The first Economic Census of Sri Lanka was conducted in 2013/14 and this operation consisted of two stages: listing stage and detail data collection stage. At the first stage listing of all the formal and informal economic activities of non-agriculture sector was done in October-November 2013.

Detail data collection from the formal and informal economic activities was carried out during the second stage. Formal trade and services sector was covered by a questionnaire while the formal industry sector and the informal sector were covered by two different questionnaires for detail data collection. A report on formal industries in the country has already been published.

A communiqué issued by Director General, Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), Dr.A. J. Satharasinghe releasing the report on the trade and service sector (including the construction sector) stated that the number of formal establishments on this sector is 19,530 and the number of persons engaged in these establishments are 777,302. Large number (11,235) of formal establishments were reported from the services sector and it is 58% to the total formal establishments. Similarly the number of persons engaged is the largest in services sector among the other two sectors concerned. The percentage of which is 73 to the total number of persons engaged in these sectors. The number of formal establishments in the construction sector is 852.

Economic Census 2013/14 reveals that labor force participation of males is higher in these sectors. It is reported that 91% of persons engaged in the construction sector is males and in the trade and services sector it is 71% and 68% respectively.

The final report of the Formal Construction, Trade and Services Sector can be downloaded from the DCS website, www.statistics.gov.lk.

Dr. A. J. Satharasinghe
Director General
Department of Census and Statistics