PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

October 2026

On 15 October 2026, IFPRI and the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) launched the updated Papua New Guinea Food Price Monitoring Tool, a free, interactive dashboard for exploring FPDA market price data. Users can compare prices across markets and over time, choose between monthly and 3-month (smoothed) average prices, and view an alert for unusual price spikes. The tool is available here.

This bulletin reports on food price trends from major markets in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for the third quarter (Q3) of 2026 (July to September), using the data collected by the Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA). Two rounds of data were collected in all six markets in July and August. In September, two rounds were collected in Banz, Goroka, Kokopo and Port Moresby, and no data were collected in Lae and Mt. Hagen. The bulletin analyzes month-over-month changes in Q3 2026, as well as compares prices with the previous quarter (Q2 2026: April to June) and the same period in 2025 (Q3 2025).

Prices are reported in real PGK per kilogram (i.e., adjusted for inflation using the FAO Consumer Food Price Index (CPI), with price gaps (from July 2025 to September 2026) filled using a growth rate calculated from quarterly CPI data provided by the PNG National Statistical Office). Quarterly average prices are calculated from the months with data, so the Q3 averages for Lae and Mt. Hagen cover July and August only.

This bulletin focuses on selected staples (sweet potato, taro, cassava, and cooking banana), rice, vegetables (aibika, English cabbage,

The Papua New Guinea Food Price Monitoring Tool, launched on 15 October 2026, lets users create graphs, compare markets and download price data for more than 20 food crops at: https://www.ifpri.org/project/fresh-food-price-analysis-papua-new-guinea

Staple crops: During Q3 2026 (July to September), most of the increase in staple prices occurred in September. In the markets with price observations in all three months. Prices in July and August remained broadly around Q2 2026 (April to June) levels.

Rice: Average price of a 1kg bag of rice across the six market remained stable: 4.04 PGK/kg, 2 percent below Q2 2026 and 5 percent below Q3 2025.

- Highest observed price: PGK 4.90/kg in Port Moresby in July.
- Lowest observed price: PGK 3.00/kg in Mt. Hagen in August.

Vegetables: Compared with Q2 2026, average prices were higher for English cabbage (18 percent), capsicum (5 percent), choko tips (4 percent), and lower for aibika (1 percent) and carrot (8 percent). On average, English cabbage was 52 percent higher than in Q3 2025.

Fruit: Compared with Q2 2026, average prices were higher for lemon (38 percent), orange (8 percent), pawpaw (7 percent) and pineapple (3 percent). Lemon in Port Moresby rose from PGK 5.50/kg in July to PGK 12.83/kg in September.

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

In Q3 2026 (July to September), average real prices [1]of staples such as sweet potato, cassava, and cooking banana were higher compared with Q2 2026 (April to June) (Table 1). Cassava recorded the largest increase, rising by 12 percent, while sweet potato and cooking banana increased by 6 percent each. Taro prices remain stable.

The largest, market-level increases in sweet potato prices were recorded in Banz and Goroka, where prices rose by 34 percent in both markets. Cassava prices also increased in Banz (30 percent), Lae (23 percent) and Goroka (22 percent).

Compared with Q3 2025, average prices were higher for all four staples. Sweet potato prices increased by 22 percent, cooking banana by 21 percent, taro by 12 percent and cassava by 2 percent (Table 1 and Figures 1 to 4).

Table 1: Average prices and price changes of staple foods, Q3 2026

Commodity	Q3 2026 average price (PGK/kg)	QoQ change	YoY change	Price range by market (PGK/kg)
Sweet Potato	1.80	+6%	+22%	0.92 (Mt. Hagen) to 2.84 (Port Moresby)
Taro (true)	3.85	-0.5%	+12%	2.20 (Lae) to 7.34 (Port Moresby)
Cassava	1.15	+12%	+2%	0.81 (Goroka) to 1.91 (Port Moresby)
Cooking Banana	2.63	+6%	+21%	1.44 (Kokopo) to 3.34 (Banz)

Notes: Q3 2026 = July to September 2026; PGK = Papua New Guinea Kina; Quarter-over-Quarter (QoQ) = change from Q2 2026 (April to June 2026); Year-over-Year (YoY) = change from Q3 2025 (July to September 2025). The average is the mean of the six market averages. Changes are calculated for markets with prices in both periods. Lae and Mt. Hagen have no September 2026 data, and Mt. Hagen has September data only for Q3 2025.

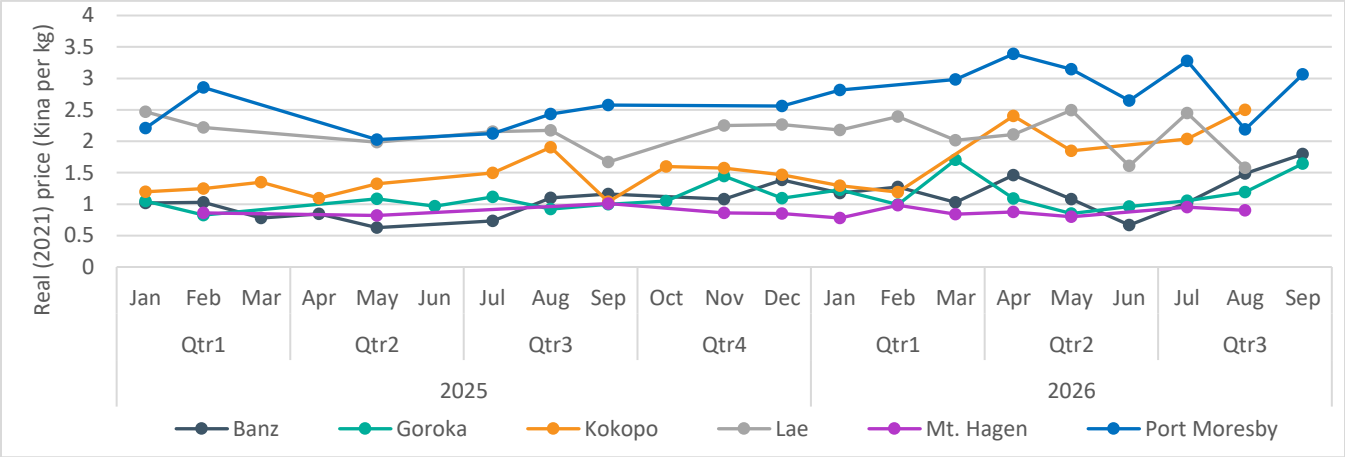
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

During Q3 2026 (July to September), most of the increase in staple prices occurred in September. In the markets with price observations in all three months. Prices in July and August remained broadly around Q2 2026 (April to June) levels. Depending on the staple, average prices during these two months (July and August) ranged from 15 percent below the Q2 average for taro to 1 percent above it for cassava.

[1] Note on CPI: Real prices are calculated by adjusting nominal prices with the Food Consumer Price Index (CPI). The FAO Food CPI ends in June 2025. For July 2025 to June 2026, monthly CPI values were imputed using the quarterly Food CPI published by the PNG National Statistical Office (NSO). Values for July to September 2026 are also imputed, since they fall after the latest NSO data. Whenever FAO or NSO publishes new CPI data, the imputed values will be replaced and the real prices in the Food Price Monitoring Tool will be updated. Real prices in the tool may therefore differ from those published in this bulletin, which reports figures based on the CPI data available, including imputed values, at the time of preparation (October 2026).

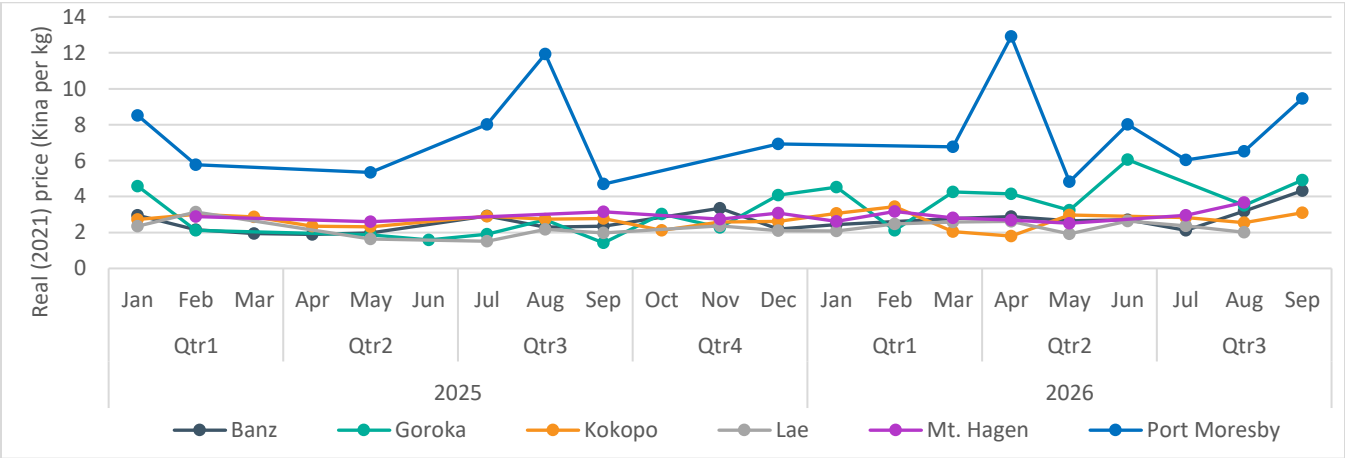
Staple prices increased more sharply in September. Across these markets, average September prices for the selected staples were 23 to 28 percent above Q2 averages. The largest increases were recorded for sweet potato in Banz and Goroka, where September prices were 68 percent and 70 percent above the respective Q2 averages.

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



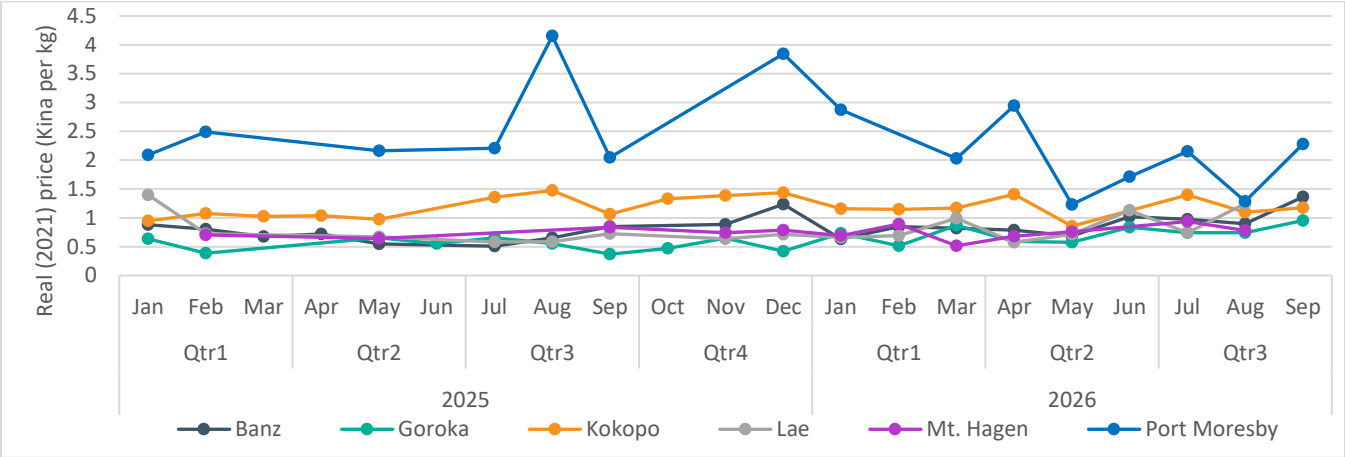
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



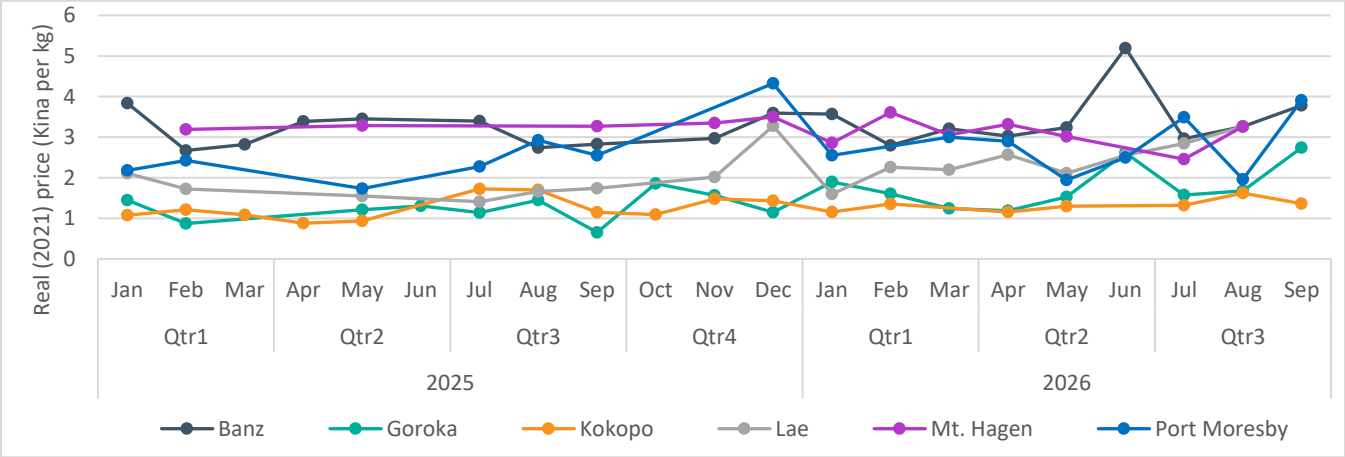
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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



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

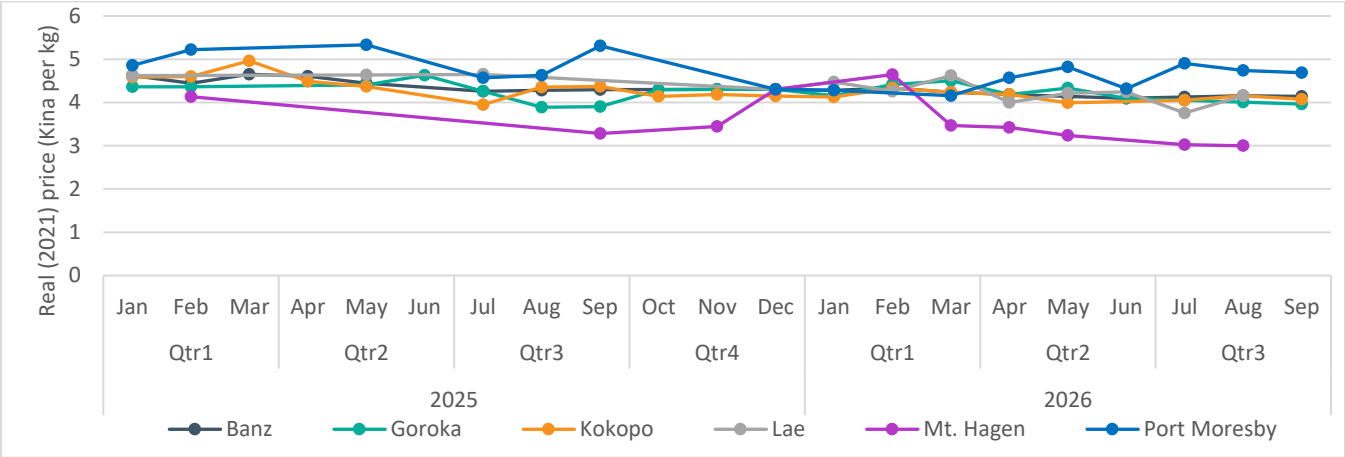
Figure 4: Real price of cooking banana across 6 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)



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

In Q3 2026, the average price of a 1kg bag of rice remained broadly stable across markets at PGK 4.00/kg, 2 percent below Q2 2026 and 5 percent below Q3 2025 (Figure 5). Prices were highest in Port Moresby (PGK 4.77/kg) and lowest in Mt. Hagen (PGK 3.01/kg). The average price for a 1kg bag of rice across the six markets was PGK 3.99/kg in July and PGK 4.03/kg in August, and fell by 1 percent between August and September in the four markets with recorded September data.

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



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

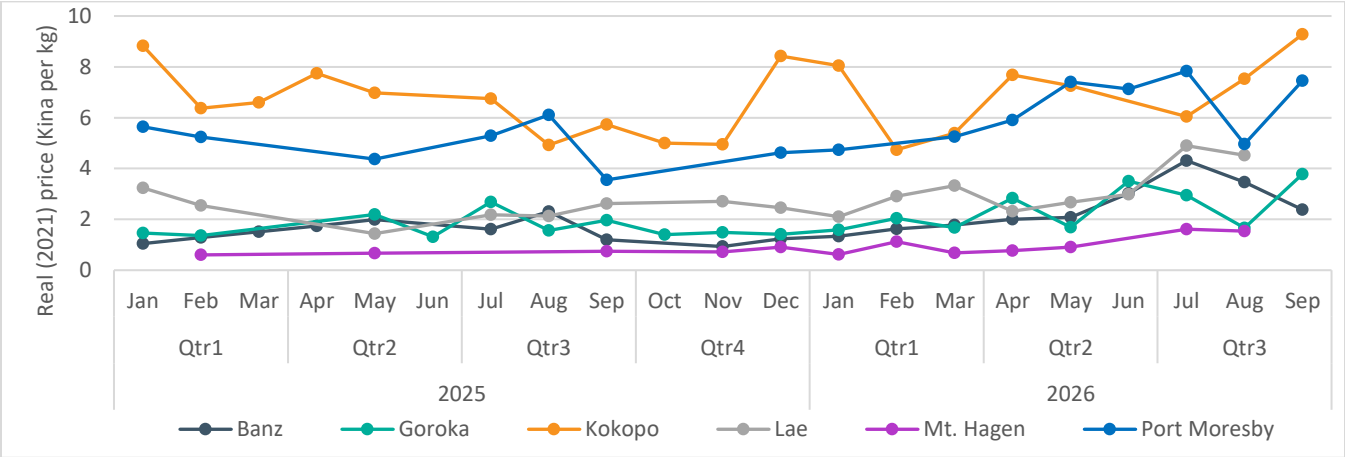
Vitamin-dense food prices

During Q3 2026, English cabbage prices varied considerably across markets, ranging from PGK 1.58/kg in Mt. Hagen to PGK 7.62/kg in Kokopo. Average capsicum prices increased by 30 percent between July and August, driven mainly by increases in Lae, Port Moresby, and Banz, before changing little in September among the four reporting markets. Carrot prices also increased between August and September in Goroka, from PGK 2.05/kg to PGK 3.83/kg, and in Port Moresby, from PGK 5.44/kg to PGK 8.02/kg. Goroka recorded the highest quarterly average price for aibika at PGK 4.35/kg. Choko tips prices in Goroka more than doubled between July and August, from PGK 2.02/kg to PGK 4.57/kg, before returning to PGK 1.89/kg in September.

Compared with Q2 2026, average prices increased for all selected vegetables except aibika and carrot (Figures 6 to 8). English cabbage recorded the largest increase, rising by 18 percent, followed by capsicum at 5 percent and choko tips at 4 percent. Aibika prices were 1 percent lower, and carrot prices decreased by 8 percent among markets reporting in both quarters. At the market level, cabbage prices increased most in Mt. Hagen (88 percent), Lae (77 percent), and Banz (43 percent). Mt. Hagen recorded the largest increase in capsicum prices (97 percent).

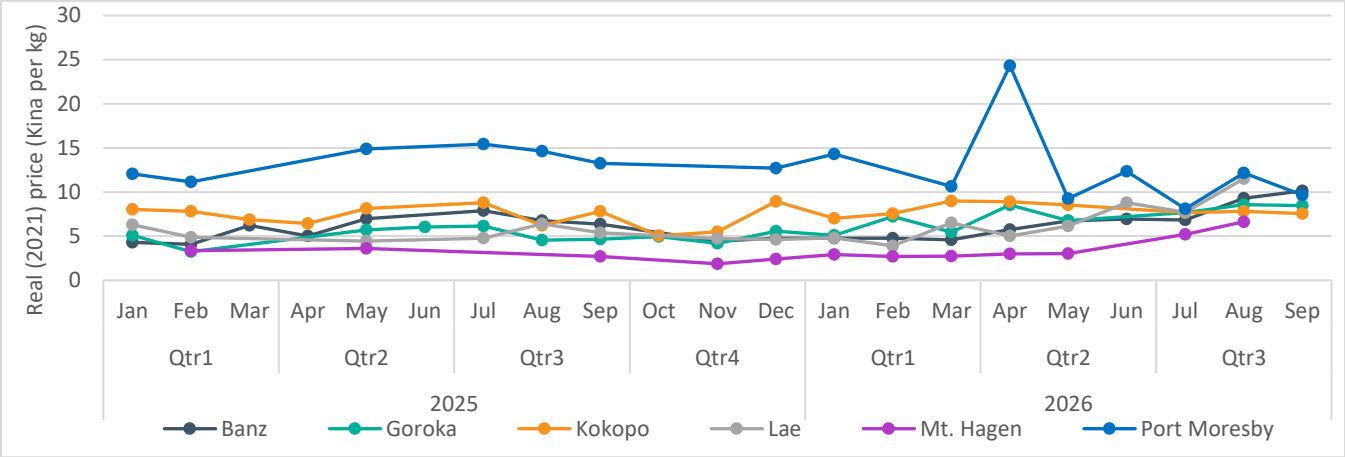
Compared with Q3 2025, prices were 52 percent higher for English cabbage, 35 percent higher for aibika, 18 percent higher for capsicum, 13 percent higher for carrot and 7 percent higher for choko tips.

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



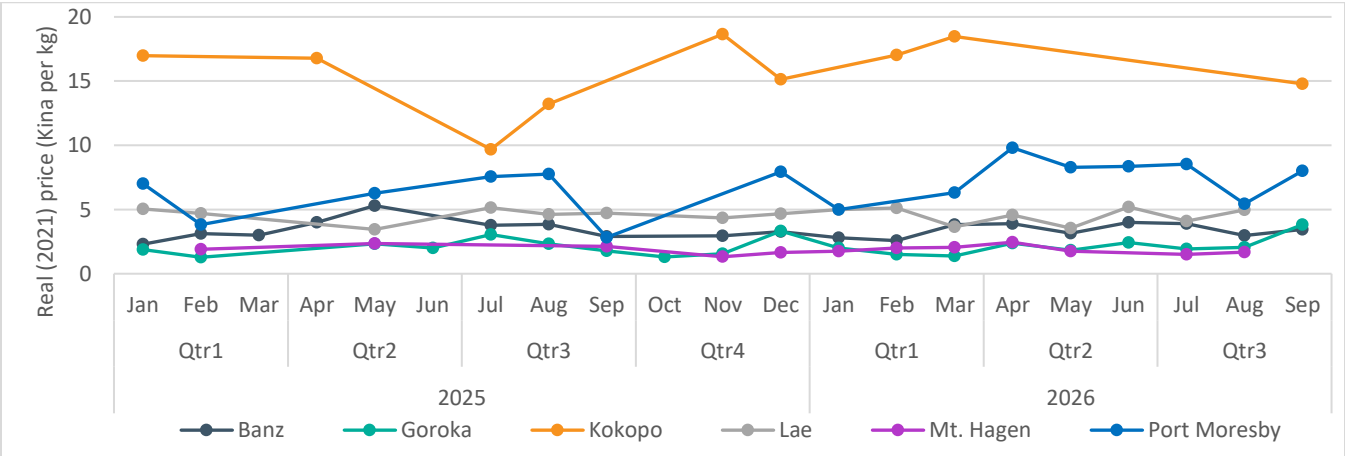
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

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

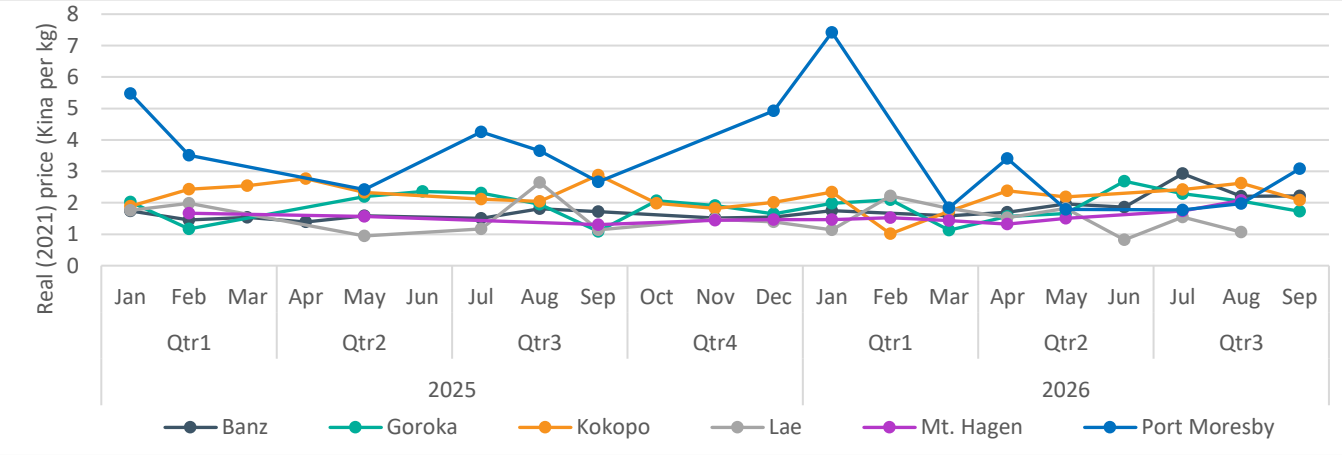
In Q3 2026 (July to September), average prices across the six markets were PGK 3.71/kg for lemon, PGK 6.48/kg for orange, PGK 2.06/kg for pawpaw and PGK 3.39/kg for pineapple, with price levels and monthly patterns varying across markets.

During Q3, orange prices were highest in Port Moresby (PGK 10.37/kg) and Kokopo (PGK 9.85/kg) and lowest in Goroka (PGK 3.86/kg). Pawpaw prices ranged from PGK 1.31/kg in Lae to PGK 2.45/kg in Banz. Lemon prices in Port Moresby increased throughout the quarter, from PGK 5.50/kg in July to PGK 12.83/kg in September.

Compared with Q2 2026, average prices of all four fruits were higher. Lemon recorded the largest increase, rising by 38 percent, followed by orange (8 percent), pawpaw (7 percent), and pineapple (3 percent) (Figures 9 and 10). Lemon prices increased most in Banz (76 percent), Port Moresby (56 percent), and Lae (45 percent). Pineapple prices increased in Mt. Hagen (42 percent) and Lae (9 percent) but decreased in Kokopo (19 percent).

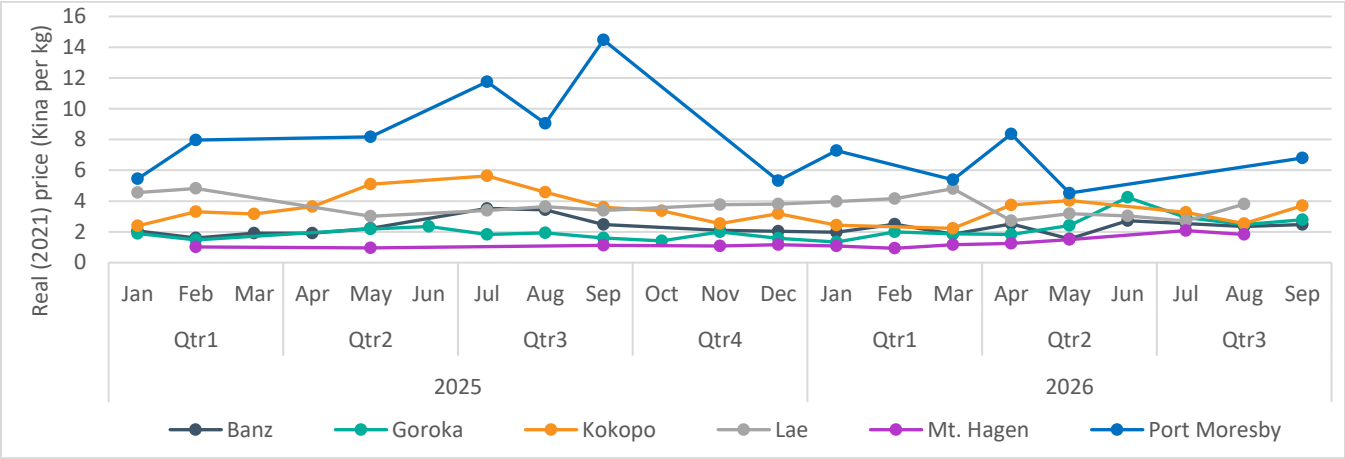
Compared with Q3 2025, average prices were 30 percent higher for orange, 27 percent higher for lemon, and 0.5 percent higher for pawpaw. Pineapple prices were 21 percent lower, and 4 percent lower excluding Port Moresby, which reported only one pineapple observation during Q3 2026 and had no comparable quarterly average.

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)



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

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.