

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): December 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 December 2023, the Actg. 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 4.2%. The headline inflation reported for the month of November 2023 was 2.8%. Contributions to the inflation rate of December 2023 from the food group and non-food group are 0.7% and 3.5% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group increased to 1.6% in December 2023 from -2.2% in November 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 6.3% in December 2023 from 7.1% in November 2023.

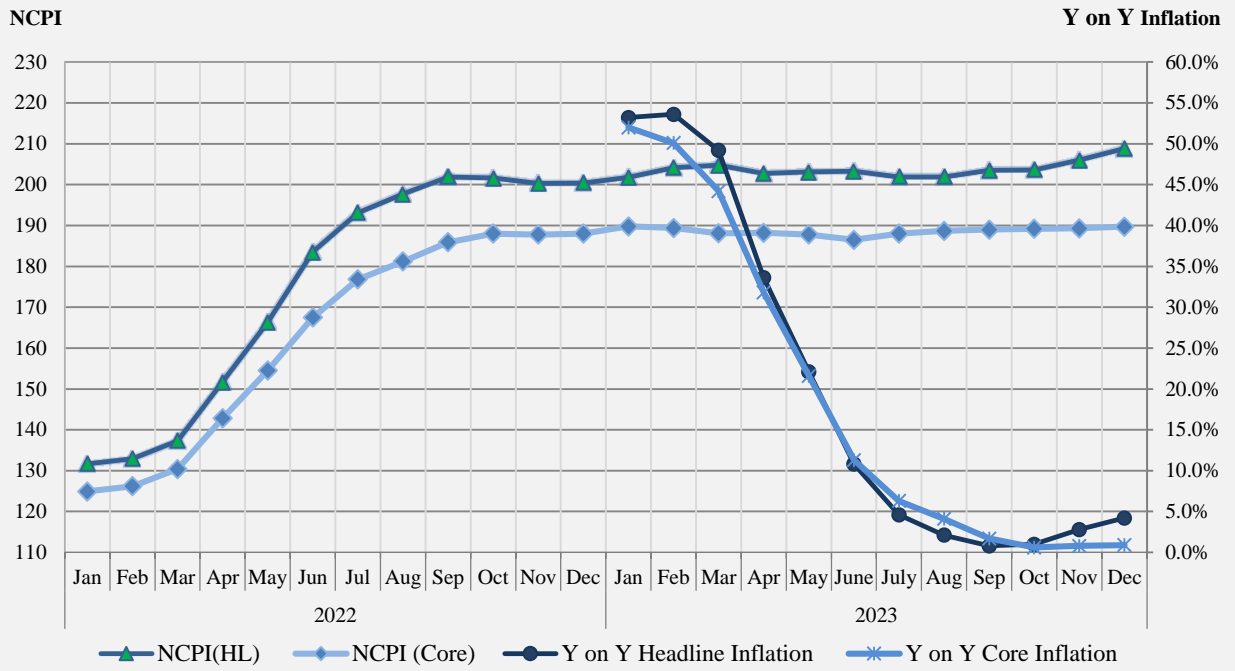
Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in December 2023 has increased to 208.8 from 206.0 reported in November 2023. This shows an increase of 2.8 index points or 1.38 percent as compared to November 2023. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items of 1.55% and decreases in non-food items of 0.17% respectively.

Price increases of food items were mainly reported for Vegetables, Big onions, Green chilies, Fresh fish, Eggs, Rice, Chicken, Sugar, Coconuts, Red onions, Potatoes, Coconut oil and Chili powder. However, decreases in prices were reported for Limes, Dried fish, Canned fish, Garlic, Mysore dhal and Wheat flour.

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in December 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Transport' (*Petrol, Diesel*), 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Materials for the Maintenance*), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Beetle leaves*) and Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. However, price increase in group of items was reported for 'Restaurants and Hotels'. Further, a very slight price decrease was reported in group of Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. 'Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health', '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 (Base 2021=100) for the month of December 2023 was increased to 0.9% from 0.8% reported in month of November 2023.

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



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	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
	October	203.6	224.1	190.4	189.2	0.0	0.1	1.0	-5.2	6.3	0.6
	November	206.0	228.1	191.8	189.3	1.2	0.1	2.8	-2.2	7.1	0.8
	December	208.8	236.2	191.2	189.7	1.4	0.2	4.2	1.6	6.3	0.9