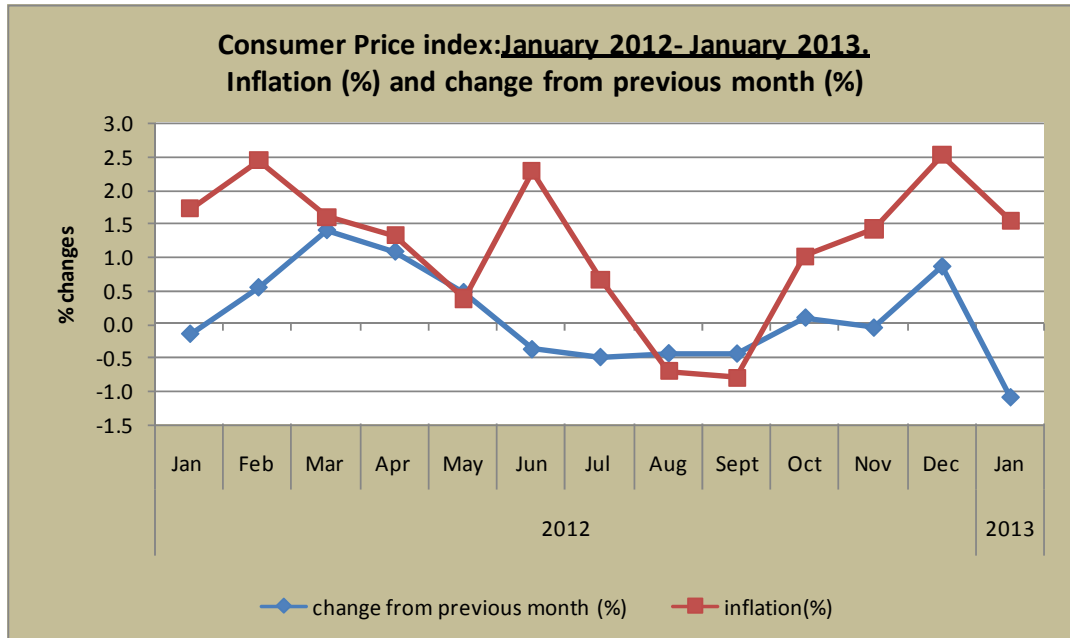




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for January 2013 recorded a decrease of 1.1%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 1.5%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for January 2013 recorded a decrease of 1.1% over December 2012 (106.2) and now stands at 105.0. In comparison with the previous month, local index decreased by 2.4% while import index decreased by 0.2%. From the previous two months, November 2012 recorded a decrease of 0.1% while December 2012 increased by 0.9%

The **Annual Rate of Inflation for January 2013** was 1.5% compared to 2.5% in the previous month. The annual inflation for the same month of previous year, January 2012 was 1.7%. Local Index marked an inflation of 0.3% while Imported Index was 2.4%.

The **Food Group** marked a decrease in the index position on January 2013 by 2.1% and was due mainly to decreases in prices of some locally produced fruit and vegetables items. While prices of some local seafood dropped in the month however prices of some imported food (tinned & packaged food, frozen meat) increased from December 2012.

A decrease of 1.1% in the price index of the **Housing Group** was recorded for the month and was due to decreasing prices of some construction materials. The **Transportation Group** recorded a decrease of 0.8% and was due to decreasing prices of diesel and petrol. The **Tobacco, Alcohol and Kava Tonga Group** decreased by 0.7% which was influenced special prices from some outlet on imported cigarettes.

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