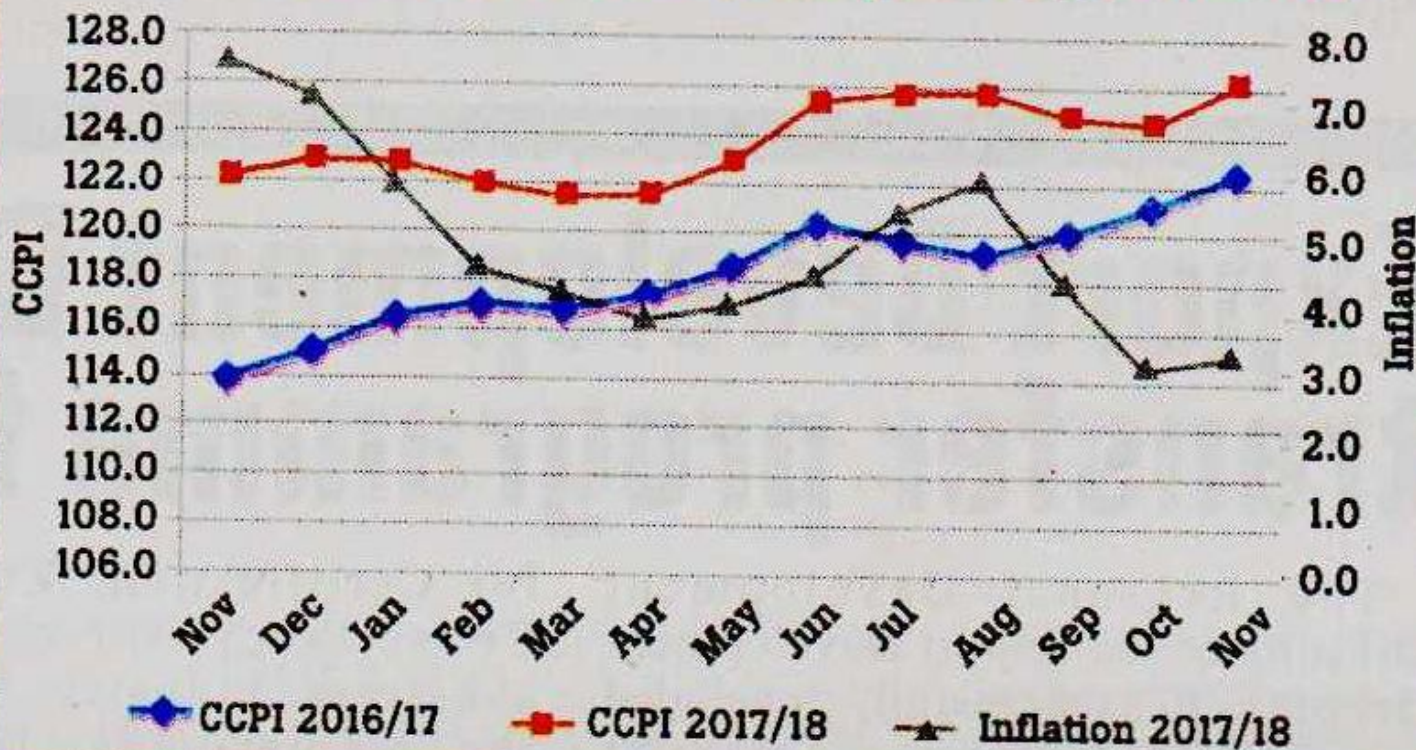


Consumer prices rise 3.3% in November on non-food items

Colombo Consumer Price Index and year-on-year inflation



Consumer prices in Colombo rose 3.3 percent during the month of November on year-on-year basis, accelerating from 3.1 percent recorded for October, the data released by the Census and Statistics Department showed.

This ended a three-month streak in the inflation fall as measured by the change in the Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI).

The contribution of food commodities for November inflation was negative 0.32 percent. However the contribution of non-food items was 3.59 percent. According to the Census and Statistics Department, this was mainly due to an increases in transport, health, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels.

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with twin deficits have seen depreciation of their currencies faster than others.

He noted that normalisation of interest rates in the US which resulted in better yields, has also caused the outflow of foreign funds from Sri Lanka's capital and debt markets.

Sri Lanka has seen over Rs.17 billion of outflows from stocks and over Rs.118 billion from government securities so far this year.

Central Bank...

The CBSL had refused to release this data, claiming that it was exempted from having to comply with the information requested.

The order to release the data was issued following several hearings before the RTI Commission.

Consumer prices...

The moving average inflation rate for the month of November 2018 was 4.6 percent. The rate for the corresponding month of October was 5.0 percent.

The CCPI for all items for November was 126.2, recording an increase of 1.3 percent compared to 124.6 recorded for October 2018. This increase was due to the expenditure value increase of

food items by 0.89 percent and increase of Non-Food items by 0.41 percent.

Sampath Bank...

Sampath Bank in October suspended a planned dollar bond issue to be quoted in the Singapore Stock Exchange due to unfriendly international capital market conditions.

The bank in July revealed plans to issue US dollar denominated debentures to raise US \$ 100 million to prop up its tier II capital base and accelerate lending.

Protests as...

Sri Lanka has been gripped by a constitutional showdown between President Maithripala Sirisena and his sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who refuses to step down.

Sirisena's nominee for Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa has been making populist moves to win support for his government which has been recognised only by China and Burundi.

The lower sugar tax came on top of reductions in fuel prices and income taxes this week.