

STATISTICS UPDATE: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH QUARTER 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

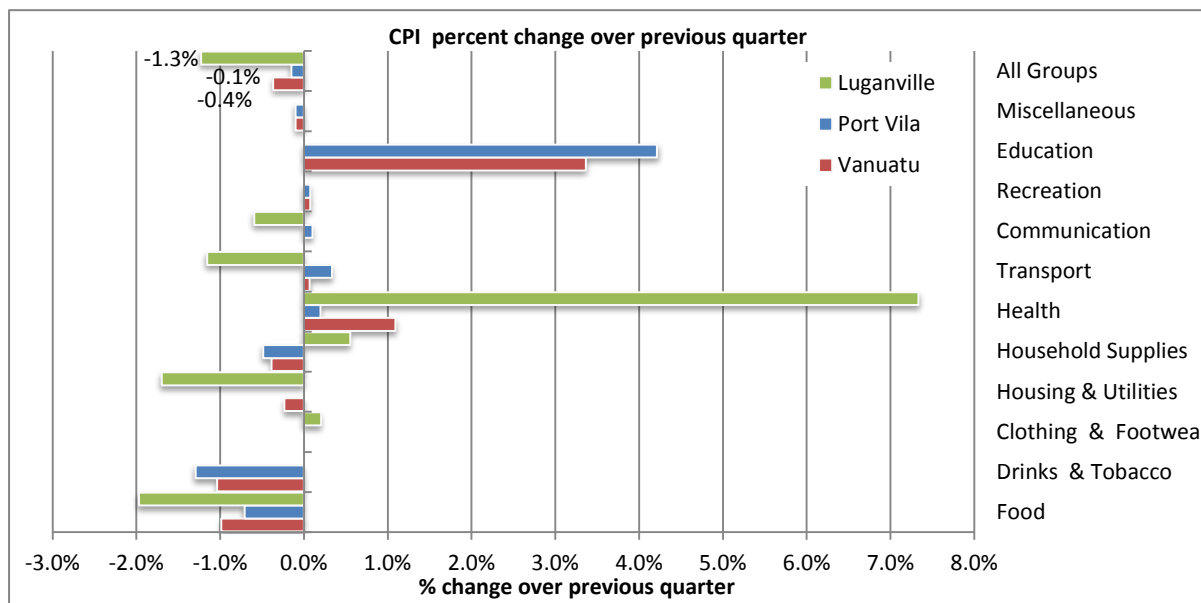


Figure 1: CPI percent change over previous quarter

CPI QUARTERLY MOVEMENT

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March quarter of 2011 recorded a decline of 0.4% over the previous quarter; with a decline in the Port Vila index of 0.1% and 1.3% in Luganville. At the national level the expenditure groups contributing to the decrease in the CPI were Food, Household Supplies and Drinks and Tobacco. The items contributing to the decrease included a slight reduction in the price of beer and some local fruit and vegetables were cheaper in price. Expenditure groups reflecting an increase in prices include Education and Health; with slight increases for Transport and Recreation. The index increased for these groups because of higher prices for school fees for private schools, an increase in hospital fees, fuel and oil, domestic boat fares and an increase in the price of stationery.

CPI ANNUAL MOVEMENT

When compared to the same quarter of 2010, the Vanuatu index increased by 0.7%, with 0.7% for Port Vila Index and 0.6% for Luganville. The expenditure groups contributing to the increase over the March quarter of 2010 were Education (3.5%), Alcoholic Drinks and Tobacco (1.1%), Housing and Utilities (1%), Transport (1%), Food and Health (0.6%) each. The increase in alcoholic drinks is the result of an increase in the excise tax for alcoholic spirits in January 2011.

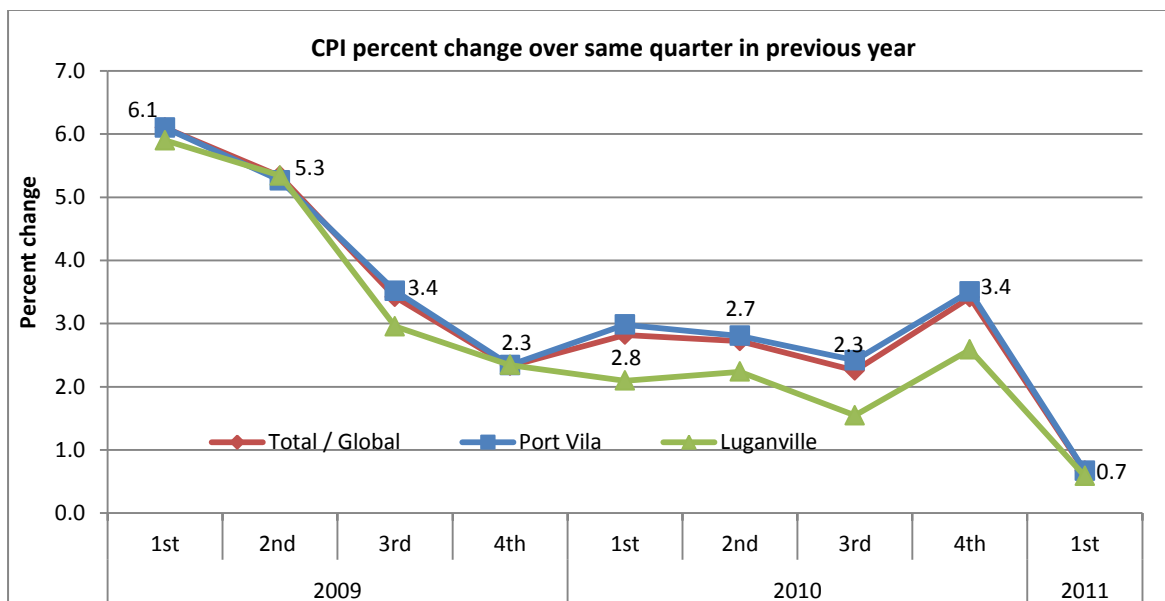
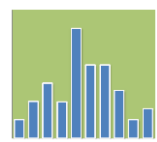


Figure 2: CPI percent change over same quarter in previous year

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 0.3% in March quarter of 2011 compared to the previous quarter (December 2010). However, it recorded a decrease of 0.6% over the same quarter of 2010.

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.

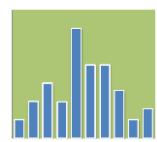
This change in prices is sometimes called inflation. Retail stores, supermarkets, liquor outlets, transport operators, service stations and other providers of goods and services help supply the Vanuatu National Statistics Office with the information to calculate the CPI.

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

12th August, 2011

MORE INFORMATION

For statistical enquiries about this topic, please contact:

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NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICES IN THE PROVINCES

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Sanma Province: (678) 36542/5522316

Penama Province: (678) 5522318

Malampa Province: (678) 5522317

Tafea Province: (678) 5522319

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simil Johnson'.

Simil Johnson
Government Statistician



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 Produits alimentaires	Alcoholic drinks and Tobacco Boisson 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															
2009	1st	133.3	155.1	101.1	127.7	104.8	100.3	145.4	100.7	119.3	104.8	100.3	131.2	2009	1er
	2nd	135.5	158.0	101.1	127.5	103.9	100.0	142.8	100.7	127.7	105.3	100.9	132.3		2ème
	3rd	136.9	158.2	102.4	127.5	104.3	100.0	143.9	100.7	127.6	105.3	102.9	133.0		3ème
	4th	135.2	158.5	102.7	125.8	104.0	100.7	144.6	96.5	129.0	105.3	103.0	131.8		4ème
2010	1st	140.0	170.2	100.7	128.0	104.2	101.0	146.4	98.7	131.3	100.9	102.3	134.9	2010	1er
	2nd	141.7	172.1	100.7	129.7	103.6	101.4	146.5	98.7	130.1	101.0	102.3	135.9		2ème
	3rd	141.6	172.4	100.4	129.9	103.8	101.1	147.5	98.7	130.1	101.0	102.2	136.0		3ème
	4th	142.2	173.9	100.5	129.6	104.1	100.5	147.7	98.9	130.1	101.0	102.2	136.3		4ème
2011	1st	140.8	172.1	100.5	129.3	103.7	101.6	147.8	98.9	130.2	104.4	102.1	135.8	2011	1er
Port Vila															
2009	1st	132.0	158.2	102.9	124.5	104.3	100.0	147.7	100.8	118.8	105.9	100.3	130.7	2009	1er
	2nd	134.3	162.0	102.9	124.3	103.4	100.0	144.9	100.8	128.7	106.5	100.9	131.9		2ème
	3rd	135.2	162.2	104.0	124.2	103.8	100.0	146.0	100.8	128.5	106.5	103.2	132.4		3ème
	4th	133.5	162.4	104.0	122.3	103.4	100.8	146.4	95.8	130.1	106.5	102.9	131.1		4ème
2010	1st	139.5	175.9	101.6	124.4	103.4	101.2	148.1	98.5	132.9	101.9	102.1	134.6	2010	1er
	2nd	141.4	177.5	101.6	126.3	102.7	101.6	148.1	98.5	131.4	102.0	102.1	135.6		2ème
	3rd	140.8	177.9	101.3	126.5	102.9	101.3	149.2	98.5	131.4	102.0	102.0	135.6		3ème
	4th	141.2	178.3	101.3	126.3	103.2	100.7	149.4	98.5	131.4	102.0	102.1	135.7		4ème
2011	1st	140.2	176.0	101.3	126.3	102.7	100.9	149.9	98.6	131.5	106.3	102.0	135.5	2011	1er
Luganville															
2009	1st	139.7	138.8	94.5	145.4	106.5	102.7	132.9	100.0	122.0	100.8	100.1	133.5	2009	1er
	2nd	141.4	138.8	94.5	145.0	106.1	100.0	132.1	100.0	122.3	100.8	100.4	134.1		2ème
	3rd	145.0	138.8	96.4	145.3	106.5	100.0	132.7	100.0	122.6	100.8	101.0	135.9		3ème
	4th	142.9	139.1	97.9	145.3	106.7	100.0	134.8	100.3	122.6	100.8	103.4	135.3		4ème
2010	1st	143.3	144.7	97.7	148.3	108.3	99.4	137.6	100.3	122.4	97.5	103.8	136.3	2010	1er
	2nd	144.3	147.3	97.6	148.8	108.3	99.4	138.4	100.3	122.3	97.5	103.8	137.1		2ème
	3rd	146.3	147.4	97.5	148.9	108.4	99.5	138.6	100.3	122.6	97.5	103.8	138.0		3ème
	4th	147.4	152.7	97.5	147.5	108.4	99.5	138.6	101.3	122.9	97.5	103.1	138.8		4ème
2011	1st	144.5	152.7	97.7	145.0	109.0	106.8	137.0	100.7	122.9	97.5	103.1	137.1	2011	1er

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