

## July inflation slows down to 6.1%

Sri Lanka's annual inflation in July slowed to 6.1 percent from 6.8 percent in June, the Department of Census and Statistics said yesterday.

Annual average inflation, measured on a 12-month moving basis, edged down to 8.3 percent in July from 8.6 percent in June, data showed, after hitting a record of 8.8 percent in May.

Core annual inflation, which excludes fresh food, energy, transport, rice and coconuts, eased to a record low of 3.1 percent in July from 4.3 percent a month ago, according to the new consumer price index introduced in mid-2011.

On a year-to-year basis, the highest contribution to the overall increase of around 56 percent came from non-food commodities, which increased by 3 percent in July 2013.

The combined effects of both domestically produced and imported food commodities contributed to the increase in the food sub index.

Among the food commodities, rice, vegetables and fish and sea food, which have substantial weights in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) basket, recorded price decreases on a year-to-year basis.

Under the non-food category, the prices of petrol, diesel and gas rose by 9 percent, 4 percent and 7 percent, respectively. Kerosene oil remained unchanged during the reference period.

