Sri Lanka (LKX)
SDDS - DQAF View
Category: Price index: Consumer prices

H.Header data

H.0.1 National Descriptor
[National Descriptor]

Sri Lanka

H.0.7 Data category notes
[Data category notes]

Price index: Consumer prices

0. Prerequisites

0.1 Legal environment

0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics
[Laws and administrative arrangements specifying the responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics]

The major task of the Prices and Wages Division of the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is to compute and publish the Consumers' Price Index (CPI) of Sri Lanka on monthly basis. In addition to that retail prices are collected by weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually by district level and producer's prices are collected by District Secretariat Division monthly. The Division follows almost all the principles adopted by the relevant International Organization in terms of collection of retail prices and compilation of Consumers' Price Index.

0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies
[Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate.]

The DCS has the authority to collect and disseminate data under the Statistical Ordinance by maintaining good governance and coordination among the data producing agencies.

0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data
[Measures ensuring individual reporters' data are kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.]

Confidentiality of individuals is guaranteed by the Statistical Ordinance and it states that every person who engage in the activities under this ordinance disclose or make use of any information supplied shall be guilty of an offence.

0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting
[Legal mandates and/or measures to require or encourage statistical reporting.]

Under the statistical ordinance every person is bounded to furnish the required information to the best of his/her knowledge and belief. On the other hand every person engaged in the collection and preparation of statistical under this ordinance shall make a declaration in the prescribed form that he will not except for the purpose of this ordinance, disclose or make use of any information supplied under this ordinance.

0.2 Resources
0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing
[Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing for statistical programs currently available as well as what would be required for programmed statistical outputs.]

There are adequate resources in terms of staff, computers and finances for price surveys.

0.2.2 Ensuring efficient use of resources
[Measures implemented to ensure efficient use of resources.]

Index compilation procedures are undertaken efficiently and released on time.

0.3 Relevance
0.3.1 Monitoring user requirements

[How the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.]

Meetings and discussions are carried out with the users periodically and any inquiries or suggestions are considered at any time.

0.4 Quality management

0.4.1 Quality policy

[Processes in place to focus on quality.]

Prices and Wages Division follows the international classifications, concepts and methods in order to compile indexes and to be comparable with other countries in the region as well as out of the region.

0.4.2 Quality monitoring

[Processes in place to monitor the quality of the statistical program.

Price data are thoroughly checked and verified by senior supervisors on several times with regard to the compatibility with statistical programs.

0.4.3 Quality planning

[Processes in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.]

Quality improvements identified during the ongoing monitoring process and in periodic reviews. Depending on the feedback of them any change will be considered pertaining to the changes of programs.

1. Integrity

1.1 Professionalism

1.1.1 Impartiality of statistics

[Measures to promote impartiality in production of statistics.]

The Department is capable to maintain its professional independence among all other agencies without any interference of others.

1.1.2 Selection of sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination

[Selection of sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination.]

The prices & wages division follows the relevant UN guidelines and procedures for compilation methodologies and releasing data.

1.1.3 Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics

[Entitlement to, opportunity for, and historical frequency of, comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics by the appropriate statistical entity.]

Efforts are being taken to prevent misinterpretation or misuse of statistics by submitting explanatory notes, press releases and relevant documentation.

1.2 Transparency

1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination

[Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination.]

Information is available to the public about the terms and conditions under which the statistical series are compiled and disseminated, including the obligation to compile and disseminate the statistics, the confidentiality of individual reporters' data and other key features. The statistical ordinance, census acts, mission and vision of the department and structure of the department are appeared on the official web site of the Department of Census and Statistics.(www.statistics.gov.lk)

1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release

[Disclosure of Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release.]

Internal government access is not allowed prior to the data release.

1.2.3 Attribution of statistical products

[Identification of statistical agencies/units producing disseminated statistics.]

The current CPI is the country's official price index and is computed monthly and published within one week after the end of each month in news papers as well as in the department's web site (www.statistics.gov.lk) and also it is published in the government gazette.

1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.

[Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.]

Major changes in methodologies, source data and statistical techniques are provided in the particular publication and in the web.

1.3 Ethical standards
1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior
[Measures implementing and enforcing guidelines for staff behavior.]

The government servants are subject to follow the government administrative and financial regulations set out by the government.

2. Methodology

2.1 Concepts and definitions
2.1.1 Concepts and definitions
[Degree to which the overall structure of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

Definition:
The CPI measures the change in prices of goods and services normally consumed by households in the urban areas of the Colombo district. The index is compiled as a fixed, base weighted price index of laspeyres formula. The methodological guidelines follow the ILO & UN Manuals.

2.2 Scope
2.2.1 Scope
2.2.1.1 Scope of the data
[Scope of the data.]

Scope of the data
- Population coverage: All Households, i.e. all socio-economic groups, in urban area of Colombo District.
- Geographic coverage: Colombo District (Urban).
- Item Coverage: All goods and services bought by the reference population for the purpose of consumption goods and services are classified in to 10 major groups, 95 sub groups and 373 total number of items.

2.2.1.2 Exceptions to coverage
[Exceptions to coverage.]

Expenditure on direct taxes, gifts, gambling and jewelries are excluded. Alcohol, Tobacco and narcotics are excluded from the market basket due to the government policy of discouraging their consumption.

2.2.1.3 Unrecorded activity
[Unrecorded activity.]

Expenditure related to financial Services

2.3 Classification/sectorization

2.3.1 Classification/sectorization
[Broad consistency of classification/sectorization systems used with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

Classification system: AS defined by the COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose)

2.4 Basis for recording

2.4.1 Valuation
[Types of prices (market, historical, administrative, basic, purchasers', producer, etc.) used to value flows and stocks.]

Types of prices:
Market Price, Discounted Price, Administrative Price, Sale Price recorded in Festive Seasons(April & December)

2.4.2 Recording basis
[Degree to which recording meets requirements for accrual accounting.]

Timing of price observation:

The frequency of price data collection of any particular good or service varies depending on the nature of the price commodity.
   Prices are collected as follows considering the price fluctuations of goods and services
   a). Foodstuff   weekly
   b). Clothing/Footwear   monthly
   c). Electricity and fuel   monthly
   d). Housing rent   quarterly
   e) Other   monthly/quarterly/Bi-annually

2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures
[Broad consistency of grossing/netting procedures with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]
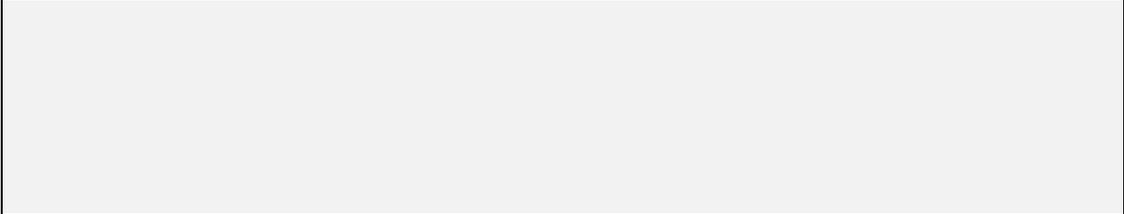
3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Source data

3.1.1 Source data collection programs
[Comprehensiveness of source data from administrative and survey data collection programs, and appropriateness of the collection modality for country-specific conditions.]

Sources of weights: Expenditure weights were obtained from Household Income and Expenditure survey carried out during 12 months period from July 2006 to June 2007.
Base Weights reference period: July 2006 to June 2007
Price reference period: Jan 2006 to Dec 2007
Frequency of weight updates: Normally weights are updated once in five years.
Selection of varieties: Selected varieties include goods and services that account for a significant portion of the expenditure of households and are consumed by a large number of households. Selected varieties must be available for a reasonable period, and the evolution of their prices must be representative of price trends for similar varieties not included in the basket.
Selection of Outlets/Cost Effectiveness: Sources for price collection should be chosen from an outlet survey, since this is costly and time consuming endeavor, Department uses purposive sampling method in order to choose the sampling units. Thus, the outlets which have more consumers and at the same time, the outlets available with medium quality goods are considered as the sampling units.
Price collection methods: Handheld computers (PDA) are used for the collection of food prices. Paper collection is used for non-food items such as clothes, pharmaceuticals, stationary, household ware, alcohol and tobacco, personal items and services.

3.1.2 Source data definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording
[Degree to which source data approximate the definitions, scope, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required (as described in 2.1.1-2.4.3).]

3.1.3 Source data timeliness
[Source data timeliness relative to what is required for producing statistical outputs whose timeliness meets applicable data standard (SDDS requirements or GDDS recommendations).]

Average monthly prices for each product are compiled from the last week of previous month to first three weeks of the current month.

3.2 Assessment of source data
3.2.1 Source data assessment
[Routine assessment of source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records (e.g., for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error); whether assessment results are monitored; how results are used to guide statistical processes.]

In order to estimate prices for the purpose of computing the index, 03 groups consist with 05 officers, four of whom are well trained in price collection, collect prices for two weeks at the rate of 2 days per week and again for two weeks at the rate of 3 days per week thus the total being 10 working days within a month under the supervision of a statistician. In this connection, information on required goods and services is collected continuously from selected outlets according to exact specifications. The officers, who are collecting prices, purchase themselves some items, which are subject to frequent changes in prices, while prices of other items are collected by enquiring from outlets as customers under the supervision of senior officers/Statisticians.

3.3 Statistical techniques
3.3.1 Source data statistical techniques
[Statistical techniques in data compilation to deal with data sources (e.g., to align them with target concepts from 2.1.1).]

Missing Prices: If temporary unavailable (not more than three months), last price collected is carried forwarded. If permanently unavailable, a replacement is selected. Replacement Items: Select product with significant market share and where possible the same quality (quality is defined in terms of characteristics listed in the product specifications).

3.3.2 Other statistical procedures
[Statistical techniques employed in other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis).]

Whenever a specific item cannot be found in the market, substitutes available under the same specifications are selected.

3.4 Data validation

3.4.1 Validation of intermediate results

[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]

Collectors asked to provide reasons for large variations. DCS Statisticians analyze and carry out controls based on Minimum, Maximum & Variation. Invalidated prices are checked and verified by the staff.

3.4.2 Assessment of intermediate data

[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]

Statisticians analyze every items of the index to ensure movements are consistent with information on commodities and retail market prices.

3.4.3 Assessment of discrepancies and other problems in statistical outputs

[Investigation of statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators of problems in statistical outputs.]

When the significant differences are found, verification procedures are followed.

3.5 Revision studies

3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses

[Periodicity with which studies and analyses of revisions are carried out; whether and how they are used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).]

CPI revisions are made once in every five years.

4. Serviceability

4.1 Periodicity and timeliness

4.1.1 Periodicity
[Periodicity of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

> Monthly.

4.1.2 Timeliness
[Timeliness of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

> Data are published within one week after the end of each month.

4.2 Consistency
4.2.1 Internal consistency
[Consistency of statistics within the dataset.]

> Consistency checking are done by each group of commodities.

4.2.2 Temporal consistency
[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics over a reasonable period of time.]

4.2.3 Intersectoral and cross-domain consistency
[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.]

4.3 Revision

4.3.1 Revision schedule

[Transparency and regularity of revision schedule.]

No revision is made after finalizing the data.

4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised data

[Identification of preliminary and/or revised data.]

4.3.3 Dissemination of revision studies and analyses

[Dissemination of revision studies and analyses (see also 3.5.1).]

5. Accessibility

5.1 Data

5.1.1 Statistical presentation

[Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts).]

The Department of Census and Statistics disseminates data on monthly percentage changes in the general index (CPI) and in ten major groups. In addition, the general index and individual indices are published for the major groups and subgroups, as well as for those headings with positive and negative percentage changes.

5.1.2 Dissemination media and format

5.1.2.1 Hard copy - New release

[Hard copy - New release.]

The Colombo Consumers' Price Index is the country's official price index and the index is computed last working day of each month and publishes in the news papers as well as in government gazette with in one weeks after the end of each month.

5.1.2.2 Hard copy - Weekly bulletin
[Hard copy - Weekly bulletin.]

NA

5.1.2.3 Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin
[Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin.]

Monthly bulletin of price statistics

5.1.2.4 Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin
[Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin.]

5.1.2.5 Hard copy - Other
[Hard copy - Other.]

Bulletin of Selected Retail & Producer Prices-Annually
Bulletin of weekly Retail Prices- Colombo District-Annually

5.1.2.6 Electronic - On-line bulletin or data
[Electronic - On-line bulletin or data.]

Monthly Movements in Colombo Consumers' Price Index

5.1.2.7 Electronic - Other
[Electronic - Other.]

Weekly price reports are prepared and published in the web site.

5.1.3 Advance release calendar
[Pre-announcement of the release schedule for statistics.]

Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) releases selected statistical information including certain census and survey reports on pre announced dates as shown in the following Advance Data Release Calendar (ADRC). Any revisions to these dates will be informed to the users by publishing revised dates in the ADRC at least two weeks before the scheduled dates given in the calendar. The objective of the ADRC is to let data uses know when the data will be released by the DCS and to make all data accessible to all parties at the same time. DCS mainly disseminate data either by publishing in the department's website or by printed reports. Dates for these two data dissemination channels are given in this calendar. (http://www.statistics.gov.lk/adrc.asp)

Quarter-ahead precise release dates are disseminated in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board.

5.1.3.1 ARC Note
[ARC Note.]

5.1.4 Simultaneous release
[Degree to which statistics are made available to all users at the same time, and modalities used to achieve this.]

The data are also released simultaneously to all interested parties as well as to publish within one week after the end of each month.

5.1.5 Dissemination on request
[Dissemination on request of unpublished but non-confidential statistics.]

Unpublished but non-confidential data is released for user requirements.

5.2 Metadata

5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques

[Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques, including annotation of differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines.]

The DCS includes substantial detail of the calculation of the CPI in Monthly Bulletin of Price Statistics and detailed description of the methodology for compilation of the CPI is presented in the DCS annual Bulletin of Selected Retail and Producer Prices.

5.2.2 Disseminated level of detail

[Customization of detail and format of tables for the target groups of users.]

5.3 Assistance to users

5.3.1 Dissemination of information on contact points

[Dissemination of information on contact points for each subject field.]

5.3.2 Availability of documents and services catalogs

[Dissemination of catalogs of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges.]

Contact Person(s):

[Please provide information below as relevant]

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