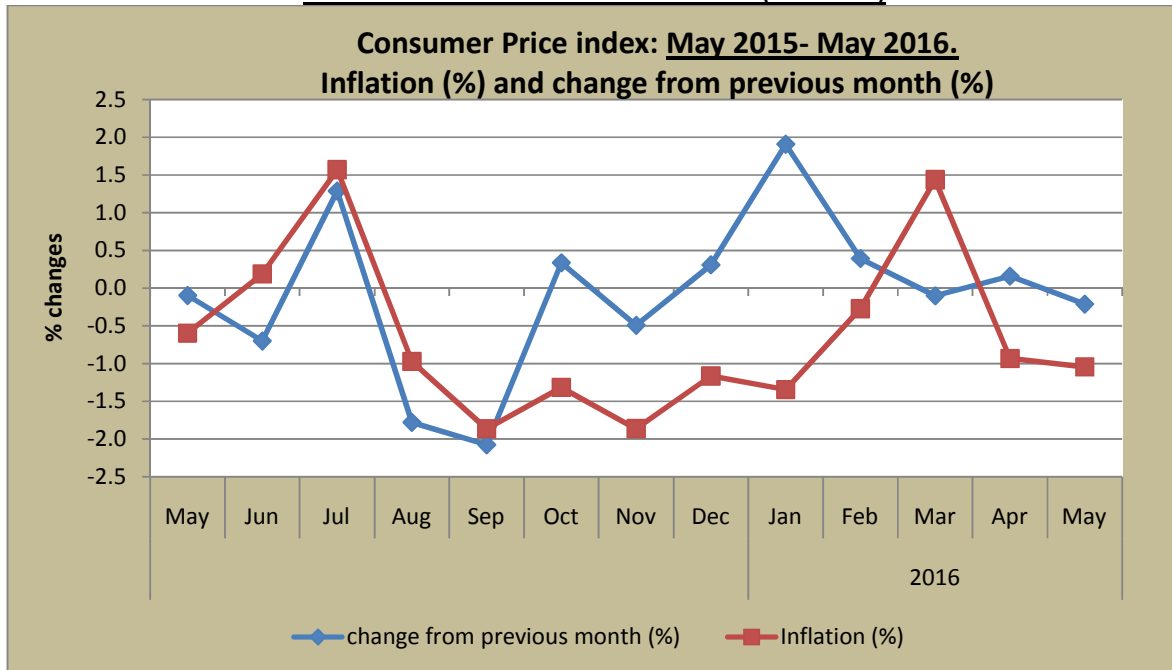




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for May 2016 recorded a decrease of 0.2%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of -1.0% (Deflation)



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **May 2016** recorded a decrease of **0.2%** from **April 2016 (108.6)** and now stands at **108.4**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded a decrease of **1.8%** and import index increased by **1.1%**. For the previous two months, **April 2016** recorded an increase of **0.2%** and **March 2016** decreased by **0.1%**.

The **annual rate of inflation for May 2016 declined by 1.0% (Deflation)** compares to **0.9% Deflation** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **May 2015 was -0.6%**. **Local Index** marked an increase by **4.4%** while **Imported Index** decreased by **5.0%** in **May 2016**.

Food Group recorded a decrease of **0.1%** towards the index position of **May 2016**. This was due to decrease in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and meat, fish and poultry** items. Prices of some imported items (tinned & packaged food, frozen meat) also decreased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded an increase in the index position of **May 2016** due to increase in price of **timber** compares to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded an increase towards the index position of **May 2016** due to increase in price of **Kerosene** compares to the previous month.

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

Clothing & footwear groups index recorded no change compares to the previous month.

Transportation group index recorded a huge increase by **2.2%** in the index position of **May 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **Inter-Island ferries** and both **petrol** and **diesel** compares to the previous month.

Misc. Goods and Services group index recorded a decrease of **0.1%** due to decrease in price of **cosmetics and toiletries** items 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/