

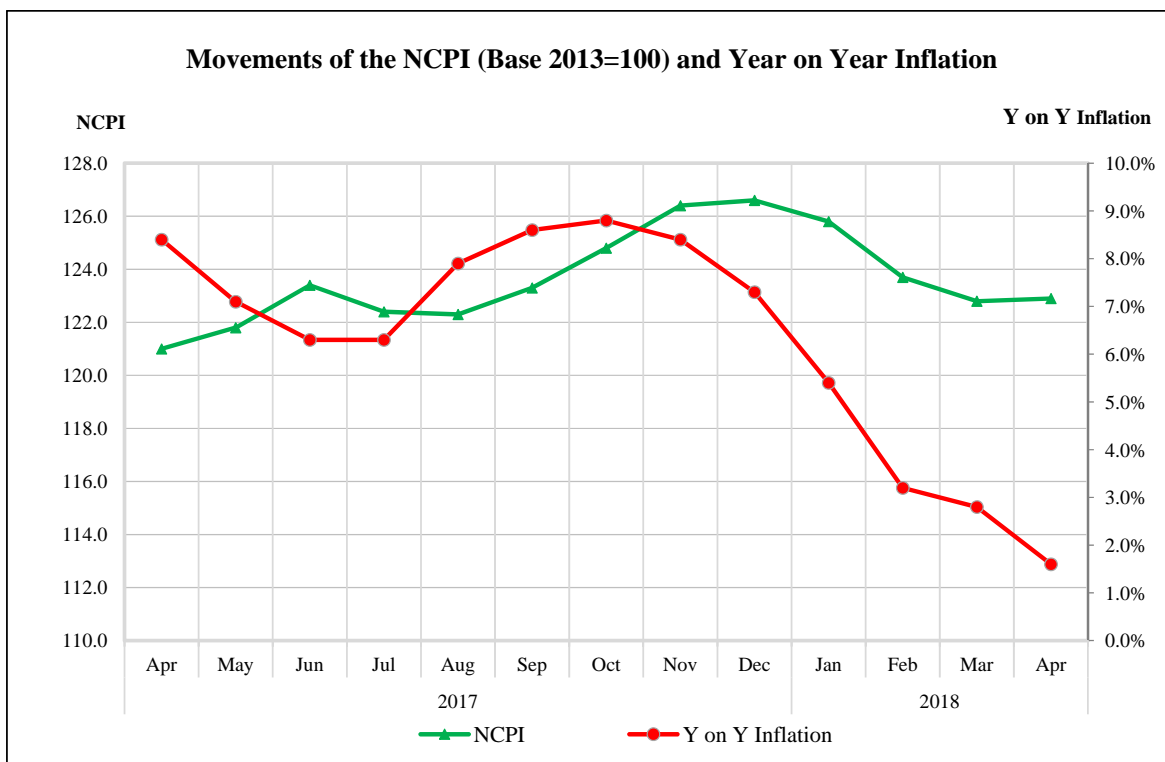
**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): APRIL 2018****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of April 2018, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has declined to 1.6% from 2.8% in March 2018. Inflation of 1.6% reported for April 2018 is the lowest inflation reported since February 2016. Contributions to the inflation in April 2018 from food group and non-food group are -0.2% and 1.7% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in April 2017 were 5.2% and 3.3% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 8.4%.

However, when compared to month on month changes, NCPI in April 2018 has increased to 122.9 from 122.8 reported in March 2018. This shows an increase of 0.1 index points that is 0.1 percentage points in April 2018 as compared to March 2018. This month on month change was contributed by increase of expenditure of non-food items by 0.12% and decrease of expenditure value of food items by 0.11%

The decrease in expenditure value of food items were reported for vegetables, big onions, coconuts, eggs, gram, rice and green chilies. However, increases in expenditure value of food items were reported for limes, potatoes, tea dust, banana, chicken, fresh fish, dried chilies, infant milk powder and red onions.

The increases in expenditure value of non food items in April 2018 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance' and 'Transport'. In the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' group expenditure value increase was due to increase in price of LP Gas with effect from 28 April, 2018 and in the 'Transport' group expenditure value increase was due to increase in price of fuel with effect from March, 2018. Further, the group of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' recorded very slight expenditure value increase compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture', '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	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
	April	122.9	0.1	1.6