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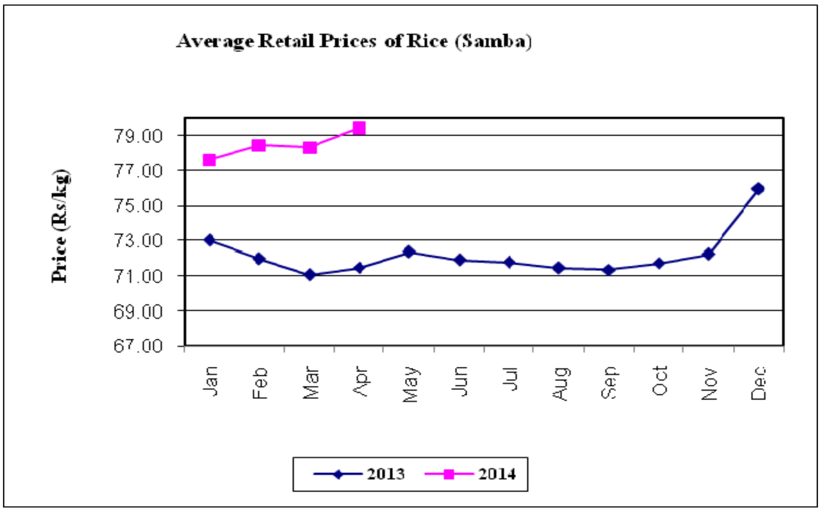
RICE:

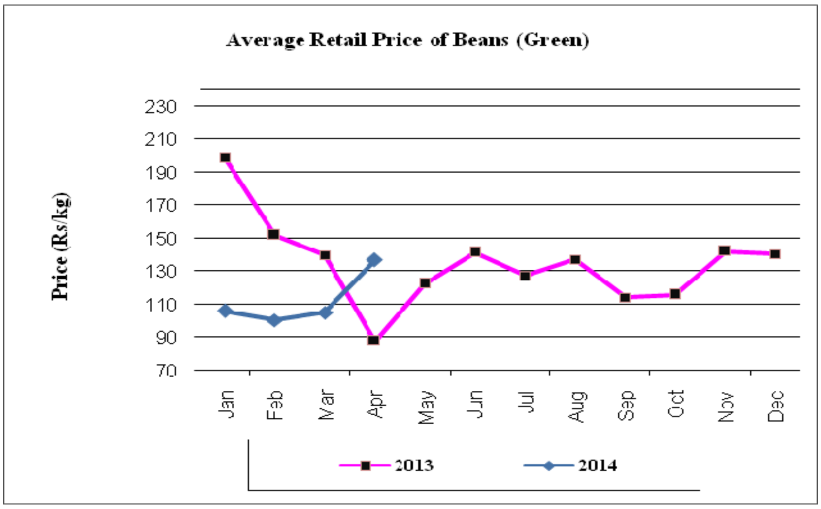
Prices of all the rice varieties have further gone up showing the change of usual price pattern. The highest price of Rs.85.59/kg was reported for samba grade I. The import levy of rice has been brought down up to Rs.5.00/kg during the month and import rice is expected to be available in the retail market during the next month too.

VEGETABLES:

Prices of most of the up country and low country vegetables have increased in April compared to March, due to ending of *maha* harvesting season.

As the cultivation in *yala* season is progressing at slow phase, prices would further increase in May.





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EXPLANTATORY NOTE

The Food Information Bulletin is a monthly publication containing information relating to producer, wholesale and retail prices of selected food commodities in selected markets in and around Colombo and main markets in the major producing areas. Data on extent, production and imports are also available in the bulletin.

The information is analyzed and presented as, prevailing prices, price ranges, averages and comparison of monthly prices. The changes in prices reported are always in relation to price, which prevailed during the previous month unless otherwise stated.

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1. Paddy

Crop Situation

The early prospects of the paddy crop in 2014 y*ala* season was moderately satisfactory in most of the major producing areas due to the delay in monsoon rains and insufficient water levels in major irrigation tanks. However, the land preparation was in progress in some of the major paddy producing areas and the cultivation started in some areas. It is observed that during the end of month rainy weather was experienced in most of the major producing areas. The crop forecast report of Department of Agriculture for 2014 *yala* season, revealed that the progress of paddy cultivation was 90,116ha and that is 22% of the target. As compared to the progress of respective month in *Yala* 2013, this cultivation progress of paddy at the end of April 2014 showed a shortfall of 10%. The highest cultivation progress was recorded from Ampara, Killinochchi, Batticaloa, Mannar and Mullativu districts. The progress of paddy cultivation in 2014 *yala* season will be depending on the rainfall during next month.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2014 *yala* season (up to end of April 2014)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the targeted extent
Anuradhapura	33,128	3,792	11
Polonnaruwa	22,600	9,773	43
Ampara	29,280	32,191	110
Hambantota	67,856	6,799	10
Kurunagala	27,525	2,814	10
Colombo	2,983	93	3
Gampaha	6,615	-	-
Kalutara	13,299	44	-
Galle	12,800	56	-
Matara	16,705	2,347	14
Ratnapura	14,120	822	6
Kegalle	8,540	45	1
Puttalam	16,285	547	3
Kandy	9,842	173	2
Matale	13,660	250	2
NuwaraEliya	3,676	17	-
Badulla	8,075	1,216	15
Moneragala	19,921	3,139	16
Jaffna	-	-	-
Kilinochchi	320	284	89
Vavuniya	5,665	286	5
Mullaitivu	374	278	74
Mannar	1,732	1,507	87
Trincomalee	24,025	4,477	19
Batticaloa	23,627	19,160	81
Udawalawa	-	-	-
System H	-	-	-
System H1	-	-	-
System B	9,519	-	-
System C	11,059	-	-
System G	-	-	-
System L	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	**403,232**	**90,110**	**22**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – April 2014

Commodity	PriceRange (Rs/kg)		Average (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	37.00-40.00	33.00-37.00	38.75	35.20	28.90	*3.55*	*10.09*	*9.85*	*34.08*
Polonnaruwa	36.50-42.00	32.81-40.62	39.67	36.84	-	*2.83*	*7.68*	-	-
Kalawewa	39.00-41.50	32.00-38.00	39.97	35.20	30.08	*4.77*	*13.54*	*9.89*	*32.86*
Kurunegala	39.00-42.00	34.00-39.00	40.23	36.14	31.14	*4.08*	*11.30*	*9.08*	*29.17*
Dehiattakandiya	-	-	-	-	30.59	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	38.00-42.00	34.00-38.00	40.39	35.81	31.52	*4.58*	*12.78*	*8.87*	*28.13*
Ampara	39.00-41.00	33.00-39.00	40.00	35.25	30.46	*4.75*	*13.48*	*9.54*	*31.32*
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	36.00-38.00	31.00-36.00	37.13	33.60	24.50	*3.53*	*10.49*	*12.63*	*51.53*
Polonnaruwa	34.50-40.50	31.25-38.00	37.27	34.63	-	*2.64*	*7.62*	-	-
Kalawewa	38.00-40.00	31.00-37.00	38.48	34.07	27.00	*4.41*	*12.94*	*11.48*	*42.52*
Kurunegala	35.50-40.00	30.50-38.00	37.45	34.57	28.45	*2.88*	*8.32*	*9.00*	*31.62*
Dehiattakandiya	-	-	-	-	27.19	-	-	-	-
Embilipitiya	39.00-40.00	33.00-37.00	39.32	34.50	28.70	*4.82*	*13.97*	*10.62*	*37.00*
Nikaweratiya	36.00-40.00	30.50-38.00	37.73	34.60	28.05	*3.13*	*9.03*	*9.68*	*34.49*
Matara	31.00-37.00	30.00-35.00	34.61	32.21	27.50	*2.40*	*7.44*	*7.11*	*25.84*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	25.50	-	-	-	-
Ampara	37.00-38.00	27.00-38.00	37.74	32.99	28.13	*4.75*	*14.38*	*9.61*	*34.15*
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	30.00-34.00	29.00-31.00	32.02	30.44	25.00	*1.58*	*5.19*	*7.02*	*28.08*
Hambantota	32.00-33.00	29.00-32.00	32.50	30.60	23.50	*1.90*	*6.21*	*9.00*	*38.30*
Embilipitiya	32.00-34.00	30.00-33.00	32.80	31.26	24.30	*1.54*	*4.93*	*8.50*	*34.98*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

The harvesting of 2013/14 *maha* paddy crop completed in most of the major producing areas and is still progress in Hambantota and Tissamaharama areas. However, a significant price decrease cannot be observed during the month because most of the farmers kept more paddy stocks for later sales and for the consumption of rest of the year. They anticipated that the low rainfall would also affect yala cultivation. Due to the low production followed by the prolong drought prevailed during this *maha* season, higher paddy prices were recorded throughout the season. Hence prices of all paddy varieties had increased by about 7-14 percent compared to that of previous month. Prices of long grain red have increased by less than 6 percent in Southern areas. Meanwhile the lowest prices of long grain white reported in Matara and that of long grain red were reported in Matara.

Compared to the month of April last year, the prices of all paddy varieties have increased by 28-51 percent in almost all the selected areas. The highest price increase of 51 percent was reported for long grain white in Anuradhapura followed by Kalawewa (42%). Meanwhile the prices of long grain red have increased in the range of 28%-38%.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

Prices of all the varieties except for raw red have gone up significantly during this month too. The highest price increase of 10% was recorded for nadu grade I while the nadu grade II increased by 6%. Meanwhile, samba grade I and raw white prices have increased by 4%-5%. However, according to the paddy statistics published by the Department of Census and Statistics paddy production of this *Maha* season is 2.35 million metric tons and it is sufficient to produce 1.41 million metric tons of rice. This rice stock is enough to feed the country for 07 months and it is a shortage of two month's requirements compared to previous *Maha* season. As very few millers limit the rice supply abnormal price increase of rice could be seen during the peak harvesting season. Because of continuous increase of rice prices the government increased the ceiling prices of rice and also reduced the import levy of rice up to Rs.5.00/kg during the second week of this month. As a result about 23,000mt of rice was imported from India and Pakistan. The imported stock was comprised of *ponni* samba and raw white rice. The quality of ponni samba was good and the quality of raw white rice was not good because it had higher percentage of broken rice. The CIF price of rice was about Rs.62.00/kg.

The wholesale price of imported *ponni* samba was Rs.73.00/kg while that of imported raw white was Rs.60.57/kg. It should be closely monitored the rice stocks available in the country before *yala* harvesting starts to avoid occurring the marketing problems.

The highest price of Rs.84.42/kg was reported for samba grade I while the lowest price of Rs.60.35/kg was noted for raw red. Compared to the same month of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased in the range of 18%-34% recording the highest increase for nadu grade I.

Retail

The prices of all the rice varieties have further increased by Re.1.00-Rs.3.00/kg. The highest price increase was reported for nadu grade I as Rs.3.00/kg followed by raw white (Rs.2.00/kg). According to the price behaviour of rice, prices have shown a declining trend during the month of April too. However, in this year this normal trend has been changed and the prices have continuously increased. Imported rice was not available in the market during the month and it is excepted to reach the market during the next month.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased by 10%-19% recording the highest increase for raw white.

Table1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – April 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Samba 1	84.42	81.08	68.91	*3.34*	*4.12*	*15.51*	*22.51*
Samba 2	76.53	75.66	64.77	*0.86*	*1.14*	*11.76*	*18.16*
Samba 3	73.80	72.64	61.70	*1.16*	*1.59*	*12.10*	*19.60*
Nadu 1	74.33	67.44	55.40	*6.90*	*10.23*	*18.94*	*34.18*
Nadu 2	68.41	64.53	52.14	*3.87*	*6.00*	*16.27*	*31.20*
Raw red	60.35	60.42	50.56	*-0.07*	*-0.12*	*9.79*	*19.37*
Raw white	66.75	63.70	52.00	*3.05*	*4.79*	*14.76*	*28.38*
Imported ponni samba	73.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imported raw white	60.57	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices							
Samba 1	85.59	84.70	77.65	*0.89*	*1.05*	*7.94*	*10.23*
Samba 2	77.22	76.04	70.13	*1.18*	*1.55*	*7.09*	*10.11*
Samba 3	75.50	74.24	66.67	*1.26*	*1.70*	*8.83*	*13.24*
Nadu 1	76.26	72.77	66.36	*3.49*	*4.80*	*9.90*	*14.92*
Nadu 2	69.72	67.76	60.23	*1.96*	*2.89*	*9.49*	*15.76*
Raw red	67.23	66.29	58.84	*0.94*	*1.42*	*8.39*	*14.26*
Raw white	69.84	67.56	58.71	*2.28*	*3.37*	*11.13*	*18.96*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

Cultivation of chillies for *yala* 2014 has commenced by the end of March in some of the major producing areas in small quantities. The targeted extent of chillies of *yala* 2014 was 9,018ha and out of which 899ha has been achieved by the end of April 2014 reporting 10% of the targeted extent. The highest cultivated extent of 99ha was recorded in Ampara, followed by Kurunegala (89ha), Anuradhapura (88ha) and Moneragala (84ha).

Table 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of Green chillies (*Yala* 2014)

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% of the targeted extent
Anuradhapura	1,905.00	88.20	5
Moneragala	495.05	84.10	17
Puttalam	850.00	66.52	8
Ampara	240.50	99.15	41
Matale	1,470.00	26.00	2
Kurunegala	400.00	89.00	22
Hambantota	634.00	78.31	12
Jaffna	115.00	2.00	2
Other areas	2,908.35	365.24	13
Total	9,017.90	898.52	10

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supply of green chillies from main producing areas such as Anuradhapura, Puttalam and Jaffna has decreased further. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have increased by about Rs.14.00/kg and Rs.42.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.92.19/kg and Rs.221.86/kg respectively and both prices have decreased by about 14% and 5% respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Supply of dried chillies only comprised of imports. A quantity of 2815mt of dried chillies has imported during April and it was a decline of 2078mt compared to that of the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.143.97/kg and it was a decline of Rs.9.37/kg compared to the prices prevailed in last month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have decreased by about Rs.12.00/kg and Rs.5.00/kg respectively due to the declined CIF prices and availability of sufficient stocks of Indian dried chillies at the market. Compared to the same month of last year, current wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have decreased by about 7% and 4% respectively.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies - April 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price							
Green chillies	92.19	78.62	106.88	*13.57*	*17.26*	*-14.69*	*-13.74*
Dried chillies	172.58	184.41	185.02	*-11.83*	*-6.41*	*-12.44*	*-6.72*
Retail Price							
Green chillies	221.86	179.75	232.57	*42.11*	*23.43*	*-10.71*	*-4.61*
Dried chillies	227.14	232.07	235.40	*-4.93*	*-2.12*	*-8.26*	*-3.51*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies Nov 2013 to Apr 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr 2014	2,814.72	405.23	143.97	227.14	83.17
Mar 2014	4,892.61	750.25	153.34	232.07	78.73
Feb 2014	4,191.29	656.33	156.59	235.25	78.66
Jan 2014	3,869.86	580.09	149.90	232.90	83.00
Dec 2013	3,736.74	550.10	147.21	231.20	83.99
Nov 2013	3,737.27	524.04	140.22	229.60	89.38

Source: Department of Customs, Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – April 2014

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	127.00	106.60	86.20	79.60
Hambantota	115.00	115.00	-	85.00
Embilipitiya	196.00	195.00	194.00	95.00
Anuradhapura	110.00	122.50	135.00	87.50
Dambulla	127.00	106.60	86.20	79.60

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

Land preparation and nursery preparation for cultivation of big onion for 2014 *yala* season have started at the end of April in Matale district in small quantities. Around 75% of big onion nurseries would be established during May, while 50% of big onion cultivation would be expected during the month of June. The targeted extent of big onion in Matale district is 4,000ha for *yala* 2014. The targeted extent of big onion in Anuradhapura district is 2,281ha *yala* 2014.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of Big onion (*Yala* 2014)

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% of targeted extent
Matale	4,000.00	8.00	0.2
Anuradhapura	2,281.00	47.50	2
Kurunegala	310.00	5.00	2
Other areas	695.20	104.04	15
Total	7,286.20	164.54	2

Source: Field Information, MFPAD, HARTI

Cultivation of red onion for *yala* 2014 has commenced in small extent in April in major producing areas. The targeted extent of red onion for y*ala* 2014 was 4,786ha in Sri Lanka and at the end of April about 291ha has been achieved representing 6% of the targeted extent. The following table depicts the cultivation progress of red onion for *yala* 2014.

Table 2.2.2: Cultivation Progress of Red onion (*Yala* 2014)

Areas	Target Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	% of the targeted extent
Jaffna	1,440.00	62.00	4
Puttalam	1,100.00	132.50	12
Vavuniya	450.00	12.50	3
Mullathivu	430.00	11.70	3
Trincomalee	268.00	0.50	0.2
Moneragala	255.10	14.00	5
Other areas	842.71	57.33	7
Total	4,785.81	290.53	6

Source: Field Information,MFPAD, HARTI.

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Big onion market supplies mainly comprised of imports and this situation would be continued until *yala* harvesting begins in August. A quantity of 15,814mt of big onion was imported in April 2014 and it was about 6,663mt less than the quantity imported in the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.33.95/kg and it was an increase of Rs.4.50/kg compared to the previous month. Stocks of Indian and Pakistan big onions were available at the market. Price of imported big onion has increased by Rs.17.00/kg at the wholesale level and Rs.15.00/kg at the retail level due to decrease of imports from India. The margin between the CIF price and wholesale price of big onion was higher than the margin between the wholesale price and retail price during this month.

Supply of local red onion from Puttalam and Jaffna districts has decreased during this month due to end of the harvesting season. However, wholesale price of sinnan has decreased by Rs.5.00/kg due to availability of poor quality stocks at the market while the price of vedalan has increased by about Rs.4.00/kg due to low supplies from main producing areas. Retail prices of both sinnan and vedalan have increased by about Rs.9.00/kg and Rs.15.00/kg respectively due to limited stock position and prevailed higher demand due to the New Year festival season. Price increase of local red onion could be expected during the next month too, due to limited local supplies with the end of the harvesting season.

About 452mt of red onion was imported from India during this month which was about 569mt lower than that was imported during the previous month. Average CIF price of imported red onion was Rs.52.19/kg and it was an increase of Rs.4.22/kg compared to that of last month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have increased by about Rs.9.00/kg and Re.1.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, current retail prices of sinnan, vedalan and imported red onion have decreased by about 17%, 33% and 32% respectively.

Table 2.2.3: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion (Rs/kg) April 2014

Crop	Average Price (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
Wholesale Price	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**%**	**Rs/kg**	**%**
Red Onion (Sinnan)	43.85	48.85	83.51	*-5.00*	*-10.23*	*-39.65*	*-47.49*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	72.89	68.98	125.70	*3.90*	*5.66*	*-52.81*	*-42.01*
Red Onion (Imported)	70.91	61.66	121.38	*9.24*	*14.99*	*-50.47*	*-41.58*
Big Onion (imported)	63.63	46.35	55.71	*17.28*	*37.27*	*7.92*	*14.21*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices							
Red Onion (Sinnan)	100.00	91.33	120.48	*8.67*	*9.49*	*-20.48*	*-17.00*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	122.15	107.02	180.96	*15.13*	*14.14*	*-58.81*	*-32.50*
Red Onion (Imported)	105.27	104.75	153.93	*0.52*	*0.50*	*-48.66*	*-31.61*
Big Onion (imported)	81.18	66.39	78.47	*14.79*	*22.28*	*2.71*	*3.45*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.4: Monthly Average CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Imported Onion

Crop	Month	CIF Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Margin (Rs/kg)	
		(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Apr 2014	33.95	63.63	81.18	*29.68*	*17.56*
	Mar 2014	29.45	46.35	66.39	*16.90*	*20.04*
	Apr 2013	34.79	55.71	78.47	*20.92*	*22.76*
Red onion	Apr 2014	52.19	70.91	105.27	*18.72*	*34.36*
	Mar 2014	47.97	61.66	104.75	*13.70*	*43.09*
	Apr 2013	82.85	121.38	153.93	*38.53*	*32.56*

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop	Quantity (mt)		Value (Rs. Mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	Mar 2014
Red Onion	451.54	1020.81	23.57	48.97	52.19	47.97
Big Onion	15814.45	22477.04	536.86	661.98	33.95	29.45

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.6: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion November 2013 to April 2014

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Apr 2014	15814.45	33.95	63.63	81.18	47.23
Mar 2014	22477.04	29.45	46.35	66.39	36.94
Feb 2014	17797.40	27.94	42.56	68.30	40.36
Jan 2014	21629.74	31.18	55.03	83.40	52.22
Dec 2013	21617.74	103.47	77.57	111.63	8.16
Nov 2013	10885.52	120.85	151.43	172.85	52.00

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

Yala cultivation of potato was commenced in both Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts during the month of April. In the Badulla district as the *maha* harvesting of paddy is still taken place, the new cultivation of potato was at a very low level in April. The targeted extent of potato for *yala* 2014 is 3,098ha and about 23ha were cultivated in April. Compared to *yala* 2013, the targeted extents of both districts were slightly higher in *yala* 2014. Further, compared to April 2013, the cultivated extents were low in April 2014.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress of Potato (*Yala* 2014)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)
	Yala* 2013	***Yala* 2014**	***Yala* 2013***	***Yala* 2014**	***Yala* 2014**
N'Eliya	850	900	73	16	2
Badulla	2,171	2,198	3	7	0
Sri Lanka	**3,023**	**3,098**	**76**	**23**	**0.7**

Source:* *MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2014, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2013, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 8,886 mt of potato had been imported in April and that was 47 mt higher than that was imported during the previous month. After increasing the special commodity levy for imported potato on 06/02/2014 (Rs.25.00/kg), the imports had been low during the period of February to April. Compared to the imported quantity of 12,448 mt in April 2013 the imported quantity was low by 28% in April 2014. Average CIF price was Rs.38.24/kg in April.

Both local and imported stocks were available in the market and the availability of local stocks was limited due to low supply from Nuwara Eliya and Welimada areas. Hence, the wholesale prices of both Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes had increased by 24% and 21% respectively. Also, the retail prices of Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes had increased by 22% and 34% respectively. The monthly average producer price was Rs.105.00/kg for Nuwara Eliya potato. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato had also increased by 12% and 16% respectively due to low imports from India and Pakistan with increased tax for imported potato. Imported stocks were received from India ("Mettupalan" variety) and Pakistan. During the month of April, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya, Welimada and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.95.00-120.00/kg, Rs.85.00-110.00/kg and Rs.70.00-95.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of imported (52%), Nuwara Eliya (33%) and Welimada (30%) potatoes had increased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes November 2013 to April 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr 2014	8885.99	339.84	38.24	108.13	*69.89*
Mar 2014	8838.81	305.80	34.60	93.43	*58.83*
Feb 2014	8644.58	261.47	30.25	80.25	*50.00*
Jan 2014	15803.32	552.08	34.93	86.04	*51.11*
Dec 2013	14134.62	598.23	42.32	106.19	*63.87*
Nov 2013	6503.07	329.88	50.73	122.59	*71.86*

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – April 2014

Item	Average Prices			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)							
Welimada	89.94	72.07	50.80	*17.87*	*24.80*	*39.14*	*77.05*
NuwaraEliya	*105.00*	*78.64*	59.40	*26.36*	*33.52*	*45.60*	*76.77*
Imported – CIF	38.24	34.60	18.14	*3.64*	*10.52*	*20.10*	*110.80*
Wholesale Prices (WP)							
Welimada	100.46	83.33	61.25	*17.14*	*20.56*	*39.21*	*64.02*
NuwaraEliya	112.12	90.49	71.77	*21.63*	*23.91*	*40.35*	*56.22*
Imported	82.88	74.22	48.39	*8.66*	*11.67*	*34.49*	*71.26*
Retail Prices (RP)							
Welimada	130.00	96.83	100.00	*33.17*	*34.26*	*30.00*	*30.00*
NuwaraEliya	146.34	119.57	109.71	*26.77*	*22.39*	*36.63*	*33.39*
Imported	108.13	93.43	71.07	*14.70*	*15.73*	*37.06*	*52.15*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)							
Welimada	40.06	24.76	49.20	*15.30*	*61.79*	*-9.14*	*-18.58*
NuwaraEliya	41.34	40.93	50.31	*0.41*	*1.00*	*-8.97*	*-17.83*
Imported (CIF-RP)	69.89	58.83	52.93	*11.06*	*18.80*	*16.96*	*32.04*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)							
Welimada	29.54	13.50	38.75	*16.04*	*118.77*	*-9.21*	*-23.78*
NuwaraEliya	34.22	29.08	37.94	*5.14*	*17.67*	*-3.72*	*-9.81*
Imported	25.25	19.21	22.68	*6.04*	*31.45*	*2.57*	*11.35*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram for *yala* 2014 is 12,556ha and out of that about 3,591ha was cultivated in April representing 29% of the total targeted extent. Compared to *yala* 2013, the targeted extent is high in *yala* 2014. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent was 4,690ha for this *yala* season which is much higher than the targeted extent of *yala* 2013. In April, about 2,730ha were cultivated in the district achieving 58% of the targeted extent. In the Moneragala and Kurunegala districts, the targeted extents were 618ha and 720ha for this *yala* season and about 154ha and 255ha had been cultivated respectively during this month.

The targeted extent of cowpea was 8,542ha for *yala* 2014 and about 1,362ha was cultivated in April achieving 16% of the total targeted extent. The highest targeted extent of 4,222ha was recorded in Ampara district and about 207ha was cultivated in April. In Moneragala and Anuradhapura districts, the targeted extents were 709ha and 274ha respectively for *yala* 2014 and about 272ha and 30ha were cultivated during the month of April in the respective districts. Compared to *yala* 2013, the targeted extents were higher in Ampara and Moneragala districts, while it is lower in the Anuradhapura district for this *yala* season.

Table 2.4.1: Cultivation Progress of Green gram and Cowpea (*Yala* 2014)

Crop	District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)
		*Yala 2013**	*Yala 2014*	*Yala 2013**	*Yala 2014*	*Yala 2014*
Green gram	Hambantota	2,584	4,690	226	2,730	58
	Kurunegala	1,129	720	285	255	35
	Moneragala	562	618	317	154	25
	Sri Lanka	**7,694**	**12,556**	**1,140**	**3,591**	**29**
Cowpea	Ampara	4,208	4,222	576	207	5
	Moneragala	478	709	224	272	38
	Anuradhapura	374	274	10	30	11
	Sri Lanka	**8,585**	**8,542**	**1,216**	**1,362**	**16**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2014, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
** Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2013, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA*

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

A quantity of 750mt of green gram was imported in April and it was a decrease of about 632mt compared to that of March. Most of the stocks had arrived from Australia and Thailand. The average CIF price was Rs.162.00/kg for green gram in April. Compared to April 2013 (1,816mt), the imported quantity of green gram was higher in April 2014. The wholesale price of green gram had not changed significantly while the retail price had increased slightly by 2%. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.285.00-305.00/kg. Local stocks fetched low prices, while the imported stocks fetched high prices. Compared to the same period of last year, the current wholesale and retail prices of green gram had increased by 9% and 8% respectively.

With regard to white cowpea, the wholesale and retail prices had decreased by 11% and 8% respectively. The wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea also had decreased by 13% and 5% respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of white cowpea had decreased by 14%.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram November 2013 to April 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr 2014	750.44	121.74	162.23	321.61	159.38
Mar 2014	1,382.11	225.57	163.21	316.05	152.84
Feb 2014	252.25	39.95	158.38	310.47	152.09
Jan 2014	72.05	11.28	156.62	298.90	142.28
Dec 2013	320.50	50.61	157.91	294.79	136.88
Nov 2013	213.50	32.94	154.29	295.64	141.35

Source: Department of Custom; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.4.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea- April 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Green gram	296.27	294.20	271.48	2.07	0.70	24.79	9.13
Cowpea (White)	175.07	197.01	225.30	-21.94	-11.14	-50.23	-22.29
Cowpea (Red)	144.66	165.99	-	-21.33	-12.85	-	-
Retail Prices							
Green gram	321.61	316.05	296.34	5.56	1.76	25.27	8.53
Cowpea (White)	237.27	257.67	275.58	-20.40	-7.92	-38.31	-13.90
Cowpea (Red)	236.66	248.68	-	-12.02	-4.83	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.4.4: Monthly Average CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram And Cowpea

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Apr,2014	162.23	296.27	321.61	134.04	25.34
	Mar,2014	163.21	294.20	316.05	130.99	21.85
	Apr,2013	132.75	271.48	296.34	138.73	24.86
Cowpea (White)	Apr,2014	-	175.07	237.27	280.16	62.20
	Mar,2014	-	197.01	257.67	-	60.66
	Apr,2013	-	225.30	275.58	-	50.28
Cowpea (Red)	Apr,2014	-	144.66	236.66	-	92.00
	Mar,2014	-	165.99	248.68	-	82.69
	Apr,2013	-	-	-	-	-

***Source: Department of Customs, Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HART*I**

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 11,346mt of red dhal was imported in April and it was 11,346mt lower than the quantity imported in March. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada. Compared to the imported quantity in April 2013 (12,623mt), that of red dhal had been low in April 2014. The average CIF price was Rs.93.00/kg in April.

Wholesale price of red dhal had not changed significantly while the retail price had decreased by 3%. The average wholesale price was Rs.142.00/kg in April. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal had decreased by 3%.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal - April 2014

Red Dhal	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	141.82	141.84	148.46	-0.02	-0.01	-6.64	-4.48
Retail Price	157.49	162.03	162.96	-4.54	-2.80	-5.47	-3.36

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal Nov 2013 to Apr 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Apr 2014	11345.89	92.73	141.82	157.49	49.09	15.67
Mar 2014	18502.56	89.84	141.84	162.03	51.99	20.19
Feb 2014	6339.84	87.82	147.00	165.14	59.18	18.14
Jan 2014	6289.59	85.78	139.69	160.40	53.91	20.71
Dec 2013	11327.42	89.09	134.17	159.60	45.08	25.43
Nov 2013	8777.75	89.65	136.72	160.38	47.07	23.66

Source: Department of Customs, Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

Cultivation of vegetables in *yala* season has commenced in all the major producing areas with the received rainfall in last two weeks of the month. However, the cultivation progress of vegetables in Kandy district was minimal due to minor - irrigation channels being subjected to prolonged drought throughout the *maha* season. In Kandy district, the targeted extent for beans, tomato and cabbage in *yala* season was 496ha, 538ha and 367ha respectively. Hence the total cultivation was less than 5% of the target for all the vegetables. Meanwhile, intermediate season's vegetable cultivation in Matale district had shown a slow progress due to prevailed drought between March to second week of April. In Matale district, total cultivated extent by the end of April was 100ha, which reported 15% decline compared to same period of the last year. On the other hand, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts had received higher rainfall in April hence land preparation and establishment of nurseries were practiced in large scale. The highest targeted extent for vegetables in Nuwara Eliya district was reported for leeks as 1,066ha followed by carrot as 1,064ha and tomato as 928ha and the cultivation progress ranged between 1% to 15% of the set target at the end of April. Further, Keppetipola area in Badulla district had shown a cultivation progress of 30%-50% of the *yala* target, at the end of April.

Land preparation for *yala* vegetable cultivation has commenced in Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Monaragala districts with received rainfall in last week of April. The cultivation progress ranged between 2% to30% at the end of April in these districts. Vegetable cultivation in rain-fed lands in Hambantota district was delayed due to delayed rain. However, 20% of cultivation progress was recorded Wadigala area with the usage of agro - wells as the main water source.

Prices and supply/Demand situation

With the ending of *maha* harvesting season, supply of vegetables had decreased in April compared to that of March. In most of the major producing areas about 75% of the *maha* harvesting was over by the mid of April. Further, all producing areas experienced dry weather from January to mid – April. Hence new cultivation and the quality of the existing crops had negatively affected. Consequently, length of the harvesting cycles was shortened as a result of the water shortage. Thus, supply was dropped by 20%-30% in April, compared to that of March. As a result of the low supply and increased demand for vegetables in *Sinhala-Tamil* New Year festival season, prices have increased.

Supplies of vegetables received mainly from Badulla, Kandy, Jaffna, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Kurunegala and Puttlam districts. As the *maha* peak harvesting period was ended, total supply from Matale district was 4,445mt in April reporting 42% decrease compared to that of March. The highest supply was reported for tomato as 725mt followed by 500mt of cabbage from Matale district in April. Further about 4mt of capsicum and 15mt of green chilies were received from Jaffna to Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre during this month. However, supply from Jaffna was dropped by 40% compared to that of March due to low rainfall. Except for knolkhol, leeks and cabbage, prices of all the vegetables have increased compared to that of previous month. The highest price increase was reported for beans as 54% followed by both beetroot and radish as 26%. Supply of beans from Welimada, Badulla and Bandarawela had reached its' peak in February and followed a decreasing trend up to April. The wholesale prices of cabbage had dropped by 65% compared to that of April in previous year. As the supply of cut - beet from Jaffna reached its' peak in February to mid- March, prices have considerably dropped in March. With the decreased supply from Jaffna, prices have increased in April. On the other hand supply from Badulla district also dropped in April, compared to that of the previous month. Further, wholesale prices of carrot and tomato had increased by 14% and 8% respectively. Meanwhile, prices of leeks and knolkhol were at low level in February and March and it had decreased further by 9% in April due to arrival of high supplies from Nuwala Eliya and Welimada areas. This may be due to popularization of short - duration leeks variety in Nuwara Eliya district. Supply of all the vegetables cultivated in up country is expected to decline by about 15% - 25% in next month. Hence the price increase of vegetables can be expected in the month of May.

As more than 75% of the *maha* harvesting was over at mid-April supply of most of the domestic vegetables had decreased and prices have increased compared to that of March. At the wholesale level the highest price increase of 38% was recorded for snake gourd followed by luffa as 37% and long beans as 33% due to arrival of low supplies from Embilipitiya, Wadigala and Moneragala areas. Due to delayed planting, bulk harvests of domestic vegetables have reached the market in March and prices have dropped accordingly. With the ending of harvesting season low supplies reached the market. Hence the prices had increased during the month. Prices of pumpkin have further increased by 21% due to limited supply from *chena* cultivation in Anuradhapura and Moneragala districts. Meanwhile, large supplies of drumsticks have reached the market from Anuradhapura, Wellawaya and Moneragala. Hence prices have decreased by 44%. Prevailed dry weather has favored the high supply of drumsticks in this year. As land preparation and planting is continued in all the low country districts, supply would be further declined and prices would further go up in next month.

With the decreasing supply from Jaffna and Puttalam prices of green chilies have increased further by 17%. Prices of lime have increased by 56% due to ending of peak harvesting season. Prices of both green chilies and lime would further increase in upcoming months.

Retail prices of most of the vegetables had increased in April. The highest price increase was reported for beans as 30% followed by snake gourd (20%), brinjal and capsicum (17%).

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables - April 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	90.10	58.38	46.72	*31.72*	*54.33*	*43.38*	*92.85*
Carrot	58.75	51.34	90.31	*7.41*	*14.43*	*-31.56*	*-34.95*
Leeks	30.00	32.80	63.91	*-2.80*	*-8.54*	*-33.91*	*-53.06*
Beetroot	36.81	29.23	65.32	*7.58*	*25.93*	*-28.51*	*-43.65*
Knolkhol	32.48	35.57	30.63	*-3.09*	*-8.69*	*1.85*	*6.04*
Radish	26.41	20.89	25.00	*5.52*	*26.42*	*1.41*	*5.64*
Cabbage	16.98	17.90	48.91	*-0.92*	*-5.14*	*-31.93*	*-65.28*
Tomato	37.61	34.89	40.53	*2.72*	*7.80*	*-2.92*	*-7.20*
Ladies Fingers	36.25	31.73	30.63	*4.52*	*14.25*	*5.62*	*18.35*
Brinjal	34.44	31.89	28.13	*2.55*	*8.00*	*6.31*	*22.43*
Capsicum	83.66	82.64	105.63	*1.02*	*1.23*	*-21.97*	*-20.80*
Pumpkin	29.60	24.54	29.85	*5.06*	*20.62*	*-0.25*	*-0.84*
Cucumber	24.94	24.52	21.88	*0.42*	*1.71*	*3.06*	*13.99*
Bitter Gourd	89.75	80.11	52.35	*9.64*	*12.03*	*37.40*	*71.44*
Snake Gourd	44.46	32.26	26.69	*12.20*	*37.82*	*17.77*	*66.58*
Drumstick	62.81	112.15	-	*-49.34*	*-43.99*	-	-
Luffa	66.14	48.16	37.01	*17.98*	*37.33*	*29.13*	*78.71*
Long Beans	36.83	27.78	30.41	*9.05*	*32.58*	*6.42*	*21.11*
Ash Plantain	46.00	44.45	34.38	*1.55*	*3.49*	*11.62*	*33.80*
Green Chillies	92.19	78.62	106.88	*13.57*	*17.26*	*-14.69*	*-13.74*
Lime	47.36	30.45	33.28	*16.91*	*55.53*	*14.08*	*42.31*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables - April 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	137.02	105.21	87.79	*31.81*	*30.23*	*49.23*	*56.08*
Carrot	108.92	108.54	130.28	*0.38*	*0.35*	*-21.36*	*-16.40*
Leeks	84.85	87.42	111.56	*-2.57*	*-2.94*	*-26.71*	*-23.94*
Beetroot	100.62	94.04	120.08	*6.58*	*7.00*	*-19.46*	*-16.21*
Knolkhol	102.27	100.51	103.28	*1.76*	*1.75*	*-1.01*	*-0.98*
Radish	81.06	75.10	75.63	*5.96*	*7.94*	*5.43*	*7.18*
Cabbage	72.61	70.69	100.46	*1.92*	*2.72*	*-27.85*	*-27.72*
Tomato	79.81	77.18	91.51	*2.63*	*3.41*	*-11.70*	*-12.79*
Ladies Fingers	102.04	88.97	81.87	*13.07*	*14.69*	*20.17*	*24.64*
Brinjal	95.39	81.28	74.67	*14.11*	*17.36*	*20.72*	*27.75*
Capsicum	149.18	143.92	174.03	*5.26*	*3.65*	*-24.85*	*-14.28*
Pumpkin	71.26	69.63	74.84	*1.63*	*2.34*	*-3.58*	*-4.78*
Cucumber	72.38	67.62	69.06	*4.76*	*7.04*	*3.32*	*4.81*
Bitter Gourd	138.88	123.36	112.12	*15.52*	*12.58*	*26.76*	*23.87*
Snake Gourd	103.38	86.41	78.79	*16.97*	*19.64*	*24.59*	*31.21*
Drumstick	145.48	207.27	450.00	*-61.79*	*-29.81*	*-304.52*	*-67.67*
Luffa	134.65	123.71	94.25	*10.94*	*8.84*	*40.40*	*42.86*
Long Beans	106.66	90.78	84.67	*15.88*	*17.49*	*21.99*	*25.97*
Ash Plantain	92.08	89.92	92.80	*2.16*	*2.40*	*-0.72*	*-0.78*
Green Chillies	221.86	179.75	232.57	*42.11*	*23.43*	*-10.71*	*-4.61*
Lime	170.84	144.83	110.15	*26.01*	*17.96*	*60.69*	*55.10*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Demand of fruits such as banana and pineapple had increased during the month in view of Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival. Hence, the prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest wholesale price increase of 72% for banana (kolikuttu). Further the wholesale prices of all the varieties of banana had increased in the range of 8%-72% due to increased demand. Considering the past ten year average prices, the prices of banana have shown a decline in month of May. According to that the prices may decline in the next month. Further the wholesale prices of avocado, slime apple and imported grapes had increased by 15%, 5% and 12% respectively compared to the prices of previous month due to decreased supply. Meanwhile the wholesale prices of all the varieties of mango, papaw and passion fruit had decreased due to increased supplies with the commencement of major harvesting season. Further price reduction for those fruits could be expected in the next month too due to the Peak harvesting season.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 85% for mango (betti).

The retail prices of most of the fruits also had followed the same direction as wholesale prices. Due to the high demand at retail level prices of all the varieties of banana had increased in the range of 2%-32%. Further, the retail prices of all the sizes of pineapple had increased in the range of 2%-6% due to increased demand in view of New Year festival. Meanwhile, the retail prices of all the varieties of mango, papaw and passion fruits had decreased due to increased supplies with the commencement of harvesting season. Further price reduction for those fruits could be expected in next month too due to Peak harvesting season.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 65% for mango (karthakolomban).

Producer prices of selected varieties of banana and pineapple had increased in the range of 8%-21% due to increased demand during the previous month. Meanwhile the producer price of papaw had decreased by 27% due to high supplies. According to the field information price decline for banana and papaw could be expected in next month with increased supplies.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to the Department of Customs, the highest exported commodity was papaw in April reporting the quantity of 275.17mt. The total income of exporting pineapple, papaw, mango, orange and avocado was Rs.56.92million. The highest quantity of imports was recorded as apple reporting the quantity of 1529mt in April. The total import expenditure on apple, grapes, orange and mandarin was Rs.364.43million during the month.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits April 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	32.00	24.98	48.20	*7.02*	*28.10*	*-16.20*	*-33.61*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	94.35	54.70	103.87	*39.65*	*72.49*	*-9.52*	*-9.17*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	33.19	30.03	51.29	*3.16*	*10.52*	*-18.10*	*-35.29*
Anamalu	7.60	6.37	8.01	*1.23*	*19.31*	*-0.41*	*-5.12*
Ambun	10.22	9.44	11.56	*0.78*	*8.26*	*-1.34*	*-11.59*
Pineapple							
Large	111.45	111.44	97.55	*0.01*	*0.01*	*13.90*	*14.25*
Medium	90.78	88.76	74.26	*2.02*	*2.28*	*16.52*	*22.25*
Small	69.64	67.10	54.70	*2.54*	*3.79*	*14.94*	*27.31*
Mango							
Betti	8.12	13.01	53.00	*-4.89*	*-37.59*	*-44.88*	*-84.68*
Karthakolomban	35.69	58.71	113.79	*-23.02*	*-39.21*	*-78.10*	*-68.64*
Vilad	10.56	15.08	-	*-4.52*	*-29.97*	-	-
Kohu	6.61	8.51	16.25	*-1.90*	*-22.33*	*-9.64*	*-59.32*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	40.31	63.38	48.14	*-23.07*	*-36.40*	*-7.83*	*-16.27*
Passion Fruit	7.61	11.13	7.82	*-3.52*	*-31.63*	*-0.21*	*-2.69*
Wood Apple	20.87	21.79	45.24	*-0.92*	*-4.22*	*-24.37*	*-53.87*
Orange	12.83	13.99	12.45	*-1.16*	*-8.29*	*0.38*	*3.05*
Avocado	28.96	25.19	34.63	*3.77*	*14.97*	*-5.67*	*-16.37*
Slime Apple	26.81	25.57	38.15	*1.24*	*4.85*	*-11.34*	*-29.72*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	531.31	476.26	442.47	*55.05*	*11.56*	*88.84*	*20.08*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits April 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	71.88	62.98	76.60	*8.90*	*14.13*	*-4.72*	*-6.16*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	147.30	111.30	147.90	*36.00*	*32.35*	*-0.60*	*-0.41*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	72.86	66.19	75.65	*6.67*	*10.08*	*-2.79*	*-3.69*
Anamalu	12.83	12.60	13.16	*0.23*	*1.83*	*-0.33*	*-2.51*
Ambun	14.70	13.89	15.01	*0.81*	*5.83*	*-0.31*	*-2.07*
Pineapple							
Large	153.43	145.23	148.97	*8.20*	*5.65*	*4.46*	*2.99*
Medium	112.78	109.82	111.50	*2.96*	*2.70*	*1.28*	*1.15*
Small	79.55	77.62	79.68	*1.93*	*2.49*	*-0.13*	*-0.16*
Mango							
Betti	24.34	33.81	-	*-9.47*	*-28.01*	-	-
Karthakolomban	55.63	91.14	157.58	*-35.51*	*-38.96*	*-101.95*	*-64.70*
Vilad	30.65	35.38	-	*-4.73*	*-13.37*	-	-
Kohu	22.05	23.87	-	*-1.82*	*-7.62*	-	-
Papaw (Rs/kg)	80.23	91.58	85.67	*-11.35*	*-12.39*	*-5.44*	*-6.35*
Passion Fruit	18.38	22.38	18.92	*-4.00*	*-17.87*	*-0.54*	*-2.85*
Wood Apple	41.33	43.08	63.12	*-1.75*	*-4.06*	*-21.79*	*-34.52*
Orange	29.98	32.40	30.93	*-2.42*	*-7.47*	*-0.95*	*-3.07*
Avocado	55.61	57.16	66.91	*-1.55*	*-2.71*	*-11.30*	*-16.89*
Slime Apple	48.25	48.47	57.16	*-0.22*	*-0.45*	*-8.91*	*-15.59*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	746.45	721.40	726.09	*25.05*	*3.47*	*20.36*	*2.80*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits - April 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Ambul	18.31	15.15	31.60	3.16	20.87	-13.29	-42.05
Kolikuttu	46.15	41.78	80.00	4.36	10.44	-33.85	-42.32
Papaw	22.03	30.19	32.87	-8.16	-27.03	-10.85	-32.99
Pineapple	55.75	51.80	46.50	3.95	7.63	9.25	19.89

Source: Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits Feb to Apr 2014

Type of Fruit	Apr - 2014			Mar - 2014			Feb - 2014		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Fresh Pineapple	185.05	32.08	173.36	-	-	-	181.26	29.42	162.30
Papaw	275.17	20.16	73.27	-	-	-	126.49	9.88	78.10
Fresh Mango	43.62	3.47	79.47	-	-	-	10.35	4.81	464.67
Fresh Oranges	0.09	0.01	171.62	-	-	-	0.32	0.05	147.15

Source: Sri Lanka Customs(FOB=Free On Board)

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits Feb to Apr 2014

Types of Fruit	Apr - 2014			Mar - 2014			Feb - 2014		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	1,528.99	238.62	156.07	1,213.53	189.49	156.15	1,123.78	158.75	141.26
Grapes	247.54	70.24	283.78	392.69	107.87	274.70	78.39	24.76	315.91
Oranges	582.25	38.88	66.78	294.38	19.41	65.93	228.90	15.13	66.09
Mandarin	525.94	16.69	31.73	932.02	28.32	30.38	1,302.07	106.87	82.07

Source: Sri Lanka Customs
(CIF=Cost Insurance and Freight)

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

As predicted in the previous month, prices of almost all the fresh fish varieties had increased. The highest price increase was reported for balaya and the lowest price increase noted for thalapath. Prices of salaya, hurulla, kelawalla and thora had increased in the range of 13%-17%. In addition, a price increase of 10% was noted for shrimps while 6% increase noted for paraw. Meanwhile, price of mora had decreased by 4%. Mid-season for coastal fisheries prevailed in both Eastern and Southern coastal belts had resulted limited supplies to the market and it had contributed to these price increases. In addition demand for fish had increased due to Sinhala and Tamil New Year and it also had strengthened a price increase further. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that the fish prices could further increase in coming weeks due to the mid-season for coastal fisheries. Compared to the same month of 2013, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except for salaya and hurulla had increased in the range of 13%-35% with the highest price increase noted for thalapath.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, prices of all the fresh fish varieties except for thora and paraw had increased at the retail level. The highest price increase was reported for balaya (11%) followed by hurulla (9%) and salaya (7%). In addition, prices of kelawalla, shrimps and thalapath had increased in the range of 2%-5%. Meanwhile, prices of thora and paraw had decreased. However, the price changes were not at a significant level. Compared to the same month of last year, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except for thalapath had decreased in the range of 1%-36% with the highest price decrease noted for salaya.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish
April 2014

Items	Average Prices			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Salaya	59.08	50.63	133.75	*8.45*	*16.69*	*-74.67*	*-55.83*
Hurulla	220.84	193.60	254.75	*27.24*	*14.07*	*-33.91*	*-13.31*
Balaya	335.50	278.82	257.00	*56.68*	*20.33*	*78.50*	*30.54*
Kelawalla	445.46	382.42	374.00	*63.04*	*16.48*	*71.46*	*19.11*
Thora	1018.06	903.15	852.00	*114.91*	*12.72*	*166.06*	*19.49*
Paraw	489.50	459.94	427.25	*29.56*	*6.43*	*62.25*	*14.57*
Mora	416.34	432.81	368.25	*-16.47*	*-3.81*	*48.09*	*13.06*
Shrimps (small)	717.34	648.88	628.50	*68.46*	*10.55*	*88.84*	*14.14*
Thalapath	620.61	603.48	460.00	*17.13*	*2.84*	*160.61*	*34.92*
Retail Prices							
Salaya	130.13	122.07	202.32	*8.06*	*6.60*	*-72.19*	*-35.68*
Hurulla	287.90	264.09	358.23	*23.81*	*9.02*	*-70.33*	*-19.63*
Balaya	489.76	439.15	609.56	*50.61*	*11.52*	*-119.80*	*-19.65*
Kelawalla	648.65	617.78	706.66	*30.87*	*5.00*	*-58.01*	*-8.21*
Thora	1136.32	1137.98	1177.37	*-1.66*	*-0.15*	*-41.05*	*-3.49*
Paraw	675.34	677.41	765.52	*-2.07*	*-0.31*	*-90.18*	*-11.78*
Mora	566.45	564.95	611.05	*1.50*	*0.27*	*-44.60*	*-7.30*
Shrimps (small)	844.30	818.40	848.25	*25.90*	*3.16*	*-3.95*	*-0.47*
Thalapath	798.91	786.58	782.24	*12.33*	*1.57*	*16.67*	*2.13*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Wholesale prices of most of the varieties have increased due to insufficient stocks with high demand and festival season. The highest price increase was observed for imported balaya (15%) followed by salaya (9%), imported sprats and mora (7%). The prices of local anguluwa and sprats have decreased by 7% and 5% respectively with sufficient quantity. Imported salaya, maduwa and local mora were not available in the market. The quantity of imported sprats was 1,667mt during the month and it is a decline of 40mt compared to that of the previous month. The CIF price of sprats was Rs.227.97/kg and it was a drop of Rs.7.81/kg compared to that of previous month. The major supply areas of local varieties were Kalpitiya, Valachchanei and Mannar.

Compared to the same period of last year the current prices of most of the varieties have increased with the highest price increase observed for local maduwa (14%).

The retail prices of most of the varieties have increased with the highest price decrease noted for balaya (3%) due to unavailability of sufficient stocks to fulfill the market demand. However prices of maduwa, koduwa and thora have decreased with the highest decrease noted for koduwa by 11% due to availability of large quantity. Compared the same period of last year the current prices of most of the varieties have increased by less than 5% with the highest price increase noted for balaya.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish April 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale							
Sprats	496.97	524.16	513.54	*-27.19*	*-5.19*	*-16.57*	*-3.23*
Sprats (imported)	347.93	324.66	443.27	*23.27*	*7.17*	*-95.34*	*-21.51*
Kattawa	748.47	727.40	676.13	*21.07*	*2.90*	*72.34*	*10.70*
Kattawa (imported)	709.60	688.96	635.89	*20.64*	*3.00*	*73.71*	*11.59*
Thora	-	-	900.00	-	-	-	-
Thora (imported)	951.50	960.96	905.50	*-9.46*	*-0.98*	*46.00*	*5.08*
Mora	827.90	775.83	726.90	*52.07*	*6.71*	*100.99*	*13.89*
Mora (imported)	706.89	684.05	652.94	*22.84*	*3.34*	*53.95*	*8.26*
Balaya	511.25	486.44	481.82	*24.81*	*5.10*	*29.43*	*6.11*
Balaya (imported)	515.00	448.75	-	*66.25*	*14.76*	-	-
Anguluwa	575.06	621.00	560.00	*-45.94*	*-7.40*	*15.06*	*2.69*
Anguluwa (imported)	576.54	551.11	588.16	*25.44*	*4.62*	*-11.62*	*-1.97*
Maduwa	449.91	456.34	394.02	*-6.42*	*-1.41*	*55.90*	*14.19*
Maduwa (imported)	-	300.00	230.00	-	-	-	-
Koduwa	550.00	547.50	516.25	*2.50*	*0.46*	*33.75*	*6.54*
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	248.79	230.85	263.92	*17.94*	*7.77*	*-15.12*	*-5.73*
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail							
Sprats	644.57	643.02	706.25	*1.55*	*0.24*	*-61.68*	*-8.73*
Kattawa	1012.79	993.83	992.25	*18.96*	*1.91*	*20.54*	*2.07*
Thora	1247.83	1251.49	1205.11	*-3.66*	*-0.29*	*42.72*	*3.54*
Mora	911.03	893.68	886.12	*17.35*	*1.94*	*24.91*	*2.81*
Balaya	772.23	747.38	741.40	*24.85*	*3.32*	*30.83*	*4.16*
Anguluwa	810.18	806.66	806.89	*3.52*	*0.44*	*3.29*	*0.41*
Maduwa	618.62	640.00	615.60	*-21.38*	*-3.34*	*3.02*	*0.49*
Koduwa	757.50	848.53	803.75	*-91.03*	*-10.73*	*-46.25*	*-5.75*
Salaya	502.20	497.92	522.49	*4.28*	*0.86*	*-20.29*	*-3.88*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats - Nov 2013 to Apr 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr 2014	1666.93	380.01	227.97	644.57	*416.60*
Mar 2014	1707.13	402.51	235.78	643.02	*407.24*
Feb 2014	1744.28	446.61	256.04	643.69	*387.65*
Jan 2014	2177.84	519.75	238.65	658.85	*420.20*
Dec 2013	2176.88	561.45	257.92	686.89	*428.97*
Nov 2013	2104.21	665.46	316.25	709.61	*393.36*

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

Eggs

Compared to the previous month, egg supply had improved in the month of April and therefore prices of both brown and white eggs had further decreased by 18%. A considerable price decrease was also observed in the third week of the month as a result of the declined consumer demand just after the New Year festive week. The monthly average wholesale price of a brown egg was Rs.11.73 and it was Rs.11.23 for a white egg. It can be expected that egg prices could further decrease in coming months. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 4% and 2% respectively.

Prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 12% and 15% respectively at the retail level. The monthly average retail price of a brown egg was Rs.13.40 and it was Rs.12.40 for a white egg. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 1% and 3% respectively.

Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs
April 2014

Items	Average Prices			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	%	Rs.	%
Eggs – Wholesale							
Eggs – Brown (each)	11.73	14.40	12.24	*-2.67*	*-18.54*	*-0.51*	*-4.17*
White (each)	11.23	13.78	11.46	*-2.55*	*-18.51*	*-0.23*	*-2.01*
Eggs – Retail							
Eggs- Brown (each)	*13.40*	*15.30*	*13.56*	*-1.90*	*-12.42*	*-0.16*	*-1.18*
White (each)	*12.40*	*14.53*	*12.75*	*-2.13*	*-14.66*	*-0.35*	*-2.75*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of all varieties except for chicken have increased by less than 2% with high demand with the festival season. However prices of chicken have decreased by around 1% with the sufficient quantity. Compared to the same period of last year, current retail prices of all varieties except for curry chicken have increased with the highest price increase of 37% for pork. According to the market information the prices of all varieties may be decreased in May with *Wesak* festival.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat - April 2014

Items	Average Prices			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat							
Beef (without bones)	583.69	577.02	541.27	*6.67*	*1.16*	*42.42*	*7.84*
Chicken (Broiler)	479.37	484.38	472.46	*-5.01*	*-1.03*	*6.91*	*1.46*
Chicken (curry)	440.67	446.14	452.80	*-5.47*	*-1.23*	*-12.13*	*-2.68*
Mutton	1287.52	1283.64	1177.98	*3.88*	*0.30*	*109.54*	*9.30*
Pork	543.39	541.71	395.26	*1.68*	*0.31*	*148.13*	*37.48*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agri-business Division/HARTI

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

Total quantity of wheat grain imported in 2013 was 491,505mt and the average quantity was about 45,000mt per month. But during the four months of January to April in 2014 702,705mt were imported and monthly average imported quantity was noted as 176,000mt. The quantity of 242,366mt of wheat grain valued at Rs.mn.9,855 was imported in April. The average CIF price was Rs.40.66/kg recording a considerable decrease of Rs.2.85/kg against the previous month.

Considering wheat flour imports only 68mt were imported at Rs.mn.5.07 in April. The prices of wheat flour have shown an increasing trend since December 2013. It was further continued in April and the price has increased up to Rs.74.10/kg recording an increase of Rs.4.09/kg against the previous month.

A decrease was recorded for wheat grain price in the world market, while there was an increase in the prices of wheat flour. The monthly average CIF price has risen up to Rs.72.50/kg in first four months in 2014 from Rs.66.00/kg in 2013. The retail price of wheat flour was stable in most of the times and it was R.97.32/kg in April. Meanwhile, the retail price has decreased by nearly 2% compared to the same period of the last year.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – April - 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2013	Mar 2014		Apr 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	97.32	97.37	99.18	*-0.05*	*-0.05*	*-1.86*	*-1.88*
Sugar	103.63	101.96	*101.55*	*1.67*	*1.64*	*2.08*	*2.05*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain November 2013 to April 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Apr - 2014	68.41	5.07	74.10	97.32	*23.22*
Mar - 2014	113.30	7.93	70.01	97.37	*27.36*
Feb - 2014	57.89	4.26	73.62	96.97	*23.35*
Jan - 2014	1,480.93	107.21	72.40	97.55	*25.15*
Dec - 2013	52.58	3.80	72.34	97.93	*25.59*
Nov - 2013	80.79	5.38	66.60	97.38	*30.78*
Wheat Grain					
Apr - 2014	242,365.90	9,854.68	40.66	97.32	*56.66*
Mar - 2014	185,899.18	8,088.35	43.51	97.37	*53.86*
Feb - 2014	85,815.68	3,381.74	39.41	96.97	*57.56*
Jan - 2014	188,624.26	7,818.86	41.45	97.55	*56.10*
Dec - 2013	79,594.85	3,311.05	41.60	97.93	*56.33*
Nov - 2013	184,028.25	7,880.08	42.82	97.38	*54.56*

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Sugar

The average imported quantity of sugar was 55,000mt per month in 2013 and it has decreased considerably to 44,000mt per month during the period of first four months of 2014. Total quantity of 38,989mt of sugar was imported in April and the value of the stock was Rs.mn.2,515. The CIF prices have shown a gradual decrease up to February 2014 and afterwards it has shown an increasing trend. The average CIF price was Rs.64.52/kg in April reporting a 5% increase against the previous month.

The retail prices also have increased by Rs.1.67/kg against the previous month and it was Rs.103.63/kg Compared to the same period of last year, retail price of sugar has increased by about 2%.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar - November 2013 to April 2014

Month	Quantity (t.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2014	38,989.32	2,515.50	64.52	103.63	*39.11*
Mar - 2014	58,765.14	3,599.23	61.25	101.96	*40.71*
Feb - 2014	40,619.14	2,462.55	60.63	101.70	*41.07*
Jan - 2014	38,267.91	2,410.67	62.99	102.49	*39.50*
Dec - 2013	52,278.92	3,313.06	63.37	102.42	*39.04*
Nov - 2013	37,547.38	2,434.31	64.83	101.39	*36.56*

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - April 2014

Items	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. Mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Apr 2014	Mar 2014		Apr 2014	Mar 2014		Apr 2014	Mar 2014	
Rice	23074.93	1854.04	1144.57	1445.04	197.95	630.02	62.62	106.76	-41.34
Red Onion	451.54	1020.81	-55.77	23.57	48.97	-51.87	52.19	47.97	8.81
Big Onion	15814.45	22477.04	-29.64	536.86	661.98	-18.90	33.95	29.45	15.27
Potato	8885.99	8838.81	0.53	339.84	305.80	11.13	38.24	34.60	10.54
Dried Chillies	2814.72	4892.61	-42.47	405.23	750.25	-45.99	143.97	153.34	-6.11
Masoor Dhal	11345.89	18502.56	-38.68	1052.11	1662.35	-36.71	92.73	89.84	3.21
Green Gram	750.44	1382.11	-45.70	121.74	225.57	-46.03	162.23	163.21	-0.60
Black gram	620.81	514.34	20.70	74.54	62.25	19.74	120.08	121.04	-0.80
Garlic	2035.50	2961.66	-31.27	180.53	257.04	-29.76	88.69	86.79	2.20
Wheat flour	68.41	113.30	-39.62	5.07	7.93	-36.09	74.10	70.01	5.84
Wheat grain	242365.90	185899.18	30.37	9854.68	8088.35	21.84	40.66	43.51	-6.55
White crystalline cane sugar	38989.32	58765.14	-33.65	2515.50	3599.23	-30.11	64.52	61.25	5.34
Maize (Seed)	0.002	0.03	-92.00	0.0042	0.04	-90.37	2117.50	1758.92	20.39
Maize (Other)	48.00	-	-	4.66	-	-	97.14	-	-

Source: Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – April 2014

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	345.5	151.6	16	12
Badulla	118.9	203.5	12	14
Bandarawela	297.8	158.3	20	12
Batticaloa	1.2	55.0	2	5
Colombo	254.7	245.6	18	14
Galle	158.7	206.8	10	12
Hambantota	13.6	99.6	6	8
Jaffna	8.5	52.3	3	4
Katugastota	240.1	187.7	19	14
Katunayaka	193.2	241.4	14	13
Kurunegala	576.4	264.3	21	16
MahaIluppallama	322.9	179.5	18	12
Mannar	25.3	81.4	4	6
NuwaraEliya	145.4	158.4	13	13
Pottuvil	1.3	81.9	1	na
Puttalam	208.4	181.5	14	10
Ratmalana	245.2	246.5	16	14
Ratnapura	420.5	338.9	26	20
Trincomalee	1.6	49.2	1	5
Vavuniya	154.3	128.5	9	10
Polonnaruwa	58.3	na	7	na
Moneragala	67.8	na	13	na
Mattala	66.3	na	10	na

Source: Department of Meteorology