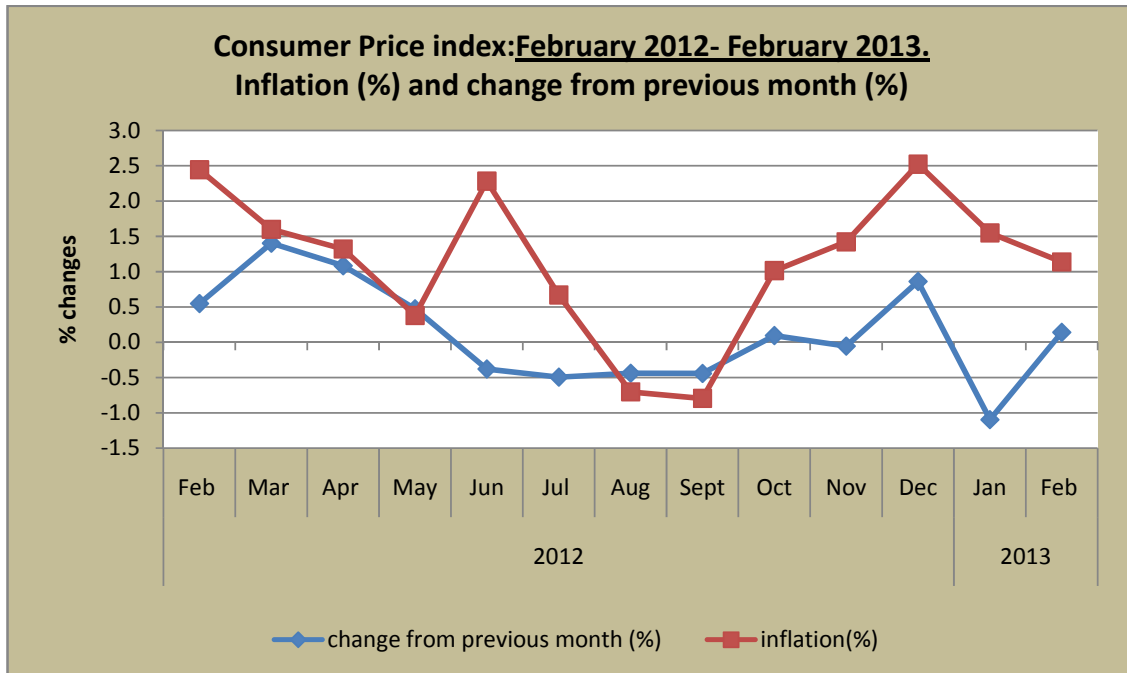




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA  
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT  
MEDIA RELEASE

**Consumer Price Index for February 2013 recorded an increase of 0.1%**  
**With an Annual Inflation Rate of 1.1%**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for February 2013 recorded an increase of **0.1%** over January 2013 (**105.0**) and now stands at **105.2**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **0.5%** while import index decreased by **0.1%**. From the previous two months, December 2012 recorded an increase of **0.9%** while January 2013 decreased by **1.1%**.

The **Annual Rate of Inflation for February 2013** was **1.1%** compared to **1.5%** in the previous month. The annual inflation for the same month of previous year, February 2012 was **2.4%**. Local Index marked an inflation of **-0.3%** while Imported Index was **2.1%**.

The **Food Group** marked an increase in the index position on February 2013 by **0.3%** and was due mainly to increase in prices of some local fruit and vegetables such as carrots, tomatoes and head cabbages. There were very marginal increases in some imported food items (tinned and packaged food, frozen meat) throughout the month.

An increase of **1.0%** in the price index of the **Housing Group** was recorded for the month and was due to increasing prices of some construction materials. A decrease of **0.1%** was recorded for the **Household Group**. The **Transportation Group** recorded an increase of **0.8%** and was due to increasing prices of diesel and petrol. The **Tobacco, Alcohol and Kava Tonga Group** decreased by **2.7%** which was influenced by decreasing prices of imported alcohol. An increase of **0.4%** was recorded for the **Miscellaneous Group** owing to increasing prices of stationery items.

Detailed information from this release is available from the Statistics Department Or visit our website at [www.spc.int/prism/tonga/](http://www.spc.int/prism/tonga/)