



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

23 February 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 January 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 January 2026 is 211.4 and it records an increase of 0.9 in index points compared to December 2025.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 2.4% in January 2026.

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Source Publication

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/InflationAndPrices/StaticallInformation/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 2026 is 211.4. An increase of 0.9 index points or 0.41 percentage compared to December 2025 for which the index was 210.5. This represents an increase in expenditure value of Rs. 433.31 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 (%) ¹			
	Jan. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026
All Items	206.4	210.5	211.4	913.08	1653.77	433.31	0.88	1.57	0.41
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	236.3	244.3	244.3	483.67	1628.42	8.93	0.47	1.55	0.01
Non Food	187.1	188.7	190.1	429.41	25.35	424.38	0.41	0.02	0.40
Clothing and Footwear	210.6	213.7	215.3	6.40	4.97	24.34	0.01	0.00	0.02
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	148.2	149.8	151.4	-8.45	0.00	191.80	-0.01	0.00	0.18
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	213.4	216.5	216.9	42.05	-5.59	5.76	0.04	-0.01	0.01
Health	202.5	207.1	209.4	42.03	5.56	38.57	0.04	0.01	0.04
Transport	222.7	219.1	219.5	115.29	4.07	21.11	0.11	0.00	0.02
Recreation and Culture	194.9	192.4	196.4	-17.28	0.00	33.91	-0.02	0.00	0.03
Education	195.1	200.2	203.8	116.41	0.00	72.77	0.11	0.00	0.07
Restaurants and Hotels	237.0	242.0	242.7	41.58	15.29	16.01	0.04	0.01	0.01
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	208.4	213.4	214.4	31.91	1.90	16.46	0.03	0.00	0.02
Other groups	179.8	182.2	182.4	59.47	-0.85	3.65	0.06	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 ten main groups in January 2026, details of which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the January 2026, insignificant group: 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics' and unchanged group: 'Communication' are considered as the 'Other Groups'.

Note 3: ¹Monthly 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 2026 as compared to December 2025) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was mainly contributed by an increase in food items of 0.01% and in non-food items of 0.40%, respectively.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.01%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Fresh fruits (0.13%), Fresh fish (0.08%), Rice (0.03%), Green chilies (0.02%), Dried fish (0.01%), Rice flour (0.01%), Vegetables (0.01%) and Mysore dhal (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Limes (0.08%), Milk powder (0.07%), Eggs (0.06%), Chicken (0.04%), Coconuts (0.03%), Big onions (0.03%) and Sugar (0.01%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.40%

The increase in index values of non-food groups in January 2026 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in the groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Housing rent & LP gas*) (0.18%), 'Education' (*Tuition fees*) (0.07%), 'Health' (*Fees to private medical practices*) (0.04%), 'Recreation and Culture' (*Exercise books and stationeries*) (0.03%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.02%), 'Transport' (*Transport for schooling*) (0.02%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.02%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.01%) and 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.01%). Further, a very slight price increase was reported in group of Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics'. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the changes in NCPI from December 2025 to January 2026 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		% Change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	8.93	0.32	0.31	0.01
Fresh fruits	137.31	0.13		
<i>Papaw</i>	62.36	0.06		
<i>Banana</i>	54.56	0.05		
<i>Water Melon</i>	11.38	0.01		
Fresh fish	86.18	0.08		
Rice	28.32	0.03		
Green chilies	25.18	0.02		
Dried fish	13.24	0.01		
<i>Keerameen</i>	7.87	0.01		
Rice flour	11.23	0.01		
Vegetables	10.40	0.01		
Mysore dhall	5.89	0.01		
Limes	-86.74		0.08	

Milk powder	-70.22	0.07		
Eggs	-63.42	0.06		
Chicken	-42.75	0.04		
Coconuts	-30.75	0.03		
Big onions	-28.60	0.03		
Sugar	-5.93	0.01		
Other food items	19.61	0.02		
Non Food	424.38	0.40	0.00	0.40
Clothing & Footwear	24.34	0.02		
<i>Clothing</i>	24.34	0.02		
Housing, Water, Electricity & Other Fuels	191.80	0.18		
<i>Housing rent</i>	170.79	0.16		
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	8.01	0.01		
<i>LP gas</i>	12.25	0.01		
Furnishing, household equipment, and routine household maintenance	5.76	0.01		
Health	38.57	0.04		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	28.04	0.03		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	6.71	0.01		
Transport	21.11	0.02		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	18.79	0.02		
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	23.14	0.02		
<i>Airline fare</i>	-25.27		0.02	
Recreation and Culture	33.91	0.03		
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	32.06	0.03		
Education	72.77	0.07		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	61.71	0.06		
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	6.86	0.01		
Restaurants and hotels	16.01	0.01		
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	16.46	0.02		
<i>Hair cutting and shaving charges</i>	8.69	0.01		
Other Groups	3.65	0.00		
All Items	433.31			0.41

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	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
	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	-1.1

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 2.4% in January 2026 and inflation calculated for the December 2025 was 2.9%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 3.4% in January 2026 from 4.4% in December 2025 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group remained unchanged in January 2026 at 1.6% which was reported in December 2025.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 1.53 percent in January 2026 compared to the month of January 2025 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was 0.87 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics' (0.04%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.07%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (0.36%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'(0.05%), 'Health' (0.11%), 'Communication' (0.01%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%), 'Education' (0.17%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (0.12%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (0.10%). However, price decrease in the group of items was reported for Transport' (0.17%) during the period.

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

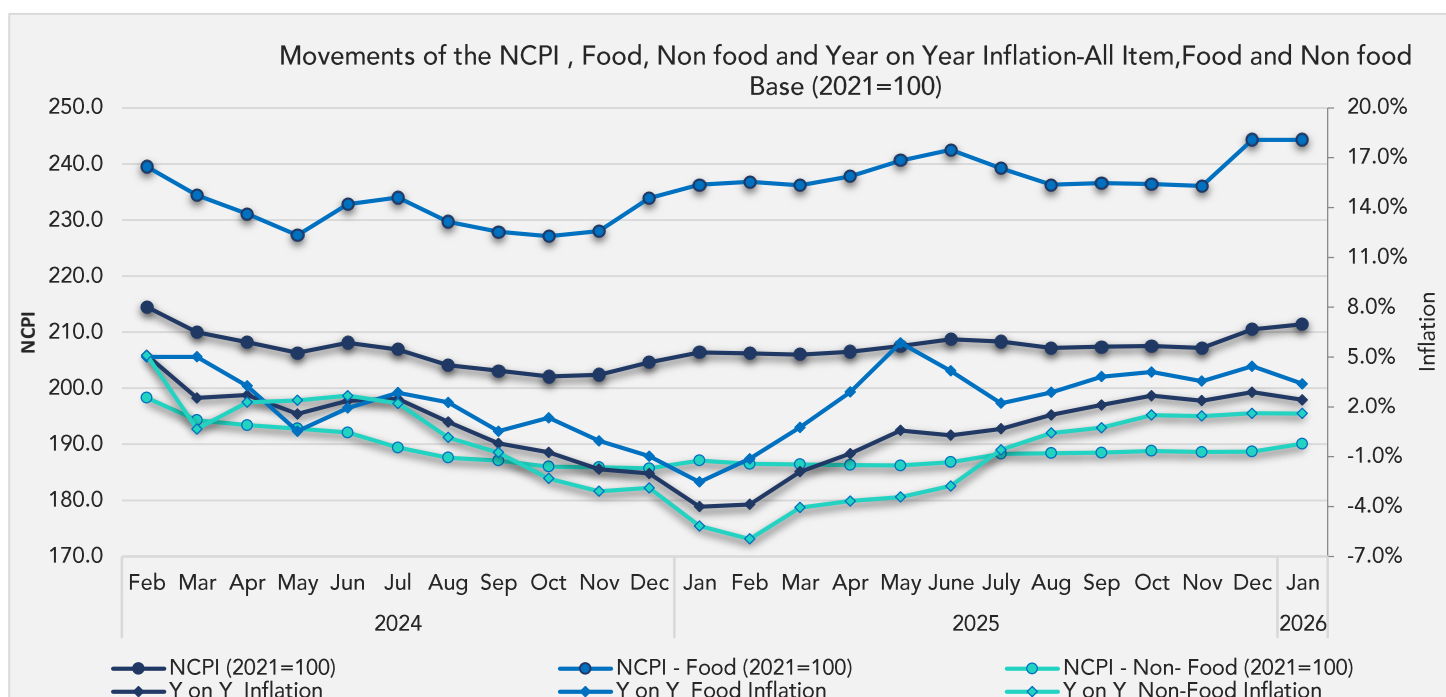
Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			Net effect %
	Rs. cts	Increase %	Decrease %	
Food	1597.10			1.53
Vegetables	814.79	0.78		
Milk powder	417.85	0.40		
Fresh fish	409.81	0.39		
Coconuts	257.20	0.25		
Dried fish	220.44	0.21		
Chicken	192.66	0.18		
Coconut oil	185.03	0.18		
Rice	-317.54		0.30	
Big onions	-269.00		0.26	
Sugar	-121.42		0.12	
Infant milk powder	-60.46		0.06	
Mysore dhal	-56.41		0.05	
Non Food	911.66	1.04	0.17	0.87
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	45.17	0.04		
Arrack	9.82	0.01		
Cigarettes	9.31	0.01		
Beetle leaves	28.79	0.03		
Clothing and Footwear	70.75	0.07		
Clothing	70.75	0.07		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	381.06	0.36		
Housing rent	197.19	0.19		
Materials for Maintenance	88.75	0.08		
Electricity bill	50.34	0.05		
LP gas	46.55	0.04		
Furnishings, Household equipment, and Routing household maintenance	54.50	0.05		
Wages to servants	32.45	0.03		
Health	114.56	0.11		
Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products	10.90	0.01		
Fees to private medical practices	63.26	0.06		
Consultation fees to specialists	20.24	0.02		
Transport	-178.89		0.17	
Petrol	-166.32		0.16	
Diesel	-13.38		0.01	
Cost of servicing of vehicles	47.16	0.05		
Bus fare	-7.85		0.01	
Transport for schooling/ preschooling	23.14	0.02		
Airline fare	-73.52		0.07	
Communication	10.33	0.01		
Recreation and Culture	13.37	0.01		
Toys	39.83	0.04		
Exercise books and stationeries	-23.23		0.02	
Education	173.47	0.17		
Pre-school fees	9.99	0.01		
Tuition fees	119.05	0.11		

School fees (International)	32.31	0.03
Restaurant and Hotels	127.22	0.12
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	100.11	0.10
Hair cutting and shaving charges	46.26	0.04
All Items	2508.76	2.40

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

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