

# Monthly consumer price index

February 2026 | Economic brief

## National result

The national consumer price index (CPI) increased by 3.7% over the year to February 2026.

The largest contributors to the year-ended result were:

- housing (up by 7.2% contributing 1.55 percentage points (ppt)), mainly driven by electricity
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 3.1% contributing 0.54 ppt), mainly driven by meals out and takeaway foods
- recreation and culture (up by 4.1% contributing 0.50 ppt), mainly driven by holiday travel and accommodation.

In seasonally adjusted terms, national CPI increased by 0.2% in February 2026, to be 3.7% higher over the year.

National trimmed mean CPI increased by 0.2% 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)	↑3.2%	↑3.7%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑3.7%

## Darwin result (original)

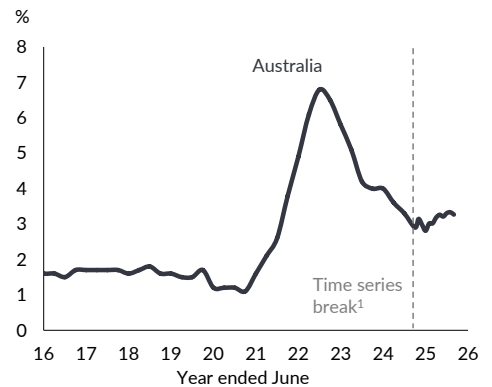
The Darwin CPI increased by 3.2% over the year to February 2026 (Chart 2). This was lowest result of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from an increase of 3.3% in Melbourne to an increase of 4.9% in Perth (Chart 3).

The largest contributors to the year-ended result were:

- housing (up by 5.4% contributing 0.96 ppt), mainly driven by electricity
- recreation and culture (up by 5.0% contributing 0.63 ppt), mainly driven by holiday travel and accommodation
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 2.9% contributing 0.56 ppt), mainly driven by meals out and takeaway foods.

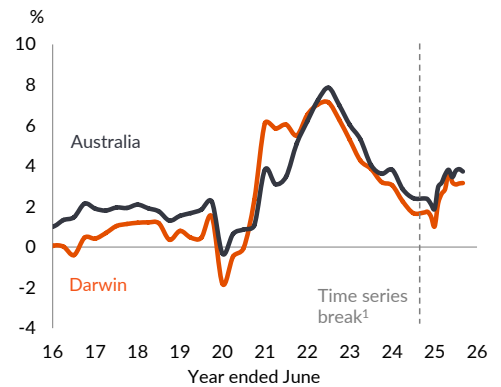
Over the year to February 2026, the price of both goods increased by 3.0% while the price of services increased by 3.4%. Nationally, the price of goods increased by 3.5% while the price of services increased by 3.9%.

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



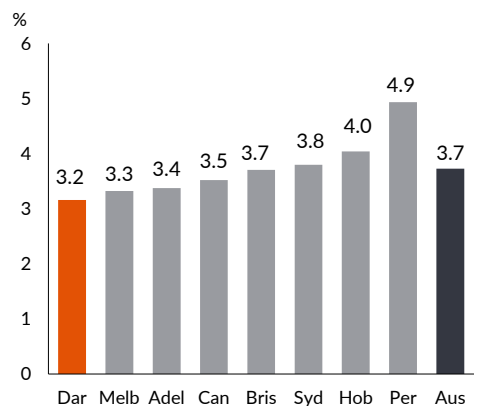
1 Data up to March 25 is reported on a quarterly basis.  
Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

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

### 3-month average (rolling) result

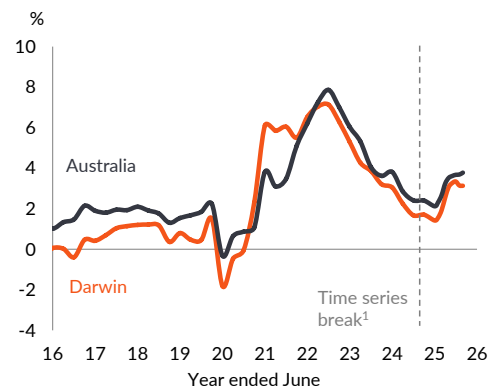
The new monthly data series is inherently more volatile than the previous quarterly series and is too short for reliable seasonal adjustment, a 3-month average reduces this volatility.

The Darwin CPI (3-month average) increased by 3.1% over the year to February 2026 (Chart 4). This was the lowest result of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from an increase of 3.2% in Melbourne to an increase of 4.7% in Perth. Nationally, the 3-month average CPI increased by 3.8% over the year to February 2026.

### Quarterly result (December quarter 2025)

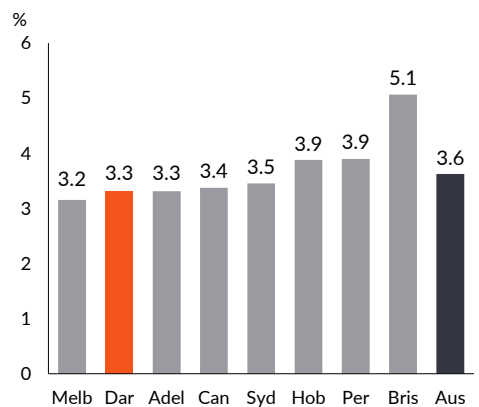
The Darwin CPI increased by 3.3% over the year to the December quarter 2025. This was the second lowest result of the capital cities, which ranged from an increase of 3.2% in Melbourne to an increase of 5.1% in Brisbane (Chart 5). Nationally, the CPI increased by 3.6% over the year to the December quarter 2025.

Chart 4: Consumer price index (3-month average, 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	
	Feb 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended <sup>2</sup>
<b>Darwin</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>100.8</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>0.08 ppt</b>	<b>3.16 ppt</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	98.4	101.1	101.2	0.1%	2.9%	0.02 ppt	0.56 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	97.6	100.6	101.3	0.7%	3.8%	0.07 ppt	0.38 ppt
Clothing and footwear	99.9	101.8	102.8	1.0%	2.8%	0.03 ppt	0.08 ppt
Housing	97.9	102.8	103.2	0.4%	5.4%	0.08 ppt	0.96 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	97.3	99.0	100.5	1.5%	3.3%	0.13 ppt	0.28 ppt
Health	97.5	99.6	98.2	-1.5%	0.7%	-0.09 ppt	0.04 ppt
Transportation	98.9	99.6	98.8	-0.8%	-0.1%	-0.09 ppt	-0.01 ppt
Communication	99.2	99.8	100.0	0.2%	0.8%	0.00 ppt	0.02 ppt
Recreation and culture	94.6	100.9	99.4	-1.5%	5.0%	-0.19 ppt	0.63 ppt
Education	99.9	100.0	103.3	3.3%	3.4%	0.11 ppt	0.12 ppt
Insurance and financial services	99.6	101.5	101.6	0.1%	2.0%	0.01 ppt	0.10 ppt
<b>Australia</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>101.3</b>	<b>101.3</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-0.01 ppt</b>	<b>3.73 ppt</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	98.2	101.4	101.3	-0.1%	3.1%	-0.02 ppt	0.54 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	97.0	101.0	101.1	0.2%	4.3%	0.01 ppt	0.28 ppt
Clothing and footwear	98.7	101.0	103.7	2.6%	5.0%	0.08 ppt	0.16 ppt
Housing	96.0	102.6	102.9	0.3%	7.2%	0.06 ppt	1.55 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	98.8	99.2	100.1	0.9%	1.3%	0.07 ppt	0.11 ppt
Health	98.7	101.8	101.8	0.1%	3.2%	0.00 ppt	0.22 ppt
Transportation	99.5	99.9	99.3	-0.7%	-0.2%	-0.07 ppt	-0.02 ppt
Communication	99.1	99.7	99.9	0.2%	0.8%	0.00 ppt	0.02 ppt
Recreation and culture	95.5	102.5	99.4	-3.0%	4.1%	-0.38 ppt	0.50 ppt
Education	99.8	100.0	104.5	4.5%	4.8%	0.21 ppt	0.23 ppt
Insurance and financial services	98.8	101.1	101.2	0.1%	2.4%	0.01 ppt	0.14 ppt
<b>Trimmed mean CPI (seasonally adjusted)</b>							
Darwin	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a.	n.a.		
Australia	102.7	105.8	106.1	0.2%	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

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

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: [economics.dtf@nt.gov.au](mailto:economics.dtf@nt.gov.au) | W: [nteconomy.nt.gov.au](http://nteconomy.nt.gov.au)