



# Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics

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Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2013

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### Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance and Planning, Sri Lanka

#### Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.0% for the Fourth Quarter of 2013
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.1%.

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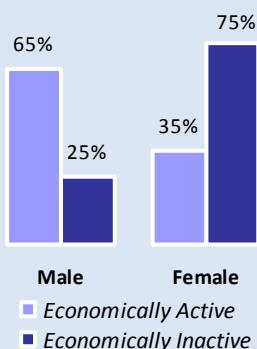


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population - Fourth Quarter 2013

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

The field work of the survey for the Fourth Quarter of 2013 was done in October, November and December covering the whole island

#### Labour Force ...

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector-Fourth

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,670,987	100.0	5,605,495	64.6	3,065,493	35.4
Urban	1,245,036	100.0	859,563	69.0	385,473	31.0
Rural	7,067,915	100.0	4,549,971	64.4	2,517,944	35.6
Estate	358,036	100.0	195,961	54.7	162,076	45.3

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,693,450	100.0	1,927,290	25.1	5,766,160	74.9
Urban	1,460,336	100.0	390,084	26.7	1,070,252	73.3
Rural	6,019,926	100.0	1,468,568	24.4	4,551,358	75.6
Estate	213,187	100.0	68,638	32.2	144,550	67.8

Table 3 : LFPR by gender and year (Excluding Northern province. \*)

Year	Total	Male	Female
2008	55.1	76.1	36.6
2009	54.1	74.7	36.2
2010	53.4	75.0	34.4
2011	53.4	74.2	35.0
2012	53.0	75.2	33.5
2013 Q1	54.6	75.0	37.0
2013 Q2	54.7	75.6	36.3
2013 Q3	54.2	74.8	36.6
2013 Q4	53.4	74.6	35.3

\* Note: Kept same domain for the purpose of comparison.

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2008. Referring the table 3, It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force was almost twice as that of females.

Considering the table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts more male participation compared to female in all age groups. Highest rate for male was reported from age group 35-39 years, while that of females was reported from the age group of 45- 49 years.

#### Labour Force

(Economically Active Population)

Number of persons (age 15 years & above) who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

#### Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

Labour force population expressed as a percentage to the population, age 15 years and over

According to the table 1, the estimated economically active population was about 8.7 million in the Fourth Quarter 2013. Of which 64.6 percent were males and 35.4 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.1 percent were males and 74.9 percent were females (Table 2) .

Table 4 : LFPR by age group and gender - Fourth Quarter 2013

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.0	74.4	34.7
15 - 19	13.8	20.5	7.5
20 - 24	52.7	71.9	36.9
25 - 29	61.8	91.7	40.4
30 - 34	65.6	95.9	40.0
35 - 39	70.8	97.0	48.1
40 - 44	70.0	95.7	48.3
45 - 49	72.1	94.6	51.5
50 - 54	67.5	92.9	45.2
55 - 59	58.3	81.1	38.7
60+	28.9	45.5	14.9

## Employed ...

During the reference period, persons, who worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers (self employed), or contributing family workers are said to be employed.

This also includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period

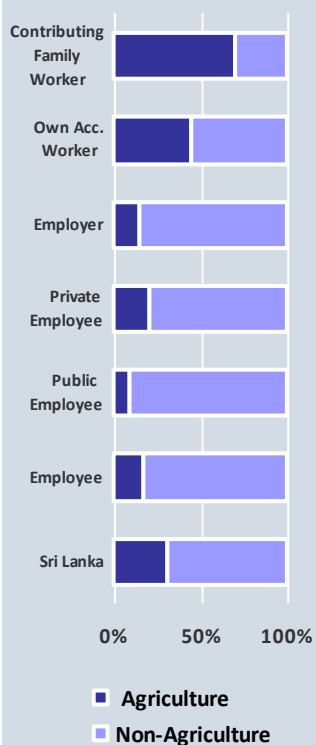


Figure 2 : Distribution of Economically active/inactive population-Second Quarter 2013

Figure 2 shows a higher percentage of contributing family workers in agriculture compared to other categories

## Employment ...

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry  
(Fourth Quarter 2012 – Fourthquarter 2013)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
Oct-Nov-Dec	8,365,075	2,730,254	2,194,865	3,439,957
2012 Q4	100.0	32.6	26.2	41.1
Jan-Feb-Mar	8,451,187	2,384,795	2,273,387	3,793,005
2013Q1	100.0	28.2	26.9	44.9
April-May-June	8,475,419	2,668,059	2,217,693	3,589,668
2013Q2	100.0	31.5	26.2	42.4
July-Aug-Sept.	8,424,409	2,417,569	2,222,344	3,784,496
2013 Q3	100.0	28.7	26.4	44.9
Oct-Nov-Dec	8,319,680	2,546,819	2,095,213	3,677,649
2013 Q4	100.0	30.6	25.2	44.2

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from third quarter 2012 to fourth-quarter 2013. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 8.3 million in Fourth Quarter 2013. Of which, about 44.2 percent engaged in Services sector, 25.2 percent in Industries sector and 30.6 percent in Agriculture sector.

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

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
	No.	%	Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
			No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,319,680	100.0	2,546,819	30.6	5,772,862	69.4
Employee	4,698,527	100.0	828,327	17.6	3,870,199	82.4
Public	1,276,996	100.0	115,765	9.1	1,161,231	90.9
Private	3,421,530	100.0	712,562	20.8	2,708,968	79.2
Employer	232,156	100.0	35,530	15.3	196,626	84.7
Own Account Worker	2,736,777	100.0	1,226,846	44.8	1,509,931	55.2
Contributing Family Worker	652,220	100.0	456,115	69.9	196,105	30.1

According to the table 6, more employers were in non-agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But contributing family workers were highly concentrated in agriculture sector.

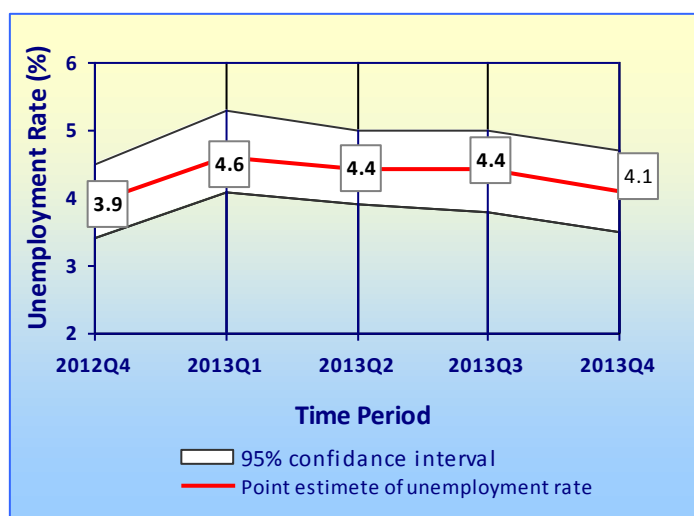
Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex –Fourthquarter 2013

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	30.6	28.7	34.3
Industry	25.2	24.8	26.0
Services	44.2	46.6	39.7

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of the gender, highest employment concentrated in service sector. Further among employed women about 34.3 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 28.7 percent among males.

## Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2012 Q4 - 2013 Q4)



<sup>1</sup>**Sampling error** : When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, estimates differ from the true population values they represent. This difference, or sampling error, occurs by chance, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate.

For more details, please refer the explanatory note on the labour force link in the DCS website.

Table 8: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Fourth Quarter 2013

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.1	2.8	6.4
15–24	19.0	16.0	24.2
25–29	8.3	4.2	15.1
Over 30	1.3	0.6	2.5

As can be seen from table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female was 6.4 percent and it was 2.8 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 – 24 years reported for Fourth Quarter 2013 was 19.0 percent and that reported the highest unemployment rate among age groups. These rates for both males and females were 16.0 and 24.2 percent respectively.

Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment among females is higher 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 8.1 percent. Corresponding percentages were 5.0 percent and 11.2 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 9 : Unemployment rate by level of education – Fourth Quarter 2013

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.1	2.8	6.4
Below GCE O/L	2.4	2.0	3.4
GCE O/L	5.7	4.0	9.1
GCE A/L & above	8.1	5.0	11.2

## Unemployed ...

Persons available and/or looking for work, and who did not work and taken steps to find a job during last four weeks and ready to accept a job given a work opportunity within next two weeks are said to be unemployed.

## Unemployment Rate ...

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force

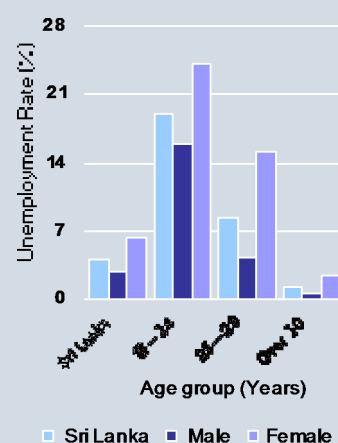


Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group – Third quarter 2013

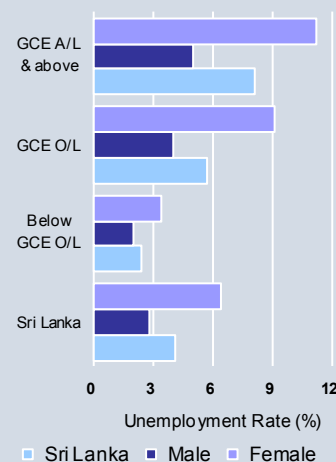


Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by level of education – Fourth quarter 2013



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## Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year									
	2009*	2010*	2011*	2012*	2011**	2012**	2013Q1**	2013Q2**	2013Q3**	2013Q4**
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2	54.2	53.8	53.0
Male	74.7	75.0	74.2	75.2	74.0	75.0	75.1	75.5	74.8	74.4
Female	36.2	34.4	35.0	33.5	34.4	32.9	36.2	35.6	35.8	34.7
<b>By residential sector</b>										
Total	54.1	53.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	52.6	54.2	54.2	53.8	53.0
Urban	48.4	46.8	48.5	48.7	47.8	48.4	47.9	49.0	48.4	46.0
Rural	54.9	54.4	54.2	53.9	53.8	53.5	55.6	55.3	55.0	54.4
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	5.9	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.1
Male	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.1	3.4	2.8
Female	8.6	7.7	6.8	6.0	7.0	6.2	7.0	6.9	6.0	6.4
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>										
20 – 29	15.4	13.8	12.4	11.1	12.3	11.3	13.6	12.6	12.2	13.7
20 – 24	21.4	19.1	18.0	16.7	17.7	16.8	20.7	19.9	16.6	19.7
25 – 29	10.3	9.2	7.5	6.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	6.4	8.0	8.3
<b>By selected educational level</b>										
<b>A/L &amp; above</b>										
Total	11.2	11.6	9.0	7.3	9.0	7.5	9.2	10.2	6.8	8.1
Male	7.0	7.8	5.4	4.3	5.4	4.5	6.1	6.8	4.9	5.0
Female	15.5	15.8	13.1	10.5	13.1	10.8	12.5	14.0	8.9	11.2
<b>Employed population</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	7,579,835	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,451,187	8,475,419	8,424,409	8,319,680
Male	4,949,825	5,125,763	5,219,712	5,224,743	5,452,723	5,469,759	5,494,375	5,589,387	5,460,400	5,451,097
Female	2,630,010	2,570,379	2,664,105	2,567,089	2,733,582	2,648,603	2,956,812	2,886,033	2,964,009	2,868,583
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>										
Total	7,579,835	7,696,142	7,883,817	7,791,831	8,186,305	8,118,362	8,451,187	8,475,419	8,424,409	8,319,680
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,459,824	2,512,546	2,593,048	2,412,066	2,699,244	2,513,673	2,384,795	2,668,059	2,417,569	2,546,819
%	32.5	32.6	32.9	31.0	33.0	31.0	28.2	31.5	28.7	30.6
Industry	1,904,722	1,864,538	1,914,671	2,042,262	1,976,711	2,117,286	2,273,387	2,217,693	2,222,344	2,095,213
%	25.1	24.2	24.3	26.2	24.1	26.1	26.9	26.2	26.4	25.2
Services	3,215,289	3,319,059	3,376,099	3,337,503	3,510,350	3,487,403	3,793,005	3,589,668	3,784,496	3,677,649
%	42.4	43.1	42.8	42.8	42.9	43.0	44.9	42.4	44.9	44.2
<b>By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</b>										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0#	7.9	6.0	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.5	3.1	8.4	5.5	3.7
1 – 9	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.3
10 – 39	28.8	28.4	29.7	25.6	29.9	26.0	27.2	29.1	27.1	26.3
40 & above	61.2	63.9	63.2	68.6	63.1	68.3	67.9	60.5	65.4	68.8

# has a job but not at work during the reference week

\* Excluding Northern Province

\*\*Whole island covered

Note : Working age population considered as (age 15 & over population)