



## 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 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 January 2024 is 215.0 and it records an increase of 6.2 in index points compared to December 2023.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 6.5% in January 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 January 2024 is 215.0. An increase of 6.2 index points or 2.93 percentage compared to December 2023 for which the index was 208.8. This increase represents an increase in expenditure value of Rs. 3103.90 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>		
	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan
	2023	2023	2024	2023	2023	2024	2023	2023	2024
All Items	201.8	208.8	215.0	700.2	1438.06	3103.90	0.69	1.38	2.93
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	232.8	236.2	242.4	78.8	1614.69	1239.02	0.08	1.55	1.17
Non Food	181.8	191.2	197.3	621.3	-176.64	1864.88	0.61	-0.17	1.76
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	191.1	214.7	236.0	122.5	-9.53	204.25	0.12	-0.01	0.19
Clothing and Footwear	202.8	211.4	212.2	106.2	-24.18	12.43	0.10	-0.02	0.01
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	143.1	167.2	173.3	-97.5	-12.59	708.24	-0.10	-0.01	0.67
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	219.6	217.1	218.0	5.6	-9.22	14.30	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Health	188.2	191.5	193.3	204.4	0.00	30.32	0.20	0.00	0.03
Transport	236.8	224.5	234.0	-11.2	-151.76	528.35	-0.01	-0.15	0.50
Communication	119.1	119.1	123.4	0.0	0.00	50.77	0.00	0.00	0.05
Recreation and Culture	188.6	213.3	214.9	79.6	0.00	14.19	0.08	0.00	0.01
Education	158.1	175.5	185.4	120.0	0.00	196.04	0.12	0.00	0.19
Restaurants and Hotels	235.5	229.1	232.2	44.8	35.39	69.02	0.04	0.03	0.07
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	199.1	199.4	201.6	46.9	-4.75	36.98	0.05	0.00	0.03

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

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

*Note 2: <sup>1</sup>Monthly change of the index (%) is calculated using expenditure values.*

*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 a Month-on-Month basis (January 2024 as compared to December 2023) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items and non-food items of 1.17% and 1.76%, respectively.

### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 1.17%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Vegetables (0.80%), Big onions (0.17%), Fresh fish (0.07%), Fresh fruits (0.06%), Coconuts (0.05%), Green chilies (0.04%), Dried fish (0.04%), Chicken (0.02%), Rice (0.02%), Yought (0.02%), Eggs (0.01%), Green gram (0.01%), Turmeric powder (0.01%), Coconut oil (0.01%) and Tea dust/leaves (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Limes (0.18%), Sugar (0.03%), Potatoes (0.02%) and Red onions (0.01%).

### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 1.76%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in January 2024 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items, 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*House rent, and LP Gas*) (0.67%), 'Transport' (*Petrol*) (0.50%), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack, Cigarettes*) (0.19%), 'Education' (*Tuition fees*) (0.19%), Restaurants and Hotels' (0.07%), 'Communication' (*Telephone charges – mobile*) (0.05%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (*Car Insurance*) (0.03%), 'Health' (*Consultation fees to specialists*) (0.03%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (*Wages to servants*) (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%) and 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*) (0.01%).

Table 02: Contribution to the increase in NCPI from December 2023 to January 2024 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
<b>Food</b>	<b>1239.02</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>1.17</b>
Vegetables	842.50	0.80		
Big onions	180.97	0.17		
Fresh fish	72.55	0.07		
Fresh fruits	62.83	0.06		
<i>Papaw</i>	36.02	0.03		
<i>Mangoes</i>	19.10	0.02		
Coconuts	57.21	0.05		
Green chilies	43.78	0.04		
Dried fish	38.71	0.04		
<i>Sprats</i>	25.87	0.02		
Chicken	23.95	0.02		
Rice	19.22	0.02		
Yoghurt	16.22	0.02		
Eggs	12.14	0.01		
Green gram	10.93	0.01		
Turmeric powder	10.91	0.01		
Coconut oil	9.78	0.01		
Tea dust/ leaves	9.22	0.01		
Limes	-187.88		0.18	
Sugar	-31.07		0.03	
Potatoes	-19.03		0.02	
Red onions	-8.96		0.01	
Other food items	75.05	0.07		

<b>Non Food</b>	<b>1864.88</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.76</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>204.25</b>	<b>0.19</b>		
<i>Arrack</i>	105.64	0.10		
<i>Beer</i>	11.09	0.01		
<i>Cigarettes</i>	80.16	0.08		
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>12.43</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<i>Clothing</i>	12.43	0.01		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>708.24</b>	<b>0.67</b>		
<i>Housing rent</i>	435.56	0.41		
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	46.48	0.04		
<i>Water bill</i>	24.72	0.02		
<i>LP Gas</i>	205.46	0.19		
<b>Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<i>Wages to servants</i>	13.65	0.01		
<b>Health</b>	<b>30.32</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	10.04	0.01		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	10.14	0.01		
<i>Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes</i>	8.01	0.01		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>528.35</b>	<b>0.50</b>		
<i>Bicycles/ Motor cycles/ Scooters</i>	12.39	0.01		
<i>Petrol</i>	221.76	0.21		
<i>Diesel</i>	52.98	0.05		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	21.08	0.02		
<i>Vehicle maintenance expenses</i>	92.23	0.09		
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	40.26	0.04		
<i>Airline fare</i>	11.85	0.01		
<b>Communication</b>	<b>50.77</b>	<b>0.05</b>		
<i>Telephones</i>	12.74	0.01		
<i>Telephone charges - Home fixed phone</i>	8.54	0.01		
<i>Telephone charges - mobile</i>	25.20	0.02		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>14.19</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<i>Television</i>	6.09	0.01		
<b>Education</b>	<b>196.04</b>	<b>0.19</b>		
<i>Pre-school fees</i>	13.90	0.01		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	168.20	0.16		
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	11.49	0.01		
<b>Restaurants and hotels</b>	<b>69.02</b>	<b>0.07</b>		
<b>Miscellaneous Goods &amp; Services</b>	<b>36.98</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<i>Car Insurance</i>	16.58	0.02		
<b>All Items</b>	<b>3103.90</b>			<b>2.93</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: 2021=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.
2023	January	201.8	0.7	53.2		232.8	0.2	53.6		181.8	1.1	52.9	
	February	204.1	1.1	53.6		228.1	-2.0	49.0		188.6	3.7	57.4	
	March	204.8	0.3	49.2		223.2	-2.1	42.3		193.0	2.3	54.9	
	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

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 5: 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 6.5% in January 2024 and inflation calculated for the December 2023 was 4.2%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to 4.1% in January 2024 from 1.6% in December 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 8.5% in January 2024 from 6.3% in December 2023.

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

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 1.86 percent in January 2024 compared to the month of January 2023 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 4.66 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.42%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.14%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (3.43%),

‘Health’ (0.08%), ‘Communication’ (0.05%) ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.22%). ‘Education’ (0.53%) and ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ (0.04%). However, price decreases in the groups of items were reported for ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’ (0.02%), Transport’ (0.16%) and ‘Restaurant and Hotels’ (0.07%) during the period.

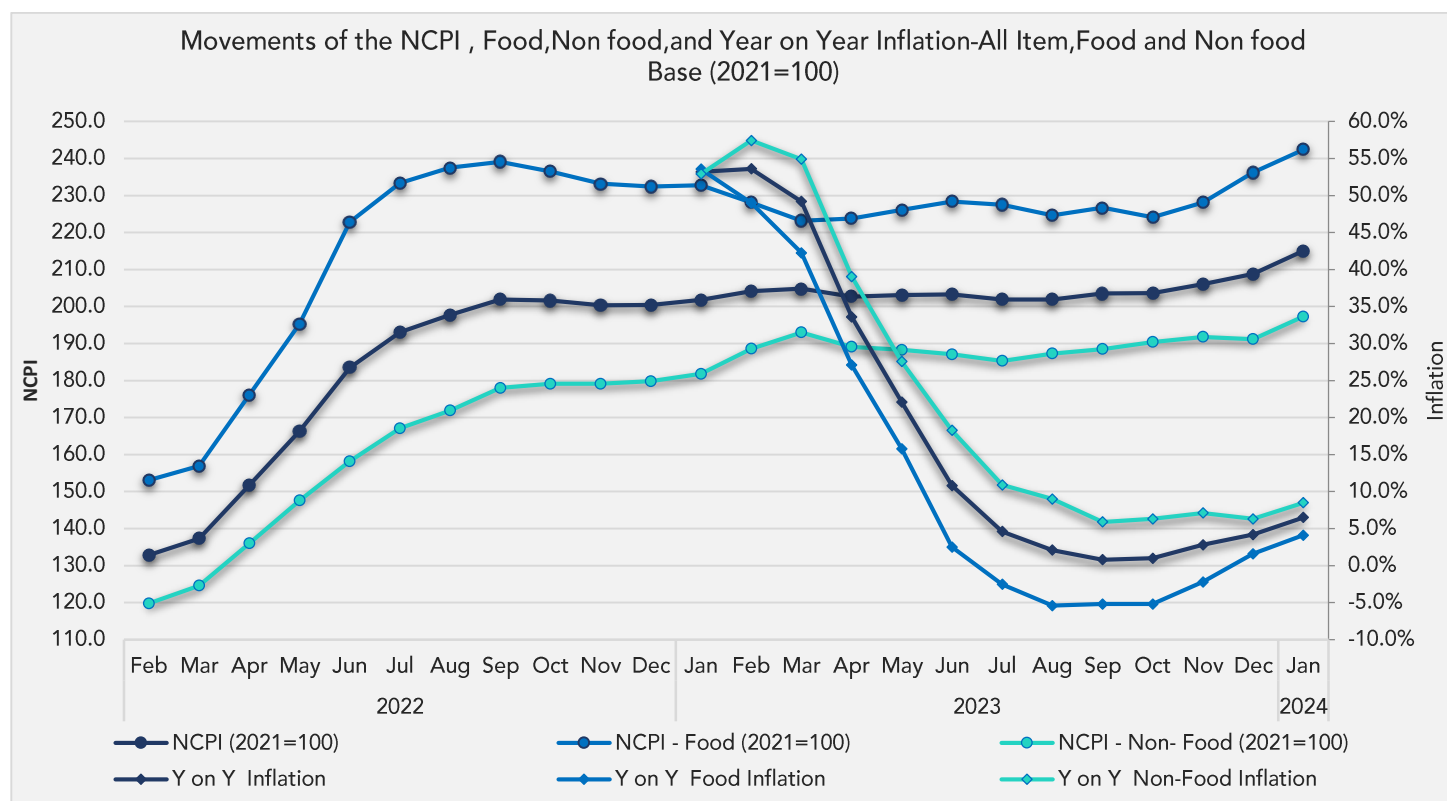
**Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis January 2024 as compared to January 2023)**

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		Net effect %
		Increase %	Decrease %	
<b>Food</b>	<b>1904.43</b>			<b>1.86</b>
Vegetables	1608.63	1.57		
Big onions	703.67	0.69		
Green chilies	500.24	0.49		
Sugar	277.36	0.27		
Tea dust/ leaves	224.47	0.22		
Coconuts	178.13	0.17		
Milk powder	-343.55		0.34	
Chili powder	-219.75		0.21	
Bread (normal)	-218.47		0.21	
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>4772.62</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>4.66</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>431.33</b>	<b>0.42</b>		
Arrack	248.39	0.24		
Beer	17.18	0.02		
Cigarettes	163.43	0.16		
Beetle leaves	-32.52		0.03	
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	<b>144.11</b>	<b>0.14</b>		
Clothing	160.25	0.16		
Footwear	-16.13		0.02	
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>3511.77</b>	<b>3.43</b>		
Housing rent	714.50	0.70		
Materials for the maintenance	-129.22		0.13	
Water bill	502.98	0.49		
Electricity bill	2589.03	2.53		
LP gas	-105.55		0.10	
Kerosene oil	-53.09		0.05	
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	<b>-25.27</b>		<b>0.02</b>	
<b>Health</b>	<b>85.40</b>	<b>0.08</b>		
Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products	-76.37		0.07	
Fees to private medical practices	126.16	0.12		
Consultation fees to specialists	32.18	0.03		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>-159.53</b>		<b>0.16</b>	
Petrol	-44.35		0.04	
Diesel	-87.64		0.09	
Vehicle maintenance expenses	92.23	0.09		
Bus fare	-168.94		0.17	
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	-58.65		0.06	
Airline fare	36.68	0.04		
<b>Communication</b>	<b>51.31</b>	<b>0.05</b>		
Telephone charges - mobile	25.20	0.02		

<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>224.53</b>	<b>0.22</b>
<i>Lotteries</i>	70.45	0.07
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	116.65	0.11
<b>Education</b>	<b>541.00</b>	<b>0.53</b>
<i>Tuition fees</i>	469.88	0.46
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	16.12	0.02
<b>Restaurant and Hotels</b>	<b>-73.15</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	<b>41.12</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>All Items</b>	<b>6677.05</b>	<b>6.52</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 6: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off



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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