

## NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI)

DECEMBER, 2022

23, January 2023

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) and Inflation rate for the month of December 2022.

The NCPI has been released monthly from October 2015 with a time lag of 21 days. The NCPI has weights based on consumer spending in 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), and reflects new methods consistent with international best practices. Also, the DCS has rebased the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) with the base period of 2013 from January 2017, covering the urban areas of Colombo district.

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 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) conducted in 2012/13. The 2012/13 HIES included all types of consumption expenditures by households, and was broadly representative of all households in the country. The year 2013 is considered as the base year for NCPI.

The national consumer basket includes 407 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 (e.g. fresh fish, rice, vegetables, fruits, coconut etc.), while prices for other items are collected once every two weeks (e.g. leafy vegetables, dried fish, spices, etc.), monthly (e.g. Textile, Footwear, Non-durable household goods etc.) or quarterly (e.g. Consumer durables (furniture), Building materials, Pharmaceutical items etc.). The frequency of price collection is determined by on an average how frequently price changes take place.

- The NCPI for all items for the month of December 2022 is 256.3, unchanged compared to November 2022.**
- The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI on Year-on-Year basis is 59.2% in December 2022.**

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### Source Publication

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

## 01. Month on Month (M on M) change of NCPI:

The NCPI for all items for the month of December 2022 is 256.3. It records no change in index point compared to November 2022 for which the index was 256.3. Anyway, the increase in expenditure value Rs.8.05 represents the “Market Basket” compared to November 2022. 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 changes of the index (%)		
	Dec	Nov	Dec	Dec	Nov	Dec	Dec	Nov	Dec
	2021	2022	2022	2021	2022	2022	2021	2022	2022
<b>All Items</b>	161.0	256.3	256.3	1835.33	-219.33	8.05	3.68	-0.27	0.01
<b>Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages</b>	182.1	291.2	290.0	1496.97	-407.56	-168.19	3.00	-0.49	-0.20
<b>Non Food</b>	144.5	228.7	229.7	338.36	188.23	176.24	0.68	0.23	0.21
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	239.6	344.8	341.8	71.19	-7.29	-22.00	0.14	-0.01	-0.03
Clothing and Footwear	145.0	232.8	238.5	38.81	98.12	63.18	0.08	0.12	0.08
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	132.7	175.9	175.6	14.87	-82.37	-20.16	0.03	-0.10	-0.02
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	149.8	287.9	290.6	34.37	62.22	29.39	0.07	0.08	0.04
Transport	132.1	267.7	268.4	37.32	-121.38	20.82	0.07	-0.15	0.03
Recreation and Culture	129.3	211.5	215.6	2.44	15.34	21.24	0.00	0.02	0.03
Restaurants and Hotels	156.3	262.7	264.9	113.87	25.56	28.27	0.23	0.03	0.03
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	154.9	266.4	270.0	24.78	98.85	52.00	0.05	0.12	0.06
Other Group	147.7	209.4	209.6	0.71	99.17	3.49	0.00	0.12	0.00

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 1: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Monthly significant changes were noted in nine groups in December 2022, details on which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the December 2022, insignificant group: ‘Health’ and unchanged groups: ‘Communication’ and ‘Education’ are considered as the ‘Other Groups’.

Note 3: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

### Contribution to Month-on-Month Changes:

Contributions to the NCPI on Month-on-Month basis (December 2022 as compared to November 2022) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by decrease of expenditure value of food items by 0.20% and increase of expenditure value of non-food items by 0.21% respectively.

#### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: - 0.20%

As shown in Table 02, the decreases in index values were reported for Big onions (0.12%), Dried fish (0.10%), Sugar (0.08%), Vegetables (0.08%), Rice (0.08%), Wheat flour (0.05%), Bread (0.04%), Lime (0.04%), Mysore dhal (0.04%) and Potatoes (0.03%). However, increases in index values were reported for Coconuts (0.12%), Milk powder (0.08%), Fresh fruits (0.05%), Tea dust/leaves (0.05%), Coconut oil (0.04%), Eggs (0.04%) Red onions (0.02%), and Chicken (0.02%).

### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.21%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in December 2022 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.08%), ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’ (*Energy saving bulbs*) (0.04%), ‘Transport’ (*License fees*) (0.03%), ‘Recreation and Culture’ (*Books*) (0.03%), ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ (0.03%) and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (*Toilet soap*) (0.06%). However, price decreases in groups of items were reported for ‘Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics’ (*Betel leaves and Arecanuts*) (0.03%) and ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels’ (*Materials for the Maintenance*) (0.02%). Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of ‘Health’. Meanwhile, the price indices of ‘Communication’ and ‘Education’ groups remained unchanged during the month.

**Table 02: Contribution to the increase in NCPI from November 2022 to December 2022 (Base 2013=100)**

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			Net effect
	Rs. cts	Increase	% Change Decrease	
<b>Food</b>	<b>-168.19</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>-0.20</b>
Big onions	-99.32		0.12	
Dried fish	-84.37		0.10	
<i>Sprats</i>	-51.50		0.06	
Sugar	-69.32		0.08	
Vegetables	-68.65		0.08	
Rice	-68.26		0.08	
Wheat flour	-45.30		0.05	
Bread	-36.27		0.04	
Limes	-33.67		0.04	
Mysore dhal	-32.87		0.04	
Potatoes	-21.07		0.03	
Coconuts	99.97	0.12		
Milk powder	63.28	0.08		
Fresh fruits	45.07	0.05		
<i>Banana</i>	24.99	0.03		
<i>Papaw</i>	44.94	0.05		
<i>Apple</i>	-16.14		0.02	
Tea dust/ leaves	37.88	0.05		
Coconut oil	33.31	0.04		
Eggs	32.85	0.04		
Red onions	16.98	0.02		
Chicken	16.81	0.02		
Other food items	44.74	0.06		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>176.24</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.21</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	-22.00		0.03	
<i>Betel leaves</i>	-17.08		0.02	
<i>Arecanuts</i>	-5.62		0.01	
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	63.18	0.08		
<i>Clothing</i>	55.08	0.07		
<i>Footwear</i>	8.10	0.01		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	-20.16		0.02	
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	-51.85		0.06	

LP Gas	18.69	0.02
Kerosene oil	9.18	0.01
<b>Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	29.39	0.04
Energy saving bulbs	21.20	0.03
<b>Transport</b>	20.82	0.03
License fees	20.23	0.02
Diesel	-5.60	0.01
Airline fare	6.20	0.01
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	21.24	0.03
Books	13.10	0.02
<b>Restaurants and hotels</b>	28.27	0.03
<b>Miscellaneous Goods &amp; Services</b>	52.00	0.06
Toilet soap	17.42	0.02
<b>Other Groups</b>	3.49	0.00
<b>All Items</b>	<b>8.05</b>	<b>0.01</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 4: 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: 2013=100)**

Year	Month	All Item				Food				Non Food			
		Index Number	Inflation %			Index Number	Inflation %			Index Number	Inflation %		
			% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.
2021	December	161.0	3.7	14.0	7.0	182.1	6.2	21.5	11.2	144.5	1.3	7.6	3.5
2022	January	166.0	3.1	16.8	8.1	188.3	3.4	24.4	12.8	148.4	2.7	10.2	4.2
	February	167.8	1.1	17.5	9.3	190.6	1.2	24.7	14.3	149.8	0.9	11.0	4.9
	March	172.7	2.9	21.5	10.6	195.2	2.4	29.5	16.1	154.9	3.4	14.5	6.0
	April	190.3	10.2	33.8	13.0	218.8	12.1	45.1	19.1	167.9	8.4	23.9	7.8
	May	208.7	9.7	45.3	16.3	242.2	10.7	58.0	23.1	182.4	8.6	34.2	10.5
	June	231.5	10.9	58.9	20.8	276.6	14.2	75.8	28.8	196.0	7.5	43.6	13.9
	July	244.4	5.6	66.7	25.9	289.3	4.6	82.5	34.9	209.1	6.7	52.4	18.0
	August	250.4	2.5	70.2	31.3	294.3	1.7	84.6	41.2	215.8	3.2	57.1	22.6
	September	256.2	2.3	73.7	36.9	296.5	0.7	85.8	47.5	224.5	4.0	62.8	27.6
	October	256.9	0.3	70.6	42.2	294.1	-0.8	80.9	53.2	227.7	1.4	61.3	32.3
	November	256.3	-0.2	65.0	46.7	291.2	-1.0	69.8	57.6	228.7	0.4	60.4	36.9
	December	256.3	0.0	59.2	50.4	290.0	-0.4	59.3	60.6	229.7	0.4	59.0	41.2

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 5: Month on Month percentage change, Year on Year inflation percentage and 12 Month Moving Average inflation percentages were calculated using rounding off index numbers.

## 2.1. Year -on-Year Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI on Year-on-Year basis is 59.2% in December 2022 and inflation calculated for the November 2022 was 65.0%. (Table 03). With respect to December 2021, the reported inflation for the month of December 2022 was mainly due to the higher price levels prevailed in both food and non-food groups. Anyway, on a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 59.3% in December 2022 from 69.8% in November 2022 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group also decreased to 59.0% in December 2022 from 60.4% in November 2022.

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

On Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 29.52 percent in December 2022 compared to the month of December 2021 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 29.62 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items ‘Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics’ (1.44%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (2.00%), ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels’ (4.80%), ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’ (2.88%), ‘Health’ (2.10%), ‘Transport’ (8.25%), ‘Communication’ (0.52%), ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.85%), ‘Education’ 0.92%, ‘Restaurant and Hotels’ (2.63%) and ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ (3.24%) during the period.

**Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2013=100) on year on year basis December 2022 as compared to December 2021)**

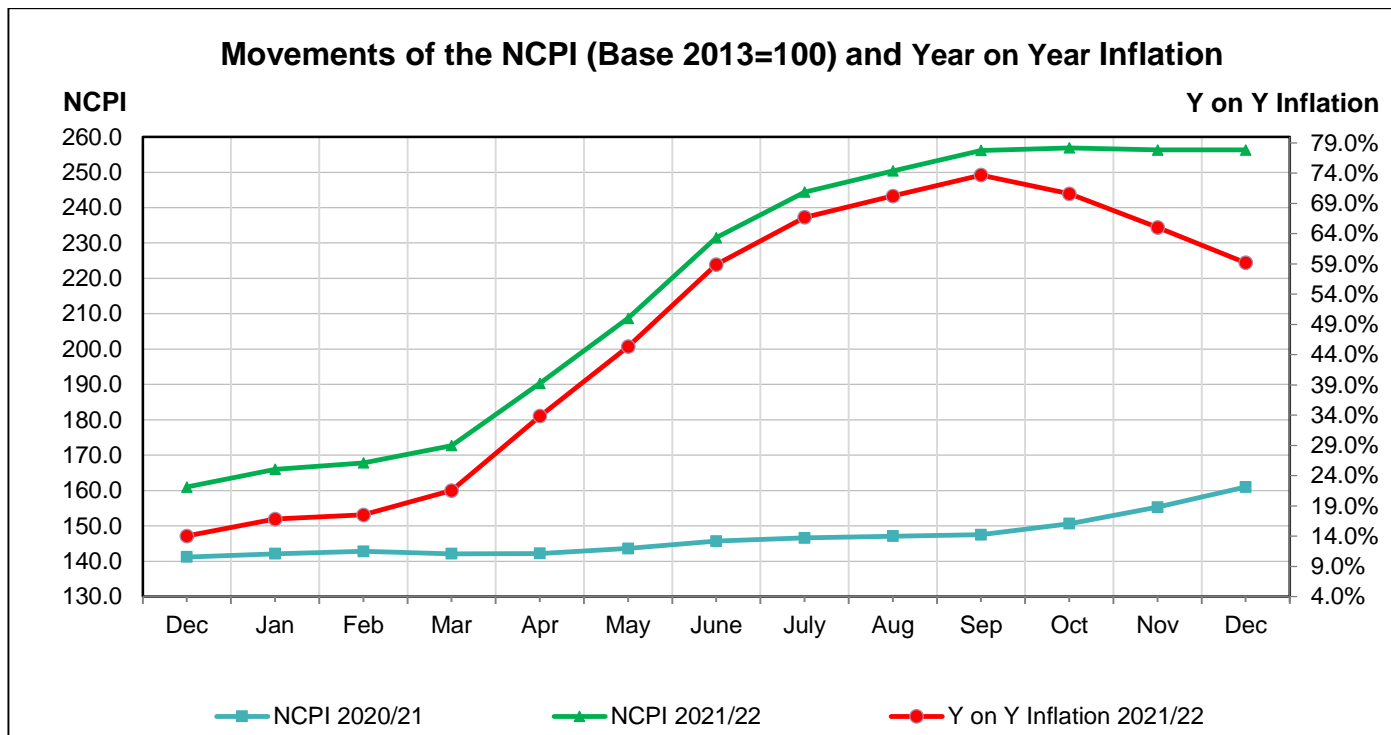
Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			Net effect %
	Rs. cts	Increase %	Decrease %	
<b>Food</b>	<b>15279.26</b>	<b>29.52</b>		<b>29.52</b>
Rice	2691.97	5.20		
Milk powder	1936.60	3.74		
Fresh fish	1004.14	1.94		
Bread	751.06	1.45		
Fresh fruits	650.98	1.26		
Chicken	648.56	1.25		
Vegetables	574.69	1.11		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>15332.09</b>	<b>29.62</b>		<b>29.62</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	744.91	1.44		
Arrack	318.78	0.62		
Cigarettes	72.28	0.14		
Beedi	59.21	0.11		
Betel leaves	110.91	0.21		
Arecanuts	34.01	0.07		
Bulathwita	93.01	0.18		
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	1034.16	2.00		
Clothing	778.07	1.50		
Footwear	256.09	0.49		

<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	2483.81	4.80
Materials for the maintenance	767.39	1.48
Water	98.54	0.19
Electricity	765.15	1.48
LP gas	234.87	0.45
Kerosene oil	285.01	0.55
Firewood purchasing	207.92	0.40
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance</b>	1491.51	2.88
Energy saving bulbs	105.30	0.20
Washing soap	511.36	0.99
Washing powder	196.65	0.38
<b>Health</b>	1085.11	2.10
Purchase of medical/pharmacy products	339.31	0.66
spectacles	47.37	0.09
Fees to private medical practices	405.01	0.78
Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes room charges	241.90	0.47
<b>Transport</b>	4271.56	8.25
Tyres, tubes and spare parts	233.26	0.45
Petrol	1054.86	2.04
Diesel	592.67	1.14
Cost of servicing of vehicles	294.64	0.57
License fees	20.23	0.04
Bus fare	1158.14	2.24
Taxi/three wheelers fare	245.22	0.47
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	313.56	0.61
Airline fare	180.75	0.35
<b>Communication</b>	268.04	0.52
Telephone charges - Home fixed phone	78.22	0.15
Telephone charges - mobile	168.88	0.33
Email/internet charges	9.64	0.02
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	439.89	0.85
Books	61.05	0.12
News papers	54.85	0.11
Exercise books and stationeries	233.01	0.45
<b>Education</b>	473.95	0.92
Tuition fees	400.12	0.77
Course fees (Higher education)	23.48	0.05
Course fees vocational training	9.56	0.02
<b>Restaurant and Hotels</b>	1363.07	2.63
<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	1676.08	3.24
Toilet soap	857.52	1.66
Car Insurance	200.17	0.39
<b>All Items</b>	<b>30611.35</b>	<b>59.14</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

### 2.2 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation for the month of December 2022 is 50.4%. The corresponding rate for the month of November 2022 was 46.7%.



Source: Department of Census and Statistics

#### The Vision of DCS

“To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country’s development goals.”

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