

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

October 2024

This report provides an analysis of food price trends for the third quarter of 2024, covering the period from July to September. During this quarter, two rounds of data were collected per month from Kokopo, Banz, and Port Moresby in July and August. However, in September, only one round of data was collected from all markets except Port Moresby (no data collected). Only one round of data was collected in Goroka for each month in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. In Lae, food price data was collected only once in August for the entire third quarter. These data gaps affect the comparability of the reported price trend and caution should be used to draw conclusions on price fluctuations. The graphs in this bulletin show price changes within the third quarter and compare the third quarter prices with the second quarter of 2024, between April and June. To access the complete food price dataset and interactive food price graphing tool, please visit our [website](#).

## Staple crop price trends

From June to September of 2024, sweet potato prices almost doubled in the highland markets of Goroka and Banz (from under 1 PGK/kg in June to 1.4 and 2 PGK/kg, respectively, in September). In contrast, in the month of August, the price of sweet potato in Port Moresby and Lae decreased by an average of 15 percent.

Compared to the second quarter of 2024, sweet potato remained more expensive in Port Moresby and Lae compared to highlands markets. The price of sweet potato in Kokopo has held relatively stable throughout 2024. Overall, sweet potato remains 43 percent less expensive than cooking banana and taro (two other important staple crops in PNG) across all markets (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

## SUMMARY

### Price trends of Q2 and Q3 of 2024 (April-September)

The price of sweet potato increased in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July to September 2024) by 19 percent, across markets.

The price of taro continued to rise slowly across all markets between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, except in Port Moresby where taro prices dropped from 11.8 to 8.4 PGK/kg between July and August.

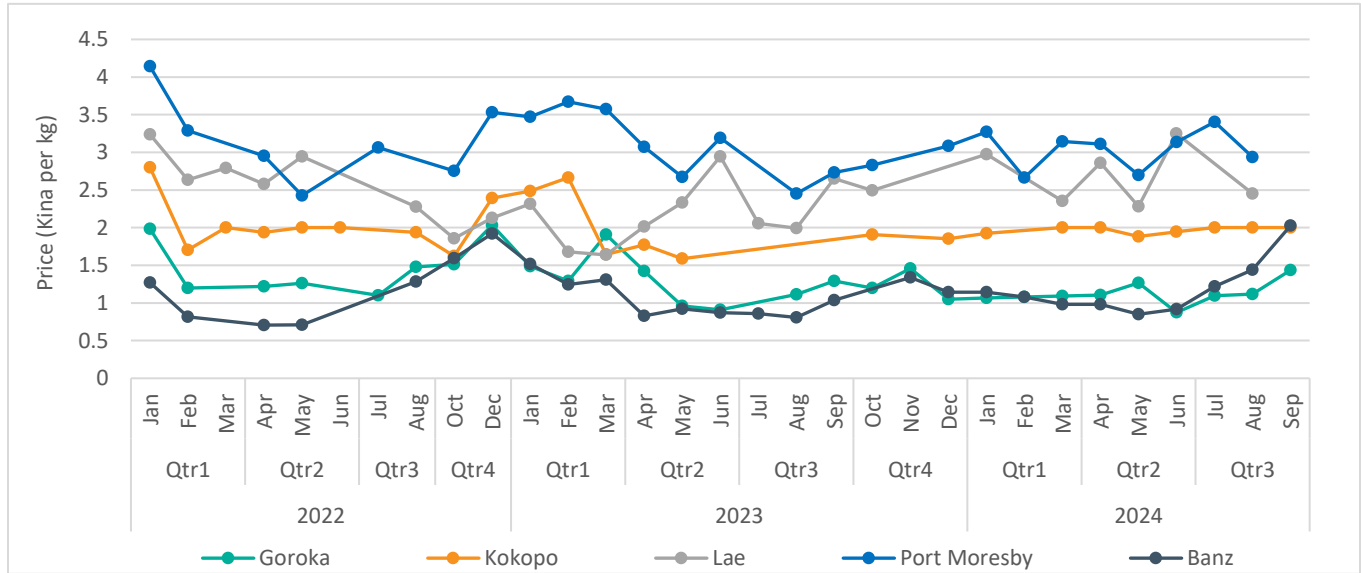
The price of 1 kilo of packaged rice remained stable, with the exception of a 15 percent decrease in Banz.

Compared to the second quarter of 2024, prices of English cabbage, carrot, choko-tips and packchoi decreased by an average of 23 percent across the country.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024, prices of lemon, pawpaw and pineapple increased by 55 percent in Kokopo.

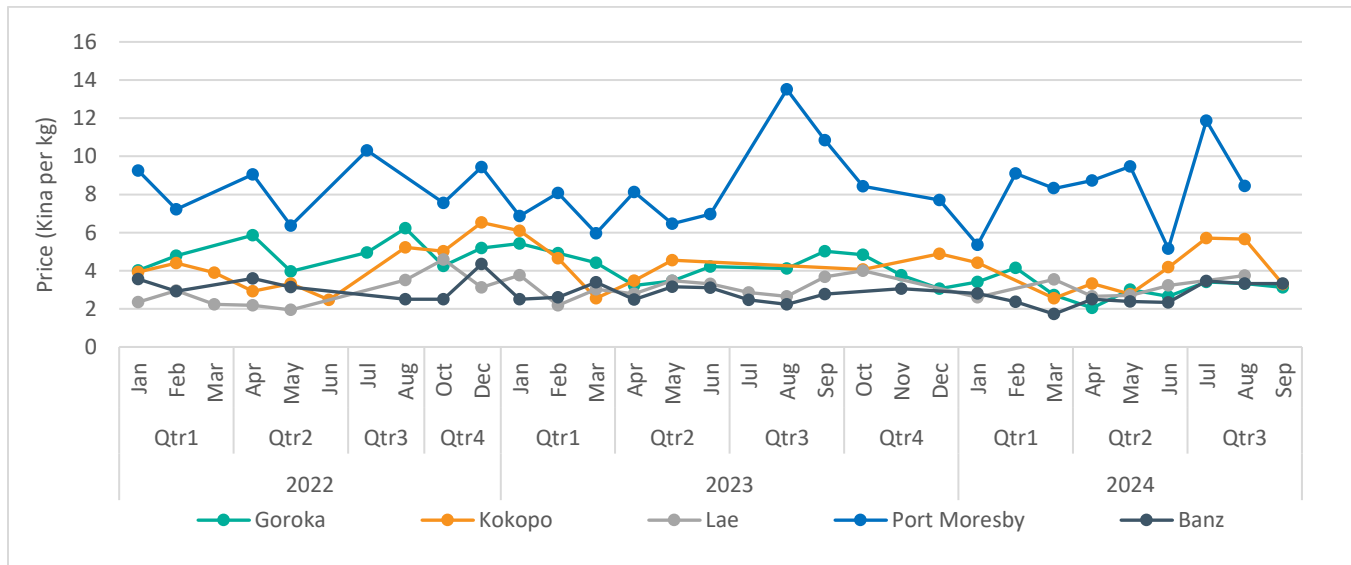
From July through September, the price of taro decreased on average by 21 percent across all markets, except Lae. However, comparing the average 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter taro price to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter price, the third quarter price was greater by an average of 32 percent across all markets.

**Figure 1: Price of sweet potato across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

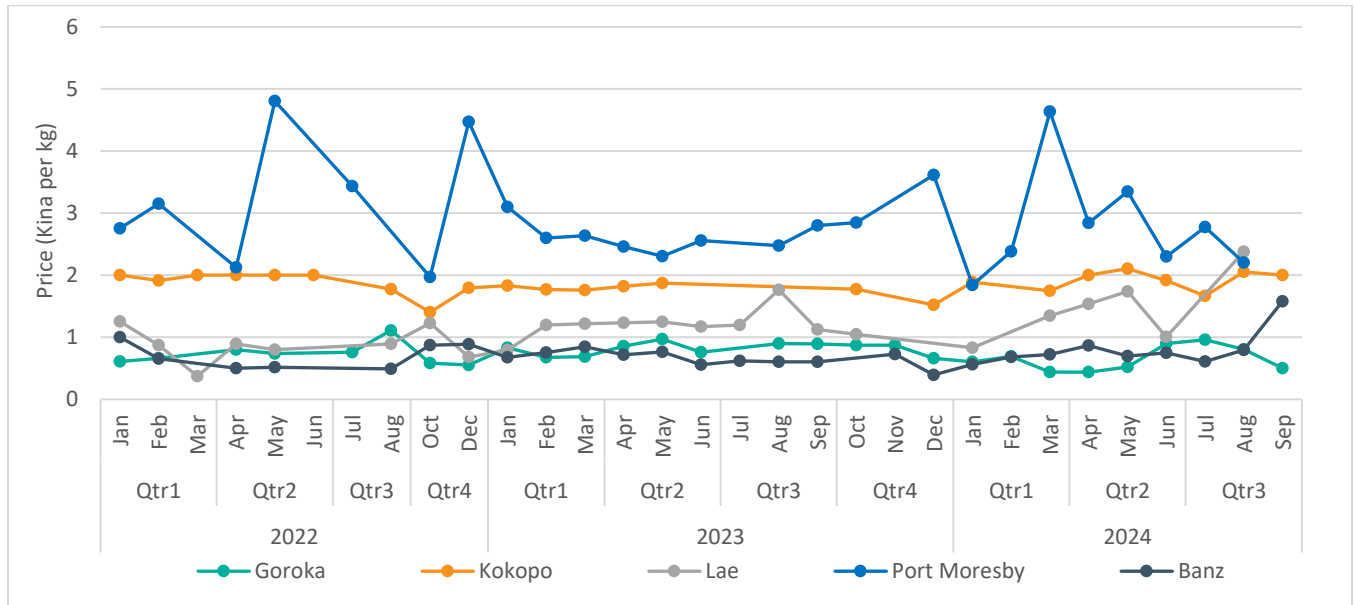
**Figure 2: Price of taro across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

Cassava prices also showed mixed price trends in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. In Goroka and Port Moresby, cassava prices decreased by an average of 34 percent. Conversely, between June and August, the cassava price in Lae more than doubled, from 1.0 PGK/kg to 2.4 PGK/kg in Lae (Figure 3).

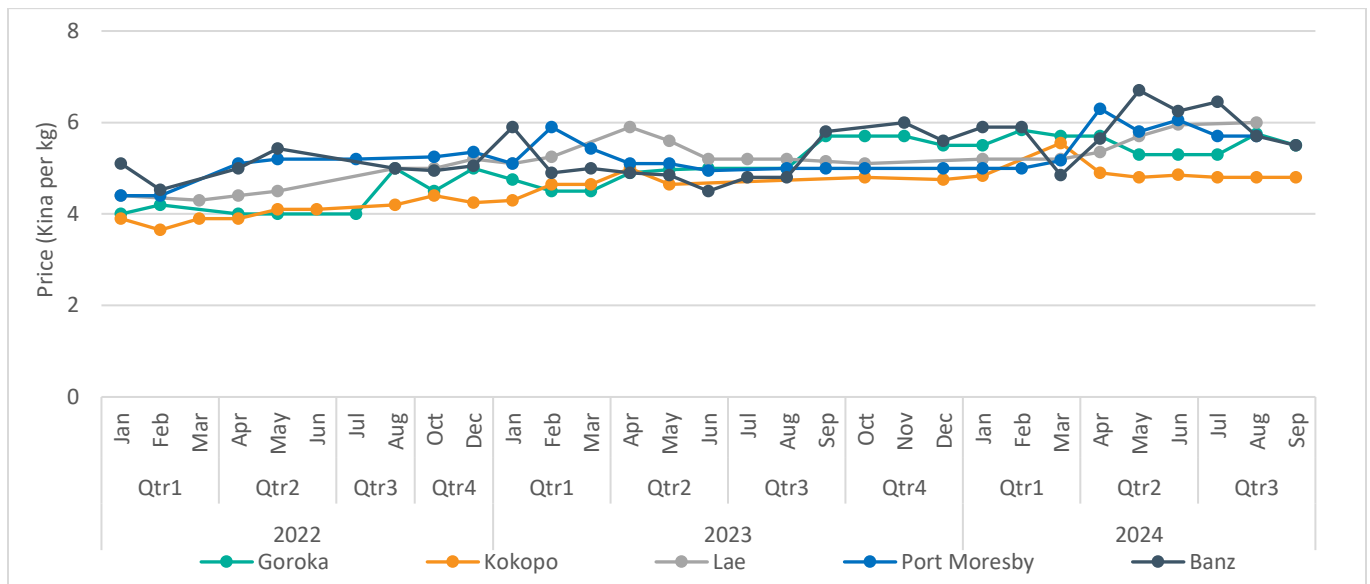
**Figure 3: Price of cassava across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

The price of a 1kg bag of rice remained relatively stable across all markets, with the exception of Banz, where it decreased by 15 percent. Compared to the second quarter of 2024, rice prices slightly increased on average by 5 percent in Goroka and Lae. Conversely, the price slightly decreased on average by 4 percent in the other markets. A package of rice remained on average 17 percent less expensive in Kokopo than the mainland markets (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Price of rice (1 kilo bag) across 5 FPDA markets**

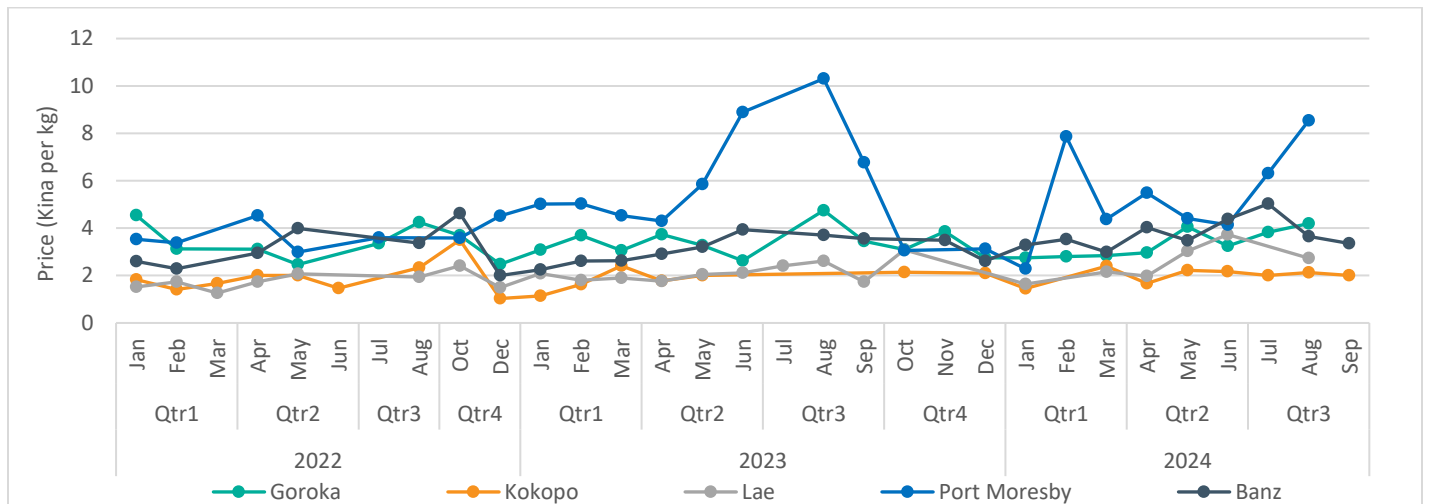


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

## Fresh vegetable food prices

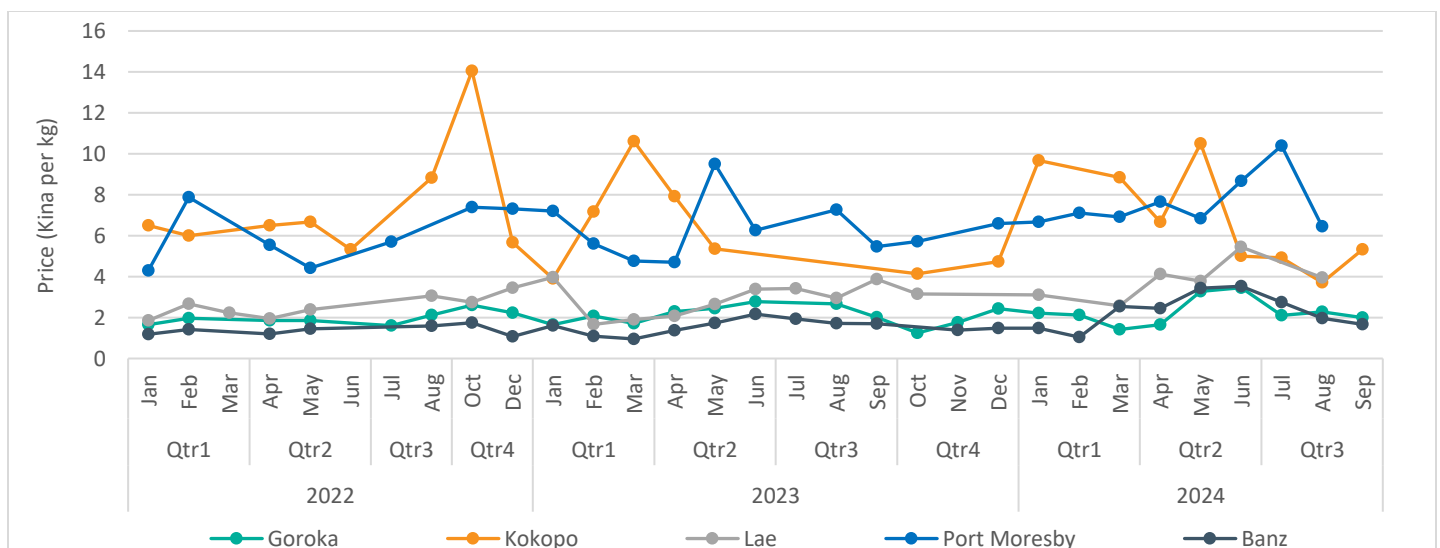
Nutrient dense vegetable prices varied across markets in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The pakchoi price decreased by an average of 32 percent across all markets and decreased by half in Banz. In Goroka market, while prices of aibika, capsicum, and choko-tips increased by an average of 19 percent, prices of English cabbage, carrot and pakchoi decreased by an average of 44 percent (Figures 5 to 7). In Port Moresby, prices of English cabbage, capsicum, carrot, choko-tips and pakchoi decreased by an average of 30 percent. Similarly, in Kokopo, the prices of aibika, capsicum and pakchoi decreased by an average of 22 percent (Figures 5 to 7).

**Figure 5: Price of aibika across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



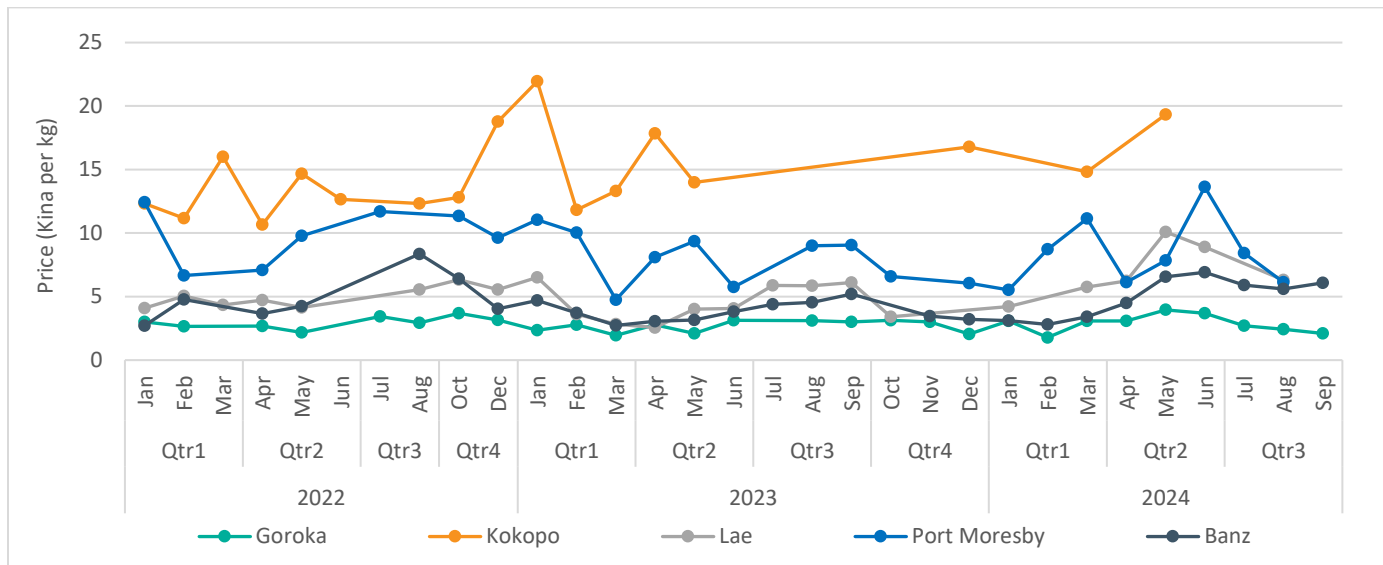
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Figure 6: Price of English cabbage across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

**Figure 7: Price of carrot across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**

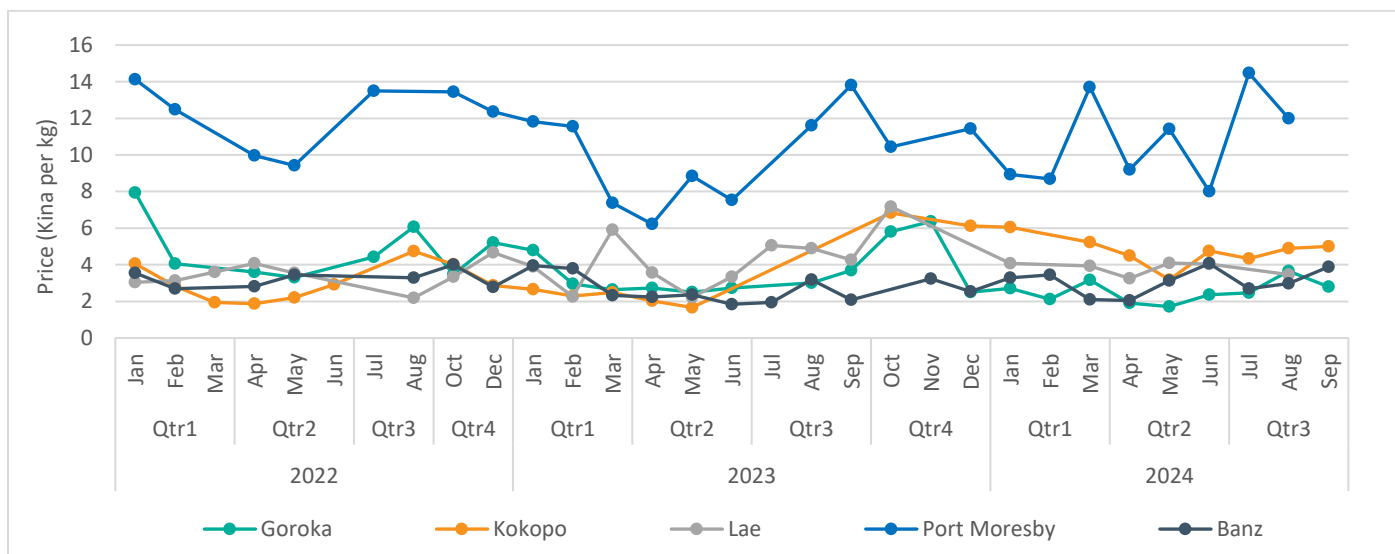


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Fresh fruit price trends**

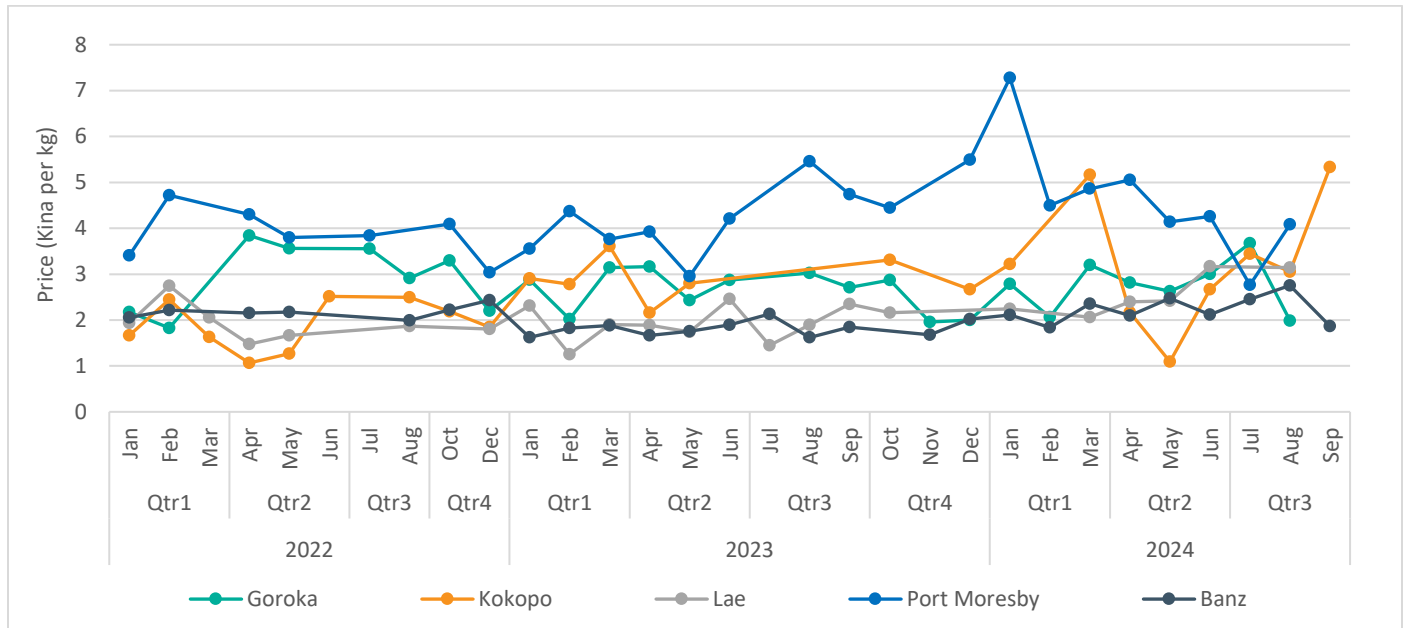
Looking at specific fruit prices across markets in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the price of lemon increased on average by 24 percent in Goroka, Banz and Kokopo. The price of pineapple increased on average by 49 percent across all markets except Banz, and nearly doubled in Kokopo, increasing from 4.3 PGK/kg in July to 8.3 PGK/kg in September. Compared to other markets, the pineapple price in Port Moresby was, on average, six times more expensive than Goroka and Banz, and three times more expensive than Lae and Kokopo (Figure 11). The prices of select fruits such as lemon, pawpaw and pineapple in Kokopo market increased on average by 55 percent (Figure 8-10).

**Figure 8: Price of lemon across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



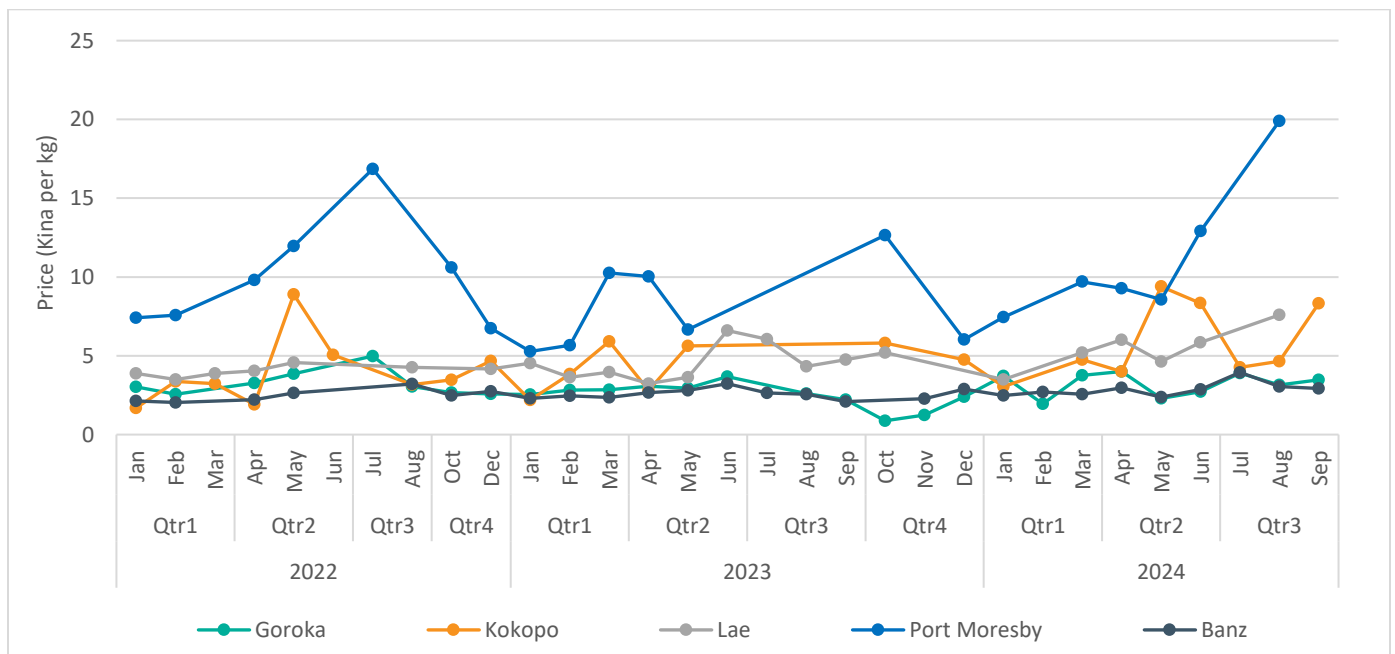
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Figure 9: Price of pawpaw across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

**Figure 10: Price of pineapple across 5 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

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