

16 September 2009

**PRESS RELEASE**

**OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES**  
**August 2009**

In August 2009, official foreign reserves held by the National Reserve Bank of Tonga (NRBT) rose by \$19.8 million to a record high of \$159.2 million, compared to \$139.4 million in July 2009 and \$91.3 million in August 2008. This is equivalent to 6.2 months of imports of goods. The significant increase in foreign reserves for the month largely reflected the general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SRDs) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to its member countries to address the fallout in global financial crisis and accelerate recovery.

**OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES**  
**(millions of pa'anga)**

	<u>Level</u>	<u>Changes</u>		<u>Ratio of official foreign reserves to imports (months)</u>
		<u>Month</u>	<u>12 Months</u>	
<b><u>2008</u></b>				
Jan	113.1	-1.5	27.7	4.8
Feb	101.8	-11.3	17.6	4.3
Mar	96.3	-5.5	5.9	4.1
Apr	89.7	-6.6	9.1	3.6
May	89.5	-0.2	4.6	3.6
Jun	89.1	-0.4	-2.5	3.5
Jul	86.2	-2.9	-4.1	3.2
Aug	91.3	5.1	-6.4	3.4
Sep	128.5	37.2	23.7	4.8
Oct	121.6	-6.9	12.6	4.5
Nov	122.7	1.1	27.9	4.6
Dec	123.9	1.2	9.3	4.6
<b><u>2009</u></b>				
Jan	130.4	6.4	17.2	4.8
Feb	131.1	0.7	29.3	4.9®
Mar	130.6	-0.5	34.3	4.9®
Apr	132.6	2.0	42.8	5.0®
May	132.1	-0.5	42.6	4.9®
Jun	136.3	4.2	47.2	5.1
Jul	139.4	3.1	51.1	5.4
Aug	159.2	19.8	67.9	6.2

Note: ® - Revised figures

Source: National Reserve Bank of Tonga