

7 October 2009

PRESS RELEASE

**OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES
September 2009**

In September 2009, official foreign reserves held by the National Reserve Bank of Tonga (NRBT) rose further by \$4.1 million to a record high of \$163.3 million, compared to \$159.2 million in August 2009 and \$128.5 million in September 2008. This is equivalent to 6.7 months of imports of goods. The rise in foreign reserves for the month was due to the special 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>	Changes		Ratio of official foreign reserves to imports (months)
		Month	12 Months	
<u>2008</u>				
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
<u>2009</u>				
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	5.1®
May	132.1	-0.5	42.6	5.0®
Jun	136.3	4.2	47.2	5.3®
Jul	139.4	3.1	51.1	5.6®
Aug	159.2	19.8	67.9	6.5®
Sep	163.3	4.1	34.8	6.7

Note: ® - Revised figures

Source: National Reserve Bank of Tonga