



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2014

ISSN 1391- 3050

Issue No.64

1st Quarter - 2014

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance and Planning, Sri Lanka

Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.4% for the First Quarter of 2014.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.1%.

Inside

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

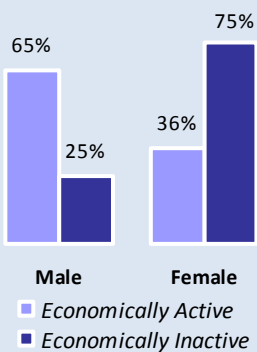


Figure 1: Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- First Quarter 2014

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey (LFS) is designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. LFS has been conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

The field work of the survey for the first quarter of 2014 was done in January, February and March covering the whole country.

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 of the population, age 15 years and over

Labour Force ...

Table 1: Economically active population by gender and sector- First Quarter 2014

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,769,538	100.0	5,655,705	64.5	3,113,833	35.5
Urban	1,348,256	100.0	921,852	68.4	426,404	31.6
Rural	7,137,371	100.0	4,575,151	64.1	2,562,220	35.9
Estate	283,911	100.0	158,702	55.9	125,209	44.1

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.8 million in the first quarter 2014. Of which 64.5 percent are males and 35.5 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.4 percent are males and 74.6 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector- First Quarter 2014

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,650,010	100.0	1,946,588	25.4	5,703,422	74.6
Urban	1,384,771	100.0	375,260	27.1	1,009,511	72.9
Rural	6,099,783	100.0	1,521,696	24.9	4,578,087	75.1
Estate	165,456	100.0	49,632	30.0	115,824	70.0

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year (Excluding Northern province: to keep same domain for the purpose of comparison.)

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
2013 Q4	53.4	74.6	35.3
2014 Q1	53.8	74.7	35.7

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2008. Referring the table 3, It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of females.

Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest overall participation rate, as well as the highest participation rates for male and female are reported for the age group of 40- 44 years.

Table 4: LFPR by age group and gender - First Quarter 2014

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.4	74.4	35.3
15 - 19	15.3	20.5	9.8
20 - 24	50.9	68.2	35.9
25 - 29	63.2	92.3	41.1
30 - 34	66.2	94.8	42.4
35 - 39	68.7	96.5	44.8
40 - 44	73.5	97.2	52.8
45 - 49	72.4	95.2	52.2
50 - 54	67.0	93.3	44.8
55 - 59	58.9	84.3	36.2
60+	29.5	46.0	16.2

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

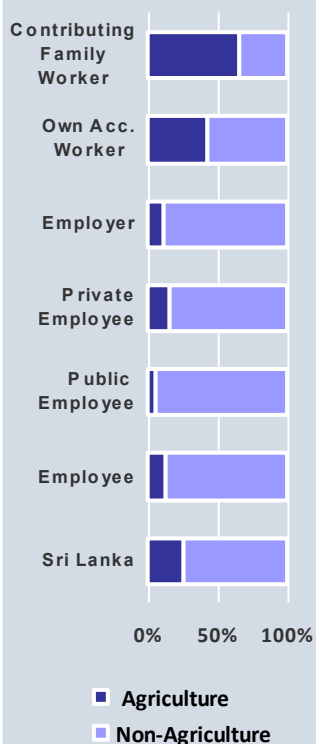


Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector - First Quarter 2014

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

Employment ...

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry
(First Quarter 2013 – First Quarter 2014)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2013 Q1 (No.)	8,451,187	2,384,795	2,273,387	3,793,005
(%)	100.0	28.2	26.9	44.9
2013 Q2 (No.)	8,475,419	2,668,059	2,217,693	3,589,668
(%)	100.0	31.5	26.2	42.4
2013 Q3 (No.)	8,424,409	2,417,569	2,222,344	3,784,496
(%)	100.0	28.7	26.4	44.9
2013 Q4 (No.)	8,319,680	2,546,819	2,095,213	3,677,649
(%)	100.0	30.6	25.2	44.2
2014 Q1 (No.)	8,407,212	2,222,097	2,338,905	3,846,210
(%)	100.0	26.4	27.8	45.7

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from first quarter 2013 to first quarter 2014. During first quarter of 2014, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.4 million. Of which, about 45.7 percent engaged in Services sector, 27.8 percent in Industries sector and 26.4 percent in Agriculture sector. The decline in the total employment and the change in percentage share of employment by industry between 2013 Q1 & 2014 Q1 could be attributed to the labour movement due to climatic variations (prevailed drought). Specially some part of unpaid family workers might become economically inactive.

Table 6 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector – First Quarter 2014

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
	No.	%	Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
			No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,407,212	100.0	2,222,097	26.4	6,185,115	73.6
Employee	4,756,400	100.0	586,734	12.3	4,169,666	87.7
Public	1,317,873	100.0	71,841	5.5	1,246,032	94.5
Private	3,438,527	100.0	514,893	15.0	2,923,634	85.0
Employer	257,646	100.0	29,024	11.3	228,622	88.7
Own Account Worker	2,659,049	100.0	1,122,778	42.2	1,536,271	57.8
Contributing Family Worker	734,117	100.0	483,561	65.9	250,556	34.1

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of the gender, the highest employment concentrated in service sector. Further among employed women 29.4 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 24.8 percent for males.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex – First Quarter 2014

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.4	24.8	29.4
Industry	27.8	27.8	27.9
Services	45.7	47.4	42.7

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)

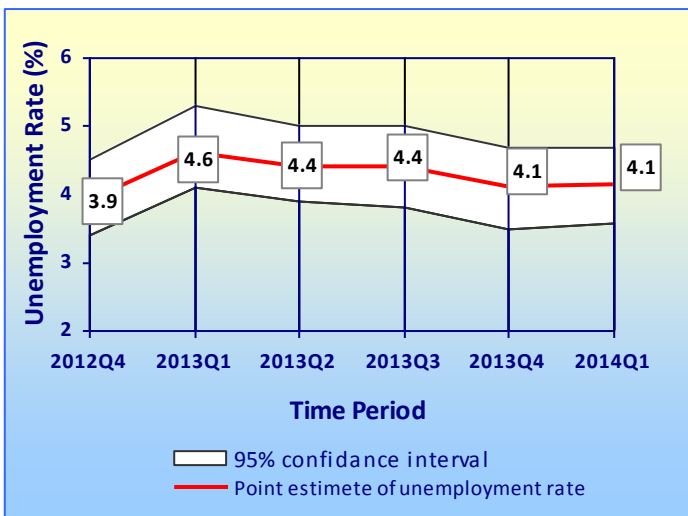
Services

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 defense 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 Table 6, more employers are in non-agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But contributing family workers are highly concentrated in agriculture sector.

Unemployment ...

Figure 3: Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2012 Q4 - 2014Q1)



¹Sampling 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 sampling error of the estimate.

For more details, please refer the explanatory note given under the labour force link in the DCS website; www.statistics.gov.lk

Table 8: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – First Quarter 2014

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.1	3.0	6.1
15–24	19.6	15.4	27.3
25–29	8.6	6.0	13.1
Over 30	1.4	0.9	2.1

Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment among females is higher 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 6.9 percent. Corresponding percentages are 3.6 percent and 10.3 percent for males and females respectively. Among males highest unemployment rate is reported from GCE (O/L) category.

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

Table 9: Unemployment rate by level of education – First Quarter 2014

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.1	3.0	6.1
Below GCE O/L	2.6	2.4	3.2
GCE O/L	6.6	5.1	9.6
GCE A/L & above	6.9	3.6	10.3

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

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as about 362,000 during the first quarter 2014. The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2014 is 4.1 percent.

As shown in figure 3, it is very important to note that, when sampling error¹ is considered there are no statistically significant drops/increases of unemployment rates reported in different time periods starting from fourth quarter 2012 to first quarter 2014.

Unemployment Rate ...

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force

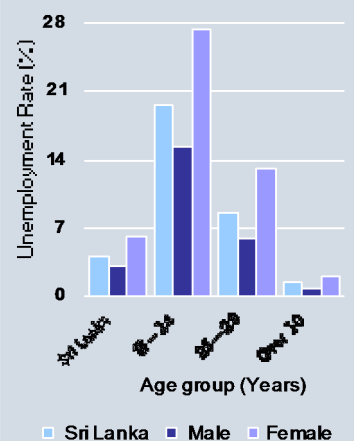


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – First Quarter 2014

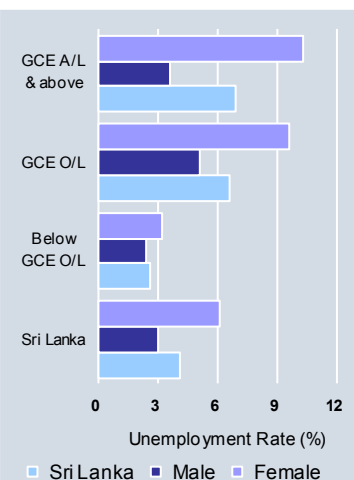


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – First Quarter 2014



Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

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Vision of the DCS

"To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country's develop-

Mission of the DCS

"Making contribution in the socio-economic 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 lead-

Indicator	Year									
	2010*	2011*	2012*	2013*	2011**	2012**	2013**	2013Q1**	2014Q1**	
Labour force participation rate										
By Gender										
Total	53.4	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	54.2	53.4	
Male	75.0	74.2	75.2	75.0	74.0	75.0	74.9	75.1	74.4	
Female	34.4	35.0	33.5	36.3	34.4	32.9	35.6	36.2	35.3	
By residential sector										
Total	53.4	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	54.2	53.4	
Urban	46.8	48.5	48.7	48.0	47.8	48.4	47.8	47.9	49.3	
Rural	54.4	54.2	53.9	55.5	53.8	53.5	55.0	55.6	54.2	
Unemployment Rate										
By Gender										
Total	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.1	
Male	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.0	
Female	7.7	6.8	6.0	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.6	7.0	6.1	
By selected age Group (Year)										
20 – 29	13.8	12.4	11.1	13.0	12.3	11.3	13.0	13.6	13.3	
20 – 24	19.1	18.0	16.7	19.3	17.7	16.8	19.2	20.7	19.1	
25 – 29	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	7.5	8.6	
By selected educational level										
A/L & above										
Total	11.6	9.0	7.3	8.4	9.0	7.5	8.6	9.2	6.9	
Male	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.6	5.4	4.5	5.7	6.1	3.6	
Female	15.8	13.1	10.5	11.3	13.1	10.8	11.6	12.5	10.3	
Employed population										
By Gender										
Total	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,070,542	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,417,674	8,451,187	8,407,212	
Male	5,125,763	5,219,712	5,224,743	5,233,167	5,452,723	5,469,759	5,498,815	5,494,375	5,484,351	
Female	2,570,379	2,664,105	2,567,089	2,837,375	2,733,582	2,648,603	2,918,859	2,956,812	2,922,861	
By industry (Percentage)										
Total	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,070,542	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,417,674	8,451,187	8,407,212	
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Agriculture	2,512,546	2,593,048	2,412,066	2,390,884	2,699,244	2,513,673	2,504,310	2,384,795	2,222,097	
%	32.6	32.9	31.0	29.6	33.0	31.0	29.8	28.2	26.4	
Industry	1,864,538	1,914,671	2,042,262	2,125,376	1,976,711	2,117,286	2,202,159	2,273,387	2,338,905	
%	24.2	24.3	26.2	26.3	24.1	26.1	26.2	26.9	27.8	
Services	3,319,059	3,376,099	3,337,503	3,554,282	3,510,350	3,487,403	3,711,204	3,793,005	3,846,210	
%	43.1	42.8	42.8	44.0	42.9	43.0	44.1	44.9	45.7	
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#	6.0	5.3	4.6	5.2	5.2	4.5	5.2	3.1	2.9	
1 – 9	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.2	
10 – 39	28.4	29.7	25.6	27	29.9	26.0	27.4	27.2	27.4	
40 & above	63.9	63.2	68.6	66	63.1	68.3	65.6	67.9	68.5	

has a job but not at work during the reference week

* Excluding Northern Province

**Whole island covered