



Office of the Council for the
Ongoing Government of Tokelau
Tokelau National Statistics Office

Tokelau's December quarter CPI up 2.1 percent

Media Release: Tokelau National Statistics Office, 31 January 2018

The *quarterly* consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau rose by 2.1 percent in the December 2017 quarter. The Tokelau National Statistics Office released these figures today.

The highest contribution to CPI, 2.0 percent, came from the group Alcoholic beverages and tobacco. This is the result of a nationwide policy to increase the price of cigarettes to discourage smoking, to an average \$9.53 for a packet of 20 (up 42 percent from \$6.73 in March 2017).

The group Food and non-alcoholic beverages, contributed negative 0.1 percent. A rise in price of corned beef (up 19 percent) was partly offset by a drop in the price of flour (down 17 percent).

The contribution to CPI by the Transport group was 0.6 percent, due to an increase in the price of airfares. Contributions by other groups were minor. The Communication group remained unchanged.

In the year to the December 2017 quarter, the CPI of Tokelau rose 10.3 percent.

The main upward group contributions came from the group Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, contributing 6.8 percent due to the tobacco policy mentioned above.

Prices in the group Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed 4.3 percent to the annual CPI; this was driven mainly by higher prices for meat products.

The Communication group contributed the largest downward movement to inflation: down 1.1 percent in the year to December 2017; this was caused by a 23 percent drop in prices for internet products recorded in March last year.

Tokelau is one of the world's most geographically isolated countries, and home to about 1,500 people. Tokelau uses the New Zealand dollar as its currency; most consumer products are imported from Samoa.

The full information release on the Tokelau CPI, including tables and technical notes, are available from <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauCPI>

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