

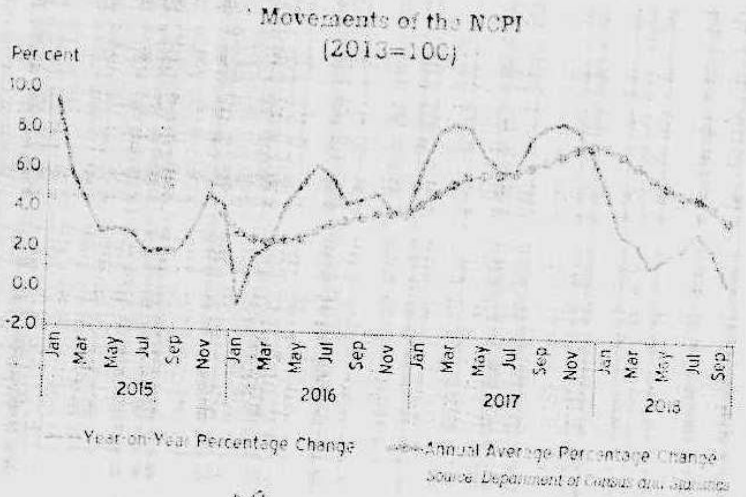
Sept. headline inflation eases to 0.9%; core inflation up to 3.1%

Sri Lanka's countrywide headline inflation measured by the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) eased to 0.9 percent in September, the lowest since January 2016, from 2.5 percent in August 2018 on a year-on-year (YoY) basis.

The deceleration in YoY inflation in September was driven by both the base effect and the monthly decline in food prices.

The change in the NCPI, measured on an annual average basis, decreased from 4.7 percent in August to 4.0 percent in September.

NCPI ON PG



Sept. headline ...

When the monthly change is considered, the NCPI decreased from 125.4 index points in August to 124.4 index points in September, due to the decline in the prices of the items in the food category, particularly that of vegetables, coconuts, green chillies and fresh fish.

Meanwhile, the price increases were observed in the non-food category, particularly that of alcoholic beverages and tobacco; transport and restaurants and hotels sub-categories.

However, the NCPI core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, increased to 3.1 percent in September, from 2.7 percent in August, on a YoY basis.

Meanwhile, the annual average NCPI core inflation declined to 2.4 percent in September, from 2.5 percent in August 2018.

