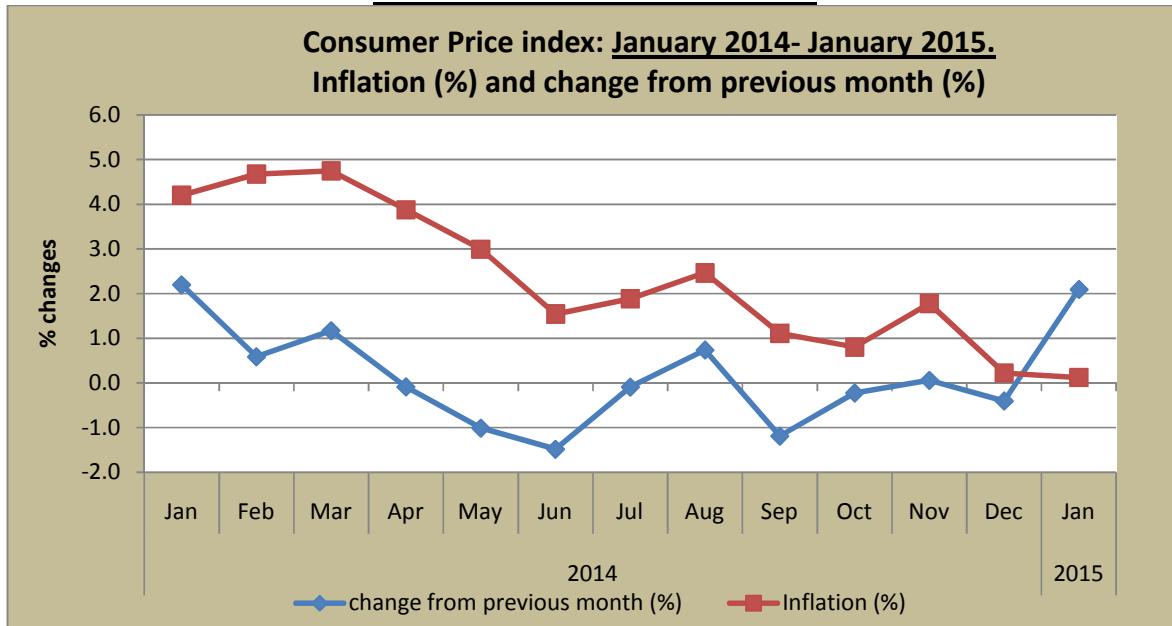




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for January 2015 recorded an increase of 2.1%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 0.1%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **January 2015** recorded an increase of **2.1%** from **December 2014 (107.3)** and now stands at **109.6**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **3.2%** and import index also increased by **1.4%**. For the previous two months, **December 2014** recorded a decrease of **0.4%** and **November 2014** increased by **0.1%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate** for **January 2015** was **0.1%** compares to **0.2%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **January 2014** was **4.2%**. Local Index marked a decrease by **0.1%** and Imported Index increased by **0.3%**.

Food Group recorded an increase of **4.9%** towards the index position of **January 2015**. This was largely due to increase in prices of most **fruits and vegetables and Meat, fish & poultry** items such as talo leaves, Pineapples, H/cabbage, capsicum, carrot, tomatoes, cucumber, ripe banana, pawpaw, Taro dry land and wetland, sweet potatoes, tuna fish and string fish. Prices of some imported items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat such as chicken piece also increased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded no change compared to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded a decrease by **0.2%** in the index position of **January 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to decreased in price of **Electricity** and **LP Gas**.

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked an increase by **4.5%** compared to the previous month. This was due to increase in price of tobacco.

Clothing & footwear groups index marked an increase by **5.1%** compared to the previous month. This was due to increase in price of school uniform.

Transportation group recorded a decrease of **5.0%** to the **index position** of **January 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to decrease in price of **airfare** and both **Petrol** and **Diesel**.

Misc. Goods and Services group index recorded no change compared to the previous month.

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