



## Tokelau's March quarter CPI rises 2.1 percent: tougher times for the sweet-tooths among us

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**Media Release: Tokelau National Statistics Office**

The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau increased 2.1 percent for the March 2015 *quarter*. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released this figure today.

Prices rose for sugar (up 32 percent), chicken pieces (up 14 percent), and potatoes (up 59 percent).

Prices fell for long-life milk (down 12 percent), breakfast cereal (down 15 percent), and rice (down 3.9 percent).

As a group, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages rose 4.2 percent in the December quarter.

Cigarette prices rose 2.1 percent.

In the entire *year to* the March 2015 quarter, the CPI of Tokelau increased 4.7 percent.

The largest *group* contributions to the annual increase of 4.7 percent were again from the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group (up 9.7 percent), and from the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group (up 4.9 percent).

"The Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance group was up 5 percent and so a big contributor to the annual CPI. This was due mainly to more expensive timber," National Statistician Kele Lui said.

This time, the main *individual* upward contribution came from price increases for biscuits and crackers (up 36 percent), chicken pieces (up 19 percent), and sugar (up 28 percent).

"So in terms of both annual and quarterly CPI, that may be a bit tougher for the sweet-tooths among us", Mr Lui said.

The largest downward contribution for the year to the March quarter came from lower prices for lamb or mutton (down 15 percent), bottled water (down 22 percent), and chocolate-flavoured drink powder (down 22 percent).

The full information release on the Tokelau CPI, including tables and technical notes, is available from <http://TokelauNSO.tk>

Tokelau is one of the world's most geographically isolated countries, and home to 1,383 people. The CPI measures the rate of price change of goods and services purchased by Tokelau households in each one of the three atolls' stores. Tokelau uses the New Zealand dollar as its currency.

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