

# MARKET SURVEY

PORT VILA

APRIL – JUNE  
QUARTER



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## STATISTICAL UPDATE: PORT VILA CENTRAL MARKET SURVEY

### JUNE 2019

Release date: 07<sup>th</sup> September 2020

*The Port Vila Central Market Survey summarises selected agricultural products sold at the main local market based on the supply and price of commodities. Data is collected on a fortnightly basis and published as a quarterly average.*

#### Summary of Findings:

The Port Vila Market Survey of June quarter of 2019 showed an overall volume index increase of 58 percent on the supply of commodities while the average price index decreased by -6 percent compared to the previous quarter.

- ◆ Increase in the volume of the local Vegetables such as Bowl cabbage white, Chinese cabbage, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Island cabbage Lettuce, as well as Fiji Taro, Island Taro, Yam, Green banana, Ripe banana, Pawpaw, Dried coconut and Green coconut supplied to the market contributed to the increase in overall volume index compared to previous quarter.
- ◆ The value of commodities increased by 40 percent at VT1.8 million.
- ◆ An average of 423 sellers was recorded for the quarter under review. This is an increase of 1.2 percent from the previous quarter and a decrease of -0.04 percent compared to June 2018.

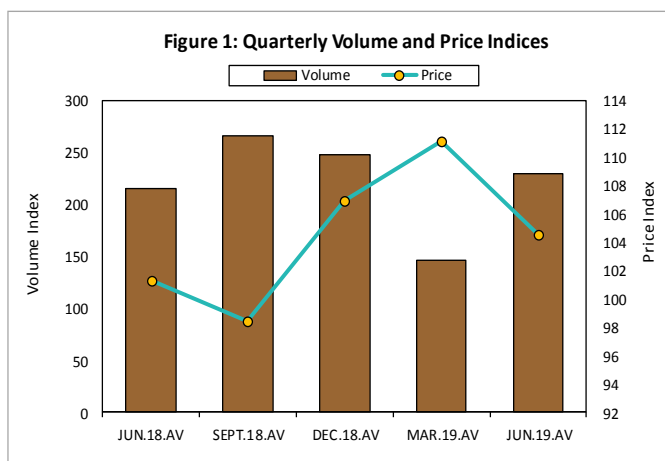
### OVERVIEW

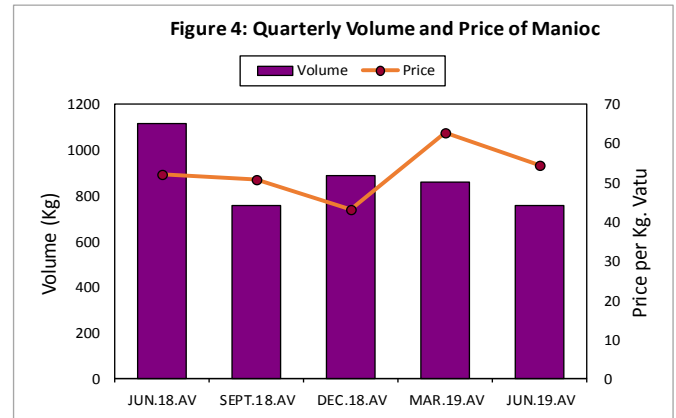
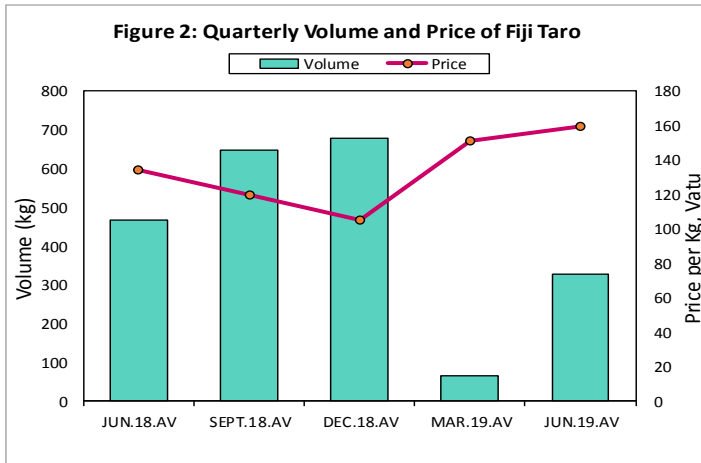
The Port Vila Market Survey in June quarter 2019 showed an overall volume index increase of 58 percent from the previous quarter. Most of the agricultural produces recorded an increase with the exception of Manioc, Sweet Potato (Kumala), Water melon, Purple bowl cabbage, Carrot and Tomato. When compared to the corresponding quarter of previous year, the overall volume supplied also increased by 7 percent. (Refer to table 4).

The overall price decreased by (-6) percent compared to the previous quarter. Lower prices recorded for Island Taro, Manioc, Yam, Green Banana, Ripe Banana, Pawpaw, Purple bowl cabbage, Chinese cabbage, Cucumber, Island cabbage, Lettuce, Dried coconut and Green coconut contributed to the decrease in price index. Compare to June quarter of 2018, the current overall price level increased by 3 percent. (Refer to table 5).

#### FIJI TARO

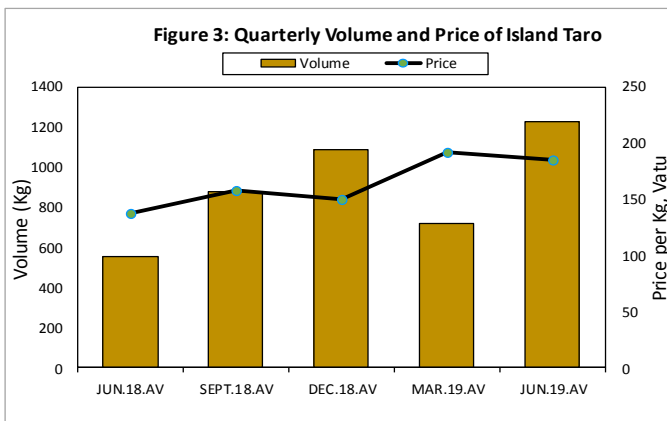
The supply of Fiji Taro increased significantly by 260 kilograms from the previous quarter however average price per kilogram also increase by 6 percent. Compared to June 2018, the supply of Fiji Taro decreased by -30 while average price increased by 19 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).





**ISLAND TARO**

The volume of Island Taro supplied to Port Vila Central Market in June 2019 increased by 71 percent while the average price decreased by -4 percent compared to the previous quarter. When compared with June 2018, the volume of Island Taro increased by 672 kilograms while its average price increased by VT47 per kilogram. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

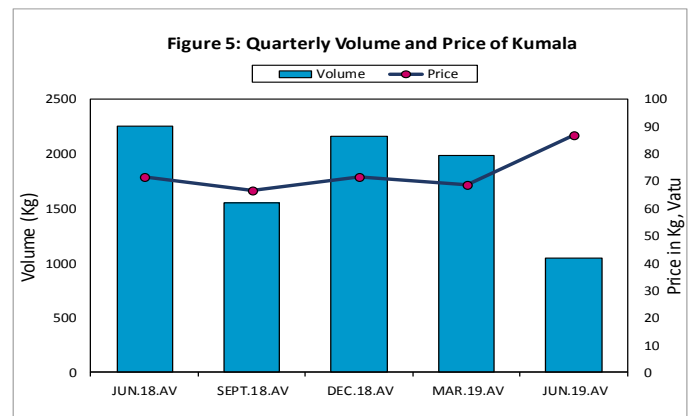


**MANIOC**

The current supply of Manioc in the quarter under review decreased by -12 percent compared to March quarter of 2019, while the average price also decreased by -14 percent. When compared with June quarter of 2018, quantity supplied for Manioc also decreased by -32 percent while average price increased slightly by 4 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

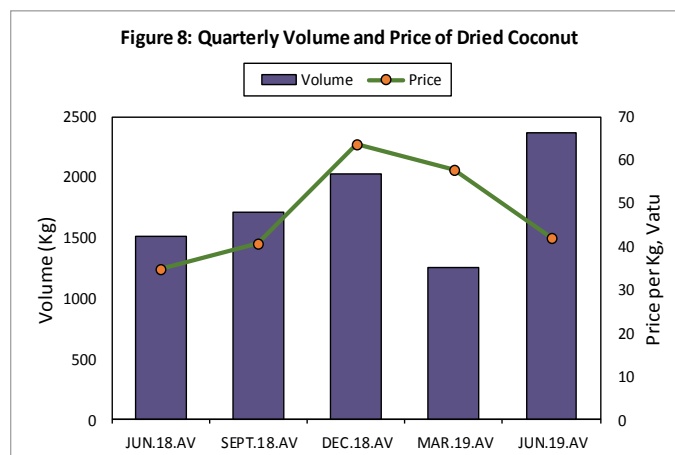
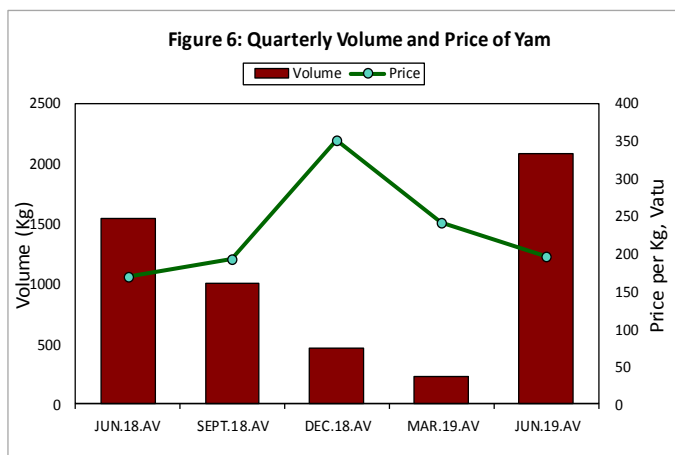
**KUMALA (SWEET POTATO)**

Kumala or Sweet Potato recorded a fall in average volume supplied by -47 percent compared to the previous quarter. Due to the decrease of Kumala or Sweet Potato supplied, the average price increased by 27 percent. Compared with same quarter of previous year, the volume of Kumala decreased by -54 percent while the average price increase by 22 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).



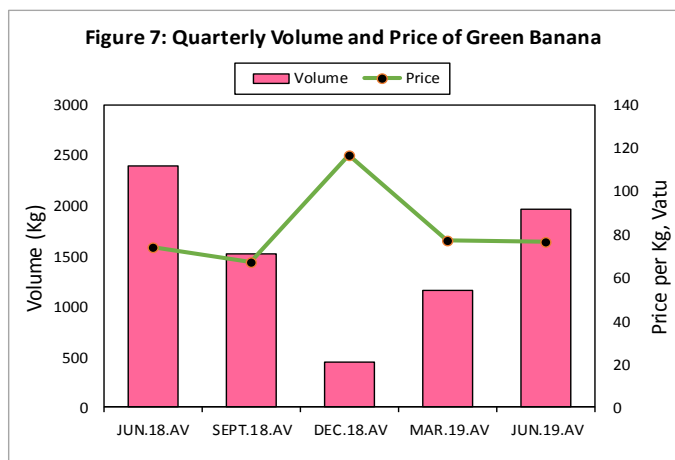
**YAM**

June quarter 2019 recorded an average supply of 2088 kilograms of Yam. This is a huge increase of 1857 kilograms which pushed average price down by VT45 per kilogram compared to the previous quarter. When compared to the same quarter of previous year, the supply of Yam increased by 36 percent while the average price also increased by 16 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).



**GREEN BANANA**

June 2019 recorded an average supply of 1969 kilograms of Green Banana. This is an increase of 71 percent compared with the previous quarter. The increase in supply pushes the average price down slightly by -1 percent. Compared with corresponding quarter of previous year, the quantity of Green Banana supplied to Port Vila Market decreased by -18 percent and the average price increased by 3 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).



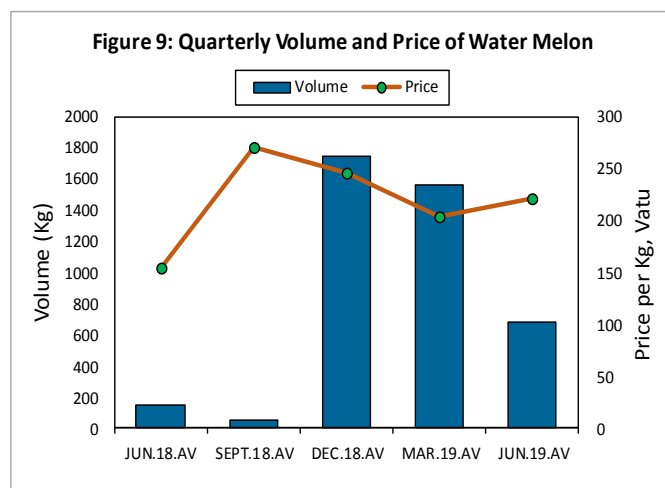
**DRIED COCONUTS**

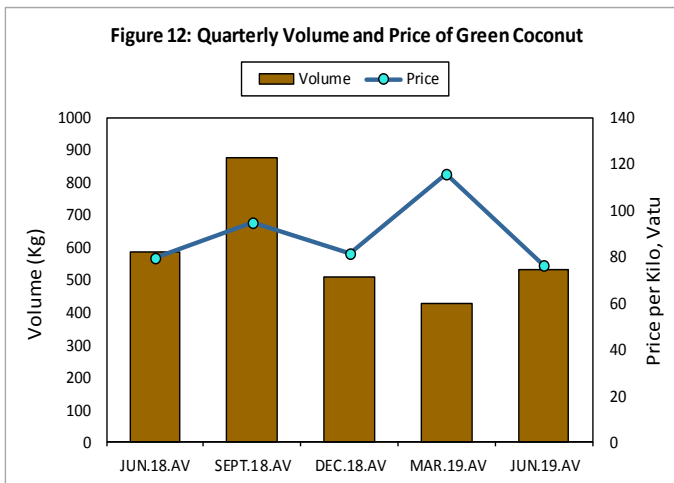
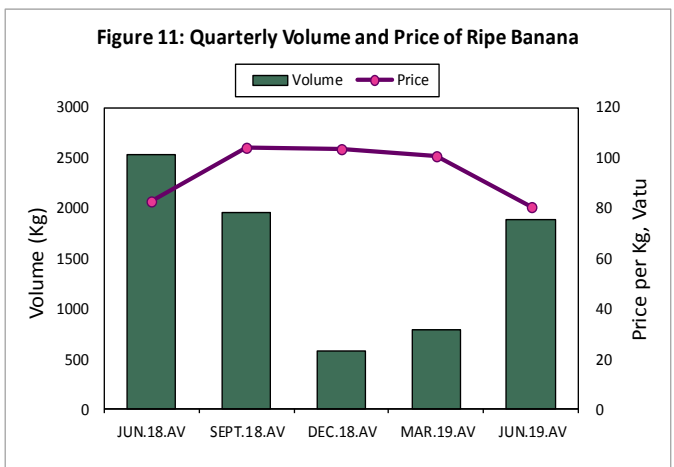
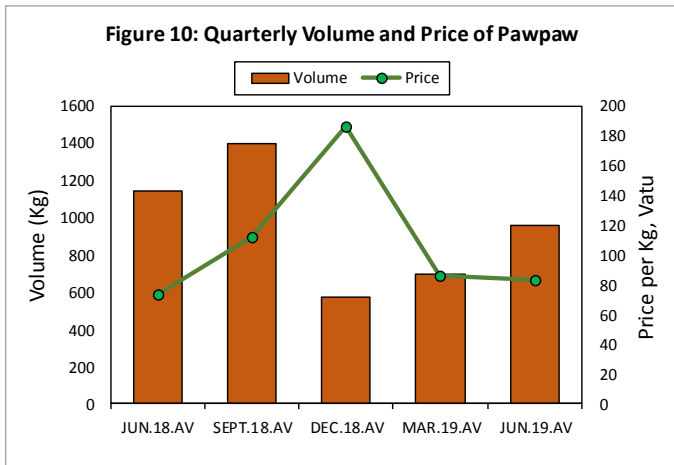
At an average of 2371 kilograms, Dried Coconut supply increased by 89 percent compared to the previous quarter while average price decreased by -27 percent due to the high supply in the market. Current availability was 57 percent higher in June quarter of 2018 and average price also increased by 21 percent. (Refer to table 1 and 2).

**FRUITS**

An overview of Fruits supplied to Port Vila Central Market in the second quarter of 2019, showed an increase of Ripe banana by 1101 kilograms, Pawpaw by 267 kilograms and Green coconut by 105 kilograms while Water melon contributed a huge decrease of -872 kilograms compared to the previous quarter.

When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the supply of fruits decreased except for Water melon which increased by 533 kilograms. The fruits that decreased in kilograms were ripe banana by -651 kilograms, Pawpaw by -179 kilograms and Green coconut by -54 kilograms. (Refer to table 1).





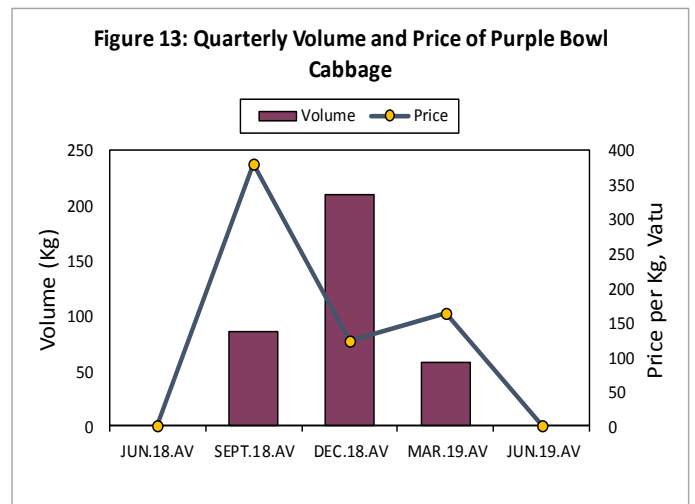
**VEGETABLES**

A summary of vegetables in the quarter under review recorded an increase in most Vegetable supplies except Purple bowl cabbage, which fell by -57 kilograms, Carrot by -24 kilograms and Tomato by -118 kilograms when compared to the previous quarter. Vegetable supplies that increased were Cucumber by 320 kilograms, Chinese cabbage by 273 kilograms, pumpkin by 115 kilograms, island cabbage by 112 kilograms, White bowl cabbage by 68 kilograms and lettuce by 25 kilograms.

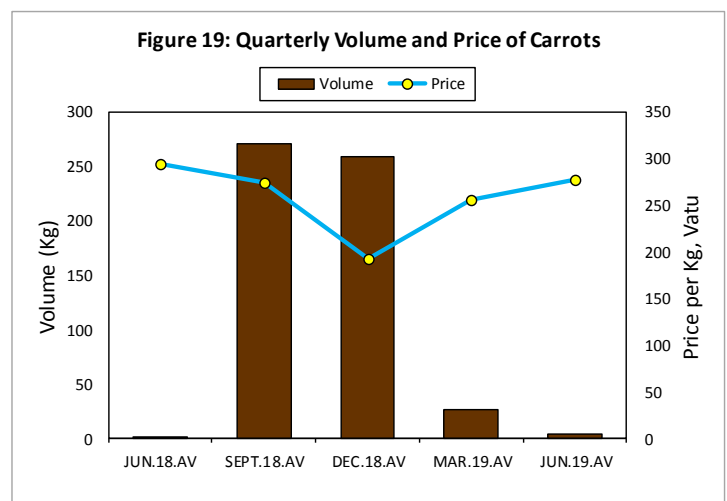
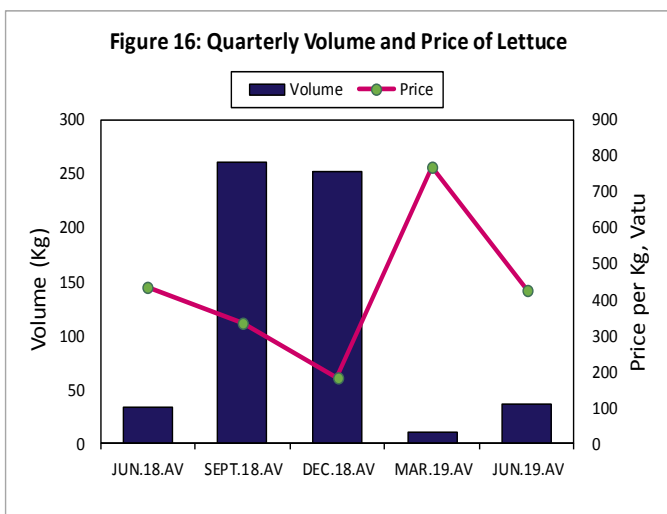
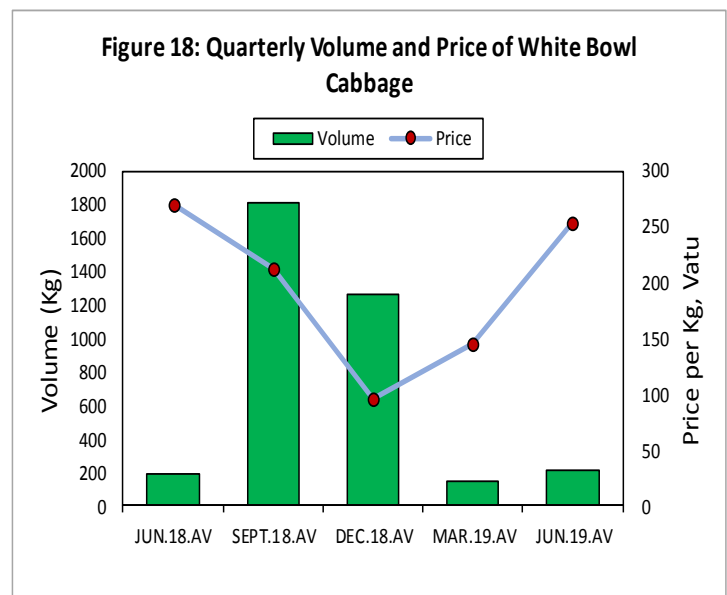
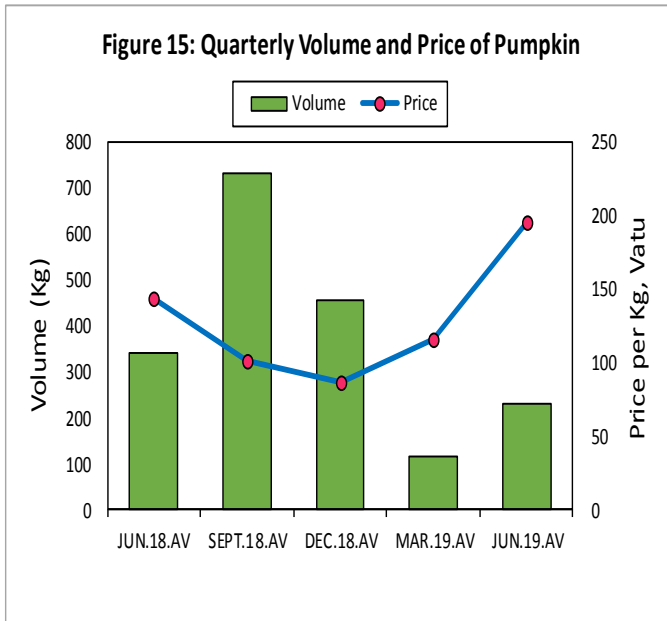
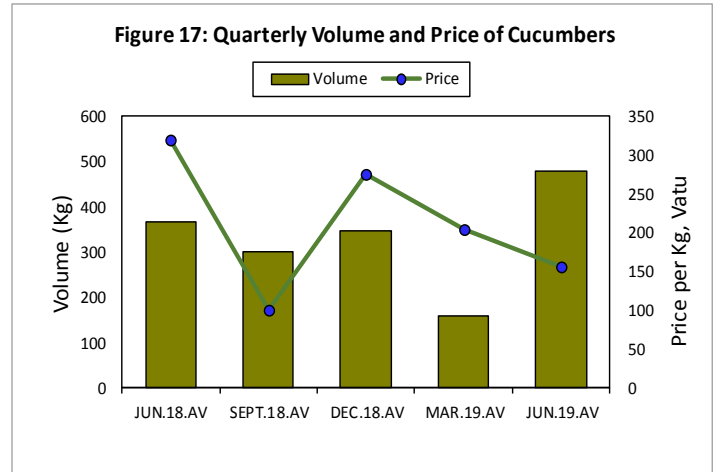
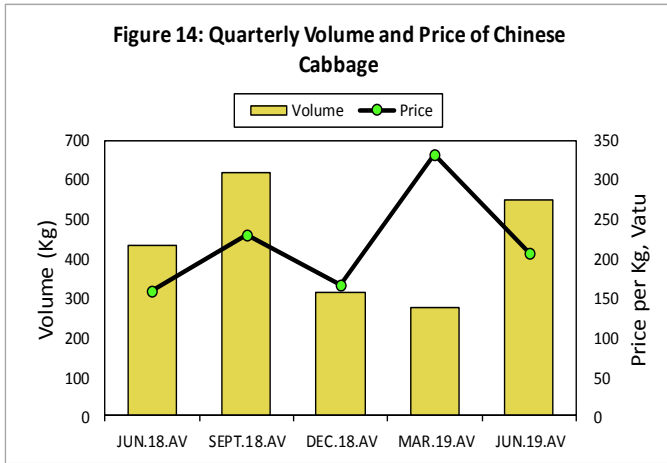
Compared to June 2018, increase in volume was recorded for almost all of the vegetable supplies except for Purple bowl Cabbage which remain constant and pumpkin decreased by -112 kilograms. (Refer to table 1)

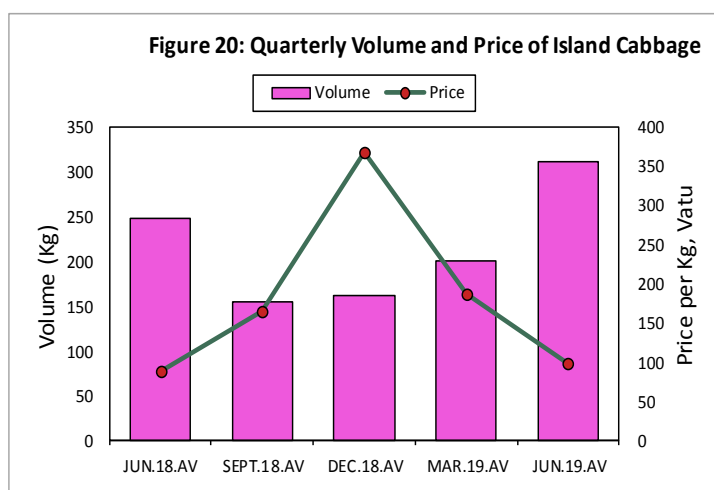
The average price per kilograms in June 2019 for Vegetable supplies, recorded an increase for Tomato by VT368, White bowl cabbage by VT109, Pumpkin by VT80, and carrot by VT22 while average price per kilogram of vegetable commodities that declined were Lettuce by VT346, Purple bowl cabbage by VT164, Chinese cabbage by VT125, Island cabbage by VT90 and Cucumber by VT47.

Compared to the same quarter of 2018, average price per kilograms increased for Pumpkin at VT51, Chinese cabbage at VT48 and Island cabbage at Vt10 while Purple bowl cabbage remain constant while Cucumber decreased by VT163, Tomato by VT161, White bowl cabbage and Carrot both decreased by VT16, and Lettuce by VT7. (Refer to table 2).



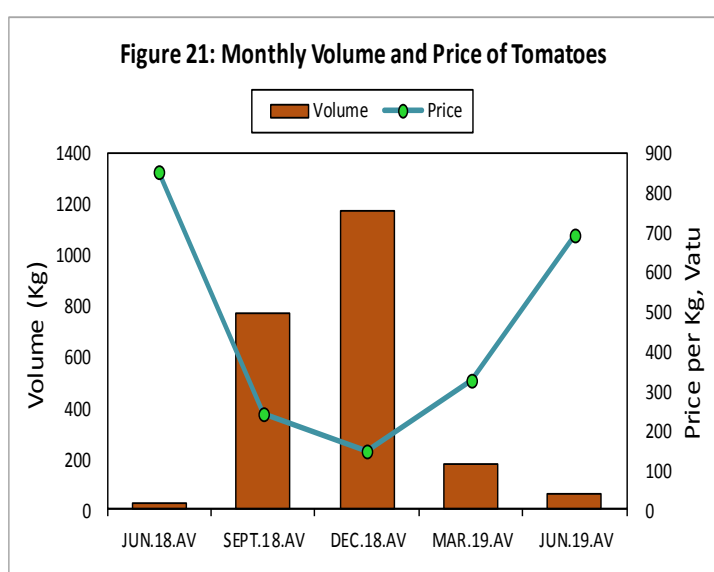
All fruits recorded a decrease in the average price compared to previous quarter except for Water melon which increased by 9 percent. Pawpaw decreased by -3 percent, Ripe banana by -20 percent and Green coconut by -34 percent. When compared with June quarter of 2018, average prices for Water melon increased by 43 percent and Pawpaw by 13 percent while Ripe banana decreased by -3 percent and Green coconut by -4 percent.





corresponding quarter of 2018. Pawpaw contributed 10 percent share of vendors. This is an increase by 22 vendors compared to the previous quarter and a decrease of 12 vendors when compared to the same quarter of previous year. Dried coconut and island cabbage came fourth with 8 percent share each; Dried coconut increased by 20 vendors compared to the previous quarter and also increase by 7 percent when compared to June quarter 2018. Island cabbage increased by 17 vendors compared to previous quarter and also increases by 4 vendors compared to June quarter 2018.

Sweet kumala, Yam, Chinese cabbage and Cucumber contributed 6 percent share each. When compared to the previous quarter, Sweet kumala increased by 5 vendors, Yam by 22 vendors, Chinese cabbage by 19 vendors and Cucumber by 13 vendors. When compared to June quarter of 2018, Sweet kumala decreased by 14 vendors while Yam increased by 3 vendors, Chinese cabbage by 6 vendors and Cucumber by 3 vendors.



Island Taro and Manioc both contributed 4 percent share each of local vendors in the quarter under review. This is an increase for island taro by 11 vendors and also an increase for Manioc by 7 vendors compared with the previous quarter. When compared to June quarter of 2018, island taro increased by 8 vendors while manioc decreased by -5 vendors.

Fiji taro and Pumpkin both contributed 3 percent share of local vendors. When compared to the previous quarter, Fiji taro increased by 9 vendors however decreased by 3 vendors when compared to the same quarter of previous year. Pumpkin increased by 9 vendors compared to the previous quarter and decrease by 2 vendors when compared to June quarter of previous year. Lettuce and Tomato both contributed 2 percent share each in the quarter under review. When compared with the previous quarter, Lettuce increased by 7 vendors while Tomato vendors remained constant. When compared to the same quarter of the previous year, Lettuce increased by 3 vendors while Tomato increased by 5 vendors.

White bowl cabbage contributed 1 percent share of local vendors in June 2019. This is an increase by 4 vendors in the previous quarter and also an increase by 2 vendors when compared to June quarter of 2018.

Water melon, Purple bowl cabbage and carrot contributed less than 1 percent shares each of sellers per produce. (Refer to table 6).

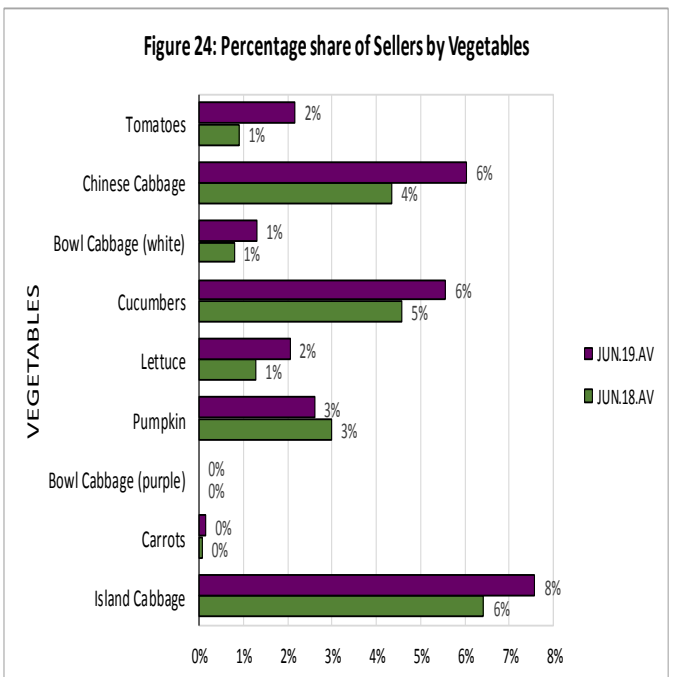
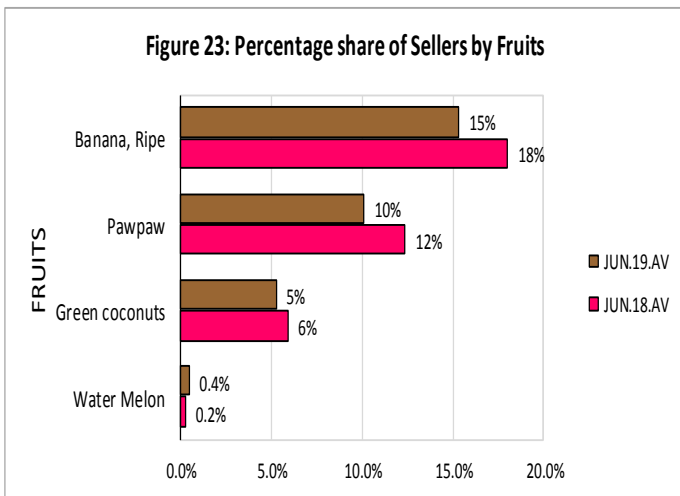
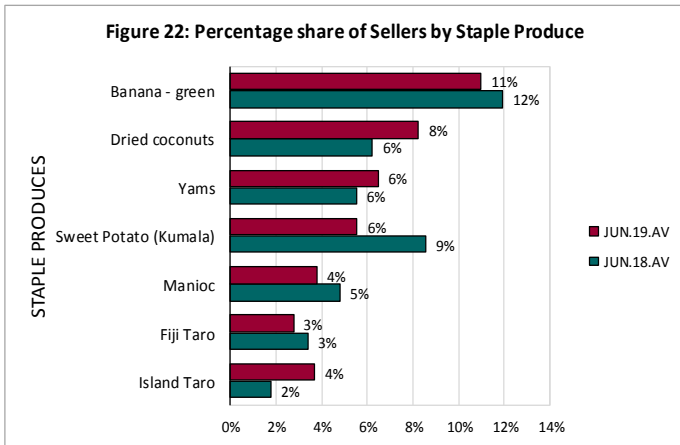
**SELLERS PER PRODUCE**

June quarter of 2019 recorded a total of 2536 sellers<sup>1</sup> at the Port Vila Central Market. This is an increase of 1.2 percent from the previous quarter and a decrease of -0.04 percent in the corresponding quarter of previous year.

Ripe Banana sellers registered the largest share of local vendors per produce at 15 percent in the quarter under review. This is an increase of 35 vendors compared to the previous quarter and a decrease of 15 vendors compared to June 2018. Green banana followed with 11 percent share of vendors which is an increase by 24 vendors, when compared to the previous quarter however a decrease by 6 vendors when compared to the

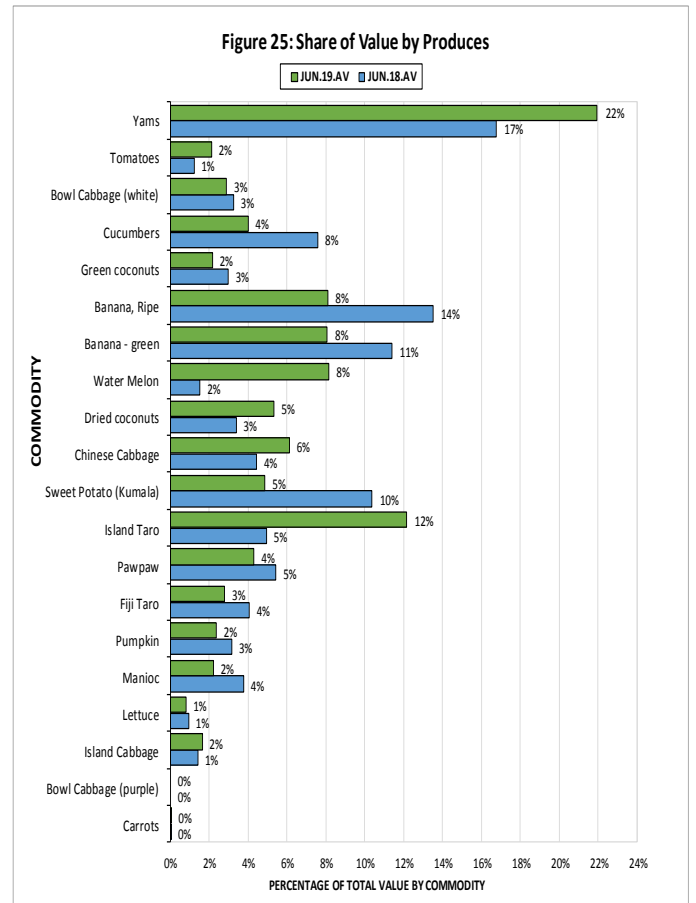
<sup>1</sup> This is the total number of sellers at the market. However, one seller can sell more than 1 type of produce hence the analysis by sellers per produce.





**VALUE OF SUPPLIES**

The average value of commodities at the Port Vila Market in the referenced quarter is VT1.8 million, an increase of 40 percent over March quarter of 2019 and 20 percent compared to same quarter of 2018. (Refer to table 3).



Yam registered the highest share in value of 22 percent in June quarter of 2019, which increased by VT354,000 compared with the previous quarter, and also an increase by VT149,000 when compared to the same quarter of previous year. Island taro contributed second highest with 12 percent share in value which is an increase by VT89,000 when compared to the previous quarter and also an increase by VT150,000 when compared to June quarter of 2018. Green banana, Ripe banana and Water melon all contributed to 8 percent each share in value. When compared to the previous quarter, Green banana increased by VT61,000 and Ripe banana by VT72,000 while Water melon decreased by VT166,000. When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2018, Green banana decreased by VT26,000, Ripe banana decreased by VT59,000 while Water melon increased VT128,000.

Chinese cabbage contributed 6 percent share in value. It is an increase of 24 percent when compared to the previous quarter and also an increase by 66 percent when compared to the same quarter of previous year.

Sweet kumala and dried coconut contributed 5 percent share each. When compared with the previous quarter, Sweet kumala decreased by 33 percent while Dried coconut increased by 37 percent. Sweet kumala also decreased by -44 percent while Dried coconut increased by 90 percent when compared to the same quarter of previous year.

Pawpaw and Cucumber both contributed 4 percent each share in value. Pawpaw increased by VT21,000 and Cucumber by VT42,000 when compared to March quarter of 2019. However, Pawpaw decreased by VT4,000 while Cucumber decreased by VT43,000 when compared to the corresponding quarter of previous year. Fiji taro and White bowl cabbage contributed 3 percent share each in value. When compared to the previous quarter, Fiji taro increased by VT42,000 and White bowl cabbage increased by VT33,000. Fiji taro decreased by VT11,000 when compared to the same quarter of previous year, while White bowl cabbage increased by VT4,000.

Island cabbage, Manioc, Pumpkin, Green coconut and Tomato all contributed 2 percent each share in value. When compared to the previous quarter, Pumpkin increased by VT31,000 while Manioc decreased by VT13,000, Island cabbage by VT7,000, Green coconut by VT9,000 and Tomato by VT18,000. When compared to the same quarter of 2018, Island cabbage increased by VT9,000, Tomato by VT20,000 while Green coconut decreased by VT6,000, Manioc by VT17,000 and Pumpkin decreased by VT5,000.

Lettuce contributed 1 percent share in value while Carrot and Purple bowl cabbage contributed below 1 percent share each.

## CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The Port Vila Market Survey was instigated to measure the price and volume of specific agricultural produces in the main market. The survey is conducted on a fortnightly basis.

Data analysed in this report shows quarterly average supply and prices of the commodities under study. Weights are based on 2016 using HIES 2010 and Agriculture Census 2007 and were used henceforth.

## NEXT UPDATE (QUARTERLY)

December 2019

## RELEASE DATE

30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

## PROVINCIAL STATISTICS OFFICES

### Sanma Office

PO Box 273  
Luganville, SANTO  
Tel/Fax: (678) 36542

### Tafea Office

MFEM Building, Tafea  
Tel: (678) 88014  
Ext/voip: 8361

### Malampa Office

MFEM Building  
Malekula  
Tel: (678) 48400



Mr. KAP Calo Andy

**Government Statistician**

## Annex I: Summary Tables

Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)

PRODUCE	2016.AVG	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	Jun-19	
							% chng from prev qtr	% chng from JUN18
Fiji Taro	74	469	648	678	66	326	391	-30
Island Taro	550	556	876	1084	720	1228	71	121
Manioc	534	1115	759	889	859	756	-12	-32
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	954	2258	1554	2158	1982	1043	-47	-54
Yams	250	1539	999	460	230	2088	806	36
Banana - green	255	2390	1522	448	1155	1969	71	-18
Banana, Ripe	435	2532	1951	571	781	1881	141	-26
Pawpaw	568	1139	1397	574	694	961	38	-16
Water Melon	448	152	48	1748	1557	685	-56	350
Bowl Cabbage (white)	309	187	1806	1262	145	213	47	14
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	53	0	86	210	57	0	-100	-
Carrots	78	1	271	259	26	3	-89	283
Chinese Cabbage	543	432	619	313	276	549	99	27
Cucumbers	343	368	299	345	158	477	203	30
Pumpkin	45	339	734	455	112	227	102	-33
Island Cabbage	171	247	155	162	200	311	56	26
Lettuce	45	34	260	252	10	35	258	5
Tomatoes	198	22	767	1176	175	57	-68	157
Dried coconuts	650	1508	1703	2027	1253	2371	89	57
Green coconuts	309	583	875	507	424	529	25	-9

Table 2: Weighted Average Price Per Kilograms (in Vatu)

PRODUCE	2016.AVE	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from JUN18
Fiji Taro	137.18	134	120	105	151	160	5.6	18.9
Island Taro	185.86	138	157	150	192	185	-3.7	34.2
Manioc	55.14	52	51	43	63	54	-13.5	4.1
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	73.13	71	66	72	69	87	26.9	21.9
Yams	224.09	169	192	351	241	196	-18.5	16.1
Banana - green	118.47	74	67	117	78	76	-1.3	3.4
Banana, Ripe	128.86	83	104	104	101	80	-20.3	-3.0
Pawpaw	78.85	74	112	186	86	83	-2.8	12.9
Water Melon	184.57	155	271	245	204	222	8.6	43.4
Bowl Cabbage (white)	218.28	269	212	96	144	254	75.6	-5.8
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	209.97	0	380	124	164	0	-100.0	-
Carrots	164.80	294	274	192	256	278	8.6	-5.5
Chinese Cabbage	133.48	159	230	166	332	207	-37.6	30.5
Cucumbers	200.67	319	100	275	203	156	-23.2	-51.1
Pumpkin	145.18	144	100	87	115	195	69.4	35.3
Island Cabbage	218.16	88	165	368	188	98	-47.9	11.5
Lettuce	521.80	431	332	183	769	424	-44.9	-1.7
Tomatoes	312.23	854	240	146	324	693	113.5	-18.9
Dried coconuts	56.00	35	41	64	58	42	-27.3	20.7
Green coconuts	133.09	79	95	81	115	76	-34.2	-4.2

Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Vatu thousands)

PRODUCE	Total Value 2016	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from JUN18
Fiji Taro	38.6	63	78	71	10	52	418	-17
Island Taro	422.4	77	138	163	138	227	64	196
Manioc	113.8	58	39	38	54	41	-24	-29
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	281.1	161	103	155	136	91	-33	-44
Yams	216.0	260	192	161	55	409	638	57
Banana - green	130.3	177	102	52	89	151	68	-15
Banana, Ripe	256.3	210	204	59	79	151	92	-28
Pawpaw	206.0	84	157	107	60	80	35	-5
Water Melon	315.7	24	13	429	318	152	-52	545
Bowl Cabbage (white)	184.1	50	383	122	21	54	158	7
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	61.4	0	33	26	9	0	-100	-
Carrots	65.8	0	74	50	7	1	-88	264
Chinese Cabbage	309.5	69	143	52	92	114	24	66
Cucumbers	269.5	117	30	95	32	74	133	-37
Pumpkin	27.5	49	74	39	13	44	243	-9
Island Cabbage	166.4	22	26	59	37	30	-19	40
Lettuce	95.3	14	86	46	8	15	97	3
Tomatoes	241.9	19	184	172	57	39	-31	109
Dried coconuts	150.8	52	69	129	72	99	37	90
Green coconuts	168.2	46	83	41	49	40	-18	-13
	3720.4	1552	2209	2066	1336	1865	40	20

Table 4: Volume Index (2016 = 100)

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from JUN18
Fiji Taro	0.01	631	872	913	89	439	391	-30
Island Taro	0.11	101	159	197	131	223	71	121
Manioc	0.03	209	142	166	161	141	-12	-32
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	237	163	226	208	109	-47	-54
Yams	0.06	616	400	184	92	835	806	36
Banana - green	0.04	937	597	176	453	772	71	-18
Banana, Ripe	0.07	583	449	131	180	433	141	-26
Pawpaw	0.06	201	246	101	122	169	38	-16
Water Melon	0.08	34	11	390	348	153	-56	350
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	60	584	408	47	69	47	14
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	0	161	395	108	0	-100	-
Carrots	0.02	1	347	332	34	4	-89	283
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	80	114	58	51	101	99	27
Cucumbers	0.07	107	87	101	46	139	203	30
Pumpkin	0.01	753	1631	1012	249	504	102	-33
Island Cabbage	0.04	145	91	94	117	182	56	26
Lettuce	0.03	75	583	563	22	79	258	5
Tomatoes	0.07	11	388	594	88	29	-68	157
Dried coconuts	0.04	232	262	312	193	365	89	57
Green coconuts	0.05	188	283	164	137	171	25	-9
	1.00	215	266	248	146	230	58	7

Table 5: Price Index (2016 = 100)

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from JUN18
Fiji Taro	0.01	98	88	77	110	116	6	19
Island Taro	0.11	74	85	81	103	99	-4	34
Manioc	0.03	95	92	78	114	99	-14	4
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	98	91	98	94	119	27	22
Yams	0.06	75	86	157	107	88	-19	16
Banana - green	0.04	62	57	99	65	65	-1	3
Banana, Ripe	0.07	64	81	80	78	62	-20	-3
Pawpaw	0.06	94	142	236	109	106	-3	13
Water Melon	0.08	84	147	133	111	120	9	43
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	123	97	44	66	116	76	-6
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	0	181	59	78	0	-100	-
Carrots	0.02	178	166	117	155	169	9	-6
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	119	173	125	249	155	-38	30
Cucumbers	0.07	159	50	137	101	78	-23	-51
Pumpkin	0.01	99	69	60	79	134	69	35
Island Cabbage	0.04	40	76	168	86	45	-48	11
Lettuce	0.03	83	64	35	147	81	-45	-2
Tomatoes	0.07	273	77	47	104	222	114	-19
Dried coconuts	0.04	62	73	114	103	75	-27	21
Green coconuts	0.05	60	71	61	87	57	-34	-4
	1.00	101	98	107	111	105	-6	3

Table 6: Number of Sellers

PRODUCE	2016 AVE	JUN.18.AV	SEPT.18.AV	DEC.18.AV	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from JUN18
Fiji Taro	3	15	19	13	3	12	312	1
Island Taro	3	8	11	8	5	16	213	2
Manioc	8	21	18	14	10	16	68	1
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	11	38	26	25	19	24	25	1
Yams	4	24	16	9	5	27	447	1
Banana - green	9	53	40	14	23	46	104	1
Banana, Ripe	15	79	53	22	30	65	118	1
Pawpaw	14	55	44	18	21	43	103	1
Water Melon	1	1	1	4	2	2	-15	2
Bowl Cabbage (white)	4	4	38	26	2	6	230	2
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	2	0	5	9	2	0	-100	-
Carrots	1	0	18	10	2	1	-56	2
Chinese Cabbage	16	19	35	9	7	26	264	1
Cucumbers	10	20	20	15	11	24	114	1
Pumpkin	2	13	24	17	2	11	450	1
Island Cabbage	11	28	21	11	15	32	111	1
Lettuce	4	6	23	20	2	9	300	2
Tomatoes	7	4	39	42	10	9	-4	2
Dried coconuts	10	28	29	21	15	35	140	1
Green coconuts	5	26	27	15	12	22	85	1
	138	441	504	322	195	423	117	1

\*on the days surveyed

## **Annex I: Methodology**

The Market Survey is a new initiative which adds to the regular statistical releases from the Vanuatu National Statistics Office and it presents key findings on the average volume and price of commodities most commonly sold and bought at the main market in Port Vila. The information from this data will be beneficial for a variety of stakeholders to measure and understand the market rational between prices and quantity of the common selected products in the main market.

At the start, the Port Vila Central Market was the main focus. Base weights for selected agricultural produces were derived in 2016 using the 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and 2007 Agriculture Census. Since then, data collection was scheduled every fortnight to collect price, weights and count of 5 samples of these commodities.

There were 20 agricultural products currently being studied and these are grouped into 3 different categories i.e. Staple Produces, Fruits and Vegetables. The analysis is based on findings from the fortnightly collections and data entry which is averaged to calculate the quarterly Quantity Supplied (in Kilograms), Weighted Average Price per Kilogram, Value of supplies (in thousand vatu), Volume and Price Index and Number of Sellers per commodity.

The Market Survey data collection has recently expanded to Lenakel, Luganville and Manples market in late 2019 with inclusion of new commodities populating the markets recently. However, rebasing of base weights using updated HIES and Agriculture Census will make reporting possible in these new markets and for new additional produces.

