

Consumer Price Index, March quarter 2018

Source: ABS 6401.0, released 24 April 2018, 11:30 am (AEST)

Key data

Headline^(a) CPI inflation change (quarterly):

Brisbane..... ↑ 0.1%

Australia^(b)..... ↑ 0.4%

Headline CPI inflation change (annual):

Brisbane..... ↑ 1.7%

Australia..... ↑ 1.9%

Market sector goods and services (core CPI) inflation change (Australia):

Quarter..... ↔ 0.0%

Annual..... ↑ 1.1%

(a) Headline CPI refers to All Groups.

(b) Australia refers to the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

Main findings

- Brisbane's headline consumer price index (CPI) increased 0.1% in March quarter 2018, to be 1.7% higher over the year. In annual terms, Brisbane recorded the sixth-largest increase while Canberra recorded the largest increase for all capital cities in Australia (see Table 1).
- Compared with the weighted average of eight capital cities for March quarter 2018, Brisbane recorded stronger contributions from the CPI groups of *Alcohol and tobacco* and *Insurance and financial services*. These were partly offset by detractions from the *Recreation and culture*, *Clothing and footwear* and *Furnishings, household equipment and services* groups (see Figure 1).
- For Brisbane, the *Health* group made the largest contribution to inflation in March quarter 2018 (0.07 of a percentage point). Within the *Health* group, *Pharmaceutical products* increased 6.2% in the quarter.
- For Brisbane, the *Recreation and culture* group recorded the largest detraction from inflation in March quarter 2018 (0.10 of a percentage point). Within the *Recreation and culture* group, *Audio, visual and computing media and services* decreased 6.6% in the quarter.
- Australia's CPI for market sector goods and services, which excludes more volatile items, remained steady in March quarter 2018, with an annual inflation rate of 1.1% (see Figure 2).

Table 1 Percentage change in the CPI

Capital city	March qtr 2018		December qtr 2017	
	Quarterly	Yearly	Quarterly	Yearly
Brisbane	0.1	1.7	0.8	1.9
Sydney	0.3	2.1	0.7	2.2
Melbourne	0.9	2.2	0.7	2.2
Adelaide	0.4	2.3	0.7	2.3
Perth	0.1	0.9	0.4	0.8
Hobart	0.7	2.0	1.0	2.1
Darwin	0.0	1.1	0.3	1.0
Canberra	0.8	2.4	0.6	2.2
Australia	0.4	1.9	0.6	1.9

Figure 1 Quarterly CPI contributions, by group, March quarter 2018

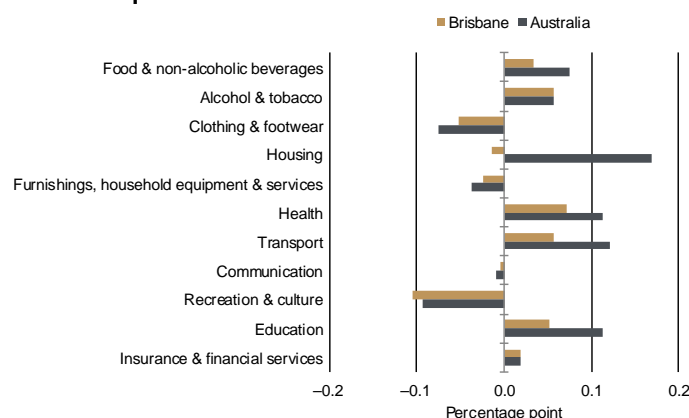


Figure 2 CPI annual change, Australia

