



## Agri Trends: Vegetable market report

**The overarching sentiment on produce quality remains positive.**

### Cabbage

The decline in prices for September was due to a combination of restricted consumer demand and an oversupply in the market. Additionally, it is worth noting that consumer demand tends to be stronger during colder months compared to warmer months. It is projected that market prices may exhibit small fluctuations towards the end of October. However, it is expected that these prices will stabilize and align with the average price levels seen in September.

### Carrots

Carrot prices have shown significant declines in prices for September and according to market agents, this has been due to increased supply volume across the fresh produce markets. Analysts project a modest upward trend in October, driven by the anticipated stability in both volume and quality.

### Onions

Onion prices have experienced a decline in prices due to an oversupply in volume with declining demand, mostly due to the onset of the harvesting season in the Northern regional areas. The Limpopo and Brits areas are expected to sustain their volume production during the remainder of October and into November. The Cape area is expected to join the market after the conclusion of the production season in the Northern regions.

### Potatoes

Potatoes price increases across the five produce markets are attributed to the changes in supply and the variability in crop quality. The decline in supply volume has contributed to a reduction in supply output. Analysts note that market prices will see an upward trend, through into October.

### Tomato

Tomato prices have seen an increasing trend for September, prices have been supported by limited supply volumes as the Mpumalanga region wraps up their season. The Eastern Cape and Lowveld regions are anticipated to enter the market with produce as October progresses. Analysts note that the quality of this commodity will also remain good as the year concludes.

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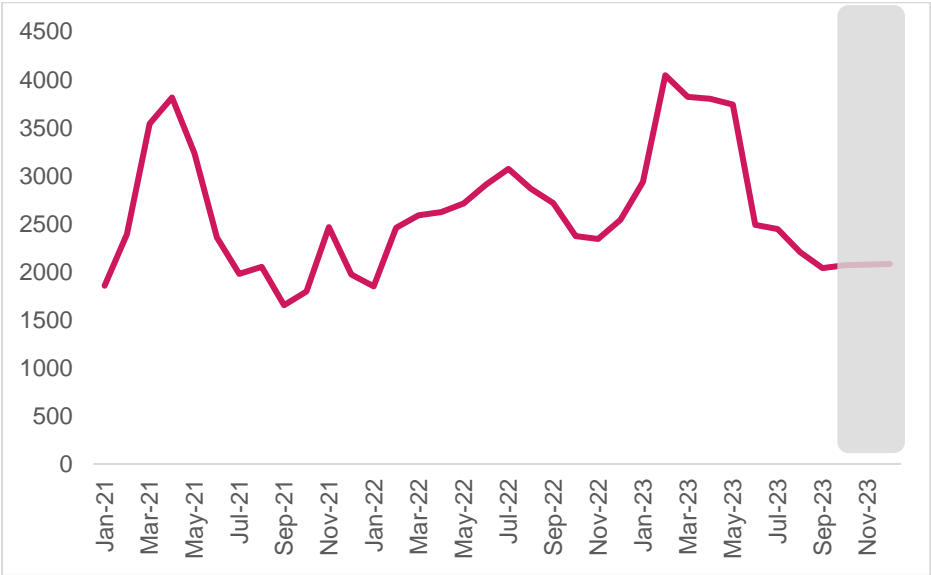
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## Cabbage market trends

Analysts note that cabbage prices are expected to continue trading sideways for the next three months as market demand remains restricted. Prices have declined by 5.5% month-on-month, supported by an oversupply in volumes. The decline in prices is noted to be linked to a combination of restricted consumer demand and an oversupply in the market. The week ending 29th September, recorded an average of R1957 per ton across the five main fresh produce markets. It is projected that market prices may exhibit small fluctuations towards the end of October. However, it is expected that these prices will stabilize and align with the average price levels seen in September.

Figure 1: Monthly cabbage prices and projections

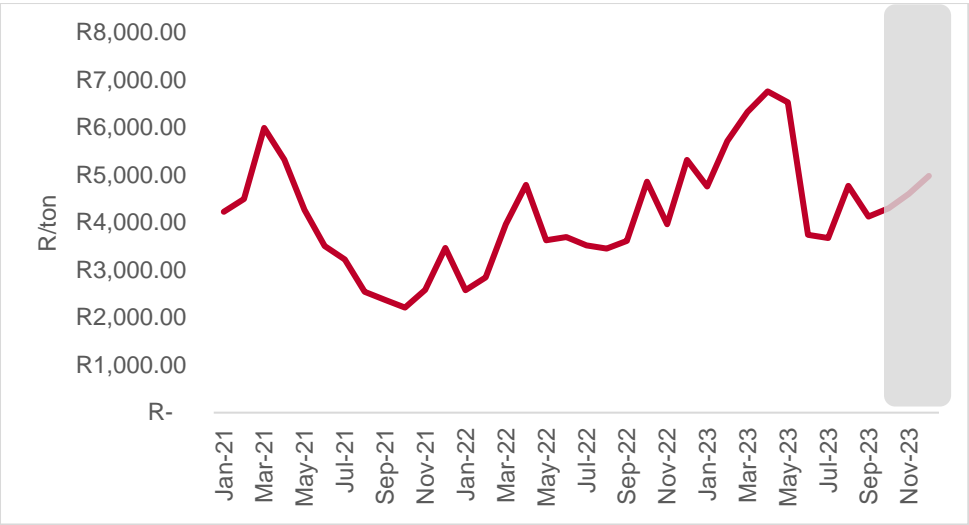


\*Area in grey represents Absa AgriBusiness forecasts

## Carrot market trends

For September, supply growth has been enhanced by improved product quality. As a result, analysts noted a 23.4% month-on-month decrease, with an average of R4125 per ton recorded in the week ending 29th September. Market agents have noted that volumes are expected to remain stable through October, however, prices are expected to follow an upward movement due to anticipated stability in both volume and quality of produce offered in the market.

Figure 2: Monthly carrot prices and projections

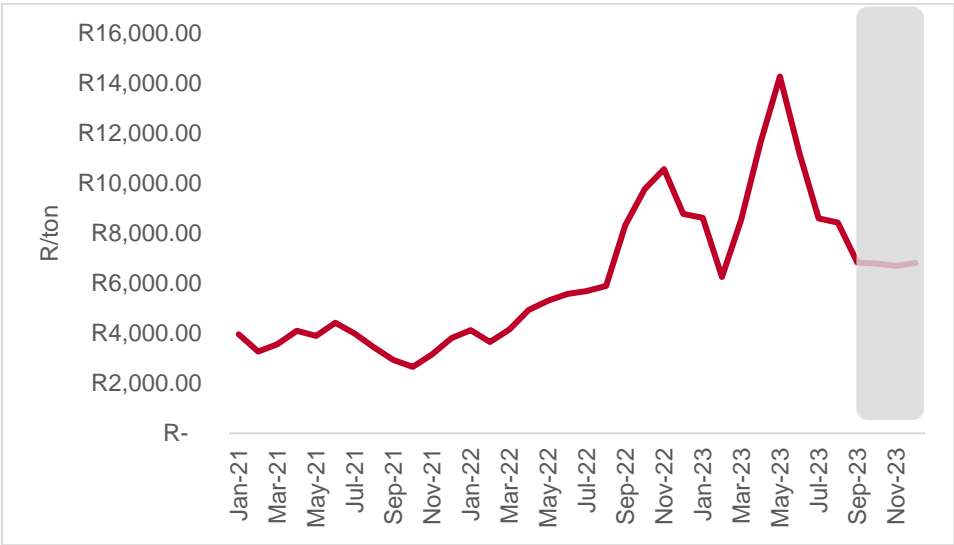


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## Onion market trends

Analysts observe that onion prices are still experiencing a corrective phase of price stabilization after record prices in the first two quarters of the 2023 season. Month-on-month onion prices decreased by 42.3% on the back of an oversupply in volume, with declining demand. The average price recorded across the five main fresh produce markets, in the week ending 29<sup>th</sup> September, was R5064 per ton. This has been due to the onset of harvesting season oversupply in the Northern regional areas, exerting downward pressure on the pricing.

**Figure 3: Monthly onion prices and projections**

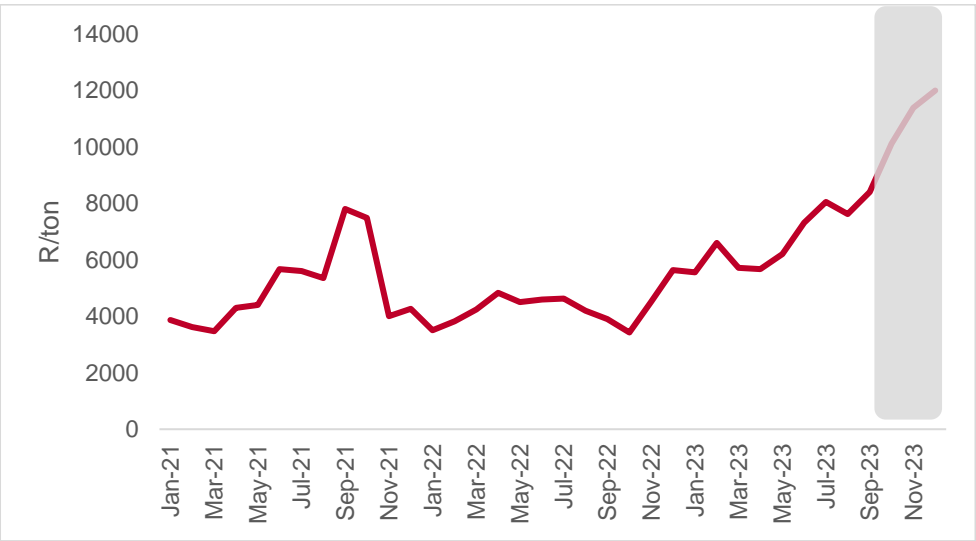


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## Potato Market Trends

Potato prices have been experiencing an increasing price trend for September due to a decrease in supply volumes to the market. Prices increased by 63.16% month-on-month and this coupled with increasing pressure on production costs due to energy supply pressure, has caused a ripple effect on irrigation costs. Market agents note that the market is still experiencing record prices; this is notable as the year-on-year increase in fresh produce prices is significant at 239%. Market share is presently dominated by Limpopo and the Western Free State. Market prices are anticipated to continue an increasing trajectory for the rest of the year; however, the rate at which prices will rise will be dependent on consumer demand.

Figure 4: Monthly potato prices and projections

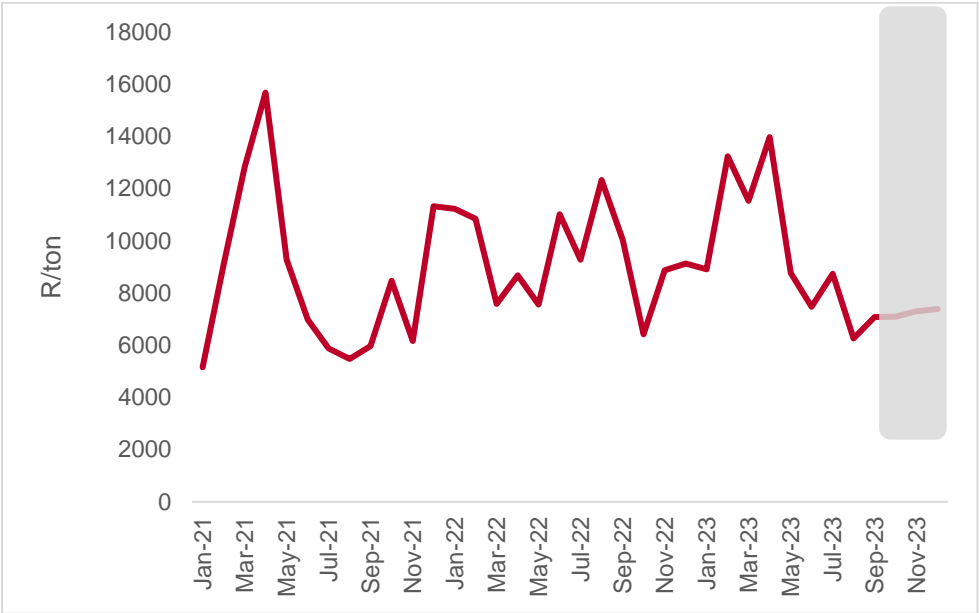


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## Tomato market trends

Tomato price trends show an increasing price trend, at the back of strong consumer demand. Market agents for Kwa-Zulu Natal have noted that historically strong demand is evident between September and October, which in effect drive and keep prices on an upward trend for the rest of the year. The average price recorded in the week ending 29th September was R7077 per ton, reflecting a month-on-month increase of 81.83%. Additionally, volume supply in the market is currently limited as Mpumalanga completes its season, making way for the Eastern Cape and the Lowveld regions.

Figure 5: Monthly tomato prices and projections



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