

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): MARCH 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**

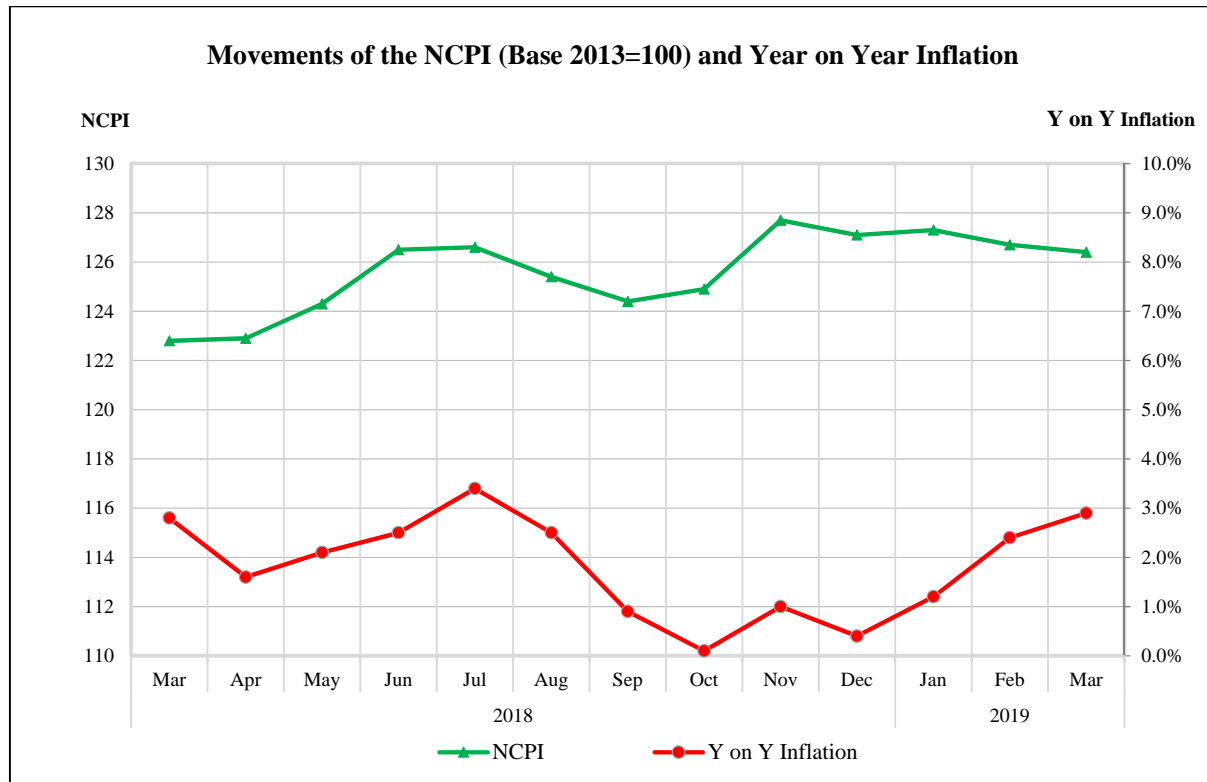
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of March 2019, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 2.9%. The inflation reported for the month of February 2019 was 2.4%. Contributions to the inflation in March 2019 from food group and non-food group are -1.1% and 3.9% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in March 2018 were 1.2% and 1.6% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 2.8%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in March 2019 has decreased to 126.4 from 126.7 reported in February 2019. This shows a decrease of 0.3 index points that is percentage of 0.2 was reported in March 2019 as compared to February 2019. This month on month change was contributed by decrease of expenditure value of food items by -0.51% and increase of expenditure value of non-food items by 0.25%.

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

The increases in expenditure value of non food groups in March 2019 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (Cigarettes, Arrack and Betel leaves), 'Transport' (Fuel prices, Purchase of Vehicles), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. Further, very slight increase in expenditure value was reported in group of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels'. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture', 'Education' and 'Restaurants and 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	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
	February	126.7	-0.5	2.4
	March	126.4	-0.2	2.9