

Agri-Weekly

21 March 2014

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Beef market trends (Graph 1)

International:

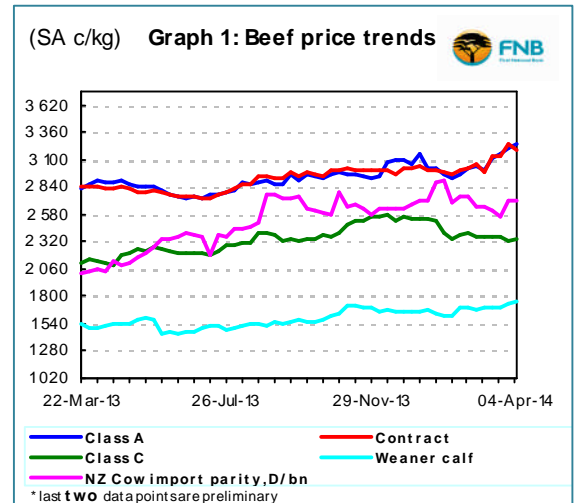
- US manufacturing beef market continued to post strong gains and reached new highs on tight cow slaughter and strong demand.
- Market activity on US imports was reportedly moderate with prices steadying on tight supplies.
- At wholesale level, US Boxed beef cutout values ended mixed with Choice firmer and the Select category softer on light demand and light to moderate supplies.
- Choice beef prices was up 0.7% w/w and 25.2% y/y at US\$242.41/cwt. Select beef prices fell by 0.5% w/w but still 22% y/y at \$235.60/cwt.
- In the cattle market, the CME Feeder Cattle Index was almost unchanged at US\$173.93/cwt which is up 28.8% y/y.
- US Cattle Slaughter number was estimated at 575,000 head, up by 2.0% w/w but still down by 4.8% y/y. The estimated year to date slaughter was reported at 6.53m head, down by 7.3% y/y.
- The USDA's latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate (WASDE) report showed a slightly higher US beef production during 2014. Beef production was projected at 11.04m tons, up 0.8% m/m but still down by 4.6% y/y. Drought conditions still continues in the South-western areas of the US while heavy rains were reported in the West. Supplies are expected to tighten further due to reduced cow slaughter.
- In Australia, the cattle market continued to weaken under pressure due to increased supplies. This saw the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) falling by 4.2% w/w and 8.2% y/y at AU\$2.99/kg.
- On the export front, Australian exports to the EU are reported to have reached a record high during February at 1,974 tons swt which is up by 76.0% y/y. The UK remains the major destination but exports to Italy and the Netherlands also increased, up 117.0% and 68.0% y/y respectively.

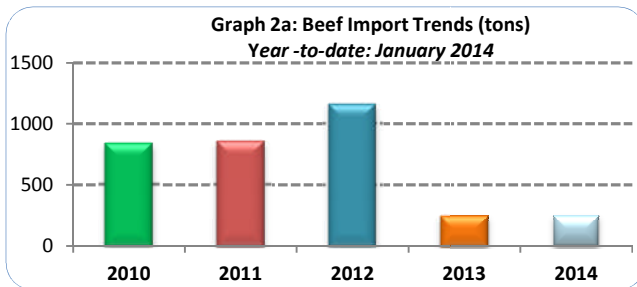
Domestic:

- The beef market extended recent gains on tight supplies.
- Weekly Class A beef prices closed at R31.49 per kg, up by 1.0% w/w and 11% y/y.
- Contract Class A beef prices were firmer at R23.75 per kg, up 12% y/y.
- Class C beef prices trended firmer at R23.75 per kg, which is up by 11% y/y.
- In the weaner market, prices remained firm on the back of tight supplies and higher maize prices. Feeding margins have been under pressure lately as maize prices reached a record high. Weekly weaner calf prices closed at R17.00 per kg live weight, unchanged w/w but still up 11% y/y.

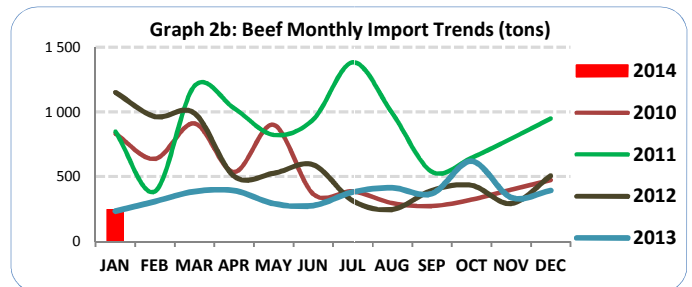
OUTLOOK

The beef market is expected to maintain the current momentum in short term on supply tightness due to improved production conditions across the producing areas. Medium term, the seasonal increase in weaner supplies ahead of the winter period will keep prices under downward pressure.





Source: SARS, Own Calculations



Mutton market trends (Graph 2)

International:

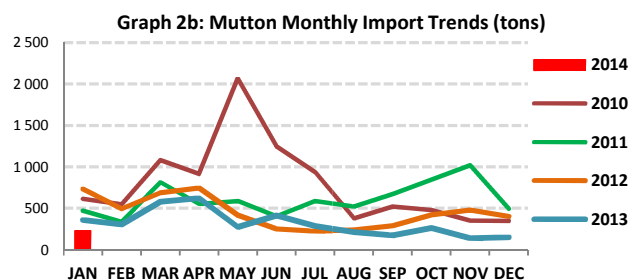
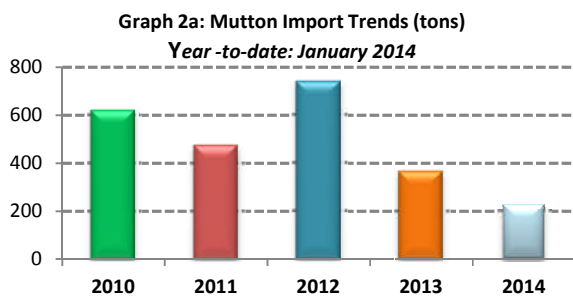
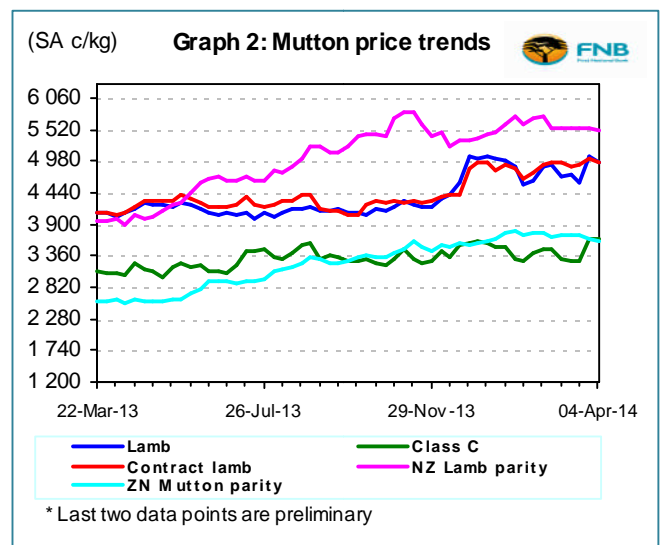
- In New Zealand (NZ), producer prices were again softer with the 17.5kg lamb closing at NZ\$91.90/head but still up 23.0% y/y.
- NZ lamb slaughter in the North Island was reported down 3.8% y/y at 1.2m head during February 2014. However, the South Island figure came in a 1.7m head which is 11.1% higher y/y. Overall lamb slaughter was 4.3% higher y/y.
- In the case of mutton, slaughter numbers were reportedly down 0.7% y/y at 533,831 head.
- In Australia, the lamb market reversed recent gains and weakened on increased supplies. This saw the Eastern States Trade Lamb Indicator (ESTLI) falling by 1.9% w/w but still 29.7% y/y at AU\$5.55/cwt.
- In the US, the Lamb Carcass Cutout prices softened to close at \$337.41/cwt, down by 1.1% w/w but still 28.8% higher y/y.
- The estimated weekly US sheep for slaughter were up by 7.7% w/w but still down by 8.7% y/y at 42,000 head y/y. The estimated year-to-date sheep slaughter reached 443,000 head, which is down by 2.6% y/y.

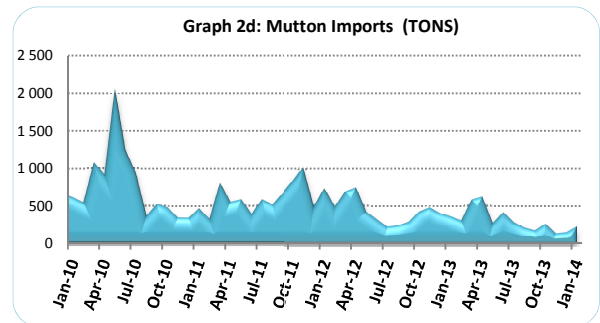
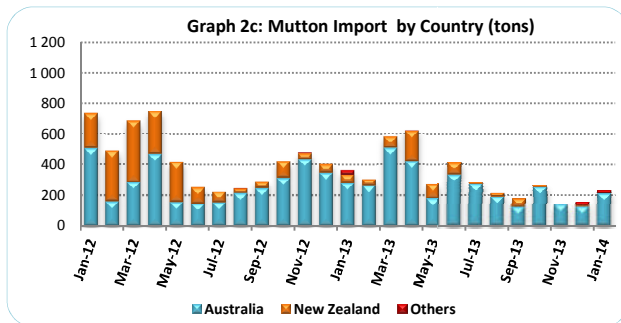
Domestic:

- The domestic lamb and mutton market ended mixed with mutton easing further on weak uptake.
- Weekly mutton prices were down by 0.4% w/w but still 4.8% higher y/y at R32.57 per kg.
- Contract Class A fell by 2.8% w/w but still 13.3% higher y/y at R46.28 per kg.
- Class A lamb was the exception with prices gaining 0.7% w/w and 20.1% y/y at R49.30 per kg.
- Weaner lamb prices recovered to close at R22.25 per kg live weight, up by 4.0% w/w and 15.6% y/y

OUTLOOK

Prices are however expected to bottom out and strengthen as demand improves ahead of the Easter period.





Pork market trends (Graph 3)

International:

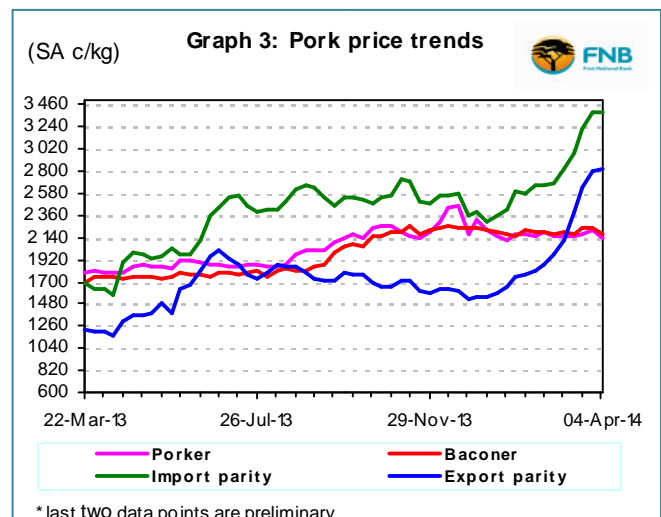
- The US Pork Carcass (FOB Plant) Cutout prices were again sharply higher, finishing up by 8.0% w/w at US\$130.13/cwt.
- The number of pigs for slaughter in the US came in marginally higher on last week at 2.04m head, but still down by 6.3% y/y.
- The cumulative year to date pig slaughter reached 24.5m head, which is still 3.7% lower y/y.
- An outbreak of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) was reported in the US State of Arizona. The total number of states with confirmed cases was reported at 27.
- The PEDv affects pigs from all ages, but is predominantly causing mortality in the preweaning phase, with reported mortality rates of 95%. This strain is more pathogenic than old strains observed in Europe in the 1970.
- US pork production for 2014 was projected slightly higher y/y in the latest WASDE report. According to the USDA, the 2014 US pork production will increase by 0.7% y/y to reach 10.51m tons. This is however slightly lower than the February estimate by 0.3%.

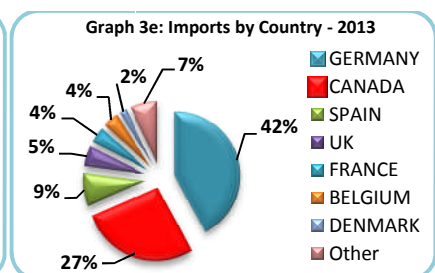
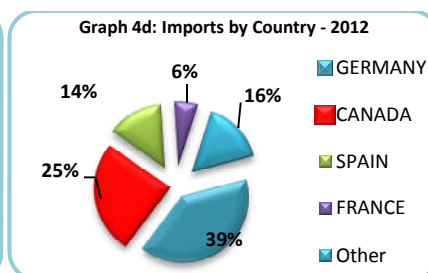
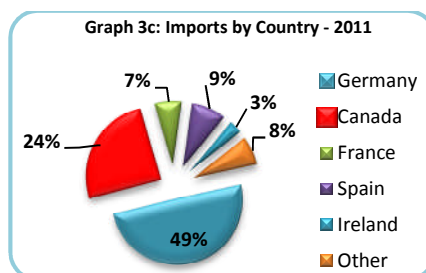
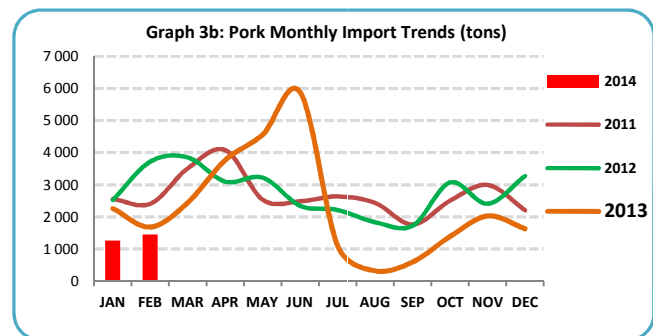
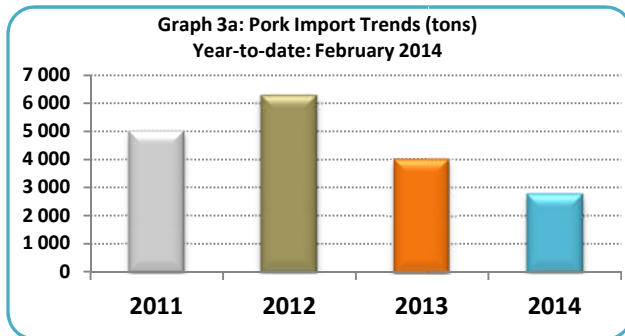
Domestic:

- Prices recovered and posted slight gains on improved uptake ahead of the holiday weekend.
- Weekly porker prices closed at R21.72 per kg, up by 1.0% w/w and 20.5% y/y.
- Baconer prices were firmer at R22.31 per kg, up by 2.7% w/w and 32.1% y/y.
- On the import front, pork import parity prices retained the upward trend on the back of better international prices and a weaker Rand. The current import parity prices are 91% higher y/y.
- A total of 1,448 tons of pork were imported during February which is up by 14.7% m/m but still 14.0% lower y/y. The year to date imports reached 2,710 tons, which is down 31.3% compared to the corresponding period last year.
- Major import sources were Germany which accounted for 55.1% during February and 54.5% for the year to date, Canada (10.2%, and 15.0% for yr-date), Spain (7.7%, and 5.5% for yr-date), Belgium (7.1%, and 5.9% yr-date), Netherlands (5.2%, and 3.7% for yr-date), and France (5.0%, and 6.3% for yr-date).

OUTLOOK

Prices are still expected to trend sideways with limited upward potential in the medium term on improved supplies.





Source: SAPPO, SARS, Own Calculations

Poultry market trends (Graph 4)

International:

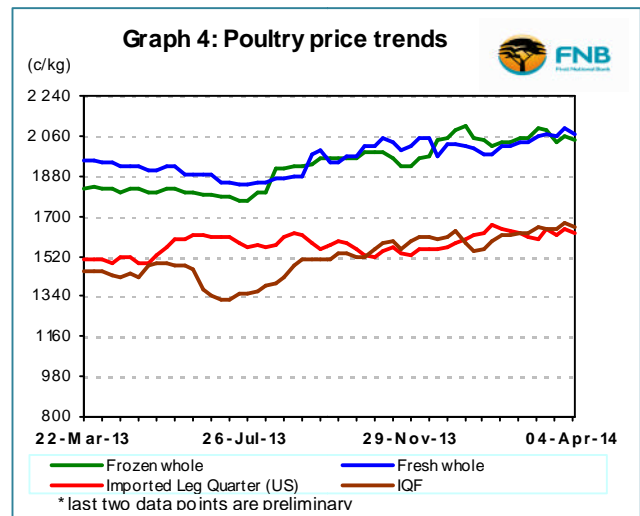
- US prices ended mixed with weakness in the portions category.
- Demand at retail and food service was reportedly light to moderate ahead of the weekend.
- Whole birds prices were a bit firmer at US105.33c/lb, up by 0.4% w/w and 3.6% y/y.
- Leg quarter prices were softer at US50.83c/lb, down by 1.6% w/w but still 7.3% lower y/y.
- Breast cuts closed at US105.50c/lb, down by 4.7% y/y. Wings fell to US131.50c/lb, down by 25.9% y/y.
- Drumstick prices were 6.6% higher w/w at US69.50c/lb, but slightly down on last year by 0.7% y/y.
- Weekly US broiler egg sets for the week ended 15 March 2014 came in unchanged from the the week earlier but were 1.0% higher y/y at 209m. Average hatchability for chicks came in at 83.0%. The broiler chick placement figure was slightly higher w/w but still down by 1.0% y/y at 169m head. Cumulative broiler placements from December 29, 2013 through March 15, 2014 came in slightly higher y/y at 1.86 billion.
- According to the recent USDA Cold Storage report, total US frozen poultry supplies as of February 8, 2014 reached 446.4m tons which is up 3.0% m/m but still 5.0% lower y/y. The available chicken in storage was reported down by 2.0% m/m but still up by 4.0% y/y at 304.5m tons.

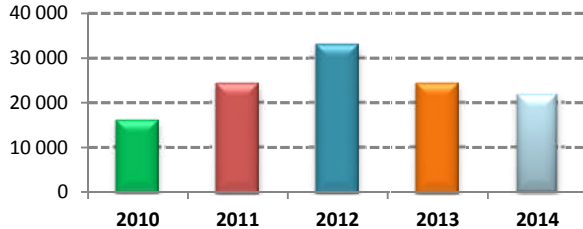
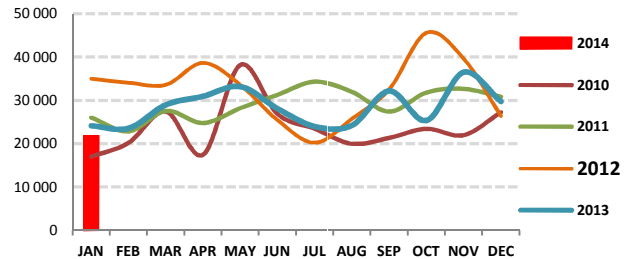
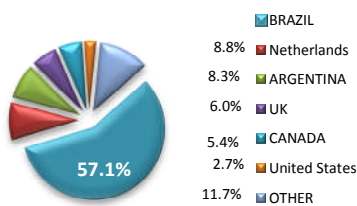
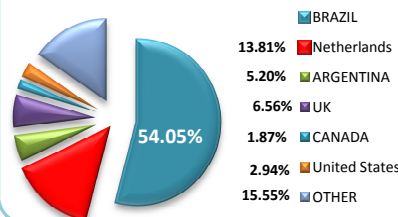
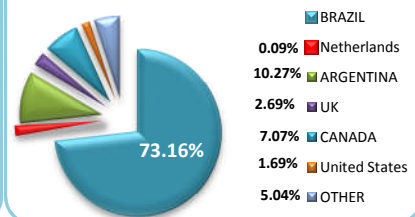
Domestic:

- Prices were softer across the board in a short trading week.
- Weekly fresh whole bird prices closed at R20.60 per kg, down by 1.5% w/w but still up by 13.2% y/y.
- Individually Quick Frozen portions (IQF), which constitutes over 60% of the broiler meat were almost unchanged at R16.43 per kg but still 13.0% higher y/y.
- Frozen whole bird prices at R20.29 per kg, down by 1.5% w/w but still up 13.0% y/y.

OUTLOOK

The bearish medium term outlook for maize prices bodes well for broiler production as this will help improve producer margins.



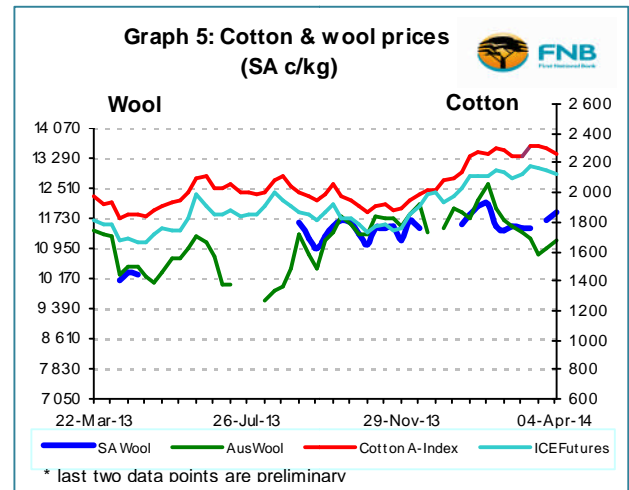
Graph 4a: Poultry Import Trends
 Year-to-date: January -2014

Graph 4b: Poultry Monthly Import Trends (tons)

Graph 4d: Imports by Country - 2011

Graph 4e: Imports by Country - 2012

Graph 4c: Imports by Country - 2013


Source: SARS, Own Calculations

Producer prices for selected livestock commodities 21 March 2014	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Poultry
Open market: Class A / Porker / Fresh whole birds(R/kg)	31.49	46.28	21.72	20.60
Open market: Class C / Baconer / Frozen whole birds(R/kg)	23.75	32.57	21.50	20.29
Contract: A2/A3* / Baconer/ IQF (*includes fifth quarter) (R/kg)	31.42	49.30	22.31	16.43
Import parity price (R/kg)	25.63	37.17	32.20	16.16
Weaner Calves / Feeder Lambs (R/kg)	17.00	22.25		

Wool and cotton market trends (Graph 5)
International:

- The world cotton indicator price, Cotlook "A" index, maintained a firmer trend to close at US97.76c/lb, up by 0.3% w/w and 1% y/y.
- Cotton futures were mostly firmer with the Oct-14 contract gaining 0.4% w/w at US82.40c/lb, and Dec-14 was up 0.5% w/w at US80.25c/lb.
- USDA's monthly outlook report showed no revisions to production estimates at country level, leaving the 2013/14 expected world crop unchanged m/m at 25.m tons.
- World consumption was also unchanged from the February estimate at 23.8m tons, which is still 0.6m tons higher y/y. However, there were significant country-level changes for consumption with a 0.1m tons drop for China, Pakistan (-0.1m ton), Bangladesh (+0.1m tons), and India (+0.1m tons).
- Ending stocks for the world were pegged at 8.5m tons, unchanged m/m and slightly higher y/y. The stocks-to-use ratio was slightly higher at 88.6%. At country-level, the US estimate was tight at 0.6m tons with the stocks-to-use ratio dropping to 19.6%. This is expected to place upward pressure on international prices given that the US is the world's largest exporter of cotton.
- In the case of the world's largest importer, China, endings stocks were slightly higher at 12.6m tons with a significant drop in the stocks-to-use ratio of 35.4% from 159.0% in February and 140.0% last year.
- Wool market: In Australia, the wool market continued on a downward trend which saw the weekly AWEX EM Indicator falling to a new low of AU\$10.35/kg clean wool, down by 1.8% w/w and 4.3% y/y. Volumes of sales reached 83.9% of 40,587 bales offered.



Domestic:

- There was no sale for the week. The last wool sale saw the weekly Cape Wools Merino indicator steady at R114.81/ kg clean wool, which is 0.5% higher y/y.
- At this level, the indicator was 0.3% and 12.6% higher than the current season's average and the opening sale of the 2013/14 season respectively.
- Major buyers were Standard Wool SA with 2,542 bales (30.0%), Lempriere SA with 1,916 bales (22.6%), G Modiano SA with 1,267 bales (15.0%), and Stucken & Co with 1,212 bales (14.3%).

Fibre market prices 21 March 2014	SA prices (R/kg)	Australian prices (R/kg)	Australian futures May-14 (AU\$/kg)	Australian futures Jul-14 (AU\$/kg)
Wool market indicator (R/kg)	114.81	98.45		
19 μ long length wool (R/kg)	-	111.10	11.40	11.30
21 μ long length wool (R/kg)	113.05	107.86	11.10	11.00
23 μ long length wool (R/kg)	-	105.68	9.90	9.80
Fibre market prices 21 March 2014	SA derived Cotton (R/kg)	New York A-Index (US\$/kg)	Cotton Futures Jul-14 (US\$/kg)	Cotton Futures Oct-14 (US\$/kg)
Cotton Prices (R/kg)	23.17	2.15	1.81	1.77

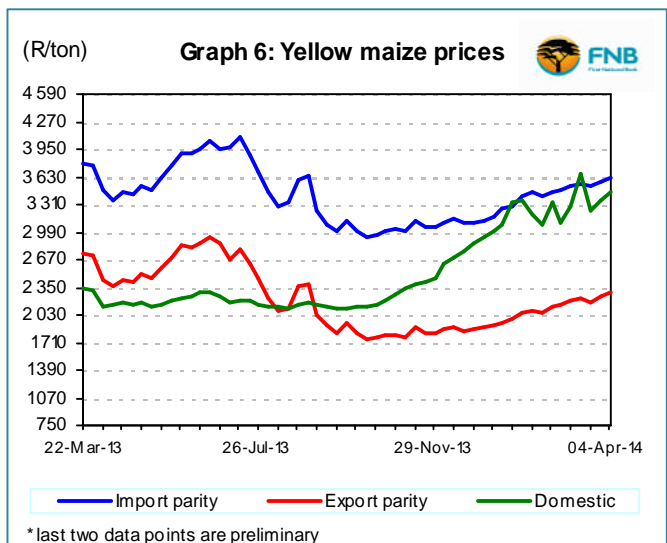
Cotton Futures on the InterContinental Exchange (ICE);

Yellow maize market (Graph 6)
International:

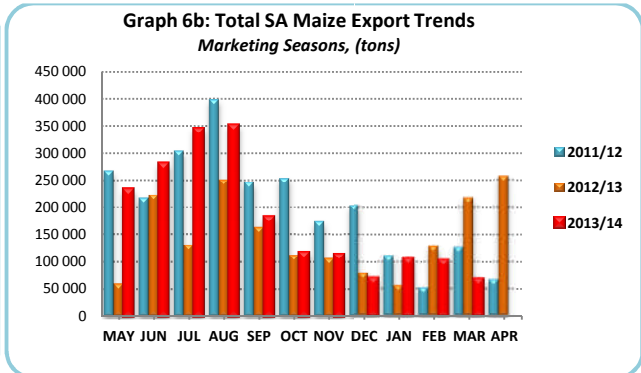
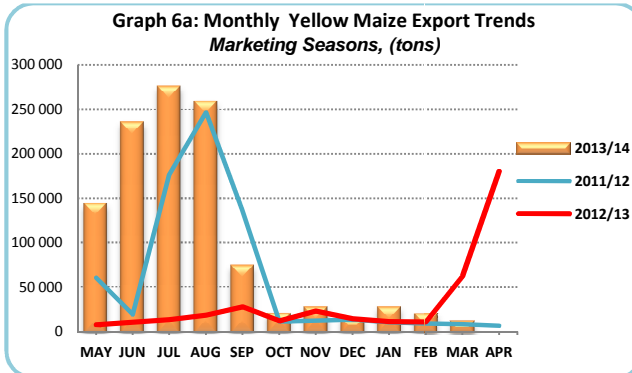
- US maize prices saw slight losses as the situation over Ukraine calmed following the secession referendum in Crimea and the somewhat muted response from the US and the EU.
- Indications that Ukraine's grain trade will remain unaffected by the Crimea vote helped calm the market.
- The stronger export sales and higher ethanol production helped limit losses. Weekly US ethanol production was reported up by 22,000 at 891,000 barrels/day, with stocks reaching a low of 15.3m barrels and sending prices to a record level since the summer of 2006.
- Weekly US maize exports were bullish, coming in at 745,800 tons for the 2013/14 marketing season.
- In its March report, the USDA lowered its estimate of US domestic demand by trimming feed demand largely due to the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) in pigs. US ending stocks were reduced slightly by 0.6m to 36.95m tons, due to increased export demand.
- World ending stocks estimate was increased from 157.30m to 158.47m tons.
- In the futures market on CME: Maize for Jul-14 was down by 1.4% w/w at US\$191/t, Sep-14 fell by 1.5% w/w at US\$190/t, and Dec-14 was down by 1.5% w/w at US\$189/t.

Domestic:

- On the South African market, prices reversed recent gains and fell sharply on spill over weakness from the international market and the bullish harvest outlook.
- Weekly yellow maize prices closed at R3,236 per ton, down by 11.6% w/w but still 43.8% higher y/y.
- The first yellow maize import sales since the beginning of the season came in at 13,842 tons, mainly from Ukraine.
- Weekly export sales were pegged at 2,840 tons and 1.112m tons for the season to date, according to the latest SAGIS report.
- So far, major export destinations for YMZ are Japan (54%), Taiwan (15.0%), and Korea (13%).

OUTLOOK


Crop conditions remain good and bode well for production going forward. This however will place downward pressure on prices in the medium term as we approach the harvest period.



Source: SAGIS

Yellow Maize Futures 21 March 2014	Jul-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Mar-15	May-15			
CBOT (\$/t)	190.54	189.51	189.12	192.27	194.32			
JSE (R/t)	2 277	2 213	2 249	2 299	-			
CHICAGO CORN (R/t)	2 091	2 132	-	2 175	-			
Calculated Yellow Maize Options prices (R/ton) RMB commodity desk (Tel: 011 269 9005)								
May-14			July-14			Sep-14		
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call
2 320	90	47	2 260	136	89	2 280	183	152
2 280	67	64	2 220	113	106	2 240	161	170
2 240	48	85	2 180	93	126	2 200	141	190

White maize market trends (Graph 7)

International:

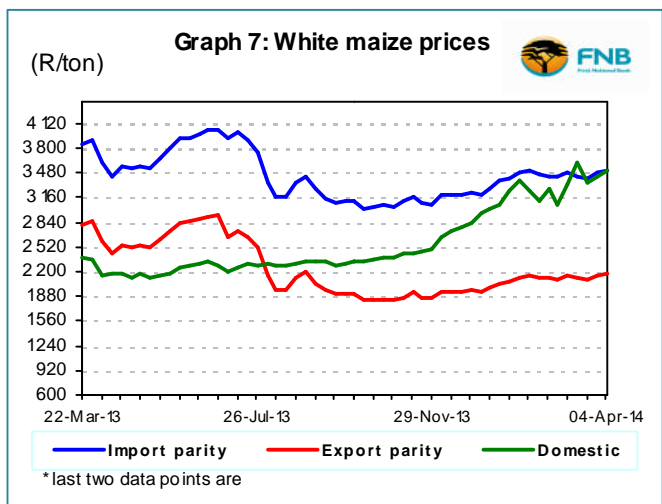
- US white maize saw further losses as concerns over grain trade out of Ukraine subsided and helped calm the markets.
- Weekly white maize price closed at US\$192/ton, down by 1% w/w but still 40% y/y.

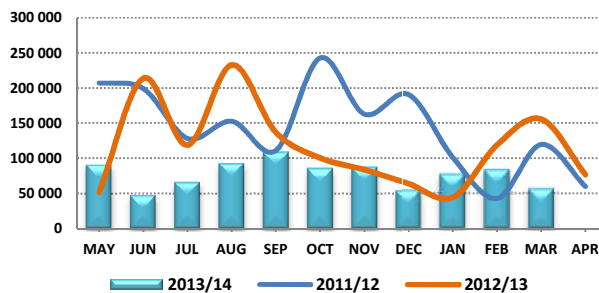
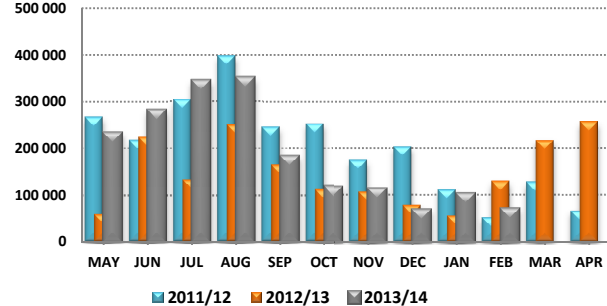
Domestic:

- The South African white maize prices saw modest losses on weakness in international prices and the improved harvest outlook following recent beneficial rains across the growing areas.
- Weekly white maize prices closed at R3,346 per ton, down by 7.2% w/w but still 57% higher y/y.
- Weekly white maize export sales were pegged at 17,567 tons and 851,463 tons for the season to date, according to the latest SAGIS report.
- Major export destinations so far for WMZ are Zimbabwe (27%), Mexico (22%), Botswana (18%), and Namibia (16%).
- Total maize export sales (WMZ and YMZ) reached 1.96m tons. Major destinations so far are Japan (30%), and Zimbabwe (13%), Botswana (10%), and Mexico (10%).

OUTLOOK

Crop conditions remain good and bode well for production going forward. This however will place downward pressure on prices in the medium term as we approach the harvest period.



Graph 7a: Monthly White Maize Export Trends (tons)
Marketing Seasons

Graph 7b: Total Monthly SA Maize Exports (tons)
Marketing Seasons


Source: SAGIS;

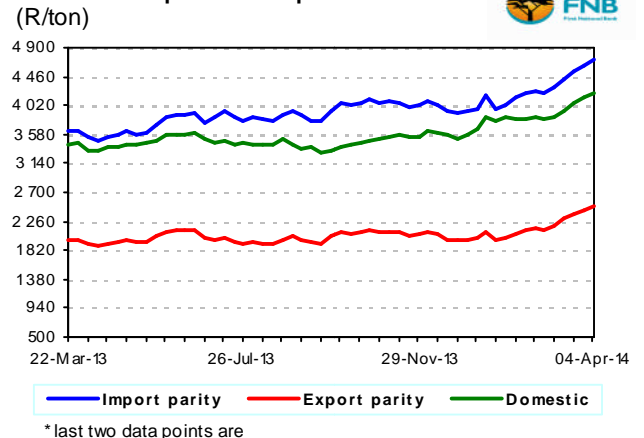
White Maize Futures 21 March 2014	Jul-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Mar-15	May-15			
JSE (R/t) WM ₁	2 342	2 126	2 168	2 221	-			
Calculated White Maize Options prices (R/ton) RMB commodity desk (Tel: 011 269 9005)								
May-14			Jul-14			Sep-14		
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call
2 380	90	52	2 160	118	84	2 200	172	140
2 340	68	70	2 120	96	102	2 160	150	158
2 300	49	91	2 080	77	123	2 120	130	178

Wheat market trends (Graph 8)
International:

- US wheat prices moved modestly higher on worries about the weather conditions in the US Great Plains and expectations of dryness due to lack of rain in the short term.
- Meanwhile, all the US states reported deteriorating crop conditions with the good to excellent ratings dropping 3 points to 37% in Kansas, 4 points in Oklahoma to 18%, and 15 points in Texas to 13%.
- Earlier supply fears due to the crisis in Ukraine dissipated with calm returning to the market and limiting further increases in wheat prices.
- With Russia and Ukraine being the world's fifth and sixth largest wheat exporters, further supply disruptions could have seen a surge in prices of wheat.
- US wheat production estimates for 2013/14 were left unchanged in the USDA March report. Production was pegged at 57.96m tons, with ending stocks coming in at 15.19m tons.
- Meanwhile, the US winter wheat is reportedly coming out of dormancy as conditions improve.
- On world production, USDA raised world wheat supplies slightly with a 0.8m ton increase to 712.72m tons. World wheat consumption was raised slightly for 2013/14 with increased use for India, Iran, Australia, Iraq, and Morocco more than offsetting lower feed use for the European Union and Russia, and for South Korea, where wheat imports are lowered. Wheat feeding was raised for Australia as drought reduces sorghum supplies and boosts the use of grain in livestock rations. World wheat ending stocks were nearly unchanged at 183.81m tons.

Domestic:

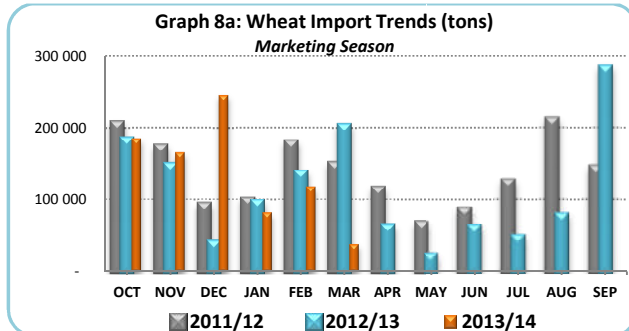
- The South African wheat prices continued to increase on spill over gains from the international market. The weaker Rand added to the firmer tone.
- Wheat prices closed the week at R4,046 tons, up by 2.8% w/w and 18.5% y/y.

Graph 8: Wheat price trends


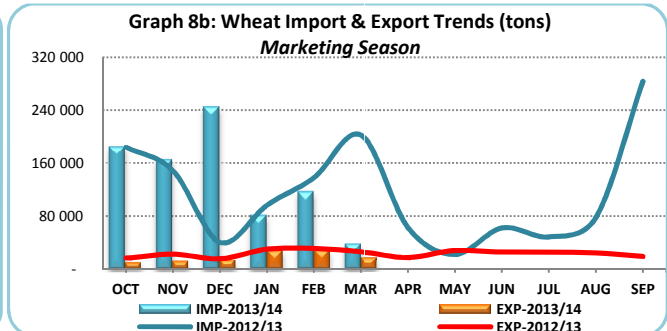
- Weekly import sales for the 2013/14 marketing season came in at 38,245 tons and reached 818,717 tons for the season to date.
- Main suppliers so far are Russia (43%) and Ukraine (34%). The others are Germany (10%), Lithuania (5%), Finland (3%), Canada (2%), and the USA (2%).

OUTLOOK

The improved supply outlook from the world's major wheat producers will place downward pressure on prices in the medium term as competition intensifies.



Source: SAGIS;



Wheat Futures 21 March 2014	Jul-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Mar-15	May-15
KCBT (\$/t)	281.60	282.78	285.72	285.87	280.80
JSE (R/t)	4 170	-	3 840	-	-

Calculated Wheat Option prices (R/ton) RMB commodity desk (Tel: 011 269 9005)

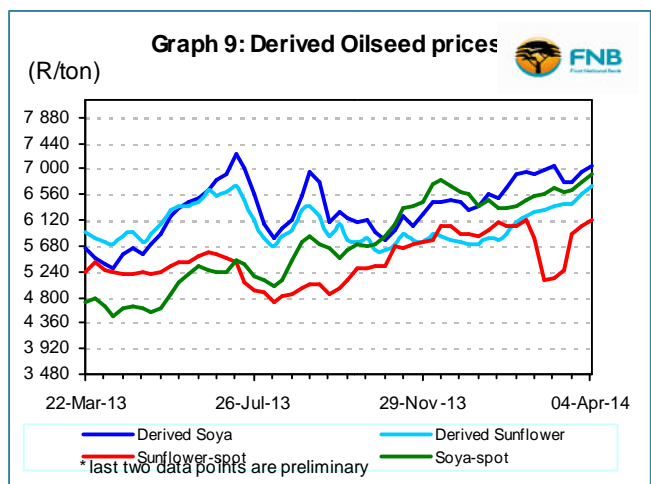
May-14			Jul-14			Dec-14		
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call
4 200	87	56	4 220	179	129	3 880	222	182
4 160	66	75	4 180	157	147	3 840	201	201
4 120	48	97	4 140	137	167	3 800	180	220

Oilseed market trends (Graph 9)
International:

- US prices were steady to firmer in the soybean complex. Soybeans found support from good demand and the reduced crop volumes in Brazil.
- On the export front, weekly US sales were bullish and provided added support. Soybeans export sales were reported at 639,700 tons with 202,200 tons for 2013/14 marketing year.
- USDA lowered its projections for South America with the Brazil soybean production at 88.5m tons in latest outlook report. This is down by 1.5m mainly reflecting hot, dry weather in the south where much of the crop was in the flowering and filling stages. Soybean production is also reduced for Paraguay due to the extended period of hot, dry weather.
- Harvesting in Brazil is reportedly progressing well and almost 60.0% complete.
- World production was pegged at 188.66m tons, up by 0.1% from last month. Ending stocks were lowered by 2.4% m/m at 10.92m tons.

Domestic:

- Oilseeds traded on the JSE saw gains on supportive Rand and strength on the international market.
- Weekly soybean prices closed at R6,625 per ton, which is up 33% y/y.
- Sunflower prices advanced further to close at R5,875 per ton, up by 11.9% w/w and 13.5% y/y.

OUTLOOK


The improved production outlook will continue to place downward pressure on the oilseed market in the medium term.

Oilseeds Futures 21 March 2014	Jul-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Mar-15	May-15
CBOT Soybeans (US \$/t)	507.87	452.54	-	435.41	436.66
CBOT Soya oil (US c/lb)	41.19	40.62	40.05	40.19	40.24
CBOT Soya cake meal (US\$/t)	486.01	436.52	407.52	408.63	409.18
JSE Sunflower seed (R/t)	5 130	5 237	5 330	-	-
JSE Soybean seed (R/t)	6 177	6 216	6 231	-	-

Calculated Sunflower Option prices (R/ton) RMB commodity desk (Tel: 011 269 9005)

May-14			Jul-14			Sep-14		
Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call	Ask	Put	Call
5 120	162	122	5 220	240	203	5 340	271	227
5 080	140	140	5 180	219	222	5 300	249	245
5 040	120	160	5 140	199	242	5 260	228	264

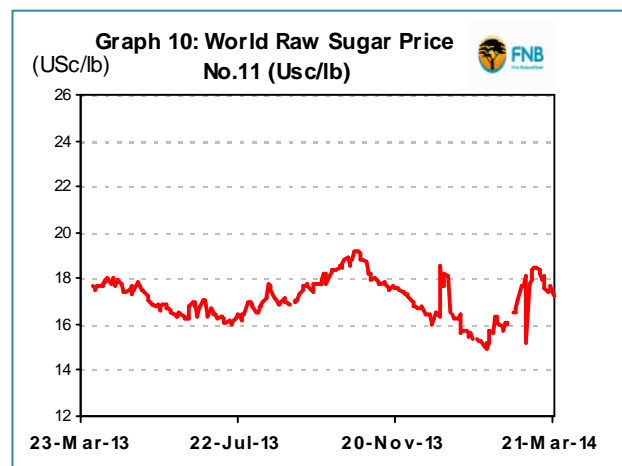
Sugar market trends (Graph 15)

International:

- International Raw Sugar prices ended firmer for the week. Weekly world raw sugar prices on ICE (InterContinental nearby futures, No.11 contract) closed at US17.42c/lb, but still down by 4.6% y/y.
- Weather conditions were reportedly good across the key producing areas of world with the exception of Brazil where conditions were still dry.
- According to the USDA, projected US sugar supply for fiscal year 2013/14 was decreased 7,000 short tons, raw value (STRV), from last month, as lower production more than offsets higher beginning stocks. Forecast utilization was raised by 135,000 STRV. Higher expected domestic deliveries for food use are based on the pace to date. A larger forecast for exports of refined sugar under the re-export program is the result of shipments so far in 2013/14.
- The Mexican sugar supply and use estimates of 2012/13 or projections for 2013/14 were left unchanged, after significant changes were made for the 2013/14 numbers in February.
- In the futures market: Raw sugar for Oct-14 fell by 2.0% w/w at US17.65c/lb, Mar-15 was down by 1.4% w/w at US18.35c/lb, and May-15 was down 1.0% w/w at US18.26c/lb.

Domestic:

- The final RV price in respect of cane delivered in the 2013/14 season was revised upwards by R55.88 per ton m/m at R3,137.87 per ton.
- According to the Cane Growers Association, the increase was due to the 6.5% increase in local market price, which became effective from the first week in March 2014 and the higher LMDE (+35,078 ton). The increase in the LMDE was attributed to the higher volume of sugar that was sold before the rise in the sugar price on 5 March 2014.
- Other factors that played a role in the higher price were the improved weighted average No.11 price (18.28 USc/lb. vs. 18.18 USc/lb) and higher sugar:RV ratio (93.39% vs. 93.31%).
- Further, the total marketing and pricing allocation of 836 137 tons was reportedly fully priced at an average of US18.17c/lb. This pricing includes the overpriced tonnage of 68,142 tons that was transferred from last season.
- Export availability in the 2014/15 season is reportedly estimated at 687,063 tons. Thus far 233,220 tons has been allocated for marketing and pricing and to date 140 029 tons have been priced at an average of US17.62c/lb.

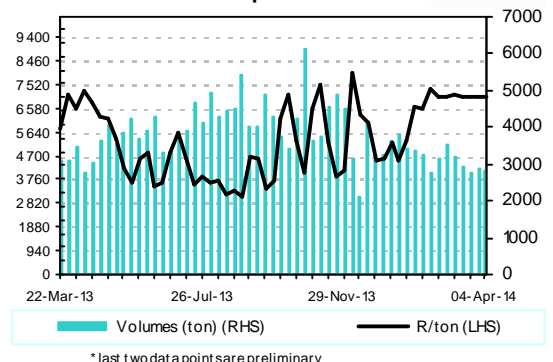


ICE Sugar Futures 21 March 2014	Oct-14	Mar-15	May-15	Jul-15	Oct-15
Sugar No.11 (US c/lb)	17.65	18.35	18.26	18.12	18.30
% Change w/w	-2.0%	-1.4%	-1.0%	-0.3%	0.3%

Vegetable Market Trends (Graphs 11 to 15)
Tomatoes

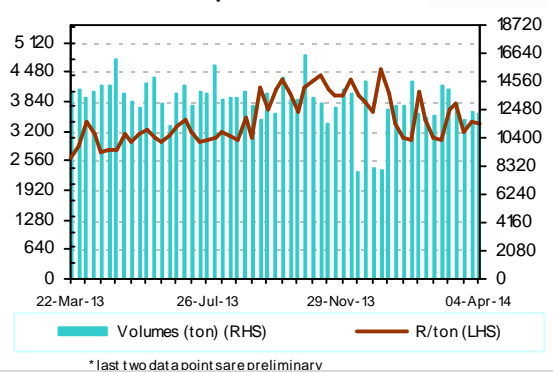
Tomato prices maintained a sideways trend despite reduced supplies across markets. Weekly tomato prices closed at R7,075 per ton, almost unchanged w/w but up 22.6% y/y. Volumes of tomatoes traded reached 2,767 tons, down by 5.0% w/w and 11.1% y/y.

Prices are expected to continue to trend sideways in the short term with limited upside potential as supplies improve.

Graph 11: Fresh Produce Markets - Tomato prices

Potatoes

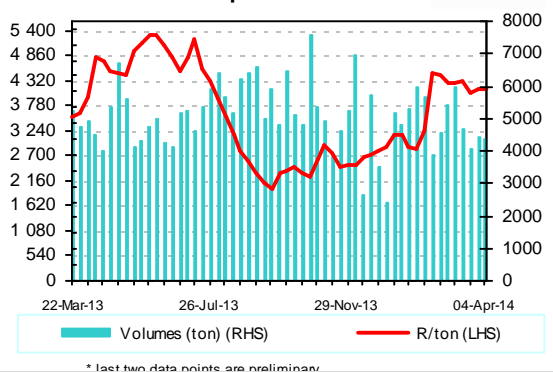
In the potato market, prices posted sharp losses despite reduced supplies due to weak demand across markets. Weekly potato prices closed at R3,167 per ton, down by 16.6% w/w but up by 20.1% y/y. Volumes of potatoes traded were pegged at 11,768 tons, down by 9.2% w/w and 13.8% y/y.

It is however expected that prices will ease slightly in the short term on softer uptake and improved supplies.

Graph 12: Fresh Produce Markets - Potato prices

Onions

Onion prices saw modest losses on weak uptake across markets. Weekly onion prices fell by 5.6% w/w but up 14.7% y/y at R4,059 per ton. Volumes of onions traded came in at 4,053 tons, down by 13.6% w/w and 22.1% y/y.

Prices are expected to trend sideways to firmer on improved uptake.

Graph 13: Fresh Produce Markets - Onion prices


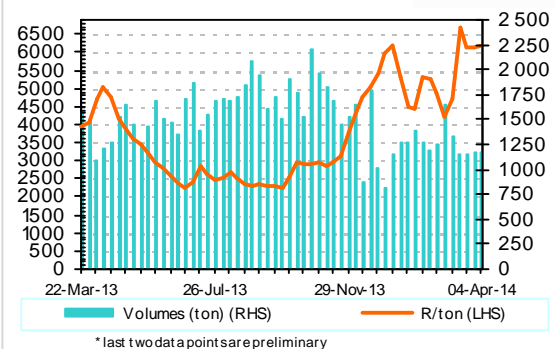
Carrots

Carrot prices dropped under pressure due to limited uptake across markets.

Weekly carrot prices closed at R6,115 per ton, down by 8.5% w/w but 54.4% higher y/y. Volumes of carrots traded reached 1,160 tons, up by 1.2% w/w but still 25.8% lower y/y.

It is expected that prices will improve slightly in the short term as demand improves ahead of the holidays.

Graph 14: Fresh Produce Markets - Carrot prices



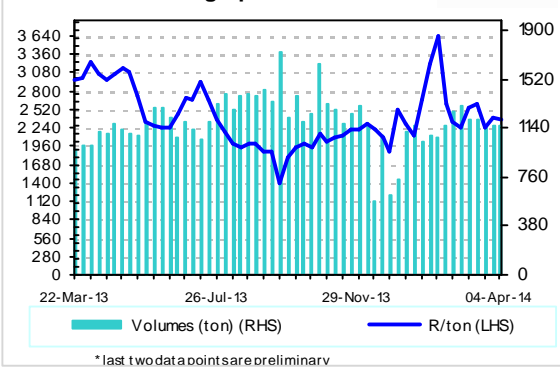
Cabbages

Cabbage prices saw sharp losses as a result of reduced uptake across markets.

Weekly cabbage prices closed at R2,249 per ton, down by 13.9% w/w and 24.0% y/y. Volumes of cabbages traded were pegged at 1,143 tons, down by 5.2% w/w but still 16.9% higher y/y.

It is however expected that prices will bottom out and firm slightly on improved demand.

Graph 15: Fresh Produce Markets - Cabbage prices

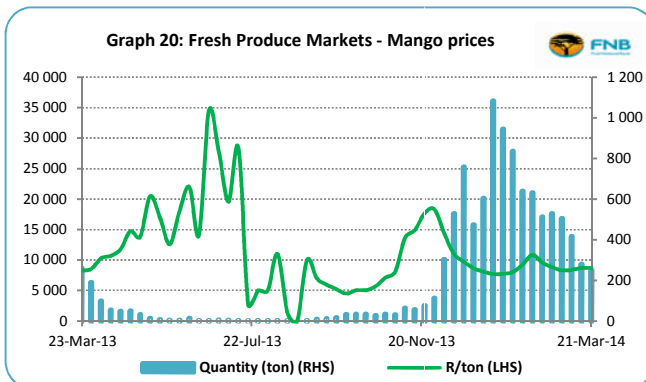
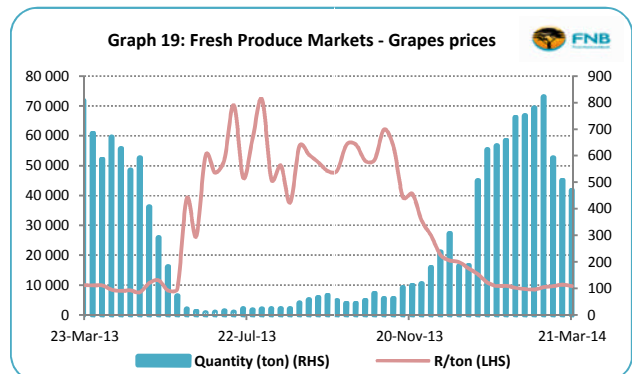
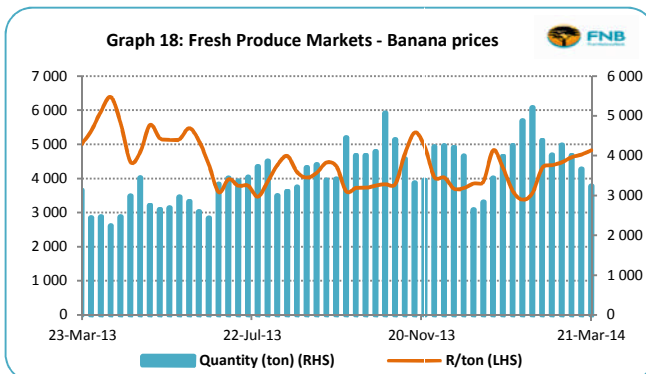
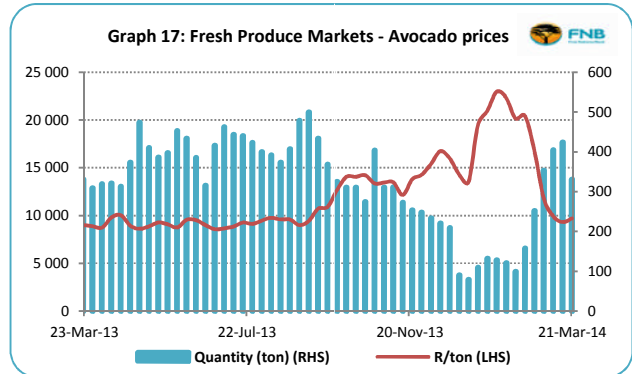
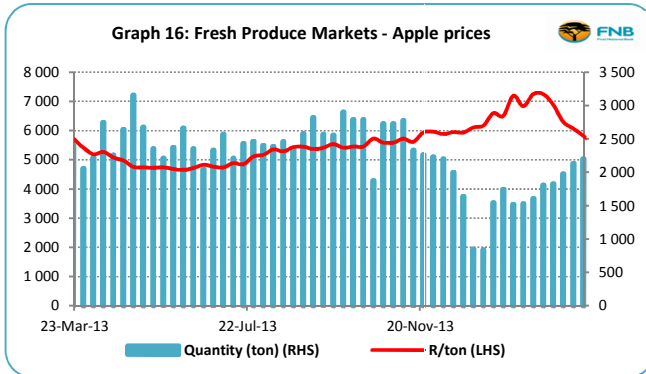


Vegetable prices: South Africa's Major Fresh Produce Markets.

(Average Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban)

Week ending 21 March 2014	Average Price (R/t)	w/w	y/y	Total Volume (t)	w/w	y/y
Tomato	7 075	0.0%	22.6%	2767	-5.0%	-11.1%
Potato	3 167	-16.6%	20.1%	11768	-9.2%	-13.8%
Onion	4 059	-5.6%	14.7%	4053	-13.6%	-22.1%
Carrot	6 115	-8.5%	54.4%	1160	1.2%	-25.8%
Cabbage	2 249	-13.9%	-24.0%	1143	-5.2%	16.9%

* Daily prices also available at <https://www.fnbagricomms.co.za>

The Fruit Market Trends – Major Fresh Produce Markets in SA (Graphs 16 to 20)

FRUIT PRICES: Major FPM. (Average Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban)

Week ending 21 March 2014	Average Price (R/t)	w/w	y/y	Total Volume (t)	w/w	y/y
Apples	5 556	-4.5%	-2.8%	2064.14	-6.1%	-14.2%
Avocados	9 694	4.2%	7.7%	331	-22.0%	0.1%
Bananas	4 825	2.6%	-3.5%	3235	-11.6%	3.5%
Grapes	9 696	-4.6%	-4.2%	470	-7.3%	-41.8%
Mangoes	8 718	0.2%	6.1%	249	-10.5%	-4.4%
Oranges	4 852	-28.6%	46.3%	394	5.5%	-42.1%

* Daily prices also available at <https://www.fnbagricomms.co.za>

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