



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS
COOK ISLANDS
STATISTICAL BULLETIN

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
September Quarter 2025

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the September quarter 2025 increased by **0.5%** compared with the June quarter 2025.

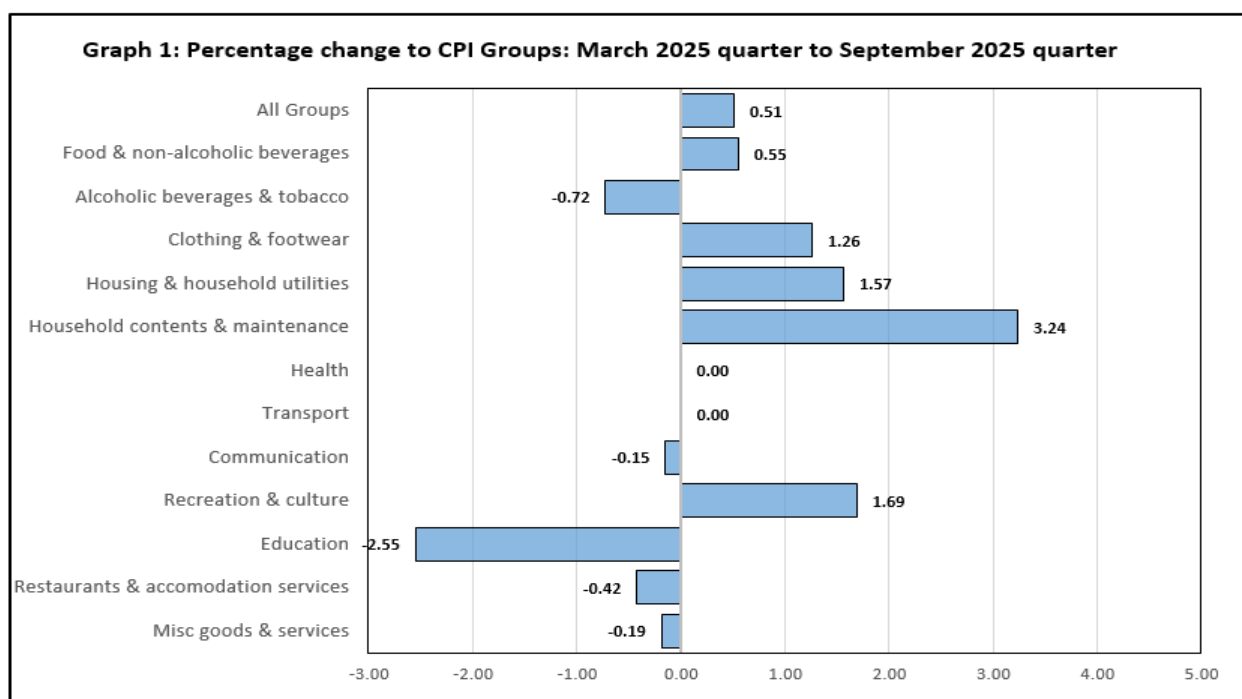
The largest rise was in the **Household Contents and Household Maintenance** group, which increased by **3.2%**. This was mainly due to higher prices for **furniture and furnishings** (10.3%), as well as increases in **household appliances** (4.8%) and **tools and equipment** (4.3%).

The **Recreation and Culture** group rose **1.7%**, driven by a significant **13.0%** increase in the cost of **newspapers, books, and stationery**. The **Housing and Household Utilities** group increased **1.6%**, mainly due to higher costs for **maintenance and repair of dwellings** (6.8%). The **Clothing and Footwear** group increased by **1.3%**, with clothing prices up **1.1%** and footwear up **2.5%**.

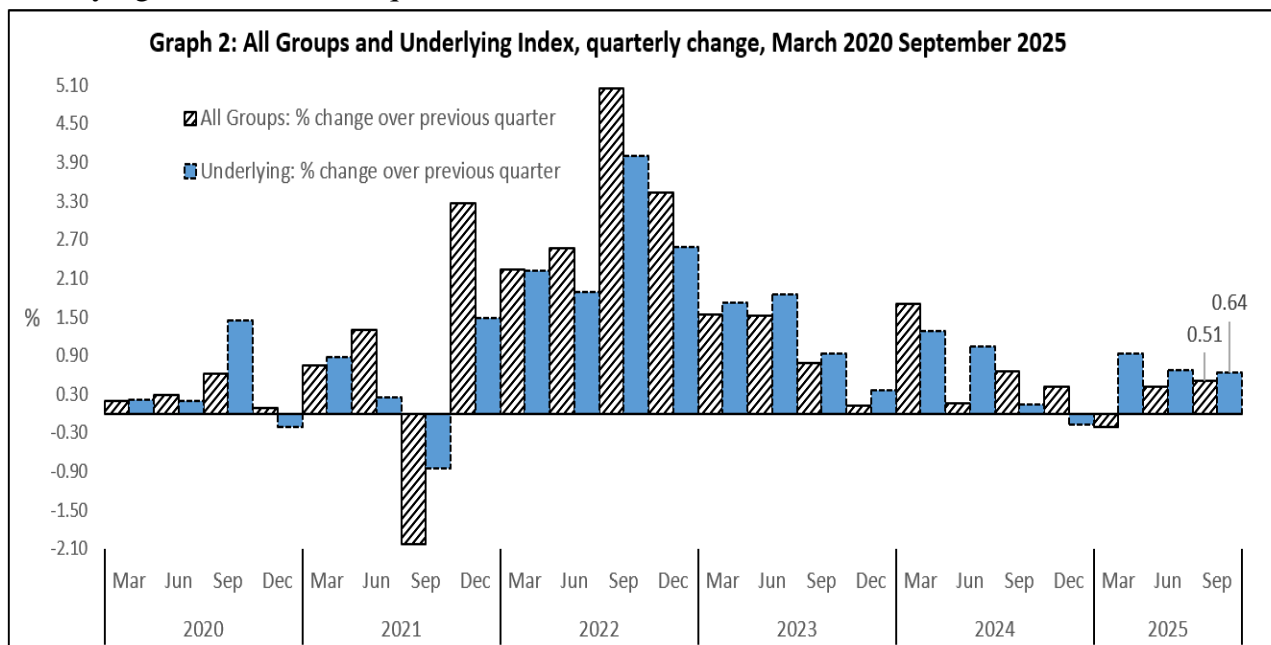
Smaller increases were recorded in **Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages** (**0.6%**). There were no overall changes in the **Health** or **Transport** groups, although within Transport, the price of **transport services** rose **2.5%**, while **fuel costs** declined.

These increases were partly offset by declines in several groups. The **Education** group recorded the largest decrease (2.6%) due to lower tertiary education fees (down 5.4%). The **Tobacco & Alcohol** group decreased by 0.7%. **Restaurants and Accommodation Services** group fell by 0.4%, while the **Miscellaneous Goods and Services** group declined by 0.2% and the **Communication** group declined by 0.1%.

The changes in the major groups between June quarter 2025 and September quarter 2025 are shown in Graph 1 below.



The **Underlying Index**, which excludes volatile items, rose **0.8%**, indicating moderate underlying inflation for the quarter.



For further information please contact the Statistics Office.

Taggy Tangimetua
 Government Statistician
November 2025

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator or measure of price changes. The current CPI is classified by the UN COICOP classification. The weighting pattern and the selection of the basket of goods and services is derived from the 2015-2016 Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES) for the purpose of compiling CPI.

Underlying Measure

This measure of “underlying” inflation is common internationally, and is generally derived by excluding items whose prices are considered highly volatile, subject to significant seasonal fluctuations, or are largely affected by policy decisions. The Cook Islands measure of “underlying inflation” excludes some items of fruit, vegetable, meat and fish; electricity rates; purchases of new and used motor vehicles; petrol and diesel; international and domestic airfares.

Other issues

This publication also presents the detailed contribution of each group and sub-group to the overall CPI. These details are shown in Table 5 and take into account the level of each index, its rate of change, and the weight given to that index in the overall calculation. As such, they provide a better guide to the importance of each component than is given by the simple percentage changes.

Base period for the CPI

The base period for the index is the quarter ending 31st December 2019.

Timing of the CPI

Prices are collected during the week, in which the mid-point of each quarter falls.

Scope of the CPI

Prices are collected from selected outlets on Rarotonga and prices online.

Computation of the CPI

At the elementary aggregate level, indices will be calculated as chain-linked Jevons indices (change in the geometric average price). At the higher level, indices will be calculated with standard Laspeyres-type aggregation.

Coverage of the CPI

The All Groups index covers 199 items, which are priced every quarter. The table shows the weighting pattern and the relative importance of the items in the basket of goods and services. These items are categorised under the following major groups:

	Major Groups	No of Items 2019	Weights	
			2006	2019
1.	Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages	80	24.00	28.92
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	6	8.05	10.53
3.	Clothing and Footwear	16	4.09	3.45
4.	Housing, Water, Elec., Gas & Other Fuels	11	12.60	13.66
5.	Furnishings, Hhld Equip. & Routine Hhld Maint.	22	5.53	5.39
6.	Health	4	0.85	0.36
7.	Transport	15	17.98	17.35
8.	Communication	11	4.94	7.30
9.	Recreation & Culture	9	4.69	2.19
10	Education	3	0.95	0.32
11	Restaurants & Hotels	4	5.39	6.29
12	Miscellaneous Goods & Services	18	4.82	4.25
91	Non-consumption household expenditure	0	5.51	-
	TOTAL	199	100.0	100.0

Cook Islands Statistics Office

Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

P O Box 120, Rarotonga

COOK ISLANDS

Phone: (682) 29-511

Email: statsinfo@cookislands.gov.ck

Website: www.mfem.gov.ck/statistics