



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

JANUARY, 2025

21 February 2025

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 January 2025.

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 January 2025 is 206.4 and it records an increase of 1.8 in index points compared to December 2024.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is -4.0% in January 2025.

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### Source Publication

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

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 January 2025 is 206.4. An increase of 1.8 index points or 0.88 percentage compared to December 2024 for which the index was 204.6. This increase represents an increase in expenditure value of Rs. 913.08 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>			
	Jan. 2024	Dec. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2024	Dec. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2024	Dec. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>All Items</b>	215.0	204.6	206.4	3103.9	1115.71	913.08	2.93	1.09	0.88
<b>Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages</b>	242.4	233.9	236.3	1239.0	1169.55	483.67	1.17	1.14	0.47
<b>Non Food</b>	197.3	185.7	187.1	1864.9	-53.84	429.41	1.76	-0.05	0.41
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	236.0	244.6	250.8	204.2	-18.35	59.47	0.19	-0.02	0.06
Clothing and Footwear	212.2	210.2	210.6	12.4	-5.73	6.40	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	173.3	148.2	148.2	708.2	2.22	-8.45	0.67	0.00	-0.01
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	218.0	210.6	213.4	14.3	-20.99	42.05	0.01	-0.02	0.04
Health	193.3	199.9	202.5	30.3	0.00	42.03	0.03	0.00	0.04
Transport	234.0	220.6	222.7	528.3	-12.36	115.29	0.50	-0.01	0.11
Recreation and Culture	214.9	196.9	194.9	14.2	-6.59	-17.28	0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Education	185.4	189.2	195.1	196.0	0.00	116.41	0.19	0.00	0.11
Restaurants and Hotels	232.2	235.1	237.0	69.0	7.91	41.58	0.07	0.01	0.04
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	201.6	206.5	208.4	37.0	0.04	31.91	0.03	0.00	0.03
Other group	123.4	123.2	123.2	50.77	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 1: There are 12 main groups in the market basket. Monthly significant changes were noted in Eleven main groups in January 2025, details of which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the January 2025, unchanged group: 'Communication' is considered as the 'Other Group'.

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 (January 2025 as compared to December 2024) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed to by an increase in food items and non-food items of 0.47% and 0.41%, respectively.

### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.47%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Coconuts (0.25%), Green chilies (0.15%), Rice (0.15%), Vegetables (0.11%), Fresh fish (0.04%), Coconut oil (0.03%), Red onions (0.03%), Tamarind (0.02%) and Salt (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Limes (0.07%), Big onions (0.06%), Chicken (0.06%), Eggs (0.04%), Dried fish (0.02%), Sugar (0.01%), Potatoes (0.01%), Canned fish (0.01%), Fresh fruits (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%), Green gram (0.01%), Mysore dhal (0.01%) and Soya meat (0.01%).

### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.41%

The increases in index values of non-food groups in January 2025 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Education' (*Tuition fees*) (0.11%), 'Transport' (*Cost of servicing of vehicles*) (0.11%), Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack and Cigarettes*) (0.06%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (*Wages to servants*) (0.04%), 'Health,' (*Fees to private medical practices*) (0.04%), 'Restaurants and Hotels.' (0.04%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services.' (0.03%), and 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.01%), However, price decreases were reported in groups of 'Recreation and Culture' (*Exercise books and Stationeries*) (0.02%) and 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity bill*) (0.01%). Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group remained unchanged during the month.

**Table 02: Contribution to the increase in NCPI from December 2024 to January 2025 (Base 2021=100)**

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change Rs. cts	% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
<b>Food</b>	<b>483.67</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.47</b>
Coconuts	264.38	0.25		
Green chilies	157.56	0.15		
Rice	155.30	0.15		
Vegetables	115.34	0.11		
Fresh fish	42.87	0.04		
Coconut oil	32.12	0.03		
Red onions	30.06	0.03		
Tamarind	15.87	0.02		
Salt	10.73	0.01		
Limes	-69.69		0.07	
Big onions	-64.55		0.06	
Chicken	-59.58		0.06	

Eggs	-44.05	0.04		
Dried fish	-21.59	0.02		
<i>Sprats</i>	-27.89	0.03		
Sugar	-14.77	0.01		
Potatoes	-12.05	0.01		
Canned fish	-11.73	0.01		
Fresh fruits	-11.44	0.01		
<i>Mangoes</i>	-6.83	0.01		
<i>Papaw</i>	-5.99	0.01		
Chili powder	-10.51	0.01		
Green gram	-8.62	0.01		
Mysore dhal	-7.54	0.01		
Soya meat	-7.48	0.01		
Other food items	3.01	0.00		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>429.41</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco &amp; Narcotics</b>	<b>59.47</b>	<b>0.06</b>		
<i>Arrack</i>	29.38	0.03		
<i>Cigarettes</i>	22.76	0.02		
<i>Areca nuts</i>	-6.36		0.01	
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>6.40</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>-8.45</b>		<b>0.01</b>	
<i>Housing rent</i>	202.51	0.20		
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	-14.96		0.01	
<i>Electricity bill</i>	-192.20		0.19	
<b>Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	<b>42.05</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<i>Wages to servants</i>	21.62	0.02		
<i>Refrigerators</i>	10.87	0.01		
<b>Health</b>	<b>42.03</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	35.80	0.03		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>115.29</b>	<b>0.11</b>		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	68.92	0.07		
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	8.76	0.01		
<i>Airline fare</i>	11.70	0.01		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>-17.28</b>		<b>0.02</b>	
<i>Exercise books and Stationeries</i>	-31.70		0.03	
<b>Education</b>	<b>116.41</b>	<b>0.11</b>		
<i>Pre-school fees</i>	7.37	0.01		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	95.37	0.09		
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	10.69	0.01		
<b>Restaurants and hotels</b>	<b>41.58</b>	<b>0.04</b>		
<b>Miscellaneous Goods &amp; Services</b>	<b>31.91</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<i>Hair cutting and shaving charges</i>	21.97	0.02		
<b>All Items</b>	<b>913.08</b>			<b>0.88</b>

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.
<b>2024</b>	January	215.0	3.0	6.5	13.4	242.4	2.6	4.1	7.5	197.3	3.2	8.5	18.5
	February	214.5	-0.2	5.1	10.2	239.5	-1.2	5.0	4.8	198.3	0.5	5.1	14.9
	March	210.0	-2.1	2.5	7.2	234.4	-2.1	5.0	2.7	194.3	-2.0	0.7	11.1
	April	208.2	-0.9	2.7	5.2	231.1	-1.4	3.3	1.1	193.4	-0.5	2.3	8.5
	May	206.3	-0.9	1.6	3.7	227.3	-1.6	0.5	0.1	192.8	-0.3	2.4	6.7
	June	208.1	0.9	2.4	3.0	232.8	2.4	1.9	0.0	192.1	-0.4	2.7	5.5
	July	206.9	-0.6	2.5	2.9	234.0	0.5	2.9	0.5	189.4	-1.4	2.2	4.8
	August	204.1	-1.4	1.1	2.8	229.7	-1.8	2.3	1.1	187.6	-1.0	0.2	4.1
	September	203.1	-0.5	-0.2	2.7	227.9	-0.8	0.5	1.6	187.1	-0.3	-0.7	3.5
	October	202.1	-0.5	-0.7	2.5	227.1	-0.4	1.3	2.2	186.0	-0.6	-2.3	2.8
	November	202.4	0.1	-1.7	2.2	228.0	0.4	0.0	2.4	185.9	-0.1	-3.1	2.0
	December	204.6	1.1	-2.0	1.6	233.9	2.6	-1.0	2.1	185.7	-0.1	-2.9	1.2
<b>2025</b>	January	206.4	0.9	-4.0	0.7	236.3	1.0	-2.5	1.6	187.1	0.8	-5.2	0.1

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 -4.0% in January 2025 and inflation calculated for the December 2024 was -2.0%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to -2.5% in January 2025 from -1.0% in December 2024 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to -5.2% in January 2025 from -2.9% in December 2024.

**Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:**

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was -1.12 percent in January 2025 compared to the month of January 2024 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was -2.86 percent. This was mainly due to price decreases in groups of items ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.02%), ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels’ (2.68%), ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’(0.07%), ‘Transport’ (0.58%) and ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.16%). However, price increases in the groups of items were reported for ‘Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics’ (0.13%), ‘Health’ (0.14%), ‘Education’ (0.18%), ‘Restaurant and Hotels’ (0.10%), and ‘Miscellaneous goods and services’ (0.10%). Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of ‘Communication’ during the period.

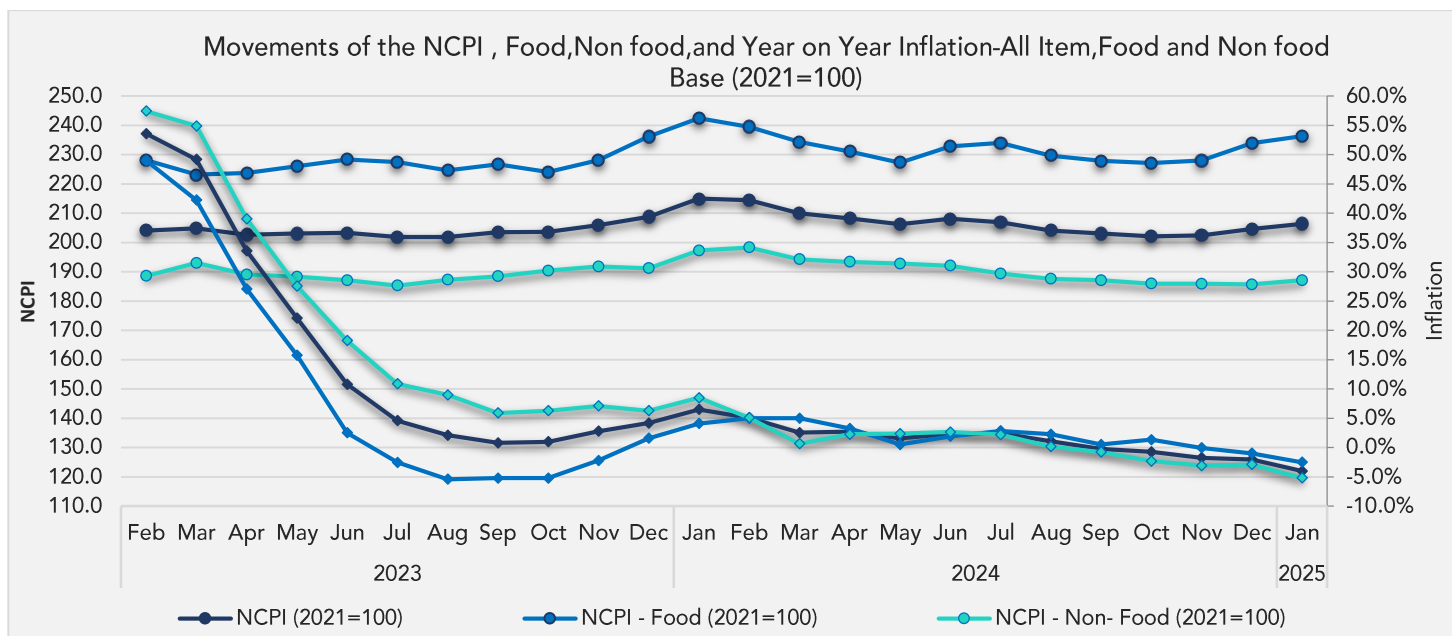
**Table 04: Contribution to the decrease in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis January 2025 as compared to January 2024)**

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change Rs. cts	% Change		Net effect %
		Increase %	Decrease %	
<b>Food</b>	<b>-1216.07</b>			<b>-1.12</b>
Vegetables	-1442.30		1.32	
Big onions	-360.06		0.33	
Eggs	-276.71		0.25	
Chicken	-252.15		0.23	
Green chilies	-191.95		0.18	
Sugar	-181.12		0.17	
Dried chilies	-136.44		0.13	
Coconuts	1105.75	1.01		
Rice	612.06	0.56		
Coconut oil	211.06	0.19		
Turmeric powder	97.54	0.09		
Fresh fish	91.55	0.08		
Limes				
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>-3120.64</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>3.51</b>	<b>-2.86</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>142.68</b>	<b>0.13</b>		
Arrack	29.38	0.03		
Cigarettes	22.76	0.02		
Bulathwita	30.45	0.03		
Beetle leaves	25.91	0.02		
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	<b>-24.48</b>		<b>0.02</b>	
Clothing	-6.43		0.01	
Footwear	-18.05		0.02	
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>-2927.57</b>		<b>2.68</b>	
Housing rent	202.51	0.19		
Materials for Maintenance	-85.54		0.08	
Water bill	-85.21		0.08	
Electricity bill	-2733.94		2.51	
L. P. Gas	-199.69		0.18	
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	<b>-71.55</b>		<b>0.07</b>	
Washing soap	-47.63		0.04	
Washing powder	-47.44		0.04	
Wages to servants	21.62	0.02		
<b>Health</b>	<b>150.65</b>	<b>0.14</b>		
Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products	26.60	0.02		
Fees to private medical practices	76.86	0.07		
Consultation fees to specialists	14.40	0.01		
<b>Transport</b>	<b>-629.96</b>		<b>0.58</b>	
Petrol	-632.02		0.58	

Diesel	-131.55	0.12
Cost of servicing of vehicles	74.62	0.07
Vehicle maintenance expenses (Repair charges)	92.23	0.08
Bus fare	-150.30	0.14
Airline fare	40.43	0.04
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	20.70	0.02
<b>Communication</b>	<b>-1.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>-171.22</b>	<b>0.16</b>
Exercise books and stationeries	-210.33	0.19
<b>Education</b>	<b>191.42</b>	<b>0.18</b>
Tuition fees	100.18	0.09
Course fees (Higher education)	41.77	0.04
<b>Restaurant and Hotels</b>	<b>106.90</b>	<b>0.10</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	<b>114.22</b>	<b>0.10</b>
Hair cutting and shaving charges	45.43	0.04
Car Insurance	57.92	0.05
<b>All Items</b>	<b>-4336.71</b>	<b>-3.98</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



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 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