



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – MAY 2020 DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

TEL: 011-2147414

FAX: 011-2877945

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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.

Maintaining the continuity of CCPI during COVID-19 pandemic situation

The data collection by personal visit for the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) program was suspended due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation of the country since the 3rd week of March until the 2nd week of May 2020. Data of the 4th week of April and the 1st week of May were collected either online or by phone from alternative data sources.

While the curfew was in force in Colombo District, the resumption of civilian life and state and private sector activities began on the 11th of May. Therefore, from the second week of May the price collection was started in Wellawatta, Rathmalana, Kirulapone and Nugegoda as usual.

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 (%)		
	May 2019	April 2020	May 2020	May 2019	April 2020	May 2020	May 2019	April 2020	May 2020
All Items	129.0	133.6	134.2	1243.28	114.68	360.22	1.62	0.14	0.45
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	131.1	142.2	144.1	945.74	114.68	322.35	1.23	0.14	0.40
Non Food	128.2	130.2	130.3	297.54	0.00	37.87	0.39	0.00	0.05
Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	220.1	222.2	221.5	4.95	0.00	-4.50	0.01	0.00	-0.01
Transport	111.4	116.2	116.5	25.78	0.00	16.10	0.03	0.00	0.02
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	147.2	146.8	148.0	116.12	0.00	23.20	0.15	0.00	0.03
Other	128.5	130.2	130.2	150.68	0.00	3.06	0.20	0.00	0.00

*Note: There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in May 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 May 2020 was 134.2 and it recorded an increase of 0.6 index points that is 0.45 percentage points compared to the month of April 2020 for which the index was 133.6. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs.360.22 in the "Market Basket".

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from April 2020 to May 2020 were given in Table 2. Expenditure value increase of Food items by 0.40% and increase of Non Food items by 0.05% respectively.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.40%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Sea Fish (0.29%), Dhal Mysoor (0.11%), Rice (0.10%), Limes (0.07%), Milk Powder (0.06%), Sugar (0.06%), Coconut Oil (0.06%), Canned Fish (0.05%), Dried Fish (0.04%), Turmeric powder (0.04%), Green Chili (0.03%), Banana sour (0.03%), Curry Powder (0.02%), Chili Powder (0.01%), Gram (0.01%), Potatoes (0.01%), Tea Dust Leaves (0.01%), Pepper (0.01%), Maldives fish (0.01%) and Wheat Flour (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported Vegetables (0.26%), Big Onion (0.15%), Coconut (0.13%), Eggs (0.05%), Papaw (0.02%), Dried Chili (0.01%), Garlic (0.01%) and Red Onions (0.01%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.05%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for the groups of 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.03%) and 'Transport' (0.02%) while decreases in value change was reported in the group of 'Alcoholic Beverage Tobacco and Narcotic' (0.01%).

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

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

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		322.35	1.02	0.62	0.40
1	Rice	77.07	0.10		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	15.42	0.02		
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	34.43	0.04		
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	19.97	0.02		
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-Red)</i>	4.43	0.01		
2	Wheat flour	4.18	0.01		
3	Gram	8.00	0.01		
4	Sea Fish	230.98	0.29		
5	Dried Fish	34.31	0.04		
6	Canned fish (Salmon)	37.81	0.05		
7	Maldives fish	4.61	0.01		
8	Milk powder	48.31	0.06		
9	Eggs	-38.66		0.05	
10	Coconut (Nuts)	-106.89		0.13	
11	Coconut oil	45.36	0.06		
12	Fruits	12.70	0.02		
	<i>Banana - sour</i>	23.34	0.03		
	<i>Papaw</i>	-18.26		0.02	
13	Vegetables	-210.59		0.26	
14	Potatoes	7.96	0.01		
15	Dhal - Mysoor	89.33	0.11		
16	Red onions	-5.17		0.01	
17	Big onions	-124.46		0.15	
18	Garlic	-6.95		0.01	
19	Green chilies	20.52	0.03		
20	Sugar	47.79	0.06		
21	Chili powder	10.18	0.01		
22	Pepper	6.99	0.01		
23	Dried chilies	-7.23		0.01	
24	Curry powder	12.12	0.02		
25	Turmeric powder	32.91	0.04		
26	Limes	56.27	0.07		
27	Tea dust/ leaves	7.11	0.01		
28	Others	27.78	0.03		
Non Food		37.87	0.05	0.01	0.05
29	Alcoholic beverages Tobacco and Narcotic	-4.50		0.01	
	<i>Beetle leaves</i>	-4.42		0.01	
30	Transport	16.10	0.02		
	<i>Three Wheelers</i>	4.50	0.01		
	<i>Petrol and other fuel</i>	6.53	0.01		
31	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	23.20	0.03		
	<i>Car Insurance</i>	32.64	0.04		
	Others	3.06	0.00		
	All Items	360.22	1.07	0.63	0.45

*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	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
	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

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The Y-on-Y inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.0% in May 2020 and inflation calculated for April 2020 was 5.2% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has decreased from 13.2% in April 2020 to 9.9% in May 2020 while that of Non-food Group has decreased from 2.1% in April 2020 to 1.6% in May 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of May 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 2.85%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 1.19%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.52%), 'Transport' (0.42%), 'Education' (0.36%), 'Clothing and Footwear'(0.13%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.06%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.02%), 'Recreation and Culture' (0.02%) and 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.01%), and decrease in value change was reported for the group 'Communication' (0.32%) and 'Health' (0.03%). An insignificant value change was reported for the group of 'Furnishing Household Equipment and routine Household Maintenance'.

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of May 2020 was 4.7%. The corresponding rate for the month of April 2020 was 4.8%.

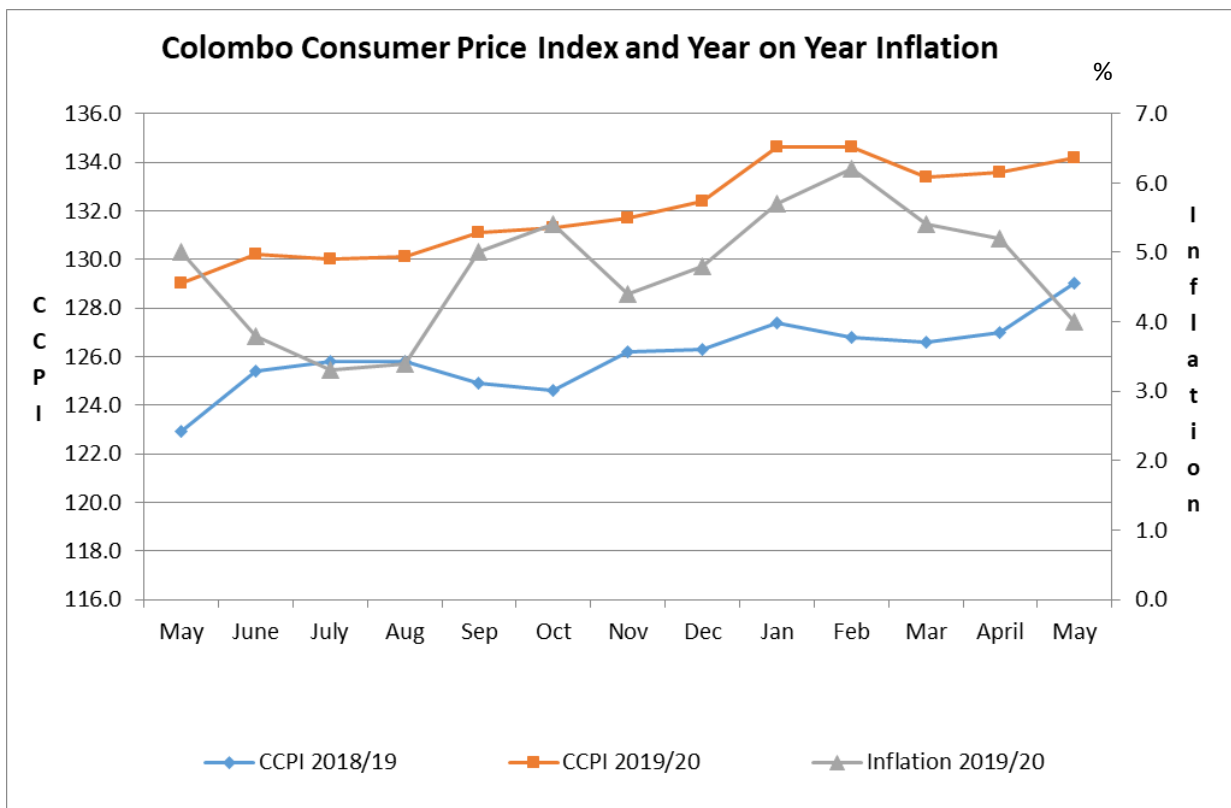


Table 4: Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (May 2019, April 2020 & May 2020)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 May	2020 April	2020 May	May19/ 20-May	Apr20 / 20-May
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	78.74	96.02	101.26	28.59	5.45
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	84.20	97.30	100.61	19.49	3.40
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	90.17	94.30	99.41	10.25	5.42
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	90.37	96.05	100.69	11.41	4.83
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	102.69	101.56	101.79	-0.87	0.23
6. Cowpea	Kg	281.80	296.13	286.95	1.83	-3.10
7.Green Grams	Kg	270.66	294.11	296.40	9.51	0.78
8. Coconut	Each	51.60	82.00	77.85	50.89	-5.06
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	261.78	338.12	373.76	42.77	10.54
10.Chicken	Kg	508.04	482.15	481.86	-5.15	-0.06
11. Eggs	Each	17.82	16.77	13.78	-22.69	-17.85
12. Red Onion	Kg	173.01	389.26	380.64	120.01	-2.22
13. Big Onion	Kg	89.55	152.03	104.67	16.89	-31.15
14. Potatoes	Kg	155.56	172.99	176.26	13.30	1.89
15. Garlic	Kg	330.08	553.22	523.51	58.60	-5.37
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	336.60	664.61	599.03	77.97	-9.87
17. Green Chilies	Kg	365.77	236.05	313.12	-14.40	32.65
18. Sugar	Kg	105.99	113.44	126.14	19.01	11.19
19. Pepper	Kg	1499.21	1503.98	1551.99	3.52	3.19
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	136.00	137.22	112.49	-17.29	-18.02
21. Carrot	Kg	196.93	221.00	206.33	4.77	-6.64
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	187.12	144.74	132.19	-29.36	-8.67
23. Tomatoes	Kg	163.92	165.65	108.02	-34.10	-34.79
24. Capsicum	Kg	253.81	199.15	184.50	-27.31	-7.35
25. Beetroot	Kg	182.98	138.09	113.04	-38.22	-18.14
26. Beans	Kg	287.79	217.41	184.71	-35.82	-15.04
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	131.81	143.63	146.49	14.20	2.36
28. Papaw	Kg	118.04	133.09	124.46	5.44	-6.48
29. Mangoes	Each	78.54	90.68	77.07	-1.87	-15.00
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1680.76	1668.34	1785.19	6.21	7.00
31.Talapath	Kg	1173.26	1084.19	1149.37	-2.04	6.01
32.Paraw	Kg	1104.06	1135.38	1209.55	9.55	6.53
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1424.09	1504.12	1575.63	10.64	4.75
34. Sprats	Kg	743.10	779.96	800.79	7.76	2.67
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36. Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	134.64	137.00	137.45	2.08	0.33
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	106.41	104.00	104.00	-2.27	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	-46.09	-29.67
Laughs	12.5kg	1733.00	1493.00	1493.00	-29.36	-8.67