PRESS RELEASE

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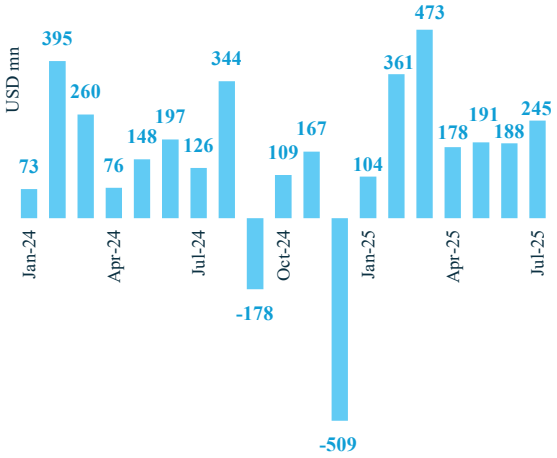
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Issued By Economic Research Department
Date 29 August 2025

External Sector Performance – July 2025

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE



TOTAL EXPORTS
(Goods and Services)

USD 1,920 mn
6.2% growth (y-o-y) in Jul 2025

USD 12.0 bn
6.7% growth (y-o-y) in Jan-Jul 2025

Supported by

Goods Exports
USD 1,302 mn
15.2% growth (y-o-y) in Jul 2025

Goods Exports
USD 7.8 bn
7.1% growth (y-o-y) in Jan-Jul 2025

Trade in Services
USD 618 mn
8.8% contraction (y-o-y) in Jul 2025

Trade in Services
USD 4.2 bn
5.8% growth (y-o-y) in Jan-Jul 2025

TOURIST EARNINGS

USD 318 mn
3.0% contraction (y-o-y) in Jul 2025

USD 328 mn
in Jul 2024

TRADE DEFICIT

Jul 2025: USD 580 mn
Jul 2024: USD 604 mn

Jan-Jul 2025: USD 3.9 bn
Jan-Jul 2024: USD 3.1 bn

GOODS IMPORTS

USD 1,882 mn
8.5% growth (y-o-y) in Jul 2025

USD 11.6 bn
11.8 % growth (y-o-y) in Jan-Jul 2025

WORKERS' REMITTANCES

USD 697 mn
23.0% growth (y-o-y) in Jul 2025

USD 567 mn
in Jul 2024

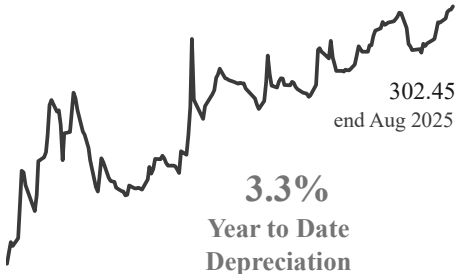
GROSS OFFICIAL RESERVES *

USD 6.1 bn
at end Jul 2025

Import Coverage 3.7 Months

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

EXCHANGE RATE
(LKR/USD)



3.3%
Year to Date Depreciation
at end Aug 2025

EXTERNAL SECTOR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

July 2025

- The performance of the external sector further strengthened in July 2025, with the current account recording consecutive monthly surpluses, thus far in 2025.
- Total exports, including merchandise goods and services, improved to US dollars 12.0 billion during the seven months ending July 2025, recording a y-o-y growth of 6.7 per cent. In July 2025, merchandise goods exports recorded the highest-ever monthly earnings, amounting to US dollars 1.3 billion. The merchandise trade deficit narrowed in July 2025 compared to July 2024, as the growth in exports outpaced that of imports.
- Vehicle imports, comprising both personal and commercial vehicles, amounted to US dollars 193 million in July 2025, leading to total vehicle imports of US dollars 668 million for the first seven months of 2025.
- The terms of trade deteriorated in July 2025, as the rise in import prices outpaced the increase in export prices.
- The services sector net inflows recorded a modest decrease in July 2025 relative to its performance in the corresponding period of 2024. However, net inflows in the services sector recorded a 3.3 per cent increase during January-July 2025, amounting to US dollars 2.4 billion.
- Tourist arrivals reached 200,244 during the month of July 2025, marking a growth of 6.6 per cent compared to July 2024. Accordingly, earnings from tourism in July 2025 were estimated at US dollars 318 million. Further, earnings from tourism were estimated at US dollars 2.0 billion during January-July 2025, recording a slight increase compared to US dollars 1.9 billion in the corresponding period of 2024.
- Workers' remittances amounted to US dollars 697 million in July 2025, recording the highest monthly workers' remittances since December 2020.
- Foreign investments in the government securities market continued to record a net inflow in July 2025, while the foreign investments in the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), covering both primary and secondary markets, recorded a net outflow during the month.
- Gross official reserves (GOR), including the swap facility with the People's Bank of China (PBOC), by end July 2025 remained broadly unchanged at US dollars 6.1 billion, amidst debt servicing.
- As of end August 2025, the year-to-date depreciation of the Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar was 3.3 per cent.

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	Jul 2024 (USD mn)	Jul 2025 (USD mn)	Change (%)	Jan-Jul 2024 (USD mn)	Jan-Jul 2025 (USD mn)	Change (%)
Current Account Balance	125.6	244.6	94.6	1,274.1	1,739.6	36.5
Trade Balance	-603.8	-580.0		-3,143.8	-3,850.1	
Merchandise Exports	1,130.3	1,302.2	15.2	7,274.7	7,794.3	7.1
Merchandise Imports	1,734.1	1,882.2	8.5	10,418.5	11,644.4	11.8
Services Account (net)	394.9	316.7	-19.8	2,300.4	2,375.8	3.3
Services - Inflows	677.7	618.0	-8.8	3,996.0	4,227.5	5.8
of which,						
Tourist Earnings (b)	328.3	318.5	-3.0	1,884.9	2,031.1	7.8
Sea and Air Transport Services	156.3	138.2	-11.6	982.1	1,150.3	17.1
Computer and IT/BPO services	95.6	60.7	-36.5	490.1	479.2	-2.2
Services - Outflows	282.8	301.3	6.5	1,695.6	1,851.7	9.2
of which,						
Travel Abroad	55.3	81.0	46.4	366.0	427.1	16.7
Sea and Air Transport Services	96.4	76.9	-20.3	479.7	602.1	25.5
Primary Income Account (net)	-219.8	-182.6		-1,510.4	-1,143.0	
Primary Income Account - Inflows	52.3	54.6	4.5	303.9	422.1	38.9
Primary Income Account - Outflows	272.1	237.2	-12.8	1,814.3	1,565.1	-13.7
of which,						
Direct Investment related	137.7	78.1	-43.3	488.8	599.7	22.7
Portfolio Investment related	59.8	38.5	-35.6	535.6	298.2	-44.3
Other Investment Interest	72.8	118.7	63.1	779.0	652.3	-16.3
Secondary Income Account (net)	554.4	690.5	24.5	3,627.9	4,356.9	20.1
of which,						
Workers' Remittances - Inflows	566.8	697.3	23.0	3,710.8	4,435.2	19.5
Personal Transfers - Outflows	13.2	7.6	-42.3	87.1	82.0	-5.8
Main Flows to the Financial Account						
Net Flows to the CSE (c)	11.8	-14.6	-223.8	30.9	-53.9	-274.3
Net Flows to the G-Sec. Market	-23.4	17.2	-173.9	-221.5	107.4	-148.5
Change in Reserves (d)	-2.1	65.5		1,260.3	24.9	-98.0

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