

MARKET SURVEY

PORT VILA

JANUARY - MARCH
QUARTER





VANUATU NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Private Mail Bag 9019
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Ph: +678 22110/22111/33040, VOIP:1124
E-mail: stats@vanuatu.gov.vu, Web: www.vns0.gov.vu




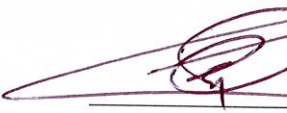
07th September 2020

RE: Press Release for new statistical update: Quarterly Port Vila Central Market Survey Report

Vanuatu National Statistics office is pleased to announce the release of the first batch of Quarterly Market Survey Reports which includes Quarter 1 to 4 of 2019. This report is based on fortnightly data collections at the Port Vila main market which is averaged to derive the quarterly Quantity Supplied (in Kilograms), Weighted Average Price per Kilogram, Value of supplies (in thousand vatu), Volume and Price Index and Number of Sellers per commodity.

There are 20 common agricultural products that are sold and bought in Port Vila's main market and categorized into staple produces, fruits and vegetables. Analysis is done on average following the changes in quantity supplied and prices when comparison is made over the same quarter of the previous year and the previous quarter of the same period. In theory, there is a negative relationship between quantity supplied and price however this does not often occur in cases where there are few vendors or transport cost might affect the price.

Summary findings in 2019 noted that staple produces like island taro, Fiji taro, yam, banana and manioc are available throughout the year while seasonal crops such as vegetables and water melon are more common during the wet seasons. Close monitoring is possible to capture other emerging products that can be consistently supplied into the market through adopting new farming techniques to boost production off-season.



Mr. KAP Calo Andy

Government Statistician

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STATISTICAL UPDATE: **PORT VILA CENTRAL MARKET SURVEY**

MARCH 2019

Release date: 07th September 2020

The Port Vila Central Market Survey summarises selected agricultural products sold at the main local market based on the supply and price of commodities. Data is collected on a fortnightly basis and published as a quarterly average.

Summary of Findings:

The Port Vila Market Survey of March quarter of 2019 showed an overall volume index decrease of -41 percent on the supply of commodities while the average price index increased by 4 percent compared to the previous quarter.

- ◆ Decrease in the volume of the local Vegetables such as White bowl cabbage, Purple bowl cabbage, Carrot, Chinese cabbage, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Lettuce, Tomato, as well as Fiji taro, Yam, Island Taro, manioc, Sweet Potato (Kumala), Watermelon, Dried coconut and Green coconut supplied to the market contributed to the decrease in overall volume index compared to previous quarter.
- ◆ The value of commodities decreased by 35 percent at VT1.3 million.
- ◆ A sum of 566 sellers was recorded for the quarter under review. This is a decrease of -9 percent from the previous quarter and also an increase of 7 percent compared to March 2018.

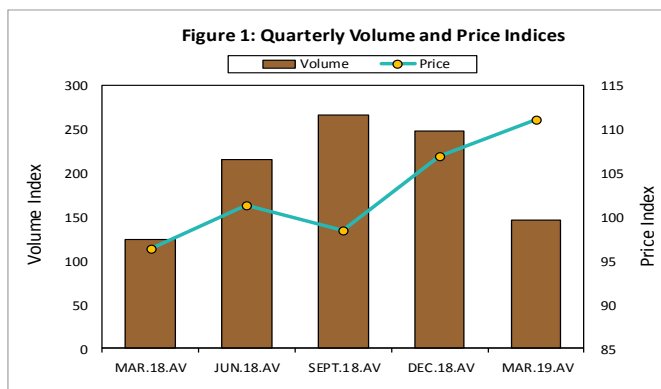
OVERVIEW

The Port Vila Market Survey in March quarter 2019 showed an overall volume index decrease of -41 percent from the previous quarter. Most of the agricultural products including, White bowl cabbage, Purple bowl cabbage, Carrot, Chinese Cabbage, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Lettuce, Tomato, Yam, Island Taro, Manioc, Sweet Kumala, Watermelon, Dried coconut and Green coconut recorded a decrease. When compared to the corresponding quarter of previous year, the overall volume supplied increased by 18 percent. (Refer to table 4).

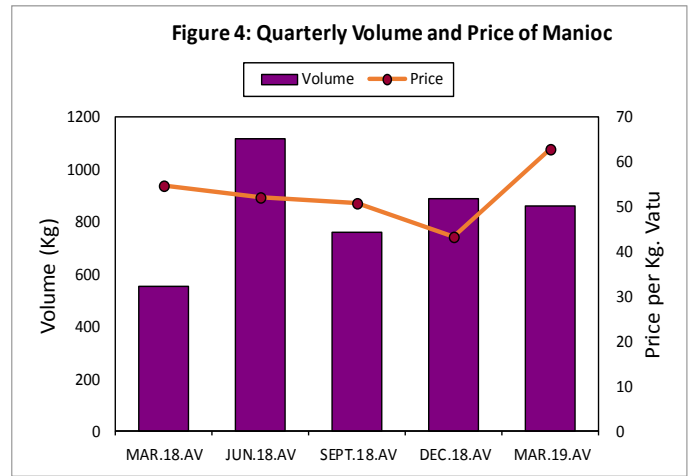
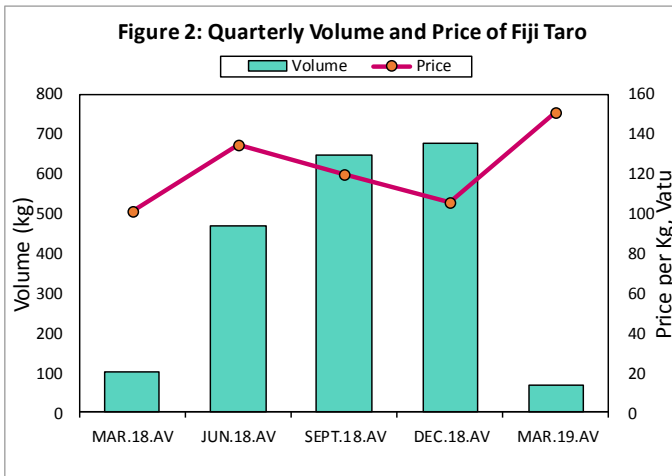
cabbage, Pumpkin, Lettuce, Tomato and Green coconut recorded the highest prices compared to the previous quarter which contributes to the increase in price index. Compared to March quarter of 2018, the current overall price level was increased by 15 percent. (Refer to table 5).

FIJI TARO

At an average of 66 Kilograms, the supply of Fiji Taro decreased by -90 percent from the previous quarter which pushes average price per kilogram up by 44 percent. Compared to March 2018, the supply of Fiji Taro decreased by -34 percent while the average price increased by 49 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).



The overall price increased by 4 percent compared to the previous quarter. Fiji Taro, Island Taro, Manioc, White bowl cabbage, Purple bowl cabbage, Carrot, Chinese

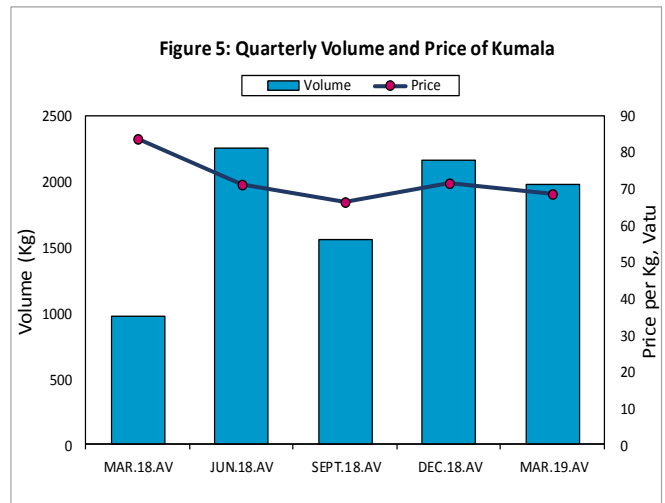
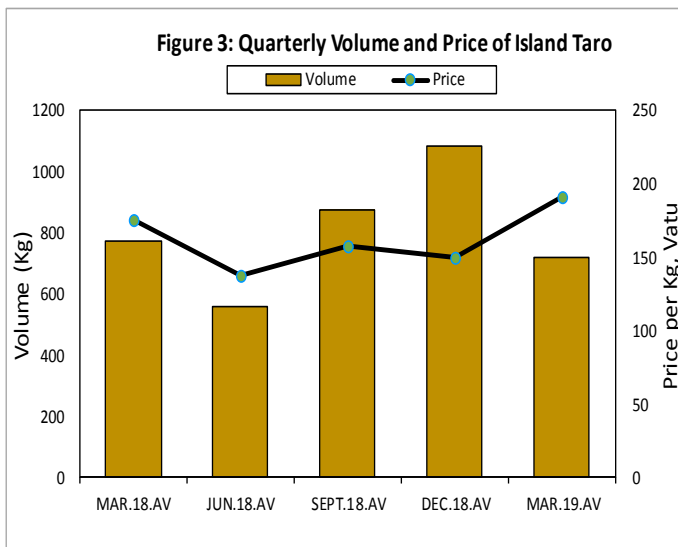


ISLAND TARO

The volume of Island Taro supplied to Port Vila Central Market in March 2019 decreased by -34 percent, compared to previous quarter, while the price index increased by 28 percent. Compared with March 2018, the volume of Island Taro was -7 percent lower while its average price was 10 percent higher. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

KUMALA (SWEET POTATO)

Kumala or Sweet Potato recorded a fall in the average volume supplied of -8 percent compared to the previous quarter. Even with less availability, the average price of Kumala or Sweet Potato also decreased slightly by -4 percent. Compared with same quarter of previous year, the quantity of Kumala increased by 1010 kilograms while the average price decreased by VT15 per kilograms. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

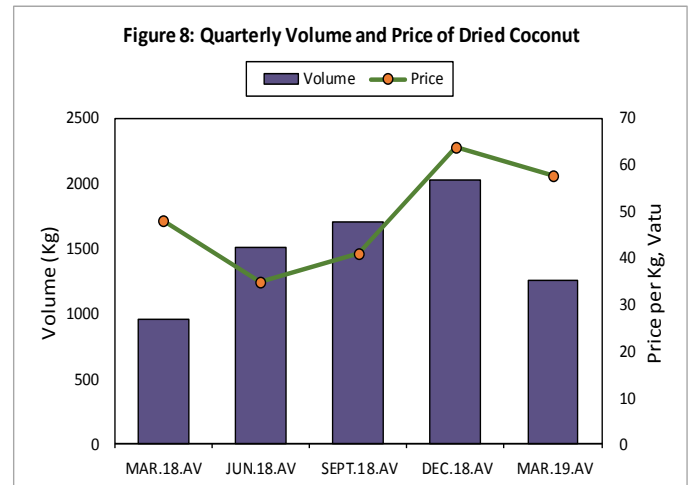
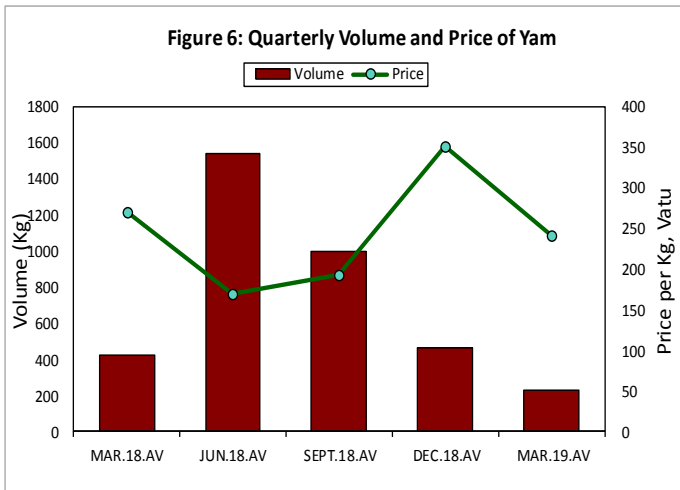


MANIOC

The current supply of Manioc in the quarter under review decreased by -3 percent compared to the previous quarter and the average price increased by 46 percent. When compared with March quarter of 2018, quantity supplied of Manioc increased by 55 percent while average price also increased by 15 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

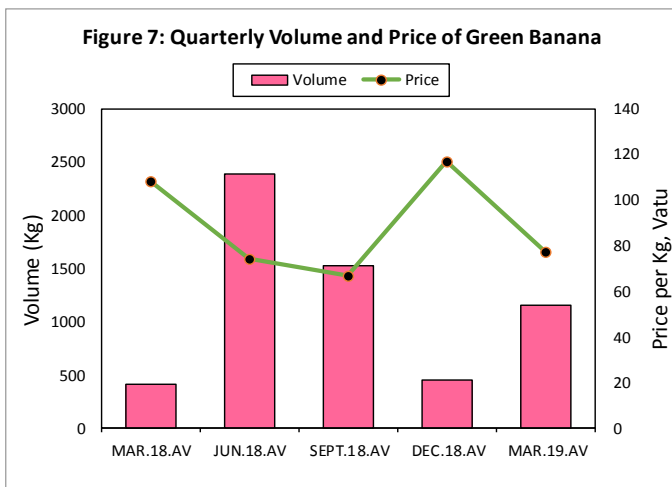
YAM

The supply of Yam in the quarter under review decreased by -50 percent compared with the previous quarter. Average price per kilogram also decreased by -31 percent in this period. When comparing with the same quarter of previous year, supply of Yam decreased by -46 percent while the average price per kilogram slightly decreased by -11 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).



GREEN BANANA

March 2019 recorded an average supply of 1155Kg of Green Banana. This is an increase of 706 kilograms compared with the previous quarter. The increase in supply of this commodity pushes average price down by -34 percent. Compared with March of 2018, the quantity of Green Banana supplied to Port Vila Market increased by 742 kilograms which pushed average price down by -28 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

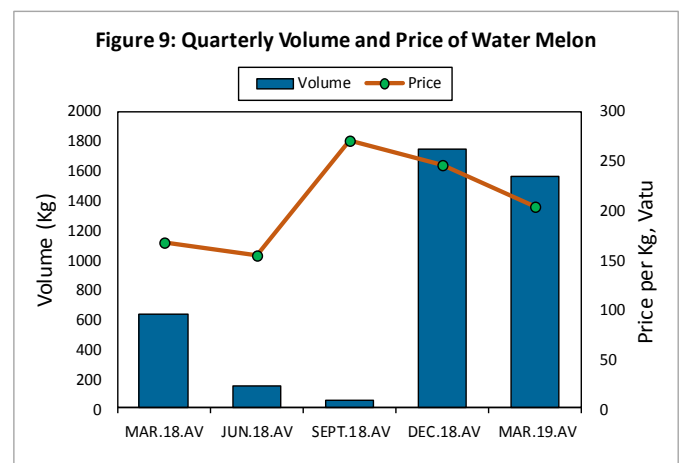


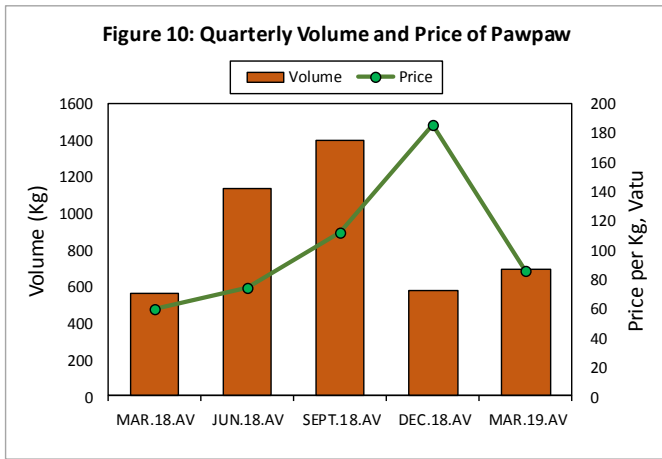
DRIED COCONUTS

At an average of 1253 Kilograms, Dried Coconut supply decreased by -38 percent compared to the previous quarter while average price slightly decreased by -9 percent. Current availability was 31 percent higher in March quarter of 2018 and average price per kilogram increased by 20 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

FRUITS

An overview of Fruits supplied to Port Vila Central Market in the first quarter of 2019, showed an increase of Green Banana by 706 kilograms, Ripe Banana by 209 kilograms and Pawpaw by 120 kilograms and a fall in the supply of Water melon by 190 kilograms and Green coconut by -83 kilograms compared to the previous quarter. When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the supply of fruits that increased were Water melon at 927 kilograms, Green Banana at 742 kilograms, Ripe Banana at 375 kilograms and Pawpaw at 135 kilograms. However, Green coconut decreased by 53 kilograms. (Refer to table 1).

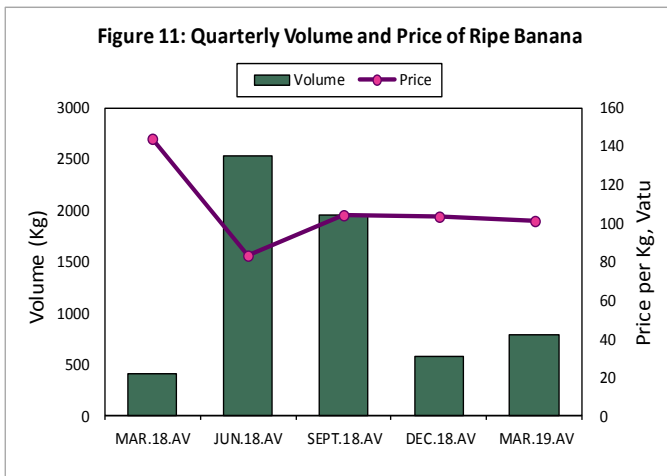




Ripe Banana and Green coconut decreased by -30 percent and -2 percent respectively.

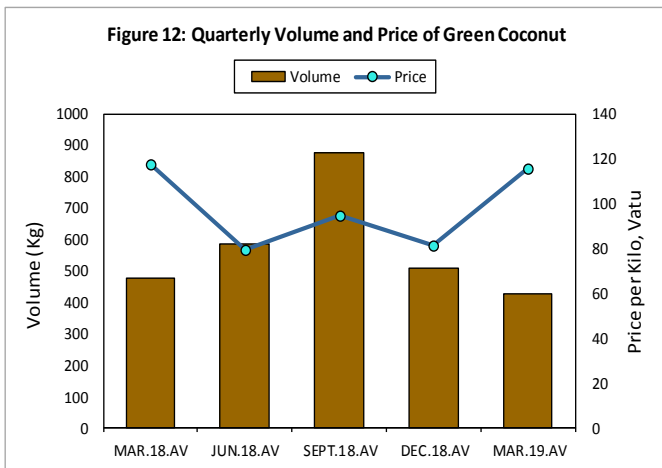
VEGETABLES

A summary of vegetables in the quarter under review resulted in significant fall in almost all Vegetable supplies, except for Island cabbage which increased by 24 percent compared to the previous quarter. Vegetable supplies that decreased were Lettuce at -96 percent, Carrot at -90 percent, White bowl cabbage at -89 percent, Tomato at -85 percent, Pumpkin at -75 percent, Purple bowl cabbage at -73 percent, Cucumber and Chinese cabbage at -54 percent and -12 percent respectively.

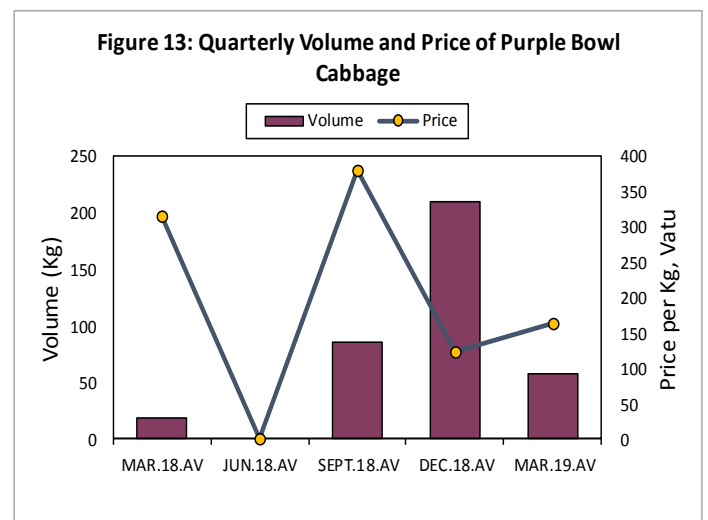


Compared to March 2018, increase in volume was recorded for most of the vegetables produced except for Cucumber which decreased by -77 percent, Carrot at -71 percent, Lettuce and Chinese cabbage at -68 percent and -64 percent respectively. Refer to table 1.

The average price per kilograms in March 2019 increased for all Vegetable produces supplied to the market except for Cucumber which decreased by VT72 per kilogram and Island cabbage by VT180 per kilogram compared to the previous quarter. Average price per kilogram of Vegetable commodities that increased were White bowl cabbage by VT48, Purple bowl cabbage by VT41, Carrot by VT64, Chinese cabbage by VT166, Pumpkin by VT28, Lettuce by VT587 and Tomato by VT178.

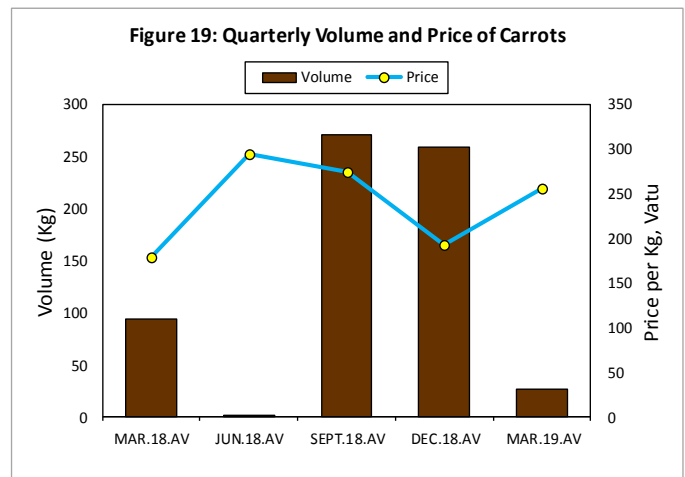
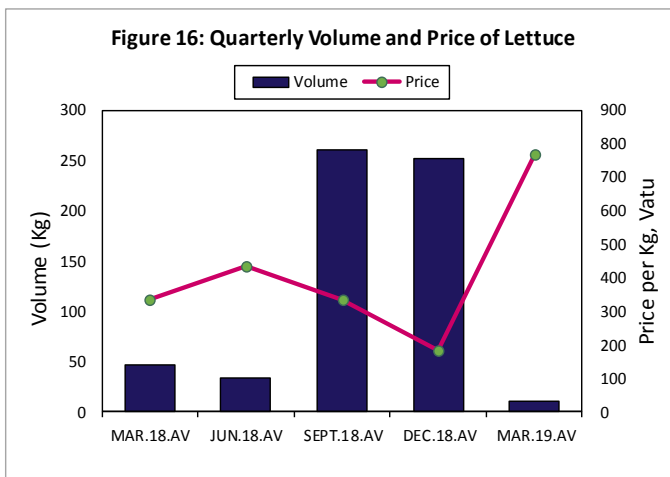
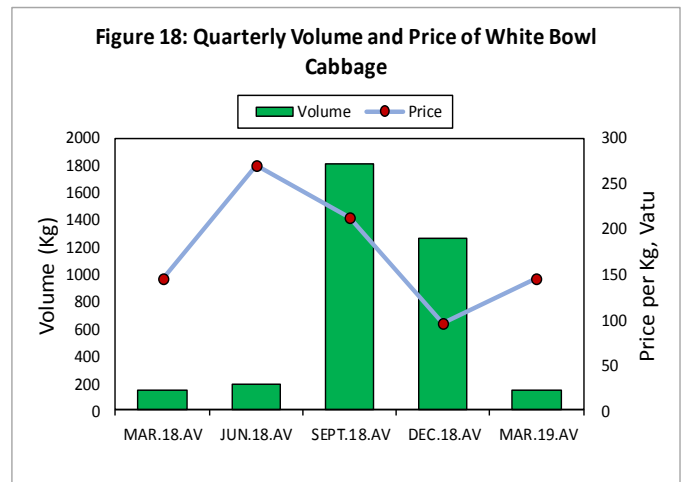
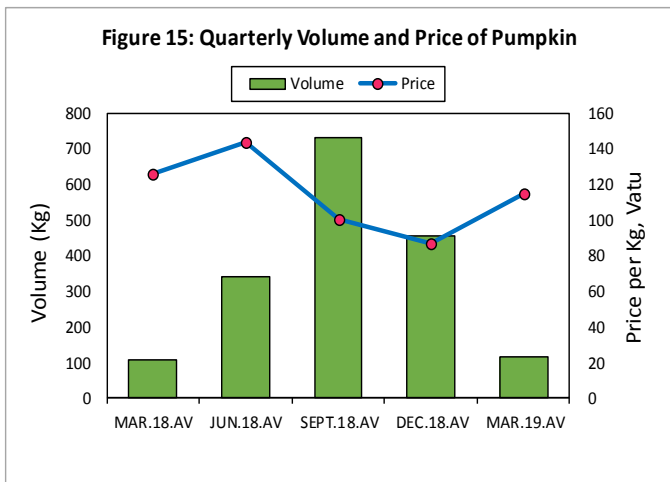
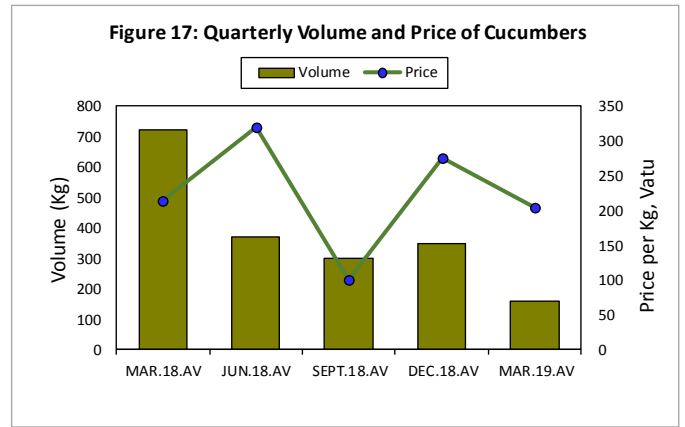
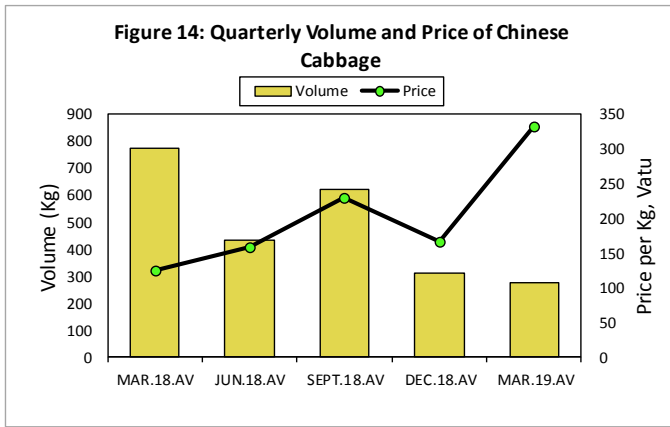


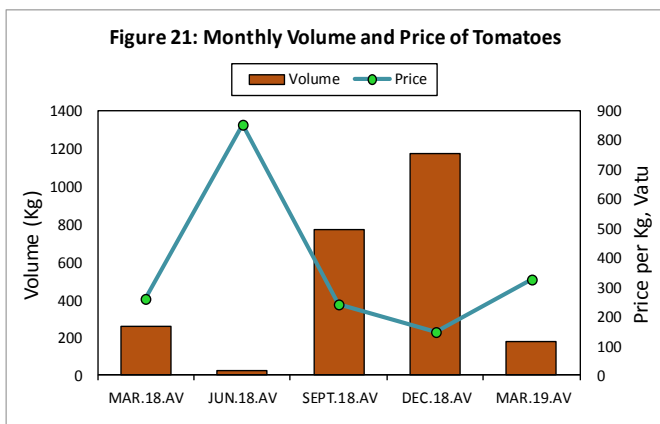
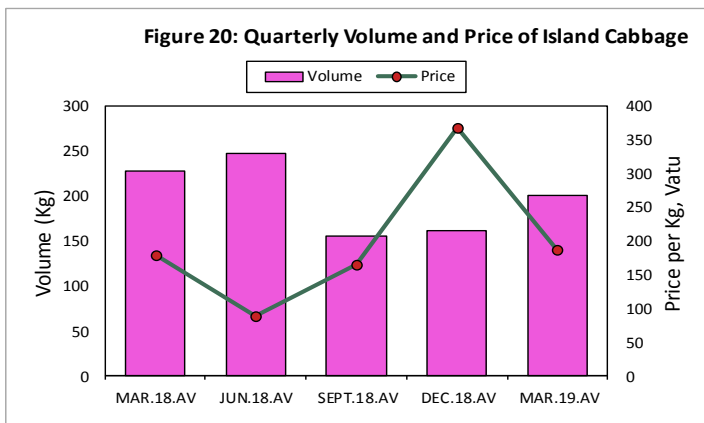
Compared to the same quarter of 2018, average price per kilograms increased for Lettuce at VT433, Chinese cabbage at VT207, Carrot at VT77, Tomato at VT71 and Island Cabbage at VT13. (Refer to table 2).



All fruits recorded a decrease in the average price compared to previous quarter except for Green Coconut which increased by 42 percent.

Pawpaw decreased by -54 percent, Water melon by -17 and Ripe Banana decreased slightly by -3 percent. When compared with March quarter of 2018, Pawpaw increased by 45 percent and Water melon by 22 percent. However,





SELLERS PER PRODUCE

March quarter of 2019 recorded a total of 566 sellers¹ at the Port Vila Central Market. This is a decrease of -9 percent from the previous quarter and also a slight increase of 7 percent in the corresponding quarter of previous year.

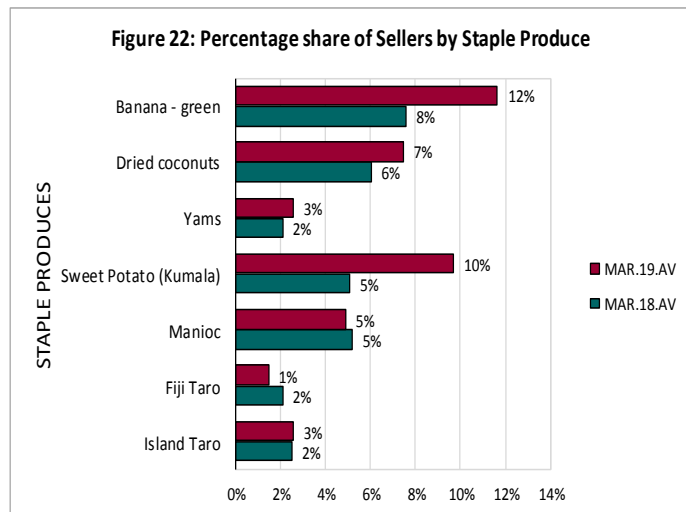
Ripe Banana sellers registered the largest share of local vendors per produce at 15 percent in the quarter under review. This is an increase of 37 percent compared to the previous quarter. Green banana sellers followed with 12 percent share; Pawpaw constituted the third largest share with 11 percent of overall vendors. This is an increase of 15 percent compared to previous quarter and 85 percent when compared to the same quarter of previous year. Sweet Potato (Kumala) contributed to 10 percent share of total vendors. Island cabbage contributed to 8 percent share, which is an increase by 44 percent compared to previous quarter and 7 percent in the same quarter of previous year. Dried coconut contributed 7 percent of total share. This is a fall of -30

percent when compared to the previous quarter and an increase by 50 percent when compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Green coconut and cucumber both contributed to 6 percent share of total vendors. This is a decrease for both commodities with cucumber at -28 percent and Green coconut at -18 percent when compared to the previous quarter. However, when compared to the same quarter of in 2018, green coconut increase by 64 percent while Cucumber decreased by -30 percent. Manioc and Tomato contributed with 5 percent share each of total vendors. This is a decrease for both commodities when compared to the previous quarter with Manioc at -32 percent and Tomato at -77 percent, however an increase for both Manioc and Tomato at 14 percent and 19 percent respectively when compared to the same quarter of previous year.

Chinese cabbage distributed 4 percent share of total vendors in March quarter of 2019. This is a decrease by -25 percent compared to the previous quarter and also a decrease of -73 percent when compared to March quarter of 2018.

Yam and Island Taro contributed 3 percent share each of total vendors while the rest of the commodities contributed 1 percent share. These other commodities include Fiji Taro, Water Melon, Bowl cabbage white, Bowl cabbage purple, Carrot, Pumpkin and Lettuce.



¹ This is the total number of sellers at the market. However, one seller can sell more than 1 type of produce hence the analysis by sellers per produce.

Figure 23: Percentage share of Sellers by Fruits

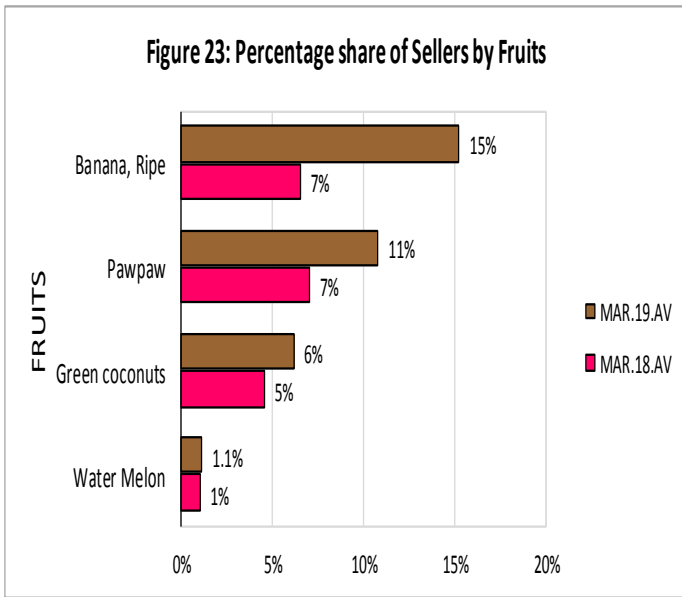
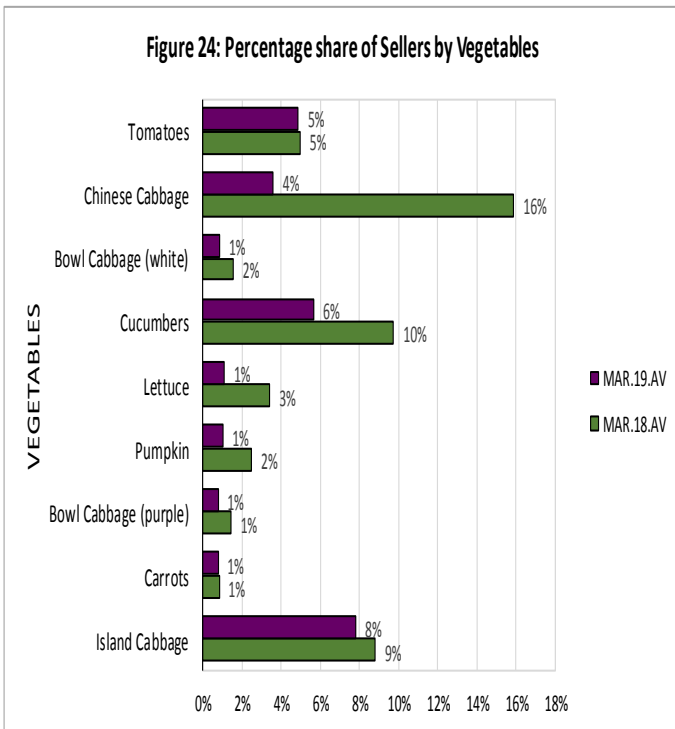


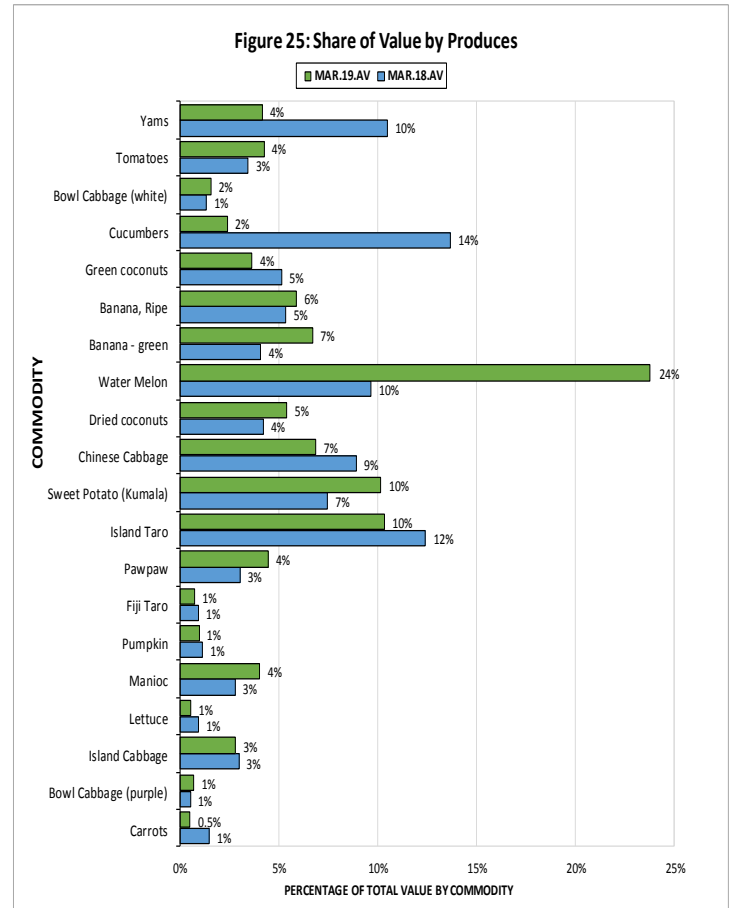
Figure 24: Percentage share of Sellers by Vegetables



VALUE OF SUPPLIES

The average value of commodities at the Port Vila Market in the referenced quarter is VT1.3 million, a decrease of -35 percent over previous quarter and an increase of 23 percent compared to March quarter 2018. (Refer to table 3).

Figure 25: Share of Value by Produces



Water melon registered the highest share in value of 24 percent in March quarter of 2019, which decreased by VT111,000 compared to previous quarter and VT213,000 over same quarter of previous year. Island Taro and Sweet potato (Kumala) contributed to 10 percent share each in value; both decrease by -15 percent and -12 percent respectively in the previous quarter. Compared to same quarter of last year, Island Taro supplied in value increased by 2 percent and Sweet potato (Kumala) increased by 67 percent.

The supply of Chinese cabbage and Green Banana both contributed at 7 percent share each in value, both increased by VT40,000 and VT37,000 respectively in the previous quarter. Compared to the same quarter of previous year, Chinese cabbage increased by 76 percent and Green banana rose by 71 percent.

Ripe banana contributed 6 percent in value, it is an increase of 33 percent over previous quarter and 35 percent increase over March quarter of 2018. Dried coconut contributed 5 percent of share in Value which is a decrease by -44 percent over the previous quarter and increase by 58 percent over the same quarter in the previous year.

Manioc, Pawpaw, Green coconut, Tomato and Yam contributed 4 percent share each in value. When compared to previous quarter, manioc increased by 41 percent, Pawpaw decreased by -44 percent, Green coconut increased by 19 percent, Tomato decreased by -67 percent and Yam decreased by -66 percent. However, compared to March quarter of 2018, Manioc also rose by 78 percent, Pawpaw by 81 percent, Tomato at 51 percent while Green coconut and Yam decreased by -13 percent and -51 percent respectively.

The supply of Island cabbage contributed 3 percent share of value, it decreased by -37 percent over previous quarter however, it rose by 16 percent compared to same quarter of previous year.

The supply of Cucumber and Bowl cabbage white in the reference quarter made up 2 percent each of share in value. When compared to the previous quarter Cucumber decreased by -66 percent and Bowl cabbage white by -83 percent. Cucumber also decreased by -79 percent and Bowl cabbage white rose by 42 percent in March quarter of 2018.

Bowl cabbage purple, Lettuce, Pumpkin and Fiji Taro all contributed 1 percent each of shares in value, and Carrot contributed less than 1 percent of share in value.

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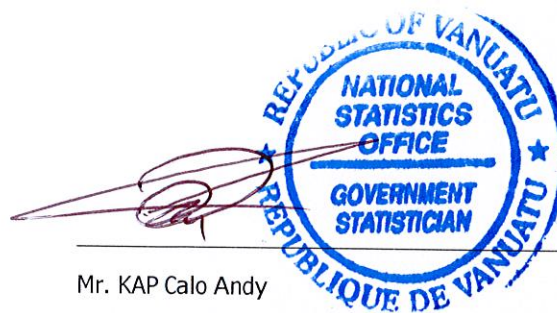
PO Box 273
Luganville, SANTO
Tel/Fax: (678) 36542

Tafea Office

MFEM Building, Tafea
Tel: (678) 88014
Ext/voip: 8361

Malampa Office

MFEM Building
Malekula
Tel: (678) 48400



Mr. KAP Calo Andy

Government Statistician

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The Port Vila Market Survey was instigated to measure the price and volume of specific agricultural produces in the main market. The survey is conducted on a fortnightly basis.

Data analysed in this report shows quarterly average supply and prices of the commodities under study. Weights are based on 2016 using HIES 2010 and Agriculture Census 2007 and were used henceforth.

NEXT UPDATE (QUARTERLY)

RELEASE DATE

December 2019

30th July, 2020

Annex I: Summary Tables

Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)

PRODUCE	2016.AVG	MAR.18.AV	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	Mar-19	
							% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR18
Fiji Taro	74	100	469	648	678	66	-90	-34
Island Taro	550	773	556	876	1084	720	-34	-7
Manioc	534	554	1115	759	889	859	-3	55
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	954	972	2258	1554	2158	1982	-8	104
Yams	250	424	1539	999	460	230	-50	-46
Banana - green	255	413	2390	1522	448	1155	158	180
Banana, Ripe	435	406	2532	1951	571	781	37	92
Pawpaw	568	558	1139	1397	574	694	21	24
Water Melon	448	631	152	48	1748	1557	-11	147
Bowl Cabbage (white)	309	66	187	1806	1262	145	-89	119
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	53	18	0	86	210	57	-73	216
Carrots	78	91	1	271	259	26	-90	-71
Chinese Cabbage	543	776	432	619	313	276	-12	-64
Cucumbers	343	695	368	299	345	158	-54	-77
Pumpkin	45	98	339	734	455	112	-75	15
Island Cabbage	171	186	247	155	162	200	24	7
Lettuce	45	31	34	260	252	10	-96	-68
Tomatoes	198	148	22	767	1176	175	-85	18
Dried coconuts	650	957	1508	1703	2027	1253	-38	31
Green coconuts	309	476	583	875	507	424	-16	-11

Table 2: Weighted Average Price Per Kilograms (in Vatu)

PRODUCE	2016.AVE	MAR.18.AV	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	% chng	
							from prev qtr	from MAR18
Fiji Taro	137.18	101	134	120	105	151	43.5	49.1
Island Taro	185.86	175	138	157	150	192	27.6	9.6
Manioc	55.14	55	52	51	43	63	45.8	14.9
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	73.13	84	71	66	72	69	-4.4	-18.1
Yams	224.09	269	169	192	351	241	-31.4	-10.6
Banana - green	118.47	108	74	67	117	78	-33.7	-28.3
Banana, Ripe	128.86	144	83	104	104	101	-2.9	-29.9
Pawpaw	78.85	59	74	112	186	86	-53.8	45.3
Water Melon	184.57	167	155	271	245	204	-16.7	22.2
Bowl Cabbage (white)	218.28	222	269	212	96	144	50.0	-34.9
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	209.97	317	0	380	124	164	33.0	-48.1
Carrots	164.80	179	294	274	192	256	33.2	43.2
Chinese Cabbage	133.48	125	159	230	166	332	99.7	165.1
Cucumbers	200.67	214	319	100	275	203	-26.2	-5.2
Pumpkin	145.18	129	144	100	87	115	32.7	-10.7
Island Cabbage	218.16	174	88	165	368	188	-49.0	7.7
Lettuce	521.80	336	431	332	183	769	321.3	128.7
Tomatoes	312.23	253	854	240	146	324	122.3	28.1
Dried coconuts	56.00	48	35	41	64	58	-9.4	20.4
Green coconuts	133.09	118	79	95	81	115	41.8	-2.0

Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Vatu thousands)

PRODUCE	Total Value 2016	MAR.18.AV	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR18
Fiji Taro	38.6	10	63	78	71	10	-86	-1
Island Taro	422.4	135	77	138	163	138	-15	2
Manioc	113.8	30	58	39	38	54	41	78
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	281.1	81	161	103	155	136	-12	67
Yams	216.0	114	260	192	161	55	-66	-51
Banana - green	130.3	45	177	102	52	89	71	100
Banana, Ripe	256.3	58	210	204	59	79	33	35
Pawpaw	206.0	33	84	157	107	60	-44	81
Water Melon	315.7	105	24	13	429	318	-26	202
Bowl Cabbage (white)	184.1	15	50	383	122	21	-83	42
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	61.4	6	0	33	26	9	-64	64
Carrots	65.8	16	0	74	50	7	-86	-58
Chinese Cabbage	309.5	97	69	143	52	92	76	-6
Cucumbers	269.5	149	117	30	95	32	-66	-79
Pumpkin	27.5	13	49	74	39	13	-67	2
Island Cabbage	166.4	32	22	26	59	37	-37	16
Lettuce	95.3	10	14	86	46	8	-84	-26
Tomatoes	241.9	38	19	184	172	57	-67	51
Dried coconuts	150.8	46	52	69	129	72	-44	58
Green coconuts	168.2	56	46	83	41	49	19	-13
	3720.4	1090	1552	2209	2066	1336	-35	23

*on the days surveyed

Table 4: Volume Index (2016 = 100)

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	MAR.18.AV	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR18
Fiji Taro	0.01	135	631	872	913	89	-90	-34
Island Taro	0.11	141	101	159	197	131	-34	-7
Manioc	0.03	104	209	142	166	161	-3	55
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	102	237	163	226	208	-8	104
Yams	0.06	170	616	400	184	92	-50	-46
Banana - green	0.04	162	937	597	176	453	158	180
Banana, Ripe	0.07	93	583	449	131	180	37	92
Pawpaw	0.06	98	201	246	101	122	21	24
Water Melon	0.08	141	34	11	390	348	-11	147
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	21	60	584	408	47	-89	119
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	34	0	161	395	108	-73	216
Carrots	0.02	116	1	347	332	34	-90	-71
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	143	80	114	58	51	-12	-64
Cucumbers	0.07	202	107	87	101	46	-54	-77
Pumpkin	0.01	217	753	1631	1012	249	-75	15
Island Cabbage	0.04	109	145	91	94	117	24	7
Lettuce	0.03	68	75	583	563	22	-96	-68
Tomatoes	0.07	75	11	388	594	88	-85	18
Dried coconuts	0.04	147	232	262	312	193	-38	31
Green coconuts	0.05	154	188	283	164	137	-16	-11
	1.00	124	215	266	248	146	-41	18

Table 5: Price Index (2016 = 100)

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	MAR.18.AV	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR18
Fiji Taro	0.01	74	98	88	77	110	44	49
Island Taro	0.11	94	74	85	81	103	28	10
Manioc	0.03	99	95	92	78	114	46	15
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	114	98	91	98	94	-4	-18
Yams	0.06	120	75	86	157	107	-31	-11
Banana - green	0.04	91	62	57	99	65	-34	-28
Banana, Ripe	0.07	112	64	81	80	78	-3	-30
Pawpaw	0.06	75	94	142	236	109	-54	45
Water Melon	0.08	90	84	147	133	111	-17	22
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	102	123	97	44	66	50	-35
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	151	0	181	59	78	33	-48
Carrots	0.02	108	178	166	117	155	33	43
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	94	119	173	125	249	100	165
Cucumbers	0.07	107	159	50	137	101	-26	-5
Pumpkin	0.01	89	99	69	60	79	33	-11
Island Cabbage	0.04	80	40	76	168	86	-49	8
Lettuce	0.03	64	83	64	35	147	321	129
Tomatoes	0.07	81	273	77	47	104	122	28
Dried coconuts	0.04	86	62	73	114	103	-9	20
Green coconuts	0.05	88	60	71	61	87	42	-2
	1.00	96	101	98	107	111	4	15

Table 6: Number of Sellers

PRODUCE	2016 AVE	MAR.18.AV	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR18
Fiji Taro	3	3	15	19	13	3	-79	-15
Island Taro	3	4	8	11	8	5	-40	25
Manioc	8	8	21	18	14	10	-32	14
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	11	10	38	26	25	19	-25	85
Yams	4	3	24	16	9	5	-41	50
Banana - green	9	12	53	40	14	23	66	86
Banana, Ripe	15	11	79	53	22	30	37	183
Pawpaw	14	11	55	44	18	21	15	85
Water Melon	1	2	1	1	4	2	-48	30
Bowl Cabbage (white)	4	3	4	38	26	2	-94	-33
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	2	2	0	5	9	2	-82	-36
Carrots	1	1	0	18	10	2	-85	13
Chinese Cabbage	16	26	19	35	9	7	-25	-73
Cucumbers	10	16	20	20	15	11	-28	-30
Pumpkin	2	4	13	24	17	2	-88	-50
Island Cabbage	11	14	28	21	11	15	44	7
Lettuce	4	6	6	23	20	2	-89	-61
Tomatoes	7	8	4	39	42	10	-77	19
Dried coconuts	10	10	28	29	21	15	-30	50
Green coconuts	5	7	26	27	15	12	-18	64
	138	161	441	504	322	195	-39	21

*on the days surveyed

Annex II: Methodology

The Market Survey is a new initiative which adds to the regular statistical releases from the Vanuatu National Statistics Office and it presents key findings on the average volume and price of commodities most commonly sold and bought at the main market in Port Vila. The information from this data will be beneficial for a variety of stakeholders to measure and understand the market rational between prices and quantity of the common selected products in the main market.

At the start, the Port Vila Central Market was the main focus. Base weights for selected agricultural produces were derived in 2016 using the 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and 2007 Agriculture Census. Since then, data collection was scheduled every fortnight to collect price, weights and count of 5 samples of these commodities.

There were 20 agricultural products currently being studied and these are grouped into 3 different categories i.e. Staple Produces, Fruits and Vegetables. The analysis is based on findings from the fortnightly collections and data entry which is averaged to calculate the quarterly Quantity Supplied (in Kilograms), Weighted Average Price per Kilogram, Value of supplies (in thousand vatu), Volume and Price Index and Number of Sellers per commodity.

The Market Survey data collection has recently expanded to Lenakel, Luganville and Manples market in late 2019 with inclusion of new commodities populating the markets recently. However, rebasing of base weights using updated HIES and Agriculture Census will make reporting possible in these new markets and for new additional produces.

