

MARKET UPDATE

Scanwell Logistics Colombo

7th August 2026

AIR EXPORTS

- Sri Lankan air export space remains stable, with operators adding regional capacity out of Colombo to accommodate late-summer outbound agricultural produce and garment shipments.
- High-value international air cargo demand is prompting carriers globally to adjust seasonal surcharges while shifting belly-hold capacity to key European and North American routes.



AIR IMPORTS

- Bandaranaike International Airport in Sri Lanka has streamlined intake handling procedures to clear inbound high-tech and apparel raw material shipments faster without major delays.
- Global air import rates from Asia are easing slightly, though sustained demand for electronics and semiconductors keeps transshipment hub capacity tight entering August.

OCEAN EXPORTS

- Transshipment volumes through Colombo Port crossed record levels, offering reliable feeder connectivity despite ongoing Middle East route diversions forcing ocean carriers to blank select sailings.
- Exporters benefit from post-GRI rate corrections on major trade lanes as ocean carriers lower spot container quotes to stimulate additional August shipping demand.



OCEAN IMPORTS

- Sri Lanka Ports Authority reported strong mid-2026 growth with CWIT operating at full capacity, while a new 220kV power cable project launched to stabilize port grid infrastructure.
- Sri Lankan maritime authorities issued safety warnings off Colombo on August first after seventeen empty containers fell overboard from a vessel seventeen nautical miles offshore.
- Global ocean container freight rates to North America and Europe soften this week as carriers reduce prices to fill extra capacity created by earlier-than-usual peak season volume.

RATES, SURCHARGES & REMARKS

- With East Asia and China being severely affected by three major typhoons, there are possibilities of freight delays, rate hikes and longer transit times.
- The weather disruptions may also caused backlog in major transshipment hubs such as Singapore, Port Klang and Port Tanjung Pelapas. Customers are advised to keep close contact with us to keep up to date of their shipments.