

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): MAY 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**

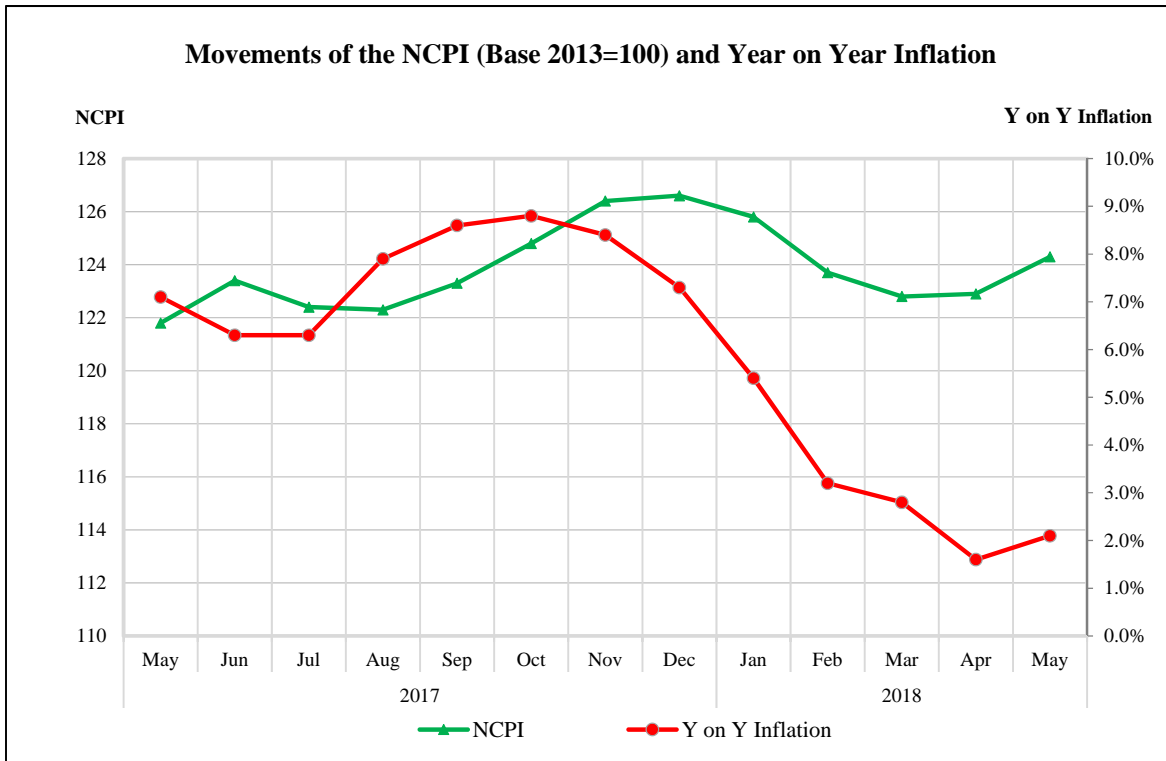
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of May 2018, Mr. D.G.S.G. Munasinghe, Actg. Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 2.1%. The inflation reported for the month of April 2018 was 1.6%. Inflation remained below 3.0% over the last three months. Contributions to the inflation in May 2018 from food group and non-food group are -0.02% and 2.05% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in May 2017 were 4.6% and 2.5% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 7.1%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in May 2018 has increased to 124.3 from 122.9 reported in April 2018. This shows an increase of 1.4 index points that is 1.1 percentage points in May 2018 as compared to April 2018. This month on month change was contributed by increases of expenditure value of food items by 0.55% and non-food items by 0.61% respectively.

The increases in expenditure value of food items were reported for vegetables, fresh fish, big onions, limes, potatoes, chicken, eggs, dried fish, green chilies, ginger, infant milk powder and milk powder. However, decreases in expenditure value of food items were reported for coconuts, banana, papaw, mangoes, garlic, rice and gram.

The increases in expenditure value of non food items in May 2018 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Transport', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Health', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Recreation and Culture', 'Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance' and 'Clothing and Footwear'. In the 'Transport' group expenditure value increase was mainly due to increase in fuel prices (petrol & diesel) with effect from 11 May, 2018. The expenditure value increase in the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' group was also mainly due to increase in prices of kerosene oil and LP Gas with effect from 11 May, 2018 and 28 April, 2018 respectively. However, decrease in expenditure value was reported for group of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Communication', 'Education' and 'Restaurants & Hotels' groups remained unchanged during the 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	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
	May	124.3	1.1	2.1