

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): November 2019****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of Finance, Economic and Policy Development****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

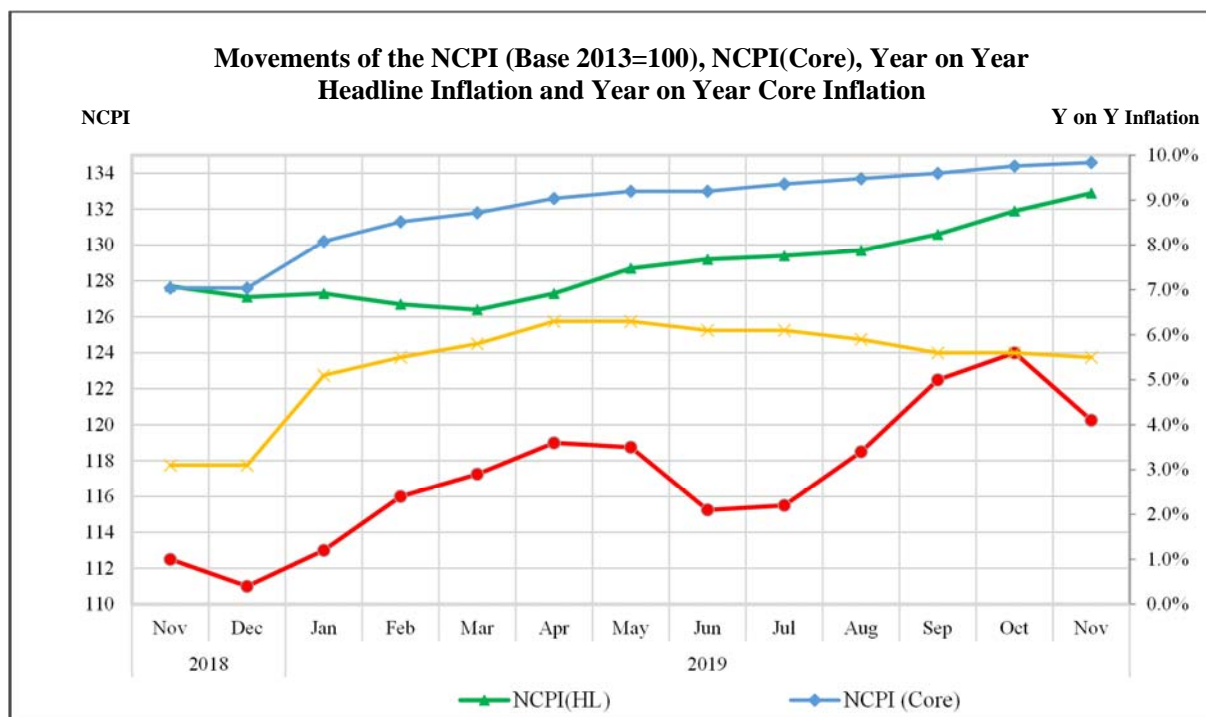
Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of November 2019, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 4.1%. The headline inflation reported for the month of October 2019 was 5.6%. Contributions to the inflation rate of November 2019 from food group and non-food group are 1.8% and 2.3% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in November 2018 were -1.8% and 2.8% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 1.0%.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in November 2019 has increased to 132.9 from 131.9 reported in October 2019. This shows an increase of 1.0 index points or 0.8 percentage as compared to October 2019. This month-on-month change was contributed by increase of index values of food items by 0.78% and slight decrease of index values of non-food items by 0.001%.

Price increases of food items were reported for rice, vegetables, red onions, coconuts, potatoes, green chillies, chilly powder, milk powder and coconut oil. However, price decreases of food items were reported for big onions, fresh fish, banana, papaw, mangoes and limes.

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in November 2019 compared to the previous month was due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics' (*Betel leaves & Arecanuts*) and 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*LP Gas*). However, increases in prices were reported in groups of 'Transport' (*Airline fare*), 'Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' and 'Clothing and Footwear' compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture', 'Education' and 'Restaurants and Hotels' groups 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 November 2019 has declined to 5.5% from 5.6% in October 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) |
| 2018 | November | 127.7 | 127.6 | 2.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 3.1 |
| | December | 127.1 | 127.6 | -0.5 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 3.1 |
| 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 |