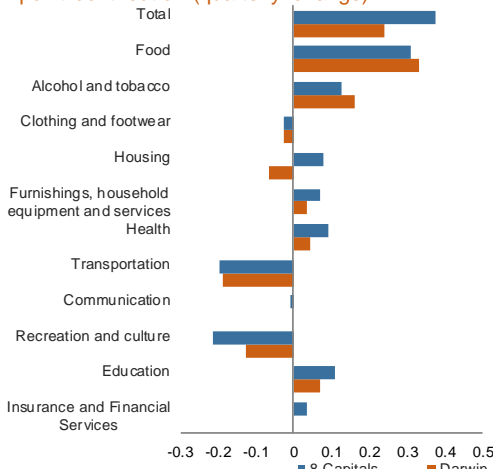


Consumer price index

March quarter 2020

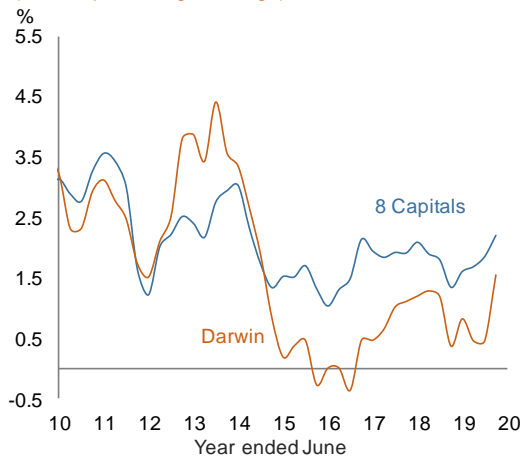
Released: 29 April 2020 | Next release: 29 July 2020

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



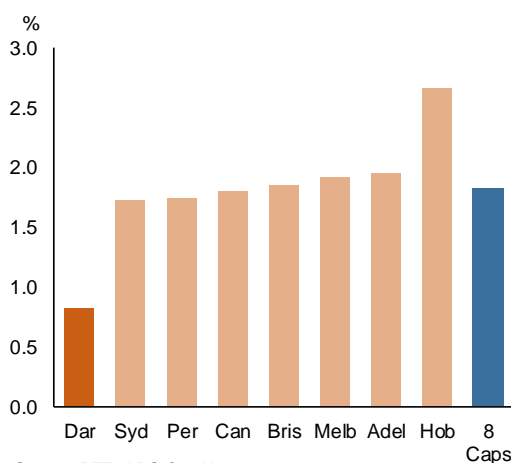
Source: DTF; ABS Cat. No. 6401.0

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

Consumer price index (CPI)

	Darwin	8 Capital cities
Quarterly change (%)	↑0.3%	↑0.3%
Annual change (%)	↑1.5%	↑2.2%
Year-on-year change (%)	↑0.8%	↑1.8%

Quarterly result

The Darwin CPI increased by 0.3 per cent in the March quarter 2020. Darwin recorded the second lowest quarterly result of the capital cities, equal with Adelaide and Sydney. The other capital cities ranged from a 0.1 per cent decline in Brisbane to an increase of 0.8 per cent in Melbourne. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 0.3 per cent.

The categories that recorded the greatest contribution to the quarterly increase in the Darwin CPI were alcohol and tobacco (mainly tobacco), food and non-alcoholic beverages (mainly fruit and vegetables) and education (Chart 1). This was partly offset by a decrease in recreation and culture (mainly overseas holiday travel), transportation (mainly fuel) and housing (mainly rents).

Annual result

Through the year to March 2020, Darwin CPI increased by 1.5 per cent (Chart 2). The categories that recorded the greatest increase in CPI in Darwin were alcohol and tobacco (up 8.4 per cent), food and non-alcoholic beverages (up 2.9 per cent) and education (up 2.7 per cent). This was partly offset by decreases in CPI for insurance and financial services (down 5.5 per cent), communication (down 3.5 per cent), and housing (down 1.4 per cent).

Darwin recorded the lowest increase in CPI in annual terms. In other capital cities, the increase in CPI ranged from 1.8 per cent in Brisbane to 3.4 per cent in Hobart. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 2.2 per cent.

Year-on-year result

The annual average Darwin CPI increased by 0.8 per cent in the year to March 2020 (Chart 3). The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 1.8 per cent over the same period.

The largest price increases in the year-on-year Darwin CPI were alcohol and tobacco (up 8.3 per cent), education (up 2.8 per cent), food and non-alcoholic beverages (up 2.3 per cent) and health (up 2.0 per cent). The categories that recorded the largest decreases were insurance and financial services (down 4.5 per cent), communications (down 3.9 per cent) and housing (down 1.6 per cent).

Consumer price index March quarter 2020

Table 1: Consumer price index

	March quarter		Change		
	Quarter	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Darwin	111.8	111.4	0.3%	1.5%	0.8%
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	110.8	108.6	1.9%	2.9%	2.3%
Alcohol and tobacco	160.5	155.4	1.3%	8.4%	8.3%
Clothing and footwear	92.0	93.1	-1.0%	-0.6%	-0.3%
Housing	104.6	105.1	-0.3%	-1.4%	-1.6%
Furnishings, household equipment and services	106.6	106.3	0.4%	1.2%	0.5%
Health	131.9	131.3	0.9%	1.8%	2.0%
Transportation	109.9	110.8	-1.7%	2.3%	-0.5%
Communication	78.0	78.8	-0.3%	-3.5%	-3.9%
Recreation and culture	102.9	104.9	-1.0%	2.4%	0.6%
Education	139.3	136.6	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%
Insurance and financial services	109.3	109.4	0.0%	-5.5%	-4.5%
8 Capitals	116.6	115.8	0.3%	2.2%	1.8%
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	112.5	110.1	1.9%	3.2%	2.6%
Alcohol and tobacco	162.2	157.2	1.6%	7.9%	6.7%
Clothing and footwear	94.8	95.1	-0.7%	2.0%	1.3%
Housing	122.3	121.9	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%
Furnishings, household equipment and services	105.4	104.7	0.8%	2.2%	1.2%
Health	140.3	138.9	1.7%	2.9%	3.1%
Transportation	106.5	107.4	-1.9%	2.6%	1.9%
Communication	78.6	79.4	-0.3%	-3.4%	-3.9%
Recreation and culture	106.5	107.0	-1.7%	1.3%	1.6%
Education	139.6	136.9	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%
Insurance and financial services	116.0	115.1	0.7%	1.6%	0.9%
RBA underlying measures of inflation					
Weighted median			0.5%	1.7%	
Trimmed mean			0.5%	1.8%	

Table 2: Consumer price index contribution to change

	March quarter		Change	
	Quarter	Year average	Quarterly ¹	Annual ²
Darwin	111.8	111.4	0.27 ppt	n.a.
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	110.8	108.6	0.33 ppt	n.a.
Alcohol and tobacco	160.5	155.4	0.16 ppt	n.a.
Clothing and footwear	92.0	93.1	-0.03 ppt	n.a.
Housing	104.6	105.1	-0.06 ppt	n.a.
Furnishings, household equipment and services	106.6	106.3	0.04 ppt	n.a.
Health	131.9	131.3	0.04 ppt	n.a.
Transportation	109.9	110.8	-0.19 ppt	n.a.
Communication	78.0	78.8	0.00 ppt	n.a.
Recreation and culture	102.9	104.9	-0.13 ppt	n.a.
Education	139.3	136.6	0.07 ppt	n.a.
Insurance and financial services	109.3	109.4	0.00 ppt	n.a.
8 Capitals	116.6	115.8	0.34 ppt	n.a.
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	112.5	110.1	0.31 ppt	n.a.
Alcohol and tobacco	162.2	157.2	0.13 ppt	n.a.
Clothing and footwear	94.8	95.1	-0.03 ppt	n.a.
Housing	122.3	121.9	0.08 ppt	n.a.
Furnishings, household equipment and services	105.4	104.7	0.07 ppt	n.a.
Health	140.3	138.9	0.09 ppt	n.a.
Transportation	106.5	107.4	-0.20 ppt	n.a.
Communication	78.6	79.4	-0.01 ppt	n.a.
Recreation and culture	106.5	107.0	-0.22 ppt	n.a.
Education	139.6	136.9	0.11 ppt	n.a.
Insurance and financial services	116.0	115.1	0.03 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.

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