



Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI)-(BASE 2013=100)

March, 2021

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Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance

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.

- ☞ The CCPI for all items for the month of March 2021 was 138.9 and it records a decrease of 0.2 in index points
- ☞ The overall rate of inflation as measured by CCPI on Y on Y basis is 4.1% in March 2021

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Source Publication

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

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*	Index Number			Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Values (Rs.)			Monthly Changes of the Index (%)		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2020	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021
All Items	133.4	139.1	138.9	-701.17	257.04	-154.18	-0.86	0.31	-0.18
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	141.6	157.7	155.2	-783.50	193.41	-414.40	-0.96	0.23	-0.49
Non Food	130.2	131.8	132.5	82.33	63.63	260.22	0.10	0.08	0.31
Clothing and Foot Wear	151.1	157.8	159.8	4.09	11.61	27.09	0.01	0.01	0.03
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	117.8	118.0	118.1	0.00	14.52	11.54	0.00	0.02	0.01
Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	135.1	137.3	138.7	-0.76	7.60	21.14	0.00	0.01	0.03
Transport	116.2	121.7	121.9	32.73	28.52	8.97	0.04	0.03	0.01
Restaurant and Hotels	137.5	139.6	145.4	0.00	0.00	178.55	0.00	0.00	0.21
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	146.8	150.2	150.7	0.00	0.00	9.97	0.00	0.00	0.01
Other	155.0	155.5	155.6	46.27	1.38	2.95	0.06	0.00	0.00

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in March 2021 were noted in seven main groups, details on which are given in Table 2. *Percentages of items do 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 2021 was 138.9 and it records a decrease of 0.2 in index points that is 0.18 percentage points compared to the month of February 2021 for which the index was 139.1. This represents a decrease of expenditure value by Rs 154.18 in the "Market Basket".

1.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from February 2021 to March 2021 were given in Table 2. The month on month change was contributed by decrease of Food items by 0.49% and an increase of Non Food items by 0.31% respectively.

1.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: - 0.49%

As shown in Table 02, decreases in value change were reported for Vegetables (0.35%), Green Chillies (0.10%), Sea Fish (0.07%), Turmeric Powder (0.06%), Potatoes (0.04%), Red Onions (0.04%), Lime (0.02%), Tamarind (0.02%), Rice (0.01%), Eggs (0.01%) and Coconuts (0.01%).

While increases in value change were reported for Chicken (0.05%), Fresh Fruits (0.05%), Big Onions (0.04%), Green Gram (0.03%), Cowpea (0.01%), Cake (0.01%), Dried Fish (0.01%), Canned Fish (0.01%), Vegetable Oil (0.01%), Dhal Mysoor (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%) and Pepper (0.01%).

1.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.31%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Restaurants and Hotels' (0.21%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.03%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' (0.03%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' (0.01%), 'Transport (0.01%), and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.01%).

However, an insignificant value changes were reported for the groups of 'Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic' and Health compared to the preceding month. Meanwhile, the price indices of 'Communication', 'Recreation and Culture' and 'Education' groups remained unchanged during the period.

Table 2: Contribution to the change in CCPI from March 2021 to February 2021 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value Change			
	Rs.Cts.	% change		Net effect
		Increase	Decrease	
Food	-414.40	0.25	0.74	-0.49
1 RICE	-5.78		0.01	
<i>Rice - (Kekulu - White)</i>	<i>-4.71</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
<i>Rice - (Kekulu- Red)</i>	<i>-9.52</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	<i>14.71</i>	<i>0.02</i>		
<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	<i>-6.34</i>		<i>0.01</i>	
2 Green gram	24.01	0.03		
3 Cowpea	6.94	0.01		
4 Cake	12.46	0.01		
5 Chicken	41.71	0.05		
6 Sea Fish	-59.41		0.07	
7 Dried Fish	8.58	0.01		
<i>Katta (dry)</i>	<i>4.69</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
8 Canned fish	5.58	0.01		
9 Eggs	-10.97		0.01	
10 Coconuts	-10.64		0.01	
11 Vegetable oil	5.74	0.01		
12 Fresh Fruits	42.18	0.05		
<i>Papaw</i>	<i>39.39</i>	<i>0.05</i>		
13 Vegetables	-296.45		0.35	
14 Potatoes	-33.00		0.04	
15 Dhal - Mysoor	12.30	0.01		
16 Red onions	-36.30		0.04	
17 Big onions	30.47	0.04		
18 Garlic	5.60	0.01		
19 Green chillies	-85.72		0.10	
20 Pepper	4.96	0.01		
21 Turmeric powder	-54.25		0.06	
22 Limes	-17.42		0.02	
23 Tamarind	-14.19		0.02	
24 Others	9.20	0.01		
Non Food	260.22	0.31	0.00	0.31
25 Clothing and Footwear	27.09	0.03		
26 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	11.54	0.01		
<i>Maintenance/ Reconstruction</i>	<i>11.54</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
27 Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	21.14	0.03		
28 Transport	8.97	0.01		
<i>Lubricating oil</i>	<i>4.76</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
<i>Cost of servicing of vehicles</i>	<i>4.21</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
29 Restaurant and Hotels	178.55	0.21		
30 Miscellaneous Goods and Services	9.97	0.01		
31 Others	2.95	0.00		
All Items	-154.18	0.56	0.74	-0.18

*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: 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.	
2020	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	
	2021	January	138.7	0.5	3.0	4.3	156.5	0.9	6.8	10.9	131.7	0.3	1.4	1.7
		February	139.1	0.3	3.3	4.1	157.7	0.8	7.9	10.3	131.8	0.1	1.3	1.5
March		138.9	-0.1	4.1	4.0	155.2	-1.6	9.6	10.1	132.5	0.5	1.8	1.5	

Note: The Year on Year change reported for March 2021 in Table 03 was calculated using the rounding off index numbers

2.1 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 March 2021 and Y on Y inflation calculate for the month of February 2021 was 3.3% (Table 3). The Year on Year inflation of Food Group has increased from 7.9% in February 2021 to 9.6% in March 2021. While that Year on Year inflation of Non Food Group has also increased from 1.3% in February 2021 to 1.8% in March 2021 during the period.

2.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

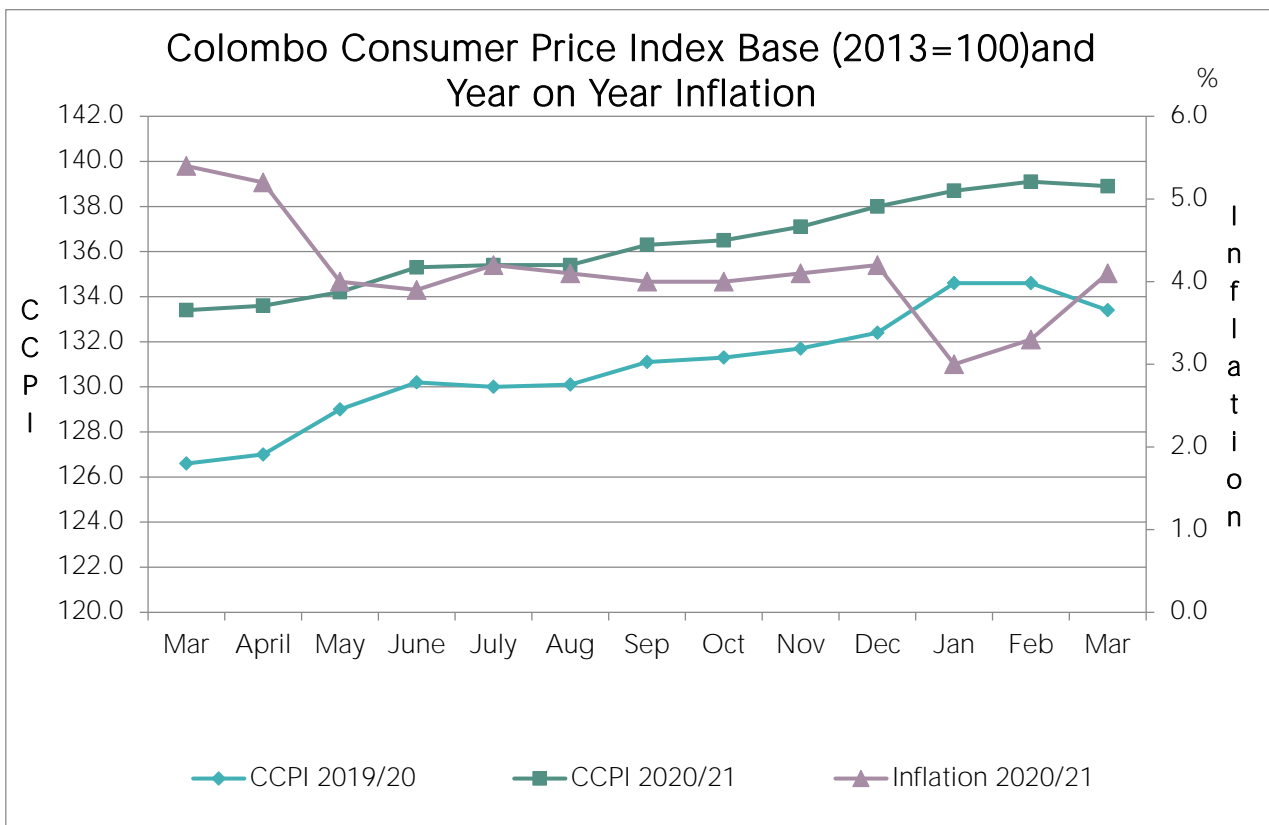
For the month of March 2021, on Year-to-Year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 2.89%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 1.19%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Transport' (0.45%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.15%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.30%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.10%), 'Health' (0.03%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.05%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.06%) and 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance' (0.07%).

Decreases in value change were reported for the groups of Education’ (0.01%) and ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.01%) and the group of ‘Communication’ remained unchanged during the period.

2.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of March 2021 is 4.0%. The corresponding rate for the month of February 2021 was 4.1%.



Information Note on Implications of second wave of COVID-19 on the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI): March 2021


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 February 2021 and first three weeks of March 2021 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 March 2020, February & March 2021

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2020 March	2021 February	2021 March	Mar 21/ Mar 20	Mar 21 / Feb 21
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	97.63	101.45	100.00	2.42	-1.43
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	99.79	103.73	102.72	2.93	-0.97
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	98.11	107.31	105.69	7.73	-1.51
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	102.70	112.64	112.73	9.77	0.07
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	100.54	115.14	116.34	15.71	1.04
6. Cowpea	Kg	307.35	522.36	592.20	92.68	13.37
7. Green Grams	Kg	303.30	469.76	585.17	92.94	24.57
8. Coconut	Each	67.52	90.31	89.90	33.15	-0.46
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	318.37	354.74	354.74	11.42	0.00
10. Chicken	Kg	468.38	510.75	530.16	13.19	3.80
11. Eggs	Each	20.21	18.38	17.53	-13.26	-4.62
12. Red Onion	Kg	366.10	613.91	553.42	51.17	-9.85
13. Big Onion	Kg	179.14	124.05	135.64	-24.28	9.35
14. Potatoes	Kg	156.57	177.25	163.70	4.56	-7.64
15. Garlic	Kg	556.50	374.16	398.10	-28.46	6.40
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	578.96	601.32	613.53	5.97	2.03
17. Green Chillies	Kg	298.59	798.57	476.64	59.63	-40.31
18. Sugar	Kg	108.82	114.16	114.68	5.38	0.45
19. Pepper	Kg	1377.90	1251.96	1286.01	-6.67	2.72
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	160.02	156.33	141.11	-11.82	-9.73
21. Carrot	Kg	221.62	219.65	221.23	-0.17	0.72
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	173.21	229.84	185.20	6.92	-19.42
23. Tomatoes	Kg	185.28	225.49	237.03	27.93	5.12
24. Capsicum	Kg	270.55	515.30	417.97	54.49	-18.89
25. Beetroot	Kg	163.37	256.99	217.63	33.21	-15.31
26. Beans	Kg	227.30	313.67	271.65	19.51	-13.40
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	143.63	150.59	151.20	0.05	0.00
28. Papaw	Kg	178.99	112.26	130.87	-26.88	16.58
29. Mangoes	Each	94.94	101.45	105.40	11.02	3.90
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1728.17	1773.01	1629.11	-5.73	-8.12
31. Talapath	Kg	1163.25	1241.20	1251.46	7.58	0.83
32. Paraw	Kg	1146.32	1195.29	1159.54	1.15	-2.99
Dried Fish -						
33. Katta	Kg	1476.66	1560.40	1578.62	6.90	1.17
34. Sprats	Kg	760.06	702.90	703.74	-7.41	0.12
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

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The Mission of DCS

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