



WEB RELEASE
THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – APRIL 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.

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 2020. Data that was collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone from alternative data sources.

Additionally, data collection in April was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of outlets which are considered as non-essential. In particular, the collection of prices has become increasingly difficult but the CCPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible.

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 (%)		
	April 2019	Mar 2020	April 2020	April 2019	Mar 2020	April 2020	April 2019	Mar 2020	April 2020
	All Items	127.0	133.4	133.6	237.92	-701.17	114.68	0.31	-0.86
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	125.6	141.6	142.2	10.00	-783.50	114.68	0.01	-0.96	0.14
Non Food	127.5	130.2	130.2	227.92	82.33	0.00	0.30	0.10	0.00

**Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in April 2020 were noted only in Food Group, details on which are given in Table2.*

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 April 2020 was 133.6 and it records an increase of 0.2 index points that is 0.14 percentage points compared to the month of March 2020 for which the index was 133.4. This represents an increase of expenditure value by Rs.114.68 in the “Market Basket”

2.1.1 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the change in CCPI from March 2020 to April 2020 were given in Table 2. Expenditure value increase of Food items by 0.14% and Non Food items remained unchanged during this period.

2.1.2 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: 0.14%

As shown in Table 02, increases in value change were reported for Coconut (0.46%), Chili powder (0.09%), Coconut Oil (0.06%), Pepper (0.06%), Potatoes (0.05%), Limes (0.05%), Dried Fish (0.04%), Chicken (0.04%), Curry Powder (0.03%), Sugar (0.02%), Red Onion (0.02%), Gram (0.01%), Yoghurt (0.01%), Dried Chilies (0.01%), Turmeric Powder (0.01%), Goraka (0.01%), Tamarind (0.01%) and Coriander (0.01%).

While decreases in value change were reported Vegetables (0.25%), Canned Fish (0.12%), Sea Fish (0.10%), Fresh Fruit (0.10%), Dhal Mysoor (0.10%), Big Onion (0.09%), Eggs (0.06%), Rice (0.04%), and Green Chilies (0.02%).

2.1.3 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.0%

Out of the eleven Non-Food groups, eight remained unchanged as they were not being functioned in the month of April. Even though, some sections of the groups of ‘Health’, ‘Housing, Water Electricity Gas and Other Fuel’ and ‘Transport’ are being functioning as essential services, the price of those sections remained unchanged during the month.

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

Sub Group/Commodity		Value Change			
		Rs.Cts.	% change		
			Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food		114.68	1.02	0.88	0.14
1	Rice	-30.87		0.04	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	-11.62		0.01	
	<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	-10.58		0.01	
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	-14.87		0.02	
	<i>Rice - (Nadu-Red)</i>	-6.36		0.01	
2	Gram	11.29	0.01		
3	Chicken	29.59	0.04		
4	Sea Fish	-82.87		0.10	
5	Dried Fish	33.76	0.04		
6	Canned fish (Salmon)	-93.94		0.12	
7	Yoghurt	6.08	0.01		
8	Eggs	-44.46		0.06	
9	Coconut (Nuts)	373.43	0.46		
10	Coconut oil	47.13	0.06		
11	Fresh Fruit	-82.02		0.10	
	<i>Banana</i>	-21.86		0.03	
	<i>Papaw</i>	-97.15		0.12	
12	Vegetables	-203.59		0.25	
13	Potatoes	39.99	0.05		
14	Dhal - Mysoor	-82.59		0.10	
15	Red onions	13.90	0.02		
16	Big onions	-71.24		0.09	
17	Green chilies	-16.65		0.02	
18	Sugar	17.38	0.02		
19	Chili powder	75.01	0.09		
20	Pepper	45.31	0.06		
21	Dried chilies	9.44	0.01		
22	Curry powder	28.15	0.03		
23	Turmeric powder	8.59	0.01		
24	Limes	44.01	0.05		
25	Goraka	9.71	0.01		
26	Tamarind	10.97	0.01		
27	Coriander	6.13	0.01		
	Others	13.03	0.02		
Non Food		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
All Items		114.68	1.02	0.88	0.14

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	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
	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

3.1 Year on Year (Year on Year) Inflation

The Y-on-Y inflation as measured by CCPI is 5.2% in April 2020 and inflation calculated for March 2020 was 5.4% (Table 3). Year on Year inflation of Food Group has increased from 12.8% in March 2020 to 13.2% in April 2020 while that of Non-food Group has decreased from 2.5% in March 2020 to 2.1% in April 2020.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of April 2020, on year-to-year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 3.71%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 1.55%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Transport' (0.44%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.53%), 'Education' (0.36%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.20%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.14%), 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.02%), 'Clothing and Footwear'(0.15%), and 'Recreation and Culture' (0.02%) and decrease in value change was reported for the group 'Communication' (0.32%). An insignificant value change was reported in the groups of 'Health' and 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance'.

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

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

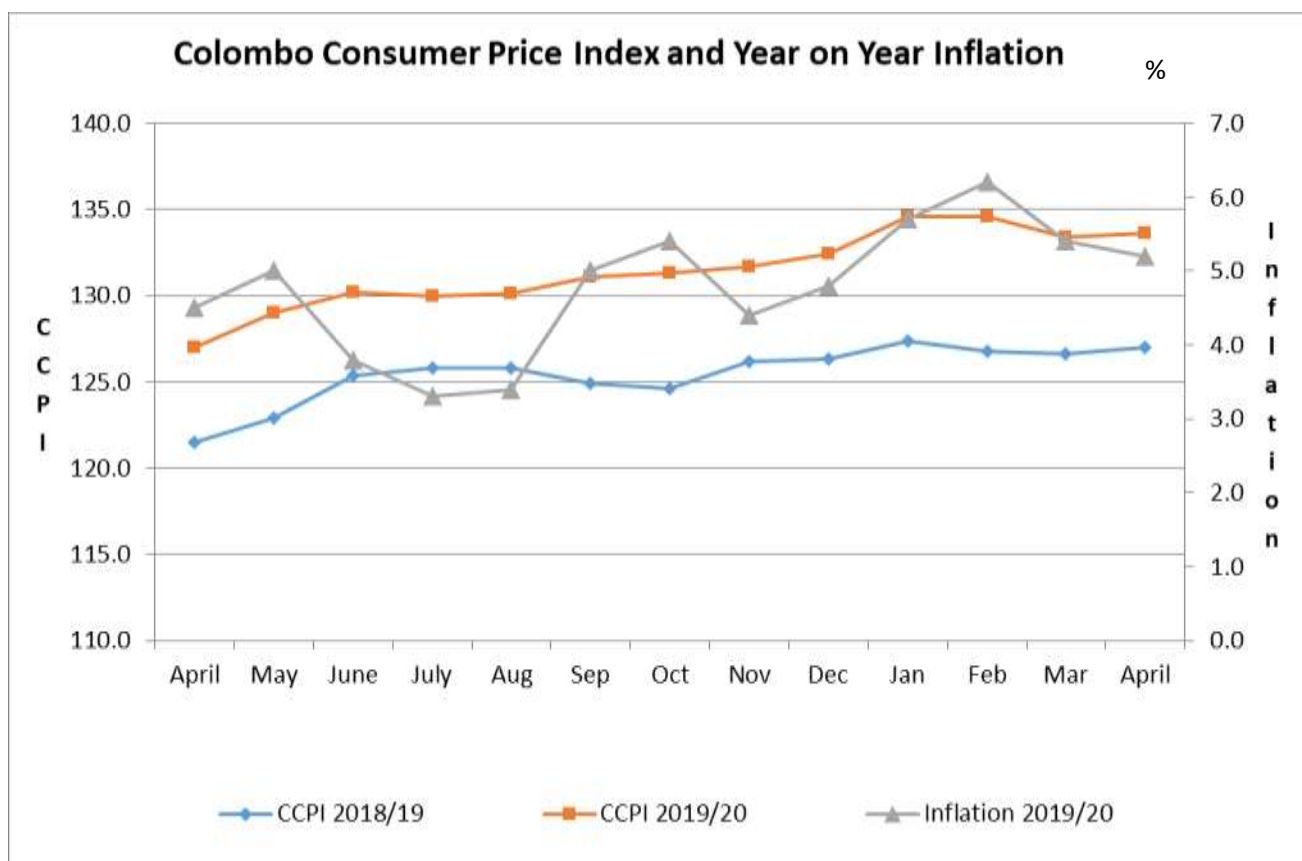


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index April 2019 ,March & April 2020)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2019 Apr	2020 Mar	2020 Apr	Apr19/ 20-Apr	Mar20 / 20-Apr
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	78.33	97.63	96.02	22.60	-1.65
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	81.98	99.79	97.30	18.68	-2.50
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	88.06	98.11	94.30	7.09	-3.88
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	89.60	102.70	96.05	7.20	-6.47
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	104.69	100.54	101.56	-2.99	1.01
6. Cowpea	Kg	280.30	307.35	296.13	5.65	-3.65
7.Green Grams	Kg	262.52	303.30	294.11	12.03	-3.03
8. Coconut	Each	51.54	67.52	82.00	59.09	21.45
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	261.95	318.37	357.52	36.48	12.30
10.Chicken	Kg	506.95	468.38	482.15	-4.89	2.94
11. Eggs	Each	19.82	20.21	16.77	-15.39	-17.03
12. Red Onion	Kg	150.21	366.10	389.26	159.14	6.33
13. Big Onion	Kg	84.18	179.14	152.03	80.60	-15.13
14. Potatoes	Kg	142.64	156.57	172.99	21.28	10.49
15. Garlic	Kg	348.50	556.50	553.22	58.74	-0.59
16. Dried Chilies	Kg	331.10	578.96	664.61	100.73	14.79
17. Green Chilies	Kg	301.32	298.59	236.05	-21.66	-20.94
18. Sugar	Kg	104.79	108.82	113.44	8.26	4.24
19. Pepper	Kg	1487.29	1377.90	1737.43	16.82	26.09
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	136.53	160.02	137.22	0.50	-14.25
21. Carrot	Kg	147.66	221.62	221.00	49.67	-0.28
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	154.01	173.21	144.74	-6.02	-16.44
23. Tomatoes	Kg	112.81	185.28	165.65	46.84	-10.59
24. Capsicum	Kg	204.45	270.55	199.15	-2.59	-26.39
25. Beetroot	Kg	137.79	163.37	138.09	0.22	-15.47
26. Beans	Kg	208.81	227.30	217.41	4.12	-4.35
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	131.81	143.63	146.49	11.14	1.99
28. Papaw	Kg	122.06	178.99	133.09	9.03	-25.64
29. Mangoes	Each	101.75	94.94	90.68	-10.88	-4.49
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1535.73	1728.17	1668.34	8.63	-3.46
31.Talapath	Kg	1105.03	1163.25	1084.19	-1.89	-6.80
32.Paraw	Kg	1014.13	1146.32	1135.38	11.96	-0.95
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1361.81	1476.66	1504.12	10.45	1.86
34. Sprats	Kg	738.90	760.06	803.27	8.71	5.69
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	132.00	139.50	139.50	5.68	0.00
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	108.50	104.00	104.00	-4.15	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

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