



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – August 2020

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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 (%)		
	Aug 2019	July 2020	Aug 2020	Aug 2019	July 2020	Aug 2020	Aug 2019	July 2020	Aug 2020
All Items	130.1	135.4	135.4	47.94	71.93	-22.19	0.06	0.09	-0.03
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	132.1	148.0	148.4	-232.42	14.96	65.60	-0.30	0.02	0.08
Non Food	129.3	130.5	130.3	280.35	56.97	-87.79	0.36	0.07	-0.11
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	218.8	219.2	221.6	2.28	-4.78	15.35	0.00	-0.01	0.02
Clothing and Foot Wear	147.2	153.7	154.3	16.94	15.69	8.47	0.02	0.02	0.01
Health	177.9	178.1	172.4	1.78	63.52	-150.88	0.00	0.08	-0.18
Recreation and culture	118.7	115.6	116.5	16.66	-3.19	7.29	0.02	0.00	0.01
Restaurant and Hotels	136.3	138.3	139.1	0.00	0.00	25.61	0.00	0.00	0.03
Other	122.9	124.0	124.0	242.68	-14.27	6.37	0.31	-0.02	0.01

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in August 2020 were noted in six 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 is briefly described below.

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

The CCPI for all items for the month of August 2020 was 135.4 and it recorded no change in index points that is -0.03 percentage points compared to the month of July 2020 for which the index was 135.4. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs. 22.19 in the “Market Basket”

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from July 2020 to August 2020 were given in Table 2. The month on month change was contributed by increases of Food items by 0.08% and decrease of Non Food items by 0.11% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.08%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Coconut (0.10%), Vegetables (0.07%), Turmeric powder (0.06%), Big Onions (0.05%), Fresh Fruits (0.05%), Biscuits (0.03%), Eggs (0.03%), Chicken (0.02%), Noodles (0.01%), Jak madulu (0.01%), Bread fruit (0.01%), Papadam (0.01%) and Tea dust/Leaves (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Sea fish (0.14%), Limes (0.08%), Coconut Oil (0.04%), Red Onions (0.04%), Rice (0.02%), Dhal Mysoor (0.01%) and Pepper (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: -0.11%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of ‘Restaurant and Hotels’ (0.03%), ‘Alcoholic Beverage Tobacco and Narcotic’ (0.02%), ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.01%) and ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported in the group of ‘Health’ (0.18%).

However, an insignificant value change was reported for the groups of ‘Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance’ and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ and all other groups remained unchanged during the period.

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

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		65.60	0.45	0.37	0.08
1	Rlce	-18.21		0.02	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	<i>-9.69</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
2	Biscuits	22.68	0.03		
3	Noodles	4.95	0.01		
4	Chicken	13.35	0.02		
5	Sea Fish	-117.80		0.14	
6	Eggs	22.42	0.03		
7	Coconut	85.68	0.10		
8	Coconut oil	-34.49		0.04	
9	Fresh Fruits	39.23	0.05		
	<i>Papaw</i>	<i>-12.88</i>		<i>0.02</i>	
10	Vegetables	58.98	0.07		
11	Jak madulu	7.86	0.01		
12	Bread fruit	6.41	0.01		
13	Dhal - Mysoor	-9.59		0.01	
14	Red onions	-35.18		0.04	
15	Big onions	40.56	0.05		
16	Papadam	9.54	0.01		
17	Pepper	-4.64		0.01	
18	Turmeric	50.42	0.06		
19	Limes	-64.12		0.08	
20	Tea dust/ leaves	4.10	0.01		
21	Others	-16.57		0.02	
Non Food		-87.79	0.08	0.18	-0.11
22	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	15.35	0.02		
	<i>Bulathwita</i>	<i>10.62</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
23	Clothing and Foot Wear	8.47	0.01		
24	Health	-150.88		0.18	
	<i>Purchase of medical/ pharmacy products</i>	<i>10.59</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
	<i>Payments. to medical laboratories</i>	<i>-188.04</i>		<i>0.23</i>	
	<i>Payments to private hospitals/ nursing homes</i>	<i>26.56</i>	<i>0.03</i>		
25	Recreation and culture	7.29	0.01		
	<i>News papers</i>	<i>7.29</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
26	Restaurant and Hotels	25.61	0.03		
27	Others	6.37	0.01		
	All Items	-22.19	0.53	0.55	-0.03

*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 CCPI (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	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
	March	133.4	-0.9	5.4	4.7	141.6	-3.1	12.8	4.4	130.2	0.1	2.5	4.9
	April	133.6	0.1	5.2	4.8	142.2	0.4	13.2	5.5	130.2	0.0	2.1	4.5
	May	134.2	0.4	4.0	4.7	144.1	1.3	9.9	6.3	130.3	0.1	1.6	4.1
	June	135.3	0.8	3.9	4.7	147.9	2.6	10.0	7.2	130.4	0.1	1.4	3.7
	July	135.4	0.1	4.2	4.8	148.0	0.1	10.9	8.4	130.5	0.1	1.5	3.3
	August	135.4	0.0	4.1	4.8	148.4	0.3	12.3	9.7	130.3	-0.2	0.8	2.9

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The Y-On-Y inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.1% in August 2020 and inflation calculated for July 2020 was 4.2% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has increased from 10.9% in July 2020 to 12.3% in August 2020 while that of Non-food Group has decreased from 1.5% in July 2020 to 0.8% in August 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of August 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 3.53%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 0.56%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.48%), 'Education' (0.36%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.13%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.11%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.05%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.02%), and decrease in value change was reported for the groups of 'Communication' (0.32%), 'Health' (0.19%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' (0.04%), 'Transport' (0.02%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.02%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of August 2020 was remained unchanged as 4.8% when compared to corresponding rate for the month of July 2020.

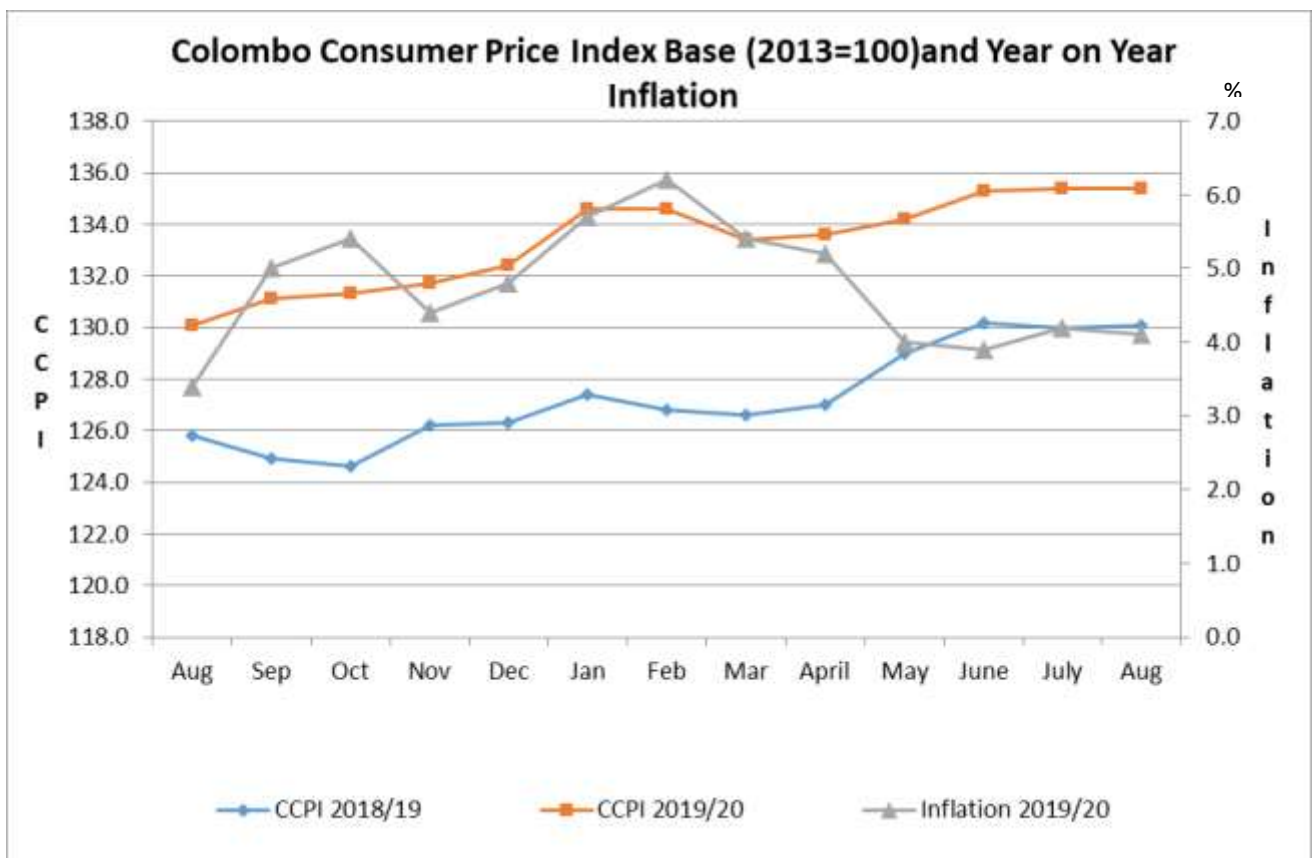


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index August 2019, July & August 2020

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 August	2020 July	2020 August	Aug20/ 19-Aug	Aug 20 / 20-Jul
1. Rice–Kekulu– Red	Kg	79.72	98.24	98.04	22.98	-0.21
2. Rice–Kekulu– White	Kg	86.38	98.29	96.21	11.38	-2.11
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	89.96	100.85	99.91	11.06	-0.94
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	89.39	107.28	105.99	18.57	-1.20
5. Rice–Samba	Kg	94.45	103.13	102.95	9.00	-0.18
6. Cowpea	Kg	290.32	384.12	393.89	35.68	2.54
7.Green Grams	Kg	279.01	340.89	342.33	22.69	0.42
8. Coconut	Each	46.42	65.45	68.78	48.15	5.08
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	251.93	372.42	345.33	37.07	-7.27
10.Chicken	Kg	500.61	516.14	522.35	4.34	1.20
11. Eggs	Each	20.14	20.56	22.30	10.71	8.44
12. Red Onion	Kg	179.06	277.20	218.58	22.07	-21.15
13. Big Onion	Kg	124.63	88.31	103.74	-16.76	17.48
14. Potatoes	Kg	190.52	201.16	202.72	6.41	0.78
15. Garlic	Kg	381.62	305.71	316.14	-17.16	3.41
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	364.62	552.98	548.39	50.40	-0.83
17. Green Chilies	Kg	413.65	378.54	368.41	-10.94	-2.68
18. Sugar	Kg	107.01	136.00	135.69	26.79	-0.23
19. Pepper	Kg	1387.26	1358.17	1326.30	-4.39	-2.35
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	146.16	158.06	159.99	9.46	1.22
21. Carrot	Kg	168.54	190.08	171.28	1.62	-9.89
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	156.61	168.40	168.19	7.39	-0.12
23. Tomatoes	Kg	141.75	188.89	122.79	-13.38	-34.99
24. Capsicum	Kg	247.79	300.07	328.52	32.58	9.48
25. Beetroot	Kg	139.80	175.03	171.11	22.39	-2.24
26. Beans	Kg	233.55	251.71	273.92	17.29	8.83
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	133.38	166.60	168.01	25.96	0.85
28. Papaw	Kg	121.99	113.18	107.09	-12.21	-5.38
29. Mangoes	Each	81.66	54.64	120.65	47.75	120.82
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1871.51	1865.81	1927.36	2.98	3.30
31.Talapat	Kg	1220.00	1328.11	1302.00	6.72	-1.97
32.Paraw	Kg	1135.16	1266.42	1278.58	12.63	0.96
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1461.02	1506.45	1510.98	3.42	0.30
34. Sprats	Kg	749.84	705.65	701.60	-6.43	-0.57
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	140.39	137.00	137.00	-2.42	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	104.00	104.00	104.00	0.00	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