



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

Quarterly Bulletin

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 54.6% for the first three month of 2013
- Most of the employees have recorded from non-agriculture sector.
- Unemployment rate for the study period is 4.6%.

Inside

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

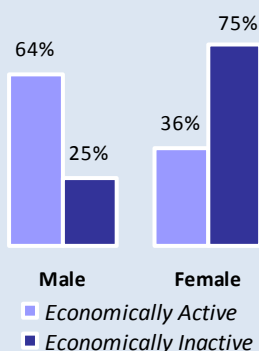


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- First quarter 2013

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 first quarter of 2013 was done in January, February and March covering the whole island

For the first time of LFS history,

- Considered age group was 15 years and above for the working age population
- Introduced new occupation and industry classifications (SLSCO 2008 and SLSIC Rev.4)

Labour Force ... (Economically Active Population)

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,861,919	100.0	5,683,067	64.1	3,178,852	35.9
Urban	1,399,832	100.0	962,828	68.8	437,004	31.2
Rural	7,096,526	100.0	4,512,589	63.6	2,583,936	36.4
Estate	365,561	100.0	207,649	56.8	157,912	43.2

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,494,262	100.0	1,888,595	25.2	5,605,667	74.8
Urban	1,525,170	100.0	413,719	27.1	1,111,451	72.9
Rural	5,723,157	100.0	1,394,254	24.4	4,328,902	75.6
Estate	245,936	100.0	80,621	32.8	165,314	67.2

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender - First 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

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

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2008.

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

According to the table 1, the estimated economically active population was about 8.86 million in the first Quarter 2013. Of which 64.1 percent were males and 35.9 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.2 percent were males and 74.8 percent were females (Table 2) .

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	54.2	75.1	36.2
15 - 19	17.2	23.5	10.9
20 - 24	56.1	74.7	40.6
25 - 29	66.1	93.5	43.2
30 - 34	66.9	95.2	42.8
35 - 39	70.4	97.3	46.9
40 - 44	73.4	96.5	53.5
45 - 49	69.9	94.4	49.8
50 - 54	67.5	92.2	46.0
55 - 59	59.9	82.4	38.8
60+	29.7	46.2	16.3

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 -First quarter 2013

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 40- 44 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

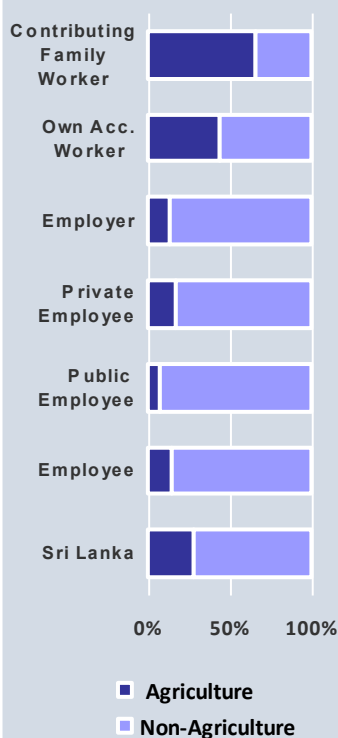


Figure 2 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population-

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

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

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2012 to first quarter 2013. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 8.5 million in first quarter 2013. Of which, about 44.9 percent engaged in services sector, 28.2 percent in agriculture sector, and 26.9 percent in Industries sector.

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,451,187	100.0	2,384,795	28.2	6,066,392	71.8
Employee	4,749,815	100.0	689,346	14.5	4,060,470	85.5
Public	1,308,136	100.0	90,000	6.9	1,218,136	93.1
Private	3,441,679	100.0	599,345	17.4	2,842,334	82.6
Employer	268,847	100.0	25,463	9.5	243,384	90.5
Own Account Worker	2,637,198	100.0	1,143,087	43.3	1,494,111	56.7
Contributing Family Worker	795,327	100.0	526,899	66.2	268,428	33.8

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector – First 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 31.8 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 26.3 percent among males.

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	28.2	26.3	31.8
Industry	26.9	27.7	25.5
Services	44.9	46.1	42.7

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

Unemployment ...

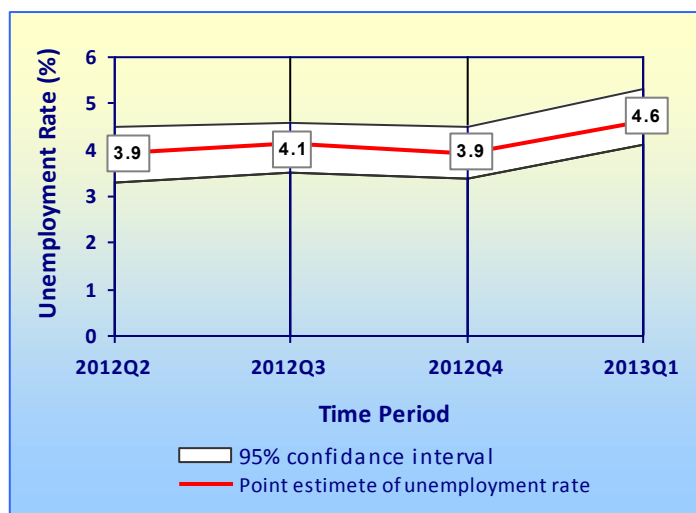


Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2012 Q2 - 2013 Q1)

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	4.6	3.3	7.0
15—24	20.1	16.4	26.3
25—29	7.5	5.0	12.0
Over 30	1.7	1.0	2.9

Table 8: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – First 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 9.2 percent. These were 6.1 percent and 12.5 percent for males and females respectively.

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.6	3.3	7.0
Below GCE O/L	2.9	2.2	4.4
GCE O/L	6.0	5.4	7.0
GCE A/L & above	9.2	6.1	12.5

Table 9: Unemployment rate by level of education – First 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.

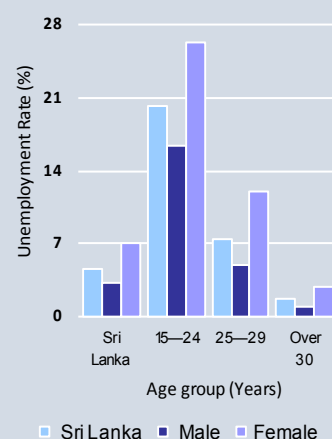


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group – First quarter 2013

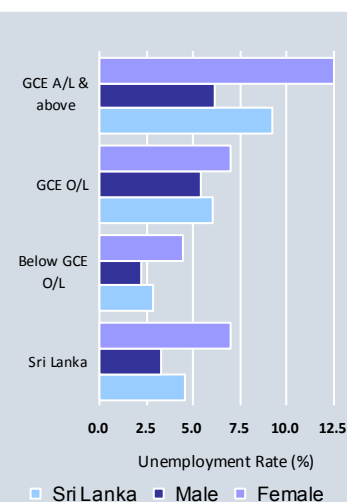


Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by level of education – First quarter 2013



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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
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**
Labour force participation rate								
By Gender								
Total	55.1	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2
Male	76.1	74.7	75.0	74.2	75.2	74.0	75.0	75.1
Female	36.6	36.2	34.4	35.0	33.5	34.4	32.9	36.2
By residential sector								
Total	55.1	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2
Urban	50.8	48.4	46.8	48.5	48.7	47.8	48.4	47.9
Rural	55.7	54.9	54.4	54.2	53.9	53.8	53.5	55.6
Unemployment Rate								
By Gender								
Total	5.4	5.9	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.6
Male	3.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.3
Female	8.4	8.6	7.7	6.8	6.0	7.0	6.2	7.0
By selected age Group (Year)								
20 – 29	13.7	15.4	13.8	12.4	11.1	12.3	11.3	13.6
20 – 24	18.1	21.4	19.1	18.0	16.7	17.7	16.8	20.7
25 – 29	9.5	10.3	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.6	6.6	7.5
By selected educational level								
GCE A/L and above								
Total	10.5	11.2	11.6	9.0	7.3	9.0	7.5	9.2
Male	6.0	7.0	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.4	4.5	6.1
Female	15.3	15.5	15.8	13.1	10.5	13.1	10.8	12.5
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
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
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
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
%	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
%	32.4	32.5	32.6	32.9	31.0	33.0	31.0	28.2
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
%	26.3	25.1	24.2	24.3	26.2	24.1	26.1	26.9
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
%	41.3	42.4	43.1	42.8	42.8	42.9	43.0	44.9
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
0#	7.2	7.9	6.0	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.5	3.1
1 – 9	2.1	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.8
10 – 39	28.9	28.8	28.4	29.7	25.6	29.9	26.0	27.2
40 & above	61.8	61.2	63.9	63.2	68.6	63.1	68.3	67.9

has a job but not at work during the reference week

* Excluding Northern Province

**Whole island covered