



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 3rd Quarter - 2017

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Department of Census and Statistics

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Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.6% for the Third Quarter of 2017.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.2%.

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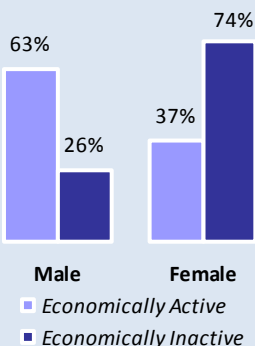


Figure 1: Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Third quarter-2017

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

This bulletin contains labour force, employment and unemployment statistics for the third quarter 2017 based on the data collected in July, August and September covering the whole country.

Labour Force

(Economically Active Population)

Table 1: Economically active population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2017

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,522,219	100.0	5,381,432	63.1	3,140,787	36.9
Urban	1,394,651	100.0	916,009	65.7	478,642	34.3
Rural	6,743,099	100.0	4,254,697	63.1	2,488,403	36.9
Estate	384,469	100.0	210,726	54.8	173,743	45.2

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2017

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,371,600	100.0	1,934,157	26.2	5,437,444	73.8
Urban	1,402,320	100.0	381,986	27.2	1,020,334	72.8
Rural	5,681,762	100.0	1,456,934	25.6	4,224,828	74.4
Estate	287,518	100.0	95,237	33.1	192,281	66.9

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year

Year	Total	Male	Female
2012	52.5	74.9	32.9
2013	53.7	74.9	35.4
2014	53.2	74.6	34.6
2015	53.8	74.7	35.9
2016	54.1	75.1	36.0
2015 Q3	53.8	74.8	35.6
2016 Q3	53.8	75.0	36.1
2017 Q1	54.7	75.1	37.6
2017 Q2	53.9	74.6	35.9
2017 Q3	53.6	73.6	36.6

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2012. Referring the Table 3, It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of females.

Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male is reported from age group 35 – 39 years (96.4%), while that for female is reported from 40 – 44 age group (49.7%).

Labour Force

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

Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

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

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.5 million in the third quarter 2017. Of which 63.1 percent are males and 36.9 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 7.3 million. Out of the economically inactive population 26.2 percent are males and 73.8 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 4: LFPR by age group and gender - Third Quarter 2017

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.6	73.6	36.6
15 - 19	14.0	18.3	9.7
20 - 24	55.1	69.2	42.4
25 - 29	67.4	92.7	46.0
30 - 34	68.0	96.3	46.0
35 - 39	69.1	96.4	46.9
40 - 44	70.4	94.2	49.7
45 - 49	70.0	95.7	49.0
50 - 54	69.2	92.8	49.3
55 - 59	61.3	84.5	40.4
60+	31.5	48.8	17.6

Definition of 'Employed'

Persons, who worked at least one hour during the reference period, as paid employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers are said to be employed. This also includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.

Reference Period :

Previous week of the survey week

The Employment Rate

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.

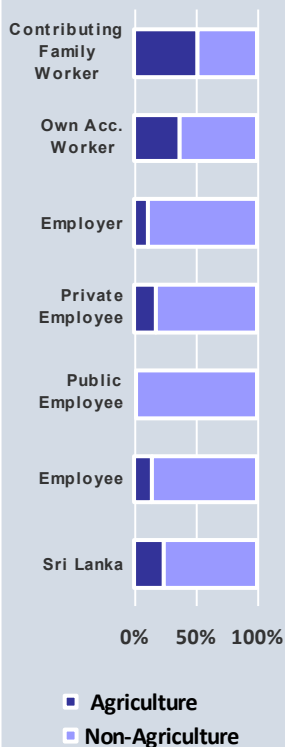


Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Third quarter 2017

Employment ...

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry
(Third Quarter 2016 – Third quarter 2017)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2016 Q3 (No.)	7,999,821	2,168,982	2,144,808	3,686,032
(%)	100.0	27.1	26.8	46.1
2016 Q4 (No.)	8,006,700	2,209,976	2,055,386	3,741,339
(%)	100.0	27.6	25.7	46.7
2017 Q1 (No.)	8,230,207	2,221,761	2,306,398	3,702,049
(%)	100.0	27.0	28.0	45.0
2017 Q2 (No.)	8,138,728	2,114,336	2,301,377	3,723,015
(%)	100.0	26.0	28.3	45.7
2017 Q3 (No.)	8,163,869	1,983,870	2,372,007	3,807,992
(%)	100.0	24.3	29.1	46.6

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from third quarter 2016 to third quarter 2017. During third quarter of 2017, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.2 million. Of which, about 46.6 percent engaged in Service sector, 29.1 percent in Industries sector and 24.3 percent in Agriculture sector.

Table 6 : Distribution of employed population by employment status in Agriculture and Non-Agriculture sectors – Third quarter 2017

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
	No.	%	Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
			No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,163,869	100.0	1,983,870	24.3	6,179,999	75.7
Employee	4,685,963	100.0	659,010	14.1	4,026,953	85.9
Public	1,146,652	100.0	19,845	1.7	1,126,806	98.3
Private	3,539,312	100.0	639,165	18.1	2,900,147	81.9
Employer	264,456	100.0	28,042	10.6	236,414	89.4
Own Account Worker	2,513,366	100.0	939,429	37.4	1,573,937	62.6
Contributing Family Worker	700,083	100.0	357,388	51.0	342,695	49.0

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

Table 7 : Percentage distribution of Employed population by main industry & gender – Third quarter 2017

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	24.3	21.9	28.5
Industry	29.1	30.5	26.5
Services	46.6	47.6	45.0

Main industry categories and sub sectors

Agriculture

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

Industries

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

Services

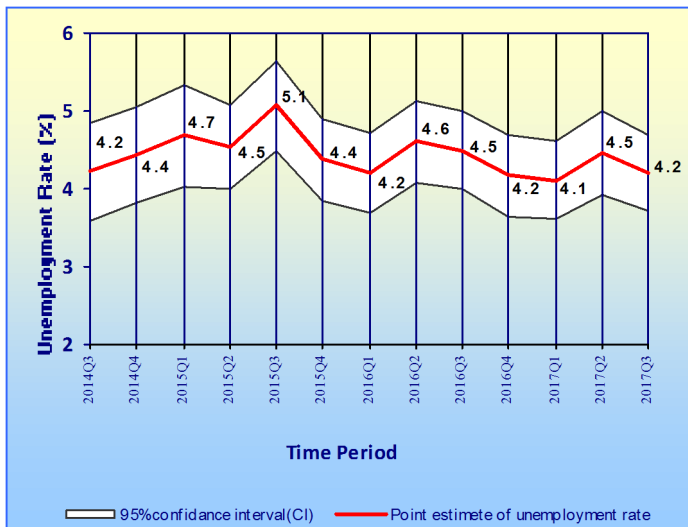
1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative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

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

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industry sectors. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for agriculture sector. Among employed females 28.5 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 21.9 percent for males.

Unemployment ...

Figure 3: Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2014Q3 - 2017Q3)



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

For more details, please refer the explanatory note given under the labour force link in the DCS website; www.statistics.gov.lk

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 358,350 during the third quarter 2017. The unemployment rate for the third quarter 2017 is 4.2 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when sampling error¹ is considered there are no statistically significant drops/increases of unemployment rates reported in different time periods starting from third quarter 2014 to third quarter 2017.

Definition of 'Unemployed'

Persons available and/or looking for work, and who did not work and taken steps to find a job during last four weeks and ready to accept a job given a work opportunity within next two weeks are said to be unemployed.

The Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

Table 8: Number of Unemployment and Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2017

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number	Unp. rate	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	358,350	4.2	2.7	6.8
15–24	177,934	18.3	14.7	23.9
25–29	78,691	9.8	5.4	17.4
Over 30	101,724	1.5	0.7	2.9

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

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

Table 9: Number of Unemployment and Unemployment rate by level of education – Third quarter 2017

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number	Unp. rate	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	358,350	4.2	2.7	6.8
Below GCE O/L	104,164	2.1	1.7	2.8
GCE O/L	89,533	6.0	4.0	9.7
GCE A/L & above	164,653	8.5	4.9	11.9

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is about 8.5 percent. Corresponding percentages are 4.9 percent and 11.9 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

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

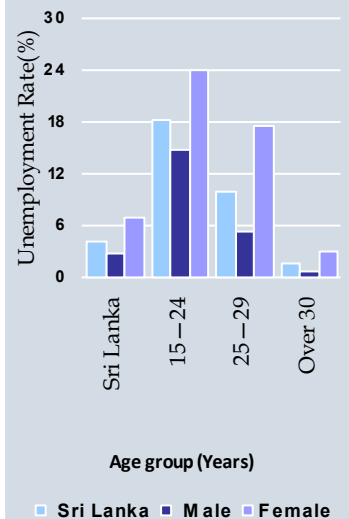


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2017

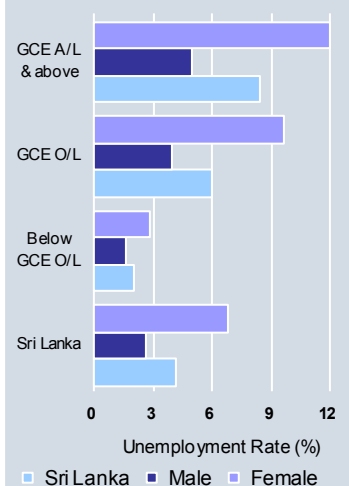


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Third quarter 2017



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Vision of the DCS

*"To be the leader in
the region in produc-
ing timely statistical
information to
achieve the country's
development goals."*

Mission of the DCS

*"Making contribution
in the socioeconomic
development of the
country by providing
accurate timely statis-
tics, more Effectively
by means of new
technology, and utiliz-
ing the services of
dedicated staff under
a strategic leadership
to become a prosper-
ous nation in the
globalized environ-
ment."*

Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year								
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015Q3	2016Q3	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
Labour force participation rate									
By Gender									
Total	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	54.7	53.9	53.6
Male	74.9	74.6	74.7	75.1	74.8	75.0	75.1	74.6	73.6
Female	35.4	34.6	35.9	35.9	35.6	36.1	37.6	35.9	36.6
By residential sector									
Total	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	54.7	53.9	53.6
Urban	47.7	48.7	48.6	49.8	48.4	49.8	51.5	48.5	49.9
Rural	54.9	54.1	54.8	54.6	54.8	54.7	55.4	55.1	54.4
Unemployment Rate									
By Gender									
Total	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.4	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.2
Male	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.7
Female	6.6	6.5	7.6	7.0	7.8	7.6	6.5	7.1	6.8
By selected age Group (Year)									
20 – 29	13.1	13.6	14.2	14.2	15.0	14.3	12.5	14.6	14.2
20 – 24	19.3	19.9	19.7	19.9	21.7	19.8	17.4	18.4	19.0
25 – 29	7.6	8.2	9.4	9.2	8.9	9.7	8.0	11.3	9.8
By selected educational level									
GCE A/L and above									
Total	8.7	8.2	9.2	8.3	10.3	9.3	7.8	8.2	8.5
Male	5.7	5.4	4.7	4.7	6.1	4.5	4.9	5.0	4.9
Female	11.8	11.1	13.5	11.9	14.3	13.9	10.8	11.8	11.9
Employed population									
By Gender									
Total	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,807,346	7,999,821	8,230,207	8,138,728	8,163,869
Male	5,024,340	5,075,426	5,097,798	5,149,948	5,115,215	5,171,424	5,235,046	5,315,916	5,237,380
Female	2,656,938	2,625,064	2,733,178	2,797,735	2,692,131	2,828,397	2,995,161	2,822,812	2,926,489
By industry (Percentage)									
Total	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,807,346	7,999,821	8,230,207	8,138,728	8,163,869
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,321,215	2,222,859	2,244,547	2,153,874	2,168,233	2,168,982	2,221,761	2,114,336	1,983,870
%	30.2	28.9	28.7	27.1	27.8	27.1	27.0	26.0	24.3
Industry	1,996,730	2,027,426	2,018,171	2,097,503	2,105,576	2,144,808	2,306,398	2,301,377	2,372,007
%	26	26.3	25.8	26.4	27.0	26.8	28.0	28.3	29.1
Services	3,363,334	3,450,205	3,568,259	3,696,306	3,533,536	3,686,032	3,702,049	3,723,015	3,807,992
%	43.8	44.8	45.6	46.5	45.3	46.1	45.0	45.7	46.6
By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0
0#	5.2	5.2	5.5	4.4	4.9	4.3	3.5	6.6	4.8
1 – 9	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7
10 – 39	27.5	27.6	27.2	26.2	26.7	26.0	26.7	27.3	24.1
40 & above	65.5	65.9	65.7	67.9	66.9	68.0	68.1	64.6	69.3

has a job but not at work during the reference week

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