



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



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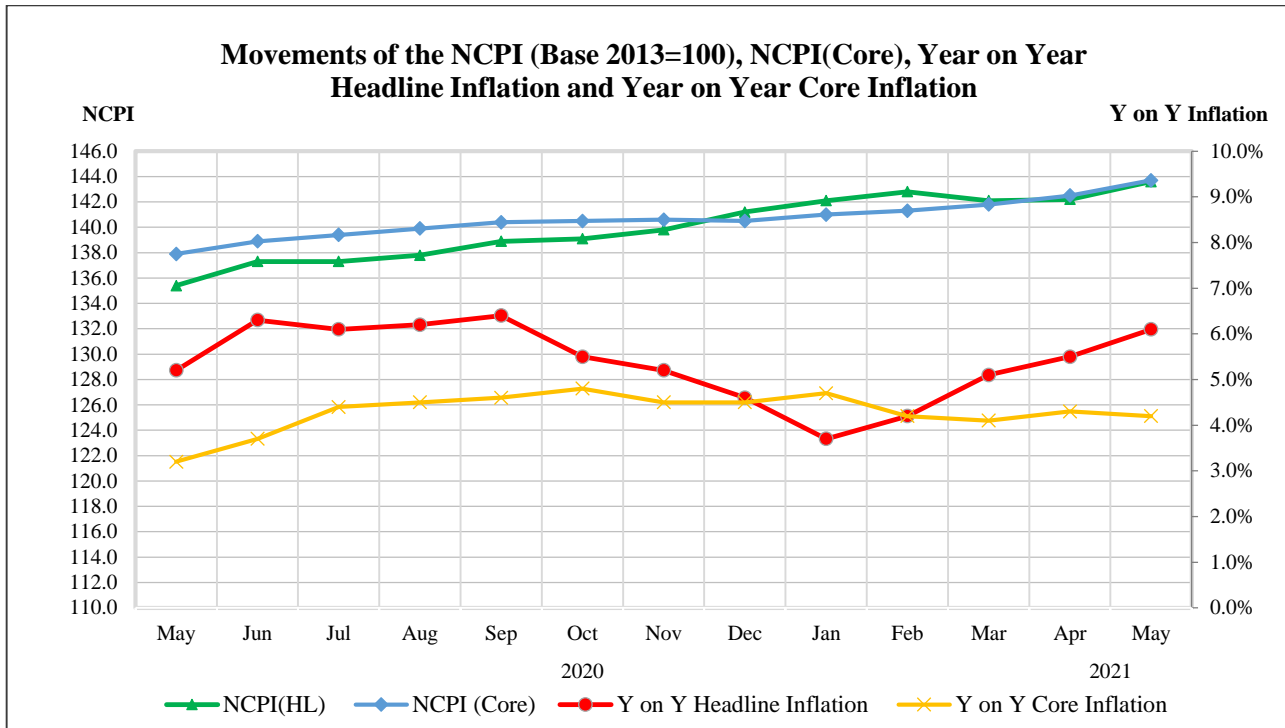
Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of May 2021, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 6.1%. The headline inflation reported for the month of April 2021 was 5.5%. Contributions to the inflation rate of May 2021 from food group and non-food group are 4.7% and 1.4% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in May 2020 were 4.8% and 0.5% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 5.2%. With respect to May 2020, the reported increase in percentage of food group was mainly due to higher price levels prevailed in this month of May 2021, particularly prices of rice, coconuts, vegetables, coconut oil, turmeric powder and big onions.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in May 2021 has increased to 143.6 from 142.2 reported in April 2021. This shows an increase of 1.4 index points or 1.0 percentage as compared to April 2021. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index values of food items by 0.79% and non-food items by 0.16% respectively.

Price increases of food items were reported for coconut oil, rice, fresh fish, coconuts, mysore dhal, potatoes, dried fish, green gram, big onions, red onions, vegetables, sugar and turmeric powder. However, decreases in index values were reported for green chilies, chicken, fresh fruits and eggs.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in May 2021 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*LP gas*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Health' (*Payments to medical laboratory tests and Payments to private hospitals room charges*). Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' as well. However, very slight price decrease in group of items was reported in 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Transport', '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 May 2021 was increased to 4.2% from 4.1% reported in month of April 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)
<b>2020</b>	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
<b>2021</b>	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
	March	142.1	141.8	-0.5	0.4	5.1	4.3
	April	142.2	142.5	0.1	0.5	5.5	4.1
	May	143.6	143.7	1.0	0.8	6.1	4.2