



NEWS RELEASE

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

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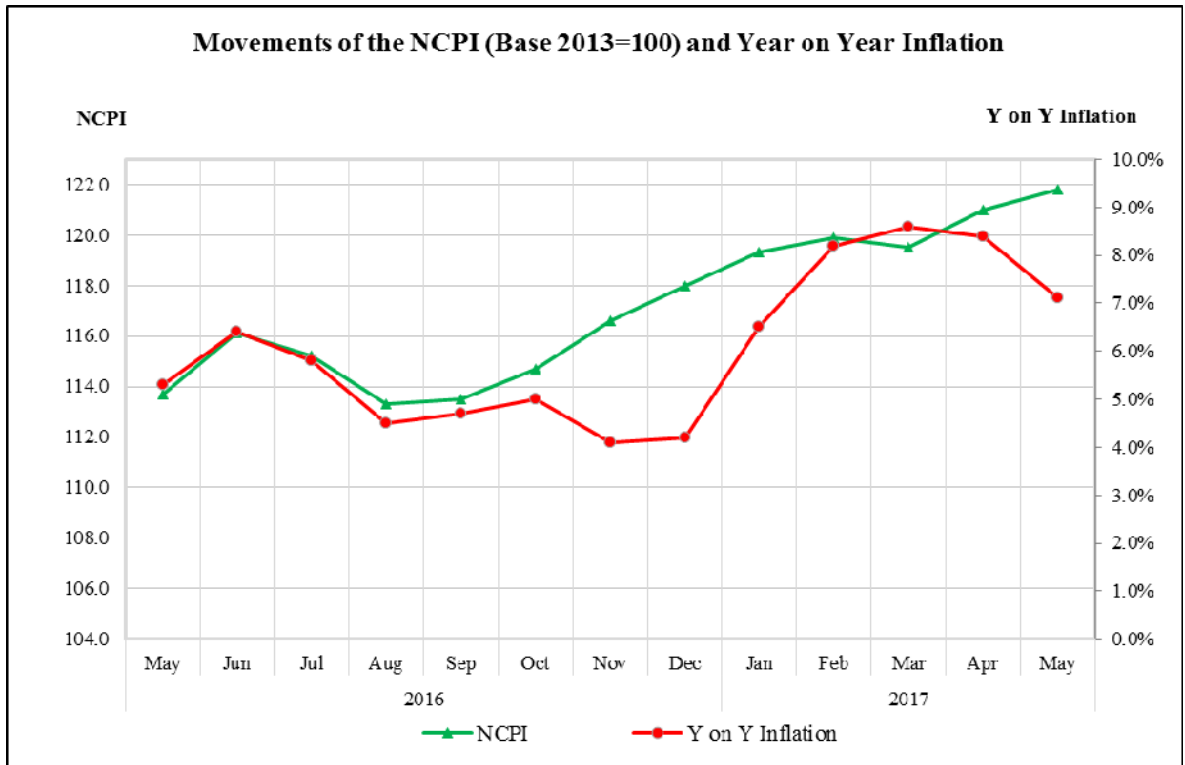
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In a communiqué issuing on National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of May 2017, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has decreased to 7.1% in May 2017 from 8.4% in April 2017. Contributions to the inflation from food group and non-food group in May 2017 are 4.6% and 2.5% respectively, whereas contributions of these two groups to the inflation in May 2016 were 2.1% and 3.1% respectively.

However, when compared to month on month changes of NCPI in May 2017 has increased to 121.8 from 121.0 reported for April 2017. This shows an increase of 0.8 index points or 0.7 percentage points in May 2017 compared to previous month; April 2017. This monthly change was due to the increases of expenditure value of food items by 0.43% and non-food items by 0.21% respectively.

The increase in expenditure value of food items was due to the price increases in vegetables, red onions, fresh fish, rice, coconuts, dried fish, garlic and potatoes. However, decreases in expenditure value in index were reported for banana, papaw, eggs, sugar and pineapple.

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



Movements of the NCPI (Base : 2013 = 100)

Year	Month	Index Number	Month on Month % change of Index Number	Year on Year Inflation %
2016	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	6.5
	February	119.9	0.5	8.2
	March	119.5	-0.3	8.6
	April	121.0	1.3	8.4
	May	121.8	0.7	7.1