



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – DECEMBER 2019 DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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1. Introduction

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the authorized agency to compile Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI). The base year used for compilation of CCPI from June 2011 to December 2016 was the year 2006/07. Following internationally accepted guidelines, it has been arranged to revise the base year from 2006/07=100 to 2013=100 in order to accommodate the changing expenditure patterns and in cooperate changes of goods & services available in the market. Accordingly, with respect to the new base, CCPI (Base 2013=100) will be released monthly commencing from January 2017 on the last working day of each month. It is emphasized that index numbers or inflation figures compiled under different base years cannot be compared.

The CCPI is compiled to indicate average changes in the prices of goods and services purchased by households in urban areas of Colombo district. Prices for items in the Colombo Consumer Price Index are collected from 14 selected centers located in Colombo namely Pettah, Maradana, Wellawatta, Dematagoda, Grandpass, Borella, Kirulapone, Dehiwala, Mt.Lavinia, Kotte, Nugegoda, Kolonnawa, Rathmalana, and Narahenpita and Rathmalana dedicated economic centers. Prices are collected weekly from the outlets located within each of the above market areas including Lak Sathosa and a supermarket. The consumer basket includes 392 items, which represent the typical urban household consumption expenditure. The CPI weights are derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2012/13.

For more details on the revision of base year, please click here: [Technical Note on Base Year Revision](#)

Table 1- Monthly Changes by main Groups of Market Basket

Major Group*	Index Number			Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Values(Rs.)			Monthly Changes of the Index (%)		
	Dec 2018	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Dec 2018	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Dec 2018	Nov 2019	Dec 2019
All Items	126.3	131.7	132.4	15.72	233.00	441.32	0.02	0.29	0.56
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	133.6	138.7	142.0	181.59	218.50	558.75	0.24	0.28	0.70
Non Food	123.4	128.9	128.7	-165.88	14.51	-117.43	-0.22	0.02	-0.15
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	112.1	115.0	114.9	0.00	-61.50	-17.76	0.00	-0.08	-0.02
Health	171.7	175.5	178.1	0.00	0.00	68.25	0.00	0.00	0.09
Transport	110.6	114.8	115.5	-82.47	54.35	48.55	-0.11	0.07	0.06
Communication	109.7	109.7	100.4	-77.83	0.00	-186.10	-0.10	0.00	-0.23
Recreation and Culture	113.8	118.7	117.5	0.00	0.00	-9.73	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	140.1	147.3	146.0	0.00	9.35	-25.44	0.00	0.01	-0.03
Other	140.3	153.1	153.2	-5.57	12.31	4.79	-0.01	0.02	0.01

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in December 2019 were noted in seven main groups, details on which given in Table2.

*Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

2. Variations in Colombo Consumer Price Index

Month on month changes in the Colombo Consumer Price Index was briefly describe below.

2.1 Month on Month (M on M) Change of CCPI:

The CCPI for all items for the month of December 2019 was 132.4 and it records an increase of 0.7 index points that is 0.56 percentage points compared to the month of November 2019 for which the index was 131.7. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs.441.32 in the "Market Basket".

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from November 2019 to December 2019 were given in Table 2. Increase in the index point by 0.56% was due to the expenditure value increases of Food items by 0.70% and decrease of Non Food items by 0.15% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.70%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Vegetables (0.35%), Rice (0.24%), Sea Fish (0.14%), Coconuts (0.11%), Red Onion (0.08%), Potatoes (0.05%), Coconut Oil (0.02%), Apple (0.01%) and Chili powder (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Big Onions (0.10%), Chicken (0.07%), Limes (0.04%), Dried Fish (0.02%), Milk Powder (0.02%), Banana (0.02%), Bread (Normal) (0.01%), Beef (0.01%), Mangoes (0.01%) and Dhal- Mysoor (0.01%),

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: - 0.15%

Among Non-Food groups, Increases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Health' (0.09%) and 'Transport' (0.06%).

Decreases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Communication' (0.23%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'(0.03%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels'(0.02%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value change were reported for the group of 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance, and other groups remained unchanged during the month.

Table 2: Contribution to the change in CCPI from November 2019 to December 2019 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		558.75	1.02	0.32	0.70
1	Rice	191.02	0.24		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	38.73	0.05		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	64.37	0.08		
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	56.16	0.07		
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	26.21	0.03		
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-Red)</i>	5.55	0.01		
2	Bread (Normal)	-10.36		0.01	
3	Chicken	-56.90		0.07	
4	Beef	-10.99		0.01	
5	Sea Fish	111.69	0.14		
6	Dried fish	-17.82		0.02	
	<i>Sprats (dry)</i>	-5.68		0.01	
	<i>Katta (dry)</i>	-10.53		0.01	
7	Milk powder	-17.02		0.02	
8	Coconuts	85.39	0.11		
9	Coconut oil	18.38	0.02		
10	Banana	-13.42		0.02	
11	Apple	5.60	0.01		
12	Mangoes	-8.94		0.01	
13	Vegetables	281.47	0.35		
14	Potatoes	41.44	0.05		
15	Dhal - Mysoor	-6.35		0.01	
16	Red onions	67.39	0.08		
17	Big Onions	-80.48		0.10	
18	Chili powder	11.65	0.01		
19	Limes	-29.39		0.04	
20	Others	-3.63		0.005	
Non Food		-117.43	0.15	0.30	-0.15
21	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	-17.76		0.02	
	<i>Water Bill</i>	-26.36		0.03	
	<i>Maintenance and Repair of Dwelling</i>	8.6	0.01		
22	Health	68.25	0.09		
	<i>Payments. to medical laboratories</i>	68.25	0.09		
23	Transport	48.55	0.06		
	<i>Airline fare</i>	49.12	0.06		
24	Communication	-186.10		0.23	
	<i>Telephone charges (Home fixed phone)</i>	-68.85		0.09	
	<i>Telephone charges (mobile)</i>	-105.24		0.13	
	<i>Email/internet charges</i>	-12.01		0.02	
25	Recreation and Culture	-9.73		0.01	
	<i>Cable/ Satellite TV charges</i>	-8.52		0.01	
26	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	-25.44		0.03	
	<i>Car Insurance</i>	-25.44		0.03	
27	Others	4.79	0.01		
	All Items	441.32	1.18	0.62	0.56

*Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

3. INFLATION:

The CCPI is an economic indicator constructed to measure inflation which is defined as percentage change in CCPI over the year. There are two measures of inflation in general use. One measure is Year on Year base or Point to Point inflation (The percentage change in the CPI during the last 12 months). The other measure is Moving Average Inflation (The percentage difference between the average Price Index of last 12 months & the average Price Index of previous 12 months).

Table 3: Movements of the CCPI (Base: 2013=100)

Year	Month	Index Number	All Item			Food			Non Food		
			% Change Month to Month	Inflation %		% Change Month to Month	Inflation %		% Change Month to Month	Inflation %	
				Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.		Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.		Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.
2018	December	126.3	0.1	2.8	4.3	0.8	-1.5	3.3	-0.3	4.7	4.6
2019	January	127.4	0.9	3.7	4.1	-2.5	-2.1	2.3	2.4	6.3	4.9
	February	126.8	-0.5	4.0	4.1	-2.1	-1.4	1.7	0.2	6.4	5.1
	March	126.6	-0.2	4.3	4.1	-1.6	-1.4	1.2	0.4	6.7	5.3
	April	127.0	0.3	4.5	4.1	0.1	-0.9	0.9	0.4	6.8	5.6
	May	129.0	1.6	5.0	4.2	4.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	6.8	5.8
	June	130.2	0.9	3.8	4.2	2.6	-1.0	0.3	0.3	6.0	5.9
	July	130.0	-0.2	3.3	4.0	-0.7	-2.6	-0.3	0.0	5.9	5.9
	August	130.1	0.1	3.4	3.8	-1.0	-2.8	-1.2	0.5	6.2	6.0
	September	131.1	0.8	5.0	3.9	2.4	3.0	-1.1	0.1	5.7	6.0
	October	131.3	0.2	5.4	4.0	1.6	6.8	-0.4	-0.4	4.8	6.0
	November	131.7	0.3	4.4	4.1	0.9	4.6	0.1	0.0	4.2	5.9
	December	132.4	0.5	4.8	4.3	2.4	6.3	0.8	-0.2	4.3	5.8

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The Y-on-Y inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.8% in December 2019 and inflation calculated for November 2019 was 4.4% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has increased from 4.6% in November 2019 to 6.3% in December 2019 while that of Non-food Group has also increased from 4.2% in November 2019 to 4.3% in December during the month.

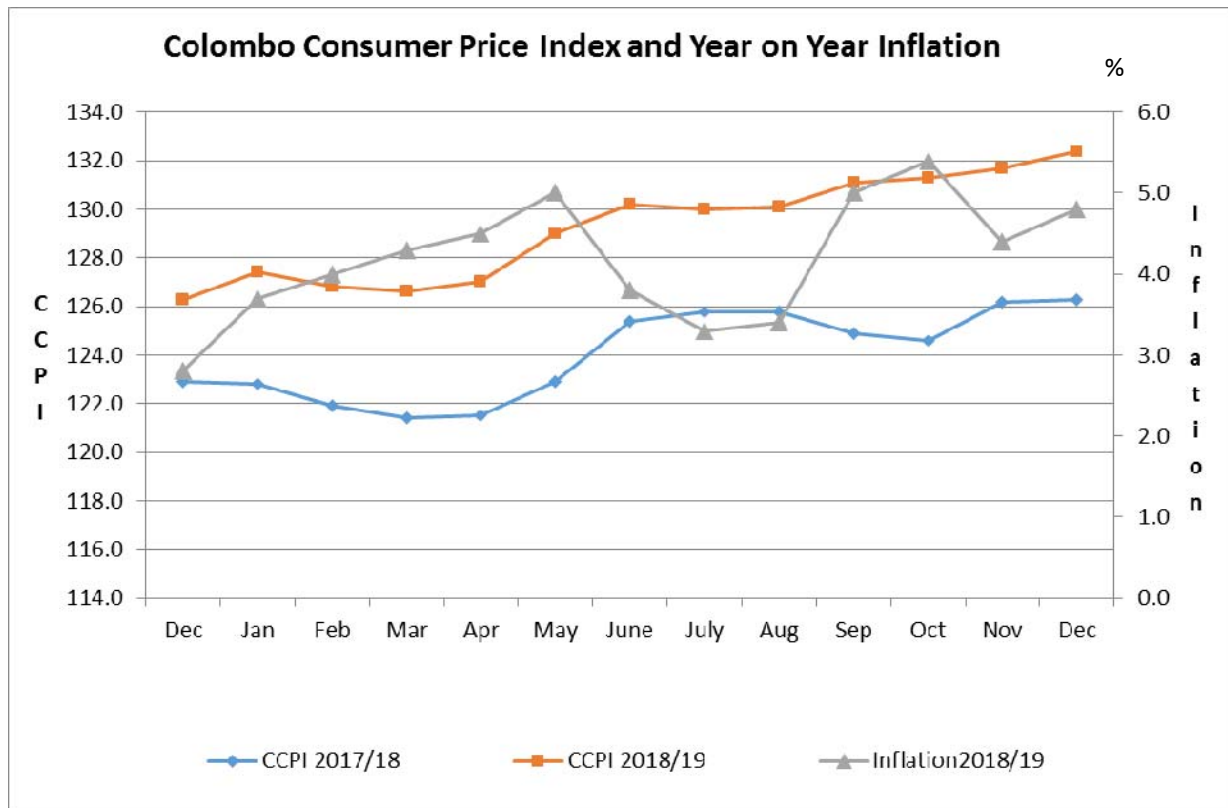
3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of December 2019, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 1.87%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 3.02%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Education' (1.07%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.71%), 'Transport' (0.42%), 'Health' (0.22%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.20%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.15%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.15%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.16%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.14%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.04%) and decrease in value change was reported for the group 'Communication' (0.24%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of December 2019 was 4.3%. The corresponding rate for the month of November 2019 was 4.1%.



**Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index
Nov, Dec 2019 & Dec 2018)**

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2018 Dec	2019 Nov	2019 Dec	Dec18/ Dec19	Dec19 / Nov19
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	81.64	92.96	102.75	25.86	10.53
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	83.14	96.20	104.51	25.71	8.64
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	87.64	99.85	106.56	21.59	6.72
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	96.38	101.90	107.71	11.75	5.70
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	111.44	102.11	106.67	-4.28	4.47
6. Cowpea	Kg	273.16	286.10	284.43	4.13	-0.58
7.Green Grams	Kg	250.91	276.67	284.50	13.39	2.83
8. Coconut	Each	58.65	50.47	53.78	-8.29	6.56
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	270.60	257.67	272.93	0.86	5.92
10.Chicken	Kg	485.00	533.42	506.93	4.52	-4.96
11. Eggs	Each	19.11	20.51	20.38	6.68	-0.64
12. Red Onion	Kg	195.36	368.45	480.74	146.08	30.48
13. Big Onion	Kg	118.26	215.30	184.68	56.17	-14.22
14. Potatoes	Kg	153.00	163.22	180.24	17.80	10.43
15. Garlic	Kg	249.66	389.83	399.37	59.96	2.45
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	316.62	480.26	501.81	58.49	4.49
17. Green Chillies	Kg	514.94	421.30	422.33	-17.99	0.24
18. Sugar	Kg	106.93	106.82	106.33	-0.56	-0.46
19. Pepper	Kg	1566.97	1359.78	1361.70	-13.10	1.66
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	156.02	162.70	165.53	6.10	1.74
21. Carrot	Kg	301.93	208.87	268.19	-11.17	28.40
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	201.47	213.99	209.81	4.14	-1.95
23. Tomatoes	Kg	336.64	170.93	172.38	-48.79	0.85
24. Capsicum	Kg	415.53	362.32	358.49	-13.73	-1.06
25. Beetroot	Kg	242.76	170.63	245.49	1.13	43.88
26. Beans	Kg	382.15	286.45	323.99	-15.22	13.11
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	144.67	159.76	155.86	7.72	-2.44
28. Papaw	Kg	130.71	102.22	102.92	-21.23	0.72
29. Mangoes	Each	78.30	82.50	64.74	-17.31	-21.52
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1608.39	1596.06	1662.95	3.39	4.19
31.Talapath	Kg	1108.94	1199.08	1216.85	9.73	1.48
32.Paraw	Kg	1029.90	1038.52	1103.85	7.18	6.29
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	13.17.72	1504.14	1463.29	11.05	-2.72
34. Sprats	Kg	729.30	769.51	757.83	3.91	-1.52
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	139.70	139.50	139.50	-0.14	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	106.89	104.00	104.00	-2.70	0.00
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-13.85	0.00
Litro	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-13.85	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-13.85	0.00