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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
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Press Release

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Inflation increased in August 2019

Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 3.4%

Annual Average inflation : 2.0%

Monthly Change : 0.2%

Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.9%

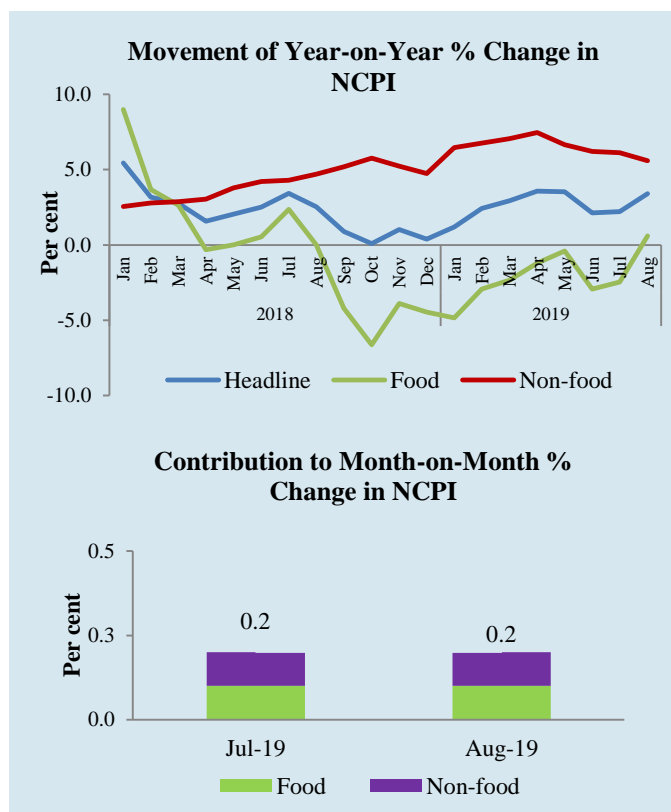
Annual Average inflation : 5.0%

Monthly Change : 0.2%

Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100)¹ increased to 3.4 per cent in August 2019 from 2.2 per cent in July 2019. The low base that prevailed in the corresponding month of the previous year and the monthly increases of prices of items in both Food and Non-food categories contributed to this increase. Meanwhile, in August 2019, year-on-year Food and Non-food inflation recorded 0.6 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis increased marginally to 2.0 per cent in August 2019 from 1.9 per cent in July 2019.

Monthly change of NCPI recorded 0.2 per cent in August 2019 and it was due to the price increases observed in the items of both Food and Non-food categories.



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

Within the Food category, prices of banana, rice and fresh fish recorded increases. Moreover, within the Non-Food category, prices of the items in Transport; Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics; and Clothing and Footwear sub-categories increased during the month.

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, declined to 5.9 per cent in August 2019 from 6.1 per cent in July 2019 on year-on-year basis. However, annual average core inflation increased to 5.0 per cent in August 2019 from 4.7 per cent in July 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

Source: Department of Census and Statistics