

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): JANUARY 2016****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs**

The Department of Census and Statistics has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for the month of January 2016. NCPI has been compiled as 112.0 for January 2016. This shows a decrease of 1.2 index points and also a percentage of 1.1 compared to the previous month's (December) index of 113.2. This change is due to the value change decrease of food items by 1.03% and non-food items by 0.02% respectively.

For January 2016, the value change decrease of food items was mainly due to the price decrease in Vegetables, Green chilies, Big Onions, Limes, Potatoes, Coconut, Rice, Red Onion and Milk Powder compared to the previous month (December). However, increase in value changes were recorded for Fresh fish, Dried fish, Sugar, Eggs, Dhal-Mysoor, Mangoes, Banana Coconut oil and Chilly Powder due to price increases of these items compared to the previous month (December).

The value change of non food commodity group has decreased by 0.02 percent in January 2016 compared to December 2015. This was mainly due to the value change decrease in non food commodity group of 'Transport'. The value change decrease in 'Transport' group has been totally due to the decrease of airline fee in January 2016 compared to the previous month (December). The slight increase in value change were reported for 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco & Narcotics' and 'Clothing and Footwear'.

In a communiqué issued on NCPI, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that Year on Year inflation based on NCPI for the month of January 2016 was calculated as -0.7% and inflation calculated for December 2015 was 4.2%. The value of market basket in January 2015 (Rs. 36,272.14) was relatively higher than the value of market basket in January 2016 (Rs. 35,997.76) resulting a deflation for the month of January 2016.

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by the DCS is, National Consumer Price Index (NCPI). DCS commenced releasing NCPI (Base 2013=100) from October 2015 with a time lag of 21 days.

Department of Census and Statistics

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