

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): April 2024****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**

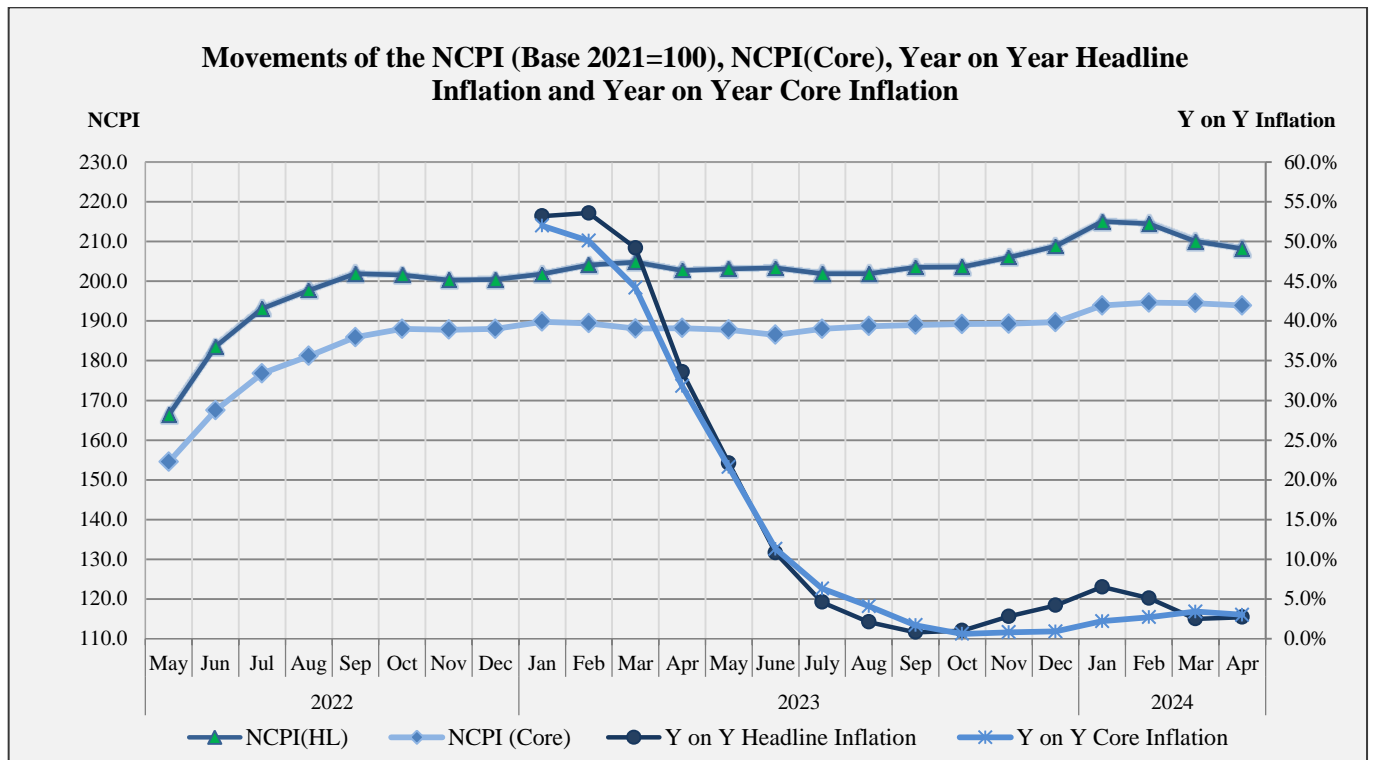
Issuing the NCPI, for the month of April 2024, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as 2.7%. The headline inflation reported for the month of March 2024 was 2.5%. Contributions to the inflation rate of April 2024 from the food group and non-food group are 1.4% and 1.3% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 3.3% in April 2024 from 5.0% in March 2024 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to 2.3% in April 2024 from 0.7% in March 2024.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in April 2024 has decreased to 208.2 from 210.0 reported in March 2024. This shows a decrease of 1.8 index points or 0.89 percent as compared to March 2024. The month-on-month change was contributed by a decrease in food items of 0.60% and in non-food items of 0.29%, respectively.

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

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in April 2024 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Electricity bill and LP Gas*) and 'Recreation and Culture' (*Exercise books and stationeries*). However, price increases in groups of items were reported for 'Transport' (*Three wheelers fare*), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Beetle leaves*), 'Health' (*Fees to private medical practices*), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' and 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Clothing*). Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Restaurants and Hotels'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Communication' 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 April 2024 was decreased to 3.0% from 3.4% reported in month of March 2024.



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
2023	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
2024	January	215.0	242.4	197.3	193.9	3.0	2.2	6.5	4.1	8.5	2.2
	February	214.5	239.5	198.3	194.6	-0.2	0.4	5.1	5.0	5.1	2.7
	March	210.0	234.4	194.3	194.5	-2.1	-0.1	2.5	5.0	0.7	3.4
	April	208.2	231.1	193.4	193.9	-0.9	-0.3	2.7	3.3	2.3	3.0