



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH 2026

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

March 2026 compared to March 2025:

❖ **The Consumer Price Index decreased by 1.1%.**

❖ **The most significant price decreases were:**

✓ Food & Non-Alcoholic beverages (-2.4%)

✓ Communication (-5.0%)

✓ Transport (-1.0%)

❖ **The CPI increased by 0.6% from February 2026**

❖ **The Average Annual Inflation was 1.2%**

Date of release:
 14th of April 2026

The next Consumer Price Index will be released on the 15th of May 2026

SUMMARY

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2026 decreased by 1.1 percent compared with March 2025, but increased by 0.6 percent compared with February 2026.

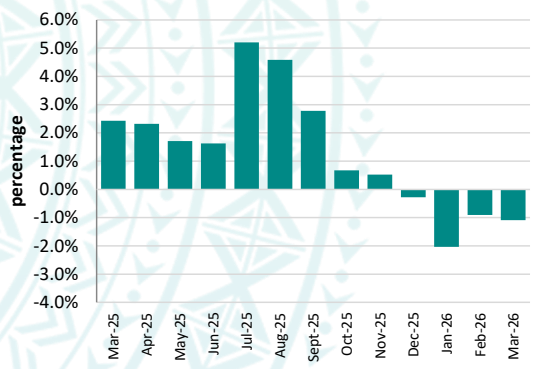
The main contributors to the decrease were Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Communication and Transport, driven by lower prices for chicken leg quarters, raw sugar, rice, internet data bundles, petrol, and return flight tickets to Auckland.

The **Imported** goods component decreased by 2.5 percent, reflecting lower prices for food items, petrol and weedkiller.

In contrast, the **Local** goods component increased by 0.4 percent, mainly due to higher prices for fresh fish, coconuts, and CCK coffee.

Graph 1 shows the percentage changes in the CPI over the same month of the previous year across all divisions from March 2025 to March 2026.

Graph 1: Current month over same month previous year, percentage change in the CPI by All Items (Mar 2025 - Mar 2026)



All Divisions' Contribution to CPI

In March 2026, the Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages division was the largest contributor to the 1.1 percent decrease in the CPI, accounting for -1.2 percentage points of the overall change. The decrease was mainly driven by lower prices for chicken leg quarters (down 7.2 percent), raw sugar (down 10.0 percent), onions (down 9.1 percent), and ta'amu (down 19.3 percent).

Communication was the second-largest contributor to the overall decrease in the CPI, mainly reflecting lower prices for internet data bundles (down 10.7 percent).

The Transport division also contributed to the decrease, driven by lower prices for petrol (down 6.0 percent), diesel (down 3.4 percent), and airfare to Auckland (down 15.3 percent).

Recreation and Culture also contributed to the overall decline in the CPI, mainly due to lower prices for exercise books (down 4.4 percent) and weedkiller (down 17.9 percent).

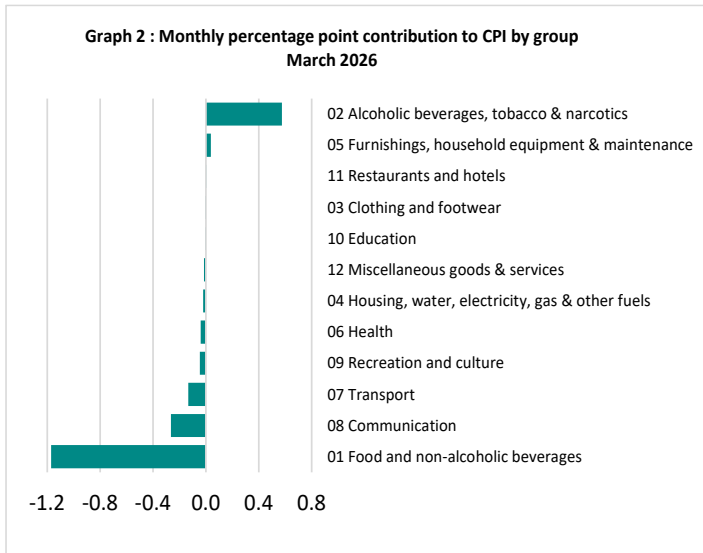
The Health division, and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels each recorded small contributions of -0.0 percentage points to the overall CPI decrease. This was mainly attributed to lower prices for amoxicillin 500 mg tablets (down 5.9 percent), kerosene (down 2.5 percent), and timbers (down 10.6 percent).

Similarly, the Miscellaneous goods & services and Clothing & Footwear divisions each contributed around -0.0 to the overall decline. This reflected lower prices for toiletries (down 3.0 percent) and Nike sports shoes (down 12.7 percent).

In contrast, the Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics, and Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance divisions recorded price increases that partially offset the overall decline in the CPI. These increases were driven by higher prices for Pall Mall cigarettes (up 9.0 percent), Samoan kava (up 6.1 percent), and bush knives (up 2.4 percent).



Graph 2 shows the percentage contribution of All Divisions to the CPI in March 2026.

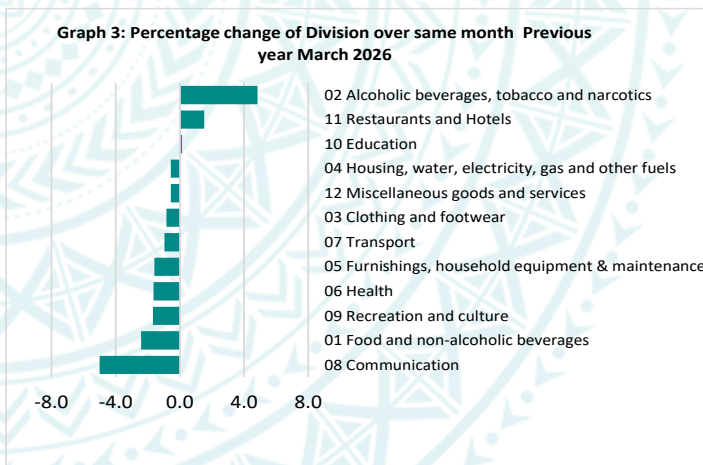


Consumer Price Index (% Change)

The largest percentage change by division over the same month of the previous year was observed in Communication, which declined by 5.0 percent. This was followed by Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, which fell by 2.4 percent. Similarly, Recreation and Culture and Health both recorded declines of 1.7 percent.

In addition, Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance decreased by 1.6 percent, while Transport declined by 1.0 percent. Smaller decreases were also observed in Clothing and Footwear (0.8 percent), Miscellaneous Goods and Services (0.6 percent), and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels (0.6 percent).

In contrast, the Education division recorded modest growth of 0.1 percent. Likewise, Restaurants and Hotels increased by 1.5 percent. Notably, Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics recorded the highest increase at 4.8 percent. Graph 3 shows the percentage change for all Divisions in March 2026 compared to March 2025.



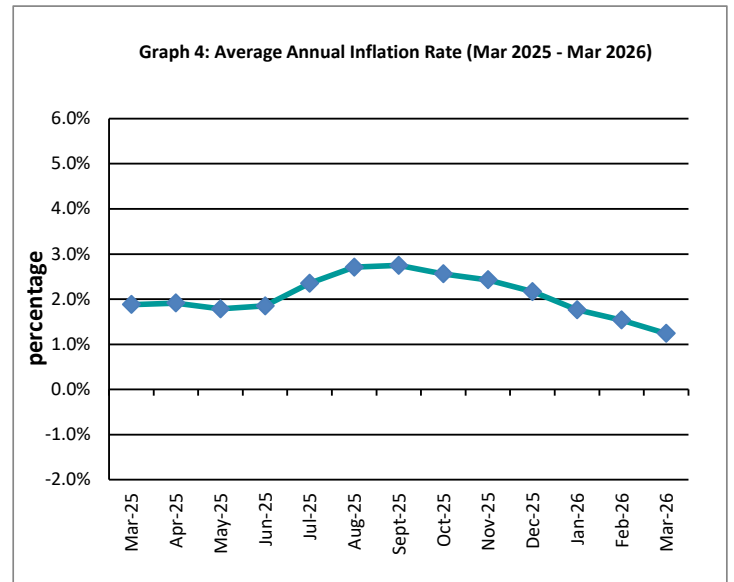
Underlying Indices

The All Items Underlying Index decreased by 1.6 percent in March 2026 compared with March 2025, but increased by 1.4 percent compared with February 2026. The Imported Items Underlying Index fell by 2.2 percent, while the Local Items Underlying Index decreased by 0.2 percent.

Annual Inflation Rate

The average annual inflation rate for the year ending March 2026 was 1.2 percent. In contrast, the inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 2025 was 1.9 percent.

Graph 4 presents the average annual inflation rates from March 2025 to March 2026.



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.

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

*Economic Statistics Division
FMFM II Building, Level 1
P O Box 1151
Apia, Samoa*

Phone: (685) 62014/62015

Fax: (685) 24675

E-mail: info.stats@sbs.gov.ws

Website: www.sbs.gov.ws



FUA FA'ATATAU O TAU O OLOA MA AUAUNAGA MATI 2026

ILOILOGA TAU O LE MASINA:

Mati 2026 faatusa ia
Mati 2025:

❖ **O Fua Faatatau o Tau o Oloa ma Auaunaga na paū i le 1.1%**

❖ **O lenei paū ua faamauina mo tau o:**

- ✓ Meaai ma Vaiinu (-2.4%)
- ✓ Fesootaiga (-5.0%)
- ✓ Femalagaiga (-1.0%)

❖ **O Fua faatatau o Oloa ma Auaunaga na siitia i le 0.6% mai ia Fepuari 2026**

❖ **O le fesuiaiga o Tau o Oloa ma Auaunaga i le tausaga na si'itia i le 1.2%.**

Tuina atu i le aso:
14 Aperila, 2026

O le ripoti mo le Fua Faatatau o Oloa ma Auaunaga e sosoo ai, o le a tuina atu i le aso 15 Me, 2026

AOTELEGA

O le Fuafa'atatau o Tau o Oloa ma Auaunaga mo le masina o Mati 2026 na paū i le 1.1 pasene pe a fa'atusa ia Mati 2025.

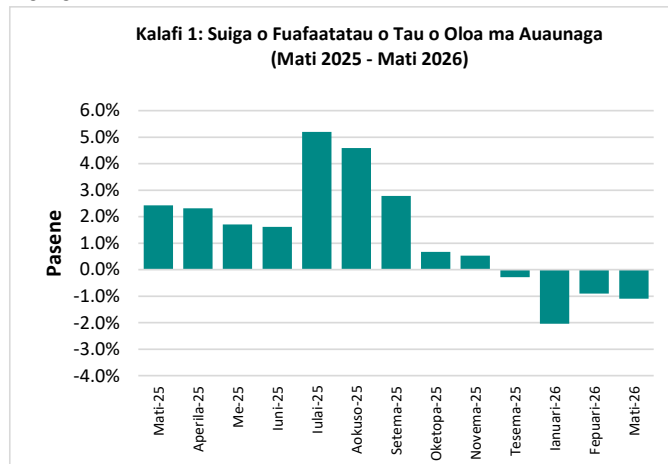
A fa'atusa ia Fepuari 2026, o le fuafa'atatau o tau o oloa ma auaunaga na siitia i le 0.6 pasene.

O le vaega o Meaai ma Vaiinu, Feso'otaiga, faapea ma Femalagaiga na telē lo latou sao i le paū ai o le pasene o le fua faatatau o oloa ma auaunaga ia Mati 2026. E mafua mai i le paū o tau o vaemoa, suka, araisa, fesootaiga tau initaneti, penisini, ma pasese o vaalele mo Aukilani.

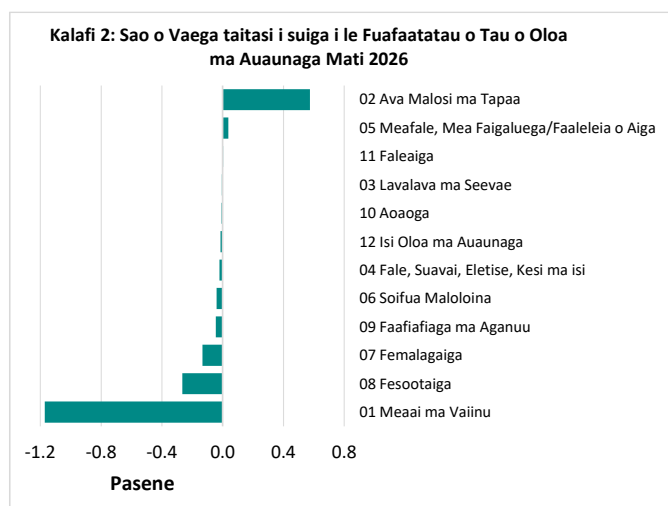
O 'oloa auina mai fafo ua fa'amauina le paū i le 2.5 pasene e mafua mai i le maualalo o tau na fa'amauina mo nisi o mea'i, penisini, ma vailaau fagavao.

O 'oloa gaosi ma auaunaga i totonu o le atunuu sa siitia i le 0.4 pasene pea faatusa atu ia Mati 2025. E mafua mai lea siitaga ona o tau na faamauina mo tau 'ia, popo ma le kofe a le CCK.

O le Kalafi 1 o lo'o fa'aali atu ai suiga o tau o oloa ma auaunaga mai ia Mati 2025 se'ia oo mai ia Mati 2026.



O le Kalafi 2, o le sao o Vaega taitasi i le paū ai o Fua faatatau o Oloa ma Auaunaga ia Mati 2026.



O Ava Malosi ma Tapaa, Meafale, mea faigaluega/faaleleia o Aiga, ma Faleaiga sa maitauina le siitia o tau ia Mati 2026.

O le vaega o Isi Oloa ma auaunaga, Soifua maloloina, Aoaoga, ma Faafiafiaga & aganuu e le'i tele se paū o tau i le masina o Mati 2026.

Ao le itu tau Meaai ma Vai inu, Fesootaiga, ma Femalagaiga sa paū o latou tau pea faatusa ia Mati 2025.

