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CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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# Press Release

Issued By Statistics Department

Date 2020-03-31

## Inflation decreased in March 2020

### Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.4%  
Annual Average inflation : 4.7%  
Monthly Change : -0.9%

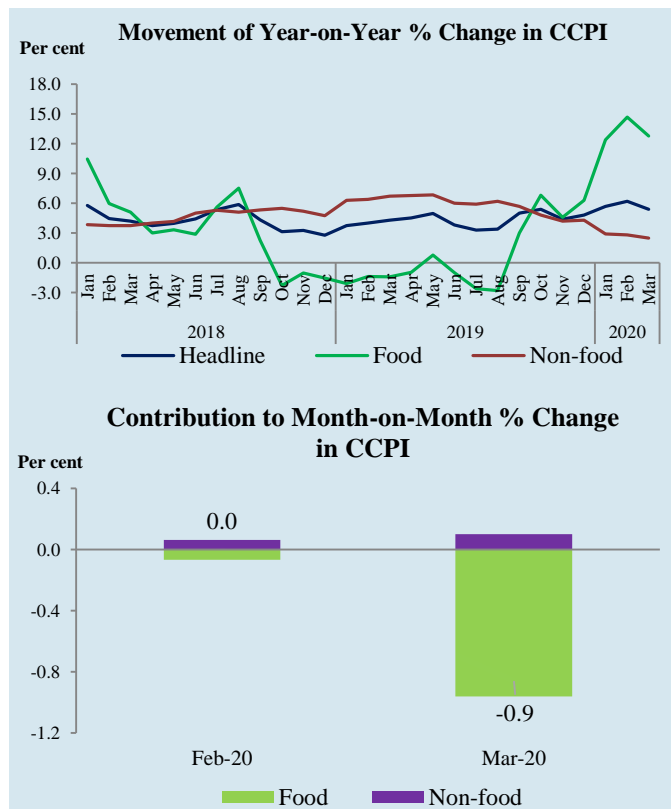
### Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 2.9%  
Annual Average inflation : 4.9%  
Monthly Change : 0.0%

Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100)<sup>1</sup> declined to 5.4 per cent in March 2020 from 6.2 per cent in February 2020. This was due to the decline in the prices of items in the Food category. Accordingly, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) declined to 12.8 per cent in March 2020 from 14.7 per cent in February 2020, while Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) recorded at 2.5 per cent in March 2020.

However, the change in the CCPI measured on an annual average basis increased to 4.7 per cent in March 2020 from 4.6 per cent in February 2020.

Monthly change of CCPI recorded at -0.9 per cent in March 2020 and it was due to the price declines observed in the items of the Food category. Within the Food category, prices of vegetables, red onions,



<sup>1</sup>The Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100) is compiled by the Department of Census and Statistics.

and bread recorded declines in March 2020. However, prices of items in the Non-Food category recorded increases during the month owing to price increases of the items in Health (blood tests fee) and Transportation (airline fair) sub-categories.

Continuing its declining trend for the sixth consecutive month, the core inflation (Y-O-Y) declined to 2.9 per cent in in March 2020 from 3.2 per cent in February 2020. Meanwhile, annual average core inflation also declined to its four month low of 4.9 per cent in March 2020 from 5.1 per cent in February 2020.

**Data Annexure:**

**Table 01 : Movements of the CCPI (2013=100)**

Year	Month	Index Number		Monthly Percentage Change		Year-on-Year Percentage Change		Annual Average Percentage Change	
		CCPI	CCPI (Core)	CCPI	CCPI (Core)	CCPI	CCPI (Core)	CCPI	CCPI (Core)
2018	January	122.8	125.6	-0.1	0.6	5.8	3.5	6.6	5.6
	February	121.9	125.8	-0.7	0.2	4.5	3.5	6.4	5.3
	March	121.4	125.9	-0.4	0.1	4.2	3.4	6.1	5.0
	April	121.5	126.2	0.1	0.2	3.8	3.5	5.9	4.7
	May	122.9	126.4	1.2	0.2	4.0	3.2	5.7	4.5
	June	125.4	127.0	2.0	0.5	4.4	3.4	5.6	4.4
	July	125.8	127.3	0.3	0.2	5.4	3.9	5.6	4.3
	August	125.8	127.5	0.0	0.2	5.9	3.7	5.6	4.1
	September	124.9	128.0	-0.7	0.4	4.3	3.8	5.4	3.9
	October	124.6	128.1	-0.2	0.1	3.1	3.8	5.0	3.8
	November	126.2	128.9	1.3	0.6	3.3	3.4	4.6	3.6
	December	126.3	128.8	0.1	-0.1	2.8	3.1	4.3	3.5
2019	January	127.4	132.5	0.9	2.9	3.7	5.5	4.1	3.7
	February	126.8	132.6	-0.5	0.1	4.0	5.4	4.1	3.8
	March	126.6	133.0	-0.2	0.3	4.3	5.6	4.1	4.0
	April	127.0	133.1	0.3	0.1	4.5	5.5	4.1	4.2
	May	129.0	134.2	1.6	0.8	5.0	6.2	4.2	4.4
	June	130.2	134.4	0.9	0.1	3.8	5.8	4.2	4.7
	July	130.0	134.6	-0.2	0.1	3.3	5.7	4.0	4.8
	August	130.1	134.6	0.1	0.0	3.4	5.6	3.8	5.0
	September	131.1	135.2	0.8	0.4	5.0	5.6	3.9	5.1
	October	131.3	135.2	0.2	0.0	5.4	5.5	4.0	5.3
	November	131.7	135.5	0.3	0.2	4.4	5.1	4.1	5.4
	December	132.4	135.0	0.5	-0.4	4.8	4.8	4.3	5.5
2020	January	134.6	136.5	1.7	1.1	5.7	3.0	4.5	5.3
	February	134.6	136.9	0.0	0.3	6.2	3.2	4.6	5.1
	March	133.4	136.9	-0.9	0.0	5.4	2.9	4.7	4.9

Source: Department of Census and Statistics