



International Merchandise Trade Statistics – Monthly Provisional Highlights

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBOS) is delighted to announce the release on its Provisional monthly Highlight for **August 2023**. These highlights provide valuable key economic insights to trade concepts and dynamics. The format content in these monthly provisional highlights is as below:

Concepts	Definition
1. National Sustainability Development Plan (NSDP Indicators)	The NSDP serves as the Country's highest level policy framework. The indicators provide a system to monitor progress. To report on trade related NSDP indicators, some adaptations has been made. This include ENV E.3.1 report value, not volume ECO 1.5.2 and ECO 1/6/2 reporting on Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) agreement, ECO 1.7.1 reporting on level of export production of major commodities.
2. Trade Balance of Major Partner Countries	Balance of Trade is the value of a country's exports and the value of a country's imports for a given period. The Major Partner Countries are: Australia, China, Fiji, France, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America
3. Trade Balance of Pacific Islands, excluding Melanesian Islands, Australia and New Zealand	The Pacific Islands included are: American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, French Polynesia, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna
4. Trade by Trade Agreement	The Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA) aims to achieve regional integration of economics in the MSG.

Melanesian spearhead Group	It comprises four (4) Countries namely, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
5. Major Principal Exports	Major Exports are commodities that account for the majority of the total export value. The commodity group focus is Beef, Cocoa, Coconut Oil, Copra and Kava. Focus is a time series analysis of current monthly exports from 2018 to 2023
6. Top 5 New Major Exports	The traditional VNSO tables report on 13 major commodities. The rest of the commodities are grouped as "other products". This investigates the main commodities within "other products".
7. Major Principal Imports	Major imports are commodities that account for the majority of the total import value. The commodity group focus is Alcoholic drinks, Articles of Iron and Steel, Medicaments, Petroleum oils and /Rice. Focus is a timeseries analysis of current monthly imports from 2018-2023
8. Top 5 New Major Imports	The Traditional VNSO tables report on 47 major import commodities. The rest of the commodities are grouped as "other Imports". This investigates the main commodities within "other imports".
9. Imports of Dietary Risk Factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)	The Pacific has a growing reputation as having one of the world's highest NCD rates. These major NCD, is share for behavioural risk factors; tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. This investigates some of the dietary risk factors including Bakery Products, Canned Meats, Confectionary, Cordial and Noodles.
10. Imports of Food and Products Targeted as those that can be Potentially Produced Domestically	Import substitution is the idea that; blocking imports of manufactured goods can help an economy by increasing the demand for domestically produced goods. The imports of foods and products targeted include: Canned Mackerel, Canned Tunas, Chicken and Chicken eggs.

OFFICIAL



VANUATU BUREAU of STATISTICS
Private Mail Bag 9019
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
Port Vila, Vanuatu
+678 33040/22110/22111
VBoS_stats
stats@vanuatu.gov.vu
www.vnso.gov.vu



“For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics.”

You can reach them through the following channels:

- **Telephone:** +678 22110 / 22111 / 33040 / VOIP 1124
- **Email:** stats@vanuatu.gov.vu
- **Website:** Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics

Feel free to get in touch with them if you have any questions or need further assistance!

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text "REPUBLIC OF VANUATU" at the top, "REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU" at the bottom, and "VANUATU BUREAU OF STATISTICS" and "CHIEF STATISTICIAN" in the center, with a small logo of a bar chart.

Mr. KAP Calo Andy
Chief Statistician

International Merchandise Trade Statistics - August 2023 - Highlights

1. National Sustainable Development Plan Indicators (NSDP)

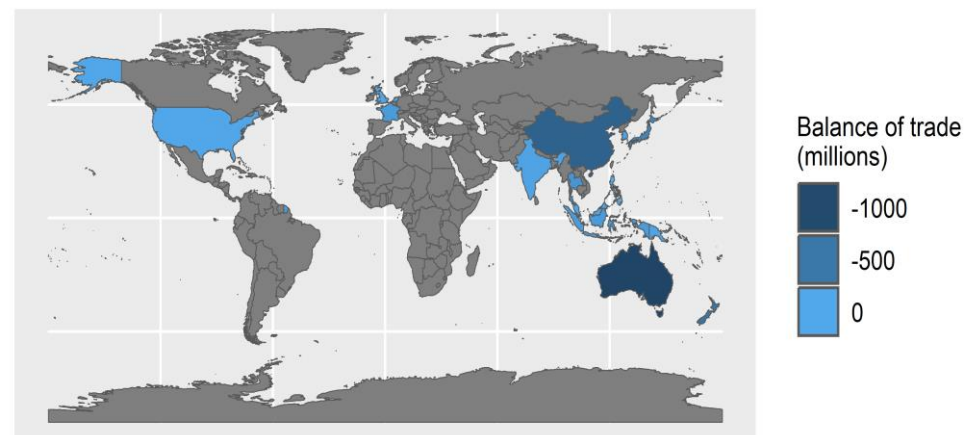
Policy Objectives	SMART Indicators	Indicator Value
ENV 1.3: Reduce reliance on food imports through import substitution for food products that can be produced domestically	ENV 1.3.1 Total annual volume of imports of food and products targeted by DARD as those that can be produced domestically (including value-added products)	33
ECO 1.5: Increase access to markets for Vanuatu exports	ECO 1.5.2 Trade by trade agreement (value)	505
	ECO 1.5.3 Balance of trade by major partner countries	-5,196
ECO 1.7: Stimulate economic diversification to spread the benefits of growth and increase economic stability	ECO 1.7.1 Level of production of major commodities to include cocoa and copra	650
ECO 4.3: Increase production and processing of niche commodities, and value addition to commodities in which Vanuatu enjoys a comparative advantage	ECO 4.3.2 Ratio of processed export commodities (including coconut, kava, cocoa, coffee) to raw exports	7

The total value of imports targeted by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) as those that can be produced domestically is VT 33 million (ENV 1.3.1). The products imported included Potatoes (VT 16 million), Onions and Shallots (VT 8 million), Oranges (VT 4 million), and Carrots and Turnips (VT 3 million). *Refer to Table 16*

The total value of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) agreement is (VT 505 million) (ECO 1.5.2). This Trade-by-Trade agreement included total exports of VT 29 million and total imports of (VT 486 million). *Refer to Table 11*. The Balance of Trade by Major Partner Countries is (VT -5,196 million). (ECO 1.5.3). *Refer to Table 8*

The major commodities' production level is VT 650 million (ECO 1.7.1). The major commodities included: Kava VT 479 million, Copra VT 118 million, Coconut Oil VT 25 million, Wood VT 18 million, Beef VT 10 million, and Cocoa VT 1 million. The ratio of processed export commodities including coconut, kava, cocoa, and coffee to raw exports is 7 (ECO 4.3.2). The total value of processed exports is VT 557 million and the total value of raw exports is VT 76 million. *Refer to Table 6*

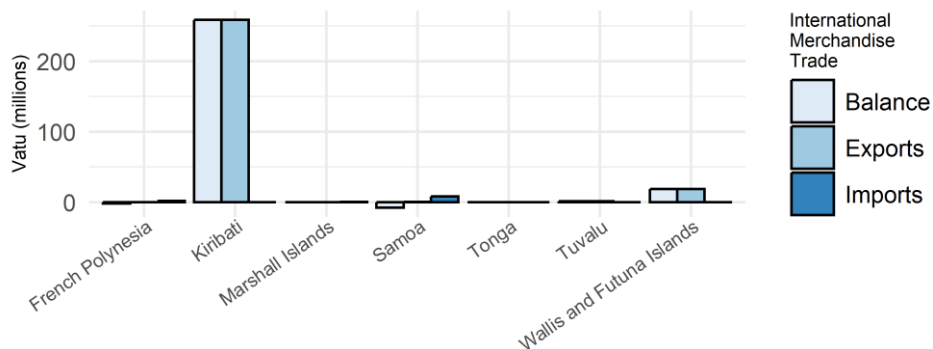
2. Trade Balance by Major Partner Countries



The balance of trade by major partner countries is (VT -5,196 million). The main countries that account for this Balance were Singapore (VT -1,385 million), Australia (VT -1,062 million), China (VT -734 million), New Zealand (VT -516 million), and Fiji (VT -408 million). These countries represent 79 percent of the total Balance by Major Partner Countries (VT -4,105 million). *Refer to Table 8*

Major imports from Singapore were Mineral Products (VT 1,287 million); and Machinery and electrical Appliances (VT 37 million). Major imports from Australia were Prepared Foodstuffs, Beverages, Alcohol, and Tobacco (VT 191 million) and Machinery and electrical Appliances (VT 177 million); Major imports from China were Machinery and electrical Appliances (183 million) and Base Metals (VT 129 million). Major imports from New Zealand were Machinery & Electrical Appliances (VT 137 million), and Wood, Cork, and Plaiting Materials (VT 69 million). Major imports from Fiji were Prepared Foodstuffs, Beverages, Alcohol, and Tobacco (VT 183 million), and Vegetable products (VT 86 million).

3. Trade Balance of Pacific Islands (excluding Melanesian Islands, Australia and New Zealand)



The total Trade Balance of the Pacific Islands excluding Melanesia, Australia and New Zealand is VT 269 million. This was mainly driven by exports of Kava to Kiribati VT 258 million, and imports of smartphones from Samoa (VT 8 million).

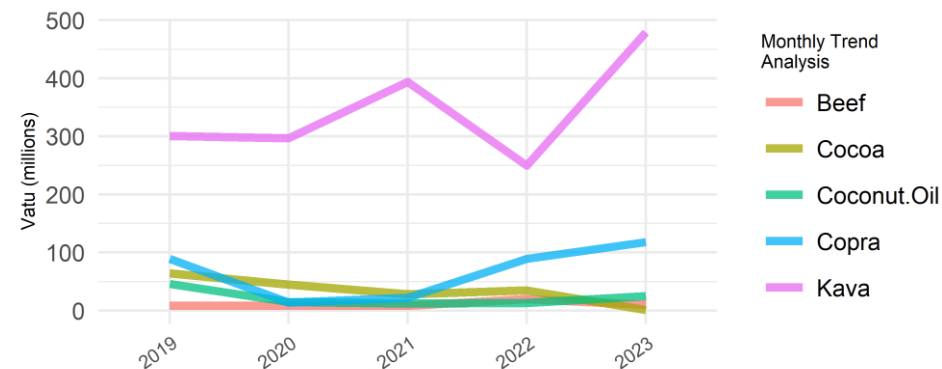
4. Trade by Trade Agreement- Melanesian Spearhead Group

SITC Description	FIJI EXPORTS	FIJI IMPORTS	PAPUA NEW GUINEA EXPORTS	PAPUA NEW GUINEA IMPORTS	SOLOMON ISLANDS EXPORTS	SOLOMON ISLANDS IMPORTS	Total
Basic Manufactured Products		21		3	0		23
Beverages & Tobacco		14				2	16
Chemical Products	0	29			2		31
Crude Materials Except Fuels	16				0	5	20
Food & Live Animals		264	10	30		95	399
Machines & Transport Equipment		6					6
Miscellaneous	0	8			1		9
Manufactured Goods							
Oils, Fats & Waxes		0					0
Grand Total	16	341	10	33	3	102	505

The major imports from Fiji are Bread, Cakes, Pastry and Biscuits (VT 85 million), and Wheat and meslin flour (VT 79 million). The major import from Papua New Guinea is Prepared or Preserved Fish (VT 19 million), and from the Solomon Islands is also Prepared or Preserved Fish at a higher value (VT 95 million).

The major export to Fiji is Kava (VT 16 million), to Papua New Guinea is Beef VT 10 million. The major export to Solomon Islands is Medicaments (VT 3 million).

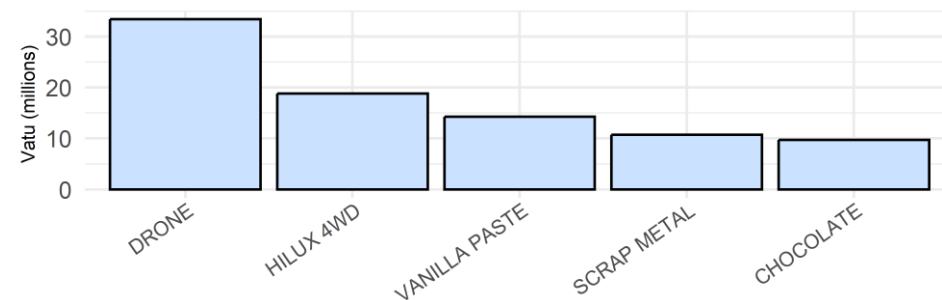
5. Principle Exports



The level of production of the top five Major Principal Exports is VT 632 million. The Principal Exports identified and included Kava: VT 479 million. Copra: VT 118 million, Coconut Oil: VT 25 million, Beef: VT 10 million and Cocoa: VT 1 million. (Refer to Table 6)

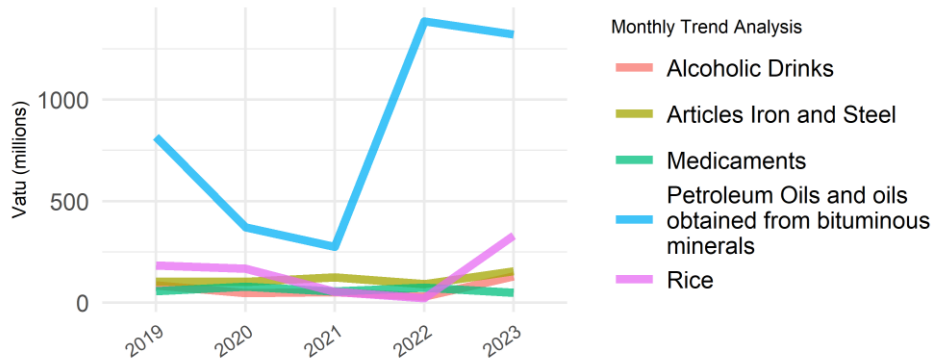
The main country of destination for Kava is Kiribati VT 258 million, as well as to China VT 106 million, and United States of America VT 52 million. The main country of destination for Copra is the Philippines VT 106 million. The main country of destination for Coconut Oil is Australia VT 14 million. The main country of destination for Beef is Papua New Guinea VT 10 million, and for Cocoa is Malaysia VT 1 million.

6. Top 5 New Major Exports



The total value of the Drone is VT 33 million, Hilux 4WD VT 19 million, Vanilla Paste VT 14 million, Scrap Metal VT 11 million, and Chocolate VT 10 million.

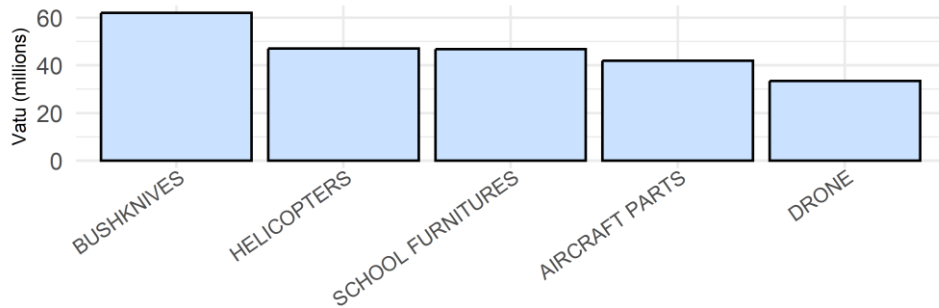
7. Principle Imports



Total value of top five Principal imports is (VT 1,984 million). The Principal Imports included Petroleum Oils (VT 1,321 million), Rice (VT 330 million), Articles of Iron and Steel (VT 155 million), Alcoholic Drinks (VT 129 million), and Medicaments (VT 49 million). Refer to Table 7.

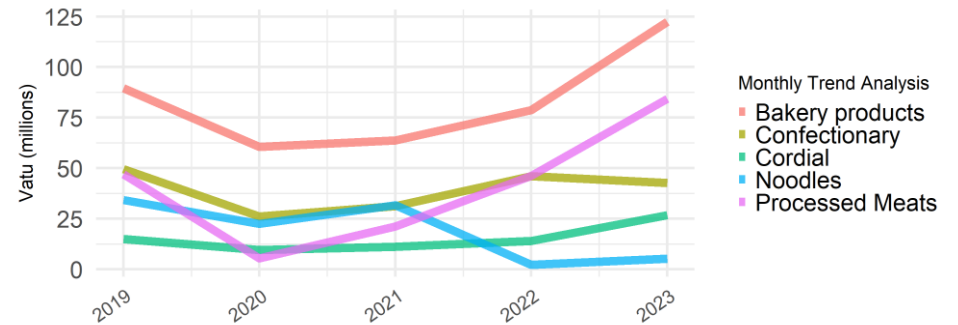
The main country of origin for Petroleum Oils is Singapore (VT 1,287 million), and Rice is China (VT 288 million). The main country of origin for Articles of Iron and Steel is China (VT 70 million). The main country of origin for Alcoholic Drinks is Australia (VT 55 million), and the Medicaments is Australia (VT 18 million).

8. Top 5 New Major Imports



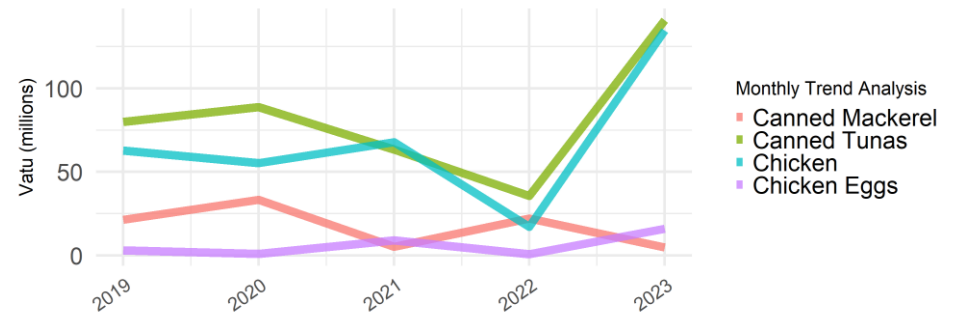
Total value of Bush knives is (VT 62 million), Helicopters (VT 47 million), School furniture's (VT 47 million), Aircraft parts (VT 42 million) and Drone (VT 33 million).

9. Imports of Dietary Risk Factors for Noncommunicable Diseases



Total value of Bakery Products is (VT 122 million) and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 85 million). Total value of Processed meats is VT 84 million and are mainly imported from Australia (VT 42 million). Total value of Confectionary is VT 43 million and are mainly imported from Australia (VT 17 million). Total value of Canned Meats is VT 32 million and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 30 million). Total value of Cordial is VT 27 million and are mainly imported from Bangladesh (VT 7 million). Total value of Noodles is VT 5 million and are mainly imported from Australia (VT 2 million). Refer to Table 15

10. Imports of food and products targeted as those that can be produced domestically



Total value of Canned Tunas is VT 141 million and are mainly imported from Solomon Islands (VT 95 million). Total value of Chicken is VT 135 million and are mainly imported from Australia (VT 90 million). Total value of Chicken Eggs is VT 16 million and are mainly imported from Fiji (VT 14 million). Total value of Canned Mackerel is VT 5 million and are mainly imported from China (VT 5 million). Refer to Table 17