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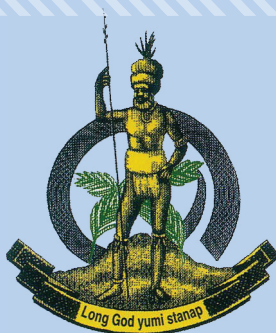


*Vanuatu Hemi Kaontem Yu*

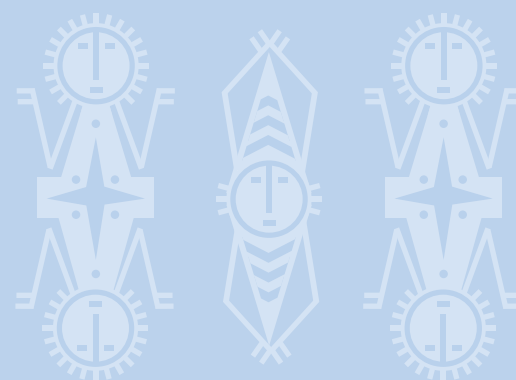
## 2009 National Population & Housing Census

# Youth Monograph

YOUNG PEOPLE IN VANUATU



# Contents



## ***Young people in Vanuatu:***

*An analysis of the situation of  
young people from the 2009  
Population and Housing Census*

Simil Johnson  
*Government Statistician*

Benuel Lenge  
*Senior Statistician*

## ***Authors and contributors***

Jimmy Tamkela  
*Statistician*

Melanie Nalau  
*Assistant Statistician*

Andy Calo  
*Statistician*

Richard Curtain  
*UNFPA Consultant*

## ***Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO)***

Private Mail Bag 9019  
PORT VILA  
Vanuatu

Tel: (678) 22110/22111  
Fax: (678) 24583  
Email: [stats@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:stats@vanuatu.gov.vu)  
[www.vnsso.gov.vu](http://www.vnsso.gov.vu)

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# Preface

The population and housing census is a rich source of data for in-depth analysis. Collecting information on all people and the household they live in provides the possibility to compare a wide range of characteristics as in all areas of official government statistics.

*Young People in Vanuatu* presents an analysis of the 2009 Vanuatu Population and Housing Census results from a young people perspective. It is aimed at government officials and decision-makers in Vanuatu, providing crucial evidence to design youth-sensitive policies and programmes and monitor their effectiveness. It is an important addition to a series of publications from the 2009 population and housing census. It complements the other products - National Population and Housing Census: Basic Tables Report (Volume 1), Analytical Report (Volume 2) and the Gender Monograph Report – all published by the Vanuatu National Statistics Office.

This report is written for a broad audience, including people who have no experience in using statistics. It presents key findings with clear explanations to help readers interpret the data and understand its limitations. It should serve as a useful resource for anyone interested in young people and

their contribution to economic and social development in Vanuatu. From a personal view, I am very proud to be able to present this publication to you. This is the second time we have attempted a publication of this type in Vanuatu (first being the Gender Monograph) and I am very impressed with the quality of the end product.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the valuable contributions and support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in committing itself to this initiative. My sincere gratitude for the important contribution of Richard Curtain who was the Technical Consultant to this report. I also want to acknowledge the excellent effort of my staff who committed their time to making this report a reality, particularly Jimmy Tamkela, Melanie Nalau, Andy Calo and other VNSO staff who contributed in one way or another.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the young people of Vanuatu who participated in the census, for without them, this publication would not have been possible.

Simil Johnson  
Government Statistician



Vanuatu National Statistics Office May 2012



# Foreword

**I**t is a pleasure to introduce this report; “Young People in Vanuatu” based on the results from our 5th National Population and Housing Census, conducted in 2009. This report complements other published reports already such as the 2009 National Population and Housing Census: Basic Tables Report (Volume 1); the Analytical Report (Volume 2) and the Gender Monograph (Women and Men in Vanuatu), all providing detailed information and analysis of the census results.

This report differs from earlier reports in that it focuses on youth issues, exploring the realities between young men and women in relation to their social and economic status in their society.

It is the first time such a report has been prepared for Vanuatu and it has been written for a broad audience, including people who may have no experience at all in using statistics. As well of being of general interest, it is expected that the report will be of value to decision makers and government officials.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the contribution of the Vanuatu Government to this project, the United Nation Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the valuable contributions and support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) who provided the technical assistance for this report.

It is also worth reiterating the value of the support of the people of Vanuatu for their cooperation in completing the census itself and to the others involved in assisting with the design, collection, processing and dissemination of the census results.

To the staff of the National Statistics Office, I would like to commend your contributions to this publication. I am very satisfied to see the special efforts being made to ensure that results from the census are widely used.

I urge all recipients of this report to fully utilise it to enable sound decision and policy making in regards to the young people in Vanuatu.

Honourable Moana Carcasses Calosil  
*Minister of Finance and Economic Management*

Republic of Vanuatu  
May 2012

# Acronyms

SFR	Age Specific Fertility Rate
ASPBAE	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education
DYDT	Department of Youth Development and Training
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
AISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupation
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NYP	National Youth Policy
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RSE	Recognized Seasonal Employees
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VEMIS	Vanuatu Education Management Information System
VEPAC	Vanuatu Education Policy Advocacy Coalition
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office



# Key findings

## Young people in the population

- Young people, defined using a broad age grouping of 10-30 years, account for about two-in-five people (39%) of Vanuatu's total population.
- The age group of 12-30 years is used in official youth policy and accounts for 80,132 young people, or over one third of Vanuatu's total population.
- Young people in the narrower age group of 15-24 years number almost one-in-five in the total population (19%).
- Young people aged 15-24 years account for just over one-third (34%) of the working age population aged 15 years and above.

## Youth transition

- A young person's success or failure in their youth transition will have a strong impact on their later life outcomes.
- Most young people aged 12-30 years in Vanuatu have been to school (94%).
- Many young people are now staying on in school in their teenage years, with half of 17 year-olds still in school. However, the age at which a young person leaves school is different for urban and rural areas.
- Marriage is an important step in the youth transition. For women by age 17, nine-out-of-ten are single, 6% are in de-facto relationships and only 3% are legally married.

By age 30, only just over one-in-ten women (13%) are single, nearly two-thirds legally married, one-in-five are in a de-facto relationship and 3% are divorced, separated or widowed.

- Young men on the other hand are much less likely to be married by 30. By age 19, over nine out of ten (93%) young men are still single, and by age 30, over one in six (17%) are still single with over half (57%) married, and a quarter (25%) in a de-facto relationship.
- Young women and men living in urban areas are more likely to delay getting married or entering a de-facto relationship.
- Young women in rural areas are more likely to be married at a young age. Half of 20-24 year old women in urban areas are single compared with 40% in rural areas.
- For young men aged 20-24 years, just over two thirds (68%) in rural areas are single compared with just over three quarters (76%) in urban areas.

## Migration

- The main movements of young people are from rural to urban areas to take advantage of better education and employment opportunities.
- Migration from one rural area to another rural area is also common, especially for young women moving to the home island of their spouse.

## Health

- Many young people in their late teenage years and in their twenties are smoking, consuming alcohol and other drugs such as kava, and engage in high-risk sex.
- The proportion of young teenagers aged 15, 16 and 17 years who have ever given birth is low, but rises to 12% for 18 year-olds and 20% for 19 year-olds.
- The Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) of women age (15-19 years) has reduced significantly since 1999, from 92<sup>1</sup> to 66
- The provinces of Torba, Sanma and Malampa have the highest share of teenage mothers, nearly one-in-six young women aged 15-19 years in Torba (14%) have given birth.
- Teenage pregnancy is strongly associated with a low level of education attainment.
- Disability affects access to schooling. More young people aged 10-29 years with a disability have never been to school than young people without a disability.

## Education

- Most young people in the 15-19 year age group in November 2009 are still students.
- Nearly a third of the 15-19 year-old students are still in primary school (31%). Most are in secondary school (62%) with some attending vocational education or tertiary studies (7%)
- In Vanuatu, the proportion of young people aged 25-29 years with at least upper secondary education or a vocational certificate is 19% or almost one-in-five.

- Near to one-in-ten young people have not gone to school, the overall rate for 15-29 year-olds is 9%.
- The main activity of the largest group of urban 15-19 year-olds is being a student (55% for males and 58% for females).
- For 20-24 year-olds, only 16% of young men and 13% of young women are still engaged in education.
- By age 25-29 years, few are still in education (3% and 2% respectively).

## Young people 'in productive work'

- The main activity for most young people is producing goods for own consumption. This activity accounts for just over one-in-five (21%) young people aged 15-19 years, for over two-in-seven (28%) of 20-24 year-olds and for three-in-ten (31%) of young people aged 25-29 years.
- Producing goods for sale is the main activity of between 5% and 7% of each age group of young people. Unpaid family work is the main activity of about one-in-twenty young people in each age group.

## Young people in paid employment

- Few 15-19 year-olds are in paid work, less than one-in-ten (9%). The largest group are employees in the private sector (5%). Less than 1% of young people in this age group are employed by the government, or are employers themselves. Some 2% are self-employed.
- In the 20-24 age group, just under one-in-four (23%) are in a paid job. The largest group are employees in the private sector (16%), with the public sector employing only 3%, which is the same proportion as the self-employed.
- In the 25-29 age group, nearly three-in-ten (28%) are in paid employment, with near to one-in-five (18%) in the

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<sup>1</sup> ASFR for 1999 (92) was calculated using the 'Brass P/F' method while the 2009 (66) was defined using the 'Own-Children' technique.

private sector, one-in-twenty (5%) in the government and just under one-in-twenty (4%) in self-employment. Young people in this age group who are employers account for only 1%.

### Neither in work or in education

- Just under one-in-six (15%) of 15-19 year-olds are neither in education nor in work.
- Most of this group of young people want work (7% of all 15-19 year-olds). This includes both those who are actively looking for work and those who are discouraged job seekers who have given up looking for work as they 'believe no work is available'.
- Full-time homemakers account for 3% of the 15-19 year-olds, with 5% saying that either they didn't want to work, were disabled or were otherwise not able to work.
- For 20-24 year-olds, some 8% want to work, almost one-in-six (16%) are homemakers and 5%, either didn't want to work, were disabled or were otherwise not able to work.
- For 25-29 year-olds, 5% wanted work, 18% said they are full-time homemakers and 3% said either they didn't want to work, were disabled or were otherwise not able to work.

### Urban young people in paid employment

- Over half (53%) of young men aged 20-24 years are in work but only 43% of young women are in work.

- In the 25-29 age groups, more young men are employed than women (72% compared with 52%).
- In the 20-24 and 25-29 year age groups more women than men are in the 'neither in work nor in education' category.

### Youth share of occupations

- In urban areas, the main occupations with a large share of young people are: elementary workers; salespersons; subsistence, mixed crop and livestock farmers; field crop and vegetable growers; agriculture machinery mechanics and repairers; clerical officers; those engaged in community security and religious activities; bakers; bank officers and market sellers.

### Young people's access to information & communication

- Almost one-in-six (16%) young people aged 15-29 years in urban areas used the Internet in the week before the census, while only 3% of young people aged 15-29 years in rural areas used the Internet.
- Young people in rural areas are being left behind in the technology revolution, due to the high costs of establishing infrastructure and a lack of skills.

### ICT-related occupations

- Only 275 people are in jobs working with information and communication technologies. Half of these are young people aged 15-29 years.



# About this Monograph

**T**his report is the second in a series which provide an in-depth look at the 2009 census on a specific topic. The aim of the census monograph series is to present the census results in a way that can be easily understood by people with a limited experience in using statistics. The first monograph in this series is called: Women and Men in Vanuatu: Gender analysis of the 2009 Population and Housing Census.

The focus of this monograph is on young people with particular attention to the changes they are going through, using data from the 2009 population census. It makes use of already published data and a range of special tabulations produced for this monograph. There is also some reference to international data which is provided to enable the information on Vanuatu to be seen in a regional and global context.

## How are young people defined in terms of age?

The term 'young people' is preferred rather than the term 'youth' or 'youths' except where it is used to describe another word or concept as in 'youth population'. The focus of this monograph is on the youth population ranging from 10 to 30 years. Vanuatu's National Youth Policy defines the youth population as those between 12 and 30 years old. The Government's adolescent health and development focus defines early adolescence as ages 10-14 years.

## *Vision of the National Youth Policy*

*The young people of Vanuatu use their energies in constructive ways, availing themselves of traditional and religious values, along with modern technologies, in support of the national's socio-economic development and their financial, physical, social, spiritual and family needs.*

Therefore the youth age subgroups used in the analysis are: 10-14, 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 years. However, a number of census questions were only asked of those persons aged 15 years and over. This means that analysis of a number of issues such as education attainment, teenage pregnancy, use of alcohol, kava & smoking, use of the Internet and employment and unemployment is limited to the age range 15-29 years.

## National youth priorities

The general policy directives of the current National Youth Policy of Vanuatu cover the period 2007 to 2011. The policy is currently being revised. The focus of the 2007-2011 policy has been on mapping youth activities and establishing a national youth data base; strengthening institutional

capacity, strengthening partnership for youth training and development, and promoting youth development and employment. In relation to the latter, focus has been on nurturing sustainable livelihoods; building stronger communities and families; and in fostering youth identities based on cultural heritage as well as tolerance for ethnic diversity.

### **The youth Millennium Development Goals**

Another set of important reference points for the following analysis are the youth-oriented Millennium Development Goals. These are as part of Goal 1: achieving full and productive employment and decent work for young men and women; Goal 2: on ensuring that children complete their primary schooling, and Goal 3: eliminating gender disparity at all levels of education. Goal 5: improving maternal health by reducing the maternal mortality rate and universal access to reproductive health is vital to young mothers in particular. Goal 6: on combating HIV & AIDS, malaria and other diseases is also highly relevant to young people, in particular preventing HIV & AIDS and assisting those have the ailment.

However, the census results can only provide data which address three of these issues:

- Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men;
- Ratios of males to females in primary, secondary and tertiary education; and the
- Adolescent birth rate.

### **Challenges faced by young people**

Vanuatu's National Youth Policy identifies the challenges and opportunities young people have in Vanuatu. These are: youth employment, underemployment, and unemployment; factors causing malnutrition, reproductive and sexual health,

youth health more generally and youth contributions to their community, province and the nation.

In keeping with the focus of the national youth policy, this monograph makes extensive use of the concept of a youth transition. This refers to the distinct stage in life that most young people go through. This transition involves dealing with a series of changes in moving from one fairly stable life stage, childhood, to another fairly stable stage, adulthood.<sup>2</sup> These changes which most young people have to negotiate include: leaving school, leaving the parental home and finding a place to live, finding work or a reliable livelihood, managing new health risks and taking part in the political system.<sup>3</sup>

However, it is important to recognise that not all young people are the same. A person's characteristics and background will affect what actual changes they go through and how well they can overcome any obstacles they encounter. Whether a young person is male or female, is from a well-off or poor household, or is living in a rural or urban area will make a difference.<sup>4</sup> Other sources of prior advantage/disadvantage include whether a young person is literate or not, the extent and quality of their formal education and whether he or she has HIV & AIDS or is physically or mentally disabled.

These differences in personal characteristics and social situations will expand or narrow the range of opportunities a young person has available to him or her.

A young person's success or failure in their youth transition will have a strong impact on their later life outcomes. In general, however, the poorer and less educated a young person, the greater the barriers he or she faces and the more difficult the transition to adulthood is for them. From a youth transition perspective, it is the role of governments, communities and other organisations to help build the

resilience of young people so they can overcome the obstacles they face and to achieve socially productive outcomes in life.

## Outline of the monograph

Chapter One presents information on the number of young people in the total population, including a measure of the youth bulge, differences between the sexes, and young people in urban and rural areas. It also includes a comparison of Vanuatu's youth share of the population with other countries in the region.

Chapter Two provides an outline of the youth transition, showing the ages at which young people leave school, the proportion of young people who have never attended school or leave school early. Information is also presented on estimated age of leaving the parental home, age at entering new personal relationships, estimated age at marriage or being in de-facto relationship, and when a woman gave birth to her first child. A key economic milestone is also noted in terms of age when most young people are in employment or have a secure livelihood. The religious affiliations of young people compared with older generations are also discussed.

Chapter Three presents data on where young people live and migrate in terms of their birth place, where they lived five years ago and where they now live.

Chapter Four discusses the available census data on the

health status of young people, including adolescent births and disability. Data are presented on youth disability by province and access to education for the disabled.

Chapter Five focuses on literacy and educational attainment of young people. It covers upper secondary education attainment, tertiary education attainment, and those who have never been to school. Also presented are estimates of those young people who are at high-risk of illiteracy.

Chapter Six provides detailed information about young people working and those not working. The information relates to young people "in work" as defined by the census and those in paid employment. New information is presented about young people who are neither "in work" nor in education. Data are also presented on those who are potentially discouraged job seekers, young people and work overseas, the major jobs held by young people, identifying skills young people should be acquiring, and the youth share of occupations. More information on the occupations of young people is available in Attachment 2.

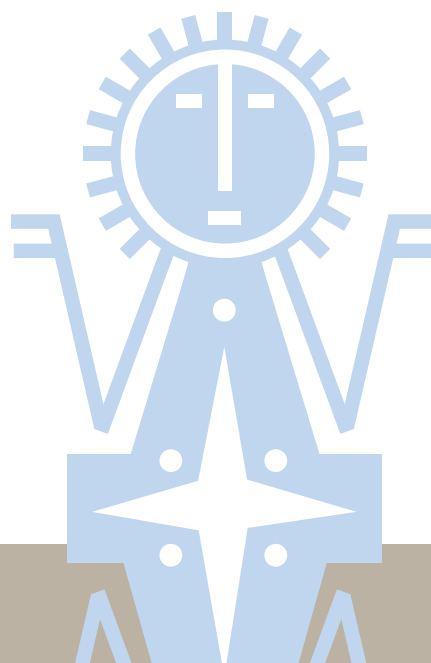
The final chapter (Chapter Seven) focuses on young people's access to information and communication. Data are presented on young people's use of the Internet, and access to mobile phones and other communication media. Also discussed are seven ICT-related occupations, and the youth share of employment in these jobs.

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<sup>2</sup> Lloyd, C (editor); 2005, *Growing Up Global: The Changing Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries*. Committee on Population Board on Children, Youth, and Families Division of Behavioural and Social Sciences and Education, US National Research Council & Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Washington, USA, pp 24-27.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. 2006, *World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation*, pp 5-15.

<sup>4</sup> See UNICEF Pacific & Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), 2011, *The State of Pacific Youth Report 2011*.  
[www.unicef.org/eapro/State\\_of\\_the\\_Pacific\\_Youth\\_Report\\_web.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/eapro/State_of_the_Pacific_Youth_Report_web.pdf)





# Young people in the total population

The two key age groups defining youth are 12-30 and 15-24 years of age. The youth share of the population is defined by Vanuatu’s National Youth Policy as covering the age span of 12 to 30 years of age. An alternative, narrower age grouping of 15 to 24 year olds is also widely used by the UN and regional agencies such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to make comparisons between countries.

TABLE 1		YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 10-29 YEARS BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009		
AGE GROUP	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	
10 - 14	14,762	13,159	27,921	
15 - 19	12,027	11,855	23,882	
20 - 24	10,415	11,126	21,541	
25 - 29	9,124	9,291	18,415	

Several things stand out about the age and sex profile of Vanuatu’s youth population in five-year age groups. Young people defined as a broader youth age grouping of 10-30 years account for almost two-in-five people in Vanuatu’s total population (39%).

The official youth age group of 12-30 years accounts for 80,132 young people, which is just over one third of Vanuatu’s total population recorded in the 2009 census.

Compared with 1999, (refer to Figure 1), the share of young people aged 15-30 years in the total population has

remained virtually same. However, the size of Vanuatu’s youth population will increase greatly in the next ten years. The number of 10-19 year-olds will increase from 51,803 to around 63,000, based on the current size of the two youngest age groups. Young people in the narrower age group aged 15-24 years number almost one-in-five in the total population (19%).

### A measure of the youth bulge

A useful indicator of young people’s position in the economy is their share of the adult workforce aged 15-24 years. This measure highlights the pressure that a large ‘youth bulge’ can place on the labour market to generate sufficient jobs to meet the expectations of job seekers or the pressure on education and training facilities in the young age. If the working age population is taken to be 15 to 55 years (the age of retirement for government employment), then young people aged 15-24 years account for over one-in-three of the working-age population (37%). Using a broader working age definition of 15-64 years, young people aged 15-24 years account for over one third (34%) of the working age population.

### Differences between the sexes

Males outnumber females in the 10-14 age groups by a considerable margin. While the number of males to females in the 15-19 age group is only slightly in favour of males, this changes for the 20-24 age group where young women outnumber the young men. In the 25-29 age group females only slightly outnumber males.

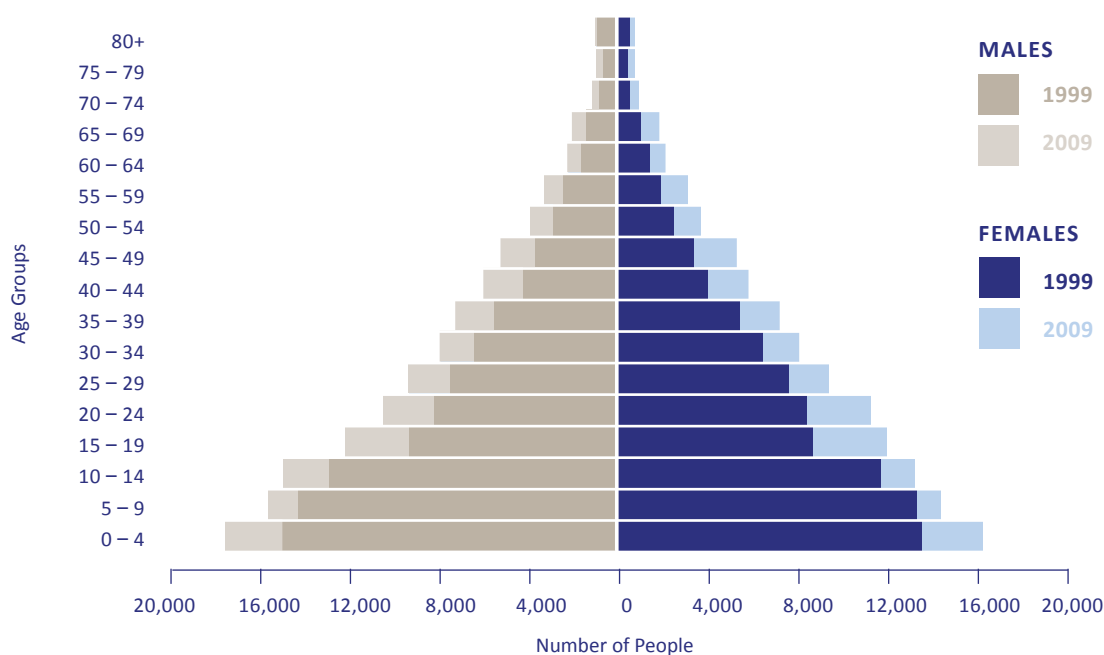


Figure 1: Population pyramid by five-year age group and sex, 1999 and 2009.

<div>TABLE 2</div> <div>YOUNG PEOPLE BY SINGLE AGE AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009</div>			
AGE (YEARS)	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
12	2,905	2,583	5,488
13	2,631	2,576	5,207
14	2,989	2,709	5,698
15	2,682	2,568	5,250
16	2,354	2,428	4,782
17	2,320	2,323	4,643
18	2,355	2,250	4,605
19	2,311	2,285	4,596
20	2,280	2,401	4,681
21	1,928	2,084	4,012
22	2,110	2,304	4,414
23	1,991	2,147	4,138
24	2,068	2,155	4,223
25	1,969	2,090	4,059
26	1,818	1,850	3,668
27	1,723	1,840	3,563
28	1,499	1,445	2,944
29	2,103	2,058	4,161
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,036</b>	<b>40,096</b>	<b>80,132</b>

The slightly smaller number of males in the age group when young people are most mobile suggests that many young men in this age group were not counted in the census. The reasons could be to do with being resident overseas for study or work. This could be due to living together in informal households that were difficult to identify and be counted in the census. Or as transients, they are less likely to be recorded as normal household residents on the night of the census.

### Young people in urban and rural areas

Port Vila has the highest share of young people aged 15-24 years in the working age population, followed by Luganville. The provinces with the lowest shares of young people aged 15-24 years in the working age population are in order: Malampa, Penama, Tafea, followed by Torba and Sanma. A lower share of young people in a province suggests that young people have migrated out for reasons of education, paid work or some other reasons (such as wanting to live in town).



# Outline of the youth transition

As discussed in the introduction about this monograph, a valuable way to understand what is happening to young people in Vanuatu is to see how they cope with a number of major life changes. These usually include leaving school, leaving the parental home and finding a place to live, finding work or a reliable livelihood, managing new health risks and taking part in the political system.<sup>5</sup>

The census results provide information about the changes young people are going through in their youth transition. From the census it is possible to make estimates about the age that young people leave school, age when they are not living in the parental home, age at marriage, age at which first child is born (for women), differences in age related to work, and age at which they are exposing themselves to new health risks.

A young person’s success or failure in their youth transition will have a strong impact on their later life outcomes. For example, if a young man has a long period of looking for work and/or a series of temporary jobs, this may delay when he leaves home and sets up his own household. It is also likely to affect his self-confidence, his attitudes to government and his capacity to contribute to his community. Similarly, a young adolescent girl who has a child is at greater risk of dying from complications and her child has a lower chance of survival. Teenage mothers are also more likely to be school drop outs and to have more limited life options as a result.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> World Bank. 2006, World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation, pp 5-15.  
<sup>6</sup> UNICEF, 2011, Adolescence: an Age of Opportunity: State of the World’s Children 2011, New York, pp 22.

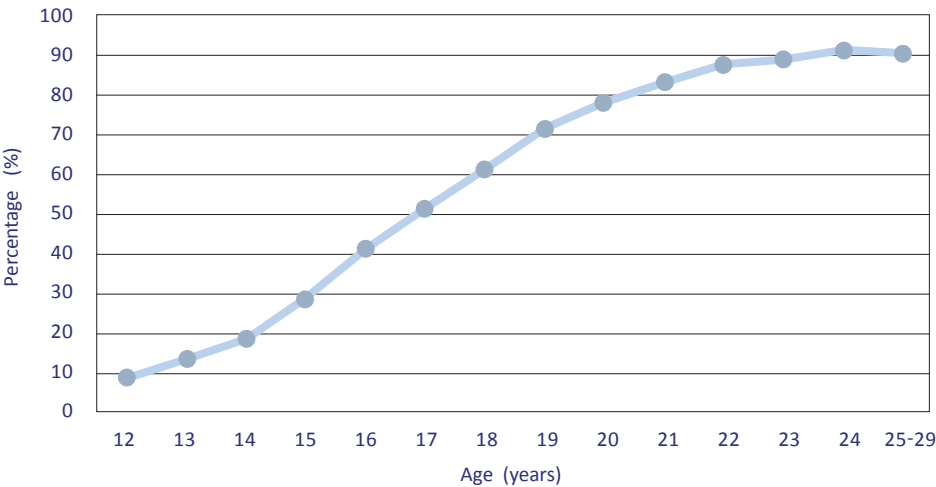


Figure 2: Proportions of young people who have left school, Vanuatu: 2009

## Leaving school

Most young people aged 12-30 years in Vanuatu have been to school (94%). Many are now staying on in school in their teenage years, with half of 17 year-olds still in school. The differences in age at which male and females leave school are not significant, with girls showing a similar age pattern to boys.

At age 10, only 5% have left school but by age 12, the proportion that has left school increases to 9%, (refer to Figure 2). By age 13, some 14% have left school. Nearly one-in-five 14 year-olds (19%) and over one-in-four 15 year-olds (29%) have left school. By age 16, two-in-five (41%) have left school. As noted above, by age 17 just over half have left school (51%). For 18 year-olds, three-in-five (61%) have left school and for 19 year-olds, just over seven-out-of-ten (71%) have left school. For 20 year-olds, near to four-out-of-five have left school (78%), rising to nine out of ten for those aged 24-30 years.

The age at which a young person leaves school differs between the residents of urban and rural areas. One-in-five young people in education (21%) who live in urban areas are still attending senior secondary school (Year 11 and above) and post-secondary education. This compares with

only 4% of young people in education who live in rural areas. This reflects the fact that most of the institutions providing education at these levels are in Vanuatu's urban areas.

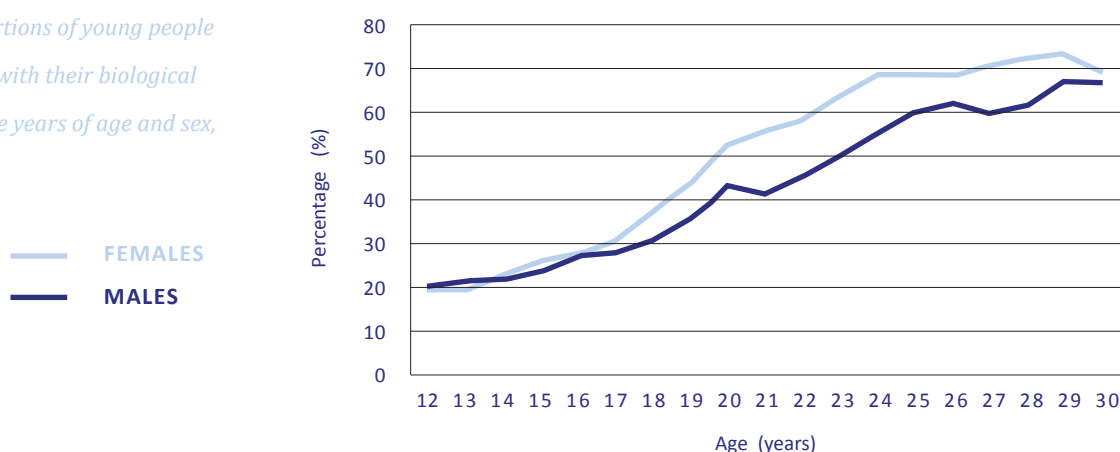
## Young people who have never attended school or leave school early

However, some young people have not attended school at all. The proportion of young people who have never been to school ranges from 5 to 8%, with an average of 7% of all young people aged 12-30 years. Those who have not gone to school will have a much narrower set of life options available to them as a result; similar to those who have left school before completing their primary schooling. Some 7% of all school age children under age 15 years have left school. These dropouts might not have chosen to do so as having few schools in some communities also discourages young people from continuing with their education. Other reasons could be the high boarding fees or a mismatch of age with grade level causing young people to quit school to avoid embarrassment or intimidation by other students.

## Leaving the parental home

The second step many young people take is leaving the parental home. The census asked whether a person is still

Figure 3: Proportions of young people who do not live with their biological mother, by single years of age and sex, Vanuatu: 2009.



living in the same household as their biological mother.<sup>7</sup> The responses by single age, presented in Figure 3 on the previous page, show that many young people leave home from as early as 15 years of age. Some young people in their teenage years leave home to go to secondary school in another area. Others leave home when they migrate to town to look for work or to experience the wider world.

Some 14% of children between the ages of 0 to 11 years live away from their biological mothers. By age 12, the proportion has risen to one-in-five (21%). However, by age 30 one-in-two young people (48%) are not living in the same household as their mother. The proportion of young people between 12 and 30 years who are not living with their mother varies greatly by sex. The fact that after the age of 16,

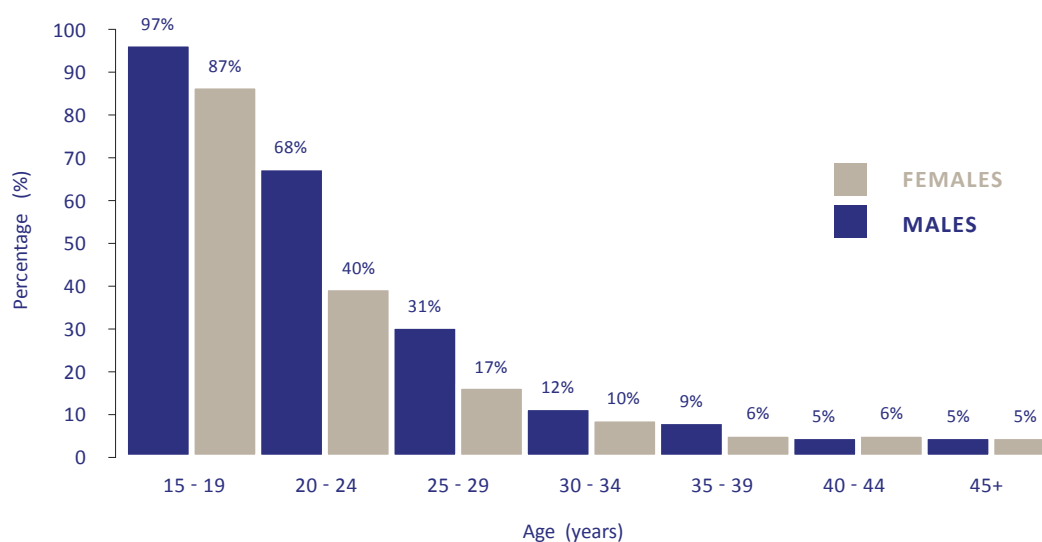


Figure 4: Never married population in rural areas, by age and sex, Vanuatu: 2009.

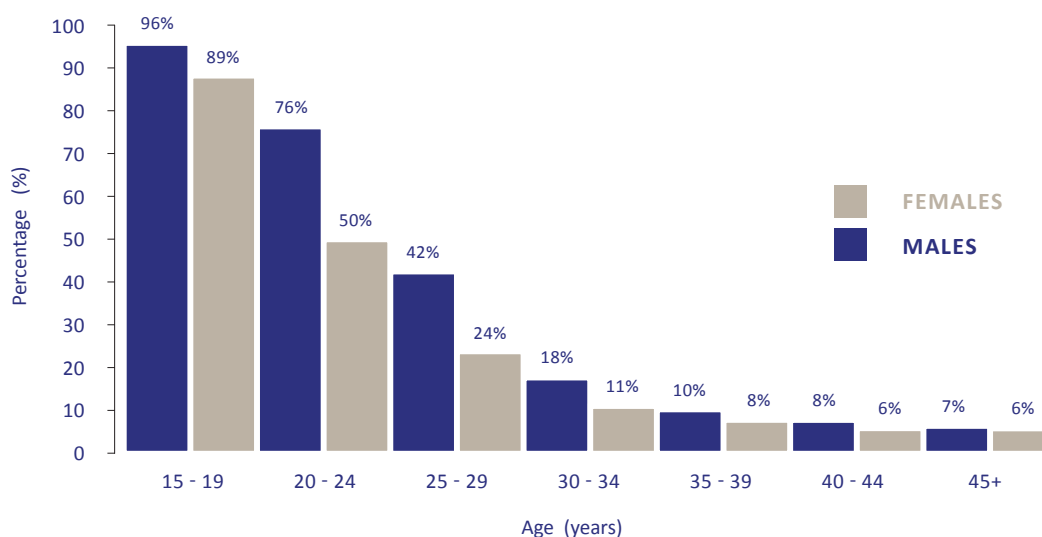


Figure 5: Never married population in urban areas, by age and sex, Vanuatu: 2009.

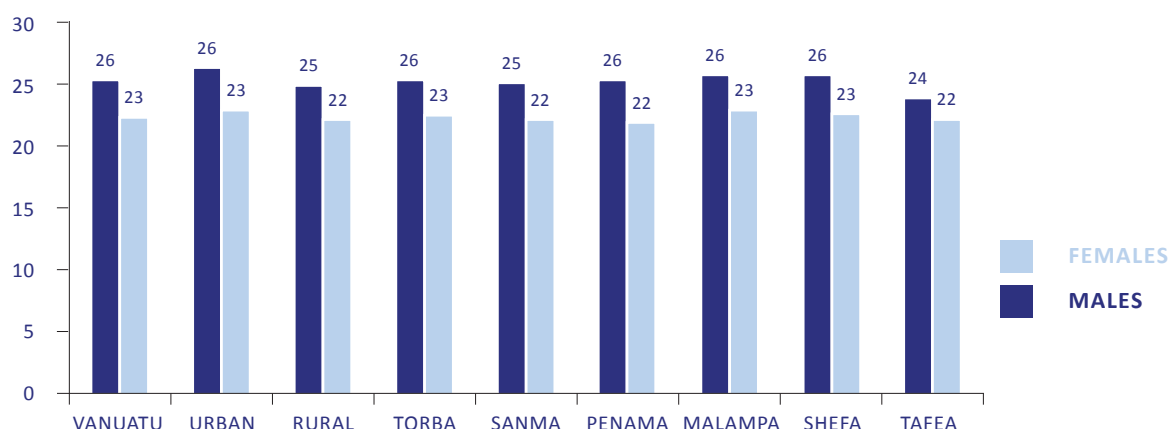


Figure 6: Mean age at first marriage by sex and province, Vanuatu: 2009.

more girls than boys are living away from their mothers may be explained by the practice of girls moving to her husband's place of residence when getting married.

By age 18 years, three-in-ten males (31%) do not live in the same household as their mother but for females at the same age it is 37%. By age 23, half of the males (50%) and nearly two-in-three young women (64%) are not living in the same household as their mother. By age 30, two-thirds of the young men (67%) and slightly more women at the same age (69%) are not living with their mothers. Possible reasons why many young women are not in the same household as their mother are put forward in the following section.

### Entering new personal relationships

A key marker of the transition to adult status for young people is getting married or forming an informal 'de-facto' relationship by living together with a partner. Figures 4 and 5 show the change in status for young men and women from 'never married' to married or in a 'de facto' relationship in rural and in urban areas.

The biggest differences between rural and urban areas in the status of 'never married' or being single exists for young women. Half of 20-24 year old women in urban areas are single compared with 40% in rural areas. In the 25-29 year age group, there is a narrower but still significant gap (24% urban, 17% rural).

For young men aged 20-24 years, just over two thirds (68%) in rural areas are single compared with just over three quarters (76%) in urban areas who are single. By age 25-29, the rural-urban gap for men who are single has increased (31% in rural areas compared with 42% in urban areas). However, by age 35-39 years, there is little difference of note between rural and urban areas in the proportion of men who are single or 'never married'.

### Age at marriage

On average, women marry at a younger age compared with men for their first marriage. The 2009 census revealed that women marry at an average age of 22 years, whereas men tend to marry around 25 years of age. The trend, presented in Figure 6, is similar for all provinces of Vanuatu, with the biggest age difference in Penama and the smallest in Tafea province.

<sup>7</sup> If the response to this question was no, it was assumed to mean the person had left their parental home.



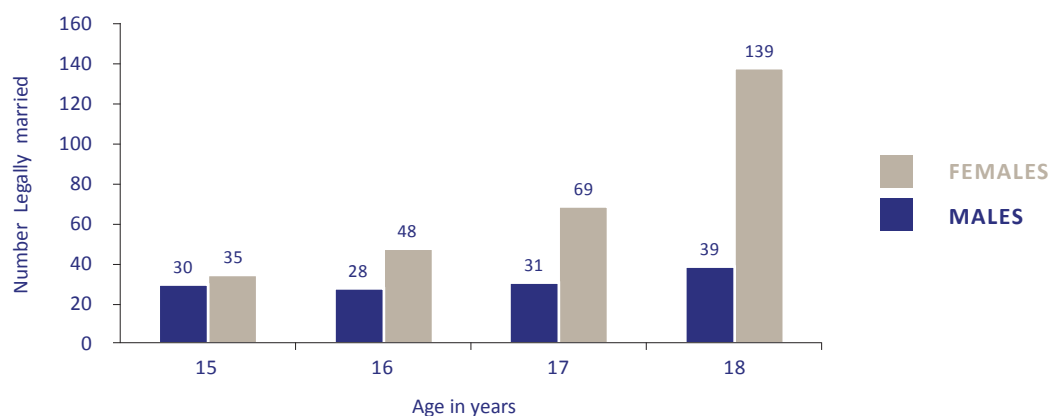


Figure 7: Legally married teenage population, Vanuatu: 2009.

A small number of girls aged 15 years (35) and boys aged less than 18 (89) gave their marital status as 'legally married' which is below the legal age, (refer to Figure 7). Five of the 35 girls who were married by age 15 had already given birth.

### Married or in a de-facto relationship?

Virtually all 17 year-old males are single but by age 30 only one-in-six men (17%) are single. By age 21, one-in-nine (11%) men are recorded as having a 'de-facto' marital status and to one-in-twelve (8%) are legally married. By age 24, just over half (53%) of the men are still single ('never married'), one quarter (26%) are in a de-facto relationship and one-in-five (21%) are legally married. By age 28, less than a third (30%) are single, 42% are legally married and 27% are in a de-facto relationship.

For young women, a different age pattern is evident. By age 17, nine-out-of-ten are single, 6% are in a de-facto relationship and only 3% are legally married. By age 21, half of the women at this age are single (51%), a quarter (26%) are living in a de-facto relationship and one-in-five (22%) are legally married. By age 30, only just over one-in-ten women (13%) are single, with nearly two-thirds legally married. Only one-in-five are in a de-facto relationship and 3% are in the 'other' category of divorced, separated or widowed.

### Birth of first child

Another key marker for some women during these years is the birth of her first child. The question asked of women 15 years and over was: has this woman ever given birth? The proportion of young teenagers aged 15, 16 and 17 years who have ever given birth is low, rising to 12% of 18 year-olds and 20% for 19 year-olds. By age 20, the rate nearly doubles to 37%, increasing to over half (55%) of 22 year-olds and reaching three quarters of 29 year olds (74%), (refer to Figure 8).

### Finding a job or secure livelihood

The age at which young people are likely to find paid work or a secure livelihood differs according to whether the work is with the public sector, the private sector or is in the informal economy. The largest employer of young people is the private sector. The employment rate for both young men and women in the private sector peaks at age 24 years. For the public sector, the employment rate for young people peaks at age 26 for both young men and women. The self-employment rate peaks at age 30 for both young men and women. For those producing goods for sale as their main work activity, the peak age is 29 years for both young men and women. For those whose main work activity is producing goods for their own consumption, the peak age for young men is age 29 years but it is age 20 for young women.

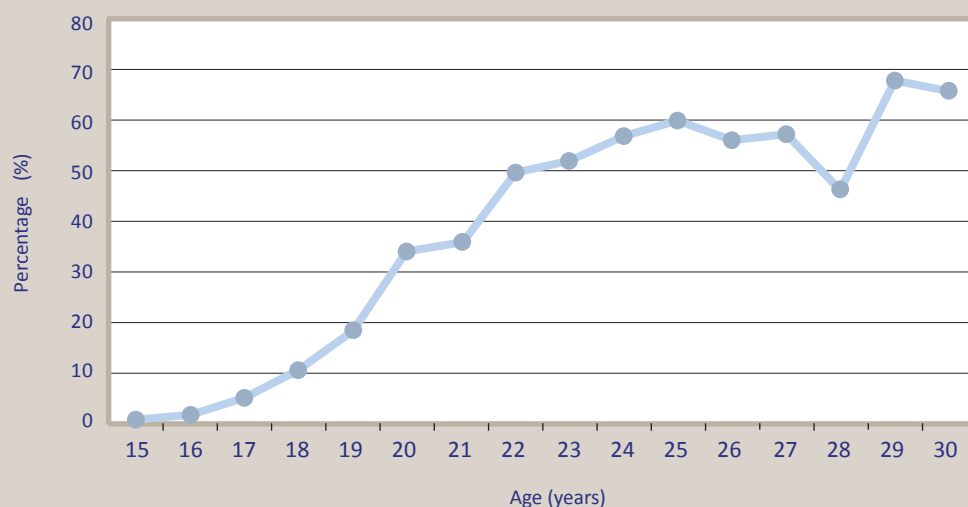


Figure 8: Female population age 15-30 years who have ever given birth, Vanuatu: 2009.

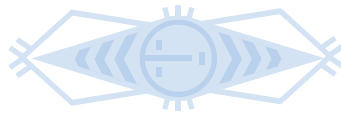
RELIGION	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	TOTAL
ANGLICAN	4,357	3,728	3,100	2,756	10,586	24,527
PRESBYTERIAN	7,514	6,910	6,040	5,120	21,640	47,224
CATHOLIC	3,467	2,814	2,611	2,347	9,219	20,458
SDA	3,476	2,987	2,810	2,345	8,927	20,545
CHURCH OF CHRIST	1,246	1,120	1,043	854	3,411	7,674
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	1,271	1,139	1,127	947	3,397	7,881
NEIL THOMAS MINISTRY	961	840	668	517	2,189	5,175
APOSTOLIC	660	518	496	404	1,506	3,584
CUSTOMARY BELIEFS	1,014	772	685	653	2,493	5,617
NO RELIGION	240	165	176	212	1,034	1,827
REFUSE TO ANSWER	48	28	44	34	204	358
OTHERS	3,667	2,861	2,741	2,226	8,945	20,440
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,921</b>	<b>23,882</b>	<b>21,541</b>	<b>18,415</b>	<b>73,551</b>	<b>165,310</b>

## The religious affiliations of young people

While the youth transition is a time of major changes in behaviour for young people, it does not appear to apply to religious affiliation. Young people aged 15-29 years have the same rate of religious affiliations as older age groups with no differences between young men and women. Only one per cent of this age group state they have no religion or refuse to answer, which is slightly lower than the older age groups.

Comparing the religious affiliations of the younger and older generations, a slight change can be seen. The long established Anglican, Presbyterian and Catholic religions in Vanuatu

have a slightly lower adherence rate among 15-29 year old (56%) compared with the 50-64 age group (58%). The newer religious groups have gained a higher proportion of the young adherents, accounting for 40% of the 15-29 year-old age group, compared with 36% of the 50-64 age groups. These newer religious affiliations in order of the numbers of young adherents are: Seven Day Adventist – SDA, Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Neil Thomas Ministry and Apostolic. The proportion of young people with customary beliefs is little different from the older generation (3.3% compared with 3.9%).



# Where young people live

## M igration

Another important change many young people make is to move to live elsewhere than where they were born, either to another rural area, to an urban area or to another country. In Vanuatu, most migrants stay within the country. The main movements of young people are from rural to urban areas to take advantage of better education and employment opportunities as well as to just move to towns. Migration from one rural area to another is also common, especially for young women moving to the home island of their spouse.

Despite being a country of geographically dispersed islands and high transport costs, there is a significant amount of migration within Vanuatu. Overall, some 15% of the population aged 5 years and over were living in a different place at the time of the 2009 census, compared to where they were living five years before. More than a third of women (36%) and 30% of men were living in a different place than where they were born.

### Young people and migration

A young person may decide to migrate to live elsewhere for a number of reasons. It may be to attend a secondary school, or undertake post-secondary education. For others, who have left school, it may be to head off to town to look for work.

The tendency to migrate to live elsewhere increases after the age of 10 and becomes strongest in the 20-24 and 25-29 year age groups. The census showed that while over one-in-five

### *What information did the national census gather about migration?*

*The following information, gathered for all people age five years and above, can be used to determine whether someone is a migrant:*

- *usual place of residence\**
- *place of residence five years prior to the census*
- *place of birth*

\* Usual place of residence refers to the village or place where a person lives most of the time.



(22%) children aged 10-14 years lived elsewhere than where they were born, this proportion increases to nearly half (46%) of 25-29 year olds. In the urban areas, half of 10-14 year olds live elsewhere from where they were born. By age

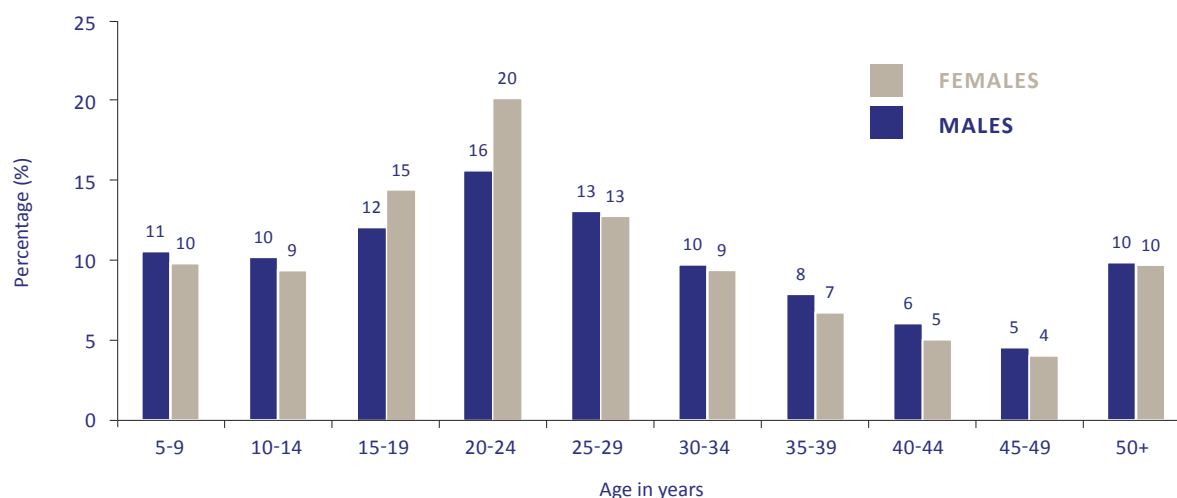


Figure 9: Proportions of men and women living elsewhere than their birthplace, Vanuatu: 2009.

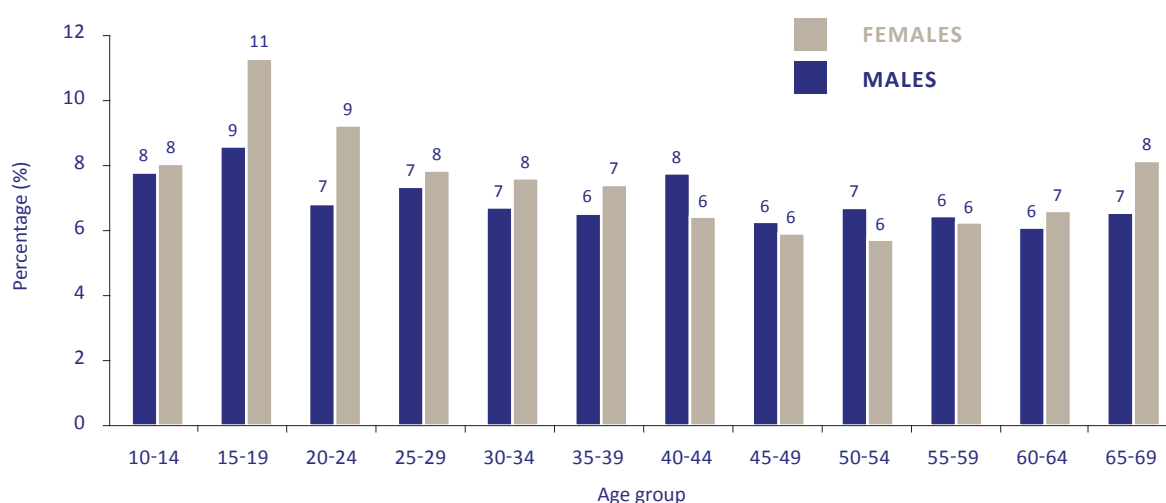


Figure 10: New residents of Port Vila by age group, 2004-2009

25-29 years, this proportion has risen to three of four (75%) young people aged 25-29 years. For rural areas, there is also a large number of young people who are no longer living at their place of birth. At age 10-14 years, one-in-six (15%) of rural residents have migrated away from their place of birth. However, by age 25-29 years, this has risen to one-in-three (33%).

### Age profile of migrants

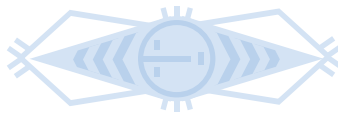
The census also asked of those aged 5 years and older where they lived five years ago: Were they still living in the same village or place as five years ago or were they living elsewhere in the country or in another country? Figure 9 shows that young people aged 20-24 years are most likely to have migrated within the last five years to where they are

living now. It is notable that young women in this age group have the highest proportion who have migrated – one-in-five (20%). This compares with one-in-six (16%) of men at the same age. In terms of actual numbers of migrants for the 15-29 age group as a whole, young women outnumber the young men as migrants (7,194 young female migrants compared with 6,296 young male migrants).

It is possible to see which age groups are likely to be recent migrants to Port Vila. The numbers in each age arriving to take up residence in Port Vila in the last five years shows which groups of young people are most mobile. Figure 10 shows that it is young women aged 15-19 years and 20-24 years who have the highest proportion arriving in Port Vila in the last five years.

## Rural and urban residence

In terms of numbers, more young people live in rural areas. However, urban areas in Vanuatu have more youthful populations. Put another way, urban areas have a greater share of young people in their population. This applies to both young women as well as young men. In fact, more young women aged 15-24 years live in urban areas than young men (6,918 compared with 6,728). One-in-four (25%) of all female urban residents are young women aged 15-24 years compared with less than one-in-five (18%) female rural residents. For male urban residents, just less than one-in-four (23%) are aged 15-24 years compared less than one-in-five male rural residents (18%).





# Health status of young people

## Taking on and managing health risks

An important change in behaviour for young people is managing new health risks. Many young people in their late teenage years and in their twenties begin smoking, consuming alcohol and other substances such as kava, and engaging in high-risk sex. They also have more control over their diet and level of physical activity. If these new behaviours lead to extended use and abuse of these substances, young people are likely to damage their future health.<sup>8</sup> The full effects of these new habits on health will be felt only in later adulthood. How well young people manage the use of these legal substances will have far-reaching consequences. These include the effect on family welfare by reducing the amount of money spent on basic necessities, lowering a person’s productive capacity to earn an income and increasing public health costs due to the harmful physical effects of the substance.<sup>9</sup>

The census provides information about the use of three legal substances during the week preceding the census. All persons aged 15 years and over were asked whether they consumed in the last week cigarettes, alcohol or kava. This information, however, does not say anything about how often in the last week the item was consumed or how much was consumed. A special-purpose survey is needed to provide additional information about the costs to individuals of using each drug and its effects on the person’s health, family life, work performance and generally wellbeing.

The most notable feature in the consumption of each substance is the big difference between males and females in the week prior to the census that smoked cigarettes, consumed alcohol or drank kava compared with males at the same age.

In relation to cigarettes, over one-in-three males by age 18 years had smoked in the last week but less than 1% of females of the same age did so. The proportion of males smoking rises steadily to reach 57% at age 22 and levels off at around 60% of each year between 24 and 29 years of age. This high rate of consumption of cigarettes is similar to that found among young people in other countries such as Indonesia and Nepal.<sup>10</sup>

TABLE 4	PROPORTIONS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS WHO SMOKED CIGARETTES IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE CENSUS, VANUATU: 2009		
	AGE (YEARS)	15-19	20-24
MALE	URBAN		
	13.9	36.7	39.1
FEMALE	4.6	9.5	8.7
	RURAL		
MALE	7.2	18.1	17.5
FEMALE	1.2	1.7	1.9

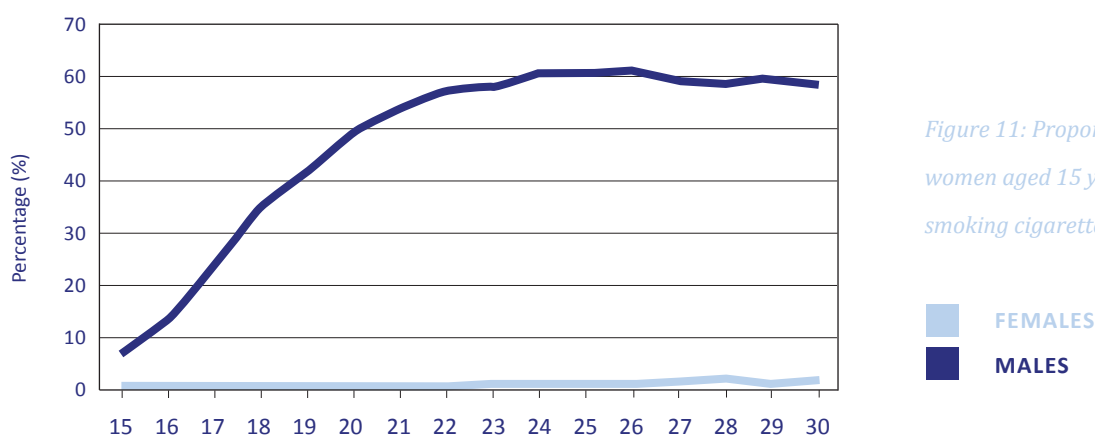


Figure 11: Proportions of men and women aged 15 years and over smoking cigarettes, Vanuatu: 2009.

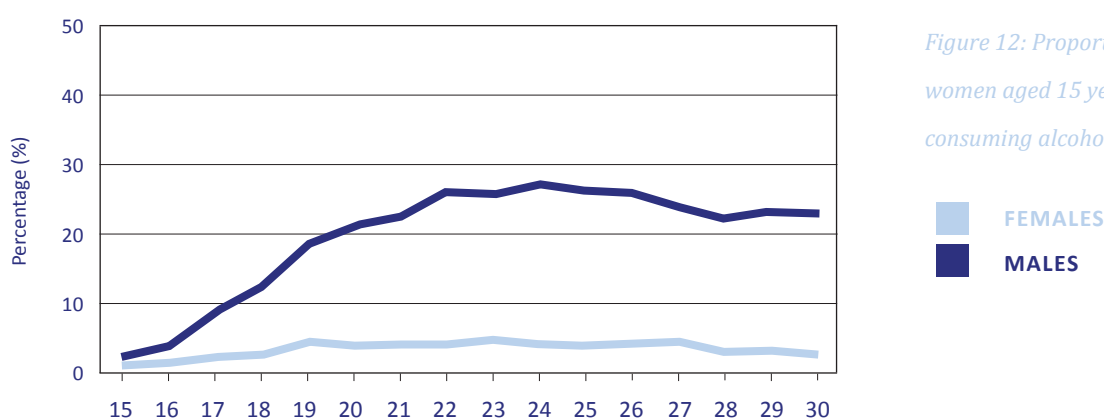


Figure 12: Proportions of men and women aged 15 years and over consuming alcohol, Vanuatu: 2009.

In terms of rural urban differences, the Table 4 presents data on the proportion of young males and females in urban and rural areas who consumed cigarettes in the week before the census. The cigarette consumption of young males 15-19 years does not differ between rural and urban areas. In the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups, rural males are more likely to smoke (59% compared with 50%, and 61% compared with 57% respectively). Rural women, on the other hand are much less likely to smoke cigarettes compared with urban women. The range of 2 to 3% only in each age group for women living in rural areas compared with a range of 7 to 12% for women in urban areas.

With respect to alcohol consumption, the proportions of young males drinking alcohol last week before the census are lower than those observed for cigarette smoking. Figure 12 shows that male alcohol consumption peaks at age 24 at

TABLE 5		PROPORTIONS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS WHO DRANK ALCOHOL IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE CENSUS, VANUATU: 2009		
AGE (YEARS)		15-19	20-24	25-29
		URBAN		
MALE	MALE	13.9	36.7	39.1
	FEMALE	4.6	9.5	8.7
MALE	FEMALE	RURAL		
		7.2	18.1	17.5
		1.2	1.7	1.9

8, 9, 10

World Bank, 2006, Development and the Next Generation. World Development Report 2007, Adopting a healthful lifestyle, p 8.

just over one-in-four (27%) drinking alcohol in the last week and drops to 23% by age 30 years. Alcohol consumption by young women is much lower, reaching a peak of only 5% of women at age 23.

Young men in urban areas are twice as likely to have consumed alcohol in the week before the census compared with their rural peers, as detailed in Table 5 on the previous page. The consumption of alcohol by women in urban areas is less than a third that of urban young men. Rural women, have in absolute terms a very low level of alcohol consumption and many times below that of rural men.

In relation to kava, one-in-three young males aged 18 years drank kava in the last week. What is notable is the steady rise for each year of age between 16 and 30 years of age to reach two-out-of-three males (68%) at age 30, (refer to Figure 13). The data also show that from age 31 upwards to age 41 the consumption of kava remains high at close to two-in-three men, only dropping slightly to around half the men consuming kava up to age 68 years. In marked contrast, far fewer young women drink kava. The highest rate of consumption is at age 30 but this is at only 9% of women at this age.

Does kava consumption differ from young people in urban and rural areas? Table 6 shows that young men in rural areas

TABLE 6		PROPORTIONS OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS WHO DRANK KAVA IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE CENSUS, VANUATU: 2009		
AGE (YEARS)		15-19	20-24	25-29
		URBAN		
MALE		17.3	48.1	61.6
FEMALE		4.6	12.0	15.1
		RURAL		
MALE		20.3	58.9	68.5
FEMALE		2.5	5.4	6.5

are higher consumers of kava in the week before the census compared with urban young men. There is a marked rise in kava consumption by young men in the 20-24 age group and this rate of consumption increases still further in the 25-29 age group. This applies especially to young rural men aged 25-29 with one-in-three drinking kava in the previous week to the census.

Young women in urban areas are more likely than those in rural areas to drink kava. Urban women aged 25-29 years are nearly three times more likely to consume kava compared with rural women in the same age group. Although, as with

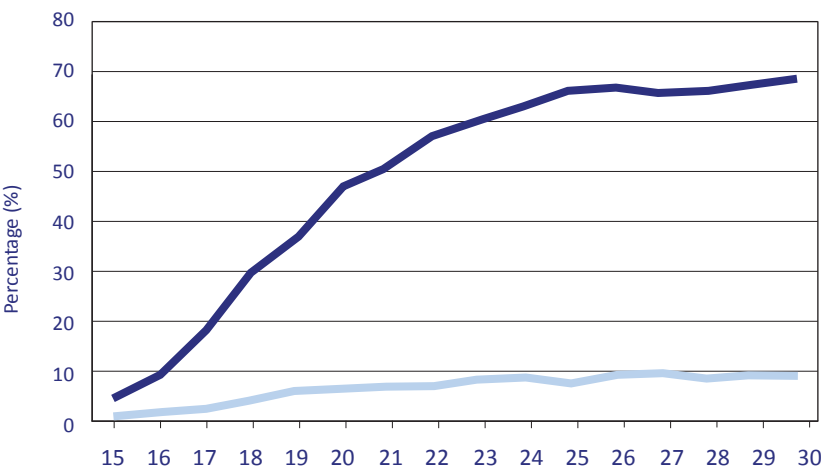


Figure 13: Proportions of men and women aged 15 years and over consuming Kava, Vanuatu: 2009.

FEMALES  
MALES

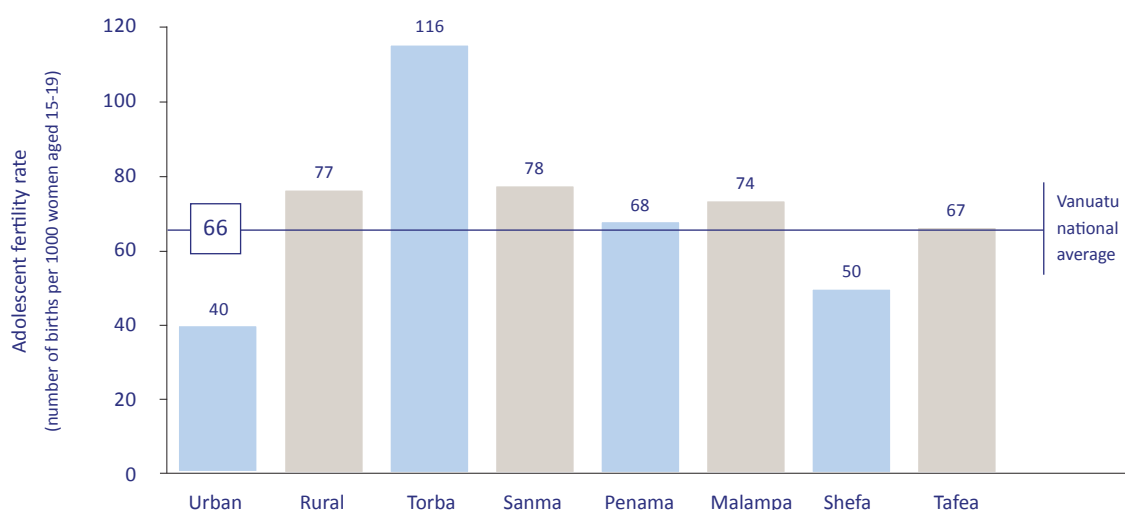


Figure 14: Adolescent fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years), Vanuatu: 2007-2009.

cigarettes and alcohol, women in both urban and rural areas are low level consumers compared to young men in each of the youth age groups.

### Adolescent births

Births by adolescents present a risk to health. Young adolescent girls are at greater risk of dying from childbearing complications and children of adolescent mothers have lower chances of survival. The adolescent (15-19 years) birth rate is an important Millennium Development Goal indicator of progress towards improving maternal health.

The estimated age specific fertility rate for 15-19 years in Vanuatu is 66 births per 1,000 women in this age group.<sup>11</sup> It is based on an estimated 778 births for 11,855 women aged 15-19 year.<sup>12</sup> The 2009 adolescent birth rate has declined since 1995-1997 when it was an estimated 74 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years.<sup>13</sup>

However, it is important to note that this estimate does not apply to all teenage adolescents as it only applies to 15-19 years. The rate does not include younger girls who may have given birth as the census only sought information on live births from those aged 15 and above. This means that females

aged less than 15 years were not asked about whether they have given birth.

It is also important to note that 15-19 year-olds appear to be under-enumerated in the census. In particular the number of females aged 15-19 is less than might be expected. Specifically, the number of young women at age 16, 17, and 19 compared with males at the same year of age is less than expected based on the sex ratio of younger single ages.

As Figure 14 shows, young women aged 15-19 years living in rural areas have more chance of giving birth, with an estimated 77 live births per 1,000 aged 15-19 years compared with 40 in urban areas. This may be to do with the

<sup>11</sup> The estimate is based on the 'own-children' method and has been produced by Michael Levin, Centre for Population and Development Studies, Harvard University and is reported on page 30 of the Analytical Report Volume 2, 2009 National Population and Housing Census, Vanuatu.

<sup>12</sup> See Table 11, p 31, Analytical Report Volume 2, 2009 National Population and Housing Census, Vanuatu.

<sup>13</sup> See Figure 30, p 30, Analytical Report Volume 2, 2009 National Population and Housing Census, Vanuatu

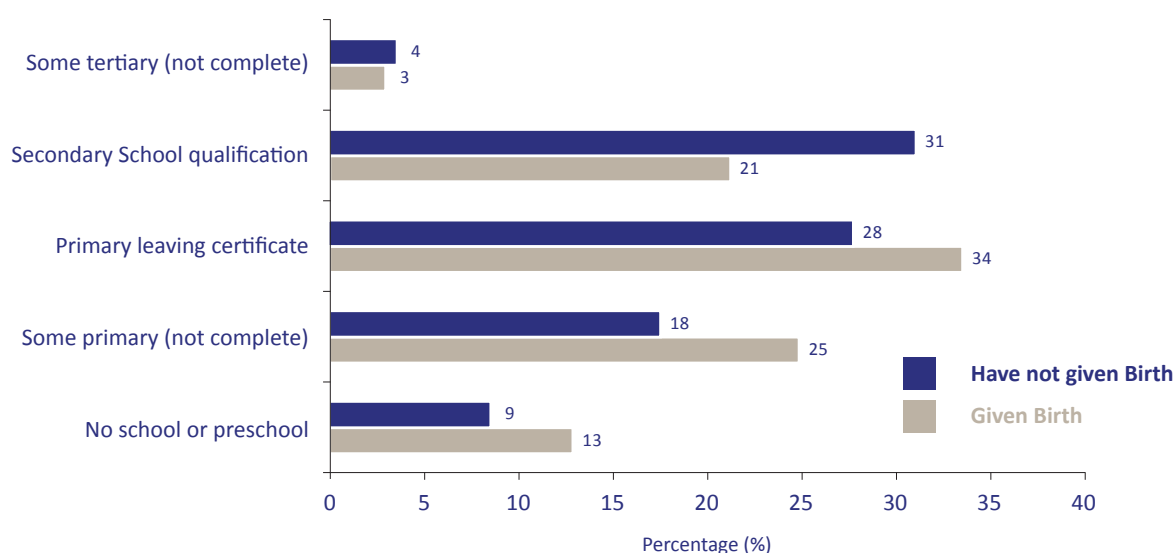


Figure 15: Proportions of young mothers with some level of education attained by age 15-19, Vanuatu: 2009.

much higher proportion of young women in urban areas who are still in secondary education.

The province of Torba stands out with a high adolescent (15-19 years) fertility rate of 116 births per 1,000 of aged 15-19 years. The other provinces range from Sanma (78), Malampa (74), Penama (68) and Tafea (67). Shefa Province which includes Port Vila has the lowest rate (50).

Teenage pregnancy is associated with a low level of education attainment. As the Figure 15 shows, young mothers are more likely to have either not been to school at all, or attended only some primary schooling or have only completed primary. In contrast, young women who have completed secondary school are more likely to delay marriage, are less likely to be young mothers and more likely to have fewer children over their lifetime.<sup>14</sup>

## Disability

The census asked each person if they have any difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, and remembering or concentrating. For each of these areas, people are asked whether they have (a) no difficulties; (b) some difficulties or

(c) cannot do at all. Any difficulty should be of a permanent nature and not due to temporary illness or injury.

Those answering (b) “some difficulties” are considered to have some form of disability. Those that answer (c) “cannot do at all” are considered to be severely disabled. This approach is based on international standards for

TABLE 7 PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-29 YEARS, VANUATU: 2009		
DISABILITY STATUS	MALES (%)	FEMALES (%)
<b>NO DISABILITY</b> No difficulties in all four functions	99	98
<b>SOME DISABILITY</b> Some difficulties in any one or more of the functions	1	2
<b>SEVERE DISABILITY</b> Cannot do at all in any one or more of the functions	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100

AGE (YEARS)	NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY, BY AGE GROUPS AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009					
	SOME DISABILITY			SEVERE DISABILITY		
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
10-14	160	140	300	12	12	24
15-19	104	133	237	19	15	34
20-24	144	164	308	7	13	20
25-29	158	197	355	7	14	21

collecting data on disability prevalence through population censuses.

Around 13% of the total population reported a disability, with little difference between males and females. One per cent of the population are reported to be severely disabled because they cannot perform one of four functions at all. For young people aged 10-29 years, the prevalence of disability, as expected, is much lower than the total population. Only 1.3% of males and 1.5% of females in this age group had some disability and 0.1% of both males and females aged 10-29 years are severely disabled.

### Young people with severe disabilities

*The number of young people with a severe disability also varies greatly between provinces. Sanma province with 27 severely disabled young people has the largest number, followed by Shefa and Tafea provinces with 19 young people each. Penama province has 18 severely disabled young people, Malampa province has 12 and Torba province has only 4 severely disabled young people.*

However, it is important to note the actual number of young people who are disabled and these are shown in Tables 7, 8, and in Figure 16. The census results are confirmed by 2009 data from the Ministry of Education. These data show 1,345 young people in the school system with similarly defined disabilities.<sup>15</sup> Table 7 shows that the census identifies 1,200 young people having some disability, with more females (634) than males (566) with a disability. The largest number with some disability is women in the 25-29 year old age group (197). Young people who are severely disabled number 99, with 54 girls and young women outnumbering the 45 boys and young men. However, teenage males aged 15-19 years are the largest age group of severely disabled.

### Youth disability by province

The numbers of disabled young people differ greatly between provinces as detailed in Figure 16. Shefa province has the largest number of young people aged 10-29 years with some disability with 336, followed by Tafea province (266 young people), Malampa province (238 young people) and Sanma (200 young people). Penama province has 106 and Torba province has 54 young people with some disability.

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF, 2011, Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity, State of the World's Children 2011, p 22.

<sup>15</sup> See Vanuatu Education Management Information System 2009, Ministry of Education.

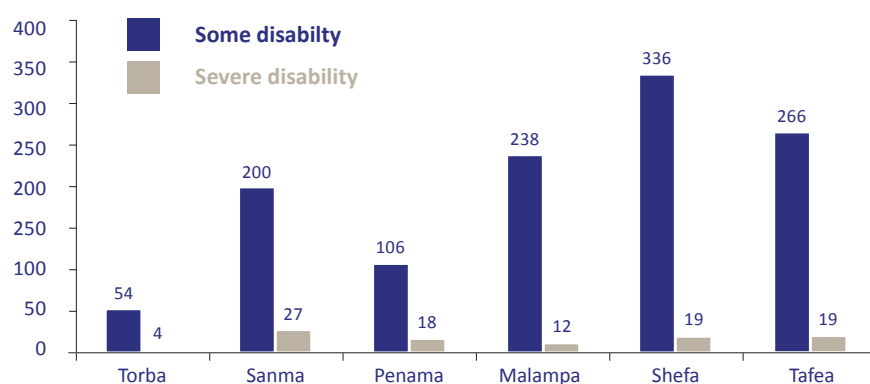


Figure 16: Number of young people (10-29 years) in Vanuatu with severe and some disability, by province, Vanuatu: 2009.

The largest number of young people with severe disability is in Sanma province (27 young people), followed by Shefa and Tafea provinces (19 young people each), Penama (18), Malampa (12) and Torba (4). Three provinces stand out with a level of disability for young people which are above the national average. These provinces are: Tafea, Malampa and Torba. Tafea province in particular has the highest rate of youth disability (3.7% of all young people aged 10-29 years) compared with the national share (2.1% of all young people aged 10-29 years).

### Never been to school and disability

People with a disability suffer not only from the limitations imposed by their physical or mental impairment. They are also more likely to not have the same access to basic services as the rest of the population. This applies particularly to access to education. Many more young people aged 15-29 years with a disability have never been to school than young people without a disability. This applies to one-in-five (20%) young people with some disability compared with only 6% of young people in the same age group with no disability.

### Lack of access to education for disabled young people

Among the severely disabled young people aged 10-29 years, over three-in-four (76%) have never been to school. This compares with 6% of the same age group without a disability and one-in-five (20%) of the same age group with some disability. The situation is worse for girls and young women with a severe disability, with four-out-of-five (81%) never having been to school compared with seven-out-of-ten (69%) males in the same age group. This situation for females is not improving over time, as

nine of ten (93%) girls in youngest age group 10-14 years have not been to school.

Even when disabled children can go to school, they are often unable to continue to higher levels of education. While the proportion of young people with some disability who have completed primary school is similar to those without a disability, the situation changes for their chances of attending secondary school. For boys and young

men aged 15-29 years with some or severe disability, only 5% completed their secondary schooling compared with 12% who are not disabled. The proportion of young females aged 15-29 years with some or severe disability that completed secondary education is only 4% compared with 12% of young women who are not disabled.



# Literacy and educational attainment of young people

**Y**oung people's access to education is crucial to building up their capacity to function in the modern world. This applies not only to being able to make the most of economic opportunities in Vanuatu and abroad but also to the social and political wellbeing of their communities.

## What information did the national census gather about education?

For all people aged five years or above, the 2009 Vanuatu census gathered information on:

- current attendance in formal education, level and language of instruction
- the highest level of education that each person has achieved
- ability to read and write in English, French, Bislama and other languages

## Upper secondary education attainment

A standard measure of education attainment today is the proportion of young people with at least upper secondary schooling completed. Completing upper secondary education in many countries is regarded as an essential foundation for paid work or further study. As many young people below age 25 years are still in education, the age used for the measure is 25-29 years. In Vanuatu, the proportion of 25-29 years with at least upper secondary education or a vocational certificate

### Important to know

*The census relies on self-assessment and does not actually test a person's ability to read and write.*

*How is literacy measured by the population census?*

*Census enumerators ask if each person in a household can read and write a simple sentence in English, French, Bislama or any other language(s).*

*A person is considered literate if they say they can read and write in at least one language.*



is 19%. For 20-24 year olds it is slightly higher at 20%. The figure for 25-29 year males is 20% and for females it is lower at 17%

However, this result is considerably below the average for high-income countries. It is estimated that an average of 82% of today's young people aged 25-29 years in OECD countries



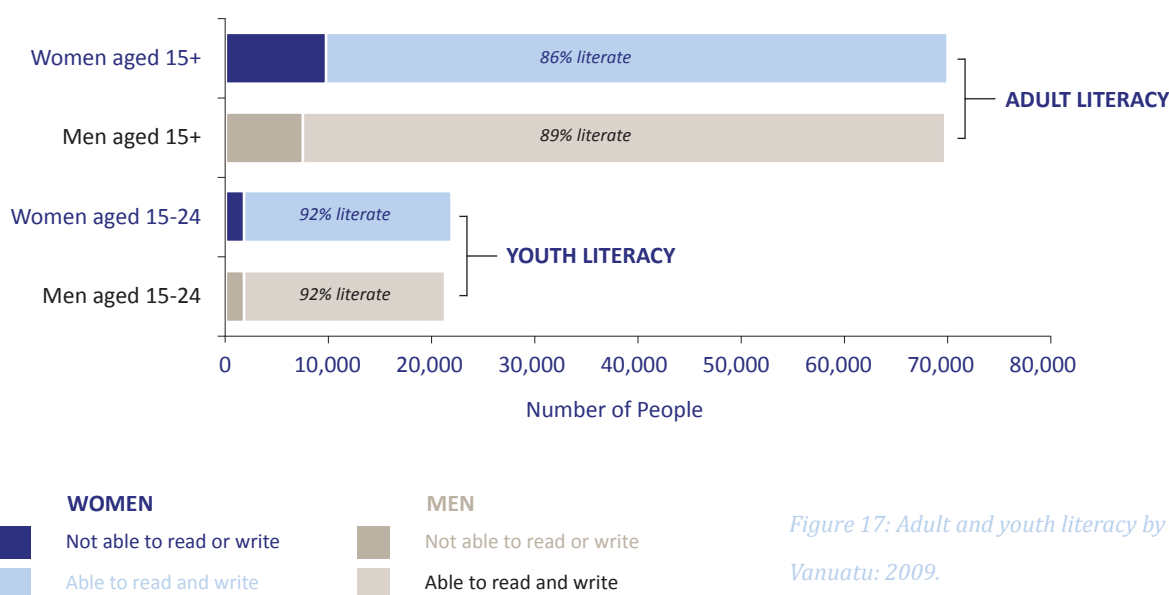


Figure 17: Adult and youth literacy by sex, Vanuatu: 2009.

will complete upper secondary education over their lifetimes. In Finland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, upper secondary graduation rates equal or exceed 90%.<sup>16</sup>

Another similar measure of upper secondary school completion is based on the 25-34 age groups which allow a comparison with countries in the region. Compared with Vanuatu's 18% of 25-34 year olds who have completed at least upper secondary education or high school, the United States has a rate of 88%, France 84%, Australia 83%, United Kingdom 82% and New Zealand 79%.<sup>17</sup> Mexico has 42% and Brazil has 53% of their 25-34 olds with at least an upper secondary education.<sup>18</sup> These comparisons show that only a small proportion of young people in Vanuatu could find longer term work overseas as completion of secondary school is the minimum education level required to work overseas.

### Tertiary education attainment

The level of tertiary education attainment in Vanuatu is low both in terms of actual numbers and in comparison with

high-income countries. Using the 25-35 age groups as the reference point, only 4% of this age group in Vanuatu has a tertiary qualification including a vocational certificate. This compares with the United States with 41%, New Zealand 40%, Australia and the United Kingdom 37% and France 29%.<sup>19</sup> Mexico has 16%, Argentina has 14% and Indonesia 4% of their 25-34 olds with a tertiary qualification.<sup>20</sup> Again, these comparisons show that few Ni-Vanuatu have the option of gaining entry to Australia or New Zealand to work, based on meeting these countries education and skills requirements.

<sup>16</sup> OECD, 2011, Education at a Glance, Indicator A2, p 44-45.

<sup>17</sup> OECD, 2011, Education at a Glance, Indicator A1.2a, p 39

<sup>18</sup> OECD, 2011, Education at a Glance, Indicator A1.2a, p 39

<sup>19</sup> OECD, 2011, Education at a Glance, Indicator A1.3a, p 40

<sup>20</sup> OECD, 2011, Education at a Glance, Indicator A1.3a, p 40

<sup>21</sup> Education Experience Survey and Literacy Assessment: Shefa Province, Vanuatu, 2011, Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) Australia and Vanuatu Education Policy Advocacy Coalition (VEPAC).

## Never been to school

Near to one-in-ten young people have not gone to school. The overall rate for 15-29 year olds is 9.3%. The rate for the youngest age group 15-19 years is only slightly lower for both males and females. The similarity of these figures for the three youth age groups indicates that this is a persistent issue.

## Illiteracy

The 2009 census results suggest that literacy rates in Vanuatu are reasonably high, with almost 85% of everyone aged 5 years and over being literate in at least one language (Bislama, English, French or other).

For the adult population (aged 15 and over), 89% of men and 86% of women are literate. The youth literacy rate (age 15-24) is higher still: 92% for both sexes, indicating the gender gap in literacy has narrowed over time, (refer to Figure 17).

However, other, more direct evidence indicates that actual literacy levels of young people may be much lower. Other survey-based evidence from rural Shefa province shows that many respondents could not read a simple sentence in an official language. While 85% of respondents said they were literate, only 28% could pass a simple literacy test. Of the survey respondents who had attended primary school, only 20% were assessed to be literate, 47% were assessed to be semi-literate and 33% were assessed to be non-literate.<sup>21</sup>

This evidence suggests that the quality of education in some areas of Vanuatu leaves much to be desired. Young people with less than primary (Grade 6) schooling (including those who have not been to school) are at high risk of not being literate. If the situation such as in rural Shefa province were to exist throughout Vanuatu, the proportion of young people in this high-risk group of being illiterate would be nearly three-in-ten (29%) of 15-24 years olds.

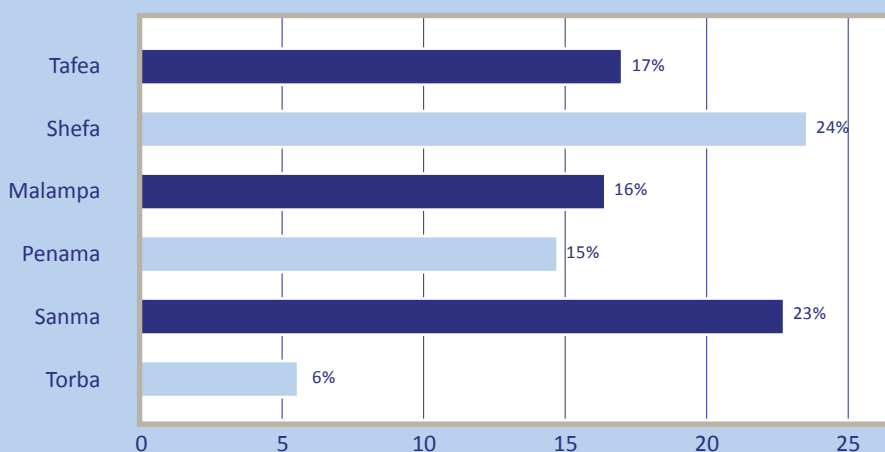


Figure 18: Young people aged 15-24 years with some primary education, Vanuatu: 2009.

# Young People with and without Work

**F**inding a job or a secure livelihood is a major goal of most young people. However jobs are scarce which forces many to look to other sources of income. Many young people continue to rely on growing food for their own consumption, with little reliance on the cash economy.

## ***What information did the census gather about work, employment and those without work?***

*For everyone aged 15 years and over, the census gathered data on:*

- *Employment status e.g. employee, employer, unpaid family worker*
  - *Occupation - a set of jobs with similar tasks, duties and skills*
  - *Industry - classification of economic activity*
  - *Reasons for being economically inactive, such as being a homemaker, or student.*
- How many people worked for money overseas in the last 12 months*

## **What young people are doing?**

What type of economic activities are young people engaged in? Do these activities differ from older age groups? Are young people finding work in the formal economy at the same rate as older generations? How many young people are selling goods and services in the informal economy, how many are doing work without payment? How many young people are actively looking for work?

Simply reporting the number of young people who are actively looking for work or the youth unemployment rate gives only a partial picture of their economic status. The best way to understand what young people are doing is to show all the main work and education activities they are engaged in for a specific age group. The questions asked by the census interviewers were:

- What kind of work/activity does this person usually do?
- Did this person actively look for work?
- Why didn't this person actively look for work?

From the answers to these questions, the following profiles of the main economic activities of young people have been produced. The first profile refers to the total youth population for Vanuatu as a whole. This is followed by profiles of young people in urban areas, showing males and females separately.

Table 9 presents in summary form, three types of activities in which young people are usually engaged: work, education

## Youth unemployment

*The youth unemployment rate is an international measure based on a subgroup of the youth population.*

*The unemployment rate is the number of active jobs seekers as a proportion of the total employed population plus those actively looking for work (called the labour force).*

*The national unemployment rate for November 2009 and based on the total employed population was 6%. However, for young people aged 15-19 years it was 9% and for 20-24 year olds it was 9. By age 20-29 years, it was down to 6% and by age 30-34 years, it was 4%.*

*As paid work is concentrated in the urban areas, the active job seekers are more likely to be found there. This is particularly the case for young people. The urban unemployment rate in November 2009 was 14%*

*(12% for men and 18% for women). However, for 15-19 year-old males, it is over three times higher (38.0%) and for females in the same age group, it is over twice as high (43%). For 20-24 year olds, it is lower but still high at 221% for young men and 24% for young women. For 25-29 year-olds, it is 11% for young men and 19% for young women. By age 30-34 years, it had fallen to 7% for men and 14% for women. Young women in urban areas in particular have higher unemployment rates than young men.*

*Youth unemployment rates, however, do not show the true extent of young people without work as those who are discouraged job seekers are not included. This is the group of young people who did not actively look for work because they believed that no work was available. Presented below is a more complete picture of what young people are doing in terms of economic activities.*

TABLE  
9

ECONOMIC STATUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, VANUATU: 2009

AGE (YEARS)	IN WORK (%)	IN EDUCATION <sup>23</sup> (%)	NEITHER (%)	TOTAL	NUMBER
15 - 19	41	44	15	100	21,734
20 - 24	64	9	27	100	21,229
25 - 29	73	1	26	100	18,245

as a student and neither in work or in education. The table shows that most young people in the 15-19 year age group (44%) are students.<sup>22</sup> The high proportion of young people in this age group still in education refers to their participation in a range of education levels. Nearly a third of the 15-19 year old students are still in primary school (31%). Most are in secondary school (62%) and some are students in vocational education or tertiary studies (7%).

<sup>22</sup> Included in those who are still in education are 2,106 young people who are aged 15-19 and 646 who are aged 20-24 years who were recorded as 'not stated'. It is assumed that these are students who have just completed their exams in November when the census was conducted and are awaiting their results before deciding what to do next. Treating them as still students may be under counting those who subsequently decide to become job seekers early the next year.

<sup>23</sup> Includes 15-19 & 20-24 year-olds recorded as 'not stated' but assumed to be students who had just completed their exams in November.

TABLE 10		CASH & NON-CASH WORK PERFORMED BY YOUNG PEOPLE VANUATU: 2009			
AGE (YEARS)	PRODUCING GOODS FOR SALE	VOLUNTARY WORK	UNPAID FAMILY WORK	PRODUCING GOODS FOR OWN CONSUMPTION	NUMBER
15 - 19	5	1	6	21	21,734
20 - 24	6	1	6	28	21,229
25 - 29	7	1	6	31	18,245

TABLE 11	PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY TYPE OF PAID WORK AND AGE GROUP, VANUATU: 2009					
AGE	EMPLOYEE - GOVERNMENT	EMPLOYEE - PRIVATE	EMPLOYER	SELF EMPLOYED	SUB-TOTAL PAID WORK	NUMBER
15 - 19	0.8	5.4	0.4	1.9	8.6	21,734
20 - 24	3.1	16.1	0.9	2.8	22.9	21,229
25 - 29	5.4	17.7	1.3	3.6	27.9	18,245

### Young people 'in work'

The category of 'in work' in Table 9 requires further explanation. This category refers to paid work and unpaid work as well as work involving the production of goods for sale. Those in the subsistence economy whose main activity is producing goods for their own consumption are also included. Thus, the definition of work is a broad one, including economic activities in both the cash and the non-cash economies.

Table 10 reports on the main work activities of young people. These are young people who work at producing goods for sale, who are working outside the cash economy altogether. The percentage figures refer to all young people in that age group. The most important work activity for each of the youth age groups is producing goods for own consumption.

This activity accounts for just over one-in-five (21%) young people aged 15-19 years, over one-in-four (28%) of 20-24 year-olds and three-in-ten of young people aged 25-29 years.

Producing goods for sale is the main activity of between 5% and 7% of each age group of young people. Unpaid family work is the main activity of about one-in-twenty young people in each age group.

### Young people in paid employment

Table 11 focuses on the small group of young people who are involved in paid employment. This table shows for 15-19 year-olds that nearly one-in-ten (9%) are in paid employment. The largest group are employees in the private sector (5%). Population of Less than one per cent of young

people are employed by the government, or are employers themselves. Some 2% are self-employed.

In the next age group (20-24 years), the proportion in paid employment rises to just under one-in-four (23%). The largest group are employees in the private sector (16%), with government only employing only 3%, which is the same proportion as the self-employed.

In the oldest youth age group (25-29 years), near to three-in-ten (28%) are in paid employment, with near to one-in-five (18%) in the private sector, one-in-twenty (5%) in the public sector and just one-in-twenty (4%) in self-employment. Young people in this age group who are employers account for only 1%.

### Neither in work or in education

Table 12 has further information about those neither in work nor in education or training. This measure is often referred to as the NEET measure: those young people who are not in employment, education or training. It includes those young people who are actively looking for work, or want work but have become discouraged from looking for work. It also includes those who are a full-time homemakers. It is important to note that in the ordering of the questions asked in the census, this latter activity was not nominated as 'work or activity usually done' but as a reason for not actively

looking for work. This most probably means that the census undercounts young people who work in the home (cooking, cleaning, caring for dependents and other household chores) because a lot of these people would have said that they are available for work as their main activity.

Table 12 presents information about the group of young people who reported that they were neither working nor in education. The table shows that almost one-in-six (15%) of 15-19 year-olds fall into this category. The largest component is the group of young people who want work (7% of all 15-19 year-olds). This category includes both those who say they are actively looking for work now and those who are discouraged job seekers who have given up looking for work as they 'believe no work is available'. Full-time homemakers account for 3% of 15-19 year-olds, with 5% saying that either they didn't want to work, were disabled or otherwise not able to work. For 20-24 year-olds, some 8% want work, one-in-six (16%) are homemakers and 4% said that either they didn't want to work, were disabled or otherwise not able to work.

For 25-29 year-olds, a slightly smaller proportion than the other two younger age groups (5%) wanted work, a slightly higher proportion said they are full-time homemakers (18%) and 3% said that either they didn't want to work, were disabled or otherwise not able to work.

TABLE 12		PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE NEITHER IN WORK OR IN EDUCATION, VANUATU: 2009			
AGE	WANTED WORK	FULL-TIME HOMEMAKER	OTHER*	TOTAL NEET**	NUMBER
15 - 19	1	3	5	15	21,734
20 - 24	8	16	4	27	21,229
25 - 29	5	18	3	26	18,245

\* Other include 'didn't want to work' & disabled  
 \*\* Not in Employment, Education or Training

TABLE  
13PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN BY ECONOMIC STATUS IN URBAN AREAS,  
VANUATU: 2009

AGE	IN WORK	IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING	NEITHER	TOTAL	NUMBER
<b>MEN</b>					
15 - 19	20	55	25	100	2,971
20 - 24	53	16	31	100	3,508
25 - 29	72	3	25	100	2,868
<b>WOMEN</b>					
15 - 19	15	58	27	100	3,248
20 - 24	43	13	44	100	3,539
25 - 29	52	2	46	100	2,577

### The economic status of urban young people

It is important to narrow the focus of attention to urban areas as this is where most paid work is concentrated. Table 13 presents data separately for young men and women and for the two urban areas of Port Vila and Luganville combined.

The economic status of young people in urban areas is notably different to the national profile. Table 13 shows that the main activity of the largest group of urban 15-19 year-olds is being a student (55% for males and 58% for females). However, for the next age group of 20-24 year-olds, this activity recedes in importance with only 16% and 13% still engaged in education.

### Urban young people in paid employment

By age 25-29 years, few young people are still in education (3% males and 2% females respectively). The share of young people in work also varies by age group, reflecting the fact that most have left school and have to find a way to support themselves. The share of young people aged 20-24 years

in work differs by gender, with over half (53%) of males in work but with only 43% of young women in work. The gap between young men and women in work becomes even larger in the 25-29 age group (72% compared with 52%). The gender difference is due to the higher proportion of young women in the 20-24 and 25-29 year age groups in the 'neither in work or education' category.

### Young people who want work

The share of all young men and young women at each age group who want work is about the same. Around one-in-six (14%) young male 15-19 year-olds want work, rising slightly to 16% for 20-24 year-old young men but then dropping to one-in-ten young men aged 25-29 years. For young women, the proportions are similar for each age group but with a much smaller drop for the oldest youth age group (from 15% to 13%). It is significant that the proportion of young women wanting work is little different to that of the young men in the same age groups. For the 25-29 year-olds, more young women than young men want work.



## Discouraged job seekers?

Full-time homemaker is the main activity of nearly one-in-ten (8%) young men aged 20-24 and 25-29 years. For young women aged 20-24 years, the proportion reporting to be full-time homemaker is close to one-in-four (23%), rising to close to three-in-ten (28%) among young women aged 25-29 years. At least some of those who said they were full-time homemakers may be discouraged job seekers.

## Summing up

Providing a complete profile of what young people are doing in terms of their education and economic status offers a better understanding of what young people are doing. Reliance on a simple statistic such as the youth unemployment rate reveals little about the activities most young people are engaged in. The unemployment rate also excludes those young people who may have given up actively looking for work. Many young people take on low-income activities to earn some income to survive.

The above picture of the economic status of young people in rural and urban areas reveals a number of important details. Many young people are engaged in producing goods for their own consumption (from a fifth of 15-19 year-olds near to a third of 25-29 year-olds). Producing goods for sale is the main activity of a smaller group of young people (between 5% and 7% of each youth age group). Few of 15-19 year-olds nationally are in paid work (less than one in ten). In the 20-24 age group, only just under one-in-four are in a paid job. In the 25-29 age group, nearly three-in-ten (28%) are in paid employment.

These low employment rates make it important to look at the size of the group of young people neither in employment nor education or training. One in six of 15-19 year-olds are neither

in education nor in paid work but as many as one in four young people age 20-24 and 25-29 years in this category.

In urban areas, over half of young men aged 20-24 years and 43% of young women are in paid work. In the 25-29 age groups, however, many more young men are employed than women (72% compared with 52%). The proportion of young women who want paid work is little different to that of the young men in the same age groups.

## Young people and work overseas

The opportunity to work overseas is of particular benefit to young people. The census asked whether during the last 12 months the person had worked overseas. The large number of positive responses to this question is not supported by data from other sources. In relation to work in New Zealand, for example, the census records that 6,744 claimed to have worked there in the last 12 months, including a quarter of those aged 15-19 years and 9% over the age of 55 years. Publicly available data from Immigration New Zealand shows that the migrants from Vanuatu only numbered 2,758 in 2008/09, 2,314 in 2009/10 and 2,490 in 2010/11.

This data is consistent with the Government of Vanuatu's records of the number of workers recruited for New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE) Scheme in 2010 and to October 2011 (2,810). The records also show that no workers under the age of 21 were recruited which is the age policy used. It is possible that some people interpreted the question to mean 'would you like to work overseas'. That could be related to the widespread publicity given to a new seasonal work program starting in Australia in the months leading up to the census in November 2009. There was also recruitment publicity for the larger and more established New Zealand seasonal work program.



## The jobs held by young people

Little information has been available in Vanuatu about the types of jobs young people have. This has meant that young people have little beyond their own social networks to guide them. Others seeking to help these young people, such as parents and teachers, have little current information on the labour market. Training providers and people coordinating the provision of skills training have also lack comprehensive information. The information gap can in part be filled by the census results.<sup>24</sup>

The census interviewers asked everyone 15 years and older who was working to state their main occupation. The responses provided enough information to describe the occupations of 94,460 people to the one-digit (10 occupational groups) and two-digit levels (45 occupational groups).

However, for many purposes, the occupational classifications grouped in 10 categories (one-digit level) and even in 46 categories (two-digit level) are too general for their purposes. This applies in particular to young people and teachers offering career advice who want more specific information about the type of jobs young people have, and what education qualifications are required for specific jobs. The three-digit level of occupational classification 130 offers the level of detail about specific jobs that people find easier to recognise.

However, in the case of the Vanuatu census results, some information at the three-digit occupation classification level is missing because some reported occupation categories were too vague to code, such as “officer”. Insufficient information about the more detailed nature of reported occupations affected the data for approximately 10% of the employed population. This applied especially to different types of teachers, clerical support staff and trades/craft workers. In

these cases, the two-digit classification has been inserted into the three-digit list, adding the term ‘Not Otherwise Classified’, to produce a listing of 138 occupation groups.

## Main occupation of young people

The following section presents information on the occupations of urban and rural young people. The level of detail on occupations is general (at the two-digit level) and is for three specific youth age groups.<sup>25</sup> More detailed information on the type of occupations held by young people aged 15-29 years will also be provided following the initial description of broad patterns.

For the three youth age groups, the three top occupations in rural areas are: subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters & gatherers; market-oriented skilled agricultural workers, and agricultural forestry & fishery labourers.

Other occupations with large numbers of rural young people aged 15-19 years are cleaners and helpers; and building and related trade’s workers (excluding electricians). These are followed by sales workers; personal service workers; teaching professionals; handicraft and printing workers and stationary plant and machine operators. Also within the top 15 occupations for this age group are: hospitality, retail and other services managers; refuse workers and other elementary workers; administrative and commercial managers; drivers and mobile plant operators and customer services clerks.

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<sup>24</sup> The National Statistical office is planning a national survey of businesses in 2012 which can provide further information on the occupation held by young people.

<sup>25</sup> The two-digit occupation code is from the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08)

TABLE  
14

MAIN OCCUPATIONS HELD BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, VANUATU: 2009

URBAN OCCUPATIONS (2 DIGITS)	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
91 – Cleaners & helpers	26	180	206
52 – Sales workers	43	111	154
71 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians)	152	2	154
51 – Personal service workers	52	51	103
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters & gatherers	38	21	59
42 – Customer services clerks	15	27	42
83 – Drivers & mobile plant operators	39	2	41
72 – Metal machinery & related trades workers	33	2	35
75 – Food processing, wood working, garment & other craft & related trades workers	22	9	31
92 – Agricultural, forestry & fishery labourers	20	5	25
54 – Protective services workers	19	3	22
96 – Refuse workers & other elementary workers	12	3	15
61 – Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	9	5	14
53 – Personal care workers	3	10	13
74 – Electrical & electronic trades workers	10	2	12
RURAL OCCUPATIONS (2 DIGITS)	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters and gatherers	1,744	1,472	3,216
61 – Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	1,417	945	2,362
92 – Agricultural forestry and fishery labourers	466	330	796
91 – Cleaners and helpers	36	220	256
71 – Building and related trades workers (excluding electricians)	187	16	203
52 – Sales workers	21	88	109
51 – Personal service workers	56	51	107
23 – Teaching professionals	21	73	94
73 – Handicraft and printing workers	4	85	89
81 – Stationary plant and machine operators	21	48	69
14 – Hospitality retail and other services managers	25	16	41
96 – Refuse workers and other elementary workers	37	2	39
12 – Administrative and commercial managers	16	22	38
83 – Drivers and mobile plant operators	33	0	33
42 – Customer services clerks	18	10	28

TABLE  
15

OCCUPATIONS IN RURAL AREAS WITH HIGH SHARE OF YOUNG WOMEN AGED 15-29 YEARS,  
VANUATU: 2009

OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	FEMALE SHARE %
73 – Handicraft and printing workers	248	93
91 – Cleaners and helpers	637	85
41 – General and keyboard clerks	44	76
53 – Personal care workers	80	73
52 – Sales workers	383	70
81 – Stationary plant and machine operators	185	68
23 – Teaching professionals	593	62
22 – Health professionals	32	59
12 – Administrative and commercial managers	41	51
51 – Personal service workers	219	50
34 – Legal social cultural and related associate professionals	47	49
63 – Subsistence farmers fishers hunters and gatherers	4867	47
92 – Agricultural forestry and fishery labourers	1169	43

The top 15 occupations for rural young people aged 20-24 years are similar. However, more young people in this age group are working as customer services, teaching professionals and in the building related trades. Also more young people are able to work as drivers and protective services workers.

For those rural young people aged 25-29 years, the important occupations in addition to the top three identified above are: teaching professionals, building & related trades workers excluding electricians, sales workers, cleaners and helpers, personal service workers, drivers and mobile plant operators, and customer services clerks.

In the urban areas, four major occupations of young people in each of the youth age group are: cleaners & helpers; sales workers; building & related trade's workers (excluding electricians), and personal service workers. However the

order of prominence is different for each sub age group. The above order applies to the 15-19 year-olds (see Table 36 in Attachment 2). However, by age 20-24 years, sales workers and building & related trades workers and personal service workers have outranked cleaners & helpers (see Table 37 in Attachment 2). By age 25-29 years, building & related trades workers account for the largest number in this age group, followed by sales workers; personal service workers, and with drivers & mobile plant operators pushing cleaners and helpers into fifth place (see Table 38 in Attachment 2).

### Differences in occupations held by young males and females

Young women in rural areas are concentrated in a limited number of occupations, as shown in Table 15. The occupations with the largest concentration of young women

TABLE  
16

OCCUPATIONS IN URBAN AREAS WITH HIGH SHARE OF YOUNG WOMEN AGED 15-29 YEARS,  
VANUATU: 2009

OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	FEMALE SHARE %
91 – Cleaners and helpers	631	89
41 – General and keyboard clerks	148	79
53 – Personal care workers	49	73
52 – Sales workers	793	73
22 – Health professionals	31	67
33 – Business and administration associate professionals	119	62
24 – Business and administration professionals	80	62
42 – Customer services clerks	253	61
51 – Personal service workers	406	58
23 – Teaching professionals	116	56
43 – Numerical and material recording clerks	43	55
12 – Administrative and commercial managers	57	49
44 – Other clerical support workers	45	46

are handicraft and printing workers (93%), cleaners and helpers (85%), sales workers (70%), stationary plant and machine operators (68%) and teaching professionals (62%). The numbers of young women are equal or close to equal for administrative and commercial managers (51%), personal service workers (50%), and legal social cultural and related associate professionals (49%).

The occupations with the highest share of urban young women are shown in Table 16. Young women have a high share of the jobs in low-skilled work such as cleaners and helpers, and personal service workers. However, they also account for a large share of the high skill jobs such as business and administration associate professionals and professionals and teaching professionals. Young women also have a significant share of middle-skill clerical jobs such as data entry, receptionists and customer services.

The main occupations with the highest concentration of rural young men aged 15-29 years are: drivers and mobile plant operators (100%), protective services workers (98%), business and administration associate professionals (94%), science and engineering associate professionals (93%), and building and related trades workers (excluding electricians) (90%). Other occupations with a large proportion of rural young men are: refuse workers and other elementary workers (84%), legal social cultural and related associate professionals (83%), health associate professionals (81%), metal machinery and related trades workers (79%), market-oriented skilled forestry, fishery and hunting workers (81%) and stationary plant and machine operators (71%).

The main occupations with the highest concentration of urban young men are: building and related trades workers (excluding electricians) (98%), drivers and mobile

TABLE  
17TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS OF YOUNG  
PEOPLE AGED 15-29 YEARS,  
VANUATU: 2009

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER
31 – Subsistence crop farmers	6,204
611 – Field crop & vegetable growers	5,862
633 – Subsistence mixed crop & livestock farmers	4,214
921 – Water & land farm labourers	2,896
710 – Building & related trades workers excluding electricians, not otherwise Classified	1,893
615 – Kava growers	1,539
911 – Cleaners & painters	1,438
230 -Teachers not otherwise classified	1,110
616 – Copra cutters	973
522 – Salespersons	641

plant operators (97%), metal machinery and related trades workers (97%), electrical and electronic trades workers (95%) and protective services workers (91%). Other occupations with smaller numbers but with a high concentration of urban young males are: information and communications technicians (88%), refuse workers and other elementary workers (87%), science and engineering professionals (84%), science and engineering associate professionals (81%). In urban areas, young handicraft and printing workers are mostly male (80%) but in rural areas they are mostly females (93%).

### More detail information on types of occupations

As noted above, more detailed information is available from the census on the specific type of occupations young people

are in, using the three-digit occupation classification. The top 10 occupations held by young people aged 15-29 years in Vanuatu are shown in Table 17 in rank order.<sup>26</sup> The most important occupations are linked to agriculture. The first non-agricultural occupation grouping is the general category of building and related trade workers, followed by cleaners, teachers and salespersons. The main occupations apart from those in agriculture are based in the services sector. The top 50 occupations are listed in Table 39 in Attachment 2.

### More detail on the occupations of young people in urban and rural areas.

The top 10 occupational groups held by young people in urban and rural areas are listed in Table 18 and 19. Some occupations require formal training to perform the work, such as the building trades, teachers, agricultural machinery mechanics and client information workers such as tour guides. However, most of the jobs require skills which can be learnt on-the-job provided the job holder has good foundation skills in literacy and numeracy. This applies especially to cashiers and sales and service workers. Other jobs such as cleaners, some types of work on construction sites, security guards and taxi drivers may require only a limited set of skills and hence offer little or no career prospects. The top 50 occupations held by young people in urban areas are listed in Table 39 in Attachment 2.

The more specific information on the occupations held by young people in rural areas offer detail on the type of activities young people are engaged in. This detail about the type of activities undertaken suggests that productivity of these jobs could improve by school-based training and in-the-field extension support. Specific occupations which could benefit from this support are: field crop & vegetable growers, subsistence mixed crop & livestock farmer, kava grower and copra cutter. These occupations employ some 12,350 young people.

TABLE 18	TOP 10 URBAN OCCUPATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE 15-29 YEARS, VANUATU: 2009.
TOP 10 URBAN OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER
710 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians), not otherwise classified	997
911 – Cleaners & Painters	700
522 – Salespersons	501
510 – Service & sales workers not otherwise classified	374
541 – Firemen, Prison guards & Security guards	368
832 – Car taxi & Van drivers	336
422 – Client information workers	305
523 – Cashiers	276
723 – Machinery mechanics & repairers	226
520 – Entrepreneurs	206

TABLE 19	TOP 10 RURAL OCCUPATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 15-29 YEARS, VANUATU: 2009
TOP 10 RURAL OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER
631 – Subsistence crop farmers	6,121
611 – Field crop & vegetable growers	5,811
633 – Subsistence mixed crop & Livestock farmer	4,055
921 – Farm labourers	2,713
615 – Kava growers	1,519
616 – Copra cutters	965
230 – Teachers not otherwise classified	932
710 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians), not otherwise classified	896
911 – Cleaners & Painters	738
731 – Carving, Handicraft workers	267

## Identifying skills young people need

The census list of occupations held by young people can also be used to identify potential skill shortages. This information can be used by the Vanuatu National Training Council and training providers to help ensure that young people have the opportunity to obtain the skills required to work in these occupations. Training providers can also use this information to work out which employers to approach to arrange work placements for their students. The information is also valuable for career counsellors and other teachers, in advising students on their career options.

For example, few or no persons aged 15-29 years are recorded in the census for the following professional occupations:

- Mathematicians & statisticians (0),
- Electronics & telecommunications engineers (5),

- Paramedical practitioners (0),
- Veterinarians, pharmacists & physiotherapists (3),
- Computer applications professionals (0), and
- Database designers & system administrators (4).

In relation to technicians and associate professionals, very few young people are in the following occupations:

- Agricultural & life science technicians (2),
- Health associate professionals not otherwise classified (2),
- Medical & pharmaceutical technicians (9), and
- Veterinary technicians & assistants (0).

<sup>26</sup> The three-digit occupation code is from the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08)

TABLE  
20

TOP 15 OCCUPATIONS WITH THE LARGEST SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-29 YEARS,  
RURAL AND URBAN, VANUATU: 2009

TOP 15 RURAL OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	YOUTH SHARE %
911 – Cleaners & Painters	738	67
523 – Cashiers	34	60
422 – Client Information Workers	249	57
634 – Subsistence Fishers	46	55
421 – Bank Officers Debt Collectors, Lender, Brokers, Agents	43	53
510 – Service & Sales Workers Not Otherwise Classified	149	51
921 – Water & Land Farm Labourers	2,713	50
835 – Ship Crew & Super Cargo Freight Handlers	37	49
517 – Kava Bar Workers	116	48
622 – Aquaculture Workers	54	47
612 – Animal Producers	67	47
615 – Kava Growers	1,519	47
713 – Building Structure Cleaners	43	46
511 – Sightseeing Tour Guides	55	46
531 – Babysitter & Teachers' Aides	82	46
TOP 15 URBAN OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	YOUTH SHARE %
523 – Cashiers	276	62
422 – Client Information Workers	305	62
510 – Service & Sales Workers Not Otherwise Classified	374	58
351 – Computer Network & Systems Technicians	50	52
741 – Building & Related Electricians	100	51
522 – Salespersons	501	51
524 – Contact Centre Salespersons Door To Door Salespersons & Service Station Attendants	35	50
520 – Entrepreneurs	206	50
752 – Cabinet Makers & Related Workers	35	49
260 – Legal Social & Cultural Professionals Not Otherwise Classified	66	47
710 – Building & Related Trades Workers Excluding Electricians, Not Otherwise Classified	997	47
835 – Ship Crew & Super Cargo Freight Handlers	50	46
421 – Bank Officers, Debt Collector Lenders, Brokers Agents	113	46
515 – Building Caretakers	59	45
723 – Agricultural & Industrial Machinery Mechanics & Repairers	226	45

## Youth share of occupations

In terms of the share of young people in each occupation, some occupations are much more 'youth friendly' than others. The listings in Table 20 show which jobs have a large proportion of young people working in them. These jobs may be good entry points to the labour market. Examples are: cashiers, client information workers, service workers, sales persons, bank officers, building trades, agricultural machinery mechanics, teachers' aides and entrepreneurs.

In rural areas, the main occupations with a large share of young people are: labourers, salespersons, subsistence mixed crop and livestock farmers, field crop and vegetable growers, machinery mechanics and repairers, clerk officers, those engaged in community security and religious activities, bakers, bank and market sellers. Many jobs with a high share of young people in them (e.g. cleaner, sales, security guards or taxi drivers) are likely to be low paid and have few, if any, opportunities to acquire further skills. Other jobs such as building trades workers and mechanics offer better prospects for acquiring skills and providing the basis for self-employment.

From the list of occupations held by young people, it is possible to identify rural jobs that offer opportunities for career progression. These are jobs that require good foundation skills in literacy and numeracy, provide on-the-job training and offer valuable work experience, applicable to other jobs. These jobs are: cashiers, client information workers, service workers, sales persons, bank officers, ship's crew and tour guides. Rural occupations with a large share of young people which are likely to be productive sources of livelihood or generating income are aquaculture workers, animal producers and kava growers.

However, other rural jobs may offer few if any career prospects based on opportunities for further training. Examples of

these jobs are: farm labourers working for others, kava bar workers, building cleaners and babysitters.

In urban areas, a number of jobs with both a high share of young people and with good prospects for career progression or self-employment can be identified. These include: computer network and systems technicians, bank officers, electricians, cabinet makers, building trades workers, legal social and cultural professionals, agricultural and industrial machinery mechanics & repairers. Similar to the rural jobs identified above, the urban jobs that require good foundation skills and could offer on-the-job training and valuable work experience are: cashiers, client information workers, service & sales workers, entrepreneurs and ship crew.

However, other urban jobs with a high share of young people in them such as service station attendants, cargo freight handlers and building caretakers are likely to offer low pay, low job security and have few, if any, opportunities to acquire further skills.

The census data is a rich source of information for youth employment and far more analysis can be done than the summary presented here. Researches on young people could further explore the relationship between educational attachments, qualifications and occupations as well as for specific groups of youth such as the disabled, those living in remote areas, household's composition and so on.





# Young people's access to information & communication

## Information and communication technologies

Young people's access to information through public media such as radio and newspapers and the Internet is crucial for their capacity to participate in their communities and in provincial and national initiatives, programmes and projects as well as continuing education, training and skills development.

In Vanuatu, computer use and access to the Internet is not widespread. However, many households have access to a mobile phone. This applies to nine out of ten households in urban areas and two in three households in rural areas.

The differences in Internet use between young men and women are very small. Not surprisingly, Internet use is much higher in urban centres than rural areas. Table 21 shows Internet use for young women and men aged 15-29 years according to their place of residence.

The lack of access to the Internet in rural areas accounts for the low proportion of both young men and women (3%) in rural areas who had used the Internet. Torba province in particular had fewer young people using the Internet compared with the other rural provinces, (refer to Figure 19). Young people in rural areas are being left behind in the technology revolution, mostly due to the high costs of establishing infrastructure and a lack of skills. Language may also be a barrier to Internet use. For example, young people

who are not literate in any language (8%) or not literate in English or French may find it beyond their capacity to use computers and the Internet as systems and applications are not available in Bislama.

## ICT related occupations

Information and communication technologies (ICT) will only increase in importance in the future, requiring more

### *What relevant information on ICT did the census gather?*

*The census gathered the following about information and technology:*

- *Access to Internet (for everyone aged 15 and above)*
- *Household ownership of mobile phone, telephone, computer, radio and television*
- *Those working in ICT-related occupations*



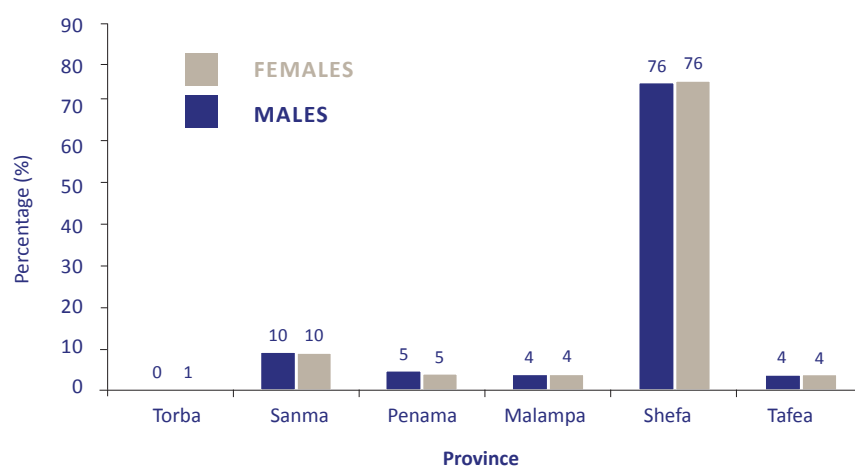


Figure 19: Distribution of Internet users aged 15-29 years, Vanuatu: 2009.

young people to gain new skills to operate and maintain the technology. The Vanuatu Government's new e-government computer network, for example, will require a range of new skills to manage and maintain the network.

Table 22 on page 52 lists seven of the main occupations servicing the ICT sector; the total number of jobholders and the youth (aged 15-29 years) share of each occupation. As already noted, young people are well-represented among

REGION	INTERNET USERS AGED 15-29 YEARS BY SEX, URBAN / RURAL AND PROVINCE, VANUATU: 2009			
	MALES AGED 15-29 WHO USED INTERNET		FEMALES AGED 15-29 WHO USED INTERNET	
	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL MALES	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL FEMALES
VANUATU	2,137	7	2,128	7
URBAN	1,448	16	1,465	16
RURAL	689	3	663	3
PROVINCE				
TORBA	7	1	11	1
SANMA	217	4	212	3
PENAMA	110	3	97	3
MALAMPA	94	2	91	2
SHEFA	1,615	14	1,623	14
TAFEA	94	3	94	2

TABLE  
22

## ICT RELATED OCCUPATION AND YOUTH PERCENTAGE SHARED

ICT RELATED OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	YOUTH SHARE (%)
Information & Communications Technology Service Managers	19	37
Electronics & Telecommunications Engineers	13	39
Computer Applications Professionals	0	0
Database Designers & System Administrators	8	50
Computer Network & Systems Technicians	123	50
Broadcasting & Audio Visual Technicians	86	43
Computer Repairers	24	50

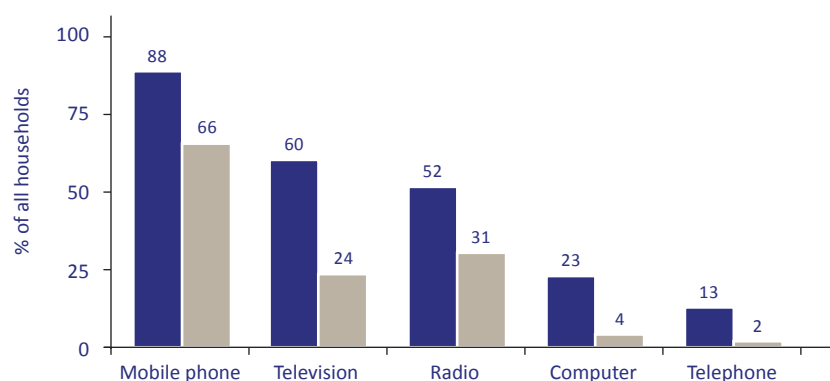


Figure 20: ICT related assets owned by households, by urban/rural, Vanuatu, 2009.

the largest ICT occupation group of computer network & systems technicians, accounting for half of their number. The broadcasting & audio visual technicians also have a young age profile.

Table 22 shows that there are only 24 people whose main work is repairing computers in Vanuatu. The census records 3,709 computers in 8% of households. Computers are widely used in government offices as well. Young people account for half of the total number of computer repairers.

### Young people's access to mobile phones, radios, computers

Most households in Vanuatu have at least one mobile phone. In urban centres, 88% of households reported owning mobile phone(s) and in rural areas 66% of households. The proportion of households owning other ICT-related assets is much lower. Ownership of computers is limited in Vanuatu, with less than a quarter of urban households (23%) and only 4% of rural households having a computer at home.



# Conclusion

This monograph has presented for the first time a detailed profile of young people in Vanuatu, making full use of the 2009 census results. The analysis has shown that not all young Ni-Vanuatu are the same. They differ among each other in major ways in terms of where they live, whether they can read, write and count, what level of schooling they have completed and whether they are in work or not. These differences affect what type of livelihood they have access to, the age at which they marry and the age of women at the birth of their first child as well as the number of children they are likely to have.

Also highlighted in this analysis are the large differences between young men and young women in relation to their exposure to potential health risks involved in consuming cigarettes, alcohol or kava. Particular attention was given to disabled young people in terms of their numbers, location and access to schooling.

Information about the economic status of young people in rural and urban areas was presented in some detail. The situation of young people not in work was discussed both in terms of the narrow definition of the youth unemployment rate and the broader profile based on 'not in employment, education or training'.

The nature of the work young people are engaged in was another focus. This profile of young people in employment covered both rural and urban occupations. It made extensive use of detailed data on occupations, by age and sex.

These 2009 census results provide the basis for community leaders to understand better the challenges their young people in Vanuatu are facing. Policy makers in education, health and community welfare can see how the census can be used to identify the obstacles and potential risks faced by young people. The analysis also shows how non-government organisations with a youth focus, youth representatives and young people themselves can use census data to identify where change is needed and what priorities should be set for making these changes.

This analysis of young Ni-Vanuatu does not exhaust the range of uses the census data can be put to. A unique feature of the census is the potential to provide detailed information on the characteristics of the population at the local level. This means, in relation to young people, that the census data can be used to provide comprehensive youth profiles for provinces and local government areas. With further analysis the census results can also show how household assets affect the chances of young people in terms of access to education and work.

These census results also show the scope for devising specific indicators of youth progress, using the census as a source of baseline data. These indicators would need to be regularly updated, using inter-censal sample surveys and future census results.

# Statistical Tables

TABLE 23		DISTRIBUTION OF YOUNG MALES BY MARITAL STATUS, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE, VANUATU: 2009				
AGE (YEAR)	NEVER MARRIED (%)	MARRIED (%)	DE-FACTO (%)	OTHER <sup>27</sup> (%)	TOTAL (%)	TOTAL NUMBER
12	100	0	0	0	100	2,905
13	100	0	0	0	100	2,633
14	100	0	0	0	100	2,990
15	98	1	0	0	100	2,682
16	98	1	1	0	100	2,355
17	98	1	1	0	100	2,322
18	96	2	2	0	100	2,356
19	93	3	4	0	100	2,312
20	86	6	8	0	100	2,281
21	81	8	11	0	100	1,928
22	71	12	17	1	100	2,114
23	63	16	20	1	100	2,022
24	53	21	26	1	100	2,070
25	46	27	27	1	100	1,973
26	38	33	28	1	100	1,819
27	36	35	28	1	100	1,725
28	30	42	27	1	100	1,502
29	23	48	28	1	100	2,105
30	17	56	25	1	100	1,966

<sup>27</sup> 'Other' refers to divorced, separated or widowed

TABLE  
24DISTRIBUTION OF YOUNG FEMALES BY MARITAL STATUS, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE, VANUATU:  
2009

AGE (YEAR)	NEVER MARRIED (%)	MARRIED (%)	DE-FACTO (%)	OTHER <sup>28</sup> (%)	TOTAL (%)	TOTAL NUMBER
12	100	0	0	0	100	2,583
13	100	0	0	0	100	2,577
14	100	0	0	0	100	2,710
15	97	1	1	0	100	2,569
16	96	2	2	0	100	2,428
17	91	3	6	1	100	2,323
18	82	6	11	1	100	2,250
19	71	10	18	2	100	2,285
20	58	17	23	2	100	2,403
21	51	21	26	2	100	2,087
22	43	27	29	2	100	2,304
23	34	33	31	3	100	2,174
24	29	37	31	2	100	2,158
25	23	44	30	3	100	2,093
26	20	47	30	2	100	1,850
27	18	52	27	3	100	1,841
28	17	58	23	2	100	1,447
29	14	62	22	2	100	2,060
30	13	65	20	3	100	1,933

<sup>28</sup> 'Other' refers to divorced, separated or widowedTABLE  
25PERCENTAGE NEVER MARRIED POPULATION BY URBAN AND RURAL, AGE AND SEX  
VANUATU: 2009

AGE (YEARS)	URBAN		RURAL	
	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)
15 - 19	96	89	97	87
20 - 24	76	50	68	40
25 - 29	42	24	31	17
30 - 34	18	11	12	10
35 - 39	10	8	9	6
40 - 44	8	6	5	6
45+	7	6	5	5

TABLE  
26FEMALES WHO HAVE EVER  
GIVEN BIRTH BY SINGLE YEARS  
(15-30 YEARS), VANUATU: 2009

AGE (YEARS)	EVER GIVEN BIRTH (%)	TOTAL NUMBER
15	1	2,569
16	2	2,428
17	5	2,323
18	11	2,250
19	18	2,285
20	34	2,403
21	36	2,087
22	50	2,304
23	52	2,174
24	57	2,158
25	60	2,093
26	56	1,850
27	57	1,841
28	46	1,447
29	68	2,060
30	66	1,933

TABLE  
27YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 15-30 YEARS WHO SMOKED CIGARETTES IN THE LAST WEEK, BY  
SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009

AGE	MALE-YES (%)	TOTAL NUMBER	FEMALE-YES (%)	TOTAL NUMBER
15	7	2,341	2	2,247
16	14	2,124	2	2,166
17	24	2,081	3	2,090
18	35	2,178	4	2,107
19	42	2,194	6	2,206
20	49	2,212	6	2,381
21	54	1,902	6	2,076
22	57	2,077	6	2,292
23	58	1,967	6	2,136
24	60	2,040	6	2,146
25	60	1,943	5	2,081
26	61	1,808	5	1,843
27	59	1,698	6	1,836
28	59	1,483	5	1,442
29	60	2,069	5	2,042
30	59	1,957	5	1,928

TABLE 28		YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 15-30 YEARS WHO CONSUMED ALCOHOL IN THE LAST WEEK, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009			
AGE	MALE-YES (%)	TOTAL NUMBER	FEMALE-YES (%)	TOTAL NUMBER	
15	2	2,341	1	2,247	
16	4	2,124	1	2,166	
17	9	2,081	2	2,090	
18	12	2,178	2	2,107	
19	19	2,194	4	2,206	
20	21	2,212	4	2,381	
21	23	1,902	4	2,076	
22	26	2,077	4	2,292	
23	26	1,967	5	2,136	
24	27	2,040	4	2,146	
25	26	1,943	4	2,081	
6	26	1,808	4	1,843	
27	24	1,698	4	1,836	
28	22	1,483	3	1,442	
29	23	2,069	3	2,042	
30	23	1,957	3	1,928	

TABLE 29		TABLE 29: YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 15-30 YEARS WHO CONSUMED KAVA IN THE LAST WEEK, BY SINGLE YEARS OF AGE AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009			
AGE	MALE-YES (%)	TOTAL NUMBER	FEMALE-YES (%)	TOTAL NUMBER	
15	5	2,341	1	2,247	
16	9	2,124	2	2,166	
17	18	2,081	3	2,090	
18	29	2,178	4	2,107	
19	37	2,194	6	2,206	
20	47	2,212	6	2,381	
21	51	1,902	7	2,076	
22	57	2,077	7	2,292	
23	60	1,967	8	2,136	
24	63	2,040	9	2,146	
25	66	1,943	7	2,081	
26	67	1,808	9	1,843	
27	65	1,698	10	1,836	
28	66	1,483	9	1,442	
29	67	2,069	9	2,042	
30	68	1,957	9	1,928	



TABLE  
30POPULATION BY USUAL PLACE OF  
RESIDENCE FIVE YEARS AGO, BY  
AGE AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009

AGE	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)
5-9	11	10
10-14	10	9
15 - 19	12	15
20 - 24	16	20
25 - 29	13	13
30 - 34	10	10
35 - 39	8	7
40 - 44	6	5
45 - 49	5	4
50 - 54	3	3
55 - 59	3	2
60 - 64	2	1
65 - 69	1	1
70+	1	1
%	100	100
NUMBER	15,419	15,199

TABLE  
31YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 15-24 YEARS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED PRIMARY EDUCATION, BY  
SEX, VANUATU: 2009

NO SCHOOLING OR LESS THAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (G6) COMPLETED	MALE (%)	NUMBER	FEMALE (%)	NUMBER	TOTAL (%)	NUMBER
	30	22,442	28	22,981	29	45,423

TABLE  
32YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 15-29 WHO  
HAVE NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL,  
BY AGE AND SEX, VANUATU: 2009

AGE (YEARS)	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)
15 - 19	9	8
20 - 24	10	10
25 - 29	10	10
TOTAL	9	9



# Occupational profile of young people

TABLE  
33

TOP 15 OCCUPATIONS OF RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-19 YEARS, BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009

RURAL OCCUPATIONS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters and gatherers	1,744	1,472	3,216
61 – Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	1,417	945	2,362
92 – Agricultural forestry and fishery labourers	466	330	796
91 – Cleaners and helpers	36	220	256
71 – Building and related trades workers (excluding electricians)	187	16	203
52 – Sales workers	21	88	109
51 – Personal service workers	56	51	107
23 – Teaching professionals	21	73	94
73 – Handicraft and printing workers	4	85	89
81 – Stationary plant and machine operators	21	48	69
14 – Hospitality retail and other services managers	25	16	41
96 – Refuse workers and other elementary workers	37	2	39
12 – Administrative and commercial managers	16	22	38
83 – Drivers and mobile plant operators	33	0	33
42 – Customer services clerks	18	10	28

TABLE  
34

TOP 15 OCCUPATIONS OF RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 20-24 YEARS, BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009

MAIN RURAL OCCUPATIONS AT TWO-DIGIT LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters and gatherers	1,878	1,735	3,613
61 – Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	1,750	1,327	3,077
92 – Agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers	568	429	997
71 – Building and related trades workers (excluding electricians)	390	19	409
23 – Teaching professionals	123	239	362
91 – Cleaners and helpers	36	238	274
52 – Sales workers	53	144	197
51 – Personal service workers	88	93	181
42 – Customer services clerks	84	63	147
81 – Stationary plant and machine operators	39	73	112
83 – Drivers and mobile plant operators	96	1	97
73 – Handicraft and printing workers	7	89	96
54 – Protective services workers	49	6	55
96 – Refuse workers and other elementary workers	48	6	54
53 – Personal care workers	15	34	49

TABLE  
35

TOP 15 OCCUPATIONS OF RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 25-29 YEARS, BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009

MAIN RURAL OCCUPATIONS AT TWO-DIGIT LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters & gatherers	1,803	1,660	3,463
61 – Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	1,724	1,202	2,926
92 – Agricultural forestry & fishery labourers	510	410	920
23 – Teaching professionals	221	281	502
71 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians)	316	22	338
52 – Sales workers	87	151	238
91 – Cleaners and helpers	41	179	220
51 – Personal service workers	77	75	152
83 – Drivers and mobile plant operators	145	0	145
42 – Customer services clerks	76	41	117
81 – Stationary plant and machine operators	26	64	90
73 – Handicraft and printing workers	9	74	83
96 – Refuse workers and other elementary workers	62	3	65
72 – Metal machinery and related trades workers	49	2	51
54 – Protective services workers	48	1	49

TABLE  
36

TOP 15 OCCUPATION OF URBAN YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-19 YEARS, BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009

MAIN URBAN OCCUPATIONS AT TWO-DIGIT LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
91 – Cleaners & helpers	26	180	206
52 – Sales workers	43	111	154
71 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians)	152	2	154
51 – Personal service workers	52	51	103
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters & gatherers	38	21	59
42 – Customer services clerks	15	27	42
83 – Drivers & mobile plant operators	39	2	41
72 – Metal machinery & related trades workers	33	2	35
75 – Food processing, wood working, garment & other craft & related trades workers	22	9	31
92 – Agricultural forestry & fishery labourers	20	5	25
54 – Protective services workers	19	3	22
96 – Refuse workers & other elementary workers	12	3	15
61 – Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	9	5	14
53 – Personal care workers	3	10	13
74 – Electrical & electronic trades workers	10	2	12

TABLE  
37

TOP 15 OCCUPATIONS OF URBAN YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 20-24 YEARS, BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009

MAIN URBAN OCCUPATIONS AT TWO-DIGIT LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2 – Sales workers	136	362	498
71 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians)	441	9	450
51 – Personal service workers	122	198	320
91 – Cleaners & helpers	27	264	291
42 – Customer services clerks	87	131	218
83 – Drivers & mobile plant operators	167	5	172
54 – Protective services workers	125	15	140
72 – Metal machinery & related trades workers	100	3	103
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters & gatherers	64	36	100
41 – General & keyboard clerks	19	75	94
75 – Food processing, wood working, garment & other craft & related trades workers	68	25	93
23 – Teaching professionals	33	47	80
92 – Agricultural forestry & fishery labourers	55	23	78
33 – Business & administration associate professionals	24	45	69
26 – Legal social & cultural professionals	37	24	615

TABLE  
38

TOP 15 OCCUPATIONS OF URBAN YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 25-29 YEARS, BY SEX, VANUATU: 2009

MAIN URBAN OCCUPATIONS AT TWO-DIGIT LEVEL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
71 – Building & related trades workers (excluding electricians)	464	13	477
52 – Sales workers	115	320	435
51 – Personal service workers	122	157	279
83 – Drivers & mobile plant operators	230	6	236
91 – Cleaners & helpers	25	187	212
54 – Protective services workers	189	17	206
42 – Customer services clerks	63	95	158
23 – Teaching professionals	56	62	118
33 – Business & administration associate professionals	43	70	113
72 – Metal machinery & related trades workers	102	3	105
63 – Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters & gatherers	51	34	85
41 – General & keyboard clerks	19	65	84
92 – Agricultural forestry & fishery labourers	65	15	80
75 – Food processing, wood working, garment & other craft & related trades workers	51	25	76
24 – Business & administration professionals	34	40	74

The two tables below list the top 50 occupations at the three-digit level held by urban and rural young people aged 15-29 years. The tables show for each occupation group the numbers of young people employed & youth share of total employment in that occupation group.

## URBAN

TABLE  
39

TOP 50 OCCUPATIONS OF URBAN YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-29 YEARS, VANUATU: 2009

TOP 50 URBAN OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	YOUTH SHARE (%)
710 – Building & Related Trades Workers (excluding ) electricians, Not Otherwise Classified	997	47
911 – Cleaner & Painter	700	35
522 – Salespersons	501	51
510 – Service & Sales Workers Not Otherwise Classified	374	58

541 – Fireman, Prison Guards & Security Guards	368	33
832 – Car Taxi & Van Drivers	336	30
422 – Client Information Workers	305	62
523 – Cashiers	276	62
723 – Agricultural & Industrial Machinery Mechanics & Repairers	226	45
520 – Entrepreneurs	206	49
921 – Water & Land Farm Labourers	183	32
230 – Teachers Not Otherwise Classified	178	25
633 – Subsistence Mixed Crop & Livestock Farmer	159	42
410 – General & Keyboard Clerks Not Otherwise Classified	132	35
751 – Baker	129	42
334 – Executive Legal Medical Secretaries & Supervisors	124	37
241 – Accountants & Financial Advisors	119	32
421 – Bank Officers, Debt Collector, Lenders, Brokers Agents	113	46
512 – Chef Cook	112	38
741 – Building & Related Electricians	100	51
517 – Kava Bar Workers	88	38
440 – Clerk Officer	84	33
631 – Subsistence Crop Farmers	83	34
120 – Managers & Directors	82	14
260 -Legal Social & Cultural Professionals Not Otherwise Classified	66	47
521 – Market Sellers	66	23
962 – Elementary Workers	66	38
515 – Building Caretakers	59	45
431 – Accounting & Bookkeeping Clerks	56	43
531 – Babysitter & Teachers’ Aides	55	40
611 – Field Crop & Vegetable Growers	51	30
341 – Community Security & Religious Activities	50	31
351 – Computer Network & Systems Technicians	50	52
833 – Heavy Truck & Lorry Drivers, Bus Drivers	50	30
835 – Ship Crew & Cargo Freight Handlers	50	46
511 – Sightseeing Tour Guides	49	45
411 – General Office Clerks	46	42
343 – Chefs Interior Designs & Other Artists	45	43
712 – Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanics	44	41
713 – Building Structure Cleaners	40	40
524 – Contact Centre Salespersons, Door To Door Salespersons & Service Station Attendants	35	50
752 – Cabinet Makers & Related Workers	35	49

## RURAL

TABLE  
39

TOP 50 OCCUPATIONS OF RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-29 YEARS, VANUATU: 2009

TOP 50 RURAL OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	YOUTH SHARE (%)
631 – Subsistence Crop Farmers	6,121	38
611 – Field Crop & Vegetable Growers	5,811	37
633 – Subsistence Mixed Crop & Livestock Farmers	4,055	37
921 – Water & Land Farm Labourers	2,713	50
615 – Kava Growers	1,519	47
616 – Copra Cutters	965	39
230 – Teachers Not Otherwise Classified	932	41
710 – Building & Related Trades Workers (excl. electricians), Not Otherwise Classified	896	42
911 – Cleaners & Painters	738	67
731 – Carving Persons, Handicraft Workers	267	32
422 – Client Information Workers	249	57
520 – Entrepreneurs	238	39
832 – Car Taxi & Van Drivers	170	23
962 – Elementary Workers	158	0
510 – Service & Sales Workers Not Otherwise Classified	149	51
522 – Salespersons	140	43
815 – Bleaching Dyeing & Fabric Cleaning Machine Operators	139	34
521 – Market Sellers	124	26
541 – Fireman, Prison Guards & Security Guards	116	28
517 – Kava Bar Workers	116	48
723 – Agricultural & Industrial Machinery Mechanics & Repairers	115	41
819 – Copra Drying Oven, Kiln Machine Operators	114	38
145 – Copra Buyer Manager Level	88	34
531 – Babysitter & Teachers' Aides	82	46
512 – Chef Cook	81	29
341 – Community Security & Religious Activities	77	17
120 – Managers & Directors	75	32
610 – Skilled Agricultural Workers Not Otherwise Classified	70	44
612 – Animal Producers	67	47
751 – Bakers	59	28
511 – Sightseeing Tour Guides	55	46
622 – Aquaculture Workers	54	47
220 – Health Professionals Not Otherwise Classified	50	22

833 – Heavy Truck & Lorry Drivers, Bus Drivers	46	29
634 – Subsistence Fishers	46	55
421 – Bank Officers Debt Collectors, Lender, Brokers, Agents	43	53
713 – Building Structure Cleaners	43	46
410 General & Keyboard Clerks Not Otherwise Classified	41	30
835 – Ship Crew & Super Cargo Freight Handlers	37	49
011 – Commissioned Armed Forces Officers	37	45
523 – Cashiers	34	60
241 – Accountants & Financial Advisors	32	36



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# Glossary

*Adolescent mothers:* Women aged 15-19 years who have given birth to a child.

*Agriculture:* Includes farming, fishing and logging.

*De-facto relationship:* couples who live together without being legally married.

*Education attainment:* Highest level of formal schooling attended and successfully completed.

*Employed population:* Population aged 15 years and over working for cash or profit

*Employer:* Person or business that employs one or more people especially for wage or salary.

*Household:* Those persons who usually eat together and share the work of preparing the food and/ or the cost of work for providing it.

*Information and communication technologies (ICT):* This includes any computing and communication device or application.

*Internal migration:* The temporary or permanent relocation or movement of population inside the boundaries of a national state.

*International migration:* When peoples cross state boundaries and stay in the host state for some minimum length of time.

*Jobless population:* People without jobs, available for work but no longer looking for work .

*Kava:* Kava (*Piper methysticum*) is a shrub belonging to the pepper family, Piperaceae. The root or stump of the shrub contains kavalactones, which have sedative and muscle-relaxant effects.

*Literacy rate:* Proportion of the population who reported they could read and write a simple sentence in any language.

*Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET):* A widely used acronym for people currently “not in education, employment, or training”.

*Primary basic education:* Grade 1 to grade 8.

*Population census:* A count of a given area resulting in an enumeration of the entire population and the compilation of demographic, social and economic information pertaining to that population at a specific time.

*Economically inactive:* Those people who were not working and not looking for work, eg: full time student, retired, disabled.

*Person:* Any individual member of the household or institution who is present on the census night and counted in the census.

*Pre-school:* Early childhood education for children aged 4 to 5 years old.

*Producing goods for home consumption:* Performing a variety of tasks such as farming, gardening, fishing or producing handicrafts for own consumption and often described as subsistence by the household.

*Producing goods for sale:* Performing a variety of tasks such as farming, gardening, fishing or producing handicrafts, the goods from which are then sold.

*Professional workers:* Includes occupations such as teachers, medical doctors, nurses/midwives, lawyers, accountants and civil engineers.

*Secondary education:* Year 7 up to year 13 for English system and up to year 14 for French system.

*Services:* Including tourism, retail sales and transportation.

*Sex:* Refers to the relatively fixed biological and physical characteristics that define men and women.

*Sex ratio:* The ratio of males to females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males for

every 100 females.

*Subsistence:* See producing goods for home consumption.

*Technical workers:* Includes occupations such as mechanics, ship engineers, dental assistants and farming advisors.

*Total fertility rate:* The average number of children per woman.

*Unemployed population:* People aged 15 years and over who did not work in the week prior to the census (other than those who had a job but were not at work during the reference week), but spend time looking for work, and were available to work if a job was offered to them.

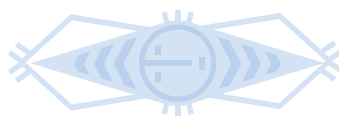
*University:* An educational institution of learning at tertiary level either in Vanuatu or another country.

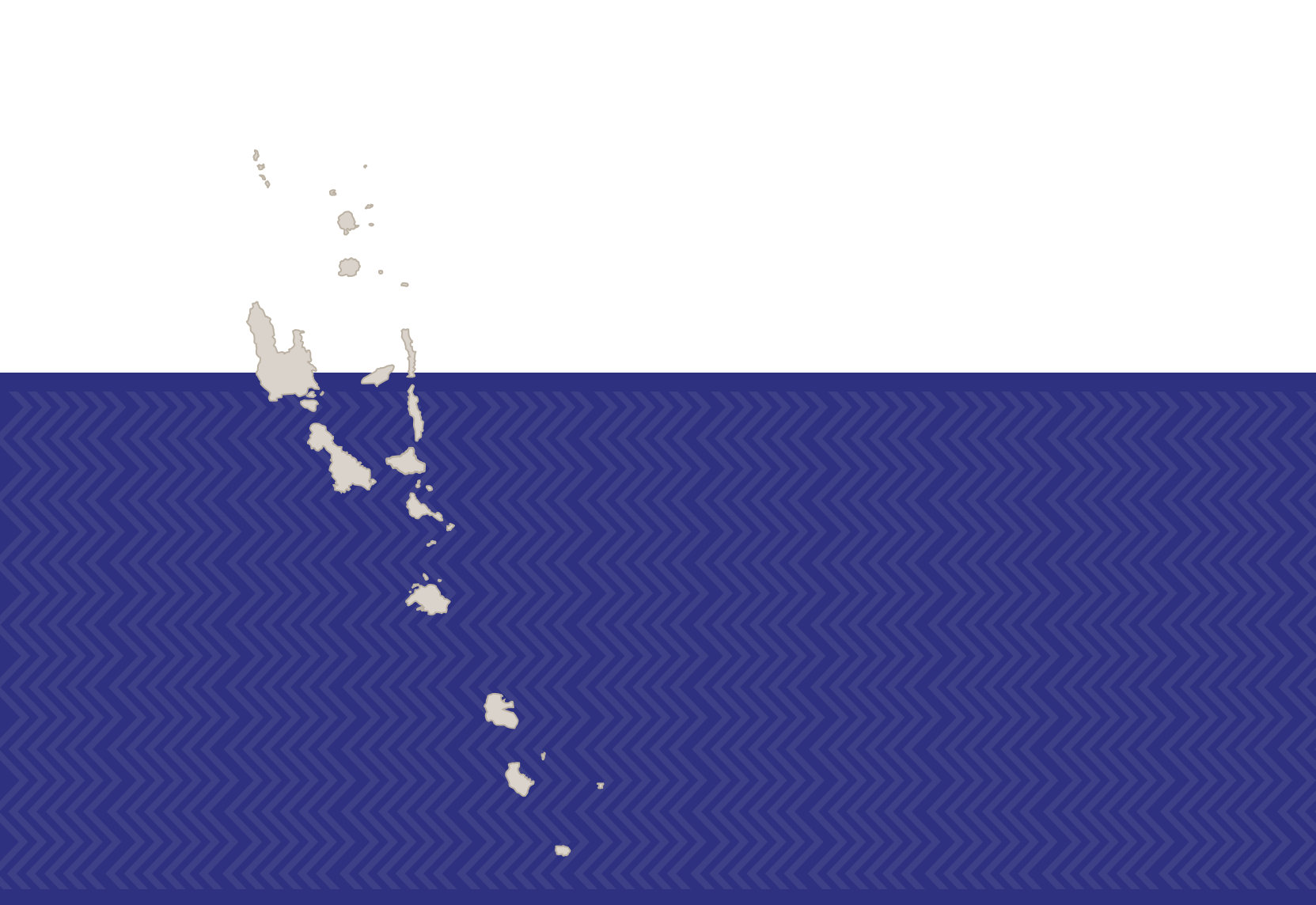
*Unpaid family work:* Those persons aged 15 years and over who do work but did not receive wage, salary, commission, profit or other form of remuneration from their family enterprise.

*Vocational education:* Technical education combined with practical experience in Vanuatu or another country.

*Voluntary work:* Those persons aged 15 years and over who work without pay, commission or profit for an organization.

*Wage and salary employment:* Remuneration (pay) based on time worked or items produced independent of profits or expectations of profits.





**VANUATU NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (VNSO)**

Private Mail Bag 9019, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Tel: (678) 22110 / 22111

Fax: (678) 24583

Email: [stats@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:stats@vanuatu.gov.vu)

[www.vnsso.gov.vu](http://www.vnsso.gov.vu)