

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): July 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](mailto: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 July 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 4.6%. The headline inflation reported for the month of June 2023 was 10.8%. Contributions to the inflation rate of July 2023 from the food group and non-food group are -1.2% and 5.7% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to -2.5% in July 2023 from 2.5% in June 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 10.9% in July 2023 from 18.3% in June 2023.

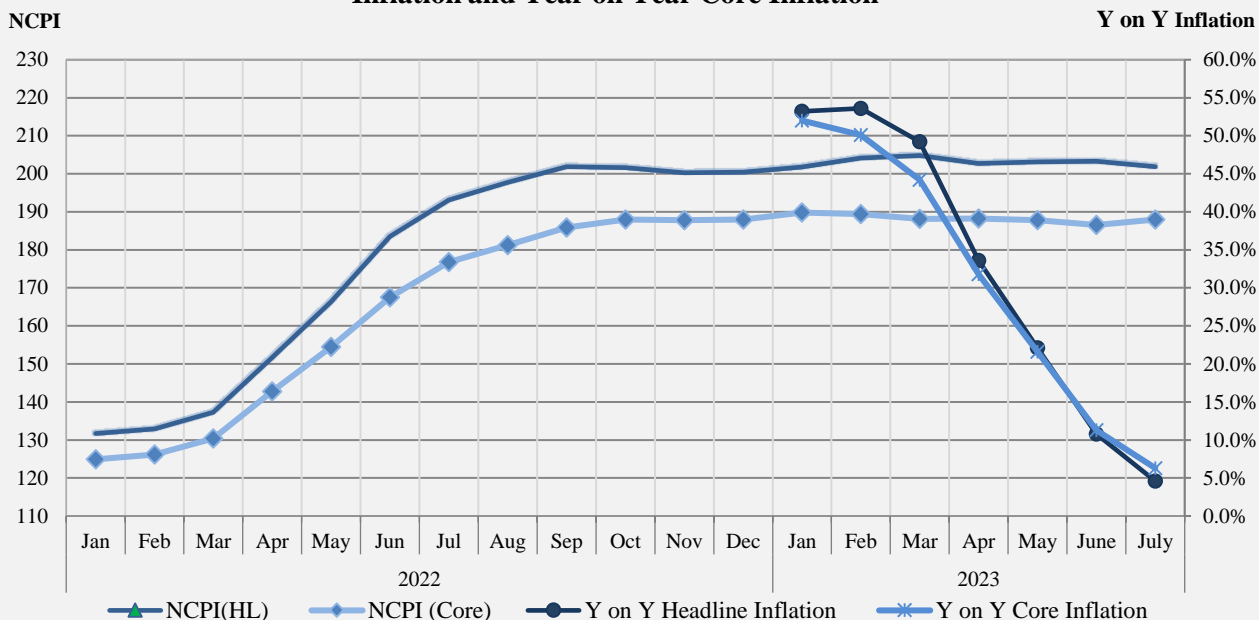
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in July 2023 has decreased to 201.9 from 203.3 reported in June 2023. This shows a decrease of 1.4 index points or 0.7 percent as compared to June 2023. The month-on-month change was contributed by decreases in food items and non-food items of 0.17% and 0.53% respectively.

Price decreases of food items were mainly reported for Coconuts, Vegetables, Coconut oil, Rice, Biscuits, Bread (normal), Mysore dhal, Milk powder, Chili powder, Fresh fish, Green gram, Buns, Dried chilies, Wheat flour, Rice flour, Noodles and Turmeric powder. However, increases in prices were reported for Green chilies, Potatoes, Eggs, Big onions, Fresh fruits, Chicken, Dried fish, Tea dust/leaves, Red onions, Sugar, Garlic, Ginger and Canned fish.

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in July 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity bill and LP Gas*), 'Health' (*Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products*) and 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*). However, price increases in groups of items were reported for 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack, Cigarettes*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Transport' (*Petrol*), 'Recreation and Culture' (*Lotteries and Exercise books & stationeries*), 'Education' (*Tuition fees*), 'Restaurants and Hotels' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group 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 July 2023 was decreased to 6.3% from 11.3% reported in month of June 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	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
	June	203.3	228.4	187.1	186.5	0.1	-0.7	10.8	2.5	18.3	11.3
	July	201.9	227.5	185.3	188.0	-0.7	0.8	4.6	-2.5	10.9	6.3