



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

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Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.8% for the Third Quarter in 2013
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.4%.

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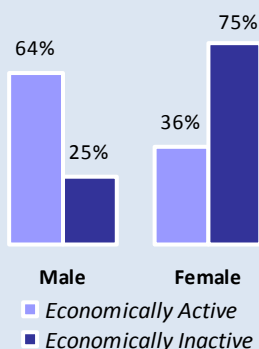


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Third Quarter 2013

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 Third Quarter of 2013 was done in July, August and September covering the whole island.

Labour Force ...

(Economically Active Population)

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector - Third Quarter

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,809,150	100.0	5,655,473	64.2	3,153,677	35.8
Urban	1,387,178	100.0	956,131	68.9	431,048	31.1
Rural	7,054,653	100.0	4,502,397	63.8	2,552,255	36.2
Estate	367,320	100.0	196,945	53.6	170,374	46.4

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender and sector - Third Quarter

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,551,382	100.0	1,906,260	25.2	5,645,122	74.8
Urban	1,480,263	100.0	406,272	27.4	1,073,991	72.6
Rural	5,876,253	100.0	1,437,007	24.5	4,439,246	75.5
Estate	194,866	100.0	62,981	32.3	131,886	67.7

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

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
2013 Q3	54.2	74.8	36.6

* Note: Kept same domain for the purpose of comparison.

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2008. Referring the table 3, It is important to note that, reported male participation to the labour force was almost twice as that of females.

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 participation rate for both male & female are reported from age group 40-44 .

Labour Force

(Economically Active Population)

Number of persons (age 15 years & above) who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

Labour force population expressed as a percentage to the population, age 15 years and over

According to the table 1, the estimated economically active population was about 8.8 million in the Third Quarter 2013. Of which 64.2 percent were males and 35.8 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.2 percent were males and 74.8 percent were females (Table2) .

Table4 : LFPR by age group and gender -Third Quarter 2013

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.8	74.8	35.8
15 - 19	16.6	23.6	10.1
20 - 24	56.0	72.6	39.4
25 - 29	65.9	92.2	46.2
30 - 34	64.4	96.6	39.1
35 - 39	68.4	96.2	44.4
40 - 44	72.8	97.1	52.1
45 - 49	70.5	96.4	49.4
50 - 54	69.3	91.5	49.1
55 - 59	59.0	83.9	37.7
60+	30.3	46.1	17.0

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 also includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period

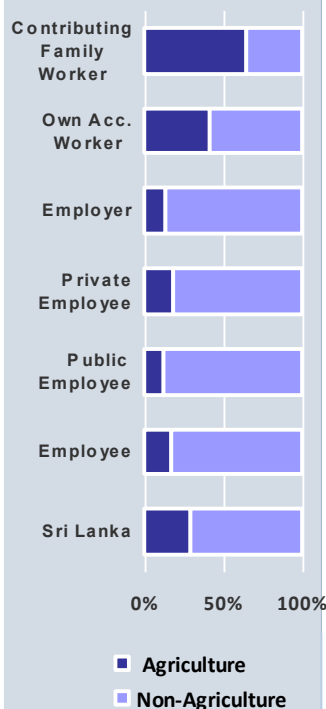


Figure 2 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population-Second Quarter 2013

Figure 2 shows a higher percentage of contributing family workers in agriculture sector compared to other categories.

Employment ...

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry
(Third Quarter 2012 – Third Quarter 2013)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
July-Aug-Sept.	8,059,734	2,518,089	2,077,029	3,464,615
2012 Q3	100.0	31.2	25.8	43.0
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
July-Aug-Sept.	8,424,409	2,417,569	2,222,344	3,784,496
2013 Q3	100.0	28.7	26.4	44.9

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from Third Quarter 2012 to Third Quarter 2013. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 8.4 million in Third Quarter 2013. Of which, about 44.9 percent engaged in Services sector, 26.4 percent in Industries sector, and 28.7 percent in Agriculture sector.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and
Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector – Third Quarter 2013

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,424,409	100.0	2,417,569	28.7	6,006,840	71.3
Employee	4,756,635	100.0	800,286	16.8	3,956,349	83.2
Public	1,382,347	100.0	163,191	11.8	1,219,156	88.2
Private	3,374,288	100.0	637,095	18.9	2,737,193	81.1
Employer	255,906	100.0	33,469	13.1	222,437	86.9
Own Account Worker	2,655,933	100.0	1,098,007	41.3	1,557,926	58.7
Contributing Family Worker	755,935	100.0	485,807	64.3	270,128	35.7

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 31.7 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 27.0 percent among males.

Main industry categories and sub sectors

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 (T)

13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

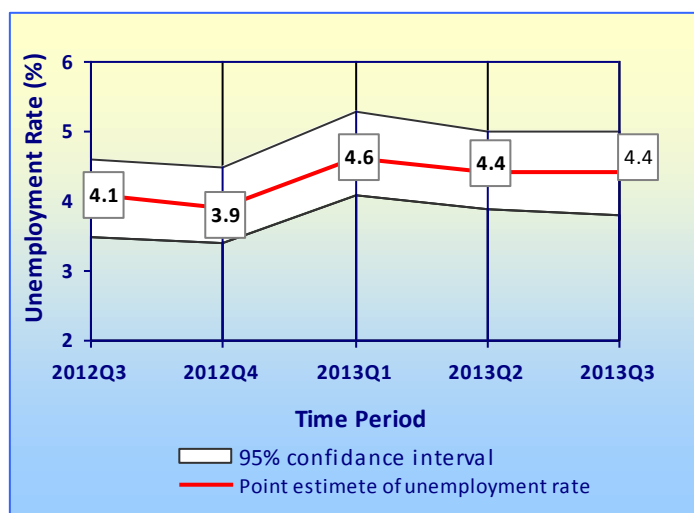
According to the table 6, more employers were in non-agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But contributing family workers were highly concentrated in agriculture sector.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex – Third Quarter 2013

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	28.7	27.0	31.7
Industry	26.4	27.0	25.3
Services	44.9	46.0	43.0

Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2012 Q3 - 2013 Q3)



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.

Table 8: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third Quarter 2013

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.4	3.4	6.0
15–24	17.2	15.1	21.0
25–29	8.0	5.5	11.9
Over 30	1.7	1.2	2.7

Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment among females is higher 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 6.8 percent. Corresponding percentages were 4.9 percent and 8.9 percent for males and females respectively.

Table 9 : Unemployment rate by level of education – Third Quarter 2013

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.4	3.4	6.0
Below GCE O/L	3.0	2.6	3.8
GCE O/L	6.7	5.4	9.1
GCE A/L & above	6.8	4.9	8.9

This shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males .

The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 384,741 during the Third Quarter 2013. The unemployment rate for the Third Quarter 2013 was reported as 4.4 percent.

As shown in figure 3, it is very important to note that, when sampling error¹ is considered there were no statistically significant drops/increases of unemployment rates reported in different time periods starting from Third Quarter 2012 to Third Quarter 2013.

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 proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force

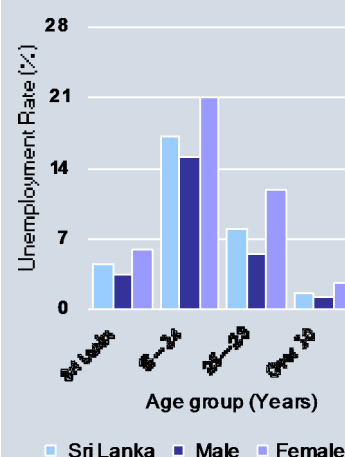


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group – Third Quarter 2013

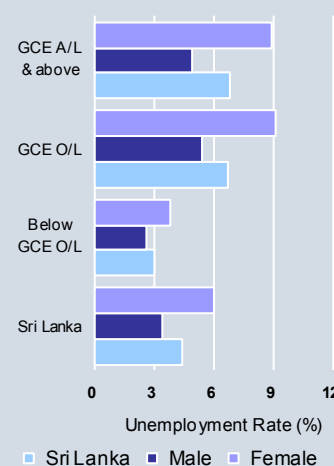


Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by level of education – Third quarter 2013



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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								
	2009*	2010*	2011*	2012*	2011**	2012**	2013Q1**	2013Q2**	2013Q3**
Labour force participation rate									
By Gender									
Total	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2	54.2	53.8
Male	74.7	75.0	74.2	75.2	74.0	75.0	75.1	75.5	74.8
Female	36.2	34.4	35.0	33.5	34.4	32.9	36.2	35.6	35.8
By residential sector									
Total	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2	54.2	53.8
Urban	48.4	46.8	48.5	48.7	47.8	48.4	47.9	49.0	48.4
Rural	54.9	54.4	54.2	53.9	53.8	53.5	55.6	55.3	55.0
Unemployment Rate									
By Gender									
Total	5.9	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.6	4.4	4.4
Male	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.1	3.4
Female	8.6	7.7	6.8	6.0	7.0	6.2	7.0	6.9	6.0
By selected age Group (Year)									
20 – 29	15.4	13.8	12.4	11.1	12.3	11.3	13.6	12.6	12.2
20 – 24	21.4	19.1	18.0	16.7	17.7	16.8	20.7	19.9	16.6
25 – 29	10.3	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	6.4	8.0
By selected educational level									
A/L & above									
Total	11.2	11.6	9.0	7.3	9.0	7.5	9.2	10.2	6.8
Male	7.0	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.4	4.5	6.1	6.8	4.9
Female	15.5	15.8	13.1	10.5	13.1	10.8	12.5	14.0	8.9
Employed population									
By Gender									
Total	7,579,835	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,451,187	8,475,419	8,424,409
Male	4,949,825	5,125,763	5,219,712	5,224,743	5,452,723	5,469,759	5,494,375	5,589,387	5,460,400
Female	2,630,010	2,570,379	2,664,105	2,567,089	2,733,582	2,648,603	2,956,812	2,886,033	2,964,009
By industry (Percentage)									
Total	7,579,835	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,451,187	8,475,419	8,424,409
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,459,824	2,512,546	2,593,048	2,412,066	2,699,244	2,513,673	2,384,795	2,668,059	2,417,569
%	32.5	32.6	32.9	31.0	33.0	31.0	28.2	31.5	28.7
Industry	1,904,722	1,864,538	1,914,671	2,042,262	1,976,711	2,117,286	2,273,387	2,217,693	2,222,344
%	25.1	24.2	24.3	26.2	24.1	26.1	26.9	26.2	26.4
Services	3,215,289	3,319,059	3,376,099	3,337,503	3,510,350	3,487,403	3,793,005	3,589,668	3,784,496
%	42.4	43.1	42.8	42.8	42.9	43.0	44.9	42.4	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	100.0
0#	7.9	6.0	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.5	3.1	8.4	5.5
1 – 9	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.0	2.0
10 – 39	28.8	28.4	29.7	25.6	29.9	26.0	27.2	29.1	27.1
40 & above	61.2	63.9	63.2	68.6	63.1	68.3	67.9	60.5	65.4

has a job but not at work during the reference week

* Excluding Northern Province

**Whole island covered

Note : Working age population considered as (age 15 & over population)