

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

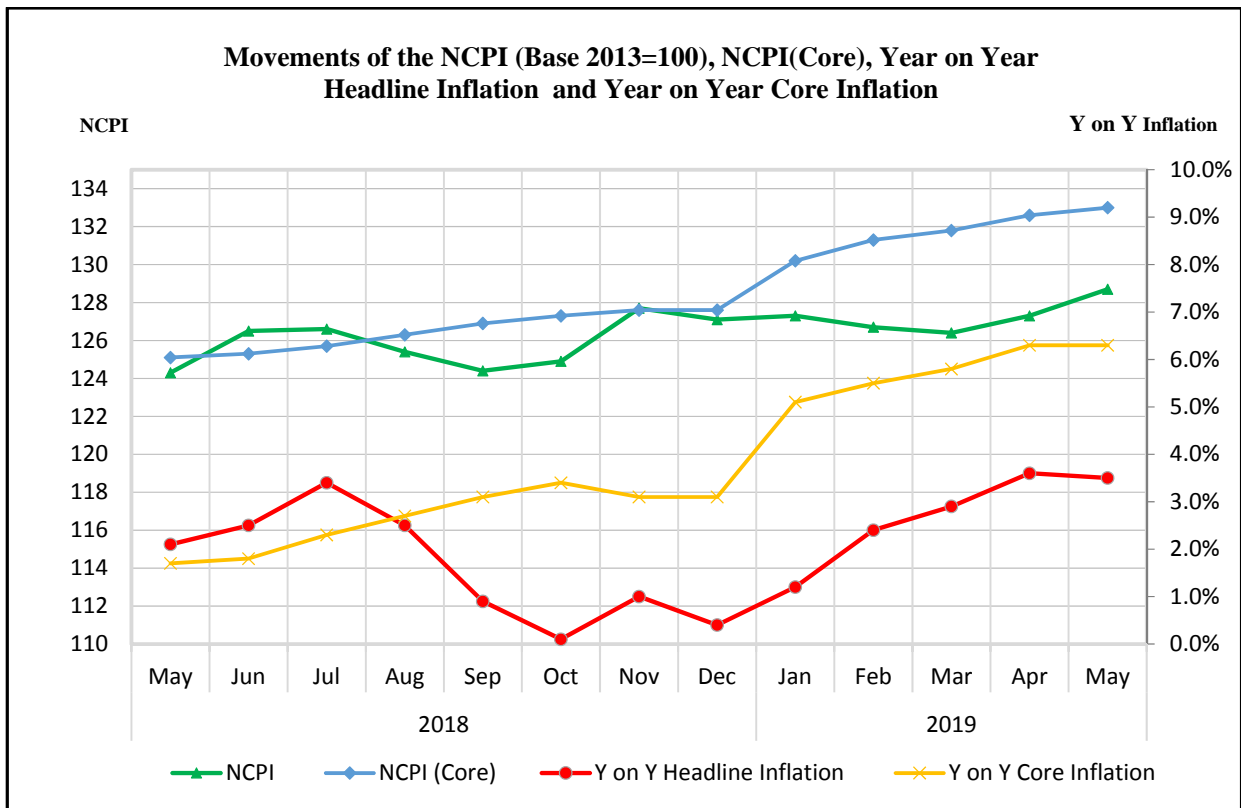
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of May 2019, Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year on Year change based on NCPI has been compiled as 3.5%. The headline inflation reported for the month of April 2019 was 3.6%. Contributions to the inflation in May 2019 from food group and non-food group are -0.2% and 3.7% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in May 2018 were -0.02% and 2.1% respectively, resulting headline inflation of 2.1%.

When compared to month on month changes, NCPI in May 2019 has increased to 128.7 from 127.3 reported in April 2019. This shows an increase of 1.4 index points that is percentage of 1.1 was reported in May 2019 as compared to April 2019. This month on month change was contributed by increases of expenditure value of food items by 0.89% and non-food items by 0.17% respectively.

The increases in expenditure value of food items were reported for Vegetables, Fresh fish, Limes, Potatoes, Milk powder, Dried fish, Red onions, Big onions, Sugar and Garlic. However, decreases in expenditure value of food items were reported for Coconuts, Eggs, Papaw, Banana, Mangoes, Coconut oil, Chicken and Rice.

The increases in expenditure value of non food groups in May 2019 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of items 'Transport' (Purchase of Vehicles and Fuel prices), 'Health' (Purchase of medical/pharmacy products), 'Recreation and Culture', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Restaurants and Hotels' and 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (Betel leaves). Further, very slight increase in expenditure value were reported in group of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels'. Meanwhile, the expenditure value of 'Communication' and 'Education' and groups remained unchanged during the month.

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation by excluding volatile items of food, energy and transport groups in the economy as measured by the Year on Year change based on NCPI for the month of May 2019 remained at 6.3% as was reported for April 2019.



**Movements of the NCPI (Base : 2013 = 100)**

Year	Month	Index Number		Month to Month % change of Index Number		Year on Year Inflation %	
		NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)
2018	May	124.3	125.1	1.1	0.2	2.1	1.7
	June	126.5	125.3	1.8	0.2	2.5	1.8
	July	126.6	125.7	0.1	0.3	3.4	2.3
	August	125.4	126.3	-0.9	0.5	2.5	2.7
	September	124.4	126.9	-0.8	0.5	0.9	3.1
	October	124.9	127.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	3.4
	November	127.7	127.6	2.2	0.2	1.0	3.1
	December	127.1	127.6	-0.5	0.0	0.4	3.1
2019	January	127.3	130.2	0.2	2.0	1.2	5.1
	February	126.7	131.3	-0.5	0.8	2.4	5.5
	March	126.4	131.8	-0.2	0.4	2.9	5.8
	April	127.3	132.6	0.7	0.6	3.6	6.3
	May	128.7	133.0	1.1	0.3	3.5	6.3