

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2021=100): January 2025****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

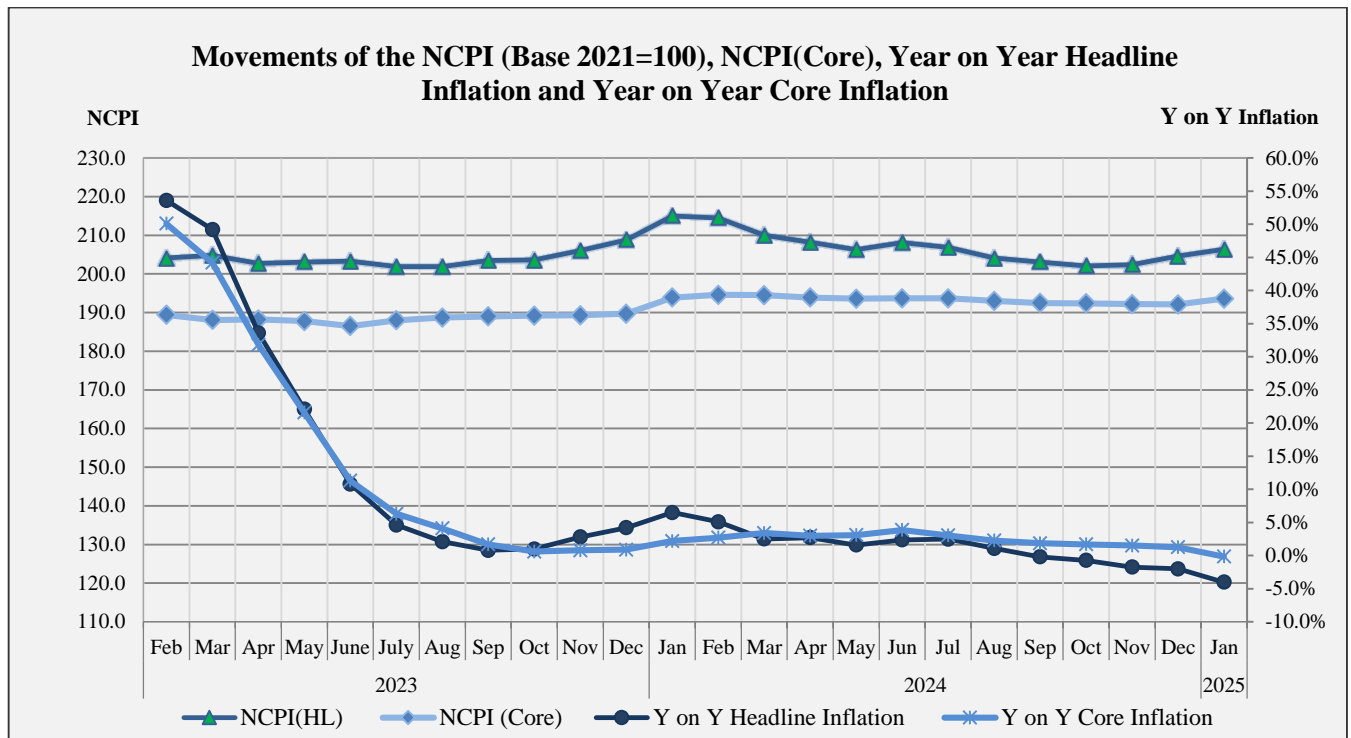
Issuing the NCPI, for the month of January 2025, the Director General of Census and Statistics said that headline inflation as measured by the Year-on-Year change (The percentage change in the current month NCPI over same month NCPI of last year) based on the NCPI has been compiled as -4.0%. The headline inflation reported for the month of December 2024 was -2.0%. Contributions to the inflation rate of January 2025 from the food group and non-food group are -1.1% and -2.9% respectively. On a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to -2.5% in January 2025 from -1.0% in December 2024 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to -5.2% in January 2025 from -2.9% in December 2024.

Comparing the month-on-month changes, NCPI (Base 2021=100) in January 2025 has increased to 206.4 from 204.6 reported in December 2024. This shows an increase of 1.8 index points or 0.88 percent as compared to December 2024. The month-on-month change was contributed to by an increase in food items and non-food items of 0.47% and 0.41%, respectively.

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

The increases in index values of non-food groups in January 2025 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price increases in groups of items 'Education' (*Tuition fees*), 'Transport' (*Cost of servicing of vehicles*), 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Arrack and Cigarettes*), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (*Wages to servants*), 'Health,' (*Fees to private medical practices*), 'Restaurants and Hotels.', 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services.' and 'Clothing and Footwear'. However, price decreases were reported in groups of 'Recreation and Culture' (*Exercise books and Stationeries*) and 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels') (*Electricity bill*). Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group 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 January 2025 was decreased to -0.2% from 1.3% reported in month of December 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
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
2025	January	206.4	236.3	187.1	193.6	0.9	0.8	-4.0	-2.5	-5.2	-0.2