

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOOD PRICE BULLETIN

January 2024

This bulletin presents food price trends during the fourth quarter of 2023 and compares current prices with those of previous years (2021-2022) from major markets across Papua New Guinea using data collected by Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPD). It is important to note that during the fourth quarter of 2023, none of the markets had a complete set of fortnightly price data. While Port Moresby had fortnightly observations for October and December, the rest of the markets (Goroka, Banz Kokopo, Lae) collected price data on a monthly basis. No data was collected in the 4th quarter from Mt Hagen market. To access the complete and comprehensive price dataset, you can download it from our [website](#).

This bulletin reports the average real monthly fresh food price data from Port Moresby, Goroka, Banz, and Kokopo markets. The prices presented in this report are in real terms, adjusted for inflation using FAO consumer price index (CPI).

## Staple crop price trends

Starchy staple foods such as sweet potato, taro, cassava, sago, comprise about 60 percent of the total daily calories consumed per individual in rural areas ([IFPRI, 2023](#)). Households in rural PNG largely consume foods from their own grown staples whereas urban dwellers depend more on market purchases to meet calorie needs. Food prices tend to vary by market depending on which agroecological zone they are located, and which crops grow best in the area. For example, 75 percent of national sweet potato is produced in the highlands.

## 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 comparison and trends of Q4 of 2023 and 2022 and 2021

Compared to 2021 and 2022, sweet potato, taro and cassava were less expensive (in real terms) in 2023 in Banz, Goroka, Kokopo and Port Moresby.

Between the fourth quarter of 2023 and the fourth quarter of 2022, the (real) price of rice increased by 8 percent in Banz, Goroka and Kokopo while it declined by 11 percent in Port Moresby over the same period.

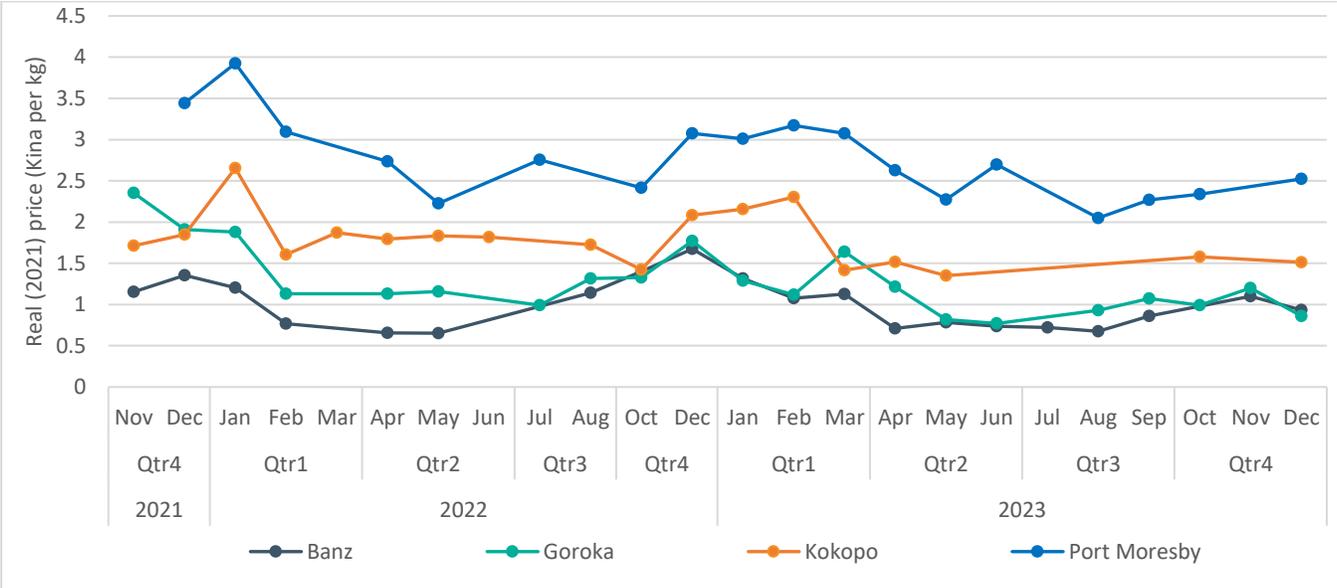
Between October and December 2023, vitamin-dense vegetable prices varied across markets. Compared to Q4 of 2022, fresh produce prices were less (except capsicum in Goroka), on average, 24 percent in Q4 of 2023.

Comparing different fruit prices between 2021-2023 suggests intra- and inter-annual fluctuations over the past three years. Orange and pawpaw prices showed a steady increase while lemons decreased first but later rose again. Between the fourth quarter of 2022 and 2023, the pawpaw price decreased in highland markets of Goroka and Banz. Similarly, lemon and orange prices decreased in Port Moresby.

Compared to 4th quarter prices of sweet potato and taro in 2021 and 2022, these commodities were 29 and 27 percent less (in real terms) in Goroka and Banz, respectively (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Similarly, in the lowland markets of Kokopo and Port Moresby, sweet potato and taro were, on average, 21 and 15 percent less expensive compared to the same quarter in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

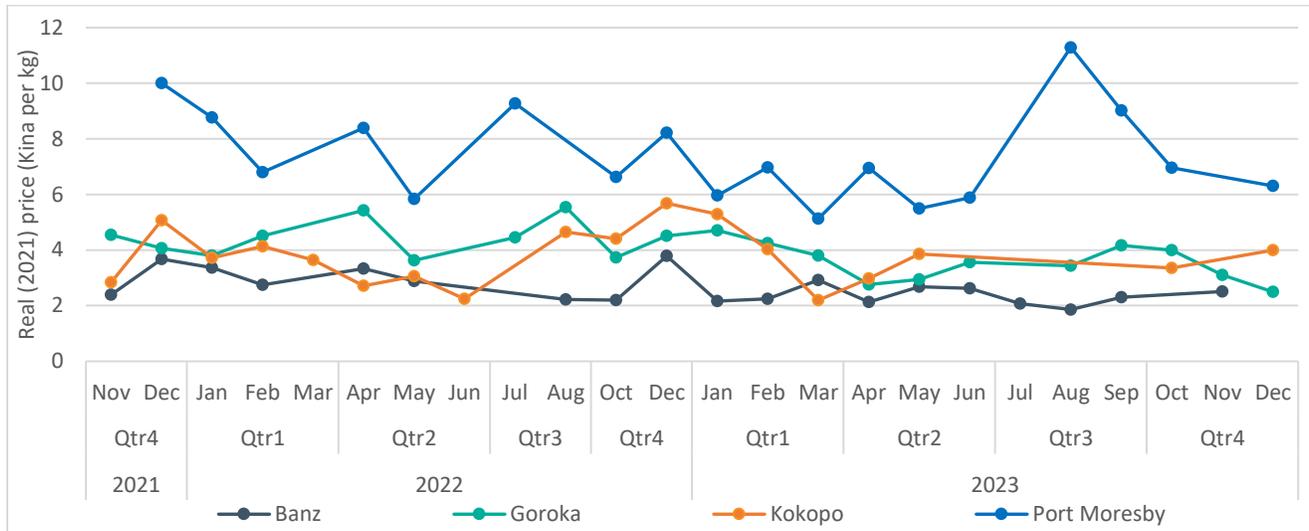
The price of cassava between October and December of 2023 decreased by an average of 21 percent in all markets, except in Port Moresby, where the price increased by 26 percent, from 2.35 PGK/kg in October to 2.95 PGK/kg in December 2023. However, compared to the same quarter in 2021 and 2022, cassava prices have remained relatively stable (Figure 3).

**Figure 1: Real price of sweet potato across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



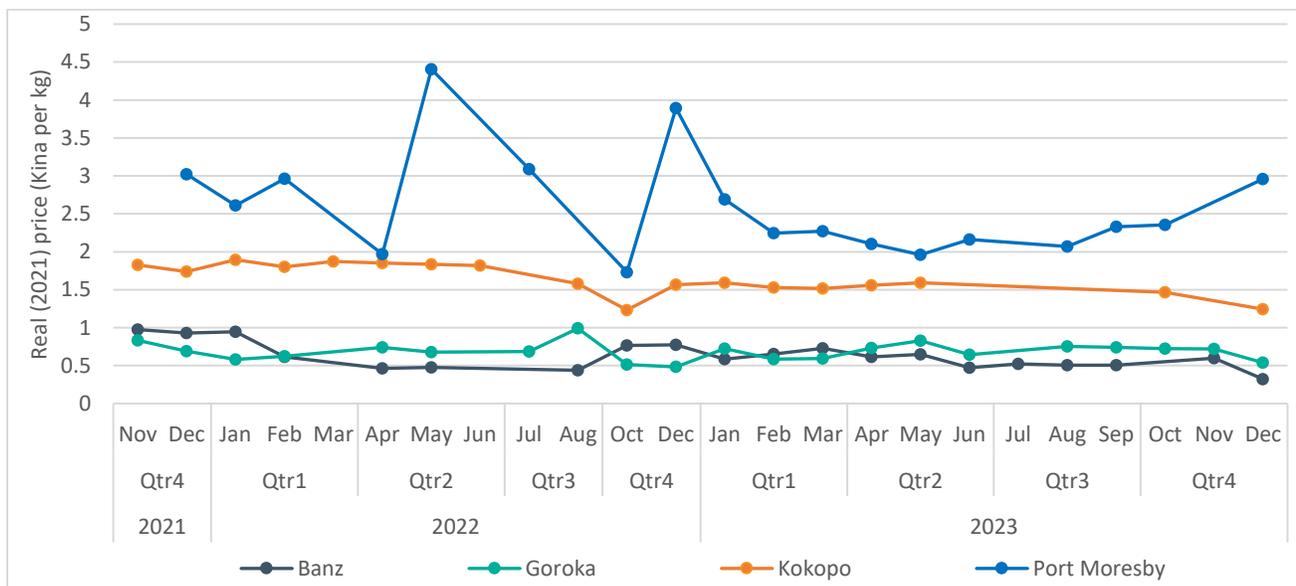
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Figure 2: Real price of taro across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

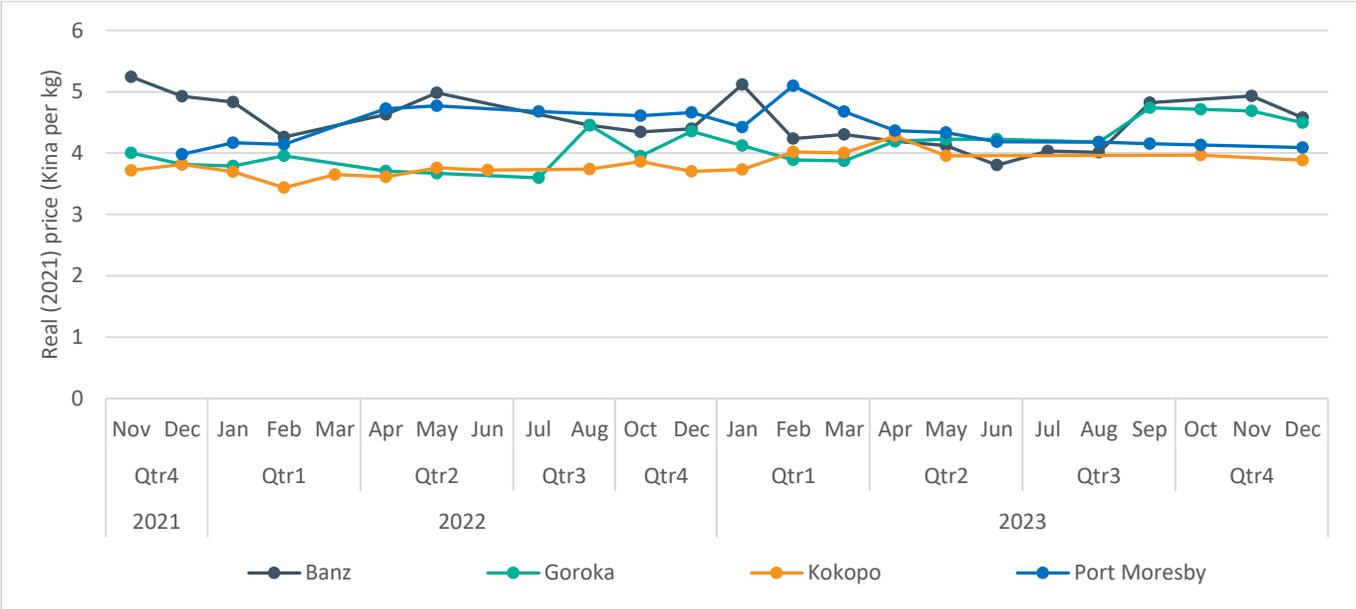
**Figure 3: Real price of cassava across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

Between October and December of 2023, the price of imported rice in real terms remained relatively stable. The highest price for 1 kilo of rice was 4.75 PGK in Banz and the lowest was in Kokopo market at a price of 3.9 PGK. In general, in the fourth quarter of 2023, the average real price was slightly higher in most markets compared to the same period in 2021 and 2022 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Real price of rice (1 kilo bag) across 4 FPDA markets**

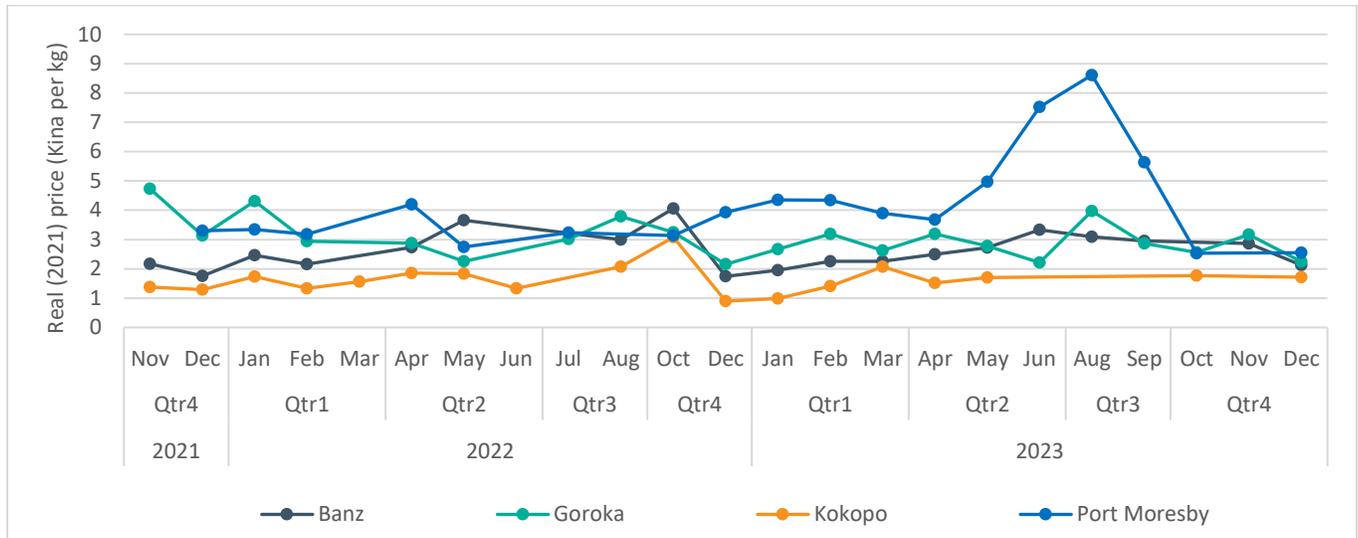


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Vitamin-dense food prices**

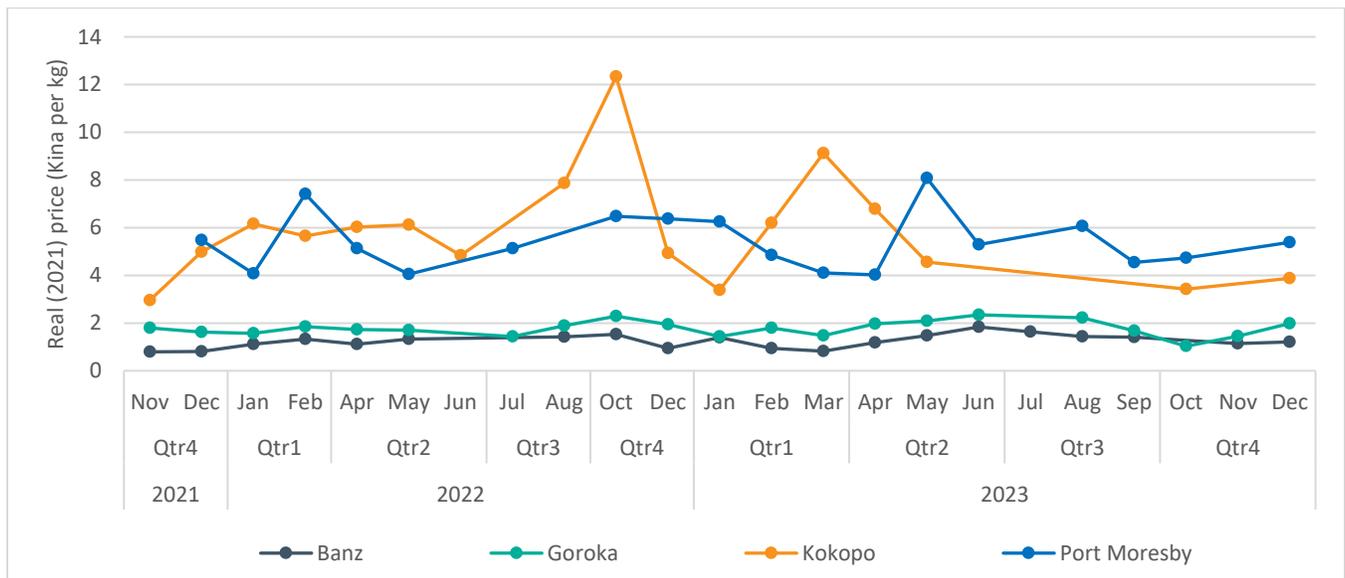
From October to December of 2023, prices of vitamin-dense vegetables varied across markets. During this period, the price of English cabbage increased by an average of 19 percent in all four markets. However, substantial price differences exist between highland and lowland markets in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023. For example, a kilo of English cabbage cost an average of 1.3 PGK in the highland markets of Goroka and Banz while in the lowlands markets of Port Moresby and Kokopo it cost an average of 4.4 PGK per kilogram (Figure 5). In Port Moresby, prices of aibika, capsicum, and choko-tips rose on average by 38 percent, of which capsicum had the highest increase, 77 percent, costing 20.3 PGK per kg in December 2023. When comparing fresh vegetable prices across all markets between the 4th quarter of 2022 and 2023, the prices of aibika, English cabbage, carrot and choko-tips decreased on average by 24 percent in real terms (Figure 5 – Figure 8).

**Figure 5: Real price of aibika across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



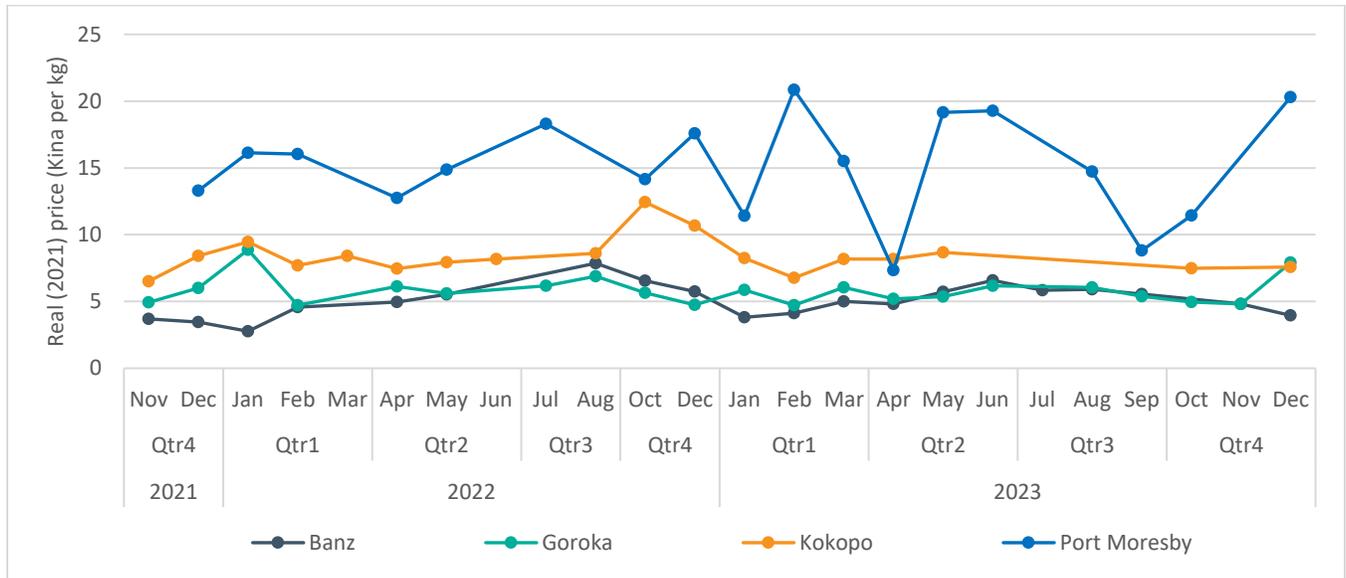
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Figure 6: Real price of English cabbage across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



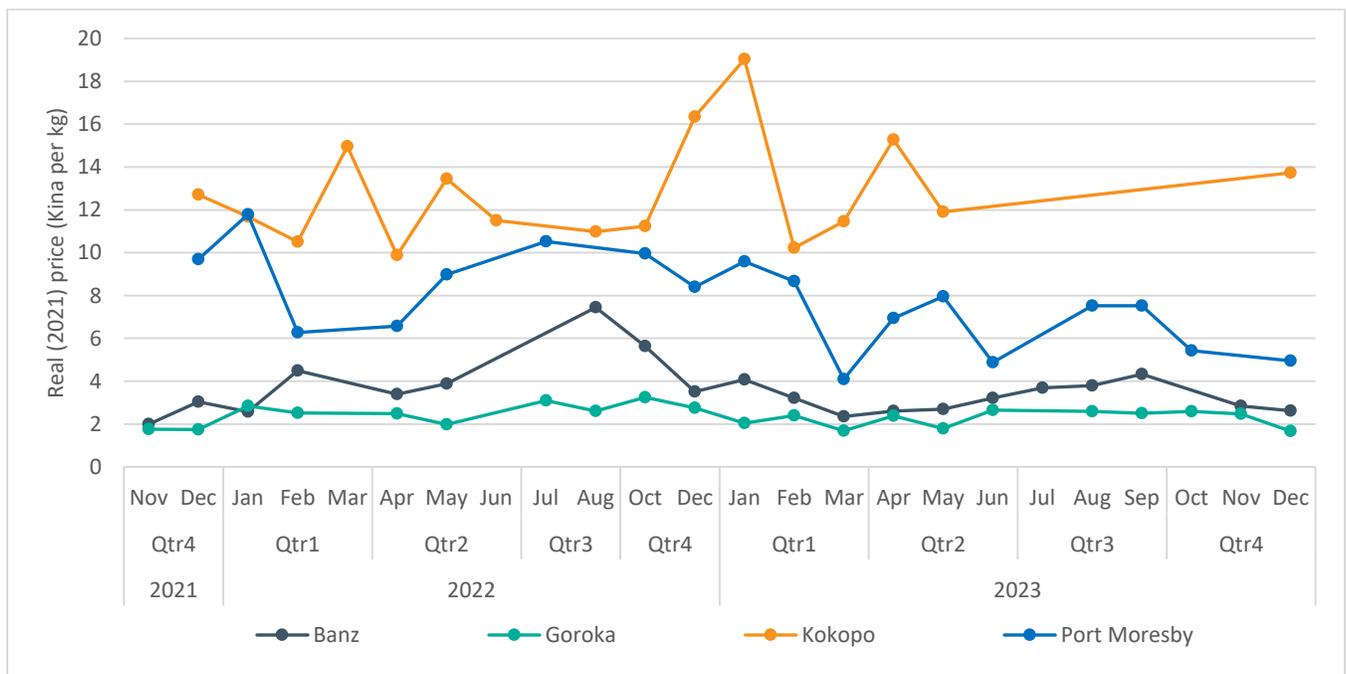
Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

**Figure 7: Real price of capsicum across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

**Figure 8: Real price of carrot across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**

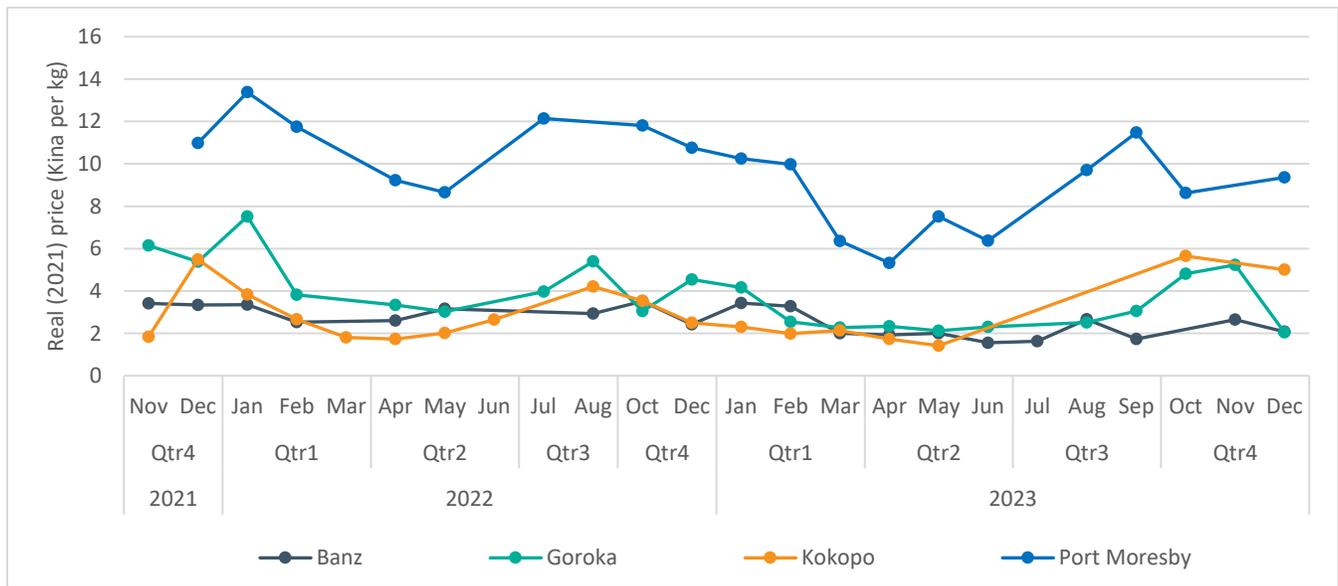


Source: Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) market retail price database.

### Fresh fruit price trends

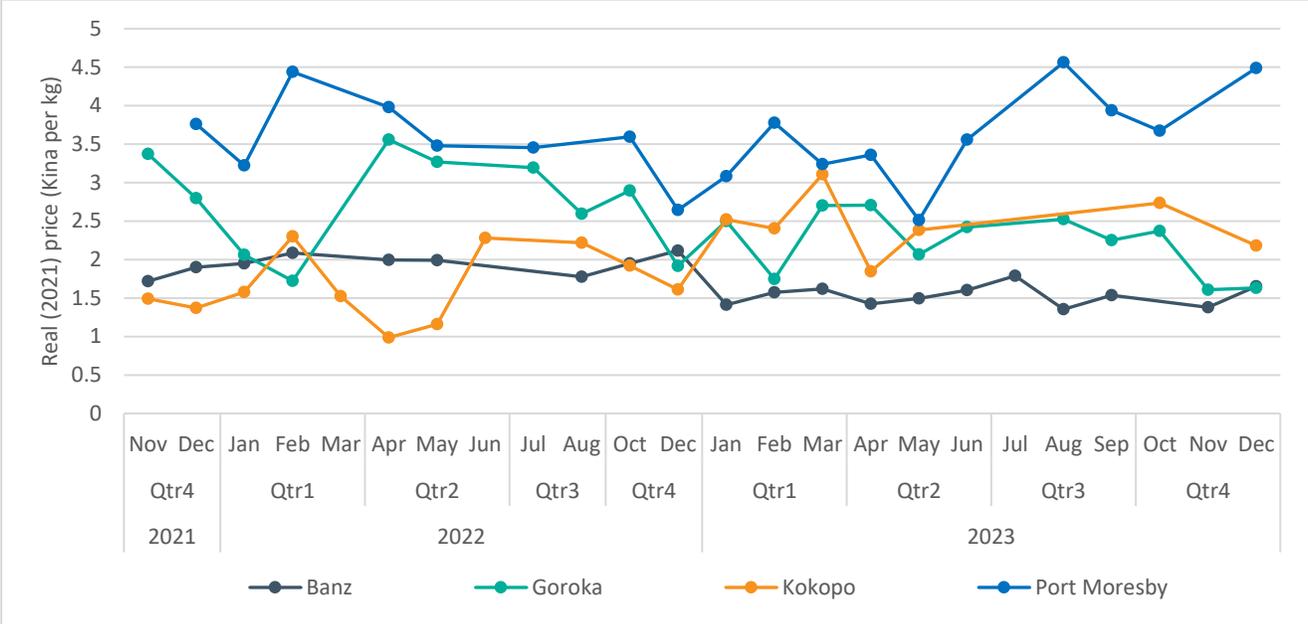
The real price trends of different fruit in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter over the past three years have fluctuated across markets. For example, lemon prices in Kokopo decreased between the fourth quarter of 2021 and 2022, followed by an increase of 76 percent reaching an average of 5.3 PKG/kg in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 from an average of 3 PKG/kg in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022 (Figure 11). Similarly, the price of pawpaw increased in Kokopo, on average, 72 percent (from 1.43 to 2.5 PKG/kg) since 2021 quarter 4 (Figure 12). However, in the highland markets of Goroka and Banz, between the fourth quarter of 2022 and 2023, the average real pawpaw price decreased on average by 22 and 25 percent, respectively.

**Figure 10: Real price of lemon across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

**Figure 11: Real price of pawpaw across 4 FPDA markets (PGK / kg)**



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

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