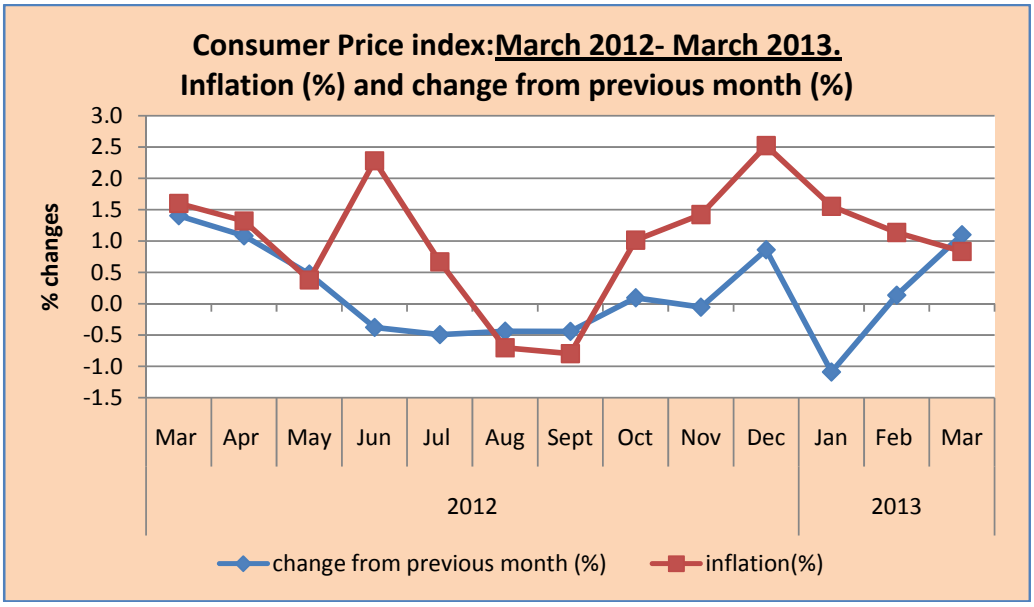
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

Consumer Price Index for March 2013 recorded an increase of 1.1%
With an Annual Inflation Rate of 0.8%



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for March 2013 **recorded an increase of 1.1%** over February 2013 (**105.2**) and now stands at **106.3**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **1.8%** while import index also increased by **0.7%** From the previous two months, January 2013 recorded a decrease of **1.1%** while February 2013 increased by **0.1%**

The **Annual Rate of Inflation for March 2013 was 0.8%** compared to **1.1%** in the previous month. The annual inflation for the same month of previous year, March 2012 was **1.6%.** Local Index marked a deflation of **1.0%** while Imported Index was **2.1%.**

The **Food Group** marked an increase in the index position on March 2013 by **1.9%** and was due mainly to increase in prices of some local fruit and vegetables such as carrots, tomatoes, capsicum and peanuts. Prices of some local seafood such as clams and sea urchins also increased. There were very marginal increases in some imported food items (tinned and packaged food, frozen meat) throughout the month

No changes were recorded for the **Housing**, **Household Operations**, **Clothing and Footwear** and **Miscellaneous & Services** groups. However, an increase of **1.7%** in the index position of **Transportation** group was due mainly to increasing prices of both diesel and petrol. Index position of **Tobacco, Alcohol & Kava Tonga** group also increased by **0.1%** due to increasing prices of imported alcohol and tobacco.

Detailed information from this release is available from the Statistics Department Or visit our website at www.spc.int/prism/tonga/

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