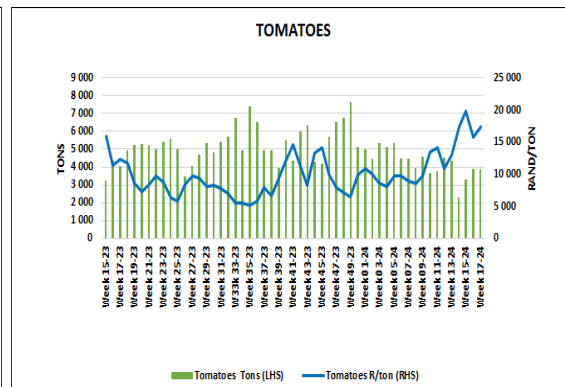
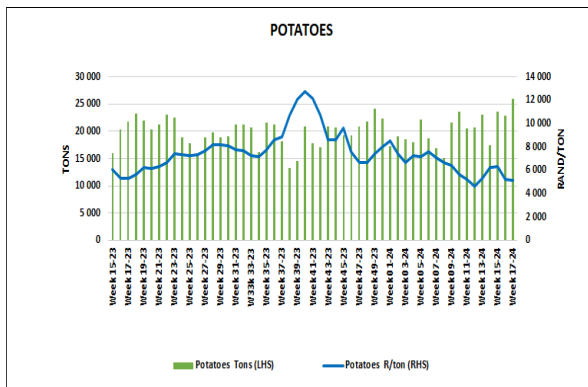




# Summary

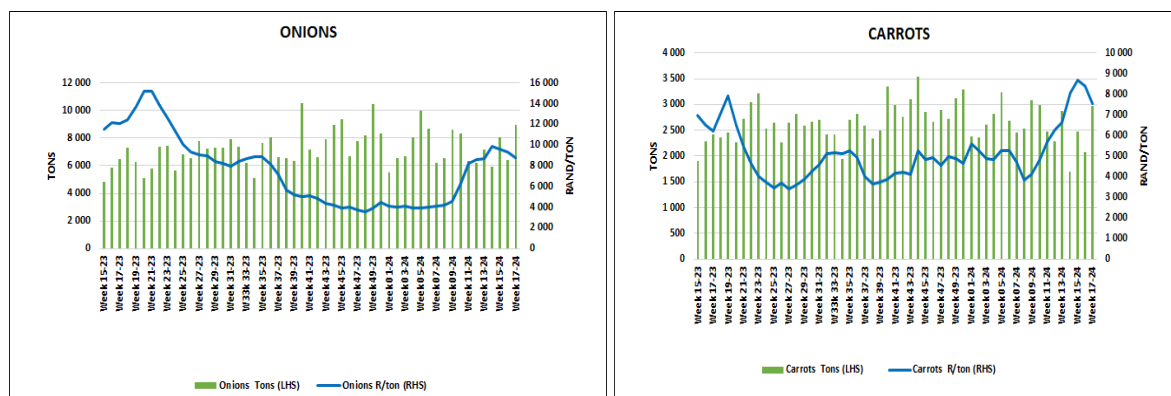
A recent report by the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), analysed the trade performance of the domestic agricultural sector in the fourth quarter of 2023 (Q4-2023). Agricultural exports declined in Q4-2023 to R59 billion from R75 billion when compared with Q3-2023, while imports remained stable over the same period. Despite the overall decrease in net trade, agriculture still maintained a trade surplus in Q4-2023. The decline in exports was primarily due to the seasonal slowdown in economic activity in the off-season of the horticultural subsector, particularly in the citrus industry. Citrus exports accounted for approximately one third of the value of agricultural exports in Q3-2023, but this declined by ten-fold to 3% in Q4-2023. Overall, agricultural exports declined by 21% quarter-on-quarter (q/q), while cereal exports decreased by 24% q/q. The largest subsectoral decrease was in horticulture, by 58% q/q, which was largely driven by citrus exports that declined by more than 90% q/q (almost R22 billion in Q3-2023 to less than R2 billion). It should be highlighted that seasonality played a huge role in this performance as economic activity tends to decline in the post-harvest period. With the 2024 citrus export season now underway, concerns about possible logistics constraints have been raised. It is forecast that between weeks 26-35 of 2024, heavy production from the Northern producing regions may result in limited cold storage capacity, trucks, and port plug points. The Citrus Growers Association of South Africa (CGA) has urged growers and exporters to plan ahead accordingly.

# Potatoes and Tomatoes



- In week 17-2024, **potato** prices declined by 3% week-on-week (w/w) to R5 104/ton. This came about as a volume increase of 13% w/w to 25 875 tons outweighed demand. Prices are expected to remain elevated for the next three months.
- **Tomato** prices rose by 10% w/w to R17 340/ton due to higher demand. Supply increased marginally by 0.5% w/w to 3 282 tons. The recent bullish prices are due to tough production conditions that are limiting market supplies. Improved availability is expected over the next two months, which may put downward pressure on prices thereby relieving end consumers.

# Onions and Carrots



- **Onion** prices decreased by 5% w/w to R8 794/ton from lower demand and higher volumes. Market supply increased by 40% w/w to 8 982 tons. Higher market volumes could keep prices subdued for the rest of this month.
- **Carrot** prices decreased by 10% w/w to R7 560/ton due to lower demand a volume increase of 43% w/w to 2 961 tons. Prices are expected to trend downwards until the end of July 2024, after peaking last month.

# Fruit Trends on all NFPMs in South Africa

Commodity	Rand per ton		% change (w/w)	Ton		% change (w/w)
	Week ending			Week ending		
	19 Apr	26 Apr		19 Apr	26 Apr	
<b>Apples</b>	8 760	8 860	↑ 1%	3 285	3 740	↑ 14%
<b>Pears</b>	8 330	8 410	↑ 1%	917	1 070	↑ 17%
<b>Bananas</b>	10 070	7 390	↓ -27%	4 783	6 420	↑ 34%
<b>Oranges</b>	5 200	4 890	↓ -6%	1 932	2 392	↑ 24%
<b>Avocados</b>	13 570	12 700	↓ -6%	625	765	↑ 22%

- **Apple** prices increased by 1% w/w to R8 860/ton supported by stronger demand. Market volumes also increased by 14% w/w to 3 740 tons. Prices are expected to trend sideways for the rest of this month.
- **Pear** prices increased by 1% w/w to R8 410/ton due to higher demand. Market supply also increased by 17% w/w. As in apples, pear prices are expected to move sideways for the rest of this month.
- **Banana** prices decreased by 27% w/w to R7 390/ton due to an increase in market volumes by 34% w/w. Prices are expected to remain sluggish over the next three months from higher availability.
- **Orange** prices decreased by 6% w/w to R4 890/ton due to harvesting pressure. Market supply increased by 24% w/w. Prices are expected to remain below the R5 000/ton mark until August 2024 due to increasing market volumes.
- **Avocado** prices decreased by 6% w/w to R12 700/ton as market supply firmed by 22% w/w. Prices are expected to remain elevated but move sideways over this month and the next as we approach the peak of the avocado export season.

# Pome Fruit Exports

Week 16 Weekly Volumes 12.50 kg Cartons	2023 Exports (a)	2024 Exports (b)	y/y Change (a/b)	Cumulative Volumes YTD 2023 (c)	Cumulative Volumes YTD 2024 (d)	y/y Change (c/d)
Apples	1 775 629	1 804 568	↑ 2%	12 065 107	11 805 320	↓ -2%
Pears	798 119	920 197	↑ 15%	9 806 087	11 072 012	↑ 13%

## Week 16-2024 exports:

- South Africa exported 1.8 million cartons (12.5kg) of **apples** in week 16-2024, increasing by 2% y/y. **Pear** exports increased by 15% y/y to 920 197 cartons. The cumulative export volume of apples declined by 2% y/y, while pears rose by 13% y/y.
- The bulk of the consignment of apples was shipped to the Far East and Asia (49%) and Africa (23%). South African pears were mainly shipped to the European Union (EU) (23%), the Far East and Asia (22.5%), and the Middle East (21%).
- 2024 projections are for apple exports to increase by 6% y/y and pears by 5% y/y.

# Avocado Exports

Weekly Volumes 4kg Cartons	SA Exports to EU			EU Imports from the World		
	Week 18	Week 19	w/w Change	Week 18	Week 19	w/w Change
Hass	197 000	1 169 000	↑ 493%	3 483 000	4 815 000	↑ 38%
Green Skin	61 000	253 000	↑ 315%	769 000	1 184 000	↑ 54%
Total	258 000	1 422 000	↑ 451%	4 252 000	5 999 000	↑ 41%

## Week 19-2024 exports:

- South Africa's **avocado** exports to the EU market are expected to surge by 451% w/w, to 1.42 million cartons (4kg) in week 19-2024. This is due to the limited availability of vessels in week 18-2024. Hass exports will increase by 493% w/w to 1.17 million cartons, while Green Skin exports are to rise by 315% w/w to 253 000 cartons.
- A total of nearly 6 million cartons of avocados will be received by the EU market in week 19-2024. This is a 41% increase w/w as South African and Kenyan shipments pick up pace.
- Peru will remain the dominant exporter to the EU market in week 19-2024, with a total of 2.95 million cartons expected, which is a market share of 59% of total EU imports. On a month basis, imports into the EU increased by 27% in April 2024 when compared to March 2024.

## **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.*

*Subtrop.*

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