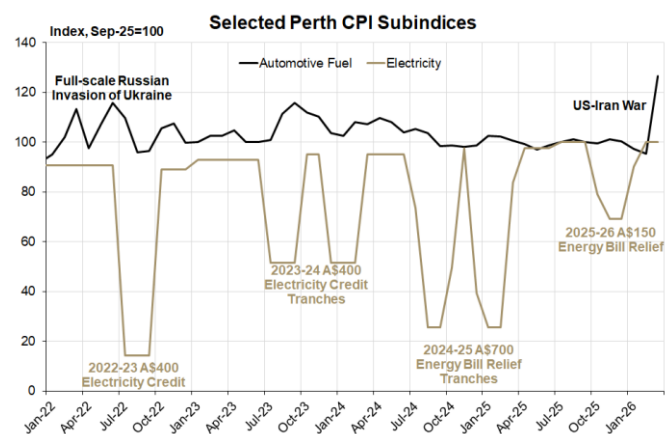
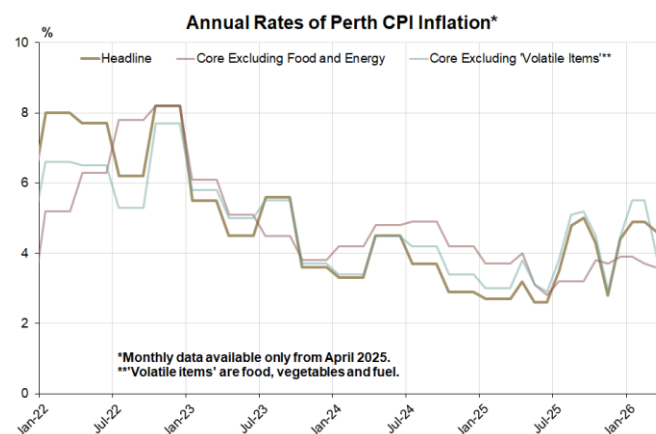


Western Australian Data Highlights

- The Perth [CPI](#) rose by 1.2% in March, to be up by 4.6% through the year.
- Western Australian [employment](#) rose by 8.5k in March, while the unemployment rate was steady at a low 4.2%.
- According to Cotality, Perth home prices picked up by 2.1% in April and 26.0% over the year.
- On 24 April 2026, WATC issued a [new green benchmark bond](#) maturing on 24 October 2039.

Perth CPI – March 2026

- The Perth CPI rose by 1.2% in March, while the annual rate of headline CPI inflation declined by 0.3ppts to 4.6%. The pace of annual consumer price growth in Perth was the same as the weighted average of the eight Australian capital cities, despite the relatively strong performance of the State's economy and labour market. It also remains well below its peak from 2022.
- The strongest annual gain in consumer prices, of 25.7%, was recorded for automotive fuel, which reflected a rise in global prices amid supply disruptions due to the war between the US and Iran that started in late February.
- While significant, the annual rise in fuel prices was much smaller than the 45.0% YoY increase recorded in March 2022, shortly after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and the re-opening of the Australian economy after COVID-19 restrictions. The March increase in automotive fuel prices preceded a three-month cut in the Australian fuel excise in early April.
- Electricity prices saw the second strongest increase in annual terms (19.2%), though this was caused by base effects from the timing of the most recent Commonwealth government energy bill relief measures.
- On the other side of the ledger, there was a strong 13.5% YoY decline in urban transport fares due to the introduction of a flat fare rate in Perth on 1 January, in an attempt to promote public transport in the city.
- The annual rate of core inflation excluding food and energy declined to a six-month low of 3.6% in March, while inflation excluding 'volatile items' (fruit, vegetables and automotive fuel) dropped to 3.9%, a level unseen since November 2025.
- From the analytical series, annual goods price inflation, which includes both automotive fuel and electricity, picked up to 4.8%, but services price inflation dropped to 4.6%. Discretionary items saw a 0.2ppts decline in the annual rate of inflation to 3.4%, while the equivalent for essential items registered a 0.4ppts decline to 5.5% despite including fuel and electricity.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Interest Rates (%)			FX and Equities		
RBA Cash Rate Target	4.10	(0 pt)	AUD/USD	0.7201	(↑4.4%)
90-Day Bank Bills	4.37	(↑7 pt)	AUD/JPY	112.77	(↑3%)
3-year Australian Government Bond	4.76	(↑11 pt)			
10-year Australian Government Bond	5.06	(↑9 pt)	ASX200	8666	(↑184 pt)

Market Summary

- There was no RBA Monetary Policy Board meeting in April, but a 25bps increase in the cash rate is around 70% priced in for the May meeting. Markets continue to expect somewhat over 50bps of tightening from the RBA in 2026.
- The expectation for more cash rate increases from the RBA, along with concerns over the impacts of high oil prices on global inflation and the monetary policy outlook, pushed Australian Government bond yields up slightly further in April, though the increase was more measured than in the previous month. However, easing market tensions saw WATC spreads to Commonwealth bond yields decline somewhat across the yield curve.
- The improving market sentiment, along with RBA monetary policy tightening expectations and high prices for some commodities, helped the Australian dollar bounce back in April, following its depreciation in the previous month as a result of the escalation of the Middle East conflict. The AUD/USD reached its highest level since mid-2022 towards the end of April, while the AUD/JPY climbed to a new three-decade high before declining late in the month as a result of hawkish messaging from the Bank of Japan and foreign exchange intervention at the turn of April and May.
- The Australian equity market picked up in April, but remained 5.8% down from its record high reached in early March.

WATC Benchmark Bond Yields				
Maturity	Yield 30/4/2026	Spread to AGS 30/4/2026		
21 October 2027	4.85 (↑8 pt)	+8 pt (↓3 pt)		
20 July 2028	4.92 (↑9 pt)	+16 pt (0 pt)		
24 July 2029	4.98 (↑9 pt)	+23 pt (0 pt)		
22 October 2030	5.07 (↑8 pt)	+28 pt (↓1 pt)		
22 October 2031	5.14 (↑7 pt)	+29 pt (↓2 pt)		
21 July 2032	5.19 (↑6 pt)	+33 pt (↓4 pt)		
20 July 2033	5.27 (↑4 pt)	+36 pt (↓4 pt)		
24 October 2034	5.45 (↑4 pt)	+47 pt (↓2 pt)		
24 October 2035	5.49 (↑4 pt)	+46 pt (↓3 pt)		
21 October 2037	5.69 (↑5 pt)	+57 pt (↓6 pt)		
24 October 2039	5.80 (-)	+60 pt (-)		
23 July 2041	5.92 (↑5 pt)	+62 pt (↓12 pt)		

