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Press Release

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Inflation increased in February 2019

Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100)¹ increased to 2.4 per cent in February 2019 from 1.2 per cent in January 2019 mainly due to the base effect. Meanwhile, year-on-year Non-food inflation increased to 6.7 per cent in February 2019 from 6.5 per cent in January 2019 while Food inflation also increased to -2.9 per cent in February 2019 from -4.8 per cent in January 2019.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis marginally decreased to 1.7 per cent in February 2019 from 1.8 per cent in January 2019.

The month on month change of the NCPI was -0.5 per cent in February 2019. This was mainly due to decrease in the prices of the items in the Food category where vegetables,

green chillies, rice, coconuts, limes, big onion and banana recorded significant decreases. However, on month on month basis, the prices of the items in the Non-food category increased

Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 2.4%

Annual Average inflation : 1.7%

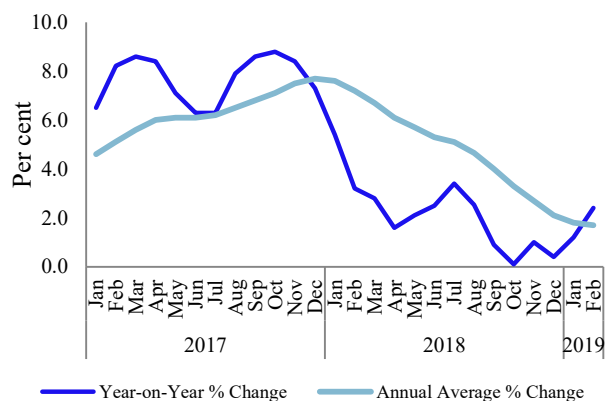
Monthly % Change : -0.5%

Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.5%

Annual Average inflation : 3.0%

Monthly % Change : 0.8%



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

among which the Education sub-category recorded the highest increase. Further, Health; Transport; Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels sub-categories also reported increases during the month.

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, increased from 5.1 per cent in January 2019 to 5.5 per cent in February 2019 on year-on-year basis. Meanwhile, annual average core inflation also increased from 2.7 per cent in January 2019 to 3.0 per cent in February 2019.

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
2019	January	127.3	130.2	0.2	2.0	1.2	5.1	1.8	2.7
	February	126.7	131.3	-0.5	0.8	2.4	5.5	1.7	3.0

Source: Department of Census and Statistics