



NEWS RELEASE
THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): February 2021



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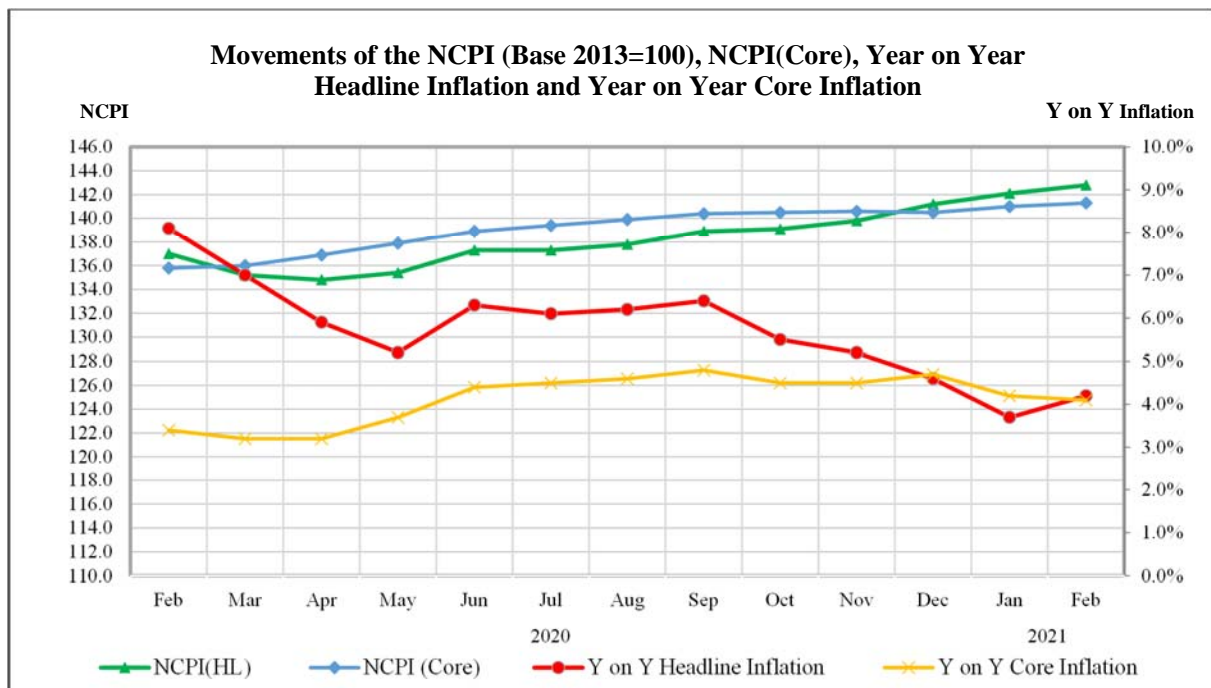
Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of February 2021, the Director General (Actg.) of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 4.2%. The headline inflation reported for the month of January 2021 was 3.7%. Contributions to the inflation rate of February 2021 from food group and non-food group are 3.2% and 1.0% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in February 2020 were 7.0% and 1.2% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 8.1%.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in February 2021 has increased to 142.8 from 142.1 reported in January 2021. This shows an increase of 0.7 index points or 0.5 percentage as compared to January 2021. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index values of food items by 0.42% and non-food items by 0.09% respectively.

Price increases of food items were reported for Vegetables, Green chilies, Coconuts, Rice, Fresh fish, Eggs, Coconut oil, Fresh fruits, Red onions, Mysore dhal, Tamarind, Green gram, Turmeric powder, Chili powder and Canned fish. However, price decreases of food items were reported for Potatoes, Big onions, Sugar, Limes, Jak and jak seeds and Chicken.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in February 2021 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Transport' (*Tyres, tubes and spare parts*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Clothing and Footwear'. Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' as well. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', '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 February 2021 has declined to 4.1% from 4.2% in January 2021.



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)
2020	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
	May	135.4	137.9	0.4	0.7	5.2	3.7
	June	137.3	138.9	1.4	0.7	6.3	4.4
	July	137.3	139.4	0.0	0.4	6.1	4.5
	August	137.8	139.9	0.4	0.4	6.2	4.6
	September	138.9	140.4	0.8	0.4	6.4	4.8
	October	139.1	140.5	0.1	0.1	5.5	4.5
	November	139.8	140.6	0.5	0.1	5.2	4.5
	December	141.2	140.5	1.0	-0.1	4.6	4.7
2021	January	142.1	141.0	0.6	0.4	3.7	4.2
	February	142.8	141.3	0.5	0.2	4.2	4.1

Director General

Department of Census and Statistics