



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 2010 was done in October, November and December in year 2010. 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 2010

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8278664	100.0	5356817	64.7	2921847	35.3
Urban	925980	100.0	637268	68.8	288712	31.2
Rural	6965566	100.0	4505378	64.7	2460188	35.3
Estate	387118	100.0	214171	55.3	172947	44.7

Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector - Fourth Quarter 2010

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8690203	100.0	2645384	30.4	6044820	69.6
Urban	1285961	100.0	368866	28.7	917095	71.3
Rural	7043321	100.0	2145211	30.5	4898110	69.5
Estate	360921	100.0	131306	36.4	229615	63.6

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 8.3 million in fourth quarter 2010. Of which 64.7 percent were males and 35.3 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

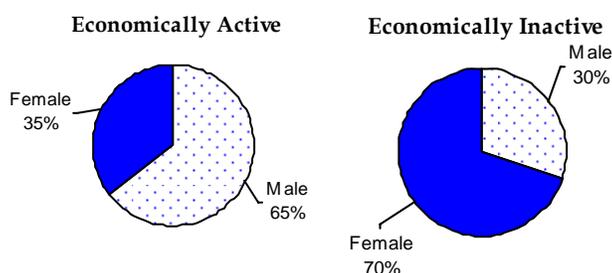


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

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	49.2	66.7	33.7
2010Q1	49.1	67.8	32.7
2010Q2	48.5	67.6	31.6
2010Q3	47.7	67.1	30.4
2010Q4	49.3	66.7	33.7

Note: Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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 2010 was about 66.7 percent and it was 33.7 percent for females. It was important to note that, male participation to the labour force was more than twice as that of females.

Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Fourth Quarter 2010

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.8	66.9	32.6
15 - 19	17.7	23.5	12.0
20 - 24	56.2	74.3	39.6
25 - 29	64.3	94.4	41.1
30 - 34	66.3	95.8	40.0
35 - 39	68.5	95.4	46.7
40 - 44	70.3	94.9	49.2
45 - 49	73.5	95.1	55.7
50 - 54	68.6	94.0	45.2
55 - 59	59.8	83.2	38.4
60+	30.6	49.0	14.7

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

Highest male participation rate was reported from age group (30 - 34) yrs, while in female highest participation rate was reported from age group (45 - 49) yrs.

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 2009 - Fourth Quarter 2010)

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
Oct-Nov-Dec 4th Qtr - 2009	7592833 100.0	2481308 32.7	1920825 25.3	3190700 42.0
Jan-Feb-Mar 1st Qtr - 2010	7725753 100.0	2600463 33.7	1911428 24.7	3213861 41.6
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2010	7613267 100.0	2439391 32.0	1795204 23.6	3378672 44.4
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2010	7578174 100.0	2367294 31.2	1850442 24.4	3360438 44.3
Oct-Nov-Dec 4th Qtr - 2010	7909178 100.0	2672472 33.8	1909857 24.1	3326849 42.1

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)
3. Mining & Quarrying (C)
4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)

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 fourth quarter 2009 to fourth quarter 2010. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 7.9 million in fourth quarter 2010. Of which, about 42.1 percent engaged in services sector, 33.8 percent in agriculture sector, and 24.1 percent in Industries sector.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector - Fourth Quarter 2010

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7909178	100.0	2672472	33.8	5236706	66.2
Employee	4305506	100.0	712936	16.6	3592570	83.4
Public	1125476	100.0	84985	7.6	1040491	92.4
Private	3180030	100.0	627951	19.7	2552079	80.3
Employer	186421	100.0	31000	16.6	155421	83.4
Own account worker	2535574	100.0	1271009	50.1	1264565	49.9
Contributing family worker	881676.9	100.0	657527	74.6	224150	25.4

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 contributing family workers were more concentrated in agriculture sector.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex - Fourth Quarter 2010

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	33.8	31.3	38.6
Industry	24.1	23.8	24.8
Services	42.1	44.9	36.5

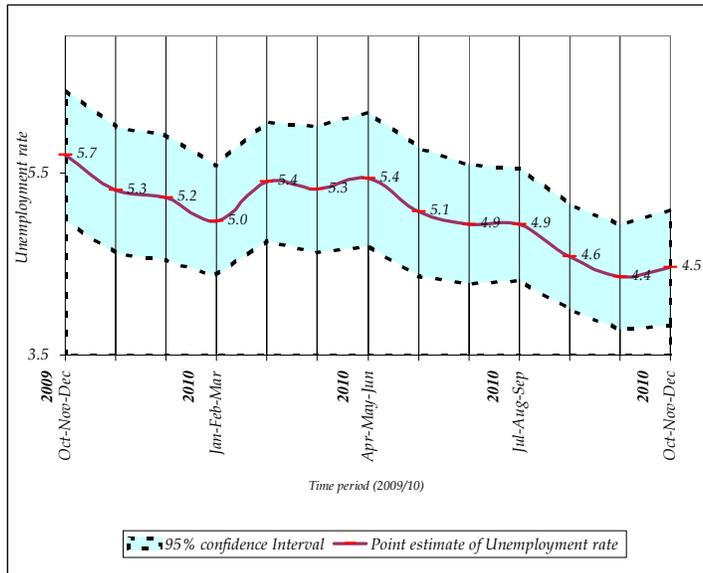
Table 7 depicts the distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of sex, highest employment concentrated in service sector. Further among employed women about 38.6 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 31.3 percent for males.

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 (2009 Oct. - 2010 Dec.)



The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 369,486 during the fourth quarter 2010.

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2010 was reported as 4.5 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 2009/2010, when *sampling error*⁽¹⁾ was considered.

Table 8: Unemployment rate by level of education - Fourth Quarter 2010

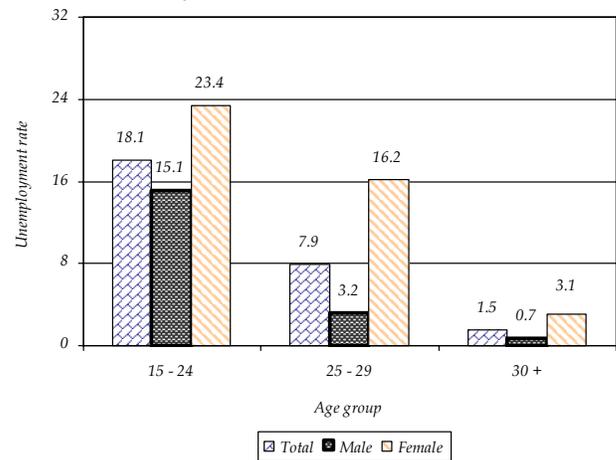
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	4.5	2.9	7.3
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	2.7	2.1	3.9
G.C.E. (O/L)	5.6	2.8	10.7
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	10.8	7.5	14.5



Table 9: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Fourth Quarter 2010

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	4.5	2.9	7.3
15 - 24	18.1	15.1	23.4
25 - 29	7.9	3.2	16.2
30 +	1.5	0.7	3.1

Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Fourth Quarter 2010



As can be seen from table 9, overall unemployment rate reported for female was 7.3 percent and it was 2.9 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 - 24 yrs reported for fourth quarter 2010 was 18.1. Highest unemployment rate was reported from age group 15 - 24 yrs, for both males (15.1) and females (23.4). 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 10.8 percent. There were 7.5 percent and 14.5 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)
(2003 - 2010 Q4)

	Year												*2010Q4
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010Q1	2010Q2	2010Q3	2009Q4	2010Q4	
Labour force participation rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.2	49.1	48.5	47.7	48.9	49.3	48.8
Male	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	66.7	67.8	67.6	67.1	66.5	66.7	66.9
Female	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	33.7	32.7	31.6	30.4	33.5	33.7	32.6
<i>by residential sector</i>													
Total	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.2	49.1	48.5	47.7	48.9	49.3	48.8
Urban	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	43.9	44.1	42.3	41.5	44.4	42.3	41.9
Rural	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	49.8	49.8	49.3	48.6	49.4	50.2	49.8
Unemployment rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.7	5.1	5.4	4.7	5.4	4.4	4.5
Male	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.5	4.2	3.4	3.9	2.9	2.9
Female	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.2	7.9	7.7	7.4	8.1	7.2	7.3
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>													
20 - 29	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	15.1	14.5	14.9	13.1	14.7	12.2	12.3
20 - 24	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	21.0	20.1	20.4	18.1	20.6	17.1	17.2
25 - 29	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.1	9.8	10.0	8.6	9.8	8.0	7.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>													
G.C.E.(A/L) & above													
Both sexes	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.8	11.9	12.3	10.6	12.5	10.6	10.8
Male	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	6.6	7.8	8.6	6.6	8.3	7.2	7.5
Female	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	15.1	16.4	16.2	15.4	16.8	14.4	14.5
Employed population													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7139537	7287198	7145578	7092282	7124899	7417507	7909178
Male	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277	4609198	4771572	4731075	4765107	4594540	4813749	5201665
Female	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511429	2530339	2515626	2414503	2327175	2530359	2603758	2707513
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>													
Total	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7139537	7287198	7145578	7092282	7124898	7417507	7909178
%	(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	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344415	2318621	2455665	2299235	2197207	2295380	2462287	2672472
%	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(32.5)	(33.7)	(32.2)	(31.0)	(32.2)	(33.2)	(33.8)
Industry	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888004	1822685	1835359	1696088	1756238	1847868	1820835	1909857
%	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(25.5)	(25.2)	(23.7)	(24.8)	(25.9)	(24.5)	(24.1)
Services	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2998231	2996174	3150255	3138838	2981650	3134385	3326849
%	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(42.0)	(41.1)	(44.1)	(44.3)	(41.8)	(42.3)	(42.1)
<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 •	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	7.9	3.8	10.7	5.1	5.9	4.8	4.7
1 - 9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.4	1.3	2.9	1.5	2.3	1.4	1.5
10 - 39	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.0	28.8	32.2	26.1	27.5	27.5	27.5
40+	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	60.8	66.0	54.2	67.4	64.3	66.3	66.2

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

*Excluding Northern province

**Selected Labour Force indicators
(2003 - 2010 Q4)**

	Year											
	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2009*	2010Q1*	2010Q2*	*2010Q3	*2009Q4	*2010Q4
Labour force participation rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.2	47.9	47.4	48.5	48.8
Male	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	66.6	67.3	67.3	67.1	66.5	66.9
Female	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	32.8	31.6	30.8	29.8	32.9	32.6
<i>by residential sector</i>												
Total	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.2	47.9	47.4	48.5	48.8
Urban	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	43.5	42.8	41.4	42.1	43.9	41.9
Rural	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	49.4	49.0	48.8	48.3	49.2	49.8
Unemployment rate												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.0	5.4	4.9	5.7	4.5
Male	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.3	3.4	4.1	3.6	4.0	2.9
Female	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	8.6	7.9	8.0	7.7	8.7	7.3
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>												
20 - 29	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.4	14.3	14.9	13.8	15.7	12.3
20 - 24	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	21.4	19.7	20.2	19.2	21.8	17.2
25 - 29	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.3	9.7	10.2	8.9	10.5	7.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>												
G.C.E.(A/L) & above												
Both sexes	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	11.2	12.0	12.3	11.1	13.4	10.8
Male	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.0	8.0	8.5	7.5	9.1	7.5
Female	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	15.5	16.7	16.4	15.6	17.8	14.5
Employed population												
<i>by sex</i>												
Both sexes	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7602414	7725753	7613267	7578174	7592833	7909178
Male	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	4963176	5108289	5081075	5136913	4940502	5201665
Female	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2639238	2617464	2532192	2441261	2652331	2707513
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>												
Total	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7602414	7725753	7613267	7578174	7592833	7909178
%	(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	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2475921	2600463	2439391	2367294	2481308	2672472
%	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(32.6)	(33.7)	(32.0)	(31.2)	(32.7)	(33.8)
Industry	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1910318	1911428	1795204	1850442	1920825	1909857
%	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(25.1)	(24.7)	(23.6)	(24.4)	(25.3)	(24.1)
Services	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3216175	3213861	3378672	3360438	3190700	3326849
%	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(42.3)	(41.6)	(44.4)	(44.3)	(42.0)	(42.1)
<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 •	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	7.9	3.7	10.4	5.2	5.8	4.7
1 - 9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.3	2.7	1.4	2.3	1.5
10 - 39	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	28.8	28.6	31.9	25.8	27.5	27.5
40+	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	61.0	66.5	55.0	67.6	64.5	66.2

• 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