

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): September 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 September 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 0.8%. The headline inflation reported for the month of August 2023 was 2.1%. Contributions to the inflation rate of September 2023 from the food group and non-food group are -2.4% and 3.2% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to -5.2% in September 2023 from -5.4% in August 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 5.9% in September 2023 from 9.0% in August 2023.

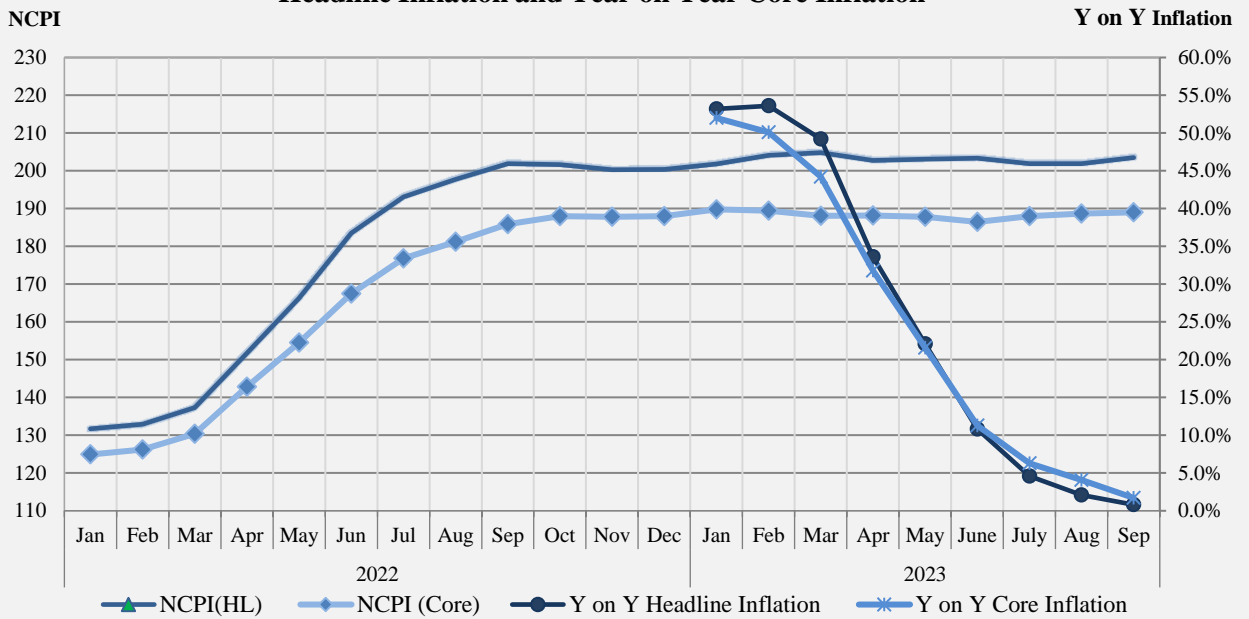
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in September 2023 has increased to 203.5 from 201.9 reported in August 2023. This shows an increase of 1.6 index points or 0.8 percent as compared to August 2023. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items and non-food items of 0.41% and 0.36% respectively.

Price increases of food items were mainly reported for Rice, Limes, Big onions, Fresh fruits, Sugar, Coconuts, Mysore dhal, Green chilies, Cowpea, Tea dust/leaves, Pepper and Gram. However, decreases in prices were reported for Vegetables, Chicken, Fresh fish, Red onions, Coconut oil, Dried fish, Potatoes, Eggs, Green gram, Chili powder, Rice flour and Wheat flour.

The increases in index values of non-food groups in September 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Transport' (*Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare*), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*LP Gas*), 'Education' (*School fees (International)*), 'Restaurants and Hotels', 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*) and 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Beetle leaves*). However, price decreases in group of items were reported for Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. Further, a very slight price decrease was reported in group of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health', 'Communication' and 'Recreation and Culture' 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 September 2023 was decreased to 1.7% from 4.1% reported in month of August 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	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
	September	203.5	226.7	188.5	189.0	0.8	0.2	0.8	-5.2	5.9	1.7