



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 3rd Quarter - 2014

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Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.2% for the Third Quarter of 2014.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.2%.

Inside

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

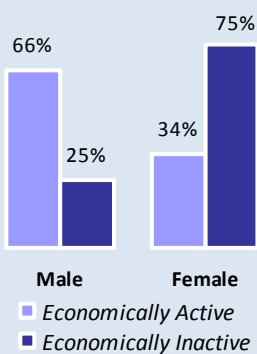


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Third Quarter 2014

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Policy Planning Economic Affairs, Child Youth and Cultural Affairs

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 Third quarter of 2014 was done in July, August and September covering the whole country.

Labour Force

(Currently Economically Active Population)
Number of persons (age 15 years & above) who are 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- Third Quarter 2014

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,853,951	100.0	5,805,087	65.6	3,048,865	34.4
Urban	1,315,778	100.0	911,981	69.3	403,797	30.7
Rural	7,177,406	100.0	4,698,031	65.5	2,479,375	34.5
Estate	360,767	100.0	195,075	54.1	165,692	45.9

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.8 million in the Third quarter 2014. Of which 65.6 percent are males and 34.4 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.3 percent are males and 74.7 percent are females (Table 2).

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,791,666	100.0	1,973,156	25.3	5,818,510	74.7
Urban	1,479,066	100.0	380,396	25.7	1,098,671	74.3
Rural	6,107,555	100.0	1,533,364	25.1	4,574,191	74.9
Estate	205,045	100.0	59,396	29.0	145,649	71.0

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
2014 Q3	53.5	74.8	34.9

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.

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

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.2	74.6	34.4
15 - 19	15.5	21.7	9.2
20 - 24	52.5	68.3	39.4
25 - 29	62.8	91.9	39.9
30 - 34	67.9	95.0	43.1
35 - 39	68.5	96.2	44.1
40 - 44	71.7	97.0	49.1
45 - 49	69.8	95.0	46.3
50 - 54	67.9	91.3	46.3
55 - 59	57.3	83.0	35.6
60+	29.9	47.2	15.9

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.

Employment ...

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

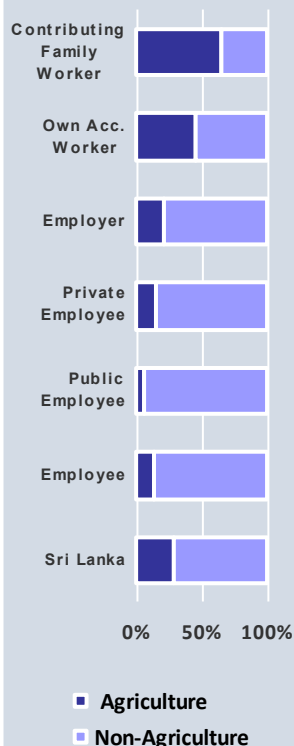


Figure 2: Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector - Third Quarter 2014

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

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

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
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
2014 Q2 (No.)	8,413,171	2,368,845	2,189,738	3,854,588
(%)	100.0	28.2	26.0	45.8
2014 Q3 (No.)	8,479,829	2,455,034	2,253,174	3,771,621
(%)	100.0	29.0	26.6	44.5

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from Third quarter 2013 to Third quarter 2014. During Third quarter of 2014, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.5 million. Of which, about 44.5 percent engaged in Services sector, 26.6 percent in Industries sector and 29.0 percent in Agriculture sector.

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

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
	No.	%	Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
			No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,479,829	100.0	2,455,034	29.0	6,024,795	71.0
Employee	4,682,330	100.0	625,952	13.4	4,056,378	86.6
Public	1,246,322	100.0	84,032	6.7	1,162,290	93.3
Private	3,436,008	100.0	541,920	15.8	2,894,088	84.2
Employer	261,098	100.0	53,705	20.6	207,393	79.4
Own Account Worker	2,740,274	100.0	1,256,143	45.8	1,484,132	54.2
Contributing Family Worker	796,127	100.0	519,235	65.2	276,892	34.8

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

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	29.0	27.0	32.8
Industry	26.6	26.6	26.5
Services	44.5	46.4	40.8

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 32.8 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 27.0 percent for 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 defense compulsory social security (O)

9. Education (P)

10. Human health and social work activities (Q)

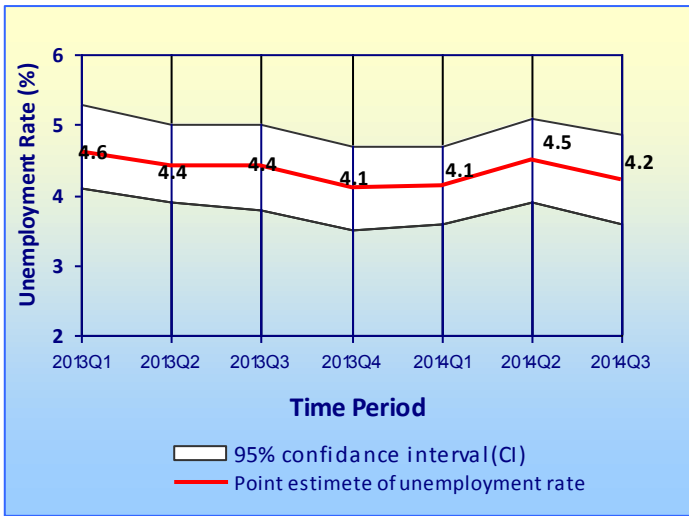
11. Other service activities (S)

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)

Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2013Q1 - 2014Q3)



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 – Third Quarter 2014

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.2	3.3	6.0
15–24	20.6	18.2	24.5
25–29	8.1	5.8	12.3
Over 30	1.4	1.0	2.2

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 6.0 percent and it is 3.3percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 – 24 years reported for Third quarter 2014 is 20.6 percent and that reported the highest unemployment rate among all other age groups. These rates for both males and females are 18.2 and 24.5 percent respectively.

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 7.9 percent. Corresponding percentages are 6.3 percent and 9.6 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

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

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.2	3.3	6.0
Below GCE O/L	3.0	2.6	3.7
GCE O/L	5.1	3.5	8.1
GCE A/L & above	7.9	6.3	9.6

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

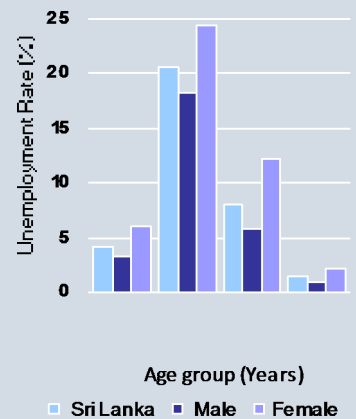


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third Quarter 2014

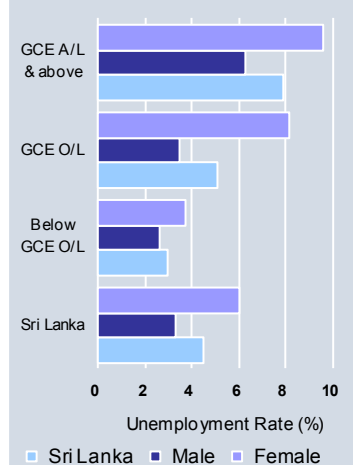


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Third Quarter 2014



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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 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 environment."

Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year										
	2010*	2011*	2012*	2013*	2011**	2012**	2013**	2014Q1**	2013Q2**	2014Q2**	2014Q3**
Labour force participation rate											
By Gender											
Total	53.4	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.4	54.2	53.6	53.2
Male	75.0	74.2	75.2	75.0	74.0	75.0	74.9	74.4	75.5	75.2	74.6
Female	34.4	35.0	33.5	36.3	34.4	32.9	35.6	35.3	35.6	34.8	34.4
By residential sector											
Total	53.4	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.4	54.2	53.6	53.2
Urban	46.8	48.5	48.7	48.0	47.8	48.4	47.8	49.3	49.0	50.2	47.1
Rural	54.4	54.2	53.9	55.5	53.8	53.5	55.0	54.2	55.3	54.2	54.4
Unemployment Rate											
By Gender											
Total	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.2
Male	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.3
Female	7.7	6.8	6.0	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.6	6.1	6.9	6.7	6.0
By selected age Group (Year)											
20 – 29	13.8	12.4	11.1	13.0	12.3	11.3	13.0	13.3	12.6	13.8	14.0
20 – 24	19.1	18.0	16.7	19.3	17.7	16.8	19.2	19.1	19.9	18.8	20.8
25 – 29	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	8.6	6.4	9.4	8.1
By selected educational level											
A/L & above											
Total	11.6	9.0	7.3	8.4	9.0	7.5	8.6	6.9	10.2	8.7	7.9
Male	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.6	5.4	4.5	5.7	3.6	6.8	5.7	6.3
Female	15.8	13.1	10.5	11.3	13.1	10.8	11.6	10.3	14.0	11.9	9.6
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	8,407,212	8,475,419	8,413,171	8,479,829
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	5,613,970
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	2,865,859
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	8,407,212	8,475,419	8,413,171	8,479,829
%	100.0	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	2,455,034
%	32.6	32.9	31.0	29.6	33.0	31.0	29.8	26.4	31.5	28.2	29.0
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	2,253,174
%	24.2	24.3	26.2	26.3	24.1	26.1	26.2	27.8	26.2	26.0	26.6
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	3,771,621
%	43.1	42.8	42.8	44.0	42.9	43.0	44.1	45.7	42.4	45.8	44.5
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	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	4.1
1 – 9	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.2	2.0	1.7	1.0
10 – 39	28.4	29.7	25.6	27	29.9	26.0	27.4	27.4	29.1	33.7	24.6
40 & above	63.9	63.2	68.6	66	63.1	68.3	65.6	68.5	60.5	54.8	70.3

has a job but not at work during the reference week

* Excluding Northern Province

**Whole island covered