



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

23 October 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 September 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 September 2023 is 203.5 and it records an increase of 1.6 in index points compared to August 2023.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 0.8% in September 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 September 2023 is 203.5. An increase of 1.6 index points or 0.77 percentage compared to August 2023 for which the index was 201.9. This increase represents an increase in expenditure value of Rs. 791.74 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>		
	Sep. 2022	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Sep. 2022	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023	Sep. 2022	Aug. 2023	Sep. 2023
<b>All Items</b>	201.9	201.9	203.5	2167.0	35.60	791.74	2.16	0.03	0.77
<b>Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages</b>	239.1	224.6	226.7	309.3	-576.12	419.61	0.31	-0.56	0.41
<b>Non Food</b>	178.0	187.3	188.5	1857.7	611.71	372.12	1.85	0.60	0.36
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	173.3	216.2	217.8	48.1	20.44	15.44	0.05	0.02	0.02
Clothing and Footwear	178.2	212.2	213.4	159.6	-57.97	18.17	0.16	-0.06	0.02
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	146.6	158.4	158.8	606.1	430.41	44.13	0.60	0.42	0.04
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	206.8	220.6	220.3	162.3	10.05	-5.48	0.16	0.01	-0.01
Transport	249.7	222.7	227.1	187.3	223.21	245.77	0.19	0.22	0.24
Education	146.1	171.8	173.6	45.6	0.00	36.03	0.05	0.00	0.04
Restaurants and Hotels	224.8	225.9	226.9	170.0	-24.44	21.18	0.17	-0.02	0.02
Other Groups	156.2	181.1	181.0	478.7	10.01	-3.12	0.48	0.01	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 eight main groups in September 2023, details on which are given in Table 02.*

*Note 2: For the September 2023, insignificant group: 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' and unchanged groups: 'Health', 'Communication' and 'Recreation and Culture' are considered as the 'Other Groups'.*

*Note 3: <sup>1</sup>Monthly 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 (September 2023 as compared to August 2023) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items of 0.41% and non-food items of 0.36% respectively.

### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.41%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Rice (0.33%), Limes (0.16%), Big onions (0.14%), Fresh fruits (0.10%), Sugar (0.07%), Coconuts (0.05%), Mysore dhal (0.04%), Green chilies (0.02%), Cowpea (0.01%), Tea dust/leaves (0.01%), Pepper (0.01%) and Gram (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Vegetables (0.18%), Chicken (0.11%), Fresh fish (0.10%), Red onions (0.02%), Coconut oil (0.02%), Dried fish (0.02%), Potatoes (0.02%), Eggs (0.01%), Green gram (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%), Rice flour (0.01%) and Wheat flour (0.01%).

### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.36%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in September 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Transport' (*Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare*) (0.24%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*LP Gas*) (0.04%), 'Education' (*School fees (International)*) (0.04%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.02%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*) (0.02%) and 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Beetle leaves*) (0.02%). However, price decreases in group of items were reported for Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.01%). Further, a very slight price decrease was reported in group of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health', 'Communication' and 'Recreation and Culture' groups remained unchanged during the month.

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

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
<b>Food</b>	<b>419.61</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.41</b>
Rice	339.47	0.33		
Limes	162.34	0.16		
Big onions	148.37	0.14		
Fresh fruits	105.39	0.10		
<i>Banana</i>	74.70	0.07		
<i>Mangoes</i>	20.92	0.02		
<i>Pineapple</i>	15.76	0.02		
Sugar	72.83	0.07		
Coconuts	56.09	0.05		
Mysore dhal	37.10	0.04		
Green chilies	18.17	0.02		
Cowpea	8.65	0.01		
Tea dust/leaves	7.06	0.01		
Pepper	6.39	0.01		
Gram	5.32	0.01		
Vegetables	-185.89		0.18	
Chicken	-110.11		0.11	
Fresh fish	-105.73		0.10	
Red onions	-25.02		0.02	
Coconut oil	-24.67		0.02	
Dried fish	-21.37		0.02	

<i>Keerameen</i>	-14.79	0.01		
<i>Katta</i>	-7.69	0.01		
Potatoes	-19.06	0.02		
Eggs	-14.68	0.01		
Green gram	-11.39	0.01		
Chili powder	-10.49	0.01		
Rice flour	-8.92	0.01		
Wheat flour	-5.29	0.01		
Other food items	-4.93	0.00		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>372.12</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.36</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>15.44</b>	<b>0.02</b>		
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	11.27	0.01		
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>18.17</b>	<b>0.02</b>		
<i>Clothing</i>	18.17	0.02		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>44.13</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<i>LP Gas</i>	41.91	0.04		
<b>Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	<b>-5.48</b>		<b>0.01</b>	
<b>Transport</b>	<b>245.77</b>	<b>0.24</b>		
<i>Petrol</i>	144.15	0.14		
<i>Diesel</i>	63.95	0.06		
<i>Bus fare</i>	45.82	0.04		
<i>Airline fare</i>	-8.14		0.01	
<b>Education</b>	<b>36.03</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<i>School fees (International)</i>	36.03	0.04		
<b>Restaurants and hotels</b>	<b>21.18</b>	<b>0.02</b>		
<b>Other Items</b>	<b>-3.12</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
<b>All Items</b>	<b>791.74</b>			<b>0.77</b>

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	Inflation %		Index Number	Inflation %		Index Number	Inflation %	
			% Change Month on Month	Y on Y		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y
2022	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
	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

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 0.8% in September 2023 and inflation calculated for the August 2023 was 2.1%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to - 5.2% in September 2023 from -5.4% in August 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 5.9% in September 2023 from 9.0% in August 2023.

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

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was -2.40 percent in September 2023 compared to the month of September 2022 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 3.17 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.42%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.52%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (1.39%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.20%), 'Health' (0.42%), 'Communication' (0.10%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.50%), 'Education' (0.53%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (0.04%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.28%) during the period. However, a price decrease in the group of items was reported for the group Transport' (1.23%).

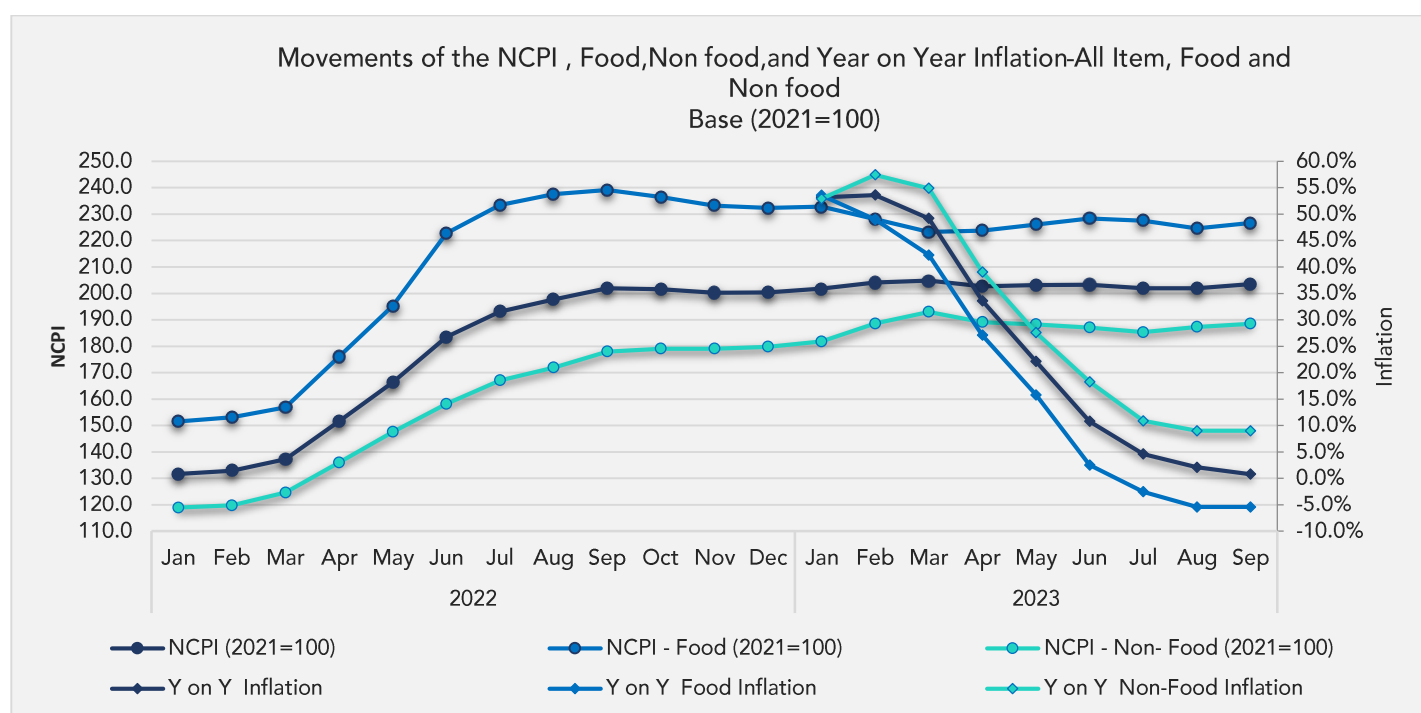
Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis September 2023 as compared to September 2022)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		
		Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
<b>Food</b>	<b>-2456.26</b>		<b>2.40</b>	<b>-2.40</b>
Rice	-576.35		0.56	
Dried fish	-512.69		0.50	
Vegetables	-377.22		0.37	
Bread (normal)	-338.42		0.33	
Mysore dhal	-324.87		0.32	
Tea dust/ leaves	362.99	0.35		
Coconuts	282.76	0.28		
Limes	230.87	0.23		
Fresh fruits	150.07	0.15		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>3252.13</b>	<b>4.41</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>3.17</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>427.90</b>	<b>0.42</b>		
Arrack	238.17	0.23		
Cigarettes	144.29	0.14		
Beetle leaves	-26.50		0.03	
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	<b>536.38</b>	<b>0.52</b>		
Clothing	510.02	0.50		
Footwear	26.36	0.03		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>1420.07</b>	<b>1.39</b>		
Housing rent	278.94	0.27		
Materials for the maintenance	-680.31		0.66	
Water bill	478.27	0.47		
Electricity bill	1907.96	1.86		
LP gas	-521.49		0.51	
Kerosene oil	-48.37		0.05	
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	<b>207.52</b>	<b>0.20</b>		
Energy saving bulbs	126.24	0.12		
<b>Health</b>	<b>425.45</b>	<b>0.42</b>		
Purchase of medical/pharmacy products	90.70	0.09		
Fees to private medical practices	282.44	0.28		
Consultation fees to specialists	29.39	0.03		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>-1263.10</b>		<b>1.23</b>	
Petrol	-986.85		0.96	
Diesel	-162.61		0.16	
Vehicle maintenance expenses (Repair charges)	50.59	0.05		
Bus fare	-172.23		0.17	
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	-69.04		0.07	
Airline fare	7.97	0.01		
<b>Communication</b>	<b>106.48</b>	<b>0.10</b>		
Telephone charges - Home fixed phone	14.34	0.01		
Telephone charges - mobile	83.06	0.08		
Email/Internet charges	6.01	0.01		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>511.83</b>	<b>0.50</b>		
Lotteries	70.45	0.07		
Exercise books and stationeries	332.56	0.32		

<b>Education</b>	<b>544.07</b>	<b>0.53</b>
<i>Tuition fees</i>	<i>424.30</i>	<i>0.41</i>
<i>School fees (International)</i>	<i>36.03</i>	<i>0.04</i>
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	<i>56.87</i>	<i>0.06</i>
<b>Restaurant and Hotels</b>	<b>46.06</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	<b>289.47</b>	<b>0.28</b>
<i>Beauty Products</i>	<i>49.54</i>	<i>0.05</i>
<b>All Items</b>	<b>795.87</b>	<b>0.78</b>

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.”

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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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