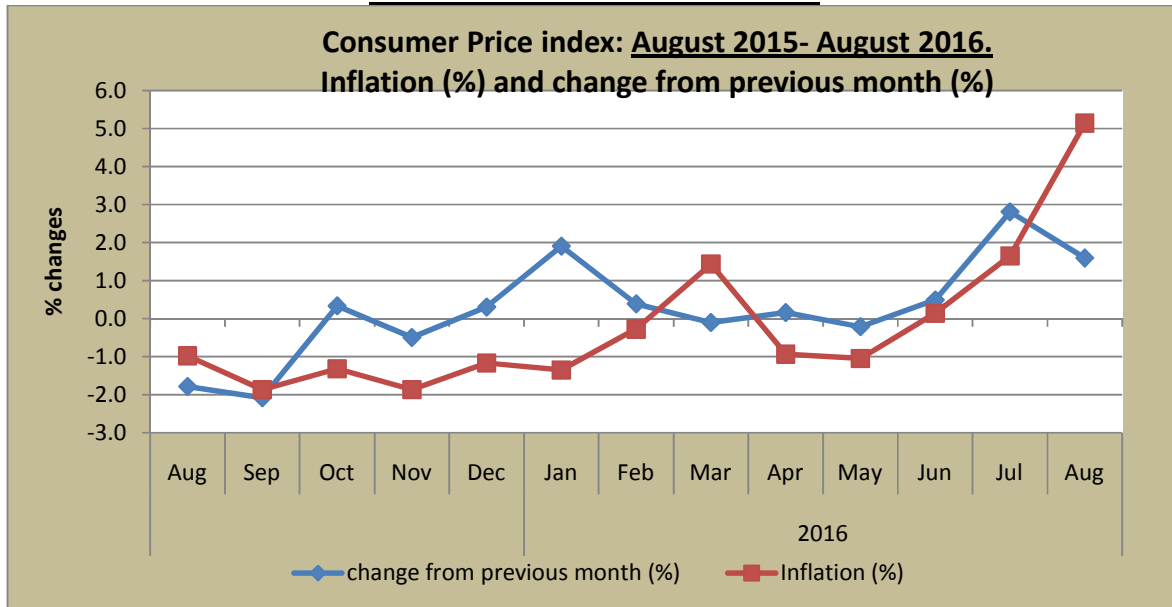




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

**Consumer Price Index for August 2016 recorded an increase of 1.6%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 5.1%.**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **August 2016** recorded an increase of **1.6%** from **July 2016 (112.0)** and now stands at **113.7**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **0.6%** and import index increased by **2.4%**. For the previous two months, **July 2016** recorded an increase of **2.8%** and **June 2016** increased by **0.5%**.

The **annual rate of inflation for August 2016 was 5.1%** compares to **1.6%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **August 2015 was 1.0%**(Deflation). **Local Index** marked an increase by **4.9%** and **Imported Index** increased by **5.3%** in **August 2016**.

Food Group recorded an increase of **2.9%** towards the index position of **August 2016**. This was mainly due to increase in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and meat, fish & poultry** items. Prices of some imported items especially with mutton flap, rum steak, lamp chop and chicken piece and other tinned & packaged food increased throughout the months.

Housing Group recorded an increase by **0.3%** towards the index position of **August 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **timber** compares to the previous month.

Household Operation group recorded an increase of **0.2%** towards the index position of **August 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **kerosene** and some of **Household supplies and services** compares to the previous month..

Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group index marked an increase by **3.0%** towards the index position of **August 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **Tobacco** and **kava Tonga** compares to the previous month.

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

Transportation group index recorded an increase by **0.3%** towards the index position of **August 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **diesel** compares to the previous month.

Misc. Goods and Services group index recorded a decrease of **0.6%** due to decrease 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/