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PRESS RELEASE

**OFFICIAL FOREIGN RESERVES
January 2010**

In January 2010, official foreign reserves held by the National Reserve Bank of Tonga (NRBT) rose slightly by \$0.4 million to \$160.8 million, compared to \$160.4 million in December 2009 and \$130.4 million recorded in January 2009. This is equivalent to 6.8 months of imports of goods. The slight increase in foreign reserves was due to the receipt of an official foreign grant during the month of January.

**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>				
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
Oct	160.7	2.6	39.1	6.7
Nov	159.9	0.8	37.2	6.7
Dec	160.4	0.5	36.5	6.8
<u>2010</u>				
Jan	160.8	0.4	30.4	6.8

Note: ® - Revised figures

Source: National Reserve Bank of Tonga