

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): December 2024****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

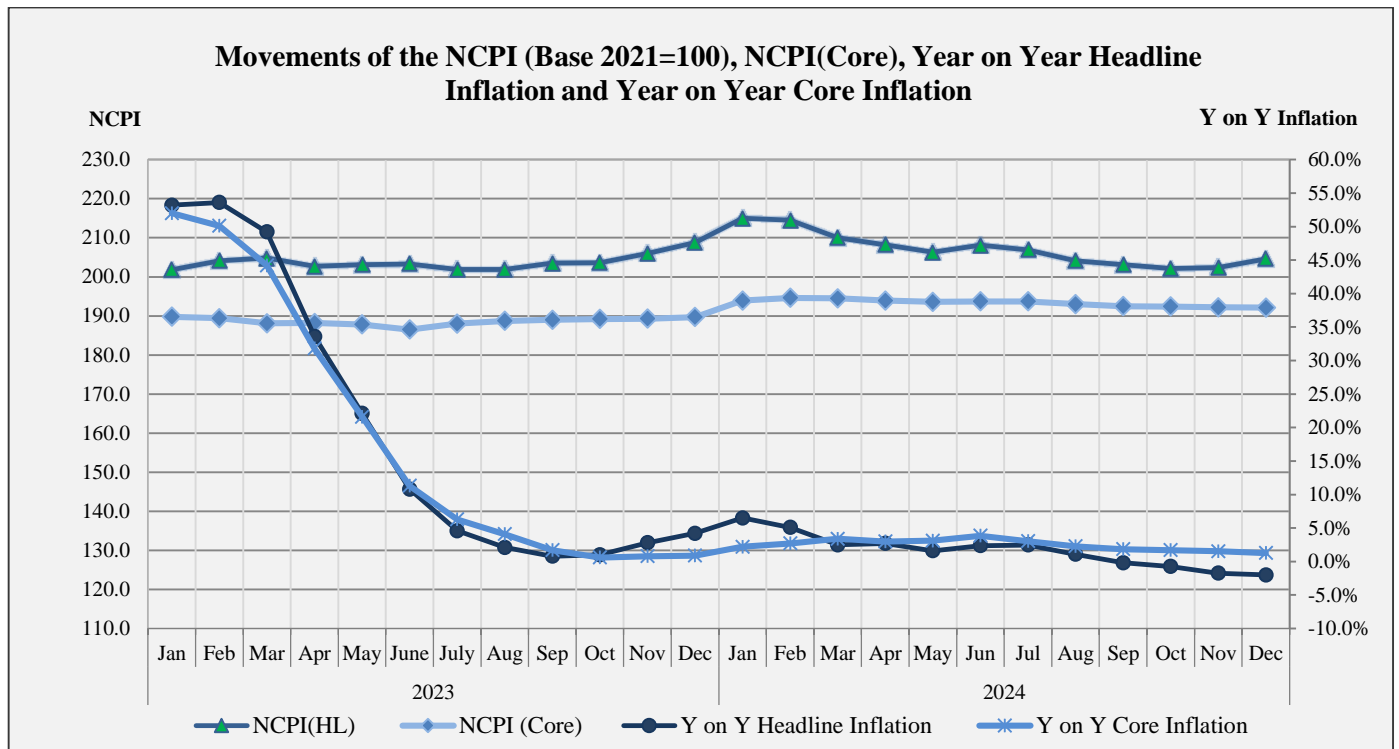
Issuing the NCPI, for the month of December 2024, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as -2.0%. The headline inflation reported for the month of November 2024 was -1.7%. Contributions to the inflation rate of December 2024 from the food group and non-food group are -0.4% and -1.6% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to -1.0% in December 2024 from 0.0% in November 2024 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group increased to -2.9% in December 2024 from -3.1% in November 2024.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in December 2024 has increased to 204.6 from 202.4 reported in November 2024. This shows an increase of 2.2 index points or 1.09 percent as compared to November 2024. The month-on-month change was contributed by an increase in food items of 1.14% and decrease in non-food items of 0.05%, respectively.

Price increases of food items were mainly reported for Vegetables, Coconuts, Rice, Green chilies, Fresh fish, Coconut oil, Chicken, Potatoes, Big onions, Fresh fruits, Red onions, Turmeric powder and Tamarind. However, decreases in index values were reported for, Limes, Eggs and Soya meat.

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in December 2024 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance', 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arecanuts*), 'Transport' (*Petrol & Diesel*), 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Clothing and Footwear' (*Footwear*). However, price increase was reported in group of 'Restaurants and Hotels.' Further, very slight price increases were reported in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels,' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services.' Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health,' '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 December 2024 was decreased to 1.3% from 1.5% reported in month of November 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	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
	May	206.3	227.3	192.8	193.6	-0.9	-0.2	1.6	0.5	2.4	3.1
	June	208.1	232.8	192.1	193.7	0.9	0.1	2.4	1.9	2.7	3.9
	July	206.9	234.0	189.4	193.7	-0.6	0.0	2.5	2.9	2.2	3.0
	August	204.1	229.7	187.6	193.0	-1.4	-0.4	1.1	2.3	0.2	2.3
	September	203.1	227.9	187.1	192.5	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.5	-0.7	1.9
	October	202.1	227.1	186.0	192.4	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7	1.3	-2.3	1.7
	November	202.4	228.0	185.9	192.2	0.1	-0.1	-1.7	0.0	-3.1	1.5
	December	204.6	233.9	185.7	192.1	1.1	-0.1	-2.0	-1.0	-2.9	1.3