



Government of Tonga  
Tonga Statistics Department

# STATISTICAL BULLETIN

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — March 2026

(Base Period: September 2021 = 100.0)

Level 1, Si'i-Ka-E-Ola Building

P.O Box 149

<https://tongastats.gov.to>

+676 23-300

[dept@stats.gov.to](mailto:dept@stats.gov.to)

### HIGHLIGHTS

**In March 2026 compared with March 2025. (By PACCOICOP groups)**

**Annual Inflation Rate is 4.6%**

**The groups with high percentage change in CPI (Yoy)**

☐ *Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kava: +13.9%*

☐ *Transportation: +12.7%*

☐ *Clothing and footwear: +7.7%*

☐ *Restaurants and hotel: +7.2%*

**The major drivers of inflation for month on month.**

☐ *Transport: +9.5%*

☐ *Food and non-alcoholic beverages: +0.7%*

☐ *Housing, water, electricity and gas: -0.8%*

### Annual Inflation Rate

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in March 2026 was 134.9 (Figure 1), compared to 129.1 in March 2025. This represents a 4.6% increase in the annual CPI inflation rate (Figure 2).

The CPI consists of two key components: local and imported goods. These are used to track major inflation indicators, such as the annual inflation rate. Over the 12 months leading up to March 2026, a comparison of the two components indicated a higher price increase for imported goods. Prices for local goods increased by 2.5%, compared to a 6.9% increase for import goods. (Table 1)

Over the year ended March 2026, the *Transport group* was the largest contributor to inflation, with its CPI increasing by 12.7% and accounting for 1.7 percentage points of the overall inflation rate. This rise was largely driven by higher prices for *Passenger transport services*, particularly the significant increase in international airfares. The CPI for the *Restaurant and hotel group* recorded an increase of 7.2%, contributing an additional 1.1 percentage points to the annual inflation rate mainly due to rising prices of take-out food. Similarly, the *Alcohol beverages, tobacco and kava group* increased by 13.9%, contributing a further 0.8 percentage points to the overall inflation rate.

In contrast, The *Housing, water, electricity and gas group* declined by 1.6%, resulting in a 0.1 percentage point deduction in the annual inflation rate. This decrease was mainly driven by lower prices of Liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene. This group carries 6.6% weight in the overall CPI and the price reductions in these products contributed to easing the overall annual inflation rate.

### Monthly Inflation Rate

The CPI for March 2026 stood at 134.9, representing a month-on-month increase of 1.5% from February 2026 (Figure 1). Over the same period, the import component increase by 2.3%, while the local components rose by 0.8%.

The *Transport group* had the largest influence on the monthly movement, increasing by 9.5% and contributing 1.3 percentage points to the overall CPI. This was mainly driven by higher prices for *passenger transport services*, particularly *international airfare* (Table 2). Similarly, the *Food and non-alcoholic beverages group* increased by 0.7%, contributing 0.3 percentage points to the overall index, mainly due to increase of prices for local food items (Table 2).

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

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



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



**Table A: Summary highlights in percentage points, over the year ended March 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	+0.8	+13.9	5.6
Clothing and footwear	+0.2	+7.7	2.8
Housing, water, electricity and gas	-0.1	-1.6	6.6
Furnishings, household equipment and household maintenance	+0.1	+1.9	3.2
Health	+0.0	-0.5	0.2
Transport	+1.7	+12.7	13.2
Communication	+0.0	+0.4	3.7
Recreation and culture	+0.0	-0.8	0.6
Education	+0.0	+4.0	1.2
Restaurants and hotels	+1.1	+7.2	15.0
Personal care and MSC goods and services	+0.2	+4.4	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**