



KINGDOM OF TONGA

Consumer Price Index

Statistical Bulletin

MARCH 2021



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STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 2021

(Base Period: September 2018 = 100.0)

**Consumer Price Index for March 2021 increased by 1.4%
With an Annual inflation Rate of 3.3% .**

The Consumer Price Index covers price changes in Tongatapu and Vava'u. The weights were derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (2015-2016). Also, the groups use all different grouping of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP).

1. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **March 2021** increased by **1.4** from **102.8** in the previous month to **104.1**. Over the previous two months, the index for all items increased **by 1.1%** in **February 2021** and **0.7%** in **January 2021**.
2. When comparing the **local and imported** indices for **March 2021** to the previous month, Local index increased **by 0.9%** and import index also increased **by 1.7%**.
3. The **annual rate of inflation for March 2021** was **3.3%** compared to **2.1% inflation** in previous month. The **annual Inflation** for the same month of previous year, **March 2020**, was **0.4% inflation**.
4. When comparing the **annual change** in the **local and imported indices** for **March 2021**, the local index recorded an increase by **1.6%** and import index also increased by **4.7%**.

Changes in each group compared with the previous month are as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| A. FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | 1.7% |
| Food Group recorded an increase towards the index position of March 2021 . This was due to increase in price of some local and imported items such as suckling pig, tomatoes, H/cabbage, , carrots, Fua (reef fish), water melon , cockle pips, octopus, orange, eggs, salted beef, sausages and chicken legs that increased throughout the month. | |
| B. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO AND KAVA | 0.3% |
| Price of items in this group recorded an increase due to increase in price of local cigarettes compared to the previous month | |
| C. CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR | 0.2% |
| Price of items in this group recorded an increase due to increase in price of school uniform compared to the previous month | |
| D. HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY AND GAS | 1.7% |
| Although there were price changes in this group during the month, the overall change remains an increase towards the index position of March 2021 due to increase in price of LP Gas and timber compared to the previous month. | |
| E. FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE | 0.0% |
| Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month. | |

F. HEALTH	0.0%
Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month	
G. TRANSPORT	2.7%
Price of items in this group recorded an increase due to increase in price of <i>petrol</i> and <i>diesel</i> compared to the previous month.	
H. COMMUNICATION	0.0%
Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month.	
I. RECREATION AND CULTURE	0.0%
Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month.	
J. EDUCATION	0.0%
Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month.	
K. RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	0.0%
Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month.	
L. MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	0.0%
Price of items in this group recorded no change compared to the previous month.	



Dr Viliami Konifelenisi Fifita

Government Statistician

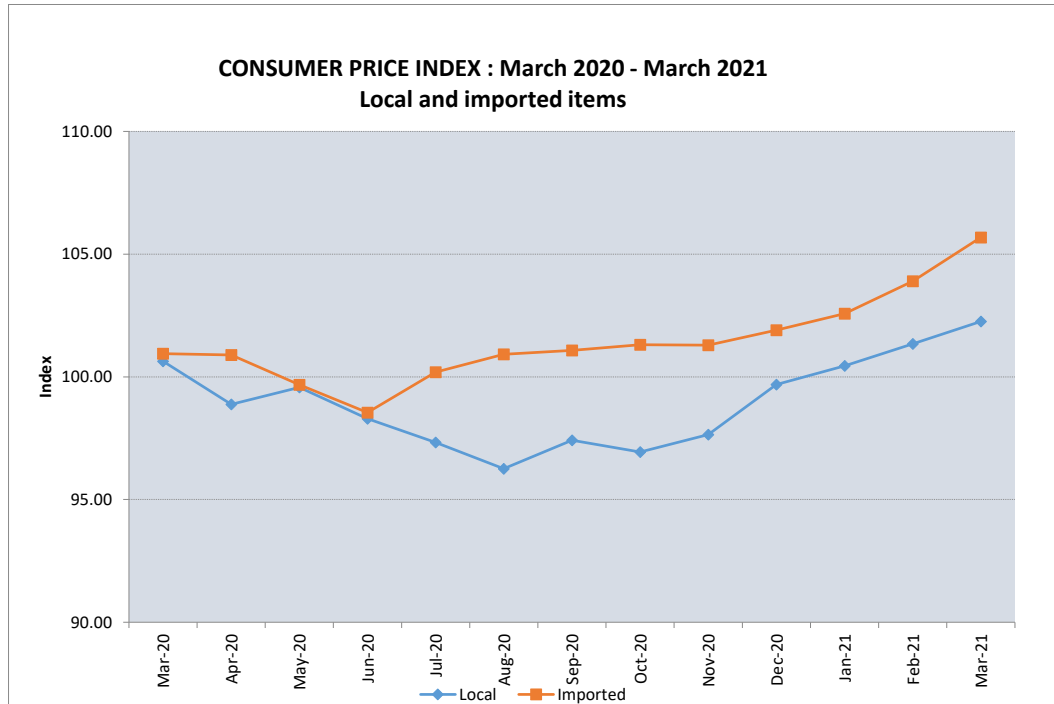


Fig 1: Graphical representation of Consumer Price Index for Total, Local and Imported Components

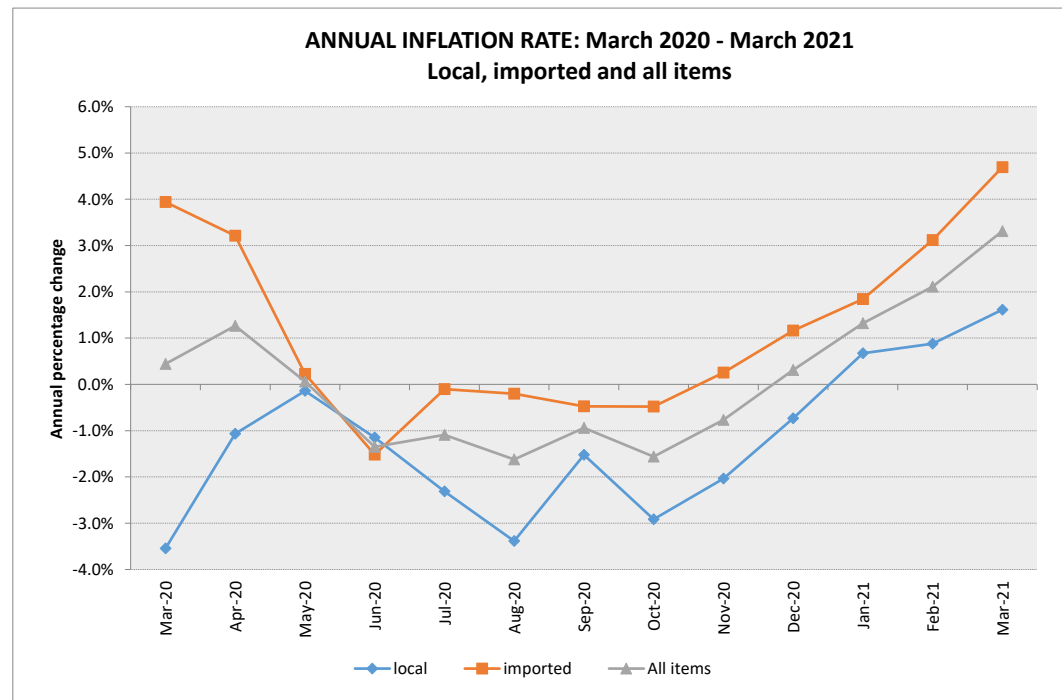


Fig 2: Graphical representation of Annual Inflation rate (%) for Local, Imported and All Items as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Fig 3: Contribution to % change from previous month, All groups
February 2021 to March 2021.

Group	Local	Imported	Total
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0.37%	0.36%	0.73%
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%
Clothing and footwear	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	0.00%	0.17%	0.17%
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Health	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Transport	0.00%	0.42%	0.42%
Communication	0.00%	-	0.00%
Recreation and culture	-	0.00%	0.00%
Education	0.00%	-	0.00%
Restaurants and hotels	0.00%	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous goods and services	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	0.40%	0.96%	1.35%

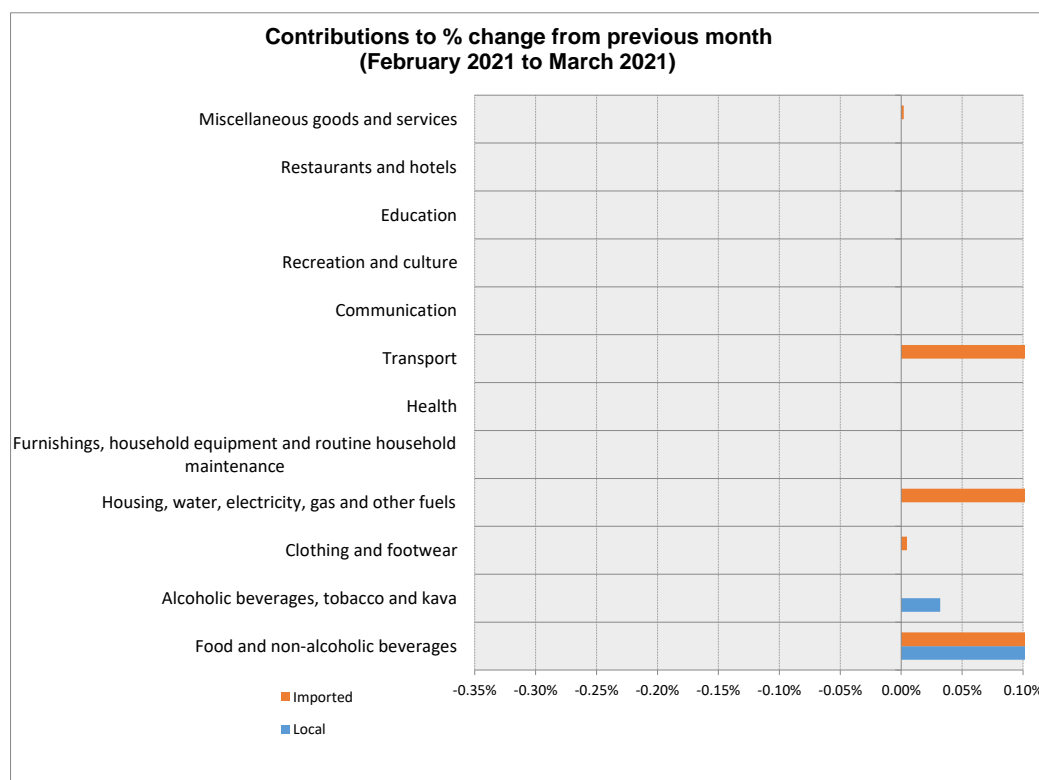


Fig 4: Contribution to % change from last year, All groups
March 2020 to March 2021.

	Local	Imported	Total
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1.1%	1.9%	3.0%
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%
Clothing and footwear	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	-0.7%	0.0%	-0.7%
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household m	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Health	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Transport	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Communication	-0.1%	-	-0.1%
Recreation and culture	-	0.0%	0.0%
Education	0.0%	-	0.0%
Restaurants and hotels	0.0%	-	0.0%
Miscellaneous goods and services	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL	0.7%	2.6%	3.3%

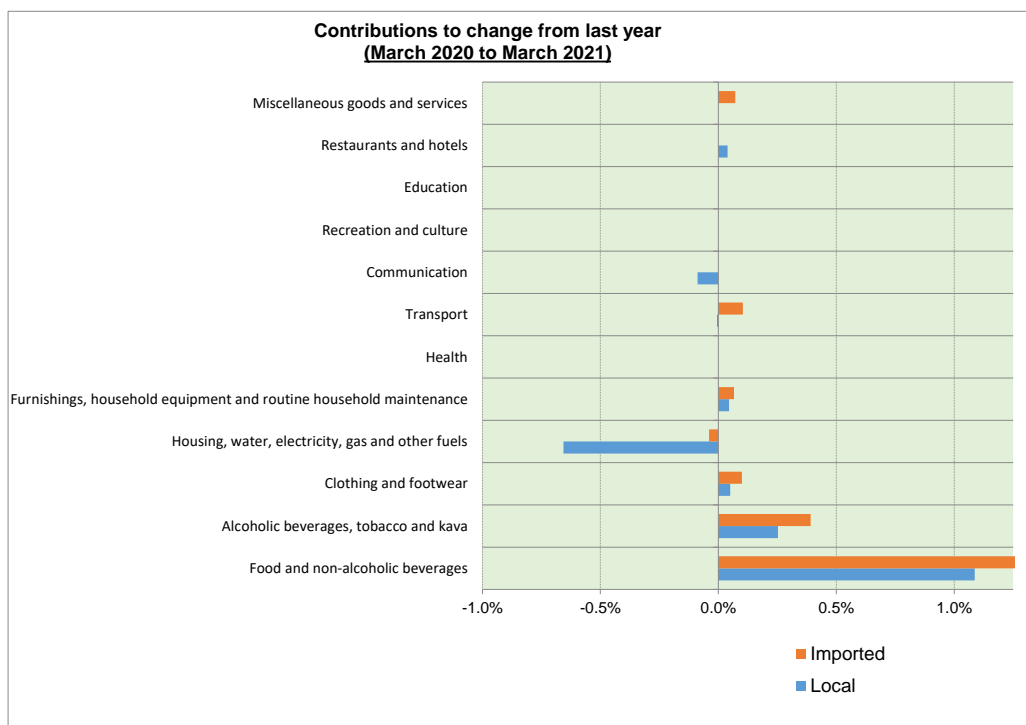


Table 1: Consumer Price Index by major groups

March 2021

Year/month	All items	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	Clothing and footwear	Housing, water, electricity and gas	Furnishings, household equipment and household maintenance	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and culture	Education	Restaurants and hotels	Miscellaneous goods and services
Weight	100%	39.8%	11.6%	2.1%	10.8%	3.2%	0.3%	16.4%	5.2%	1.1%	2.2%	3.1%	4.2%
2019 January	99.7	100.1	100.1	102.6	101.0	99.8	100.0	94.4	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	101.0
February	99.9	101.1	100.2	102.9	101.5	100.1	100.0	92.4	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	101.0
March	100.4	102.2	99.7	101.5	100.9	100.5	100.0	93.9	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	99.8
April	98.7	98.1	98.1	101.5	98.9	100.6	100.0	96.3	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	99.8
May	99.6	99.5	97.7	101.5	98.9	100.7	100.0	98.5	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	98.8
June	99.8	99.6	97.2	101.5	100.2	100.8	100.0	99.0	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	98.8
July	100.0	100.8	97.5	102.1	100.3	101.7	100.0	97.1	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	98.6
August	100.5	102.2	97.3	102.1	100.3	101.7	100.0	96.4	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	98.9
September	100.4	102.0	96.8	103.8	99.0	102.0	100.0	97.4	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	98.9
October	100.9	102.8	96.5	103.8	100.0	102.0	100.0	98.3	100.0	103.6	104.2	108.2	99.3
November	100.4	100.7	96.6	103.9	100.4	102.1	100.0	99.4	101.6	103.6	104.2	108.2	99.7
December	100.6	101.4	95.1	104.3	100.8	100.5	100.0	99.7	101.6	103.6	104.2	108.2	99.8
2020 January	100.3	100.5	95.5	105.5	100.5	100.5	100.0	99.7	101.6	103.6	104.2	108.2	99.9
February	100.6	101.6	94.7	106.1	100.6	100.2	100.0	99.6	101.6	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.0
March	100.8	102.3	94.7	106.1	102.6	100.3	100.0	97.4	101.6	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.8
April	100.0	102.8	93.9	106.5	98.9	102.2	100.0	94.7	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	99.7
May	99.6	104.0	95.5	108.8	99.2	103.3	100.0	87.6	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.2
June	98.4	102.6	99.4	109.1	96.9	103.3	100.0	82.3	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.3
July	98.9	103.5	100.3	109.1	89.7	102.5	100.0	87.2	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.6
August	98.8	102.1	100.3	110.5	89.2	102.5	100.0	90.2	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.8
September	99.4	102.9	100.4	110.5	89.2	102.7	100.0	91.8	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.8
October	99.3	102.8	100.0	112.6	89.1	103.4	100.0	91.6	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.8
November	99.7	103.2	100.1	112.6	90.6	104.1	100.0	91.3	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	100.9
December	100.9	105.2	100.3	112.6	93.8	104.4	100.0	91.5	99.9	103.6	104.8	108.2	101.4
2021 January	101.6	106.2	100.1	114.3	94.0	103.9	100.0	93.1	99.9	103.6	104.8	109.5	101.9
February	102.8	108.0	100.0	113.2	94.5	103.9	100.0	95.4	99.9	103.6	104.8	109.5	102.4
March	104.1	109.9	100.3	113.4	96.1	103.9	100.0	98.0	99.9	103.6	104.8	109.5	102.5
Percentage change between February 2021 and March 2021 .	1.4	1.7	0.3	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage change between March 2020 and March 2021 .	3.3	7.4	5.9	6.9	-6.3	3.5	0.0	0.6	-1.7	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.7

Table 2: Consumer Price Index and annual inflation rate
(Base Period: September 2018=100.0)
March 2021

Year/month	Local	Import	All items	Monthly change for all items (%)	Annual inflation rate for period (%)	Average index for year	Average annual inflation rate (%)
2018 January	94.2	97.0	95.7	0.9	6.4		
February	95.6	97.7	96.7	1.1	3.7		
March	99.3	97.6	98.4	1.7	5.0		
April	100.0	97.4	98.6	0.2	4.7		
May	98.2	97.8	98.0	-0.6	3.8		
June	97.8	98.2	98.0	0.0	3.0	<u>96.2</u>	<u>5.3</u>
July	102.1	99.2	100.5	2.6	5.8		
August	102.2	99.3	100.6	0.1	6.1		
September	100.0	100.0	100.0	-0.6	5.5		
October	101.1	100.3	100.7	0.7	6.2		
November	100.8	99.9	100.3	-0.4	6.5		
December	100.3	98.7	99.4	-0.9	4.8	<u>98.9</u>	<u>5.1</u>
2019 January	102.8	97.2	99.7	0.3	4.2		
February	103.7	96.8	99.9	0.1	3.2		
March	104.3	97.1	100.4	0.5	2.0		
April	99.9	97.7	98.7	-1.6	0.2		
May	99.7	99.5	99.6	0.8	1.6		
June	99.4	100.1	99.8	0.2	1.8	<u>100.0</u>	<u>4.0</u>
July	99.6	100.3	100.0	0.2	-0.5		
August	99.6	101.1	100.5	0.5	-0.1		
September	98.9	101.6	100.4	-0.1	0.4		
October	99.8	101.8	100.9	0.5	0.2		
November	99.7	101.0	100.4	-0.5	0.1		
December	100.4	100.7	100.6	0.2	1.2	<u>100.1</u>	<u>1.2</u>
2020 January	99.8	100.7	100.3	-0.3	0.6		
February	100.5	100.8	100.6	0.3	0.8		
March	100.6	100.9	100.8	0.2	0.4		
April	98.9	100.9	100.0	-0.8	1.3		
May	99.6	99.7	99.6	-0.4	0.1		
June	98.3	98.5	98.4	-1.2	-1.4	<u>100.2</u>	<u>0.2</u>
July	97.3	100.2	98.9	0.5	-1.1		
August	96.3	100.9	98.8	-0.1	-1.6		
September	97.4	101.1	99.4	0.6	-0.9		
October	96.9	101.3	99.3	-0.1	-1.6		
November	97.6	101.3	99.7	0.3	-0.8		
December	99.7	101.9	100.9	1.3	0.3	<u>99.7</u>	<u>-0.3</u>
2021 January	100.4	102.6	101.6	0.7	1.3		
February	101.3	103.9	102.8	1.1	2.1		
March	102.3	105.7	104.1	1.4	3.3	<u>100.3</u>	<u>0.1</u>

Table 3: Consumer Price Index with local and imported components
Percentage change from previous month
(Base Period: September 2018=100.0)
March 2021

	Weights			March 2021			February 2021			% Change		
	Local	Imported	Total	Local	Imported	Total	Local	Imported	Total	Local	Imported	Total
A. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	15.2%	24.6%	39.8%	109.1	110.3	109.9	106.7	108.8	108.0	2.3%	1.4%	1.7%
Food	14.6%	23.2%	37.8%	109.5	110.9	110.4	106.9	109.3	108.4	2.4%	1.5%	1.8%
Non- alcoholic beverages	0.6%	1.4%	2.0%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.1	0.0%	-0.1%	0.0%
B. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	6.7%	4.9%	11.6%	93.1	110.2	100.3	92.6	110.2	100.0	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%
Alcoholic beverages	0.9%	3.2%	4.1%	106.9	105.0	105.4	106.9	105.0	105.4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tobacco	4.1%	1.7%	5.8%	109.1	120.2	112.3	108.3	120.2	111.8	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%
Kava	1.7%	0.0%	1.7%	48.4	-	48.4	48.4	-	48.4	0.0%	-	0.0%
C. Clothing and footwear	0.4%	1.7%	2.1%	123.3	111.4	113.4	123.3	111.1	113.2	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Clothing	0.4%	1.5%	1.8%	123.3	112.2	114.4	123.3	111.9	114.1	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Footwear	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	-	106.7	106.7	-	106.7	106.7	-	0.0%	0.0%
D. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	7.2%	3.6%	10.8%	92.4	103.6	96.1	92.4	98.7	94.5	0.0%	5.0%	1.7%
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	0.2%	1.8%	2.0%	118.1	108.3	109.4	118.1	106.7	108.0	0.0%	1.5%	1.3%
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	108.1	-	108.1	-	108.1	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Electricity, gas and other fuels	5.0%	1.8%	6.8%	84.9	99.1	88.7	84.9	91.0	86.5	0.0%	8.9%	2.5%
E. Furnishings, household equipment and routine household m	0.8%	2.4%	3.2%	106.9	102.8	103.9	106.9	102.8	103.9	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	109.7	-	109.7	109.7	-	109.7	0.0%	-	0.0%
Household appliances	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	-	97.6	97.6	-	97.6	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tools and equipment for house and garden	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	-	106.2	106.2	-	106.2	106.2	-	0.0%	0.0%
Goods and services for routine household maintenance	0.3%	1.5%	1.8%	102.3	104.8	104.3	102.3	104.8	104.3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
F. Health	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Medical products, appliances and equipment	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	0.0%	0.0%
Outpatient services	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	0.0%	-	0.0%
G. Transport	3.4%	13.0%	16.4%	102.6	96.8	98.0	102.6	93.5	95.4	0.0%	3.5%	2.7%
Operation of personal transport equipment	1.3%	9.9%	11.2%	103.5	95.0	95.9	103.5	90.7	92.1	0.0%	4.8%	4.2%
Transport services	2.2%	3.1%	5.3%	102.1	102.6	102.4	102.1	102.6	102.4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
H. Communication	5.2%	0.0%	5.2%	99.9	-	99.9	99.9	-	99.9	0.0%	-	0.0%
Telephone and telefax services	5.2%	0.0%	5.2%	99.9	-	99.9	99.9	-	99.9	0.0%	-	0.0%
I. Recreation and culture	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	-	103.6	103.6	-	103.6	103.6	-	0.0%	0.0%
Newspapers, books and stationery	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	-	103.6	103.6	-	103.6	103.6	-	0.0%	0.0%
J. Education	2.2%	0.0%	2.2%	104.8	-	104.8	104.8	-	104.8	0.0%	-	0.0%
Pre-primary and primary education	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	100.1	-	100.1	100.1	100.7	100.1	0.0%	-	0.0%
Secondary education	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	107.0	-	107.0	107.0	-	107.0	0.0%	-	0.0%
Tertiary education	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%	103.9	-	103.9	103.9	-	103.9	0.0%	-	0.0%
K. Restaurants and hotels	3.1%	0.0%	3.1%	109.5	-	109.5	109.5	-	109.5	0.0%	-	0.0%
Catering services	3.1%	0.0%	3.1%	109.5	-	109.5	109.5	-	109.5	0.0%	-	0.0%
L. Miscellaneous goods and services	0.5%	3.7%	4.2%	103.3	102.4	102.5	103.3	102.3	102.4	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Personal care	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	-	102.4	102.4	-	102.3	102.3	-	0.1%	0.1%
Financial services n.e.c.	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	0.0%	-	0.0%
Other Services n.e.c.	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	104.2	-	104.2	104.2	-	104.2	0.0%	-	0.0%
TOTAL	44.9%	55.1%	100%	102.3	105.7	104.1	101.3	103.9	102.8	0.9%	1.7%	1.4%

Table 4: Consumer Price Index with local and imported components
 Percentage change from same month of previous year
 (Base Period: September 2018=100.0)
 March 2021

	Weights			March 2021			March 2020			% Change		
	Local	Imported	Total	Local	Imported	Total	Local	Imported	Total	Local	Imported	Total
A. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	15.2%	24.6%	39.8%	109.1	110.3	109.9	101.9	102.5	102.29	7.1	7.6	7.4
Food	14.6%	23.2%	37.8%	109.5	110.9	110.4	102.0	102.6	102.4	7.4	8.1	7.8
Non- alcoholic beverages	0.6%	1.4%	2.0%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.5	100.4	0.0	-0.5	-0.4
B. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	6.7%	4.9%	11.6%	93.1	110.2	100.3	89.3	102.1	94.68	4.2	7.9	5.9
Alcoholic beverages	0.9%	3.2%	4.1%	106.9	105.0	106.9	105.4	106.9	103.7	0.0	2.0	1.6
Tobacco	4.1%	1.7%	5.8%	109.1	120.2	112.3	100.4	100.8	100.5	8.7	19.3	11.8
Kava	1.7%	0.0%	1.7%	48.4	-	48.4	54.3	-	54.3	-10.9	-	-10.9
C. Clothing and footwear	0.4%	1.7%	2.1%	123.3	111.4	113.4	109.0	105.5	106.13	13.1	5.5	6.9
Clothing	0.4%	1.5%	1.8%	123.3	112.2	114.4	109.0	105.2	106.0	13.1	6.7	8.0
Footwear	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	-	106.7	106.7	-	107.4	107.4	-	-0.6	-0.6
D. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	7.2%	3.6%	10.8%	92.4	103.6	96.1	101.6	104.7	102.61	-9.0	-1.1	-6.3
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	0.2%	1.8%	2.0%	118.1	108.3	109.4	112.8	106.4	107.1	4.7	1.8	2.1
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	108.1	-	108.1	-	108.1	108.1	0.0	-	0.0
Electricity, gas and other fuels	5.0%	1.8%	6.8%	84.9	99.1	88.7	98.4	103.1	99.7	-13.7	-3.9	-11.0
E. Furnishings, household equipment and routine household m	0.8%	2.4%	3.2%	106.9	102.8	103.9	101.4	100.0	100.35	5.4	2.8	3.5
Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	109.7	-	109.7	100.8	-	100.8	8.8	-	8.8
Household appliances	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0	97.6	97.6	0.0	92.2	92.2	-	5.9	5.9
Tools and equipment for house and garden	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	-	106.2	106.2	0.0	103.3	103.3	-	2.8	2.8
Goods and services for routine household maintenance	0.3%	1.5%	1.8%	102.3	104.8	104.3	102.3	103.1	103.0	0.0	1.6	1.3
F. Health	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Medical products, appliances and equipment	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	0.0	0.0
Outpatient services	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	0.0	-	0.0
G. Transport	3.4%	13.0%	16.4%	102.6	96.8	98.0	102.8	96.0	97.42	-0.2	0.8	0.6
Operation of personal transport equipment	1.3%	9.9%	11.2%	103.5	95.0	95.9	102.5	93.9	94.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Transport services	2.2%	3.1%	5.3%	102.1	102.6	102.4	103.0	102.6	102.8	-0.9	0.0	-0.4
H. Communication	5.2%	0.0%	5.2%	99.9	-	99.9	101.6	-	101.58	-1.7	-	-1.7
Telephone and telefax services	5.2%	0.0%	5.2%	99.9	-	99.9	101.6	-	101.6	-1.7	-	-1.7
I. Recreation and culture	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	-	103.6	103.6	-	103.6	103.55	-	0.0	0.0
Newspapers, books and stationery	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	-	103.6	103.6	-	103.6	103.6	-	0.0	0.0
J. Education	2.2%	0.0%	2.2%	104.8	0.0	104.8	104.8	0.0	104.85	0.0	-	0.0
Pre-primary and primary education	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	100.1	-	100.1	100.1	100.7	100.1	0.0	-	0.0
Secondary education	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	107.0	-	107.0	107.0	-	107.0	0.0	-	0.0
Tertiary education	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%	103.9	-	103.9	103.9	-	103.9	0.0	-	0.0
K. Restaurants and hotels	3.1%	0.0%	3.1%	109.5	-	109.5	108.2	-	108.19	1.2	-	1.2
Catering services	3.1%	0.0%	3.1%	109.5	-	109.5	108.2	-	108.2	1.2	-	1.2
L. Miscellaneous goods and services	0.5%	3.7%	4.2%	103.3	102.4	102.5	103.3	100.4	100.75	0.0	1.9	1.7
Personal care	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	-	102.4	102.4	-	100.4	100.4	-	1.9	1.9
Financial services n.e.c.	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	0.0	-	0.0
Other Services n.e.c.	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	104.2	-	104.2	104.2	-	104.2	0.0	-	0.0
TOTAL	44.9%	55.1%	100%	102.3	105.7	104.1	100.6	100.9	100.80	1.6	4.7	3.3

Table 5: Consumer Price Index
(Base Period: September 2018 = 100.0)
March 2021

TONGA
SDT:23-412

1/04/2020	Annual													
	2018	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
A. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	99.2	102.3	102.8	104.0	102.6	103.5	102.1	102.9	102.8	103.2	105.2	106.2	108.0	109.9
Food	99.1	102.4	102.9	104.2	102.8	103.7	102.2	103.1	102.9	103.3	105.5	106.5	108.4	110.4
Non- alcoholic beverages	99.5	100.4	100.6	100.0	100.0	99.8	99.8	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.1	100.0	100.1	100.0
B. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	93.3	94.7	93.9	95.5	99.4	100.3	100.3	100.4	100.0	100.1	100.3	100.1	100.0	100.3
Alcoholic beverages	97.6	103.7	104.2	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	106.1	104.7	105.0	106.2	105.4	105.4	105.4
Tobacco	88.4	100.5	98.7	100.7	108.5	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	111.8	112.0	111.8	112.3
Kava	99.2	54.3	54.3	54.3	54.3	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4
C. Clothing and footwear	99.0	106.1	106.5	108.8	109.1	109.1	110.5	110.5	112.6	112.6	112.6	114.3	113.2	113.4
Clothing	98.8	106.0	106.5	109.2	109.5	109.5	111.0	111.0	113.5	113.5	113.5	115.4	114.1	114.4
Footwear	100.4	107.4	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7
D. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	99.8	102.6	98.9	99.2	96.9	89.7	89.2	89.2	89.1	90.6	93.8	94.0	94.5	96.1
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	100.5	107.1	108.3	109.9	107.0	104.9	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.9	108.0	109.4
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	100.0	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1
Electricity, gas and other fuels	99.5	99.7	93.5	93.5	90.6	79.9	79.0	79.0	78.8	81.3	86.3	86.3	86.5	88.7
E. Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	99.4	100.3	102.2	103.3	103.3	102.5	102.5	102.7	103.4	104.1	104.4	103.9	103.9	103.9
Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	100.0	100.8	100.8	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	107.6	107.6	109.7	109.7	109.7
Household appliances	100.0	92.2	94.1	94.8	94.8	94.8	94.8	94.8	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.6
Tools and equipment for house and garden	96.8	103.3	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	106.2	106.2	106.2	106.2
Goods and services for routine household maintenance	99.2	103.0	105.6	106.0	106.0	104.7	104.7	105.0	105.1	105.8	105.9	104.3	104.3	104.3
F. Health	101.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Medical products, appliances and equipment	97.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Outpatient services	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
G. Transport	98.5	97.4	94.7	87.6	82.3	87.2	90.2	91.8	91.6	91.3	91.5	93.1	95.4	98.0
Operation of personal transport equipment	97.7	94.9	90.9	80.4	72.7	79.8	84.3	86.8	86.6	86.0	86.4	88.7	92.1	95.9
Transport services	100.0	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.8	102.4	102.4	102.4	102.4	102.4	102.4	102.4
H. Communication	106.6	101.6	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
Telephone and telefax services	106.6	101.6	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
I. Recreation and culture	100.0	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6
Newspapers, books and stationery	100.0	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6
J. Education	100.0	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8	104.8
Pre-primary and primary education	100.0	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1
Secondary education	100.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0
Tertiary education	99.4	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9	103.9
K. Restaurants and hotels	100.3	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	109.5	109.5	109.5
Catering services	100.3	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	109.5	109.5	109.5
L. Miscellaneous goods and services	100.0	100.8	99.7	100.2	100.3	100.6	100.8	100.8	100.8	100.9	101.4	101.9	102.4	102.5
Personal care	100.0	100.4	99.2	99.8	99.9	100.2	100.4	100.4	100.5	100.6	101.2	101.8	102.3	102.4
Financial services n.e.c.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other Services n.e.c.	100.0	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2	104.2
ALL GROUPS	98.9	100.8	100.0	99.6	98.4	98.9	98.8	99.4	99.3	99.7	100.9	101.6	102.8	104.1

Table 6: Monthly average price of selected local items
March 2021

TONGA
DT:23-412

	Unit	Annual			Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 20
		2017	2018	2019													
<u>ROOT CROPS</u>																	
1 Talo - Futuna	1 kg	1.96	1.76	1.65	1.23	1.35	1.30	1.55	1.54	1.57	1.66	1.73	1.82	1.43	1.53	1.58	1.52
2 Talo - Tonga	1kg	2.45	1.82	1.91	1.30	1.49	1.49	1.74	2.05	1.88	2.34	1.99	2.34	1.79	1.61	1.54	1.50
3 Manioke	1 kg	0.52	0.91	1.22	0.85	0.83	0.82	0.95	1.11	0.95	1.04	1.02	0.98	1.06	1.00	0.96	0.98
4 Kumala	1 kg	2.17	2.27	1.95	1.39	1.18	1.40	1.75	2.23	2.15	2.07	2.03	2.07	1.99	1.80	1.71	1.78
5 Yams; early	1 kg	4.97	5.37	5.21	3.74	3.42	4.21	4.86	5.38	5.99	6.84	7.44	5.89	4.66	5.00	4.56	3.98
6 Yams, late	1 kg	2.87	2.98	2.84	3.07	2.86	2.94	2.67	2.55	2.50	2.79	2.37	2.37	2.37	3.82	3.97	2.74
<u>VEGETABLES</u>																	
1 Lu	1 kg	7.96	5.50	4.77	7.55	5.56	4.78	4.73	5.08	3.78	4.59	4.50	5.41	6.54	5.60	5.73	5.57
2 Tomatoes	1 kg	8.41	7.75	10.24	15.13	15.40	15.45	11.35	6.52	5.23	3.36	3.89	2.55	4.50	8.79	19.87	20.28
3 H/Cabbage	1 kg	3.50	3.05	3.19	5.54	5.54	4.85	3.04	1.71	1.35	0.90	0.88	1.85	2.39	2.75	2.82	6.38
4 Carrots	1 kg	4.35	5.24	3.17	3.59	7.49	7.49	7.16	4.07	2.57	2.50	2.31	2.34	2.52	2.90	3.50	4.23
5 Capsicum	1 kg	9.91	14.19	11.44	14.51	20.12	19.90	13.07	13.95	11.68	10.85	8.04	7.90	6.59	9.85	19.96	14.48
<u>MARINE AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS</u>																	
1 Sausages	1 kg	6.71	8.32	8.23	8.33	8.29	8.29	8.29	8.67	8.67	8.67	8.67	8.67	8.33	8.74	8.63	8.79
2 Eggs	1 egg	16.33	16.65	17.04	16.08	16.84	17.30	18.30	17.97	18.30	18.30	18.42	18.47	18.80	18.97	17.97	18.30
3 Tuna	1 kg	11.31	15.39	16.67	17.00	15.00	15.64	15.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
4 Octopus	1 kg	15.84	19.69	19.26	17.14	14.20	13.57	10.62	11.78	11.66	18.89	19.59	23.47	33.08	29.13	23.81	24.59
5 Cockles (to'o)	1 kg	4.39	5.12	5.92	4.59	5.02	5.08	5.47	6.92	10.37	8.40	6.12	6.02	6.43	6.15	5.21	6.23
6 Stringed fish (Mixed)	1 kg	8.40	8.54	8.92	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.49	9.00	12.00	9.65	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
<u>TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND KAVA</u>																	
1 Kava	1 kg	124.38	146.04	116.67	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00

Table 7: Monthly average price of selected imported items

TONGA
SDT:23-412

March 2021

	Unit	Annual			Monthly													Annual change %	
		2017	2018	2019	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	June 20	July 20	Aug 20	Sept 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21		
FOOD																			
Fruits and Vegetables																			
1	Onions	1 kg	3.25	3.02	3.12	3.39	3.09	3.09	3.16	2.76	2.76	2.76	2.76	2.76	2.97	3.11	3.10	3.10	-8.4%
2	Apples	1 kg	8.11	6.30	5.36	5.37	5.13	5.37	5.20	5.19	5.81	5.38	5.33	5.40	5.40	5.40	6.46	6.54	21.7%
3	Oranges	1 kg	9.41	9.07	8.33	8.02	8.05	8.15	9.07	8.83	8.65	8.28	8.18	8.18	8.09	8.56	7.82	8.23	2.7%
Meats, Fish & Poultry																			
1	Mutton Flaps	1 kg	14.45	15.68	15.74	16.95	17.69	17.97	17.97	18.00	18.25	18.39	18.28	18.12	17.68	17.50	17.22	17.25	1.8%
2	Chicken Legs	1 kg	3.97	3.63	3.46	3.18	3.51	3.51	3.51	3.88	3.50	3.30	3.38	3.41	3.53	3.42	3.45	3.75	18.2%
3	Turkey tail	1 kg	5.90	8.33	9.86	9.24	8.90	8.91	8.91	8.99	9.21	9.27	8.97	8.97	9.72	10.34	10.88	10.88	17.7%
Other Food																			
1	Flour	1 kg	1.74	1.71	1.77	1.82	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.83	1.88	1.89	1.88	1.89	1.90	1.93	1.93	1.98	9.0%
2	Sugar	1 kg	2.56	1.93	1.74	1.82	1.88	1.95	2.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.01	2.01	1.99	1.99	9.4%
TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND KAVA																			
Tobacco																			
1	Pall Mall	Packet	17.71	17.14	19.29	19.29	19.29	19.43	23.29	23.29	23.29	23.29	23.29	23.29	23.00	23.14	23.00	23.00	19.3%
TRANSPORTATION																			
Private Transportation																			
1	Petrol	litre	2.51	2.78	2.67	2.70	2.58	2.35	1.95	2.21	2.37	2.45	2.46	2.45	2.45	2.51	2.62	2.75	1.9%
2	Diesel	litre	2.47	2.84	2.78	2.76	2.61	2.43	2.14	2.28	2.40	2.47	2.41	2.37	2.41	2.51	2.62	2.73	-1.3%

About the Consumer Price Index

The Monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the Statistics Department is accepted as the official measure of inflation in Tonga. The CPI measures the changing price of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by Tongan households. The selection and relative importance of the goods and services in the CPI basket represents the overall expenditure pattern of Tongan households.

The CPI is used by ministries and other agencies for monitoring economic performance and by the National Reserve Bank of Tonga to help set monetary policy.

The new index reference period of September 2018 (=100.0) was first published for the month of October 2018. Data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2015-2016 was used to determine the expenditure pattern of consumers. The classification used for publication will change to the [COICOP](#) classification. The proportion of expenditure on each item or group is referred to the weight. The previous reference period was October 2010 based on the results of HIES 2009.

There are 156 items in the Tonga basket classified to twelve major groups. The items are further classified by whether they are imported or have been produced locally. The CPI covers price changes in Tongatapu and Vava'u. The pricing outlets selected in Tongatapu and Vava'u include the Talamahu and 'Utukalongalo market (agriculture produce), the Vuna Wharf (fresh fish), super-markets, village stores, petrol stations, restaurants, airlines etc.

The groups and their index reference period weights are shown in the table below.

Table 1: New vs. old weights at the COICOP Division level

Division Code	Division Descr	New Weight	Old Weight
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	39.75%	42.06%
02	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	11.61%	6.08%
03	Clothing and footwear	2.08%	3.98%
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10.84%	12.56%
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	3.20%	3.13%
06	Health	0.33%	0.58%
07	Transport	16.41%	11.93%
08	Communication	5.16%	5.40%
09	Recreation and culture	1.06%	1.48%
10	Education	2.21%	1.95%
11	Restaurants and hotels	3.11%	3.71%
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	4.24%	6.30%
90	Non-consumption household expenditure		0.85%
Grand Total		100.00%	100.00%

Further definitions

A **price index** measures the change in price between time periods for a given set of goods and services. It summarises a set of prices for a variety of goods and services collected from a number of outlets.

The **index reference period** is the benchmark to which prices in other periods are compared (e.g. if the index number in a later period is 115, prices have increased by 15.0 percent since the index reference period). Prices for later periods can also be compared in similar fashion.



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