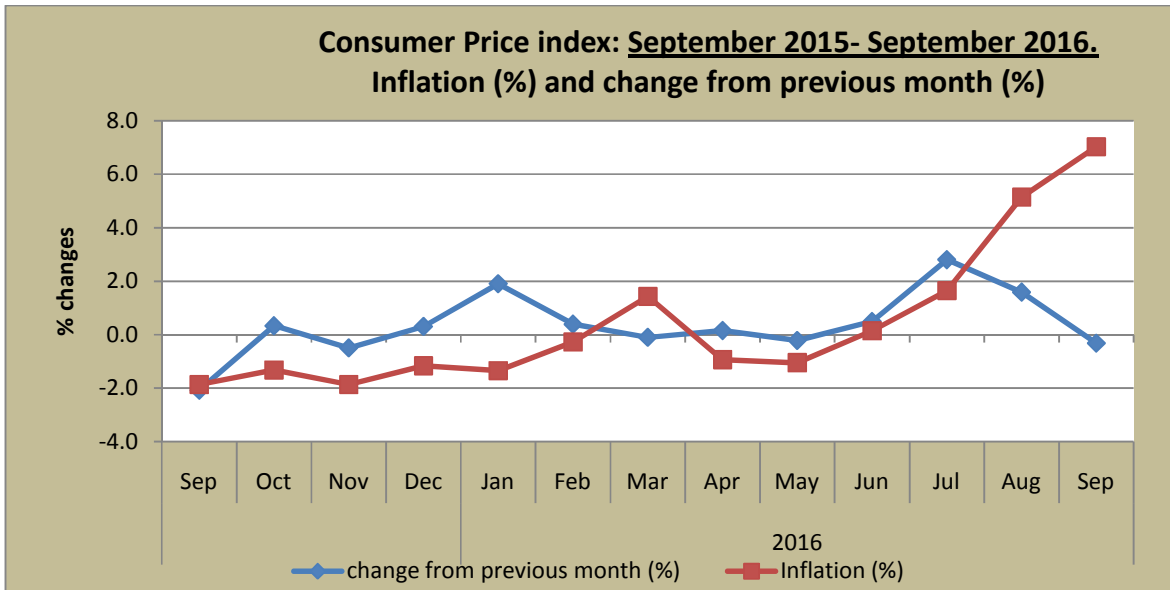




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for September 2016 recorded a decrease of 0.3%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 7.0%.



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **September 2016** recorded a decrease of **0.3%** from **August 2016 (113.7)** and now stands at **113.4**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **0.6%** and import index decreased by **1.0%**. For the previous two months, **August 2016** recorded an increase of **1.6%** and **July 2016** increased by **2.8%**.

The **annual rate of inflation for September 2016 was 7.0%** compares to **5.1%** in previous month. This is the highest inflation since **June 2011 (7.1%)**. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **September 2015 was 1.9%(Deflation)**. **Local Index** marked an increase by 10.2% and **Imported Index** increased by 4.7% in **September 2016**.

- **Food Group** recorded a decrease of **0.4%** towards the index position of **September 2016**. This was mainly due to decrease in prices of some **fruits and vegetables and meat, fish & poultry** items. Prices of some imported items especially with mutton flap, lamp chop and chicken piece and other packaged food decreased throughout the months.
- **Housing Group** recorded a decrease by **0.5%** towards the index position of **September 2016**. This was due to decrease in price of **timber** compares to the previous month.
- **Household Operation** group recorded a decrease of **0.2%** towards the index position of **September 2016**. This was due to decrease in price of **LP gas** compares to the previous month..
- **Tobacco, alcohol & kava Tonga group** index marked an increase by **0.5%** towards the index position of **September 2016**. This was due to increase in price of **alcohol** and **kava Tonga** compares to the previous month.
- **Clothing & footwear group** index recorded no change compares to the previous month.
- **Transportation group** index recorded a decrease by **1.1%** towards the index position of **September 2016**. This was due to decrease in price of both **petrol** and **diesel** comparing to the previous month.
- **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/