



NEWS RELEASE

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): MARCH 2017

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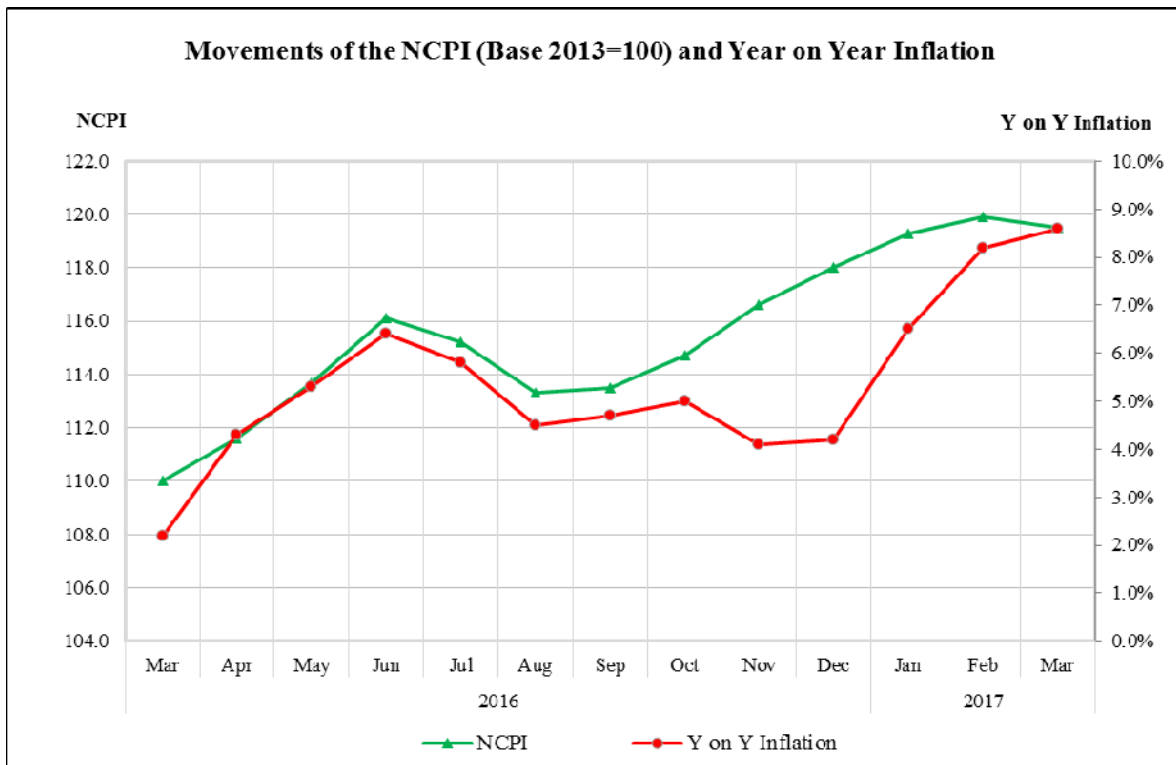
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In a communiqué issuing on National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of March 2017, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has slightly increased to 8.6% in March 2017 from 8.2% in February 2017. During the year 2016, the lowest price level was reported for the month of March and this can be considered as the main reason for the observed slight increase in inflation reported for the March 2017. Contributions to the inflation from food group and non-food group in March 2017 are 4.9% and 3.8% respectively, whereas contributions of these two groups to the inflation in March 2016 were as low as 0.2% and 2.0% respectively reflecting prevailed lowest price levels in March 2016.

However, when compared to month on month changes NCPI in March 2017 has declined to 119.5 from 119.9 reported for February 2017. This shows a decrease of 0.4 index points or 0.3 percentage points in March 2017 compared to previous month; February 2017. NCPI compiled for February 2017 was 119.9. This monthly change was due to the decrease of expenditure value of food items by 0.38% and increase of expenditure value non-food items by 0.03%.

The decrease in expenditure value of food items was due to the price decreases in rice, limes, banana, green chilies, potatoes, mysore dhal, dried chilies and chilly powder. However, increases in expenditure value in index were reported for coconuts, vegetables, papaw, sugar, coconut oil, mangoes, dried fish and garlic.

The increase in expenditure value of non food items in March 2017 compared to the preceding month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Further, very slight increase in expenditure value was reported for group of 'Restaurant and Hotels' and very slight decreases in expenditure value were reported for groups of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Recreation and Culture' compared to the previous month. The expenditure value of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Health', 'Transport', 'Communication' and 'Education' groups remained unchanged during the month.



Movements of the NCPI (Base : 2013 = 100)

Year	Month	Index Number	Month to Month % change of Index Number	Year on Year Inflation %
2016	March	110.0	-0.7	2.2
	April	111.6	1.5	4.3
	May	113.7	1.9	5.3
	June	116.1	2.1	6.4
	July	115.2	-0.8	5.8
	August	113.3	-1.6	4.5
	September	113.5	0.2	4.7
	October	114.7	1.1	5.0
	November	116.6	1.7	4.1
	December	118.0	1.2	4.2
2017	January	119.3	1.1	6.5
	February	119.9	0.5	8.2
	March	119.5	-0.3	8.6

Director General
Department of Census and Statistics