

August 24, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

**OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES
July 2011**

In July 2011, official foreign reserves held by the National Reserve Bank of Tonga (NRBT) fell by \$6.2 million to \$197.6 million, compared to \$203.8 million in the previous month and \$178.0 million recorded in June 2010. This is equivalent to 7.2 months of imports of goods. The fall in foreign reserves was mainly due to oil payments and revaluation loss from the stronger Pa'anga. The Tongan Pa'anga was stronger against all major currencies in the month of July.

**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> | |
| <u>2009</u> | | | | |
| Nov | 159.9 | 0.8 | 37.2 | 6.6 |
| Dec | 160.4 | 0.5 | 36.5 | 6.6 |
| <u>2010</u> | | | | |
| Jan | 160.8 | 0.4 | 30.4 | 6.7 |
| Feb | 153.5 | -7.3 | 22.4 | 6.4 |
| Mar | 155.5 | 2.0 | 24.9 | 6.5 |
| Apr | 161.4 | 5.9 | 28.8 | 6.6 |
| May | 166.7 | 5.3 | 34.6 | 7.0 |
| Jun | 170.5 | 3.8 | 34.2 | 7.2 |
| Jul | 178.0 | 7.5 | 38.6 | 7.4 |
| Aug | 174.1 | 3.9 | 14.9 | 7.2 |
| Sep | 172.7 | -1.4 | 9.4 | 7.1 |
| Oct | 176.5 | 3.8 | 15.8 | 7.2® |
| Nov | 168.0 | -8.5 | 8.1 | 6.8® |
| Dec | 177.5 | 9.5 | 17.1 | 7.1® |
| <u>2011</u> | | | | |
| Jan | 165.2 | -12.3 | 4.4 | 6.4® |
| Feb | 158.8 | -6.4 | 5.3 | 6.0® |
| Mar | 157.1 | -1.7 | 1.6 | 5.9® |
| Apr | 160.1 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 6.0® |
| May | 170.2 | 10.1 | 3.5 | 6.3 |
| Jun | 203.8 | 33.6 | 33.3 | 7.4 |
| Jul | 197.6 | -6.2 | 19.6 | 7.2 |

Note: ® - Revised figures

Source: National Reserve Bank of Tonga

