

NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI)

FEBRUARY, 2022

21, March 2022

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) and Inflation rate for the month of February 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 February 2022 is 167.8**
- ! **The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI on Year-on-Year basis is 17.5% in February 2022.**
- ! **The moving average inflation for the month of February 2022 is 9.3%.**

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Source Publication

statistics.gov.lk

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

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

The NCPI for all items for the month of February 2022 is 167.8. An increase of 1.8 index points or 1.1 percentage compared to January 2022 for which the index was 166.0. This increase represents increase in expenditure value of Rs.580.00 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 changes of the index (%)			
	Feb	Jan	Feb	Feb	Jan	Feb	Feb	Jan	Feb
	2021	2022	2022	2021	2022	2022	2021	2022	2022
All Items	142.8	166.0	167.8	232.20	1583.54	580.00	0.51	3.06	1.09
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	152.8	188.3	190.6	190.08	884.17	316.81	0.42	1.71	0.59
Non-Food	134.9	148.4	149.8	42.12	699.37	263.18	0.09	1.35	0.49
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics	214.6	243.0	249.5	0.74	24.40	47.57	0.00	0.05	0.09
Clothing and Footwear	134.4	148.1	150.9	5.89	35.10	30.13	0.01	0.07	0.06
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	127.9	134.5	134.6	0.00	106.95	3.35	0.00	0.21	0.01
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	134.1	152.5	154.1	13.63	28.51	16.90	0.03	0.06	0.03
Transport	124.9	140.7	143.4	20.82	268.74	85.02	0.05	0.52	0.16
Recreation and Culture	125.1	131.8	134.9	0.00	12.92	15.38	0.00	0.02	0.03
Restaurants and Hotels	123.9	161.2	165.1	0.00	61.98	49.39	0.00	0.12	0.09
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	145.9	157.5	158.5	1.04	38.03	15.45	0.00	0.07	0.03
Other Groups	141.2	151.8	151.8	0.00	122.75	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00

Note: Sum of percentages of items may not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

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

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

Contribution to Month-on-Month Changes:

Contributions to the NCPI on Month-on-Month basis (February 2022 as compared to January 2022) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index value of food items by 0.59% and non-food items by 0.49% respectively.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.59%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Rice (0.27%), Mysore dhal (0.09%), Milk powder (0.07%), Fresh fruits (0.07%), Coconuts (0.05%), Chilli powder (0.05%), Wheat flour (0.04%), Red onions (0.04%), Coconut oil (0.03%), Fresh fish (0.03%), Dried fish (0.02%), Dried chillies (0.02%), Chicken (0.02%), Curry powder (0.01%), Bread (0.01%), Sugar (0.01%) and Infant milk powder (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Vegetables (0.16%), Eggs (0.08%), Limes (0.05%), Green chillies (0.04%), Big onions (0.03%) and Potatoes (0.02%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.49%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in February 2022 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items ‘Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics’ (Betel leaves) (0.09%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.06%), ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels’ (Firewood) (0.01%), ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’ (0.03%), ‘Transport’ (Petrol & Diesel, Cost of servicing of vehicles and Bus fare) (0.16%), ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.03%), ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ (0.09%) and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (0.03%). Meanwhile, the price indices of ‘Health’, ‘Communication’ and ‘Education’ groups remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the increase in NCPI from January 2022 to February 2022 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	316.81	0.97	0.37	0.59
Rice	144.02	0.27		
Mysore dhal	47.79	0.09		
Milk powder	36.70	0.07		
Fresh fruits	36.35	0.07		
<i>Papaw</i>	22.92	0.04		
<i>Banana</i>	4.40	0.01		
Coconuts	29.05	0.05		
Chili powder	27.61	0.05		
Wheat flour	20.21	0.04		
Red onions	19.84	0.04		
Coconut oil	15.61	0.03		
Fresh fish	14.90	0.03		
Dried fish	12.35	0.02		
<i>Sprats</i>	4.02	0.01		
Dried chillies	12.20	0.02		
Chicken	10.45	0.02		
Curry powder	6.28	0.01		
Bread	5.42	0.01		
Sugar	4.99	0.01		
Infant milk powder	4.12	0.01		
Vegetables	-86.62		0.16	
Eggs	-40.26		0.08	
Limes	-28.71		0.05	
Green chillies	-19.16		0.04	
Big onions	-15.69		0.03	
Potatoes	-8.57		0.02	
Other food items	67.94	0.13		
Non Food	263.18	0.49		0.49
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics	47.57	0.09		
<i>Betel leaves</i>	39.61	0.07		
<i>Arecanuts</i>	-3.10		0.01	
<i>Bulathwita</i>	8.71	0.02		
Clothing & Footwear	30.13	0.06		
<i>Clothing</i>	22.53	0.04		
<i>Footwear</i>	7.59	0.01		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	3.35	0.01		
<i>Firewood</i>	3.35	0.01		
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	16.90	0.03		
Transport	85.02	0.16		
<i>Petrol</i>	19.31	0.04		
<i>Diesel</i>	3.76	0.01		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	39.48	0.07		
<i>Bus fare</i>	19.73	0.04		
Recreation and Culture	15.38	0.03		
Restaurants and hotels	49.39	0.09		
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	15.45	0.03		
All Items	580.00			1.09

Note: Sum of percentages of items may not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

2. 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	February	142.8	0.5	4.2	5.5	152.8	0.9	6.9	10.7	134.9	0.1	1.9	1.4
	March	142.1	-0.5	5.1	5.3	150.7	-1.4	8.8	10.3	135.3	0.3	2.0	1.4
	April	142.2	0.1	5.5	5.3	150.8	0.1	9.7	10.1	135.5	0.1	2.2	1.5
	May	143.6	1.0	6.1	5.4	153.3	1.7	10.3	10.0	135.9	0.3	2.5	1.7
	June	145.7	1.5	6.1	5.4	157.3	2.6	9.8	9.7	136.5	0.4	2.9	1.9
	July	146.6	0.6	6.8	5.4	158.5	0.8	11.0	9.6	137.2	0.5	3.2	2.0
	August	147.1	0.3	6.7	5.5	159.4	0.6	11.1	9.4	137.4	0.1	3.0	2.2
	September	147.5	0.3	6.2	5.5	159.6	0.1	10.0	9.2	137.9	0.4	3.0	2.3
	October	150.6	2.1	8.3	5.7	162.6	1.9	11.7	9.3	141.2	2.4	5.4	2.7
	November	155.3	3.1	11.1	6.2	171.5	5.5	16.9	10.0	142.6	1.0	6.2	3.0
	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
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

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 3: 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 17.5% in February 2022 and inflation calculated for January 2022 was 16.8%. (Table 03). With respect to February 2021, the reported inflation for the month of February 2022 was mainly due to the higher price levels prevailed in both food and non-food groups. Accordingly, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to 24.7% in February 2022 from 24.4% in January 2022 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 11.0% in February 2022 from 10.2% in January 2022.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 11.66 percent in February 2022 compared to the month of February 2021 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 5.84 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Transport' (1.26%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (1.13%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (0.84%), 'Health' (0.56%), 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.55%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.46%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.40%), 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.40%), 'Education' (0.13%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.11%). Meanwhile, the group of 'Communication' remained unchanged during the period.

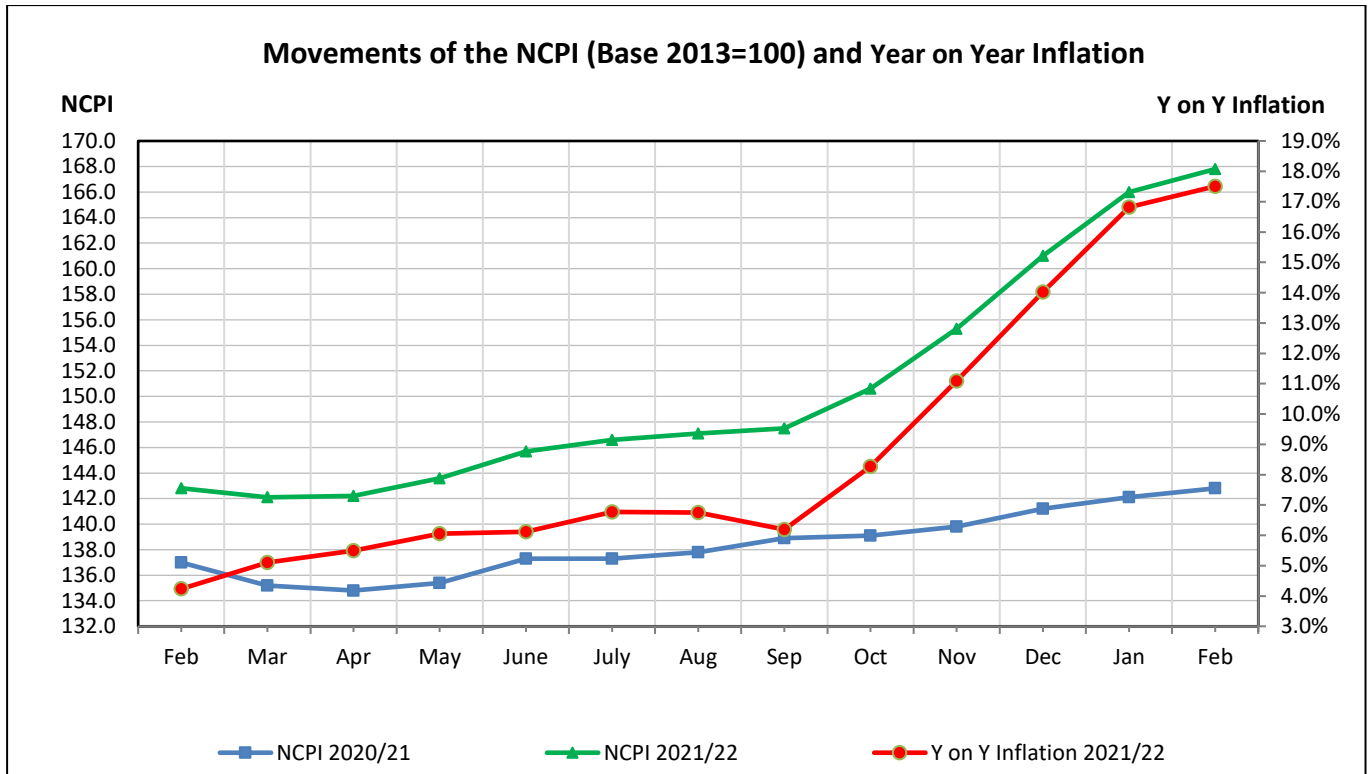
Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2013=100) on year on year basis (February 2022 as compared to February 2021)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
Food	5349.44			11.66
<i>Rice</i>	1200.35	2.62		
<i>Vegetables</i>	934.19	2.04		
<i>Milk powder</i>	416.38	0.91		
<i>Fresh fish</i>	401.76	0.88		
<i>Mysore dhal</i>	245.29	0.53		
<i>Coconut oil</i>	236.71	0.52		
<i>Chicken</i>	234.60	0.51		
Non Food	2680.40	5.84		5.84
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	254.09	0.55		
<i>Arrack</i>	50.46	0.11		
<i>Cigarettes</i>	24.09	0.05		
<i>Tobacco (chewing)</i>	11.77	0.03		
<i>Beedi</i>	19.45	0.04		
<i>Betel leaves</i>	90.14	0.20		
<i>Arecanuts</i>	19.15	0.04		
<i>Bulathwita</i>	27.31	0.06		
Clothing and Footwear	181.66	0.40		
<i>Clothing</i>	149.36	0.33		
<i>Footwear</i>	32.30	0.07		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	387.62	0.84		
<i>Housing rent</i>	80.01	0.17		
<i>Material for the maintenance</i>	124.02	0.27		
<i>LP gas</i>	143.02	0.31		
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	17.03	0.04		
<i>Firewood</i>	23.54	0.05		
Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance	211.54	0.46		
Health	255.12	0.56		
<i>Purchase of medical/pharmacy products</i>	46.31	0.10		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	112.31	0.24		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	18.33	0.04		
<i>Fees to Aurvadic practitioners</i>	38.54	0.08		
<i>Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes room charges</i>	36.45	0.08		
Transport	579.99	1.26		
<i>Petrol</i>	225.84	0.49		
<i>Diesel</i>	36.75	0.08		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	68.30	0.15		
<i>Bus fare</i>	151.85	0.33		
<i>Taxi/three wheelers fare</i>	24.18	0.05		
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	36.45	0.08		
Recreation and Culture	49.59	0.11		
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	24.43	0.05		
Education	58.76	0.13		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	29.56	0.06		
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	8.21	0.02		
<i>Course fees vocational training</i>	6.70	0.01		
<i>School fees (International)</i>	12.00	0.03		
Restaurant and Hotels	517.77	1.13		
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	184.26	0.40		
All Items	8029.85			17.50

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

2.2 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation for the month of February 2022 is 9.3%. The corresponding rate for the month of January 2022 was 8.1%.



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.”

The Mission of DCS

“Making contribution in the socioeconomic development of the country by providing accurate timely statistics, more Effectively by means of new technology, and utilising the services of dedicated staff under a strategic leadership to become a prosperous nation in the globalised environment.”

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