

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

July 2023

In this bulletin, we present a comprehensive summary of food prices collected by the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) throughout the second quarter of the 2023 calendar year. During April and May, price data collection was carried out fortnightly across all markets. However, in June, logistical challenges disrupted the process, resulting in two observations of data collected in the last week of the month for all markets, except for Kokopo and Mt Hagen, where no data collection occurred in June. To access the complete and comprehensive price dataset, you can conveniently download it from our [website](#).

This bulletin reports the average monthly fresh food price data from Port Moresby, Lae, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Banz, and Kokopo markets.

Staple crop price trends in quarter 2 of 2023

During the second quarter of 2023, the nominal price of sweet potato decreased 19 percent across all markets, with the exception of Lae market, where the price rose by 30 percent between April and June. In a similar trend, taro prices decreased, on average, 5 percent between Q1 and Q2, except for the Lae and Banz markets, where the average price increased by 11 percent.

SUMMARY

Download time series food price data, and build graphs and tables for over 20 different food crops at our food price database webpage: <https://www.ifpri.org/project/fresh-food-price-analysis-papua-new-guinea>

Price trends in Q2, 2023

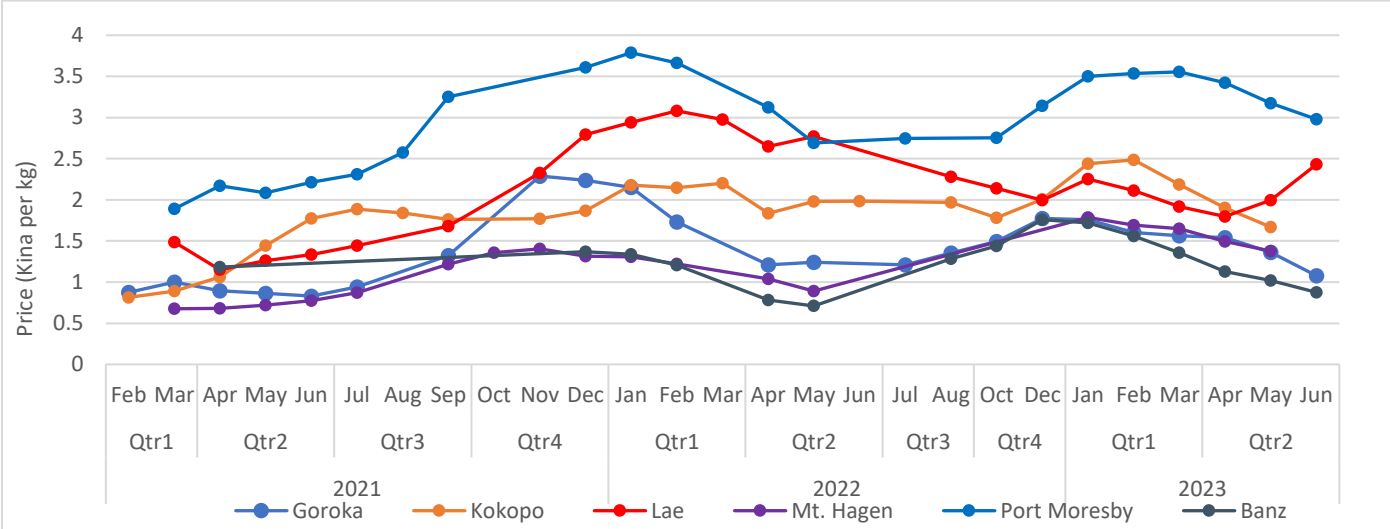
Staple Crops: Between Q1 and Q2, the price of sweet potato declined 19 percent (except in Lae, up 30 percent), taro decreased 5 percent (except Lae and Banz, up 11 percent), cassava fell 8 percent (except Goroka, up 17 percent), and cooking banana cooking decreased 14 percent (except Lae and Banz, up 16 and 5 percent, respectively).

Vitamin-dense foods: On average, vegetable (aibika, choko-tips, English cabbage, carrot, and capsicum) prices increased 15 percent between Q1 and Q2, except in Goroka, Kokopo, and Mt Hagen, where the price of aibika, English cabbage, and carrot decreased by 8 percent.

Fresh Fruits: Lemon and orange prices decreased 15 percent and 8 percent between Q1 and Q2, while ripe banana, watermelon, and pawpaw slightly increased by 4 percent. Compared to other markets, the price of oranges and lemons are expensive in Port Moresby at 11.5 PGK/kg and 7.6 PGK/kg, respectively. Banz, Mt Hagen, and Goroka experienced average price increases in ripe banana, pawpaw, and watermelon of 21, 14 and 21 percent, respectively.

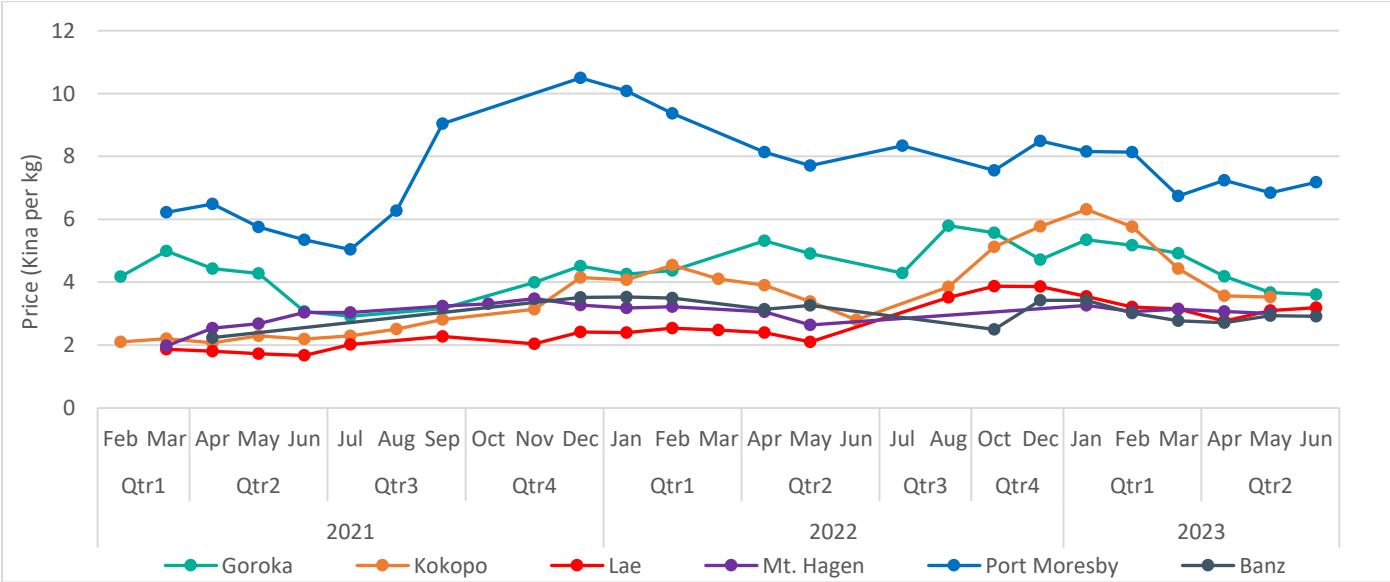
The price of Cassava decreased by an average of 8 percent in all markets, except in Goroka, where the price has increased by 17 percent, reaching 0.88 PGK per kilogram in June. During the second quarter of 2023, cooking banana prices varied across markets. On average, there was a 14 percent price decrease in all markets, except for Lae and Banz markets. Specifically, in Lae, cooking banana increased by 27 percent, setting a unit price at 3.3 PGK per kg, while in Banz market a moderate 5 percent increase was recorded resulting in 3.7 PGK per kg.

Figure 1: Nominal price of sweet potato across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



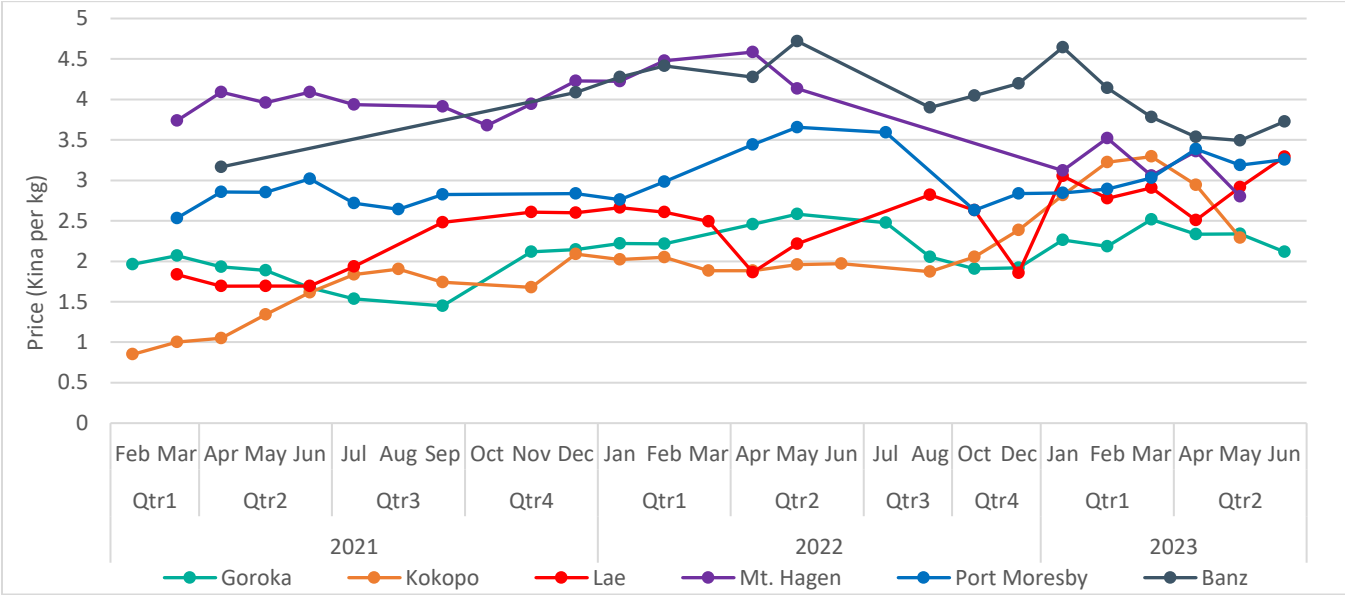
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 2: Nominal price of taro across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

Figure 3: Nominal price of banana-cooking across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)

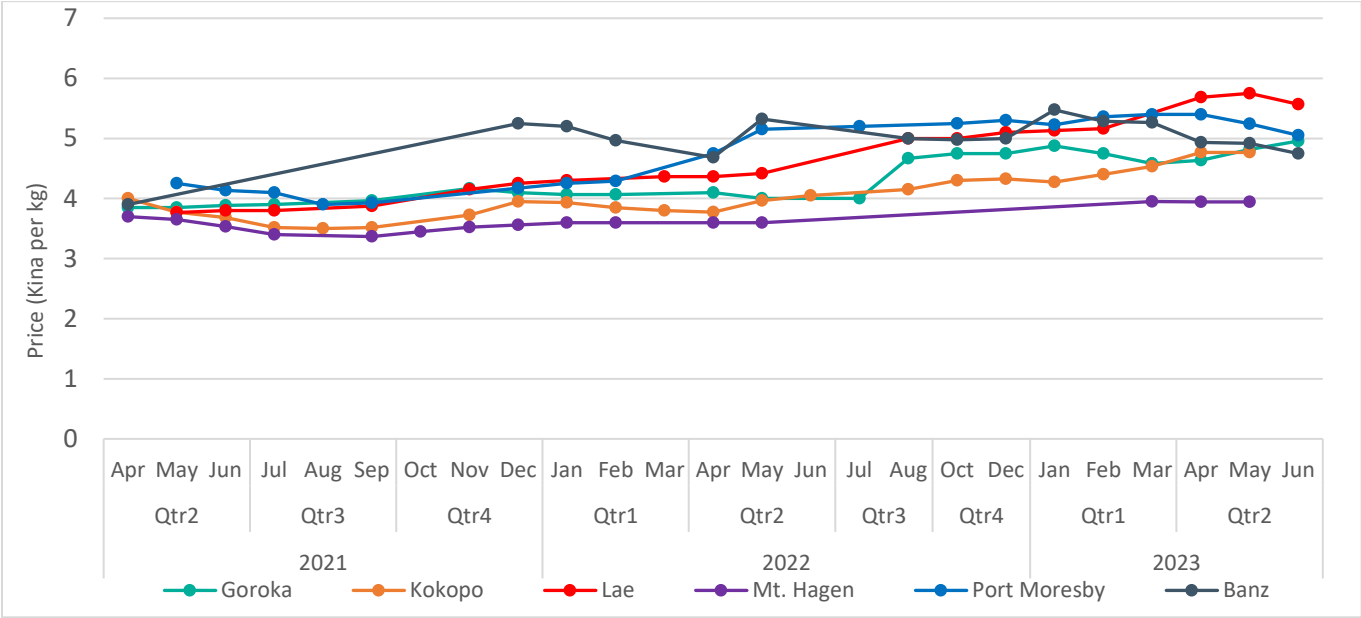


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Compared to the 1st quarter of 2023, the price of imported rice remained relatively stable across all markets. However, the rice price in Lae market has been consistently increasing (in real terms¹) since May of Q2 of 2022, from 4.96 PGK to 5.75 in May of 2023 (increasing approximately 16 percent). Similar (real) price increases of 1kg of rice were recorded in Kokopo (4.45 PGK to 4.77 PGK) and Goroka (4.49 PGK to 4.81 PGK) markets between May 2022 and May 2023, amounting to both 7 percent increase during the last year.

¹ We estimate 2023 real prices by calculating the average monthly food Consumer Price Index (CPI) reported by FAO given that the 2023 CPI has not been published to date.

Figure 4: Nominal price of rice (1 kilo bag) across 6 FPDA markets



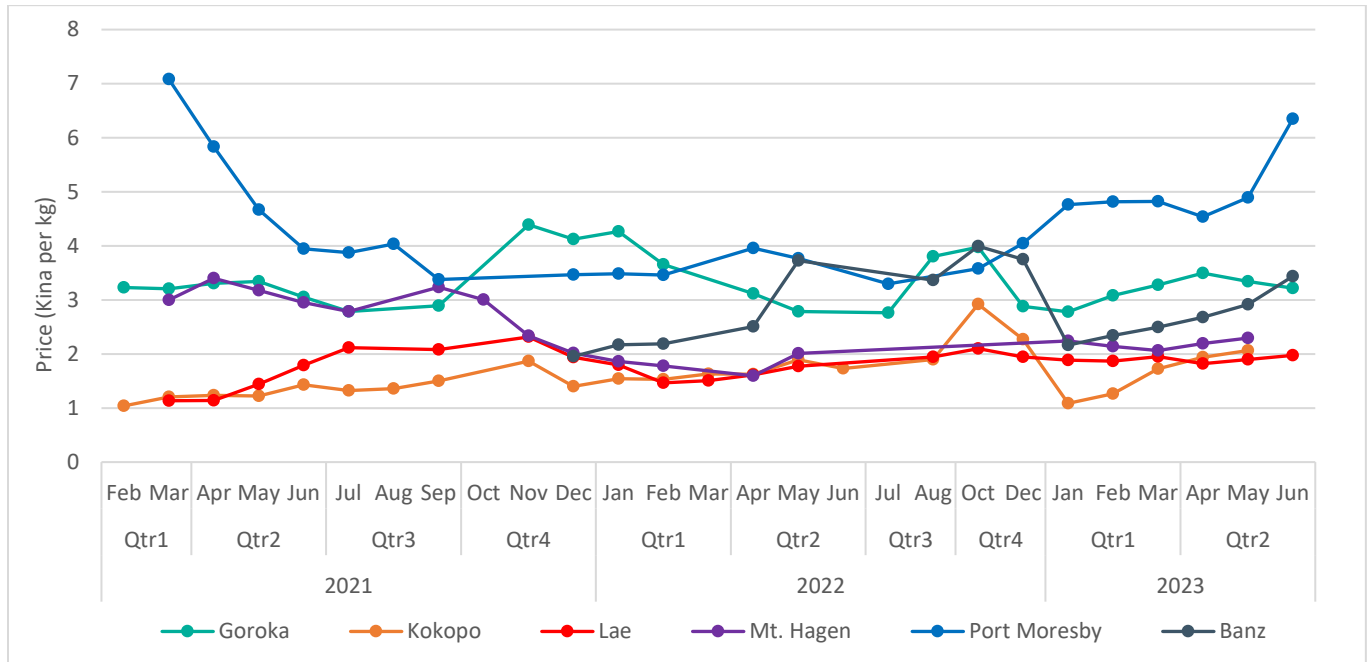
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Vitamin-dense food prices

The survey collects prices of various vitamin-rich vegetables. For this bulletin, we focus on a select few vegetables including aibika, choko-tips, English cabbage, carrot, and capsicum. On average, these vegetables experienced a 15 percent increase in prices across all markets, except for Goroka, Kokopo, and Mt Hagen. In these specific markets, prices of aibika, English cabbage, and carrot decreased 8 percent, respectively.

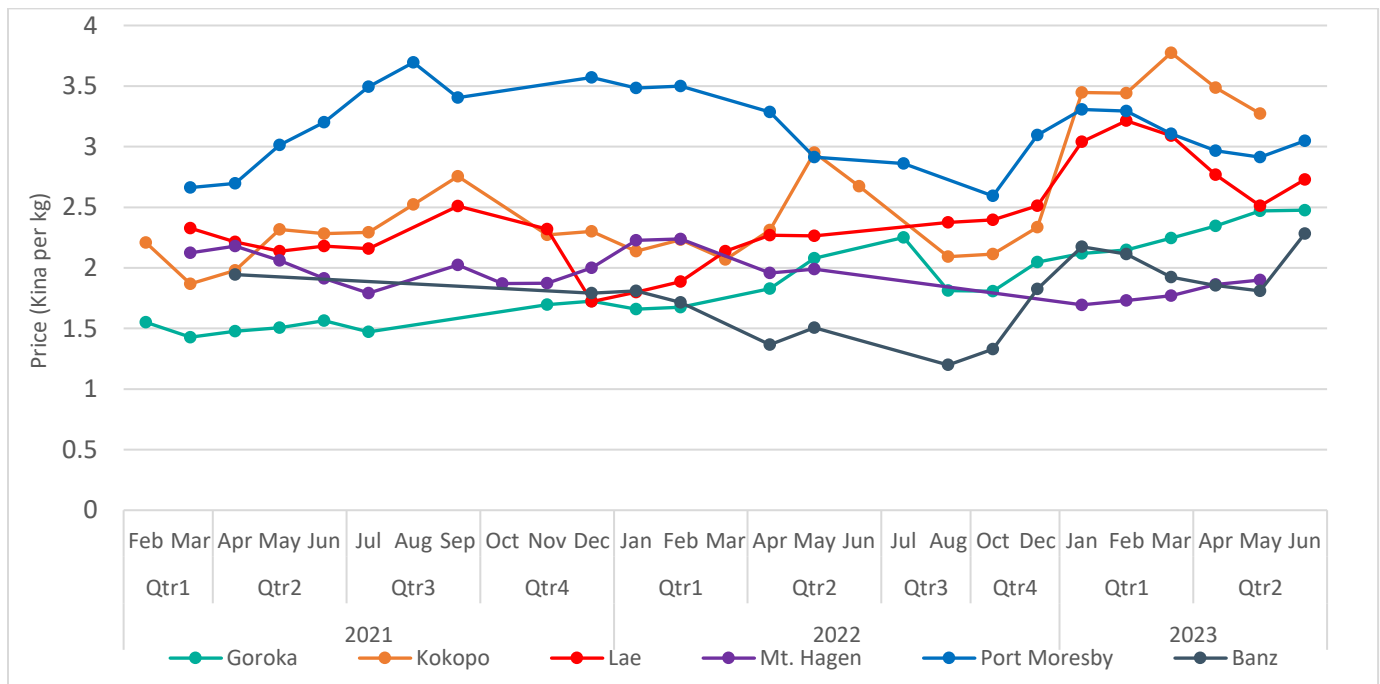
The unit prices of these vegetables in Port Moresby are, on average, 4 PGK higher compared to other markets, except for Kokopo, where the price per kilo of carrot is 11 PGK more expensive than any other market. The smallest and largest price differences between Port Moresby and the rest of the markets were observed in aibika and capsicum, with gaps of 2.3 PGK and 9 PGK, respectively.

Figure 5: Nominal price of aibika across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



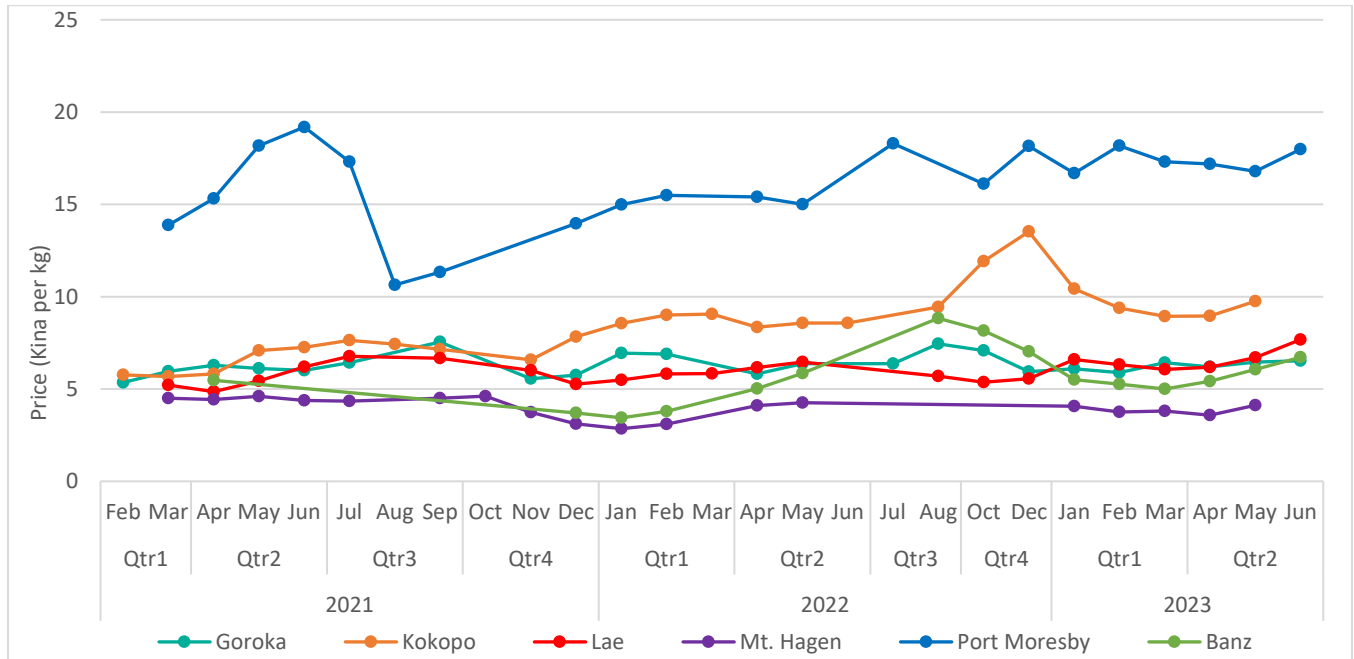
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 6: Nominal price of English cabbage across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



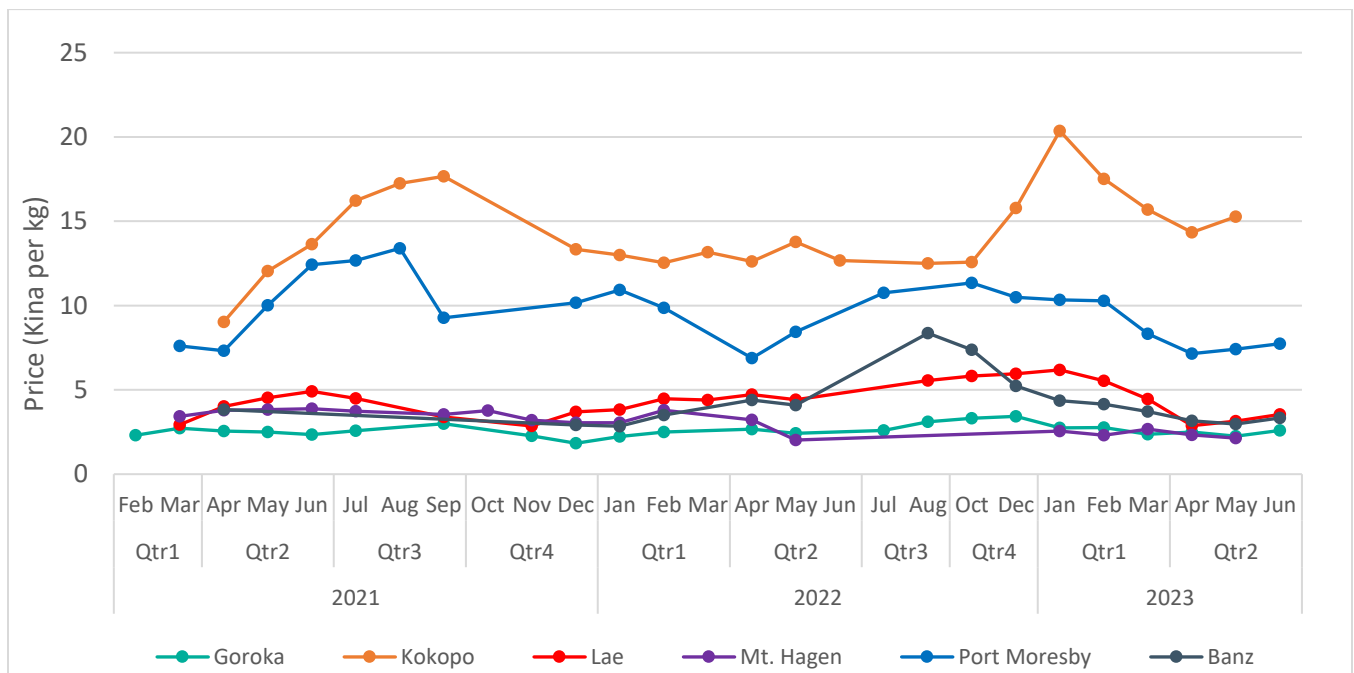
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 7: Nominal price of capsicum across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



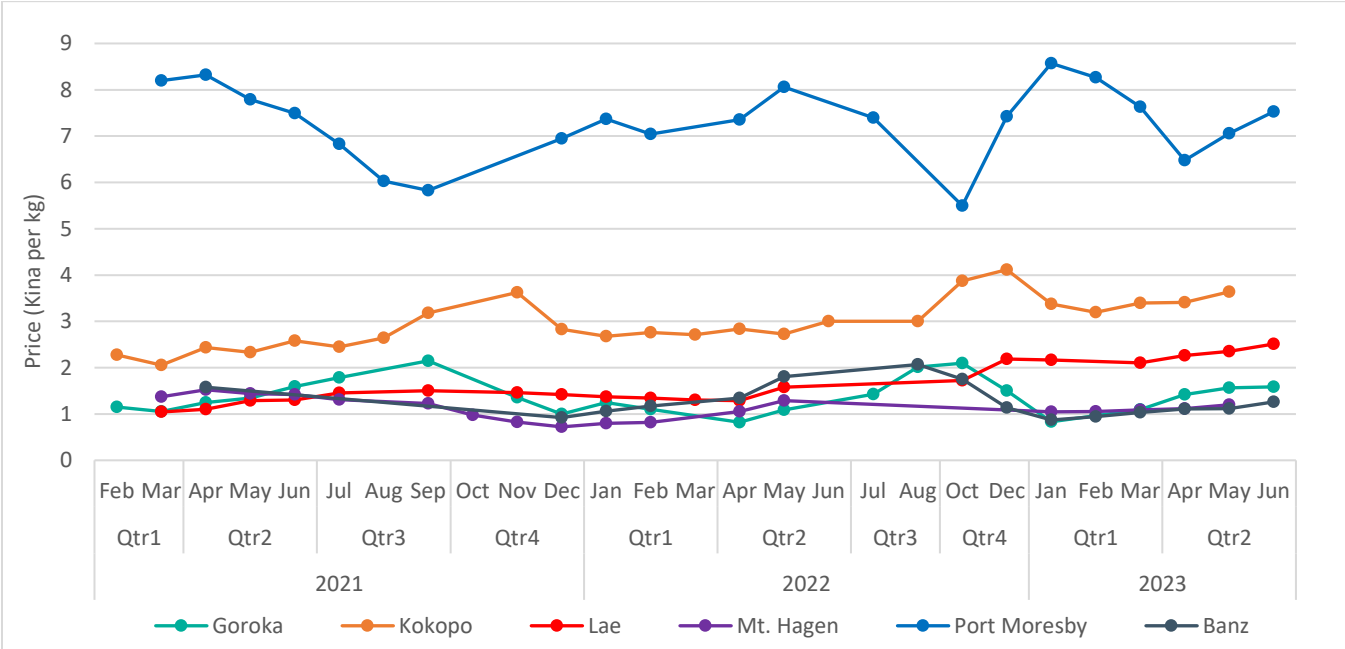
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 8: Nominal price of carrot across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

Figure 9: Nominal price of choko-tips across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



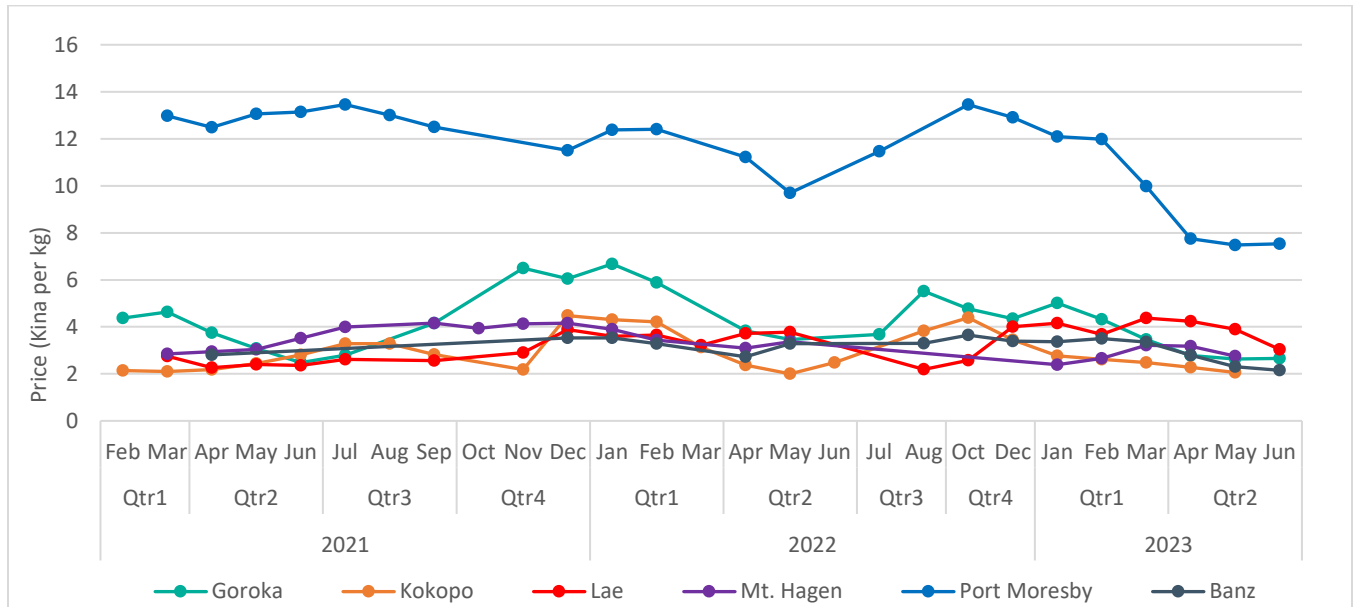
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Fresh fruit price trends

During the second quarter of 2023, a comparison between 1st and 2nd quarter prices of select fruits, including lemon, orange, pawpaw, ripe banana, and watermelon suggest a variation across markets and food items. This may follow seasonal growing patterns. Lemon and orange prices experienced a decrease of 15 percent and 8 percent, respectively, in all markets. Conversely, during the same period, the prices of ripe banana, watermelon, and pawpaw saw a slight increase. Compared to other markets, lemon and orange were less expensive in Kokopo at 2.2 PGK/kg and Banz markets at a unit price of 3.3 PGK/kg, respectively. In Port Moresby, oranges and lemons were comparatively higher at 11.5 PGK/kg and 7.6 PGK/kg, respectively (Figure 10 & 11).

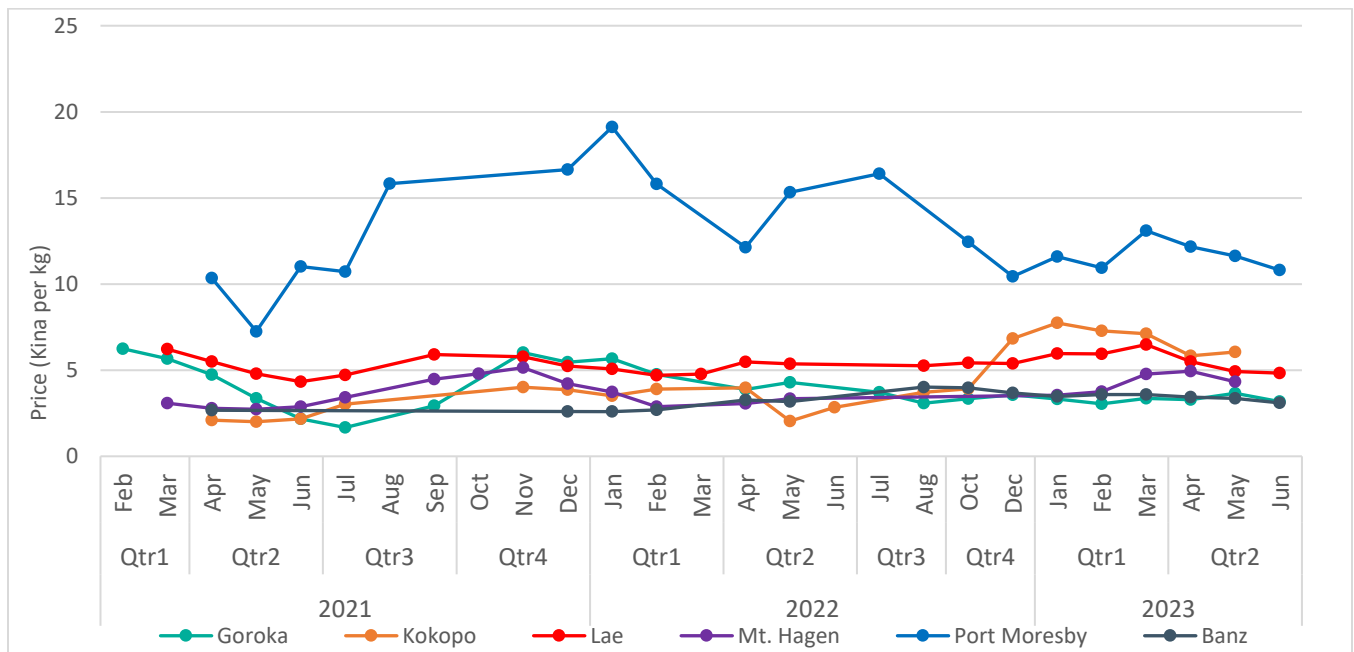
During the 2nd quarter, the most significant price increases for ripe banana, pawpaw, and watermelon were observed in Banz, Mt Hagen , and Goroka, which rose by 21 percent, 14 percent (also in Lae), and 21 percent, respectively, from Q1 prices (Figure 12, 13 and 14).

Figure 10: Nominal price of lemon across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



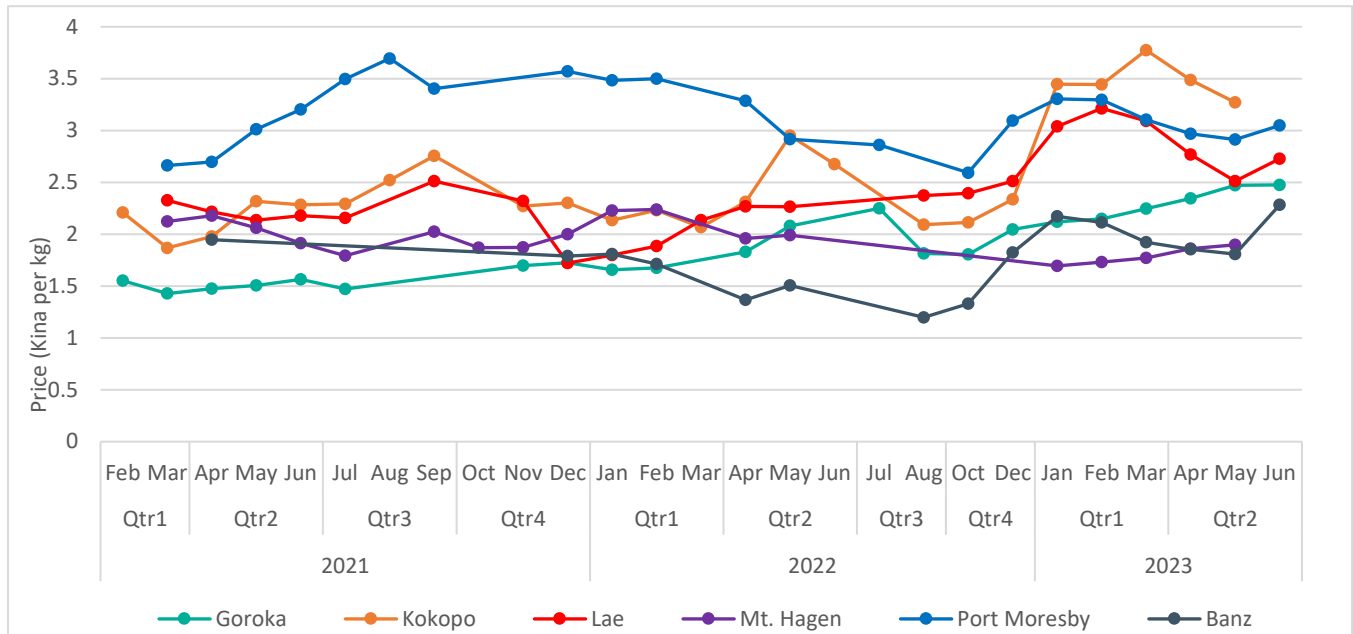
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 11: Nominal price of orange across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



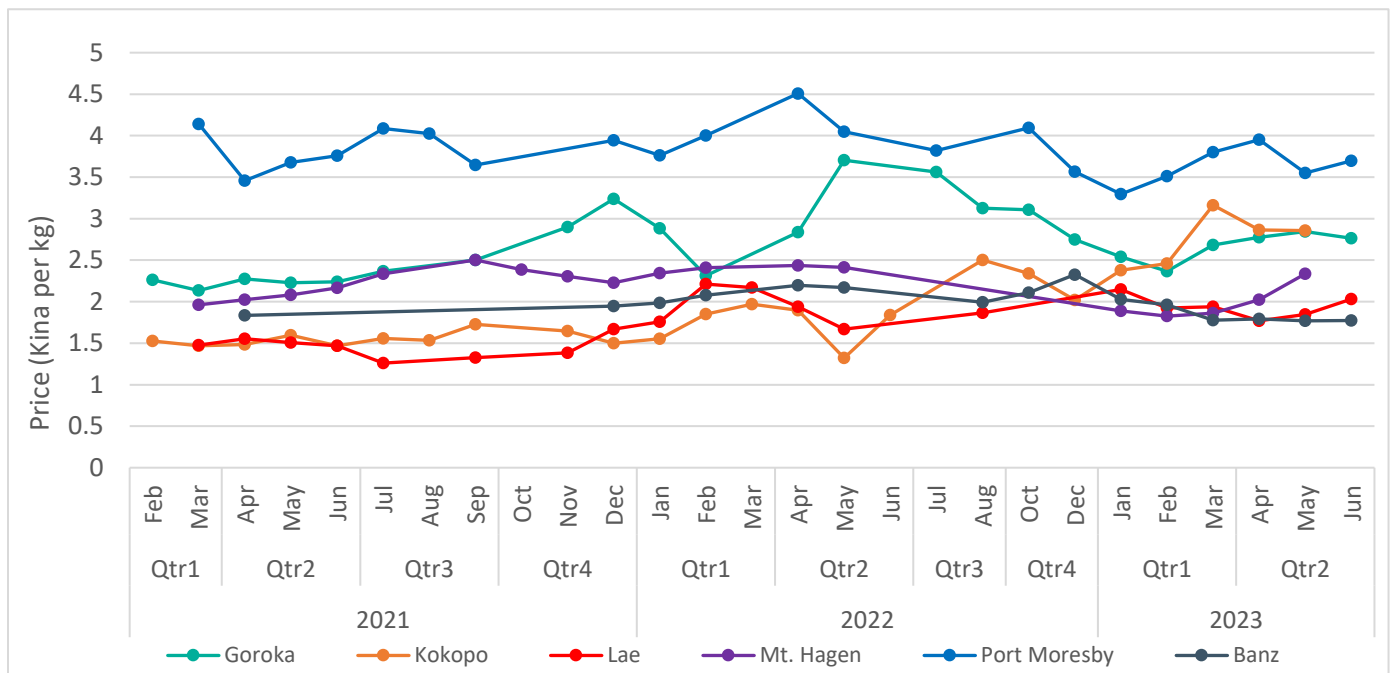
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 12: Nominal price of ripe banana across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



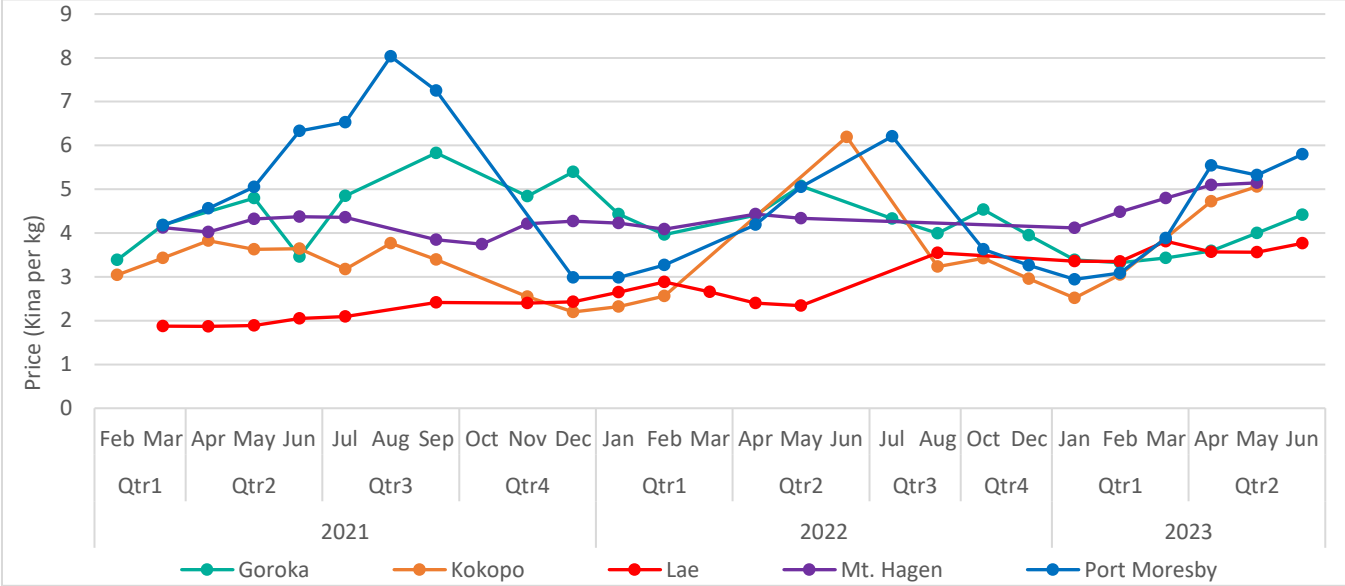
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 13: Nominal price of pawpaw across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

Figure 14: Nominal price of watermelon across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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