



Government of Tonga  
Tonga Statistics Department

# STATISTICAL BULLETIN

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—February 2026

(Base Period: September 2021 = 100.0)

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### HIGHLIGHTS

In February 2026 compared with February 2025. (By PAC-COICOP groups)

Annual Inflation Rate is 2.4%

The groups with high percentage change in CPI (Yoy)

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava: +12.7%

Restaurants and hotel: +8.5%

Clothing and footwear: +6.4%

Transport: +3.4%

The major drivers of inflation for month on month.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages: -4.3%

Transport: -1.8%

### Annual Inflation Rate

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in February 2026 stood at 133.0 (Figure 1), compared with 129.8 in February 2025. This represents a 2.4% increase in the annual CPI inflation rate (Figure 2).

The CPI consists of two main components: local and imported goods. Which are used to monitor key inflation indicators such as the annual inflation rate. Over the 12 months leading up to February 2026, a comparison of these components shows that imported goods recorded a higher increase in prices than local goods. Prices for local goods increased by 0.5%, while imported goods rose significantly by 4.7%. (Table 1)

Over the year ended February 2026, the *Restaurants and hotels group* was the largest contributor to inflation, with its CPI increasing by 8.5%, contributing 1.3 percentage points of the overall inflation rate. This increase was largely driven by the higher prices for take-out food. The CPI for the *Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava group* also recorded a notable increase of 12.7% contributing an additional 0.7 percentage points to the annual inflation rate, mainly due to rising prices of Tongan tobacco and kava. Similarly, the *Transport group* rose by 3.4%, contributing a further 0.4 percentage points to the overall inflation rate.

In contrast, the *Food and non-alcoholic beverages group* decline by 1.3%, resulting in a 0.5 percentage point reduction in the annual inflation rate. This decrease was mainly driven by lower prices of local food such as, root crops, sea food and local fruits. This group carries a weight of 17.5% in the overall CPI, and the decline in prices of these products contributed to easing the overall annual inflation rate.

### Monthly Inflation Rate

The CPI for February 2026 stood at 133.0 which representing a month-on-month decrease of 2.3% from January 2026 (Figure 1). Over the month, the Imported component declined by 1.0%, while the local components recorded a larger decrease of 2.7%.

The monthly movement in the CPI was mainly influenced by movements in two major groups. The *Food and non-alcoholic beverages group* had the largest downward pressure on the overall trend, decreasing by 4.3% and contributing -1.8 percentage points to the overall CPI movement. This decline was mainly attributed to lower prices of locally produced food items (Table 2).

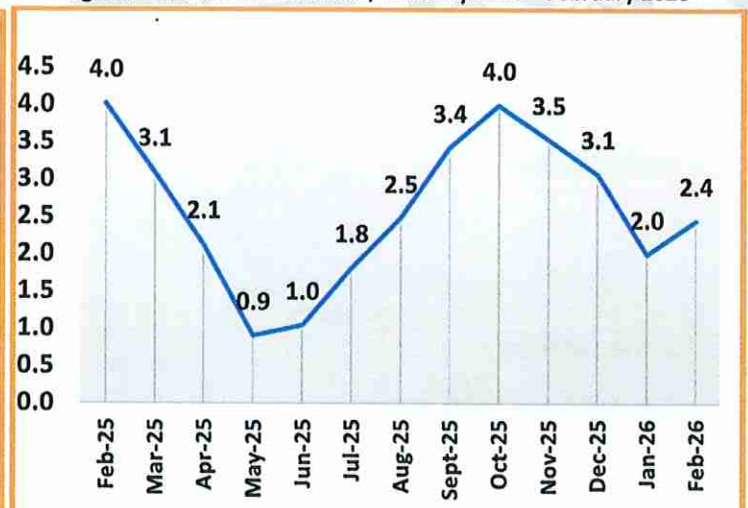
Similarly, the *Transport group* also recorded a decline of 1.8%, contributing -0.2 percentage points to the overall index. This decrease was largely driven by lower prices for passenger transport services (Table 2).

Note: Month-on-month percentage change rates based on non-seasonally adjusted index series.

Figure 1: Consumer price index, February 2025—February 2026



Figure 2: Annual Inflation Rate, February 2025—February 2026



**Table A: Summary highlights in percentage points, over the year ended February 2026 (All groups, YoY)**

PACCOICOP groups	Growth contribution	Change in the indices	CPI 2021 weights
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	-0.5	-1.3	42.6
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava	+0.7	+12.7	5.6
Clothing and footwear	+0.2	+6.4	2.8
Housing, water, electricity and gas	+0.0	-0.2	6.6
Furnishings, household equipment and household maintenance	+0.1	+2.5	3.2
Health	+0.0	+0.0	0.2
Transport	+0.4	+3.4	13.2
Communication	+0.0	+0.0	3.7
Recreation and culture	+0.0	+0.3	0.6
Education	+0.1	+4.3	1.2
Restaurants and hotels	+1.3	+8.5	15.0
Personal care and MSC goods and services	+0.2	+4.1	5.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>100.0</b>

**Disclaimer:**

Differences between the different group indexes and All Item Index, are due to rounding.

For further information please visit our website  
<https://tongastats.gov.to> or +676 23300

Please find attached the following:

**Table 1:** Consumer Price Index with local and imported components, percentage change year on year

**Table 2:** Consumer Price Index with local and imported components, percentage change month on month

**Table 3:** Consumer Price Index, annual inflation and annual average inflation rate

**Table 4:** Consumer Price index by All groups in percentage

**Table 5:** Consumer Price Index: Group and Subgroups—index number

**Table 6:** Monthly average price of selected local items

**Table 7:** Monthly average price of selected imported items

**Table 8:** Consumer Price index by All groups in index

**Malo 'Aupito**



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**Government Statistician**