



Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

Annual Bulletin - 2010

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance and Planning

In the past, information on labour force characteristics, employment and unemployment etc. were collected through labour force and socio - economic surveys conducted at five yearly time intervals. However, the employment and unemployment data are required at very short intervals to monitor the programmes implemented in the employment generating policies of the government. Therefore, to satisfy this need, the Department of Census and Statistics(DCS) designed a labour force survey on a quarterly basis, to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka on a continuous basis. This survey was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 and is being continued by the DCS.

This bulletin is based on an annual sample of 20,260 housing units, excluding Northern province. In Northern Province survey could not be conducted properly since the resettlement process had not been completed.

1. LABOUR FORCE: HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

Economically Active Population (Labour Force)

All persons above a specific age (10 years and above) of either gender who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services during a specified time (reference period; previous week of the survey).

Labour force = (Employed + Unemployed) populations.

Distribution of Economically Active population

In 2010, estimated economically active population is around eight million and about five million (66%) of them are males (Table 1.1). Majority among the economically inactive population are females (70%)

Table 1.1: Distribution of economically active / inactive population by gender - 2010

| Gender | Economically active population | | Economically inactive population | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total | 8107739 | 100.0 | 8753787 | 100.0 |
| Male | 5317553 | 65.6 | 2601551 | 29.7 |
| Female | 2790186 | 34.4 | 6152236 | 70.3 |

Table 1.2: Percentage distribution of economically active population by gender & district - 2010

| District | Economically active population (%) | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Total | 100.0 | 65.6 | 34.4 |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 67.4 | 32.6 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 68.9 | 31.1 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 66.7 | 33.3 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 67.5 | 32.5 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 64.9 | 35.1 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 100.0 | 59.0 | 41.0 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 65.3 | 34.7 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 64.6 | 35.4 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 66.1 | 33.9 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 75.1 | 24.9 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 76.2 | 23.8 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 72.4 | 27.6 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 64.6 | 35.4 |
| Puttalam | 100.0 | 67.6 | 32.4 |
| Anuradhapura | 100.0 | 57.9 | 42.1 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 71.4 | 28.6 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 58.8 | 41.2 |
| Moneragala | 100.0 | 61.0 | 39.0 |
| Ratnapura | 100.0 | 63.8 | 36.2 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 61.9 | 38.1 |

2. EMPLOYMENT: HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

Table 2.1 : Employment statistic by gender - 2010
(Excluding Northern Province)

| Employment Statistic | Sri Lanka | Male | Female |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Labour Force | 8107739 | 5317553 | 2790186 |
| Employed population | 7706593 | 5131986 | 2574608 |
| Employment rate | 95.1 | 96.5 | 92.3 |

Employed : During the reference period, persons, who worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers are said to be employed.

This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period

Table 2.2: Percentage distribution of employed population by major industry group

| Sector/Province | Total | Major Industry Group | | |
|------------------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| | | Agri. | Ind. | Serv. |
| Sri Lanka | 100.0 | 32.7 | 24.2 | 43.1 |
| Urban | 100.0 | 4.0 | 26.6 | 69.4 |
| Rural | 100.0 | 34.4 | 24.7 | 41.0 |
| Estate | 100.0 | 69.4 | 11.4 | 19.2 |
| Province | | | | |
| Western | 100.0 | 7.9 | 33.0 | 59.1 |
| Central | 100.0 | 42.3 | 17.2 | 40.5 |
| Southern | 100.0 | 37.1 | 25.5 | 37.4 |
| Eastern | 100.0 | 35.3 | 19.0 | 45.7 |
| North Western | 100.0 | 36.9 | 25.7 | 37.5 |
| North Central | 100.0 | 59.4 | 11.9 | 28.6 |
| Uva | 100.0 | 59.3 | 11.2 | 29.5 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 100.0 | 40.9 | 25.4 | 33.7 |

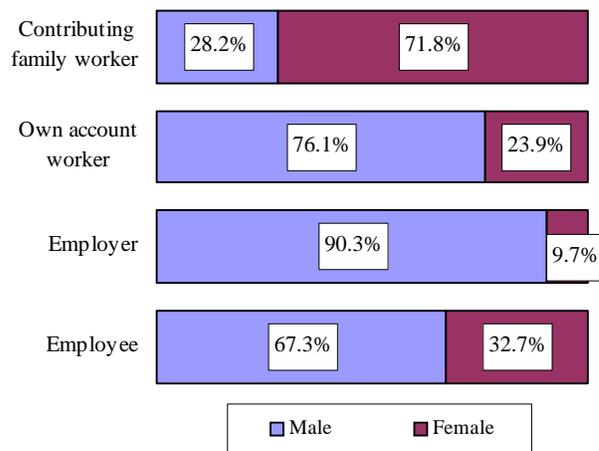
| District | Total | Major Industry Group | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| | | Agri. | Ind. | Serv. |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 3.6 | 28.6 | 67.8 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 6.6 | 37.8 | 55.6 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 17.5 | 32.2 | 50.3 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 23.1 | 22.2 | 54.7 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 46.5 | 19.6 | 33.9 |
| Nuwara eliya | 100.0 | 68.2 | 8.4 | 23.4 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 33.3 | 27.4 | 39.3 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 36.9 | 24.8 | 38.3 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 43.6 | 23.3 | 33.2 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 27.5 | 22.1 | 50.3 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 39.2 | 20.0 | 40.8 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 37.5 | 12.5 | 50.0 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 38.5 | 23.2 | 38.3 |
| Puttalama | 100.0 | 33.3 | 31.3 | 35.4 |
| Anuradapura | 100.0 | 64.2 | 9.8 | 26.0 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 47.4 | 17.4 | 35.2 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 61.6 | 11.0 | 27.4 |
| Monaragala | 100.0 | 55.0 | 11.6 | 33.4 |
| Rathnapura | 100.0 | 47.0 | 23.6 | 29.4 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 32.6 | 27.9 | 39.5 |

Agri. - Agriculture sector, Ind. - Industries sector, Serv. - Service sector

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of employment status by gender - 2010

| Employment status | Total | Gender | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 100.0 | 66.6 | 33.4 |
| Employee | 100.0 | 67.3 | 32.7 |
| Employer | 100.0 | 90.3 | 9.7 |
| Own account worker | 100.0 | 76.1 | 23.9 |
| Contributing family worker | 100.0 | 28.2 | 71.8 |

Table 2.1 : Percentage distribution of employment status by gender - 2010



3. UNEMPLOYMENT: HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

Unemployed: Persons available and/or looking for work, and who did not work and taken steps to find a job during last four weeks and ready to accept a job given a work opportunity within next two weeks are said to be unemployed.

Table 3.1: Unemployment rates by age groups and gender

| Age group (Years) | Total | Gender | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 4.9 | 3.5 | 7.7 |
| 15 - 24 | 19.4 | 16.3 | 24.7 |
| 25 - 29 | 9.2 | 4.7 | 17.8 |
| 30-39 | 3.1 | 1.7 | 5.8 |
| Over 40 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.4 |

Table 3.1 depicts that among all age groups, unemployment rates of females are higher than those of males. Irrespective of the age group, the unemployment rate of females in Sri Lanka was 7.7% and that of males was 3.5%.

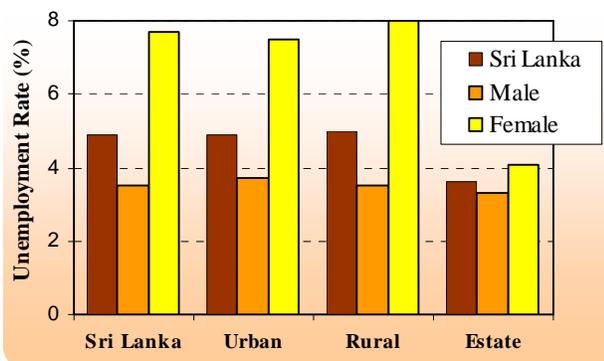
Table 3.2: Unemployment Rates by level of education

| Level of Education | Total | Gender | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 4.9 | 3.5 | 7.7 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 0.7 | * | * |
| Grade 6-10 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 5.8 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 6.9 | 5.4 | 10.1 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 11.6 | 7.9 | 15.8 |

*Sample size is not sufficient to obtain reliable estimates

According to the table, the unemployment rate among the educated group (G.C.E(A/L) and above) is reported to be 11.6 percent. It is 7.9 percent and 15.8 percent for male and female respectively. This reveals that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than males

Figure 3.1: Unemployment rates by gender - 2010



Considering the table 3.3, unemployment rate of females is more than two times greater than that of males.

Table 3.3: Unemployment rates by gender for each sector and province - 2010

| Sector / Province / District | Unemployment rate (%) | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Sri Lanka | 4.9 | 3.5 | 7.7 |
| Sector | | | |
| Urban | 4.9 | 3.7 | 7.5 |
| Rural | 5.0 | 3.5 | 8.0 |
| Estate | 3.6 | 3.3 | 4.1 |
| Province | | | |
| Western | 3.7 | 2.6 | 6.0 |
| Central | 6.7 | 5.1 | 9.6 |
| Southern | 7.8 | 5.9 | 11.6 |
| Eastern | 5.3 | 3.1 | 11.9 |
| North Western | 4.8 | 3.5 | 7.1 |
| North Central | 3.6 | * | 6.4 |
| Uva | 4.1 | * | 7.2 |
| Sabarakgamuwa | 4.6 | 3.6 | 6.1 |

*Sample size is not sufficient to obtain reliable estimates

Table 3.4: Unemployment rates by district - 2010

| District | Unemp. rate (%) | District | Unemp. rate (%) |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Colombo | 3.3 | Ampara | 4.8 |
| Gampaha | 4.1 | Trincomalee | * |
| Kalutara | 3.7 | Kurunegala | 5.5 |
| Kandy | 9.6 | Puttalam | 3.0 |
| Matale | 5.2 | Anuradapura | 2.9 |
| Nuwara eliya | * | Polonnaruwa | 5.3 |
| Galle | 6.4 | Badulla | 4.7 |
| Matara | 8.9 | Monaragala | * |
| Hambantota | 8.9 | Rathnapura | 4.2 |
| Batticaloa | 6.1 | Kegalle | 5.0 |

*Sample size is not sufficient to obtain reliable estimates

Selected Labour Force Indicators (2001 - 2010)

| | Year | | | | | | | | | 2010* |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2001# | 2002# | 2003* | 2004** | 2005*** | 2006 # | 2007# | 2008* | 2009* | |
| Labour force participation rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| by gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both gender | 48.8 | 50.3 | 48.9 | 48.6 | 48.3 | 51.2 | 49.8 | 49.5 | 48.7 | 48.1 |
| Male | 66.2 | 67.9 | 67.2 | 66.7 | 67.1 | 68.1 | 67.8 | 67.8 | 66.6 | 67.1 |
| Female | 31.9 | 33.6 | 31.4 | 31.5 | 30.9 | 35.7 | 33.4 | 33.2 | 32.8 | 31.2 |
| by residential sector | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 48.8 | 50.3 | 48.9 | 48.6 | 48.3 | 51.2 | 49.8 | 49.5 | 48.7 | 48.1 |
| Urban | 44.2 | 46.0 | 44.4 | 44.9 | 45.5 | 45.3 | 45.0 | 45.9 | 43.5 | 42.0 |
| Rural | 49.6 | 50.9 | 49.6 | 49.2 | 48.7 | 52.1 | 50.4 | 50.0 | 49.4 | 49.0 |
| Unemployment rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| by gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both gender | 7.9 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 4.9 |
| Male | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 3.5 |
| Female | 11.5 | 12.9 | 13.2 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 7.7 |
| by selected age groups (year) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 - 29 | 18.4 | 20.1 | 19.4 | 19.2 | 17.2 | 15.9 | 15.0 | 13.7 | 15.4 | 13.8 |
| 20 - 24 | 24.4 | 27.0 | 26.4 | 25.9 | 24.6 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 18.1 | 21.4 | 19.1 |
| 25 - 29 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 9.5 | 11.0 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 9.2 |
| by selected educational levels | | | | | | | | | | |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both gender | 15.3 | 16.8 | 16.5 | 16.8 | 13.8 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 10.5 | 11.2 | 11.6 |
| Male | 10.1 | 10.8 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 8.9 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 7.9 |
| Female | 21.5 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 23.8 | 19.1 | 16.8 | 17.5 | 15.3 | 15.5 | 15.8 |
| Employed population | | | | | | | | | | |
| by sex | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both gender | 6235588 | 6519415 | 7012755 | 7440226 | 7518007 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7648305 | 7602414 | 7706593 |
| Male | 4248877 | 4395164 | 4833483 | 5087861 | 5134765 | 4610643 | 4653067 | 5033449 | 4963176 | 5131986 |
| Female | 1986711 | 2124250 | 2179272 | 2352365 | 2383241 | 2494679 | 2388807 | 2614856 | 2639238 | 2574608 |
| by industry (parentage) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 6235588 | 6519415 | 7012755 | 7394029 | 7518007 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7648305 | 7602414 | 7706593 |
| % | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) |
| Agriculture | 2033343 | 2247602 | 2384397 | 2474725 | 2306039 | 2287268 | 2202098 | 2489731 | 2475921 | 2519905 |
| % | (32.6) | (34.5) | (34.0) | (33.5) | (30.7) | (32.2) | (31.3) | (32.6) | 33 | (32.7) |
| Industry | 1491408 | 1459194 | 1611493 | 1781447 | 1928014 | 1889953 | 1873857 | 2004880 | 1910318 | 1866733 |
| % | (23.9) | (22.4) | (23.0) | (24.1) | (25.6) | (26.6) | (26.6) | (26.2) | 25 | (24.2) |
| Services | 2710837 | 2812619 | 3016866 | 3137857 | 3283954 | 2928101 | 2965919 | 3153693 | 3216175 | 3319955 |
| % | (43.5) | (43.1) | (43.0) | (42.4) | (43.7) | (41.2) | (42.1) | (41.2) | 42.0 | (43.1) |
| by no. of hours worked per week (percentage) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 0 • | 4.3 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 7.2 | 7.9 | 6.0 |
| 1 - 9 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.7 |
| 10 - 39 | 28.2 | 32.0 | 32.6 | 28.7 | 27.6 | 28.6 | 28.3 | 28.9 | 28.8 | 28.5 |
| 40+ | 66.1 | 60.9 | 58.1 | 64.5 | 66.2 | 62.8 | 63.7 | 61.7 | 61.0 | 63.9 |

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week
 ***All the districts are included

*Excluding Northern provinces
 ** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts
 # Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces