



WEB RELEASE
THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – FEBRUARY 2020
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 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020
All Items	126.8	134.6	134.6	-390.26	1310.21	-3.39	-0.51	1.64	0.00
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	127.5	146.5	146.2	-471.61	764.30	-54.22	-0.61	0.96	-0.07
Non Food	126.5	129.9	130.1	81.34	545.91	50.83	0.11	0.68	0.06
Clothing and Foot Wear	142.5	149.6	150.8	8.62	7.91	16.86	0.01	0.01	0.02
Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	134.2	135.7	135.2	2.22	1.68	-8.31	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Transport	107.0	115.3	115.7	-12.80	-14.52	28.78	-0.02	-0.02	0.04
Recreation and Culture	116.1	117.0	118.5	17.76	-3.24	11.61	0.02	0.00	0.01
Other	129.4	132.0	132.0	65.54	554.09	1.90	0.09	0.69	0.00

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in February 2020 were noted in five main groups, details on which are given in Table2. *Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

2. Variations in Colombo Consumer Price Index

Month on month changes in the Colombo Consumer Price Index was briefly describe below.

2.1 Month on Month (M on M) Change of CCPI:

The CCPI for all items for the month of February 2020 was 134.6 and it records no change in index point and percentage point compared to the month of January 2020 for which the index was 134.6. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs.3.39 in the "Market Basket".

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from January 2020 to February 2020 were given in Table 2. Expenditure value decrease of Food items by 0.07% and increase of Non Food items by 0.06% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.07%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Coconut (0.16%), Fresh fruit (0.07%), Garlic (0.03%), Chili powder (0.03%), Coconut Oil (0.02%), Dhal Mysoor (0.02%), Sugar (0.01%), Dry Chilies (0.01%), Curry Powder (0.01%) and Turmeric Powder (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported Vegetables (0.24%), Big Onions (0.07%), Potatoes (0.03%), Rice (0.02%), Sea Fish (0.02%), Red Onion (0.02%), Limes (0.02%), Chicken (0.01%), Green Chilies (0.01%) and Tea dust/ leaves (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.06%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Transport' (0.04%), 'Clothing and Foot wear' (0.02%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%).

Decreases in value change were reported for the group of 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value change was reported for the group of 'Alcoholic Beverage Tobacco and Narcotic'.

Table 2: Contribution to the change in CCPI from January 2020 to February 2020(Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		-54.22	0.39	0.45	-0.07
1	Rice	-18.98		0.02	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	<i>-12.11</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu Red)</i>	<i>-3.77</i>			
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	<i>-3.81</i>			
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	<i>-0.80</i>			
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-Red)</i>	<i>1.51</i>			
2	Chicken	-8.20		0.01	
3	Sea Fish	-17.94		0.02	
4	Coconut (Nuts)	127.75	0.16		
5	Coconut oil	15.31	0.02		
6	Fresh fruits	55.23	0.07		
	<i>Papaw</i>	<i>63.40</i>	<i>0.08</i>		
7	Vegetables	-192.15		0.24	
8	Potatoes	-24.84		0.03	
9	Dhal - Mysoor	17.53	0.02		
10	Red onions	-17.33		0.02	
11	Big onions	-59.57		0.07	
12	Garlic	24.47	0.03		
13	Green chilies	-6.94		0.01	
14	Sugar	5.17	0.01		
15	Chili powder	23.80	0.03		
16	Dried chilies	5.51	0.01		
17	Curry powder	8.28	0.01		
18	Turmeric/Turmeric powder	4.17	0.01		
19	Limes	-14.18		0.02	
20	Tea dust/ leaves	-9.53		0.01	
21	Others	28.19	0.03		
Non Food		50.83	0.07	0.01	0.06
22	Clothing and Foot Wear	16.86	0.02		
23	Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	-8.31		0.01	
24	Transport	28.78	0.04		
	<i>Air lines</i>	<i>28.78</i>	<i>0.04</i>		
25	Recreation and Culture	11.61	0.01		
26	Others	1.90			
	All Items	-3.39	0.46	0.47	0.00

*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 03: Movements of the NCPI (Base: 2013=100)

Year	Month	All Item				Food				Non Food			
		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %		Index Number	% Change Month on Month	Inflation %	
				Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.			Y on Y	12 Month Moving Avg.
2019	February	126.8	-0.5	4.0	4.1	127.5	-2.1	-1.4	1.7	126.5	0.2	6.4	5.1
	March	126.6	-0.2	4.3	4.1	125.5	-1.6	-1.4	1.2	127.0	0.4	6.7	5.3
	April	127.0	0.3	4.5	4.1	125.6	0.1	-0.9	0.9	127.5	0.4	6.8	5.6
	May	129.0	1.6	5.0	4.2	131.1	4.4	0.8	0.7	128.2	0.5	6.8	5.8
	June	130.2	0.9	3.8	4.2	134.5	2.6	-1.0	0.3	128.6	0.3	6.0	5.9
	July	130.0	-0.2	3.3	4.0	133.5	-0.7	-2.6	-0.3	128.6	0.0	5.9	5.9
	August	130.1	0.1	3.4	3.8	132.1	-1.0	-2.8	-1.2	129.3	0.5	6.2	6.0
	September	131.1	0.8	5.0	3.9	135.3	2.4	3.0	-1.1	129.4	0.1	5.7	6.0
	October	131.3	0.2	5.4	4.0	137.4	1.6	6.8	-0.4	128.9	-0.4	4.8	6.0
	November	131.7	0.3	4.4	4.1	138.7	0.9	4.6	0.1	128.9	0.0	4.2	5.9
December	132.4	0.5	4.8	4.3	142.0	2.4	6.3	0.8	128.7	-0.2	4.3	5.8	
2020	January	134.6	1.7	5.7	4.5	146.5	3.2	12.4	2.0	129.9	0.9	2.9	5.5
	February	134.6	0.0	6.2	4.6	146.2	-0.2	14.7	3.3	130.1	0.2	2.8	5.2

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The Y-on-Y inflation as measured by CCPI is 6.2% in February 2020 and inflation calculated for January 2020 was 5.7% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has increased from 12.4% in January 2020 to 14.7% in February 2020 while that of Non-food Group has decreased from 2.9% in January 2020 to 2.8% in February 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of February 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 4.15%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 2.03%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Transport' (0.73%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.54%), 'Education' (0.37%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.20%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.18%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.15%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.15%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.02%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.03%) and decrease in value change was reported for the group 'Communication' (0.32%). However, an insignificant value change was reported for the group of 'Health'.

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of February 2020 was 4.6%. The corresponding rate for the month of January 2020 was 4.5%.

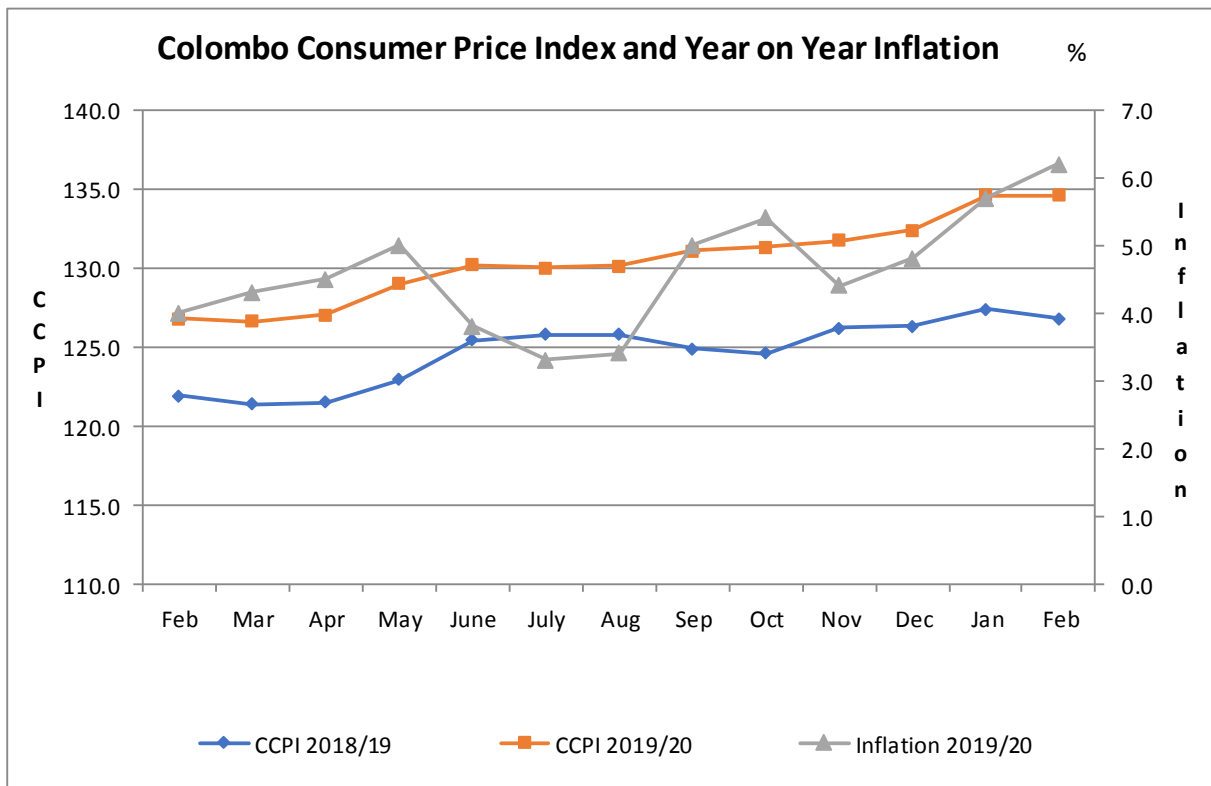


Table 4: Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index Feb 2019 , Jan & Feb 2020)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 Feb	2020Jan	2020 Feb	Feb19/ Feb20	Jan20 / Feb20
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	81.04	102.90	102.33	26.27	-0.56
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	83.39	105.69	103.09	23.63	-2.46
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	87.74	98.34	98.14	11.86	-0.21
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	94.90	96.45	98.03	3.30	1.63
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	110.69	100.94	100.63	-9.09	-0.31
6. Cowpea	Kg	274.41	287.29	298.47	8.77	3.89
7.Green Grams	Kg	257.11	292.13	300.33	16.81	2.81
8. Coconut	Each	53.00	59.35	64.31	21.33	8.35
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	263.13	300.81	313.53	19.15	4.23
10.Chicken	Kg	493.00	482.16	478.34	-2.97	-0.79
11. Eggs	Each	20.48	20.34	20.47	-0.04	0.64
12. Red Onion	Kg	181.79	613.81	584.93	221.76	-4.71
13. Big Onion	Kg	97.99	168.65	145.99	48.98	-13.44
14. Potatoes	Kg	129.55	189.87	179.67	38.69	-5.37
15. Garlic	Kg	250.60	403.55	508.13	102.77	25.91
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	324.33	539.76	589.80	81.85	9.27
17. Green Chilies	Kg	391.95	454.01	427.93	9.18	-5.74
18. Sugar	Kg	105.16	106.81	108.18	2.88	1.29
19. Pepper	Kg	1485.11	1386.30	1409.16	-5.11	1.65
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	142.06	183.57	180.42	27.00	-1.71
21. Carrot	Kg	162.77	421.46	404.75	148.65	-3.97
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	142.19	237.66	223.06	56.88	-6.14
23. Tomatoes	Kg	123.82	338.47	428.81	246.32	26.69
24. Capsicum	Kg	257.69	431.58	404.94	57.14	-6.17
25. Beetroot	Kg	154.20	301.74	245.95	59.50	-18.49
26. Beans	Kg	219.36	425.94	380.33	73.38	-10.71
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	143.01	154.79	152.83	-1.27	6.86
28. Papaw	Kg	157.25	116.13	146.08	-7.10	25.79
29. Mangoes	Each	72.22	80.69	82.30	13.96	1.99
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1564.31	1762.35	1797.28	14.89	1.98
31.Talapath	Kg	1126.83	1213.40	1182.16	4.91	-2.57
32.Paraw	Kg	1046.20	1129.90	1096.23	4.78	-2.98
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1297.48	1467.15	1478.27	13.93	0.76
34. Sprats	Kg	733.02	757.03	763.28	4.13	0.83
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	128.71	139.50	139.50	8.38	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	100.71	104.00	104.00	3.27	0.00
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-13.85	0.00
Litro	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-13.85	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-13.85	0.00

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