MONTHLY TEA NEWS BULLETIN

JUNE 2026

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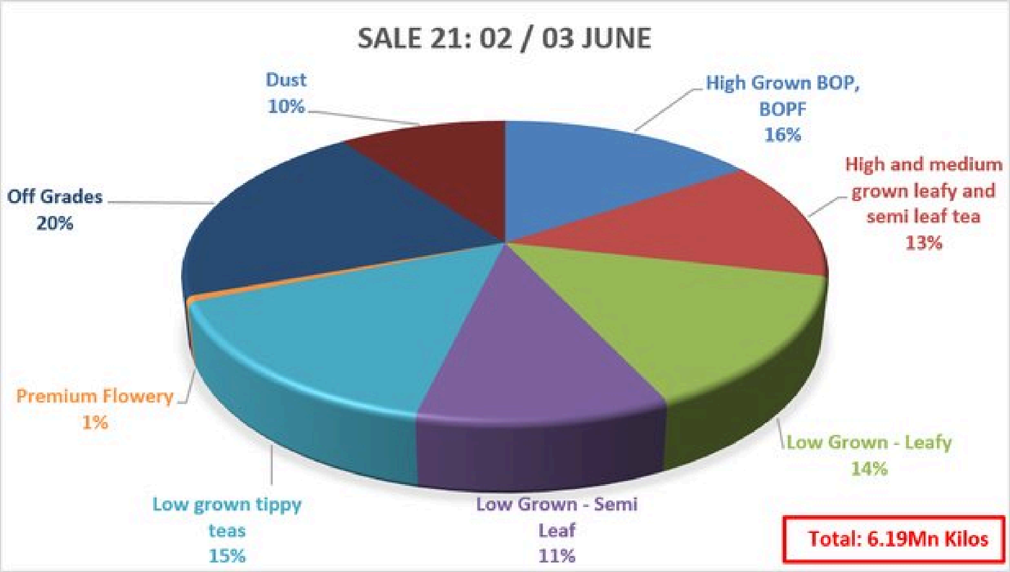

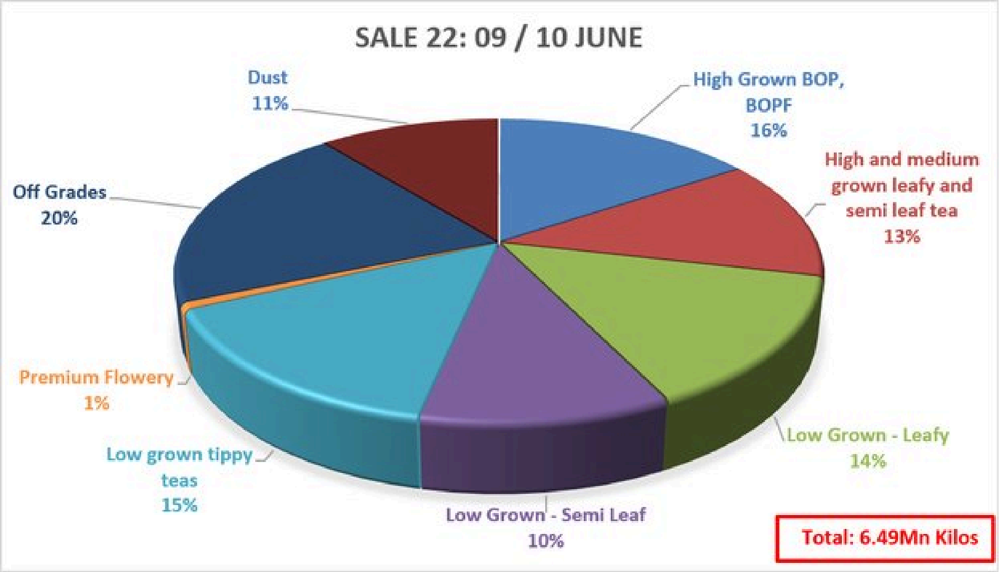

Colombo Auction Statistics

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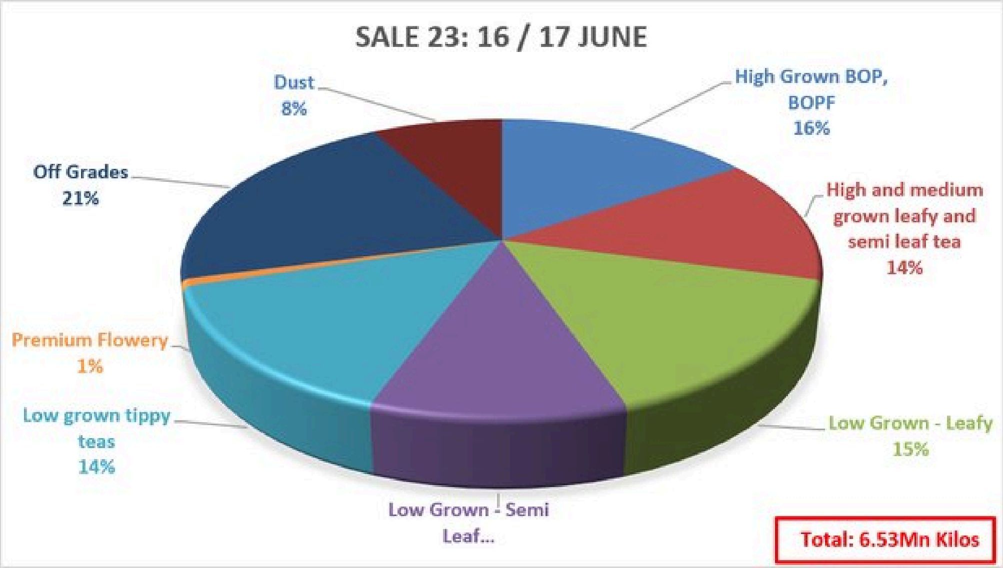
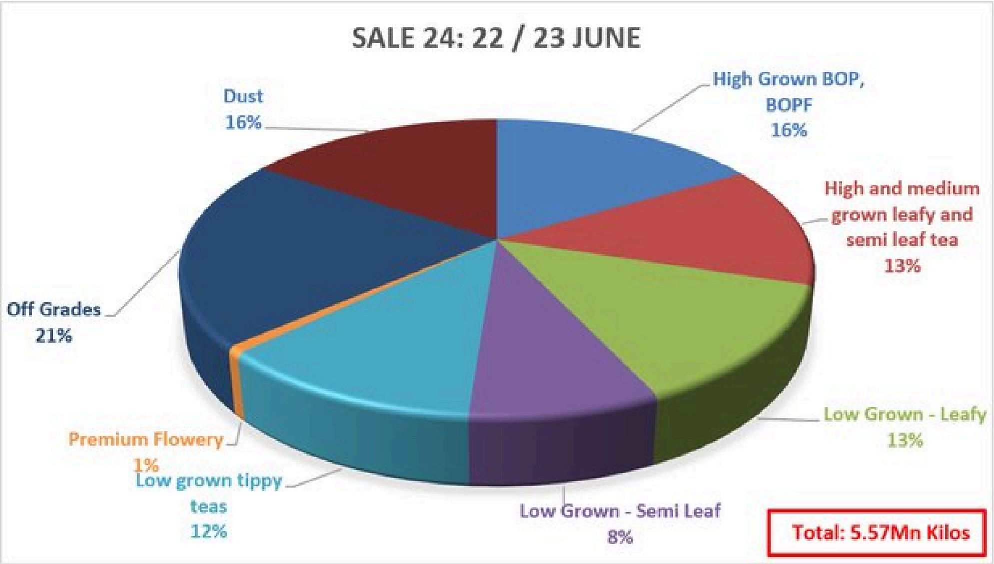
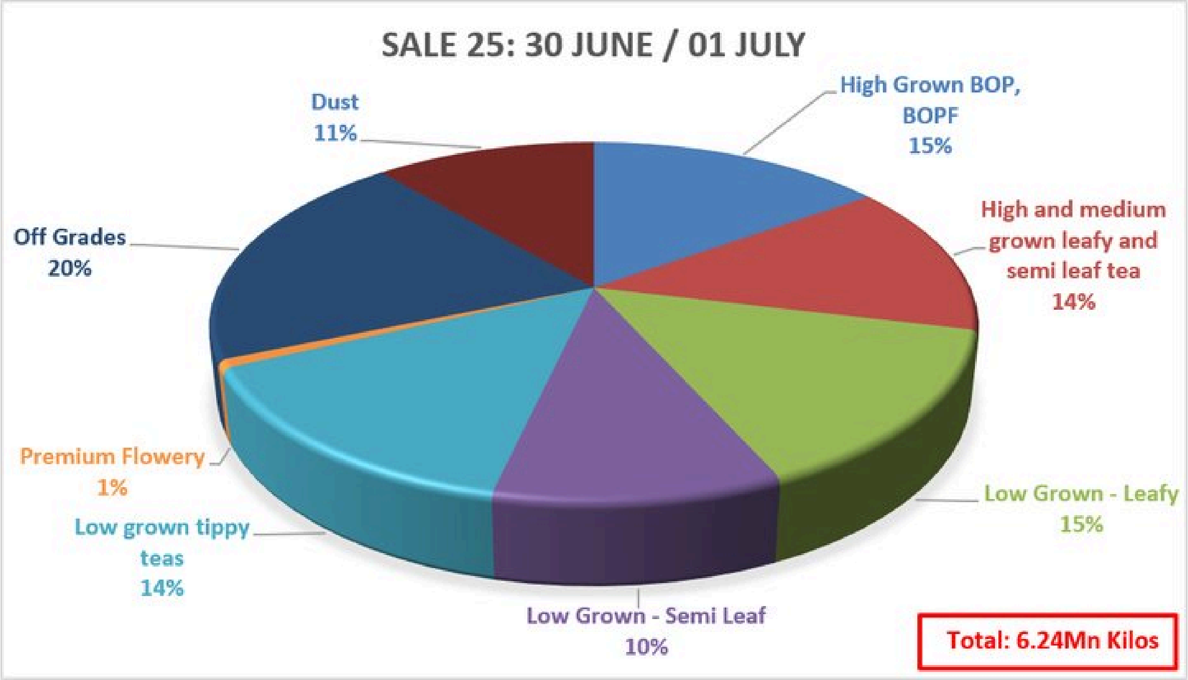




Colombo Auction Statistics

CEYLON TEA WEEKLY MOVEMENT AT AUCTIONS – JUNE/JULY 2026



Mombasa Auction Statistics

COMBINED MARKET REPORT

Mombasa Tea Auction

East African CTC & Orthodox Tea — Weekly Sales Bulletin

JUNE 2026 · SALES 22-26

Five auction sales · Consistent volume offered throughout the month

MARKET AVERAGE	TOTAL OFFERED	SOLD RATIO	LEADING SUPPLIER	MARKET TREND
220 USC/Kg	**60.5** M Kgs	**~82%**	**Kenya**	**Stable to Slightly Easier**
▲ +14.6% vs June 2025	≈12.1M Kgs / week	Quality teas: excellent absorption	Over 80% of total supply	

YEAR-ON-YEAR — JUNE 2025 VS 2026

Quantity offered

	Quantity offered
2025	40.3M Kgs
2026	60.5M Kgs

Average price

	Average price
2025	192 USC/Kg
2026	220 USC/Kg

+28 USC/Kg · +14.6%

COUNTRY-WISE SUPPLY SHARE

Kenya	Largest · 80%+
Uganda	2nd largest
Rwanda	Premium quality
Tanzania	Small volumes
Burundi	Limited offerings
Malawi	Minimal qty

Rwanda commands the highest average prices market-wide, ahead of Kenya on quality premium.

SALE-BY-SALE PERFORMANCE — UNSOLD %

22	Selective demand; flavory & brighter teas traded easier	24.6% UNSOLD
23	Improved enquiry; most teas absorbed at firm to easier rates	~16% UNSOLD
24	Stable market; improved absorption across most grades	~16% UNSOLD
25	Good demand, lower outlots; quality teas remained firm	~14% UNSOLD
26	Selective demand returned; slight easing in several grades	~18% UNSOLD

Unsold levels eased sharply after Sale 22, bottomed mid-month, then edged back up as buying turned cautious into month-end.

PRICE MOVEMENT BY GRADE

- PF1 Firm
- D1 Firm
- PF Firm
- Dust Firm
- Fannings Firm
- BP1 Firm/Easier
- PD Firm/Easier
- BP Mixed
- Orthodox Selective

CROP & WEATHER — KENYA

CROP

- Good green leaf availability, steady factory intakes
- Normal harvesting through most of June
- Volumes declining late-month with onset of pruning
- Further moderation expected in July

WEATHER

- East of Rift: cold, cloudy, light showers
- West of Rift: sunny mornings, scattered rain
- Good soil moisture supported crop overall
- Cooler month-end temps trimmed leaf intake

OUTLOOK | June closed **stable and resilient**, with consistent buyer participation and firm demand for quality CTC teas lifting the monthly average to **~220 USC/Kg** — well above June 2025. **Kenya** remained the dominant supplier while **Rwanda** held the highest average prices. With seasonal pruning and cooler weather set to trim July output, the outlook stays **cautiously optimistic** for well-manufactured teas.

Ceylon Tea News

- Government Launches 'Ceylon Tea Village' Programme
- Turkey Emerges as the Largest Buyer of Ceylon Tea
- Ceylon Tea Gains Exposure in China
- Tea Prices Ease Amid Soft Market Conditions

Government Launches ‘Ceylon Tea Village’ Programme

The Government launched the “Ceylon Tea Village” programme to strengthen Sri Lanka’s smallholder tea sector while supporting ambitious industry targets of 400 million kilograms of finished tea production and export earnings of USD 2.5 billion by 2030. The initiative aims to establish 500 tea villages nationwide, with the first phase covering 144 villages across 14 districts.

The programme focuses on increasing green leaf yields, improving farmer incomes, promoting value-added tea products, encouraging sustainable cultivation practices, and integrating tea-related tourism. Authorities expect the initiative to enhance both the quality and quantity of tea production while improving the livelihoods of small tea growers.

Turkey Emerges as the Largest Buyer of Ceylon Tea

Sri Lanka’s tea exports recorded a strong recovery in May 2026, rising 7.5% year-on-year to 23.5 million kilograms, driven by increased demand for bulk tea, packeted tea, and tea bags. Despite the monthly improvement, cumulative exports for the first five months of the year remained slightly below 2025 levels due to continued supply constraints and lower tea production.

Turkey strengthened its position as Sri Lanka’s largest tea export destination, importing nearly 15 million kilograms during the January–May period, surpassing Iraq. Russia, Azerbaijan, and China remained among the leading markets, highlighting the continued resilience of global demand for Ceylon Tea despite challenging supply conditions

Ceylon Tea Gains Exposure in China

Sri Lanka showcased Ceylon Tea at the China–South Asia Expo 2026 in Kunming, one of the region's largest trade exhibitions connecting South Asia with Chinese markets. Ten Sri Lankan tea companies participated, promoting orthodox and specialty teas through tasting sessions, consumer engagement activities, and business meetings.

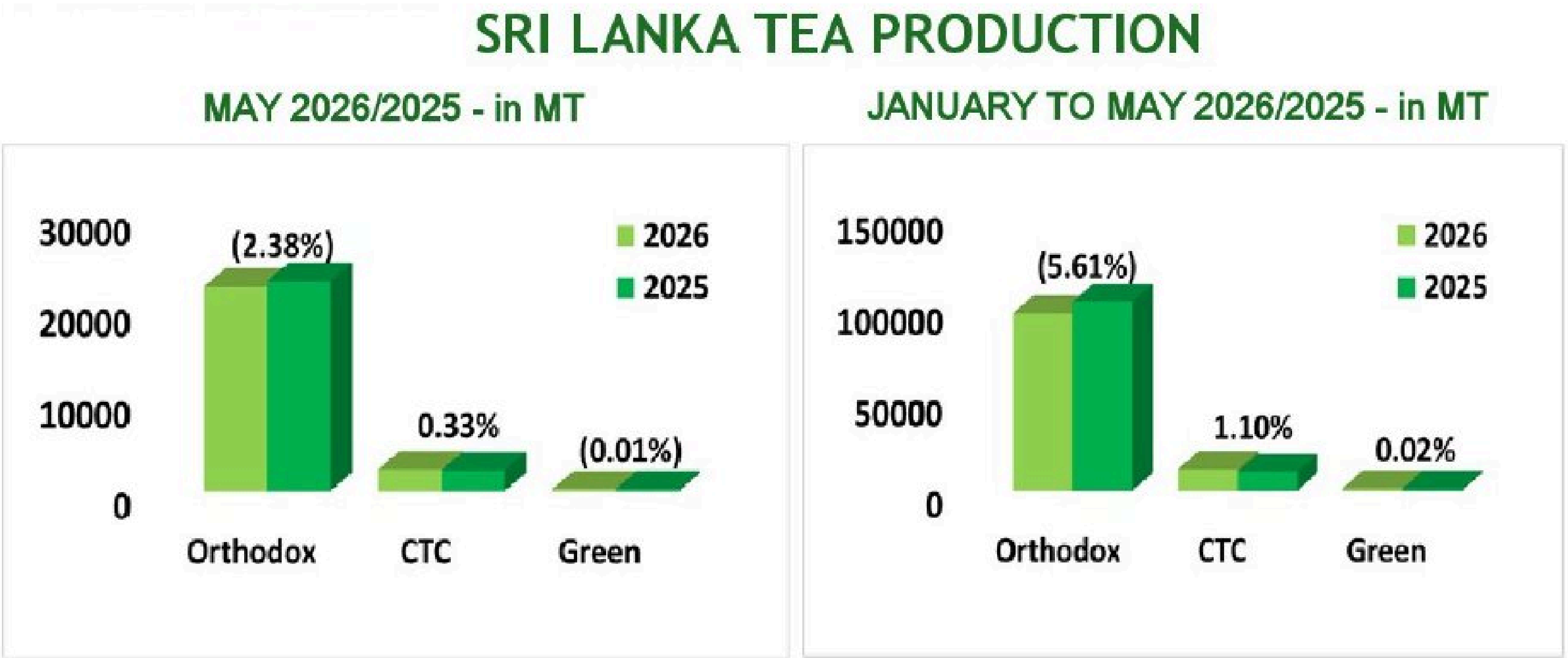
The event attracted significant trade interest and strengthened Sri Lanka's position as a premium tea origin in China. Participation also formed part of broader efforts to expand market access and increase the visibility of Ceylon Tea in one of the world's largest consumer markets.

Tea Prices Ease in June Amid Soft Market Conditions

Sri Lanka's tea auction market softened in June 2026, with the national tea sale average declining by Rs. 31 to Rs. 1,153.49 per kilogram from Rs. 1,184.56 in May. High Grown teas recorded the sharpest decline, falling to Rs. 1,049 per kilogram, while Low Grown teas remained the best-performing category at Rs. 1,259 per kilogram despite a slight drop.

Despite weaker month-on-month performance, tea prices remained above June 2025 levels, with the national average approximately Rs. 50 higher year-on-year. For the first half of 2026, the cumulative auction average reached Rs. 1,162 per kilogram, slightly above the corresponding period last year, although softer export demand and challenges in key international markets continued to weigh on overall market sentiment.

Sri Lankan Tea Production

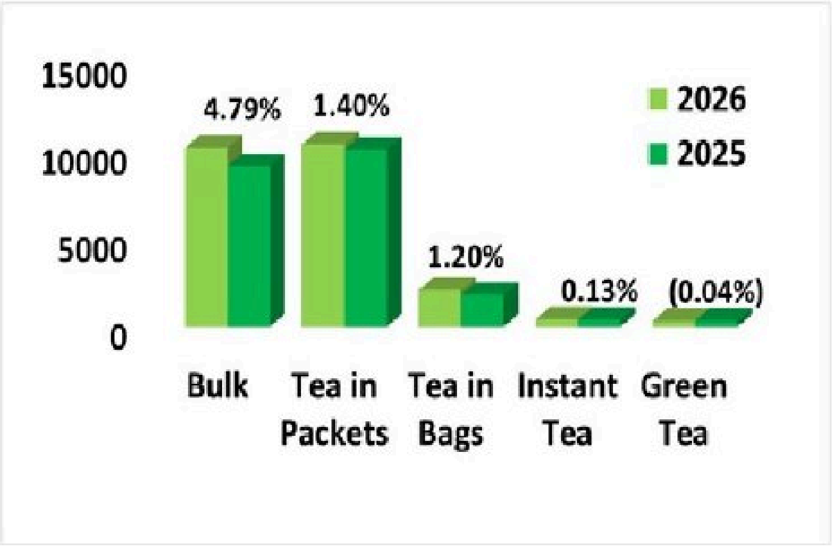


(SLTB)

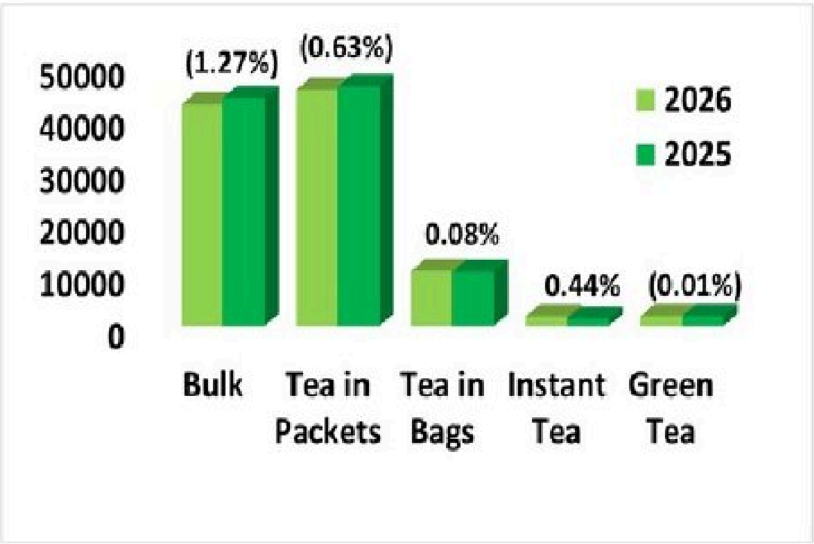
Sri Lankan Tea Exports

SRI LANKA TEA EXPORTS

MAY 2026/2025 - in MT

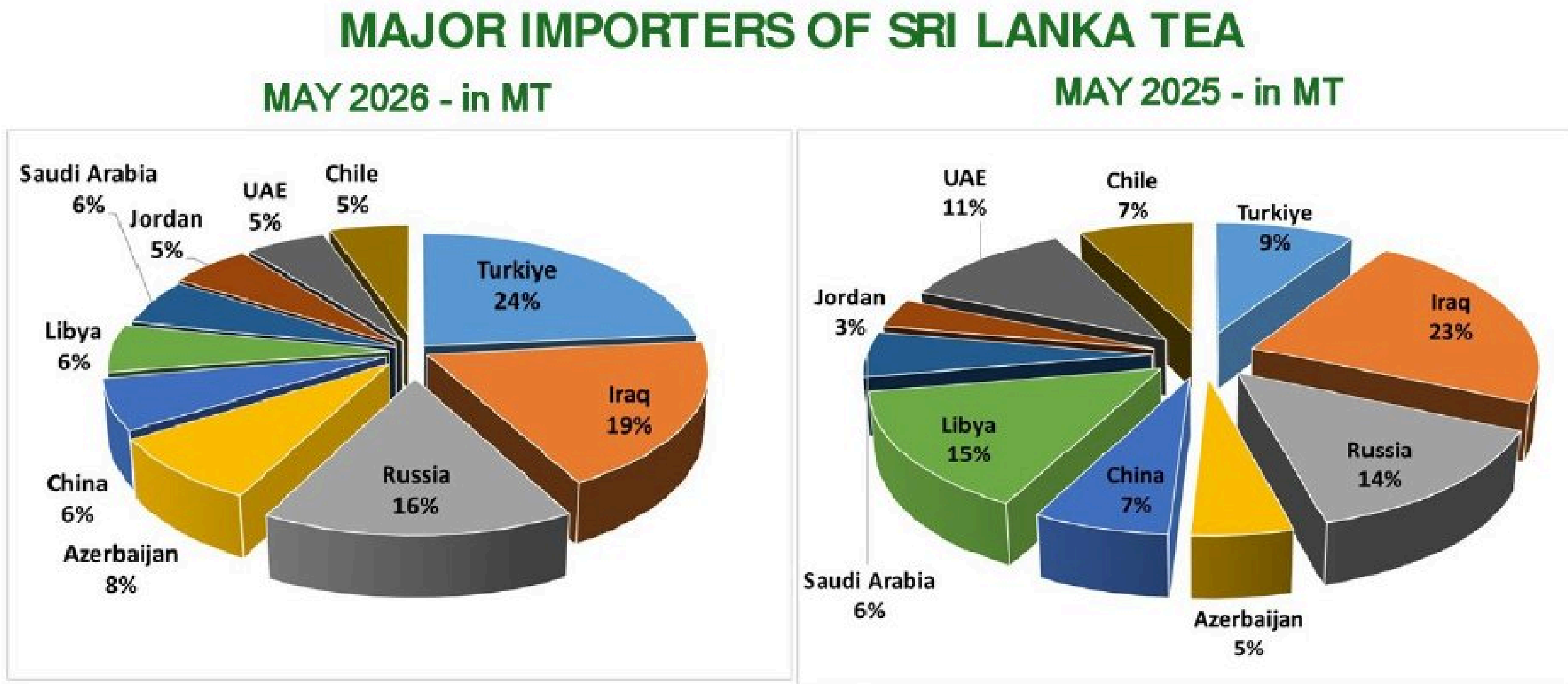


JANUARY TO MAY 2026/2025 - in MT



(SL Customs - Courtesy Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd)

Major Importers of Ceylon Tea



(SL Customs - Courtesy Forbes & Walker Tea Brokers (Pvt) Ltd)

Global Tea News

- Kenya's Tea Exports Expand Despite Market Challenges
- Kenya Seeks Chinese Investment for Value Addition
- Pakistan Strengthens Position in Global Tea Trade
- Geopolitical Tensions Continue to Shape Tea Trade Routes

Kenya's Tea Exports Expand Despite Market Challenges

Kenya's tea exports grew by 6% during the first quarter of 2026, reaching 144.5 million kilograms, supported by strong demand from Pakistan, Egypt, the United Kingdom, and Yemen. Pakistan remained the country's largest buyer, importing a record 56.5 million kilograms and accounting for nearly 40% of total exports, reinforcing its critical role in Kenya's tea industry.

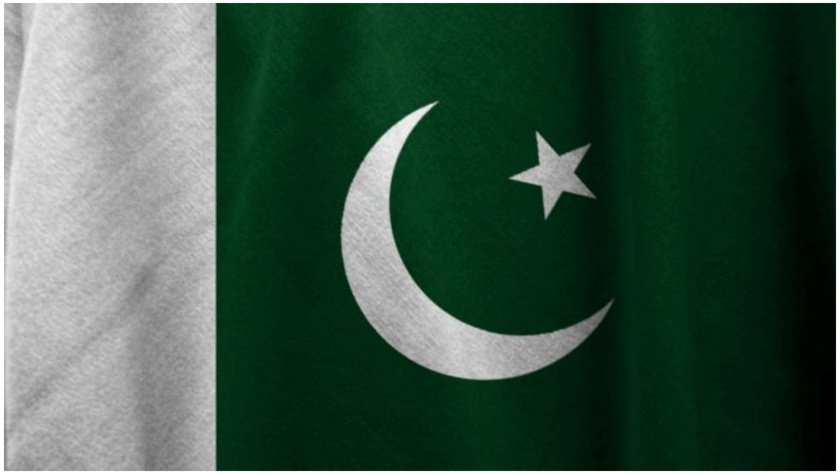
However, growth was offset by sharp declines in several traditional markets due to geopolitical and trade-related challenges. Exports to Sudan fell by 69% following trade restrictions, while shipments to Jordan and China also declined significantly. The changing trade landscape highlights both the resilience of Kenya's tea sector and the growing impact of geopolitical developments on global tea trade flows and market access.

Kenya Seeks Chinese Investment for Value Addition

Kenya is intensifying efforts to attract Chinese investment into tea processing, packaging, and manufacturing as part of a strategy to move beyond bulk tea exports and capture greater value within the country. Industry leaders highlighted opportunities in local processing, branding, and packaging, while noting that several Chinese firms have already established a presence in Kenya's tea value chain and are introducing processing technologies tailored to Chinese consumer preferences.

The initiative builds on strengthening trade ties between Kenya and China, including zero-tariff access for Kenyan tea exports to the Chinese market. Authorities expect increased investment in value addition and manufacturing to boost export earnings, diversify export destinations, create jobs, and position Kenya as a more competitive player in the global tea industry.

Pakistan Strengthens Position in Global Tea Trade

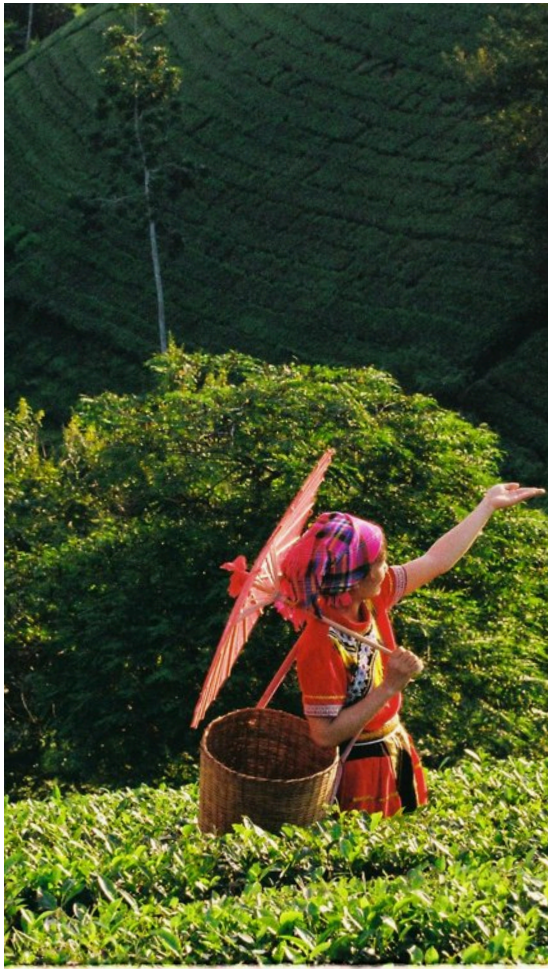


Pakistan continued to strengthen its position as one of the world's most important tea-importing markets in 2026, with Kenyan tea exports to the country reaching a record 56.5 million kilograms during the first quarter. Pakistan accounted for nearly 40% of Kenya's total tea exports, further reinforcing its status as the backbone of Kenya's tea trade and one of the largest buyers of black tea globally.

The sustained demand reflects Pakistan's strong tea-drinking culture and limited domestic production capacity, making it heavily reliant on imports. Kenya currently supplies around 70% of Pakistan's tea imports, underscoring the depth of the trade relationship. For major tea-producing countries such as Kenya and Sri Lanka, the Pakistani market remains a critical source of export earnings and an important driver of long-term demand growth in the global tea industry.

Geopolitical Tensions Continue to Shape Tea Trade Routes

Conflicts and diplomatic disputes across parts of the Middle East and Africa continued to reshape global tea trade patterns during 2026. While some traditional markets recorded steep declines in imports, others such as Egypt and Yemen posted strong growth, with exporters adapting to changing trade routes and shifting regional demand. In Kenya, exports to Sudan fell sharply following trade restrictions, while Yemen emerged as one of the fastest-growing destinations, reflecting the impact of evolving geopolitical and shipping dynamics.



The changing trade landscape highlights the growing importance of market diversification for tea-exporting countries. Exporters are increasingly focusing on expanding their presence in alternative markets and strengthening supply chain resilience to reduce reliance on a small number of destinations. Industry observers note that flexibility, diversified market access, and the ability to respond quickly to geopolitical disruptions are becoming critical factors in sustaining export growth and competitiveness in the global tea trade

Decaf Tea Range

All the Flavor. None of the Caffeine.

Available in Black, Green & Jasmine Flavoured Tea · 20 Enveloped Tea Bags Pack

- **Naturally decaffeinated at origin**
- **100% Pure Ceylon tea**
- **Rich in antioxidants**
- **Good for You. Good Anytime.**

Premium Grade Matcha By Mabroc

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- **100% Pure Matcha**
- **Pure & Natural - absolutely no additives**
- **Flavour Profile: Smooth, Vibrant & Balanced**
- **Made from shade-grown green tea leaves, finely ground to perfection**

PACKAGING & AVAILABILITY

- **Retail Pack: 50g (1.76 oz)**
- **Master Carton: 24 packs/case**
- **Available for Order-Taking: From 15th July 2026**

Upcoming Trade Fair Participations

- ***Malaysian International Food & Beverage Trade Fair - Malaysia***

  15th to 17th July 2026

  Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

- ***Hong Kong International Tea Fair - Hong Kong***

  13th to 15th August 2026

  Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Annfield Estate

Refreshing in every sense.

"An Enormous Price for Ceylon Tea" said The Pall Mall Budget of March 13th 1891. 'Unusual excitement prevailed on Tuesday in Mincing Lane, on the offering by Messrs Gow, Wilson and Stanton, tea-brokers, in public auction, of a small lot of Ceylon tea...This tea possesses extraordinary quality in liquor, and is composed almost entirely of small 'golden tips', which are the extreme ends of the small succulent shoots of the plant, and the preparation of such tea, is, of course, most costly...The bidding which was pretty general to start with, commenced with an offer of £1.1s per 1lb...the tea ultimately knocked down to the 'Mazawatte Ceylon Tea Company' at the most extraordinary and unprecedented price of £10.12s per 1lb.'

The Planter behind this "small lot of Ceylon Tea" was T. C Anderson who was the Agent of Annfield Estate, Hatton in the late 19th Century.

Home to one of the most northerly remnants of the mighty tropical forests that once covered 80% of these highlands, nestling at the foot of the steep slopes of the Bogawanthalawa valley, Annfield is a quiet glen dotted with tea fields, cypress trees and rows of roadside marigolds dancing in the soft breeze, under a vast, changing sky. Here is a charming wilderness of austere rock-hewn landscapes, of windswept summits.

Planting Region	Elevation (Meters Above Sea Level)	Distance from Colombo (Commercial Hub to Plantation)(Km)	Total Cultivation Extent (Ha.)	Vegetatively Propagated Tea Area (Ha.)
Dimbula	1310	141	328.84	184

Seedling Tea Area (Ha.)	Annual Crop of Green Leaf (Kg)	Annual Made Tea Quantity (Kg/MT)	Grades of Tea Produced
34.5	3,148,700	724,200	BOP, BOPF, PEKOE, DUST1

Our Plantations

Sri Lankan Economy

- Economy in Brief
- Transforming Sri Lanka into a Competitive Export Hub: An Overview of the National Export Development Plan
- Credit Supply Survey Q1 Performance and Q2 Outlook in 2026

Economy in Brief

Sri Lanka's Central Bank cuts exporter dollar conversion time to 30 days

In June 2026, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka introduced a new foreign exchange regulation requiring both direct and indirect exporters to convert any residual export earnings held in foreign currency into Sri Lankan rupees within 30 days, compared to the previous 90-day period. Exporters must complete the conversion by the 10th day of the following month. The policy aims to increase the supply of foreign currency in the domestic banking system, improve foreign exchange liquidity, and support the stability of the Sri Lankan rupee. By ensuring a more regular flow of export proceeds into the banking sector, the measure is expected to ease access to foreign exchange for importers and strengthen overall macroeconomic stability. However, the shorter conversion period reduces exporters' flexibility in managing foreign currency holdings and limits their ability to benefit from favorable exchange rate movements.

Transforming Sri Lanka into a Competitive Export Hub: An Overview of the National Export Development Plan

The National Export Development Plan (NEDP) 2026–2030 aims to make exports the main driver of Sri Lanka's economic growth, targeting USD 36 billion in exports by 2030. The plan focuses on expanding and diversifying exports, strengthening logistics and trade facilitation, improving market access, and promoting investment and innovation. Key growth sectors include apparel, digital services, electronics, marine industries, processed foods, and spices. By addressing challenges such as limited export diversification and weak integration into global value chains, the NEDP seeks to build a more competitive, resilient, and export-oriented economy.

Credit Supply Survey Q1 Performance and Q2 Outlook in 2026

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka's Credit Supply Survey for Q1 2026 shows improved banking sector sentiment, with stronger willingness to lend compared to Q4 2025, supported by stable interest rates and better macroeconomic conditions. Lending activity increased across retail, corporate, and SME sectors, while SOE lending declined slightly. Loan demand also rose across all segments, driven by higher consumer borrowing especially housing loans, pawning, and vehicle leasing and stronger business expansion and working capital needs. Non-performing loans declined across sectors, indicating improved credit quality, although retail and SME loan rejections rose due to repayment capacity concerns and collateral constraints. Looking ahead to Q2 2026, banks expect further but slower growth in lending, with continued caution due to external geopolitical risks despite an overall positive outlook.

Economy in Brief

Economic Growth

5% For the year 2026

Despite external turbulence stemming from tariffs imposed by the United States, heightened geopolitical uncertainty, and the disruptive impact of Cyclone Ditwah, the economy recorded a strong growth rate.

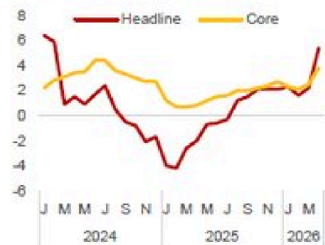
Movement of Purchasing Managers' Index- April 2026

Manufacturing PMI	42.6
Services PMI	46.7
Construction PMI (Mar)	57.1

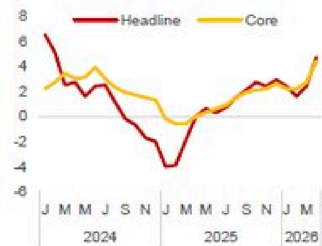
All indices recorded a decline compared to the previous month.

Inflation

CCPI Inflation (%)-*Base 2021*



NCPI Inflation (%)-*Base 2021*



	Headline	Core
April 2026 (CCPI)	5.4%	3.8%
April 2026 (NCPI)	4.7%	4.4%

External Sector

Merchandise Trade
March 2026

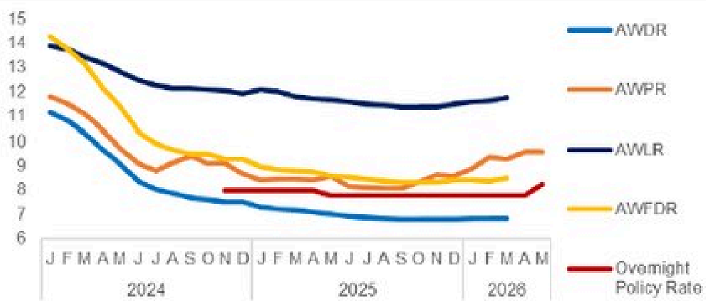
Trade Deficit	USD 880 mn	
Exports	USD 1,254 mn	1% y-o-y growth
Imports	USD 2,134 mn	30.3% y-o-y growth
Services Net Exports	USD 227 mn	-42.4% y-o-y increase

Tourist Arrivals April 2026 — 135,643 — -22.3% y-o-y growth

Tourism Earnings April 2026 — USD 157.1mn — -19.4% y-o-y decline

Workers' Remittances April 2026 — USD 767.9mn — 24.5% y-o-y growth

Interest Rates



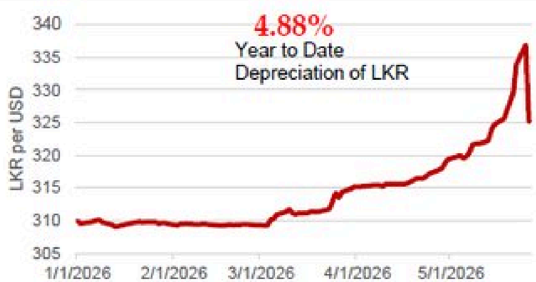
Growth in Credit to Private Sector

Mar 2026

13.8%

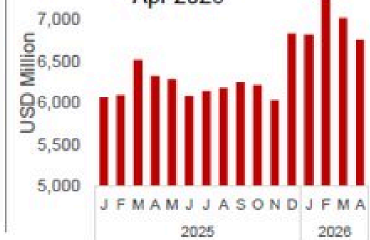
Overnight Policy Interest Rate (OPR): 8.75%

Exchange Rate



Official Reserves

USD 6.76 Bn
Apr 2026

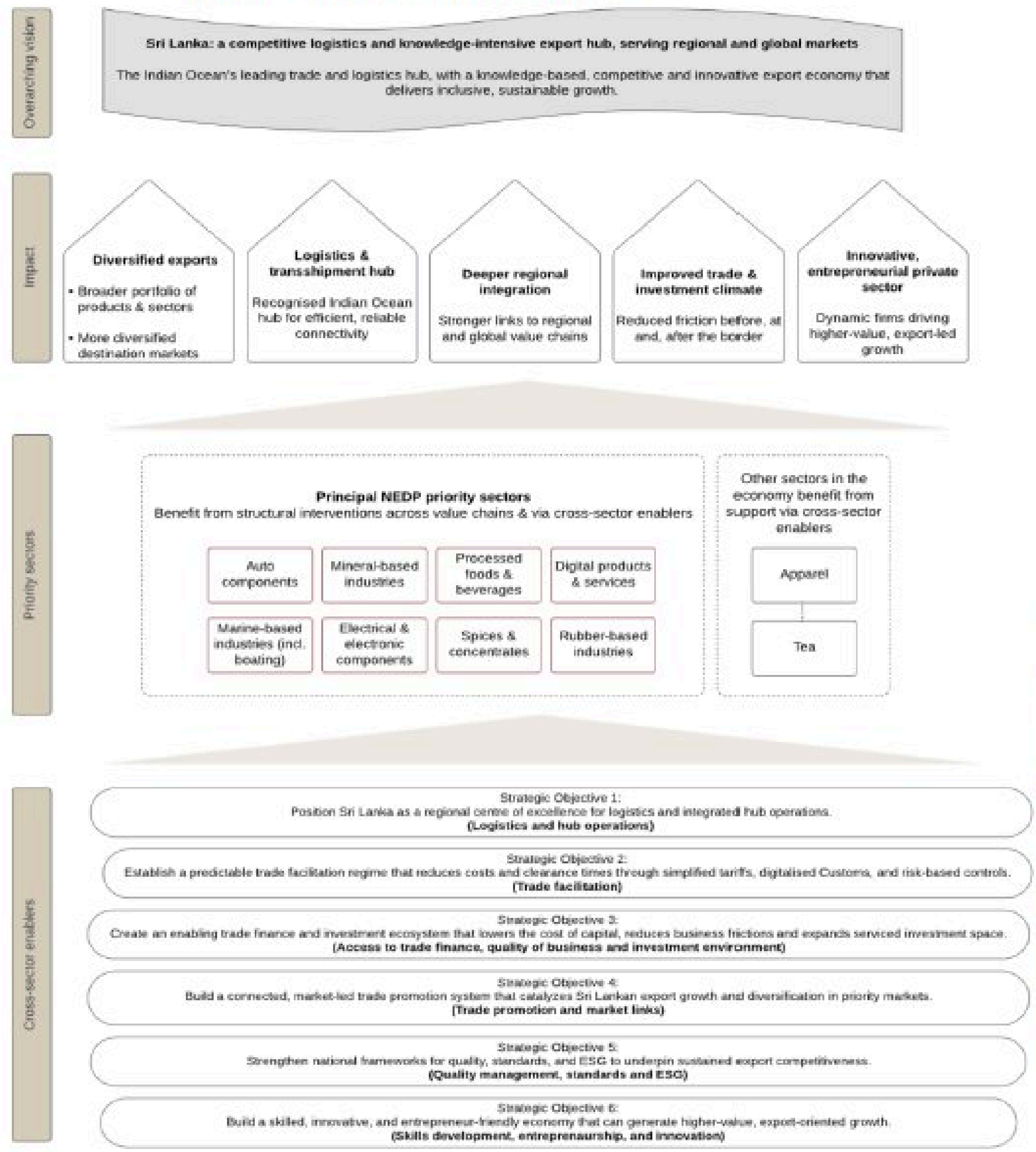


Transforming Sri Lanka into a Competitive Export Hub: An Overview of the National Export Development Plan

Sri Lanka's National Export Development Plan (NEDP) 2026–2030 aims to make exports the primary driver of economic growth and resilience, targeting total exports of USD 36 billion by 2030, including USD 28 billion in merchandise exports and over USD 8 billion in services exports. The strategy seeks to diversify the export base, strengthen integration into global value chains, and position Sri Lanka as a regional logistics and services hub by leveraging its strategic location, skilled workforce, strong apparel sector, growing IT industry, and globally recognized products such as tea, spices, gems, and tourism.

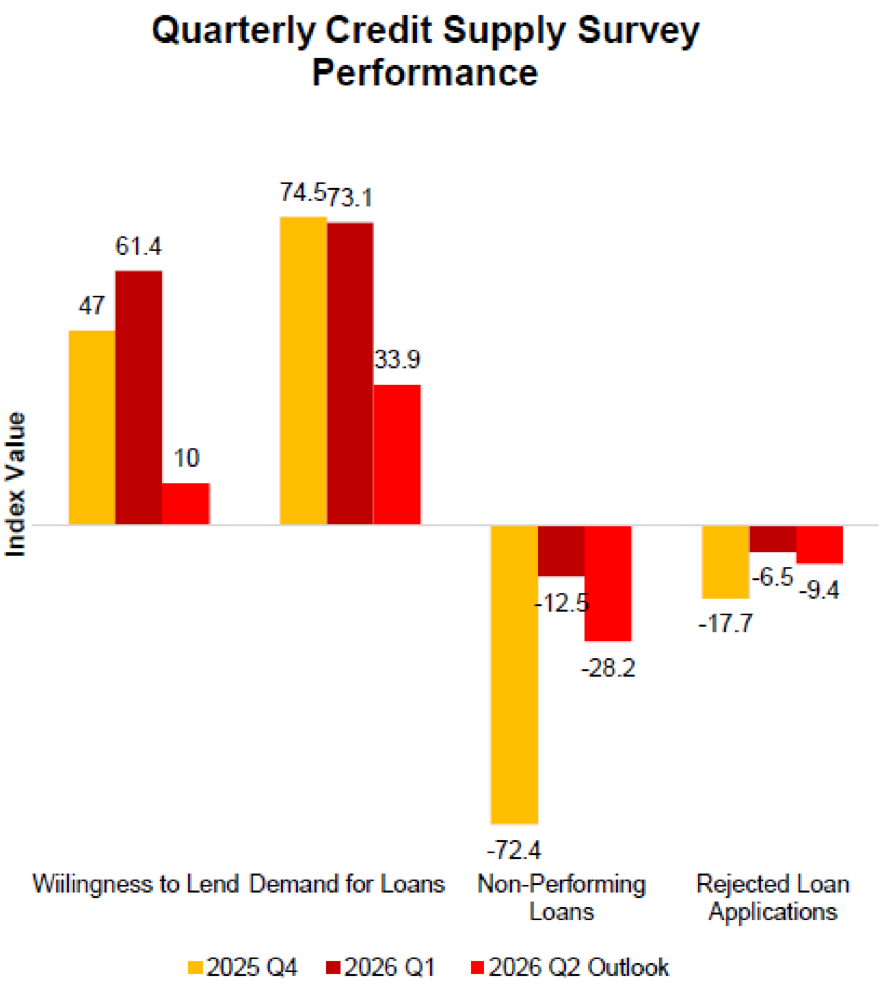
The plan focuses on improving logistics, trade facilitation, market access, investment, quality standards, and innovation while supporting emerging sectors such as electronics, boat building, digital services, processed foods, and auto components. Recognizing challenges including limited export diversification, infrastructure gaps, and restricted access to trade finance, particularly for SMEs, the NEDP promotes trade digitalization, implementation of the National Single Window, expanded trade agreements, and greater market penetration in ASEAN, Africa, and the Middle East to build a more competitive and resilient export economy.

NEDP Strategic Framework



Source: National Export Development Plan 2026-2030

Credit Supply Survey Q1 Performance and Q2 Outlook in 2026



Data Source: CBSL

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka's Credit Supply Survey for Q1 2026 showed a notable improvement in banking sector sentiment, supported by stable interest rates, improving economic conditions, and a more favorable business climate. Banks reported a greater willingness to lend across the retail, corporate, and SME sectors, while loan demand strengthened across the board. Demand was particularly strong for housing loans, vehicle leasing, business expansion, and new ventures, with SOE borrowing also recovering due to development projects and fuel-related financing requirements.

The survey further highlighted a decline in non-performing loans across all sectors, reflecting stronger repayment capacity and improving credit quality. While loan rejections fell in the corporate and SOE segments, some increase was seen among retail and SME borrowers due to repayment and collateral concerns. Looking ahead to Q2 2026, banks expect both lending activity and credit demand to continue growing, supported by rising consumer spending and business activity, although a cautious approach is likely to remain amid ongoing geopolitical and external economic uncertainties.

Global Economy

- Economy in Brief
- Gold Becomes the World’s Largest Reserve Asset
- Proposed US 12.5% Forced Labour Tariff and Implications for Sri Lanka
- Geopolitical De-escalation and the Repricing of Global Energy Markets: Implications of the U.S.–Iran Ceasefire

Economy in Brief

Proposed US 12.5% Forced Labour Tariff and Implications for Sri Lanka

The United States has proposed a new tariff framework under its Section 301 investigations that links market access to compliance with forced labour standards. Economies that have adopted forced labour import prohibitions would face a 10% tariff, while those considered to have inadequate measures would face a 12.5% tariff. Sri Lanka has been placed in the higher tariff category. If implemented, this could reduce the competitiveness of Sri Lankan exports, particularly in sectors such as apparel, textiles, and rubber products, where even small cost differences can influence buyer decisions. The proposal highlights the growing importance of supply chain transparency and labour compliance in international trade. Strengthening regulatory frameworks and traceability systems could help Sri Lanka maintain its reputation as a reliable and responsible sourcing destination.

Gold Becomes the World's Largest Reserve Asset

The June 2026 European Central Bank report revealed that gold has surpassed US Treasuries to become the world's second-largest reserve asset after the US dollar, accounting for 27% of global official reserves. However, this shift was driven primarily by a sharp increase in gold prices, rising around 30% in 2024 and 60% in 2025, rather than a major reallocation of reserve holdings. Nevertheless, central banks continue to maintain strong demand for gold due to its role as a safe-haven asset, inflation hedge, portfolio diversifier, and protection against geopolitical risks, with 89% of surveyed central banks expecting global gold holdings to increase. Despite its growing importance, gold remains constrained by its lack of income generation, storage costs, price volatility, and limited supply. Overall, gold's rise reflects increasing demand for reserve diversification amid geopolitical uncertainty, although its overtaking of US Treasuries is largely the result of soaring gold prices rather than a fundamental shift away from traditional reserve assets.

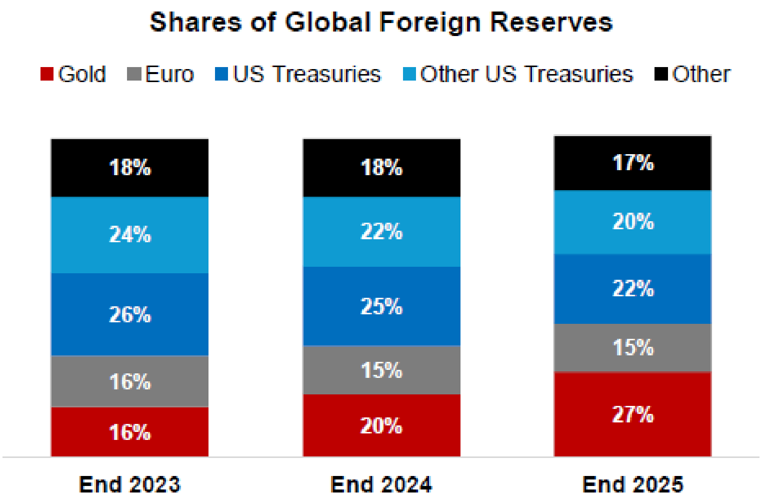
Geopolitical De-escalation and the Repricing of Global Energy Markets: Implications of the U.S.–Iran Ceasefire

Global oil prices have declined significantly following a ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, easing concerns over disruptions to global energy supplies. Brent crude oil prices fell from a wartime peak of around $125 per barrel to approximately $78 per barrel as the agreement reopened key maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20% of global oil supplies pass. The U.S. decision to grant sanctions waivers for Iranian oil exports is also expected to increase global oil supply and further stabilize prices. Although oil prices remain above pre-war levels, the ceasefire has reduced the immediate risk of an energy crisis and improved prospects for greater stability in global energy markets if the peace agreement is sustained.

Gold Becomes the World’s Largest Reserve Asset

Gold has become the world’s second-largest reserve asset after the US dollar, overtaking US Treasuries according to the European Central Bank’s June 2026 report. Gold accounted for 27% of global official reserves at the end of 2025, compared with 22% for US Treasuries and 15% for the euro. However, much of this increase reflects the sharp rise in gold prices, which surged by around 30% in 2024 and a further 60% in 2025, significantly boosting the value of existing gold holdings. At the same time, strong central bank purchases and growing investor demand continued to support gold’s rise.

A recent central bank survey highlights gold’s enduring appeal as a safe-haven asset, inflation hedge, and protection against geopolitical risks. Nearly 89% of central banks expect global gold holdings to increase over the coming year, while many anticipate a gradual decline in the share of US dollar reserves over the next five years. Despite its growing prominence, gold has limitations, including the absence of income generation, storage costs, price volatility, and limited supply. As a result, while gold’s share of global reserves continues to increase, its rise above US Treasuries is largely driven by soaring prices rather than a fundamental shift away from traditional reserve assets.



Data Source: European Central Bank, World Gold Council, TradingView

Proposed US 12.5% Forced Labour Tariff and Implications for Sri Lanka

Countires Subjected to proposed 12.5% Tariff

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Brazil
Cambodia
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Egypt
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Hong Kong
India
Iraq
Israel
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Libya
Malaysia
Morocco
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Türkiye
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uruguay
Venezuela
Vietnam

Countires Subjected to proposed 10% Tariff

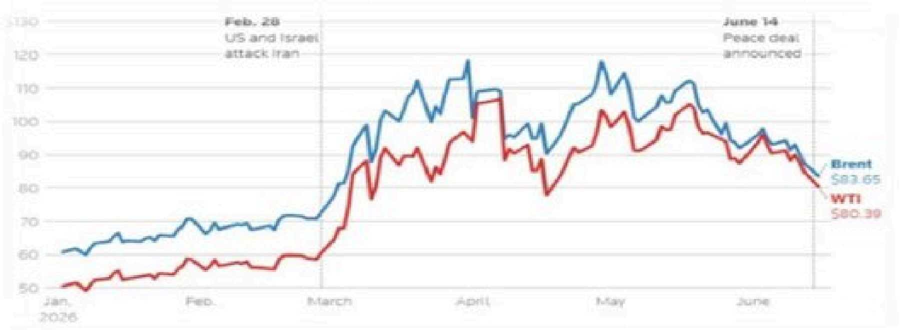
Canada, Ecuador, the European Union, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan.

The United States has proposed a new tariff framework targeting economies deemed to have insufficient measures to prevent the importation of goods linked to forced labour. Under the proposal, countries with some form of forced labour import restrictions would face a 10% tariff, while those considered to have inadequate measures would face a 12.5% tariff. Sri Lanka has been placed in the higher tariff category, highlighting the growing importance of labour rights, supply chain transparency, and responsible sourcing in global trade.

If implemented, the higher tariff could reduce the competitiveness of Sri Lankan exports, particularly in key sectors such as apparel, textiles, rubber products, and manufacturing, where even small cost differences can influence sourcing decisions. However, the proposal also presents an opportunity for Sri Lanka to strengthen supply chain transparency, compliance systems, and regulatory frameworks. By building on its reputation for ethical manufacturing and strong labour standards, Sri Lanka can enhance its position as a trusted sourcing destination in an increasingly compliance-driven global trading environment.

Geopolitical De-escalation and the Repricing of Global Energy Markets: Implications of the U.S.–Iran Ceasefire

Crude Oil Prices, USD per barrel



Crude Oil Average Price and market drivers

Period	Average Price (US $)	Market context and drivers
April Peak	120.36	Conflict escalation, physical blockade, and sea mines in the Strait of Hormuz.
May Average	107.48	Intense volatility offset by initial backchannel mediation and 60-day extension rumors.
June Post-Deal	79.38	Sudden 10% plunge to standard baselines following official Switzerland interim peace roadmap signing.

Data Source: London Stock Exchange, International Energy Agency

Global oil prices have fallen sharply following a ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, ending a 107-day conflict that had disrupted global energy markets. Brent crude prices have declined to around USD 78 per barrel from a peak of USD 125 in April, largely due to the reopening of key shipping routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, which carries approximately 20% of global oil supply. The agreement also includes measures to ensure safe maritime navigation, allowing previously stranded oil shipments to re-enter global markets.

Market sentiment has further improved following the U.S. decision to grant sanctions waivers for Iranian oil and petrochemical exports, enabling Iran to resume international sales and add supply to the market. While oil prices remain above pre-war levels and logistical disruptions may take weeks to fully normalize, analysts expect further stabilization if the ceasefire holds, reducing the risk of energy shortages and providing relief to businesses and consumers worldwide.

Tea Insight of the Month

Did you know that all true teas - **black, green, white, oolong, yellow and dark teas—come from the very same plant, Camellia sinensis?** The remarkable diversity in flavour, colour and aroma comes not from different plants, but from the way each leaf is processed after harvest, making tea one of the finest examples of craftsmanship in agriculture.

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