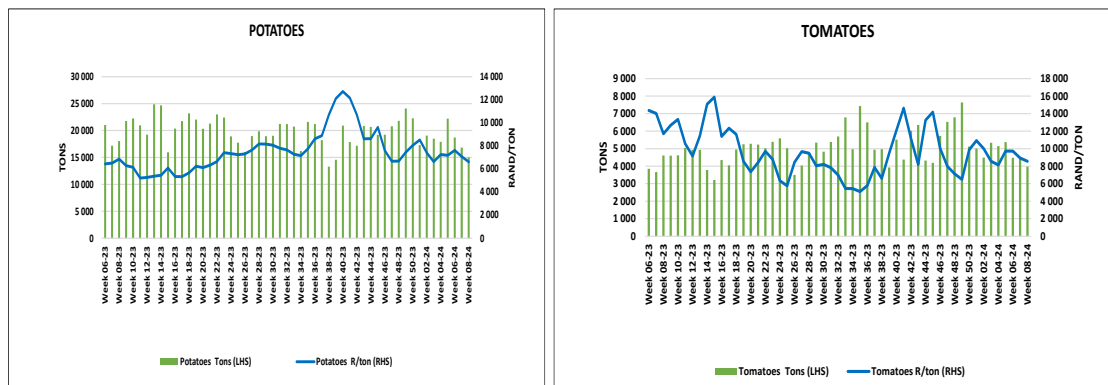




## Summary

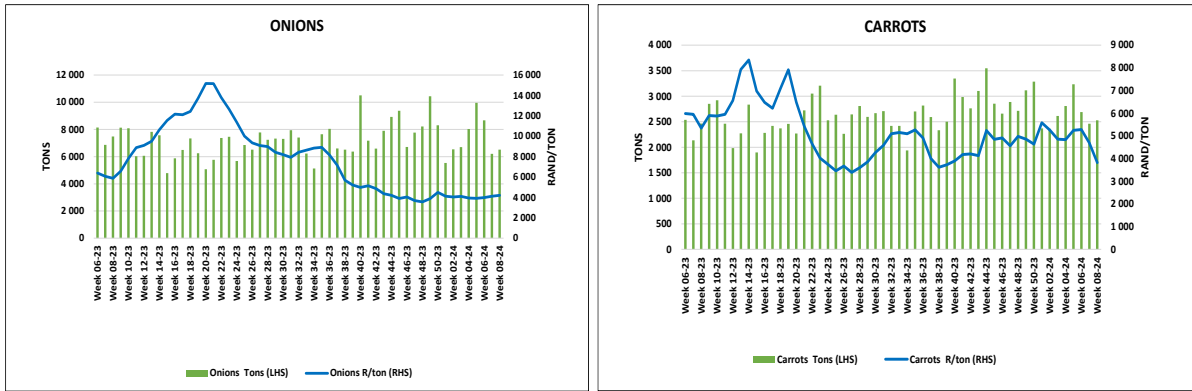
According to Berries ZA, the 2023/24 blueberry export season ended with a total export volume of 21 212 tons, lower by 3 022 tons from the previous season. Despite a challenging season ridden with logistical woes, the industry produced high quality fruit and garnered favourable pricing due to the supply shortfall from major producer and exporter, Peru. This alleviated some of the pressure from the previous season's high input costs, pressure on pricing, and the direct financial impact of the Transnet industrial action of 2022. Additionally, the favourable pricing and good demand gave exporters the latitude to opt for air freight, thereby bypassing the seaport challenges currently being experienced. The blueberry industry and its members are optimistic about the 2024/25 season. This comes as production volumes are set to increase due to ongoing improvements to farm management practices, orchards reaching maturing to provide better yields, and the availability of new genetics. Recently, the first pecan nut crop estimate was released for the 2024/25 marketing season, and early indications are that it could be an on-year. The export volume of pecan nuts is estimated at a range of between 27 180 to 28 550 tons. Total pecan nut production is estimated at 30 950 to 31 700 tons. This will be an increase of 34.5% from the 2023 crop of 23 018 tons.

## Potatoes and Tomatoes



- In week 08-2024, **potato** prices decreased by 6% week-on-week (w/w) to R6 621/ton on the back of lower consumer demand. Supply also declined by 11% w/w to 15 024 tons. Prices are expected to decline further in this and the next month as volumes increase as per seasonal trend.
- **Tomato** prices declined by 4% w/w to R8 550/ton due to slow demand. Volumes also declined by 12% w/w to 3 968 tons. Prices are expected to recover towards the end of this month.

# Onions and Carrots



- Onion prices increased by 2% w/w to R4 211/ton on improved demand. Market supply firmed by 5% w/w to 6 510 tons. Prices are expected to increase in this and the next month on the back of stronger demand.
- Carrot prices decreased by 18% w/w to R3 820/ton. This was mostly due to subdued demand and availability that increased by 3% w/w to 2 529 tons. Prices are expected to recover in April 2024 due to the higher demand around the Easter holidays.

## Fruit Trends on all NFPMs in South Africa

Commodity	Rand per ton		% change (w/w)	Ton		% change (w/w)
	Week ending			Week ending		
	16 Feb	23 Feb		16 Feb	23 Feb	
Apples	9 500	9 520	📈 0.21%	2 781	2 323	📉 -16%
Pears	7 500	7 150	📉 -5%	881	743	📉 -16%
Bananas	7 360	7 140	📉 -3%	6 458	5 425	📉 -16%
Oranges	18 330	16 560	📉 -10%	103	72	📉 -30%
Avocados	22 960	19 780	📉 -14%	357	427	📈 20%

- Apple prices increased marginally by 0.2% w/w to R9 520/ton as supply declined by 16% w/w. Prices are expected to trend downwards in the coming week due to higher expected seasonal volumes.
- Pear prices decreased by 5% w/w to R7 150/ton due to lower demand. Availability also dropped by 16% w/w. Prices are expected to remain flat in the coming week.
- Banana prices decreased by 3% w/w to R7 140/ton from subdued demand. Market volumes also declined by 16% w/w. Although prices are expected to recover this month, they should remain below the R10 000/ton mark.
- Orange prices decreased by 10% w/w to R16 560/ton from lower demand, even as supply dipped by 30% w/w. As the 2024 citrus season approaches, prices are expected to trend downwards from harvest pressure.
- Avocado prices decreased by 14% w/w to R19 780/ton as volumes increased by 20% w/w. Prices are expected to trend downwards this month as the production regions begin to harvest.

# Pome Fruit Exports

Week 06 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	417 783	324 922	↓ -22%	1 574 033	936 517	↓ -41%
Pears	474 427	1 237 059	↑ 161%	2 018 648	3 370 541	↑ 67%

**Week 06-2024 exports:**

- South Africa exported 324 922 cartons (12.5kg) of **apples** in week 06-2024, a decrease of 22% y/y. **Pear** exports surged by 161% y/y to 1.23 million cartons. The cumulative export volume of apples declined by 41% y/y, while that of pears rose by 67% y/y.
- The bulk of the consignment of apples was shipped to Africa (63%) and the Far East and Asia (33%). South African pears were mainly shipped to the European Union (EU) (37%), the Russian Federation (23%), and the Middle East (17%).
- 2024 Apple exports are projected to increase by 5% y/y, while pear exports are anticipated to rise by 5% y/y. The current surge in pear exports is largely attributed to the season beginning almost two weeks earlier than usual.

# Stone Fruit Exports

Weekly Volumes Week 08	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)
Apricots (4.75 kg carton)	1 870	0	↓ -100%	567 783	451 129	↓ -21%
Nectarines (2.5 kg carton)	551 555	371 525	↓ -33%	6 129 290	7 201 797	↑ 17%
Peaches (2.5 kg carton)	56 176	25 507	↓ -55%	1 732 781	1 480 083	↓ -15%
Plums/Prunes (5.25 kg carton)	816 633	443 736	↓ -46%	7 437 082	7 027 964	↓ -6%
Cherries (2.5 kg carton)	0	654	-	312 622	285 892	↓ -9%

**Week 08-2024 exports:**

- **Apricot** exports closed in week 07-2024 with cumulative volumes totalling 451 129 cartons (4.75kg), a decline of 21% y/y.
- **Nectarine** exports declined by 33% y/y to 371 525 cartons (2.5kg) as the late season varieties begin to wind down. Cumulative exports increased by 17% y/y to 7.2 million cartons year-to-date (YTD). Major export markets included the EU (59%) and the United Kingdom (UK) (23%).
- **Peach** exports decreased by 55% y/y to 25 507 cartons (2.5kg) as the season may end earlier than usual. Cumulative volumes declined by 15% y/y to 1.48 million cartons YTD. Main export markets included the Middle East (54%) and the UK (25%).
- **Plum** exports tightened by 46% y/y to 443 736 cartons (5.25kg). The bulk of the volume was shipped to the EU (59%), the Middle East (23%), and the UK (14%). Based on seasonal trends, plum exports are still on track to peak in week 11-2024 as the late season varieties come into production
- **Cherry** exports ended in week 03-2024, however, a small consignment of 654 cartons (2.5kg) was shipped to the EU.

## **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.*

*Disclaimer: Standard Bank South Africa accepts no responsibility for any application, use or interpretation of the information contained in this report and disclaims all liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages resulting from the use of this report.*