Consumer Price Index
Republic of Palau

1st Quarter 2017
Volume 1

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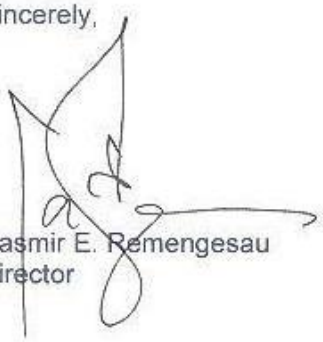
Foreword

We are pleased to publish this quarter's Consumer Price Index (CPI) publication.

The statistical information presented in this publication contains a wealth of information that measures quarterly changes in prices of a "basket" of goods and services, which are representative of purchases by private households in Palau.

We acknowledge with great appreciation the valuable contributions of many offices of the National Government and state governments as well as those participating establishments for enabling us to continue the collection of prices on a quarterly basis for the selected items within the Palau CPI. With your cooperation and assistance, we will continue to publish the Palau CPI to account for the changes in the prices of commodities consumed by all the people residing in Palau.

Sincerely,



Casmir E. Remengesau
Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD..... 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 2

EXPLANATORY NOTES..... 3

PALAU CPI-SUMMARY OF MOVEMENTS FOR 2016 QTR 4..... 5

PALAU CPI-ANALYSIS OF INDEX, ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY..... 6

PALAU CPI-QUARTERLY CHANGE ANALYSIS, DEC. 2008-DEC. 2016..... 7

PALAU CPI-ANNUAL CHANGE ANALYSIS, 2002-2016..... 9

PALAU CPI-MAJOR GROUP ANALYSIS.....11

PALAU CPI-DOMESTIC V IMPROTED ITEM ANALYSIS..... 13

APPENDIX 1: WEIGHT FOR MAJOR GROUPS..... 15

APPENDIX 2: EXAMPLES OF ITEMS PRICED..... 16

Explanatory Notes

Brief Description of the Palau Consumer Price Index:

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures quarterly changes in prices of a 'basket' of goods and services, which are representative of purchases by private households in Palau. This 'basket' covers a wide range of goods and services, arranged in the following eight groups: Food & Beverages; Alcohol, Tobacco & Betel nut; Clothing and Footwear; Housing; Household Operations; Transportation; Health, Personal Care, Education & Services; Leisure & Entertainment. Examples of items priced in each major group can be found in Appendix 2.

The Palau CPI measures price changes over time. It does not measure difference in price levels between groups or sub-groups. The base period for the Palau index is the second quarter of 2008.

Weighting of the CPI 'Basket'

The weighting is based on the results from the 2006 *Household Income and Expenditure Survey* (HIES). The weights on expenditure groups are displayed in the CPI tables appearing in the subsequent pages. The sum of all the eight weighted groups is equal to 100. Each weight for a certain expenditure group represents the percentage of consumer expenditure on that expenditure group in 2006. For example, the weight for the Food and Beverage group in Palau is 25.35 percent; consequently, about 25 percent of the household expenditure in Palau is used for food and beverage purchases. More details on the weights for each major group and sub-group can be found in Appendix 1.

Prices

Prices of goods and services included in the CPI are collected quarterly in the middle month of each quarter, from a representative range of retail outlets.

Domestic and Imported Price Indexes

These sub-indexes can give an indication of factors driving CPI price changes. The import index includes only items that are imported, such as canned foods, fuels, rice, motor vehicles. On the other hand, the domestic index includes items and services that are locally produced and have a local component, such as fresh fish, local produce, bakery goods, seafarers and electricity.

Note, however, that the prices for domestic items may be determined by prices of imported items. For example, if price of fuel, an imported commodity, should increase this will cause an upward movement in the domestic CPI index, because a higher fuel price causes an increase in price for items which are reflected in the domestic index.

In Palau, like other countries in the Pacific, imported items and services dominate household consumption, resulting in a weight of 57.03 percent. In other words, imported items represent around 57 percent of the overall consumer spending, while domestic items make up around 43 percent of consumer spending.

Analysis of CPI Changes:

Movements in index numbers from one period to another can be expressed in index points or as percentage changes. The following example illustrates the method of calculating changes in index points and percentage changes between any two periods. It is simply a difference between the current quarter index and the previous quarter index. The difference is divided into the previous quarter's index to generate the percent change between those two periods.

Example (quarterly change)

Reference Periods: 1st Quarter 2012 – 4th Quarter 2011

Change in Index: 112.1 - 111.8 = 0.3

Change in Percent: 0.3/111.8 = .003

.003 * 100 = 0.3%

Example (annual change)

Reference Periods: 1st Quarter 2012 – 1st Quarter 2011

Change in Index: 112.1 – 103.9 = 8.2

Change in Percent: 8.2/103.9 = .079

.079 * 100 = 7.9%

For Further Information

In addition to the statistics included in this publication, the Office of Planning and Statistics may have further details available. Inquiries should be directed to Ms. Muriell Sinsak, Associate Planning Analyst, Office of Planning and Statistics at phone: (680) 767-1269, fax: (680) 767-5642; or email: ops@palaugov.org.

PALAU CPI - SUMMARY OF MOVEMENTS FOR 2017 QTR 1

Summary of Quarterly Movement

The Palau quarterly inflation rate for this quarter is 0.5 percent; this is a 1.0 percentage point increase on the equivalent quarterly inflation for the same period last year. The contributors to this increase include Housing group at 2.1%, Leisure & Entertainment group at 1.5%, Food & Beverages group at 0.8%, and Transportation group 0.6%. The group that saw a decrease this quarter is Clothing & footwear group at -7.4%. The remaining groups, Alcohol, tobacco & betel but, and Household Operations showed a little or no price change this quarter.

This quarter's inflation rate can be further analyzed for domestic and imported items (Table 4). Domestic items increased by 0.4% while imported items increased by 0.5% over the last quarter.

More details on what has caused the latest quarterly movement can be found in the "quarterly change analysis" section of this report.

Summary of Annual Movement

The Palau annual inflation rate for this quarter is 1.5 percent; this is a 5.4 percentage point increase on the annual inflation for the same period last year. The following groups all showed increases, with Housing group at 5.1%, Food & beverages group at 2.7%, Health, Personal Care, Education & Services group at 1.9%, Transportation group at 1.7%, Alcohol, tobacco, & betel nut group and Household Operations group both at 0.1% respectively. The group that showed a decrease is Clothing and footwear group at -4.5%. The remaining group, Leisure & Entertainment showed no price change this year.

The annual inflation rate can be further analyzed for both domestic and imported items (Table 4). Domestic items increased by 0.7% while, imported items increased by 2.0% over the last year.

More details on what has caused the latest annual movement can be found in the "annual change analysis" section of this report.

PALAU CPI – ANALYSIS OF INDEX, ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY

Table 1 below shows the value of the index for each major group, and its change over time both from an annual and quarterly perspective. More information regarding the interpretation of the changes from both annually and quarterly can be found in the next two sections of the analysis in this report.

Table 1: Palau Consumer Price Indexes by Major Group

Period	All groups	Food & beverages	Alcohol, tobacco & betel nut	Clothing & footwear	Housing	H'hold operations	Transport[n]	Health, personal care, education & services	Leisure & entertain[t]
				Annual					
2000	78.2	83.3	69.8	127.7	109.7	68.1	71.4	88.3	107.8
2001	76.8	81.3	63.9	134.8	116.6	66.9	69.9	86.4	106.8
2002	75.8	80.2	61.8	128.7	111.0	66.9	69.4	87.8	107.3
2003	76.6	80.8	63.5	124.1	107.4	68.2	70.2	91.3	107.4
2004	80.4	86.6	80.9	119.5	105.5	67.1	73.5	92.3	109.1
2005	83.5	85.3	84.5	118.6	105.5	70.8	78.8	101.2	107.9
2006	87.2	84.2	90.7	106.6	102.2	75.8	85.3	112.2	106.1
2007	90.1	88.8	94.2	100.2	96.4	82.7	84.2	109.6	102.7
2008 (rebase)	100.8	104.2	98.8	100.3	100.3	101.0	99.4	99.7	100.5
2009	102.3	113.8	98.3	103.8	103.5	99.3	92.8	101.0	100.3
2010	103.7	115.9	97.4	102.6	103.1	102.5	95.7	101.3	100.9
2011	108.6	121.5	105.2	101.9	104.6	109.5	100.2	100.2	101.3
2012	112.5	126.9	108.7	103.1	107.9	114.4	104.7	99.6	101.8
2013	116.3	130.9	111.4	103.6	114.9	120.5	108.3	100.5	101.9
2014	121.2	132.8	124.1	102.2	117.0	121.6	109.8	117.2	101.8
2015	122.3	135.0	142.2	102.2	119.8	112.2	103.5	118.0	101.8
2016	121.1	130.9	141.5	110.0	128.8	110.2	100.8	118.3	101.4
2017	122.2	133.1	141.5	103.9	133.2	110.6	101.6	119.5	101.8
[1]Figure represents available quarters									
				Quarter					
Mar-11	103.9	115.7	97.7	102.6	101.1	102.1	98.3	100.2	101.2
Jun-11	108.2	119.7	104.7	102.5	105.6	107.7	102.6	100.2	101.2
Sep-11	110.5	123.8	108.3	100.1	105.9	115.8	97.4	100.2	101.4
Dec-11	111.8	126.7	110.1	102.5	105.7	112.2	102.6	100.3	101.4
Mar-12	112.1	126.6	110.1	103.5	106.3	112.7	103.6	100.3	101.4
Jun-12	112.4	126.0	108.4	102.6	107.9	114.5	105.4	99.5	102.0
Sep-12	112.4	127.3	108.2	102.6	108.5	115.3	102.9	99.1	102.0
Dec-12	113.2	127.9	108.2	103.6	108.9	115.0	106.8	99.3	102.0
Mar-13	114.5	128.8	110.3	102.6	110.5	117.6	107.4	99.3	102.0
Jun-13	117.1	132.1	112.6	104.6	117.4	121.5	107.6	100.7	102.0
Sep-13	116.5	131.7	110.3	104.6	115.3	121.4	108.3	100.2	102.0
Dec-13	117.1	131.1	112.3	102.5	116.2	121.4	109.9	101.6	101.8
Mar-14	120.6	131.1	123.5	102.5	116.9	121.4	109.8	117.1	101.8
Jun-14	121.0	131.8	123.7	102.5	117.0	121.4	109.8	119.0	101.8
Sep-14	121.0	132.3	124.2	101.8	117.2	121.7	110.5	115.2	101.8
Dec-14	122.1	136.1	125.0	101.8	117.0	121.7	109.1	117.6	101.8
Mar-15	125.3	138.7	143.6	101.8	118.6	122.2	103.6	117.7	101.8
Jun-15	121.5	136.4	141.8	101.7	118.4	106.3	104.1	118.1	101.8
Sep-15	121.4	132.6	141.8	101.7	120.2	110.1	103.7	118.8	101.8
Dec-15	121.1	132.2	141.8	103.8	122.0	110.2	102.6	117.3	101.8
Mar-16	120.4	129.6	141.3	108.8	126.7	110.6	100.0	117.3	101.8
Jun-16	120.4	129.3	141.8	103.9	128.0	109.5	101.1	117.3	101.8
Sep-16	121.8	132.5	141.5	115.0	130.0	110.4	101.0	119.2	101.8
Dec-16	121.6	132.0	141.5	112.2	130.4	110.5	101.0	119.2	100.3
Mar-17	122.2	133.1	141.5	103.9	133.2	110.6	101.6	119.5	101.8

PALAU CPI – QUARTERLY CHANGE ANALYSIS, MARCH 2009 – MARCH 2017

MARCH QUARTER KEY POINTS

ALL GROUPS CPI

- Increased by 0.5 percent over the last quarter.

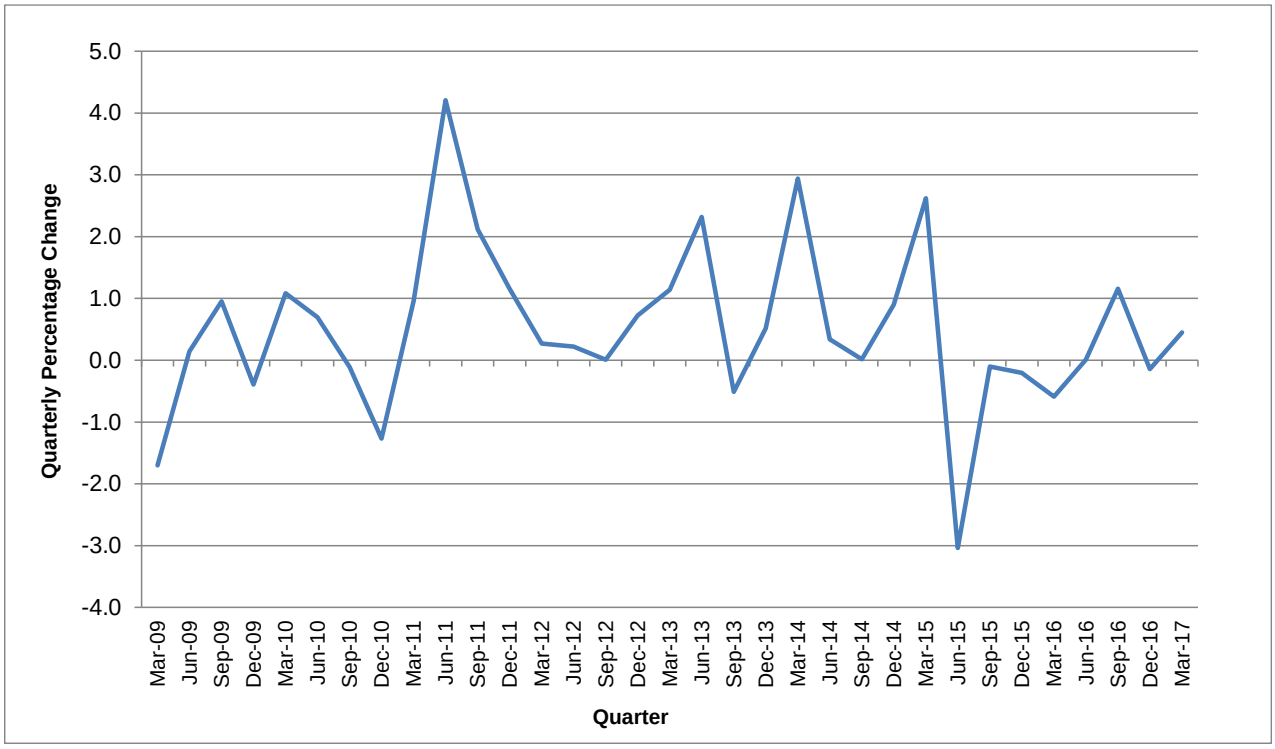
OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- The Clothing & Footwear group had a significant decrease over the last quarter of 7.4% respectively. This was mainly due to the price change of shirts.
- The Housing group, and Leisure & Entertainment group, both saw an increase at 2.1% and 1.5% respectively over the last quarter. This increase was mainly due to the price increase on rent. Other factors for these groups' increase include, concrete blocks and dog food.
- Food & beverages group, Transportation group, Health, personal care, education & services group and Household Operations group saw an increase of 1.5%, 0.8%, 0.6% and 0.1% respectively. The price increase on eggs, as well as secondary tuition, and gasoline are some of the major cause for these groups' increase.
- The group that showed no change this quarter is Alcohol, tobacco, & betel nut group.

Table 2: Palau CPI Quarterly Change by Major Group, March 2009 – March 2017

Period	All groups	Food & beverages	Alcohol, tobacco & betel nut	Clothing & footwear	Housing	H'hold operations	Transport[n]	Health, personal care, education & services	Leisure & entertain[t]
Mar-09	-1.7	-0.2	0.0	0.0	2.6	-3.4	-7.4	0.0	0.0
Jun-09	0.1	0.7	1.0	4.2	-0.8	-1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0
Sep-09	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	-2.4	0.9	4.7	0.6	0.8
Dec-09	-0.4	1.0	-0.4	0.0	1.8	-1.0	-3.3	-0.5	0.0
Mar-10	1.1	0.6	0.1	-2.1	0.1	3.5	2.3	-0.9	0.0
Jun-10	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	-0.4	1.0	1.4	2.0	0.0
Sep-10	-0.1	0.5	-2.6	0.0	-0.2	0.4	1.1	-0.8	0.3
Dec-10	-1.3	-2.3	1.3	-0.3	-0.5	-2.1	-2.0	-0.9	0.0
Mar-11	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.3	-1.4	0.8	3.4	-0.5	0.1
Jun-11	4.2	3.5	7.2	-0.1	4.5	5.5	4.4	0.1	0.1
Sep-11	2.1	3.4	3.4	-2.4	0.2	7.5	-5.1	0.0	0.2
Dec-11	1.2	2.4	1.7	2.5	-0.2	-3.1	5.4	0.1	0.0
Mar-12	0.3	-0.1	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0
Jun-12	0.2	-0.5	-1.5	-0.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	-0.8	0.6
Sep-12	0.0	1.0	-0.2	0.0	0.5	0.7	-2.4	-0.4	0.0
Dec-12	0.7	0.4	0.0	1.0	0.4	-0.2	3.8	0.2	0.0
Mar-13	1.1	0.7	1.9	-1.0	1.5	2.2	0.6	0.0	0.0
Jun-13	2.3	2.6	2.0	2.0	6.2	3.3	0.2	1.5	0.0
Sep-13	-0.5	-0.3	-2.0	0.0	-1.8	-0.1	0.6	-0.5	0.0
Dec-13	0.5	-0.4	1.8	-2.0	0.8	0.0	1.4	1.4	-0.2
Mar-14	2.9	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.1	15.3	0.0
Jun-14	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0
Sep-14	0.0	0.3	0.4	-0.7	0.1	0.2	0.6	-3.2	0.0
Dec-14	0.9	2.9	0.7	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-1.3	2.1	0.0
Mar-15	2.6	1.9	14.8	0.0	1.4	0.4	-5.0	0.1	0.0
Jun-15	-3.0	-1.6	-1.3	-0.1	-0.2	-13.0	0.5	0.3	0.0
Sep-15	-0.1	-2.8	0.0	0.0	1.5	3.6	-0.3	0.7	0.0
Dec-15	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	2.0	1.5	0.0	-1.1	-1.3	0.0
Mar-16	-0.6	-2.0	-0.4	4.9	3.9	0.3	-2.6	0.0	0.0
Jun-16	0.0	-0.3	0.4	-4.5	1.0	-0.9	1.1	0.0	0.0
Sep-16	1.2	2.5	-0.2	10.7	1.5	0.7	-0.1	1.6	0.0
Dec-16	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	-2.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-1.5
Mar-17	0.5	0.8	0.0	-7.4	2.1	0.1	0.6	0.3	1.5

Figure 1: Palau CPI, Quarterly Change, All Groups, March 2009 – March 2017



PALAU CPI – ANNUAL CHANGE ANALYSIS, 2002 – 2017

Table 3 and Figure 2 below provide detailed information on the annual change in the Palau CPI dating back to March 2002. Given this publication refers to the first quarter of 2017 (March 2017), the annual increase presented in this analysis relate back to the first quarter of previous years.

ANNUAL KEY POINTS

ALL GROUPS CPI

- Increased by 1.5% over the last 12 months.

OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

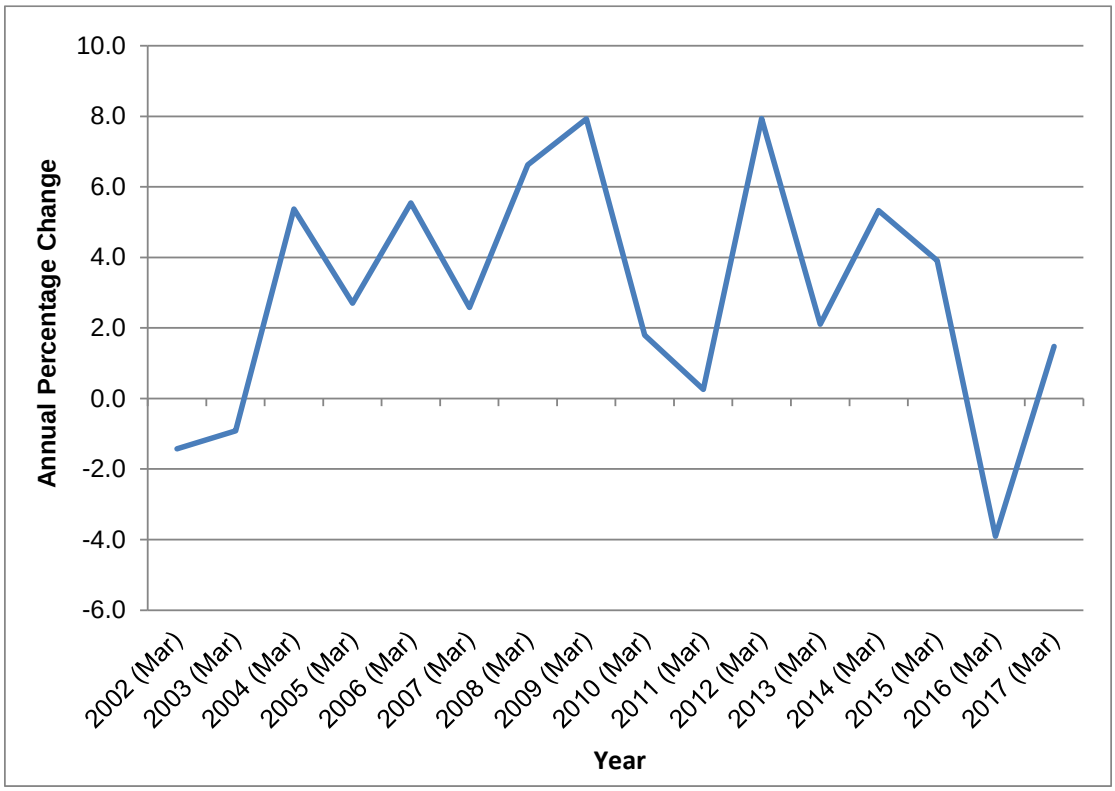
- The annual increase of 1.5 percent noticed for the last 12 months was largely driven by the increase in Housing group, Food & beverages group, Health, personal care, education, & services group and Transportation group. Some of the items that contributed the most to these groups' increase includes rent, gasoline, and secondary tuition. Other factors for these groups' increase includes price increase of food such as frozen chicken, frozen beef, and fresh fruit.
- Group that saw a decrease is Clothing and footwear at 4.5% respectively. The price change of underwear caused this group's decrease.

Table 3: Palau CPI: Annual Change by Major Group, 2002 – 2017

Period	All groups	Food & beverages	Alcohol, tobacco & betel nut	Clothing & footwear	Housing	H'hold operations	Transport[n]	Health, personal care, education & services	Leisure & entertain[t]
2002 (Mar)	-1.4	-0.4	0.3	-0.4	-3.0	-3.6	-1.4	0.1	-2.4
2003 (Mar)	-0.9	-3.6	-8.4	-8.8	-6.0	6.5	1.4	3.2	1.7
2004 (Mar)	5.4	7.8	40.6	-0.4	-1.7	-3.2	1.8	3.6	1.7
2005 (Mar)	2.7	2.9	2.8	-4.2	-0.6	0.5	8.1	0.4	0.3
2006 (Mar)	5.5	-3.4	2.2	9.8	1.0	6.5	7.9	27.7	-3.3
2007 (Mar)	2.6	3.4	10.2	-21.8	-9.1	10.6	-3.7	-6.3	0.0
2008 (Mar)	6.6	9.5	5.6	-0.4	1.3	9.1	15.5	-9.9	-4.0
2009 (Mar)	7.9	18.1	-1.6	0.6	7.6	15.5	-1.2	-0.4	-1.9
2010 (Mar)	1.8	2.9	0.7	2.0	-1.2	1.7	3.2	1.0	0.8
2011 (Mar)	0.3	-0.1	-0.7	0.0	-2.4	0.0	3.9	-0.3	0.4
2012 (Mar)	7.9	9.4	12.7	0.9	5.1	10.4	5.4	0.2	0.2
2013 (Mar)	2.1	1.7	0.2	-0.9	4.0	4.3	3.7	-1.1	0.6
2014 (Mar)	5.3	1.8	12.0	0.0	5.8	3.2	2.2	18.0	-0.2
2015 (Mar)	3.9	5.8	16.2	-0.7	1.5	0.7	-5.6	0.5	0.0
2016 (Mar)	-3.9	-6.5	-1.6	6.9	6.8	-9.5	-3.5	-0.3	0.0
2017 (Mar)	1.5	2.7	0.1	-4.5	5.1	0.1	1.7	1.9	0.0

NB: The annual change represents the change from September to September each year.

Figure 2: Palau CPI, Annual Change, All Groups, March 2002 – March 2017



PALAU CPI – MAJOR GROUP ANALYSIS

The following section of analysis looks more at the impact of each major group to the CPI over the last few years.

Figure 3 below examines how each major group has fared over the last 2 year and 5 year time periods.

KEYPOINT ANALYSIS

- Over the last 2 years, the index has decreased by -1.2 percent, whereas, the equivalent increase over the last 5 years is 1.8 percent.
- The major groups that contributed to this decrease in the last 2 years are the Household Operations group (-4.7% per year), and Food and beverages group (-2.0% per year).
- The major groups with the biggest increase in the last 5 years is the Alcohol, Tobacco & Betel nut (5.7% per year) followed by Housing (5.1% per year), Health, personal care, education & services (3.8% per year), and Food and beverages group (1.0% per year).
- Almost all groups showed an increase over the past 5 years except for Household Operations group and Transportation group both at (-0.4% per year).

Figures 4, 5 and 6, show the change in index for each of the major groups since the re-base in June 2008.

Figure 3: Palau CPI, Annual Growth of Major Groups, 2yr & 5yr

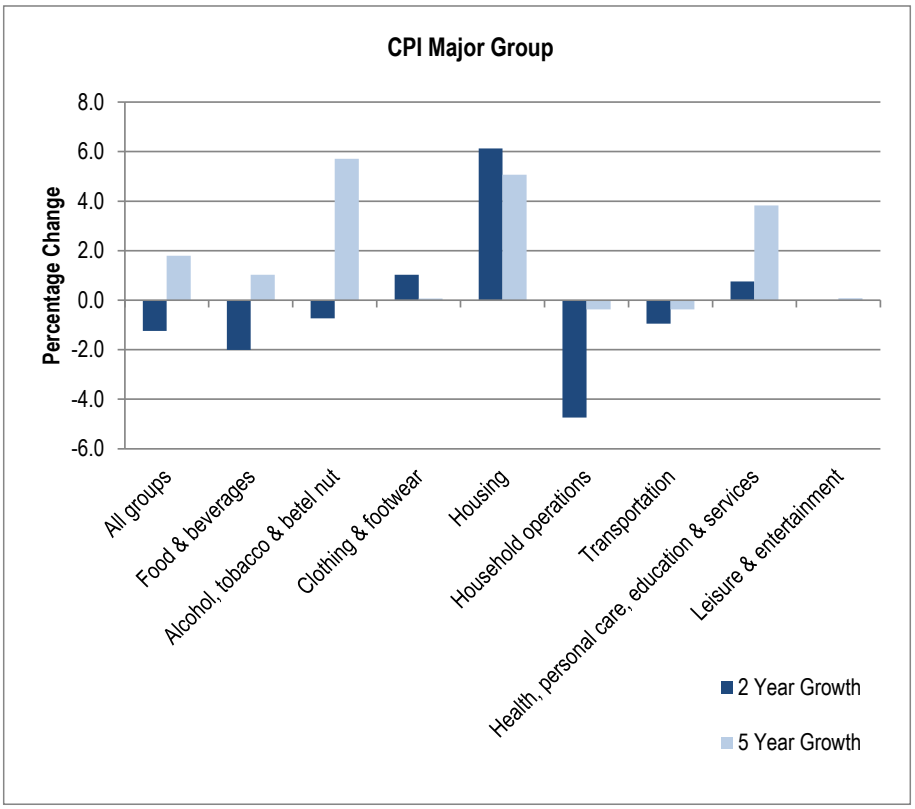


Figure 4: Palau CPI, Index for All Groups; Food & Beverages; and Alcohol, Tobacco & Betel nut, Mar. 2009 – Mar. 2017

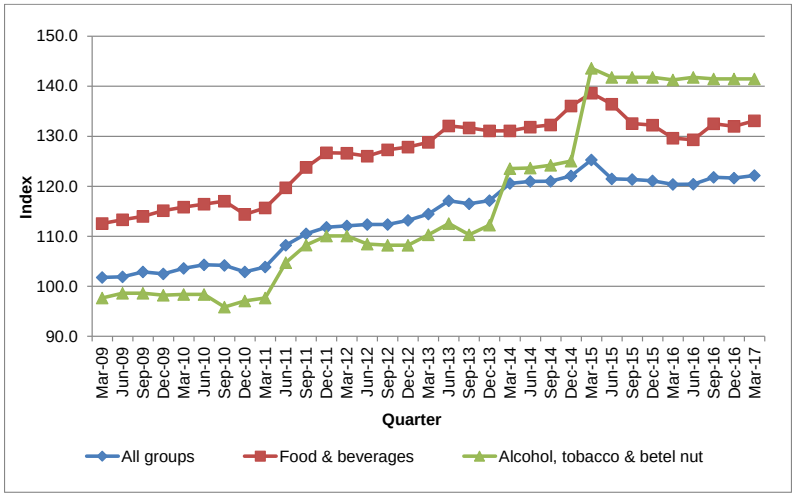


Figure 5: Palau CPI, Index for Clothing & Footwear; Housing; and Household Operations, Mar. 2009 –Mar. 2017

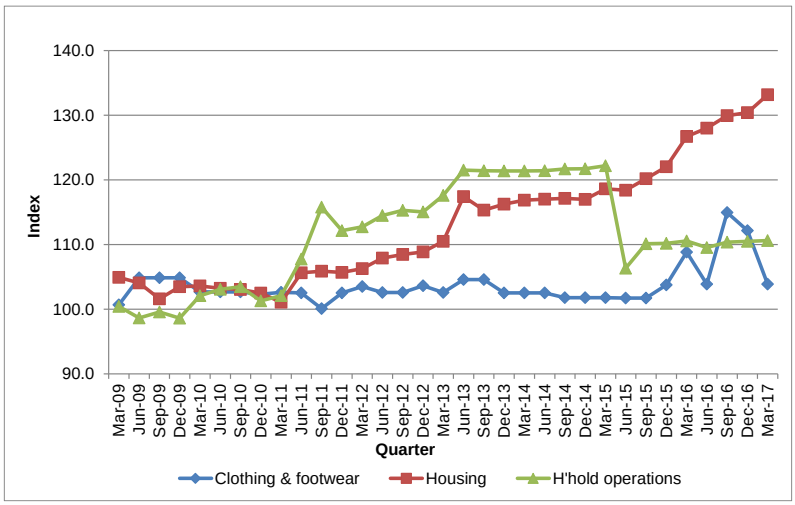
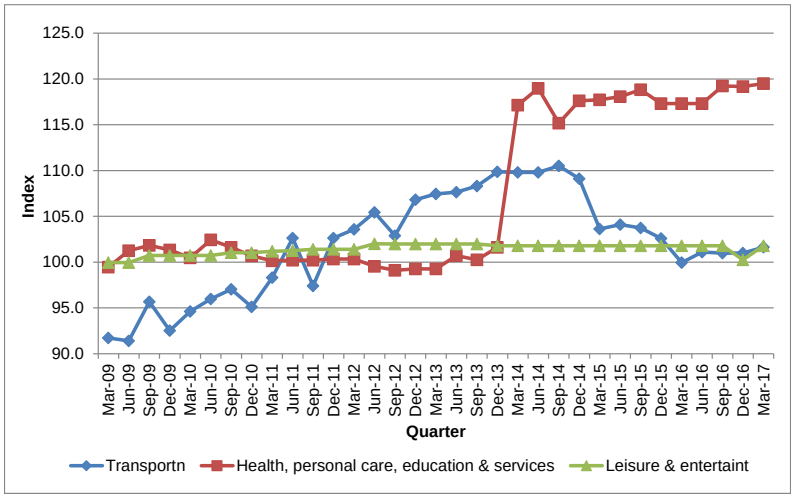


Figure 6: Palau CPI, Index for Transportation; Health, Pers. Care, Educ. & Services; and Leisure & Ent. Mar. 2009 – Mar. 2017



PALAU CPI – DOMESTIC V IMPORTED ITEM ANALYSIS

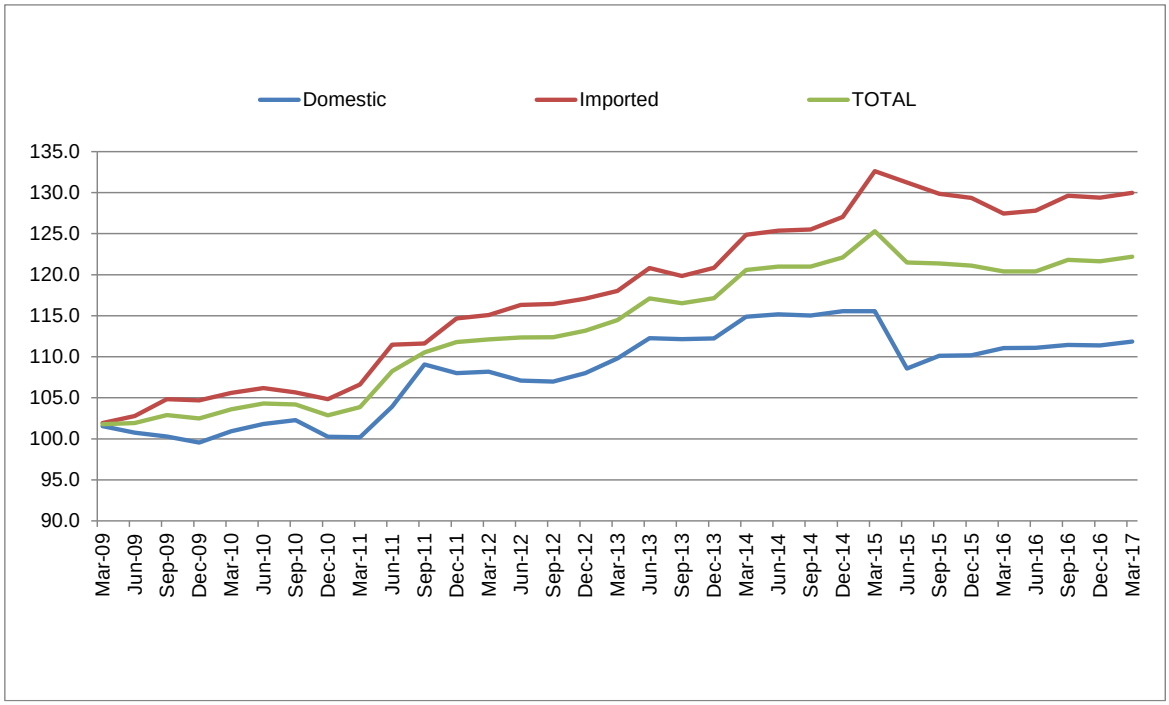
The final analysis section examines the impact of both domestic and imported item on the CPI for Palau. As discussed in the explanatory notes, imported items make up the bulk of household expenditure, accounting for 57 percent in total, with the remaining 43 percent covering expenditure on domestic items.

Both Table 4 and Figure 7 show the change in the index for both groups since the re-base in June 2008. As can be seen from this analysis, during this period, imported items have increased by about 30 percent whilst domestic items have increased by approximately 12 percent.

Table 4: Palau CPI: Domestic v Imported Index, March 2009 – March 2017

Quarter	Domestic	Imported	TOTAL
Mar-09	101.6	101.9	101.8
Jun-09	100.8	102.8	101.9
Sep-09	100.3	104.8	102.9
Dec-09	99.6	104.7	102.5
Mar-10	100.9	105.6	103.6
Jun-10	101.8	106.2	104.3
Sep-10	102.3	105.6	104.2
Dec-10	100.3	104.8	102.9
Mar-11	100.2	106.6	103.9
Jun-11	103.9	111.5	108.2
Sep-11	109.1	111.6	110.5
Dec-11	108.0	114.7	111.8
Mar-12	108.2	115.1	112.1
Jun-12	107.1	116.3	112.4
Sep-12	107.0	116.4	112.4
Dec-12	108.0	117.1	113.2
Mar-13	109.8	118.0	114.5
Jun-13	112.3	120.8	117.1
Sep-13	112.2	119.8	116.5
Dec-13	112.2	120.8	117.1
Mar-14	114.9	124.9	120.6
Jun-14	115.2	125.4	121.0
Sep-14	115.0	125.5	121.0
Dec-14	115.6	127.0	122.1
Mar-15	115.6	132.6	125.3
Jun-15	108.6	131.2	121.5
Sep-15	110.1	129.8	121.4
Dec-15	110.2	129.4	121.1
Mar-16	111.1	127.4	120.4
Jun-16	111.1	127.8	120.4
Sep-16	111.5	129.6	121.8
Dec-16	111.4	129.4	121.6
Mar-17	111.8	130.0	122.2

Figure 7: Palau CPI, Index for Domestic v Imported Items, March 2009 – March 2017



Appendix 1: CPI Weights for Major Groups

Sub-group	Weight
TOTAL	**100.00**
Food and Beverages	**25.35**
Fish, fresh, frozen & canned	2.06
Meat, poultry & eggs	4.90
Fruit and vegetables	2.43
Cereal, bakery, sugar and confectionery	4.48
Fats and oils	0.50
Condiments, spices & nut products	0.75
Dairy products	1.79
Non-alcoholic beverages	2.57
Other food and food away from home	5.87
Alcohol, tobacco and betel nut	**17.52**
Tobacco products	5.44
Alcoholic beverages	9.75
Betel nut	2.33
Clothing and footwear	**1.62**
Clothing	1.42
Footwear	0.20
Housing	**6.91**
Household maintenance	4.49
Rent	2.09
Insurance and Other Housing	0.32
Household operations	**19.03**
Household utilities and fuels	9.16
Household appliances	1.77
Furniture and home furnishings	0.80
Household supplies	2.18
Toiletries	0.56
Household services	2.35
Household communications	2.21
Transportation	**16.77**
Motor fuel and oil	5.07
Motor vehicle and boat expenses	9.56
Other Transportation	2.14
Health, personal care, education and services	**9.29**
Health	3.54
Personal care	1.78
Education	2.78
Personal service	1.19
Leisure and entertainment	**3.52**
Leisure and sporting equipment	3.52

Appendix 2: Examples of Items Priced

Major Group	Examples of Items Priced
Food and Beverages	Fresh Fish, Frozen Chicken, Canned beef, Onions, Taro, Rice, Flour, Oil, Soya Sauce, Milk, Soft Drink, Coffee, Take-Away Meals
Alcohol, tobacco and betelnut	Cigarettes, Beer, Wine, Spirits, Betelnut
Clothing and footwear	Jeans, T-shirt, Shorts, Slippers, Sport Shoes
Housing	Lumber, Paint, Rent, Electricity Connection
Household operations	Electricty Bill, Water Bill, Refridgerator, Television, Mattress, Soap, Shampoo, Housekeeping, Telephone Charges
Transportation	Gasoline, Diesel, Car Hire, Airfare, Seafare
Health, personal care, education and services	Doctors visit, Scaling fee, Diapers, School Tuition, Haircut
Leisure and entertainment	Monthly Cable Fee, DVD rental