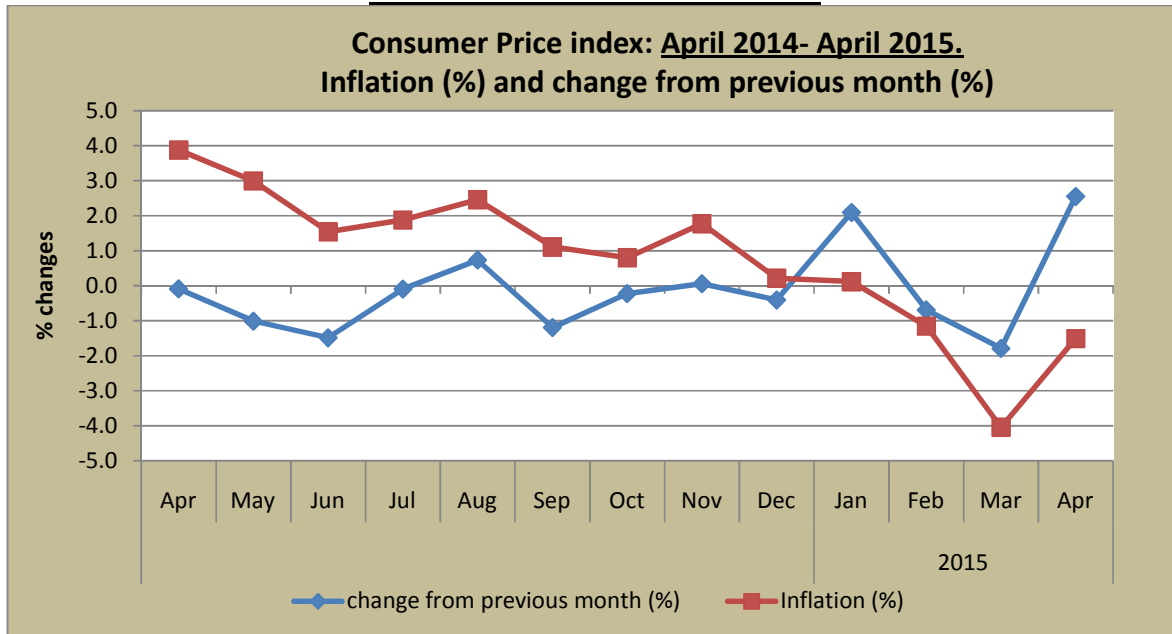




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for April 2015 recorded an increase of 2.6%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of -1.5%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **April 2015** recorded an increase of **2.6%** from **March 2015 (106.9)** and now stands at **109.6**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **5.7%** and import index also increased by **0.4%**. For the previous two months, **March 2015** recorded a decrease of **1.8%** and **February 2015** decreased by **0.7%**

The **annual rate of inflation** has been in a Deflation for 3 consecutive months. It was 1.5% in April, 4.0% in March and 1.1% in February 2015. In April 2014, annual inflation rate was 3.9%. Local Index marked a decrease by **0.4%** and Imported Index decreased by **2.3%** in April 2015.

Food Group recorded an increase of **4.5%** towards the index position of **April 2015**. This was due to increase in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and Meat, fish & poultry** items such as pawpaw, banana ripe, Tomatoes, capsicum, carrot, talo leaves, cucumber, octopus and suckling pigs. Prices of some imported items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat increased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded a decrease by **0.6%** in the index position of **April 2015** compared to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded no change in the index position of **April 2015** compared to the previous month.

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

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

Transportation group recorded an increase of **3.7%** to the **index position of April 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to increase in price 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/