



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY

MAY 2018

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:

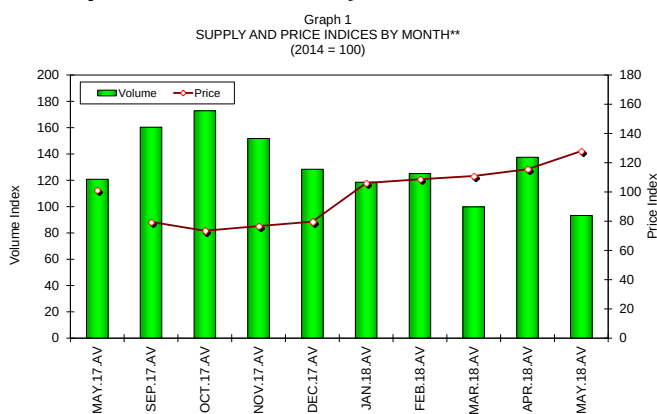
The Local Market Survey in May 2018 showed overall volume decrease 32 percent while limited supply pushed average price up 11 percent when compared to April 2018.

- Significant reduction in the supply of pumpkin, taro, Chinese cabbage and banana largely impacted the overall decline in the volume index and the 11 percent rise in the price index.
- The value of supplies decreased 22 percent to \$70,200 from the previous month.
- An average of 294 sellers trading at the Local Market was recorded in the month under review; 8 percent lower than the previous month but were 10 percent lower when compared with the same month last year.

Issue: 1/05/18

OVERVIEW

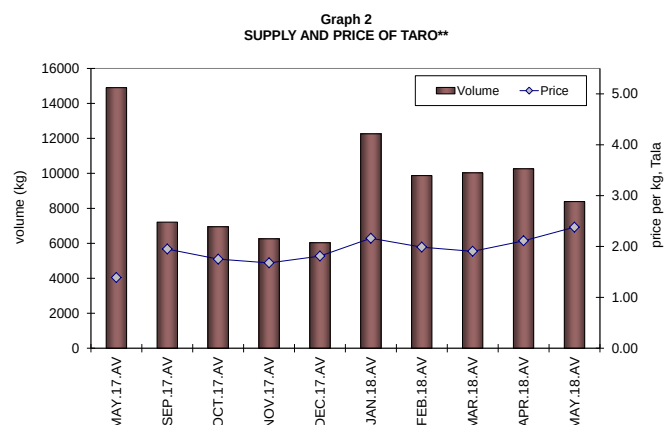
The monthly survey of Agricultural food supplies at the Local Markets by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics in May 2018 showed overall volume decrease 32 percent from April 2018. This decrease in volume stem from the reductions in the supply of taro, banana, Chinese cabbage and pumpkin. When compared with the same month last year, current supply was 23 percent lower. (See Graph 1 and Tables 4 & 5)



With decreased volume in the month under review, the overall price level rose 11 percent from the previous month. This increase in price was largely due to the significant increases in the price of all produce with the exception of Chinese cabbage and cucumber. The current overall price level was 26 percent higher when compared with May 2017.

TARO

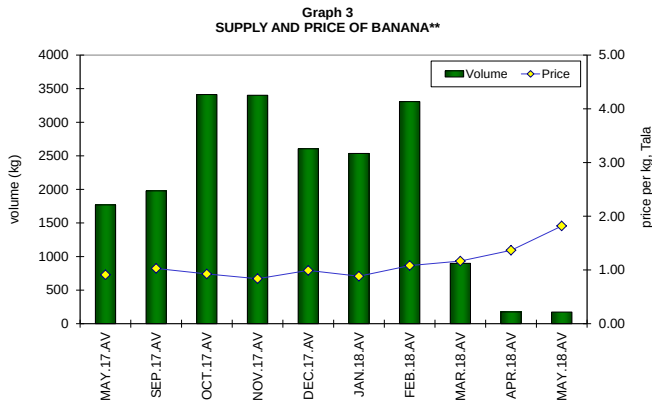
At 8,383 kilograms, the supply of taro to the market in May 2018 declined 18 percent from the previous month while limited supply pushed its average price up 13 percent (to \$2.38 per kilogram). When compared with May 2017 supply of taro was 44 percent lower while its average price was 71 percent higher (See Graph 2 and Tables 1&2)



Despite the decline in supply of taro in the month under review, current supply contributed to a 9 percent rise in volume when comparing the twelve months ending May 2018 over the twelve months ending May 2017. Price fell 19 percent.

BANANA

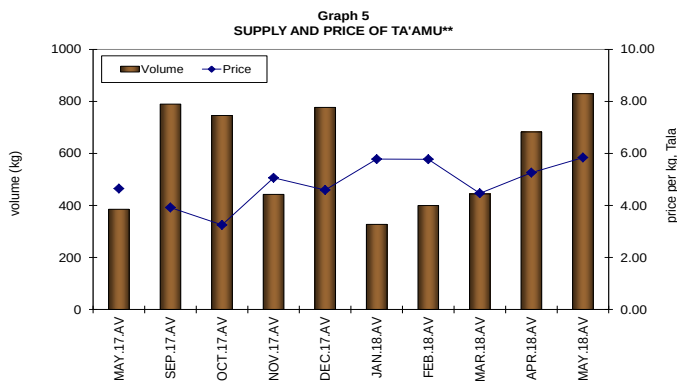
The volume of banana supplied to the Local Markets in May 2018 slipped 1 percent (to 173 kilograms) from April 2018; a level that was 90 percent lower than the same month a year ago. Reduced supply of banana pushed its average price up 33 percent (to \$1.82 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year current price was doubled. (See Graph 3 and Tables 1 & 2)



When comparing the twelve months ending May 2018 over the twelve months ending May 2017, banana supplies were 15 percent lower while average price also decreased 16 percent.

TA'AMU

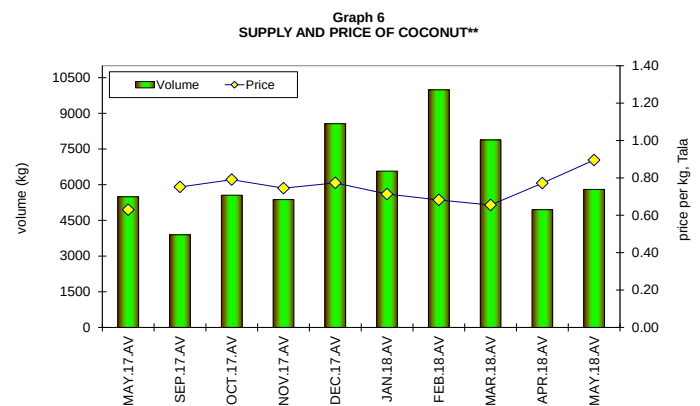
Ta'amu supplies in May 2018 increased 22 percent (to 830 kilograms) from the previous month; a level that was more than doubled when compared with May 2017. The average price of ta'amu increased 11 percent (to \$5.84 per kilogram) from April 2018 as demand shifted away from its close substitute (taro) and more toward ta'amu, yam, and breadfruit. Compared to May 2017, current price of ta'amu was 26 percent higher. (See Graph 5 and Tables 1&2)



The increase in the supply of ta'amu in the month under review contributed to a 47 percent increase in ta'amu volume when comparing the twelve months ending May 2018 over the twelve months ending May 2017 while increased availability pushed its average price down 15 percent.

COCONUT

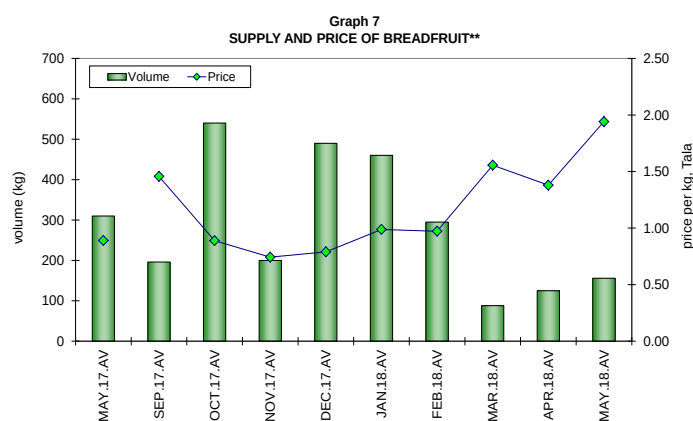
In the month under review, the supply of coconut rose 17 percent (to 5,804 kilogram) from April 2018 while strong domestic demand pushed its average price up 16 percent (to \$0.90 per kilogram). Current availability of coconut was 6 percent higher than average availability in May 2017 while average price also increased 42 percent over the year. (See Graph 6 and Tables 1 & 2)



The volume of coconut recorded in the month under review contributed to a 19 percent rise in supply when comparing the twelve month ending May 2018 over the twelve month ending May 2017 while its average price also rose 5 percent.

BREADFRUIT

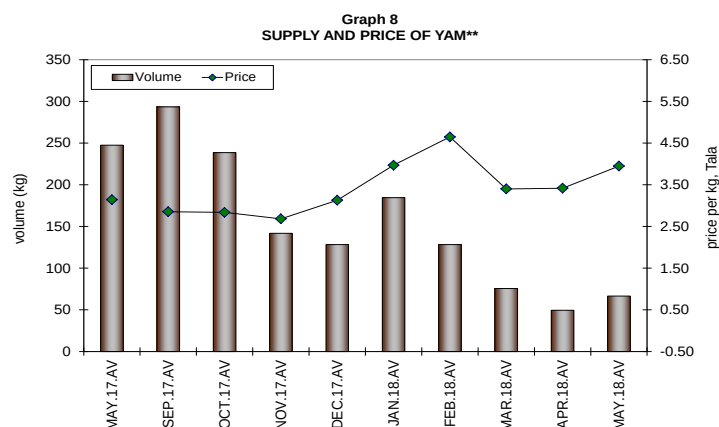
At an average of 156 kilograms, breadfruit supply in May 2018 rose 25 percent from the previous month. Increased demand to the markets pushed its average price up 41 percent (to \$1.94 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year, current breadfruit supply was 50 percent lower while its average price was more than doubled. (See Graph 3 and Tables 1 & 2)



When comparing the twelve months ending May 2018 over the twelve months ending May 2017, breadfruit supplies were 26 percent lower while its average price increased 4 percent.

YAM

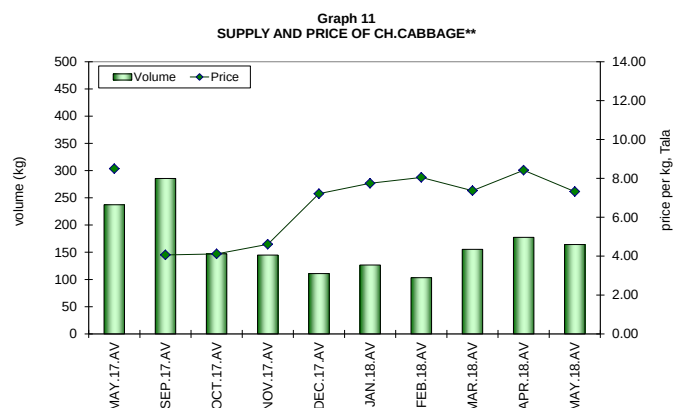
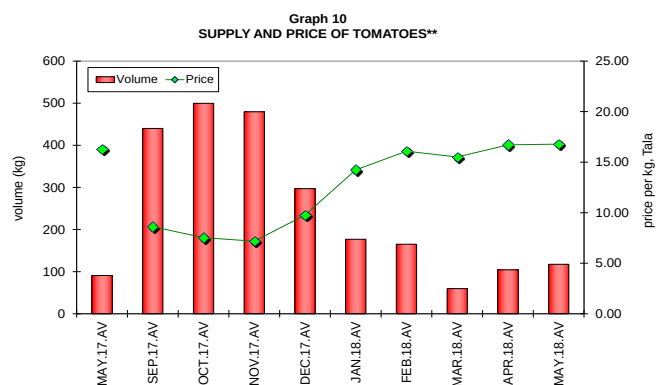
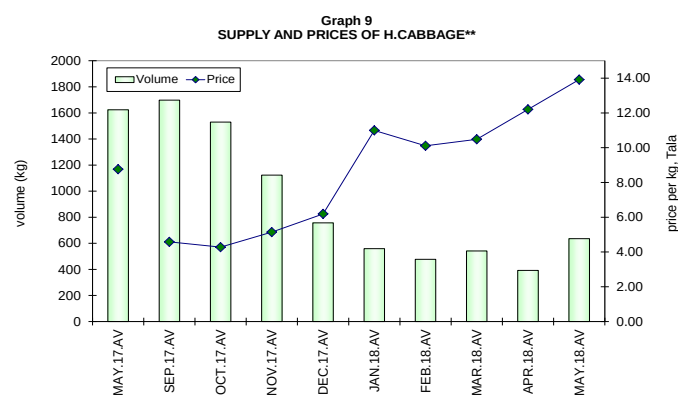
The supply of yam in the month under review rose 35 percent (to 67 kilograms) from the previous month while increased demand pushed its average price up 16 percent (to \$3.95 per kilogram). When compared with May 2017, current supply of yam was 73 percent lower while limited supply over the year pushed its average price up 26 percent. (See Graph 8 and Tables 1 & 2)



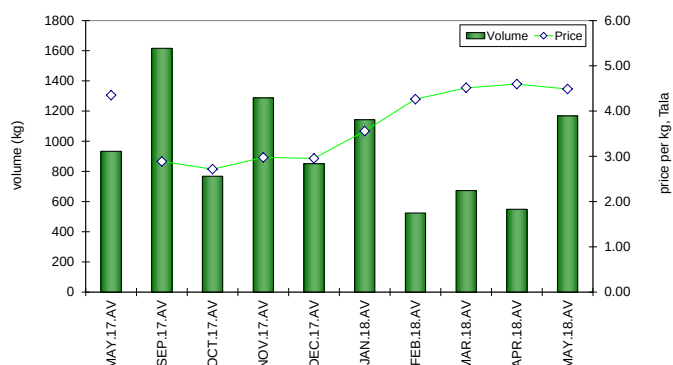
Despite the increase of yam in the month under review current supply contributed to a 13 percent decrease in volume in the twelve months ending May 2018 over the twelve months ending May 2017, while its average price fell 1 percent.

VEGETABLE PRODUCE

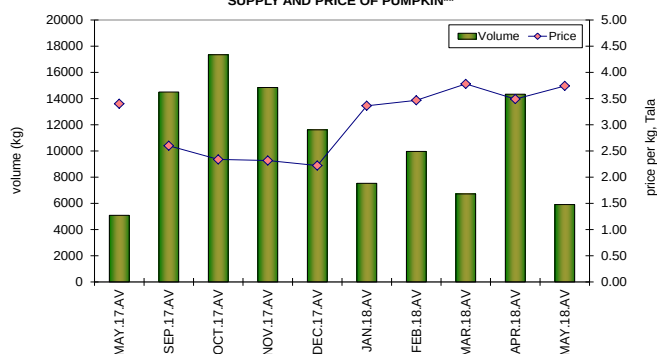
A general overview of all vegetable produce to the Local Markets in May 2018, revealed significant gains in all vegetable supplies with the exception of pumpkin and Chinese cabbage whose volume dropped 59 percent (to 5,905 kilograms) and 7 percent (to 164 kilograms) respectively from the previous month. Cucumber supplies registered the largest increase more than doubling its volume (to 1,168 kilograms) from April 2018 followed by head cabbage supplies increasing 62 percent (to 636 kilograms) while tomato supplies also rose 13 percent (to 118 kilograms) when compared to the previous month. (See Graphs 9 to 13 and Tables 1 & 2)



Graph 12
SUPPLY AND PRICE OF CUCUMBER**



Graph 13
SUPPLY AND PRICE OF PUMPKIN**

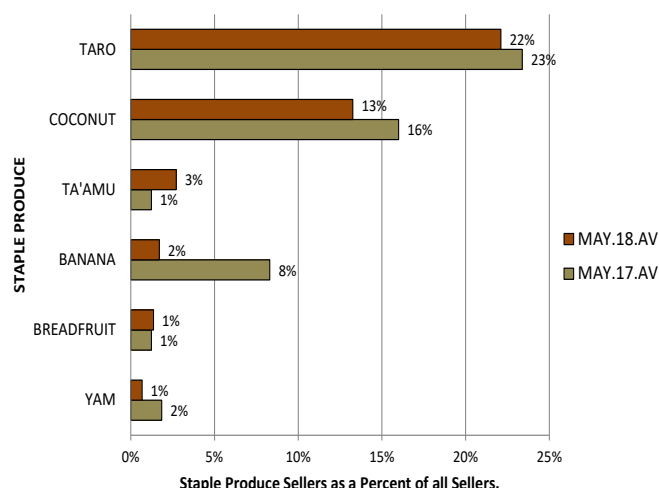


Despite the increase in the supply of most vegetable produce to the Local Markets in the month under review, strong domestic demand pushed average prices up for most vegetable produce with the exception of Chinese cabbage and cucumber recording a decrease of 13 percent (to \$7.32 per kilogram) and 2 percent (to \$4.49) respectively. Average price for head cabbage recorded a 14 percent increase (to \$13.92 per kilogram) while limited supply of pumpkin pushed its average price up 7 percent (to \$3.74 per kilogram) from the previous month. Average price for tomato remained unchanged at \$16.79 per kilogram.

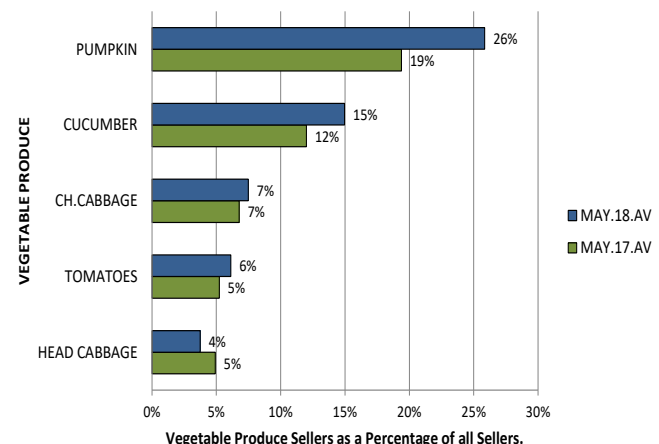
SELLERS

At 294, the number of sellers at the Local Markets on the days surveyed in May 2018 dropped 8 percent from the previous month and 10 percent lower when compared with the number of sellers in the same month a year ago. (See Graphs 14 and 15 and Table 6).

GRAPH 14
SELLERS BY STAPLE PRODUCE



GRAPH 15
SELLERS BY VEGETABLE PRODUCE



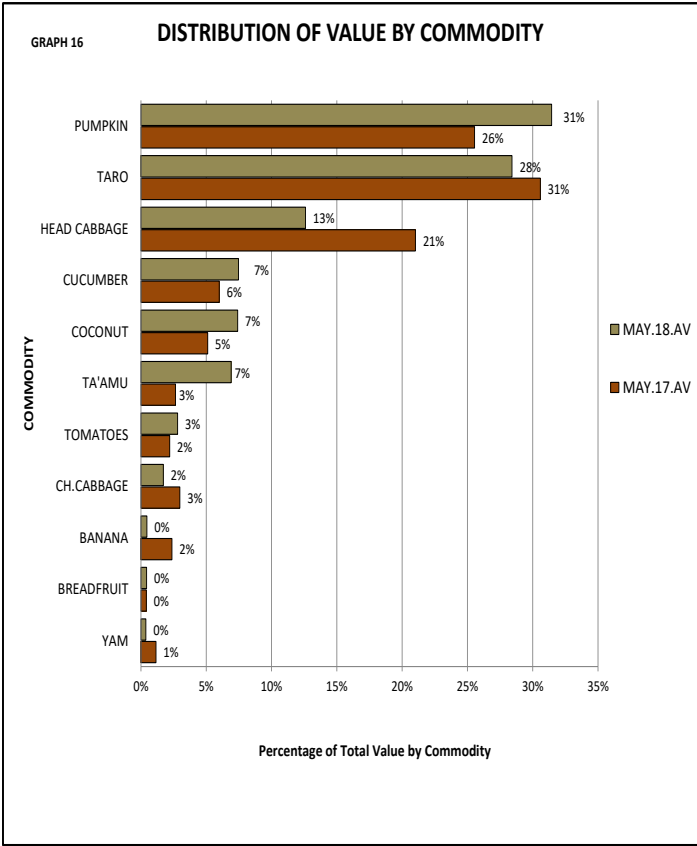
In May 2018, pumpkin sellers at 76 were the largest group at the local markets decreasing from 115 in the previous month but were higher than 63 in the same month last year. Taro sellers remained at a total of 65 from last month but were lower than 76 in the same month a year ago, while cucumber sellers increased to 44 from 31 in the previous month and 39 a year ago. Coconut sellers recorded an increasing total of 39 from 36 in April 2018 but were lower than 52 from May 2017. Sellers of Chinese cabbage recorded an increasing total of 22 from 16 in the previous month but remained unchanged when compared with a year ago, while sellers of tomato recorded a decreasing total of 18 from 25 in April 2018 but were higher than 17 in May 2017. Head cabbage sellers followed recording

a decreasing total of 11 from 13 in the previous month and 16 the same month last year. Head cabbage sellers recorded a decreasing total of 11 from 13 in April 2018 and 16 in May 2017 while sellers of ta'amu at 8 rose from 6 in the previous month and 4 in the same month a year ago. Banana sellers remained unchanged at a total of 5 from the previous month but were significantly lower than 27 in May 2017, while sellers of breadfruit also remained at 4 from April 2018 and May 2017. Total sellers of yam recorded a decreasing total of 2 from 3 in the previous month and 6 when compared with the same month a year ago.

VALUE OF SUPPLIES

The average value of selected produce supplied to the Local Markets at \$70,200 in May 2018 decreased 22 percent from the previous month and was 4 percent higher when compared with May 2017.

percent in April 2018 but were higher than 26 percent in May 2017. Taro supplies followed with a 28 percent contribution to total value increasing from 24 percent in the previous month but were lower than 31 percent when compared with the same month a year ago. Supplies of head cabbage contributed 13 percent to total value increasing from 5 percent in the previous month but were lower than 21 percent in May 2017. Supplies of cucumber, coconut and ta'amu all accounted for 7 percent each of total value; with cucumber contribution increasing from 3 percent from the previous month and 6 percent in the same month a year ago while coconut contribution increased from 4 percent in April 2018 and 5 percent a year ago and shares of ta'amu increasing from 4 percent in the previous month and 3 percent in May 2017. Supplies of tomato accounted for 3 percent of total value, increasing from 2 percent in April 2018 and May 2017. Chinese cabbage supplies accounted for 2 percent of total value remaining unchanged from April 2018 but were lower than 3 percent in May 2017. Lower contributions were recorded for all other commodities in the month under review. (See Graph 16 & Table 3)



Pumpkin supplies contributed the most to the total value of produce surveyed with a share of 31 percent in May 2018, a level that was lower than 55

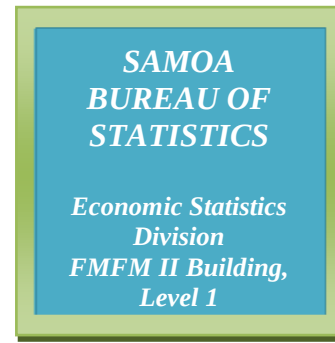
Technical Notes

*The Local Market Survey measures the price and volume of selected agricultural produce from the Local Markets at **Fugalei, Taufusi, Vaitele, Afega, Saleimoa, Fasitootai, Savaia, 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 each Friday for urban markets on Upolu and Savaii 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 June 2018 will be available on 13th July 2018.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malaefono".

Aliimuamua Malaefono Tauā – T. Faasalaina
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

SUMMARY OF MARKET SURVEY

Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)

												May-18	
PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAY.17.AV	SEP.17.AV	OCT.17.AV	NOV.17.AV	DEC.17.AV	JAN.18.AV	FEB.18.AV	MAR.18.AV	APR.18.AV	MAY.18.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAY17
TARO	7521	14899	7211	6948	6261	6034	12262	9877	10030	10264	8383	-18	-44
BANANA	2642	1769	1979	3412	3401	2604	2535	3307	900	175	173	-1	-90
TA'AMU	816	385	790	746	443	777	327	400	444	683	830	22	115
COCONUT	7993	5488	3894	5556	5372	8560	6570	9986	7882	4950	5804	17	6
BREADFRUIT	186	310	196	540	200	490	460	295	88	125	156	25	-50
YAM	129	248	293	239	142	128	185	128	76	50	67	35	-73
HEAD CABBAGE	811	1624	1698	1529	1123	756	559	477	541	392	636	62	-61
TOMATOES	256	91	440	500	480	297	177	165	60	104	118	13	29
CH.CABBAGE	129	237	285	147	145	111	127	103	155	177	164	-7	-31
CUCUMBER	542	933	1616	768	1287	851	1143	524	672	549	1168	113	25
PUMPKIN	6217	5089	14501	17345	14844	11611	7529	9962	6719	14331	5905	-59	16

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

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAY.17.AV	SEP.17.AV	OCT.17.AV	NOV.17.AV	DEC.17.AV	JAN.18.AV	FEB.18.AV	MAR.18.AV	APR.18.AV	MAY.18.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAY17
TARO	1.48	1.39	1.95	1.75	1.68	1.81	2.16	1.99	1.91	2.11	2.38	13	71
BANANA	0.76	0.91	1.03	0.93	0.84	0.99	0.88	1.08	1.17	1.37	1.82	33	100
TA'AMU	2.78	4.65	3.92	3.25	5.06	4.59	5.78	5.78	4.47	5.26	5.84	11	26
COCONUT	0.62	0.63	0.75	0.79	0.74	0.77	0.71	0.68	0.65	0.77	0.90	16	42
BREADFRUIT	0.94	0.89	1.46	0.89	0.74	0.79	0.99	0.97	1.56	1.38	1.94	41	118
YAM	3.16	3.14	2.85	2.84	2.68	3.13	3.97	4.65	3.40	3.42	3.95	16	26
HEAD CABBAGE	5.40	8.76	4.58	4.28	5.15	6.19	10.99	10.11	10.48	12.20	13.92	14	59
TOMATOES	9.55	16.31	8.61	7.53	7.19	9.76	14.24	16.09	15.51	16.71	16.79	0	3
CH.CABBAGE	4.38	8.50	4.06	4.12	4.61	7.21	7.75	8.05	7.37	8.42	7.32	-13	-14
CUCUMBER	2.99	4.35	2.89	2.72	2.97	2.95	3.56	4.26	4.51	4.60	4.49	-2	3
PUMPKIN	2.61	3.40	2.60	2.34	2.32	2.22	3.36	3.47	3.78	3.49	3.74	7	10

Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Tala thousands)

PRODUCE	Total value 2014	MAY.17.AV	SEP.17.AV	OCT.17.AV	NOV.17.AV	DEC.17.AV	JAN.18.AV	FEB.18.AV	MAR.18.AV	APR.18.AV	MAY.18.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAY17
TARO	126.6	20.7	14.1	12.2	10.5	10.9	26.5	19.6	19.1	21.7	20.0	-8	-4
BANANA	25.1	1.6	2.0	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.2	3.6	1.1	0.2	0.3	33	-80
TA'AMU	25.6	1.8	3.1	2.4	2.2	3.6	1.9	2.3	2.0	3.6	4.9	35	171
COCONUT	59.3	3.5	2.9	4.4	4.0	6.6	4.7	6.8	5.2	3.8	5.2	36	50
BREADFRUIT	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	76	7
YAM	4.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	53	-67
HEAD CABBAGE	44.6	14.2	7.8	6.5	5.8	4.7	6.1	4.8	5.7	4.8	8.9	85	-38
TOMATOES	21.5	1.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	2.9	2.5	2.7	0.9	1.7	2.0	13	32
CH.CABBAGE	5.9	2.0	1.2	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.2	-19	-41
CUCUMBER	18.4	4.1	4.7	2.1	3.8	2.5	4.1	2.2	3.0	2.5	5.2	108	29
PUMPKIN	178.3	17.3	37.7	40.5	34.4	25.8	25.3	34.5	25.4	50.0	22.1	-56	28
	511.8	67.7	78.4	76.8	68.2	61.2	75.5	78.3	63.9	90.2	70.2	-22	4

*on the days surveyed
@ new weights and base

Table 4: Volume Index (2014 = 100)

PRODUCE	2014 Weights	MAY.17.AV	SEP.17.AV	OCT.17.AV	NOV.17.AV	DEC.17.AV	JAN.18.AV	FEB.18.AV	MAR.18.AV	APR.18.AV	MAY.18.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAY17
TARO	0.25	198	96	92	83	80	163	131	133	136	111	-18	-44
BANANA	0.05	67	75	129	129	99	96	125	34	7	7	-1	-90
TA'AMU	0.05	47	97	91	54	95	40	49	54	84	102	22	115
COCONUT	0.12	69	49	70	67	107	82	125	99	62	73	17	6
BREADFRUIT	0.004	167	105	290	108	263	247	159	47	67	84	25	-50
YAM	0.01	192	227	185	110	99	143	99	59	38	52	35	-73
HEAD CABBAGE	0.09	200	209	189	138	93	69	59	67	48	78	62	-61
TOMATOES	0.04	36	172	195	187	116	69	65	23	41	46	13	29
CH.CABBAGE	0.01	184	221	114	112	86	98	80	120	137	127	-7	-31
CUCUMBER	0.04	172	298	142	238	157	211	97	124	101	215	113	25
PUMPKIN	0.35	82	233	279	239	187	121	160	108	231	95	-59	16
	1.00	121	160	173	152	128	119	125	100	137	93	-32	-23

Table 5: Price Index (2014 = 100)

PRODUCE	2014 Weights	MAY.17.AV	SEP.17.AV	OCT.17.AV	NOV.17.AV	DEC.17.AV	JAN.18.AV	FEB.18.AV	MAR.18.AV	APR.18.AV	MAY.18.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAY17
TARO	0.25	94	132	118	113	122	146	134	129	143	161	13	71
BANANA	0.05	120	135	122	110	131	116	142	153	180	239	33	100
TA'AMU	0.05	167	141	117	182	165	208	208	161	189	210	11	26
COCONUT	0.12	102	121	128	120	125	115	110	106	125	144	16	42
BREADFRUIT	0.004	95	155	95	79	84	105	103	166	147	207	41	118
YAM	0.01	99	90	90	85	99	126	147	108	108	125	16	26
HEAD CABBAGE	0.09	162	85	79	95	115	204	187	194	226	258	14	59
TOMATOES	0.04	171	90	79	75	102	149	168	162	175	176	0	3
CH.CABBAGE	0.01	194	93	94	105	165	177	184	168	192	167	-13	-14
CUCUMBER	0.04	145	97	91	99	99	119	143	151	154	150	-2	3
PUMPKIN	0.35	130	100	90	89	85	129	133	145	134	143	7	10
	1.00	101	80	74	77	80	106	109	111	116	128	11	26

Table 6: Number of Sellers

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAY.17.AV	SEP.17.AV	OCT.17.AV	NOV.17.AV	DEC.17.AV	JAN.18.AV	FEB.18.AV	MAR.18.AV	APR.18.AV	MAY.18.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAY17
TARO	46	76	55	51	48	51	63	65	65	65	65	0	-14
BANANA	27	27	29	44	46	32	31	32	16	5	5	0	-81
TA'AMU	7	4	8	5	5	5	4	5	6	6	8	33	100
COCONUT	57	52	44	47	45	42	54	57	53	36	39	8	-25
BREADFRUIT	4	4	3	10	8	8	10	5	2	4	4	0	0
YAM	5	6	8	7	7	4	5	4	3	3	2	-33	-67
HEAD CABBAGE	12	16	25	19	18	12	11	8	10	13	11	-15	-31
TOMATOES	39	17	53	54	55	42	31	26	13	25	18	-28	6
CH.CABBAGE	13	22	27	18	16	11	11	11	17	16	22	38	0
CUCUMBER	42	39	71	40	40	49	50	29	32	31	44	42	13
PUMPKIN	83	63	123	134	133	108	81	89	63	115	76	-34	21
	337	325	445	427	420	362	350	330	280	318	294	-8	-10

*on the days surveyed

@ new weights and base

• Revised figure