

Friday 05th June, 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for the March Quarter of 2009

The Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO) is pleased to publish the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March Quarter of 2009. This release contains the rebased indices for December Quarter 2008, and March Quarter 2009 with the inflation as compiled by the VNSO.

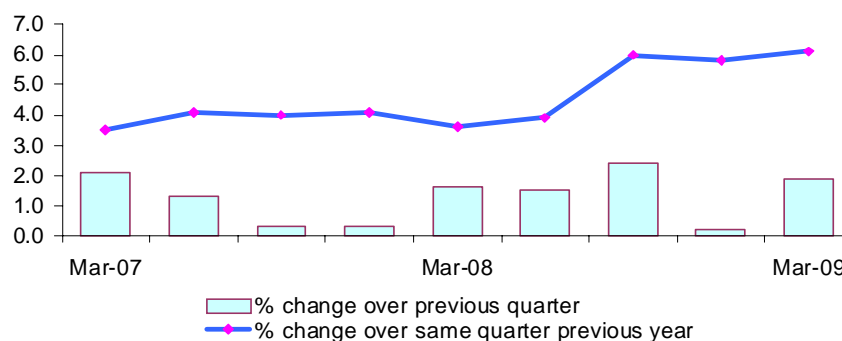
Consumer Price Index

During the March quarter of 2009, the CPI rose by 1.9 percent over the December quarter of 2008 and 6.1 percent over the March quarter of 2008. Port Vila Index went up by 2 percent and Luganville by 1 percent over the December quarter of 2008.

Port Vila prices had a significant impact on the overall price increase. Of the overall 2.4 points change over the December quarter of 2008, food contributed 1.3 points, transport 0.5 points, household supplies and housing utilities 1 point each, and the remaining was contributed by other. The increase in food group index could be explained by the increases in prices for cereals products (rice and bread) and fruits and vegetables, whereas the increase in transport group was due to the rise in bus fare.

The increase in Luganville was mainly due to the housing utilities and food group.

CPI RATE OF CHANGE (%)



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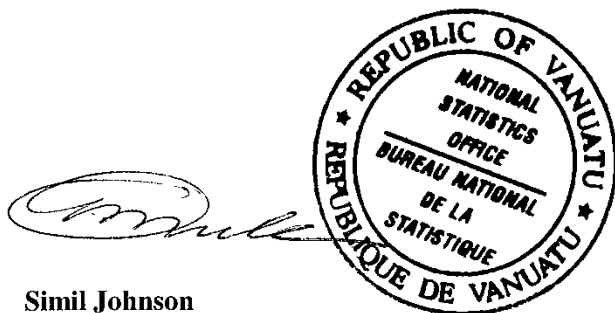
The March quarter 2009 CPI Rebasing

The overall CPI is an estimate of the average price movement of all goods and services available for purchase by the residents. When compiling CPI, these price movements are weighted in accordance with their relative importance in the overall expenditure of the households of the two regions of Port Vila and Luganville.

Over time, it is expected that the expenditure pattern of population can change resulting in the change of goods and services available for purchase. This means that the weighting patterns used to compile the CPI also have to be changed at regular intervals in order to maintain the relevance of the CPI. This therefore requires the rebasing or reviewing of these expenditure weights which internationally, this is done at intervals of five to ten years.

The weighting patterns used in the compilation of the current Vanuatu CPI have been updated for this quarter (March quarter 2009) using information based largely on the result of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) conducted in 2006. In addition to this, the sample of goods and services was also reviewed and has been expanded to improve the overall coverage of the CPI.

Copies of the Consumer Price Index Quarterly News could be collected for free at the Port Vila and Luganville National Statistical Offices.



Simil Johnson
Acting Government Statistician

Table 1 Consumer Price Index

Tableau 1 Indices des Prix à la consommation

Base: 1st Quarter 2000 = 100

Base: 1er Trimestre 2000 = 100

Year Quarter	Consumer price Index			Rate of Change Over Previous Quarter			Rate of Change Over Same Quarter Previous Year			Année Trimestre
	Indice des prix à la Consommation			Variation par rapport au trimestre précédent			Variation par rapport de même trimestre de l'année précédente			
	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	
2005 1st	113.2	113.0	114.3	0.5	0.2	2.0	1.0	0.6	2.6	2005 1er
2nd	113.6	113.3	115.2	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.3	0.8	3.7	2ème
3rd	114.2	114.0	115.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.2	3.1	3ème
4th	114.7	114.4	116.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.4	3.6	4ème
2006 1st	115.4	115.2	116.3	0.6	0.7	0.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	2006 1er
2nd	116.1	115.9	117.4	0.6	0.6	0.9	2.2	2.3	1.9	2ème
3rd	116.6	116.5	117.0	0.4	0.5	-0.3	2.1	2.2	1.2	3ème
4th	116.9	116.7	117.7	0.3	0.2	0.6	1.9	2.0	1.4	4ème
2007 1st	119.4	118.9	122.1	2.1	1.9	3.7	3.5	3.2	5.0	2007 1er
2nd	120.9	120.6	122.2	1.3	1.4	0.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2ème
3rd	121.3	121.2	122.1	0.3	0.5	-0.1	4.0	4.0	4.4	3ème
4th	121.7	121.5	123.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	4.1	4.1	4.7	4ème
2008 1st	123.7	123.2	126.1	1.6	1.4	2.4	3.5	3.6	3.3	2008 1er
2nd	125.6	125.3	127.3	1.6	1.7	0.9	3.9	3.9	4.1	2ème
3rd	128.6	127.9	132.0	2.4	2.1	3.7	6.0	5.5	8.1	3ème
4th	128.8	128.1	132.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	5.8	5.4	7.3	4ème
2009 1st	131.2	130.6	133.5	1.9	2.0	1.0	6.1	6.1	5.9	2009 1er

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices by Expenditure Group

Tableau 2 Indices des prix à la consommation par poste de dépense

Base: 1st Quarter 2000 = 100

Base: 1er Trimestre 2000 = 100

Year	Quarter	Food	Drinks and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Housing and Utilities	Household Supplies	Health	Transport	Communi-cation	Recreation	Education	Miscellaneous	All Groups	Année	Trimestre
		Produits alimentaires	Boisson et tabac	Habillement et Chaussure	Loyers, eau, énergie etc.	Mobilier et équipement ménager etc.	Santé			Loisir		Autres	Indice global		
Vanuatu															
2008	December	130.1	154.4	100.8	127.3	103.4	100.0	136.9	100.0	119.2	100.0	100.0	128.8	2008	Décembre
2009	March	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	Mars
Port Vila															
2008	December	128.3	157.3	102.8	124.5	102.9	100.0	137.6	100.0	118.8	100.0	100.0	128.1	2008	Décembre
2009	March	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	Mars
Luganville															
2008	December	138.4	138.8	93.2	141.6	105.9	100.0	133.3	100.0	121.5	100.0	100.0	132.2	2008	Décembre
2009	March	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	Mars