



## ATO End-of-Year Office Closure and Systems Availability

#### **Holiday Closure Period**

The ATO's offices, phone support services and customer response on social media pages will be unavailable during the annual closure.

The closure will start at noon local time Wednesday 24 December 2025. Normal services will resume at 8:00 am local time on Friday 2 January 2026.

#### **System Maintenance**

ATO online services and the ato.gov.au website will be available with no planned outages or system maintenance in this year's closure.

#### **Online Services Help**

If you are experiencing technical difficulties when accessing or using ATO's online services, refer to their self-help web content.

If you require assistance for system functionality or advice, you can find user guides and instructions at ATO online services.

#### **Small Business Superannuation Clearing House**

Key dates you need to be aware of for the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House (SBSCH):

- Wednesday 10 December 2025 5:30 pm AEDT all super payments with instructions received after this date will be processed from Friday 2 January 2026.
- Wednesday 28 January 2026 super guarantee (SG) quarterly payments are due.
- Wednesday 1 July 2026 the SBSCH will close permanently. Encourage your clients to consider alternatives ahead of the closure.

Source: ATO



# Inflation Continues to Rise, Dashing Hopes of Interest Rate Cuts

Inflation continues to inch upwards in Australia, driven by surging house prices, and quashing hopes of near-term interest rate reductions.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released its monthly consumer price index (CPI) for October on Wednesday, showing that both headline CPI and trimmed mean inflation continue to trend upward.

Headline CPI rose 3.8% in the 12 months leading up to October 2025, up from 3.6% in September. Trimmed mean monthly inflation — which strips out goods with volatile prices changes — was 3.3% during the same time period, up from 3.2% in September.

The largest contributor to annual inflation was housing, up 5.9% in the year leading up to October, up from 4.7% in September. Annual services inflation was 3.9%, up from 3.5% in the year leading up to September, driven by rent, which was 4.2%, up from 3.8% the month before.

New dwelling prices grew to 1.7% in the year leading up to October, up from 1.5% in September, driven by fewer promotional offers and rising base rates from home builders.

By national capitals, Brisbane had the highest inflation rates, up 5.2% in October, followed by Perth, up 4.3%. Housing was also the biggest culprit by city. Housing inflation in Brisbane grew 12.4%, followed by 7.9% in Perth.

#### **Hopes Dashed for Near-Term Interest Rate Relief**

Markets were dismayed last month when the ABS released its quarterly inflation metrics, showing that inflationary pressures had reached their highest levels since December 2022.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has cut the official cash rate three times so far in 2025. But the central bank has repeatedly made clear that it would not ease rates further until inflation was back within the central bank's target range of 2% to 3%.

September's quarterly figures showed inflation was moving in the opposite direction. That's disappointing news for mortgage holders, many of whom were hoping for some added relief amid Australia's persistent cost-of-living pressures.

Now, with the latest data in hand, market players are even more convinced that rates will likely stay put for the remainder of the year, and possibly well into the next.

Source: Broker News



# The team at Accountplan is taking a well earned break over Christmas

### Our office will close on Friday 19th December and reopen Monday 5th January

maflip.com

07 3883 8999
reception@accountplan.com.au
58 Klingner Rd Redclffe Qld 4020 www.accountplan.com.au

Accountplan Taxation and Financial Services Pty Ltd (ABN79609101037) is a registered Tax Agent 25383204

Accountplan Finance Solutions Pty Ltd (ABN22614700775) and Mick Doyle are credit representatives 495434 & 495495 of BLSSA Pty Ltd, ACN117651760 (Australian Credit Licence 391237).

Accountplan Financial Planning Pty Ltd (ABN 48 609 100 978) is a Corporate Authorised Representative of RI Advice Group Pty Ltd (ABN 23 001 774 125; AFSL 238429)