



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

MARCH, 2025

21 April 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 March 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 March 2025 is 206.0 and it records a decrease of 0.2 in index points compared to February 2025.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is -1.9% in March 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 March 2025 is 206.0. A decrease of 0.2 index points or 0.10 percentage compared to February 2025 for which the index was 206.2. This decrease represents a decrease in expenditure value of Rs. 106.39 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		
	Mar. 2024	Feb. 2025	Mar. 2025	Mar. 2024	Feb. 2025	Mar. 2025	Mar. 2024	Feb. 2025	Mar. 2025
All Items	210.0	206.2	206.0	-2246.2	-116.25	-106.39	-2.06	-0.11	-0.10
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	234.4	236.8	236.2	-1030.0	92.36	-103.09	-0.95	0.09	-0.10
Non Food	194.3	186.5	186.4	-1216.2	-208.61	-3.31	-1.12	-0.20	0.00
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	218.2	213.0	212.4	1.70	-6.07	-7.98	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Recreation and Culture	215.6	194.9	195.9	0.00	0.00	8.96	0.00	0.00	0.01
Other groups	192.4	184.8	184.8	-1217.82	-202.54	-4.29	-1.12	-0.19	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 Three main groups in March 2025, details of which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the March 2025, insignificant groups: 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Health', 'Transport', 'Restaurants and Hotels' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' and unchanged groups: 'Communication' and 'Education' 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 (March 2025 as compared to February 2025) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was mainly contributed to by a decrease in food items of 0.10%.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: -0.10%

As shown in Table 02, the decreases in index values were reported for Rice (0.08%), Big onions (0.08%), Eggs (0.03%), Red onions (0.03%), Vegetables (0.02%), Green chilies (0.02%), Dried fish (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%), Chicken (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%), Canned fish (0.01%), Infant milk powder (0.01%), Potatoes (0.01%), Bread (Normal) (0.01%) and Dried Chilies (0.01%). However, increases in index values were reported for Coconuts (0.12%), Fresh fruits (0.04%), Salt (0.03%), Coconut oil (0.03%), Milk powder (0.03%), Beef (0.01%), Tamarind (0.01%) and Fresh fish (0.01%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: 0.00%

The decrease in index values of non-food groups in March 2025 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decrease in the group of items ‘Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance’ (0.01%). However, a price increase was reported in the group ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.01%). Further, very slight price decreases were reported in groups of ‘Clothing and Footwear,’ ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels and ‘Transport’ and very slight price increases were reported in groups of ‘Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics,’ ‘Health,’ ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services.’ Meanwhile, the price indexes of the ‘Communication’ and ‘Education’ groups remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the decrease in NCPI from February 2025 to March 2025 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	-103.09	0.28	0.37	-0.10
Rice	-83.77		0.08	
Big onions	-79.10		0.08	
Eggs	-34.46		0.03	
Red onions	-32.02		0.03	
Vegetables	-24.32		0.02	
Green chilies	-17.68		0.02	
Dried fish	-17.13		0.02	
<i>Sprats</i>	-16.20		0.02	
Sugar	-16.66		0.02	
Chicken	-14.32		0.01	
Chili powder	-11.68		0.01	
Canned fish	-11.19		0.01	
Infant milk powder	-9.98		0.01	
Potatoes	-9.75		0.01	
Bread (Normal)	-6.16		0.01	
Dried chilies	-5.41		0.01	
Coconuts	130.13	0.12		
Fresh fruits	42.52	0.04		
<i>Papaw</i>	36.60	0.03		
<i>Mangoes</i>	11.97	0.01		
<i>Banana</i>	-5.95		0.01	
Salt	34.99	0.03		
Coconut oil	28.59	0.03		
Milk powder	28.01	0.03		
Beef	8.60	0.01		
Tamarind	7.83	0.01		
Fresh fish	7.72	0.01		

Other food items	-17.84		0.02	
Non Food	-3.31	0.01	0.01	0.00
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	-7.98		0.01	
Recreation and Culture	8.96	0.01		
Other Groups	-4.29		0.00	
All Items	-106.39			-0.10

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	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		
				Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.	
2024	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	
	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	

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 -1.9% in March 2025 and inflation calculated for the February 2025 was -3.9%. (Table 03). On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to 0.8% in March 2025 from -1.1% in February 2025 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to -4.1% in March 2025 from -6.0% in February 2025.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On a Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 0.35 percent in March 2025 compared to the month of March 2024 (Table 04).

Contribution of non-food items was -2.28 percent. This was mainly due to price decreases in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (**1.86%**), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (**0.08%**), 'Transport' (**0.77%**) 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' (**0.15%**), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (**0.05%**) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (**0.11%**). Further, a very slight price increase was reported in group of 'Clothing and Footwear' and a very slight price decrease 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 March 2025 as compared to March 2024)

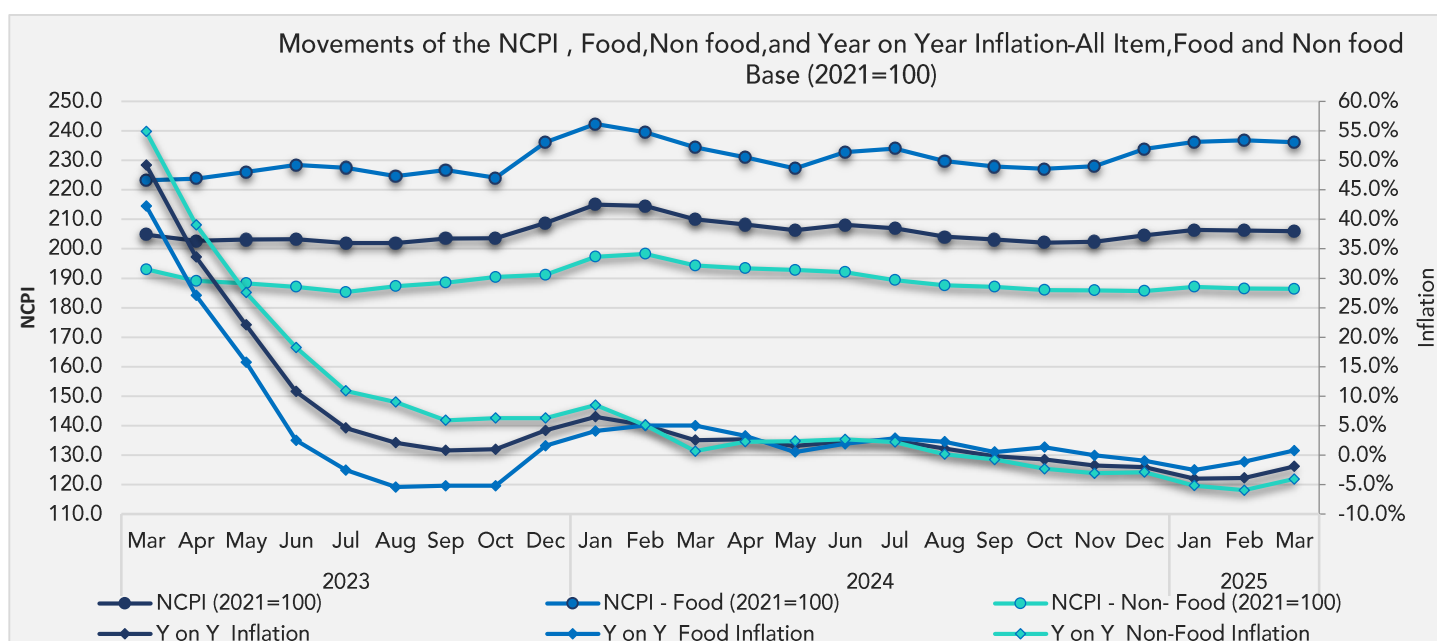
Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			Net effect %
	Rs. cts	Increase %	Decrease %	
Food	371.07			0.35
Coconuts	1566.92	1.47		
Rice	426.59	0.40		
Coconut oil	285.85	0.27		
Green chilies	250.39	0.23		
Turmeric powder	93.28	0.09		
Big onions	-884.44		0.83	
Eggs	-336.59		0.32	
Chicken	-270.55		0.25	
Sugar	-169.37		0.16	
Chili powder	-133.63		0.13	
Milk powder	-111.07		0.10	
Non Food	-2434.56	0.58	2.86	-2.28
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	139.35	0.13		
Arrack	39.19	0.04		
Cigarettes	32.06	0.03		
Bulathwita	26.13	0.02		
Beetle leaves	21.65	0.02		
Clothing and Footwear	0.53	0.00		
Clothing	18.58	0.02		
Footwear	-18.05		0.02	
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	-1977.45		1.86	
Housing rent	202.51	0.19		
Materials for Maintenance	-85.54		0.08	
Water bill	-85.21		0.08	
Electricity bill	-1742.04		1.63	
L. P. Gas	-229.58		0.22	
Kerosene oil	-33.12		0.03	
Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance	-89.17		0.08	
Washing soap	-47.63		0.04	
Washing powder	-46.66		0.04	
Wages to servants	21.62	0.02		
Health	148.71	0.14		
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		
Transport	-815.65		0.77	
Petrol	-687.47		0.65	
Diesel	-140.68		0.13	
Cost of servicing of vehicles	74.62	0.07		
Bus fare	-150.30		0.14	
Airline fare	47.45	0.04		
Communication	-1.75		0.00	
Recreation and Culture	-167.78		0.16	

Exercise books and stationeries	-210.33	0.20
Education	157.90	0.15
Tuition fees	100.18	0.09
Restaurant and Hotels	51.40	0.05
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	119.35	0.11
Hair cutting and shaving charges	45.43	0.04
Car Insurance	57.92	0.05
All Items	-2063.48	-1.94

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.”

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