



Tokelau's June quarter CPI rises 0.3 percent: some prices up, some down, but overall small change

**Embargoed until Monday, 29 June 2015, 12:00 noon (Samoa Standard Time)
Media Release: Tokelau National Statistics Office**

The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau showed a small increase of 0.3 percent for the June 2015 *quarter*. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released this result today.

Despite the CPI rise being small, a major food price increase came from sausages (up 10 percent); this was offset by lower prices for chicken pieces (down 15 percent) and lamb or mutton (down 17 percent). As a group, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages dropped 1.3 percent.

Prices for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes rose 2.8 percent in the June quarter.

"It is a good thing for Tokelau, that prices on average have stabilised," National Statistician Kele Lui said. "Particularly some food prices going down will be welcome: but note that some food items have gone up as well", Mr Lui said.

That's because the CPI looks at a whole range of foods, products and services each quarter, the so-called "basket". Each item in the basket has a certain weighting, which reflects the relative importance in terms of household spending.

In the entire *year to* the June 2015 quarter, the CPI of Tokelau increased 4.9 percent.

The largest *group* contributions to this annual increase were again from the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group (up 11 percent), and from the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group (up 5.1 percent).

The Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance group was up 6.0 percent, due mainly to more expensive timber.

The main *individual* upward contribution continued to come from price increases for biscuits and crackers, potatoes, and sugar.

The largest downward contribution for the year to the June quarter came from lower prices for lamb or mutton and paint.

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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