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No. 03

Highlights

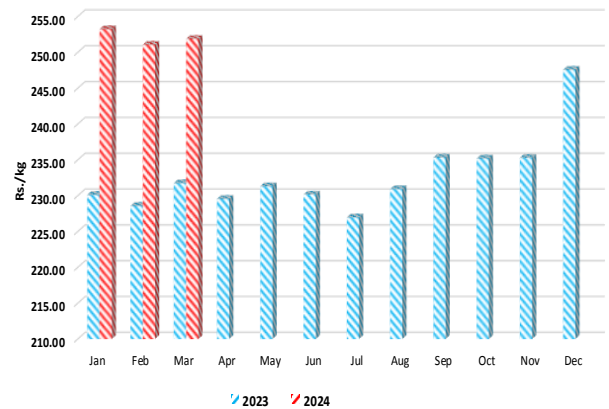
Paddy/Rice

- Following the harvest completion in all major producing areas, an upward trend in paddy prices for short grain, long grain white, and keeri samba was observed.
- While wholesale prices remained relatively stable, the retail price of Samba Grade 1 increased by Rs. 19.00/kg compared to the previous month due to reduced supplies.
- Keeri samba was scarce at the retail level, with prices ranging from Rs. 350.00 to Rs. 380.00, significantly exceeding the maximum retail price (MRP).

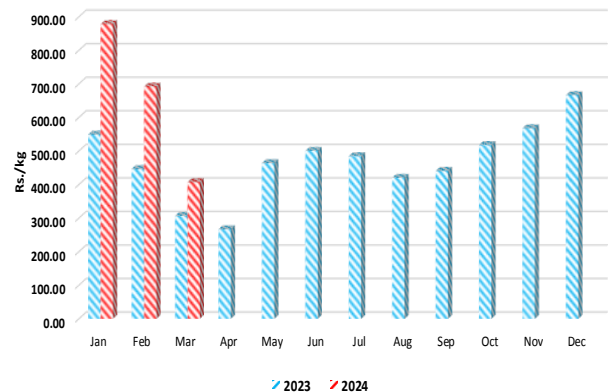
Vegetables

- Vegetable prices have decreased due to increased supply from the main producing areas.
- Retail prices of vegetables decreased by 9%–54%, with the highest price drop reported for tomatoes at Rs. 508.00/kg.
- Vegetable prices are expected to decline further in the coming months.

Average Retail Prices of Rice (Samba I)



Average Retail Prices of Beans (Green)



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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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Colombo and suburb markets

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pettah | 4. Thotalanga | 7. Kiribathgoda |
| 2. Narahenpita | 5. Peliyagoda | 8. Maharagama |
| 3. Dematagoda | 6. Kadawatha | 9. Nugegoda |

Outstation Markets

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nuwara Eliya | 16. Keppetipola | 31. Rathnapura |
| 2. Dambulla | 17. Thambuththegama | 32. Embilipitiya |
| 3. Matara | 18. Anuradhapura | 33. Maradagahamula |
| 4. Kurunegala | 19. Badulla | 34. Galenbindunuwewa |
| 5. Bandarawela | 20. Galle | 35. Rilkillagaskada |
| 6. Kandy | 21. Mannar | 36. Matale |
| 7. Meegoda | 22. Trincomalee | |
| 8. Kalutara | 23. Batticaloa | |
| 9. Weeravila | 24. Jaffna | |
| 10. Nikaweratiya | 25. Mullativu | |
| 11. Polonnaruwa | 26. Kilinochchi | |
| 12. Puttalam | 27. Vavuniya | |
| 13. Hambanthota | 28. Kegalle | |
| 14. Veyangoda | 29. Ampara | |
| 15. Dehiattakandiya | 30. Monaragala | |

1. Paddy/Rice

Crop Situation

According to the Crop Forecast (Volume 4, Maha 2023/24) by the Department of Agriculture, the target paddy cultivation area for the Maha 2023/24 season is 870,103 hectares. This target has almost been achieved in the major producing regions. Based on the reported sown extent as of the end of March 2024, the forecasted paddy production, accounting for crop losses, is 2.63 million metric tons. This production is expected to meet the national rice requirement for up to eight months, until August 2024. Paddy harvesting has been completed in all major producing areas.

Producer Prices

After the harvest was completed in all major producing areas, an upward trend in paddy prices for short grain, long grain white, and keeri samba was observed due to competition among paddy millers. As a result, producer prices for all paddy varieties, except for long grain red, have increased across almost all major producing areas compared to the previous month. Producer prices for short grain paddy rose by 1-6% in all regions except Polonnaruwa and Ampara, with the highest increase recorded in Nikaweratiya.

The average producer prices for long grain white paddy ranged between Rs.103.00 and Rs.110.00/kg in major producing areas, marking a 3-11% increase compared to the previous month. The most significant price drop for long grain white was noted in Ampara, followed by Nikaweratiya. Meanwhile, producer prices for long grain red paddy, ranging from Rs.90.00 to Rs.110.00/kg in Hambantota, Matara, and Embilipitiya, decreased by 3-7% due to increased supply. Additionally, the producer price of keeri samba ranged from Rs.120.00 to Rs.158.00/kg, showing a 2-6% increase in all major producing areas.

Compared to the same period last year, producer prices for all paddy varieties have increased across almost all price collection areas, with keeri samba experiencing the highest price rise, ranging from 19-37%.

Table 1.1: Producer Prices of Paddy - March 2024

Variety/Area	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain								
Anuradhapura	105.00-126.00	113.75	111.75	98.50	2.00	1.79	15.25	15.48
Polonnaruwa	106.00-135.00	116.60	117.04	105.43	-0.44	-0.38	11.17	10.59
Kalawewa	102.00-125.00	113.02	110.58	94.68	2.44	2.21	18.34	19.37
Kurunegala	105.00-127.00	118.75	114.85	95.53	3.90	3.40	23.22	24.31
Dehiattakandiya	120.00-132.00	123.50	121.10	104.37	2.40	1.98	19.13	18.33
Nikaweratiya	108.00-126.00	117.74	111.45	93.78	6.29	5.64	23.96	25.55
Ampara	115.00-125.00	118.44	118.75	103.13	-0.31	-0.26	15.31	14.85
Long Grain White								
Anuradhapura	95.00-115.00	103.65	98.80	93.45	4.85	4.91	10.20	10.91
Polonnaruwa	93.00-115.00	103.71	100.88	94.45	2.83	2.81	9.26	9.80
Kalawewa	92.00-115.00	102.64	99.59	87.29	3.05	3.06	15.35	17.59

Kurunegala	90.00-116.00	106.81	101.95	89.04	4.86	4.77	17.77	19.96
Dehiattakandiya	107.00-117.00	109.83	105.21	90.84	4.62	4.39	18.99	20.90
Nikaweratiya	95.00-116.00	109.00	100.62	93.78	8.38	8.33	15.22	16.23
Ampara	108.00-114.00	109.50	98.57		10.93	11.09		
Long Grain Red								
Matara	85.00-110.00	89.69	91.56	88.85	-1.87	-2.04	0.84	0.95
Hambantota	90.00-105.00	92.44	94.94	87.85	-2.50	-2.63	4.59	5.22
Embilipitiya	88.00-102.00	89.94	96.20	90.65	-6.26	-6.51	-0.71	-0.78
Keeri Samba								
A'pura	130.00-150.00	138.75	131.25	112.25	7.50	5.71	26.50	23.61
Polonnaruwa	128.00-157.00	140.17	135.96	117.44	4.21	3.10	22.73	19.35
Kalawewa	120.00-150.00	137.50	130.21	106.85	7.29	5.60	30.65	28.69
Kurunegala	120.00-150.00	139.00	133.90	110.00	5.10	3.81	29.00	26.36
Dehiattakandiya	145.00-158.50	151.95	148.94	110.67	3.01	2.02	41.28	37.30

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Rice Prices Demand/Supply Situation

Wholesale Prices

Supply and demand for local rice varieties, such as samba and raw rice, remained almost the same as in the previous month. As a result, wholesale prices for these varieties were relatively stable. However, the supply of Nadu rice slightly decreased, leading to a 2% price increase. The price of Keeri Samba ranged between Rs.310.00 and Rs.325.00/kg, reflecting a 2% decrease due to increased supplies. Wholesale prices for Samba Grade I ranged from Rs.235.00 to Rs.240.00/kg. It is worth noting that the wholesale prices of both Samba Grade I and Keeri Samba have exceeded the maximum retail price (MRP), even at the wholesale level.

Compared to the same period last year, wholesale prices for all rice varieties have increased by 5-30%, with Keeri Samba experiencing the highest rise of Rs.75.00/kg.

Table 1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
		Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	235.00-240.00	236.94	236.91	215.94	0.03	0.01	21.00	9.72
Samba 2	227.00-230.00	229.37	228.98	210.58	0.39	0.17	18.79	8.92
Keeri Samba	310.00-325.00	319.02	324.38	244.50	-5.36	-1.65	74.52	30.48
Nadu 1	200.00-210.00	204.96	199.65	187.16	5.31	2.66	17.80	9.51
Nadu 2	190.00-200.00	194.83	191.41	183.00	3.42	1.79	11.83	6.46
Raw red	165.00-180.00	172.69	173.38	163.89	-0.69	-0.40	8.80	5.37
Raw white	185.00-200.00	193.07	193.29	176.25	-0.22	-0.11	16.82	9.54
Imported Samba	245.00-255.00	252.18	261.05	207.40	-8.87	-3.40	44.78	21.59

Retail Price								
Samba 1	230.00-270.00	251.88	251.06	231.74	0.82	0.35	20.14	8.69
Keeri Samba	350.00-380.00	372.27	377.58	262.08	-5.31	-2.03	110.19	42.04
Nadu 1	220.00-230.00	224.20	223.59	219.37	0.61	0.27	4.83	2.20
Raw red	180.00-210.00	199.83	202.86	192.21	-3.03	-1.49	7.62	3.96
Raw white	200.00-220.00	214.31	214.99	194.29	-0.68	-0.32	20.02	10.30
Imported Ponne Samba	270.00-300.00	283.55	294.56	223.47	-11.01	-3.74	60.08	26.89

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Retail Prices

Retail price of all the local rice varieties follow the same trend in wholesale market during the month changing the price more or less 2%. Keeri Samba was scarcely available at the retail level, with prices ranging between Rs.350.00 and Rs.380.00, significantly exceeding the maximum retail price (MRP). Additionally, the average retail prices of Samba Grade 1, Nadu Grade 1, and Keeri Samba surpassed the government-regulated MRP. Imported ponne samba was also available in retail markets, with prices ranging from Rs.270.00 to Rs.300.00/kg.

Compared to the same month last year, retail prices for all rice varieties increased by 2-42%, with Keeri Samba showing the highest rise by Rs.110.00/kg.

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chilli

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of land for green chilli cultivation in maha 2023 /24 was 10,064 ha. The extent of lands cultivated with green chilli was 7,169 ha by the end of March and it was 71% of the target. The highest cultivated extent (630ha) was recorded from the Anuradhapura district at the end of this month and the highest expected production was also recorded from Anuradhapura(3,056mt). The total estimated production of green chilli during this Maha season is 36,096 mt and out of that around 44% of the production will be supplied from Anuradhapura (8%), Puttalam (7%), Jaffna (8%), Monaragala (6%), Batticaloa (7%), and Inter Provincial DDA areas (8%).

Table 2.1.1: Target and Cultivation progress of green Chilli for Maha 2023/24

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress by the end of March 2024		Expected Production (Mt)
		Cultivated extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Anuradhapura	1,283	630	49	3,056
Puttalam	1,303	355	27	2,660
Monaragala	686	496	72	2,169
Batticaloa	590	548	93	2,528
Jaffna	588	533	91	2,884
Kurunegala	451	355	79	2,146
Badulla	401	444	111	2,761
Kilinochchi	485	282	58	1,268
Interprovincial DDA areas	765	606	79	2,894
Mahaweli areas	515	392	76	1,790
Other areas	2,997	2,528	84	11,940
Total	10,064	7,169	71	36,096

Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2023/24, Volume 04, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The supply of green chillies from major producing areas increased significantly this month. Consequently, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have dropped sharply by approximately Rs. 651.00/kg and Rs. 622.00/kg, respectively. The average wholesale price of green chillies was Rs. 271.75/kg, while the retail price averaged Rs. 544.88/kg. Compared to the same period last year, the retail price has risen by about 11%, though the wholesale price has seen a slight decrease.

In March 2024, 5,835 metric tons of dried chillies were imported, an increase of 2,349 metric tons over the previous month. The average CIF price stood at Rs. 635.09/kg, marking a decrease of Rs. 43.98/kg from the previous month. Consequently, the wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies fell by around Rs. 59.00/kg and Rs. 101.00/kg, respectively. Wholesale prices ranged between Rs. 750.00–900.00/kg, while retail prices were between Rs. 900.00–1,300.00/kg. Compared to the same period last year, wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have decreased by approximately 22% and 17%, respectively.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies – March, 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	March 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green chillies	150.00-400.00	271.75	922.60	273.41	-650.85	-70.55	-1.66	-0.61
Dried chillies	750.00-900.00	824.29	883.13	1061.50	-58.84	-6.66	-237.21	-22.35
Retail Price								
Green chillies	260.00-800.00	544.88	1166.46	490.66	-621.58	-53.29	54.22	11.05
Dried chillies	900.00-1300.00	1117.92	1218.47	1349.94	-100.55	-8.25	-232.02	-17.19

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – March 2024

Location	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Dambulla	262.00	262.00	159.00	156.00
Embilipitiya	412.00	348.00	314.00	228.00
Puttalam	211.67	225.00	176.67	113.33
A'Pura	370.00	320.00	270.00	220.00

Source: Data Management Division /HARTI

Table 2.1.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies (Mar 2024 – October 2023)

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs/mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar-2024	5835.00	3706.00	635.09	1117.92	482.83
Feb-2024	3486.08	2367.30	679.07	1218.47	539.40
Jan-2024	3747.22	2730.12	728.57	1278.28	549.71
Dec-2023	3445.19	2665.32	773.63	1298.39	524.75
Nov-2023	3321.30	2572.92	774.67	1327.24	552.57
Oct-2023	4651.15	3640.91	782.80	1331.20	548.40

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division /HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted land extent for red onion cultivation in the Maha 2022/24 season was 3,085 hectares, of which 2,460 hectares, or 80% of the target, had been cultivated by the end of March 2024. In Jaffna, the target was 1,920 hectares, with 2,025 hectares (105% of the target) planted by the end of March 2024. In Puttalam district, cultivation progress reached 35% of the targeted extent by this time. The total estimated red onion production for this Maha season is 29,190 metric tons, with around 91% expected to come from Jaffna (83%) and Puttalam (8%).

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation progress of Red Onion for Maha 2022/24

Area	Targeted Extent (Ha)	Cultivation progress by the end of March 2024		Expected Production (Mt)
		Cultivated extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Jaffna	1920	2,025	105	24,320
Puttalam	455	159	35	2,225
Trincomalee	307	54	18	445
Other area	403	222	55	2,200
Total	3,085	2,460	80	29,190

Source: Crop Forecast, maha 2023/24, Volume 04, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The market supply of big onions this month consisted entirely of imported stocks. In March 2024, a total of 13,610 metric tons of big onions was imported, an increase of 3,009 metric tons from the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs. 246.67/kg, showing little change from the prior month. However, the wholesale and retail prices of imported big onions rose by approximately Rs. 120.00/kg and Rs. 117.00/kg, respectively. The average wholesale price was Rs. 458.39/kg, while the retail price averaged Rs. 545.50/kg, representing increases of around 387% and 332%, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

The supply of locally produced red onions has slightly increased from main producing areas this month. Limited stocks of Vedalan red onions were available in the wholesale market, priced between Rs. 200.00–300.00/kg, with retail prices ranging from Rs. 350.00–450.00/kg. Additionally, 7,150 metric tons of red onions were imported from India, an increase of 1,966 metric tons over last month. The average CIF price dropped to Rs. 135.53/kg, a decrease of Rs. 15.86/kg from the previous month. Nevertheless, the wholesale price of imported red onions rose by about Rs. 28.00/kg, while the retail price dropped by around Rs. 17.00/kg. Compared to the same period last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onions have decreased by approximately 7% and 8%, respectively.

2.2.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion (Rs/kg) March 2024

Crop	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to		
		Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%	
Wholesale Price									
Red Onion (Sinnan)				243.33					
Red Onion (Vedalan)	200.00-300.00	253.36	235.00	298.78	18.36	7.81	-45.42	-15.20	
Red Onion (Imported)	200.00-370.00	254.11	225.63	273.39	28.48	12.62	-19.28	-7.05	
Big Onion (imported)	320.00-600.00	458.39	338.26	94.18	120.13	35.51	364.21	386.72	

Big Onion (Local)								
Retail Price								
Red Onion (Sinnan)				352.02				
Red Onion (Vedalan)	350.00-450.00	398.69		479.02				
Red Onion (Imported)	280.00-520.00	358.17	374.83	389.11	-16.66	-4.44	-30.94	-7.95
Big Onion (imported)	370.00-700.00	545.50	428.49	126.33	117.01	27.31	419.17	331.81
Big Onion (Local)								

Source: Data Management Division /HARTI

2.2.3: Monthly Average CIF Prices, Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Imported Big Onions

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar,2024	246.67	458.39	545.50	211.72	87.11
	Feb,2024	246.28	338.26	428.49	91.98	90.23
	Jan,2024	192.19	356.39	481.26	164.20	124.87
Red onion	Mar,2024	135.53	254.11	358.17	118.58	104.06
	Feb,2024	151.39				
	Jan,2024	231.05	309.18	495.78	78.13	186.61

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

2.2.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Big Onions and Red Onions

Crop	Quantity (mt.)		Value (Million)		CIF Price (Rs/Kg)	
	Mar,2024	Feb,2024	Mar,2024	Feb,2024	Mar,2024	Feb,2024
Red Onion	7150.00	5184.07	969.00	784.79	135.53	151.39
Big Onion	13610.00	10600.61	3357.00	2610.70	246.67	246.28

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Prices, Wholesale Prices, Retail Prices of Imported Big onions (March 2024– October,2023)

Month	Quantity Imported (Mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/Kg)	Retail Price (Rs/Kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/Kg)
Mar-24	13,610.00	246.67	458.39	545.50	298.83
Feb-24	10,600.61	246.28	338.26	428.49	182.21
Jan-24	20,910.77	192.19	356.39	481.26	289.07
Dec-23	15,956.33	181.49	339.96	421.39	239.91
Nov-23	18,603.76	135.69	201.47	298.16	162.46
Oct-23	20,520.86	104.85	190.61	259.39	154.53

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation

The targeted extent for potato cultivation in the Maha 2023/24 season was 2,923 hectares, of which approximately 1,419 hectares, or 49%, were cultivated by the end of the season, falling short of the target. This shortfall was mainly due to high seed costs, seed shortages, and heavy rainfall.

Nevertheless, compared to the last Maha season, the cultivated area this season increased by 114%. Based on the cultivated extent, the estimated potato production for this Maha season is 22,104 metric tons. In the Nuwara Eliya district, the target was 1,361 hectares, with about 595 hectares (44% of the target) cultivated by season's end. In the Badulla district, the target was 1,451 hectares, of which 823 hectares were cultivated, reaching 56% of the target.

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

In March, 18,188 metric tons of potatoes were imported, with an average CIF price of Rs. 76.00/kg (Table 2.3.1). Sufficient stocks of locally produced Nuwara Eliya potatoes were also available in the Colombo wholesale and retail markets. The wholesale price of imported potatoes rose by 21% in March.

During March, the wholesale prices for Welimada, Nuwara Eliya, and imported potatoes ranged between Rs. 220.00–320.00/kg, Rs. 250.00–350.00/kg, and Rs. 130.00–230.00/kg, respectively. Compared to the same period last year, the current retail prices have increased for both Nuwara Eliya potatoes (by 13%) and imported potatoes (by 31%) (Table 2.3.2).

Table 2.3.1: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Potato – Oct-Mar 2024

Month	Quantity (Mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar-2024	18,188	1382.00	76.00	209.55	133.55
Feb-2024	17,952	1282.97	71.47	198.99	127.52
Jan-2024	16,245	1173.16	72.22	196.64	124.43
Dec-2023	19,400	1445.47	74.51	226.75	152.24
Nov-2023	9,269	678.05	73.15	224.32	151.17
Oct-2023	8,280	513.21	61.98	222.31	160.33

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

Table: 2.3.2: Producer, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Potato – February 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
Producer Prices (PP)	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Welimada	180.00-255.00	246.50	243.75	163.90	2.75	1.13	82.60	50.40
Nuwara Eliya	230.00-300.00	279.00	278.67	186.20	0.33	0.12	92.80	49.84
Imported – CIF								
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	220.00-320.00	292.92		189.38			103.54	54.67
Nuwara Eliya	250.00-350.00	316.67	318.26	220.63	-1.59	-0.50	96.04	43.53
Imported	130.00-230.00	183.36	151.41	119.38	31.95	21.10	63.98	53.59
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada				290.88				

Nuwara Eliya	380.00-440.00	404.35	409.60	357.69	-5.25	-1.28	46.66	13.04
Imported	180.00-280.00	209.55	198.99	159.15	10.56	5.31	50.40	31.67
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada								
Nuwara Eliya		125.35	130.93	171.49	-5.58	-4.26	-46.14	-26.91
Imported(RP-CIF)								
Gross Margin (RP-WP)								
Welimada								
Nuwara Eliya		87.68	91.34	137.06	-3.66	-4.01	-49.38	-36.03
Imported								
		26.19	47.58	39.77	-21.39	-44.96	-13.58	-34.15

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The cultivated extent of green gram and cowpea increased by 91% and 122%, respectively. Progress for cowpea, green gram, and black gram reached over 80% of their targets. The major producing areas for green gram are Hambantota, Moneragala, Kurunegala, Ampara, Anuradhapura, and Puttalam districts, while cowpea is primarily cultivated in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Moneragala, and Vavuniya districts.

Prices and Supply/ Demand Situation

The wholesale and retail prices of green gram ranged from Rs. 1,050.00–1,350.00/kg and Rs. 1,200.00–1,400.00/kg, respectively. Retail prices for white cowpea ranged between Rs. 1,000.00–1,300.00/kg, while red cowpea prices were between Rs. 900.00–1,300.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, green gram prices increased by 1%, while the prices of red and white cowpea decreased by 10% and 13%, respectively.

Table 2.4.1: Wholesale and Retail price of Green gram and Cowpea- Mar 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to		Change Compared to	
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	1050.00-1350.00	1197.26	1035.83	1420.04	161.43	15.58	-222.78	-15.69
Cowpea (White)	700.00-850.00	768.17	888.75	803.47	-120.58	-13.57	-35.30	-4.39
Cowpea (Red)	650.00-800.00	725.21	819.58	830.06	-94.37	-11.51	-104.85	-12.63
Retail Price								
Green gram	1200.00-1400.00	1290.29	1249.69	1547.65	40.60	3.25	-257.36	-16.63
Cowpea (White)	1000.00-1300.00	1173.80	1220.21	1201.68	-46.41	-3.80	-27.88	-2.32
Cowpea (Red)	900.00-1300.00	1183.53	1214.54	1168.43	-31.01	-2.55	15.10	1.29

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The wholesale price of red dhal ranged from Rs. 280.00–295.00/kg, with an average of Rs. 287.00/kg, while the retail price ranged from Rs. 320.00–360.00/kg, averaging Rs. 335.00/kg. Compared to the same period last year, wholesale and retail prices have increased by 9% and 5%, respectively.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal (small) -Mar 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices	280.00-295.00	286.58	295.63	323.56	-9.05	-3.06	-36.98	-11.43
Retail Prices	320.00-360.00	335.56	338.79	360.22	-3.23	-0.95	-24.66	-6.85

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

3. VEGETABLES

Crop Situation

The reported cultivation progress for up-country and low-country vegetables is 87% and 85%, respectively. Crops such as carrot, knol-khol, okra, brinjal, kekiri, and winged bean have achieved over 90% of their respective targets (Crop Forecast, Vol. 04, Maha 2023/2024, Socio Economics & Planning Center/Department of Agriculture).

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Vegetable prices have decreased due to increased supply from major producing areas. The wholesale prices of up-country vegetables fell by 13%–51%, with beans showing the largest drop at Rs. 262.00/kg, within a price range of Rs. 80.00–450.00/kg. Prices for carrot, leeks, beetroot, radish, and knol-khol also declined by 40%–48%. In the low-country vegetable category, wholesale prices decreased by 7%–63%, with capsicum recording the largest reduction at Rs. 360.00/kg. Tomato prices fell by 61% due to reduced supply from key production areas.

Compared to the same period last year, wholesale prices for most vegetable varieties have increased by 10%–515%, with cabbage seeing the highest increase. However, green chili prices decreased by 63%, while lime prices rose by 24%.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Beans (green)	80.00-450.00	250.64	513.00	201.78	-262.36	-51.14	48.86	24.21
Carrot	230.00-450.00	313.75	539.50	95.41	-225.75	-41.84	218.34	228.84
Leeks	130.00-230.00	186.75	312.75	156.75	-126.00	-40.29	30.00	19.14
Beetroot	150.00-300.00	209.00	399.50	145.27	-190.50	-47.68	63.73	43.87
Knolkhol	60.00-200.00	125.25	240.75	113.00	-115.50	-47.98	12.25	10.84
Radish	30.00-120.00	62.50	107.50	53.43	-45.00	-41.86	9.07	16.98
Cabbage	200.00-450.00	332.05	382.25	54.00	-50.20	-13.13	278.05	514.91
Tomato	120.00-450.00	265.75	680.25	176.50	-414.50	-60.93	89.25	50.57
Ladies Fingers	40.00-150.00	81.75	222.25	157.75	-140.50	-63.22	-76.00	-48.18
Brinjal	100.00-250.00	196.00	211.50	151.50	-15.50	-7.33	44.50	29.37
Capsicum	300.00-500.00	398.75	758.75	322.91	-360.00	-47.45	75.84	23.49
Pumpkin	130.00-250.00	191.75	252.25	50.11	-60.50	-23.98	141.64	282.66
Cucumber	30.00-100.00	58.75	88.25	60.50	-29.50	-33.43	-1.75	-2.89

Bitter Gourd	150.00-280.00	204.25	330.50	267.50	-126.25	-38.20	-63.25	-23.64
Snake Gourd	100.00-200.00	158.75	235.25	135.25	-76.50	-32.52	23.50	17.38
Drumstick	200.00-400.00	289.50						
Luffa	80.00-200.00	129.50	267.25	185.25	-137.75	-51.54	-55.75	-30.09
Long Beans	80.00-230.00	140.54	223.25	117.32	-82.71	-37.05	23.22	19.79
Ash Plantain	150.00-280.00	220.50	282.50	200.00	-62.00	-21.95	20.50	10.25
Green Chillies	150.00-400.00	271.75	724.25	310.50	-452.50	-62.48	-38.75	-12.48
Lime	120.00-300.00	174.25	140.25	146.25	34.00	24.24	28.00	19.15

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

In line with the decrease in wholesale prices, retail prices of all vegetable varieties have also declined, with reductions ranging from 9%–54%. The largest price drop was observed for tomatoes at Rs. 508.00/kg, while the highest average retail price was reported for drumsticks at Rs. 760.00/kg. The lowest retail price was Rs. 186.00/kg for cucumber. Additionally, the price of green chili dropped by 53%. Compared to the same period last year, retail prices for most vegetables have increased by 3%–125%, with the highest price rise recorded for pumpkin.

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	200.00-700.00	407.52	692.34	306.70	-284.82	-41.14	100.82	32.87
Carrot	300.00-660.00	464.17	779.77	209.86	-315.60	-40.47	254.31	121.18
Leeks	240.00-520.00	338.39	524.61	271.46	-186.22	-35.50	66.93	24.66
Beetroot	200.00-560.00	378.24	567.28	256.26	-189.04	-33.32	121.98	47.60
Knolkhol	240.00-700.00	313.80	476.47	247.35	-162.67	-34.14	66.45	26.86
Radish	140.00-480.00	206.31	264.50	161.81	-58.19	-22.00	44.50	27.50
Cabbage	320.00-660.00	520.25	573.75	251.83	-53.50	-9.32	268.42	106.59
Tomato	160.00-800.00	432.46	940.62	295.37	-508.16	-54.02	137.09	46.41
Ladies Fingers	100.00-640.00	244.12	408.94	266.19	-164.82	-40.30	-22.07	-8.29
Brinjal	200.00-540.00	330.34	402.72	269.62	-72.38	-17.97	60.72	22.52
Capsicum	350.00-1000.00	640.43	1086.08	504.77	-445.65	-41.03	135.66	26.88
Pumpkin	180.00-420.00	330.30	371.56	146.75	-41.26	-11.11	183.55	125.08
Cucumber	80.00-280.00	186.32	205.87	158.30	-19.55	-9.49	28.02	17.70
Bitter Gourd	300.00-760.00	375.94	537.13	401.79	-161.19	-30.01	-25.85	-6.43
Snake Gourd	250.00-650.00	327.77	416.33	268.13	-88.56	-21.27	59.64	22.24
Drumstick		759.94						
Luffa	240.00-600.00	327.64	478.99	317.41	-151.35	-31.60	10.23	3.22
Long Beans	140.00-420.00	306.81	389.93	242.07	-83.12	-21.32	64.74	26.74
Ash Plantain	240.00-480.00	356.17	404.27	289.73	-48.10	-11.90	66.44	22.93
Green Chillies	260.00-800.00	544.88	1166.46	490.66	-621.58	-53.29	54.22	11.05
Lime	200.00-600.00	390.59	349.05	334.52	41.54	11.90	56.07	16.76

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

In March, the wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased. Considering the prices of banana varieties, the prices of *kolikuttu* (22%), *ambul* (8%) and *seeni* (3%) banana have increased, while the prices of *anamalu* and *ambun* have decreased slightly. During the month, the wholesale prices ranged between Rs.180.00-350.00/kg (*kolikuttu*), Rs.100.00-150.00/kg (*ambul*), Rs.100.00-150.00/kg (*seeni*), Rs.28.00-36.00/fruit (*ambun*) and Rs.24.00-30.00/fruit (*anamalu*). Considering the mango varieties, only *karthakolomban* variety was available and due to low stock position with the end of the harvesting period, the price has increased by 25%. Prices of all the sizes of pineapple have decreased in the range of 11%-17% due to arrival of ample stocks. Monthly average wholesale prices were Rs.631.79/fruit (large), Rs.524.22/fruit (medium) and Rs.416.28/fruit (small) sizes of fruits respectively.

Considering the other types of fruit varieties, the highest price increase was recorded for wood apple (33%). Further, the prices of passion fruit and slime apple have increased by 28% and 18% respectively. However, the price of orange has decreased by 18% due to on-going harvesting season.

Compared to the same period of last year, the current wholesale prices of all the fruit varieties have increased with the highest price decrease of 30% reported for orange (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – March, 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar-24	Mar-24	Feb-24	Mar-23	Feb-24		Mar-23	
					Rs	%	Rs	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	100.00-150.00	121.17	111.78	171.46	9.39	8.40	-50.29	-29.33
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	180.00-350.00	283.92	233.54	396.15	50.38	21.57	112.23	-28.33
Seeni (Rs/kg)	100.00-150.00	120.16	116.14	142.45	4.02	3.46	-22.29	-15.65
Anamalu (Fruit)	24.00-30.00	27.40	28.07	29.23	-0.67	-2.39	-1.83	-6.26
Ambun (Fruit)	28.00-36.00	32.00	32.41	33.37	-0.41	-1.28	-1.37	-4.11
Pineapple								
Large (Fruit)	600.00-670.00	631.79	759.18	694.72	-127.39	-16.78	-62.93	-9.06
Medium (Fruit)	460.00-620.00	524.22	586.66	593.82	-62.44	-10.64	-69.60	-11.72
Small (Fruit)	360.00-500.00	416.28	468.88	484.03	-52.60	-11.22	-67.75	-14.00
Mango								
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	300.00-350.00	318.00	255.00	162.50	63.00	24.71	155.50	95.69
Vilad (Fruit)	130.00-150.00	135.83		70.83				
Papaw (Rs/kg)	160.00-270.00	208.78	163.13	251.47	45.65	27.98	-42.69	-16.98
Passion Fruit (Fruit)	80.00-125.00	104.69	100.31	56.40	4.38	4.36	48.29	85.62
Wood Apple (Fruit)	80.00-120.00	100.47	75.40	52.93	25.07	33.26	47.54	89.82
Orange (Fruit)	30.00-45.00	38.63	46.96	55.34	-8.33	-17.73	-16.71	-30.20
Avocado (Fruit)	230.00-320.00	267.25	287.01	123.78	-19.76	-6.89	143.47	115.91
Slime Apple (Fruit)	18.00-35.00	24.99	21.20	25.53	3.79	17.89	-0.54	-2.12
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	1400.00-2000.00	1712.80	1772.77	1410.71	-59.97	-3.38	302.09	21.41

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Although wholesale prices for most fruits have increased, the retail prices of many fruit varieties decreased in March. For banana varieties, ambun and anamalu bananas saw price drops of 7% and 6%, respectively, while prices for other types of bananas remained relatively stable. During the month, prices in the Colombo and suburban markets ranged from Rs. 350.00–500.00/kg for kolikuttu bananas, Rs. 150.00–280.00/kg for ambun bananas, and Rs. 140.00–260.00/kg for seeni bananas.

In terms of pineapple, prices for all sizes decreased by 9%–12% due to falling wholesale prices, with retail prices ranging from Rs. 400.00–780.00 per fruit in Colombo suburb markets. For other fruit types, the highest price increase was recorded for papaw at 118%, followed by wood apple at 32%. Conversely, prices for passion fruit (82%) and avocado (47%) decreased. Compared to the same period last year, current retail prices for most fruit varieties have declined, with the most significant drop of 20% observed for oranges (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – March, 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar-24	Mar-24	Feb-24	Mar-23	Feb-24		Mar-23	
					Rs	%	Rs	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	150.00-280.00	207.98	208.27	236.93	-0.29	-0.14	-28.95	-12.22
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	350.00-500.00	411.16	404.55	480.18	6.61	1.63	-69.02	-14.37
Seeni (Rs/kg)	140.00-260.00	204.68	203.38	217.69	1.30	0.64	-13.01	-5.98
Anamalu (Fruit)	28.00-38.00	31.47	33.31	31.07	-1.84	-5.54	0.40	1.29
Ambun (Fruit)	30.00-50.00	41.29	44.38	38.79	-3.09	-6.97	2.50	6.44
Pineapple								
Large (Fruit)	650.00-780.00	704.29	796.24	712.86	-91.95	-11.55	-8.57	-1.20
Medium (Fruit)	500.00-700.00	600.46	674.99	623.70	-74.53	-11.04	-23.24	-3.73
Small (Fruit)	400.00-650.00	503.00	551.41	510.31	-48.41	-8.78	-7.31	-1.43
Other fruits								
Papaw (Rs/kg)	200.00-400.00	308.63	141.76	363.14	166.87	117.71	-54.51	-15.01
Passion Fruit (Fruit)	100.00-200.00	147.14	796.24	76.27	-649.10	-81.52	70.87	92.92
Wood Apple (Fruit)	100.00-220.00	153.82	116.84	100.27	36.98	31.65	53.55	53.41
Orange (Fruit)	40.00-120.00	77.58	86.192	97.41	-8.61	-9.99	-19.83	-20.36
Avocado (Fruit)	100.00-210.00	148.18	280	151.95	-131.82	-47.08	-3.77	-2.48
Slime Apple (Fruit)	30.00-120.00	76.86	68.503	78.11	8.36	12.20	-1.25	-1.60
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	1600.00-3000.00	2288.67	2169.5	2533.11	119.15	5.49	-244.44	-9.65

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to Sri Lanka Customs, the country exported 1,200 metric tons of fresh fruits in March 2023, valued at Rs. 156 million. Of the exported fresh fruit items, 96% were papaw. This represents an increase in export quantity compared to March 2022, when 832 metric tons were exported (Table 4.3).

In terms of imports, Sri Lanka imported 891 metric tons of fresh fruits during the month, with a total value of Rs. 405 million. Apples were the most imported fruit, totaling 512 metric tons, followed by grapes at 277 metric tons. This reflects a significant decrease in imported quantity compared to March 2022, when 968 metric tons were imported (Table 4.4).

Table 4.3: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits – January, 2024 to March, 2024

Type of Fruit	Mar-24			Feb-24			Jan-24		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Papaw (fresh)	1,159.3	115.5	99.7	1505.4	124.6	82.8	1,414.5	122.6	86.6
Fresh Mango, Guava, Mangosteen	14.1	19.3	1,365.5	39.4	49.0	1,244.0	68.7	77.8	1,133.1
Avocados (fresh)	2.6	2.1	785.1	2.5	2.5	1,017.6	1.8	1.4	742.6
Pineapples (fresh)	24.5	19.4	792.3	18.4	16.8	914.5	23.6	15.7	665.7

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits – January, 2024 to March, 2024

Type of Fruit	Mar-24			Feb-24			Jan-24		
	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	512.00	199.00	388.93	197.50	73.30	371.15	231.72	92.92	400.99
Grapes	277.00	181.00	654.43	307.20	177.23	576.93	200.16	125.86	628.80
Oranges	102.00	25.00	246.51	179.42	43.60	242.98	77.22	19.03	246.51

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to				
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023		
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%	
Wholesale Prices									
Salaya	180.00-350.00	259.59	310.00	375.50	-50.41	-16.26	-115.91	-30.87	
Hurulla	350.00-700.00	546.50	556.98	677.25	-10.48	-1.88	-130.75	-19.31	
Balaya	450.00-650.00	544.06	676.25	694.50	-132.19	-19.55	-150.44	-21.66	
Kelawalla	850.00-1250.00	1047.50	1242.50	1146.75	-195.00	-15.69	-99.25	-8.65	
Thora	1500.00-2400.00	1929.38	1993.75	1969.00	-64.37	-3.23	-39.62	-2.01	
Paraw	1000.00-1350.00	1213.56	1330.50	1118.00	-116.94	-8.79	95.56	8.55	
Mora	650.00-1000.00	846.13	984.75	1001.74	-138.62	-14.08	-155.61	-15.53	
Shrimps (small)	1500.00-2200.00	1815.00	1708.50	1511.25	106.50	6.23	303.75	20.10	
Thalapath	1200.00-2000.00	1610.00	1822.50	1402.00	-212.50	-11.66	208.00	14.84	
Retail Prices									
Salaya	280.00-600.00	451.81	553.49	565.11	-101.68	-18.37	-113.30	-20.05	
Hurulla	420.00-1100.00	833.66	929.65	928.80	-95.99	-10.33	-95.14	-10.24	
Balaya	600.00-1600.00	859.65	998.30	1227.05	-138.65	-13.89	-367.40	-29.94	
Kelawalla	1000.00-2400.00	1807.40	2041.52	1889.88	-234.12	-11.47	-82.48	-4.36	
Thora	1800.00-3600.00	2839.00	3042.55	2813.00	-203.55	-6.69	26.00	0.92	
Paraw	1200.00-2400.00	1901.72	2095.43	1916.93	-193.71	-9.24	-15.21	-0.79	
Mora			1183.33	1604.00			1604.00	-100.00	
Shrimps (small)	1800.00-2600.00	2156.36	2045.58	1733.90	110.78	5.42	422.46	24.36	
Thalapath	1400.00-3000.00	2475.13	2702.30	2229.81	-227.17	-8.41	245.32	11.00	

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Headline inflation, measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2021=100), slightly decelerated to 5.0% in March 2024, down from 5.9% in February 2024. Meanwhile, a minor acceleration in food inflation was observed, with a Y-o-Y increase of 0.3% in March 2024. Despite the overall inflation remaining unchanged, wholesale prices for most fish varieties continued to decline due to abundant supplies from the Southern and Western Coastal areas, driven by favorable dry and non-windy weather conditions. The Eastern coastal belt also experienced increased supply during the lean season, supported by ideal fishing weather.

In March, the wholesale prices of most fish varieties, except for small shrimp, dropped. The highest decrease was reported for balaya, which fell by 20%, followed by salaya and kelawalla, each decreasing by 16%. High supplies of deep-sea fish, such as balaya and kelawalla, were noted across all fishing districts due to favorable fishing conditions. Prices for remaining fish varieties decreased by 2% to 14%, while small shrimp saw a price increase of 6% during the month. Compared to the same period last year, wholesale prices for most fresh fish varieties dropped significantly, ranging from 2% to 31%, with the most substantial decline occurring in salaya prices, which fell by 31%.

Reflecting the variations in wholesale prices, retail prices for all fish varieties, except for small shrimp, also declined. The largest drop in retail prices was for salaya, which decreased by 18%, followed by balaya, kelawalla, and hurulla with decreases of 14%, 11%, and 10%, respectively. When compared to the previous year, retail prices for most fresh fish varieties fell, with balaya experiencing the most significant decline at 21%.

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

In line with the decrease in fresh fish prices, all dried fish varieties also experienced a drop in wholesale prices in March 2024. The most significant price reduction at the wholesale level was recorded for sprats, which fell by 19%, followed by salaya at 10%, and both balaya and imported sprats, which decreased by 8%. The prices of remaining dried fish varieties dropped in the range of 2% to 6%. Compared to the same period last year, wholesale prices for 50% of dried fish varieties decreased, with salaya showing the highest decline at 37%.

Reflecting the variations in wholesale prices, retail prices for all dried fish varieties also decreased. The largest price drop at the retail level was for salaya, which fell by 22%. Additionally, prices for all other dried fish varieties dropped slightly, by less than 9%. Compared to the same period last year, retail prices for most dried fish varieties declined, with salaya again reporting the most significant decrease at 23%.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried Fish -Wholesale								
Sprats	1000.00-1350.00	1186.80	1471.50	1132.00	-284.70	-19.35	54.80	4.84
Sprats (imported)	750.00-980.00	858.40	929.38	846.96	-70.98	-7.64	11.44	1.35
Kattawa								
Kattawa (imported)	1200.00-1350.00	1284.38	1345.50	1605.50	-61.12	-4.54	-321.12	-20.00
Thora								
Thora (imported)								
Mora	1550.00-1800.00	1698.88	1777.75	1663.50	-78.87	-4.44	35.38	2.13
Mora (imported)								
Balaya	750.00-900.00	837.69	910.50	891.25	-72.81	-8.00	-53.56	-6.01
Balaya (imported)								
Anguluwa								
Anguluwa (imported)	1350.00-1500.00	1427.75	1460.78	1664.83	-33.03	-2.26	-237.08	-14.24
Maduwa	1250.00-1400.00	1305.02	1385.00	1206.75	-79.98	-5.77	98.27	8.14
Maduwa (imported)								
Salaya	350.00-600.00	445.83	496.25	708.00	-50.42	-10.16	-262.17	-37.03
Salaya (imported)								
Dried Fish -Retail								
Sprats (imported)	1000.00-1400.00	1203.60	1221.91	1243.95	-18.31	-1.50	-40.35	-3.24
Sprats	1600.00-2400.00	1931.92	2102.29	1709.42	-170.37	-8.10	222.50	13.02
Kattawa	1800.00-2400.00	2153.88	2210.52	2436.48	-56.64	-2.56	-282.60	-11.60
Thora								
Mora	2000.00-2600.00	2290.45	2316.67	2363.79	-26.22	-1.13	-73.34	-3.10
Balaya	1300.00-2000.00	1619.86	1653.77	1408.65	-33.91	-2.05	211.21	14.99
Anguluwa	1600.00-2600.00	2330.54	2435.83	2255.56	-105.29	-4.32	74.98	3.32
Maduwa								
Salaya	600.00-1100.00	867.53	1118.88	1132.78	-251.35	-22.46	-265.25	-23.42

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Eggs

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Table 5.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Wholesale Prices								
Eggs - Brown (each)	47.00-58.00	51.25	59.06	46.00	-7.81	-13.23	5.25	11.41
Eggs - White(each)	44.00-56.00	48.81	56.72	44.00	-7.91	-13.94	4.81	10.93
Retail Prices								
Eggs - Brown (each)	49.00-59.00	53.58	60.60	57.20	-7.02	-11.58	-3.62	-6.33
Eggs - White (each)	46.00-58.00	50.81	58.34	51.28	-7.53	-12.91	-0.47	-0.92

With the increase in local egg production resulting from the resumed importation of day-old chicks, poultry feeds, and veterinary medicine, egg prices began to decline in March. Additionally, egg producers are expanding their operations in anticipation of the April New Year festival season, leading to higher production levels during the last two weeks of the month. Meanwhile, the availability of imported eggs remained low in the market.

As a result of these changes in supply, wholesale prices for both brown and white eggs dropped by 13% and 14%, respectively. Correspondingly, retail prices for both types of eggs decreased by 12% for brown eggs and 13% for white eggs. The average price fell to Rs. 53.58 for brown eggs and Rs. 50.81 for white eggs in March. Compared to the same period last year, retail prices for brown and white eggs decreased by 6% and 1%, respectively.

Meat

Prices and Supply/Demand

Table 5.4: Retail Prices of Meat - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	2200.00-2500.00	2,351.67	2,405.83	2291.67	-54.16	-2.25	60.00	2.62
Chicken (Broiler)	1180.00-1320.00	1,266.14	1,228.86	1211.35	37.28	3.03	54.79	4.52
Chicken (curry)	1000.00-1400.00	1,288.64	1,292.74	1398.61	-4.10	-0.32	-109.97	-7.86
Mutton	3100.00-3500.00	3,262.93	3,282.78	2986.11	-19.85	-0.60	276.82	9.27
Pork	1250.00-1300.00	1,285.83	1,277.50	1669.33	8.33	0.65	-383.50	-22.97

Source: Data Management Division/HARTI

Compared to February, retail prices for most meat varieties experienced a slight decline in March. The most significant price drop was noted for beef (without bones), which decreased by 2%. Mutton prices also fell by 1%. In contrast, the price of chicken (broiler) increased by 3% during the month. Compared to the same period last year, prices for most meat varieties rose, with mutton showing the highest increase at 9%.

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain and Wheat flour

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar - March 2024

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	Feb 2024		Mar 2023	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	208.20-211.61	209.67	211.15	227.04	-1.48	-0.70	-17.37	-7.65
Sugar	280.83-288.19	285.09	291.26	219.38	-6.17	-2.12	65.71	29.95

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Wheat Flour & Grain- Oct 2023-March 2024

Month	Quantity (Mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
March - 2024	12,268.00	1400.00	114.15	209.67	95.52
February - 2024	7,463.36	882.26	118.21	211.15	92.94
January - 2024	8,424.16	1032.80	122.60	212.05	89.45
December - 2023	16,242.01	1957.33	120.51	210.46	89.95
November - 2023	7,831.71	995.04	127.05	210.00	82.95
October - 2023	8,732.46	1124.95	128.82	208.27	79.45
Wheat Grain					
March - 2024	28,589.00	2,765.00	96.70	209.67	112.97
February - 2024	1,499.12	153.99	102.72	211.15	108.43
January - 2024	31,414.40	3,389.33	107.89	212.05	104.16
December - 2023	35,256.28	3,689.38	104.64	210.46	105.82
November - 2023	30,628.73	3,268.13	106.70	210.00	103.30
October - 2023	54,264.31	4,944.54	91.12	208.27	117.15

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

Sugar

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Sugar and sugar confectionery -Oct 2023-Mar 2024

Month	Quantity (Mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
March - 2024	32,527.00	7015.00	215.68	285.09	69.41
February - 2024	31,502.80	7187.53	228.16	291.26	63.10
January - 2024	31,036.12	7491.82	241.39	301.01	59.62
December- 2023	48,892.20	12525.07	256.18	314.35	58.17
November- 2023	32,534.18	8213.61	252.46	308.68	56.22
October- 2023	49,627.96	12366.69	249.19	271.99	22.80

Source: Department of Customs and Data Management Division/HARTI

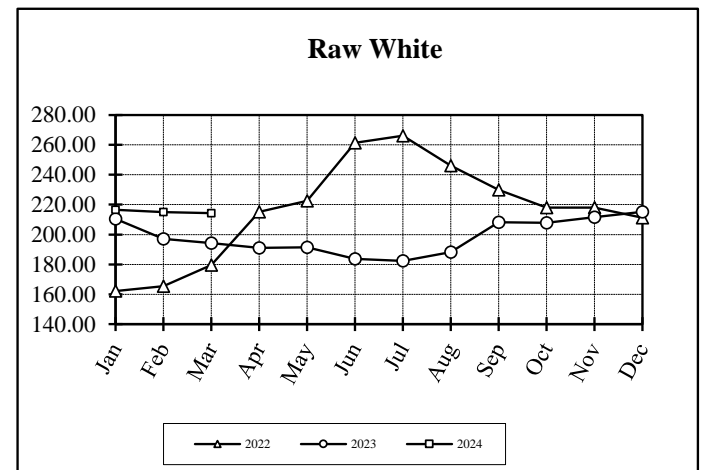
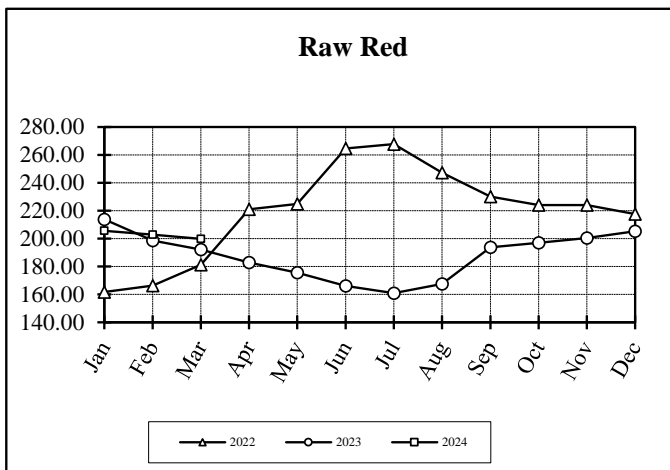
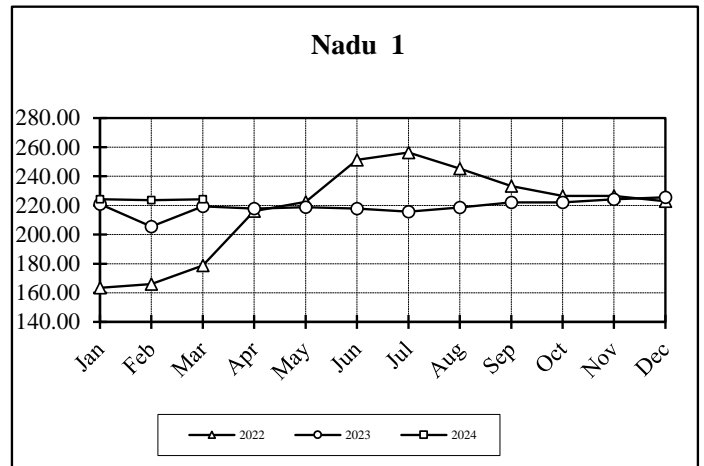
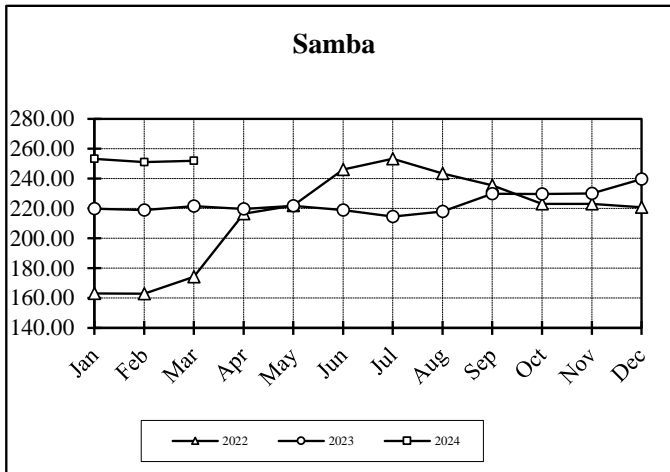
Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - March 2024

Items	Quantity (Mt)		% Change	Value (Million Rs)		% Change	CIF (Rs/Kg)		% Change
	Mar 2024	Feb 2024		Mar 2024	Feb 2024		Mar 2024	Feb 2024	
Rice	1329.0	2049.7	(35)	445.0	579.6	(23)	335.0	282.8	18
Red Onion	7150.0	5184.1	38	969.0	784.8	23	135.5	151.4	(10)
Big Onion	13610.0	10600.6	28	3357.0	2610.7	29	246.7	246.3	0
Potato	18188.0	17951.7	1	1382.0	1283.0	8	76.0	71.5	6
Masoor Dhal	14291.0	10054.2	42	3260.0	2393.5	36	228.1	238.1	(4)
Garlic	4498.0	2911.3	55	1579.0	1046.7	51	351.0	359.5	(2)
Wheat flour	12268.0	7463.4	64	1400.0	882.3	59	114.2	118.2	(3)
Wheat grain	28589.0	1499.1	1,807	2765.0	154.0	1,696	96.7	102.7	(6)
Sugar & sugar confectionery	32527.0	31502.8	3	7015.0	7187.5	(2)	215.7	228.2	(5)
Maize (Other)	5397.0	2963.2	82	439.0	233.4	88	81.3	78.8	3

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Appendix 01: Retail Price of Rice in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

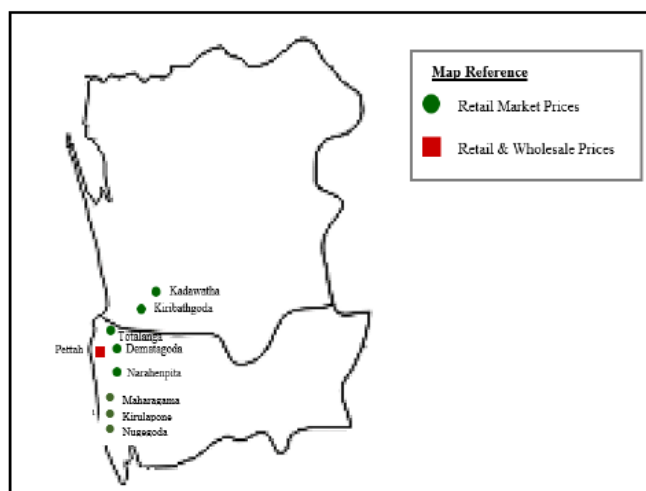
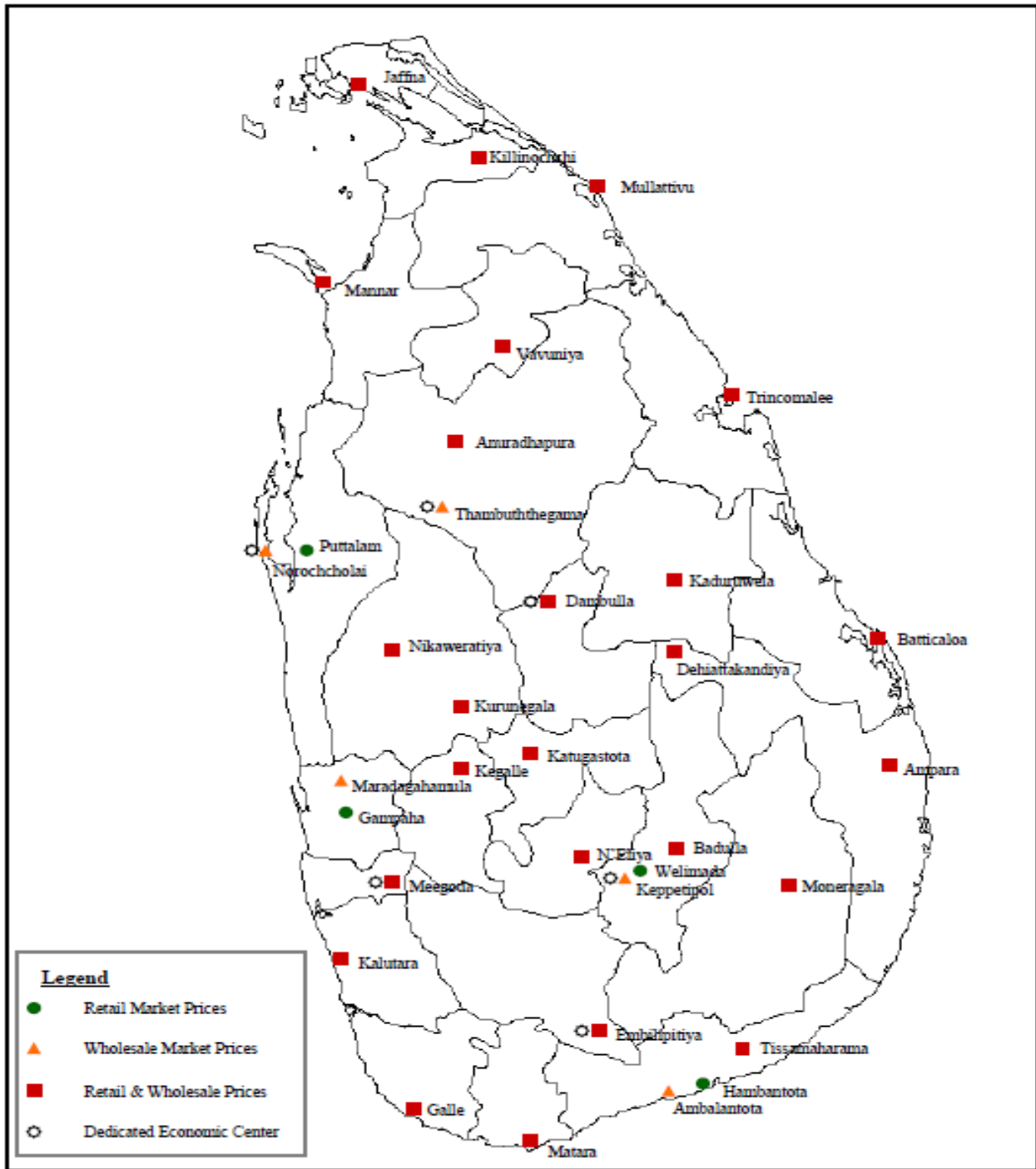
Month	Samba			Nadu 1			Raw Red			Raw White		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Jan	163.05	219.81	253.23	163.43	220.92	224.25	161.74	213.83	205.60	162.13	210.47	216.55
Feb	162.91	218.90	251.06	165.94	205.48	223.59	166.21	198.52	202.86	165.39	197.12	214.99
Mar	174.23	221.53	251.88	178.69	219.37	224.20	181.30	192.21	199.83	179.60	194.29	214.31
Apr	216.46	219.71		216.03	217.91		221.05	182.80		215.19	191.02	
May	221.87	221.71		222.47	218.80		224.78	175.69		222.45	191.48	
Jun	246.00	218.83		251.20	217.79		264.53	166.19		261.37	183.70	
Jul	253.30	214.56		256.35	215.78		267.75	160.92		266.15	182.31	
Aug	243.37	218.05		245.23	218.62		247.19	167.50		246.15	188.16	
Sep	235.46	229.85		233.33	222.08		230.02	193.71		229.95	208.29	
Oct	223.04	229.65		226.45	222.17		224.05	197.08		218.10	207.77	
Nov	223.04	230.00		226.45	224.19		224.05	200.36		218.10	211.66	
Dec	220.88	239.69		222.77	225.59		217.65	205.36		211.26	215.19	



Appendix 03: contd.....

Commodity	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	Commodity	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	Commodity	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
<u>Brinjals</u>					<u>Pumpkin</u>					<u>Lime</u>				
A'pura	108.00	148.00	138.00	148.00	Dambulla	198.00	187.00	101.00	129.00	Hambantota				
Dambulla	140.00	179.00	129.00	143.00	Hambantota	176.00	176.00	182.00	132.00	Embilipitiya	116.00	184.00	228.00	294.00
Hambantota					Embilipitiya	216.67	232.00	160.00	145.00	Moneragala	108.00	188.00	188.00	208.00
Embilipitiya	117.00	136.00	164.00	184.00	Matara	192.50	180.00		118.33	<u>Fruits (Rs/Kg)</u>				
Matara	107.50	102.50	102.50	121.67	A'pura	208.00	208.00	148.00	128.00	<u>Banana</u>				
Welimada	68.00	146.00	106.00	126.00	Moneragala	188.00	154.00	128.00	108.00	<u>Ambul</u>				
					<u>Cucumber</u>					Moneragala	84.00	84.00	84.00	84.00
<u>Capsicum</u>					A'pura	59.00	47.00	44.00	34.00	Embilipitiya	48.33	65.00	78.00	90.00
Welimada	314.00	450.00	456.00	318.00	Dambulla	51.00	40.00	30.00	24.00	Hambantota	65.00	70.00	70.00	70.00
<u>Bitter Gourd</u>					Hambantota	55.00	40.00	40.00	36.67	<u>Kolikuttu</u>				
A'pura	308.00	228.00	188.00	138.00	Matara	55.00	50.00	40.00	31.67	Moneragala	228.00	208.00	208.00	216.00
Dambulla	216.00	200.00	134.00	82.00	<u>Long beans</u>					Embilipitiya	190.00	190.00	222.00	224.00
Hambantota					Dambulla	151.50	147.50	73.40	51.40	Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	294.00	268.00	256.00	228.00	Hambantota	127.50	162.50	125.00	125.00	<u>Papaw</u>				
					Embilipitiya	240.00	248.00	190.00	106.00	Moneragala	116.00	128.00	128.00	128.00
<u>Snake Gourd</u>					Matara	157.50	145.00	140.00	128.75	Embilipitiya	150.00	152.00	168.00	172.00
Dambulla	106.00	102.00	94.20	76.20	A'Pura	158.00	138.00	108.00	74.00	Hambantota	110.00	110.00	110.00	117.50
Hambantota	144.00	144.00	118.00	118.00	<u>Ash Plantain</u>					<u>Pineapple</u>				
Embilipitiya	164.00	142.00	158.00	92.00	Hambantota					Divulapitiya				
Matara	176.67	153.33	116.67	121.67	Embilipitiya	152.00	132.00	128.00	132.00					
A'pura	148.00	108.00	128.00	98.00	Matara	146.25	137.50	131.25	131.25					
<u>Luffa</u>					<u>Green Chillies</u>									
Dambulla	93.20	104.00	72.80	54.40	Dambulla	262.00	262.00	159.00	156.00					
Hambantota	145.00	145.00	145.00	155.00	Hambantota									
Embilipitiya	152.00	128.00	128.00	84.00	Embilipitiya	412.00	348.00	314.00	228.00					
Matara	176.67	150.00	110.00	120.00	Puttalam	211.67	225.00	176.67	113.33					
A'pura	168.00	108.00	108.00	88.00	A'Pura	370.00	320.00	270.00	220.00					

Price Collecting Areas





HARTI



Ministry of Agriculture

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**දෛනික චිළචිඵ තොග මිල,
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