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## External Sector Performance - March 2024

## Highlights

- The merchandise trade deficit narrowed in March 2024, (year-on-year), supported by a notable improvement in export earnings, the highest earnings recorded since August 2022.
- The services sector also recorded a notable net inflow in March 2024 mainly from tourism, while sizeable inflows were recorded in terms of sea transport (freight) services as well.
- Workers' remittances remained elevated in March 2024 in line with the seasonal trend.
- Foreign investments in the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and the government securities market recorded monthly net outflows in March 2024.
- Gross Official Reserves stood at US dollars 5.0 billion by end March 2024, a notable increase compared to the US dollars 4.4 billion as at end 2023.
- The Sri Lanka rupee demonstrated a notable appreciation trend against the US dollar during the month of March 2024.



## Merchandise Trade Balance

The deficit in the merchandise trade account narrowed to US dollars 369 million in March 2024 from US dollars 412 million recorded in March 2023, primarily due to a higher increase in exports than the increase in imports. However, it widened compared to February 2024 (US dollars 319 million). Meanwhile, the cumulative deficit in the trade account during January to March 2024 was higher (US dollars 1,229 million) than the deficit recorded over the same period in 2023 (US dollars 896 million).

Figure 1: Composition of Exports


Sources: SLC, CBSL

Figure 2: Composition of Imports


Sources: SLC, CBSL

## Performance of Merchandise Exports ${ }^{1}$

Earnings from merchandise exports increased by 9.8 per cent to US dollars $\mathbf{1 , 1 3 9}$ million in March $\mathbf{2 0 2 4}$ compared to US dollars 1,037 million in March 2023. There was an increase in earnings across all major categories of exports, where industrial exports increased the most. The increase in industrial goods exports in March 2024 (year-on-year) was mainly contributed by petroleum products due to the increase in volumes of bunkering and aviation fuel exports, while textiles and garments exports also recorded a notable improvement. Earnings from exports of agricultural goods also improved in March 2024 mainly driven by tea (led by higher volumes) and coconut-related products, despite a significant decline in spice exports. Earnings from mineral exports increased marginally in March 2024. Meanwhile, the improvement in earnings from exports in March 2024 compared to February 2024 was largely driven by higher textiles and garments exports, which was the highest earnings from these exports recorded since December 2022.

## Performance of Merchandise Imports ${ }^{1}$

Expenditure on merchandise imports recorded an increase of 4.0 per cent to US dollars $\mathbf{1 , 5 0 8}$ million in March 2024 compared to US dollars 1,450 million in March 2023. Expenditure across all major

[^0]import categories increased, although intermediate goods led by fuel imports increased the most. The increase in expenditure on consumer goods imports in March 2024 compared to a year ago was due to an increase in expenditure on food and beverages imports, although there was a decline in nonfood consumer goods imports (led by lower medical and pharmaceuticals). Meanwhile, expenditure on intermediate goods imports increased primarily due to higher fuel imports compared to March 2023. However, expenditure on textiles and textile articles, wheat and fertiliser significantly decreased in March 2024. Expenditure on investment goods recorded a broad-based increase, driven primarily by higher imports of building materials and machinery and equipment. Meanwhile, expenditure on imports in March 2024 increased significantly compared to February 2024 primarily due to the normalisation of fuel expenditure.

## Merchandise Trade Indices ${ }^{2}$

Terms of trade, i.e., the ratio of the price of exports to the price of imports, improved by 3.4 per cent in March 2024 compared to March 2023, as the decline in the prices of imports surpassed the decline in the prices of exports.

The export volume index increased by 19.7 per cent, while the unit value index declined by 8.3 per cent, implying that the increase in export earnings in March 2024 compared to March 2023 can be attributed to higher export volumes.

Similarly, the import volume index improved by 17.3 per cent, while the unit value index declined by 11.4 per cent, implying that the increase in import expenditure in March 2024 compared to March 2023 was also driven by the volume effect.

Figure 3: Terms of Trade


Figure 4: Export Volume and Unit Value Indices


Figure 5: Import Volume and Unit Value Indices


Source: CBSL

[^1]
## Services Sector Performance ${ }^{3}$

Earnings from Tourism: Earnings from tourism in March 2024 were estimated at US dollars 338 million, in comparison to US dollars 346 million in February 2024 and US dollars 189 million in March 2023.

Figure 6: Monthly Earnings from Tourism


Figure 7: Monthly Tourist Arrivals


Source: SLTDA

Other Services Sector Inflows ${ }^{4}$ : Sea transport was the major contributor to the increase in inflows to the rest of the services sector in March 2024. However, there was a slight moderation in Computer \& IT/BPO related services and Air transport services, compared to March 2023. Total services sector inflows (excluding earnings from tourism) were estimated at US dollars 283 million in March 2024, in comparison to US dollars 268 million in March 2023.

Figure 8: Major Services Sector Inflows


Source: ITRS - CBSL

[^2]Services Sector Outflows ${ }^{4}$ : The major outflows from the services sector in March 2024 were mainly attributed to air transport, sea transport and financial services. Total services sector outflows were estimated at US dollars 190 million in March 2024, in comparison to US dollars 191 million in March 2023.

Figure 9: Major Services Sector Outflows


Source: ITRS - CBSL

## Workers' Remittances

Workers' remittances amounted to US dollars 572 million in March 2024, in comparison to US dollars 568 million in March 2023 and US dollars 476 million in February 2024.

Figure 10: Monthly Workers' Remittances


Sources: Licensed Banks, CBSL

[^3]
## Financial Flows

Foreign investments in the government securities market recorded a net outflow of US dollars 10 million in March 2024, resulting in a cumulative net outflow of US dollars 89 million in the first quarter of 2024. Meanwhile, foreign flows to the CSE, including both primary and secondary market transactions, recorded a net outflow of US dollars 14 million in March 2024, resulting in a net inflow of US dollars 23 million in the first quarter of 2024.

## International Reserves

Gross official reserves (GOR) increased to US dollars 5.0 billion by end March 2024. This included the swap facility from the People's Bank of China (PBOC) equivalent to around US dollars 1.5 billion, which is subject to conditionalities on usability. The increase of the GOR was mainly due to the substantial net purchases of foreign exchange from the domestic foreign exchange market by the Central Bank. Net intervention in March 2024 was US dollars 715 million, (based on trade date) and during the first quarter of 2024, the net purchases amounted to US dollars 1.2 billion. Import coverage of GOR (including the PBOC swap), remained above 3 months of imports since December 2023.

Figure 11: Gross Official Reserves and Reserve Adequacy


Source: CBSL

## Exchange Rate Movements

The Sri Lanka rupee continued its appreciating trend amidst some volatility. The Sri Lanka rupee appreciated by 9.1 per cent against the US dollar during the year up to 30 April 2024. Meanwhile, reflecting cross-currency movements, the Sri Lanka rupee appreciated against other major currencies, such as the euro, the pound sterling, the Japanese yen, the Indian rupee, and the Australian dollar during the year up to 30 April 2024. In line with the nominal appreciation, the real effective exchange rate (REER 24) also appreciated during the month of March 2024. However, the index of REER 24 remained well below the threshold of 100 index points, indicating the maintenance of external competitiveness.

Figure 12: Movement of the Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar


Figure 13: Movement of REER 24


Table 1: Movement of the Sri Lanka rupee against Selected Currencies*

| Currency | $\mathbf{2 0 2 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 2 4}$ <br> (up to $\mathbf{3 0}$ April) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| US dollar | $-44.8 \%$ | $+12.1 \%$ | $+9.1 \%$ |
| Euro | $-41.4 \%$ | $+7.9 \%$ | $+12.9 \%$ |
| Pound sterling | $-38.1 \%$ | $+6.0 \%$ | $+10.8 \%$ |
| Chinese Yuan (Renminbi) | $-39.8 \%$ | $+14.3 \%$ | $+11.4 \%$ |
| Japanese yen | $-36.4 \%$ | $+19.5 \%$ | $+21.0 \%$ |
| Australian dollar | $-40.8 \%$ | $+10.8 \%$ | $+14.2 \%$ |
| Indian rupee | $-38.6 \%$ | $+12.6 \%$ | $+9.5 \%$ |
| *Depreciation (-)/ Appreciation $(+)$ |  |  | Source: CBSL |

Annex I:
Summary of External Sector Performance (a)

| Category | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } \\ & 2023 \\ & \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } \\ & 2024 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | Change (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan - Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathbf{m n} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan - Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Merchandise Exports | 1,037 | 1,139 | 9.8 | 2,998 | 3,169 | 5.7 |
| Merchandise Imports | 1,450 | 1,508 | 4.0 | 3,894 | 4,398 | 12.9 |
| Trade Balance | -412 | -369 |  | -896 | -1,229 |  |
| Services Account Balance (net) | 266.3 | 431.2 | 62.0 | 782.5 | 1,267.5 | 62.0 |
| Services Inflows | 457.0 | 621.1 | 35.9 | 1,272.7 | 1,838.8 | 44.5 |
| of which, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tourist Earnings | 188.8 (b) | 338.4 (c) | 79.2 | 503.9 (b) | 1,025.9 (c) | 103.6 |
| Computer \& IT/BPO related services | 80.0 | 70.4 | -12.0 | 203.3 | 186.2 | -8.4 |
| Sea Transport | 45.8 | 93.9 | 105.1 | 162.8 | 243.3 | 49.4 |
| Air Transport | 61.0 | 50.9 | -16.6 | 194.3 | 163.1 | -16.0 |
| Services Outflows | 190.8 | 189.8 | -0.5 | 490.2 | 571.3 | 16.6 |
| of which, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Travel Abroad | 9.2 | 18.5 | 102.3 | 30.7 | 52.4 | 70.4 |
| Sea Transport | 21.5 | 19.2 | -10.7 | 67.6 | 80.7 | 19.4 |
| Air Transport | 47.9 | 38.3 | -20.1 | 142.7 | 103.8 | -27.3 |
| Financial services | 5.5 | 19.6 | 257.3 | 14.5 | 30.2 | 108.3 |
| Workers' Remittances | 568 | 572 | 0.7 | 1,413 | 1,536 | 8.7 |
| Personal Transfers Outflows | 14.1 | 10.6 | -24.6 | 35.4 | 33.1 | -6.5 |
| Flows to the CSE (net) (d) | -8.0 | -13.9 |  | 1.2 | 23.1 |  |
| Net Flows to Government Securities Market | 82.2 | 10.3 |  | 112.2 | 88.8 |  |
| Overall Balance |  |  |  | 858.3 | 719.8 |  |
| Memorandum Items |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tourist Arrivals (No) | 125,495 | 209,181 |  | 335,679 | 635,784 |  |
| Departures for Foreign Employment (No) | 27,900 | 23,867 |  | 76,025 | 74,919 |  |

Sources: Sri Lanka Customs (SLC), Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL)
(a) Provisional
(b) Based on the survey conducted by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority in 2023
(c) Based on the survey conducted by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority in 2024
(d) Includes primary and secondary transactions

Annex II:
Export Earnings Classified as per the CBSL Classification (a)

| Category | Mar 2023 (US\$ mn) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2023 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathbf{m n} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2024 \\ & \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{aligned}$ | Change (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Industrial exports | 816.4 | 912.2 | 11.7 | 2,374.7 | 2,517.3 | 6.0 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 48.2 | 65.4 | 35.9 | 124.8 | 161.9 | 29.7 |
| Animal fodder | 10.8 | 12.8 | 18.6 | 37.6 | 37.1 | -1.4 |
| Textiles and garments | 417.2 | 444.9 | 6.6 | 1,273.0 | 1,248.3 | -1.9 |
| o/w Garments | 379.5 | 407.3 | 7.3 | 1,157.9 | 1,145.7 | -1.1 |
| Textiles | 28.5 | 26.1 | -8.2 | 88.9 | 72.1 | -18.9 |
| Other made up textile articles | 9.3 | 11.5 | 24.0 | 26.1 | 30.5 | 17.0 |
| Rubber products | 87.5 | 95.3 | 8.9 | 232.8 | 261.8 | 12.4 |
| Gems, diamonds and jewellery | 51.1 | 33.9 | -33.7 | 137.7 | 112.9 | -18.0 |
| Machinery and mechanical appliances | 57.9 | 50.6 | -12.6 | 161.0 | 132.8 | -17.5 |
| Transport equipment | 8.6 | 15.8 | 83.5 | 23.0 | 27.3 | 18.8 |
| Petroleum products | 39.3 | 92.3 | 134.6 | 130.2 | 269.6 | 107.1 |
| Chemical products | 17.9 | 20.5 | 15.0 | 46.3 | 57.1 | 23.3 |
| Wood and paper products | 10.0 | 10.9 | 8.5 | 29.7 | 30.8 | 3.7 |
| Printing industry products | 5.5 | 6.6 | 18.6 | 16.5 | 12.3 | -25.7 |
| Leather, travel goods and footwear | 5.0 | 4.4 | -12.8 | 16.1 | 13.0 | -19.6 |
| Plastics and articles thereof | 5.7 | 5.0 | -11.9 | 15.1 | 14.1 | -6.6 |
| Base metals and articles | 17.4 | 17.4 | 0.2 | 42.1 | 48.4 | 15.0 |
| Ceramic products | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 8.4 | 7.1 | -15.4 |
| Other industrial exports | 31.7 | 33.8 | 6.4 | 80.5 | 82.9 | 3.0 |
| 2. Agricultural exports | 216.0 | 221.9 | 2.7 | 608.2 | 639.3 | 5.1 |
| Tea | 110.1 | 124.9 | 13.4 | 314.3 | 354.8 | 12.9 |
| Rubber | 3.7 | 2.7 | -28.4 | 10.8 | 6.7 | -38.1 |
| Coconut | 28.8 | 38.1 | 32.3 | 75.8 | 95.6 | 26.1 |
| Spices | 32.4 | 16.8 | -48.1 | 100.6 | 66.8 | -33.6 |
| Vegetables | 2.6 | 1.9 | -27.6 | 7.1 | 5.7 | -19.7 |
| Unmanufactured tobacco | 3.6 | 2.7 | -26.4 | 6.9 | 5.8 | -16.9 |
| Minor agricultural products | 9.2 | 14.8 | 61.6 | 26.1 | 40.1 | 53.7 |
| Seafood | 25.7 | 20.2 | -21.4 | 66.6 | 63.9 | -4.1 |
| 3. Mineral exports | 2.5 | 2.8 | 14.0 | 7.7 | 6.1 | -20.4 |
| 4. Unclassified exports | 2.6 | 2.0 | -22.1 | 7.0 | 6.2 | -11.0 |
| Total exports | 1,037.5 | 1,138.9 | 9.8 | 2,997.6 | 3,168.9 | 5.7 |

(a) Provisional

Sources: SLC, National Gem and Jewellery Authority (NGJA), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) and Other Exporters of Petroleum, CBSL.

## Annex III:

## Export Earnings Classified as per the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4 (a)

| Category | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2023 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2024 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | Change <br> (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0. Food and live animals | 226.4 | 246.5 | 8.9 | 648.8 | 702.2 | 8.2 |
| 03 Fish and fish preparations | 29.1 | 23.4 | -19.4 | 75.6 | 74.4 | -1.5 |
| 04 Cereals and cereal preparations | 6.5 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 17.5 | 19.8 | 13.4 |
| 05 Vegetables and fruit | 29.6 | 44.6 | 50.6 | 82.9 | 112.6 | 35.8 |
| 07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof | 141.2 | 143.8 | 1.8 | 413.1 | 423.5 | 2.5 |
| 1. Beverages and tobacco | 18.6 | 16.9 | -9.2 | 41.5 | 40.8 | -1.6 |
| 11 Beverages | 7.8 | 8.0 | 2.1 | 17.1 | 20.3 | 18.8 |
| 12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures | 10.7 | 8.9 | -17.4 | 24.4 | 20.5 | -15.8 |
| 2. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels | 35.5 | 36.5 | 2.7 | 99.9 | 96.3 | -3.6 |
| 23 Crude rubber | 3.9 | 2.8 | -26.4 | 11.1 | 7.1 | -36.3 |
| 26 Textile fibres and their wastes | 20.2 | 22.8 | 12.7 | 54.1 | 56.4 | 4.3 |
| 3. Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials | 39.3 | 92.3 | 134.6 | 130.2 | 269.6 | 107.1 |
| 33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials | 39.3 | 92.3 | 134.6 | 130.2 | 259.4 | 99.2 |
| 34 Gas, natural and manufactured | - | - | - | - | 10.2 | - |
| 4. Animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes | 5.2 | 7.7 | 47.6 | 15.1 | 19.6 | 29.6 |
| 42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated | 5.2 | 7.3 | 39.8 | 14.9 | 18.3 | 22.6 |
| 5. Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. | 21.8 | 23.8 | 9.1 | 57.0 | 68.8 | 20.8 |
| 6. Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials | 178.0 | 171.2 | -3.8 | 484.1 | 485.4 | 0.3 |
| 62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s. | 65.6 | 70.7 | 7.8 | 175.2 | 197.5 | 12.7 |
| 65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc., n.e.s. | 33.7 | 36.3 | 7.7 | 101.2 | 98.1 | -3.1 |
| 66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s. | 56.2 | 40.0 | -28.8 | 151.5 | 124.9 | -17.6 |
| 7. Machinery, transport equipment | 64.4 | 65.2 | 1.2 | 178.9 | 156.7 | -12.4 |
| 77 Electric machinery, apparatus, and appliances, n.e.s. and electrical parts thereof | 33.7 | 26.4 | -21.6 | 97.0 | 73.5 | -24.2 |
| 8. Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 448.1 | 478.9 | 6.9 | 1,342.1 | 1,329.6 | -0.9 |
| 84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories | 404.1 | 434.3 | 7.5 | 1,225.0 | 1,217.2 | -0.6 |
| 9. Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC | 0.05 | - | - | 0.1 | 0.1 | -19.7 |
| Total exports | 1,037.5 | 1,138.9 | 9.8 | 2,997.6 | 3,168.9 | 5.7 |

(a) Provisional
n.e.s. not elsewhere specified

Sources: SLC, NGJA, CPC and Other Exporters of Petroleum, CBSL

Note: The first digit indicates the 'section' and the first two digits indicate the 'division' of SITC. The above table shows only selected divisions of SITC. For further information on SITC, please see CBSL Annual Report 2017 Box Article 04.
https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/sites/default/files/cbslweb documents/publications/annual report/2017/en/9 Chapter 05.pdf

Annex IV:
Import Expenditure Classified as per the CBSL Classification (a)

| Category | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2023 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2024 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | Change (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Consumer goods | 266.0 | 271.0 | 1.9 | 686.7 | 801.9 | 16.8 |
| Food and beverages | 145.2 | 154.5 | 6.4 | 378.3 | 437.6 | 15.7 |
| Cereals and milling industry products | 5.0 | 7.9 | 58.3 | 34.2 | 38.3 | 11.9 |
| Dairy products | 16.5 | 16.1 | -2.7 | 45.9 | 50.9 | 11.0 |
| Vegetables (b) | 29.9 | 39.9 | 33.4 | 74.0 | 102.6 | 38.7 |
| Seafood | 3.5 | 9.6 | 175.9 | 10.5 | 29.2 | 177.2 |
| Sugar and confectionery | 58.5 | 28.6 | -51.2 | 126.4 | 90.2 | -28.6 |
| Spices | 9.5 | 14.9 | 57.7 | 32.0 | 34.8 | 8.5 |
| Other food and beverages | 22.3 | 37.5 | 67.9 | 55.3 | 91.6 | 65.6 |
| Non-food consumer goods | 120.8 | 116.5 | -3.5 | 308.4 | 364.3 | 18.1 |
| Personal vehicles | 5.6 | 4.9 | -11.0 | 10.2 | 14.4 | 40.7 |
| Medical and pharmaceuticals | 68.8 | 41.9 | -39.2 | 161.8 | 137.3 | -15.1 |
| Home appliances | 4.3 | 13.6 | 215.6 | 11.6 | 33.2 | 186.7 |
| Clothing and accessories | 13.5 | 18.4 | 36.0 | 45.7 | 56.8 | 24.3 |
| Telecommunication devices | 3.9 | 12.8 | 229.7 | 11.5 | 37.3 | 223.8 |
| Household and furniture items | 7.8 | 7.3 | -6.0 | 23.1 | 31.6 | 36.8 |
| Other non-food consumables | 16.9 | 17.5 | 3.9 | 44.6 | 53.8 | 20.8 |
| 2. Intermediate goods | 971.8 | 1,010.2 | 4.0 | 2,615.4 | 2,830.9 | 8.2 |
| Fuel | 391.0 | 462.1 | 18.2 | 1,111.8 | 1,170.0 | 5.2 |
| o/w Crude oil | 49.7 | 117.8 | 137.1 | 192.7 | 310.8 | 61.3 |
| Refined petroleum | 273.2 | 308.5 | 12.9 | 712.4 | 762.2 | 7.0 |
| Coal | 68.1 | 35.8 | -47.5 | 206.7 | 97.0 | -53.1 |
| Diamonds, precious stones, and metals | 25.7 | 25.8 | 0.2 | 68.1 | 52.7 | -22.6 |
| Textiles and textile articles | 221.2 | 187.9 | -15.1 | 604.6 | 658.5 | 8.9 |
| Paper and paperboard and articles | 34.3 | 38.4 | 12.2 | 108.1 | 107.2 | -0.8 |
| Agricultural inputs | 26.7 | 19.5 | -27.1 | 70.0 | 60.0 | -14.4 |
| Wheat and maize | 41.6 | 10.9 | -73.8 | 81.2 | 29.1 | -64.1 |
| Base metals | 16.9 | 44.3 | 162.6 | 44.2 | 121.8 | 175.6 |
| Plastics and articles thereof | 41.7 | 44.2 | 6.0 | 108.2 | 128.7 | 19.0 |
| Chemical products | 76.4 | 81.9 | 7.2 | 191.1 | 240.9 | 26.1 |
| Fertiliser | 24.6 | 5.2 | -78.8 | 40.0 | 18.8 | -53.2 |
| Rubber and articles thereof | 15.3 | 21.2 | 38.5 | 40.8 | 66.0 | 61.9 |
| Mineral products | 7.2 | 16.4 | 126.2 | 20.1 | 31.1 | 54.4 |
| Other intermediate goods | 49.1 | 52.4 | 6.7 | 127.1 | 145.9 | 14.8 |
| 3. Investment goods | 209.9 | 226.1 | 7.7 | 589.6 | 761.8 | 29.2 |
| Machinery and equipment | 143.7 | 148.6 | 3.4 | 403.5 | 516.3 | 28.0 |
| Building material | 53.3 | 64.7 | 21.4 | 165.3 | 215.4 | 30.3 |
| Transport equipment | 12.7 | 12.7 | 0.2 | 20.0 | 29.5 | 47.3 |
| Other investment goods | 0.2 | 0.1 | -44.0 | 0.8 | 0.6 | -29.9 |
| 4. Unclassified imports | 1.9 | 0.4 | -80.3 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 45.6 |
| Total imports | 1,449.5 | 1,507.7 | 4.0 | 3,894.0 | 4,397.9 | 12.9 |
| o/w Non-fuel imports | 1,058.5 | 1,045.6 | -1.2 | 2,782.1 | 3,227.9 | 16.0 |

[^4]Annex V:
Import Expenditure Classified as per the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4 (a)

| Category | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathbf{~ m n} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2023 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2024 \\ & \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{aligned}$ | Change (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0. Food and live animals | 210.4 | 174.7 | -17.0 | 523.9 | 501.9 | -4.2 |
| 02 Dairy products and birds' eggs | 16.7 | 19.4 | 16.2 | 46.0 | 56.9 | 23.6 |
| 03 Fish and fish preparations | 3.6 | 9.7 | 170.0 | 10.9 | 29.5 | 171.2 |
| 04 Cereals and cereal preparations | 46.5 | 19.1 | -59.0 | 115.7 | 66.7 | -42.3 |
| 05 Vegetables and fruit | 34.7 | 47.2 | 36.0 | 85.6 | 120.4 | 40.7 |
| 06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey | 58.5 | 28.6 | -51.2 | 126.4 | 90.2 | -28.6 |
| 07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof | 13.6 | 19.8 | 46.1 | 43.8 | 48.1 | 9.7 |
| 1. Beverages and tobacco | 9.0 | 9.3 | 3.7 | 25.7 | 22.7 | -11.5 |
| 2. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels | 24.2 | 30.5 | 26.0 | 68.2 | 95.4 | 40.0 |
| 23 Crude rubber | 11.3 | 16.8 | 48.2 | 29.7 | 54.4 | 83.2 |
| 26 Textile fibres and their wastes | 3.1 | 1.4 | -53.5 | 10.4 | 3.9 | -62.3 |
| 3. Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials | 391.0 | 462.1 | 18.2 | 1,111.8 | 1,170.0 | 5.2 |
| 33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials | 295.6 | 401.6 | 35.9 | 827.7 | 989.2 | 19.5 |
| 34 Gas , natural and manufactured | 27.4 | 24.8 | -9.4 | 77.4 | 83.8 | 8.3 |
| 4. Animal and vegetable oils, fats, and waxes | 16.6 | 21.8 | 31.3 | 27.8 | 48.3 | 73.7 |
| 42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated | 16.0 | 20.6 | 28.9 | 25.3 | 44.9 | 77.3 |
| 5. Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. | 205.7 | 170.2 | -17.3 | 489.5 | 515.0 | 5.2 |
| 54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products | 64.1 | 38.2 | -40.4 | 150.7 | 124.5 | -17.4 |
| 56 Fertilisers, manufactured | 24.6 | 4.8 | -80.4 | 40.0 | 18.3 | -54.2 |
| 57 Plastics in primary forms | 26.5 | 30.4 | 15.0 | 66.9 | 85.1 | 27.2 |
| 58 Plastics in non-primary forms | 11.1 | 10.2 | -8.4 | 32.3 | 33.1 | 2.6 |
| 6. Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials | 359.7 | 381.5 | 6.1 | 1,015.2 | 1,202.9 | 18.5 |
| 64 Paper, paperboard, and articles thereof | 32.2 | 36.9 | 14.3 | 104.0 | 102.5 | -1.5 |
| 65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc., n.e.s. | 215.1 | 184.0 | -14.4 | 585.1 | 644.4 | 10.1 |
| 66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s. | 42.8 | 52.3 | 22.4 | 121.7 | 130.2 | 7.0 |
| 67 Iron and steel | 21.1 | 55.8 | 164.3 | 59.5 | 160.4 | 169.6 |
| 7. Machinery, transport equipment | 168.6 | 193.2 | 14.6 | 455.9 | 633.4 | 38.9 |
| 72 Machinery specialized for particular industries | 16.8 | 23.0 | 36.7 | 51.5 | 83.8 | 62.7 |
| 74 General industrial machinery and equipment and machine parts, n.e.s. | 27.5 | 36.2 | 31.5 | 84.0 | 142.7 | 69.9 |
| 75 Office machines and automatic data-processing machines | 13.4 | 14.3 | 6.5 | 33.3 | 41.6 | 24.6 |
| 76 Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment | 12.8 | 35.4 | 175.8 | 36.0 | 91.8 | 155.0 |
| 77 Electric machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s. and electrical parts thereof | 54.8 | 43.8 | -19.9 | 139.0 | 131.6 | -5.4 |
| 78 Road vehicles | 17.2 | 17.0 | -1.1 | 37.0 | 48.7 | 31.8 |
| 8. Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 60.5 | 64.0 | 5.8 | 171.6 | 206.7 | 20.5 |
| 84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories | 12.7 | 16.2 | 27.2 | 42.0 | 50.2 | 19.5 |
| 87 Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments and apparatus n.e.s. | 13.3 | 13.6 | 2.2 | 33.0 | 39.4 | 19.4 |
| 9. Commodities and transactions not elsewhere specified in SITC | 3.8 | 0.4 | -90.0 | 4.4 | 1.3 | -70.4 |
| Total imports | 1,449.5 | 1,507.7 | 4.0 | 3,894.0 | 4,397.9 | 12.9 |

(a) Provisional
n.e.s. not elsewhere specified

Sources: SLC, CPC, Lanka IOC PLC, CBSL
Note: The first digit indicates the 'section' and the first two digits indicate the 'division' of SITC. The above table shows only selected divisions of SITC. For further information on SITC, please see CBSL Annual Report 2017 Box Article 04.
https://www.cbsl.gov.Ik/sites/default/files/cbslweb documents/publications/annual report/2017/en/9 Chapter 05.pdf

Annex VI:

## Services Account - Inflows (a)

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \$ \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \hline \text { (US\$ } \$ \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change <br> (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan-Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \$ \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan-Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ } \$ \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change <br> (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Services | 457.0 | 621.1 | 35.9 | 1,272.7 | 1,838.8 | 44.5 |
| Manufacturing services | 1.5 | 1.0 | -32.0 | 5.4 | 3.9 | -27.7 |
| Maintenance and repair services | 5.1 | 2.9 | -43.8 | 11.1 | 5.9 | -46.5 |
| Transport | 106.8 | 144.9 | 35.6 | 357.1 | 407.3 | 14.0 |
| Sea transport | 45.8 | 93.9 | 105.1 | 162.8 | 243.3 | 49.4 |
| Passenger | 0.02 | 0.1 | 790.8 | 0.04 | 0.8 |  |
| Freight | 29.0 | 59.9 | 106.4 | 103.1 | 155.2 | 50.5 |
| Other | 16.8 | 33.9 | 102.2 | 59.6 | 87.3 | 46.4 |
| Air transport | 61.0 | 50.9 | -16.6 | 194.3 | 163.1 | -16.0 |
| Passenger | 27.8 | 22.2 | -20.1 | 84.9 | 77.4 | -8.9 |
| Freight | 4.4 | 4.2 | -4.5 | 21.7 | 13.0 | -40.2 |
| Other | 28.9 | 24.5 | -15.1 | 87.7 | 72.8 | -17.0 |
| Postal services | 0.02 | 0.1 | 135.3 | 0.04 | 0.8 |  |
| Travel | 188.8 | 338.4 | 79.2 | 503.9 | 1,025.9 | 103.6 |
| Construction | 26.2 | 13.6 | -47.8 | 58.2 | 54.2 | -6.8 |
| Construction abroad | 3.7 | 1.0 | -72.7 | 6.6 | 8.4 | 27.3 |
| Construction in the reporting economy | 15.3 | 7.0 | -54.7 | 25.8 | 20.6 | -20.4 |
| Architectural, engineering \& other technical services | 7.1 | 5.7 | -19.9 | 25.8 | 25.3 | -1.9 |
| Insurance and pension services | 3.6 | 1.8 | -51.2 | 8.6 | 5.1 | -40.0 |
| Direct insurance | 3.5 | 1.5 | -58.4 | 8.4 | 3.3 | -60.6 |
| Reinsurance | 0.1 | 0.3 | 173.4 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 762.3 |
| Financial services | 6.5 | 6.1 | -7.4 | 18.0 | 14.6 | -19.2 |
| Charges for the use of intellectual property | 0.2 | 0.1 | -9.4 | 0.2 | 3.5 |  |
| Telecommunications, computer, and information services | 87.0 | 76.0 | -12.7 | 236.9 | 205.4 | -13.3 |
| Telecommunications services | 7.0 | 5.5 | -20.6 | 33.6 | 19.2 | -42.9 |
| Computer \& IT/BPO related services | 80.0 | 70.4 | -12.0 | 203.3 | 186.2 | -8.4 |
| Computer services | 79.3 | 69.9 | -11.8 | 200.8 | 184.6 | -8.1 |
| Information services | 0.8 | 0.5 | -35.9 | 2.5 | 1.7 | -33.4 |
| Other business services | 27.3 | 34.5 | 26.4 | 61.7 | 107.2 | 73.6 |
| Research and development services | 1.6 | 4.2 | 161.3 | 3.8 | 10.5 | 178.6 |
| Professional and management consulting services | 10.0 | 12.5 | 25.0 | 19.8 | 43.8 | 121.1 |
| Technical, trade-related, and other business services | 15.6 | 17.8 | 13.6 | 38.1 | 52.9 | 38.6 |
| Personal, cultural, and recreational services | 3.3 | 1.6 | -50.9 | 9.7 | 5.1 | -47.2 |
| Audiovisual and related services | 0.02 | 0.3 |  | 0.3 | 1.8 | 578.7 |
| Other personal, cultural, and recreational services | 3.3 | 1.3 | -60.5 | 9.4 | 3.3 | -65.2 |
| Government goods and services | 0.6 | 0.2 | -62.3 | 1.7 | 0.6 | -63.2 |

[^5]Sources: SLTDA, ITRS - CBSL

## Annex VII:

## Services Account - Outflows (a)

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{gathered}$ | Change <br> (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan-Mar } \\ & 2023 \\ & \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan-Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Services | 190.8 | 189.8 | -0.5 | 490.2 | 571.3 | 16.6 |
| Manufacturing services | 16.8 | 13.4 | -20.1 | 44.5 | 47.2 | 6.0 |
| Maintenance and repair services | 0.6 | 1.2 | 103.9 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 170.7 |
| Transport | 69.4 | 57.6 | -17.0 | 211.1 | 186.4 | -11.7 |
| Sea transport | 21.5 | 19.2 | -10.7 | 67.6 | 80.7 | 19.4 |
| Passenger | 0.1 | 0.1 | -11.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 | -62.8 |
| Freight | 18.3 | 18.2 | -0.4 | 58.0 | 77.7 | 33.8 |
| Other | 3.2 | 1.0 | -70.1 | 9.0 | 2.8 | -68.2 |
| Air transport | 47.9 | 38.3 | -20.1 | 142.7 | 103.8 | -27.3 |
| Passenger | 26.8 | 26.3 | -2.0 | 77.9 | 64.8 | -16.7 |
| Freight | 6.5 | 4.1 | -36.5 | 27.1 | 12.4 | -54.4 |
| Other | 14.6 | 7.9 | -46.3 | 37.8 | 26.7 | -29.4 |
| Postal services | - | 0.1 | - | 0.7 | 1.8 | 141.9 |
| Travel | 9.2 | 18.5 | 102.3 | 30.7 | 52.4 | 70.4 |
| Construction | 12.4 | 9.8 | -21.3 | 28.3 | 22.4 | -20.7 |
| Construction abroad | 0.4 | 1.6 | 257.2 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 193.7 |
| Construction in the reporting economy | 6.9 | 1.8 | -74.0 | 16.8 | 4.1 | -75.6 |
| Architectural, engineering \& other technical services | 5.1 | 6.4 | 26.2 | 10.4 | 15.3 | 46.4 |
| Insurance and pension services | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2.6 | 7.3 | 12.4 | 70.5 |
| Direct insurance | 0.4 | 1.6 | 277.2 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 94.3 |
| Reinsurance | 3.5 | 2.5 | -29.4 | 5.6 | 9.3 | 64.2 |
| Financial services | 5.5 | 19.6 | 257.3 | 14.5 | 30.2 | 108.3 |
| Charges for the use of intellectual property | 4.7 | 10.6 | 126.0 | 11.3 | 31.5 | 179.4 |
| Telecommunications, computer, and information services | 32.6 | 18.5 | -43.2 | 66.1 | 50.6 | -23.4 |
| Telecommunications services | 2.0 | 2.3 | 14.5 | 10.5 | 8.0 | -23.4 |
| Computer \& IT/BPO related services | 30.6 | 16.2 | -46.9 | 55.6 | 42.6 | -23.4 |
| Computer services | 19.2 | 13.8 | -27.9 | 38.5 | 36.2 | -5.9 |
| Information services | 11.4 | 2.4 | -79.0 | 17.1 | 6.4 | -62.7 |
| Other business services | 34.1 | 34.8 | 2.0 | 73.8 | 130.9 | 77.5 |
| Research and development services | 7.8 | 8.2 | 5.4 | 18.8 | 22.8 | 21.1 |
| Professional and management consulting services | 13.0 | 10.3 | -21.2 | 23.3 | 52.2 | 123.7 |
| Technical, trade-related, and other business services | 13.3 | 16.3 | 22.7 | 31.6 | 55.9 | 76.9 |
| Personal, cultural, and recreational services | 1.4 | 1.4 | -1.7 | 1.4 | 3.8 | 165.4 |
| Audiovisual and related services | 1.2 | 1.4 | 19.9 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 209.8 |
| Other personal, cultural, and recreational services | 0.3 | 0.01 | -97.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -33.6 |
| Government goods and services | 0.04 | 0.3 | 686.3 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 400.5 |

(a) Provisiona

Source: ITRS - CBSL

## Annex VIII:

## Services Account - Net (a)

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ mn) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan-Mar } \\ 2023 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan-Mar } \\ 2024 \\ \text { (US\$ } \mathrm{mn} \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Change <br> (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Services | 266.3 | 431.2 | 62.0 | 782.5 | 1,267.5 | 62.0 |
| Manufacturing services | -15.3 | -12.4 | -18.9 | -39.1 | -43.3 | 10.6 |
| Maintenance and repair services | 4.5 | 1.7 | -63.5 | 10.0 | 3.0 | -70.3 |
| Transport | 37.4 | 87.3 | 133.1 | 146.0 | 220.9 | 51.3 |
| Sea transport | 24.3 | 74.7 | 207.6 | 95.2 | 162.5 | 70.8 |
| Passenger | -0.05 | 0.1 | -279.8 | -0.6 | 0.6 | -196.8 |
| Freight | 10.8 | 41.7 | 287.5 | 45.1 | 77.5 | 72.1 |
| Other | 13.6 | 32.9 | 142.6 | 50.7 | 84.5 | 66.6 |
| Air transport | 13.1 | 12.6 | -3.7 | 51.6 | 59.3 | 15.0 |
| Passenger | 0.9 | -4.1 | -546.0 | 7.0 | 12.5 | 78.4 |
| Freight | -2.0 | 0.1 | -106.3 | -5.4 | 0.6 | -111.2 |
| Other | 14.2 | 16.6 | 16.9 | 50.0 | 46.2 | -7.6 |
| Postal services | 0.02 | -0.1 | -469.0 | -0.7 | -1.0 | 35.5 |
| Travel | 179.7 | 319.9 | 78.0 | 473.2 | 973.5 | 105.7 |
| Construction | 13.7 | 3.9 | -71.9 | 29.9 | 31.8 | 6.3 |
| Construction abroad | 3.3 | -0.6 | -117.7 | 5.5 | 5.3 | -3.7 |
| Construction in the reporting economy | 8.4 | 5.1 | -38.8 | 9.0 | 16.5 | 82.1 |
| Architectural, engineering \& other technical services | 2.0 | -0.7 | -134.9 | 15.4 | 10.0 | -34.8 |
| Insurance and pension services | -0.4 | -2.3 | 517.4 | 1.3 | -7.3 | -668.5 |
| Direct insurance | 3.1 | -0.1 | -104.4 | 6.8 | 0.2 | -97.3 |
| Reinsurance | -3.4 | -2.2 | -36.1 | -5.4 | -7.4 | 36.7 |
| Financial services | 1.1 | -13.5 |  | 3.5 | -15.6 | -543.8 |
| Charges for the use of intellectual property | -4.5 | -10.4 | 130.8 | -11.0 | -27.9 | 153.7 |
| Telecommunications, computer, and information services | 54.4 | 57.4 | 5.6 | 170.8 | 154.8 | -9.4 |
| Telecommunications services | 5.0 | 3.2 | -34.8 | 23.1 | 11.2 | -51.8 |
| Computer \& IT/BPO related services | 49.4 | 54.2 | 9.6 | 147.7 | 143.6 | -2.7 |
| Computer services | 60.1 | 56.1 | -6.6 | 162.3 | 148.3 | -8.6 |
| Information services | -10.6 | -1.9 | -82.1 | -14.6 | -4.7 | -67.8 |
| Other business services | -6.8 | -0.3 | -95.3 | -12.1 | -23.8 | 97.0 |
| Research and development services | -6.2 | -4.1 | -34.5 | -15.1 | -12.3 | -18.5 |
| Professional and management consulting services | -3.0 | 2.3 | -176.2 | -3.5 | -8.4 | 138.4 |
| Technical, trade-related, and other business services | 2.4 | 1.5 | -37.5 | 6.5 | -3.0 | -146.5 |
| Personal, cultural, and recreational services | 1.9 | 0.2 | -87.3 | 8.3 | 1.3 | -83.8 |
| Audiovisual and related services | -1.1 | -1.1 | -6.9 | -0.9 | -1.8 | 98.1 |
| Other personal, cultural, and recreational services | 3.0 | 1.3 | -57.3 | 9.2 | 3.1 | -66.1 |
| Government goods and services | 0.5 | -0.1 | -113.3 | 1.6 | 0.1 | -96.0 |

(a) Provisional

Source: ITRS - CBSL


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The CBSL merchandise trade classification and the classification based on the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 4, are presented in Annex II, Annex III, Annex IV, and Annex V, respectively.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ In terms of US dollars

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ The CBSL commenced reporting monthly services sector statistics at a more granular level from January 2024 based on its International Transaction Reporting System (ITRS).
    ${ }^{4}$ Provisional

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ Provisional

[^4]:    (a) Provisional
    (b) Includes lentils, onions, potatoes, leguminous and other vegetables

[^5]:    (a) Provisional. All data except travel inflows, are based on ITRS data. Travel inflows data are based on the survey conducted by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

