

Vanuatu	
Policy responses	
Containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of State of Emergency (SOE) on March 26 for a two-week period. The SOE was extended for a 30-day period on April 11 and then again on May 11 • Lockdown (March)¹ • Border closure² • Port Screening • Partial Travel bans³ • Social distancing rules • (Apr 11) Domestic flights and ferries resumed • (May 12) International flights and vessels carrying international relief supplies or cargo can enter, provided they comply with Vanuatu's COVID-19 prevention and containment measures • (May 18) Reopening of all public schools • (Jun 3) Began repatriating citizens and residents stranded abroad. • July 16th: The government wants to create a travel bubble called the Tamtam travel. • November 11, 2020: Vanuatu has recorded its first Covid-19 case.⁴ • Mar 18, 2021:⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Travellers Banned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are required in public spaces Quarantine for 14 days required for all countries. Medical screening is required for all countries -Partial lockdown in effect -Events Allowed (Strict social distancing.) -Transport Operational with restrictions -All shops open -Tourist attractions are Open -Restaurants and bars are Open with restrictions
Fiscal	<p>30th March: Total stimulus: VT4400 million (equivalent to 4.5% of GDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Education</i>: suspension of secondary school tuition fees for 2020 • <i>Employment</i>: reimbursing employers of up to 30,000 vatu per employee per month for four months and an additional 15 percent • <i>Businesses</i>: deferred and cancelled taxes, license fees and charges for 2020, backdating reductions resulting from forthcoming business license reforms • <i>SMEs</i>: businesses with turnovers of less than VT 200 million vatu will receive a one-off payment equivalent to the full-year value of their business license fees.
Monetary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th March: Reduction of policy rate by 65 basis points from 2.9 percent to

¹<https://www.news18.com/cricketnext/news/cricket-goes-live-in-vanuatu-in-south-pacific-after-cyclone-and-coronavirus-lockdown-2593033.html>

²<https://time.com/5820382/coronavirus-cyclone-harold-vanuatu/>

³<https://www.worldaware.com/covid-19-alert-papua-new-guinea-orders-restrictions-through-april-30>

⁴ <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20201111-pacific-s-vanuatu-records-first-covid-19-case>

⁵ <https://covidcontrols.co/restrictions/vanuatu>

	<p>2.25 percent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31st March: Maintenance of inflation within a target range of 0-4 percent and official foreign exchange reserves above a minimum threshold of 4 months of import cover. • RBV further actions March-April: reduced retail banks Capital Adequacy Ratio to 10 percent from 12; activation of Bank's Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility (ISEFF) and Disaster Reconstruction Credit Facility (DRCF)
Financial	-
SME measures (last update 22 January 2021)	<p>Subsidy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An SME with an annual turnover of less than VUV 200 million can receive an equivalent of its business license fee. • The government provided agricultural producers with price-based subsidies. <p>Tax exemption and deferral of tax payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government announced a financial support package worth VUV 4 billion, which included cancellation and deferrals of corporate tax payments, license fees. <p>Other fiscal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government supported the transportation sector to facilitate farmers' access to major market centers. <p>Loan support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vanuatu National Provident Fund offered Hardship Loans to its members, including SMEs in various fields. Each member can apply for an interest-free loan of up to VUV 100,000. Members must repay within six months, otherwise, interest or fines will be incurred. <p>Employment support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government provided employment stability payments (each employee can receive a monthly subsidy of VUV 30,000 from his/her employer for four months; employers can additionally receive 15 per cent of the total subsidy).
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 27, 2020: World Bank US\$10 million in emergency funding to battle impacts of Covid-19. Drawn from Development Policy Grant⁶ • May 14, 2020: USD0.3 million support from UN covid-19 response and & recover fund ⁷ • May 26, 2020: USAID allocated US\$9.9 million towards covid-19 efforts in Pacific Island regions of FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (individual breakdown unavailable) • May 28, 2020: Vanuatu was expected to receive health equipment and medical supplies provided by the ADB and the UNICEF⁸.

⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/27/us10m-emergency-world-bank-funding-for-vanuatu>

⁷ <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/VAN>

⁸ <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-unicef-send-medical-supplies-help-pacific-prepare-covid-19>

Source: IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19, if not specified.