

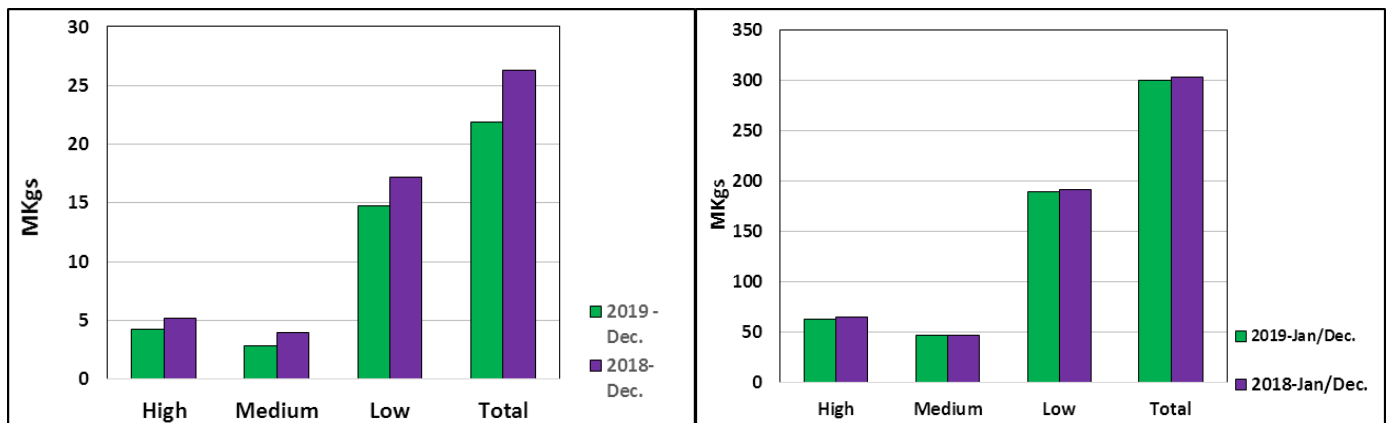
Sri Lanka has recorded a total tea production of 300Mkgs during January to December 2019, which shows a drop of 3.8Mkgs when compared to the previous year's tea crop. The year 2019 has seen a worsening drought situation from almost the beginning to the 3rd quarter and tea production during that period was much below expected levels. The established weather patterns can no longer be relied upon and it certainly appears that climate change is taking its toll on our tea production as well. The biggest challenge that the producer sector is now faced with would be to find ways and means to minimize the negative effects of prolonged drought in the future.

During the year under review, the Western Medium category production did not show a significant change to the previous year, whilst, both the High & Low elevation teas declined by 1.9Mkgs, each.

Given below are more comprehensive details relating to tea production.

Sri Lanka Tea Production - December 2019 vs. 2018 (In Kgs)

	2019- December	2018- December	+/-	%	Jan/Dec 2019	Jan/Dec 2018	+/-	%
High	4,270,633	5,198,619	(927,986)	(17.85)	63,046,708	64,969,944	(1,923,237)	(2.96)
Medium	2,838,194	3,941,351	(1,103,158)	(27.99)	47,172,071	47,130,981	41,090	0.09
Low	<u>14,784,992</u>	<u>17,167,184</u>	<u>(2,382,192)</u>	<u>(13.88)</u>	<u>189,915,216</u>	<u>191,843,309</u>	<u>(1,928,093)</u>	<u>(1.01)</u>
Total	<u>21,893,818</u>	<u>26,307,154</u>	<u>(4,413,335)</u>	<u>(16.78)</u>	<u>300,133,995</u>	<u>303,944,234</u>	<u>(3,810,239)</u>	<u>(1.25)</u>



During the period January to December 2019 the larger crop harvests have been from the following regions.

1	Ratnapura	51,055,836.00	11	Hatton/Dickoya	7,353,296.00
2	Galle	43,786,962.00	12	Kegalle	7,037,251.00
3	Kalutara	22,485,555.00	13	Pussellawa/Hewaheta	6,136,278.00
4	Gampola/Nawalapitiya/Dolosbage	18,609,887.00	14	Morawake	6,062,701.00
5	Matara	15,016,653.00	15	Kadugannawa	5,851,934.00
6	Deniyaya	14,338,749.00	16	Upcot/Maskeliya	5,792,133.00
7	Nanuoya/Lindula/Talawakelle	9,014,602.00	17	Bogawantalawa	5,729,970.00
8	Demodara/Haliella/Badulla	8,605,150.00	18	Agarapathana	5,502,557.00
9	Kelani Valley	7,887,505.00	19	Balangoda	5,149,175.00
10	Balangoda/Rakwana	7,764,480.00	20	Kandy/Matale/Kurunegala	4,115,010.00