



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

MAY, 2023

21 June 2023

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 May 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 May 2023 is 203.1 and it records an increase of 0.4 in index points compared to the April 2023.
- ❖ The overall rate of inflation as measured by NCPI (Base 2021=100) on Year-on-Year basis is 22.1% in May 2023.

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### Source Publication

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/InflationAndPrices/StaticallInformation/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 May 2023 is 203.1. An increase of 0.4 index points or 0.22 percentage compared to April 2023 for which the index was 202.7. This increase represents increase in expenditure value of Rs. 225.38 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 Changes of the Expenditure Value (Rs.)			Monthly change of the index (%) <sup>1</sup>		
	May 2022	Apr 2023	May 2023	May 2022	Apr 2023	May 2023	May 2022	Apr 2023	May 2023
<b>All Items</b>	166.3	202.7	203.1	7413.2	-1073.57	225.38	9.63	-1.03	0.22
<b>Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages</b>	195.3	223.8	226.1	3824.9	122.10	466.60	4.97	0.12	0.45
<b>Non Food</b>	147.6	189.1	188.3	3588.3	-1195.67	-241.22	4.66	-1.15	-0.23
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	145.1	190.9	189.7	71.2	-10.21	-11.94	0.09	-0.01	-0.01
Clothing and Footwear	140.0	215.2	217.2	127.6	50.66	30.28	0.17	0.05	0.03
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	128.6	166.7	165.8	935.8	-408.07	-104.44	1.22	-0.39	-0.10
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	148.1	218.9	218.1	259.3	-3.78	-12.31	0.34	0.00	-0.01
Transport	199.6	223.9	221.1	1370.8	-1031.52	-153.76	1.78	-0.99	-0.15
Recreation and Culture	127.7	203.5	205.6	46.0	120.14	18.53	0.06	0.12	0.02
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	139.9	197.6	196.9	274.7	-16.75	-11.80	0.36	-0.02	-0.01
Other groups	143.9	182.3	182.4	503.0	103.87	4.23	0.65	0.10	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 eight main groups in May 2023, details on which are given in Table 02.

Note 2: For the May 2023, insignificant group: ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ and unchanged groups: ‘Health’, ‘Education’ and ‘Communication’ are considered as the ‘Other Groups’.

Note 3: <sup>1</sup>Monthly 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 (May 2023 as compared to April 2023) are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by increases in food items of 0.45% and decreases in non-food items of 0.23% respectively.

### 1.1.1. Contribution of Food items: 0.45%

As shown in Table 02, the increases in index values were reported for Fresh fish (0.40%), Vegetables (0.40%), Sugar (0.09%), Chicken (0.06%), Mysore dhal (0.03%), Potatoes (0.03%), Ginger (0.02%), Garlic (0.02%), Big onions (0.01%), Limes (0.01%), Dried fish (0.01%) and Canned fish (0.01%). However, decreases in index values were reported for Fresh fruits (0.22%), Milk powder (0.14%), Rice (0.07%), Coconuts (0.04%), Chili powder (0.04%), Coconut oil 0.03%, Bread (normal) (0.02%), Eggs (0.02%), Green chilies (0.02%), Dried chilies (0.01%), Turmeric powder (0.01%), Cowpea (0.01%) and Red onions (0.01%).

### 1.1.2. Contribution of Non-food items: -0.23%

The decreases in index values of non-food groups in May 2023 compared to the previous month was mainly due to the price decreases in groups of items 'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (*Bulathwita*) (0.01%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (*Materials for the Maintenance and LP Gas*) (0.10%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (0.01%), 'Transport' (*Petrol and Diesel*) (0.15%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (*Toilet soap*) (0.01%). However, price increases in groups of items were reported for 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.03%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.03%). Further, very slight price increase was reported in the group of 'Restaurants and Hotels'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health', 'Education' and 'Communication' groups remained unchanged during the month.

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

Sub Group/Commodity	Rs. cts	Value change		
		Increase	Decrease	Net effect
<b>Food</b>	<b>466.60</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>0.45</b>
Fresh fish	412.13	0.40		
Vegetables	407.39	0.40		
Sugar	91.31	0.09		
Chicken	64.33	0.06		
Mysore dhal	29.46	0.03		
Potatoes	27.24	0.03		
Ginger	22.03	0.02		
Garlic	21.55	0.02		
Big onions	14.53	0.01		
Limes	12.52	0.01		
Dried fish	11.17	0.01		
Canned fish	10.13	0.01		
Fresh fruits	-223.13		0.22	
<i>Banana</i>	-81.43		0.08	
<i>Papaw</i>	-72.95		0.07	
<i>Mangoes</i>	-39.43		0.04	
Milk powder	-146.58		0.14	
Rice	-67.58		0.07	
Coconuts	-38.32		0.04	
Chili powder	-36.44		0.04	
Coconut oil	-35.13		0.03	

Bread (normal)	-24.23		0.02	
Eggs	-17.94		0.02	
Green chilies	-17.09		0.02	
Dried chilies	-12.97		0.01	
Turmeric powder	-12.82		0.01	
Cowpea	-12.36		0.01	
Red onions	-10.41		0.01	
Other food items	-2.18		0.00	
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>-241.22</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>-0.23</b>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>-11.94</b>		<b>0.01</b>	
<i>Bulathwita</i>	-9.24		0.01	
<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>30.28</b>	<b>0.03</b>		
<i>Clothing</i>	30.28	0.03		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	<b>-104.44</b>		<b>0.10</b>	
<i>Materials for the Maintenance</i>	-31.19		0.03	
<i>LP Gas</i>	-69.42		0.07	
<b>Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance</b>	<b>-12.31</b>		<b>0.01</b>	
<b>Transport</b>	<b>-153.76</b>		<b>0.15</b>	
<i>Petrol</i>	-77.62		0.08	
<i>Diesel</i>	-27.41		0.03	
<i>Taxi fare</i>	-6.29		0.01	
<i>Transport for schooling/ pre-schooling</i>	-41.60		0.04	
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	<b>18.53</b>	<b>0.02</b>		
<b>Miscellaneous Goods &amp; Services</b>	<b>-11.80</b>		<b>0.01</b>	
<i>Toilet soap</i>	-19.53		0.02	
<b>other Groups</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>All Items</b>	<b>225.38</b>			<b>0.22</b>

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	Inflation %		Index Number	Inflation %		Index Number	Inflation %	
			% Change Month on Month	Y on Y		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y		% Change Month on Month	Y on Y
2022	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	52.9
	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
	May	203.1	0.2	22.1	226.1	1.0	15.8	188.3	-0.4	27.6

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 22.1% in May 2023 and inflation calculated for the April 2023 was 33.6%. (Table 03). With respect to May 2022, the reported inflation for the month of May 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 15.8% in May 2023 from 27.1% in April 2023 and the Year-on-Year inflation of the non-food group decreased to 27.6% in May 2023 from 39.0% in April 2023.

### Contribution to Year-on-Year inflation:

On Year-on-Year basis, contribution of food commodities to inflation was 7.27 percent in May 2023 compared to the month of May 2022 (Table 04).

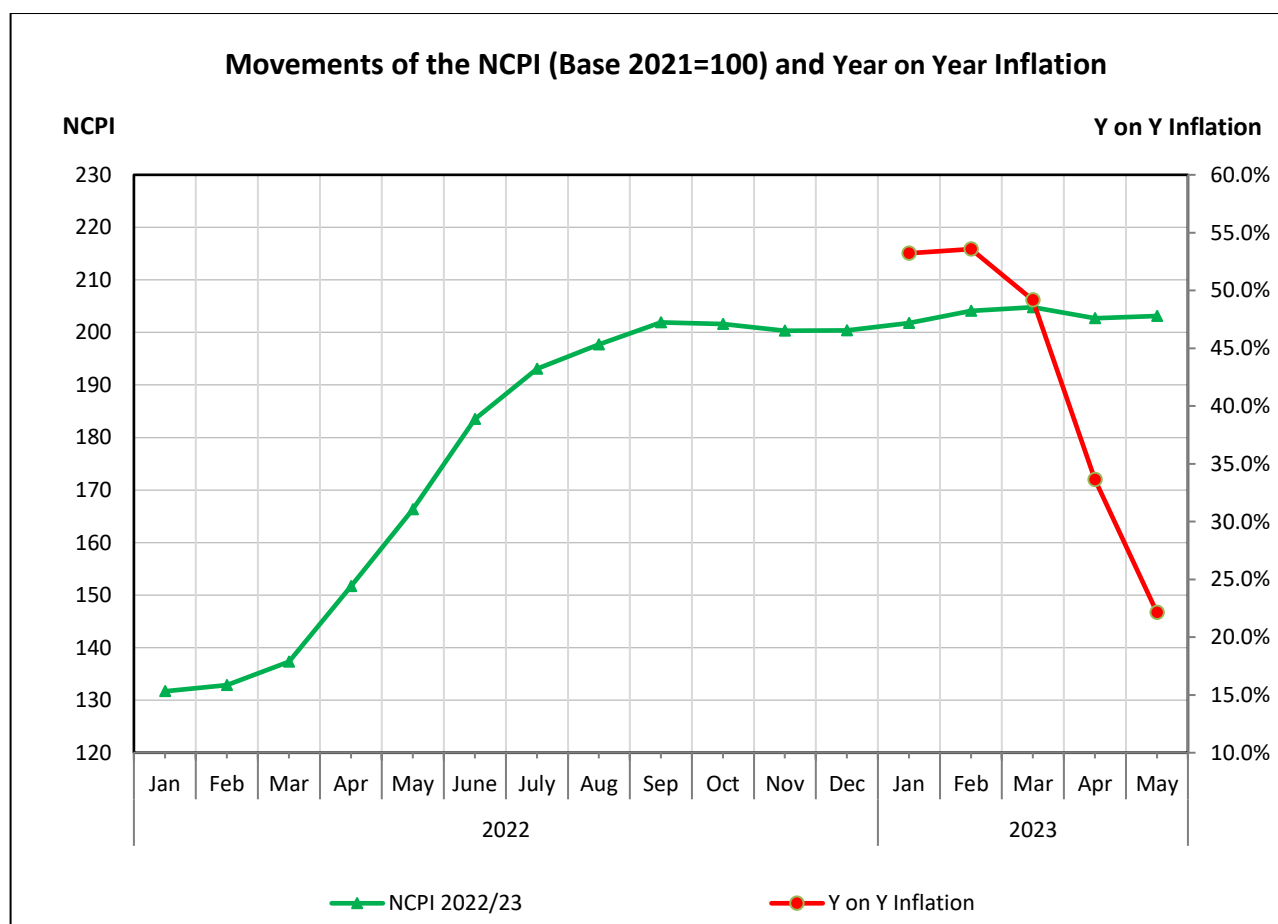
Contribution of non-food items was 14.88 percent. This was mainly due to price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.51%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (1.39%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (5.13%), 'Furnishing, Household equipment and Routine household maintenance' (1.28%), 'Health' (0.95%), 'Transport' (1.42%), 'Communication' (0.41%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.79%), 'Education' (0.69%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (1.17%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (1.13%) during the period.

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

Sub Group/Commodity	Value change			Net effect %
	Rs. cts	Increase %	Decrease %	
<b>Food</b>	<b>6129.77</b>	<b>7.27</b>		<b>7.27</b>
<i>Fresh fish</i>	1067.36	1.27		
<i>Milk powder</i>	890.57	1.06		
<i>Chicken</i>	667.23	0.79		
<i>Fresh fruits</i>	457.78	0.54		
<i>Biscuits</i>	426.50	0.51		
<i>Coconut</i>	420.54	0.50		
<b>Non Food</b>	<b>12554.61</b>	<b>14.88</b>		<b>14.88</b>
<b>Alcoholic beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	428.77	0.51		
<i>Arrack</i>	229.57	0.27		
<i>Beer</i>	30.53	0.04		
<i>Cigarettes</i>	96.19	0.11		
<i>Bulathwita</i>	33.05	0.04		
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>	1175.65	1.39		
<i>Clothing</i>	975.11	1.16		
<i>Footwear</i>	200.54	0.24		
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels</b>	4331.11	5.13		
<i>Materials for the maintenance</i>	117.87	0.14		
<i>Water bill</i>	228.04	0.27		
<i>Electricity bill</i>	4244.12	5.03		
<i>LP gas</i>	-390.91		0.46	
<i>Kerosene oil</i>	92.30	0.11		
<i>Firewood purchasing</i>	39.69	0.05		
<b>Furnishings, Household equipment and Routing household maintenance</b>	1078.89	1.28		
<i>Energy saving bulbs</i>	164.51	0.19		
<i>Washing soap</i>	210.36	0.25		
<i>Washing powder</i>	190.20	0.23		
<b>Health</b>	800.64	0.95		
<i>Purchase of medical/pharmacy products</i>	359.01	0.43		
<i>Spectacles</i>	51.84	0.06		
<i>Fees to private medical practices</i>	326.88	0.39		
<i>Consultation fees to specialists</i>	33.53	0.04		
<b>Transport</b>	1201.63	1.42		
<i>Petrol</i>	-290.07		0.34	
<i>Diesel</i>	-13.96		0.02	
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	102.27	0.12		
<i>Vehicle maintenance expenses (Repair charges)</i>	144.82	0.17		
<i>Bus fare</i>	145.61	0.17		
<i>Three wheelers fare</i>	142.47	0.17		
<i>Transport for schooling/pre-schooling</i>	207.42	0.25		
<i>Airline fare</i>	78.78	0.09		
<b>Communication</b>	349.24	0.41		
<i>Telephone charges - Home fixed phone</i>	63.38	0.08		
<i>Telephone charges - mobile</i>	252.96	0.30		
<i>Email/Internet charges</i>	27.15	0.03		
<b>Recreation and Culture</b>	663.96	0.79		

<i>Books</i>	105.47	0.13
<i>Exercise books and stationeries</i>	407.31	0.48
<b>Education</b>	585.21	0.69
<i>Tuition fees</i>	458.46	0.54
<i>Course fees (Higher education)</i>	67.08	0.08
<b>Restaurant and Hotels</b>	986.89	1.17
<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	952.62	1.13
<i>Toilet soap</i>	370.18	0.44
<i>Beauty Products</i>	190.07	0.23
<b>All Items</b>	<b>18684.38</b>	<b>22.15</b>

Source: Department of Census and Statistics




Source: Department of Census and Statistics





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