Computer Literacy Statistics 2026
First Six Months Bulletin

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

The birth of the Information Age which is also known as Computer Age, is associated with the Digital Revolution, just as the Industrial Revolution marked the birth of the Industrial Age. The Digital and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolutions are twin revolutions. The rapid developments in ICT have greatly contributed in enhancing human living standards worldwide. The advanced capability of this technology facilitates with extremely efficient collaboration and access to correct, consistent and effective information, which is fundamental to manage the quality in total. In the developed world, most of the key economically effective environments are increasingly ICT dominant.

Timely and accurate information on the use of ICT itself is essential for justification and proper direction of the Government efforts, private sector investments, to study the changing pattern of the demand for internet services and for continuous progress monitoring on ICT achievements. For this computer literacy data, can contribute immensely to an understanding of the demand and supply of skills in the global, knowledge-based economy. Also, statistics on the availability of a computer/laptop in households and usage of internet and email can be used to asses digital divide.

To cater the relevant data needs, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has conducted several surveys on computer literacy in Sri Lanka. The surveys were conducted in 2004, 2006/07, 2009 and from 2014 onward a survey module is attached to Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey. From 2014 onward two separate bulletins are published on Computer Literacy. This bulletin reveals the major findings of the survey conducted in January to June in 2026. For the analysis of the computer literacy survey a nationally distributed sample of 12,500 households and persons of aged 5 – 69 years were enumerated.

- ❑ **More than one out of three persons (aged5-69) computer literated. (Computer Literacy Rate 38.1%)**
- ❑ **More than two out of three persons (aged 5-69) digitally literated. (Digital Literacy Rate 72.5%)**
- ❑ **20.8 percent of households owned desktop or laptop computer.**
- ❑ **Urban sector shows more literated on both computer and digital literacy.**

Content

Household Computer Ownership (Page 1)

Computer Literacy & Digital Literacy (Page 1- 3)

Source for Computer Training (Page 3)

Internet & E- mail Use (Page 4)

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Household Computer Ownership

If a desktop or a laptop is available in a household, then that household is considered as a computer owned household.

Table 1: Percentage of computer owned households by Sector, Province and Survey year (during 1st six months)

Sector/ Province	Desktop (%)			Desktop or Laptop (%)		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Sri Lanka	**5.2**	**6.0**	**4.3**	**19.5**	**21.4**	**20.8**
Urban	9.4	10.0	6.4	36.6	36.3	36.2
Rural	4.5	5.4	4.0	16.8	18.9	18.6
Estate	0.3	1.0	0.4	1.5	5.8	2.2
Province						
Western	8.1	9.7	5.8	31.1	35.1	32.1
Central	3.5	4.0	3.5	16.6	18.6	17.4
Southern	4.1	4.8	4.7	15.9	16.5	17.6
Northern	3.1	1.0	3.0	12.6	9.0	14.3
Eastern	2.6	3.0	1.9	12.7	11.9	12.8
North-western	4.0	4.3	4.2	16.7	18.4	18.4
North-central	1.6	4.3	2.3	11.5	13.9	14.9
Uva	4.1	5.5	3.5	13.1	13.5	13.7
Sabaragamuwa	8.1	7.6	5.2	17.4	18.9	19.2

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

Figure 1: Percentage of Desktop or Laptop computer owned households by Province (during 1st six months)

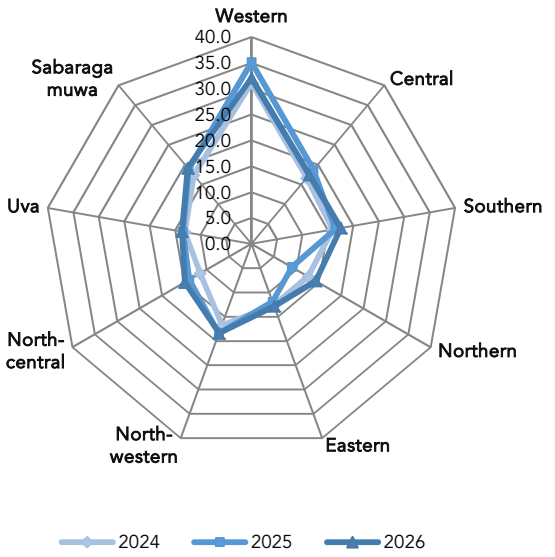


Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of computer owned households by Sector and Province. In 2026, at least one computer is available in 20.8 percent of households in the country. That is more than one out of every five households owns either a desktop or a laptop computer. This percentage is 36.2 in Urban sector and Rural and Estate sector show 18.6 percent and 2.2 percent respectively. When the provinces are considered the highest availability is in the Western province (32.1%) while the lowest availability is reported from the Eastern province (12.8%).

Percentage of availability of desktop or laptop computer at a household varies between 19 percent to 21 percent between 2024 to 2026 period.

Computer Literacy and Digital Literacy

Computer Literate Person

A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a computer literate person if he/she could use a computer on his/her own. For example, even if a 5 year old child can play a computer game then he/she is considered as a computer literate person.

Computer Literacy Rate

Computer Literate population expressed as a percentage of the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

Digitally Literate Person

A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a digital literate person if he/she could use computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone on his/her own

Digital Literacy Rate

Digital Literate population expressed as a percentage of the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

Table 2: Computer literacy rate by Sector, Province – 2024, 2025 & 2026 (during 1st six months)

Sector/Province	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2024	2025	2026
Sri Lanka	**36.4**	**38.4**	**38.1**
Sector			
Urban	48.2	52.1	51.6
Rural	34.9	36.6	36.3
Estate	16.3	18.6	15.8
Province			
Western	45.8	49.8	47.6
Central	34.7	32.9	34.7
Southern	35.4	35.3	37.2
Northern	37.0	37.4	39.2
Eastern	32.3	30.8	30.4
North Western	31.6	34.8	35.8
North Central	25.5	23.5	27.5
Uva	26.2	33.8	28.7
Sabaragamuwa	36.3	41.2	38.5

Percentage of Computer Literate population (Computer Literacy) fluctuate in previous survey periods. Overall Computer Literacy reported in 2026 in Sri Lanka is 38.1 percent.

In 2026, Urban sector shows the highest computer literacy rate (51.6%) among residential sectors. Computer literacy rate for Rural and Estate sectors are 36.3 percent and 15.8 percent respectively.

Among the provinces the highest level of computer literacy is reported from the Western province (47.6%). The lowest computer literacy is reported from the North Central province (27.5%).

Figure 2: Distribution of computer literacy rate by Educational attainment and Language literacy – 2024, 2025 & 2026 (during 1st six months)

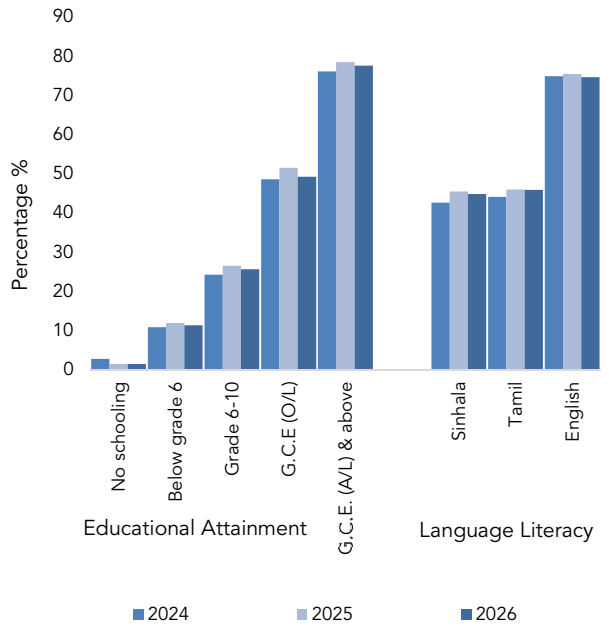


Table 3: Computer literacy rate by Gender, Age, Level of education, and Language literacy - 2024, 2025 & 2026 (during 1st six months)

Gender, Age group, Educational attainment and Language literacy	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2024	2025	2026
Sri Lanka	**36.4**	**38.4**	**38.1**
By Sex			
Male	38.0	39.9	38.9
Female	34.9	37.1	37.3
By Age group(years)			
5 - 9	12.8	14.0	13.5
10 - 14	49.9	49.4	50.1
15 - 19	75.6	75.6	75.2
20 - 24	70.8	74.6	71.2
25 - 29	61.0	60.5	63.8
30 - 34	51.5	52.4	51.8
35 - 39	40.2	42.6	43.3
40 - 49	26.8	30.0	30.5
50 - 59	16.6	19.3	18.0
60 - 69	7.7	8.4	9.2
By Educational attainment			
No schooling	2.8	1.5	1.5
Below grade 6	10.9	11.9	11.4
Grade 6-10	24.3	26.6	25.7
G.C.E (O/L)	48.6	51.6	49.3
G.C.E. (A/L) and above	76.2	78.6	77.7
By Language literacy			
Sinhala	42.6	45.6	44.9
Tamil	44.2	46.0	45.9
English	74.9	75.5	74.7

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

As given in Table 3 the Computer literacy among males (38.9%) is higher than that of females (37.3%) in 2026. Young youths (aged 15 –19 years) show the highest computer literacy rate (75.2%) among all other age groups.

The survey results further reveal that higher the level of education, higher the computer literacy. The group with the A/L or above level of education shows the highest computer literacy rate (77.7%). Also, computer literacy is higher among those who are literate in English language (74.7%).

Table 4: Computer literacy among computer aware employed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by Occupation group – 2024, 2025 & 2026 (during 1st six months)

Occupation group	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2024	2025	2026
Sri Lanka	**70.6**	**73.0**	**72.2**
Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators	89.1	87.6	86.9
Professionals	95.8	94.4	95.8
Technicians and Associate Professionals	93.5	93.6	92.4
Clerks and Clerical support workers	90.7	96.0	92.5
Services and Sales workers	58.7	64.2	59.3
Skilled Agricultura1, Forestry and Fishery workers	20.0	26.6	26.5
Craft and Related Trades workers	38.9	42.1	55.5
Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers	40.0	45.2	39.0
Elementary occupations	37.8	34.2	38.1
Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations	91.5	80.8	84.9

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

According to Table 4 computer literacy among the employed population who are aware of computer in Sri Lanka is around 72.2 percent in 2026. The positions such as Senior officials and Managers (86.9%), Professionals (95.8%), Technicians and Associate professionals (92.4%), Clerks and Clerical support workers (92.5%) have higher computer literacy rates. Also, even among the individuals engage in elementary occupations 38.1 percent are computer literate.

Table 5: Computer literacy among unemployed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by Age group – 2024, 2025 & 2026 (during 1st six months)

Age group (years)	Percentage of computer literate population among unemployment (%)		
	2024	2025	2026
Sri Lanka	**67.4**	**72.8**	**70.6**
15 - 19	63.0	53.3	62.2
20 - 24	75.0	83.1	71.9
25 - 29	84.4	87.7	86.5
30 - 39	54.0	64.5	70.9
40 - 69	29.4	36.1	29.1

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

As given in Table 5 among the unemployed, aged (25-29) group shows highest computer literate population percentage (86.5%) in 2026. Results reveal that among unemployed many have at least some ICT skills. Even among the group aged 40-69 every three out of ten is computer literate (29.1%) in 2026.

Table 6: Computer literacy rate and Digital literacy rate by Gender, Sector and Age group – 2026 (during 1st six months)

Gender, Sector, Age group	Computer Literacy	Digital Literacy
Sri Lanka	**38.1**	**72.5**
By Sex		
Male	38.9	73.6
Female	37.3	71.6
Sector		
Urban	51.6	80.7
Rural	36.3	72.1
Estate	15.8	47.2
By Age group(years)		
5 - 9	13.5	55.9
10 - 14	50.1	81.6
15 - 19	75.2	94.3
20 - 24	71.2	95.1
25 - 29	63.8	94.0
30 - 34	51.8	91.2
35 - 39	43.3	86.3
40 - 49	30.5	77.2
50 - 59	18.0	55.2
60 - 69	9.2	34.4

When the digital literacy is considered 72.5 percent (aged 5 -69) has digital literacy. Digital literacy is higher than computer literacy for all disaggregated levels, showing the drift from Personal Computer to Smartphones/Tablets.

Source for Computer Training

Table 7: Percentage distribution of Computer literate household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by Sources of receiving computer knowledge* and Sector – 2026 (during 1st six months)

Source of receiving computer knowledge	Total (%)	Residential sector (%)		
		Urban	Rural	Estate
Private training course	22.5	24.6	22.0	17.8
School/University	63.5	59.8	64.6	67.5
Govt. training centers	7.7	5.8	8.3	4.9
Employment activities	22.0	25.7	21.0	15.6
Workplace	14.3	18.6	13.1	9.0
Family members	28.1	31.6	27.5	9.4
Friends/ Relatives	26.7	29.2	26.3	13.7
Self	41.0	61.4	35.5	18.5
Other	10.4	12.4	9.9	7.4

*** Multiple choice answers**

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

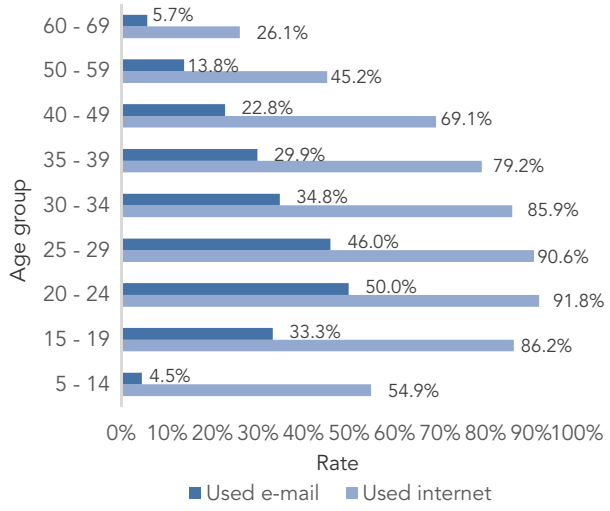
Table 7 shows that the majority of those who are computer literate, have received training from the School/University. The training received through Government training centers are comparatively low.

Internet and E-mail Use

Table 8: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by Sex, Sector and Age group – 2024, 2025 & 2026 (during 1st six months)

Gender, Sector, Age group (years)	Household Population (aged 5-69)					
	Internet (%)			E-mail (%)		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Sri Lanka	**53.6**	**60.4**	**63.9**	**18.8**	**21.3**	**21.9**
By Sex						
Male	56.4	62.4	65.2	20.7	23.1	23.4
Female	51.0	58.6	62.7	17.0	19.7	20.5
By Sector						
Urban	67.8	71.9	74.2	29.6	32.0	32.0
Rural	51.4	58.8	63.1	17.2	19.7	20.5
Estate	35.1	45.6	37.3	4.4	7.7	7.2
By Age Groups						
5 - 14	43.1	51.6	54.9	3.8	4.4	4.5
15 - 19	79.5	82.9	86.2	27.6	32.4	33.3
20 - 24	88.1	90.3	91.8	46.9	50.4	50.0
25 - 29	84.8	85.8	90.6	41.0	43.7	46.0
30 - 34	79.4	83.3	85.9	35.8	35.6	34.8
35 - 39	70.3	77.3	79.2	27.2	29.5	29.9
40 - 49	54.0	63.1	69.1	16.6	21.0	22.8
50 - 59	33.2	41.4	45.2	10.7	14.1	13.8
60 - 69	16.7	21.5	26.1	4.3	4.6	5.7

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2026 (during 1st six months)



The Table 8 depicts that 63.9 percent of the population aged 5 to 69 years uses the internet facility at least once during twelve months in 2026. The survey results further reveal that in the Urban sector, where the facilities are largely available, shows the highest usage of both e-mail and internet compared to other two sectors.

The Table 8 and Figure 3 shows that persons in age group 20 - 24 indicate a higher internet and email usage compared to the persons in other age groups.

The survey results reveal that 21.9 percent of the household population aged 5 – 69 years use E–mail facility at least once during the last 12 month period in 2026.

Table 9: Percentage distribution of device used to connect to Internet/ E-mail to all divices used by Sex, Sector and Age group – 2026 (during 1st six months)

Gender, Sector, Age group	Total (%)	Device uses to connect to internet/ email (%)			
		Desktop/ Laptop	Smart phone	Tablet computer	Mobile phone
Sri Lanka	**100.0**	**17.1**	**80.9**	**1.2**	**0.8**
By Sex					
Male	100.0	18.1	79.9	1.2	0.8
Female	100.0	16.1	82.0	1.1	0.8
By Sector					
Urban	100.0	24.8	72.1	2.0	1.1
Rural	100.0	15.2	83.1	0.9	0.8
Estate	100.0	6.5	92.8	0.7	..
By Age group (years)					
5 - 9	100.0	8.6	89.2	1.2	1.0
10 - 14	100.0	15.4	83.4	0.6	0.6
15 - 19	100.0	19.2	78.6	1.3	1.0
20 - 24	100.0	22.5	75.2	1.3	1.0
25 - 29	100.0	22.1	75.9	1.3	0.6
30 - 34	100.0	17.7	79.9	1.5	0.9
35 - 39	100.0	17.4	80.3	1.2	1.1
40 - 49	100.0	15.3	82.8	1.0	0.9
50 - 59	100.0	14.4	83.7	1.2	0.7
60 - 69	100.0	9.8	88.9	1.1	0.2

*** Multiple choice answers** .. Not reported

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

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Department of Census & Statistics,
Sankyana Mandiraya
No. 306/71, **Polduwa Road,**
Battaramulla

info@statistics.gov.lk
+94 11 2147000
+94 11 2147011
statistics.gov.lk

This publication is produced by the Sample Survey Division
7th floor, Department of Census and Statistics
Sample.survey@statistics.gov.lk
+94 112147458 **+94 112147447**