



NEWS RELEASE

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Report – 3rd Quarter 2015

Department of Census and Statistics

Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has released employment, unemployment and labour force statistics for third quarter in 2015, based on a sample of about 6250 housing units enumerated during the quarter covering the whole country under the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey.

The working age for Sri Lanka is defined as age 15 years and above. Among the total working age population who are employed or unemployed during the reference week is identified as the economically active population. The estimated economically active population is about 9.0 million in the Third quarter 2015, of which 64.5 percent are males and 35.5 percent are females.

The labour force is defined as the currently economically active population who are in working age. Labour force population expressed as a percentage of the working age population (age 15 years and over) is the labour force participation rate (LFPR). The survey results reveal that the overall LFPR for the 3rd quarter is 53.8 % and this is 74.7% and 35.7% for males and females respectively.

Persons, who worked at least one hour during the reference period, as paid employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers are said to be employed. The estimated employed population is about 8.5 million for this quarter, of which, about 45.5 percent engaged in Services sector, 27.2 percent in Industries sector and 27.4 percent in Agriculture sector. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for industry sector. Also the survey reveals that about 67% of the employed population works more than 40 hours per week.

During the reference period persons who did not work and looking for 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. The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force is unemployment rate. The estimated unemployment rate for the third quarter 2015 is 5.0 percent. The Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe further reports that the youth (age 15-24) unemployment rate for 3rd quarter is 22.9% and this is 20.3% and 26.8% for male and female respectively. Also the results reveal that unemployment is higher among educated persons who have G.C.E (A/L) & above and the rates for male and female are 6% and 14.1% respectively. A full report of the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter has been published in the Department of Census and Statistics web site: www.statistics.gov.lk.

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