



# Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter - 2014

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## Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 52.9% for the Fourth Quarter of 2014.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.4%.

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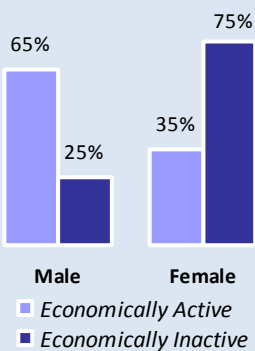


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Fourth Quarter 2014

## 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 Fourth quarter of 2014 was done in October, November and December 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 (Economically Active Population) ...

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector – Fourth Quarter 2014

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,782,867	100.0	5,698,293	64.9	3,084,574	35.1
Urban	1,406,724	100.0	946,531	67.3	460,193	32.7
Rural	6,982,431	100.0	4,531,246	64.9	2,451,185	35.1
Estate	393,712	100.0	220,516	56.0	173,196	44.0

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.8 million in the Fourth quarter 2014. Of which 64.9 percent are males and 35.1 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.2 percent are males and 74.8 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender and sector – Fourth Quarter 2014

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,825,001	100.0	1,971,893	25.2	5,853,108	74.8
Urban	1,474,258	100.0	409,048	27.7	1,065,210	72.3
Rural	6,104,511	100.0	1,485,851	24.3	4,618,661	75.7
Estate	246,232	100.0	76,994	31.3	169,238	68.7

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
2014 Q4	53.2	74.4	35.0

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 - Fourth Quarter 2014

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	52.9	74.3	34.5
15 - 19	14.6	20.8	8.9
20 - 24	54.1	72.7	38.4
25 - 29	66.2	93.9	44.7
30 - 34	65.2	96.7	40.5
35 - 39	71.2	96.5	47.8
40 - 44	70.9	95.7	50.5
45 - 49	70.3	95.0	47.9
50 - 54	65.9	92.5	42.8
55 - 59	61.5	85.1	40.5
60+	28.1	44.8	13.7

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. Highest rate for male was reported from age group 30–34 years (96.7%), while that of females was reported from the age group of 40 – 44 years (50.5%).

## 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.

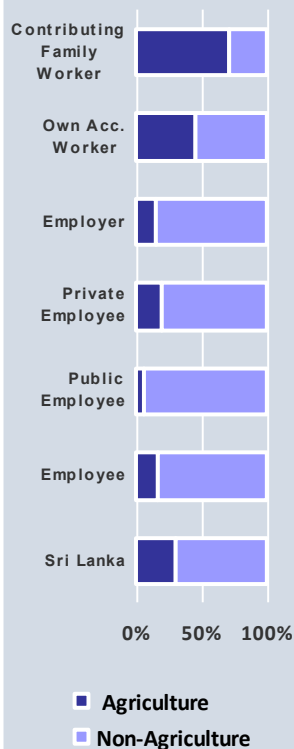


Figure 2: Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Fourth Quarter 2014

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  
(Fourth Quarter 2013 – Fourth Quarter 2014)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
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
2014 Q3 (No.)	8,479,829	2,455,034	2,253,174	3,771,621
(%)	100.0	29.0	26.6	44.5
2014 Q4 (No.)	8,395,762	2,552,541	2,134,233	3,708,988
(%)	100.0	30.4	25.4	44.2

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from Fourth quarter 2013 to Fourth quarter 2014. During Fourth quarter of 2014, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.4 million. Of which, about 44.2 percent engaged in Services sector, 25.4 percent in Industries sector and 30.4 percent in Agriculture sector.

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

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,395,762	100.0	2,552,541	30.4	5,843,221	69.6
Employee	4,808,033	100.0	769,834	16.0	4,038,199	84.0
Public	1,287,855	100.0	69,192	5.4	1,218,663	94.6
Private	3,520,178	100.0	700,642	19.9	2,819,536	80.1
Employer	191,895	100.0	27,960	14.6	163,935	85.4
Own Account Worker	2,670,876	100.0	1,233,921	46.2	1,436,956	53.8
Contributing Family Worker	724,958	100.0	520,826	71.8	204,131	28.2

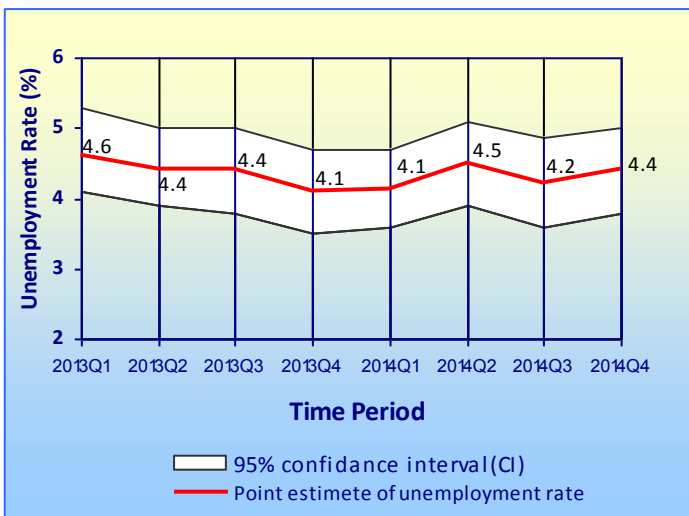
Table 7: Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex – Fourth Quarter 2014

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	30.4	28.6	33.9
Industry	25.4	26.1	24.1
Services	44.2	45.3	42.0

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of the gender, the highest employment concentration is in service sector. Among employed female 33.9 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 28.6 percent for males.

# Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2013Q1 - 2014Q4)



<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 – Fourth Quarter 2014

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.4	2.9	7.2
15–24	21.6	15.5	32.1
25–29	6.9	4.5	10.7
Over 30	1.5	0.9	2.7

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

The survey results further 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 8.8 percent. Corresponding percentages are 5.6 percent and 12.0 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 – Fourth Quarter 2014

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.4	2.9	7.2
Below GCE O/L	2.6	2.1	3.8
GCE O/L	6.2	3.8	10.5
GCE A/L & above	8.8	5.6	12.0

This further 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

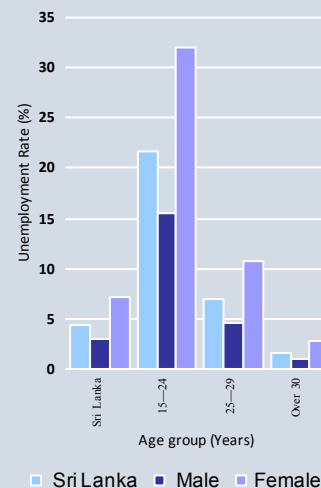


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Fourth Quarter 2014

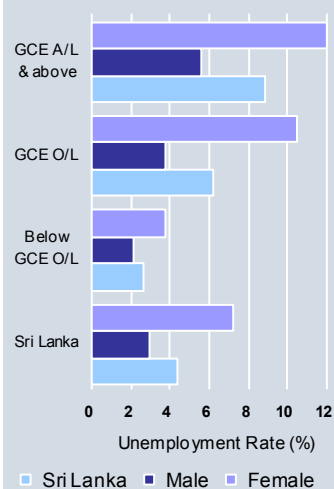


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Fourth Quarter 2014



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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 de-  
velopment of the coun-  
try by providing accu-  
rate timely statistics,  
more Effectively by  
means of new technolo-  
gy, and utilizing the  
services of dedicated  
staff under a stra-  
tegic leadership to be-  
come a prosperous  
nation in the globalized  
environment."*

## Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year										
	2011*	2012*	2013*	2011**	2012**	2013**	2014Q1**	2014Q2**	2014Q3**	2013Q4**	2014Q4**
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>											
<b>By Gender</b>											
Total	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.4	53.6	53.2	53.0	52.9
Male	74.2	75.2	75.0	74.0	75.0	74.9	74.4	75.2	74.6	74.4	74.3
Female	35.0	33.5	36.3	34.4	32.9	35.6	35.3	34.8	34.4	34.7	34.5
<b>By residential sector</b>											
Total	53.4	53.0	54.2	53.0	52.6	53.8	53.4	53.6	53.2	53.0	52.9
Urban	48.5	48.7	48.0	47.8	48.4	47.8	49.3	50.2	47.1	46.0	48.8
Rural	54.2	53.9	55.5	53.8	53.5	55.0	54.2	54.2	54.4	54.4	53.7
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>											
<b>By Gender</b>											
Total	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.4
Male	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.8	2.9
Female	6.8	6.0	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.6	6.1	6.7	6.0	6.4	7.2
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>											
20 – 29	12.4	11.1	13.0	12.3	11.3	13.0	13.3	13.8	14.0	13.7	13.5
20 – 24	18.0	16.7	19.3	17.7	16.8	19.2	19.1	18.8	20.8	19.7	21.2
25 – 29	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	8.6	9.4	8.1	8.3	6.9
<b>By selected educational level</b>											
<b>A/L &amp; above</b>											
Total	9.0	7.3	8.4	9.0	7.5	8.6	6.9	8.7	7.9	8.1	8.8
Male	5.4	4.3	5.6	5.4	4.5	5.7	3.6	5.7	6.3	5.0	5.6
Female	13.1	10.5	11.3	13.1	10.8	11.6	10.3	11.9	9.6	11.2	12.0
<b>Employed population</b>											
<b>By Gender</b>											
Total	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,070,542	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,417,674	8,407,212	8,413,171	8,479,829	8,319,680	8,395,762
Male	5,219,712	5,224,743	5,233,167	5,452,723	5,469,759	5,498,815	5,484,351	5,560,143	5,613,970	5,451,097	5,534,061
Female	2,664,105	2,567,089	2,837,375	2,733,582	2,648,603	2,918,859	2,922,861	2,853,028	2,865,859	2,868,583	2,861,702
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>											
Total	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,070,542	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,417,674	8,407,212	8,413,171	8,479,829	8,319,680	8,395,762
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,593,048	2,412,066	2,390,884	2,699,244	2,513,673	2,504,310	2,222,097	2,368,845	2,455,034	2,546,819	2,552,541
%	32.9	31.0	29.6	33.0	31.0	29.8	26.4	28.2	29.0	30.6	30.4
Industry	1,914,671	2,042,262	2,125,376	1,976,711	2,117,286	2,202,159	2,338,905	2,189,738	2,253,174	2,095,213	2,134,233
%	24.3	26.2	26.3	24.1	26.1	26.2	27.8	26.0	26.6	25.2	25.4
Services	3,376,099	3,337,503	3,554,282	3,510,350	3,487,403	3,711,204	3,846,210	3,854,588	3,771,621	3,677,649	3,708,988
%	42.8	42.8	44.0	42.9	43.0	44.1	45.7	45.8	44.5	44.2	44.2
<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	100.0
0#	5.3	4.6	5.2	5.2	4.5	5.2	2.9	9.8	4.1	3.7	3.8
1 – 9	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.3
10 – 39	29.7	25.6	27.0	29.9	26.0	27.4	27.4	33.7	24.6	26.3	24.5
40 & above	63.2	68.6	66.0	63.1	68.3	65.6	68.5	54.8	70.3	68.8	70.4

# 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 years & over population)