Weekly Tea Update

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SALE NO: 34
31 August- 02 September 2020.

Remembering "Pila"

**Mr. Navaratna Bandara
Herath Pilapitiya
New Vithanakande Estate**

Quantity Sold

24th to 29th August 2020.	2020 Weekly	2020 Todate	2019 Weekly	2019 Todate
(Kg)				
Private Sale	112,763	3,096,775	79,610	4,314,744
Public Auction	5,485,603	169,609,381	6,041,278	196,166,948
Forward Contracts	26,000	125,360	0	458,120
Direct Sale	0	319,931	15,497	1,243,026
Total	5,624,366	173,151,447	6,136,385	202,182,838
BMF Excluded from Private Sale	64,265	6,032,115	283,729	7,176,870

High Grown

BOP

	This Week	Last Week
Best Westerns	580-670	570-650
Below Best Westerns	550-570	540-560
Other Westerns	470-520	480-520
Nuwara Eliya	570N	580N
Brighter Udapussellawa	480-530	480-540
Other Udapussellawa	450-470	450-470
Best Uva	750-1250	650-1250
Other Uva	480-540	480-540

Best **Westerns** were irregular on quality. Below best were firm to Rs. 30 dearer. Bottom tended irregularly lower. Very few **Nuwara Eliyas** on often. **Udapussellawas** were firm. Few Select seasonal **Uvas** sold well on special inquiry. Others were barely steady.

PEKOE/PEKOE1 (Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best	790-920	770-890
Below Best	700-790	700-760
Others	500-700	520-680

Well made shotty teas were dearer. Others firm.

FBOP/FBOP1

	This Week	Last Week
Best	800-840	600-1020
Below Best	500-740	500-600
Others	400-500	400-500

Firm market following on quality.

BOPF

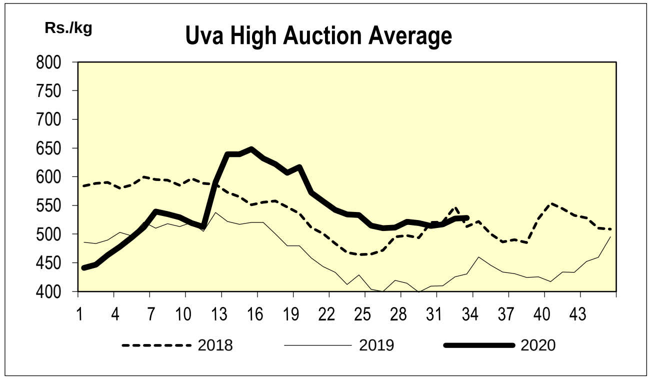
	This Week	Last Week
Best Westerns	600-650	590-700
Below Best Westerns	560-590	550-580
Other Westerns	500-540	500-530
Nuwara Eliya	550N	NA
Brighter Udapussellawa	500-540	490-560
Other Udapussellawa	470-490	460-470
Best Uva	650-770	625-750
Other Uva	480-500	480-500

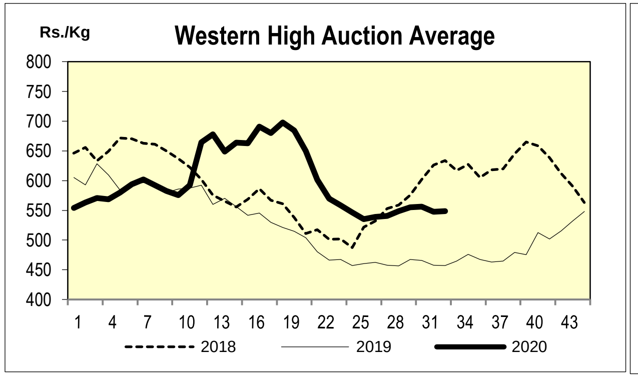
Select **Westerns** maintained: whist below best were irregular. Bottom firm to Rs. 10 dearer. Hardly any **Nuwara Eliyas** on offer. **Udapussellaws** were dearer up to Rs. 10. Few Select **Uvas** gained Rs. 20 to Rs. 30. Others maintained.

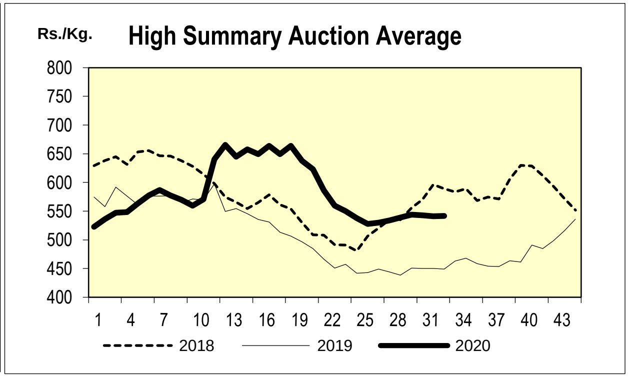
OP/OP1 (Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best	750-980	750-980
Below Best	550-750	550-730
Others	400-550	500-600

Wiry clean teas were main ting. Others dropped following quality.





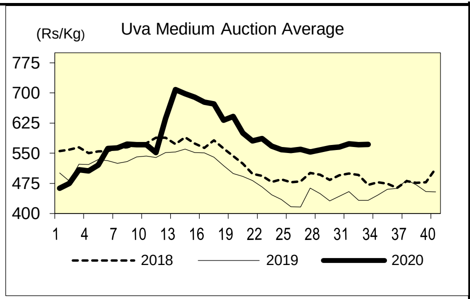


Medium Grown

BOP (Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best Medium	500-790	500-780
Other Medium	450-480	450-480

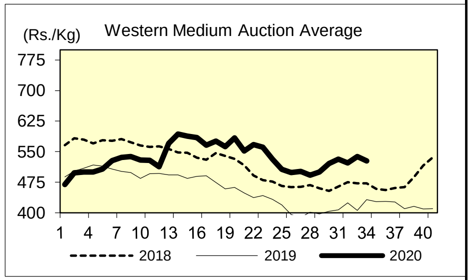
Irregularly tending lower.



BOPF (Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best Medium	500-560	500-570
Other Medium	450-480	450-480

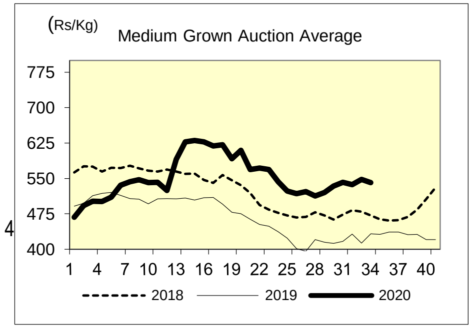
About firm on last.



OP (Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best Medium	700-850	700-800
Other Medium	450-700	520-640

Overall firm market.



PEKOE (Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best Medium	770-920	770-920
Other Medium	620-790	660-740

Best teas were firm. Others depreciated Rs. 20 to Rs. 4

Unorthodox

(Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best BP1	550 -680	550-670
Other BP1	460-520	460-520

About firm on last.

(Rs/Kg)

	This Week	Last Week
Best PF1	500 -980	510-900
Other PF1	390-480	390-500

Irregularly lower up to Rs. 20.

Off Grades

Better FGS1 / FGS

	This Week	Last Week
High	490-540	480-520
Medium	360-430	360-430
Low	380-440	370-450

Best high grown teas were firm to dearer: whist the low grown teas firm to easer.

Other FGS1 / FGS

	This Week	Last Week
High	310-330	300-320
Medium	310-330	300-320
Low	310-330	300-320

Poorer varieties were firm to dearer.

Better BOP1A /BM

	This Week	Last Week
High	410-440	410-450
Medium	410-440	410-450
Low	430-510	440-510

Best teas were firm.

Other BOP1A / BM

	This Week	Last Week
High	310-340	300-340
Medium	310-340	300-340
Low	310-340	300-350

Poorer teas were firm.

Better BP

This Week	Last Week
480-580	480-570

Best teas were firm.

Other BP

This Week	Last Week
320-380	320-380

Poorer teas were firm to dearer.

Dust

Better Primary (Orthodox)

	This Week	Last Week
High	680-910	680-900
Medium	450-530	440-520
Low	400-540	400-550

All round firm on last.

Other Primary (Orthodox)

	This Week	Last Week
High	570-600	550-590
Medium	460-480	450-460
Low	400-440	400-430

Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 dearer: compared to last levels.

Better primary (CTC)

	This Week	Last Week
High	450-540	450-550
Medium	470-550	480-550
Low	400-580	410-570

All round firm on last.

Other Primary (CTC)

	This Week	Last Week
High	290-370	290-370
Medium	340-360	330-360
Low	300-320	290-320

Were firm

Better Secondary

This Week	Last Week
310-350	290-360

Firm to Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 dearer.

Other Secondary

This Week	Last Week
300-340	300-350

Firm on last.

Low Grown

(Rs./Kg)

FBOP1	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	770-820	770-820	Appreciated Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per Kg all round.
Best	730-760	700-750	
Secondary	670-700	660-690	
Poor	600-630	570-620	

FBOP	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	830-860	800-850	Select best teas were firm to irregularly lower Rs. 10 per Kg. All others gained Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per Kg.
Best	750-780	740-780	
Secondary	710-730	700-720	
Poor	640-660	630-650	

FBOPF1	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	760-780	750-780	Select best teas were firm to irregularly lower Rs. 10 per Kg. Best teas gained Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per Kg. Secondary and poorer teas were Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per Kg dearer and more at times.
Best	710-730	710-730	
Secondary	630-650	620-640	
Poor	480-520	470-500	

FBOPF	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	800-850	750-800	Select best and best teas were Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per Kg dearer. Below best and poorer sorts were Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per Kg dearer.
Best	700-750	630-660	
Secondary	550-600	500-530	
Poor	440-480	430-460	

FBOPFEXSP / SP	This Week	Last Week	
Best (Long Leaf)	2000-2300	2300-2700	Select best long leaf tippy teas were irregularly lower Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 per Kg. Best teas were firm on last week's levels. Select best small leaf tippy teas were firm on last week's levels. Best teas were Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 per Kg lower.
Below Best	1400-1600	1500-1800	
Best (Small Leaf)	2100-2300	2300-2600	
Below Best	1300-1500	1500-1800	

BOP	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	800-830	750-780	Select best teas were Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per Kg dearer. All others gained Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per Kg.
Best	720-740	700-730	
Secondary	600-630	570-620	
Poor	530-550	520-540	

BOPF	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	630-660	620-640	Select best teas were firm on last week's levels. Best and below best teas gained Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per Kg.
Best	580-620	570-600	
Secondary	420-440	400-420	
Poor	370-400	370-390	

(Rs./Kg)

BOP1	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	2000-2050	2000-2050	Gained Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per Kg all round.
Best	1070-2000	1070-2000	
Secondary	900-1050	900-1050	
Poor	780-900	780-900	

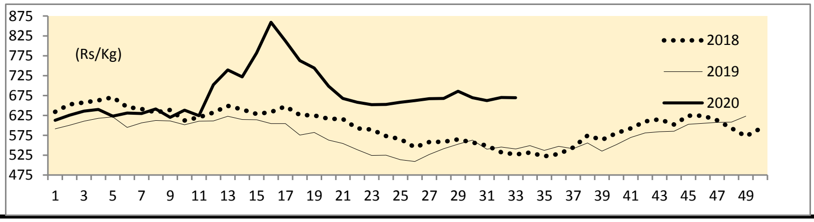
OP1	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	1480-2200	1460-2350	Select best teas gained Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per Kg. All others sold at dearer rates.
Best	1120-1450	1110-1440	
Secondary	1010-1120	1000-1110	
Poor	680-850	670-840	

OP	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	865-890	865-890	Were firm on last week's levels.
Best	845-865	845-865	
Secondary	805-845	805-845	
Poor	665-755	665-755	

OPA	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	765-920	765-920	Were firm on last week's levels.
Best	740-765	740-765	
Secondary	670-730	670-730	
Poor	445-665	445-665	

PEK	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	965-1120	955-1300	Appreciated Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per Kg all round.
Best	790-880	780-870	
Secondary	670-750	660-740	
Poor	610-660	600-650	

PEK1	This Week	Last Week	
Select Best	955-1180	950-1180	Were firm to dearer all round.
Best	745-835	740-830	
Secondary	715-745	710-740	
Poor	625-685	620-680	



Sale Date 31st August - 02nd September 2020 Sale No. 34

Asia Siyaka Commodities PLC - Top Price Page

TOP PRICES

LOW GROWN (Rs/kg)

BOP1	**New Vithanakande**	**+1900**
	Pothotuwa	1800
OP1	Pothotuwa	2200
	Sithaka	2100
OP	Green House	850
	Sithaka	850
	Liyonta	840
OPA	Sunrise	920
	Athukorala Group Super	900
	Wikiliya	900
PEK	Green House	1120
	Dampahala	1040
PEK1	New Udumullagoda Super	1180
	Nilrich	1160
BOP	Adams View	920
	Mulatiyana Hills	920
	Wikiliya	900
BOPS	Andaradeniya Super	880
	Ceciliyan	770
BOPF	Hidellana	850
	Wikiliya	660
	New Vithanakande	**+590**
BOPFS	Adams View	670
	Sithaka	650
FBOP	Gunawardane	1120
	Sithaka	1100
FBOP1	Brombil	890
	Kurunduwatta	830
FBOPF	**Ruhunuputha Tea**	**+1250**
	Gunawardane	1140
FBOPF1	Wathurawila	1060
	Sihara	1020
	Ayagama	**+900**
	Brombil	**+900**

PREMIUM FLOWERY

FBOPFS	**Rathmalgoda Super**	**+2600**
	Liyonta	2450
FBOPFEXS	Sachitha	2700
	Brombil	2550
FBOPFEXS1	K D U Super	2850
	New Vithanakande	**+2600**

NUWARA ELIYA

BOP	Lovers Leap	570
BOPF	Kenmare	550
PEK	Court Lodge	770
FBOP	Court Lodge	1000

WESTERN HIGH

BOP	Venture	670
BOPS	**Mattakelle**	**+650**
BOPF/BOPFS	Glentilt	650
PEK/PEK1	Weddemulla	900
FBOP/FBOP1	Inverness	810
OP1	Queensberry	730
BOP1	**Inverness**	**+860**
OP/OPA	Venture	760
FF/FF1	**Inverness**	**+680**
	Weddemulla	680

UVA HIGH

BOP	Uva Highlands	1250
BOPS	Aislaby	800
BOPF/BOPFS	Nayabedde	580
PEK/PEK1	Glenanore	860
FBOP/FBOP1	Aislaby	810
OP1	Uva Highlands	*1000
BOP1	Uva Highlands	**1250
OP/OPA	Glenanore	780
FF / FF1	Aislaby	730

WESTERN MEDIUM

BOP	Harangala	790
BOPS	Doombagastalawa	710
BOPF/BOPFS	Vellaioya	560
PEK/PEK1	Harangala	880
FBOP/FBOP1	Craighead	840
	Dartry Valley	840
OP1	Kenilworth	920
BOP1	Craighead	1080
OP/OPA	Dartry Valley	850
FF/FF1	Craighead	880

UVA MEDIUM

BOP	**Dickwella**	**+720**
	Halpewatte Uva	720
BOPS	Shawlands	730
BOPF/BOPFS	**Dickwella**	**+770**
PEK / PEK1	**Aruna Passara**	**+920**
FBOP/FBOP1	**Glen Alpin**	**+800**
OP1	Adawatte	980
	Shawlands	980
BOP1	Demodara "S"	960
OP / OPA	Wewesse	790
FF / FF1	**Dickwella**	**+800**

UDAPUSSELLAWA

BOP	Luckyland	530
BOPS	N/A	
BOPF/BOPFS	Kirklees	540
PEK/PEK1	Gordon	730
FBOP/FBOP1	Gampaha	690
OP1	N/A	
BOP1	Gampaha	670
OP/OPA	Gampaha	660
FF / FF1	Gampaha	690

OTHERS

D/D1	Mattakelle	820
PD	Kalubowitiyana C.T.C	640
FGS/FGS1	**Shannon**	**+580**
PF	Hingalgoda CTC	650
BM	Ihalapanapitiya	700
BP	Aldora	690
	Tinioya	690
BOP1A	Garden Leaf	790

+ Sold by Asia Siyaka/ ** All Time Record / * Equal All Time

Top Prices Contd....

CTC TEAS

		PF1	BP1	BPS	OF
High	Dunsinane CTC	560	530		N/A
	Mount Vernon CTC			530	
Medium	Delta CTC	520			
	Strathdon CTC	520	540		
	Carolina		540	520	
	Raja Ela CTC				**+390**
Low	Hingalgoda CTC	980			
	Suduwelipothahena CTC		680		
	Ceciliyan CTC			680	

+ Sold by Asia Siyaka/ ** All Time Record / * Equal All Time

Sale of 31st August / 02nd September 2020

Offers

(KG)	Lots	Quantity
Ex-Estate	654	752,798
Main Sale - High & Medium	1,378	683,425
Low Grown - Leafy Grade	3,524	1,611,078
-Tippy Small Grade	1,798	955,049
Off Grades / BOP1A	2,311	1,320,043
Dust	511	512,694
Premium Flowery	377	73,362
Total	**10,553**	**5,908,449**

Order Of Sale

Selling Brokers		Ex Estate	Main Sale 1*	Main Sale 2*
Asia Siyaka.	**- AS**	**LC**	MB	LC
Bartleet & Co.	- BC	CT	FW	BC
Ceylon Tea Brokers	- CTB	JK	BC	FW
Eastern Brokers	- EB	FW	CT	MB
Forbes & Walker.	- FW	EB	EB	AS
John Keells	- JK	BC	AS	**JK**
Lanka Commodity Brokers -	LCB	MB	**LC**	EB
Mercantile Brokers	- MB	AS	JK	CT

1* - Leafy / Semi Leafy / Tippy / BOP1A / Premium Flowery 2* - High & Medium / Off Grades / Dust

Currencies

As at 02/09/2020 — *Buying Rates (Rs.)*

	This Week	(Prev. Wk)		This Week	(Prev. Wk)
GBP	244.73	240.87	US$	183.83	184.23
EURO	217.53	216.49	YEN	1.71	1.71

Sale Averages

Gross Sale Averages

Sale of 26th August 2020

(Rs/Kg)

	Week 2020	Week 2019	To date 2020	To date 2019
Uva High	528.24	430.34	543.06	464.11
Western High	548.76	457.25	589.32	528.36
High Grown	**541.71**	**449.26**	**575.26**	**510.06**
Uva Medium	571.90	432.86	584.84	494.26
Western Medium	527.69	432.35	529.65	460.13
Medium Grown	**541.14**	**432.48**	**546.92**	**469.61**
Low Grown	669.53	540.70	668.82	577.26
TOTAL	**623.07**	**506.41**	**627.78**	**546.28**

Monthly Averages - August 2020

Orthodox Tea	(Rs/Kg)	CTC	(Rs/Kg)
Uva High	525.28	Western High	501.62
Western High	562.87	Western Medium	484.52
Uva Medium	566.86	Low Grown	466.49
Western Medium	545.96		
Low Grown	680.51		

Orthodox & CTC	(Rs/Kg)
Uva High	525.28
Western High	554.31
Uva Medium	566.86
Western Medium	529.16
Low Grown	666.43

*Source : SLTB

Crop & Weather

Western planting regions experienced bright mornings along with evening showers. Eastern planting regions reported gloomy weather conditions whilst Low growns experienced bright weather throughout the week.

All planting regions reported a decrease in crop intake.

Market Comment

5.90 Mnkg of tea were on offer at this weeks Colombo Tea Auction 2.56 Mnkg were Low Grown Main Grades and 2.07 Mnkg were High and Mid Grown Main Grades.
Low Growns met with fair demand. Select best BOP1 /OP1s appreciated in value, whilst others sold at dearer rates too. OP /OPAs were firm on last week's levels. Pekoe's sold at dearer rates. Pekoe1's were firm to dearer. In the Tippy Small leaf catalogues FBOP1s gained in value, whilst select best FBOP / FBOPF1s held firm; below best sold at dearer rates. FBOPFs appreciated in value all-round. BOP / BOPFs were firm to dearer all-round. In the Premium Flowery catalogues long leaf select best varieties sold at lower rates, whilst others held firm. Select best FBOPFSP varieties held firm; below best and others lost out in value.

Fair general demand prevailed at this week's Ex-Estate auctions. Select best Western BOPs tended irregular on quality, whilst below best were firm to Rs. 30 dearer. Best Western BOPFs maintained; whilst below best were irregular; bottom was firm to slightly dearer. Hardly any Nuwara Eliya BOP / BOPFs were on offer this week. Udapussellawa BOPs maintained, whilst BOPFs were firm to Rs. 10 dearer. A few select seasonal Uva BOPs sold well on special inquiry, whilst other BOPs were barely steady and BOPFs were maintained. Medium BOPs were irregular tending lower, whilst BOPFs were firm on last. CTC BP1s were about firm, whilst PF1s were irregularly lower upto Rs. 20.

A Resourceful Tea Industry Regroups (*Stir Special Report)*
Government bodies assigned to support national tea industries are shaking off the shock of COVID-19 and leading tea forward.
Urgent attention was first directed at converting conventional tea auctions to allow digital transactions, and with much of that work done, the focus has now shifted to promoting sales.
Last week, the Tea Board of India and the Indian Embassy in Cairo, Egypt hosted a virtual business-to-business (B2B) webinar for stakeholders vested in trade. The event attracted 60 delegates unable to travel freely due to coronavirus restrictions. Speakers addressed logistical barriers and networked, matching sellers and buyers to increase exports, which are under pressure. On Aug. 18, the Tea Board's webinar focused on domestic sales, introducing wholesalers to buyers in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and two other low-consumption states. The board is interested in expanding supply from established tea regions in India's Northeast. According to the Tea Board, the overall objective is to "convert" low-tea drinking states of India into promising markets where the potential for consumption of tea is high.
Dinesh Bihani, secretary of Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association, told the Calcutta Telegraph,"We are hopeful that at least an additional 50 million kg of teas from the Northeast will be sold because of the Tea Board's effort. The people of these states will get to taste quality Assam tea, which has bright liquor and good taste, unique in the world."
Lockdowns curtailed harvests across the country at their peak, resulting in shortfalls that have driven retail prices higher. India hopes to avoid importing tea and recently mandated a country of origin label on all goods. In early August, the first virtual video conference enabled major exporters to address "The Way Forward of India Tea Exports."

Sri Lanka - The Colombo Tea Auction (CTA) existed as an open-cry trading floor for 126 years, until coronavirus shut it down. The auction, which is the oldest operational and largest single-origin tea auction in the world, successfully transitioned.
"The idea to digitize the auction has been on the table for a long time. But the pandemic put us in a situation where we just had to get it done," said Jayantha Karunarathne, Chairman of the Colombo Tea Traders Association (CTTA). The first digital auction was conducted in April. "Everyone is now used to the [online] system," said, Karunarathne, adding, "I don't think we will ever go back to holding the auction the old way."
Auction prices have stabilized, and the focus has returned to strategic planning.

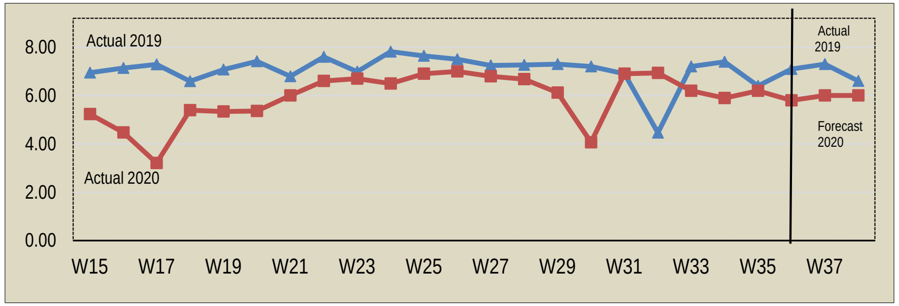
Parliamentary elections Aug. 5 gave the ruling party a two-thirds majority. The election has helped settle nine months of uncertainty calmed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who described his vision for the country in a major address last week.US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Alaina B. Teplitz, praised the country for its efforts to control the pandemic without sending the economy into recession.Ambassador Teplitz commented that the US is the number one destination for Sri Lankan exports. Bilateral trade is heavily weighted in Sri Lanka's favor: The United States imports around $2.9 billion worth of Sri Lankan products, mainly garments. Sri Lanka imports around $390 million in US goods. The new government will emphasize exports, according to press accounts.
Export Development Board (EDB) Chairman Prabhash Subasinghe said that "Exports have been recognized as a deserving sector to appoint sector-specific ministries in reviving the economy post-COVID-19. A lot of emphases has been given to agricultural exports and farming, which has been a weak area in our export basket for decades."
The island nation's total exports declined to $277 million in April but increased to $906 million in June. In July, revenue from tea exports rose to SLRs24.3 billion ($130 million), an increase of SLRs4.8 billion ($26 million) compared to July 2019.

China
The Chinese government quickly addressed the coronavirus catastrophe as it unfolded in the initial weeks of the 2020 harvest. Little was known about Covid-19 at the time, and lockdowns were strictly enforced. The result is that tea retail in much of the country came to a virtual halt. In the gardens, workers were at first held back from plucking and processing, but protocols emerged based on previous experiences with flu pandemics and SARS.
The threat subsided in time for a majority of China's tea-producing regions to process tea, and this year's annual yield was equivalent to 2019, but by then, the entire world was in crisis. Sales flatlined.
In the first quarter of 2020, tea exports plunged by 9.7% year on year, and the export value of Chinese tea shipments to the US declined by 1.3% as the price surged due to a combination of tariffs and added shipping expense."We've lost more than 20 million yuan ($2.9 million) in the past few months. The coronavirus lockdown worldwide has driven our tea exports to zero. Then, most of our tea products were flooded as torrential rains deluged the (Huangshan) province in the heat of summer," tea trader Ye Mancang told CGTN.
"During the same period in 2019, his company exported more than 500 kilos of Taiping Houkui tea and 30,000 kilos of black tea to Japan and the US through Taiwan," according to CGTN.
Today, the most significant concerns are logistics and the recovery of tea sales out-of-home. (Source:Stir)

	08th / 09th September 2020				SALE NO 35		
Selling Brokers	CHANNEL 01		CHANNEL 02	CHANNEL 03	CHANNEL 04		CHANNEL 05
	H & M	EX-EST	LB / 1A	SB / PF	S/LB	OFF	DUST
ASIA SIYAKA	BC	CT	FW	FW	FW	BC	BC
Bartleet & Co.	FW	JK	BC	BC	BC	FW	FW
Ceylon Tea Brokers	MB	FW	CT	CT	CT	MB	MB
Eastern Brokers	AS	EB	EB	EB	EB	AS	AS
Forbes & Walker	JK	BC	AS	AS	AS	JK	JK
John Keells	EB	MB	LC	LC	LC	EB	EB
Lanka Commodity Brokers	CT	AS	JK	JK	JK	CT	CT
Mercantile Brokers	LC	LC	MB	MB	MB	LC	LC

What's on Offer

		SALE NO. 35			SALE NO. 36		
		LOTS	QUANTITY	CLOSED ON	LOTS	QUANTITY	CLOSED ON
		08th / 09th September 2020			15th / 16th September 2020		
Ex-Estate		702	815,848	20/08/2020	634	730,950	27/08/2020
Main Sale	High & Medium	1,558	802,842	20/08/2020	1,410	676,840	27/08/2020
	Large Leaf	3,705	1,751,332	20/08/2020	3,639	1,672,691	27/08/2020
	Small Leaf	1,884	1,025,654	20/08/2020	1,867	1,013,043	27/08/2020
Off Grade / BOP1A		2,282	1,294,207	20/08/2020	2,195	1,235,744	27/08/2020
Dust		502	503,486	20/08/2020	469	455,908	27/08/2020
Premium Flowery		394	76,534	20/08/2020	383	74,942	27/08/2020
TOTAL		11,027	6,269,903		10,597	5,860,118	
Re-prints		687	434,681		614	369,898	
Last Year		11,657	6,771,934		12,300	7,144,361	



Other Markets

MOMBASA MARKET REPORT: SALE NO 34 – 24TH, 25TH & 26TH AUGUST, 2020
Strong general demand prevailed for the 135,583 packages (8,929,677.00 kilos) on offer with prices closely following quality but 25.14% remained unsold.
LEAF GRADES - *Offerings: 61,661 packages (3,991,313.00kilos) with 29.03% remaining without bids.*
Best BP1s available were forcefully competed for and gained USC52 to USC62 and substantially more following quality with brighter types a strong but irregular feature varying between firm to USC50 dearer to easier by up to USC34 while medium sorts ranged between USC14 and USC25 above previous rates to easier by USC18 to USC34 and some lines were neglected. Lower medium categories met an irregular interest and varied between steady to USC2 dearer to easier by up to USC8 with a few invoices unsold while plainer varieties were discounted by USC4 to USC9 where sold. The best PF1s on offer appreciated by USC4 to USC38 while brighter varieties gained USC14 to USC32 with medium sorts advancing by USC8 to USC12; lower medium categories gained USC5 to USC18 but some invoices remained unsold. Plainer descriptions saw an irregular activity ranging between steady to USC4 dearer to easier by up to USC6 with many teas neglected on account of quality.

DUST GRADES - *Offerings: 51,900 packages (3,852,340.00 kilos). 20.19% were unsold.*
Best PDUSTs available were well-competed for appreciating by USC32 to USC34 while brighter types saw useful enquiry and gained USC28 to USC38 with mediums a strong feature advancing by USC22 to USC48 but a few lines shed up to USC6 on account of quality. Lower medium sorts were USC4 to USC28 dearer while plainer categories saw irregular support and varied between firm to USC4 dearer to easier by up to USC8 and some invoices remained without bids.
The best DUST1s on offer were USC2 to USC10 dearer with brighter varieties irregular ranging between firm to USC2 above previous rates to easier by a similar level while medium types met strong and improved interest and ranged between USC30 to USC82 above last prices to easier by USC6 to USC10 and some lines were unsold. Lower medium categories saw an improved activity at steady to USC28 dearer but some invoices shed up to USC2 where sold with plainer types irregular varying between firm to USC4 dearer to easier by up to USC8 and a few teas were unsold.
SECONDARY GRADES - *Offerings: 22,022 packages (1,086,024.00 kilos) and 25.88% were unsold.*
In the Secondary Catalogues, BPs held value while PFs appreciated. Clean well sorted coloury Fannings gained with similar DUSTs dearer. Other Fannings were firm with DUSTs steady. BMFs were well absorbed.
MARKETS
Kazakhstan and other CIS nations were dominant and showed more interest with increased and strong support from Pakistan Packers, Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries. There was strong activity from Afghanistan, Sudan and Russia with more and useful enquiry from Bazaar while Egyptian Packers and UK lent good but selective interest. Iran showed selective activity. Local Packers were less active with Somalia active at the lower end of the market.

KENYA CTC Quotations USC/kg	BP1 (26/08/2020)	BP1 (19/08/2020)	PF1 (26/08/2020)	PF1 (19/08/2020)
Best	323-536	268-484	270-320	232-316
Good	270-350	220-384	260-282	228-268
Good Medium	242-360	260-335	210-276	200-266
Medium	214-258	200-292	192-240	180-232
Lower Medium	140-226	146-234	148-198	130-193
Plainer	130-207	134-216	104-184	110-180

KENYA CTC Quotations USC/kg	PD (26/08/2020)	PD (19/08/2020)	D1 (26/08/2020)	D1 (19/08/2020)
Best	296-338	264-304	260-326	258-316
Good	292-336	264-298	252-288	250-290
Good Medium	250-334	202-294	260-300	178-270
Medium	192-224	170-229	164-216	170-226
Lower Medium	138-192	110-188	144-182	116-184
Plainer	118-172	116-177	120-170	116-178

Country Report - China

China Tea Exports

Country	Jan - May 2020		Jan - May 2019	
	MT	%	MT	%
Morocco	33,097	22.97	35,858	23.58
Uzbekistan	10,315	7.16	7,171	4.72
Ghana	7,185	4.99	6,997	4.60
Togo	7,131	4.95	6,260	4.12
Russian Federation	6,576	4.56	6,212	4.08
Cameroon	5,622	3.90	3543	2.33
Algeria	5,612	3.89	6,229	4.10
Senegal	5,361	3.72	7,760	5.10
Japan	5,334	3.70	5,180	3.41
Hong Kong	5,278	3.66	6,357	4.18
Mauritania	5,165	3.58	6,137	4.04
USA	4,269	2.96	6,069	3.99
Germany	2,878	2.00	4,432	2.91
Vietnam	2,371	1.65	1,714	1.13

Country	Jan - May 2020		Jan - May 2019	
	MT	%	MT	%
Malaysia	2,354	1.63	1,466	0.96
Poland	2,314	1.61	1,588	1.04
Benin	2,086	1.45	5,014	3.30
Gambia	1,969	1.37	2,429	1.60
Niger	1,850	1.28	1,361	0.89
Afganistan	1,629	1.13	1,904	1.25
Myanmar	1,585	1.10	1,053	0.69
Others countries	24,117	16.74	27,346	17.98
Total	144,098	100.00	152,080	100.00

Green Tea	121,689	84.45	127,363	83.75
Black Tea	11,195	7.77	13,736	9.03
Other Tea	11,215	7.78	10,981	7.22
Total Tea	144,099	100.00	152,080	100.00

Remembering "Pila"

An eventful year has flown by since the passing on 02nd of September 2019 of Mr. Navaratna Pilapitiya fondly referred to as “Pila” by his friends . The world of tea is gripped by a whole new set of issues and opportunities that no one was prepared for. The Sri Lankan industry has seen a steady market for superior tea and this has been an important feature that rewards excellence, with teas such as New Vithanakande enjoying a premium.

Pila would have been extremely pleased by the way his factory and estate continue to produce teas of excellent make and taste, throughout a very turbulent period. A true tribute to his leadership and empowerment of his team.

We miss his words of wisdom shared on many aspects of the trade and life in general, delivered in his instantly recognizable deep voice. On the other hand it is almost as if he is still running his factory. When one evaluates its performance everything seems to be running smoothly. Full credit to his wife Nirmalene and team led by CEO Patrick and the functional leaders. Pila shared his knowledge freely, coached his team and was immaculate in his development of procedures and process management, which were meticulously documented. The continuing success of New Vithanakande over the past year bears testament to this.

There is much to be done to set Ceylon Tea right and take it on a path of success. This is where all stakeholders will miss Pila’s wise counsel and visionary thinking. For many years he fought against deforestation and warned us all of the crisis that awaits us. Today we face the full impact of climate change that has come far sooner than expectd.

The responsibility is ours to continue this journey and achieve the full potential of Ceylon Tea by developing the industry where all stakeholders can look forward to a bright future, this was the vision of Pila. Over the years he proved to all that the future for Ceylon Tea is through a path of excellence by continually obtaining highest prices at the Colombo Tea Auction and winning awards all around the world.

Pila ploughed back most of what he earned in to his beloved Vithanakande estate and factory. He looked after all his employees and thousands of farmer families that were proud to supply their leaf to the factory. The Buyers, Brokers especially the Asia Siyaka team, leading global brands and specialty shops that carried single estate New Vithanakande teas, will hold forever a special place in their hearts for this giant of the Sri Lankan tea industry.

May he attain the supreme bliss of Nibbana!

Country Report - U.S.A

United States Tea Imports

Country	Jan - Apr 2020		Jan - Apr 2019	
	MT	%	MT	%
Argentina	11,972	41.81	14,010	44.93
India	3,635	12.69	3,757	12.05
Sri Lanka	2,048	7.15	1,984	6.36
China	1,866	6.52	2,791	8.95
Vietnam	1,618	5.65	1,440	4.62
Malawi	1,595	5.57	1,353	4.34
Indonesia	852	2.98	893	2.86
Zimbabwe	769	2.69	772	2.48
Kenya	734	2.56	816	2.62
Germany	491	1.71	409	1.31
Taiwan	351	1.23	419	1.34

Contd..

Country	Jan - Apr 2020		Jan - Apr 2019	
	MT	%	MT	%
United Kingdom	293	1.02	342	1.10
Ecuador	120	0.42	100	0.32
Turkey	68	0.24	57	0.18
Papua New Guinea	39	0.14	58	0.19
South Africa	13	0.05	6	0.02
Others	2,171	7.58	1,972	6.32
Black Tea	28,635	100.00	31,179	100.00

Green Tea	4,937	14.71	5,933	15.99
Black Tea	28,635	85.29	31,179	84.01
Grand Total	33,572	100.00	37,112	100.00