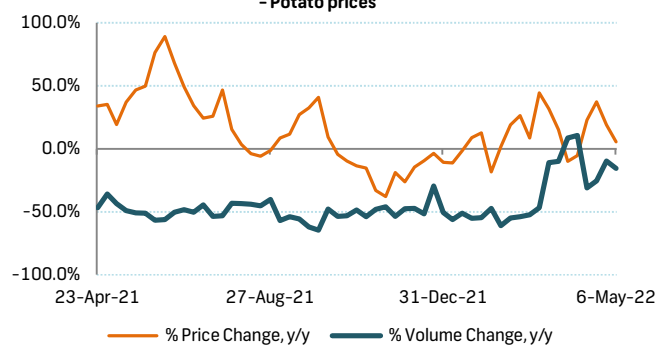


Figure 1c: Fresh Produce Markets – Onion prices

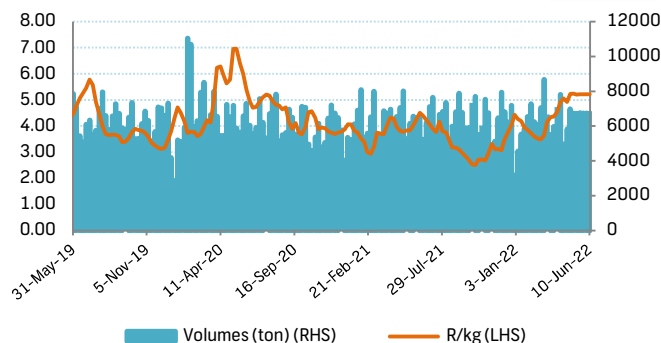


Figure 1ca: Fresh Produce Markets – Onion prices

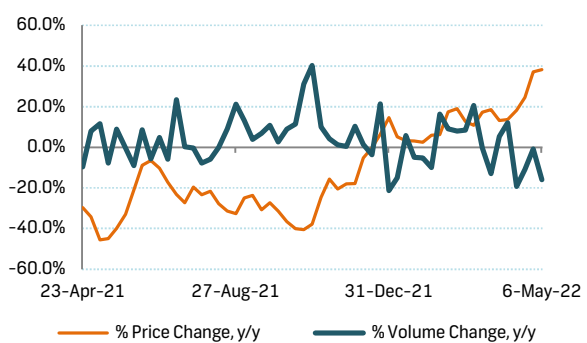


Figure 1d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Carrot prices

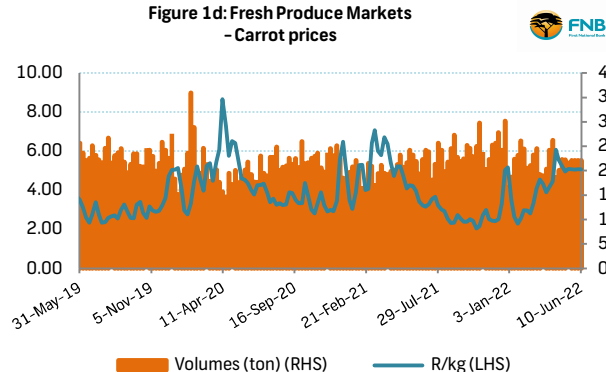


Figure 1da: Fresh Produce Markets
- Carrots prices

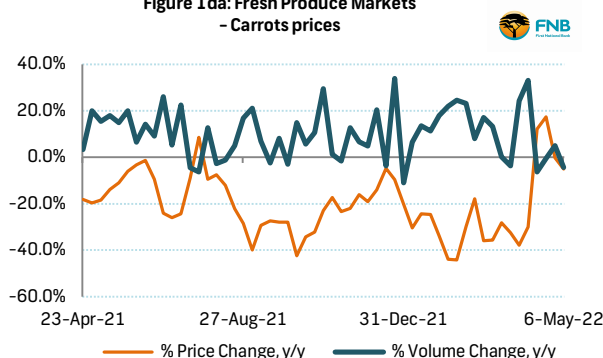


Figure 1ea: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices

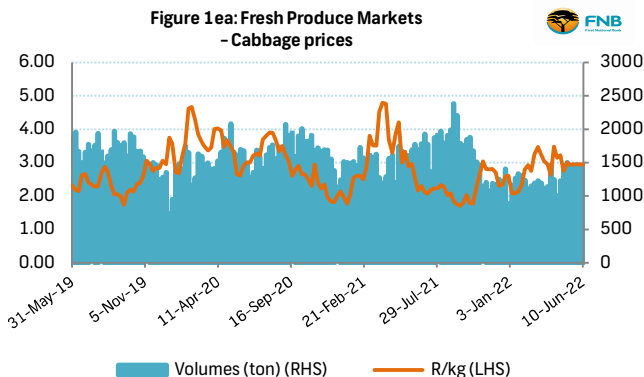
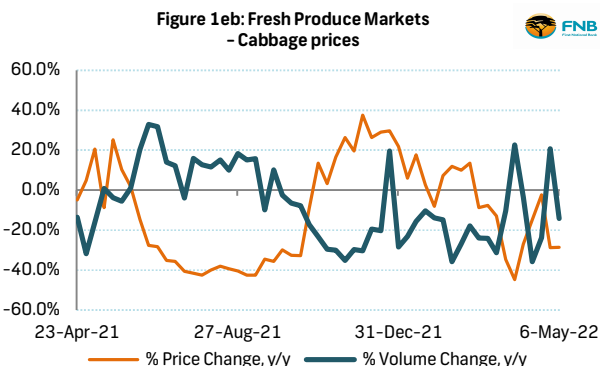


Figure 1eb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices



Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure 1fa: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut prices

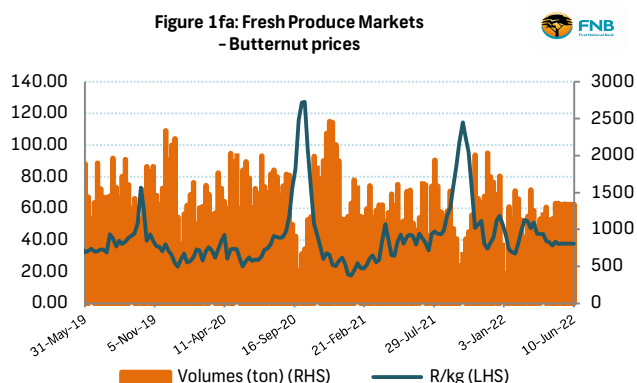


Figure 1fb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut prices

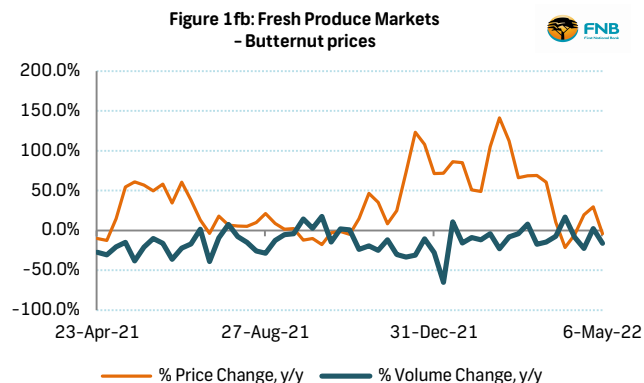


Figure 1g: Fresh Produce Markets
- Lettuce prices

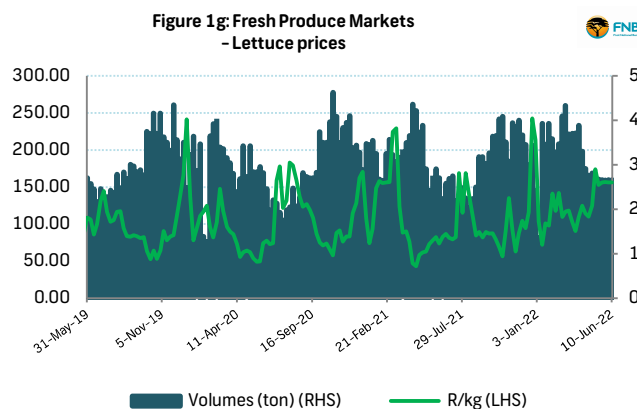
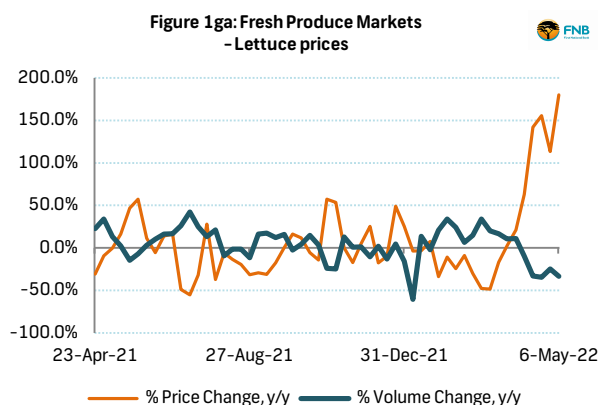


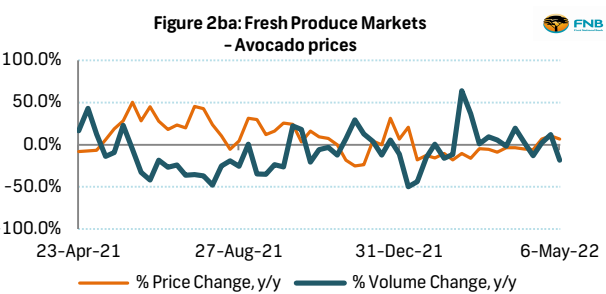
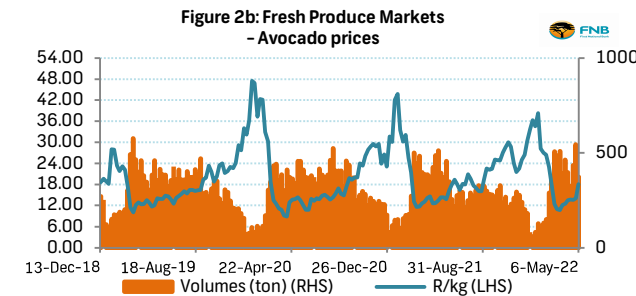
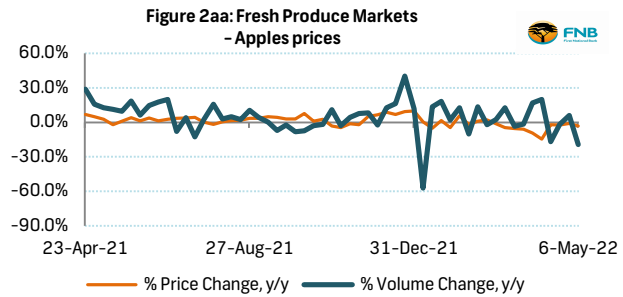
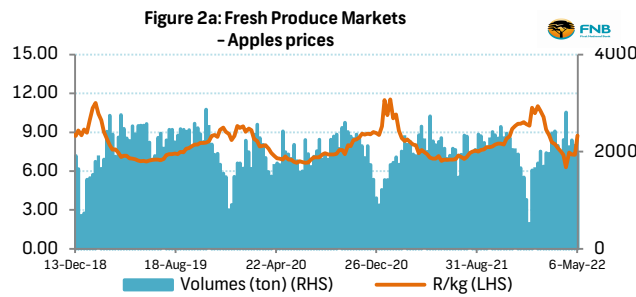
Figure 1ga: Fresh Produce Markets
- Lettuce prices



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)



Source: FNB AgriComms

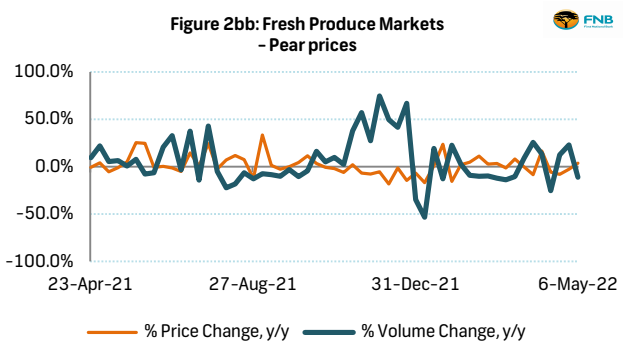
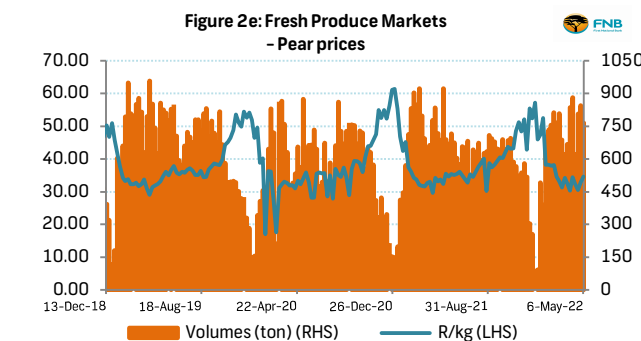
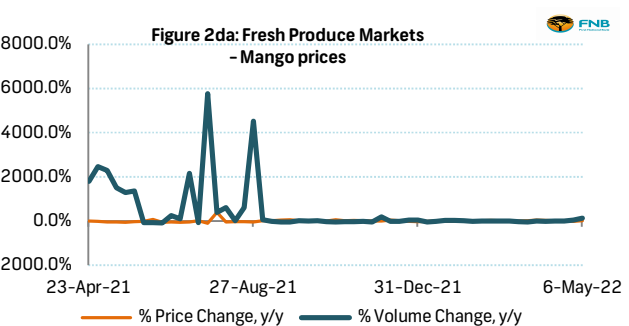
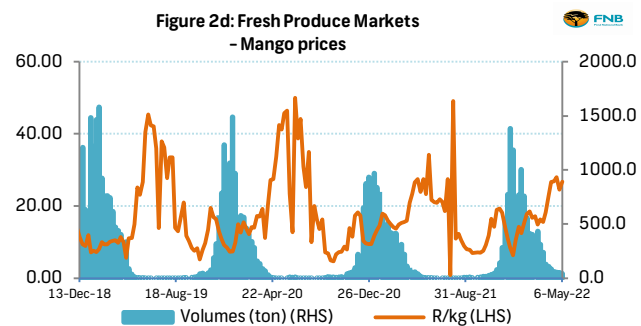
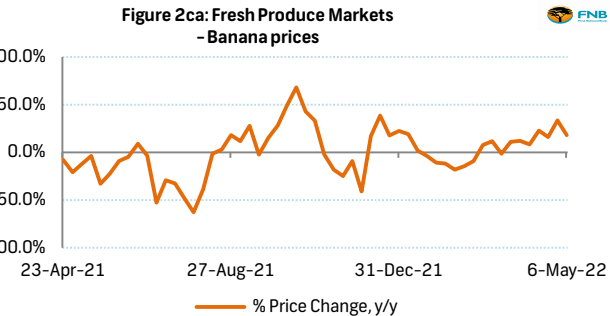
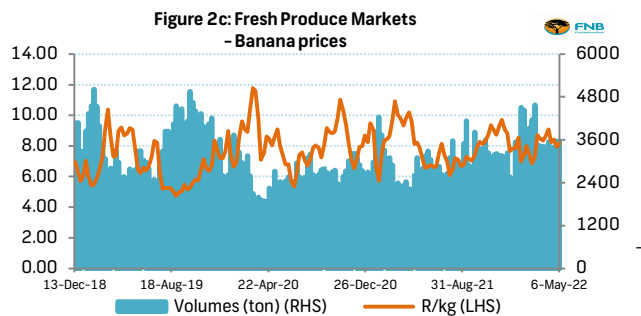
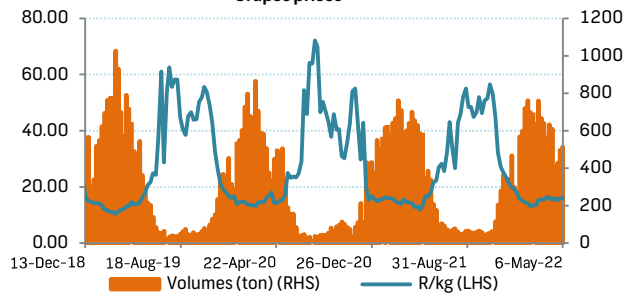
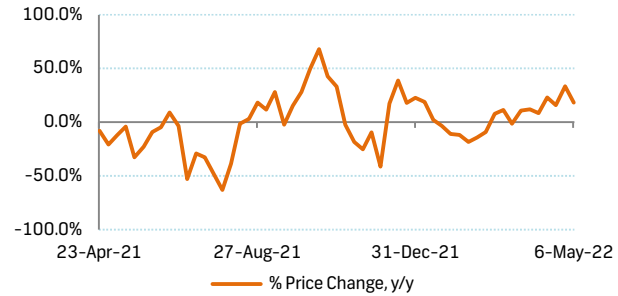


Figure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grapes prices



Source: FNB AgriComms.

Figure 2bb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grape prices



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