



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

23 March 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) with a new index reference period and Inflation rate for the month of February 2026.

The NCPI with an index reference period 2013=100 was updated to a new index reference period of 2021= 100. The updated NCPI will be released monthly commencing from January 2023 with a time lag of 21 days covering the entire country.

To reflect international recommendations and best practices, the index weights refer to each item's share in the total consumption expenditures of all Sri Lankan households. The provincial weights refer to the consumption expenditures within the province in proportion to the expenditures in the whole country. The index weights are based on expenditure data derived from the HIES conducted in year 2019. The HIES 2019 included all types of consumption expenditures by households, and was broadly representative of all households in the country.

The national consumer basket for the updated NCPI includes 485 items which represent the consumption expenditure of all households in Sri Lanka. For the compilation of NCPI, three price quotations are collected for each of the items in every district town. Prices for some items are collected weekly, while prices for other items are collected once every two weeks, monthly or quarterly. The frequency of price collection is determined by on an average how frequently price changes take place.

- ❖ The NCPI (Base 2021 = 100) for all items for the month of February 2026 is 209.4 and it records a decrease of 2.0 in index points compared to January 2026.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 1.6% in February 2026.

### Content

Month on Month (M on M) change of NCPI (Page 1 to 3)  
Inflation (Page 3 to 6)

### Source Publication

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

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

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

The NCPI for all items for the month of February 2026 is 209.4. A decrease of 2.0 index points or 0.91 percentage compared to January 2026 for which the index was 211.4. This represents a decrease in expenditure value of Rs. 975.75 in the "market basket".

Monthly changes of index numbers, expenditure values and percentage change of index numbers are given in the following table (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 (%) <sup>1</sup>		
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
	2025	2026	2026	2025	2026	2026	2025	2026	2026
All Items	206.2	211.4	209.4	-116.25	433.31	-975.75	-0.11	0.41	-0.91
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	236.8	244.3	239.4	92.36	8.93	-983.35	0.09	0.01	-0.92
Non Food	186.5	190.1	190.1	-208.61	424.38	7.61	-0.20	0.40	0.01
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	252.6	255.5	256.2	16.87	3.65	6.41	0.02	0.00	0.01
Clothing and Footwear	210.7	215.3	216.0	0.66	24.34	11.24	0.00	0.02	0.01
Transport	222.7	219.5	218.9	0.92	21.11	-31.82	0.00	0.02	-0.03
Restaurants and Hotels	237.3	242.7	243.1	6.79	16.01	8.18	0.01	0.01	0.01
Other groups	166.2	171.5	171.5	-233.84	359.27	13.59	-0.22	0.34	0.01

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

*Note 1: There are 12 main groups in the market basket. Monthly significant changes were noted in five main groups in February 2026, details of which are given in Table 02.*

*Note 2: For the February 2026, insignificant groups: 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Health', 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' and unchanged group: 'Education' are considered as the 'Other Groups'.*

*Note 3: <sup>1</sup>Monthly change of the index (%) is calculated using expenditure values.*

*Note 4: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.*

### Contribution to Month-on-Month Changes:

Contributions to the NCPI on a Month-on-Month basis (February 2026 as compared to January 2026) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was mainly contributed by a decrease in food items of 0.92% and an increase in non-food items of 0.01%, respectively.

#### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: -0.92%

As shown in Table 02, the decreases in index values were reported for Vegetables (0.55%), Coconuts (0.11%), Green chillies (0.09%), Milk powder (0.07%), Limes (0.07%), Big onions (0.05%), Red onions (0.02%), Rice (0.02%), Potatoes (0.02%), Eggs (0.01%), Ginger (0.01%), Fresh fish (0.01%), Chicken (0.01%) and Mysore dhal (0.01%). However, increases in index values were reported for Fresh fruits (0.12%), Dried fish (0.01%), Beef (0.01%) and Dried chillies (0.01%).

#### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.01%

The increase in index values of non-food groups in February 2026 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in the groups of items ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (*Footwear*) (0.01%), ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ (0.01%) and ‘Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics’ (*Beetle leaves*) (0.01%). However, price decrease was reported in the group of ‘Transport’ (*Petro*) (0.03%). Further, a very slight price increases were reported in groups of ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels,’ ‘Furnishing, Household equipment, and Routine household maintenance,’ ‘Health,’ ‘Communication,’ ‘Recreation and Culture’ and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services.’ Meanwhile, the price index of ‘Education’ group remained unchanged during the month.

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

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food	-983.35	0.14	1.05	-0.92
Vegetables	-585.36		0.55	
Coconuts	-116.17		0.11	
Green chillies	-98.72		0.09	
Milk powder	-79.61		0.07	
Limes	-77.71		0.07	
Big onions	-50.11		0.05	
Red onions	-26.59		0.02	
Rice	-25.86		0.02	
Potatoes	-19.04		0.02	
Eggs	-12.35		0.01	
Ginger	-8.41		0.01	

Fresh fish	-7.77		0.01	
Chicken	-7.72		0.01	
Mysore dhal	-6.85		0.01	
Fresh fruits	125.20	0.12		
<i>Papaw</i>	<i>90.35</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
<i>Mangoes</i>	<i>24.77</i>	<i>0.02</i>		
<i>Pineapple</i>	<i>6.36</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
Dried fish	7.97	0.01		
Beef	7.91	0.01		
Dried chillies	6.26	0.01		
Other food items	-8.42		0.01	
Non Food	7.61	0.04	0.03	0.01
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	6.41	0.01		
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	<i>8.73</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
Clothing & Footwear	11.24	0.01		
<i>Footwear</i>	<i>6.24</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
Transport	-31.82		0.03	
<i>Petrol</i>	<i>-22.18</i>		<i>0.02</i>	
<i>Airline fare</i>	<i>-6.58</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
Restaurants and hotels	8.18	0.01		
Other Groups	13.59	0.01		
All Items	-975.75			-0.91

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 compiled to measure inflation which is defined as a sustained increase in the general level of prices for goods and services and it is measured as an annual percentage increase by NCPI. Inflation can be measured in two ways. One measure is the Year-on-Year base or Point- to-Point inflation (The percentage change in the current month CPI over same month CPI of last year). The other measure is Moving Average Inflation (The percentage difference between the average Price Indices of last 12 months & the average Price Indices of 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	February	206.2	-0.1	-3.9	0.0	236.8	0.2	-1.1	1.0	186.5	-0.3	-6.0	-0.9
	March	206.0	-0.1	-1.9	-0.4	236.2	-0.3	0.8	0.7	186.4	-0.1	-4.1	-1.3
	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
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

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 6: Month on Month percentage change and Year on Year inflation percentage were calculated using rounding off index numbers.

## 2.1. Year -on-Year Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by the NCPI on a Year-over-Year basis was 1.6% in February 2026 and inflation calculated for the January 2026 was 2.4%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 1.1% in February 2026 from 3.4% in January 2026 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 1.9% in February 2026 from 1.6% in January 2026.

### Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 0.50 percent in February 2026 compared to the month of February 2025 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 1.08 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics' (0.03%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.08%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (0.59%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'(0.06%), 'Health' (0.11%), 'Communication' (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%) , 'Education' (0.17%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (0.12%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.09%). However, a price decrease was reported in the Transport' group (0.20%) during the period.

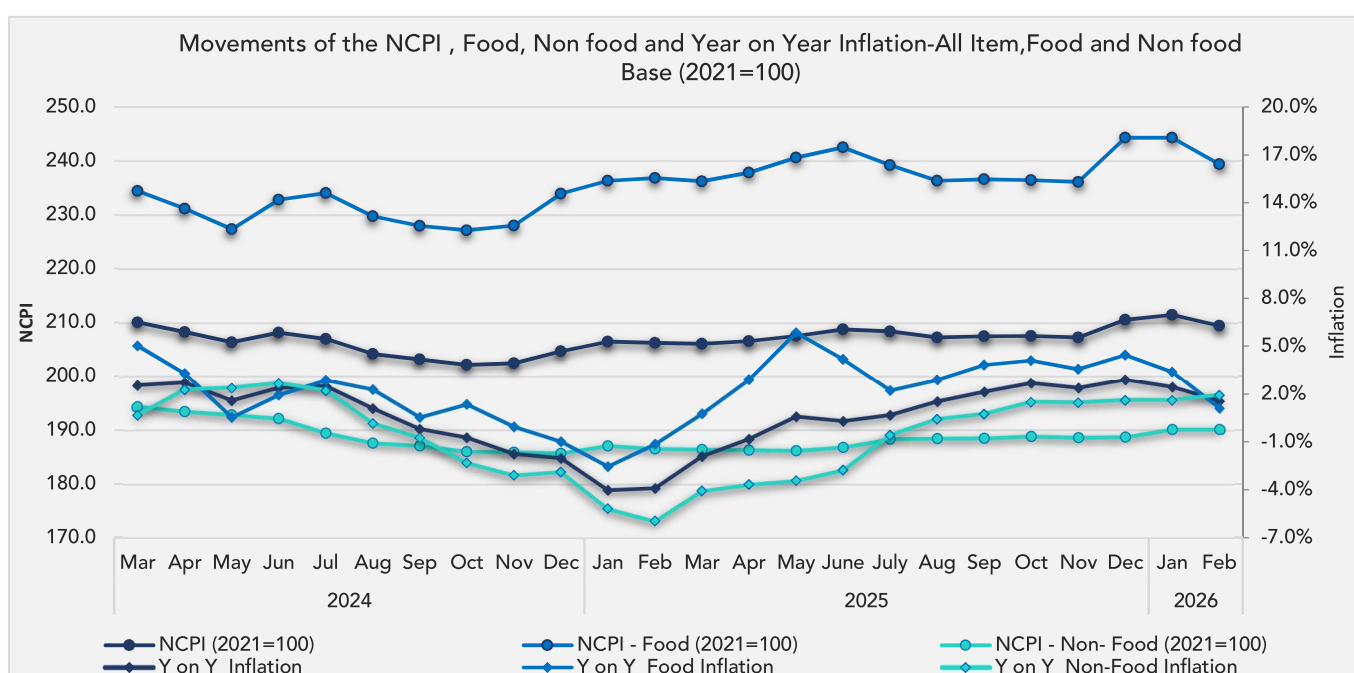
Table 04: Contribution to the changes in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis February 2026 as compared to February 2025

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	% Change		Net effect %
		Increase %	Decrease %	
<b>Food</b>	<b>521.39</b>			<b>0.50</b>
<i>Fresh fish</i>	<i>564.45</i>	<i>0.54</i>		
<i>Milk powder</i>	<i>338.24</i>	<i>0.32</i>		
<i>Dried fish</i>	<i>236.94</i>	<i>0.23</i>		
<i>Chicken</i>	<i>224.86</i>	<i>0.21</i>		
<i>Coconut oil</i>	<i>147.80</i>	<i>0.14</i>		
<i>Green chilies</i>	<i>-264.69</i>		<i>0.25</i>	
<i>Rice</i>	<i>-238.26</i>		<i>0.23</i>	
<i>Coconuts</i>	<i>-160.65</i>		<i>0.15</i>	
<i>Vegetables</i>	<i>-156.17</i>		<i>0.15</i>	
<i>Sugar</i>	<i>-101.44</i>		<i>0.10</i>	
<i>Big onions</i>	<i>-98.44</i>		<i>0.09</i>	
<i>Red onions</i>	<i>-85.01</i>		<i>0.08</i>	
<i>Infant milk powder</i>	<i>-58.18</i>		<i>0.06</i>	
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>1127.87</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>1.08</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>34.71</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	<i>37.21</i>	<i>0.04</i>		
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	<b>81.34</b>	<b>0.08</b>		
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>75.10</i>	<i>0.07</i>		
<i>Footwear</i>	<i>6.24</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>619.87</b>	<b>0.59</b>		
<i>Housing rent</i>	<i>197.19</i>	<i>0.19</i>		
<i>Materials for Maintenance</i>	<i>88.75</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	<i>283.73</i>	<i>0.27</i>		
<i>LP Gas</i>	<i>51.68</i>	<i>0.05</i>		
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	<b>62.16</b>	<b>0.06</b>		
<i>Wages to servants</i>	<i>32.45</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
<b>Health</b>	<b>115.22</b>	<b>0.11</b>		
<i>Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products</i>	<i>10.90</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	<i>63.26</i>	<i>0.06</i>		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	<i>20.24</i>	<i>0.02</i>		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>-211.62</b>		<b>0.20</b>	
<i>Petrol</i>	<i>-188.50</i>		<i>0.18</i>	
<i>Diesel</i>	<i>-16.44</i>		<i>0.02</i>	
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	<i>47.16</i>	<i>0.05</i>		
<i>Bus fare</i>	<i>-7.85</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	<i>23.14</i>	<i>0.02</i>		
<i>Airline fare</i>	<i>-81.02</i>		<i>0.08</i>	
<b>Communication</b>	<b>12.81</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>13.59</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<b>Education</b>	<b>173.47</b>	<b>0.17</b>		

Pre-school fees	9.99	0.01
Tuition fees	119.05	0.11
School fees (International)	32.31	0.03
Restaurant and Hotels	128.61	0.12
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	97.71	0.09
Hair cutting and shaving charges	46.26	0.04
<b>All Items</b>	<b>1649.26</b>	<b>1.58</b>

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.”

Department of Census & Statistics,  
 Sankyana Mandiraya  
 No. 306/71, Polduwa  
 Road, Battaramulla

[dgcensus@statistics.gov.lk](mailto:dgcensus@statistics.gov.lk)  
 +94 11 2147001  
 +94 11 2147011  
[statistics.gov.lk](http://statistics.gov.lk)

This publication is produced by the Prices & Wages  
 Division  
 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of Census and Statistics  
[prices@statistics.gov.lk](mailto:prices@statistics.gov.lk)  
 +94 11- 2147414 +94 11- 2147418