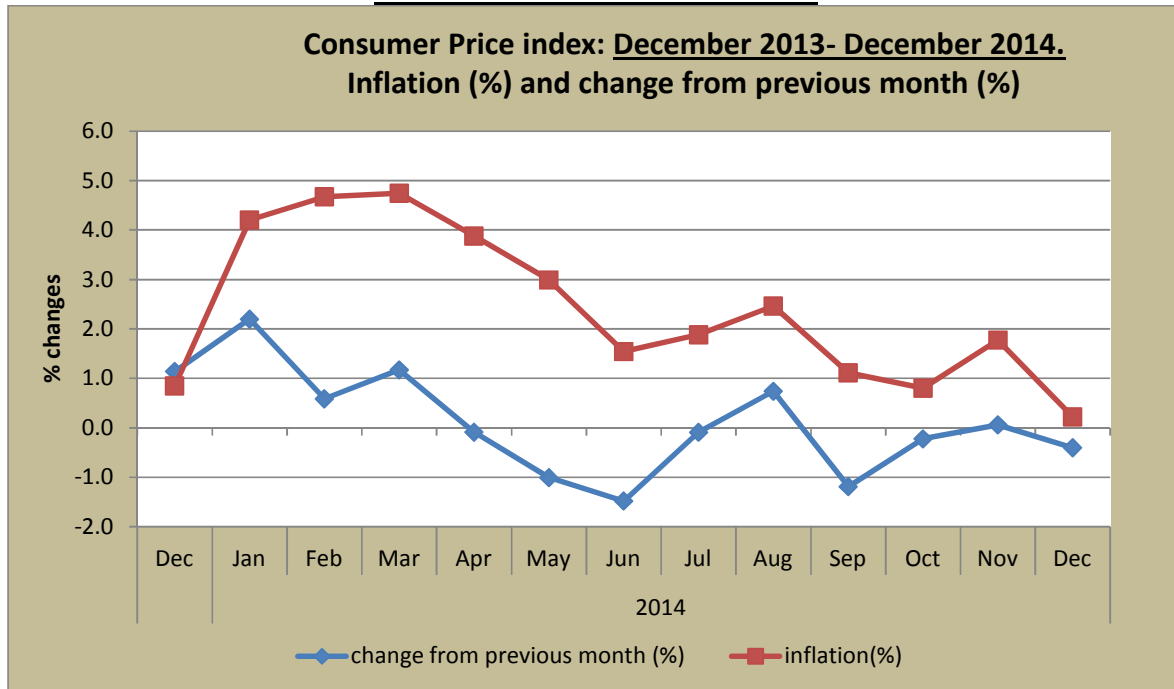




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for December 2014 recorded a decrease of 0.4%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 0.2%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **December 2014** recorded a decrease of **0.4%** from **November 2014** (**107.8**) and now stands at **107.3**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded a decrease of **0.1%** and import index also decreased by **0.6%**. For the previous two months, **November 2014** recorded a decrease of **0.1%** and **October 2014** decreased by **0.2%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate for December 2014** was **0.2%** compares to **1.8%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **December 2013** was **0.8%**. Local Index marked a decrease by **0.2%** and Imported Index increased by **0.5%**.

Food Group recorded an increase of **0.4%** towards the index position of **December 2014**, due mainly to increase in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and Meat, fish & poultry** items such as talo leaves, Pele, H/cabbage, early yam, octopus, cockle pips and suckling pigs. Prices of some imported items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat such as salted beef also increased throughout the months.

Housing Group Although there were an increase in price of **Cement** and **Nail**, this was offset by decrease in price of **Paint** and other items.

Household Operation group recorded a decrease and the second major contribution to **December index position**. This was due to decreased in price of **Electricity** and LP Gas compare to the previous month.

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked no change compared to the previous month.

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

Transportation group recorded a decrease of **3.0%** and lead the contribution to the **index position** of **December 2014** compared to the previous month. This was due to decrease 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/