

## NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI)

MARCH, 2022

21, April 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 March 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 March 2022 is 172.7
- ❑ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI on Year-on-Year basis is 21.5% in March 2022.
- ❑ The moving average inflation for the month of March 2022 is 10.6%.

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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 March 2022 is 172.7. An increase of 4.9 index points or 2.9 percentage compared to February 2022 for which the index was 167.8. This increase represents increase in expenditure value of Rs.1572.34 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 (%)		
	Mar 2021	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Mar 2021	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Mar 2021	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
<b>All Items</b>	142.1	167.8	172.7	-218.46	580.00	1572.34	-0.48	1.09	2.92
<b>Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	150.7	190.6	195.2	-290.20	316.81	657.52	-0.63	0.59	1.22
<b>Non-Food</b>	135.3	149.8	154.9	71.74	263.18	914.82	0.16	0.49	1.70
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	216.0	249.5	256.0	9.96	47.57	47.51	0.02	0.09	0.09
Clothing and Footwear	135.4	150.9	153.9	10.90	30.13	33.94	0.02	0.06	0.06
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	127.9	134.6	134.9	2.02	3.35	18.79	0.00	0.01	0.03
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	134.5	154.1	159.9	4.09	16.90	61.50	0.01	0.03	0.11
Health	163.6	183.2	186.6	0.14	0.00	44.11	0.00	0.00	0.08
Transport	125.2	143.4	161.6	9.98	85.02	570.92	0.02	0.16	1.06
Recreation and Culture	125.1	134.9	138.9	0.00	15.38	20.41	0.00	0.03	0.04
Restaurants and Hotels	126.5	165.1	173.2	33.12	49.39	101.46	0.07	0.09	0.19
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	146.0	158.5	159.5	1.53	15.45	14.23	0.00	0.03	0.03
Other Groups	123.5	127.1	127.2	0.00	0.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	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 ten main groups in March 2022, details on which are given in Table 02.

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

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

Contributions to the NCPI on Month-on-Month basis (March 2022 as compared to February 2022) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index value of food items by 1.22% and non-food items by 1.70% respectively.

#### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 1.22%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Rice (0.35%), Coconut oil (0.18%), Mysore dhal (0.18%), Milk powder (0.16%), Eggs (0.13%), Fresh fish (0.13%), Bread (0.11%), Sugar (0.11%), Dried fish (0.08%), Chicken (0.07%), Fresh fruits (0.07%), Chilli powder (0.07%), Wheat flour (0.05%), Dried chilies (0.04%), Coconuts (0.03%), Curry powder (0.03%), and Buns (0.02%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Vegetables (0.52%), Big onions (0.09%), Potatoes (0.06%), Red onions (0.05%), Green chilies (0.04%) and Limes (0.02%).

#### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 1.70%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in March 2022 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items ‘Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics’ (Arrack, Betel leaves) (0.09%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.06%), ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels’ (LP Gas) (0.03%), ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’ (0.11%), ‘Health’ (Payments to private hospitals/nursing homes room charges, Purchase of medical/pharmacy products) (0.08%), ‘Transport’ (Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare) (1.06%), ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.04%), ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ (0.19%) and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (0.03%). Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of ‘Communication’ as well. Meanwhile, the price index of ‘Education’ group remained unchanged during the month.

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

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		Increase	% Change Decrease	Net effect
<b>Food</b>	<b>657.52</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>1.22</b>
Rice	190.27	0.35		
Coconut oil	99.48	0.18		
Mysore dhal	96.17	0.18		
Milk powder	87.15	0.16		
Eggs	71.01	0.13		
Fresh fish	70.63	0.13		
Bread	61.11	0.11		
Sugar	58.33	0.11		
Dried fish	41.24	0.08		
<i>Sprats</i>	26.27	0.05		
Chicken	39.67	0.07		
Fresh fruits	38.94	0.07		
<i>Papaw</i>	24.22	0.04		
<i>Banana</i>	-3.06		0.01	
Chili powder	38.29	0.07		
Wheat flour	27.49	0.05		
Dried chilies	21.02	0.04		
Coconuts	14.42	0.03		
Curry powder	13.67	0.03		
Buns	13.22	0.02		
Vegetables	-279.51		0.52	
Big onions	-50.97		0.09	
Potatoes	-30.79		0.06	
Red onions	-24.31		0.05	
Green chilies	-22.74		0.04	
Limes	-9.15		0.02	
Other food items	92.88	0.17		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>914.82</b>	<b>1.70</b>		<b>1.70</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>47.51</b>	<b>0.09</b>		
<i>Arrack</i>	18.61	0.03		
<i>Betel leaves</i>	18.67	0.03		
<i>Bulathwita</i>	3.70	0.01		
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>33.94</b>	<b>0.06</b>		
<i>Clothing</i>	32.62	0.06		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>18.79</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<i>LP Gas</i>	16.98	0.03		
<b>Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	<b>61.50</b>	<b>0.11</b>		
<b>Health</b>	<b>44.11</b>	<b>0.08</b>		
<i>Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products</i>	14.45	0.03		
<i>Payments. to medical laboratory tests</i>	7.25	0.01		
<i>Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes room charges</i>	22.37	0.04		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>570.92</b>	<b>1.06</b>		
<i>Tyres, tubes and spare parts</i>	16.56	0.03		
<i>Petrol</i>	288.12	0.53		
<i>Diesel</i>	95.64	0.18		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	37.39	0.07		
<i>Bus fare</i>	86.04	0.16		
<i>Airline fare</i>	47.17	0.09		
<b>Communication</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<i>Postal and Telegraph charges</i>	1.96	0.00		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>20.41</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<b>Restaurants and hotels</b>	<b>101.46</b>	<b>0.19</b>		
<b>Miscellaneous Goods &amp; Services</b>	<b>14.23</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<b>All Items</b>	<b>1572.34</b>			<b>2.92</b>

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	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %	
				Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.
2021	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	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

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 21.5% in March 2022 and inflation calculated for February 2022 was 17.5%. (Table 03). With respect to March 2021, the reported inflation for the month of March 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 29.5% in March 2022 from 24.7% in February 2022 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 14.5% in March 2022 from 11.0% in February 2022.

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

On Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 13.79 percent in March 2022 compared to the month of March 2021 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 7.71 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Transport' (2.50%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (1.28%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (0.89%), 'Health' (0.65%), 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.64%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.59%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.45%), 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.43%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.15%) and 'Education' (0.13%). Meanwhile, very slight price increase was reported in group of 'Communication' during the period.

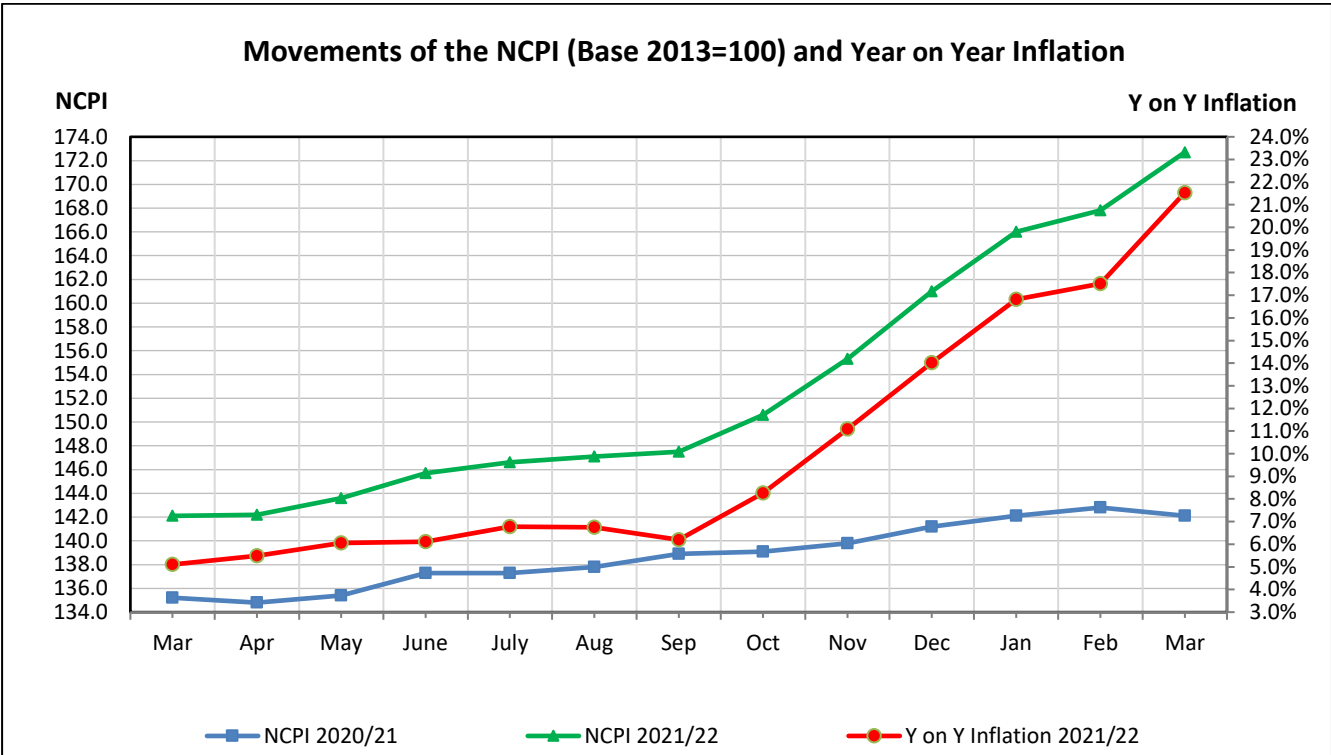
Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2013=100) on year on year basis March 2022 as compared to March 2021)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect %
		Increase %	Decrease %	
<b>Food</b>	<b>6297.16</b>			<b>13.79</b>
Rice	1387.05	3.04		
Vegetables	817.85	1.79		
Milk powder	503.53	1.10		
Fresh fish	469.78	1.03		
Mysore dhal	338.05	0.74		
Coconut oil	332.32	0.73		
Chicken	263.86	0.58		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>3523.48</b>	<b>7.71</b>		<b>7.71</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>291.64</b>	<b>0.64</b>		
Arrack	69.07	0.15		
Cigarettes	24.09	0.05		
Tobacco (chewing)	10.32	0.02		
Beedi	21.43	0.05		
Betel leaves	102.88	0.23		
Arecanuts	19.35	0.04		
Bulathwita	30.84	0.07		
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	<b>204.70</b>	<b>0.45</b>		
Clothing	171.08	0.37		
Footwear	33.62	0.07		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>404.39</b>	<b>0.89</b>		
Housing rent	80.01	0.18		
Material for the maintenance	124.02	0.27		
LP gas	160.00	0.35		
Kerosene oil	17.03	0.04		
Firewood	23.33	0.05		
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	<b>268.96</b>	<b>0.59</b>		
<b>Health</b>	<b>299.08</b>	<b>0.65</b>		
Purchase of medical/pharmacy products	60.76	0.13		
Fees to private medical practices	112.31	0.25		
Consultation fees to specialists	18.33	0.04		
Fees to Aurvadic practitioners	38.54	0.08		
Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes room charges	58.82	0.13		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>1140.92</b>	<b>2.50</b>		
Tyres, tubes and spare parts	20.06	0.04		
Petrol	513.96	1.13		
Diesel	132.39	0.29		
Cost of servicing of vehicles	102.75	0.22		
Bus fare	237.88	0.52		
Taxi/three wheelers fare	24.18	0.05		
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	36.45	0.08		
Airline fare	52.67	0.12		
<b>Communication</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>0.15</b>		
Exercise books and stationeries	24.43	0.05		
<b>Education</b>	<b>58.76</b>	<b>0.13</b>		
Tuition fees	29.56	0.06		
Course fees (Higher education)	8.21	0.02		
Course fees vocational training	6.70	0.01		
School fees (International)	12.00	0.03		
<b>Restaurant and Hotels</b>	<b>586.11</b>	<b>1.28</b>		
<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	<b>196.96</b>	<b>0.43</b>		
<b>All Items</b>	<b>9820.64</b>			<b>21.50</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

## 2.2 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation for the month of February 2022 is 10.6%. The corresponding rate for the month of February 2022 was 9.3%.




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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“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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