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## News Release

### National Accounts Estimates of Sri Lanka

First quarter - 2026

Production Approach

Base year - 2015

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

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The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) Sri Lanka, has released the estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current price and at constant (2015) price in Production approach and the other macroeconomic indicators for the first quarter (January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>) of 2026.

The GDP for the first quarter of 2026 at constant price (2015) has increased up to Rs. 3,652,503 million from Rs. 3,476,664 million which was reported in the first quarter of 2025.

The GDP growth rate for the first quarter of year 2026 has been reported as 5.1 percent of positive growth rate.

In the first quarter of 2026, overall Agricultural activities, Industrial activities and Services activities reported expansions of 1.1 percent, 7.2 percent and 3.4 percent respectively.

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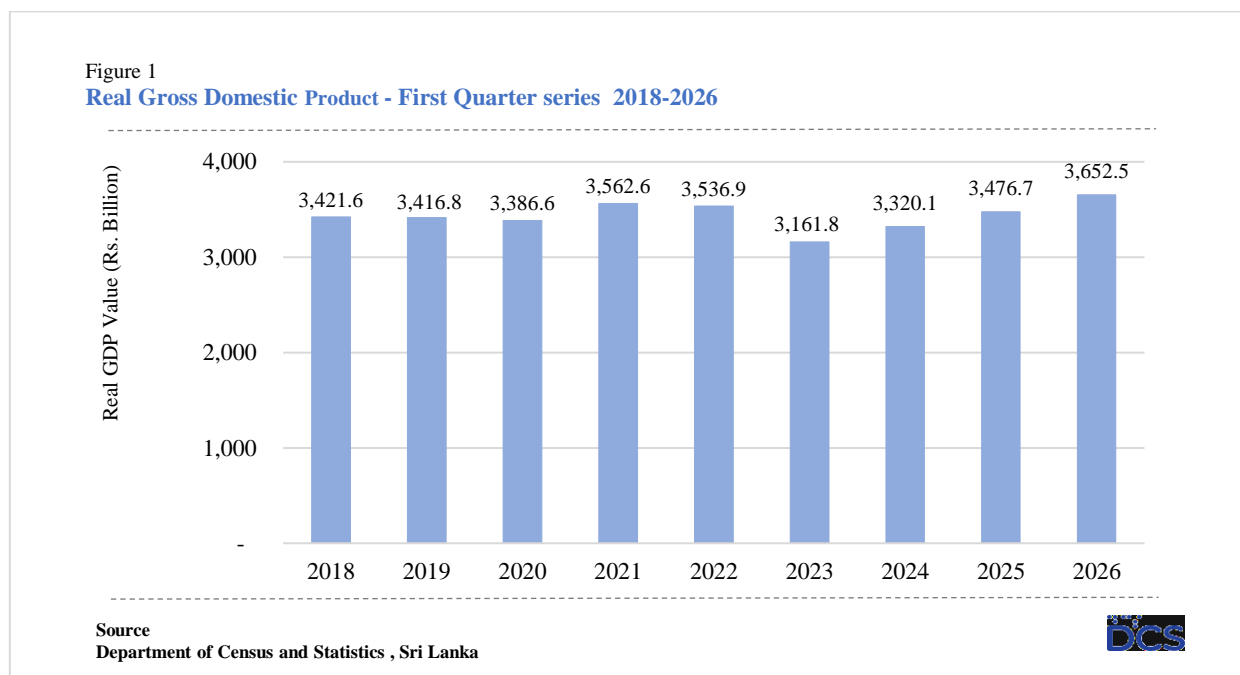
#### Source Publication

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/NationalAccounts/StaticInformation/GDP2015>

## Executive summary

Issuing a communiqué, on releasing National Accounts Estimates, the DCS states that the GDP growth rate for the first quarter of 2026 has been estimated as 5.1 percent of positive growth rate.

Accordingly, the Gross Domestic Product for Sri Lanka for the first quarter of the year 2026 at constant price (2015) has increased up to Rs 3,652,503 million from Rs. 3,476,664 million which was recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The following Figure 1 reflects the changes in the real GDP levels in the first quarter GDP series from 2018 to 2026.



In addition, the Gross Domestic Product for Sri Lanka for the first quarter of 2026 at current price has increased up to Rs. 9,164,652 million from Rs. 8,253,485 million which recorded in the same quarter in 2025 registering an 11.0 percent of positive change in the current price GDP.

The three major economic activities of the economy; ‘Agriculture’, ‘Industry’ and ‘Services’ stood at 7.3 percent, 27.2 percent and 54.2 percent respectively as their shares to the Gross Domestic Product(GDP) of the economy and ‘Taxes less subsidies on products’ accounted for a share of 11.3 percent of the GDP in the first quarter of 2026.

## Background

The GDP growth rate of the first quarter of 2026, is calculated compared to the real GDP value reported in the same quarter (first quarter) of the previous year (2025).

The first quarter of 2026 commenced as the country was continuing to recover from the adverse impacts of Cyclone Ditwah. Towards the end of the first quarter of 2026, some additional challenges emerged with the tensions in Gulf

region. However, amidst these obstacles, Sri Lanka economy reported a 5.1 percent real GDP increase in the first quarter of 2026.

Given the fact that import is a function of domestic production, it plays a major role in Sri Lanka's economy by providing inputs to the domestic production processes. In fact, in the first quarter of 2026, import volume was reported to have increased by one-fifth compared to the reported volume in the same quarter a year ago. This considerable increase in imports facilitated the economy by giving increased tax revenue to the government while more importantly providing capital goods as well as intermediate goods for the smooth continuation of domestic production. Construction activities and goods and passenger transport activities were seen as the main forces behind this noticeable increase in imports with reported higher growth rates in those activities in the first quarter of 2026. Mining and quarrying activities again slipstreamed behind the construction activities to report a noticeable expansion. Even less than the reported increase in previous year though manufacturing activities reported an expansion and in agricultural activities, growing of coconut reported a notable growth in this quarter. Increased trade volume and vehicle fleet in the economy, in conjunction with lowered interest rate provided pathways for insurance services activities and financial services activities to report high growth rates in the first quarter of 2026.

### **Performance in Agricultural Activities**

In the first quarter of year 2026, overall agriculture activities reported a 1.1 percent expansion when compared to the 1.3 percent decline reported in the same quarter in a year ago.

Even though some export oriented agriculture activities reported declines during the first quarter of 2026, agriculture activities as a whole reported 1.1 percent expansion. This expansion is mainly fuelled by some agricultural activities which recorded significant expansions, namely 'Growing of oleaginous fruits' (64.8 percent), 'Plant propagation' (18.7 percent), 'Forestry and logging' (15.0 percent), 'Growing of vegetables' (3.6 percent), and 'Growing of fruits' (2.3 percent). Additionally, 'Growing of spices' (1.7 percent), 'Agriculture supporting activities' (0.9 percent) reported positive growth rates. On the other hand, reported contractions in 'Fresh water fishing and fresh water aquaculture' (37.8 percent), 'Marine fishing and marine aquaculture' (25.7 percent), 'Growing of rubber' (13.6 percent), 'Growing of sugar cane and tobacco' (6.7 percent), 'Growing of rice' (5.8 percent), 'Animal production' (4.2 percent), 'Growing of tea' (3.6 percent), 'Growing of cereals' (3.4 percent), 'Growing of coffee, cocoa and other beverages crops' (2.3 percent), and 'Growing of other perennial crops' (1.1 percent) hindered the overall expansion of agriculture sector during the first quarter of 2026.

### **Performance in Industrial Activities**

In the first quarter of 2026 overall Industrial activities grew by 7.2 percent compared to the 9.8 percent growth reported in the first quarter of 2025.

Among the 'Industrial activities', 'Construction activities' and 'Mining and quarrying activities' grew by 16.3 percent and 19.5 percent respectively. Manufacturing activities as a whole showed a 2.8 percent expansion during the first quarter of 2026. This reported growth in manufacturing activities, mainly underpinned by the expansions in 'Manufacture of chemical products and basic pharmaceutical products' (22.8 percent), 'Manufacture of basic metal and fabricated metal products' (19.4 percent), 'Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products' (12.9 percent),

'Manufacture of wood and wood products' (6.6 percent), 'Manufacture of food, beverages and tobacco products' (5.8 percent), 'Manufacture of furniture' (2.0 percent) and 'Manufacture of paper and paper products' (1.1 percent).

In the meantime, 'Manufacture of rubber and plastic products' (16.8 percent), 'Other manufacturing and repair and installation of machinery and equipment' (13.9 percent), 'Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and other related products' (3.7 percent) and 'Manufacture of machinery and equipment' (2.5 percent) and 'Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products' (1.3 percent) declined during the first quarter of 2026.

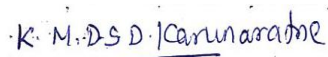
'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' (7.5 percent), 'Water collection, treatment and supply' (11.4 percent) and 'Sewerage, waste, treatment and disposal activities' (2.8 percent) reported expansions during the first quarter of 2026.

### Performance in Services Activities

Overall services activities reported a 3.4 percent growth in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the reported 2.7 percent increase in the first quarter of 2025.

Apart from the reported decline in the 'Public administration and defense' (1.2 percent) sub activity, all other services sub activities reported increases in this quarter. 'Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding' (22.0 percent), 'IT programming consultancy and related activities' (16.1 percent), 'Financial service activities' (12.8 percent), 'Postal and courier services' (5.8 percent), 'Accommodation, food and beverage serving activities' (5.4 percent), 'Telecommunication' (4.6 percent), 'Transportation of goods and passengers including warehousing' (3.6 percent), 'Real estate activities and ownership of dwelling' (2.9 percent), 'Programming and broadcasting activities' (2.0 percent), 'Wholesale and retail trade' (1.5 percent), 'Human health services' (1.0 percent), 'Professional services' (0.8 percent), 'Other personal services' (0.8 percent), and 'Education' (0.7 percent) respectively recorded expansions in the first quarter of 2026.

According to the DCS, detailed information of GDP estimates for the first quarter of 2026 has been published in the DCS website: <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/NationalAccounts/StaticallInformation/GDP2015>




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"To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country's development goals."


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