

July 2022

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

This food price bulletin focuses on the second quarter of 2022, with data collected on food prices in different markets in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Similar to quarter I of 2022, logistical challenges made it difficult to collect systematic, timely data. In this quarter (April - June), fortnightly data were collected in April, while the majority of May data were collected at the end of the month (rather than fortnightly collection). No fresh food price data were collected in June, except in Kokopo and Kundiawa markets. In order to fill the data gap, this bulletin includes available price data collected in July for Goroka and Port Moresby.

This bulletin reports the average of monthly price data (except June due to missing data) from 5 main markets: Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka, Mt. Hagen, and Kokopo. FPDA is also collecting price data at Kundiawa and Banz markets which can be viewed and downloaded (along with the other market price data) at the [Food Price Analysis Website](#).

Food price analysis and capacity strengthening

In addition to price data collection and analysis, IFPRI and FPDA conducted a 2-day, [hands-on training](#) for FPDA staff and price collectors on May 24-25. The training reviewed analytical programs and analysis for food price survey design, data collection, evaluation and discussion on food price trends, price survey challenges, and food price data quality issues. Further information on the training is provided on page 5 of this bulletin.

SUMMARY

Users can download the data reported in this bulletin, as well as build graphs and tables of up-to-date price data of over 20 different food crops. The website link provides a user-friendly graphing and data visualization tool: <https://www.ifpri.org/project/fresh-food-price-analysis-papua-new-guinea>

Prices for important staples such as sweet potatoes, cassava, and taro were relatively stable throughout the second quarter of 2022

Comparing first and second quarter staple prices suggests a decreasing staple price trend from January through May

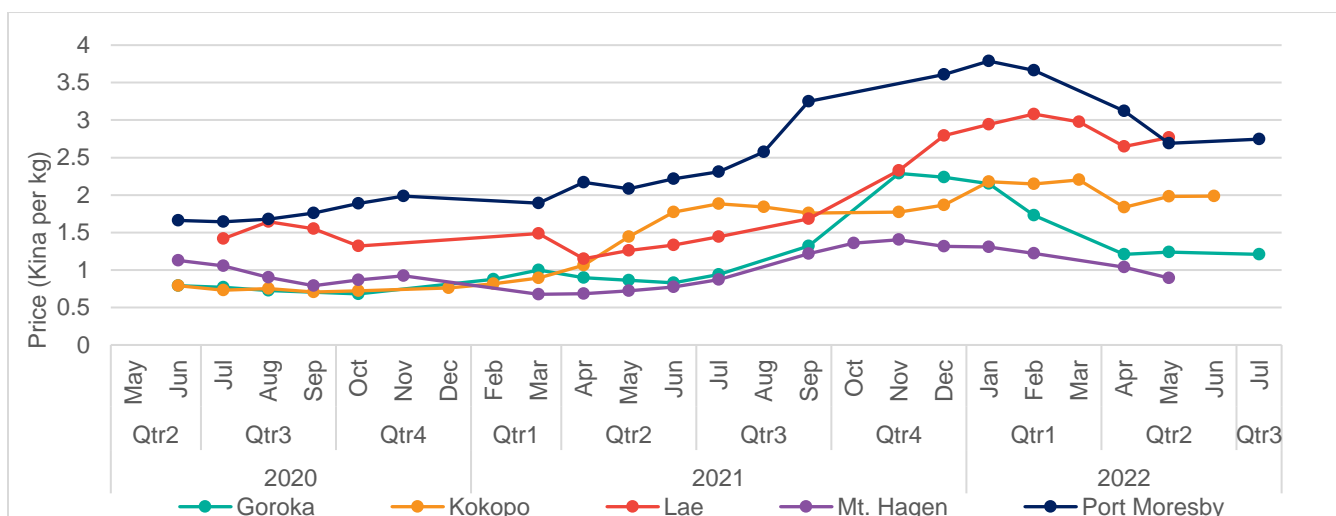
While the Russia / Ukraine crisis continues to affect global food prices, the average price of a 1 kg bag of rice remained stable across the country, with the exception of Port Moresby where a 1 kg bag of rice increased from 4.3 PGK/kg in February to 5.2 PGK/kg in July.

Compared to Goroka (highlands), the kg price of selected fresh vegetables in Lae (lowlands) was comparable.

Staple crop price trends in Quarter II

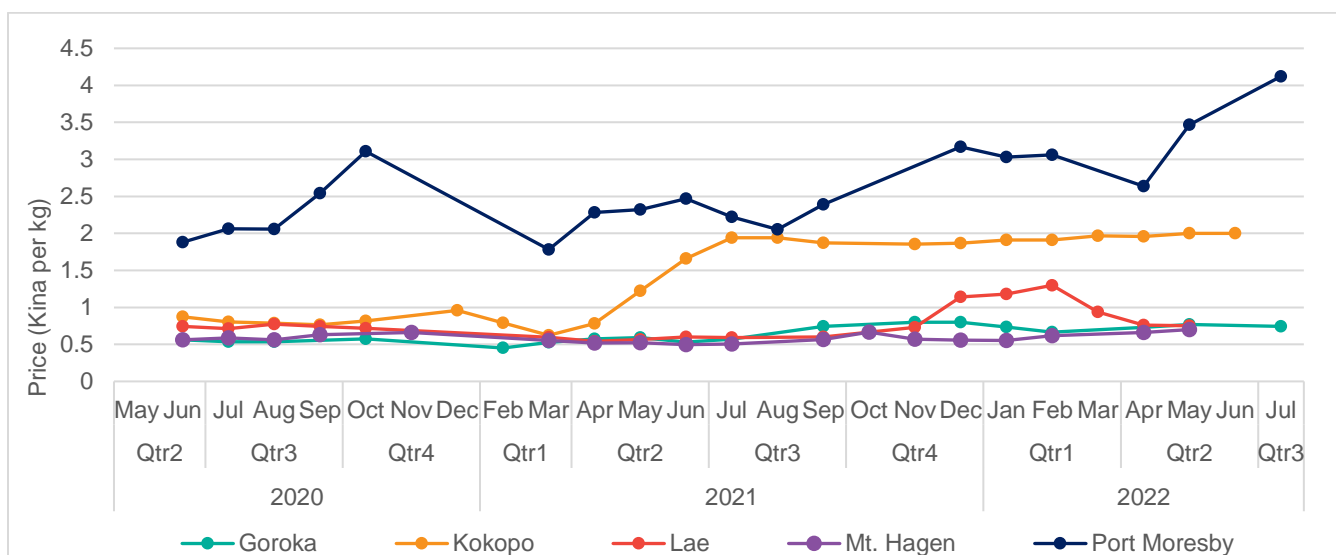
Prices for important staples such as sweet potatoes, cassava, and taro were relatively stable throughout the second quarter of 2022 (Figure 1 and 2). Port Moresby experienced a slight increase in the kg price for taro, while more dramatic price increases were reported for cassava in May and July (Figure 2). The price of sweet potato per kg decreased by about 42 percent in Goroka, from 2.15 PGK/kg to 1.24 PGK/kg from January to May, 2022. Price decreases were also experienced across other markets in PNG from January to May, including an average 29 percent drop in sweet potato in Port Moresby, from 3.8 PGK/kg in January to 2.69 PGK/kg in May (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Price of sweet potato across FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

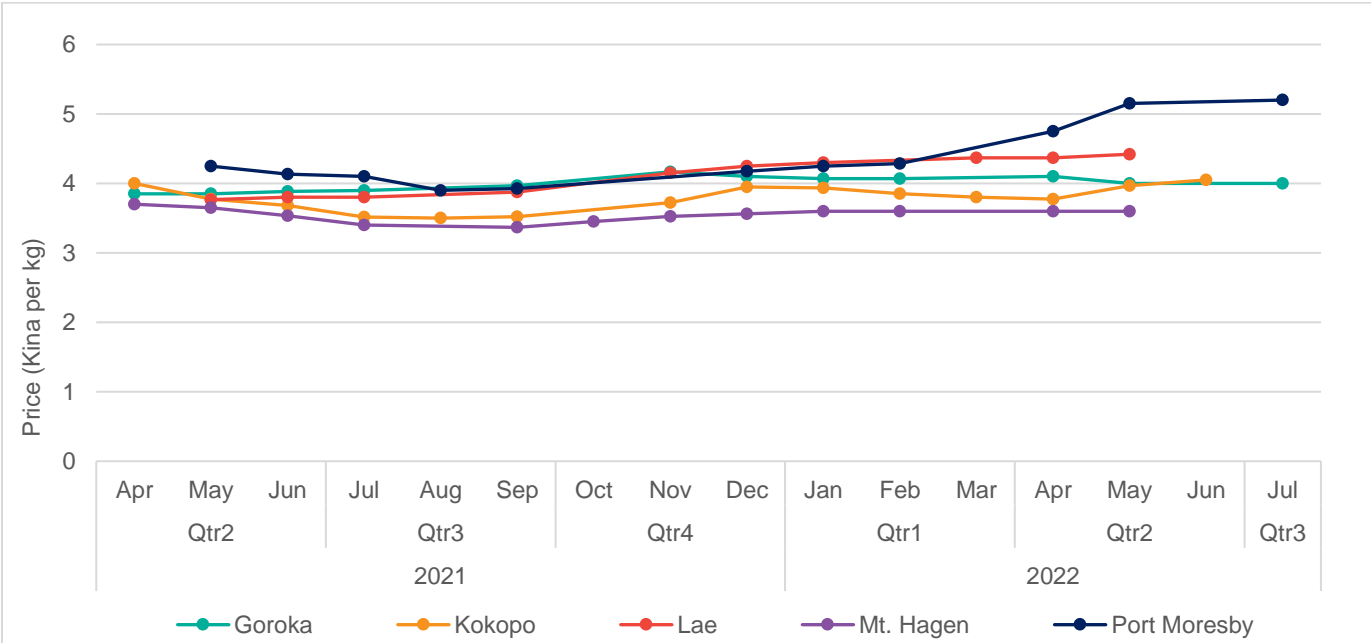
Figure 2: Price of cassava across FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

While the Russia / Ukraine crisis continues to shape global food prices, the average price of a 1 kg bag of rice remained relatively stable across the country (Figure 3). Ongoing, frequent data collection of imported rice prices should continue to be a priority in urban areas such as Lae and Port Moresby where a large share of the population depend on rice for a staple food (Schmidt et al., 2021). Port Moresby market price data suggest that the price of a 1 kg bag of rice increased from 4.3 PGK/kg in February to 5.2 PGK/kg in May and remained above 5 PGK/kg in July.

Figure 3: Rice price per kilo across 5 FPDA markets

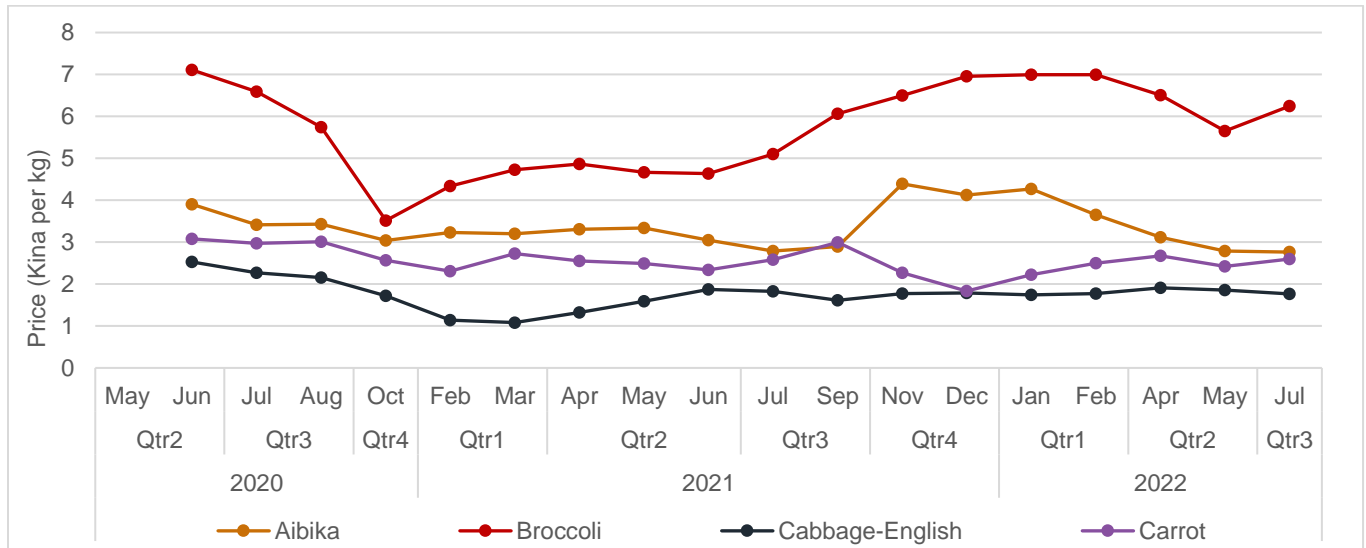


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Vitamin-dense food prices per market

Given that most fresh vegetables are grown domestically in PNG, price fluctuations in these vegetables are driven more by domestic production volume, and processing, logistics and transport costs. In Goroka, prices of vitamin-dense crops such as broccoli, aibika, carrots, and cabbage decreased slightly on average by 6 percent throughout the second quarter of 2022. Compared to other vitamin-dense crops, cabbage remains the least expensive vegetable per kg weight (Figure 4).

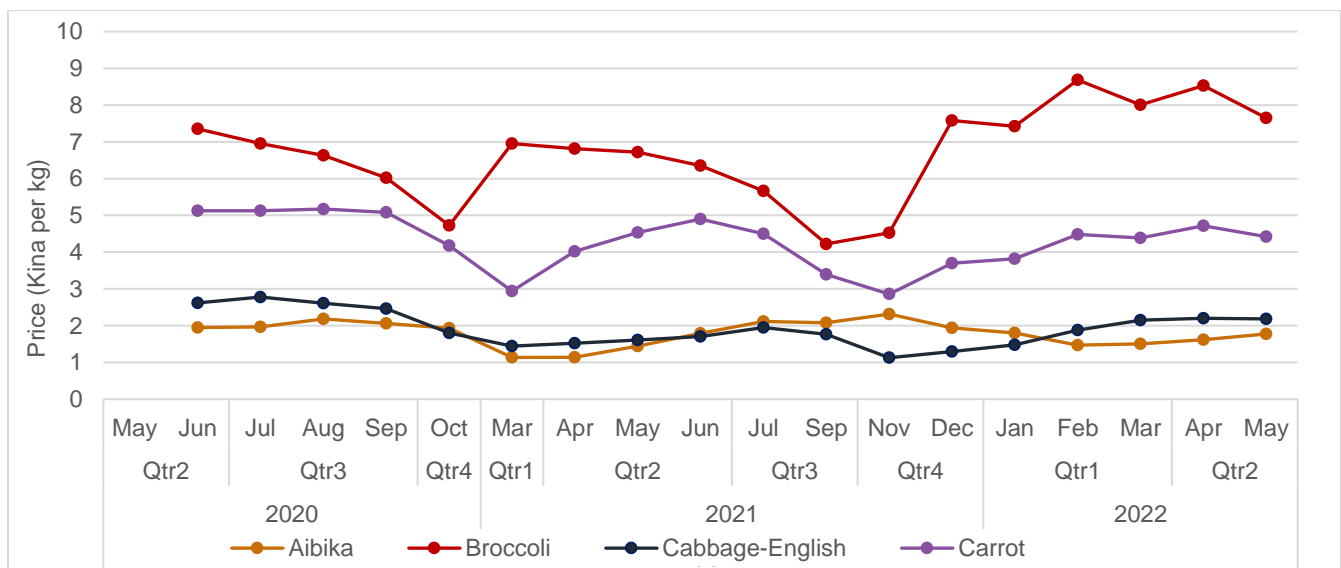
Figure 4: Select vitamin-dense food prices in Goroka market



Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Compared to Goroka (highlands), the kg price of selected fresh vegetables in Lae (lowlands) was comparable (Figure 4 and 5). Price differences in Goroka and Lae markets were primarily experienced in broccoli (which has demonstrated price volatility in Lae markets in past quarters), and carrot which cost on average approximately 4.4 PGK/kg in Lae market compared to 2.4 PGK/kg in Goroka market in May.

Figure 5: Select vitamin-dense food prices in Lae market



Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Capacity strengthening

As part of the FPDA and IFPRI collaborative effort, we developed a training aimed at strengthening capacity of food price collectors and FPDA analysts to conduct survey design, data collection, price analysis, and data and policy dissemination (Figure 6). The training also included in-depth conversation with data collectors to gain insights on the survey design and functionality, as well as discuss feedback on the analysis results and to improve data quality issues. The 2-day training session consisted of two parts: 1) an introduction to Kobo Toolbox focusing on building web-based interactive survey questionnaires as well as uploading and deploying web-based survey tools, and survey data collection techniques; and 2) an introduction to STATA software for food price data analysis. Approximately 20 participants from the FPDA and MVF-IFAD project traveled from Mt.Hagen, Kokopo, Port Morebsy, Kundiawa and Jikawa to gather in the Goroka-FPDA office. Participants communicated the need for ongoing training and greater hands-on training opportunities, and the IFPRI / FPDA team agreed to further continue similar training in the coming month when IFPRI will be visiting PNG.

Figure 6: Price data collection and analysis training

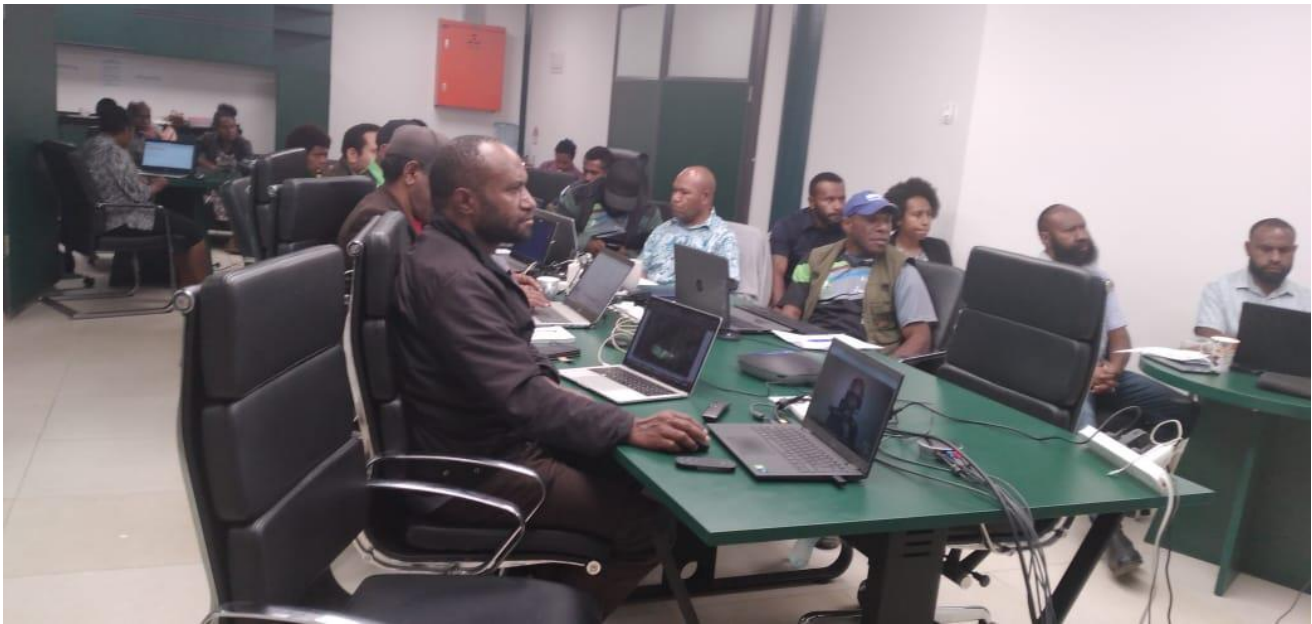


Photo credit: Glen Hayoge (FPDA)

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