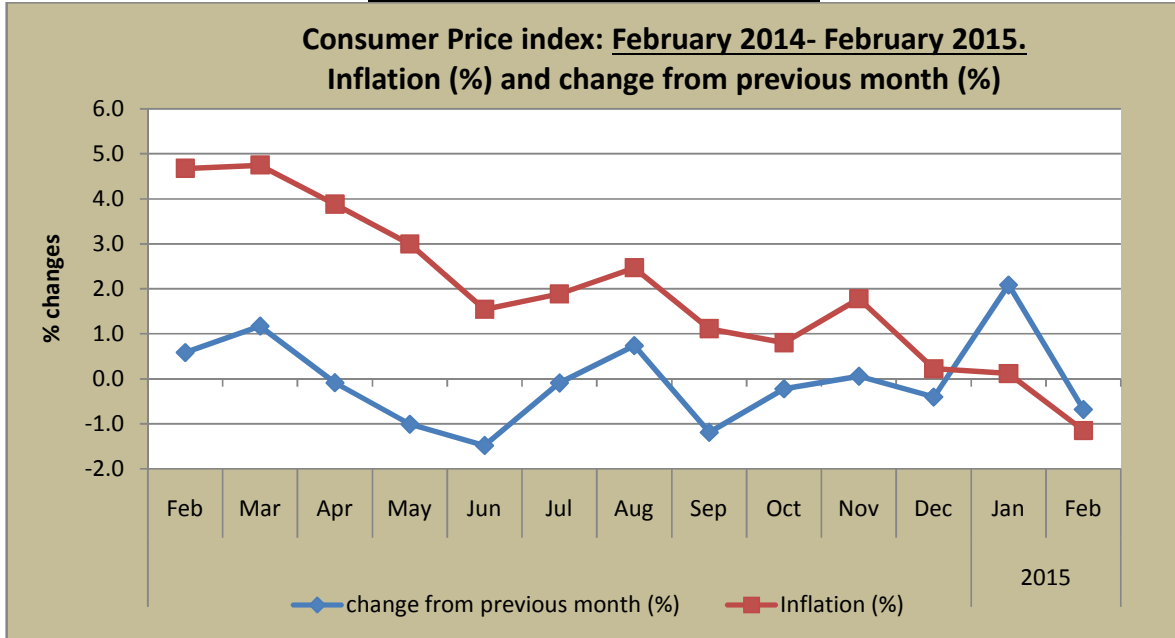




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA  
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT  
MEDIA RELEASE

**Consumer Price Index for February 2015 recorded a decrease of -0.7%**  
**With an Annual Inflation Rate of -1.1%**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **February 2015** recorded a decrease of **0.7%** from **January 2015 (109.6)** and now stands at **108.8**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded a decrease of **1.1%** and import index also decreased by **0.4%**. For the previous two months, **January 2015** recorded an increase of **2.1%** and **December 2014** decreased by **0.4%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate for February 2015** was **1.1% (Deflation)** compares to **0.1%** inflation in previous month. This is the first Deflation since **May 2013 (-0.1%)**. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **February 2014** was **4.7%**. Local Index marked a decrease by **2.9%** and Imported Index increased by **0.1%**.

**Food Group** recorded an increase of **1.2%** towards the index position of **February 2015**. This was due to increase in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and Meat, fish & poultry** items such as tomatoes, pawpaw, sweet potatoes, frozen fish and clam. Prices of some imported items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat such as chicken piece also increased throughout the months.

**Housing Group** recorded no change compared to the previous month.

**Household Operation** group recorded a decrease by **2.8%** in the index position of **February 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to decreased in price of **Electricity, kerosene** and **LP Gas**.

**Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group** index marked an increase by **0.7%** compared to the previous month. This was due to increase in price of tobacco.

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

**Transportation group** recorded a decrease of **6.9%** to the **index position** of **February 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to decrease in price of **inter-Island ferries** and 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/](http://www.spc.int/prism/tonga/)*