

Agricultural Exports Volume October 2014

Release date: 13 January 2015

	Oct 14	Sep 14	Aug 14	Jul 14
Total volume (tonnes)	2339.8	803.9	597.2	723.5

Squash season boosts October's exports

Total volumes hiked over the month of October as expected, mainly due to exports of season squash. However, what was not expected was the 41.7% drop in squash volume as compared to October of last year. Exporters indicated that while demands for squash were high, supply was limited. The drop in supply was due to crops being severely affected by the recent droughts and unfavorable weather conditions.

In year-ended terms, total volumes decreased by 10.6% due mainly to the 45.2% drop in squash exports, which has the biggest share of total exports. The increases in root crops and other exports were not enough to offset the decline in squash exports. Agricultural export proceeds, as recorded in the banks' OET data also declined by 13.6% over the year.

Looking forward, activity in the agricultural sector is expected to grow only modestly. However, recent developments and ongoing meteorological warnings, such as the El Niño, pose a significant risk to the forecast for the sector for the 2014/15 financial year. As offsetting factors, growers are expanding the range of crops they export to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa; the opening of Nishi Trading's produce packing facility and training facility for farmers; and the Agricultural Marketing Fund are all expected to support the sector and to boost export. The developments in this release, however, have not been material enough to change our foreign reserves forecast. The NRBT's monetary policy stance is already at its expansionary limits.

Agricultural Export Volumes

Tonnes

	Month Ended*			Oct 13	Year-ended		Memo: Share**
	Oct 14	Sep 14	Aug 14		Oct 14	Oct 13	
Total	2,339.8	803.9	597.2	3,302.0	9,671.1	10,818.2	100
Squash	1,653.7	68.5	32.6	2,834.5	2,657.3	4,846.4	27
Taro	227.3	224.2	145.0	122.4	1,943.3	1,594.1	20
Coconut	158.2	141.6	116.5	152.8	1,818.7	1,445.8	19
Yam	98.1	167.6	155.0	32.8	1,396.6	1,371.2	14
Cassava	158.4	128.4	92.9	26.9	346.0	228.0	12
Vanilla	1.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.6	4.7	0
Other	44.1	73.6	55.2	132.7	725.4	684.9	8

* Series is volatile due seasonality of crops

** Based on the most recent 12 months data

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food, and Fisheries

