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Press Release

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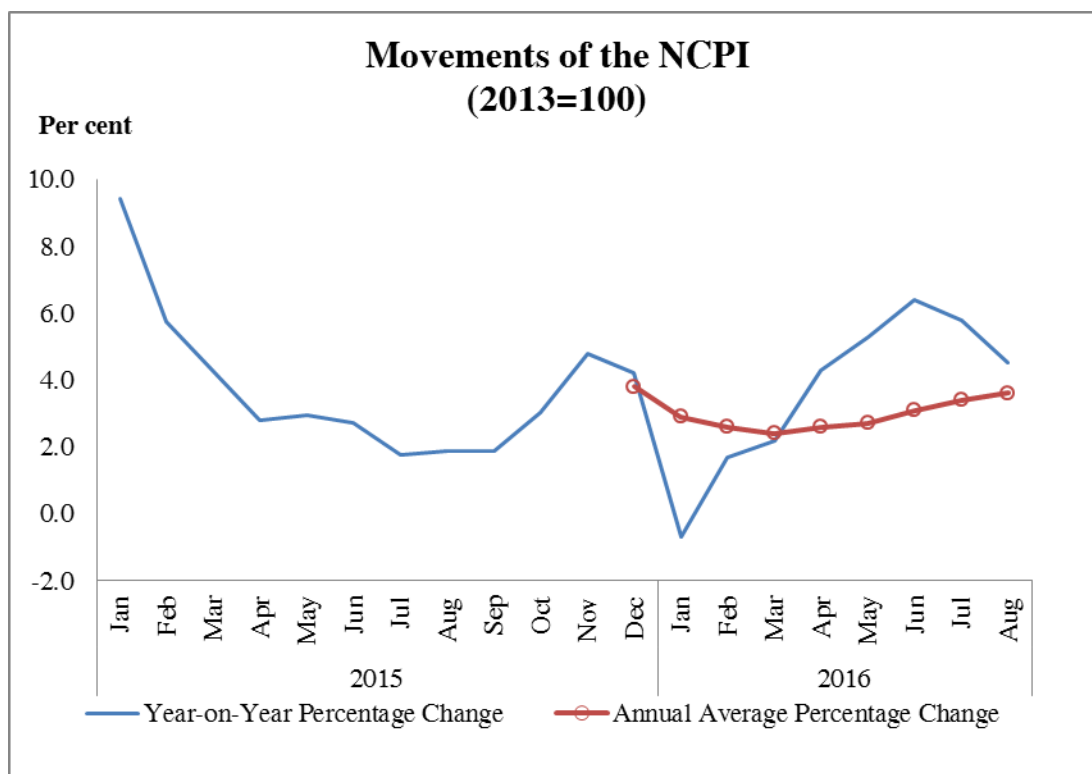
Inflation in August 2016

Inflation, as measured by the change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) (2013=100), which is compiled by the Department of Census and Statistics, decreased to 4.5 per cent in August 2016 from 5.8 per cent in July 2016, on year-on-year basis. Both Food and Non-food categories contributed towards the year-on-year inflation in August 2016.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis increased to 3.6 per cent in August 2016 from 3.4 per cent in July 2016.

When the monthly change in the NCPI is considered, the NCPI decreased by 1.6 per cent to 113.3 index points in August 2016 from 115.2 index points in July 2016. This monthly decrease was mainly due to the decrease in prices of the items in the Food category. Prices of vegetables, green chillies, sugar, coconut, sprats, rice, dhal and red onions decreased during the month. Within the Non-food category prices in Health; Communication; and Recreation and Culture sub-categories decreased during August 2016. Clothing and Footwear; Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance; Transport; Restaurants and Hotels and Miscellaneous Goods and Services sub-categories increased during August 2016. Meanwhile, prices in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco increased in August 2016. Nevertheless, prices in Education sub-category remained unchanged during the month.

The NCPI Core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy decreased to 6.0 per cent in August 2016 from 6.8 per cent in July 2016, on year-on-year basis. Annual average NCPI Core inflation increased marginally to 5.6 per cent in August 2016 from 5.5 per cent in July 2016.



Movements of the NCPI
Base: 2013 = 100

Year	Month	Index Number	Monthly Percentage Change	Year-on-Year Percentage Change	Annual Average Percentage Change
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
	April	111.6	1.5	4.3	2.6
	May	113.7	1.9	5.3	2.7
	June	116.1	2.1	6.4	3.1
	July	115.2	-0.8	5.8	3.4
	August	113.3	-1.6	4.5	3.6

Source: Department of Census and Statistics