

## 2.1 District level distribution of labour force

**Table 3 : Labour Force participation rate by district and province, 2004**

District	Household Population (10 years & above)	Total labour Force	Labour Force Participation rate
<b>Total</b>	16,593,431	8,061,354	48.6
<b>Western Province</b>			
Colombo	1,897,942	876,624	46.2
Gampaha	1,905,949	890,140	46.7
Kalutara	1,016,110	490,513	48.3
<b>Central Province</b>			
Kandy	1,003,304	455,736	45.4
Matale	349,957	171,025	48.9
Nuwara Eliya	572,359	323,203	56.5
<b>Southern Province</b>			
Galle	913,719	422,845	46.3
Matara	706,424	377,992	53.5
Hambantota	480,259	244,847	51.0
<b>*Northern Province</b>			
Jaffna	505,877	183,151	36.2
Mannar	74,858	29,450	39.3
Vavuniya	122,399	46,559	38.0
<b>Eastern province</b>			
Bataloa	385,409	159,670	41.4
Ampara	482,030	222,411	46.1
Trincomalee	330,112	125,805	38.1
<b>North Western</b>			
Kurunegala	1,428,931	730,704	51.1
Puttalam	652,261	299,246	45.9
<b>North Central</b>			
Anuradhapura	637,611	362,768	56.9
Polonnaruwa	306,209	149,342	48.8
<b>Uva Province</b>			
Badulla	763,497	441,234	57.8
Monaragala	397,914	201,710	50.7
<b>Sabaragamuwa province</b>			
Ratnapura	931,976	498,110	53.4
Kegalle	728,324	358,270	49.2

\* Excluding Mullaitivu & Kilinochchi districts

District	Labour Force Participation rate (%)	Employment rate (%)	Unemployment rate (%)
Mullaitivu	36.3	88.7	11.3
Kilinochchi	40.3	91.5	8.5

Labour Force participation rate by district and province is given in table 3 above. It is evident that, there is a variation among districts in participation in labour force. Badulla district has the highest participation rate (57.8%) and Jaffna has the lowest. It is important to note that, Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Galle and Puttalam districts have reported relatively less participation rates than other districts except the districts located in north and east. This may be attributed to the urban structure in these districts. It is also apparent that, Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya districts have reported low participation rates. Most of the employed persons in Badulla District are estate workers. Therefore, this may be the reason for it's higher participation rate reported.