



Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

Annual Bulletin - 2010

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance and Planning

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 programmes implemented 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 and is being continued by the DCS.

This bulletin is based on an annual sample of 20,260 housing units, excluding Northern province. In Northern Province survey could not be conducted properly since the resettlement process had not been completed.

1. LABOUR FORCE: HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

Economically Active Population (Labour Force)

All persons above a specific age (10 years and above) of either gender who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services during a specified time (reference period; previous week of the survey).

Labour force = (Employed + Unemployed) populations.

Distribution of Economically Active population

In 2010, estimated economically active population is around eight million and about five million (66%) of them are males (Table 1.1). Majority among the economically inactive population are females (70%)

Table 1.1: Distribution of economically active / inactive population by gender - 2010

Gender	Economically active population		Economically inactive population	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	8107739	100.0	8753787	100.0
Male	5317553	65.6	2601551	29.7
Female	2790186	34.4	6152236	70.3

Table 1.2: Percentage distribution of economically active population by gender & district - 2010

District	Economically active population (%)		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	65.6	34.4
Colombo	100.0	67.4	32.6
Gampaha	100.0	68.9	31.1
Kalutara	100.0	66.7	33.3
Kandy	100.0	67.5	32.5
Matale	100.0	64.9	35.1
Nuwara Eliya	100.0	59.0	41.0
Galle	100.0	65.3	34.7
Matara	100.0	64.6	35.4
Hambantota	100.0	66.1	33.9
Batticaloa	100.0	75.1	24.9
Ampara	100.0	76.2	23.8
Trincomalee	100.0	72.4	27.6
Kurunegala	100.0	64.6	35.4
Puttalam	100.0	67.6	32.4
Anuradhapura	100.0	57.9	42.1
Polonnaruwa	100.0	71.4	28.6
Badulla	100.0	58.8	41.2
Moneragala	100.0	61.0	39.0
Ratnapura	100.0	63.8	36.2
Kegalle	100.0	61.9	38.1

2. EMPLOYMENT: HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

Table 2.1 : Employment statistic by gender - 2010
(Excluding Northern Province)

Employment Statistic	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Labour Force	8107739	5317553	2790186
Employed population	7706593	5131986	2574608
Employment rate	95.1	96.5	92.3

Employed : During the reference period, persons, who worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers are said to be employed.

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

Table 2.2: Percentage distribution of employed population by major industry group

Sector/Province	Total	Major Industry Group		
		Agri.	Ind.	Serv.
Sri Lanka	100.0	32.7	24.2	43.1
Urban	100.0	4.0	26.6	69.4
Rural	100.0	34.4	24.7	41.0
Estate	100.0	69.4	11.4	19.2
Province				
Western	100.0	7.9	33.0	59.1
Central	100.0	42.3	17.2	40.5
Southern	100.0	37.1	25.5	37.4
Eastern	100.0	35.3	19.0	45.7
North Western	100.0	36.9	25.7	37.5
North Central	100.0	59.4	11.9	28.6
Uva	100.0	59.3	11.2	29.5
Sabaragamuwa	100.0	40.9	25.4	33.7

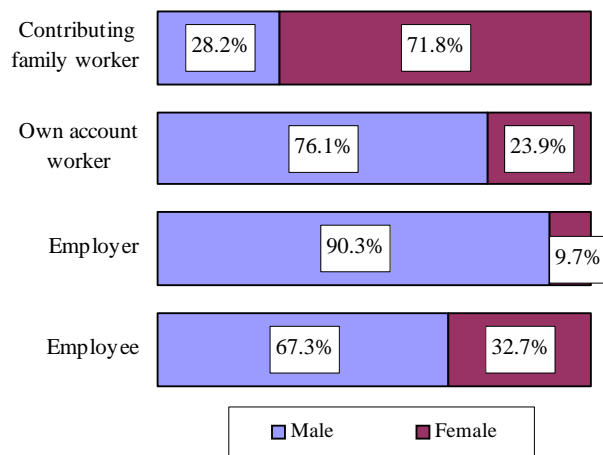
District	Total	Major Industry Group		
		Agri.	Ind.	Serv.
Colombo	100.0	3.6	28.6	67.8
Gampaha	100.0	6.6	37.8	55.6
Kalutara	100.0	17.5	32.2	50.3
Kandy	100.0	23.1	22.2	54.7
Matale	100.0	46.5	19.6	33.9
Nuwara eliya	100.0	68.2	8.4	23.4
Galle	100.0	33.3	27.4	39.3
Matara	100.0	36.9	24.8	38.3
Hambantota	100.0	43.6	23.3	33.2
Batticaloa	100.0	27.5	22.1	50.3
Ampara	100.0	39.2	20.0	40.8
Trincomalee	100.0	37.5	12.5	50.0
Kurunegala	100.0	38.5	23.2	38.3
Puttalama	100.0	33.3	31.3	35.4
Anuradapura	100.0	64.2	9.8	26.0
Polonnaruwa	100.0	47.4	17.4	35.2
Badulla	100.0	61.6	11.0	27.4
Monaragala	100.0	55.0	11.6	33.4
Rathnapura	100.0	47.0	23.6	29.4
Kegalle	100.0	32.6	27.9	39.5

Agri. - Agriculture sector, Ind. - Industries sector, Serv. - Service sector

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of employment status by gender - 2010

Employment status	Total	Gender	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	66.6	33.4
Employee	100.0	67.3	32.7
Employer	100.0	90.3	9.7
Own account worker	100.0	76.1	23.9
Contributing family worker	100.0	28.2	71.8

Table 2.1 : Percentage distribution of employment status by gender - 2010



3. UNEMPLOYMENT: HIGHLIGHTS - 2010

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.

Table 3.1: Unemployment rates by age groups and gender

Age group (Years)	Total	Gender	
		Male	Female
Total	4.9	3.5	7.7
15 - 24	19.4	16.3	24.7
25 - 29	9.2	4.7	17.8
30-39	3.1	1.7	5.8
Over 40	1.0	0.8	1.4

Table 3.1 depicts that among all age groups, unemployment rates of females are higher than those of males. Irrespective of the age group, the unemployment rate of females in Sri Lanka was 7.7% and that of males was 3.5%.

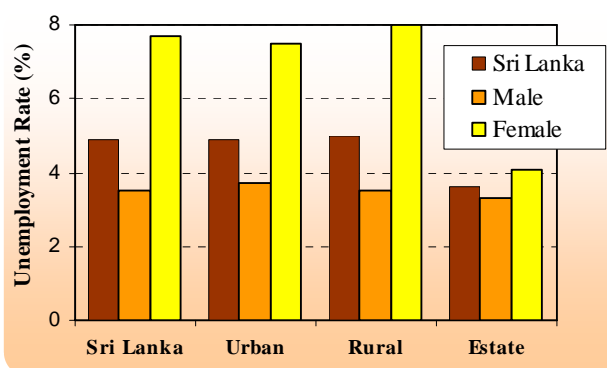
Table 3.2: Unemployment Rates by level of education

Level of Education	Total	Gender	
		Male	Female
Total	4.9	3.5	7.7
Grade 5 & Below	0.7	*	*
Grade 6-10	3.6	2.8	5.8
G.C.E. (O/L)	6.9	5.4	10.1
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	11.6	7.9	15.8

*Sample size is not sufficient to obtain reliable estimates

According to the table, the unemployment rate among the educated group (G.C.E(A/L) and above) is reported to be 11.6 percent. It is 7.9 percent and 15.8 percent for male and female respectively. This reveals that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than males

Figure 3.1: Unemployment rates by gender - 2010



Considering the table 3.3, unemployment rate of females is more than two times greater than that of males.

Table 3.3: Unemployment rates by gender for each sector and province - 2010

Sector / Province / District	Unemployment rate (%)		
	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.9	3.5	7.7
Sector			
Urban	4.9	3.7	7.5
Rural	5.0	3.5	8.0
Estate	3.6	3.3	4.1
Province			
Western	3.7	2.6	6.0
Central	6.7	5.1	9.6
Southern	7.8	5.9	11.6
Eastern	5.3	3.1	11.9
North Western	4.8	3.5	7.1
North Central	3.6	*	6.4
Uva	4.1	*	7.2
Sabaragamuwa	4.6	3.6	6.1

*Sample size is not sufficient to obtain reliable estimates

Table 3.4: Unemployment rates by district - 2010

District	Unemp. rate (%)	District	Unemp. rate (%)
Colombo	3.3	Ampara	4.8
Gampaha	4.1	Trincomalee	*
Kalutara	3.7	Kurunegala	5.5
Kandy	9.6	Puttalam	3.0
Matale	5.2	Anuradapura	2.9
Nuwara eliya	*	Polonnaruwa	5.3
Galle	6.4	Badulla	4.7
Matara	8.9	Monaragala	*
Hambantota	8.9	Rathnapura	4.2
Batticaloa	6.1	Kegalle	5.0

*Sample size is not sufficient to obtain reliable estimates

Selected Labour Force Indicators (2001 - 2010)

	Year									2010*
	2001#	2002#	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2009*	
Labour force participation rate										
by gender										
Both gender	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.1
Male	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	66.6	67.1
Female	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	32.8	31.2
by residential sector										
Total	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.1
Urban	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	43.5	42.0
Rural	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	49.4	49.0
Unemployment rate										
by gender										
Both gender	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.8	4.9
Male	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.3	3.5
Female	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	8.6	7.7
by selected age groups (year)										
20 - 29	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.4	13.8
20 - 24	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	21.4	19.1
25 - 29	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.3	9.2
by selected educational levels										
G.C.E.(A/L) & above										
Both gender	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	11.2	11.6
Male	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.0	7.9
Female	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	15.5	15.8
Employed population										
by sex										
Both gender	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7602414	7706593
Male	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	4963176	5131986
Female	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2639238	2574608
by industry (parentage)										
Total	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7602414	7706593
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2475921	2519905
%	(32.6)	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	33	(32.7)
Industry	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1910318	1866733
%	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	25	(24.2)
Services	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3216175	3319955
%	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	42.0	(43.1)
by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	7.9	6.0
1 - 9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.7
10 - 39	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	28.8	28.5
40+	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	61.0	63.9

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week
 ***All the districts are included

*Excluding Northern provinces
 ** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts
 # Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces