MADE HERE DOSSIER · HS 252310

Cement clinker in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka imported USD 102m of cement clinker in 2024, 2.19 million tonnes, up 27 per cent on 2022, a restricted year. Pakistan supplied 54 per cent. Sri Lanka recorded no exports of it. The line is first of the twenty in Sri Lanka's Made Here record, scoring 7 of 8.

IMPORT BILL, 2024	CHANGE ON 2022	TOP SOURCE	SCORE
USD 102m	+27 per cent	Pakistan 54%	7 of 8

Customs description: "Cement clinkers (whether or not coloured)". Heading 2523: Cement, incl. cement clinkers, whether or not coloured. Chapter 25: Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering material, lime and cement.

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This dossier is everything the public record holds about one line for one country, read from the files named in section 8. It is a reading of the record, not advice and not a forecast. Nothing in it says that making the product in Sri Lanka would pay: that is the maker's question, and the record cannot answer it.

THE NUMBER

1. The bill and its path

Year	Imports	Quantity	Customs value per tonne	Exports	World trade in the line
2022	USD 80m	1,874,378 t	USD 43 a tonne	USD 5k	USD 5.1bn
2023	USD 62m	1,326,436 t	USD 47 a tonne	none recorded	USD 4.5bn
2024	USD 102m	2,194,551 t	USD 46 a tonne	none recorded	USD 3.7bn

Sri Lanka imported USD 102m in 2024, up 27 per cent on 2022, a restricted year (USD 62m in 2023). Exports of the same line: none recorded.

Measured against a restricted year. Sri Lanka restricted imports in 2022, during its balance-of-payments crisis, so every change in this dossier measured from 2022 is measured against a restricted year. The restrictions themselves are not in the trade record, and their scope by product is not quantified here.

Unit values are customs values per tonne, not prices. They are the declared value divided by the reconciled quantity: they mix grades and contract terms, and they say nothing about what a buyer pays at the gate. Where a flow is under 10 tonnes the unit value is too small to read and is not shown.

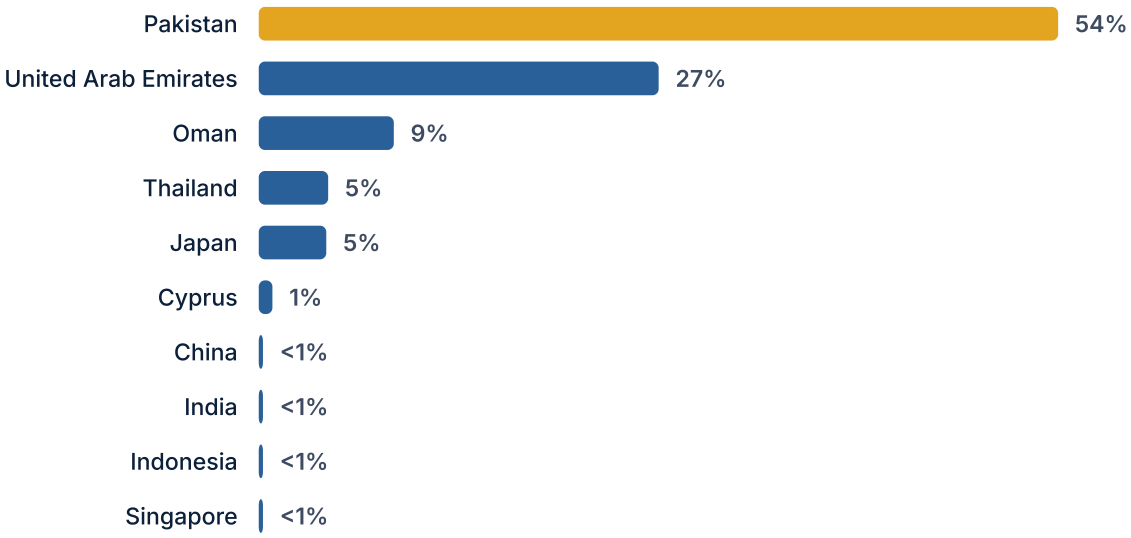
The same heading. Sri Lanka also imports two more lines under heading 2523 that are not yet exported well (the record shows one line per heading and carries the rest as siblings):

HS6	Line	Imports, 2024
252329	Cement: portland, other than white, whether or not artificially coloured	USD 28m
252390	Cement: hydraulic kinds n.e.c. in heading no. 2523	USD 23m

THE SOURCES

2. Where it comes from

In 2024, Sri Lanka bought this line from 10 countries. Pakistan supplied 54 per cent. Interpretation: a concentrated supply.



#	Source	Value	Share	Quantity	Customs value per tonne
1	Pakistan	USD 55m	54 per cent	1,247,257 t	USD 44 a tonne
2	United Arab Emirates	USD 27m	27 per cent	529,342 t	USD 52 a tonne
3	Oman	USD 9m	9 per cent	194,999 t	USD 48 a tonne
4	Thailand	USD 5m	5 per cent	110,001 t	USD 43 a tonne
5	Japan	USD 5m	5 per cent	100,446 t	USD 46 a tonne
6	Cyprus	USD 941k	1 per cent	12,500 t	USD 75 a tonne
7	China	USD 3k	under 1 per cent	6 t	too small to read
8	India	USD 1k	under 1 per cent	under 1 t	too small to read
9	Indonesia	under USD 1k	under 1 per cent	under 1 t	too small to read
10	Singapore	under USD 1k	under 1 per cent	under 1 t	too small to read

The concentration measure the site uses is the top source's share of the bill: 40 per cent earns one point, 60 per cent earns two, and an undisclosed top source earns none. The Herfindahl index (the sum of squared shares; 1 is a single source) is 0.375 and does not score.

THE CAPABILITY

3. What Sri Lanka already exports near it

Sri Lanka exports 756 products well, that is with a revealed comparative advantage (RCA) of 1 or more. For this line its RCA is 0.00, below 1, so not yet an export strength. Its density, the proximity-weighted share of this product's neighbours that Sri Lanka already exports well, is 0.2334, in the top 3 per cent of the 246 candidate lines.

Nearest export strengths: none named. No product Sri Lanka exports well is both close to this line and in the same part of the customs nomenclature (mineral products), so the record names none. That is the rule, below, and it is deliberate: a product from another section is a statistical neighbour, and the record does not treat it as evidence of related capability.

The rule for naming a strength: the country exports it well (RCA of 1 or more), its proximity is 0.4 or more, it sits in the same HS section as the line, and it is not waste or scrap.

The three closest products Sri Lanka exports well, as the product space ranks them, and whether the rule names them:

HS6	Product	Proximity	Exports, 2024	Named?
630533	Sacks and bags: of a kind used for the packing of goods, of man-made textile materials...	0.432	USD 5m	no, another section
091099	Spices: n.e.c. in heading no. 0910	0.426	USD 4m	no, another section
200989	Juice: of any single fruit, nut or vegetable n.e.c. in heading no. 2009, unfermented...	0.42	USD 24m	no, another section

THE WORLD

4. Who in the world exports it well

World trade in this line was USD 3.7bn in 2024. 37 countries export it with an RCA of 1 or more (36 of them among the 157 countries large enough to enter the capability calculation). The ten largest of them by value:

#	Country	Exports, 2024	Share of world trade	RCA
1	Egypt	USD 530m	14 per cent	62.15
2	Indonesia	USD 357m	10 per cent	7.48
3	Turkey	USD 276m	7 per cent	6.41
4	Algeria	USD 249m	7 per cent	32.25
5	United Arab Emirates	USD 201m	5 per cent	4.04
6	Vietnam	USD 193m	5 per cent	2.38
7	Saudi Arabia	USD 189m	5 per cent	3.82
8	Pakistan	USD 176m	5 per cent	29.45
9	Japan	USD 162m	4 per cent	1.37
10	Thailand	USD 155m	4 per cent	2.83

Sri Lanka ranks 106 of 117 exporting countries by value, with exports of under USD 1k and an RCA of 0.00.

The world's average customs value per tonne for the line in 2024 was USD 49 a tonne; Sri Lanka's imports averaged USD 46 a tonne. Both are customs values, not prices.

> RCA is the line's share of a country's exports divided by its share of world exports. Above 1, the country exports more of it than the world average would predict. A large exporter with an RCA below 1 (a big economy exporting a little of everything) is left out of this table by design.

THE SCORE

5. The score and its working

The line is **first of twenty** in Sri Lanka's Made Here record and scores **7 of 8**. The score below is quoted from the record; this dossier recomputed it from the trade file with the same rules and got 7.

Part	Range	Points	Working
Import bill	0 to 3	3	import bill USD 102m, top 4 per cent of candidates (3)
Proximity to export strengths	0 to 3	3	proximity to Sri Lanka's export strengths in the top 3 per cent (3)
Supply concentration	0 to 2	1	Pakistan supplies 54 per cent (1)

The rule. Import bill and proximity each score 0 to 3 by percentile among the 246 candidate lines (in-scope imports of USD 10m or more): above the median 1, top quarter 2, top tenth 3. Concentration: top source at 40 per cent 1, at 60 per cent 2. A line enters the list only if it is not yet exported well (RCA below 1), is not a net export (exports under 80 per cent of imports), sits in the upper half for proximity and scores at least 3; one line per customs heading.

> What the score is not: a ranking of what would be profitable to make. It measures three things that are in the record, the size of the bill, how close the line sits to proven capability, and how exposed the supply is.

THE BUYERS

6. Public buyers

Not in the record for Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka does not publish a contract award record this edition can read (an open, machine-readable file of award notices with a procurement code and a buyer), so the dossier carries no public-buyers layer. The join is built and runs for the UK, the United States, Canada, Australia and the European countries in Tenders Electronic Daily with at least 500 notices in the year; it waits for the data here.

THE NEWS

7. Developments in the feed

The matching rule. A development from the BuzzBaboon feed (50 developments read from primary sources) is attached only when all three hold: one of its places is Sri Lanka or one of the line's three largest sources (Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Oman); it carries one of the sector tags construction, manufacturing; and one of the words "cement", "cements", "clinker", "clinkers" occurs in its title, or in lower case in its summary of facts.

None meets the rule today. The feed reads UK public-sector and regulatory sources first, so an absence here says where the feed looks, not that nothing is happening to this line in Sri Lanka. When a development meets the rule it is attached to the next edition of this dossier.

THE METHOD

8. Method, limits and sources

- **Trade.** CEPII BACI, HS 2022 revision, version 202601: every bilateral flow at six digits, reconciled from both sides of the border, 2022 to 2024, values in US dollars, quantities in metric tonnes.
- **Capability.** The product-space method (Hidalgo, Klinger, Barabasi and Hausmann, Science, 2007) on 157 countries exporting at least USD 1bn and 5,388 products with world trade of USD 10m or more. RCA is the line's share of a country's exports over its share of world exports. Two products are close (proximity) when the countries that export one well tend to export the other well. Density is the proximity-weighted share of a product's neighbours the country already exports well.
- **Scope.** Chapters 16 to 96, less ores, fuels, precious metals, raw farm output, scrap, unwrought metal and one-off capital and defence purchases (scripts/sovereignty/scope.js).
- **Public buyers.** Award notices the buyer classified as goods, joined to customs headings through a crosswalk from procurement codes that is ours and approximate. Only a specific code joins; broad divisions join nothing. Context, never a point.
- **Developments.** The rule in section 7, stated in full there.

What is not in the record

- Tariffs, quotas and trade remedies on this line: not in the record.
- Product standards, certification and licensing: not in the record.
- Production costs, energy prices, wages and plant economics: not in the record.
- Domestic production and installed capacity: not in the record.
- The names of firms that make, import or sell the product: not in the record.
- Market prices: the unit values here are customs values per tonne: not in the record.
- Public buyers: Sri Lanka does not publish them in a form this edition reads.
- Regions: regional trade by product is published only for the UK in this edition.
- The comparison year: Sri Lanka restricted imports in 2022, during its balance-of-payments crisis, so every change in this dossier measured from 2022 is measured against a restricted year. The restrictions themselves are not in the trade record, and their scope by product is not quantified here.

Sources

- CEPII, BACI international trade database, HS22, version 202601. Licence Etalab 2.0. https://www.cepii.fr/CEPII/en/bdd_modele/bdd_modele_item.asp?id=37
- Hidalgo, Klinger, Barabasi and Hausmann, "The Product Space Conditions the Development of Nations", Science 317 (2007).
- The Made Here record: https://buzzbaboon.com/made-here/sri-lanka/

Every number in this dossier is traced to the file and field it came from, and checked against that file before the dossier is sent (131 printed numbers, each re-read from the record). BuzzBaboon, a Shika Group property.