

Table 1 : Economically active population by sex and sector, 2004

Sector	Household population (10 years & over)	Economically Active Population					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	16,593,431	8,061,354	100.0	5,372,897	66.7	2,688,457	33.3
Urban	2,425,113	1,087,715	100.0	755,232	69.4	332,483	30.6
Rural	14,168,317	6,973,639	100.0	4,617,665	66.2	2,355,974	33.8
Sector	Household population (10 years & over)	Not in the labour force					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	16,593,431	8,532,077	100.0	2,676,746	31.4	5,855,331	68.6
Urban	2,425,113	1,337,399	100.0	394,999	29.5	942,400	70.5
Rural	14,168,317	7,194,678	100.0	2,281,747	31.7	4,912,931	68.3

Note :Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts.

Table 2 : Labour Force Participation (1990-2004)

Year	Household Population (10 years & over)	Total Labour Force	Labour Force Participation Rate(%)		
			Total	Male	Female
*1990	11573941	6001148	51.9	67.6	37.0
*1991	11795793	5877198	49.8	64.8	35.0
*1992	12058463	5808062	48.2	65.2	31.6
*1993	12278055	6032383	49.1	65.3	33.1
*1994	12492850	6078863	48.7	65.4	32.0
*1995	12736185	6106138	47.9	64.4	31.7
*1996	12831240	6241889	48.6	65.9	31.6
*1997	12870791	6266160	48.7	65.6	32.0
*1998	12881790	6660520	51.7	67.5	36.4
*1999	13169250	6673487	50.7	67.7	34.1
*2000	13564660	6827312	50.3	67.2	33.9
*2001	13870479	6772834	48.8	66.2	31.9
*2002	14201396	7145382	50.3	67.9	33.6
**2003	15651479	7653716	48.9	67.2	31.4
***2004	16593431	8061354	48.6	66.7	31.5

\* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

\*\* Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* Excluding Mullaitivue & Kilinochchi districts

## 2.1 District level distribution of labour force

**Table 3 : Labour Force participation rate by district and province, 2004**

District	Household Population (10 years & above)	Total labour Force	Labour Force Participation rate
<b>Total</b>	16,593,431	8,061,354	48.6
<b>Western Province</b>			
Colombo	1,897,942	876,624	46.2
Gampaha	1,905,949	890,140	46.7
Kalutara	1,016,110	490,513	48.3
<b>Central Province</b>			
Kandy	1,003,304	455,736	45.4
Matale	349,957	171,025	48.9
Nuwara Eliya	572,359	323,203	56.5
<b>Southern Province</b>			
Galle	913,719	422,845	46.3
Matara	706,424	377,992	53.5
Hambantota	480,259	244,847	51.0
<b>*Northern Province</b>			
Jaffna	505,877	183,151	36.2
Mannar	74,858	29,450	39.3
Vavuniya	122,399	46,559	38.0
<b>Eastern province</b>			
Bataloa	385,409	159,670	41.4
Ampara	482,030	222,411	46.1
Trincomalee	330,112	125,805	38.1
<b>North Western</b>			
Kurunegala	1,428,931	730,704	51.1
Puttalam	652,261	299,246	45.9
<b>North Central</b>			
Anuradhapura	637,611	362,768	56.9
Polonnaruwa	306,209	149,342	48.8
<b>Uva Province</b>			
Badulla	763,497	441,234	57.8
Monaragala	397,914	201,710	50.7
<b>Sabaragamuwa province</b>			
Ratnapura	931,976	498,110	53.4
Kegalle	728,324	358,270	49.2

\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

District	Labour Force Participation rate (%)	Employment rate (%)	Unemployment rate (%)
Mullaitivu	36.3	88.7	11.3
Kilinochchi	40.3	91.5	8.5

Labour Force participation rate by district and province is given in table 3 above. It is evident that, there is a variation among districts in participation in labour force. Badulla district has the highest participation rate (57.8%) and Jaffna has the lowest. It is important to note that, Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Galle and Puttalam districts have reported relatively less participation rates than other districts except the districts located in north and east. This may be attributed to the urban structure in these districts. It is also apparent that, Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya districts have reported low participation rates. Most of the employed persons in Badulla District are estate workers. Therefore, this may be the reason for it's higher participation rate reported.

### 3.0 Employed Population

The survey revealed that there were 7.4 million persons being employed during the year 2004. Of these employed persons, approximately 5.0 million or 68.3 percent were males and 2.3 million or 31.7 percent were females. As domains of the survey are different during the period of 1993 - 2004, it is not possible to compare the employed population directly. However, employment rates has been increasing from 86.2 percent in 1993 to 91.7 percent in 2004.

**Table 4: Employed population and employment rates since 1993-2004**

Year	Employed Population			Employment Rate (%)		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
*1993	5201474	3601779	1599695	86.2	90.3	78.3
*1994	5281272	3678648	1602625	86.9	90.3	79.9
*1995	5357117	3700951	1656166	87.7	91.0	81.3
*1996	5537285	3857147	1680138	88.7	91.8	82.3
*1997	5607881	3862087	1745794	89.5	92.3	83.9
*1998	6049238	4004504	2044732	90.8	93.5	86.0
*1999	6082641	4107497	1975153	91.2	93.3	87.0
*2000	6310145	4241477	2068667	92.4	94.2	89.0
*2001	6235588	4248877	1986711	92.1	93.8	88.5
*2002	6519415	4395164	2124250	91.2	93.4	87.1
**2003	7012755	4833483	2179272	91.6	94.0	86.8
***2004	7394029	5049426	2344604	91.7	94.0	87.2

\* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

\*\* Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

### 3.1 Distribution of employed population by major industrial group by residential sector and Sex.

**Table 5: Percentage distribution of employed population by Industry 2004**

Sector/sex	Industry group							
	Total	%	Agriculture	%	Industries	%	Services	%
Urban	996241	100.0	67,442	6.8	271762	27.3	657038	66.0
Male	709352	100.0	53,292	7.5	184966	26.1	471094	66.4
Female	286889	100.0	14,150	4.9	86796	30.3	185943	64.8
Rural	6397788	100.0	2,407,283	37.6	1509685	23.6	2480819	38.8
Male	4340074	100.0	1,506,009	34.7	981993	22.6	1852071	42.7
Female	2057714	100.0	901,274	43.8	527692	25.6	628748	30.6

Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

The distribution of employed population by major industry groups are given in table 5. A total of 657,038 persons or 66 percent of urban sector employment are in the service sector, where as this share in the rural sector is 39 percent. This also confirms that, the percentage share of female employed those who are in Agricultural Industry is higher in the rural sector comprising 44% of total employment. In the case of Urban Sector, this share is only 5 percent. There is no marked difference between urban and rural sectors when the major industry group "Industries" is considered.

**Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by major industrial groups : 1990-2004**

	Total		Major Industry Group					
	Number	%	Agriculture	%	Industry	%	Services	%
*1990	5047354	100.0	2360951	47.0	978034	19.3	1708368	33.8
*1991	5015519	100.0	2130241	42.0	1064152	21.2	1821128	36.3
*1992	4962104	100.0	2088953	42.0	984975	19.8	1888178	38.1
*1993	5201473	100.0	2159053	41.5	1024448	19.7	2017974	38.8
*1994	5281272	100.0	2084730	39.4	1046282	19.8	2150263	40.7
*1995	5357110	100.0	1966794	36.7	1188270	22.2	2202054	41.1
*1996	5537402	100.0	2072197	37.4	1218189	21.9	2246884	40.6
*1997	5607881	100.0	2031907	39.3	1354956	24.1	2221019	39.6
*1998	6049238	100.0	2378410	39.3	1325714	21.9	2230425	36.9
*1999	6082746	100.0	2208324	41.8	1330114	21.8	2544203	41.8
*2000	6310247	100.0	2274153	36.0	1490795	23.6	2545299	40.3
*2001	6235588	100.0	2033343	32.6	1491408	23.9	2710837	43.5
*2002	6519415	100.0	2247602	34.4	1459194	22.4	2812619	43.1
**2003	7012755	100.0	2384397	34.0	1611493	23.0	3016866	43.0
***2004	7394029	100.0	2474725	33.4	1781447	24.1	3137857	42.4

\* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

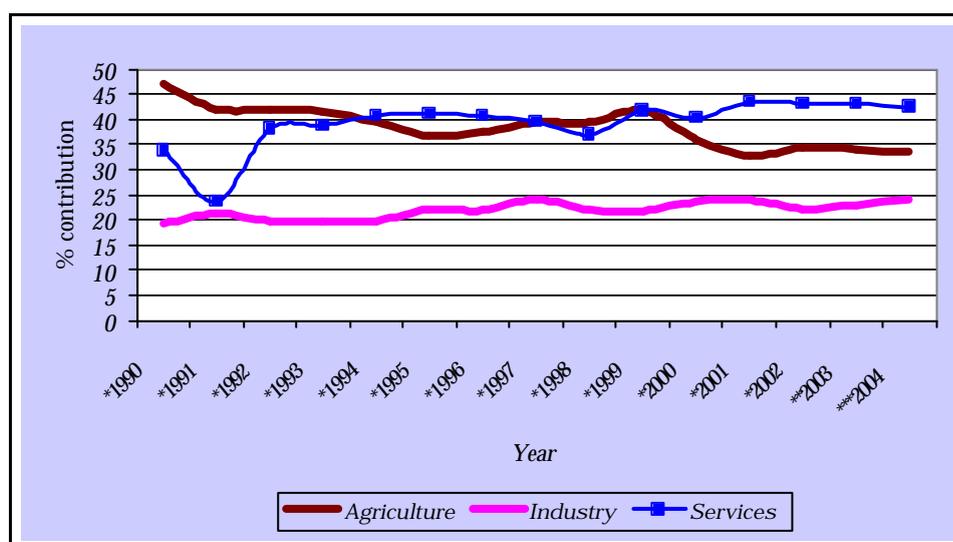
\*\* Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

Table 6 gives the percentage distribution of employed population by major industry from 1990 to 2004. The major industry group 'Agriculture' is showing a downward trend during this period. In 1990, the percentage share in agriculture group was 47 percent and in 2004 it has dropped to around 33 percent.

On the other hand, percentage share of the 'services' group has increased from 33.8 percent in 1990 to 42.4 percent in 2004. Similarly the percentage share of 'industry' category has increased from 19.3 percent to 33.4 during the same period considered. These downward and upward trends, are described in figure 4.

**Figure 4 : Percentage share of employed population by major industrial group 1990-2004**



\* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

\*\* Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

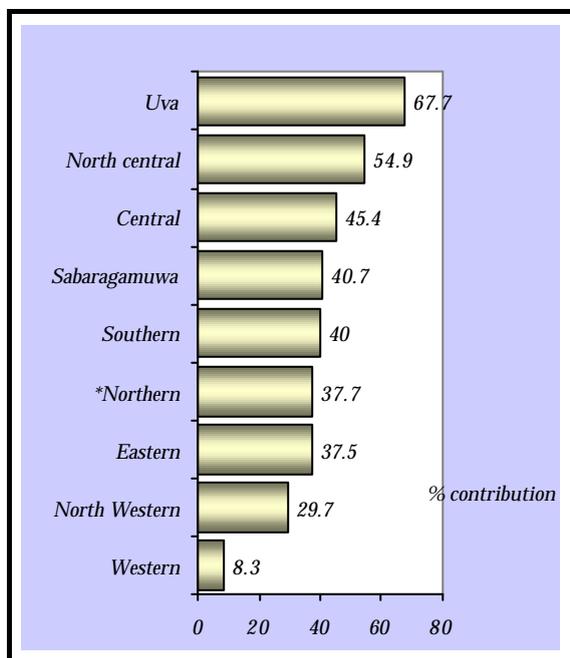
**Table 7 : Percentage share of employed population by major industrial group by province, 2004**

Province	Total		Major Industry group					
			Agriculture		Industry		Services	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total</b>	7394029	100.0	2474725	33.5	1781447	24.1	3137857	42.4
Western	2073845	100.0	172822	8.3	707616	34.1	1193407	57.5
Central	887120	100.0	402567	45.4	150419	17.0	334134	37.7
Southern	943710	100.0	377295	40.0	216517	22.9	349898	37.1
Northern*	235298	100.0	88723	37.7	41891	17.8	104683	44.5
Eastern	454726	100.0	170720	37.5	76174	16.8	207833	45.7
North Western	951744	100.0	282561	29.7	274491	28.8	394692	41.5
North Central	470741	100.0	258317	54.9	66221	14.1	146203	31.1
Uva	597336	100.0	404633	67.7	67300	11.3	125403	21.0
Sabaragamuwa	779509	100.0	317087	40.7	180818	23.2	281604	36.1

\* Excluding Mullaitivue & Kilinochchi districts

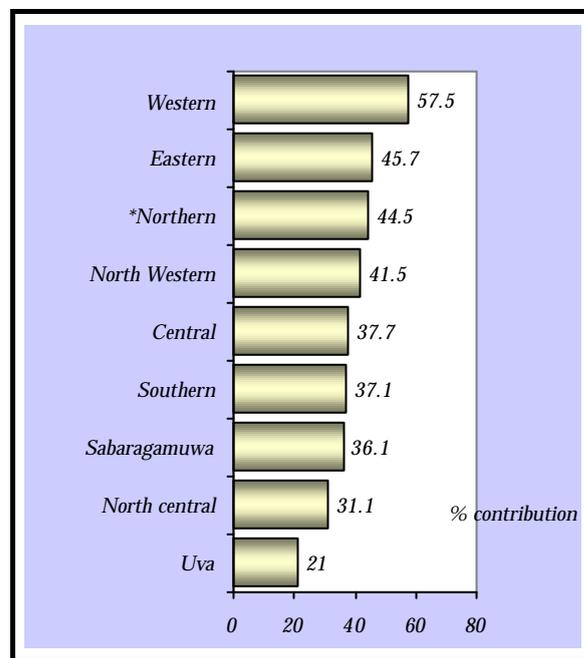
Table 7 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by major industry groups for provinces. The highest contribution made by the employees to the 'agriculture' industry group is highest in Uva province showing 68 percent, while this share is only 8 percent in Western province. On the other hand, the proportion of employees in the 'services' industry category amount to 58 percent in Western province, when compared with the proportion of 21 percent in Uva province.

**Figure 5 : Agriculture sector contribution in provinces**



\* Excluding Mullaitivue & Kilinochchi districts

**Figure 6 : Services sector contribution in provinces**



**Table 8: Percentage distribution of major industry groups by districts, 2004**

District	Total		Major Industry group					
			Agriculture		Industries		Services	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total</b>	7394029	100.0	2475049	33.5	1781684	24.1	3137297	42.4
Colombo	811962	100.0	25298	3.1	231813	28.5	554850	68.3
Gampaha	817056	100.0	57596	7.0	333857	40.9	425603	52.1
Kalutara	444827	100.0	89928	20.2	141946	31.9	212953	47.9
Kandy	416909	100.0	111479	26.7	99126	23.8	206304	49.5
Matale	159018	100.0	70824	44.5	27622	17.4	60572	38.1
Nuwara Eliya	311193	100.0	220264	70.8	23670	7.6	67259	21.6
Galle	383821	100.0	119760	31.2	99929	26.0	164132	42.8
Matara	347959	100.0	168141	48.3	67213	19.3	112606	32.4
Hambantota	211929	100.0	89394	42.2	49375	23.3	73160	34.5
Jaffna	165371	100.0	63572	38.4	32824	19.8	68975	41.7
Mannar	28522	100.0	14014	49.1	3454	12.1	11054	38.8
Vavuniya	41404	100.0	11137	26.9	5613	13.6	24654	59.5
Bataloa	142790	100.0	46525	32.6	33286	23.3	62979	44.1
Ampara	198754	100.0	89382	45.4	28179	14.3	79193	40.2
Trincomalee	115182	100.0	34813	30.2	14709	12.8	65660	57.0
Kurunegala	673450	100.0	194304	28.9	198527	29.5	280619	41.7
Puttalam	278294	100.0	88257	31.7	75964	27.3	114073	41.0
Anuradhapura	330526	100.0	191172	57.8	39305	11.9	100049	30.3
Polonnaruwa	140215	100.0	67145	47.9	26916	19.2	46154	32.9
Badulla	415215	100.0	282325	68.0	43189	10.4	89701	21.6
Monaragala	182122	100.0	122632	67.3	24111	13.2	35379	19.4
Ratnapura	456577	100.0	224102	49.1	99895	21.9	132580	29.0
Kegalle	322932	100.0	92985	28.8	81160	25.1	148787	46.1

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

District	Major Industry group			
	Total (%)	Agriculture (%)	Industry (%)	Services (%)
Mullaitivu	100.0	55.6	9.9	34.5
Kilinochchi	100.0	42.1	9.5	48.4

Table 8 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by major industry groups for districts. This also reveals that the significance variation of percentage of employed population in agriculture sector among districts. It varies from a share of 3.1 percent in the Colombo district to 70.8 percent in Nuwara Eliya district. Therefore, it is evident that, agriculture is the most prominent major industry group in all other districts except districts in Western province for which low percentages have been reported.

On the other hand, the other major two sectors, that is 'services' and the 'industries' sectors are considered, percentages are higher among more urbanized districts, (viz: showing 96.8 percent for Colombo district, 93 percent for Gampaha and 79.8 percent in Kalutara district) when two sectors are taken together. This situation implies that the correlation between socio-economic activities and the urbanization structure in these districts.

### 3.2 Employment by Employment Status

As can be seen from the distribution of employed population by employment status, following table indicates that, out of the total employed persons, nearly 60 percent belong to the 'Employee' category.

This classification also reveals that nearly 20 percent of employed females are unpaid family workers while same percentage for males is only 4.5 percent. On the other hand, 33 percent of employed males are own account workers, and same percentage for females is about 19 percent. This situation confirms that, the percentage share of unpaid family workers is higher among females, and this is different for own account workers. It is also clear that percentage of female employees those who are engaged in the public sector activities are higher than that of males.

**Table 9 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and sex, 2004**

Employment status	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	7394559	100.0	5049648	100.0	2344911	100.0
<b>Employee (total)</b>	4395124	<b>59.4</b>	2973570	<b>58.9</b>	1421554	<b>60.6</b>
Employee (public)	963852	13.0	600381	11.9	363471	15.5
Employee (private)	3431272	46.4	2373189	46.9	1058083	45.1
<b>Employer</b>	216019	<b>2.9</b>	194773	<b>3.9</b>	21246	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Own account worker</b>	2090660	<b>28.3</b>	1652322	<b>32.7</b>	438339	<b>18.7</b>
<b>Unpaid family worker</b>	692756	<b>9.4</b>	228983	<b>4.5</b>	463772	<b>19.8</b>

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

**Table 10 : Currently employed persons by employment status and major Industrial sector, 2004**

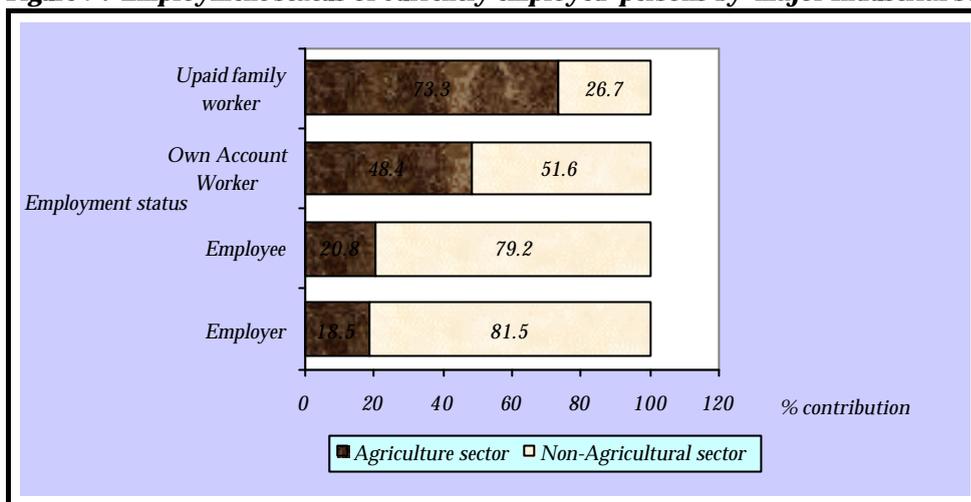
Employment status	Major Industrial sector					
	Total		Agricultural sector		Non-agricultural sector	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7394029	100.0	2474725	33.5	4919304	66.5
Employee	4394594	100.0	914262	20.8	3480333	79.2
Employer	216019	100.0	40028	18.5	175991	81.5
Own account worker	2090660	100.0	1012428	48.4	1078232	51.6
Unpaid family worker	692756	100.0	508007	73.3	184748	26.7

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

Table 10 shows the employment status distribution between agricultural and non-agricultural sector. Of the total estimated employees, 67 percent were engaged in the Non-agricultural work, while remaining 33 percent were engaged in Agricultural work.

It confirms that, nearly 73 percent of unpaid family workers are involved in the agriculture sector activities while the remaining 27 percent of them are in the non-agricultural sector. The situation of employees is different in this regard; nearly 21 percent of employees are in the agriculture sector and same percentage is 79 percent in Non-agriculture sector.

**Figure 7 : Employment status of currently employed persons by major Industrial sector - 2004**



Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

**Table 11 : Employment distribution by employment status by province, 2004**

Province	Total employed	%	Employee	%	Employer	%	Own account worker	%	Unpaid family worker	%
Total	7394559	100.0	4395124	59.4	216019	2.9	2090660	28.3	692756	9.4
Western	2074153	100.0	1421564	68.5	83817	4.0	483881	23.3	84890	4.1
Central	887120	100.0	561014	63.2	16336	1.8	211356	23.8	98414	11.1
Southern	943933	100.0	527447	55.9	18624	1.9	291988	30.9	105873	11.2
Northern*	235298	100.0	142185	60.4	14294	6.0	66234	28.1	12585	5.3
Eastern	454726	100.0	248026	54.5	13001	2.9	146595	32.2	47103	10.4
North Western	951744	100.0	542304	56.9	30283	3.2	281678	29.6	97480	10.2
North Central	470741	100.0	168283	35.7	8274	1.8	209349	44.5	84835	18.0
Uva	597336	100.0	291278	48.8	9840	1.6	183484	30.7	112735	18.9
Sabaragamuwa	779509	100.0	493023	63.2	21549	2.8	216095	27.7	48841	6.3

\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts.

Table 11 gives the Employment Distribution by Province. Highest percentage of employees has been reported by Western province showing 69 percent, and North Central Province 36 percent. In the case of own account workers, the corresponding are 23 percent and 46 percent respectively.

### 3.3 Employment by Occupation

The district level distribution of estimated employed population by major occupational groups are given in table 12 below. It indicates that 21 percent of the total employed persons were engaged in agricultural sector which comprises of skilled agricultural and fishery workers. It is also revealed that there is a big variation of the percentage of employed population in agriculture sector among districts. Colombo districts has the lowest percentage of 0.85 and Monaragala shows the highest percentage of 62.4.

Matara, Hambantota, Mannar, Ampara, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Badulla districts are also shown to have about 30 percent or more of its employees as engaged in the agricultural sector, while the Kalutara and Kegalle district have reported lower percentages of agricultural related activities.

**Table 12 : Percentage distribution of employed population by occupation by district, 2004**

District	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
Total	100.0	1.4	5.5	5.0	4.4	5.7	9.1	20.5	15.2	6.2	26.4	0.8
Colombo	100.0	3.5	8.5	7.8	10.3	7.5	13.8	0.8	16.9	9.8	19.7	1.2
Gampaha	100.0	3.9	6.8	6.0	7.3	3.0	10.9	3.8	23.8	12.9	20.9	0.8
Kalutara	100.0	1.5	5.6	6.3	6.4	6.5	9.9	11.1	18.3	7.8	25.6	1.0
Kandy	100.0	0.9	6.5	5.9	4.3	3.8	13.0	14.8	15.6	5.5	28.7	1.0
Matale	100.0	1.9	4.9	2.7	1.8	2.9	8.7	20.7	14.0	5.0	36.8	0.6
Nuwara Eliya	100.0	0.1	3.0	3.2	2.2	0.8	4.8	23.0	5.4	2.3	55.1	0.2
Galle	100.0	0.6	5.9	6.2	4.3	14.5	6.6	15.4	14.1	3.8	27.5	1.0
Matara	100.0	0.3	3.9	4.5	2.6	12.9	5.0	30.8	10.5	3.1	26.3	0.1
Hambantota	100.0	0.7	4.1	3.4	3.5	0.8	8.5	39.4	16.9	5.4	17.1	0.2
Jaffna	100.0	0.5	9.5	3.8	4.5	4.8	7.3	28.6	14.8	3.6	22.5	..
Mannar	100.0	0.8	7.7	5.9	2.3	2.8	5.2	41.2	8.5	2.8	22.7	..
Mulativu	100.0	0.6	8.6	3.6	3.1	4.9	10.7	12.9	11.8	6.9	35.4	1.4
Batalaloe	100.0	0.7	6.5	7.7	2.1	2.0	12.3	22.2	17.0	5.9	23.4	0.2
Ampara	100.0	..	6.9	5.5	1.8	2.1	13.6	38.4	12.5	3.4	14.8	1.0
Trincomalee	100.0	0.2	6.0	6.8	2.0	1.6	13.1	25.8	11.1	7.3	24.2	1.9
Kurunegala	100.0	0.9	5.1	4.4	3.3	9.9	7.7	17.8	17.8	7.8	24.3	0.9
Puttalam	100.0	0.8	4.6	4.1	2.3	2.6	10.7	19.7	19.0	6.4	29.3	0.5
Anuradhapura	100.0	0.5	3.2	3.9	2.7	3.2	7.1	53.8	9.8	2.9	11.7	1.1
Polonnaruwa	100.0	0.7	3.0	4.3	2.0	13.1	6.1	32.0	13.8	5.3	18.9	0.8
Badulla	100.0	0.7	3.4	2.2	2.1	4.2	3.9	35.9	6.7	3.0	37.8	0.1
Monaragala	100.0	0.2	2.2	2.7	0.6	0.5	6.4	62.4	8.8	2.6	13.0	0.6
Ratnapura	100.0	0.3	3.0	2.9	1.8	6.0	4.6	28.0	13.4	2.6	36.5	0.8
Kegalle	100.0	0.5	6.3	4.3	4.2	4.0	13.1	6.5	17.7	5.1	36.4	1.6

.. Negligible

Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

Occupation group

1. Senior officials and Managers

2. Professional

3. Technical & Associate Professionals

4. Clerks

5. Proprietors and managers of Enterprises

6. Sale and Service workers

7. Skilled agricultural and Fishery workers

8. Craft & related workers

9. Plant & Machine operators and assemblers

10. Elementary Occupation

0 Unidentified

In table 13 below, the districts have been ranked according to the percentage of employees reported in the respective major industrial category. This implies that, according to the ranks given under agriculture category, highest rank is occupied by Monaragala district followed by Anuradhapura district, which are predominantly agricultural areas in the country.

When elementary occupation category is considered, Nuwara-eliya has shown the highest percentage occupying highest rank, where large number of estates are located. This may be due to the fact that most of the unskilled labourers are working in the estate sector.

With regard to the Craft & related workers category all three districts in the Western province have shown relatively high ranks when compared with the other two categories.

**Table 13 : Employment distribution by major occupational groups and by districts, 2004**

Agriculture			Elementary Occupation			Craft & Related workers		
District	(%)	Rank	District	%	Rank	District	%	Rank
Total	20.60		Total	26.51		Total	15.28	
Monaragala	62.36	<b>1</b>	Nuwara Eliya	55.06	<b>1</b>	Gampaha	23.77	<b>1</b>
Anuradhapura	53.81	<b>2</b>	Ratnapura	51.59	<b>2</b>	Puttalam	19.05	<b>2</b>
Mannar	41.24	<b>3</b>	Matale	36.82	<b>3</b>	Ratnapura	18.97	<b>3</b>
Ratnapura	39.57	<b>4</b>	Vavuniya	35.42	<b>4</b>	Kalutara	18.32	<b>4</b>
Hambantota	39.41	<b>5</b>	Badulla	30.49	<b>5</b>	Kurunegala	17.81	<b>5</b>
Ampara	38.36	<b>6</b>	Puttalam	29.31	<b>6</b>	Bataloa	17.04	<b>6</b>
Polonnaruwa	32.01	<b>7</b>	Kandy	28.70	<b>7</b>	Colombo	16.94	<b>7</b>
Matara	30.84	<b>8</b>	Galle	27.47	<b>8</b>	Hambantota	16.86	<b>8</b>
Badulla	28.98	<b>9</b>	Kegalle	26.51	<b>9</b>	Kandy	15.59	<b>9</b>
Jaffna	28.61	<b>10</b>	Matara	26.27	<b>10</b>	Kegalle	15.28	<b>10</b>
Trincomalee	25.79	<b>11</b>	Kalutara	25.63	<b>11</b>	Jaffna	14.80	<b>11</b>
Nuwara Eliya	22.98	<b>12</b>	Kurunegala	24.34	<b>12</b>	Galle	14.14	<b>12</b>
Bataloa	22.21	<b>13</b>	Trincomalee	24.18	<b>13</b>	Matale	14.02	<b>13</b>
Matale	20.67	<b>14</b>	Bataloa	23.36	<b>14</b>	Polonnaruwa	13.78	<b>14</b>
Kegalle	20.57	<b>15</b>	Mannar	22.74	<b>15</b>	Ampara	12.53	<b>15</b>
Puttalam	19.71	<b>16</b>	Jaffna	22.47	<b>16</b>	Vavuniya	11.83	<b>16</b>
Kurunegala	17.78	<b>17</b>	Gampaha	20.87	<b>17</b>	Trincomalee	11.08	<b>17</b>
Galle	15.44	<b>18</b>	Colombo	19.72	<b>18</b>	Matara	10.53	<b>18</b>
Kandy	14.84	<b>19</b>	Polonnaruwa	18.87	<b>19</b>	Anuradhapura	9.82	<b>19</b>
Vavuniya	12.95	<b>20</b>	Hambantota	17.12	<b>20</b>	Monaragala	8.80	<b>20</b>
Kalutara	11.14	<b>21</b>	Ampara	14.81	<b>21</b>	Mannar	8.52	<b>21</b>
Gampaha	3.76	<b>22</b>	Monaragala	12.99	<b>22</b>	Badulla	5.42	<b>22</b>
Colombo	0.85	<b>23</b>	Anuradhapura	11.67	<b>23</b>	Nuwara Eliya	5.41	<b>23</b>

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

### **3.4 Employed distribution by agriculture/ non- agriculture sector and by hours of worked**

The distribution of the number of persons employed in agriculture and non agriculture sector by number of hours worked is shown in table 14.

It can be seen that, 10 percent of rural sector employed engaged in agriculture oriented activities are found to have worked less than 22 hours per week. Another 19 percent seems to have work 22 - 35 hours per week.

When compared with persons who are employed in agriculture activities in the urban and rural sectors, the rural sector has a higher percentage of persons working less than 36 hours per week. However, more than 50 percent of the employed rural workforce have worked more than 35 hours, while this percentage for urban sector is around 76 percent. This difference may be attributed to the rural structure, with less opportunities for education, entry in to the labour market being at very young ages, and therefore relatively high proportion of young people working for shorter duration (some times as unpaid family workers) leading to higher estimates of persons working shorter duration in rural sector relative to the urban sector.

**Table 14 : Distribution of Agriculture and Non Agriculture workers by number of hours per week : urban sector vs rural sector, 2004**

**Urban sector**

Hours per week	Total	%	Agriculture				Non Agriculture			
			Male	%	Female	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	996241	100.0	53292	100.0	14150	100.0	656060	100.0	272739	100.0
1 – 21	73861	7.4	3752	7.0	7906	55.9	37610	5.7	24593	9.0
22 – 35	123918	12.4	10083	18.9	3320	23.5	65341	10.0	45174	16.6
36 and over	755224	75.8	36733	68.9	2710	19.2	527142	80.3	188638	69.2
Not at work	43239	4.3	2725	5.1	214	1.5	25966	4.0	14334	5.3

**Rural sector**

Hours per week	Total	%	Agriculture				Non Agriculture			
			Male	%	Female	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	6397788	100.0	1506009	100.0	901274	100.0	2834065	100.0	1156440	100.0
1 – 21	662279	10.4	196644	13.1	194073	21.5	167363	5.9	104199	9.0
22 – 35	1224553	19.1	354315	23.5	256650	28.5	396429	14.0	217159	18.8
36 and over	4167785	65.1	861955	57.2	398568	44.2	2137690	75.4	769573	66.5
Not at work	343171	5.4	93095	6.2	51983	5.8	132583	4.7	65509	5.7

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

#### 4.0 Unemployed population

##### 4.1 Distribution of unemployed population by sex

It was revealed that 667324 persons were unemployed during the year 2004. (Excluding Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts). Of this total, 323471 (48 percent) are males and 343853 (52 percent) are females.

Sectorially, it is seen that, the rural sector has the largest number of unemployed persons amounting to 575851. This number in the urban sector was 91473. Thus, the unemployment is higher for urban sector than the rural sector.

The unemployment rate at national level was 8.3 percent. The rates for urban and rural sectors were 8.4 and 8.3 percent respectively.

**Table 15 : Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by sex and sector, 2004**

Sector	Total		Male		Female	
	Number of Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Number of Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Number of Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
All Island	667324	8.3	323471	6.0	343853	12.8
	(100.0)		(100.0)		(100.0)	
Urban	91473	8.4	45880	6.1	45593	13.7
	(13.7)		(14.2)		(13.3)	
Rural	575851	8.3	277591	6.0	298260	12.7
	(86.3)		(85.8)		(86.7)	

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

**Table 16: Unemployed population & unemployment rates by sex  
1993 - 2004**

Year	Unemployed Population			Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
*1993	830910	387663	443247	13.8	9.7	21.7
*1994	797591	394289	403302	13.1	9.7	20.1
*1995	749021	367656	381364	12.3	9.0	18.7
*1996	704604	343741	360864	11.3	8.2	17.7
*1997	658279	322168	336112	10.5	7.7	16.1
*1998	611285	277491	333795	9.2	6.5	14.0
*1999	590846	295217	295629	8.9	6.7	13.0
*2000	517168	260120	257048	7.6	5.8	11.0
*2001	537246	280139	257107	7.9	6.2	11.5
*2002	625967	310421	315546	8.8	6.6	12.9
**2003	640961	310723	330238	8.4	6.0	13.2
***2004	667324	323471	343853	8.3	6.0	12.8

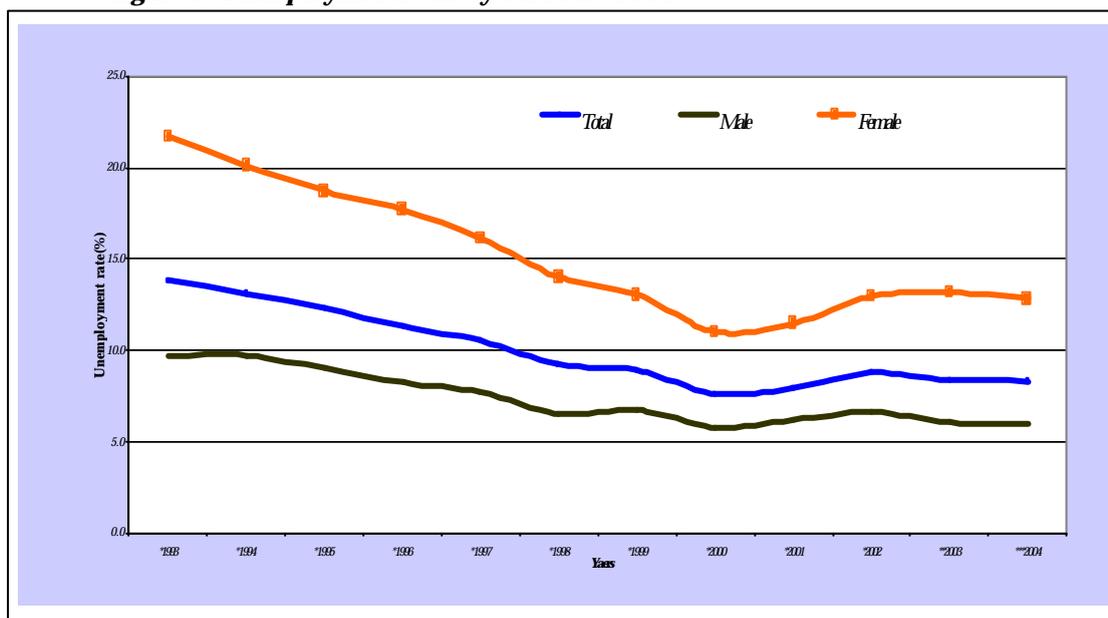
\* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

\*\* Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

Table 16 gives the unemployed population and unemployment rates since 1993. In 1993 the unemployment rate was 13.8 percent. It is also clear that the unemployment rate for female is more than double the rate for males, throughout this period.

**Figure 8: Unemployment rates by sex 1993 - 2004**



\* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

\*\* Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

## 4.2 Unemployment by level of education

Table 17 gives the unemployment rate by level of education for urban and rural sectors and also for males and females. As can be seen, more than two third (66.3 percent) of the unemployed females have completed G.C.E.(O/L) or above levels, this percentage for males was 49 percent. When sectoral distribution is considered, 60.5 percent of unemployed who are in the urban sector have completed G.C.E.(O/L) or above qualifications. Same percentage for rural sector was 57.5 percent.

**Table 17: Percentage distribution of unemployed population by level of education , 2004**

Sex & sector	Level of education				
	Total	Below gr.5	Gr. 5 - 9	G.C.E.O/L	G.C.E.A/L & above
Total employed	100.0	5.4	36.6	26.2	31.7
Male	100.0	7.0	44.0	27.4	21.6
Female	100.0	3.9	29.7	25.0	41.3
Total employed	100.0	5.4	36.6	26.2	31.7
Urban	100.0	5.2	34.3	29.4	31.1
Rural	100.0	5.5	37.0	25.7	31.8

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

Table 18 gives the distribution of unemployment rate, by age groups and the level of educational qualifications. As can be seen in this table, the unemployment rates are extremely high among the educated youth in the ages ranging from 15 to 29 yrs.

The rate is as high as 60 percent in the age group 15-19 years who have completed G.C.E.(A/L). Similarly in the case of persons who have completed G.C.E.(O/L), the unemployment rates are 41.6 percent and 24.6 percent for persons in the age groups of 15 - 19 years and 20 - 29 years respectively.

**Table 18: Unemployment rate by age group & level of education, 2004**

Age group	Level of education				
	Total	Below Gr. 5	Gr.5 - 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above
All Island	8.3	2.0	6.9	12.3	16.7
15 - 19	28.3	12.0	25.1	41.6	59.9
20 - 29	19.2	5.1	12.4	24.6	35.2
30 - 39	4.0	1.7	3.6	4.5	7.0
40 - 49	1.8	1.4	1.6	3.1	1.6
50+	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.4	0.7

*Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts*

#### 4.4 Unemployment by province by level of education

Table (19) shows the unemployment rate by level of education for provinces, by sex. This indicates that, except Northern province ( as Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts are not included) unemployment rate is the highest in Eastern province (10.5 percent) followed by Southern province (9.8 percent) and Sabaragamuwa province (9.0 percent) .

In the Eastern province, the unemployment rate for those who have completed G.C.E.( A/L) and above is as high as 29.2 percent, while the corresponding rates for Uva province was 27.3 percent and it is for both Southern and Sabaragamuwa provinces were 22.6 percent each. The unemployment rate for this category is lowest in the Western province (10 percent). The unemployment is highest among the females who have had higher education G.C.E.(O/L) and above.

Table 19 : Unemployment rates by level of education by province, 2004

Province	Total	Level of education			
		Below grade 5	Grade 5-9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O/L) NCGE	GCE (A/L) & above
<b>Both Sexes</b>					
Total	8.3	2.0	6.9	12.3	16.8
Western	8.1	3.8	7.8	9.2	10.0
Central	6.6	1.3	6.4	10.2	16.8
Southern	9.8	1.6	7.5	15.2	22.6
Northern*	9.2	1.2	4.6	14.5	28.7
Eastern	10.5	1.7	6.4	20.0	29.2
North Western	7.6	2.9	5.2	13.7	15.9
North Central	8.1	1.5	6.9	14.4	20.6
Uva	7.1	1.3	4.9	13.2	27.3
Sabaragamuwa	9.0	1.6	9.0	11.8	22.6
<b>Male</b>					
Total	6.0	2.0	5.5	9.2	10.5
Western	6.6	4.1	6.6	8.1	6.3
Central	4.6	0.9	5.3	7.0	8.1
Southern	7.1	1.4	6.5	12.0	13.3
Northern*	4.7	1.4	2.6	8.8	14.4
Eastern	6.9	1.3	4.4	13.2	23.2
North Western	5.4	2.4	3.6	11.1	12.8
North Central	5.3	1.2	5.0	10.0	11.2
Uva	4.8	1.5	4.7	7.3	14.6
Sabaragamuwa	6.4	2.2	6.7	7.3	16.2
<b>Female</b>					
Total	12.8	2.0	10.6	18.9	23.8
Western	11.5	3.3	11.1	12.0	14.8
Central	10.0	1.7	9.1	16.2	25.5
Southern	14.5	1.8	9.9	21.1	30.8
Northern*	23.3	0.3	13.7	30.2	44.8
Eastern	20.7	3.0	13.6	36.1	37.9
North Western	12.1	4.0	9.7	18.6	19.1
North Central	13.3	2.0	11.2	22.8	30.4
Uva	10.4	1.1	5.4	22.4	38.4
Sabaragamuwa	13.7	0.8	14.5	20.1	28.7

\* Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts are not included