

Agricultural Exports Volume April 2015

Release date: 26 May 2015

	Apr 15	Mar 15	Feb 15	Jan 15
Total volume* (tonnes)	412.3	365.1	433.7	385.8

* Total volume figures were revised in March 2015 by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries.

Yam and Cassava drive an increase in exports

Total agricultural exports increased by 12.9% over the month of April. This was caused by a rise in root vegetable products, particularly Cassava and Yam. Additionally, other vegetable products such as leaf vegetables added to the monthly increase. However, Fruit products declined over the month. This was due to less breadfruit, brown coconuts and watermelon. Green coconuts exports increased by 2.8% compared to the previous month whilst Kava products rose by more than double

In year-ended terms, exports experienced a decline in growth by 12.1% as a result of decreases in Fruit products and other vegetable products. Squash, brown coconuts, and watermelon influenced the decline in Fruit products whilst leaf vegetables and Taro drove the fall in other vegetable products. In contrast, root vegetable products increased annually due to a rise in Cassava and Taro exports.

On the outlook, NRBT continues to expect negative growth for the agricultural sector for the 2014/15 financial year. This projection is supported by actual data available up to April 2015 and liaisons with growers who have indicated low expectations as a result of the recent drought. Uncertain weather conditions still pose a significant risk for the outlook of the agricultural sector. Furthermore, according to a media release by the Meteorology Division, El Niño has arrived and drought warnings have been put in force for all of Tonga for the next six months. These developments have exerted pressure on inflation, affecting domestic food prices. However, the NRBT will continue to closely

monitor the country's economic and financial conditions in order to maintain an adequate level of foreign reserves and promote price stability.

Agricultural Export Volumes

	Tonnes						Memo: Share**
	Month Ended*			Year-ended			
	Apr 15	Mar 15	Feb 15	Apr 14	Apr 15	Apr 14	
Total	412.3	365.1	433.7	580.1	8,940.1	10,170.1	100
Squash	-	-	0.0	0.0	2,204.7	3,807.9	25
Taro	21.6	29.9	25.0	189.0	1,612.1	1,555.3	18
Coconut	111.9	119.1	113.8	86.8	1,682.7	1,780.0	19
Yam	112.2	43.7	112.7	168.5	1,303.7	1,394.9	15
Cassava	108.6	89.5	108.0	86.8	300.8	339.0	16
Vanilla	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	4.5	0
Other	58.0	82.8	74.2	49.1	719.7	799.6	8

* Series is volatile due to seasonality of crops

** Based on the most recent 12 months data

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

