



NEWS RELEASE

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): MARCH 2016

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs

The Department of Census and Statistics has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for the month of March 2016. NCPI has been compiled as 110.0 for March 2016. This shows a decrease of 0.8 index points or a percentage of 0.72 compared to the previous month's (February) index of 110.8. This change is due to the value change decrease of food items by 0.73% and value change increase of non-food items by 0.07%.

The value change of food commodity group has decreased by 0.73 percent in March 2016 compared to February 2016. This was mainly due to the decreases in value change of Vegetables (0.47%), Rice (0.39%), Green chilies (0.09%), Coconut (0.03%), Red Onions (0.03%), Banana (0.03%) and Tamarind (0.02%) compared to the previous month (February). However, increases in value change were recorded for Big Onions (0.08%), Sprats-dry (0.03%), Fresh fish (0.03%), Bread (0.03%) and Chilly powder (0.02%) compared to the previous month (February).

The value change of non food commodity group has increased by 0.07 percent in March 2016 compared to February 2016. This was mainly due to the value change increase in non food commodity group of 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco & Narcotics'. The groups of 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', 'Furnishing, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance', 'Restaurant and Hotels' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' recorded very slight changes compared to the previous month (February). The value change of 'Health', 'Transport', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Education' groups remained unchanged during the month.

In a communiqué issued on NCPI, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that Year on Year inflation based on NCPI for the month of March 2016 was calculated as 2.2% and he further said inflation calculated for February 2016 was 1.7%.

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by the DCS is, National Consumer Price Index (NCPI). DCS commenced releasing NCPI (Base 2013=100) from October 2015 with a time lag of 21 days.

Department of Census and Statistics

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