



Tokelau's December quarter CPI falls 0.8 percent

Embargoed until 29 January 2016

Media Release: Tokelau National Statistics Office

The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau showed a decrease of 0.8 percent for the December 2015 quarter. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released this result today.

The main food price decreases came from lamb or mutton (down 12 percent), canned corned beef (down 8.8 percent), and chicken (down 5.2 percent) in the December quarter.

Prices for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes rose 2.0 percent, influenced by a higher price for cigarettes (up 2.1 percent): this rise is due to one of the three villages rounding off the price of a packet of cigarettes from \$6.60 to \$7.00, so fewer coins are needed for change.

National Statistician Kele Lui said that there are plans afoot to increase cigarette prices every year in Pacific countries. This will 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. We are now considering the calculation of two CPIs next year, that is one without and one with cigarettes included," Mr Lui said.

In the entire year to the December 2015 quarter, the CPI of Tokelau increased 2.6 percent.

The largest *group* contributions to this annual increase were again from Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (up 10 percent), from the Clothing and footwear group (up 3.6 percent), and from the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group (up 2.7 percent).

The Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance group showed the biggest decrease (down 6.0 percent).

The largest *individual* upward contribution (excluding cigarettes, up 13 percent) came from price increases for potatoes, sausages and eggs.

The largest downward contribution for the year to the December quarter came from lower prices for washing powder, lamb or mutton, petrol 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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