



SRI LANKA TEA EXPORTS – JANUARY 2026

Key Highlights:

- Ceylon Tea Exports for the month of January 2026 was recorded at 20.71 M/Kgs – (Increase of 1.34 M/Kgs YoY)
- F.O.B. Value for the month was recorded at Rs. 1,821.71 (USD 5.88), recording a positive variance of Rs. 98.93 (USD 0.06) against the corresponding month of 2025
- Iraq retains the top position amongst leading importer countries of Ceylon Tea in January 2026

JANUARY 2026/2025

* Tea Exports for the month of January 2026 totalled 20.71 M/Kgs, showing an increase of 1.34 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 19.37 M/Kgs of January 2025. All categories have recorded gains, against the corresponding period in the year 2025.

* FOB value in January 2026 was recorded at Rs. 1,821.71, an increase of Rs. 98.93 YoY compared to Rs. 1,722.78 of January 2025. Overall, an increase was witnessed in USD terms of 0.06 despite a slight decline in value on Bulk and Instant Tea, in comparison with the corresponding period in the year 2025 (Refer table below).

	Quantity			Approx. FOB per kg Rs.			Approx. FOB per kg USD		
	2026	2025	Variance	2026	2025	Variance	2026	2025	Variance
Tea in Bulk	8,907,441	8,241,565	665,876	1,523.20	1,489.48	33.73	4.92	5.03	-0.11
Tea Packets	8,883,193	8,492,407	390,787	1,729.98	1,607.22	122.76	5.59	5.43	0.16
Tea Bags	2,200,757	2,106,353	94,404	2,759.63	2,616.80	142.83	8.91	8.84	0.08
Instant	314,065	199,866	114,199	3,545.76	3,490.36	55.40	11.45	11.78	-0.33
Green Tea	404,629	334,337	70,292	3,967.47	3,719.97	247.49	12.81	12.56	0.25
Grand Total	20,710,086	19,374,528	1,335,558	1,821.71	1,722.78	98.93	5.88	5.82	0.06

Source - Sri Lanka Customs/Oanda Exchange Rates

The year commenced with Iraq being ranked at No. 1 amongst major importers of Ceylon Tea with a total of 2.95 M/Kgs, a slight decline of 2% YoY in comparison with January 2025 (3.02 M/Kgs), whilst Türkiye moved up to 2nd place with a significant increase of 118% YoY with 2.36 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 1.08 M/Kgs recorded in 2025, edging past Russia who at 3rd place has recorded 2.02 M/Kgs, a 17% increase vis-à-vis 1.07 M/Kgs in January 2025. U.A.E. at 4th place has imported 1.05 M/Kgs (17% decrease YoY) followed by Azerbaijan 0.98 M/Kgs (52% increase YoY) and Saudi Arabia 0.96 M/Kgs (7% increase YoY). Chile and Iran both with 0.95 M/Kgs have secured 7th and 8th position. Libya and USA have moved up in the top 10 importers ranking to 9th and 10th positions with 0.87M/Kgs and 0.69 M/Kgs respectively in the month of January 2026.