

DAILY STOCK MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, 21 January 2019



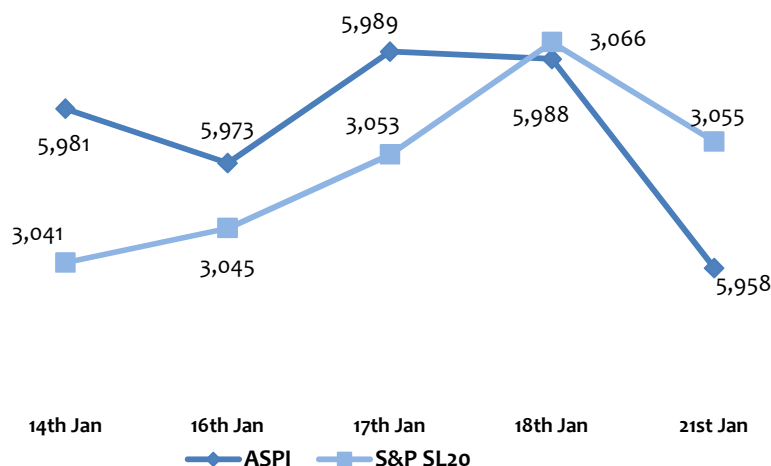
**ASHA PHILLIP
SECURITIES LTD**

Sri Lanka

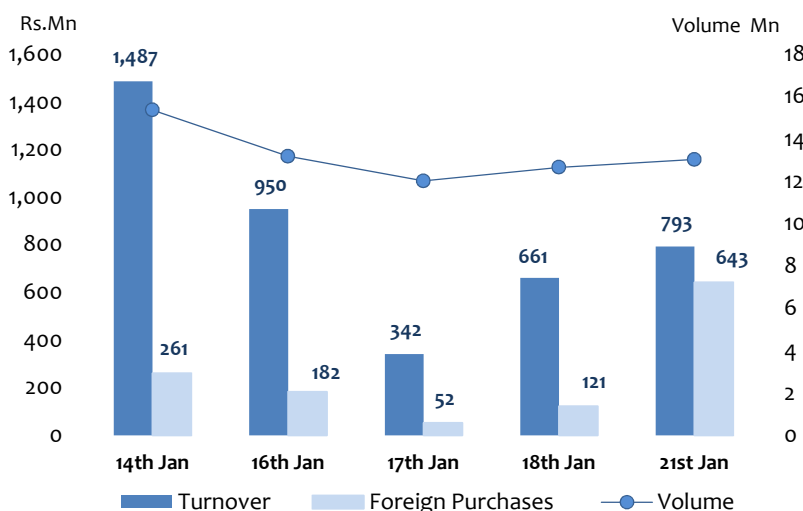
Daily Market Statistics

Index	21st Jan	18th Jan	Change	% Change
ASPI	5,958.47	5,988.07	↓ (29.60)	↓ -0.49%
S&P SL20	3,054.76	3,066.29	↓ (11.53)	↓ -0.38%
Market Stats (LKR, Mn)		21st Jan	18th Jan	% Change
Turnover		793.29	660.80	↑ 20.1%
Domestic Purchases		150.70	539.46	↓ -72.1%
Domestic Sales		103.76	129.41	↓ -19.8%
Foreign Purchases		642.59	121.34	↑ 429.6%
Foreign Sales		689.54	531.39	↑ 29.8%
Share Volume		13.03	12.66	↑ 2.9%
Market capitalization (Bn)		2,795.39	2,809.28	↓ -0.49%
PER		9.46	9.57	↓ -1.15%
PBV		1.18	1.16	↑ 1.72%

Market Indices



Turnover, Volume and Foreign Purchase



Performance of the Market

- Ahead of the earnings seasons majority of the counters witnessed a price decline with steep price reduction was observed in large market cap counters, which resulted ASPI to settle on negative terrain.
- Benchmark index ASPI moved between 5,958.47-5,995.32 points and settled the day at 5,958.47 with a loss of 29.60 points (-0.49%).
- Major contributors for the movement in ASPI were **CLC (+2.7)**, **RICH (+1.3)**, **NEST (+1.1)**, **COCR (+0.9)**, **SPEN (+0.9)**, **CTC (-6.6)**, **TRAN (-4.8)**, **SLTL (-3.8)**, **CTCE (-3.3)** & **CARG (-3.1)**
- S&P SL20 index also followed a same trend and settled the day at 3,054.76 with a loss of 11.53 points (-0.38%).
- The day's turnover was recorded as LKR 793.29Mn, up by 20.1% from its previously recorded LKR 660.8Mn. Foreign investors remained net sellers for the day.
- The total market capitalization stood at LKR 2.8Tn, indicating an YTD loss of 1.55%.
- The market PER & PBV were at 9.46x & 1.16x respectively.

Top Contributors – Turnover

1. John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH) contributed 58% (463.91Mn) of the turnover. JKH traded between LKR 154.00 & 155.00 and settled the day at LKR 154.50 on par with the previous closing; about 17% (77.25Mn) of its turnover was contributed through 2 off board trades of 0.5Mn shares negotiated at the price of LKR 154.50
2. Hemas Holdings PLC (HHL) had contributed LKR 161.06Mn. HHL traded between LKR 85.00 & 86.00 and settled the day at LKR 86.00 with a loss of LKR 1.60 (-1.83%).
3. Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (COMB) contributed LKR 65.36Mn. COMB traded between LKR 113.90 & 115.00 and settled the day at LKR 114.00 with a loss of LKR 0.50 (-0.44%).

Top contributors - Traded Volume

1. John Keells Holdings PLC traded a total of 3.0Mn shares.
2. Hemas Holdings PLC (1.89Mn shares)
3. Browns Investments PLC (1.09Mn shares).

Sectorial Overview

1. Diversified Holdings (DIV) stood on top providing LKR 631.43Mn capturing 80% of the total turnover.
2. Bank Finance & Insurance (BFI) provided LKR 108.81Mn to the daily aggregated turnover.
3. Plantations (PLT) provided LKR 16.22Mn

Daily Foreign Transactions

Net Foreign Purchases

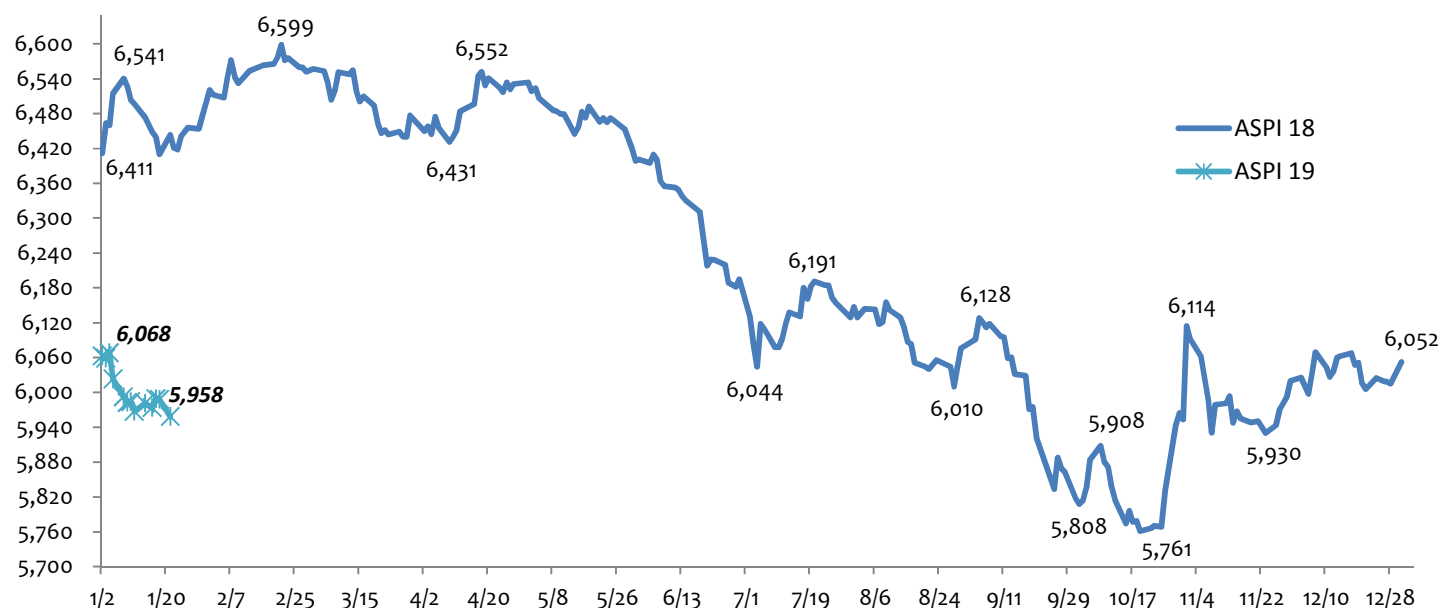
Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Inflow
THREE ACRE FARMS (+)	105.00	30,000	3,150,000
LVL ENERGY	8.00	75,000	600,000
JKH	154.50	2,749	424,721
EAST WEST	14.00	20,385	285,390
TOKYO CEMENT	23.80	11,918	283,648
HNB ASSURANCE (+)	136.50	1,800	245,700
ACCESS ENG SL	13.9	14,269	198,339
LO LC HOLDINGS	88.60	1,179	104,459
MTD WALKERS	15.00	5,000	75,000
RENUKA CAPITAL	4.00	10,000	40,000

Net Foreign Sales

Company Name	Avg Price	Net change in Qty	Net Foreign Outflow
HEMAS HOLDINGS	85.00	(525,243)	(44,645,655)
COMMERCIAL BANK (+)	114.00	(29,805)	(3,397,770)
LANKEM DEV.	4.60	(315,260)	(1,450,196)
RICH PIERIS EXP	228.10	(4,496)	(1,025,538)
COMMERCIAL BANK[X.0	94.60	(7,908)	(748,097)
SAMPATH (+)	225.00	(2,156)	(485,100)
BAIRAHA FARMS	129.00	(3,000)	(387,000)
Softlogic Life (+)	48.30	(5,000)	(241,500)
ALUFAB	17.00	(1,083)	(18,411)
BROWNS INVSTMNTS	1.70	(3,946)	(6,708)

- **Aggregate foreign buying** for the day totaled up to **LKR 642.59Mn.**
- **Foreign sales** for the day amounted to **LKR 689.54Mn.**
- **Net foreign outflow** for the day was **LKR 46.95Mn, YTD net foreign outflow** presently stands at **LKR 2.4Bn.**
- **T AFL** notched the “Top Net Purchasers” slot with a net inflow of **LKR 3.15Mn** whilst **HHL** notched the “Top net Sellers” slot with a net outflow of **LKR 44.65Mn.**

Year-to-Date ASPI Movement - 2018 & 2019



Key Announcements

- **MTD Walkers PLC (KAPI)** announced that **they have transferred 100% of the shares held by them in Walkers Shipyards Ltd, Nothern Power Company (Pvt) Ltd and Colombo Fort Heritage Company (Pvt) Ltd to MTD Capital Berhad for a purchase consideration of USD 19Mn**, in order to restructure MTD Walkers Group for the purpose of facilitating MTD Walkers PLC **to settle an outstanding loan amounting to USD 19Mn payable by its subsidiary**, CML-MTD Joint Venture Limited to Export-Import Bank of Malaysia. KAPI reserves an option to buy back the said shares in terms of a Call option Agreement for a consideration of USD 19Mn and costs of funds within a period of 6 months from the closing date set out in the Share Purchase Agreement.

Companies under Trading Suspension

Company	MIRA	CIFL	ESL	PCH	PCP	SING	CIFL	SFS
From	26-Feb-15	23-Nov-17	5-Jan-16	2-Apr-18			23-Nov-17	2-July 18.
Reason	SEC Directive	status	Weak position	as per CSE Listing Rules			CBSL	Listing Rules
Company	LCEM	MEL	HUEJ	AINV	CFT	LLMP	PCHH	
From	7-Sep 18.	25-Sep 18.	26-Nov-18.	10-Dec-2018 for Non-submission of				
Reason	Auditor's Qualified Opinion		***	Non-submission of Annual Reports				

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

Companies on WATCH LIST

Non Submission of Annual Reports, Financial Statements									Default Board
MIRA	LCEM	CIFL	PCH	PCP	SING	HDEV	LLMP	PCHH	SFS
SINH	LLMP	CFT	SFL						
Qualified Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report									
AINV	ESL	RGEM	MEL	JANA	HVA	PMB	MBSL	ALHP	TFC
SIRA	MSL	CHOU	EAST						
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						

Annual general Meetings (AGMs)

Company	Date
BLUE	28-Jan-19
RGEM	29-Jan-19

Company	Date
COMB	28-Mar-19
DFCC	28-Mar-19
HASU	28-Mar-19

Company	Date
HNB	29-Mar-19
SEYB	29-Mar-19

Company	Date
SAMP	29-Mar-19
PABC	29-Mar-19

EGMs

Company	Date
AAIC	25-Jan-19
SAMP	25-Jan-19
SINH	31-Jan-19

Key Announcements

Cash Dividends

CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE	CODE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE (LKR)	TYPE	XD DATE	PAYMENT DATE
CTC	19.00	4 th Interim	10.Jan.2019	22.Jan.2019	HEXP	3.00	Interim	14.Jan.2019	23.Jan.2019
HAYC	2.00	Interim	14.Jan.2019	23.Jan.2019	DIPD	1.00	Interim	14.Jan.2019	23.Jan.2019
					SFCL	0.80	Interim	30.Jan.2019	11.Feb.2019

Amalgamation [A]

Transferee	Transferor	Proportion	Offer Closing Date
[A] Browns investments PLC (BIL)	Browns Capital PLC (FLCH)	2 BIL for every 1 FLCH	To be notified

Consolidation of Shares

Company	Proportion	EGM & Entitlement Date	Dealings Suspension	Trading start
Asia Asset Finance PLC (AAF.N)	10 into 1	31 Jan 2019.	01 FEB to 06 FEB 2019	7th Feb 2019

Repurchase of Shares

Company	Price	Proportion	Entitle	Offer Open	Offer closing	Payment
John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH)	LKR 160.00	1 for 20	03 Dec 2018.	14 Dec 2018.	10 Jan 2019.	25 Jan 2019.

Rights Issues

Company,	Issue P	Issue Price	Proportion	XR Date	Letter Dispatch	Trading of Rights	Acceptance
Asia Asset Finance PLC (AAF.N) - TR-1		LKR 10.00	03 for 10	14 Feb 2019.	20 Feb 2019.	26 Feb - 06 Mar.	07 Mar 19.
Asia Asset Finance PLC (AAF.N) - TR-2		LKR 10.00	02 for 10	3 Apr 2019.	8 Apr 2019.	12 Apr - 23 Apr.	24 Apr 19.

Rights Issues with pending dates

Company,	Issue Price	Proportion	Company,	Issue Price	Proportion
Agalawatte Plantations (AGAL)	LKR 15.3	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
Citizens Development Business (CDB)	LKR 1.25Bn	15%, 15.5%	100.00	17 - Jan - 2019.	5Y (6M & 1Y)	Normal
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (COMB)	LKR 15Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 - 10 Years	BASEL III
National Development Bank (NDB)	LKR 6.5Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 Years	BASEL III
Seylan Bank PLC (SEYB)	LKR 5Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 Years	BASEL III
Sampath Bank PLC (SAMP)	LKR 7Bn	To be notified	100.00	To be Notified	5 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	1,403.40	187,323,751	262,890,152,153	10.13
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	JKH.No000	154.50	1,387,528,658	214,373,177,661	8.26
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	COMB.No000	114.00	945,709,403	107,810,871,942	4.15
NESTLE LANKA PLC	NEST.No000	1,710.00	53,725,463	91,870,541,730	3.54
DIALOG AXIATA PLC	DIAL.No000	10.00	8,143,778,405	81,437,784,050	3.14
HATTON NATIONAL BANK PLC	HNB.No000	205.90	395,451,248	81,423,411,963	3.14
DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA PLC	DIST.No000	16.20	4,600,000,000	74,520,000,000	2.87
CEYLON COLD STORES PLC	CCS.No000	688.90	95,040,000	65,473,056,000	2.52
SAMPATH BANK PLC	SAMP.No000	225.00	280,902,248	63,203,005,800	2.43
MELSTACORP PLC	MELS.No000	46.50	1,165,397,072	54,190,963,848	2.09

Highest Volume

Company Name	Turnover (Rs)	Share Vol.
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	463,908,906	3,002,653
HEMAS HOLDINGS PLC	161,064,080	1,894,857
BROWNS INVESTMENTS PLC	1,853,489	1,089,691
LANKEM DEVELOPMENTS PLC	4,736,566	1,049,693
MALWATTE VALLEY PLANTATIONS PLC	3,036,342	622,250
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	65,364,151	573,348
SMB LEASING PLC	150,440	501,701
MASKELIYA PLANTATIONS PLC	3,653,973	338,616
MADULSIMA PLANTATIONS PLC	2,321,171	338,409
SIERRA CABLES PLC	422,082	205,876

Highest Turnover

Company Name	Share Vol.	Turnover (LKR)
JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS PLC	3,002,653	463,908,906
HEMAS HOLDINGS PLC	1,894,857	161,064,080
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC	573,348	65,364,151
SAMPATH BANK PLC	67,883	15,349,954
HNB ASSURANCE PLC	62,006	8,497,970
LANKEM DEVELOPMENTS PLC	1,049,693	4,736,566
MASKELIYA PLANTATIONS PLC	338,616	3,653,973
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC	34,746	3,647,588
THREE ACRE FARMS PLC	30,601	3,212,221
MALWATTE VALLEY PLANTATIONS PLC	622,250	3,036,342

Top Gainers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
MADULSIMA	7.40	1.30	21.31	2,321,171
MALWATTE [X]	5.00	0.80	19.05	3,036,342
BERUWALA RESORTS	0.70	0.10	16.67	14,470
NAMUNUKULA	68.50	8.50	14.17	733,911
HOTEL SIGIRIYA	70.90	8.20	13.08	592,209
HAPUGASTENNE	19.00	2.00	11.76	16,809
HATTON	7.70	0.80	11.59	265,667
THE FINANCE CO. [X]	1.00	0.10	11.11	12,878
MASKELIYA	11.10	1.10	11.00	3,653,973
MALWATTE	8.80	0.80	10.00	1,308,211

Top Losers

Company Name	VWA Days Close	Change (LKR)	Change %	Turnover (LKR)
LANKEM CEYLON	23.30	(4.70)	(16.79)	19,366
TRANS ASIA	76.50	(11.30)	(12.87)	45,905
KELANI VALLEY	86.90	(12.80)	(12.84)	88,222
ASIA ASSET	0.80	(0.10)	(11.11)	68,906
BROWNS BEACH	12.10	(1.40)	(10.37)	220,649
ARPICO	185.30	(13.90)	(6.98)	124,901
DOLPHIN HOTELS	26.60	(1.90)	(6.67)	156,468
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	84.60	(5.30)	(5.90)	15,225
CITRUS HIKKADUWA	3.60	(0.20)	(5.26)	341,683
ROYAL PALMS	15.50	(0.80)	(4.91)	1,847

Crossings

Name	Symbol	Price	Trades	T.Volume	Turnover
John Keells Holdings PLC	JKH.No000	154.50	2	500,000	77,250,000.00

Market Highlights & Statistics

Sector Wise Summary

Sector	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
BANK FINANCE AND INSURANCE	16,246.57	16,306.91	108,809,181	1,897,058	1,204	5.00	0.90
BEVERAGE FOOD AND TOBACCO	24,074.72	24,259.18	7,980,480	129,847	128	17.40	5.90
CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING	1,410.57	1,414.60	8,285,034	1,288,667	471	15.60	0.50
CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	5,186.94	5,253.28	1,663,812	14,712	40	7.60	0.80
DIVERSIFIED HOLDINGS	1,540.43	1,543.49	631,430,561	6,378,566	293	11.10	0.90
FOOTWEAR AND TEXTILE	904.08	914.03	838,821	87,444	36	53.60	0.90
HOTELS AND TRAVELS	2,658.36	2,684.27	2,789,188	263,107	361	98.80	1.70
HEALTH CARE	804.18	806.51	488,567	29,986	56	16.40	1.70
INVESTMENT TRUSTS	9,553.02	9,563.33	838,341	16,833	31	0.00	0.50
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	26.63	26.08	2,930	651	2	0.00	0.00
LAND AND PROPERTY	547.37	545.76	1,458,746	87,426	76	5.60	0.60
MANUFACTURING	2,832.89	2,844.54	8,927,498	561,119	442	8.80	0.80
MOTORS	12,477.02	12,506.46	52,249	267	9	17.30	0.50
OIL PALMS	49,335.27	49,335.27	1,980	6	3	59.10	1.30
POWER & ENERGY	101.84	102.63	1,940,477	222,331	129	89.70	1.20
PLANTATIONS	766.94	735.74	16,224,807	1,812,448	1,416	32.10	0.80
STORES SUPPLIES	28,616.17	28,616.17	0	0	0	17.70	0.50
SERVICES	16,018.07	15,964.96	359,843	105,134	65	14.90	1.20
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	135.47	137.49	756,594	73,378	64	5.90	0.90
TRADING	11,417.65	11,551.45	444,656	57,333	60	52.40	0.70

GICS Industry Group Statistics

Industry Group	Price Index		Turnover			Sector	
	Today	Previous	Value (Rs)	Volume	Trades	P/E	PBV
Automobiles & Components	482.57	482.57	75,643	2,102	6	5.00	0.60
Banks	811.83	816.75	87,971,904	765,346	414	5.60	0.70
Capital Goods	835.19	836.53	633,032,700	5,547,536	395	11.00	0.80
Commercial & Professional Services	763.45	763.45	0	0	0	0.00	1.00
Consumer Durables & Apparel	806.82	814.73	4,090,148	287,056	232	42.00	1.10
Consumer Services	251.95	259.10	2,789,188	263,107	364	104.70	1.70
Diversified Financials	767.42	762.41	5,426,018	893,569	470	5.30	1.00
Energy	575.88	582.22	545,712	25,659	68	0.00	0.90
Food & Staples Retailing	1,223.55	1,244.20	74,147	17,759	12	22.20	2.10
Food, Beverage & Tobacco	925.29	928.91	31,891,202	4,098,106	1,943	16.50	2.80
Health Care Equipment & Services	864.61	866.86	492,038	31,412	63	16.40	1.80
Household & Personal Products	1,017.43	1,017.43	0	0	0	13.90	1.90
Insurance	2,149.36	2,177.70	16,098,690	237,550	335	3.90	1.70
Materials	535.46	537.59	5,578,705	161,786	237	8.70	1.00
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	1,807.58	1,807.58	7,150	12	6	5.20	1.40
Real Estate	745.24	743.17	1,430,036	86,526	73	5.30	0.60
Retailing	751.39	758.71	637,049	97,449	67	17.20	0.70
Technology Hardware & Equipment	0.00	-	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Telecommunication Services	707.82	718.36	756,594	73,378	68	5.90	0.90
Transportation	685.99	685.99	647,566	161,816	39	7.50	0.70
Utilities	728.51	730.65	1,394,765	196,672	62	10.20	0.70

Economic Indicators & Other Statistics

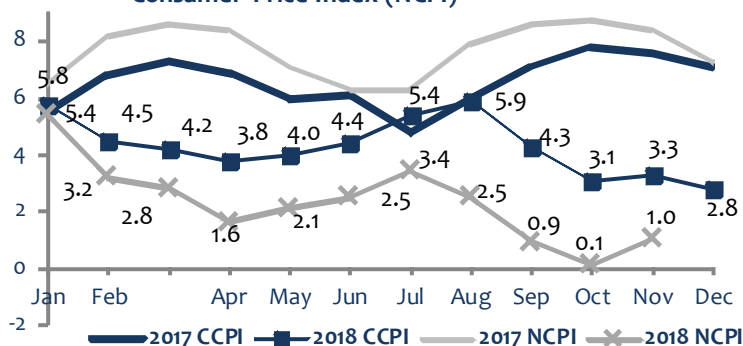
Exchange Rates

Currency	21st Jan		18th Jan	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
Dollar (USA)	179.55	183.42	179.79	183.66
Pound (UK)	229.87	237.22	232.24	239.66
Euro (EU)	202.97	210.05	203.58	210.68
Dollar (Australia)	127.41	132.77	128.14	133.52
Dollar (Canada)	134.50	139.44	134.53	139.46
Franc (Switzerland)	179.33	185.60	179.83	186.10
Renminbi (China)	26.13	27.37	26.21	27.44
Yen (Japan)	1.6275	1.6865	1.6342	1.6934
Dollar (Singapore)	131.56	135.99	131.98	136.41

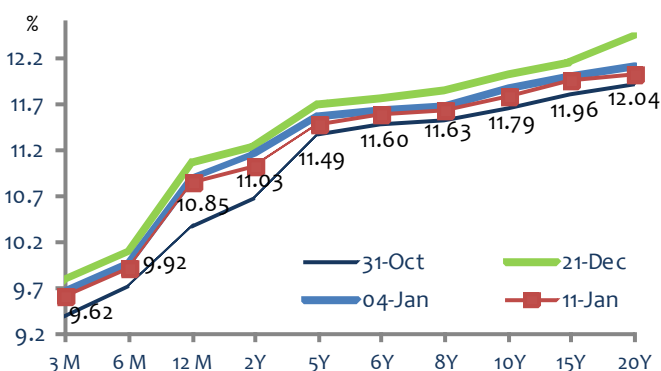
Indicative Rates

Currency	21st Jan	18th Jan
	Ind: Value	Ind: Value
Yuan (Offshore)	26.7501	26.8699
Rupee (India)	2.5508	2.5665
Won (Korean)	0.1616	0.1626
Dinar (Kuwait)	598.9536	601.6504
Ringgit (Malay)	44.1922	44.2935
Rial (Oman)	472.0042	473.4887
Riyal (Qatar)	49.7238	50.0644
Riyal (KSA)	48.4454	48.6042
Dirham (UAE)	49.4788	49.6337

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



Government Securities - Secondary Market Yield



Central Bank's Policy Rates

Description	Present	Previous		16.01.2019	09.01.2019	02.01.2019	19.12.2018
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	8.00%	7.25%	91 Days %	na	na	na	na
Standing Lending Facility (SLF)	9.00%	8.50%	182 Days %	9.87	9.94	9.95	9.99
Bank Rate	15.00%	15.00%	364 Days %	10.75	10.85	10.99	11.20
Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR)	6.00%	7.50%	Amount	26Bn	20Bn	18Bn	18Bn

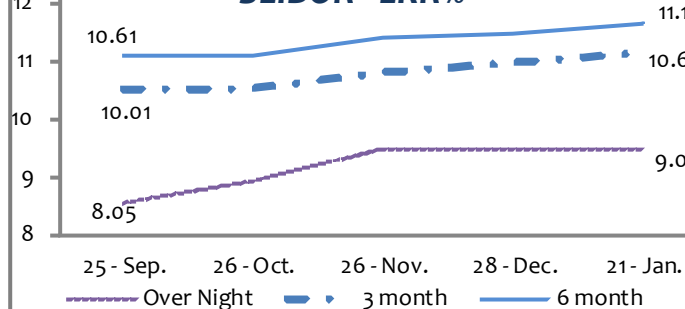
Treasury Bill Issuance

Date	13.12.2018	17.07.2016	11.01.2019	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	13.12.2018	11.01.2019	15.10.2018
Maturity	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Current Yield	11.88	11.14	11.58	11.21	10.32	12.23	11.73	11.90
Previous Auction	17.09.2018	15.06.2017	15.10.2018	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	02.01.2018	15.08.2018	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	10.03	11.37	11.69	11.38	10.53	10.06	10.20	10.88

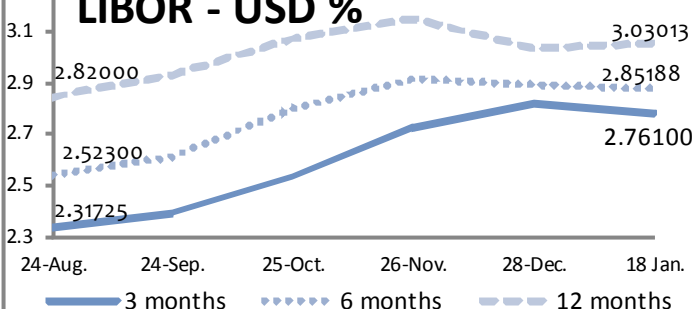
Treasury Bond Issuance

Date	13.12.2018	17.07.2016	11.01.2019	17.07.2016	17.09.2018	13.12.2018	11.01.2019	15.10.2018
Maturity	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	15 Years
Current Yield	11.88	11.14	11.58	11.21	10.32	12.23	11.73	11.90
Previous Auction	17.09.2018	15.06.2017	15.10.2018	15.06.2017	16.07.2018	02.01.2018	15.08.2018	16.07.2018
Previous Yield	10.03	11.37	11.69	11.38	10.53	10.06	10.20	10.88

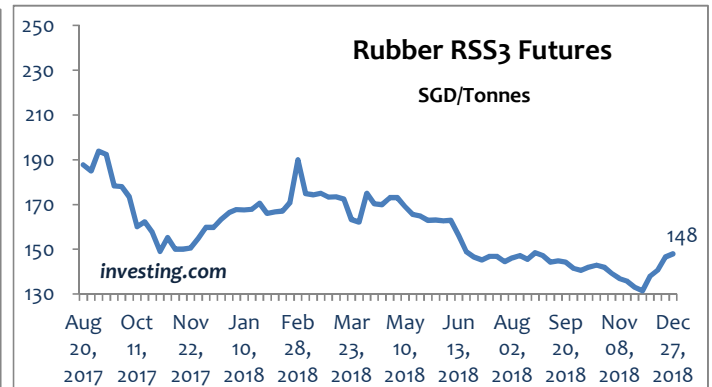
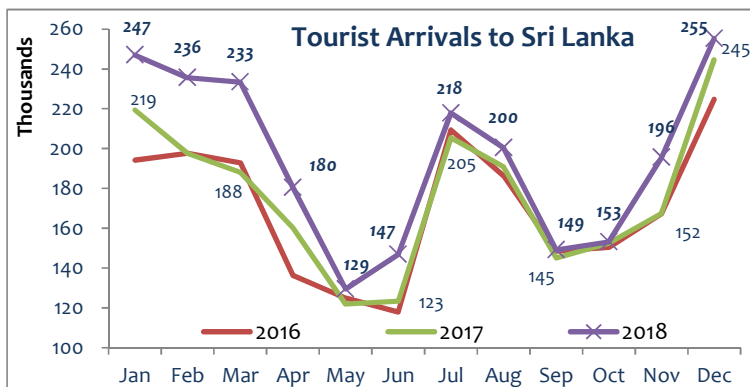
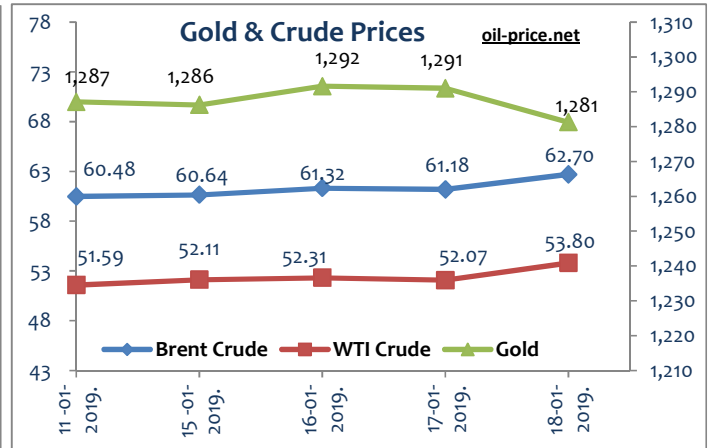
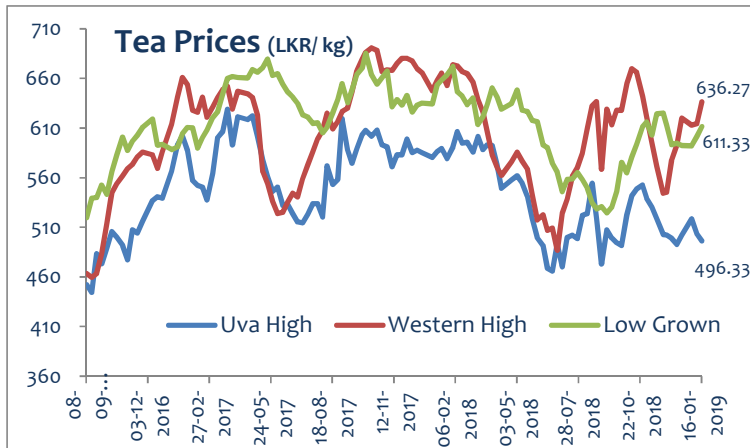
SLIBOR - LKR %



LIBOR - USD %



Economic Indicators & Other Statistics



Local News

EIU forecasts SL's growth to be below 5%

The influential Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) is forecasting a growth rate of below 5% for Sri Lanka over the next five years, though it expects a pickup in 2019 in comparison to last year. In its latest Country Report, released recently, the EIU said an unstable political environment will keep investor sentiment towards Sri Lanka negative in 2019. It expects investment to expand by just 3.5% in 2019, unchanged from its estimated level of growth in 2018, an unusually weak year. Exports, it said, will grow more strongly during the second half of the forecast period and will be supported by increased demand from major markets such as the US and the EU. The EIU expects the rupee to average 182 against the dollar in 2019, compared with an estimated 162.4 in 2018. On inflation, the EIU expects consumer prices to rise by an average of 5.2% in 2019, compared with an estimated increase of 4.4% in 2018. **(ft.lk)**

Tourism achieves \$ 4.4b revenue target for 2018

Sri Lanka has earned over \$ 4 billion from tourism this year with a steadily increased revenue of 11.6% compared to 2017, according to the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority. The data suggests that an average duration of stay per person is 11 days in Sri Lanka, while average daily expenditure is \$ 174, amounting to approximately \$ 2000 during their entire stay. The Industry expectations for 2019 are 3 million tourist arrivals and revenue of \$ 5 billion with Lonely Planet naming Sri Lanka as the number one destination to travel in 2019. India, China and Britain have managed to remain as the leading markets throughout the year in 2018 as well. **(ft.lk)**

Port City to become catalyst for banking sector to reach Rs.30tn in assets by 2025

The Colombo Port City (CPC) will attract foreign banks to set up their operations in Sri Lanka, paving the way for the country's banking sector's asset base to more than double to Rs.30 trillion by 2025, former Central Bank Deputy Governor and newly appointed Deputy Secretary General of National Economic Council (NEC), C.J.P. Siriwardana said. The Colombo International Financial Centre (CIFC) located at the CPC is expected to be launched in 2023. Siriwardana stressed that high-tech and CIFC will shape up the future of Sri Lanka's banking sector. **(dailymirror.lk)**

Foreign News

Asia keeps calm as China cools, Brexit news awaited

Asian markets kept their nerve on Monday as data showed the Chinese economy slowed at the end of last year, underlining the urgent need for more stimulus as Beijing wrestles with the United States over trade. Investors are also waiting to hear British Prime Minister Theresa May's 'Plan B' for Brexit which is due to be presented to parliament later on Monday. The world's second-largest economy grew 6.4 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, as had been expected and matching levels last seen in early 2009 during the global financial crisis. Yet there were some bright spots with industrial output rising a surprisingly strong 5.7 percent, while retail sales rose 8.2 percent in December, from a year earlier. Markets reacted calmly, with MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS up 0.2 percent, after rising 1.6 percent last week. Chinese blue chips .CSI300 gained 0.7 percent. Japan's Nikkei .N225 added 0.3 percent, helped by a recent pullback in the yen. The Australian dollar AUD=D, often used a liquid proxy for China investments, nudged up to \$0.7167. Over in Britain, May will return to parliament on Monday to set out how she plans to try to break the Brexit deadlock after her deal was rejected by lawmakers last week. May told ministers on Sunday she was looking for ways to make the so-called Northern Irish backstop more acceptable to her Conservative Party and Northern Irish allies. The dollar held firm on the yen at 109.61 JPY=, while the euro was near the floor of its recent trading range at \$1.1375 EUR=. Against a basket of currencies, the dollar was a shade softer at 96.295 .DXY. In commodity markets, spot gold XAU= was steady at \$1,281.79 per ounce. Oil prices extended their rally after OPEC detailed specifics on its production-cut activity to ease global oversupply. Brent crude LCOc1 rose 24 cents to \$62.94 a barrel. U.S. crude futures CLc1 gained 23 cents to \$54.03 a barrel. (reuters.com)

Oil reaches 2019-high on strong China crude use, but economic slowdown looms

Crude prices rose to their highest so far in 2019 on Monday after data showed refinery processing in China, the world's second-largest oil consumer, climbed to a record last year despite a slowing economy. International Brent crude oil futures LCOc1 were at \$62.75 per barrel at 0747 GMT, up 5 cents, or 0.1 percent, from their last close. Brent earlier rose above \$63 for the first time in 2019. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 were at \$53.87 a barrel, up 7 cents, or 0.1 percent. WTI earlier advanced above \$54 a barrel for the first time this year. Traders said the price rises came after data released by China's National Bureau of Statistics on Monday showed crude oil refinery throughput climbed to a record 603.57 million tonnes in 2018, or 12.1 million barrels per day (bpd), up 6.8 percent from the previous year. The strong oil demand figures came despite China's 2018 economic growth slowing to the weakest in 28 years, at 6.6 percent versus 6.8 percent in 2017. Although the slowdown was in line with expectations and not as sharp as some analysts had expected, the cooling of the world's No.2 economy casts a shadow over global growth. (reuters.com)

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