

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): FEBRUARY 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](mailto:prices@statistics.gov.lk)**

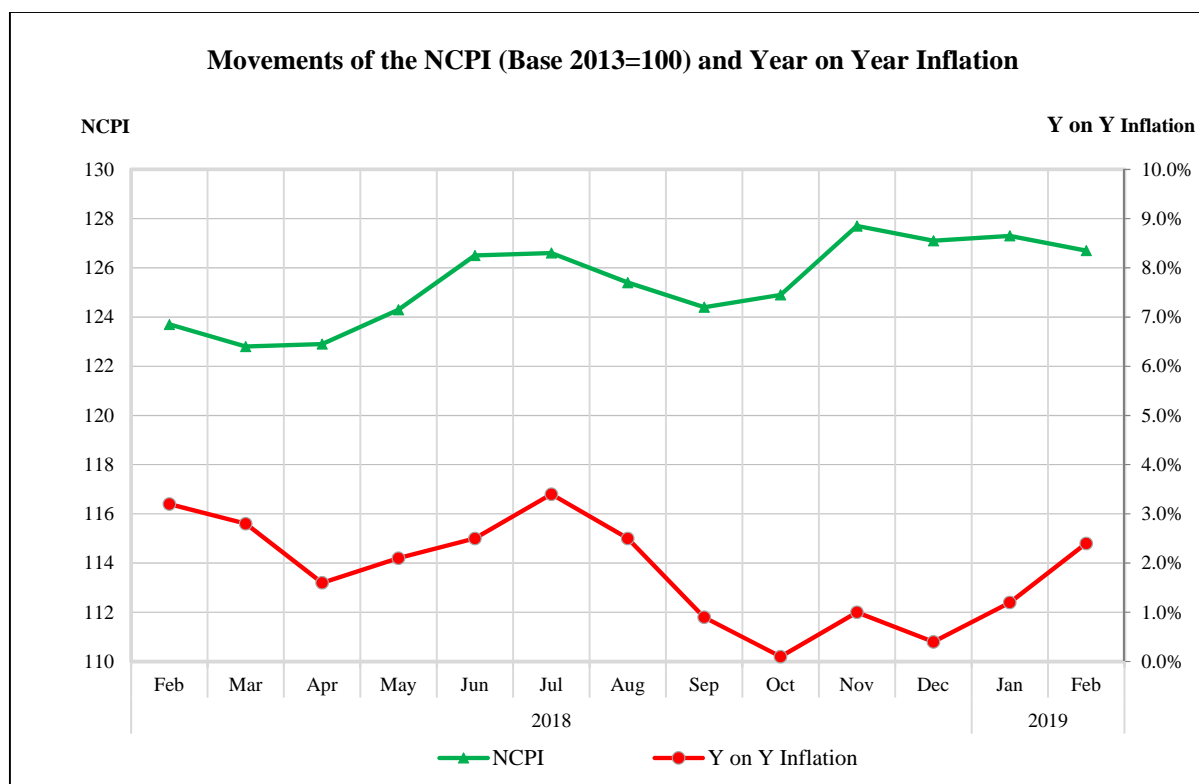
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of February 2019, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 2.4%. The inflation reported for the month of January 2019 was 1.2%. Contributions to the inflation in February 2019 from food group and non-food group are -1.3% and 3.7% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in February 2018 were 1.6% and 1.5% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 3.2%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in February 2019 has decreased to 126.7 from 127.3 reported in January 2019. This shows a decrease of 0.6 index points that is percentage of 0.5 was reported in February 2019 as compared to January 2019. This month on month change was contributed by decrease of expenditure value of food items by 1.00% and increase of expenditure value of non-food items by 0.54%.

The decreases in expenditure value of food items were reported for vegetables, green chilies, rice, coconuts, limes, big onions, banana, potatoes, red onions and eggs. However, increases in expenditure value of food items were reported for papaw, fresh fish, mysore dhal, biscuits, garlic, sprats (dry) and chicken.

The increases in expenditure value of non food groups in February 2019 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of items 'Education' (Tuition fees), 'Health' (Fees to private medical practices, Spectacles, Purchase of medical/pharmacy products, Consultation fees to specialists), 'Transport' (Fuel prices, Van fare-other than schooling, Transport fare for schooling/pre-schooling), 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (Betel leaves, Arrack), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (Maintenance/Reconstruction), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Recreation and Culture', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Restaurants and Hotels'. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Communication' group 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	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
February		126.7	-0.5	2.4