



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY MARCH 2023

This report provides a monthly review of selected agricultural produce available at the Local Markets in Upolu and Savaii based on the price data and volume index survey. Corresponding tables are attached for ease of reference.

Key findings:

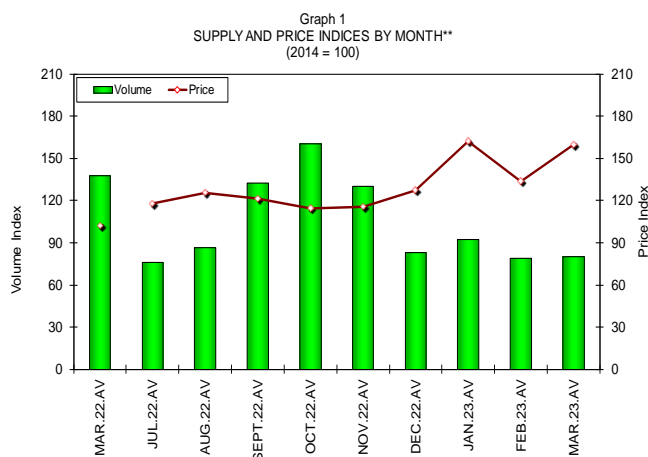
The Local Market Survey in March 2023 showed that the overall volume increased slightly by 1 percent while average prices rose to 20 percent due to the increase in domestic demand for some major produce when compared to February 2023.

- Significant increase in the supplies of some agricultural produce strongly contributed to the rise in the volume index.
- The value of supplies rose 5 percent to \$74,500 from the previous month.
- The total number of sellers fell 13 percent to 212 in March 2023 from the 245 recorded in February 2023.

Issue: 01/03/23

OVERVIEW

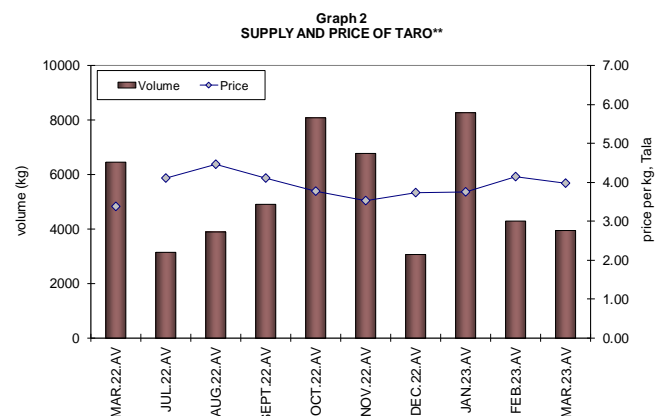
The monthly survey of Agricultural food supplies at the local markets by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics in March 2023 showed that overall volume increased 1 percent from February 2023. This was due to the increases in the volume of some agricultural produce supplied to the markets such as ta'amu, head cabbage, tomato, Chinese cabbage and pumpkin. When compared to March 2022, current supply fell 42 percent. (See Graph 1 and Tables 4 & 5)



The overall price index rose 20 percent from the previous month due to the increase in demand for ta'amu, tomato and pumpkin. When compared with March 2022, the current overall price level rose 56 percent.

TARO

The volume of taro supplied to the local markets in March 2023 fell 8 percent to 3,942 kilograms from February 2023; a level that was 34 percent lower than its supply in the same month last year. The average price of taro decreased 4 percent (to \$3.97 per kilogram). When compared to February 2022, current price of taro increased 18 percent. (See Graph 2 and Tables 1&2)

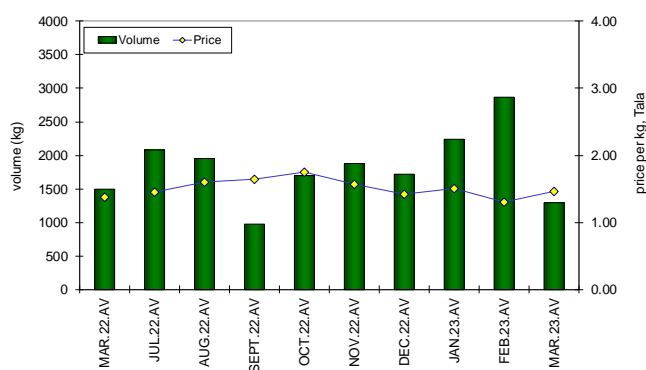


Taro supply dropped 3 percent in the twelve-month period ending March 2023 in comparison to the twelve-month period ending March 2022. However, its price rose 42 percent.

BANANA

The supply of banana to the local markets in March fell 55 percent (to 1,297 kilograms) from February 2023 while its average price went up by 12 percent (to \$1.47 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year, current supply of banana and its average price increased 91 percent and 6 percent respectively. (See Graph 3 and Tables 1&2).

Graph 3
SUPPLY AND PRICE OF BANANA**

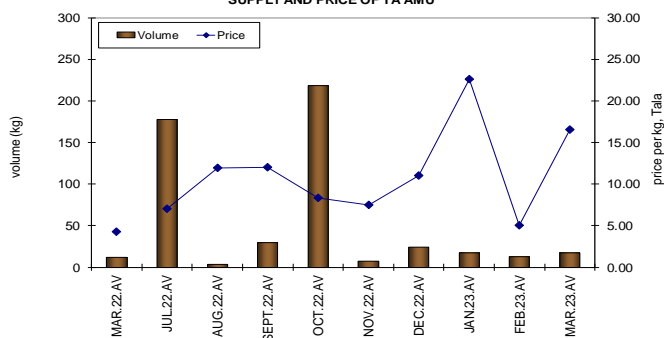


Annually, banana supplies were 4 percent lower compared to the year ended March 2022. However, its average price increased 29 percent.

TA'AMU

At an average of 17 kilograms, ta'amu supply in March 2023 increased 36 percent. Its average price was more than tripled (to \$16.51 per kilogram) in price in the previous month. Current supply of ta'amu increased 9 percent while average price has more than tripled compared to March 2022. (See Graph 4 and Tables 1&2)

Graph 4
SUPPLY AND PRICE OF TA'AMU**

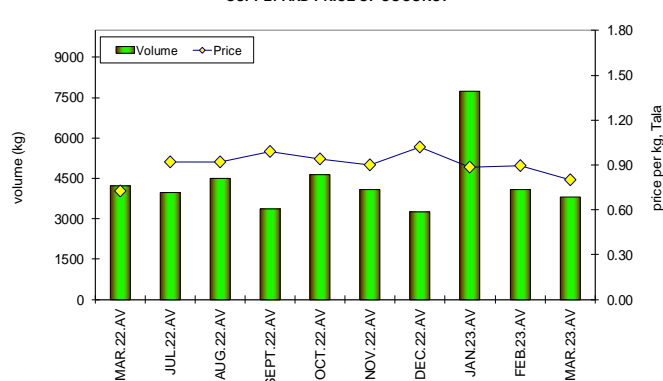


In the year ending March 2023, volume of ta'amu supplied to the markets decreased 34 percent while its price increased more than two times in comparison to its price in the year ending March 2022.

COCONUT

Coconut supplies at 3,796 kilograms decreased 7 percent from February 2023 while weakened demand pushed its average price down by 11 percent (to 0.80 per kilogram). In comparison to March 2022, current supply of coconut fell 3 percent while its average price increased by 11 percent. (See Graph 5 and Tables 1&2)

Graph 5
SUPPLY AND PRICE OF COCONUT**

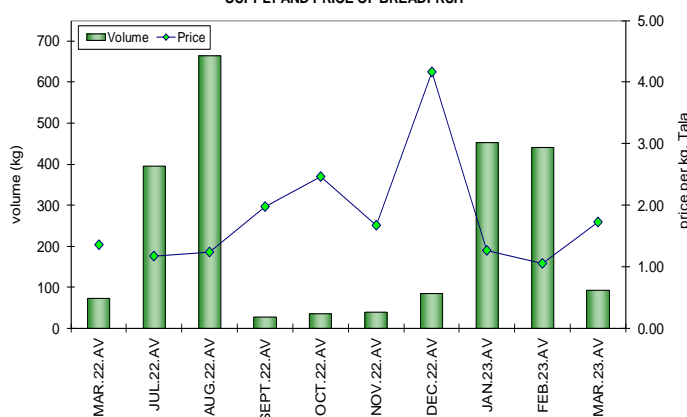


In the twelve months ending March 2023, supply of coconut was 2 percent lower while its average price rose 3 percent when compared to the twelve months ending March 2022.

BREADFRUIT

The volume of breadfruit supply in March 2023 dropped 79 percent (to 92 kilograms) from the previous month while limited availability led to the rise in average price by 63 percent (to \$1.72 per kilogram). When compared to March 2022, current supply of breadfruit has more than doubled while its average price rose 28 percent. (See Graph 6 and Tables 1&2)

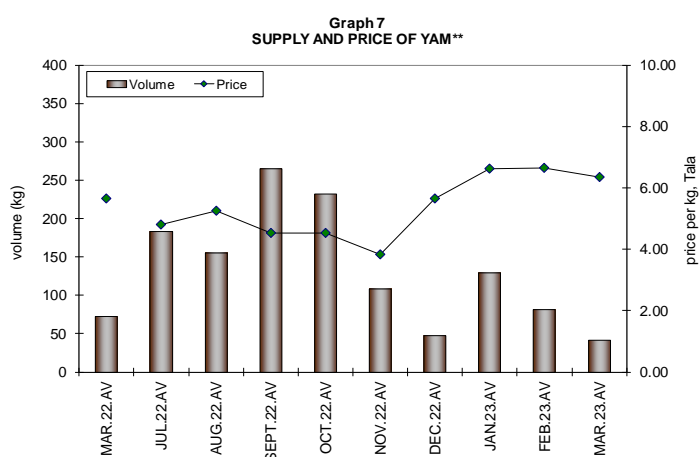
Graph 6
SUPPLY AND PRICE OF BREADFRUIT**



Annually, supply of breadfruit fell 12 percent while its average price rose 27 percent over the year ended March 2022.

YAM

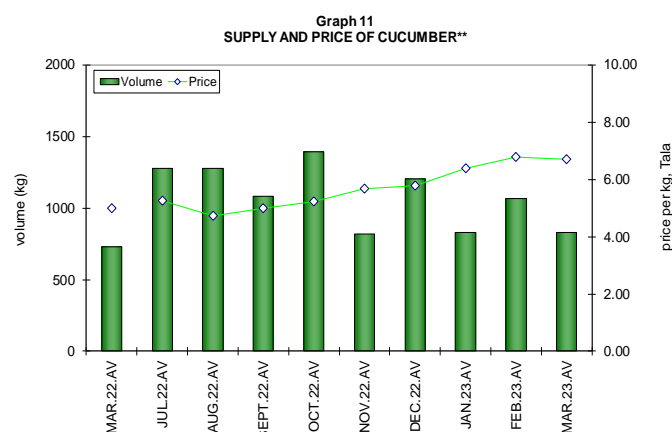
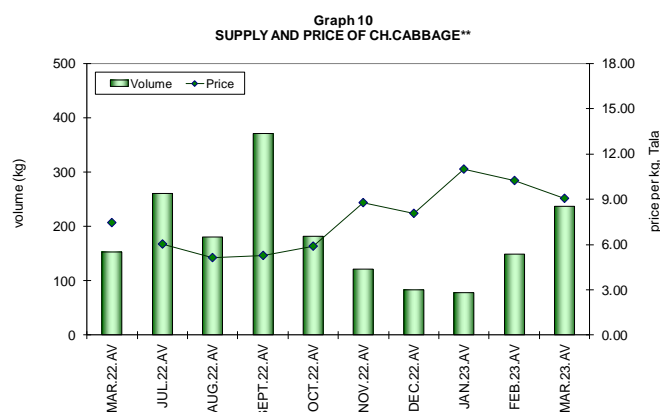
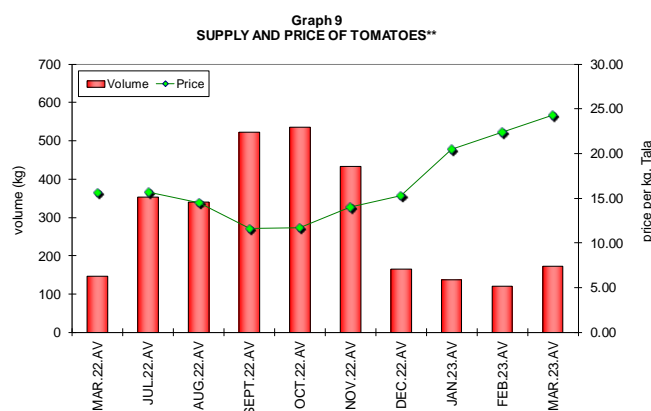
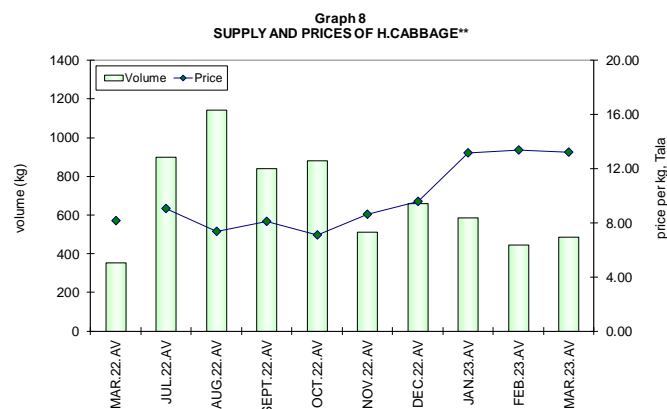
Yam supplies at 41 kilograms decreased 49 percent from the previous month, while its average price decreased by 5 percent (to \$6.34 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year, current supply of yam and its average price both increased by 13 and 12 percent respectively. (See Graph 7 and Tables 1 & 2)

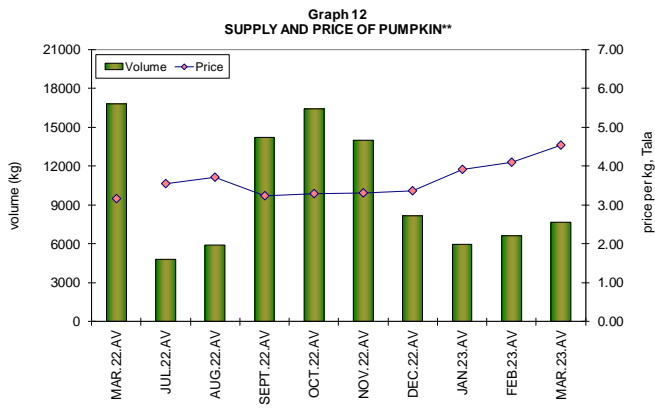


Supply of yam in the twelve months ending March 2023 increased 3 percent in comparison to the twelve months ending March 2022. Its average price rose 29 percent.

VEGETABLE PRODUCE

The supply of the majority of vegetable produce at the local markets in February 2023 experienced significant increases with the exception of cucumber which declined by 22 percent (to 830 kilograms) from the previous month. Chinese cabbage registered the largest increase of 59 percent (to 237 kilograms) followed by tomato increasing 43 percent (to 173 kilograms). Pumpkin increased by 16 percent (to 7,660 kilograms) while head cabbage rose 10 percent (to 487 kilograms) when compared to the previous month. (See Graphs 8 to 12 and Tables 1 & 2)

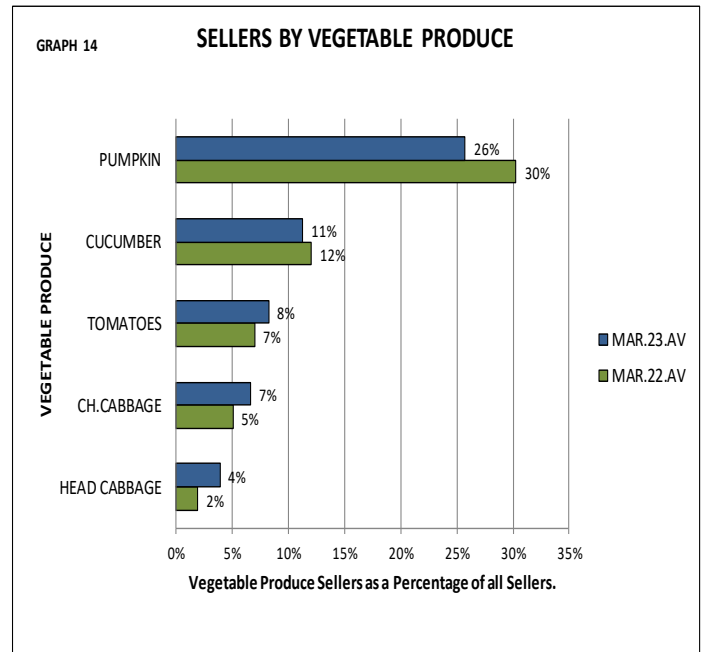
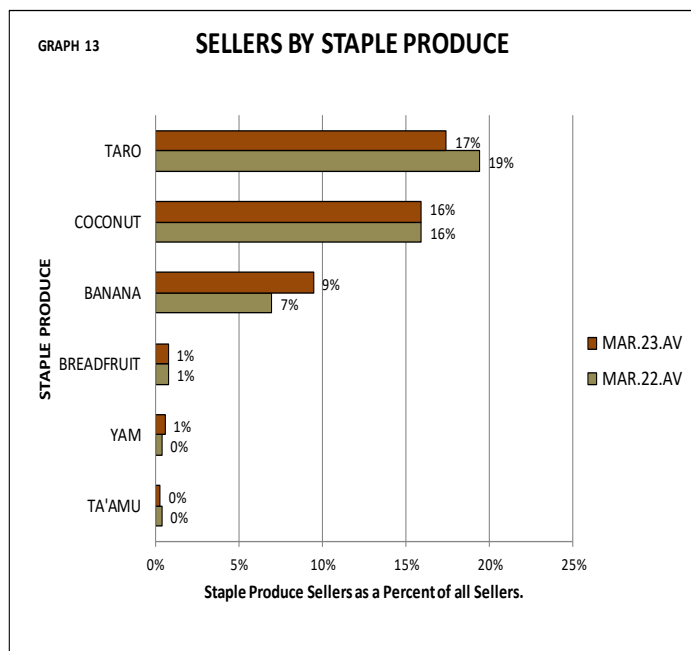




The prices for most of the vegetable produce fell with the exception of pumpkin and tomato whose prices increased by 11 percent (to \$4.55 per kilogram) and 8 percent (to \$24.32 per kilogram) respectively when compared to the previous month. Prices for Chinese cabbage fell 11 percent (to \$9.06 per kilogram), head cabbage went down by 1 percent (to \$13.23 per kilogram) and cucumber down 1 percent (to \$6.70 per kilogram) when compared to March 2022.

SELLERS

At 212, the number of sellers at the local markets on the days surveyed in March 2023 decreased by 13 percent from the previous month and down 18 percent when compared with the number of sellers in the same month a year ago. (See Graphs 13 and 14 and Table 6).



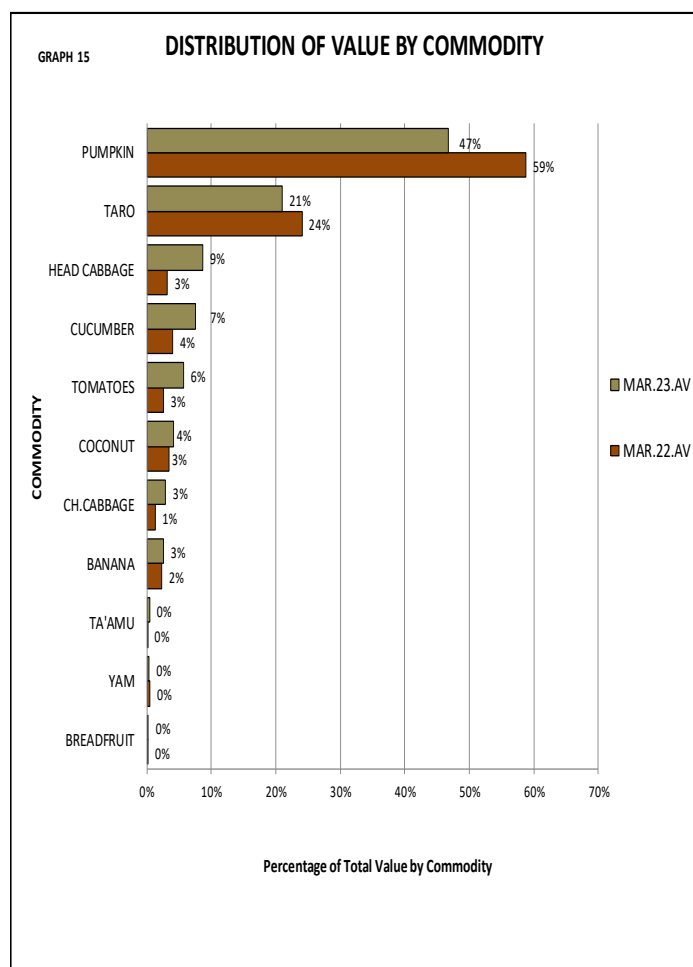
In March 2023, pumpkin sellers at 54 were the largest group at the local markets, remaining unchanged from the previous month but were lower than the 78 in the same month last year. Taro sellers followed with a total of 37 decreasing from the 41 last month and 50 in the same month a year ago. Coconut sellers recorded a total of 34, down from the 37 in the previous month and the 41 in the same month a year ago. The number of cucumber sellers was 24, decreasing from the 28 in the previous month and 31 in the same month a year ago. Banana sellers recorded a total of 20 decreasing from the 37 in the previous month but were higher than the 18 in the same month a year ago.

Tomato sellers of 17 recorded an increase from the 16 in the previous month but were lower than 18 in the same month a year ago. Chinese cabbage with a total number of sellers at 14 rose from the 12 in the previous month and the 13 in the same month a year ago.

Head cabbage sellers at 8, decreased from the 10 in the previous month but were higher than the 5 in the same month a year ago. Breadfruit sellers recorded a total of 2, decreasing from the 7 in February 2023 but remained unchanged compared to March 2022. Ta'amu and yam sellers both recorded a total of 1 each in the month under review.

VALUE OF SUPPLIES

The average value of selected produce supplied to the local markets in February 2023 stood at \$74,500, increasing 5 percent from the previous month but went down by 18 percent from March 2022.



Tomato which accounted for 6 percent of total value increased from the 4 percent and 3 percent in the previous month and the same month last year. Coconut with a contribution of 4 percent fell from the 5 percent in February 2023 but were higher than 3 percent in March 2022.

Shares of Chinese cabbage and banana both contributed 3 percent each of total value, with Chinese cabbage supplies increasing from the 2 percent and 1 percent in the previous month and the same month last year, while banana supplies decreased by 5 percent from February 2023 but were higher than 2 percent in the same month a year ago. (See Graph 15 & Table 3)

Pumpkin supplies contributed the most to the total value of produce supplied to the markets with a share of 47 percent in March 2023; a level that was higher than the 38 percent in the previous month but were lower than the 59 in the same month a year ago.

Taro contributed 21 percent, down from the 25 percent last month and 24 percent in the same month a year ago. Head cabbage contributed 9 percent to total value increasing from the 8 percent in the previous month and 3 percent in the same month a year ago. Cucumber shares fell to 7 percent from the 10 percent in the previous month but were higher than 4 percent the same month a year ago.

Technical Notes

The Local Market Survey measures the price and volume of selected agricultural produce from the Local Markets at **Fugalei, Taufusi, Vaitele, Lotopa, Ululoloa, Afega, Saleimoa, Savaia, Vaoala, Faatoia and Salelologa** every month. Prices for selected produce are taken from the Consumer Price Index.

*** Data shown reflects the average availability and prices of selected produce. This survey is conducted on each Thursday for rural markets on Upolu and Savaii and each Friday for urban markets on Upolu in the months under reference.*

Weights for selected produce have been revised using 2014 as the base period and have been incorporated starting from June 2016 report.

The Local Market Survey Report for April 2023 will be available on 31th May 2023.

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

*Economic Statistics Division
FMFM II Building, Level 1
P O Box 1151
Apia, Samoa*

*Phone: (685) 62014/62015
Fax: (685) 24675
E-mail: info.stats@sbs.gov.ws
Website: www.sbs.gov.ws*

SUMMARY OF MARKET SURVEY

Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAR.22.AV	JUL.22.AV	AUG.22.AV	SEPT.22.AV	OCT.22.AV	NOV.22.AV	DEC.22.AV	JAN.23.AV	FEB.23.AV	MAR.23.AV	Feb-23	
												% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 22
TARO	7521	6459	3136	3882	4901	8082	6784	3069	8268	4286	3942	-8	-34
BANANA	2642	1500	2080	1951	976	1696	1879	1721	2235	2865	1297	-55	91
TA'AMU	816	12	178	4	30	218	7	24	18	13	17	36	9
COCONUT	7993	4218	3964	4489	3364	4634	4079	3258	7747	4090	3796	-7	-3
BREADFRUIT	186	73	396	665	28	35	40	85	453	440	92	-79	500
YAM	129	72	184	155	265	232	108	47	129	81	41	-49	13
HEAD CABBAGE	811	353	898	1142	839	882	511	661	584	443	487	10	26
TOMATOES	256	147	353	339	523	535	433	166	138	121	173	43	-18
CH.CABBAGE	129	153	261	181	370	182	121	84	78	149	237	59	-2
CUCUMBER	542	727	1279	1276	1084	1395	821	1202	832	1063	830	-22	46
PUMPKIN	6217	16806	4804	5907	14218	16411	13983	8143	5941	6626	7660	16	-61

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

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAR.22.AV	JUL.22.AV	AUG.22.AV	SEPT.22.AV	OCT.22.AV	NOV.22.AV	DEC.22.AV	JAN.23.AV	FEB.23.AV	MAR.23.AV	% chng from	
												prev mnth	MAR 22
TARO	1.48	3.37	4.11	4.46	4.11	3.78	3.53	3.73	3.74	4.15	3.97	-4	18
BANANA	0.76	1.38	1.45	1.60	1.64	1.75	1.57	1.42	1.50	1.31	1.47	12	6
TA'AMU	2.78	4.28	7.00	11.90	12.01	8.35	7.51	11.05	22.60	5.04	16.51	228	286
COCONUT	0.62	0.72	0.92	0.92	0.99	0.94	0.90	1.02	0.88	0.90	0.80	-11	11
BREADFRUIT	0.94	1.35	1.17	1.24	1.98	2.46	1.67	4.17	1.27	1.06	1.72	63	28
YAM	3.16	5.65	4.81	5.26	4.54	4.52	3.84	5.66	6.64	6.65	6.34	-5	12
HEAD CABBAGE	5.40	8.13	9.05	7.36	8.10	7.08	8.64	9.58	13.16	13.36	13.23	-1	63
TOMATOES	9.55	15.62	15.70	14.50	11.62	11.72	14.06	15.31	20.49	22.41	24.32	8	56
CH.CABBAGE	4.38	7.44	6.04	5.15	5.25	5.90	8.75	8.05	10.98	10.22	9.06	-11	22
CUCUMBER	2.99	4.99	5.24	4.73	4.99	5.22	5.67	5.77	6.38	6.77	6.70	-1	34
PUMPKIN	2.61	3.16	3.55	3.71	3.23	3.28	3.32	3.37	3.91	4.11	4.55	11	44

Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Tala thousands)

PRODUCE	Total value 2014	MAR.22.AV	JUL.22.AV	AUG.22.AV	SEPT.22.AV	OCT.22.AV	NOV.22.AV	DEC.22.AV	JAN.23.AV	FEB.23.AV	MAR.23.AV	% chng from	
												prev mnth	MAR 22
TARO	126.6	21.8	12.9	17.3	20.1	30.5	24.0	11.5	31.0	17.8	15.7	-12	-28
BANANA	25.1	2.1	3.0	3.1	1.6	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.4	3.7	1.9	-49	-8
TA'AMU	25.6	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.4	1.8	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	383	480
COCONUT	59.3	3.1	3.7	4.1	3.3	4.4	3.7	3.3	6.9	3.7	3.0	-17	0
BREADFRUIT	1.8	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.2	-65	60
YAM	4.7	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.3	-52	-37
HEAD CABBAGE	44.6	2.9	8.1	8.4	6.8	6.2	4.4	6.3	7.7	5.9	6.4	9	124
TOMATOES	21.5	2.3	5.5	4.9	6.1	6.3	6.1	2.5	2.8	2.7	4.2	56	83
CH.CABBAGE	5.9	1.1	1.6	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.5	2.2	41	89
CUCUMBER	18.4	3.6	6.7	6.0	5.4	7.3	4.7	6.9	5.3	7.2	5.6	-23	53
PUMPKIN	178.3	53.2	17.0	21.9	46.0	53.9	46.4	27.4	23.2	27.2	34.8	28	-35
	511.8	90.6	61.1	68.4	92.8	115.5	93.7	62.0	82.9	70.8	74.5	5	-18

*on the days surveyed
@ new weights and base

Table 4: Volume Index (2014 = 100)

PRODUCE	2014 Weights	MAR.22.AV	JUL.22.AV	AUG.22.AV	SEPT.22.AV	OCT.22.AV	NOV.22.AV	DEC.22.AV	JAN.23.AV	FEB.23.AV	MAR.23.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 22
TARO	0.25	86	42	52	65	107	90	41	110	57	52	-8	-39
BANANA	0.05	57	79	74	37	64	71	65	85	108	49	-55	-13
TA'AMU	0.05	1	22	0	4	27	1	3	2	2	2	37	49
COCONUT	0.12	53	50	56	42	58	51	41	97	51	48	-7	-10
BREADFRUIT	0.004	39	213	358	15	19	22	46	244	237	49	-79	25
YAM	0.01	56	142	120	205	180	84	37	100	63	32	-49	-43
HEAD CABBAGE	0.09	44	111	141	103	109	63	82	72	55	60	10	38
TOMATOES	0.04	57	138	133	204	209	169	65	54	47	67	43	18
CH.CABBAGE	0.01	118	202	140	287	141	94	65	61	116	184	59	55
CUCUMBER	0.04	134	236	235	200	257	151	222	153	196	153	-22	14
PUMPKIN	0.35	270	77	95	229	264	225	131	96	107	123	16	-54
	1.00	137	76	86	133	161	130	83	93	79	80	1	-42

Table 5: Price Index (2014 = 100)

PRODUCE	2014 Weights	MAR.22.AV	JUL.22.AV	AUG.22.AV	SEPT.22.AV	OCT.22.AV	NOV.22.AV	DEC.22.AV	JAN.23.AV	FEB.23.AV	MAR.23.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 22
TARO	0.25	228	278	301	277	255	239	252	253	280	268	-4	18
BANANA	0.05	182	191	211	216	230	207	187	198	172	193	12	6
TA'AMU	0.05	154	252	428	432	301	270	398	813	181	594	227	286
COCONUT	0.12	117	149	148	159	152	145	164	143	145	129	-11	11
BREADFRUIT	0.004	144	125	132	211	262	177	443	135	112	183	63	28
YAM	0.01	179	152	166	144	143	121	179	210	210	201	-5	12
HEAD CABBAGE	0.09	150	168	136	150	131	160	177	244	247	245	-1	63
TOMATOES	0.04	164	164	152	122	123	147	160	215	235	255	8	56
CH.CABBAGE	0.01	170	138	117	120	135	200	184	251	233	207	-11	22
CUCUMBER	0.04	167	175	158	167	175	190	193	213	226	224	-1	34
PUMPKIN	0.35	121	136	142	124	126	127	129	150	157	174	11	44
	1.00	102	118	126	121	114	116	128	162	134	160	20	56

Table 6: Number of Sellers

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAR.22.AV	JUL.22.AV	AUG.22.AV	SEPT.22.AV	OCT.22.AV	NOV.22.AV	DEC.22.AV	JAN.23.AV	FEB.23.AV	MAR.23.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 22
TARO	46	50	32	33	35	50	49	32	45	41	37	-10	-26
BANANA	27	18	21	26	14	24	29	22	32	37	20	-46	11
TA'AMU	7	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	140	-40
COCONUT	57	41	33	35	23	38	33	26	42	37	34	-9	-18
BREADFRUIT	4	2	1	5	1	1	2	1	9	7	2	-78	-20
YAM	5	1	5	3	6	5	2	1	3	3	1	-52	20
HEAD CABBAGE	12	5	10	18	20	17	11	13	18	10	8	-20	64
TOMATOES	39	18	20	32	48	53	54	22	15	16	17	9	-3
CH.CABBAGE	13	13	18	16	19	15	7	11	8	12	14	19	8
CUCUMBER	42	31	31	37	36	34	27	36	22	28	24	-16	-23
PUMPKIN	83	78	46	61	78	88	76	70	66	54	54	1	-30
	337	258	218	265	279	324	291	234	262	245	212	-13	-18

*on the days surveyed

@ new weights and base