



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

LOCAL MARKET SURVEY MARCH 2020

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:

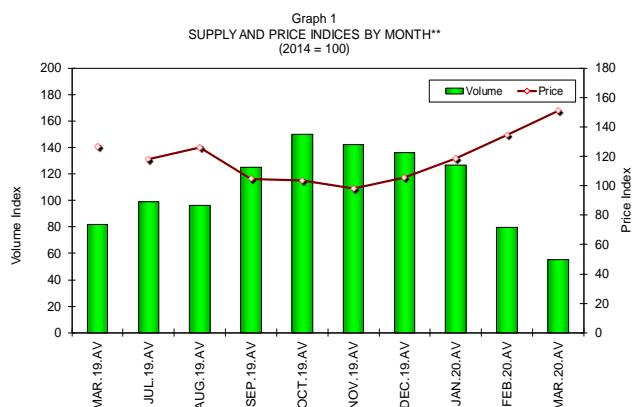
The Local Market Survey in March 2020 showed overall volume decrease 30 percent while limited supply of all produce pushed average prices up 12 percent when compared to February 2020.

- Significant decrease in the supplies of all agricultural produce strongly contributed to the decline in the volume index.
- The value of supplies fell 27 percent to \$43,700 from the previous month.
- An average of 193 sellers trading at the Local Market was recorded in the month under review; 29 percent lower than the previous month and 24 percent lower when compared with the same month last year.

Issue: 01/03/20

OVERVIEW

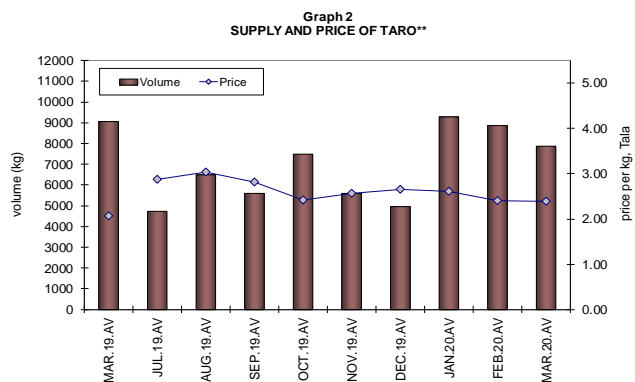
The monthly survey of Agricultural food supplies at the Local Markets by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics in March 2020 showed overall volume decrease 30 percent from February 2020. Significant decreases were recorded for all agricultural produce with the exception of ta'amu supplies. When compared with the same month last year, current supply was 33 percent lower. (See Graph 1 and Tables 4 & 5)



Decline in the overall supply of all agricultural produce pushed the price index up 11 percent from the previous month. When compared with March 2019, the current overall price was 19 percent higher.

TARO

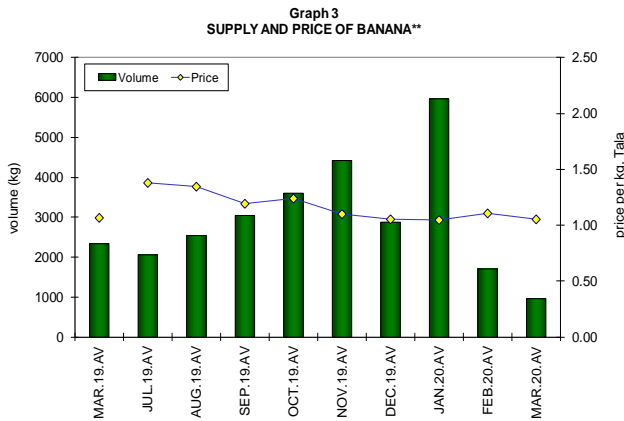
The volume of taro supplies in March 2020 decreased 11 percent (to 7,878 kilograms) from February 2020; a level that was 13 percent lower than the same month a year ago. Weakened domestic demand pushed its average down 1 percent (to \$2.39 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year current price was 16 percent higher. (See Graph 2 and Tables 1&2)



When comparing the twelve months ending March 2020 over twelve months ending March 2019, taro supplies revealed no changed while its average price decreased 5 percent.

BANANA

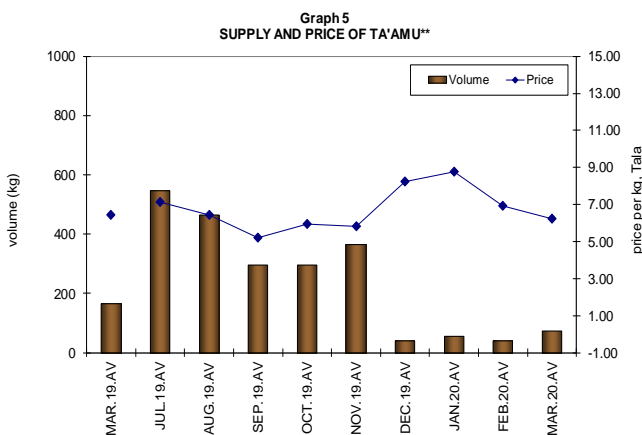
The supply of banana to the Local Markets in March 2020 dropped 43 percent (to 968 kilograms) from February 2020; a level that was 59 percent lower than the same month a year ago. Weakened demand pushed its average price down 5 percent (to \$1.06 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year, current price was 1 percent lower. (See Graph 3 and Tables 1&2)



Current supply of banana in the month under review contributed to a 64 percent rise in volume when comparing the twelve months ending March 2020 over the twelve months ending March 2019. Price fell 11 percent.

TA'AMU

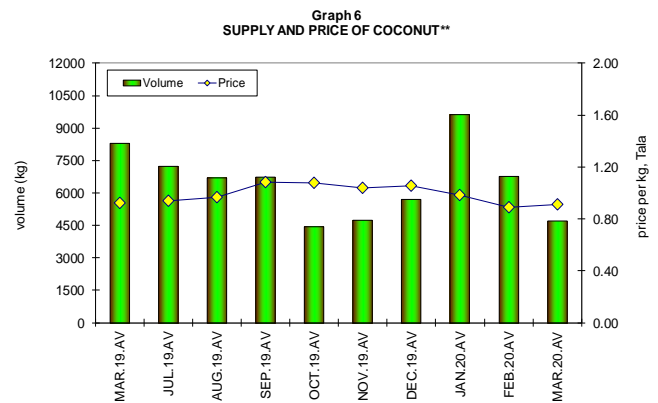
In the month under review ta'amu supplies increased 47 percent (to 57 kilograms) from February 2020 while its average price remained unchanged. Compared to March 2019, current supply of ta'amu was 65 percent lower while its average price was 7 percent higher. (See Graph 5 and Tables 1&2)



Current supply of ta'amu in the month under review contributed to a 33 percent decrease in ta'amu volume when comparing the twelve months ending March 2020 over twelve months ending March 2019 while limited availability pushed its average price up 11 percent.

COCONUT

At 4,708 kilograms the supply of coconut in March 2020 decreased 30 percent from the previous month while strong domestic demand pushed its average price up 2 percent (to \$0.91 per kilogram). Current availability of coconut was 43 percent lower than average availability in March 2019 while average price decreased 1 percent over the year. (See Graph 6 and Tables 1&2)



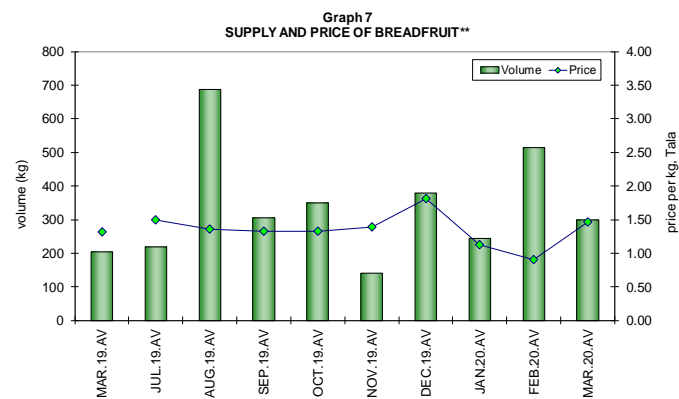
Comparing the twelve months ending March 2020 over the twelve months ending March 2019 supply of coconut was 2 percent higher while its average price fell 3 percent.

BREADFRUIT

At an average of 300 kilograms, breadfruit supply in March 2020 fell 42 percent when compared to the previous month while limited supply pushed its average price up 62 percent (to \$1.46 per kilogram). When compared with March 2019, current breadfruit supply was 47 percent higher while increased demand over the year pushed its average price up 11 percent. (See Graph 7 and Tables 1& 2)

VEGETABLE PRODUCE

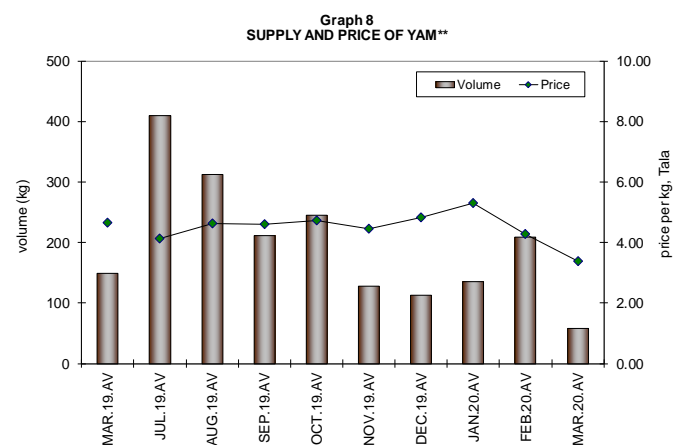
The supply of vegetable produce to the Local Markets in the month under review experienced significant decreases in all vegetable supplies. Head cabbage supplies fell 79 percent (to 60 kilograms) while tomato supplies also decreased 68 percent (to 11 kilograms). Supplies of pumpkin declined 45 percent (to 2,579 kilograms) from February 2020 while supplies of cucumber fell 10 percent (to 526 kilograms) followed by a decline in Chinese cabbage decreasing 1 percent (to 66 kilograms) when compared to the previous month. (See Graphs 9 to 13 and Tables 1 & 2)



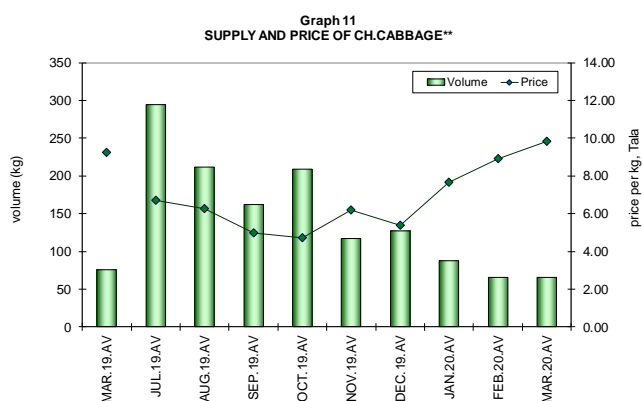
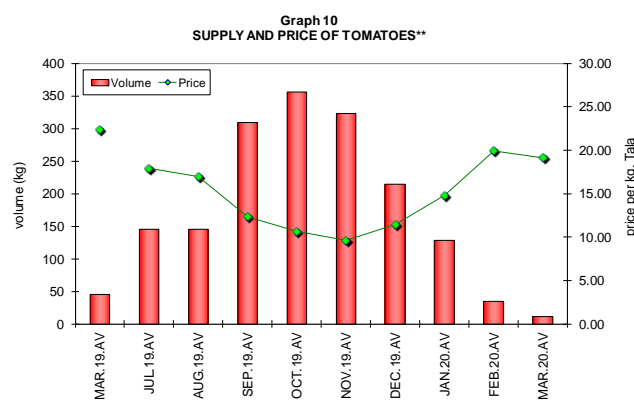
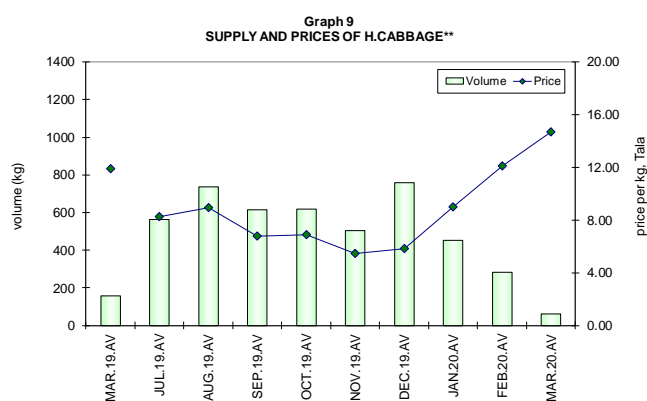
Current supply of breadfruit contributed to a 15 percent increase in volume when comparing the twelve months ending March 2020 over the twelve months ending March 2019 while its average price increased 1 percent.

YAM

Yam supplies at 59 kilograms decreased 72 percent from February 2020 while weakened demand pushed its average price down 17 percent (to \$3.54 per kilogram). When compared with the same month last year, current supply of yam was 61 percent lower while weakened demand over the year pushed its average price down 24 percent. (See Graph 8 and Tables 1 & 2)

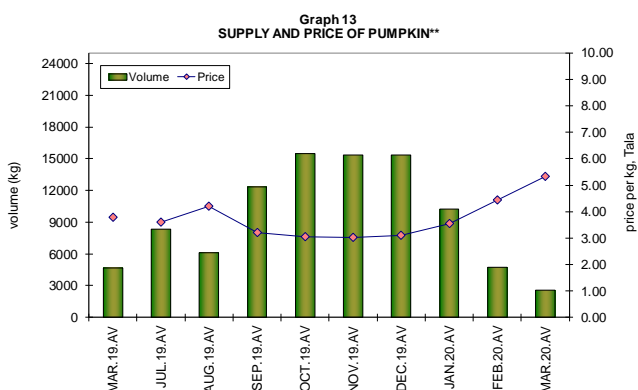
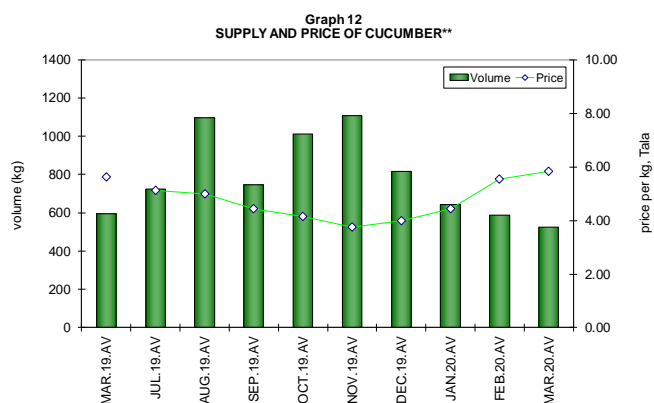


Current supply of yam in the month under review contributed to a 87 percent increase in volume in the twelve months ending March 2020 over the twelve months ending March 2019, while its average price fell 8 percent.

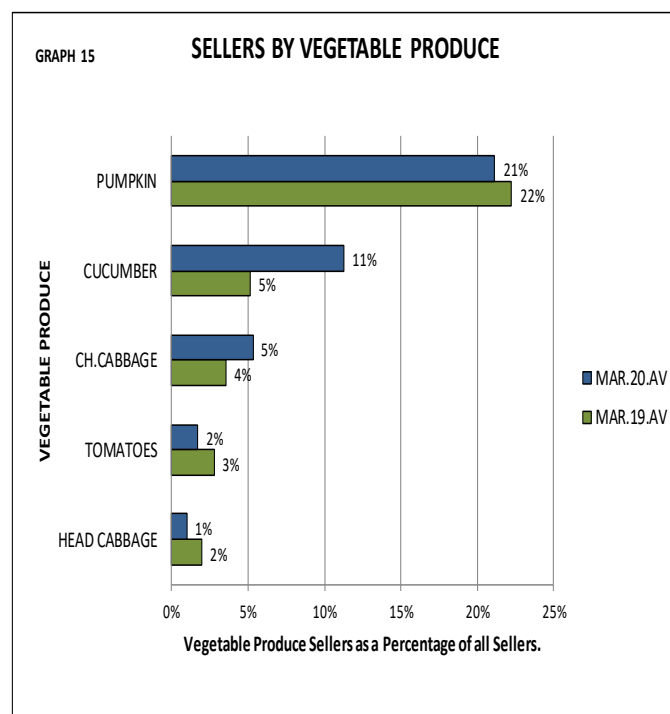
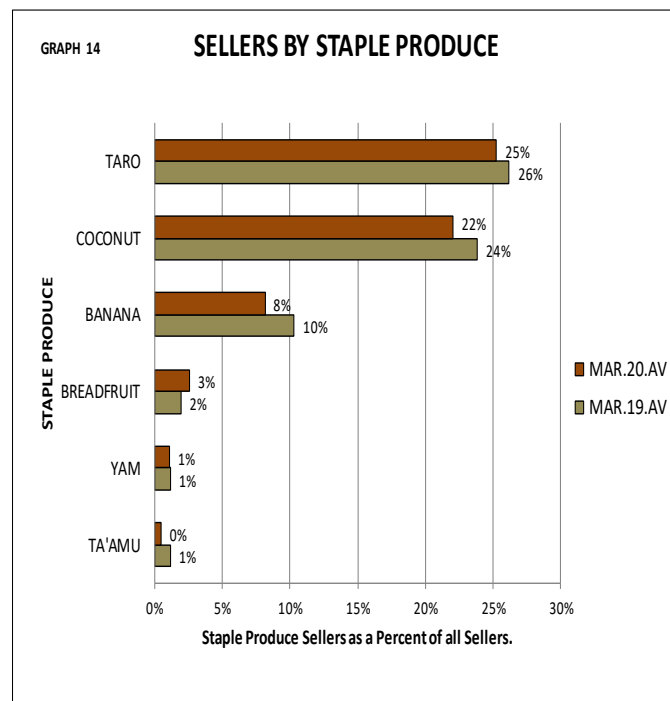


SELLERS

At 193, the number of sellers at the Local Markets on the days surveyed in March 2020 decreased 29 percent from the previous month and was 24 percent lower when compared with the number of sellers in the same month a year ago. (See Graphs 14 and 15 and Table 6).



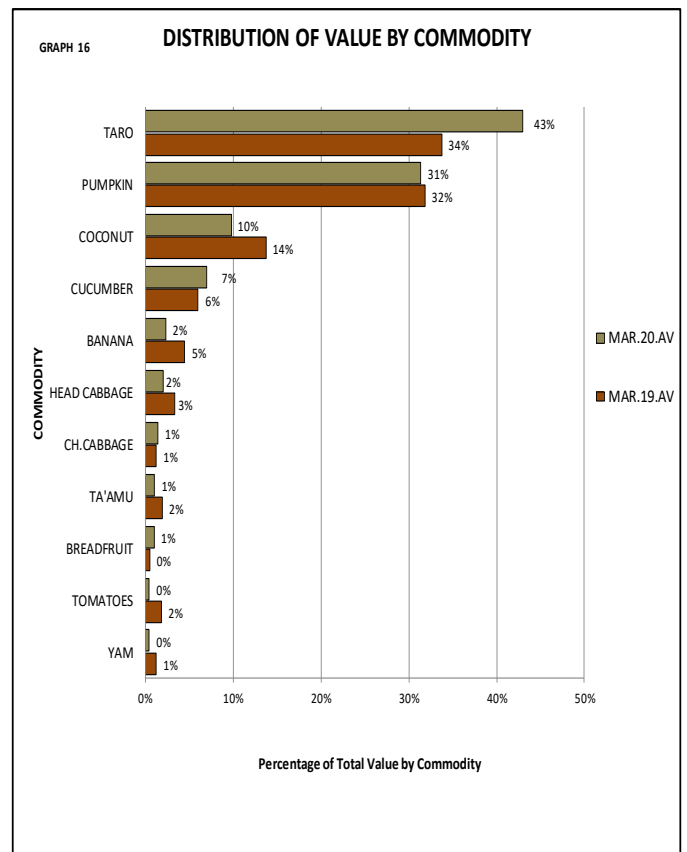
Subsequent to decreased availability of all vegetable produce supplied to the Local Markets in the month under review, average prices for all vegetable increased with the exception of tomato recording a 2 percent (to \$19.56 per kilogram) decline respectively from the previous month. Head cabbage prices experienced the largest price increase of 21 percent (to \$14.71 per kilogram) while pumpkin prices rose 20 percent (to \$5.32 per kilogram). Chinese cabbage prices increased 10 percent (to \$9.82 per kilogram) from the previous month followed by cucumber prices edging up 5 percent (to \$5.84 per kilogram).



In March 2020, taro sellers at 51 were the largest group at the local markets decreasing from 64 in the previous month and 66 in the same month last year. Coconut sellers followed recording a decreasing total of 42 from 62 last month and 60 in the same month a year ago while pumpkin sellers decreased to 37 from 50 in the previous month and 56 a year ago. Cucumber sellers recorded a total of 23 decreasing from 28 last month but were higher than 13 in the same month last year. Sellers of banana recorded a decreasing total of 18 from 31 in February 2020 and 26 in March 2019, while total sellers of Chinese cabbage increased to 11 from 8 last month and 9 a year ago. Breadfruit sellers recorded a total of 5 decreasing from 8 in the previous month and remained unchanged from March 2019, while total sellers of tomato decreased to 4 from 9 in February 2020 and 7 in the same month last year. Yam and head cabbage sellers both recorded a total of 2 with yam sellers decreasing from 5 in February 2020 and 3 in March 2019 while total sellers of head cabbage fell from 5 last month and the same month last year. Sellers of ta’amu remained at 1 from the previous month but were lower than 3 when compared with March 2019.

VALUE OF SUPPLIES

The average value of selected produce supplied to the Local Markets at \$43,700 in March 2020 decreased 27 percent from the previous month and was 21 percent lower when compared with March 2019.



Taro supplies contributed the most to the total value of produce surveyed with a share of 43 percent in March 2020; a level that was higher than 36 percent in February 2020 and 34 percent in March 2019. Pumpkin supplies followed with a 31 percent contribution to total value decreasing from 35 percent in the previous month and 32 percent when compared with a year ago. Supplies of coconut contributed 10 percent of total value remaining unchanged from last month and were lower than 14 percent in the same month last year while supplies of cucumber accounted for 7 percent of total value, increasing from 5 percent last month and 6 percent in the same month last year. Shares of banana and head cabbage both accounted for 2 percent each to total value with banana supplies decreasing from 3 percent in the previous month and 5 percent when compared with March 2019, while head cabbage supplies decreasing from 6 percent in February 2020 and 3 percent in the same month a year ago. Shares of Chinese cabbage, ta’amu and breadfruit supply all accounted for 1 percent each of total value while lower shares were recorded for tomato and yam in the month under review. (See Graph 16 & Table 3)

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 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 2020 will be available on 13th May 2020.

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SUMMARY OF MARKET SURVEY

Table 1: Quantity Supplied (in kilograms)

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAR.19.AV	JUL.19.AV	AUG.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	OCT.19.AV	NOV.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	JAN.20.AV	FEB.20.AV	MAR.20.AV	Mar-20	
												% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 19
TARO	7521	9064	4747	6484	5594	7491	5610	4959	9294	8862	7878	-11	-13
BANANA	2642	2346	2062	2552	3053	3596	4414	2886	5964	1707	968	-43	-59
TA'AMU	816	165	548	466	297	296	366	41	57	39	57	47	-65
COCONUT	7993	8279	7237	6699	6717	4443	4753	5702	9611	6750	4708	-30	-43
BREADFRUIT	186	204	218	688	305	350	140	380	245	515	300	-42	47
YAM	129	149	410	313	212	245	128	113	135	209	59	-72	-61
HEAD CABBAGE	811	158	564	737	615	618	506	758	452	283	60	-79	-62
TOMATOES	256	46	146	145	309	356	323	215	128	35	11	-68	-76
CH.CABBAGE	129	76	294	212	162	209	117	128	88	66	66	-1	-14
CUCUMBER	542	596	726	1098	745	1010	1109	817	643	587	526	-10	-12
PUMPKIN	6217	4663	8327	6133	12327	15484	15346	15385	10263	4722	2579	-45	-45

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

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAR.19.AV	JUL.19.AV	AUG.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	OCT.19.AV	NOV.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	JAN.20.AV	FEB.20.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from	
												prev mnth	MAR 19
TARO	1.48	2.07	2.87	3.03	2.82	2.42	2.56	2.65	2.60	2.41	2.39	-1	16
BANANA	0.76	1.06	1.38	1.34	1.19	1.24	1.10	1.06	1.05	1.11	1.06	-5	-1
TA'AMU	2.78	6.43	7.12	6.41	5.20	5.92	5.83	8.25	8.78	6.91	6.89	0	7
COCONUT	0.62	0.92	0.94	0.97	1.09	1.07	1.04	1.06	0.98	0.89	0.91	2	-1
BREADFRUIT	0.94	1.32	1.49	1.36	1.33	1.33	1.39	1.81	1.12	0.90	1.46	62	11
YAM	3.16	4.66	4.13	4.62	4.62	4.74	4.44	4.84	5.30	4.28	3.54	-17	-24
HEAD CABBAGE	5.40	11.89	8.27	8.93	6.77	6.87	5.48	5.84	9.02	12.11	14.71	21	24
TOMATOES	9.55	22.39	17.94	17.01	12.38	10.66	9.63	11.50	14.82	19.92	19.56	-2	-13
CH.CABBAGE	4.38	9.26	6.72	6.28	4.97	4.73	6.20	5.37	7.67	8.91	9.82	10	6
CUCUMBER	2.99	5.62	5.11	5.00	4.43	4.15	3.75	3.98	4.45	5.55	5.84	5	4
PUMPKIN	2.61	3.79	3.60	4.21	3.19	3.06	3.01	3.10	3.56	4.43	5.32	20	40

Table 3: Value of Supplies (in Tala thousands)

PRODUCE	Total value 2014	MAR.19.AV	JUL.19.AV	AUG.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	OCT.19.AV	NOV.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	JAN.20.AV	FEB.20.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from	
												prev mnth	MAR 19
TARO	126.6	18.7	13.6	19.6	15.8	18.1	14.4	13.2	24.2	21.4	18.8	-12	1
BANANA	25.1	2.5	2.8	3.4	3.6	4.5	4.9	3.1	6.2	1.9	1.0	-46	-59
TA'AMU	25.6	1.1	3.9	3.0	1.5	1.8	2.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	44	-63
COCONUT	59.3	7.6	6.8	6.5	7.3	4.8	5.0	6.0	9.4	6.0	4.3	-29	-44
BREADFRUIT	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4	-4	63
YAM	4.7	0.7	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.2	-76	-70
HEAD CABBAGE	44.6	1.9	4.7	6.6	4.2	4.2	2.8	4.4	4.1	3.4	0.9	-74	-53
TOMATOES	21.5	1.0	2.6	2.5	3.8	3.8	3.1	2.5	1.9	0.7	0.2	-70	-79
CH.CABBAGE	5.9	0.7	2.0	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	8	-9
CUCUMBER	18.4	3.4	3.7	5.5	3.3	4.2	4.2	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.1	-6	-8
PUMPKIN	178.3	17.7	30.0	25.8	39.4	47.3	46.3	47.7	36.5	20.9	13.7	-34	-22
	511.8	55.5	72.2	76.6	81.1	91.3	84.1	82.3	87.4	59.8	43.7	-27	-21

*on the days surveyed
@ new weights and base

Table 4: Volume Index (2014 = 100)

PRODUCE	2014 Weights	MAR.19.AV	JUL.19.AV	AUG.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	OCT.19.AV	NOV.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	JAN.20.AV	FEB.20.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 19
TARO	0.25	121	63	86	74	100	75	66	124	118	105	-11	-13
BANANA	0.05	89	78	97	116	136	167	109	226	65	37	-43	-59
TA'AMU	0.05	20	67	57	36	36	45	5	7	5	7	47	-65
COCONUT	0.12	104	91	84	84	56	59	71	120	84	59	-30	-43
BREADFRUIT	0.004	110	117	370	164	188	75	204	132	277	161	-42	47
YAM	0.01	116	317	243	164	190	99	87	105	162	45	-72	-61
HEAD CABBAGE	0.09	20	70	91	76	76	62	93	56	35	7	-79	-62
TOMATOES	0.04	18	57	57	121	139	126	84	50	14	4	-68	-76
CH.CABBAGE	0.01	59	228	164	126	162	91	99	68	51	51	-1	-14
CUCUMBER	0.04	110	134	203	137	186	205	151	119	108	97	-10	-12
PUMPKIN	0.35	75	134	99	198	249	247	247	165	76	41	-45	-45
	1.00	82	99	96	125	150	142	136	127	79	55	-30	-33

Table 5: Price Index (2014 = 100)

PRODUCE	2014 Weights	MAR.19.AV	JUL.19.AV	AUG.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	OCT.19.AV	NOV.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	JAN.20.AV	FEB.20.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 19
TARO	0.25	140	194	205	191	163	173	179	176	163	161	-1	16
BANANA	0.05	140	182	177	157	163	145	139	138	146	139	-5	-1
TA'AMU	0.05	231	256	231	187	213	210	297	316	249	248	0	7
COCONUT	0.12	148	151	156	175	173	168	171	158	143	147	2	-1
BREADFRUIT	0.004	140	159	145	141	141	148	192	120	96	156	62	11
YAM	0.01	148	131	146	146	150	141	153	168	135	112	-17	-24
HEAD CABBAGE	0.09	220	153	165	125	127	101	108	167	224	272	21	24
TOMATOES	0.04	234	188	178	130	112	101	120	155	209	205	-2	-13
CH.CABBAGE	0.01	211	153	143	113	108	142	123	175	204	224	10	6
CUCUMBER	0.04	188	171	167	148	139	125	133	149	186	195	5	4
PUMPKIN	0.35	145	138	161	122	117	115	119	136	170	204	20	40
	1.00	126	118	126	105	103	98	106	119	134	151	12	19

Table 6: Number of Sellers

PRODUCE	2014 AVE	MAR.19.AV	JUL.19.AV	AUG.19.AV	SEP.19.AV	OCT.19.AV	NOV.19.AV	DEC.19.AV	JAN.20.AV	FEB.20.AV	MAR.20.AV	% chng from prev mnth	%chng from MAR 19
TARO	46	66	44	49	46	60	51	47	57	64	51	-20	-23
BANANA	27	26	22	28	31	33	46	35	35	31	16	-48	-38
TA'AMU	7	3	5	3	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	-50	-83
COCONUT	57	60	44	43	39	32	51	43	61	62	42	-32	-30
BREADFRUIT	4	5	5	13	6	5	3	8	4	8	5	-32	5
YAM	5	3	10	9	5	5	4	2	3	5	2	-55	-25
HEAD CABBAGE	12	5	12	10	10	10	16	9	9	5	2	-62	-60
TOMATOES	39	7	21	23	37	44	45	28	21	9	4	-61	-50
CH.CABBAGE	13	9	22	23	23	25	16	17	10	8	11	43	19
CUCUMBER	42	13	33	39	36	44	49	41	29	28	23	-20	73
PUMPKIN	83	56	79	62	103	111	113	91	81	50	37	-25	-34
	337	252	296	301	338	371	396	320	310	270	193	-29	-24

*on the days surveyed

@ new weights and base