



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

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Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2013

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Department of Census and Statistics

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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%.

Inside

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Labour Force | 1 |
| Employment | 2 |
| Unemployment | 3 |
| Selected Labour Force Indicators | 4 |

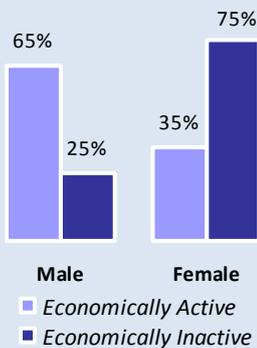


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Second quarter 2013

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

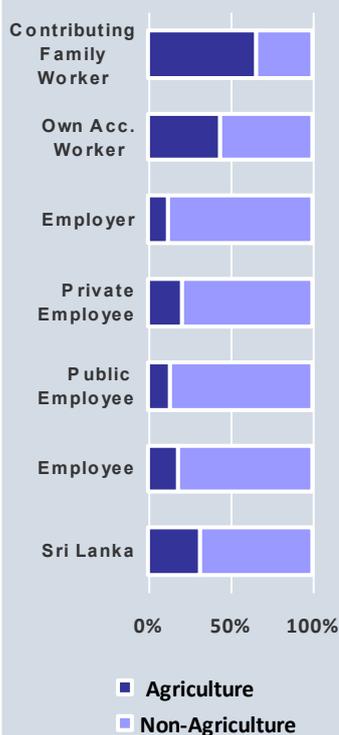


Figure 2 : Distribution of Economically active/inactive population-Second Quarter 2013

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

- Agriculture**
1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)
- Industries**
1. Mining & Quarrying (B)
 2. Manufacturing (C)
 3. Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)
- Services**
1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
 2. Transportation and storage (H)
 3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
 4. Information and communication (J)
 5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
 6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
 7. Administrative and support service activities (N)
 8. Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)
 9. Education (P)
 10. Human health and social work activities (Q)
 11. Other service activities (S)
 12. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (U)
 13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

According to the table 6, more employers were in non-agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But contributing family workers were highly concentrated in agriculture sector.

Unemployment ...

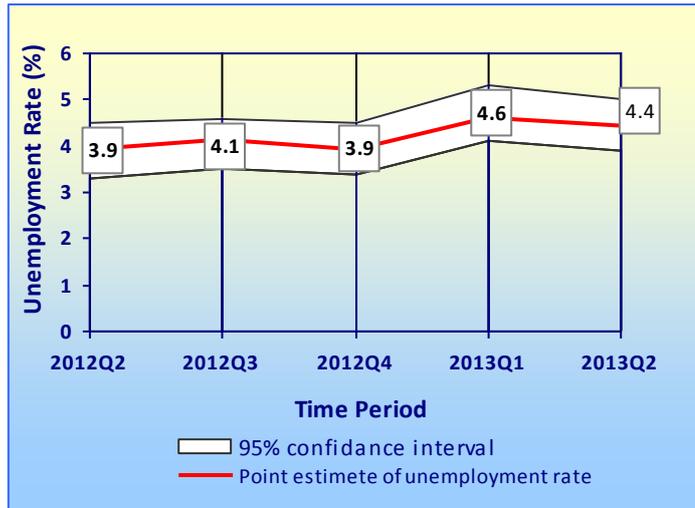


Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2012 Q2 - 2013 Q2)

¹**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 .

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.

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 error¹ 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.

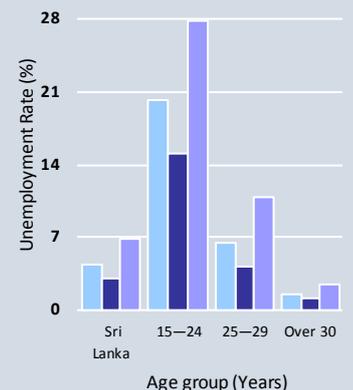


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group – second quarter 2013

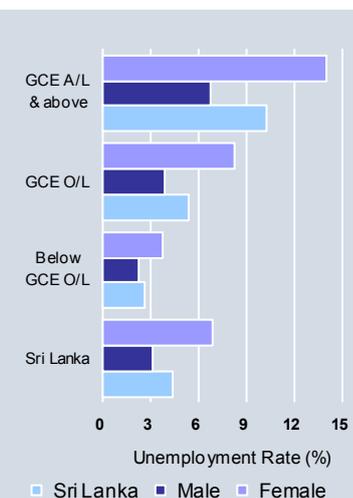


Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by level of education – second quarter 2013



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Vision of the DCS

“To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country’s development goals.”

Mission of the DCS

“Making contribution in the socioeconomic development of the country by providing accurate timely 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** |
| Labour force participation rate (Age 15 years & over) | | | | | | | | | |
|)By Gender | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| By residential sector | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Unemployment Rate | | | | | | | | | |
| By Gender | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| By selected age Group (Year) | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| By selected educational level | | | | | | | | | |
| A/L & above | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Employed population | | | | | | | | | |
| By Gender | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| By industry (Percentage) | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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