

**NEWS RELEASE****THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100): OCTOBER 2017****Department of Census and Statistics****Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs****TEL: 011-2147414****FAX: 011-2877945****E-mail: prices@statistics.gov.lk**

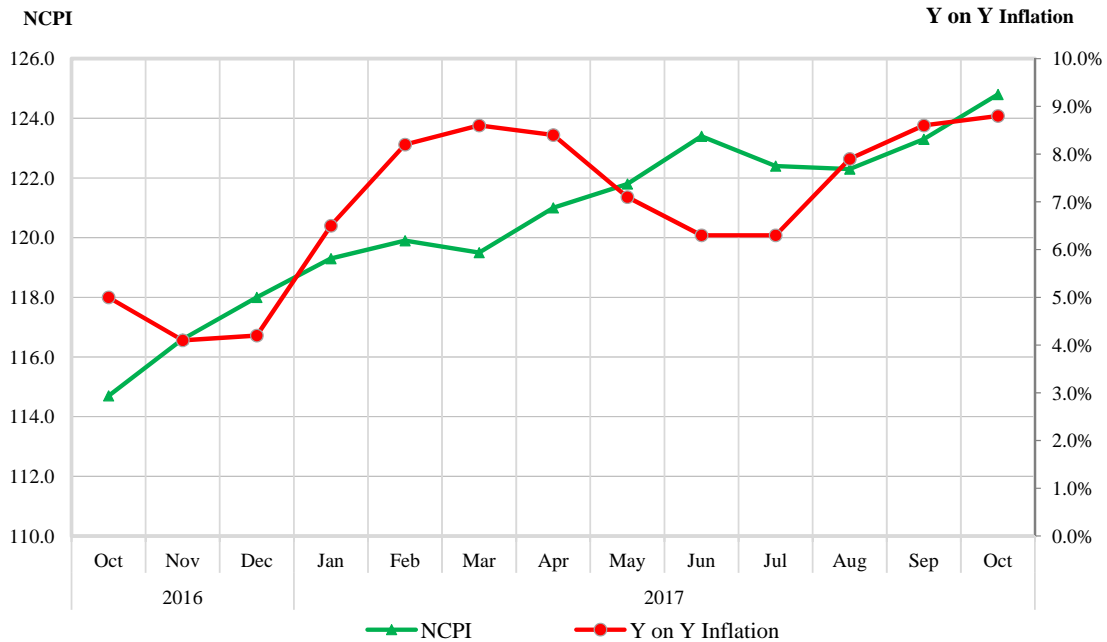
Issuing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), for the month of October 2017, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of Census and Statistics said that the Year on Year inflation based on NCPI has been compiled as 8.8%. The inflation reported for the month of September 2017 was 8.6%. For the month of October 2017, the reported increase in inflation is mainly because of the comparatively lower price levels prevailed in October 2016 particularly, prices of coconuts, rice and vegetables. Contributions to the inflation from food group and non-food group in October 2017 are 6.4% and 2.4% respectively, whilst contributions of these two groups to the inflation in October 2016 were 2.3% and 2.8% respectively reflecting prevailed comparatively lower food prices in October 2016.

However, when compared to month on month changes, NCPI in October 2017 has increased to 124.8 from 123.3 reported in September 2017. This shows an increase of 1.5 index points or 1.2 percentage points in October 2017 as compared to September 2017. This month on month change was due to the increases of expenditure value of food items by 1.12% and non-food items by 0.08% respectively.

The increase in expenditure value of food items was due to the price increases in coconuts, vegetables, rice, green chillies, banana, red onions, limes and tea dust. However, decreases in expenditure value in index were reported for fresh fish, eggs, potatoes, mangoes, dried fish and chicken.

The increase in expenditure value of non food items in October 2017 compared to the previous month was due to the expenditure value increases in groups of 'Restaurant and Hotels', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'. Further, the groups of 'Clothing and Footwear', and 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' recorded very slight expenditure value increases compared to the preceding month. The expenditure value of 'Health', 'Transport', 'Communication', 'Education' and 'Recreation and Culture' groups remained 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	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
	June	123.4	1.3	6.3
	July	122.4	-0.8	6.3
	August	122.3	-0.1	7.9
	September	123.3	0.8	8.6
	October	124.8	1.2	8.8