

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): JANUARY 2019****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

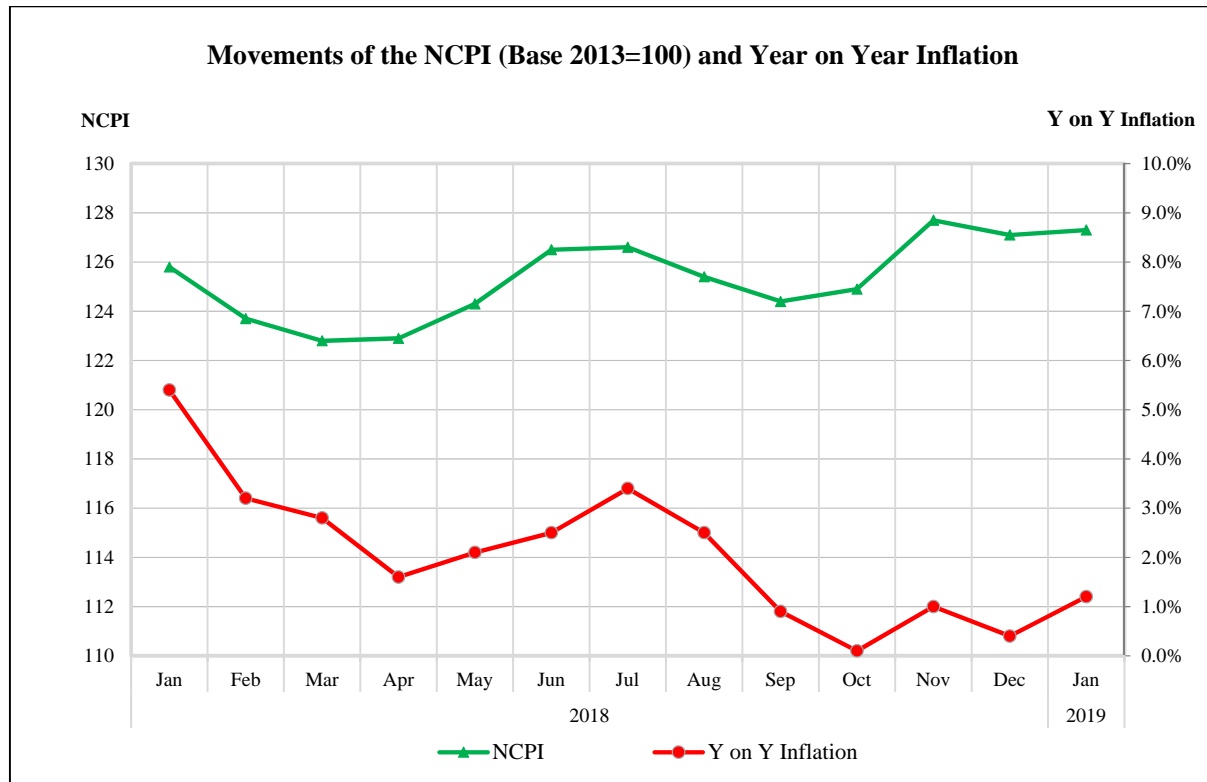
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of January 2019, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 1.2%. The inflation reported for the month of December 2018 was 0.4%. Contributions to the inflation in January 2019 from food group and non-food group are -2.2% and 3.5% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in January 2018 were 4.0% and 1.4% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 5.4%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in January 2019 has increased to 127.3 from 127.1 reported in December 2018. This shows an increase of 0.2 index points that is percentage of 0.2 was reported in January 2019 as compared to December 2018. This month on month change was contributed by decrease of expenditure value of food items by 0.93% and increase of expenditure value of non-food items by 1.05%.

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

The increases in expenditure value of non food items in January 2019 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Clothing & Footwear', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Education' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. However, decrease in expenditure value was reported for group of 'Transport' compared to the preceding month. In the 'Transport' group expenditure value decrease was due to decreases in fuel prices (petrol & diesel) and bus fare. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' 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 %
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
2019	January	127.3	0.2	1.2