



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BASE 2013=100) - DECEMBER 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, 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 (%)		
	Dec 2019	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Dec 2019	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Dec 2019	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
All Items	132.4	137.1	138.0	441.32	391.44	549.24	0.56	0.48	0.66
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	142.0	153.0	155.1	558.75	292.43	370.60	0.70	0.36	0.45
Non Food	128.7	130.9	131.3	-117.43	99.01	178.64	-0.15	0.12	0.22
Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	135.6	133.7	134.0	1.78	0.00	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.01
Health	178.1	171.7	173.0	68.25	0.00	35.70	0.09	0.00	0.04
Transport	115.5	119.0	121.1	48.55	89.33	137.33	0.06	0.11	0.17
Other	126.9	129.7	129.7	-236.01	9.68	1.02	-0.30	0.01	0.00

*Note: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in December 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 December 2020 was 138.0 and it records an increase of 0.9 in index points that is 0.66 percentage points compared to the month of November 2020 for which the index was 137.1. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs 549.24 in the “Market Basket”

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from November 2020 to December 2020 were given in Table 2. The month on month change was contributed by increases of Food items by 0.45% and Non Food items by 0.22% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.45%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Coconuts (0.20%), Vegetables (0.17%), Rice (0.10%), Potatoes (0.07%), Eggs (0.04%), Mysoor Dhal (0.04%), Red Onions (0.03%), limes (0.02%), Dried Fish (0.02%), Chicken (0.01%), Coconut Oil (0.01%), Green Chillies (0.01%), Chili Powder (0.01%) and Tamarind (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported for Big Onions (0.07%), Sugar (0.06%), Sea fish (0.05%), Fresh Fruits (0.05%) and Turmeric powder (0.05%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.22%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of ‘Transport, (0.17%), ‘Health’ (0.04%) and ‘Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance’ (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value change was reported for the groups of ‘Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic’ and ‘Clothing and Foot Wear’ compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the price indices of ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels’, ‘Communication’, ‘Recreation and Culture’, ‘Education’ and ‘Restaurants and Hotels’ and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ remained unchanged during the period.

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

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		Net effect
			Increase	Decrease	
Food		370.60	0.73	0.28	0.45
1	RICE	79.01	0.10		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	11.90	0.01		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	19.22	0.02		
	<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	36.21	0.04		
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	12.29	0.01		
2	Chicken	8.61	0.01		
3	Sea Fish	-41.62		0.05	
4	Dried Fish	19.85	0.02		
	<i>Sprats (dry)</i>	9.70	0.01		
	<i>Katta (dry)</i>	6.21	0.01		
5	Eggs	30.62	0.04		
6	Coconuts	169.38	0.20		
7	Coconut oil	7.12	0.01		
8	Fresh Fruits	-42.15		0.05	
	<i>Banana</i>	-21.93		0.03	
	<i>Papaw</i>	7.93	0.01		
	<i>Mangoes</i>	-23.63		0.03	
9	Vegetables	139.21	0.17		
10	Potatoes	57.69	0.07		
11	Mysoor Dhal	30.00	0.04		
12	Red onions	25.87	0.03		
13	Big onions	-60.75		0.07	
14	Green chillies	7.40	0.01		
15	Sugar	-46.40		0.06	
16	Chili powder	6.16	0.01		
17	Turmeric powder	-41.43		0.05	
18	Limes	12.61	0.02		
19	Tamarind	10.41	0.01		
20	Others	-0.98		0.00	
Non Food		178.64	0.22	0.00	0.22
21	Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.58	0.01		
22	Health	35.70	0.04		
	<i>Spectacles</i>	8.73	0.01		
	<i>Private medical doctor fee</i>	26.73	0.03		
23	Transport	137.33	0.17		
	<i>Bus fare</i>	129.21	0.16		
24	Others	1.02	0.00		
	All Items	549.24	0.95	0.28	0.66

*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	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
	December	138.0	0.7	4.2	4.6	155.1	1.4	9.2	11.4	131.3	0.3	2.0	1.8

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The overall rate of inflation as measured by CCPI on Y on Y basis is 4.2% in December 2020 and Y on Y inflation calculate for the month of November 2020 was 4.1% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has decreased from 10.3% in November 2020 to 9.2% in December 2020 while that of Non-food Group has increased from 1.6% in November 2020 to 2.0% in December 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

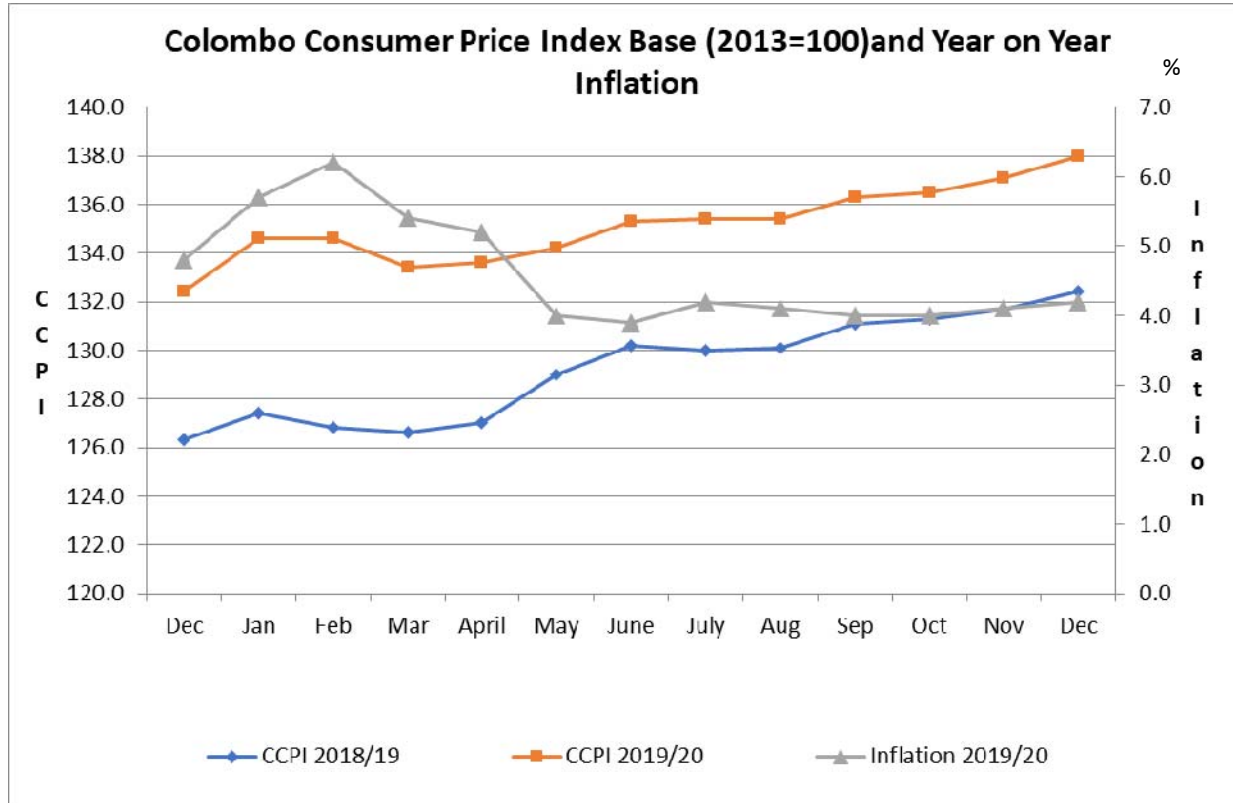
For the month of December 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 2.80%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 1.41%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.68%), 'Transport' (0.45%), 'Education' (0.14%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.13%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.13%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.09%) and 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.07%).

Decreases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Health' (0.17%), 'Communication' (0.08%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' (0.03%) and slight decrease in price was reported in group of 'Recreation and Culture'.

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

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



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

December 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 November 2020 and first three weeks of December 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 mention 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 December 2019, November & December 2020

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 December	2020 November	2020 December	Dec 20/ Dec 19	Dec 20 / Nov 20
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	102.75	98.45	101.37	-1.34	2.97
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	104.51	98.11	100.67	-3.67	2.60
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	106.56	100.85	104.00	-2.41	3.12
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	107.71	107.77	107.12	-0.55	-0.60
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	106.67	109.03	111.97	4.97	2.70
6. Cowpea	Kg	284.43	448.01	454.37	59.75	1.42
7.Green Grams	Kg	284.50	433.22	435.82	53.19	0.60
8. Coconut	Each	53.78	79.86	86.43	60.70	8.23
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	272.93	346.09	351.68	28.85	1.62
10.Chicken	Kg	506.93	496.54	500.55	-1.26	0.81
11. Eggs	Each	20.38	16.33	18.70	-8.26	14.52
12. Red Onion	Kg	480.74	381.25	424.36	-11.73	11.31
13. Big Onion	Kg	184.68	227.80	204.68	10.83	-10.15
14. Potatoes	Kg	180.24	204.27	227.97	26.48	11.60
15. Garlic	Kg	399.37	389.39	378.99	-5.10	-2.67
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	501.81	622.15	606.99	20.96	-2.44
17. Green Chillies	Kg	422.33	398.92	426.72	1.04	6.97
18. Sugar	Kg	106.33	125.39	113.06	6.33	-9.83
19. Pepper	Kg	1361.70	1221.99	1210.14	-11.13	-0.97
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	165.53	161.57	150.06	-9.34	-7.12
21. Carrot	Kg	268.19	226.33	244.04	-9.00	7.83
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	209.81	187.34	215.15	2.54	14.85
23. Tomatoes	Kg	172.38	175.93	156.17	-9.41	-11.23
24. Capsicum	Kg	358.49	376.01	407.22	13.59	8.30
25. Beetroot	Kg	245.49	150.87	158.00	-35.64	4.73
26. Beans	Kg	323.99	338.50	349.97	8.02	3.39
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	155.83	163.15	159.89	2.61	-2.00
28. Papaw	Kg	102.95	102.24	105.99	2.95	3.66
29. Mangoes	Each	64.74	149.12	102.16	57.80	-31.49
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1662.95	1648.34	1726.19	3.80	4.72
31.Talapath	Kg	1216.85	1269.13	1254.29	3.08	-1.17
32.Paraw	Kg	1103.85	1273.29	1252.57	13.47	-1.63
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1463.29	1542.36	1566.44	7.05	1.56
34. Sprats	Kg	757.83	728.39	747.74	-1.33	2.66
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	1493.00	1493.00	1493.00	0.00	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1493.00	1493.00	1493.00	0.00	0.00