

Monthly External Merchandise Trade Statistics - March 2026

1. Balance of Visible Trade

Balance of Visible Trade showed a deficit of Rs 16,191 million in March 2026, lower by 1.3% compared to the previous month and higher by 0.8% compared to the corresponding month of 2025.

Summary of External Merchandise Trade

	Value: Rs Mn		
	2025	2026	
	Mar ¹	Feb ²	Mar ²
A. Total Exports (f.o.b)	9,415	7,095	9,288
Domestic exports	4,848	3,742	4,811
Re-exports	1,888	1,294	1,185
Ship's Stores and Bunkers	2,679	2,059	3,292
B. Total Imports (c.i.f)	25,483	23,491	25,479
Total International Trade (A + B)	34,898	30,586	34,767
Trade Deficit (A - B)	-16,068	-16,396	-16,191

¹ Revised figures

² Provisional

2. Total Imports of goods by S.I.T.C section

SITC SECTION/DESCRIPTION	C.I.F value: Rs Mn		
	2025	2026	
	Mar ¹	Feb ²	Mar ²
0 - Food and live animals	4,563	4,961	4,922
1 - Beverages and tobacco	440	214	614
2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	331	291	472
3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	6,129	5,655	5,851
4 - Animals and vegetable oils, fats & waxes	254	171	380
5 - Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.	2,142	2,191	2,144
6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,620	2,658	2,721
7 - Machinery and transport equipment	6,876	5,338	6,086
8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2,041	1,953	2,262
9 - Other commodities & transactions, n.e.s	87	59	27
TOTAL	25,483	23,491	25,479

¹ Revised figures

² Provisional

In March 2026, total imports increased by 8.5% compared to February 2026 and remained nearly at the same level as March 2025.

3. Total Exports of goods by S.I.T.C section

F.O.B value: Rs Mn

SITC SECTION/DESCRIPTION	2025	2026	
	Mar ¹	Feb ²	Mar ²
0 - Food and live animals	2,493	2,058	2,844
1 - Beverages and tobacco	100	44	83
2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	246	114	230
3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	10	-	1
4 - Animals and vegetable oils, fats & waxes	20	17	26
5 - Chemicals & related products, n.e.s.	336	346	400
6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	833	618	596
7 - Machinery and transport equipment	435	185	270
8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2,239	1,466	1,546
9 - Other commodities & transactions, n.e.s	24	188	-
Exports exclusive of Ship's Stores and Bunkers	6,736	5,036	5,996
Estimates of Ship's Stores and Bunkers	2,679	2,059	3,292
TOTAL	9,415	7,095	9,288

¹ Revised figures ² Provisional - Nil or Negligible

In March 2026, total exports increased by 30.9% compared to February 2026 and decreased by 1.3% compared to March 2025.

4. Main trading partners in March 2026

Value: Rs Mn

Exports ¹ (F.O.B)				Imports (C.I.F)			
Country	2025	2026		Country	2025	2026	
	Mar ²	Feb ³	Mar ³		Mar ²	Feb ³	Mar ³
United Kingdom	714	360	854	China	3,299	4,664	4,881
United States	578	360	696	U.A.E.	3,486	2,590	2,721
South Africa	749	703	673	South Africa	1,804	1,205	2,252
France	565	484	583	Sultanate of Oman	53	2,529	2,171
Madagascar	800	338	499	India	2,295	1,718	2,107
Netherlands	241	112	286	France	1,298	1,622	1,418
Other	3,089	2,679	2,405	Other	13,248	9,163	9,929
Total	6,736	5,036	5,996	Total	25,483	23,491	25,479

¹ Excluding Ship's Stores and Bunkers ² Revised figures ³ Provisional

In March 2026, United Kingdom (14.2%), United States (11.6%), South Africa (11.2%), France (9.7%), Madagascar (8.3%) and Netherlands (4.8%) were our major exports destinations while our imports were mainly from China (19.2%), U.A.E. (10.7%), South Africa (8.8%), Sultanate of Oman (8.5%), India (8.3%) and France (5.6%).

18 May 2026