



**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE
SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE
SURVEY**

FIRST QUARTER - 2009

**DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING**

Preface

In the past, information on labour force characteristics, employment and unemployment etc. were collected through labour force and socio - economic surveys conducted at five yearly time intervals. However, the employment and unemployment data are required at very short intervals to monitor the programs made in the employment generating policies of the government. Therefore, to satisfy this need, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) designed a labour force survey on a quarterly basis, to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka on a continuous basis. This survey was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 and this report is the seventy third in the series of quarterly reports published so far.

Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes were made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data. The significant revisions were made on the labour force survey questionnaire in 2006, and the revised version was introduced for the survey conducted in 2006 first quarter, and it will be used in future as well.

The field work of the survey for the first quarter 2009 was done in January, February and March in year 2009. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern and Eastern provinces, the survey was not conducted fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in districts of Northern province. In first quarter 2009 the survey was conducted in the Eastern province, hence this report consists of data including Eastern province. However for comparison purposes related tabulations have been done (i) excluding Northern and Eastern provinces and (ii) excluding Northern province, separately in this report.

A nationally representative annual sample of about 22,500 housing units have been selected for the survey in 2009. However as mentioned above, the survey was not conducted properly in Northern province as scheduled, so this report is based on a quarterly sample of 5,070 housing units, excluding Northern province providing national level estimates with a stipulated standard errors of labour force characteristics as reported in the reference period of the first quarter 2009.

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Acknowledgements

This report is seventy third in the series of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey which was commenced from the first quarter 1990 and is being continued by the Department of the Census and statistics.

Sample Survey Division implemented the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey programme, under the direction of Mr. G.Y.L. Fernando, Director (2).

Planning and the execution of the survey was done by the staff of the Sample Surveys Division under the supervision of Mr.W.W.M.A.S.Premakumara, Director, Sample Surveys Division.

Field operation activities were organized by Mr. R.A.P. Kumarasinghe, Statistician of the Sample Surveys Division.

The supervision activities were carried out by Mr. Lucky Thangarathnam, Senior Statisticians, and Mr. R.A.P. Kumarasinghe, Mr. I.L.Sherifdeen, Mr. P.A.Subawickrama, Mrs. Chandani Wijebandara and Mr. W. Gnanathilaka, Statisticians, of the sample surveys division and Heads of statistics divisions in each district.

The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mrs. W.A.S.M.P. Gunasekara, Mr.T. Thirugnanatheepan Statistical Officers and Mr. M.B.M. Shiras, Statistical Assistant of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Mr. P.A. Subawickrama, Statistician using Microcomputers.

Developing of sample selection programme and it's related computer software was done by Mr. K.M.R. Wickramasinghe, System Analyst/ Programmer of the sample survey division.

This publication was organized and prepared by Mrs. Chandani Wijebandara, Statistician Sample Surveys Division, assisted by Mrs. W.A.S.M.P. Gunasekara, Statistical officer.

The Data Processing Division, under the direction of Mr. S.A.S. Bandulasena, Deputy Director and under the supervision of Mr. Migara Fernando and Mr. Wasantha Weerasiri, Senior System Analyst/Programmers, was responsible for the survey data entry and preparation of data entry and computer edits programmes. Data entry was decentralized and manual editing, coding & data entry were done by responsible officers at district kachcheries in districts Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, Matale, Galle, Matara, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Ratnapura & Kegalle.

District field staff of the Department who worked on the survey deserve a special word of thanks. They include District Deputy Directors/ Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians and field Statistical Officers, who worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success.

Printing of the report was done at the Printing Division, under the supervision of Mr. W.C. Weerawansa, Senior Statistician.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to all the respondents of the survey for their valuable co-operation.

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey
Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics
1st quarter 2009
(Excluding Northern province)

10 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (10 years & over)	16568684	7785829	8782854	1986258	14582426
Labour force in this age group	8160062	5234755	2925307	873486	7286576
Labour force participation rate	49.2	67.2	33.3	44.0	50.0
Employed population	7709784	5015959	2693825	822554	6887230
Employment rate	94.5	95.8	92.1	94.2	94.5
Unemployed population	450278	218796	231482	50932	399346
Unemployment rate	5.5	4.2	7.9	5.8	5.8
Not in labour force	8408622	2551075	5857548	1112771	7295851

15 years & over population

Population (15 years & over)	14849952	6945525	7904427	1798468	13051484
Labour force in this age group	8121589	5213969	2907621	872179	7249410
Labour force participation rate	54.7	75.1	36.8	48.5	55.5
Employed population	7671312	4995173	2676139	821247	6850065
Employment rate	94.5	95.8	92.0	94.2	94.5
Unemployed population	450278	218796	231482	50932	399346
Unemployment rate	5.9	4.4	8.6	6.2	5.8
Not in labour force	6728362	1731556	4996806	926289	5802074

20 years & over population

Population (20 years & over)	13080405	6096052	6984353	1599848	11480557
Labour force in this age group	7786267	4995241	2791027	842654	6943613
Labour force participation rate	59.5	81.9	40.0	52.7	60.5
Employed population	7397458	4809857	2587602	795318	6602140
Employment rate	189.0	96.3	92.7	94.4	95.1
Unemployed population	388809	185384	203425	47336	341473
Unemployment rate	5.3	3.9	7.9	6.0	5.2
Not in labour force	5294138	1100811	4193326	757194	4536944

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey
Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics
1st quarter 2009

(Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)

10 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (10 years & over)	15352990	7218012	8134978	1752493	13600498
Labour force in this age group	7659156	4867280	2791876	780542	6878614
Labour force participation rate	49.9	67.4	34.3	44.5	50.6
Employed population	7250951	4669522	2581429	741078	6509873
Employment rate	94.7	95.9	92.5	94.9	94.6
Unemployed population	408206	197758	210448	39465	368741
Unemployment rate	5.3	4.1	7.5	5.1	5.4
Not in labour force	7693834	2350732	5343102	971950	6721884

15 years & over population

Population (15 years & over)	13815987	6455844	7360143	1597440	12218547
Labour force in this age group	7621554	4846494	2775060	779235	6842318
Labour force participation rate	55.2	75.1	37.7	48.8	56.0
Employed population	7213348	4648736	2564612	739771	6473577
Employment rate	94.6	95.9	92.4	94.9	94.6
Unemployed population	408206	197758	210448	39465	368741
Unemployment rate	5.4	4.1	7.6	5.1	5.4
Not in labour force	6194433	1609350	4585083	818204	5376229

20 years & over population

Population (20 years & over)	12195870	5679280	6516590	1425278	10770592
Labour force in this age group	7318340	4652357	2665984	751678	6566663
Labour force participation rate	60.0	81.9	40.9	52.7	61.0
Employed population	6964078	4482651	2481426	715809	6248269
Employment rate	95.2	96.4	93.1	95.2	95.2
Unemployed population	354263	169705	184557	35869	318394
Unemployment rate	4.8	3.6	6.9	4.8	4.8
Not in labour force	4877530	1026923	3850606	673600	4203929

**Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(2000 - 2009 Q1)**

	Year											2009Q1*
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008Q1	2009Q1	
Labour force participation rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.8	49.9	49.2
Male	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	67.3	67.4	67.2
Female	33.9	31.9	33.6	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	34.2	34.3	33.3
<i>by residential sector</i>												
Total	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.8	49.9	49.2
Urban	44.9	44.2	46.0	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	45.9	44.5	44.0
Rural	51.2	49.6	50.9	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	50.3	50.6	50.0
Unemployment rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.5
Male	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	3.3	4.1	4.2
Female	11.1	11.5	12.9	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.2	7.5	7.9
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>												
20 - 29	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	13.4	14.8	15.2
20 - 24	23.0	24.4	27.0	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	18.4	19.7	20.3
25 - 29	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	8.7	10.4	10.7
<i>by selected educational levels</i>												
G.C.E.(A/L) & above												
Both sexes	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	11.0	10.1	10.6
Male	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	6.9	7.4	7.8
Female	21.5	21.5	23.0	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	15.6	12.8	13.4
Employed population												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7148318	7250951	7709784
Male	4241546	4248877	4395164	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277	4653377.8	4669522	5015959
Female	2068701	1986711	2124250	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511429	2494940.2	2581429	2693825
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>												
Total	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7148318	7250951	7709784
%	(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	2274153	2033343	2247602	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344415	2272031.3	2459978	2613350
%	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(31.8)	(33.9)	(33.9)
Industry	1490795	1491408	1459194	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888004	1890286.3	1806035	1894279
%	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(26.4)	(24.9)	(24.6)
Services	2545299	2710837	2812619	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2986000	2984938	3202155
%	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(41.8)	(41.2)	(41.5)
<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 •	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	4.1	5.3	5.4
1 - 9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.1
10 - 39	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	31.1	29.3	29.0
40+	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	62.9	63.3	63.5

• 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
(2000 - 2009 Q1)**

	Year										
	2000#	2001#	2002#	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2008 Q1*	2009Q1*
Labour force participation rate											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.1	49.2
Male	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	66.9	67.2
Female	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	33.0	33.3
<i>by residential sector</i>											
Total	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.1	49.2
Urban	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	45.6	44.0
Rural	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	49.6	50.0
Unemployment rate											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.1	5.5
Male	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	3.2	4.2
Female	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	8.6	7.9
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>											
20 - 29	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	13.4	15.2
20 - 24	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	18.4	20.3
25 - 29	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	8.7	10.7
<i>by selected educational levels</i>											
G.C.E.(A/L) & above											
Both sexes	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	11.1	10.6
Male	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	6.9	7.8
Female	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	15.8	13.4
Employed population											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7581163	7709784
Male	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	5004644	5015959
Female	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2576519	2693825
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>											
Total	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7581163	7709784
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2410307	2613350
%	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(31.8)	(33.9)
Industry	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1989655	1894279
%	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(26.2)	(24.6)
Services	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3181201	3202155
%	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(42.0)	(41.5)
<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
0 •	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	4.0	5.4
1 - 9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	1.8	2.1
10 - 39	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	30.7	29.0
40+	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	63.6	63.5

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

*Excluding Northern province

***All the districts are included

** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes

Appendix 2: Alternative estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics

Appendix 3: Survey schedule

Introduction

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was 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 first quarter 2009 was done in January, February and March in year 2009. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern province, the survey was not conducted fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in districts of Northern province. In first quarter 2009 the survey was conducted also in the Eastern province, hence this report consists of summary statistics computed by excluding Northern province.

Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons 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- First Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8160062	100.0	5234755	64.2	2925307	35.8
Urban	873486	100.0	586657	67.2	286829	32.8
Rural	7286576	100.0	4648098	63.8	2638478	36.2

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8408622	100.0	2551075	30.3	5857548	69.7
Urban	1112771	100.0	344463	31.0	768308	69.0
Rural	7295851	100.0	2206611	30.2	5089240	69.8

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) is about 8.2 million in first quarter 2009. Of which 64.2 percent are males and 35.8 percent are females. Of the economically inactive population 30.3 percent are males and 69.7 percent are females (Table 2) .

Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population

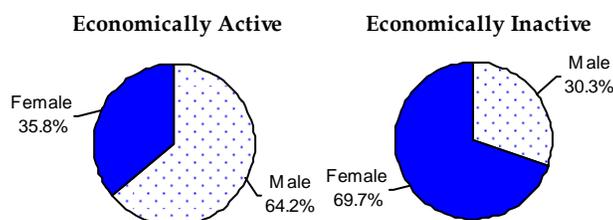


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

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

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 first quarter 2009 is about 67.4 percent and it is 34.3 percent for females. It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is as twice as that of females.

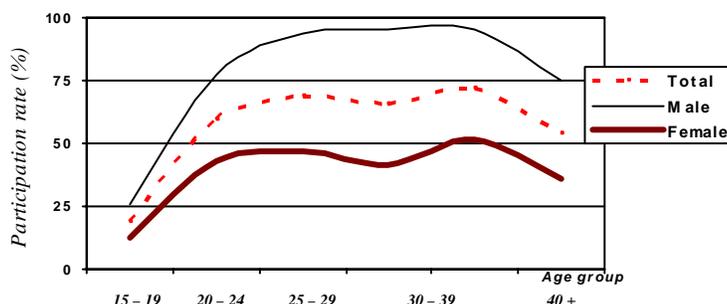
* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	49.2	67.2	33.3
15 - 24	37.0	48.7	26.2
25 - 29	68.5	93.8	46.8
30 - 39	68.9	95.6	46.2
40+	54.2	75.4	35.6

Table 4 provides the labour force participation rates by sex and age group. Highest male participation rate (95.6) is reported from (30 - 39) age group while female highest participation rate (46.8) reported from age group (25-29).

Figure 2 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & sex - First Quarter 2009



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, (First quarter 2008 – First Quarter 2009

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
Jan-Feb-Mar 1st Qtr - 2008	7581163 100.0	2410307 31.8	1989655 26.2	3181201 42.0
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2008	7563981 100.0	2264792 29.9	2068786 27.4	3230403 42.7
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2008	7735132 100.0	2665917 34.5	2000537 25.9	3068678 39.7
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

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)
12. Industries not adequately described

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from first quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 7.7 million in first quarter 2009. Of which, about 41.5 percent engaged in services sector employment, and 33.9% in agriculture sector.

When the distribution of employment between first quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009 is compared agriculture sector shows a marked increase in its relative importance, and for the service sector it is the opposite.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ non- agriculture sector - First Quarter 2009

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7709784	100.0	2613350	33.9	5096434	66.1
Employee	4403504	100.0	730122	16.6	3673382	83.4
Public	1231034	100.0	166729	13.5	1064305	86.5
Private	3172470	100.0	563394	17.8	2609076	82.2
Employer	201201	100.0	39563	19.7	161638	80.3
Own account worker	2210692	100.0	1180929	53.4	1029763	46.6
Unpaid family worker	894387	100.0	662735	74.1	231652	25.9

Table 6 shows that, about 83.4 percent of total paid employees are engaged in non-agricultural sector activities, while this percentage is only 16.6 percent for the agriculture sector. Further, about 82.2 percent of private sector paid employees are involved in non-agricultural activities, while this share is 17.8 percent regarding the agricultural activities.

It is important to see that, about 74.1 percent of unpaid family workers are in the agriculture sector, and the balance, 25.9 percent are in the non-agriculture sector.

Note (1): Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site www.statistics.gov.lk for detailed concepts & definitions.

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

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	65.1	34.9
Agriculture	100.0	61.9	38.1
Industry	100.0	65.2	34.8
Services	100.0	67.6	32.4

It is seen in the above table that, about 67.6 percent of services sector employment are males.

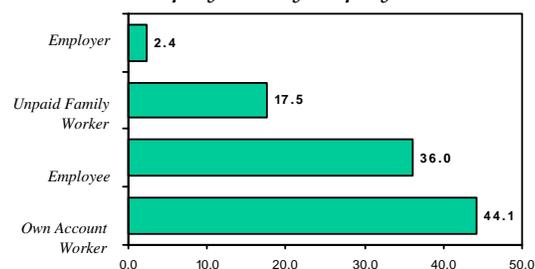
Table 8 : "Informal sector" employment by Agriculture/ Non-agriculture sector - First Quarter 2009

Sector	Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Formal	38.4	13.7	51.0
Informal	61.6	86.3	49.0

It is also important to see the distribution of the employed population according to the formal and informal sector classification. Table 8 shows that, 61.6 percent of the total employment is in the informal sector. Further 86.3 percent of the agriculture sector employment is in informal sector, while it is about 49 percent for non agriculture sector.

Further, 44.1 percent of those employed in the informal sector are own account workers, while 36.0 percent of them are paid employees. (Figure 3).

Figure 3 : Percentage Distribution of informal sector employment by Employment status



Underemployment ⁽¹⁾

Table 9 : Underemployment rate by sex - First Quarter 2009

Rate	Sex		Economic sector		Total
	Male	Female	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	
Underemployment rate	3.0	5.3	5.1	3.2	3.8

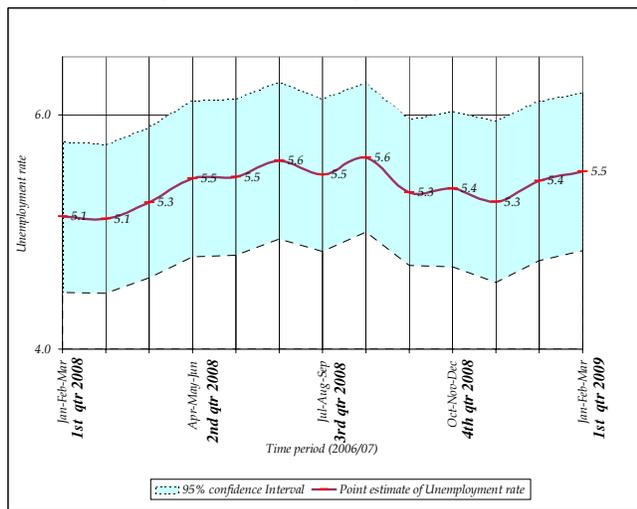
Table 9 reveals that, underemployment rate is higher for females than males. And also it is higher in the agriculture sector than as that of in non-agriculture sector.

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 4 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2008 Jan. -Dec./ 2009 Jan. - Mar.)



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as about 450,000 during the first quarter 2009.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2009 is reported as 5.5 percent (Excluding Northern province).

As seen in figure 4, it is very important to note that, there is no statistically significant difference between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2008/2009, when sampling error⁽²⁾ is considered.

Table 10 : Unemployment rate by level of education First Quarter 2009

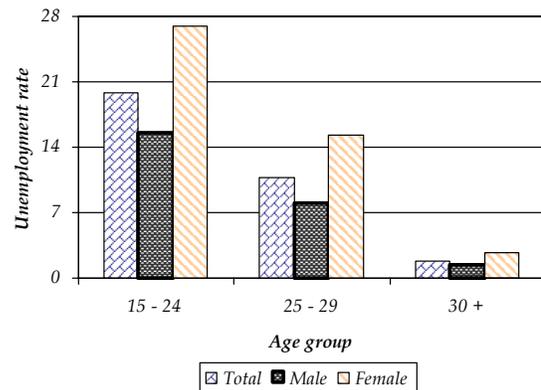
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	5.5	4.2	7.9
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	3.4	2.8	4.6
G.C.E. (O/L)	9.3	7.4	12.8
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	10.6	7.8	13.4



Table 11: Unemployment rate by age group and sex – First Quarter 2009

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	5.5	4.2	7.9
15 - 24	19.8	15.5	27.0
25 - 29	10.7	8.1	15.3
30 +	1.9	1.4	2.8

Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex – First quarter 2009



As can be seen from table 11, the unemployment rate reported for females is 7.9 percent and 4.2 percent for males. Youth unemployment rate (15 - 24 yrs) reported for first quarter 2009 is 19.8. Highest unemployment rates is reported from age group (15 - 24 yrs), for both males (15.5) and females (27.0). Further the survey results reveal that the unemployment is severe among females 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 10.6 percent. That is 7.8 percent and 13.4 percent for males and females respectively. This shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males (Table 10).

Table 12: Literacy rate by sex & sector

Sex & sector	1 st quarter 2008	1 st quarter 2009
Total	92.1	91.4
Male	93.8	93.1
Female	90.6	90.0
Urban	95.5	94.9
Rural	92.4	91.7
Estate	76.0	75.3

Literacy ⁽³⁾

Table 12 shows that, during the first quarter of 2009, the literacy rate is about 91.4, and also the male literacy rate (93.1) is higher than that of females (90.0). Further, the survey results reveal that literacy level of estate sector (75.3) is relatively lower than urban (94.9) and rural (91.7) sectors.

⁽²⁾ 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.**

⁽³⁾ Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site www.statistics.gov.lk for detailed concepts & definitions.

**TABLE 1 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION,
10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - BOTH SEXES**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
1990	11573941	6001148	51.9	5047354	84.1	953794	15.9	5572793
1991	11795793	5877198	49.8	5015517	85.3	861680	14.7	5918596
1992	12058463	5808062	48.2	4962105	85.4	845957	14.6	6250400
1993	12278055	6032383	49.1	5201474	86.2	830910	13.8	6245675
1994	12492850	6078863	48.7	5281272	86.9	797591	13.1	6413985
1995	12736185	6106138	47.9	5357117	87.7	749021	12.3	6630048
1996	12831240	6241889	48.6	5537285	88.7	704604	11.3	6589365
1997	12870791	6266160	48.7	5607881	89.5	658279	10.5	6604630
1998	12881790	6660520	51.7	6049238	90.8	611285	9.2	6221274
1999	13169250	6673487	50.7	6082641	91.2	590846	8.9	6495782
2000	13564660	6827312	50.3	6310145	92.4	517168	7.6	6737345
2001	13870479	6772834	48.8	6235588	92.1	537246	7.9	7097644
2002	14201396	7145382	50.3	6519415	91.2	625967	8.8	7056014
*2003	15651479	7653716	48.9	7012755	91.6	640961	8.4	7997763
** 2004	16593431	8061354	48.6	7394029	91.7	667324	8.3	8532077
*** 2005	16870976	8141347	48.3	7518007	92.3	623341	7.7	8729628
# 2006	14833801	7598762	51.2	7105322	93.5	493440	6.5	7235040
# 2007	15047882	7488896	49.8	7041874	94.0	447021	6.0	7558986
* 2008	16319065	8081702	49.5	7648305	94.6	433397	5.4	8237363
# 2008	15078016	7568715	50.2	7174706	94.8	394009	5.2	7509301
* 2009 Q1	16568684	8160062	49.2	7709784	94.5	450278	5.5	8408622
# 2009 Q1	15352990	7659156	49.9	7250951	94.7	408206	5.3	7693834

Note: The normal Labour Force Survey programme was not implemented in 2005 due to the Tsunami - 2004. However a special labour force survey was conducted in August 2005 and the estimates based on this special survey are given under year 2005.

(Up to 2002 fourth quarter, both Northern & Eastern provinces are excluded from the estimates.)

* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

*** - All the districts are included

- Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

TABLE 1A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION, 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - MALE

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
*1993	6109486	3989443	65.3	3601779	90.3	387663	9.7	2120044
*1994	6228064	4072937	65.4	3678648	90.3	394289	9.7	2155127
*1995	6318003	4068608	64.4	3700951	91.0	367656	9.0	2249395
*1996	6373670	4200886	65.9	3857147	91.8	343741	8.2	2172784
*1997	6372365	4184248	65.6	3862087	92.3	322168	7.7	2188110
*1998	6344453	4281996	67.5	4004504	93.5	277491	6.5	2062456
*1999	6506662	4402713	67.7	4107497	93.3	295217	6.7	2103953
*2000	6702871	4501597	67.2	4241477	94.2	260120	5.8	2201274
*2001	6837264	4529016	66.2	4248877	93.8	280139	6.2	2308248
*2002	6935012	4705586	67.9	4395164	93.4	310421	6.6	2229427
**2003	7657368	5144206	67.2	4833483	94.0	310723	6.0	2513162
***2004	8049643	5372897	66.7	5049426	94.0	323471	6.0	2676746
****2005	8103016	5436362	67.1	5134765	94.5	301597	5.5	2666654
* 2006	7098813	4837308	68.1	4610643	95.3	226664	4.7	2261505
* 2007	7174676	4862788	67.8	4653067	95.7	209721	4.3	2311888
** 2008	7713680	5227427	67.8	5033449	96.3	193978	3.7	2486253
*2008	7122164	4838462	67.9	4663277	96.4	175184	3.6	2283702
** 2009 Q1	7785829	5234755	67.2	5015959	95.8	218796	4.2	2551075
*2009 Q1	7218012	4867280	67.4	4669522	95.9	197758	4.1	2350732

TABLE 1B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION, 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - FEMALE

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
*1993	6168572	2042941	33.1	1599695	78.3	443247	21.7	4125631
*1994	6264782	2005927	32.0	1602625	79.9	403302	20.1	4258857
*1995	6418183	2037530	31.7	1656166	81.3	381364	18.7	4380652
*1996	6457583	2041002	31.6	1680138	82.3	360864	17.7	4416583
*1997	6498427	2081906	32.0	1745794	83.9	336112	16.1	4416521
*1998	6537344	2378526	36.4	2044732	86.0	333795	14.0	4158818
*1999	6662613	2270782	34.1	1975153	87.0	295629	13.0	4392047
*2000	6861794	2325716	33.9	2068667	89.0	257048	11.0	4536078
*2001	7033214	2243818	31.9	1986711	88.5	257107	11.5	4789396
*2002	7266384	2439796	33.6	2124250	87.1	315546	12.9	4826588
**2003	7994111	2509510	31.4	2179272	86.8	330238	13.2	5484600
***2004	8543788	2688457	31.5	2344604	87.2	343853	12.8	5855331
**** 2005	8767960	2704985	30.9	2383241	88.1	321744	11.9	6062975
* 2006	7734989	2761454	35.7	2494679	90.3	266775	9.7	4973535
* 2007	7873206	2626108	33.4	2388807	91.0	237300	9.0	5247098
** 2008	8605385	2854275	33.2	2614856	91.6	239419	8.4	5751110
*2008	7955852	2730253	34.3	2511429	92.0	218825	8.0	5225599
** 2009 Q1	8782854	2925307	33.3	2693825	92.1	231482	7.9	5857548
*2009 Q1	8134978	2791876	34.3	2581429	92.5	210448	7.5	5343102

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

TABLE 2 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ,BY AGE - BOTH SEXES

(2009 1st quarter)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD POP: (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	16568684	8160062	49.2	7709784	94.5	450278	5.5	8408622
10 - 14 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15 - 19 YRS	1769547	335322	18.9	273853	81.7	61469	18.3	1434225
20 - 24 YRS	1418901	843924	59.5	672206	79.7	171718	20.3	574977
25 - 29 YRS	1432671	981815	68.5	876464	89.3	105351	10.7	450855
30 - 39 YRS	2832903	1951977	68.9	1887103	96.7	64874	3.3	880926
40 + YRS	7395931	4008551	54.2	3961685	98.8	46866	1.2	3387379

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided.

TABLE 2A - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ,BY AGE - MALE

(2009 1st quarter)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD POP: (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	7785829	5234755	67.2	5015959	95.8	218796	4.2	2551075
10 - 14 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15 - 19 YRS	849473	218728	25.7	185316	84.7	33412	15.3	630745
20 - 24 YRS	674312	523905	77.7	442006	84.4	81899	15.6	150407
25 - 29 YRS	661391	620683	93.8	570649	91.9	50034	8.1	40708
30 - 39 YRS	1301587	1244026	95.6	1217607	97.9	26419	2.1	57561
40 + YRS	3458762	2606625	75.4	2579594	99.0	27032	1.0	852137

TABLE 2B - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ,BY AGE - FEMALE

(2009 1st quarter)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD POP: (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	8782854	2925307	33.3	2693825	92.1	231482	7.9	5857548
10 - 14 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15 - 19 YRS	920074	116594	12.7	88537	75.9	28057	24.1	803480
20 - 24 YRS	744589	320018	43.0	230199	71.9	89819	28.1	424571
25 - 29 YRS	771280	361132	46.8	305815	84.7	55317	15.3	410148
30 - 39 YRS	1531316	707950	46.2	669496	94.6	38455	5.4	823365
40 + YRS	3937169	1401926	35.6	1382092	98.6	19834	1.4	2535243

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell sizes.

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

**TABLE 3 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

Year	All Ages	Age Groups					
		10 - 14 YRS	15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	1.1	5.7	11.9	13.7	27.0	40.7
*1991	100.0	0.7	5.4	12.7	13.7	26.8	40.7
*1992	100.0	0.5	5.1	13.4	14.1	27.0	39.9
*1993	100.0	0.4	5.2	12.7	14.2	26.7	40.7
*1994	100.0	0.4	4.9	12.3	13.9	28.2	40.3
*1995	100.0	0.3	4.9	11.6	14.1	26.5	42.7
*1996	100.0	0.4	5.3	12.1	13.7	28.1	40.4
*1997	100.0	0.3	5.1	11.9	13.3	27.2	42.1
*1998	100.0	0.8	5.9	12.1	12.5	26.7	42.1
*1999	100.0	0.9	5.8	11.8	12.2	26.1	43.3
*2000	100.0	0.5	5.2	12.2	12.3	26.0	43.8
*2001	100.0	0.4	4.3	12.1	12.0	25.4	45.8
*2002	100.0	0.3	4.4	12.2	12.1	26.2	44.8
**2003	100.0	0.3	4.2	11.6	12.2	26.3	45.4
*** 2004	100.0	0.4	4.1	11.8	12.2	25.5	46.0
**** 2005	100.0	0.1	3.6	11.3	12.9	25.6	46.5
*2006	100.0	0.3	4.0	10.2	12.0	24.2	49.2
*2007	100.0	0.2	3.6	9.8	12.0	23.9	50.5
*2008	100.0	0.2	3.4	9.8	11.6	23.8	51.2
**2008	100.0	0.3	3.5	9.8	11.6	23.8	50.9
*2009Q1	100.0	0.5	3.4	8.7	11.0	24.4	51.9
**2009Q1	100.0	0.5	3.6	8.7	11.4	24.5	51.4

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

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

**TABLE 3A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

Year	All Ages	Age Groups					
		10 - 14 YRS	15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	1.0	5.7	11.7	13.3	26.3	42.1
*1991	100.0	0.6	5.2	12.6	13.2	25.7	42.8
*1992	100.0	0.4	4.7	13.2	13.9	26.2	41.6
*1993	100.0	0.4	4.8	11.5	14.8	26.2	42.2
*1994	100.0	0.4	4.7	11.9	13.5	27.2	42.2
*1995	100.0	0.3	4.8	11.0	14.0	26.0	43.8
*1996	100.0	0.4	5.0	11.7	13.4	27.8	41.7
*1997	100.0	0.3	4.8	11.1	13.0	27.1	43.6
*1998	100.0	0.7	5.6	11.9	12.3	26.2	43.3
*1999	100.0	0.7	5.8	11.8	11.8	25.7	44.1
*2000	100.0	0.4	5.2	12.0	12.3	25.4	44.7
*2001	100.0	0.3	4.1	12.0	12.1	25.0	46.4
*2002	100.0	0.3	4.2	11.8	11.8	26.2	45.8
**2003	100.0	0.3	3.9	11.4	12.7	25.7	46.1
***2004	100.0	0.3	3.9	11.5	12.6	25.0	46.6
****2005	100.0	0.2	4.1	11.1	13.3	25.2	46.1
* 2006	100.0	0.3	4.0	10.2	12.2	23.9	49.4
* 2007	100.0	0.2	3.7	9.6	12.7	23.7	50.1
*2008	100.0	0.3	3.4	9.6	11.9	23.9	51.0
**2008	100.0	0.3	3.7	9.7	11.9	23.9	50.5
*2009Q1	100.0	0.4	3.6	8.7	11.1	24.2	51.9
**2009Q1	100.0	0.4	3.7	8.8	11.4	24.3	51.4

**TABLE 3B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

Year	All Ages	Age Groups					
		10 - 14 YRS	15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	1.2	5.6	12.4	14.5	28.4	38.0
*1991	100.0	0.9	6.0	13.0	14.6	29.1	36.4
*1992	100.0	0.8	5.9	13.9	14.4	29.2	35.8
*1993	100.0	0.4	5.9	15.4	12.9	27.7	37.7
*1994	100.0	0.5	5.3	13.2	14.8	30.4	35.9
*1995	100.0	0.4	5.0	12.9	14.3	27.3	40.1
*1996	100.0	0.5	6.0	13.1	14.2	28.8	37.4
*1997	100.0	0.3	5.7	13.7	14.0	27.6	38.7
*1998	100.0	1.0	6.4	12.4	12.8	27.6	39.7
*1999	100.0	1.1	5.9	11.7	12.9	27.1	41.4
*2000	100.0	0.7	5.3	12.6	12.1	27.4	41.9
*2001	100.0	0.5	4.7	12.4	11.8	26.2	44.5
*2002	100.0	0.5	4.7	13.1	12.6	26.2	42.9
**2003	100.0	0.4	4.7	12.2	11.2	27.6	43.9
***2004	100.0	0.5	4.6	12.3	11.3	26.6	44.7
****2005	100.0	0.1	2.5	11.9	12.0	26.4	47.2
* 2006	100.0	0.3	4.1	10.3	11.7	24.8	48.8
* 2007	100.0	0.3	3.4	10.1	10.7	24.2	51.3
*2008	100.0	0.2	3.2	10.1	11.0	23.8	51.7
**2008	100.0	0.2	3.2	10.1	11.0	23.8	51.7
*2009Q1	100.0	0.7	3.2	8.5	10.8	24.8	52.0
**2009Q1	100.0	0.7	3.3	8.5	11.4	24.9	51.3

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

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

**TABLE 4 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
*1990	100.0	31.9	45.1	16.0	7.0
*1991	100.0	31.6	44.8	15.6	7.9
*1992	100.0	29.9	44.9	16.5	8.7
*1993	100.0	28.5	45.1	16.9	9.5
*1994	100.0	28.2	45.4	17.5	8.8
*1995	100.0	26.8	44.9	18.0	10.3
*1996	100.0	29.5	43.3	16.9	10.3
*1997	100.0	27.9	44.0	17.6	10.5
*1998	100.0	26.8	45.0	17.2	11.0
*1999	100.0	25.4	45.7	18.0	10.9
*2000	100.0	25.1	46.3	16.7	11.9
*2001	100.0	22.7	46.1	17.7	13.5
*2002	100.0	24.6	45.6	15.8	14.0
**2003	100.0	24.5	46.2	15.9	13.3
***2004	100.0	24.3	44.7	16.8	14.2
**** 2005	100.0	20.6	45.8	18.2	15.4
* 2006	100.0	22.2	46.9	16.7	14.2
* 2007	100.0	21.1	47.8	15.6	15.5
*2008	100.0	20.3	48.0	15.8	16.0
**2008	100.0	21.9	47.4	15.4	15.3
*2009Q1	100.0	20.5	48.6	14.3	16.6
**2009Q1	100.0	21.2	47.8	14.5	16.5

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

TABLE 4A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - MALE

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
*1990	100.0	29.6	48.3	16.1	5.9
*1991	100.0	28.0	49.0	15.5	7.5
*1992	100.0	27.4	48.2	17.0	7.4
*1993	100.0	25.4	49.8	17.2	7.7
*1994	100.0	25.5	49.6	17.7	7.2
*1995	100.0	25.1	48.2	18.3	8.4
*1996	100.0	27.7	47.1	16.8	8.4
*1997	100.0	26.5	47.2	17.5	8.7
*1998	100.0	25.3	48.5	17.0	9.2
*1999	100.0	24.0	49.4	17.7	9.0
*2000	100.0	24.1	49.6	16.6	9.8
*2001	100.0	21.5	49.3	17.8	11.4
*2002	100.0	23.5	49.1	16.0	11.4
**2003	100.0	23.8	49.2	16.2	10.8
***2004	100.0	22.6	48.3	17.3	11.8
**** 2005	100.0	19.9	49.6	18.0	12.5
* 2006	100.0	21.0	50.4	16.6	12.1
* 2007	100.0	20.1	51.3	15.6	13.0
*2008	100.0	19.4	51.3	16.1	13.2
**2008	100.0	21.1	50.7	15.6	12.6
*2009Q1	100.0	19.1	53.1	14.5	13.4
**2009Q1	100.0	19.9	52.1	14.7	13.3

TABLE 4B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
*1990	100.0	37.0	38.1	15.6	9.3
*1991	100.0	39.6	35.8	15.9	8.8
*1992	100.0	35.7	37.0	15.5	11.9
*1993	100.0	35.6	34.7	16.3	13.5
*1994	100.0	34.5	35.8	17.2	12.6
*1995	100.0	30.8	37.3	17.5	14.3
*1996	100.0	33.7	34.4	17.1	14.7
*1997	100.0	31.0	37.0	17.6	14.4
*1998	100.0	29.9	38.2	17.7	14.3
*1999	100.0	28.3	38.0	18.7	15.0
*2000	100.0	27.3	39.6	17.1	16.1
*2001	100.0	25.5	39.2	17.3	18.0
*2002	100.0	27.0	38.3	15.3	19.4
**2003	100.0	26.1	39.6	15.5	18.9
***2004	100.0	27.9	36.9	15.8	19.4
**** 2005	100.0	22.1	37.6	18.6	21.7
* 2006	100.0	24.3	40.4	17.0	18.2
* 2007	100.0	23.0	41.1	15.5	20.4
*2008	100.0	21.9	41.8	15.3	21.0
**2008	100.0	23.6	40.9	14.9	20.6
*2009Q1	100.0	23.1	40.4	14.1	22.4
**2009Q1	100.0	23.7	39.7	14.1	22.6

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

**TABLE 5 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN ACCOUNT WORKER	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE			
*1990	100.0	55.2	21.5	33.7	1.8	29.2	13.8
*1991	100.0	62.4	22.9	39.5	2.2	25.4	10.0
*1992	100.0	60.1	20.0	40.0	1.6	27.1	11.2
*1993	100.0	60.0	17.4	42.8	2.0	27.4	10.4
*1994	100.0	60.7	16.4	44.3	2.3	27.2	9.8
*1995	100.0	59.8	15.6	44.3	2.5	28.3	9.4
*1996	100.0	60.8	15.0	45.8	2.3	26.8	10.0
*1997	100.0	59.4	15.1	44.3	2.3	28.8	9.4
*1998	100.0	55.6	14.5	41.2	1.9	28.9	13.6
*1999	100.0	57.5	14.4	43.1	2.0	28.3	12.2
*2000	100.0	56.3	13.4	42.9	2.3	28.4	13.0
*2001	100.0	58.6	13.9	44.7	2.3	28.5	10.6
*2002	100.0	57.9	13.4	44.5	2.8	28.6	10.7
**2003	100.0	57.9	13.5	44.4	2.6	29.6	9.9
***2004	100.0	59.4	13.0	46.4	2.9	28.3	9.4
**** 2005	100.0	59.3	13.3	46.1	3.1	29.7	7.9
* 2006	100.0	55.6	13.4	42.1	3.1	30.8	10.5
*2007	100.0	56.5	13.8	42.7	2.8	30.4	10.3
*2008	100.0	56.0	14.9	41.1	3.0	30.2	10.8
**2008	100.0	56.4	15.2	41.2	2.9	30.2	10.4
*2009Q1	100.0	56.9	15.5	41.4	2.7	28.4	12.1
**2009Q1	100.0	57.1	16.0	41.1	2.6	28.7	11.6

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

**TABLE 5A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN ACCOUNT WORKER	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE			
*1990	100.0	55.2	19.7	35.5	2.3	34.6	7.9
*1991	100.0	61.5	20.3	41.2	2.9	29.8	5.9
*1992	100.0	58.7	18.4	40.3	2.0	32.2	7.2
*1993	100.0	57.7	15.6	42.0	2.6	33.0	6.7
*1994	100.0	59.3	15.9	43.4	2.9	32.0	5.9
*1995	100.0	58.4	14.6	43.7	3.1	33.5	5.1
*1996	100.0	59.5	14.1	45.4	3.2	31.2	6.1
*1997	100.0	58.3	14.4	43.9	3.0	33.2	5.5
*1998	100.0	55.8	14.1	41.7	2.5	34.8	6.8
*1999	100.0	57.7	13.8	43.9	2.7	33.5	6.2
*2000	100.0	56.6	12.6	44.0	3.1	33.8	6.5
*2001	100.0	57.9	12.9	45.0	3.1	33.4	5.5
*2002	100.0	57.5	12.6	44.8	3.7	34.0	4.8
**2003	100.0	57.4	12.6	44.9	3.4	34.5	4.8
***2004	100.0	58.9	11.9	47.0	3.9	32.7	4.5
**** 2005	100.0	59.9	11.7	48.1	4.1	32.9	3.2
* 2006	100.0	56.0	12.3	43.8	4.4	35.2	4.4
* 2007	100.0	57.2	12.1	45.1	3.9	34.5	4.4
*2008	100.0	56.7	13.3	43.4	4.2	34.6	4.5
**2008	100.0	57.5	13.7	43.8	4.0	34.1	4.3
*2009Q1	100.0	58.4	12.9	45.5	3.6	33.0	5.1
**2009Q1	100.0	58.8	13.5	45.3	3.5	32.9	4.8

**TABLE 5B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN ACCOUNT WORKER	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE			
*1990	100.0	55.1	25.3	29.8	0.6	17.9	26.5
*1991	100.0	64.5	28.6	35.9	0.7	16.0	18.9
*1992	100.0	63.4	24.1	39.4	0.7	14.8	21.0
*1993	100.0	65.6	21.0	44.6	0.7	15.0	18.7
*1994	100.0	64.2	17.7	46.5	0.9	16.1	18.8
*1995	100.0	63.2	17.6	45.5	1.1	16.7	19.1
*1996	100.0	63.9	17.0	46.8	0.5	16.7	18.9
*1997	100.0	61.8	16.7	45.2	0.9	19.0	18.3
*1998	100.0	55.2	15.2	40.1	0.6	17.2	27.0
*1999	100.0	57.2	15.6	41.5	0.6	17.5	24.8
*2000	100.0	55.5	15.0	40.5	0.8	17.2	26.5
*2001	100.0	60.1	15.9	44.1	0.5	18.1	21.3
*2002	100.0	58.8	15.1	43.7	0.8	17.4	23.0
**2003	100.0	59.0	15.7	43.3	0.9	18.8	21.3
***2004	100.0	60.6	15.5	45.1	0.9	18.7	19.8
**** 2005	100.0	58.3	16.6	41.6	0.9	22.7	18.2
* 2006	100.0	54.8	15.6	39.2	0.8	22.7	21.7
* 2007	100.0	55.1	17.1	38.0	0.7	22.5	21.7
*2008	100.0	54.7	17.9	36.8	0.7	22.2	22.4
**2008	100.0	54.3	18.2	36.2	0.7	22.8	22.2
*2009Q1	100.0	54.1	20.2	33.9	1.1	20.0	24.8
**2009Q1	100.0	54.0	20.6	33.4	1.0	20.8	24.2

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

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

Table 6 - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Third Revision)

Year	Industry group														
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
*2002	6519415	2247602	1072720	386475	838796	117556	309553	168973	524724	227785	82260	110390	93252	317121	22208
**2003	7012755	2384397	1156682	454810	867131	121627	363393	191390	541070	262440	98107	110827	75858	333477	51548
***2004	7394029	2474725	1307357	474090	910770	120552	417340	175633	535064	273628	103966	122395	68813	323277	86419
****2005	7518007	2306039	1385374	542639	904008	138924	484999	233736	512819	297437	129237	133537	53314	324440	71504
* 2006	7105322	2287268	1363092	526861	954981	129351	430331	221146	400504	276783	109660	123900	80247	179941	21255
* 2007	7041874	2202098	1331368	542489	932094	118516	456804	215217	433013	259489	115943	104601	87381	219692	23168
* 2008	7174706	2344415	1354897	533106	924468	103814	425972	236024	462634	298810	110933	128812	84097	153297	13428
** 2008	7648305	2489731	1414483	590397	984326	110317	447604	241474	512048	325633	120987	141853	84960	170572	13920
* 2009Q1	7250951	2459978	1297352	508683	938061	116682	408078	242564	520753	280437	142356	86942	104361	137981	6722
** 2009Q1	7709784	2613350	1348779	545501	992245	120674	430056	246208	565005	331224	147038	105603	104361	153020	6722

Industry group

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B) | 8 Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L) |
| 2 Manufacturing (D) | 9 Education (M) |
| 3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,
Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10 Health and Social work (N) |
| 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11 Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities
Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5 Hotels and Restaurants (H) | 12 Private Households with Employed Persons (P) |
| 6 Transport, Storage and Communication (I) | 13 Miscellaneous Labour work |
| 7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,
Renting and Business Activities (J,K) | 14 Industries not adequately described |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

- * - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- ** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- *** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- **** - All the districts are included

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

Table 6A - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Third Revision) - Male

	Total	Industry group							
		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	Other
*2002	4395164	1397423	569761	373516	656505	115203	387301	70813	824642
**2003	4833483	1529117	624791	436404	681185	138146	405572	98074	920194
***2004	5049426	1559301	710910	456049	721800	122372	392949	102645	983400
****2005	5134765	1482610	749993	519197	702048	171330	376877	83551	1049159
* 2006	4610643	1342214	683873	507192	717258	156022	294597	86521	822966
* 2007	4653067	1321995	703080	523470	688653	151782	308080	79092	876915
*2008	4663277.5	1388714	716259	510488	680091	162634	344695	87931	772466
** 2008	5033448.7	1510401	749653	565666	725049	167414	385219	98596	831450
* 2009Q1	4669522.2	1487216	684102	491765	666980	167967	341741	89893	739858
** 2009Q1	5015959	1616721	708275	527252	707318	170632	378764	112948	794048

Industry group

1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)

2 Manufacturing (D)

3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,
Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)

4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)

7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,
Renting and Business Activities (J,K)

8 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)

9 Education (M)

Other

Hotels and Restaurants (H)

Transport, Storage and Communication (I)

Health and Social work (N)

Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities

Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q)

Private Households with Employed Persons (P)

Miscellaneous Labour work

Industries not adequately described

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

Table 6B - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Third Revision) - Female

	Total	Industry group							
		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	Other
*2002	2124250	850179	502959	12959	182291	53770	137423	156972	227697
**2003	2179272	855280	531891	18407	185946	53243	135498	164365	234642
***2004	2344604	915424	596447	18041	188970	53261	142116	170983	259362
****2005	2383241	823429	635382	23442	201959	62405	135942	213886	286796
* 2006	2494679	945054	679218	19669	237723	65125	105908	190262	251720
* 2007	2388807	880103	628288	19019	243441	63435	124933	180397	249190
* 2008	2511429	955701	638638	22619	244376	73390	117939	210878	247887
** 2008	2614856	979331	664830	24731	259277	74060	126829	227037	258762
* 2009Q1	2581429	972762	613250	16918	271081	74597	179012	190544	263265
** 2009Q1	2693825	996629	640503	18248	284927	75576	186241	218276	273425

Industry group

1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)

2 Manufacturing (D)

3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,
Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)

4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)

7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,
Renting and Business Activities (J,K)

8 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)

9 Education (M)

Other

Hotels and Restaurants (H)

Transport, Storage and Communication (I)

Health and Social work (N)

Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities

Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q)

Private Households with Employed Persons (P)

Miscellaneous Labour work

Industries not adequately described

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

Table 6C: Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group - Both sexes

Major Industry group	Year																		
	*1993	*1994	*1995	*1996	*1997	*1998	*1999	*2000	*2001	*2002	**2003	***2004	****2005	* 2006	* 2007	*2008	**2008	*2009Q1	**2009Q1
Total	5201904	5281279	5357120	5536216	5607868	6049388	6082449	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7174706	7648305	7250951	7709784
Agriculture	2159187	2084733	1966793	2071764	2031902	2378572	2208066	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2344415	2489731	2459978	2613350
Industry	1024524	1046282	1188271	1217977	1354952	1325735	1330134	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	1888004	2004880	1806035	1894279
Services	2018193	2150265	2202056	2246475	2221014	2345081	2544249	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	2942288	3153693	2984938	3202155

Table 6D: Historical table of employed population by major industry group (percentage) - Both sexes

Major Industry group	Year																		
	*1993	*1994	*1995	*1996	*1997	*1998	*1999	*2000	*2001	*2002	**2003	***2004	****2005	* 2006	* 2007	*2008	**2008	*2009Q1	**2009Q1
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	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	41.5	39.5	36.7	37.4	36.2	39.3	36.3	36.0	32.6	34.5	34.0	33.5	30.7	32.2	31.3	32.7	32.6	33.9	33.9
Industry	19.7	19.8	22.2	22.0	24.2	21.9	21.9	23.6	23.9	22.4	23.0	24.1	25.6	26.6	26.6	26.3	26.2	24.9	24.6
Services	38.8	40.7	41.1	40.6	39.6	38.8	41.8	40.3	43.5	43.1	43.0	42.4	43.7	41.2	42.1	41.0	41.2	41.2	41.5

Agriculture

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

Industries

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

Services

1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods
2. Hotels and Restaurants
3. Transport, Storage and Communication
4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities
5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security

6. Education
7. Health and Social work
8. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities
9. Private Households with Employed Persons
10. Miscellaneous Labour work
11. Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies
12. Industries not adequately described

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

Table 7 - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 88)

Year	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
*2002	6519415	85553	352238	316763	283719	406992	510148	1579024	935477	373588	1608511	67402
**2003	7012755	88043	367654	341634	303828	328796	628729	1634289	1084436	419540	1735336	80470
***2004	7394029	99839	404410	366488	322697	420343	671461	1513636	1124715	460589	1951081	58770
****2005	7518007	120491	471200	403904	300322	515909	574416	1561884	1216224	531439	1760335	61883
* 2006	7105322	128944	376469	362275	276587	526322	513217	1590110	1214163	501561	1576960	38715
* 2007	7041874	123290	366668	381596	283703	494515	508488	1503669	1201598	563927	1574113	40306
* 2008	7174706	121463	415993	398489	299331	477055	546087	1603701	1165096	526921	1576276	44295
** 2008	7648305	126636	448659	424802	308632	498271	604974	1699212	1255470	555896	1673147	52607
* 2009Q1	7250951	141861	416073	393505	320193	482444	555148	1738925	1118164	497491	1512447	74699
** 2009Q1	7709784	145042	458870	420587	328539	516838	594360	1835047	1198880	523149	1602956	85517

Occupation group

- 1 Senior Officials and Managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technical and Associate Professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises
- 6 Sales and Service workers

- 7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers
- 8 Craft and Related workers
- 9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers
- 10 Elementary occupations
- 0 Unidentified

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the **Major Groups** of ISCO - 88 classification

- * - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- ** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- *** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- **** - All the districts are included

Table 7A - Currently Employed person by Occupation group - Male (Based on ISCO 88)

Year	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
*2002	4395164	67276	146656	215548	151511	318172	379695	1024190	596472	335568	1097444	62633
**2003	4833483	71574	161375	236263	167584	260270	464633	1109200	711720	368452	1205366	77047
***2004	4993403	75416	174521	250898	174982	341828	498477	1004912	726641	426469	1319258	
****2005	5134765	87788	187002	266866	159566	406137	418628	1013877	801448	484351	1249168	59935
* 2006	4610643	101399	146344	238819	143606	419443	314226	966263	743733	444703	1055753	36354
* 2007	4653067	91026	147844	258111	138384	379768	318994	925933	779097	504603	1070890	38418
* 2008	4663277	90314	154443	275928	161252	364206	339828	975507	731382	478825	1050236	41356
** 2008	5033449	94075	168152	296103	167400	380629	385895	1049917	799554	503286	1139158	49280
* 2009Q1	4669522	112819	155234	245950	161950	351936	345844	1092794	705291	455896	976818	64989
** 2009Q1	5015959	115017	176211	264449	164644	376796	374725	1168935	765450	475277	1059592	74863

Table 7B - Currently Employed person by Occupation group - Female (Based on ISCO 88)

Year	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
*2002	2124250	18277	205582	101215	132209	88819	130453	554835	339005	38020	511066	4769
**2003	2179272	16469	206279	105370	136245	68526	164096	525090	372716	51088	529971	3423
***2004	2341857	24423	229889	115590	147715	78515	172984	508724	398074	34120	631823	
****2005	2383241	32702	284198	137038	140756	109772	155788	548007	414776	47088	511167	1949
* 2006	2494679	27544	230126	123456	132981	106879	198990	623847	470430	56858	521207	2360
* 2007	2388807	32265	218824	123485	145319	114747	189494	577736	422502	59324	503223	1888
* 2008	2511429	31148	261549	122561	138079	112849	206258	628193	433715	48095	526040	2940
** 2008	2614856	32560	280507	128699	141231	117642	219079	649295	455917	52609	533989	3327
* 2009Q1	2581429	29042	260839	147556	158243	130508	209304	646131	412873	41595	535629	9710
** 2009Q1	2693825	30025	282660	156138	163895	140042	219634	666112	433430	47872	543363	10654

Occupation group

- 1 Senior Officials and Managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technical and Associate Professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises
- 6 Sale and Service workers

- 7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers
- 8 Craft and Related workers
- 9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers
- 10 Elementary occupations
- 0 Unidentified

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

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the **Major Groups** of ISCO - 88 classification

- * - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- ** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- *** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- **** - All the districts are included

TABLE 8 - CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS PER WEEK ACTUALLY WORKED AT THE MAIN JOB AND MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP (PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP	TOTAL	0 #	1 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 & OVER
Total	100.0	5.4	2.1	5.4	9.1	14.6	33.8	29.7
1	100.0	7.4	4.2	10.3	13.8	18.1	28.9	17.4
2	100.0	4.6	*	3.9	7.1	10.5	40.3	32.2
3	100.0	8.2	*	*	8.6	12.2	36.8	29.3
4	100.0	2.3	*	*	5.9	10.4	27.5	51.1
5	100.0	3.8	*	*	*	*	*	59.6
6	100.0	8.5	*	*	*	*	29.9	48.9
7	100.0	3.1	*	*	*	*	47.6	30.1
8	100.0	2.8	*	*	*	9.8	52.0	32.6
9	100.0	2.3	*	*	17.6	42.8	29.0	*
10	100.0	3.8	*	*	*	*	46.8	34.8
11	100.0	2.8	*	*	*	*	*	46.4
12	100.0	0.8	..	*	*	*	*	50.6
13	100.0	9.0	*	*	*	*	26.6	*
14	100.0	*	*

Has a job but not at work during the reference week

.. Negligible

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

Industry group

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B) | 8. Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L) |
| 2. Manufacturing (D) | 9. Education (M) |
| 3. Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,
Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10. Health and Social work (N) |
| 4. Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles,
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11.Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities
Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5. Hotels and Restaurants (H) | 12. Private Households with Employed Persons (P) |
| 6. Transport, Storage and Communication (I) | 13. Miscellaneous Labour work |
| 7. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,
Renting and Business Activities (J,K) | 14.Industries not adequately described |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV),some of these groups have been combined.

**TABLE 9 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40 + YRS
*1990	100.0	20.3	40.3	19.3	13.2	7.1
*1991	100.0	19.3	42.2	16.7	15.8	6.0
*1992	100.0	19.2	40.9	20.4	13.4	6.1
*1993	100.0	20.4	38.5	18.9	15.5	6.8
*1994	100.0	22.4	41.2	15.6	15.5	5.5
*1995	100.0	21.1	38.2	20.1	15.1	5.5
*1996	100.0	24.0	39.3	18.1	14.3	4.3
*1997	100.0	22.5	41.5	19.0	12.7	4.3
*1998	100.0	21.9	40.8	17.6	13.6	6.0
*1999	100.0	23.9	40.5	17.2	12.5	5.9
*2000	100.0	19.5	44.4	18.4	11.9	5.8
*2001	100.0	21.2	45.4	17.8	10.4	5.1
*2002	100.0	19.8	47.1	16.6	11.0	5.5
**2003	100.0	19.9	45.8	17.2	11.6	5.6
***2004	100.0	18.1	45.9	17.4	11.7	6.8
**** 2005	100.0	19.5	44.8	16.4	12.2	7.1
* 2006	100.0	17.5	39.3	21.5	11.9	9.8
* 2007	100.0	15.7	41.2	19.7	13.1	10.4
* 2008	100.0	15.9	38.4	20.9	13.7	11.2
** 2008	100.0	15.8	38.4	21.5	13.6	10.6
* 2009Q1	100.0	13.2	37.8	22.8	15.5	10.6
** 2009Q1	100.0	13.7	38.1	23.4	14.4	10.4

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

**TABLE 9A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	23.8	41.2	16.1	9.6	9.2
*1991	100.0	23.0	42.6	15.1	11.7	7.7
*1992	100.0	21.8	42.7	18.5	10.0	7.1
*1993	100.0	24.0	39.5	16.0	12.7	8.0
*1994	100.0	24.3	40.8	13.3	13.4	8.6
*1995	100.0	22.3	38.2	19.0	12.9	7.6
*1996	100.0	27.2	39.6	16.9	10.9	5.4
*1997	100.0	25.0	41.5	17.2	11.5	4.8
*1998	100.0	27.7	39.6	16.5	9.5	6.7
*1999	100.0	27.6	40.6	14.3	9.3	8.2
*2000	100.0	24.0	46.4	15.2	9.1	5.3
*2001	100.0	25.4	46.3	15.0	7.1	6.2
*2002	100.0	22.2	49.1	13.5	8.3	6.9
**2003	100.0	22.7	47.6	14.8	8.3	6.6
***2004	100.0	20.8	45.4	15.4	10.1	8.3
**** 2005	100.0	21.8	44.3	15.0	12.5	6.3
* 2006	100.0	21.2	40.1	18.4	8.3	11.9
*2007	100.0	19.9	40.7	16.0	10.2	13.1
*2008	100.0	19.8	37.5	18.2	9.7	14.9
** 2008	100.0	19.4	37.8	19.5	9.4	13.9
*2009Q1	100.0	14.2	37.5	23.4	12.6	12.3
** 2009Q1	100.0	15.3	37.4	22.9	12.1	12.4

**TABLE 9B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	17.0	39.4	22.2	16.6	5.0
*1991	100.0	16.3	42.0	18.0	19.2	4.6
*1992	100.0	16.7	39.1	22.2	16.9	5.3
*1993	100.0	12.8	34.1	23.7	21.8	7.7
*1994	100.0	16.7	37.6	21.4	20.6	3.9
*1995	100.0	19.9	38.3	21.2	17.2	3.4
*1996	100.0	21.0	39.0	19.2	17.4	3.2
*1997	100.0	20.1	41.6	20.7	13.8	3.8
*1998	100.0	17.1	41.8	18.6	17.0	5.4
*1999	100.0	20.2	40.5	20.0	15.6	3.7
*2000	100.0	15.1	42.3	21.5	14.8	6.3
*2001	100.0	16.7	44.5	20.9	14.1	3.8
*2002	100.0	17.5	45.1	19.5	13.7	4.2
**2003	100.0	17.2	44.1	19.4	14.7	4.6
***2004	100.0	15.7	46.4	19.3	13.3	5.3
**** 2005	100.0	17.3	45.3	17.6	11.9	7.8
*2006	100.0	14.4	38.7	24.2	14.9	7.9
*2007	100.0	11.9	41.5	23.0	15.6	8.0
*2008	100.0	12.7	39.1	23.1	16.9	8.2
** 2008	100.0	12.9	38.9	23.2	17.0	8.0
*2009Q1	100.0	12.3	38.1	22.3	18.3	9.1
** 2009Q1	100.0	12.1	38.8	23.9	16.6	8.6

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

TABLE 10 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		BELOW GRADE 5	GRADES 5 - 9/ YEARS 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE AND ABOVE
*1990	100.0	8.5	49.7	26.5	15.4
*1991	100.0	9.0	45.7	30.3	15.1
*1992	100.0	9.2	50.5	27.0	13.7
*1993	100.0	8.3	44.9	28.7	18.0
*1994	100.0	8.6	44.9	28.3	18.2
*1995	100.0	5.5	47.1	29.1	18.4
*1996	100.0	7.9	47.1	26.1	19.0
*1997	100.0	5.7	44.7	28.2	21.4
*1998	100.0	5.8	44.2	27.1	22.9
*1999	100.0	4.4	41.9	29.2	24.5
*2000	100.0	3.1	45.6	26.0	25.3
*2001	100.0	3.6	40.7	27.3	28.4
*2002	100.0	4.7	40.7	25.2	29.4
**2003	100.0	4.8	40.2	26.1	28.9
***2004	100.0	5.4	36.6	26.2	31.7
**** 2005	100.0	4.5	37.2	28.6	29.7
* 2006	100.0	4.6	41.9	26.6	26.9
* 2007	100.0	4.4	41.0	22.0	32.6
* 2008	100.0	4.2	41.2	22.8	31.8
** 2008	100.00	4.5	39.3	23.4	32.8
* 2009Q1	100.00	3.8	38.4	24.8	33.0
** 2009Q1	100.00	3.9	37.3	25.3	33.4

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

**TABLE 10A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		BELOW GRADE 5	GRADES 5 - 9/ YEARS 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE AND ABOVE
*1990	100.0	10.6	57.7	23.3	8.4
*1991	100.0	11.2	53.2	25.0	10.5
*1992	100.0	9.9	57.4	25.1	7.9
*1993	100.0	11.4	47.7	28.0	12.9
*1994	100.0	11.4	50.3	27.0	11.3
*1995	100.0	5.3	54.4	29.4	10.9
*1996	100.0	8.7	56.9	23.8	10.6
*1997	100.0	7.0	54.5	25.0	13.5
*1998	100.0	6.7	54.8	24.7	13.9
*1999	100.0	4.8	48.3	29.1	17.8
*2000	100.0	3.9	54.7	26.0	15.4
*2001	100.0	4.4	50.9	25.2	19.5
*2002	100.0	5.6	50.1	24.7	19.6
**2003	100.0	5.5	47.3	27.7	19.5
***2004	100.0	7.0	44.0	27.4	21.6
**** 2005	100.0	5.2	44.9	29.1	20.8
* 2006	100.0	6.2	48.9	26.6	18.3
* 2007	100.0	5.8	49.5	24.5	20.3
*2008	100.0	5.3	52.2	21.7	20.8
** 2008	100.0	5.3	49.7	23.1	21.9
*2009Q1	100.0	4.1	44.2	26.6	25.1
** 2009Q1	100.0	4.3	43.2	26.7	25.8

**TABLE 10B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		BELOW GRADE 5	GRADES 5 - 9/ YEARS 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE AND ABOVE
*1990	100.0	6.4	42.2	29.5	21.9
*1991	100.0	7.1	39.6	34.5	18.8
*1992	100.0	8.5	43.6	28.9	19.4
*1993	100.0	5.7	42.5	29.4	22.5
*1994	100.0	6.9	39.6	29.6	24.9
*1995	100.0	5.7	40.0	28.8	25.5
*1996	100.0	7.1	37.6	28.3	27.0
*1997	100.0	4.5	35.3	31.3	28.9
*1998	100.0	5.1	35.4	29.1	30.5
*1999	100.0	4.0	35.5	29.3	31.2
*2000	100.0	2.3	36.3	26.1	35.3
*2001	100.0	2.6	29.7	29.7	38.0
*2002	100.0	3.9	31.4	25.6	39.1
**2003	100.0	4.0	33.5	24.6	37.8
***2004	100.0	3.9	29.7	25.0	41.3
**** 2005	100.0	4.0	29.9	28.1	38.0
* 2006	100.0	3.1	35.9	26.7	34.3
* 2007	100.0	3.2	33.5	19.8	43.4
*2008	100.0	3.3	32.3	23.7	40.7
** 2008	100.0	3.8	31.0	23.6	41.6
*2009Q1	100.0	3.5	32.9	23.2	40.4
** 2009Q1	100.0	3.5	31.8	24.0	40.7

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

TABLE 11 - CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Sex	2009 1 st quarter			
	Total	Duration		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	450278	180979	77616	191683
%	100.0	40.2	17.2	42.6
Male	218796	99483	34247	85066
%	100.0	45.5	15.7	38.9
Female	231482	81496	43368	106617
%	100.0	35.2	18.7	46.1

STANDARD ERROR AND COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION OF SELECTED VARIABLES

	2009 1 st quarter					
	Estimated Value	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimated Value (Ratio)	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
General labour force characteristics						
Population (10 years & over)	16568684	211340	1.3	-	-	-
Employed Population	7709784	123340	1.6	-	-	-
Unemployed Population	450278	29286	6.5	-	-	-
Employment Rate				94.5	0.344	0.364
Unemployment Rate				5.5	0.344	6.232
Labour Force	8160062	128614	1.6	-	-	-
Not in Labour Force	8408622	142692	1.7	-	-	-
Employed persons by major industry Groups						
1	2613350	102069	3.906	-	-	-
2	1348779	60023	4.450	-	-	-
3	545501	31942	5.856	-	-	-
4	992245	45324	4.568	-	-	-
5	120674	15815	13.106	-	-	-
6	430056	25838	6.008	-	-	-
7	246208	19580	7.952	-	-	-
8	565005	33759	5.975	-	-	-
9	331224	32221	9.728	-	-	-
10	147038	16970	11.541	-	-	-
11	105603	11865	11.236	-	-	-
12	104361	14492	13.886	-	-	-
13	153020	15728	10.278	-	-	-
14	6722	3127	46.515	-	-	-
Unemployed persons by level of education						
Grade 5 & below	17569	4298	24.466	-	-	-
Grade 6 - 10	168025	14927	8.884	-	-	-
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	114113	13136	11.511	-	-	-
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	150570	12737	8.459	-	-	-

Industry group

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B) | 8. Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L) |
| 2. Manufacturing (D) | 9. Education (M) |
| 3. Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,
Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10. Health and Social work (N) |
| 4. Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles,
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11. Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities
Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5. Hotels and Restaurants (H) | 12. Private Households with Employed Persons (P) |
| 6. Transport, Storage and Communication (I) | 13. Miscellaneous Labour work |
| 7. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,
Renting and Business Activities (J,K) | 14. Industries not adequately described |

Explanatory Notes

Coverage

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was 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.

This quarterly survey of households is conducted through a scientifically selected sample designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status etc. of each member of the household 10 years of age and older.

The field work of the survey is done during the third week of the each month, Monday through Sunday. This is known as the "survey week". The inquiry relates to activity or status are referred in the preceding week of the survey week; referred to as the "reference week".

The concepts and definitions underlying labour force data are as follows.

Concepts and definitions

1. **Labour force** : The labour force is composed of the economically active population 10 years of age and over.
2. **The Economically Active Population** : is defined as those persons who are/were employed or unemployed during the reference period of the survey.
3. **Employed** : Persons, who during the reference period, worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers (self employed), or unpaid family workers are said to be employed. This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.
4. **Unemployed** : Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period.
5. **Currently Economically Active** : A person who was employed or unemployed during the current reference period is considered to be currently economically active.
6. **Not in the Labour Force (not economically active)** : Persons who were neither working not available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as: full time care of the household, full - time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another. Current and Usual definitions apply.
7. **Criteria for classification of underemployment**

In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed,

(i) If the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her main activity

In Sri Lanka scenario, 35 hours per week is taken as the cut-off point applicable to all workers, except government teachers. As in practice, though teachers do have a normal duration of work which is below the general cut-off point, they should be on a full time schedule according to the nature of their job. Further, those who do have a secondary job, or those who are employers, were considered as having worked the normal duration in their respective activity.

Therefore, if the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her activity (as described above), then the person is further questioned to ascertain whether he/She is prepared and available for further work if provided. Such persons are considered underemployed in their respective employment.

(ii) If the person has worked more than the normal duration in his/her activity

If the person has worked even more than 35 hours as usually, but he has worked less than 35 hours actually in the reference period, only due to the off season or bad weather, such persons were also further questioned to check their underemployment situation, considering them as a special category.

8. Informal Sector Employment

In order to classify a person to be employed in informal sector employment, following information were used.

- (i) Registration of the organization
- (ii) Accounts keeping practices of the organization
- (iii) Total number of regular employees of the organization.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the quarterly labour force data are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent.

The exact differences, or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 95 percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.96 standard errors from the "true" population value, because of sampling error. Analyses relating to the Labour Force Survey are generally conducted at the 95 percent level of confidence.

For example, the confidence interval for the quarterly unemployment rate is on the order of ,

Estimated value (of the unemployment rate) \pm (standard error) * (1.96)

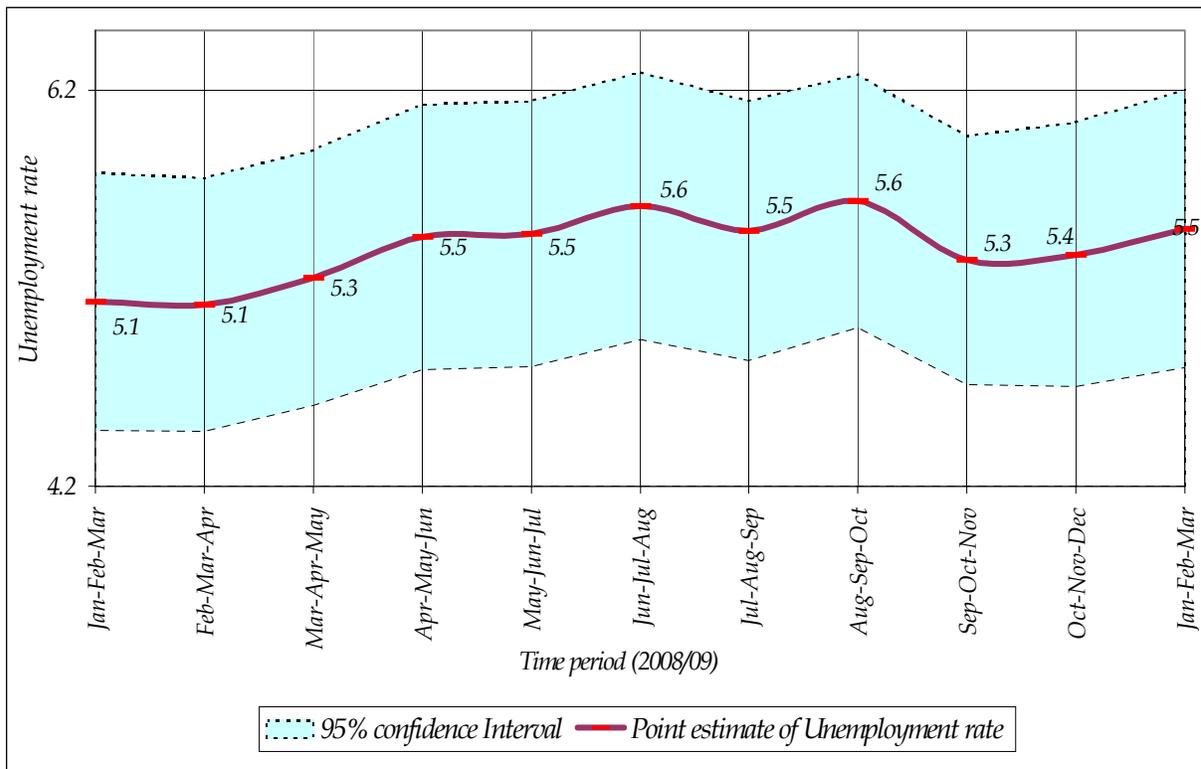
6.4 \pm (0.4) * (1.96)

(6.4 \pm 0.784)

This means, the 95 percent confidence interval on the quarterly unemployment rate could range from (5.6 to 7.2) . This implies that there is about 95 percent chance that the "true" unemployment rate lies within this interval. This range includes all the values range from 5.6 to 7.2 . When the comparison of this estimate is done between two quarters, if any of the value within the 95 percent confidence interval of one quarter overlaps with the confidence interval of the other , it means that the estimates of this two quarters *are not significantly different*.

Therefore, in each quarterly labour force report, a separate table is given including approximate standard errors for some selected variables, so that users could understand this statistical scenario clearly.

Unemployment rates and it's lower and upper limits (2008 Jan-2009 Mar)



As shown in the given figure, it is very clear that, there is no statistical significant differences between the quarterly unemployment rates reported in 2006, (since all the 95 percent confidence intervals overlap) when sampling error is considered.

Change in survey schedule

Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes have been made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data.

Beginning in January 2006, some improvements were made to the labour force survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of it's users and also to provide additional information for the planning purposes. This revision was made focusing on literacy, household economic activities, and informal sector employment and under employment etc.

Note :

It is important to note that, all the data published here are the estimates based on a sample survey and these are subject to sampling errors. These sampling errors can be statistically evaluated from the survey results. Therefore, sampling error is normally measured in terms of the standard error of the particular variable. Standard error could be used to calculate the confidence limits with a prescribed accuracy where the true value of the estimates lies.

Further reliability of the estimates can be expressed in terms of Coefficient of Variation (CV). The CV is a relative measure of the sampling error and is calculated as sampling error divided by the expected value of the given characteristic.

In view of this, following table is given to show the estimates for some selected variables, its standard error, CV and 95% Confidence interval.

It is also important to note that all the estimates we publish in this report are subject to sampling error and one should be cautious in the interpretation of results, especially with respect to the trends over time.

Estimate of Confidence Intervals for some selected characteristics

Year	Labour Force					Employed				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2003 *	7653717	83576	1.09	7489909	7817525	7012756	77834	1.11	6860202	7165310
2004 **	8061354	79707	0.99	7905128	8217579	7394029	74648	1.01	7247719	7540340
2005***	8141347	233233	2.86	7684210	8598485	7518007	219889	2.92	7087025	7948988
2006#	7598762	65349	0.86	7470593	7726931	7105322	63609	0.90	6980566	7230078
2007#	7488896	58056	0.78	7375030	7602761	7041874	56401	0.80	6931254	7152495
2008#	7568715.1	59888.612	0.791	7451255	7686176	7174706	57976	0.81	7060996.56	7288416
2008*	8081701.5	62761	0.777	7958614	8204789	7648305	60235	0.79	7530171.09	7766438
2009Q1#	7659156.3	124515	1.626	7414384	7903928	7250951	118904	1.64	7017208.08	7484694
2009Q1*	8160061.8	128614	1.576	7907299	8412824	7709784	123340	1.60	7467386.78	7952181

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2003 *	640961	20755	3.24	600281	681641	8.4	0.2	2.99	7.9	8.9
2004 **	667324	18385	2.76	631290	703358	8.3	0.2	2.55	7.9	8.7
2005***	623341	39397	6.32	546123	700558	7.7	0.4	5.76	6.8	8.5
2006#	493440	15000	3.04	464020	522859	6.5	0.2	2.96	6.1	6.9
2007#	447021	13838	3.10	419880	474162	6.0	0.2	3.01	5.6	6.3
2008#	394009	13117	3.329	368281.9	419735.8	5.2	0.2	3.2	4.9	5.5
2008*	433397	14105	3.255	405733.7	461060.3	5.4	0.2	3.12	5.0	5.7
2009Q1#	408206	28266	6.924	352640.4	463770.6	5.3	0.4	6.61	4.6	6.0
2009Q1*	450278	29286	6.504	392723.1	507832.2	5.5	0.3	6.23	4.8	6.2

* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

** - Excluding Mulathivu and Kilinochchi districts.

***- All the districts are included

- Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

◆ Official employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics are estimated at the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey, based on the internationally comparable concepts and definitions recommended by the ILO. However the validity of the concepts and definitions used at the survey is questioned very often in some forums, for the appropriateness of these concepts and definitions in the Sri Lankan context.

The concepts and definitions, which were found to be controversial are as below.

(1) Number of Hours of Work :

A person who work **at least one hour** during the reference week, is considered **employed**, under these definitions.

(2) Working Age Population :

All persons of **age 10 years and over** are considered to be in the working age.

(3) Employment Status :

All, a) Paid employees, (those who work for wages/salaries).

b) Employers (who have at least one paid employee under them).

c) Own account workers (who carry out the economic activity without having any paid employees).

d) Unpaid family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out by their own household, without wages/salaries).

The validity of the above concepts and definitions is raised due to the following reasons.

(1) **Number of hours of Work** : Some point out that **one hour per week** is too low, to consider a person to be employed.

(2) **Working age Population** : Some point out that persons in the age group 10-14 yrs. are too young to consider to be in the working age.

(3) **Employment Status** : Some point out that 'unpaid family workers' may work in the family enterprise **without payment** because they have no other work, and so it is not appropriate to consider them as **employed**.

An attempt has been made to produce '**Alternative estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics**,' by revising the original concepts and definitions so that the above issues are addressed as explained below.

The revisions made are,

(1) Number of Hours of Work :

Persons who work **20 hours or more per week only** are considered to be employed.

(2) Working Age Population :

Persons who are **over 15 yrs of age only** are considered to be in the working age.

(3) Unpaid Family Worker :

Unpaid family workers are **not** considered as employed. Those unpaid family workers who were reported to be seeking some other work are considered as **unemployed** and the rest of the unpaid family workers are considered as **economically inactive** (not in the labour force) so only, **a) paid employees b) employers and c) own account workers are considered to be employed**.

Following tables are based on the above alternative concepts and definitions.

TABLE 1 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS & OVER (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (15 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
*1998	11281913	5567813	49.4	4870332	87.5	697481	12.5	5714099
*1999	11582873	5632621	48.6	4974104	88.3	658517	11.7	5950382
*2000	11978962	5738351	47.9	5124615	89.3	613736	10.7	6241526
*2001	12258565	5893030	48.1	5292093	89.8	600937	10.2	6365944
*2002	12612657	6162963	48.9	5482779	89.0	680184	11.0	6450265
**2003	13839853	6547396	47.3	5849585	89.3	697811	10.7	7292837
***2004	14670217	7051951	48.1	6327524	89.7	724427	10.3	7618797
****2005	13630354	6565951	48.2	5964493	90.8	601458	9.2	7064403
*2006	13261409	6467138	48.8	5975069	92.4	492069	7.6	6794271
*2007	13459252	6425260	47.7	5979061	93.1	446199	6.9	7033992
*2008	13557956	6393192	47.2	5999538	93.8	393654	6.2	7164764
**2008	14626581	6859040	46.9	6425997	93.7	433042	6.3	7767541
*2009Q1	13815987	6412497	46.4	6004292	93.6	408206	6.4	7403489
**2009Q1	14849952	6872245	46.3	6421968	93.4	450278	6.6	7977707

TABLE 2 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF NUMBER AND RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

YEAR	AGE GROUP											
	TOTAL		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 29		30 - 39		40 & ABOVE	
	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE
*1999	658517	11.7	158129	41.3	269327	31.9	113285	15.4	81121	5.7	36655	1.6
*2000	613736	10.7	126288	36.5	266306	30.7	117768	15.7	71019	4.9	32354	1.4
*2001	601026	10.2	130397	40.2	271672	30.5	105295	14.0	63668	4.4	29905	1.2
*2002	680184	11.0	136693	41.1	317071	32.7	113919.98	14.5	75086	4.9	37414	1.5
**2003	697811	10.7	141608.9	40.4	314693	32.2	121632	14.5	80467	4.8	39410	1.5
***2004	724427	10.3	134848	38.0	332229	31.2	122725	13.4	84461	4.8	50165	1.7
****2005	601458	9.2	122670	39.7	268331	28.4	99649	11.3	70764	4.4	40044	1.4
*2006	492069	7.6	86180	29.7	193481	24.0	105966	12.5	58443	3.8	47999	1.6
*2007	446199	6.9	69856	27.7	183617	24.0	87993	10.7	58252	3.8	46480	1.5
*2008	393654	6.2	62422	27.4	151228	20.4	82204	10.4	53900	3.5	43899	1.4
**2008	433042	6.3	68487	27.1	166409	20.8	93202	10.9	58838	3.6	46107	1.4
*2009Q1	408206	6.4	53943	24.4	154406	23.4	93077	12.1	63344	3.9	43435	1.4
**2009Q1	450278	6.6	61469	24.7	171718	23.9	105351	12.4	64874	3.8	46866	1.4

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

Table 3 - Currently Employed persons by Industry group (No. and percentage) (Based on ISIC Third Revision) - (Alternative estimates)

Year	Industry group														
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
*2002															
No.	5487325	1559133	983601	264384	723210	104151	292951	164062	518764	211281	80915	96911	91085	283032	113845
%	100.0	28.4	17.9	4.8	13.2	1.9	5.3	3.0	9.5	3.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	5.2	2.1
**2003															
No.	5860182	1682994	1038390	343650	744153	104923	344294	176993	510486	233874	91213	94491	74181	293951	126590
%	100.0	28.7	17.7	5.9	12.7	1.8	5.9	3.0	8.7	4.0	1.6	1.6	1.3	5.0	2.2
***2004															
No.	6337164	1792810	1191379	439936	794793	108521	402536	170027	526501	257965	102328	108076	65639	293621	83032
%	100.0	28.3	18.8	6.9	12.5	1.7	6.4	2.7	8.3	4.1	1.6	1.7	1.0	4.6	1.3
****2005															
No.	5971029	1573306	1147255	476851	739850	108424	422920	204139	465608	245956	118065	105175	47645	253367	62468
%	100.0	26.3	19.2	8.0	12.4	1.8	7.1	3.4	7.8	4.1	2.0	1.8	0.8	4.2	1.0
*2006															
No.	5978575	1570682	1221566	492116	822922	111890	416188	214276	397926	254378	105956	110924	78341	160429	20981
%	100.0	26.3	20.4	8.2	13.8	1.9	7.0	3.6	6.7	4.3	1.8	1.9	1.3	2.7	0.4
*2007															
No.	5979061	1543596	1182348	507060	807657	100638	441290	209288	428978	242713	112778	94647	82955	202406	22706
%	100.0	25.8	19.8	8.5	13.5	1.7	7.4	3.5	7.2	4.1	1.9	1.6	1.4	3.4	0.4
*2008															
No.	5999538	1609009	1205793	496771	790533	90257	403186	228957	456435	268121	106630	114215	80651	136037	12944
%	100.0	26.8	20.1	8.3	13.2	1.5	6.7	3.8	7.6	4.5	1.8	1.9	1.3	2.3	0.2
**2008															
No.	6425997.5	1732266	1257331	550875	842616	95772.7	423760	234407	505254	293699	116026	126616	81346.7	152592.9	13436
%	100.0	27.0	19.6	8.6	13.1	1.5	6.6	3.6	7.9	4.6	1.8	2.0	1.3	2.4	0.2
*2009Q1															
No.	6004292	1597281	1165129	479922	800515	102506	394840	234042	514285	266500	141263	75945	100462	124879	6722
%	100.0	26.6	19.4	8.0	13.3	1.7	6.6	3.9	8.6	4.4	2.4	1.3	1.7	2.1	0.1
**2009Q1															
No.	6421968	1732578	1208903	513550	847374	105737	415037	237686	558537	317287	145076	93991	100462	139028	6722
%	100.0	27.0	18.8	8.0	13.2	1.6	6.5	3.7	8.7	4.9	2.3	1.5	1.6	2.2	0.1

Industry group

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B) | 8 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L) |
| 2 Manufacturing (D) | 9 Education (M) |
| 3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,
Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10 Health and Social work (N) |
| 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11 Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities
Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5 Hotels and Restaurants (H) | 12 Private Households with Employed Persons (P) |
| 6 Transport, Storage and Communication (I) | 13 Miscellaneous Labour work |
| 7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,
Renting and Business Activities (J,K) | 14 Industries not adequately described |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

- * - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- ** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- *** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- **** - All the districts are included