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India’s bulk Scotch imports rose to $59.28 million in April-September 2026

Nearly two-thirds of the six-month total came in July-September after imports from the U.K. climbed 620.7% from a year earlier

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India’s imports of bulk Scotch whisky were valued at $59.28 million between April and September 2026, according to figures published by The Free Press Journal on November 21 and attributed to an earlier Moneycontrol report from November 20. The total was more than five times the value recorded in the same six-month period of 2025, pointing to a sharp acceleration in a trade flow that is important for blending and distribution in one of the world’s largest whisky markets.

The strongest movement came in the July-September quarter. Imports in that three-month period were valued at $36.83 million, up from $5.11 million in July-September 2025. Based on the published figures, that was an increase of $31.72 million, or 620.7%.

The April-June quarter of 2026 had already shown strong growth. Imports in that period were valued at $22.45 million. Compared with the following quarter, the July-September total was higher by $14.38 million, an increase of 64.1% without seasonal adjustment. Moneycontrol also reported that April-June had risen 251% from a year earlier.

The reported data cover a specific segment of trade: bulk Scotch whisky imported from the United Kingdom into India. They do not represent all whisky imports, and they do not necessarily describe the entire Indian spirits market. The figures are expressed in nominal U.S. dollar value. The published reports did not include import volumes in liters, an average price per liter, or a detailed breakdown of the types of Scotch being shipped.

That limitation matters because the jump in import value cannot be tied directly to a change in consumer demand. Higher values may reflect larger volumes, higher prices, changes in product mix, or a combination of those factors. Without volume data or a customs table showing the underlying entries, it is not possible to determine how much of the increase came from rising demand in India and how much came from pricing or blending decisions by importers and bottlers.

The trade nonetheless stands out because India is a major market for Scotch whisky. Bulk imports are commonly used for local bottling, blending, and distribution, making them a useful indicator of commercial activity between Scottish producers and Indian buyers. Scotch whisky is produced in Scotland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and India is the main importing market in South Asia for this category of trade.

The Free Press Journal, an English-language newspaper published from Mumbai, presented the figures in an update dated November 21 and cited Moneycontrol, an Indian financial and business news outlet, as the source of the earlier report published on November 20. The information therefore comes through journalistic reports rather than a directly reviewed official customs release. The original customs table was not

included in the material cited.

Even with that caution, the pace of growth reported for 2026 was notable. A more than fivefold increase over the first half-year comparison period suggests a significant change in purchasing patterns by Indian importers. The concentration of $36.83 million in the July-September quarter also suggests that buying accelerated as the fiscal year progressed, rather than remaining evenly spread across the six months.

The quarter-by-quarter pattern gives further context. If the April-September total reached $59.28 million and April-June accounted for $22.45 million, then nearly two-thirds of the six-month value came in July-September. That suggests the upswing became stronger in the second quarter of the period under review.

At the same time, the missing baseline for the full April-September 2025 period limits the year-over-year analysis for the six-month stretch. The published reports said the April-September 2026 total was more than five times the value of the same period a year earlier, but they did not give the exact 2025 figure for the full semester. That means the broad trend is clear, while the precise percentage increase for the six months cannot be independently calculated from the numbers that were made public.

The increase comes amid continued interest in premium and imported spirits in India, though the published figures do not by themselves prove how much of the imported whisky was intended for retail sale, blending, or inventory building. Bulk trade can reflect several commercial strategies, including preparation for future demand, stock replenishment, or changes in sourcing and supply contracts.

For producers and traders in Scotland and the wider U.K. drinks industry, India’s buying pattern is closely watched because of the market’s scale. For Indian importers, the category is commercially important because bulk Scotch can feed multiple parts of the local supply chain, from bottling operations to blended whisky offerings. The latest figures reported by the two Indian publications suggest that this segment of the trade expanded rapidly in the first half of the 2026-27 fiscal period, even if the underlying reasons cannot yet be fully separated without official volume and customs data.