



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): March 2021**



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Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of March 2021, the Director General (Actg.) of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 5.1%. The headline inflation reported for the month of February 2021 was 4.2%. Contributions to the inflation rate of March 2021 from food group and non-food group are 4.0% and 1.1% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in March 2020 were 6.0% and 1.0% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 7.0%.

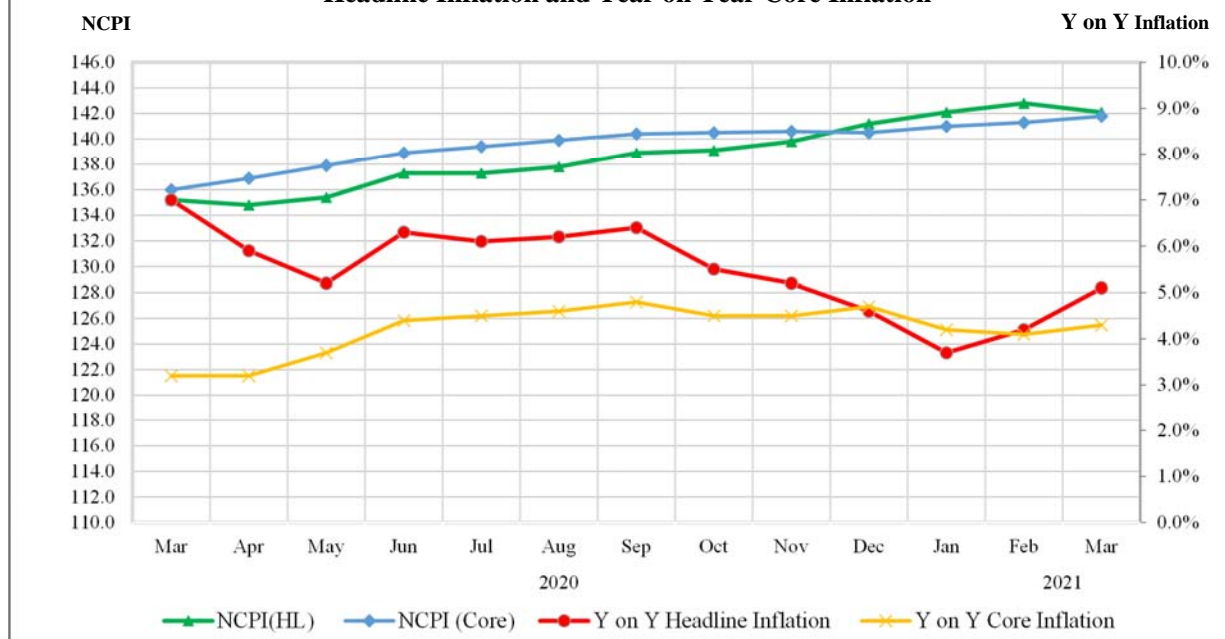
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in March 2021 has decreased to 142.1 from 142.8 reported in February 2021. This shows a decrease of 0.7 index points or 0.5 percentage as compared to February 2021. The month-on-month change was contributed by decrease of index values of food items by 0.63% and increase of index values of non-food items by 0.16%.

Price decreases of food items were reported for Vegetables, Green chilies, Red onions, Coconuts, Potatoes, Limes, Tamarind, Big onions, and Eggs. However, increases in index values were reported for Green gram, Fresh fruits, Chicken, Cowpea, Garlic, Coconut oil, Rice, Mysore dhal, and Fresh fish.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in March 2021 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Restaurants and Hotels', 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (Betel leaves and Tobacco (chewing)), 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Transport' (Lubricating oil and Cost of servicing of vehicles) and 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Health' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' as well. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Education' groups remained unchanged during the month.

Core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation by excluding volatile items of food, energy and transport groups in the economy as measured by the Year-on-Year change based on NCPI for the month of March 2021 has increased to 4.3% from 4.1% in February 2021.

**Movements of the NCPI (Base 2013=100), NCPI(Core), Year on Year  
Headline Inflation and Year on Year Core Inflation**



**Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2013 = 100)**

Year	Month	Index Number		Month to Month % change of Index Number		Year on Year Inflation %	
		NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)
<b>2020</b>	March	135.2	136.0	-1.3	0.1	7.0	3.2
	April	134.8	136.9	-0.3	0.7	5.9	3.2
	May	135.4	137.9	0.4	0.7	5.2	3.7
	June	137.3	138.9	1.4	0.7	6.3	4.4
	July	137.3	139.4	0.0	0.4	6.1	4.5
	August	137.8	139.9	0.4	0.4	6.2	4.6
	September	138.9	140.4	0.8	0.4	6.4	4.8
	October	139.1	140.5	0.1	0.1	5.5	4.5
	November	139.8	140.6	0.5	0.1	5.2	4.5
	December	141.2	140.5	1.0	-0.1	4.6	4.7
<b>2021</b>	January	142.1	141.0	0.6	0.4	3.7	4.2
	February	142.8	141.3	0.5	0.2	4.2	4.1
	March	142.1	141.8	-0.5	0.4	5.1	4.3