



*International Trade
Statistics of Sri Lanka - 2016*

**Department of Commerce
Ministry of Industry and Commerce**

Preface

International Trade Statistics of Sri Lanka – 2016, annual publication is a product of successful team effort of the officers of Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce (DoC) under the guidance of Director General of Commerce and other officers of the DoC.

The main objective of this publication is to provide trade statistics with ready-to-use reference guide on the details of export and import statistics to national and international users. The adoption of the methodology indicated in this report will assist in facilitating data aggregation, data compilation both at national and international level.

The data presented in this publication is designed to meet the interest of the users of trade statistics including planners, policy makers, administrators, researchers, international traders and industrialists etc.

The services of Mrs. D.P.W.D. Warnasooriya (Statistician), Ms. Dilini Fernando (Development Officer) in preparation of this publication are very much appreciated. The members of technical committee who made their contribution to improve the status of this publication are also commended.

Officials of the Statistics Division of the Department of Customs has also contributed in compilation and processing the trade data included in this publication.

Any suggestions and comments for improvement of this publication are most welcome.

Sonali Wijeratne

Director General of Commerce

Department of Commerce

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Abbreviations

ANZCERTA	- Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Agreement
APEC	- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APTA	- Asia Pacific Trade Agreement
ASEAN	- Association of South-East Asian Nations
ATPF	- Asian Trade Promotion Forum
BIMST – EC	- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CEFTA	- Central European Free Trade Agreement
CIF	- Cost, Insurance and Freight
CIS	- Common Wealth of Independent States
COMESA	- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COO	- Certificate of Origin
CUSDEC	- Customs Declaration
DOC	- Department of Commerce
EFTA	- European Free Trade Association
E. U.	- European Union
FOB	- Free On Board
FTAs	- Free Trade Agreements
G. C. C.	- Gulf Cooperation Council
GSP	- Generalized System of Preference
GSTP	- Generalized System of Trade Preferences
HS CODE	- Harmonized System for Classification of Commodities
ITC	- International Trade Centre
IOR-ARC	- Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
ISFTA	- India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement
MERCOSUR	- Southern Common Market
NAFTA	- North American Free Trade Agreement
OECD	- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEC	- Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries
PSFTA	- Pakistan - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement
RTAs	- Regional Trade Agreements
SAARC	- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAFTA	- South Asian Free Trade Area
SAPTA	- SAARC Preferential Trade Agreement
SATIS	- SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services
SLC	- Sri Lanka Customs
UNCTAD	- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WTO	- World Trade Organization

Selected Economic Indicators of Sri Lanka

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Economic Indicators							
GNI at Current Market Prices, Rs. Millon	6,343,892	7,147,065	8,577,574	9,366,039	10,125,078	10,670,358	11,506,217
GNI at Constant (2010) Prices, (Rs. Million)	6,343,892	6,885,232	7,453,571	7,662,004	8,049,085	8,413,897	8,761,221
GDP at Current Market Prices (Rs. Million)	6,413,668	7,219,106	8,732,463	9,592,125	10,448,479	11,183,220	11,838,975
GDP at Constant (2010) Prices (Rs. Million)	6,413,668	6,952,720	7,588,517	7,846,202	8,228,986	8,622,825	9,012,026
GDP at Constant (2010) Prices, (US\$)	56,108.51	62,273.05	58,412.01	59,344.82	61,574.21	61,986.66	61,895.10
GDP at Current Market Prices, (US\$)	56,725.64	65,292.75	68,434.41	74,294.26	80,024.56	82,267.18	81,310.75
Sectoral Composition of GDP at Current Factor Cost Prices (Rs.Mn.)							
Agriculture	544,914	637,567	650,510	735,382	833,889	901,579	890,659
Industry	1,708,867	2,021,037	2,630,766	2,797,328	2,986,199	3,109,006	3,208,476
Services	3,504,323	3,980,500	4,858,292	5,406,544	5,924,433	6,295,853	6,743,346
Real GDP Growth Rate, %	8.0	8.2	6.3	7.3	4.9	4.8	4.4
Inflation	6.2	6.7	7.6	6.9	3.3	0.9	4.6
US Dollar/Rs. Rate	113.0647	110.5652	127.6034	129.1099	130.5659	135.9378	145.6016
Per Capita GDP at market prices (US\$)	2,744	3,129	3,351	3,821	3,844	3,925	3,835
Investment and Savings, as % of GDP:							
Investment %	27.6	29.9	30.6	29.6	29.7	30.1	31.5**
National Savings %	25.3	22.1	24.0	25.7	26.7	27.8	28.9**
Socio-Economic Indicators							
Mid-Year Population (000')	20,675	20,869	20,424	20,579	20,771	20,966	21,203
Annual growth rate of population %	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.13
Unemployment Rate %	4.9	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.3*	4.2*
Labor Force %	48.1	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.6	53.6*	54.0*
Trade Indicators							
Total exports (US\$ Mn)	8,293.71	10,030.58	9,180.59	10,009.41	11,044.38	10,211.92	10,217.28
Export value as a percentage of GDP (at Constant (2010) Prices, (US\$. Mn.)	14.78	16.11	15.72	16.87	17.94	16.47	16.51
Export Growth Rate %		20.94	-8.47	9.03	10.34	-8.45	0.05
Total imports (US\$ Mn)	12,340.34	19,703.02	17,888.64	17,949.09	19,245.71	18,989.31	19,514.78
Coverage of imports by exports %	67.21	50.91	51.32	55.76	57.39	53.78	52.36
Balance of Trade (US\$ Mn)	-4,046.61	-9,685.39	-8,708.11	-7,939.68	-8,201.33	-8,777.39	-9,297.50

*For fourth quarter

**Provisional

Introduction

The Origin of the Department of Commerce

Department of Commerce (which was formally known as 'Bureau of Commerce & Industry') has its origin which goes back to 1931. The Ceylon (State Council) Order in 1931 replaced the Ceylon (Legislative Council) Order in 1923 as the new Constitution of Ceylon in 1931, which was introduced under 'Donoughmore Commission'. This became one of the prime instruments of constitutional reform in 'Ceylon'.

The Executive Committee on "Labour, Industry and Commerce" was one of the seven Committees created under Section 32 of the new Constitution in 1931. This State Council of Labour, Industry and Commerce was assigned the subjects of Commerce that include the functions of the Registrar General, Industrial welfare and Labour. The 'Bureau of Commerce & Industry' that was under the State Council of Labour, Industry and Commerce, , functioned as a key institution dealing with foreign trade policy formulation of 'Ceylon'.

In 1938 the Department of Commerce (and Industry) was created and the Ministry of Commerce and Trade was established in 26th Septemebr 1947 with the inauguration of new Constitution having Department of Commerce as a nodal Department of the that Ministry..

, the Department functions exclusively as the national focal point for the UNCTAD, GATT/ WTO, UNESCAP, and other international organizations such as Common Fund for Commodities, ITC, WTO Law Reference Centre.

Functions of the Department of commerce

A) MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS:

- *Promoting and safeguarding Sri Lanka's foreign trade interests within the WTO-led multilateral trading system. This includes several tasks, inter-alia (a) representing Sri Lanka at the Doha Round of Trade negotiations, (b) addressing any bottlenecks/obstacles, which hamper Sri Lankan exports in the international market due to restrictive trade policies introduced by other countries, (c) negotiation of special and differential treatment for Sri Lankan products and (d) facilitating measures for prevention of any unexpected injuries to domestic industries.*
- *Securing trade-related technical assistance from international institutions such as International Trade Center (ITC), WTO, and UNCTAD for trade-related capacity building in Sri Lanka.*
- *DoC is also the focal point in Sri Lanka for UNCTAD, which has a mandate to provide support to developing countries on policy and development issues and promoting South-South trade.*

B) REGIONAL AFFAIRS:

- *DoC is the focal point for negotiation and implementation of Sri Lanka's regional trade agreements (RTAs). The RTAs make a significant contribution in integrating Sri Lanka to different regional markets. At present, Sri Lanka is a member of the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA), the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). Since Sri Lanka gains a much better market access to both India and Pakistan, the two largest markets in the SAARC region, under its FTAs with them, Sri Lankan exports under SAFTA/SAPTA have remained rather modest. China and South Korea are the main markets for Sri Lankan exports under APTA. Sri Lanka has exported a total of US\$ 126 million worth of goods to APTA member countries in 2016, consisting of coir fibre, apparel, rubber products, porcelain items, tea etc.*

C) BILATERAL AFFAIRS

- *DoC is the focal point for Sri Lanka's FTAs with India (ISFTA) and Pakistan (PSFTA). Sri Lanka has been able to diversify its exports in an impressive manner under these FTAs, particularly under the ISFTA.*
- *The EU is the largest export destination of Sri Lanka. Consequently, any changes to the EU trade policy can have a significant impact on Sri Lankan exports, both directly and indirectly. In the circumstances, the DoC has been playing an increasingly important role in monitoring the constant EU trade policy changes for the purpose of ensuring sustainable access for Sri Lankan products in the European market. EU trade preference arrangements (GSP, GSP+ EBA), Rules of Origin, Control Measures on fishery products and other commodities, EU's FTAs with other countries are some of the examples in this context.*
- *DoC also conducts Joint Commissions with Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Egypt, EU, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Thailand and Turkey. These joint commissions provide an effective mechanism for enhancing inter-governmental cooperation, which is extremely beneficial for the development and expansion of Sri Lanka's economic interest in the countries concerned.*

Table 1: Activities Undertaken by the Commercial Officers of the DoC (2010-2014)

	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Promotional Fair participation from Sri Lanka in host country	52	510	59	671	80	728	75	848	61	737
Promotional fair participation from the host country in Sri Lanka	12	47	26	90	29	122	37	325	22	169
Participants to the EXPO 2012, Sri Lanka	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1	1,160	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Staged Sri Lanka specific (single-country) promotional campaigns in host countries	88	n.a	116	n.a	138	n.a	127	n.a	33	n.a
Delegations to Sri Lanka (except for EXPO - 2012)	49	385	43	282	48	457	98	563	35	387
Delegations to the host country	41	437	61	436	54	455	70	600	78	805
Individual visits to the host country	n.a	147	n.a	174	n.a	181	n.a	201	n.a	208
Individual visits to Sri Lanka	n.a	147	n.a	139	n.a	194	n.a	270	n.a	237
Two way trade inquiries replied	1,728		1751		1,882		2133		9,626	

(1). No. of Exhibitions/Delegations

(2). No. of Participants/Delegates

The Activities undertaken by Commercial Officers of the DoC 2015

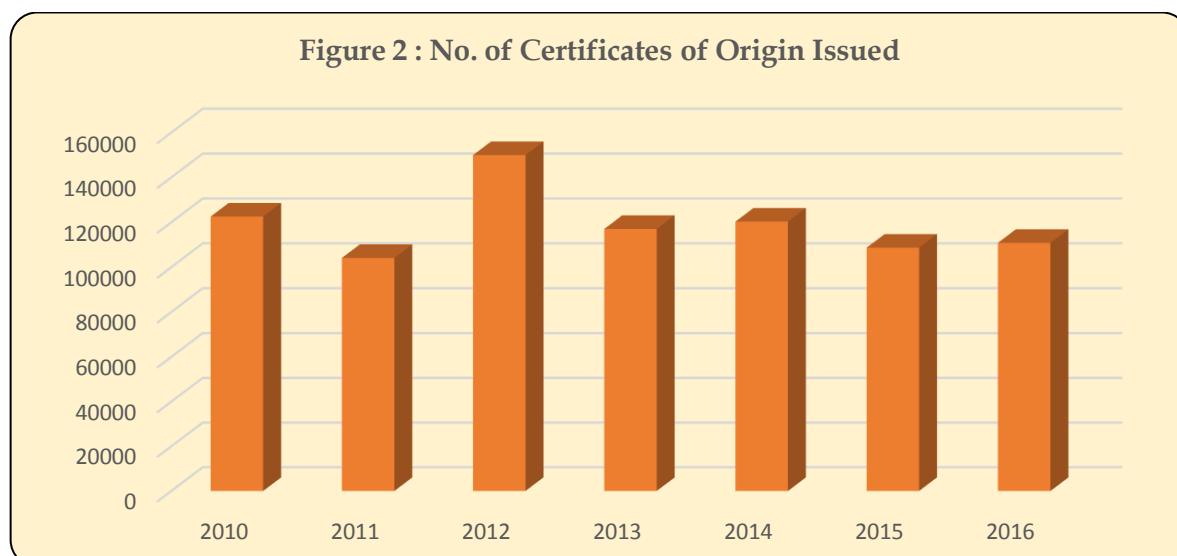
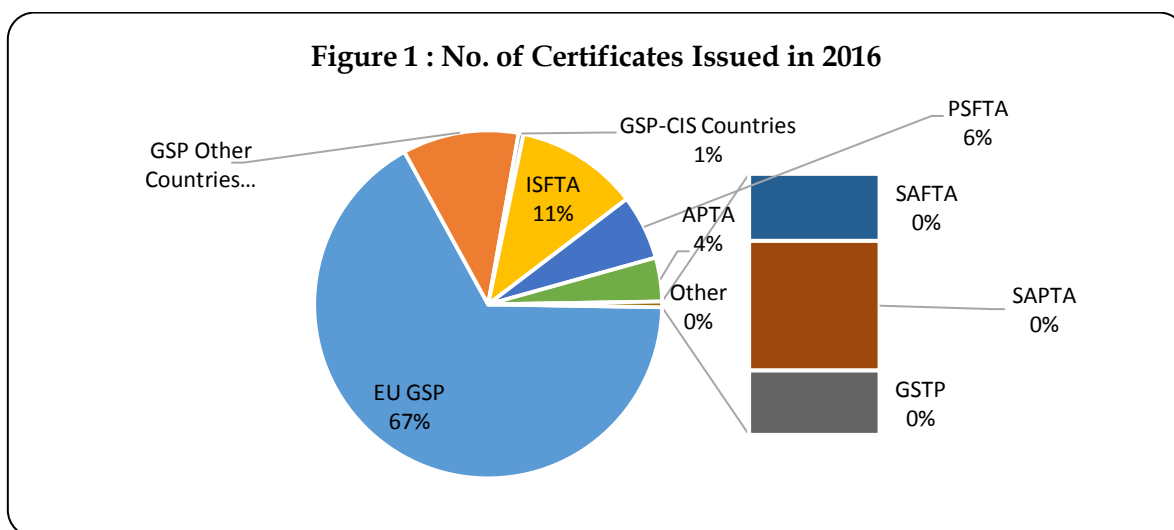
Activity	Unit	2015
Conducting Sri Lanka specific (single-country) promotional campaigns (Trade/ Investment/ Tourism)	No. of events	63
Sri Lankan exhibitions promoted in the host/accredited country	No. of fairs/ exhibitions	116
	Number of exhibitors /visitors	131
Host/accredited country exhibitions promoted in Sri Lanka	No. of fairs/ exhibitions	131
	Number of exhibitors /visitors	1071
Trade fairs/exhibitions visited by the Officer in the host/accredited country	No. of fairs/ exhibitions	137
	No. of new business contacts	634
Networking Events for Export and Investment Promotion	No. of networking meetings	191
Trade/ investment/ tourism delegations to Sri Lanka	No. of delegations	57
	No. of delegates	518
Trade/ investment/ tourism delegations to host/accredited country from Sri Lanka	No. of delegations	74
	No. of delegates	814
Individual visits to Sri Lanka	No. of visits	153
Individual visits to the host country	No. of visits	141
Serving two-way inquiries (Trade/ Investment/ Tourism)	No. of inquiries	2,713
Resolving trade disputes	No. of disputes	78
FTA/JEC/MOU and other Policy related negotiations	No. of negotiations	19
Market Surveys/ Market Intelligence/ Status Reports	No. of reports	89
Representing Sri Lanka at International Fora for Export and Investment Promotion	No. of events	37

The Activities undertaken by Commercial Officers of the DoC 2016

	Activity	Total	
1	Staged Sri Lanka specific (single-country) promotional campaigns in host countries	49	
2	Delegations to Sri Lanka	Number of delegations	96
		Number of delegates	770
3	Delegations to the host country	Number of delegations	142
		Number of delegates	1,005
4	Individual visits to Sri Lanka	253	
5	Individual visits to the host country	224	
6	Exhibitions promoted in the host country	295	
7	Promotional fair participation from the host in Sri Lanka	Number of fairs	62
		Number of exhibitors / visitors	485
8	Number of inquiries served (Trade/ investment/tourism)	1,871	
9	Number of trade complaints attended	228	
10	Number of product sector promoted	147	
11	No of trade fairs visited by trade officers	100	
12	Sri Lanka's participation in TF and Business Network meetings at host country	244	
13	Market Intelligence	70	
14	Representing Sri Lanka at International Organizations/Fora	32	
15	Promotion of Tea	33	
16	Investment Promotion Activities	245	
17	Tourism Promotion Activities	219	
18	Business Networking Events	204	

Table 2: COOs Issued by the Department of Commerce (2010-2016)

Agreement	Number of Certificates of Origin Issued						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
EU GSP	88,409	85,600	114,029	79,454	83,898	72,675	74,003
GSP Other Countries	15,434	14,782	13,909	13,410	12,706	11,985	11,981
GSP-CIS Countries	871	856	1,009	929	842	480	514
ISFTA	10,373	35	9,742	11,088	10,852	11,494	12,621
PSFTA	5,219	30	8,057	8,190	7,069	7,320	6,673
APTA	1,906	2,424	2,781	3,482	4,131	4,025	4,508
SAFTA			26	74	388	231	149
SAPTA	239	248	253	243	309	304	288
GSTP	99	115	136	147	107	150	143
Total	122,550	104,090	149,942	117,017	120,302	108,664	110,830



Overview of the International Trade in Sri Lanka – 2016

The total value of exports in 2016 was reported as US\$ million 10,217.28 which is a 0.05 percent increase compared to 2015 with US\$ million 10,211.92 export value. The total value of exports has fluctuated during the last three years and recorded the highest value in 2014. The USA is the largest buyer of Sri Lankan products in 2016, which has a share of 27.5 percent of total export value followed by UK, India, Germany and Italy. The above five export destinations covered 52 percent of total value of exports in 2016. The major export products to the world are reported as Apparel (HS 61 and 62), which is the main foreign exchange earner covering 45 percent of total export value followed by Tea (0902), Solid tyres (40129010), Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers (0906).

The total value of import was US\$ million 19,514.78 in 2016 which has increased by 2.8 percent compared to 2015. In 2015 it indicates a 1.3 percent decrease compared to 2014. The major supplier of Sri Lanka is China which covered 22 percent of total import value followed by India, U.A.E, Singapore, Japan, and Malaysia. Iron and Steel (72 and 73), Knitted or crocheted fabrics (60), Plastics and articles thereof (39), Cotton (52), Gas oil/Diesel (27101940) are the major five products imported to Sri Lanka.

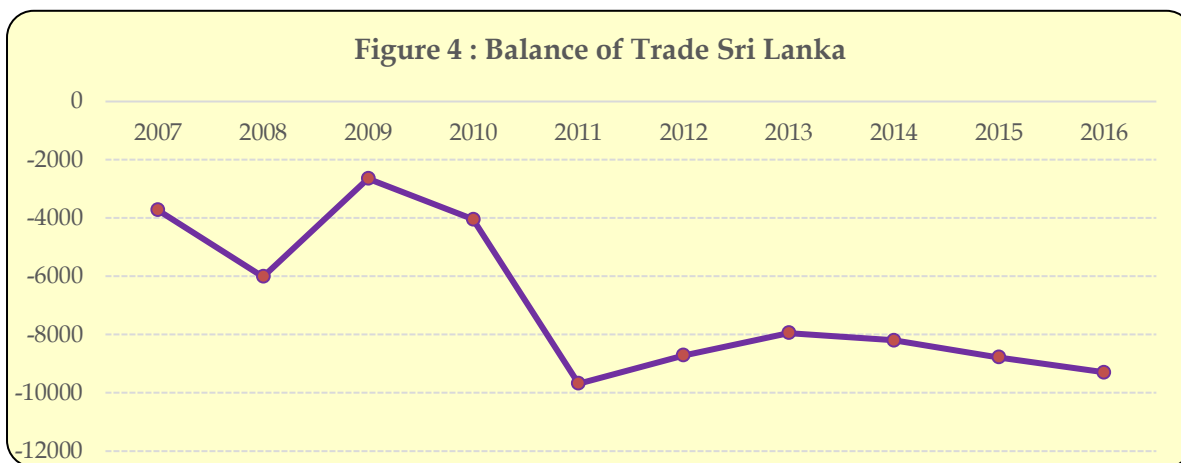
Balance of Trade

Balance of Trade ⁽¹⁾ in Sri Lanka has recorded an average of US\$ Million -6904.18 in the period from 2007 to 2016, which reached a low value of US\$ Million -9,685.39 in 2011 and extended to high value of US\$ Million -2648.36 in 2009. However, in 2016 the trade deficit has recorded US\$ Million -9297.50. USA, UK, Italy, Belgium, and Turkey are the first five countries which has positive balance of trade while India, China, UAE and Japan indicated a negative balance of trade (major five countries) in 2016.

Table 3: The growth of Export and Import values

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change % 2014/2015	Change % 2015/2016
Total Exports (US\$ Mn)	10,009.41	11,044.38	10,211.92	10,217.28	-7.54	0.05
Total Imports (US\$ Mn)	17,949.74	19,245.71	18,989.31	19,514.78	7.22	-1.33
Balance of Trade	-7,940.33	-8201.33	-8,777.39	-9,297.50	3.29	7.02

(1) Balance of Trade is the difference between the value of exports and value of imports. Thus, the Balance of Trade denotes the differences of imports and exports of a merchandise of a country during the course of the year.



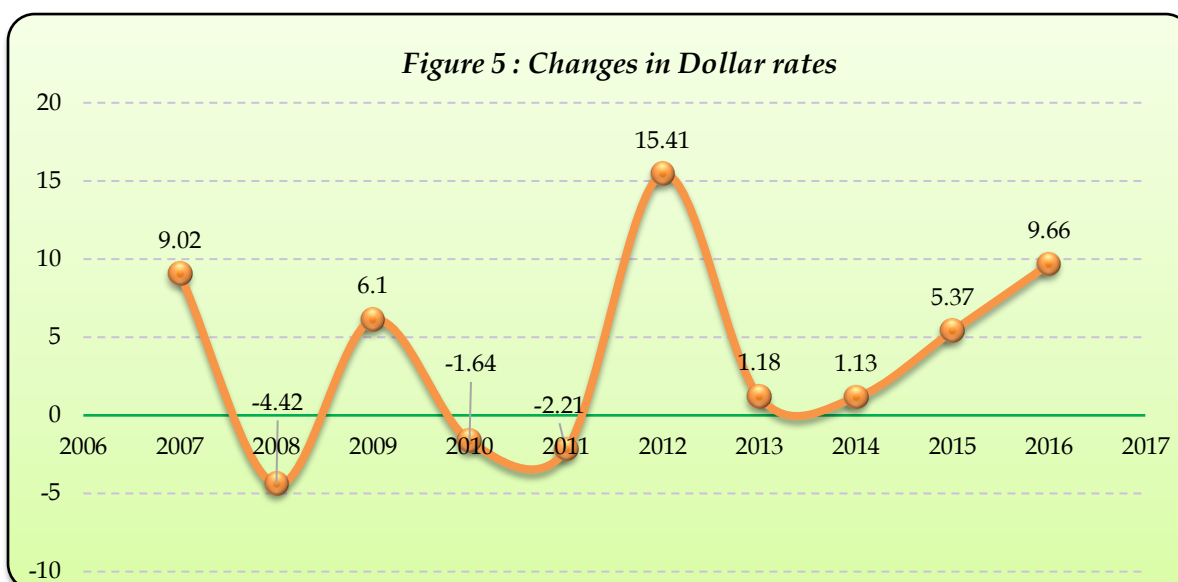
Changes of Dollar Rate in Sri Lanka

Basic understanding of the dynamic behavior of exchange rates, specially Dollar rate is extremely important to various parties relating to international trade such as policy makers, investors, traders etc. Dollar rate of Sri Lanka has been fluctuating during the last ten years. The highest rate was recorded in 2016 while the lowest was recorded in 2008. Table - 4 indicates the Dollar rates during the last ten years and the percentage of change. Figure - 5 clearly shows the fluctuations of Dollar rate over the years. In 2012 there was a drastic change where the Dollar rate increased by 15.41%. The Dollar rate has decreased in 2008, 2010 and 2011.

Table 4: Changes of Dollar Rate

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
USD	113.338	108.333	114.944	113.064	110.565	127.603	129.109	130.565	135.938	145.601
Change %	9.02	-4.42	6.1	-1.64	-2.21	15.41	1.18	1.13	5.37	9.66

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka



Direction of International Trade of Sri Lanka

USA and UK remained the largest export destinations for Sri Lanka while India and China were the foremost import originations of Sri Lanka during the last five years (see figure 6 and 7). While USA and UK are covering 27.5 and 10.2 percent from total exports, China and India are covering 21.9 and 19.6 percent from total imports of Sri Lanka in 2016. India, Germany, Italy, China, Belgium and UAE are the influential buyers of Sri Lanka while Japan, UAE, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia and USA are the dominant suppliers to Sri Lanka in 2016.

Table 5 : Major Destinations of Exports (US\$ Mn)

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
U.S.A.	1958.96	2114.44	2496.78	2720.19	2800.27	2807.76
U.K.	1006.63	1058	1077.18	1115.3	1028.31	1043.53
INDIA	458.64	566.37	543.37	624.81	643.03	551.21
GERMANY	459.71	452.22	467.82	496.69	473.95	505.6
ITALY	560.11	507.82	510.46	613.95	434.07	428.16
CHINA	95.81	108.12	121.63	173.48	293.05	199.15
BELGIUM	507.46	463.96	463.37	318.43	282.28	337.93
U.A.E.	274.08	219.65	236.58	276.07	273.55	274.87
NETHERLANDS	181.78	158.62	190.84	242.69	220.03	207.79
JAPAN	203.95	215.5	224	235.98	213.78	200.15

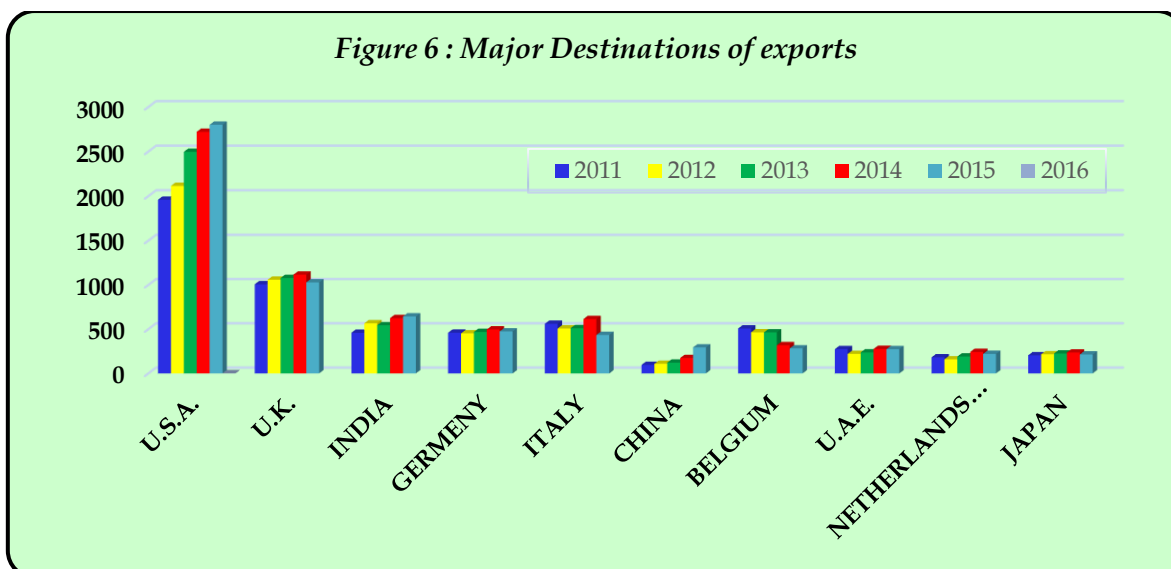


Table 6 : Major Origins of Imports (US\$.Mn)

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
CHINA	2,133.75	2,568.01	2,962.60	3,414.40	3,731.64	4273.58
INDIA	4,346.91	3,517.23	3,128.86	3,977.76	4,273.30	3827.50
U.A.E.	812.93	1,293.24	1,225.58	1,755.98	1,074.30	1067.98
SINGAPORE	1,534.50	1,286.81	1,800.14	1,270.09	923.85	1031.00
JAPAN	1,024.60	554.61	670.21	941.11	1,389.24	950.46
MALAYSIA	753.2	550.32	570.09	715.8	511.94	642.46
U.S.A.	285.3	234.1	352.56	492.54	470.79	539.59
THAILAND	481.82	460.23	428.44	462.04	497.75	514.80
TAIWAN	352.17	382.54	455.03	443.32	459.77	496.26
U.K.	303.51	297.55	281.34	290.7	482.79	446.02

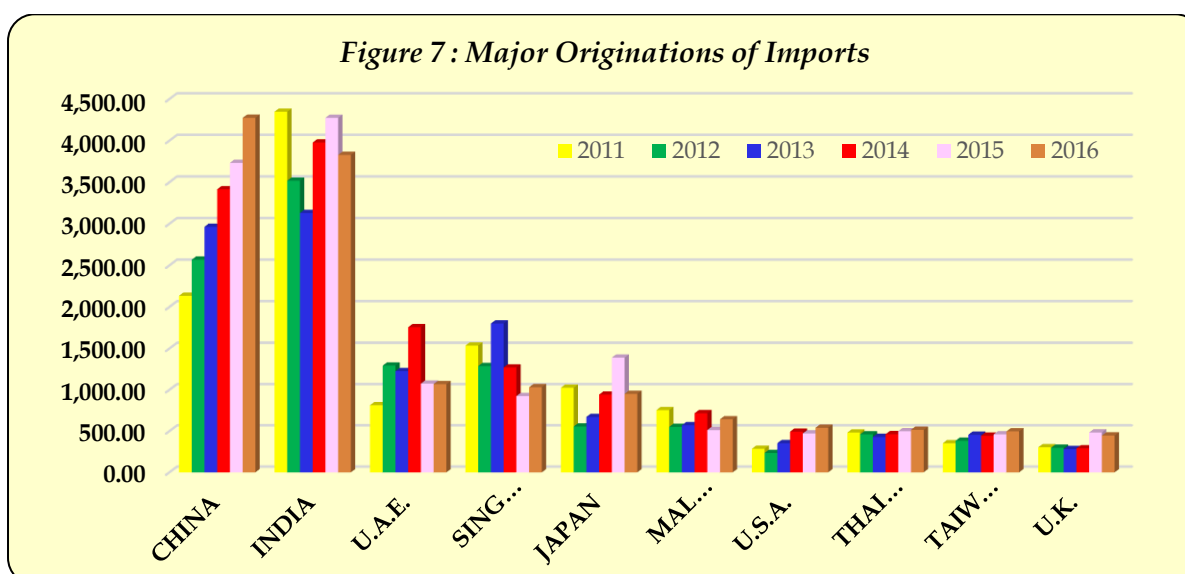


Table 7: Sri Lanka's preferential exports under APTA (Value in US\$. Mn)

Year	India	Bangladesh	China	South Korea	Total exports
2007	13.1	0.5	9.03	4.4	27.03
2008	10.4	0.7	19	5.2	35.3
2009	13.1	1.3	28.9	6.1	49.4
2010	21.6	0.2	41.4	6.5	69.7
2011	7.9	0.2	44.8	16.9	69.8
2012	8.02	0.2	36.2	17.3	61.72
2013	4.9	0.3	53.1	16.8	75.1
2014	3.1	4.5	86	26	119.6
2015	1.46	0.05	89.20	27.98	118.69
2016	1.60	.38	91.88	31.72	125.58

Table 8: Exports to Pakistan under PSFTA

Year	Total Exports (US\$ Mn.)	Under ISFTA (US\$ Mn.)	Percentage %
2012	82.75	60.41	73.00
2013	83.05	59.2	71.28
2014	74.25	51.78	69.74
2015	73.10	58.84	80.49
2016	63.80	51.52	80.75

Table 9: India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)

Year	Exports (US\$ Mn.)			Imports (US\$ Mn.)		
	Total Exports to India	under the ISFTA	Percentage under the ISFTA	Total Imports from India	under the ISFTA	Percentage under the ISFTA
2001	70.12	15.9	23	601	113.1	19
2002	168.81	114.2	68	834	81.7	10
2003	241.14	238.8	99	1076	150.4	14
2004	385.49	339.9	88	1342	394.7	29
2005	559.21	543	97	1399.43	246.2	18
2006	494.06	431.1	87	1822.07	459.3	25
2007	516.4	398.2	77	2785.04	385.3	14
2008	418.08	309.3	74	3006.93	541.4	18
2009	324.87	218.5	67	1709.93	371.7	22
2010	466.6	358.4	77	2546.23	573.7	23
2011	521.59	391.5	75	4349.43	579.6	13
2012	566.37	379.5	67	3517.23	156.4	4
2013	543.37	368.77	65	3092.67	393.4	13
2014	624.81	375.8	60	3977.76	540.1	14
2015	643.03	407.2	63	4273.30	253.3	6
2016	551.21	375.16	68	3,827.50	186.73	5

Table 10: Sri Lanka's Preferential Trade under SAFTA (Value in US\$ '000)

Year	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Total
2007	NE	NE	19.83	NE	NE	NE	19.83
2008	NE	NE	31.49	NE	NE	9.30	40.79
2009	NE	NE	29.20	NE	NE	579.42	608.62
2010	NE	NE	425.04	NE	NE	92.53	517.57
2011	NE	NE	34.68	NE	NE	67.71	102.39
2012	76.01	NE	28.81	69.55	29.04	26.00	229.41
2013	NE	NE	1,057.46	616.37	64.49	NE	1,738.32
2014	80.05	NE	10,986.11	250.53	19.90	1,254.82	12,591.41
2015	6.41	9.67	14,640.87	85.62	NE	655.49	15,398.06
2016	2194.18	0.00	4,170.01	4.95	395.46	129.19	6,893.79

*No exports to Afghanistan under SAFTA

N.B. NE- No Exports