

Bulletin of Labour Force Statistics of Sri Lanka



Detailed Tabulations

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Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - First Quarter 2006

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was 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.

However, some improvements were made to the Labour Force Survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of its users and also to provide additional information for the national planning purposes. This revision was made focusing on household economic activities, informal sector employment, Informal employment and under employment etc. The revised version was used for the survey conducted in the first quarter 2006 and it will be used in future as well. A separate bulletin will be published with information on these additional items, when the detailed analysis of data is completed.

The field work of the survey for the first quarter 2006 was done in January and February 2006. Due to the prevailing situation in the country it was not possible to conduct the survey in North & the East in January, as scheduled. Thus, the national level estimates based on the data collected in the first quarter 2006 of the survey does not cover the Northern and Eastern provinces. However, 2005 Labour Force Survey covered all 25 districts in the island, and therefore where the comparisons is done between quarters, one need to be cautious about the domain of coverage of the survey.

Labour force participation rate

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

Table 1: Economically active population by sex and sector - First Quarter 2006

Sector	Household population (10 years & over)	Economically active population					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	14758669	7627761	100.0	4904351	64.3	2723410	35.7
Urban	1951759	904339	100.0	631444	69.8	272895	30.2
Rural	12806910	6723422	100.0	4272907	63.6	2450514	36.4

The survey results revealed that, the estimated total working age population was 14758669 persons in 2006 first quarter, of which 7627761 (51.7%) were economically active. Of the total estimated economically active population, 64 percent were males and 36 percent were females while of the economically inactive population, 31 percent were males and 69 percent were females.

As can be seen from the table 3, there is a marked increase in labour force participation rate in first quarter 2006, compared to the previous years.

Table 4: Labour force participation rate by age & sex - First Quarter 2006

Age group (yr.)	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	51.7	69.3	35.5
15 - 19	25.1	29.5	20.6
20 - 24	65.6	83.5	45.8
25 - 29	68.7	93.3	48.1
30 - 39	69.2	95.8	47.2
40 +	56.6	78.5	37.0

The overall labour force participation rate is reported as 51.7 percent. The labour force participation rate for males is 96 percent for those who are in the age range of 30 - 39 yrs. The highest participation rate for females is reported as 48 percent in the age range of 25 - 29 yrs.

Table 2: Inactive population by sex and sector - First Quarter 2006

Sector	Household population (10 years & over)	Not in labour force					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	14758669	7130908	48.3	2177412	30.5	4953496	69.5
Urban	1951759	1047420	53.7	275423	26.3	771997	73.7
Rural	12806910	6083488	47.5	1901990	31.3	4181498	68.7

Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex

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	48.9	67.2	31.4
** 2004	48.6	66.7	31.5
*** 2005	48.3	67.1	30.9
# 2006Q1	51.7	69.3	35.5

* Excluding Northern province

** Excluding Mulativu & Kilinochchi districts

*** All the districts are included

(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Employment

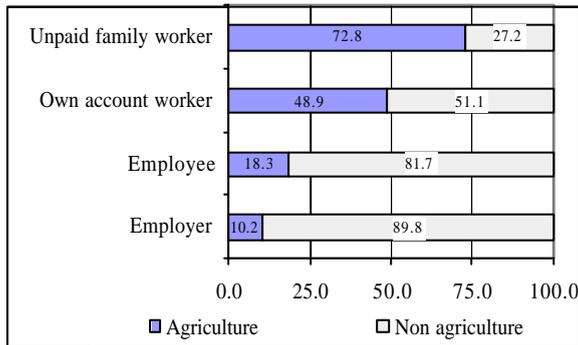
Employed: Persons who are engaged in some kind of work for pay or profit or family gain during the reference week.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of currently Employed persons by employment status and major industrial sector - First Quarter 2006

Employment Status	Major Industrial Sector					
	Total		Agriculture		Non agriculture	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7081435	100.0	2346321	33.1	4735113	66.9
Employee	3917902	100.0	718280	18.3	3199622	81.7
Employer	223328	100.0	22766	10.2	200562	89.8
Own account worker	2236928	100.0	1092960	48.9	1143968	51.1
Unpaid family worker	703277	100.0	512315	72.8	190962	27.2

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution by employment status between agricultural and non agricultural sectors. Of the total estimated employees, 67 percent were engaged in the non agricultural work while the balance of 33 percent were engaged in agricultural work.

Figure (1) : Currently Employed persons by employment status and major industrial sector - First Quarter 2006



It confirms that, nearly 73 percent of unpaid family workers are involved in the agriculture sector activities, while the remaining 27 percent of them are in non agricultural sector.

Table 6: Currently Employed persons by major industry groups by sector - First Quarter 2006

Sector	Total		Major industry groups					
			Agriculture		Industry		Services	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7081435	100.0	2346321	33.1	1862896	26.3	2872217	40.6
Urban	847594	100.0	28296	3.3	223223	26.3	596075	70.3
Rural	6233841	100.0	2318025	37.2	1639674	26.3	2276142	36.5

Table 7: Currently Employed persons by major industry groups by sex - First Quarter 2006

Sex	Total		Major industry groups					
			Agriculture		Industry		Services	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7081435	100.0	2346321	33.1	1862896	26.3	2872217	40.6
Male	4634156	100.0	1370058	29.6	1223009	26.4	2041088	44.0
Female	2447279	100.0	976264	39.9	639887	26.1	831129	34.0

As can be seen from table 7, the percentage share of female employed who are in the agricultural industry is higher than that of males comprising 40 percent of the total female employment.

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.

Agriculture

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

Industries

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

Services

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

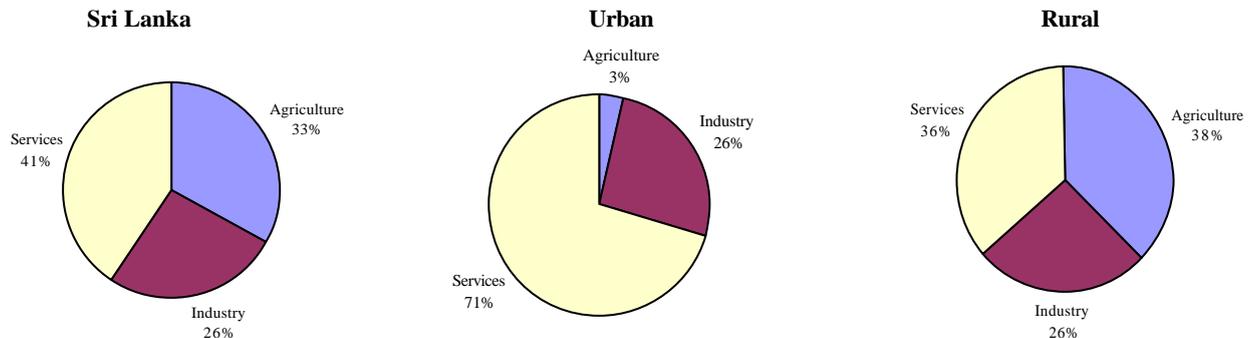
* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

Figure 2: Currently Employed persons by Major industry groups by sector - First Quarter 2006



From table 6, it is very clear that, 33 percent of the total employment contributes to the agriculture sector while these percentage are 41 percent and 26 percent for 'service' sector and 'Industry' sector respectively. Of the total estimated employees in the rural sector, 38 percent were engaged in the agricultural activities, while this percentage in urban sector is only 3 percent. There is no marked difference between these sectors when 'Service' sector is considered.

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

Table 8: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by sex and sector - First Quarter 2006

Sector	Total		Male		Female	
	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)
All Island	546326	7.2	270196	5.5	276130	10.1
Urban	56745	6.3	38295	6.1	18450	6.8
Rural	489581	7.3	231901	5.4	257680	10.5

It was revealed that 546326 persons were unemployed during the first quarter 2006. Of this total 270196 (49 percent) are males and 276130 (51 percent) are females. The unemployment rate at national level was 7.2 percent. The rates for urban and rural sectors were 6.3 and 7.3 percent respectively.

Table 9: Percentage distribution of unemployed and employed population by level of education - First Quarter 2006

Sex & Sector	Level of education			
	Total	Below G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above
Total employed	100.0	69.4	16.8	13.8
Male	100.0	70.7	17.0	12.3
Female	100.0	66.8	16.5	16.7
Total unemployed	100.0	51.0	24.3	24.8
Male	100.0	59.2	25.5	15.4
Female	100.0	42.9	23.1	34.0

Table 9 shows that as a proportion, the educational attainment of the unemployed is higher when compared to the employed. Only 30.6 percent of the employed persons have achieved the level of education of G.C.E. (O/L) and over compared to 49.1 percent of the unemployed persons.

Of the unemployed females, about 57 percent have an educational qualification of G.C.E.(O/L) or above, compared to a proportion of 41 percent unemployed males having the same level of education.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of unemployed & employed population by level of education - First Quarter 2006

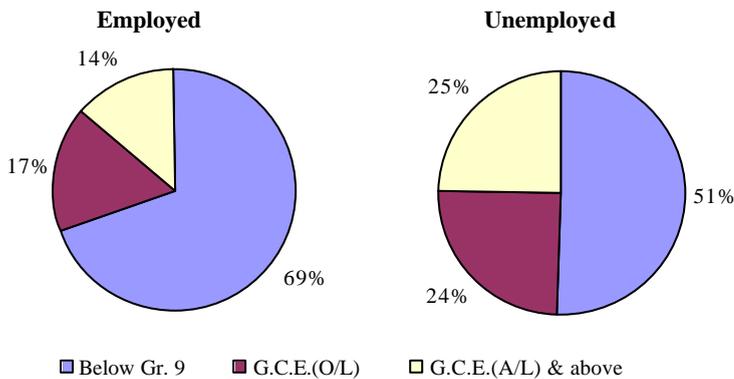


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by age group & sex - First Quarter 2006

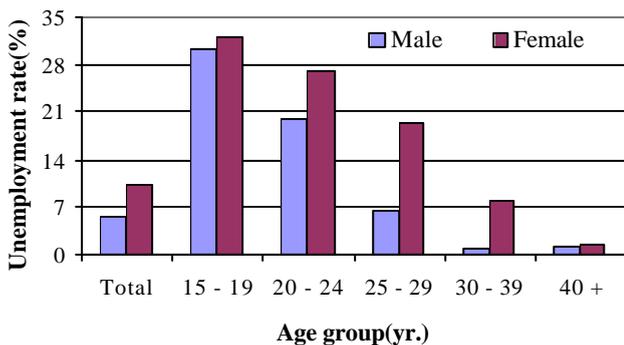


Table 10: Unemployment rate by age group and Sex - First Quarter 2006

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
All Island	7.2	5.5	10.1
15 - 19	31.3	30.6	32.3
20 - 24	22.4	20.0	27.2
25 - 29	11.3	6.4	19.4
30+	2.1	1.1	3.8

Even though overall employment rate is low, unemployment rates are relatively high among the age groups of 15 - 19 years and 20 - 29 years.

Although the unemployment rate is highest for the age group 15-19 years, the real age group which is worst affected is the 20-24 year age group. This is the age group in which many people enter the labour force. The situation is worse for females compared to males.

Selected Labour Force indicators (1996 - 2006 First quarter)

	Year								2006 Q1#
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004**	2005***	
Labour force participation rate									
<i>by sex</i>									
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.7
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	69.3
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.5
<i>by residential sector</i>									
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.7
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	46.3
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.5
Unemployment rate									
<i>by sex</i>									
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	7.2
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.5
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	10.1
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>									
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	16.8
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	22.4
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.3
<i>by selected educational levels</i>									
G.C.E.(A/L) & above									
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	12.1
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.8
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	18.6
Employed population									
<i>by sex</i>									
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7081435
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4634156
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2447279
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>									
Total	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7081435
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2071764	2378572	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2346321
%	(37.4)	(39.3)	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(33.1)
Industry	1217977	1325735	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1862896
%	(22.0)	(21.9)	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.3)
Services	2246475	2345081	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2872217
%	(40.6)	38.8)	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(40.6)
<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
0 •	4.9	5.3	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	4.5
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	2.6
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	30.8
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.1

*Excluding Northern province

***All the districts are included

** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

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

Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(1996 - 2006 First quarter)

	Year								
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 Q1#
Labour force participation rate									
<i>by sex</i>									
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.7
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.5	67.2	67.3	69.3
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.5
<i>by residential sector</i>									
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.7
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	45.1	45.6	46.2	46.3
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.5
Unemployment rate									
<i>by sex</i>									
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	7.2
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.5
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	12.3	12.1	10.7	10.1
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>									
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.1	18.6	16.0	16.8
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	25.8	25.2	22.4	22.4
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.3
<i>by selected educational levels</i>									
G.C.E.(A/L) & above									
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.0	15.7	12.2	12.1
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.8
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	22.4	22.5	17.1	18.6
Employed population									
<i>by sex</i>									
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7081435
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4496136	4512082	4546397	4634156
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2113330	2191924	2241722	2447279
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>									
Total	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7081435
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2071764	2378572	2274153	2033343	2247602	2223691	2215282	2059293	2346321
%	(37.4)	(39.3)	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(33.1)
Industry	1217977	1325735	1490795	1491408	1459194	1539035	1663383	1787274	1862896
%	(22.0)	(21.9)	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.3)
Services	2246475	2345081	2545299	2710837	2812619	2846740	2825341	2941552	2872217
%	(40.6)	(38.8)	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(40.6)
<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
0 •	4.9	5.3	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.3	5.3	4.9	4.5
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.6
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.9	28.4	27.9	30.8
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.1

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey
Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics
1 st quarter - 2006

10 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (10 years & over)	14758669	7081764	7676905	1951759	12806910
Labour force in this age group	7627761	4904351	2723410	904339	6723422
Labour force participation rate	51.7	69.3	35.5	46.3	52.5
Employed population	7081435	4634156	2447279	847594	6233841
Employment rate	92.8	94.5	89.9	93.7	92.7
Unemployed population	546326	270196	276130	56745	489581
Unemployment rate	7.2	5.5	10.1	6.3	7.3
Not in labour force	7130908	2177412	4953496	1047420	6083488

15 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	13214347	6294212	6920135	1769110	11445237
Labour force in this age group	7609937	4890005	2719932	904339	6705598
Labour force participation rate	57.6	77.7	39.3	51.1	58.6
Employed population	7063611	4619809	2443802	847594	6216017
Employment rate	92.8	94.5	89.8	93.7	92.7
Unemployed population	546326	270196	276130	56745	489581
Unemployment rate	7.2	5.5	10.2	6.3	7.3
Not in labour force	5604410	1404207	4200203	864771	4739640

20 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	11660286	5514517	6145769	1536512	10123774
Labour force in this age group	7219931	4659862	2560070	859317	6360614
Labour force participation rate	61.9	84.5	41.7	55.9	62.8
Employed population	6795541	4460041	2335500	806902	5988640
Employment rate	94.1	95.7	91.2	93.9	94.2
Unemployed population	424390	199820	224569	52416	371974
Unemployment rate	5.9	4.3	8.8	6.1	5.8
Not in labour force	4440355	854655	3585700	677195	3763160

Estimate of Confidence Intervals for some selected characteristics

Year	Labour Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	No.	95% C.I.		No.	95% C.I.		No.	95% C.I.		No.	95% C.I.	
		Lower	Upper		Lower	Upper		Lower	Upper		Lower	Upper
2003 *	7653717	7480359	7827075	7012756	6850621	7174891	640961	600124	681798	0.084	0.079	0.089
2004 **	8061354	7938687	8184020	7394029	7278719	7509340	667324	632178	702470	0.083	0.079	0.087
2005***	8141347	7674940	8607755	7518007	7077722	7958291	623341	545769	700912	0.077	0.068	0.085
2006Q1#	7627761	7384875	7870647	7081435	6846083	7316787	546326	465048	627604	0.072	0.061	0.082

* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

** - Excluding Mulathivu and Kilinochchi districts.

***. All the districts are included

- Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces