



INDUSTRY CAPABILITY REPORT



Sri Lankan Ceramic Sector

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Export Development Board (EDB), Sri Lanka
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1. INTRODUCTION

Sri Lanka's ceramic industry boasts a history dating back several centuries. The historical ruins in the country bear testimony to the rich diversity of ancient craftsmanship and the skills of the craftsmen themselves. The distinctive designs and exquisite elegance of the ceramic products manufactured to up market segment of the world by the Sri Lankan Ceramic industry today vividly illustrate the influence of this rich heritage and traditional craftsmanship influence.

The Island is endowed with raw materials used in the ceramic industry such as kaolin, ball clay, feldspar, silica quartz and dolomite. The excellent quality and purity of these materials which is available in abundance contribute to the high standards of the products. Domestic value addition has become an essential factor when exporting products utilizing duty advantages offered under trading arrangements. Being over 60% value addition, the ceramic industry ranks high amongst the locally manufactured export products.

Excellent quality and purity are the hallmark of natural resources in Sri Lanka. The Kaolin, Feldspar, Ball clay, Silica, Quartz, Dolomite that is used in manufacture of ceramic products are the best that can be found. International reputation for Sri Lanka ceramic products has been established with the quality and finish from the use of these raw materials along with Pigments and miscellaneous chemicals for preparation of Glazes, decal, Liquid Gold and Silver obtained from well-established international sources.

As a result of perfect combination of advanced technology and the traditional indigenous craftsmanship, Sri Lankan products can be found in top department stores such as Macy's, Crate & barrel, Marks & Spencer, Hallmark and Pottery Barn in USA, El Corte Ingles in Spain, Debenhams, Susie Watson Designs, John Lewis, and House of Frazer in UK, Sanrio and Isetan in Japan. Also, Sri Lanka manufactures products for reputed licensors such as Walt Disney, Universal Studios, Lucas Arts and Warner Brothers to name a few. All Sri Lankan tableware products conform to Food and drug Administration (FDA) norms and ASTM Standards. Main export markets of Tableware & kitchenware India, USA, Japan, UAE and UK. Main export markets for floor/ roof tiles are Australia, U.S.A., UK, Maldives, Hungary and India.

This industry has some significant operational strength, including a highly skilled workforce, competitive labour costs, and excellent management at factory levels, state-of-the-art technology, research and development facilities, high ethical standards and confidentiality of design integrity, in contrast to Asian competitors.

Further, Sri Lanka is proud of exporting under their own brands: Dankotuwa, Elan, Royal Fernwood, Midaya, Rocell, Lanka Tiles and under the back stamp of Noritake.

2. KEY PRODUCTS AND VARIETIES

Sri Lankan ceramic industry supplies ceramic products to the international market under four major categories.

1. Porcelain Tableware
2. Ornamental ware & utility ware
3. Tiles including wall tiles & floor tiles
4. Sanitary ware & Bath ware

In addition, following products are manufactured by the industry.

- Earthenware & stoneware products
- Cements, glass & refractory
- Red brick, roofing tiles and terra cotta products

According to the export statistics of last ten years, ceramic tableware, kitchenware, unglazed ceramic flags and paving and unglazed ceramic mosaic cubes are the key segments of ceramic exports of the country.

PORCELAIN TABLEWARE

A range of body shapes and decoration techniques in tableware gives Sri Lanka a great versatility as a country which can deliver high quality elegant contemporary and traditional designs to the world.

Sri Lanka's exquisite porcelain products are being much sought after because of the in-glaze, on-glaze and under-glaze decorations, heavy metal free decorations, ornate and difficult gold decorations, microwave-safe designs in gold or platinum, dish washer safe construct & also our ability to supply high quality Ivory Porcelain (new bone China) & artistic porcelain dinnerware.

Superior characteristics of Sri Lankan porcelain include a very high level of whiteness, high translucency, high scratch resistance and high thermal shock.

All Sri Lankan products conform to Food & Drug Administration (FDA) norms ASTM Standards.

The tableware and kitchenware exports amount to around 65% of the country's total ceramic exports.

There are three key players in the country and their main export markets are USA, Japan, India, UAE and UK.

ORNAMENTAL/ UTILITY WARE

Range of products include items such as figurines, household decorations, music boxes, chandelier ceramic accessories, kitchen accessories, bathroom accessories, garden articles and studio pottery.

There are four key players in the country and their main export markets are Denmark, Sweden, USA, UK and China.

TILES

Floor tiles are available in a wide range of shades, designs, and finishes-rough or smooth surfaces-and sizes to suit any floor area in residential and commercial buildings. These include floor tiles especially suited for verandahs, sitting rooms, dining rooms, bed rooms, pantry, as well as for flooring outdoor space such as terraces, path-ways, ponds etc. They range from simple glazed tiles to multiple prints and manual hand painted to machine embroidered types. A variety of different textures to suit customer preferences: matt, rough, gloss, stone, marble, and terra-cotta finishes in a range of self-colours or shades are available.

Wall Tiles are offered in a variety of colours, textures, and in different sizes including special trim tiles, decorated tiles, handmade and hand painted tiles conforming to British, European, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japanese Standards. Sri Lanka has started manufacturing and exporting of **MOSAICS** tiles, which are manufactured with cutting edge technology that's on par with US standards.

Main export markets for Tiles are U.S.A., Australia, Maldives, Seychelles and Kuwait.

SANITARY WARE & BATH WARE

Sri Lanka manufactures Bath ware & sanitary ware for both domestic & international markets.

Use of imported clays and glaze raw materials with advanced production techniques enhances the product quality conforming to British standard specification BS EN 3402-1962, thereby ensuring that the products will be on par with that of any leading European manufacturer in terms of both design and quality. All the moulds are made from epoxy resin case moulds, which will ensure superior surface qualities and dimensional stability.

Production facility of the main manufacturing company in Sri Lanka has been recognized internationally by leading sanitary ware industry specialists as one of Asia's most modern in terms of technology and production capability.

Main export markets are UK, India, Hungary, Maldives, Mexico and China.

Sri Lankan Ceramic Sector

GLASS PRODUCTS

The only company in Sri Lanka manufacturing glass products offers the entire moulded range of glass bottles for the food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and perfume industries. Main markets are India, US, Canada, Hong Kong and Australia.

3. TYPES OF PLAYERS

Large scale exporters, SME exporters, Cottage base manufacturers and craft villages.

4. SEASONAL VARIATION

Seasonal variation applies only for few items.

Ceramic Tableware & souvenirs are highly demanded during the Christmas & New Year season.

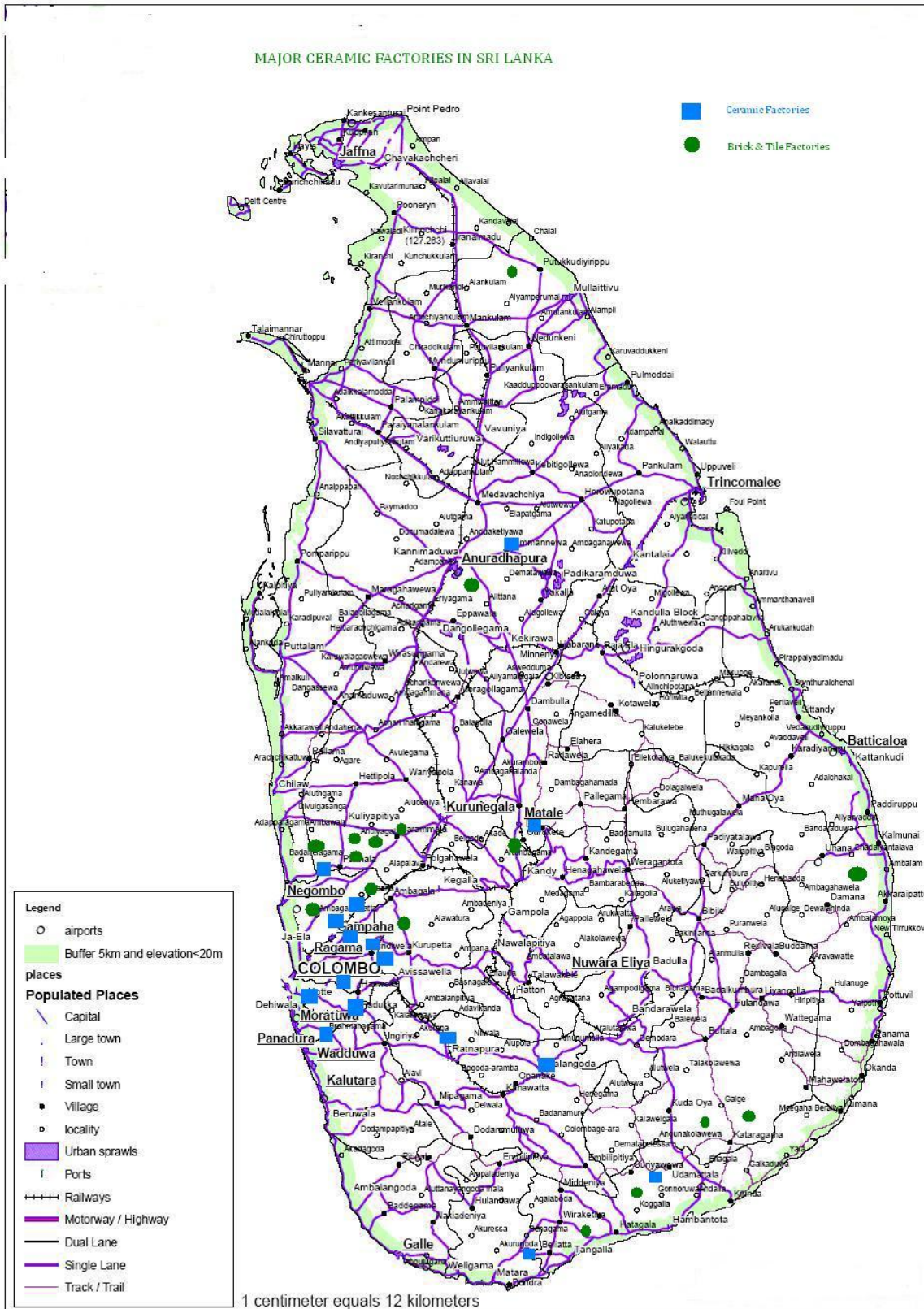
Dinnerware and Tableware for USA market is highly demanded during New year season until the month of April.

Craft made of	Seasonal Variation
Ceramic Tableware	Highly demanded in New Year & during religious festivals (January-April) and Christmas season
Ceramic Ornamental ware	Christmas ornaments highly demanded in Christmas season in USA & Europe (November – end December)

5. KEY PLAYERS IN THE SECTOR

No	Name of the Company	Website
1	Piramal Glass Ceylon PLC	www.piramalglassceylon.com
2	Noritake Lanka Porcelain Pvt Ltd	www.noritake.lk
3	Dankotuwa Porcelain Ltd.	www.dankotuwa.com
4	Royal Fernwood Porcelain Ltd	www.fernwoodporcelain.com
5	Lanka Wall Tile PLC	www.lankatiles.com
6	Midaya Ceramic Company Ltd.	www.midaya.com
7	Royal Ceramic Lanka Ltd	www.rocell.com
8	Art Decoration International Pvt Ltd.	www.artdecorint.com
9	Samson Rajarata Tiles Pvt Ltd	www.dsitiles.lk

6. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MANUFACTURING UNITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Source : “Mineral Resources of Sri Lanka” National Science Foundation-Sri Lanka

7. SIZE IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION (VALUE/QUANTITY)

Due to the highly diverse nature in this sector, it is hard to determine the size of production.

8. NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE SECTOR

The total workforce of the sector is over 20,000.

The tableware and ornamental ware sector employed 16,000 to 18,000.

The tile sector accounted 2,000-4,000 workforces.

9. GOVERNMENT POLICY AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR THE SECTOR

Related Government organizations to support the ceramic sector:

1. Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) undertake programme for the development and promotion of the sector in the following areas.

- Product Design & Technology Development Programmes
- Market Development programme such as organizing buyer -seller meetings (inward/outward), Trade fair participation, Solo country exhibitions, Participation at trade summits and trade forums.
- Lobby on Tariff concessions etc.
- Provide Trade facilitation services.
- Image Building programmes such as advertise in foreign magazines, inviting foreign Journalists to Sri Lanka etc.

2. Board of Investment (BOI)

- Facilitate to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Investor friendly facilities for BOI projects

3. Department of Commerce (DOC)

- Implementing bilateral agreements /trade agreement.
- Assistance in organizing of international trade events.

4. Geological Survey & Mines Bureau (GSMB)

- Surveying of raw materials
- Testing of raw materials samples
- Excavation of raw materials from the deposits
- Implementing the regulatory formalities.

5. Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)

- Testing of raw materials
- Research on raw materials

10. R&D AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The related institutes for R& D and product development are as follows;

- Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)
- Geological Survey & Mines Bureau (GSMB)
- Centre of Technology Excellence (CENTEC)
- University of Moratuwa –Department of Material Engineering
- University of Peradeniya – Department of Geology

11. TOTAL EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS IN SELECTED CATEGORIES OF THE SECTOR

Exports (Value In US\$ Mn)

Code	Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Tableware & Kitchenware	23.70	27.45	14.50	24.66	18.91
H.6911	Porcelain & china - Tableware & Kitchenware	21.36	23.89	21.12	18.97	16.70
H.6912	Ceramic - Tableware & Kitchenware	2.34	3.56	3.54	1.79	2.21
	Tiles	8.76	5.94	5.59	6.40	4.73
H.6904	Flooring blocks and tiles	0.04	0.0003		0.01	0.01
H.6907	Unglazed ceramic tiles	7.94	5.05	5.80	5.86	4.72
H.690510	Ceramic roofing tiles	0.78	0.89	0.60	0.62	0.72
	Ornamental articles	3.56	2.91	2.02	3.17	3.92
	Other Ceramic products	2.74	2.71	1.55	2.34	1.85
HS.70	Glass & Glassware	21.25	28.32	31.63	15.67	30.67

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

12. MAIN EXPORT DESTINATIONS

Top 10 markets of each sub sector are as follows;

Tableware & Kitchenware	Wall Tiles	Ornaments
United States	United States	Denmark
Japan	Australia	Sweden
India	Maldives	United States
United Arab Emirates	Seychelles	United Kingdom
United Kingdom	Kuwait	China
China	Kenya	Japan
Denmark	India	Germany
Germany	Oman	Mexico
Australia	United Arab Emirates	Australia
Brazil	Indonesia	Italy

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

13. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SECTOR

Strengths	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Availability of raw materials such as kaolin, ball clay, feldspar, silica, quartz and dolomite locally.• The availability of highly skilled and literate workforce with technical expertise (designers, engineers, chemists).• Availability of strong craftsmanship heritage and long history in ceramics production.• Availability of supporting institutions.• High ethical standards and confidentiality of design integrity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High energy costs increase overall production expenses.• Limited global brand recognition despite high-quality products.• Small industry scale compared to major global competitors although the products manufactured are of very high quality.• Regulatory barriers in mining and resource extraction.• Competition from low-cost imports.

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