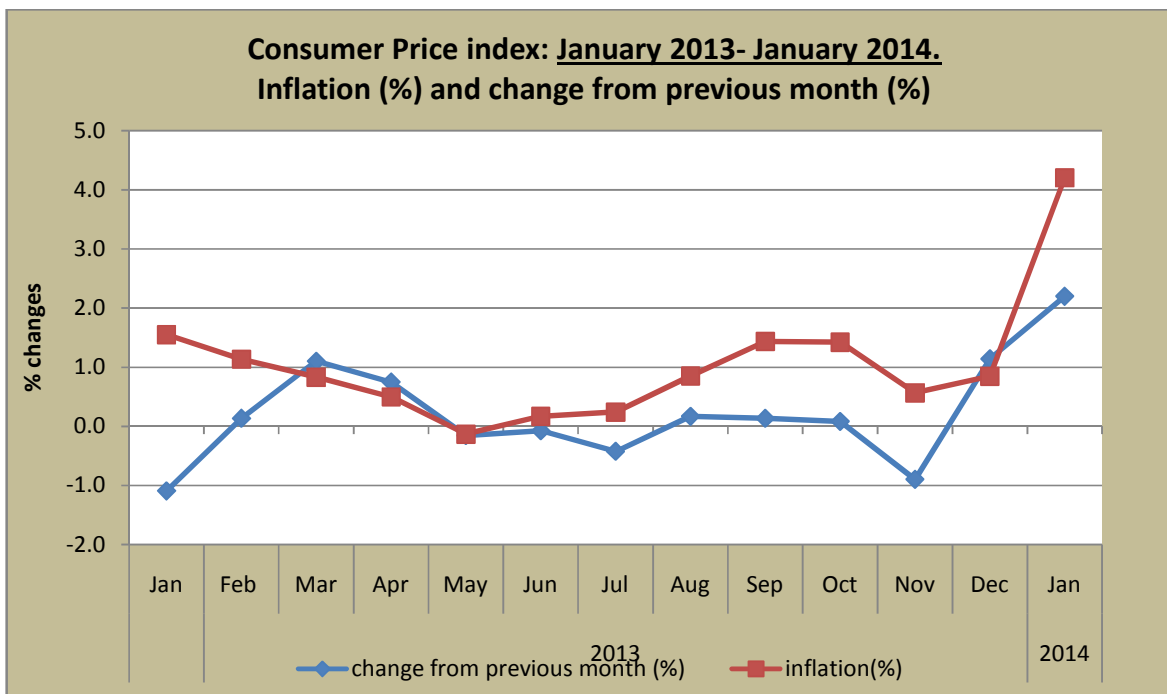




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for January 2014 recorded an increase of 2.2%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 4.2%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **January 2014** recorded an increase of **2.2%** from **December 2013 (107.1)** and now stands at **109.5**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **3.1%** while import index increased by **1.6%**. For the previous two months, **November 2013** recorded a decrease of **0.9%** while **December 2013** increased by **1.1%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate for January 2014** was **4.2%** in comparison to **0.8%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **January 2013** was **1.6%**. Local Index marked a huge increase by **5.6%** while Imported Index increased by **3.2%**.

The **Food Group** marked a huge increase of **3.2%** towards the index position of **January 2014**, due mainly to increase in prices of most **local Roots crops, Fruits and vegetables, Meat, fish & Poultry**. Price of some imported food items such as tinned & packaged food, frozen meat also increase throughout the months.

Household Operation group marked an increase by **0.1%** due to increase in price of LP Gas and kerosene.

Clothing and Footwear group recorded a huge increase of **12.6%** towards the index position of **January 2014**, due mainly to increase in price of school uniform and footwear.

An increased of **1.4%** in the index position of **Transportation group** was due mainly to increasing prices of fuel both Unleaded and Diesel.

Household Operation group marked an increase in the index position due to increase in price of LP gas and kerosene.

Misc. Goods and Services group recorded an increase in the index position due to increase in price of Cosmetics toiletries, stationery and Education.

Housing and Tobacco, Alcohol & Kava Tonga groups recorded no change throughout the month.

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