



NEWS RELEASE

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): FEBRUARY 2017

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs

In a communiqué issued on National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has increased to 8.2% in February 2017 from 6.5% in January 2017. The reason for increase in inflation was due to the comparatively lower price levels prevailed in February 2016 (That is comparatively low price index was reported in February 2016.). In February 2016 contribution to the inflation from food group was -0.3% and non-food group was 2.0%. Nevertheless, in February 2017 contribution to the inflation from food group and non-food group are 4.5% and 3.8% respectively.

The Department of Census and Statistics has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for the month of February 2017. NCPI has been calculated as 119.9 for February 2017. This shows an increase of 0.6 index points or a percentage of 0.5 compared to the previous month's (January) index of 119.3. This monthly change was due to the increases of expenditure value of food items by 0.31% and non-food items by 0.23% respectively.

The increase in expenditure value of food commodity group in February 2017 compared to that of January 2017 was due to the price increases in coconuts, vegetables, coconut oil, fresh fish, green chilies, banana, mangoes, garlic and red onions. However, decreases in expenditure value in index were reported for rice, limes, potatoes, mysore dhal, chicken, dried chilies and chilly powder.

The increase in expenditure value of non food commodity group in February 2017 compared to the preceding month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Transport', 'Education', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. However, expenditure value decreases were observed for groups of 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' and 'Recreation and Culture'. Further, very slight increases in expenditure value were reported for groups of 'Restaurant and Hotels', 'Clothing and Footwear' and very slight expenditure value decrease was reported for group of 'Health' compared to the previous month. The expenditure value of 'Communication' group remain unchanged during the month.

Movements of the NCPI (Base 2013=100) and Year on Year Inflation



Movements of the NCPI (Base : 2013 = 100)

Year	Month	Index Number	Month to Month % change of Index Number	Year on Year Inflation %
2016	February	110.8	-1.1	1.7
	March	110.0	-0.7	2.2
	April	111.6	1.5	4.3
	May	113.7	1.9	5.3
	June	116.1	2.1	6.4
	July	115.2	-0.8	5.8
	August	113.3	-1.6	4.5
	September	113.5	0.2	4.7
	October	114.7	1.1	5.0
	November	116.6	1.7	4.1
	December	118.0	1.2	4.2
	2017	January	119.3	1.1
February		119.9	0.5	8.2

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