



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – FEBRUARY 2019 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 (%)		
	Feb 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Feb 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Feb 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019
All Items	121.9	127.4	126.8	-570.03	690.47	-390.26	-0.77	0.91	-0.51
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	129.3	130.3	127.5	-647.88	-572.03	-471.61	-0.87	-0.75	-0.61
Non Food	118.9	126.3	126.5	77.84	1262.50	81.34	0.11	1.66	0.11
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotics	187.1	199.9	201.7	3.23	1.04	11.08	0.00	0.00	0.01
Clothing and Footwear	134.5	141.9	142.5	43.57	54.45	8.62	0.06	0.07	0.01
Health	154.3	171.7	173.7	0.00	0.00	54.46	0.00	0.00	0.07
Transport	98.9	107.2	107.0	-9.54	-212.84	-12.80	-0.01	-0.28	-0.02
Recreation and Culture	111.9	113.8	116.1	0.00	0.00	17.76	0.00	0.00	0.02
Other Groups	118.2	124.5	124.5	40.58	1419.85	2.22	0.05	1.86	0.00

*Note 1: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in February 2019 were noted in six main groups, details on which are given in Table2.

Note 2: For the February 2019 insignificant groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels', 'Furnishing household equipment's and routine household maintenance', 'Communication', 'Education', 'Restaurant and hotels' and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' are considered as the 'Other Groups'.

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 February 2019 was 126.8 and it records a decrease of 0.6 index points that is 0.51 percentage points compared to the month of January 2019 for which the index was 127.4. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs.390.26 in the "Market Basket".

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from January 2019 to February 2019 were given in Table 2. A decrease in the index point by 0.51% was due to the expenditure value decrease of Food items by 0.61% and increase of Non Food items by 0.11%.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.61%

As shown in Table 02, Decreases in value change were reported for Vegetable (0.38%), Green chilies (0.07%), Limes (0.06%), Rice (0.05%), Potatoes (0.03%), Dried fish (0.02%), Coconut (0.02%), Big Onions (0.02%), Chili powder (0.01%), Pepper (0.01%), Curry powder (0.01%), Tea dust/leaves (0.01%) and Banana (0.01%)

While increases in value change were reported for Papaw (0.05%), Chicken (0.02%), Biscuits (0.01%) and Sea Fish (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.11%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for 'Health' (0.07%), 'Recreation and culture' (0.02%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.01%) and 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for the group of 'Transport' (0.02%). However, an insignificant value change in expenditure value was reported for the group of 'Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance'. All other groups remain unchanged during the period.

Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from January 2019 to February 2019 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		-471.61	0.10	0.70	-0.61
1	RICE	-36.76		0.05	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	-4.49		0.01	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	-7.62		0.01	
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	-18.60		0.02	
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	-4.47		0.01	
2	Biscuits	6.03	0.01		
3	Chicken	18.25	0.02		
4	Sea fish	11.15	0.01		
5	Dried fish	-13.64		0.02	
	<i>Sprats (dry)</i>	-6.03		0.01	
6	Coconuts	-16.09		0.02	
7	Banana	-7.08		0.01	
8	Papaw	37.95	0.05		
9	Vegetables	-288.50		0.38	
10	Potatoes	-19.25		0.03	
11	Big onions	-14.54		0.02	
12	Green chillies	-51.51		0.07	
13	Chili powder	-6.10		0.01	
14	Pepper	-6.57		0.01	
15	Curry powder	-5.61		0.01	
16	Limes	-47.93		0.06	
17	Tea dust/Leaves	-5.6		0.01	
18	Others	-25.79		0.03	
Non Food		81.34	0.12	0.02	0.11
19	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	11.08	0.01		
	<i>Arrack</i>	7.10	0.01		
	<i>Beetle leaves</i>	4.05	0.01		
20	Clothing & Footwear	8.62	0.01		
21	Health	54.46	0.07		
	<i>Spectacles</i>	16.40	0.02		
	<i>Fees to private medical practitioners</i>	38.06	0.05		
22	Transport	-12.80		0.02	
	<i>Petrol and other fuel</i>	6.10	0.01		
	<i>Diesel</i>	1.86	0.00		
	<i>bus (other than schooling)</i>	-46.88		0.02	
	<i>Van (other than schooling)</i>	26.12	0.03		
23	Recreation and culture	17.76	0.02		
	<i>Cable/Saterlite TV charges</i>	6.91	0.01		
	<i>News papers</i>	9.76	0.01		
24	Others	2.22	0.00		
	All Items	-390.26	0.22	0.72	-0.51

*Percentages of items may 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.
2018	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	-0.3	4.7	4.6	
2019	January	127.4	0.9	3.7	4.1	-2.5	-2.1	2.3	2.4	6.3	4.9
	February	126.8	-0.5	4.0	4.1	-2.1	-1.4	1.7	0.2	6.4	5.1

3.1 Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.0% in February 2019 and inflation calculated for January was 3.7% (Table3). YoY inflation of Food Group has increased from -2.1% in January 2019 to -1.4% in February 2019 and that of Non-food Group has increased from 6.3% in January to 6.4% in February during this period.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of February 2019, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was -0.41%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 4.43%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (1.32%), 'Education' (1.03%), 'Transport' (0.71%), 'Health' (0.70%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.38%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.20%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.15%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.12%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.04%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.04%) and decrease in value change were reported for the group 'Communication' (0.26%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of February 2019 was 4.1%. The corresponding rate for the month of January 2019 was also 4.1%.

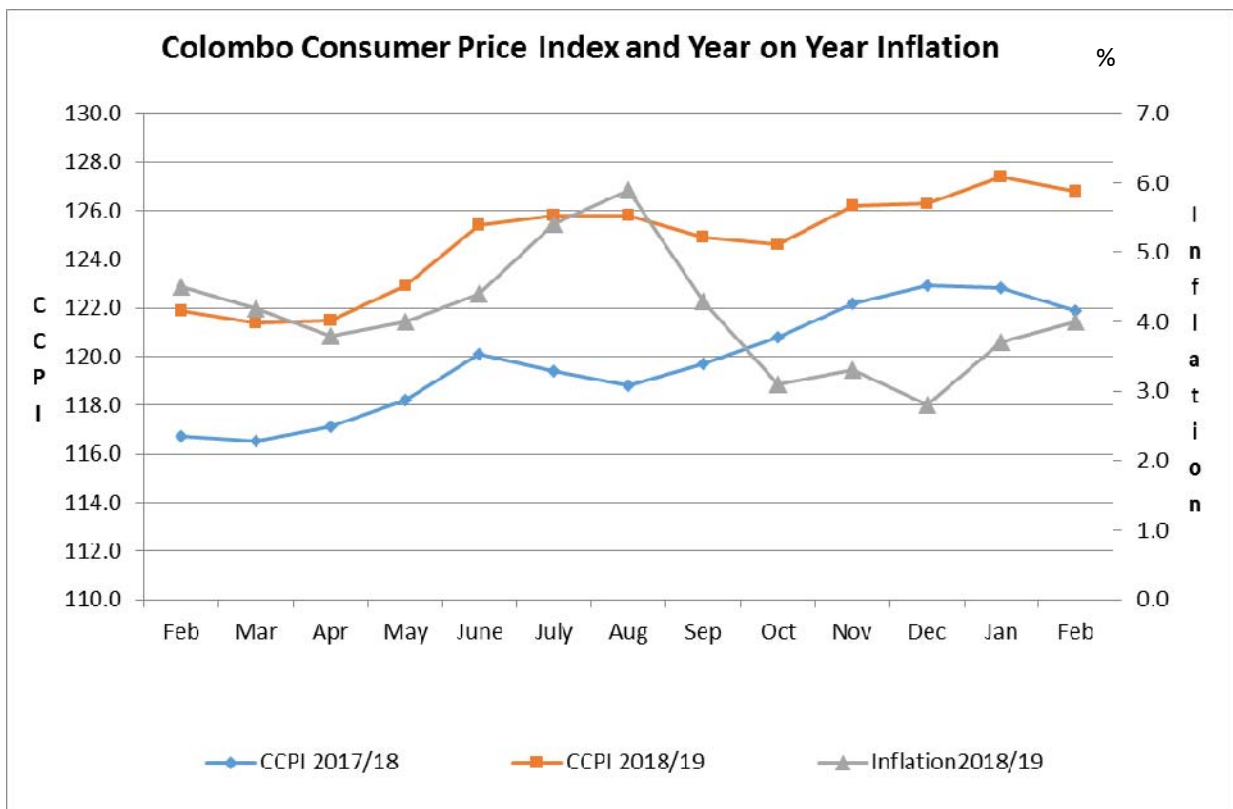


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (February, January 2019 & February 2018)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2018 Feb	2019 Jan	2019 Feb	Feb19/ Feb 18	Feb.19 / Jan.19
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	88.16	82.20	81.04	-8.07	-1.41
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	82.49	84.35	83.39	1.09	-1.14
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	86.70	88.88	87.74	1.20	-1.29
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	100.74	96.55	94.90	-5.80	-1.71
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	103.73	112.21	110.69	6.72	-1.35
6. Cowpea	Kg	296.06	273.42	274.41	-7.31	0.36
7.Green Grams	Kg	248.81	253.39	257.11	3.33	1.47
8. Coconut	Each	77.02	53.62	53.00	-31.19	-1.16
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	288.84	266.20	263.13	-8.90	-1.16
10.Chicken	Kg	478.95	484.50	493.00	2.93	1.75
11. Eggs	Each	13.95	20.66	20.48	46.76	-0.91
12. Red Onion	Kg	287.12	187.34	181.79	-36.68	-2.96
13. Big Onion	Kg	131.97	103.52	97.99	-25.75	-5.34
14. Potatoes	Kg	113.07	137.45	129.55	14.57	-5.75
15. Garlic	Kg	300.91	236.59	250.60	-16.72	5.92
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	265.74	325.27	324.33	22.05	-0.29
17. Green Chillies	Kg	257.21	585.43	391.95	52.39	-33.05
18. Sugar	Kg	109.13	106.13	105.16	-3.64	-0.92
19. Pepper	Kg	1572.29	1538.02	1485.11	-5.54	-3.44
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	153.85	143.95	142.06	-7.66	-1.31
21. Carrot	Kg	149.41	192.29	162.77	8.94	-15.35
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	150.39	165.85	142.19	-5.45	-14.26
23. Tomatoes	Kg	99.13	180.70	123.82	24.91	-31.48
24. Capsicum	Kg	275.51	351.12	257.69	-6.46	-26.61
25. Beetroot	Kg	150.50	207.16	154.20	2.46	25.57
26. Beans	Kg	241.88	266.05	219.36	-9.31	-17.55
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	158.56	146.67	143.02	-2.09	-9.63
28. Papaw	Kg	103.76	139.32	157.25	51.55	12.87
29. Mangoes	Each	86.73	70.11	72.22	-16.73	3.01
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1514.71	1594.04	1564.31	3.27	-1.86
31.Talapath	Kg	1110.56	1146.31	1126.83	1.46	-1.70
32.Paraw	Kg	1042.38	1070.81	1046.20	0.37	-2.30
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1199.58	1315.13	1297.48	8.16	-1.34
34. Sprats	Kg	709.02	745.42	733.02	3.38	-1.66
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	44.00	70.00	70.00	59.09	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	117.00	128.29	128.71	10.01	0.33
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	95.00	100.29	100.71	6.01	0.42
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

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