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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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# Press Release

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## Inflation increased in March 2019

Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100)<sup>1</sup> increased to 2.9 per cent in March 2019 from 2.4 per cent in February 2019 mainly due to the low base prevailed in the corresponding month of the previous year. Meanwhile, in March 2019, year-on-year Food and Non-food inflation recorded -2.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis remained unchanged at 1.7 per cent in March 2019.

When monthly change is considered, the NCPI declined by 0.2 per cent in March 2019 with the decrease observed in the prices of the items in the Food category, particularly that of rice, coconut and vegetables. However, within the Non-Food category prices of the items in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; Transport (petrol and diesel); Clothing and Footwear; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services sub-categories increased during the month.

### Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 2.9%

Annual Average inflation : 1.7%

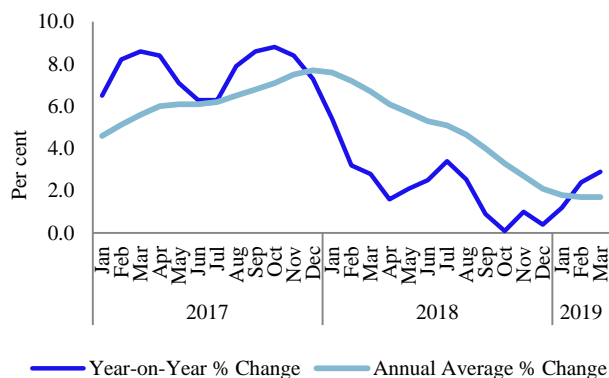
Monthly Change : -0.2%

### Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.8%

Annual Average inflation : 3.3%

Monthly Change : 0.4%



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

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, increased to 5.8 per cent in March 2019 compared to 5.5 per cent in February 2019 on year-on-year basis, mainly due to increase in prices of items in the Non-food category, particularly in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco sub-category. Annual average NCPI Core inflation also increased to 3.3 per cent in March 2019 from 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	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	
	March	126.4	131.8	-0.2	0.4	2.9	5.8	1.7	3.3	

Source: Department of Census and Statistics