



Tokelau's December quarter CPI rises 0.7 percent: Christmas-time purchasing only a little more expensive

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The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau increased 2.6 percent *for the year to* the December 2014 quarter. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released this figure today.

"The largest *group* contribution to the annual increase of 2.6 percent continues to be from the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group, up 11 percent," National Statistician Kele Lui said.

"This time, the main *individual* upward contribution came from a price increase for washing powder", he said. "Tokelauans spend more to get their washing clean now. The previous quarter saw washing powder almost double its price, and that effect will be felt for some time in the annual CPI."

The largest downward contribution for the year to the December quarter came from fruit drink powder (down 33 percent), bottled water (down 22 percent) and milk powder (down 11 percent).

In the December 2014 *quarter* compared with the September 2014 quarter, the CPI rose by 0.7 percent.

"It's good to see that the CPI didn't rise too much in the December quarter, so local Christmas purchases weren't too badly affected," Mr Lui said.

Prices rose for biscuits and crackers (up 78 percent after last quarter's big drop in price), rice (up 14 percent), and mayonnaise (up 21 percent).

Prices of cigarettes rose 1.3 percent. Because this item is relatively important in household purchases (ie, has a relatively large weight), it strongly affects the overall upward CPI movement.

Prices fell for chocolate-flavoured drink powder (down 28 percent) and washing powder (down 11 percent).

As a group, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages rose 2.0 percent in the December quarter.

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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