

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): JANUARY 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**

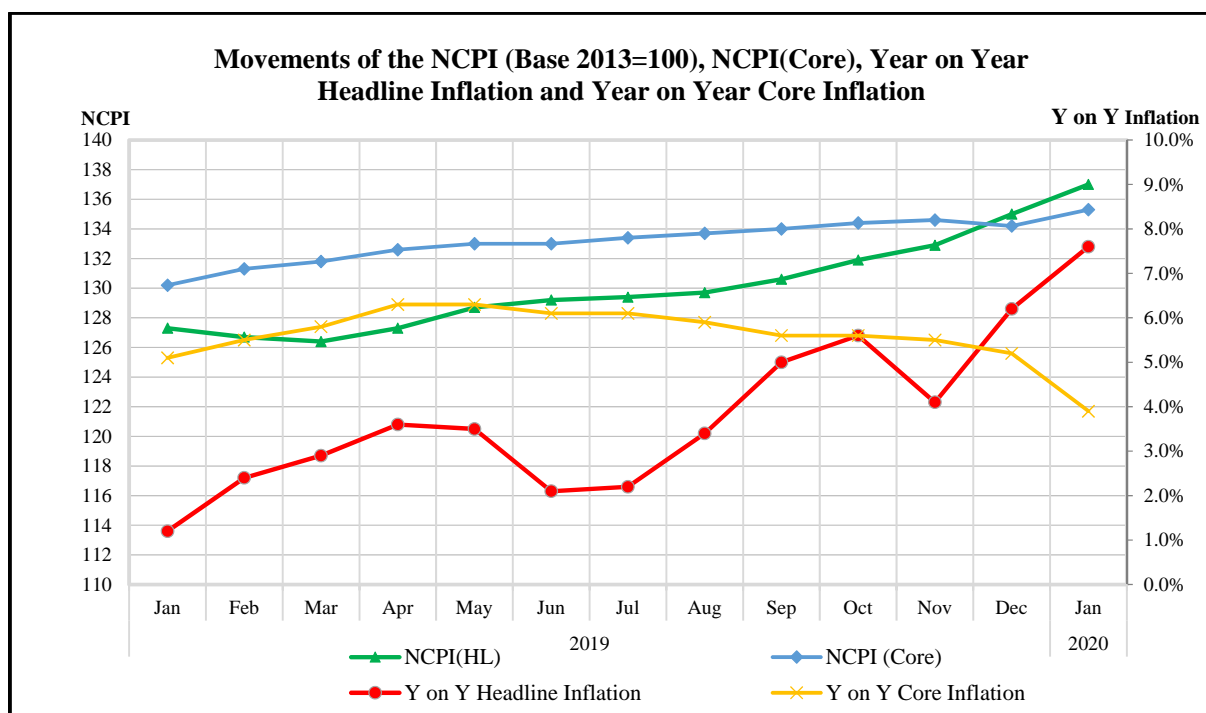
Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of January 2020, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 7.6%. The headline inflation reported for the month of December 2019 was 6.2%. Contributions to the inflation rate of January 2020 from food group and non-food group are 6.0% and 1.7% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in January 2019 were -2.2% and 3.5% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 1.2%. With respect to January 2019, the reported increase in percentage of food group was mainly due to higher price levels prevailed in this month of January 2020, particularly prices of vegetables, rice, red onions, fresh fish, milk powder and big onions.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in January 2020 has increased to 137.0 from 135.0 reported in December 2019. This shows an increase of 2.0 index points or 1.5 percentage as compared to December 2019. This month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index values of food items by 1.14% and non-food items by 0.36% respectively.

Price increases of food items were reported for vegetables, coconuts, red onions, fresh fish, coconut oil, papaw, chili powder, green chilies, mysore dhal, manioc and mangoes. However, price decreases of food items were reported for big onions, limes, potatoes, rice and milk powder.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in January 2020 compared to the previous month was due to the price increases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Housing Rent*), 'Education' (*Tuition fees*), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics' (*Betel leaves*), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services', 'Restaurants and Hotels', 'Health' (*Fees to private medical practices*) (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Clothing and Footwear'. Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of 'Furnishing, Household equipment Routine household maintenance'. However, the group of 'Transport' was reported very slight price decrease compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group remained unchanged during the month.

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 January 2020 has declined to 3.9% from 5.2% in December 2019.



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	January	127.3	130.2	0.2	2.0	1.2	5.1
	February	126.7	131.3	-0.5	0.8	2.4	5.5
	March	126.4	131.8	-0.2	0.4	2.9	5.8
	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