PRESS RELEASE

Communications Department, 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka
+94 11 2477424 / +94 11 2477669 +94 11 2346304
communications@cbsl.lk / dcommunications@cbsl.lk www.cbsl.gov.lk

ශ්‍රී ලංකා මහ බැංකුව
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

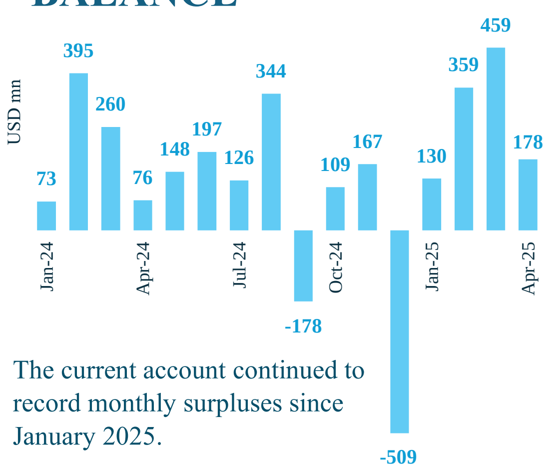
Issued By Economic Research Department

Date 30 May 2025

External Sector Performance – April 2025

The external sector of the Sri Lankan economy remained resilient in April 2025, supported by healthy inflows from tourist earnings and workers' remittances, despite a widened trade deficit.

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE



The current account continued to record monthly surpluses since January 2025.

MERCHANDISE TRADE

Trade Deficit

Apr 2025: USD 717 mn
Apr 2024: USD 558 mn

EXPORTS
USD 968 mn
10.4% growth (y-o-y) in Apr 2025

IMPORTS
USD 1,686 mn
17.5% growth (y-o-y) in Apr 2025

SERVICES (net)

Apr 2025: USD 368 mn
Apr 2024: USD 301 mn

Supported by:
Tourism (growth (y-o-y): 20.1%)
Transport (growth (y-o-y): 109.7%)

TOURIST ARRIVALS

174,608
17.3% growth (y-o-y) in Apr 2025

148,867
in Apr 2024

WORKERS' REMITTANCES

USD 646 mn
18.8% growth (y-o-y) in Apr 2025

EXCHANGE RATE
(LKR/USD)

2.3%
Year to Date Depreciation at end May 2025

GROSS OFFICIAL RESERVES *

USD 6.3 bn
at end Apr 2025

Import Coverage
3.9 Months

** Including the swap facility with the People's Bank of China*

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES & CSE FLOWS

Apr 2025

Govt. Securities (net)	CSE (net) **
USD **-12 mn**	USD **3 mn**
Inflows: USD 21 mn	Inflows: USD 13 mn
Outflows: USD 34 mn	Outflows: USD 10 mn

*** including primary and secondary markets*

EXTERNAL SECTOR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY
April 2025

- Reflecting the resilience of the external sector, the monthly current account has remained in surplus since January 2025.
- The merchandise trade deficit widened in April 2025 compared to both April 2024 and March 2025. This was as a result of merchandise imports growing at a higher pace (17.5 %, y-o-y), mainly driven by imports of motor vehicles (US dollars 134 million), compared to the growth in merchandise exports (10.4 %, y-o-y).
- The terms of trade improved during the month, as the decline in import prices was greater than the decline in export prices.
- Earnings from tourism in April 2025 were estimated at US dollars 257 million in comparison to US dollars 226 million in April 2024.
- Workers' remittances amounted to US dollars 646 million in April 2025 compared to US dollars 544 million in April 2024.
- Foreign investments in the government securities market shifted from a net inflow in the previous month to a marginal net outflow of US dollars 12 million, while the foreign investments in the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) (considering both primary and secondary markets) recorded a turnaround from a net outflow to a marginal net inflow of US dollars 3 million.
- Gross official reserves (GOR) remained healthy at US dollars 6.3 billion by end April 2025, amidst debt servicing.
- Depreciation of the Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar was 2.3 per cent from end 2024 until end May 2025.

Detailed statistics are available in the Monthly External Sector Bulletin, and in the External Sector Statistics web pages in the CBSL website, which can be accessed through the following web links:

https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/external-sector-bulletin

https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/statistics/statistical-tables/external-sector

Summary of External Sector Performance (a)

Category	Apr 2024 (USD mn)	Apr 2025 (USD mn)	Change (%)	Jan-Apr 2024 (USD mn)	Jan-Apr 2025 (USD mn)	Change (%)
Current Account Balance	**75.9**	**178.5**	**135.0**	**803.5**	**1,127.4**	**40.3**
Trade Balance	**-557.7**	**-717.5**		**-1,777.1**	**-2,257.1**	
Merchandise Exports	877.6	968.4	10.4	4,056.1	4,315.8	6.4
Merchandise Imports	1,435.2	1,685.9	17.5	5,833.2	6,572.9	12.7
Services Account (net)	**301.4**	**368.2**	**22.1**	**1,456.3**	**1,588.2**	**9.1**
Services - Inflows	558.4	602.5	7.9	2,419.7	2,637.6	9.0
of which,						
Tourist Earnings (b)	225.7	256.7	13.7	1,251.6	1,379.0	10.2
Sea and Air Transport Services	131.0	199.5	52.2	537.2	688.5	28.2
Computer and IT/BPO services	70.8	61.6	-12.9	260.6	263.7	1.2
Services - Outflows	256.9	234.3	-8.8	963.4	1,049.4	8.9
of which,						
Travel Abroad	56.2	53.1	-5.4	223.3	252.3	13.0
Sea and Air Transport Services	71.3	75.7	6.2	257.1	345.0	34.2
Primary Income Account (net)	**-200.1**	**-107.1**	**-46.5**	**-912.6**	**-613.2**	**-32.8**
Primary Income Account - Inflows	42.5	83.0	95.4	157.1	261.3	66.3
Primary Income Account - Outflows	242.6	190.1	-21.6	1,069.7	874.5	-18.2
of which,						
Direct Investment related	44.8	65.5	46.1	238.6	343.2	43.8
Portfolio Investment related	95.6	57.1	-40.3	310.1	210.9	-32.0
Other Investment Interest	100.5	64.8	-35.6	514.9	311.0	-39.6
Secondary Income Account (net)	**532.3**	**634.8**	**19.3**	**2,036.8**	**2,409.5**	**18.3**
of which,						
Workers' Remittances - Inflows	543.8	646.1	18.8	2,079.9	2,460.5	18.3
Personal Transfers - Outflows	12.9	12.1	-6.2	46.1	54.1	17.4
Main Flows to the Financial Account						
Net Flows to the CSE (c)	0.3	2.7	732.5	22.6	-33.3	-247.1
Net Flows to the G-Sec. Market	-24.2	-12.2	-49.4	-113.0	80.3	-171.1
Change in Reserves (d)	510.8	-203.6	-139.9	1,078.5	205.0	-81.0

Sources: Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), Sri Lanka Customs (SLC), Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE)

(a) Provisional
(b) Based on the survey conducted by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
(c) Includes primary and secondary transactions
(d) Includes valuation changes that impact reserve asset position