



## WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – MARCH 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 (%) |          |          |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|--|----------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
|  | Mar 2018     | Feb 2019 | Mar 2019 | Mar 2018                                       | Feb 2019 | Mar 2019 | Mar 2018                         | Feb 2019 | Mar 2019 |
| All Items  | 121.4        | 126.8    | 126.6    | -300.09  | -390.26  | -120.56  | -0.41                            | -0.51    | -0.16    |
| Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages                                 | 127.3        | 127.5    | 125.5    | -341.61  | -471.61  | -341.93  | -0.46                            | -0.61    | -0.45    |
| Non Food   | 119.0        | 126.5    | 127.0    | 41.52  | 81.34    | 221.36   | 0.06                             | 0.11     | 0.29     |
| Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic                         | 187.1        | 201.7    | 217.9    | 0.41   | 11.08    | 100.70   | 0.00                             | 0.01     | 0.13     |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels                 | 110.7        | 115.7    | 115.7    | 9.07   | 0.00     | 6.35     | 0.01                             | 0.00     | 0.01     |
| Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | 126.7        | 134.2    | 134.7    | 28.68  | 2.22     | 7.41     | 0.04                             | 0.00     | 0.01     |
| Health   | 154.3        | 173.7    | 174.3    | 0.00   | 54.46    | 14.38    | 0.00                             | 0.07     | 0.02     |
| Transport  | 98.9         | 107.0    | 108.2    | 2.51   | -12.80   | 71.58    | 0.00                             | -0.02    | 0.09     |
| Miscellaneous Goods and Services                                 | 138.5        | 140.1    | 141.1    | 0.82   | 0.00     | 19.88    | 0.00                             | 0.00     | 0.03     |
| Other  | 128.6        | 137.7    | 137.8    | 0.02   | 26.38    | 1.06     | 0.00                             | 0.03     | 0.00     |

\*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in March 2019 were noted in seven 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 March 2019 was 126.6 and it records a decrease of 0.2 index points that is 0.16 percentage points compared to the month of February 2019 for which the index was 126.8. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs.120.56 in the "Market Basket".

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

Contributions to the change in CCPI from February 2019 to March 2019 were given in Table 2. A decrease in the index point by 0.16% was due to the expenditure value decrease of Food items by 0.45% and increase of Non Food items by 0.29%.

#### 2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.45%

As shown in Table 02, Decreases in value change were reported for Vegetable (0.21%), Sea Fish (0.09%), Coconut (0.09%), Rice (0.07%), Big Onions (0.06%), Eggs (0.02%), Banana (0.02%), Limes (0.02%), Red Onion (0.01%) and Green chilies (0.01%).

While increases in value change were reported for Papaw (0.07%), Chicken (0.02%), Garlic (0.02%), Dried fish (0.01%) and Potatoes (0.01%).

#### 2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.29%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.13%), 'Transport' (0.09%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.03%), 'Health' (0.02%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.01%) and 'Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value change in expenditure value was reported for the group of 'Clothing and Footwear' and all other groups remain unchanged during the period.

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

| Sub Group/Commodity |  | Value Change   |             |             |              |
|---------------------|--|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|                     |  | Rs.Cts.        | % change    |             |              |
|                     |  |                | Increase    | Decrease    | Net effect   |
| <b>Food</b>         |  | <b>-341.93</b> | <b>0.15</b> | <b>0.59</b> | <b>-0.45</b> |
| 1                   | RICE   | -54.61         |             | 0.07        |              |
|                     | <i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>                                     | -11.44         |             | 0.01        |              |
|                     | <i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>                                     | -10.77         |             | 0.01        |              |
|                     | <i>Rice - (Samba)</i>  | -28.77         |             | 0.04        |              |
| 2                   | Chicken  | 15.58          | 0.02        |             |              |
| 3                   | Sea fish   | -66.67         |             | 0.09        |              |
| 4                   | Dried fish   | 8.71           | 0.01        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Sprats (dry)</i>  | 6.30           | 0.01        |             |              |
| 5                   | Eggs   | -17.28         |             | 0.02        |              |
| 6                   | Coconut  | -69.39         |             | 0.09        |              |
| 7                   | Banana   | -17.02         |             | 0.02        |              |
| 8                   | Papaw  | 51.82          | 0.07        |             |              |
| 9                   | Vegetables   | -163.64        |             | 0.21        |              |
| 10                  | Potatoes   | 9.68           | 0.01        |             |              |
| 11                  | Red onions   | -4.18          |             | 0.01        |              |
| 12                  | Big onions   | -46.55         |             | 0.06        |              |
| 13                  | Garlic   | 11.66          | 0.02        |             |              |
| 14                  | Green chilies  | -4.04          |             | 0.01        |              |
| 15                  | Limes  | -11.85         |             | 0.02        |              |
| 16                  | Others   | 15.83          | 0.02        |             |              |
| <b>Non Food</b>     |  | <b>221.36</b>  | <b>0.29</b> |             | <b>0.29</b>  |
| 17                  | Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic                         | 100.70         | 0.13        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Arrack</i>  | 11.31          | 0.01        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Cigarettes</i>  | 85.91          | 0.11        |             |              |
| 18                  | Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels                 | 6.35           | 0.01        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Maintenance/ Reconstruction</i>                               | 6.35           | 0.01        |             |              |
| 19                  | Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | 7.41           | 0.01        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Washing soap</i>  | 7.41           | 0.01        |             |              |
| 20                  | Health   | 14.38          | 0.02        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products</i>                    | 14.38          | 0.02        |             |              |
| 21                  | Transport  | 71.58          | 0.09        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Petrol and other fuel</i>                                     | 30.89          | 0.04        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Diesel</i>  | 20.62          | 0.03        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Air lines</i>   | 18.95          | 0.02        |             |              |
| 22                  | Miscellaneous Goods and Services                                 | 19.88          | 0.03        |             |              |
|                     | <i>Car Insurance</i>   | 13.94          | 0.02        |             |              |
| 23                  | Others   | 1.06           | 0.0         |             |              |
|                     | <b>All Items</b>   | <b>-120.56</b> | <b>0.44</b> | <b>0.59</b> | <b>-0.16</b> |

\*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 | 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                   |
|      | March     | 126.6        | -0.2                    | 4.3         | 4.1                   | -1.6                    | -1.4        | 1.2                   | 0.4                     | 6.7         | 5.3                   |

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

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.3% in March 2019 and inflation calculated for February 2019 was 4.0% (Table3). YoY inflation of Food Group for the month of March 2019 was -1.4% and inflation rate for the month of February 2019 was also -1.4% that of Non-food Group has increased from 6.4% in February to 6.7% in March during this period.

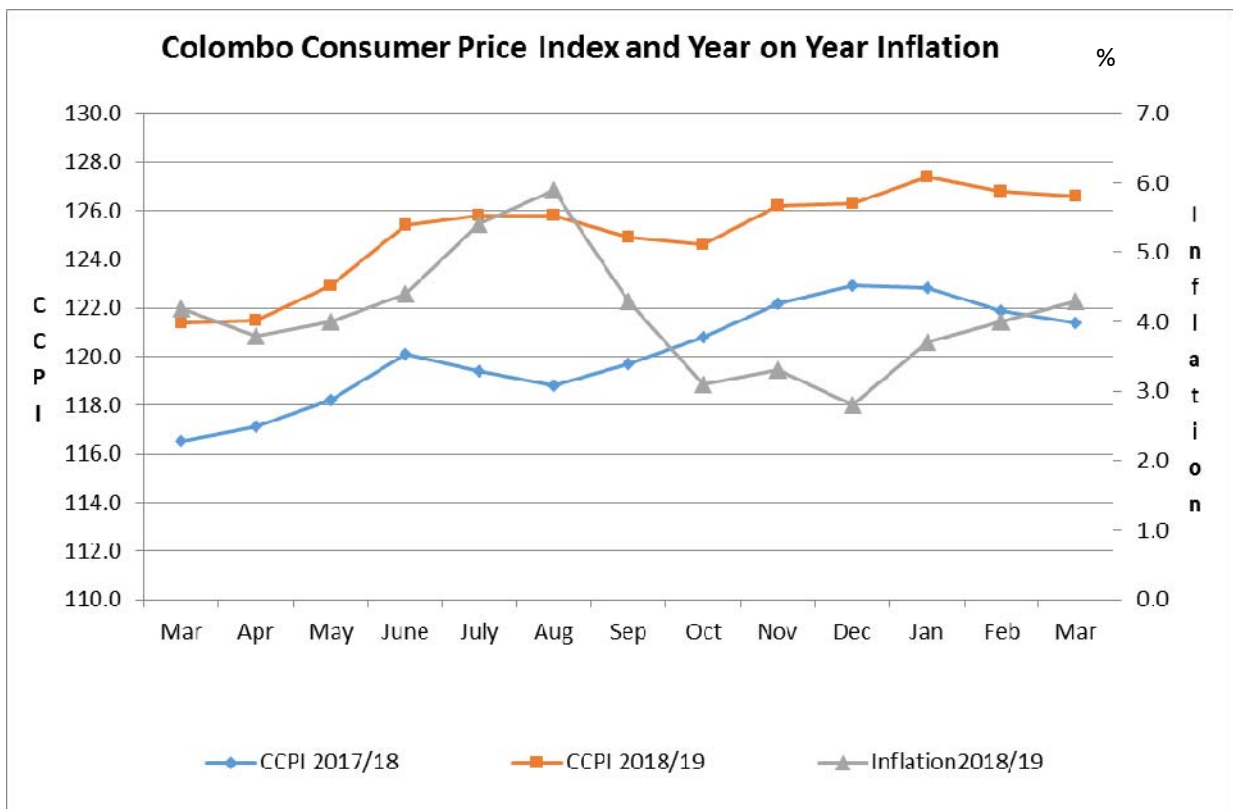
### 3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of March 2019, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was -0.42%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 4.7%. 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' (0.81%), 'Health' (0.72%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.38%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.26%), Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.17%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.15%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.07%) 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 March 2019 was 4.1%. The corresponding rate for the month of February 2019 was also 4.1%.



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

| Item                    | Unit   | Retail Prices (Rs. Cts) |          |          | Retail Price Changes (%) |                     |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|                         |        | 2018 Mar                | 2019 Feb | 2019 Mar | Mar 19/<br>Mar 18        | Mar 19 /<br>Feb..19 |
| 1. Rice– Kekulu – Red   | Kg     | 86.45                   | 81.04    | 79.40    | -8.15                    | -2.02               |
| 2. Rice– Kekulu – White | Kg     | 80.66                   | 83.39    | 80.93    | 0.33                     | -2.94               |
| 3. Rice –Nadu - White   | Kg     | 84.93                   | 87.74    | 87.24    | 2.72                     | -0.57               |
| 4. Rice –Nadu - Red     | Kg     | 98.89                   | 94.90    | 93.15    | -5.81                    | -1.85               |
| 5. Rice– Samba          | Kg     | 103.25                  | 110.69   | 108.36   | 4.95                     | -2.11               |
| 6. Cowpea               | Kg     | 297.48                  | 274.41   | 274.34   | -7.78                    | -0.02               |
| 7.Green Grams           | Kg     | 247.09                  | 257.11   | 258.73   | 4.71                     | 0.63                |
| 8. Coconut              | Each   | 79.47                   | 53.00    | 50.31    | -36.69                   | -5.08               |
| 9. Coconut Oil          | 750ml  | 289.34                  | 263.13   | 261.37   | -9.67                    | -0.67               |
| 10.Chicken              | Kg     | 481.35                  | 493.00   | 500.25   | 3.93                     | 1.47                |
| 11. Eggs                | Each   | 14.58                   | 20.48    | 19.14    | 31.24                    | -6.54               |
| 12. Red Onion           | Kg     | 207.44                  | 181.79   | 174.82   | -15.72                   | -3.83               |
| 13. Big Onion           | Kg     | 102.23                  | 97.99    | 80.28    | -21.47                   | -18.07              |
| 14. Potatoes            | Kg     | 109.54                  | 129.55   | 133.52   | 21.89                    | 3.07                |
| 15. Garlic              | Kg     | 283.14                  | 250.60   | 300.42   | 6.10                     | 19.88               |
| 16. Dried Chilies       | Kg     | 275.18                  | 324.33   | 328.14   | 19.25                    | 1.17                |
| 17. Green Chilies       | Kg     | 221.42                  | 391.95   | 376.80   | 70.18                    | -3.87               |
| 18. Sugar               | Kg     | 108.72                  | 105.16   | 104.40   | -3.97                    | -0.72               |
| 19. Pepper              | Kg     | 1562.37                 | 1485.11  | 1491.84  | -4.51                    | 0.45                |
| <b>Vegetables-</b>      |        |                         |          |          |                          |                     |
| 20. Ash Plantain        | Kg     | 143.87                  | 142.06   | 137.11   | -4.70                    | -3.49               |
| 21. Carrot              | Kg     | 141.89                  | 162.77   | 149.77   | 5.56                     | -7.99               |
| 22. Snake Gourd         | Kg     | 141.12                  | 142.19   | 140.88   | -0.17                    | -0.92               |
| 23. Tomatoes            | Kg     | 93.07                   | 123.82   | 110.30   | 18.51                    | -10.92              |
| 24. Capsicum            | Kg     | 211.13                  | 257.69   | 220.67   | 4.52                     | -14.37              |
| 25. Beetroot            | Kg     | 115.67                  | 154.20   | 128.41   | 11.02                    | -16.72              |
| 26. Beans               | Kg     | 216.83                  | 219.36   | 196.07   | -9.57                    | -10.62              |
| <b>Fruits</b>           |        |                         |          |          |                          |                     |
| 27. Banana              | Kg     | 147.58                  | 143.02   | 139.21   | -2.65                    | -5.66               |
| 28. Papaw               | Kg     | 96.21                   | 157.25   | 181.74   | 88.90                    | 15.57               |
| 29. Mangoes             | Each   | 88.08                   | 72.22    | 77.39    | -12.13                   | 7.16                |
| <b>Fresh Fish –</b>     |        |                         |          |          |                          |                     |
| 30. Seer                | Kg     | 1492.49                 | 1564.31  | 1525.38  | 2.20                     | -2.49               |
| 31.Talapath             | Kg     | 1089.04                 | 1126.83  | 1098.00  | 0.82                     | -2.56               |
| 32.Paraw                | Kg     | 999.37                  | 1046.20  | 998.03   | -0.13                    | -4.60               |
| <b>Dried Fish -</b>     |        |                         |          |          |                          |                     |
| 33.Katta                | Kg     | 1188.83                 | 1297.48  | 1306.05  | 9.86                     | 0.66                |
| 34. Sprats              | Kg     | 706.19                  | 733.02   | 745.97   | 5.63                     | 1.77                |
| <b>Fuel -</b>           |        |                         |          |          |                          |                     |
| 35. Kerosene Oil        | Lt     | 44.00                   | 70.00    | 70.00    | 59.09                    | 0.00                |
| 36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)  | Lt     | 117.32                  | 128.71   | 130.86   | 11.54                    | 1.67                |
| 37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)  | Lt     | 95.18                   | 100.71   | 105.36   | 10.70                    | 4.62                |
| 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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