



HORTICULTURE BIWEEKLY 2023

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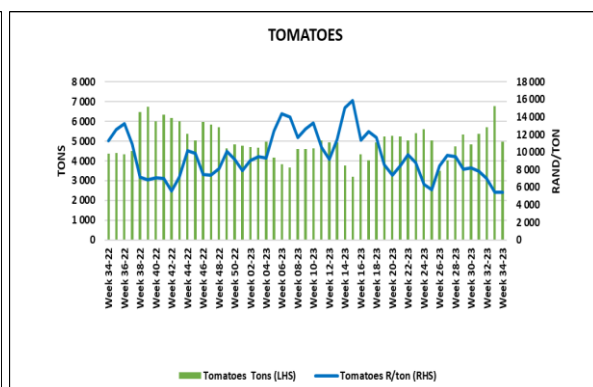
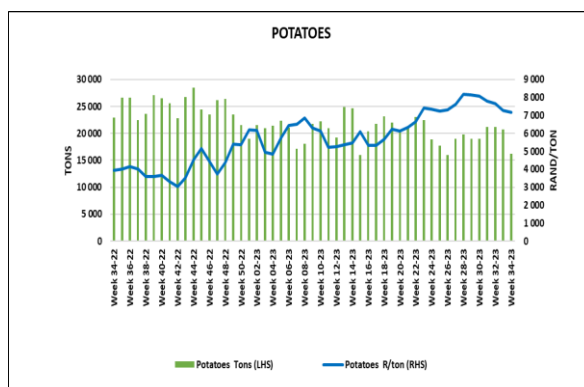
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Standard Bank **IT CAN BE...**

Summary

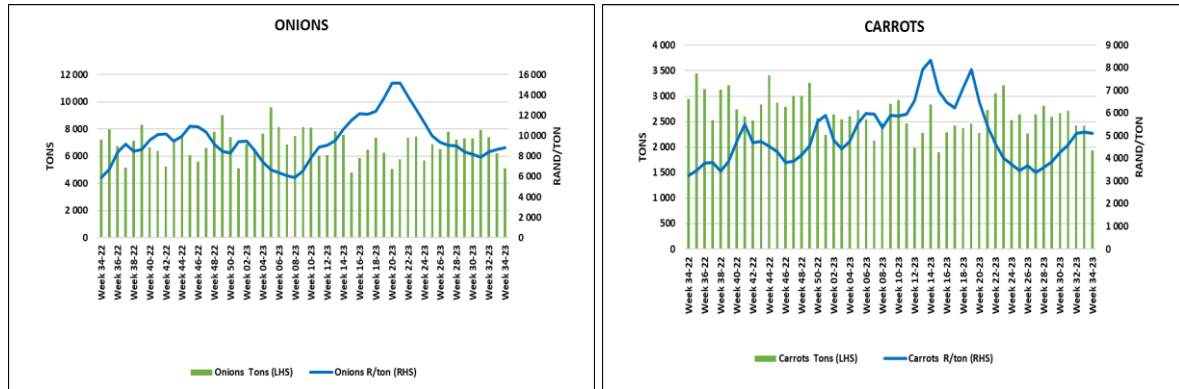
The South African avocado industry has been given a boost, as it was recently given the greenlight to export avocados to China. While this development was received positively by the domestic avocado industry, there are a few post-harvest and shipping protocols that need attention. One such protocol requires methyl bromide fumigation of avocados before shipping. South Africa does not currently fumigate its avocados, hence, the infrastructure and protocols for this process will have to be established. In addition, the shipping option is currently limited to cooled breakbulk containers, but the industry has only been using reefer containers. Therefore, the shipped avocados will have to be packed and temperature regulated accordingly. This means that new protocols will also need to be created for avocado shipments to China. According to the chairperson of the South African Avocado Growers Association (SAAGA), we may see a few trial consignments sent to China within the 2023 export season. However, it will probably be a while before China imports the volumes of avocados that the European Union (EU) absorbs from South Africa. The stone fruit industry's application for access to China is up next for consideration, followed by that of the blueberry industry.

Potatoes and Tomatoes



- In week 34-2023, **potato** prices decreased by 1.6% w/w to R7 163/ton predominantly from lower consumer demand. Volumes dropped to 16 191 tons. Prices may remain subdued until October 2023.
- **Tomato** prices moved sideways at R5 440/ton due to weaker demand. This was despite a decreased in market volumes by 27% w/w to 4 968 tons. Prices are still expected to trend lower in the coming week.

Onions and Carrots



- **Onion** prices rose by 2% w/w to R8 843/ton as volumes decreased by 17% w/w to 5 123 tons. Prices are expected to remain elevated over the first half of September 2023.
- **Carrot** prices dipped by 1% w/w to R5 100/ton, even though supply declined by 20% w/w to 1 937 tons. The price drop was occasioned by slower demand, but demand and prices are expected to recover in the coming week as per seasonal trend.

Fruit Trends on all NFPMs in South Africa

Commodity	Rand per ton		% change (w/w)	Ton		% change (w/w)
	Week ending			Week ending		
	18 Aug	25 Aug		18 Aug	25 Aug	
Apples	9 490	9 550	↑ 1%	2 897	2 350	↓ -19%
Pears	9 770	9 460	↓ -3%	780	728	↓ -7%
Bananas	9 310	9 750	↑ 5%	4 701	4 025	↓ -14%
Oranges	3 560	3 450	↓ -3%	3 705	2 847	↓ -23%
Avocados	17 340	16 920	↓ -2%	529	437	↓ -17%

- **Apple** prices increased by 1% w/w to R9 550/ton as market supply declined by 19% w/w. Prices are expected to trend upwards with the onset of spring.
- **Pear** prices decreased by 3% w/w to R9 460/ton. This was despite a tightening of market volumes by 7% w/w. In the coming week, prices are expected to trend upwards.
- **Banana** prices increased by 5% w/w to R9 750/ton as market volumes decreased by 14% w/w. Prices are expected to remain bullish for the rest of the year.
- **Orange** prices decreased by 3% w/w to R3 450/ton due to lower demand. Volumes dropped by 23% w/w. Prices are expected to increase as per seasonal trend from lower volumes.
- **Avocado** prices decreased by 2% w/w to R16 920/ton due to slower demand. Market supply contracted by 17% w/w. Prices may increase in the coming weeks as higher volumes should be directed to export markets.

Pome Fruit Exports

Week 34 Weekly Volumes 12.50 kg Cartons	2022 Exports (a)	2023 Exports (b)	y/y Change (a/b)	Cumulative Volumes YTD 2022 (c)	Cumulative Volumes YTD 2023 (d)	y/y Change (c/d)
Apples	605 764	753 812	↑ 24%	30 775 307	31 416 116	↑ 2%
Pears	211 064	101 090	↓ -52%	16 561 359	15 380 306	↓ -7%

Week 34-2023 exports:

- South Africa exported 753 812 cartons (12.5kg) of **apples**, an increase of 24% y/y. **Pear** exports declined by 52% y/y to 101 090 cartons. The cumulative export volume of apples increased by 2% y/y, while pears declined by 7% y/y. Overall, 2023 apple and pear exports are forecast to decline by 8% and 18% y/y, respectively.
- The bulk of the consignment of apples was shipped to the Far East and Asia (46.5%) and Africa (31%). South African pears were mainly shipped to the Far East and Asia (75%).
- In week 34-2023, volumes inspected and passed for export of apples and pears are down by 3% and 13%, respectively, compared to the 2022 season's volumes.

Citrus Exports

Week 33 Million 15kg Cartons	Packed 2022	Packed 2023	Packed Difference y/y	Shipped 2022	Shipped 2023	Shipped Difference y/y	Original Annual Estimate 2023	Latest Annual Prediction 2023	Final Annual Packed 2022
Grapefruit	15.9	13.9	↓ -13%	14.0	12.7	↓ -9%	14.4	14.1	16.7
Soft Citrus	27.4	32.7	↑ 19%	23.4	29.2	↑ 25%	34.1	33.8	31.8
Lemons	32.8	34.3	↑ 5%	30.5	33.5	↑ 10%	37.3	35.5	34.7
Navels	24.8	23.5	↓ -5%	22.1	21.0	↓ -5%	25.3	23.7	27.8
Valencia	29.9	32.4	↑ 8%	19.3	21.8	↑ 13%	54.5	49.4	53.8
Total	130.8	136.8	↑ 5%	109.3	118.2	↑ 8%	165.6	156.5	164.8

Week 33-2023 exports:

- **Grapefruit** exports declined by 9% y/y to 12.7 million cartons (15kg) in week 33-2023. The total grapefruit exports are expected to conclude in week 36-2023.
- **Soft citrus** shipments increased by 25% y/y to 29.2 million cartons. The majority of the soft citrus varieties have been packed, (i.e., Nova and Leanri). The Northern growing regions are expected to finalise packing this week.
- **Lemon** exports rose by 10% y/y to 33.5 million cartons. Week 33-2023 cumulative shipments are at par with the latest annual prediction.
- **Navel** exports declined by 5% y/y to 21 million cartons. The Northern regions and the Western Cape are done packing, while the Eastern Cape is expected to be done by week 36-2023.
- **Valencia** exports rose by 13% y/y to 21.8 million cartons. The industry is halfway through its Valencia exports, as the late season varieties enter the market.

Weekly Volumes 4kg Cartons	SA Exports to EU			EU Imports from the World		
	Week 34	Week 35	w/w Change	Week 34	Week 35	w/w Change
Hass	130 000	168 000	↑ 29%	4 635 000	4 350 000	↓ -6%
Green Skin	88 000	46 000	↓ -48%	241 000	189 000	↓ -22%
Total	218 000	214 000	↓ -2%	4 876 000	4 539 000	↓ -7%

Week 35-2023 exports:

- In week 35-2023, South Africa's **avocado** exports to the EU market are expected to decrease by 2% w/w to 214 000 cartons (4kg). Hass exports are expected to increase by 29% w/w to 168 000 cartons, while Green Skin exports are expected to decrease by 49% w/w to 46 000 cartons.
- A total of 4.5 million cartons of avocados should be received by the EU market in week 35-2023. This is a decrease of 7% w/w, despite Kenyan avocados entering the market.
- Peru will remain the dominant exporter to the EU market in week 35-2023, holding a market share of 67% of total exports. Kenya comes in second, with a market share of 21%, followed by South Africa with a 4.7% share of total exports.
- The decline in South African avocado volumes to the EU could be attributed to the trial consignments that will be sent to China.

Sources

Agri-Market Trends.

Bureau of Food and Agricultural Policy

Citrus Growers Association.

Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development.

Fresh Plaza.

Hortgro.

South African Avocado Growers Association.

South African Table Grape Industry.

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