



## WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – OCTOBER 2020

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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, Kotte, Nugegoda, Kolonnawa, Rathmalana, 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](#)

*The data collection by personal visit for the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) program was challenging due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation of the country since the 2nd week of October 2020. Data that was previously collected by personal visits were collected by phone from outlets which were open in areas where curfew was not imposed.*

**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 (%)		
	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Sep	Oct
	2019	2020	2020	2019	2020	2020	2019	2020	2020
All Items	131.3	136.3	136.5	153.40	520.11	110.05	0.19	0.64	0.13
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	137.4	150.8	151.2	357.75	407.94	81.14	0.45	0.50	0.10
Non Food	128.9	130.6	130.6	-204.35	112.16	28.91	-0.26	0.14	0.04
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	218.7	228.1	229.6	-0.60	40.14	8.93	0.00	0.05	0.01
Clothing and Foot Wear	148.1	155.8	156.2	3.44	21.73	5.42	0.00	0.03	0.01
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	146.8	148.9	149.4	1.73	14.25	11.63	0.00	0.02	0.01
Other	125.9	127.2	127.2	-208.91	36.04	2.94	-0.26	0.04	0.00

*\*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in October 2020 were noted in four main groups, details on which are 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 is briefly described below.

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

The CCPI for all items for the month of October 2020 was 136.5 and it records an increase of 0.2 in index points that is 0.13 percentage points compared to the month of September 2020 for which the index was 136.3. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs 110.05 in the “Market Basket”

#### **2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:**

Contributions to the change in CCPI from September 2020 to October 2020 were given in Table 2. The month on month change was contributed by increases of Food items by 0.10% Non Food items by 0.04% respectively.

#### **2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.10%**

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Big Onions (0.13%), Rice (0.05%), Turmeric powder (0.04%), Sea fish (0.03%), Red Onion (0.03%), Coconuts (0.02%), Tamarind (0.02%), Green gram (0.01%), Vegetables (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%), Green Chillies (0.01%) and Tea dust/ Leaves (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Fresh Fruits (0.15%), Chicken (0.06%), Eggs (0.06%), Potatoes (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%) and Limes (0.01%).

#### **2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.04%**

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of ‘Alcoholic Beverage Tobacco and Narcotic’ (0.01%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.01%) and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value change was reported for the group of ‘Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance’ and all other groups remained unchanged during the period.

**Table 2: Contribution to the change in CCPI from September 2020 to October 2020(Base 2013=100)**

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
<b>Food</b>		<b>81.14</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.10</b>
1	Rice	40.90	0.05		
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	<i>31.61</i>	<i>0.04</i>		
2	Green Gram	7.73	0.01		
3	Chicken	-46.93		0.06	
4	Sea Fish	25.23	0.03		
5	Eggs	-53.36		0.06	
6	Coconuts	18.21	0.02		
7	Fresh Fruits	-123.95		0.15	
	<i>Banana</i>	<i>-60.39</i>		<i>0.07</i>	
	<i>Papaw</i>	<i>-57.22</i>		<i>0.07</i>	
8	Vegetables	8.60	0.01		
9	Potatoes	-17.24		0.02	
10	Dhal - Mysoor	18.19	0.02		
11	Red onions	21.49	0.03		
12	Big onions	108.27	0.13		
13	Garlic	8.44	0.01		
14	Green Chillies	6.73	0.01		
15	Sugar	-14.80		0.02	
16	Turmeric powder	36.74	0.04		
17	Limes	-8.03		0.01	
18	Tamarind	14.28	0.02		
19	Tea dust/ leaves	4.43	0.01		
20	Others	26.21	0.03		
<b>Non Food</b>		<b>28.91</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>
21	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	8.93	0.01		
22	Clothing and Footwear	5.42	0.01		
23	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	11.63	0.01		
	<i>Hair cutting and shaving charges</i>	<i>11.63</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
24	Others	2.94	0.00		
	<b>All Items</b>	<b>110.05</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.13</b>

\*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 03: Movements of the CCPI (Base: 2013=100)**

Year	Month	All Item				Food				Non Food			
		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %	
				Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.
2019	September	131.1	0.8	5.0	3.9	135.3	2.4	3.0	-1.1	129.4	0.1	5.7	6.0
	October	131.3	0.2	5.4	4.0	137.4	1.6	6.8	-0.4	128.9	-0.4	4.8	6.0
	November	131.7	0.3	4.4	4.1	138.7	0.9	4.6	0.1	128.9	0.0	4.2	5.9
	December	132.4	0.5	4.8	4.3	142.0	2.4	6.3	0.8	128.7	-0.2	4.3	5.8
2020	January	134.6	1.7	5.7	4.5	146.5	3.2	12.4	2.0	129.9	0.9	2.9	5.5
	February	134.6	0.0	6.2	4.6	146.2	-0.2	14.7	3.3	130.1	0.2	2.8	5.2
	March	133.4	-0.9	5.4	4.7	141.6	-3.1	12.8	4.4	130.2	0.1	2.5	4.9
	April	133.6	0.1	5.2	4.8	142.2	0.4	13.2	5.5	130.2	0.0	2.1	4.5
	May	134.2	0.4	4.0	4.7	144.1	1.3	9.9	6.3	130.3	0.1	1.6	4.1
	June	135.3	0.8	3.9	4.7	147.9	2.6	10.0	7.2	130.4	0.1	1.4	3.7
	July	135.4	0.1	4.2	4.8	148.0	0.1	10.9	8.4	130.5	0.1	1.5	3.3
	August	135.4	0.0	4.1	4.8	148.4	0.3	12.3	9.7	130.3	-0.2	0.8	2.9
	September	136.3	0.7	4.0	4.7	150.8	1.6	11.5	10.4	130.6	0.2	0.9	2.5
	October	136.5	0.1	4.0	4.6	151.2	0.3	10.0	10.7	130.6	0.0	1.3	2.2

#### 3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by CCPI on Y on Y basis is 4.0% in October 2020 and Y on Y inflation was remained unchanged from the month of September 2020 (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has decreased from 11.5% in September 2020 to 10.0% in October 2020 while that of Non-food Group has increased from 0.9% in September 2020 to 1.3% in October 2020.

### 3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

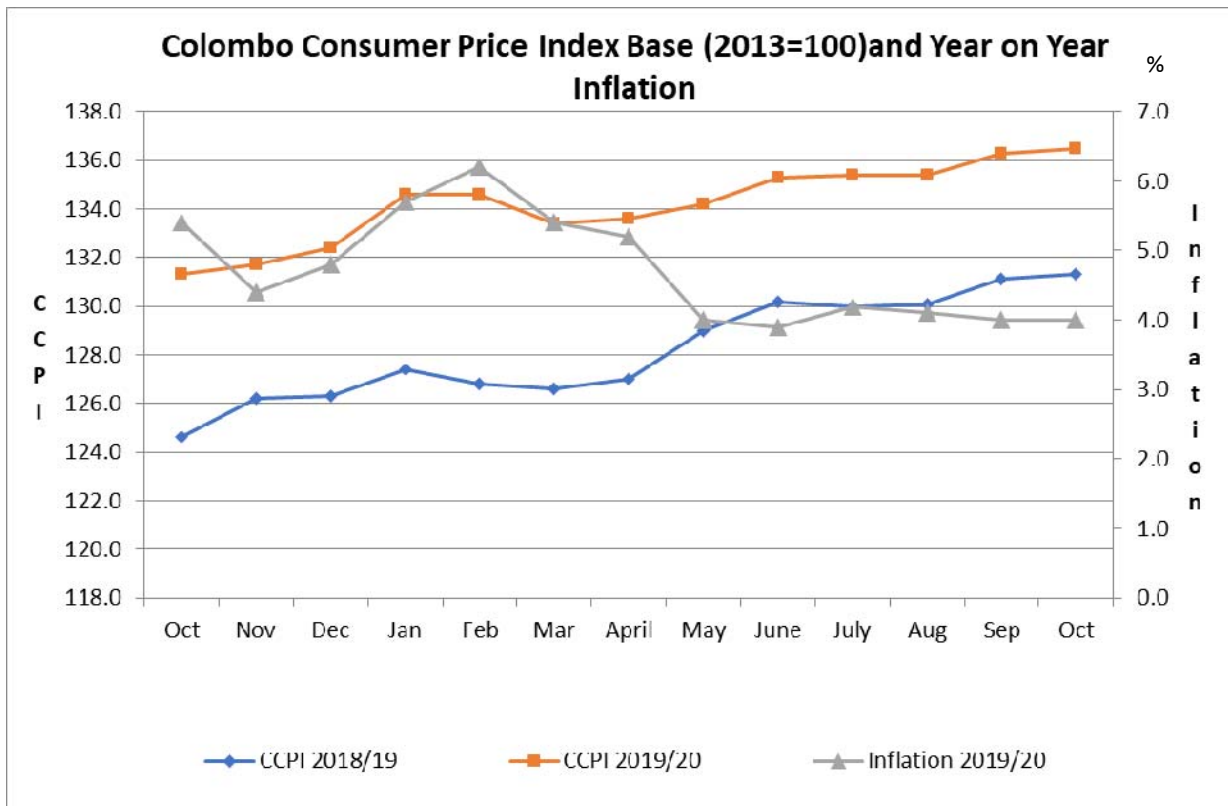
For the month of October 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 2.97%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 0.94%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.57%), 'Transport' (0.30%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.14%), 'Education' (0.14%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.13%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.08%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.07%)

Decreases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Communication' (0.31%), 'Health' (0.13%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' (0.04%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%).

### 3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of October 2020 is 4.6%. The corresponding rate for the month of September 2020 was 4.7%.



**Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index October 2019, September & October 2020**

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 October	2020 September	2020 October	20-Oct / 19-Oct	20-Oct / 20-Sep
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	84.75	97.81	98.35	16.05	0.55
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	90.70	97.07	97.62	7.62	0.56
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	95.03	99.36	100.11	5.34	0.75
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	95.17	106.40	106.72	12.13	0.30
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	96.86	103.43	106.00	9.44	2.48
6. Cowpea	Kg	290.03	397.18	432.37	49.08	8.86
7.Green Grams	Kg	276.77	339.75	376.90	36.18	10.93
8. Coconut	Each	47.93	77.12	77.82	62.37	0.92
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	245.95	329.25	328.75	33.67	-0.15
10.Chicken	Kg	543.66	523.45	501.60	-7.74	-4.17
11. Eggs	Each	20.41	21.66	17.53	-14.10	-19.07
12. Red Onion	Kg	231.41	214.77	250.58	8.28	16.68
13. Big Onion	Kg	240.26	132.67	173.87	-27.63	31.05
14. Potatoes	Kg	167.18	180.81	173.73	3.92	-3.92
15. Garlic	Kg	392.88	305.81	341.88	-12.98	11.79
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	430.67	533.06	569.56	32.25	6.85
17. Green Chillies	Kg	388.64	339.19	364.45	-6.23	7.45
18. Sugar	Kg	107.12	135.67	131.74	22.98	-2.90
19. Pepper	Kg	1358.37	1283.30	1301.73	-4.17	1.44
<b>Vegetables-</b>						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	159.14	172.38	172.63	8.48	0.15
21. Carrot	Kg	166.60	190.71	198.63	19.23	4.15
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	195.14	190.72	205.78	5.45	7.90
23. Tomatoes	Kg	171.26	165.72	184.04	7.46	11.05
24. Capsicum	Kg	281.64	395.51	405.91	44.12	2.63
25. Beetroot	Kg	152.44	174.99	161.23	5.77	-7.86
26. Beans	Kg	285.14	302.84	313.28	9.87	3.44
<b>Fruits</b>						
27. Banana	Kg	154.95	178.15	166.07	2.10	-6.78
28. Papaw	Kg	116.96	144.47	117.44	0.41	-18.71
29. Mangoes	Each	142.99	136.73	134.12	-6.20	-1.91
<b>Fresh Fish –</b>						
30. Seer	Kg	1740.61	1695.67	1714.54	-1.50	1.11
31.Talapath	Kg	1218.37	1273.72	1284.52	5.43	0.85
32.Paraw	Kg	1109.48	1265.02	1284.40	15.77	1.53
<b>Dried Fish -</b>						
33.Katta	Kg	1481.84	1499.53	1501.47	1.33	0.13
34. Sprats	Kg	755.62	695.42	699.85	-7.38	0.64
<b>Fuel -</b>						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	140.18	137.00	137.00	-2.27	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	104.00	104.00	104.00	0.00	0.00
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1604.43	1493.00	1493.00	-6.95	0.00
Litro	12.5kg	1604.43	1493.00	1493.00	-6.95	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1604.43	1493.00	1493.00	-6.95	0.00