



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 January 2023.

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 January 2023 is 201.8 and it records an increase of 1.4 in index points compared to the December 2022.
- ❏ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 53.2% in January 2023.

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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 January 2023 is 201.8. An increase of 1.4 index points or 0.69 percentage compared to December 2022 for which the index was 200.4. This increase represents increase in expenditure value of Rs.700.18 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 (%)	
	Jan	Dec	Jan	Dec	Jan	Dec
	2022	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
All Items	131.7	200.4	201.8	59.29	700.18	0.06
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	151.6	232.4	232.8	-160.26	78.84	-0.16
Non Food	118.9	179.8	181.8	219.55	621.33	0.22
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	126.3	178.3	191.1	-10.67	122.53	-0.01
Clothing and Footwear	120.9	195.8	202.8	64.02	106.17	0.06
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	115.5	144.0	143.1	-9.88	-97.51	-0.01
Furnishing ,Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	118.9	219.3	219.6	18.85	5.58	0.02
Health	118.2	175.8	188.2	5.51	204.38	0.01
Transport	124.2	237.0	236.8	39.24	-11.16	0.04
Recreation and Culture	112.0	179.3	188.6	33.72	79.63	0.03
Education	114.7	152.1	158.1	0.00	120.00	0.00
Restaurants and Hotels	142.5	233.5	235.5	32.07	44.79	0.03
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	117.0	196.3	199.1	46.68	46.92	0.05
Communication	89.1	119.1	119.1	0.00	0.00	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 eleven main groups in January 2023, details on which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: 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 (January 2023 as compared to December 2022) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items and non-food items of 0.08% and 0.61% respectively.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.08%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Coconuts (0.10%), Fresh fish (0.10%), Vegetables (0.06%), Tea dust/leaves (0.04%), Coconut oil (0.04%), Green chilies (0.03%), Red onions (0.03%), Eggs (0.03%), Fresh fruits (0.02%), Milk powder (0.02%), Cowpea (0.02%), Gram (0.01%) and Green gram (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Dried fish (0.08%), Bread (normal) (0.05%), Chicken (0.05%), Wheat flour (0.04%), Lime (0.03%), Rice (0.03%), Potatoes (0.03%), Canned fish (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%), Dried chilies (0.01%) and Curry powder (0.01%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.61%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in January 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack, Cigarettes*) (0.12%), 'Clothing and Footwear'(0.10%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.01%), 'Health' (*Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products and Fees to private medical practices*) (0.20%), 'Recreation and Culture'(Exercise books and stationeries)(0.08%), 'Education' (*Pre-school fees (K.G), Tuition fees and Course fees (Higher education)*), (0.12%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.04%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'(*Shaving goods and creams*) (0.05%). However, price decreases in groups of items were reported for 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Materials for the Maintenance, LP Gas and Kerosene oil*) (0.10%), and 'Transport' (*Diesel and Airline fare*) (0.01%). Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication'group remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the increase in NCPI from December 2022 to January 2023 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	78.84	0.51	0.43	0.08
Coconuts	106.31	0.10		
Fresh fish	103.95	0.10		
Vegetables	57.00	0.06		
Tea dust/ leaves	45.34	0.04		
Coconut oil	42.17	0.04		
Green chilies	33.45	0.03		
Red onions	27.56	0.03		
Eggs	26.99	0.03		
Fresh fruits	21.94	0.02		
<i>Banana</i>	61.21	0.06		
<i>Papaw</i>	-19.91		0.02	
<i>Water Melon</i>	-20.84		0.02	
Milk powder	20.27	0.02		
Cowpea	18.34	0.02		
Gram	8.99	0.01		
Green gram	8.31	0.01		
Dried fish	-82.66		0.08	
<i>Sprats</i>	-66.44		0.07	
Bread (normal)	-50.11		0.05	
Chicken	-48.38		0.05	
Wheat flour	-36.71		0.04	
Limes	-33.66		0.03	
Rice	-31.03		0.03	
Potatoes	-29.70		0.03	
Canned fish	-24.71		0.02	
Sugar	-24.02		0.02	
Dried chilies	-12.70		0.01	
Curry powder	-11.68		0.01	
Other food items	-56.43		0.06	

Non Food	621.33	0.72	0.11	0.61
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	122.53	0.12		
Arrack	57.16	0.06		
Whiskey	4.38	0.00		
Beer	7.79	0.01		
Cigarettes	44.99	0.04		
Clothing & Footwear	106.17	0.10		
Clothing	91.06	0.09		
Footwear	15.11	0.01		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	-97.51		0.10	
Materials for the Maintenance	-50.35		0.05	
LP Gas	-45.91		0.05	
Kerosene oil	-4.15		0.00	
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	5.58	0.01		
Health	204.38	0.20		
Fees to private medical practices	140.48	0.14		
Transport	-11.16		0.01	
License fees	5.30	0.01		
Diesel	-28.58		0.03	
Taxi fare	1.08	0.00		
Three wheelers fare	5.22	0.01		
Airline fare	-5.31		0.01	
Recreation and Culture	79.63	0.08		
Educational newspapers and magazines	19.95	0.02		
Exercise books and stationeries.	52.06	0.05		
Education	120.00	0.12		
Pre-school fees (K.G)	23.71	0.02		
Tuition fees	63.28	0.06		
Course fees (Higher education)	33.01	0.03		
Restaurants and hotels	44.79	0.04		
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	46.92	0.05		
Shaving goods and creams	20.51	0.02		
All Items	700.18			0.69

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 3: 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	Inflation %	Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %
				Y on Y			Y on Y			Y on Y
2022	January	131.7			151.6			118.9		
	February	132.9	0.9		153.1	1.0		119.8	0.8	
	March	137.3	3.3		156.9	2.5		124.6	4.0	
	April	151.7	10.5		176.1	12.2		136.0	9.1	
	May	166.3	9.6		195.3	10.9		147.6	8.5	
	June	183.5	10.3		222.8	14.1		158.2	7.2	
	July	193.1	5.2		233.4	4.8		167.1	5.6	
	August	197.7	2.4		237.5	1.8		171.9	2.9	
	September	201.9	2.1		239.1	1.7		178.0	3.5	
	October	201.6	-0.1		236.5	-1.1		179.1	0.6	
	November	200.3	-0.6		233.2	-1.4		179.1	0.0	
	December	200.4	0.0		232.4	-0.3		179.8	0.4	
2023	January	201.8	0.7	53.2	232.8	0.2	53.6	181.8	1.1	52.9

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 4: 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 53.2% in January 2023. (Table 03). In January 2023, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group was 53.6% and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group was 52.9%. With respect to January 2022, the reported inflation for the month of January 2023 was mainly due to the higher price levels that prevailed in both food and non-food groups.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 24.18 percent in January 2023 compared to the month of January 2022 (Table 04).

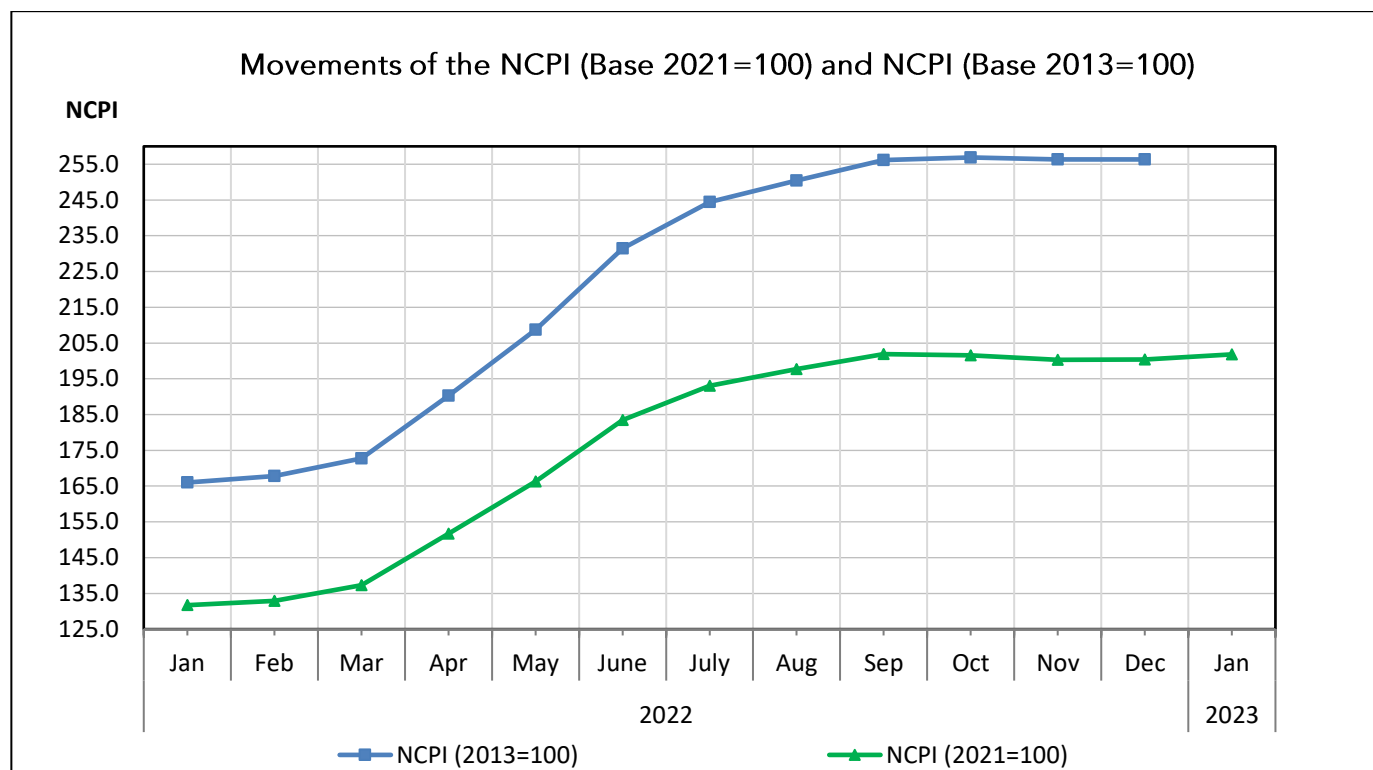
Contribution of non-food items was 29.04 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.93%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (1.87%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (4.81%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (2.32%), 'Health' (1.73%), 'Transport' (9.42%), 'Communication' (0.54%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.98%), 'Education' (1.29%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (3.10%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (2.06%) during the period.

Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis January 2023 as compared to January 2022)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		
		Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
Food	16157.61	24.18		24.18
<i>Milk powder</i>	<i>2109.93</i>	<i>3.16</i>		
<i>Rice</i>	<i>1995.74</i>	<i>2.99</i>		
<i>Vegetables</i>	<i>1486.82</i>	<i>2.23</i>		
<i>Fresh fish</i>	<i>1193.78</i>	<i>1.79</i>		
<i>Chicken</i>	<i>915.01</i>	<i>1.37</i>		
<i>Bread(normal)</i>	<i>811.10</i>	<i>1.21</i>		
Non Food	19399.23	29.04		29.04
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	622.41	0.93		
<i>Arrack</i>	<i>296.81</i>	<i>0.44</i>		
<i>Whiskey</i>	<i>21.85</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
<i>Beer</i>	<i>52.75</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
<i>Cigarettes</i>	<i>93.09</i>	<i>0.14</i>		
<i>Beedi</i>	<i>19.60</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
<i>Betel leaves</i>	<i>50.54</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
<i>Arecanuts</i>	<i>11.75</i>	<i>0.02</i>		
<i>Bulathwita</i>	<i>70.00</i>	<i>0.10</i>		
Clothing and Footwear	1248.05	1.87		
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>985.56</i>	<i>1.48</i>		
<i>Footwear</i>	<i>262.49</i>	<i>0.39</i>		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	3212.57	4.81		
<i>Housing Rent</i>	<i>117.65</i>	<i>0.18</i>		
<i>Materials for the maintenance</i>	<i>904.31</i>	<i>1.35</i>		
<i>Water bill</i>	<i>228.04</i>	<i>0.34</i>		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	<i>1134.92</i>	<i>1.70</i>		
<i>LP gas</i>	<i>636.00</i>	<i>0.95</i>		
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	<i>119.21</i>	<i>0.18</i>		
<i>Firewood purchasing</i>	<i>72.45</i>	<i>0.11</i>		
Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance	1551.17	2.32		
<i>Energy saving bulbs</i>	<i>155.06</i>	<i>0.23</i>		
<i>Washing soap</i>	<i>437.03</i>	<i>0.65</i>		
<i>Washing powder</i>	<i>260.08</i>	<i>0.39</i>		
Health	1155.51	1.73		
<i>Purchase of medical/pharmacy products</i>	<i>626.90</i>	<i>0.94</i>		
<i>Spectacles</i>	<i>75.00</i>	<i>0.11</i>		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	<i>367.73</i>	<i>0.55</i>		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	<i>39.48</i>	<i>0.06</i>		
<i>Payments to private hospitals/nursing homes</i>	<i>26.23</i>	<i>0.04</i>		
Transport	6292.61	9.42		
<i>Petrol</i>	<i>2140.01</i>	<i>3.20</i>		
<i>Diesel</i>	<i>520.65</i>	<i>0.78</i>		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	<i>284.64</i>	<i>0.43</i>		

<i>Vehicle maintenance expenses(Repair charges)</i>	<i>404.29</i>	<i>0.61</i>
<i>Bus fare</i>	<i>950.68</i>	<i>1.42</i>
<i>Taxi fare</i>	<i>77.01</i>	<i>0.12</i>
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	<i>261.76</i>	<i>0.39</i>
<i>Transport for schooling/preschooling</i>	<i>396.99</i>	<i>0.59</i>
<i>Airline fare</i>	<i>149.31</i>	<i>0.22</i>
Communication	360.97	0.54
<i>Telephone charges - Home fixed phone</i>	<i>72.00</i>	<i>0.11</i>
<i>Telephone charges - mobile</i>	<i>252.96</i>	<i>0.38</i>
<i>Email/Internet charges</i>	<i>29.70</i>	<i>0.04</i>
Recreation and Culture	652.56	0.98
<i>Books</i>	<i>105.47</i>	<i>0.16</i>
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	<i>317.16</i>	<i>0.47</i>
Education	860.58	1.29
<i>Tuition fees</i>	<i>734.97</i>	<i>1.10</i>
<i>School fees (International)</i>	<i>34.02</i>	<i>0.05</i>
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	<i>62.45</i>	<i>0.09</i>
Restaurant and Hotels	2068.81	3.10
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	1373.99	2.06
<i>Toilet soap</i>	<i>616.84</i>	<i>0.92</i>
<i>Car Insurance</i>	<i>175.11</i>	<i>0.26</i>
All Items	35556.84	53.22

Source: Department of Census and Statistics




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