

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

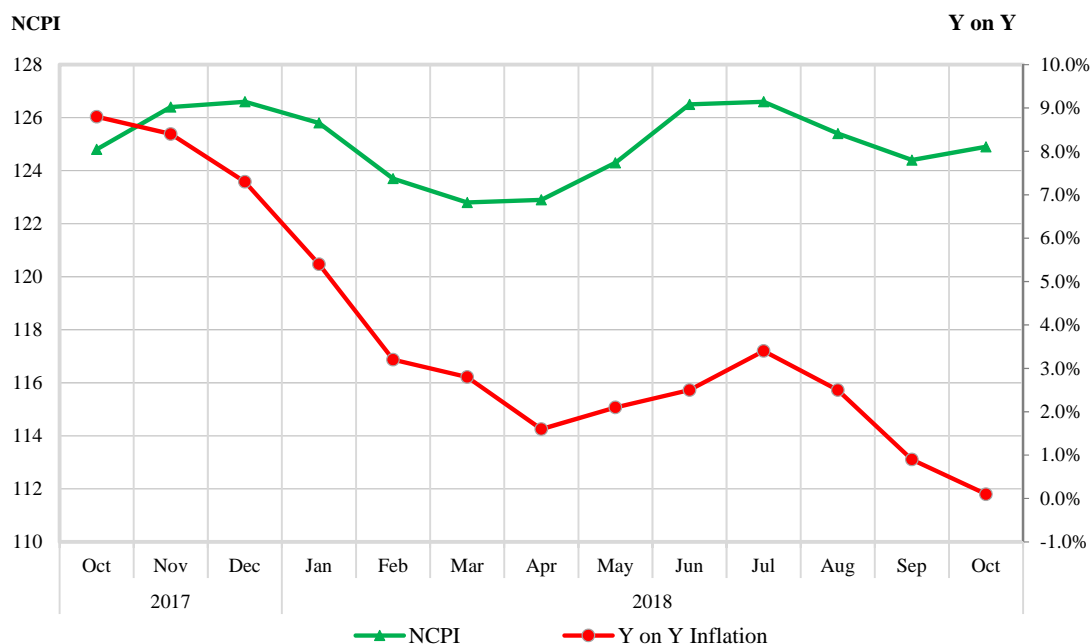
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of October 2018, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has declined to 0.1% from 0.9% in September 2018. Contributions to the inflation in October 2018 from food group and non-food group are -3.04% and 3.10% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in October 2017 were 6.4% and 2.4% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 8.8%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in October 2018 has increased to 124.9 from 124.4 reported in September 2018. This shows an increase of 0.5 index points that is 0.4 percentage points in October 2018 as compared to September 2018. This month on month change was contributed by decreases of expenditure value of food items by 0.03% and increases of non-food items by 0.42% respectively.

The decreases in expenditure value of food items were reported Fresh Fish, Eggs, Coconuts, Papaw, Potatoes, Dried Fish, Chicken, Big Onion, Coconut Oil and Wheat Flour. However, increases in expenditure value in index were reported for Limes, Vegetables, Rice, Sugar, Banana, Bread (Normal), Cinnamon, Pineapple, Green Chilies, Tamarind, Jak and Jak seeds and Garlic.

The increases in expenditure value of non food items in October 2018 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Transport', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', 'Restaurants & Hotels' and 'Clothing & Footwear'. Further, the group of 'Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance' recorded very slight expenditure value increase compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Education' 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	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
	September	124.4	-0.8	0.9
	October	124.9	0.4	0.1