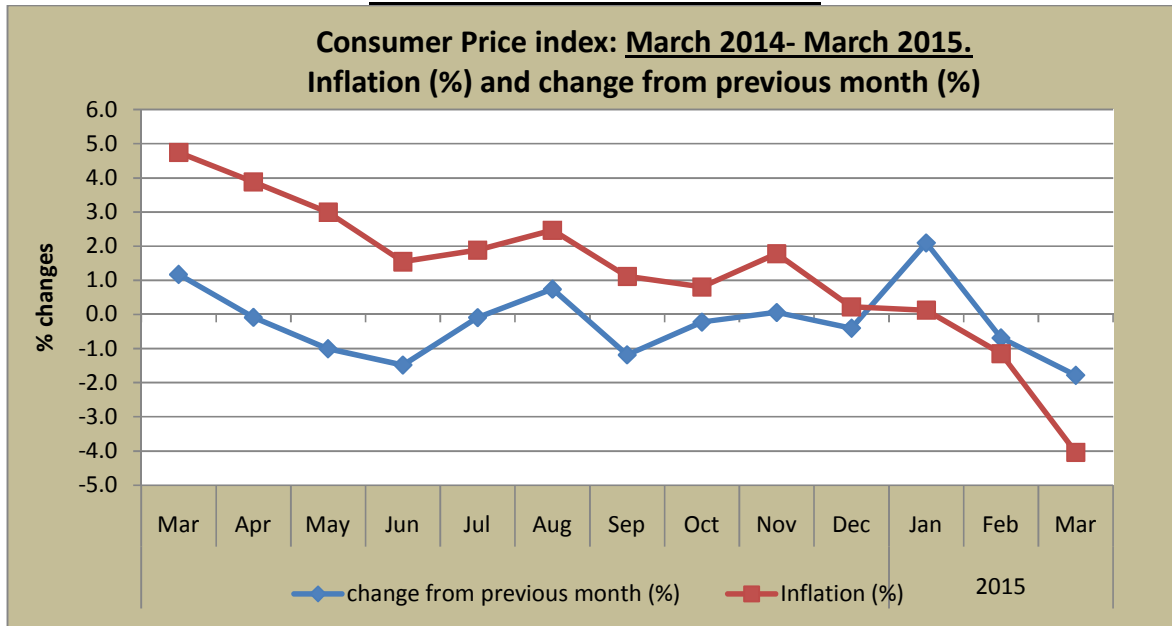




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for March 2015 recorded a decrease of 1.8%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of -4.0%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **March 2015** recorded a decrease of **1.8%** from **February 2015 (108.8)** and now stands at **106.9**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded a decrease of **0.8%** and import index also decreased by **2.5%**. For the previous two months, **February 2015** recorded a decrease of **0.7%** and **January 2015** increased by **2.1%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate** for **February 2015** was **4.0% (Deflation)** compares to **1.1% (Deflation)** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **March 2014** was **4.7%**. Local Index marked a decrease by **5.7%** and Imported Index increased by **2.8%**.

Food Group recorded a decrease of **2.7%** towards the index position of **March 2015**. This was due to decrease in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and Meat, fish & poultry** items such as pawpaw, banana ripe, water melon, capsicum, Pele, cucumber, sweet potatoes and suckling pigs. Prices of some imported items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat such as chicken piece and mutton flap also decreased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded an increase by **0.3%** in the index position of **March 2015** compared to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded a decrease by **2.0%** in the index position of **March 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to decreased in price of **Electricity, kerosene and LP Gas**.

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked a decrease by **0.1%** compared to the previous month. This was due to decrease in price of tobacco.

Clothing & footwear groups index marked no change compared to the previous month.

Transportation group recorded a decrease of **0.5%** to the **index position of March 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to decrease in average price in **February and March** of 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/