



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – MARCH 2017

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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 (%)		
	Mar 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Mar 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017	Mar 2016	Feb. 2017	Mar. 2017
All Items	108.6	116.7	116.5	-427.78	327.99	-96.41	-0.65	0.47	-0.14
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	110.9	122.0	121.1	-407.56	255.71	-142.69	-0.62	0.36	-0.20
Non Food	107.7	114.6	114.7	-20.21	72.28	46.29	-0.03	0.10	0.07
Clothing and Footwear	117.2	124.1	124.9	0.03	17.91	11.64	0.00	0.03	0.02
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	110.0	110.1	110.1	-21.04	-5.36	-12.49	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02
Furnishing Household Equipments and Routine Household Maintenance	106.7	109.3	110.0	-4.78	5.37	9.32	-0.01	0.01	0.01
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	114.3	129.5	131.3	0.01	0.00	35.64	0.00	0.00	0.05
Other	104.1	117.3	117.3	5.57	54.36	2.18	0.01	0.08	0.00

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in March 2017 were noted only in five main groups, details on which are given in Table 2.

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

The CCPI for all items for the month of March 2017 was 116.5 and it records a decrease of 0.2 index points or a percentage of 0.14 compared to the month of February 2017 for which the index was 116.7. This decrease represents an expenditure value of Rs.96.41 in the "Market Basket".

Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the decrease in CCPI from February to March are given in Table 2. The decrease in the index point by 0.14% was due to the decreases of food items by 0.2% and increases of non-food items by 0.07% respectively.

Contribution of Food and non alcoholic beverages items: - 0.2%

Decreases in value change in index were reported for Rice (0.38%), Limes (0.04%), Banana (0.03%), Dried Fish (0.01%), Chicken (0.01%), Potatoes (0.01%), Green Chilies (0.01%) and Pepper (0.01%) while increase in value change for Coconut (0.12%), Papaw (0.11%), Coconut Oil (0.03%), Red Onion (0.01%), Sugar (0.01%), Curry Powder (0.01%) and Tamarind (0.01).

Contribution of non food items: 0.07%

Among non food groups, value increases were reported for groups of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.05%), 'Clothing and Foot Wear' (0.02%), 'Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routing Household Maintenance' (0.01%) while decreases in value change was reported for 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.02%) group. The groups of 'Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco' and 'Recreation and Culture' showed an insignificant value changes while all other groups remain unchanged during the period.

The decrease in value change of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuel' was due to the price decrease of building materials (paints) included in the 'Materials for the Maintenance & Repair of Dwelling' sub group.

**Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from February 2017 to March 2017
(Base 2013=100)**

Sub Group/Commodity	Value Change			
	Rs.Cts.	% change		
		Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food	-142.69	0.30	0.50	-0.20
1 Rice	-267.16		0.38	
2 Chicken	-6.11		0.01	
3 Dried Fish	-10.43		0.01	
<i>Sprats</i>	<i>-12.41</i>		<i>0.02</i>	
4 Coconut	81.97	0.12		
5 Coconut Oil	18.48	0.03		
6 Banana	-20.21		0.03	
7 Papaw	74.93	0.11		
8 Vegetables	-5.87		0.01	
9 Potatoes	-9.59		0.01	
10 Red onions	4.23	0.01		
11 Green chilies	-6.59		0.01	
12 Sugar	9.01	0.01		
13 Limes	-25.19		0.04	
14 Pepper	-7.28		0.01	
15 Curry Powder	4.89	0.01		
16 Tamarind	4.17	0.01		
17 Others	14.78	0.02		
Non Food	46.29	0.08	0.02	0.07
18 CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	11.64	0.02		
19 HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	-12.49		0.02	
<i>Materials for the Maintenance & Repair of dwelling</i>	<i>-12.49</i>		<i>0.02</i>	
20 FURNISHING ,HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	9.32	0.01		
21 MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	35.64	0.05		
Articles and products for Personal care	35.64	0.05		
22 OTHERS	2.18	0.00		
All Items	-96.40			-0.14

*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 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.
2016	January	110.0	0.2%	1.7%	2.1%	1.2%	0.9%	4.7%	-0.3%	2.0%	1.1%
	February	109.3	-0.6%	2.9%	2.1%	-1.7%	2.0%	3.7%	-0.2%	3.2%	1.5%
	March	108.6	-0.6%	2.6%	2.2%	-2.1%	3.1%	3.3%	0.0%	2.5%	1.8%
	April	109.5	0.8%	3.4%	2.4%	2.3%	7.3%	3.5%	0.3%	2.0%	1.9%
	May	111.5	1.8%	4.8%	2.7%	1.6%	7.4%	3.7%	1.9%	3.9%	2.2%
	June	113.2	1.5%	5.5%	3.0%	5.0%	9.8%	4.2%	0.1%	3.8%	2.5%
	July	113.9	0.6%	5.8%	3.4%	2.3%	11.7%	5.0%	-0.1%	3.5%	2.8%
	August	112.1	-1.6%	4.4%	3.7%	-4.5%	8.3%	5.5%	-0.4%	2.8%	3.0%
	September	111.8	-0.3%	4.2%	3.9%	-1.6%	7.5%	5.9%	0.4%	2.9%	3.2%
	October	112.1	0.3%	4.1%	4.0%	0.6%	6.9%	6.2%	0.1%	2.9%	3.2%
	November	113.6	1.3%	4.0%	4.0%	0.6%	4.3%	6.1%	1.6%	3.9%	3.2%
	December	114.7	1.0%	4.5%	4.0%	0.8%	4.1%	6.1%	1.0%	4.5%	3.1%
2017	January	116.1	1.2%	5.5%	4.3%	1.6%	4.5%	6.4%	1.1%	6.0%	3.5%
	February	116.7	0.5%	6.8%	4.6%	1.2%	7.7%	6.9%	0.2%	6.4%	3.8%
	March	116.5	-0.2%	7.3%	5.0%	-0.7%	9.2%	7.4%	0.1%	6.5%	4.1%

Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 7.3% in March 2017 and inflation calculated for February was 6.8% (Table3). The increase in inflation was due to the lower price levels prevailed in March 2016 compared to the March 2017(Base effect).

YoY inflation of Food Group has increased from 7.7% in February to 9.2% in March 2017 and that of Non-food Group has increased from 6.4% to 6.5% during this period.

Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of March 2017, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 2.66%.

The contribution of Nonfood items was 4.65%. This was mainly due to value change increases in groups of ‘Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics’ (0.37%) ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.16%), ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels’ (0.02%), ‘Furnishing Household Equipment’s & Routine Household Maintenance’ (0.08%), ‘Health’ (1.24%), ‘Transport’ (0.45%), ‘Communication’ (0.50%), ‘Recreation & Culture’ (0.04%), ‘Education’ (0.88%), ‘Restaurants & Hotels’ (0.38%) and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (0.52%).

Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of March 2017 was 5.0%. The corresponding rate for the month of February was 4.6%.

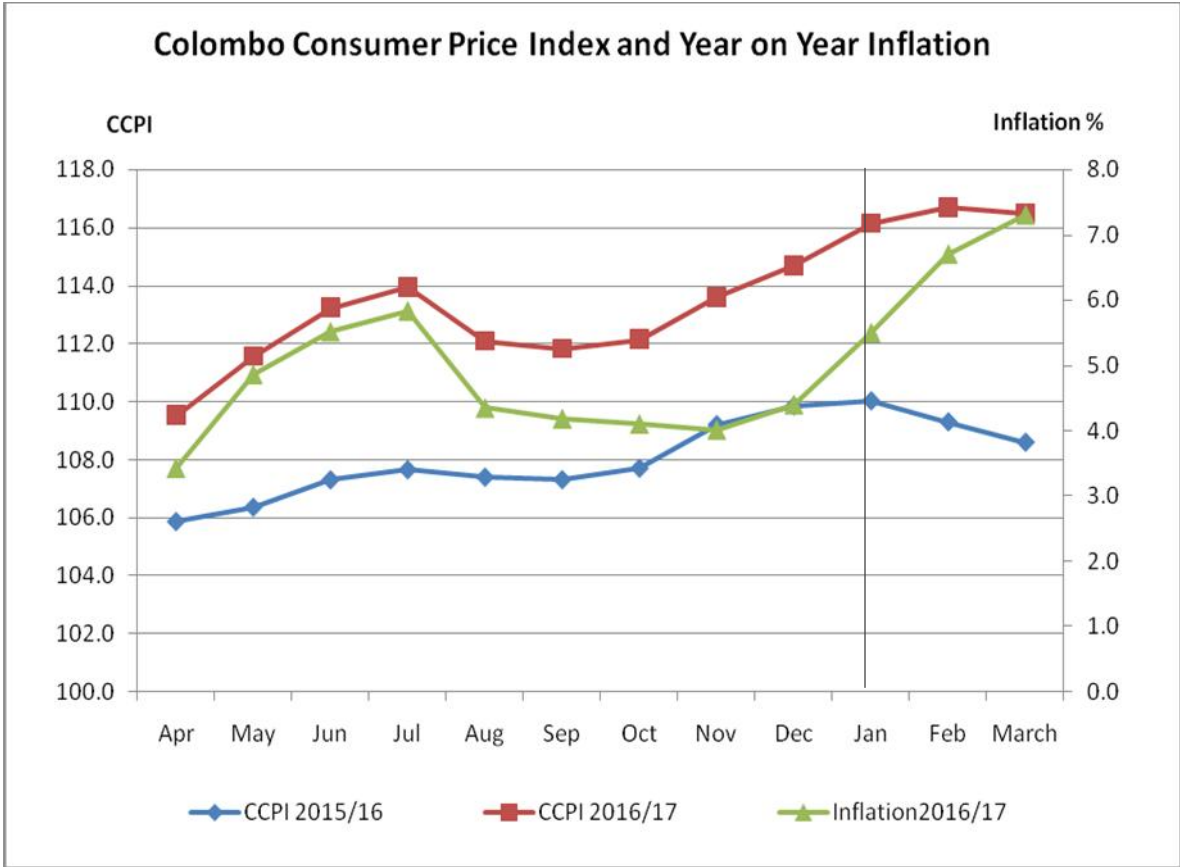


Table 4 : Monthly Average Open Market Retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (March 2016, February2017 & March2017)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2016 Mar.	2017 Feb.	2017 Mar.	Feb. 17– Mar. 17	Feb.16 - Mar.17
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	63.29	93.76	82.12	-12.42	29.79
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	64.75	91.55	76.88	-16.03	18.72
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	71.76	95.42	81.14	-14.97	13.06
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	79.95	96.10	87.50	-8.94	9.45
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	91.87	97.46	92.30	-5.29	0.47
6. Cowpea	Kg	261.48	271.96	291.87	7.32	11.62
7.Green Grams	Kg	246.16	238.92	242.65	1.56	-1.43
8. Coconut	Each	47.71	57.07	60.25	5.57	26.29
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	205.62	265.79	281.14	5.78	36.73
10.Chicken	Kg	451.90	440.59	437.75	-0.65	-3.13
11. Eggs	Each	17.07	14.81	14.78	-0.19	-13.38
12. Red Onion	Kg	110.11	147.39	154.44	4.78	40.26
13. Big Onion	Kg	77.71	96.84	95.90	-0.97	23.40
14. Potatoes	Kg	101.52	137.31	133.37	-2.87	31.37
15. Garlic	Kg	369.42	470.82	481.66	2.30	30.38
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	369.06	308.39	284.54	-7.73	-22.90
17. Green Chilies	Kg	283.05	356.80	332.05	-6.94	17.31
18. Sugar	Kg	99.72	101.78	104.17	2.35	4.47
19. Pepper	Kg	1720.94	1801.79	1743.14	-3.25	1.29
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	109.34	130.76	133.55	2.13	22.14
21. Carrot	Kg	165.81	123.22	128.93	4.64	-22.24
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	129.25	137.51	144.22	4.88	11.59
23. Tomatoes	Kg	80.85	120.06	101.69	-15.30	25.78
24. Capsicum	Kg	263.40	264.81	248.04	-6.33	5.83
25. Beetroot	Kg	132.11	124.02	127.44	2.76	-3.53
26. Beans	Kg	171.82	196.58	197.25	0.34	14.8
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	104.36	156.59	152.85	-2.39	46.45
28. Papaw	Kg	127.12	117.63	153.03	30.01	20.38
29. Mangoes	Each	131.17	56.50	67.52	19.51	-48.52
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1211.15	1353.11	1348.55	-0.34	11.34
31.Talapath	Kg	897.24	934.55	937.27	0.29	4.46
32.Paraw	Kg	845.55	917.86	909.21	-0.94	7.53
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1128.99	1180.46	1189.86	0.80	5.39
34. Sprats	Kg	696.46	681.96	656.45	-3.74	-5.74
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	49.00	44.00	44.00	0.00	-10.20
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	117.00	117.00	117.00	0.00	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	95.00	95.00	95.00	0.00	0.00
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1346.00	1321.00	1321.00	0.00	-1.86
Litro	12.5kg	1346.00	1321.00	1321.00	0.00	-1.86
Laughs	12.5kg	1346.00	1321.00	1321.00	0.00	-1.86

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