



## Cheaper food and petrol drive Tokelau's March quarter CPI down 1.1 percent

### Media Release: Tokelau National Statistics Office

The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau showed a decrease of 1.1 percent for the March 2016 *quarter*. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released this result today.

In this first quarter of the year, prices fell for major food items such as chicken, lamb or mutton, rice, and flour. Petrol fell 5 percent.

Prices for the Alcoholic beverages and cigarettes group rose 0.7 percent. There was no change in the price for cigarettes in the March quarter, but beer prices rose 9.2 percent.

In the *year to* the March 2016 quarter, the CPI of Tokelau decreased 0.6 percent.

"This is the first time since records began, with the base year June 2012, that the annual CPI has fallen below zero," National Statistician Kele Lui said.

The largest *group* contributions of 5–6 percent to this annual drop were from the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group, from the Transport group and the Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance group.

"Especially the cheaper foods and petrol are good news for Tokelauans," Mr Lui said.

The largest *individual* upward contribution came from cigarettes (up 11 percent) and also from price increases for canned fish, milk powder, and sausages.

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

For the first time, the information release shows how the Tokelau CPI has changed since its base quarter (June 2012): the all-groups CPI indicates inflation of 9 percent over the entire period. The CPI excluding cigarettes shows an increase of 2 percent over the same period.

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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For media enquires please contact:

Jaap ("iapi") Jasperse, PhD  
Statistics Adviser, Tokelau National Statistics Office  
Phone +685 729 4913, Email: [iapi.jasperse@tokelau.org.nz](mailto:iapi.jasperse@tokelau.org.nz)