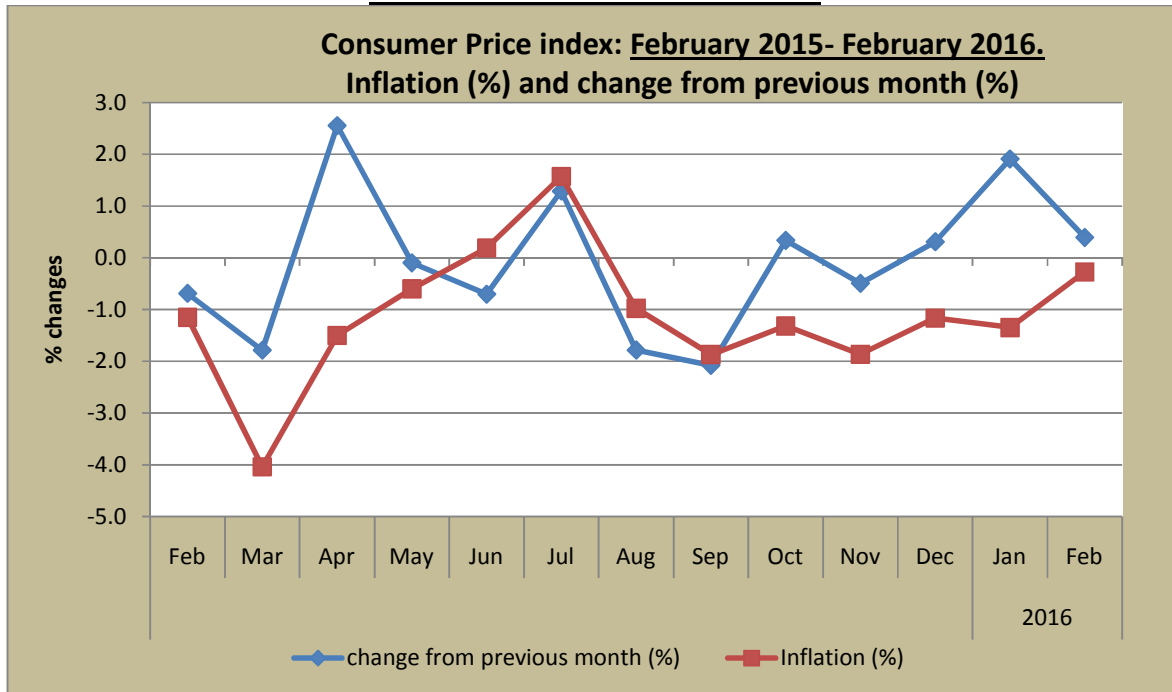




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

**Consumer Price Index for February 2016 recorded an increase of 0.4%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of -0.3%**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **February 2016** recorded an increase of **0.4%** from **January 2016 (108.1)** and now stands at **108.5**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **2.0%** and import index decreased by **0.9%**. For the previous two months, **January 2016** recorded an increase of **1.9%** and **December 2015** increased by **0.3%**.

The **annual rate of inflation for February 2016 declined by 0.3% (Deflation)** compares to **1.3% deflation** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **February 2015 was -1.1%**. **Local Index** marked an increase by **9.7%** while **Imported Index** decreased by **7.1%** in **February 2016**.

Food Group recorded an increase of **0.4%** towards the index position of **February 2016**. This was due to increase in prices of some **fruits and vegetables** items. Prices of some imported items (tinned & packaged food, frozen meat) also increased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded an increase by **0.6%** in the index position of **February 2016**. This was due to increase in prices of **Timber** and **Cements** compares to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded no change compared to the previous month.

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked an increase by **7.4%** compares to the previous month. This was due to increase in price of **Kava roots and kava Tonga fee**.

Clothing & footwear groups index recorded no change compares to the previous month.

Transportation group index recorded a significant decrease by **2.7%** in the index position of **February 2016**. This was due to decrease in price of both **Petrol and Diesel** compares to the previous month.

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/