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Weekly update – Fruit and Vegetable Markets

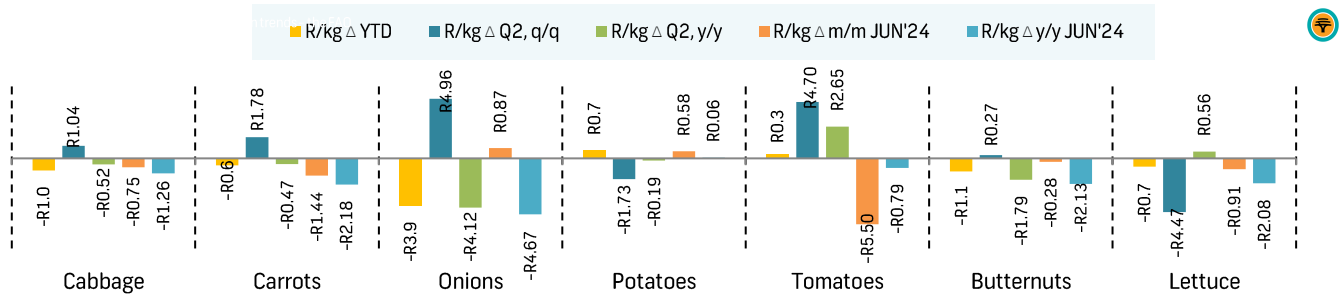
A mixed trend in prices during the June 2024 month end with gains for vegetables and weakness in the fruit market.

- Our analysis of weekly price trends on domestic fresh produce markets shows a modest rebound in the vegetable market supported by a strong uptake across most categories.
- The biggest weekly gainers were tomatoes after surging by 24.2% (+R 1.77/kg) w/w and 6.2% (+R 0.53/kg) y/y at R9.09/kg during the week ended 28 June 2024. Strong month end demand underpinned this massive weekly upswing in prices despite solid supplies across markets.
- They were followed closely by lettuce with prices jumping by 10.4% (+R1.11/kg) w/w at R11.81/kg but still down by a whopping 31% y/y. Butternuts saw a weekly increase of 6.6% (+R 0.23/kg) at R3.73/kg which is however still sharply down by 38.8% (-R2.36/kg) y/y. Supplies were abundant and came in up 29% w/w but were almost unchanged y/y. Potatoes saw gains of only 3.5% (+R 0.21/kg) w/w but fell sharply by 15.7% (-R 1.15/kg) y/y at R6.16/kg (table 1).
- Weakness in the carrots market continued as they posted the biggest weekly decline of 9% (-R0.39/kg) w/w but still up by 3.3% (+R 0.12/kg) y/y at R3.78/kg. The other big-ticket item onions fell by 7.5% (-R 0.69/kg) w/w and 6.9% (-R 0.63/kg) y/y at R8.47/kg.

On monthly trends, average vegetable prices weakened across most categories in June 2024.

- Tomatoes posted the biggest losses during June 2024 with average prices falling by R5.50/kg m/m and R0.79/kg y/y at R8.73/kg. However, tomato prices were up by a whopping R4.70/kg for the YTD (June'24) and a bit firmer by R0.34/kg in Q2 of 2024 relative to Q1.
- Carrots followed with a monthly decrease of R1.44/kg m/m and R2.18/kg y/y at R5.41/kg. Average carrot prices for Q2 of 2024 were up by R1.78/kg q/q but still down by R0.47/kg relative to the same period in 2023 (figure A).

Figure A: Changes in average vegetable prices on South Africa's major Fresh Produce Markets – JUNE 2024



Source: FNB AgriComms

- Onion prices rebounded by R0.87/kg m/m in June but still sharply down by R4.67/kg y/y at R9.51/kg. In Q2 of 2024, average onions prices increased by R4.96/kg q/q but still R4.12/kg lower relative to the same quarter last year.
- Average lettuce prices fell by R0.91/kg m/m and R2.08/kg y/y at R10.40/kg. Lettuce prices for the YTD (June'24) fell by R0.69/kg y/y and were down by a whopping R4.47/kg y/y in Q2 of 2024 (figure A).
- The broader implications of this trend in vegetable prices is that we might see a further deceleration in monthly vegetable inflation in the next update of the June 2024 data. Vegetable inflation in May 2024 decelerated modestly to 0.3% m/m from 3.6% m/m in April but remaining sticky on the upside by 7.6% y/y from 7.4% y/y previously.

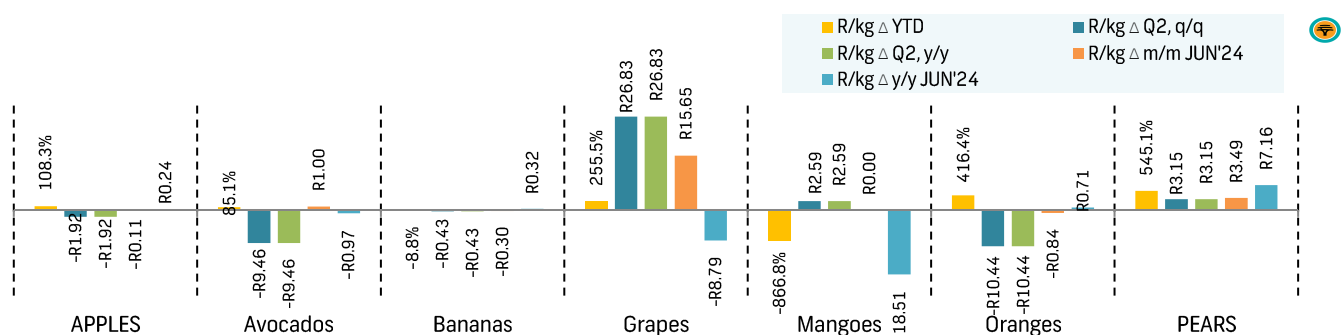
Table 1: Vegetable prices – South Africa's Major Fresh Produce Markets

(Average Major Markets: Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, & other markets)								
Week ending 28 JUNE 2024	Average Price (R/Kg)	Price change (% Δ w/w)	Price change (R/kg) Δ w/w	Price change (% Δ y/y)	Price change (R/kg) Δ y/y	Total Volume (t)	Volume change w/w	Volume Change y/y
Butternuts	3.73	6.6%	R 0.23	-38.8%	-R 2.36	1185	28.6%	-0.1%
Cabbage	2.86	-0.4%	-R 0.01	12.8%	R 0.32	1,852	20.4%	-4.6%
Carrot	3.78	-9.3%	-R 0.39	3.3%	R 0.12	2,350	22.2%	2.3%
Lettuce	11.81	10.4%	R 1.11	-31.3%	-R 5.37	264	17.0%	-4.4%
Onion	8.47	-7.5%	-R 0.69	-6.9%	-R 0.63	6,273	26.5%	-10.5%
Potato	6.16	3.5%	R 0.21	-15.7%	-R 1.15	8,240	23.9%	9.8%
Tomato	9.09	24.2%	R 1.77	6.2%	R 0.53	3,560	7.5%	-2.6%

Source: FNB AgriComms

- We also saw a softer trend across most of the fruit commodities during the last week with pears posting the biggest decline of 4.2% (-R2.05/kg) w/w but still sharply higher by 15.9% (+R6.46/kg) y/y at R47.20/kg.
- They were followed closely by bananas with decreases of 2.3% (-R0.14/kg) w/w and 5.7% (-R0.37/kg) y/y at R6.19/kg as higher volumes weighed heavily on the market. Apples and avocado prices were marginally down during month end.
- Big weekly gainers were mangoes and grapes on seasonal supply tightness. Mangoes jumped 6.6% (+R1.11/kg) w/w but still down by a whopping 40.2% (-R12.03/kg) y/y at R17.91/kg. Grapes advanced by 6.4% (+R4.08/kg) w/w and 8.3% (+R5.18/kg) y/y at R67.32/kg (table 2).
- On monthly trends, the trend in average fruit prices under review were almost balanced in June with three declining, three increasing, and only one remaining unchanged relative to the previous month. Oranges prices fell by R0.84/kg m/m but still R0.71/kg higher y/y at R4.38/kg. Orange prices for the YTD show an increase of R4.16/kg y/y to an average of R10.30/kg. However, orange prices fell by R10.44/kg q/q in Q2 of 2024 and were down by the same margin relative to the same quarter in 2023 underpinned by increased seasonal volumes (figure B).
- Grape prices posted sharp gains of R15.65/kg m/m but still down by R8.79/kg at R54.83/kg. Grape prices for the YTD show an increase of R2.56/kg y/y to an average of R31.04/kg. Grape prices increased by R26.83/kg q/q in Q2 of 2024 and were up by the same margin relative to the same quarter in 2023.
- Pears showed gains of R3.49/kg m/m and R7.16/kg y/y at R48.89/kg. For the YTD, pear prices showed an increase of R5.45/kg y/y to an average of R44.47/kg. Pear prices increased by R3.15/kg q/q in Q2 of 2024 and were up by almost the same margin relative to the same quarter in 2023.

Figure B: Changes in average fruit prices on South Africa's major Fresh Produce Markets – JUNE 2024



Source: FNB AgriComms

- This trend in fruit prices indicate a potential slowdown in monthly fruit inflation which continued to trend in negative territory in the last three months. However, fruit inflation increased by 6% y/y in May 2024 from 4.5% and 3.3% y/y in April and March respectively.

Table 2: Fruit prices – South Africa's Major Fresh Produce Markets

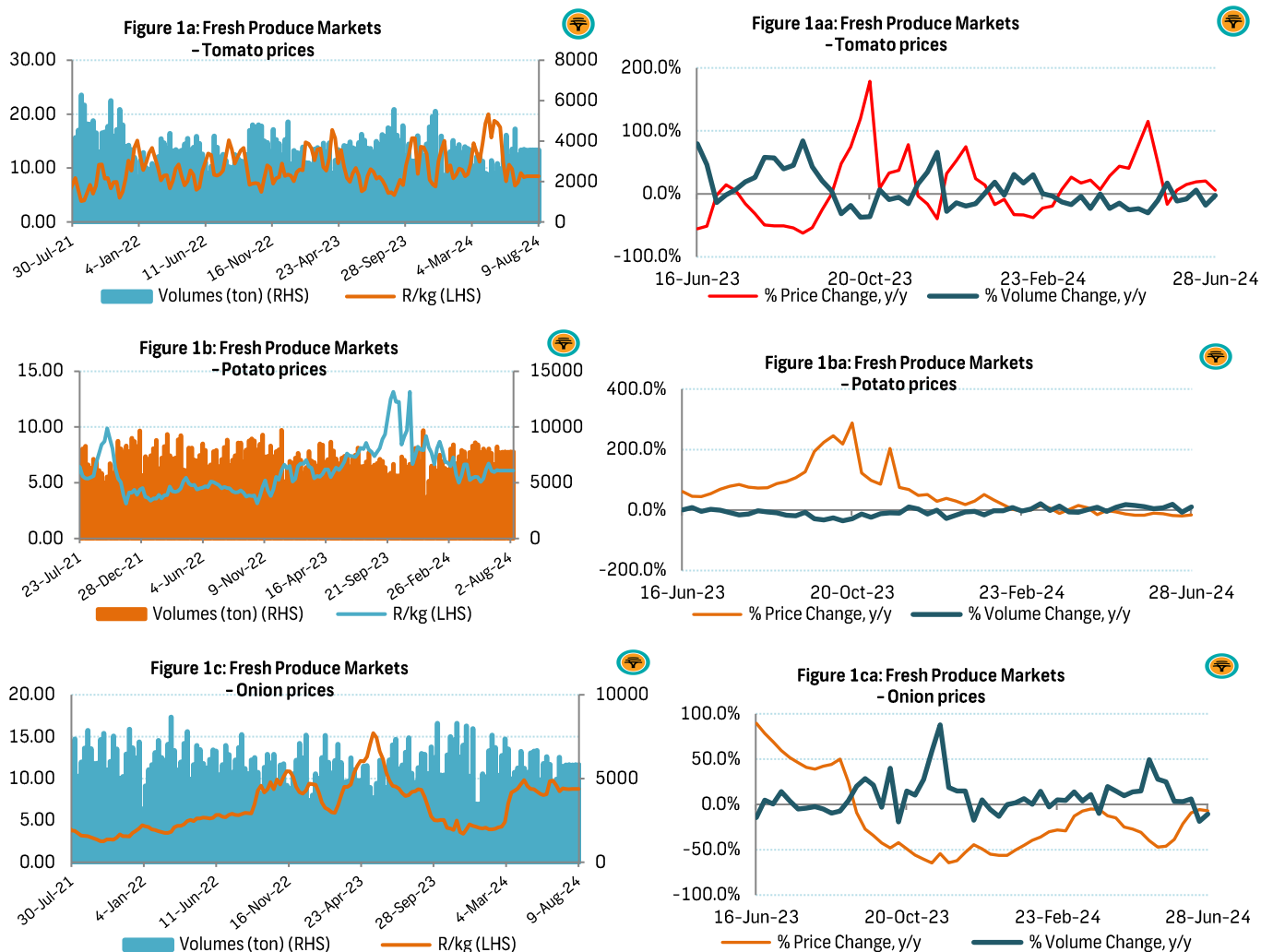
(Average Major Markets: Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, & other markets)								
Week ending	Average Price	Price change	Price change	Price change	Price change	Total	Volume change	Volume Change
28 JUNE 2024	(R/Kg)	(% Δ w/w)	Δ w/w	(% Δ y/y)	Δ y/y	Volume (t)	w/w	y/y
Apples	8.56	-0.7%	-R0.06	-0.8%	-R0.07	1,672	7.0%	-7.1%
Avocados	14.96	-0.4%	-R0.05	-4.0%	-R0.63	494	38.6%	7.6%
Bananas	6.19	-2.3%	-R0.14	-5.7%	-R0.37	4,217	14.2%	7.6%
Grapes	67.32	6.4%	R4.08	8.3%	R5.18	27	-49.4%	-24.8%
Mangoes	17.91	6.6%	R1.11	-40.2%	-R12.03	0.29	-35.0%	-89.8%
Pears	47.20	-4.2%	-R2.05	15.9%	R6.46	450	20.4%	-17.7%

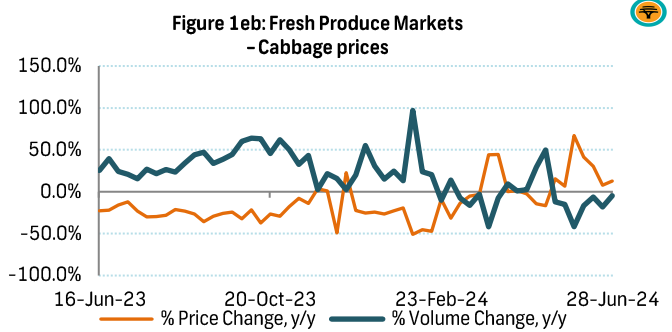
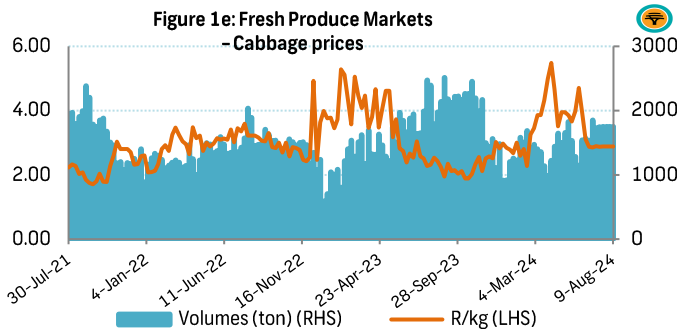
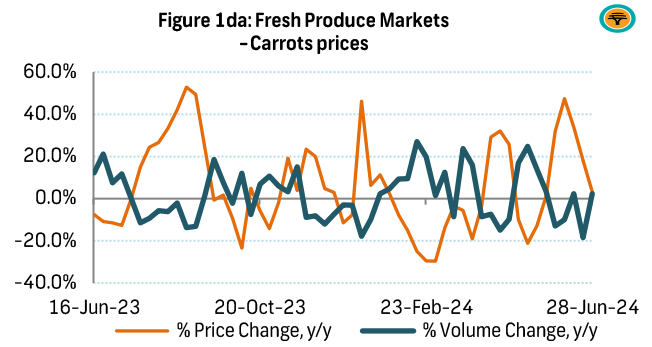
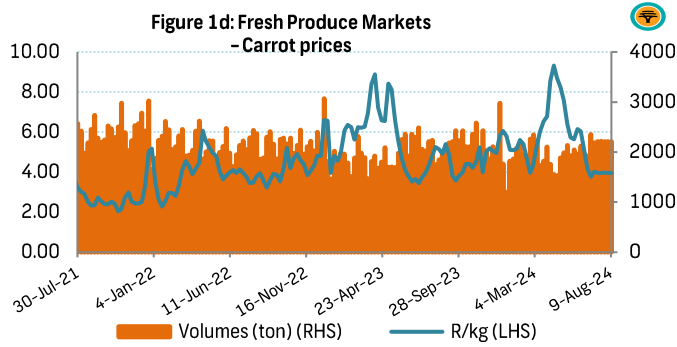
Source: FNB AgriComms

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

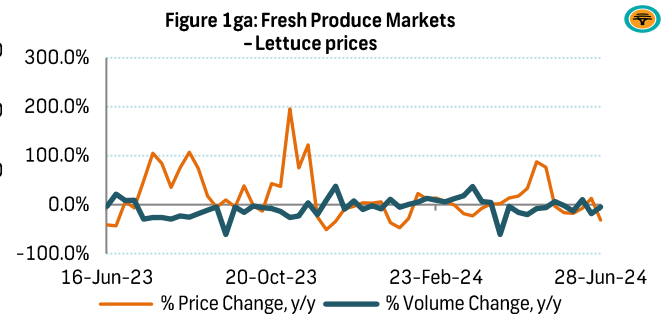
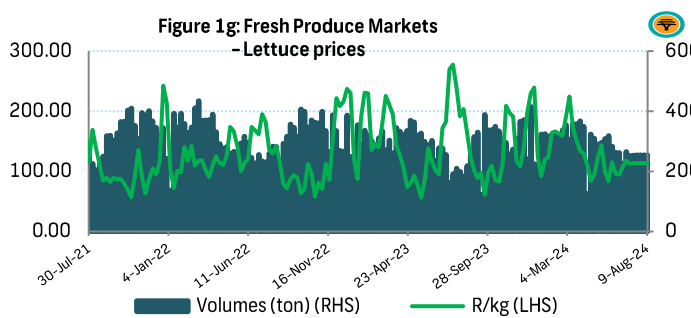
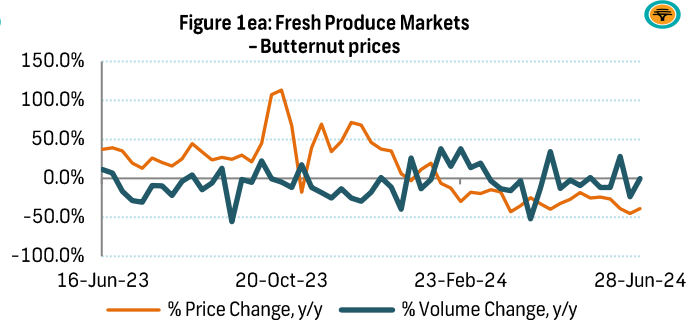
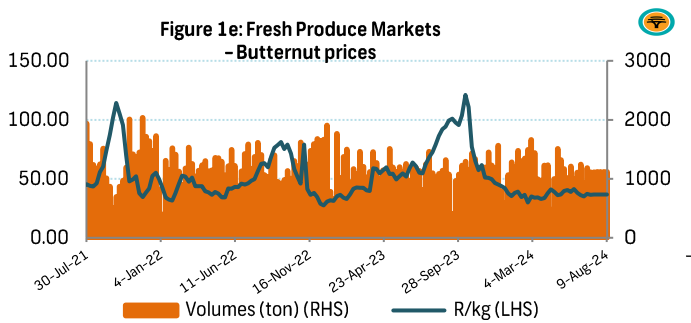
(Average 5 major markets – Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban)

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





Source: FNB AgriComms



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)

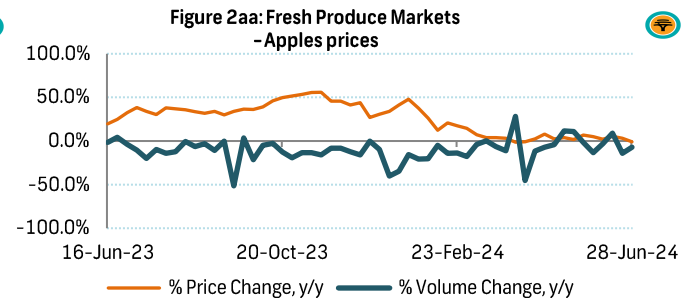
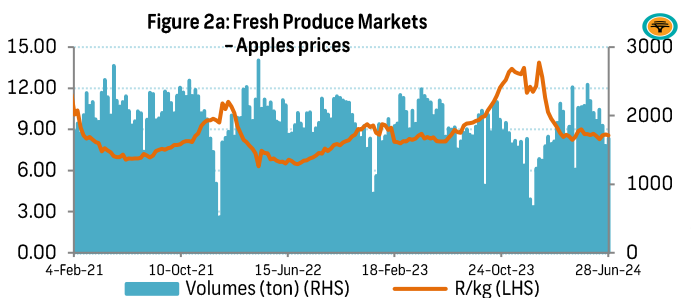
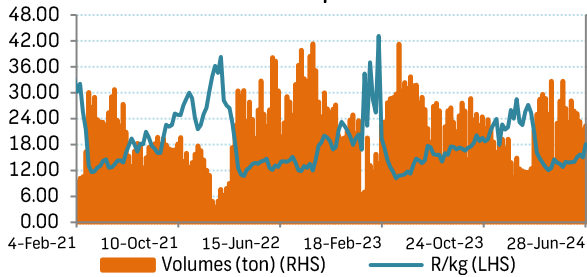
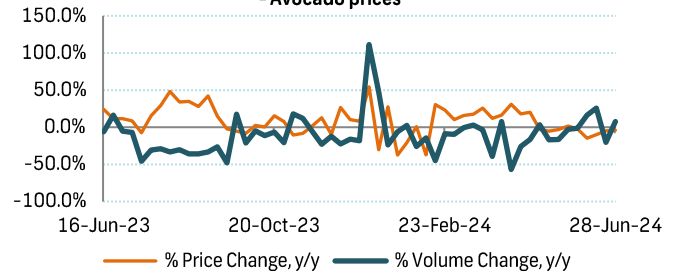
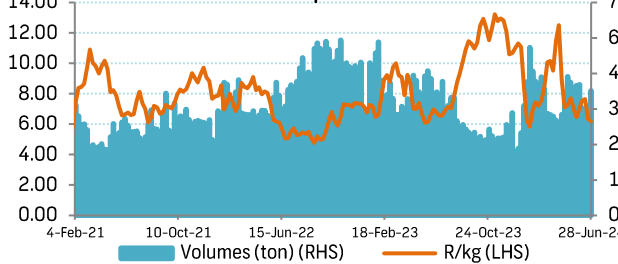
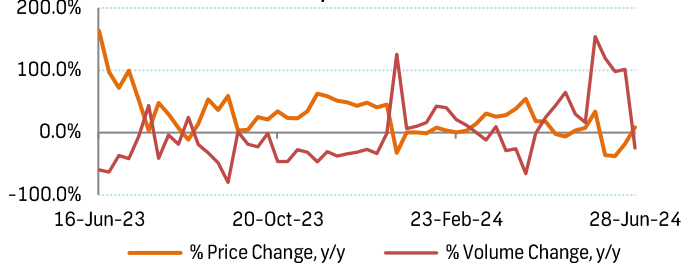
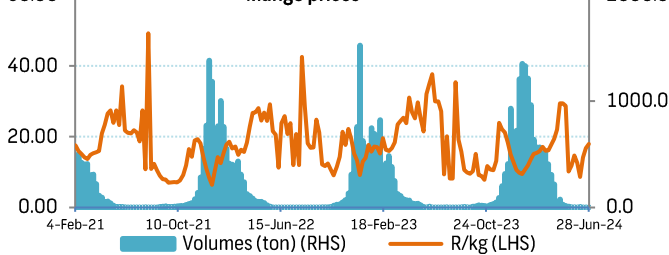
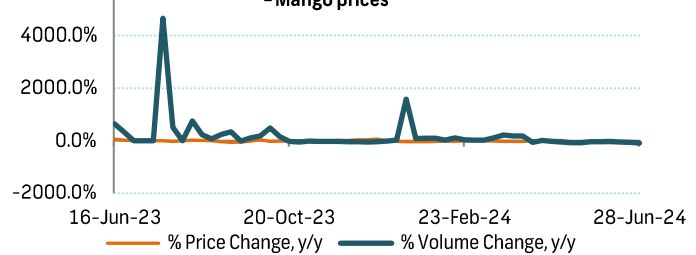
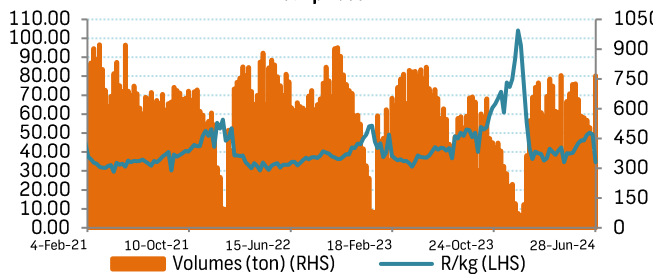
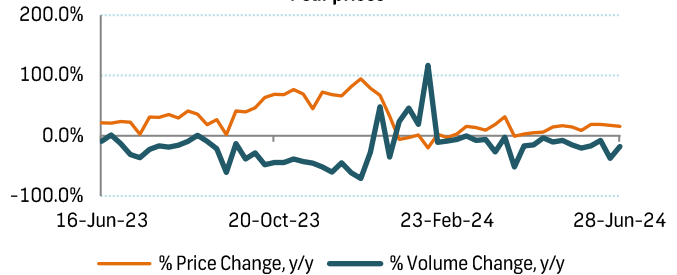
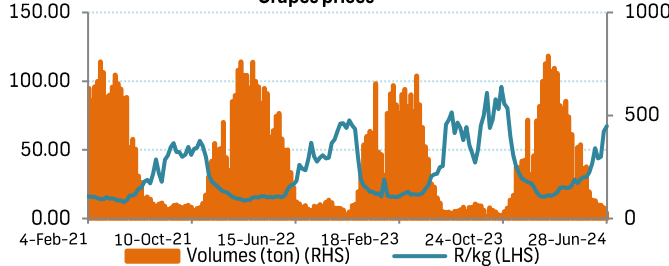
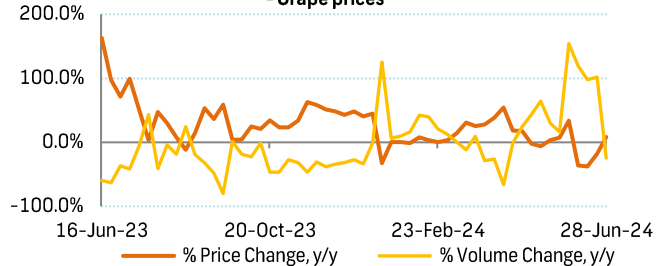


Figure 2b: Fresh Produce Markets
- Avocado pricesFigure 2ba: Fresh Produce Markets
- Avocado pricesFigure 2c: Fresh Produce Markets
- Banana pricesFigure 2ca: Fresh Produce Markets
- Banana prices

Source: FNB AgriComms

Figure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Mango pricesFigure 2da: Fresh Produce Markets
- Mango pricesFigure 2e: Fresh Produce Markets
- Pear pricesFigure 2ea: Fresh Produce Markets
- Pear pricesFigure 2d: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grapes pricesFigure 2da: Fresh Produce Markets
- Grape prices

Source: FNB AgriComms

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