



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – NOVEMBER 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, Kotte, Nugegoda, Kolonnawa, Rathmalana, 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 (%) | | |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|---|----------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Nov 2019 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 | Nov 2019 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 | Nov 2019 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 |
| All Items | 131.7 | 136.5 | 137.1 | 233.00 | 110.05 | 391.44 | 0.29 | 0.13 | 0.48 |
| Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages | 138.7 | 151.2 | 153.0 | 218.50 | 81.14 | 292.43 | 0.28 | 0.10 | 0.36 |
| Non Food | 128.9 | 130.6 | 130.9 | 14.51 | 28.91 | 99.01 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.12 |
| Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic | 218.9 | 229.6 | 228.7 | 1.25 | 8.93 | -5.27 | 0.00 | 0.01 | -0.01 |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | 115.0 | 117.7 | 117.7 | -61.50 | 0.00 | 14.95 | -0.08 | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| Transport | 114.8 | 117.6 | 119.0 | 54.35 | 0.00 | 89.33 | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.11 |
| Other | 146.8 | 146.7 | 146.7 | 20.41 | 19.98 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.00 |

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in November 2020 were noted in four 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 November 2020 was 137.1 and it records an increase of 0.6 in index points that is 0.48 percentage points compared to the month of October 2020 for which the index was 136.5. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs 391.44 in the “Market Basket”

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from October 2020 to November 2020 were given in Table 2. The month on month change was contributed by increases of Food items by 0.36% and Non Food items by 0.12% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.36%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Big Onions (0.17%), Red Onion (0.10%), Potatoes (0.09%), Coconuts (0.06%), Rice (0.05%), Limes (0.04%), Dried Fish (0.04%), Tamarind (0.03%), Coconut Oil (0.03%), Jack & Jack seeds (0.02%), Mysoor Dhal (0.02%), Chili Powder (0.02%), Curry Powder (0.02%), Green Gram (0.01%), Beef (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%), Green Chilies (0.01%), Papadam (0.01%), Dry Chili (0.01%), Goraka (0.01%) and Coffee Powder (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Sea fish (0.22%), Fresh Fruits (0.11%), Sugar (0.03%), Eggs (0.02%), Turmeric (0.02%), Chicken (0.01%) and Pepper (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.12%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups ‘Transport, (0.11%) and ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ (0.02%). The group of transport increase was mainly due revised bus fare based on a New Covid 19 transport policy and on condition passengers are transported as per the seating capacity for normal service implemented by the government with effect from 11th of November 2020.

While decreases in value change were reported for the group of ‘Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics’ (0.01%).

However, The Groups of ‘Clothing and Foot Wear’, ‘Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance’, ‘Education’, ‘Health’, ‘Communication’, ‘Recreation and Culture’, ‘Restaurant and Hotels’ and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ remained unchanged during the period.

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

| Sub Group/Commodity | | Value Change | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Rs.Cts. | % change | | Net effect |
| | | | Increase | Decrease | |
| Food | | 292.43 | 0.78 | 0.43 | 0.36 |
| 1 | Rice | 44.22 | 0.05 | | |
| | <i>Rice - (Samba)</i> | <i>37.32</i> | <i>0.05</i> | | |
| 2 | Green gram | 11.72 | 0.01 | | |
| 3 | Chicken | -10.87 | | 0.01 | |
| 4 | Beef | 6.04 | 0.01 | | |
| 5 | Sea Fish | -181.81 | | 0.22 | |
| 6 | Dried Fish | 29.52 | 0.04 | | |
| | <i>Sprats (dry)</i> | <i>14.30</i> | <i>0.02</i> | | |
| | <i>Katta (dry)</i> | <i>10.54</i> | <i>0.01</i> | | |
| 7 | Eggs | -15.53 | | 0.02 | |
| 8 | Coconut (Nuts) | 52.39 | 0.06 | | |
| 9 | Coconut oil | 22.07 | 0.03 | | |
| 10 | Fresh Fruits | -91.82 | | 0.11 | |
| | <i>Banana</i> | <i>-64.52</i> | | <i>0.08</i> | |
| | <i>Papaw</i> | <i>-32.16</i> | | <i>0.04</i> | |
| 11 | Vegetables | 1.82 | | 0.00 | |
| | <i>Low Country Vegetables</i> | <i>-29.39</i> | | <i>0.04</i> | |
| | <i>Up Country Vegetables</i> | <i>31.21</i> | <i>0.04</i> | | |
| 12 | Potatoes | 74.36 | 0.09 | | |
| 13 | Jak and jak seeds | 15.39 | 0.02 | | |
| 14 | Dhal - Mysoor | 12.87 | 0.02 | | |
| 15 | Red onions | 78.42 | 0.10 | | |
| 16 | Bombay onions | 141.74 | 0.17 | | |
| 17 | Garlic | 11.12 | 0.01 | | |
| 18 | Green chilies | 9.18 | 0.01 | | |
| 19 | Papadam | 12.22 | 0.01 | | |
| 20 | Sugar | -23.90 | | 0.03 | |
| 21 | Chili powder | 17.04 | 0.02 | | |
| 22 | Pepper | -11.61 | | 0.01 | |
| 23 | Dried chilies | 5.80 | 0.01 | | |
| 24 | Curry powder (Sarakku) | 13.37 | 0.02 | | |
| 25 | Turmeric powder | -19.60 | | 0.02 | |
| 26 | Limes | 32.08 | 0.04 | | |
| 27 | Goraka | 4.51 | 0.01 | | |
| 28 | Tamarind | 24.61 | 0.03 | | |
| 29 | Coffee powder/ seeds | 10.06 | 0.01 | | |
| 30 | Others | 17.02 | 0.02 | | |
| Non Food | | 99.01 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.12 |
| 31 | Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic | -5.27 | | 0.01 | |
| 32 | Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels | 14.95 | 0.02 | | |
| | <i>Maintenance/ Reconstruction</i> | <i>14.95</i> | <i>0.02</i> | | |
| 33 | Transport | 89.33 | 0.11 | | |
| | <i>bus fare</i> | <i>83.61</i> | <i>0.10</i> | | |
| 34 | Others | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | All Items | 391.44 | 0.91 | 0.44 | 0.48 |

*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 | 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 |
| | September | 136.3 | 0.7 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 150.8 | 1.6 | 11.5 | 10.4 | 130.6 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 2.5 |
| | October | 136.5 | 0.1 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 151.2 | 0.3 | 10.0 | 10.7 | 130.6 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 2.2 |
| | November | 137.1 | 0.4 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 153.0 | 1.2 | 10.3 | 11.2 | 130.9 | 0.2 | 1.6 | 2.0 |

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by CCPI on Y on Y basis is 4.1% in November 2020 and Y on Y inflation calculate for the month of October 2020 was 4.0% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has increased from 10.0% in October 2020 to 10.3% in November 2020 while that of Non-food Group has increased from 1.3% in October 2020 to 1.5% in November 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

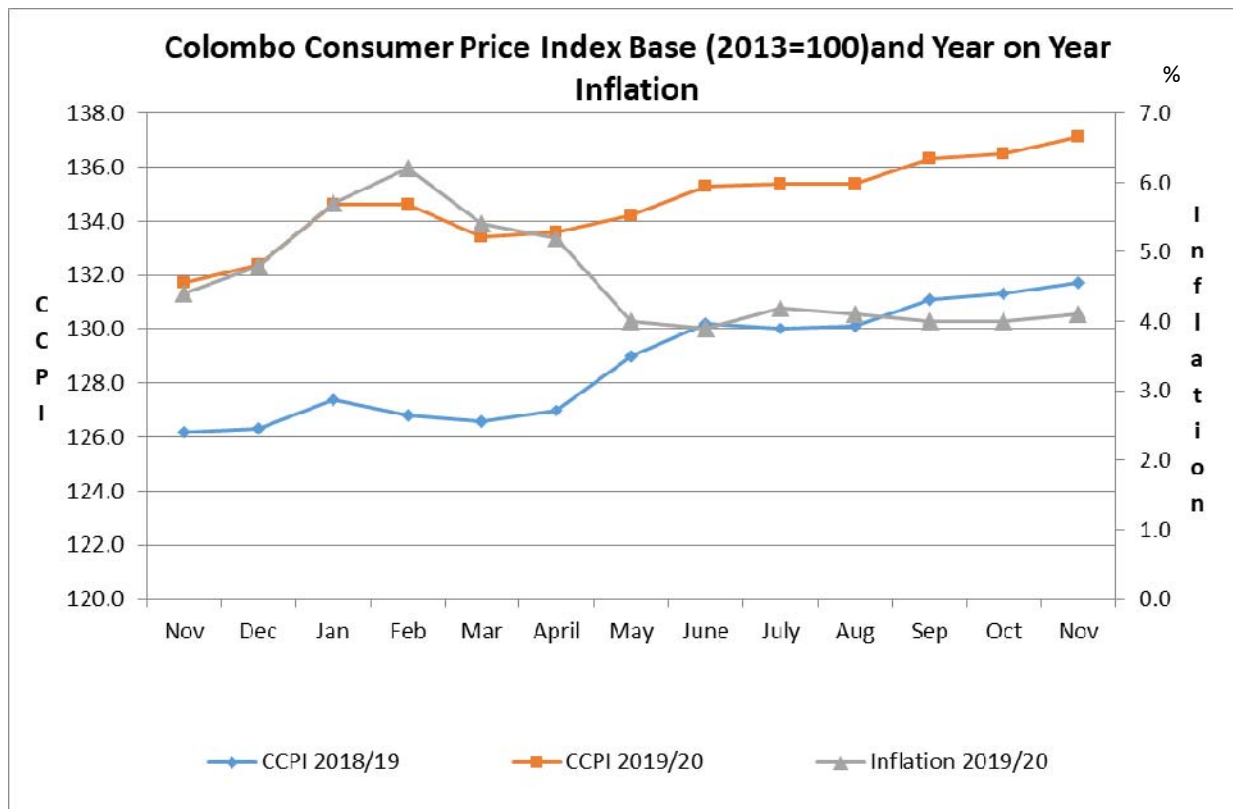
For the month of November 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 3.05%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 1.04%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.66%), 'Transport' (0.34%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.13%), 'Education' (0.14%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.13%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.08%) and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.06%)

Decreases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Communication' (0.31%), 'Health' (0.13%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' (0.04%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.01%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of November 2020 is 4.6%. The corresponding rate remain unchanged in November 2020 relative to month of October 2020.



Information Note on Implications of second wave of COVID-19 on the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI): November 2020

To keep the higher accuracy of the Consumer Price Index, the majority of price data are collected by personal visits by the DCS price collecting officers. The data collection by personal visit for the Colombo district was challenging due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic situation. In the Colombo urban areas, for the reference month: fourth week of October 2020 and first three weeks of November prices data that were previously collected from outlets by personal visits were collected using phone by the DCS price collecting officers from outlets which were open.

In particular, the collection of prices has become increasingly difficult. Issues and challenges include increased numbers of missing items in sampled outlets, the temporary closure of retail outlets etc.

When facing numbers of missing prices, it is important to mentioned that all temporarily missing prices were imputed using the methods described in Consumer Price Index Manual.

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

| Item | Unit | Retail Prices (Rs. Cts) | | | Retail Price Changes (%) | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | | 2019 November | 2020 October | 2020 November | Nov20/ 19-Nov | Nov 20 / 20-Oct |
| 1. Rice– Kekulu – Red | Kg | 92.96 | 98.35 | 98.45 | 5.91 | 0.10 |
| 2. Rice– Kekulu – White | Kg | 96.20 | 97.62 | 98.11 | 1.99 | 0.51 |
| 3. Rice –Nadu - White | Kg | 99.85 | 100.11 | 100.85 | 1.00 | 0.74 |
| 4. Rice –Nadu - Red | Kg | 101.90 | 106.72 | 107.77 | 5.76 | 0.98 |
| 5. Rice– Samba | Kg | 102.11 | 106.00 | 109.03 | 6.78 | 2.86 |
| 6. Cowpea | Kg | 286.10 | 432.37 | 448.01 | 56.59 | 3.62 |
| 7.Green Grams | Kg | 276.67 | 376.90 | 433.22 | 56.58 | 14.94 |
| 8. Coconut | Each | 50.47 | 77.82 | 79.86 | 58.22 | 2.61 |
| 9. Coconut Oil | 750ml | 257.67 | 328.75 | 346.09 | 34.31 | 5.27 |
| 10.Chicken | Kg | 533.42 | 501.60 | 496.54 | -6.91 | -1.01 |
| 11. Eggs | Each | 20.51 | 17.53 | 16.33 | -20.40 | -6.86 |
| 12. Red Onion | Kg | 368.45 | 250.58 | 381.25 | 3.47 | 52.15 |
| 13. Big Onion | Kg | 215.30 | 173.87 | 227.80 | 5.81 | 31.02 |
| 14. Potatoes | Kg | 163.22 | 173.73 | 204.27 | 25.15 | 17.58 |
| 15. Garlic | Kg | 389.83 | 341.88 | 389.39 | -0.11 | 13.90 |
| 16. Dried Chillies | Kg | 480.26 | 569.56 | 622.15 | 29.54 | 9.23 |
| 17. Green Chillies | Kg | 421.30 | 364.45 | 398.92 | -5.31 | 9.46 |
| 18. Sugar | Kg | 106.82 | 131.74 | 125.39 | 17.38 | -4.82 |
| 19. Pepper | Kg | 1339.52 | 1301.73 | 1221.99 | -8.77 | -6.13 |
| Vegetables- | | | | | | |
| 20. Ash Plantain | Kg | 162.70 | 172.63 | 161.57 | -0.70 | -6.41 |
| 21. Carrot | Kg | 208.87 | 198.63 | 226.33 | 8.36 | 13.95 |
| 22. Snake Gourd | Kg | 213.99 | 205.78 | 187.34 | -12.46 | -8.96 |
| 23. Tomatoes | Kg | 170.93 | 184.04 | 175.93 | 2.92 | -4.41 |
| 24. Capsicum | Kg | 362.32 | 405.91 | 376.01 | 3.78 | -7.37 |
| 25. Beetroot | Kg | 170.63 | 161.23 | 150.87 | -11.58 | -6.43 |
| 26. Beans | Kg | 286.45 | 313.28 | 338.50 | 18.17 | 8.05 |
| Fruits | | | | | | |
| 27. Banana | Kg | 148.56 | 166.07 | 152.78 | 2.84 | -8.00 |
| 28. Papaw | Kg | 102.22 | 117.44 | 102.24 | 0.02 | -12.94 |
| 29. Mangoes | Each | 82.50 | 134.12 | 149.12 | 80.75 | 11.18 |
| Fresh Fish – | | | | | | |
| 30. Seer | Kg | 1596.06 | 1714.54 | 1648.34 | 3.28 | -3.86 |
| 31.Talapath | Kg | 1199.08 | 1284.52 | 1269.13 | 5.84 | -1.20 |
| 32.Paraw | Kg | 1038.52 | 1284.40 | 1273.29 | 22.61 | -0.86 |
| Dried Fish - | | | | | | |
| 33.Katta | Kg | 1504.14 | 1501.47 | 1542.36 | 2.54 | 2.72 |
| 34. Sprats | Kg | 769.51 | 699.85 | 728.39 | -5.34 | 4.08 |
| Fuel - | | | | | | |
| 35. Kerosene Oil | Lt | 70.00 | 70.00 | 70.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC) | Lt | 139.50 | 137.00 | 137.00 | -1.79 | 0.00 |
| 37. Diesel (CPC & IOC) | Lt | 104.00 | 104.00 | 104.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 38. Gas- Avg. | 12.5kg | 1493.00 | 1493.00 | 1493.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Litro | 12.5kg | 1733.00 | 1493.00 | 1493.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Laughs | 12.5kg | 1733.00 | 1493.00 | 1493.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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