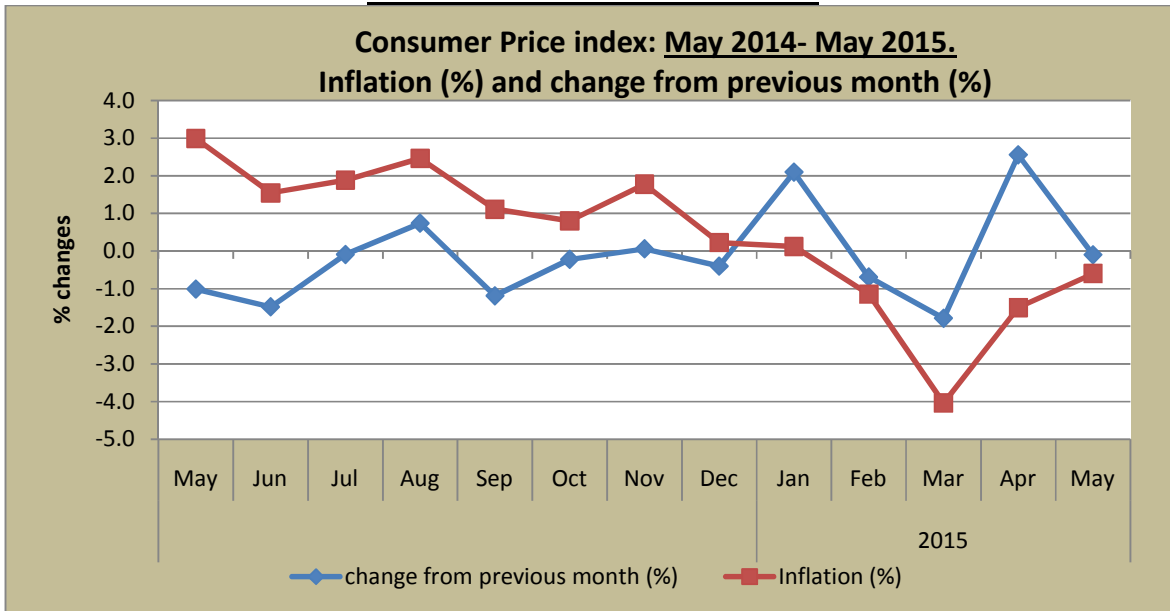




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

**Consumer Price Index for May 2015 recorded a decrease of 0.1%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of -0.6%**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **May 2015** recorded a decrease of **0.1%** from **April 2015 (109.6)** and now stands at **109.5**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **0.3%** and import index decreased by **0.4%**. For the previous two months, **April 2015** recorded an increase of **2.6%** and **March 2015** decreased by **1.8%**

The **annual rate of inflation** has been in a **Deflation for 4** consecutive months. It was deflated by **0.6%** in **May**, **1.5%** in **April**, **4.0%** in **March** and **1.1%** in **February 2015**. In **April 2014**, **annual inflation rate** was **3.0%**. Local Index marked an increase by **3.2%** and Imported Index decreased by **3.2%** in **May 2015**.

Food Group recorded a decrease of **1.3%** towards the index position of **May 2015**. This was due to decrease in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and Meat, fish & poultry** items. Prices of some imported items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat decreased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded an increase by **0.6%** in the index position of **May 2015** due to increase in price of timber and cement compared to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded an increase by **1.8%** towards the index position of **May 2015**. This was due to increase in price of **Electricity** compared to the previous month.

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked an increase by **0.4%** compared to the previous month. This was due to increase in price of imported tobacco.

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

Transportation group recorded an increase of **1.5%** to the **index position** of **May 2015** compared to the previous month. This was due to increase 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/