



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – APRIL 2019

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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 (%)		
	Apr 2018	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	Apr 2018	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	Apr 2018	Mar 2019	Apr 2019
All Items	121.5	126.6	127.0	62.00	-120.56	237.92	0.08	-0.16	0.31
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	126.8	125.5	125.6	-82.78	-341.93	10.00	-0.11	-0.45	0.01
Non Food	119.4	127.0	127.5	144.78	221.36	227.92	0.20	0.29	0.30
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	190.7	217.9	219.3	22.20	100.70	8.70	0.03	0.13	0.01
Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	127.3	134.7	135.2	9.31	7.41	8.34	0.01	0.01	0.01
Health	156.3	174.3	174.9	52.49	14.38	18.50	0.07	0.02	0.02
Transport	100.4	108.2	111.0	93.62	71.58	182.22	0.13	0.09	0.24
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	139.2	141.1	141.4	13.52	19.88	5.94	0.02	0.03	0.01
Other	117.0	123.6	123.6	-46.36	7.40	4.22	-0.06	0.01	0.01

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in April 2019 were noted in six 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 April 2019 was 127.0 and it records an increase of 0.4 index points that is 0.31 percentage points compared to the month of March 2019 for which the index was 126.6. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs.237.92 in the "Market Basket".

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from March 2019 to April 2019 were given in Table 2. An increase in the index point by 0.31% was due to the expenditure value increase of Food items by 0.01% and increase of Non Food items by 0.30%.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.01%

As shown in Table 02, Increase in value change were reported for Sea Fish (0.05%), Coconut (0.04%), Vegetable (0.03%), Potatoes (0.03%), Mangoes (0.02%), Chicken (0.02%), Dried Fish (0.02%), Limes (0.02%), Eggs (0.01%), Banana (0.01%), Big Onions (0.01%) and Garlic (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Papaw (0.17%), Rice (0.06%), Green Chilies (0.03%), Red Onion (0.02%), Coconut Oil (0.01%) and Dhal Mysoor (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.30%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for 'Transport' (0.24%), 'Health' (0.02%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.01%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value change in expenditure value were reported for the groups of 'Clothing and Footwear', 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' and 'Recreation and Culture' and all other groups remain unchanged during the period.

Table 2: Contribution to the change in CCPI from March 2019 to April 2019 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		10.00	0.31	0.29	0.01
1	Rice	-47.49		0.06	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	4.90	0.01		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu red)</i>	-7.09		0.01	
	<i>Rice -(samba)</i>	-45.11		0.06	
2	Chicken	14.41	0.02		
3	Sea Fish	39.31	0.05		
4	Dried Fish	14.84	0.02		
	<i>Katta</i>	14.37	0.02		
5	Eggs	8.77	0.01		
6	Coconut	31.76	0.04		
7	Coconut oil	-5.30		0.01	
8	Banana	8.30	0.01		
9	Papaw	-126.31		0.17	
10	Mangoes	12.26	0.02		
11	Vegetables	24.05	0.03		
12	Potatoes	22.19	0.03		
13	Dhal - Mysoor	-11.02		0.01	
14	Red onions	-14.77		0.02	
15	Big onions	10.25	0.01		
16	Garlic	11.25	0.01		
17	Green chilies	-20.10		0.03	
18	Limes	13.52	0.02		
19	Others	24.08	0.03		
Non Food		227.92	0.30		0.30
20	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	8.70	0.01		
	<i>Arrack</i>	6.28	0.01		
21	Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	8.34	0.01		
22	Health	18.50	0.02		
	<i>Payments. to medical laboratories</i>	18.50	0.02		
23	Transport	182.22	0.24		
	<i>Petrol and other fuel</i>	16.38	0.02		
	<i>Diesel</i>	13.92	0.02		
	<i>Air lines</i>	136.19	0.18		
24	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.94	0.01		
25	Others	4.22	0.01		
	All Items	237.92	0.61	0.29	0.31

*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	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
	April	127.0	0.3	4.5	4.1	0.1	-0.9	0.9	0.4	6.8	5.6

3.1 Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.5% in April 2019 and inflation calculated for March 2019 was 4.3% (Table 3). YoY inflation of Food Group for the month of April 2019 was -0.9% and inflation rate for the month of March 2019 was -1.4% that of Non-food Group has increased from 6.7% in March to 6.8% in April during this period.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of April 2019, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was -0.29%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 4.81%. 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' (0.93%), 'Health' (0.67%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.38%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.24%), Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.17%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.23%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.06%) 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 April 2019 was 4.1%. The corresponding rate for the month of March 2019 was also 4.1%.

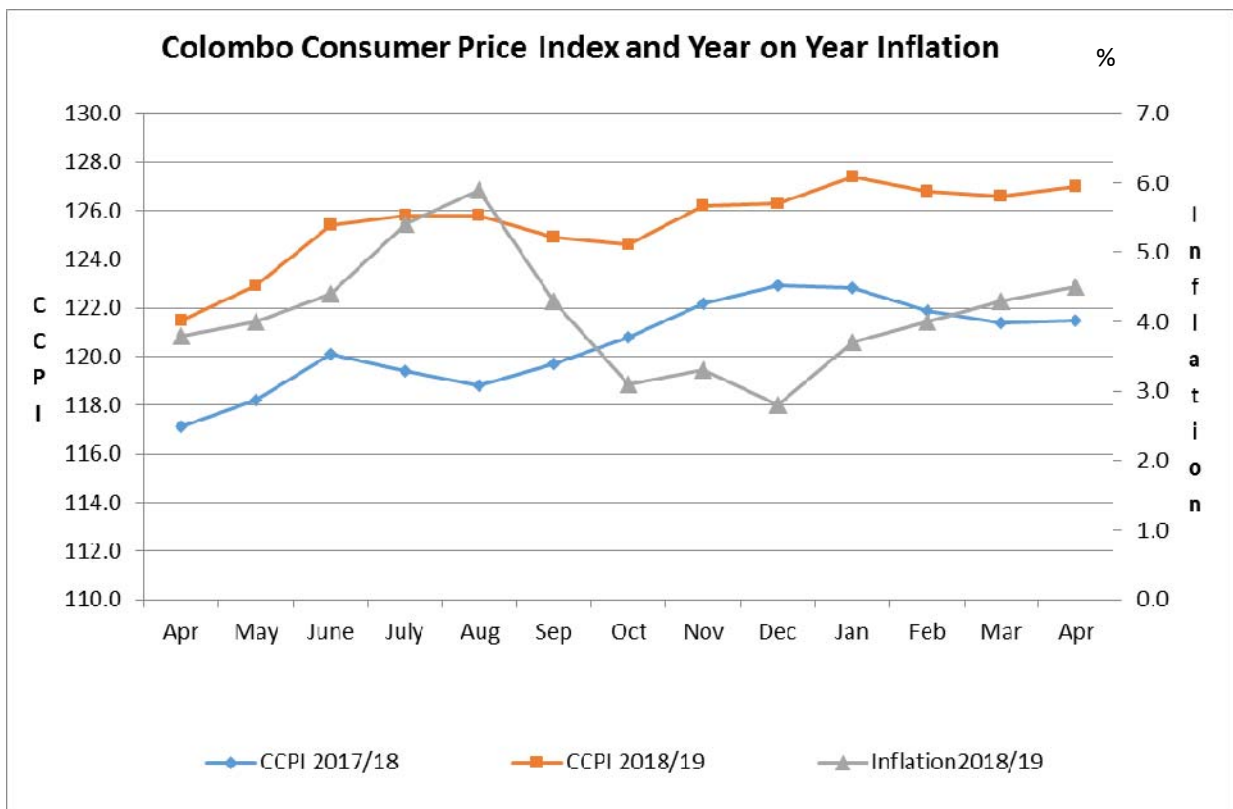


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (April, March 2019 & April 2018)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2018 Apr.	2019 Mar	2019 Apr.	Apr. 19/ Apr. 18	Apr. 19 / Mar..19
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	86.21	79.40	78.33	-9.15	-1.36
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	81.35	80.93	81.98	0.78	1.30
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	85.83	87.24	88.06	2.59	0.94
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	99.36	93.15	89.60	-9.82	-3.81
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	105.22	108.36	104.69	-0.51	-3.38
6. Cowpea	Kg	292.35	274.34	280.30	-4.12	2.17
7.Green Grams	Kg	243.30	258.73	262.52	7.90	1.47
8. Coconut	Each	78.00	50.31	51.54	-33.92	2.45
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	287.94	261.37	261.95	-9.02	0.22
10.Chicken	Kg	497.75	500.25	506.95	1.85	1.34
11. Eggs	Each	13.11	19.14	19.82	51.15	3.55
12. Red Onion	Kg	185.19	174.82	150.21	-18.89	-14.08
13. Big Onion	Kg	86.31	80.28	84.18	-2.46	4.86
14. Potatoes	Kg	113.86	133.52	142.64	25.28	6.83
15. Garlic	Kg	282.87	300.42	348.50	23.20	16.00
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	294.82	328.14	331.10	12.31	0.90
17. Green Chillies	Kg	200.06	376.80	301.32	50.62	-20.03
18. Sugar	Kg	108.69	104.40	104.79	-3.59	0.37
19. Pepper	Kg	1580.47	1491.84	1487.29	-5.90	-0.30
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	132.45	137.11	136.53	3.08	-0.42
21. Carrot	Kg	146.79	149.77	147.66	0.59	-1.41
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	139.02	140.88	154.01	10.79	9.32
23. Tomatoes	Kg	86.95	110.30	112.81	29.75	2.28
24. Capsicum	Kg	192.64	220.67	204.45	6.13	-7.35
25. Beetroot	Kg	105.18	128.41	137.79	31.00	7.30
26. Beans	Kg	205.12	196.07	208.81	1.80	6.50
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	147.03	139.21	140.89	-4.17	1.20
28. Papaw	Kg	101.25	181.74	122.06	20.56	-32.84
29. Mangoes	Each	83.67	77.39	101.75	21.61	31.47
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1446.89	1525.38	1535.73	6.14	0.68
31.Talapath	Kg	1066.20	1098.00	1105.03	3.64	0.64
32.Paraw	Kg	954.99	998.03	1014.13	6.19	1.61
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1239.28	1306.05	1361.81	9.89	4.27
34. Sprats	Kg	727.45	745.97	738.90	1.57	-0.95
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	44.00	70.00	70.00	59.09	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	121.50	130.86	132.00	8.64	0.87
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	97.50	105.36	108.50	11.28	2.98
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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