



NEWS RELEASE
THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): August 2023



Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

TEL: 011-2147414

FAX: 011-2877945

E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk

The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) with an index reference period 2013=100 was updated to a new index reference period of 2021= 100 from January 2023. Issuing the NCPI, for the month of August 2023, 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 2.1%. The headline inflation reported for the month of July 2023 was 4.6%. Contributions to the inflation rate of August 2023 from the food group and non-food group are -2.6% and 4.7% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to -5.4% in August 2023 from -2.5% in July 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 9.0% in August 2023 from 10.9% in July 2023.

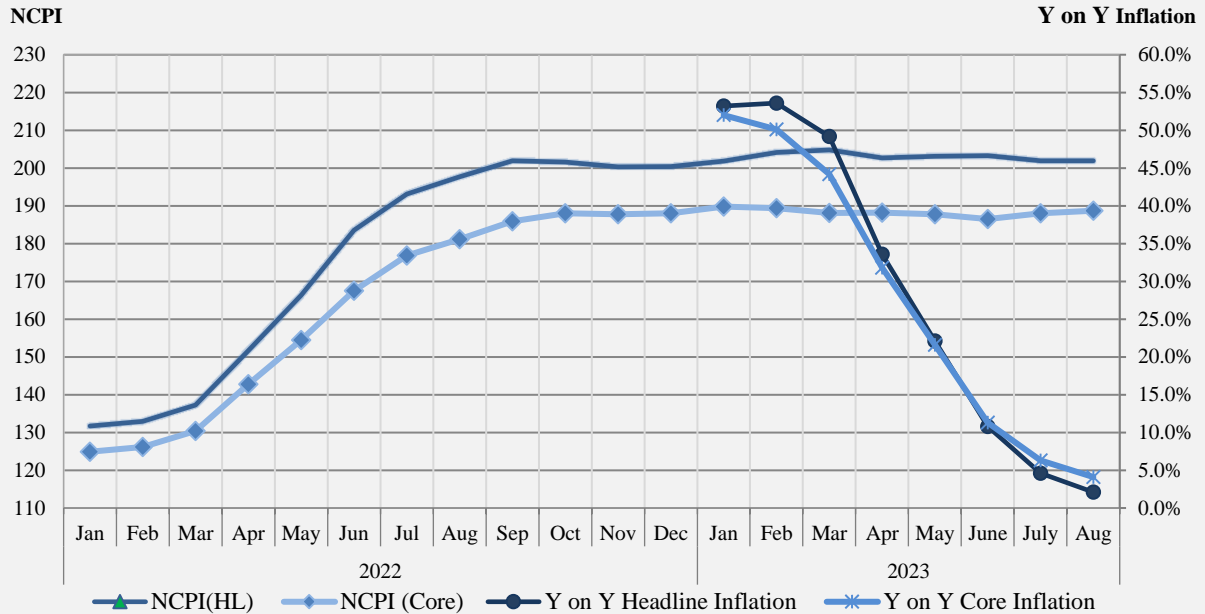
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in August 2023 was 201.9, unchanged compared to July 2023. On an expenditure value basis, the month-on-month change was contributed by decreases in food items of 0.56% and increases in non-food items of 0.60% respectively.

Price decreases of food items were mainly reported for Vegetables, Fresh fish, Eggs, Green chilies, Coconuts, Chicken, Coconut oil, Red onions, Bread (normal), Biscuits, Chili powder, Buns, Noodles, Green gram, Rice flour, Dried fish and Wheat flour. However, increases in prices were reported for Fresh fruits, Limes, Sugar, Big onions, Rice, Mysore dhal, Cowpea, Ginger and Papadam.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in August 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Water bill*), 'Transport' (*Petrol*), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (*Car Insurance*), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arecanuts*) and 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. However, price decreases in groups of items were reported for 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Recreation and Culture' (*Books*) and 'Restaurants and Hotels'. 'Further, very slight price increase was reported in group of 'Health'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Education' and 'Communication' 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 (Base 2021=100) for the month of August 2023 was decreased to 4.1% from 6.3% reported in month of July 2023.

Movements of the NCPI (Base 2021=100), NCPI(Core), Year on Year Headline Inflation and Year on Year Core Inflation



Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2021 = 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)
		All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items			All Items	Food	Non Food	All Items
2022	August	197.7	237.5	171.9	181.2	2.4	2.5				
	September	201.9	239.1	178.0	185.9	2.1	2.6				
	October	201.6	236.5	179.1	188.0	-0.1	1.1				
	November	200.3	233.2	179.1	187.8	-0.6	-0.1				
	December	200.4	232.4	179.8	188.0	0.0	0.1				
2023	January	201.8	232.8	181.8	189.8	0.7	1.0	53.2	53.6	52.9	52.0
	February	204.1	228.1	188.6	189.4	1.1	-0.2	53.6	49.0	57.4	50.1
	March	204.8	223.2	193.0	188.1	0.3	-0.7	49.2	42.3	54.9	44.2
	April	202.7	223.8	189.1	188.2	-1.0	0.1	33.6	27.1	39.0	31.8
	May	203.1	226.1	188.3	187.8	0.2	-0.2	22.1	15.8	27.6	21.6
	June	203.3	228.4	187.1	186.5	0.1	-0.7	10.8	2.5	18.3	11.3
	July	201.9	227.5	185.3	188.0	-0.7	0.8	4.6	-2.5	10.9	6.3
	August	201.9	224.6	187.3	188.7	0.0	0.4	2.1	-5.4	9.0	4.1