



WEB RELEASE
THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – MARCH 2020
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March 31, 2020

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.

Maintaining the continuity of CCPI during COVID-19 pandemic situation

Due to the prevailing situation of the country, the price collection by visiting the stores was suspended from 3rd week of March 2020. Imputed prices used in the compilation of CCPI were based on retail prices collected by the Central Bank of Srilanka.

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 (%)		
	Mar 2019	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020	Mar 2020
All Items	126.6	134.6	133.4	-120.56	-3.39	-701.17	-0.16	0.00	-0.86
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	125.5	146.2	141.6	-341.93	-54.22	-783.50	-0.45	-0.07	-0.96
Non Food	127.0	130.1	130.2	221.36	50.83	82.33	0.29	0.06	0.10
Alcoholic beverages									
Tobacco and Narcotic	217.9	220.2	222.2	100.70	1.90	12.59	0.13	0.00	0.02
Clothing and Foot Wear	142.6	150.8	151.1	1.06	16.86	4.09	0.00	0.02	0.01
Health	174.3	173.7	175.0	14.38	0.00	33.68	0.02	0.00	0.04
Transport	108.2	115.7	116.2	71.58	28.78	32.73	0.09	0.04	0.04
Other	124.4	126.7	126.7	33.64	3.29	-0.76	0.04	0.00	0.00

**Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in March 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 March 2020 was 133.4 and it records a decrease of 1.2 index points that is -0.86 percentage points compared to the month of February 2020 for which the index was 134.6. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs.701.17 in the "Market Basket"

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from February 2020 to March 2020 were given in Table 2. Expenditure value decrease of Food items by 0.96% and increase of Non Food items by 0.10% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.96%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Big Onion (0.11%), Coconut (0.10%), Papaw (0.09%), Sea Fish (0.08%), Turmeric Powder (0.04%), Yoghurt (0.02%), Coconut Oil (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%), Chili powder (0.01%) and Coffee Powder/Seed (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported Vegetables (0.99%), Red Onions (0.16%), Bread (0.08%), Potatoes (0.07%), Rice (0.05%), Green Chilies (0.04%), Chicken (0.03%), Tea dust/ leaves (0.02%), Dhal Mysoor (0.01%), Dried Fish (0.01%), Gram (0.01%) and Tamarind (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.1%

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

However, an insignificant value change was reported for the group of 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' and all other groups remain unchanged during the period.

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

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		-783.50	0.50	1.46	-0.96
1	Rice	-43.04		0.05	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	-15.37		0.02	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu Red)</i>	-30.88		0.04	
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-Red)</i>	4.46	0.01		
2	Gram	-4.11		0.01	
3	Bread	-63.18		0.08	
4	Chicken	-21.41		0.03	
5	Sea Fish	67.85	0.08		
6	Dried Fish	-6.63		0.01	
7	Yoghurt	17.07	0.02		
8	Coconut	82.76	0.10		
9	Coconut oil	5.83	0.01		
10	Fresh fruits	78.34	0.10		
	<i>Papaw</i>	69.65	0.09		
11	Vegetables	-802.29		0.99	
12	Potatoes	-56.25		0.07	
13	Dhal - Mysoor	-8.98		0.01	
14	Red onions	-131.32		0.16	
15	Big onions	87.13	0.11		
16	Garlic	11.32	0.01		
17	Green chilies	-34.44		0.04	
18	Chili powder	9.79	0.01		
19	Turmeric Powder	35.60	0.04		
20	Tamarind	-4.64		0.01	
21	Coffee powder/ seeds	4.69	0.01		
22	Tea dust/ leaves	-13.43		0.02	
21	Others	5.84	0.01		
Non Food		82.33	0.10	0.00	0.10
22	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	12.59	0.02		
	<i>Beetle leaves</i>	12.75	0.02		
23	Clothing & Footwear	4.09	0.01		
24	Health	33.68	0.04		
	<i>Blood tests</i>	33.68	0.04		
26	Transport	32.73	0.04		
	<i>Air lines</i>	32.73	0.04		
27	Others	-0.76	0.00		
	All Items	-701.17	0.60	1.47	-0.86

*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	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
	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

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The Y-on-Y inflation as measured by CCPI is 5.4% in March 2020 and inflation calculated for February 2020 was 6.2% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has decreased from 14.7% in February 2020 to 12.8% in March 2020 while that of Non-food Group has decreased from 2.8% in February 2020 to 2.5% in March 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of March 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 3.58%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 1.85%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Transport' (0.68%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.53%), 'Education' (0.37%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.20%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.15%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.03%), 'Health' (0.03%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.15%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.01%) and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.03%) and decrease in value change was reported for the group 'Communication' (0.32%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of March 2020 was 4.7%. The corresponding rate for the month of February 2020 was 4.6%.

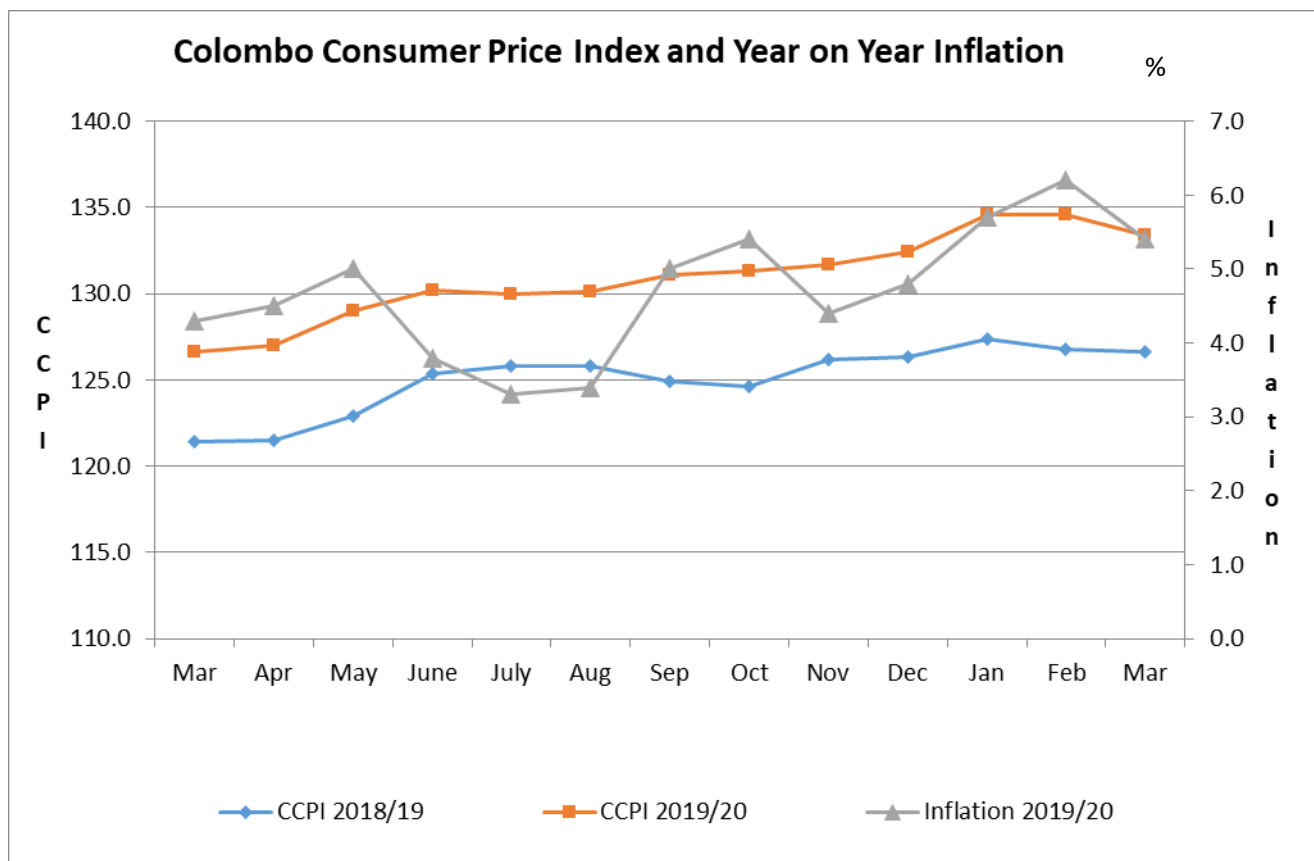


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index March 2019 ,Feb & March 2020)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 Mar	2020 Feb	2020 Mar	Mar19/ Mar 20	Feb20 / Mar 20
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	79.40	102.33	97.63	22.96	-4.59
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	80.93	103.09	99.79	23.30	-3.20
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	87.24	98.14	98.11	12.46	-0.03
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	93.15	98.03	102.70	10.26	4.76
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	108.36	100.63	100.54	-7.21	-0.09
6. Cowpea	Kg	274.34	298.47	307.35	12.03	2.98
7.Green Grams	Kg	258.73	300.33	303.30	17.23	0.99
8. Coconut	Each	50.31	64.31	67.52	34.20	4.99
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	261.37	313.53	318.37	21.81	1.55
10.Chicken	Kg	500.25	478.34	468.38	-6.37	-2.08
11. Eggs	Each	19.14	20.47	20.21	5.61	-1.27
12. Red Onion	Kg	174.82	584.93	366.10	109.41	-37.41
13. Big Onion	Kg	80.28	145.99	179.14	123.14	22.71
14. Potatoes	Kg	133.52	179.67	156.57	17.26	-12.86
15. Garlic	Kg	300.42	508.13	556.50	85.24	9.52
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	328.14	589.80	578.96	76.44	-1.84
17. Green Chilies	Kg	376.80	427.93	298.59	-20.76	-30.23
18. Sugar	Kg	104.40	108.18	108.82	4.24	0.59
19. Pepper	Kg	1491.84	1409.16	1377.90	-7.64	-2.22
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	137.11	180.42	160.02	16.71	-11.31
21. Carrot	Kg	149.77	404.75	221.62	47.97	-45.25
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	140.88	223.06	173.21	22.95	-22.35
23. Tomatoes	Kg	110.30	428.81	185.28	67.98	-56.79
24. Capsicum	Kg	220.67	404.94	270.55	22.60	-33.19
25. Beetroot	Kg	128.41	245.95	163.37	27.22	-33.58
26. Beans	Kg	196.07	380.33	227.30	15.93	-40.24
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	130.27	142.76	143.63	10.26	0.61
28. Papaw	Kg	181.74	146.08	178.99	-0.02	0.23
29. Mangoes	Each	77.39	82.30	94.94	0.23	0.15
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1525.38	1797.28	1728.17	13.29	-3.84
31.Talapath	Kg	1098.00	1182.16	1163.25	5.94	-1.60
32.Paraw	Kg	998.03	1096.23	1146.32	14.86	4.57
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1306.05	1478.27	1476.66	13.06	-0.11
34. Sprats	Kg	745.97	763.28	760.06	1.89	-0.42
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	130.86	139.50	139.50	6.60	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	105.36	104.00	104.00	-1.29	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