



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



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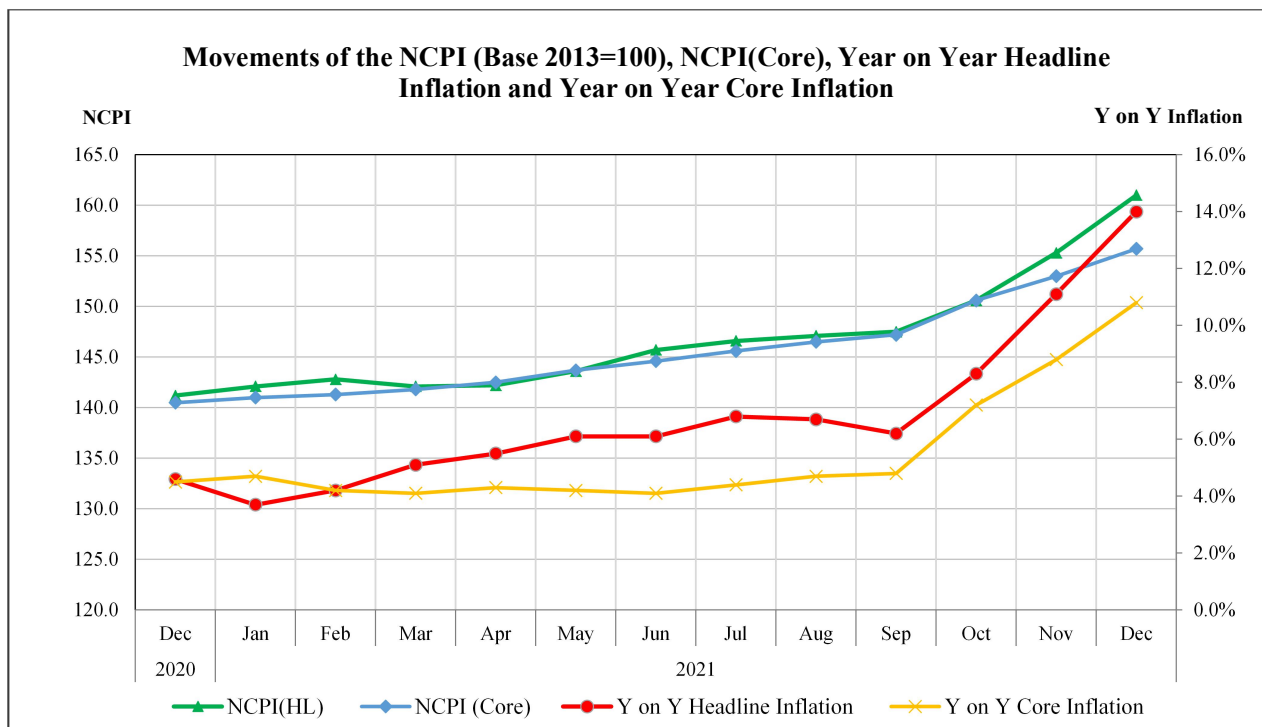
Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of December 2021, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 14.0%. The headline inflation reported for the month of November 2021 was 11.1%. Contributions to the inflation rate of December 2021 from the food group and non-food group are 10.0% and 4.0% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in December 2020 were 3.4% and 1.2% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 4.6%. With respect to December 2020, the reported inflation for the month of December 2021 was mainly due to the higher price levels prevailed in both food and non-food groups in the month of December 2021. Accordingly, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to 21.5% in December 2021 from 16.9% in November 2021 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 7.6% in December 2021 from 6.2% in November 2021.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in December 2021 has increased to 161.0 from 155.3 reported in November 2021. This shows an increase of 5.7 index points or 3.7 percentage as compared to November 2021. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index values of food items by 3.0% and non-food items by 0.68% respectively.

Price increases of food items were reported for Vegetables, Rice, Green chilies, Big onions, Potatoes, Eggs, Bread, Coconuts, Chicken, Wheat flour, Milk powder, Biscuits, Red onions, Mysore dhal, Fresh fruits, Coconut oil, Chili powder, Buns, Jak, Dried chilies and Infant milk powder. However, decreases in index values were reported for Green gram, Sugar and Limes.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in December 2021 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack and Betel leaves*), 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Kerosene oil and Fire wood*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Transport' (*Petrol, and Diesel*), 'Restaurants and Hotels' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Health' and 'Recreation and Culture'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Communication' and 'Education' 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 December 2021 was increased to 10.8% from 8.8% reported in month of November 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)
		All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)	All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items
2020	December	141.2	149.9	134.3	140.5	1.0	-0.1	4.6	7.5	2.2	4.7
2021	January	142.1	151.4	134.7	141.0	0.6	0.4	3.7	5.9	1.8	4.2
	February	142.8	152.8	134.9	141.3	0.5	0.2	4.2	6.9	1.9	4.1
	March	142.1	150.7	135.3	141.8	-0.5	0.4	5.1	8.8	2.0	4.3
	April	142.2	150.8	135.5	142.5	0.1	0.5	5.5	9.7	2.2	4.1
	May	143.6	153.3	135.9	143.7	1.0	0.8	6.1	10.3	2.5	4.2
	June	145.7	157.3	136.5	144.6	1.5	0.6	6.1	9.8	2.9	4.1
	July	146.6	158.5	137.2	145.6	0.6	0.7	6.8	11.0	3.2	4.4
	August	147.1	159.4	137.4	146.5	0.3	0.6	6.7	11.1	3.0	4.7
	September	147.5	159.6	137.9	147.2	0.3	0.5	6.2	10.0	3.0	4.8
	October	150.6	162.6	141.2	150.6	2.1	2.3	8.3	11.7	5.4	7.2
	November	155.3	171.5	142.6	153.0	3.1	1.6	11.1	16.9	6.2	8.8
	December	161.0	182.1	144.5	155.7	3.7	1.8	14.0	21.5	7.6	10.8