



Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey is designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. This survey is being conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

The field work of the survey for the fourth quarter 2009 was done in October, November and December in year 2009. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern province, the survey was not conducted fully due to unsettled conditions in districts of Northern province, therefore this bulletin consists of summary statistics excluding Northern province.

Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons (age 10 & above) who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

Labour force participation rate: Labour force expressed as a percentage of population age 10 yr. & over

Table 1: Economically active population by sex and sector - Fourth Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8051433	100.0	5147005	63.9	2904428	36.1
Urban	846900	100.0	585852	69.2	261048	30.8
Rural	6867398	100.0	4393694	64.0	2473704	36.0
Estate	337135	100.0	167459	49.7	169676	50.3

Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector - Fourth Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8533857	100.0	2597166	30.4	5936691	69.6
Urban	1083068	100.0	330808	30.5	752260	69.5
Rural	7173458	100.0	2163976	30.2	5009482	69.8
Estate	277331	100.0	102382	36.9	174949	63.1

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 8.1 million in fourth quarter 2009. Of which 63.9 percent were males and 36.1 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 30.4 percent were males and 69.6 percent were females (Table 2).

Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population

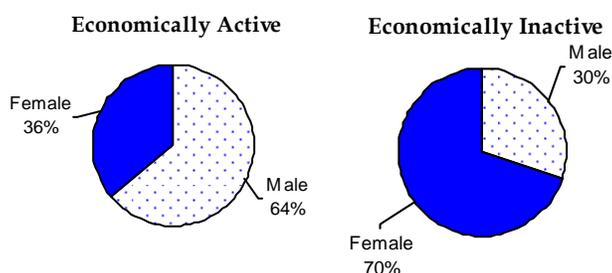


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

Year	Labour force participation rate		
	Total	Male	Female
2000	50.3	67.2	33.9
2001	48.8	66.2	31.9
2002	50.3	67.9	33.6
2003	49.7	67.5	32.6
2004	49.6	67.2	33.0
2005	49.3	67.3	32.6
2006	51.2	68.1	35.7
2007	49.8	67.8	33.4
2008	50.2	67.9	34.3
2009 Q1	49.9	67.4	34.3
2009 Q2	48.7	66.5	32.8
2009 Q3	49.3	66.3	34.3
2009 Q4	48.9	66.5	33.5

Table 3 provides the information on labour force participation rates since year 2000. As can be seen from this table, male participation rate for the fourth quarter 2009 was about 66.5 percent and it was 33.5 percent for females. It was important to note that, male participation to the labour force was as twice as that of females.

Note: Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Fourth Quarter 2009

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.5	66.5	32.9
15 - 19	18.8	24.5	13.1
20 - 24	58.6	74.9	45.6
25 - 29	67.2	92.9	45.2
30 - 34	65.2	95.8	38.6
35 - 39	70.1	97.2	48.7
40 - 44	71.4	95.7	50.2
45 - 49	72.2	96.4	51.3
50 - 54	64.4	90.5	41.7
55 - 59	56.5	78.4	37.0
60+	26.4	42.0	13.5

The distribution of labour force participation rate by age groups and by sex depicts more male participation compared to female in all age groups.

Highest male participation rate was reported from age group (35 - 39) while in female highest participation rate was reported from age group (45 - 49).

Employment

Employed: Persons who are engaged in some kind of work for pay or profit or family gain during the reference week.

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry, (Fourth quarter 2008 - Fourth Quarter 2009)

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
Oct-Nov-Dec 4th Qtr - 2008	7712943 100.0	2617910 33.9	1960544 25.4	3134489 40.6
Jan-Feb-Mar 1st Qtr - 2009	7709784 100.0	2613350 33.9	1894279 24.6	3202155 41.5
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2009	7465030 100.0	2382913 31.9	1913893 25.6	3168224 42.4
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2009	7641730 100.0	2426113 31.7	1912169 25.0	3303448 43.2
Oct-Nov-Dec 4th Qtr - 2009	7592833 100.0	2481308 32.7	1920825 25.3	3190700 42.0

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q..

Agriculture

1. Agriculture (A)
2. Forestry and Fishery (B)

Industries

1. Manufacturing (D)
2. Construction (F)
3. Mining & Quarrying (C)
4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)

Services

1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
2. Hotels and Restaurants (H)
3. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)
6. Education (M)
7. Health and Social work (N)
8. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities (O)
9. Private Households with Employed Persons (P)
10. Miscellaneous Labour work
11. Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (Q)

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from Fourth quarter 2008 to Fourth quarter 2009. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 7.6 million in Fourth quarter 2009. Of which, about 42.0 percent engaged in services sector, 32.7 percent in agriculture sector, and 25.3 percent in Industries sector.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector - Fourth Quarter 2009

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7592833	100.0	2481308	32.7	5111525	67.3
Employee	4266411	100.0	687240	16.1	3579171	83.9
Public	1120596	100.0	88411	7.9	1032185	92.1
Private	3145815	100.0	598829	19.0	2546986	81.0
Employer	173577	100.0	25889	14.9	147688	85.1
Own account worker	2362986	100.0	1186110	50.2	1176876	49.8
Unpaid family worker	789859	100.0	582069	73.7	207790	26.3

Table 6 shows that, comparatively higher percentage of employees both in private & public sector engage in non-agricultural activities. Also more employers were in non agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But own account workers and unpaid family workers more concentrated more in agriculture sector.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex - Fourth Quarter 2009

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	32.7	30.4	36.9
Industry	25.3	25.2	25.4
Services	42.0	44.4	37.6

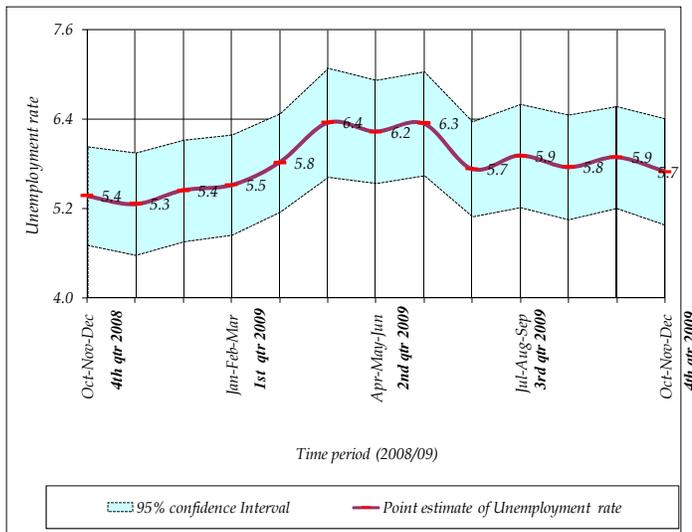
Table 7 depicts the distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Highest employment concentrated in service sector for both male and female. Further among employed women about 36.9 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 30.4 percent for males.

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate : The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force

Unemployed : Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period

Figure 2 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2008 October - 2009 December)



The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 458,000 during the Fourth quarter 2009.

The unemployment rate for the Fourth quarter 2009 was reported as 5.7 percent.

As seen in figure 2, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant difference between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2008/2009, when *sampling error*⁽¹⁾ was considered.

Table 8: Unemployment rate by level of education - Fourth Quarter 2009

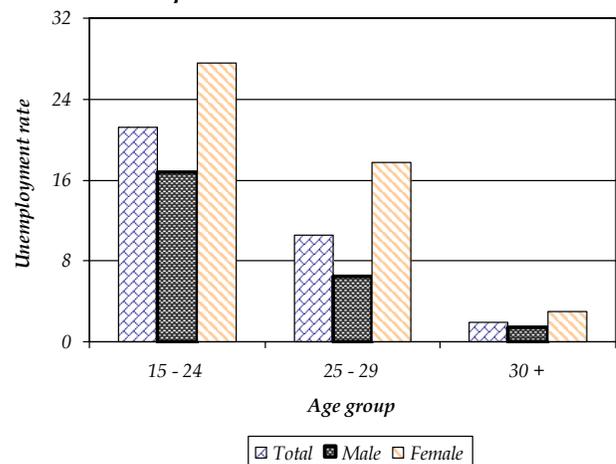
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	5.7	4.0	8.7
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	3.4	2.8	4.8
G.C.E. (O/L)	6.9	5.2	9.8
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	13.4	9.1	17.8



Table 9: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Fourth Quarter 2009

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	5.7	4.0	8.7
15 - 24	21.2	16.8	27.5
25 - 29	10.5	6.4	17.7
30 +	1.9	1.4	3.0

Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Fourth quarter 2009



As can be seen from table 9, overall unemployment rate reported for female was 8.7 percent and it was 4.0 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 - 24 yrs reported for fourth quarter 2009 was 21.2. Highest unemployment rate was reported from age group 15 - 24 yrs, for both males (16.8) and females (27.5). Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment was severe among females than that of males, in all age groups.

The highest unemployment rate was reported from the G.C.E(A/L) and above group which was about 13.4 percent. There were 9.1 percent and 17.8 percent for males and females respectively. This shows the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males (Table 8).

⁽¹⁾ *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 standard error of the estimate. **For more details, please refer the explanatory note on the labour force link in the DCS website.**

**Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(2002 - 2009 Q4)**

	Year												*2009Q4
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2008Q4	2009Q4	
Labour force participation rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	48.7	49.3	50.3	48.9	48.5
Male	67.9	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	67.4	66.5	66.3	67.6	66.5	66.5
Female	33.6	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	34.3	32.8	34.3	35.0	33.5	32.9
<i>by residential sector</i>													
Total	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	48.7	49.3	50.3	48.9	48.5
Urban	46.0	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	44.5	41.0	45.8	46.5	44.4	43.9
Rural	50.9	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	50.6	49.7	49.7	50.7	49.4	49.2
Unemployment rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.3	6.3	5.8	5.2	5.4	5.7
Male	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.1	4.7	4.4	3.8	3.9	4.0
Female	12.9	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	7.5	9.1	8.1	7.7	8.1	8.7
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>													
20 - 29	20.1	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	14.8	15.5	15.3	13.4	14.7	15.7
20 - 24	27.0	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	19.7	22.0	21.6	18.1	20.6	21.8
25 - 29	11.6	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.4	10.2	9.9	9.2	9.8	10.5
<i>by selected educational levels</i>													
G.C.E.(A/L) & above													
Both sexes	16.8	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.3	8.9	12.5	13.4
Male	10.8	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	7.4	3.9	6.9	5.3	8.3	9.1
Female	23.0	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	12.8	17.4	13.7	12.6	16.8	17.8
Employed population													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7250951	6998591	7183604	7252034	7124899	7592833
Male	4395164	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277	4669522	4574261	4598416	4636921	4594540	4940502
Female	2124250	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511429	2581429	2424330	2585188	2615113	2530359	2652331
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>													
Total	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7250951	6998591	7183604	7252034	7124898	7592833
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2247602	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344415	2459978	2226901	2292224	2469949	2295380	2481308
%	(34.5)	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(33.9)	(31.8)	(31.9)	(34.1)	(32.2)	(32.7)
Industry	1459194	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888004	1806035	1803556	1833177	1847888	1847868	1920825
%	(22.4)	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(24.9)	(25.8)	(25.5)	(25.5)	(25.9)	(25.3)
Services	2812619	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2984938	2968134	3058203	2934196	2981650	3190700
%	(43.1)	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(41.2)	(42.4)	(42.6)	(40.5)	(41.8)	(42.0)
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>													
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	5.6	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	5.3	13.7	6.8	7.3	5.9	5.8
1 - 9	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.2	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.3
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.3	31.2	27.8	29.1	27.5	27.5
40+	60.9	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	63.3	51.8	63.4	61.3	64.3	64.5

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week

* Including Eastern province

Note: However it is to be noted that the difference between corresponding figures in any given two quarters may not necessarily be statistically significant.

**Selected Labour Force indicators
(2002 - 2009 Q4)**

	Year											
	2002#	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2009Q1*	2009Q2*	*2009Q3	*2008Q4	*2009Q4
Labour force participation rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	48.3	48.7	49.7	48.5
Male	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	67.2	66.6	66.2	67.5	66.5
Female	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	33.3	32.0	33.2	34.0	32.9
<i>by residential sector</i>												
Total	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	48.3	48.7	49.7	48.5
Urban	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	44.0	41.3	44.9	46.7	43.9
Rural	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	50.0	49.2	49.2	50.1	49.2
Unemployment rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.4	5.7
Male	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.6	4.4	3.9	4.0
Female	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	7.9	9.2	8.6	8.0	8.7
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>												
20 - 29	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.2	15.2	15.5	13.9	15.7
20 - 24	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	20.3	21.6	21.9	18.6	21.8
25 - 29	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.7	9.9	10.1	9.6	10.5
<i>by selected educational levels</i>												
G.C.E.(A/L) & above												
Both sexes	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.2	9.6	13.4
Male	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.8	4.3	6.8	5.9	9.1
Female	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	13.4	17.1	13.8	13.3	17.8
Employed population												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7465030	7641730	7712942	7592833
Male	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	5015959	4925869	4970147	4982425	4940502
Female	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2693825	2539160	2671584	2730518	2652331
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>												
Total	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7465030	7641730	7712943	7592833
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2613350	2382913	2426113	2617909.92	2481308
%	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(33.9)	(31.9)	(31.7)	33.9	(32.7)
Industry	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1894279	1913893	1912169	1960544	1920825
%	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(24.6)	(25.6)	(25.0)	25.4	(25.3)
Services	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3202155	3168224	3303448	3134489	3190700
%	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(41.5)	(42.4)	(43.2)	40.6	(42.0)
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>												
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	5.4	13.4	7.0	7.2	5.8
1 - 9	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.1	1.8	2.3	2.3
10 - 39	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	29.0	31.2	27.7	28.8	27.5
40+	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	63.5	52.3	63.6	61.7	64.5

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week

*Excluding Northern province

** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

***All the districts are included

Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces