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## STATISTICS UPDATE: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

RELEASE DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023

### MARCH QUARTER 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

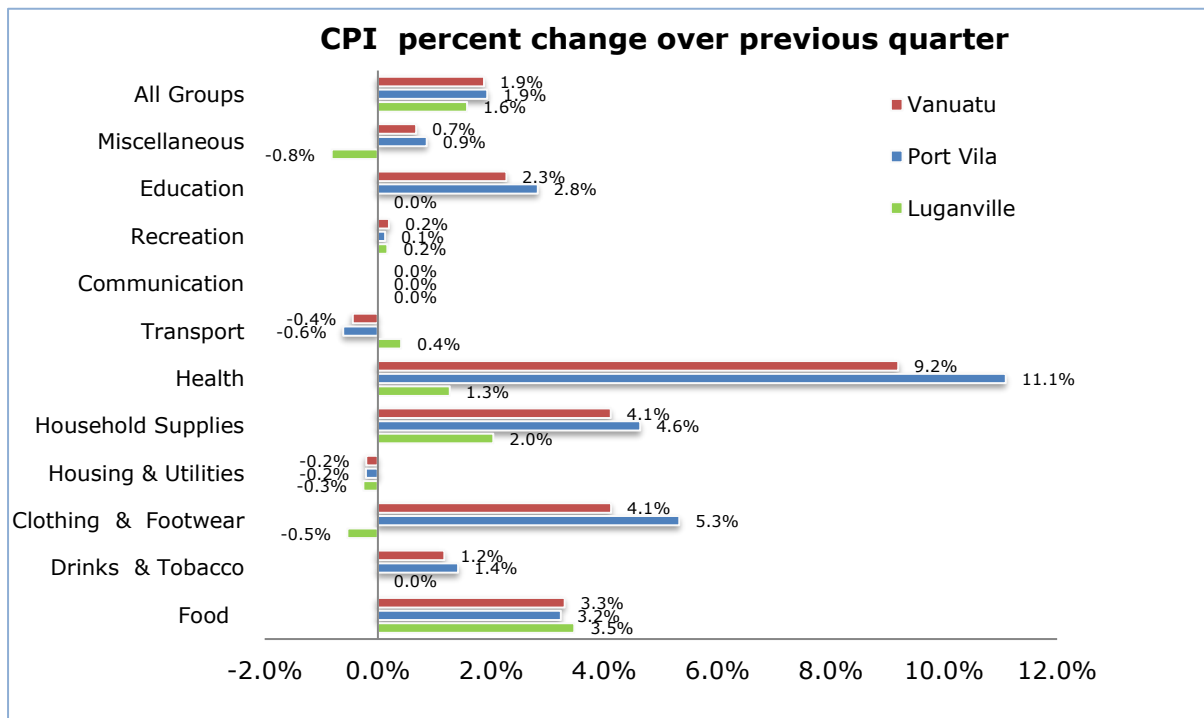


Figure 1: CPI per cent change over previous quarter

### CHANGES THIS QUARTER

The Consumer Price Index for Vanuatu has been updated with new weights. It is common practice among National Statistics Offices to periodically update the weights of CPIs so that the indexes reflect contemporary household spending patterns. The new weights have been calculated using household expenditure from the 2019 - 2020 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The CPI for March quarter 2023 is the first quarter in which the new weights have been used.

In addition to the use of the new weights, the coverage of the National CPI has been extended to include Lenakel. The CPI for Lenakel is under development, and price collection commenced there in December quarter 2022. While the Lenakel CPI is being developed, it will not be published. For the purposes of calculating the Total CPI for Vanuatu, Lenakel will initially be estimated from the CPIs for Port Vila plus Luganville. Users will be informed when the CPI for Lenakel is to be published.

The new weights are summarized in the tables below.

<b>Consumer Price Index - Reweight</b>			
<b>Comparison of weights for CPI groups</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<i>4th Qtr 2008</i>	<i>4th Qtr 2022</i>	
All Groups	100.0%	100.0%	
01 Food	38.4%	44.5%	
02 Drinks and Tobacco	7.1%	11.2%	
03 Clothing and Footwear	2.7%	2.4%	
04 Housing and Utilities	20.9%	11.6%	
05 Household Supplies	7.1%	3.4%	
06 Health	1.2%	0.2%	
07 Transport	6.8%	14.2%	
08 Communications	4.8%	3.3%	
09 Recreation	3.5%	1.3%	
10 Education	5.0%	3.4%	
11 Miscellaneous	2.4%	4.5%	

<b>Consumer Price Index - Reweight</b>			
<b>Comparison of weights for CPI regions</b>			
<b>All Groups</b>	<i>4th Qtr 2008</i>	<i>4th Qtr 2022</i>	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	
Port Vila	82.2%	79.2%	
Luganville	17.8%	14.9%	
Lenakel		5.9%	

#### CPI QUARTERLY MOVEMENT

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) of March quarter, 2023 indicated an increase of (+1.9%). Port Vila increased by (+1.9%) and Luganville by (+1.6%) compared to the previous quarter. The largest contribution to the increase in the CPI was the expenditure group Food (+3.3%). Other contributions to the increase were recorded in Household Supplies (+4.1%), Drinks and Tobacco (+1.2%), Clothing and Footwear (+4.1%), Education (+2.3), Miscellaneous (+0.7%), Health (+9.2%) and Recreation (+0.2). Offsetting these increases were falls in Transport (-0.4%) and Housing and Utilities (-0.2%). Communication remained constant. The increase in price movement was driven by Fruit and Vegetables, Bread and Cereal Products, Meat and Alcohol. The large increase in Health was due to increases in the price of Diagnostic services. Although Health shows a large increase this quarter, its contribution to the total CPI increase is small because Health has a relatively low weight in the CPI compared to other expenditure groups.

#### CPI ANNUAL MOVEMENT

When compared to the March quarter of 2022, the Vanuatu index increased by (+11.6%). Port Vila index increased by (+12.8%) and Luganville index (+4.3%). At national level, increases in the expenditure groups were Food (+16.6%), Drinks and Tobacco (+6.1%), Clothing and Footwear (+13.6%), Housing and Utilities (+6.0%), Household Supplies (+3.4%), Health (+20.1%), Transport (+14.5%), Recreation (+11.7%), Education (+2.4) and Miscellaneous (+14.3%). Communication showed no movement.

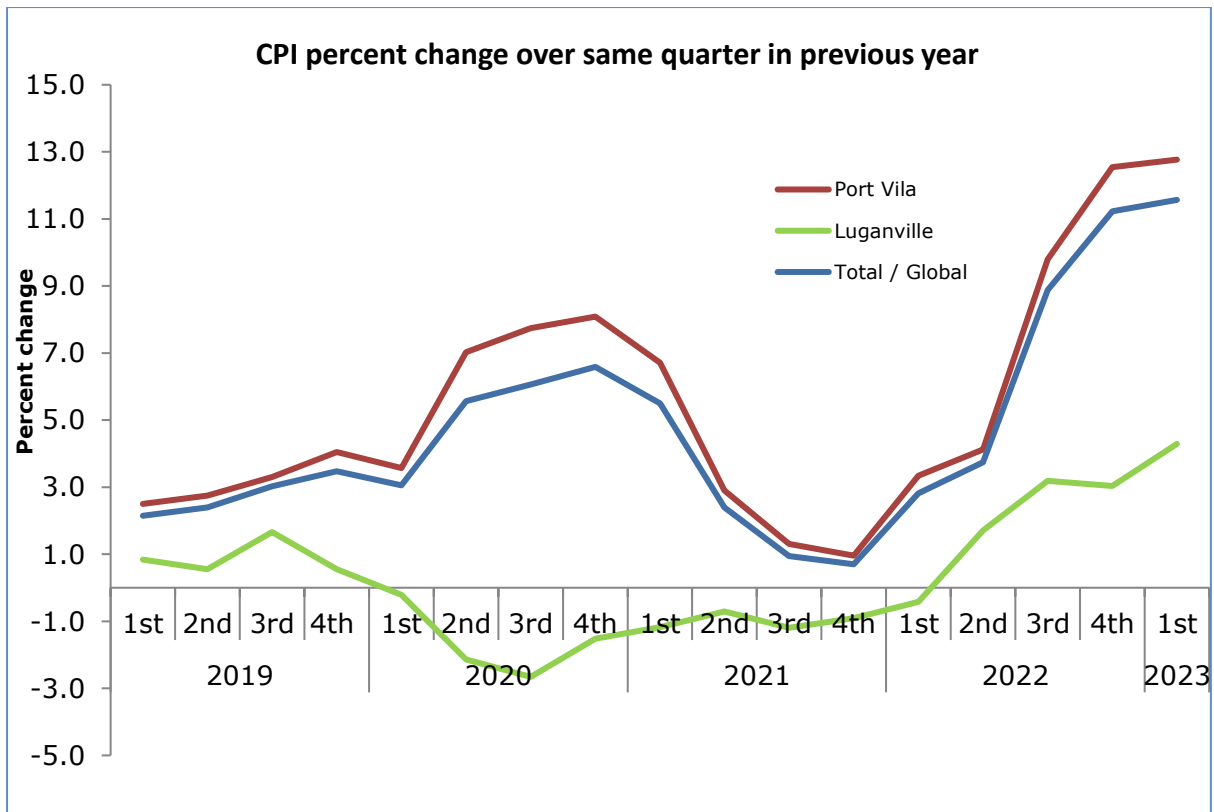


Figure 2: CPI per cent change over same quarter in previous year

#### ANALYTICAL INFORMATION

‘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. In March quarter 2023 underlying inflation increased by (+1.6%) over the previous quarter and increased by (+7.4%) over the same quarter of 2022.

#### REVISIONS

As part of the weight update there has been a full assessment of the index aggregation system, which identified some revisions which need to be made to previously published figures for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2022. The most notable revision is to Table 1, Total All Groups 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 revised from 195.1 to 192.2. Revisions were also made to Table 2: in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Total CPI for Transport, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Total CPIs for Drinks and Tobacco, Clothing and Footwear, Health and Transport, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Total CPIs for Housing and Utilities, Transport and All Groups, and Port Vila CPI for All Groups. There have also been revisions to some percentage change calculations in Table 1.

#### 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. From March quarter 2023 the Vanuatu CPI also covers Lenakel.

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 Bureau of Statistics 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.

## ATTACHMENT

Table 1 Consumer Price Index: All Items

Table 2 Consumer Price Index: Expenditure Groups

NEXT UPDATE (QUARTERLY)

June 2023

RELEASE DATE

15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023.

## MORE INFORMATION

For statistical enquiries about this topic, please contact:

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**Table 1 Consumer Price Index** **Base: 1st Quarter 2000 = 100**  
**Tableau 1 Indice des prix à la consommation** **Base: 1<sup>er</sup> Trimestre 2000 = 100**

Consumer Price Indices					Underlying Inflation Index	Rate of Change (%)				Rate of Change (%)				Année	Trimestre	
Year	Quarter	Indice des prix à la consommation			Inflation sous-jacente	Variation par rapport				Variation						
		Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Lenakel	Total / Global	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Lenakel	Total / Global	Port Vila	Luganville	Lenakel		
							<b>Over Previous Year / à l'année précédente</b>				<b>4th Quarter over 4th Quarter of previous year / du 4<sup>ème</sup> trimestre au 4<sup>ème</sup> trimestre de l'année précédente</b>					
2018		154.8	157.0	144.1	135.2	2.3	2.9	-0.4			1.9	2.3	0.2		2018	
2019		159.0	162.0	145.4	136.3	2.8	3.2	0.9			3.5	4.1	0.6		2019	
2020		167.5	172.7	143.1	135.8	5.3	6.6	-1.6			6.6	8.1	-1.5		2020	
2021		171.4	177.7	141.6	134.4	2.3	2.9	-1.0			0.7	1.0	-0.9		2021	
2022		182.9	191.0	144.3	137.1	6.7	7.5	1.9			11.2	12.5	3.0		2022	
							<b>Over Previous Quarter / au trimestre précédent</b>				<b>Over Same Quarter of previous year / au même trimestre de l'année précédente</b>					
2018	1st	153.7	155.9	143.6	134.8	0.7	0.9	-0.3			3.3	4.0	-0.1		2018	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	154.4	156.6	144.2	134.9	0.5	0.4	0.4			2.4	3.0	-0.7			2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	155.3	157.6	144.3	135.2	0.6	0.6	0.1			1.8	2.3	-1.0			3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	155.6	158.0	144.4	135.9	0.2	0.3	0.1			1.9	2.3	0.2			4 <sup>ème</sup>
2019	1st	157.0	159.8	144.8	136.3	0.9	1.1	0.3			2.1	2.5	0.8		2019	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	158.1	160.9	145.0	135.9	0.7	0.7	0.1			2.4	2.7	0.6			2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	160.0	162.8	146.7	136.5	1.2	1.2	1.2			3.0	3.3	1.7			3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	161.0	164.4	145.2	136.6	0.6	1.0	-1.0			3.5	4.1	0.6			4 <sup>ème</sup>
2020	1st	161.8	165.5	144.5	137.1	0.5	0.7	-0.5			3.1	3.6	-0.2		2020	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	166.9	172.2	141.9	135.3	3.2	4.0	-1.8			5.6	7.0	-2.1			2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	169.7	175.4	142.8	135.2	1.7	1.9	0.6			6.1	7.7	-2.7			3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	171.6	177.7	143.0	135.4	1.1	1.3	0.1			6.6	8.1	-1.5			4 <sup>ème</sup>
2021	1st	170.7	176.6	142.8	134.8	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1			5.5	6.7	-1.2		2021	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	170.9	177.2	140.9	133.8	0.1	0.3	-1.3			2.4	2.9	-0.7			2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	171.3	177.7	141.1	134.2	0.2	0.3	0.1			0.9	1.3	-1.2			3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	172.8	179.4	141.7	134.8	0.9	1.0	0.4			0.7	1.0	-0.9			4 <sup>ème</sup>
2022	1st	175.5	182.5	142.2	135.0	1.6	1.7	0.4			2.8	3.3	-0.4		2022	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	177.3	184.5	143.3	135.1	1.0	1.1	0.8			3.7	4.1	1.7			2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	186.5	195.1	145.6	135.7	5.2	5.7	1.6			8.9	9.8	3.2			3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	192.2	201.9	146.0	na	142.7	3.1	3.5	0.3		11.2	12.5	3.0			4 <sup>ème</sup>
2023	1st	195.8	205.8	148.3	na	145.0	1.9	1.9	1.6	na	11.6	12.8	4.3	na	2023	1 <sup>er</sup>

na: not available

**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<sup>er</sup> 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
<b>Vanuatu</b>															
2020	1st	193.3	188.3	113.4	135.6	114.1	103.6	172.9	95.9	136.2	111.3	111.8	161.8	2020	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	206.5	188.0	116.7	135.2	115.3	107.9	171.9	95.9	135.5	111.3	112.7	166.9		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	213.1	192.0	115.8	135.9	114.1	109.1	171.4	95.9	136.0	111.3	112.7	169.7		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	217.8	195.5	112.0	135.0	113.7	107.2	174.3	96.8	137.6	111.3	113.1	171.6		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2021	1st	216.0	195.4	111.2	133.9	113.8	107.2	175.8	96.0	137.7	111.6	112.7	170.7	2021	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	216.2	195.8	111.6	134.3	113.0	106.3	177.4	94.7	137.9	111.6	113.1	170.9		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	216.8	196.3	111.8	135.2	112.5	106.4	178.1	94.7	138.3	111.6	112.4	171.3		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	220.2	197.4	110.8	135.1	113.0	105.8	178.6	94.8	136.8	111.6	116.6	172.8		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2022	1st	225.6	203.0	111.2	136.1	112.6	105.8	177.7	94.9	136.2	114.4	117.5	175.5	2022	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	227.4	208.8	110.8	138.6	112.2	107.2	180.1	94.9	138.3	114.6	117.6	177.3		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	247.3	211.6	114.0	141.9	112.6	115.6	185.2	94.9	139.9	114.6	118.2	186.5		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	254.7	212.8	121.3	144.5	111.8	116.4	204.3	94.9	151.8	114.6	133.4	192.2		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2023	1st	263.1	215.3	126.3	144.2	116.4	127.1	203.4	94.9	152.1	117.2	134.3	195.8	2023	1 <sup>er</sup>
<b>Port Vila</b>															
2020	1st	205.2	195.4	113.4	130.9	112.8	103.2	174.9	94.7	139.2	116.1	114.1	165.5	2020	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	223.2	195.4	117.5	131.0	112.9	108.0	173.4	94.7	138.3	116.1	115.1	172.2		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	231.1	200.5	116.4	131.0	112.9	109.4	173.0	94.7	138.9	116.1	115.1	175.4		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	237.0	205.1	111.7	130.0	112.4	107.3	176.4	95.7	140.8	116.1	115.5	177.7		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2021	1st	234.5	205.1	111.1	129.3	112.3	107.2	178	94.8	140.9	116.5	115.1	176.6	2021	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	234.7	205.2	111.7	131.2	113.3	106.2	179.7	94.6	141.1	116.5	115.5	177.2		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	235.3	206.7	111.8	132.2	110.7	106.3	180.7	94.6	141.6	116.5	114.7	177.7		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	239.3	208.1	110.9	131.8	111.3	105.6	182.0	94.6	139.8	116.5	119.7	179.4		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2022	1st	245.8	214.7	111.6	132.9	110.9	105.7	182.2	94.6	139.1	120.2	120.7	182.5	2022	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	247.9	221.4	111	135.4	110.4	106.8	184.5	94.6	141.6	120.4	120.7	184.5		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	271.9	224	114.8	139	110.9	116.3	189.9	94.6	143.5	120.4	121.5	195.1		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	281.3	225.5	123.9	141.8	110	117.2	211.9	94.6	157.5	120.4	139	201.9		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2023	1st	290.4	228.7	130.5	141.5	115.1	130.2	210.6	94.6	157.7	123.8	140.2	205.8	2023	1 <sup>er</sup>
<b>Luganville</b>															
2020	1st	148.3	157.4	114.0	164.4	121.2	106.6	162.7	103.4	119.4	94.0	97.6	144.5	2020	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	142.4	156.3	114.0	160.0	129.4	106.8	164.0	103.4	119.4	93.7	97.6	141.9		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	144.3	156.1	114.0	165.9	120.9	106.8	163.2	103.4	119.4	93.7	97.6	142.8		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	144.4	156.1	114.0	165.9	121.3	106.8	163.5	103.4	119.4	93.7	97.6	143.0		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2021	1st	145.2	155.6	111.8	162.0	122.2	106.8	164.5	103.3	119.4	93.7	97.6	142.8	2021	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	145.2	157.0	111.8	150.7	122.7	106.8	165.4	94.9	119.4	93.7	97.6	140.9		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	146.1	154.2	112.2	150.7	123.4	106.8	164.7	94.9	119.4	93.7	97.6	141.1		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	147.1	154.4	110.9	153.0	122.8	106.8	161.1	95.7	119.4	93.7	97.6	141.7		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2022	1st	148.0	156.1	110.1	153.3	122.9	106.8	159.3	96.5	119.4	93.7	97.6	142.2	2022	1 <sup>er</sup>
	2nd	149.2	158.6	110.6	154.8	122.9	110.1	162.2	96.5	119.4	93.7	97.6	143.3		2 <sup>ème</sup>
	3rd	152.9	162.2	111.3	155.4	122.3	110.1	165.8	96.5	119.4	93.7	97.9	145.6		3 <sup>ème</sup>
	4th	152.7	162.2	111.3	157.4	122.5	110.1	170.0	96.5	119.4	93.7	97.9	146.0		4 <sup>ème</sup>
2023	1st	158.0	162.2	110.7	157.0	125.0	111.5	170.7	96.5	119.6	93.7	97.1	148.3	2023	1 <sup>er</sup>
<b>Lenakel</b>															
2022	4th	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2022	4 <sup>ème</sup>
2023	1st	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2023	1 <sup>er</sup>

na not available