



## NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) – (Base 2021=100)

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Department of Census and Statistics  
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) with a new index reference period and Inflation rate for the month of April 2024.

The NCPI with an index reference period 2013=100 was updated to a new index reference period of 2021= 100. The updated NCPI will be released monthly commencing from January 2023 with a time lag of 21 days covering the entire country.

To reflect international recommendations and best practices, the index weights refer to each item's share in the total consumption expenditures of all Sri Lankan households. The provincial weights refer to the consumption expenditures within the province in proportion to the expenditures in the whole country. The index weights are based on expenditure data derived from the HIES conducted in year 2019. The HIES 2019 included all types of consumption expenditures by households, and was broadly representative of all households in the country.

The national consumer basket for the updated NCPI includes 485 items which represent the consumption expenditure of all households in Sri Lanka. For the compilation of NCPI, three price quotations are collected for each of the items in every district town. Prices for some items are collected weekly, while prices for other items are collected once every two weeks, monthly or quarterly. The frequency of price collection is determined by on an average how frequently price changes take place.

- ❖ The NCPI (Base 2021 = 100) for all items for the month of April 2024 is 208.2 and it records a decrease of 1.8 in index points compared to March 2024.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 2.7% in April 2024.

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### Source Publication

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/InflationAndPrices/StaticInformation/MonthlyNCPI>

statistics.gov.lk

## 01. Month on Month (M on M) change of NCPI (Base 2021=100):

The NCPI for all items for the month of April 2024 is 208.2. A decrease of 1.8 index points or 0.89 percentage compared to March 2024 for which the index was 210.0. This decrease represents a decrease in expenditure value of Rs. 946.09 in the "market basket".

Monthly changes of index numbers, expenditure values and percentage change of index numbers are given in the following table (Table 01).

**Table 01: Monthly Changes by Main Groups of Market Basket**

Main Group	Index Number			Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Value (Rs.)			Monthly change of the index (%) <sup>1</sup>		
	Apr 2023	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	Apr 2023	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	Apr 2023	Mar 2024	Apr 2024
<b>All Items</b>	202.7	210.0	208.2	-1073.6	-2246.20	-946.09	-1.04	-2.06	-0.89
<b>Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages</b>	223.8	234.4	231.1	122.1	-1030.04	-641.99	0.12	-0.95	-0.60
<b>Non Food</b>	189.1	194.3	193.4	-1195.7	-1216.16	-304.10	-1.15	-1.12	-0.29
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	190.9	238.4	240.7	-10.2	10.48	22.44	-0.01	0.01	0.02
Clothing and Footwear	215.2	210.4	211.0	50.7	-9.12	8.40	0.05	-0.01	0.01
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	166.7	163.1	160.4	-408.1	-1227.23	-315.65	-0.39	-1.13	-0.30
Health	191.6	193.5	195.0	51.5	0.00	23.88	0.05	0.00	0.02
Transport	223.9	237.2	237.9	-1031.5	-1.60	38.05	-1.00	0.00	0.04
Recreation and Culture	203.5	215.6	203.9	120.1	0.00	-100.04	0.12	0.00	-0.09
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	197.6	201.6	202.3	-16.8	-1.73	11.51	-0.02	0.00	0.01
Other groups	188.2	198.3	198.4	48.57	13.03	7.32	0.05	0.01	0.01

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

*Note 1: There are 12 main groups in the market basket. Monthly significant changes were noted in eight main groups in April 2024, details of which are given in Table 02.*

*Note 2: For the April 2024, insignificant groups: 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Restaurants and Hotels' and unchanged groups: 'Communication' and 'Education' are considered as the 'Other Groups'.*

*Note 3: <sup>1</sup>Monthly change of the index (%) is calculated using expenditure values.*

*Note 4: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.*

## Contribution to Month-on-Month Changes:

Contributions to the NCPI on a Month-on-Month basis (April 2024 as compared to March 2024) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by a decrease in food items of 0.60% and in non-food items of 0.29%, respectively.

### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: - 0.60%

As shown in Table 02, the decreases in index values were reported for Vegetables (0.70%), Green chilies (0.09%), Eggs (0.04%), Dried chilies (0.03%), Milk powder (0.03%), Potatoes (0.02%), Rice (0.02%), Dried fish (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%), Canned fish (0.01%), Cowpea (0.01%), Mysore dhal (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%), Gram (0.01%) and Fresh fruits (0.01%). However, increases in index values were reported for Big onions (0.19%), Limes (0.07%), Chicken (0.06%), Coconuts (0.02%), Tea dust /leaves (0.02%), Fresh fish (0.02%), Green gram (0.02%), Ginger (0.02%) and Red onions (0.01%).

### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: -0.29%

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in April 2024 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity bill and LP Gas*) (0.30%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (*Exercise books and stationeries*) (0.09%). However, price increases in groups of items were reported for 'Transport' (*Three wheelers fare*) (0.04%), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Beetle leaves*) (0.02%), 'Health' (*Fees to private medical practices*) (0.02%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.01%) and 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*) (0.01%). Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Restaurants and Hotels'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Communication' and 'Education' groups remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the decrease in NCPI from March 2024 to April 2024 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
<b>Food</b>	<b>-641.99</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>-0.60</b>
Vegetables	-742.39		0.70	
Green chilies	-92.76		0.09	
Eggs	-42.93		0.04	
Dried chilies	-34.58		0.03	
Milk powder	-32.77		0.03	
Potatoes	-24.26		0.02	
Rice	-24.17		0.02	
Dried fish	-21.69		0.02	
Sprats	-12.54		0.01	
Sugar	-21.36		0.02	
Canned fish	-11.40		0.01	
Cowpea	-11.11		0.01	
Mysore dhal	-9.52		0.01	
Chili powder	-8.76		0.01	
Gram	-6.07		0.01	
Fresh fruits	-5.63		0.01	
banana	41.29	0.04		
Papaw	-20.73		0.02	

<i>Water Melon</i>	-26.65	0.03		
Big onions	200.01	0.19		
Limes	75.47	0.07		
Chicken	59.56	0.06		
Coconuts	26.06	0.02		
Tea dust/ leaves	22.37	0.02		
Fresh fish	20.11	0.02		
Green gram	19.38	0.02		
Ginger	17.97	0.02		
Red onions	10.53	0.01		
Other food items	-4.07	0.00		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>-304.10</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>-0.29</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>22.44</b>	<b>0.02</b>		
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	21.31	0.02		
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>8.40</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<i>Clothing</i>	6.93	0.01		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>-315.65</b>		<b>0.30</b>	
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	-40.67		0.04	
<i>Electricity bill</i>	-181.53		0.17	
<i>LP Gas</i>	-87.26		0.08	
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	-5.61		0.01	
<b>Health</b>	<b>23.88</b>	<b>0.02</b>		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	15.04	0.01		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>38.05</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	24.11	0.02		
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	11.94	0.01		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>-100.04</b>		<b>0.09</b>	
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	-107.61		-0.10	
<b>Miscellaneous Goods &amp; Services</b>	<b>11.51</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<b>Other Groups</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<b>All Items</b>	<b>-946.09</b>			<b>-0.89</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 5: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off

## Inflation

The NCPI is a macroeconomic indicator compiled to measure inflation which is defined as a sustained increase in the general level of prices for goods and services and it is measured as an annual percentage increase by NCPI. Inflation can be measured in two ways. One measure is the Year-on-Year base or Point- to-Point inflation (The percentage change in the current month CPI over same month CPI of last year). The other measure is Moving Average Inflation (The percentage difference between the average Price Indices of last 12 months & the average Price Indices of previous 12 months).

Table 03: Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2021=100)

Year	Month	All Item				Food				Non Food			
		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.	Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.
				Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.								
2023	April	202.7	-1.0	33.6		223.8	0.3	27.1		189.1	-2.0	39.0	
	May	203.1	0.2	22.1		226.1	1.0	15.8		188.3	-0.4	27.6	
	June	203.3	0.1	10.8		228.4	1.0	2.5		187.1	-0.6	18.3	
	July	201.9	-0.7	4.6		227.5	-0.4	-2.5		185.3	-1.0	10.9	
	August	201.9	0.0	2.1		224.6	-1.3	-5.4		187.3	1.1	9.0	
	September	203.5	0.8	0.8		226.7	0.9	-5.2		188.5	0.6	5.9	
	October	203.6	0.0	1.0		224.1	-1.1	-5.2		190.4	1.0	6.3	
	November	206.0	1.2	2.8		228.1	1.8	-2.2		191.8	0.7	7.1	
	December	208.8	1.4	4.2	16.5	236.2	3.6	1.6	10.6	191.2	-0.3	6.3	21.6
2024	January	215.0	3.0	6.5	13.4	242.4	2.6	4.1	7.5	197.3	3.2	8.5	18.5
	February	214.5	-0.2	5.1	10.2	239.5	-1.2	5.0	4.8	198.3	0.5	5.1	14.9
	March	210.0	-2.1	2.5	7.2	234.4	-2.1	5.0	2.7	194.3	-2.0	0.7	11.1
	April	208.2	-0.9	2.7	5.2	231.1	-1.4	3.3	1.1	193.4	-0.5	2.3	8.5

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 6: Month on Month percentage change and Year on Year inflation percentage were calculated using rounding off index numbers.

## 2.1. Year-on-Year Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by the NCPI on a Year-over-Year basis was 2.7% in April 2024 and inflation calculated for the March 2024 was 2.5%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 3.3% in April 2024 from 5.0% in March 2024 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 2.3% in April 2024 from 0.7% in March 2024.

### Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 1.43 percent in April 2024 compared to the month of April 2023 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 1.28 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.47%), 'Health' (0.05%), 'Transport' (0.76%), 'Communication' (0.05%), 'Education' (0.41%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (0.24%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.08%). However, price decreases in the groups of items were reported for 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.06%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (0.71%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.01%). Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of 'Recreation and Culture' during the period.

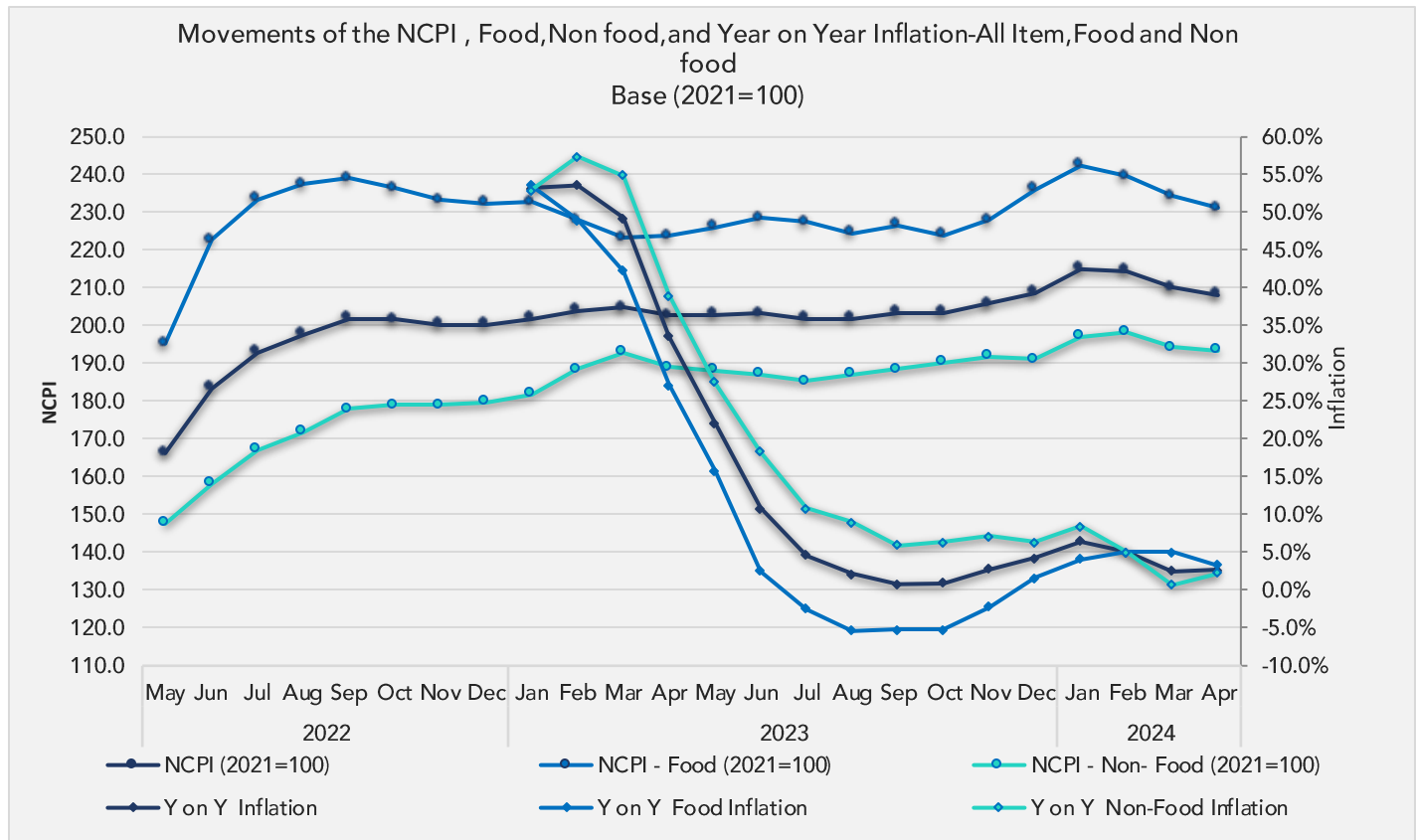
Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis April 2024 as compared to April 2023)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		
		Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
<b>Food</b>	<b>1467.07</b>			<b>1.43</b>
Big onions	1327.47	1.29		
Vegetables	440.17	0.43		
Rice	429.73	0.42		
Sugar	204.05	0.20		
Tea dust/ leaves	134.75	0.13		
Milk powder	-313.36		0.30	
Coconut oil	-192.35		0.19	
Dried chilies	-145.83		0.14	
Chili powder	-135.82		0.13	
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>1311.14</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>1.28</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>478.58</b>	<b>0.47</b>		
Arrack	244.45	0.24		
Whiskey	23.80	0.02		
Beer	16.64	0.02		
Cigarettes	160.32	0.16		
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	<b>-63.74</b>		<b>0.06</b>	
Clothing	-39.82		0.04	
Footwear	-23.92		0.02	
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>-733.40</b>		<b>0.71</b>	
Housingrent	714.50	0.69		
Materials for the maintenance	-50.18		0.05	
Water bill	502.98	0.49		
Electricity bill	-1926.99		1.87	
LP gas	57.68	0.06		
Kerosene oil	-22.19		0.02	
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	<b>-6.60</b>		<b>0.01</b>	
<b>Health</b>	<b>55.74</b>	<b>0.05</b>		
Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products	-76.37		0.07	
Fees to private medical practices	94.99	0.09		
Consultation fees to specialists	32.28	0.03		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>784.31</b>	<b>0.76</b>		
Petrol	343.73	0.33		
Diesel	69.43	0.07		
Vehicle maintenance expenses	184.46	0.18		
Bus fare	49.09	0.05		
Three wheelers fare	39.87	0.04		
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	-27.01		0.03	
<b>Communication</b>	<b>50.77</b>	<b>0.05</b>		
Telephone charges - mobile	25.20	0.02		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>Education</b>	<b>417.60</b>	<b>0.41</b>		
Tuition fees	317.59	0.31		

Course fees (Higher education)	42.56	0.04
Restaurant and Hotels	244.75	0.24
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	79.68	0.08
Hair cutting and shaving charges	40.83	0.04
<b>All Items</b>	<b>2778.21</b>	<b>2.70</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 7: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off








Source: Department of Census and Statistics

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