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STATISTICS UPDATE: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH QUARTER 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

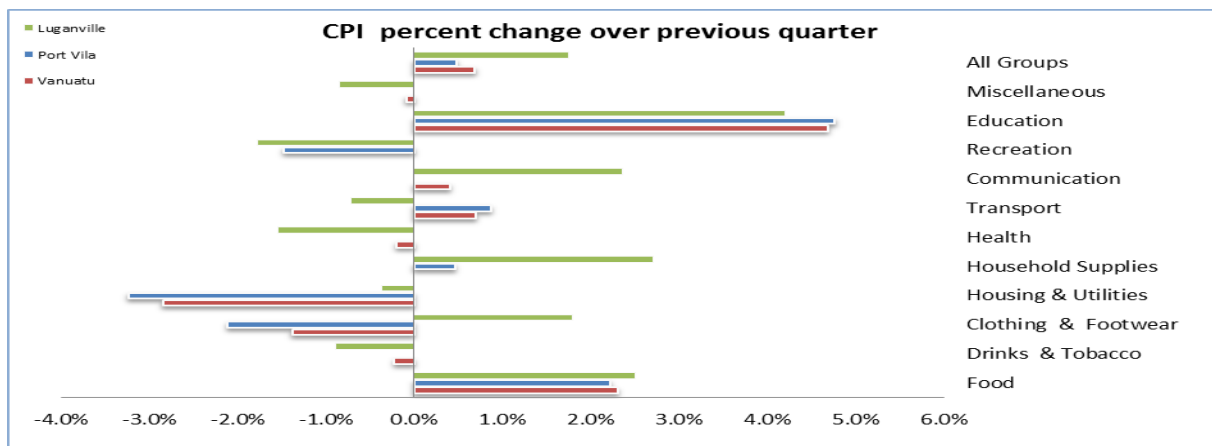


Figure 1: CPI per cent change over previous quarter

CPI QUARTERLY MOVEMENT

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) of March 2016 indicated a slight increase of (0.8 %). Luganville index increased by 1.8%, while Port Vila slightly increased by (0.6%) compared to the previous quarter. The expenditure groups that contributed to the increase in the CPI were: Education (+4.7%), Food (+2.3%), Transport (+0.7%), Communication (+0.4%), Household supplies and Recreation both remained stable with (0.0%) respectively. However, Housing Utilities contributed a decreased of (-2.8%), Clothing and Footwear (-1.4%), Drinks and Tobacco, and Health contributed (-0.2%) respectively and Miscellaneous (-0.1%). The main contributor to increases in prices were due to the increases in price movements of School fees for both private and public schools in Port Vila and Luganville, Fruits and Vegetables in Port Vila, international airline airfares from Port Vila to other destination, and mobile phones in both regions. However, the sub group that showed negative impact on the price movements were: Electricity and water supply charges, Men and woman’s business shoes in Port Vila, prescription medical drugs, wines and spirits, Personal accessories and Toiletries in Luganville.

CPI ANNUAL MOVEMENT

When compared to the March quarter of 2015, the Vanuatu index increased by (+2.0%), Port Vila index rose by (+2.0%) while Luganville index indicated an increase of (+1.9%). At national level, the expenditure groups that contributed to the increase over the same quarter of last year were: Transportation (+5.2%), Education (+4.7%), Food (+3.6%), Clothing and Footwear (+3.4%), Recreation (+2.0%), Household Supplies (+0.9%), Communication (+0.4%), Drinks and Tobacco (+0.3%). Thus, the increases in these expenditure groups were the result of increases in prices of international airline tickets, Purchasing of new motor Vehicle, Women’s and Men’s clothing and footwear , school fees, Toys and Hobbies . However, the three groups that recorded an offsetting fall were Miscellaneous (-2.3%), Housing and Utilities (-1.8%) and Health (-0.8%).

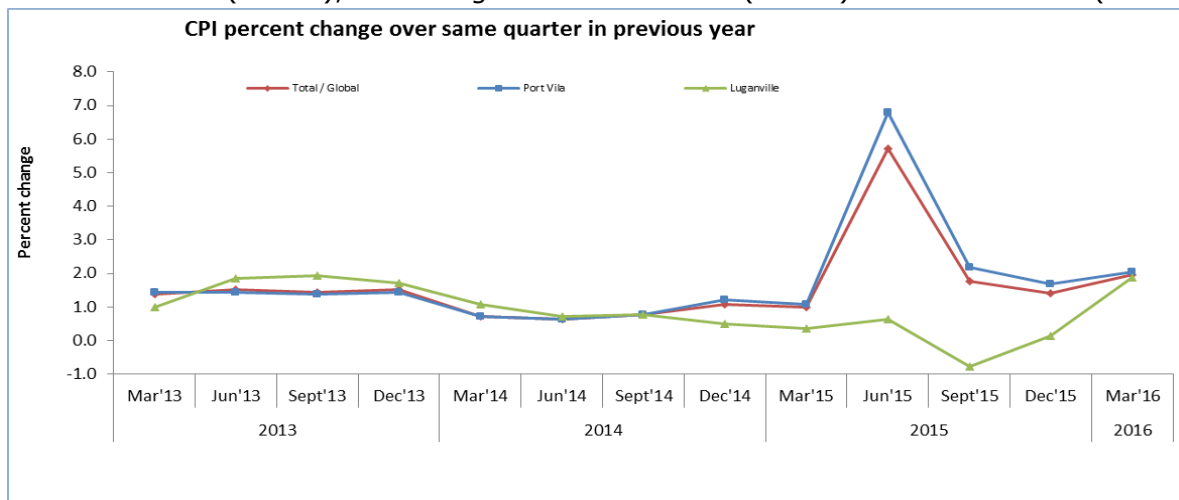


Figure 2: CPI per cent change over same quarter in previous year

UNDERLYING INFLATION

‘Underlying inflation’ is a measure derived from the CPI excluding items which typically have unstable or volatile prices; because of things like seasonal variation or policy decisions. Underlying inflation increased by (0.7 %) in March quarter of 2016 compared to the previous quarter (December, 2015). In addition, it recorded an increase of (2.8%) over the same quarter of 2015.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to measure the changes in the prices of goods and services purchased by households in Port Vila and Luganville over a period of time. The separate indices for these two major commercial centres are then combined to create the Vanuatu CPI.

This change in prices is sometimes called inflation. Retail stores, supermarkets, liquor outlets, transport operators, service stations and other providers of goods and services help supply the Vanuatu National Statistics Office with the information to calculate the CPI.

Prices are collected for exactly the same goods and services each quarter. This ensures that changes in the cost of goods and services over time are not due to changes in the quantity or quality of the goods and services purchased.

ATTACHED:

Table 1 Consumer Price Index: All Items

Table 2 Consumer Price Index: Expenditure Groups

NEXT UPDATE (QUARTERLY)

RELEASE DATE

June

5th August, 2016

MORE INFORMATION

For statistical enquiries about this topic, please contact:

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Simil Johnson

Government Statistician

Table 1 Consumer Price Index **Base: 1st Quarter 2000 = 100**
Tableau 1 Indice des prix à la consommation **Base: 1^{er} Trimestre 2000 = 100**

		Consumer Price Indices				Rate of Change (%)			Rate of Change (%)				
Year	Quarter	Indice des prix à la consommation		Underlying Inflation Index		Variation par rapport			Variation			Année	Trimestre
		Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville			
						Over Previous Year / à l'année précédente			4th Quarter over 4th Quarter of previous year / du 4ème trimestre au 4ème trimestre de l'année précédente				
2011		137.0	136.7	138.2	123.4	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.2	1.4	0.4	2011	
2012		138.8	138.6	139.9	126.8	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.5	2012	
2013		140.8	140.6	142.1	129.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.7	2013	
2014		142.0	141.7	143.2	130.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.5	2014	
2015		145.5	145.9	143.3	131.9	2.5	2.9	0.1	1.4	1.7	0.1	2015	
						Over Previous Quarter / au trimestre précédent			Over Same Quarter of previous year / au même trimestre de l'année précédente				
2013	Mar'13	140.5	140.3	141.2	129.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.0	2013	1er
	Jun'13	140.8	140.5	142.3	129.3	0.2	0.1	0.8	1.5	1.4	1.9		2ème
	Sept'13	140.9	140.6	142.6	129.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.4	1.4	1.9		3ème
	Dec'13	141.1	140.8	142.4	129.5	0.1	0.1	-0.1	1.5	1.4	1.7		4ème
2014	Mar'14	141.5	141.3	142.7	129.9	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.7	1.1	2014	1er
	Jun'14	141.7	141.4	143.3	130.6	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7		2ème
	Sept'14	142.0	141.7	143.7	130.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8		3ème
	Dec'14	142.6	142.5	143.1	131.3	0.4	0.6	-0.4	1.1	1.2	0.5		4ème
2015	Mar'15	142.9	142.8	143.2	130.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.0	1.1	0.4	2015	1er
	Jun'15	149.8	151.0	144.2	132.8	4.8	5.7	0.7	5.7	6.8	0.6		2ème
	Sept'15	144.5	144.8	142.6	131.4	-3.5	-4.1	-1.1	1.8	2.2	-0.8		3ème
	Dec'15	144.6	144.9	143.3	132.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.4	1.7	0.1		4ème
2016	Mar'16	145.7	145.7	145.9	133.3	0.8	0.6	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.9	2016	1er

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices by Expenditure Group
Tableau 2 Indice des prix à la consommation par poste de dépense

Base: 1st Quarter 2000 = 100
Base: 1^{er} Trimestre 2000 = 100

Year	Quarter	Food and Tobacco Produits alimentaires et tabac	Alcoholic drinks and Alcoholised et alcoolisée et tabac	Clothing & Footwear Habillement	Housing & Utilities Loyer, eau, et énergie etc.	Household Supplies Mobilier et équipement ménager etc.	Health Santé	Transport	Communication	Recreation Loisir	Education	Miscellaneous Autres	All Groups Indice Global	Année	Trimestre
Vanuatu															
2014	1st	149.5	179.5	107.5	133.6	107.1	101.4	143.0	98.3	132.1	111.0	114.7	141.5	2014	1er
	2nd	150.1	180.0	109.3	132.6	107.2	101.7	142.8	98.6	134	111.1	115.3	141.7		2ème
	3rd	150.2	180.4	109.9	133.1	107.3	102.6	143.7	98.7	133.6	111.2	115.3	142		3ème
	4th	150.5	180.3	110.3	134.4	106.8	102.5	148.1	98.6	131.0	111.2	115.2	142.6		4ème
2015	1st	149.7	180.3	110.5	135.6	106.6	102.6	150.5	98.6	131.1	115.1	115.2	142.9	2015	1er
	2nd	168.5	180.1	110.4	135	106.2	102.6	150.1	98.6	131.5	115.1	115.2	149.8		2ème
	3rd	152.2	180.8	115.3	135.8	107.6	101.9	153.8	98.6	133.7	115.1	113.6	144.5		3ème
	4th	151.6	181.3	115.9	137.1	107.6	102	157.2	98.6	133.7	115.1	112.7	144.7		4ème
2016	1st	155.1	180.9	114.3	133.2	107.6	101.8	158.3	99	133.7	120.5	112.6	145.7	2016	1er
Port Vila															
2014	1st	150.0	183.8	108.4	129.3	106.4	101.3	146.1	97.7	134.1	110.5	114.8	141.3	2014	1er
	2nd	150.6	184.3	110.6	128.3	106.3	101.6	145.2	98.1	136.3	110.6	115.5	141.4		2ème
	3rd	150.7	185.2	111.4	128.6	106.4	102.5	146.1	98.1	136.0	110.6	115.2	141.7		3ème
	4th	151.4	185.2	111.7	130.0	106.1	102.5	151.4	98.1	133.0	110.6	115.2	142.5		4ème
2015	1st	150.6	185.3	112.0	131.3	105.7	102.6	153.1	98.1	132.8	115.3	115.2	142.8	2015	1er
	2nd	173.6	185.3	112.0	130.6	105.2	102.6	152.5	98.1	133.1	115.3	114.8	151.0		2ème
	3rd	153.8	186.0	118.0	131.8	107.7	101.8	157.0	98.1	135.6	115.3	114.3	144.8		3ème
	4th	152.9	186.4	118.4	132.9	108.0	101.9	160.7	98.1	135.7	115.3	113.8	145.0		4ème
2016	1st	156.3	186.4	115.9	128.6	108.5	101.9	162.1	98.1	133.7	120.8	113.8	145.7	2016	1er
Luganville															
2014	1st	148.8	158.1	104.3	158.9	110.9	102.3	126.6	101.8	120.6	112.8	113.9	142.7	2014	1er
	2nd	149.4	158.6	104.3	158.9	112.7	102.3	130.5	101.8	120.6	112.8	113.9	143.3		2ème
	3rd	149.7	157.2	104.6	160.7	112.3	103.4	131.2	101.8	119.9	113.2	115.8	143.7		3ème
	4th	148.7	157.2	105.1	160.5	110.6	102.5	130.9	101.5	119.6	113.3	115.4	143.1		4ème
2015	1st	147.7	156.5	105.1	160.7	112.0	103.2	136.3	101.3	121.5	114.4	115.6	143.2	2015	1er
	2nd	150.0	155.7	104.4	161.0	111.6	102.6	137.5	101.5	122.5	114.4	116.7	144.2		2ème
	3rd	147.4	156.3	105.1	159.0	114.2	102.7	136.6	101.5	128.9	114.4	108.9	142.6		3ème
	4th	148.1	157.3	106.3	161.1	114.6	103.2	138.8	101.5	129.0	114.4	105.9	143.4		4ème
2016	1st	151.8	155.9	108.2	160.5	117.7	101.6	137.8	103.9	126.7	119.2	105.0	145.9	2016	1er