

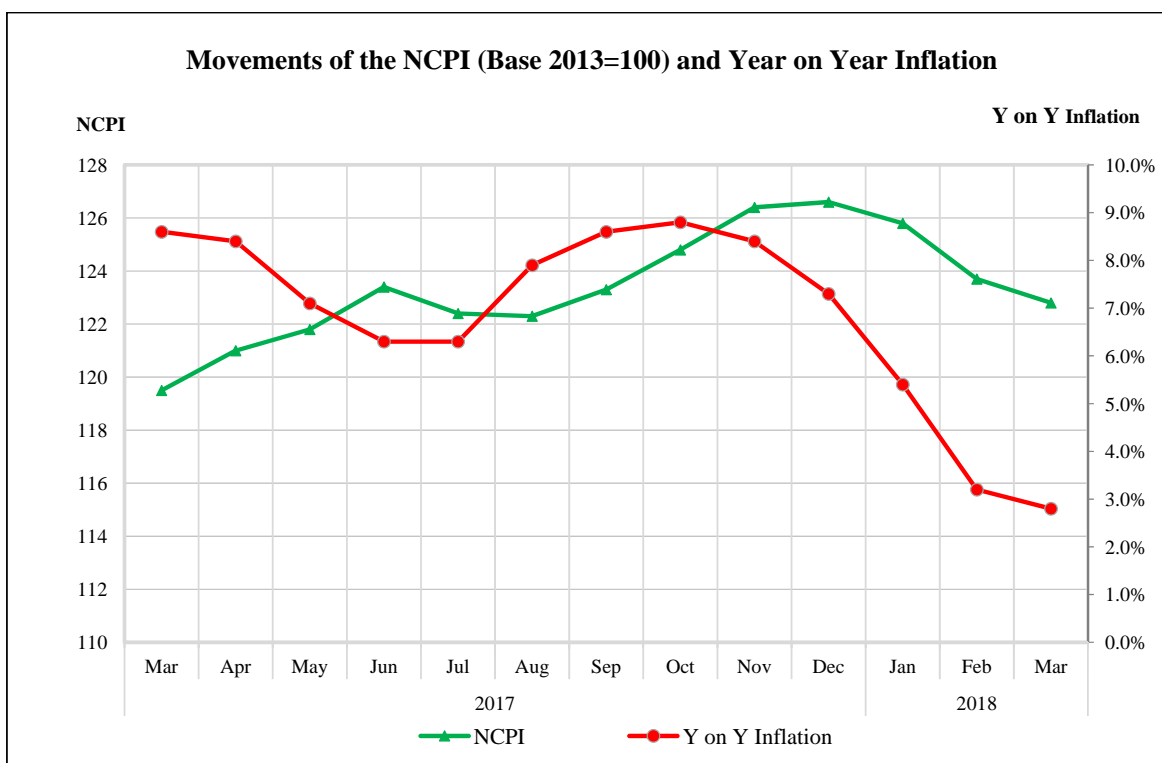
**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): MARCH 2018****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of March 2018, Mr. D.G.S.G. Munasinghe, Actg. Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has declined to 2.8% from 3.2% in February 2018. Contributions to the inflation in March 2018 from food group and non-food group are 1.2% and 1.6% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in March 2017 were 4.9% and 3.8% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 8.6%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in March 2018 has decreased to 122.8 from 123.7 reported in February 2018. This shows a decrease of 0.9 index points that is 0.7 percentage points in March 2018 as compared to February 2018. This month on month change was contributed by decrease of expenditure value of food items by 0.80% and increase of non-food items by 0.08%.

The decrease in expenditure value of food items was due to the price decreases of vegetables, big onions, rice, red onions, banana, fresh fish, green chilies, potatoes and coconuts. However, increases in expenditure value in index were reported due to price increases of sprats(dry), infant milk powder, eggs and limes.

The increases in expenditure value of non food items in March 2018 compared to the previous month was due to price increases of some items in non food commodity groups of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Transport', 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Recreation and Culture'. In the 'Transport' group expenditure value increase was due to increase in price of fuel by one of the suppliers with effect from 24 March, 2018. Also in the 'Recreation and Culture' group expenditure value increase was due to price increase of news papers with effect from March, 2018. Further, very slight increase were reported in prices of some items in the group of 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, prices of items in 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Health', 'Communication', 'Education' and 'Restaurants & Hotels' 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 %
2017	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	5.4
	February	123.7	-1.7	3.2
	March	122.8	-0.7	2.8