



Solomon Islands Government

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**HONIARA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
(October 2011)**

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Commentary

The Honiara Consumers Price Index for October 2011 rose by 1.7% from 160.4 to 163.1 largely driven by a substantial rise in water charges and a slight increase in food prices.

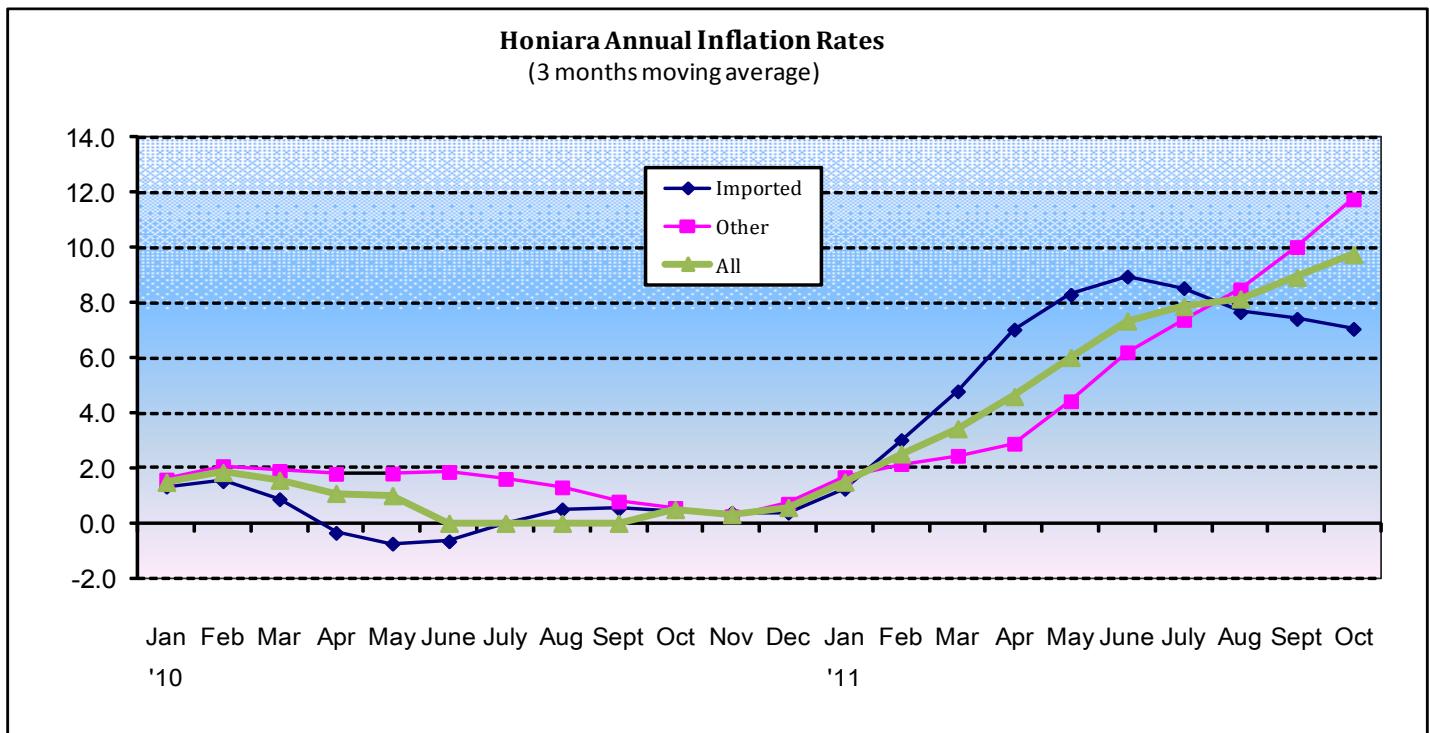
Water charges rose 41% from \$79.00 per 5,000 gallons in September to \$117.66 in October resulting in a 7.8% increase in the Housing & Utilities sub-index.

The Food sub-index also rose 0.4%. This was due to an increase in the price of rice which went up 1.4% to \$177.50/20 kg bag as well as fruit and vegetable prices at the Honiara market, notably kumara which went up 21% to \$5/kg, tomatoes, 30% to \$12/kg and chinese cabbage 9% to \$10.80/Kg.

Changes in other sub-indexes are as follows:-

- Household Operations group was slightly up 0.4% largely due to increases in imported regular household supplies such as bleach, steel-wool and dry cell batteries.
- Transport & Communications was down 0.4% due mainly to declines in the prices of petrol and diesel. The prices of petrol and diesel slightly fell 2% to \$11.65/litre and 3% to \$11.68/litre respectively

Price movements in other sub indexes are negligible.



The overall annual inflation rate for the month of October 2011 calculated on a three (3) months moving average basis was 9.8%, up 0.9 of a percentage point from 8.9% in September. The annual inflation rates for imported and other items were 7.1% and 11.8% respectively.

