

October 2021

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

For the third quarter (July through September) of 2021, the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) continued to collect market price data at 7 markets throughout the country. Unlike the previous quarters, where data was collected every two weeks, quarter 3 data collection was interrupted by logistical difficulties for most of August and September. Thus, the data reflected here for August are from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month, while the September data are from the last week of the month (resulting in an almost 2 month gap). We do not report price data trends for Banza and Kundiawa due to missing price data observations in quarters 2 and 3.

## Staple crop prices

This bulletin reports average monthly price from fortnightly data collection (when available) from 5 markets: Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka, Mt. Hagen, and Kokopo. The fortnight price observations and calculated moving average data is available for download at our [website](#).

With the exception of Kokopo, sweet potato prices remained stable during the past two quarters. However, between July and September, sweet potato price per kilo in Kokopo levelled to approximately 1.8 kina per kilo. In the highland markets of Mt. Hagen and Goroka, average sweet potato prices grew by 16.6 percent between June and September (from 0.8 PGK/kg<sup>1</sup> to 1.27 PGK/kg). The price per kilo of sweet potato remains the highest in Port Moresby (3.25 PGK/kg in September), approximately 48 and 61 percent more expensive than prices at Lae and highland markets (Mt Hagen and Goroka). Sweet potato prices showed a monthly price growth of 14 percent in Port Moresby and 8 percent in Lae.

## SUMMARY

Users can download the data reported in this bulletin, and build graphs and tables of up-to-date price data at this link:

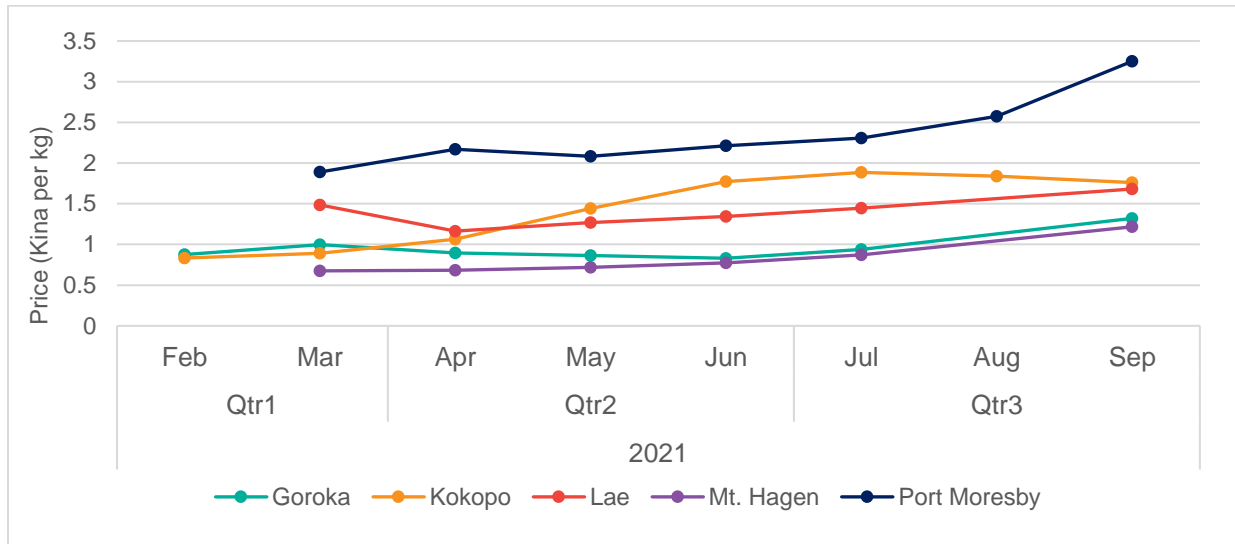
<https://www.ifpri.org/project/fresh-food-price-analysis-papua-new-guinea>

Sweet potato and cassava prices in Port Moresby gradually increased in quarter 3, however staple prices in other markets (Lae, Mt. Hagen, Goroka, Kokopo) across the country remained relatively stable .

Vitamin-rich food (such as carrots, broccoli, and pawpaw) prices remained relatively stable in quarter 3. Select vegetable and fruit prices increased in Port Moresby.

<sup>1</sup> Values are calculated as a moving average of the previous 3 months data observations.

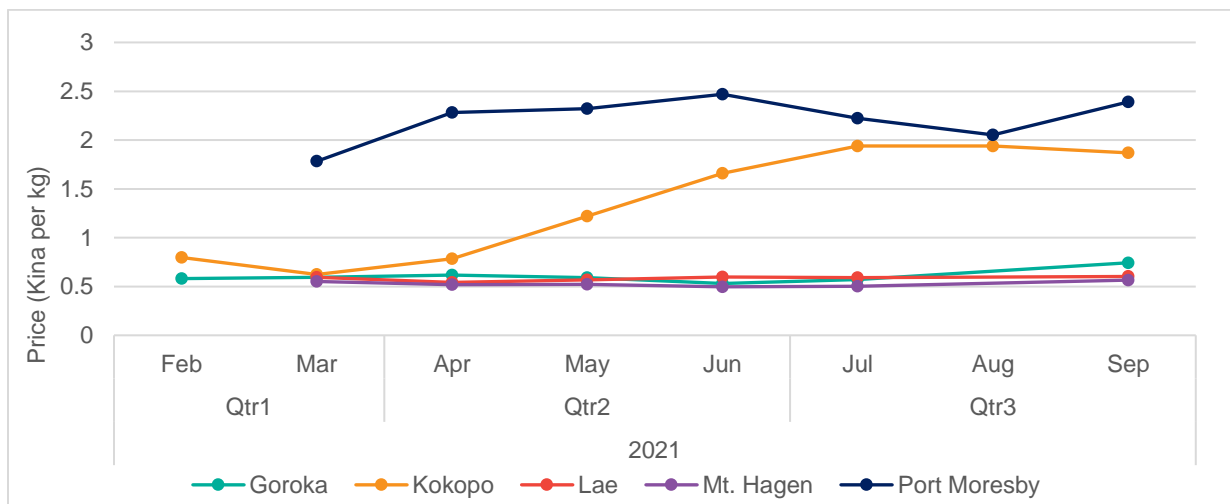
**Figure 1: Price of sweet potato across FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

Cassava prices in the Kokopo market increased at a 20 percent rate for the past two quarters from February through June, but unlike other markets, the price stabilized throughout quarter 3. In Port Moresby, cassava prices decreased for the first two months of quarter 3 from 2.5 PGK/kg in June to 2.1 PGK/kg in August before returning to 2.4 PGK/kg at the end of September. Overall, cassava prices across all markets have been relatively stable in quarter 3.

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



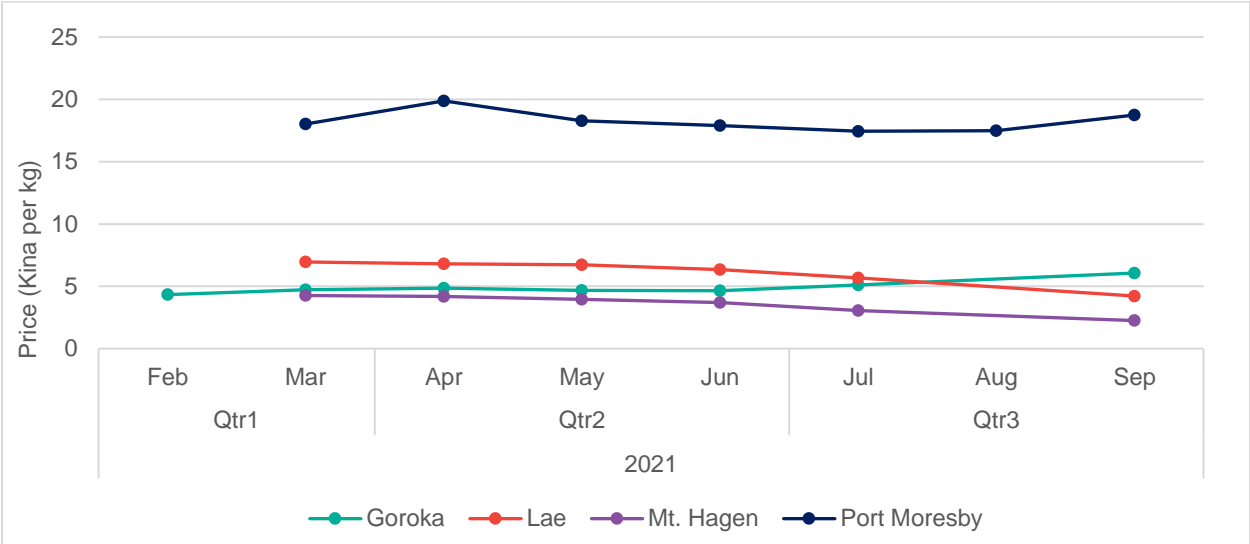
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Comparing staple food prices with vitamin-dense food prices**

In all markets, vitamin-dense foods continue to be more expensive than the starch-based staple foods (sweet potato and cassava). There is very little difference in the price of vitamin-dense foods such as broccoli and carrots in Mt Hagen, Goroka and Lae (Figure 3). In comparison to other markets, broccoli

has been more expensive in Port Moresby for the past three quarters. In late September, broccoli was 4.5 times more expensive in Port Moresby (18.75 PGK/kg) than the combined average price of broccoli (4.18 PGK/kg) in Lae, Goroka, and Mt Hagen.

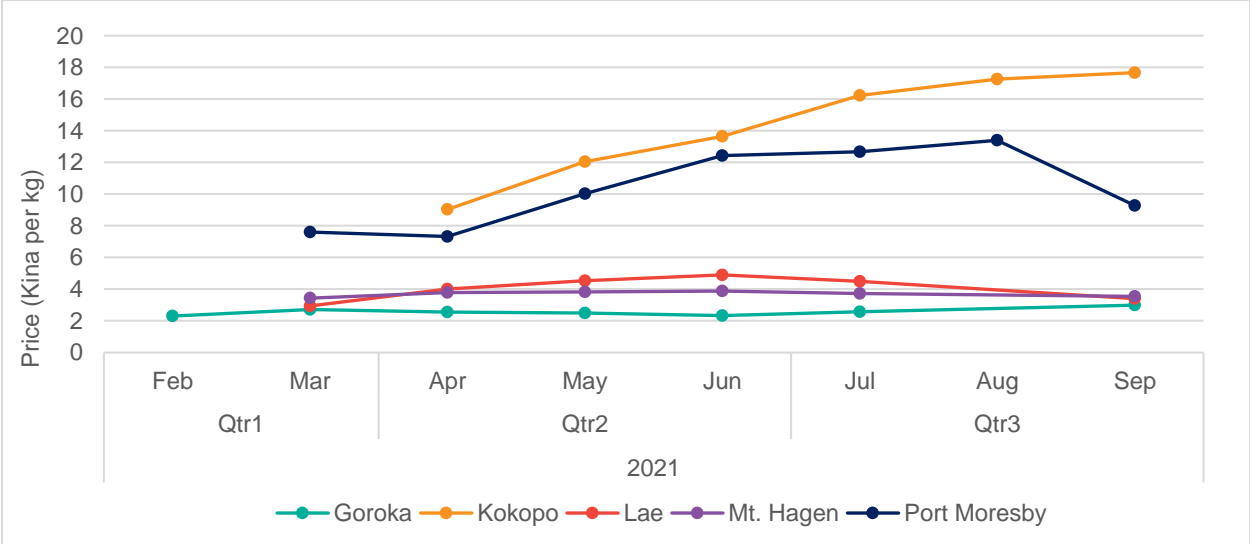
**Figure 3: Broccoli price per kilo across 4 FPDA markets**



Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.  
 \*Note: No data are available for Broccoli prices in Kokopo market

Since April, the price of carrot has consistently increased at Kokopo market. In the third quarter, a kilo of carrot at Kokopo cost 6 kina more than in Port Moresby and on average 14 kina more than in Lae, Goroka and Mt Hagen (Figure 4).

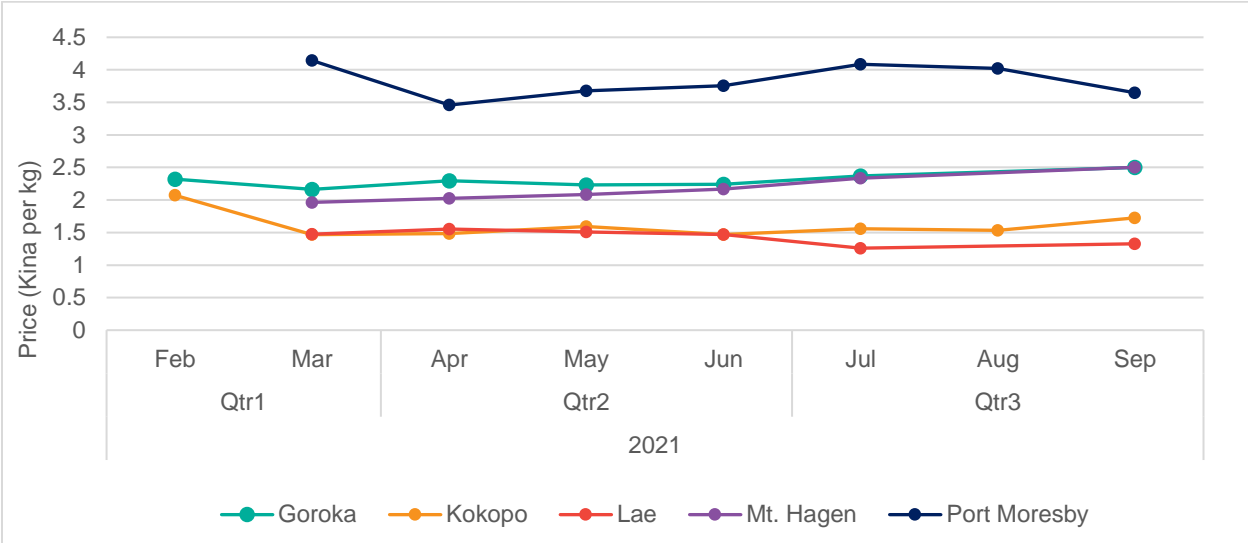
**Figure 4: Carrot price per kilo across 5 FPDA markets**



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

In terms of fruits, pawpaw, which is mostly produced in the lowlands, has consistently lower prices across Lae and Kokopo markets. Price trends of pawpaw remain relatively steady across all markets. In quarter 3, the average pawpaw price in Goroka and Mt Hagen (2.4 PGK/kg) was 38 percent less than the price in Port Moresby (3.9 PGK/kg) and 65 percent higher than the average price in Lae and Kokopo (1.46 PGK/kg) (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Pawpaw price per kilo across 5 FPDA markets**



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

In PNG, a surge in COVID cases began at the end of September resulted in marketing restrictions in different locations (particularly in the highlands). New and developing Covid-19 policies may have indirect effects on food prices. We acknowledge the importance of closely monitoring food prices in this situation for stakeholders to make informed decisions. Due to this, FPDA is working to continue collecting price data in markets that are still operational and accesible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or comments about this bulletin or future food price bulletins.

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