

Consumer price index

September quarter 2020

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Chart 1: Consumer price index percentage point contribution (quarterly change)

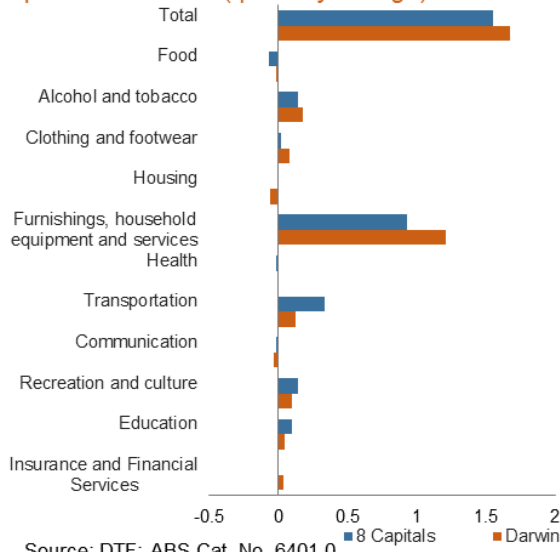


Chart 2: Consumer price index (annual percentage change)

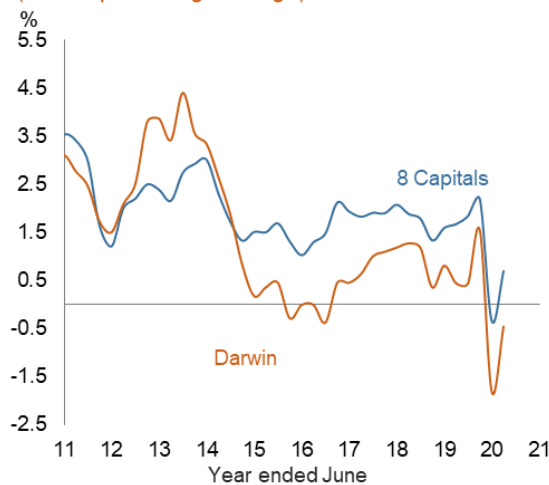
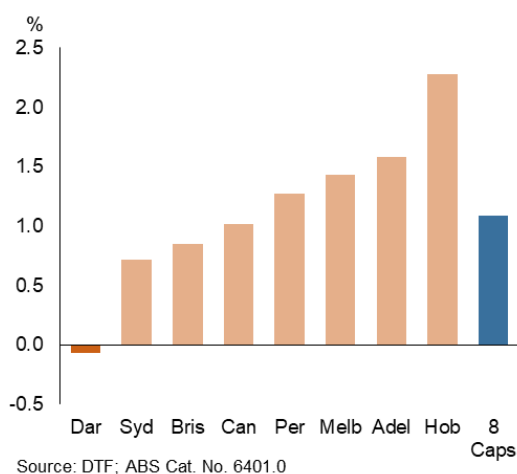


Chart 3: Capital cities consumer price index (year-on-year percentage change)



Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has adopted changes to the measurement of CPI. More detail can be found [here](#). Caution is advised in interpreting the data and analysis.

Consumer price index (CPI)

	Darwin	8 Capital cities
Quarterly change (%)	↑1.7%	↑1.6%
Annual change (%)	↓0.4%	↑0.7%
Year-on-year change (%)	↓0.1%	↑1.1%

Quarterly result

The Darwin CPI increased by 1.7 per cent in the September quarter 2020. Darwin recorded the fourth lowest quarterly result of the capital cities. The other capital cities ranged from a 0.9 per cent increase in Melbourne to an increase of 2.3 per cent in Brisbane and Canberra. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 1.6 per cent.

The greatest contributions to the quarterly increase in the Darwin CPI was furnishings, household equipment and services (mainly household services including child care) (Chart 1). This was partly offset by a decrease in housing (mainly rents).

Annual result

Through the year to September 2020, Darwin CPI decreased by 0.4 per cent (Chart 2). The categories that detracted from CPI in Darwin were housing (-1.34 percentage points), recreation and culture (-0.58 percentage points) and transportation (-0.41 percentage points). This was partly offset by alcohol and tobacco (+0.99 percentage points) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (+0.54 percentage points).

Darwin recorded the only decrease in CPI in annual terms. In other capital cities, the CPI ranged from an increase of 0.3 per cent in Sydney to an increase of 1.7 per cent in Hobart. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 0.7 per cent.

Year-on-year result

The annual average Darwin CPI decreased by 0.1 per cent in the year to September 2020 (Chart 3). The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 1.1 per cent.

The largest price increases were alcohol and tobacco (up by 8.2 per cent), food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 3.1 per cent) and education (up by 2.2 per cent). The categories that recorded the largest decreases were housing (down by 4.3 per cent) and communication (down 3.5 per cent).

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Table 1: Consumer price index

	September quarter		Change		
	Quarter	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Darwin	110.8	110.8	1.7%	-0.4%	-0.1%
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	111.0	110.4	-0.1%	3.1%	3.1%
Alcohol and tobacco	165.8	162.0	1.5%	8.5%	8.2%
Clothing and footwear	96.4	93.7	3.0%	2.8%	0.3%
Housing	98.0	101.5	-0.3%	-6.9%	-4.3%
Furnishings, household equipment and services	108.4	104.0	14.6%	1.7%	-1.7%
Health	132.9	132.2	-0.3%	1.5%	1.7%
Transportation	106.3	108.2	1.3%	-3.9%	-2.0%
Communication	76.4	77.4	-0.8%	-3.3%	-3.5%
Recreation and culture	102.5	102.8	0.8%	-4.3%	-1.7%
Education	139.0	137.7	1.6%	2.4%	2.2%
Insurance and financial services	109.9	109.4	0.7%	1.4%	-2.6%
8 Capitals	116.2	115.9	1.6%	0.7%	1.1%
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	112.7	112.2	-0.4%	3.4%	3.3%
Alcohol and tobacco	167.4	163.5	1.6%	8.1%	7.7%
Clothing and footwear	95.3	95.1	0.4%	-0.5%	0.8%
Housing	121.5	121.8	0.0%	-0.2%	0.2%
Furnishings, household equipment and services	104.8	102.1	12.0%	-0.1%	-1.7%
Health	139.8	139.5	-0.1%	1.0%	2.0%
Transportation	102.7	104.3	3.4%	-4.0%	-1.6%
Communication	77.0	78.0	-0.8%	-3.3%	-3.5%
Recreation and culture	106.6	106.7	1.1%	-0.7%	0.5%
Education	137.3	136.9	2.1%	1.0%	1.4%
Insurance and financial services	116.5	116.0	0.1%	1.6%	1.4%
RBA underlying measures of inflation					
Weighted median			0.3%	1.3%	
Trimmed mean			0.4%	1.2%	

Table 2: Consumer price index contribution to change

	September quarter		Change	
	Quarter	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²
Darwin	110.8	110.8	1.65 ppt	-0.45 ppt
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	111.0	110.4	-0.02 ppt	0.54 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	165.8	162.0	0.17 ppt	0.99 ppt
Clothing and footwear	96.4	93.7	0.08 ppt	0.07 ppt
Housing	98.0	101.5	-0.06 ppt	-1.34 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	108.4	104.0	1.21 ppt	0.15 ppt
Health	132.9	132.2	-0.01 ppt	0.08 ppt
Transportation	106.3	108.2	0.13 ppt	-0.41 ppt
Communication	76.4	77.4	-0.03 ppt	-0.09 ppt
Recreation and culture	102.5	102.8	0.10 ppt	-0.58 ppt
Education	139.0	137.7	0.05 ppt	0.07 ppt
Insurance and financial services	109.9	109.4	0.04 ppt	0.07 ppt
8 Capitals	116.2	115.9	1.57 ppt	0.69 ppt
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	112.7	112.2	-0.07 ppt	0.54 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	167.4	163.5	0.14 ppt	0.62 ppt
Clothing and footwear	95.3	95.1	0.02 ppt	-0.02 ppt
Housing	121.5	121.8	0.00 ppt	-0.06 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	104.8	102.1	0.93 ppt	-0.01 ppt
Health	139.8	139.5	-0.02 ppt	0.05 ppt
Transportation	102.7	104.3	0.33 ppt	-0.43 ppt
Communication	77.0	78.0	-0.02 ppt	-0.08 ppt
Recreation and culture	106.6	106.7	0.14 ppt	-0.10 ppt
Education	137.3	136.9	0.10 ppt	0.04 ppt
Insurance and financial services	116.5	116.0	0.00 ppt	0.09 ppt

n.a.: not available

1 Compares the latest quarter with the previous quarter.

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

3 Compares the 4 quarters up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 4 quarters.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS Cat. No. 6401.0

Caution is advised when using quarterly 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.

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