



## WEB RELEASE

### THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – AUGUST 2018 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 (%)		
	Aug 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Aug 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Aug 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018
All Items	118.8	125.8	125.8	-324.76	220.20	-30.53	-0.45	0.29	-0.04
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	126.4	137.0	135.9	-567.86	195.77	-181.88	-0.79	0.26	-0.24
Non Food	115.9	121.4	121.8	243.10	24.42	151.35	0.34	0.03	0.20
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	185.8	190.8	196.4	-0.67	0.92	34.61	0.00	0.00	0.05
Clothing and Foot Wear	124.8	134.9	135.3	-2.18	15.08	5.95	0.00	0.02	0.01
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	110.1	111.5	111.4	-10.49	-70.73	-16.32	-0.01	-0.09	-0.02
Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	123.8	127.4	127.9	5.59	-1.92	7.76	0.01	0.00	0.01
Transport	97.9	107.7	109.6	41.18	-12.40	116.81	0.06	-0.02	0.15
Other	127.2	136.2	136.2	209.67	93.48	2.54	0.29	0.12	0.00

\*Note: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in August 2018 were noted in six main groups, details on which are given in Table2.

## 2. Variations in Colombo Consumer Price Index

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

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

The CCPI for all items for the month of August 2018 was 125.8 and it records decrease of 0.04 percentage point compared to the month of July 2018 for which the index was the same. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs.30.53 in the “Market Basket”.

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

Contributions to the change in CCPI from July to August 2018 were given in Table 2. The decrease in the index point by 0.04% was due to the expenditure value decrease of Food items by 0.24% and increase of Non Food items by 0.20%.

#### 2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.24%

Increases in value change were reported for Chicken (0.01%), canned fish (0.01%), Maldives Fish (0.01%), Mangoes (0.01%), Potatoes (0.01%), Ice cream (0.01%), Tea dust/leaves (0.01%), Dried fish (0.03%), egg (0.03%), Banana (0.03%), Green Chillies (0.03%) and Papaw (0.08%)

while decreases in value change were reported for Rice (0.01%), Sea Fish (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%), Coconut Oil (0.01%), limes (0.02%), Coconut (0.18%) and Vegetables (0.22%).

#### 2.4 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.20%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.01%), ‘Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine House Hold Maintenance’ (0.01%) ‘Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics’ (0.02%) and ‘Transport’ (0.15%)

While decrease in value change reported in ‘Housing Water Electricity Gas and Other Fuels’ (0.02%) and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ group showed an insignificant value change while other groups remain unchanged during the period.

**Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from July 2018 to August 2018 (Base 2013=100)**

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
<b>Food</b>		<b>-181.88</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>-0.24</b>
1	Rice	-5.56		0.01	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	-12.21		0.02	
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	13.47	0.02		
2	Chicken	4.19	0.01		
3	Sea Fish	-6.49		0.01	
4	Dried Fish	22.34	0.03		
	<i>Sprats (dry)</i>	13.65	0.02		
5	Canned fish	10.29	0.01		
6	Maldives fish	7.68	0.01		
7	Egg	20.42	0.03		
8	Coconut	-135.92		0.18	
9	Coconut oil	-5.03		0.01	
10	Banana	21.69	0.03		
11	Papaw	57.79	0.08		
12	Mangoes	5.03	0.01		
13	Vegetables	-165.62		0.22	
14	Potatoes	5.20	0.01		
15	Garlic	-4.84		0.01	
16	Green chilies	23.86	0.03		
17	Ice-cream	4.71	0.01		
18	Limes	-18.79		0.02	
19	Tea dust/ leaves	3.81	0.01		
20	Others	-26.62		0.04	
<b>Non Food</b>		<b>151.35</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.20</b>
21	<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>	<b>34.61</b>	<b>0.05</b>		
22	<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
23	<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels</b>	<b>-16.32</b>		<b>0.02</b>	
	<i>L. P. Gas (monthly average)</i>	-16.32		0.02	
24	<b>Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routing</b>	<b>7.76</b>	<b>0.01</b>		
	<b>Household Maintenance</b>				
25	<b>Transport</b>	<b>116.81</b>	<b>0.15</b>		
	<i>Three Wheelers</i>	5.75	0.01		
	<i>Petrol and other fuel</i>	69.84	0.09		
	<i>Diesel</i>	24.21	0.03		
	<i>Airline fare</i>	17.01	0.02		
26	<b>Others</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
	<b>All Items</b>	<b>-30.53</b>			<b>-0.04</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 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.
2017	August	118.8	-0.5	6.0	5.5	-2.5	6.9	6.9	0.5	5.7	4.9
	September	119.7	0.8	7.1	5.8	1.6	10.4	7.1	0.3	5.5	5.2
	October	120.8	0.9	7.8	6.1	2.6	12.6	7.6	0.3	5.8	5.4
	November	122.2	1.2	7.6	6.4	1.7	13.8	8.4	0.9	5.0	5.5
	December	122.9	0.6	7.1	6.6	1.3	14.4	9.3	0.2	4.2	5.5
2018	January	122.8	-0.1	5.8	6.6	-1.9	10.5	9.8	0.8	3.8	5.3
	February	121.9	-0.7	4.5	6.4	-2.9	6.0	9.6	0.1	3.8	5.0
	March	121.4	-0.4	4.2	6.1	-1.5	5.1	9.2	0.1	3.7	4.8
	April	121.5	0.1	3.8	5.9	-0.4	3.0	8.8	0.3	4.0	4.6
	May	122.9	1.2	4.0	5.7	2.6	3.3	8.3	0.5	4.2	4.6
	June	125.4	2.0	4.4	5.6	4.4	2.9	7.7	1.1	5.0	4.6
	July	125.8	0.3	5.4	5.6	0.9	5.6	7.8	0.1	5.3	4.7
	August	125.8	0.0	5.9	5.6	-0.8	7.5	7.8	0.3	5.1	4.6

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

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 5.9% in August 2018 and inflation calculated for July was 5.4% (Table3). YoY inflation of Food Group has increased from 5.6% in July 2018 to 7.5% in August 2018 and that of Non-food Group has decrease from 5.3% in July to 5.1% in August during this period.

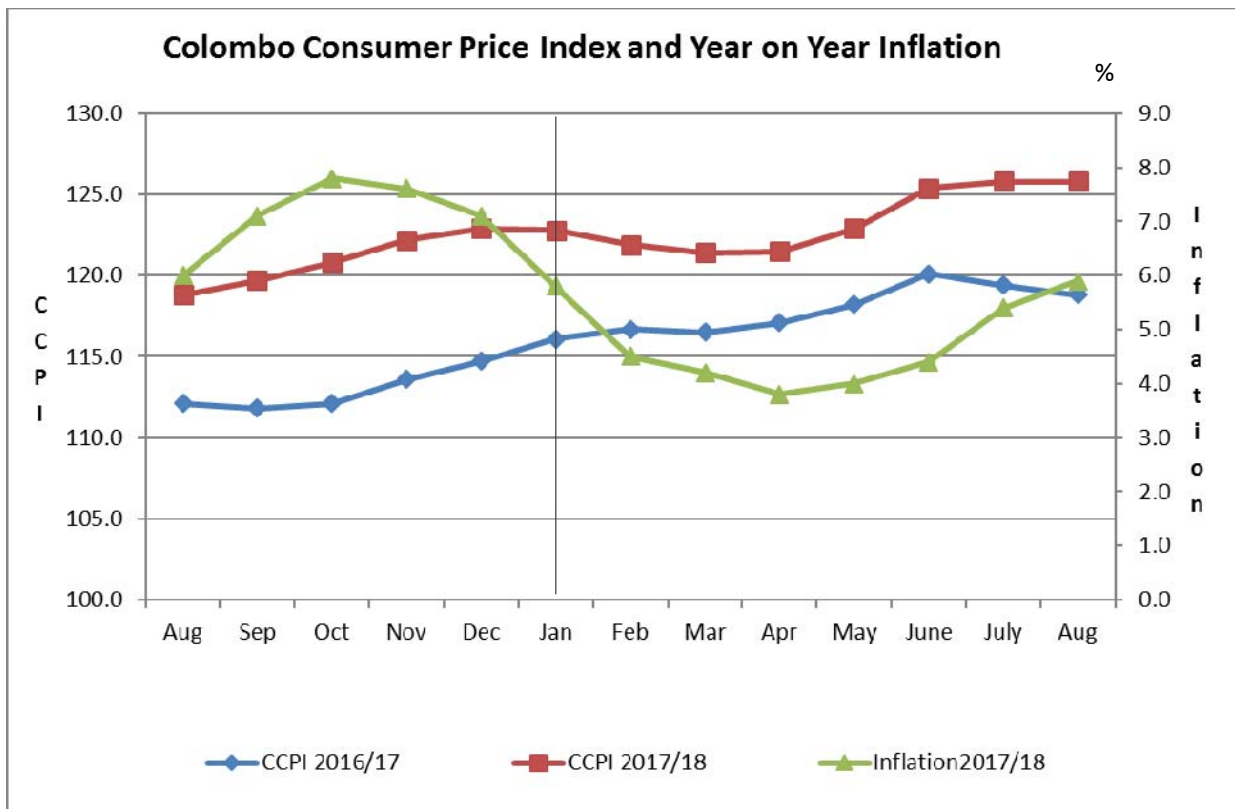
### 3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of August 2018, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 2.27%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 3.55%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Transport' (1.04%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.64%), 'Education' (0.53%), 'Health' (0.47%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.36%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.2%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.13%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.09%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.09%), and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.03%) while decrease in value change in the group of 'Communication' (0.02%).

### 3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of August 2018 was 5.6%. The corresponding rate for the month of July was also the same.



**Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (August 2017, July 2018 & August 2018)**

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2017 Aug	2018 July	2018 Aug	Aug.18/ Aug.17	Aug. 18 / July.18
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	86.94	81.35	79.50	-8.56	-2.28
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	82.33	81.29	80.52	-2.20	-0.95
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	91.73	85.40	84.85	-7.50	-0.65
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	98.18	96.01	94.90	-3.34	-1.16
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	98.47	108.20	109.30	10.99	1.01
6. Cowpea	Kg	318.51	279.82	276.00	-13.35	-1.36
7.Green Grams	Kg	254.16	244.07	245.32	-3.48	0.51
8. Coconut	Each	60.63	71.41	66.13	9.08	-7.38
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	286.60	285.99	281.81	-1.67	-1.46
10.Chicken	Kg	483.95	505.83	507.78	4.92	0.39
11. Eggs	Each	14.25	17.74	19.33	35.64	8.93
12. Red Onion	Kg	190.83	179.68	176.27	-7.63	-1.90
13. Big Onion	Kg	111.97	111.72	110.40	-1.40	-1.18
14. Potatoes	Kg	144.21	147.21	149.34	3.56	1.45
15. Garlic	Kg	358.96	263.13	242.43	-32.46	-7.86
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	233.62	304.47	308.83	32.19	1.43
17. Green Chillies	Kg	482.08	667.97	757.57	57.15	13.41
18. Sugar	Kg	106.56	105.17	104.43	-2.00	-0.71
19. Pepper	Kg	1703.16	1530.21	1523.39	-10.55	-0.45
<b>Vegetables-</b>						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	141.58	152.90	155.56	9.87	1.74
21. Carrot	Kg	198.05	299.88	294.32	48.61	-1.86
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	186.35	201.91	186.28	-0.04	-7.74
23. Tomatoes	Kg	187.39	267.94	188.16	0.41	-29.77
24. Capsicum	Kg	234.30	478.38	377.76	61.23	-21.03
25. Beetroot	Kg	135.95	253.89	234.56	72.53	-7.61
26. Beans	Kg	243.50	353.06	341.51	40.25	-3.27
<b>Fruits</b>						
27. Banana	Kg	150.48	136.28	140.84	3.35	-6.41
28. Papaw	Kg	99.30	93.78	121.08	21.94	29.12
29. Mangoes	Each	101.63	58.09	68.08	-33.01	17.19
<b>Fresh Fish –</b>						
30. Seer	Kg	1484.66	1731.40	1706.32	14.93	-1.45
31.Talapath	Kg	1122.15	1160.56	1144.97	2.03	-1.34
32.Paraw	Kg	1008.15	1164.68	1157.07	14.77	-0.65
<b>Dried Fish -</b>						
33.Katta	Kg	1260.29	1309.45	1326.42	5.25	1.30
34. Sprats	Kg	776.31	737.25	765.31	-1.42	3.81
<b>Fuel -</b>						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	44.00	70.00	70.00	59.09	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	117.00	140.14	145.00	23.93	3.47
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	95.00	112.54	118.00	24.21	4.85
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1321.00	1567.57	1538.00	16.43	-1.89
Litro	12.5kg	1321.00	1567.57	1538.00	16.43	-1.89
Laughs	12.5kg	1321.00	1567.57	1538.00	16.43	-1.89

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