



Tokelau's September quarter CPI rises 1.0 percent: cigarettes still the biggest driver

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Media Release: Tokelau National Statistics Office

The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau showed an increase of 1.0 percent for the September 2015 *quarter*. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released this result today.

The main food price increases came from lamb or mutton (up 24 percent), breakfast cereal (up 23 percent), and flour (up 17 percent) in the September quarter.

Prices for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes rose 3.5 percent, influenced by a higher price for cigarettes.

"This is the first time since CPI records began, in June 2012, that the cigarette prices on each atoll are the same: now \$6.60 for a packet of 20 sticks" National Statistician Kele Lui said.

"It is probably fair that taupulega are applying the same price across the villages. All the more so in view of the drive to increase cigarette prices every year in Pacific countries, in order to encourage people to smoke less and lead healthier lives.

"Because cigarettes are such a big item in the CPI basket of goods we measure every quarter, such pricing policies will continue to affect the overall inflation rate in future." Mr Lui said.

In the entire *year* to the September 2015 quarter, the CPI of Tokelau increased 4.3 percent.

The largest *group* contributions to this annual increase were again from Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (up 9.2 percent), and from the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group (up 6.2 percent).

The Clothing and footwear group was up 3.6 percent, and Transport up 0.3 percent.

The largest *individual* upward contribution (excluding cigarettes) continued to come from price increases for biscuits and crackers, potatoes, and rice.

The largest downward contribution for the year to the September quarter came from lower prices for paint and washing powder.

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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