

STATISTICS UPDATE: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH QUARTER 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

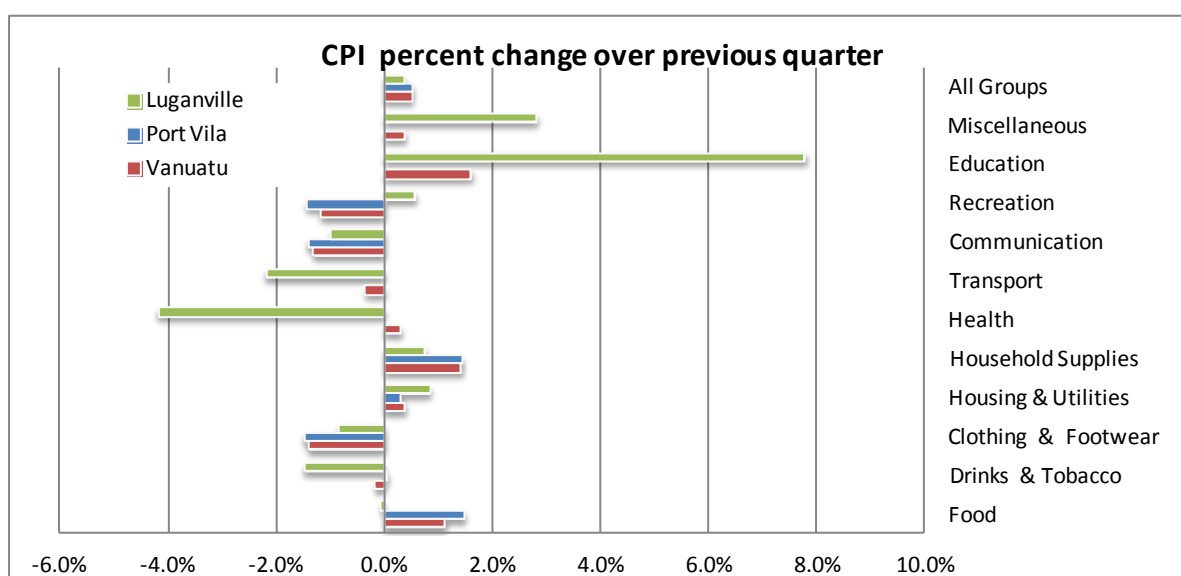
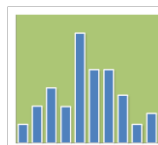


Figure 1: CPI percent change over previous quarter

CPI QUARTERLY MOVEMENT

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) of March 2012 increased by 0.5% over the previous quarter. Port Vila and Luganville index rose by 0.5% and 0.4% respectively when compared to the previous quarter. The following expenditure groups contributed to the increase in the CPI: Household Supplies (+1.4%); Food (+1.1%); and Education (+1.6%). The main contributors to the movement were the rise in the prices of Furniture and Furnishings, Dairy and related Products, and Tertiary Education. Slight increases were also shown for the following groups: Housing and Utilities (+0.4%); Health (+0.3%) and Miscellaneous (+0.4%). Expenditure groups reflecting a decline in prices include clothing and footwear (-1.4%), recreation (-1.2%), transport (-0.3%), drinks and tobacco (-0.2%), communication (-1.3%) This decrease was due to price reduction in women and Men's clothing, private motoring and Audio, visual and computing.



CPI ANNUAL MOVEMENT

When compared to the March quarter of 2011, the Vanuatu index increased by 2.1% over the same quarter of 2011. Port Vila and Luganville index both rose by 2.1% and 2.0% respectively.

At national level, the expenditure groups that had significant contribution to the overall increase over March quarter of 2011 were: Food (+2.8%); Household supplies (+2.9%), and Housing & Utilities (+2.2%). These increases were due to price increases in fruits and vegetables, bread and cereals, gas refill, electricity, linen and household services. Less significant contributions were recorded for Miscellaneous (+5.0%), Recreation (+3.5%), Education (+3.3%), and Drinks and Tobacco (+2.7%). The increases in education and recreation resulted from increases in school fees for private primary and secondary schools and price increases in Audio, visual and computing.

However, the following groups; Transport (-2.7%), clothing and footwear (-2.0%), and communication (-1.0%) groups recorded the only falls offsetting a supposedly higher inflation. These decreases were attributable to price reductions in sea and air fares, children's clothing and internet service.

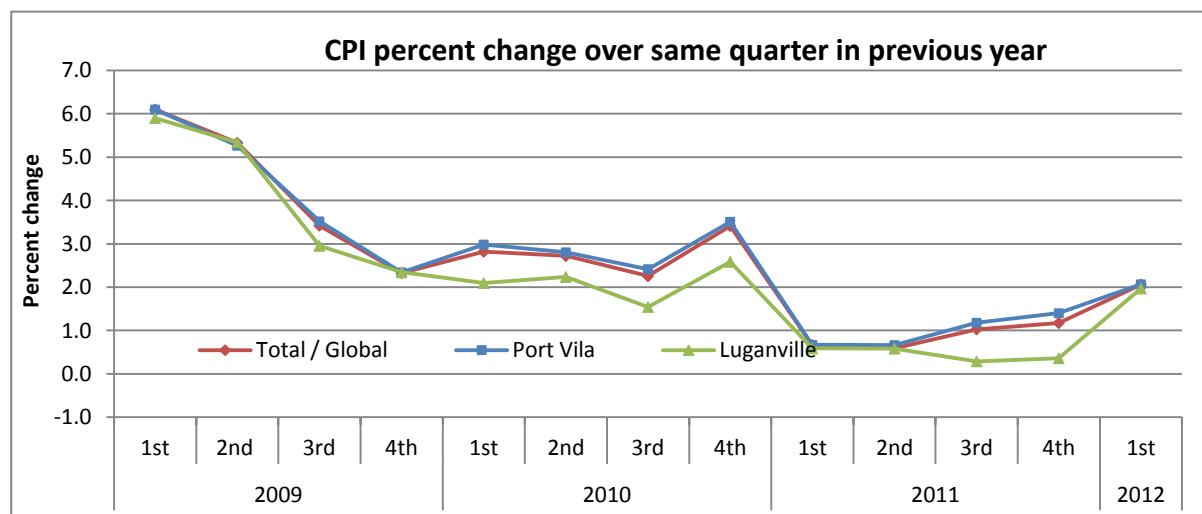
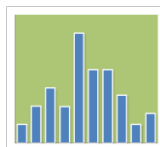


Figure 2: CPI percent change over same quarter in previous year

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 0.8% in March quarter of 2012 compared to the previous quarter (December 2011). Meanwhile, it also recorded an increase of 1.9% over the same quarter of 2011.



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 Quarter

16th August, 2012

MORE INFORMATION

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Table 1 Consumer Price Index

Base: 1st Quarter 2000 = 100

Tableau 1 Indice des prix à la consommation

Base: 1^{er} Trimestre 2000 = 100

Year	Quarter	Consumer Price Indices			<i>Underlying Inflation Index Inflation sous-jacente</i>	Rate of Change (%)			Rate of Change (%)			Année	Trimestre
		Indice des prix à la consommation				Variation par rapport			Variation				
		Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	<i>Total / Global</i>	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				
2008		126.7	126.1	129.4	119.6	4.8	4.6	5.7	5.8	5.4	7.3	2008	
2009		132.1	131.5	134.7	123.6	4.3	4.3	4.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2009	
2010		135.8	135.4	137.6	122.3	2.8	2.9	2.1	2.8	3.0	2.1	2010	
						Over Previous Quarter / au trimestre précédent			Over Same Quarter of previous year / au même trimestre de l'année précédente				
2009	1st	131.2	130.7	133.5	123.7	1.9	2.0	1.0	6.1	6.1	5.9	2009	1er
	2nd	132.3	131.9	134.1	123.9	0.8	0.9	0.4	5.3	5.3	5.3		2ème
	3rd	133.0	132.4	135.9	124.0	0.5	0.4	1.3	3.4	3.5	3.0		3ème
	4th	131.8	131.1	135.3	122.7	-0.9	-1.0	-0.4	2.3	2.3	2.3		4ème
2010	1st	134.9	134.6	136.3	123.3	2.4	2.7	0.7	2.8	3.0	2.1	2010	1er
	2nd	135.9	135.6	137.1	121.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	2.7	2.8	2.2		2ème
	3rd	136.0	135.6	138.0	122.0	0.1	0.0	0.7	2.3	2.4	1.5		3ème
	4th	136.3	135.7	138.8	122.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	3.4	3.5	2.6		4ème
2011	1st	135.8	135.5	137.1	122.6	-0.4	-0.1	-1.2	0.7	0.7	0.6	2011	1er
	2nd	136.7	136.5	137.9	122.3	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6		2ème
	3rd	137.4	137.2	138.4	124.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.0	1.2	0.3		3ème
	4th	137.9	137.6	139.3	124.5	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.4	0.4		4ème
2012	1st	138.6	138.3	139.8	126.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	2012	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 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
	2nd	141.8	173.5	101.5	131.7	101.6	101.6	150.5	98.8	129.7	104.1	102.4	136.7		2ème
	3rd	144.0	177.2	102.6	131.7	100.3	101.8	140.4	98.8	136.3	105.9	100.2	137.4		3ème
	4th	143.2	177.1	99.9	131.6	105.2	101.3	144.3	99.2	136.4	106.1	106.8	137.9		4ème
2012	1st	144.8	176.8	98.5	132.1	106.7	101.6	143.8	97.9	134.8	107.8	107.2	138.6	2012	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
	2nd	141.3	177.4	102.4	128.8	100.3	100.9	152.8	98.6	131.2	105.9	102.0	136.5		2ème
	3rd	144.4	181.8	105.1	127.6	99.4	101.0	141.3	98.5	138.9	106.7	99.5	137.2		3ème
	4th	142.9	181.7	101.4	127.5	105.1	101.4	145.7	99.0	138.8	106.9	107.4	137.6		4ème
2012	1st	145.0	181.8	99.9	127.9	106.6	101.4	145.7	97.6	136.8	106.9	107.4	138.3	2012	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
	2nd	145.3	153.7	98.3	146.7	109.3	106.8	138.8	100.1	121.4	97.6	104.8	137.9		2ème
	3rd	143.9	154.9	93.0	155.7	104.8	107.5	135.9	100.1	121.4	102.9	104.9	138.4		3ème
	4th	145.4	155.6	94.3	155.3	105.6	107.6	137.0	100.5	122.8	102.9	103.1	139.3		4ème
2012	1st	145.3	153.3	93.5	156.6	106.4	103.1	134.0	99.5	123.5	110.9	106.0	139.8	2012	1er