

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

January 2025

This bulletin provides the fourth quarter (October-December) 2024 food price trends from major markets in Papua New Guinea, based on data collected by the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA). The report compares fourth quarter (October - December of 2024) prices with those from the same period in 2022 and 2023. During October – December 2024, two rounds of data collection were conducted in all markets, except for Lae, where price data were not collected in November, and only one round of data collection occurred in December.

In response to a request from the Western Province Partnership program (Australia's flagship program in the Western Province) to conduct similar food price data analysis, IFPRI and FPDA organized a week-long [training course](#) to equip seven rangers with the necessary skills to collect detailed price data of important food goods in Daru, Mabaduan and Morehead communities. Since the training in November, data collection has been ongoing in these markets and will be integrated into FPDA's existing dataset. This expanded coverage will increase geographic representation that allows for a more comprehensive analysis of regional price variations to support policy decisions.

For full access to the complete, up-to-date price dataset and interactive price graphing tool, please visit our [website](#).

Price data continue to be collected from major markets in Papua New Guinea, including Port Moresby, Goroka, Lae, Banz, Kokopo and Mt Hagen markets. Prices are reported in real terms, adjusted for inflation using the FAO Consumer Price Index (CPI). Missing CPI data points were interpolated using quarterly reports from the National Statistical Office (NSO).

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: Quarterly comparisons (Q4 2024 vs. Q4 2023 and Q4 2022)

Sweet potato prices in Q4 of 2024 were 20.4 percent higher in all markets compared to Q4 of 2023 (averaging 1.64 PGK/kg in Q4 of 2023, and 1.79 PGK/kg in 2024). However, sweet potato prices in Kokopo were 13 percent lower in 2024 (1.35 PGK/kg) compared to 2023 Q4 price (1.55/PGK/kg)

Rice prices have increased slowly (but remained stable) since 2022. Compared to Q4 2023, rice prices in 2024 were 14 percent higher in Kokopo, Lae and Port Moresby.

Vegetable prices, on average, in Q4 of 2024 were 23.6 lower in Goroka compared to Q4 of 2023. Compared to Q4 2022, the price of vegetables, on average, in 2024 were 22.1 percent lower in highland markets.

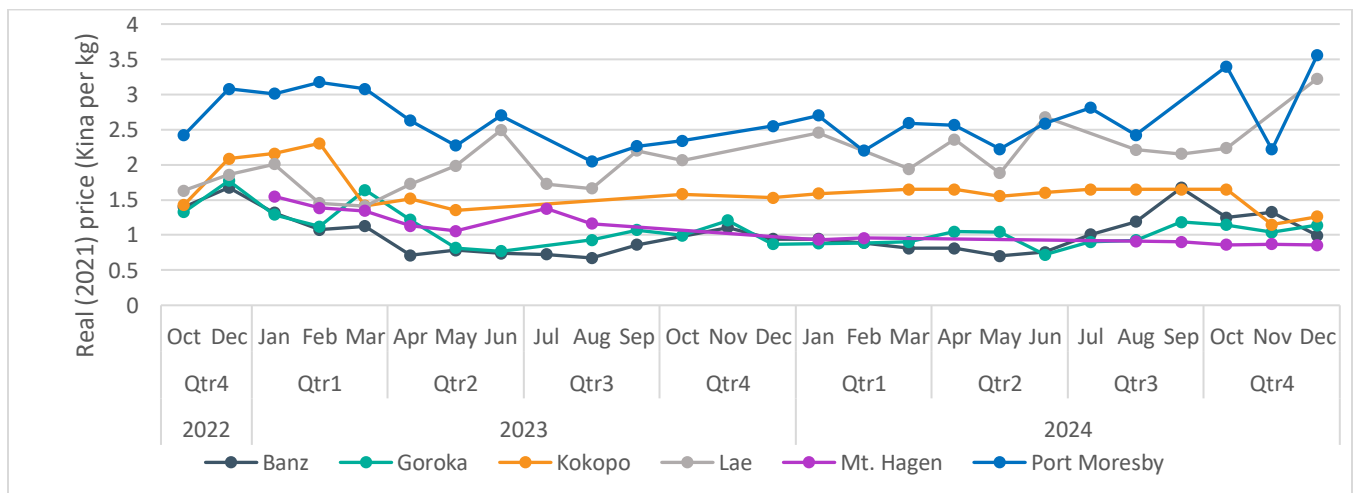
Fruits saw mixed price movements between 2023 and 2024: lemon prices in Q4 2024 were 28.4 percent lower, on average, across all markets

Staple crop price trends

During the fourth quarter of 2024 (October to December), staple crop prices showed mixed trends across major markets in Papua New Guinea. Sweet potato prices decreased by an average of 11.2 percent in Goroka, Banz, Mt Hagen and Kokopo. However, sweet potato prices in Port Moresby and Lae increased between October and December. Taro prices dropped by 13.7 percent in all markets except in Banz and Port Moresby. Taro prices almost doubled in Port Moresby (from 6.6 PGK/kg in October to 12.8 PGK/kg in December). The price of cooking banana differed across markets, ranging from 1 PGK/kg in Kokopo to over 4 PGK/kg in Banz market. However, overall, cooking banana prices remained relatively stable throughout 2024.

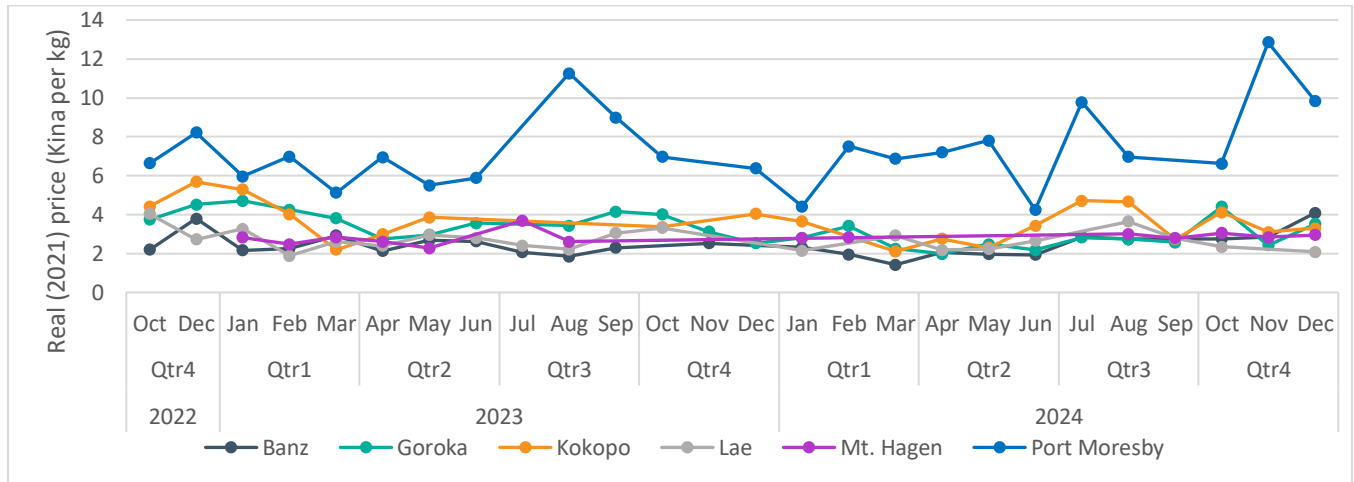
When comparing the fourth quarter of 2024 (October – December) to the same period in 2023 and 2022, no major long term price fluctuations are evident among staple crops (Figure 1-Figure 4). However, sweet potato prices were on average 20.4 percent more expensive in 2024 across all markets (compared to Q4 2023), primarily due to price increases in Port Moresby and Lae markets at the end of 2024 (Figure 1). Compared to 2022, sweet potato prices in the highland markets of Goroka and Banz were 25.6 percent lower in the fourth quarter of 2024. For taro, prices remained relatively stable between 2022-2024 (Figure 2).

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



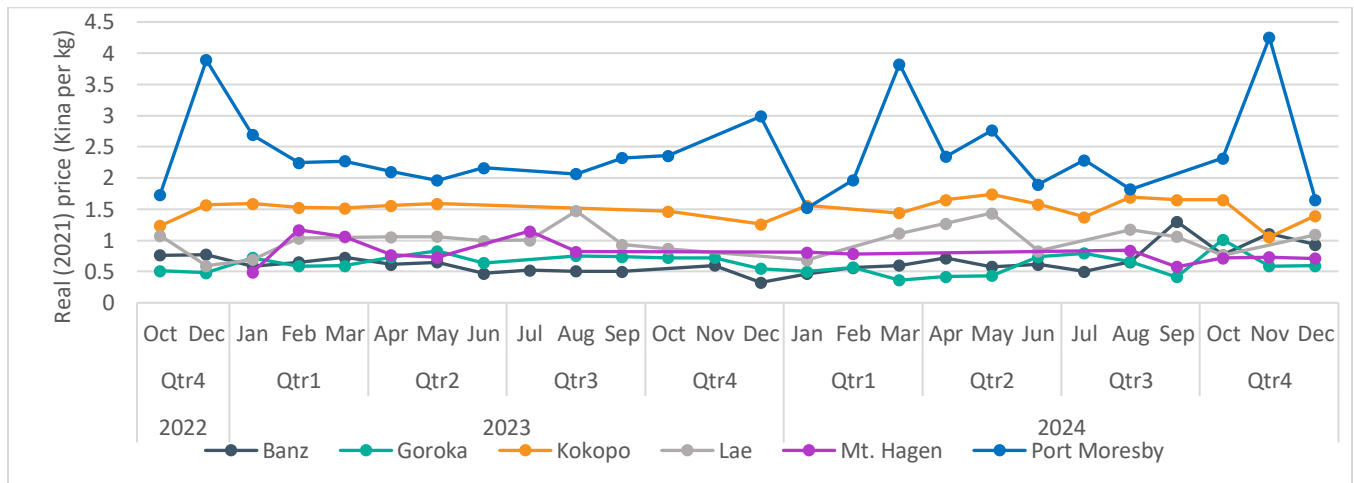
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



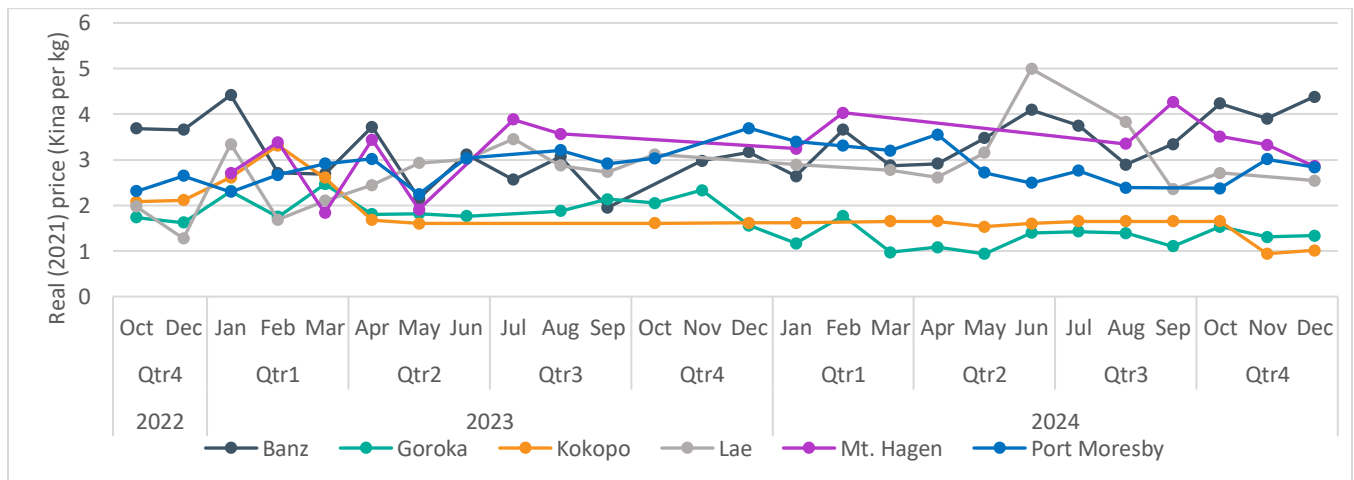
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



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

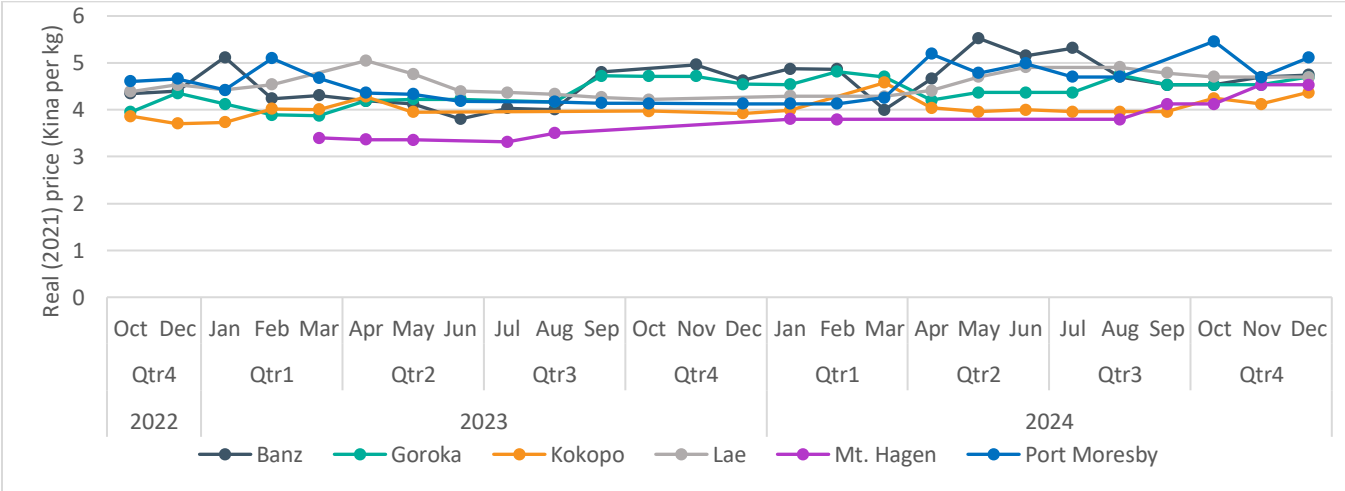
Figure 4: Real price of cooking banana across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

Between October and December of 2024, the price of imported rice in real terms remained relatively stable, with an average increase of 5 percent across all markets, except Port Moresby which experienced a 6 percent decline in the price of a 1 kilogram bag of rice. The highest price for a 1 kilogram bag of rice in the 4th quarter was 5.1 PGK in Port Moresby and the lowest was in Lae market at a price of 4.24 PGK. Long term rice price trends (in real terms) for a 1 kg bag of rice show a slow increasing price trend. Between October and December, 2024, the average real price of rice was 8 percent higher (increasing by 0.48% per month from January 2022 to December 2024) compared to the same period in 2022. (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.

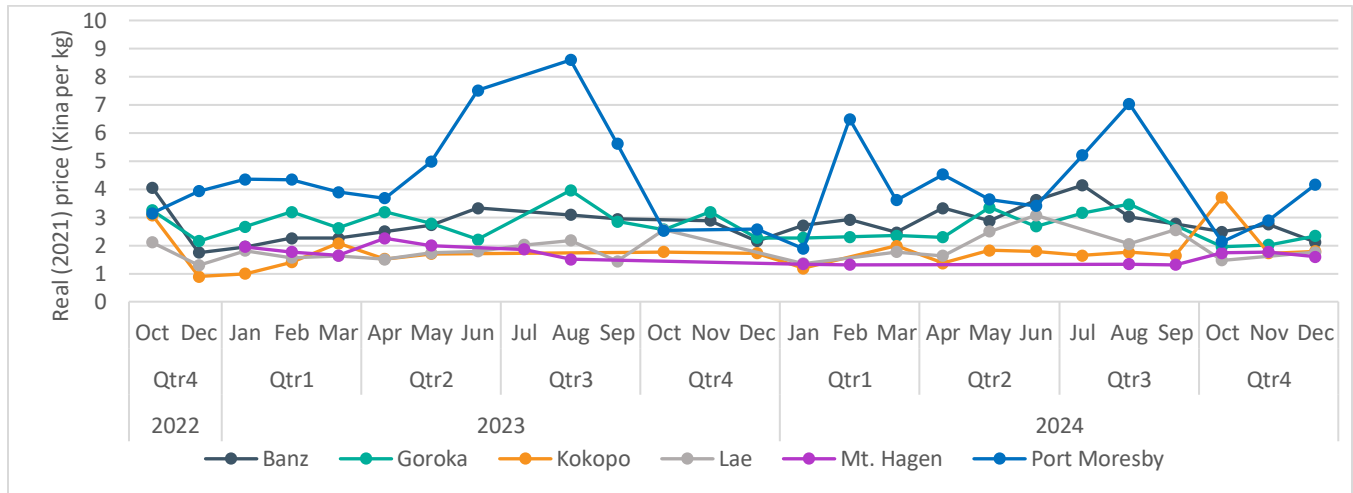
Vitamin-dense food prices

The price of vitamin-dense vegetables varied across markets by region. In the highland markets of Goroka, Banz and Mt Hagen, the price of aibika, English cabbage, capsicum, carrot and choko-tips decreased by an average of 22 percent between October and December 2024. In contrast in lowland markets of Lae and Port Moresby, the price of aibika, English cabbage, capsicum and choko-tips increased from October through December. In Port Moresby, the price of choko-tips tripled from 5.4 PGK/kg in October to 17.5 PGK/kg in December. According to price collectors, this was in part due to limited market vendors during the holiday season. Similarly, the price of aibika doubled from 2.1 PGK/kg to 4.1 PGK/kg over the same period.

A comparison of vegetable prices in real terms across the highland markets of Goroka, Banz and Mt Hagen show that, on average, prices in the fourth quarter of 2024 were close to 23 percent lower than during the same period in 2022. However, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, vegetable prices showed varied trends across markets. In Goroka, vegetable prices were on average 23.6 percent less expensive in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. In contrast, Banz experienced mixed price trends: while the price aibika

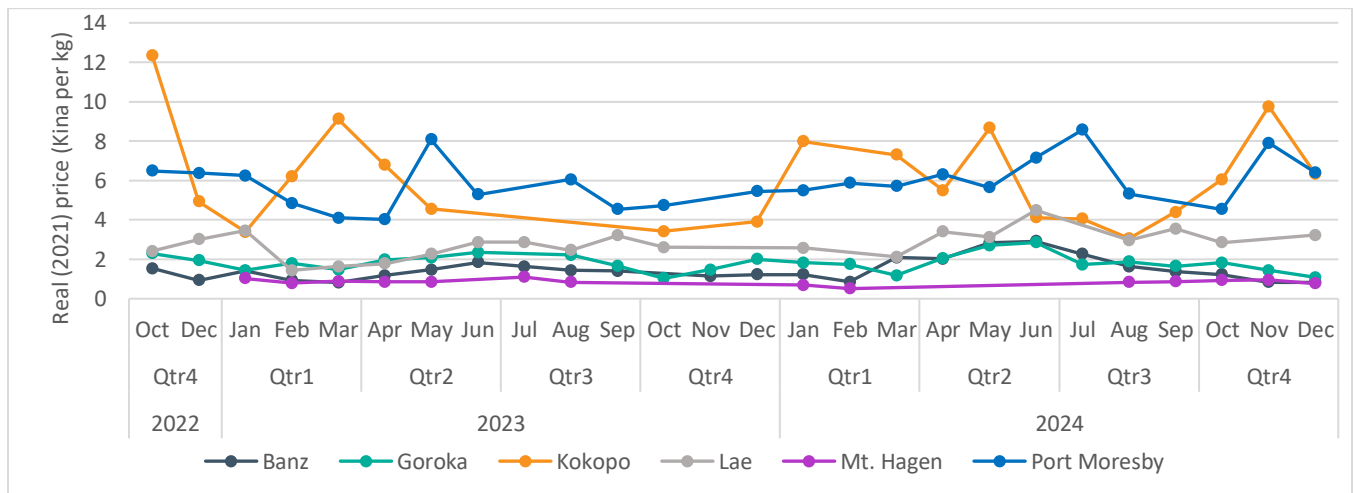
and English cabbage were 10.5 percent lower in the fourth quarter of 2024, the price of capsicum, carrot and choko-tips were higher, on average, by 15.5 percent.

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



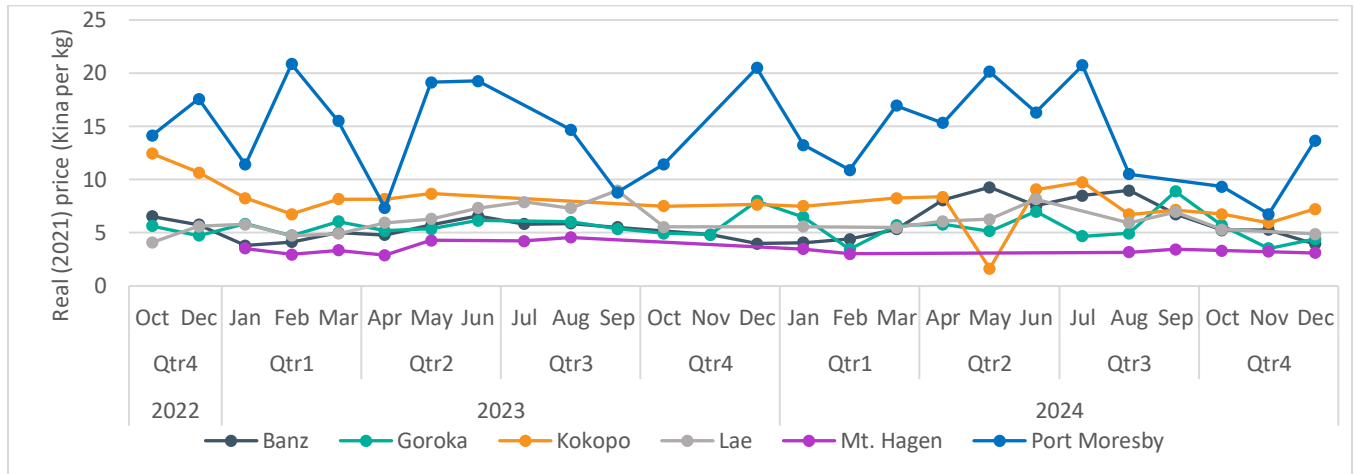
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



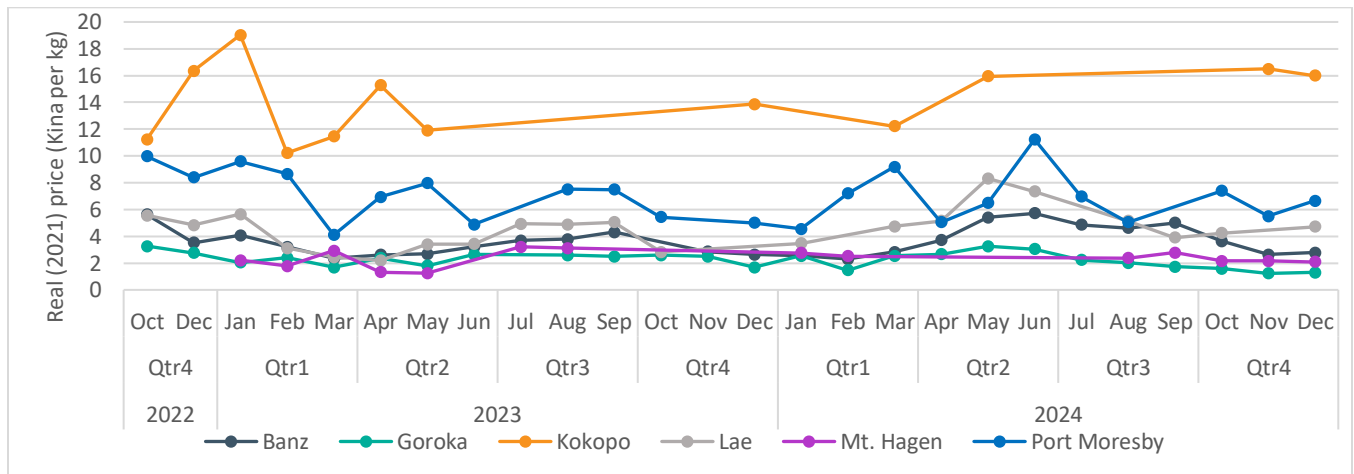
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



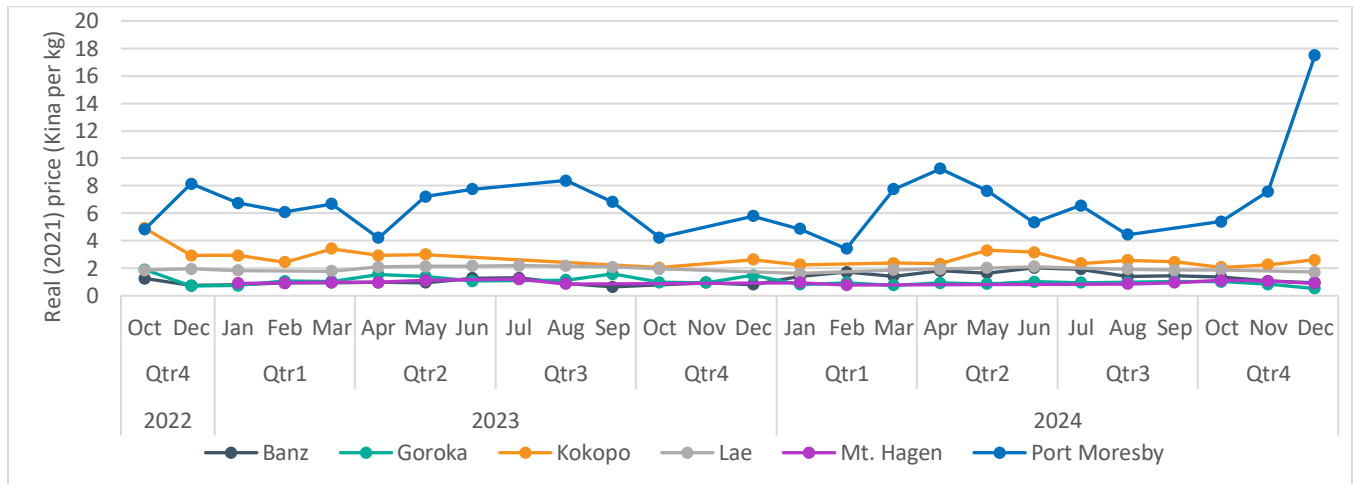
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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)



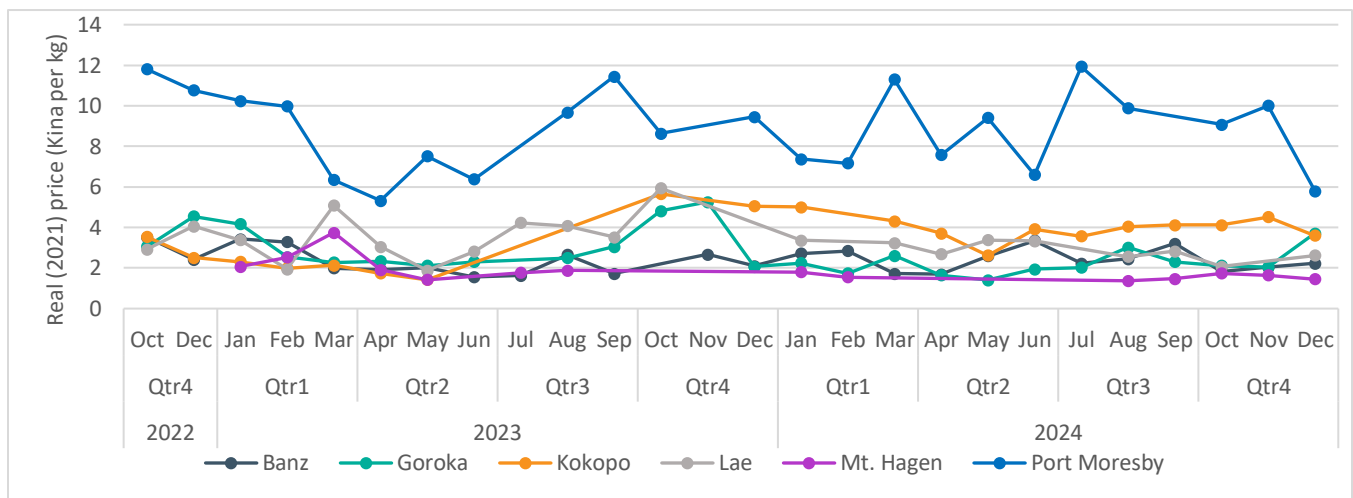
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

Fresh fruit price trends

Price trends for select fresh fruits - including lemon, orange, pawpaw and pineapple - varied across markets during the 4th quarter (Figure 11 – 14). The price of oranges decreased by an average of 34.4 percent in most markets, except Lae, where the price increased from 4.1 PGK/kg in October to 6.7 PGK/kg in December. Lemon prices showed mixed trends, increasing by an average of 40.9 percent in Goroka, Banz and Lae but declining, on average, by 21.8 percent in Kokopo, Mt Hagen and Port Moresby between October and December, 2024.

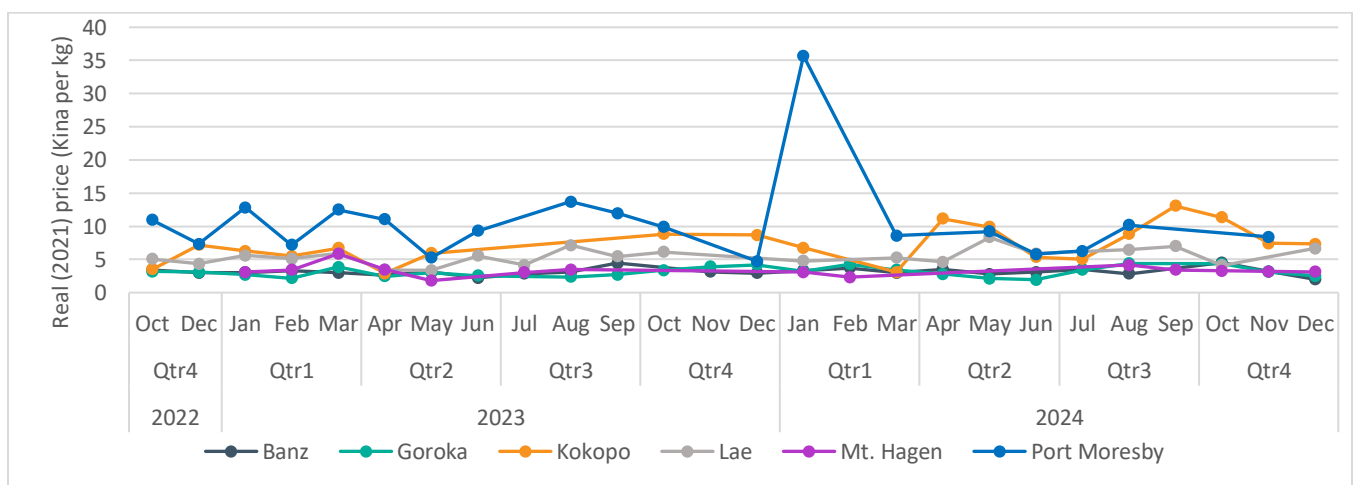
Comparing fruit cost between 2023 and 2024, the price of lemons in the 4th quarter of 2024 were, on average, 28.4 percent lower across all markets. In contrast, the price of pawpaw was on average 11 percent higher in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023 (Figure 13).

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



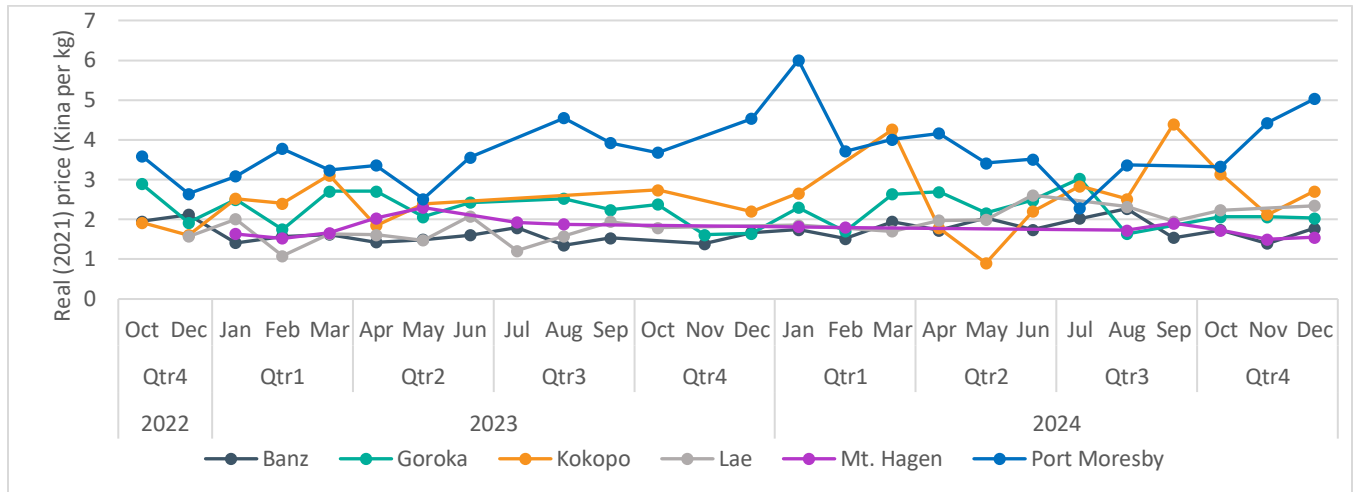
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



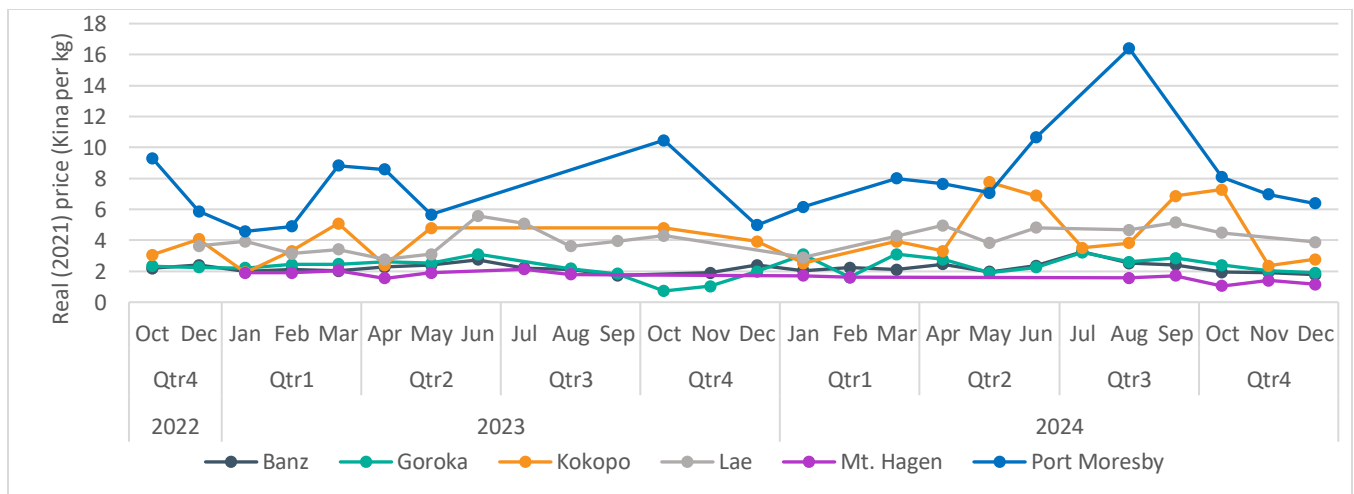
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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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