



**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE**

**SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE  
SURVEY**

**FIRST QUARTER - 2007**

**DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS**

## *Preface*

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*In the past, information on labour force characteristics, employment and unemployment etc. were collected through labour force and socio - economic surveys conducted at five yearly time intervals. However, the employment and unemployment data are required at very short intervals to monitor the program made in the employment generating policies of the government. Therefore, to satisfy this need, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) designed a labour force survey on a quarterly basis, to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka on a continuous basis. This survey was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 with USAID technical assistance and is being continued by the DCS.*

*Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes were made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data. The significant revisions were made on the labour force survey questionnaire in 2006, and the revised version was introduced for the survey conducted in 2006 first quarter, and it will be used in future as well.*

*The field work of the survey for the first quarter 2007 was done in January, February and March in year 2007. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern and Eastern provinces, the survey did not conduct fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in some districts of those provinces. Further, the completed number of schedules received was not sufficient to give reliable estimates. Therefore the national level estimates for the first quarter 2007 do not cover the Northern and Eastern provinces.*

*A nationally representative annual sample of about 22,500 housing units have been selected for the survey in 2007. However as mentioned above, the survey was not conducted properly in North and East as scheduled, so this report is based on a quarterly sample of 4,590 housing units, excluding Northern & Eastern provinces providing national level estimates with a stipulated standard errors of labour force characteristics as reported in the reference period of the first quarter 2007.*

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## *Acknowledgements*

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*This report is sixty fifth series of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey which was commenced from the first quarter 1990 and is being continued by the Department of the Census and statistics.*

*Sample Survey Division implemented the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey programme, under the direction of Mr. G.Y.L. Fernando, Director (Sample Surveys).*

*Planning and the execution of the survey was done by the staff of the Sample Surveys Division under the supervision of Mrs. Anoma S. Jayasekara, Deputy Director.*

*Field operation activities were organized by Mr. R.A.P. Kumarasinghe, Statistician of the Sample Surveys Division.*

*The supervision activities were carried out by Mr. S. Sinnarajah, Mr. Lucky Thangarathnam, Senior Statisticians, and Mr. R.A.P. Kumarasinghe, Mr. P.A.Subawickrama, Mrs. Chandani Wijebandara and Mr. W. Gnanathilaka, Statisticians, of the sample surveys division and Heads of statistics divisions in each district.*

*The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mrs. W.A.S.M.P. Gunasekara, Statistical Officer and Mr. M.B.M. Shiras, Statistical Assistant of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Mr. P.A. Subawickrama, Statistician using Microcomputers.*

*Developing of sample selection programme and it's related computer software was done by Mr. K.M.R. Wickramasinghe, System Analyst/ Programmer of the sample survey division.*

*This publication was organized and prepared by Mrs. Chandani Wijebandara, Statistician Sample Surveys Division.*

*The Data Processing Division, under the direction of Mrs. S.V. Nanayakkara, Director (Data Processing) and under the supervision of Mr. Migara Fernando and Mr. Wasantha Weerasiri, System Analyst/Programmers, was responsible for the survey data entry and preparation of data entry and computer edits programmes.*

*District field staff of the Department who worked on the survey deserve a special word of thanks. They include District Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians and field Statistical Officers, who worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success.*

*Printing of the report was done at the Printing Division, under the supervision of Mr. W.C. Weerawansa, Senior Statistician.*

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

**Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey**  
**Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics**  
**2007 First Quarter**

**10 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (10 years & over)	15007165	7138804	7868362	1790214	13216952
Labour force in this age group	7470927	4861769	2609159	796119	6674808
Labour force participation rate	49.8	68.1	33.2	44.5	50.5
Employed population	7008478	4648446	2360032	761916	6246562
Employment rate	93.8	95.6	90.5	95.7	93.6
Unemployed population	462450	213323	249127	34204	428246
Unemployment rate	6.2	4.4	9.5	4.3	6.4
Not in labour force	7536238	2277035	5259203	994094	6542144

**15 years & over population**

Population (15 years & over)	13369553	6335937	7033616	1601886	11767666
Labour force in this age group	7456085	4849261	2606824	794689	6661396
Labour force participation rate	55.8	76.5	37.1	49.6	56.6
Employed population	6994010	4636313	2357697	760485	6233525
Employment rate	93.8	95.6	90.4	95.7	93.6
Unemployed population	462075	212948	249127	34204	427871
Unemployment rate	6.2	4.4	9.6	4.3	6.4
Not in labour force	5913468	1486676	4426792	807198	5106270

**20 years & over population**

Population (20 years & over)	11791451	5535358	6256093	1413253	10378198
Labour force in this age group	7130965	4641114	2489851	758713	6372252
Labour force participation rate	60.5	83.8	39.8	53.7	61.4
Employed population	6730474	4461151	2269323	731895	5998578
Employment rate	94.4	96.1	91.1	96.5	94.1
Unemployed population	400491	179964	220528	26818	373674
Unemployment rate	5.6	3.9	8.9	3.5	5.9
Not in labour force	4660486	894244	3766242	654540	4005946

**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
2003 *	7653717	83576	1.09	7489909	7817525	7012756	77834	1.11	6860202	7165310
2004 **	8061354	79707	0.99	7905128	8217579	7394029	74648	1.01	7247719	7540340
2005***	8141347	233233	2.86	7684210	8598485	7518007	219889	2.92	7087025	7948988
2006#	7598762	65349	0.86	7470593	7726931	7105322	63609	0.90	6980566	7230078
2007 Q1 #	7470927	140726	1.88	7194353	7747502	7008478	137196	1.96	6738842	7278113

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2003 *	640961	20755	3.24	600281	681641	8.4	0.2	2.99	7.90	8.90
2004 **	667324	18385	2.76	631290	703358	8.3	0.2	2.55	7.90	8.70
2005***	623341	39397	6.32	546123	700558	7.7	0.4	5.76	6.80	8.50
2006#	493440	15000	3.04	464020	522859	6.5	0.2	2.96	6.12	6.87
2007 Q1 #	462450	30014	6.49	403462	521438	6.2	0.4	6.34	5.42	6.96

\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu and Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*- All the districts are included

# - Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

**Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)**  
( 1996 - 2007 First quarter )

	Year									
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 Q1
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	68.1
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.2
<i>by residential sector</i>										
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	44.5
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.5
<b>Unemployment rate</b>										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.2
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.4
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.5
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>										
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.2
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.8
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	8.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>										
G.C.E.(A/L) & above										
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	12.3
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	7.0
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	18.4
<b>Employed population</b>										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7008478
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4648446
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2360032
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>										
Total	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7008478
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2071764	2378572	2274153	2033343	2247602	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2234200
%	(37.4)	(39.3)	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.9)
Industry	1217977	1325735	1490795	1491408	1459194	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1889683
%	(22.0)	(21.9)	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(27.0)
Services	2246475	2345081	2545299	2710837	2812619	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2884594
%	(40.6)	(38.8)	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(41.2)
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	4.9	5.3	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	4.3
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.3
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.2
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	66.2

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week

## Selected Labour Force indicators ( 1996 - 2007 First quarter )

	Year									
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007 Q1#
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	68.1
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.2
<i>by residential sector</i>										
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	44.5
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.5
<b>Unemployment rate</b>										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.2
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.4
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.5
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>										
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.2
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.8
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	8.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>										
G.C.E.(A/L) & above										
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	12.3
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	7.0
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	18.4
<b>Employed population</b>										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7008478
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4648446
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2360032
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>										
Total	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7E+06	7008478
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2071764	2378572	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2E+06	2234200
%	(37.4)	(39.3)	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.9)
Industry	1217977	1325735	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	2E+06	1889683
%	(22.0)	(21.9)	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(27.0)
Services	2246475	2345081	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	3E+06	2884594
%	(40.6)	38.8)	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(41.2)
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	4.9	5.3	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	4.3
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.3
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.2
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	66.2

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week

\*Excluding Northern province

\*\* Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

\*\*\*All the districts are included

# Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

## CONTENTS

	Page No.
WORKING AGE POPULATION	1
EMPLOYED POPULATION	2
UNDEREMPLOYMENT	2
UNEMPLOYED POPULATION	3
LITERACY	3
<b>TABLES</b>	
Table No.	
1. Historical table of Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population, 10 years of Age and over - Both Sexes	4
1A. Historical table of Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population, 10 years of Age and over - Male	5
1B. Historical table of Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population, 10 years of Age and over - Female	5
2. Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population 10 years of Age and over, by Age - Both Sexes	6
2A. Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population 10 years of Age and over, by Age - Male	7
2B. Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population 10 years of Age and over, by Age - Female	7
3. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Both Sexes	8
3A. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Male	9
3B. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Female	9
4. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Both Sexes	10
4A. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Male	11
4B. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Female	11
5. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Employment Status (percentage) - Both Sexes	12
5A. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Employment Status (percentage) - Male	13
5B. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Employment Status (percentage) - Female	13
6. Currently employed persons by Industry group – Both sexes (Based on ISIC third revision)	14
6A. Currently employed persons by Industry group – Male (Based on ISIC third revision)	15
6B. Currently employed persons by Industry group – Female (Based on ISIC third revision)	16
6C. Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group - Both sexes	17
6D. Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group (percentage) - Both sexes	17
7. Currently employed persons by Occupation group – Both sexes (Based on ISCO 88)	18
7A. Currently employed persons by Occupation group – Male (Based on ISCO 88)	19
7B. Currently employed persons by Occupation group – Female (Based on ISCO 88)	19
8. Currently Employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job and Major Industrial group (percentage) - Both Sexes	20
9. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Both Sexes	21
9A. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Male	22
9B. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Female	22
10. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Both Sexes	23
10A. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Male	24
10B. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Level of Education (percentage) – Female	24
11. Currently Unemployed Persons by Sex and Duration of Unemployment	25
12. Standard error and coefficient of variation of selected variables	26

*Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes*

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

*Appendix 3: Survey schedule*



## Introduction

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.

The field work of the survey for the first quarter 2007 was done in January, February and March in year 2007. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern and Eastern provinces, the survey did not conduct fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in some districts of those provinces. Further the completed number of schedules received were not sufficient to give reliable estimates. Therefore the national level estimates for the first quarter do not cover the Northern and Eastern provinces.

### Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

Labour force participation rate: Labour force expressed as a percentage of population age 10 yr. & over

**Table 1: Economically active population by sex and sector- First Quarter 2007**

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	7470927	100.0	4861769	65.1	2609159	34.9
Urban	796119	100.0	554183	69.6	241936	30.4
Rural	6674808	100.0	4307586	64.5	2367222	35.5

**Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector- First Quarter 2007**

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	7536238	100.0	2277035	30.2	5259203	69.8
Urban	994094	100.0	294968	29.7	699127	70.3
Rural	6542144	100.0	1982068	30.3	4560076	69.7

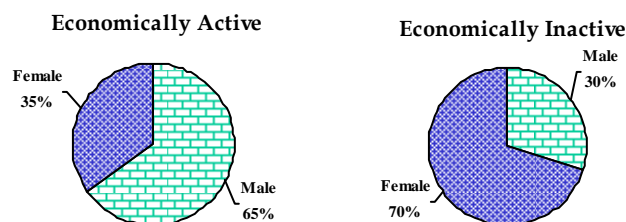
**Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex**

Year	Labour force participation rate		
	Total	Male	Female
2000	50.3	67.2	33.9
2001	48.8	66.2	31.9
2002	50.3	67.9	33.6
2003	49.7	67.5	32.6
2004	49.6	67.2	33.0
2005	49.3	67.3	32.6
2006	51.2	68.1	35.7
2007Q1	49.8	68.1	33.2

Table 3 provides the information on labour force participation rates since year 2000. As can be seen from this table, male participation rate for the first quarter 2007 is about 68 percent and it is 33 percent for females. It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is much higher than as that of females.

The survey results revealed that, the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 7.5 million in first quarter 2007. Of which 65 percent were males and 35 percent were females. Of the economically inactive population 30 percent were males and 70 percent were females.

**Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population**

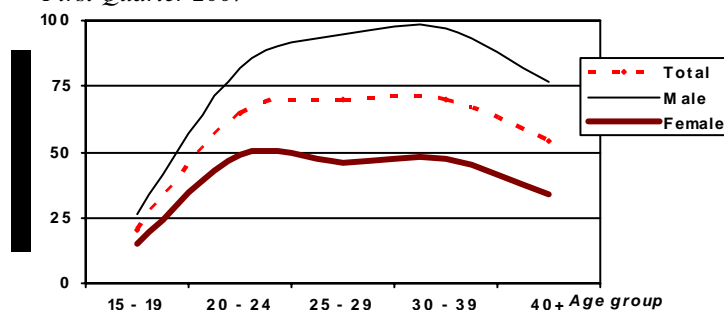


**Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - First Quarter 2007**

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	49.8	68.1	33.2
15 - 19	20.6	26.0	15.0
20 - 24	64.8	82.2	48.7
25 - 29	69.7	94.8	45.8
30 - 39	69.8	96.8	47.0
40+	54.0	76.9	33.9

Table 4 provides the labour force participation rates by sex and age group. Males in the age group of (30 - 39) yrs shows the highest labour force participation rate (96.8%), for females the highest participation rate (48.7%) is reported from the (20 - 24) yrs age group.

**Figure 2 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & sex - First Quarter 2007**



## Employment

Employed: Persons who are engaged in some kind of work for pay or profit or family gain during the reference week.

**Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry, (Second quarter 2006 – First quarter 2007)**

Year 2006	Major industry group			
	Total	Agriculture	Industries	Services
April-May-June (2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr)	7022019 (100.0)	2319676 (33.0)	1795515 (25.6)	2906828 (41.4)
July-Aug-Sept. (3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr)	7111982 (100.0)	2122239 (29.8)	2017518 (28.4)	2972225 (41.8)
Oct-Nov-Dec (4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr)	7149922 (100.0)	2357460 (33.0)	1892086 (26.5)	2900376 (40.6)
Jan-Feb-Mar (1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr)	7008478 (100.0)	2234200 (31.9)	1889683 (27.0)	2884594 (41.2)

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2006 to first quarter 2007.

The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 7.0 million in the first quarter 2007. Of which, about 41 percent engaged in services sector employment.

**Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q.**

Agriculture	Services
1. Agriculture (A)	1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
2. Forestry and Fishery (B)	2. Hotels and Restaurants (H)
Industries	3. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
1. Manufacturing (D)	4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
2. Construction (F)	5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)
3. Mining & Quarrying (C)	6. Education (M)
4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)	7. Health and Social work (N)
	8. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities (O)
	9. Private Households with Employed Persons (P)
	10. Miscellaneous Labour work
	11. Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (Q)
	12. Industries not adequately described

**Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ non- agriculture sector – First quarter 2007.**

Employment status	Total		Sector			
	No	%	Agriculture No	%	Non-Agriculture No.	%
Total	7008478	100.0	2234200	31.9	4774277	68.1
Employee	3976974	100.0	669983	16.8	3306992	83.2
Public	885853	100.0	53866	6.1	831987	93.9
Private	3091121	100.0	616117	19.9	2475005	80.1
Employer	209728	100.0	41561	19.8	168167	80.2
Own account worker	2114700	100.0	1011041	47.8	1103660	52.2
Unpaid family worker	707075	100.0	511616	72.4	195459	27.6

Table 6 shows that, about 83 percent of total paid employees are engaged in non-agricultural sector activities, while this percentage is only 17 percent for the agriculture sector. Further, 80 percent of private sector paid employees are involved in non-agricultural activities, while this share is 20 percent regarding the agricultural activities.

It is important to see that, 72 percent of unpaid family workers are in the agriculture sector, and the balance, 28 percent are in the non-agriculture sector.

**Note (1): Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk) for detailed concepts & definitions.**

**Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry – First Quarter 2007**

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	66.3	33.7
Agriculture	100.0	58.9	41.1
Industry	100.0	66.9	33.1
Services	100.0	71.7	28.3

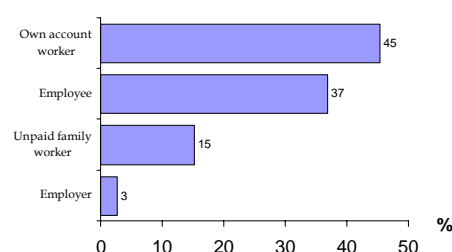
It is very clear that, 72 percent of services sector employment are males.

**Table 8 : "Informal sector" employment by Agriculture/ Non-agriculture sector - First Quarter 2007**

Sector	Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Formal	36.5	15.9	46.2
Informal	63.5	84.1	53.8

It is also important to see that, the employed population according to the formal and informal sector classification. 64 percent of the total employment are in the informal sector. Agriculture sector comprises 84 percent of informal sector employment. Further, 45 percent of the total informal sector employment are own account workers, while 37 percent are paid employees. (Figure 3).

**Figure 3 : Distribution of informal sector employment by Employment status**



## Underemployment (1)

**Table 9 : Underemployment rate by sex - First quarter 2007**

Rate	Sex		Economic sector		Total
	Male	Female	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	
Underemployment rate	3.3	5.2	5.8	3.1	3.9

Table 9 reveals that, underemployment rate is higher for female than male.

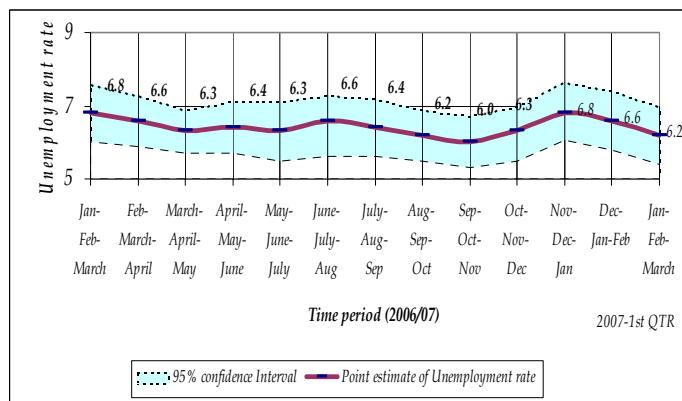
It is also apparent that, underemployment rate is higher in the agriculture sector than as that of non-agriculture sector.

## Unemployment

Unemployment Rate : The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force

Unemployed : Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period

**Figure 4 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (Jan 2006 - March 2007)**



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as about 462,000 during the first quarter 2007.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2007 is reported as 6.2 percent.

As seen in figure 4, it is very important to note that, there is no statistically significant difference between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2006/2007, when sampling error<sup>(2)</sup> is considered.

**Table 10 : Unemployment rate by level of education First Quarter 2007**

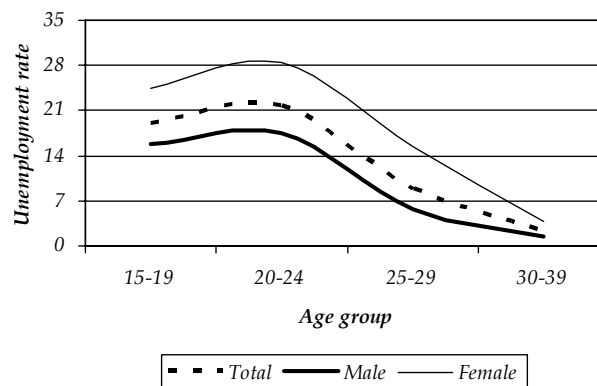
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	6.2	4.4	9.5
Below Gr. 5	1.4	1.5	1.3
Gr. 5-9	5.6	4.0	9.3
G.C.E. (O/L)	8.3	7.4	9.9
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	12.3	7.0	18.4



**Table 11: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - First Quarter 2007**

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	6.2	4.4	9.5
15 - 19	18.9	15.8	24.4
20 - 24	21.8	17.5	28.6
25 - 29	8.9	5.6	15.5
30 +	2.3	1.4	3.9

**Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - First Quarter 2007**



As can be seen from table 11, the unemployment rate reported for females is 9.5 percent and 4.4 percent for males. However, the unemployment rate among the youth (age 20 – 24 yrs) is higher when compared with other age groups, and it is reported as 22 percent. Further it is 17.5 percent and 29 percent for males and females respectively.

Survey results reveals that, the highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E.(A/L) and above group which is about 12.3 percent. That is 7 percent and 18 percent for male and females respectively. This shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males.

## Literacy <sup>(3)</sup>

**Table 12: Literacy rate by sex & sector**

Sex & sector	1st quarter 2006	1st quarter 2007
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>90.8</b>
Male	93.1	92.4
Female	89.8	89.4
Urban	94.0	92.8
Rural	91.6	91.3
Estate	78.4	77.1

Table 12 shows that, during the first quarter of 2007, males literacy rate is higher than as that of females. Further, the survey results reveal that literacy level of estate sector is relatively lower than the urban and rural sectors.

These results are not significantly different from the results of 2006 first quarter.

<sup>(2)</sup> Sampling error :

When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, estimates differ from the true population values they represent. This difference, or sampling error, occurs by chance, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. **For more detail, please refer the explanatory note on the labour force link in the DCS website.**

<sup>(3)</sup> Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk) for detailed concepts & definitions.

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

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
1990	11573941	6001148	51.9	5047354	84.1	953794	15.9	5572793
1991	11795793	5877198	49.8	5015517	85.3	861680	14.7	5918596
1992	12058463	5808062	48.2	4962105	85.4	845957	14.6	6250400
1993	12278055	6032383	49.1	5201474	86.2	830910	13.8	6245675
1994	12492850	6078863	48.7	5281272	86.9	797591	13.1	6413985
1995	12736185	6106138	47.9	5357117	87.7	749021	12.3	6630048
1996	12831240	6241889	48.6	5537285	88.7	704604	11.3	6589365
1997	12870791	6266160	48.7	5607881	89.5	658279	10.5	6604630
1998	12881790	6660520	51.7	6049238	90.8	611285	9.2	6221274
1999	13169250	6673487	50.7	6082641	91.2	590846	8.9	6495782
2000	13564660	6827312	50.3	6310145	92.4	517168	7.6	6737345
2001	13870479	6772834	48.8	6235588	92.1	537246	7.9	7097644
2002	14201396	7145382	50.3	6519415	91.2	625967	8.8	7056014
*2003	15651479	7653716	48.9	7012755	91.6	640961	8.4	7997763
** 2004	16593431	8061354	48.6	7394029	91.7	667324	8.3	8532077
*** 2005	16870976	8141347	48.3	7518007	92.3	623341	7.7	8729628
# 2006	14833801	7598762	51.2	7105322	93.5	493440	6.5	7235040
# 2007 Q1	15007165	7470927	49.8	7008478	93.8	462450	6.2	7536238

**Note: The normal Labour Force Survey programme was not implemented in 2005 due to the Tsunami - 2004. However a special labour force survey was conducted in August 2005 and the estimates based on this special survey are given under year 2005.**

(Up to 2002 fourth quarter, both Northern & Eastern provinces are excluded from the estimates.)

\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\* - All the districts are included

# - Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

**TABLE 1A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION, 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - MALE**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
*1993	6109486	3989443	65.3	3601779	90.3	387663	9.7	2120044
*1994	6228064	4072937	65.4	3678648	90.3	394289	9.7	2155127
*1995	6318003	4068608	64.4	3700951	91.0	367656	9.0	2249395
*1996	6373670	4200886	65.9	3857147	91.8	343741	8.2	2172784
*1997	6372365	4184248	65.6	3862087	92.3	322168	7.7	2188110
*1998	6344453	4281996	67.5	4004504	93.5	277491	6.5	2062456
*1999	6506662	4402713	67.7	4107497	93.3	295217	6.7	2103953
*2000	6702871	4501597	67.2	4241477	94.2	260120	5.8	2201274
*2001	6837264	4529016	66.2	4248877	93.8	280139	6.2	2308248
*2002	6935012	4705586	67.9	4395164	93.4	310421	6.6	2229427
**2003	7657368	5144206	67.2	4833483	94.0	310723	6.0	2513162
***2004	8049643	5372897	66.7	5049426	94.0	323471	6.0	2676746
****2005	8103016	5436362	67.1	5134765	94.5	301597	5.5	2666654
* 2006	7098813	4837308	68.1	4610643	95.3	226664	4.7	2261505
* 2007 Q1	7138804	4861769	68.1	4648446	95.6	213323	4.4	2277035

**TABLE 1B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION, 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - FEMALE**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
*1993	6168572	2042941	33.1	1599695	78.3	443247	21.7	4125631
*1994	6264782	2005927	32.0	1602625	79.9	403302	20.1	4258857
*1995	6418183	2037530	31.7	1656166	81.3	381364	18.7	4380652
*1996	6457583	2041002	31.6	1680138	82.3	360864	17.7	4416583
*1997	6498427	2081906	32.0	1745794	83.9	336112	16.1	4416521
*1998	6537344	2378526	36.4	2044732	86.0	333795	14.0	4158818
*1999	6662613	2270782	34.1	1975153	87.0	295629	13.0	4392047
*2000	6861794	2325716	33.9	2068667	89.0	257048	11.0	4536078
*2001	7033214	2243818	31.9	1986711	88.5	257107	11.5	4789396
*2002	7266384	2439796	33.6	2124250	87.1	315546	12.9	4826588
**2003	7994111	2509510	31.4	2179272	86.8	330238	13.2	5484600
***2004	8543788	2688457	31.5	2344604	87.2	343853	12.8	5855331
**** 2005	8767960	2704985	30.9	2383241	88.1	321744	11.9	6062975
* 2006	7734989	2761454	35.7	2494679	90.3	266775	9.7	4973535
* 2007 Q1	7868362	2609159	33.2	2360032	90.5	249127	9.5	5259203

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

**TABLE 2 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ,BY AGE - BOTH SEXES**

(2007 1<sup>st</sup> quarter)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD POP: (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	15007165	7470927	49.8	7008478	93.8	462450	6.2	7536238
10 - 14 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15 - 19 YRS	1578102	325120	20.6	263536	81.1	61584	18.9	1252982
20 - 24 YRS	1388060	900143	64.8	703960	78.2	196183	21.8	487917
25 - 29 YRS	1364153	950419	69.7	865459	91.1	84960	8.9	413734
30 - 39 YRS	2526748	1764640	69.8	1701033	96.4	63607	3.6	762108
40 + YRS	6512490	3515763	54.0	3460022	98.4	55741	1.6	2996728

\* Reliable estimates cannot be provided.


**TABLE 2A - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ,BY AGE - MALE**  
(2007 1<sup>st</sup> quarter)

AGE	HOUSEHOLD POP: (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	7138804	4861769	68.1	4648446	95.6	213323	4.4	2277035
10 - 14 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15 - 19 YRS	800579	208147	26.0	175162	84.2	32984	15.8	592432
20 - 24 YRS	669113	550316	82.2	454050	82.5	96266	17.5	118797
25 - 29 YRS	663736	629485	94.8	594125	94.4	35360	5.6	34251
30 - 39 YRS	1158667	1121956	96.8	1103790	98.4	18167	1.6	36711
40 + YRS	3043842	2339356	76.9	2309186	98.7	30170	1.3	704486

**TABLE 2B - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ,BY AGE - FEMALE**  
(2007 1<sup>st</sup> quarter)


AGE	HOUSEHOLD POP: (10 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	7868362	2609159	33.2	2360032	90.5	249127	9.5	5259203
10 - 14 YRS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
15 - 19 YRS	777523	116973	15.0	88374	75.6	28599	24.4	660550
20 - 24 YRS	718947	349827	48.7	249910	71.4	99917	28.6	369120
25 - 29 YRS	700417	320934	45.8	271334	84.5	49600	15.5	379483
30 - 39 YRS	1368080	642684	47.0	597243	92.9	45441	7.1	725397
40 + YRS	3468648	1176406	33.9	1150836	97.8	25570	2.2	2292242

\* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell sizes.

 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					
		10 - 14 YRS	15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	1.1	5.7	11.9	13.7	27.0	40.7
*1991	100.0	0.7	5.4	12.7	13.7	26.8	40.7
*1992	100.0	0.5	5.1	13.4	14.1	27.0	39.9
*1993	100.0	0.4	5.2	12.7	14.2	26.7	40.7
*1994	100.0	0.4	4.9	12.3	13.9	28.2	40.3
*1995	100.0	0.3	4.9	11.6	14.1	26.5	42.7
*1996	100.0	0.4	5.3	12.1	13.7	28.1	40.4
*1997	100.0	0.3	5.1	11.9	13.3	27.2	42.1
*1998	100.0	0.8	5.9	12.1	12.5	26.7	42.1
*1999	100.0	0.9	5.8	11.8	12.2	26.1	43.3
*2000	100.0	0.5	5.2	12.2	12.3	26.0	43.8
*2001	100.0	0.4	4.3	12.1	12.0	25.4	45.8
*2002	100.0	0.3	4.4	12.2	12.1	26.2	44.8
**2003	100.0	0.3	4.2	11.6	12.2	26.3	45.4
*** 2004	100.0	0.4	4.1	11.8	12.2	25.5	46.0
**** 2005	100.0	0.1	3.6	11.3	12.9	25.6	46.5
*2006	100.0	0.3	4.0	10.2	12.0	24.2	49.2
*2007 Q1	100.0	0.2	3.8	10.0	12.3	24.3	49.4

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

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included



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

Year	All Ages	Age Groups					
		10 - 14 YRS	15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	1.0	5.7	11.7	13.3	26.3	42.1
*1991	100.0	0.6	5.2	12.6	13.2	25.7	42.8
*1992	100.0	0.4	4.7	13.2	13.9	26.2	41.6
*1993	100.0	0.4	4.8	11.5	14.8	26.2	42.2
*1994	100.0	0.4	4.7	11.9	13.5	27.2	42.2
*1995	100.0	0.3	4.8	11.0	14.0	26.0	43.8
*1996	100.0	0.4	5.0	11.7	13.4	27.8	41.7
*1997	100.0	0.3	4.8	11.1	13.0	27.1	43.6
*1998	100.0	0.7	5.6	11.9	12.3	26.2	43.3
*1999	100.0	0.7	5.8	11.8	11.8	25.7	44.1
*2000	100.0	0.4	5.2	12.0	12.3	25.4	44.7
*2001	100.0	0.3	4.1	12.0	12.1	25.0	46.4
*2002	100.0	0.3	4.2	11.8	11.8	26.2	45.8
**2003	100.0	0.3	3.9	11.4	12.7	25.7	46.1
***2004	100.0	0.3	3.9	11.5	12.6	25.0	46.6
****2005	100.0	0.2	4.1	11.1	13.3	25.2	46.1
* 2006	100.0	0.3	4.0	10.2	12.2	23.9	49.4
*2007 Q1	100.0	0.3	3.8	9.8	12.8	23.7	49.7

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

Year	All Ages	Age Groups					
		10 - 14 YRS	15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	1.2	5.6	12.4	14.5	28.4	38.0
*1991	100.0	0.9	6.0	13.0	14.6	29.1	36.4
*1992	100.0	0.8	5.9	13.9	14.4	29.2	35.8
*1993	100.0	0.4	5.9	15.4	12.9	27.7	37.7
*1994	100.0	0.5	5.3	13.2	14.8	30.4	35.9
*1995	100.0	0.4	5.0	12.9	14.3	27.3	40.1
*1996	100.0	0.5	6.0	13.1	14.2	28.8	37.4
*1997	100.0	0.3	5.7	13.7	14.0	27.6	38.7
*1998	100.0	1.0	6.4	12.4	12.8	27.6	39.7
*1999	100.0	1.1	5.9	11.7	12.9	27.1	41.4
*2000	100.0	0.7	5.3	12.6	12.1	27.4	41.9
*2001	100.0	0.5	4.7	12.4	11.8	26.2	44.5
*2002	100.0	0.5	4.7	13.1	12.6	26.2	42.9
**2003	100.0	0.4	4.7	12.2	11.2	27.6	43.9
***2004	100.0	0.5	4.6	12.3	11.3	26.6	44.7
****2005	100.0	0.1	2.5	11.9	12.0	26.4	47.2
* 2006	100.0	0.3	4.1	10.3	11.7	24.8	48.8
*2007 Q1	100.0	0.1	3.7	10.6	11.5	25.3	48.8

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

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
*1990	100.0	31.9	45.1	16.0	7.0
*1991	100.0	31.6	44.8	15.6	7.9
*1992	100.0	29.9	44.9	16.5	8.7
*1993	100.0	28.5	45.1	16.9	9.5
*1994	100.0	28.2	45.4	17.5	8.8
*1995	100.0	26.8	44.9	18.0	10.3
*1996	100.0	29.5	43.3	16.9	10.3
*1997	100.0	27.9	44.0	17.6	10.5
*1998	100.0	26.8	45.0	17.2	11.0
*1999	100.0	25.4	45.7	18.0	10.9
*2000	100.0	25.1	46.3	16.7	11.9
*2001	100.0	22.7	46.1	17.7	13.5
*2002	100.0	24.6	45.6	15.8	14.0
**2003	100.0	24.5	46.2	15.9	13.3
***2004	100.0	24.3	44.7	16.8	14.2
**** 2005	100.0	20.6	45.8	18.2	15.4
* 2006	100.0	22.2	46.9	16.7	14.2
*2007 Q1	100.0	22.0	48.1	15.4	14.6

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
*1990	100.0	29.6	48.3	16.1	5.9
*1991	100.0	28.0	49.0	15.5	7.5
*1992	100.0	27.4	48.2	17.0	7.4
*1993	100.0	25.4	49.8	17.2	7.7
*1994	100.0	25.5	49.6	17.7	7.2
*1995	100.0	25.1	48.2	18.3	8.4
*1996	100.0	27.7	47.1	16.8	8.4
*1997	100.0	26.5	47.2	17.5	8.7
*1998	100.0	25.3	48.5	17.0	9.2
*1999	100.0	24.0	49.4	17.7	9.0
*2000	100.0	24.1	49.6	16.6	9.8
*2001	100.0	21.5	49.3	17.8	11.4
*2002	100.0	23.5	49.1	16.0	11.4
**2003	100.0	23.8	49.2	16.2	10.8
***2004	100.0	22.6	48.3	17.3	11.8
**** 2005	100.0	19.9	49.6	18.0	12.5
* 2006	100.0	21.0	50.4	16.6	12.1
*2007 Q1	100.0	21.0	51.5	15.1	12.4

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

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Below Grade 5	Grades 5 - 9/ Years 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE and above
*1990	100.0	37.0	38.1	15.6	9.3
*1991	100.0	39.6	35.8	15.9	8.8
*1992	100.0	35.7	37.0	15.5	11.9
*1993	100.0	35.6	34.7	16.3	13.5
*1994	100.0	34.5	35.8	17.2	12.6
*1995	100.0	30.8	37.3	17.5	14.3
*1996	100.0	33.7	34.4	17.1	14.7
*1997	100.0	31.0	37.0	17.6	14.4
*1998	100.0	29.9	38.2	17.7	14.3
*1999	100.0	28.3	38.0	18.7	15.0
*2000	100.0	27.3	39.6	17.1	16.1
*2001	100.0	25.5	39.2	17.3	18.0
*2002	100.0	27.0	38.3	15.3	19.4
**2003	100.0	26.1	39.6	15.5	18.9
***2004	100.0	27.9	36.9	15.8	19.4
**** 2005	100.0	22.1	37.6	18.6	21.7
* 2006	100.0	24.3	40.4	17.0	18.2
*2007 Q1	100.0	23.9	41.4	15.8	18.9

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN ACCOUNT WORKER	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE			
*1990	100.0	55.2	21.5	33.7	1.8	29.2	13.8
*1991	100.0	62.4	22.9	39.5	2.2	25.4	10.0
*1992	100.0	60.1	20.0	40.0	1.6	27.1	11.2
*1993	100.0	60.0	17.4	42.8	2.0	27.4	10.4
*1994	100.0	60.7	16.4	44.3	2.3	27.2	9.8
*1995	100.0	59.8	15.6	44.3	2.5	28.3	9.4
*1996	100.0	60.8	15.0	45.8	2.3	26.8	10.0
*1997	100.0	59.4	15.1	44.3	2.3	28.8	9.4
*1998	100.0	55.6	14.5	41.2	1.9	28.9	13.6
*1999	100.0	57.5	14.4	43.1	2.0	28.3	12.2
*2000	100.0	56.3	13.4	42.9	2.3	28.4	13.0
*2001	100.0	58.6	13.9	44.7	2.3	28.5	10.6
*2002	100.0	57.9	13.4	44.5	2.8	28.6	10.7
**2003	100.0	57.9	13.5	44.4	2.6	29.6	9.9
***2004	100.0	59.4	13.0	46.4	2.9	28.3	9.4
**** 2005	100.0	59.3	13.3	46.1	3.1	29.7	7.9
* 2006	100.0	55.6	13.4	42.1	3.1	30.8	10.5
*2007 Q1	100.0	56.7	12.6	44.1	3.0	30.2	10.1

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

YEAR	EMPLOYEE					OWN ACCOUNT WORKER	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER
	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	EMPLOYER		
*1990	100.0	55.2	19.7	35.5	2.3	34.6	7.9
*1991	100.0	61.5	20.3	41.2	2.9	29.8	5.9
*1992	100.0	58.7	18.4	40.3	2.0	32.2	7.2
*1993	100.0	57.7	15.6	42.0	2.6	33.0	6.7
*1994	100.0	59.3	15.9	43.4	2.9	32.0	5.9
*1995	100.0	58.4	14.6	43.7	3.1	33.5	5.1
*1996	100.0	59.5	14.1	45.4	3.2	31.2	6.1
*1997	100.0	58.3	14.4	43.9	3.0	33.2	5.5
*1998	100.0	55.8	14.1	41.7	2.5	34.8	6.8
*1999	100.0	57.7	13.8	43.9	2.7	33.5	6.2
*2000	100.0	56.6	12.6	44.0	3.1	33.8	6.5
*2001	100.0	57.9	12.9	45.0	3.1	33.4	5.5
*2002	100.0	57.5	12.6	44.8	3.7	34.0	4.8
**2003	100.0	57.4	12.6	44.9	3.4	34.5	4.8
***2004	100.0	58.9	11.9	47.0	3.9	32.7	4.5
**** 2005	100.0	59.9	11.7	48.1	4.1	32.9	3.2
* 2006	100.0	56.0	12.3	43.8	4.4	35.2	4.4
*2007 Q1	100.0	57.3	11.3	46.0	4.1	34.2	4.4

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

YEAR	EMPLOYEE					OWN ACCOUNT WORKER	UNPAID FAMILY WORKER
	TOTAL EMPLOYED	TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	EMPLOYER		
*1990	100.0	55.1	25.3	29.8	0.6	17.9	26.5
*1991	100.0	64.5	28.6	35.9	0.7	16.0	18.9
*1992	100.0	63.4	24.1	39.4	0.7	14.8	21.0
*1993	100.0	65.6	21.0	44.6	0.7	15.0	18.7
*1994	100.0	64.2	17.7	46.5	0.9	16.1	18.8
*1995	100.0	63.2	17.6	45.5	1.1	16.7	19.1
*1996	100.0	63.9	17.0	46.8	0.5	16.7	18.9
*1997	100.0	61.8	16.7	45.2	0.9	19.0	18.3
*1998	100.0	55.2	15.2	40.1	0.6	17.2	27.0
*1999	100.0	57.2	15.6	41.5	0.6	17.5	24.8
*2000	100.0	55.5	15.0	40.5	0.8	17.2	26.5
*2001	100.0	60.1	15.9	44.1	0.5	18.1	21.3
*2002	100.0	58.8	15.1	43.7	0.8	17.4	23.0
**2003	100.0	59.0	15.7	43.3	0.9	18.8	21.3
***2004	100.0	60.6	15.5	45.1	0.9	18.7	19.8
**** 2005	100.0	58.3	16.6	41.6	0.9	22.7	18.2
* 2006	100.0	54.8	15.6	39.2	0.8	22.7	21.7
* 2007 Q1	100.0	55.6	15.3	40.3	0.8	22.3	21.4

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

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

Year	Industry group														
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
*2002	<b>6519415</b>	2247602	1072720	386475	838796	117556	309553	168973	524724	227785	82260	110390	93252	317121	22208
**2003	<b>7012755</b>	2384397	1156682	454810	867131	121627	363393	191390	541070	262440	98107	110827	75858	333477	51548
***2004	<b>7394029</b>	2474725	1307357	474090	910770	120552	417340	175633	535064	273628	103966	122395	68813	323277	86419
****2005	<b>7518007</b>	2306039	1385374	542639	904008	138924	484999	233736	512819	297437	129237	133537	53314	324440	71504
* 2006	<b>7105322</b>	2287268	1363092	526861	954981	129351	430331	221146	400504	276783	109660	123900	80247	179941	21255
* 2007 Q1	<b>7008478</b>	2234200	1300379	589304	894315	107758	459504	243093	378875	253306	123663	107916	72156	232171	<b>11837</b>

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

**Industry group**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)  | 8 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)  |
| 2 Manufacturing (D)   | 9 Education (M)  |
| 3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,<br>Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)                           | 10 Health and Social work (N)  |
| 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,<br>Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11 Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities<br>Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5 Hotels and Restaurants (H)  | 12 Private Households with Employed Persons ( P)   |
| 6 Transport, Storage and Communication (I)  | 13 Miscellaneous Labour work   |
| 7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,<br>Renting and Business Activities (J,K)                        | 14 Industries not adequately described   |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability ( based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

- \* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- \*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- \*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- \*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Industry group</b>							
		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	Other
*2002	<b>4395164</b>	1397423	569761	373516	656505	115203	387301	70813	824642
**2003	<b>4833483</b>	1529117	624791	436404	681185	138146	405572	98074	920194
***2004	<b>5049426</b>	1559301	710910	456049	721800	122372	392949	102645	983400
****2005	<b>5134765</b>	1482610	749993	519197	702048	171330	376877	83551	1049159
* 2006	<b>4610643</b>	1342214	683873	507192	717258	156022	294597	86521	822966
* 2007 Q	<b>4648446</b>	1316621	691534	573339	675906	173448	274512	72415	870670

**Industry group**

1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)

2 Manufacturing (D)

3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,  
Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)

4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,  
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)

7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,  
Renting and Business Activities (J,K)

8 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)

9 Education (M)

**Other**

Hotels and Restaurants (H)

Transport, Storage and Communication (I)

Health and Social work (N)

Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities

Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q)

Private Households with Employed Persons (P)

Miscellaneous Labour work

Industries not adequately described

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

	Total	Industry group							
		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	Other
*2002	<b>2124250</b>	850179	502959	12959	182291	53770	137423	156972	227697
**2003	<b>2179272</b>	855280	531891	18407	185946	53243	135498	164365	234642
***2004	<b>2344604</b>	915424	596447	18041	188970	53261	142116	170983	259362
****2005	<b>2383241</b>	823429	635382	23442	201959	62405	135942	213886	286796
* 2006	<b>2494679</b>	945054	679218	19669	237723	65125	105908	190262	251720
* 2007 Q1	<b>2360032</b>	917580	608845	15965	218409	69645	104363	180891	244334

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

**Industry group**

- 1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)
- 2 Manufacturing (D)
- 3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,  
Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)
- 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,  
Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
- 7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,  
Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
- 8 Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)
- 9 Education (M)

**Other**

- Hotels and Restaurants (H)
- Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
- Health and Social work (N)
- Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities
- Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q)
- Private Households with Employed Persons (P)
- Miscellaneous Labour work
- Industries not adequately described

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability ( based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

- \* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- \*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- \*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- \*\*\*\* - All the districts are included



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

Major Industry group	Year															
	*1992	*1993	*1994	*1995	*1996	*1997	*1998	*1999	*2000	*2001	*2002	**2003	***2004	****2005	* 2006	* 2007 Q1
Total	4924130	5201904	5281279	5357120	5536216	5607868	6049388	6082449	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7008478
Agriculture	2078560	2159187	2084733	1966793	2071764	2031902	2378572	2208066	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2234200
Industry	991492	1024524	1046282	1188271	1217977	1354952	1325735	1330134	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1889683
Services	1854078	2018193	2150265	2202056	2246475	2221014	2345081	2544249	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2884594

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

Major Industry group	Year															
	*1992	*1993	*1994	*1995	*1996	*1997	*1998	*1999	*2000	*2001	*2002	**2003	***2004	****2005	* 2006	* 2007 Q1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	42.2	41.5	39.5	36.7	37.4	36.2	39.3	36.3	36.0	32.6	34.5	34.0	33.5	30.7	32.2	31.9
Industry	20.1	19.7	19.8	22.2	22.0	24.2	21.9	21.9	23.6	23.9	22.4	23.0	24.1	25.6	26.6	27.0
Services	37.7	38.8	40.7	41.1	40.6	39.6	38.8	41.8	40.3	43.5	43.1	43.0	42.4	43.7	41.2	41.2

**Agriculture**

1. Agriculture (A)
2. Forestry and Fishery (B)

**Industries**

1. Manufacturing (D)
2. Construction
3. Mining & Quarrying
4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply

**Services**

1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods
2. Hotels and Restaurants
3. Transport, Storage and Communication
4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities
5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security
6. Education
7. Health and Social work
8. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities
9. Private Households with Employed Persons
10. Miscellaneous Labour work
11. Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies
12. Industries not adequately described

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

**Table 7 - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 88)**

Year	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
*2002	<b>6519415</b>	85553	352238	316763	283719	406992	510148	1579024	935477	373588	1608511	67402
**2003	<b>7012755</b>	88043	367654	341634	303828	328796	628729	1634289	1084436	419540	1735336	80470
***2004	<b>7394029</b>	99839	404410	366488	322697	420343	671461	1513636	1124715	460589	1951081	58770
****2005	<b>7518007</b>	120491	471200	403904	300322	515909	574416	1561884	1216224	531439	1760335	61883
* 2006	<b>7105322</b>	128944	376469	362275	276587	526322	513217	1590110	1214163	501561	1576960	38715
* 2007 Q1	<b>7008478</b>	127627	342761	382119	288381	452481	488652	1562866	1158991	579761	1599437	25402

**Occupation group**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Senior Officials and Managers           | 7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers   |
| 2 Professionals                           | 8 Craft and Related workers                  |
| 3 Technical and Associate Professionals   | 9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers |
| 4 Clerks                                  | 10 Elementary occupations                    |
| 5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises | 0 Unidentified                               |
| 6 Sales and Service workers               |  |

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the **Major Groups** of ISCO - 88 classification

- \* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- \*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- \*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- \*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

**Table 7A - Currently Employed person by Occupation group - Male (Based on ISCO 88)**

Year	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
*2002	<b>4395164</b>	67276	146656	215548	151511	318172	379695	1024190	596472	335568	1097444	62633
**2003	<b>4833483</b>	71574	161375	236263	167584	260270	464633	1109200	711720	368452	1205366	77047
***2004	<b>4993403</b>	75416	174521	250898	174982	341828	498477	1004912	726641	426469	1319258	
****2005	<b>5134765</b>	87788	187002	266866	159566	406137	418628	1013877	801448	484351	1249168	59935
* 2006	<b>4610643</b>	101399	146344	238819	143606	419443	314226	966263	743733	444703	1055753	36354
* 2007 Q1	<b>4648446</b>	94157	134388	256784	139099	359653	318709	938973	765645	522163	1093473	25402

**Table 7B - Currently Employed person by Occupation group - Female (Based on ISCO 88)**

Year	Total	Occupation group										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	0
*2002	<b>2124250</b>	18277	205582	101215	132209	88819	130453	554835	339005	38020	511066	4769
**2003	<b>2179272</b>	16469	206279	105370	136245	68526	164096	525090	372716	51088	529971	3423
***2004	<b>2341857</b>	24423	229889	115590	147715	78515	172984	508724	398074	34120	631823	
****2005	<b>2383241</b>	32702	284198	137038	140756	109772	155788	548007	414776	47088	511167	1949
* 2006	<b>2494679</b>	27544	230126	123456	132981	106879	198990	623847	470430	56858	521207	2360
* 2007 Q1	<b>2360032</b>	33469	208373	125335	149282	92827	169943	623894	393346	57598	505964	

**Occupation group**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Senior Officials and Managers           | 7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers   |
| 2 Professionals                           | 8 Craft and Related workers                  |
| 3 Technical and Associate Professionals   | 9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers |
| 4 Clerks                                  | 10 Elementary occupations                    |
| 5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises | 0 Unidentified                               |
| 6 Sale and Service workers                |  |



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

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the **Major Groups** of ISCO - 88 classification

- \* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces
- \*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province
- \*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.
- \*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

(2007 1<sup>st</sup> quarter)

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP	TOTAL	0 *	1 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 & OVER
Total	100.0	4.3	1.3	4.2	9.5	14.4	33.9	32.2
1	100.0	6.4	2.5	6.8	16.3	19.6	29.5	18.9
2	100.0	4.1	0.6	3.0	7.6	9.4	37.0	38.3
3	100.0	5.9	1.0	3.3	9.1	13.1	36.5	31.1
4	100.0	1.6	0.3	2.9	4.4	9.7	29.0	52.1
5	100.0	2.7	..	1.6	1.8	5.8	31.9	56.2
6	100.0	4.7	0.8	2.9	4.0	6.4	30.5	50.8
7	100.0	1.4	0.5	0.9	2.7	5.0	55.3	34.2
8	100.0	0.7	0.3	1.5	2.1	8.3	54.2	32.9
9	100.0	2.3	1.6	6.4	14.2	51.1	20.6	3.9
10	100.0	0.9	1.0	0.6	5.4	8.6	52.2	31.4
11	100.0	4.3	5.3	3.7	3.8	9.5	36.4	37.0
12	100.0	..	..	1.6	2.0	5.3	12.2	78.9
13	100.0	5.4	0.8	7.2	12.6	21.5	36.0	16.5
14	100.0	20.1	6.8	..	..	18.8	13.6	40.7

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

.. Negligible

**Industry group**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)  | 8. Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L)   |
| 2. Manufacturing (D)   | 9. Education (M)  |
| 3. Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,<br>Electricity, Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)                           | 10. Health and Social work (N)  |
| 4. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles,<br>Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities<br>Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5. Hotels and Restaurants (H)  | 12. Private Households with Employed Persons (P)  |
| 6. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)  | 13. Miscellaneous Labour work   |
| 7. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,<br>Renting and Business Activities (J,K)                        | 14. Industries not adequately described   |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

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

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40 + YRS
*1990	100.0	20.3	40.3	19.3	13.2	7.1
*1991	100.0	19.3	42.2	16.7	15.8	6.0
*1992	100.0	19.2	40.9	20.4	13.4	6.1
*1993	100.0	20.4	38.5	18.9	15.5	6.8
*1994	100.0	22.4	41.2	15.6	15.5	5.5
*1995	100.0	21.1	38.2	20.1	15.1	5.5
*1996	100.0	24.0	39.3	18.1	14.3	4.3
*1997	100.0	22.5	41.5	19.0	12.7	4.3
*1998	100.0	21.9	40.8	17.6	13.6	6.0
*1999	100.0	23.9	40.5	17.2	12.5	5.9
*2000	100.0	19.5	44.4	18.4	11.9	5.8
*2001	100.0	21.2	45.4	17.8	10.4	5.1
*2002	100.0	19.8	47.1	16.6	11.0	5.5
**2003	100.0	19.9	45.8	17.2	11.6	5.6
***2004	100.0	18.1	45.9	17.4	11.7	6.8
**** 2005	100.0	19.5	44.8	16.4	12.2	7.1
* 2006	100.0	17.5	39.3	21.5	11.9	9.8
* 2007 Q1	100.0	13.3	42.5	18.4	13.8	12.1

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	23.8	41.2	16.1	9.6	9.2
*1991	100.0	23.0	42.6	15.1	11.7	7.7
*1992	100.0	21.8	42.7	18.5	10.0	7.1
*1993	100.0	24.0	39.5	16.0	12.7	8.0
*1994	100.0	24.3	40.8	13.3	13.4	8.6
*1995	100.0	22.3	38.2	19.0	12.9	7.6
*1996	100.0	27.2	39.6	16.9	10.9	5.4
*1997	100.0	25.0	41.5	17.2	11.5	4.8
*1998	100.0	27.7	39.6	16.5	9.5	6.7
*1999	100.0	27.6	40.6	14.3	9.3	8.2
*2000	100.0	24.0	46.4	15.2	9.1	5.3
*2001	100.0	25.4	46.3	15.0	7.1	6.2
*2002	100.0	22.2	49.1	13.5	8.3	6.9
**2003	100.0	22.7	47.6	14.8	8.3	6.6
***2004	100.0	20.8	45.4	15.4	10.1	8.3
**** 2005	100.0	21.8	44.3	15.0	12.5	6.3
* 2006	100.0	21.2	40.1	18.4	8.3	11.9
*2007 Q1	100.0	15.5	45.2	16.6	8.5	14.2

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

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
*1990	100.0	17.0	39.4	22.2	16.6	5.0
*1991	100.0	16.3	42.0	18.0	19.2	4.6
*1992	100.0	16.7	39.1	22.2	16.9	5.3
*1993	100.0	12.8	34.1	23.7	21.8	7.7
*1994	100.0	16.7	37.6	21.4	20.6	3.9
*1995	100.0	19.9	38.3	21.2	17.2	3.4
*1996	100.0	21.0	39.0	19.2	17.4	3.2
*1997	100.0	20.1	41.6	20.7	13.8	3.8
*1998	100.0	17.1	41.8	18.6	17.0	5.4
*1999	100.0	20.2	40.5	20.0	15.6	3.7
*2000	100.0	15.1	42.3	21.5	14.8	6.3
*2001	100.0	16.7	44.5	20.9	14.1	3.8
*2002	100.0	17.5	45.1	19.5	13.7	4.2
**2003	100.0	17.2	44.1	19.4	14.7	4.6
***2004	100.0	15.7	46.4	19.3	13.3	5.3
**** 2005	100.0	17.3	45.3	17.6	11.9	7.8
*2006	100.0	14.4	38.7	24.2	14.9	7.9
* 2007 Q1	100.0	11.5	40.1	19.9	18.2	10.3

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

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		BELOW GRADE 5	GRADES 5 - 9/ YEARS 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE AND ABOVE
*1990	100.0	8.5	49.7	26.5	15.4
*1991	100.0	9.0	45.7	30.3	15.1
*1992	100.0	9.2	50.5	27.0	13.7
*1993	100.0	8.3	44.9	28.7	18.0
*1994	100.0	8.6	44.9	28.3	18.2
*1995	100.0	5.5	47.1	29.1	18.4
*1996	100.0	7.9	47.1	26.1	19.0
*1997	100.0	5.7	44.7	28.2	21.4
*1998	100.0	5.8	44.2	27.1	22.9
*1999	100.0	4.4	41.9	29.2	24.5
*2000	100.0	3.1	45.6	26.0	25.3
*2001	100.0	3.6	40.7	27.3	28.4
*2002	100.0	4.7	40.7	25.2	29.4
**2003	100.0	4.8	40.2	26.1	28.9
***2004	100.0	5.4	36.6	26.2	31.7
**** 2005	100.0	4.5	37.2	28.6	29.7
* 2006	100.0	4.6	41.9	26.6	26.9
*2007 Q1	100.0	4.7	43.2	21.0	31.1

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		BELOW GRADE 5	GRADES 5 - 9/ YEARS 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE AND ABOVE
*1990	100.0	10.6	57.7	23.3	8.4
*1991	100.0	11.2	53.2	25.0	10.5
*1992	100.0	9.9	57.4	25.1	7.9
*1993	100.0	11.4	47.7	28.0	12.9
*1994	100.0	11.4	50.3	27.0	11.3
*1995	100.0	5.3	54.4	29.4	10.9
*1996	100.0	8.7	56.9	23.8	10.6
*1997	100.0	7.0	54.5	25.0	13.5
*1998	100.0	6.7	54.8	24.7	13.9
*1999	100.0	4.8	48.3	29.1	17.8
*2000	100.0	3.9	54.7	26.0	15.4
*2001	100.0	4.4	50.9	25.2	19.5
*2002	100.0	5.6	50.1	24.7	19.6
**2003	100.0	5.5	47.3	27.7	19.5
***2004	100.0	7.0	44.0	27.4	21.6
**** 2005	100.0	5.2	44.9	29.1	20.8
* 2006	100.0	6.2	48.9	26.6	18.3
*2007 Q1	100.0	6.7	46.6	26.3	20.3

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

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		BELOW GRADE 5	GRADES 5 - 9/ YEARS 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE AND ABOVE
*1990	100.0	6.4	42.2	29.5	21.9
*1991	100.0	7.1	39.6	34.5	18.8
*1992	100.0	8.5	43.6	28.9	19.4
*1993	100.0	5.7	42.5	29.4	22.5
*1994	100.0	6.9	39.6	29.6	24.9
*1995	100.0	5.7	40.0	28.8	25.5
*1996	100.0	7.1	37.6	28.3	27.0
*1997	100.0	4.5	35.3	31.3	28.9
*1998	100.0	5.1	35.4	29.1	30.5
*1999	100.0	4.0	35.5	29.3	31.2
*2000	100.0	2.3	36.3	26.1	35.3
*2001	100.0	2.6	29.7	29.7	38.0
*2002	100.0	3.9	31.4	25.6	39.1
**2003	100.0	4.0	33.5	24.6	37.8
***2004	100.0	3.9	29.7	25.0	41.3
**** 2005	100.0	4.0	29.9	28.1	38.0
* 2006	100.0	3.1	35.9	26.7	34.3
* 2007 Q1	100.0	2.9	40.3	16.4	40.4

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

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included



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

(2007 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter)				
Sex	Total	Duration		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	462450	133415	107659	221376
%	100.0	28.8	23.3	47.9
Male	213323	67840	56146	89337
%	100.0	31.8	26.3	41.9
Female	249127	65575	51513	132039
%	100.0	26.3	20.7	53.0

**TABLE 12 : STANDARD ERROR AND COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION OF SELECTED VARIABLES**

	(2007 <sup>1st</sup> quarter)					
	Estimated Value	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimated Value (Ratio)	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
<b>General labour force characteristics</b>						
Population ( 10 years & over)	15007165	246934	1.645	-	-	-
Employed Population	7008478	137196	1.958	-	-	-
Unemployed Population	462450	30014	6.490	-	-	-
Employment Rate	-	-	-	93.8	0.393	0.418
Unemployment Rate	-	-	-	6.2	0.393	6.342
Labour Force	7470927	140726	1.884	-	-	-
Not in Labour Force	7536238	160165	2.125	-	-	-
<b>Employed persons by major industry Groups</b>						
1	2234200	121689	5.447	-	-	-
2	1300379	64503	4.960	-	-	-
3	589304	33936	5.759	-	-	-
4	894315	45036	5.036	-	-	-
5	107758	13252	12.298	-	-	-
6	459504	26379	5.741	-	-	-
7	243093	25734	10.586	-	-	-
8	378875	27160	7.169	-	-	-
9	253306	20937	8.265	-	-	-
10	123663	13288	10.745	-	-	-
11	107916	11724	10.864	-	-	-
12	72156	13063	18.103	-	-	-
13	232171	22900	9.863	-	-	-
14	11837	3755	31.723	-	-	-
<b>Unemployed persons by level of education</b>						
Below grade 5	21680	5209	24.028	-	-	-
Grade 5 - 9/Year 6 - 10	199676	18525	9.277	-	-	-
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	97122	12687	13.063	-	-	-
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	143972	13936	9.679	-	-	-

**Industry group**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)   | 8. Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L)   |
| 2. Manufacturing (D)  | 9. Education (M)  |
| 3. Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,<br>Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)                           | 10. Health and Social work (N)  |
| 4. Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles,<br>Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11. Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities<br>Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5. Hotels and Restaurants (H)   | 12. Private Households with Employed Persons ( P)   |
| 6. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)   | 13. Miscellaneous Labour work   |
| 7. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,<br>Renting and Business Activities (J,K)                       | 14. Industries not adequately described   |

## ***Explanatory Notes***

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### **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 10 years of age and older.

The field work of the survey is done during the third week of the 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 and definitions**

1. ***Labour force*** : The labour force is composed of the economically active population 10 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 not 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 on the order of ,

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

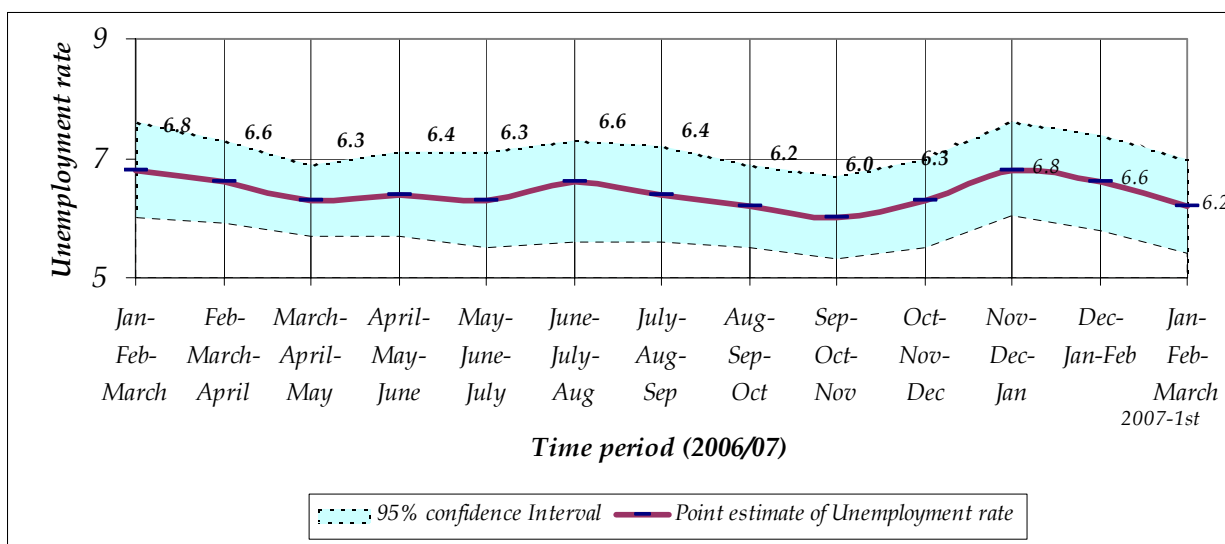
6.4  $\pm$  (0.4) \* (1.96)

(6.4  $\pm$  0.784)

This means, the 95 percent confidence interval on the quarterly unemployment rate could range from (5.6 to 7.2) . 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 5.6 to 7.2 . 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.

### Unemployment rates and it's lower and upper limits 2006 (Jan-Dec)



As shown in the given figure, it is very clear that, there is no statistical significant differences between the quarterly unemployment rates reported in 2006, (since all the 95 percent confidence intervals overlap) when sampling error is 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.

Beginning in January 2006, some improvements were made to the labour force survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of it's users and also to provide additional information for the planning purposes. This revision was made focusing on literacy, household economic activities, and informal sector employment and under employment etc.

### 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.

**(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 any paid employees).

d) Unpaid family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out by their 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 point out that **one hour per week** is too low, to consider a person to be employed.

(2) **Working age Population :** Some point out that persons in the age group 10-14 yrs. are too young to consider to be in the working age.

(3) **Employment Status :** Some point out that 'unpaid 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) Working Age Population :**

Persons who are **over 15 yrs of age only** are considered to be in the working age.

**(3) Unpaid Family Worker :**

Unpaid family workers are **not** considered as employed. Those unpaid family workers who were reported to be seeking some other work are considered as **unemployed** and the rest of the unpaid family workers 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.

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

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (15 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
* 1998	11281913	5567813	49.4	4870332	87.5	697481	12.5	5714099
* 1999	11582873	5632621	48.6	4974104	88.3	658517	11.7	5950382
* 2000	11978962	5738351	47.9	5124615	89.3	613736	10.7	6241526
* 2001	12258565	5893030	48.1	5292093	89.8	600937	10.2	6365944
* 2002	12612657	6162963	48.9	5482779	89.0	680184	11.0	6450265
** 2003	13839853	6547396	47.3	5849585	89.3	697811	10.7	7292837
*** 2004	14670217	7051951	48.1	6327524	89.7	724427	10.3	7618797
**** 2005	13630354	6565951	48.2	5964493	90.8	601458	9.2	7064403
* 2006	13261409	6467138	48.8	5975069	92.4	492069	7.6	6794271
* 2007 Q1	13369553	6461439	48.3	5999364	92.8	462075	7.2	6908113

**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
* 1999	658517	11.7	158129	41.3	269327	31.9	113285	15.4	81121	5.7	36655	1.6
* 2000	613736	10.7	126288	36.5	266306	30.7	117768	15.7	71019	4.9	32354	1.4
* 2001	601026	10.2	130397	40.2	271672	30.5	105295	14.0	63668	4.4	29905	1.2
* 2002	680184	11.0	136693	41.1	317071	32.7	113919.98	14.5	75086	4.9	37414	1.5
** 2003	697811	10.7	141608.9	40.4	314693	32.2	121632	14.5	80467	4.8	39410	1.5
*** 2004	724427	10.3	134848	38.0	332229	31.2	122725	13.4	84461	4.8	50165	1.7
**** 2005	601458	9.2	122670	39.7	268331	28.4	99649	11.3	70764	4.4	40044	1.4
* 2006	492069	7.6	86180	29.7	193481	24.0	105966	12.5	58443	3.8	47999	1.6
* 2007 Q1	462075.03	7.2	61584	24.7	196183	24.5	84960	10.0	63607	4.1	55741	1.8

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included

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

Year	Industry group														
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>*2002</b>															
No.	<b>5487325</b>	1559133	983601	264384	723210	104151	292951	164062	518764	211281	80915	96911	91085	283032	113845
%	<b>100.0</b>	28.4	17.9	4.8	13.2	1.9	5.3	3.0	9.5	3.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	5.2	2.1
<b>**2003</b>															
No.	<b>5860182</b>	1682994	1038390	343650	744153	104923	344294	176993	510486	233874	91213	94491	74181	293951	126590
%	<b>100.0</b>	28.7	17.7	5.9	12.7	1.8	5.9	3.0	8.7	4.0	1.6	1.6	1.3	5.0	2.2
<b>***2004</b>															
No.	<b>6337164</b>	1792810	1191379	439936	794793	108521	402536	170027	526501	257965	102328	108076	65639	293621	83032
%	<b>100.0</b>	28.3	18.8	6.9	12.5	1.7	6.4	2.7	8.3	4.1	1.6	1.7	1.0	4.6	1.3
<b>****2005</b>															
No.	<b>5971029</b>	1573306	1147255	476851	739850	108424	422920	204139	465608	245956	118065	105175	47645	253367	62468
%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26.3</b>	19.2	8.0	12.4	1.8	7.1	3.4	7.8	4.1	2.0	1.8	0.8	4.2	1.0
<b>*2006</b>															
No.	<b>5978575</b>	1570682	1221566	492116	822922	111890	416188	214276	397926	254378	105956	110924	78341	160429	20981
%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26.3</b>	20.4	8.2	13.8	1.9	7.0	3.6	6.7	4.3	1.8	1.9	1.3	2.7	0.4
<b>* 2007 Q1</b>															
No.	6002099	1593806	1190249	554833	773748	95672	438510	239694	372002	233263	121790	95357	69379	212759	11035
%	100.0	26.6	19.8	9.2	12.9	1.6	7.3	4.0	6.2	3.9	2.0	1.6	1.2	3.5	0.2

**Industry group**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)   | 8 Public Administration and Defence,Compulsory Social Security (L)   |
| 2 Manufacturing (D)  | 9 Education (M)  |
| 3 Construction, Mining & Quarrying ,<br>Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F)                           | 10 Health and Social work (N)  |
| 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles,<br>Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11 Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities<br>Extra Teritorial Organizations & bodies (O,Q) |
| 5 Hotels and Restaurants (H)   | 12 Private Households with Employed Persons ( P)   |
| 6 Transport, Storage and Communication (I)   | 13 Miscellaneous Labour work   |
| 7 Financial Intermediation and Real Estate,<br>Renting and Business Activities (J,K)                       | 14 Industries not adequately described   |

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability ( based on CV),some of these groups have been combined.

\* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

\*\* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

\*\*\* - Excluding Mulathivu,Kilinochchi districts.

\*\*\*\* - All the districts are included