



**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE  
SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE  
SURVEY**

**Quarterly Report – 2020**

**First Quarter**

**DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS**

**Ministry of Finance**

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# Preface

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Department of Census and Statistics has a long history of conducting the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Sri Lanka. For instance, before 1990 this survey was conducted at every five yearly time intervals and from 1990 onward it was conducted as a regular survey to provide quarterly and annual labour force indicators. Labour Force Surveys provide various labour force indicators including employment and unemployment status of the country. Specially the survey provides necessary information to compile GDP and other important economic indicators of the country.

Various improvements were incorporated into the LFS during past period without breaking its core concepts and definitions which were used since 1990. In 2006, new modules were added to the LFS to capture the information on computer literacy, household economic activities and informal sector employment. The structure of the LFS questionnaire which was used during 2006-2012 was revised in 2013 with new improvements for concepts and classifications used. It is important to note that in 2013 the definition of working age population was revised from age ten and above population to age fifteen and above population.

In 2016, published labour force estimates from 2011 to 2015 were revised according to the population estimates of the Census of Population and Housing which was conducted in 2012. This revision was done along with the international best practices.

Another major achievement for data collection for LFS was taken place in 2017 with the introduction of Computer Assisted Data Collection (CAPI) using tablet computers. Before 2017 enumerators used paper based method and used survey questionnaires to record the answers given by the respondents. A known probability sampling technique is used to select the sample and the annual labour force indicators are compiled using 25,750 housing units covering the entire country. The enumerators who are permanent officers of the Department visited each of these randomly selected housing units to collect the information with a great effort. The field work of the survey for the first quarter 2020 was done in the month of January, February and March in year 2020. This report is based on the data collected in quarterly sample of 6,440 housing units.

I hope the information in this report is very valuable and useful to make evidence based decisions for various users to identify the issues as well as the changes in the labour market of Sri Lanka.

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11.09.2020.



## **Acknowledgements**

*This report is the hundred and fourteenth in the series of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey which was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 and is being continued by the Department of Census and Statistics.*

*Planning and execution of the survey was done by the staff of the Sample Surveys Division under the guidance of Ms. K.M.D.S.D.Karunaratne, Additional Director General (Statistics) and Ms. K.A.Sajeewa Kodikara, Director (Statistics) and under the direction of Ms. E.A.A.P.Egodawatte and Mr. W.Gnanathilaka, Deputy Directors, Sample Surveys Division.*

*The survey activities were organized and supervised by Mrs. M.D.D.D.Deepawansa, Mrs. H.M.D.Sepalika, Mr. A.K.D.C.N.S.Karunaratna, Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Mr. K.Weerasiri, Mrs. U.S.Dilrukshi, Mrs. M.W.L.C.M.Chandrarathne, Mrs. P.D.Nanayakkara, Ms.R.P.M.Subhashini, Statisticians, of the Sample Surveys Division.*

*The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu and Mrs. A.N.Ekanayake Statistical Officers of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Statistician. The Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants, Development Officers, Information and Communication Technology Assistants and Data Entry Operators/ Coding Clerks of the Sample Survey Division are acknowledged for their valuable contribution during the whole survey process.*

*The Information & Communication Technology Division, under the direction of Mrs. I.A.M.Fernando, Additional Director General (ICT) and under the supervision of Mr. P.M.R.Fernando, Director (ICT) and Mr. W.H.P.N.Weerasiri, Director (ICT), were responsible for implementing CAPI methodology and preparation of data collection and computer edits programmes. Developing of sample selection programme and its related computer software was done by Mr. K.M.R.Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director (ICT).*

*This publication was organized and prepared by Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Statistician, Sample Surveys Division, assisted by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu and Mrs. A.N.Ekanayake Statistical Officers, under the guidance of Mrs. K.A.Sajeewa Kodikara, Director (Statistics) and Mrs. E.A.A.P.Egodawatte, Deputy Director (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.*

*District staff of the Department who worked on the survey deserves a special word of thanks. The Deputy Directors/ Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians supervised the survey and field Statistical Officers, worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success. Printing of the report was done by the staff of Printing Division, under the supervision of Mr. M.L.K.P.Kumara, Statistician and under the direction of Mrs. U.V.Jayakody, Director (Statistics).*

*Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to all the respondents of the survey for their valuable cooperation.*



## Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

| Indicator   | Year      |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2018Q1    | 2019Q1    | 2020Q1    |
| <b>Labour force participation rate</b>              |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>By Gender</b>                                    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total   | 53.8      | 53.8      | 54.1      | 51.8      | 52.3      | 52.0      | 52.6      | 51.0      |
| Male  | 74.7      | 75.1      | 74.5      | 73.0      | 73.0      | 73.4      | 73.4      | 72.4      |
| Female  | 35.9      | 35.9      | 36.6      | 33.6      | 34.5      | 33.5      | 34.9      | 32.5      |
| <b>By residential sector</b>                        |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total   | 53.8      | 53.8      | 54.1      | 51.8      | 52.3      | 52.0      | 52.6      | 51.0      |
| Urban   | 48.6      | 49.8      | 50.5      | 49.6      | 50.2      | 49.7      | 51.0      | 47.1      |
| Rural   | 54.8      | 54.6      | 54.8      | 52.3      | 52.7      | 52.4      | 52.9      | 51.7      |
| <b>Unemployment Rate</b>                            |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>By Gender</b>                                    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total   | 4.7       | 4.4       | 4.2       | 4.4       | 4.8       | 4.5       | 4.7       | 5.7       |
| Male  | 3.0       | 2.9       | 2.9       | 3.0       | 3.3       | 2.9       | 3.4       | 3.7       |
| Female  | 7.6       | 7.0       | 6.5       | 7.1       | 7.4       | 7.4       | 6.9       | 9.6       |
| <b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| 20 - 29   | 14.2      | 14.2      | 13.5      | 15.0      | 15.3      | 15.7      | 14.5      | 18.8      |
| 20 - 24   | 19.7      | 19.9      | 17.8      | 20.1      | 20.3      | 21.2      | 21.0      | 26.1      |
| 25 - 29   | 9.4       | 9.2       | 9.5       | 10.4      | 11.0      | 10.7      | 9.0       | 11.6      |
| <b>By selected educational level</b>                |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>GCE A/L and above</b>                            |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total   | 9.2       | 8.3       | 8.1       | 9.1       | 8.5       | 9.5       | 7.9       | 10.1      |
| Male  | 4.7       | 4.7       | 5.0       | 5.1       | 5.0       | 5.0       | 5.4       | 5.5       |
| Female  | 13.5      | 11.9      | 11.3      | 13.2      | 11.9      | 14.1      | 10.6      | 14.7      |
| <b>Employed population</b>                          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>By Gender</b>                                    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total   | 7,830,976 | 7,947,683 | 8,208,179 | 8,015,166 | 8,180,693 | 7,961,358 | 8,182,970 | 8,020,446 |
| Male  | 5,097,798 | 5,149,948 | 5,279,158 | 5,300,310 | 5,368,896 | 5,292,148 | 5,314,713 | 5,381,218 |
| Female  | 2,733,178 | 2,797,735 | 2,929,021 | 2,714,855 | 2,811,796 | 2,669,210 | 2,868,256 | 2,639,227 |
| <b>By industry (Percentage)</b>                     |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total   | 7,830,976 | 7,947,683 | 8,208,179 | 8,015,166 | 8,180,693 | 7,961,358 | 8,182,970 | 8,020,446 |
| %   | 100.0     | 100.0     | 100.0     | 100.0     | 100.0     | 100.0     | 100.0     | 100.0     |
| Agriculture   | 2,244,547 | 2,153,874 | 2,140,185 | 2,043,698 | 2,071,940 | 2,139,057 | 2,018,951 | 2,127,212 |
| %   | 28.7      | 27.1      | 26.1      | 25.5      | 25.3      | 26.9      | 24.7      | 26.5      |
| Industry  | 2,018,171 | 2,097,503 | 2,331,494 | 2,239,262 | 2,258,421 | 2,224,455 | 2,312,671 | 2,174,148 |
| %   | 25.8      | 26.4      | 28.4      | 27.9      | 27.6      | 27.9      | 28.3      | 27.1      |
| Services  | 3,568,259 | 3,696,306 | 3,736,500 | 3,732,206 | 3,850,332 | 3,597,846 | 3,851,348 | 3,719,086 |
| %   | 45.6      | 46.5      | 45.5      | 46.6      | 47.1      | 45.2      | 47.1      | 46.4      |
| <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     |
| 0#  | 5.5       | 4.4       | 4.7       | 5.6       | 6.4       | 3.5       | 3.8       | 12.7      |
| 1 - 9   | 1.7       | 1.5       | 1.7       | 1.7       | 1.7       | 1.6       | 1.6       | 2.3       |
| 10 - 39   | 27.2      | 26.2      | 26.1      | 25.7      | 26.8      | 25.1      | 27.0      | 27.7      |
| 40 & above  | 65.7      | 67.9      | 67.5      | 66.9      | 65.1      | 69.8      | 67.6      | 57.2      |

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

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

**Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey**  
**Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics**  
**2020, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**  
**(All Island)**

**15 years & over population**

|                                 | Total      | Male      | Female    | Urban     | Rural      |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Population (15 years & over)    | 16,689,726 | 7,719,272 | 8,970,454 | 2,881,216 | 13,808,509 |
| Labour force in this age group  | 8,503,617  | 5,585,314 | 2,918,304 | 1,358,282 | 7,145,336  |
| Labour force participation rate | 51.0       | 72.4      | 32.5      | 47.1      | 51.7       |
| Employed population             | 8,020,446  | 5,381,218 | 2,639,227 | 1,296,886 | 6,723,560  |
| Employment rate                 | 94.3       | 96.3      | 90.4      | 95.5      | 94.1       |
| Unemployed population           | 483,172    | 204,095   | 279,077   | 61,396    | 421,776    |
| Unemployment rate               | 5.7        | 3.7       | 9.6       | 4.5       | 5.9        |
| Not in labour force             | 8,186,108  | 2,133,958 | 6,052,150 | 1,522,935 | 6,663,174  |

**18 years & over population**

|                                 | Total      | Male      | Female    | Urban     | Rural      |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Population (18 years & over)    | 15,602,818 | 7,187,467 | 8,415,351 | 2,712,726 | 12,890,092 |
| Labour force in this age group  | 8,436,081  | 5,533,733 | 2,902,348 | 1,354,019 | 7,082,061  |
| Labour force participation rate | 54.1       | 77.0      | 34.5      | 49.9      | 54.9       |
| Employed population             | 7,967,900  | 5,339,288 | 2,628,612 | 1,292,623 | 6,675,277  |
| Employment rate                 | 94.5       | 96.5      | 90.6      | 95.5      | 94.3       |
| Unemployed population           | 468,180    | 194,445   | 273,736   | 61,396    | 406,784    |
| Unemployment rate               | 5.5        | 3.5       | 9.4       | 4.5       | 5.7        |
| Not in labour force             | 7,166,737  | 1,653,734 | 5,513,003 | 1,358,707 | 5,808,030  |

**20 years & over population**

|                                 | Total      | Male      | Female    | Urban     | Rural      |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Population (20 years & over)    | 14,942,018 | 6,862,704 | 8,079,314 | 2,605,816 | 12,336,202 |
| Labour force in this age group  | 8,310,756  | 5,453,855 | 2,856,901 | 1,337,782 | 6,972,974  |
| Labour force participation rate | 55.6       | 79.5      | 35.4      | 51.3      | 56.5       |
| Employed population             | 7,885,382  | 5,280,471 | 2,604,911 | 1,283,325 | 6,602,057  |
| Employment rate                 | 94.9       | 96.8      | 91.2      | 95.9      | 94.7       |
| Unemployed population           | 425,374    | 173,384   | 251,990   | 54,458    | 370,917    |
| Unemployment rate               | 5.1        | 3.2       | 8.8       | 4.1       | 5.3        |
| Not in labour force             | 6,631,262  | 1,408,849 | 5,222,413 | 1,268,034 | 5,363,228  |

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*Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes*

*Appendix 2: Alternative estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics*

# Introduction

## Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 51.0% for the First Quarter of 2020.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 5.7%.

## Inside

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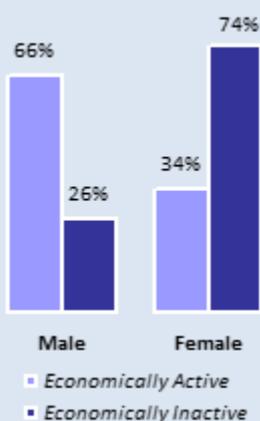


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population - First quarter - 2020

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

This report contains labour force, employment and unemployment statistics for the first quarter 2020 based on the data collected in January, February and March in 2020 covering the whole country.

## Labour Force .... (Economically Active Population)

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector – First Quarter 2020

| Sector    | Economically active population |       |           |      |           |      |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|           | Total                          | %     | Male      | %    | Female    | %    |
| Sri Lanka | 8,503,617                      | 100.0 | 5,585,314 | 65.7 | 2,918,304 | 34.3 |
| Urban     | 1,358,282                      | 100.0 | 925,697   | 68.2 | 432,585   | 31.8 |
| Rural     | 6,755,767                      | 100.0 | 4,426,599 | 65.5 | 2,329,168 | 34.5 |
| Estate    | 389,569                        | 100.0 | 233,018   | 59.8 | 156,551   | 40.2 |

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender and sector – First Quarter 2020

| Sector    | Economically inactive population |       |           |      |           |      |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|           | Total                            | %     | Male      | %    | Female    | %    |
| Sri Lanka | 8,186,108                        | 100.0 | 2,133,958 | 26.1 | 6,052,150 | 73.9 |
| Urban     | 1,522,935                        | 100.0 | 410,932   | 27.0 | 1,112,003 | 73.0 |
| Rural     | 6,361,143                        | 100.0 | 1,621,985 | 25.5 | 4,739,158 | 74.5 |
| Estate    | 302,031                          | 100.0 | 101,041   | 33.5 | 200,990   | 66.5 |

Table 3 : LFPR by gender and year - All Island

| Year    | Total | Male | Female |
|---------|-------|------|--------|
| 2015    | 53.8  | 74.7 | 35.9   |
| 2016    | 54.1  | 75.1 | 36.0   |
| 2017    | 54.1  | 74.5 | 36.6   |
| 2018    | 51.8  | 73.0 | 33.6   |
| 2019    | 52.3  | 73.0 | 34.5   |
| 2018 Q1 | 52.0  | 73.4 | 33.5   |
| 2019 Q1 | 52.6  | 73.4 | 34.9   |
| 2020 Q1 | 51.0  | 72.4 | 32.5   |

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2015. Referring the Table 3, it is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of female.

Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male is reported from age group 35–39 years (97.1%), while that for female is reported from 45–49 age group (48.3%).

## Labour Force

This is the currently economically active population. Which is the number of persons (age 15 years & above) who are employed or unemployed during the reference one week period.

## Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

Labour force population expressed as a percentage of the population, age 15 years and over, defined as LFPR.

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.5 million in the first quarter 2020. Of which 65.7 percent are males and 34.3 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 8.2 million. Out of the economically inactive population 26.1 percent are males and 73.9 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 4 : LFPR by age group and gender - First Quarter 2020

| Age group (Years) | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Sri Lanka         | 51.0  | 72.4 | 32.5   |
| 15 - 19           | 11.0  | 15.3 | 6.9    |
| 20 - 24           | 56.3  | 72.4 | 41.7   |
| 25 - 29           | 65.0  | 90.3 | 44.7   |
| 30 - 34           | 66.1  | 95.8 | 41.3   |
| 35 - 39           | 68.4  | 97.1 | 43.2   |
| 40 - 44           | 66.5  | 94.4 | 44.5   |
| 45 - 49           | 69.9  | 93.0 | 48.3   |
| 50 - 54           | 67.0  | 92.7 | 42.8   |
| 55 - 59           | 57.2  | 83.3 | 36.2   |
| 60+               | 29.6  | 48.4 | 14.3   |

## Definition of 'Employed'

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

### Reference Period :

Previous week of the survey week

## The Employment Rate

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.

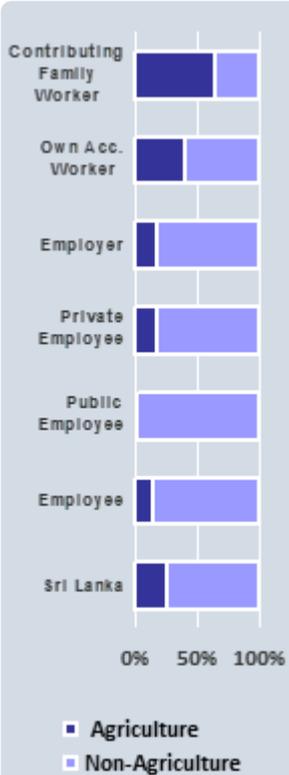


Figure 2: Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - First quarter 2020

## Employment ...

Table 5: Distribution of Employed population by main industry (First quarter 2019 – First quarter 2020)

| Quarter       | Sri Lanka | Major Industry Group |            |           |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
|               |           | Agriculture          | Industries | Services  |
| 2019 Q1 (No.) | 8,182,970 | 2,018,951            | 2,312,671  | 3,851,348 |
| (%)           | 100.0     | 24.7                 | 28.3       | 47.1      |
| 2019 Q2 (No.) | 8,203,018 | 1,990,892            | 2,319,047  | 3,893,079 |
| (%)           | 100.0     | 24.3                 | 28.3       | 47.5      |
| 2019 Q3 (No.) | 8,155,341 | 2,062,790            | 2,205,072  | 3,887,479 |
| (%)           | 100.0     | 25.3                 | 27.0       | 47.7      |
| 2019 Q4 (No.) | 8,181,442 | 2,215,128            | 2,196,895  | 3,769,420 |
| (%)           | 100.0     | 27.1                 | 26.9       | 46.1      |
| 2020 Q1 (No.) | 8,020,446 | 2,127,212            | 2,174,148  | 3,719,086 |
| (%)           | 100.0     | 26.5                 | 27.1       | 46.4      |

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from first quarter 2019 to first quarter 2020. During first quarter of 2020, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.0 million. Of which, about 46.4 percent engaged in Service sector, 27.1 percent in Industry sector and 26.5 percent in Agriculture sector. In the first quarter of 2020, there is an increase in employment in the agriculture sector compared to the first quarter of 2019 by 108,261.

Table 6: Distribution of employed population by employment status in Agriculture and Non-Agriculture sectors – First quarter 2020

| Employment Status          | Sri Lanka |       | Sector      |      |                 |      |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|
|                            |           |       | Agriculture |      | Non-Agriculture |      |
|                            | No.       | %     | No.         | %    | No.             | %    |
| Sri Lanka                  | 8,020,446 | 100.0 | 2,127,212   | 26.5 | 5,893,234       | 73.5 |
| Employee                   | 4,622,324 | 100.0 | 661,606     | 14.3 | 3,960,718       | 85.7 |
| Public                     | 1,198,722 | 100.0 | 27,853      | 2.3  | 1,170,869       | 97.7 |
| Private                    | 3,423,602 | 100.0 | 633,752     | 18.5 | 2,789,850       | 81.5 |
| Employer                   | 202,933   | 100.0 | 35,875      | 17.7 | 167,058         | 82.3 |
| Own Account Worker         | 2,663,080 | 100.0 | 1,085,325   | 40.8 | 1,577,755       | 59.2 |
| Contributing Family Worker | 532,109   | 100.0 | 344,406     | 64.7 | 187,702         | 35.3 |

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by main industry & gender – First quarter 2020

| Major Industry Group | Sri Lanka | Gender |        |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
|                      |           | Male   | Female |
| Sri Lanka            | 100.0     | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| Agriculture          | 26.5      | 25.9   | 27.7   |
| Industry             | 27.1      | 27.6   | 26.0   |
| Services             | 46.4      | 46.4   | 46.2   |

## Main industry categories and sub sectors

### Agriculture

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

### Industries

1. Mining & Quarrying (B)
2. Manufacturing (C)
3. Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E, F)

### Services

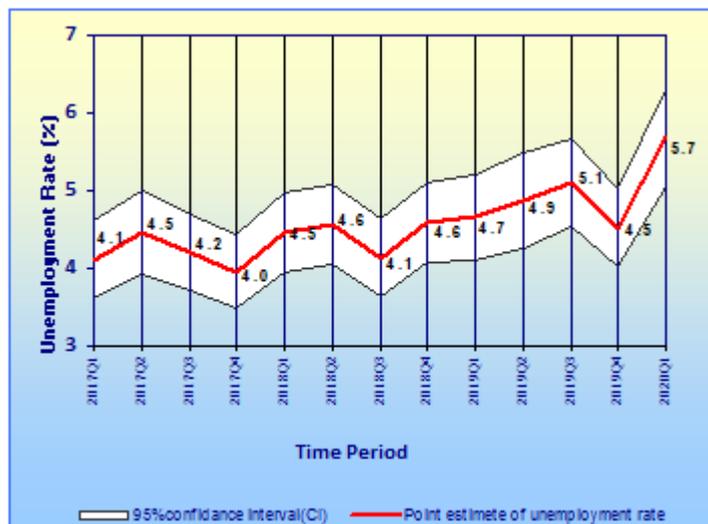
1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative and support service activities (N)
8. Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)
9. Education (P)
10. Human health and social work activities (Q)
11. Other service activities (S)
12. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Majority of the workforce are private sector employees followed by own account workers (Table 6).

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industry sectors. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for agriculture sector. Among employed females 27.7 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 25.9 percent for males.

# Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2017Q1 - 2020Q1)



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

For more details, please refer the explanatory note given under the labour force link in the DCS website; [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)

Table 8: Number of Unemployed and Unemployment rate by age group and gender – First quarter 2020

| Age group (Years) | Unemployment Rate (%) |           |        |        |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
|                   | Sri Lanka             | Sri Lanka | Gender |        |
|                   | Number                |           | Male   | Female |
| Sri Lanka         | 483,172               | 5.7       | 3.7    | 9.6    |
| 15–24             | 266,743               | 26.8      | 21.1   | 36.3   |
| 25–29             | 94,561                | 11.6      | 7.1    | 18.9   |
| Over 30           | 121,867               | 1.8       | 0.8    | 3.8    |

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 9.6 percent and it is 3.7 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the first quarter 2020 is 26.8 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 21.1 and 36.3 percent respectively for age group 15 – 24.

The survey results further reveals that the unemployment among females is higher than that of males, in all age groups. Youth and female unemployment contribute more to the overall unemployment of the country.

Table 9: Number of Unemployed and Unemployment rate by level of education – First quarter 2020

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is about 10.1 percent. Corresponding percentages are 5.5 percent and 14.7 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

| Level of Education | Unemployment Rate (%) |           |        |        |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
|                    | Sri Lanka             | Sri Lanka | Gender |        |
|                    | Number                |           | Male   | Female |
| Sri Lanka          | 483,172               | 5.7       | 3.7    | 9.6    |
| Below GCE O/L      | 170,784               | 3.4       | 2.7    | 5.4    |
| GCE O/L            | 108,584               | 7.2       | 5.2    | 11.1   |
| GCE A/L & above    | 203,804               | 10.1      | 5.5    | 14.7   |

Survey results further shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males, which was observed consistently over the results of previous survey rounds as well.

## Definition of '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.

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 483,172 during the first quarter 2020. The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2020 is 5.7 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when the changes in unemployment rate is explained the corresponding sampling errors<sup>1</sup> and the confidence limits need to be considered.

## The Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

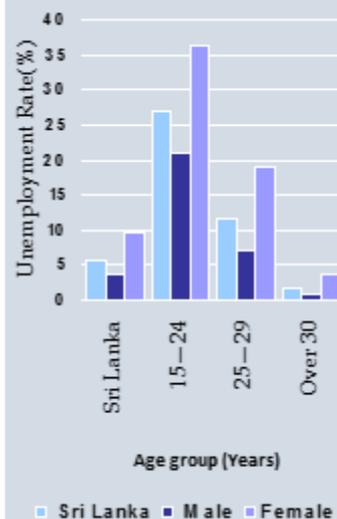


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – First quarter 2020

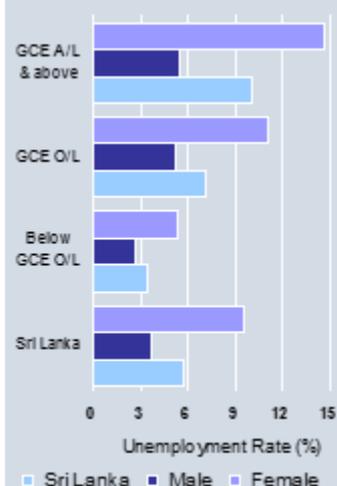


Figure 5: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – First quarter 2020

**TABLE 1 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD  
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - BOTH SEXES**

|        |   |                          |  |           |                                      |            |                                      | NATIONAL LEVEL DATA                 |
|--------|---|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| YEAR   | HOUSEHOLD<br>POPULATION<br>(15 YEARS<br>& OVER) | LABOUR FORCE             |  |           |                                      |            |                                      | NOT IN<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>NUMBER |
|        |   | TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE | LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>PARTICI:<br>RATE(%) | EMPLOYED  |                                      | UNEMPLOYED |                                      |                                     |
|        |   |                          |  | NUMBER    | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) | NUMBER     | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) |                                     |
|        |   |                          |  |           |                                      |            |                                      |                                     |
| 2011   | 14,975,989                                      | 7,926,445                | 52.9                                   | 7,591,591 | 95.8                                 | 334,854    | 4.2                                  | 7,049,544                           |
| 2012   | 14,857,578                                      | 7,798,407                | 52.5                                   | 7,488,704 | 96.0                                 | 309,703    | 4.0                                  | 7,059,171                           |
| 2013   | 14,959,065                                      | 8,033,804                | 53.7                                   | 7,681,279 | 95.6                                 | 352,526    | 4.4                                  | 6,925,260                           |
| 2014   | 15,134,484                                      | 8,048,884                | 53.2                                   | 7,700,489 | 95.7                                 | 348,395    | 4.3                                  | 7,085,600                           |
| 2015   | 15,281,945                                      | 8,214,473                | 53.8                                   | 7,830,976 | 95.3                                 | 383,496    | 4.7                                  | 7,067,473                           |
| 2016   | 15,448,679                                      | 8,310,682                | 53.8                                   | 7,947,683 | 95.6                                 | 362,999    | 4.4                                  | 7,137,997                           |
| 2017   | 15,843,735                                      | 8,566,686                | 54.1                                   | 8,208,179 | 95.8                                 | 358,507    | 4.2                                  | 7,277,049                           |
| 2018   | 16,196,232                                      | 8,387,759                | 51.8                                   | 8,015,166 | 95.6                                 | 372,593    | 4.4                                  | 7,808,473                           |
| 2019   | 16,424,016                                      | 8,592,010                | 52.3                                   | 8,180,693 | 95.2                                 | 411,318    | 4.8                                  | 7,832,006                           |
| 2018Q1 | 16,033,845                                      | 8,333,493                | 52.0                                   | 7,961,358 | 95.5                                 | 372,135    | 4.5                                  | 7,700,352                           |
| 2019Q1 | 16,328,478                                      | 8,582,753                | 52.6                                   | 8,182,970 | 95.3                                 | 399,784    | 4.7                                  | 7,745,724                           |
| 2020Q1 | 16,689,726                                      | 8,503,617                | 51.0                                   | 8,020,446 | 94.3                                 | 483,172    | 5.7                                  | 8,186,108                           |

**TABLE 1A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD  
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - MALE**

| YEAR   | HOUSEHOLD  | LABOUR FORCE |          |               |      |               |      | NOT IN    |
|--------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|------|---------------|------|-----------|
|        | POPULATION | TOTAL        | LABOUR   | EMPLOYED      |      | UNEMPLOYED    |      | LABOUR    |
|        | (15 YEARS  | LABOUR       | FORCE    | NUMBER        | RATE | NUMBER        | RATE | FORCE     |
|        | & OVER)    | FORCE        | PARTICI: | (% TO TOTAL   |      | (% TO TOTAL   |      | NUMBER    |
|        |            |              | RATE(%)  | LABOUR FORCE) |      | LABOUR FORCE) |      |           |
| 2011   | 7,027,780  | 5,203,267    | 74.0     | 5,061,214     | 97.3 | 142,053       | 2.7  | 1,824,513 |
| 2012   | 6,932,520  | 5,192,686    | 74.9     | 5,046,057     | 97.2 | 146,629       | 2.8  | 1,739,835 |
| 2013   | 6,926,750  | 5,187,873    | 74.9     | 5,024,341     | 96.8 | 163,533       | 3.2  | 1,738,877 |
| 2014   | 7,025,780  | 5,240,034    | 74.6     | 5,075,425     | 96.9 | 164,609       | 3.1  | 1,785,746 |
| 2015   | 7,036,944  | 5,255,593    | 74.7     | 5,097,798     | 97.0 | 157,794       | 3.0  | 1,781,352 |
| 2016   | 7,064,736  | 5,303,502    | 75.1     | 5,149,948     | 97.1 | 153,554       | 2.9  | 1,761,234 |
| 2017   | 7,292,047  | 5,434,510    | 74.5     | 5,279,158     | 97.1 | 155,352       | 2.9  | 1,857,537 |
| 2018   | 7,488,320  | 5,464,236    | 73.0     | 5,300,310     | 97.0 | 163,926       | 3.0  | 2,024,084 |
| 2019   | 7,610,113  | 5,554,192    | 73.0     | 5,368,896     | 96.7 | 185,296       | 3.3  | 2,055,920 |
| 2018Q1 | 7,423,101  | 5,449,958    | 73.4     | 5,292,148     | 97.1 | 157,810       | 2.9  | 1,973,143 |
| 2019Q1 | 7,492,509  | 5,503,227    | 73.4     | 5,314,713     | 96.6 | 188,514       | 3.4  | 1,989,282 |
| 2020Q1 | 7,719,272  | 5,585,314    | 72.4     | 5,381,218     | 96.3 | 204,095       | 3.7  | 2,133,958 |

**TABLE 1B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD  
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - FEMALE**

| YEAR   | HOUSEHOLD  | LABOUR FORCE |          |               |      |               |      | NOT IN    |
|--------|------------|--------------|----------|---------------|------|---------------|------|-----------|
|        | POPULATION | TOTAL        | LABOUR   | EMPLOYED      |      | UNEMPLOYED    |      | LABOUR    |
|        | (15 YEARS  | LABOUR       | FORCE    | NUMBER        | RATE | NUMBER        | RATE | FORCE     |
|        | & OVER)    | FORCE        | PARTICI: | (% TO TOTAL   |      | (% TO TOTAL   |      | NUMBER    |
|        |            |              | RATE(%)  | LABOUR FORCE) |      | LABOUR FORCE) |      |           |
| 2011   | 7,948,209  | 2,723,178    | 34.3     | 2,530,377     | 92.9 | 192,801       | 7.1  | 5,225,031 |
| 2012   | 7,925,058  | 2,605,721    | 32.9     | 2,442,647     | 93.7 | 163,074       | 6.3  | 5,319,336 |
| 2013   | 8,032,315  | 2,845,931    | 35.4     | 2,656,938     | 93.4 | 188,993       | 6.6  | 5,186,383 |
| 2014   | 8,108,704  | 2,808,850    | 34.6     | 2,625,064     | 93.5 | 183,786       | 6.5  | 5,299,854 |
| 2015   | 8,245,001  | 2,958,880    | 35.9     | 2,733,178     | 92.4 | 225,702       | 7.6  | 5,286,121 |
| 2016   | 8,383,943  | 3,007,180    | 35.9     | 2,797,735     | 93.0 | 209,445       | 7.0  | 5,376,764 |
| 2017   | 8,551,688  | 3,132,176    | 36.6     | 2,929,021     | 93.5 | 203,155       | 6.5  | 5,419,512 |
| 2018   | 8,707,912  | 2,923,523    | 33.6     | 2,714,855     | 92.9 | 208,667       | 7.1  | 5,784,390 |
| 2019   | 8,813,903  | 3,037,818    | 34.5     | 2,811,796     | 92.6 | 226,022       | 7.4  | 5,776,085 |
| 2018Q1 | 8,610,744  | 2,883,535    | 33.5     | 2,669,210     | 92.6 | 214,325       | 7.4  | 5,727,209 |
| 2019Q1 | 8,835,969  | 3,079,526    | 34.9     | 2,868,256     | 93.1 | 211,270       | 6.9  | 5,756,443 |
| 2020Q1 | 8,970,454  | 2,918,304    | 32.5     | 2,639,227     | 90.4 | 279,077       | 9.6  | 6,052,150 |

**TABLE 2 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - BOTH SEXES**

| AGE             | HOUSEHOLD            | LABOUR FORCE             |  |           |                                      |            |                                      | NOT IN<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>NUMBER |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                 | POP:                 | TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE | LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>PARTICI:<br>RATE(%) | EMPLOYED  |                                      | UNEMPLOYED |                                      |                                     |
|                 | (15 YEARS<br>& OVER) |                          |  | NUMBER    | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) | NUMBER     | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) |                                     |
| <b>ALL AGES</b> | 16,689,726           | 8,503,617                | 51.0                                   | 8,020,446 | 94.3                                 | 483,172    | 5.7                                  | 8,186,108                           |
| 15 - 19 YRS     | 1,747,708            | 192,862                  | 11.0                                   | 135,064   | 70.0                                 | 57,797     | 30.0                                 | 1,554,846                           |
| 20 - 24 YRS     | 1,423,717            | 801,084                  | 56.3                                   | 592,138   | 73.9                                 | 208,946    | 26.1                                 | 622,633                             |
| 25 - 29 YRS     | 1,253,465            | 815,357                  | 65.0                                   | 720,796   | 88.4                                 | 94,561     | 11.6                                 | 438,108                             |
| 30 - 39 YRS     | 2,748,301            | 1,850,717                | 67.3                                   | 1,792,033 | 96.8                                 | 58,685     | 3.2                                  | 897,583                             |
| 40 + YRS        | 9,516,536            | 4,843,597                | 50.9                                   | 4,780,415 | 98.7                                 | 63,183     | 1.3                                  | 4,672,938                           |

**TABLE 2A - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - MALE**

| AGE             | HOUSEHOLD            | LABOUR FORCE             |  |           |                                      |            |                                      | NOT IN<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>NUMBER |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                 | POP:                 | TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE | LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>PARTICI:<br>RATE(%) | EMPLOYED  |                                      | UNEMPLOYED |                                      |                                     |
|                 | (15 YEARS<br>& OVER) |                          |  | NUMBER    | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) | NUMBER     | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) |                                     |
| <b>ALL AGES</b> | 7,719,272            | 5,585,314                | 72.4                                   | 5,381,218 | 96.3                                 | 204,095    | 3.7                                  | 2,133,958                           |
| 15 - 19 YRS     | 856,567              | 131,459                  | 15.3                                   | 100,748   | 76.6                                 | 30,711     | 23.4                                 | 725,109                             |
| 20 - 24 YRS     | 674,234              | 488,461                  | 72.4                                   | 388,354   | 79.5                                 | 100,108    | 20.5                                 | 185,773                             |
| 25 - 29 YRS     | 560,322              | 505,821                  | 90.3                                   | 469,900   | 92.9                                 | 35,921     | 7.1                                  | 54,501                              |
| 30 - 39 YRS     | 1,269,146            | 1,224,985                | 96.5                                   | 1,208,105 | 98.6                                 | 16,880     | 1.4                                  | 44,161                              |
| 40 + YRS        | 4,359,002            | 3,234,588                | 74.2                                   | 3,214,112 | 99.4                                 | 20,476     | 0.6                                  | 1,124,414                           |

**TABLE 2B - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - FEMALE**

| AGE             | HOUSEHOLD            | LABOUR FORCE             |  |           |                                      |            |                                      | NOT IN<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>NUMBER |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                 | POP:                 | TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE | LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>PARTICI:<br>RATE(%) | EMPLOYED  |                                      | UNEMPLOYED |                                      |                                     |
|                 | (15 YEARS<br>& OVER) |                          |  | NUMBER    | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) | NUMBER     | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR FORCE) |                                     |
| <b>ALL AGES</b> | 8,970,454            | 2,918,304                | 32.5                                   | 2,639,227 | 90.4                                 | 279,077    | 9.6                                  | 6,052,150                           |
| 15 - 19 YRS     | 891,140              | 61,403                   | 6.9                                    | 34,317    | 55.9                                 | 27,086     | 44.1                                 | 829,737                             |
| 20 - 24 YRS     | 749,483              | 312,623                  | 41.7                                   | 203,784   | 65.2                                 | 108,838    | 34.8                                 | 436,860                             |
| 25 - 29 YRS     | 693,142              | 309,536                  | 44.7                                   | 250,896   | 81.1                                 | 58,640     | 18.9                                 | 383,606                             |
| 30 - 39 YRS     | 1,479,155            | 625,732                  | 42.3                                   | 583,928   | 93.3                                 | 41,805     | 6.7                                  | 853,423                             |
| 40 + YRS        | 5,157,534            | 1,609,010                | 31.2                                   | 1,566,303 | 97.3                                 | 42,707     | 2.7                                  | 3,548,524                           |

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

**TABLE 3 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

| Year   | All Ages | Age Groups     |                |                |                |            |
|--------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|        |          | 15 - 19<br>YRS | 20 - 24<br>YRS | 25 - 29<br>YRS | 30 - 39<br>YRS | 40+<br>YRS |
| 2013   | 100.0    | 2.7            | 7.9            | 10.1           | 24.8           | 54.5       |
| 2014   | 100.0    | 2.4            | 7.2            | 9.7            | 25.2           | 55.5       |
| 2015   | 100.0    | 2.2            | 7.5            | 9.7            | 24.5           | 56.1       |
| 2016   | 100.0    | 2.0            | 7.3            | 9.5            | 24.2           | 57.0       |
| 2017   | 100.0    | 2.1            | 7.6            | 9.2            | 23.4           | 57.7       |
| 2018   | 100.0    | 1.8            | 7.2            | 9.0            | 22.6           | 59.4       |
| 2019   | 100.0    | 1.9            | 7.1            | 9.3            | 22.6           | 59.1       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0    | 1.9            | 6.8            | 8.6            | 22.9           | 59.8       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0    | 2.2            | 7.0            | 9.5            | 22.5           | 58.7       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0    | 1.7            | 7.4            | 9.0            | 22.3           | 59.6       |

**TABLE 3A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

| Year   | All Ages | Age Groups     |                |                |                |            |
|--------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|        |          | 15 - 19<br>YRS | 20 - 24<br>YRS | 25 - 29<br>YRS | 30 - 39<br>YRS | 40+<br>YRS |
| 2013   | 100.0    | 2.9            | 7.8            | 10.2           | 25.0           | 54.1       |
| 2014   | 100.0    | 2.5            | 7.3            | 9.6            | 25.4           | 55.2       |
| 2015   | 100.0    | 2.3            | 7.3            | 9.7            | 24.4           | 56.2       |
| 2016   | 100.0    | 2.2            | 7.3            | 9.4            | 24.2           | 56.9       |
| 2017   | 100.0    | 2.3            | 7.5            | 9.4            | 23.5           | 57.3       |
| 2018   | 100.0    | 2.0            | 7.3            | 9.4            | 22.6           | 58.7       |
| 2019   | 100.0    | 2.1            | 7.2            | 9.4            | 22.3           | 59.0       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0    | 2.2            | 6.9            | 8.9            | 22.5           | 59.4       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0    | 2.4            | 7.1            | 9.5            | 22.1           | 58.9       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0    | 1.9            | 7.2            | 8.7            | 22.5           | 59.7       |

**TABLE 3B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

| Year   | All Ages | Age Groups     |                |                |                |            |
|--------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|        |          | 15 - 19<br>YRS | 20 - 24<br>YRS | 25 - 29<br>YRS | 30 - 39<br>YRS | 40+<br>YRS |
| 2013   | 100.0    | 2.4            | 8.0            | 10.0           | 24.3           | 55.3       |
| 2014   | 100.0    | 2.2            | 7.1            | 9.9            | 24.8           | 56.0       |
| 2015   | 100.0    | 2.1            | 7.8            | 9.6            | 24.7           | 55.9       |
| 2016   | 100.0    | 1.6            | 7.2            | 9.6            | 24.3           | 57.3       |
| 2017   | 100.0    | 1.7            | 7.8            | 9.0            | 23.2           | 58.3       |
| 2018   | 100.0    | 1.4            | 6.9            | 8.3            | 22.7           | 60.7       |
| 2019   | 100.0    | 1.4            | 7.0            | 9.1            | 23.1           | 59.4       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0    | 1.4            | 6.6            | 7.8            | 23.6           | 60.6       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0    | 1.8            | 6.9            | 9.6            | 23.2           | 58.5       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0    | 1.3            | 7.7            | 9.5            | 22.1           | 59.3       |

**TABLE 4 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION  
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

| Year   | Total | Level of education |                  |                    |                            |
|--------|-------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|        |       | Grade 5 &<br>Below | Grades<br>6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/<br>NCGE | GCE (A.L)/<br>HNCE & above |
| 2013   | 100.1 | 18.2               | 47.9             | 15.9               | 18.1                       |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 16.4               | 48.9             | 16.0               | 18.6                       |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 16.7               | 47.4             | 17.3               | 18.6                       |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 16.2               | 47.4             | 16.3               | 20.1                       |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 15.8               | 46.1             | 17.3               | 20.8                       |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 14.9               | 45.9             | 18.1               | 21.2                       |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 14.0               | 45.8             | 17.4               | 22.8                       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 15.9               | 46.1             | 17.2               | 20.8                       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 13.8               | 45.8             | 17.7               | 22.7                       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 14.7               | 45.0             | 17.6               | 22.7                       |

**TABLE 4A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION  
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

| Year   | Total | Level of education |                  |                    |                            |
|--------|-------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|        |       | Grade 5 &<br>Below | Grades<br>6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/<br>NCGE | GCE (A.L)/<br>HNCE & above |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 17.8               | 51.5             | 16.0               | 14.6                       |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 16.4               | 52.6             | 16.2               | 14.8                       |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 16.7               | 51.1             | 17.7               | 14.6                       |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 16.1               | 51.1             | 16.7               | 16.1                       |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 15.7               | 49.8             | 17.6               | 16.9                       |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 14.7               | 49.7             | 18.8               | 16.7                       |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 14.1               | 49.6             | 18.0               | 18.2                       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 15.9               | 49.3             | 18.3               | 16.5                       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 14.2               | 49.6             | 18.2               | 18.0                       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 15.0               | 49.2             | 17.9               | 17.9                       |

**TABLE 4B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION  
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

| Year   | Total | Level of education |                  |                    |                            |
|--------|-------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|        |       | Grade 5 &<br>Below | Grades<br>6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/<br>NCGE | GCE (A.L)/<br>HNCE & above |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 18.8               | 41.0             | 15.6               | 24.6                       |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 16.5               | 41.7             | 15.8               | 26.0                       |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 16.6               | 40.4             | 16.7               | 26.3                       |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 16.3               | 40.6             | 15.6               | 27.5                       |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 16.1               | 39.4             | 16.8               | 27.7                       |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 15.2               | 38.4             | 16.5               | 29.9                       |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 13.8               | 38.4             | 16.3               | 31.6                       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 15.8               | 39.9             | 15.1               | 29.2                       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 13.3               | 38.8             | 16.6               | 31.4                       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 14.1               | 36.4             | 16.9               | 32.6                       |

**TABLE 5 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

| YEAR   | TOTAL<br>EMPLOYED | EMPLOYEE |        |         | EMPLOYER | OWN               | UNPAID           |
|--------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
|        |                   | TOTAL    | PUBLIC | PRIVATE |          | ACCOUNT<br>WORKER | FAMILY<br>WORKER |
| 2013   | 100.0             | 55.7     | 15.2   | 40.5    | 3.0      | 32.2              | 9.1              |
| 2014   | 100.0             | 56.4     | 15.5   | 40.9    | 2.7      | 32.0              | 8.9              |
| 2015   | 100.0             | 56.1     | 15.1   | 41.0    | 3.1      | 32.3              | 8.4              |
| 2016   | 100.0             | 57.8     | 14.6   | 43.3    | 2.7      | 31.6              | 7.8              |
| 2017   | 100.0             | 57.7     | 14.4   | 43.3    | 3.0      | 31.3              | 8.0              |
| 2018   | 100.0             | 57.8     | 14.5   | 43.3    | 2.8      | 32.3              | 7.2              |
| 2019   | 100.0             | 57.9     | 14.9   | 43.0    | 2.6      | 32.5              | 7.0              |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0             | 58.0     | 14.3   | 43.8    | 2.7      | 31.8              | 7.5              |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0             | 57.9     | 15.0   | 42.9    | 2.7      | 32.5              | 6.9              |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0             | 57.6     | 14.9   | 42.7    | 2.5      | 33.2              | 6.6              |

**TABLE 5A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

| YEAR   | TOTAL<br>EMPLOYED | EMPLOYEE |        |         | EMPLOYER | OWN               | UNPAID           |
|--------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
|        |                   | TOTAL    | PUBLIC | PRIVATE |          | ACCOUNT<br>WORKER | FAMILY<br>WORKER |
| 2013   | 100.0             | 56.6     | 12.9   | 43.8    | 4.1      | 36.2              | 3.0              |
| 2014   | 100.0             | 57.3     | 13.1   | 44.2    | 3.6      | 36.2              | 2.8              |
| 2015   | 100.0             | 56.7     | 12.8   | 43.9    | 4.2      | 36.3              | 2.8              |
| 2016   | 100.0             | 58.9     | 12.4   | 46.4    | 3.7      | 34.7              | 2.7              |
| 2017   | 100.0             | 58.8     | 12.3   | 46.4    | 4.1      | 34.5              | 2.6              |
| 2018   | 100.0             | 57.8     | 12.0   | 45.8    | 3.7      | 36.0              | 2.5              |
| 2019   | 100.0             | 57.7     | 12.2   | 45.5    | 3.5      | 36.5              | 2.3              |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0             | 58.6     | 12.4   | 46.2    | 3.5      | 35.3              | 2.5              |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0             | 58.0     | 12.5   | 45.5    | 3.6      | 36.2              | 2.2              |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0             | 55.7     | 11.9   | 43.8    | 3.4      | 38.4              | 2.6              |

**TABLE 5B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

| YEAR   | TOTAL<br>EMPLOYED | EMPLOYEE |        |         | EMPLOYER | OWN               | UNPAID           |
|--------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
|        |                   | TOTAL    | PUBLIC | PRIVATE |          | ACCOUNT<br>WORKER | FAMILY<br>WORKER |
| 2013   | 100.0             | 53.9     | 19.7   | 34.3    | 0.9      | 24.6              | 20.5             |
| 2014   | 100.0             | 54.8     | 20.1   | 34.7    | 1.0      | 23.7              | 20.5             |
| 2015   | 100.0             | 55.1     | 19.3   | 35.8    | 1.1      | 24.9              | 18.8             |
| 2016   | 100.0             | 55.9     | 18.5   | 37.4    | 0.9      | 25.9              | 17.2             |
| 2017   | 100.0             | 55.7     | 18.0   | 37.7    | 1.1      | 25.6              | 17.7             |
| 2018   | 100.0             | 57.8     | 19.3   | 38.5    | 1.0      | 24.9              | 16.3             |
| 2019   | 100.0             | 58.3     | 19.9   | 38.4    | 0.8      | 24.8              | 16.1             |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0             | 56.9     | 18.0   | 38.8    | 1.0      | 24.8              | 17.4             |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0             | 57.7     | 19.7   | 38.0    | 0.9      | 25.6              | 15.8             |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0             | 61.6     | 21.1   | 40.4    | 0.7      | 22.7              | 15.0             |

■ These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

**Table 6 - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - both sexes**

| Year   | Total     | Industry Group |        |           |         |           |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |
|--------|-----------|----------------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
|        |           | 1              | 2      | 3         | 6       | 7         | 8       | 9       | 10     | 11      | 13     | 14      | 15      | 16      | 17      | 19      | 20      | Other  |
| 2015   | 7,830,976 | 2,244,547      | 60,614 | 1,407,908 | 549,649 | 1,059,803 | 480,338 | 202,780 | 52,372 | 144,507 | 64,950 | 120,218 | 600,249 | 324,175 | 137,366 | 143,768 | 177,255 | 60,477 |
| 2016   | 7,947,683 | 2,153,874      | 59,907 | 1,420,628 | 616,968 | 1,102,337 | 516,128 | 203,083 | 61,522 | 159,325 | 54,703 | 107,490 | 609,205 | 343,837 | 141,836 | 137,552 | 209,101 | 50,188 |
| 2017   | 8,208,179 | 2,140,185      | 63,014 | 1,580,936 | 687,544 | 1,160,443 | 512,991 | 210,380 | 70,264 | 159,813 | 69,568 | 152,363 | 526,732 | 377,129 | 149,272 | 118,917 | 161,681 | 66,947 |
| 2018   | 8,015,166 | 2,043,698      | 62,136 | 1,463,919 | 713,207 | 1,141,416 | 502,126 | 238,145 | 55,220 | 173,330 | 86,286 | 166,978 | 434,348 | 425,092 | 142,861 | 116,733 | 194,303 | 55,368 |
| 2019   | 8,180,693 | 2,071,940      | 60,902 | 1,504,314 | 693,205 | 1,134,496 | 514,469 | 232,344 | 64,382 | 187,933 | 90,317 | 205,009 | 436,175 | 425,931 | 169,232 | 135,247 | 186,970 | 67,828 |
| 2018Q1 | 7,961,358 | 2,139,057      | 54,967 | 1,471,960 | 697,529 | 1,137,599 | 493,018 | 216,020 | 52,298 | 185,783 | 76,893 | 133,588 | 456,597 | 392,225 | 141,076 | 86,780  | 189,351 | 36,619 |
| 2019Q1 | 8,182,970 | 2,018,951      | 69,828 | 1,530,899 | 711,944 | 1,137,853 | 487,033 | 235,757 | 67,162 | 218,049 | 84,769 | 208,881 | 443,384 | 412,604 | 157,624 | 128,268 | 186,361 | 83,605 |
| 2020Q1 | 8,020,446 | 2,127,212      | 59,953 | 1,443,674 | 670,521 | 1,104,399 | 568,839 | 211,187 | 55,478 | 182,028 | 91,620 | 188,096 | 435,267 | 384,154 | 153,477 | 123,566 | 162,842 | 58,133 |

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**Table 6A - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - Male**

| Year   | Total     | Industry Group |        |         |         |         |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |        |         |         |        |
|--------|-----------|----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
|        |           | 1              | 2      | 3       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10     | 11      | 13     | 14      | 15      | 16      | 17     | 19      | 20      | Other  |
| 2015   | 5,097,797 | 1,360,831      | 57,116 | 741,643 | 527,419 | 756,298 | 465,920 | 140,042 | 41,206 | 79,485  | 42,853 | 91,639  | 395,291 | 92,824  | 45,976 | 105,307 | 107,469 | 46,478 |
| 2016   | 5,149,948 | 1,302,613      | 56,762 | 739,372 | 590,459 | 770,376 | 495,894 | 129,928 | 45,525 | 90,506  | 33,125 | 83,937  | 394,974 | 105,604 | 53,843 | 99,146  | 119,873 | 38,011 |
| 2017   | 5,279,158 | 1,279,980      | 60,026 | 822,518 | 655,436 | 814,523 | 495,005 | 134,587 | 50,551 | 93,495  | 46,100 | 109,152 | 336,452 | 114,026 | 48,245 | 83,172  | 84,014  | 51,877 |
| 2018   | 5,300,310 | 1,270,968      | 59,514 | 785,112 | 688,318 | 835,444 | 483,618 | 153,022 | 38,942 | 92,422  | 53,152 | 118,324 | 286,200 | 135,153 | 52,200 | 83,418  | 119,488 | 45,016 |
| 2019   | 5,368,896 | 1,333,249      | 59,244 | 784,687 | 665,725 | 800,488 | 497,102 | 145,858 | 46,255 | 105,999 | 59,418 | 149,307 | 278,608 | 131,014 | 61,889 | 93,078  | 101,972 | 55,004 |
| 2018Q1 | 5,292,148 | 1,340,641      | 50,872 | 793,104 | 677,257 | 812,901 | 475,615 | 149,502 | 43,019 | 105,660 | 43,476 | 89,188  | 305,170 | 144,037 | 52,812 | 60,256  | 118,364 | 30,274 |
| 2019Q1 | 5,314,713 | 1,257,644      | 67,749 | 807,254 | 683,296 | 784,560 | 475,165 | 146,215 | 42,644 | 115,561 | 57,881 | 152,596 | 281,639 | 127,111 | 51,528 | 94,298  | 96,361  | 73,211 |
| 2020Q1 | 5,381,218 | 1,395,307      | 58,325 | 780,399 | 648,645 | 796,584 | 536,446 | 156,187 | 39,601 | 107,449 | 56,530 | 137,677 | 257,803 | 111,491 | 62,739 | 95,945  | 98,637  | 41,454 |

**Table 6B - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - Female**

| Year   | Total     | Industry Group |       |         |        |         |        |        |        |         |        |        |         |         |         |        |        |        |
|--------|-----------|----------------|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
|        |           | 1              | 2     | 3       | 6      | 7       | 8      | 9      | 10     | 11      | 13     | 14     | 15      | 16      | 17      | 19     | 20     | Other  |
| 2015   | 2,733,179 | 883,716        | 3,498 | 666,265 | 22,230 | 303,507 | 14,418 | 62,738 | 11,165 | 65,023  | 22,097 | 28,579 | 204,958 | 231,350 | 91,389  | 38,461 | 69,786 | 13,999 |
| 2016   | 2,797,735 | 851,261        | 3,145 | 681,256 | 26,509 | 331,961 | 20,234 | 73,154 | 15,997 | 68,819  | 21,578 | 23,553 | 214,231 | 238,233 | 87,993  | 38,405 | 89,228 | 12,178 |
| 2017   | 2,929,021 | 860,204        | 2,988 | 758,418 | 32,108 | 345,921 | 17,986 | 75,792 | 19,713 | 66,319  | 23,468 | 43,211 | 190,280 | 263,103 | 101,027 | 35,745 | 77,667 | 15,070 |
| 2018   | 2,714,855 | 772,730        | 2,622 | 678,808 | 24,888 | 305,972 | 18,507 | 85,123 | 16,278 | 80,908  | 33,134 | 48,654 | 148,149 | 289,939 | 90,661  | 33,314 | 74,815 | 10,352 |
| 2019   | 2,811,796 | 738,692        | 1,658 | 719,627 | 27,479 | 334,008 | 17,368 | 86,486 | 18,126 | 81,934  | 30,899 | 55,701 | 157,567 | 294,916 | 107,344 | 42,169 | 84,998 | 12,825 |
| 2018Q1 | 2,669,210 | 798,416        | 4,094 | 678,855 | 20,272 | 324,698 | 17,403 | 66,518 | 9,279  | 80,123  | 33,416 | 44,399 | 151,427 | 248,187 | 88,264  | 26,525 | 70,987 | 6,345  |
| 2019Q1 | 2,868,256 | 761,308        | 2,079 | 723,645 | 28,648 | 353,293 | 11,868 | 89,541 | 24,518 | 102,488 | 26,888 | 56,285 | 161,745 | 285,492 | 106,096 | 33,969 | 90,000 | 10,394 |
| 2020Q1 | 2,639,227 | 731,905        | 1,628 | 663,275 | 21,876 | 307,815 | 32,393 | 55,000 | 15,877 | 74,579  | 35,090 | 50,419 | 177,464 | 272,663 | 90,737  | 27,621 | 64,206 | 16,679 |

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**Table 6C: Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group - Both sexes**

| Major Industry Group | Year      |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      | 2018Q1    | 2019Q1    | 2020Q1    |
| Total                | 7,947,683 | 8,208,179 | 8,015,166 | 8,180,693 | 7,961,358 | 8,182,970 | 8,020,446 |
| Agriculture          | 2,153,874 | 2,140,185 | 2,043,698 | 2,071,940 | 2,139,057 | 2,018,951 | 2,127,212 |
| Industry             | 2,097,503 | 2,331,494 | 2,239,262 | 2,258,421 | 2,224,455 | 2,312,671 | 2,174,148 |
| Services             | 3,696,306 | 3,736,500 | 3,732,206 | 3,850,332 | 3,597,846 | 3,851,348 | 3,719,086 |

**Table 6D: Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group (percentage) - Both sexes**

| Major Industry Group | Year  |       |       |       |        |        |        |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
|                      | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2018Q1 | 2019Q1 | 2020Q1 |
| Total                | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| Agriculture          | 27.1  | 26.1  | 25.5  | 25.3  | 26.9   | 24.7   | 26.5   |
| Industry             | 26.4  | 28.4  | 27.9  | 27.6  | 27.9   | 28.3   | 27.1   |
| Services             | 46.5  | 45.5  | 46.6  | 47.1  | 45.2   | 47.1   | 46.4   |

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

#### **Agriculture**

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

#### **Industries**

1. Mining & Quarrying (B)
2. Manufacturing (C)
3. Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

#### **Services**

1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative and support service activities (N)
8. Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)
9. Education (P)
10. Human health and social work activities (Q)
11. Other service activities (S)
12. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation ( R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**Table 7 - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes**

| Year   | Total     | Occupation group |         |         |         |         |           |           |         |           |        |
|--------|-----------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
|        |           | 1                | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6         | 7         | 8       | 9         | 10     |
| 2015   | 7,830,976 | 480,097          | 511,230 | 470,645 | 311,455 | 852,722 | 1,457,350 | 1,266,101 | 673,380 | 1,766,704 | 41,292 |
| 2016   | 7,947,683 | 480,492          | 519,032 | 484,965 | 320,791 | 891,034 | 1,435,354 | 1,274,167 | 702,675 | 1,795,378 | 43,795 |
| 2017   | 8,208,179 | 560,734          | 557,870 | 554,603 | 327,836 | 822,243 | 1,404,798 | 1,367,232 | 739,821 | 1,838,349 | 34,692 |
| 2018   | 8,015,166 | 619,312          | 558,574 | 662,323 | 286,493 | 701,676 | 1,308,806 | 1,297,912 | 706,185 | 1,836,250 | 37,635 |
| 2019   | 8,180,693 | 622,467          | 609,084 | 741,805 | 308,894 | 707,967 | 1,375,540 | 1,307,767 | 714,546 | 1,757,807 | 34,816 |
| 2018Q1 | 7,961,358 | 604,919          | 509,749 | 609,964 | 268,551 | 698,385 | 1,364,513 | 1,341,687 | 710,664 | 1,819,088 | 33,838 |
| 2019Q1 | 8,182,970 | 674,220          | 617,334 | 723,810 | 321,511 | 696,980 | 1,318,855 | 1,339,384 | 692,215 | 1,772,138 | 26,522 |
| 2020Q1 | 8,020,446 | 598,043          | 551,015 | 756,544 | 343,462 | 650,251 | 1,358,583 | 1,237,597 | 723,782 | 1,763,093 | 38,077 |

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

- |   |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6  | Skilled Agricultura, Forestry and Fishery workers   |
| 2 | Professionals                              | 7  | Craft and Related Trades workers                    |
| 3 | Technicians and Associate Professionals    | 8  | Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers          |
| 4 | Clerks and Clerical support workers        | 9  | Elementary occupations                              |
| 5 | Services and Sales workers                 | 10 | Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations |

**Table 7A - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Male**

| Year   | Total     | Occupation group |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |           |        |
|--------|-----------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
|        |           | 1                | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9         | 10     |
| 2015   | 5,097,798 | 355,643          | 174,644 | 318,745 | 150,246 | 585,455 | 965,084 | 833,470 | 577,038 | 1,101,377 | 36,096 |
| 2016   | 5,149,948 | 344,185          | 188,059 | 310,846 | 155,926 | 606,054 | 930,845 | 830,428 | 607,801 | 1,139,332 | 36,473 |
| 2017   | 5,279,158 | 406,096          | 211,033 | 355,936 | 154,428 | 553,098 | 892,473 | 899,082 | 631,271 | 1,144,468 | 31,274 |
| 2018   | 5,300,310 | 458,466          | 195,476 | 441,897 | 141,871 | 504,461 | 882,375 | 891,693 | 607,346 | 1,145,178 | 31,548 |
| 2019   | 5,368,896 | 453,211          | 228,884 | 477,666 | 148,506 | 494,410 | 943,543 | 892,716 | 619,409 | 1,080,828 | 29,724 |
| 2018Q1 | 5,292,148 | 437,788          | 191,247 | 399,855 | 133,570 | 505,600 | 919,344 | 928,636 | 612,067 | 1,131,278 | 32,763 |
| 2019Q1 | 5,314,713 | 485,438          | 226,919 | 467,109 | 157,993 | 479,474 | 865,656 | 907,719 | 604,338 | 1,099,987 | 20,080 |
| 2020Q1 | 5,381,218 | 440,447          | 197,413 | 472,316 | 161,103 | 477,001 | 968,633 | 862,281 | 633,810 | 1,138,664 | 29,551 |

**Table 7B - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Female**

| Year   | Total     | Occupation group |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |       |
|--------|-----------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
|        |           | 1                | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10    |
| 2015   | 2,733,178 | 124,454          | 336,586 | 151,900 | 161,209 | 267,267 | 492,267 | 432,631 | 96,342  | 665,326 | 5,196 |
| 2016   | 2,797,735 | 136,307          | 330,973 | 174,120 | 164,865 | 284,980 | 504,509 | 443,739 | 94,874  | 656,046 | 7,322 |
| 2017   | 2,929,021 | 154,639          | 346,838 | 198,667 | 173,408 | 269,145 | 512,325 | 468,150 | 108,550 | 693,881 | 3,418 |
| 2018   | 2,714,855 | 160,846          | 363,098 | 220,426 | 144,622 | 197,215 | 426,431 | 406,219 | 98,839  | 691,072 | 6,088 |
| 2019   | 2,811,796 | 169,256          | 380,200 | 264,139 | 160,388 | 213,557 | 431,997 | 415,051 | 95,138  | 676,978 | 5,092 |
| 2018Q1 | 2,669,210 | 167,131          | 318,501 | 210,110 | 134,980 | 192,785 | 445,169 | 413,051 | 98,597  | 687,810 | 1,075 |
| 2019Q1 | 2,868,256 | 188,783          | 390,415 | 256,700 | 163,518 | 217,506 | 453,199 | 431,665 | 87,877  | 672,150 | 6,442 |
| 2020Q1 | 2,639,227 | 157,596          | 353,602 | 284,228 | 182,359 | 173,250 | 389,950 | 375,316 | 89,972  | 624,429 | 8,526 |

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

- |   |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6  | Skilled Agricultura, Forestry and Fishery workers   |
| 2 | Professionals                              | 7  | Craft and Related Trades workers                    |
| 3 | Technicians and Associate Professionals    | 8  | Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers          |
| 4 | Clerks and Clerical support workers        | 9  | Elementary occupations                              |
| 5 | Services and Sales workers                 | 10 | Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations |

**TABLE 8 - CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS PER WEEK ACTUALLY WORKED AT THE MAIN JOB AND MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP (PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

| MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | 0 *  | 1 - 9 | 10 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 - 39 | 40 - 49 | 50 & OVER |
|------------------------|-------|------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Total                  | 100.0 | 12.7 | 2.3   | 5.2     | 9.1     | 13.4    | 30.3    | 27.0      |
| 1                      | 100.0 | 8.2  | 4.7   | 10.1    | 16.0    | 18.0    | 25.5    | 17.5      |
| 2                      | 100.0 | 17.5 | ..    | 3.8     | 6.1     | 10.1    | 32.0    | 30.5      |
| 3                      | 100.0 | 14.7 | 1.7   | 3.8     | 8.6     | 10.9    | 31.9    | 28.4      |
| 6                      | 100.0 | 17.0 | 1.1   | 4.2     | 6.8     | 10.4    | 36.0    | 24.5      |
| 7                      | 100.0 | 12.5 | 0.8   | 4.2     | 5.4     | 12.5    | 25.5    | 38.9      |
| 8                      | 100.0 | 13.3 | 2.3   | 2.4     | 4.7     | 7.3     | 24.6    | 45.4      |
| 9                      | 100.0 | 15.0 | 2.4   | 3.6     | 4.3     | 9.6     | 27.3    | 37.7      |
| 10                     | 100.0 | 15.5 | ..    | 2.1     | 4.0     | 2.5     | 41.9    | 34.0      |
| 11                     | 100.0 | 13.0 | 0.5   | 5.9     | 4.9     | 11.6    | 45.1    | 19.1      |
| 13                     | 100.0 | 19.4 | 1.1   | 1.5     | 5.8     | 10.9    | 42.7    | 18.6      |
| 14                     | 100.0 | 9.3  | 3.0   | 0.7     | 6.3     | 6.5     | 44.5    | 29.7      |
| 15                     | 100.0 | 7.1  | 0.8   | 1.9     | 2.0     | 9.4     | 52.6    | 26.2      |
| 16                     | 100.0 | 25.2 | 1.1   | 2.8     | 10.1    | 28.5    | 28.1    | 4.1       |
| 17                     | 100.0 | 8.4  | 1.1   | 1.4     | 4.1     | 7.0     | 36.1    | 42.1      |
| 19                     | 100.0 | 16.8 | 4.1   | 2.1     | 12.1    | 9.0     | 25.7    | 30.2      |
| 20                     | 100.0 | 18.8 | 2.2   | 8.3     | 11.2    | 16.1    | 13.1    | 30.3      |
| Other                  | 100.0 | 9.7  | 6.1   | 1.8     | 4.4     | 20.9    | 20.1    | 36.9      |

\* Has a job but not at work during the reference week

.. Net reported

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

#### Industry group

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**TABLE 9 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

| YEAR   | TOTAL | AGE GROUPS     |                |                |                |             |
|--------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
|        |       | 15 - 19<br>YRS | 20 - 24<br>YRS | 25 - 29<br>YRS | 30 - 39<br>YRS | 40 +<br>YRS |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 13.7           | 41.0           | 18.1           | 15.1           | 12.1        |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 14.2           | 39.8           | 19.3           | 15.4           | 11.3        |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 14.5           | 37.4           | 20.5           | 15.8           | 11.8        |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 16.1           | 39.7           | 21.1           | 13.2           | 9.8         |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 12.8           | 37.7           | 22.2           | 14.8           | 12.4        |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 14.1           | 38.9           | 22.5           | 15.0           | 9.5         |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 13.0           | 36.0           | 22.8           | 14.3           | 13.8        |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 13.0           | 39.1           | 22.0           | 16.9           | 9.0         |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 13.7           | 38.3           | 19.3           | 14.1           | 14.5        |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 12.0           | 43.2           | 19.6           | 12.1           | 13.1        |

**TABLE 9A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

| YEAR   | TOTAL | AGE GROUPS     |                |                |                |            |
|--------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|        |       | 15 - 19<br>YRS | 20 - 24<br>YRS | 25 - 29<br>YRS | 30 - 39<br>YRS | 40+<br>YRS |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 16.9           | 44.0           | 15.5           | 11.5           | 12.1       |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 20.1           | 37.6           | 18.3           | 11.7           | 12.3       |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 21.7           | 39.9           | 14.6           | 12.6           | 11.2       |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 23.0           | 42.8           | 16.9           | 7.7            | 9.6        |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 18.1           | 40.3           | 19.7           | 10.8           | 11.1       |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 20.5           | 40.9           | 17.5           | 10.7           | 10.5       |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 18.3           | 38.9           | 19.5           | 8.3            | 15.0       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 19.2           | 36.9           | 22.4           | 10.1           | 11.4       |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 18.7           | 43.8           | 12.4           | 9.6            | 15.5       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 15.0           | 49.0           | 17.6           | 8.3            | 10.0       |

**TABLE 9B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

| YEAR   | TOTAL | AGE GROUPS     |                |                |                |            |
|--------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|        |       | 15 - 19<br>YRS | 20 - 24<br>YRS | 25 - 29<br>YRS | 30 - 39<br>YRS | 40+<br>YRS |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 11.0           | 38.4           | 20.3           | 18.2           | 12.1       |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 8.9            | 41.7           | 20.2           | 18.7           | 10.4       |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 9.4            | 35.6           | 24.6           | 18.1           | 12.2       |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 11.1           | 37.5           | 24.2           | 17.2           | 10.0       |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 8.8            | 35.7           | 24.2           | 17.9           | 13.5       |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 9.1            | 37.3           | 26.5           | 18.4           | 8.7        |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 8.7            | 33.6           | 25.5           | 19.3           | 12.9       |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 8.4            | 40.7           | 21.7           | 21.9           | 7.3        |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 9.3            | 33.4           | 25.4           | 18.2           | 13.7       |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 9.7            | 39.0           | 21.0           | 15.0           | 15.3       |

■ These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

**TABLE 10 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

| YEAR   | TOTAL | LEVEL OF EDUCATION |               |               |                       |
|--------|-------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|        |       | GRADE 5 & BELOW    | GRADES 6 - 10 | GCE(O/L) NCGE | GCE(A/L) HNCE & ABOVE |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 3.9                | 36.5          | 22.1          | 37.5                  |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 3.1                | 37.7          | 22.4          | 36.8                  |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 2.5                | 34.4          | 24.4          | 38.7                  |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 2.7                | 35.4          | 22.1          | 39.8                  |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 3.1                | 30.3          | 24.7          | 41.9                  |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 2.2                | 30.5          | 21.4          | 45.8                  |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 2.9                | 31.4          | 23.9          | 41.9                  |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 2.4                | 30.4          | 20.5          | 46.8                  |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 2.8                | 34.1          | 22.9          | 40.1                  |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 3.1                | 32.2          | 22.5          | 42.2                  |

**TABLE 10A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

| YEAR   | TOTAL | LEVEL OF EDUCATION |               |               |                       |
|--------|-------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|        |       | GRADE 5 & BELOW    | GRADES 6 - 10 | GCE(O/L) NCGE | GCE(A/L) HNCE & ABOVE |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 4.7                | 43.7          | 24.3          | 27.4                  |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 3.1                | 48.1          | 22.7          | 26.0                  |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 1.7                | 44.1          | 30.9          | 23.4                  |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 1.5                | 48.2          | 23.9          | 26.4                  |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 2.0                | 37.5          | 30.0          | 30.5                  |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 3.1                | 43.1          | 25.0          | 28.9                  |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 2.9                | 42.2          | 27.0          | 28.0                  |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 2.7                | 43.5          | 24.8          | 29.0                  |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 3.0                | 43.3          | 25.0          | 28.7                  |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 3.5                | 43.1          | 25.9          | 27.4                  |

**TABLE 10B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

| YEAR   | TOTAL | LEVEL OF EDUCATION |               |               |                       |
|--------|-------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|        |       | GRADE 5 & BELOW    | GRADES 6 - 10 | GCE(O/L) NCGE | GCE(A/L) HNCE & ABOVE |
| 2013   | 100.0 | 3.2                | 30.2          | 20.3          | 46.2                  |
| 2014   | 100.0 | 3.1                | 28.5          | 22.1          | 46.4                  |
| 2015   | 100.0 | 3.0                | 27.7          | 19.9          | 49.4                  |
| 2016   | 100.0 | 3.6                | 26.0          | 20.8          | 49.6                  |
| 2017   | 100.0 | 3.9                | 24.8          | 20.7          | 50.7                  |
| 2018   | 100.0 | 1.5                | 20.6          | 18.7          | 59.2                  |
| 2019   | 100.0 | 2.9                | 22.5          | 21.4          | 53.3                  |
| 2018Q1 | 100.0 | 2.1                | 20.7          | 17.3          | 59.9                  |
| 2019Q1 | 100.0 | 2.7                | 26.0          | 21.1          | 50.3                  |
| 2020Q1 | 100.0 | 2.8                | 24.2          | 20.0          | 53.0                  |

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

**TABLE 11 - CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

|            |         | (2020 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter) |                                |            |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Sex        | Total   | Duration                       |                                |            |
|            |         | Less than<br>6 months          | 6 to<br>less than<br>12 months | 12+ months |
| Both sexes | 483,172 | 208,201                        | 100,852                        | 174,119    |
| %          | 100.0   | 43.1                           | 20.9                           | 36.0       |
| Male       | 204,095 | 98,774                         | 44,552                         | 60,770     |
| %          | 100.0   | 48.4                           | 21.8                           | 29.8       |
| Female     | 279,077 | 109,427                        | 56,300                         | 113,349    |
| %          | 100.0   | 39.2                           | 20.2                           | 40.6       |

## STANDARD ERROR AND COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION OF SELECTED VARIABLES

|  | Estimated<br>Value | Standard<br>Error | Coefficient<br>of Variation<br>(%) | Estimated<br>Value (Ratio) | Standard<br>Error | Coefficient<br>of Variation<br>(%) |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>General labour force characteristics</b>      |                    |                   |                                    |                            |                   |                                    |
| Population ( 15 years & over)                    | 16,689,726         | 146,205           | 0.9                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| Employed Population                              | 8,020,446          | 107,862           | 1.3                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| Unemployed Population                            | 483,172            | 28,300            | 5.9                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| Employment Rate                                  |                    |                   |                                    | 94.3                       | 0.32              | 0.34                               |
| Unemployment Rate                                |                    |                   |                                    | 5.7                        | 0.32              | 5.62                               |
| Labour Force                                     | 8,503,617          | 112,662           | 1.3                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| Not in Labour Force                              | 8,186,108          | 110,932           | 1.4                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| <b>Employed persons by major industry Groups</b> |                    |                   |                                    |                            |                   |                                    |
| 1  | 2,127,212          | 91,248            | 4.3                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 2  | 59,953             | 12,206            | 20.4                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 3  | 1,443,674          | 55,408            | 3.8                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 6  | 670,521            | 34,787            | 5.2                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 7  | 1,104,399          | 43,873            | 4.0                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 8  | 568,839            | 31,491            | 5.5                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 9  | 211,187            | 18,081            | 8.6                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 10   | 55,478             | 8,318             | 15.0                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 11   | 182,028            | 18,296            | 10.1                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 13   | 91,620             | 12,028            | 13.1                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 14   | 188,096            | 19,400            | 10.3                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 15   | 435,267            | 29,434            | 6.8                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 16   | 384,154            | 23,885            | 6.2                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| 17   | 153,477            | 15,639            | 10.2                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 19   | 123,566            | 13,084            | 10.6                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| 20   | 162,842            | 18,437            | 11.3                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| Other  | 58,133             | 9,296             | 16.0                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| <b>Unemployed persons by level of education</b>  |                    |                   |                                    |                            |                   |                                    |
| Below grade 6                                    | 15,134             | 4,843             | 32.0                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| Grade 6 - 10                                     | 155,649            | 12,283            | 7.9                                |                            |                   |                                    |
| G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.                             | 108,584            | 12,000            | 11.1                               |                            |                   |                                    |
| G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above                     | 203,804            | 14,813            | 7.3                                |                            |                   |                                    |

### Industry group

|   |
|---|
| 1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)   |
| 2 Mining & quarrying (B)  |
| 3 Manufacturing (C)   |
| 6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F) |
| 7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)  |
| 8 Transportation and storage (H)  |
| 9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)  |
| 10 Information and communication (J)  |
| 11 Financial and insurance activities (K)   |
| 13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)  |
| 14 Administrative and support service activities (N)  |
| 15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)   |
| 16 Education (P)  |
| 17 Human health and social work activities (Q)  |
| 19 Other service activities (S)   |
| 20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)                |
| Other   |
| Other   |
| Real estate activities (L)  |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)  |
| Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)  |

# Special Statistical Appendix

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Coverage

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was 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.

This quarterly survey of households is conducted through a scientifically selected sample designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status etc. of each member of the household 15 years of age and older.

The field work of the survey is done during the third week of each month, Monday through Sunday. This is known as the "survey week". The inquiry relates to activity or status are referred in the preceding week of the survey week; referred to as the "reference week".

The concepts and definitions underlying labour force data are as follows.

### Concepts & Definitions

1. **Labour force:** The labour force is composed of the economically active population 15 years of age and over.
2. **The Economically Active Population:** is defined as those persons who are/were employed or unemployed during the reference period of the survey.
3. **Employed:** Persons, who during the reference period, worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers (self employed), or unpaid family workers are said to be employed. This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.
4. **Unemployed:** Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period.
5. **Currently Economically Active:** A person who was employed or unemployed during the current reference period is considered to be currently economically active.
6. **Not in the Labour Force (not economically active):** Persons who were neither working nor available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as: full time care of the household, full – time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another. Current and Usual definitions apply.
7. **Criteria for classification of underemployment:** In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed,

**(i) If the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her main activity**

In Sri Lanka scenario, 35 hours per week is taken as the cut-off point applicable to all workers, except government teachers. As in practice, though teachers do have a normal duration of work which is below the general cut-off point, they should be on a full time schedule according to the nature of their job. Further, those who do have a secondary job or those who are employers, were considered as having worked the normal duration in their respective activity.

Therefore, if the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her activity (as described above), then the person is further questioned to ascertain whether he/She is prepared and available for further work if provided. Such persons are considered underemployed in their respective employment.

**(ii) If the person has worked more than the normal duration in his/her activity**

If the person has worked even more than 35 hours as usually, but he has worked less than 35 hours actually in the reference period, only due to the off season or bad weather, such persons were also further questioned to check their underemployment situation, considering them as a special category.

**8. Informal Sector Employment**

In order to classify a person to be employed in informal sector employment, following information were used.

- (i) Registration of the organization
- (ii) Accounts keeping practices of the organization
- (iii) Total number of regular employees of the organization.

**Reliability of the estimates**

Statistics based on the quarterly labour force data are subject to both sampling and non - sampling errors. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent.

The exact differences or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 95 percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.96 standard errors from the " true" population value, because of sampling error. Analyses relating to the Labour Force Survey are generally conducted at the 95 percent level of confidence.

For example, the confidence interval for the quarterly unemployment rate is calculated as follows

When the estimated unemployment rate is 4.5 and standard error of unemployment rate is 0.275 then 95% confidence interval

Estimated value (of the unemployment rate)  $\pm$  (standard error) \* ( 1.96)

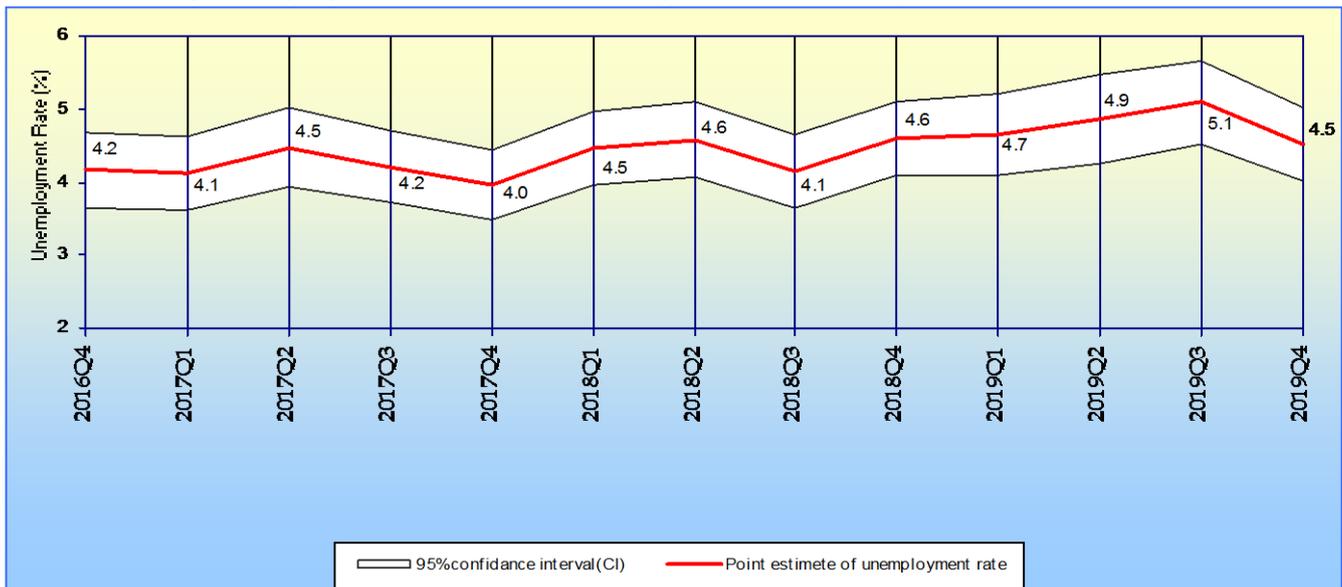
$$4.5 \pm (0.275) * (1.96)$$

$$(4.5 \pm 0.539)$$

This means, the 95 percent confidence interval on the quarterly unemployment rate could range from (4.0 to 5.0). This implies that there is about 95 percent chance that the "true" unemployment rate lies within this interval. This range includes all the values range from 4.0 to 5.0. When the comparison of this estimate is done between two quarters, if any of the value within the 95 percent confidence interval of one quarter overlaps with the confidence interval of the other , it means that the estimates of this two quarters are not significantly different.

Therefore, in each quarterly labour force report, a separate table is given including approximate standard errors for some selected variables, so that users could understand this statistical scenario clearly.

**Distribution of unemployment rates and 95% confidence intervals (2016Q4 - 2019Q4)**



As seen in figure, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant differences between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2016/2019, when sampling error was considered.

**Change in survey schedule**

Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes have been made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data. In January 2006, some improvements were made to the labour force survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of data users and also to provide additional information for planning purposes. The revision was made focusing on literacy, household economic activities, and informal sector employment and under employment etc.

From January , 2013 onwards, the lower bound of working age populations is considered as age 15, hence age 15 and over population is considered as working age population. The survey schedule is updated to obtain more precise information on following age, informal employment, informal sector, secondary occupation, wages & income , unemployment & trainings.

**New Industry & Occupation classifications**

From January 2013 onward the survey uses new industry & occupation classifications, such as

SLIC Rev 4:- Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification based on International Standard Industry classification - Rev.4 (ISIC Rev 4)

SLSCO 08:- Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 based on International Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 (ISCO 2008)

**Note :**

It is important to note that, all the data published here are the estimates based on a sample survey and these are subject to sampling errors. These sampling errors can be statistically evaluated from the survey results. Therefore, sampling error is normally measured in terms of the standard error of the particular variable. Standard error could be used to calculate the confidence limits with a prescribed accuracy where the true value of the estimates lies.

Further reliability of the estimates can be expressed in terms of Coefficient of Variation (CV). The CV is a relative measure of the sampling error and is calculated as sampling error divided by the expected value of the given characteristic.

In view of this, following table is given to show the estimates for some selected variables, it's standard error, CV and 95% Confidence interval.

It is also important to note that all the estimates we publish in this report are subject to sampling error and one should be cautious in the interpretation of results, especially with respect to the trends over time.

**Estimate of Confidence Intervals for some selected characteristics**

| Year   | Labour Force |                |         |           |           | Employed  |                |         |           |           |
|--------|--------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
|        | No.          | Standard error | C.V (%) | 95% C.I.  |           | No.       | Standard error | C.V (%) | 95% C.I.  |           |
|        |              |                |         | Lower     | Upper     |           |                |         | Lower     | Upper     |
| 2011   | 7,926,445    | 72,730         | 0.92    | 7,783,791 | 8,069,099 | 7,591,591 | 69,573         | 0.92    | 7,455,129 | 7,728,053 |
| 2012   | 7,798,407    | 66,291         | 0.85    | 7,668,392 | 7,928,422 | 7,488,704 | 63,894         | 0.85    | 7,363,389 | 7,614,018 |
| 2013   | 8,033,804    | 55,985         | 0.70    | 7,924,021 | 8,143,587 | 7,681,279 | 54,298         | 0.71    | 7,574,802 | 7,787,755 |
| 2014   | 8,048,884    | 60,868         | 0.76    | 7,929,525 | 8,168,243 | 7,700,489 | 58,417         | 0.76    | 7,585,937 | 7,815,042 |
| 2015   | 8,214,473    | 52,021         | 0.63    | 8,112,463 | 8,316,483 | 7,830,976 | 50,426         | 0.64    | 7,732,093 | 7,929,860 |
| 2016   | 8,310,682    | 66,023         | 0.79    | 8,181,215 | 8,440,148 | 7,947,683 | 64,616         | 0.81    | 7,820,977 | 8,074,389 |
| 2017   | 8,566,686    | 49,822         | 0.58    | 8,468,989 | 8,664,382 | 8,208,179 | 48,420         | 0.59    | 8,113,231 | 8,303,126 |
| 2018   | 8,387,759    | 57,008         | 0.68    | 8,275,971 | 8,499,546 | 8,015,166 | 55,036         | 0.69    | 7,907,245 | 8,123,087 |
| 2019   | 8,592,010    | 54,293         | 0.63    | 8,485,546 | 8,698,475 | 8,180,693 | 52,108         | 0.64    | 8,078,513 | 8,282,872 |
| 2018Q1 | 8,333,493    | 102,663        | 1.23    | 8,131,856 | 8,535,129 | 7,961,358 | 98,624         | 1.24    | 7,767,655 | 8,155,062 |
| 2019Q1 | 8,582,753    | 106,720        | 1.24    | 8,373,150 | 8,792,356 | 8,182,970 | 101,986        | 1.25    | 7,982,665 | 8,383,274 |
| 2020Q1 | 8,503,617    | 112,662        | 1.32    | 8,282,339 | 8,724,896 | 8,020,446 | 107,862        | 1.34    | 7,808,594 | 8,232,298 |

| Year   | Unemployed |                |         |          |         | Unemployment Rate |                |         |          |       |
|--------|------------|----------------|---------|----------|---------|-------------------|----------------|---------|----------|-------|
|        | No.        | Standard error | C.V (%) | 95% C.I. |         | Rate              | Standard error | C.V (%) | 95% C.I. |       |
|        |            |                |         | Lower    | Upper   |                   |                |         | Lower    | Upper |
| 2011   | 334,854    | 15,691         | 4.69    | 304,078  | 365,631 | 4.2               | 0.2            | 4.49    | 3.9      | 4.6   |
| 2012   | 309,703    | 13,287         | 4.29    | 283,643  | 335,763 | 4.0               | 0.2            | 4.14    | 3.6      | 4.3   |
| 2013   | 352,526    | 12,030         | 3.41    | 328,935  | 376,116 | 4.4               | 0.1            | 3.31    | 4.1      | 4.7   |
| 2014   | 348,395    | 12,697         | 3.64    | 323,497  | 373,293 | 4.3               | 0.2            | 3.50    | 4.0      | 4.6   |
| 2015   | 383,496    | 12,283         | 3.20    | 359,410  | 407,583 | 4.7               | 0.1            | 3.11    | 4.4      | 5.0   |
| 2016   | 362,999    | 11,186         | 3.08    | 341,064  | 384,933 | 4.4               | 0.1            | 3.02    | 4.1      | 4.6   |
| 2017   | 358,507    | 11,347         | 3.17    | 336,256  | 380,758 | 4.2               | 0.1            | 3.08    | 3.9      | 4.4   |
| 2018   | 372,593    | 11,350         | 3.05    | 350,337  | 394,849 | 4.4               | 0.1            | 2.94    | 4.2      | 4.7   |
| 2019   | 411,318    | 12,814         | 3.12    | 386,191  | 436,444 | 4.8               | 0.1            | 3.00    | 4.5      | 5.1   |
| 2018Q1 | 372,135    | 22,660         | 6.09    | 327,630  | 416,639 | 4.5               | 0.3            | 5.86    | 4.0      | 5.0   |
| 2019Q1 | 399,784    | 25,301         | 6.33    | 350,091  | 449,477 | 4.7               | 0.3            | 6.07    | 4.1      | 5.2   |
| 2020Q1 | 483,172    | 28,300         | 5.86    | 427,589  | 538,755 | 5.7               | 0.3            | 5.62    | 5.1      | 6.3   |

## ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES

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### Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

Official employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics are estimated at the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey, based on the internationally comparable concepts and definitions recommended by the ILO. However the validity of the concepts and definitions used at the survey is questioned very often in some forums, for the appropriateness of these concepts and definitions in the Sri Lankan context.

The concepts and definitions, which were found to be controversial, are as below.

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : A person who work **at least one hour** during the reference week, is considered **employed**, under these definitions.
- (2) **Working Age Population** : All persons of **age 10 years and over** are considered to be in the working age, before 2013. However, this was changed as **age 15 and over** from 2013 onward.
- (3) **Employment Status** : All,
  - a) Paid employees, (those who work for wages/salaries).
  - b) Employers (who have at least one paid employee under them).
  - c) Own account workers (who carry out the economic activity without having anypaid employees).
  - d) Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out bytheir own household, without wages/salaries).

The validity of the above concepts and definitions is raised due to the following reasons.

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : Some pointed out that one hour per week is too low, to consider a person to be employed.
- (2) **Working Age Population** : Some pointed out those persons in the age group 10-14 yrs. are too young to be considered in the working age. (From 2013 onward the working age population is considered as age 15 and over).
- (3) **Employment Status** : Some pointed out that 'contributing family workers' may work in the family enterprise without payment because they have no other work, and so it is not appropriate to consider them as employed.

An attempt has been made to produce '**Alternative estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics,**' by revising the original concepts and definitions so that the above issues are addressed as explained below.

The revisions made are,

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : Persons who work **20 hours or more per week only** are considered to be employed.
- (2) **Contributing Family Worker** : Contributing family workers are **not** considered as employed. They are considered as **economically inactive** (not in the labour force) so only, **a) paid employees b) employers and c) own account workers are considered to be employed.**

Following tables are based on the above alternative concepts and definitions.

## Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS &amp; OVER (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

| YEAR   | HOUSEHOLD<br>POPULATION<br>(15 YEARS<br>& OVER) | TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE | LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>PARTICI:<br>RATE(%) | LABOUR FORCE |   |            |   | NOT IN<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE<br>NUMBER |
|--------|---|--------------------------|--|--------------|---|------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|        |   |                          |  | EMPLOYED     |   | UNEMPLOYED |   |                                     |
|        |   |                          |  | NUMBER       | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE) | NUMBER     | RATE<br>(% TO TOTAL<br>LABOUR<br>FORCE) |                                     |
| 2013   | 14,958,239                                      | 6,966,035                | 46.6                                   | 6,600,172    | 94.7                                    | 365,863    | 5.3                                     | 8,007,536                           |
| 2014   | 15,134,484                                      | 7,017,985                | 46.4                                   | 6,669,590    | 95.0                                    | 348,395    | 5.0                                     | 8,116,499                           |
| 2015   | 15,281,945                                      | 7,156,393                | 46.8                                   | 6,772,896    | 94.6                                    | 383,496    | 5.4                                     | 8,125,553                           |
| 2016   | 15,448,679                                      | 7,325,972                | 47.4                                   | 6,962,973    | 95.0                                    | 362,999    | 5.0                                     | 8,122,707                           |
| 2017   | 15,843,735                                      | 7,474,883                | 47.2                                   | 7,116,376    | 95.2                                    | 358,507    | 4.8                                     | 8,368,851                           |
| 2018   | 16,196,232                                      | 7,428,999                | 45.9                                   | 7,056,406    | 95.0                                    | 372,593    | 5.0                                     | 8,767,233                           |
| 2019   | 16,424,016                                      | 7,609,700                | 46.3                                   | 7,198,383    | 94.6                                    | 411,318    | 5.4                                     | 8,814,316                           |
| 2018Q1 | 16,033,845                                      | 7,385,261                | 46.1                                   | 7,013,127    | 95.0                                    | 372,135    | 5.0                                     | 8,648,584                           |
| 2019Q1 | 16,328,478                                      | 7,607,856                | 46.6                                   | 7,208,072    | 94.7                                    | 399,784    | 5.3                                     | 8,720,622                           |
| 2020Q1 | 16,689,726                                      | 7,464,431                | 44.7                                   | 6,981,259    | 93.5                                    | 483,172    | 6.5                                     | 9,225,294                           |

TABLE 2 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF NUMBER AND RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

| YEAR   | AGE GROUP |      |         |      |         |      |         |      |         |      |            |      |
|--------|-----------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|------------|------|
|        | TOTAL     |      | 15 - 19 |      | 20 - 24 |      | 25 - 29 |      | 30 - 39 |      | 40 & ABOVE |      |
|        | NO.       | RATE | NO.     | RATE | NO.     | RATE | NO.     | RATE | NO.     | RATE | NO.        | RATE |
| 2013   | 365,863   | 5.3  | 50,436  | 23.8 | 149,243 | 22.4 | 64,566  | 8.6  | 55,398  | 3.2  | 46,221     | 1.3  |
| 2014   | 348,395   | 5.0  | 49,540  | 25.7 | 138,565 | 22.2 | 67,235  | 9.3  | 53,648  | 3.0  | 39,407     | 1.1  |
| 2015   | 383,496   | 5.4  | 55,557  | 28.6 | 143,351 | 22.0 | 78,592  | 10.4 | 60,768  | 3.4  | 45,229     | 1.2  |
| 2016   | 362,999   | 5.0  | 58,622  | 32.8 | 144,156 | 22.2 | 76,624  | 10.0 | 47,956  | 2.7  | 35,640     | 0.9  |
| 2017   | 358,507   | 4.8  | 46,016  | 25.1 | 135,121 | 19.7 | 79,727  | 10.4 | 53,053  | 3.0  | 44,590     | 1.1  |
| 2018   | 372,593   | 5.0  | 52,624  | 30.4 | 144,824 | 22.1 | 84,000  | 11.3 | 55,853  | 3.3  | 35,291     | 0.8  |
| 2019   | 411,318   | 5.4  | 53,652  | 29.3 | 148,046 | 22.4 | 93,793  | 11.8 | 59,009  | 3.4  | 56,818     | 1.3  |
| 2018Q1 | 372,135   | 5.0  | 48,275  | 27.4 | 145,498 | 23.3 | 81,874  | 11.5 | 62,976  | 3.7  | 33,511     | 0.8  |
| 2019Q1 | 399,784   | 5.3  | 54,804  | 26.5 | 153,304 | 22.9 | 77,113  | 9.7  | 56,474  | 3.3  | 58,089     | 1.4  |
| 2020Q1 | 483,172   | 6.5  | 57,797  | 35.7 | 208,946 | 28.5 | 94,561  | 12.4 | 58,685  | 3.5  | 63,183     | 1.5  |

**Table 3 - Currently Employed persons by Industry group (No. and percentage) (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - (Alternative estimates)**

| Year   | Industry group |           |           |        |           |         |           |         |         |        |         |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |        |
|--------|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
|        | Total          | 1         | 2         | 3      | 6         | 7       | 8         | 9       | 10      | 11     | 13      | 14     | 15      | 16      | 17      | 19      | 20      | Other   |        |
| 2016   | No.            | 6,962,973 | 1,563,142 | 56,945 | 1,297,576 | 591,710 | 974,467   | 501,897 | 175,754 | 59,445 | 158,159 | 51,192 | 103,576 | 602,318 | 317,987 | 138,767 | 126,838 | 196,875 | 46,324 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 22.4      | 0.8    | 18.6      | 8.5     | 14.0      | 7.2     | 2.5     | 0.9    | 2.3     | 0.7    | 1.5     | 8.7     | 4.6     | 2.0     | 1.8     | 2.8     | 0.7    |
| 2017   | No.            | 7,116,376 | 1,555,527 | 57,397 | 1,397,453 | 650,665 | 1,007,347 | 497,936 | 180,162 | 66,999 | 158,429 | 66,035 | 145,217 | 519,684 | 352,121 | 145,028 | 105,521 | 149,109 | 61,746 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 21.9      | 0.8    | 19.6      | 9.1     | 14.2      | 7.0     | 2.5     | 0.9    | 2.2     | 0.9    | 2.0     | 7.3     | 4.9     | 2.0     | 1.5     | 2.1     | 0.9    |
| 2018   | No.            | 7,056,406 | 1,513,837 | 58,743 | 1,336,902 | 676,629 | 1,010,560 | 487,204 | 205,377 | 54,000 | 171,779 | 81,274 | 158,089 | 431,126 | 398,079 | 140,278 | 101,641 | 178,313 | 52,575 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 21.5      | 0.8    | 18.9      | 9.6     | 14.3      | 6.9     | 2.9     | 0.8    | 2.4     | 1.2    | 2.2     | 6.1     | 5.6     | 2.0     | 1.4     | 2.5     | 0.7    |
| 2019   | No.            | 7,198,383 | 1,538,804 | 58,117 | 1,365,637 | 659,891 | 992,825   | 500,547 | 204,840 | 62,552 | 184,666 | 87,913 | 193,082 | 430,760 | 401,519 | 164,487 | 119,721 | 172,494 | 60,528 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 21.4      | 0.8    | 19.0      | 9.2     | 13.8      | 7.0     | 2.8     | 0.9    | 2.6     | 1.2    | 2.7     | 6.0     | 5.6     | 2.3     | 1.7     | 2.4     | 0.8    |
| 2018Q1 | No.            | 7,013,127 | 1,582,368 | 50,717 | 1,333,919 | 665,614 | 1,008,801 | 479,555 | 194,026 | 50,027 | 183,645 | 74,066 | 128,501 | 454,438 | 376,234 | 138,252 | 79,357  | 178,554 | 35,054 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 22.6      | 0.7    | 19.0      | 9.5     | 14.4      | 6.8     | 2.8     | 0.7    | 2.6     | 1.1    | 1.8     | 6.5     | 5.4     | 2.0     | 1.1     | 2.5     | 0.5    |
| 2019Q1 | No.            | 7,208,072 | 1,493,530 | 65,840 | 1,370,906 | 688,904 | 986,914   | 477,156 | 210,891 | 66,298 | 216,503 | 81,323 | 200,718 | 441,216 | 391,946 | 155,121 | 114,172 | 167,849 | 78,784 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 20.7      | 0.9    | 19.0      | 9.6     | 13.7      | 6.6     | 2.9     | 0.9    | 3.0     | 1.1    | 2.8     | 6.1     | 5.4     | 2.2     | 1.6     | 2.3     | 1.1    |
| 2020Q1 | No.            | 6,981,259 | 1,549,052 | 55,220 | 1,315,354 | 632,769 | 964,939   | 536,316 | 186,590 | 54,310 | 170,338 | 87,597 | 179,976 | 423,591 | 368,907 | 149,691 | 112,884 | 141,658 | 52,067 |
|        | %              | 100.0     | 22.2      | 0.8    | 18.8      | 9.1     | 13.8      | 7.7     | 2.7     | 0.8    | 2.4     | 1.3    | 2.6     | 6.1     | 5.3     | 2.1     | 1.6     | 2.0     | 0.7    |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.4) are indicated as A,B,C.....U. Due to the limitations on reliability ( based on CV),some of these groups have been combined.

**Industry Group**

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining &amp; quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations &amp; bodies (U)