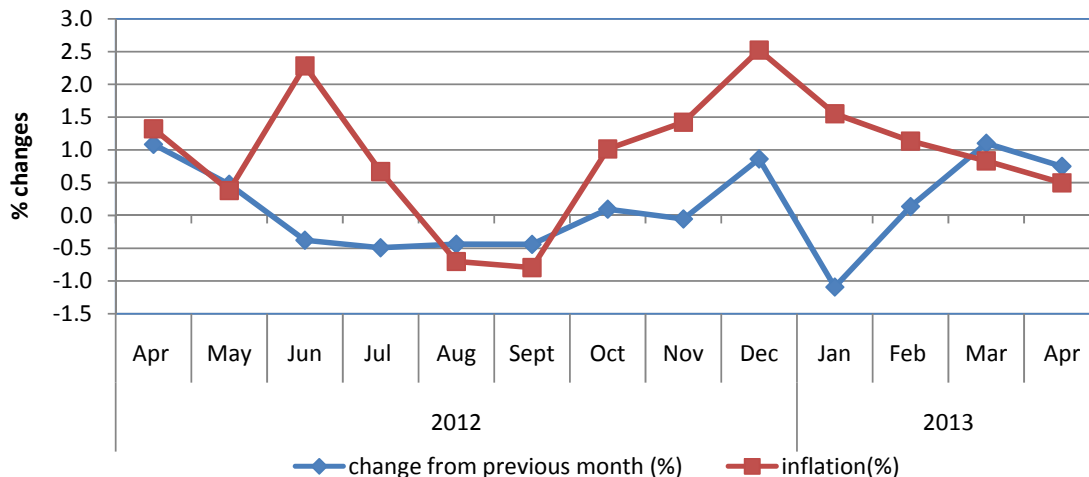




**GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE**

**Consumer Price Index for April 2013 recorded an increase of 0.7%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 0.5%**

**Consumer Price index: April 2012- April 2013.
Inflation (%) and change from previous month (%)**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for April 2013 recorded an increase of **0.7%** over March 2013 (**106.3**) and now stands at **107.1**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **2.1%** while import index decreased by **0.2%**. From the previous two months, February 2013 recorded an increase of **0.1%** while March 2013 also increased by **1.1%**.

The **Annual Rate of Inflation for April 2013** was **0.5%** compared to **0.8%** in the previous month. The annual inflation for the same month of previous year, April 2012 was **1.3%**. Local Index marked an increased of **0.6%** while Imported Index was **0.4%**.

The **Food Group** marked an increase in the index position on April 2013 by **1.1%** and was due mainly to increase in prices of some local fruit and vegetables such as pineapples, tomatoes, pawpaw's and H/cabbage. Price of local seafood such as Cockles pipis and frozen fish also increased. There were very marginal increases in some imported food items (tinned and packaged food, frozen meat) throughout the month.

An increase of **0.6%** in the index of the **Housing Group** was recorded for the month and was due to increasing price of some construction materials. An increase of **1.4%** in the index of **Household Operations group** was recorded for the month was due mainly to increase in price of Electricity. **Clothing and Footwear, Tobacco, Alcohol & Kava Tonga and Misc. Goods and Services** groups recorded no change. However, a decrease of **0.4%** in the index position of **Transportation** group was due mainly to decreasing prices of both diesel and petrol.

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