

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): February 2023****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) with an index reference period 2013=100 was updated to a new index reference period of 2021= 100 from January 2023. Issuing the NCPI, for the month of February 2023, 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 53.6%. The headline inflation reported for the month of January 2023 was 53.2%. Contributions to the inflation rate of February 2023 from the food group and non-food group are 22.1% and 31.5% respectively. With respect to February 2022, the reported inflation for the month of February 2023 was mainly due to the higher price levels prevailed in both food and non-food groups. Anyway, on a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 49.0% in February 2023 from 53.6% in January 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 57.4% in February 2023 from 52.9% in January 2023.

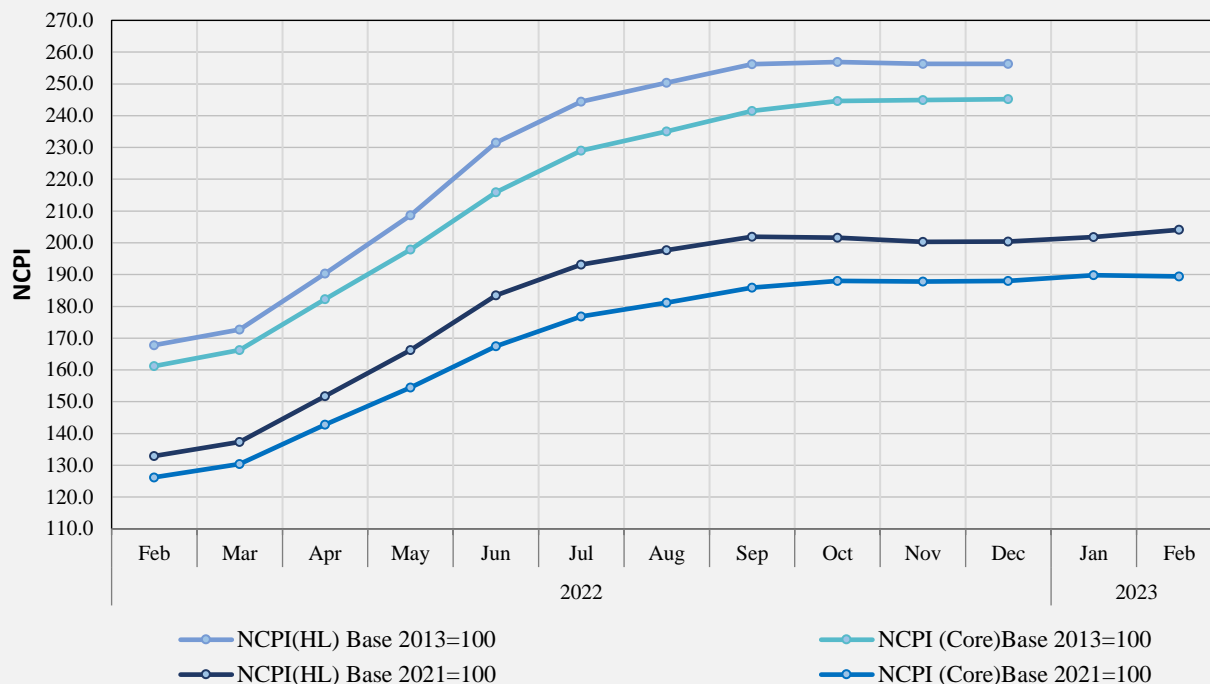
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in February 2023 has increased to 204.1 from 201.8 reported in January 2023. This shows an increase of 2.3 index points or 1.13 percent as compared to January 2023. The month-on-month change was contributed by decreases in food items of 0.93% and increases in non-food items of 2.06% respectively.

Price decreases of food items were mainly reported for Vegetables, Rice, Eggs, Big onions, Red onions, Potatoes, Mysore dhal, Bread (normal), Chili powder, Dried fish, Wheat flour, Fresh fish, Dried chilies, Buns, Green chilies, Canned fish and Lime. However, increases in index values were reported for Coconuts, Tea dust/leaves, Fresh fruits, Green gram, Coconut oil, Sugar, Beef and Soya meat.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in February 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity and LP Gas*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Transport' (*Petrol*) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Further, very slight price increases were reported in the groups of 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Education'. However, a very slight price decrease in a group of items was reported for 'Restaurants and Hotels' compared to the preceding 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 (Base 2021=100) for the month of February 2023 was decreased to 50.1% from 52.0% reported in month of January 2023.

Movements of the NCPI, NCPI(Core) (Base 2021=100) and NCPI, NCPI(Core) (Base 2013=100)



Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2021 = 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)
		All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items			All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items
2022	February	132.9	153.1	119.8	126.2	0.9	1.0				
	March	137.3	156.9	124.6	130.4	3.3	3.3				
	April	151.7	176.1	136.0	142.8	10.5	9.5				
	May	166.3	195.3	147.6	154.5	9.6	8.2				
	June	183.5	222.8	158.2	167.5	10.3	8.4				
	July	193.1	233.4	167.1	176.8	5.2	5.6				
	August	197.7	237.5	171.9	181.2	2.4	2.5				
	September	201.9	239.1	178.0	185.9	2.1	2.6				
	October	201.6	236.5	179.1	188.0	-0.1	1.1				
	November	200.3	233.2	179.1	187.8	-0.6	-0.1				
	December	200.4	232.4	179.8	188.0	0.0	0.1				
	2023	January	201.8	232.8	181.8	189.8	0.7	1.0	53.2	53.6	52.9
February		204.1	228.1	188.6	189.4	1.1	-0.2	53.6	49.0	57.4	50.1