

# STATISTICAL UPDATE: PORT VILA CENTRAL MARKET SURVEY

## MARCH 2024

Release Date: 22<sup>th</sup> July 2024

The Port Vila Central Market Survey summarises selected agricultural produces sold at the main wet market based on the Supply and Price of commodities. Data is collected on a fortnightly basis, analysed and published as quarterly average and by commodity groups.

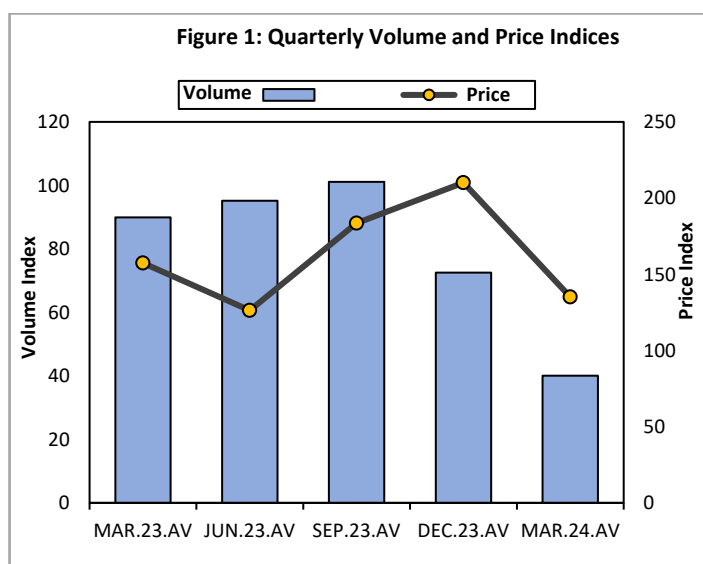
### Summary of Findings:

The Port Vila Market Survey of March quarter of 2024 showed an overall Volume decrease of -45 percent on the supply of commodities while the overall price decreased by -36 percent compared to the previous quarter.

- ◆ Decrease in the volume of Staple and Vegetables produce supplied to the market contributed to the decrease in the overall volume index compared to the previous quarter.
- ◆ The value of commodities decreased by -45 percent at just over VT571,270.
- ◆ An average of 92 sellers was recorded for the quarter under review.

### OVERVIEW

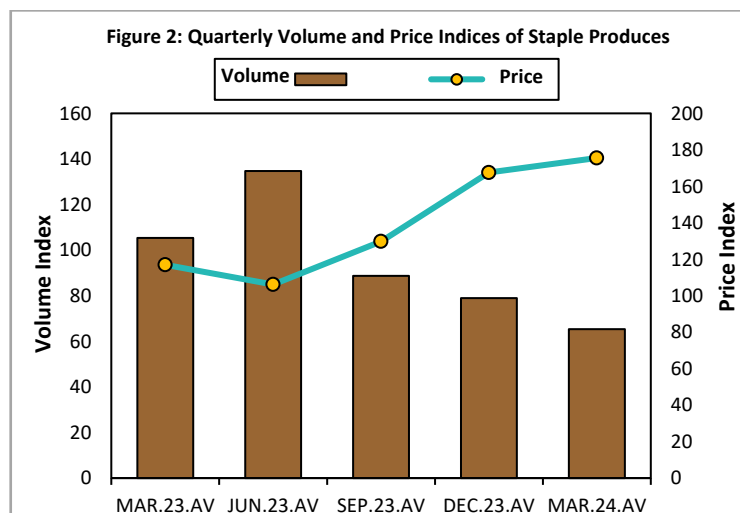
The Port Vila Market Survey in March quarter of 2024 showed an overall volume decrease of -45 percent compared to the previous quarter. Staple and Vegetables produce contributed to the decrease in the overall volume. (Refer to table 1 & 4).



The overall price decreased by -36 percent compared to the previous quarter. Fruits and vegetables produce contributed to the decrease in overall price. (Refer to table 2 & 5).

### STAPLE FOOD PRODUCE

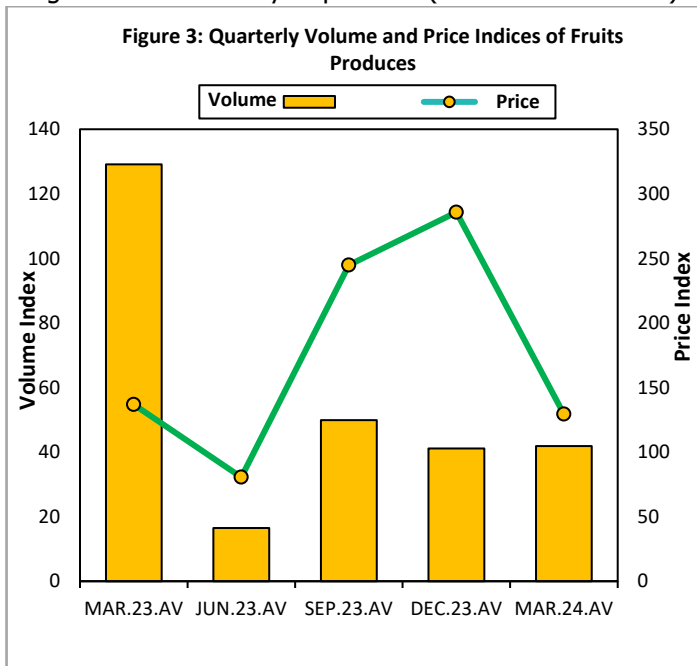
The supply of Staple food produce decreased by -17 percent when compared to the previous quarter, while the average price increased by 5 percent in the same quarter under review. Commodities that contributed to the decrease in volume were Yam at -88 percent, Sweet Potato (Kumala) at -55 percent, Manioc at -28 percent and Fiji Taro at -2 percent. When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the volume of Staple food decreased by -38 percent, while its weighted average price increased by 50 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).



**FRUIT PRODUCE**

An overview of Fruits supplied to Port Vila Central Market in the quarter under review showed an overall volume increase of 2 percent compared to the previous quarter. Fruits that contributed to the increase in volume were Ripe banana at 45 percent and Pawpaw at 27 percent, while its average price decreased by -55 percent. There was no water melon sold at the Port Vila market in the quarter under review.

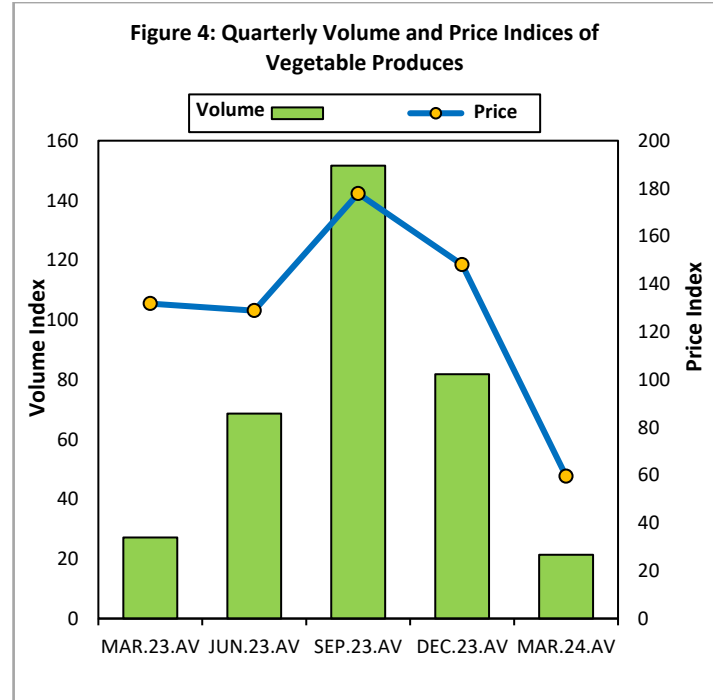
When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the quantity supplied of fruits to the Central Market decreased by -68 percent and the average price per kilograms decreased by -5 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).



**VEGETABLE PRODUCE**

The supply of Vegetables to the Port Vila Central Market in March quarter of 2024 recorded an overall decrease of -74 percent and the average price per kilograms decreased by -60 percent compared to the previous quarter. Vegetables produces that contribute to the decrease in the overall vegetables supplies includes, cucumber at -92 percent, Tomato at -84 percent and Pumpkin at -14 percent. There was no White bowl cabbage, purple bowl cabbage, Chinese cabbage and Lettuce sold at the Port Vila central market in the quarter under review.

When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the supply of vegetables supplied to the market decreased by -21 percent and its average weighted price also decreased by -55 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).



**SELLERS PER COMMODITY GROUPS**

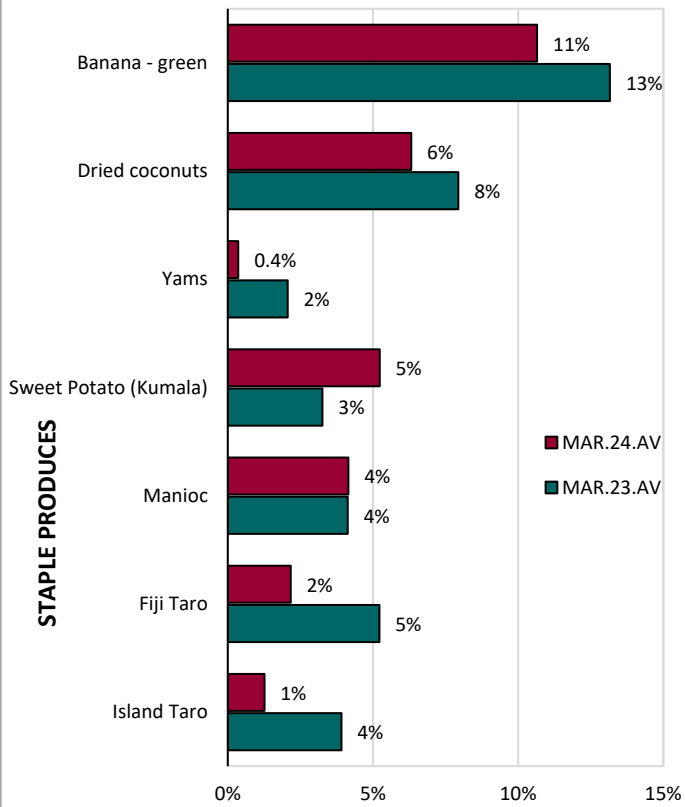
March quarter of 2024 recorded a total average of 92 sellers<sup>1</sup> at the Port Vila Central Market which is a decrease of 70 vendors when compared to the previous quarter and a decrease of 61 vendors when compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

When compared to the previous quarter, Fruits produce vendors increased by 51 percent while Vegetables produce vendors decreased by -78 percent and Staple produce vendors also decreased by -35 percent in the quarter under review.

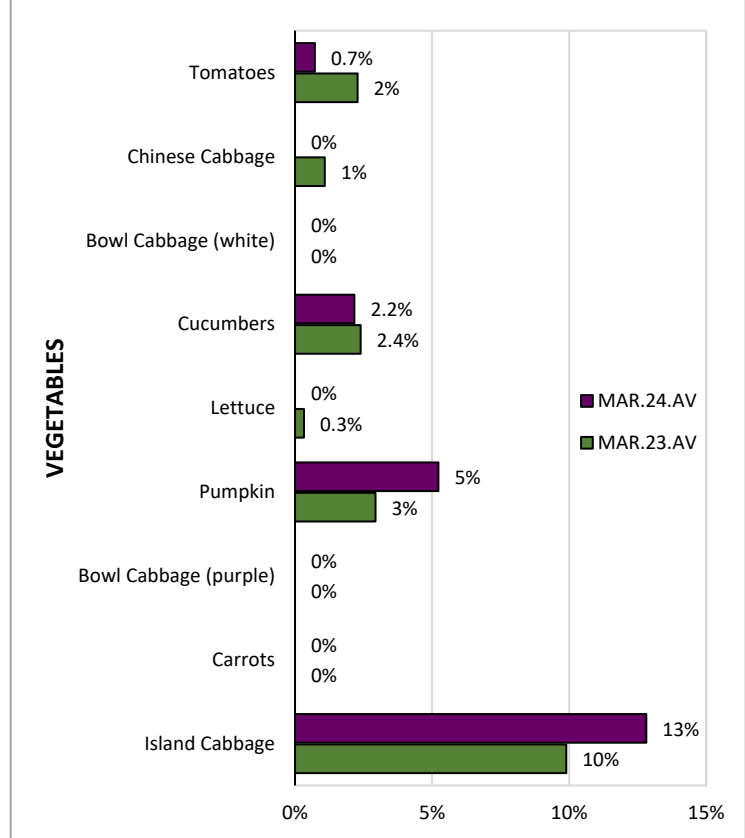
When compared to March quarter of 2023, Staple, Fruits and Vegetables vendors decreased by -54 percent, -29 percent and -33 percent respectively. (Refer to table 6).

<sup>1</sup> 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

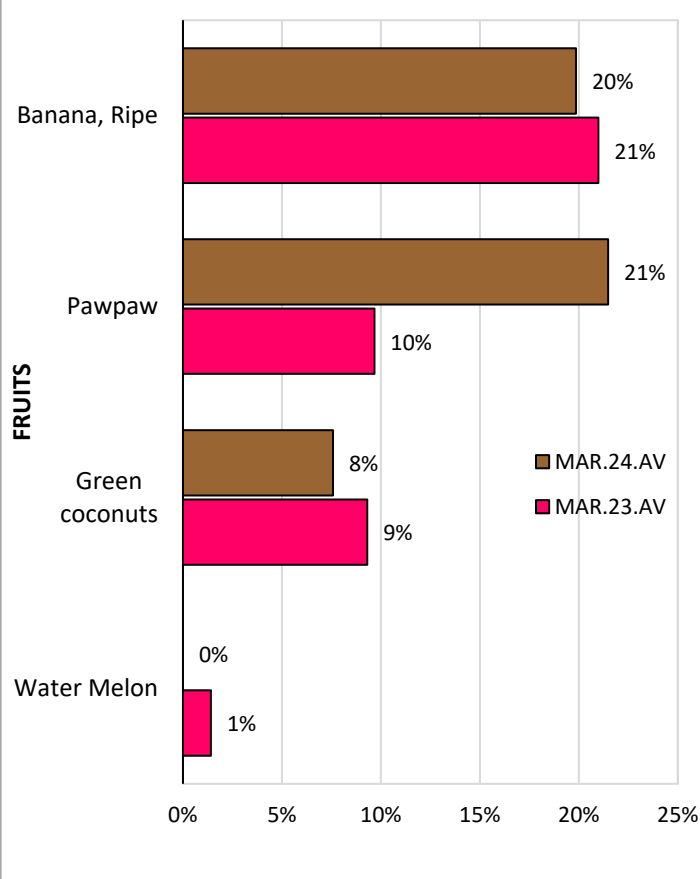
**Figure 5: Percentage share of Sellers by Staple Produce**



**Figure 7: Percentage share of Sellers by Vegetables**



**Figure 6: Percentage share of Sellers by Fruits**



**VALUE OF SUPPLIES**

The average value of commodities at the Port Vila Central Market in the quarter under review recorded a value of VT571,270. This is an overall decrease of -45 percent compared to the previous quarter and a decrease of -42 percent in the same quarter of the previous year. (Refer to table 3)



QUARTERLY AVERAGE

Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)

PRODUCE	2016.AVE	MAR.23.AV	JUN.23.AV	SEP.23.AV	DEC.23.AV	MAR.24.AV	24-Mar	
							% chng from prev qtr	% chng from Mar 23
<b>STAPLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-38</b>
Fiji Taro	74	389	797	370	188	184	-2	-53
Island Taro	550	710	1541	233	129	178	38	-75
Manioc	534	507	350	430	302	216	-28	-57
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	954	330	322	874	1205	548	-55	66
Yam	250	107	594	45	70	8	-88	-92
Banana - green	255	682	63	105	96	374	290	-45
Dried coconut	650	718	735	843	592	627	6	-13
<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-68</b>
Banana, Ripe	435	873	12	81	290	420	45	-52
Pawpaw	568	205	4	1	144	182	27	-11
Water Melon	448	890	0	501	16	0	-100	-100
Green coconut	309	305	274	295	274	135	-51	-56
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-74</b>	<b>-21</b>
Bowl Cabbage (white)	309	0	67	575	225	0	-100	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	53	0	1	46	43	0	-100	0
Carrot	78	0	1	39	35	0	-100	0
Chinese Cabbage	543	40	462	639	39	0	-100	-100
Cucumber	343	49	452	492	241	19	-92	-61
Pumpkin	45	156	109	365	216	186	-14	19
Island Cabbage	171	222	74	52	52	98	86	-56
Lettuce	45	10	32	142	111	0	-100	-100
Tomato	198	9	27	358	499	79	-84	808

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

PRODUCE	2016.AVE	MAR.23.AV	JUN.23.AV	SEP.23.AV	DEC.23.AV	MAR.24.AV	% chng	
							from prev qtr	from Mar 23
<b>STAPLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>121.41</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>
Fiji Taro	137.18	122	145	165	172	228	32	87
Island Taro	185.86	271	156	215	247	231	-7	-15
Manioc	55.14	77	76	98	111	167	50	116
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	73.13	87	155	187	122	142	16	63
Yam	224.09	291	243	355	506	412	-19	42
Banana - green	118.47	100	75	0	170	224	32	124
Dried coconut	56	46	52	83	95	89	-6	92
<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>131.34</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-5</b>
Banana, Ripe	128.86	128	113	579	290	192	-34	50
Pawpaw	79	179	121	0	509	275	-46	54
Water Melon	184.57	196	0	517	492	0	-100	-100
Green coconut	133.09	216	189	190	211	213	1	-1
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>236.06</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>-55</b>
Bowl Cabbage (white)	218.28	0	531	517	265	0	-100	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	209.97	0	0	641	322	0	-100	0
Carrot	164.8	0	333	563	467	0	-100	0
Chinese Cabbage	133.48	540	331	137	372	0	-100	-100
Cucumber	200.67	484	221	327	378	564	49	17
Pumpkin	145.18	212	217	147	127	0	-100	-100
Island Cabbage	218.16	264	354	394	414	346	-16	31
Lettuce	521.8	482	378	370	457	0	-100	-100
Tomato	312.23	818	373	683	345	356	3	-56

**Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Vatu thousands)**

PRODUCE	Total Value 2016	MAR.23.AV	JUN.23.AV	SEP.23.AV	DEC.23.AV	MAR.24.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from Mar 23
<b>STAPLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>1352.9</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-23</b>
Fiji Taro	38.6	47	116	61	32	42	29	-12
Island Taro	422.4	193	241	50	32	41	29	-79
Manioc	113.8	39	26	42	34	36	7	-8
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	281.1	29	50	164	148	78	-47	170
Yam	216	31	145	16	35	3	-90	-89
Banana - green	130.3	68	5	0	16	84	415	23
Dried coconut	150.8	33	38	70	56	56	-1	68
<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>946.1</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>-59</b>
Banana, Ripe	256.3	111	1	47	84	80	-4	-28
Pawpaw	206	37	1	0	73	50	-31	36
Water Melon	315.7	174	0	259	8	0	-100	-100
Green coconut	168.2	66	52	56	58	29	-50	-57
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>1421.3</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-84</b>	<b>-51</b>
Bowl Cabbage (white)	184.1	0	36	297	59	0	-100	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	61.4	0	0	30	14	0	-100	0
Carrot	65.8	0	0	22	16	0	-100	0
Chinese Cabbage	309.5	22	153	87	15	0	-100	-100
Cucumber	269.5	24	100	161	91	11	-88	-55
Pumpkin	27.5	33	24	54	27	0	-100	-100
Island Cabbage	166.4	59	26	20	22	34	56	-42
Lettuce	95.3	5	12	53	51	0	-100	-100
Tomato	241.9	7	10	244	172	28	-84	295
	3720.4	978	1035	1733	1043	571	-45	-42

*\*on the days surveyed*

**Table 4: Volume Index (2016 = 100)**

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	MAR.23.AV	JUN.23.AV	SEP.23.AV	DEC.23.AV	MAR.24.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from Mar 23
<b>STAPLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-38</b>
Fiji Taro	0.01	524	1073	498	252	247	-2	-53
Island Taro	0.11	129	280	42	23	32	38	-75
Manioc	0.03	95	66	80	57	40	-28	-57
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	35	34	92	126	57	-55	66
Yam	0.06	43	237	18	28	3	-88	-92
Banana - green	0.04	268	25	41	38	147	290	-45
Dried coconut	0.04	110	113	130	91	96	6	-13
<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-68</b>
Banana, Ripe	0.07	201	3	19	67	97	45	-52
Pawpaw	0.06	36	1	0	25	32	27	-11
Water Melon	0.08	199	0	112	4	0	-100	-100
Green coconut	0.05	99	89	95	89	44	-51	-56
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-74</b>	<b>-21</b>
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	0	22	186	73	0	-100	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0	0	2	87	80	0	-100	0
Carrot	0.02	0	1	50	44	0	-100	0
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	7	85	118	7	0	-100	-100
Cucumber	0.07	14	132	143	70	5	-92	-61
Pumpkin	0.01	346	241	810	480	413	-14	19
Island Cabbage	0.04	130	43	30	31	57	86	-56
Lettuce	0.03	21	72	319	248	0	-100	-100
Tomato	0.07	4	13	181	252	40	-84	808
	1	90	95	101	73	40	-45	-55

**Table 5: Price Index (2016 = 100)**

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	MAR.23.AV	JUN.23.AV	SEP.23.AV	DEC.23.AV	MAR.24.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from Mar 23
<b>STAPLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>
Fiji Taro	0.01	89	106	120	125	166	32	87
Island Taro	0.11	146	84	116	133	124	-7	-15
Manioc	0.03	140	137	177	202	303	50	116
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	119	212	256	167	194	16	63
Yam	0.06	130	109	158	226	184	-19	42
Banana - green	0.04	84	63	0	144	189	32	124
Dried coconut	0.04	82	93	148	169	158	-6	92
<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-5</b>
Banana, Ripe	0.07	99	87	449	225	149	-34	50
Pawpaw	0.06	228	154	0	645	349	-46	54
Water Melon	0.08	106	0	280	266	0	-100	-100
Green coconut	0.05	162	142	143	158	160	1	-1
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>-55</b>
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	0	243	237	121	0	-100	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	0	0	305	153	0	-100	0
Carrot	0.02	0	202	342	283	0	-100	0
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	404	248	102	278	0	-100	-100
Cucumber	0.07	241	110	163	188	281	49	17
Pumpkin	0.01	146	150	101	88	0	-100	-100
Island Cabbage	0.04	121	162	181	190	158	-16	31
Lettuce	0.03	92	72	71	88	0	-100	-100
Tomato	0.07	262	120	219	111	114	3	-56
	1	157	126	184	210	135	-36	-14

**Table 6: Number of Sellers**

PRODUCE	2016 AVE	MAR.23.AV	JUN.23.AV	SEP.23.AV	DEC.23.AV	MAR.24.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from Mar 23
<b>STAPLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-54</b>
Fiji Taro	3	8	14	9	6	2	-67	-75
Island Taro	3	6	20	7	4	1	-72	-81
Manioc	8	6	7	7	6	4	-39	-39
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	11	5	5	9	12	5	-59	-3
Yam	4	3	7	2	1	0	-50	-89
Banana - green	9	20	4	3	5	10	90	-51
Dried coconut	10	12	16	12	8	6	-30	-52
<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-29</b>
Banana, Ripe	15	32	1	1	10	18	90	-43
Pawpaw	14	15	1	0	11	20	83	34
Water Melon	1	2	0	2	0	0	-100	-100
Green coconut	5	14	14	11	9	7	-24	-51
<b>VEGETABLE PRODUCE</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-33</b>
Bowl Cabbage (white)	4	0	1	12	8	0	-100	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	2	0	0	5	2	0	-100	0
Carrot	1	0	0	4	5	0	-100	0
Chinese Cabbage	16	2	18	24	3	0	-100	-100
Cucumber	10	4	20	17	10	2	-80	-45
Pumpkin	2	5	5	10	9	5	-47	7
Island Cabbage	11	15	12	9	6	12	87	-22
Lettuce	4	1	8	24	8	0	-100	-100
Tomato	7	4	7	22	38	1	-98	-81
	138	153	158	191	162	92	-43	-40