

# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MALDIVES

Base Period = August 2019

MARCH 2020

TIME OF RELEASE: Tuesday 28th April 2020

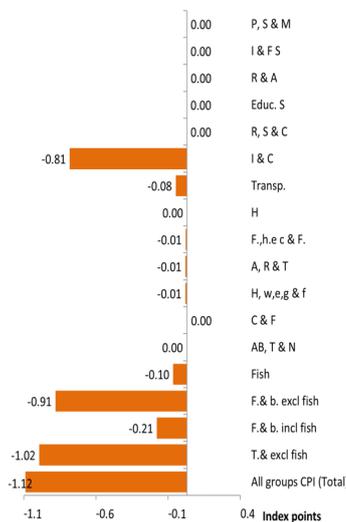
## All groups CPI Monthly change

(Mar 2019 to Mar 2020)



## Contribution to monthly change

(Feb 2020 to Mar 2020)



## KEY FIGURES

### Inflation rates : Republic

#### All groups CPI (Total)

	Feb 2020 to Mar 2020 % change	Mar 2019 to Mar 2020 % change
All groups CPI (Total)	-1.12	0.002
Food and non-alcoholic beverages incl fish	-0.92	3.62
Tobacco and Aracanuts	-0.12	-1.38
Clothing & footwear	0.03	-1.95
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	-0.05	1.10
Furnishing, household equip., Carpets & Other Floc	-0.15	-0.90
Health	0.00	0.24
Transport	-0.98	-0.43
Information & Communication	-8.15	-10.57
Recreation, Sports & culture	0.00	-0.75
Education Services	0.00	0.07
Restaurants and Accomodation services	0.02	4.22
Insurance and Financial Services	0.00	na
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous	0.01	-0.24

#### CPI analytical series

	Feb 2020 to Mar 2020 % change	Mar 2019 to Mar 2020 % change
Total excluding fish	-1.07	-0.10
Food and non-alcoholic beverages excl fish	-0.61	4.11
Fish	-2.24	9.81
Actual rentals for housing	-0.08	1.61

Note: Insurance and financial services is a new category in the COICOP 2018 adopted in CPI August 2019 onwards Hence, month on month (Mar2019– Mar2020) inflation rate is not available (na).

## KEY POINTS

The index reference period is August 2019 = 100 and the weight reference period = 2016. Please refer to [http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/nbs/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GuideToCPI\\_Maldives2019-Publication.pdf](http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/nbs/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GuideToCPI_Maldives2019-Publication.pdf)

### THE ALL GROUPS CPI

- The Consumer Price Index for all groups CPI fell by –1.12% in March 2020, compared to the rise of +0.001% in February 2020.
- The index for all items excluding fish fell by –1.07% in March 2020 compared to the fall of –0.15% in February 2020.
- The Consumer Price Index for all groups CPI rose by +0.002% through the year to March 2020, compared to the rise of +0.91% through the year to February 2020.

### OVERVIEW OF THE CPI MOVEMENTS

- The most significant price decrease in this month were from Mobile communication services (-15.18%), Fish (-2.24%), Vegetables (-3.34%), Fuels and Lubricants (-11.84%), Fruits (-0.95%), Meat (-1.41%), Furniture, furnishings and loose carpets (-0.90%), Actual rentals paid by tenants for main residence (-0.08%) and Milk, other dairy products and eggs (-0.29%).
- The most significant price increase in this month were from Food products (+1.41%).

## INQUIRIES

For further information about CPI and related statistics, please contact the National Bureau of Statistics at 3008433 or email:

info@stats.gov.mv

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<b>Issue (monthly)</b>	<b>Release date</b>
April 2020	25 May 2020
May 2020	29 June 2020
June 2020	27 July 2020
July 2020	31 August 2020

## ROUNDING

Any discrepancies between totals and sum of components in this publication are due to rounding.

## ABBREVIATIONS

NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
CPI	Consumer Price Index
n.e.c	not elsewhere classified
F & b. incl fish	Food & non-alcoholic beverages including fish
A b, t & n	Alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics
C. & f.	Clothing & footwear
H. w.,e.,g. & o.f	Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels
A, R & T	Actual Rentals paid by tenants
F.,h.e c & F.	Furnishing, household equip, & other floor coverings
H	Health
Transp.	Transport
I & C	Information & Communication
R, s & C	Recreation, sport & culture
Educ. S	Education services
R & A	Restaurants & accommodation services
I & F s	Insurance & financial services
P, s & m	Personal care, social protection & miscellaneous
IMF	International Monetary Fund

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Entire process from design to output was carried out with invaluable assistance from Ms. Aishath Shahuda, Ms. Sajida Ahmed and Ms. Aishath Hassan . All their valuable services and those involved in price collection, CPI compilation and providing data from the outlets are gratefully acknowledged. The overall design of this publication is based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Consumer Price Index publication. Weights were developed by Mr. Brian Graf with the assistance of Ms. Sajida Ahmed. The data entry setup was developed by Ms. Sajida Ahmed and Ms. Azmeela Hassan

This issue was prepared by Ms. Azmeela Hassan and Ms. Firsha Ahmed. The entire process of data validation, compilation and updating has been done in close collaboration with all the data providing outlets. Data collection, verification and compilation has been carried out by Ms. Aishath Hassan, Ms. Sajida Ahmed, Ms. Azmeela Hassan, Mr. Shahuleen Moosa, Mr. Nujoom Hassan, Ms. Firsha Ahmed, Mr. Ali Umar, Mr. Vishal Ahmed, Mr. Ahmed Adhuham and Ms. Fathimath Umaina. All those involved worked tirelessly to make this publication a reality. We thank all the outlets providing data for this work in Male', Hdh, Gdh, Gn and Addu city.

# MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO CHANGE

## CPI GROUPS

The discussion of the CPI groups below are ordered in terms of their absolute significance to the change in All groups index points for the month (see table1).

### CONTRIBUTION TO MONTHLY CHANGE

### TOTAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH, DISPLAYING ALL CPI GROUPS FOR REPUBLIC (February 2020 to March 2020)

CPI GROUPS	Republic	Male'	Atolls
ALL GROUPS CPI (Total)	-1.12	-1.08	-1.17
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INCL FISH	-0.21	-0.20	-0.21
TOBACCO AND ARACANUT	0.00	0.00	0.00
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	-0.01	-0.02	0.00
FURNISHING HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENTS, CARPETS, AND OTHER FLOOR COVERINGS	-0.01	-0.02	0.00
Health	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transport	-0.08	-0.11	-0.04
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	-0.81	-0.73	-0.92
RECREATION, SPORT AND CULTURE	0.00	0.00	0.00
EDUCATION SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00
PERSONAL CARE, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00



## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

(-8.15%)

The Information and communication group fell by –8.15% in March 2020. The main contributor to this fall was the decrease in \*unit price of mobile phone services used by consumers (-15.18%) as free data was provided to consumers due to Covid-19.

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Information and communication group fell by –10.57%.

*Note: \*The total amount paid and total units consumed by different subscribers for voice, sms and data is used to calculate prices of mobile services. Thus, the weighted average amount paid per unit of mobile services is used to monitor the changes in price. Refer to <http://statistics.maldives.gov.mv/nbs/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Review-of-the-Consumer-Price-Index-2019-Base-Period-August-2019.pdf>*

## MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO CHANGE

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FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
(-0.92%)

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group fell by -0.92% in March 2020. The main contributor to this fall was the decrease in prices of onion (-18.12%), tuna (-3.86%), lime (-9.59%), smoked fish (-4.23%), frozen chicken (-1.80%), young coconut (-15.47%), eggs (-2.91%), potatoes (-4.49%), apples (-2.49%), oranges (-5.56%) and reef fish (-4.07%). This fall was partially offset by the increase in prices of breadfruit (+50.00%), green chilly (+5.97%), ginger (+9.89%), githeyo mirus (+4.10%), and carrot (+2.31%).

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group rose by +3.62%.

FISH  
(-2.24%)

The Fish group fell by -2.24% in March 2020. The main contributor to this fall was the decrease in price of tuna (-3.86%), Smoked fish (-4.23%) and Reef fish (-4.07%).

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Fish group rose by +9.81%.

TRANSPORT  
(-0.98%)

The Transport group fell by -0.98% in March 2020. The main contributor to this fall was the decrease in price of petrol (-14.01%).

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Transport group fell by -0.43%.

HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS  
(-0.05%)

The Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group fell by -0.05% in March 2020. The main contributor to this fall was the decrease in price of three bedroom apartment rent (-0.32%).

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group rose by +1.10%.

FURNISHING HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENTS. CARPETS, AND OTHER FLOOR COVERINGS  
(-0.15%)

The Furnishing household equipment, carpets and other floorings group fell by -0.15% in March 2020. Main contributor to this fall was the decrease in price of Wardrobe (-3.84%)

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Furnishing household equipment, carpets and other floorings group fell by -0.90%.

TOBACCO AND ARACANUT  
(-0.12%)

Tobacco and aracanut group fell by -0.12% in March 2020.

Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Tobacco and aracanut group fell by -1.38%.

## MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO CHANGE

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HEALTH  
(0.00%)

The Health group remained unchanged in March 2020.  
Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Health group rose by +0.24%.

INSURANCE AND  
FINANCIAL SER-  
VICES  
(+0.00%)

The Insurance and financial services group remained unchanged in March 2020.

EDUCATION  
SERVICES  
(+0.00%)

The Education services group remain unchanged in March 2020.  
Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Education services group rose by +0.07%.

RECREATION,  
SPORT AND  
CULTURE  
(+0.00%)

The Recreation, sport and culture group remain unchanged in March 2020.  
Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Recreation, sport and culture group fell by -0.75%.

PERSONAL CARE,  
SOCIAL PROTEC-  
TION AND MISCEL-  
LANEOUS GOODS  
AND SERVICES  
(+0.01%)

The Personal care social protection and miscellaneous goods and services group rose by +0.01% in March 2020.  
Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Personal care social protection and miscellaneous goods and services group fell by -0.24%.

RESTAURANTS  
AND ACCOMMO-  
DATION  
SERVICES  
(+0.02%)

The Restaurants and accommodation services group rose by +0.02% in March 2020.  
Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Restaurants and accommodation services group rose by +4.22%.

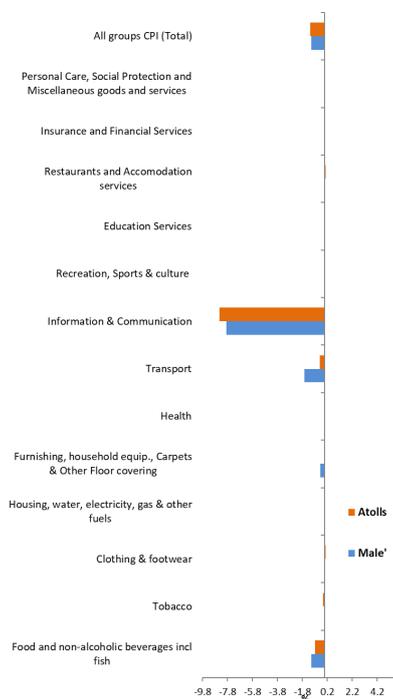
CLOTHING AND  
FOOTWEAR  
(+0.03%)

The Clothing and footwear group rose by +0.03% in March 2020.  
Over the twelve months until March 2020, the Clothing and footwear group fell by -1.95%.

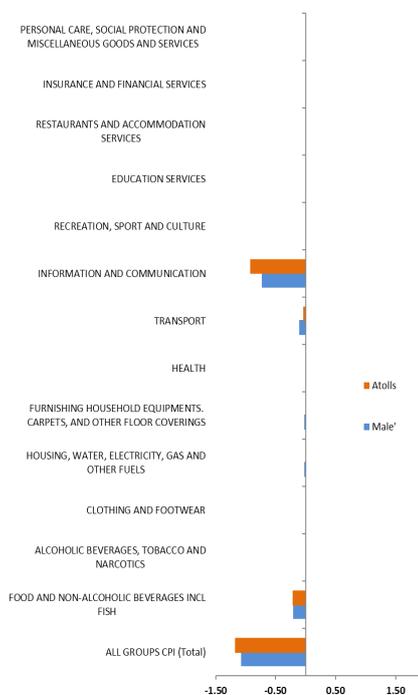
# COMPARISON BETWEEN MALE' AND ATOLLS

## ALL GROUPS CPI

Total percentage change from previous month, displaying all CPI groups for Male' & Atolls,



## Contribution to monthly change, Male' & Atolls (Feb 2020 to Mar 2020)



## Inflation rates : Male' & Atolls

Feb 2019 to Mar 2020

	% change	
	Male'	Atolls
<b>All groups CPI (Total)</b>	<b>-1.08</b>	<b>-1.17</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages incl fish	-1.08	-0.78
Tobacco and Aracanuts	-0.07	-0.15
Clothing & footwear	0.00	0.06
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	-0.06	-0.01
Furnishing, household equip., Carpets & Other Floor covering	-0.35	0.02
Health	0.00	0.00
Transport	-1.64	-0.38
Information & Communication	-7.91	-8.43
Recreation, Sports & culture	0.00	0.00
Education Services	0.00	0.00
Restaurants and Accommodation services	0.00	0.06
Insurance and Financial Services	0.00	0.00
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous	0.03	0.00
<b>CPI analytical series</b>		
Total excluding fish	-1.00	-1.15
Food and non-alcoholic beverages excl fish	-0.63	-0.60
Fish	-3.20	-1.48
Actual rentals for housing	-0.08	-0.08

CPI rose at the All Group Levels in Male' by -1.08 and fell in Atolls by -1.17% in March 2020. (See table 2 & 3).

In Male' the most significant negative contributor was Information and communication group which was recorded at -7.91% due to the decrease in price of per unit usage charge of Mobile phone services by consumers (-15.18%). This fall was caused by the free data provided in the month of March due to Covid-19.

For Male' the largest positive contributor was Personal care social protection and miscellaneous goods and services group which was recorded at +0.03% due to the increase in price of Diapers/ Nappy(+0.46%).

For Atolls the largest negative contributor was Information and communication group which was recorded at -8.43% due to the decrease in price of per unit usage charge of Mobile phone services by consumers (-15.18%). This fall was caused by the free data provided in the month of March due to Covid-19.

For Atolls the largest positive contributor was Clothing group which was recorded at +0.06% due to the increase in price of Sports uniform (+8.00%).

# MONTH ON MONTH COMPARISON BETWEEN REPUBLIC, MALE' AND ATOLLS

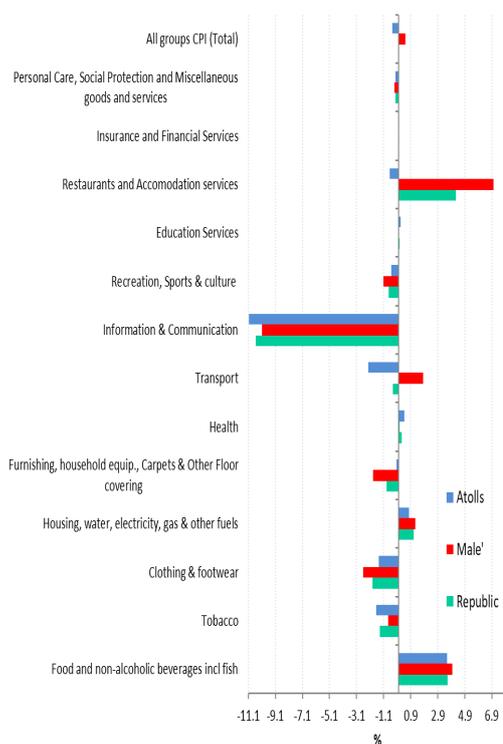
Mar 2019 to Mar 2020

## Inflation rates : Republic, Male' & Atolls

	% change		
	Republic	Male'	Atolls
All groups CPI (Total)	0.002	0.49	-0.46
Food and non-alcoholic beverages incl fish	3.62	3.96	3.57
Tobacco and Aracanuts	-1.38	-0.78	-1.68
Clothing & footwear	-1.95	-2.61	-1.47
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	1.10	1.24	0.75
Furnishing, household equip., Carpets & Other Floor covering	-0.90	-1.90	-0.17
Health	0.24	0.00	0.40
Transport	-0.43	1.81	-2.24
Information & Communication	-10.57	-10.09	-11.09
Recreation, Sports & culture	-0.75	-1.12	-0.53
Education Services	0.07	0.05	0.15
Restaurants and Accomodation services	4.22	7.02	-0.67
Insurance and Financial Services	na	na	na
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous goods and services	-0.24	-0.31	-0.23
<b>CPI analytical series</b>			
Total excluding fish	-0.10	0.45	-0.70
Food and non-alcoholic beverages excl fish	4.11	4.76	3.64
Fish	9.81	2.27	15.19
Actual rentals for housing	1.61	1.69	0.06

*Note: Insurance and financial services is a new category in the COICOP 2018. adopted in CPI August 2019 onwards Hence, month on month (Dec2018– Nov2019) inflation rate is not available (na).*

## TOTAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM MONTH ON MONTH, DISPLAYING ALL CPI GROUPS FOR REPUBLIC, MALE' AND ATOLLS (February2019 to February2020)



Month on month CPI rose at the All Group Levels for the Republic by +0.002% while in Male' it rose by +0.49% and in atolls, it fell by -0.46%.

Price change in most of the major groups for Republic, Male' and the Atolls showed a similar pattern as they tend to move in the same direction with the exception of Transport and Restaurants and Accommodation services group.

At Republic level most significant positive contributor to the rise was Fish group (+9.81%). The most negative contributor to was Information and Communication group (-10.57%).

In Male' most significant positive contributor to the rise was Restaurants and Accommodation services group (+7.02%). The most negative contributor to this fall was Information and Communication group (-10.09%).

In Atolls most significant positive contributor to the rise was Fish group (+15.19%). The most negative contributor was Information and Communication group (-11.09%).

# COMPARISON BETWEEN MALE' AND ATOLLS

## ALL GROUPS CPI

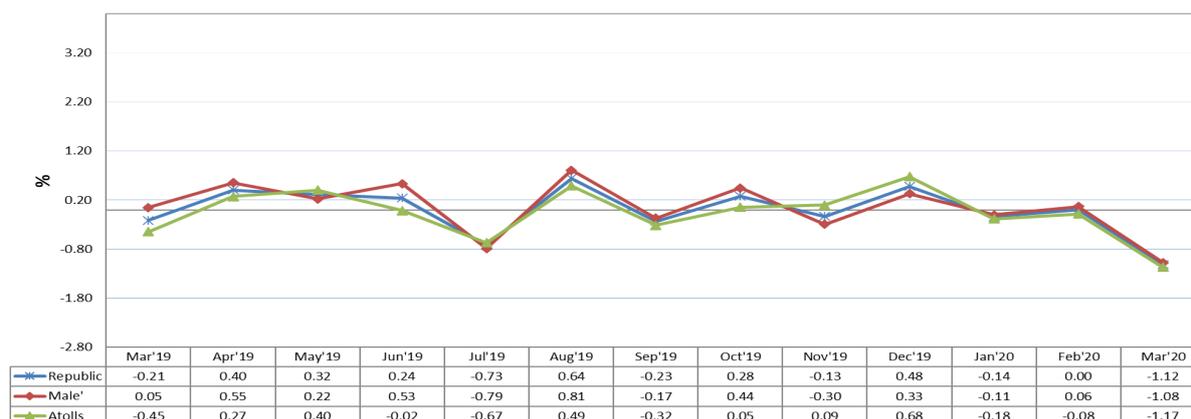
### ALL GROUPS CPI, All groups index numbers and percentage changes

	Index number (a)	Percentage change	
	Mar-20	Feb 2020 to Mar 2020	Mar 2019 to Mar 2020
Republic	99.13	-1.12	0.00
Male'	99.18	-1.08	0.49
Atolls	99.07	-1.17	-0.46

(a) Base of each index: Aug 2019=100

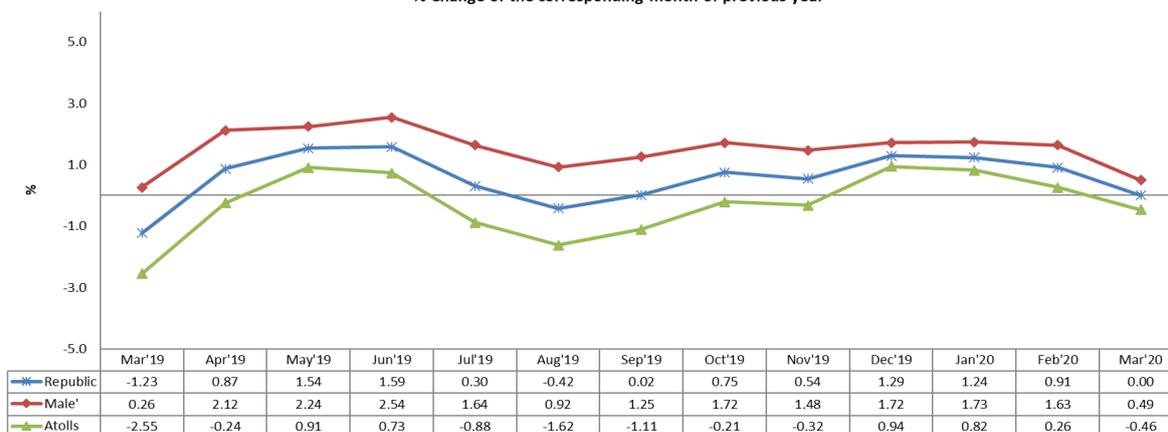
### PERCENTAGE CHANGES (from previous month)

Monthly Inflation Rates  
(compared to previous month)



### PERCENTAGE CHANGES (from corresponding month of previous year)

Month on Month  
% Change of the corresponding month of previous year



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