

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): APRIL 2020****Department of Census and Statistics****State Ministry of Economic and Policy Development****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of April 2020, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 5.9%. The headline inflation reported for the month of March 2020 was 7.0%. Contributions to the inflation rate of April 2020 from food group and non-food group are 5.2% and 0.7% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in April 2019 were -0.55% and 4.15% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 3.6%. With respect to April 2019, the reported increase in percentage of food group was mainly due to higher price levels prevailed in this month of April 2020, particularly prices of coconuts, rice, fresh fish, coconut oil, chili powder, red onions and big onions.

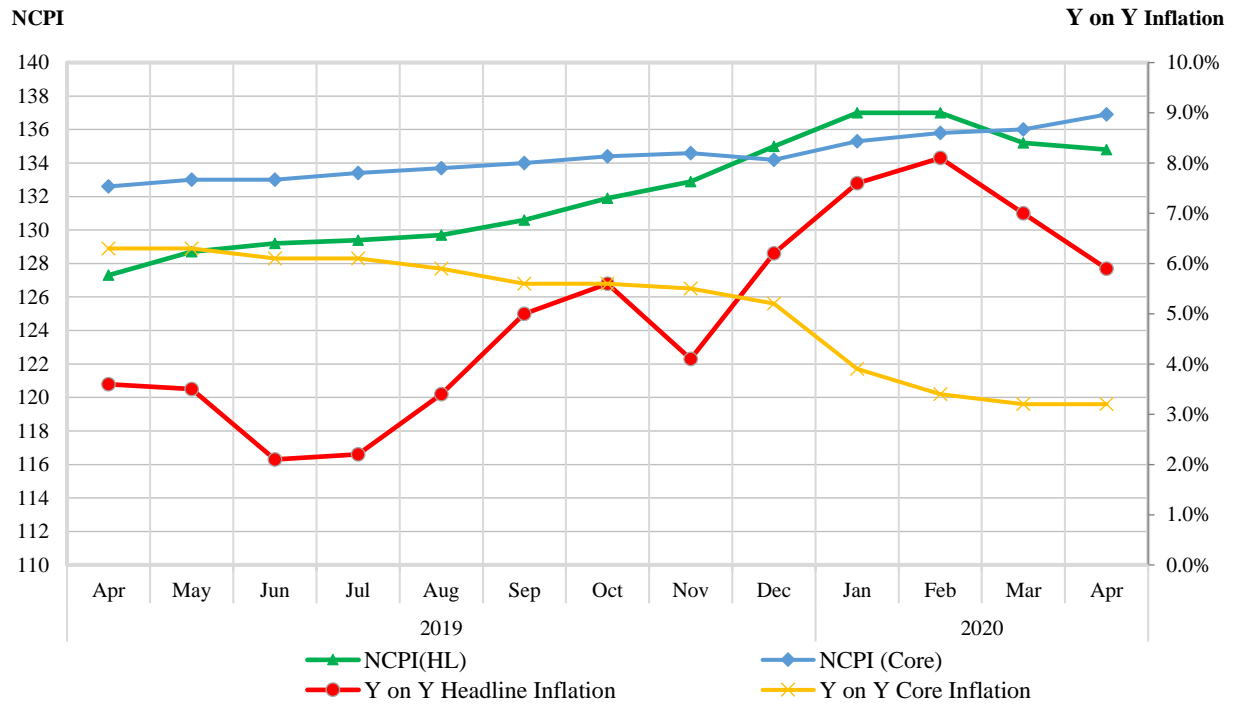
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in April 2020 has decreased to 134.8 from 135.2 reported in March 2020. This shows a decrease of 0.4 index points or 0.3 percentage as compared to March 2020. The month-on-month change was contributed totally by decrease of index values of food items by 0.33%. The group of non-food items remained unchanged during the month of April 2020.

Price decreases of food items were reported for vegetables, fresh fruits, big onions, eggs, green chilies, rice, chicken, fresh fish, canned fish and garlic. However, price increases of food items were reported for coconuts, limes, sugar, dried fish, chili powder, coconut oil, potatoes, curry powder, milk powder, dried chilies, turmeric powder, gram, pepper, mysore dhal and coriander.

All eleven non food groups remained unchanged during the month of April 2020 was due to the priority of providing essential services during COVID-19 pandemic situation of the country. Even though, provision of essential services included in the non food groups of items 'Health', 'Transport' and 'Housing, Water Electricity, Gas and Other Fuel' those groups also remained unchanged during the month of April 2020.

Core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation by excluding volatile items of food, energy and transport groups in the economy as measured by the Year-on-Year change based on NCPI for the month of April 2020 remained unchanged as 3.2% when compared to March 2020.

**Movements of the NCPI (Base 2013=100), NCPI(Core), Year on Year
Headline Inflation and Year on Year Core Inflation**



Movements of the NCPI (Base : 2013 = 100)

Year	Month	Index Number		Month to Month % change of Index Number		Year on Year Inflation %	
		NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)
2019	April	127.3	132.6	0.7	0.6	3.6	6.3
	May	128.7	133.0	1.1	0.3	3.5	6.3
	June	129.2	133.0	0.4	0.0	2.1	6.1
	July	129.4	133.4	0.2	0.3	2.2	6.1
	August	129.7	133.7	0.2	0.2	3.4	5.9
	September	130.6	134.0	0.7	0.2	5.0	5.6
	October	131.9	134.4	1.0	0.3	5.6	5.6
	November	132.9	134.6	0.8	0.1	4.1	5.5
	December	135.0	134.2	1.6	-0.3	6.2	5.2
2020	January	137.0	135.3	1.5	0.8	7.6	3.9
	February	137.0	135.8	0.0	0.4	8.1	3.4
	March	135.2	136.0	-1.3	0.1	7.0	3.2
	April	134.8	136.9	-0.3	0.7	5.9	3.2