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Press Release

Issued By Statistics Department

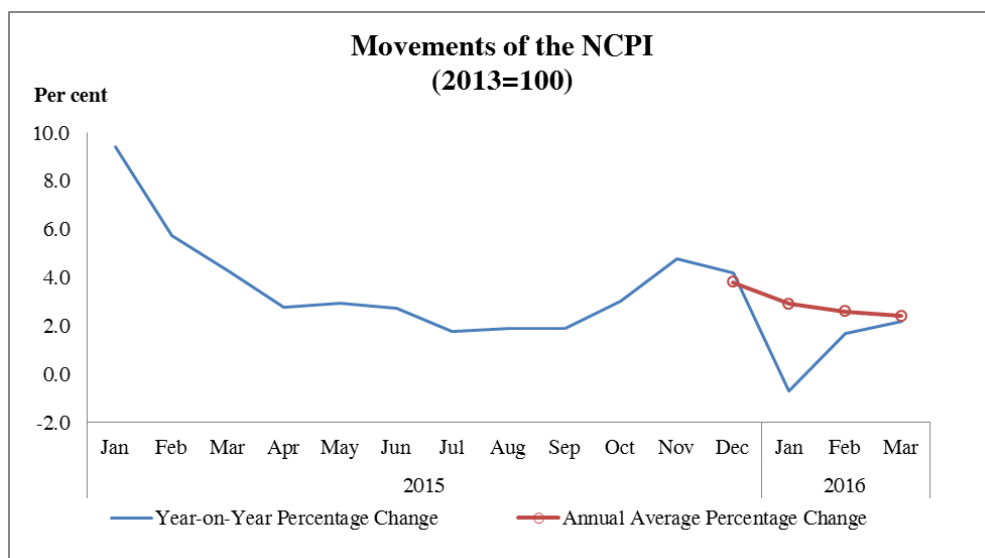
Date 2016 -04-22

Inflation in March 2016

Inflation, as measured by the change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) (2013=100), compiled by the Department of Census and Statistics, increased to 2.2 per cent in March 2016 from 1.7 per cent in February 2016, on year-on-year basis. The main contributor towards the increase in year-on-year inflation was the Non-food category. Prices in Miscellaneous Goods and Services (Car insurance); Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; Transport; and Clothing and Footwear sub categories were the main contributors towards the year-on-year increase.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased to 2.4 per cent in March 2016 from 2.6 per cent recorded in February 2016.

When the monthly change in the NCPI is considered, the NCPI decreased by 0.7 per cent from February 2016 to March 2016. This monthly decline was mainly due to the decrease in prices of the items in the Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages category. Prices of vegetables, rice, green chilies, coconuts and red onions decreased during the month. Prices in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco sub group increased during the month. All the sub groups in the Non-Food Category remained almost unchanged during the month.



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

Year	Month	Index Number	Monthly Percentage Change	Year-on-Year Percentage Change	Annual Average Percentage Change
2014	January	103.1			
	February	103.0	-0.1		
	March	103.2	0.2		
	April	104.1	0.9		
	May	104.9	0.8		
	June	106.2	1.2		
	July	107.0	0.8		
	August	106.4	-0.6		
	September	106.4	0.0		
	October	106.0	-0.4		
	November	106.9	0.8		
	December	108.6	1.6		
2015	January	112.8	3.9	9.4	
	February	108.9	-3.5	5.7	
	March	107.6	-1.2	4.3	
	April	107.0	-0.6	2.8	
	May	108.0	0.9	3.0	
	June	109.1	1.0	2.7	
	July	108.9	-0.2	1.8	
	August	108.4	-0.5	1.9	
	September	108.4	0.0	1.9	
	October	109.2	0.7	3.0	
	November	112.0	2.6	4.8	
	December	113.2	1.1	4.2	3.8
2016	January	112.0	-1.1	-0.7	2.9
	February	110.8	-1.1	1.7	2.6
	March	110.0	-0.7	2.2	2.4

Source: Department of Census and Statistics