PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

August 2026

This bulletin reports on food price trends from major markets in Papua New Guinea (PNG), for the second quarter (Q2) of 2026 using the data collected by Fresh Produce Development Authority (FPDA). During this period, two rounds of data were collected in all markets in May 2026. In April, two rounds of data were collected in Banz, Goroka, Kokopo, Lae and Mt. Hagen markets; however, only one round of data was collected in Port Moresby. In June no survey data collection was conducted in Kokopo and Mt. Hagen, whereas Banz, Goroka, Lae and Port Moresby each had one round.

This report analyzes month-over-month changes in Q2 2026 (April to June) and available data through August for selected markets. The bulletin compares prices with the previous quarter (Q1 2026: January to March) and the same period in 2025 (Q2 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 August 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 (English cabbage, capsicum, and carrot) and fruits (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

Between April and June 2026, staple foods prices showed mixed trends across Banz, Goroka, Lae and Port Moresby (no June data for Mt Hagen

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

Staple crops: Compared with Q2 2025, average staple prices increased in Q2 2026: taro by 43 percent, sweet potato by 35 percent, cooking-banana by 21 percent, and cassava by 5 percent.

Rice: In Q2 2026, the average real price of a 1kg bag of rice increased from 4.15 PGK/kg in April to 4.23PGK/kg in May and in June it increased by 4.7 percent to 4.35 PGK/kg

- Highest observed price: PGK 4.94/kg in Port Moresby in May.
- Lowest observed price: PGK 3.32/kg in Mt. Hagen in May.

Vegetables: Compared with Q1 2026, average prices increased for English cabbage by 30 percent, capsicum by 24 percent, and carrot by 23 percent. The largest increases were recorded for English cabbage and capsicum in Goroka 52 percent and 41 percent, respectively and carrot in Port Moresby (52 percent).

Fruit: Compared with Q1 2026, average pineapple prices increased by about 16 percent, mainly by the increase observed in Goroka (73 percent) and Kokopo (71 percent), despite a 28 percent decline in Lae. Pawpaw-price trend varied across markets, increasing by 40 percent in Kokopo and declining by 35.4 percent in Port Moresby.

and Kokopo). Averaged across these four markets, cooking banana price increased by 36 percent mainly by a large increase in Goroka (126 percent, from 1.20 PGK/kg in April to 2.71PGK/kg in June) and Banz (76 percent, from 3.07PGK/kg to 5.39 PGK/kg). Compared with Q1 2026 (January - March), average prices of staple foods increased in Q2 (April - June) across all markets. Sweet potato prices increased by about 9 percent, including a 75 percent increase in Kokopo, while cooking-banana and taro prices each increased by about 5 percent. In contrast, cassava price decreased by 6 percent.

Compared with Q2 2025, average prices of staples in Q2 2026 increased for all four staples: taro by 43 percent, sweet potato by 35 percent, cooking-banana by 21 percent, and cassava by 5 percent (Table 1 and Figures 1-4).

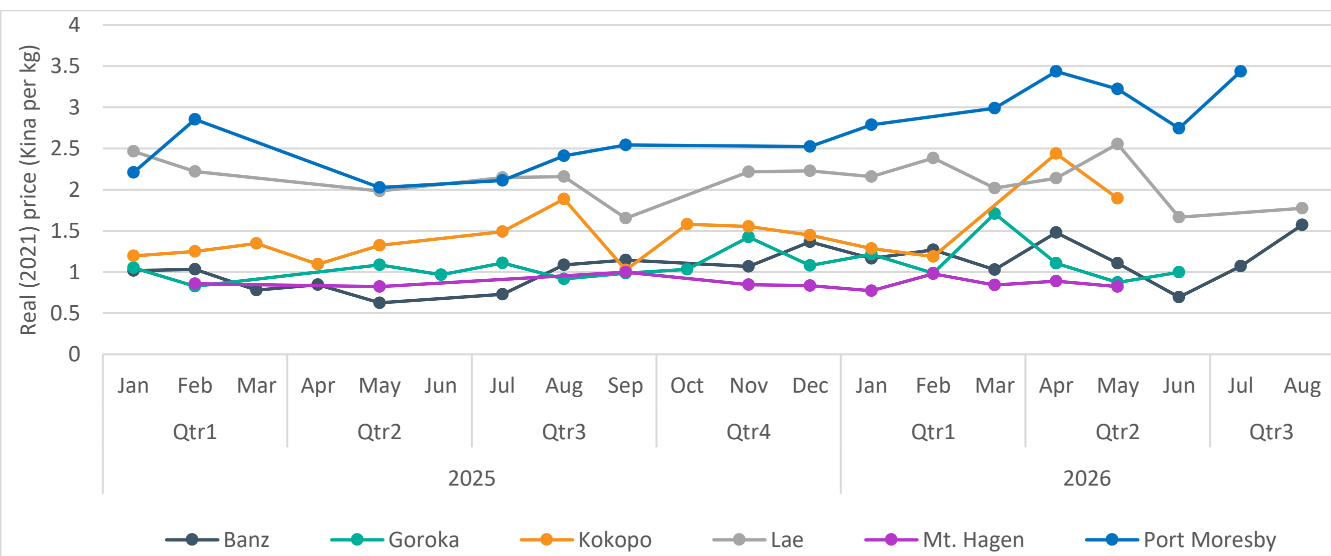
Table 1: Average prices and price changes of staple foods, Q2 2026

Commodity	Q2 2026 Average Price (PGK/kg)	QoQ Change	YoY Change	Price Range by Market (PGK/kg)
Sweet Potato	1.76	9.2%	35.4%	0.85–3.16
Taro (True)	3.73	4.7%	43.3%	2.40–7.82
Cassava	1.00	-6.0%	4.5%	0.65–1.82
Cooking Banana	2.45	5.2%	21.1%	1.25–3.63

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

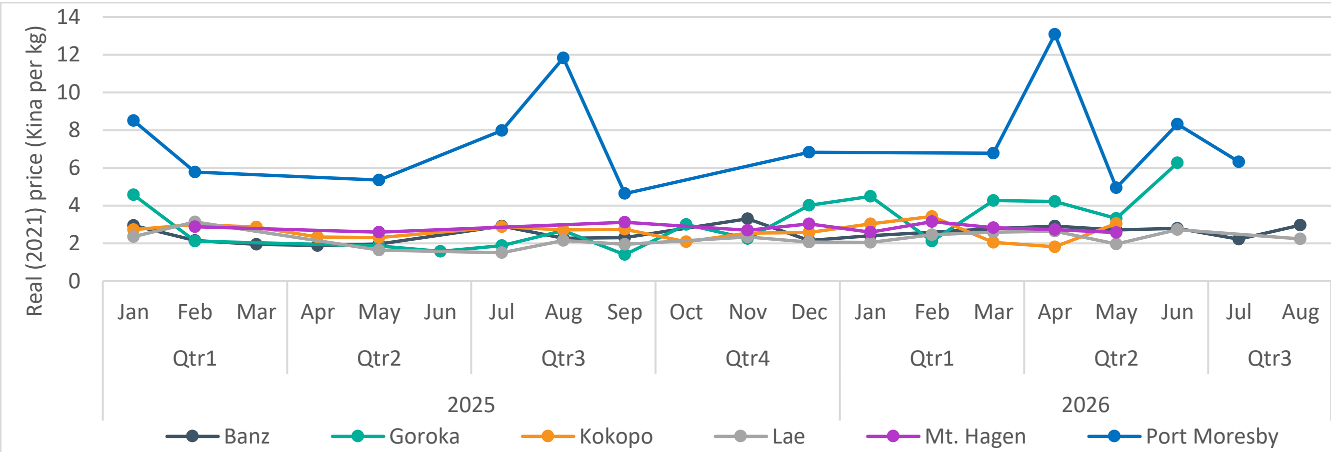
Notes: Q2 2026 = April–June 2026; PGK = Papua New Guinea Kina; Quarter-over-Quarter (QoQ) = change from previous quarter (Q1 2026); Year-over-Year (YoY) = change from same quarter last year (Q2 2025)

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



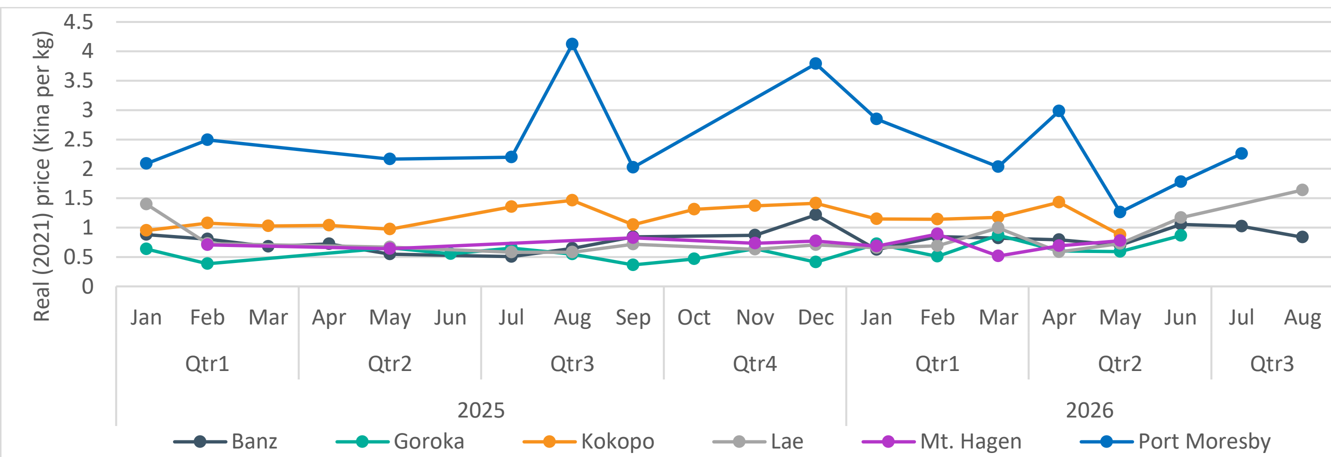
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



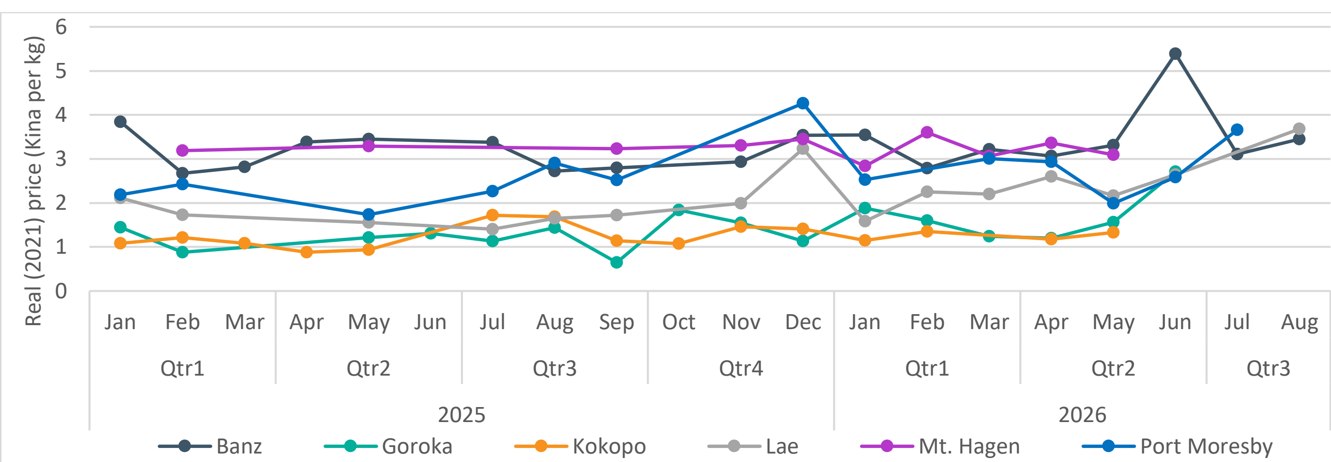
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



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

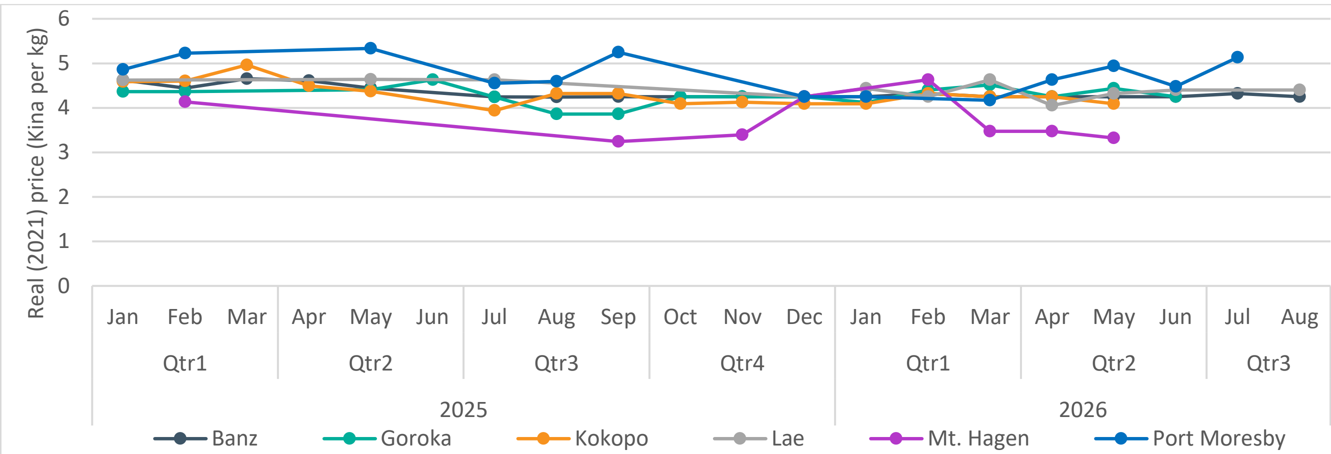
Figure 4: Real price of cooking banana across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

In Q2 2026, the average real price of a 1kg bag of rice increased from 4.15 PGK/kg in April to 4.23PGK/kg in May and in June it increased by 4.7 percent to 4.35 PGK/kg (no rice price data in Mt Hagen and Kokopo in June). During quarter 2, the lowest per kg price of rice was 3.32 PGK/kg in Mt Hagen in May and the highest was 4.94 PGK/kg in Port Moresby in May. Despite the increase between April and June, the quarterly average rice price remained generally stable in Q2 2026 compared with Q1 2026. Beyond Q2, the available data through August for Banz and Lae market show that rice prices remain stable. (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.

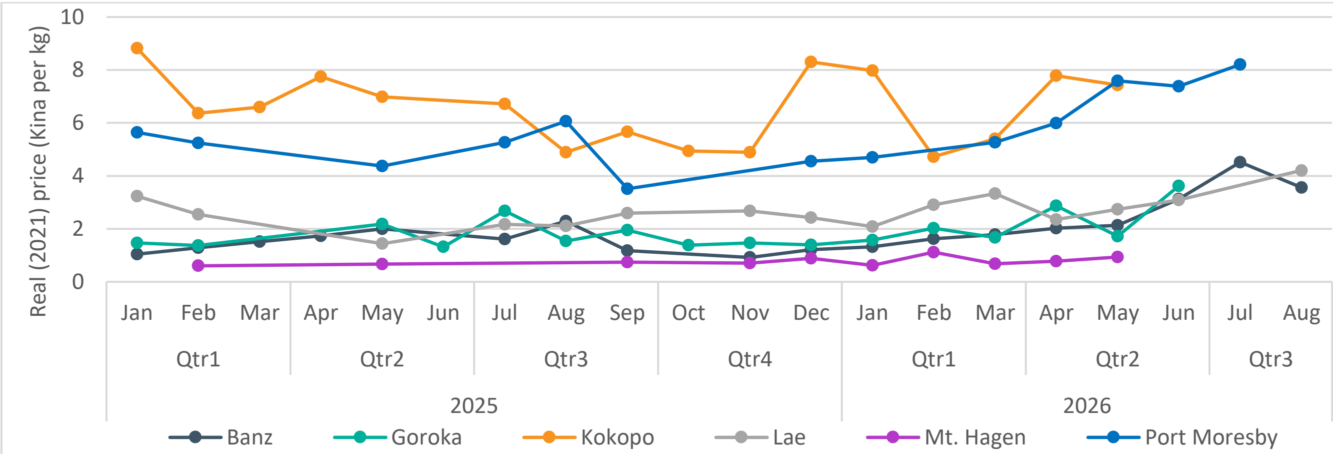
Vitamin-dense food prices

Between April and June 2026, prices of selected vegetables such as English cabbage, capsicum and carrot were generally higher in June. English cabbage prices increased steadily by 19 percent, while capsicum and carrot initially declined in May before rising in June to 4 and 11 percent higher, respectively, compared to April 2026.

Compared with Q1 2026, average prices of English cabbage, capsicum and carrot increased in Q2 2026: English cabbage by approximately 30 percent, capsicum by 24 percent, and carrot by 23 percent. The largest increases were recorded for English cabbage in Goroka (52 percent from 1.69 PGK/kg to 2.56 PGK/kg), capsicum in Goroka (41 percent, from 5.54 PGK/kg to 7.78 PGK/kg), and carrot in Port Moresby (52 percent from 5.86 PGK/kg to 8.89 PGK/kg). Price increases were observed across most markets.

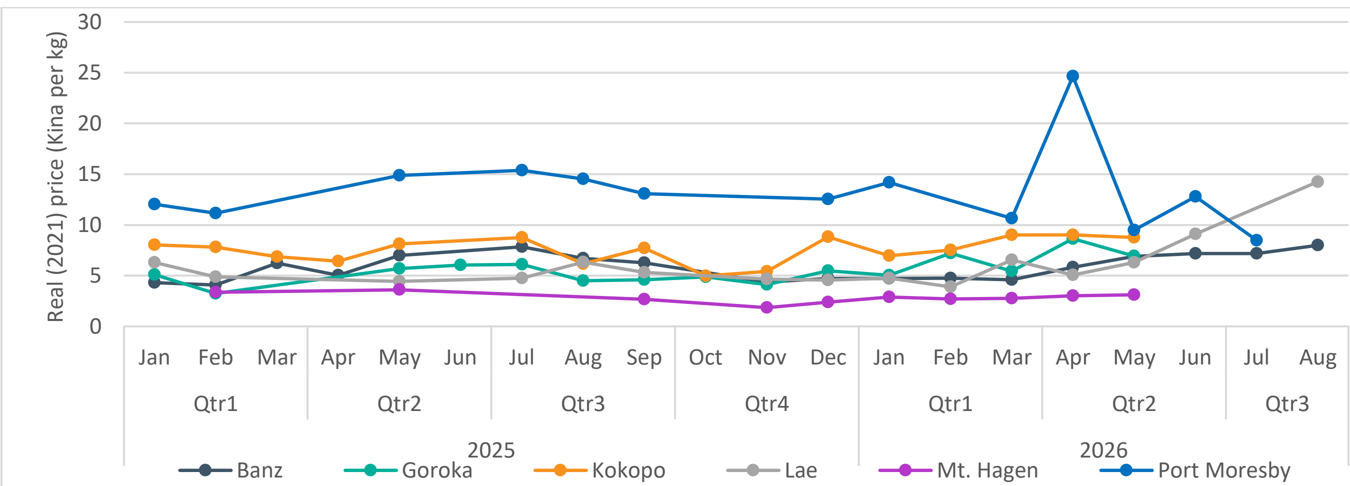
Compared with Q2 2025, average real prices of vitamin dense foods were higher in Q2 2026 for English cabbage by approximately 30 percent, carrot by 12 percent (excluding Kokopo), and capsicum by 11 percent. The largest increases were recorded for English cabbage in Lae (85 percent), capsicum in Lae (44 percent), and carrot in Port Moresby (42 percent) (Figure 6-8).

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



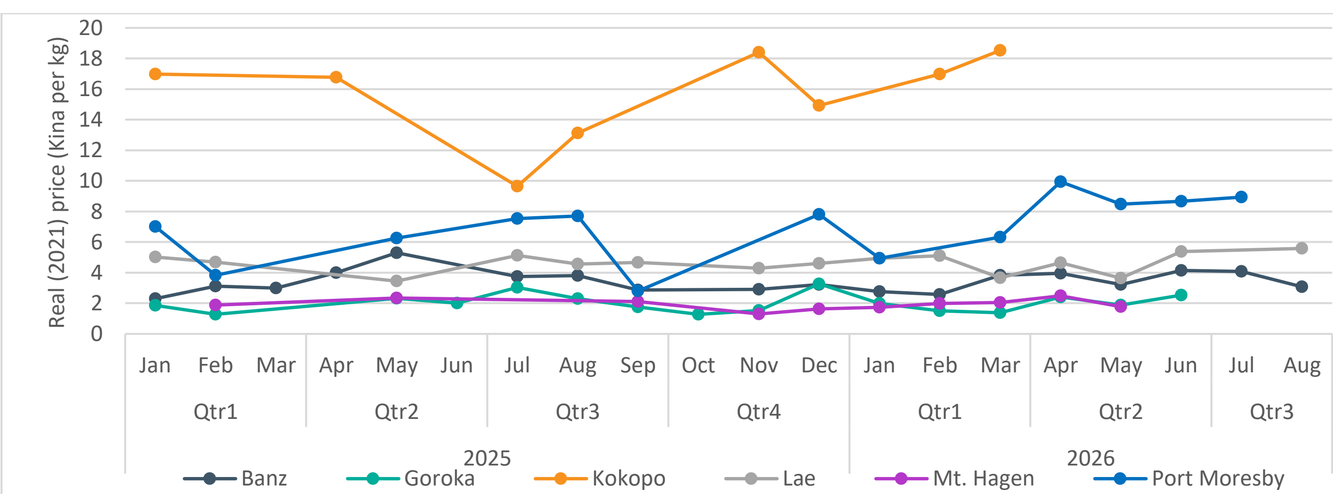
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



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

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

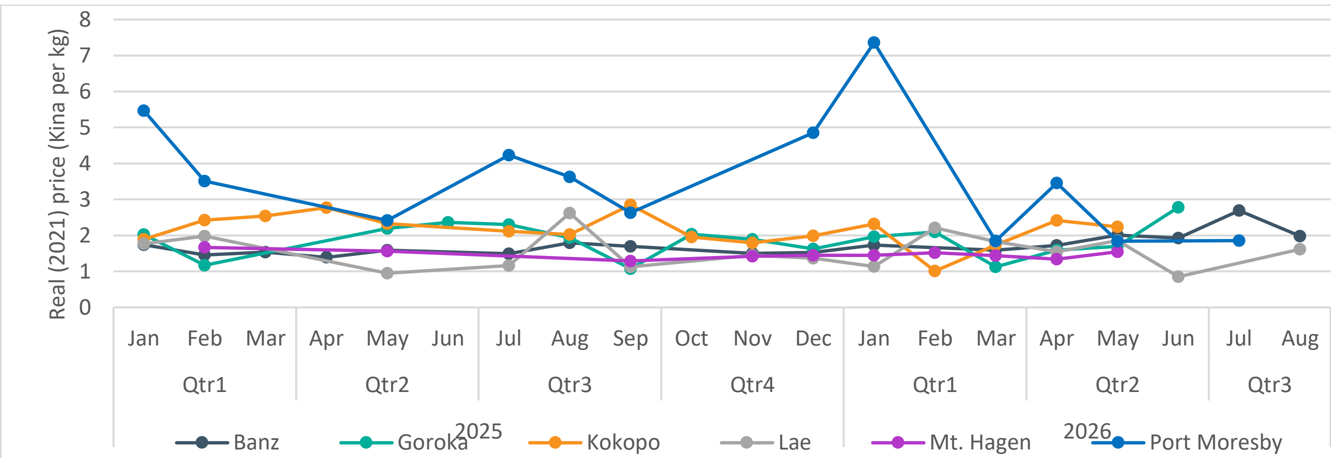


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Fresh fruit price trends

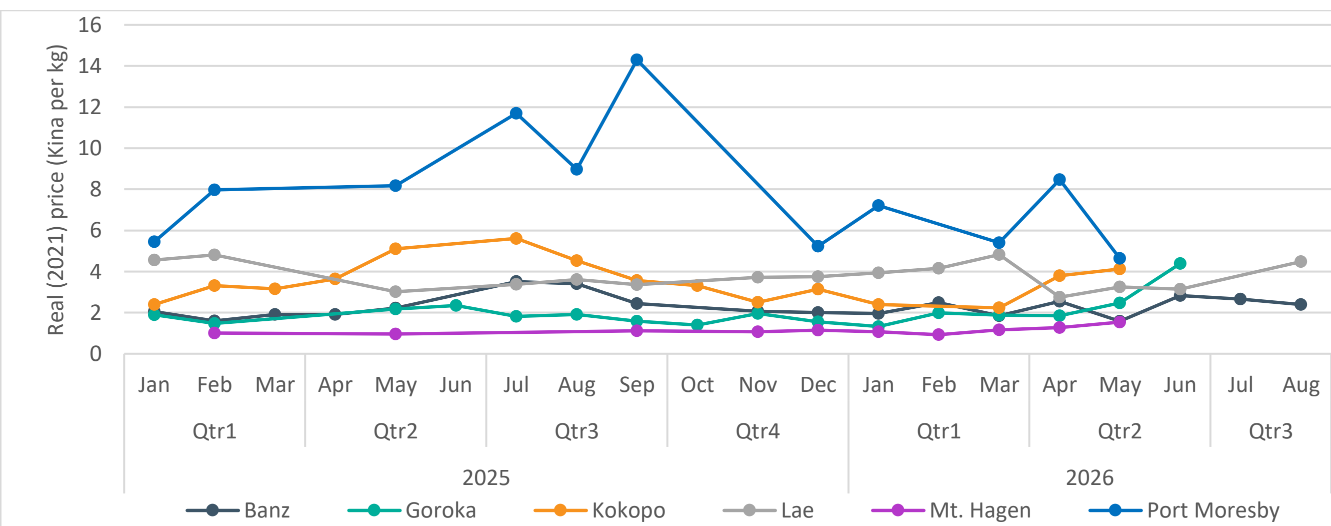
Between April and June 2026, average pawpaw prices declined and were about 8 percent lower in June. Pineapple prices decreased by 15 percent in May and by end of June returned to the April level price (3.45 PGK/kg). Compared with Q1 2026, average pineapple prices increased by approximately 16 percent in Q2 2026, mainly in Goroka (73 percent, from 1.62 PGK/kg in Q1 to 2.80PGK/kg in Q2 2026) and Kokopo (71 percent from 2.32 PGK/kg to 3.96PGK/kg), despite a 28 percent decline in Lae from 4.21PGK/kg in Q1 to 3.03 PGK/kg in Q2, 2026 (Figure 9-10).

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



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

Figure 10: Real price of pineapple across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



Funding for this work was provided by the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australia High Commission (AHC) in Port Moresby, and the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). This publication has been prepared as an output of the Papua New Guinea - Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Policy Support Program (PNG-AFNP) and has not been independently peer reviewed. Any opinion expressed here belong to the author(s) and are not necessarily representative of or endorsed by IFPRI or program funders. Please contact Glen Hayoge: glenhayoge@gmail.com; or Mekamu Kedir Jemal: M.KedirJemal@cgiar.org for any questions, suggestions or comments regarding this or future food price bulletins.