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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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# Press Release

Issued By Statistics Department

Date 2019-01-21

## Inflation decreased in December 2018

Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100)<sup>1</sup> decreased to 0.4 per cent in December 2018 from 1.0 per cent in November 2018. The decrease observed in year-on-year inflation in December 2018 is driven by the decrease of prices of items in both Food and Non-food categories. Year-on-year Food inflation decreased to -4.5 per cent in December 2018 from -3.9 per cent in November 2018 while year-on-year Non-food inflation also decreased from 5.2 per cent in November 2018 to 4.7 per cent in December 2018.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased to 2.1 per cent in December 2018 from 2.7 per cent in November 2018.

The month on month change of the NCPI was

-0.5 per cent in December 2018. This was mainly due to decrease in the prices of the items in the Non-Food category where Transport sub-category (Petrol, Diesel and Bus fare) recorded the

### Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 0.4%

Annual Average inflation : 2.1%

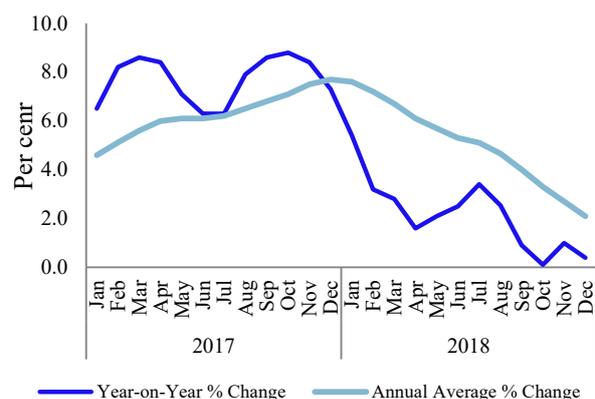
Monthly % Change : -0.5%

### Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 3.1%

Annual Average inflation : 2.4%

Monthly % Change : 0.0%



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

highest decrease. Moreover, prices of items in the Communication; and Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco sub-categories also reported decreases during the month. At the same time, prices of the items in the Food category decreased where vegetables, limes, big onions, banana and coconuts recorded prominent decreases.

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, remained at 3.1 per cent in December 2018 on year-on-year basis. Meanwhile, annual average core inflation also remained unchanged at 2.4 per cent in December 2018.

**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	January	119.3	121.4	1.1	0.7	6.5	7.1	4.6	6.2
	February	119.9	122.0	0.5	0.5	8.2	7.1	5.1	6.4
	March	119.5	122.3	-0.3	0.2	8.6	7.0	5.6	6.6
	April	121.0	122.5	1.3	0.2	8.4	5.9	6.0	6.6
	May	121.8	123.0	0.7	0.4	7.1	4.7	6.1	6.4
	June	123.4	123.1	1.3	0.1	6.3	4.1	6.1	6.1
	July	122.4	122.9	-0.8	-0.2	6.3	4.2	6.2	5.9
	August	122.3	123.0	-0.1	0.1	7.9	4.8	6.5	5.8
	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

Source: Department of Census and Statistics