



# Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

## Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2013

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### Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance and Planning, Sri Lanka

#### Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 54.2% for the second three month of 2013
- Most of the employees have recorded from non-agriculture sector.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.4%.

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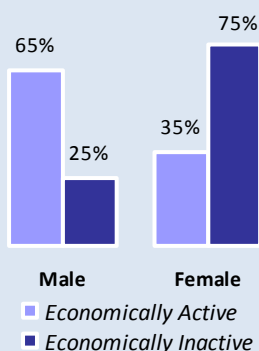


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Second quarter 2013

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

The field work of the survey for the second quarter of 2013 was done in April, May and June covering the whole island

#### Labour Force ...

(Economically Active Population)

Number of persons (age 15 & above) who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

#### Labour force participation rate (LFPR) ...

Labour force expressed as a percentage of population age 15 year and over

#### Labour Force ...

(Economically Active Population)

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,866,395	100.0	5,767,225	65.0	3,099,170	35.0
Urban	1,348,013	100.0	958,943	71.1	389,070	28.9
Rural	7,146,422	100.0	4,606,168	64.5	2,540,255	35.5
Estate	371,959	100.0	202,114	54.3	169,845	45.7

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender - Second quarter 2013

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,491,257	100.0	1,875,972	25.0	5,615,285	75.0
Urban	1,404,227	100.0	369,662	26.3	1,034,565	73.7
Rural	5,873,755	100.0	1,439,997	24.5	4,433,758	75.5
Estate	213,276	100.0	66,314	31.1	146,962	68.9

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender - Second quarter 2013

Year	Total	Male	Female
2008	55.1	76.1	36.6
2009	54.1	74.7	36.2
2010	53.4	75.0	34.4
2011	53.4	74.2	35.0
2012	53.0	75.2	33.5
2013 Q1	54.6	75.0	37.0
2013 Q2	54.7	75.6	36.3

Table 3 : LFPR by gender and year (Excluding Northern province.)

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2008.

Referring the table 3, It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force was almost twice as that of females.

Table 4 : LFPR by age group and gender - Second quarter 2013

According to the table 1, the estimated economically active population was about 8.87 million in the Second Quarter 2013. Of which 65.0 percent were males and 35.0 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.0 percent were males and 75.0 percent were females (Table 2) .

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	54.2	75.5	35.6
15 - 19	17.4	21.3	13.4
20 - 24	55.8	73.8	40.8
25 - 29	66.0	94.0	40.5
30 - 34	67.3	94.8	42.6
35 - 39	70.9	97.8	48.4
40 - 44	70.1	96.6	46.5
45 - 49	70.2	92.9	50.4
50 - 54	68.9	92.8	48.6
55 - 59	59.1	82.9	37.5
60+	29.7	48.6	14.1

Considering the table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts more male participation compared to female in all age groups. Highest rate for male was reported from age group 35-39 years, while that of females was reported from the age group of 45- 49 years.

## Employed ...

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

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

*Reference Period : Previous week of the survey week*

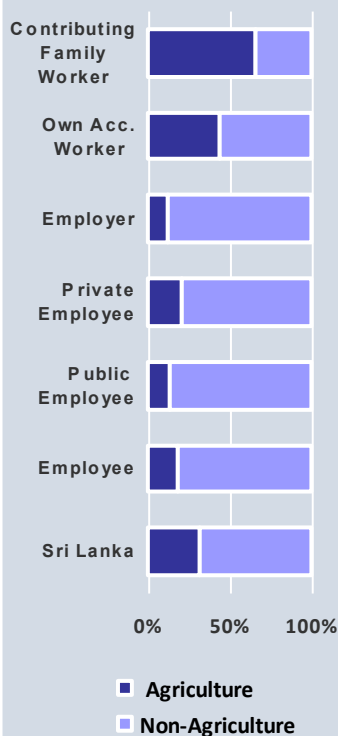


Figure 2 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Second Quarter 2013

Figure 2 shows that, comparatively higher percentage of employees both in private & public sector engage in non-agricultural activities.

## Employment ...

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
April-May-June	7,930,276	2,404,878	2,134,556	3,390,842
2012 Q2	100.0	30.3	26.9	42.8
July-Aug-Sept.	8,059,734	2,518,089	2,077,029	3,464,615
2012 Q3	100.0	31.2	25.8	43
Oct-Nov-Dec	8,365,075	2,730,254	2,194,865	3,439,957
2012 Q4	100.0	32.6	26.2	41.1
Jan-Feb-Mar	8,451,187	2,384,795	2,273,387	3,793,005
2013Q1	100.0	28.2	26.9	44.9
April-May-June	8,475,419	2,668,059	2,217,693	3,589,668
2013Q2	100.0	31.5	26.2	42.4

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry  
(Second quarter 2012 – Second quarter 2013)

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2012 to second quarter 2013. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 8.5 million in second quarter 2013. Of which, about 42.4 percent engaged in services sector, 31.5 percent in agriculture sector, and 26.2 percent in Industries sector.

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,475,419	100.0	2,668,059	31.5	5,807,360	68.5
Employee	4,555,608	100.0	839,521	18.4	3,716,087	81.6
Public	1,110,959	100.0	143,009	12.9	967,950	87.1
Private	3,444,648	100.0	696,511	20.2	2,748,137	79.8
Employer	267,148	100.0	31,132	11.7	236,016	88.3
Own Account Worker	2,800,972	100.0	1,241,372	44.3	1,559,600	55.7
Contributing Family Worker	851,691	100.0	556,034	65.3	295,657	34.7

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector – Second Quarter 2013

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of the gender, highest employment concentrated in service sector. Further among employed women about 35.3 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 29.5 percent among males.

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	31.5	29.5	35.3
Industry	26.2	26.7	25.1
Services	42.4	43.8	39.5

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex – second quarter 2013

## Unemployment ...

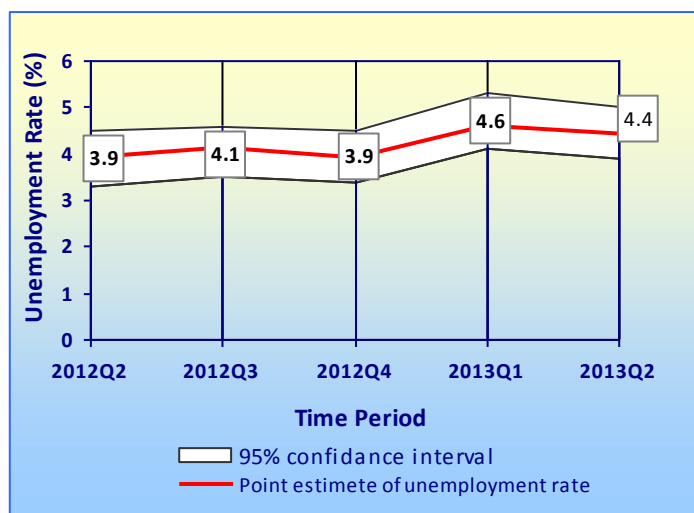


Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2012 Q2 - 2013 Q2)

<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.

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.4	3.1	6.9
15—24	20.1	15.0	27.8
25—29	6.4	4.2	10.8
Over 30	1.5	1.1	2.4

Table 8: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Second quarter 2013

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 10.2 percent. These were 6.8 percent and 14.0 percent for males and females respectively.

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.4	3.1	6.9
Below GCE O/L	2.6	2.2	3.7
GCE O/L	5.4	3.9	8.3
GCE A/L & above	10.2	6.8	14.0

Table 9 : Unemployment rate by level of education – second quarter 2013

This shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males .

The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 390,975 during the Second quarter 2013. The unemployment rate for the Second quarter 2013 was reported as 4.4 percent.

According to the figure 3, it is very important to note that, when sampling error<sup>1</sup> was considered there were no statistically significant drops of unemployment rates reported in different time periods starting from second quarter 2012 to second quarter 2013.

As can be seen from table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female was 6.9 percent and it was 3.1 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 – 24 years reported for second quarter 2013 was 20.1 percent and that reported the highest unemployment rate among age groups. Those rates for both males and females were 15.0 and 27.8 percent respectively.

## 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.

## Unemployment Rate ...

The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

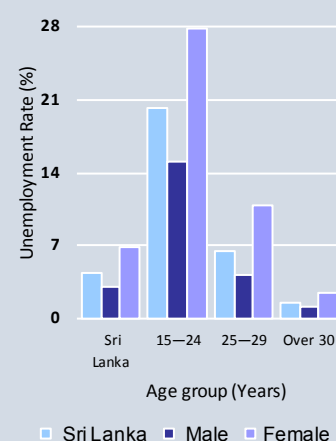


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group – second quarter 2013

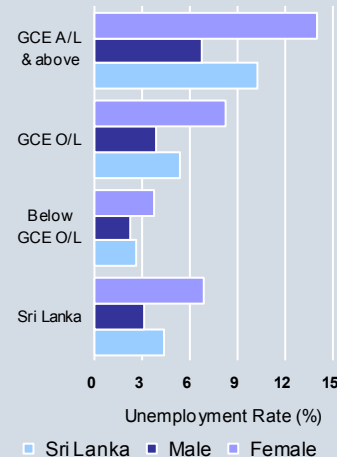


Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by level of education – second quarter 2013



**Department of Census and  
Statistics  
Sri Lanka**

4th and 5th Floors,  
Rotunda Tower,  
109, Galle Road, Colombo 03.  
Sri Lanka

**Sample Surveys Division**  
8th floor,  
Unity plaza building,  
Colombo 04, Sri Lanka

**Phone: 011-2508689**

**Fax: 011-2508690**

*E-mail:*  
[sample.survey@statistics.gov.lk](mailto:sample.survey@statistics.gov.lk)

### **Vision of the DCS**

*“To be the leader in the  
region in producing  
timely statistical infor-  
mation to achieve the  
country’s development  
goals.”*

### **Mission of the DCS**

*“Making contribution  
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statistics, more  
effectively by means of  
new technology, and  
utilizing the services of  
dedicated staff under a  
strategic leadership to  
become a prosperous  
nation in the globalized  
environment.”*

## **Selected Labour Force Indicators ...**

Indicator	Year								
	2008*	2009*	2010*	2011*	2012*	2011**	2012**	2013Q1**	2013Q2**
<b>Labour force participation rate (Age 15 years &amp; over)</b>									
<b>)By Gender</b>									
Total	55.1	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2	54.2
Male	76.1	74.7	75.0	74.2	75.2	74.0	75.0	75.1	75.5
Female	36.6	36.2	34.4	35.0	33.5	34.4	32.9	36.2	35.6
<b>By residential sector</b>									
Total	55.1	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2	54.2
Urban	50.8	48.4	46.8	48.5	48.7	47.8	48.4	47.9	49.0
Rural	55.7	54.9	54.4	54.2	53.9	53.8	53.5	55.6	55.3
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>									
<b>By Gender</b>									
Total	5.4	5.9	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.6	4.4
Male	3.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.1
Female	8.4	8.6	7.7	6.8	6.0	7.0	6.2	7.0	6.9
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>									
20 – 29	13.7	15.4	13.8	12.4	11.1	12.3	11.3	13.6	12.6
20 – 24	18.1	21.4	19.1	18.0	16.7	17.7	16.8	20.7	19.9
25 – 29	9.5	10.3	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	6.4
<b>By selected educational level</b>									
<b>A/L &amp; above</b>									
Total	10.5	11.2	11.6	9.0	7.3	9.0	7.5	9.2	10.2
Male	6.0	7.0	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.4	4.5	6.1	6.8
Female	15.3	15.5	15.8	13.1	10.5	13.1	10.8	12.5	14.0
<b>Employed population</b>									
<b>By Gender</b>									
Total	7,628,683	7,579,835	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,451,187	8,475,419
Male	5,018,954	4,949,825	5,125,763	5,219,712	5,224,743	5,452,723	5,469,759	5,494,375	5,589,387
Female	2,609,729	2,630,010	2,570,379	2,664,105	2,567,089	2,733,582	2,648,603	2,956,812	2,886,033
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>									
Total	7,628,683	7,579,835	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,451,187	8,475,419
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,474,446	2,459,824	2,512,546	2,593,048	2,412,066	2,699,244	2,513,673	2,384,795	2,668,059
%	32.4	32.5	32.6	32.9	31.0	33.0	31.0	28.2	31.5
Industry	2,002,805	1,904,722	1,864,538	1,914,671	2,042,262	1,976,711	2,117,286	2,273,387	2,217,693
%	26.3	25.1	24.2	24.3	26.2	24.1	26.1	26.9	26.2
Services	3,151,432	3,215,289	3,319,059	3,376,099	3,337,503	3,510,350	3,487,403	3,793,005	3,589,668
%	41.3	42.4	43.1	42.8	42.8	42.9	43.0	44.9	42.4
<b>By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</b>									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0#	7.2	7.9	6.0	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.5	3.1	8.4
1 – 9	2.1	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.0
10 – 39	28.9	28.8	28.4	29.7	25.6	29.9	26.0	27.2	29.1
40 & above	61.8	61.2	63.9	63.2	68.6	63.1	68.3	67.9	60.5

# has a job but not at work during the reference week

\* Excluding Northern Province

\*\*Whole island covered