



agriculture & rural development

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Fresh Produce Market Analysis Report for Quarter 4 (October –Dec 2016)

CONTENTS PAGE

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. SUMMARY	3
2.1. POTATOES	4
2.2. SWEET POTATOES	5
2.3. CARROT	7
2.4. CABBAGE	8
2.5. LETTUCE	9
2.6. PUMPKINS	10
2.7. GEM SQUASH	11
2.8. BUTTERNUT SQUASH	12
2.9. TOMATOES	13
2.10. PEPPERS	14
2.11. ENGLISH CUCUMBER	15

1. INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of this publication is to present a quarterly analysis of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Fresh Produce Markets volumes, prices and trends at the Pietermaritzburg and Durban Fresh Produce Markets (FPM). The bulletin will cover trend analysis relating to prices (R/ ton) and volumes (tons) of the selected vegetables sold at the two markets, considered to be of importance due to the area under production within KZN and/or marketed volumes. The interval covered in the current issue quarter 4 of 2015 (Oct- Dec 2015) which will be compared with Quarter 4 of 2016 (Oct- Dec 2016).

This document focuses only on the following commodities: potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, cabbage, lettuce, pumpkins, gem squashes, butternut squashes, tomatoes, peppers and English cucumber however the combination of selected vegetables might change over time due to relevance.

2. SUMMARY

Comparing the 4th quarter of 2015 and 2016 volumes have increased overall in Pietermaritzburg, except for cabbages, sweet potatoes, and gem squashes. Prices have responded by showing a moderate decline with pumpkins, tomatoes and lettuce showing largest declines in prices. The Durban FPM has the most widely ranging increases in volumes, such as 48 times increase for pumpkins, gem squashed at 5 times higher as well as carrots at about 4 times higher compared to 2015. Prices in the Durban FPM were also quite volatile with largest increases seen for butternut squashed at 109%, potatoes at 44% and carrots at 36%. The most reduction in [prices were recorded for cabbage at 70%, sweet potatoes at 14% and peppers at 8%.

A detailed analysis and discussion is presented herein for the various fresh produce in both Pietermaritzburg and Durban Fresh Produce Markets, comparing the two quarters.

2.1. POTATOES

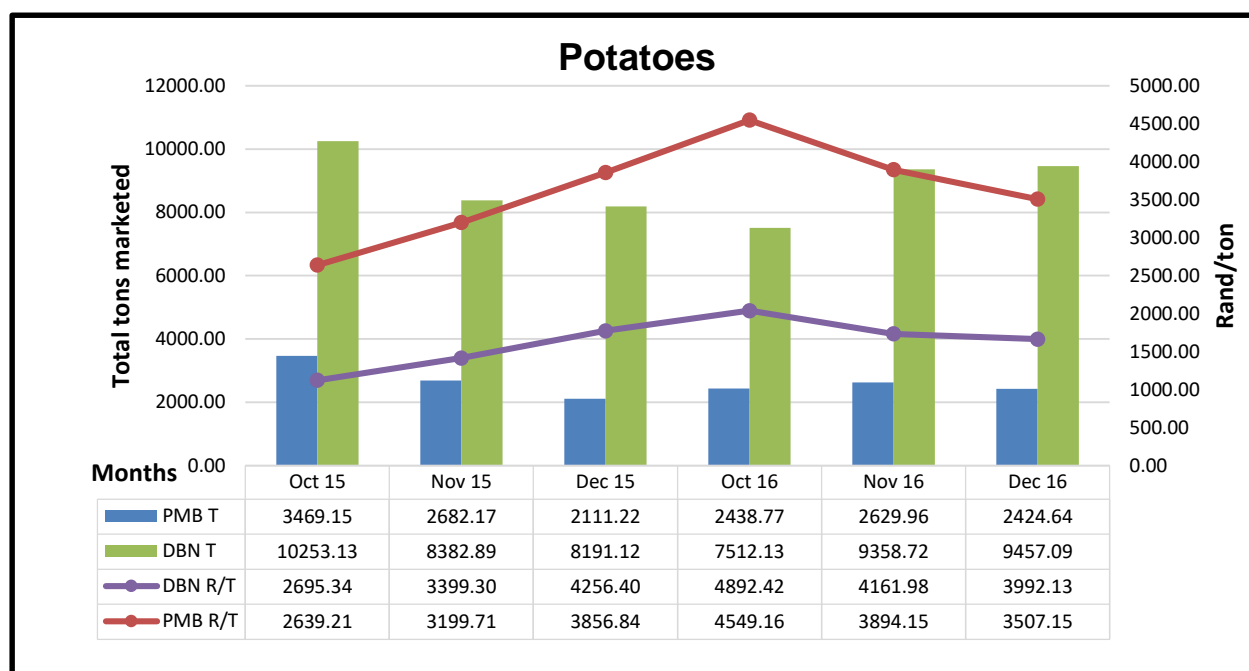


Figure 1: Trends for potatoes in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- In Pietermaritzburg FPM, the supply of potatoes was highest in November 2016 at 2,629.96 tons which is 1.9% lower than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. There was an average of 10% drop in supply of potatoes for the quarter from 2015 to 2016.
- Prices were the highest in October 2016 at R4,549.16/t representing a 70% increase compared the price levels of the same time in 2015. The average potato price for the 4th quarter in 2015 was R3,231.90/t and R3,983.30/t in 2016 which was a 20% increase from 2015 average quarter price.

Durban

- The supply of potatoes was highest in December 2016 at 9,457 tons which is a 13% increase from 2015 volumes for the same month. There was an overall 2% reduction in average quarter supply from 2015 to 2016.
- Prices were the highest in October 2016 at R4,892.42/t representing a 44% increase compared to R2,695.34/t during the same month in 2015. . Average potato price for the quarter increased by 26% from R3,458/t in 2015 to R4,319/t in 2016.

2.2. SWEET POTATOES

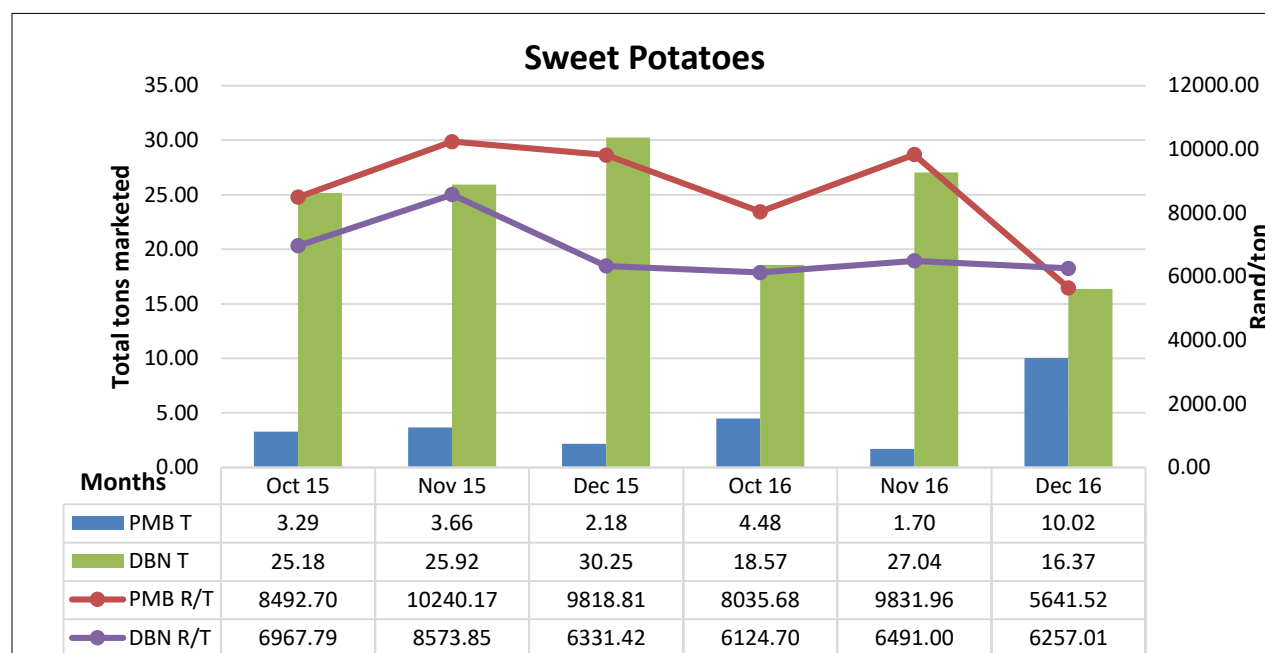


Figure 2: Trends for sweet potatoes in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- Pietermaritzburg FPM had the highest volumes of sweet potatoes in December 2016 at 10.02 tons which almost quadrupled from the 2.18 tons of the same month in 2015. There was on average about 80% increase in supply of sweet potatoes in this market for quarter 4 of 2016 compared to quarter 4 of 2015.
- Prices were the highest in November 2016 at R9, 831.96/t representing a 4% decline from R10, 240.17/t during the same month in 2015. On average price per quarter declined by 33.8% from quarter 4 of 2015 to quarter 4 of 2016.

Durban

- Supply of sweet potatoes this markets was highest in November 2016 at 27.04 tons which is slightly higher than the volumes supplied in the same month 2015. Average volumes for the 4th quarter decreased by 24% from 27.12t in 2015 to 20.66t in 2016.
- Prices were the highest in November 2016 at R6, 491.00/t representing a 14% decrease from the same time in 2015. The average sweet potatoes price for the 4th quarter in 2015 was R7, 291/t and R6, 291/t in 2016 which was a 14% decrease from 2015 quarter 4 average price.

2.4. CARROTS

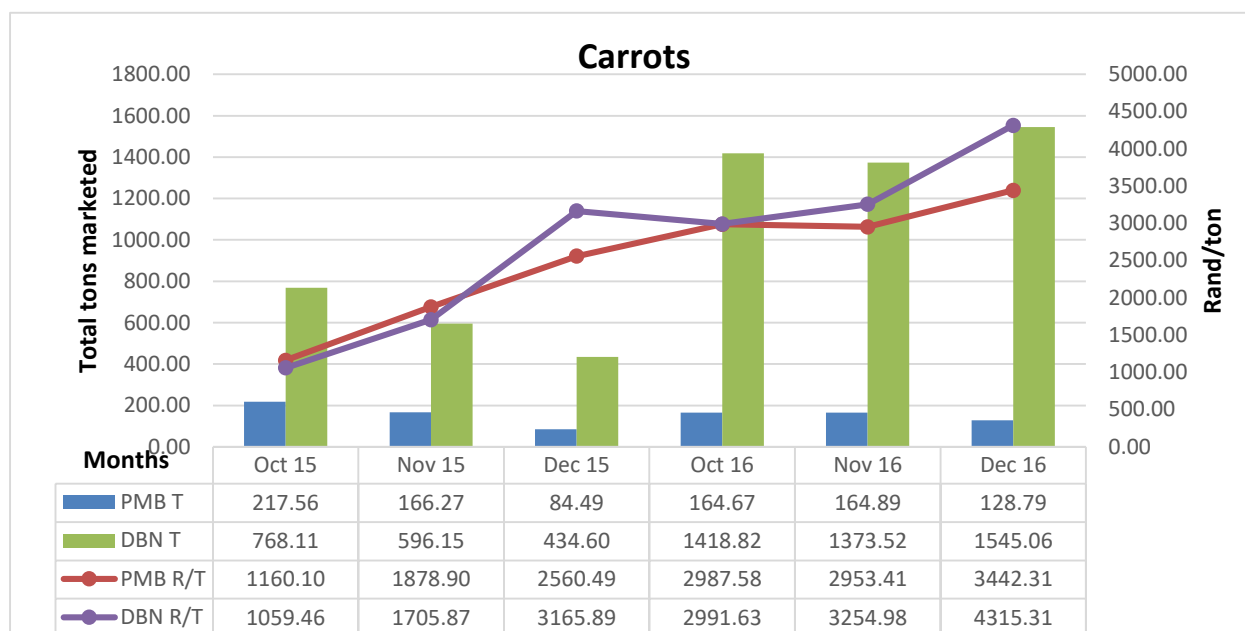


Figure 3: Trends for carrots in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- This FPM marketed the highest volumes of carrots in November 2016 at 164.89 tons which is less than a percentage drop in volume compared the same month in 2015. There was an overall 2% decrease in supply of carrots for the fourth quarter from 2015 to 2016.
- Carrot price was the highest in December 2016 at R3, 442.31/t representing a 34% increase from R2, 560.49/t which was the price during the same month in 2015. Average quarter prices showed an increase of 67% from an average price of R1, 866.50/ton in 2015 to R3, 124.77/ton in 2016.

Durban

- Carrot volumes were highest in December 2016 at 1545.06t compared to R434.6t of December 2015. The average supply of carrots for the quarter increased over 2 folds from 599.5t in 2015 to 1446.0t on average per quarter.
- Prices were the highest in December 2016 at R4, 315.31/t representing a 36% increase compared to R3, 165.89/t during the same month in 2015. The average carrot price for the 4th quarter in 2015 was R1, 977.71/t and R3, 520.64/t in 2016 which was a 78% increase from 2015 price.

2.5. CABBAGE

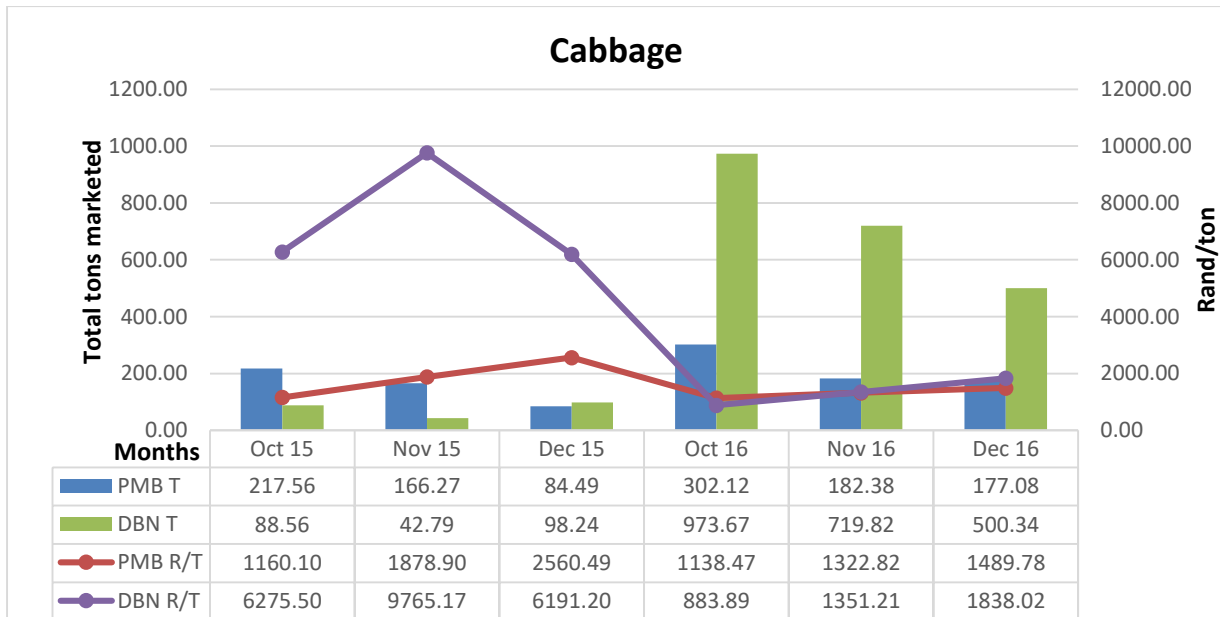


Figure 4: Trends for cabbage in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- In Pietermaritzburg FPM the volume of cabbages marketed in quarter four was the highest in October 2016 at 302.12 tons which represented a 39% increase from the 217.56t recorded in the same month in the previous year. On average over the three months October to December in 2015 to the same period in 2016, volumes of cabbage marketed in this market increased by 41%.
- Cabbage price was highest in December 2016 at R1, 489. 78/t representing a 41% increase from the price of the same month in 2015. On average fourth quarter prices for cabbage increased by 29% from 2015 to 2016.

Durban

- The supply of cabbages was highest in October 2016 at 973.67t which was about 10 times higher than the volumes of the same month in 2015. On average, quantities supplied in the DBN FPM for cabbages were significantly higher in 2016 as compared to 2015. There was about 9.55 times higher volumes on average from 2015 quarter 4 to 2016 quarter 4.
- Prices of cabbage in this market were highest in December 2016 at R1, 838.02 which was much lower (70% lower) than the R6, 191.20/t recorded same time in 2015. On average, quarter prices were also lower by 82% from R7, 410.62/t in 2015 to R4, 073.12/t in 2016.

2.6. LETTUCE

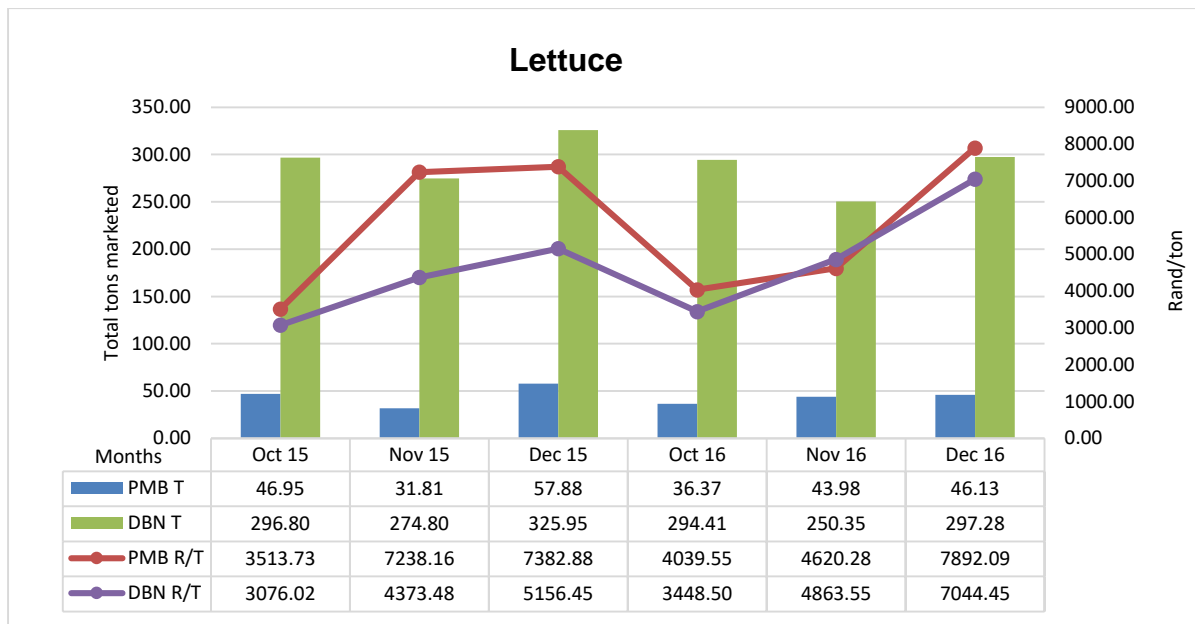


Figure 5: Trends for lettuce in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- Lettuce supply was highest in December 2016 at 46.13t, which was 20% lower than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. While, the average supply of lettuce in the 4th quarter of 2016 (42.16t) compared to the 4th quarter of 2015 (45.57) showed a decline of 7%.
- The price of lettuce was the highest in December 2016 at R7, 892.09/t, which was about 7% higher compared to the value of lettuce in the same month of 2015. While, the average price of lettuce in the 4th quarter of 2016 (R5, 517.30/t) compared to the 3rd quarter of 2015 (R6, 044.92/t) showed a decline of 9%.

Durban

- Lettuce supply was highest in December 2016 at 297.28t, which was 9% lower than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. The average supply of lettuce for the quarter also showed a decrease of 6% from 299,18t from the 4th quarter of 2015 to 280.68t in the 4th quarter of 2016.
- Lettuce prices were the highest in December 2016 worth R7, 044. 45/t, which was 37% higher compared to the value of lettuce in the same month of 2015. While, average price of lettuce in the 4th quarter of 2016 showed an increase of 22% from R4, 201.67t in 2015 to R, R5, 118.83/t in 2016.

2.7. PUMPKINS

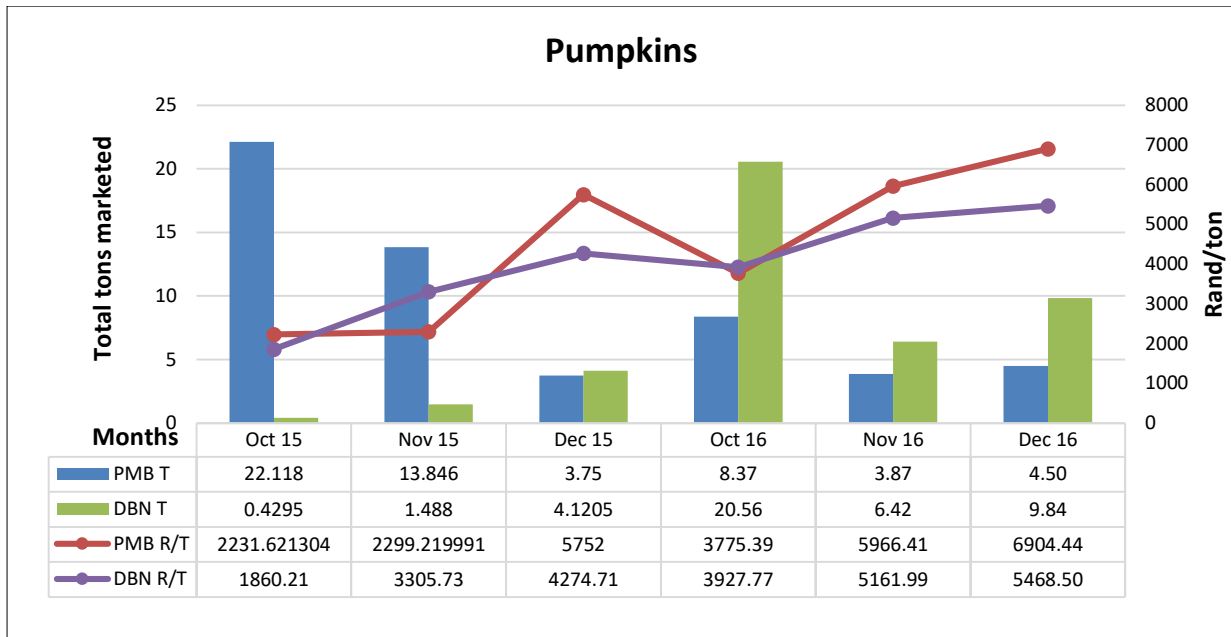


Figure 6: Trends for pumpkins in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- The supply of pumpkins was highest in October 2016 at 8.37t, which was 62% lower than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. While, the average supply of pumpkins in the 4th quarter of 2016 was 5.53t compared to that of the 4th quarter of 2015 at 13.24t, this shows a decline of 58%.
- The price of pumpkins was highest in December 2016 at R6, 904.44/t, which was 20% higher compared to the value of pumpkins in the same month of 2015. The average price of pumpkins increased by 60% from R3, 427.61/t in 4th quarter of 2015 to R5, 548.75/t in the 4th quarter of 2016.

Durban

- The supply of pumpkins was highest in October 2016 at 20.56t, which was over 47 times higher than the 0.42t recorded in October of 2015. Average supply of pumpkins in the 4th quarter of 2016 was 12.27t which was about 6 times higher than the average supply of the same time in 2015 which was at 2,01t.
- Pumpkin prices were the highest in December 2016 at R5, 468.50 /t, which was 28% higher compared to the value of pumpkins in the same month of 2015. While, the average price of pumpkins in the 4th quarter of 2016 (R4, 852.75t) compared to the 4th quarter of 2015 (R3, 146.88/t) showed an increase of 54%.

2.8. GEM SQUASHES

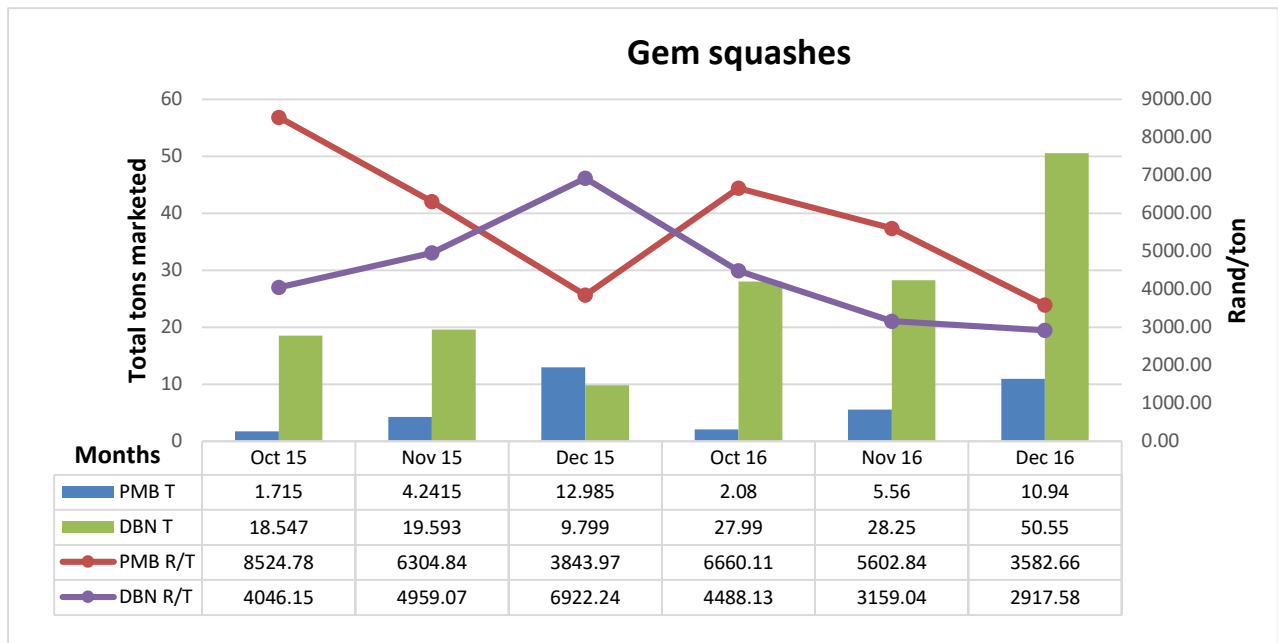


Figure 7: Trends for gem squashes in PMB and DBN FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- The supply of gem squashes was highest in December 2016 at 10.94t, which was 16% lower than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015, consistently the average volumes of gem squash supplied were also lower by 2% comparing the two periods.
- The price of germ squashes was highest in October 2016 worth the value of R6, 660.11/t, which was 22% lower compared to the value of germ squashes in the same month of 2015. The average price of germ squashes supplied in the 4th quarter of 2016 was R5, 281.87/t compared to that of the 4th quarter of 2015 at R6, 224.53/t, this was decreased of 15%.

Durban

- The supply of germ squashes was highest in December 2016 at 50.55t, which was over 5 times higher than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. The average supply of germ squashes in the 4th quarter of 2016 (35.59t) was also over 2 times higher than the average supply over the same period in 2015.
- The price of germ squashes was highest in October 2016 worth R4, 488.13/t, which was 11% higher compared to the value of germ squashes in the same month of 2015. On average from the 4th quarter of 2015, prices decreased by 34% from R5309.15/t to R3, 521.58/t.

2.9. BUTTERNUT SQUASHES

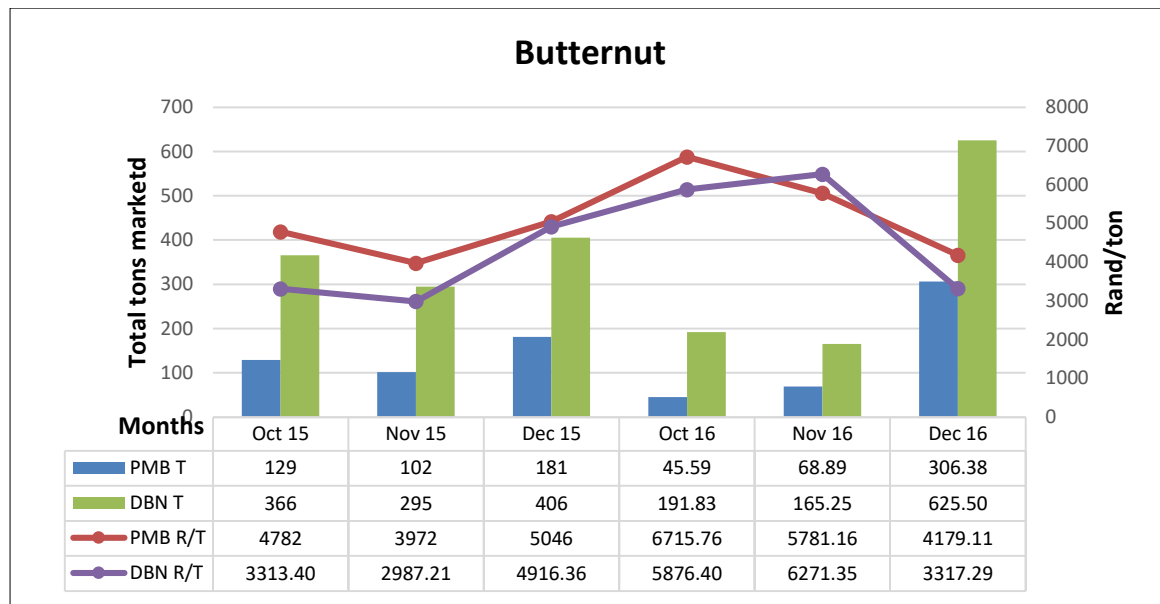


Figure 8: Trends for butternut squashes in DBN and PMB FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- Butternut squashes supply was highest in December 2016 at 306.38t, which was 69% higher than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015, while average increase in quarter 4 comparison supply was 2%.
- The price of butternut squashes was highest in October 2016 at R6, 715.76/t which was 40% higher compared to the value of butternut squashes in the same month of 2015. The average price of butternut squashes supplied in the 4th quarter of 2016 was R5, 558.68/t compared to that of the 4th quarter of 2015 at R4, 600.34/t, this was an increase of 21%.

Durban

- In Durban FPM, the supply of butter squashes was highest in December 2016 at 625.5t which was 54% higher than volume of 406t recorded in December 2015. The average supply of butternut squashes in the 4th quarter of 2016 (327.53t) compared to the 4th quarter of 2015 (355.22t) showed a decline of 8%.
- The price of butternut squashes was highest in November 2016 worth the value of R6, 271.35/t, which was which was more than double the price at the same time in 2015 which was R2, 987.21/t. While the average price of butternut squashes supplied in the 4th quarter of 2016 (R5, 155.01/t) compared to the 3rd quarter of 2015 (R3, 738.99/t) showed an increase of 38%.

2.10. TOMATOES

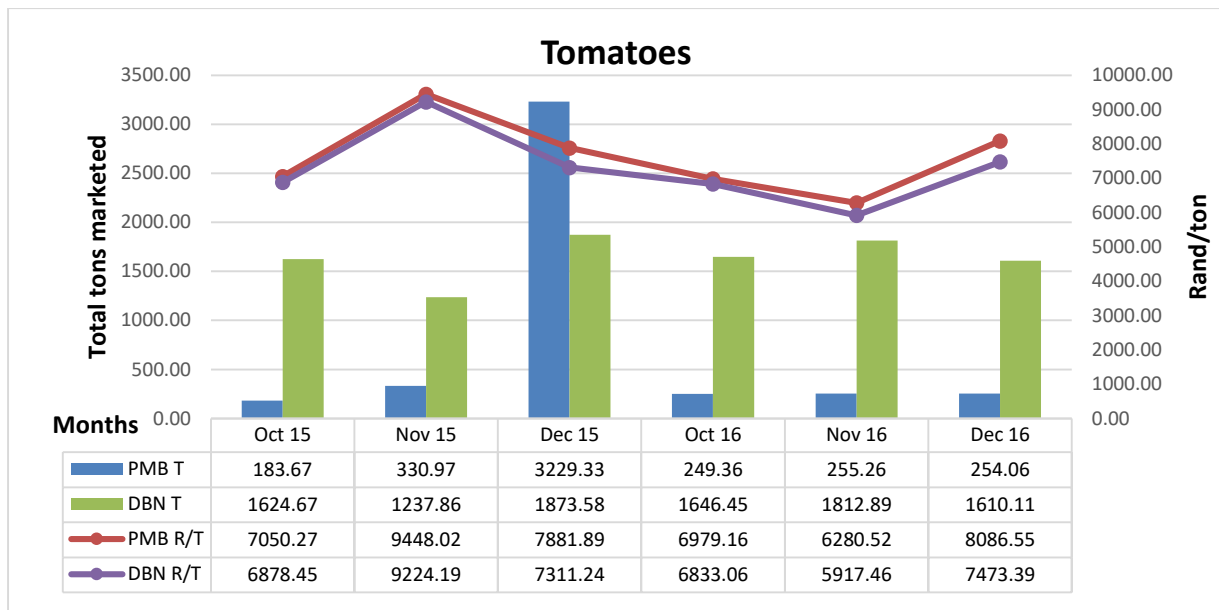


Figure 9: Trends for tomatoes in DBN and PMB FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- The supply of tomatoes was highest in November 2016 at 255.26t, which was 23% lower than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. This drop in monthly comparison was also consistent with the average quarter 4 supply decline of 78% from 2015 to 2016.
- Tomato prices were the highest in December 2016 at R8, 086.55/t, which was about 3% higher compared to the value of tomatoes in the same month of 2015. However, an average quarter 4 price comparison for 2015 to 2016 shows that overall prices dropped by 12%.

Durban

- The supply of tomatoes was highest in November 2016 at 1812.89t, which was 46% higher than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. The average supply of tomatoes in the 4th quarter of 2016 was 1,689.82t which showed a 7% increase compared to the 4th quarter of 2015 at 1, 578.70t.
- Tomato prices were the highest in December 2016 valued at R7, 473.39/t, which was 2% higher than the value of tomatoes in the same month of 2015. The average price of tomatoes in the 4th quarter of 2016 was R6, 741.30/t, showing a 14% decline from average of R7, 804.63/t in the same quarter of 2015.

2.11. PEPPERS

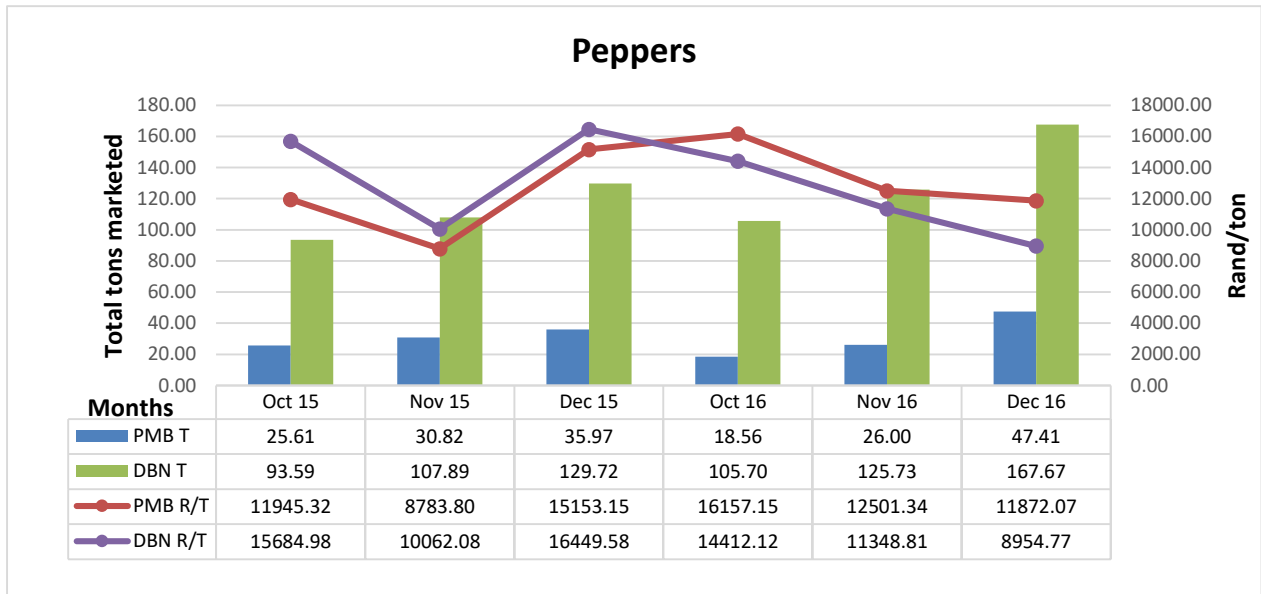


Figure 10: Trends for Pepper in DBN and PMB FPM (2015 and 2016 Q4)

Pietermaritzburg

- The supply of peppers was highest in December 2016 at 47.41t, which was 32% higher than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. The average supply of peppers in the 4th quarter of 2016 was 30.66t compared to 30.80t of the same time in 2015, this was a slight drop of less 0.5% overall.
- The price of peppers was highest in October 2016 worth the value of R16, 157.15/t, which was 35% higher compared to the value of peppers in the same month of 2015. The average price of peppers supplied in the 4th quarter of 2016 was R13, 510.19/t representing a 13% increase from the average of R11, 960.76/t same time in 2015.

Durban

- The supply of peppers was highest in December 2016 at 167.67t, which was 29% higher than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. The average supply of peppers in the 4th quarter of 2016 was 133.04t showed an increase of 21% compared to the 4th quarter average of 2015 at 110.40t.
- The price of peppers was highest in October 2016 at R14, 412.12/t, which was 8% lower than the value of pepper in the same month of 2015. The average price of peppers in the 4th quarter of 2016 was R11, 571.90/t which is a slight decline of about 17% compared to R14, 065.21/t average 4th quarter price of 2015.

2.12. ENGLISH CUCUMBER

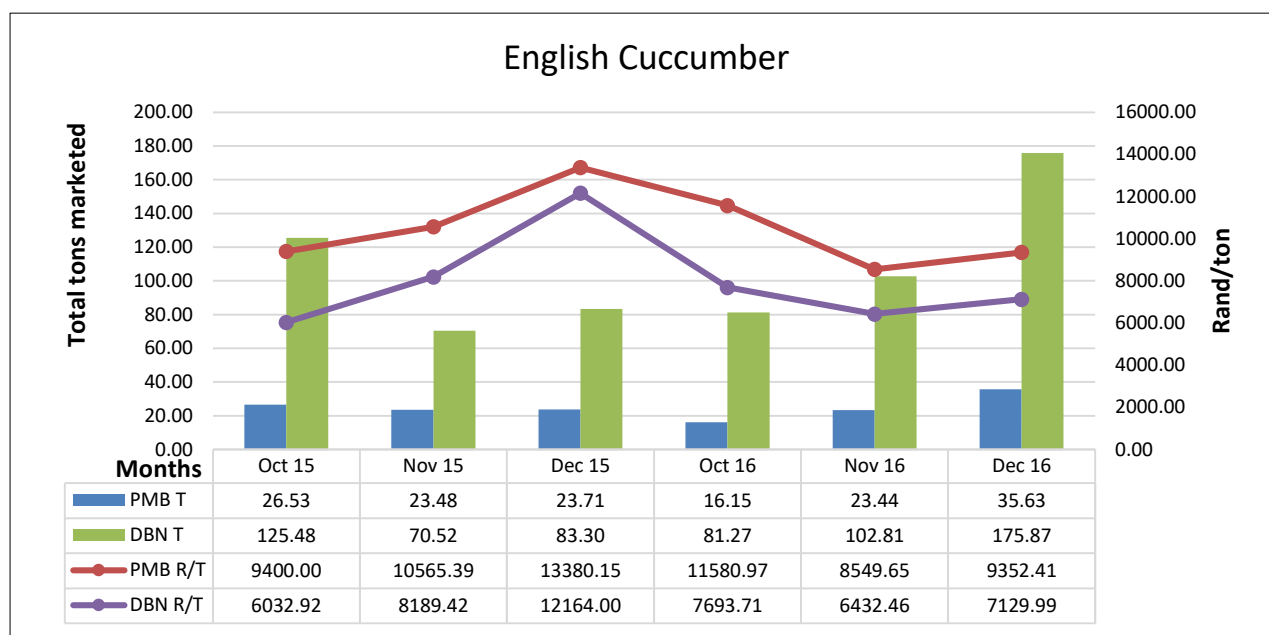


Figure 11 Trends for English cucumber in DBN and PMB FPM (Q4 of 2015 and 2016)

Pietermaritzburg

- The supply of English cucumbers was the highest in December 2016 at 35.63t, which was 50% higher than the volume supplied in the same month of 2015. The average supply of English cucumbers increased by 3% in the 4th quarter of 2016 (25.07t) from 24.57t in the 4th quarter of 2015.
- The price of English cucumbers was highest in October 2016 at R11, 580.97/t, which was 23% higher compared to the value of English cucumbers in the same month of 2015. The average price of English cucumbers supplied in the 4th quarter of 2016 (R9, 872.68/t) was 11% lower than the average price over October to December of 2015.

Durban

- The supply of English cucumbers was highest in December 2016 at 175.87t, which was more than double the volumes of the same time in 2015. The average supply of English cucumbers in the 4th quarter of 2016 was 120.13t showing a 29% increase from the 2015 quarter average which was 93.12t.
- The price of English cucumbers was highest in October 2016 at R7, 693.71/t which shows a 28% increase from the same month in 2015. The average price of English cucumbers in the Durban FPM decreased by 22% from R9, 062.11/t in 4th quarter of 2015 to R7, 085.38/t in the same quarter of 2016.

Fresh Produce Market Analysis Report for Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec 2016)

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