PRESS RELEASE
THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – JANUARY 2016
DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the authorized agency to compile Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI). 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, and Narahenpita and Rathmalana dedicated economic centers. Prices are collected weekly from the outlets located within each of the above market areas including Co-operative store and a supermarket. The consumer basket includes 373 items which represent the typical urban households’ consumption expenditure. The CPI weights are derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2006/07.

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

The CCPI for all items for the month of January 2016 was 184.9 recording a decrease of 0.3 index points or a percentage of -0.16 compared to the month of December 2015 for which the index was 185.2. This decrease represents an expenditure value of Rs.-84.52 in the “Market Basket”.

Table 1- Monthly Changes by main Groups of Market Basket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Group*</th>
<th>Index Number</th>
<th>Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Values (Rs.)</th>
<th>Monthly Changes of the Index (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Items</td>
<td>183.2</td>
<td>185.2</td>
<td>184.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Non alcoholic beverages</td>
<td>218.5</td>
<td>219.3</td>
<td>218.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Food</td>
<td>158.7</td>
<td>161.5</td>
<td>161.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and Footwear</td>
<td>174.4</td>
<td>204.3</td>
<td>207.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels</td>
<td>140.1</td>
<td>137.5</td>
<td>137.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>170.9</td>
<td>175.0</td>
<td>175.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: There are 10 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in January 2016 were noted only in three main groups, details on which are given in Table 1.
Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the decrease in CCPI from December 2015 to January 2016 are given in Table 2. The index point decreased by 0.16% and this was due to the decrease of food items by 0.27% and increase of non-food items by 0.10%.

Contribution of Food and non alcoholic beverages items: -0.27%

Decrease in value changes in index were reported for Green chilies (0.23%), Big Onions (0.10%), Limes (0.09%), Vegetables (0.07%), Potatoes (0.05%), Milk powder (0.04%), Banana (0.03%), Fresh fish (0.02%), Dhal (0.01%) and Chicken (0.01%). Price increases were reported for Rice (0.05%), Eggs (0.05%), Sugar (0.05%) Papaw (0.04%), Mangoes (0.03%), Coconut Oil (0.02%), Garlic (0.02%), Dried fish (0.02%), Beef ((0.01%), Maldives fish (0.01%), Coconut (0.01%) and Red Onions (0.01%).

Contribution of non food items: 0.10%

Increase in value changes were reported for the Groups of ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.05%) and ‘Housing, water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ (0.05%). The amount increased in ‘Housing, water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ due to the price increase of Building material (Sand, Bricks & Paints) in Maintenance & Repair of Dwellings sub group. But Kerosene oil showed a slight decrease of (0.01%).

Table 2: Contribution to the increase in CCPI from December 2015 to January 2016
(Base: 2006/07=100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub Group/Commodity</th>
<th>Value Change</th>
<th>Rs.cts.</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.Rice</td>
<td>-138.84</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.Chicken</td>
<td>24.33</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.Beer</td>
<td>-4.98</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.Fresh Fish</td>
<td>-12.30</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.Dried Fish</td>
<td>8.76</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Maldives fish</td>
<td>3.95</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Milk powder</td>
<td>-18.33</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.Eggs</td>
<td>25.67</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Coconut</td>
<td>-163.4</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Coconut Oil</td>
<td>16.90</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Banana</td>
<td>-163.4</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Papaw</td>
<td>21.23</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Mangoes</td>
<td>14.96</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Vegetables(including leafy vegetables)</td>
<td>-34.83</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Potatoes</td>
<td>-26.97</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Dhal</td>
<td>-3.27</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Red Onions</td>
<td>5.98</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Bombay Onions</td>
<td>-51.28</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Green Chilies</td>
<td>-121.65</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Garlic</td>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Sugar</td>
<td>23.58</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Limes</td>
<td>-48.02</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Other food items</td>
<td>40.72</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Food</td>
<td>54.32</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Clothing and Footwear</td>
<td>26.27</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Housing, water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels</td>
<td>28.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Repair of Dwellings</td>
<td>34.40</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerosene Oil</td>
<td>-6.35</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total*</td>
<td>-84.52</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Index Number</th>
<th>All Item</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Non Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>%Change Month to Month</td>
<td>Y on Y</td>
<td>12 Month Moving Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>183.2</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>178.9</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td>178.1</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>178.5</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>179.8</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td>181.6</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>182.8</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>181.9</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>181.4</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
<td>182.1</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>184.7</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>185.2</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>184.9</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

YoY inflation of Food Group has decreased from 4.2% in December 2015 to - 0.2% in January 2016 while Non-food Group increased by 1.5% to 2.0% during this period. The overall rate of inflation as measured by CCPI on YoY basis is 0.9% in January 2016 and inflation calculated for December 2015 was 2.8% (Table 3).

Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of January 2016, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was -0.09%.

Contribution of Non food items was 1.00%. This was mainly due to value change increases in Clothing and Footwear (0.57%), Health (0.78%) and Education (0.22%) groups while value change decreases of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels(0.28%) and Transport(0.75%) groups.
The amount of decrease in ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels’ has been mainly due to the price decline of L.P. Gas (0.59%) and Kerosene Oil (0.22%). Also the amount of decrease in ‘Transport’ has been mainly due to the price decline of Bus fare (0.21%) and Petrol & Diesel (0.76%). The net effect of above items has led to the increase in Non-food sub index.

**Moving Average Inflation**

The moving average inflation rate for the month of January 2016 is 0.7%. The corresponding rate for the month of December 2015 was also 0.9%.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)</th>
<th>Retail Price Changes (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Rice– Kekulu – Red</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>92.26</td>
<td>71.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Rice– Kekulu – White</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>86.06</td>
<td>73.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rice–Nadu</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>87.74</td>
<td>78.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rice–Samba</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>93.86</td>
<td>94.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cowpea</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>236.89</td>
<td>268.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Green Grams</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>313.19</td>
<td>253.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Coconut</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>45.40</td>
<td>43.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Coconut Oil</td>
<td>750ml</td>
<td>216.22</td>
<td>200.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Chicken</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>424.03</td>
<td>439.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Eggs</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>13.94</td>
<td>14.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Red Onion</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>121.15</td>
<td>144.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. B’Onion</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>94.24</td>
<td>100.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Potatoes</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>128.20</td>
<td>122.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Garlic</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>242.03</td>
<td>305.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Dried Chilies</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>272.61</td>
<td>359.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Green Chilies</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>775.00</td>
<td>967.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Sugar</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>100.19</td>
<td>91.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Pepper</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1714.81</td>
<td>1685.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vegetables-</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Ash Plantain</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>185.81</td>
<td>139.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Carrot</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>269.75</td>
<td>279.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Snake Gourd</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>181.21</td>
<td>146.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Tomatoes</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>227.09</td>
<td>212.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Capsicum</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>459.27</td>
<td>483.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Beetroot</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>266.93</td>
<td>213.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Beans</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>292.95</td>
<td>327.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Banana</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>11.41</td>
<td>12.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Papaw</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>78.75</td>
<td>75.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Mangoes</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>90.61</td>
<td>58.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh Fish -</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Seer</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1089.57</td>
<td>1259.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Talapath</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>845.70</td>
<td>875.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Paraw</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>774.08</td>
<td>905.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dried Fish -</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Katta</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1077.87</td>
<td>1105.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Sprats</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>573.93</td>
<td>591.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Kerosene Oil</td>
<td>Lt</td>
<td>81.00</td>
<td>49.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Petrol(CPC &amp; IOC Avg.)</td>
<td>Lt</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>117.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Diesel (CPC &amp; IOC Avg.)</td>
<td>Lt</td>
<td>111.00</td>
<td>95.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Gas- Avg.</td>
<td>12.5kg</td>
<td>2396.00</td>
<td>1496.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shell\Litro</td>
<td>2396.00</td>
<td>1496.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laughs</td>
<td>2396.00</td>
<td>1496.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DCS commenced releasing National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) from October 2015 with a time lag of 21 days. Accordingly, the NCPI for the month of December 2015 was released on 21st January 2016. (Please see the DCS website: www.statistics.gov.lk, for further details).

Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe
Director General
Department of Census and Statistics