



NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) – (Base 2021=100) OCTOBER, 2023

21 November 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) with a new index reference period and Inflation rate for the month of October 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 October 2023 is 203.6 and it records an increase of 0.1 in index points compared to September 2023.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 1.0% in October 2023.

Content

Month on Month (M on M) change of NCPI (Page 1 and 2)

Inflation (Page 3 and 4)

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 October 2023 is 203.6. An increase of 0.1 index points or 0.04 percentage compared to September 2023 for which the index was 203.5. This increase represents an increase in expenditure value of Rs. 41.50 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 (%) ¹		
	Oct. 2022	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023	Oct. 2022	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023	Oct. 2022	Sep. 2023	Oct. 2023
All Items	201.6	203.5	203.6	-174.0	791.74	41.50	-0.17	0.77	0.04
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	236.5	226.7	224.1	-519.5	419.61	-529.17	-0.51	0.41	-0.51
Non Food	179.1	188.5	190.4	345.6	372.12	570.68	0.34	0.36	0.55
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	145.0	158.8	162.7	-181.0	44.13	452.38	-0.18	0.04	0.44
Furnishing ,Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	213.3	220.3	217.9	100.3	-5.48	-36.22	0.10	-0.01	-0.04
Health	174.3	190.2	192.5	162.5	0.00	37.07	0.16	0.00	0.04
Transport	241.2	227.1	228.7	-475.2	245.77	88.99	-0.46	0.24	0.09
Recreation and Culture	172.4	215.4	213.7	145.3	0.00	-14.42	0.14	0.00	-0.01
Education	151.1	173.6	175.5	98.2	36.03	38.87	0.10	0.04	0.04
Restaurants and Hotels	230.6	226.9	226.5	129.3	21.18	-9.22	0.13	0.02	-0.01
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	188.8	198.9	199.8	120.0	-3.12	14.72	0.12	0.00	0.01
Other Groups	161.4	183.8	183.7	246.2	33.61	-1.49	0.24	0.03	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 main groups in October 2023, details on which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the October 2023, insignificant groups: 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' and 'Clothing and Footwear' and unchanged group: Communication' are considered as the 'Other Groups'.

Note 3: ¹Monthly change of the index (%) is calculated using expenditure values.

Note 4: 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 (October 2023 as compared to September 2023) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by decreases in food items of 0.51% and increases in non-food items of 0.55% respectively.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: -0.51%

As shown in Table 02, the decreases in index values were reported for Fresh fish (0.46%), Chicken (0.16%), Fresh fruits (0.12%), Potatoes (0.03%), Green chilies (0.03) %, Vegetables (0.02%), Coconut oil (0.02%), Green gram (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%), Tea dust/leaves (0.01%) and Mysore dhal (0.01%). However, increases in index values were reported for Limes (0.12%), Big onions (0.09%), Rice (0.09%), Coconuts (0.03%), Dried fish (0.01%), Eggs (0.01%), Sugar (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%) and Red onions (0.01%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.55%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in October 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity bill and LP Gas*) (0.44%), 'Transport' (*Petrol and Diesel*) (0.09%), 'Education' (*Tuition fees*) (0.04%), 'Health' (*Fees to private medical practices*) (0.04%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.01%). However, price decreases in groups of items were reported for Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.04%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%) and 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.01%). Further, very slight price decreases were reported in groups of 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' and 'Clothing and Footwear'. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the increase in NCPI from September 2023 to October 2023 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	-529.17	0.37	0.88	-0.51
Fresh fish	-471.99		0.46	
Chicken	-162.06		0.16	
Fresh fruits	-123.95		0.12	
<i>Banana</i>	-38.78		0.04	
<i>Papaw</i>	-42.05		0.04	
<i>Mangoes</i>	-32.46		0.03	
Potatoes	-31.65		0.03	
Green chilies	-29.00		0.03	
Vegetables	-23.33		0.02	
Coconut oil	-19.04		0.02	
Green gram	-8.74		0.01	
Chili powder	-7.84		0.01	
Tea dust/ leaves	-5.93		0.01	
Mysore dhal	-5.56		0.01	
Limes	122.05	0.12		
Big onions	94.76	0.09		
Rice	87.91	0.09		
Coconuts	28.00	0.03		
Dried fish	12.90	0.01		
<i>Sprats</i>	26.06	0.03		

<i>Keerameen</i>	-7.19		0.01	
Eggs	10.61	0.01		
Sugar	8.21	0.01		
Garlic	7.57	0.01		
Red onions	5.63	0.01		
Other food items	-17.72		0.02	
Non Food	570.68	0.61	0.06	0.55
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	452.38	0.44		
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	73.91	0.07		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	283.73	0.27		
<i>LP Gas</i>	91.14	0.09		
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	-36.22		0.04	
Health	37.07	0.04		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	31.38	0.03		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	5.57	0.01		
Transport	88.99	0.09		
<i>Petrol</i>	42.92	0.04		
<i>Diesel</i>	17.68	0.02		
<i>Bus fare</i>	3.27	0.00		
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	15.23	0.01		
Recreation and Culture	-14.42		0.01	
Education	38.87	0.04		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	38.87	0.04		
Restaurants and hotels	-9.22		0.01	
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	14.72	0.01		
Other Items	-1.49		0.00	
All Items	41.50			0.04

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 5: 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	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
	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

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 6: 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 1.0% in October 2023 and inflation calculated for the September 2023 was 0.8%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group remained unchanged in October 2023 at -5.2%, which was reported in September 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 6.3% in October 2023 from 5.9% in September 2023.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was -2.41 percent in October 2023 compared to the month of October 2022 (Table 04).

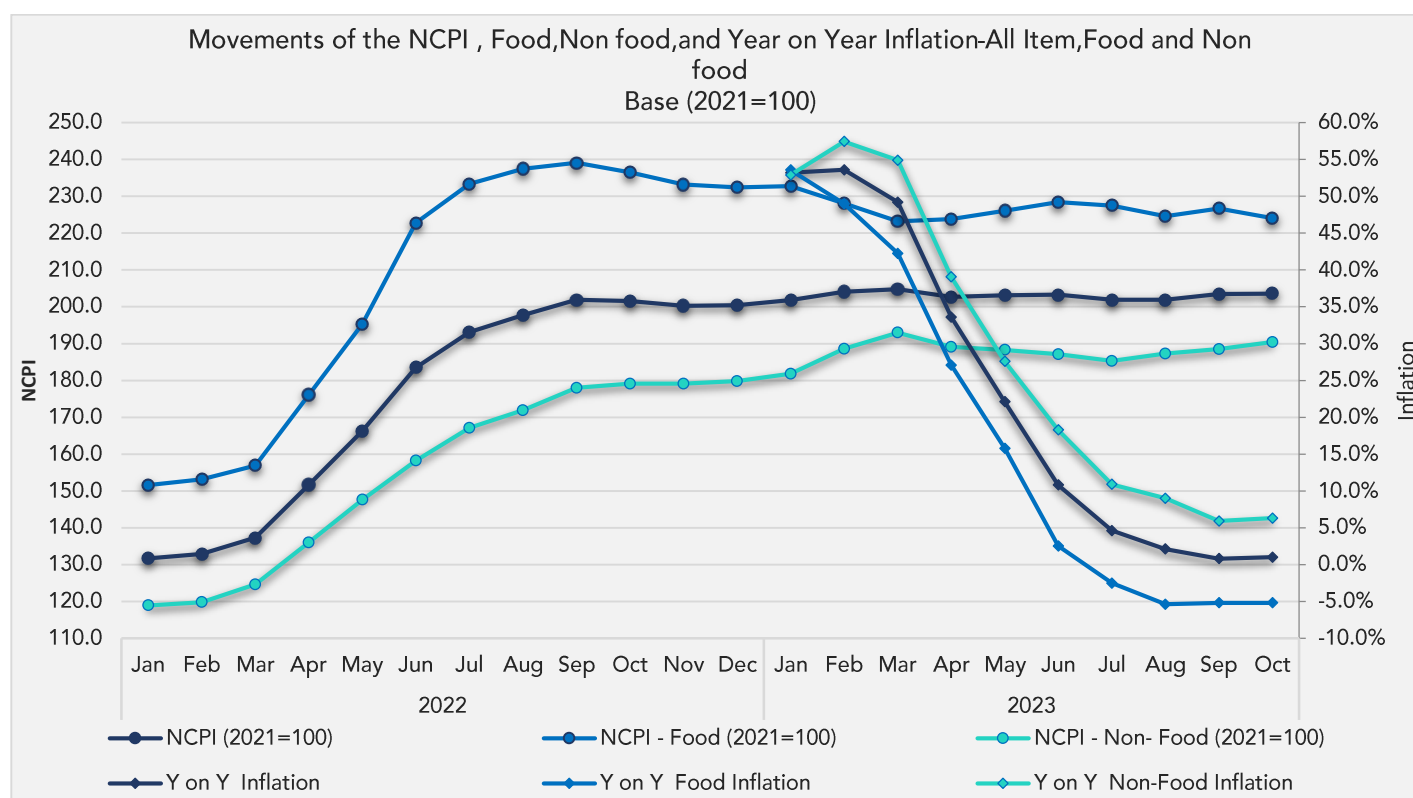
Contribution of non-food items was 3.40 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.36%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.44%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (2.01%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.07%), 'Health' (0.29%), 'Communication' (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.34%), 'Education' (0.47%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.18%) during the period. However, price decreases in the groups of items were reported for Transport' (0.68%) and 'Restaurant and Hotels' (0.09%).

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

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		
		Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
Food	-2465.90			-2.41
Vegetables	-412.55		0.40	
Dried fish	-384.71		0.38	
Rice	-359.16		0.35	
Bread (normal)	-358.18		0.35	
Chili powder	-263.88		0.26	
Tea dust/ leaves	323.35	0.32		
Limes	288.92	0.28		
Coconuts	279.67	0.27		
Non Food	3477.25	4.17	0.77	3.40
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	364.74	0.36		
Arrack	199.92	0.20		
Cigarettes	128.26	0.13		
Beetle leaves	-23.84		0.02	
Clothing and Footwear	445.45	0.44		
Clothing	405.91	0.40		
Footwear	39.54	0.04		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	2053.44	2.01		
Housing rent	278.94	0.27		
Materials for the maintenance	-455.53		0.45	
Water bill	478.27	0.47		
Electricity bill	2139.79	2.09		
LP gas	-343.39		0.34	
Kerosene oil	-43.64		0.04	
Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance	71.02	0.07		
Health	300.06	0.29		
Fees to private medical practices	256.60	0.25		
Consultation fees to specialists	26.05	0.03		
Transport	-698.90		0.68	
Petrol	-314.45		0.31	
Diesel	-132.56		0.13	
Bus fare	-168.96		0.17	
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	-94.28		0.09	
Communication	12.84	0.01		
Telephone charges - mobile	8.38	0.01		
Recreation and Culture	352.08	0.34		
Lotteries	70.45	0.07		
Exercise books and stationeries	188.54	0.18		
Education	484.73	0.47		
Tuition fees	364.96	0.36		
Course fees (Higher education)	56.87	0.06		
Restaurant and Hotels	-92.43		0.09	
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	184.21	0.18		
Beauty Products	109.19	0.11		
Hair cutting and shaving charges	54.10	0.05		
All Items	1011.34			0.99

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 7: 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.”

📍 Department of Census & Statistics,
Sankyana Mandiraya
No. 306/71, Polduwa
Road, Battaramulla

✉️ dgcensus@statistics.gov.lk

☎️ +94 11 2147001

📠 +94 11 2147011

🌐 statistics.gov.lk

This publication is produced by the Prices & Wages Division

📍 5th floor, Department of Census and Statistics

✉️ prices@statistics.gov.lk

☎️ +94 11- 2147414 📠 +94 11- 2147418