

# DAILY STOCK MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, 13 May 2019



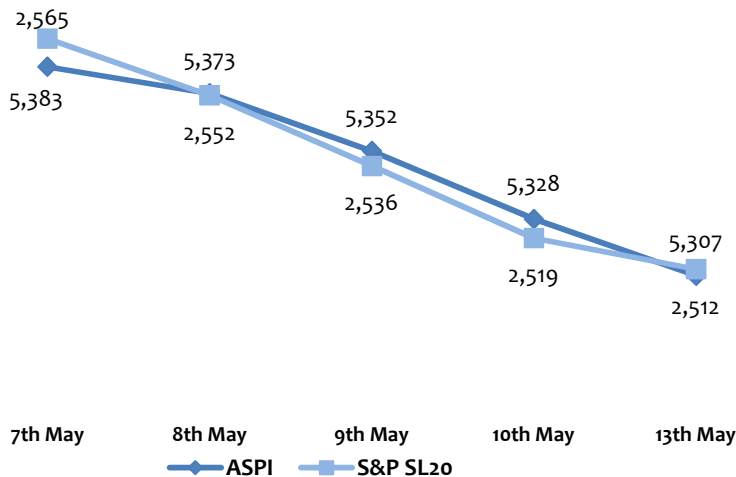
**ASHA PHILLIP  
SECURITIES LTD**

SriLanka

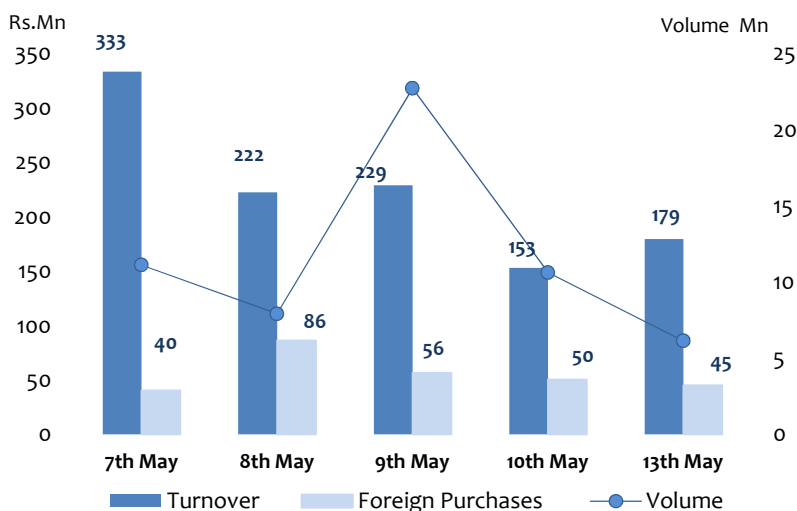
## Daily Market Statistics

Index	13th May	10th May	Change	% Change
ASPI	5,307.20	5,327.68	↓ (20.48)	↓ -0.38%
S&P SL20	2,511.86	2,519.08	↓ (7.22)	↓ -0.29%
Market Stats (LKR, Mn)		13th May	10th May	% Change
Turnover		179.45	152.80	↑ 17.4%
Domestic Purchases		134.61	102.71	↑ 31.1%
Domestic Sales		143.49	122.53	↑ 17.1%
Foreign Purchases		44.84	50.09	↓ -10.5%
Foreign Sales		35.96	30.27	↑ 18.8%
Share Volume		6.14	10.62	↓ -42.2%
Trades (No.)		3,053.00	2,820	↑ 8.3%
Market capitalization (Bn)		2,492.30	2,501.97	↓ -0.4%
PER		8.35	8.38	↓ -0.36%
PBV		1.03	1.03	↓ 0.00%

## Market Indices



## Turnover, Volume and Foreign Purchase



## Performance of the Market

- Colombo Bourse which was positive during the early part of the session later turned negative and continued to close on negative terrain due to the tense situation prevailing in the country.
- Benchmark index ASPI moved between 5,307.20-5,345.34 points and settled the day at 5,307.20 with a loss of 20.48 points (-0.38%).
- Major contributors for the movement in ASPI were **DIAL (+1.7)**, **NDB (+1.3)**, **COCR (+1.2)**, **CARG (+1.1)**, **LGL (+0.6)**, **DIST (-5.9)**, **JKH (-3.1)**, **HNB (-2.6)**, **OSEA (-2.1)** & **UAL (-1.6)**
- S&P SL20 index also followed the same trend and settled the day at 2,511.86 with a loss of 7.22 points (-0.29%).
- The day's turnover was recorded as LKR 179.45Mn, up by 17% from its previously recorded LKR 152.80Mn. Foreign investors remained net buyers for the day.
- The total market capitalization stood at LKR 2.50Tn, indicating an YTD loss of 12.23%.
- The market PER & PBV were at 8.35x & 1.03x respectively.

## Top Contributors – Turnover

1. Cargills (Ceylon) PLC (CARG) contributed 28% (49.36Mn) of the turnover. CARG traded between LKR 197.00 & LKR 199.90 and settled the day at LKR 197.00 with a gain of LKR 2.00 (+1.03%).
2. John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH) had contributed LKR 48.55Mn. JKH traded between LKR 136.00 & LKR 140.00 and settled the day at LKR 136.00 with a loss of LKR 1.10 (-0.8%).
3. Seylan Bank PLC [X] (SEYB.X) contributed LKR 18.92Mn. SEYB.X traded between LKR 30.00 & LKR 33.70 and settled the day at LKR 30.10 with a loss of LKR 1.90 (-5.94%).

### Top contributors - Traded Volume

1. East West Properties PLC traded a total of 0.99Mn shares.
2. Vidullanka PLC (0.74Mn shares).
3. Seylan Bank PLC [X] (0.65Mn shares).

### Sectorial Overview

1. Beverage Food & Tobacco (BFT) sector stood on top providing LKR 52.03Mn capturing 29% of the total turnover.
2. Diversified Holdings (DIV) sector provided LKR 51.65Mn to the daily aggregated turnover.
3. Bank Finance & Insurance (BFI) provided LKR 38.38Mn.

## Daily Foreign Transactions

### Net Foreign Purchases

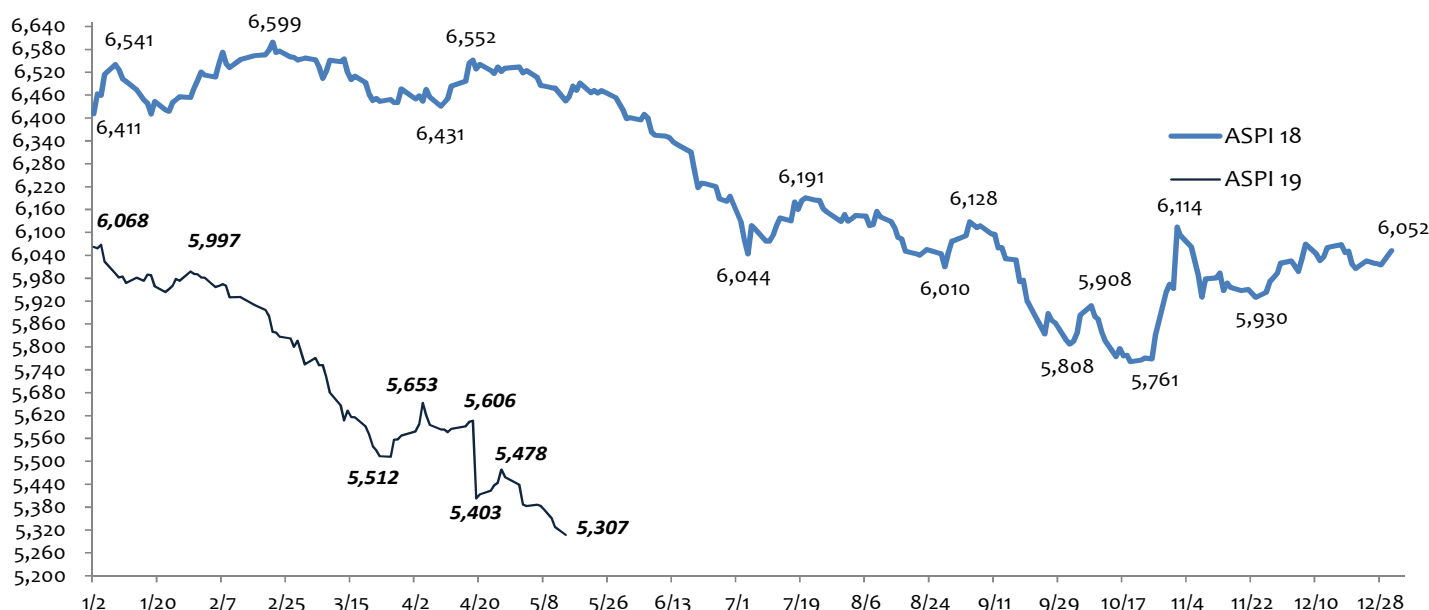
Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Inflow
JKH	137.00	37,646	5,157,502
EAST WEST	18.10	120,980	2,189,738
MERCHANT BANK (+)	8.70	100,000	870,000
CEYLON INV.	34.00	25,377	862,818
LB FINANCE	120.00	5,578	669,360
CEYLON GUARDIAN	60.00	7,055	423,300
HNB ASSURANCE (+)	110.0	2,000	220,000
VALLIBEL FINANCE	64.40	1,500	96,600
C T LAND	28.50	2,500	71,250
SEYLAN BANK[X.0000] (+)	30.10	2,144	64,534

### Net Foreign Sales

Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Outflow
TALAWAKELLE (+)	43.90	(32,292)	(1,417,619)
CHEVRON (+)	54.40	(4,665)	(253,776)
SOFTLOGIC	15.90	(9,100)	(144,690)
LANKA IOC	17.30	(2,950)	(51,035)
ALUMEX PLC	9.00	(5,381)	(48,429)
ELPITIYA	17.00	(1,688)	(28,696)
ASIRI SURG	8.80	(729)	(6,415)
GRAIN ELEVATORS (+)	45.00	(100)	(4,500)

- **Aggregate foreign buying** for the day totaled up to **LKR 44.84Mn**.
- **Foreign sales** for the day amounted to **LKR 35.96Mn**.
- **Net foreign inflow** for the day was **LKR 8.89Mn**, **YTD net foreign outflow** presently stands at **LKR 4.38Bn**.
- **JKH** notched the “Top Net Purchasers” slot with a net inflow of **LKR 5.16Mn** whilst **TPL** notched the “Top net Sellers” slot with a net outflow of **LKR 1.42Mn**.

## Year-to-Date ASPI Movement - 2018 & 2019



## Key Announcements

- **The Lighthouse Hotel PLC (LHL)** announced that the Board has now **decided to phase out the refurbishment** and to invest LKR 200Mn by August 2019 and the remaining investment (LKR 250Mn) will be made in the future.
- **E B Creasy & Company PLC (EBCR)** announced that **ICRA Lanka Ltd** has assigned (SL) **BBB+ Outlook revised to Negative from Stable** rating in respect of E B Creasy & Company PLC on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

## Companies under Trading Suspension / Halt

Company	CIFL	CIFL	ESL	PCH	PCP	SING	SFS	CHOU	CTCE
From	23-Nov-17	23-Nov-17	5-Jan-16	2-Apr-18			2-July 18.	11 Mar 19.	1-Mar-19
Reason	CBSL	status	Weak position	as per CSE Listing Rules			CBSL	List rule	Voluntary Delist
Company	LCEM	MEL	HUEJ	AINV, CFT, PCHH		LLMP	FLCH	TFC	KAPI
From	7-Sep 18.	25-Sep 18.	26-Nov-18.	10-12-2018.			8-Mar-19	18-Feb-19.	14-Feb-19.
Reason	AQO	AQO	***	Non-submission of Annual Reports			Merger	AQO	For clarification

\*\*\*Non-submission of Interim Financial Statements 30th Jun 2018

Auditor's Qualified Opinion (AQO)

## Companies on WATCH LIST

Non Submission of Annual Reports, Financial Statements									Default Board
MIRA	LCEM	CIFL	PCH	PCP	SING	HDEV	LLMP	PCHH	SFS
SFL	CFT								
Qualified Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report									
AINV	ESL	EAST	MEL	CHOU	MSL	PMB	MBSL	ALHP	TFC
SIRA	MSL								
Non-compliance of CSE Listing Rules, minimum public holding & Corporate Governance									
HUEJ	LOFC	ACAP	ARPI	ASPH	BBH	COMD	CPRT	DIST	CLC
ASPM	GOOD	HPFL	INDO	KAPI	LAMB	MADU	MORI	OFEQ	NIFL
PARA	PDL	SELI	MERC	SHAL	LHCL	SLND	AFSL	AMCL	ODEL
SFCL	TAP	MERC	TFIL	JINS	BFN				

## Annual general Meetings (AGMs)

Company	Date	Company	Date	Company	Date	Company	Date
CTC	14-May-19	SHAL	24-May-19	NEST	10-Jun-19	JKL	27-Jun-19
COMD	15-May-19	LHCL	24-May-19	KFP	11-Jun-19	TSML	27-Jun-19
INDO	24-May-19	PDL	29-May-19	CCS	14-Jun-19	KHL	28-Jun-19
SELI	24-May-19	SDB	30-May-19	TRAN	21-Jun-19	JKH	28-Jun-19
GOOD	24-May-19			AHPL	24-Jun-19		

## EGMs

Company	Date
SAMP	15-May-19
ONAL	17-May-19
SDB	30-May-19
NEST	10-Jun-19

## Key Announcements

### Cash Dividends

CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE
LLUB	2.25	Interim	6-May-19	15-May-19
LHCL	1.00	Final	7-May-19	16-May-19
TAFL	4.50	First & Final	09.May.2019	17.May.2019
GRAN	3.00	First & Final	09.May.2019	17.May.2019
PAP	0.10	Interim	14.May.2019	23.May.2019
CTC	15.77	Final	15.May.2019	24.May.2019
KFP	2.00	Final	16.May.2019	28.May.2019
COMD	3.50	Final	16.May.2019	27.May.2019
EAST	8.50	Interim	16.May.2019	28.May.2019
SFIN	1.10	Interim	17.May.2019	28.May.2019

CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE
BFL	4.00	Interim	17.May.2019	29.May.2019
CHL	3.60	2nd Interim	21.May.2019	30.May.2019
PDL	3.75	First & Final	30.May.2019	10.Jun.2019
NEST	25.00	Final	11-Jun-19	19-Jun-19
DIAL	0.37	Final	13.Jun.2019	21.Jun.2019
UCAR	6.00	Final	21-Jun-19	1-Jul-19
LIOC	0.75	1st & Final	24-Jun-19	2-Jul-19
AGST	0.20	Final	01.Jul.2019	09.Jul.2019
GLAS	0.18	First & Final	29.Jul.2019	06.Aug.2019

### Amalgamation

Transferee	Transferor	Proportion	Effective Date
Browns investments PLC (BIL)	Browns Capital PLC (FLCH)	2 BIL for every 1 FLCH	29 Mar 19.

### Mandatory Offer

Offeror	Offeree	Offer Closing	Offer Price per Share
Sterling Capital Investments (Pvt) limited	People's Merchant Finance PLC (PMB)	To be Notified	LKR 9.50

### Sub-Division of Shares

Company	Proportion	EGM & Entitlement Date	Dealings Suspension	Trading start
On'allly Holdings PLC (ONAL)	1 for 5	17 May 2019.	21 - 23 May 2019	24th May 2019

### Repurchase of Shares

Company	Price	Proportion	Entitle	Offer Open	Offer closing	Payment
Union Bank of Colombo PLC (UBC)	LKR 15.00	1 for 139	To be notified	27 Jun 2019.	11 Jul 2019.	To be notified

### Rights Issues

T = Tranche

Company,	Issue Price	Issue Value	Proportion	XR Date	Letter Dispatch	Trading of Rights	Acceptance
Anilana Hotels (ALHP) LKR 2.00 Tranch 1	LKR 183Mn	01 for 11	24 Apr 2019.	23 Apr 2019.	29 Apr - 07 May.	08 May 19.	
Anilana Hotels (ALHP) LKR 2.00 Tranch 2	LKR 183Mn	01 for 12	22 May 2019.	21 May 2019.	27 May - 03 Jun.	04 Jun 19.	
Sampath Bank PLC (SAMP) LKR 136.00	LKR 12.1Bn	07 for 23	16 May 2019.	23 May 2019.	29 May - 06 Jun.	07 Jun 19.	
On'allly Holdings PLC (ONAL) LKR 19.00	LKR 183Mn	01 for 15	30 May 2019.	31 May 2019.	7 Jun - 14 Jun.	17 Jun 19.	
Citizens Development (CDB.N) LKR 77.00	LKR 891Mn	01 for 04	29 May 2019.	04 Jun 2019.	11 Jun - 18 Jun.	19 Jun 19.	
Citizens Development (CDB.X) LKR 64.00	LKR 128Mn	01 for 04	29 May 2019.	04 Jun 2019.	11 Jun - 18 Jun.	19 Jun 19.	

### Rights Issues with pending dates

Company,	Issue Price	Proportion	Company,	Issue Price	Proportion
Agalawatte Plantations (AGAL)	LKR 15.30	21 for 4	Adam Investments PLC (AINV)	LKR 1.00	01 for 01
Adam Capital PLC (PCHH)	LKR 1.50	02 for 01	Blue Diamonds Jewellery (BLUE)	LKR 1.00	01 for 04

### Upcoming Listings

Company	Issue Size	Coupon Rate	Price	Issue Opening	Tenure	Nature
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (COMB)	LKR 15Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 - 10 Years	BASEL III
Hatton National Bank PLC (HNB)	LKR 10Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be notified	5, 7 Years	BASEL III
Bogawantalawa Tea Estates (BOPL)	LKR 0.85Bn	To be notified	85.00	To be notified	5, 6 & 7 Years	Normal

## Market Highlights & Statistics

### Market Capitalisation

Company Name	Symbol	Price	Issued Quantity	Market Capitalisation	(as a % of MKT Cap.)
CEYLON TOBACCO COMPANY PLC	CTC.No000	1,350.00	187,323,751	252,887,063,850	11.34
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	JKH.No000	136.00	1,318,173,279	179,271,565,944	8.04
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	COMB.No000	90.00	961,252,317	86,512,708,530	3.88
NESTLE LANKA PLC	NEST.No000	1,590.00	53,725,463	85,423,486,170	3.83
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	DIAL.No000	8.90	8,143,778,405	72,479,627,805	3.25
DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC	DIST.No000	13.80	4,600,000,000	63,480,000,000	2.85
HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC	HNB.No000	157.00	401,343,863	63,010,986,491	2.83
CEYLON COLD STORES PLC	CCS.No000	580.00	95,040,000	55,123,200,000	2.47
CARGILLS (CEYLON) PLC	CARG.No000	197.00	257,221,043	50,672,545,471	2.27
MELSTACORP PLC	MELS.No000	38.70	1,165,397,072	45,100,866,686	2.02

### Highest Volume

Company Name	Turnover (Rs)	Share Vol.
EAST WEST PROPERTIES PLC	18,007,111	990,386
VIDULLANKA PLC	3,250,502	739,325
SEYLAN BANK PLC [X]	18,920,179	653,363
SMB LEASING PLC [X]	111,544	557,720
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	48,552,498	356,656
CARGILLS (CEYLON) PLC	49,360,534	250,561
TESS AGRO PLC	78,401	195,955
CEYLON TEA BROKERS PLC	486,679	194,671
ACCESS ENGINEERING PLC	2,129,129	170,146
BERUWALA RESORTS PLC	80,696	160,531

### Highest Turnover

Company Name	Share Vol.	Turnover (LKR)
CARGILLS (CEYLON) PLC	250,561	49,360,534
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	356,656	48,552,498
SEYLAN BANK PLC [X]	653,363	18,920,179
EAST WEST PROPERTIES PLC	990,386	18,007,111
SAMPATH BANK PLC	41,428	6,095,811
JANASHAKTHI INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	152,410	3,658,843
VIDULLANKA PLC	739,325	3,250,502
ACCESS ENGINEERING PLC	170,146	2,129,129
BAIRAHA FARMS PLC	21,025	2,011,863
TALAWAKELLE TEA ESTATES PLC	37,119	1,633,230

### Top Gainers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
COM.CREDIT	23.80	1.70	7.69	121,278
CIC [X]	28.00	1.90	7.28	57,204
FIRST CAPITAL	22.00	1.20	5.77	10,573
LAUGFS GAS	16.90	0.90	5.63	14,398
EASTERN MERCHANT	3.80	0.20	5.56	2,092
AMAYA LEISURE	31.70	1.40	4.62	30,909
AMANA BANK	2.60	0.10	4.00	1,300
C T LAND	28.50	1.00	3.64	249,546
KAHAWATTE	38.00	1.20	3.26	3,986
ACME	3.30	0.10	3.13	2,700

### Top Losers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
BLUE DIAMONDS	0.30	(0.10)	(25.00)	53
PRINTCARE PLC	27.70	(6.90)	(19.94)	2,770
AUTODROME	69.50	(15.40)	(18.14)	8,340
MULLERS	0.50	(0.10)	(16.67)	20,031
LANKA REALTY	22.60	(2.40)	(9.60)	2,332
KINGSBURY	11.00	(1.10)	(9.09)	49,338
THREE ACRE FARMS	81.00	(8.00)	(8.99)	204,237
CFI	40.00	(3.70)	(8.47)	12,090
BALANGODA	10.00	(0.90)	(8.26)	335,499
SWISSTEK	29.00	(2.50)	(7.94)	208,538

### Crossings

Name	Symbol	Price	Trades	T.Volume	Turnover
Nil					

## Market Highlights & Statistics

### Sector Wise Summary

Sector	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
BANK FINANCE AND INSURANCE	13,784.95	13,828.45	38,380,203	1,745,465	687	4.20	0.80
BEVERAGE FOOD AND TOBACCO	22,541.25	22,638.76	52,029,044	388,357	411	16.50	5.50
CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING	1,275.00	1,276.29	2,293,525	218,657	84	11.20	0.50
CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	4,841.84	4,847.17	114,871	42,968	13	7.60	0.60
DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS	1,342.85	1,349.19	51,654,269	544,919	282	9.40	0.80
FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILE	830.98	830.98	204,483	24,828	28	49.20	0.80
HOTELS AND TRAVELS	2,491.80	2,501.01	925,984	269,839	125	91.30	1.60
HEALTH CARE	739.31	740.02	151,954	15,686	28	15.00	1.60
INVESTMENT TRUSTS	8,341.10	8,376.27	1,444,183	44,663	43	0.00	0.40
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	22.74	23.29	12,920	3,400	5	0.00	0.00
LAND AND PROPERTY	501.89	512.81	18,732,038	1,036,459	484	5.00	0.50
MANUFACTURING	2,349.71	2,379.70	4,478,003	161,772	343	7.40	0.70
MOTORS	10,194.45	10,329.32	530,081	18,103	27	15.00	0.40
OIL PALMS	48,818.35	48,818.35	3,138	4	4	37.90	0.90
POWER & ENERGY	90.70	90.01	3,990,643	865,960	102	79.90	1.10
PLANTATIONS	678.36	680.85	2,922,910	165,740	193	24.50	0.70
STORES SUPPLIES	26,942.31	27,128.48	69,921	102	7	16.70	0.50
SERVICES	14,608.23	14,762.54	646,771	256,927	88	13.60	1.10
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	123.23	122.32	690,859	74,250	35	5.30	0.80
TRADING	8,971.23	8,995.12	174,465	257,703	52	25.10	0.50

### GICS Industry Group Statistics

Industry Group	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
Automobiles & Components	410.19	414.21	63,990	2,100	5	4.20	0.50
Banks	641.35	644.27	28,386,332	727,730	396	4.50	0.60
Capital Goods	717.39	722.17	55,501,016	740,874	456	9.10	0.70
Commercial & Professional Services	711.11	846.28	2,770	100	1	0.00	0.90
Consumer Durables & Apparel	701.25	701.36	764,079	65,618	96	35.50	0.90
Consumer Services	207.04	209.60	925,984	269,839	126	96.60	1.60
Diversified Financials	701.31	699.86	7,236,549	956,166	258	5.00	0.90
Energy	494.77	482.86	183,020	11,856	51	0.00	0.80
Food & Staples Retailing	1,199.41	1,192.03	49,462,572	505,606	290	25.20	2.10
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	853.71	858.06	6,447,394	376,972	411	14.90	2.30
Health Care Equipment & Services	793.50	794.96	184,904	59,147	39	15.10	1.60
Household & Personal Products	847.99	847.99	0	0	0	11.60	1.60
Insurance	1,888.63	1,902.74	4,277,317	158,493	93	3.20	1.40
Materials	446.81	449.16	1,514,499	50,740	135	7.40	0.70
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	1,634.78	1,634.78	0	0	0	4.70	1.30
Real Estate	690.38	709.56	18,802,372	1,036,364	496	4.80	0.50
Retailing	655.02	657.98	1,075,538	215,107	100	14.60	0.60
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0.00	-	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Telecommunication Services	643.88	639.12	690,859	74,250	35	5.30	0.80
Transportation	679.49	662.76	123,448	30,736	11	7.50	0.70
Utilities	687.64	695.58	3,807,624	854,104	54	9.70	0.70

## Economic Indicators & Other Statistics

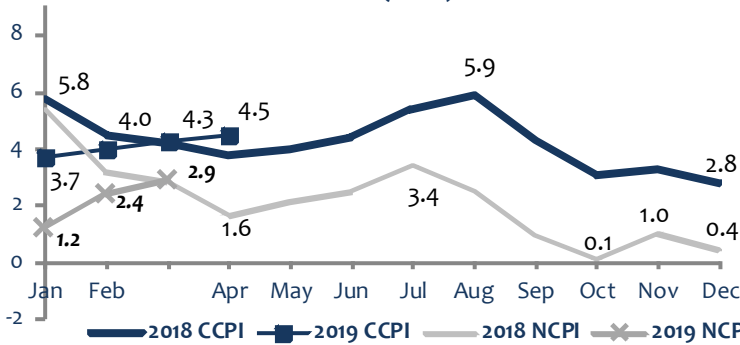
### Exchange Rates

Currency	13th May		10th May	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
Dollar (USA)	174.19	178.14	173.70	177.65
Pound (UK)	225.57	233.08	224.99	232.49
Euro (EU)	194.40	201.46	193.78	200.84
Dollar (Australia)	120.35	125.62	120.45	125.73
Dollar (Canada)	128.80	133.67	128.27	133.15
Franc (Switzerland)	171.28	177.47	170.00	176.20
Renminbi (China)	25.09	26.31	25.19	26.43
Yen (Japan)	1.5769	1.6369	1.5703	1.6298
Dollar (Singapore)	126.99	131.44	126.80	131.27

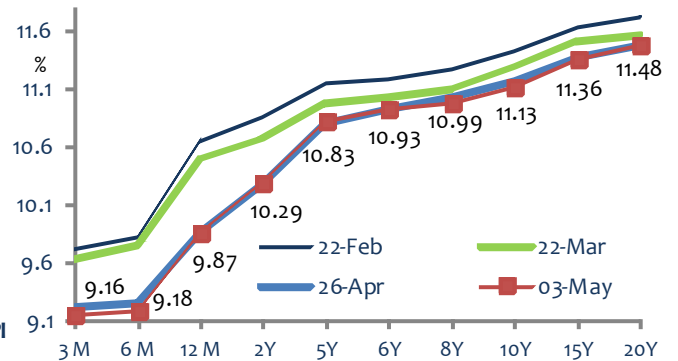
### Indicative Rates

Currency	13th May	10th May
	Ind: Value	Ind: Value
Yuan (Offshore)	25.5652	25.7148
Rupee (India)	2.5162	2.5069
Won (Korean)	0.1489	0.1488
Dinar (Kuwait)	579.1275	576.8477
Ringgit (Malay)	42.3219	42.2605
Rial (Oman)	457.5709	455.9195
Riyal (Qatar)	48.3803	48.2123
Riyal (KSA)	46.9729	46.8040
Dirham (UAE)	47.9601	47.7870

### Inflation Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI) & National Consumer Price Index (NCPI)



### Government Securities - Secondary Market Yield



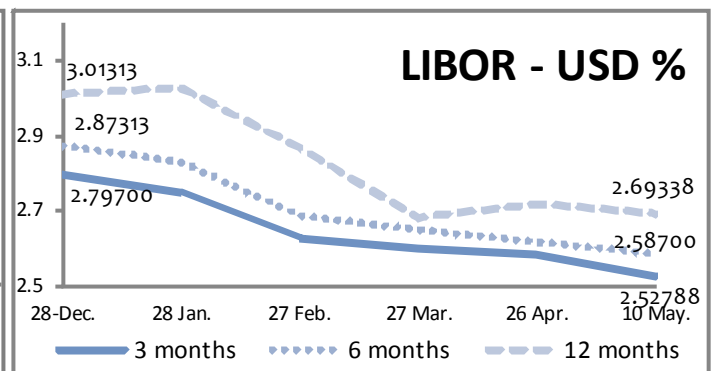
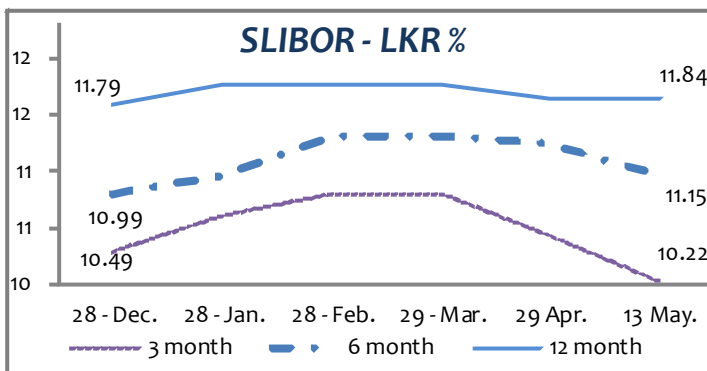
### Central Bank's Policy Rates

Description	22-02-2019.	14-11-2018.		08.05.2019	30.04.2019	24.04.2019	16.04.2019
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	8.00%	8.00%	91 Days %	8.51	8.89	8.94	9.00
Standing Lending Facility (SLF)	9.00%	9.00%	182 Days %	9.00	9.09	9.14	9.19
Bank Rate	15.00%	15.00%	364 Days %	9.44	9.81	9.91	9.91
Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR)	5.00%	6.00%	Amount	22Bn	27Bn	25Bn	24Bn

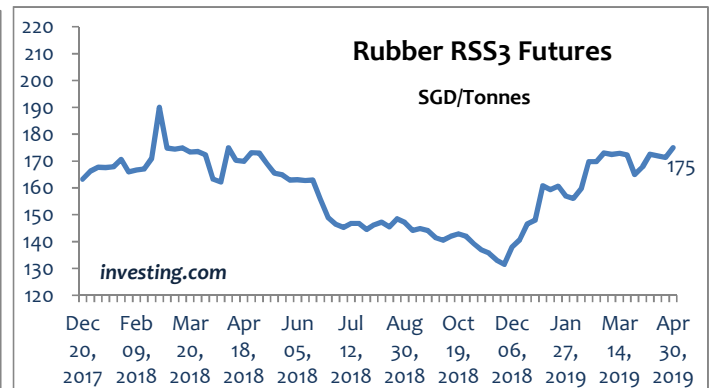
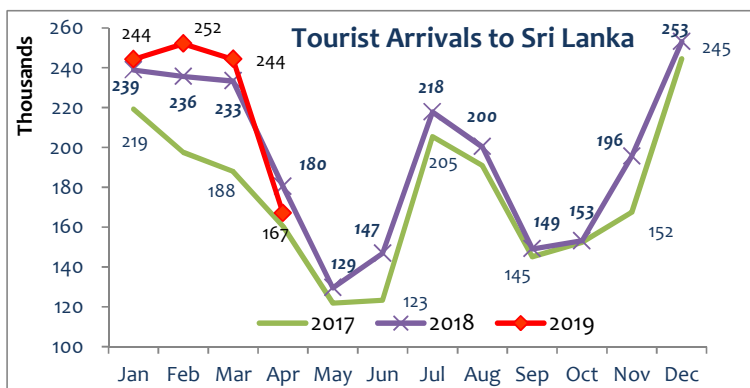
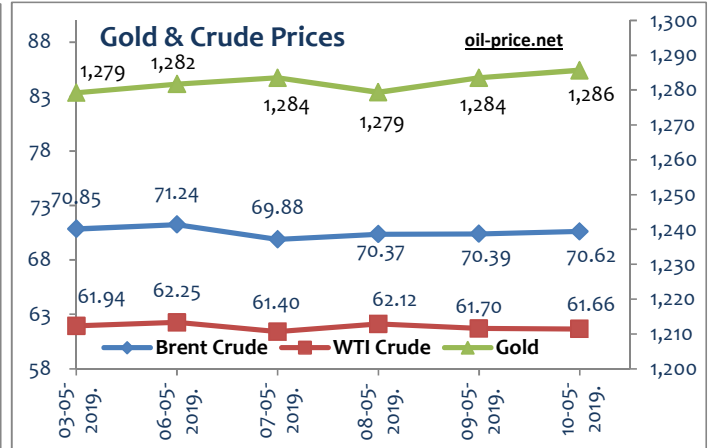
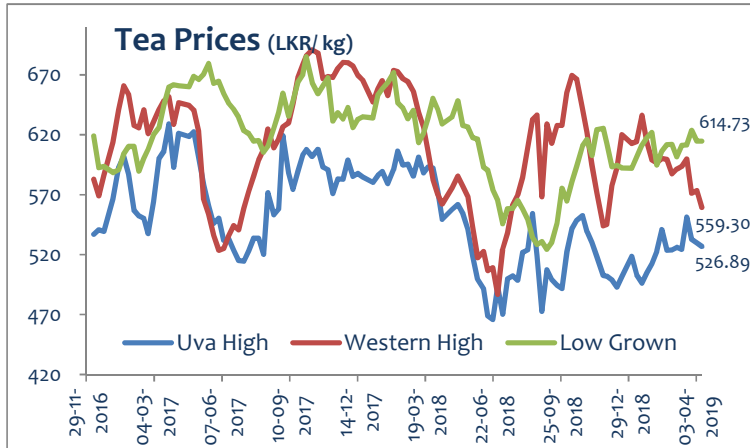
### Treasury Bill Issuance

### Treasury Bond Issuance

Date	02.04.2019	17.07.2016	12.03.2019	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	02.04.2019	12.03.2019	15.10.2018
Maturity	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Current Yield	10.72	11.14	11.04	11.21	10.32	11.24	11.35	11.90
Previous Auction	05.02.2019	15.06.2017	11.01.2019	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	05.02.2019	11.01.2019	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	10.85	11.37	11.58	11.38	10.53	11.30	11.73	10.88



## Economic Indicators & Other Statistics



## Local News

### Sri Lanka Labour Force participation declined by 2.3%, employed population down by 200,000 from 2017-2018

Age 15 years and above 'Working Age' household population increases by over 350,000 in 2018. Sri Lanka's Labour Force participation rate has declined by 2.3% from 2017 to 2018 and the employed population has declined by about 200,000 or 0.2 million, Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey of the Department of Census and Statistics outlines. "The employment decline is significant among female compared to male" the report said. "There is a significant increase in inactive population with an increase of about 0.53 million. The increase is mainly reported from female, youth (15 to 24) and elderly (age 60 and above)" the report stated. Reported Labour Force participation rate is 51.8 in 2018. Given the estimated counts in 2018, estimated economically active population is around 8.4 million. About 5.5 million (65.1%) of the economically active population are males. Economically inactive population accounts for about 7.8 million and of that majority are females (74.1%). Further Sri Lanka's working age household population (Age 15 years and above) has increased about 350,000 or 0.35 million from 2017 to 2018. The estimated unemployment rate is 4.4% and it is a 0.2% increase compared to 4.2% in 2017. ([adaderana.lk](http://adaderana.lk))

### Sri Lanka private credit weak in March

Loans to the private borrowers from commercial bank in Sri Lanka picked was 23 billion rupees in March 2019, sharply below the 50 to 60 billion rupees seen in 2018, official data shows but has picked up from 7.6 billion rupees in February, official data shows. Private credit was negative in January and expanded only 7.6 billion rupees in February, indicating a sharp downturn in economic activities after the collapse of the currency in the last quarter of 2018. In March, private credit rose to 5,587 billion rupees, up 11.3 percent from a year earlier, slowing from 13.6 percent a year earlier, central bank data showed. Weak credit has reduced economic activity and imports, allowing the currency to appreciate and the central bank has been a net buyer in forex markets in the first quarter of 2018. ([economynext.com](http://economynext.com))



### Sri Lanka's industrial activity grows in March

Sri Lanka's industrial activity had grown 11.8 percent in March 2019 from a month earlier, as the country prepared for the April holidays, the state statistics office said. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, was recorded at 116.5 points in March, the highest since the index started in January 2016, beating 110.8 points in October. A value over 100 means the index has grown compared to the base year of 2015.

The Purchasing Managers' Index maintained by the Central Bank too grew in March, with the manufacturing sector reaching a 46-month high. March is usually a month with high industrial activity, as the country prepares for the festivities in April, when many take long holidays. Food production, which makes up over a third of industrial activity in the IIP, grew 18.7 percent in March from February to 114.5 points.

Apparel production, which makes up around 20 percent of industrial activity, had grown 1.1 percent to 103.3 points. Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, which comprises of around 7.8 percent of the industrial sector, grew 12.8 percent to 128.6 points. The equally large coke and refined petroleum production industry grew 3.4 percent to 109.5 points. Chemicals production was the highest gainer in March, up 32.7 percent to 125.7 points in March, while paper-related production was the biggest loser, falling 17.7 percent to 77.7 points.

The IIP also recorded a 5.7 percent growth in March from a year earlier amid low growth across most major industries, and declines across minor activities. The coke and refined petroleum industry recorded a 202.7 percent growth to 109.5 points and pushed up the index, as the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's refinery was closed for maintenance a year earlier. ([economynext.com](http://economynext.com))

## Foreign News

### Asian stocks, yuan fall as Sino-U.S. trade war deepens; China retaliation eyed

U.S. stock futures and Asian shares fell on Monday on growing anxiety over whether the United States and China will be able to salvage a trade deal, after Washington sharply hiked tariffs and Beijing vowed to retaliate. The United States and China appeared at a deadlock over trade negotiations on Sunday as Washington demanded promises of concrete changes to Chinese law and Beijing said it would not swallow any "bitter fruit" that harmed its interests.

Investors are bracing for threatened "counter-measures" from China in retaliation for Washington's tariff increase on Friday on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. The move followed accusations by U.S. President Donald Trump that Beijing "broke the deal" by reneging on earlier commitments. U.S. stock futures, the S&P 500 e-minis, shed 1.1%.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dropped 0.7%, nearing its two-month low marked on Thursday. Chinese shares tumbled, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite and the blue-chip CSI 300 shedding 1.3% and 1.8%, respectively, while Hong Kong's financial markets were closed for a holiday. Japan's Nikkei average sunk as much as 1.0% to hit its lowest level since March 28, before it closed down 0.7%.

Others were more pessimistic, noting Washington said it was preparing to raise tariffs on all remaining imports from China, worth approximately \$300 billion. The offshore Chinese yuan fell to its lowest levels in more than four months at 6.88 to the dollar. It last stood down 0.6% at 6.86 per dollar. Major currencies were relatively calm, with the safe-haven yen still supported but not aggressively so. The dollar was holding at 109.74 yen, down 0.2% on the day and just above a 14-week trough of 109.46.

The euro was steady at \$1.1234, while the dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies at 97.312. In commodity markets, oil prices rose but remained a relatively tight range, with the U.S. crude futures were last up 0.1% at \$61.73 a barrel, while Brent crude futures gained 0.5 percent at \$71.00. On the other hand, digital currencies maintained most of their big gains made over the weekend. Bitcoin jumped more than 10 percent on Saturday and marked its nine-month high of \$7,585.00 on Sunday before paring the gains. It last quoted at \$7063.52, up 1.2% on the day. ([reuters.com](http://reuters.com))

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