



NEWS RELEASE
THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): November 2020



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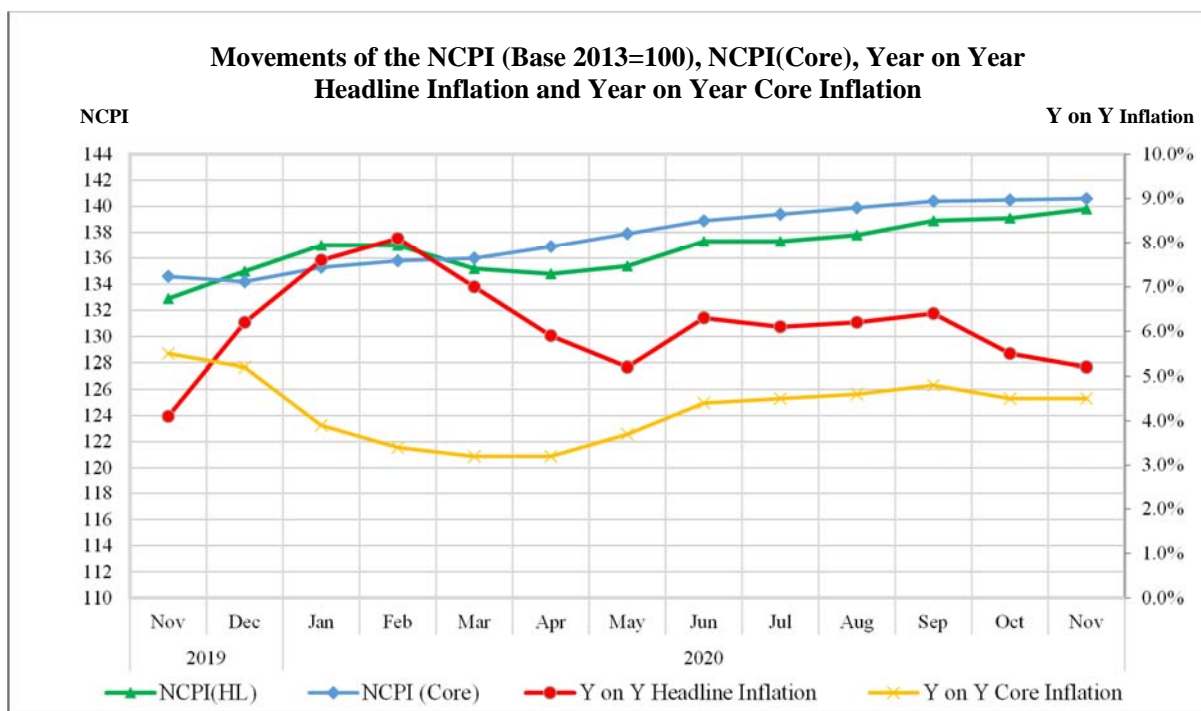
Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of November 2020, the Director General (Actg.) of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 5.2%. The headline inflation reported for the month of October 2020 was 5.5%. Contributions to the inflation rate of November 2020 from food group and non-food group are 4.2% and 1.0% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in November 2019 were 1.8% and 2.3% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 4.1%. With respect to November 2019, the reported increase in percentage of food group was mainly due to higher price levels prevailed in this month of November 2020, particularly prices of coconuts, turmeric powder, coconut oil, rice, sugar and chili powder.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in November 2020 has increased to 139.8 from 139.1 reported in October 2020. This shows an increase of 0.7 index points or 0.5 percentage as compared to October 2020. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index values of food items by 0.34% and non-food items by 0.13% respectively.

Price increases of food items were reported for rice, big onions, coconuts, potatoes, red onions, mysour dhal, limes, vegetables, coconut oil, tamarind, dried fish, chili powder, garlic, dried chilies, turmeric powder, green gram, Jak and jak seeds and curry powder. However, decreases in index values were reported for fresh fish, fresh fruits, sugar, eggs and Chicken.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in November 2020 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increase in group of items 'Transport' (*Bus fare*). Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Clothing and Footwear' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' compared to the preceding month. However, price decreases in groups of items were reported in 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics' (*Betel leaves, Arecanuts*) and 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture', 'Education' and 'Restaurants and Hotels' 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 November 2020 remained unchanged as 4.5% when compared to October 2020.



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)	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)
2019	November	132.9	134.6	0.8	0.1	4.1	5.5
	December	135.0	134.2	1.6	-0.3	6.2	5.2
2020	January	137.0	135.3	1.5	0.8	7.6	3.9
	February	137.0	135.8	0.0	0.4	8.1	3.4
	March	135.2	136.0	-1.3	0.1	7.0	3.2
	April	134.8	136.9	-0.3	0.7	5.9	3.2
	May	135.4	137.9	0.4	0.7	5.2	3.7
	June	137.3	138.9	1.4	0.7	6.3	4.4
	July	137.3	139.4	0.0	0.4	6.1	4.5
	August	137.8	139.9	0.4	0.4	6.2	4.6
	September	138.9	140.4	0.8	0.4	6.4	4.8
	October	139.1	140.5	0.1	0.1	5.5	4.5
	November	139.8	140.6	0.5	0.1	5.2	4.5