

Monthly consumer price index

May 2026 | Economic brief

National result

In seasonally adjusted terms, the national consumer price index (CPI) declined by 0.1% in May 2026, however increased by 4.0% in year-ended terms.

In original terms, the national consumer price index CPI increased by 4.0% in the year-ended May 2026. The largest contributors to the year-ended result were:

- housing (up by 6.5% contributing 1.41 percentage points (ppt)), mainly driven by utilities
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 3.3% contributing 0.57 ppt), mainly driven by meals out and take away foods
- transportation (up by 3.3% contributing 0.37 ppt), mainly driven by automotive fuel.

National trimmed mean CPI increased by 0.4% in the month, to be 3.6% higher in year-ended terms (Chart 1). The increase in national trimmed mean is tracking slightly lower than the June quarter forecast (3.8%) from the latest RBA Statement of Monetary Policy.

	Darwin	Australia
Year-ended change (original)	↑3.9%	↑4.0%
Year-ended change (seasonally adjusted)	n.a.	↑4.0%

Darwin result (original)

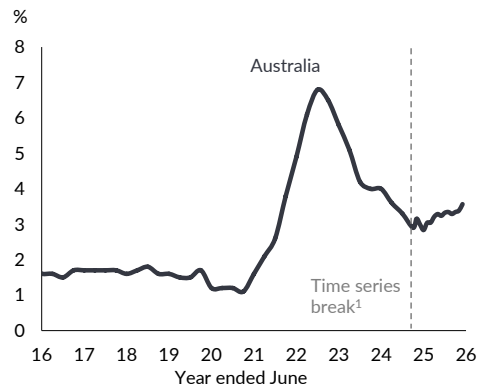
The Darwin CPI increased by 3.9% in the year-ended May 2026 (Chart 2). This was the second lowest result of the capital cities, which ranged from an increase of 3.5% in Melbourne to an increase of 5.0% in Hobart (Chart 3).

The largest contributors to the year-ended result were:

- housing (up by 5.7% contributing 1.00 ppt), mainly driven by utilities
- food and non-alcoholic beverages (up by 3.1% contributing 0.60 ppt), mainly driven by meals out and take away foods
- recreation and culture (up by 4.2% contributing 0.53 ppt), mainly driven by holiday travel and accommodation.

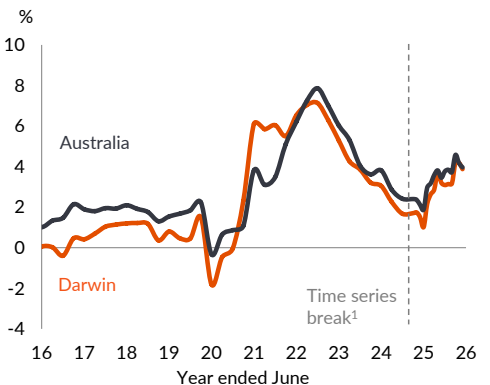
In the year-ended May 2026, the price of services increased by 3.9% while the price of goods increased by 3.8%. Nationally, the price of goods increased by 4.2% while the price of services increased by 3.7% in seasonally adjusted terms.

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



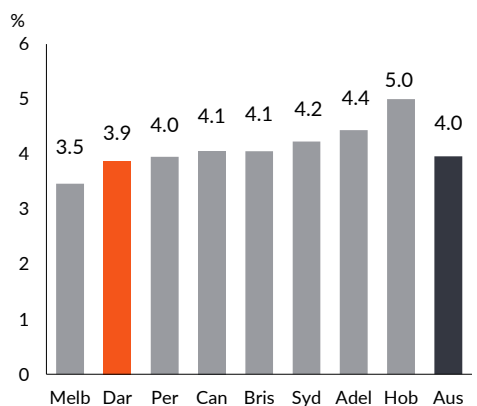
1 Data up to March 25 is reported on a quarterly basis. Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

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

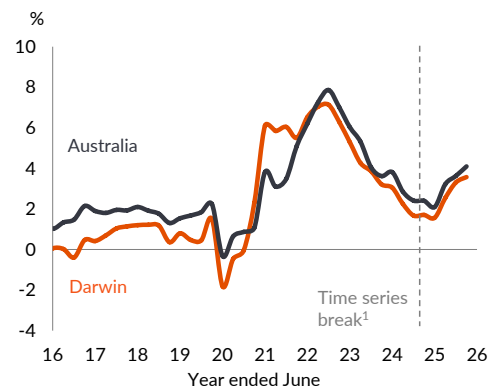
The new monthly data series is inherently more volatile than the previous quarterly series and is too short for reliable seasonal adjustment, 3-month average reduces this volatility.

The Darwin CPI (3-month average) increased by 4.1% in the year-ended May 2026 (Chart 4). This was the third lowest result of the capital cities, which ranged from an increase of 4.0% in Melbourne to an increase of 5.0% in Hobart (Chart 5). Nationally, the 3-month average CPI increased by 4.2% in the year-ended May 2026.

Quarterly result (March quarter 2026)

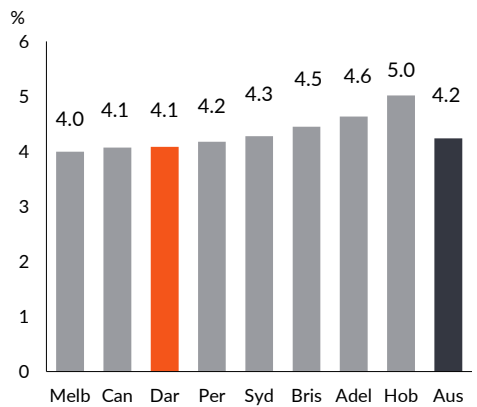
The Darwin CPI increased by 3.6% in the year-ended March quarter 2026. This was the lowest result of the capital cities, which otherwise ranged from an increase of 3.7% in Canberra to an increase of 4.9% in Perth. Nationally, the CPI increased by 4.1% in the year-ended March quarter 2026.

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 (3-month average, year-ended change, original)



Source: DTF; ABS, Consumer Price Index

Monthly consumer price index

Table 1: Consumer price index

	Period			Change		Contribution to change	
	May 25	Apr 26	May 26	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²
Darwin							
Original	98.4	102.7	102.2	-0.6%	3.9%	-0.55 ppt	3.87 ppt
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	99.5	102.0	102.6	0.6%	3.1%	0.12 ppt	0.60 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	97.8	101.9	102.6	0.7%	4.9%	0.07 ppt	0.50 ppt
Clothing and footwear	99.3	103.7	102.9	-0.8%	3.6%	-0.02 ppt	0.10 ppt
Housing	98.1	103.5	103.7	0.2%	5.7%	0.03 ppt	1.00 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	98.1	100.0	100.2	0.2%	2.1%	0.02 ppt	0.19 ppt
Health	98.0	100.8	100.3	-0.5%	2.4%	-0.03 ppt	0.14 ppt
Transportation	99.2	108.4	103.1	-4.9%	4.0%	-0.61 ppt	0.47 ppt
Communication	98.9	100.8	101.0	0.2%	2.2%	0.00 ppt	0.05 ppt
Recreation and culture	95.7	100.9	99.7	-1.2%	4.2%	-0.15 ppt	0.53 ppt
Education	99.9	103.3	103.3	0.0%	3.4%	0.00 ppt	0.12 ppt
Insurance and financial services	99.9	103.0	103.3	0.3%	3.4%	0.01 ppt	0.18 ppt
Australia							
Original	98.2	102.8	102.1	-0.7%	4.0%	-0.68 ppt	3.97 ppt
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	99.4	102.0	102.6	0.6%	3.3%	0.10 ppt	0.57 ppt
Alcohol and tobacco	97.8	101.5	102.4	0.9%	4.7%	0.06 ppt	0.31 ppt
Clothing and footwear	97.7	105.6	102.6	-2.9%	5.0%	-0.10 ppt	0.16 ppt
Housing	97.5	103.3	103.8	0.5%	6.5%	0.10 ppt	1.41 ppt
Furnishings, household equipment and services	98.6	100.3	100.3	0.0%	1.7%	0.00 ppt	0.13 ppt
Health	100.1	104.4	103.8	-0.5%	3.8%	-0.03 ppt	0.26 ppt
Transportation	98.1	105.4	101.4	-3.9%	3.3%	-0.45 ppt	0.37 ppt
Communication	98.9	100.7	100.9	0.2%	2.1%	0.00 ppt	0.04 ppt
Recreation and culture	95.9	101.3	98.1	-3.1%	2.4%	-0.38 ppt	0.29 ppt
Education	99.8	104.6	104.6	0.0%	4.8%	0.00 ppt	0.23 ppt
Insurance and financial services	99.0	102.1	102.2	0.2%	3.2%	0.01 ppt	0.18 ppt
Seasonally adjusted	102.4	106.7	106.5	-0.1%	4.0%		
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	103.3	106.1	106.6	0.5%	3.3%		
Alcohol and tobacco	106.2	110.1	111.1	0.9%	4.7%		
Clothing and footwear	100.8	106.9	106.1	-0.7%	5.2%		
Housing	102.5	108.5	109.2	0.6%	6.5%		
Furnishings, household equipment and services	101.6	103.0	103.3	0.3%	1.7%		
Health	104.4	108.4	108.3	-0.1%	3.7%		
Transportation	96.1	103.1	99.2	-3.8%	3.3%		
Communication	100.6	102.3	102.7	0.4%	2.1%		
Recreation and culture	103.7	106.3	106.3	0.0%	2.5%		
Education	105.8	110.5	110.9	0.4%	4.8%		
Insurance and financial services	103.6	106.7	107.0	0.3%	3.2%		
3-month rolling average (original)							
Darwin	98.3	101.9	102.3	n.a.	4.1%		
Australia	98.3	102.2	102.4	n.a.	4.2%		
Trimmed mean CPI (seasonally adjusted)							
Darwin	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Australia	103.4	106.7	107.1	0.4%	3.6%		

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 \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

More information

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