

Transcript: Food price index for March 2018

Video, 1:04 min

See video in [Vegetable prices bolt in March](#), published 16 April 2018

Visual: Matt Haigh speaking to camera

Onscreen text: Matt Haigh, Consumer Prices Manager

Audio: Food prices rose 1.0 percent in the month to March, and it was all about vegetables. Vegetable prices rose 11 percent, and that was all down to the very poor weather we've had in February and March. So we had wet humid conditions and Cyclone Gita hitting supply, and that has pushed prices up for a range of vegetables. So, the main contributor this time around was tomato prices.

Visual: Close up of crates of tomatoes

Onscreen text: Tomatoes up 60 percent to \$4.65 a kg

Audio: Tomato prices rose 60 percent in March, up to \$4.65 for a kilo, and that's the weighted average price across the country.

Visual: Time series graph showing the changing price of tomatoes from 2006 to 2008

Onscreen text: Tomato prices are typically higher in winter and lower in summer

Audio: Tomato prices do tend to rise in autumn, but this year it's happened earlier than normal with the wet weather. And when tomato prices rise, it does hit the overall results, because Kiwis spend a lot of money on tomatoes – over \$164 million in the latest year.

Visual: People selling and buying produce at an outdoor market on a sunny day; then back to Matt Haigh speaking.

Onscreen text: Matt Haigh, Consumer Prices Manager

Audio: Tomato and lettuce prices do tend to rise around about this time of year, though we've also seen price increases for a range of other vegetables, in particular, broccoli. So broccoli is up over \$8 a kilo at the moment; this time last year it was under \$5 a kilo.

Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa



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