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 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Group*</th>
<th>Sep 2017</th>
<th>Aug 2018</th>
<th>Sep 2018</th>
<th>Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Values(Rs.)</th>
<th>Sep 2017</th>
<th>Aug 2018</th>
<th>Sep 2018</th>
<th>Monthly Changes of the Index (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Items</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>125.8</td>
<td>124.9</td>
<td>507.27 - 30.53 - 532.89</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>-0.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Non Alcoholic</td>
<td>128.4</td>
<td>135.9</td>
<td>131.3</td>
<td>348.19 -181.88 -793.58</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>-0.24</td>
<td>-1.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverages</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>121.8</td>
<td>122.4</td>
<td>159.07 151.35 260.69</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Food</td>
<td>185.7</td>
<td>196.4</td>
<td>200.4</td>
<td>-0.77 34.61 25.28</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholic beverages</td>
<td>130.8</td>
<td>135.3</td>
<td>136.9</td>
<td>83.09 5.95 22.28</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco and Narcotic</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>110.3</td>
<td>0.00 116.81 44.70</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and Foot Wear</td>
<td>109.7</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>114.1</td>
<td>0.00 0.00 12.23</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>130.9</td>
<td>139.7</td>
<td>142.6</td>
<td>68.16 0.00 103.48</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Culture</td>
<td>115.5</td>
<td>130.1</td>
<td>131.8</td>
<td>0.00 0.00 52.04</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>119.2</td>
<td>119.2</td>
<td>8.59 -6.01 0.68</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in September 2018 were noted in seven main groups, details on which are given in Table 2.
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 September 2018 was 124.9 and it records decrease of 0.70 percentage point compared to the month of August 2018 for which the index was 125.8. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs.532.89 in the “Market Basket”.

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from August to September 2018 were given in Table 2. The decrease in the index point by 0.70% was due to the expenditure value decrease of Food items by 1.05% and increase of Non Food items by 0.34%.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -1.05%

Decreases in value change were reported for Vegetables (0.60%), Coconut nuts (0.18%), Sea Fish (0.18%), Green Chilies (0.16%), Eggs (0.02%), Potatoes (0.02%), Big Onions (0.02%), Dried Fish (0.01%) Coconut Oil (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%), Chili Powder (0.01%) and Ginger (0.01%).

While Increases in value change were reported for Bread (0.04%), Banana (0.04%), Papaw (0.04%), Rice (0.03%), Chicken (0.02%), Mangoes (0.01%), Dhal Mysoor (0.01%) and Sugar (0.01%).

2.4 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.34%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for ‘Education’ (0.14%), ‘Restaurant and Hotels’ (0.07%), ‘Transport’ (0.06%), ‘Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics’ (0.03%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.03%) and Recreation and Culture’ (0.02%)’

While ‘Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance’ group showed an insignificant value change while other groups remain unchanged during the period.
Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from August 2018 to September 2018 (Base 2013=100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub Group/Commodity</th>
<th>Value Change</th>
<th>Value Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rs. Cts.</td>
<td>% change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>-793.58</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice (Samba)</td>
<td>20.99</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>29.45</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>16.36</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Fish</td>
<td>-140.36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dried Fish</td>
<td>-10.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>-15.36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut (Nuts)</td>
<td>-132.87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut oil</td>
<td>-4.79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>33.07</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papaw</td>
<td>33.06</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangoes</td>
<td>6.86</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>-456.70</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>-16.32</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhal - Mysoor</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big onions</td>
<td>-14.92</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic</td>
<td>-3.95</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green chilies</td>
<td>-119.13</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>4.77</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chili powder</td>
<td>-6.97</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginger</td>
<td>-10.02</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>-11.33</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non Food</strong></td>
<td>260.69</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO AND NARCOTICS</td>
<td>25.28</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrack</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>13.83</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</td>
<td>22.28</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORT</td>
<td>44.70</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol and other fuel</td>
<td>33.34</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel</td>
<td>10.29</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECREATION AND CULTURE</td>
<td>12.23</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise books and stationeries.</td>
<td>12.23</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>103.48</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School fees - Primary (International)</td>
<td>56.24</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School fees - Secondary (International)</td>
<td>47.24</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</td>
<td>52.04</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Items</strong></td>
<td>-532.89</td>
<td>-0.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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).

3.1 Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.3% in September 2018 and inflation calculated for August was 5.9% (Table3). YoY inflation of Food Group has decreased from 7.5% in August 2018 to 2.3% in September 2018 and that of Non-food Group has increase from 5.1% in August to 5.3% in September during this period.

Table 3: Movements of the CCPI (Base: 2013=100)
3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of September 2018, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 0.68%. The contribution of Non Food items was 3.67%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of ‘Transport’ (1.10%), ‘Restaurants & Hotels’ (0.70%), ‘Education’ (0.57%), ‘Health’ (0.47%), ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ (0.32%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.12%), ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (0.13%), ‘Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics’ (0.13%), ‘Furnishing Household Equipment’s & Routine Household Maintenance’ (0.09%), and ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.05%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of September 2018 was 5.4%. The corresponding rate for the month of August was 5.6%.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>2017 Sep</th>
<th>2018 Aug</th>
<th>2018 Sep</th>
<th>Sep.18/ Sep.17</th>
<th>Sep. 18 / Aug18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Rice– Kekulu – Red</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>87.01</td>
<td>79.50</td>
<td>79.88</td>
<td>-8.19</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Rice– Kekulu – White</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>82.37</td>
<td>80.52</td>
<td>80.45</td>
<td>-2.33</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rice –Nadu - White</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>92.59</td>
<td>84.85</td>
<td>85.38</td>
<td>-7.79</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rice –Nadu - Red</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>97.14</td>
<td>94.90</td>
<td>95.12</td>
<td>-2.08</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rice– Samba</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>100.64</td>
<td>109.30</td>
<td>110.64</td>
<td>9.93</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Cowpea</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>324.82</td>
<td>276.00</td>
<td>273.95</td>
<td>-15.66</td>
<td>-0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Green Grams</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>253.96</td>
<td>245.32</td>
<td>247.72</td>
<td>-2.46</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Coconut</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>65.45</td>
<td>66.13</td>
<td>60.98</td>
<td>-6.84</td>
<td>-7.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Coconut Oil</td>
<td>750ml</td>
<td>287.87</td>
<td>281.81</td>
<td>277.83</td>
<td>-3.48</td>
<td>-1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Chicken</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>471.47</td>
<td>507.78</td>
<td>515.40</td>
<td>9.32</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Red Onion</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>279.09</td>
<td>176.27</td>
<td>170.87</td>
<td>-38.77</td>
<td>-3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Big Onion</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>142.78</td>
<td>110.40</td>
<td>104.72</td>
<td>-26.65</td>
<td>-5.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Potatoes</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>141.27</td>
<td>149.34</td>
<td>142.64</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>-4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Garlic</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>336.79</td>
<td>242.43</td>
<td>225.57</td>
<td>-33.02</td>
<td>-6.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Dried Chilies</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>239.78</td>
<td>308.83</td>
<td>309.54</td>
<td>29.10</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Green Chilies</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>449.93</td>
<td>757.57</td>
<td>310.15</td>
<td>-31.07</td>
<td>-59.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Sugar</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>109.32</td>
<td>104.43</td>
<td>105.69</td>
<td>-3.31</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Pepper</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1680.27</td>
<td>1523.39</td>
<td>1507.16</td>
<td>-10.30</td>
<td>-1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vegetables</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Ash Plantain</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>140.73</td>
<td>155.56</td>
<td>145.61</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>-6.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Carrot</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>146.82</td>
<td>294.32</td>
<td>259.07</td>
<td>76.45</td>
<td>-11.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Snake Gourd</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>154.96</td>
<td>186.28</td>
<td>157.09</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>-15.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Tomatoes</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>203.47</td>
<td>188.16</td>
<td>99.76</td>
<td>-50.97</td>
<td>-46.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Capsicum</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>190.87</td>
<td>377.76</td>
<td>226.91</td>
<td>18.88</td>
<td>-39.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Beetroot</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>135.82</td>
<td>234.56</td>
<td>157.56</td>
<td>16.01</td>
<td>-32.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Beans</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>248.05</td>
<td>341.51</td>
<td>232.31</td>
<td>-6.35</td>
<td>-31.98</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Banana</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>163.04</td>
<td>140.84</td>
<td>147.85</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>-9.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Papaw</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>104.32</td>
<td>121.08</td>
<td>136.98</td>
<td>31.32</td>
<td>13.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Mangoes</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>116.65</td>
<td>68.08</td>
<td>81.71</td>
<td>-29.96</td>
<td>20.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh Fish –</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Seer</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1477.32</td>
<td>1706.32</td>
<td>1621.59</td>
<td>9.77</td>
<td>-4.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Talapath</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1121.46</td>
<td>1144.97</td>
<td>1121.17</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>-2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Paraw</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1076.60</td>
<td>1157.07</td>
<td>1102.05</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>-4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dried Fish -</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Katta</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>1249.57</td>
<td>1326.42</td>
<td>1312.43</td>
<td>5.03</td>
<td>-1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Sprats</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>765.42</td>
<td>765.31</td>
<td>760.36</td>
<td>-0.66</td>
<td>-0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Kerosene Oil</td>
<td>Lt</td>
<td>44.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>59.09</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Petrol (CPC &amp; IOC)</td>
<td>Lt</td>
<td>117.00</td>
<td>145.00</td>
<td>147.32</td>
<td>25.91</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Diesel (CPC &amp; IOC)</td>
<td>Lt</td>
<td>95.00</td>
<td>118.00</td>
<td>120.32</td>
<td>26.65</td>
<td>1.97</td>
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<td>38. Gas- Avg.</td>
<td>12.5kg</td>
<td>1321.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>16.43</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Litro</td>
<td>1321.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>16.43</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laughs</td>
<td>1321.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>1538.00</td>
<td>16.43</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actg. Director General
Department of Census and Statistics