



STATISTICAL NEWS

FBoS Release No: 110, 2018

31st December 2018

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE INDEXES [PRICES] SEPTEMBER 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.

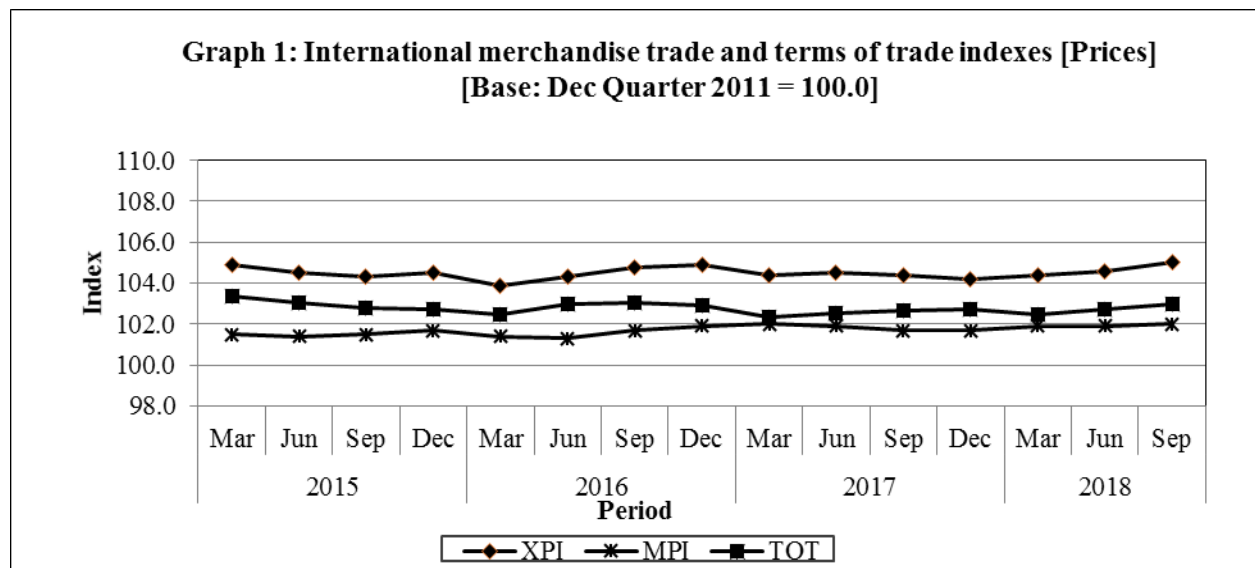
Key facts

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

- The international merchandise terms of trade price index increased by 0.3;
- Export prices for goods increased by 0.4 percent; and
- Import prices for goods increased by 0.1 percent.

Table 1: Summary

	Quarterly Index			% Change	
	Sep 2017	Jun 2018	Sep 2018	Sep 2018/ Jun 2018	Sep 2018/ Sep 2017
Export Price Index [XPI] - All Items	104.4	104.6	105.0	0.4	0.6
Import Price Index [MPI] - All Items	101.7	101.9	102.0	0.1	0.3
Terms of Trade [TOT]	102.7	102.7	103.0	0.3	0.3

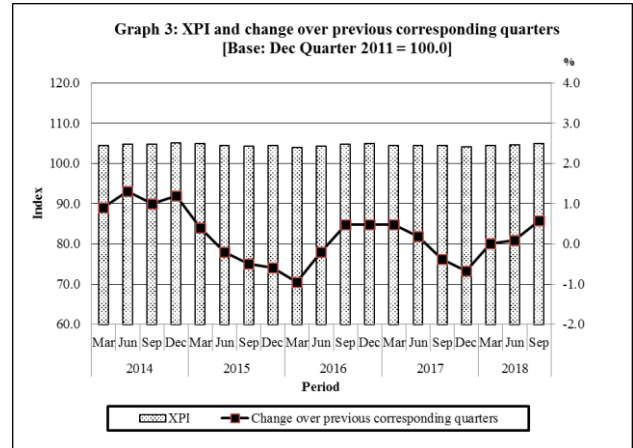
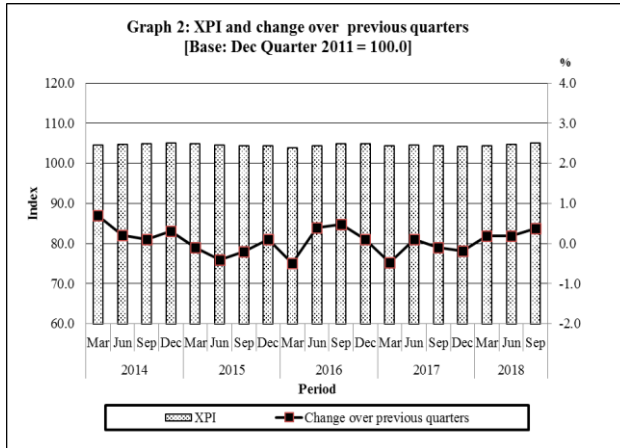


Commentary

The seasonally unadjusted international merchandise TOT index for the September quarter of 2018 stood at 103.0. This is an increase of 0.3 percent over the September quarter of 2017.

The export price index increased by 0.6 percent and import price index increased by 0.3 percent when compared to September quarter of 2017.

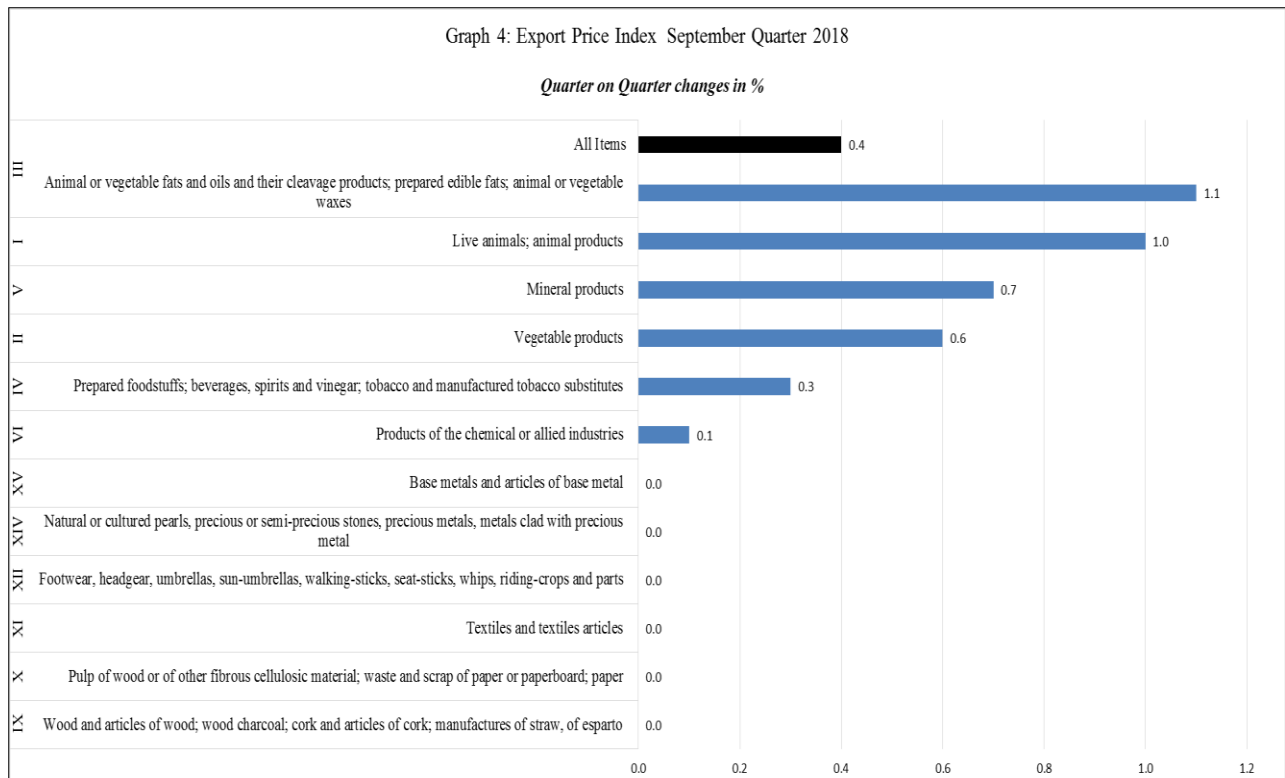
Export Price Index



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

Changes over the June quarter of 2018

The overall Export Price Index [XPI] for the September quarter of 2018 stands at 105.0, an increase of 0.4 percent when compared to the June quarter of 2018 [104.6].



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

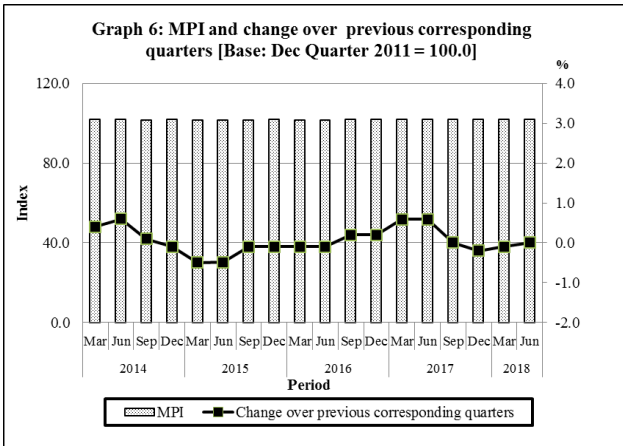
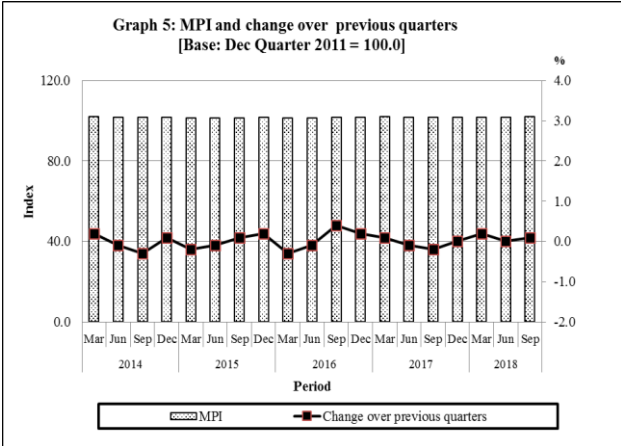
- Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes increased by 1.1 percent due to increase in price of *crude coconut oil*;
- Live animals; animal products increased by 1.0 percent due to high export price of *frozen whole wahoo*;
- Mineral products increased by 0.7 percent due to increase in prices of *unleaded petrol* and *jet fuel*; and
- Vegetable products increased by 0.6 percent caused by an increase in price of *frozen cassava* and *lemon grass*.

Changes over the September quarter of 2017

Compared to the September quarter of 2017 [104.4], the XPI for the June quarter of 2018 increased by 0.6 percent. Contributing to this increase were higher prices recorded for the following categories and specific items:

- Mineral products increased by 4.6 percent due to high prices of *jet aviation fuel* and *unleaded petrol*;
- Live animals; animal products increased by 2.7 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 2.3 percent due to high prices of *crude coconut oil*.

Import Price Index

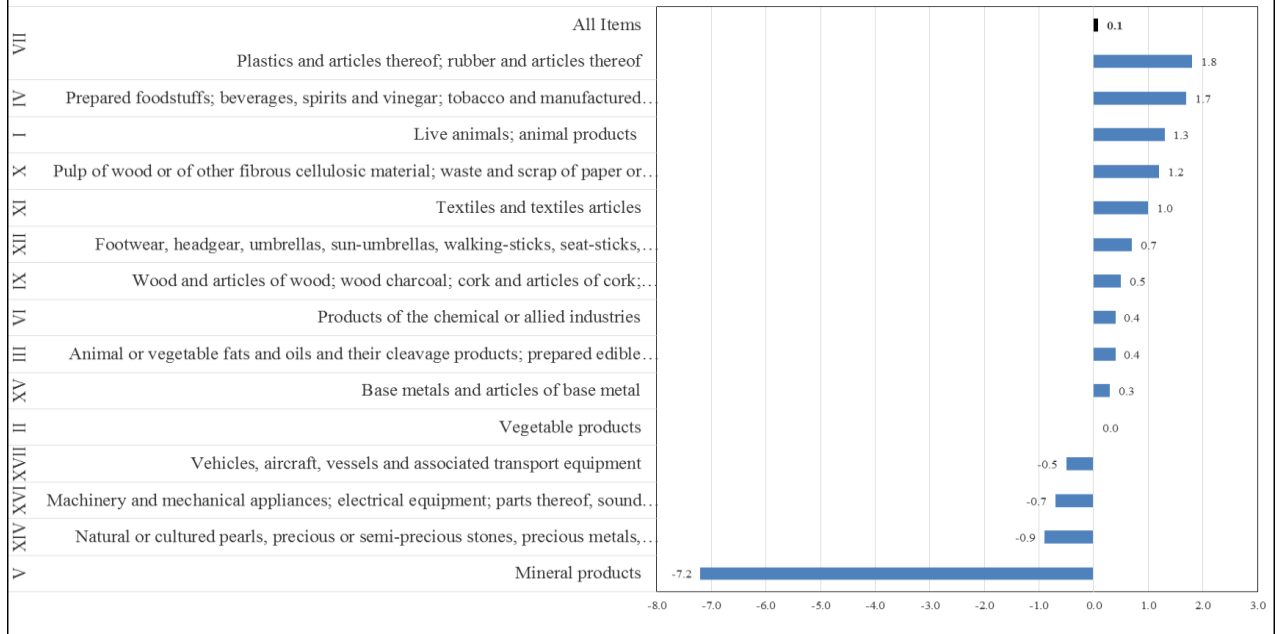


Changes over the June quarter of 2018

The overall Import Price Index [MPI] for the September quarter of 2018 increased by 0.1 percent when compared to the June quarter of 2018 [101.9].

Graph 7: Import Price Index September Quarter 2018

Quarter on quarter changes in %



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

- Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof increased by 1.8 percent resulting from an increase in prices of *bottle compound* and *PET resin*;
- Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes increased by 1.7 percent due to an increase in prices of *Brunswick mackerel in tomato sauce/natural oil*, *Brunswick tuna*, *Solomon Blue tuna*, and *fish steak*;
- Live animals; animal products increased by 1.3 percent due to an increase in price of *milk powder* and *prepack milk(UHT)*; and
- Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; waste and scrap of paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof increased by 1.2 percent due to high prices of *carbonless printing paper* and *photocopy paper*.

Changes over the September quarter of 2017

Compared to the September quarter of 2017 [101.7], the MPI for the September quarter of 2018 increased by 0.3 percent. Contributing to this increase were higher prices recorded for the following categories and specific items:

- Textiles and textiles articles increased by 7.3 percent due to increase in price of *cotton fabric*;
- Vegetable products increased by 4.5 percent resulting from an increase in prices of *potatoes* and *wheat*;
- Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof increased by 4.4 percent from an increase in prices of *bottle compound* and *PET resin*;
- Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes increased by 3.4 percent due to an increase in prices of *Brunswick mackerel in tomato sauce/natural oil*, *Brunswick tuna*, *Solomon Blue tuna*, and *fish steak*;
- Base metals and articles of base metal increased by 3.1 percent resulting from an increase in prices of *iron* and *steel*; and
- Live animals; animal products increased by 3.0 percent due to an increase in price of *milk powder* and *prepack milk (UHT)*.

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.

For further enquiries, please contact Ms. Cynthia Singh on email csingh@statsfiji.gov.fj or telephone 331 5822 (ext. 386 239) or direct line 323 0839.

The International Merchandise Trade Indexes (Prices) release for the December quarter of 2018 will be released in March, 2019.



Kemueli Naiqama [Mr]
Deputy Government Statistician

Reproduction of Material

Any table or material published in this release may be reproduced and published without the Fiji Bureau of Statistics' prior approval. However, the source of the information should always be identified and acknowledged in all modes of presentation.