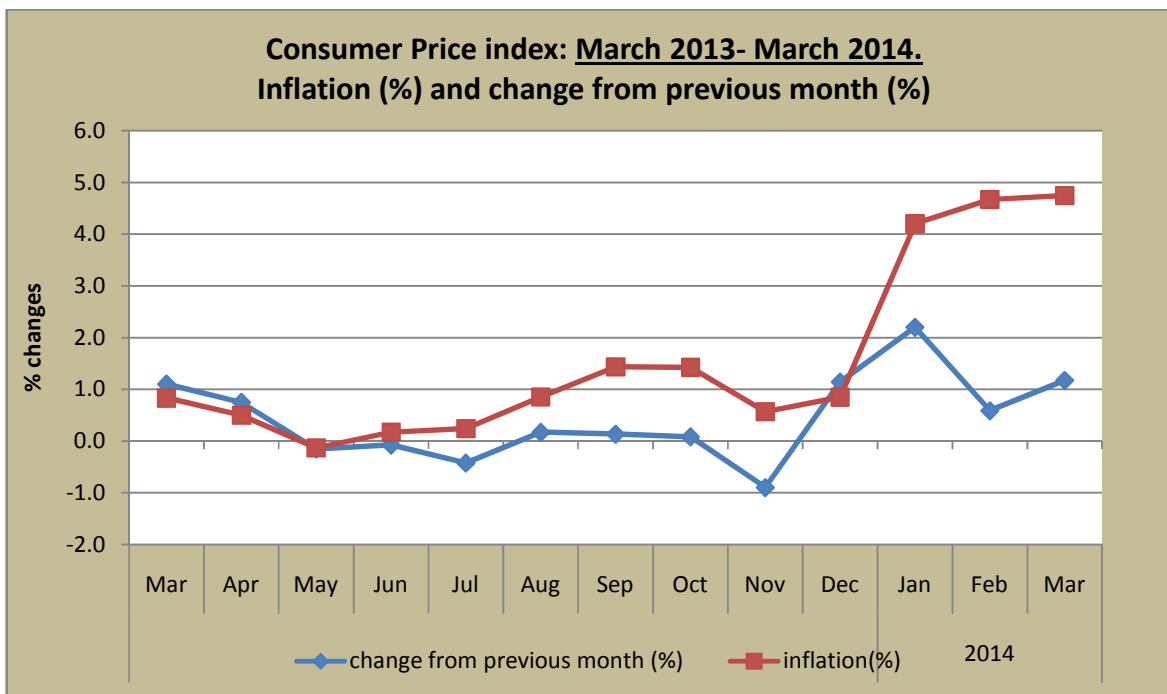




GOVERNMENT OF TONGA  
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT  
MEDIA RELEASE

**Consumer Price Index for March 2014 recorded an increase of 1.2%**  
**With an Annual Inflation Rate of 4.7%**



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for **March 2014** recorded an increase of **1.2%** from **February 2014 (110.1)** and now stands at **111.4**. In comparison with the previous month, local index increased by **2.2%** and import index increased by **0.4%**. For the previous two months, **January 2014** recorded an increase of **2.2%** while **February 2014** increased by **0.6%**

The **Annual Inflation Rate for March 2014** was **4.7%** the same with inflation of previous month. The **annual inflation** for the same month of previous year, **March 2013** was **0.8%**. Local Index marked a huge increase by **7.4%** while Imported Index increased by **2.9%**.

The **Food Group** marked an increase of **2.2%** towards the index position of **March 2014**, due mainly to increase in prices of most **local Roots crops, Fruits and vegetables, Meat, fish & Poultry**. Prices of items decreased although some imported food items such as tinned & packaged food and frozen meat increased throughout the months.

A decrease of **0.1%** in the index position of **Transportation group** was due mainly to decreasing prices of fuel especially Diesel.

**Tobacco Alcohol & Kava Tonga** groups recorded an increase in the index position of **March 2014** due to increase in price of Beer.

**Misc. Goods and Services groups** recorded an increase in the index position of **March 2014** due to increase in price for medical health services & supplies.

**Housing, Household Operation and Clothing and Footwear** recorded no change throughout the month.

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/)