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CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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# Press Release

Issued By Statistics Department

Date 2019-11-21

## Inflation increased in October 2019

### Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.6%  
Annual Average inflation : 2.8%  
Monthly Change : 1.0%

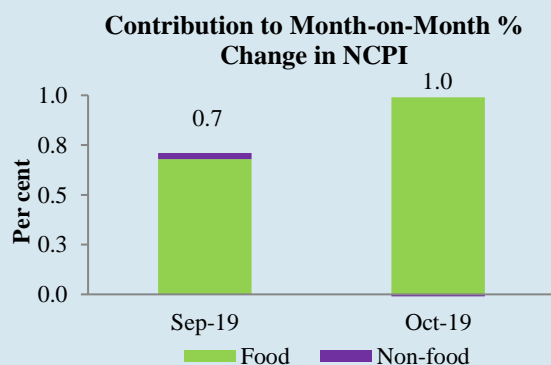
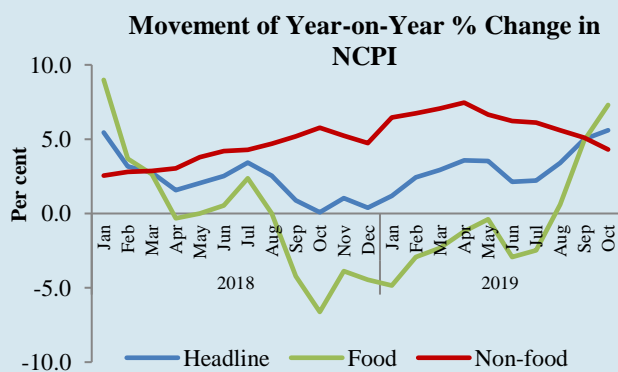
### Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.6%  
Annual Average inflation : 5.4%  
Monthly Change : 0.3%

Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100)<sup>1</sup> increased to 5.6 per cent in October 2019 from 5.0 per cent in September 2019. The monthly increases of prices of items in the Food category contributed to this increase. Accordingly, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 7.3 per cent in October 2019 from 4.9 per cent in September 2019. However, Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) recorded 4.3 per cent, continuing its decreasing trend observed since May 2019.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis increased to 2.8 per cent in October 2019 from 2.3 per cent in September 2019.

Monthly change of NCPI recorded 1.0 per cent in October 2019 and it was solely due to the price increases observed in the



<sup>1</sup>The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100) is compiled by the Department of Census and Statistics.

items of Food category. Within the Food category, prices of big onions, rice and vegetables recorded increases. Meanwhile, prices of items in the Non-Food category declined during the month owing to price decreases of the items in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels; Transport; and Health sub-categories.

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, remained unchanged at 5.6 per cent in October 2019 on year-on-year basis. However, annual average core inflation increased to 5.4 per cent in October 2019 from 5.2 per cent in September 2019.

**Movements of the NCPI**  
**Base: 2013 = 100**

Year	Month	Index Number		Monthly Percentage Change		Year-on-Year Percentage Change		Annual Average Percentage Change	
		NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)
2017	September	123.3	123.1	0.8	0.1	8.6	4.6	6.8	5.7
	October	124.8	123.1	1.2	0.0	8.8	4.1	7.1	5.6
	November	126.4	123.8	1.3	0.6	8.4	2.8	7.5	5.2
	December	126.6	123.8	0.2	0.0	7.3	2.7	7.7	4.9
2018	January	125.8	123.9	-0.6	0.1	5.4	2.1	7.6	4.5
	February	123.7	124.4	-1.7	0.4	3.2	2.0	7.2	4.1
	March	122.8	124.6	-0.7	0.2	2.8	1.9	6.7	3.6
	April	122.9	124.8	0.1	0.2	1.6	1.9	6.1	3.3
	May	124.3	125.1	1.1	0.2	2.1	1.7	5.7	3.1
	June	126.5	125.3	1.8	0.2	2.5	1.8	5.3	2.9
	July	126.6	125.7	0.1	0.3	3.4	2.3	5.1	2.7
	August	125.4	126.3	-0.9	0.5	2.5	2.7	4.7	2.5
	September	124.4	126.9	-0.8	0.5	0.9	3.1	4.0	2.4
	October	124.9	127.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	3.4	3.3	2.4
	November	127.7	127.6	2.2	0.2	1.0	3.1	2.7	2.4
	December	127.1	127.6	-0.5	0.0	0.4	3.1	2.1	2.4
2019	January	127.3	130.2	0.2	2.0	1.2	5.1	1.8	2.7
	February	126.7	131.3	-0.5	0.8	2.4	5.5	1.7	3.0
	March	126.4	131.8	-0.2	0.4	2.9	5.8	1.7	3.3
	April	127.3	132.6	0.7	0.6	3.6	6.3	1.9	3.7
	May	128.7	133.0	1.1	0.3	3.5	6.3	2.0	4.0
	June	129.2	133.0	0.4	0.0	2.1	6.1	2.0	4.4
	July	129.4	133.4	0.2	0.3	2.2	6.1	1.9	4.7
	August	129.7	133.7	0.2	0.2	3.4	5.9	2.0	5.0
	September	130.6	134.0	0.7	0.2	5.0	5.6	2.3	5.2
	October	131.9	134.4	1.0	0.3	5.6	5.6	2.8	5.4

Source: Department of Census and Statistics