



Government of Tonga
Tonga Statistics Department

STATISTICAL BULLETIN

FOOD PRICE INDEX— March 2026

(Base Period: Average 12 months 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

KEY POINTS

March 2026 compared to March 2025:

Annual Food Inflation Rate is 13%

Groups with significant percentage shifts in FPI:

- ◆ Ready-made Food and Other Food Products: **+10.8%**
- ◆ Live Animals, Meat, and Other Parts of Slaughtered Land Animals: **+8.9%**
- ◆ Fish and Other Seafood: **+6.8%**
- ◆ Oils and Fats: **+6.1%**
- ◆ Vegetables, Tubers, Plantains, Cooking Bananas and Pulses: **-10.4%**

Annual Food Price Inflation Rate

In March 2026, the Food Price Index (FPI) for all items stood at 56.9, an increase from 56.2 in March 2025. This represents a 1.3% increase in the annual Food Price inflation rate.

The FPI is derived from the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, which encompasses both locally and imported products. A year-on-year comparison reveals a 3.6% decline in the price of locally produced food items; in contrast, the imported food and non-alcoholic beverages recorded a 6.0% price increase over the same period.

During the year ending March 2026, several categories contributed to the overall increase in FPI. The largest contributor was the live animals, meat, and other parts of slaughtered land animals group, which rose by 8.9% and contributed 1.0 percentage points to the overall increase, primarily driven by higher prices for mutton flaps. The fish and other seafood categories increased by 6.8%, contributing 0.3 percentage points to the increase in FPI, mainly due to a rise in the price of sea urchins.

The vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas, and pulses group declined by 5.8%, contributing a 0.5 percentage point to moderating the annual food inflation rate.

Monthly Food Price Inflation Rate

The monthly Food Price Index (FPI) rose by 0.7%, increasing from 56.5 in February 2026 to 56.9 in March 2026. The upward trend was driven primarily by a 1.8% increase in locally produced food items; similarly, the imported food and non-alcoholic beverages recorded a 0.2% price decrease over the same period.

The vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses category recorded an increase of 5.1% in its monthly FPI, largely attributed to an increase in the price of tomatoes. Similarly, the milk, other dairy products and eggs category also recorded an increase of 2.0%, mainly driven by an increase in the price of eggs.

Figure 1: Consumer Price Index and Food Price Index, March 2025 – March 2026



Figure 2: Annual Inflation Rate and Annual Food Inflation Rate, March 2025 – March 2026

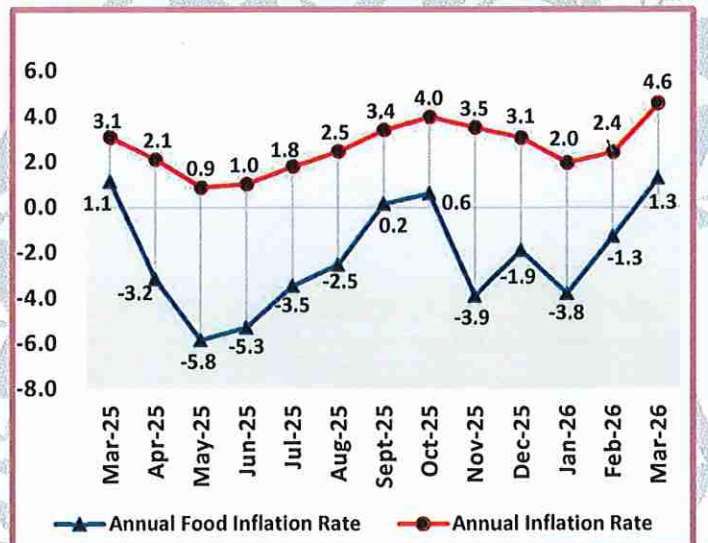


Table A: Summary highlights in percentage points, March 2025 – March 2026. (All groups, YoY)

PACCOICOP Sub-groups	PACCOICOP	Growth Contribution	Change in Indices	CPI 2021 Weights
FOOD		+0.5	+1.3	40.9
	Cereals and Cereal Products	0.0	-0.4	6.5
	Live Animals, Meat, and Other Parts of Slaughtered Land Animals	+1.0	+8.9	11.4
	Fish and Other Seafood	+0.3	+6.8	4.6
	Milk, Other Dairy Products and Eggs	-0.2	-7.8	2.6
	Oils and Fats	+0.1	+6.1	1.2
	Fruits and Nuts	0.0	-1.1	4.0
	Vegetables, Tubers, Plantains, Cooking Bananas and Pulses	-0.5	-5.8	7.9
	Sugar, Confectionery, and Desserts	0.0	-2.4	1.4
	Ready-made Food and Other Food Products	+0.1	+10.8	1.4
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES		0.0	+1.7	1.7
Total				42.6

Disclaimer: Differences between the different group indexes and all item indexes are due to rounding.

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

Malo 'Aupito



Stone F. Lolohea
Government Statistician