

# Bulletin of Labour Force Statistics of Sri Lanka

Special Survey - August 2005



Detailed Tabulations

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Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and Labour force in Sri Lanka. This Survey is being conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

Due to tsunami, Labour Force Survey was not implemented in 2005 on quarterly basis as scheduled. Among the reasons, First, the staff of the Department of Census and Statistics were involved the activities of "Census on Tsunami", which was conducted in February 2005 to provide the information on the impact of Tsunami. Secondly, sample frame which is used for Household survey programs had to be updated with the results of the "listing operation" conducted in Tsunami affected districts. However, considerable amount of time was taken to update the sampling frame using the results of the Tsunami listing operation.

Because of these factors, it was decided to conduct **Labour Force Survey in 2005 August as a special Survey at one time point, not concerning any quarters of the year.**

A national sample of 5350 housing units was decided to be selected in order to provide the estimates for Tsunami affected areas and Non- Tsunami areas. As such, the allocation of 5350 housing units was done for these two areas (strata) separately.

**Stratum 1:** All Housing units in non – affected Census blocks.

**Stratum 2:** All Housing units in Tsunami affected Census blocks including Welfare Camps and Transitional houses.

## Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

Labour force participation rate: Labour force expressed as a percentage of population age 10 yr. & over.

**Table 1: Economically active population by sex and sector, 2005**

Sector	Household population (10 years & over)	Economically active population					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	16870976	8141347	100.0	5436362	66.8	2704985	33.2
Urban	2216273	1008146	100.0	730612	72.5	277533	27.5
Rural	14654702	7133202	100.0	4705750	66.0	2427452	34.0

The survey results revealed that, the estimated total working age population was 16870976 persons in 2005, of which 8141347 (48.2%) were economically active. Of the total estimated economically active population, 67 percent were males and 33 percent were females while of the economically inactive population, 31 percent were males and 69 percent were females.

**Table 2: Inactive population by sex and sector, 2005**

Sector	Household population (10 years & over)	Not in labour force					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	16870976	8729628	51.7	2666654	30.5	6062975	69.5
Urban	2216273	1208128	54.5	338647	28.0	869480	72.0
Rural	14654702	7521501	51.3	2328006	31.0	5193494	69.0

As can be seen from the table 3, there is no contrast change in labour force participation rate in year 2005, compared to previous years.

**Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex**

Year	Labour force participation rate		
	Total	Male	Female
2000	50.3	67.2	33.9
2001	48.8	66.2	31.9
2002	50.3	67.9	33.6
*2003	48.9	67.2	31.4
** 2004	48.6	66.7	31.5
*** 2005	48.3	67.1	30.9

**Table 4: Labour force participation rate by age & sex**

Age group (yr.)	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.3	67.1	30.9
15 - 19	21.4	28.9	13.2
20 - 24	62.3	82.7	44.4
25 - 29	68.0	94.1	42.9
30 - 39	69.7	97.1	44.6
40 +	51.3	74.5	31.1

The overall labour force participation rate is reported as 48.3 percent. The labour force participation rate for males is 67.1 percent for those who are in the age range of 25 - 29 yrs. The highest participation rate for females is reported as 42.9 percent in the age range of 30 - 39 yrs.

\* Excluding Northern province

\*\* Excluding Mulativu & Kilinochchi districts

\*\*\* All the districts are included

(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

## Employment

Employed: Persons who are engaged in some kind of work for pay or profit or family gain during the reference week.

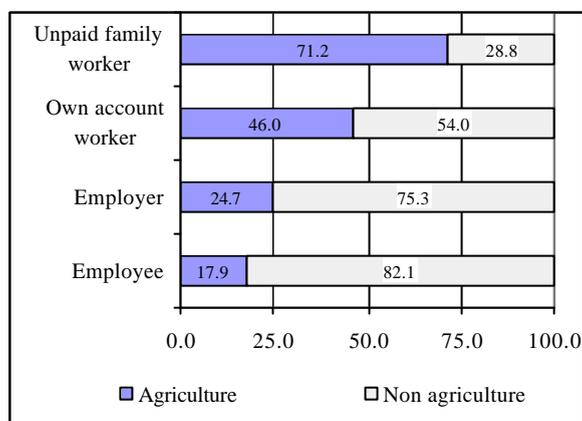
**Table 5: Percentage distribution of employed population by Industry group by sex**

Sector & Sex	Total		Agriculture		Industries		Services	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Urban								
Total	943187	100.0	57582	6.1	248613	26.4	636992	67.5
Male	691532	100.0	50318	7.3	175713	25.4	465502	67.3
Female	251656	100.0	7265	2.9	72901	29.0	171490	68.1
Rural								
Total	6574819	100.0	2248457	34.2	1679400	25.5	2646962	40.3
Male	4443233	100.0	1432293	32.2	1093477	24.6	1917464	43.2
Female	2131586	100.0	816164	38.3	585923	27.5	729498	34.2
Total								
Total	7518007	100.0	2306039	30.7	1928014	25.6	3283954	43.7
Male	5134765	100.0	1482610	28.9	1269190	24.7	2382965	46.4
Female	2383241	100.0	823429	34.6	658824	27.6	900989	37.8

68 percent of urban sector employment is in the service sector, where this share in the rural sector is 40 percent.

This also confirms that, the percentage share of females employed in Agricultural Industry is higher in the rural sector comprising 38 percent while this share is only 3 percent in the urban sector .

**Figure (1) : Currently Employed persons by employment status and major industrial sector - 2005**



**Table 6: Percentage distribution of currently Employed persons by employment status and major industrial sector - 2005**

Employment Status	Major Industrial Sector					
	Total		Agriculture		Non agriculture	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7518007	100.0	2306039	30.7	5211967	69.3
Employee	4461935	100.0	797845	17.9	3664090	82.1
Employer	229520	100.0	56732	24.7	172788	75.3
Own account worker	2229479	100.0	1026548	46.0	1202931	54.0
Unpaid family worker	597072	100.0	424913	71.2	172159	28.8

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

Table 6 shows the percentage distribution by employment status between agricultural and non agricultural sector. Of the total estimated employees, 69 percent were engaged in the non agricultural work, while the balance were engaged in agricultural work.

It confirms that, nearly 71 percent of unpaid family workers are involved in the agriculture sector activities while the remaining 29 percent of them are in non agricultural sector.

**Table 7: Percentage distribution of employed population by selected Industry groups**

Year	Total	Industry group							
		Agriculture & Forestry	Fishing	Manufacturing	Construction	Whole sale & Retail Trade	Hotel & Restaurants	Transport & storage	Other
*2004	100.0	31.9	1.5	17.7	5.2	12.3	1.6	5.6	24.1
**2005	100.0	29.0	1.7	18.4	6.1	12.0	1.8	6.5	24.5
Tsunami area	100.0	4.7	22.5	18.0	6.4	16.3	2.7	5.6	23.7
Non Tsunami area	100.0	29.8	1.0	18.4	6.1	11.9	1.8	6.5	24.5

### Other

Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,Renting and Business Activities (J,K)

Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L)

Education (M)

Health and Social work (N)

Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities (O)

Private Households with Employed Persons ( P)

\* Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

\*\* All districts are included

Miscellaneous Labour work

Mining & Quarrying ( C )

Electricity,Gas and Water supply ( E)

Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (Q)

Industries not adequately described

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability ( based on CV),some of these groups

It is very clear that , Tsunami affected areas (as defined in the introduction) shows that highest percentage of 'Fishing' industry amounting 23 percent of total employment. It is also revealed that, there is a considerable percentage increase from 5.2 percent to 6.1 percent, from year 2004 to 2005, when 'Construction' sector is considered. The increase may be due to Tsunami related constructions.

## Unemployment

**Unemployment Rate :** The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force

**Unemployed :** Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period

**Table 8: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by sex and sector**

Sector	Total		Male		Female	
	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)
All Island	623341	7.7	301597	5.5	321744	11.9
Urban	64958	6.4	39080	5.3	25878	9.3
Rural	558383	7.8	262517	5.6	295866	12.2

It was revealed that 623341 persons were unemployed during the year 2005. Of this total 301597 (48 percent) are males and 321744 (52 percent) are females. Sectorally, the unemployment rate at national level was 7.7 percent. The rates for urban and rural sectors were 6.4 and 7.8 percent respectively.

**Table 9: Percentage distribution of unemployed and employed population by level of education - 2005**

Sex & Sector	Level of education			
	Total	Below Gr. 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above
Total employed	100.0	66.4	18.2	15.4
Male	100.0	69.5	18.0	12.5
Female	100.0	59.6	18.6	21.7
Total unemployed	100.0	41.7	28.6	29.7
Male	100.0	50.1	29.1	20.8
Female	100.0	33.8	28.1	38.0

Table 8 shows that as a proportion, the educational attainment of the unemployed is higher when compared to the employed. Only 33.6 percent of the employed persons have achieved the level of education of G.C.E. (O/L) and over compared to 58.3 percent of the unemployed persons.

Of the unemployed females, about 66 percent have an educational qualification of G.C.E.(O/L) or above, compared to a proportion of 50 percent unemployed males having the same level of education.

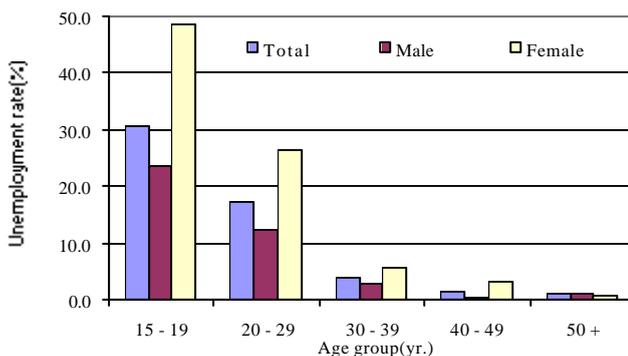
**Table 10: Unemployment rate by age group and level of education - 2005**

Age group	Level of education		
	Total	Male	Female
All Island	7.7	5.5	11.9
15 - 19	30.8	23.5	48.5
20 - 29	17.2	12.4	26.3
30 - 39	3.8	2.8	5.7
40 - 49	1.5	0.5	3.3
50 +	1.0	1.1	0.7

Even though overall employment rate is low, unemployment rates are relatively high among the age groups of 15 - 19 years and 20 - 29 years.

Females in the 15 - 19 years age group have reported a 49 percent unemployment rate while corresponding rates for male is 24 percent.

**Figure 2: Unemployment rate by age group & sex**



**Table 11: Percentage distribution of duration of unemployment by level of education**

Duration	Level of education				
	All levels	Below Gr. 5	Gr. 5 - 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 6 months	19.9	18.9	15.5	13.9	16.4
6 to less than 12 months	11.7	12.0	13.7	12.2	12.5
12+ months	68.4	69.2	70.8	73.9	71.0

71 percent of G.C.E.(A/L) & above qualified persons have searched for work for more than 12 months. This is the highest proportion recorded among all levels of education.

## Selected Labour Force Indicators

	Year							
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004**	2005***
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>								
<i>by sex</i>								
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9
<i>by residential sector</i>								
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7
<b>Unemployment rate</b>								
<i>by sex</i>								
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>								
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5
<i>by selected educational levels</i>								
G.C.E.(A/L) & above								
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1
<b>Employed population</b>								
<i>by sex</i>								
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	37.4	39.3	36.0	32.6	34.5	34.0	33.5	30.7
Manufacturing	14.6	14.9	16.6	17.0	16.5	16.5	17.7	18.4
Other	48.0	45.8	47.4	50.4	49.1	49.5	48.8	50.9
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	4.9	5.3	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2

\* Excluding Northern province

\*\* Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

\*\*\* All the districts are included

(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week