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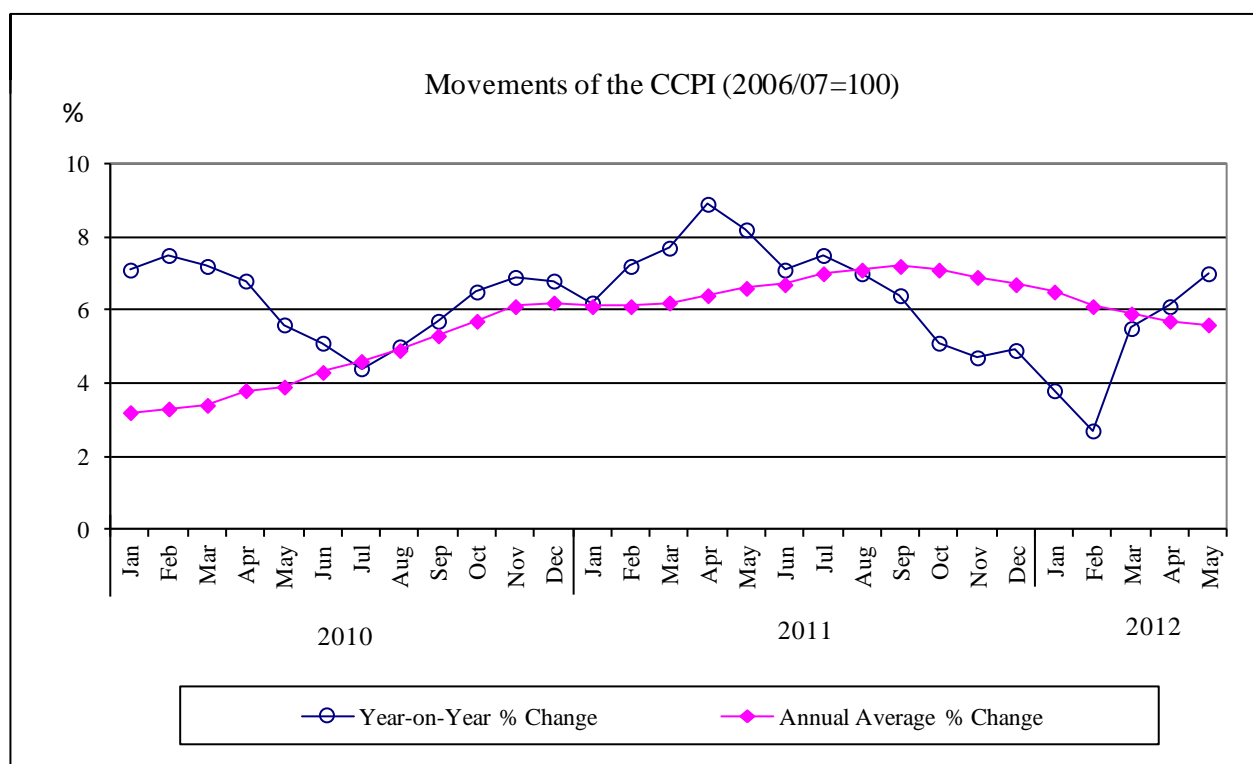
Press Release

Issued By Statistics Department

Date 2012 -05 - 31

Inflation in May 2012

Inflation, as measured by the Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI) (2006/07=100) computed by the Department of Census and Statistics, decreased to 5.6 per cent in May 2012 from 5.7 per cent in April 2012 on an annual average basis, while it increased to 7.0 per cent in May 2012 from 6.1 per cent in the previous month on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. In addition, core inflation, in terms of both annual average and YoY, decreased to 6.0 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively, in May 2012 compared to April 2012.



The general price level as indicated by the Index recorded an increase of 1.4 per cent in May 2012 over that of the previous month, with the CCPI increasing in absolute terms to 162.1 from 159.8. The contribution to the monthly increase in the Index came mainly from price increases in the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages category (by 2.5 per cent) followed by the Non-Food category (by 0.6 per cent). The upward revision of the prices of wheat flour, bread and milk powder and the rise in the prices of vegetables, lime, green chilli, red onion, potato and fresh fish and sea food owing to seasonal factors, contributed to the increase in the CCPI. However, a decline in the prices of fruits, leafy vegetables, big onion, eggs and sugar was also reported during the month. Within the Non-Food category, prices increased in the sub-categories of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (by 1.2 per cent); Clothing and Footwear (by 0.8 per cent); Miscellaneous Goods and Services (by 0.5 per cent); Education (by 0.3 per cent); Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (by 0.3 per cent) and Transport (by 0.1 per cent). Meanwhile, the prices in the sub-categories of Health; Communication; and Recreation and Culture remained unchanged during the month.