



Press Release

Balance of Payments (BoP) Developments First Quarter 2026

30 June 2026

1. The current account deficit stood at Rs1.1 billion in 2026Q1, equivalent to 0.6 per cent of GDP, compared to Rs6.2 billion, representing 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2025Q1. The improvement was driven by a higher surplus in the services account and smaller goods account deficit.
2. The goods account deficit narrowed to Rs40.8 billion, from Rs41.6 billion in 2025Q1, resulting from a larger decline in imports relative to exports of goods. Exports of goods (f.o.b.) fell by 4.1 per cent to Rs25.1 billion, mostly due to lower exports of *'Miscellaneous manufactured articles'*, *'Machinery and Transport equipment'* and *'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material'*. Imports of goods (f.o.b.) declined by 2.7 per cent to Rs65.9 billion, mainly reflecting declines in imports of *'Road vehicles'*, *'Mineral fuels, lubricants, & related product'* and *'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material'*.
3. The services account posted a surplus of Rs35.0 billion, supported in part by a 28.0 per cent increase in gross tourism earnings. The primary income account recorded a surplus of Rs20.8 billion, while the secondary income account remained in deficit at Rs16.1 billion, mainly due to taxes paid by GBCs to foreign governments.
4. The financial account registered estimated net inflows of Rs3.2 billion in 2026Q1. Direct investment recorded net outflows of Rs25.6 billion, mainly reflecting GBCs' direct investment abroad. The portfolio investment account posted net inflows of Rs57.7 billion, largely driven by higher GBC equity and debt securities liabilities. Other investment registered net outflows of Rs50.0 billion, primarily due to increases in banks' loans to non-residents and deposits abroad.
5. The country recorded an overall balance of payments deficit of Rs23.6 billion in 2026Q1.

**Economic Analysis & Research
and Statistics Department**