



## SRI LANKA TEA EXPORTS – MAY 2026

### Key Highlights:

- Sri Lanka Tea Exports for the month of May 2026 was recorded at 23.51 M/Kgs – (Increase of 1.64 M/Kgs YoY)
- Exports during January-May 2026 totalled 101.85 M/Kgs (decrease of 1.43 M/Kgs YoY) in comparison to the same period in 2025
- FOB value for the month was recorded at Rs. 1,800.70 (USD 5.54), recording a negative variance of Rs. 3.61 (USD 0.49) against the corresponding month of 2025
- Cumulative FOB value increased by Rs. 41.12 (negative USD 0.19) in comparison with the corresponding period of 2025
- Türkiye claims the top spot amongst leading importer countries of Ceylon Tea in May 2026

### MAY 2026/2025

\* Tea Exports for the month of May 2026 totalled 23.51 M/Kgs, showing an increase of 1.64 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 21.87 M/Kgs of May 2025. All categories except for Green Tea showed gains against the corresponding period of the previous year.

\* FOB value in May 2026 was recorded at Rs. 1,800.70, a decline of Rs. 3.61 YoY compared to Rs. 1,804.31 of May 2025. In LKR terms, a decline was witnessed in Bulk and Instant Tea with the other categories recording positive variances in comparison with the corresponding period in the year 2025, whilst all categories witnessed negative variances in USD terms (Refer table below).

|                    | Quantity          |                   |                  | Approx. FOB per kg<br>Rs. |                 |              | Approx. FOB per kg<br>USD |             |              |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                    | 2026              | 2025              | Variance         | 2026                      | 2025            | Variance     | 2026                      | 2025        | Variance     |
| Tea In Bulk        | 10,236,159        | 9,187,288         | 1,048,871        | 1,534.01                  | 1,574.68        | -40.66       | 4.72                      | 5.26        | -0.54        |
| Tea Packets        | 10,434,313        | 10,127,404        | 306,909          | 1,679.15                  | 1,653.63        | 25.52        | 5.17                      | 5.52        | -0.35        |
| Tea Bags           | 2,098,373         | 1,834,177         | 264,196          | 2,944.00                  | 2,925.91        | 18.09        | 9.06                      | 9.77        | -0.71        |
| Instant            | 419,911           | 389,302           | 30,609           | 3,449.58                  | 3,673.86        | -224.29      | 10.62                     | 12.27       | -1.65        |
| Green Tea          | 325,111           | 334,308           | -9,198           | 4,589.88                  | 4,349.06        | 240.82       | 14.13                     | 14.53       | -0.40        |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>23,513,867</b> | <b>21,872,480</b> | <b>1,641,388</b> | <b>1,800.70</b>           | <b>1,804.31</b> | <b>-3.61</b> | <b>5.54</b>               | <b>6.03</b> | <b>-0.49</b> |

Source - Sri Lanka Customs

Currency conversion – Central Bank May 2026 Spot Rate

## JANUARY-MAY 2026/2025

\* January-May 2026 cumulative exports totalled 101.85 M/Kgs, recording a negative variance of 1.43 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 103.28 M/Kgs of January-May 2025. All segments except for Instant & Green Tea recorded negative variances against the same period of the previous year.

\* FOB value for the period stood at Rs. 1,797.58 (USD 5.72), an increase of Rs. 41.12 (decline of USD 0.19) vis-à-vis Rs. 1,756.46 (USD 5.91) of January-May 2025.

\* All segments except for Instant Tea recorded gains in FOB value in LKR terms, whilst in USD terms, all categories except for Green Tea recorded negative variances (Refer table below).

|                    | Quantity           |                    | Variance          | Approx. FOB per kg<br>Rs |                 |              | Approx. FOB per kg<br>USD |             |              |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                    | 2026               | 2025               |                   | 2026                     | 2025            | Variance     | 2026                      | 2025        | Variance     |
| Tea In Bulk        | 42,458,210         | 43,774,101         | -1,315,891        | 1,517.39                 | 1,509.20        | 8.18         | 4.83                      | 5.08        | -0.25        |
| Tea Packets        | 45,312,511         | 45,965,113         | -652,602          | 1,653.35                 | 1,634.91        | 18.43        | 5.26                      | 5.50        | -0.24        |
| Tea Bags           | 10,459,923         | 10,373,591         | 86,332            | 2,865.12                 | 2,729.16        | 135.95       | 9.11                      | 9.18        | -0.07        |
| Instant            | 1,785,833          | 1,330,144          | 455,689           | 3,481.50                 | 3,545.75        | -64.25       | 11.07                     | 11.92       | -0.85        |
| Green Tea          | 1,833,931          | 1,840,232          | -6,301            | 4,119.70                 | 3,897.63        | 222.07       | 13.10                     | 13.11       | -0.01        |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>101,850,408</b> | <b>103,283,181</b> | <b>-1,432,774</b> | <b>1,797.58</b>          | <b>1,756.46</b> | <b>41.12</b> | <b>5.72</b>               | <b>5.91</b> | <b>-0.19</b> |

Source - Sri Lanka Customs

Currency conversion - Central Bank May 2026 Spot Rate

Türkiye ranked at No. 1 amongst major importers of Ceylon Tea with a total of 14.95 M/Kgs, an increase of 159% YoY in comparison with May 2025 (11.52 M/Kgs), surpassing Iraq who at 2<sup>nd</sup> place witnessed an 18% decline YoY with 11.82 M/Kgs vis-à-vis 14.47 M/Kgs recorded in 2025. Russia at 3<sup>rd</sup> place has recorded 9.83 M/Kgs, a marginal 8% increase vis-à-vis 9.12 M/Kgs in May 2025. Azerbaijan at 4<sup>th</sup> place has imported 5.36 M/Kgs (69% increase YoY) followed by China at 5<sup>th</sup> position with 4.04 M/Kgs (4% decrease YoY) having overtaken Libya with 3.79 M/Kgs (60% decrease YoY). Saudi Arabia secured 7<sup>th</sup> place with 3.62 M/Kgs followed by Jordan with 3.43 M/Kgs at 8<sup>th</sup> position. UAE and Chile complete the list of the top 10 importers of Ceylon Tea ranking at 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> positions with 3.38 M/Kgs and 3.35 M/Kgs respectively in the month of May 2026.