

Annual Bulletin of Labour Force – 2003

(With Provincial Level Data)



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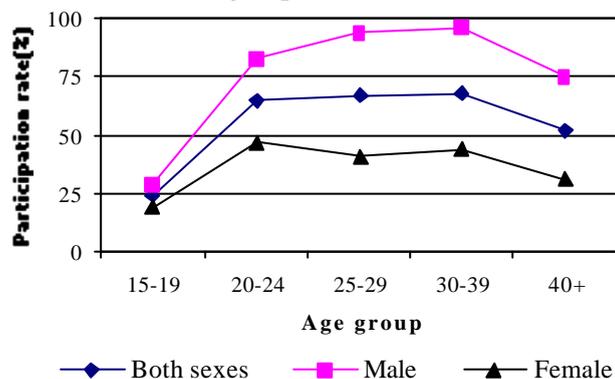
Introduction: Since first quarter 2003, the quarterly labour force survey is conducted in **all provinces except Northern province**. (Eastern province is included). It is hoped that Northern Province could also be included in the national level estimates commencing from 2004, after rectifying some defects in the sampling frame of the Northern Province. For comparison purposes some of the tables are provided with estimates excluding Eastern province in this bulletin. Due to the reasons given above, Northern province is not included in both these sets of estimates given in this bulletin for the year 2003.

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.

Labour force & Labour force participation rate

Figure 1 – Labour force participation rate by age group & sex - 2003



➤ As usual male labour force participation rate reached to the peak at the age group 30 - 39 yrs. Corresponding age group for females is 20 - 24 yrs.

Table 1: Labour Force participation rate by province & sex -2003

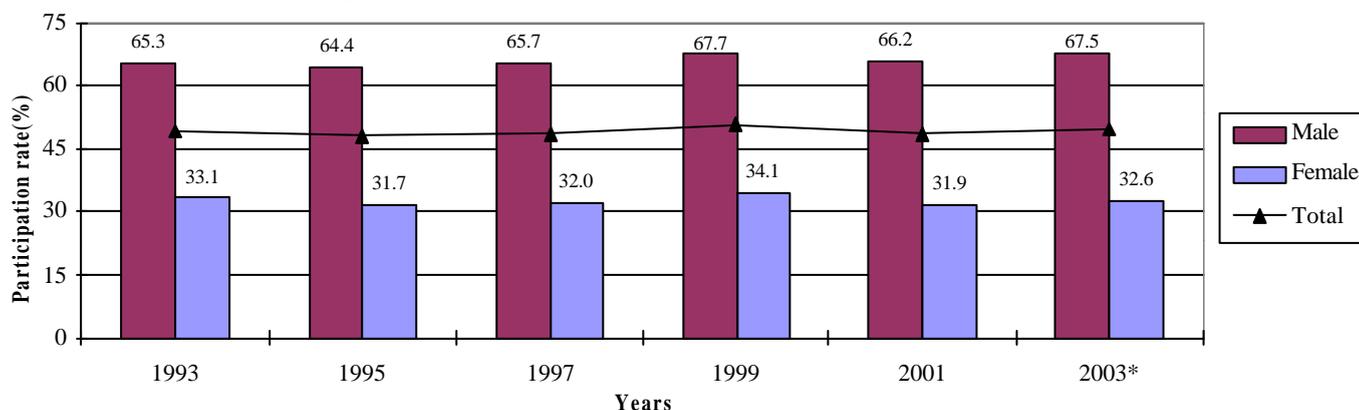
Province	Labour force participation rate			Percentage distribution of labour force		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.9	67.2	31.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Western	47.0	66.8	28.5	29.4	30.1	28.0
Central	50.7	65.4	36.8	12.7	11.9	14.5
Southern	47.9	65.8	30.8	12.9	12.9	13.0
Eastern	39.5	63.7	16.7	6.0	7.0	4.0
North-Western	50.8	70.2	32.4	13.3	13.2	13.3
North-Central	52.7	71.0	33.8	6.5	6.6	6.3
Uva	57.2	69.2	45.5	8.2	7.3	10.1
Sabaragamuwa	50.2	67.3	32.9	10.9	11.0	10.8

➤ Total labour force is 7,653,716 in the year 2003. Of this 5,144,206 (67.2%) are males & 2,509,510 (32.8%) are females.

➤ Bulk of the total labour force is categorised under Western province. This may be due to the large scale industry promotion projects located in the Western province and the high rate of migrant workers residing in this area.

➤ Overall labour force participation rate by province varies between the range of 47.0 - 57.2 while female Participation rate varies between a wider range (16.7 - 45.5) .

Figure 2: Pattern of Labour force participation rate over the years



(*For comparison purposes 2003 values are estimated by excluding Eastern province.)

➤ The behaviour of the labour force participation rate is almost same over the years.

Unemployment

Table 2: Unemployment rate by sex & age-2003 (including Eastern province)

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
All ages	8.4	6.0	13.2
15 - 19	30.3	27.1	35.4
20 - 24	26.4	21.1	35.3
25 - 29	11.4	7.0	20.8
30 - 39	3.9	2.0	7.4
40+	1.1	0.9	1.6

➤ Even in the 25 - 29 years age group, females are suffering from higher rate of unemployment. It is about 3 times than males.

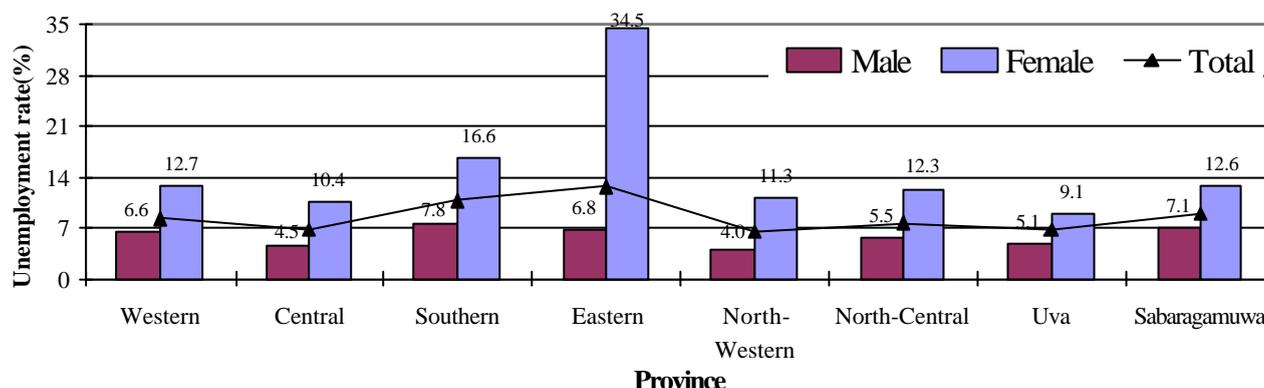
Table 3: Percentage distribution of unemployed population by age & sex - 2003 (including Eastern province)

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
All ages	100.0	76.9	100.0
15 - 19	19.8	22.7	17.2
20 - 24	45.8	47.6	44.1
25 - 29	17.2	14.8	19.4
30 - 39	11.6	8.3	14.7
40+	5.6	6.6	4.6

➤ The total no. of unemployed population is 640961 in 2003. Of this number 310723 (48.5%) are males and 330238(51.5%) are females.

➤ Even in the older age groups (30 - 39yrs.) about 15 percent of females are seeking work

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by province & sex - 2003 (including Eastern province)



➤ Overall unemployment rate varied between 6.4 to 12.8 among the provinces. North-Western province has reported the lowest rate and Eastern province has reported the highest rate.

➤ Female unemployment rate in Eastern province is extremely high compared with the other provinces (However female labour force participation rate in the Eastern province is relatively low) Southern province is the next in the order of the dominance related with the unemployment for both males & females.

Table 4 : Unemployment rate by province & level of education & sex - 2003 (including Eastern province)

Province	Both sexes				Male				Female			
	Level of education				Level of education				Level of education			
	All levels	Gr. 6 - 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above	All levels	Gr. 6 - 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above	All levels	Gr. 6 - 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above
Total	8.4	7.4	13.0	16.5	6.0	5.8	9.9	10.4	13.2	11.4	19.4	23.3
Western	8.5	7.6	10.7	11.3	6.6	6.2	8.9	7.3	12.7	11.8	15.3	16.0
Central	6.7	6.1	11.8	19.2	4.5	5.1	6.6	9.2	10.4	8.4	20.9	28.4
Southern	10.7	9.8	17.5	19.7	7.8	7.7	14.4	11.9	16.6	15.0	24.8	27.0
Eastern	12.8	12.0	21.2	29.7	6.8	6.8	12.2	15.6	34.5	40.2	39.7	46.5
North-Western	6.4	4.6	11.3	17.0	4.0	2.7	9.8	10.3	11.3	9.0	14.1	23.4
North-Central	7.6	4.8	13.8	24.0	5.5	3.7	10.2	17.1	12.3	7.5	20.9	33.0
Uva	6.7	5.7	12.2	20.7	5.1	5.2	8.8	15.6	9.1	6.4	17.0	25.7
Sabaragamuwa	8.9	9.6	13.3	21.0	7.1	8.5	10.0	14.8	12.6	12.5	19.5	28.7

Note:- Unemployment rate cannot be estimated with a reasonable reliability for levels of education below grade 5 by province.

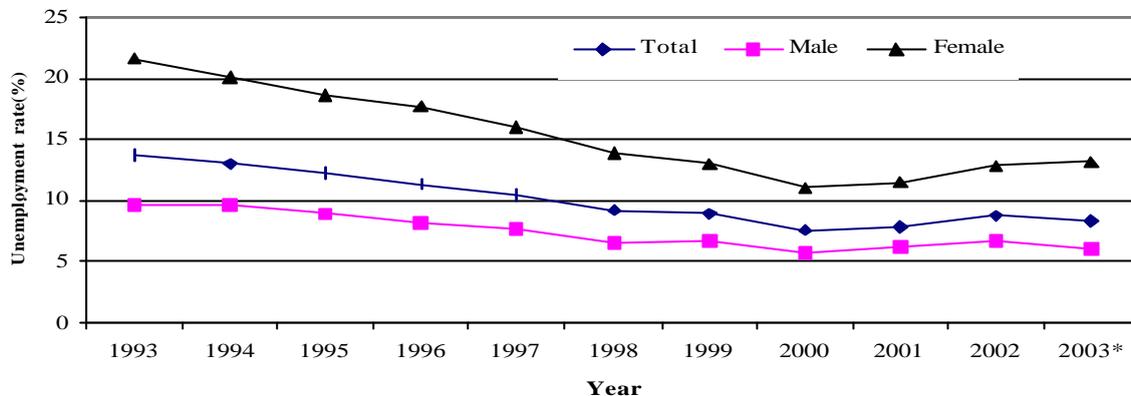
➤ Educated persons (those with G.C.E.(A/L) and above) in all the provinces suffer by severe unemployment problem even in 2003. This particular group of persons in Eastern province & North-Central province have reported 30 percent & 24 percent rate of unemployment respectively.

➤ The problem is worst among the educated females in the provinces mentioned above. Table 4 shows that 47 percent and 33 percent of educated females respectively in these provinces are still seeking suitable job.

Comparison of unemployment characteristics over time.

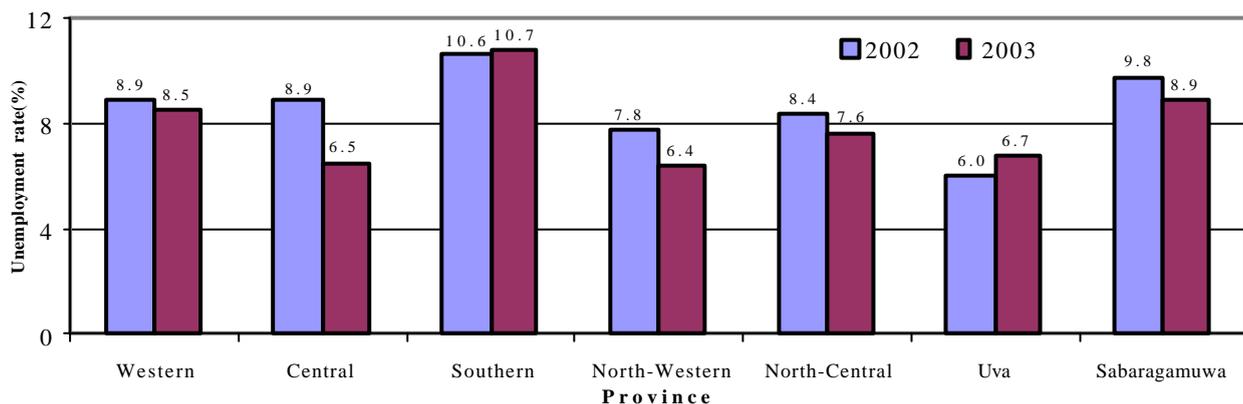
For the comparisons, unemployment characteristics reported in 2003 were re-computed by excluding Eastern province.

Figure 4 - Changing pattern of unemployment rate over the time



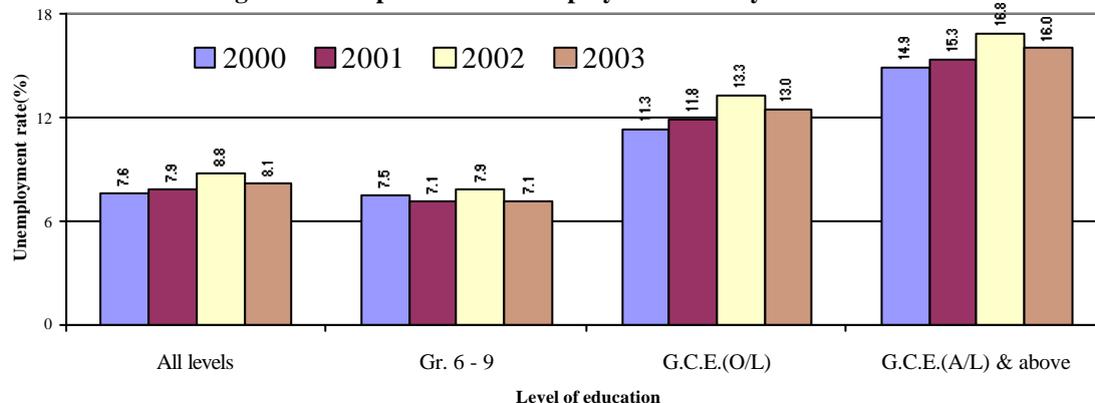
- Overall unemployment rate is 8.1 in the year 2003 (excluding Eastern province).
- The unemployment rate of both males & females has reduced by 0.6 percentage points respectively compared with the year 2002.
- The unemployment rate had an increasing trend after the year 2000. But this trend has reversed in the year 2003.

Figure 5: Comparison of unemployment rate by province 2002 & 2003



- All provinces have reported less rate of unemployment in 2003 compared with the year 2002 except Uva & Southern province. Central province has reported highest decline of unemployment rate.

Figure 6: Comparison of unemployment rate by level of education



- The unemployment rate shows a slight decline in 2003 for each category of level of education compared with the year 2002.

Employment

Table 5: Percentage distribution of employed population by industry & province – 2003.

Province	Industry											
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Total	100.0	34.0	16.5	5.3	14.1	5.2	2.7	7.7	3.7	4.0	4.8	1.9
Western	100.0	8.1	25.9	6.2	19.0	8.3	5.5	9.9	3.9	6.4	4.2	2.6
Central	100.0	47.4	11.5	4.1	13.3	4.0	1.8	5.4	3.0	3.0	5.7	0.9
Southern	100.0	40.2	14.2	6.2	12.0	4.5	1.9	6.6	4.8	3.8	5.1	0.8
Eastern	100.0	39.8	10.0	7.3	16.3	4.5	1.7	9.3	3.2	3.8	3.3	0.8
North-Western	100.0	36.2	17.3	5.9	12.7	4.4	2.1	7.5	4.3	3.3	4.6	1.7
North-Central	100.0	55.3	7.5	2.1	10.9	2.4	1.1	10.9	2.8	1.8	4.3	0.9
Uva	100.0	66.2	6.2	2.9	7.7	2.7	0.9	4.7	3.3	2.2	2.5	0.8
Sabaragamuwa	100.0	37.4	15.4	5.3	11.7	4.0	1.1	5.7	3.6	2.8	7.7	5.3

Industry group

1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)

2 Manufacturing (D)

3 Construction (F)

4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) Hotels and Restaurants (H)

5 Transport, Storage and Communication (I)

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

7 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)

8 Education (M)

9 Health and Social work (N) Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities (O)

Private Households with Employed Persons (P)

10 Miscellaneous Labour work

11 Other

Minning & Quarrying (C)

Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)

Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (Q)

Industries not adequately described

* Classification categories of industries have been revised based on ISIC - Rev. 3, commencing from 2002 first quarter.

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.

➤ The total number of employed population is 7,012,634 in the year 2003. Of this number 4,833,400 (68.9%) are males and 2,179,234 are (31.1%) are females.

➤ Of the employed persons, nearly 65 percent in Uva province and 55 percent in North-Central province respectively are agriculture related workers.

➤ About 45 percent persons in Western province are reported as (1) manufacturing sector or (2) wholesale & retail trade sector workers. Uva & North-Central provinces have reported less proportions in these categories (17.1 percent & 13.2 respectively) compared with the other provinces.

Table 6: Percentage distribution of employed population by occupation & province 2003

Province	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
Total	100.0	1.3	5.2	4.9	4.3	4.7	9.0	23.3	15.5	6.0	24.7	1.1
Western	100.0	2.5	7.0	8.0	8.1	4.2	12.5	5.4	21.9	9.2	20.1	1.2
Central	100.0	*	3.6	3.7	2.7	3.0	9.4	21.0	10.6	4.0	40.7	0.7
Southern	100.0	*	5.7	4.3	3.8	8.2	6.5	27.8	14.1	3.5	24.3	1.0
Eastern	100.0	*	5.0	3.4	4.1	3.9	11.2	27.3	13.9	3.8	25.8	1.0
North-Western	100.0	*	5.3	3.9	2.6	5.1	7.1	30.8	16.2	7.9	18.8	1.6
North-Central	100.0	*	3.9	3.2	2.0	4.6	7.9	50.9	8.3	3.9	12.4	2.1
Uva	100.0	*	3.4	2.4	2.0	3.7	4.5	50.9	6.3	3.3	22.3	0.6
Sabaragamuwa	100.0	*	4.2	3.4	2.3	4.8	7.0	19.9	16.9	4.7	35.1	1.0

* Statistically reliable estimates cannot be provided

Occupation group

1 Senior Officials and Managers

2 Professionals

3 Technical and Associate Professionals

4 Clerks

5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises

6 Sale and Service workers

7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers

8 Craft and Related workers

9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers

10 Elementary occupations

0 Unidentified

➤ About 35 percent of employed persons in Western province fall in to occupation categories (1) sales & service workers or (2) craft & related workers.

➤ More than 50 percent of employed persons in Uva & North-Central provinces are engaged in their own agricultural activities.

➤ The proportion engaged in their own agriculture activities (under the major occupation group 'Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers') is relatively low in Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces and majority of persons in these two provinces are unskilled labourers (elementary occupations).

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the **Major Groups** of ISCO - 88 classification