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STATISTICAL NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE INDEXES [PRICES] JUNE QUARTER 2018 [Base: December Quarter 2011 = 100.0]

The Terms of Trade [TOT] is a ratio of two price indexes: one for exports and the other for imports. A rise in the index means that Fiji can buy more imports from the same amount of exports.

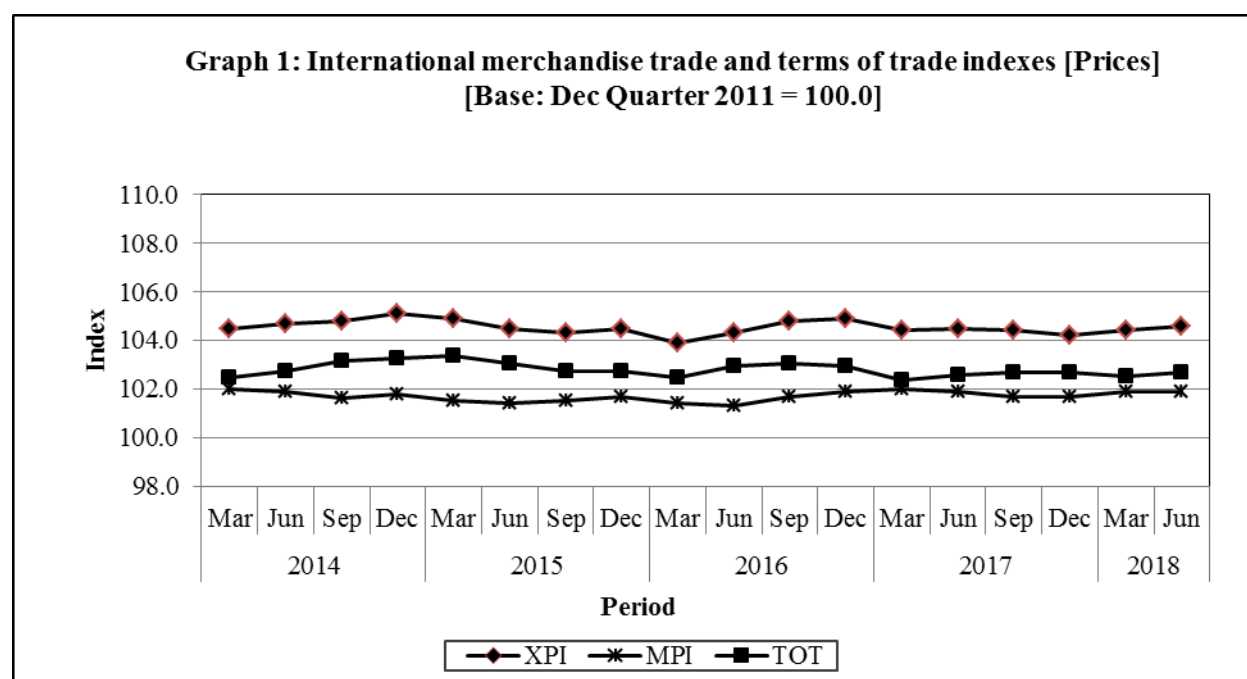
Key facts

The following movements occurred in the June quarter of 2018 when compared with the March quarter of 2018:

- The international merchandise terms of trade price index increased by 0.2;
- Export prices for goods increased by 0.2 percent; and
- Import prices for goods remained unchanged

Table 1: Summary

	Quarterly Index			% Change	
	Jun 2017	Mar 2018	Jun 2018	Jun 2018/ Mar 2018	Jun 2018/ Jun 2017
Export Price Index [XPI] - All Items	104.5	104.4	104.6	0.2	0.1
Import Price Index [MPI] - All Items	101.9	101.9	101.9	0.0	0.0
Terms of Trade [TOT]	102.6	102.5	102.7	0.2	0.1

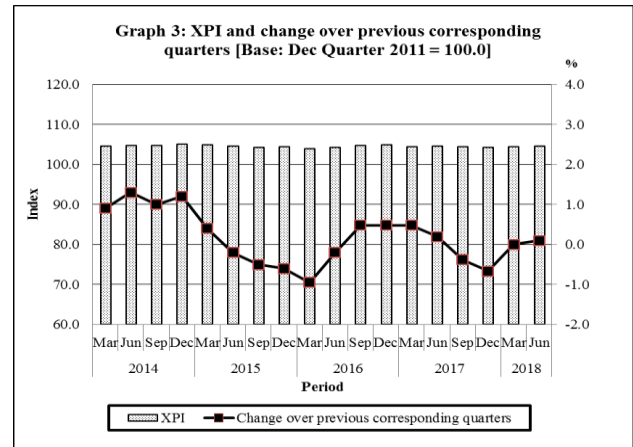
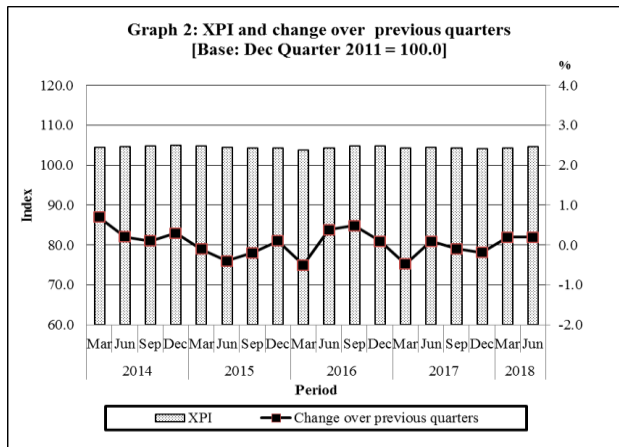


Commentary

The seasonally unadjusted international merchandise TOT index for the June quarter of 2018 stood at 102.7. This is an increase of 0.1 percent over the June quarter of 2017.

The export price index increased by 0.1 percent and import price index remained unchanged when compared to June quarter of 2017.

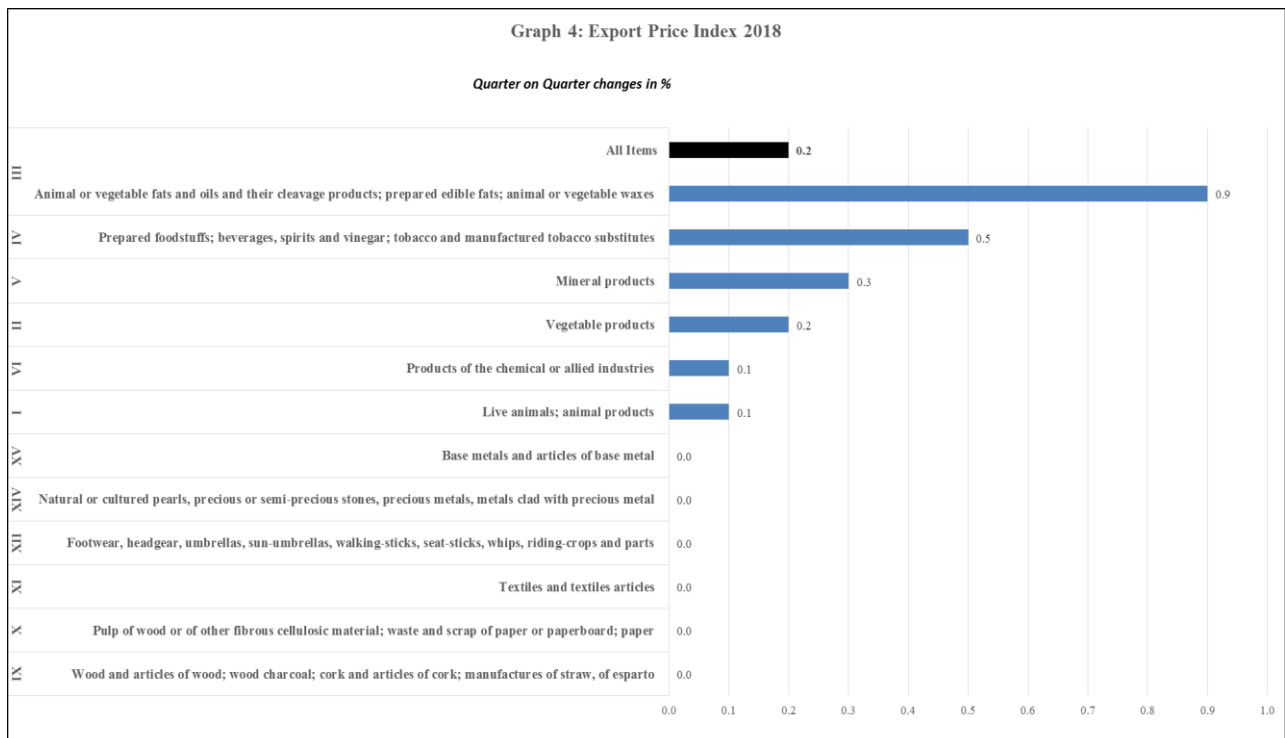
Export Price Index



There were significant price changes in the following export items when comparisons were made to the March quarter of 2018 and June quarter of 2017 periods:

Changes over the March quarter of 2018

The overall Export Price Index [XPI] for the June quarter of 2018 stands at 104.6, an increase of 0.2 percent when compared to the March quarter of 2018 [104.4].



Contributing to this increase were higher prices recorded for the following categories and specific items:

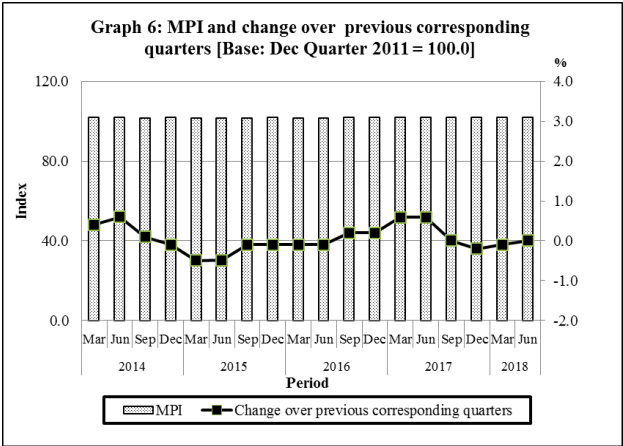
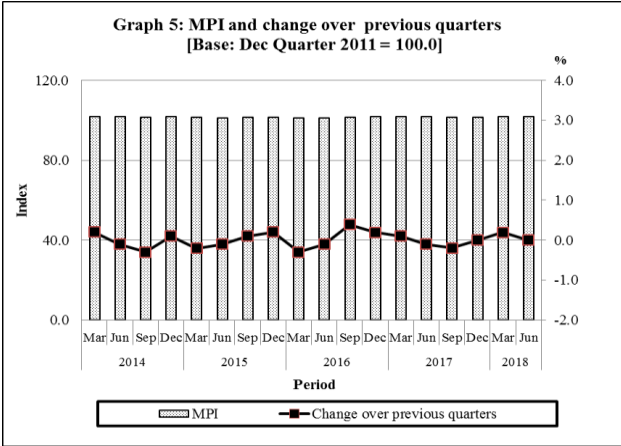
- Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes increased by 0.9 percent due to high export prices of *crude coconut oil*; and
- Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes increased by 0.5 percent due to high export prices of *mineral water*.

Changes over the June quarter of 2017

Compared to the June quarter of 2017 [104.5], the XPI for the June quarter of 2018 increased by 0.1 percent. Contributing to this increase were higher prices recorded for the following categories and specific items:

- Mineral products increased by 4.4 percent due to high prices of *jet aviation fuel*; and
- Live animals; animal products increased by 1.8 percent due to high prices of *frozen fish*; and
- Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes increased by 0.8 percent due to high prices of *crude coconut oil*; and
- Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal; cork and articles of cork; manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basket ware and wickerwork increased by 0.8 percent due to high prices of *wood and articles of wood*.

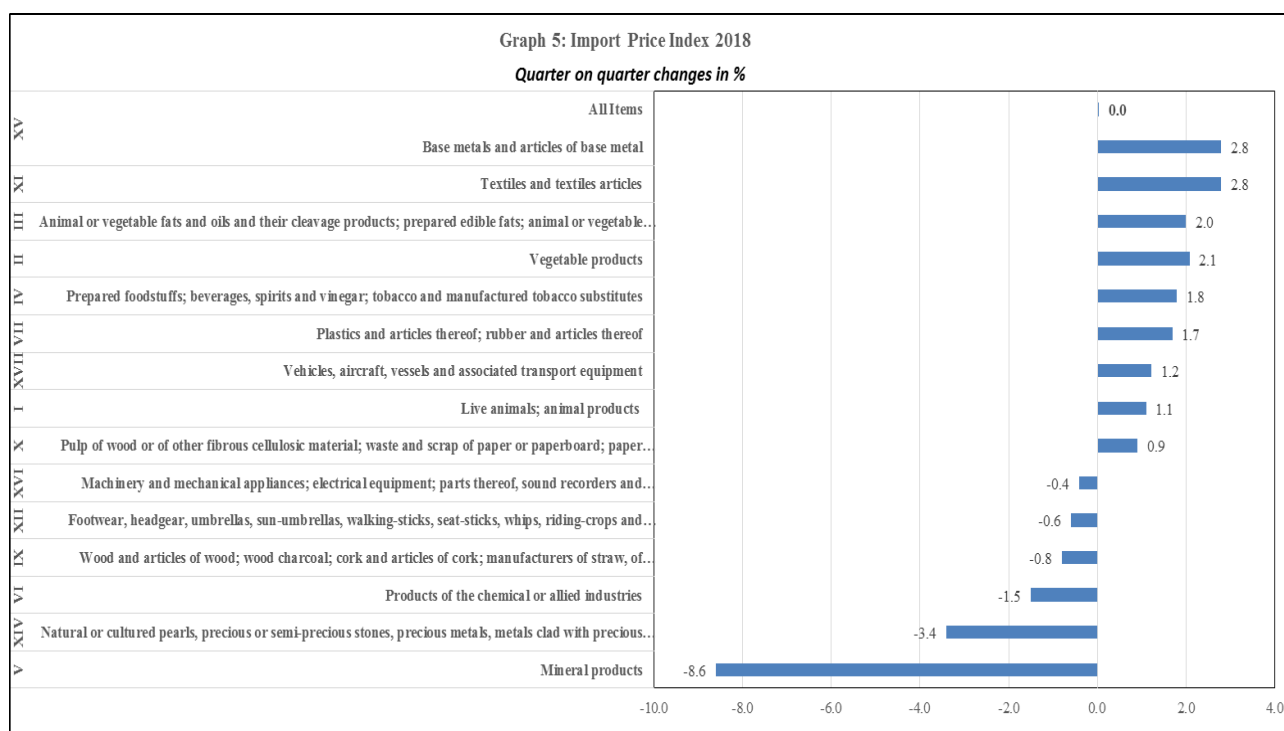
Import Price Index



There were significant price changes in the imported items when comparisons were made to the March quarter of 2018 and June quarter of 2017 periods but these changes balanced out.

Changes over the March quarter of 2018

The overall Import Price Index [MPI] for the June quarter of 2018 remained unchanged when compared to the March quarter of 2018 [101.9].



There were lower prices recorded for mineral products, natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin and products of the chemical or allied industries but these were balanced out by the higher prices recorded for base metals and articles of base metal, textiles and textiles articles, animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes, vegetable products, prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes and plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof.

Changes over the June quarter of 2017

Compared to the June quarter of 2017 [101.9], the MPI for the June quarter of 2018 remained unchanged.

Please find attached the following:

- Table 2:** Export Price Index;
- Table 3:** Import Price Index;
- Table 4:** Terms of Trade Index; and
- Appendix 1:** Technical Notes.

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The International Merchandise Trade Indexes (Prices) release for the September quarter of 2018 will be released in December, 2018.



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Government Statistician

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