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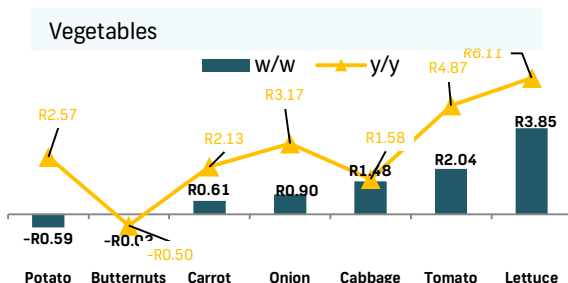
Paul Makube | Tumi Kgasago | Vhutshilo Mabela| 09 MAR 2023

Weekly update – Fruit and Vegetable Markets

Domestic vegetable prices retain strength while fruit saw a 7% y/y lift in lemon export estimate for 2023

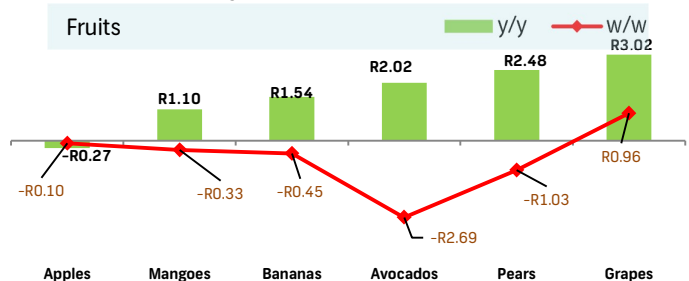
- The latest development on the export front is that South Africa's final 2022 packed citrus fruit for international markets was 160.88 million cartons with the addition of Zimbabwe and eSwatini bringing the total to 164.86 million cartons.
- The breakdown of the citrus commodities shows Valencia (15kg) with the largest share of 31% of SA's total, followed by Lemons (15kg) (21%), Mandarins (15kg) (20%), Navels (15kg) (17%), Grapefruit (15kg) (10%), and Grapefruit (17kg) (9%) according to the latest data from the Citrus Growers Association (CGA).
- With the onset of the 2023 harvest and export season, lemons pick-up was earlier than last year, and the heavy rains did not impact negatively on harvest progress as they were already packed. Early shipment data shows a 38% jump on the previous year at 814,476 cartons cumulatively for the year-to-date (YTD).
- So far, major destinations are the Middle East with a share of 49% and a year-on-year (y/y) growth of 49%, South East Asia at 22% with a 68% y/y increase, and Russia at 18% with an increase of 7% y/y.
- The estimate for lemon exports in 2023 lifted by 2.6 million cartons y/y to 37.3 million (15kg equivalent cartons) according to the CGA, an indication that more trees are coming into production following years of increased planting.
- On the domestic front, our analysis of price trends of fresh produce on domestic markets again shows a mixed trend with most vegetable commodities extending recent gains early during March 2023. Fruits however posted moderate to sharp losses in last week's trade. Avocados posted the biggest weekly losses of 15.6% (-R2.69/kg) but were still 16% higher y/y (+R2.02/kg) due to volume pressure.

Figure A1: Changes in average monthly vegetable prices on South Africa's major Fresh Produce Markets (% Δ w/w, y/y)
Avg for the first week of MAR 2023



Source: Own calculations from FNB AgriComms.

Figure A2: Changes in average monthly fruit prices on South Africa's major Fresh Produce Markets (% Δ w/w, y/y)
Avg for the first week of MAR 2023

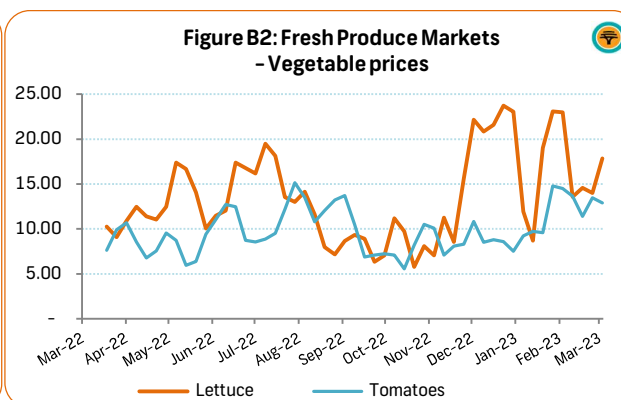
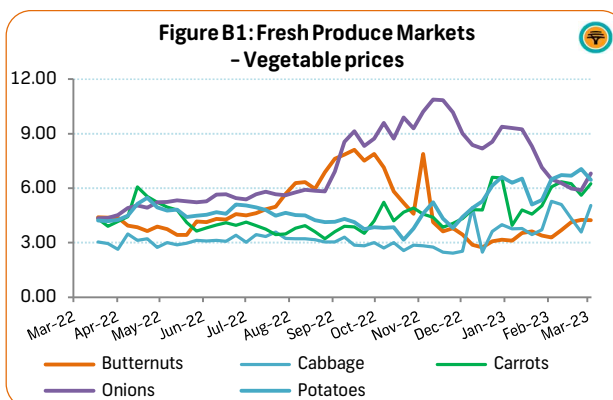


- Other big-ticket items with significant weekly declines include apples, bananas, and pears as higher volumes and the subdued seasonal demand continue to weigh heavily on markets.
- At R8.78/kg, banana prices were down by 4.9% (-R0.45/kg) w/w but still sharply higher by 21% (+R1.54/kg) y/y. Apple prices fell by 1.2% (-R0.10/kg) w/w and 3.2% (-R0.27/kg) y/y at R7.97/kg.
- Except for potatoes and butternuts, all vegetable commodities under review posted strong price gains at the beginning of March 2023 on the back of a modest rebound in demand. Cabbages were the biggest gainers with the weekly price increase of 4.1% (+R1.48/kg) w/w and were 45.5% (+R1.58/kg) higher y/y at R5.05/kg.
- Lettuce followed with an increase of 27.5% (R3.85/kg) w/w and were 52% (+R6.11/kg) higher y/y at R17.84/kg. Tomatoes jumped 17.8% (+R2.04/kg) w/w at R13.45/kg, which is 57% (+R4.87/kg) higher y/y.
- Onion prices advanced by 15.2% (+R0.90/kg) w/w and reached R6.80/kg which is 87% (+R3.17/kg) higher y/y. Despite strong international demand due to supply constraints, SA exported only 100 tons in 2022 which is down by 11% y/y. The average FOB price was down by 46% (-R12.05/kg) y/y at R13.97/kg. This however happens against the backdrop of an earlier import ban of SA's vegetables by Namibia and Botswana to boost local production.
- On the global market, the trend was upwards with prices in Europe, Asia, and other countries in Central Asia skyrocketing in the past few months. Drought conditions and poor harvests in Europe with the Netherlands, the world's major exporter, struggling with export volumes thus causing an upswing in prices.
- In Asia, frost hit parts of Central Asia that damaged the huge stocks of onions in uninsulated warehouses according to reports.
- Weather will become a critical factor for the year ahead as the lingering El Nino in the forecasts might impact negatively on supplies especially for dryland vegetables.

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

Week ending 03 MARCH 2023	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change w/w	Price change y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Butternuts	4.25	-0.4%	-10.6%	1462	34.8%	-4.6%
Cabbage	5.05	41.3%	45.5%	1,289	-16.0%	5.2%
Carrot	6.24	10.9%	51.8%	2,311	22.6%	-5.8%
Lettuce	17.84	27.5%	52.1%	334	7.7%	-23.0%
Onion	6.80	15.2%	87.3%	7,045	16.1%	-18.7%
Potato	6.47	-8.3%	65.7%	7,820	22.5%	-16.3%
Tomato	13.45	17.8%	56.7%	3,680	2.0%	-5.8%

Source: FNB AgriComms



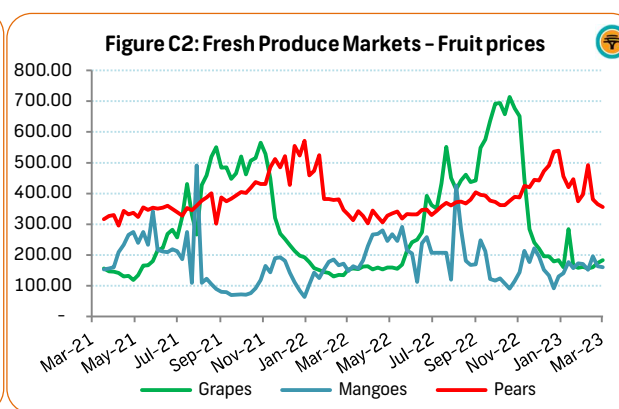
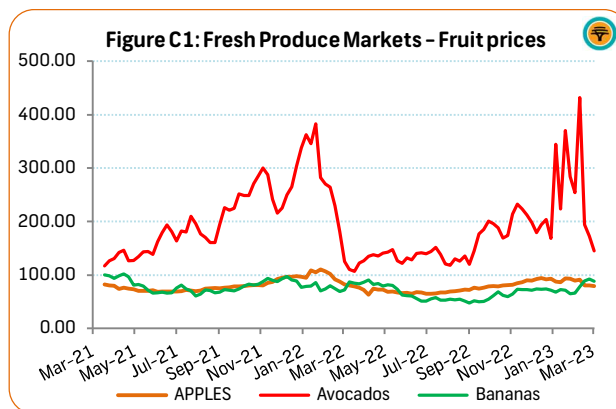
Source: FNB AgriComms

Table 4: Fruit prices – South Africa's Major Fresh Produce Markets –

(Average Major Markets: Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, & other markets)

Week ending 03 MARCH 2023	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change w/w	Price change y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Apples	7.97	-1.2%	-3.2%	2,305	22.1%	-3.4%
Avocados	14.53	-15.6%	16.2%	461	19.0%	-9.0%
Bananas	8.78	-4.9%	21.2%	4,488	9.8%	-2.0%
Grapes	18.31	5.5%	19.7%	627	4.1%	-17.3%
Mangoes	15.98	-2.0%	7.4%	487	16.7%	11.9%
Pears	11.94	-3.4%	42.8%	535	92.0%	0.0%

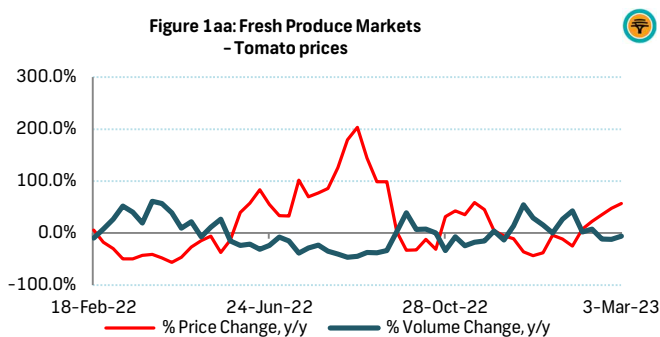
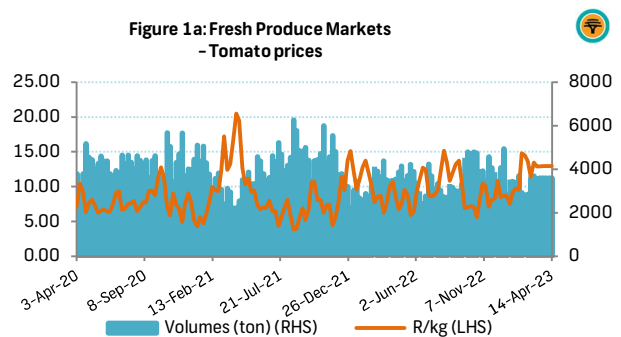
Source: FNB AgriComms



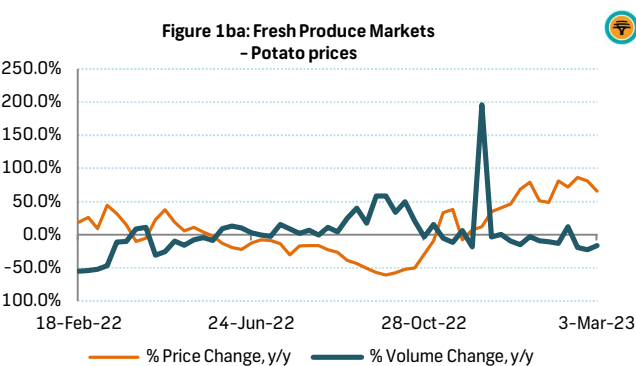
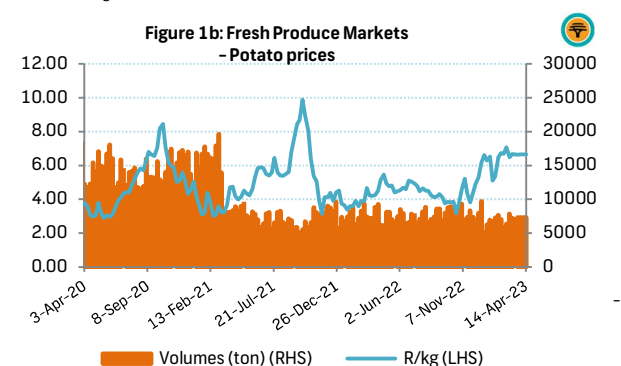
Source: FNB AgriComms

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

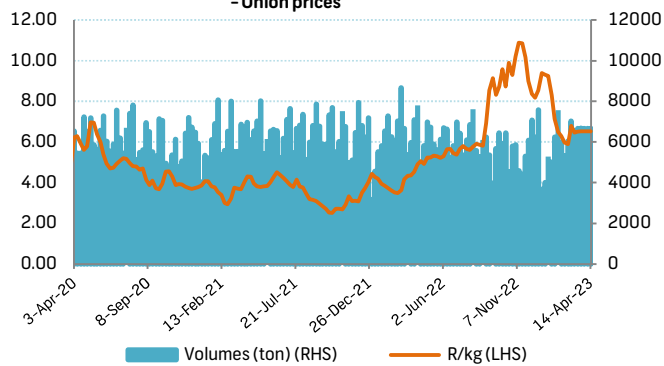
(Average 5 major markets – Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban)

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

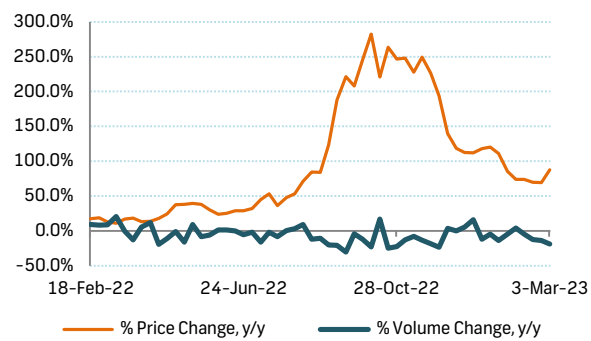
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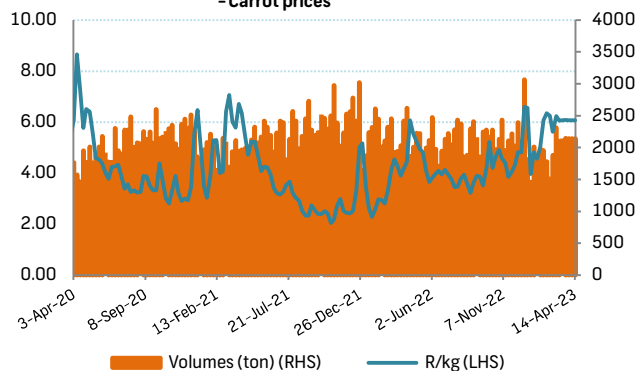
**Figure 1c: Fresh Produce Markets
- Onion prices**



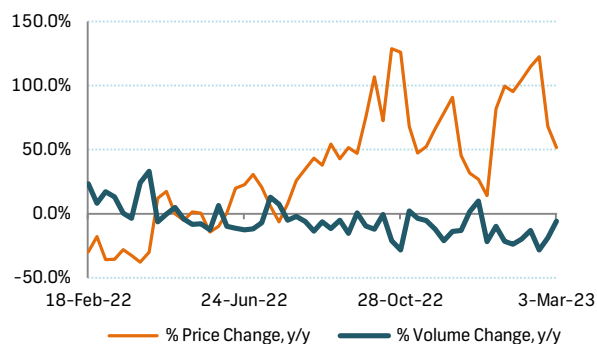
**Figure 1ca: Fresh Produce Markets
- Onion prices**



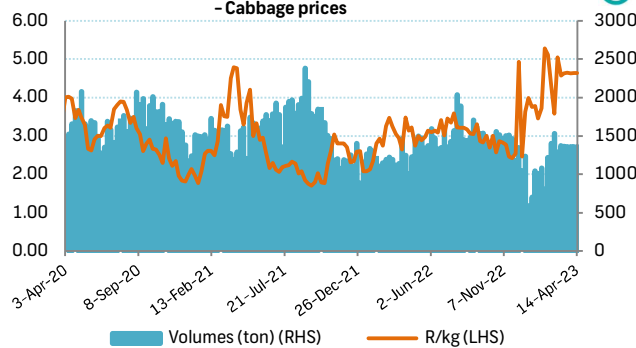
**Figure 1d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Carrot prices**



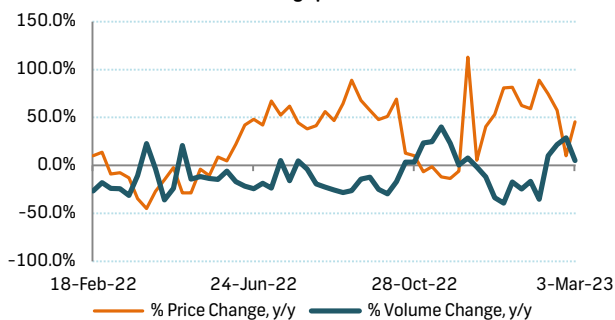
**Figure 1da: Fresh Produce Markets
- Carrots prices**



**Figure 1ea: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices**

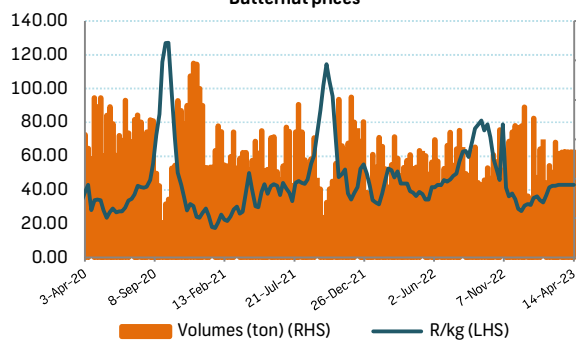


**Figure 1eb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Cabbage prices**

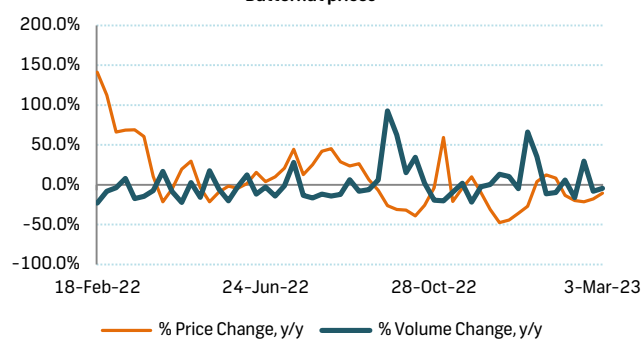


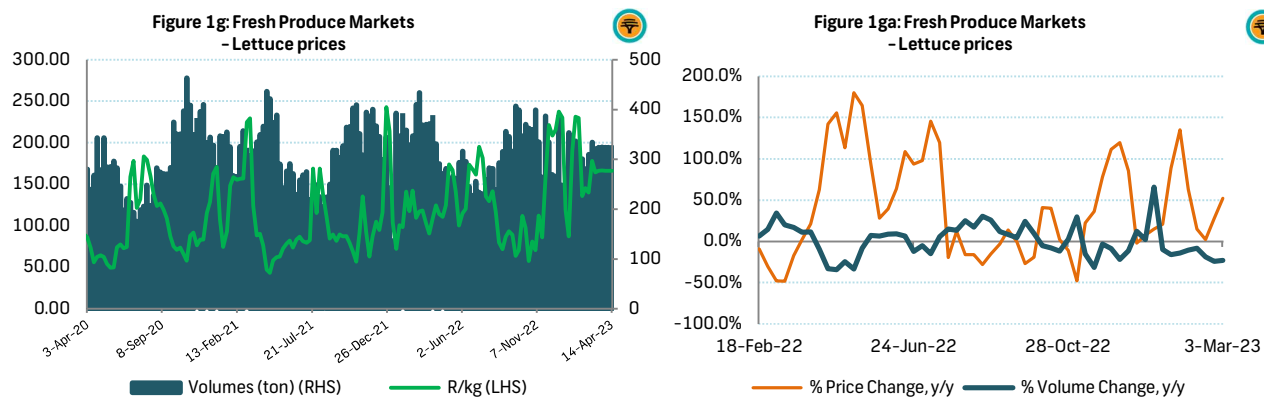
Source: FNB AgriComms

**Figure 1fa: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut prices**



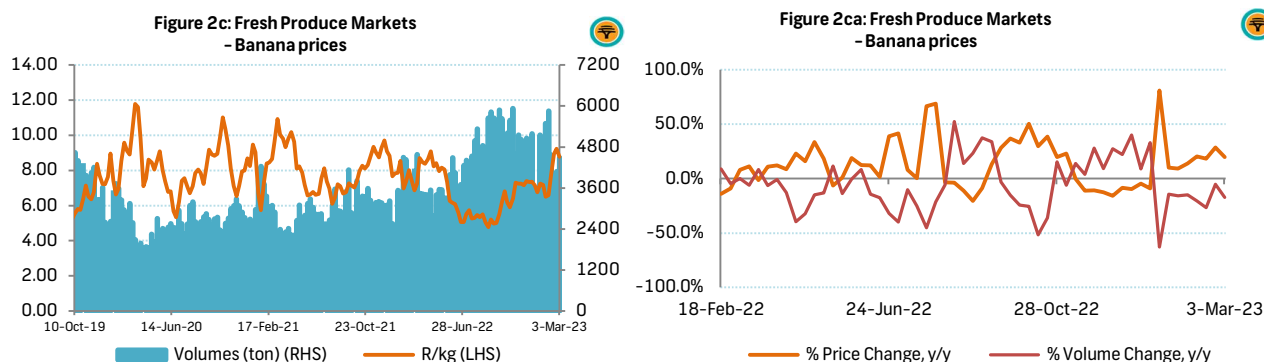
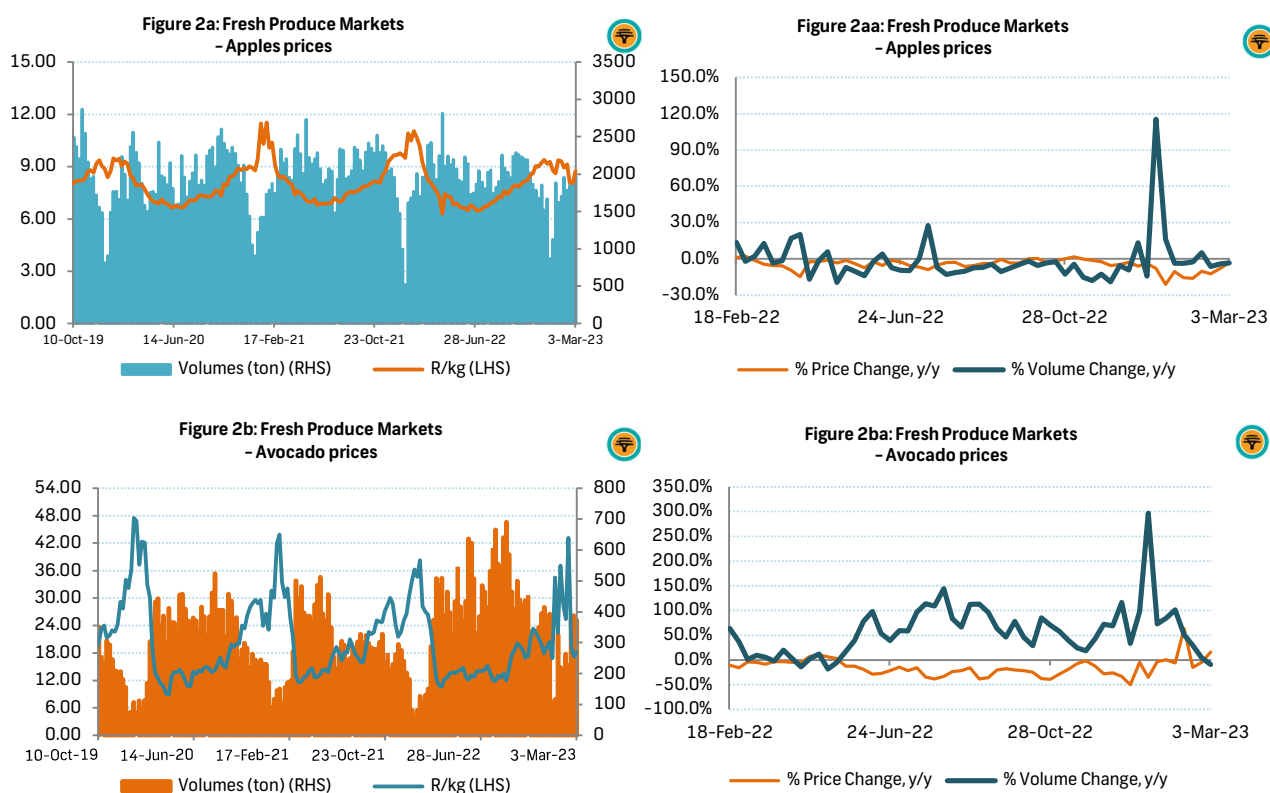
**Figure 1fb: Fresh Produce Markets
- Butternut prices**

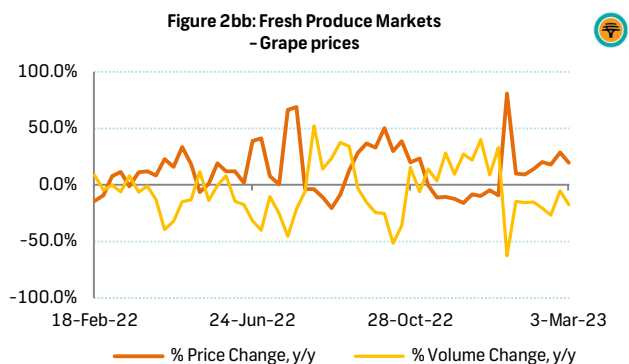
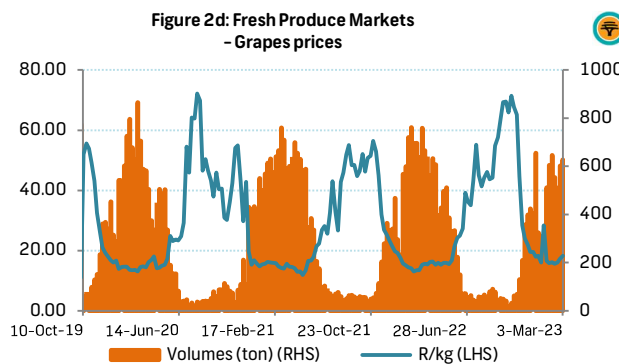
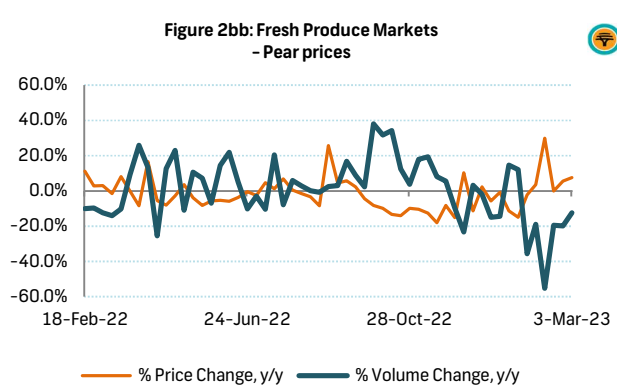
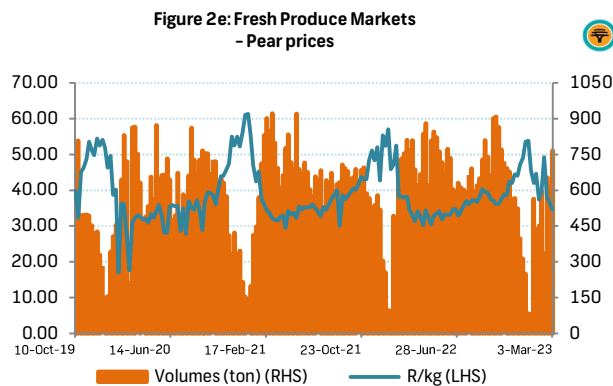
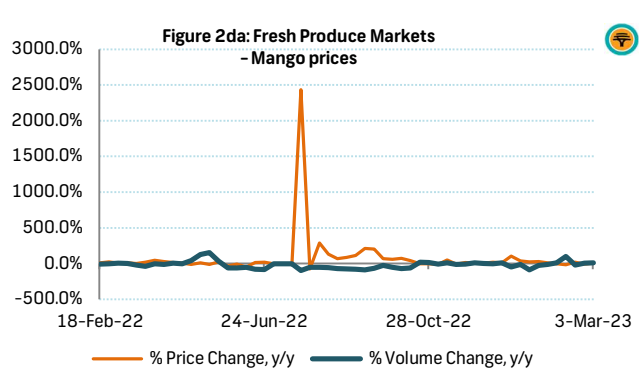
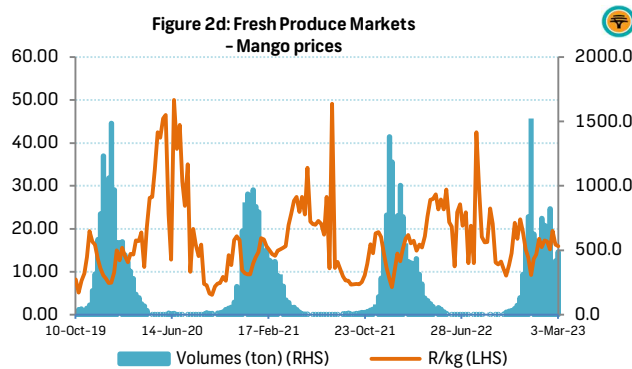




Fruit trends on Major Fresh Produce Markets in SA (figures 2a to 2f)

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





Source: FNB AgriComms.

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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
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
Voutsas, Philip	Limpopo	082 820 4202	philip.voutsas@rmb.co.za
Da Silva, Kristin	North-West	079 693 8268	Kristin.DaSilva@fnb.co.za
Greg, Sparrow	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	071 684 8420	greg.sparrow@fnb.co.za
Sarah, Collins	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	082 371 1040	sarah.collins@fnb.co.za
Penny, Gasa	KwaZulu-Natal - Pietermaritzburg	081 718 9019	penny.gasa@fnb.co.za
Papi Moseki	Limpopo-Polokwane	061 523 1472	Papi.Moseki@fnb.co.za
Theo, Verwey	Mpumalanga - Lowveld	082 419 6086	tverwey@fnb.co.za
Gao, Ngakantsi	Mpumalanga - Highveld	072 471 6040	gaopalelwe.ngakantsi@fnb.co.za
Du Plessis, Hanro	Mpumalanga - Highveld	082 895 1762	hanro.duplessis@fnb.co.za
Pedrie, Van der Merwe	Northern Cape - Kimberley	071 351 3439	lschaan.vanwyk@fnb.co.za
Ischaan, Van Wyk	Northern Cape - Upington	073 0306277	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
Andries, Van Zyl	Western Cape - Willowbridge	073 280 8703	andries.vanzyl@fnb.co.za
Chrismaine, Abrahams	Western Cape - Willowbridge	072 605 3862	chrismaine.abrahams@fnb.co.za

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