



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – DECEMBER 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 (%)		
	Dec 2017	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
All Items	122.9	126.2	126.3	378.53	979.49	15.72	0.51	1.30	0.02
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	135.7	132.6	133.6	303.15	667.55	181.59	0.41	0.89	0.24
Non Food	117.8	123.7	123.4	75.38	311.94	-165.88	0.10	0.41	-0.22
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	186.8	201.1	199.8	-5.42	-1.49	-8.29	-0.01	0.00	-0.01
Transport	98.6	111.8	110.6	53.78	-43.45	-82.47	0.07	-0.06	-0.11
Communication	119.2	113.7	109.7	0.00	-111.23	-77.83	0.00	-0.15	-0.10
Other	120.1	125.2	125.2	27.03	468.11	2.72	0.04	0.62	0.00

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in December 2018 were noted in Three 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 December 2018 was 126.3 and it records an increase of 0.1 index points that is 0.02 percentage points compared to the month of November 2018 for which the index was 126.2. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs.15.72 in the "Market Basket".

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from November to December 2018 were given in Table 2. An increase in the index point by 0.02% was due to the expenditure value increase of Food items by 0.24% and decrease of Non Food items by 0.22%.

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

Increases in value change were reported for Vegetable (0.08%), Eggs (0.06%), Green Chilies (0.05%), Potatoes (0.03%), Rice (0.02%), Chicken (0.02%), Sea Fish (0.02%), Dry Fish (0.02%), Papaw (0.01%), Dhal Mysoor (0.01%), Tea dust/Leaves (0.01%) and Red Onions (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Coconut (0.05%), Banana (0.04%), Mangoes (0.01%) and Pineapple (0.01%).

2.4 Contribution of Non Food items: -0.22%

Among Non-Food groups, decreases in value change were reported for 'Transport' (0.11%), 'Communication' (0.1%) and 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.01%), 'Clothing and Footwear' group showed an insignificant value change while all other groups remain unchanged during the period.

Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from November 2018 to December 2018 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
	Food	181.59	0.35	0.11	0.24
1	Rice	16.57	0.02		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	4.86	0.01		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	5.06	0.01		
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	4.48	0.01		
2	Chicken	13.05	0.02		
3	Sea Fish	16.94	0.02		
4	Dried Fish	12.84	0.02		
	<i>Sprats (dry)</i>	6.13	0.01		
5	Eggs	43.18	0.06		
6	Coconut	-40.27		0.05	
7	Banana	-29.32		0.04	
8	Papaw	4.68	0.01		
9	Mangoes	-8.42		0.01	
10	Pineapple	-4.51		0.01	
11	Vegetables	63.44	0.08		
12	Potatoes	20.98	0.03		
13	Dhal - Mysoor	5.69	0.01		
14	Red onions	9.96	0.01		
15	Green chillies	40.84	0.05		
16	Tea dust/Leaves	4.13	0.01		
17	Others	11.82	0.02		
	Non Food	-165.88	0.00	0.22	-0.22
18	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	-8.29		0.01	
	<i>Beetle leaves</i>	-8.08		0.01	
19	Transport	-82.47		0.11	
	<i>Petrol and other fuel</i>	-152.03		0.20	
	<i>Diesel</i>	-52.42		0.07	
	<i>Air lines</i>	121.97	0.16		
20	Communication	-77.83		0.10	
	<i>Telephone charges - Home fixed phone</i>	-77.83		0.10	
21	Others	2.72			
	All Items	15.72	0.35	0.33	0.02

*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	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
	September	124.9	-0.7	4.3	5.4	-3.4	2.3	7.1	0.5	5.3	4.6
	October	124.6	-0.2	3.1	5.0	-0.2	-2.3	5.9	0.5	5.5	4.6
	November	126.2	1.3	3.3	4.6	3.0	-1.0	4.6	0.6	5.2	4.6
	December	126.3	0.1	2.8	4.3	0.8	-1.5	3.3	-0.2	4.8	4.6

3.1 Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 2.8% in December 2018 and inflation calculated for November was 3.3% (Table3). YoY inflation of Food Group has decreased from -1.0% in November 2018 to -1.5% in December 2018 and that of Non-food Group has decrease from 5.2% in November to 4.8% in December during this period.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of December 2018, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was -0.48%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 3.24%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Transport' (1.03%), 'Health' (0.66%), 'Education' (0.56%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.41%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.37%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.18%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.10%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.11%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.02%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.04%) and decrease in value change were reported for the group 'Communication' (0.25%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of December 2018 was 4.3%. The corresponding rate for the month of November was 4.6%.

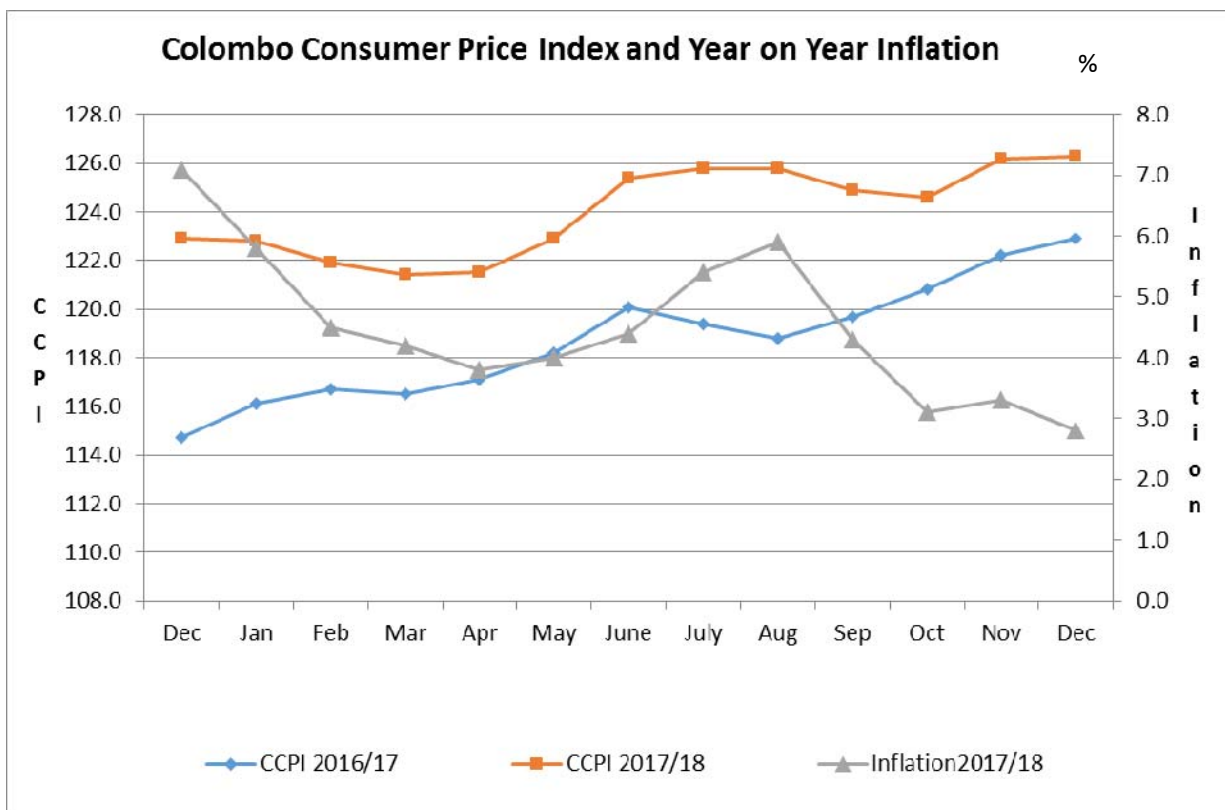


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (December 2017, November 2018 & December 2018)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2017 Dec	2018 Nov	2018 Dec	Dec.18/ Dec 17	Dec. 18 / Nov18
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	92.12	80.87	81.64	-11.38	0.95
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	85.54	82.09	83.14	-2.81	1.27
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	88.72	86.50	87.64	-1.21	1.33
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	105.47	95.89	96.38	-8.62	0.50
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	106.40	111.30	111.44	4.74	0.13
6. Cowpea	Kg	304.26	271.63	273.16	-10.22	0.56
7.Green Grams	Kg	249.26	248.13	250.91	0.66	1.12
8. Coconut	Each	84.93	60.21	58.65	-30.94	-2.59
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	287.62	271.30	270.60	-5.92	-0.26
10.Chicken	Kg	480.35	478.92	485.00	0.97	1.27
11. Eggs	Each	15.08	15.76	19.11	26.72	21.26
12. Red Onion	Kg	455.67	178.77	195.36	-57.13	9.28
13. Big Onion	Kg	168.15	118.19	118.26	-29.67	0.06
14. Potatoes	Kg	122.18	144.39	153.00	25.23	5.97
15. Garlic	Kg	333.73	235.90	249.66	-25.19	5.83
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	257.68	312.92	316.62	24.32	1.18
17. Green Chillies	Kg	794.03	361.56	514.94	-35.15	42.42
18. Sugar	Kg	112.10	107.63	106.93	-4.62	-0.66
19. Pepper	Kg	1602.36	1565.80	1566.97	-2.21	0.07
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	164.99	159.96	156.02	-5.44	-2.47
21. Carrot	Kg	229.19	304.06	301.93	31.74	-0.70
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	209.09	213.07	201.47	-3.65	-5.45
23. Tomatoes	Kg	150.53	256.81	336.64	123.64	31.09
24. Capsicum	Kg	406.71	365.24	415.53	2.17	13.77
25. Beetroot	Kg	226.71	203.06	242.76	7.08	19.55
26. Beans	Kg	317.00	376.61	382.15	20.55	1.47
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	151.90	151.33	144.67	-4.39	-4.75
28. Papaw	Kg	100.68	128.50	130.71	29.82	1.72
29. Mangoes	Each	68.99	95.03	78.30	13.51	-17.61
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1391.24	1569.91	1608.39	15.61	2.45
31.Talapath	Kg	1094.80	1128.82	1108.94	1.29	-1.76
32.Paraw	Kg	1001.93	990.11	1029.90	2.79	4.02
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1243.49	1300.38	1317.72	5.97	1.33
34. Sprats	Kg	708.09	716.69	729.30	2.99	1.76
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	44.00	70.00	70.00	59.09	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	117.00	150.28	139.70	19.40	-7.04
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	95.00	118.71	106.89	12.52	-9.96
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1431.00	1733.00	1733.00	21.10	0.00
Litro	12.5kg	1431.00	1733.00	1733.00	21.10	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1431.00	1733.00	1733.00	21.10	0.00