RMI
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

1ST QUARTER 2019
Majuro CPI fell by -0.49 percent in the 4th quarter 2019.

The quarterly Majuro Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by -0.59 percent after a rise of 0.28 percent in the previous quarter.

Three of the CPI’s nine groups made a downward contribution which came from Food, Transportation, and Apparel group. Food group showed a downward trend of -1.56 percent compared to a 0.49 percent increase in the 4th quarter. Transportation group showed a downward trend of -2.31 percent compared to a -0.38 percent decrease in the previous quarter. Apparel group also showed a decreased trend of -0.40 percent in the 1st quarter compared to 2.82 percent increase in the previous quarter.

Housing utilities and major appliances went upward by 0.17 percent in the 1st quarter but during previous quarter the price movements remained unchanged. Recreation group went upward by 4.59 percent in the 1st quarter but during previous quarter the price movements remain unchanged. Other goods and services increased by 2.82 percent compared to 0.39 percent increase in the previous quarter.

Other groups, such as Alcoholic Beverage, medical care, and education groups remain unchanged in the 1st quarter 2019.

### Food Group
The main individual downward contribution came from the lower prices of the following food items in this quarter:

- Rice down 0.07 percent
- Flour down 0.01 percent
- Canned luncheon meat down 0.06 percent
- Coffee down 0.09 percent

### Apparel Group
Apparel group recorded lower prices of two main downward contributions in this quarter. The following came from the individual items:

- Shirts (men’s or women’s) down 0.03 percent
- Other women’s and girls’ clothing down 0.20 percent
- Zorries down 0.02 percent

### Transportation Group
The main source of decrease in this group came from the price of gasoline per gallon.

- Gasoline down 0.08 percent

### Housing Utilities and Major appliance group
The main source of increase in this group came from the price of washing machine

- Washing machine up 0.09 percent

### Recreation Group
This group recorded two high prices of the increase contribution in this quarter.

- Video rentals up 0.11 percent
- Television up 0.17 percent

### Other goods and services group
The main contribution of this upward trend came from Cigarettes.

- Cigarettes up 0.05 percent

### Other Groups
The following groups remain unchanged in the 1st quarter 2019:

- Alcoholic Beverage
- Medical care
- Education and Communication
Ebeye Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell by -1.45 percent in the 1st quarter compared to -0.16 percent decrease in the previous quarter. The main driver of this downward trend came from food group. Five of Ebeye CPI’s nine groups made a positive increase in the 1st quarter in 2019.

Food group recorded -4.20 percent in the 1st quarter compared to -0.66 percent decrease in the previous quarter.

Alcoholic beverages made a positive contribution in the CPI which it recorded 1.59 percent in 1st quarter compared to 5.12 percent increase in the previous quarter. Housing utilities and major appliances increased by 1.23 percent in this quarter but during 4th quarter the price movements remain unchanged. Apparel also increased price index by 0.71 percent in this quarter compared to 4.25 percent increase in the previous quarter. Transportation group went upward by 0.32 percent increase in this quarter compared to -0.61 percent decreases in the previous quarter. Other goods and services group increased by 7.35 percent in this quarter compared to -0.42 percent decrease in the previous quarter.

### Food Group
Food prices went downward by -4.20 percent in this quarter compared to -0.66 percent in the previous quarter. The following food items are contributing to the downward trend in the food group:
- Rice down 0.10 percent
- Canned corn beef down 0.02 percent
- Chicken legs down 0.06 percent
- Coffee down 0.03 percent
- Whole chicken down 0.12

### Alcoholic Beverage
Alcoholic group went upward by 1.59 percent in the 1st quarter compared to 5.12 percent increased in the previous quarter. The main source of increase came from this item:
- Beer up 0.02 percent

### Housing utilities and major appliances group
The main upward contribution came from the higher price of Refrigerator.
- Refrigerator up 0.56 percent

### Apparel group
Apparel group went upward by 0.71 percent in this quarter CPI compared to 4.25 percent increased in the previous quarter.
- Sandals up 0.22 percent

### Transportation group
Transportation group went upward 0.32 percent compared to -0.61 percent falls in the previous quarter. The price of gasoline went upward $7.00 in the 1st quarter compared to $6.95 in the previous quarter
- Gasoline up 0.01 percent

### Other goods and services group
This group recorded the highest price movement in the 1st quarter 2019. The price index for this quarter went upward by 7.35 percent increase compared to -0.42 percent decreased in the previous quarter. The main source of increase came from this item below:
- Tooth paste up 0.22 percent

### Other Groups
The following groups experienced no price change during 1st quarter 2019.
- Medical Care
- Recreation
- Education and communication
Majuro-Ebeye Comparison

As illustrated in the chart below, the trends continue with the average prices of commonly purchased goods remaining higher in Ebeye compared to Majuro over the 4th quarter of 2018 and 1st quarter of 2019. In the 4th quarter, the cost of common goods totaled $139 in Majuro; whereas, in Ebeye, the same basket of goods cost $175 (0.26 percent difference). The average price of commonly purchased goods cost $138 in Majuro in the 1st quarter while Ebeye the same basket of goods cost $173 (0.26 percent difference) in the 1st quarter 2019.

The comparison chart below shows a decreasing trend of 1 percent in Majuro over the 4th and 1st quarters while Ebeye shows 2 percent decrease during this period. The average prices of common goods such as rice, flour, canned meat, and frozen meat went downward 1 percent in Majuro during 1st quarter while the average prices for the same basket of goods went downward 2 percent in Ebeye during 1st quarter 2019.