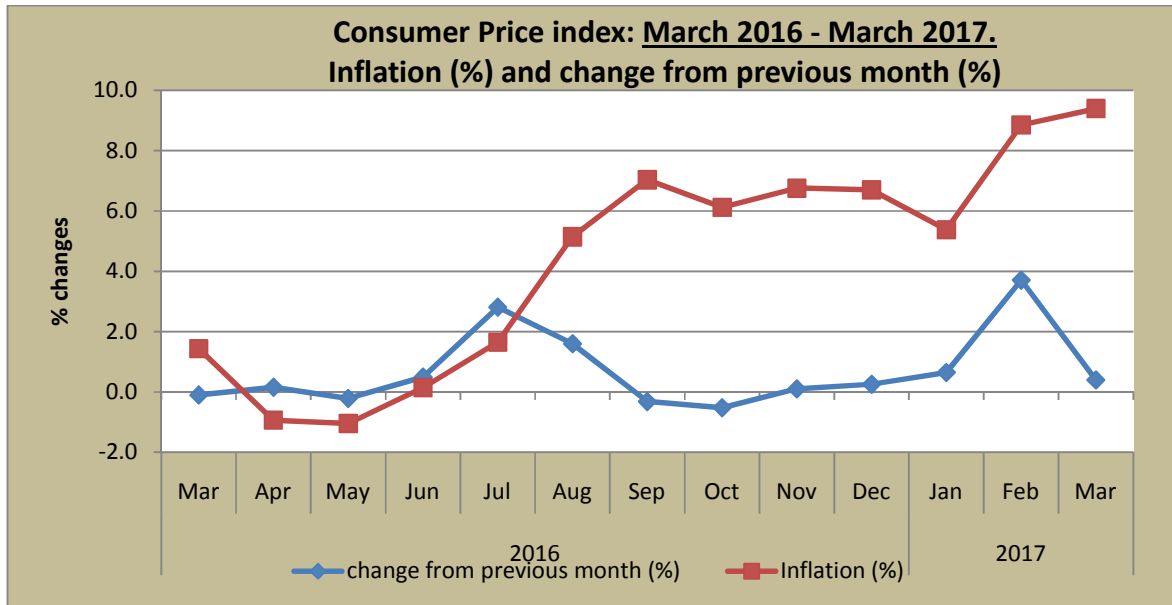




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for March 2017 recorded an increase of 0.4%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 9.4%.



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for March 2017 recorded an increase of **0.4%** from February 2017 (**118.1**) and now stands at **118.6**. In comparison with the previous month, local index recorded an increase of **0.1%** and import index increased by **0.6%**. For the previous two months, **February 2017** recorded an increase of **3.7%** and **January 2017** increased by **0.6%**.

The **annual rate of inflation for March 2017 was 9.4%** compares to **8.9%** in previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **March 2016 was 1.4% (Inflation)**. **Local Index** marked an increase by **4.9%** and **Imported Index** increased by **13.2%** in **March 2017**.

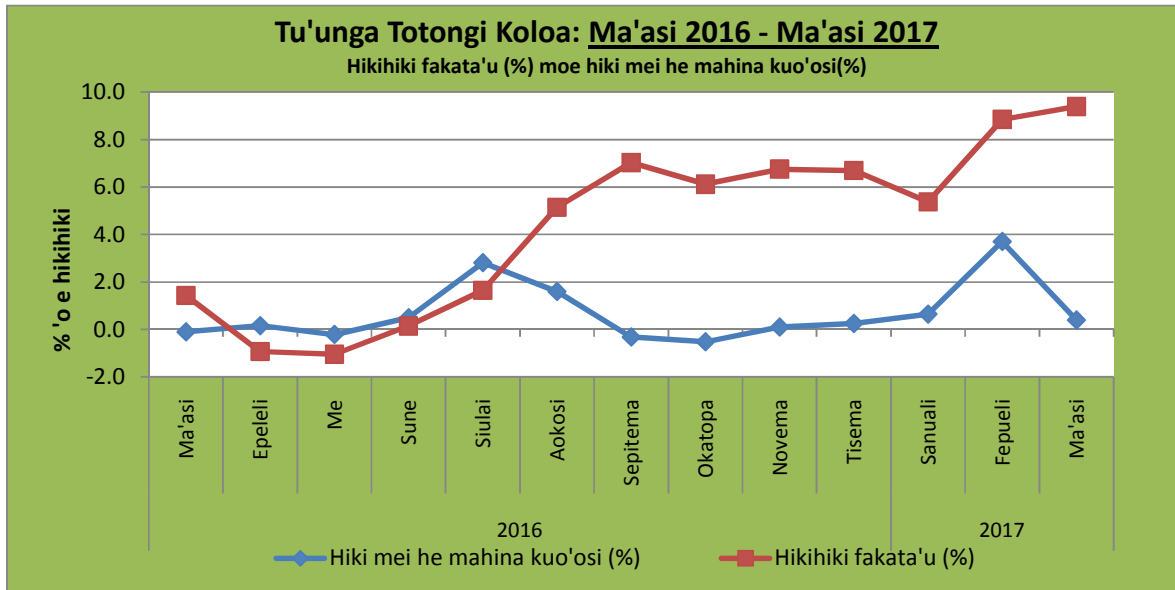
- **Food Group** recorded the largest increase of **0.6%** towards the index position of **March 2017**. This was mainly due to increase in prices of some local **fruits and vegetables** items such as tomatoes and capsicum. Prices of some **meat, fish & poultry** items such as mutton flaps and chicken pieces increased throughout the month. Also prices of some imported **other food** such as sugar and butter also increased.
- **Housing Group**- Price of items in this group remained unchanged compare to the previous month.
- **Household Operations** - This group recorded an increase of **0.4%** due to an increase in prices of **domestic fuel and power** items such as kerosene and liquid petroleum gas.
- **Clothing & Footwear** - No change of this group index for the month of February 2017.
- **Transportation group index** – Price of items in this group remained unchanged compare to the previous month.
- **Tobacco, Alcohol & Kava Tonga** - This group increase of **0.3%** towards the index position of **March 2017**. This was due mainly to an increase in prices of **Winfield tobacco** compare to the previous month.
- **Misc. Goods and Services** - Price of items in this group remained unchanged compare 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/



**PULE'ANGA FAKATU'I 'O TONGA.
POTUNGAUE SETISITIKA.
ONGOONGO**

Na'e hiki peseti 'e 0.4 'a e tu'unga totongi koloa 'i Ma'asi 2017. Pea ko e hikihiki fakata'u 'o e totongi e koloa na'e hiki peseti 'e 9.4



Ko e **tu'unga 'o e totongi koloa** ki he mahina **Ma'asi 2017**, 'i hono fakaha mei he **Potungau Sitetisitika**, na'e hiki 'a e totongi 'o e koloa 'aki 'a e **peseti 'e 0.4** mei **Fepueli 2017**, na'e hiki peseti **0.1** 'a e totongi 'o e koloa **fakalotofonua** pea hiki **peseti 'e 0.6** 'a e **koloa humai**. Ko e ongo mahina 'e ua kimu'a, na'e hiki peseti 'e **3.7** 'i **Fepueli 2017** pea hiki peseti 'e **0.6** 'i **Sanuali 2017**.

Ko e **Hikihiki fakata'u 'o e totongi koloa** ki he mahina ko **Ma'asi 2017** na'e hiki **peseti 9.4** fakahoa kihe hiki **peseti 8.9 'o e mahina ko Fepueli 2017**. Na'e hiki 'aki 'a e **peseti 'e 4.9** 'a e totongi **koloa fakalotofonua** pea hiki **peseti 'e 13.2** 'a e **koloa hu mai**. Ko e **hiki fakata'u 'i Ma'asi 2016** na'e hiki peseti 'e **1.4**

- Koe kulupu ko 'eni 'o e **koloa me'a tokoni** na'e **hiki lahi taha 'aki 'a e peseti 'e 0.6** 'i he **tu'unga totongi koloa kihe mahina ko Ma'asi 2017**. Ko e hiki ko 'eni na'e makatu'unga ia mei he **hiki 'a e totongi 'o e fua'i'akau moe vesitapolo fakalotofonua** 'a 'ia koe **temata mo e polo**. Na'e hiki moe totongi 'o e **kulupu mei he kakano'i manu moe ika** 'a ia ko e sipi kapakapa mo e alanga'i moa pehe foki ki he ngaahi **koloa me'akai makehe** hange ko e **suka** mo e **pata**.
- Ko e **Koloa Naunau Langa**, na'e tu'unga tatau pe 'i hono fakahoa ki he mahina **Fepueli 2017**.
- Ko e **Koloa Naunau Faka'api** na'e hiki 'aki 'ae **peseti 'e 0.4** tu'unga 'i he hiki 'a e totongi 'o e **kalasini** pea mo e **hina kasa** 'oku ngaue'aki ki he feime'atokoni mei he totongi na'e 'i ai he mahina kuo'osi Fepueli 2017.
- Ko e **koloa vala moe su** na'e tu'unga tatau pe 'i hono fakahoa kihe mahina **Fepueli 2017**.
- Ko e **Koloa Fefononga 'aki** na'e tu'unga tatau pe 'i hono fakahoa ki he mahina ko **Fepueli 2017**.
- Ko e koloa **Tapaka, 'olokaholo moe kava tonga** na'e hiki 'aki 'a e **peseti 'e 0.3** 'i he tu'unga 'o e totongi koloa ki he mahina ko **Ma'asi 2017**. Koe makatu'unga 'a e hiki ko 'eni mei he hiki 'ae totongi 'o e **tapaka Winfield**.
- Ko e **ngaahi koloa kehe mo e sevesi** na'e 'i he tu'unga tatau pe 'i hono fakahoa ki he mahina **Fepueli 2017**.

Koe ngaahi fakaikiiki 'o e fakamatala ni 'e ma'u atu ia mei he **Potungau Sitetisitika** pe ko ho'o vakai ki he'emaui website www.spc.int/prism/tonga/