



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): FEBRUARY 2018**

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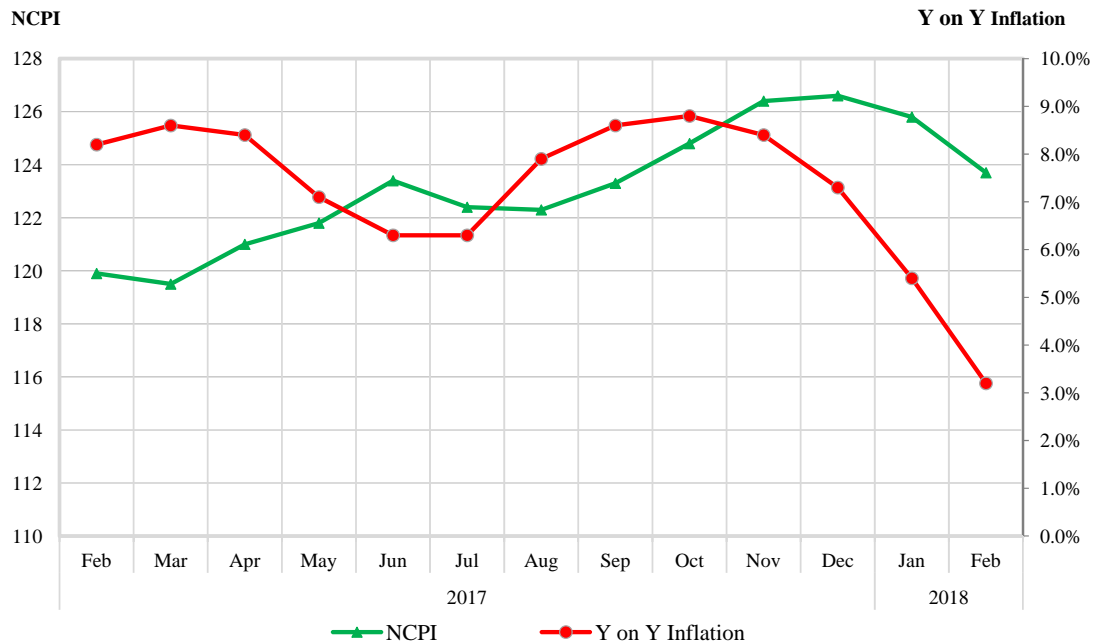
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of February 2018, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has declined to 3.2% from 5.4% in January 2018. Inflation of 3.2% reported for February 2018 is the lowest inflation reported since April 2016. The reported inflation for the month of February 2018 was mainly due to comparatively higher price levels prevailed in February 2017 and decline in food prices in February 2018. Contributions to the inflation in February 2018 from food group and non-food group are 1.6% and 1.5% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in February 2017 were 4.5% and 3.8% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 8.2%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in February 2018 has decreased to 123.7 from 125.8 reported in January 2018. This shows a decrease of 2.1 index points that is 1.7 percentage points in February 2018 as compared to January 2018. This month on month change was contributed by decrease of expenditure value of food items by 1.96% and increase of non-food items by 0.35%.

The decrease in expenditure value of food items was due to the price decreases of vegetables, green chillies, red onions, rice, big onions, banana, mysore dhal, fresh fish, potatoes sugar, limes and papaw. However, increases in expenditure value in index were reported for coconuts, chilly powder and chicken.

The increase in expenditure value of non food items in February 2018 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Education', 'Health', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Transport' and 'Recreation and Culture'. Further, the group of 'Restaurant and Hotels' recorded very slight expenditure value increase compared to the preceding month. The expenditure value of 'Communication' group remained unchanged during this month.

### Movements of the NCPI (Base 2013=100) and Year on Year Inflation



### Movements of the NCPI (Base : 2013 = 100)

Year	Month	Index Number	Month to Month % change of Index Number	Year on Year Inflation %
2017	February	119.9	0.5	8.2
	March	119.5	-0.3	8.6
	April	121.0	1.3	8.4
	May	121.8	0.7	7.1
	June	123.4	1.3	6.3
	July	122.4	-0.8	6.3
	August	122.3	-0.1	7.9
	September	123.3	0.8	8.6
	October	124.8	1.2	8.8
	November	126.4	1.3	8.4
	December	126.6	0.2	7.3
	2018	January	125.8	-0.6
February		123.7	-1.7	3.2