

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): MARCH 2022****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

Issuing the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of March 2022, the Director General 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 21.5%. The headline inflation reported for the month of February 2022 was 17.5%. Contributions to the inflation rate of March 2022 from the food group and non-food group are 13.8% and 7.7% respectively. Whilst contributions of food and non-food groups to the inflation in March 2021 were 4.0% and 1.1% respectively, resulting in a headline inflation of 5.1%. With respect to March 2021, the reported inflation for the month of March 2022 was mainly due to the higher price levels prevailed in both food and non-food groups. Accordingly, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to 29.5% in March 2022 from 24.7% in February 2022 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 14.5% in March 2022 from 11.0% in February 2022.

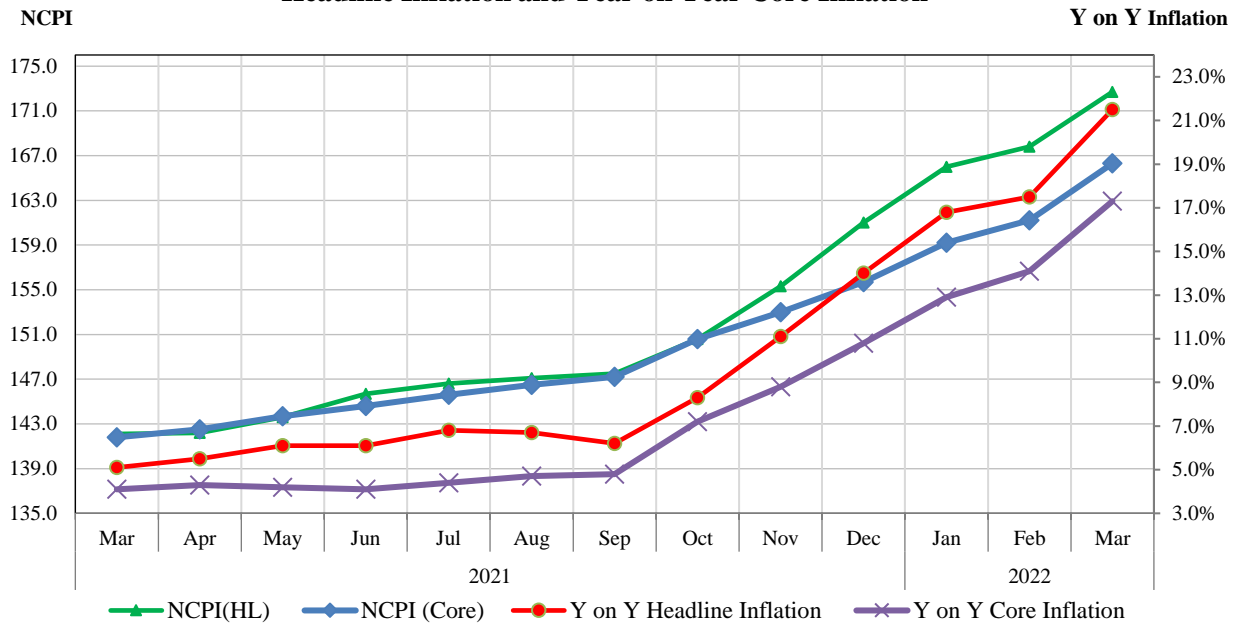
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI in March 2022 has increased to 172.7 from 167.8 reported in February 2022. This shows an increase of 4.9 index points or 2.9 percentage as compared to February 2022. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases of index values of food items by 1.22% and non-food items by 1.70% respectively.

Price increases of food items were reported for Rice, Coconut oil, Mysore dhal, Milk powder, Eggs, Fresh fish, Bread, Sugar, Dried fish, Chicken, Fresh fruits, Chilli powder, Wheat flour, Dried chilies, Coconuts, Curry powder and Buns. However, decreases in index values were reported for Vegetables, Big onions, Potatoes, Red onions, Green chilies and Limes.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in March 2022 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack , Betel leaves*), 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*LP gas*) , 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' , 'Health' (*Payments to private hospitals/nursing homes room charges, Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products*), 'Transport' (*Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare*), 'Recreation and Culture', 'Restaurants and Hotels' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of 'Communication' as well. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Education' group 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 2022 was increased to 17.3% from 14.1% reported in month of February 2022.

**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)
		All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items	NCPI(HL)	NCPI (Core)	All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items
2021	March	142.1	150.7	135.3	141.8	-0.5	0.4	5.1	8.8	2.0	4.3
	April	142.2	150.8	135.5	142.5	0.1	0.5	5.5	9.7	2.2	4.1
	May	143.6	153.3	135.9	143.7	1.0	0.8	6.1	10.3	2.5	4.2
	June	145.7	157.3	136.5	144.6	1.5	0.6	6.1	9.8	2.9	4.1
	July	146.6	158.5	137.2	145.6	0.6	0.7	6.8	11.0	3.2	4.4
	August	147.1	159.4	137.4	146.5	0.3	0.6	6.7	11.1	3.0	4.7
	September	147.5	159.6	137.9	147.2	0.3	0.5	6.2	10.0	3.0	4.8
	October	150.6	162.6	141.2	150.6	2.1	2.3	8.3	11.7	5.4	7.2
	November	155.3	171.5	142.6	153.0	3.1	1.6	11.1	16.9	6.2	8.8
December	161.0	182.1	144.5	155.7	3.7	1.8	14.0	21.5	7.6	10.8	
2022	January	166.0	188.3	148.4	159.2	3.1	2.2	16.8	24.4	10.2	12.9
	February	167.8	190.6	149.8	161.2	1.1	1.3	17.5	24.7	11.0	14.1
	March	172.7	195.2	154.9	166.3	2.9	3.2	21.5	29.5	14.5	17.3