

# **Consumer Price Index Republic of Palau**

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018



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December 2018

**Office of Planning & Statistics**  
**Bureau of Budget and Planning**  
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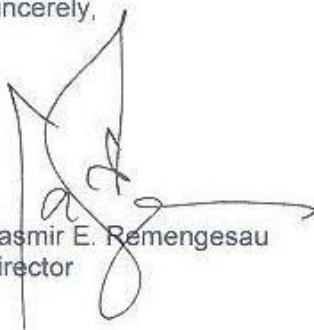
## Foreword

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

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# 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 twelve groups: Food and non-alcoholic beverages; Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics; Clothing and footwear; Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels; Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance; Health; Transport; Communication; Recreation and culture; Education; Restaurants and hotels; Miscellaneous goods and services. 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 third quarter of 2016.

## **Weighting of the CPI ‘Basket’**

The weighting is based on the results from the 2014 *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 twelve weighted groups is equal to 100. Each weight for a certain expenditure group represents the percentage of consumer expenditure on that expenditure group in 2014. For example, the weight for the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group in Palau is 23.62 percent; consequently, about 24 percent of the household expenditure in Palau is used for food and non-alcoholic 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 64 percent of the overall consumer spending, while domestic items make up around 36 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 by the previous quarter's index to generate the percent change between those two periods.

#### **Example (quarterly change)**

Reference Periods: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012 – 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Senior 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 2018 QTR 4**

### Summary of Quarterly Movement

The Palau quarterly inflation rate for this quarter is -0.1 percent; this is a -0.5 percentage point decrease on the equivalent quarterly inflation for the same period last year. The contributors to this decrease include Restaurant & Hotels group at -2.6%, Miscellaneous goods & services group at -1.4%, and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, & Other Fuels group at -0.5%. Groups that saw positive increases this quarter are Transport group at 0.9% and Clothing and footwear group at 0.7%. The remaining group; Food and non-alcoholic beverages, Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, & narcotics, Furnishings, household equipment, & routine household maintenance group, Health group, Communication group, Recreation & Culture group, and Education group saw 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 decreased by -0.8% while imported items increased by 0.4% 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 2.1 percent; this was a 0.7 percentage point increase on the annual inflation for the same period last year. The following groups that showed increases, are Transport group at 9.5%, Food & non-alcoholic beverages group at 2.8%, Housing, water, electricity, gas, & other fuels group and Health group both at 2.6%. Whereas, groups that showed decreases includes Recreation & culture group at -4.4%, Miscellaneous goods & services group at -3.8%, Restaurants & hotels group at -2.8% and Furnishings, household equipment, & routine household maintenance group at -1.4%. The remaining groups; Alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics group, Clothing & footwear group, Communication group, and Education group saw little or no annual price change.

The annual inflation rate can be further analyzed for both domestic and imported items (Table 4). Domestic items showed no price change while, imported items increased by 3.3% 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 and non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	Clothing and footwear	Housing, water, electricity and gas	Furnishings and household equipment	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and culture	Education	Restaurants and hotels	Miscellaneous goods and services
<b>Annual</b>													
2017	100.7	101.6	100.0	96.1	100.8	101.1	100.0	102.3	100.0	101.4	100.0	99.2	99.8
2018	102.9	105.6	99.7	97.1	103.7	99.5	102.0	108.9	99.6	99.0	100.0	97.1	97.7
<b>Quarter</b>													
Sep-16	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dec-16	99.7	99.9	99.6	95.6	100.0	101.1	100.0	100.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.2	97.4
Mar-17	100.5	101.5	99.8	95.6	100.6	101.4	100.0	101.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.2	100.0
Jun-17	100.6	100.6	100.0	95.8	100.9	100.8	100.0	103.1	100.0	102.3	100.0	99.2	99.2
Sep-17	100.7	101.1	100.0	96.5	100.8	101.3	100.0	102.4	100.0	101.6	100.0	99.2	99.2
Dec-17	101.1	103.0	100.0	96.5	100.8	100.8	100.0	101.9	100.0	101.6	100.0	99.2	100.8
Mar-18	101.8	103.4	99.5	97.9	103.5	99.5	100.2	105.9	100.1	99.7	100.0	96.4	97.4
Jun-18	103.1	107.3	99.5	97.7	103.9	99.5	102.6	107.3	99.0	101.9	100.0	96.4	98.2
Sep-18	103.3	106.0	100.0	96.00	103.5	100.0	102.6	110.7	99.7	97.1	100.0	99.0	98.3
Dec-18	103.2	105.9	100.0	96.6	103.4	99.3	102.6	111.6	99.6	97.1	100.0	96.4	96.9



## PALAU CPI – QUARTERLY CHANGE ANALYSIS, December 2016 – December 2018

### DECEMBER QUARTER KEY POINTS

#### ALL GROUPS CPI

- Decreased by -0.1 percent over the last quarter.

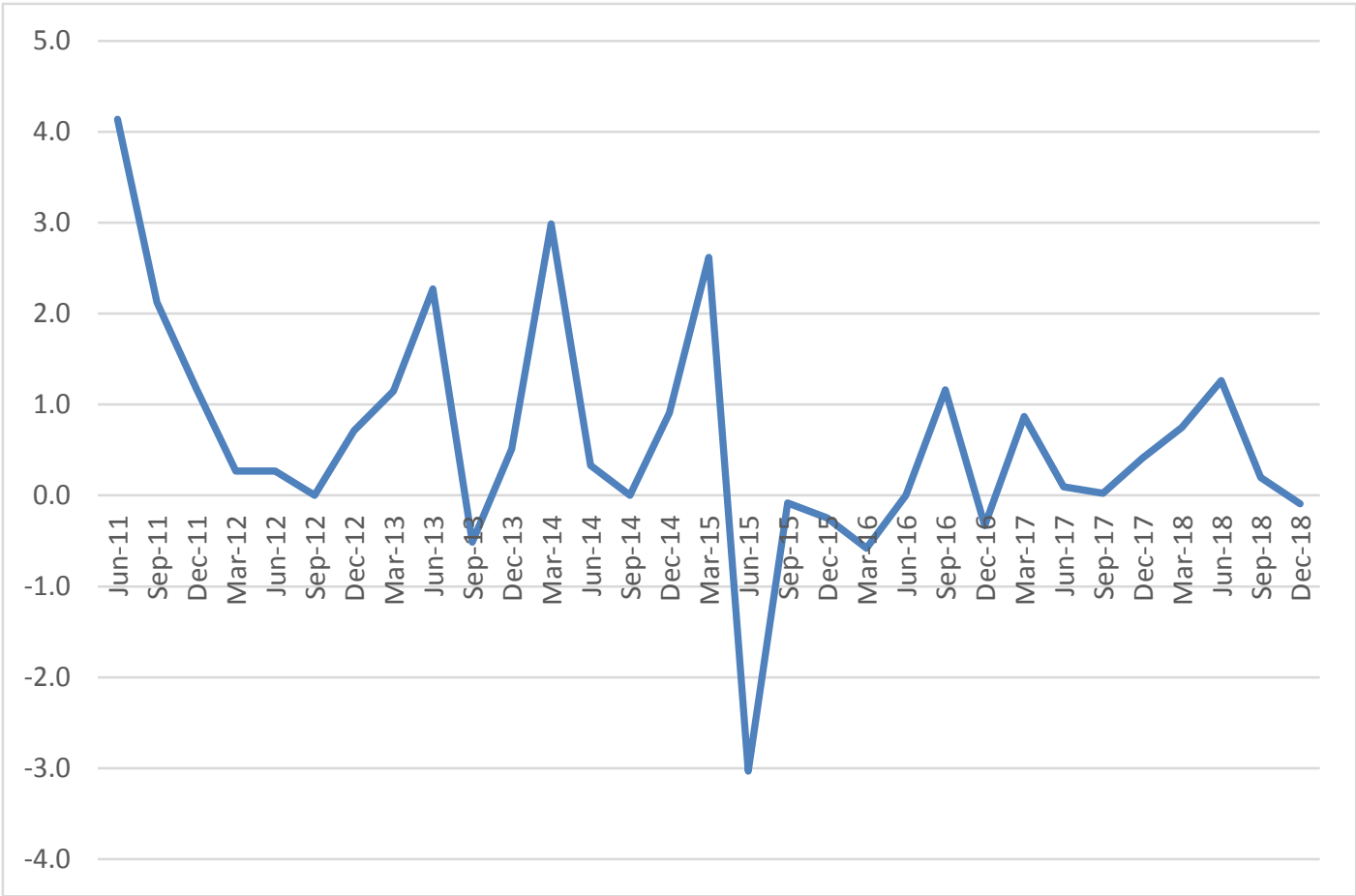
#### OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- Groups that saw significant price decrease include Restaurants and hotels group, Miscellaneous goods & services group, Housing, water, electricity, gas, & other fuels group. These changes were mainly due to price drop in cooked food, personal care products, and apartment rentals.

**Table 2: Palau CPI Quarterly Change by Major Group, December 2016 – December 2018**

Period	All groups	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and	Clothing and footwear	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	Furnishings, household equipment and	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and culture	Education	Restaurants and hotels	Miscellaneous goods and services
Dec-16	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-4.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-2.6
Mar-17	0.9	1.6	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7
Jun-17	0.1	-0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.7	0.0	1.4	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	-0.8
Sep-17	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dec-17	0.4	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
Mar-18	0.7	0.3	-0.5	1.5	2.7	-1.3	0.2	4.0	0.1	-1.9	0.0	-2.8	-3.4
Jun-18	1.3	3.8	0.0	-0.2	0.3	0.0	2.4	1.3	-1.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.9
Sep-18	0.2	-1.2	0.4	-1.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.6	-4.7	0.0	2.6	0.0
Dec-18	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.7	-0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-2.6	-1.4

**Figure 1: Palau CPI, Quarterly Change, All Groups, June 2011 – December 2018**



## PALAU CPI – ANNUAL CHANGE ANALYSIS, 2017 - 2018

### ALL GROUPS CPI

- Increased by 2.1% over the last 12 months.

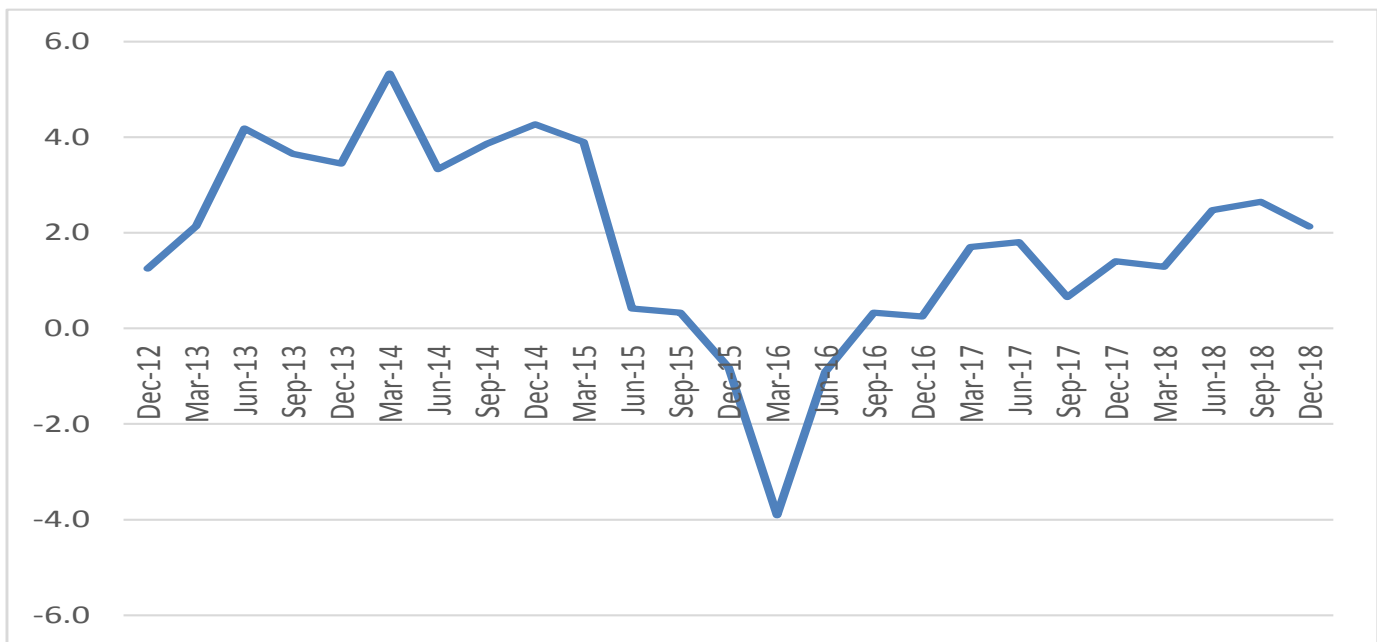
### OVERVIEW OF CPI MOVEMENTS

- The annual increase of 2.1 percent noticed for the last 12 months was largely driven by the increase in Transport group, Food and non-alcoholic beverages group, Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group, and Health group. Items that contributed the most to these groups' increases includes gasoline, rice, beef short ribs, utilities, over the counter medicine and dental service. Other contributing factors to these increases are marine plywood and tires & lubricants.

**Table 3: Palau CPI: Annual Change by Major Group, 2017 - 2018**

Period	All groups	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and	Clothing and footwear	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	Furnishings, household equipment and	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and culture	Education	Restaurants and hotels	Miscellaneous goods and services
Sep-17	0.7	1.1	0.0	-3.5	0.8	1.3	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.6	0.0	-0.8	-0.8
Dec-17	1.4	3.1	0.4	0.9	0.9	-0.3	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	3.4
Mar-18	1.3	1.8	-0.2	2.4	2.9	-1.9	0.2	4.1	0.1	-0.3	0.0	-2.8	-2.7
Jun-18	2.5	6.7	-0.5	2.0	3.0	-1.2	2.6	4.1	-1.0	-0.4	0.0	-2.8	-1.0
Sep-18	2.6	4.9	-0.1	-0.5	3.1	-1.8	2.6	8.1	-0.3	-4.4	0.0	-0.3	-0.9
Dec-18	2.1	2.8	0.0	0.2	2.6	-1.4	2.6	9.5	-0.4	-4.4	0.0	-2.8	-3.8

**Figure 2: Palau CPI, Annual Change, All Groups, December 2012 – December 2018**



## PALAU CPI – DOMESTIC V IMPORTED ITEM ANALYSIS

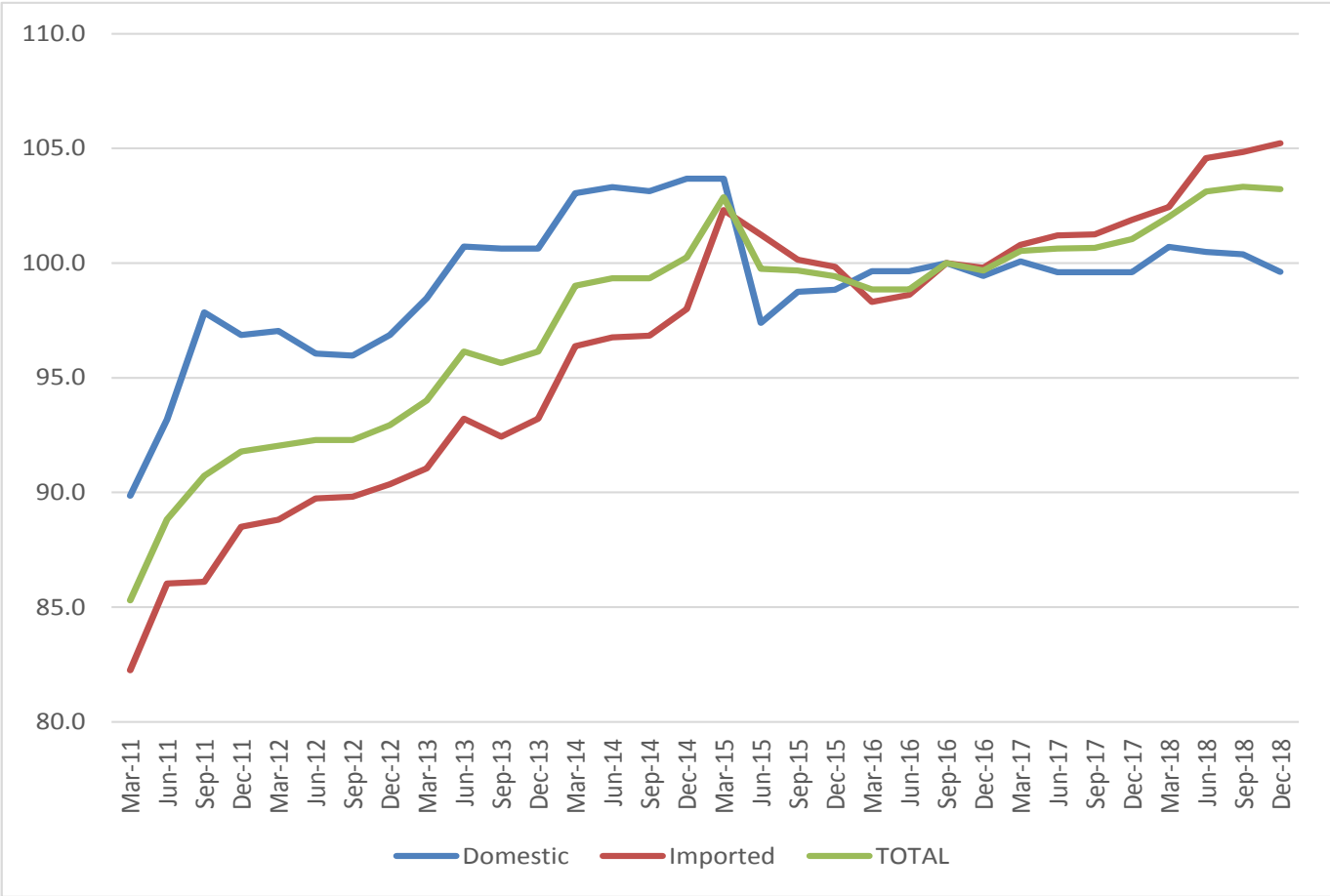
The final analysis section examines the impact of both domestic and imported item on the CPI for Palau. As discussed in the explanatory notes, imported items make up the bulk of household expenditure, accounting for 64 percent in total, with the remaining 36 percent covering expenditure on domestic items.

Both Table 4 and Figure 3 show the change in the index for both groups since the re-base in September 2016. As can be seen from this analysis, during this period, imported items have increased by about 3.3 percent while domestic items saw no price change.

**Table 4: Palau CPI: Domestic v Imported Index, March 2011 – December 2018**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Imported</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Mar-11	89.9	82.3	85.3
Jun-11	93.2	86.0	88.8
Sep-11	97.8	86.1	90.7
Dec-11	96.9	88.5	91.8
Mar-12	97.0	88.8	92.0
Jun-12	96.1	89.7	92.3
Sep-12	96.0	89.8	92.3
Dec-12	96.9	90.4	92.9
Mar-13	98.5	91.0	94.0
Jun-13	100.7	93.2	96.1
Sep-13	100.6	92.4	95.6
Dec-13	100.6	93.2	96.1
Mar-14	103.0	96.4	99.0
Jun-14	103.3	96.8	99.3
Sep-14	103.1	96.8	99.3
Dec-14	103.7	98.0	100.2
Mar-15	103.7	102.3	102.9
Jun-15	97.4	101.2	99.8
Sep-15	98.7	100.2	99.7
Dec-15	98.8	99.8	99.4
Mar-16	99.6	98.3	98.9
Jun-16	99.6	98.6	98.9
Sep-16	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dec-16	99.4	99.8	99.7
Mar-17	100.1	100.8	100.5
Jun-17	99.6	101.2	100.6
Sep-17	99.6	101.2	100.7
Dec-17	99.6	101.9	101.1
Mar-18	100.7	102.5	102.0
Jun-18	100.5	104.6	103.1
Sep-18	100.4	104.8	103.3
Dec-18	99.6	105.2	103.2

**Figure 3: Palau CPI, Index for Domestic v Imported Items, March 2011 – December 2018**



# Appendix 1: CPI Weights for Major Groups

Group	Weight
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages</b>	<b>23.62%</b>
01.1 Food	20.55%
01.2 Non- alcoholic beverages	3.07%
<b>02 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics</b>	<b>17.22%</b>
02.1 Alcoholic beverages	10.18%
02.2 Tobacco	5.97%
02.3 Narcotics	1.07%
<b>03 Clothing and footwear</b>	<b>4.37%</b>
03.1 Clothing	3.85%
03.2 Footwear	0.51%
<b>04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels</b>	<b>15.13%</b>
04.1 Actual rentals for housing	3.28%
04.3 Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	0.80%
04.4 Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	1.39%
04.5 Electricity, gas and other fuels	9.67%
<b>05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	<b>4.51%</b>
05.1 Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	0.41%
05.3 Household appliances	0.57%
05.4 Glassware, tableware and household utensils	0.42%
05.5 Tools and equipment for house and garden	0.30%
05.6 Goods and services for routine household maintenance	2.81%
<b>06 Health</b>	<b>1.79%</b>
06.1 Medical products, appliances and equipment	0.45%
06.2 Outpatient services	0.63%
06.3 Hospital services	0.71%
<b>07 Transport</b>	<b>15.70%</b>
07.2 Operation of personal transport equipment	13.43%
07.3 Transport services	2.27%
<b>08 Communication</b>	<b>5.03%</b>
08.1 Postal services	0.11%
08.2 Telephone and telefax equipment	0.21%
08.3 Telephone and telefax services	4.71%
<b>09 Recreation and culture</b>	<b>3.03%</b>
09.1 Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	0.49%
09.3 Other recreational items and equipment, gardens and pets	0.49%
09.4 Recreational and cultural services	1.43%
09.5 Newspapers, books and stationery	0.61%
<b>10 Education</b>	<b>1.82%</b>
10.1 Pre-primary and primary education	0.38%
10.2 Secondary education	0.44%
10.4 Tertiary education	0.99%
<b>11 Restaurants and hotels</b>	<b>3.24%</b>
11.1 Catering services	3.24%
<b>12 Miscellaneous goods and services</b>	<b>4.53%</b>
12.1 Personal care	3.09%
12.3 Personal effects n.e.c.	0.31%
12.6 Financial services n.e.c.	0.88%
12.7 Other Services n.e.c.	0.25%

## Appendix 2: Examples of items being priced

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<b>Major Group</b>	<b>Examples of Items Priced</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Fresh fish, Frozen chicken, Canned beef, Onions, Taro, Rice, Flour, Bread, Oil, Soya sauce, Milk, Egg, Soft drink, Coffee
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	Cigarettes, Beer, Wine, Spirits, Betelnut
Clothing and footwear	Jeans, T-shirt, Shorts, Sport shoes
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	Rent, Electricity bill, Water bill, LP Gas
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	Sofa set, Refrigerator, Washer, Laundry soap, Housekeeping services
Health	Pain reliever, Outpatient consultation fee, Physical exam fee
Transport	Gasoline, Diesel, Car hire, Airfare, Boat hire
Communication	Mobile phone, PO Box rental charge
Recreation and culture	Television set, Toys, Dog food, Cat food, Books
Education	Private school fee, College enrollment fee
Restaurants and hotels	Fried chicken take-out, Cheeseburger, Bento
Miscellaneous goods and services	Haircut, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Bath soap, Diapers, Toilet paper, Attorney's fee

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