

**Sri Lanka (LKA)**  
**SDDS - DQAF View**  
**Category: Merchandise trade**

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**H.Header data**

**H.0.7 Data category notes**

*[Data category notes]*

Foreign Trade

**0. Prerequisites**

**0.1 Legal environment**

**0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics**

*[Laws and administrative arrangements specifying the responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics]*

Section 35 (1) of the Monetary Law Act (MLA) requires the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) to submit to the minister in charge of the subject of Finance and publish an annual report on the condition of the Central Bank and a review of the policies and measures adopted by the Monetary Board during the financial year and an analysis of the economic and financial circumstances which prompted those policies and measures.

MLA, Section 35 (2): The annual report shall include a statement of the financial condition of the Central Bank, and shall present as a minimum the following data-

(a) the monthly movements of the money supply, distinguished between currency and demand deposits;

(b) the monthly movements of purchases and sales of exchange and of the International Reserve of the Bank;

(c) the annual balance of payments of Sri Lanka;

(d) the monthly indices of wages, of the cost of living, and of import and export prices;

(e) the monthly movement, in summary form, of exports and imports, by volume and value;

(f) the monthly movement of the accounts of the Central Bank and, in consolidated form, of the commercial banks;

(g) the principal data on Government receipts and expenditures and on the state of the public debt, both domestic and foreign; and

(h) the texts of the major legal enactments and administrative measures adopted by the Government and the Monetary Board during the year which relate to the functions or operations of the Central Bank or of banking institutions operating in Sri Lanka.

**Section 26.** (1) of the MLA authorizes the Director of Economic Research or any officer of the department of economic research authorised for the purpose by the Director may in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made under section 10 of the MLA –

(a) require any person to furnish to him such information as he may consider it necessary to obtain for the purposes of the proper discharge of the functions and responsibilities of the Central bank; or

(b) require any person to produce for inspection any books or records in his possession containing or likely to contain any such information.

Authority to obtain information. Establishment and functions of department of economic research.

Section 26 (2) Any person who without reasonable cause fails or refuses to comply with any requirements made under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) In this section “person” includes any officer of any department of Government, and any body of persons, corporate or unincorporate, whether established or constituted under any written law or otherwise.

In addition to publishing monthly data in the annual report, monthly data are disseminated through a press release and in several publications including the "Selected Weekly Economic Indicators," the

monthly "Selected Economic Indicators," and the "Monthly Bulletin" which are available online on the CBSL website.

### **Department of Census and Statistics**

The DCS produces and disseminates data under the Statistics Ordinance and Census Ordinance, which gives it the authority to conduct censuses of population, housing, agriculture, livestock, trade, labour, industry, or commerce or other such matters as it deems necessary for ascertaining the demographic, social, or economic conditions of the inhabitants of Sri Lanka.

## **0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies**

*[Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate.]*

Preliminary data are received from Sri Lanka Customs, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Lanka IOC PLC, major petroleum exporting companies and Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Authority and compiled and disseminated by CBSL.

Using the data received from these institutions, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka compiles data on merchandise trade, on a monthly basis.

Data on merchandise trade compiled by the Central Bank are disseminated through the monthly press releases, monthly "Trade Bulletin", "Weekly Economic Indicators", "Monthly Economic Indicators" and the "Monthly Bulletin" posted on the Website of the CBSL and the Annual Report of the CBSL.

## **0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data**

*[Measures ensuring individual reporters' data are kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.]*

Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Section 45. (1) of the MLA: Except in the performance of their duties under this Act, every officer and servant of the Central Bank shall preserve and aid in preserving secrecy with regard to all matters relating to the affairs of any banking institution or of any client of any such institution or of any matter relating to the affairs of any department of Government, corporation, company, partnership or person that may come to his knowledge in the performance of his duties under this Act, the Control of Finance Companies Act, No. 27 of 1979, or any other law for the time being in force, and any such officer or servant who communicates any such matter to any person, other than the Monetary Board or an officer of the Central Bank authorized in that behalf by the Governor, or suffers or permits any unauthorized person to have access to any books, papers or other records relating to any banking institution, department of Government, corporation, company, partnership or person, shall be guilty of an offence.

Department of Census and Statistics

Confidentiality of individuals is guaranteed under the Ordinance which states “...no publication ... shall disclose or facilitate the identification of any particulars as being particulars relating to any individual person” and “Every person engaged in the collection and preparation of statistics under this Ordinance shall make a declaration in the prescribed form that he will not disclose or make use of any information supplied under this Ordinance.”

#### 0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting

*[Legal mandates and/or measures to require or encourage statistical reporting.]*

### 0.2 Resources

#### 0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing

*[Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing for statistical programs currently available as well as what would be required for programmed statistical outputs.]*

Staff use computers with statistical packages.

#### 0.2.2 Ensuring efficient use of resources

*[Measures implemented to ensure efficient use of resources.]*

### 0.3 Relevance

#### 0.3.1 Monitoring user requirements

*[How the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.]*



## 0.4 Quality management

### 0.4.1 Quality policy

*[Processes in place to focus on quality.]*



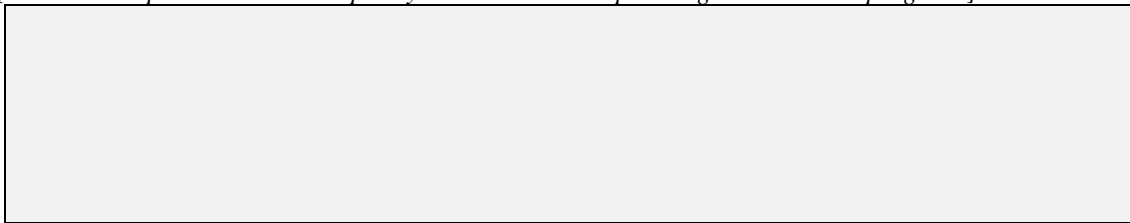
### 0.4.2 Quality monitoring

*[Processes in place to monitor quality during the planning and implementation of the statistical program]*



### 0.4.3 Quality planning

*[Processes in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.]*



## 1. Integrity

### 1.1 Professionalism

#### 1.1.1 Impartiality of statistics

*[Measures to promote impartiality in production of statistics.]*



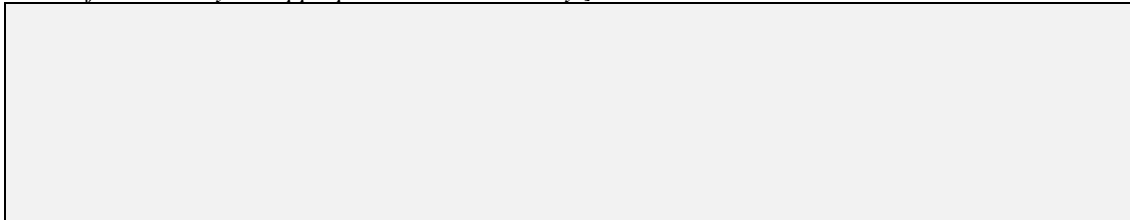
### 1.1.2 Selection of data sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination

*[Selection of data sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination.]*

Data is based on Customs declarations and statistically prepared according to UN

### 1.1.3 Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics

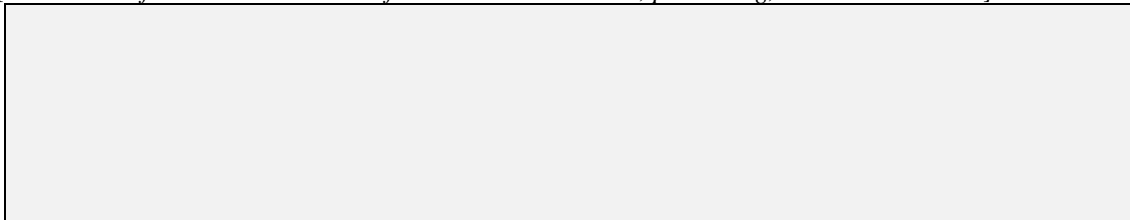
*[Entitlement to, opportunity for, and historical frequency of, comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics by the appropriate statistical entity.]*



## 1.2 Transparency

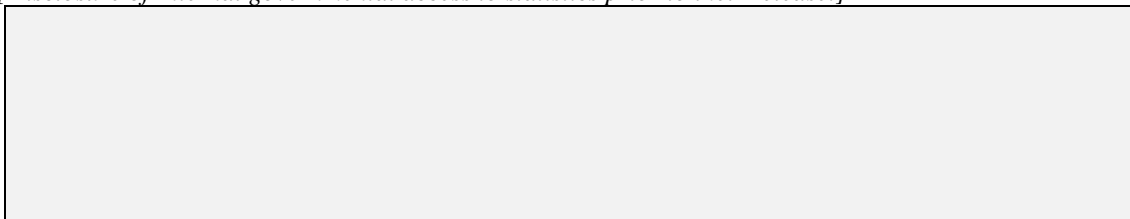
### 1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination

*[Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination.]*



### 1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release

*[Disclosure of Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release.]*



### 1.2.3 Attribution of statistical products

*[Identification of statistical agencies/units producing disseminated statistics.]*

### 1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.

*[Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.]*

Major changes in methodology communicated together with data prepared according to such changes are explained to the public by way of footnotes to the data.

## 1.3 Ethical standards

### 1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior

*[Measures implementing and enforcing guidelines for staff behavior.]*

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Concepts and definitions

#### 2.1.1 Concepts and definitions

*[Degree to which the overall structure of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]*

Based mainly on the data provided by Sri Lanka Customs, which are in accordance with the International Merchandise Trade Statistics 1998, CBSL compiles data on merchandise trade according to BPM 6 requirements.

### 2.2 Scope

#### 2.2.1 Scope

##### 2.2.1.1 Scope of the data

*[Scope of the data.]*

Merchandise exports, recorded on a F.O.B basis, are categorised into agricultural exports, industrial exports, and mineral exports, i.e., categorized on a sectoral basis. Merchandise imports, recorded on a C.I.F basis, are categorized into consumer goods, intermediate goods and investment goods, i.e., they are classified according to the end user classification. These categories are further divided into sub-categories. Tables containing data on merchandise exports and imports, classified into the above mentioned categories and sub-categories, are published on a monthly basis as well as annually. Trade data are also presented classified by regions and trading partners.

#### 2.2.1.2 Exceptions to coverage

*[Exceptions to coverage.]*

Items that are excluded are: Direct transit trade, transshipment trade, passengers' baggage, ship's stores, transactions in treasure (that is gold and current coins and notes), and diplomatic goods.

#### 2.2.1.3 Unrecorded activity

*[Unrecorded activity.]*

### 2.3 Classification/sectorization

#### 2.3.1 Classification/sectorization

*[Broad consistency of classification/sectorization systems used with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]*

Data collection is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization (1996). CBSL processes and disseminates the data classified in accordance with the end user classification for imports and on a sectoral basis for exports. Trade data are also presented in terms of regions and countries/trading partners. Substantial commodity detail is disseminated for both imports and exports.

### 2.4 Basis for recording

#### 2.4.1 Valuation

*[Types of prices (market, historical, administrative, basic, purchasers', producer, etc.) used to value flows and stocks.]*



Merchandise imports are valued on c.i.f. basis and exports on f.o.b. basis.

Data obtained from the Sri Lanka Customs on a monthly basis are in Sri Lanka rupee terms. CBSL converts the rupee values to USD values based on the monthly average exchange rate.

#### 2.4.2 Recording basis

*[Degree to which recording meets requirements for accrual accounting.]*

Recorded on accrual basis.

#### 2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures

*[Broad consistency of grossing/netting procedures with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]*

### 3. Accuracy and reliability

#### 3.1 Source data

##### 3.1.1 Source data collection programs

*[Comprehensiveness of source data from administrative and survey data collection programs, and appropriateness of the collection modality for country-specific conditions.]*

CBSL uses information from Sri Lanka Customs and also from other original sources such as Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), Lanka IOC PLC, Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Authority and major providers of bunkering services.

Department of Census and Statistics - Sri Lanka Customs Unit uses Customs declarations as the principal data source, in compiling the data on merchandise exports and imports, sent to the CBSL monthly.

##### 3.1.2 Source data definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording

*[Degree to which source data approximate definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required (as described in 2.1.1-2.4.3).]*



### 3.1.3 Source data timeliness

*[Source data timeliness relative to what is required for producing statistical outputs whose timeliness meets applicable data standard (SDDS requirements or GDDS recommendations).]*

Source data are received within 3-4 weeks after the reference month.

## 3.2 Assessment of source data

### 3.2.1 Source data assessment

*[Routine assessment of source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records (e.g., for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error); whether assessment results are monitored; how results are used to guide statistical processes.]*

Source data are compared with previous trends and current developments and discrepancies are clarified with relevant sources.

## 3.3 Statistical techniques

### 3.3.1 Source data statistical techniques

*[Statistical techniques in data compilation to deal with data sources (e.g., to align them with target concepts from 2.1.1).]*

End use classification: Use of MS Excel and MS access packages to process primary data.  
Index: computed using the Lapseyre's volume index and Passche unit value index.

### 3.3.2 Other statistical procedures

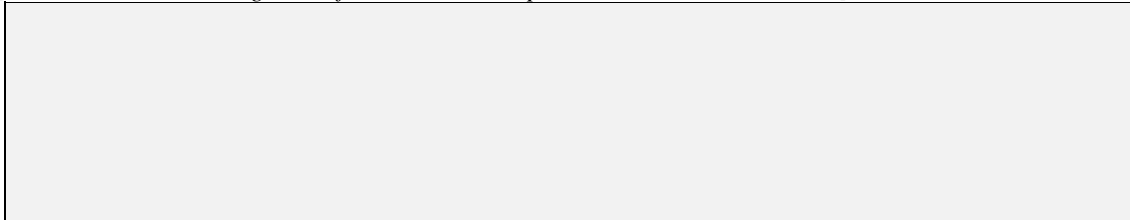
*[Statistical techniques employed in other statistical procedures (e.g., data adjustments and transformations, and statistical analysis).]*



### 3.4 Data validation

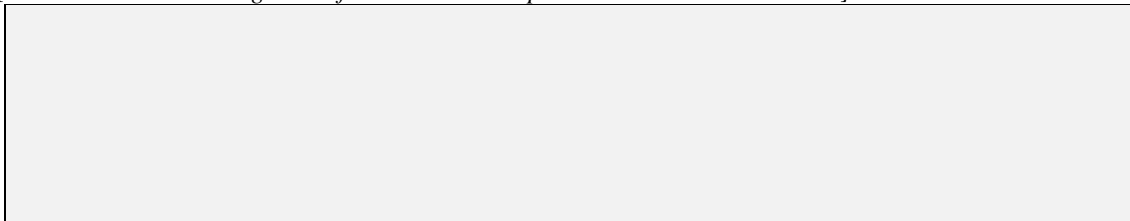
#### 3.4.1 Validation of intermediate results

*[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]*



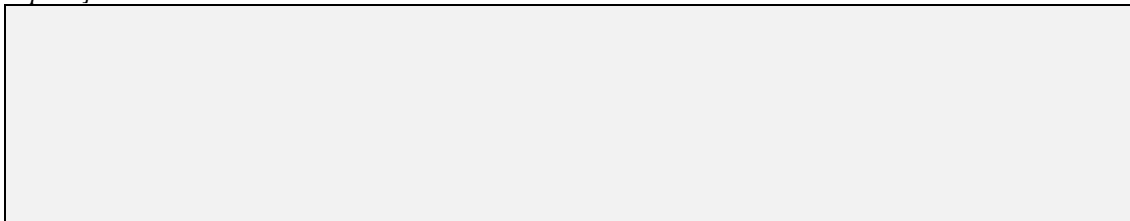
#### 3.4.2 Assessment of intermediate data

*[Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies in intermediate data.]*



#### 3.4.3 Assessment of discrepancies and other problems in statistical outputs

*[Investigation of statistical discrepancies and other potential indicators of problems in statistical outputs.]*



### 3.5 Revision studies

#### 3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses

*[Periodicity with which studies and analyses of revisions and/or updates are carried out; whether and how they are used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).]*



## 4. Serviceability

### 4.1 Periodicity and timeliness

#### 4.1.1 Periodicity

*[Periodicity of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]*

Monthly

#### 4.1.2 Timeliness

*[Timeliness of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]*

Monthly data are disseminated with a lag of 4 weeks of the end of the reference month.

### 4.2 Consistency

#### 4.2.1 Internal consistency

*[Consistency of statistics within the dataset.]*

A considerable component detail is disseminated along with the totals for both exports and imports. This facilitates assessment of the quality of the data and comparisons with balance of payments data.

#### 4.2.2 Temporal consistency

*[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics over a reasonable period of time.]*



#### 4.2.3 Intersectoral and cross-domain consistency

*[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.]*



### 4.3 Revision

#### 4.3.1 Revision and/or update schedule

*[Transparency and regularity of revision/update schedule.]*

When data are published during the first year it is disseminated on a provisional basis. If there are any subsequent revisions data are disseminated as revised.

#### 4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised/updated data

*[Identification of preliminary and/or revised/updated data.]*

Preliminary data are referred to as provisional data. If data are subsequently revised they are referred to as revised data.

#### 4.3.3 Dissemination of revision studies and analyses

*[Dissemination of revision studies and analyses (see also 3.5.1).]*



## 5. Accessibility

### 5.1 Data

#### 5.1.1 Statistical presentation

*[Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts).]*

Data are presented in tables, charts, graphs and text (in the national languages and English), generally with comparable data points as relevant.

#### 5.1.2 Dissemination media and format

##### 5.1.2.1 Hard copy - New release

*[Hard copy - New release.]*

.

##### 5.1.2.2 Hard copy - Weekly bulletin

*[Hard copy - Weekly bulletin.]*

##### 5.1.2.3 Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin

*[Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin.]*

##### 5.1.2.4 Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin

*[Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin.]*



#### 5.1.2.5 Hard copy - Other

*[Hard copy - Other.]*

"Annual Report" Central Bank of Sri Lanka

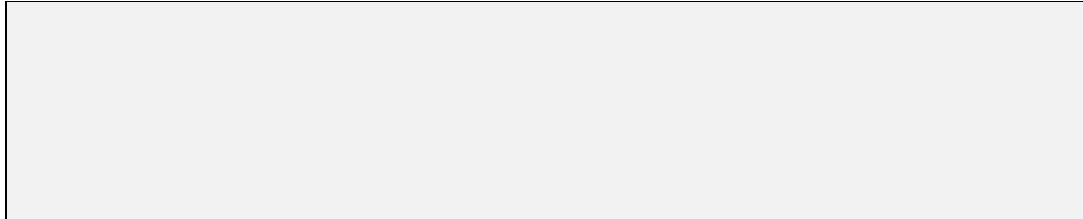
#### 5.1.2.6 Electronic - On-line bulletin or data

*[Electronic - On-line bulletin or data.]*

External sector performance press release is issued monthly in English, Sinhala and Tamil. It is available on the CBSL website. Subsequently, more detailed data on merchandise trade are published in the "Weekly Economic Indicators", "Monthly Economic Indicators", monthly "Trade Bulletin" and the "Monthly Bulletin" of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, which are available on its website ([www.cbsl.gov.lk](http://www.cbsl.gov.lk)).

#### 5.1.2.7 Electronic - Other

*[Electronic - Other.]*



### 5.1.3 Advance release calendar

*[Pre-announcement of the release schedule for statistics.]*

Quarter-ahead precise release dates are disseminated in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board.

#### 5.1.3.1 ARC Note

*[ARC Note.]*



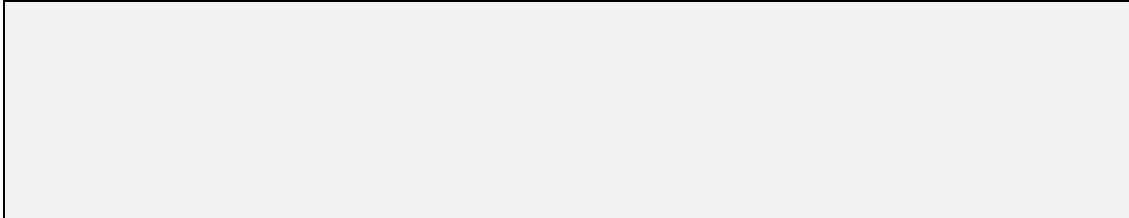
#### 5.1.4 Simultaneous release

*[Degree to which statistics are made available to all users at the same time, and modalities used to achieve this.]*

The Monthly Press Release is made available to News agencies and Newspapers via electronic mail.

#### 5.1.5 Dissemination on request

*[Dissemination on request of unpublished but non-confidential statistics.]*



### 5.2 Metadata

#### 5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques

*[Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques, including annotation of differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines.]*

A statement of methodology in terms of a mapping of HS Codes in the Sri Lanka Customs Tariff Guide to CBSL Classification categories is available on the CBSL website, “Statistics” section, with the monthly and yearly data.

#### 5.2.2 Disseminated level of detail

*[Customization of detail and format of tables for the target groups of users.]*



### 5.3 Assistance to users

#### 5.3.1 Dissemination of information on contact points

*[Dissemination of information on contact points for each subject field.]*

#### 5.3.2 Availability of documents and services catalogs

*[Dissemination of catalogs of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges.]*

Publications and released data are available online for free from the CBSL website.

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*[Please provide information below as relevant]*

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Email:

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