

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

April 2026

This bulletin reports on food price trends from major markets in Papua New Guinea (PNG), for the first quarter (Q1) of 2026 using the data collected by Fresh Produce Development Authority (FPDA). During the first quarter, at least one round of data per month was collected from all markets, except for Port Moresby in February (no data). In March, Banz and Port Moresby had two rounds each, while all other markets had one round.

This report analyzes month-over-month changes in Q1 2026 (January to March) and compares prices with the previous quarter (Q4 2025: October to December) and the same period in 2025 (Q1 2025). Prices are reported in real PGK per kilogram (i.e., adjusted for inflation using the FAO Consumer Food Price Index (PCI) and price gaps from July 2025 to March 2026 filled using a growth rate calculated from quarterly PCI data provided by the PNG National Statistical Office (June and September 2025)). This bulletin focuses on selected staples (sweet potato, taro, cassava, cooking banana and rice), vegetables (aibika, English cabbage, capsicum, carrot, and choko-tips) and fruits (lemon, orange, pawpaw and pineapple). For longer time series data and interactive tools, visit the [IFPRI](#) website to create graphs, compare prices and commodities, and download food price data [here](#).

Staple crop price trends ¹

In Q1 2026 (January - March), staple foods including sweet potato, taro, true, cassava and cooking banana showed mixed price trends across markets. On average, sweet potato and cassava showed modest

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

Staple crops: Compared to Q1 of 2025, average sweet potato prices in 2026 were about 11.2 percent higher than Q1 2025. Cassava price averaged 1.09 PGK/kg, moderately higher (4.4 higher) than Q1 2025.

Rice: Remained stable. Average price of a 1kg bag of rice across the country: 4.26 PGK/kg

- Lae highest price: 4.44 PGK/kg,
- Mt Hagen lowest price: 4.05 PGK/kg

Vegetable: Compared to Q4 2025, vegetables were 12 percent higher, driven mainly by aibika (22 percent increase) and English cabbage (15 percent increase). Carrot increased sharply in Mt Hagen (32 percent) but declined in Port Moresby and Goroka, reaching a peak of 17.76 PGK/kg in Kokopo.

Fruit: Compared to Q4 2025, fruit prices in Q1 of 2026 were 2.6 percent lower overall, however regional differences exist with Lae prices recording 18 percent higher. On average, across the country, orange prices increased by 11.2 percent (Lae 46 percent, Mt Hagen 30 percent).

¹ According to enumerator observations, price hikes in Goroka during February and March were driven by low supply of taro, sweet potato, and broccoli, as well as disruptions caused by the relocation of the wholesale section, while in Port Moresby, price fluctuations for capsicum, lemon, orange, and tomato were attributed to airfreighted supplies and normal supply variability.

increases of 8 percent (with higher increases in Goroka) between January and March 2026. Sweet potato in Goroka rose by 40.9 percent (from 1.21 PGK/kg to 1.71 PGK/kg) over the same period. Taro true and cooking banana, on average, increased slightly over the quarter (3.5 percent). Looking at individual markets, the price of cassava in Lae increased by 51.5 percent - from 0.66 PGK/kg in January to 0.99 PGK/kg in March.

Compared to the previous quarter, Q4 2025 (October-December), average prices of staples across the country remained relatively stable. Compared to Q1 of 2025, sweet potato prices in 2026 averaged 1.61 PGK /kg across the country (range: 0.86 PGK/kg in Mt Hagen to 2.89 PGK/kg in Port Moresby), about 11.2 percent higher than Q1 2025. Cassava price averaged 1.09 PGK/kg, moderately higher (4.4 higher) than Q1 2025. Average cooking banana price in Q1 of 2026 was 12 percent higher than the same period in Q1 2025 (Table 1 and Figures 1-4).

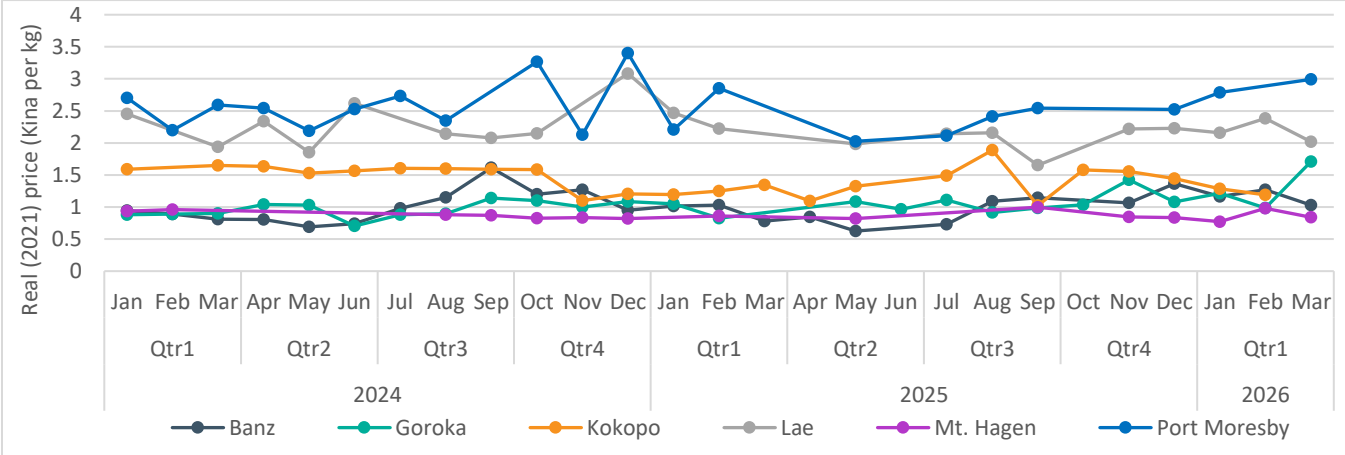
Table 1: Average prices and price changes of staple foods, Q1 2026

Commodity	Q1 2026 Average Price			Price Range by Market (PGK/kg)
	(PGK/kg)	QoQ Change	YoY Change	
Sweet Potato	1.61	0.30%	11.20%	0.86–2.89
Taro (True)	3.51	6.20%	-0.40%	2.37–6.78
Cassava	1.09	-4.90%	4.40%	0.70–2.44
Cooking Banana	2.33	-11.00%	12.20%	1.25–3.18

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

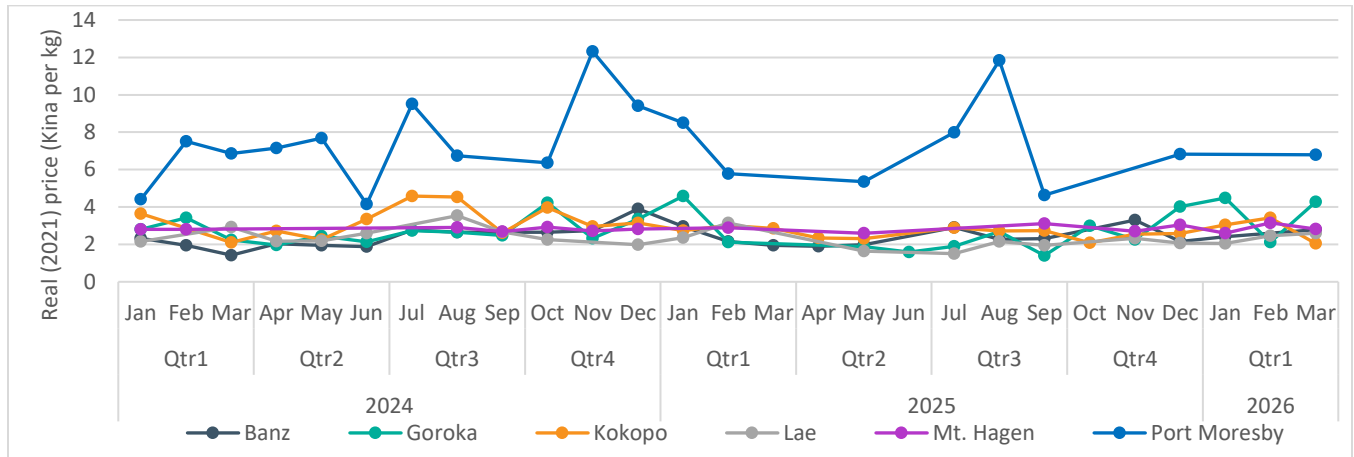
Notes: Q1 2026 = January–March 2026; PGK = Papua New Guinea Kina; Quarter-over-Quarter (QoQ) = change from previous quarter (Q4 2025); Year-over-Year (YoY) = change from same quarter last year (Q1 2025)

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



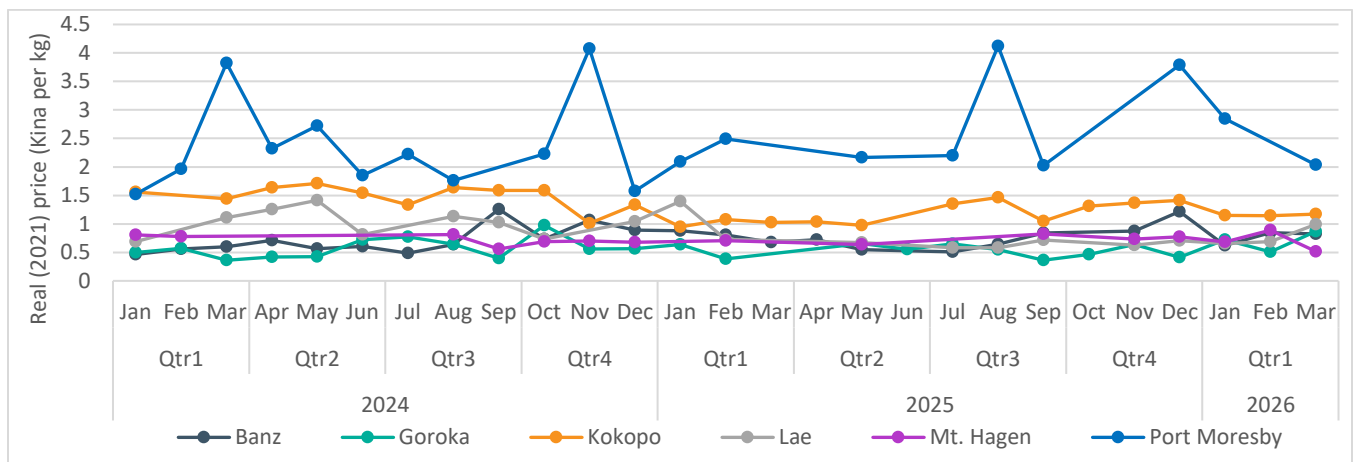
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



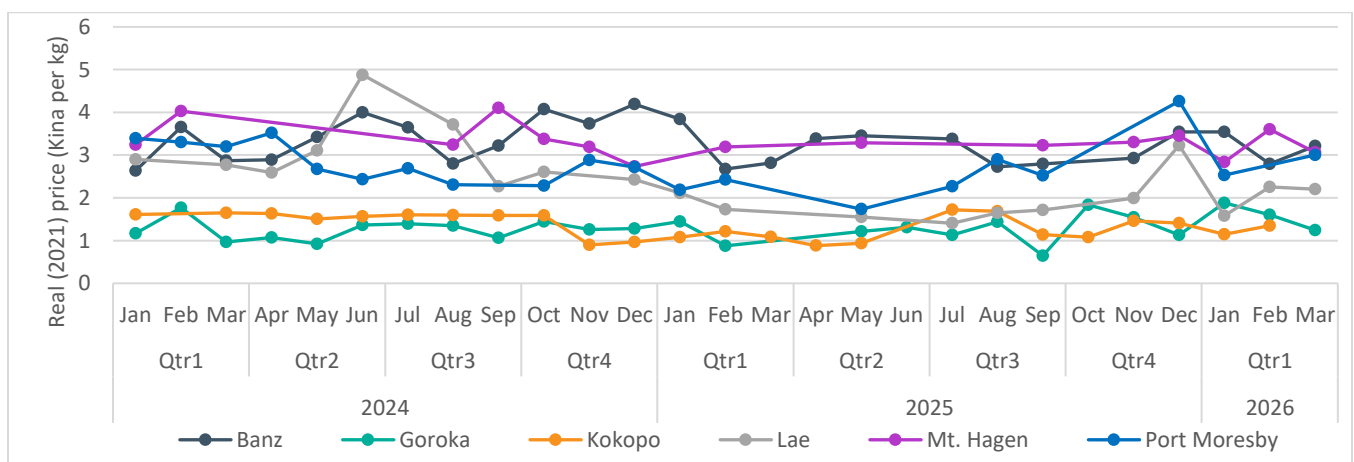
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 3: Real price of cassava across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

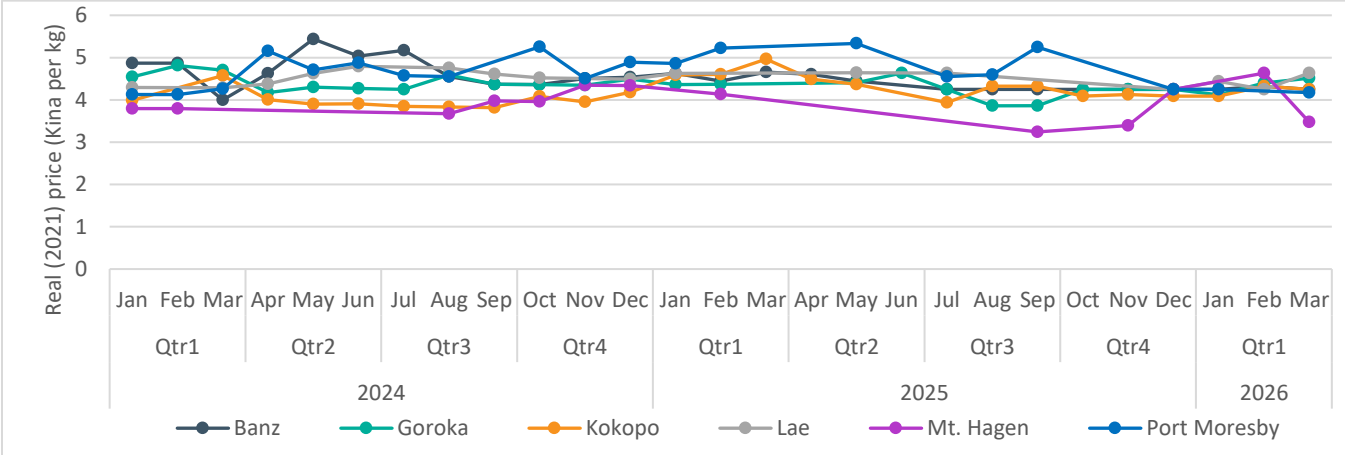
Figure 4: Real price of cooking banana across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

In Q1 2026, the average price of a 1kg bag of rice remained stable across all markets, with the exception of Mt Hagen, where the highest monthly (4.63 PGK/kg in February 2026) and lowest monthly (3.47 PGK/kg in March 2026) prices were recorded. Across all markets, the Q1 2026 average price was 4.26 PGK/kg, with Lae recording the highest quarterly price (4.44 PGK/kg) and Mt Hagen the lowest (4.05 PGK/kg). Compared to Q4 2025, the changes ranged from a slight decline of 0.9 percent in Port Moresby to a 6 percent increase in Mt Hagen. (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Real price of rice (1 kilo bag) across 6 FPDA markets



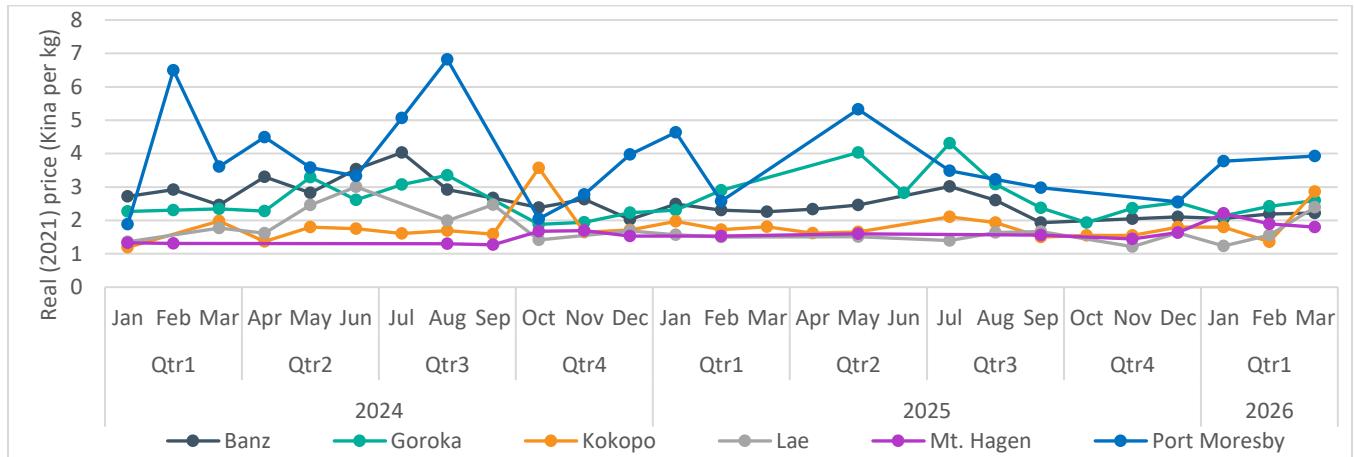
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Vitamin-dense food prices

Between January and March 2026, vegetable prices including aibika, English cabbage, capsicum, carrot and choko-tips generally increased by an average by 13.5 percent (Figure 6-10). Aibika recorded the highest increase of 28.1 percent, driven by price increases in Lae (95 percent) and Kokopo (59 percent). While the average price increase of English cabbage was 15.3 percent across the country, Lae recorded a 59 percent increase in cabbage between January and March 2026.

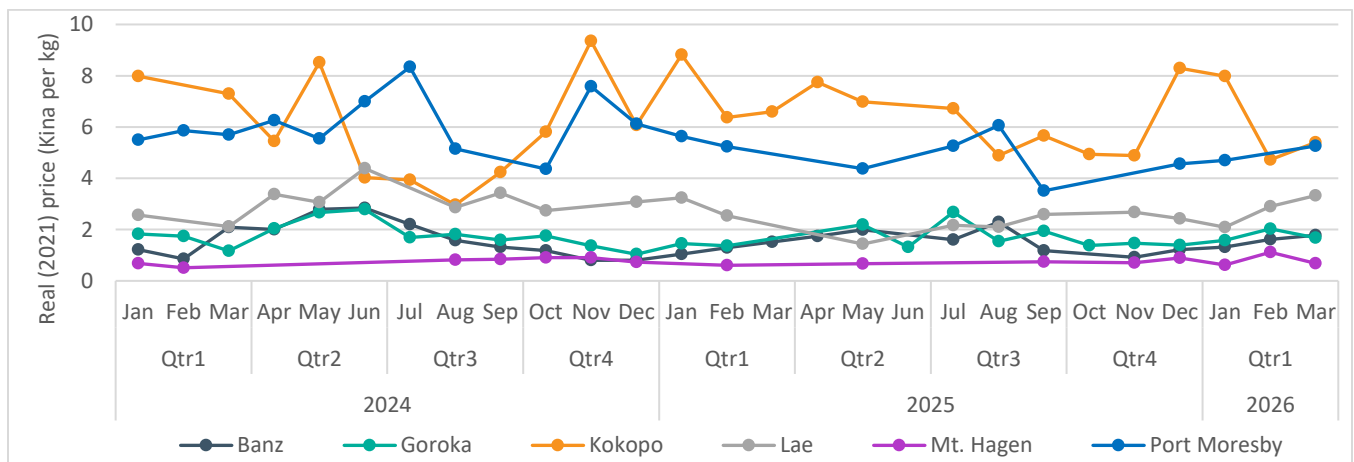
Compared to Q4 2025, vegetable prices in Q1 2026 were on average 12 percent higher. Capsicum and choko-tips both increased by 12.8 percent on average between the two quarters. Carrot remained relatively stable, despite a 32 percent increase in Mt Hagen (from 1.46 to 1.93 PGK/kg between Q4 2025 and Q1 2026) while Port Moresby and Goroka recorded a significant average decline (24 percent) in the price of carrots between the 2 quarters (Figure 6-10).

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



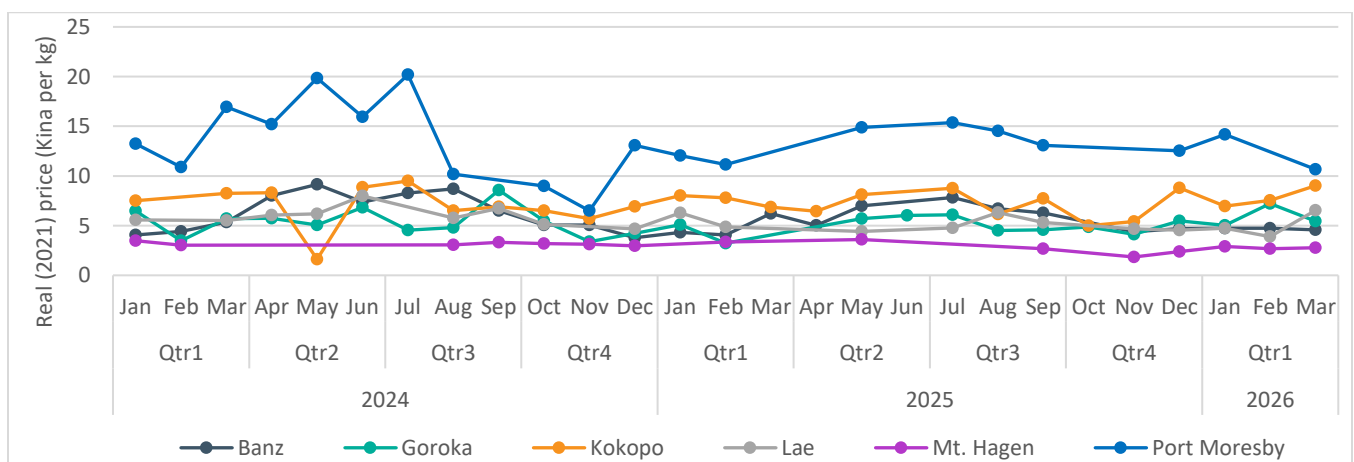
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 7: Real price of English cabbage across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



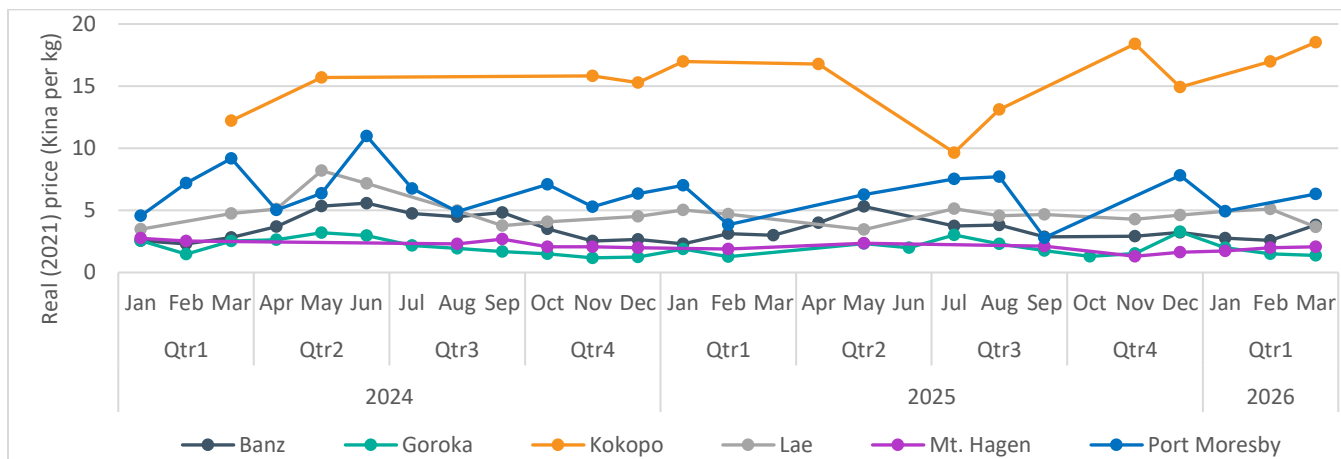
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 8: Real price of capsicum across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



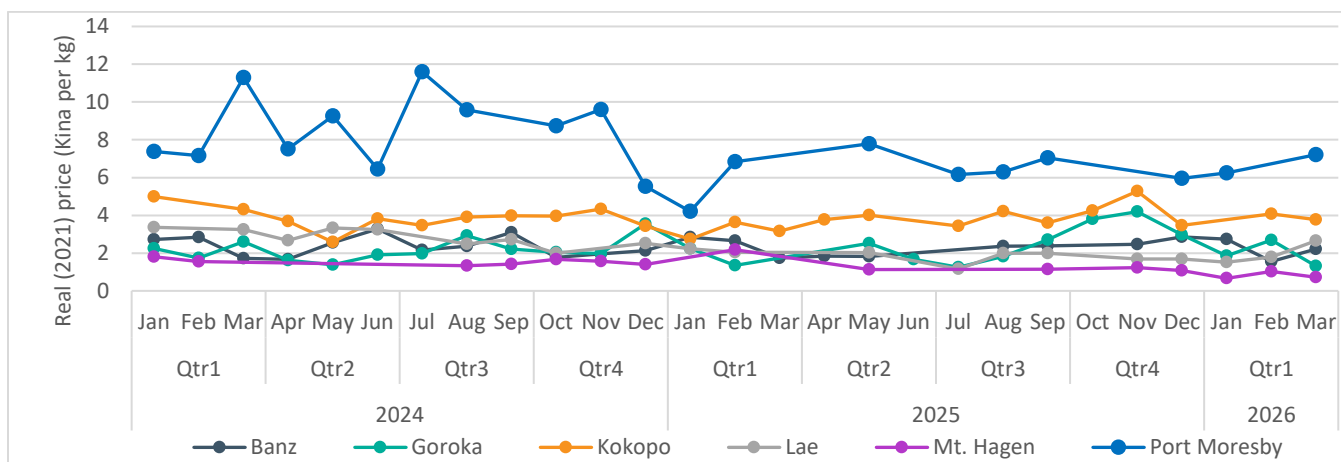
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 9: Real price of carrot across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

Figure 10: Real price of choko-tips across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



Source: FPDA market retail price database. *Note: The recorded price of choko-tips for December 2024 was replaced with the 3-month average given the originally collected value was more than 2 times previous and future values. This may be due to limited supply at the market or data collection error.

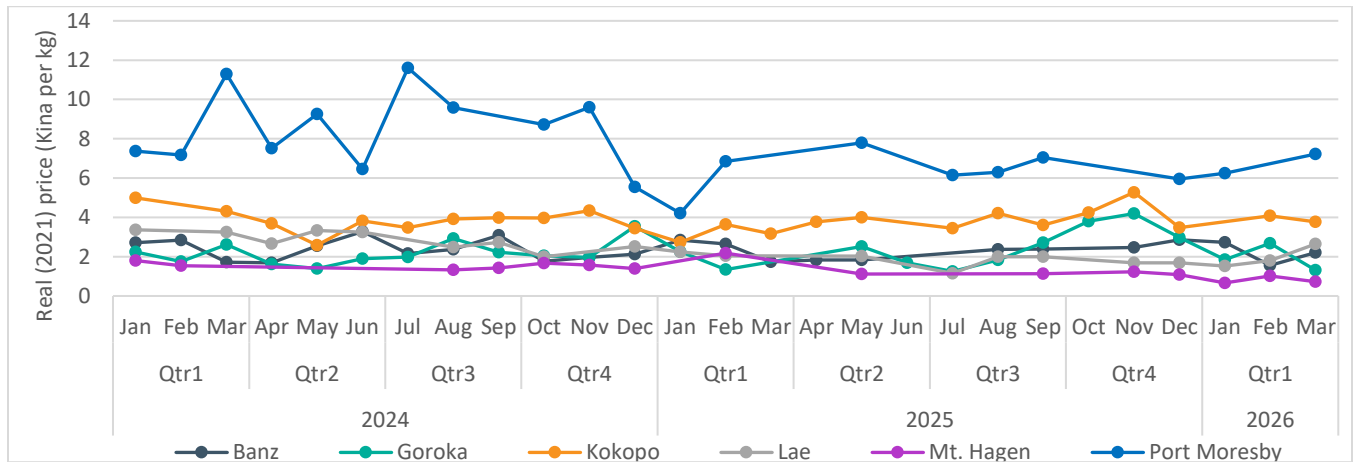
Fresh fruit price trends

Between January and March 2026, fruits prices (lemon, orange, pawpaw and pineapple) showed mixed month-over-month trends, with a small overall average increase of 1.4 percent. Orange recorded the highest increase (11.2 percent), mainly due to a sharp rise in Lae (45.8 percent) and Mt Hagen (29.9 percent). Average lemon prices across the country also increased by 10.2 percent, largely due to 73.8 percent increase in Lae. In Goroka, pineapple prices increased by 41.7 percent, while pawpaw declined by 43 percent during the 1st quarter of 2026.

Compared to Q4 2025, the average price of fruit in Q1 2026 was slightly lower by 2.6 percent. Year-on-year (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025), fruit prices were on average 2.4 percent lower in 2026 with 13.4 percent decline in Lae. Orange prices were 24.4 percent lower in Banz and Goroka, while in the other markets orange prices increased on average

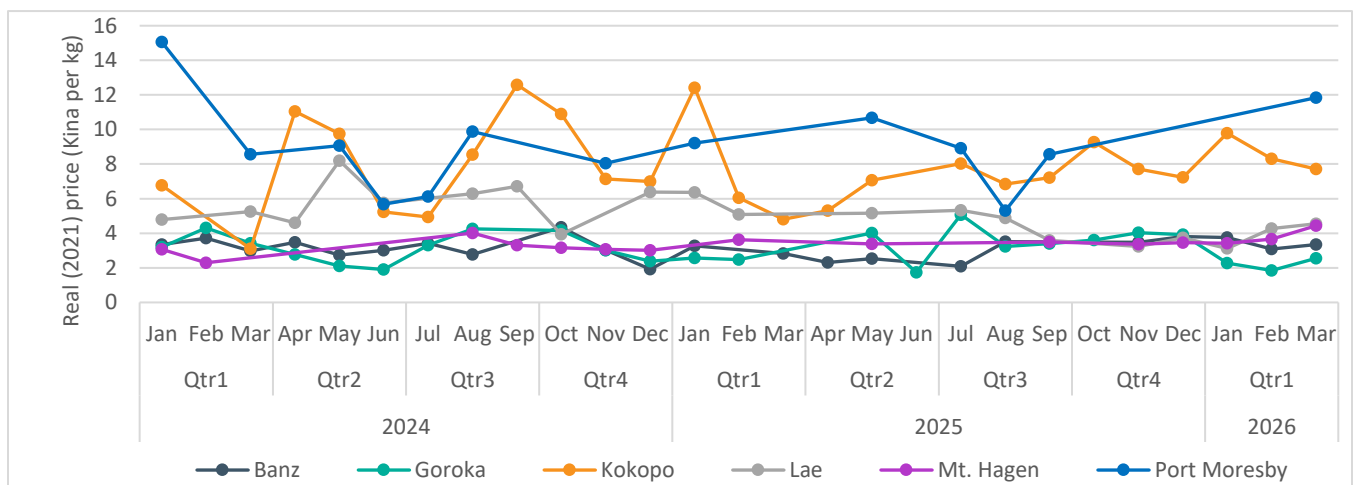
by 11 percent compared to Q4 2025. During the same period, prices of pawpaw and pineapple in Kokopo were lower by 17.1 percent (Figure 11-14).

Figure 11: Real price of lemon across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



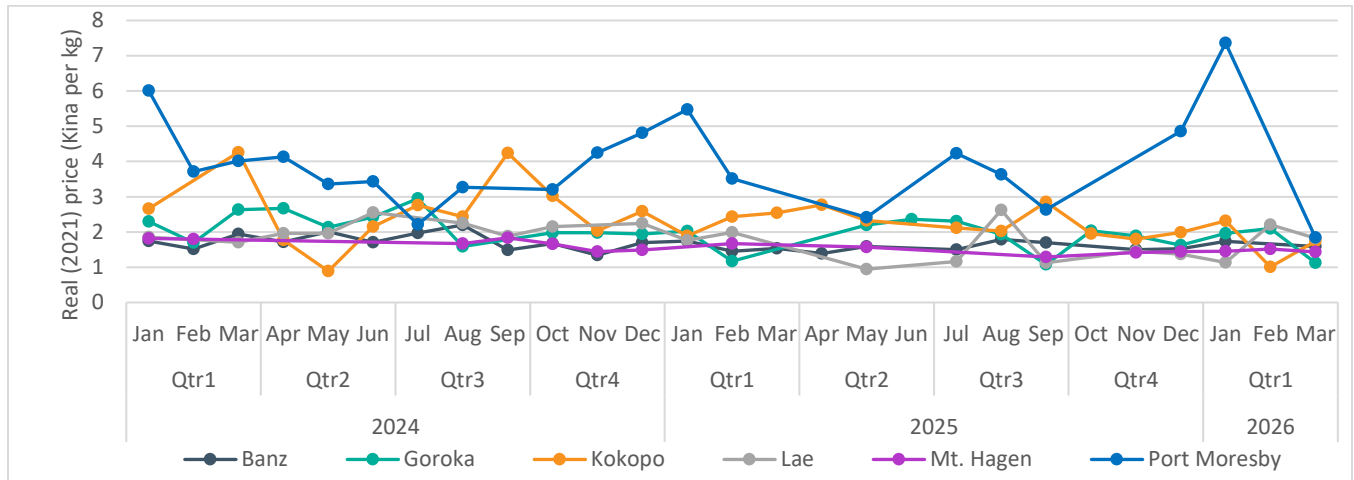
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 12: Real price of orange across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



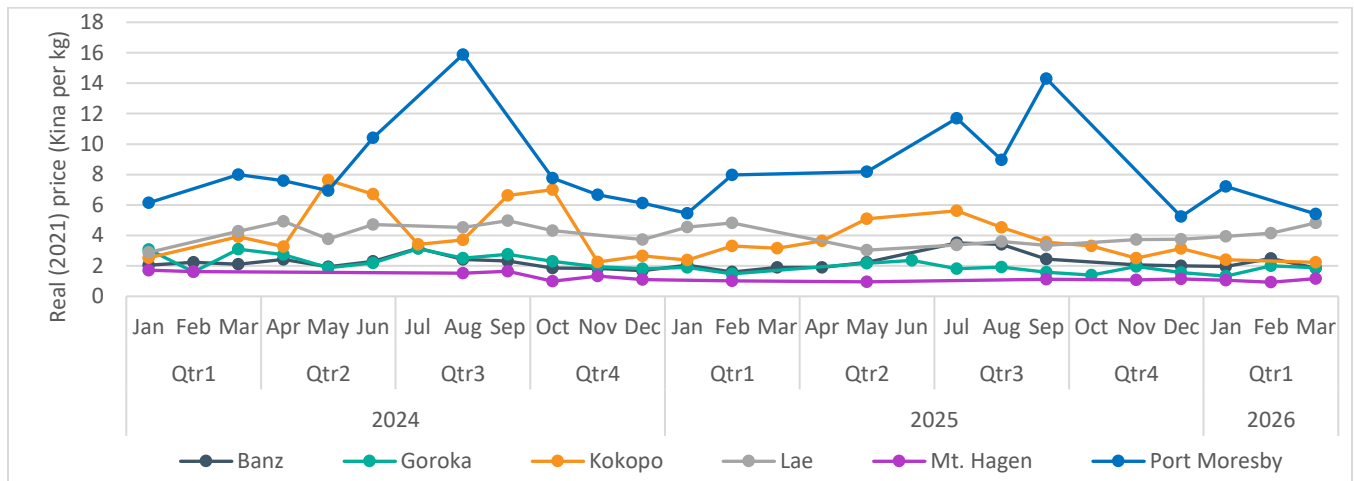
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Figure 13: Real price of pawpaw across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

Figure 14: Real price of pineapple across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

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