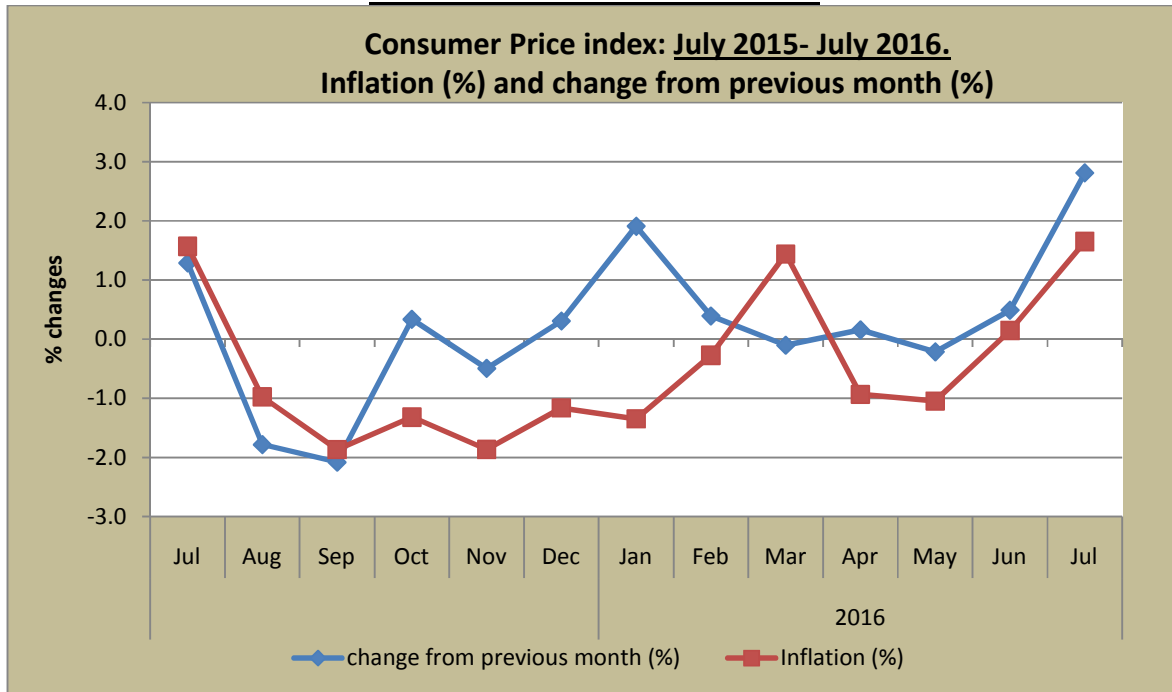




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for July 2016 recorded an increase of 2.8%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 1.6%.



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **July 2016** recorded an increase of **2.8%** from **June 2016 (108.9)** and now stands at **112.0**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded a decrease of **0.6%** and import index increased by **5.6%**. For the previous two months, **June 2016** recorded an increase of **0.5%** and **May 2016** decreased by **0.2%**.

The **annual rate of inflation for July 2016** was **1.6%** compares to **0.1%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **July 2015** was **1.6%**. **Local Index** marked an increase by **1.6%** and **Imported Index** increased by **1.7%** in **July 2016**.

Food Group recorded an increase of **3.9%** towards the index position of **July 2016**. This was mainly due to increase in prices of some **fruits and vegetables** items. Prices of some imported items especially with mutton flap and chicken piece and other tinned & packaged food increased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded a decrease by **0.2%** towards the index position of **July 2016**. This was due to decrease in price of **timber** compares to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded an increase of **0.9%** towards the index position of **July 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **Electricity** compares to the previous month, although there was a decreased in price of **LP Gas**.

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked a huge increase by **6.1%** towards the index position of **July 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **Tobacco** compares to the previous month.

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

Transportation group index recorded an increase by **3.3%** towards the index position of **July 2016**. This was due to increase in price of both **petrol** and **diesel** compares to the previous month.

Misc. Goods and Services group index recorded an increase of **0.3%** due to increase in price of some **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/