



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.

The field work of the survey for the second quarter 2009 was done in April, May and June in year 2009. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern province, the survey was not conducted fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in districts of Northern province. In second quarter 2009 the survey was conducted also in the Eastern province, hence this bulletin consists of summary statistics computed by excluding Northern province.

(Please log on to the DCS website (www.statistics.gov.lk) for detailed tables.)

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 - Second Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	7961261	100.0	5165209	64.9	2796051	35.1
Urban	831948	100.0	584275	70.2	247672.6	29.8
Rural	7129313	100.0	4580934	64.3	2548379	35.7

Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector- Second Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8531334	100.0	2586915	30.3	5944419	69.7
Urban	1180302	100.0	364178	30.9	816124	69.1
Rural	7351033	100.0	2222738	30.2	5128295	69.8

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) is about 8.0 million in second quarter 2009. Of which 64.9 percent are males and 35.1 percent are females. Of the economically inactive population 30.3 percent are males and 69.7 percent are females (Table 2) .

Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population

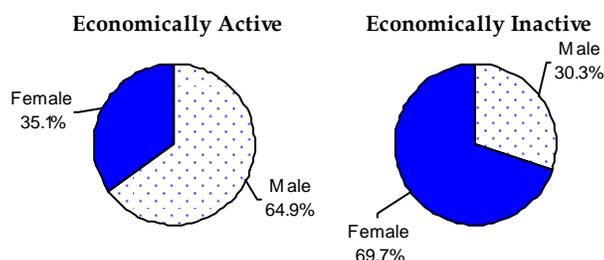


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

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	49.7	67.5	32.6
2004	49.6	67.2	33.0
2005	49.3	67.3	32.6
2006	51.2	68.1	35.7
2007	49.8	67.8	33.4
2008	50.2	67.9	34.3
2009 Q1	49.9	67.4	34.3
2009 Q2	48.7	66.5	32.8

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Table 3 provides the information on labour force participation rates since year 2000. As can be seen from this table, male participation rate for the second quarter 2009 is about 66.5 percent and it is 32.8 percent for females. It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is as twice as that of females.

Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Second Quarter 2009

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.3	66.6	32.0
15 - 19	18.2	24.9	12.3
20 - 24	58.8	77.0	42.8
25 - 29	64.3	93.2	40.6
30 - 34	65.3	94.3	40.9
35 - 39	70.0	95.7	48.5
40 - 44	70.3	94.7	48.7
45 - 49	70.3	92.9	49.2
50 - 54	66.2	90.5	45.8
55 - 59	58.3	82.0	34.9
60+	26.4	42.9	12.7

The distribution of labour force participation rate by age groups and by sex implies more male participation compared to female in all age groups.

Highest male participation rate is reported from age group (35 - 39) while in female highest participation rate is reported from age group (45 - 49).

Employment

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

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry, (Second quarter 2008 – Second Quarter 2009

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2008	7563981 100.0	2264792 29.9	2068786 27.4	3230403 42.7
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2008	7735132 100.0	2665917 34.5	2000537 25.9	3068678 39.7
Oct-Nov-Dec 4th Qtr - 2008	7712943 100.0	2617910 33.9	1960544 25.4	3134489 40.6
Jan-Feb-Mar 1st Qtr - 2009	7709784 100.0	2613350 33.9	1894279 24.6	3202155 41.5
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2009	7465030 100.0	2382913 31.9	1913893 25.6	3168224 42.4

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q..

Agriculture

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

Industries

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

Services

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

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2008 to second quarter 2009. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 7.5 million in second quarter 2009. Of which, about 42.4 percent engaged in services sector 31.9 percent in agriculture sector, and 25.6 percent in Industries sector.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ non- agriculture sector - Second Quarter 2009

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7465030	100.0	2382913	31.9	5082117	68.1
Employee	4349420	100.0	728764	16.8	3620656	83.2
Public	1132972	100.0	143571	12.7	989401	87.3
Private	3216448	100.0	585192	18.2	2631255	81.8
Employer	213476	100.0	43939	20.6	169537	79.4
Own account worker	2148718	100.0	1088723	50.7	1059995	49.3
Unpaid family worker	753417	100.0	521487	69.2	231930	30.8

Table 6 shows that, more than 80 percent of employees both in private & public sector engage in non-agricultural activities. Also more employers are in non agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But own account workers and unpaid family workers concentrated more in agriculture sector than in non-agriculture sector.

Note (1): Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site www.statistics.gov.lk for detailed concepts & definitions.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & by sex - Second Quarter 2009

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	31.9	29.4	36.9
Industry	25.6	25.6	25.8
Services	42.4	45.1	37.4

Table 7 depicts the distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Highest employment concentrations are in service sector for both male and female. Further among employed women about 36.9 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 29.4 percent for males.

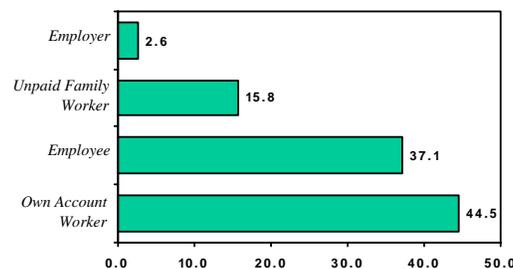
Table 8 : "Informal sector" employment by Agriculture/ Non-agriculture sector - Second Quarter 2009

Sector	Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Formal	38.2	15.6	48.8
Informal	61.8	84.4	51.2

It is also important to see the distribution of the employed population according to the formal and informal sector classification. Table 8 shows that, 61.8 percent of the total employment is in the informal sector. Further 84.4 percent of the agriculture sector employment is in informal sector, while it is 51.2 percent for non agriculture sector.

Further, 44.5 percent of those employed in the informal sector are own account workers, while 37.1 percent of them are paid employees. (Figure 3).

Figure 3 : Percentage Distribution of informal sector employment by Employment status



Underemployment (1)

Table 9 : Underemployment rate by sex - First Quarter 2009

Rate	Sex		Economic sector		Total
	Male	Female	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	
Underemployment rate	3.4	5.4	6.7	2.9	4.1

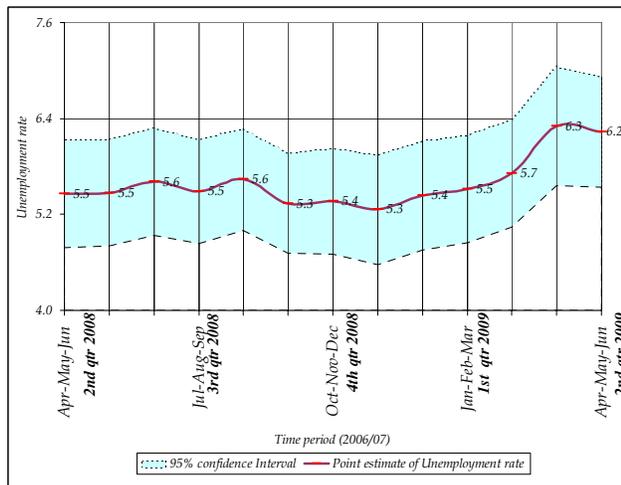
Table 9 reveals that, underemployment rate is higher for females (5.4%) than males (3.4%). And also it is higher in the agriculture sector (6.7%) than as that percentage in non-agriculture sector (2.9%).

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

Figure 4 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2008 April -Dec./ 2009 Jan. - June)



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as about 496,000 during the second quarter 2009.

The unemployment rate for the second quarter 2009 is reported as 6.2 percent (Excluding Northern province).

As seen in figure 4, it is very important to note that, there is no statistically significant difference between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2008/2009, when sampling error⁽²⁾ is considered.

Table 10 : Unemployment rate by level of education Second Quarter 2009

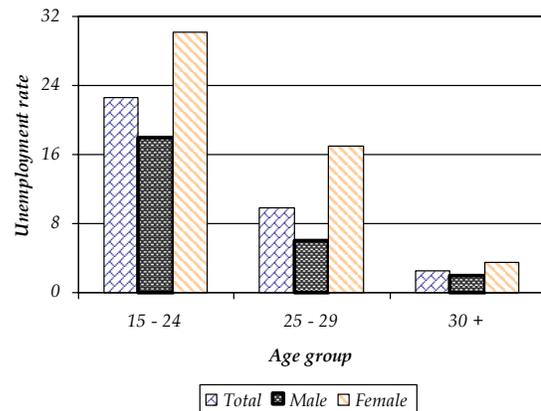
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	6.2	4.6	9.2
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	4.6	4.0	5.9
G.C.E. (O/L)	8.6	7.6	10.7
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	10.4	4.3	17.1



Table 11: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Second Quarter 2009

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	6.2	4.6	9.2
15 - 24	22.6	18.0	30.2
25 - 29	9.9	6.1	17.0
30 +	2.5	2.0	3.5

Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Second quarter 2009



As can be seen from table 11, overall the unemployment rate reported for females is 9.2 percent and 4.6 percent for males. Youth unemployment rate (15 - 24 yrs) reported for Second quarter 2009 is 22.6. Highest unemployment rate is reported from age group (15 - 24 yrs), for both males (18.0) and females (30.2). Further the survey results reveal that the unemployment is severe among females than that of males, in all age groups.

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E(A/L) and above group which is about 10.4 percent. That is 4.3 percent and 17.1 percent for males and females respectively. This shows the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males (Table 10).

Table 12: Literacy rate by sex & sector

Sex & sector	2 nd quarter 2008	2 nd quarter 2009
Total	92.1	91.5
Male	93.3	92.8
Female	91.0	90.3
Urban	94.5	95.2
Rural	92.5	91.8
Estate	79.6	75.3

Literacy ⁽³⁾

Table 12 shows that, during the second quarter of 2009, the literacy rate is about 91.5, and also the male literacy rate (92.8) is higher than that of females (90.3). Further, the survey results reveal that literacy level of estate sector (75.3) is relatively lower than urban (95.2) and rural (91.8) sectors.

⁽²⁾ 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.**

⁽³⁾ Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site www.statistics.gov.lk for detailed concepts & definitions.

Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(2000 - 2009 Q2)

	Year												
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009Q1	2008q2	2009Q2	2009Q2*
Labour force participation rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	49.6	48.7	48.3
Male	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	67.4	67.8	66.5	66.6
Female	33.9	31.9	33.6	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	34.3	33.1	32.8	32.0
<i>by residential sector</i>													
Total	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	49.6	48.7	48.3
Urban	44.9	44.2	46.0	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	44.5	46.1	41.0	41.3
Rural	51.2	49.6	50.9	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	50.6	50.0	49.7	49.2
Unemployment rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.3	5.3	6.3	6.2
Male	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.1	3.6	4.7	4.6
Female	11.1	11.5	12.9	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	7.5	8.4	9.1	9.2
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>													
20 - 29	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	14.8	13.0	15.5	15.2
20 - 24	23.0	24.4	27.0	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	19.7	17.4	22.0	21.6
25 - 29	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.4	8.8	10.2	9.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>													
G.C.E.(A/L) & above													
Both sexes	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.1	9.1	10.4	10.4
Male	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	7.4	4.0	3.9	4.3
Female	21.5	21.5	23.0	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	12.8	14.2	17.4	17.1
Employed population													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7250951	7106439	6998591	7465030
Male	4241546	4248877	4395164	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277	4669522	4693465	4574261	4925869
Female	2068701	1986711	2124250	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511429	2581429	2412974	2424330	2539160
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>													
Total	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7250951	7106439	6998591	7465030
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2274153	2033343	2247602	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344415	2459978	2140712	2226901	2382913
%	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(33.9)	(30.1)	(31.8)	(31.9)
Industry	1490795	1491408	1459194	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888004	1806035	1935656	1803556	1913893
%	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(24.9)	(27.2)	(25.8)	(25.6)
Services	2545299	2710837	2812619	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2984938	3030071	2968134	3168224
%	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(41.2)	(42.6)	(42.4)	(42.4)
<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	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	5.3	11.4	13.7	13.4
1 - 9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.0	3.2	3.1
10 - 39	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.3	30.1	31.2	31.2
40+	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	63.3	55.5	51.8	52.3

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

* Only excluding Northern province

Note: However it is to be noted that the difference between corresponding figures in any given two quarters may not necessarily be statistically significant.

**Selected Labour Force indicators
(2000 - 2009 Q2)**

	Year											
	2000#	2001#	2002#	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2009Q1*	2008Q2*	2009Q2*
Labour force participation rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	49.0	48.3
Male	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	67.2	67.6	66.6
Female	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	33.3	32.1	32.0
<i>by residential sector</i>												
Total	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	49.0	48.3
Urban	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	44.0	45.9	41.3
Rural	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	50.0	49.4	49.2
Unemployment rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.5	6.2
Male	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.2	3.8	4.6
Female	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	7.9	8.6	9.2
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>												
20 - 29	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.2	13.3	15.2
20 - 24	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	20.3	17.2	21.6
25 - 29	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.7	9.5	9.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>												
G.C.E.(A/L) & above												
Both sexes	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	10.6	9.5	10.4
Male	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.8	4.5	4.3
Female	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	13.4	14.6	17.1
Employed population												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7563981	7465030
Male	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	5015959	5051817	4925869
Female	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2693825	2512164	2539160
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>												
Total	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7563981	7465030
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2613350	2264792	2382913
%	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(33.9)	(29.9)	(31.9)
Industry	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1894279	2068786	1913893
%	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(24.6)	(27.4)	(25.6)
Services	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3202155	3230403	3168224
%	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(41.5)	(42.7)	(42.4)
<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	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	5.4	11.1	13.4
1 - 9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.9	3.1
10 - 39	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	29.0	29.8	31.2
40+	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	63.5	56.3	52.3

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

* Excluding Northern province

***All the districts are included

** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces