



Cigarettes lead Tokelau's CPI rise for the year to September

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The consumer price index (CPI) for Tokelau increased 1.5 percent for the year to the September 2013 quarter, the Tokelau National Statistics Office said today.

"The largest group contribution to the annual increase of 1.5 percent came from the alcoholic beverages and tobacco group, up 5.6 percent," said National Statistician Kele Lui, "The group rise was entirely driven by an increase in the price of cigarettes, up 9.6 percent."

By group, the only downward contribution for the year to the September 2013 quarter came from the food and non-alcoholic beverages group, down 1.4 percent. The key individual downward contribution came from lower prices for washing powder, down 42.4 percent.

"In Tokelau, each nuku sets its own pricing policies. Sometimes the price a consumer pays for one good might be increased, in order to decrease the price of another good," said Mr Lui.

"During the September quarter the consumer price for cigarettes was increased by nuku policy. Because cigarettes are frequently purchased goods, this had a significant impact on the annual, and quarterly CPI movements."

In the September 2013 quarter, the CPI rose by 1.1 percent. The main upward contribution came from the alcoholic beverages and tobacco group. Cigarettes were the sole upward contributor for the group, and the most significant individual contributor across the entire CPI. In the September 2013 quarter, the price for cigarettes rose 12.6 percent.

Significant upward contributions also came from higher prices for paint (up 44.9 percent), canned corned beef (up 12.0 percent), and lamb and mutton (up 6.5 percent).

Countering these increases, prices decreased for rice (down 21.0 percent), sugar (down 11.8 percent), and milk powder (down 11.5 percent).

According to Mr Lui, rice is a staple of the Tokelauan diet.

"While the price of rice has risen for the year to September up, 3.4 percent, households will be pleased to see that the price has decreased significantly in the September quarter."

Tokelau is one of the world's most geographically isolated countries, and home to 1,411 people. The CPI measures the rate of price change of goods and services purchased by Tokelau households.

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

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