



Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey is 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.

The field work of the survey for the second quarter 2012 was done in April, May and June in year 2012. Under the prevailing condition in Northern province, it was able to conduct the survey in that province successfully. So this bulletin consists of summery statistics covering the whole country.

( Please log on to the DCS website ([www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)) for detailed tables.)

### Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons (age 10 & above) 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 - Second Quarter 2012**

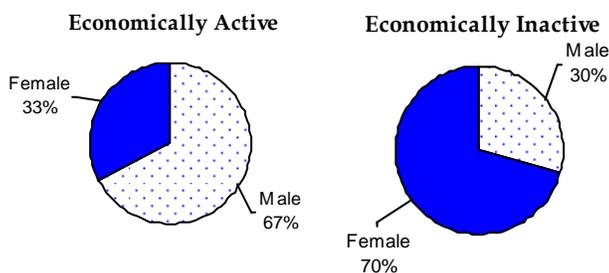
Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8260028	100.0	5575406	67.5	2684622	32.5
Urban	1386389	100.0	957208	69.0	429181	31.0
Rural	6469097	100.0	4381302	67.7	2087795	32.3
Estate	404543	100.0	236896	58.6	167647	41.4

**Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector - Second Quarter 2012**

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	9524576	100.0	2806669	29.5	6717908	70.5
Urban	1782730	100.0	529354	29.7	1253376	70.3
Rural	7414613	100.0	2168088	29.2	5246525	70.8
Estate	327233	100.0	109227	33.4	218006	66.6

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 8.3 million in Second Quarter 2012. Of which 67 percent were males and 33 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 29.5 percent were males and 70.5 percent were females (Table 2) .

**Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population**



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

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	49.7	67.5	32.6
2004	49.6	67.2	33.0
2005	49.3	67.3	32.6
2006	51.2	68.1	35.7
2007	49.8	67.8	33.4
2008	50.2	67.9	34.3
2009	49.2	66.7	33.7
2010	48.6	67.3	32.1
2011	48.8	66.7	32.8
2012 Q2	47.2	66.7	29.8

Table 3 provides the information on labour force participation rates since year 2000. As can be seen from this table, male participation rate for the Second Quarter 2012 was about 66.7 percent and it was 29.8 percent for females. It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force was almost twice as that of females.

Note: Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

**Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Second Quarter 2012**

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	46.4	66.5	28.6
15 - 19	14.2	19.4	8.9
20 - 24	53.5	70.8	37.2
25 - 29	61.9	93.1	36.6
30 - 34	64.1	97.2	36.1
35 - 39	66.7	95.7	40.7
40 - 44	67.8	95.1	44.4
45 - 49	65.9	93.2	43.1
50 - 54	61.9	89.8	36.7
55 - 59	55.9	80.7	33.5
60+	28.3	45.8	14.3

The distribution of labour force participation rate by age group and by sex depicts more male participation compared to female in all age groups.

Highest male participation rate was reported from age group (30 - 34) yrs, while in female highest participation rate was reported from age group (40 - 44) yrs.

## Employment

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

**Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry, (First Quarter 2011 - Second Quarter 2012)**

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
Jan-Feb-Mar 1st Qtr - 2011	7783574 100.0	2511427 32.3	1951202 25.1	3320945 42.7
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2011	7956518 100.0	2684299 33.7	1877724 23.6	3394495 42.7
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2011	7943295 100.0	2609757 32.9	1916181 24.1	3417357 43.0
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2012	7609654 100.0	2288487 30.1	2049269 26.9	3271898 43.0

*Note:*

\* Excluding Northern & rovince

\* Summery was not conducted in the fourth quarter 2011 & first quarter 2012 due to activities of population census.

\* The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q..

### Agriculture

1. Agriculture (A)
2. Forestry and Fishery (B)

### Industries

1. Manufacturing (D)
2. Construction (F)
3. Mining & Quarrying (C)
4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)

### Services

1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
2. Hotels and Restaurants (H)
3. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)
6. Education (M)
7. Health and Social work (N)
8. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities (O)
9. Private Households with Employed Persons (P)
10. Miscellaneous Labour work
11. Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (Q)
12. Industries not adequately described

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from First Quarter 2011 to Second Quarter 2012. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 7.6 million in Second Quarter 2012. Of which, about 43.0 percent engaged in services sector, 30.1 percent in agriculture sector, and 26.9 percent in Industries sector.

**Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector - Second Quarter 2012**

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7936294	100	2377937	30.0	5558357	70.0
Employee	4462659	100	741300	16.6	3721360	83.4
Public	1134561	100	98019	8.6	1036542	91.4
Private	3328098	100	643281	19.3	2684818	80.7
Employer	198502	100	37034	18.7	161467	81.3
Own account worker	2629597	100.0	1168076	44.4	1461522	55.6
Contributing family worker	645535	100.0	431527	66.8	214008	33.2

Table 6 shows that, comparatively higher percentage of employees both in private & public sector engage in non-agricultural activities. Also more employers were in non agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But contributing family workers were more concentrated in agriculture sector.

**Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex - Second Quarter 2012**

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	30.0	29.2	31.7
Industry	26.8	26.6	27.3
Services	43.2	44.2	41.1

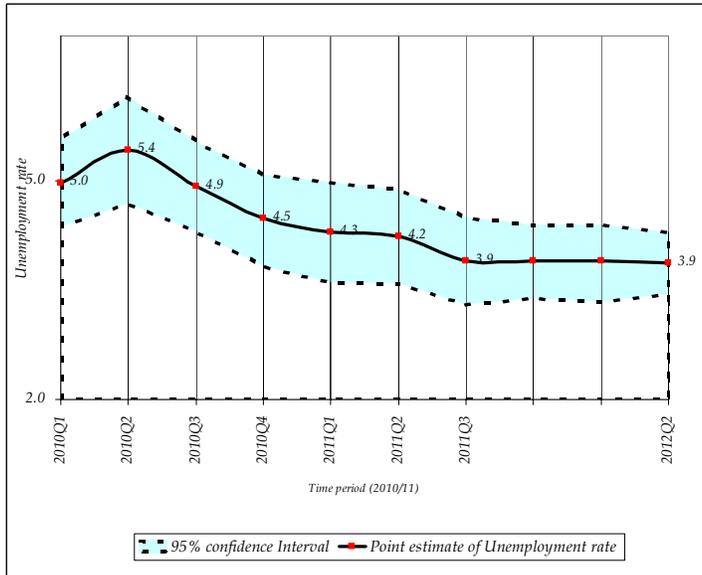
Table 7 depicts the distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of sex, highest employment concentrated in service sector. Further among employed women about 31.7 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 29.2 percent among males.

## 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**

**Figure 2 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2010 Q1 - 2012 Q2)**



**Note:**

•Summery was not conducted in the fourth quarter 2011 & first quarter 2012 due to activities of population census.

•Excluding Northern Province

The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 323,735 during the second quarter 2012.

The unemployment rate for the second quarter 2012 was reported as 3.9 percent.

**Table 8: Unemployment rate by level of education - Second Quarter 2012**

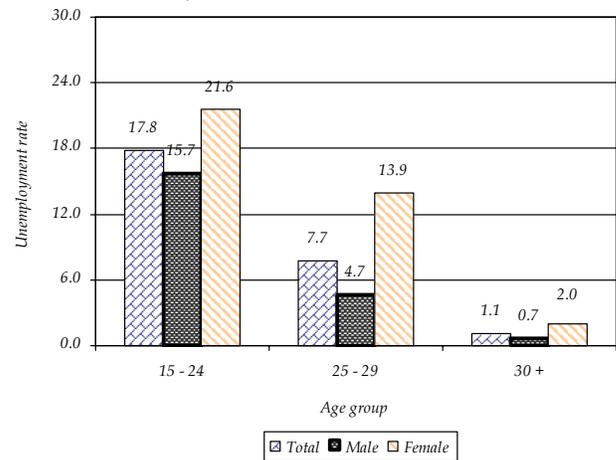
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	3.9	3.0	5.9
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	2.2	1.7	3.3
G.C.E. (O/L)	6.1	5.8	6.6
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	8.6	5.5	11.7



**Table 9: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Second Quarter 2012**

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	3.9	3.0	5.9
15 - 24	17.8	15.7	21.6
25 - 29	7.7	4.7	13.9
30 +	1.1	0.7	2.0

**Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Second Quarter 2012**



As can be seen from table 9, overall unemployment rate reported for female was 5.9 percent and it was 3.0 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 - 24 yrs reported for second quarter 2012 was 17.8 percent. Highest unemployment rate was reported from age group 15 - 24 yrs, for both males (15.7) and females (21.6). Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment was severe among females than that of males, in all age groups.

The highest unemployment rate was reported from the G.C.E(A/L) and above group which was about 8.6 percent. There were 5.5 percent and 11.7 percent for males and females respectively. This shows the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males (Table 8).

<sup>(1)</sup> Sampling error :

When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, estimates differ from the true population values they represent. This difference, or sampling error, occurs by chance, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. **For more details, please refer the explanatory note on the labour force link in the DCS website.**

**Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)**  
( 2003 - 2012 Q2)

	Year										
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011Q2	2012Q2
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.2	48.6	48.8	48.8	47.2
Male	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	66.7	67.3	66.7	66.4	66.7
Female	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	33.7	32.1	32.8	33.1	29.8
<i>by residential sector</i>											
Total	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.2	48.6	48.8	48.8	47.2
Urban	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	43.9	42.5	44.7	46.0	44.6
Rural	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	49.8	49.5	49.4	49.2	47.8
<b>Unemployment rate</b>											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.7	4.9	4.0	4.1	3.8
Male	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.0
Female	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.2	7.5	6.3	6.5	5.4
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>											
20 - 29	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	15.1	13.7	11.8	12.8	11.9
20 - 24	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	21.0	18.9	17.5	20.1	17.2
25 - 29	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.1	9.1	7.0	6.9	7.2
<i>by selected educational levels</i>											
G.C.E.(A/L) & above											
Both sexes	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.8	11.3	8.4	7.4	8.4
Male	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	6.6	7.5	5.1	4.2	5.2
Female	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	15.1	15.6	12.1	11.0	11.4
<b>Employed population</b>											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7139537	7235641	7429794	7476643	7120518
Male	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277	4609198	4770376	4855242	4859996	4780209
Female	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511429	2530339	2465265	2574552	2616647	2340309
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>											
Total	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7139537	7235641	7429794	7476643	7120518
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344415	2318621	2353599	2445251	2519863	2120992
%	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(32.5)	(32.5)	(32.9)	(33.7)	(29.8)
Industry	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888004	1822685	1777130	1841444	1799649	1963537
%	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(25.5)	(24.6)	(24.8)	(24.1)	(27.6)
Services	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2998231	3104913	3143100	3157130	3035990
%	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(42.0)	(42.9)	(42.3)	(42.2)	(42.6)
<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	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	7.9	6.1	5.2	7.9	3.7
1 - 9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.8	2.6	1.0
10 - 39	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.0	28.6	30.1	34.5	27.6
40+	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	60.8	63.5	62.8	55.1	67.6

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

\*Excluding Northern province

**Selected Labour Force indicators**  
( 2003 - 2012 Q2)

	Year										2012Q2***
	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2009*	2010*	2011*	2011***	
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.1	48.2	47.8	46.4
Male	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	66.6	67.1	66.5	66.2	66.5
Female	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	32.8	31.2	31.8	31.2	28.6
<i>by residential sector</i>											
Total	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.1	48.2	47.8	46.4
Urban	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	43.5	42.0	44.0	43.4	43.7
Rural	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	49.4	49.0	48.8	48.4	47.0
<b>Unemployment rate</b>											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.8	4.9	4.2	4.2	3.9
Male	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.0
Female	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	8.6	7.7	6.8	7.0	5.9
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>											
20 - 29	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.4	13.8	12.4	12.3	12.3
20 - 24	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	21.4	19.1	18.0	17.7	17.6
25 - 29	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.3	9.2	7.5	7.6	7.7
<i>by selected educational levels</i>											
G.C.E.(A/L) & above											
Both sexes	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	11.2	11.6	9.0	9.0	8.6
Male	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.0	7.9	5.4	5.4	5.5
Female	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	15.5	15.8	13.1	13.1	11.7
<b>Employed population</b>											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7602414	7706593	7894439	8196927	7936294
Male	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	4963176	5131986	5227317	5460328	5410758
Female	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2639238	2574608	2667123	2736599	2525535
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>											
Total	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7602414	7706593	7894439	8196927	7936294
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2475921	2519905	2601824	2708020	2377937
%	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(32.6)	(32.7)	(33.0)	(33.0)	(30.0)
Industry	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1910318	1866733	1915022	1977063	2127622
%	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(25.1)	(24.2)	(24.3)	(24.1)	(26.8)
Services	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3216175	3319955	3377593	3511844	3430734
%	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(42.3)	(43.1)	(42.8)	(42.8)	(43.2)
<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	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	7.9	6.0	5.3	5.2	3.5
1 - 9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.1
10 - 39	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	28.8	28.5	29.7	30.0	27.7
40+	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	61.0	63.9	63.2	63.0	67.8

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

\*Excluding Northern province

\*\* Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

\*\*\*All the districts are included

# Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces