

# China Tea Export and US Tea Import Report

For China Customs and USDA trade data to October 2025\*  
Report Date: January 14, 2026

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS

### China Exports

China's tea exports for the first ten months of 2025 totaled 343,058 metric tons, representing a 3.7% increase compared to the same period in 2024. Green tea exports rose 13.4%, now accounting for 87.9% of total exports. However, black tea exports receded by 54.9%.

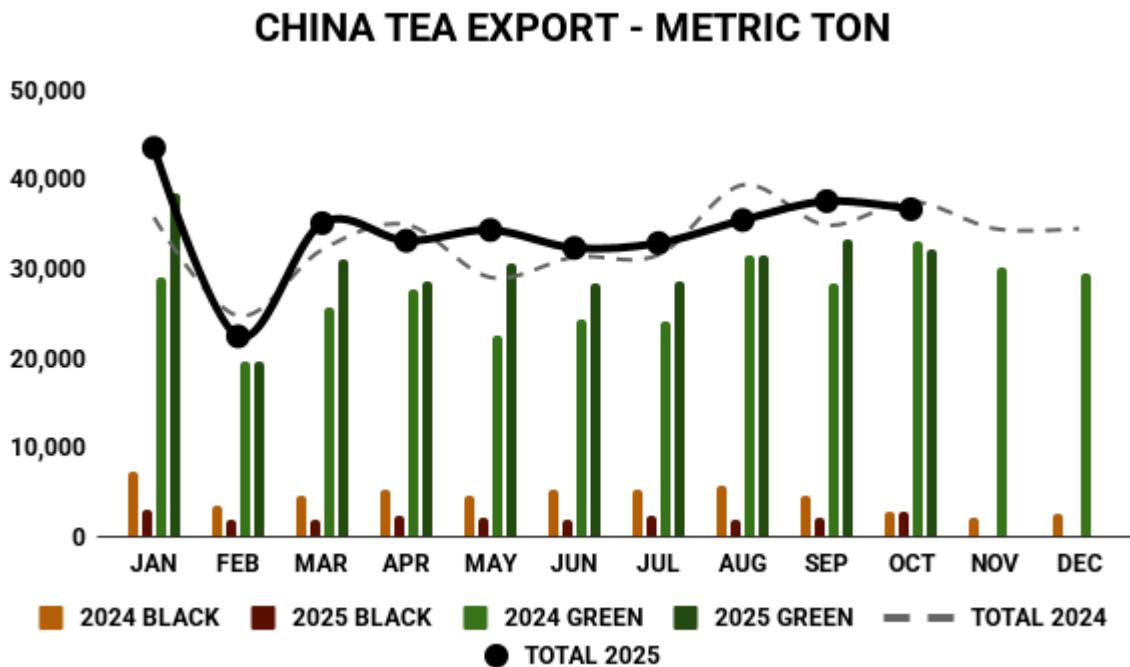
### US Imports

US tea imports from China through October 2025 totaled 9,497 metric tons, essentially flat (-0.3%) compared to 2024. China green tea imports increased 11.5%, representing 32.3% of total US green tea imports. Black tea and organic tea imports from China both declined approximately 11% year-to-date.

#### Key Highlights:

- China export prices increased 4.1% to \$3.81/kg in October
- October China exports declined 2.3% year-over-year
- US imports from China fell 32.3% in October
- China organic tea imports declined 11.0%, but still represent 31.7% of US organic market

## 2. CHINA EXPORTS



### 2.1 Total Exports Year-to-Date

2025 YTD (Jan-Oct)	2024 YTD (Jan-Oct)	Change
343,058 MT	330,877 MT	+12,181 MT (3.7%)

### 2.2 October 2025 vs October 2024

October 2025	October 2024	Change
36,627 MT	37,506 MT	-879 MT (-2.3%)

### 2.3 Green Tea Year-to-Date

2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
301,647 MT	265,920 MT	+35,727 MT (13.4%)

## 2.4 Green Tea as Percentage of Total YTD: 87.9%

Green tea now represents nearly 88% of total China tea exports, up from 80% in 2024, reflecting strong global demand and China's strategic focus on green tea production.

## 2.5 October 2025 Green Tea

October 2025	October 2024	Change
32,099 MT	33,080 MT	-981 MT (-3.0%)

## 2.6 Black Tea Year-to-Date

2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
21,350 MT	47,384 MT	-26,034 MT (-54.9%)

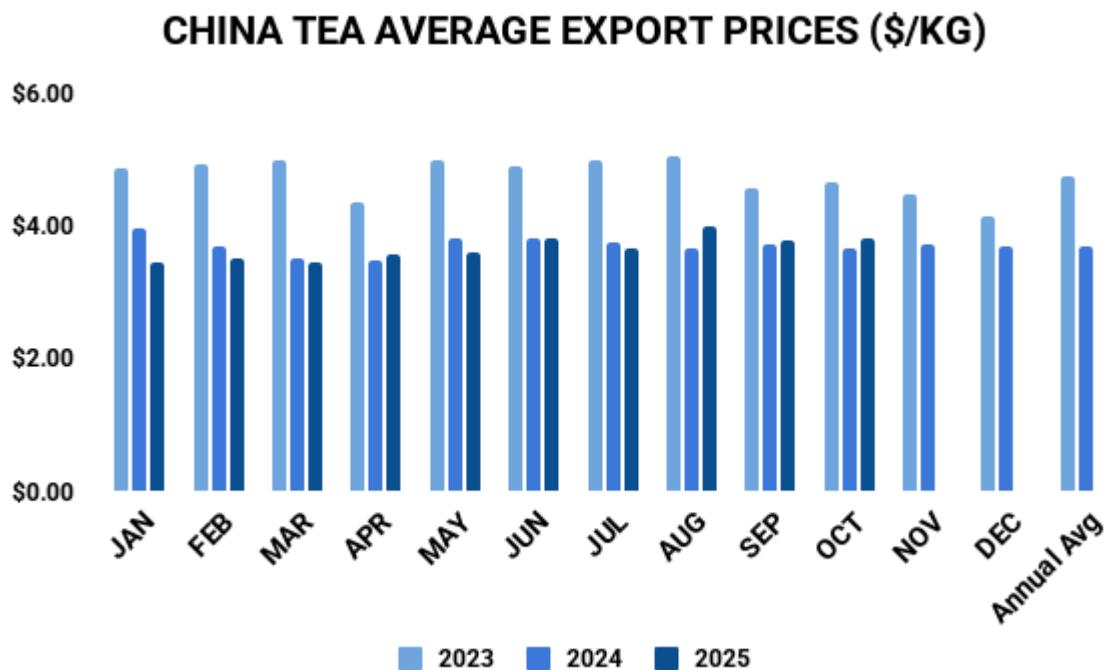
## 2.7 Black Tea as Percentage of Total YTD: 6.2%

Black tea has fallen to just 6.2% of total exports, down from 14.3% in 2024.

## 2.8 October 2025 Black Tea

October 2025	October 2024	Change
2,719 MT	2,641 MT	+78 MT (3.0%)

## 2.9 Average Export Price per Kilogram



October 2025	October 2024	Change
\$3.81/kg	\$3.66/kg	+\$0.15 (4.1%)

## 2.10 Notable Trends Over Past 24 Months

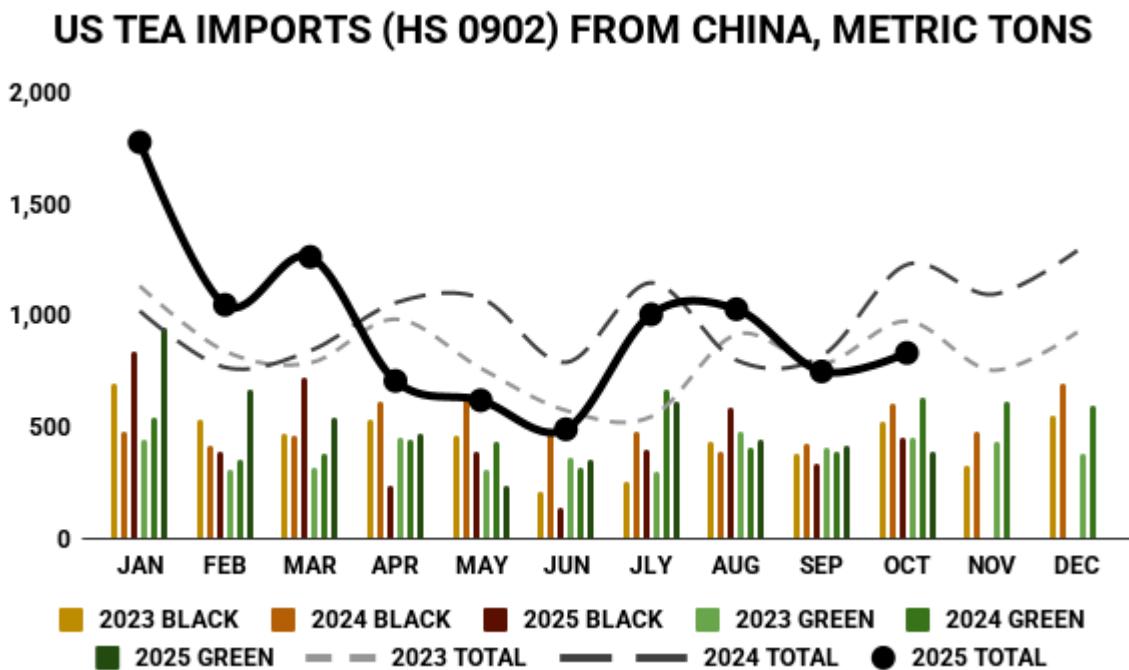
### Price Recovery

After declining from \$6.23/kg in 2021 to \$3.70/kg in 2024, China tea export prices have averaged \$3.66/kg YTD through October with an upward trajectory in recent months.

### Green Tea Dominance

Green tea has become increasingly dominant, growing from 80% of exports in 2024 to 88% in 2025.

### 3. US IMPORTS



#### 3.1 Total World Imports Year-to-Date

2025 YTD (Jan-Oct)	2024 YTD (Jan-Oct)	Change
15,625 MT	14,718 MT	+907 MT (6.2%)

#### 3.2 October 2025 China Imports

October 2025	October 2024	Change
830 MT	1,226 MT	-396 MT (-32.3%)

#### 3.3 China Green Tea Imports Year-to-Date

2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
5,054 MT	4,532 MT	+522 MT (11.5%)

### 3.4 China Green Tea as % of US Total Green Tea Imports: 32.3%

China accounts for approximately one-third of US green tea imports, maintaining its position as the leading supplier.

### 3.5 October 2025 China Green Tea

October 2025	October 2024	Change
384 MT	626 MT	<b>-242 MT (-38.7%)</b>

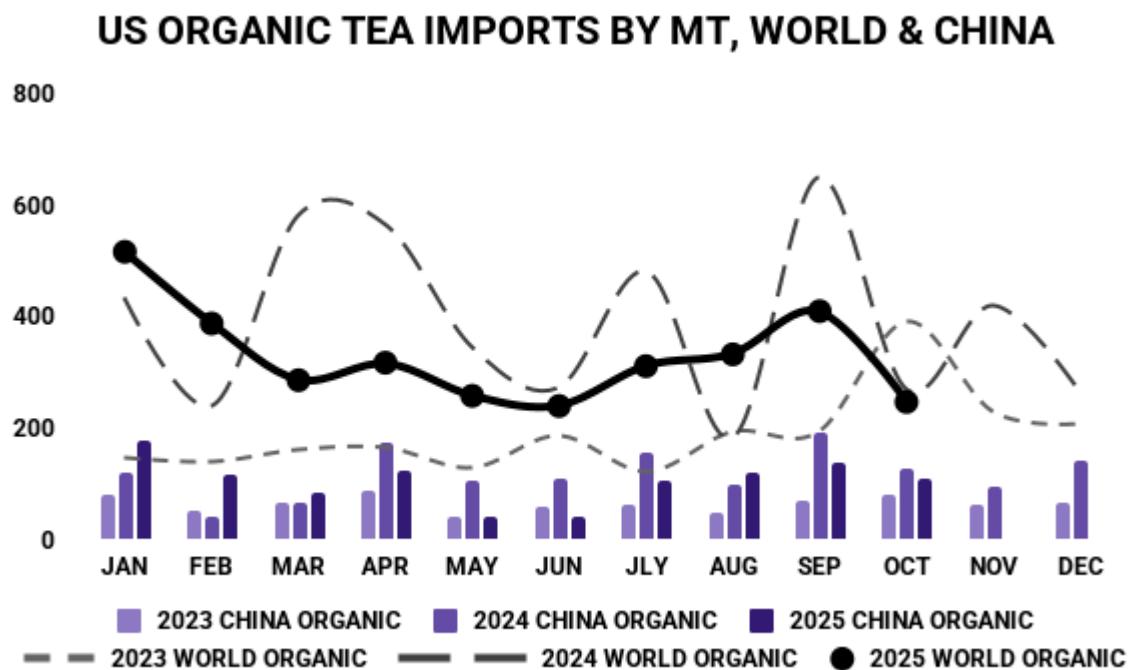
### 3.6 China Black Tea Imports Year-to-Date

2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
4,441 MT	4,991 MT	<b>-550 MT (-11.0%)</b>

### 3.7 October 2025 China Black Tea

October 2025	October 2024	Change
446 MT	600 MT	<b>-154 MT (-25.7%)</b>

### 3.8 October 2025 China Organic Tea



October 2025	October 2024	Change
107 MT	127 MT	-20 MT (-15.7%)

### 3.9 China Organic Tea Year-to-Date

2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Change
1,045 MT	1,174 MT	-129 MT (-11.0%)

### 3.10 China Organic as % of US Total Organic Imports: 31.7%

Despite the YTD decline, China maintains approximately one-third of the US organic tea market.

## 4. KEY FINDINGS AND INSIGHTS

### 4.1 Overall Market Dynamics

#### Export-Import Disconnect

While China's total exports grew 3.7% YTD, US imports from China remained essentially flat (-0.3%); a further indication that tariffs likely had an impact.

### 4.2 Tea Type Trends

#### Green Tea Strength

Green tea performance remains robust on both export (+13.4% China exports) and import (+11.5% US imports from China) sides.

### 4.3 Conclusion

The China-US tea trade through October 2025 presents a nuanced picture of transformation and challenge. China's export sector is experiencing a fundamental shift toward green tea dominance (88% of exports) while managing a black tea contraction (-54.9% YTD). The October data suggests potential stabilization in black tea and continued price recovery, but also reveals concerning month-over-month volatility.

From the US import perspective, China maintains critical market positions in green tea (32.3% share) and organic (31.7% share), though volumes show pressures in both categories. The sharp October decline in US imports from China (-32.3%) warrants close attention, as tariff rates were reduced in early November.

#### Key Takeaways:

1. Green tea trends are positive across both markets
2. China's market share positions remain strong despite volume pressures

\* This report was produced with the assistance of an AI agent. It was reviewed and edited by FirsTea, but may contain data errors. Please consult original data sources for verification.

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