

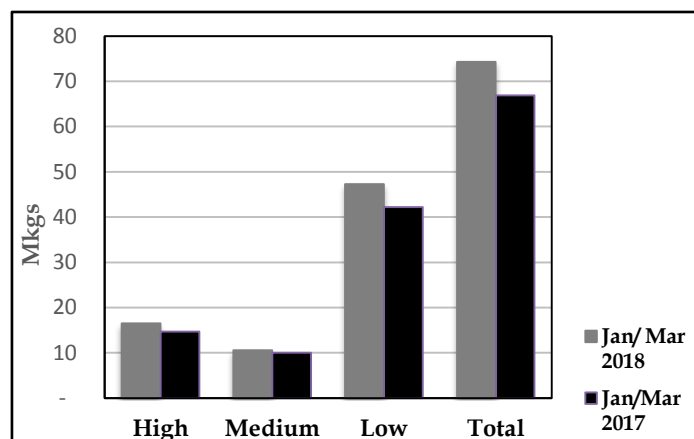
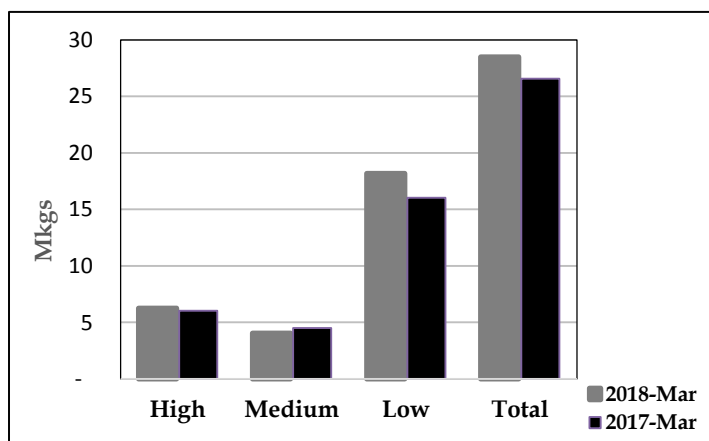
Once again an upward trend in Production has been recorded in March, 2018 where the crop has increased by 1.9 Mkgs (7.24%) over the corresponding month in 2017. The 1st quarter of the current year (Jan-Mar) has given a crop of 74.2 Mkgs which is an improvement of 7.3 Mkgs on the crop of 66.8 Mkgs recorded during the same period last year.

The Low Grown sector continues to be the major contributor to the national production with 63.6 % during the first 3 months of this year and, is followed by High & Medium Grown Elevations contributing 22.2% and 14.2% respectively. The tea production for April and May is likely to show a further boost following the favorable weather conditions experienced over most plantations which indeed can lay the foundation for a good national tea production in 2018.

Given below are more comprehensive details relating to tea production.

Sri Lanka Tea Production-March 2018 vs. 2017 (In Kgs)

	2018-March	2017-March	+/-	%	Jan/ Mar 2018	Jan/Mar 2017	+/-	%
High	6,249,837	6,046,666	203,171	3.36	16,458,482	14,668,017	1,790,465	12.21
Medium	4,059,498	4,497,762	(438,264)	(9.74)	10,530,393	10,006,982	523,411	5.23
Low	<u>18,193,127</u>	<u>16,032,936</u>	<u>2,160,191</u>	<u>13.47</u>	<u>47,237,915</u>	<u>42,201,780</u>	<u>5,036,135</u>	<u>11.93</u>
Total	<u>28,502,462</u>	<u>26,577,364</u>	<u>1,925,099</u>	<u>7.24</u>	<u>74,226,790</u>	<u>66,876,779</u>	<u>7,350,011</u>	<u>10.99</u>



During the period January to March, 2018 the larger crop harvests have been from the following regions.

1	Ratnapura	13,072,347.00	11	Demodara/Haliella/Badulla	1,833,602.00
2	Galle	10,611,095.00	12	Upcot/Maskeliya	1,587,462.00
3	Kalutara	5,224,609.00	13	Agarapathana	1,571,038.00
4	Gampola/Nawalapitiya/Dolosbage	3,938,548.00	14	Pussellawa/Hewaheta	1,541,791.00
5	Matara	3,880,616.00	15	Bogawantalawa	1,524,361.00
6	Deniyaya	3,611,274.00	16	Kegalle	1,406,588.00
7	Nanuoya/Lindula/Talawakelle	2,332,746.00	17	Morawake	1,406,102.00
8	Kelani Valley	2,282,271.00	18	Kadugannawa	1,347,102.00
9	Balangoda/Rakwana	1,989,840.00	19	Balangoda	1,208,830.00
10	Hatton/Dickoya	1,981,879.00	20	Patana/Kotagala	1,137,590.00