

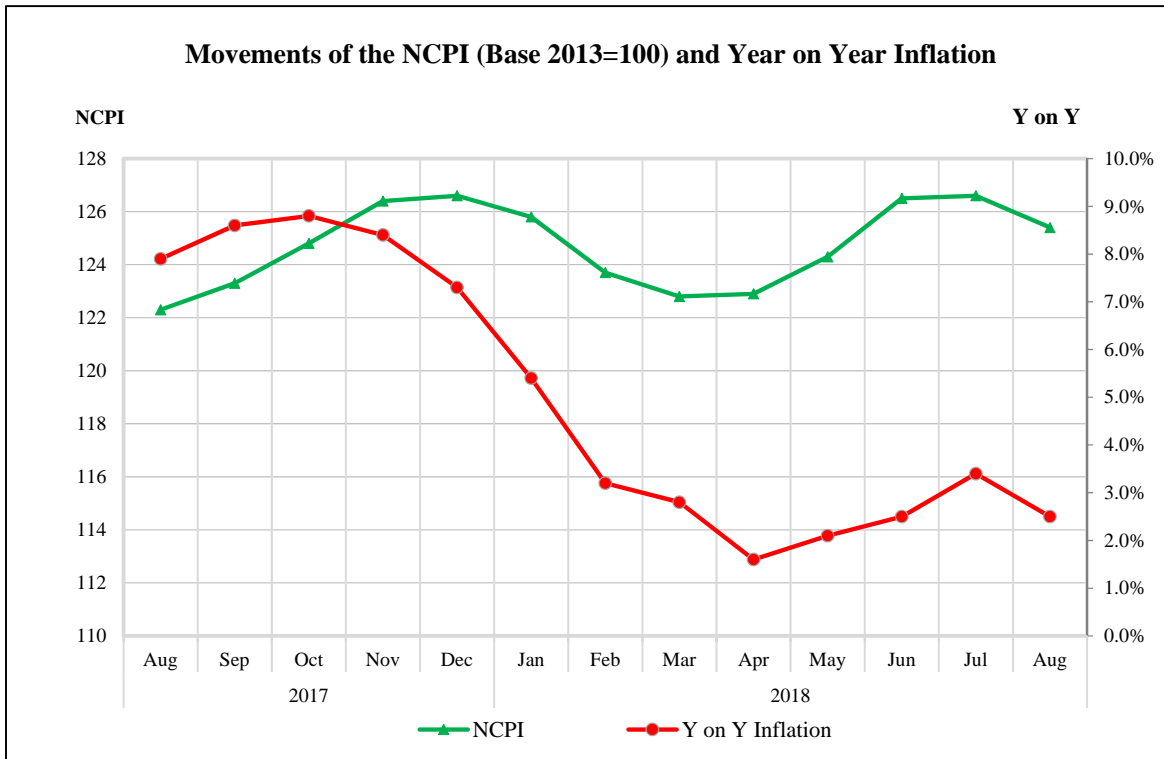
**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): AUGUST 2018****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of August 2018, Actg. Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 2.5%. The inflation reported for the month of July 2018 was 3.4%. Contributions to the inflation in August 2018 from food group and non-food group are -0.01% and 2.57% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in August 2017 were 5.3% and 2.7% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 7.9%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in August 2018 has decreased to 125.4 from 126.6 reported in July 2018. This shows a decrease of 1.2 index points that is 0.9 percentage points in August 2018 as compared to July 2018. This month on month change was contributed by decreases of expenditure value of food items by 1.31% and increases of non-food items by 0.40% respectively.

The decreases in expenditure value of food items were reported Vegetables, Coconuts, Green Chillies, Fresh Fish, Red Onion, Rice, Limes, Dhal Misoor, Garlic, Potatoes, Sugar, Ginger, Chili Powder and Gram. However, increases in expenditure value in index were reported for Papaw, Eggs, Mangoes, Milk Powder, Banana, Dried Fish, Chicken, Pineapple and Tea dust/Leaves.

The increases in expenditure value of non food items in August 2018 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Transport', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', 'Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Recreation and Culture', 'Restaurants & Hotels' and 'Clothing & Footwear'. However, decrease in expenditure value was reported for group of 'Health' compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of '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 %
2017	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
	June	126.5	1.8	2.5
	July	126.6	0.1	3.4
	August	125.4	-0.9	2.5