



NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) – APRIL, 2026 (Base 2021=100)

21 May 2026

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for April 2026, together with the updated index reference period and the corresponding inflation rates.

The NCPI, which was previously based on the index reference period 2013=100, has been rebased to 2021=100. The updated NCPI has been published monthly since January 2023, with a 21-day time lag, covering the entire country.

In line with international recommendations and best practices, the index weights are based on each item's share of total household consumption expenditure in Sri Lanka. Provincial weights are determined according to each province's share of total national consumption expenditure. The index weights are derived from expenditure data collected through the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) conducted in 2019. The HIES 2019 covered all categories of household consumption expenditure and was broadly representative of households across the country.

The national consumer basket of the updated NCPI includes 485 items representing the consumption expenditure of all households in Sri Lanka. For the compilation of the NCPI, three price quotations for each item are collected from every district town. Prices for certain items are collected weekly, while others are collected fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly. The frequency of price collection is determined based on the average frequency of price changes observed for each item.

- ❖ The All Items NCPI (Base: 2021=100) for April 2026 stood at 216.3, reflecting an increase of 5.4 index points compared to March 2026.
- ❖ The overall inflation rate, as measured by the NCPI (Base: 2021=100) on a year-on-year basis, was 4.7% in April 2026.

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Source Publication

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/InflationAndPrices/StaticInformation/MonthlyNCPI>

[statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)

01. Month on Month (M on M) change of NCPI (Base 2021=100):

The NCPI for all items in April 2026 is 216.3, compared to 210.9 in March 2026, reflecting an increase of 5.4 index points or 2.54%. This corresponds to an increase in the expenditure value of Rs. 2713.98 in the market basket.

Monthly changes in index numbers, expenditure values, and percentage changes in index numbers are presented in Table 01.

Table 01: Monthly Changes by Main Groups of Market Basket

Main Group	Index Number			Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Value (Rs.)			Monthly change of the index (%) ¹		
	Apr. 2025	Mar. 2026	Apr. 2026	Apr. 2025	Mar. 2026	Apr. 2026	Apr. 2025	Mar. 2026	Apr. 2026
All Items	206.5	210.9	216.3	253.58	767.22	2713.98	0.24	0.72	2.54
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	237.8	237.9	240.4	303.18	-285.03	486.99	0.29	-0.27	0.46
Non Food	186.3	193.5	200.8	-49.60	1052.25	2226.99	-0.05	0.99	2.08
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	252.1	256.0	258.3	-7.30	-1.79	22.10	-0.01	0.00	0.02
Clothing and Footwear	209.8	216.7	217.2	-10.27	9.64	7.66	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	146.7	152.2	158.1	68.11	81.43	685.40	0.07	0.08	0.64
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	212.9	217.3	218.1	7.21	4.07	13.06	0.01	0.00	0.01
Health	203.5	209.6	212.1	15.98	2.70	40.75	0.02	0.00	0.04
Transport	220.8	233.7	252.4	-103.16	822.79	1048.18	-0.10	0.77	0.98
Recreation and Culture	193.8	196.5	198.2	-18.33	0.02	14.84	-0.02	0.00	0.01
Education	195.1	203.8	212.4	0.00	0.00	170.18	0.00	0.00	0.16
Restaurants and Hotels	237.1	243.7	253.1	-4.12	13.18	209.01	0.00	0.01	0.20
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	208.9	221.8	222.8	2.29	120.20	15.81	0.00	0.11	0.01
Other group	123.2	124.3	124.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 1: The market basket consists of 12 main groups. Significant monthly changes were observed in eleven main groups in April 2026, details of which are presented in Table 02.

Note 2: For April 2026, the unchanged group, 'Communication', is considered as the 'Other Group'.

Note 3: The monthly percentage change in the index is calculated using expenditure values.

Note 4: The percentages of items may not tally with the overall percentage due to rounding.

Contribution to Month-on-Month Changes:

Contributions to the NCPI on a month-on-month basis (April 2026 compared with March 2026) are presented in Table 02. The month-on-month increase was mainly driven by increases in food items by 0.46% and non-food items by 2.08%.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.46%

As shown in Table 02, upward contributions to the index were observed from Fresh fish (0.11%), Coconut oil (0.10%), Chicken (0.10%), Mysore dhal (0.09%), Dried fish (0.08%), Limes (0.03%), Dried chillies (0.03%), Chilli powder (0.03%), Eggs (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%), Infant milk powder (0.02%), Yoghurt (0.02%), Buns (0.01%), Green gram (0.01%), Bread (normal) (0.01%), Beef (0.01%), Wheat flour (0.01%), Red onions (0.01%), and Liquid milk packets (0.01%).

However, downward contributions to the index were observed from Vegetables (0.20%), Green chillies (0.03%), Coconuts (0.03%), Big onions (0.01%), Fresh fruits (0.01%), and Potatoes (0.01%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 2.08%

The increase in the index values of the non-food group in April 2026 compared to the previous month was mainly due to price increases in the following groups: 'Transport' (petrol and bus fares) (0.98%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (LP gas) (0.64%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.20%), 'Education' (tuition fees) (0.16%), 'Health' (fees charged by private medical practitioners) (0.04%), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (betel leaves) (0.02%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%), 'Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%), and 'Clothing and Footwear' (clothing) (0.01%). Meanwhile, the price index of the 'Communication' group remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the changes in NCPI from March 2026 to April 2026 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	486.99	0.74	0.29	0.46
Fresh fish	112.65	0.11		
Coconut oil	110.47	0.10		
Chicken	106.33	0.10		
Mysore dhal	94.08	0.09		
Dried fish	89.20	0.08		
<i>Sprats</i>	<i>47.34</i>	<i>0.04</i>		
<i>Katta</i>	<i>15.39</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
Limes	30.82	0.03		
Dried chillies	28.35	0.03		
Chili powder	27.48	0.03		
Eggs	25.05	0.02		
Sugar	19.02	0.02		
Infant milk powder	18.45	0.02		
Yoghurt	17.65	0.02		
Buns	15.67	0.01		
Green gram	13.70	0.01		

Bread (normal)	11.93	0.01		
Beef	8.20	0.01		
Wheat flour	8.16	0.01		
Red onions	7.61	0.01		
Milk packets (liquid)	5.44	0.01		
Vegetables	-211.24		0.20	
Green chilies	-36.50		0.03	
Coconuts	-29.28		0.03	
Big onions	-14.18		0.01	
Fresh fruits	-11.94		0.01	
Banana	42.36	0.04		
Apple	5.66	0.01		
Papaw	-47.84		0.04	
Potatoes	-6.71		0.01	
Other food items	46.57	0.04		
Non Food	2226.99	2.08	0.00	2.08
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	22.10	0.02		
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	17.30	0.02		
Clothing & Footwear	7.66	0.01		
<i>Clothing</i>	7.66	0.01		
Housing, Water, Electricity & Other Fuels	685.40	0.64		
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	255.36	0.24		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	141.86	0.13		
<i>LP gas</i>	265.39	0.25		
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	19.71	0.02		
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	13.06	0.01		
Health	40.75	0.04		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	24.28	0.02		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	9.05	0.01		
Transport	1048.18	0.98		
<i>Petrol</i>	685.68	0.64		
<i>Diesel</i>	109.45	0.10		
<i>Bus fare</i>	131.38	0.12		
<i>Three wheelers fare (other than schooling)</i>	32.76	0.03		
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	80.39	0.08		
<i>Airline fare</i>	-25.01		0.02	
Recreation and Culture	14.84	0.01		
Education	170.18	0.16		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	142.11	0.13		
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	28.06	0.03		
Restaurants and hotels	209.01	0.20		
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	15.81	0.01		
<i>Hair cutting and shaving charges</i>	10.64	0.01		
Other Groups	0.00	0.00		
All Items	2713.98			2.54

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 5: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off

Inflation

The NCPI is a macroeconomic indicator used to measure inflation, which is defined as a sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services. Inflation is expressed as an annual percentage change in the NCPI. It is commonly measured in two ways. The first is year-on-year (point-to-point) inflation, which refers to the percentage change in the current month's NCPI compared to the same month of the previous year. The second is moving average inflation, which refers to the percentage difference between the average NCPI over the last 12 months and the average of the previous 12 months.

Table 03: Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2021=100)

Year	Month	All Item			Food			Non Food						
		Index Number	Inflation %			Index Number	Inflation %			Index Number	Inflation %			
			% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.	
2025	April	206.5	0.2	-0.8	-0.7	237.8	0.7	2.9	0.7	186.3	-0.1	-3.7	-1.8	
	May	207.5	0.5	0.6	-0.8	240.6	1.2	5.9	1.1	186.2	-0.1	-3.4	-2.2	
	June	208.7	0.6	0.3	-0.9	242.5	0.8	4.2	1.3	186.8	0.3	-2.8	-2.7	
	July	208.3	-0.2	0.7	-1.1	239.2	-1.4	2.2	1.3	188.3	0.8	-0.6	-2.9	
	August	207.2	-0.5	1.5	-1.0	236.3	-1.2	2.9	1.3	188.4	0.1	0.4	-2.9	
	September	207.4	0.1	2.1	-0.9	236.6	0.1	3.8	1.6	188.5	0.1	0.7	-2.8	
	October	207.5	0.0	2.7	-0.6	236.4	-0.1	4.1	1.8	188.8	0.2	1.5	-2.5	
	November	207.2	-0.1	2.4	-0.2	236.1	-0.1	3.6	2.1	188.6	-0.1	1.5	-2.1	
	December	210.5	1.6	2.9	0.2	244.3	3.5	4.4	2.5	188.7	0.1	1.6	-1.7	
	2026	January	211.4	0.4	2.4	0.7	244.3	0.0	3.4	3.1	190.1	0.7	1.6	-1.1
		February	209.4	-0.9	1.6	1.2	239.4	-2.0	1.1	3.3	190.1	0.0	1.9	-0.5
		March	210.9	0.7	2.4	1.5	237.9	-0.6	0.7	3.2	193.5	1.8	3.8	0.2
April		216.3	2.6	4.7	2.0	240.4	1.1	1.1	3.1	200.8	3.8	7.8	1.1	

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 6: The month-on-month percentage change and the year-on-year inflation rate were calculated using rounded index numbers.

2.1. Year -on-Year Inflation

The overall inflation rate, as measured by the NCPI on a year-on-year basis, was 4.7% in April 2026, compared to 2.4% in March 2026 (Table 03). The year-on-year inflation of the food group increased to 1.1% in April 2026 from 0.7% in March 2026, while that of the non-food group increased to 7.8% from 3.8% during the same period.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On a year-on-year basis, the contribution of food commodities to inflation was 0.50 percentage points in April 2026 compared with April 2025 (Table 04).

The contribution of non-food items was 4.26 percentage points. This was mainly due to price increases in the following groups: 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.06%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.11%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and

Other Fuels' (1.26%), 'Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.08%), 'Health' (0.14%), 'Transport' (1.69%), 'Communication' (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.04%), 'Education' (0.33%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.34%), and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.22%).

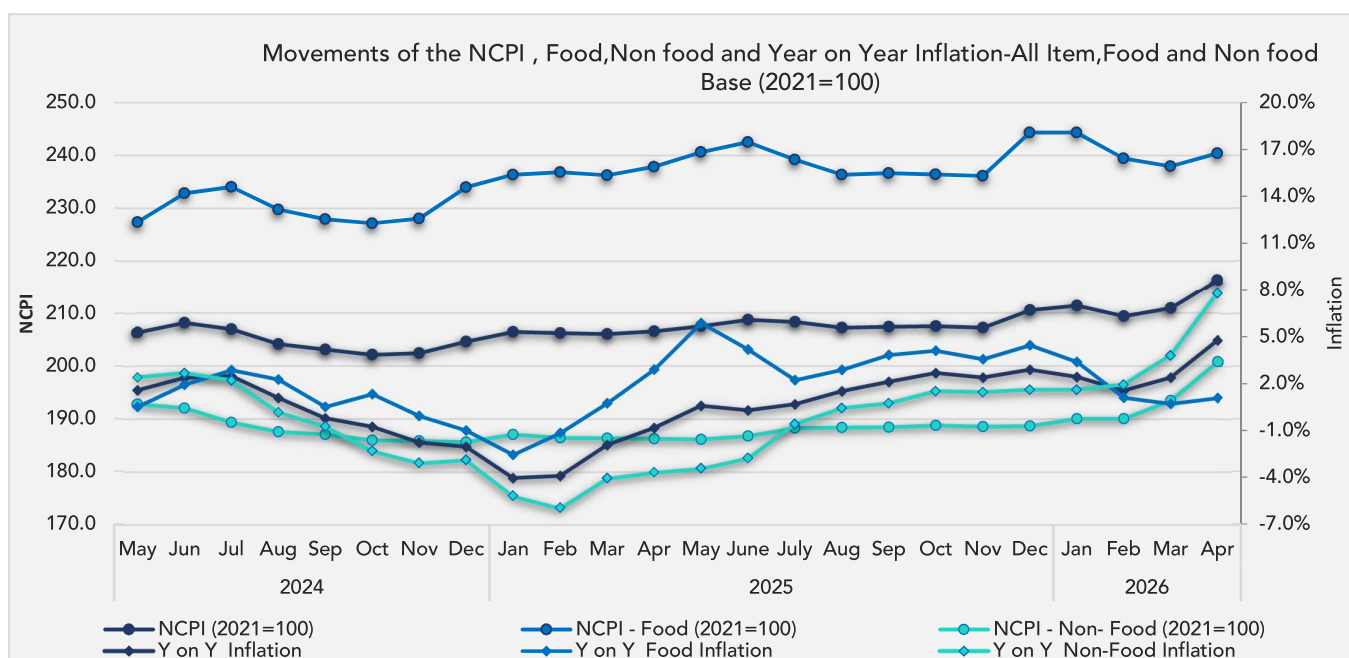
Table 04: Contribution to the changes in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis April 2026 as compared to April 2025

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		
		Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
Food	523.26			0.50
<i>Fresh fish</i>	<i>445.98</i>	<i>0.43</i>		
<i>Dried fish</i>	<i>381.93</i>	<i>0.36</i>		
<i>Chicken</i>	<i>380.15</i>	<i>0.36</i>		
<i>Coconut oil</i>	<i>232.06</i>	<i>0.22</i>		
<i>Milk powder</i>	<i>220.67</i>	<i>0.21</i>		
<i>Fresh fruits</i>	<i>103.31</i>	<i>0.10</i>		
<i>Dried chillies</i>	<i>97.67</i>	<i>0.09</i>		
<i>Eggs</i>	<i>88.97</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
<i>Mysore Dhal</i>	<i>68.88</i>	<i>0.07</i>		
<i>Vegetables</i>	<i>-846.24</i>		<i>0.81</i>	
<i>Coconuts</i>	<i>-394.22</i>		<i>0.38</i>	
<i>Green chillies</i>	<i>-227.17</i>		<i>0.22</i>	
<i>Rice</i>	<i>-157.96</i>		<i>0.15</i>	
<i>Tea dust/ leaves</i>	<i>-58.35</i>		<i>0.06</i>	
Non Food	4460.01	4.26	0.00	4.26
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	59.18	0.06		
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	<i>50.84</i>	<i>0.05</i>		
Clothing and Footwear	112.05	0.11		
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>105.81</i>	<i>0.10</i>		
<i>Footwear</i>	<i>6.24</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	1320.74	1.26		
<i>Housing rent</i>	<i>197.19</i>	<i>0.19</i>		
<i>Materials for Maintenance</i>	<i>311.01</i>	<i>0.30</i>		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	<i>425.59</i>	<i>0.41</i>		
<i>L. P. Gas</i>	<i>351.39</i>	<i>0.34</i>		
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	<i>31.95</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance	80.07	0.08		
<i>Wages to servants</i>	<i>33.69</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
Health	141.98	0.14		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	<i>87.55</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	<i>26.75</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
<i>Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes</i>	<i>11.47</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
Transport	1766.15	1.69		
<i>Petrol</i>	<i>1097.73</i>	<i>1.05</i>		
<i>Diesel</i>	<i>175.40</i>	<i>0.17</i>		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	<i>54.43</i>	<i>0.05</i>		
<i>Bus fare</i>	<i>169.23</i>	<i>0.16</i>		
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	<i>45.44</i>	<i>0.04</i>		

Transport for schooling/ preschooling	126.95	0.12
Airline fare	43.37	0.04
Communication	12.81	0.01
Recreation and Culture	37.82	0.04
Education	343.64	0.33
Tuition fees	261.16	0.25
School fees (International)	32.31	0.03
Course fees (Higher education)	34.92	0.03
Restaurant and Hotels	354.20	0.34
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	231.37	0.22
Hair cutting and shaving charges	56.90	0.05
Insurance/ Agrahara	118.78	0.11
All Items	4983.27	4.76

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 7: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off



Source: Department of Census and Statistics

The Vision of DCS

“To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country’s development goals.”

The Mission of DCS

“Making contribution in the socioeconomic development of the country by providing accurate timely statistics, more Effectively by means of new technology, and utilising the services of dedicated staff under a strategic leadership to become a prosperous nation in the globalised environment.”

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