Statistical Bulletin

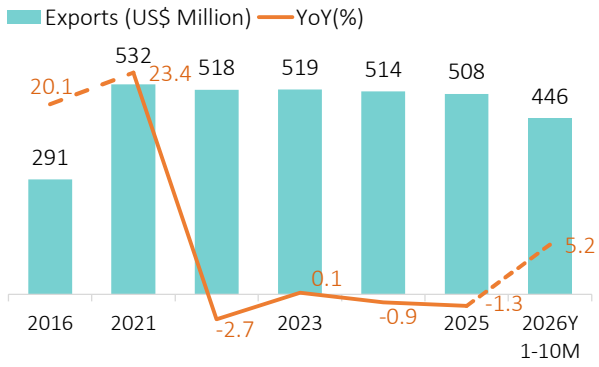
(No. 19)

Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance
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In the first 10 months of 2026, Taiwan's contact lenses exports reached US$446 million, and are expected to end two consecutive years of decline in 2026.

1. The contact lenses industry combines precision optics and medical devices. In recent years, Taiwan has ranked 5th or 6th in the world in terms of export value, with exports rising from US$291 million in 2016 to a high of US$532 million in 2021. Although exports declined slightly due to global inflation and market competition, the export value remained above US$500 million from 2022 to 2025. In the first 10 months of 2026, exports reached US$446 million, an increase of 5.2% year-on-year. The annual export value is expected to reach the second-highest level in our history and end two consecutive years of decline. By export destination, Japan ranks first, followed by Mainland China. The two markets together account for more than 80% of Taiwan's contact lenses exports. Japan accounted for the largest share of exports, supported by strong consumer confidence and recognition from major international manufacturers. The share of exports to Mainland China has halved from a high of 40% in 2021 to 20%, reflecting the rapid rise of local Chinese brands, which has squeezed Taiwanese manufacturers' export opportunities, and their growing localization of operations in the Chinese market.

Taiwan's Contact Lenses Export Trend



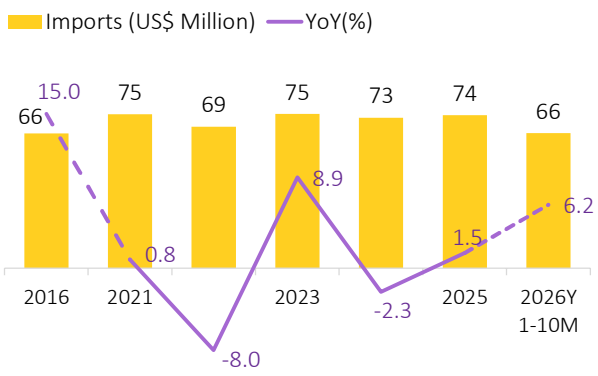
Main Export Markets for Contact Lenses

Year/Rank		1	2	3
2016	Region	Japan	China	Hong Kong
	Share(%)	68.5	14.7	3.7
2021	Region	Japan	China	USA
	Share(%)	43.6	39.5	5.5
2023	Region	Japan	China	Hong Kong
	Share(%)	53.2	32.8	3.0
2025	Region	Japan	China	Italy
	Share(%)	64.2	20.3	2.8
Jan.-Oct. 2026 Y	Region	Japan	China	Netherlands
	Share(%)	67.3	19.6	2.6

2. Taiwan's contact lenses imports have remained around US$70 million over the year, with Ireland as the largest source, accounting for more than 40% of total imports in most of the past decade. This is mainly because Ireland is an important production base for internationally renowned contact lens brands and one of the world's major exporters. The United States, Taiwan's second-largest import source, has seen its share

continue to rise, reaching 26% in the first 10 months of 2026. In recent years, driven by the Korean Wave and the fashion trend popularized by K-pop girl groups, the share of Korean contact lenses in Taiwan's imports has increased, more than doubling from 2.1% in 2016 to 5.6% in the first 10 months of 2026. Korea also rose from 7th to 4th in Taiwan's import rankings.

Taiwan's Contact Lenses Import Trend



Main Import Markets for Contact Lenses

Year/Region		Ireland	USA	Malaysia	Korea
2016	Share(%)	48.9	19.5	10.1	2.1
	Rank	1	2	3	7
2021	Share(%)	49.2	22.3	5.5	5.4
	Rank	1	2	4	5
2023	Share(%)	37.0	28.4	6.1	7.6
	Rank	1	2	5	4
2025	Share(%)	42.6	24.4	6.0	6.4
	Rank	1	2	4	3
Jan.-Oct. 2026 Y	Share(%)	43.0	26.1	5.8	5.6
	Rank	1	2	3	4

Data Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance.
Notes: Contact lenses, HS code 900130.

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