



SRI LANKA TEA EXPORTS – MARCH 2026

Key Highlights:

- Sri Lanka Tea Exports for the month of March 2026 was recorded at 19.73 M/Kgs - (decline of 3.70 M/Kgs YoY)
- Exports during January-March 2026 totalled 60.36 M/Kgs (decrease of 2.84 M/Kgs YoY) in comparison to the same period in 2025
- F.O.B. Value for the month was recorded at Rs. 1,813.84 (USD 5.75), recording a positive variance of Rs. 60.68 (negative USD 0.17) against the corresponding month of 2025
- Cumulative FOB Value increased by Rs. 68.47 in comparison with the corresponding period of 2025
- Iraq continues to maintain the top position amongst leading importer countries of Ceylon Tea in March 2026

March 2026/2025

* Tea Exports for the month of March 2026 totalled 19.73 M/Kgs, showing a decline of 3.70 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 23.43 M/Kgs of March 2025. All segments except for Instant and Green Tea have recorded negative variances against the corresponding period of the previous year.

* FOB value in March 2026 was recorded at Rs. 1,813.84, an increase of Rs. 60.68 YoY compared to Rs. 1,753.16 of March 2025. Overall, a decline was witnessed in USD terms 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	7,448,470	10,491,518	-3,043,048	1,506.08	1,507.55	-1.48	4.78	5.09	-0.31
Tea Packets	9,134,727	9,864,073	-729,346	1,630.48	1,646.09	-15.61	5.17	5.55	-0.38
Tea Bags	2,331,794	2,415,806	-84,013	2,885.78	2,728.13	157.66	9.16	9.21	-0.05
Instant	351,107	245,107	106,000	3,396.48	3,216.72	179.76	10.78	10.85	-0.08
Green Tea	464,358	416,540	47,817	3,778.15	3,959.19	-181.04	11.99	13.36	-1.37
Grand Total	19,730,455	23,433,044	-3,702,589	1,813.84	1,753.16	60.68	5.75	5.92	-0.17

Source - Sri Lanka Customs

Currency conversion – Central Bank March 2026 Spot Rate

JANUARY-MARCH 2026/2025

* January-March 2026 cumulative exports totalled 60.36 M/Kgs, recording a negative variance of 2.84 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 63.20 M/Kgs of January-March 2025. All segments except for Instant and Green Tea recorded negative variances against the same period of the previous year.

* FOB value for the period stood at Rs. 1,807.27 (USD 5.81), an increase of Rs. 68.47 vis-à-vis Rs. 1,738.80 of January-March 2025.

* All segments recorded gains in FOB value. In USD terms, all categories except for Tea Bags recorded negative variances compared to the corresponding period in 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	24,785,237	27,706,195	-2,920,957	1,514.63	1,485.48	29.15	4.87	5.01	-0.15
Tea Packets	26,692,769	26,997,679	-304,910	1,661.82	1,632.53	29.30	5.34	5.51	-0.17
Tea Bags	6,658,557	6,660,399	-1,843	2,835.72	2,671.63	164.09	9.11	9.01	0.10
Instant	991,123	704,136	286,987	3,472.21	3,458.46	13.75	11.15	11.67	-0.51
Green Tea	1,233,576	1,137,472	96,104	3,945.45	3,904.59	40.86	12.67	13.17	-0.50
Grand Total	60,361,261	63,205,881	-2,844,620	1,807.27	1,738.80	68.47	5.81	5.87	-0.06

Source - Sri Lanka Customs

Currency conversion - Central Bank March 2026 Spot Rate

Iraq was ranked at No. 1 amongst major importers of Ceylon Tea with a total of 8.75 M/Kgs, an decrease of 3% YoY in comparison with March 2025 (9.02 M/Kgs), whilst Türkiye moved up to 2nd place with a significant increase of 111 % YoY with 7M/Kgs vis-à-vis 3.32 M/Kgs recorded in 2025, edging past Russia who at 3rd place has recorded 5.34 M/Kgs, a 16% decrease vis-à-vis 5.34 M/Kgs in March 2025. Azerbaijan at 4th place has imported 3.04 M/Kgs (40% increase YoY) followed by U.A.E. with 2.71 M/Kgs (40% decrease YoY) and China at 6th position with 2.53 M/Kgs (2% increase YoY). Libya with 2.35 M/Kgs followed by China at 2.22 M/Kgs have secured 7th and 8th positions respectively. Chile and Syria are also amongst the top 10 importers ranking at 9th and 10th positions with 2.06 M/Kgs and 2.01 M/Kgs respectively in the month of March 2026.

(E & OE)

Compiled by Forbes & Walker Research