

## STATISTICAL UPDATE: **PORT VILA CENTRAL MARKET SURVEY**

### MARCH 2020

*The Port Vila Central Market Survey summarises selected agricultural produces sold at the main wet 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 March quarter of 2020 showed an overall Volume decrease of -56 percent on the supply of commodities while the average price increased by 31 percent compared to the previous quarter.

- ◆ Decrease in the volume of the local Vegetables such as Tomatoes, Bowl cabbages, Carrots, Lettuce, Pumpkin, Cucumbers, Chinese cabbage as well as Island & Fiji Taro, Manioc, Kumala, Green & Ripe Banana, Pawpaw, watermelon and Green & dried coconut supplied to the market contributed to the fall in overall volume index compared to previous quarter. The fall in commodity supplied was due to the covid-19 state of emergency which was effective from 26<sup>th</sup> March for 14 days and the relocation of market vendors following renovations that started in mid-march 2020.
- ◆ The value of commodities decreased by -53 percent at VT1.2 million.
- ◆ An average of 304 sellers were recorded for the quarter under review. This is a decrease of -35 percent from the previous quarter and an increase of 56 percent compared to March 2019.

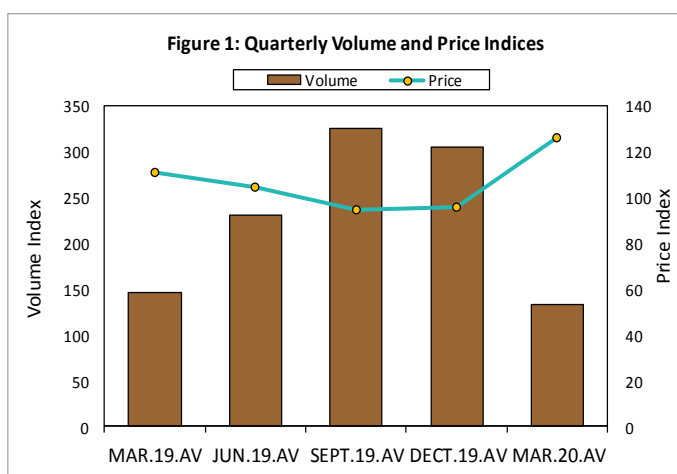
#### OVERVIEW

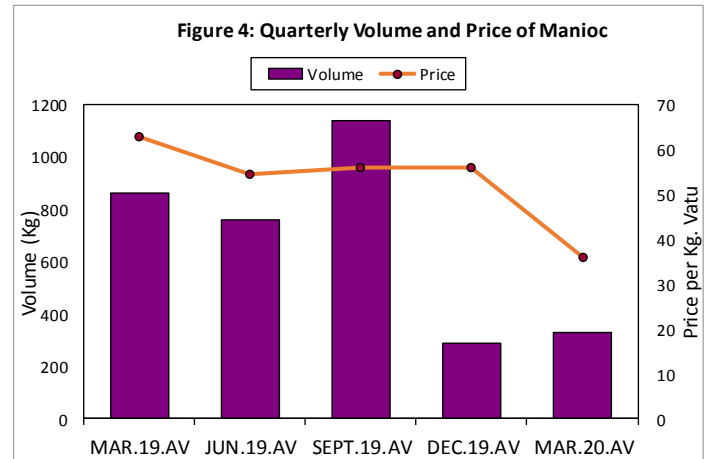
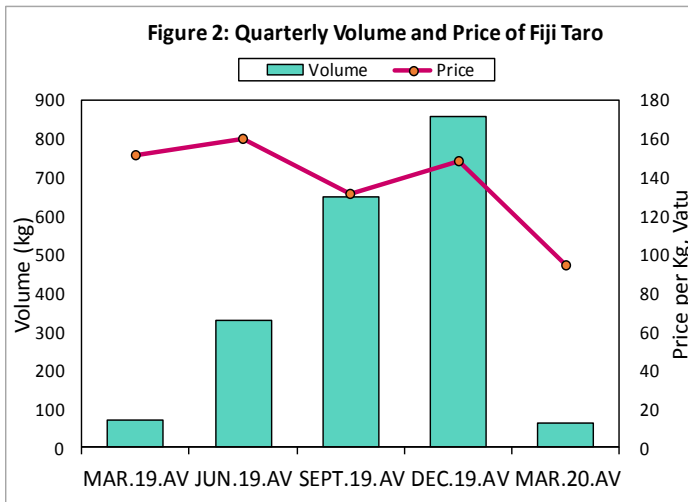
The Port Vila Market Survey in March quarter 2020 showed an overall volume decrease of -56 percent from the previous quarter. Most of the agricultural produces recorded a decrease with the exception of Manioc, Yam and Island Cabbage. When compared to the corresponding quarter of previous year, the overall quantity supplied also fell by -9 percent. (Refer to table 4).

The overall price increased by 31 percent compared to the previous quarter. Higher prices were recorded for Chinese cabbage, Cucumber, White bowl cabbage, Tomato, Island taro, Carrot, Pumpkin, Pawpaw, Watermelon, Lettuce and Yam contributed to the decrease in price index. Compared to March quarter of 2019, the current overall price level is higher at 13 percent. (Refer to table 5).

#### FIJI TARO

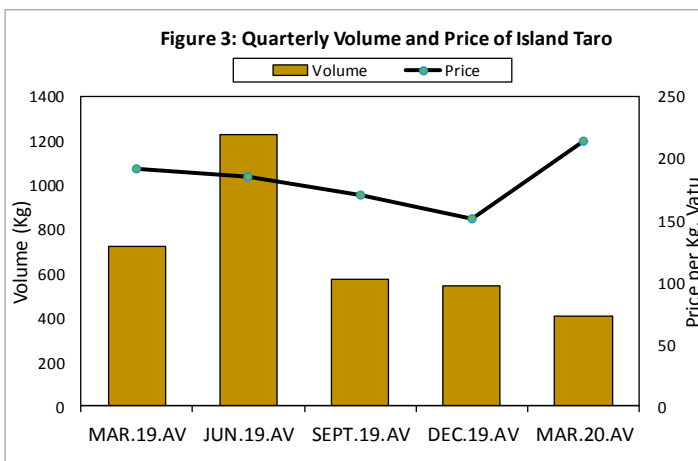
The supply of Fiji Taro decreased significantly by -93 percent from the previous quarter however average price per kilogram also fell by -37 percent. Compared to March 2019, the supply of Fiji Taro decreased by -12 while average price fell by -38 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).





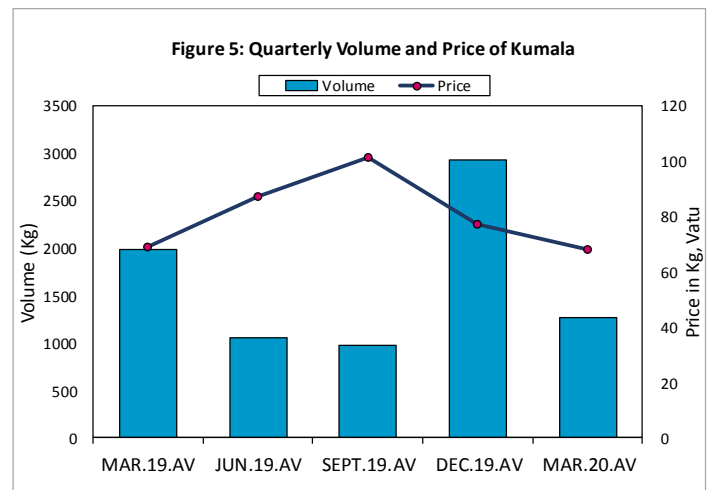
**ISLAND TARO**

The volume of Island Taro supplied to Port Vila Central Market in March 2020 decreased by -25 percent compared to previous quarter. However, the average price of Island Taro increased by 42 percent. Compared with March 2019, the volume of Island Taro was -44 percent lower while its average price was 12 percent higher. (Refer to table 1 & 2).



**KUMALA (SWEET POTATO)**

Kumala or Sweet Potato recorded a fall in average volume supplied of -57 percent compared to the previous quarter. Even with the decreased availability, the average price also decreased by -12 percent. Compared with same quarter of previous year, the volume of Kumala decreased by -37 percent while the average price is -1 percent lower. (Refer to table 1 & 2).

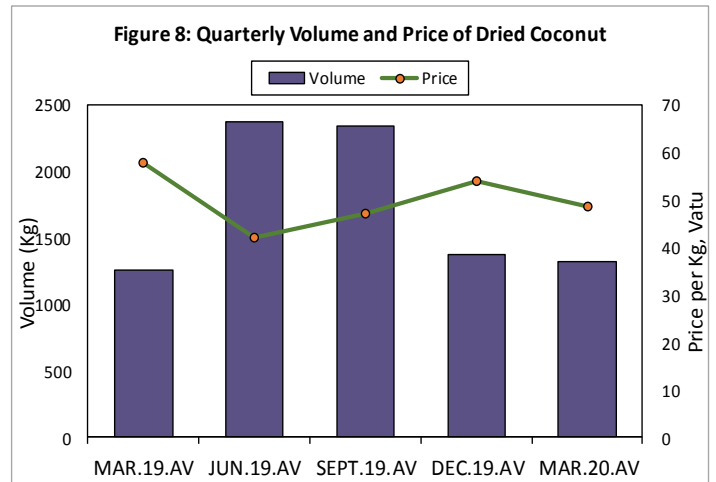
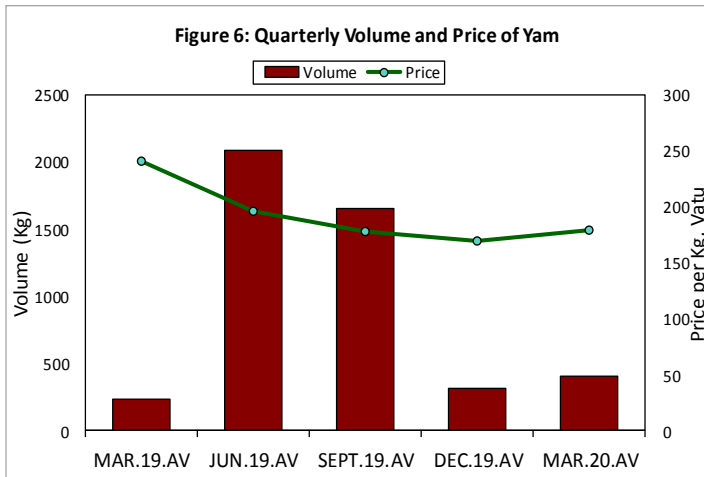


**MANIOC**

The current supply of Manioc in the quarter under review increased by 14 percent compared to March 2019 but the average price fell by -36 percent. When compared with March 2019, the volume of Manioc decreased by -62 percent and the average price also fell by -43 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).

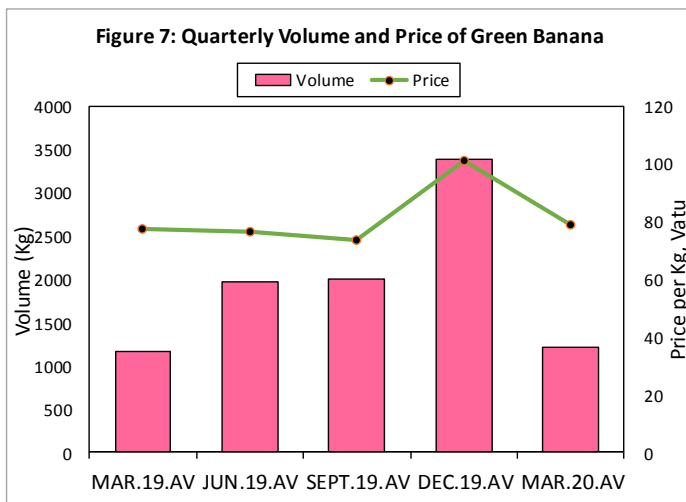
**YAM**

The supply of Yam in the quarter under review increased by 31 percent compared with December quarter of 2019. Average price also increased slightly by 6 percent in this period. Likewise, the current availability of Yam increased by 75 percent in the same quarter of previous year while average price fell by -26 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).



**GREEN BANANA**

March 2020 recorded a decrease of -64 percent compared with the previous quarter and the average price also fell by -22 percent. Compared with March of 2019, the average quantity of Green Banana supplied to Port Vila Market increased slightly by 5 percent and average price is 2 percent higher. (Refer to table 1 & 2).

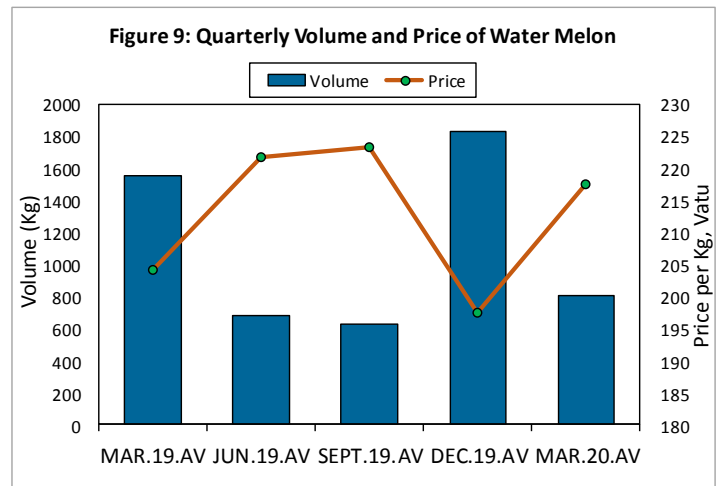


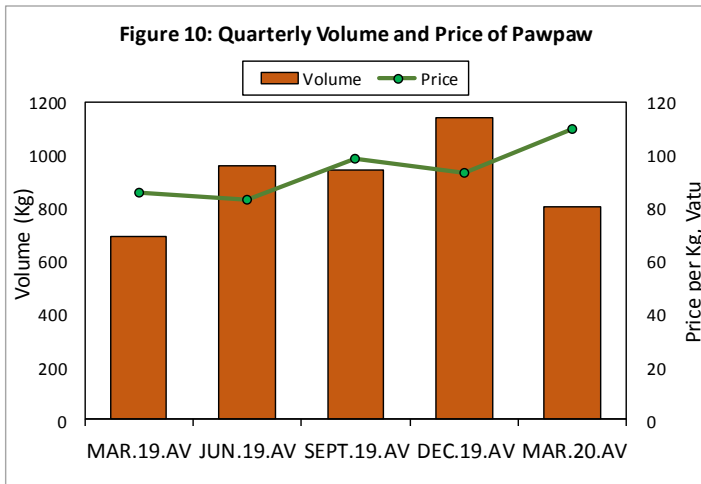
**DRIED COCONUTS**

At an average of 1323 Kilograms, Dried Coconut supply decreased slightly by -3 percent compared with the previous quarter and average price also decreased by -10 percent. Current availability was 6 percent higher in December quarter of 2019 and average price decreased by -16 percent. (Refer to table 1 & 2).

**FRUITS**

An overview of Fruits supplied to Port Vila Central Market in the first quarter of 2020 showed a decrease of Ripe banana at -18 percent, Pawpaw at -30 percent, Watermelon at -56 percent and Green coconut at -21 percent. Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the supply of fruits that increased were Green coconut at 18 percent, Pawpaw at 16 percent and Ripe banana by 992 Kilograms. However, Watermelon decreased by -48 percent. (Refer to table 1).





percent followed by Pawpaw at 28 percent and Watermelon at 7 percent. (Refer to table 2).

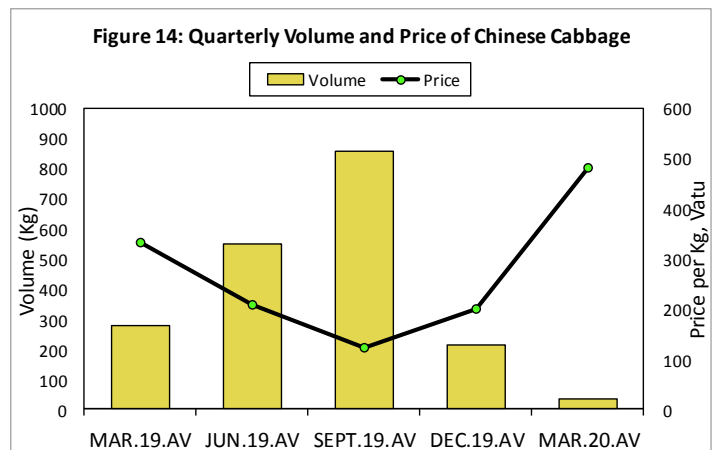
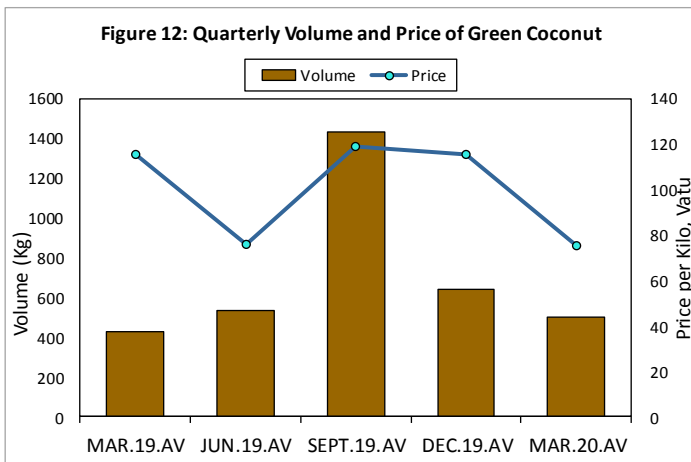
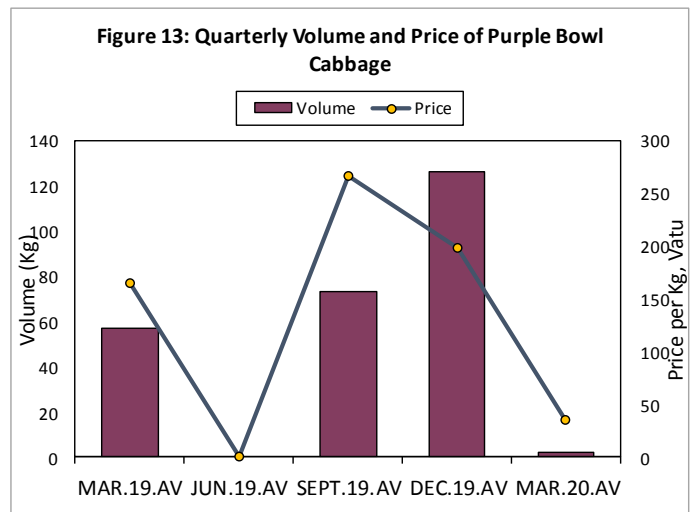
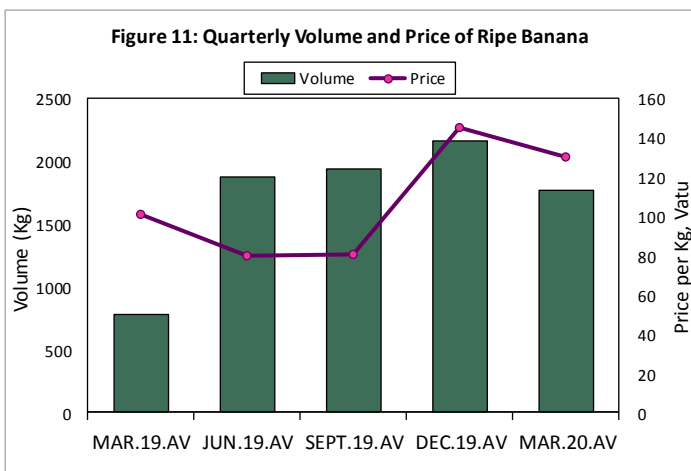
**VEGETABLE PRODUCES**

Vegetable summary in the quarter under review showed that the volume of almost all vegetable decreased with the exception of Island cabbage which increased by 64 percent compared to previous quarter.

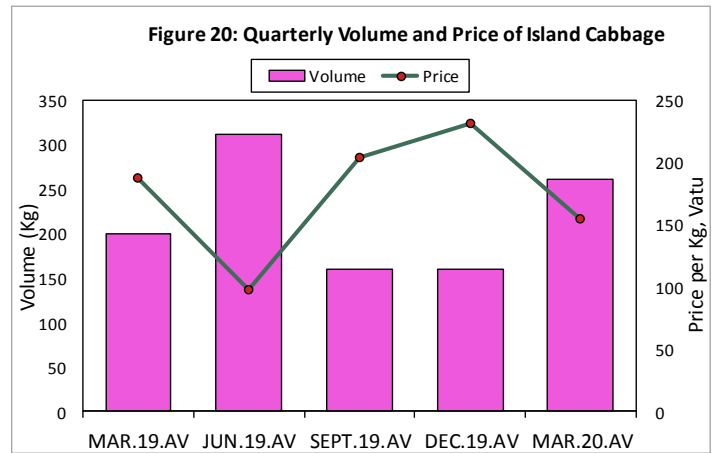
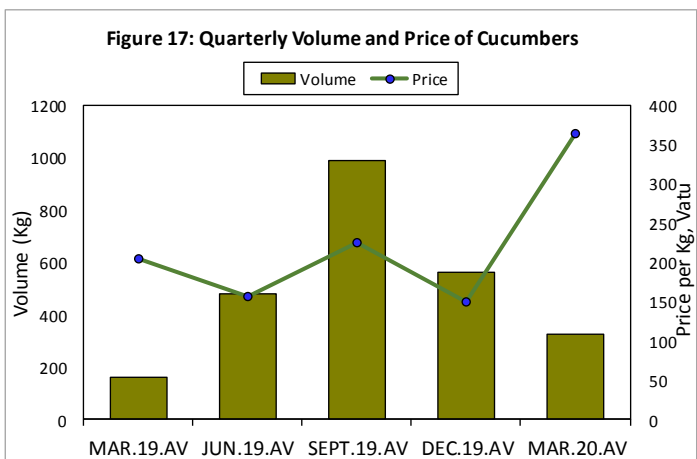
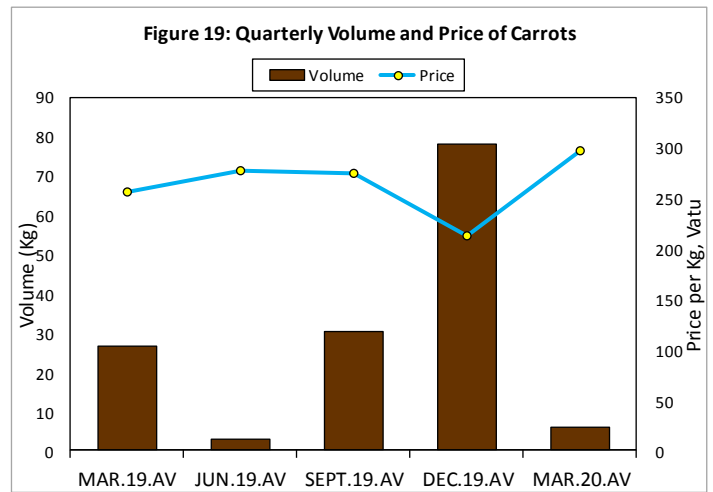
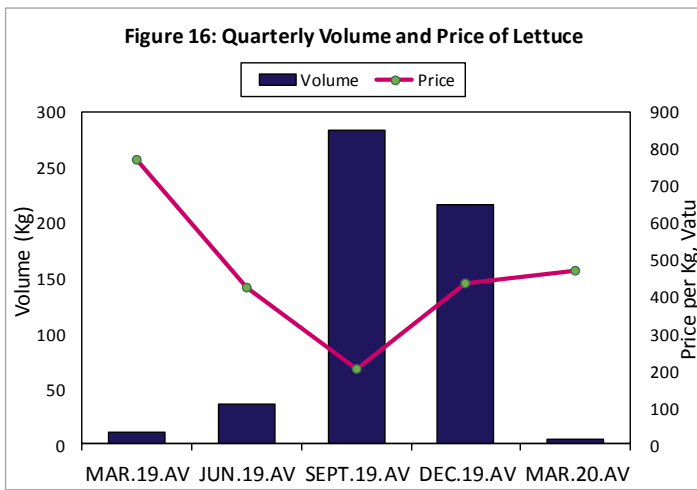
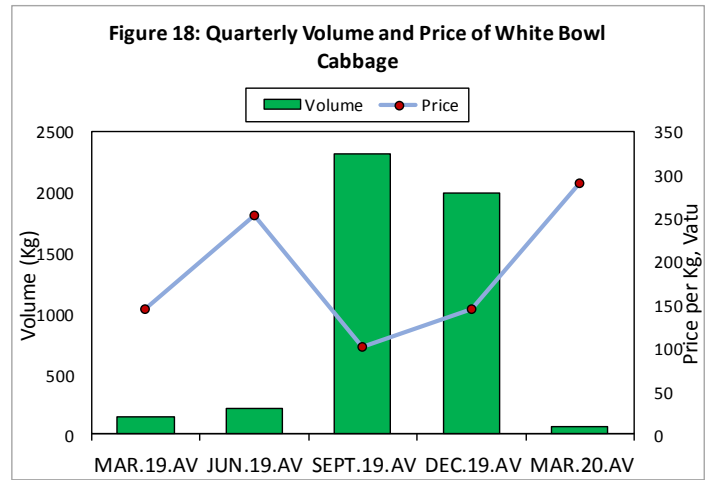
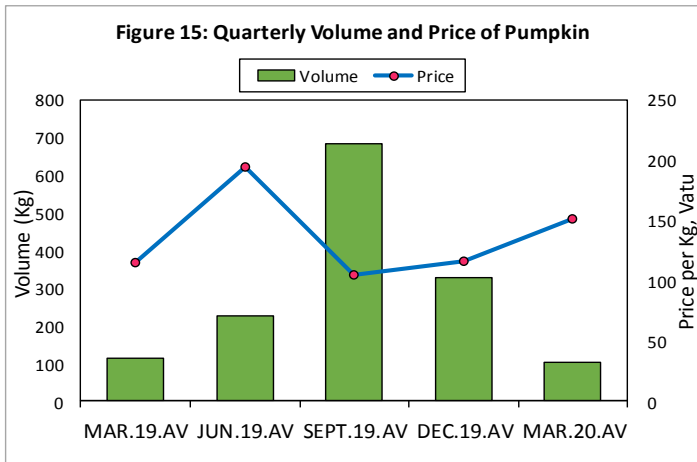
Compared to March 2019, rise in volume was recorded only for Cucumbers and Island cabbage at 163 Kilograms and 61 Kilograms in that order. (Refer to table 1).

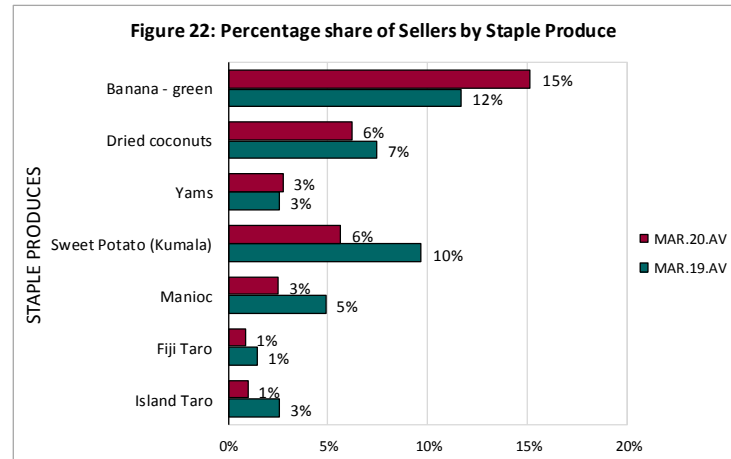
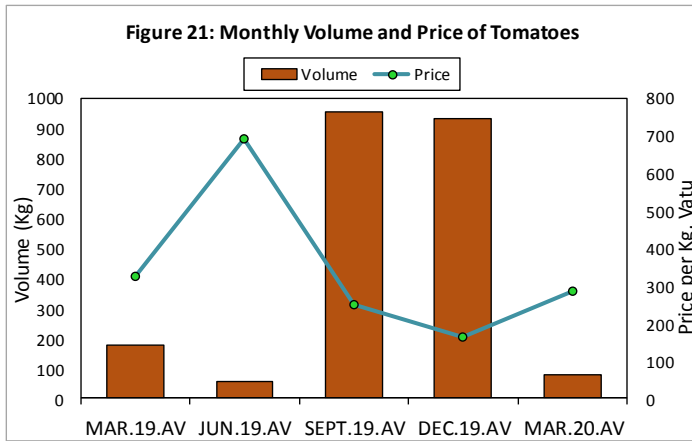
The average price per kilograms in March 2020 increased for all Vegetable produces except Purple bowl cabbage and Island cabbage at -82 percent and -33 percent respectively compared to December 2019.

Compared to the same quarter of 2019, average price per kilograms decreased for Lettuce at -39 percent, Island cabbage at -17 and Tomato at -12 percent. Average price of the rest of the Vegetables increased in the same period. (Refer to table 2).



The average price per kilograms of Pawpaw and Watermelon increased by 18 percent and 10 percent respectively while Ripe banana and Green coconut average prices fell by -35 percent and -10 percent respectively compared to previous quarter. When compared with March quarter of 2019, the average prices of all fruits increased except Green coconut which fell by -35 percent. Ripe Banana average price increased by 29

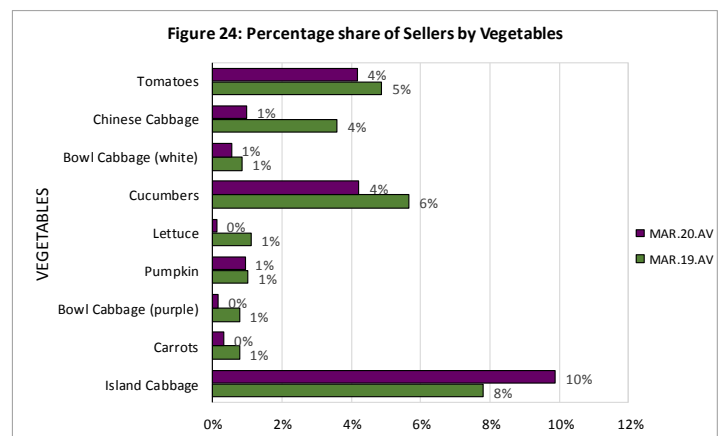
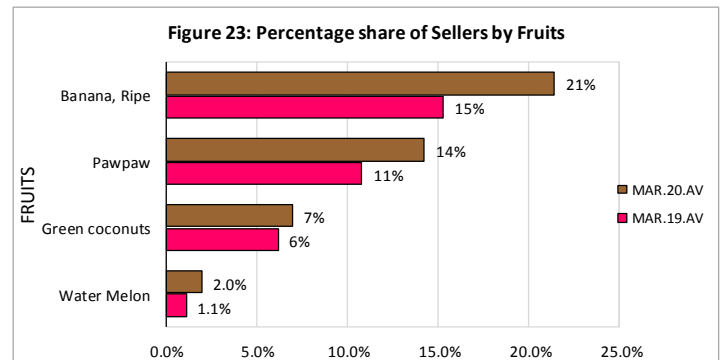




**SELLERS PER PRODUCE**

March quarter of 2020 recorded a total of 304 sellers<sup>1</sup> at the Port Vila Central Market. This is -35 percent lower from the previous quarter and an increase of 56 percent in the corresponding quarter of previous year. (Refer to table 6).

Sellers per produce recorded Ripe banana sellers to be the highest in March quarter of 2020 with 21 percent share. This is a decrease of -4 percent and increase of 119 percent in December 2019 and March 2019 correspondingly. The second largest share of sellers were Green banana and Pawpaw sellers at 15 percent and 14 percent respectively. Green banana sellers decreased by -10 percent and Pawpaw sellers also fell by -24 percent compared to previous quarter while both increased in the same quarter of last year. Island cabbage sellers contributed to 10 percent share in the quarter reviewed. This is an increase of 42 percent and 98 percent of sellers respectively in December 2019 and March 2019. Green coconuts sellers registered a share of 7 percent while Kumala and Dried coconut sellers contributed to 6 percent each. Green coconut, Kumala and Dried coconut sellers decreased compared to previous quarter by -42 percent, -30 percent and -10 percent correspondingly. Compared to the same quarter of last year, Green coconut and Dried coconut sellers increased by 76 percent and 30 percent while Kumala sellers decreased by -19 percent. The rest of the commodities recorded a less than 5 percent share of sellers.

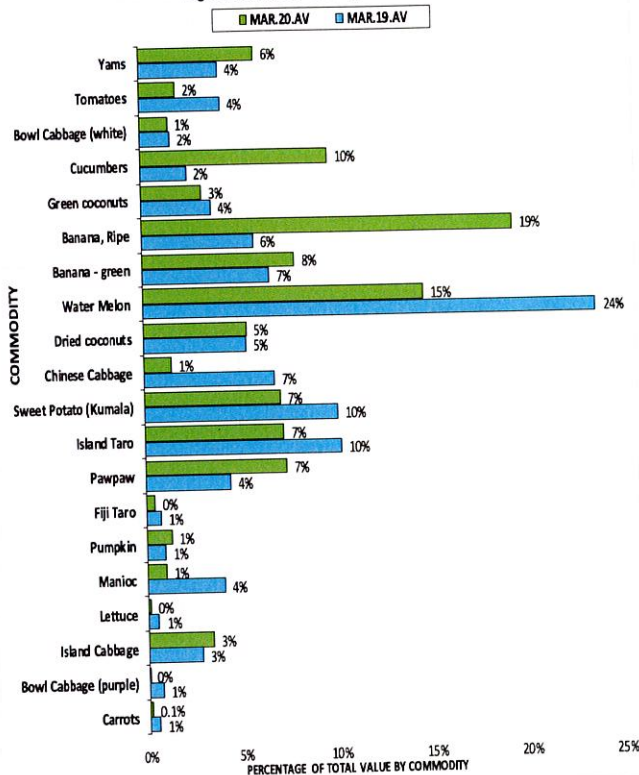


**VALUE OF SUPPLIES**

The average value of commodities at the Port Vila Market in the referenced quarter is VT1.2 million, a decrease of -53 percent over December 2019 and was also -11 percent lower compared to same quarter of previous year. (Refer to table 3).

<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

Figure 25: Share of Value by Produces



percent respectively. The rest of the commodities recorded below 5 percent share of value in the period under review.

**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.

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

**NEXT UPDATE (QUARTERLY)**

**RELEASE DATE**

June 2020

7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**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

The value of Ripe Banana at 19 percent contributed largely to the overall share of commodity in March 2020. This is a decrease of VT84,000 in the previous quarter and an increase of VT152,000 compared to March 2019. Watermelon recorded the second largest share of value at 15 percent however its value decreased over December 2019 and March 2019 at -52 percent and -45 percent correspondingly. Cucumber contributed to 10 percent of overall share. It increased by VT33,000 in the previous quarter and also increased by VT85,000 in the same quarter of last year. Green banana contributed 8 percent share of value which declined by -72 percent over December 2019 and increased by 7 percent over March 2019. Island taro, Kumala and Pawpaw contributed 7 percent each towards overall value. Island taro increased by 7 percent in the previous quarter while Kumala and Pawpaw decreased by -62 percent and -17 percent respectively. Compared to same quarter of last year, Pawpaw increased by 48 percent while Island taro and Kumala decreased by -37 percent each. The value of Yam registered a share of 6 percent and increased both in previous year and in March 2019 by 39 percent and 30

*(Handwritten signature)*  
 Mr. KAP Calo Andy  
**Government Statistician**

### SUMMARY OF MARKET SURVEY

**Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)**

PRODUCE	2016.AVG	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	MAR.20.AV	Mar-20	
							% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR19
Fiji Taro	74	66	326	647	855	58	-93	-12
Island Taro	550	720	1228	572	539	407	-25	-44
Manioc	534	859	756	1138	287	326	14	-62
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	954	1982	1043	971	2920	1254	-57	-37
Yams	250	230	2088	1651	308	404	31	75
Banana - green	255	1155	1969	2004	3385	1209	-64	5
Banana, Ripe	435	781	1881	1941	2163	1772	-18	127
Pawpaw	568	694	961	944	1141	803	-30	16
Water Melon	448	1557	685	628	1828	803	-56	-48
Bowl Cabbage (white)	309	145	213	2312	1991	60	-97	-59
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	53	57	0	73	126	2	-98	-96
Carrots	78	26	3	30	78	6	-92	-78
Chinese Cabbage	543	276	549	857	212	36	-83	-87
Cucumbers	343	158	477	987	562	321	-43	104
Pumpkin	45	112	227	683	328	101	-69	-10
Island Cabbage	171	200	311	160	159	261	64	31
Lettuce	45	10	35	284	216	3	-98	-65
Tomatoes	198	175	57	952	933	79	-92	-55
Dried coconuts	650	1253	2371	2344	1369	1323	-3	6
Green coconuts	309	424	529	1430	637	500	-21	18

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

PRODUCE	2016.AVE	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng	
							from prev qtr	from MAR19
Fiji Taro	137.18	151	160	131	148	94	-36.7	-38.0
Island Taro	185.86	192	185	169	151	214	42.0	11.5
Manioc	55.14	63	54	56	56	36	-36.2	-43.3
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	73.13	69	87	101	77	68	-11.8	-1.2
Yams	224.09	241	196	178	169	179	5.9	-25.7
Banana - green	118.47	78	76	74	101	79	-22.1	1.7
Banana, Ripe	128.86	101	80	81	145	130	-10.4	29.2
Pawpaw	78.85	86	83	99	93	110	18.1	28.2
Water Melon	184.57	204	222	223	197	218	10.2	6.6
Bowl Cabbage (white)	218.28	144	254	102	144	290	100.9	100.7
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	209.97	164	0	267	198	35	-82.4	-78.9
Carrots	164.80	256	278	275	213	297	39.7	16.1
Chinese Cabbage	133.48	332	207	122	201	481	139.2	44.8
Cucumbers	200.67	203	156	224	149	364	144.4	79.3
Pumpkin	145.18	115	195	105	117	152	30.0	31.9
Island Cabbage	218.16	188	98	204	231	155	-33.1	-17.5
Lettuce	521.80	769	424	202	435	470	8.0	-38.9
Tomatoes	312.23	324	693	250	162	286	76.9	-11.9
Dried coconuts	56.00	58	42	47	54	49	-9.8	-15.6
Green coconuts	133.09	115	76	119	115	75	-34.6	-34.6

**Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Vatu thousands)**

PRODUCE	Total Value 2016	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng	
							from prev qtr	from MAR19
Fiji Taro	38.6	10	52	85	127	5	-96	-46
Island Taro	422.4	138	227	97	81	87	7	-37
Manioc	113.8	54	41	64	16	12	-28	-78
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	281.1	136	91	98	224	85	-62	-37
Yams	216.0	55	409	294	52	72	39	30
Banana - green	130.3	89	151	148	343	95	-72	7
Banana, Ripe	256.3	79	151	156	314	231	-27	193
Pawpaw	206.0	60	80	93	106	88	-17	48
Water Melon	315.7	318	152	140	361	175	-52	-45
Bowl Cabbage (white)	184.1	21	54	235	287	17	-94	-17
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	61.4	9	0	20	25	0	-100	-99
Carrots	65.8	7	1	8	17	2	-89	-74
Chinese Cabbage	309.5	92	114	105	43	17	-60	-81
Cucumbers	269.5	32	74	221	84	117	39	265
Pumpkin	27.5	13	44	72	38	15	-60	19
Island Cabbage	166.4	37	30	33	37	40	10	8
Lettuce	95.3	8	15	57	94	2	-98	-78
Tomatoes	241.9	57	39	238	151	22	-85	-60
Dried coconuts	150.8	72	99	110	74	64	-13	-11
Green coconuts	168.2	49	40	170	73	38	-49	-23
	3720.4	1336	1865	2444	2547	1185	-53	-11

\*on the days surveyed



**Table 4: Volume Index (2016 = 100)**

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR19
Fiji Taro	0.01	89	439	871	1151	79	-93	-12
Island Taro	0.11	131	223	104	98	74	-25	-44
Manioc	0.03	161	141	213	54	61	14	-62
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	208	109	102	306	131	-57	-37
Yams	0.06	92	835	660	123	161	31	75
Banana - green	0.04	453	772	786	1328	474	-64	5
Banana, Ripe	0.07	180	433	447	498	408	-18	127
Pawpaw	0.06	122	169	166	201	141	-30	16
Water Melon	0.08	348	153	140	408	179	-56	-48
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	47	69	748	644	19	-97	-59
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	108	0	138	238	4	-98	-96
Carrots	0.02	34	4	39	100	8	-92	-78
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	51	101	158	39	7	-83	-87
Cucumbers	0.07	46	139	287	164	94	-43	104
Pumpkin	0.01	249	504	1518	729	225	-69	-10
Island Cabbage	0.04	117	182	93	93	153	64	31
Lettuce	0.03	22	79	635	484	8	-98	-65
Tomatoes	0.07	88	29	481	471	40	-92	-55
Dried coconuts	0.04	193	365	360	211	203	-3	6
Green coconuts	0.05	137	171	462	206	162	-21	18
	1.00	146	230	325	305	133	-56	-9

**Table 5: Price Index (2016 = 100)**

PRODUCE	2016 Weights	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR19
Fiji Taro	0.01	110	116	96	108	68	-37	-38
Island Taro	0.11	103	99	91	81	115	42	12
Manioc	0.03	114	99	101	101	65	-36	-43
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	0.08	94	119	138	105	93	-12	-1
Yams	0.06	107	88	79	75	80	6	-26
Banana - green	0.04	65	65	62	85	67	-22	2
Banana, Ripe	0.07	78	62	63	113	101	-10	29
Pawpaw	0.06	109	106	125	118	139	18	28
Water Melon	0.08	111	120	121	107	118	10	7
Bowl Cabbage (white)	0.05	66	116	47	66	133	101	101
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	0.02	78	0	127	94	17	-82	-79
Carrots	0.02	155	169	167	129	180	40	16
Chinese Cabbage	0.08	249	155	91	151	360	139	45
Cucumbers	0.07	101	78	112	74	182	144	79
Pumpkin	0.01	79	134	72	80	104	30	32
Island Cabbage	0.04	86	45	93	106	71	-33	-17
Lettuce	0.03	147	81	39	83	90	8	-39
Tomatoes	0.07	104	222	80	52	92	77	-12
Dried coconuts	0.04	103	75	84	96	87	-10	-16
Green coconuts	0.05	87	57	89	87	57	-35	-35
	1.00	111	105	95	96	126	31	13

**Table 6: Number of Sellers**

PRODUCE	2016 AVE	MAR.19.AV	JUN.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from prev qtr	% chng from MAR19
Fiji Taro	3	3	12	19	12	3	-77	-6
Island Taro	3	5	16	11	9	3	-66	-40
Manioc	8	10	16	20	8	8	-6	-19
Sweet Potato (Kumala)	11	19	24	21	25	17	-30	-9
Yams	4	5	27	24	8	8	4	67
Banana - green	9	23	46	51	51	46	-10	103
Banana, Ripe	15	30	65	64	68	65	-4	119
Pawpaw	14	21	43	47	57	43	-24	106
Water Melon	1	2	2	2	4	6	38	177
Bowl Cabbage (white)	4	2	6	39	22	2	-93	0
Bowl Cabbage (purple)	2	2	0	5	11	1	-95	-67
Carrots	1	2	1	4	7	1	-85	-33
Chinese Cabbage	16	7	26	40	9	3	-66	-57
Cucumbers	10	11	24	31	24	13	-47	17
Pumpkin	2	2	11	24	13	3	-77	42
Island Cabbage	11	15	32	20	21	30	42	98
Lettuce	4	2	9	30	14	0	-98	-85
Tomatoes	7	10	9	49	45	13	-72	33
Dried coconuts	10	15	35	33	21	19	-10	30
Green coconuts	5	12	22	34	36	21	-42	76
	138	195	423	567	464	304	-35	56

*\*on the days surveyed*