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Press Release

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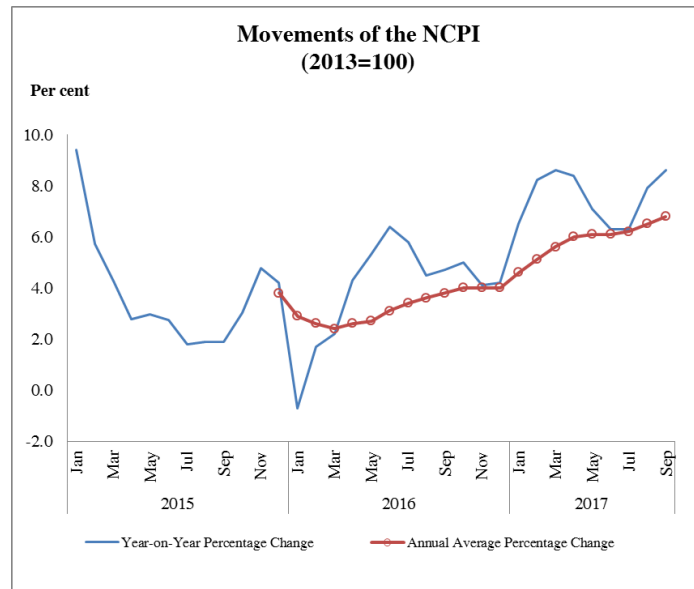
Inflation in September 2017

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 (DCS), increased to 8.6 per cent in September 2017 from 7.9 per cent in August 2017, on year-on-year basis. Both Food and Non-food categories contributed towards the year-on-year inflation in September 2017.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis increased from 6.5 per cent in August 2017 to 6.8 per cent in September 2017.

When the monthly change is considered, the NCPI increased from 122.3 index points in August 2017 to 123.3 index points in September 2017. This monthly increase was mainly due to the increase in prices of the items in the Food category. Within the Food category, prices of coconuts, red onions, rice, limes, some fruits, big onions and sugar increased during the month. Meanwhile prices of vegetables, fresh fish, garlic and Mysore dhal reported marginal decrease during the month. Prices in Clothing and Footwear; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (LP Gas); Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance; Education (School fees (International)); and Miscellaneous Goods and Services sub-categories increased. Prices in Communication (Internet charges) sub-category decreased marginally during September 2017. Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (Beetle leaves) sub-category also increased during September 2017. Meanwhile, prices in Health; Transport; Recreation and Culture; and Restaurants and Hotels sub-categories remained unchanged during the month.

The NCPI Core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy decreased to 4.6 per cent in September 2017 from 4.8 per cent in August 2017 on year-on-year basis. Annual average NCPI Core inflation declined from 5.8 per cent in August 2017 to 5.7 per cent in September 2017.



**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
	September	113.5	0.2	4.7	3.8
	October	114.7	1.1	5.0	4.0
	November	116.6	1.7	4.1	4.0
	December	118.0	1.2	4.2	4.0
2017	January	119.3	1.1	6.5	4.6
	February	119.9	0.5	8.2	5.1
	March	119.5	-0.3	8.6	5.6
	April	121.0	1.3	8.4	6.0
	May	121.8	0.7	7.1	6.1
	June	123.4	1.3	6.3	6.1
	July	122.4	-0.8	6.3	6.2
	August	122.3	-0.1	7.9	6.5
	September	123.3	0.8	8.6	6.8

Source: Department of Census and Statistics