

Monthly consumer price index

March 2026 | Economic brief

National result

The national consumer price index (CPI) increased by 4.6% in the year-ended March 2026.

The largest contributors to the year-ended result were:

- housing (up by 6.5% contributing 1.41 ppt), mainly driven by utilities
- transportation (up by 8.9% contributing 1.02 percentage points (ppt)), mainly driven by private motoring
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 3.1% contributing 0.54 ppt), mainly driven by meals out and take away foods.

In seasonally adjusted terms, national CPI increased by 1.1% in March 2026, to be 4.6% higher over the year.

National trimmed mean CPI increased by 0.3% in the month, to be 3.3% higher over the year (Chart 1). The increase in national trimmed mean is tracking towards the June quarter forecast (3.7%) from the latest RBA Statement of Monetary Policy.

	Darwin	Australia
Year-ended change (original)	↑4.2%	↑4.6%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑4.6%

Darwin result (original)

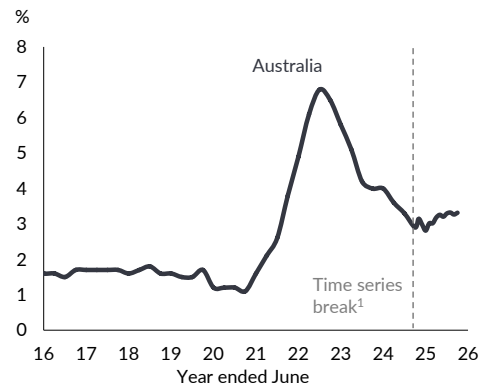
The Darwin CPI increased by 4.2% in the year-ended to March 2026 (Chart 2). This was the second lowest result of the capital cities, which ranged from an increase of 4.2% in Canberra to an increase of 5.1% in Hobart (Chart 3).

The largest contributors to the year-ended result were:

- transportation (up by 8.5% contributing 1.02 ppt), mainly driven by private motoring
- housing (up by 5.5% contributing 0.97 ppt), mainly driven by utilities
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 2.9% contributing 0.56 ppt), mainly driven by meals out and take away foods.

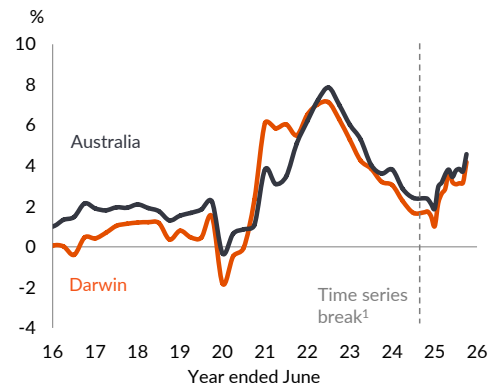
In the year-ended March 2026, the price of goods increased by 5.0% while the price of services increased by 3.1%. Nationally, the price of goods increased by 5.5% while the price of services increased by 3.6%.

Chart 1: Trimmed mean consumer price index (monthly, year-ended change, seasonally adjusted)



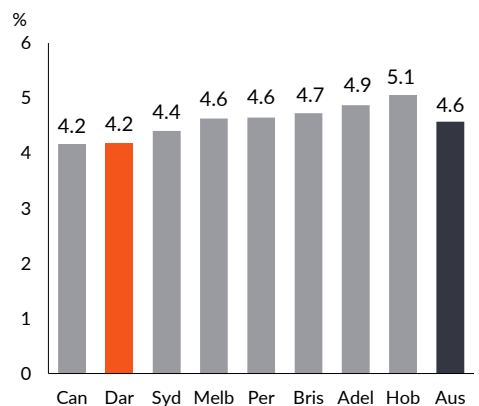
1 Data up to March 25 is reported on a quarterly basis. Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

Chart 2: Consumer price index (monthly, year-ended change, original)



1 Data up to March 25 is reported on a quarterly basis. Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

Chart 3: Capital cities consumer price index (monthly, year-ended change, original)



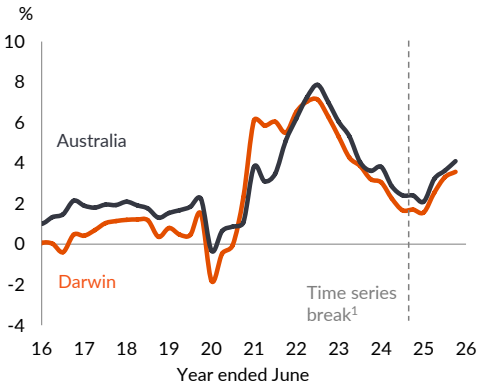
Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

Quarterly result (March quarter 2026)

The monthly data series is inherently more volatile than the previous quarterly series and is too short for reliable seasonal adjustment. The ABS publishes a quarterly series which reduces this volatility.

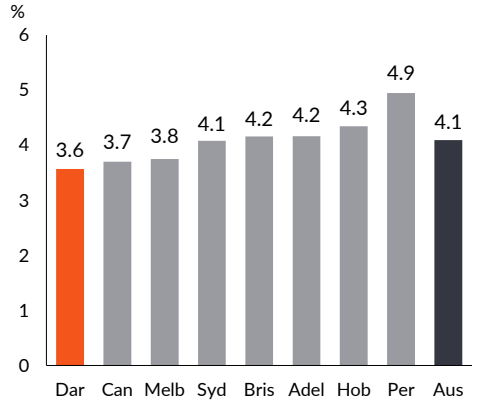
The Darwin CPI increased by 3.6% in the year-ended March quarter 2026 (Chart 4). This was the lowest result of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from an increase of 3.7% in Canberra to an increase of 4.9% in Perth (Chart 5). Nationally, the CPI increased by 4.1% in the year-ended March quarter 2026.

Chart 4: Consumer price index (quarterly, year-ended change, original)



1 Data up to March 25 is reported on a quarterly basis. Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

Chart 5: Capital cities consumer price index (quarterly, year-ended change, original)



Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

Monthly consumer price index

Table 1: Consumer price index (original)

	Period			Change		Contribution to change	
	Mar 25	Feb 26	Mar 26	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²
Darwin	98.0	100.9	102.1	1.2%	4.2%	1.16 ppt	4.19 ppt
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	98.9	101.2	101.8	0.6%	2.9%	0.11 ppt	0.56 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	97.5	101.3	102.0	0.7%	4.6%	0.07 ppt	0.47 ppt
Clothing and footwear	97.0	102.8	103.0	0.2%	6.2%	0.01 ppt	0.17 ppt
Housing	97.9	103.2	103.3	0.0%	5.5%	0.01 ppt	0.97 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	97.4	100.5	100.0	-0.4%	2.8%	-0.04 ppt	0.24 ppt
Health	98.7	98.2	99.1	0.9%	0.4%	0.05 ppt	0.02 ppt
Transportation	99.3	98.8	107.7	9.0%	8.5%	1.04 ppt	1.02 ppt
Communication	99.0	100.0	100.4	0.4%	1.4%	0.01 ppt	0.03 ppt
Recreation and culture	94.8	99.4	98.2	-1.2%	3.6%	-0.16 ppt	0.44 ppt
Education	99.9	103.3	103.3	0.0%	3.4%	0.00 ppt	0.12 ppt
Insurance and financial services	99.7	101.6	102.7	1.0%	2.9%	0.05 ppt	0.15 ppt
Australia	98.0	101.3	102.4	1.1%	4.6%	1.11 ppt	4.58 ppt
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	98.9	101.3	102.0	0.7%	3.1%	0.12 ppt	0.54 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	97.7	101.1	102.0	0.8%	4.4%	0.06 ppt	0.29 ppt
Clothing and footwear	94.9	103.7	101.7	-1.9%	7.1%	-0.06 ppt	0.22 ppt
Housing	96.8	102.9	103.1	0.2%	6.5%	0.05 ppt	1.41 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	98.6	100.1	99.9	-0.2%	1.4%	-0.02 ppt	0.11 ppt
Health	98.7	101.8	101.7	-0.2%	3.0%	-0.01 ppt	0.21 ppt
Transportation	99.5	99.3	108.4	9.2%	8.9%	1.01 ppt	1.02 ppt
Communication	99.0	99.9	100.4	0.5%	1.4%	0.01 ppt	0.03 ppt
Recreation and culture	96.0	99.4	98.7	-0.7%	2.8%	-0.09 ppt	0.35 ppt
Education	99.8	104.5	104.6	0.0%	4.8%	0.00 ppt	0.23 ppt
Insurance and financial services	99.2	101.2	102.0	0.8%	2.8%	0.04 ppt	0.16 ppt
Trimmed mean CPI (seasonally adjusted)							
Darwin	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a.	n.a.		
Australia	102.9	106.0	106.3	0.3%	3.3%		

n.a.: not available

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.

2 Compares the latest month with the same month last year.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS Consumer Price Index

Table 2: Quarterly consumer price index (March quarter 2026)

	Period			Change	
	Mar 25	Dec 25	Mar 26	Quarterly ¹	Year-ended ²
Quarter average (original)					
Darwin	97.8	100.3	101.3	0.9%	3.6%
Australia	97.7	100.3	101.7	1.4%	4.1%

n.a.: not available

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

2 Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS Consumer Price Index

Term	Definition
Consumer price index	The consumer price index tracks changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services that is representative of expenditure by metropolitan households.

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

[Consumer Price Index, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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