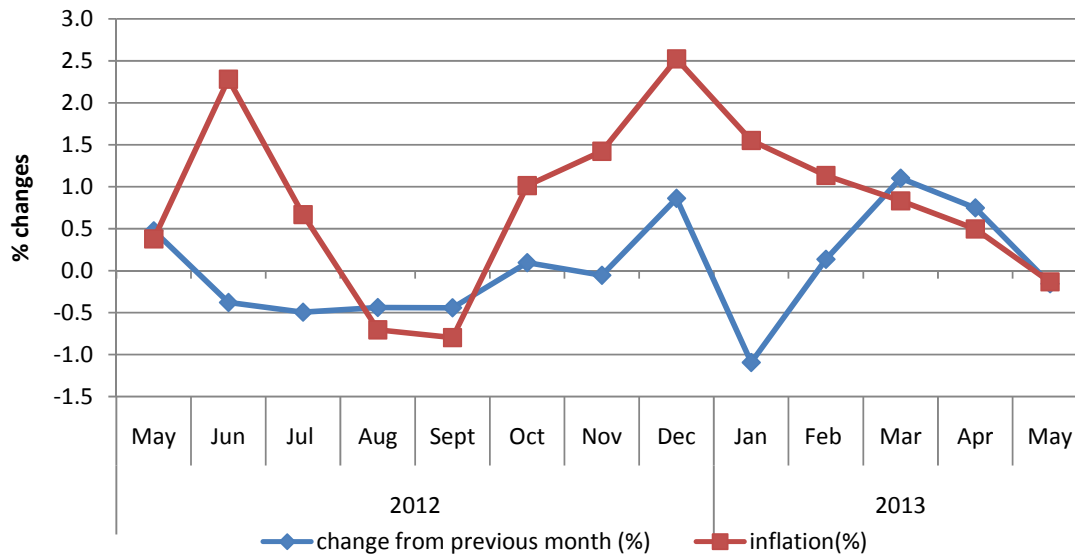




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for May 2013 recorded a decrease of 0.2%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of -0.1%

Consumer Price index: May 2012- May 2013.
Inflation (%) and change from previous month (%)



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for May 2013 recorded a decrease of **0.2%** over April 2013 (**107.1**) and now stands at **107.0**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **0.6%** while import index decreased by **0.7%**. From the previous two months, March 2013 recorded an increase of **1.1%** while April 2013 also increased by **0.7%**.

The **Annual Rate of Inflation for May 2013 was -0.1%** (Deflation) compared to **0.5%** in the previous month. This is the first Deflation since September 2012 (**-0.8**). The annual inflation for the same month of previous year, May 2012 was **0.4%**. Local Index marked no change while Imported Index was decrease by **0.2%**.

The **Food Group** marked a decrease in the index position on May 2013 by **0.4%** and was due mainly to decrease in prices of some local fruit and vegetables such as capsicum, tomatoes, pawpaw's and H/cabbage. Price of local seafood such as octopus, clam(vasuva) and sea urchin (tukumisi) marked an increase. There were very marginal increases in some imported food items (tinned and packaged food, frozen meat) throughout the month.

An increase of **1.5%** in the index of **Household Operations group** was recorded for the month was due mainly to increase in price of Electricity. **Housing, Clothing and Footwear, Tobacco, Alcohol & Kava Tonga and Misc. Goods and Services** groups recorded no change. However, a decrease of **2.2%** in the index position of **Transportation** group was due mainly to decreasing prices of both diesel and petrol.

Detailed information from this release is available from the Statistics Department Or visit our website at www.spc.int/prism/tonga/