

## Transcript: Summary of consumers price index for the March 2019 quarter

Video, 01:28 min

See video in [Cigarette price rise offsets cheaper petrol](#), published 17 April 2019

**Visual:** Paul Pascoe, consumer prices senior manager, and Caroline White, statistical analyst, speaking to the camera.

**Audio (Paul):** The consumers price index rose 0.1 percent in the March 2019 quarter, led by rising cigarette and tobacco prices. Cigarettes and tobacco were up 9 percent in March, with the annual tobacco tax increase coming into effect on the first of January. With this, the government increased excise tax by a total of 11.9 percent, but not all suppliers passed on the full impact to customers.

**Audio (Caroline):** The average price for a pack of 25 cigarettes...

**Visual:** Dynamic line graph titled 'Cigarette prices up again' showing the price of a pack of 25 cigarettes at supermarkets or convenience stores from 2007 to 2019.

**Audio (Caroline)** ...has now reached \$37.48 – that's over two and a half times more than this time 10 years ago.

**Visual:** Caroline speaking to the camera.

**Audio (Caroline)** Excluding the rise for cigarettes and tobacco, inflation fell 0.1 percent in the March quarter.

**Visual:** Cars moving at an intersection, overlaid with text 'Petrol prices down 7.0 percent in the March 2019 quarter'.

**Audio (Paul):** The rise in cigarettes was slightly offset by a 7 percent fall in petrol prices. Lower prices in January and February have contributed to an overall lower average petrol price for the quarter, although prices have been rising over the March month. By the last week of March, the petrol pump price was 3.7 percent higher than the March quarter average.

**Visual:** Caroline speaking to the camera.

**Audio (Caroline):** Regionally, petrol prices in the North Island excluding Auckland and Wellington experienced the greatest fall over the quarter, down 7.7 percent, followed by Auckland, which was down 7.1 percent. This compares to a 6 percent fall in both Wellington and the South Island.

**Visual:** Airplane at a tarmac.

**Audio (Caroline):** Seasonal falls for international airfares also had an offsetting impact, down 12 percent in March.

**Visual:** Caroline speaking to the camera.

**Audio** (Caroline). International airfares typically fall in the March quarter, following rises in the peak December travel period.

Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa



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