



NEWS RELEASE
THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): May 2023
Department of Census and Statistics
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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 May 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 22.1%. The headline inflation reported for the month of April 2023 was 33.6%. Contributions to the inflation rate of May 2023 from the food group and non-food group are 7.3% and 14.9% respectively. With respect to May 2022, the reported inflation for the month of May 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 15.8% in May 2023 from 27.1% in April 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 27.6% in May 2023 from 39.0% in April 2023.

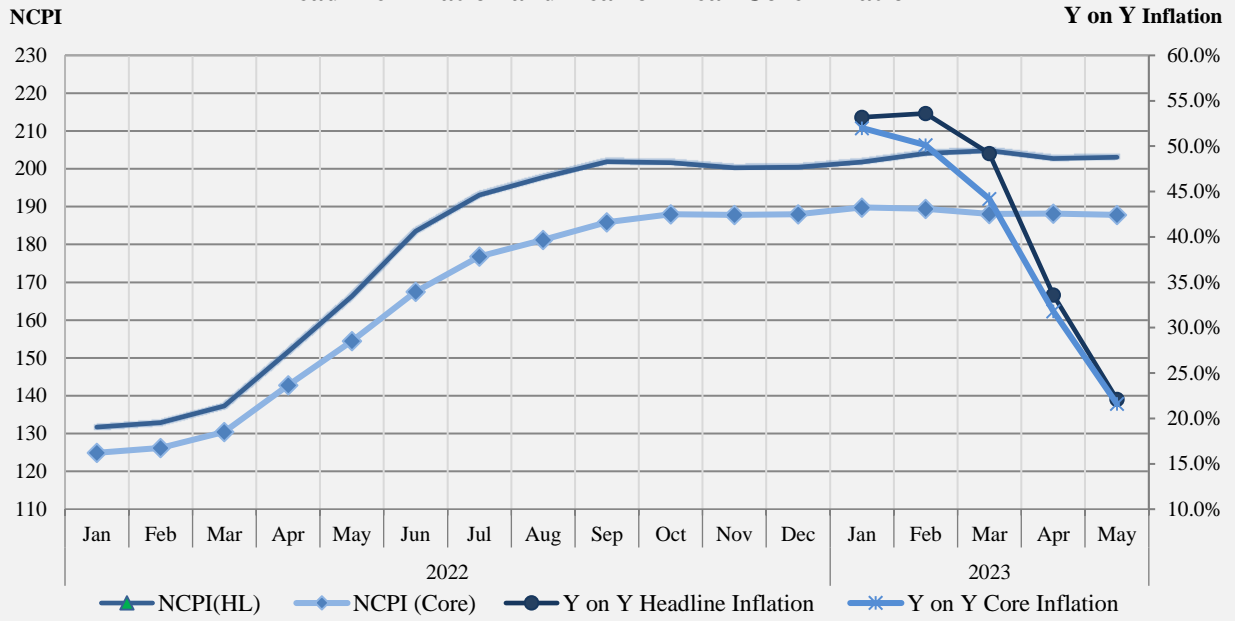
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in May 2023 has increased to 203.1 from 202.7 reported in April 2023. This shows an increase of 0.4 index points or 0.22 percent as compared to April 2023. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items of 0.45% and decreases in non-food items of 0.23% respectively.

Price increases of food items were mainly reported for Fresh fish, Vegetables, Sugar, Chicken, Mysore dhal, Potatoes, Ginger, Garlic, Big onions, Limes, Dried fish and Canned fish. However, price decreases of food items were reported for Fresh fruits, Milk powder, Rice, Coconuts, Chili powder, Coconut oil, Bread (normal), Eggs, Green chilies, Dried chilies, Turmeric powder, Cowpea and Red onions.

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in May 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Bulathwita*), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Materials for the Maintenance and LP Gas*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Transport' (*Petrol and Diesel*) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (*Toilet soap*). However, price increases in groups of items were reported for 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Recreation and Culture'. Further, very slight price increase was reported in the group of 'Restaurants and Hotels'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health', 'Education' and 'Communication' 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 (Base 2021=100) for the month of May 2023 was decreased to 21.6% from 31.8% reported in month of April 2023.

**Movements of the NCPI (Base 2021=100), NCPI(Core), Year on Year
Headline Inflation and Year on Year Core Inflation**



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	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	52.0
	February	204.1	228.1	188.6	189.4	1.1	-0.2	53.6	49.0	57.4	50.1
	March	204.8	223.2	193.0	188.1	0.3	-0.7	49.2	42.3	54.9	44.2
	April	202.7	223.8	189.1	188.2	-1.0	0.1	33.6	27.1	39.0	31.8
	May	203.1	226.1	188.3	187.8	0.2	-0.2	22.1	15.8	27.6	21.6