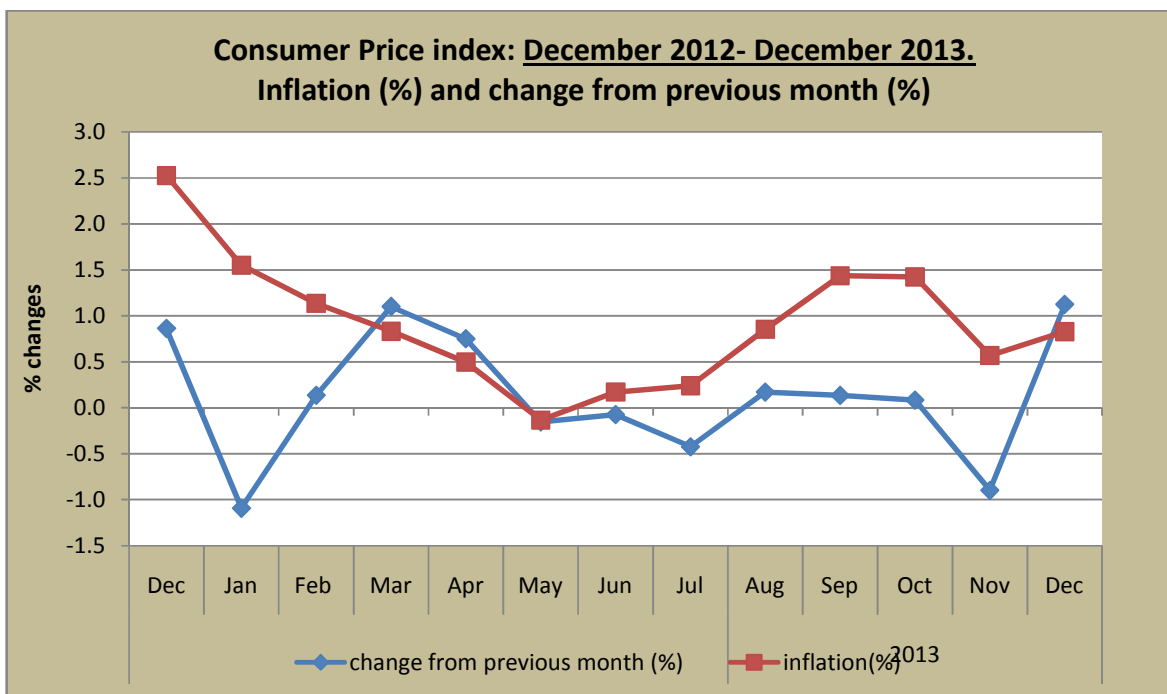




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for December 2013 recorded an increase of 1.1%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 0.8%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **December 2013** recorded an increase of **1.1%** from **November 2013 (105.9)** and now stands at **107.1**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **2.8%** while import index stay the same. From the previous two months, **October 2013** recorded an increase of **0.1%** while **November 2013** decreased by **0.9%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate for December 2013** was **0.8%** compares to **0.6%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **December 2012** was **2.5%**. Local Index marked no change while Imported Index increased by **1.4%**.

The **Food Group** marked a huge increase of **2.5%** towards the index position of **December 2013**, due mainly to increase in prices of most **local Roots crops, Fruits and vegetables, Meat, fish & Poultry**. Price of some imported food items such as tinned & packaged food, frozen meat stay the same.

Household Operation group marked an increase by **0.1%** due to increase in price of LP Gas.

A decreased of **0.4%** in the index position of **Transportation group** was due mainly to decreasing prices of fuel especially Unleaded.

Household Operations, Housing, Misc. Goods and services, Clothing and Footwear and Tobacco, Alcohol & Kava Tonga groups recorded no change throughout the month.

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