



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH 2025

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

March 2025 compared to March 2024:

- ❖ **The Consumer Price Index increased by 2.4%.**
- ❖ **The most significant price increases were:**
 - ✓ Food and Non-Alcoholic beverages, (4.5%)
 - ✓ Communication (5.3%)
- ❖ **The CPI increased by 0.8% from February 2025**
- ❖ **The Average Annual Inflation was 1.9%**

Date of release:
 15th April 2025

The next Consumer Price Index will be released on 14th May 2025

SUMMARY

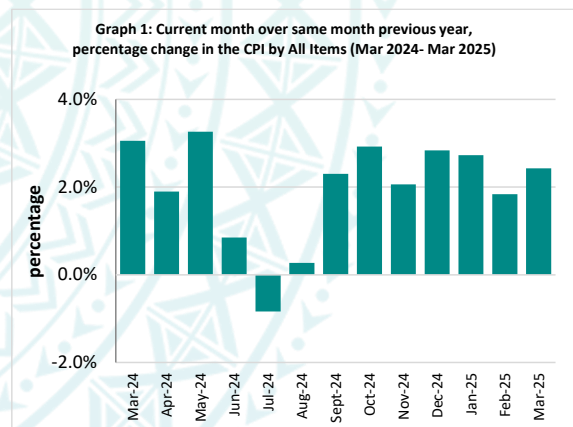
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2025 increased by 2.4 percent compared to March 2024 and rose by 0.8 percent compared to February 2025.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages and Communication were the main contributors to the 2.4 percent increase in the CPI in March 2025. This was driven by higher prices for taro, fish, mutton flaps, turkey wings, and calling rates for both local and NZ calls.

The **Imported** goods component of the CPI recorded a 1.1 percent decrease compared to the same month last year, driven mainly by lower prices for chicken leg quarters, onions, canned fish, petrol, diesel, and laptops.

The **Local** goods component increased by 6.5 percent, reflecting higher prices for taro, fresh fish, cucumber, and Chinese cabbage. It also recorded a 2.5 percent increase compared to February 2025.

Graph 1 shows the percentage changes in the CPI over the same month of the previous year across all divisions from March 2024 to March 2025.



All Divisions' Contribution to CPI

In March 2025, Food & Non-alcoholic beverages was the largest contributor to the 2.4 percent rise in the CPI, accounting for 2.1 percentage points of the overall increase. The key drivers of this rise were significant price increases in taro (up 25.1%), fresh fish (up 44.4%), mutton flaps (up 9.6%), turkey wings (up 7.5%), Chinese cabbage (up 19.7%), and cucumbers (up 40.5%).

Communication was the second largest contributor, with a contribution of 0.3 percentage points to the overall increase. This was primarily due to price increases in mobile phone calling rates for both local calls (up 160.0%) and calls to New Zealand (up 12.7%).

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and narcotics contributed 0.2 percentage points to the CPI rise, mainly driven by higher prices for Pall Mall cigarettes (up 3.3%), Samoan kava (up 2.0%), and paper cigarettes (up 11.1%).

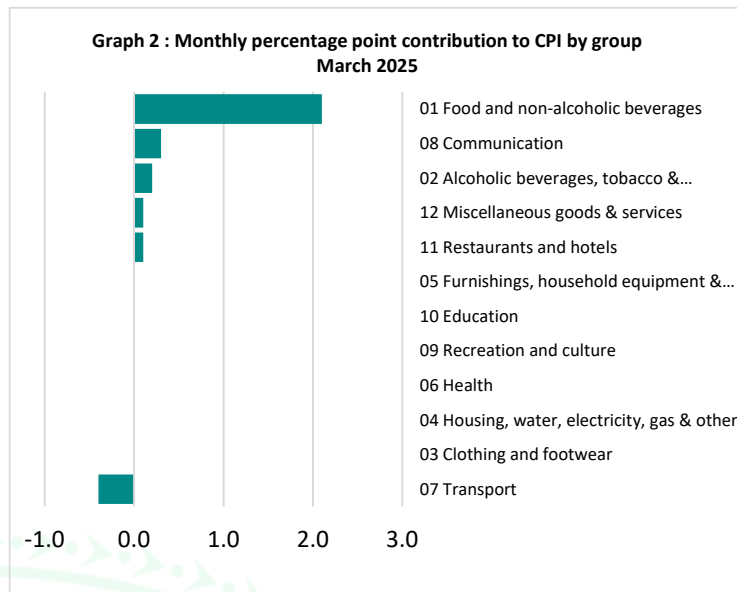
Miscellaneous goods and services and Restaurants each contributed 0.1 percentage points to the CPI increase. The main drivers of these rises were toiletry supplies (up 20.9%), chicken and chips (up 1.0%), and steamed rice and chicken meal (up 11.9%).

Furnishings, household equipment and maintenance, Education, Recreation, Health, Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels, and Clothing & footwear all contributed less than 0.1 percentage points to the CPI increase. The main drivers of these modest rises were higher prices for a two-burner kerosene stove (up 11.6%), single mattresses (up 1.8%), secondary examination fees (up 9.8%), exercise book (up 9.7%), amoxicillin 500mg tablets (up 1.9%), liquid gas (up 5.1%), and ie solosolo (up 11.1%).



In contrast, the Transportation division was the only group to record a negative contribution to the CPI increase. This decrease was primarily driven by lower prices for petrol (down 7.6%), diesel (down 9.6%), and new Toyota Hilux pickup trucks (down 3.0%).

Graph 2 shows the percentage contribution of All Divisions to the CPI in March 2025.



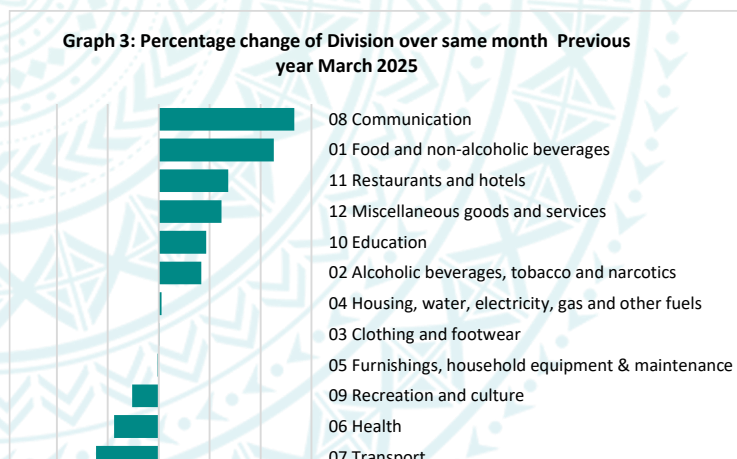
Consumer Price Index (% Change)

Communication saw the largest increase (5.3%), followed by Food and non-alcoholic beverages (4.5%), Restaurants (2.7%), Miscellaneous goods and services (2.5%), and Education (1.9%).

Other groups, such as Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics, Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels, and Clothing & footwear all recorded increases of 1.7%, 0.1%, and 0.0%, respectively.

On the other hand, Furnishings, household equipment & maintenance, Recreation and culture, Health and Transportation all fell by 0.1%, 1.0%, 1.7% and 2.5%, respectively.

Graph 3 shows the percentage change for all Divisions (Groups) in March 2025 compared to March 2024.



Changes by Division / Group

Communication Index

The Communication index increased by 5.3%, driven by higher prices for mobile phone calling rates, both for local calls (up 160.0%) and calls to New Zealand (up 12.7%).

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index

The Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages index rose by 4.5%, driven by higher prices for several items, including taro (up 25.1%), fresh fish (up 44.4%), mutton flaps (up 9.6%), turkey wings (up 7.5%), Chinese cabbage (up 19.7%), and cucumber (up 40.5%).

Restaurants & Hotel Index

The Restaurants index rose by 2.7%, driven by higher prices for chicken and chips (up 1.0%) and steamed rice and chicken meals (up 11.9%).

Miscellaneous Goods and Services Index

The Miscellaneous Goods and Services index increased by 2.5%, mainly due to higher prices for toiletry supplies (up 20.9%).

Education Index

The Education index increased by 1.9% compared to March 2024, primarily due to a rise in secondary school fees (up 9.8%).

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Index

The Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco index increased by 1.7%, mainly due to higher prices for Pall Mall cigarettes (up 3.3%), Samoan kava (up 2.0%), and paper cigarettes (up 11.1%).

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels Index

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels index increased by 0.1%, primarily due to higher prices for liquid gas (up 5.1%).

Clothing and Footwear Index

The Clothing and Footwear index increased slightly, by less than 0.1%, largely due to a higher price for ie solosolo (up 11.1%).

Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance Index

The Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance index decreased by 0.1%, mainly due to lower prices for washing powder (down 7.4%) and refrigerators (down 3.8%).

Recreation and Culture Index

The Recreation and Culture index fell by 1.0%, primarily due to a reduction in laptop prices (down 15.0%).



Health Index

The health index fell by 1.7% owing to the decrease in amoxicillin 500mg tablets.

Transport

The Transport index fell by 2.5%, largely due to lower prices for petrol (down 7.6%), diesel (down 9.6%), and new Toyota Hilux pickups (down 3.0%).

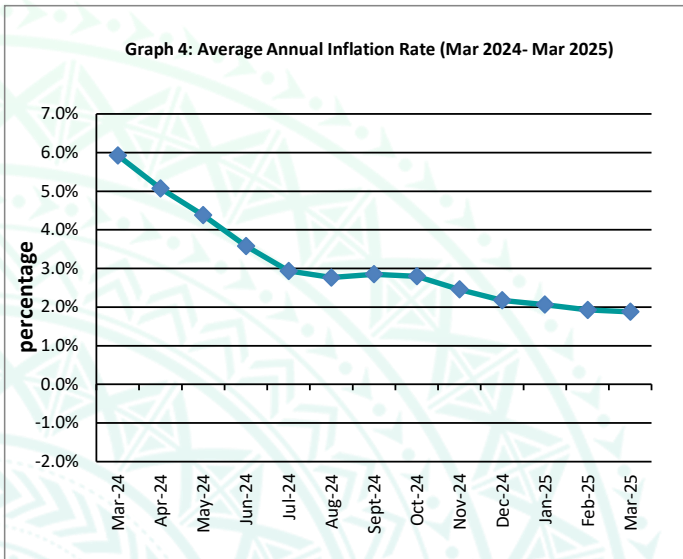
Underlying Indices

The All Items Underlying Index increased by 0.8% in March 2025 compared to March 2024; however, it decreased when compared to February 2025. The Imported Items Underlying Index rose by 0.1%, while the Local Items Underlying Index increased by 2.7%.

Annual Inflation Rate

The average **annual inflation rate** for the year ending March 2025 was 1.9%. In contrast, the inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 2024 was 5.9%.

Graph 4 presents the average annual inflation rates from March 2024 to March 2025.



The attached Tables and Graphs provide a more detailed analysis.

Technical Notes:

The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures the rate of inflation for Samoa. It tracks the change in prices of goods purchased by households in Samoa by comparing the prices of a basket of goods and services during the collection period with the prices of the same items in a base period.

The basket of goods used for pricing is based on the average expenditures of households as recorded in the **Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)**. This survey identifies the typical spending patterns of households. Items that households spend more on, on average, are given greater weight in the CPI index.

^{1/} **Monthly movements in the 'headline' CPI** can be volatile. This volatility reflects price changes in specific items, which may be influenced by factors such as fluctuations in commodity markets, agricultural conditions, policy changes, or seasonal adjustments and infrequent price resets.

Underlying inflation is a measure of inflation that excludes certain items with volatile price movements. It eliminates products that experience temporary price shocks, as these shocks can distort the overall inflation trend and provide an inaccurate measure of long-term inflation.

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FUA FA'ATATAU O TAU O OLOA MA AUAUNAGA MATI 2025

ILOILOGA TAUU O LE MASINA:

Mati 2025 faatusa ia
Mati 2024:

❖ **O Fua Faatatau o Tau o Oloa ma Auaunaga na siitia i le 2.4%**

❖ **O Iinei siitaga ua faamauina mo tau o:**

✓ Mea'ai ma Vaiinu (4.5%)

✓ Fesootaiga (5.3%)

❖ **O Fua faatatau o Oloa ma Auaunaga na siitia i le 0.8% mai ia Fepuari 2025.**

❖ **O le fesuiaiga o Tau o Oloa ma Auaunaga i le tausaga na si'itia i le 1.9%.**

Tuina atu i le aso:
15 Aperila, 2025

O le ripoti mo le Fua Faatatau o Oloa ma Auaunaga e sosoo ai, o le a tuina atu i le aso 14 Me, 2025

AOTELEGA

O le Fuafa'atatau o Tau o Oloa ma Auaunaga mo le masina o Mati 2025 na siitia i le 2.4 pasene pe a fa'atusa ia Mati 2024.

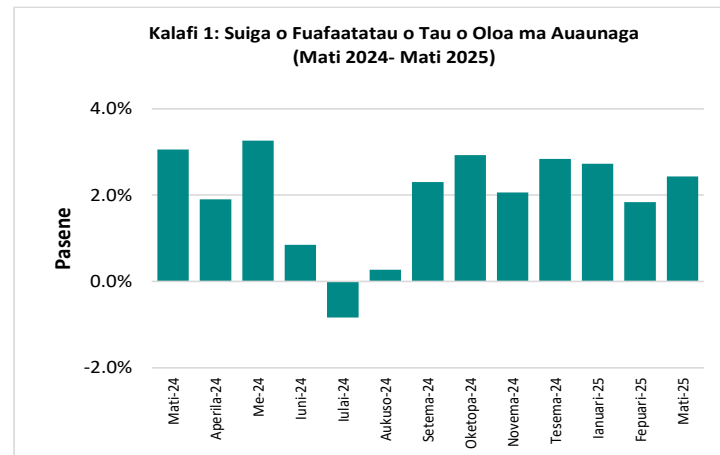
A fa'atusa ia Fepuari 2025, o le Fuafa'atatau o tau o oloa ma auaunaga ua siitia i le 0.8 pasene.

O le vaega o Meaa'i ma vai inu, ma Fesootaiga na telē le sao i le si'itia ai o fua faatatau o oloa ma auaunaga ia Mati 2025. E mafua mai i le si'itaga o tau o meaa'i e pei o mamoe, pipi, ma meaa'i o loo maua i le lotoifale e pei o talo, i'a, kاپisi Saina, tamato ma kukama. Na siitia foi le tulaga i tau o fesootaiga i totonu lava o Samoa faapea Niu Sila.

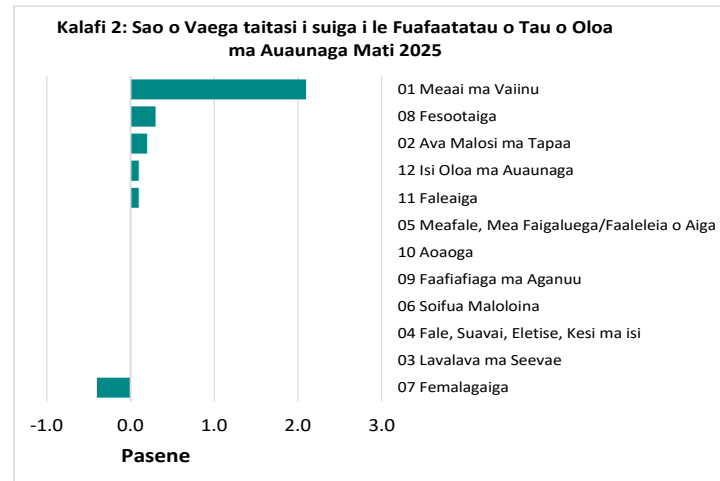
O 'oloa auina mai fafo ua fa'amauina le pau i le 1.1 pasene e mafua mai i le pau o tau na fa'amauina mo meaa'i, taavale pikiapu, penisini, ma le kiso.

O 'oloa gaosi ma auaunaga i totonu o le atunuu sa siitia i le 6.5 pasene pea faatusa atu ia Mati 2024. E mafua mai lea siitaga ona o tau o talo, 'ia, kukama ma kاپisi Saina. E le gata i lea, ao le siitia ai o tau o fesootaiga. E 2.5 pasene ua siitia ai oloa ma auaunaga maua i totonu o le atunuu pe a faatusa ia Fepuari 2025.

O le Kalafi 1 o lo'o fa'aali atu ai suiga o tau o oloa ma auaunaga mai ia Mati 2024 e pau mai ia Mati 2025.



O le Kalafi 2, o le sao o Vaega taitasi i le siitia ai o Fua faatatau o Oloa ma Auaunaga ia Mati 2025



O Meaa'i ma Vaiinu, Fesootaiga, Ava Malosi ma Tapaa, Oloa ma Auaunaga, ma Faleaiga sa maitauina le siitia o tau ia Mati 2025.

O Meafale, Mea Faigaluega, Aoaoga, Faafiafiaga ma Aganuu, Soifua Maloloina, Fale, Suavai, Eletise ma Suauu, faapea Lavalava ma Seevae e le'i tele se siitaga o tau i le masina o Mati 2025.

Ao le itu tau Femalagaiga, sa pau o latou tau faatusa ia Mati 2024.

