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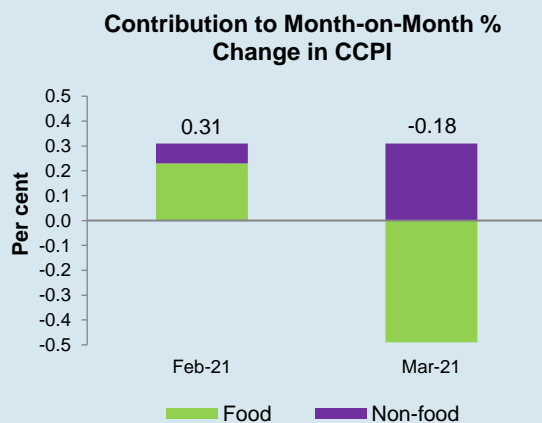
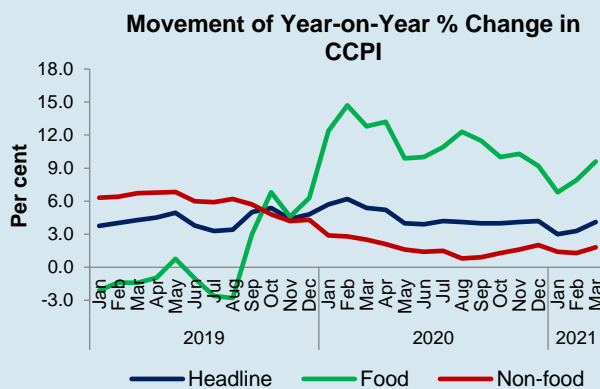
CCPI based Inflation increased to 4.1 per cent in March 2021

Headline Inflation

Year-on-year Inflation : 4.1%
 Annual Average Inflation : 4.0%
 Monthly Change : - 0.18%

Core Inflation

Year-on-year Inflation : 3.1%
 Annual Average Inflation : 3.0%
 Monthly Change : 0.5%



Headline inflation, as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100)¹ increased to 4.1 per cent in March 2021 from 3.3 per cent in February 2021. This was due to the statistical effect of the low base prevailed in March 2020. Meanwhile, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 9.6 per cent in March 2021 from 7.9 per cent in February 2021. Further, Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 1.8 per cent in March 2021 from 1.3 per cent in February 2021.

The change in the CCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased to 4.0 per cent in March 2021 from 4.1 per cent in February 2021.

Monthly change of CCPI recorded at -0.18 per cent in March 2021. This was due to price decreases observed in items of the Food category. Moreover, monthly changes of Food and Non-food categories recorded at -0.49 per cent and 0.31 per cent, respectively, in March 2021. Accordingly, within the Food category, prices of vegetables, green chilli, fresh fish and turmeric powder decreased in March 2021. Meanwhile, prices of items in the Non-Food category recorded an increase during the month mainly due to price increases observed in the Restaurant and Hotels sub-category.

The core inflation (Y-o-Y), which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, increased to 3.1 per cent in March 2021 from 2.6 per cent in February 2021. Meanwhile, annual average core inflation remained unchanged at 3.0 per cent in March 2021.

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

Data Annexure:

Table 1: Movements of the CCPI

Base: 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) |
| 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 |
| | April | 133.6 | 137.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 5.2 | 3.1 | 4.8 | 4.7 |
| | May | 134.2 | 138.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 4.7 | 4.4 |
| | June | 135.3 | 138.6 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 4.7 | 4.2 |
| | July | 135.4 | 138.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 4.0 |
| | August | 135.4 | 138.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 3.8 |
| | September | 136.3 | 139.1 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 4.0 | 2.9 | 4.7 | 3.6 |
| | October | 136.5 | 139.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 4.6 | 3.4 |
| | November | 137.1 | 139.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 4.6 | 3.2 |
| | December | 138.0 | 139.7 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 4.2 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 3.1 |
| 2021 | January | 138.7 | 140.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 4.3 | 3.1 |
| | February | 139.1 | 140.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 4.1 | 3.0 |
| | March | 138.9 | 141.1 | -0.1 | 0.5 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 3.0 |

Source: Department of Census and Statistics