PRESS RELEASE

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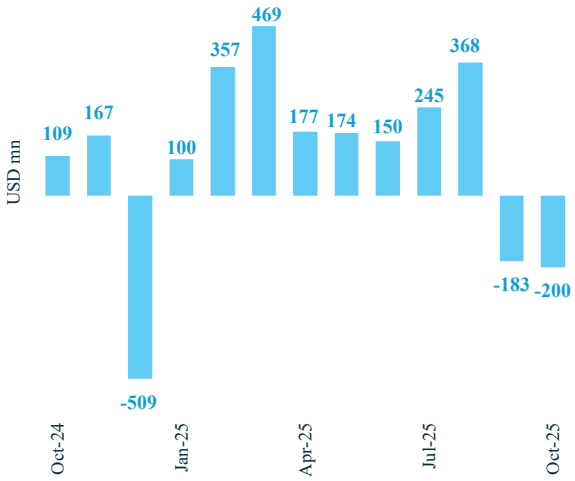
இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Issued By Economic Research Department
Date 28 November 2025

External Sector Performance – October 2025

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE



TOTAL EXPORTS
(Goods and Services)

USD 1,645 mn
1.4% contraction (y-o-y) in Oct 2025

USD 17.1 bn
5.2% growth (y-o-y) during Jan-Oct 2025

Supported by

Goods Exports

USD 1,149 mn
0.7% contraction (y-o-y) in Oct 2025

Supported by

Goods Exports

USD 11.4 bn
6.4% growth (y-o-y) during Jan-Oct 2025

Trade in Services

USD 496 mn
2.8% contraction (y-o-y) in Oct 2025

Trade in Services

USD 5.8 bn
2.7% growth (y-o-y) during Jan-Oct 2025

TOURISM EARNINGS

USD 186 mn *
in Oct 2025

USD 186 mn
in Oct 2024

** Based on the new survey of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority*

GOODS IMPORTS

USD 2,157 mn
26.7% growth (y-o-y) in Oct 2025

USD 17.5 bn
13.8% growth (y-o-y) during Jan-Oct 2025

MERCHANDISE TRADE DEFICIT

Oct 2025: USD 1,007 mn
Oct 2024: USD 544 mn

Jan-Oct 2025: USD 6.2 bn
Jan-Oct 2024: USD 4.7 bn

WORKERS' REMITTANCES

USD 712 mn
21.2% growth (y-o-y) in Oct 2025

USD 588 mn
in Oct 2024

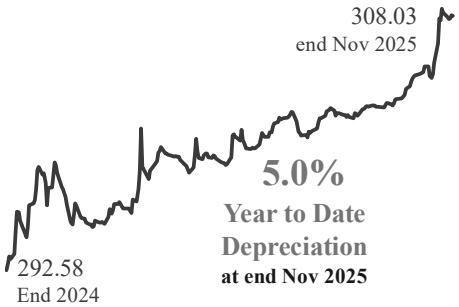
GROSS OFFICIAL RESERVES **

USD 6.2 bn
at end Oct 2025

Import Coverage 3.6 Months

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

EXCHANGE RATE
(LKR/USD)



5.0%
Year to Date Depreciation
at end Nov 2025

EXTERNAL SECTOR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

October 2025

- Sri Lanka's external sector recorded a current account deficit in October 2025 for the second consecutive month. However, the cumulative current account surplus for the first ten months of 2025 is estimated at around US dollars 1.7 billion.
- The merchandise trade deficit widened year-on-year in October 2025, mainly due to a notable increase in imports.
- Vehicle imports (both personal and commercial vehicles) amounted to US dollars 261 million in October 2025, with cumulative vehicle imports recording US dollars 1,465 million during the first ten months of the year.
- Reflecting a higher increase in import prices compared to export prices, the terms of trade deteriorated in October 2025 (year-on-year).
- Trade in services recorded a marginal increase in net inflows, reaching around US dollars 3.1 billion during January-October 2025.
- Tourist arrivals increased in October 2025 on both a month-on-month and a year-on-year basis. Tourism earnings also increased in the same month, albeit at a moderate pace, with cumulative earnings for the first ten months of the year increasing by 4.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis.
- Workers' remittances recorded the highest monthly inflow since December 2020. On a cumulative basis, remittances during the first ten months of the year recorded a year-on-year growth of 20.1 per cent.
- Foreign investments in the government securities market continued to record net inflows in October 2025, while the foreign investments in the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), including both primary and secondary markets, recorded net outflows during the month.
- Gross official reserves (GOR), including the swap facility with the People's Bank of China (PBOC), stood around US dollars 6.2 billion by end October 2025.
- Year to date depreciation of Sri Lanka rupee against the US dollar was 5.0 per cent at end November 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	Oct 2024 (USD mn)	Oct 2025 (USD mn)	Change (%)	Jan-Oct 2024 (USD mn)	Jan-Oct 2025 (USD mn)	Change (%)
Current Account Balance	108.6	-199.5		1,548.2	1,657.4	7.1
Trade Balance	-544.4	-1,007.4		-4,744.6	-6,181.8	
Merchandise Exports	1,158.0	1,149.4	-0.7	10,676.1	11,364.5	6.4
Merchandise Imports	1,702.4	2,156.8	26.7	15,420.6	17,546.2	13.8
Services Account (net)	213.3	245.2	14.9	3,014.5	3,093.0	2.6
Services - Inflows	509.9	495.6	-2.8	5,630.1	5,784.2	2.7
of which,						
Tourist Earnings (b)	185.6	186.1	0.3	2,533.7	2,659.0	4.9
Sea and Air Transport Services	166.9	158.6	-5.0	1,481.5	1,568.7	5.9
Computer and IT/BPO services	61.8	50.6	-18.1	698.1	671.6	-3.8
Services - Outflows	296.6	250.4	-15.6	2,615.6	2,691.2	2.9
of which,						
Travel Abroad	71.2	49.0	-31.2	605.8	626.0	3.3
Sea and Air Transport Services	106.3	83.2	-21.7	791.4	842.7	6.5
Primary Income Account (net)	-140.2	-135.2		-2,035.0	-1,669.4	
Primary Income Account - Inflows	53.5	40.3	-24.7	484.9	504.4	4.0
Primary Income Account - Outflows	193.6	175.4	-9.4	2,519.8	2,173.8	-13.7
of which,						
Direct Investment related	95.0	69.1	-27.3	698.2	848.6	21.5
Portfolio Investment related	4.6	46.2		684.9	437.8	-36.1
Other Investment Interest	92.3	58.0	-37.1	1,119.8	864.7	-22.8
Secondary Income Account (net)	579.8	697.8	20.4	5,313.1	6,415.6	20.7
of which,						
Workers' Remittances - Inflows	587.7	712.0	21.2	5,431.5	6,523.7	20.1
Personal Transfers - Outflows	10.1	15.0	49.3	127.4	112.3	-11.9
Main Flows to the Financial Account						
Net Flows to the CSE (c)	3.5	-18.7		45.2	-103.3	
Net Flows to the G-Sec. Market	38.7	70.2	81.5	-217.6	248.2	
Change in Reserves (d)	478.3	-27.1		2,080.1	94.5	-95.5

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

(a) Provisional
(b) Tourist earnings are calculated based on tourist arrivals, average stay period and average spending per day. Average stay period changes monthly and is based on tourist immigration data. Average spending per day is revised from August 2025 onwards based on new survey results conducted by SLTDA.
(c) Includes primary and secondary transactions
(d) Includes valuation changes that impact reserve asset position