



QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE

**SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE
SURVEY**

FIRST QUARTER - 2008

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS

Preface

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 and this report is the sixty ninth in the series of quarterly reports published so far.

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 2008 was done in January, February and March in year 2008. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern and Eastern provinces, the survey was not conducted fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in districts of Northern province. In first quarter 2008 the survey was conducted in the Eastern province, hence this report consists of data including Eastern province. However for comparison purposes related tabulations have been done (i) excluding Northern and Eastern provinces and (ii) excluding Northern province, separately in this report.

A nationally representative annual sample of about 22,500 housing units have been selected for the survey in 2008. However as mentioned above, the survey was not conducted properly in Northern province as scheduled, so this report is based on a quarterly sample of 5,070 housing units, excluding Northern province providing national level estimates with a stipulated standard errors of labour force characteristics as reported in the reference period of the first quarter 2008.

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30.08.2008.*

Acknowledgements

This report is sixty ninth in the 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 Mr.L.J.S. de Silva Wijeratne, 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, Mr.T. Thirugnanatheepan Statistical Officers 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, assisted by Mrs. W.A.S.M.P. Gunasekara, Statistical officer.

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, Senior 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 Deputy Directors/ 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
2008 1st quarter
(Excluding Northern province)

10 years & over population

| | Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Population (10 years & over) | 16274487 | 7728048 | 8546439 | 1948819 | 14325668 |
| Labour force in this age group | 7991191 | 5172463 | 2818727 | 888439 | 7102752 |
| Labour force participation rate | 49.1 | 66.9 | 33.0 | 45.6 | 49.6 |
| Employed population | 7581163 | 5004644 | 2576519 | 839150 | 6742013 |
| Employment rate | 94.9 | 96.8 | 91.4 | 94.5 | 94.9 |
| Unemployed population | 410028 | 167820 | 242208 | 49289 | 360739 |
| Unemployment rate | 5.1 | 3.2 | 8.6 | 5.5 | 5.1 |
| Not in labour force | 8283296 | 2555585 | 5727712 | 1060380 | 7222917 |

15 years & over population

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Population (15 years & over) | 14572207 | 6854891 | 7717316 | 1742496 | 12829710 |
| Labour force in this age group | 7974717 | 5161959 | 2812758 | 887923 | 7086794 |
| Labour force participation rate | 54.7 | 75.3 | 36.4 | 51.0 | 55.2 |
| Employed population | 7564689 | 4994139 | 2570550 | 838634 | 6726055 |
| Employment rate | 94.9 | 96.7 | 91.4 | 94.4 | 94.9 |
| Unemployed population | 410028 | 167820 | 242208 | 49289 | 360739 |
| Unemployment rate | 5.1 | 3.3 | 8.6 | 5.6 | 5.1 |
| Not in labour force | 6597490 | 1692932 | 4904558 | 854574 | 5742917 |

20 years & over population

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Population (20 years & over) | 12932775 | 6050840 | 6881935 | 1584800 | 11347975 |
| Labour force in this age group | 7693876 | 4984800 | 2709076 | 866003 | 6827873 |
| Labour force participation rate | 59.5 | 82.4 | 39.4 | 54.6 | 60.2 |
| Employed population | 7345963 | 4844628 | 2501334 | 822641 | 6523322 |
| Employment rate | 95.5 | 97.2 | 92.3 | 95.0 | 95.5 |
| Unemployed population | 347914 | 140172 | 207741 | 43363 | 304551 |
| Unemployment rate | 4.5 | 2.8 | 7.7 | 5.0 | 4.5 |
| Not in labour force | 5238899 | 1066039 | 4172860 | 718797 | 4520102 |

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics

2008 1st quarter

(Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)

10 years & over population

| | Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Population (10 years & over) | 15112014 | 7154286 | 7957728 | 1690888 | 13421126 |
| Labour force in this age group | 7530722 | 4811750 | 2718972 | 776921 | 6753801 |
| Labour force participation rate | 49.8 | 67.3 | 34.2 | 45.9 | 50.3 |
| Employed population | 7148318 | 4653378 | 2494940 | 736343 | 6411975 |
| Employment rate | 94.9 | 96.7 | 91.8 | 94.8 | 94.9 |
| Unemployed population | 382403 | 158372 | 224031 | 40578 | 341825 |
| Unemployment rate | 5.1 | 3.3 | 8.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Not in labour force | 7581292 | 2342536 | 5238756 | 913967 | 6667325 |

15 years & over population

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Population (15 years & over) | 13571366 | 6365788 | 7205578 | 1525787 | 12045579 |
| Labour force in this age group | 7514764 | 4801245 | 2713519 | 776921 | 6737843 |
| Labour force participation rate | 55.4 | 75.4 | 37.7 | 50.9 | 55.9 |
| Employed population | 7132360 | 4642873 | 2489487 | 736343 | 6396017 |
| Employment rate | 94.9 | 96.7 | 91.7 | 94.8 | 94.9 |
| Unemployed population | 382403 | 158372 | 224031 | 40578 | 341825 |
| Unemployment rate | 5.1 | 3.3 | 8.3 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Not in labour force | 6056602 | 1564543 | 4492059 | 748866 | 5307736 |

20 years & over population

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Population (20 years & over) | 12067622 | 5636230 | 6431391 | 1388423 | 10679199 |
| Labour force in this age group | 7257398 | 4645142 | 2612256 | 759337 | 6498061 |
| Labour force participation rate | 60.1 | 82.4 | 40.6 | 54.7 | 60.8 |
| Employed population | 6934166 | 4511990 | 2422176 | 723788 | 6210378 |
| Employment rate | 95.5 | 97.1 | 92.7 | 95.3 | 95.6 |
| Unemployed population | 323232 | 133152 | 190080 | 35549 | 287683 |
| Unemployment rate | 4.5 | 2.9 | 7.3 | 4.7 | 4.4 |
| Not in labour force | 4810224 | 991089 | 3819135 | 629087 | 4181137 |

Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(2000 - 2008 First quarter)

| | Year | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2007 Q1 | 2008Q1 |
| Labour force participation rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>by sex</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 50.3 | 48.8 | 50.3 | 49.7 | 49.6 | 49.3 | 51.2 | 49.8 | 49.8 | 49.8 |
| Male | 67.2 | 66.2 | 67.9 | 67.5 | 67.2 | 67.3 | 68.1 | 67.8 | 68.1 | 67.3 |
| Female | 33.9 | 31.9 | 33.6 | 32.6 | 33.0 | 32.6 | 35.7 | 33.4 | 33.2 | 34.2 |
| <i>by residential sector</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 50.3 | 48.8 | 50.3 | 49.7 | 49.6 | 49.3 | 51.2 | 49.8 | 49.8 | 49.8 |
| Urban | 44.9 | 44.2 | 46.0 | 45.1 | 45.6 | 46.2 | 45.3 | 45.0 | 44.5 | 45.9 |
| Rural | 51.2 | 49.6 | 50.9 | 50.3 | 50.3 | 49.7 | 52.1 | 50.4 | 50.5 | 50.3 |
| Unemployment rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>by sex</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 7.6 | 7.9 | 8.8 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 5.1 |
| Male | 5.8 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 3.3 |
| Female | 11.1 | 11.5 | 12.9 | 12.3 | 12.1 | 10.7 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 8.2 |
| <i>by selected age groups(yr)</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 - 29 | 17.4 | 18.4 | 20.1 | 19.1 | 18.6 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 13.4 |
| 20 - 24 | 23.0 | 24.4 | 27.0 | 25.8 | 25.2 | 22.4 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21.8 | 18.4 |
| 25 - 29 | 10.9 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 11.4 | 11.1 | 9.4 | 11.0 | 9.4 | 8.9 | 8.7 |
| <i>by selected educational levels</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14.9 | 15.3 | 16.8 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 12.2 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 12.3 | 11.0 |
| Male | 8.8 | 10.1 | 10.8 | 10.1 | 9.6 | 7.9 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 7.0 | 6.9 |
| Female | 21.5 | 21.5 | 23.0 | 22.4 | 22.5 | 17.1 | 16.8 | 17.5 | 18.4 | 15.6 |
| Employed population | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>by sex</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 6310247 | 6235588 | 6519415 | 6609466 | 6704006 | 6788119 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7008478 | 7148318 |
| Male | 4241546 | 4248877 | 4395164 | 4496136 | 4512082 | 4546397 | 4610643 | 4653067 | 4648446 | 4653378 |
| Female | 2068701 | 1986711 | 2124250 | 2113330 | 2191924 | 2241722 | 2494679 | 2388807 | 2360032 | 2494940 |
| <i>by industry (percentage)</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 6310247 | 6235588 | 6519415 | 6609466 | 6704006 | 6788119 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7008478 | 7148318 |
| % | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) |
| Agriculture | 2274153 | 2033343 | 2247602 | 2223691 | 2215282 | 2059293 | 2287268 | 2202098 | 2234200 | 2272031 |
| % | (36.0) | (32.6) | (34.5) | (33.6) | (33.0) | (30.3) | (32.2) | (31.3) | (31.9) | (31.8) |
| Industry | 1490795 | 1491408 | 1459194 | 1539035 | 1663383 | 1787274 | 1889953 | 1873857 | 1889683 | 1890286 |
| % | (23.6) | (23.9) | (22.4) | (23.3) | (24.8) | (26.3) | (26.6) | (26.6) | (27.0) | (26.4) |
| Services | 2545299 | 2710837 | 2812619 | 2846740 | 2825341 | 2941552 | 2928101 | 2965919 | 2884594 | 2986000 |
| % | (40.3) | (43.5) | (43.1) | (43.1) | (42.1) | (43.3) | (41.2) | (42.1) | (41.2) | (41.8) |
| <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 • | 7.2 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 7.3 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| 1 - 9 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.9 |
| 10 - 39 | 32.7 | 28.2 | 32.0 | 32.9 | 28.4 | 27.9 | 28.6 | 28.3 | 28.2 | 31.1 |
| 40+ | 58.2 | 66.1 | 60.9 | 58.0 | 64.7 | 65.7 | 62.8 | 63.7 | 66.2 | 62.9 |

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

Note: However it is to be noted that the difference between corresponding figures in any given two quarters may not necessarily be statistically significant.

Selected Labour Force indicators (2000 - 2008 First quarter)

| | Year | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003* | 2004** | 2005*** | 2006 # | 2007# | 2008Q1# | 2008Q1* |
| Labour force participation rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>by sex</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 50.3 | 48.8 | 50.3 | 48.9 | 48.6 | 48.3 | 51.2 | 49.8 | 49.8 | 49.1 |
| Male | 67.2 | 66.2 | 67.9 | 67.2 | 66.7 | 67.1 | 68.1 | 67.8 | 67.3 | 66.9 |
| Female | 33.9 | 31.9 | 33.6 | 31.4 | 31.5 | 30.9 | 35.7 | 33.4 | 34.2 | 33.0 |
| <i>by residential sector</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 50.3 | 48.8 | 50.3 | 48.9 | 48.6 | 48.3 | 51.2 | 49.8 | 49.8 | 49.1 |
| Urban | 44.9 | 44.2 | 46.0 | 44.4 | 44.9 | 45.5 | 45.3 | 45.0 | 45.9 | 45.6 |
| Rural | 51.2 | 49.6 | 50.9 | 49.6 | 49.2 | 48.7 | 52.1 | 50.4 | 50.3 | 49.6 |
| Unemployment rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>by sex</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 7.6 | 7.9 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Male | 5.8 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| Female | 11.1 | 11.5 | 12.9 | 13.2 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 8.2 | 8.6 |
| <i>by selected age groups(yr)</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 - 29 | 17.4 | 18.4 | 20.1 | 19.4 | 19.2 | 17.2 | 15.9 | 15.0 | 13.4 | 13.4 |
| 20 - 24 | 23.0 | 24.4 | 27.0 | 26.4 | 25.9 | 24.6 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 18.4 | 18.4 |
| 25 - 29 | 10.9 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 9.5 | 11.0 | 9.4 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| <i>by selected educational levels</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14.9 | 15.3 | 16.8 | 16.5 | 16.8 | 13.8 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 11.0 | 11.1 |
| Male | 8.8 | 10.1 | 10.8 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 8.9 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.9 |
| Female | 21.5 | 21.5 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 23.8 | 19.1 | 16.8 | 17.5 | 15.6 | 15.8 |
| Employed population | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>by sex</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 6310247 | 6235588 | 6519415 | 7012755 | 7440226 | 7518007 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7148318 | 7581163 |
| Male | 4241546 | 4248877 | 4395164 | 4833483 | 5087861 | 5134765 | 4610643 | 4653067 | 4653378 | 5004644 |
| Female | 2068701 | 1986711 | 2124250 | 2179272 | 2352365 | 2383241 | 2494679 | 2388807 | 2494940 | 2576519 |
| <i>by industry (percentage)</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 6310247 | 6235588 | 6519415 | 7012755 | 7394029 | 7518007 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7148318 | 7581163 |
| % | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) | (100.0) |
| Agriculture | 2274153 | 2033343 | 2247602 | 2384397 | 2474725 | 2306039 | 2287268 | 2202098 | 2272031 | 2410307 |
| % | (36.0) | (32.6) | (34.5) | (34.0) | (33.5) | (30.7) | (32.2) | (31.3) | (31.8) | (31.8) |
| Industry | 1490795 | 1491408 | 1459194 | 1611493 | 1781447 | 1928014 | 1889953 | 1873857 | 1890286 | 1989655 |
| % | (23.6) | (23.9) | (22.4) | (23.0) | (24.1) | (25.6) | (26.6) | (26.6) | (26.4) | (26.2) |
| Services | 2545299 | 2710837 | 2812619 | 3016866 | 3137857 | 3283954 | 2928101 | 2965919 | 2986000 | 3181201 |
| % | (40.3) | (43.5) | (43.1) | (43.0) | (42.4) | (43.7) | (41.2) | (42.1) | (41.8) | (42.0) |
| <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 • | 7.2 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 4.0 |
| 1 - 9 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| 10 - 39 | 32.7 | 28.2 | 32.0 | 32.6 | 28.7 | 27.6 | 28.6 | 28.3 | 31.1 | 30.7 |
| 40+ | 58.2 | 66.1 | 60.9 | 58.1 | 64.5 | 66.2 | 62.8 | 63.7 | 62.9 | 63.6 |

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

* Excluding Northern province

***All the districts are included

** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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

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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 2008 was done in January, February and March in year 2008. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern and Eastern provinces, the survey was not conducted fully due to the prevailing uncertain conditions in districts of Northern province. In first quarter 2008 the survey was conducted in the Eastern province, hence this report consist with data including Eastern province.

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 2008

| Sector | Economically active population | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Total | % | Male | % | Female | % |
| Total | 7530722 | 100.0 | 4811750 | 63.9 | 2718972 | 36.1 |
| Urban | 776921 | 100.0 | 538531 | 69.3 | 238390 | 30.7 |
| Rural | 6753801 | 100.0 | 4273219 | 63.3 | 2480582 | 36.7 |

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

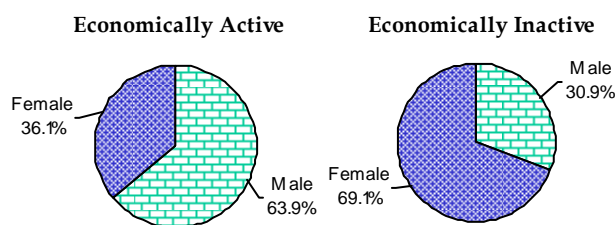
Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector- First Quarter 2008

| Sector | Economically inactive population | | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Total | % | Male | % | Female | % |
| Total | 7581292 | 100.0 | 2342536 | 30.9 | 5238756 | 69.1 |
| Urban | 913967 | 100.0 | 284501 | 31.1 | 629466 | 68.9 |
| Rural | 6667325 | 100.0 | 2058035 | 30.9 | 4609290 | 69.1 |

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 7.5 million in first quarter 2008. Of which 63.9 percent were males and 36.1 percent were females. Of the economically inactive population 30.9 percent were males and 69.1 percent were females (Table 2).

Figure 1: Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population



* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

| 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 |
| 2007 | 49.8 | 67.8 | 33.4 |
| 2008 Q1 | 49.8 | 67.3 | 34.2 |

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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 2008 is about 67 percent and it is 34 percent for females. It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is much higher than as that of females.

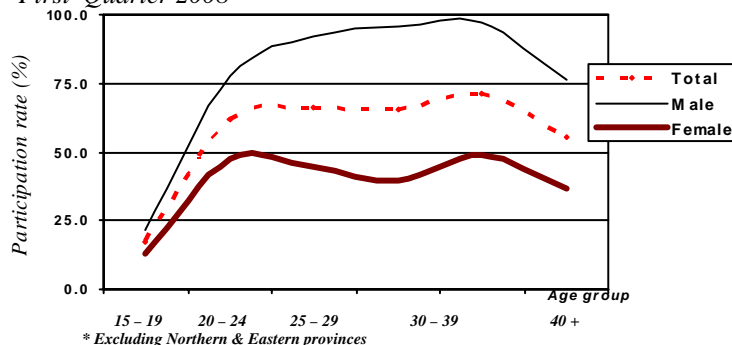
Table 4: Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - First Quarter 2008

| Age group | Sex | | |
|-----------|-------|------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Total | 49.8 | 67.3 | 34.2 |
| 15 - 19 | 17.1 | 21.4 | 13.1 |
| 20 - 24 | 61.8 | 77.8 | 47.6 |
| 25 - 29 | 66.3 | 91.9 | 44.6 |
| 30 - 39 | 68.5 | 96.3 | 44.4 |
| 40+ | 55.3 | 76.1 | 36.8 |

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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 (96.3%), for females the highest participation rate (47.6%) is reported from the (20 - 24) yrs age group.

Figure 2: Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & sex - First Quarter 2008



* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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, (Fourth quarter 2006 – First Quarter 2008

| Year | Major industry group | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Total | Agriculture | Industries | Services |
| Jan-Feb-Mar 1 st Qtr - 2007 | 7008478 (100.0) | 2234200 (31.9) | 1889683 (27.0) | 2884594 (41.2) |
| April-May-June 2 nd Qtr - 2007 | 6879916 (100.0) | 2078797 (30.2) | 1850588 (26.9) | 2950531 (42.9) |
| July-Aug-Sept. 3 rd Qtr - 2007 | 7102425 (100.0) | 2129201 (30.0) | 1920033 (27.0) | 3053191 (43.0) |
| Oct-Nov-Dec 4 th Qtr - 2007 | 7176679 (100.0) | 2366192 (33.0) | 1835126 (25.6) | 2975360 (41.5) |
| Jan-Feb-Mar 1 st Qtr - 2008 | 7148318 (100.0) | 2272031 (31.8) | 1890286 (26.4) | 2986000 (41.8) |

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

** Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces*

Agriculture

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

Industries

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

1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
2. Hotels and Restaurants (H)
3. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)
6. Education (M)
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 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from first quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008.

However it is to be noted that the difference between corresponding figures in any given two quarters may not necessarily be statistically significant.

The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 7.1 million in first quarter 2008. Of which, about 41.8 percent engaged in services sector employment.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ non- agriculture sector - First quarter 2008.

| Employment Status | Sector | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Total | | Agriculture | | Non Agriculture | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total | 7148318 | 100.0 | 2272031 | 31.8 | 4876287 | 68.2 |
| Employee | 3956437 | 100.0 | 710586 | 18.0 | 3245851 | 82.0 |
| Public | 1068217 | 100.0 | 154588 | 14.5 | 913628 | 85.5 |
| Private | 2888220 | 100.0 | 555998 | 19.3 | 2332223 | 80.7 |
| Employer | 220113 | 100.0 | 38895 | 17.7 | 181218 | 82.3 |
| Own account worker | 2264446 | 100.0 | 1022495 | 45.2 | 1241951 | 54.8 |
| Unpaid family worker | 707323 | 100.0 | 500056 | 70.7 | 207267 | 29.3 |

** Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces*

Table 6 shows that, about 82.0 percent of total paid employees are engaged in non-agricultural sector activities, while this percentage is only 18.0 percent for the agriculture sector. Further, 81 percent of private sector paid employees are involved in non-agricultural activities, while this share is 19 percent regarding the agricultural activities.

It is important to see that, 71 percent of unpaid family workers are in the agriculture sector, and the balance, 29 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 for detailed concepts & definitions.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & by sex - First Quarter 2008

| Major industry group | Total | Sex | |
|----------------------|-------|------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 100.0 | 65.1 | 34.9 |
| Agriculture | 100.0 | 57.6 | 42.4 |
| Industry | 100.0 | 64.8 | 35.2 |
| Services | 100.0 | 70.9 | 29.1 |

** Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces*

It is very clear that, about 71 percent of services sector employment are males.

Table 8 : "Informal sector" employment by Agriculture/ Non-agriculture sector - First Quarter 2008

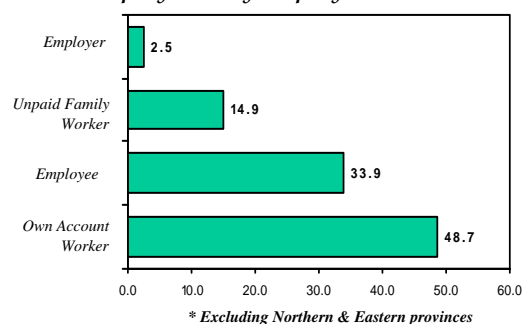
| Sector | Total | Agriculture | Non-agriculture |
|----------|-------|-------------|-----------------|
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Formal | 40.4 | 17.8 | 50.9 |
| Informal | 59.6 | 82.2 | 49.1 |

** Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces*

It is also important to see that, the employed population according to the formal and informal sector classification. 59.6 percent of the total employment is in the informal sector. 82 percent of the agriculture sector employment is in informal sector, while it is about 49 percent for non agriculture sector.

Further, 48.7 percent of those employed in the informal sector are own account workers, while 34 percent of them 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 2008

| Rate | Sex | | Economic sector | | Total |
|----------------------|------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Agriculture | Non - agriculture | |
| Underemployment rate | 3.6 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 3.2 | 4.0 |

** Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces*

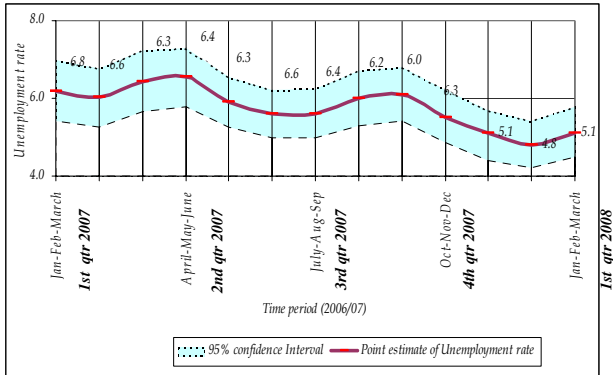
Table 9 reveals that, underemployment rate is higher for females than males. And also it is higher in the agriculture sector than as that of in non-agriculture sector.

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 its 95% confidence intervals (2007 Jan -Mar./2008 Jan -Mar)



* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as about 382403 during the first quarter 2008.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2008 is reported as 5.1 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 2007/2008, when *sampling error*⁽²⁾ is considered.

Table 10 : Unemployment rate by level of education First Quarter 2008

| Level of Education | Unemployment rate | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Total | 5.1 | 3.3 | 8.2 |
| Below G.C.E. (O/L) | 3.2 | 2.3 | 4.9 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 6.4 | 4.1 | 10.6 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 11.0 | 6.9 | 15.6 |

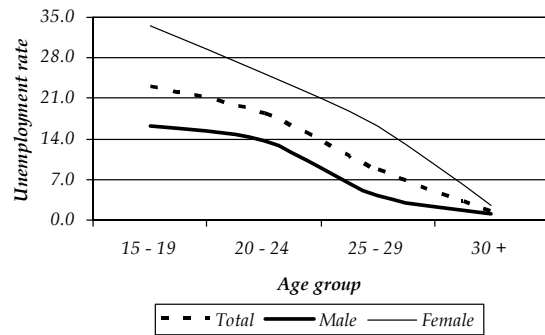
* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Table 11: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - First Quarter 2008

| Age group | Total | Sex | |
|-----------|-------|------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 5.1 | 3.3 | 8.2 |
| 15 - 19 | 23.0 | 16.2 | 33.5 |
| 20 - 24 | 18.4 | 13.7 | 25.3 |
| 25 - 29 | 8.7 | 4.3 | 16.3 |
| 30 + | 1.6 | 1.1 | 2.5 |

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - First Quarter 2008



* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

As can be seen from table 11, the unemployment rate reported for females is 8.2 percent and 3.3 percent for males. However, the unemployment rate among the age group (15 - 19yrs) is higher when compared with other age groups, and it is reported as 23.0 percent. Further it is 16 percent and 34 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 11.0 percent. That is 6.9 percent and 15.6 percent for males and females respectively. This shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males (Table 10).

Literacy ⁽³⁾

Table 12: Literacy rate by sex & sector

| Sex & sector | 1st quarter 2007 | 1st quarter 2008 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total | 90.8 | 92.5 |
| Male | 92.4 | 94.0 |
| Female | 89.4 | 91.1 |
| Urban | 92.8 | 95.3 |
| Rural | 91.3 | 93.0 |
| Estate | 77.1 | 76.0 |

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Table 12 shows that, during the first quarter of 2008, males literacy rate (94.0) is higher than that of females (91.1). Further, the survey results reveal that literacy level of estate sector (76.0) is relatively lower than the urban (95.3) and rural (93.0) sectors.

⁽²⁾ *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 details, please refer the explanatory note on the labour force link in the DCS website.**

⁽³⁾ Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site 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 | 15047882 | 7488896 | 49.8 | 7041874 | 94.0 | 447021 | 6.0 | 7558986 |
| # 2008 Q1 | 15112014 | 7530722 | 49.8 | 7148318 | 94.9 | 382403 | 5.1 | 7581292 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 16274487 | 7991191 | 49.1 | 7581163 | 94.9 | 410028 | 5.1 | 8283296 |

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 | 7174676 | 4862788 | 67.8 | 4653067 | 95.7 | 209721 | 4.3 | 2311888 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 7154286 | 4811750 | 67.3 | 4653378 | 96.7 | 158372 | 3.3 | 2342536 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 7728048 | 5172463 | 66.9 | 5004644 | 96.8 | 167820 | 3.2 | 2555585 |

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 | 7873206 | 2626108 | 33.4 | 2388807 | 91.0 | 237300 | 9.0 | 5247098 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 7957728 | 2718972 | 34.2 | 2494940 | 91.8 | 224031 | 8.2 | 5238756 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 8546439 | 2818727 | 33.0 | 2576519 | 91.4 | 242208 | 8.6 | 5727712 |

* - 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
(2008 1st 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 | 16274487 | 7991191 | 49.1 | 7581163 | 94.9 | 410028 | 5.1 | 8283296 |
| 10 - 14 YRS | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| 15 - 19 YRS | 1639432 | 280840 | 17.1 | 218726 | 77.9 | 62114 | 22.1 | 1358591 |
| 20 - 24 YRS | 1512373 | 923908 | 61.1 | 753606 | 81.6 | 170302 | 18.4 | 588465 |
| 25 - 29 YRS | 1487350 | 970651 | 65.3 | 886221 | 91.3 | 84430 | 8.7 | 516699 |
| 30 - 39 YRS | 2849515 | 1916019 | 67.2 | 1861789 | 97.2 | 54230 | 2.8 | 933496 |
| 40 + YRS | 7083537 | 3883298 | 54.8 | 3844347 | 99.0 | 38951 | 1.0 | 3200238 |

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided.

Note : Including Eastern provice

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

(2008 1st 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 | 7728048 | 5172463 | 66.9 | 5004644 | 96.8 | 167820 | 3.2 | 2555585 |
| 10 - 14 YRS | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| 15 - 19 YRS | 804051 | 177158 | 22.0 | 149511 | 84.4 | 27647 | 15.6 | 626893 |
| 20 - 24 YRS | 713369 | 551312 | 77.3 | 479090 | 86.9 | 72222 | 13.1 | 162057 |
| 25 - 29 YRS | 682178 | 625995 | 91.8 | 598855 | 95.7 | 27141 | 4.3 | 56183 |
| 30 - 39 YRS | 1312381 | 1260627 | 96.1 | 1243057 | 98.6 | 17570 | 1.4 | 51754 |
| 40 + YRS | 3342911 | 2546866 | 76.2 | 2523626 | 99.1 | 23240 | 0.9 | 796045 |


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

(2008 1st 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 | 8546439 | 2818727 | 33.0 | 2576519 | 91.4 | 242208 | 8.6 | 5727712 |
| 10 - 14 YRS | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| 15 - 19 YRS | 835381 | 103682 | 12.4 | 69215 | 66.8 | 34467 | 33.2 | 731699 |
| 20 - 24 YRS | 799004 | 372596 | 46.6 | 274516 | 73.7 | 98080 | 26.3 | 426408 |
| 25 - 29 YRS | 805172 | 344656 | 42.8 | 287366 | 83.4 | 57290 | 16.6 | 460517 |
| 30 - 39 YRS | 1537134 | 655392 | 42.6 | 618732 | 94.4 | 36660 | 5.6 | 881742 |
| 40 + YRS | 3740625 | 1336432 | 35.7 | 1320721 | 98.8 | 15712 | 1.2 | 2404193 |

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

Note : Including Eastern province

 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 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 9.8 | 12.0 | 23.9 | 50.5 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 2.8 | 9.8 | 11.6 | 24.5 | 51.2 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 9.9 | 11.7 | 24.6 | 50.7 |

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 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 3.7 | 9.6 | 12.7 | 23.7 | 50.1 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 2.8 | 9.4 | 11.8 | 24.8 | 50.9 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 9.6 | 12.0 | 24.8 | 50.4 |

**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 | 100.0 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 10.1 | 10.7 | 24.2 | 51.3 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 10.4 | 11.1 | 23.7 | 51.8 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 10.7 | 11.2 | 24.0 | 51.3 |

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 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 | 100.0 | 21.1 | 47.8 | 15.6 | 15.5 |
| *2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 19.4 | 47.8 | 16.4 | 16.4 |
| **2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 19.7 | 47.3 | 16.7 | 16.3 |

* - 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 | 100.0 | 20.1 | 51.3 | 15.6 | 13.0 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 18.7 | 50.7 | 16.7 | 13.9 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 19.2 | 50.2 | 16.9 | 13.6 |

**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 | 100.0 | 23.0 | 41.1 | 15.5 | 20.4 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 20.7 | 42.4 | 15.9 | 21.0 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 20.6 | 41.7 | 16.1 | 21.6 |

* - 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 | 100.0 | 56.5 | 13.8 | 42.7 | 2.8 | 30.4 | 10.3 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 55.3 | 14.9 | 40.4 | 3.1 | 31.7 | 9.9 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 56.1 | 15.4 | 40.7 | 3.1 | 31.3 | 9.5 |

* - 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 | TOTAL EMPLOYED | EMPLOYEE | | | EMPLOYER | OWN | UNPAID |
|------------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | TOTAL | PUBLIC | PRIVATE | | ACCOUNT WORKER | FAMILY WORKER |
| *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 | 100.0 | 57.2 | 12.1 | 45.1 | 3.9 | 34.5 | 4.4 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 56.3 | 13.4 | 43.0 | 4.3 | 35.6 | 3.7 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 57.3 | 13.8 | 43.4 | 4.2 | 34.9 | 3.6 |

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

| YEAR | TOTAL EMPLOYED | EMPLOYEE | | | EMPLOYER | OWN | UNPAID |
|------------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | TOTAL | PUBLIC | PRIVATE | | ACCOUNT WORKER | FAMILY WORKER |
| *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 | 100.0 | 55.1 | 17.1 | 38.0 | 0.7 | 22.5 | 21.7 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 53.5 | 17.9 | 35.6 | 0.8 | 24.3 | 21.4 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 53.9 | 18.6 | 35.3 | 0.8 | 24.2 | 21.1 |

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included

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

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

| Year | Industry group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Total | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| *2002 | 6519415 | 2247602 | 1072720 | 386475 | 838796 | 117556 | 309553 | 168973 | 524724 | 227785 | 82260 | 110390 | 93252 | 317121 | 22208 |
| **2003 | 7012755 | 2384397 | 1156682 | 454810 | 867131 | 121627 | 363393 | 191390 | 541070 | 262440 | 98107 | 110827 | 75858 | 333477 | 51548 |
| ***2004 | 7394029 | 2474725 | 1307357 | 474090 | 910770 | 120552 | 417340 | 175633 | 535064 | 273628 | 103966 | 122395 | 68813 | 323277 | 86419 |
| ****2005 | 7518007 | 2306039 | 1385374 | 542639 | 904008 | 138924 | 484999 | 233736 | 512819 | 297437 | 129237 | 133537 | 53314 | 324440 | 71504 |
| * 2006 | 7105322 | 2287268 | 1363092 | 526861 | 954981 | 129351 | 430331 | 221146 | 400504 | 276783 | 109660 | 123900 | 80247 | 179941 | 21255 |
| * 2007 | 7041874 | 2202098 | 1331368 | 542489 | 932094 | 118516 | 456804 | 215217 | 433013 | 259489 | 115943 | 104601 | 87381 | 219692 | 23168 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 7148318 | 2272031 | 1333614 | 556673 | 971416 | 94090 | 434491 | 236150 | 447941 | 309461 | 107791 | 116178 | 84320 | 168158 | 16006 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 7581163 | 2410307 | 1380262 | 609393 | 1022321 | 99912 | 448687 | 241606 | 495690 | 339813 | 122626 | 132780 | 85506 | 176255 | 16006 |

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, Minning & Quarrying , Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10 Health and Social work (N) |
| 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11 Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities 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, 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

| | Total | Industry group | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------------|----------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Other |
| *2002 | 4395164 | 1397423 | 569761 | 373516 | 656505 | 115203 | 387301 | 70813 | 824642 |
| **2003 | 4833483 | 1529117 | 624791 | 436404 | 681185 | 138146 | 405572 | 98074 | 920194 |
| ***2004 | 5049426 | 1559301 | 710910 | 456049 | 721800 | 122372 | 392949 | 102645 | 983400 |
| ****2005 | 5134765 | 1482610 | 749993 | 519197 | 702048 | 171330 | 376877 | 83551 | 1049159 |
| * 2006 | 4610643 | 1342214 | 683873 | 507192 | 717258 | 156022 | 294597 | 86521 | 822966 |
| * 2007 | 4653067 | 1321995 | 703080 | 523470 | 688653 | 151782 | 308080 | 79092 | 876915 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 4653378 | 1309526 | 696741 | 528719 | 721993 | 163720 | 336242 | 100003 | 796433 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 5004643.7 | 1437756 | 726913.9 | 580275 | 763556.5 | 168199 | 371532 | 111055 | 845357 |

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 | 2124250 | 850179 | 502959 | 12959 | 182291 | 53770 | 137423 | 156972 | 227697 |
| **2003 | 2179272 | 855280 | 531891 | 18407 | 185946 | 53243 | 135498 | 164365 | 234642 |
| ***2004 | 2344604 | 915424 | 596447 | 18041 | 188970 | 53261 | 142116 | 170983 | 259362 |
| ****2005 | 2383241 | 823429 | 635382 | 23442 | 201959 | 62405 | 135942 | 213886 | 286796 |
| * 2006 | 2494679 | 945054 | 679218 | 19669 | 237723 | 65125 | 105908 | 190262 | 251720 |
| * 2007 | 2388807 | 880103 | 628288 | 19019 | 243441 | 63435 | 124933 | 180397 | 249190 |
| *2008 Q1 | 2494940 | 962505 | 636873 | 27954 | 249422 | 72429 | 111699 | 209458 | 224600 |
| **2008 Q1 | 2576519 | 972551 | 653348 | 29119 | 258764 | 73407 | 124158 | 228758 | 236415 |

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


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

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 | * 2008 Q1 | ** 2008 Q1 |
| Total | 4924130 | 5201904 | 5281279 | 5357120 | 5536216 | 5607868 | 6049388 | 6082449 | 6310247 | 6235588 | 6519415 | 7012755 | 7394029 | 7518007 | 7105322 | 7041874 | 7148318 | 7581163 |
| Agriculture | 2078560 | 2159187 | 2084733 | 1966793 | 2071764 | 2031902 | 2378572 | 2208066 | 2274153 | 2033343 | 2247602 | 2384397 | 2474725 | 2306039 | 2287268 | 2202098 | 2272031 | 2410307 |
| Industry | 991492 | 1024524 | 1046282 | 1188271 | 1217977 | 1354952 | 1325735 | 1330134 | 1490795 | 1491408 | 1459194 | 1611493 | 1781447 | 1928014 | 1889953 | 1873857 | 1890286 | 1989655 |
| Services | 1854078 | 2018193 | 2150265 | 2202056 | 2246475 | 2221014 | 2345081 | 2544249 | 2545299 | 2710837 | 2812619 | 3016866 | 3137857 | 3283954 | 2928101 | 2965919 | 2986000 | 3181201 |

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 | * 2008 Q1 | ** 2008 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 | 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 | 31.3 | 31.8 | 31.8 |
| 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 | 26.6 | 26.4 | 26.2 |
| 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 | 42.1 | 41.8 | 42.0 |

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 | 6519415 | 85553 | 352238 | 316763 | 283719 | 406992 | 510148 | 1579024 | 935477 | 373588 | 1608511 | 67402 |
| **2003 | 7012755 | 88043 | 367654 | 341634 | 303828 | 328796 | 628729 | 1634289 | 1084436 | 419540 | 1735336 | 80470 |
| ***2004 | 7394029 | 99839 | 404410 | 366488 | 322697 | 420343 | 671461 | 1513636 | 1124715 | 460589 | 1951081 | 58770 |
| ****2005 | 7518007 | 120491 | 471200 | 403904 | 300322 | 515909 | 574416 | 1561884 | 1216224 | 531439 | 1760335 | 61883 |
| * 2006 | 7105322 | 128944 | 376469 | 362275 | 276587 | 526322 | 513217 | 1590110 | 1214163 | 501561 | 1576960 | 38715 |
| * 2007 | 7041874 | 123290 | 366668 | 381596 | 283703 | 494515 | 508488 | 1503669 | 1201598 | 563927 | 1574113 | 40306 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 7148318 | 151623 | 439056 | 348344 | 294057 | 524467 | 540306 | 1548040 | 1237723 | 504050 | 1518186 | 42464 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 7581163 | 159993 | 474528 | 375456 | 302713 | 539184 | 594945 | 1627322 | 1306537 | 526473 | 1629923 | 44088 |

Occupation group

- 1 Senior Officials and Managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technical and Associate Professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises
- 6 Sales and Service workers

- 7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers
- 8 Craft and Related workers
- 9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers
- 10 Elementary occupations
- 0 Unidentified

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 | 4395164 | 67276 | 146656 | 215548 | 151511 | 318172 | 379695 | 1024190 | 596472 | 335568 | 1097444 | 62633 |
| **2003 | 4833483 | 71574 | 161375 | 236263 | 167584 | 260270 | 464633 | 1109200 | 711720 | 368452 | 1205366 | 77047 |
| ***2004 | 4993403 | 75416 | 174521 | 250898 | 174982 | 341828 | 498477 | 1004912 | 726641 | 426469 | 1319258 | |
| ****2005 | 5134765 | 87788 | 187002 | 266866 | 159566 | 406137 | 418628 | 1013877 | 801448 | 484351 | 1249168 | 59935 |
| * 2006 | 4610643 | 101399 | 146344 | 238819 | 143606 | 419443 | 314226 | 966263 | 743733 | 444703 | 1055753 | 36354 |
| * 2007 | 4653067 | 91026 | 147844 | 258111 | 138384 | 379768 | 318994 | 925933 | 779097 | 504603 | 1070890 | 38418 |
| *2008 Q1 | 4653378 | 111003 | 181353 | 243950 | 149953 | 396360 | 350133 | 918620 | 803759 | 464493 | 993854 | 39900 |
| **2008 Q1 | 5004644 | 116226 | 193384 | 259531 | 153595 | 406317 | 398562 | 991332 | 857796 | 486916 | 1099461 | 41524 |

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 | 2124250 | 18277 | 205582 | 101215 | 132209 | 88819 | 130453 | 554835 | 339005 | 38020 | 511066 | 4769 |
| **2003 | 2179272 | 16469 | 206279 | 105370 | 136245 | 68526 | 164096 | 525090 | 372716 | 51088 | 529971 | 3423 |
| ***2004 | 2341857 | 24423 | 229889 | 115590 | 147715 | 78515 | 172984 | 508724 | 398074 | 34120 | 631823 | |
| ****2005 | 2383241 | 32702 | 284198 | 137038 | 140756 | 109772 | 155788 | 548007 | 414776 | 47088 | 511167 | 1949 |
| * 2006 | 2494679 | 27544 | 230126 | 123456 | 132981 | 106879 | 198990 | 623847 | 470430 | 56858 | 521207 | 2360 |
| * 2007 | 2388807 | 32265 | 218824 | 123485 | 145319 | 114747 | 189494 | 577736 | 422502 | 59324 | 503223 | 1888 |
| *2008 Q1 | 2494940 | 40621 | 257704 | 104395 | 144105 | 128107 | 190173 | 629419 | 433965 | 39557 | 524332 | 2564 |
| **2008 Q1 | 2576519 | 43767 | 281144 | 115925 | 149117 | 132868 | 196383 | 635991 | 448741 | 39557 | 530463 | 2564 |

Occupation group

1 Senior Officials and Managers

2 Professionals

3 Technical and Associate Professionals

4 Clerks

5 Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises

6 Sale and Service workers

7 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers

8 Craft and Related workers

9 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers

10 Elementary occupations

0 Unidentified



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

| MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP | TOTAL | 0# | 1 - 9 | 10 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 - 39 | 40 - 49 | 50 & OVER |
|------------------------|-------|-----|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Total | 100.0 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 4.8 | 10.1 | 15.8 | 32.9 | 30.6 |
| 1 | 100.0 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 8.2 | 15.0 | 20.4 | 31.5 | 17.2 |
| 2 | 100.0 | 4.8 | * | * | 10.4 | 12.9 | 34.5 | 32.2 |
| 3 | 100.0 | 7.0 | * | * | 7.4 | 13.8 | 40.7 | 29.1 |
| 4 | 100.0 | 2.3 | * | * | * | 11.2 | 25.6 | 52.7 |
| 5 | 100.0 | * | .. | * | * | * | * | 53.3 |
| 6 | 100.0 | * | * | * | * | 9.5 | 26.7 | 51.6 |
| 7 | 100.0 | * | .. | * | * | * | 47.0 | 30.9 |
| 8 | 100.0 | * | * | * | * | 7.0 | 45.8 | 40.3 |
| 9 | 100.0 | * | * | 11.9 | 15.5 | 49.6 | 15.4 | * |
| 10 | 100.0 | * | * | .. | * | * | 53.2 | 30.1 |
| 11 | 100.0 | * | * | * | * | * | 39.8 | 37.1 |
| 12 | 100.0 | .. | .. | * | * | * | * | 61.0 |
| 13 | 100.0 | * | * | * | * | 16.8 | 37.8 | 17.6 |
| 14 | 100.0 | .. | .. | .. | .. | * | * | * |

Has a job but not at work during the reference week

.. Negligible

* 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 , Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10. Health and Social work (N) |
| 4. Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11.Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities 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, Renting and Business Activities (J,K) | 14.Industries not adequately described |

Note i: 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.

Note ii : Including Eastern province

**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 | 100.0 | 15.7 | 41.2 | 19.7 | 13.1 | 10.4 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 15.5 | 41.3 | 20.6 | 13.3 | 9.3 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 15.1 | 41.5 | 20.6 | 13.2 | 9.5 |

* - 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 | 100.0 | 19.9 | 40.7 | 16.0 | 10.2 | 13.1 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 15.9 | 43.8 | 15.6 | 11.1 | 13.5 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 16.5 | 43.0 | 16.2 | 10.5 | 13.8 |

**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 | 100.0 | 11.9 | 41.5 | 23.0 | 15.6 | 8.0 |
| *2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 15.2 | 39.4 | 24.1 | 14.9 | 6.4 |
| ** 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 14.2 | 40.5 | 23.7 | 15.1 | 6.5 |

* - 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 | 100.0 | 4.4 | 41.0 | 22.0 | 32.6 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 3.6 | 37.6 | 21.0 | 37.9 |
| **2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 4.5 | 36.6 | 21.2 | 37.7 |

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included


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

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 | 100.0 | 5.8 | 49.5 | 24.5 | 20.3 |
| * 2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 2.5 | 46.2 | 21.1 | 30.2 |
| **2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 3.2 | 45.8 | 21.0 | 29.9 |

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 | 100.0 | 3.2 | 33.5 | 19.8 | 43.4 |
| *2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 4.3 | 31.5 | 20.8 | 43.3 |
| **2008 Q1 | 100.0 | 5.5 | 30.2 | 21.4 | 43.0 |

* - Excluding Northern and Eastern provinces

** - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

*** - Excluding Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

**** - All the districts are included


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

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

(2008 1st quarter)

| Sex | Total | Duration | | |
|------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| | | Less than 6 months | 6 to less than 12 months | 12+ months |
| Both sexes | 404620 | 106411 | 94046 | 204164 |
| % | 100.0 | 26.3 | 23.2 | 50.5 |
| Male | 166906 | 64390 | 39250 | 63265 |
| % | 100.0 | 38.6 | 23.5 | 37.9 |
| Female | 237715 | 42020 | 54795 | 140899 |
| % | 100.0 | 17.7 | 23.1 | 59.3 |

Note : Including Eastern province

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

| | (2008 1 st quarter) | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| | Estimated Value | Standard Error | Coefficient of Variation (%) | Estimated Value (Ratio) | Standard Error | Coefficient of Variation (%) |
| General labour force characteristics | | | | | | |
| Population (10 years & over) | 16274487 | 184020 | 1.131 | - | - | - |
| Employed Population | 7581163 | 111389 | 1.469 | - | - | - |
| Unemployed Population | 410028 | 27299 | 6.658 | - | - | - |
| Employment Rate | - | - | - | 94.9 | 0.330 | 0.348 |
| Unemployment Rate | - | - | - | 5.1 | 0.330 | 6.427 |
| Labour Force | 7991191 | 115483 | 1.445 | - | - | - |
| Not in Labour Force | 8283296 | 136606 | 1.649 | - | - | - |
| Employed persons by major industry Groups | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2410307 | 102589 | 4.26 | - | - | - |
| 2 | 1380262 | 59490 | 4.31 | - | - | - |
| 3 | 609393 | 32864 | 5.39 | - | - | - |
| 4 | 1022321 | 43303 | 4.24 | - | - | - |
| 5 | 99912 | 12895 | 12.91 | - | - | - |
| 6 | 448687 | 24944 | 5.56 | - | - | - |
| 7 | 241606 | 20731 | 8.58 | - | - | - |
| 8 | 495690 | 32067 | 6.47 | - | - | - |
| 9 | 339813 | 23646 | 6.96 | - | - | - |
| 10 | 122626 | 13348 | 10.88 | - | - | - |
| 11 | 132780 | 15309 | 11.53 | - | - | - |
| 12 | 85506 | 12133 | 14.19 | - | - | - |
| 13 | 176255 | 17449 | 9.90 | - | - | - |
| 14 | 16006 | 4876 | 30.46 | - | - | - |
| Unemployed persons by level of education | | | | | | |
| Below grade 5 | 18644 | 5194 | 27.9 | - | - | - |
| Grade 5 - 9/Year 6 - 10 | 149991 | 13908 | 9.3 | - | - | - |
| G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E. | 86931 | 10931 | 12.6 | - | - | - |
| G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above | 154461 | 15506 | 10.0 | - | - | - |

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 , Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10. Health and Social work (N) |
| 4. Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11. Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities 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, Renting and Business Activities (J,K) | 14. Industries not adequately described |

Note : Including Eastern province

Explanatory Notes

Coverage

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. This survey is being conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

This quarterly survey of households is conducted through a scientifically selected sample designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status etc. of each member of the household 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 nor available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as: full time care of the household, full - time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another. Current and Usual definitions apply.

7. *Criteria for classification of underemployment*

In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed,

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

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

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

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

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

8. *Informal Sector Employment*

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

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

Reliability of the estimates

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

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

For example, the confidence interval for the quarterly unemployment rate is on the order of ,

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

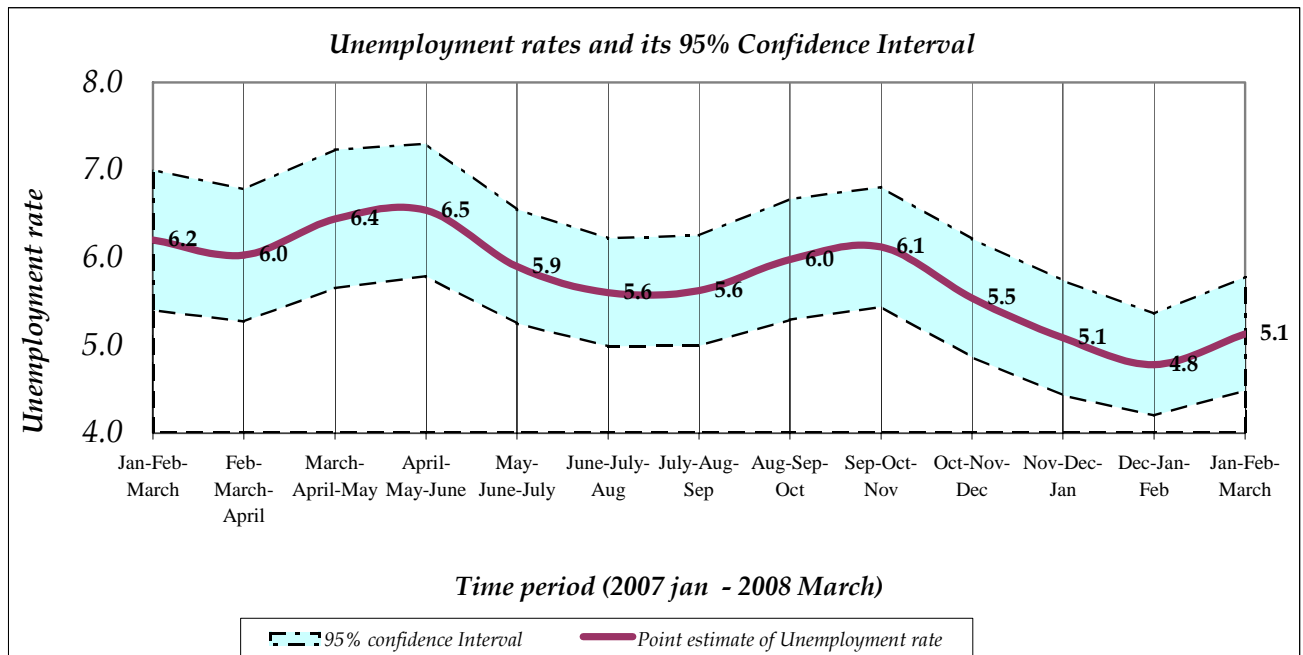
6.4 \pm (0.4) * (1.96)

(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 2007 Jan - 2008 March)



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.

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# | 7488896 | 58056 | 0.78 | 7375030 | 7602761 | 7041874 | 56401 | 0.80 | 6931254 | 7152495 |
| 2008 Q1# | 7530721.5 | 111232.55 | 1.48 | 7312064 | 7749379 | 7148318 | 107700.4 | 1.51 | 6936604.16 | 7360032 |
| 2008 Q1* | 7991190.8 | 115483.02 | 0.01 | 7764232 | 8218149 | 7581163 | 111389.4 | 0.01 | 7362249.64 | 7800076 |

| 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 | 7.9 | 8.9 |
| 2004 ** | 667324 | 18385 | 2.76 | 631290 | 703358 | 8.3 | 0.2 | 2.55 | 7.9 | 8.7 |
| 2005*** | 623341 | 39397 | 6.32 | 546123 | 700558 | 7.7 | 0.4 | 5.76 | 6.8 | 8.5 |
| 2006# | 493440 | 15000 | 3.04 | 464020 | 522859 | 6.5 | 0.2 | 2.96 | 6.1 | 6.9 |
| 2007# | 447021 | 13838 | 3.10 | 419880 | 474162 | 6.0 | 0.2 | 3.01 | 5.6 | 6.3 |
| 2008 Q1# | 382403 | 26561 | 6.95 | 330191 | 434616 | 5.1 | 0.3 | 6.73 | 4.4 | 5.7 |
| 2008 Q1* | 410028 | 27299 | 0.07 | 356378 | 463678 | 5.1 | 0.3 | 6.43 | 4.5 | 5.8 |

* - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province

** - Excluding Mulathivu and Kilinochchi districts.

***- All the districts are included

- Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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 | 13459252 | 6425260 | 47.7 | 5979061 | 93.1 | 446199 | 6.9 | 7033992 |
| *2008Q1 | 13571366 | 6445247 | 47.5 | 6062843 | 94.1 | 382403 | 5.9 | 7126119 |
| **2008Q1 | 14572207 | 6872908 | 47.2 | 6462880 | 94.0 | 410028 | 6.0 | 7699299 |

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 | 446199 | 6.9 | 69856 | 27.7 | 183617 | 24.0 | 87993 | 10.7 | 58252 | 3.8 | 46480 | 1.5 |
| *2008 Q1 | 382456 | 5.1 | 59171 | 23.0 | 157764 | 18.4 | 78682 | 8.7 | 51042 | 2.8 | 35745 | 1.0 |
| **2008 Q1 | 410028 | 6.0 | 62114 | 27.4 | 170302 | 20.9 | 84430 | 9.9 | 54230 | 3.2 | 38951 | 1.2 |

* - 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 |
| *2002 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 5487325 | 1559133 | 983601 | 264384 | 723210 | 104151 | 292951 | 164062 | 518764 | 211281 | 80915 | 96911 | 91085 | 283032 | 113845 |
| % | 100.0 | 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 |
| **2003 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 5860182 | 1682994 | 1038390 | 343650 | 744153 | 104923 | 344294 | 176993 | 510486 | 233874 | 91213 | 94491 | 74181 | 293951 | 126590 |
| % | 100.0 | 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 |
| ***2004 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 6337164 | 1792810 | 1191379 | 439936 | 794793 | 108521 | 402536 | 170027 | 526501 | 257965 | 102328 | 108076 | 65639 | 293621 | 83032 |
| % | 100.0 | 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 |
| ****2005 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 5971029 | 1573306 | 1147255 | 476851 | 739850 | 108424 | 422920 | 204139 | 465608 | 245956 | 118065 | 105175 | 47645 | 253367 | 62468 |
| % | 100.0 | 26.3 | 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 |
| *2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 5978575 | 1570682 | 1221566 | 492116 | 822922 | 111890 | 416188 | 214276 | 397926 | 254378 | 105956 | 110924 | 78341 | 160429 | 20981 |
| % | 100.0 | 26.3 | 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 |
| *2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 5979061 | 1543596 | 1182348 | 507060 | 807657 | 100638 | 441290 | 209288 | 428978 | 242713 | 112778 | 94647 | 82955 | 202406 | 22706 |
| % | 100.0 | 25.8 | 19.8 | 8.5 | 13.5 | 1.7 | 7.4 | 3.5 | 7.2 | 4.1 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 3.4 | 0.4 |
| *2008 Q1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 6062843 | 1584152 | 1196666 | 538721 | 858302 | 84125 | 411614 | 229172 | 445743 | 259434 | 106378 | 98990 | 80825 | 152716 | 16006 |
| % | 100.0 | 26.1 | 19.7 | 8.9 | 14.2 | 1.4 | 6.8 | 3.8 | 7.4 | 4.3 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 0.3 |
| **2008 Q1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. | 6462880 | 1705503 | 1236875 | 590380 | 904555 | 89277 | 424833 | 234628 | 493491 | 289786 | 120509 | 114883 | 81340 | 160814 | 16006 |
| % | 100.0 | 26.4 | 19.1 | 9.1 | 14.0 | 1.4 | 6.6 | 3.6 | 7.6 | 4.5 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 2.5 | 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 , Electricity,Gas and Water supply (C,E,F) | 10 Health and Social work (N) |
| 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade,Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G) | 11 Other Community,Social and Personal Service Activities 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, 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