

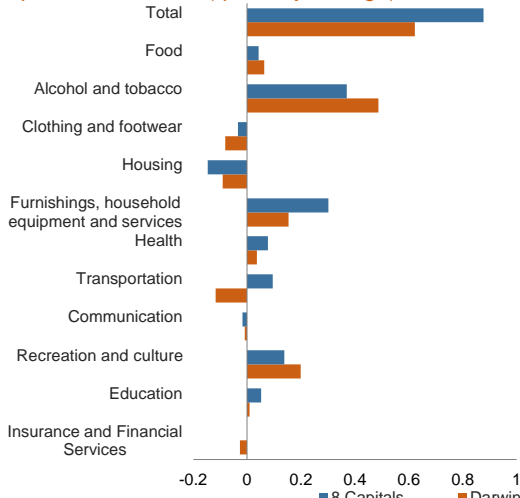
# ECONOMIC BRIEF

## Consumer price index

December quarter 2020

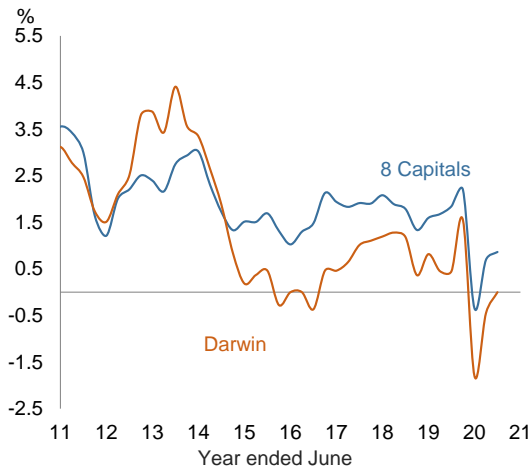
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Chart 1: Consumer price index percentage point contribution (quarterly change)



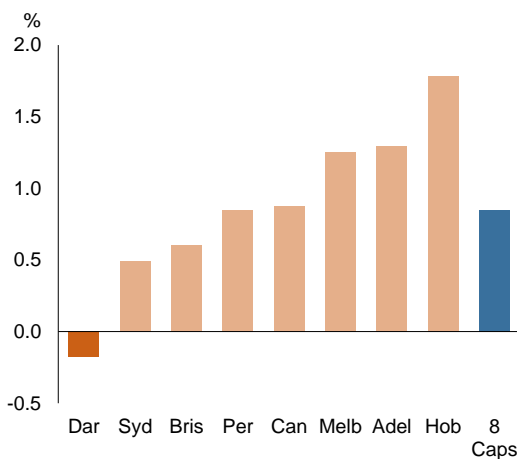
Source: DTF; ABS Cat. No. 6401.0

Chart 2: Consumer price index (annual percentage change)



Source: DTF; ABS Cat. No. 6401.0

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



Source: DTF; ABS Cat. No. 6401.0

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 (%)    | ↑0.6%  | ↑0.9%            |
| Annual change (%)       | flat   | ↑0.9%            |
| Year-on-year change (%) | ↓0.2%  | ↑0.8%            |

### Quarterly result

The Darwin CPI increased by 0.6 per cent in the December quarter 2020. Darwin recorded the second lowest quarterly result of the capital cities. The other capital cities ranged from a 1 per cent decrease in Perth to an increase of 1.5 per cent in Melbourne. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 0.9 per cent.

The greatest contributor to the quarterly increase in the Darwin CPI was alcohol and tobacco (mainly tobacco) (Chart 1). This was partly offset by a decrease in transportation (mainly private motoring).

### Annual result

Through the year to December 2020, Darwin CPI was flat (Chart 2). The categories with the largest annual change were alcohol and tobacco (up 8.4 per cent) and furnishings, household equipment and services (up 3.6 per cent).

In other capital cities, the CPI ranged from a decrease of 0.1 per cent in Perth to an increase of 1.3 per cent in Melbourne. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 0.9 per cent.

### Year-on-year result

The annual average Darwin CPI decreased by 0.2 per cent in 2020 (Chart 3). The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 0.8 per cent.

The largest price increases were in alcohol and tobacco (up by 8.6 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 5.6 per cent) and transportation (down by 3.3 per cent).

# Consumer price index December quarter 2020

Table 1: Consumer price index

|   | Period       |              |              |              | Change                 |                     |                           |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
|   | Dec qtr 19   | Sep qtr 20   | Dec qtr 20   | Year average | Quarterly <sup>1</sup> | Annual <sup>2</sup> | Year-on-year <sup>3</sup> |
| <b>Darwin</b>                                 | <b>111.5</b> | <b>110.8</b> | <b>111.5</b> | <b>110.8</b> | <b>0.6%</b>            | <b>0.0%</b>         | <b>-0.2%</b>              |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages              | 108.7        | 111.0        | 111.4        | 111.1        | 0.4%                   | 2.5%                | 3.1%                      |
| Alcohol and tobacco                           | 158.4        | 165.8        | 171.7        | 165.4        | 3.6%                   | 8.4%                | 8.6%                      |
| Clothing and footwear                         | 92.9         | 96.4         | 93.7         | 93.9         | -2.8%                  | 0.9%                | 0.7%                      |
| Housing                                       | 104.9        | 98.0         | 97.5         | 99.6         | -0.5%                  | -7.1%               | -5.6%                     |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 106.2        | 108.4        | 110.0        | 104.9        | 1.5%                   | 3.6%                | -1.0%                     |
| Health  | 130.7        | 132.9        | 133.9        | 133.0        | 0.8%                   | 2.4%                | 1.7%                      |
| Transportation                                | 111.8        | 106.3        | 105.1        | 106.6        | -1.1%                  | -6.0%               | -3.3%                     |
| Communication                                 | 78.2         | 76.4         | 76.2         | 76.9         | -0.3%                  | -2.6%               | -3.2%                     |
| Recreation and culture                        | 103.9        | 102.5        | 104.6        | 102.9        | 2.0%                   | 0.7%                | -1.3%                     |
| Education                                     | 135.7        | 139.0        | 139.3        | 138.6        | 0.2%                   | 2.7%                | 2.2%                      |
| Insurance and financial services              | 109.3        | 109.9        | 109.3        | 109.4        | -0.5%                  | 0.0%                | -1.4%                     |
| <b>8 Capitals</b>                             | <b>116.2</b> | <b>116.2</b> | <b>117.2</b> | <b>116.1</b> | <b>0.9%</b>            | <b>0.9%</b>         | <b>0.8%</b>               |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages              | 110.4        | 112.7        | 112.9        | 112.8        | 0.2%                   | 2.3%                | 3.2%                      |
| Alcohol and tobacco                           | 159.6        | 167.4        | 174.4        | 167.2        | 4.2%                   | 9.3%                | 8.4%                      |
| Clothing and footwear                         | 95.5         | 95.3         | 94.3         | 94.8         | -1.0%                  | -1.3%               | 0.2%                      |
| Housing                                       | 121.9        | 121.5        | 120.8        | 121.5        | -0.6%                  | -0.9%               | -0.1%                     |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 104.6        | 104.8        | 108.4        | 103.1        | 3.4%                   | 3.6%                | -1.0%                     |
| Health  | 138.0        | 139.8        | 141.6        | 140.4        | 1.3%                   | 2.6%                | 1.9%                      |
| Transportation                                | 108.6        | 102.7        | 103.6        | 103.0        | 0.9%                   | -4.6%               | -3.4%                     |
| Communication                                 | 78.8         | 77.0         | 76.7         | 77.5         | -0.4%                  | -2.7%               | -3.2%                     |
| Recreation and culture                        | 108.3        | 106.6        | 108.3        | 106.7        | 1.6%                   | 0.0%                | 0.1%                      |
| Education                                     | 136.1        | 137.3        | 138.9        | 137.6        | 1.2%                   | 2.1%                | 1.2%                      |
| Insurance and financial services              | 115.2        | 116.5        | 116.6        | 116.4        | 0.1%                   | 1.2%                | 1.5%                      |
| <b>RBA underlying measures of inflation</b>   |              |              |              |              |                        |                     |                           |
| Weighted median                               |              |              |              |              | 0.5%                   | 1.4%                |                           |
| Trimmed mean                                  |              |              |              |              | 0.4%                   | 1.2%                |                           |

Table 2: Consumer price index contribution to change

|   | Period       |              |              |              | Change                 |                     |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|   | Dec qtr 19   | Sep qtr 20   | Dec qtr 20   | Year average | Quarterly <sup>1</sup> | Annual <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Darwin</b>                                 | <b>111.5</b> | <b>110.8</b> | <b>111.5</b> | <b>110.8</b> | <b>0.63 ppt</b>        | <b>n.a.</b>         |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages              | 108.7        | 111.0        | 111.4        | 111.1        | 0.05 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Alcohol and tobacco                           | 158.4        | 165.8        | 171.7        | 165.4        | 0.48 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Clothing and footwear                         | 92.9         | 96.4         | 93.7         | 93.9         | -0.08 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Housing                                       | 104.9        | 98.0         | 97.5         | 99.6         | -0.09 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 106.2        | 108.4        | 110.0        | 104.9        | 0.14 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Health  | 130.7        | 132.9        | 133.9        | 133.0        | 0.04 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Transportation                                | 111.8        | 106.3        | 105.1        | 106.6        | -0.12 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Communication                                 | 78.2         | 76.4         | 76.2         | 76.9         | -0.01 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Recreation and culture                        | 103.9        | 102.5        | 104.6        | 102.9        | 0.20 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Education                                     | 135.7        | 139.0        | 139.3        | 138.6        | 0.01 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Insurance and financial services              | 109.3        | 109.9        | 109.3        | 109.4        | -0.03 ppt              | n.a.                |
| <b>8 Capitals</b>                             | <b>116.2</b> | <b>116.2</b> | <b>117.2</b> | <b>116.1</b> | <b>0.86 ppt</b>        | <b>n.a.</b>         |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages              | 110.4        | 112.7        | 112.9        | 112.8        | 0.03 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Alcohol and tobacco                           | 159.6        | 167.4        | 174.4        | 167.2        | 0.37 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Clothing and footwear                         | 95.5         | 95.3         | 94.3         | 94.8         | -0.04 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Housing                                       | 121.9        | 121.5        | 120.8        | 121.5        | -0.15 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 104.6        | 104.8        | 108.4        | 103.1        | 0.29 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Health  | 138.0        | 139.8        | 141.6        | 140.4        | 0.08 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Transportation                                | 108.6        | 102.7        | 103.6        | 103.0        | 0.09 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Communication                                 | 78.8         | 77.0         | 76.7         | 77.5         | -0.02 ppt              | n.a.                |
| Recreation and culture                        | 108.3        | 106.6        | 108.3        | 106.7        | 0.14 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Education                                     | 136.1        | 137.3        | 138.9        | 137.6        | 0.05 ppt               | n.a.                |
| Insurance and financial services              | 115.2        | 116.5        | 116.6        | 116.4        | 0.00 ppt               | n.a.                |

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.

## More information:

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