



NEWS RELEASE

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): DECEMBER 2018

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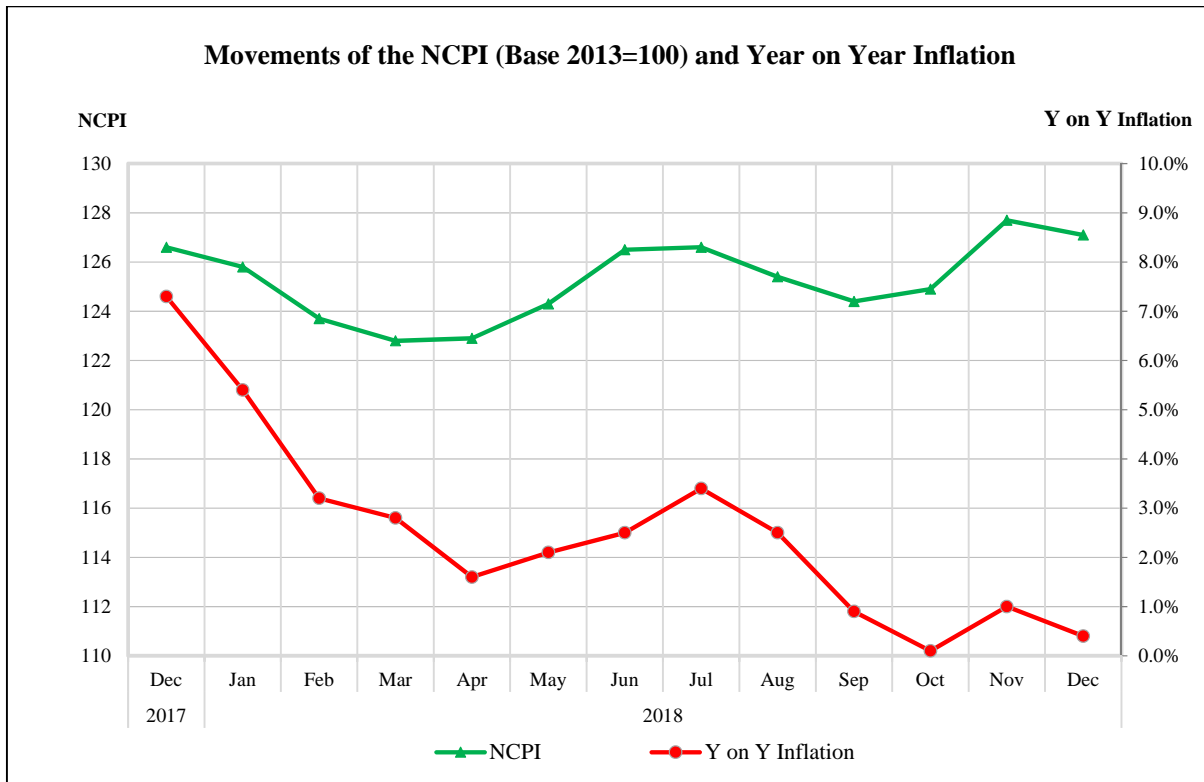
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of December 2018, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 0.4%. The inflation reported for the month of November 2018 was 1.0%. Contributions to the inflation in December 2018 from food group and non-food group are -2.1% and 2.5% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in December 2017 were 5.7% and 1.6% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 7.3%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in December 2018 has decreased to 127.1 from 127.7 reported in November 2018. This shows a decrease of 0.6 index points that is percentage of -0.5 was reported in December 2018 as compared to November 2018. This month on month change was contributed by decreases of expenditure value of food items by 0.17% and non-food items by 0.27% respectively.

The decreases in expenditure value of food items were reported for vegetables, limes, big onions, banana, coconuts, mangoes and pineapple. However, increases in expenditure value of food items were reported for rice, green chillies, fresh fish, papaw, eggs, potatoes, jak and jak seeds, chicken and red onions.

The decreases in expenditure value of non food items in December 2018 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value decreases in groups of 'Transport', 'Communication' and 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics'. In the 'Transport' group expenditure value decrease was due to decreases in fuel prices (petrol & diesel) and bus fare during this month. Also in the 'Communication' group expenditure value decrease was due to decrease in prices of telephone charges compared to the earlier month of November. However, increase in expenditure value was reported for group of 'Clothing & Footwear'. Further, the group of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' recorded very slight expenditure value increase and the group of 'Recreation and Culture' recorded very slight expenditure value decrease compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Health', '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	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
	November	127.7	2.2	1.0
	December	127.1	-0.5	0.4