



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): March 2023**



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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 March 2023, the Actg. 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 49.2%. The headline inflation reported for the month of February 2023 was 53.6%. Contributions to the inflation rate of March 2023 from the food group and non-food group are 18.9% and 30.3% respectively. With respect to March 2022, the reported inflation for the month of March 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 42.3% in March 2023 from 49.0% in February 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 54.9% in March 2023 from 57.4% in February 2023.

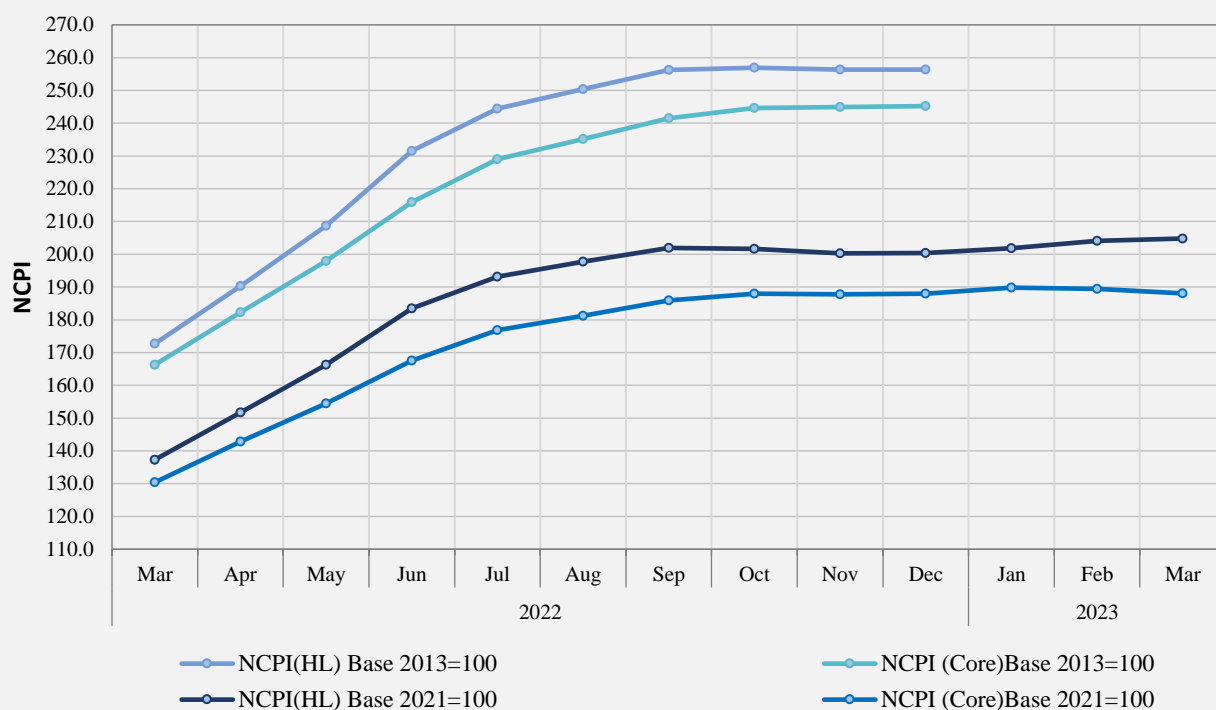
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in March 2023 has increased to 204.8 from 204.1 reported in February 2023. This shows an increase of 0.7 index points or 0.36 percent as compared to February 2023. The month-on-month change was contributed by decreases in food items of 0.94% and increases in non-food items of 1.30% respectively.

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

The increases in index values of non-food groups in March 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity bill and LP Gas*). However, price decreases in groups of items were reported for 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (*Washing soap*), 'Transport' (*Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare*), 'Restaurants and Hotels' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (*Toilet soap*). Further, very slight price increases were reported in the groups of 'Health' and 'Recreation and Culture'. However, a very slight price decrease was reported in the group of 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics'. 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 (Base 2021=100) for the month of March 2023 was decreased to 44.2% from 50.1% reported in month of February 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	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	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