

Consumer price index

December quarter 2019

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

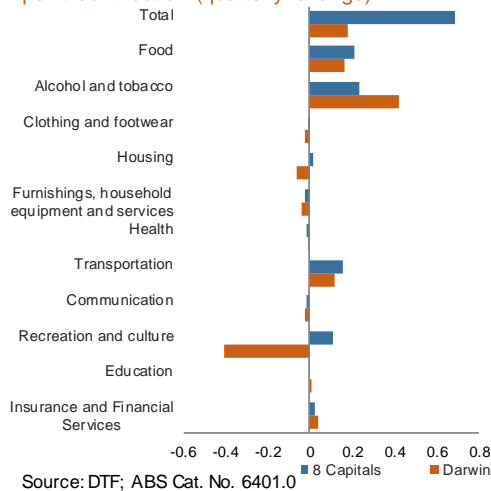


Chart 2: Consumer price index (annual percentage change)

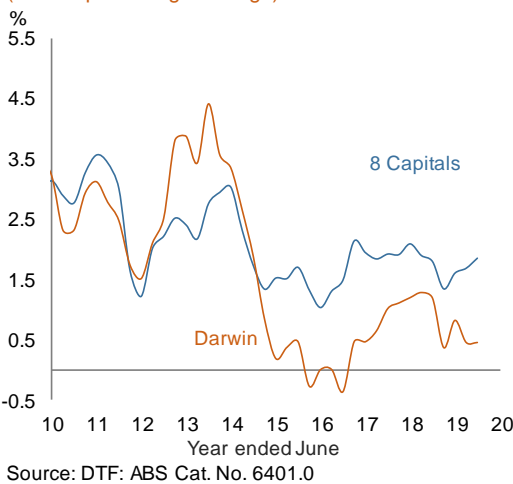
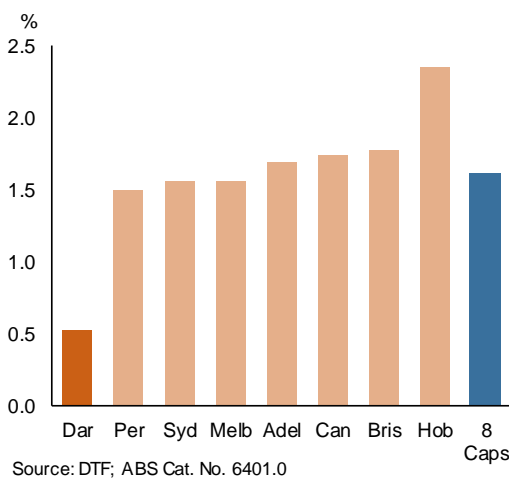


Chart 3: Capital cities consumer price index (year-on-year percentage change)



Consumer price index (CPI)

| | Darwin | 8 Capital cities |
|-------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Quarterly change (%) | ↑0.2% | ↑0.7% |
| Annual change (%) | ↑0.5% | ↑1.8% |
| Year-on-year change (%) | ↑0.5% | ↑1.6% |

Quarterly result

The Darwin CPI increased by 0.2 per cent in the December quarter 2019. Darwin recorded the lowest quarterly increase of the capital cities, which ranged from 0.4 per cent in Perth to 1.7 per cent in Hobart. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 0.7 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 transportation (mainly automotive fuel) (Chart 1). This was partly offset by a decrease in recreation (mainly domestic holiday travel) and housing (mainly rents).

Annual result

Through the year to December 2019, Darwin CPI increased by 0.5 per cent (Chart 2). The categories that recorded the greatest increase in CPI in Darwin were alcohol and tobacco (up 6.9 per cent), education (up 2.8 per cent) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (up 2.5 per cent). This was partly offset by decreases in CPI for insurance and financial services (down 4.5 per cent), communication (down 3.7 per cent), and housing (down 2.1 per cent).

Darwin recorded the lowest increase in CPI in annual terms. In other capital cities, the increase in CPI ranged from 1.6 per cent in Sydney and Perth to 2.7 per cent in Hobart. The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 1.8 per cent.

Year-on-year result

The annual average Darwin CPI increased by 0.5 per cent in the year to December 2019 (Chart 3). The eight capital cities' average CPI increased by 1.6 per cent over the same period.

The largest price increases in the year-on-year Darwin CPI were alcohol and tobacco (up 8.2 per cent), education (up 2.7 per cent), food and non-alcoholic beverages (up 2.1 per cent) and health (up 2.1 per cent). The categories that recorded the largest decreases were communications (down 4.2 per cent), insurance and financial services (down 2.5 per cent) and transportation (down 1.9 per cent).

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Table 1: Consumer price index

| | December quarter | | Change | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | Quarter | Year average | Quarterly ¹ | Annual ² | Year-on-year ³ |
| Darwin | 111.5 | 111.0 | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 108.7 | 107.8 | 0.9% | 2.5% | 2.1% |
| Alcohol and tobacco | 158.4 | 152.3 | 3.7% | 6.9% | 8.2% |
| Clothing and footwear | 92.9 | 93.3 | -1.0% | -0.5% | -0.4% |
| Housing | 104.9 | 105.5 | -0.4% | -2.1% | -1.6% |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 106.2 | 106.0 | -0.4% | 1.0% | -0.2% |
| Health | 130.7 | 130.8 | -0.2% | 2.3% | 2.1% |
| Transportation | 111.8 | 110.2 | 1.1% | -0.9% | -1.9% |
| Communication | 78.2 | 79.5 | -1.0% | -3.7% | -4.2% |
| Recreation and culture | 103.9 | 104.3 | -3.0% | -1.0% | -0.3% |
| Education | 135.7 | 135.7 | 0.0% | 2.8% | 2.7% |
| Insurance and financial services | 109.3 | 111.0 | 0.8% | -4.5% | -2.5% |
| 8 Capitals | 116.2 | 115.1 | 0.7% | 1.8% | 1.6% |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 110.4 | 109.3 | 1.3% | 2.6% | 2.4% |
| Alcohol and tobacco | 159.6 | 154.2 | 3.0% | 6.5% | 6.3% |
| Clothing and footwear | 95.5 | 94.7 | -0.3% | 1.4% | 0.7% |
| Housing | 121.9 | 121.7 | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.5% |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 104.6 | 104.1 | -0.3% | 1.1% | 0.4% |
| Health | 138.0 | 137.9 | -0.3% | 3.2% | 3.1% |
| Transportation | 108.6 | 106.7 | 1.5% | 2.8% | 1.3% |
| Communication | 78.8 | 80.1 | -1.0% | -3.8% | -4.2% |
| Recreation and culture | 108.3 | 106.6 | 0.9% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Education | 136.1 | 136.0 | 0.1% | 2.9% | 2.8% |
| Insurance and financial services | 115.2 | 114.7 | 0.4% | 0.7% | 0.8% |
| RBA underlying measures of inflation | | | | | |
| Weighted median | | | 0.4% | 1.3% | |
| Trimmed mean | | | 0.4% | 1.6% | |

Table 2: Consumer price index contribution to change

| | December quarter | | Change | |
|---|------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Quarter | Year average | Quarterly ¹ | Annual ² |
| Darwin | 111.5 | 111.0 | 0.18 ppt | n.a. |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 108.7 | 107.8 | 0.16 ppt | n.a. |
| Alcohol and tobacco | 158.4 | 152.3 | 0.43 ppt | n.a. |
| Clothing and footwear | 92.9 | 93.3 | -0.03 ppt | n.a. |
| Housing | 104.9 | 105.5 | -0.06 ppt | n.a. |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 106.2 | 106.0 | -0.04 ppt | n.a. |
| Health | 130.7 | 130.8 | -0.01 ppt | n.a. |
| Transportation | 111.8 | 110.2 | 0.12 ppt | n.a. |
| Communication | 78.2 | 79.5 | -0.03 ppt | n.a. |
| Recreation and culture | 103.9 | 104.3 | -0.40 ppt | n.a. |
| Education | 135.7 | 135.7 | 0.01 ppt | n.a. |
| Insurance and financial services | 109.3 | 111.0 | 0.04 ppt | n.a. |
| 8 Capitals | 116.2 | 115.1 | 0.69 ppt | n.a. |
| Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 110.4 | 109.3 | 0.21 ppt | n.a. |
| Alcohol and tobacco | 159.6 | 154.2 | 0.23 ppt | n.a. |
| Clothing and footwear | 95.5 | 94.7 | -0.01 ppt | n.a. |
| Housing | 121.9 | 121.7 | 0.02 ppt | n.a. |
| Furnishings, household equipment and services | 104.6 | 104.1 | -0.03 ppt | n.a. |
| Health | 138.0 | 137.9 | -0.02 ppt | n.a. |
| Transportation | 108.6 | 106.7 | 0.16 ppt | n.a. |
| Communication | 78.8 | 80.1 | -0.02 ppt | n.a. |
| Recreation and culture | 108.3 | 106.6 | 0.11 ppt | n.a. |
| Education | 136.1 | 136.0 | 0.00 ppt | n.a. |
| Insurance and financial services | 115.2 | 114.7 | 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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