



PRESS RELEASE

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2016

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs

TEL: 011-2147446

FAX: 011-2147447

E-mail: sample.survey@statistics.gov.lk

Releasing a communiqué on the labour force statistics for the year 2016, Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe, Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics said that the estimated unemployment rate for 2016 has been 4.4 percent. During the reference period persons who did not work and looking for work and taken steps to find a job and ready to accept a job given a work opportunity are said to be unemployed.

The working age for Sri Lanka is defined as age 15 years and above. The total working age population who are employed or unemployed during the reference week is identified as the economically active population or labour force. The estimated economically active population is about 8.3 million in 2016, of which 63.8 percent are males and 36.2 percent are females.

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 2016 is 53.8 percent and this is 75.1 percent and 35.9 percent 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 7.9 million for 2016, of which, about 46.5 percent engaged in Services sector, 27.1 percent in Agriculture sector and 26.4 percent in Industry sector. The highest employment share is in Service sector and the lowest employment share is for Industry sector. Also the survey reveals that 67.9 percent of the employed population works more than 40 hours per week.

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey (LFS) is designed to measure levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. This survey has been conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990. LFS 2016 is the 36th year of the survey series. The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has released labour force statistics of 2016, based on a sample of 25,750 housing units.

Director General
Department of Census and Statistics