



Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI)-(BASE 2021=100)

March 2024

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Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National policies

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the authorized agency to compile Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI). Following internationally accepted guidelines, it has been arranged to revise the base year from 2013=100 to 2021=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 2021=100) will be released monthly commencing from February 2023 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. The price collection of the index (Base 2021=100) has covered 10 price collection centers in Peliyagoda, Maradana, Wellawatta, Dematagoda Grandpass, Kirulapone, Nugegoda, Rathmalana, and two Dedicated Economic Centers namely Narahenpita and Rathmalana.

Prices are collected weekly from the outlets located within each of the above market areas including Sathosa and a supermarket. The consumer basket includes 426 items, which represent the typical urban household consumption expenditure. The CPI weights are derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2019.

- ▮ The CCPI for all items for the month of March 2024 was 196.7 and it records a decrease of 3.9 in index points compared to February 2024, for which the index was 200.6.
- ▮ The overall rate of inflation as measured by CCPI on Y-on-Y basis is 0.9% in March 2024

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Source Publication For more details on the revision of base year, please click here: [Technical Note on Base Year Revision](#)

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1. Variations in Colombo Consumer Price Index

Month on month changes in the Colombo Consumer Price Index is briefly described below.

Table 1- Monthly Changes by main Groups of Market Basket

| Major Group* | Monthly Changes of the | | | | | | Monthly Changes | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Index Number | | | Expenditure Values (Rs.) | | | of the Index (%) ¹ | | |
| | Mar. 2023 | Feb. 2024 | Mar. 2024 | Mar. 2023 | Feb. 2024 | Mar. 2024 | Mar. 2023 | Feb. 2024 | Mar. 2024 |
| All Items | 195.0 | 200.6 | 196.7 | 5086.06 | -92.52 | -3576.00 | 2.92 | -0.05 | -1.94 |
| Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages | 229.0 | 242.8 | 237.8 | -1371.07 | -1230.64 | -1210.19 | -0.79 | -0.67 | -0.66 |
| Non Food | 183.0 | 185.6 | 182.1 | 6457.13 | 1138.13 | -2365.82 | 3.71 | 0.62 | -1.28 |
| Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotics | 181.7 | 232.6 | 237.1 | -16.68 | 174.45 | 69.21 | -0.01 | 0.09 | 0.04 |
| Clothing and Footwear | 239.3 | 239.3 | 237.9 | 85.43 | -57.03 | -28.32 | 0.05 | -0.03 | -0.02 |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | 158.0 | 158.7 | 150.5 | 6078.09 | 243.92 | -2383.56 | 3.49 | 0.13 | -1.29 |
| Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | 187.0 | 187.0 | 186.3 | -28.44 | 46.49 | -24.20 | -0.02 | 0.03 | -0.01 |
| Education | 155.2 | 172.4 | 172.6 | 0.00 | 143.61 | 9.68 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.01 |
| Restaurant and Hotels | 234.3 | 239.8 | 239.1 | -48.65 | 0.00 | -31.95 | -0.03 | 0.00 | -0.02 |
| Miscellaneous Goods and Services | 183.5 | 187.8 | 188.6 | -16.74 | 12.46 | 24.35 | -0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Other | 207.6 | 205.7 | 205.7 | 404.13 | 574.24 | -1.02 | 0.23 | 0.31 | 0.00 |

Note 1 : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in March 2024 were noted in eight main groups, details on which are given in Table2.

Note 2: Monthly change of the index (%) is calculated using expenditure values.

Note 3:¹ Percentage of items does not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

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

The CCPI for all items for the month of March 2024 was 196.7 and it records a decrease of 3.9 index points that is 1.94 percentage change compared to the month of February 2024 for which the index was 200.6. This represents a decrease in expenditure value by Rs 3576.00 in the "Market Basket".

1.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from February 2024 to March 2024 are given in Table 02. The month-on-month change was contributed by a decrease in Food items by 0.66% and Non Food items by 1.28% respectively.

1.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.66%

As shown in table 02, decreases in value change were reported for Vegetables (0.70%), Fish (0.22%), Green Chillies (0.18%), Eggs (0.05%), Rice (0.04%), Dried Chillies (0.02%), Dried Fish (0.02%), Sugar (0.02%), Red Onions (0.02%), Gram (0.01%), Cowpea (0.01%), Chicken (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%), Limes (0.01%) and Tamarind (0.01%).

While increases in value change were reported for Fresh Fruits (0.26%), Big Onions (0.17%), Milk Powder (0.06%), Coconuts (0.04%), Potatoes (0.02%), Green Gram (0.02%), Ginger (0.02%), Tea dust/leaves (0.02%), Canned Fish (0.01%), Vegetable oil (0.01%) and Milk Packets (0.01%).

1.1.3 Contribution of Non-Food items: -1.28%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.04%), 'Education' (0.01%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.01%). While decreases in value change was reported for the groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (1.29%) (*Electricity Bill*), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.02%), 'Restaurant and Hotels' (0.02%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%) and a very slight price increase was reported in the group of 'Transport'. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Health', 'Communication' and 'Recreation and Culture' remained unchanged during the month.

Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from February 2024 to March 2024
(Base2021=100)

| | Rs.Cts. | Value Change | | Net effect |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Increase | Decrease | |
| Food | -1210.19 | 0.66 | 1.32 | -0.66 |
| 1 RICE | -67.60 | | 0.04 | |
| <i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i> | <i>-9.52</i> | | <i>0.01</i> | |
| <i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i> | <i>-29.23</i> | | <i>0.02</i> | |
| <i>Rice - (Samba)</i> | <i>-26.42</i> | | <i>0.01</i> | |
| 2 Green gram | 42.94 | 0.02 | | |
| 3 Gram | -10.04 | | 0.01 | |
| 4 Cowpea | -19.32 | | 0.01 | |
| 5 Chicken | -18.78 | | 0.01 | |
| 6 Fresh Fish | -413.49 | | 0.22 | |
| 7 Dried Fish | -38.12 | | 0.02 | |
| <i>Sprats (dry)</i> | <i>-29.14</i> | | <i>0.02</i> | |
| 8 Canned fish | 22.33 | 0.01 | | |
| 9 Milk packets | 14.23 | 0.01 | | |
| 10 Milk powder | 103.13 | 0.06 | | |
| 11 Eggs | -83.93 | | 0.05 | |
| 12 Coconuts | 70.35 | 0.04 | | |
| 13 Vegetable oil | 18.21 | 0.01 | | |
| 14 Fresh Fruits | 481.35 | 0.26 | | |
| <i>Watermelon</i> | <i>-84.91</i> | | <i>0.05</i> | |
| <i>Papaw</i> | <i>141.15</i> | <i>0.08</i> | | |
| <i>Mangoes</i> | <i>483.77</i> | <i>0.26</i> | | |
| 15 Vegetables | -1289.65 | | 0.70 | |
| 16 Potatoes | 43.79 | 0.02 | | |
| 17 Red onions | -32.80 | | 0.02 | |
| 18 Big onions | 322.19 | 0.17 | | |
| 19 Green chillies | -328.09 | | 0.18 | |
| 20 Sugar | -34.52 | | 0.02 | |
| 21 Chili powder | -21.33 | | 0.01 | |
| 22 Dried chillies | -43.28 | | 0.02 | |
| 23 Limes | -10.65 | | 0.01 | |
| 24 Tamarind | -22.61 | | 0.01 | |
| 25 Ginger | 40.68 | 0.02 | | |
| 26 Tea dust/ leaves | 28.75 | 0.02 | | |
| 27 Others | 36.04 | 0.02 | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| | Non Food | -2365.82 | 0.06 | 1.34 | -1.28 |
| 28 | Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotics | 69.21 | 0.04 | | |
| | <i>Beetle leaves</i> | <i>43.03</i> | <i>0.02</i> | | |
| 29 | Clothing and Footwear | -28.32 | | 0.02 | |
| 30 | Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | -2383.56 | | 1.29 | |
| | <i>Maintenance/ Reconstruction</i> | <i>25.78</i> | <i>0.01</i> | | |
| | <i>Electricity Bill</i> | <i>-2413.17</i> | | <i>1.31</i> | |
| 31 | Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | -24.20 | | 0.01 | |
| 32 | Education | 9.68 | 0.01 | | |
| | <i>Course fees vocational training</i> | <i>9.68</i> | <i>0.01</i> | | |
| 33 | Restaurant and Hotels | -31.95 | | 0.02 | |
| | <i>Rice (fish and vegetables)</i> | <i>-10.78</i> | | <i>0.01</i> | |
| | <i>Rice (only vegetables)</i> | <i>-15.26</i> | | <i>0.01</i> | |
| 34 | Miscellaneous Goods and Services | 24.35 | 0.01 | | |
| 35 | Others | -1.02 | | 0.00 | |
| | All Items | -3576.00 | 0.72 | 2.66 | -1.94 |

*Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

2. 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 CCPI (Base: 2021=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. |
| 2023 | March | 195.0 | 2.9 | 50.3 | 229.0 | -2.4 | 47.6 | 183.0 | 5.5 | 51.7 | | | |
| | April | 192.3 | -1.4 | 35.3 | 228.8 | -0.1 | 30.6 | 179.3 | -2.0 | 37.6 | | | |
| | May | 192.3 | 0.0 | 25.2 | 232.7 | 1.7 | 21.5 | 177.9 | -0.8 | 27.0 | | | |
| | June | 192.3 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 235.7 | 1.3 | 4.1 | 176.9 | -0.6 | 16.2 | | | |
| | July | 190.2 | -1.1 | 6.3 | 235.8 | 0.0 | -1.4 | 173.9 | -1.7 | 10.5 | | | |
| | August | 190.1 | -0.1 | 4.0 | 232.8 | -1.3 | -4.8 | 174.9 | 0.6 | 8.7 | | | |
| | September | 191.8 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 234.1 | 0.6 | -5.2 | 176.7 | 1.0 | 4.7 | | | |
| | October | 191.4 | -0.2 | 1.5 | 229.5 | -2.0 | -5.2 | 177.8 | 0.6 | 4.9 | | | |
| | November | 193.4 | 1.0 | 3.4 | 230.3 | 0.3 | -3.6 | 180.2 | 1.3 | 6.8 | | | |
| | December | 195.1 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 238.9 | 3.7 | 0.3 | 179.5 | -0.4 | 5.8 | 20.0 | | |
| | 2024 | January | 200.7 | 2.9 | 6.4 | 247.9 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 183.9 | 2.5 | 7.9 | 17.1 | |
| | | February | 200.6 | 0.0 | 5.9 | 242.8 | -2.1 | 3.5 | 185.6 | 0.9 | 7.0 | 14.2 | |
| March | | 196.7 | -1.9 | 0.9 | 237.8 | -2.1 | 3.8 | 182.1 | -1.9 | -0.5 | 10.5 | | |

Note: Year on Year inflation, 12 Month Moving Average inflation and Month on Month change were calculated using the rounding off index numbers

2.1 Year on Year (Y-on-Y) Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by the CCPI on Y-on-Y basis is 0.9% in March 2024 and Y-on-Y inflation calculated for the month of February 2024 was 5.9% (Table 3). The Y-on-Y inflation of Food Group increased to 3.8% in March 2024 from 3.5% in February 2024 and the Y-on-Y inflation of Non Food Group decreased to 0.5% in March 2024 from 7.0% in February 2024.

2.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of March 2024, on Y-on-Y basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 1.19%.

The contribution of Non Food items was -0.32%. This was mainly due to price decreases in groups of items 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (1.22%), Transport' (0.31%), Health (0.04%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.02%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%) and price increases in groups of items 'Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.47%), 'Education' (0.45%), 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.13%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.08%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.08%) and Communication (0.07%) Compared to March 2023.

Table 04: Contribution to the increase in CCPI from March 2023 March 2024
(Base 2021 =100)

| Sub Group/Commodity | Value Change | Increase | Decrease | Net effect |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | Rs.Cts. | % | % | % |
| Food | 2127.83 | 2.26 | 1.07 | 1.19 |
| Rice | 540.64 | 0.30 | | |
| Wheat flour | -34.01 | | 0.02 | |
| Green gram | -74.42 | | 0.04 | |
| Bread (Normal) | -183.99 | | 0.10 | |
| Chicken | -88.69 | | 0.05 | |
| Sea fish | -260.68 | | 0.15 | |
| Dried Fish | -142.29 | | 0.08 | |
| Milk powder | -466.01 | | 0.26 | |
| Eggs | 74.68 | 0.04 | | |
| Coconuts | -33.86 | | 0.02 | |
| Coconut oil | -229.41 | | 0.13 | |
| Fresh Fruits | 151.23 | 0.08 | | |
| Vegetable | 1264.79 | 0.71 | | |
| Potatoes | 103.28 | 0.06 | | |
| Big Onions | 1343.76 | 0.75 | | |
| Garlic | 78.95 | 0.04 | | |
| Sugar | 206.76 | 0.12 | | |
| Dried chillies | -153.36 | | 0.09 | |
| Ginger | 148.97 | 0.08 | | |
| Tea dust/ leaves | 135.88 | 0.08 | | |
| Non Food | -575.46 | 1.29 | 1.61 | -0.32 |
| Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotics | 849.78 | 0.47 | | |
| <i>Arrack</i> | <i>273.44</i> | <i>0.15</i> | | |
| <i>Whiskey</i> | <i>132.58</i> | <i>0.07</i> | | |
| <i>Beer</i> | <i>31.13</i> | <i>0.02</i> | | |
| <i>Cigarettes</i> | <i>362.16</i> | <i>0.20</i> | | |
| Clothing and Footwear | -30.13 | | 0.02 | |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | -2193.67 | | 1.22 | |
| <i>Maintenance/ Reconstruction</i> | <i>-128.30</i> | | <i>0.07</i> | |
| <i>Water bills</i> | <i>1533.67</i> | <i>0.86</i> | | |
| <i>Electricity bill</i> | <i>-3662.34</i> | | <i>2.04</i> | |
| <i>L. P. Gas</i> | <i>-332.99</i> | | <i>0.19</i> | |
| <i>Kerosene oil</i> | <i>-77.27</i> | | <i>0.04</i> | |
| Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance | -21.73 | | 0.01 | |
| Health | -70.93 | | 0.04 | |
| <i>Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products</i> | <i>-97.49</i> | | <i>0.05</i> | |
| <i>Consultation fees to specialists</i> | <i>84.51</i> | <i>0.05</i> | | |
| Transport | -563.13 | | 0.31 | |
| <i>Petrol</i> | <i>-690.43</i> | | <i>0.39</i> | |
| <i>Diesel</i> | <i>-117.16</i> | | <i>0.07</i> | |
| Communication | 119.73 | 0.07 | | |
| Recreation and Culture | 144.96 | 0.08 | | |
| Education | 811.68 | 0.45 | | |
| Restaurant and hotels | 226.98 | 0.13 | | |
| Miscellaneous Goods and Services | 151.00 | 0.08 | | |
| All Items | 1552.37 | 3.55 | 2.68 | 0.87 |

*Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

Movements in the CCPI (Base 2021=100) for Head Line, Food, Non Food and Year on Year Inflation

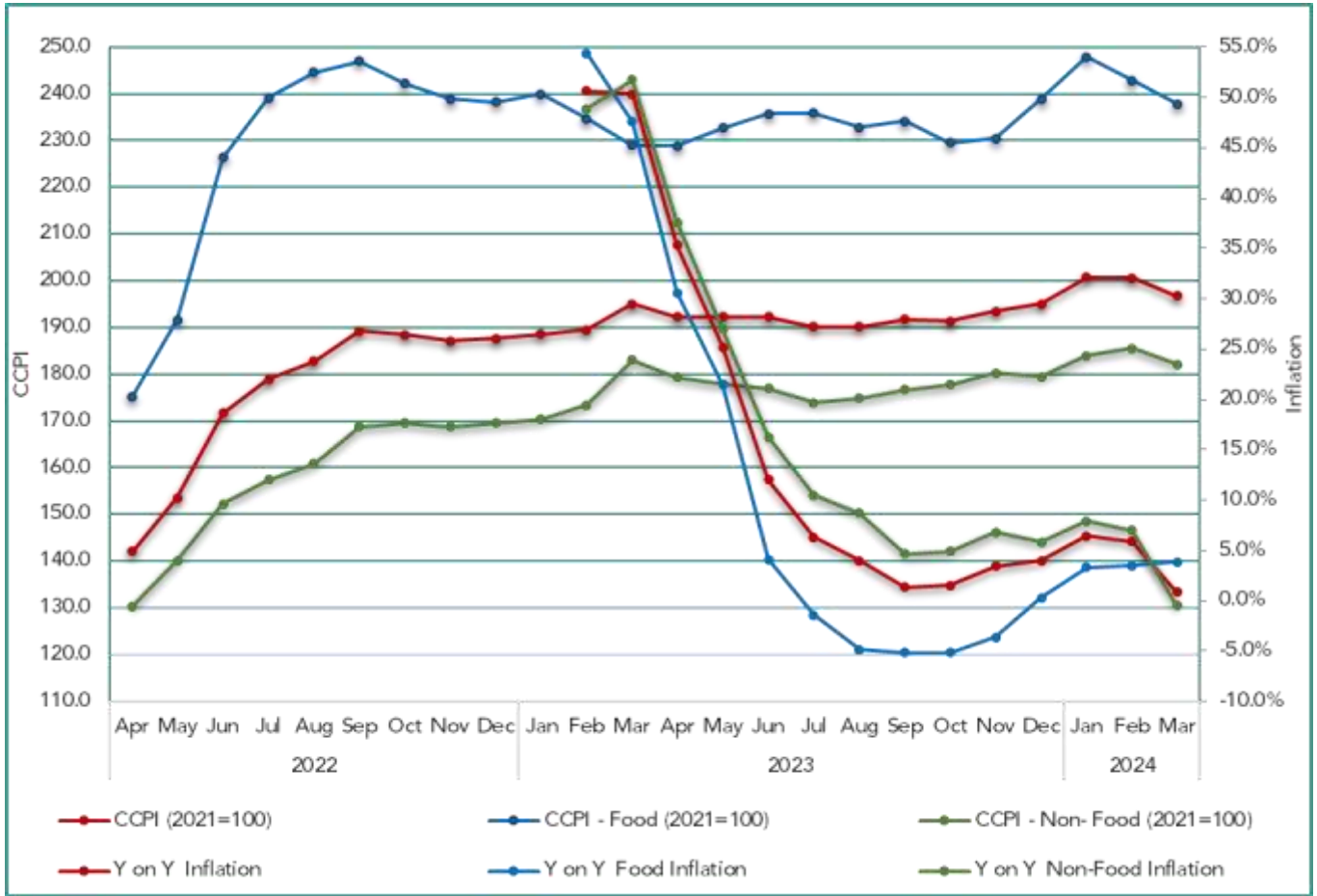


Table 05: Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index March 2023 ,February & March 2024


| Item | Unit | Retail Prices (Rs. Cts) | | | Retail Price Changes (%) | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | | 2023 Mar. | 2024 Feb. | 2024 Mar. | Mar. 24 / Mar. 23 | Mar. 24 / Feb. 24 |
| 1. Rice– Kekulu – Red | Kg | 193.24 | 196.70 | 192.33 | -0.47 | -2.23 |
| 2. Rice– Kekulu – White | Kg | 191.76 | 210.62 | 209.24 | 9.11 | -0.66 |
| 3. Rice –Nadu - White | Kg | 200.36 | 218.90 | 218.07 | 8.84 | -0.38 |
| 4. Rice –Nadu - Red | Kg | 227.19 | 220.95 | 222.48 | -2.07 | 0.69 |
| 5. Rice– Samba | Kg | 225.86 | 273.03 | 269.76 | 19.44 | -1.20 |
| 6. Cowpea | Kg | 1187.41 | 1233.66 | 1119.13 | -5.75 | -9.28 |
| 7.Green Grams | Kg | 1555.76 | 1151.19 | 1299.22 | -16.49 | 12.86 |
| 8. Coconut | Each | 114.03 | 109.18 | 112.45 | -1.38 | 3.00 |
| 9. Coconut Oil | 750ml | 549.33 | 450.67 | 447.66 | -18.51 | -0.67 |
| 10.Chicken | Kg | 1231.39 | 1200.95 | 1192.77 | -3.14 | -0.68 |
| 11. Eggs | Each | 49.51 | 57.65 | 53.34 | 7.75 | -7.48 |
| 12. Red Onion | Kg | 427.48 | 427.74 | 385.29 | -9.87 | -9.92 |
| 13. Big Onion | Kg | 133.89 | 423.05 | 514.25 | 284.08 | 21.56 |
| 14. Potatoes | Kg | 244.92 | 272.73 | 293.20 | 19.72 | 7.51 |
| 15. Garlic | Kg | 530.38 | 666.05 | 669.70 | 26.27 | 0.55 |
| 16. Dried Chillies | Kg | 1469.51 | 1236.24 | 1144.53 | -22.11 | -7.42 |
| 17. Green Chillies | Kg | 559.32 | 1256.68 | 668.31 | 19.49 | -46.82 |
| 18. Sugar | Kg | 228.77 | 294.00 | 284.67 | 24.43 | -3.17 |
| 19. Pepper | Kg | 2709.05 | 2812.22 | 2788.89 | 2.95 | -0.83 |
| Vegetables- | | | | | | |
| 20. Ash Plantain | Kg | 309.85 | 467.26 | 404.87 | 30.67 | -13.35 |
| 21. Carrot | Kg | 232.11 | 945.37 | 515.20 | 121.96 | -45.50 |
| 22. Snake Gourd | Kg | 302.96 | 465.04 | 383.56 | 26.60 | -17.52 |
| 23. Tomatoes | Kg | 293.24 | 921.51 | 552.54 | 88.43 | -40.04 |
| 24. Capsicum | Kg | 642.47 | 1137.72 | 772.53 | 20.24 | -32.10 |
| 25. Beetroot | Kg | 285.49 | 647.48 | 448.57 | 57.12 | -30.72 |
| 26. Beans | Kg | 377.25 | 808.23 | 592.90 | 57.16 | -26.64 |
| Fruits | | | | | | |
| 27. Banana | Kg | 313.38 | 291.76 | 280.95 | -10.35 | -3.70 |
| 28. Papaw | Kg | 369.67 | 254.37 | 317.14 | -14.21 | 24.67 |
| 29. Mangoes | Each | 259.20 | 155.15 | 534.44 | 106.19 | 244.47 |
| Fresh Fish – | | | | | | |
| 30. Seer | Kg | 3149.31 | 3307.09 | 3052.79 | -3.07 | -7.69 |
| 31.Talapath | Kg | 2269.59 | 2672.18 | 2432.56 | 7.18 | -8.97 |
| 32.Paraw | Kg | 2123.80 | 2237.72 | 2093.42 | -1.43 | -6.45 |
| Dried Fish - | | | | | | |
| 33.Katta | Kg | 2489.19 | 2232.52 | 2211.94 | -11.14 | -0.92 |
| 34. Sprats | Kg | 1330.52 | 1331.71 | 1277.92 | -3.95 | -4.04 |
| Fuel - | | | | | | |
| 35. Kerosene Oil | Lt | 317.50 | 255.50 | 258.43 | -18.61 | 1.15 |
| 36. Petrol (CPC & IOC) | Lt | 400.00 | 369.75 | 369.75 | -7.56 | 0.00 |
| 37. Diesel (CPC & IOC) | Lt | 405.00 | 361.75 | 361.75 | -10.68 | 0.00 |
| 38. Gas- Avg. | 12.5kg | 4877.25 | 4372.49 | 4372.49 | -10.35 | 0.00 |
| Litro | 12.5kg | 4743.00 | 4249.99 | 4249.99 | -10.39 | 0.00 |
| Laughs | 12.5kg | 5280.00 | 4740.00 | 4740.00 | -10.23 | 0.00 |





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