



# Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2014

ISSN 1391- 3050

Issue No.65

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter - 2014

## Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance and Planning, Sri Lanka

### Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.6% for the Second Quarter of 2014.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.5%.

### Inside

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

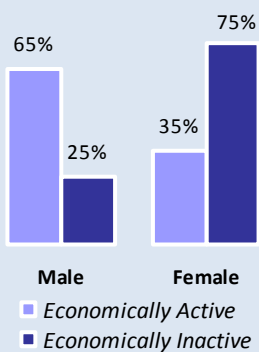


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Second Quarter 2014

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 second quarter of 2014 was done in April, May and June covering the whole country.

### Labour Force ...

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

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,811,836	100.0	5,754,446	65.3	3,057,390	34.7
Urban	1,407,328	100.0	944,598	67.1	462,730	32.9
Rural	7,092,373	100.0	4,630,208	65.3	2,462,165	34.7
Estate	312,135	100.0	179,639	57.6	132,495	42.4

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,642,203	100.0	1,902,337	24.9	5,739,867	75.1
Urban	1,396,294	100.0	396,308	28.4	999,986	71.6
Rural	6,073,025	100.0	1,443,819	23.8	4,629,206	76.2
Estate	172,885	100.0	62,210	36.0	110,674	64.0

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	54.9	75.1	37.5
2014 Q1	53.8	74.7	35.7
2014 Q2	54.0	75.5	35.3

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 is reported from age group (45–49). The age group (30–34) reports the highest male participation, while age group (45–49) reports the highest female participation.

### 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

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.8 million in the second quarter 2014. Of which 65.3 percent are males and 34.7 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 24.9 percent are males and 75.1 percent are females (Table 2).

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

Age group	Total	Male	Female
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	53.6	75.2	34.8
15 - 19	15.7	19.8	11.6
20 - 24	54.0	72.3	36.9
25 - 29	63.4	91.7	40.5
30 - 34	67.3	97.6	40.7
35 - 39	69.8	97.1	46.0
40 - 44	70.2	95.4	49.5
45 - 49	72.4	94.6	52.4
50 - 54	67.1	91.6	45.0
55 - 59	55.5	82.2	31.8
60+	29.1	46.6	15.4

## 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

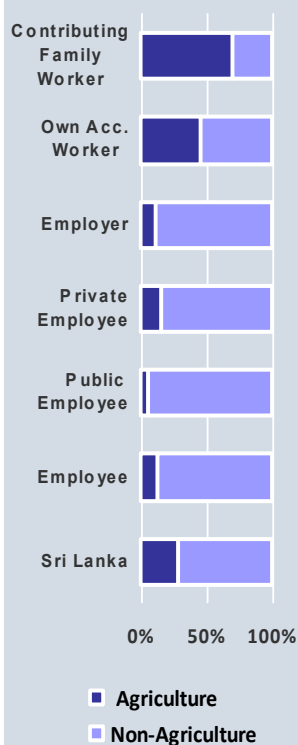


Figure 2: Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Second Quarter 2014

As shown in Figure 2 & Table 6 contributing family workers are highly concentrated in Agriculture sector.

## Employment ...

Table 5: Distribution of Employed population by main industry  
(Second Quarter 2013 - Second Quarter 2014)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2013Q2 (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
2014Q2 (No.)	8,413,171	2,368,845	2,189,738	3,854,588
(%)	100.0	28.2	26.0	45.8

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from Second quarter 2013 to Second quarter 2014. During Second quarter of 2014, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.4 million. Of which, about 45.8 percent engaged in Services sector, 26.0 percent in Industries sector and 28.2 percent in Agriculture sector.

## 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)

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

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
	No.	%	Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,413,171	100.0	2,368,845	28.2	6,044,326	71.8
Employee	4,772,019	100.0	612,645	12.8	4,159,375	87.2
Public	1,319,291	100.0	82,492	6.3	1,236,800	93.7
Private	3,452,728	100.0	530,153	15.4	2,922,575	84.6
Employer	220,079	100.0	26,048	11.8	194,032	88.2
Own Account Worker	2,671,414	100.0	1,203,894	45.1	1,467,520	54.9
Contributing Family Worker	749,658	100.0	526,259	70.2	223,399	29.8

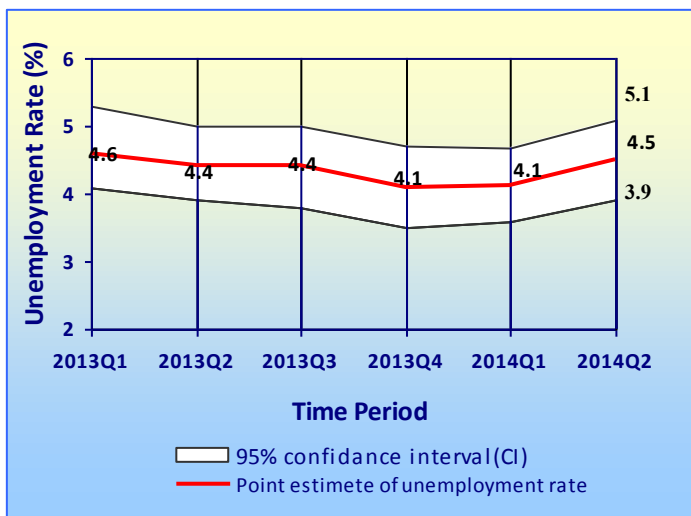
Table 7: Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex - Second Quarter 2014

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	28.2	26.4	31.5
Industry	26.0	25.9	26.4
Services	45.8	47.7	42.1

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 female 31.5 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 26.4 percent for males.

# Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2013Q1 - 2014Q2)



<sup>1</sup>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 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](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)

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

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.5	3.4	6.7
15–24	19.5	15.8	26.3
25–29	9.4	6.9	13.9
Over 30	1.6	1.0	2.6

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 6.7 percent and it is 3.4 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 – 24 years reported for second quarter 2014 is 19.5 percent and that reported the highest unemployment rate among all other age groups. These rates for both males and females are 15.8 and 26.3 percent respectively.

Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment among females is higher than that of males, in all age groups.

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

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.5	3.4	6.7
Below GCE O/L	2.9	2.4	3.9
GCE O/L	5.8	5.0	7.4
GCE A/L & above	8.7	5.7	11.9

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

# 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

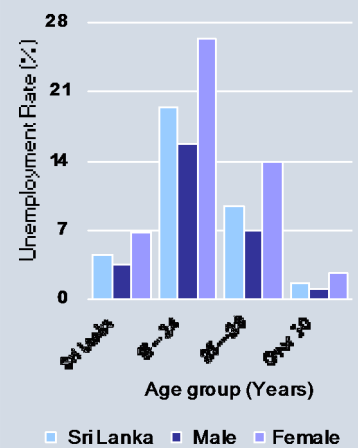


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Second Quarter 2014

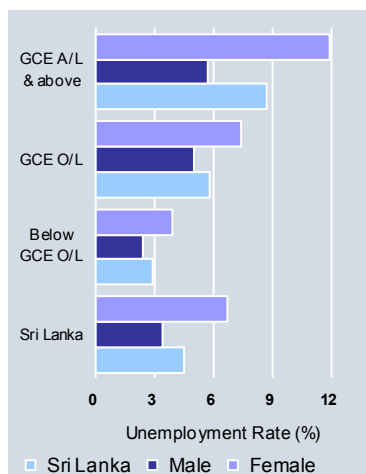


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Second Quarter 2014



**Department of Census and Statistics  
Sri Lanka**

4th and 5th Floors,  
Rotunda Tower,  
109, Galle Road, Colombo  
03,  
Sri Lanka

Sample Surveys Division  
8th floor,  
Unity plaza building,  
Colombo 04, Sri Lanka

Phone: 011-2508689  
Fax: 011-2508690

**Vision of the DCS**

*“To be the leader  
in the region in  
producing timely  
statistical information to achieve  
the country’s development goals.”*

**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 leadership to become a prosperous nation in the globalized environ-*

**Selected Labour Force Indicators ...**

Indicator	Year									
	2010*	2011*	2012*	2013*	2011**	2012**	2013**	2014Q1**	2013Q2**	2014Q2**
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	53.4	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.4	54.2	53.6
Male	75.0	74.2	75.2	75.0	74.0	75.0	74.9	74.4	75.5	75.2
Female	34.4	35.0	33.5	36.3	34.4	32.9	35.6	35.3	35.6	34.8
<b>By residential sector</b>										
Total	53.4	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.4	54.2	53.6
Urban	46.8	48.5	48.7	48.0	47.8	48.4	47.8	49.3	49.0	50.2
Rural	54.4	54.2	53.9	55.5	53.8	53.5	55.0	54.2	55.3	54.2
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.5
Male	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.4
Female	7.7	6.8	6.0	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.6	6.1	6.9	6.7
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>										
20 – 29	13.8	12.4	11.1	13.0	12.3	11.3	13.0	13.3	12.6	13.8
20 – 24	19.1	18.0	16.7	19.3	17.7	16.8	19.2	19.1	19.9	18.8
25 – 29	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	8.6	6.4	9.4
<b>By selected educational level</b>										
<b>A/L &amp; above</b>										
Total	11.6	9.0	7.3	8.4	9.0	7.5	8.6	6.9	10.2	8.7
Male	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.6	5.4	4.5	5.7	3.6	6.8	5.7
Female	15.8	13.1	10.5	11.3	13.1	10.8	11.6	10.3	14.0	11.9
<b>Employed population</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,070,542	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,417,674	8,407,212	8,475,419	8,413,171
Male	5,125,763	5,219,712	5,224,743	5,233,167	5,452,723	5,469,759	5,498,815	5,484,351	5,589,387	5,560,143
Female	2,570,379	2,664,105	2,567,089	2,837,375	2,733,582	2,648,603	2,918,859	2,922,861	2,886,033	2,853,028
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>										
Total	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,070,542	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,417,674	8,407,212	8,475,419	8,413,171
%	100.0	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	2,222,097	2,668,059	2,368,845
%	32.6	32.9	31.0	29.6	33.0	31.0	29.8	26.4	31.5	28.2
Industry	1,864,538	1,914,671	2,042,262	2,125,376	1,976,711	2,117,286	2,202,159	2,338,905	2,217,693	2,189,738
%	24.2	24.3	26.2	26.3	24.1	26.1	26.2	27.8	26.2	26.0
Services	3,319,059	3,376,099	3,337,503	3,554,282	3,510,350	3,487,403	3,711,204	3,846,210	3,589,668	3,854,588
%	43.1	42.8	42.8	44.0	42.9	43.0	44.1	45.7	42.4	45.8
<b>By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</b>										
Total	100.0	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	2.9	8.4	9.8
1 – 9	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.2	2.0	1.7
10 – 39	28.4	29.7	25.6	27	29.9	26.0	27.4	27.4	29.1	33.7
40 & above	63.9	63.2	68.6	66	63.1	68.3	65.6	68.5	60.5	54.8

# has a job but not at work during the reference week

\* Excluding Northern Province

\*\*Whole island covered