



Cheaper foods drive Tokelau's March quarter CPI down, annual CPI still dominated by nuku policy on cigarettes

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The consumer price index (CPI) of Tokelau increased 2.6 percent for the year to the March 2014 quarter, according to the Tokelau National Statistics Office.

"The largest group contribution to the annual increase of 2.6 percent continues to be from the alcoholic beverages and tobacco group, up 10.4 percent," National Statistician Kele Lui said.

"Cigarettes were again the biggest driver of the increase, their prices up 12.8 percent for the year."

During the September 2013 quarter, the price of cigarettes was increased. This continues to have a significant impact on the annual CPI movement.

By group, the largest downward contribution for the year to March came from the food and non-alcoholic beverages group (down 1.1 percent). The key individual contributors were lower prices for noodles (down 37.1 percent), chicken pieces (down 14.8 percent), and instant coffee (down 37.8 percent).

"While the CPI has increased for the year to the March quarter, families in Tokelau will be pleased to note that the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages continued to decrease for the year," Mr Lui said.

For the March 2014 quarter, the CPI actually fell by 0.2 percent.

The main downward contribution for March came from the food and non-alcoholic beverages group, down 0.5 percent. Lower prices for rice (down 12.6 percent), chicken pieces (down 7.4 percent), milk powder (down 10.3 percent), and fruit drink powder (down 16.8 percent) were the most significant downward contributors for the group.

By contrast, prices increased for lamb and mutton (up 10.4 percent), chocolate-flavoured drink powder (up 26.8 percent), and bottled beer (up 11.6 percent).

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.

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

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For media enquires please contact:

Jaap Jasperse, PhD
Statistics Adviser
Tokelau National Statistics Office
Phone +685 729 4913
Email: yahpnz@gmail.com