Capital of Vanuatu
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| population | 243,304 |
| Area total | 12.190km² |
| government | Parliamentary republic |
| president | Lolu Abil |
| currency | Vanuatu vatu (vuv) |
Economics
Inflation 2.9% p.a. (1990–2001)

Gross National Product (GNP): $212m
Exchange rates against the US$ over the last year: 120.5 vatu (134.9)

SCORE CARD

World GNP ranking: 183rd
GNP per capita: $1050
Balance of payments: $15m
Inflation: 2.1%
Unemployment: Low

Strengths
Expanding services sector, including tourism. Major economic reforms instituted, including introduction of value-added tax and resizing of public service in return for assistance from ADB.

Weaknesses

http://dev.greenhall.com/divisions/hss/worldreference/VI/economics.html
Vanuatu is the home to a rich Melanesian culture full of tradition, magic and ritual, where more than 100 different dialects are spoken and each tribal group has its own identity, customs and artwork. It is a land of diversity, with French and English influence from the colonial days, and a strong Christian heritage, though some tribes still practice the ancient animistic religion.
There are many restaurants in the main tourist areas. Seafood features strongly on hotel and restaurant menus in Port-
Vila and the main towns. The numerous ethnic backgrounds of the inhabitants of Vanuatu are reflected in different styles
of cooking. Chinese and French influences are the strongest. Food is generally excellent everywhere. French cheese,
pâtés, bread, cognac and wine are available in Port-Vila’s two major shops.
The ni-Vanuatu pride themselves on their musical instruments, of which the tamtam - also called the slit-drum or slit-gong - is a fine example. Traditionally used in ceremonies, it is an intricately carved log with a slice hollowed out from the centre from which the sound reverberates. Panpipes are also common in music, as are conch shells, which double as bush telephones.
A lack of cash flow in rural communities. Low economic growth compared to the population growth rate in the country

People in rural communities earn money from very limited commodities such as copra sales, not much they get out of copra-making because of the very low beach prices. Gardens produce can be sold on limited quantities. And money that comes into an island is limited to very few paid government employees like teachers health staff, and so money circulation within the rural areas is not that much to be able to help increase and improve economy level of families.