



NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) – (Base 2021=100)

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Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has released the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) with a new index reference period and Inflation rate for the month of April 2023.

The NCPI with an index reference period 2013=100 was updated to a new index reference period of 2021= 100. The updated NCPI will be released monthly commencing from January 2023 with a time lag of 21 days covering the entire country.

To reflect international recommendations and best practices, the index weights refer to each item's share in the total consumption expenditures of all Sri Lankan households. The provincial weights refer to the consumption expenditures within the province in proportion to the expenditures in the whole country. The index weights are based on expenditure data derived from the HIES conducted in year 2019. The HIES 2019 included all types of consumption expenditures by households, and was broadly representative of all households in the country.

The national consumer basket for the updated NCPI includes 485 items which represent the consumption expenditure of all households in Sri Lanka. For the compilation of NCPI, three price quotations are collected for each of the items in every district town. Prices for some items are collected weekly, while prices for other items are collected once every two weeks, monthly or quarterly. The frequency of price collection is determined by on an average how frequently price changes take place.

- ❖ The NCPI (Base 2021=100) for all items for the month of April 2023 is 202.7 and it records a decrease of 2.1 in index points compared to the March 2023.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 33.6% in April 2023.

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Source Publication

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/InflationAndPrices/StaticInformation/MonthlyNCPI>

statistics.gov.lk

01. Month on Month (M on M) change of NCPI (Base 2021=100):

The NCPI for all items for the month of April 2023 is 202.7. A decrease of 2.1 index points or 1.03 percentage compared to March 2023 for which the index was 204.8. This decrease represents decrease in expenditure value of Rs.1073.57 in the “Market Basket”.

Monthly changes of index numbers, expenditure values and percentage change of index numbers are given in the following table (Table 01).

Table 01: Monthly Changes by Main Groups of Market Basket

Main Group	Index Number			Monthly Change of the Expenditure Value (Rs.)			Monthly change of the index (%) ¹		
	Apr 2022	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Apr 2022	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	Apr 2022	Mar 2023	Apr 2023
All Items	151.7	204.8	202.7	7316.3	375.71	-1073.57	10.51	0.36	-1.03
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	176.1	223.2	223.8	3810.0	-973.83	122.10	5.47	-0.94	0.12
Non Food	136.0	193.0	189.1	3506.3	1349.54	-1195.67	5.04	1.30	-1.15
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	137.7	192.0	190.9	44.4	-1.82	-10.21	0.06	0.00	-0.01
Clothing and Footwear	131.6	211.9	215.2	82.0	51.83	50.66	0.12	0.05	0.05
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	120.5	170.2	166.7	534.4	1515.28	-408.07	0.77	1.46	-0.39
Health	131.0	188.5	191.6	174.4	4.49	51.52	0.25	0.00	0.05
Transport	175.1	242.4	223.9	1675.7	-27.90	-1031.52	2.41	-0.03	-0.99
Recreation and Culture	122.3	189.4	203.5	49.8	2.43	120.14	0.07	0.00	0.12
Education	136.5	158.4	166.0	428.8	0.00	152.29	0.62	0.00	0.15
Restaurants and Hotels	166.9	228.7	224.2	330.9	-148.15	-99.94	0.48	-0.14	-0.10
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	123.5	198.6	197.6	78.9	-18.28	-16.75	0.11	-0.02	-0.02
Other Groups	112.8	175.2	175.1	107.0	-28.33	-3.78	0.15	-0.03	0.00

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 1: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Monthly significant changes were noted in ten main groups in April 2023, details on which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the April 2023, insignificant group: ‘Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance’ and unchanged group: ‘Communication’ are considered as the ‘Other Groups’.

Note 3: ¹Monthly change of the index (%) is calculated using expenditure values.

Note 4: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

Contribution to Month-on-Month Changes:

Contributions to the NCPI on Month-on-Month basis (April 2023 as compared to March 2023) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items of 0.12% and decreases in non-food items of 1.15% respectively.

1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.12%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Chicken (0.13%), Fresh fish (0.11%), Eggs (0.05%), Limes (0.05%), Tea dust/leaves (0.04%), Coconuts (0.04%), Potatoes (0.03%), Fresh fruits (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%), Ginger (0.01%), Green gram (0.01%), Canned fish (0.01%), Green chilies (0.01%) and Infant milk powder (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Rice (0.08%), Dried fish (0.04%), Chili powder (0.03%), Milk powder (0.03%), Dried chilies (0.03%), Big onions (0.03%), Mysore dhal (0.03%), Bread (normal) (0.03%), Wheat flour (0.02%) and Turmeric powder (0.01%).

1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: -1.15%

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in April 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Beetle leaves*) (0.01%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Materials for the Maintenance and LP Gas*) (0.39%), 'Transport' (*Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare*) (0.99%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.10%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (*Toilet soap*) (0.02%). However, price increases in groups of items were reported for 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.05%), 'Health' (*Fees to private medical practices*) (0.05%), 'Recreation and Culture' (*Exercise books and stationeries*) (0.12%) and 'Education' (*Tuition fees*) (0.15%). Further, very slight price increase was reported in the group of 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance'. Meanwhile, the price index of 'Communication' group remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the decrease in NCPI from March 2023 to April 2023 (Base 2021=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food	122.10	0.53	0.42	0.12
Chicken	137.61	0.13		
Fresh fish	119.30	0.11		
Eggs	56.69	0.05		
Limes	46.89	0.05		
Tea dust/ leaves	41.43	0.04		
Coconuts	40.90	0.04		
Potatoes	27.27	0.03		
Fresh fruits	19.26	0.02		
<i>Banana</i>	68.25	0.07		
<i>Papaw</i>	-18.84		0.02	
<i>Mangoes</i>	-30.39		0.03	
Sugar	19.06	0.02		
Ginger	11.99	0.01		
Green gram	11.61	0.01		
Canned fish	8.72	0.01		
Green chilies	7.22	0.01		
Infant milk powder	7.07	0.01		
Rice	-82.62		0.08	
Dried fish	-44.15		0.04	
<i>Sprats</i>	-30.42		0.03	
Chili powder	-34.75		0.03	

Milk powder	-33.50	0.03		
Dried chilies	-31.83	0.03		
Big onions	-29.65	0.03		
Mysore dhal	-28.80	0.03		
Bread (normal)	-26.93	0.03		
Wheat flour	-16.00	0.02		
Turmeric powder	-14.92	0.01		
Other food items	-89.78	0.09		
Non Food	-1195.67	0.36	1.51	-1.15
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	-10.21		0.01	
<i>Beetle leaves</i>	<i>-7.71</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
Clothing & Footwear	50.66	0.05		
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>50.66</i>	<i>0.05</i>		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	-408.07		0.39	
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	<i>-95.98</i>		<i>0.09</i>	
<i>LP Gas</i>	<i>-307.35</i>		<i>0.30</i>	
Health	51.52	0.05		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	<i>46.21</i>	<i>0.04</i>		
Transport	-1031.52		0.99	
<i>Petrol</i>	<i>-622.37</i>		<i>0.60</i>	
<i>Diesel</i>	<i>-136.73</i>		<i>0.13</i>	
<i>Bus fare</i>	<i>-210.99</i>		<i>0.20</i>	
<i>Taxi fare</i>	<i>-5.41</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	<i>-29.83</i>		<i>0.03</i>	
<i>Transport for schooling/ preschooling</i>	<i>-19.71</i>		<i>0.02</i>	
Recreation and Culture	120.14	0.12		
<i>Exercise books and stationeries.</i>	<i>110.69</i>	<i>0.11</i>		
Education	152.29	0.15		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	<i>152.29</i>	<i>0.15</i>		
Restaurants and hotels	-99.94		0.10	
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	-16.75		0.02	
<i>Toilet soap</i>	<i>-38.17</i>		<i>0.04</i>	
Other Groups	-3.78		0.00	
All Items	-1073.57			-1.03

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 5: Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off

Inflation

The NCPI is a macroeconomic indicator compiled to measure inflation which is defined as a sustained increase in the general level of prices for goods and services and it is measured as an annual percentage increase by NCPI. Inflation can be measured in two ways. One measure is the Year-on-Year base or Point- to-Point inflation (The percentage change in the current month CPI over same month CPI of last year). The other measure is Moving Average Inflation (The percentage difference between the average Price Indices of last 12 months & the average Price Indices of previous 12 months).

Table 03: Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2021=100)

Year	Month	All Item			Food			Non Food		
		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %	Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %	Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %
				Y on Y			Y on Y			Y on Y
2022	April	151.7	10.5		176.1	12.2		136.0	9.1	
	May	166.3	9.6		195.3	10.9		147.6	8.5	
	June	183.5	10.3		222.8	14.1		158.2	7.2	
	July	193.1	5.2		233.4	4.8		167.1	5.6	
	August	197.7	2.4		237.5	1.8		171.9	2.9	
	September	201.9	2.1		239.1	1.7		178.0	3.5	
	October	201.6	-0.1		236.5	-1.1		179.1	0.6	
	November	200.3	-0.6		233.2	-1.4		179.1	0.0	
	December	200.4	0.0		232.4	-0.3		179.8	0.4	
	2023	January	201.8	0.7	53.2	232.8	0.2	53.6	181.8	1.1
February		204.1	1.1	53.6	228.1	-2.0	49.0	188.6	3.7	57.4
March		204.8	0.3	49.2	223.2	-2.1	42.3	193.0	2.3	54.9
April		202.7	-1.0	33.6	223.8	0.3	27.1	189.1	-2.0	39.0

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Note 6: Month on Month percentage change and Year on Year inflation percentage were calculated using rounding off index numbers.

2.1. Year-on-Year Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by the NCPI on a Year-over-Year basis was 33.6% in April 2023 and inflation calculated for the March 2023 was 49.2%. (Table 03). With respect to April 2022, the reported inflation for the month of April 2023 was mainly due to the higher price levels prevailed in both food and non-food groups. Anyway, on a monthly basis, the Year-on-Year inflation of the food group decreased to 27.1% in April 2023 from 42.3% in March 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 39.0% in April 2023 from 54.9% in March 2023.

Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 12.33 percent in April 2023 compared to the month of April 2022 (Table 04).

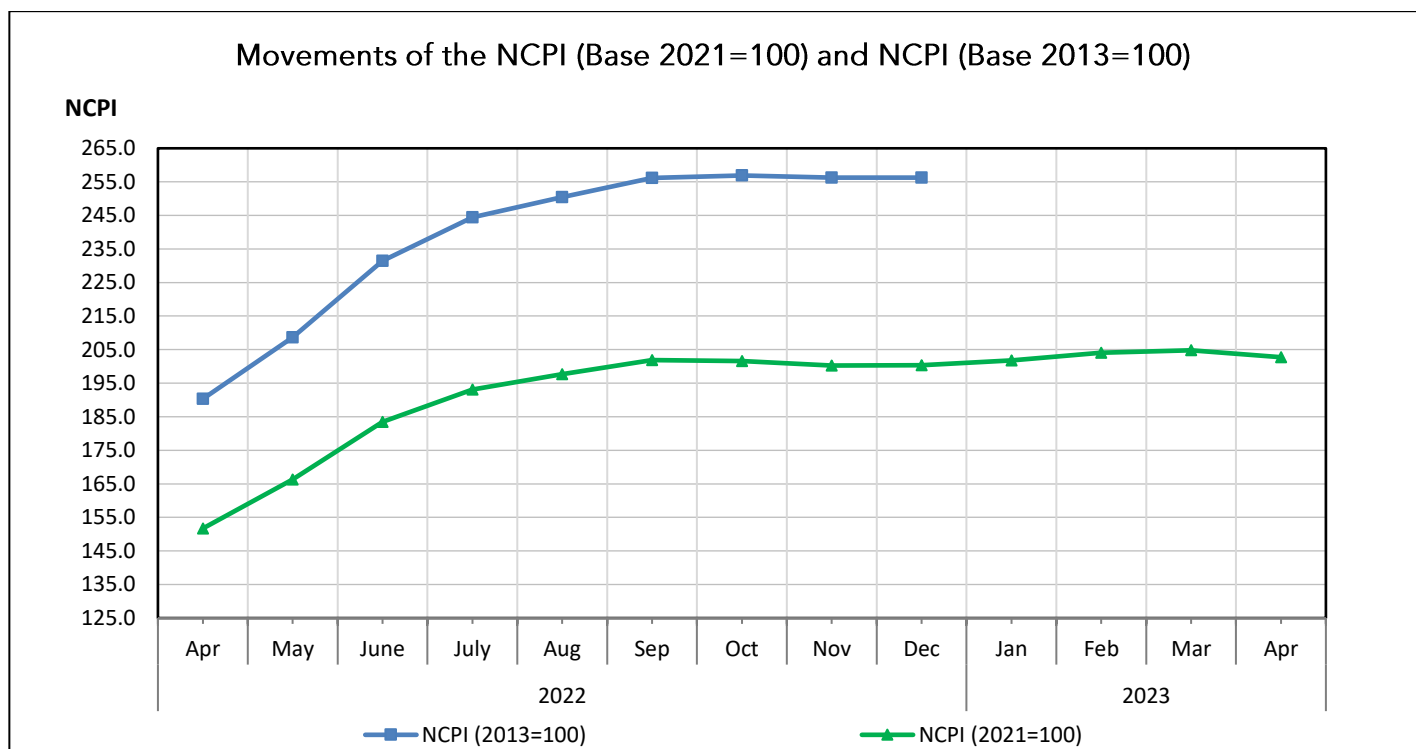
Contribution of non-food items was 21.29 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.67%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (1.65%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (6.98%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (1.76%), 'Health' (1.30%), 'Transport' (3.54%), 'Communication' (0.47%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.90%), 'Education' (0.76%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (1.66%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (1.61%) during the period.

Table 04: Contribution to the increase in NCPI (Base 2021=100) on year on year basis April 2023 as compared to April 2022)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			
	Rs. cts	Increase %	Decrease %	Net effect %
Food	9488.07	12.33		12.33
<i>Milk powder</i>	1580.65	2.05		
<i>Fresh fish</i>	975.24	1.27		
<i>Chicken</i>	755.74	0.98		
<i>Fresh fruits</i>	693.14	0.90		
<i>Biscuits</i>	494.54	0.64		
<i>Coconut</i>	477.00	0.62		
Non Food	16384.16	21.29		21.29
Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	511.90	0.67		
<i>Arrack</i>	267.76	0.35		
<i>Whiskey</i>	19.78	0.03		
<i>Beer</i>	42.92	0.06		
<i>Cigarettes</i>	96.19	0.13		
<i>Beedi</i>	17.23	0.02		
<i>Bulathwita</i>	49.67	0.06		
Clothing and Footwear	1272.99	1.65		
<i>Clothing</i>	1016.16	1.32		
<i>Footwear</i>	256.83	0.33		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels	5371.32	6.98		
<i>Materials for the maintenance</i>	607.51	0.79		
<i>Water bill</i>	228.04	0.30		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	4244.12	5.52		
<i>LP gas</i>	142.46	0.19		
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	92.30	0.12		
<i>Firewood purchasing</i>	56.89	0.07		
Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance	1350.55	1.76		
<i>Energy saving bulbs</i>	180.56	0.23		
<i>Washing soap</i>	322.78	0.42		
<i>Washing powder</i>	241.56	0.31		
Health	1000.67	1.30		
<i>Purchase of medical/pharmacy products</i>	552.10	0.72		
<i>Spectacles</i>	57.40	0.07		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	326.88	0.42		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	33.53	0.04		
<i>Payments to private hospitals/nursing homes</i>	22.09	0.03		
Transport	2726.23	3.54		
<i>Petrol</i>	419.45	0.55		
<i>Diesel</i>	167.92	0.22		
<i>Lubricating oil</i>	55.24	0.07		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	148.44	0.19		
<i>Vehicle maintenance expenses(Repair charges)</i>	144.82	0.19		
<i>Bus fare</i>	441.62	0.57		
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	174.68	0.23		
<i>Transport for schooling/preschooling</i>	282.34	0.37		
<i>Airline fare</i>	77.57	0.10		
Communication	360.42	0.47		
<i>Telephone charges - Home fixed phone</i>	72.00	0.09		
<i>Telephone charges - mobile</i>	252.96	0.33		
<i>Email/Internet charges</i>	29.70	0.04		
Recreation and Culture	691.39	0.90		
<i>Books</i>	105.47	0.14		
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	407.31	0.53		
Education	585.21	0.76		
<i>Tuition fees</i>	458.46	0.60		

Course fees (Higher education)	67.08	0.09
Restaurant and Hotels	1274.41	1.66
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	1239.09	1.61
Toilet soap	482.15	0.63
Beauty Products	195.92	0.25
Car Insurance	175.11	0.23
All Items	25872.24	33.62

Source: Department of Census and Statistics




Source: Department of Census and Statistics


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