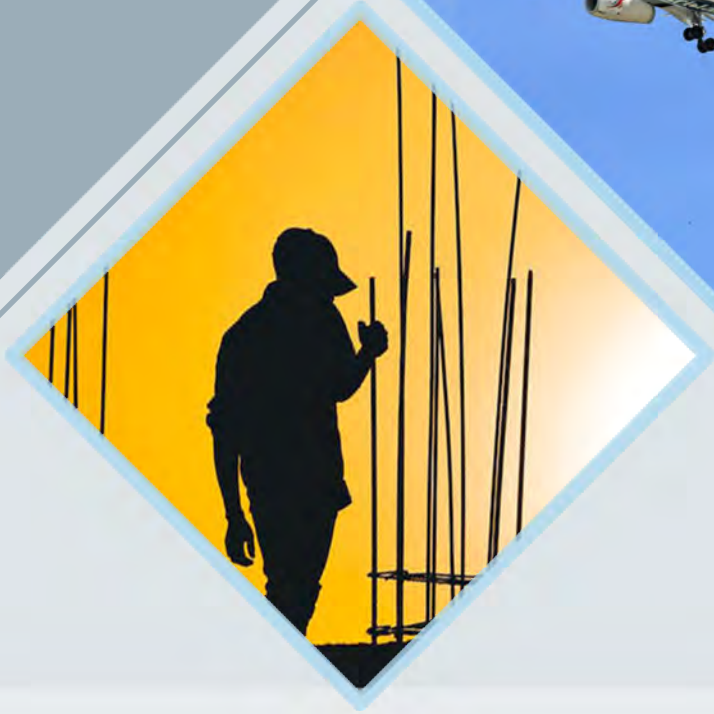

# Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Annual Report - 2025

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

# Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

## Annual Report - 2025

(With Provincial and District level data)

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

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# Preface

*Labour Force Survey (LFS) is one of the most important regular surveys conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka to obtain structure and characteristics of the labour force, employment and unemployment. The total sample size for the annual survey results for 2025 report were based on 25,000 housing units which were selected using a known probability sampling technique. The field data collection was done by deploying well-trained permanent field staff of the department using tablet computers with Computer Assisted Personnel Interviewing Technique (CAPI). Since the field work is not an easy task, their contribution should be especially appreciated. However, transformation of data collection method from paper based method (PAPI) to CAPI gave lot of improvements for the survey since 2017.*

*Before 1990, the LFS was conducted once in every five years. However, due to the high demand for the quarterly results, especially to compile quarterly GDP estimates the survey results were produced quarterly and final annual reports for each year were produced compiling annual survey data since 1990. This is the 21st report in the Annual Report series.*

*In 2026, published labour force estimates of 2025 were revised based on the population estimates of the Census of Population and Housing which was conducted in 2024. This revision was done along with the international best practices.*

*It is important to mention here that new modules namely computer literacy, household economic activities and informal sector employment were added to LFS since 2006 as per the demand of such information from various data users. I hope the information in this report is very valuable and useful to make evidence based decision making for various users to provide best solutions for the labour market issues in the country.*

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*15 / 09 / 2026.*

# Acknowledgements

*This "Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey, 2025" with provincial and district level data is based on the total annual sample of 25,000 housing units, covering all districts of the country.*

*Overall coordination of the survey was done by Ms. K.M.D.S.D.Karunaratne, former Additional Director General (statistics). Planning and execution of the survey was done by staff of the Sample Surveys Division under the direction of Mr. S.H. Mansoor, former Director (Statistics) and Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Director (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.*

*The survey activities were organized and supervised by Ms. H.M.D.Sepalika, Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Ms. U.S.Dilrukshi, Mr. L.S.N.Perera, Ms. M.W.L.C.M.Chandrarathne, Ms. M.M.G.D.Manamperi, Ms. R.P.M.Subhashini, Mr. H.M.S.C.Bandara, Ms. C.R.Liyanage and Ms. A.H.L.T.Sandaruwini, Statisticians of the Sample Surveys Division, under the guidance of Mr. J. Liyanage and Ms. W.A.D.R.D. Athukorala, Deputy Directors (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.*

*The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu Statistical Officer of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Ms. M.W.L.C.M.Chandrarathne, Statistician. The Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants, Development Officers, Information and Communication Technology Assistants, Data Entry Officers/Coding Clerks and of the Sample Survey Division are acknowledged for their valuable contribution during the whole survey process.*

*The Information & Communication Technology Division, Mr. K.L.C.S.Weerasooriya, Additional Director General (ICT), Mr. P.D.D. Peiris and Mr. E.M.D.Ekanayake, Director (ICT) were responsible for implementing CAPI methodology and preparation of data collection and computer edits programmes.*

*This publication was organized and prepared by Ms. M.W.L.C.M.Chandrarathne Statistician assisted by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu Statistical Officer under the guidance of Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Director (Statistics) and Ms. W.A.D.R.D. Athukorala, Deputy Director (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.*

*District staff of the Department who worked on the survey deserves a special word of thanks, The Deputy Directors/ Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians supervised the survey and field Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants and Development Officers, worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success. Printing of the report was done by the staff of Printing Division, under the supervision of Mr. M.L.K.P.Kumara, Statistician and under the direction of Mr. W.M.A.U.B. Weerathunga, Director(Statistics), Printing Division.*

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

# SUMMARY STATISTICS

## Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2025
## Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics

### 15 years & over population

| Indicator | Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population (15 years & over) | 17,034,109 | 7,889,837 | 9,144,272 | 2,899,281 | 14,134,829 |
| Labour force in this age group | 8,408,251 | 5,449,708 | 2,958,543 | 1,349,503 | 7,058,748 |
| Labour force participation rate | 49.4 | 69.1 | 32.4 | 46.5 | 49.9 |
| Employed population | 8,079,040 | 5,299,777 | 2,779,262 | 1,303,505 | 6,775,535 |
| Employment rate | 96.1 | 97.2 | 93.9 | 96.6 | 96.0 |
| Unemployed population | 329,211 | 149,931 | 179,280 | 45,998 | 283,213 |
| Unemployment rate | 3.9 | 2.8 | 6.1 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| Not in labour force | 8,625,859 | 2,440,129 | 6,185,730 | 1,549,778 | 7,076,080 |

### 18 years & over population

| Indicator | Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population (18 years & over) | 15,942,412 | 7,340,932 | 8,601,480 | 2,730,267 | 13,212,145 |
| Labour force in this age group | 8,375,723 | 5,425,470 | 2,950,253 | 1,344,363 | 7,031,359 |
| Labour force participation rate | 52.5 | 73.9 | 34.3 | 49.2 | 53.2 |
| Employed population | 8,055,522 | 5,283,178 | 2,772,344 | 1,299,270 | 6,756,252 |
| Employment rate | 96.2 | 97.4 | 94.0 | 96.6 | 96.1 |
| Unemployed population | 320,201 | 142,291 | 177,909 | 45,093 | 275,107 |
| Unemployment rate | 3.8 | 2.6 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| Not in labour force | 7,566,690 | 1,915,462 | 5,651,227 | 1,385,904 | 6,180,786 |

### 20 years & over population

| Indicator | Total | Male | Female | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population (20 years & over) | 15,238,074 | 7,004,271 | 8,233,803 | 2,616,068 | 12,622,006 |
| Labour force in this age group | 8,266,211 | 5,348,575 | 2,917,636 | 1,330,075 | 6,936,136 |
| Labour force participation rate | 54.2 | 76.4 | 35.4 | 50.8 | 55.0 |
| Employed population | 7,975,392 | 5,224,260 | 2,751,132 | 1,288,460 | 6,686,932 |
| Employment rate | 96.5 | 97.7 | 94.3 | 96.9 | 96.4 |
| Unemployed population | 290,820 | 124,315 | 166,504 | 41,615 | 249,204 |
| Unemployment rate | 3.5 | 2.3 | 5.7 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Not in labour force | 6,971,863 | 1,655,696 | 5,316,167 | 1,285,992 | 5,685,870 |

# Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

| Indicator | Year | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Labour force participation rate** | | | | | | | | |
| **By Gender** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 51.8 | 52.3 | 50.6 | 49.9 | 49.8 | 48.6 | 47.4 | 49.4 |
| Male | 73.0 | 73.0 | 71.9 | 71.0 | 70.5 | 68.6 | 67.4 | 69.1 |
| Female | 33.6 | 34.5 | 32.0 | 31.8 | 32.1 | 31.3 | 29.8 | 32.4 |
| **By residential sector** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 51.8 | 52.3 | 50.6 | 49.9 | 49.8 | 48.6 | 47.4 | 49.4 |
| Urban | 49.6 | 50.2 | 47.0 | 46.9 | 47.2 | 46.0 | 44.3 | 46.5 |
| Rural | 52.3 | 52.7 | 51.3 | 50.5 | 50.3 | 49.1 | 48.0 | 49.9 |
| **Unemployment Rate** | | | | | | | | |
| **By Gender** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 4.4 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 3.9 |
| Male | 3.0 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Female | 7.1 | 7.4 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 6.1 |
| **By selected age Group (Year)** | | | | | | | | |
| 20 – 29 | 15.0 | 15.3 | 18.1 | 18.3 | 16.2 | 17.0 | 16.1 | 13.9 |
| 20 – 24 | 20.1 | 20.3 | 25.2 | 26.8 | 21.8 | 21.6 | 20.7 | 17.8 |
| 25 – 29 | 10.4 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 10.6 |
| **By selected educational level** | | | | | | | | |
| **A/L & above** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 9.1 | 8.5 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 6.0 |
| Male | 5.1 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 3.9 |
| Female | 13.2 | 11.9 | 13.6 | 12.2 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 8.3 |
| **Employed population** | | | | | | | | |
| **By Gender** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 8,015,166 | 8,180,693 | 7,999,093 | 8,113,507 | 8,147,731 | 8,009,916 | 7,949,751 | 8,079,040 |
| Male | 5,300,310 | 5,368,896 | 5,372,947 | 5,414,280 | 5,373,965 | 5,307,563 | 5,358,554 | 5,299,777 |
| Female | 2,714,855 | 2,811,796 | 2,626,146 | 2,699,228 | 2,773,766 | 2,702,354 | 2,591,197 | 2,779,262 |
| **By industry (Percentage)** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 8,015,166 | 8,180,693 | 7,999,093 | 8,113,507 | 8,147,731 | 8,009,916 | 7,949,751 | 8,079,040 |
| % | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Agriculture | 2,043,698 | 2,071,940 | 2,169,679 | 2,213,015 | 2,158,559 | 2,088,344 | 2,066,651 | 1,932,548 |
| % | 25.5 | 25.3 | 27.1 | 27.3 | 26.5 | 26.1 | 26.0 | 23.9 |
| Industry | 2,239,262 | 2,258,421 | 2,152,746 | 2,109,482 | 2,158,199 | 2,043,154 | 2,031,417 | 2,120,455 |
| % | 27.9 | 27.6 | 26.9 | 26.0 | 26.5 | 25.5 | 25.6 | 26.2 |
| Services | 3,732,206 | 3,850,332 | 3,676,668 | 3,791,011 | 3,830,973 | 3,878,418 | 3,851,683 | 4,026,037 |
| % | 46.6 | 47.1 | 46.0 | 46.7 | 47.0 | 48.4 | 48.5 | 49.8 |
| **By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)** | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 0* | 5.6 | 6.4 | 14.6 | 9.6 | 5.8 | 4.2 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| 1 – 9 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| 10 – 39 | 25.7 | 26.8 | 27.1 | 29.6 | 31.9 | 31.2 | 28.3 | 28.7 |
| 40 & above | 66.9 | 65.1 | 56.2 | 58.7 | 60.3 | 62.1 | 67.4 | 66.7 |

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

# Content

Page

Preface ..... I
Acknowledgement ..... II
Summary Statistics ..... III

**Introduction ..... 1**
1.1 General Background ..... 1
1.2 Coverage of the survey ..... 1
1.3 Field Work ..... 2
1.4 Survey Schedule and CAPI Programme ..... 2
1.5 New Concepts and Classifications ..... 2
1.6 Field Supervision ..... 2
**Survey Methodology & Estimation Procedure ..... 3**
2.1 Sampling plan and the sampling frame ..... 3
2.2 Sample size ..... 3
2.3 Sample Allocation ..... 3
2.4 Selection of Primary Sampling Units (PSU) ..... 3
2.5 Selection of Secondary Sampling Units (SSU) ..... 3
2.6 Estimation procedure ..... 5
**Economically Active/ Inactive Population ..... 7**
3.1 Economically active population ..... 8
3.2 Distribution of economically active population ..... 8
3.3 Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) ..... 9
3.4 Economically inactive population ..... 11
3.5 Characteristics of the "economically inactive" population ..... 12
3.6 Economically inactive rate ..... 13
3.7 Potential labour force ..... 13
3.8 Discouraged job seekers ..... 14
**Employment ..... 15**
4.1 Employment by major industry group ..... 16
4.2 Employment by status of employment ..... 18
4.3 Employment by level of education ..... 19
4.4 Employment by occupation ..... 19
4.5 Average gross wage/salary & income ..... 20
4.6 Employment to Population Ratio ..... 22
**Unemployment ..... 23**

5.1 Unemployment rate by sector and gender ..... 24
5.2 Annual unemployment rates ..... 25
5.3 Unemployment rate by province ..... 26
5.4 Youth unemployment in Sri Lanka ..... 27
5.5 Ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate ..... 28
5.6 Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment ..... 28
5.7 Youth unemployment as a proportion of total youth population ..... 29
5.8 The youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) group ..... 29
**Underemployment ..... 32**
6.1 Criteria for classification of underemployment ..... 33
6.2 Distribution of underemployment rate ..... 33
6.3 Underemployment / unemployment by province and district ..... 34
**Informal Sector Employment ..... 36**
7.1 The informal economy ..... 37
7.2 Distribution of informal / formal sector employment ..... 37
7.3 Distribution of Informal Sector Employment ..... 39
**Total Jobs in Sri Lanka with Secondary Employment ..... 40**
8.1 Secondary Employment in Sri Lanka ..... 41
8.2 Total Jobs in Sri Lanka ..... 43
**Informal Employment in Sri Lanka ..... 45**
9.1 Concept of Informal Employment & Conceptual Framework ..... 46
9.2 Distribution of Informal / Formal Employment ..... 47
**Literacy ..... 50**
10.1 Distribution of Literacy Rate ..... 51
**Computer Literacy ..... 53**
11.1 Household Computer Ownership ..... 54
11.2 Computer Literacy and Digital literacy ..... 54
11.3 Source of Computer Training ..... 56
11.4 Internet and E-mail use ..... 57
**Statistical Appendix ..... 58**
**Special Statistical Appendix ..... 84**

# List of Tables

**Introduction** ..... **1**

**Survey Methodology & Estimation Procedure** ..... **3**

Table 2.1: Sample allocation by district - 2025 ..... 3

**Economically Active/ Inactive Population** ..... **7**

Table 3.1: Economically active / inactive population by gender – 2025 ..... 8

Table 3.2: Economically active population by gender and sector - 2025 ..... 8

Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of economically active population by gender and district - 2025 ..... 9

Table 3.4: Labour force participation rates by age groups, gender and sector - 2025 ..... 9

Table 3.5: Labour force participation rates by gender and district - 2025 ..... 10

Table 3.6: Economically inactive population by gender and sector - 2025 ..... 11

Table 3.7: Economically inactive population by level of education - 2025 ..... 11

Table 3.8: Economically inactive population by age group and gender - 2025 ..... 12

Table 3.9: Reasons for being economically inactive by gender - 2025 ..... 12

Table 3.10: Percentage distribution of inactive population by stated reason, age group and gender - 2025 ..... 12

Table 3.11: Distribution of economically inactive rate by standardized age groups - 2025 ..... 13

Table 3.12: Potential labour force by year and gender, 2022 - 2025 ..... 14

Table 3.13: Discouraged job seekers by gender - 2025 ..... 14

**Employment** ..... **15**

Table 4.1: Employed population by major industry group, 2019 - 2025 ..... 16

Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of employed population by major industry group for each district – 2025 ..... 17

Table 4.3: Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status for each district - 2025 ..... 18

Table 4.4: Employed population by employment status and by gender - 2025 ..... 18

Table 4.5: Employed population by occupation & gender - 2025 ..... 19

Table 4.6: Mean & median monthly gross salary by gender - 2025 ..... 20

Table 4.7: Mean & median monthly gross salary by sector - 2025 ..... 20

Table 4.7.1: Mean & median monthly gross salary by sector - 2025 ..... 20

Table 4.8: Mean & median monthly income by sector (for own account workers and employers) - 2025 ..... 20

Table 4.8.1: Mean & median monthly income by sector (own account worker & employers), 2023 - 2025 ..... 20

Table 4.9: Mean & median monthly gross salary by major industry group - 2025 ..... 20

Table 4.10: Employment to population ratio by sector and gender - 2025 ..... 22

Table 4.11: Employment to population ratio by standardized age group & gender - 2025 ..... 22

Table 4.12: Employment to population ratio, 2019 - 2025 ..... 22

**Unemployment** ..... **23**

Table 5.1: Unemployed number and unemployment rate by gender and sector - 2025 ....24
Table 5.2: Unemployment rates, 2018 - 2025 ....24
Table 5.3: Unemployment rate by district - 2025 ....24
Table 5.4: Unemployment rate by age group and gender - 2025 ....25
Table 5.5: Unemployment rate by level of education - 2025 ....25
Table 5.5a: Unemployment of the Graduates – 2025 (Age 20 & above) ....25
Table 5.6: Unemployment rate and percentage distribution of employment status for each province - 2025 ....27
Table 5.7: Youth unemployment rate by Province, 2021 - 2025 ....27
Table 5.8: Youth unemployment rate by level of education, 2021 - 2025 ....28
Table 5.9: Ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate by gender, 2021 – 2025 ....28
Table 5.10: Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment by gender and level of education - 2025 ....29
Table 5.11: Youth unemployment as a proportion of total youth population by gender and level of education - 2025 ....29
Table 5.12: Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by gender, 2021 - 2025 ....30
Table 5.13: NEET rate (NEET group as a percentage to total youth) by gender 2021 - 2025 ....30
Table 5.14: NEET rate (NEET group as a percentage to total youth) by level of education and gender – 2025 ....30

Underemployment ....32
Table 6.1: Underemployment rate by major industry group - 2025 ....33
Table 6.2: Underemployment rate by gender 2021 - 2025 ....33
Table 6.3: Underemployment rate by level of education and gender - 2025 ....34
Table 6.4: Underemployment rate/ Unemployment rate / Percentage of informal sector employment by district - 2025 ....34

Informal Sector Employment ....36
Table 7.1: Composition of Informal / Formal sector employment by economic sector – 2025 ....37
Table 7.2: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by gender - 2025 ....37
Table 7.3: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by level of education – 2025 ....38
Table 7.4: Distribution of Informal/ Formal sector employment by employment status - 2025 ....38
Table 7.5: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by main occupation - 2025 ....38
Table 7.6: Distribution of Informal sector employment in Non - Agriculture sector by district - 2025 ....39

Total Jobs in Sri Lanka with Secondary Employment ....40
Table 8.1: Distribution of employed population & total jobs by main and secondary job (2021 – 2025) ....41
Table 8.2: Distribution of employed population by main and secondary job and by sector – 2025 ....41
Table 8.3: Percentage distribution of secondary employment by employment status & gender – 2025 ....42
Table 8.4: Distribution of secondary employment by occupation group – 2025 ....42

Table 8.5: Contribution of secondary employment to the Informal / Formal sector by major industry groups – 2025 ..... 42
Table 8.6: Distribution of total jobs by sector – 2025 ..... 43
Table 8.7: Distribution of total jobs by level of education – 2025 ..... 43
Table 8.8: Distribution of total jobs by age groups – 2025 ..... 44
Table 8.9: Distribution of total jobs by major industry groups – 2025 ..... 44
**Informal Employment in Sri Lanka ..... 45**
Table 9.1: Conceptual framework informal employment – 2025 ..... 46
Table 9.2: Composition of informal / formal employment by economic sector – 2025 ..... 47
Table 9.3: Distribution of informal / formal employment by gender - 2025 ..... 47
Table 9.4: Distribution of informal / formal employment by level of education - 2025 ..... 47
Table 9.5: Distribution of informal / formal employment by employment status - 2025 ..... 47
Table 9.6: Distribution of informal / formal employment by occupation - 2025 ..... 48
Table 9.7: Composition of employment in non-agriculture sector – 2025 ..... 48
Table 9.8: Composition of employment in non-agriculture sector by sex – 2025 ..... 48
Table 9.9: Percentage of informal employment in non-agriculture sector by district - 2025 ..... 48
Table 9.10: Distribution of informal employees by job important characteristics - 2025 ..... 49
**Literacy ..... 50**
Table10.1: Literacy rate by sector & gender 2021 - 2025 ..... 51
Table10.2: Literacy rates by district & gender - 2025 ..... 51
Table10.3: Literacy rates by age group & gender - 2025 ..... 52
**Computer Literacy ..... 53**
Table11.1: Percentage of computer owned households by sector, province and survey year, 2023 - 2025 ..... 54
Table11.2: Computer literacy rate by sector, province and survey year, 2023 - 2025 ..... 55
Table 11.3: Computer literacy rate by gender, age, level of education and language literacy, 2023 - 2025 ..... 55
Table11.4: Computer literacy among computer aware employed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by occupation, 2023 - 2025 ..... 56
Table 11.5: Computer literacy among unemployed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by age groups, 2023 - 2025 ..... 56
Table11.6: Computer literacy rate and Digital literacy rate by gender, sector and age groups – 2025 56
Table 11.7: Percentage distribution of computer literate household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by sources of receiving computer knowledge* and sector – 2025 ..... 57
Table 11.8: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by Sex, Sector and Age group, 2023 - 2025 ..... 57
Table 11.9: Percentage distribution of device used to connect to internet/ email to all divices used by Sex, Sector and Age group – 2025 ..... 57
**Statistical Appendix ..... 58**
**Special Statistical Appendix ..... 84**

List of Figures

Introduction ..... 1
Survey Methodology & Estimation Procedure ..... 3
Economically Active/ Inactive Population ..... 7
Figure 3.1: Economically active population by gender and sector - 2025 ..... 8
Figure 3.2: Percentage distribution of working age population by economic status and gender - 2025 ..... 8
Figure 3.3: Labour Force participation rate by gender and level of education – 2025 ..... 10
Figure 3.4: Labour Force participation rate by gender and age group - 2025 ..... 10
Figure 3.5: Annual labour force participation rates 2019 – 2025 ..... 11
Figure 3.6: Economically inactive population by gender – 2025 ..... 11
Figure 3.7: Economically active and inactive population by age group - 2025 ..... 12
Figure 3.8: Reasons of being economically inactive - 2025 ..... 13
Figure 3.9: Discouraged Job seekers by gender - 2025 ..... 14
Employment ..... 15
Figure 4.2: Employed population by major industry group – 2025 ..... 16
Figure 4.1: Employed population by major industry group, 2019 – 2025 ..... 16
Figure 4.3: Share of agriculture, industry & service sectors to the total employment by province – 2025 ..... 17
Figure 4.4: Employment status by gender - 2025 ..... 18
Figure 4.5: Employed population by employment status - 2025 ..... 18
Figure 4.6: Employed population by major industry group and employment status - 2025 ..... 19
Figure 4.7: Employed population by level of education, 2019 – 2025 ..... 19
Figure 4.8: Average gross wage / salary by major industry group - 2025 ..... 21
Figure 4.9: Mean & median monthly salary of paid employees - district level – 2025 ..... 21
Unemployment ..... 23
Figure 5.1: Unemployment rate by gender & sector - 2025 ..... 24
Figure 5.2: Unemployment rate by age group and gender - 2025 ..... 25
Figure 5.3: Unemployment rate by gender, 2018 – 2025 ..... 25
Figure 5.4: Unemployment rates, 2018 - 2025 ..... 26
Figure 5.5: Unemployment rate by province - 2025 ..... 26
Figure 5.6: Share of contributing family workers to the employment for each province - 2025 ..... 26
Figure 5.7: Youth unemployment rate, 2021 - 2025 ..... 27
Figure 5.8: Youth unemployment rate by gender, 2021 - 2025 ..... 28
Figure 5.9: Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment by province - 2025 ..... 28
Figure 5.10: Distribution of youth population by different economic conditions - 2025 ..... 30
Underemployment ..... 32
Figure 6.1: Underemployment rate by major industry group - 2025 ..... 33
Figure 6.2: Underemployment, Unemployment rates by province - 2025 ..... 34

**Informal Sector Employment** ..... **36**
Figure 7.1: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by economic sector - 2025 ..... 37
Figure 7.2: Distribution of informal sector employment by selected industry groups - 2025 ..... 39
**Total Jobs in Sri Lanka with Secondary Employment** ..... **40**
Figure 8.1: Distribution of employed population by considering secondary job by major industry groups – 2025 ..... 41
Figure 8.2: Distribution of employed population by considering main job by major industry groups – 2025 ..... 41
Figure 8.3: Percentage distribution of secondary employment by employment status by gender – 2025 ..... 42
Figure 8.4: Distribution of secondary employment by level of education – 2025 ..... 42
Figure 8.5: Contribution of secondary employment to the informal / formal sector by major industry groups – 2025 ..... 43
Figure 8.6: Percentage distribution of jobs in Sri Lanka by gender – 2025 ..... 43
Figure 8.7: Distribution of jobs by major industry groups – 2025 ..... 44
**Informal Employment in Sri Lanka** ..... **45**
Figure 9.1: Conceptual framework (17th ICLS Guidelines) ..... 46
Figure 9.2: Distribution of total employment, informal employment, informal sector – 2025 ..... 47
Figure 9.3: Distribution of informal / formal employment by economic sector - 2025 ..... 47
Figure 9.4: Distribution of informal employment in non-agriculture sector by district - 2025 ..... 49
**Literacy** ..... **50**
Figure 10.1: Literacy rates by district - 2025 ..... 51
Figure 10.2: Literacy rates by age group & gender - 2025 ..... 52
**Computer Literacy** ..... **53**
Figure 11.1: Percentage of desktop or laptop computer owned households by province, 2023 - 2025 ..... 54
Figure 11.2: Distribution of computer literacy rate by educational attainment and language literacy, 2023 - 2025 ..... 55
Figure 11.3: Percentage distribution of internet and e-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2025 ..... 57
**Statistical Appendix** ..... **58**
**Special Statistical Appendix** ..... **84**

# List of Maps

Map (1): Sample allocation by district – 2025 ..... 4
Map (2): Labour force participation rate by district – 2025 ..... 11
Map (6): Percentage distribution of employed population in service sector by districts – 2025 ..... 31
Map (5): Percentage distribution of employed population in industry sector by districts – 2025 ..... 31
Map (4): Percentage distribution of employed population in agriculture sector by districts – 2025 ..... 31
Map (3): Unemployment rate by district – 2025 ..... 31
Map (7): Underemployment rate by district - 2025 ..... 35
Map (8): Participation rate of informal sector in non-agriculture sector by districts – 2025 ..... 39
Map (9): Literacy rate by district – 2025 ..... 52

# Appendix

Page

Statistical Appendix .....58 - 82

Special Statistical Appendix .....83 - 91

Explanatory Notes .....78

Standard Error and Coefficient of Variation table .....89

2024 Census of Population and Housing-based Re-weighting of Labour Force Survey Estimates Revised Labour Force Statistics .....90

Alternative Estimates .....92

# List of Tables in Statistical Appendix

Table 1 - Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population,15 years of age and over - Both sexes ....59

Table 1A - Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Male ....59

Table 1B - Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Female ....59

Table 2 - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age - Both sexes....60

Table 2A - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age - Male ....60

Table 2B - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age - Female ....60

Table 3 - Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (percentage) - Both sexes ....61

Table 3A - Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (percentage) - Male ....61

Table 3B - Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (percentage) - Female ....61

Table 4 - Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage) - Both sexes ....62

Table 4A - Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage) - Male ..62

Table 4B - Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage) - Female ....62

Table 5 - Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (percentage) - Both sexes ....63

Table 5A - Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (percentage) - Male 63

Table 5B - Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (percentage) - Female ....63

Table 6 - Currently employed person by industry group (based on ISIC fourth revision) - Both sexes ..64

Table 6A - Currently employed person by industry group (based on ISIC fourth revision) - Male ....65

Table 6B - Currently employed person by industry group (based on ISIC fourth revision) - Female ....65

Table 6C - Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group - Both sexes....66

Table 6D - Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group (percentage) - Both sexes....66

Table 7 - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes....67

Table 7A - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Male....68

Table 7B - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Female ....68

Table 8 - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job and major industrial group (percentage) - Both sexes....69

Table 9 - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Both sexes .70

Table 9A - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Male ....70

Table 9B - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Female....70

Table 10 - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Both sexes ..... 71

Table 10A - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Male ..... 71

Table 10 B - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Female ..... 71

Table 11 - Currently unemployed persons by sex and duration of unemployment ..... 72

Table 12 - Labour force status (Current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over by district - Both sexes ..... 72

Table 12A - Labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over by district - Male ..... 73

Table 12B - Labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over by district – Female ..... 74

Table 13 - Employment by major industry group by districts - Both sexes ..... 75

Table 13A - Employment by major industry group by districts – Male ..... 76

Table 13B - Employment by major industry group by districts - Female ..... 76

Table 14 - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) by province - Both sexes ..... 77

Table 15 - Currently employed person by industry group (Based on ISIC fourth revision) by province - Both sexes ..... 78

Table 16 - Currently employed person by employment status by province - Both sexes ..... 79

Table 16A - Currently employed person by employment status by province – Male ..... 79

Table 16B - Currently employed person by employment status by province -Female ..... 79

Table 17 - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job by district - Both sexes ..... 80

Table 17A - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job by district – Male ..... 81

Table 17B - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job by district - Female ..... 81

Table 18 - Unemployment rate by level of education by province - Both sexes ..... 82

Table 19 - Unemployment rate by age group by province - Both sexes ..... 82

Table 20 - Employment in formal/ informal employment by status in employment - Both sexes ..... 83

CHAPTER ONE

# Introduction

## 1.1 General Background

In the past, information on labour force characteristics, employment, and unemployment etc. were collected through the labour force and socio-economic surveys conducted at five year time intervals. But the government required the employment and unemployment data at very short intervals to monitor the progress of the employment generating policies of the country. Therefore, to cater the demand, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) designed a Labour Force Survey (LFS) 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 commenced from the first quarter 1990 with USAID technical assistance and is being continued by the DCS.

Since 1990, DCS was able to continue this survey quarterly, except in second quarter in 2001 due to heavy work load of the Census of Population and Housing in 2001. Again, in 2005 due to Tsunami, LFS was not implemented on quarterly basis as scheduled. Because the staff of DCS were involved the activities of "Census of Tsunami", which was conducted in February 2005 to provide the information on impact of Tsunami. Also the sample frame, used for Household survey program had to be updated with the results of the "Listing operation" conducted in Tsunami affected districts. Hence in 2005 August LFS was conducted as a special survey at one point of time. Yet again in 4$^{th}$ quarter 2011 & 1$^{st}$ quarter 2012 the survey could not be conducted, due to the activities of Census of Population and Housing in 2011. However, except these conditions the DCS was able to continue the survey successfully since 1990. The information collected from LFS use to derive labour market indicators to monitor the current performance of the economy and also they are used to evaluate government policies and programs, and hence, LFS plays an important role focusing several perspectives.

In 2017 Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) was introduced for the survey. At the end of year 2017 CAPI method was fully implemented throughout the country and the Department Officers allocated to each DS Division used tablet computers to collect data of Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey. The 2025 annual estimates were reweighted based on Census of Population and Housing 2024 data.

## 1.2 Coverage of the survey

LFS was conducted throughout the island during the first quarter of 1990. Thereafter, till year 2003 Northern and Eastern provinces were not covered from the survey due to the prevailed situation in those areas. In 2003, DCS was able to conduct the survey in Eastern province and in 2004 and 2005; the survey covered all 25 districts. Though it was planned to conduct LFS covering whole Island, it was not able to cover districts of Northern & Eastern provinces completely in 2006, 2007 years. Since completed schedules received from those districts were not sufficient enough to give reliable estimates. Therefore, Northern and Eastern provinces were not included in annual estimates of 2006 & 2007. From year 2008 onward the survey covered whole country except Northern Province until 2011. From 2011 the survey covers all provinces of the country. However, due to the heavy work load of the Census of Population and Housing – 2012, the survey could not be conducted in 4$^{th}$ quarter 2011 and 1$^{st}$ quarter 2012. From 2013 onward, the survey covered whole country and conducted in all four quarters of every year.

This 2025 report is based on an annual sample of 25,000 housing units, also provides national, provincial and district level estimates with a stipulated standard errors of labour force statistics as reported in the relevant reference period of each month of the year 2025. This survey covers persons living in housing units only and, it excludes the institutional population.

## 1.3 Field Work

The field work of the survey for the year 2025 was conducted from January to December. The census blocks prepared at 2024 Census of Population and Housing were used as primary sampling units. Listing operation for primary sampling unit update was conducted, at this survey.

In 2017, CAPI was introduced in 1st quarter and the field staff was trained. Eventually, at the end of year 2017 CAPI method was established in all districts for data collection and manual editing also had done where necessary.

The field staff of the DCS involved in survey data collection activities specially trained for CAPI method. A Deputy Director/Senior Statistician/ Statistician attached to each District Secretariat are responsible for coordination and supervision activities at district level.

## 1.4 Survey Schedule and CAPI Programme

Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning. However, some changes have been made over the years in 2006, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data.

The revisions focused on literacy, computer literacy, household economic activities, informal sector, employment and underemployment. However, the comparability of data has maintained.

## 1.5 New Concepts and Classifications

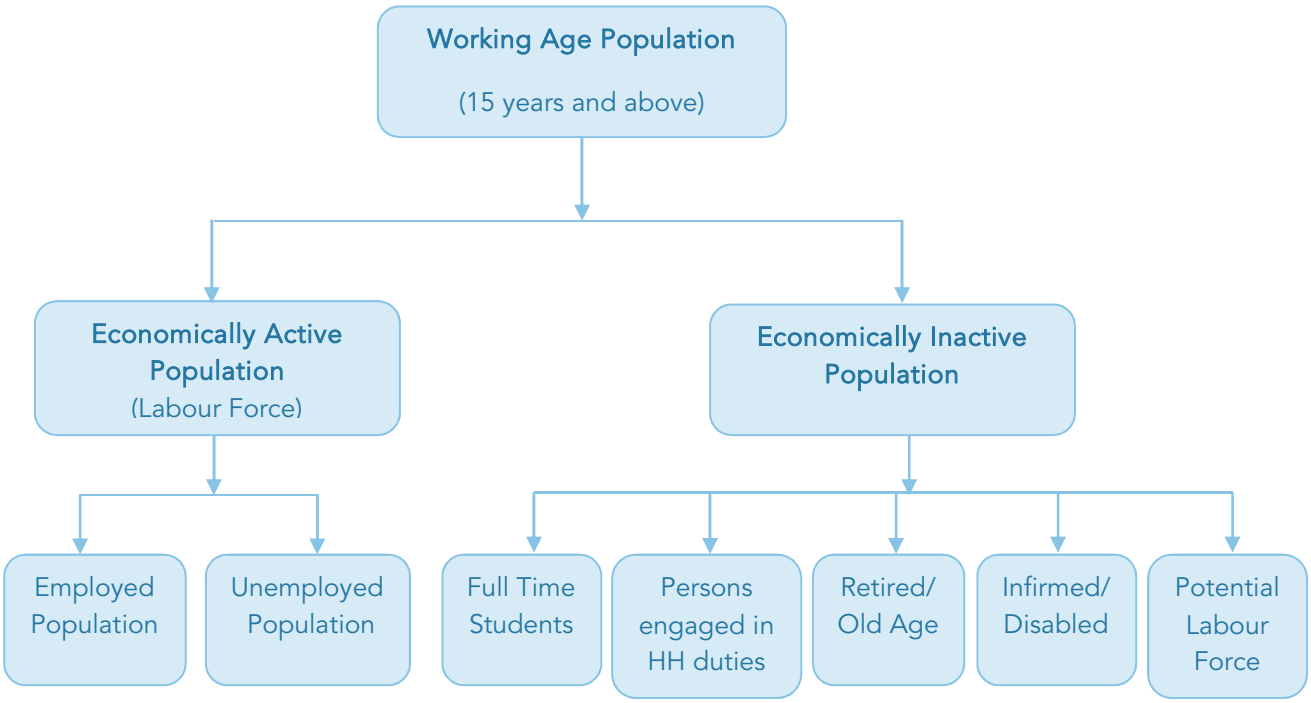
From 2013, onward the working age population is considered as aged 15 and above persons. Before 2013 this was considered as age 10 years above.

From 2013 onward, the survey uses Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupation - 2008 (SLSCO – 08) to classify occupations. This Classification is derived from the International Standard Classification of Occupation – 2008 (ISCO – 08). Also, the survey uses Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification Rev. 4 (SLSIC Rev.4) derived from the International Standard Industry Classification Rev.4 (ISIC Rev.4) for Industry classification.

## 1.6 Field Supervision

Regular field supervisions were carried out throughout the year to check the concepts and definitions are being used by the enumerators accurately.

### Diagram 1: Components of Economically Active and Economically Inactive Population




[1] See the Attached Questionnaire

CHAPTER TWO

# Survey Methodology & Estimation Procedure

## 2.1 Sampling plan and the sampling frame

Two stage stratified sampling procedure is adopted to select a sample of 25,000 housing units to be enumerated at the survey. The sampling frame prepared for 2024 Census of Population and Housing is used as the sampling frame for the sample selection of LFS in 2025.

## 2.2 Sample size

At the beginning in 1990, the sample size was 2,000 housing units per quarter in areas other than North and East, and the sample size was increased to 4,000 housing units per quarter in 1996 and continued thereafter. In 1992, 1997 and in 2004 an annual sample of 20,000 housing units was selected to give reliable estimates by district level. However, in order to provide district level estimates precisely, it was decided to use 20,000 – 25,000 housing units as the annual sample from 2006 to 2010. In 2025 25,000 Housing units were selected for the sample.

## 2.3 Sample Allocation

In 2025, 2500 Primary Sampling Units (PSU's) were allocated to each district and to each sector (Urban, Rural and Estate) by using the Neymann allocation method which considers the variance of unemployment rate as usually. The allocated sample for each district then equally distributed for 12 months. Table 2.1 gives the sample distributions by district for year 2025.

The survey was conducted from January till December in 2025.

Table 2.1: Sample allocation by district - 2025

| District | No. of Housing Units | District | No. of Housing Units |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **25,000** | Mullaitivu | 400 |
| Colombo | 2,320 | Kilinochchi | 400 |
| Gampaha | 2,400 | Batticaloa | 760 |
| Kalutara | 1,320 | Ampara | 840 |
| Kandy | 1,760 | Trincomalee | 540 |
| Matale | 720 | Kurunegala | 1,800 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 800 | Puttalam | 840 |
| Galle | 1,360 | Anuradhapura | 840 |
| Matara | 1,120 | Polonnaruwa | 600 |
| Hambantota | 880 | Badulla | 940 |
| Jaffna | 680 | Monaragala | 600 |
| Mannar | 400 | Rathnapura | 1,200 |
| Vavuniya | 480 | Kegalle | 1,000 |

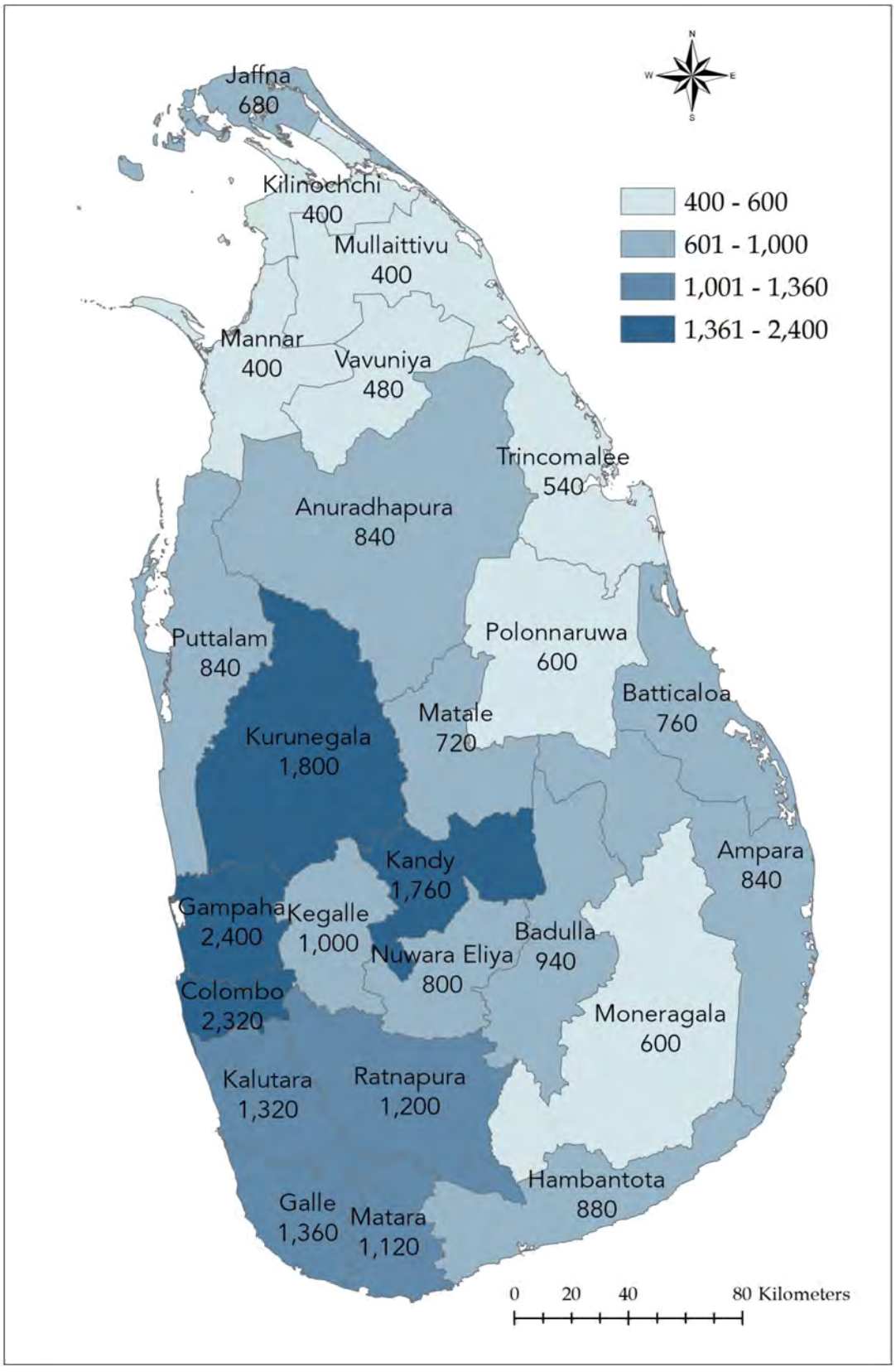
## 2.4 Selection of Primary Sampling Units (PSU)

Primary sampling units are the **census blocks** prepared at the Census of Population and Housing - 2024.

## 2.5 Selection of Secondary Sampling Units (SSU)

Secondary Sampling Units are the **housing units** in the selected 2500 primary sampling units (census blocks). From each selected primary sampling unit, 10 housing units (SSU) are selected for the survey using systematic random sampling method.

## Map (1): Sample allocation by district – 2025



## 2.6 Estimation procedure

Let $\hat{X}_{jk}$ be the estimate of any given characteristic for j[th] district for the k[th] month.

This could be given by,

$$\hat{X}_{jk} = \frac{1}{m_{jk(u)}} \sum_{h(u)=1}^{m_{jk(u)}} \frac{1}{P_{h(u)}} \frac{N_{h(u)}}{n_{h(u)}} \sum_{i(u)=1}^{n_{h(u)}} X_{hi(u)} + \frac{1}{m_{jk(r)}} \sum_{h(r)=1}^{m_{jk(r)}} \frac{1}{P_{h(r)}} \frac{N_{h(r)}}{n_{h(r)}} \sum_{i(r)=1}^{n_{h(r)}} X_{hi(r)}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{m_{jk(e)}} \sum_{h(e)=1}^{m_{jk(e)}} \frac{1}{P_{h(e)}} \frac{N_{h(e)}}{n_{h(e)}} \sum_{i(e)=1}^{n_{h(e)}} X_{hi(e)}$$

Where

$m_{jk(u)}$ = Number of census blocks selected from the urban sector of the j[th] district for the k[th] survey month.

$P_{h(u)}$ = Selection probability of the h[th] census block in the urban sector.

$$P_{h(u)} = \frac{S_{jh(u)}}{\sum_{h=1}^{M_{jh(u)}} S_{jh(u)}}$$

$S_{jh(u)}$ = Measure of size (number of housing units) of the h[th] census block in the urban sector of the j[th] district.

$M_{jh(u)}$ = Total number of census blocks in urban sector of the j[th] district.

$N_{h(u)}$ = Total number of housing units listed in the h[th] census block in the urban sector.

$n_{h(u)}$ = Number of housing units selected from the h[th] census block in the urban sector.

$X_{hi(u)}$ = The observed value for the i[th] sample household in the h[th] census block in the urban sector.

$m_{jk(r)}$, $P_{h(r)}$, $S_{jh(r)}$, $M_{jh(r)}$, $N_{h(r)}$, $n_{h(r)}$, and $X_{hi(r)}$ are corresponding terms for the rural sector and $m_{jk(e)}$, $P_{h(e)}$, $S_{jh(e)}$, $M_{jh(e)}$, $N_{h(e)}$, $n_{h(e)}$, and $X_{hi(e)}$ are corresponding terms for the estate sector.

The estimate for the total value of a characteristic for the country for month k,

$$\hat{X}_k = \sum_{j=1}^{25} \hat{X}_{jk} \quad \text{——— (1)}$$

The estimate for the total value of a characteristic for the j[th] district, based on all 12 rounds.

$$\hat{X}_j = \frac{1}{12} \sum_{k=1}^{12} \hat{X}_{jk} \quad \text{——— (2)}$$

The total estimate for the total value of a characteristic for the urban sector for the country, based on all 12 rounds.

$$\hat{X}_u = \frac{1}{12} \sum_{k=1}^{12} \sum_{j=1}^{25} \hat{X}_{jk(u)} \quad \text{——— (3)}$$

Where

$$\hat{X}_{jk(u)} = \frac{1}{m_{jk(u)}} \sum_{h(u)=1}^{m_{jk(u)}} \frac{1}{P_{h(u)}} \frac{N_{h(u)}}{n_{h(u)}} \sum_{i(u)=1}^{n_{h(u)}} X_{hi(u)}$$

Similarly $\hat{X}_r$ and $\hat{X}_e$, Rural and Estate sector estimates for the country can be obtained.

## 2.7 Adjustment for unit non-response

The occurrence of unit non-response was determined by examining the final result code recorded under control data section of the schedule. Based on the final result codes the households were grouped into the following categories, which were used as a basis for adjusting for the unit non-response.

| Category and description | | Result code |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Schedule completed | 1 |
| 2. | Housing unit demolished or vacant | 3 |
| 3. | Unable to complete schedule, refusal, temporarily away etc. | 2,4,5,6,7 |

### Category 1 and 2

These were considered as fully accounted for as a schedule was completed to the extent required by the situation at the time of interview and therefore no adjustment was necessary.

### Category 3

This is incomplete therefore, a non-response adjustment was made for this category. The assumption made here for the adjustment of non-response was the proportion of households in category 3 is the same as the corresponding proportion for sample households in category 1. This assumption is applied on a block-by-block basis separately for urban, rural and estate sectors. The block weight before adjusting for unit non-response was

$$W'_h = \frac{1}{m_{jk}} \sum_{h=1}^{m_{jk}} \frac{1}{P_h} \frac{N_h}{n_h}$$

Where, $N_h$ = Total number of housing units listed in block h.

$n_h$ = Number of housing units selected in block h.

The revised weight should take the form

$$W_h = W'_h \left( \frac{n^1_h - n_{h2}}{n_{h1}} \right)$$

Where, $n_{h1}$ = Number of sample households in category 1.

$n_{h2}$ = Number of sample households in category 2.

$n^1_h$ = Total number of households in all categories (category 1, 2 and 3) = ($n_h$)

CHAPTER THREE

# Economically Active/ Inactive Population

*Labour force or synonymously currently economically active population is one of the most widely used measures of the labour market. It measures employment and unemployment situation of the economy and the current employment characteristics of the population.*

**Working Age Population:** All persons of age 15 years and above are considered to be in the working age population (from year 2013 onward).

**Economically Active Population:** All persons who are/were employed or unemployed during the reference period of the survey are referred to as economically active (the reference period is "previous one week" for currently economically active population).

**Economically Inactive Population:** All persons who neither worked nor available/looking for work during the reference period.

**Labour Force:** The labour force is composed of currently economically active population 15 years of age and over.

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Estimated Household Population (15 year & over) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 17,034,109 |
| Male | 7,889,837 |
| Female | 9,144,272 |

| Labour Force (LF) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8,408,251 |
| Male | 5,449,708 |
| Female | 2,958,543 |

| LF Participation Rate | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 49.4 |
| Male | 69.1 |
| Female | 32.4 |

## 3.1 Economically active population

The "economically active population" is defined broadly as comprising of all persons above a specific age (15 years and above) of either gender who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services during a specified time (reference period). The currently economically active population or the 'labour force' is usually recognized as the sum of 'employed' and 'unemployed' population.

## 3.2 Distribution of economically active population

In 2025, estimated economically active population is around 8.4 million, and of that about 64.8 percent are male. That is about 5.4 million (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Economically active / inactive population by gender – 2025

| Gender | Economically active | | Economically inactive | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| **Total** | 8,408,251 | 100.0 | 8,625,859 | 100.0 |
| Male | 5,449,708 | 64.8 | 2,440,129 | 28.3 |
| Female | 2,958,543 | 35.2 | 6,185,730 | 71.7 |

Majority among the economically inactive population are females (71.7%). That is about 6.2 million.

Table 3.2: Economically active population by gender and sector - 2025

| Sector | | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Male | Female |
| **Total** | No. | 8,408,251 | 5,449,708 | 2,958,543 |
| | % | 100.0 | 64.8 | 35.2 |
| Urban | No. | 1,349,503 | 877,818 | 471,685 |
| | % | 100.0 | 65.0 | 35.0 |
| Rural | No. | 6,730,301 | 4,377,168 | 2,353,133 |
| | % | 100.0 | 65.0 | 35.0 |
| Estate | No. | 328,447 | 194,723 | 133,724 |
| | % | 100.0 | 59.3 | 40.7 |

Distribution of economically active population by gender and sectors are given by Table 3.2 and Figure 3.1. According to the Table 3.2, in Urban and Rural sectors 65.0 percent of economically active population is male. Also percentages of economically active female population in Urban and Rural sectors are reported as 35.0 percent and in the Estate sector, this value is 40.7 percent. The female participation is higher in the Estate sector compared to Urban and Rural Sectors.

Figure 3.1:
Economically active population by gender and sector - 2025

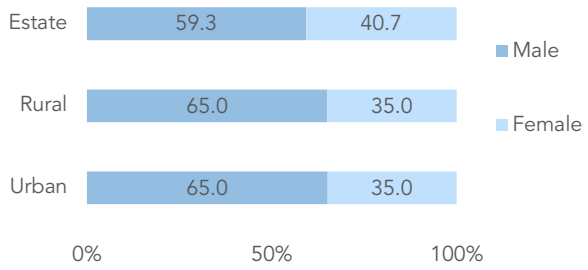



Figure 3.2:
Percentage distribution of working age population by economic status and gender - 2025

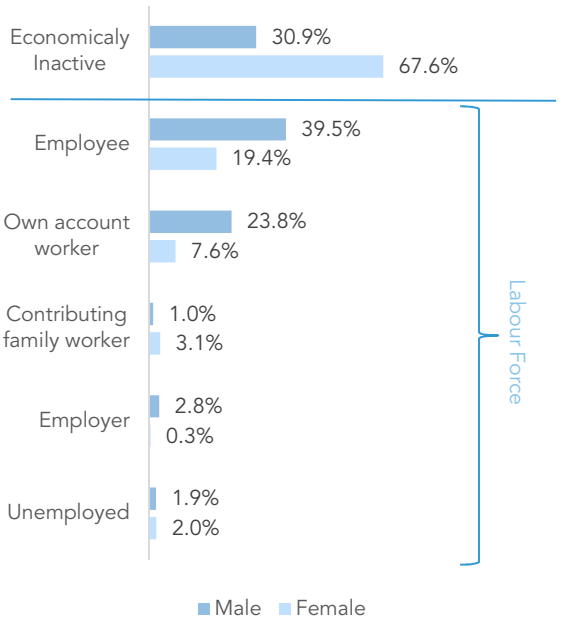



Figure 3.2 illustrates the distribution of age 15 and above population by gender and their economic status. Considering the economic status by gender, majority of female population is in economically inactive group (67.6%) while majority of male population is in employee group (39.5%).

Table 3.3: Percentage distribution of economically active population by gender and district - 2025

| District | Economically active population (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 100.0 | 64.8 | 35.2 |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 64.0 | 36.0 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 65.3 | 34.7 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 65.2 | 34.8 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 62.9 | 37.1 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 65.7 | 34.3 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 100.0 | 58.5 | 41.5 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 62.9 | 37.1 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 65.2 | 34.8 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 68.3 | 31.7 |
| Jaffna | 100.0 | 71.2 | 28.8 |
| Mannar | 100.0 | 69.4 | 30.6 |
| Vavuniya | 100.0 | 61.6 | 38.4 |
| Mullaitivu | 100.0 | 71.7 | 28.3 |
| Kilinochchi | 100.0 | 77.4 | 22.6 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 68.3 | 31.7 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 74.6 | 25.4 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 75.3 | 24.7 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 62.3 | 37.7 |
| Puttalam | 100.0 | 68.2 | 31.8 |
| Anuradhapura | 100.0 | 64.6 | 35.4 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 74.4 | 25.6 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 58.8 | 41.2 |
| Monaragala | 100.0 | 64.7 | 35.3 |
| Rathnapura | 100.0 | 63.6 | 36.4 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 60.3 | 39.7 |

As shown in Table 3.3 percentage of economically active female population is high in agriculture predominant districts. For example, Nuwara Eliya (41.5%), Badulla (41.2%) and Anuradhapura (35.4%). The lowest percentage (22.6%) of economically active female population is reported from Kilinochchi district.

## 3.3 Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

This is defined as the percentage of the currently "economically active population" or the "labour force" to the total working age population. Following Table 3.4 shows the distribution of labour force participation rate by age groups, gender and by sectors.

Table 3.4: Labour force participation rates by age groups, gender and sector - 2025

| Age group/sector | Labour force participation rate (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 49.4 | 69.1 | 32.4 |
| 15 - 19 | 7.9 | 11.4 | 4.5 |
| 20 - 24 | 47.0 | 60.1 | 34.9 |
| 25 - 29 | 66.7 | 89.4 | 46.6 |
| 30 - 39 | 67.3 | 94.9 | 44.7 |
| 40 + | 50.5 | 72.5 | 31.9 |
| **Urban** | 46.5 | 65.6 | 30.2 |
| 15 - 19 | 6.9 | 8.3 | 5.4 |
| 20 - 24 | 43.6 | 53.5 | 34.3 |
| 25 - 29 | 68.4 | 87.2 | 51.9 |
| 30 - 39 | 69.4 | 95.1 | 46.4 |
| 40 + | 45.2 | 67.3 | 27.1 |
| **Rural** | 49.8 | 70.0 | 32.4 |
| 15 - 19 | 7.9 | 11.8 | 4.1 |
| 20 - 24 | 47.3 | 61.1 | 34.9 |
| 25 - 29 | 66.5 | 90.4 | 45.4 |
| 30 - 39 | 66.7 | 94.8 | 44.0 |
| 40 + | 51.4 | 73.8 | 32.3 |
| **Estate** | 52.9 | 65.3 | 41.4 |
| 15 - 19 | 12.0 | 15.6 | 8.1 |
| 20 - 24 | 55.5 | 73.2 | 39.8 |
| 25 - 29 | 63.7 | 79.1 | 47.7 |
| 30 - 39 | 72.4 | 94.1 | 52.9 |
| 40 + | 55.3 | 67.4 | 44.6 |
| **Labour force participation rate by standardized age groups** | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **Total (15 & over)** | 49.4 | 69.1 | 32.4 |
| 15 - 24 | 24.9 | 32.2 | 17.9 |
| 25 - 34 | 66.7 | 92.0 | 45.3 |
| 35 - 54 | 68.7 | 94.2 | 46.3 |
| 55 - 64 | 52.5 | 76.4 | 32.3 |
| 65 + | 21.2 | 34.7 | 10.8 |
| 15 – 64 | 55.5 | 76.1 | 37.3 |
| 25 – 54 | 68.1 | 93.5 | 46.0 |

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

As shown in Table 3.4 labour force participation rate (LFPR) for Sri Lanka is 49.4 percent. Corresponding figures for males and females are 69.1 and 32.4 percent respectively.

Comparing the LFPR among age groups it is seen that the LFPR increases up to the age group of 30-39 years and decreases thereafter. The highest LFPR (67.3) is reported from the age group 30-39 years.

ILO recommended standardized age groups are also shown in Table 3.4. These values provide more information for international comparison and provide labour market behavior of different age categories of the population. In 2025 labour force participation rate of the prime working age (age 25-54 years) is 68.1 percent. This rate for males is 93.5 percent and for females it is 46.0 percent.

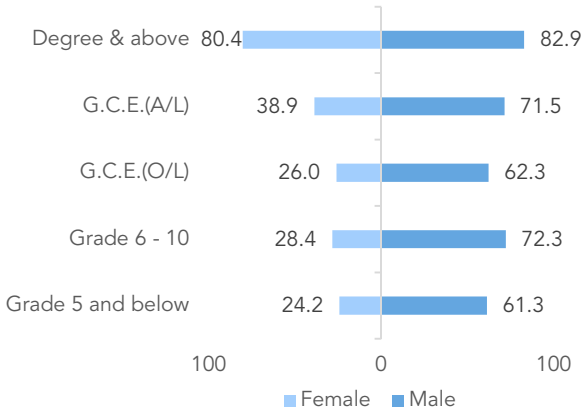
As shown in Table 3.4 gender, age group and Sector level LFPR depict that Estate sector female labour force participation rate are comparatively higher than that of Urban and Rural sectors. The highest value is reported for the age group 30-39 years, which was reported as 52.9 percent, much higher compared to rates in Urban (46.4%) & Rural (44.0%).

Table 3.5: Labour force participation rates by gender and district - 2025

| District | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 49.4 | 69.1 | 32.4 |
| Colombo | 49.1 | 66.9 | 33.4 |
| Gampaha | 47.1 | 65.9 | 30.6 |
| Kalutara | 49.3 | 68.0 | 32.5 |
| Kandy | 46.9 | 64.7 | 32.0 |
| Matale | 45.9 | 68.1 | 28.2 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 49.8 | 62.5 | 38.7 |
| Galle | 49.1 | 66.2 | 34.1 |
| Matara | 47.6 | 68.0 | 30.5 |
| Hambantota | 48.9 | 72.3 | 28.9 |
| Jaffna | 46.4 | 71.3 | 24.8 |
| Mannar | 54.4 | 78.2 | 32.2 |
| Vavuniya | 55.7 | 75.9 | 39.1 |
| Mullaitivu | 46.7 | 72.4 | 24.6 |
| Kilinochchi | 43.6 | 70.9 | 18.8 |
| Batticaloa | 43.0 | 68.4 | 23.9 |
| Ampara | 39.6 | 65.9 | 18.2 |
| Trincomalee | 43.1 | 69.5 | 20.0 |
| Kurunegala | 53.4 | 73.0 | 37.1 |
| Puttalam | 51.3 | 74.1 | 31.0 |
| Anuradhapura | 54.0 | 76.3 | 35.2 |
| Polonnaruwa | 46.2 | 73.6 | 22.1 |
| Badulla | 56.1 | 71.2 | 43.0 |
| Monaragala | 53.5 | 72.2 | 36.2 |
| Rathnapura | 54.8 | 72.5 | 38.4 |
| Kegalle | 51.5 | 68.4 | 37.4 |

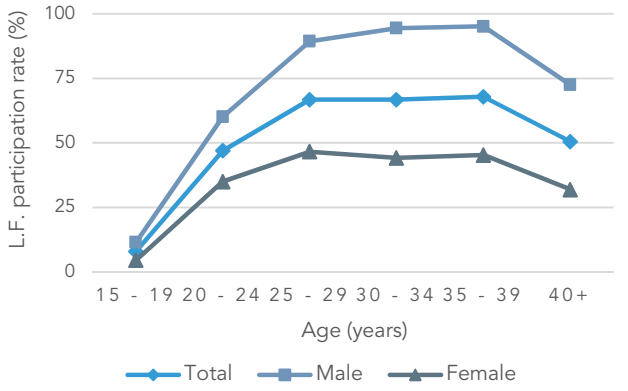
Labour force participation rate by district is given in Table 3.5. The highest LFPR (56.1%) is reported from Badulla district. The highest female LFPR is reported from Badulla district (43.0%), while the lowest female LFPR is reported from Ampara district (18.2%).

Figure 3.3:
Labour Force participation rate by gender and level of education – 2025




As can be seen in Figure 3.3 clear differences can be observed in LFPR by sex. However when the level of education is considered, the difference is minimum for the degree and above level of education.

Figure 3.4:
Labour Force participation rate by gender and age group - 2025




As shown in Table 3.5, the Female LFPR is high in Agriculture predominant districts. Also it is clear that male LFPR is higher than that of female in all districts. Some district in Northern and Eastern provinces show comparatively lower LFPR rates due to lower female labour force participation. This distribution is clearly shown in Map-2.

Map (2): Labour force participation rate by district – 2025

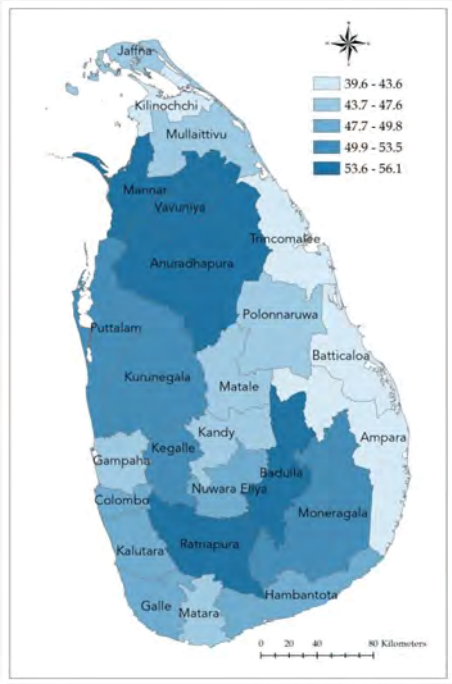
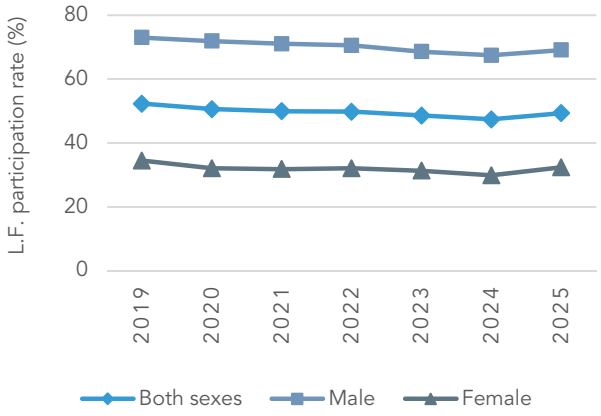



Figure 3.5:
Annual labour force participation rates 2019 – 2025




## 3.4 Economically inactive population

The persons who are not economically active during the reference period and those who are mainly engaged in studies, household duties, retired or old, disabled persons etc. are defined as 'Economically Inactive Population'. The survey results reveal that, 50.6 percent of (8.6 million) working age population are in the economically inactive group, comprising with 28.3 percent of males and 71.7 percent of females.

Economically inactive rate for the country is the proportion of economically inactive population to the total working age population.

Table 3.6: Economically inactive population by gender and sector - 2025

| Sector | Total | | Male | | Female | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| **Total** | 8,625,859 | 100.0 | 2,440,129 | 28.3 | 6,185,730 | 71.7 |
| Urban | 1,549,778 | 100.0 | 459,981 | 29.7 | 1,089,797 | 70.3 |
| Rural | 6,783,223 | 100.0 | 1,876,842 | 27.7 | 4,906,381 | 72.3 |
| Estate | 292,858 | 100.0 | 103,306 | 35.3 | 189,552 | 64.7 |

Table 3.6 & Figure 3.6 show that, the number of inactive female is higher than that of male in general and in all the sectors.

Figure 3.6:
Economically inactive population by gender – 2025

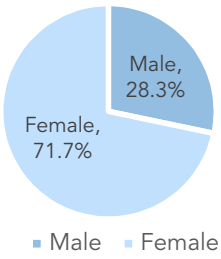



Table 3.7: Economically inactive population by level of education - 2025

| Level of education | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Grade 5 and below | 15.8 | 15.6 | 15.9 |
| Grade 6 - 10 | 40.6 | 39.7 | 40.9 |
| G.C.E.(O/L) | 25.0 | 27.4 | 24.0 |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | 18.7 | 17.2 | 19.3 |

Table 3.7 shows the percentage distribution of economically inactive population by level of education. The highest percentage of economically inactive population is reported from the group with level of education grade 6 – 10 for both sexes, while the lowest reported from the group grade 5 and below.

Table 3.8: Economically inactive population by age group and gender - 2025

| Age group | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 15 - 19 | 19.2 | 32.1 | 14.1 |
| 20 - 24 | 8.5 | 10.7 | 7.6 |
| 25 - 29 | 4.5 | 2.4 | 5.3 |
| 30 - 34 | 4.8 | 1.3 | 6.2 |
| 35 - 39 | 4.9 | 1.2 | 6.4 |
| 40 - 44 | 5.7 | 1.6 | 7.4 |
| 45 - 49 | 5.2 | 1.4 | 6.7 |
| 50 - 54 | 5.4 | 2.3 | 6.7 |
| 55 - 59 | 5.9 | 3.7 | 6.7 |
| 60 - 64 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 8.4 |
| 65+ | 27.7 | 35.6 | 24.6 |

Table 3.8 shows the distribution of economically inactive population by age group and gender. This shows that economically inactive males as well as females are highly concentrated in young (15 – 19 years) and older (65+ years) age groups. Percentages of inactive males are lower in middle age groups, from 30 – 49, however this situation is different for female.

Figure 3.7:
Economically active and inactive population by age group - 2025

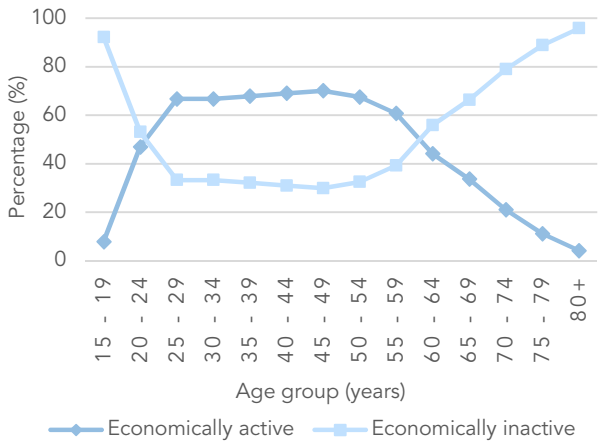



Figure 3.7 shows the distribution of the percentage of economically active and inactive population by age group.

The survey results show that the population from age group 25 to 59 years are more economically active. Also the results reveal that persons even at older ages (age 70 and above) some are economically active.

## 3.5 Characteristics of the "economically inactive" population

Table 3.9: Reasons for being economically inactive by gender - 2025

| Reason | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| All Economically inactive | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Engaged in studies | 23.8 | 39.1 | 17.8 |
| Engaged in housework | 43.0 | 4.8 | 58.1 |
| Retired/Old age | 21.1 | 34.0 | 16.0 |
| Physically illness/Disabled | 9.7 | 17.5 | 6.6 |
| Other | 2.4 | 4.6 | 1.5 |

The main reason reported for the majority among female (58.1%) to be economically inactive is that their involvement in housework activities. However, that percentage is only 4.8 percent for male. The highest reported reason for inactivity among male, (39.1%) is "engaged in studies". Figure 3.8 clearly shows this distribution.

Table 3.10: Percentage distribution of inactive population by stated reason, age group and gender - 2025

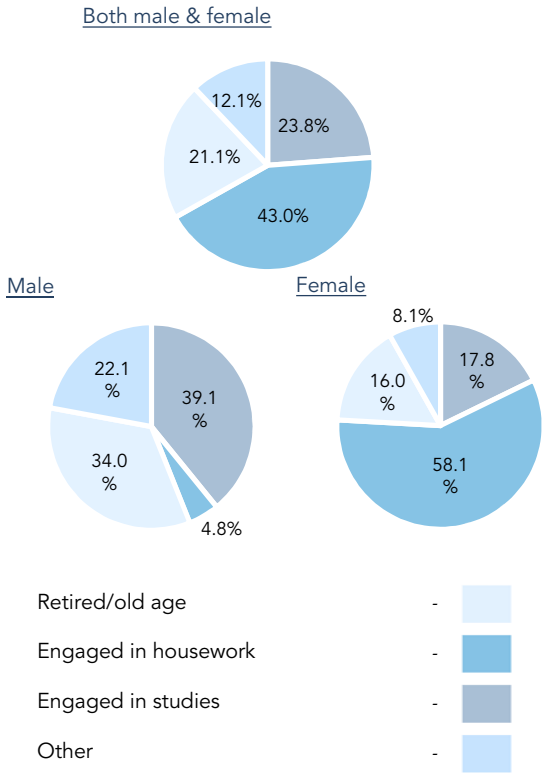
| Reason for inactive | Age group | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 15 - 24 | 25 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55 & over |
| **Male** | | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Engaged in studies | 88.0 | 37.5 | 0.4 | .. |
| Engaged in housework | 4.2 | 20.4 | 15.5 | 2.7 |
| Retired/Old age | .. | .. | 11.5 | 70.8 |
| Physically illness/Disabled | 2.4 | 20.8 | 56.7 | 25.6 |
| Other | 5.4 | 21.3 | 15.8 | 0.9 |
| **Female** | | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Engaged in studies | 78.6 | 6.7 | 0.1 | .. |
| Engaged in housework | 17.5 | 87.0 | 93.6 | 47.5 |
| Retired/Old age | .. | .. | 0.6 | 39.8 |
| Physically illness/Disabled | 1.2 | 2.8 | 4.1 | 12.3 |
| other | 2.6 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 0.4 |

.. Not reported.

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

Reported reasons for being economically inactive are different for males and females for different age groups. Among both male and female majority of youths (15 – 24) are inactive due to "Engage in Studies".

Figure 3.8:
Reasons of being economically inactive - 2025




## 3.6 Economically inactive rate

Table 3.11: Distribution of economically inactive rate by standardized age groups - 2025

| Selected age groups | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total (15 & over) | 50.6 | 30.9 | 67.6 |
| 15 - 24 | 75.1 | 67.8 | 82.1 |
| 25 - 34 | 33.3 | 8.0 | 54.7 |
| 35 - 54 | 31.3 | 5.8 | 53.7 |
| 55 - 64 | 47.5 | 23.6 | 67.7 |
| 65 + | 78.8 | 65.3 | 89.2 |
| 15 – 64 | 44.5 | 23.9 | 62.7 |
| 25 – 54 | 31.9 | 6.5 | 54.0 |

The economically inactive rate for prime age group (25 – 54) is about 31.9 percent and it is 6.5 percent for males and 54.0 percent for females. Youth (15 – 24) economically inactive rate is 75.1 percent and this is 67.8 percent for males and 82.1 percent for females. Economically inactive rates are always higher for females in all the age groups (Table 3.11), compared to those of males.

## 3.7 Potential labour force [1]

Potential labour force is a new criterion identified in order to capture situations of inadequate absorption of labour, beyond those captured by unemployment (ILO, 2013).

The draft 19th ICLS resolution introduced a definition of *potential labour force*. It is proposed that the definition cover persons who have indicated some interest in employment, distinguishing three mutually exclusive groups:

(a) U*navailable jobseekers*, referring to persons without employment who are seeking employment but are not available;

(b) *Available potential jobseekers*, referring to persons without employment who are not seeking employment but are available; and

(c) W*illing potential jobseekers*, comprising persons without employment who are neither seeking nor available for employment but who want to be employed.

However, for Sri Lanka it is not possible to provide information for above three groups a, b, and c separately but it is possible to estimate the number of persons who are in the inactive group showing some interest in finding a job. This criteria considers the inactive persons who declared that they want a job. Within the total potential labour force there can be persons,

- Who put pressure on the labour market (by actively seeking an employment) but who, because they are not immediately available, are excluded from unemployment.
- Who are not seeking an employment due to indefinite lay-off or discouragement, and it also comprises persons facing a variety of obstacles to seeking employment, including personal and family-related factors in addition to the socio-economic context.
- Who imply that the expression of interest in the labour market is generally in the form of an expressed desire for employment.

[1] ILO. (2013). *Report II, ICLS Statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.* Geneva: international labour office.

Table 3.12: Potential labour force by year and gender, 2022 - 2025

| Year | Gender | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **2022** | | | |
| Number | 184,998 | 61,285 | 123,714 |
| Rate (% to inactive Pop.) | 2.1 | 2.6 | 2.0 |
| **2023** | | | |
| Number | 244,468 | 93,869 | 150,599 |
| Rate (% to inactive Pop.) | 2.7 | 3.7 | 2.4 |
| **2024** | | | |
| Number | 178,486 | 66,260 | 112,226 |
| Rate (% to inactive Pop.) | 1.9 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| **2025** | | | |
| Number | 186,725 | 72,664 | 114,061 |
| Rate (% to inactive Pop.) | 2.2 | 3.0 | 1.8 |

The Table 3.12 shows that in 2025 about 0.2 million are in potential labour force. That is 2.2 percent of inactive population, who show some interest in getting an employment, but are not identified as unemployed.

## 3.8 Discouraged job seekers

Discouraged job seekers are the persons in the economically inactive group who are known to be as inactive because of these reasons;

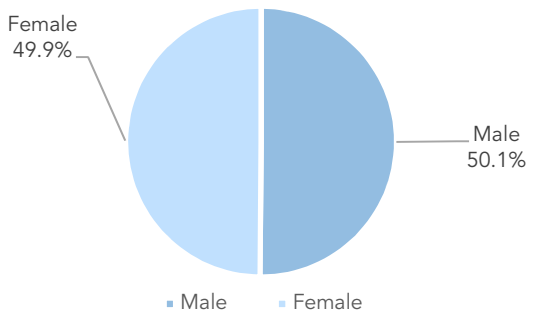
- ✓ Does not believe that he/ she gets a suitable job
- ✓ Unable to find any work
- ✓ Does not possess skills or training required for a job
- ✓ Personal difficulties faced while finding a job

Above reasons are considered to define discouraged job seekers. In 2025 the estimated number of discouraged job seekers is 73,557 and it is about 0.9 percent of inactive population. In number majority of discouraged job seekers are males.

Table 3.13: Discouraged job seekers by gender - 2025

| Gender | Discourage job seekers | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | Percentage | Percentage to inactive |
| **Total** | 73,557 | 100.0 | 0.9 |
| Male | 36,869 | 50.1 | 1.5 |
| Female | 36,687 | 49.9 | 0.6 |

Figure 3.9:
Discouraged Job seekers by gender - 2025




The Table 3.13 and Figure 3.9 show that the majority among discourage job seekers are male when numbers of persons are considered. When the percentage to inactive population is considered higher male percentage is reported compared to female percentage.

CHAPTER FOUR

# Employment

*Employment data plays an important role as a viable social indicator of understanding the economy of the country. Furthermore, statistics on employment identify the number of people, who are employed, the sorts of work they do, their qualifications towards the job and their working patterns.*

*Availability of accurate employment statistics is vital for the policy makers to implement job creation policies and programmers properly.*

***Employed***

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

***Reference Period:*** *Previous week of the survey week*

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Labour Force | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8,408,251 |
| Male | 5,449,708 |
| Female | 2,958,543 |

| Employed Population | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8,079,040 |
| Male | 5,299,777 |
| Female | 2,779,262 |

| Employment Rate | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 96.1 |
| Male | 97.2 |
| Female | 93.9 |

## 4.1 Employment by major industry group

The survey results reveal that, about 8.1 million persons are being employed during the year 2025. Out of these employed persons, about 5.3 million (65.6%) are males and 2.8 million (34.4%) are females.

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 show the distribution of employed population from 2019 – 2025. From 2019 to 2021, the share of employment in the agriculture sector shows a slight increase. However, from 2021 onwards, agriculture records a decline, and by 2025 its share falls below that of the industry sector. Employment in the industry sector fluctuates slightly, but overall its share of employment remains relatively steady. Service sector show increases from 2019 to 2025. Figure 4.1 shows that clearly.

Figure 4.1:
Employed population by major industry group, 2019 – 2025

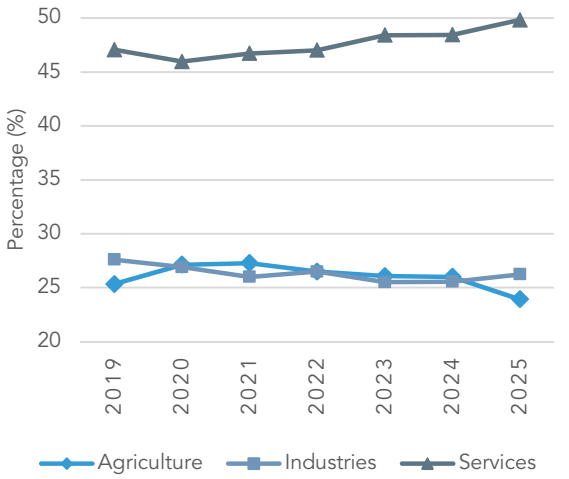
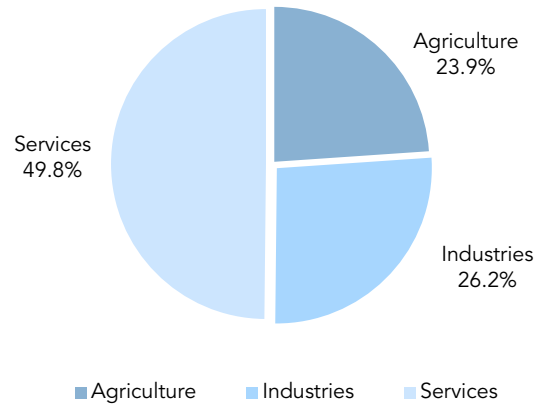



Table 4.1: Employed population by major industry group, 2019 - 2025

| Year | Total employed | | Major industry group | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Agriculture | | Industries | | Services | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 2019 | 8,180,693 | 100.0 | 2,071,940 | 25.3 | 2,258,421 | 27.6 | 3,850,332 | 47.1 |
| 2020 | 7,999,093 | 100.0 | 2,169,679 | 27.1 | 2,152,746 | 26.9 | 3,676,668 | 46.0 |
| 2021 | 8,113,507 | 100.0 | 2,213,015 | 27.3 | 2,109,482 | 26.0 | 3,791,011 | 46.7 |
| 2022 | 8,147,731 | 100.0 | 2,158,559 | 26.5 | 2,158,199 | 26.5 | 3,830,973 | 47.0 |
| 2023 | 8,009,916 | 100.0 | 2,088,344 | 26.1 | 2,043,154 | 25.5 | 3,878,418 | 48.4 |
| 2024 | 7,949,751 | 100.0 | 2,066,651 | 26.0 | 2,031,417 | 25.6 | 3,851,683 | 48.5 |
| 2025 | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 1,932,548 | 23.9 | 2,120,455 | 26.2 | 4,026,037 | 49.8 |

Figure 4.2:
Employed population by major industry group – 2025




As shown in Figure 4.2, out of the total employed population, the highest share is reported from the 'Services' sector (49.8%). The estimated share of 'Industries' sector and 'Agriculture' sector employments are 26.2 and 23.9 percent respectively.

Table 4.2: Percentage distribution of employed population by major industry group for each district – 2025

| District | Total | Major industry group | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Agriculture (%) | Industries (%) | Services (%) |
| **Total** | 100.0 | 23.9 | 26.2 | 49.8 |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 2.5 | 25.7 | 71.8 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 3.4 | 35.8 | 60.8 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 12.1 | 35.3 | 52.6 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 17.2 | 25.5 | 57.4 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 27.2 | 22.0 | 50.8 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 100.0 | 53.8 | 15.0 | 31.2 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 23.1 | 27.5 | 49.4 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 34.2 | 20.4 | 45.4 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 36.5 | 23.2 | 40.4 |
| Jaffna | 100.0 | 19.3 | 27.0 | 53.7 |
| Mannar | 100.0 | 44.5 | 15.2 | 40.3 |
| Vavuniya | 100.0 | 37.3 | 21.6 | 41.1 |
| Mullaitivu | 100.0 | 55.6 | 15.6 | 28.8 |
| Kilinochchi | 100.0 | 33.9 | 23.4 | 42.8 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 25.4 | 25.9 | 48.8 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 30.4 | 23.0 | 46.6 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 24.2 | 22.2 | 53.6 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 25.1 | 29.7 | 45.2 |
| Puttalam | 100.0 | 23.6 | 31.7 | 44.8 |
| Anuradhapura | 100.0 | 41.3 | 17.7 | 41.0 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 40.2 | 21.7 | 38.1 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 42.5 | 15.8 | 41.7 |
| Monaragala | 100.0 | 47.9 | 17.3 | 34.7 |
| Rathnapura | 100.0 | 39.3 | 26.9 | 33.8 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 23.0 | 29.9 | 47.1 |

Table 4.2 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by major industry groups for each district. The data shows some significant variations in the share of agriculture employment among districts. It distributes from 2.5 percent in Colombo district to 55.6 percent in Mullaitivu district. Further Nuwara Eliya (53.8%), Monaragala (47.9%) and Mannar (44.5%) districts are highly concentrated with agricultural employment. Colombo district shows the highest employment contribution to the 'Services' sector (71.8%), followed by Gampaha (60.8%) district.

Also for the year 2025, the survey results reveal that 'wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles', 'education', 'public administration & defense compulsory social security' and 'transport & storage' are the major Industry categories in the Service sector.

Gampaha district (35.8%) shows the highest share of employment in the industries sector, and Kalutara district (35.3%) shows the second highest.

Figure 4.3:
Share of agriculture, industry & service sectors to the total employment by province – 2025

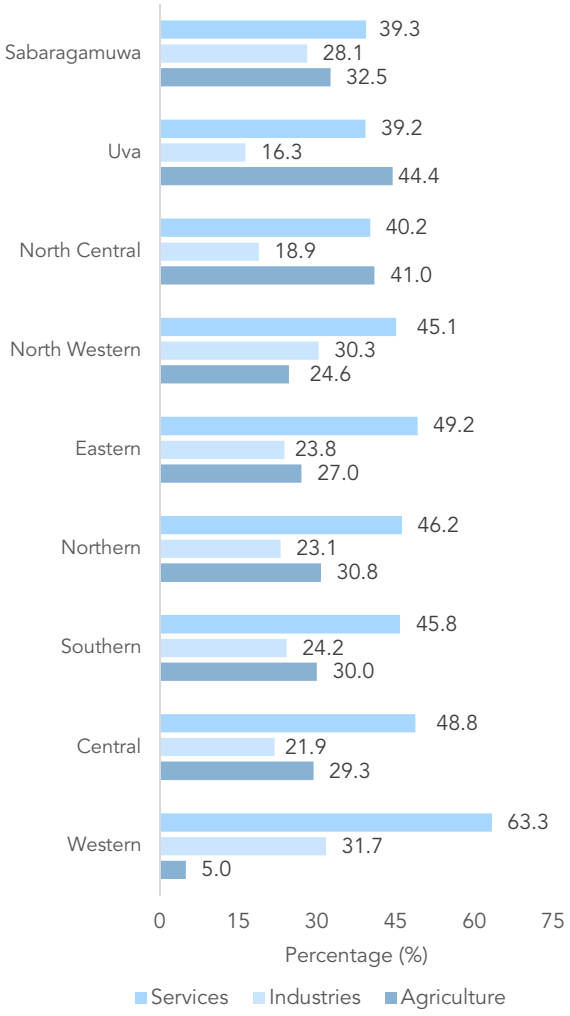



Figure 4.3 illustrates the distribution of employed population by Province level and by major industry sectors; agriculture, industry & service.

## 4.2 Employment by status of employment

Table 4.3: Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status for each district - 2025

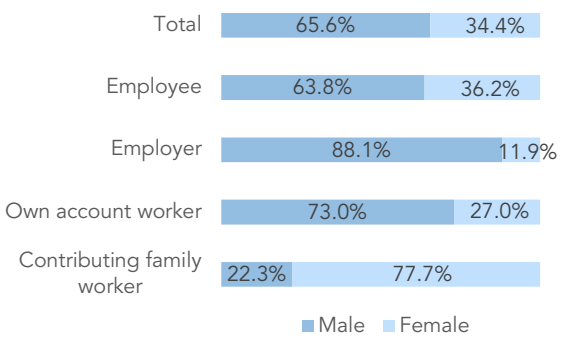
| District | Employee | Self employed | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Employer | Own account worker (O.A.W.) | Contributing family worker |
| **Total** | 60.5 | 3.1 | 31.8 | 4.5 |
| Colombo | 68.5 | 5.6 | 23.2 | 2.8 |
| Gampaha | 69.1 | 5.1 | 24.0 | 1.8 |
| Kalutara | 66.0 | 2.1 | 30.3 | 1.7 |
| Kandy | 61.2 | 4.7 | 29.5 | 4.6 |
| Matale | 56.0 | 2.7 | 36.4 | 4.9 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 65.9 | 0.6 | 28.8 | 4.6 |
| Galle | 62.2 | 3.4 | 28.9 | 5.5 |
| Matara | 67.7 | 3.2 | 26.3 | 2.8 |
| Hambantota | 52.3 | 2.5 | 40.9 | 4.3 |
| Jaffna | 71.8 | 3.1 | 22.5 | 2.6 |
| Mannar | 57.4 | 0.4 | 38.7 | 3.5 |
| Vavunia | 54.6 | 1.4 | 42.4 | 1.6 |
| Mullativu | 56.8 | 2.2 | 38.0 | 3.0 |
| Kilinochchi | 62.3 | 1.8 | 33.9 | 2.0 |
| Batticaloa | 61.9 | 4.9 | 30.4 | 2.7 |
| Ampara | 55.2 | 3.3 | 37.9 | 3.6 |
| Trincomalee | 61.9 | 0.6 | 34.7 | 2.8 |
| Kurunegala | 52.2 | 2.6 | 38.3 | 6.9 |
| Puttalam | 60.9 | 3.5 | 30.5 | 5.1 |
| Anuradhapura | 41.1 | 1.5 | 48.2 | 9.1 |
| Polonnaruwa | 47.7 | 1.5 | 44.7 | 6.2 |
| Badulla | 51.1 | 0.6 | 36.5 | 11.9 |
| Monaragala | 45.5 | 1.6 | 45.4 | 7.5 |
| Rathnapura | 59.3 | 2.5 | 32.7 | 5.5 |
| Kegalle | 65.3 | 1.6 | 30.1 | 3.0 |

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

Table 4.3 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by employment status at the district level.

The employed population by status of employment has two vital categories; waged and salaried workers (employees) and the self-employed. Self-employed can be further categorized in to three groups employers, own account workers and contributing family workers. Status of employment describes the working behavior and conditions of work. Such as high proportion of self-employed is an indication of large agriculture sector, while high proportion of employees is an indication of economic development.

Figure 4.4:
Employment status by gender - 2025

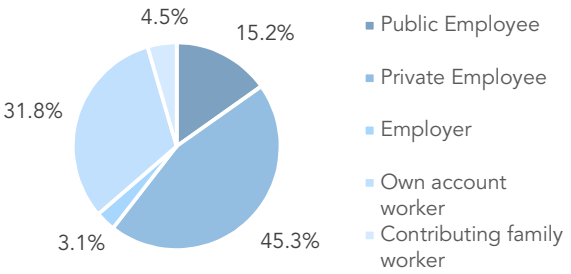



When a household member is engaging in a family business or farming and the other members who engage in this activity without any payment are identified as contributing family workers. Figure 4.4 clearly shows that this is more common among female. About 77.7 percent of contributing family workers are female.

Table 4.4: Employed population by employment status and by gender - 2025

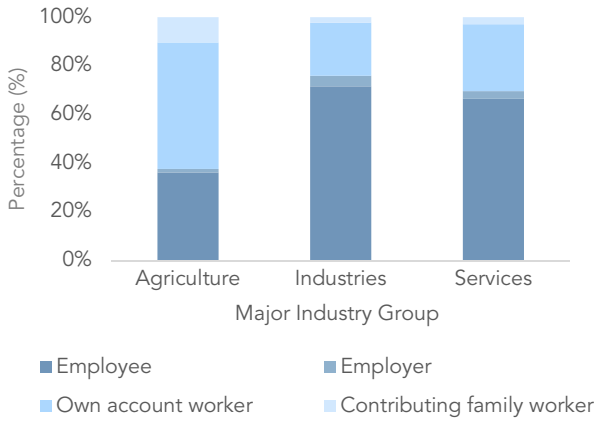
| Employment status | Total | | Gender | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Male | | Female | |
| | No | % | No | % | No | % |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 5,299,777 | 100.0 | 2,779,262 | 100.0 |
| Employee | 4,889,419 | 60.5 | 3,117,992 | 58.8 | 1,771,426 | 63.7 |
| Public | 1,229,332 | 15.2 | 642,892 | 12.1 | 586,439 | 21.1 |
| Private | 3,660,087 | 45.3 | 2,475,100 | 46.7 | 1,184,987 | 42.6 |
| Employer | 252,029 | 3.1 | 222,080 | 4.2 | 29,949 | 1.1 |
| Own account worker | 2,570,950 | 31.8 | 1,877,805 | 35.4 | 693,145 | 24.9 |
| Contributing family worker | 366,642 | 4.5 | 81,900 | 1.5 | 284,742 | 10.2 |

Figure 4.5:
Employed population by employment status - 2025



The estimated total public sector employment for Sri Lanka in 2025 is about 1.2 million (Table 4.4). Among the employed female, the percentage of paid employees, those who are engaged in the public sector is 21.1 percent, and among employed male this is 12.1 percent. The share of contributing family workers to the total employment is 4.5 percent, and it is 10.2 percent for females, which is much higher compared to that of males (1.5%).

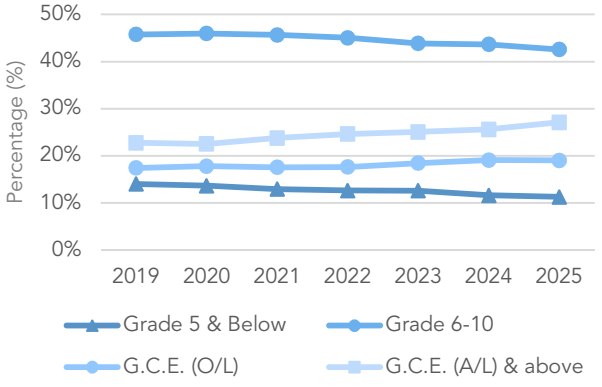
Figure 4.6:
Employed population by major industry group and employment status - 2025




The Figure 4.6 shows the percentage distribution of employment by Industry groups & by employment status. Agriculture sector is different from other two sectors, where higher percentages of own account workers and contributing family workers can be observed compared to Industry & Service sectors.

## 4.3 Employment by level of education

Figure 4.7:
Employed population by level of education, 2019 – 2025




According to the Figure 4.7, the educational attainment of the employed population has gradually improved over the years. However, still considerable part of employment population has grade 5 or below level of education.

## 4.4 Employment by occupation

Table 4.5: Employed population by occupation & gender - 2025

| Occupation | Total | Gender | | % Contribution of females to the total employment |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 34.4 |
| Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 4.6 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 27.2 |
| Professionals | 8.1 | 4.6 | 14.8 | 63.0 |
| Technical & Associate Professionals | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 35.5 |
| Clerks and Clerical support workers | 3.2 | 2.1 | 5.4 | 57.4 |
| Services and Sales workers | 12.4 | 12.8 | 11.6 | 32.2 |
| Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers | 13.7 | 15.8 | 9.7 | 24.4 |
| Craft and Related Trades workers | 13.6 | 14.5 | 11.8 | 29.9 |
| Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers | 9.7 | 11.5 | 6.3 | 22.3 |
| Elementary occupations | 24.6 | 23.5 | 26.8 | 37.4 |
| Armed Forces occupations & Unidentified occupations | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 11.7 |

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

Survey covers only the household population, hence the occupations of the institutional population specially Armed Forces do not represent fully in these categories.

Table 4.5 shows the proportion of men and women employed in different occupational categories. Table 4.5 also shows the contribution of females to the total employment within each occupational group. Overall female contribution is 34.4 percent. Among the professional's female contribution is about 63.0 percent. This group generally consist of teachers, nurses, doctors, etc.

## 4.5 Average gross wage/salary & income

The Labour force survey collects information on salaries or wages from monthly or daily wage/salary earners (paid employees) and also the information on gross monthly income of employers and own account workers.

Table 4.6: Mean & median monthly gross salary by gender - 2025

| Measurement | Monthly earners (wage/salary) (Rs.) | | | Daily earners (wage/salary) (Rs.) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| Mean | 65,325 | 70,942 | 57,867 | 36,832 | 41,290 | 22,640 |
| Median | 55,000 | 58,000 | 50,000 | 35,000 | 40,000 | 21,000 |

The Table 4.6 shows the estimated mean and median monthly gross wage/salary separately for monthly wage/salary earners and daily wage/salary earners. It can be seen that female values are comparatively lower than those of male.

Table 4.7: Mean & median monthly gross salary by sector - 2025

| Measurement | Monthly earners (wage/salary) (Rs.) | | | Daily earners (wage/salary) (Rs.) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural |
| Mean | 65,325 | 85,382 | 59,724 | 36,832 | 40,595 | 36,385 |
| Median | 55,000 | 65,000 | 53,000 | 35,000 | 37,500 | 34,000 |

Table 4.7.1: Mean & median monthly gross salary by sector - 2025

| Measurement | Monthly earners (wage/salary) (Rs.) | | | Daily earners (wage/salary) (Rs.) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural | | Urban | Rural | |
| | | Rural only | Estate | | Rural only | Estate |
| Mean | 85,382 | 60,775 | 33,530 | 40,595 | 37,255 | 28,985 |
| Median | 65,000 | 54,900 | 30,000 | 37,500 | 36,000 | 27,300 |

The above are the residential sectors and the majority of Estate sector employment may work within the sector compared to other two sectors.

Table 4.8: Mean & median monthly income by sector (for own account workers and employers) - 2025

| Measurement | Monthly income (Rs.) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Urban | Rural | Estate |
| **All** | | | |
| Mean | 94,101 | 48,302 | 35,859 |
| Median | 60,000 | 35,000 | 30,008 |
| **Employer** | | | |
| Mean | 200,985 | 139,254 | .. |
| Median | 125,000 | 95,000 | .. |
| **Own Account Worker** | | | |
| Mean | 70,797 | 40,766 | 34,928 |
| Median | 50,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |

.. Cell count is not enough to provide reliable estimates.

The estimated mean and median values for monthly wages/salaries and self-reported individual income for employers and own account workers by sector are depicted in Table 4.7, Table 4.7.1, Table 4.8 & Table 4.8.1.

Table 4.8.1: Mean & median monthly income by sector (own account worker & employers), 2023 - 2025

| Year | Measurement | Monthly Income(Rs.) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Urban | Rural | Estate |
| 2023 | Mean | 90,408 | 37,384 | 48,621 |
| | Median | 45,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| 2024 | Mean | 85,593 | 39,857 | 37,993 |
| | Median | 50,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 2025 | Mean | 94,101 | 48,302 | 35,859 |
| | Median | 60,000 | 35,000 | 30,008 |

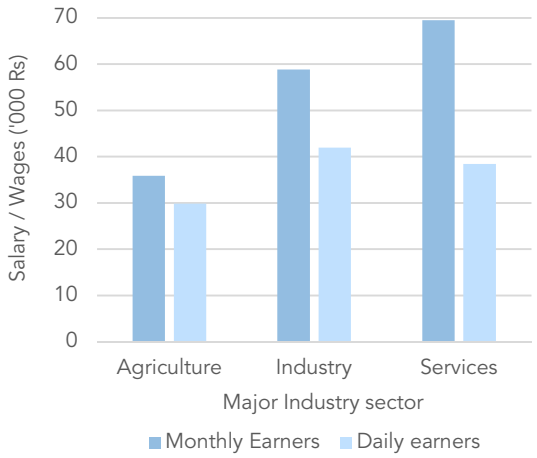
Estimated results further reveal existing wage gaps between sectors and between employment status.

Table 4.9: Mean & median monthly gross salary by major industry group - 2025

| Measurement | Agriculture | Industry | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Monthly wage/salary earners (Rs.)** | | | |
| Mean | 35,849 | 58,855 | 69,499 |
| Median | 30,000 | 46,000 | 60,000 |
| **Daily wage/salary earners (Rs.)** | | | |
| Mean | 29,868 | 41,918 | 38,423 |
| Median | 28,350 | 40,000 | 37,500 |

The Table 4.9 shows mean and median wages/salaries estimated for major industry groups separately for monthly wage/salary earners and daily wage/salary earners.

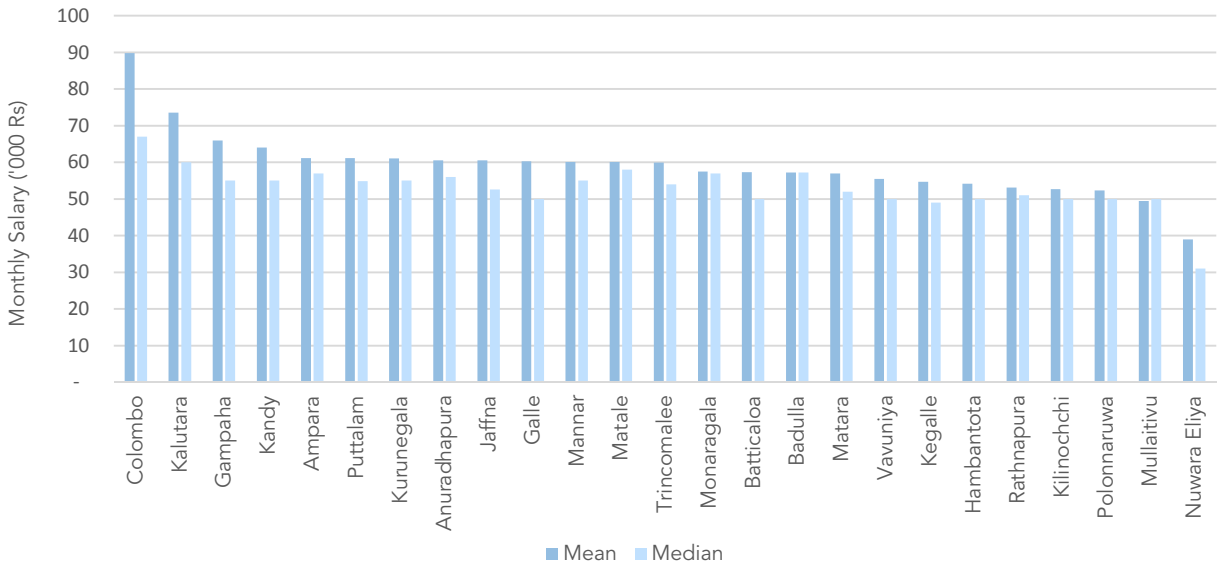
Figure 4.8:
Average gross wage / salary by major industry group - 2025




As given in figure 4.8 average wage/salary distribution of monthly earners and the daily earners by major industry groups, the average monthly salary of the monthly earners in services sector, is much higher than the other two sectors, however this difference cannot be observed when the daily earners are considered.

Distribution of the mean values of the gross salary of the monthly earners by district reveals some interesting features (Figure 4.9). When the monthly paid employees are considered, Colombo district shows the highest mean monthly salary followed by Kalutara district and third is Gampaha district.

Figure 4.9:
Mean & median monthly salary of paid employees - district level – 2025



## 4.6 Employment to Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio is defined as the proportion employed to the country's working-age population. It provides the information on the ability of an economy to create employment. On the other hand employment-to-population ratio helps to comprehend and compare labour markets in different countries.

Table 4.10: Employment to population ratio by sector and gender - 2025

| Sector | Gender | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 47.4 | 67.2 | 30.4 |
| Urban | 45.0 | 64.0 | 28.7 |
| Rural | 47.8 | 68.1 | 30.4 |
| Estate | 50.3 | 62.6 | 39.0 |

Table 4.10 reveals that the employment-to-population ratio for the country is 47.4 percent in 2025. This value in the Estate sector is higher compared to the values of other two sectors. Also the Estate sector shows the highest ratio for female while the lowest is reported from Urban sector.

Table 4.11: Employment to population ratio by standardized age group & gender - 2025

| Age group | Gender | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 15 and over | 47.4 | 67.2 | 30.4 |
| Youth (15 – 24) | 20.0 | 26.9 | 13.5 |
| Adult (25 & over) | 53.7 | 77.0 | 34.1 |
| Prime age(25 – 54) | 66.1 | 92.0 | 43.7 |

Overall employment to population ratio for Sri Lanka is 47.4 percent and it is 66.1 percent for the prime age (25 – 54 years) group. Youth (15 – 24 years) employment to population ratio is about 20.0 percent.

The survey results further shows that one out of every two persons in working age population is contributing to the production of goods and services and when male & female are considered separately male rates are two times higher than female.

Table 4.12: Employment to population ratio, 2019 - 2025

| Year | Employment to population ratio | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| 2019 | 49.8 | 70.5 | 31.9 |
| 2020 | 47.8 | 69.0 | 29.3 |
| 2021 | 47.4 | 68.4 | 29.3 |
| 2022 | 47.5 | 67.9 | 30.0 |
| 2023 | 46.3 | 66.1 | 29.1 |
| 2024 | 45.3 | 65.4 | 27.7 |
| 2025 | 47.4 | 67.2 | 30.4 |

CHAPTER FIVE

# Unemployment

*The unemployment rate is one of the most widely cited and closely monitored economic indicators. Unemployment is a key measure of economic health. It is a major factor in determining how healthy an economy is; if the economy maximized efficiency, everyone would be employed at some wage. An individual unemployed is both unproductive and a drain on society's resources. Unemployment is a powerful statistic that shapes government policies and personal decisions[2]. Generally, lower unemployment rates share a good economic health of a country.*

*However, the unemployment rates of many developing countries are lower than those of industrialized countries. Hence, some studies explain the unemployment measure as only one aspect of the employment problem of a given country that of total lack of work.*

***Unemployed***

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Labour Force | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8,408,251 |
| Male | 5,449,708 |
| Female | 2,958,543 |

| Unemployed Population | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 329,211 |
| Male | 149,931 |
| Female | 179,280 |

| Unemployment Rate | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 3.9 |
| Male | 2.8 |
| Female | 6.1 |

[2] Classical and Keynesian economic explanations for unemployment, Michael Griffiths (2007)

## 5.1 Unemployment rate by sector and gender

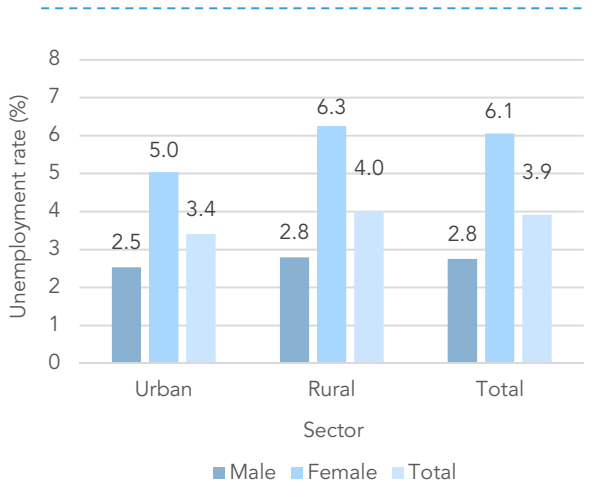
The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 329,211 during the year 2025. Out of this total, 45.5 percent are males and 54.5 percent are females.

Table 5.1: Unemployed number and unemployment rate by gender and sector - 2025

| Gender | Unemployed | Total | Sector | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Urban | Rural | Estate |
| Total | Number | 329,211 | 45,998 | 267,364 | 15,849 |
| | Rate | 3.9 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 4.8 |
| Male | Number | 149,931 | 22,225 | 119,592 | 8,113 |
| | Rate | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 4.2 |
| Female | Number | 179,280 | 23,773 | 147,772 | 7,735 |
| | Rate | 6.1 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.8 |

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

Figure 5.1:
Unemployment rate by gender & sector - 2025




According to the Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1, unemployment rate reported for the year 2025 is 3.9 at national level and, the rates for the Urban, Rural and Estate sectors are 3.4, 4.0 and 4.8 percent respectively. It could also be seen that, at the national level, the unemployment rate for females (6.1%) is much higher than that of the male unemployment rate (2.8%).

Table 5.2: Unemployment rates, 2018 - 2025

| Year | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| 2018 | 4.4 | 3.0 | 7.1 |
| 2019 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 7.4 |
| 2020 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 8.5 |
| 2021 | 5.1 | 3.7 | 7.9 |
| 2022 | 4.7 | 3.7 | 6.5 |
| 2023 | 4.7 | 3.6 | 7.0 |
| 2024 | 4.4 | 3.0 | 7.1 |
| 2025 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 6.1 |

All over the period for 2018 to 2025 female unemployment remains higher than that of males.

Table 5.3: Unemployment rate by district - 2025

| District | Un-emp rate (%) | District | Un-emp rate (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 3.9 | Mullaitivu | 1.7 |
| Colombo | 3.0 | Kilinochchi | 4.8 |
| Gampaha | 2.6 | Batticaloa | 4.3 |
| Kalutara | 4.3 | Ampara | 3.3 |
| Kandy | 5.9 | Trincomalee | 0.6 |
| Matale | 4.9 | Kurunegala | 4.3 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 2.6 | Puttalam | 3.3 |
| Galle | 4.9 | Anuradhapura | 3.8 |
| Matara | 4.8 | Polonnaruwa | 3.1 |
| Hambantota | 6.6 | Badulla | 4.1 |
| Jaffna | 3.4 | Monaragala | 5.2 |
| Mannar | 1.8 | Rathnapura | 2.9 |
| Vavuniya | 3.0 | Kegalle | 6.0 |

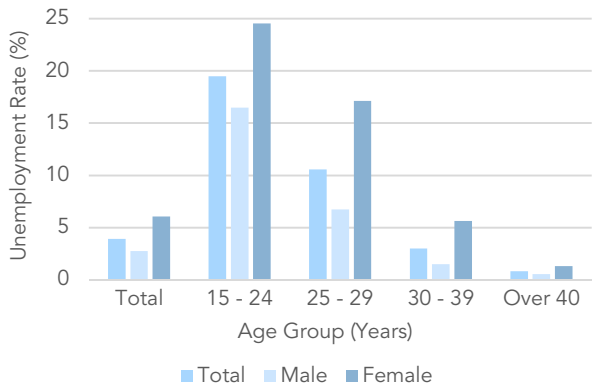
These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

When consider the district level distribution the highest unemployment rate is recorded from Hambantota district (6.6%), followed by Kegalle district (6.0%).

Table 5.4: Unemployment rate by age group and gender - 2025

| Age group (Years) | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 3.9 | 2.8 | 6.1 |
| 15 - 24 | 19.5 | 16.5 | 24.5 |
| 25 - 29 | 10.6 | 6.7 | 17.1 |
| 30 - 39 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 5.6 |
| Over 40 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 |

Figure 5.2:
Unemployment rate by age group and gender - 2025




The Table 5.4 and Figure 5.2 depict that for all age groups, female unemployment rates are higher than those of male. Overall youth (age 15-24) unemployment rate is 19.5 percent. For both male and female youth reported the highest unemployment rate. The majority among unemployed are the new entrants to job market or new job seekers, who are in age group 15 – 24 years. The unemployment rate declines with the age. However it should be considered that among the youth (15 - 24) only a 24.9 percent enter to the labour force. Among them about 19.5 percent is unemployed.

Table 5.5: Unemployment rate by level of education - 2025

| Level of Education | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 3.9 | 2.8 | 6.1 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Grade 6-10 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 4.0 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 5.5 | 4.2 | 8.2 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 6.0 | 3.9 | 8.3 |

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

As given in Table 5.5, the highest unemployment rate is reported from educated group G.C.E.(A/L) and above which is reported as 6.0 percent. It is 3.9 percent and 8.3 percent for male and female respectively. As reported in previous years of survey the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males.

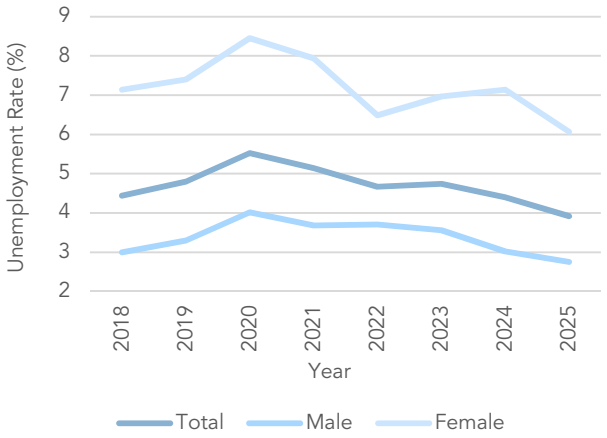
Table 5.5a: Unemployment of the Graduates – 2025 (Age 20 & above)

| Type of the degree | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Total no. of unemployed graduates | 39,680 | 100.0 |
| Art degree | 19,873 | 50.1 |
| Other degrees | 19,808 | 49.9 |

In 2025, the estimated unemployment among the persons aged 20 years and above and who are graduates is given in the Table 5.5a. Among the unemployed graduates, about 50.1 percent are Art degree holders while the other 49.9 percent consist with other degree holders.

## 5.2 Annual unemployment rates

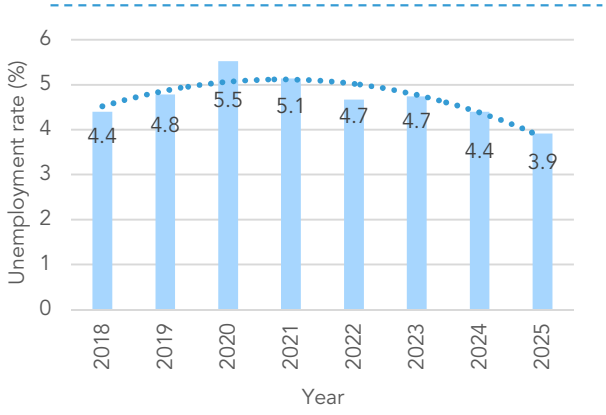
Figure 5.3:
Unemployment rate by gender, 2018 – 2025




Unemployment rates from 2018 show that the rate is stagnant between 3 to 6 percent. However, it is very important to notice that, the changes are not statistically significant between some consecutive years, when sampling error[3] is considered.

[3] Please see the explanatory notes as in the appendix for more detail.

Figure 5.4:
Unemployment rates, 2018 - 2025




## 5.3 Unemployment rate by province

The following figure shows the unemployment situation in year 2025 by provinces. The highest unemployment rate is reported from the Southern province (5.3%) followed by Central province (4.8%). The lowest unemployment rate is reported from the Eastern province (2.9%).

Figure 5.5:
Unemployment rate by province - 2025

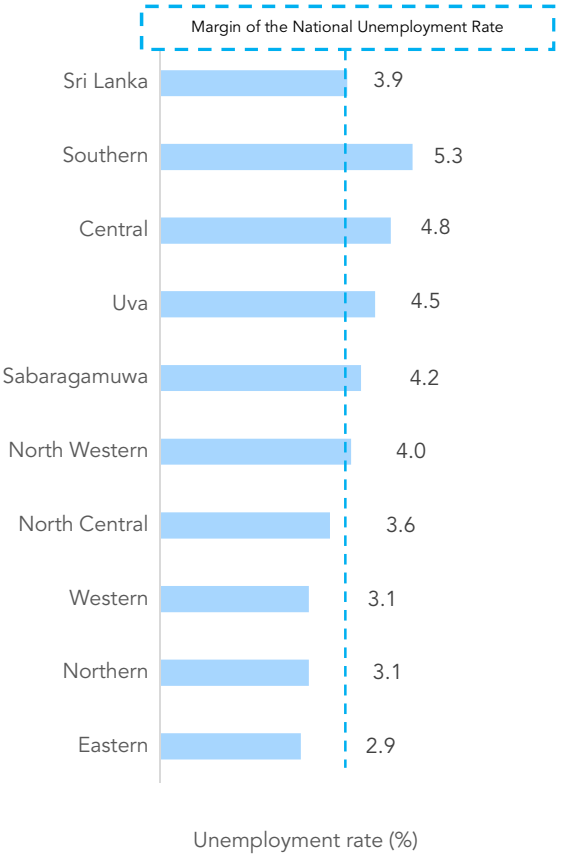
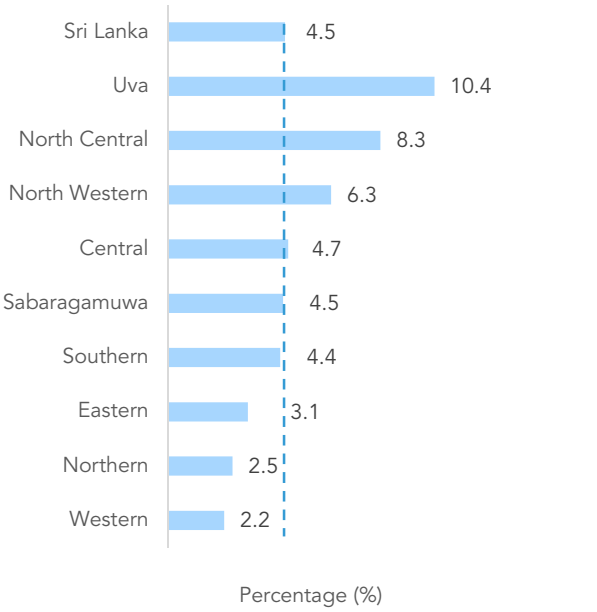



Figure 5.6:
Share of contributing family workers to the employment for each province - 2025




Considering the Figure 5.5, Figure 5.6 and Table 5.6 North Central province which is predominantly agricultural farming area show lower unemployment rate and high contribution of own account workers and contributing family workers. In contrast, Western, Northern and Eastern provinces show lower percentages of contributing family workers.

Table 5.6: Unemployment rate and percentage distribution of employment status for each province - 2025

| Province | Unemployment rate | Employment status | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Paid employee | Employer | Own Account Worker | Contributing Family Worker |
| Total | 3.9 | 100.0 | 60.5 | 3.1 | 31.8 | 4.5 |
| Western | 3.1 | 100.0 | 68.2 | 4.6 | 25.0 | 2.2 |
| Central | 4.8 | 100.0 | 61.6 | 3.2 | 30.6 | 4.7 |
| Southern | 5.3 | 100.0 | 61.4 | 3.1 | 31.1 | 4.4 |
| Northern | 3.1 | 100.0 | 64.6 | 2.3 | 30.7 | 2.5 |
| Eastern | 2.9 | 100.0 | 59.2 | 3.2 | 34.5 | 3.1 |
| North Western | 4.0 | 100.0 | 54.9 | 2.8 | 35.9 | 6.3 |
| North Central | 3.6 | 100.0 | 43.0 | 1.5 | 47.2 | 8.3 |
| Uva | 4.5 | 100.0 | 49.1 | 0.9 | 39.6 | 10.4 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 4.2 | 100.0 | 61.8 | 2.1 | 31.6 | 4.5 |

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

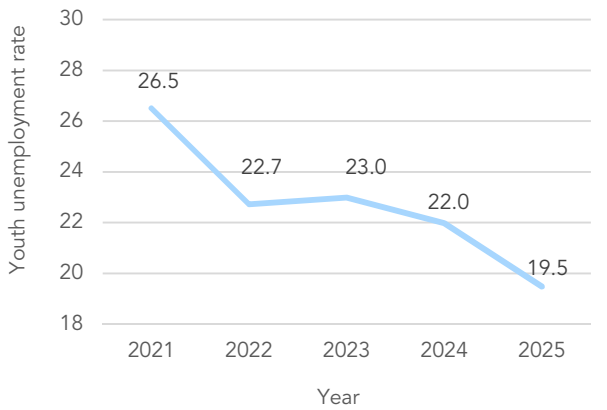
The Unemployment rate and participation in Agricultural activities may have some relationship, since when there are Agricultural activities, persons join the labour force as contributing family workers specially the females.

## 5.4 Youth unemployment in Sri Lanka

Generally developing countries face major challenges regarding the quality of available work for youths (age between 15 – 24 years).

Youth unemployment is the percentage of the unemployed population in the age group 15 – 24 years to the currently "economically active population" or "labour force" in the age group of 15 – 24 years. The youth unemployment rate is 19.5 percent in 2025.

Figure 5.7:
Youth unemployment rate, 2021 - 2025




Youth unemployment rate by some demographic characteristics such as province, gender, level of education are discussed below.

Table 5.7: Youth unemployment rate by Province, 2021 - 2025

| Province | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Total | 26.5 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 22.0 | 19.5 |
| Western | 21.7 | 20.3 | 18.7 | 17.9 | 15.1 |
| Central | 30.4 | 31.4 | 31.7 | 27.3 | 24.0 |
| Southern | 33.4 | 27.8 | 33.3 | 33.2 | 26.8 |
| Northern | 16.9 | 15.5 | 14.9 | 11.6 | 13.2 |
| Eastern | 21.8 | 13.9 | 16.8 | 16.9 | 8.8 |
| North Western | 21.5 | 19.4 | 16.7 | 17.9 | 19.3 |
| North Central | 27.8 | 24.5 | 27.8 | 22.3 | 16.8 |
| Uva | 38.3 | 24.3 | 34.4 | 29.8 | 26.8 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 35.7 | 26.3 | 22.0 | 25.6 | 27.2 |

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

Table 5.7 shows that the Sabaragamuwa province is having the highest youth unemployment rate in year 2025. It is about 27.2 percent and followed by Southern and Uva provinces (26.8%) in 2025.

Figure 5.8:
Youth unemployment rate by gender, 2021 - 2025

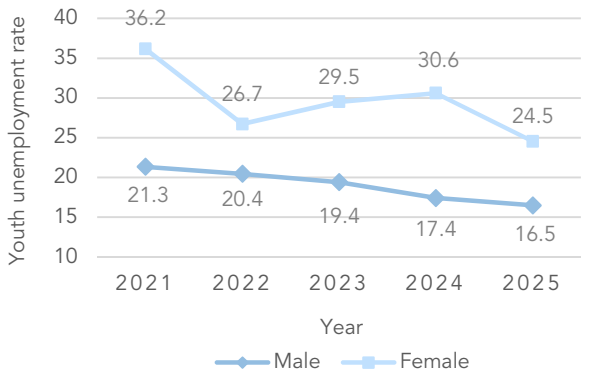



Figure 5.8 depicts that female youth unemployment rate is always higher than males.

Table 5.8: Youth unemployment rate by level of education, 2021 - 2025

| Level of Education | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Total** | 26.5 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 22.0 | 19.5 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 10.4 | 16.6 | 7.6 | .. | 6.6 |
| Grade 6-10 | 17.8 | 17.5 | 16.5 | 15.7 | 16.6 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 26.9 | 24.6 | 25.1 | 22.6 | 20.6 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 39.3 | 28.6 | 29.8 | 30.0 | 22.5 |

.. Youth unemployment not reported.
These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Youth unemployment rate is higher among the educated group with G.C.E.(A/L) & above.

The new youth cohorts who are entering to labour force after completing their higher education show higher unemployment rates.

## 5.5 Ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate

The former complements the ratio of youth-to-adult unemployment rate is reflecting to what degree the unemployment problem is a youth-specific problem as opposed to a general problem. In a country where the youth unemployment rate is high and the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate is close to one, it may be concluded that the problem of unemployment is not specific to youth, but is country-wide. However, unemployment rates of youth are typically higher than those of adults, reflected by youth-to-adult unemployment rates that exceed one. (ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market, Eighth edition Geneva, International Labour Office, 2014).

Table 5.9: Ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate by gender, 2021 – 2025

| Gender | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Total | 9.6 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Male | 12.3 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 11.1 | 12.0 |
| Female | 7.6 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.1 |

Table 5.9 shows that ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment from 2021 to 2025. This ratio is always lower for females than males. The ratio is always above one, hence this shows that youth unemployment is significantly higher than adult unemployment.

## 5.6 Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment

If, in addition to a high youth unemployment rate, the proportion of youth unemployment in total unemployment is high, this would also indicate an unequal distribution of the problem of unemployment. In this case, employment policies might usefully be directed towards easing the entry of young people into the world of work. (ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market, Eighth edition Geneva, International Labour Office, 2014)

Figure 5.9:
Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment by province - 2025

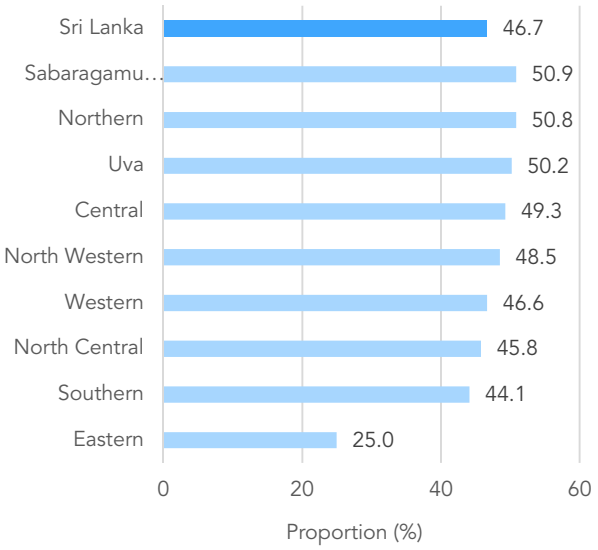


Figure 5.9 shows Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment by Province and for the country. This rate for Sri Lanka is 46.7 percent, which shows that half of unemployment population of the country is youth. Also these reveal that Sabaragamuwa, Northern and Uva, provinces have higher proportion than the national proportion. Which are 50.9, 50.8 and 50.2 percent respectively.

Table 5.10: Youth unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment by gender and level of education - 2025

| Measurement | Proportion of Youth unemployment |
|---|---|
| **Gender** | |
| Male | 54.6 |
| Female | 40.0 |
| **Level of Education** | |
| Grade 5 & Below | 8.5 |
| Grade 6-10 | 53.5 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 54.8 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 38.7 |

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

According to 2025 findings, males shows a higher proportion of youth unemployment as a proportion to the total unemployment compared to that of female.

Further the highest proportion of youth unemployment is reported from G.C.E. (O/L) group in level of education and it is 54.8 percent. Also Grade 6-10 and G.C.E. (A/L) & above groups shows 53.5 percent and 38.7 percent respectively.

## 5.7 Youth unemployment as a proportion of total youth population

The proportion of youth unemployed in the youth population places the youth unemployment challenge into perspective by showing what share of the youth population, unemployment actually touches. Youth who are looking for work might have great difficulty finding it but when this group only represents less than 5 percent of the total youth population then policy-makers may choose to address it with less urgency. (ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market, Eighth edition Geneva, International Labour Office, 2014).

Table 5.11: Youth unemployment as a proportion of total youth population by gender and level of education - 2025

| Level of Education | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 4.8 | 5.3 | 4.4 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 1.4 | 1.0 | 2.2 |
| Grade 6-10 | 4.1 | 5.0 | 3.0 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 4.1 | 5.1 | 3.2 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 7.5 | 6.7 | 8.0 |

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

Table 5.11 depicts that youth unemployment to the total youth population for Sri Lanka and it is 4.8 for the year 2025. This proportion is 5.3 and 4.4 for males and females respectively. The most considerable thing is that the highest proportion of youth unemployment to youth population, 7.5 percent is shown among educated youth group (G.C.E. (A/L) & above group) and it is 6.7 percent and 8.0 percent for male and female respectively.

## 5.8 The youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) group

The NEET rate is useful as it;

- Considers all young people who are not employed and inactive in the age group (15 – 24 years)
- Gives an indication of youth potential and potential youth labour-market problems in relation to the whole youth population
- Helps in the wider understanding of the youth labour market (in combination with the youth unemployment rate, employment rate, and labour force participation rate).

(Statistics New Zealand (2011). Introducing the youth not in employment, education, or training indicator. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand)

Although NEET data has its benefits, it should still be treated carefully. NEET rates capture the non-utilised labour potential of the population and can also be used to identify individuals who may be at risk of future difficulties. However, it does not measure the characteristics behind the NEET group, such as diverse experiences, problems and difficulties, needs, or distinct choices made. NEET statistics simply measure what people are not doing, not what they are doing. A measure of NEET provides another piece of the youth labour-market picture.

**The youth NEET rate is calculated as follows.**

(Number of unemployed youth + number of youth not in the labour force – Number of unemployed youth and youth not in the labour force who are in education or training) / (Total number of youth)*100

Table 5.12: Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by gender, 2021 - 2025

| Gender | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Total | 625,985 | 585,661 | 596,844 | 558,360 | 515,360 |
| Male | 227,606 | 213,432 | 223,410 | 190,509 | 187,500 |
| Female | 398,379 | 372,229 | 373,434 | 367,851 | 327,859 |

Table 5.12 depicts that female youth not in employment, education or training is higher than male youth in all years 2021 to 2025. The total NEET has gradually declined across the five years.

Table 5.13: NEET rate (NEET group as a percentage to total youth) by gender 2021 - 2025

| Gender | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Total | 19.4 | 18.1 | 18.2 | 17.2 | 16.2 |
| Male | 14.4 | 13.5 | 13.7 | 11.9 | 12.2 |
| Female | 24.2 | 22.3 | 22.6 | 22.4 | 20.1 |

Table 5.13 shows that around one in six youth are NEET in 2025, with nearly one in five among females. NEET rate is significantly higher for female compared to male.

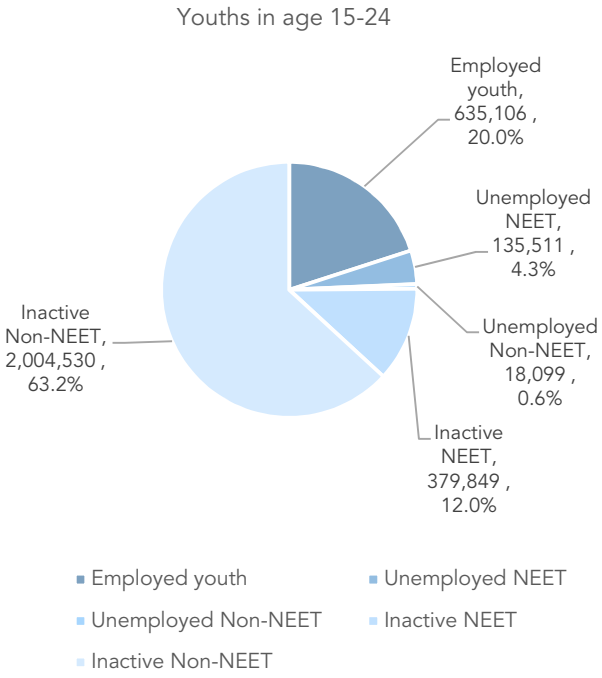
Table 5.14: NEET rate (NEET group as a percentage to total youth) by level of education and gender – 2025

| Level of Education | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 16.2 | 12.2 | 20.1 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 66.7 | 61.3 | 75.3 |
| Grade 6-10 | 18.7 | 12.7 | 25.8 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 12.6 | 9.4 | 15.5 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 15.5 | 12.3 | 17.6 |

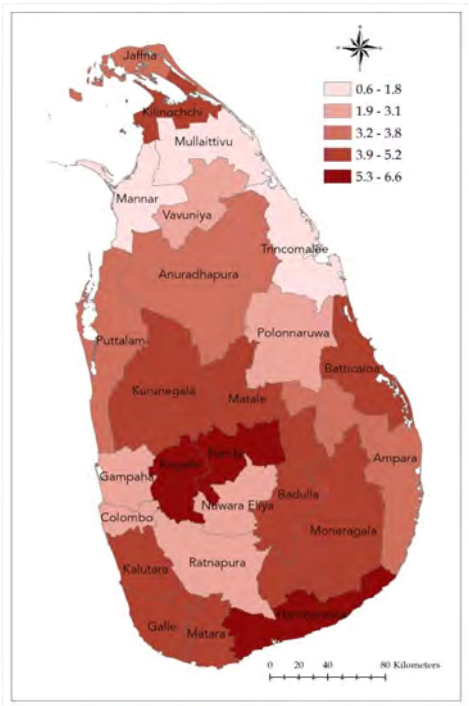
According to the Table 5.14, female NEET rate is higher than that of male for all education groups. Less educated youth are having the highest NEET rate. Among them female youth with Grade 5 and below level of education are having the highest NEET rate, 75.3 percent. The lowest NEET rate is reported for the group with G.C.E. (O/L) level of education and it is true for both male and female. Total youth population is about 3.2 million. The

Figure 5.10 shows the distribution of total youth (15 – 24) population by different economic conditions in 2025.

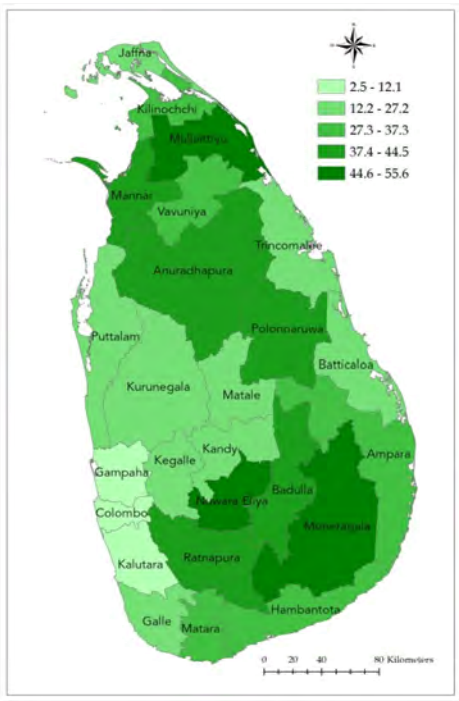
Figure 5.10:
Distribution of youth population by different economic conditions - 2025



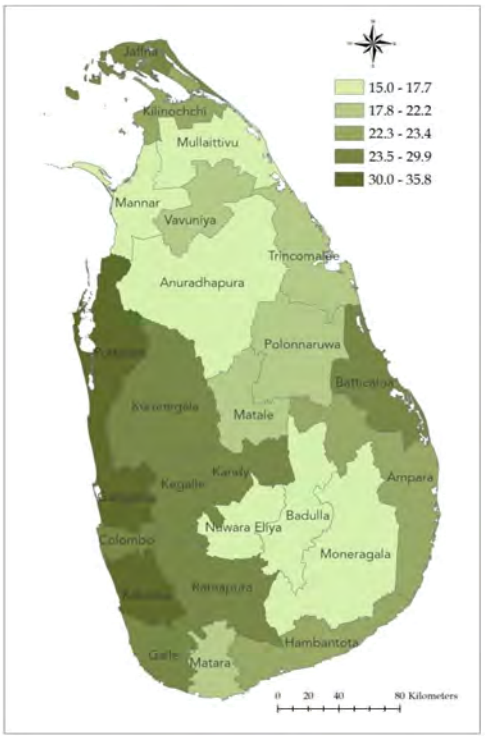
Map (3): Unemployment rate by district – 2025



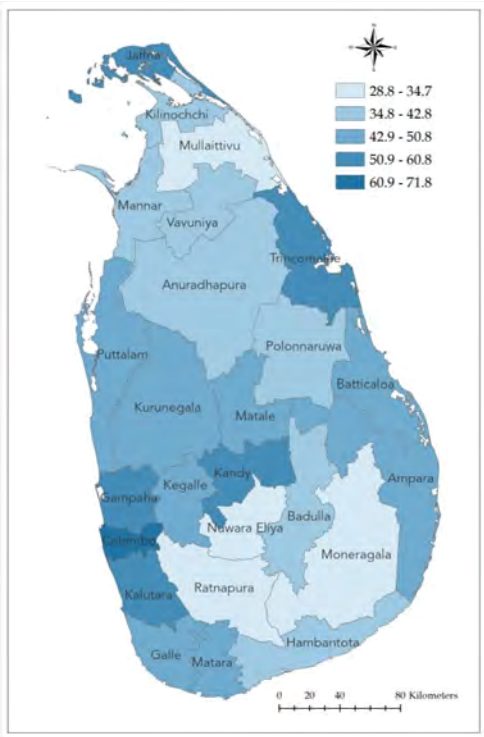

Map (4): Percentage distribution of employed population in agriculture sector by districts – 2025




Map (5): Percentage distribution of employed population in industry sector by districts – 2025




Map (6): Percentage distribution of employed population in service sector by districts – 2025



CHAPTER SIX

# Underemployment

*The importance of the concept of Under-employment has long been recognized. At the international level, the concept was accepted at the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians ICLS (1948). According to the 1966 ICLS resolution, "underemployment" exists when a person's employment is inadequate, in relation to specified norms or alternative employment, account being taken of his occupational skill (training and working experience).*

*Under-employment can be distinguished in to two principal forms known as visible and invisible.*

***Visible under-employment***

*This reflects an insufficiency in the volume of employment. Also this is called time-related underemployment.*

***Invisible under-employment***

*Characterized by low income, underutilization of skill, low productivity and other factors*

*The 1982 ICLS resolution recognized, however, that "for operational reasons the statistical measurement of underemployment may be limited to visible underemployment". It refined the definition and introduced an approach to combine the measurement of visible underemployment with that of unemployment. Underemployment has particular relevance in developing countries, notably in connection with agriculture. It has been observed that measurement of underemployment has mostly been recommended for describing the employment situation in developing countries. Further time-related underemployment reflects the underutilization of the productive capacity of the labour force of the country.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Underemployment Rate (%) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 2.0 |

| By Gender | |
|---|---|
| Male | 1.6 |
| Female | 2.7 |

| By Economic Sector | |
|---|---|
| Agriculture | 2.9 |
| Industry | 2.2 |
| Services | 1.4 |

## 6.1 Criteria for classification of underemployment

In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed or time-related underemployed.

- **If the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her main activity and engaged in a secondary activity**

Until 2012, only the time spent on main activity was considered to decide cutoff time limit. However, from 2013 onward this has been changed and time spent on both main and secondary activities were considered to decide cutoff time limit.

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 fulltime schedule according to the nature of their job.

Therefore, if the person has worked less than the cut-off duration in his/her main & secondary activities (as described above), then the person is further questioned to ascertain whether he/she is prepared and available for further work if provided. Such available persons are considered as visibly under employed.

- **If the person has worked more than the normal duration in his/her main & secondary activities**

If the person has worked even more than 35 hours 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.

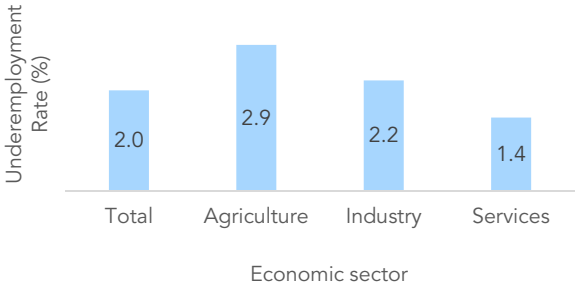
Applying above mentioned criteria, an attempt has been made to estimate visible under-employment and also the "underemployment rate" which is defined as the number of underemployed persons as a percentage of employed persons is calculated.

## 6.2 Distribution of underemployment rate

Table 6.1: Underemployment rate by major industry group - 2025

| Major industry group | Underemployment rate (%) |
|---|---|
| Total | 2.0 |
| Agriculture | 2.9 |
| Industry | 2.2 |
| Services | 1.4 |

Figure 6.1: Underemployment rate by major industry group - 2025




As given in Figure 6.1 underemployment rates by economic sector reveals a considerable difference among sectors. Agriculture sector reports the highest rate (2.9%) and service sector reports the lowest rate (1.4%). The results reveal that when the total population is considered 2.0 percent of employed population is under-utilized with respect to time and this is more prevalent in Agriculture sector.

Table 6.2: Underemployment rate by gender 2021 - 2025

| Year | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| 2021 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 3.3 |
| 2022 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 3.4 |
| 2023 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.4 |
| 2024 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| 2025 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.7 |

Table 6.2 shows that the female underemployment is higher than that of male, for all these periods from 2021 to 2025.

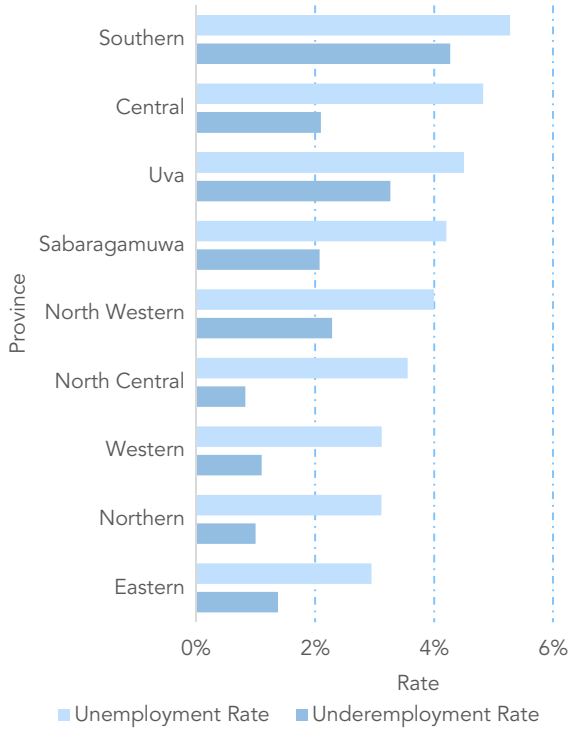
Table 6.3: Underemployment rate by level of education and gender - 2025

| Level of Education | Total | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Male | Female |
| Total | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.7 |
| Grade 5 and below | 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.7 |
| Grade 6 - 10 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 3.5 |
| G.C.E.(O/L) | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.7 |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.9 |

As given in the Table 6.3, the highest underemployment rate reported from the group with level of education grade 6 to 10. The highest underemployment among male and female are reported from grade 5 and below and grade 6 to 10 respectively.

## 6.3 Underemployment / unemployment by province and district

Figure 6.2: Underemployment, Unemployment rates by province - 2025




Both unemployment & underemployment are indicators of labour under-utilization and provides information on prevailing labour market slack. The distribution of unemployment rate and underemployment rate by province is shown in Figure 6.2. Both the highest underemployment rate and the highest unemployment rate were reported in the Southern province.

The Table 6.4 shows the distribution of underemployment rate, unemployment rate and percentage of informal sector employment. When regional labour market policies are defined these related conditions should be considered.

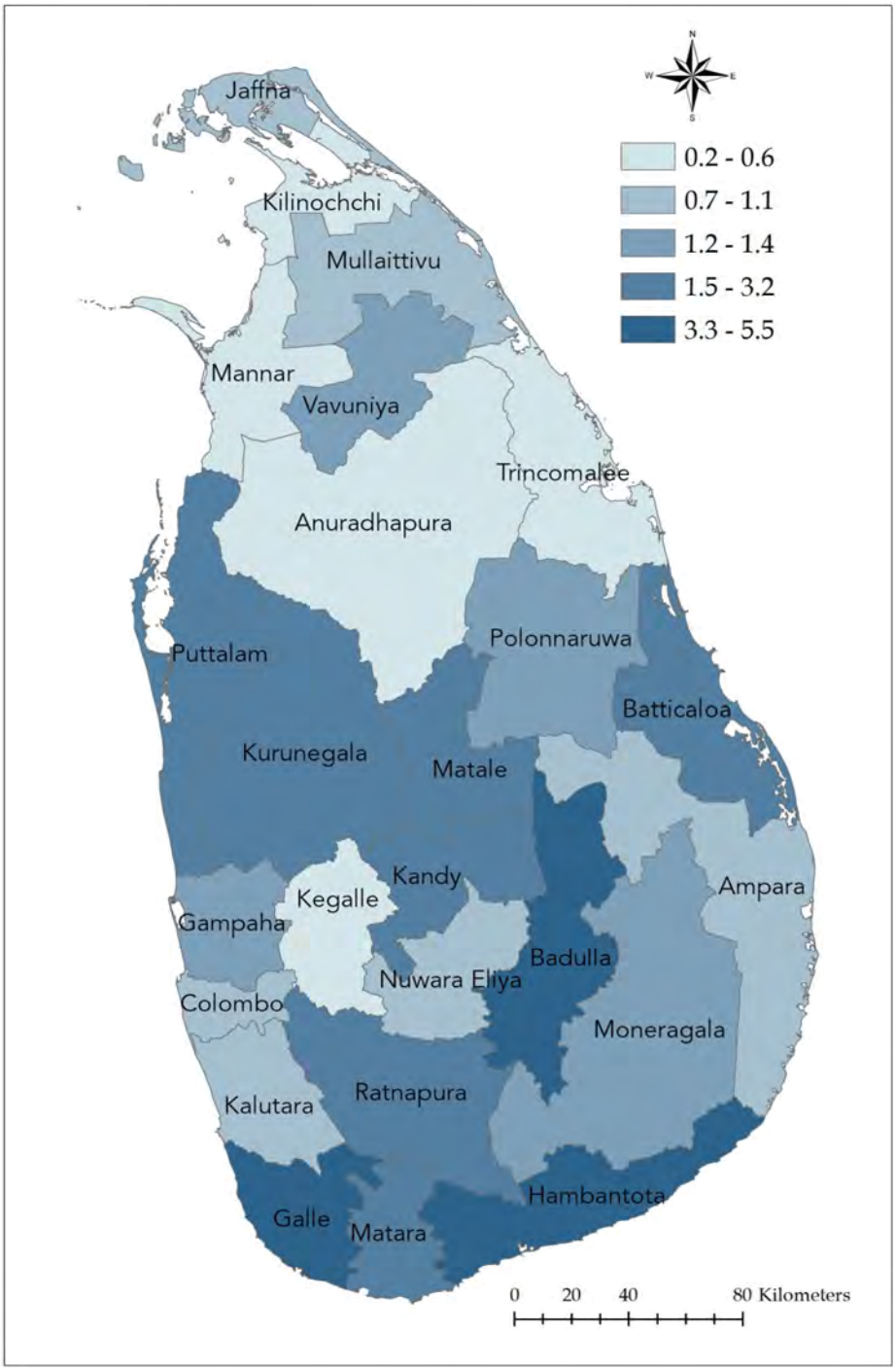
The statistics shows that in some districts where informal sector employment is high the underemployment rate is also high.

Table 6.4: Underemployment rate/ Unemployment rate / Percentage of informal sector employment by district - 2025

| District | Underemployment Rate | Unemployment Rate | Percentage of Informal Sector Employment |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Island | 2.0 | 3.9 | 54.8 |
| Colombo | 1.0 | 3.0 | 35.8 |
| Gampaha | 1.2 | 2.6 | 36.8 |
| Kalutara | 1.0 | 4.3 | 47.8 |
| Kandy | 2.3 | 5.9 | 52.1 |
| Matale | 3.1 | 4.9 | 53.5 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 1.0 | 2.6 | 51.2 |
| Galle | 5.5 | 4.9 | 57.9 |
| Matara | 2.3 | 4.8 | 56.7 |
| Hambantota | 4.6 | 6.6 | 68.2 |
| Jaffna | 1.1 | 3.4 | 61.6 |
| Mannar | 0.5 | 1.8 | 76.1 |
| Vavuniya | 1.4 | 3.0 | 65.2 |
| Mullaitivu | 1.0 | 1.7 | 77.7 |
| Kilinochchi | 0.6 | 4.8 | 66.6 |
| Batticaloa | 2.9 | 4.3 | 65.1 |
| Ampara | 0.8 | 3.3 | 64.4 |
| Trincomalee | 0.2 | 0.6 | 57.0 |
| Kurunegala | 2.4 | 4.3 | 61.8 |
| Puttalam | 2.1 | 3.3 | 64.4 |
| Anuradhapura | 0.6 | 3.8 | 69.7 |
| Polonnaruwa | 1.3 | 3.1 | 64.5 |
| Badulla | 4.3 | 4.1 | 66.9 |
| Monaragala | 1.3 | 5.2 | 69.7 |
| Rathnapura | 3.2 | 2.9 | 62.4 |
| Kegalle | 0.5 | 6.0 | 53.1 |

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

Map (7): Underemployment rate by district - 2025



CHAPTER SEVEN

# Informal Sector Employment

*The Informal Sector represents an important segment of the economy and the labour market in many countries, especially developing countries; thus, measurement of the informal sector is important in their own right as well as contributing towards exhaustive estimates of GDP. Further informal sector plays a major role in employment creation, production and income generation.*

*Since its first appearance in the early 1970's the term "informal sector" has become so popular and nowadays it is used with different meanings for different purposes. Originally it referred to a concept for data analysis and policy making. Now it's sometimes used in a much broader sense to refer to a concept for the collection of data on activities not covered by the existing, conventional source of statistics.*

***Key aspects of identifying informal sector***

- *Registration of the organization (If the institutions registered in Employment Provident Fund or in Department of Inland Revenue, then that is considered as formal)*
  *or*
- *Accounts keeping practices of the organization (If the institutions keep formal accounts, then that is considered as formal)*
  *or*
- *Total number of regular employees of the organization (If the no. of regular employees greater than or equal 10, that is considered as formal).*

***All other institutions which do not satisfy any one of above conditions are considered as informal sector.***

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Employment Contribution to Informal Sector (%) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 54.8 |

| By Gender | |
|---|---|
| Male | 58.8 |
| Female | 47.1 |

| By Economic Sector | |
|---|---|
| Agriculture | 88.6 |
| Non-Agriculture | 44.2 |

## 7.1 The informal economy

A review of national statistical definitions of the informal sector in different countries shows that they do not always fully correspond to the international definition adopted by the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (15th ICLS) and the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993.

The international comparability of data on the informal sector is affected by national differences in data sources, in the geographical coverage of surveys, in the branches of economic activity covered etc. Therefore, a criterion which is to define the informal sector varies among countries. However, most of the countries tend to collect informal sector information, especially those using labour force or other household surveys for the measurement of employment in the informal sector, were advised by the experts to use the criteria of registration of the organization, accounts keeping system and size of their organization.

In such situation, Department of Census and Statistics observed the necessity of having informal sector information, and therefore, after carefully reviewing of LFS schedule with the assistance of the ESCAP regional advisor on Economic Statistics, relevant questions were included to the schedule aiming to collect the information relating to the informal sector from 2006 onwards.

In 2013, new questions were introduced to the survey in order to improve statistics on informal sector employment in the country. However, definition of the informal sector is same as in 2006.

## 7.2 Distribution of informal / formal sector employment

Table 7.1: Composition of Informal / Formal sector employment by economic sector – 2025

| Informal / formal sector | | Economic sector | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Agricultural | Non agricultural |
| **Total** | **No.** | 8,079,040 | 1,932,548 | 6,146,492 |
| | **%** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Formal sector | No. | 3,652,751 | 220,927 | 3,431,824 |
| | % | 45.2 | 11.4 | 55.8 |
| Informal sector | No. | 4,426,289 | 1,711,622 | 2,714,667 |
| | % | 54.8 | 88.6 | 44.2 |

Figure 7.1:
Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by economic sector - 2025

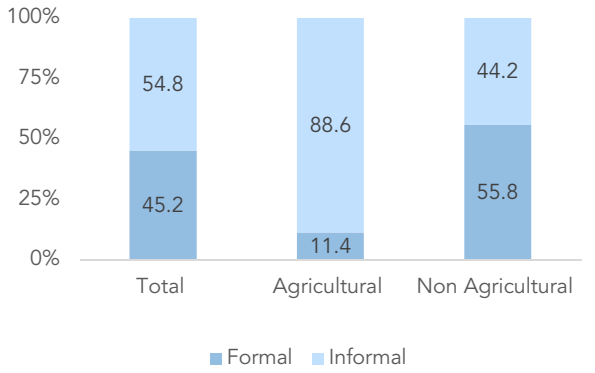



Table 7.1 and Figure 7.1 show that, in Sri Lanka the contribution of informal sector employment to the total employment is about 54.8 percent. The survey results also reveal that 88.6 percent of agricultural employment comprises with informal sector employment, and agriculture formal sector employment is 11.4 percent. Formal sector agricultural employment mainly comprises with employment in Estate sector, owned by government or corporate sector. However, in non-agricultural sector percentage of formal sector employment is higher than informal sector employment.

Table 7.2: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by gender - 2025

| Gender | Total | | Sector | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal | | Informal | |
| | No. | % | No. | %. | No. | % |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 3,652,751 | 45.2 | 4,426,289 | 54.8 |
| Male | 5,299,777 | 100.0 | 2,181,512 | 41.2 | 3,118,266 | 58.8 |
| Female | 2,779,262 | 100.0 | 1,471,239 | 52.9 | 1,308,023 | 47.1 |

According to the Table 7.2, among employed male majority are working in the informal sector, that percentage is 58.8 percent and for female this percentage is 47.1 percent. Female formal sector participation is higher compared to that of male, when the percentage is considered.

Table 7.3: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by level of education – 2025

| Level of education | Total | | Sector | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal | | Informal | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 3,652,751 | 45.2 | 4,426,289 | 54.8 |
| Grade 5 and below | 911,805 | 100.0 | 155,868 | 17.1 | 755,937 | 82.9 |
| Grade 6 - 10 | 3,438,761 | 100.0 | 1,020,759 | 29.7 | 2,418,002 | 70.3 |
| G.C.E.(O/L) | 1,538,721 | 100.0 | 738,072 | 48.0 | 800,649 | 52.0 |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | 2,189,753 | 100.0 | 1,738,052 | 79.4 | 451,701 | 20.6 |

Table 7.3, gives clear evidence for the relationship between level of education and informal sector participation. When level of education increases informal sector participation decreases and this is opposite for formal sector.

Table 7.4: Distribution of Informal/ Formal sector employment by employment status - 2025

| Status of employment | Total | | Sector | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal | | Informal | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 3,652,751 | 100.0 | 4,426,289 | 100.0 |
| Employees | 4,889,419 | 60.5 | 3,177,938 | 87.0 | 1,711,480 | 38.7 |
| Employer | 252,029 | 3.1 | 141,693 | 3.9 | 110,336 | 2.5 |
| Own account worker | 2,570,950 | 31.8 | 278,062 | 7.6 | 2,292,888 | 51.8 |
| Contributing family worker | 366,642 | 4.5 | 55,058 | 1.5 | 311,584 | 7.0 |

The Table 7.4 shows the distribution of employed population by status of employment and by formal/informal sector. The composition of the employment by status of employment is different for two sectors informal & formal. In informal sector highest percentage is reported the own account worker category (51.8%), in contrast to formal sector where highest percentage is employees (87.0%).

Table 7.5: Distribution of informal/ formal sector employment by main occupation - 2025

| Occupation | Total | | Sector | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal | | Informal | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 3,652,751 | 45.2 | 4,426,289 | 54.8 |
| 1.Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | | | | | | |
| Chief executive, Senior Official, Legislators | 30,095 | 100.0 | 30,095 | 100.0 | .. | .. |
| Administrative & Commercial Managers | 105,802 | 100.0 | 101,068 | 95.5 | 4,734 | 4.5 |
| Production and Specialized services Managers | 115,201 | 100.0 | 93,327 | 81.0 | 21,874 | 19.0 |
| Hospitality, Shop and Related services Managers | 119,953 | 100.0 | 66,502 | 55.4 | 53,451 | 44.6 |
| 2.Professionals | 653,873 | 100.0 | 571,583 | 87.4 | 82,291 | 12.6 |
| 3.Technical & Associate Professionals | 761,071 | 100.0 | 654,069 | 85.9 | 107,001 | 14.1 |
| 4.Clerks and Clerical support workers | 260,304 | 100.0 | 243,479 | 93.5 | 16,825 | 6.5 |
| 5.Services and Sales workers | 1,003,534 | 100.0 | 514,188 | 51.2 | 489,346 | 48.8 |
| 6.Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers | 1,108,922 | 100.0 | 40,919 | 3.7 | 1,068,004 | 96.3 |
| 7.Craft and Related Trades workers | 1,099,654 | 100.0 | 284,701 | 25.9 | 814,953 | 74.1 |
| 8.Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers | 784,008 | 100.0 | 380,737 | 48.6 | 403,272 | 51.4 |
| 9.Elementary occupations | 1,991,179 | 100.0 | 627,798 | 31.5 | 1,363,380 | 68.5 |
| 10.Armed Forces occupations & Unidentified occupations | 45,444 | 100.0 | 44,285 | 97.5 | 1,158 | 2.5 |

.. Not reported.
These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

The Table 7.5 disaggregates total employment into formal/informal and into occupation groups as identified in SLSCO-08. It is clear that some occupation categories are highly consist with informal sector occupation.

ISCO – 08

From 2013 onward, the survey uses SLSCO – 08, based on International Standard Classification of Occupation – 2008 (ISCO – 08) for occupation classification. The classifications is mainly based two concepts ' the kind of work performed or job' and 'skills'.

## 7.3 Distribution of Informal Sector Employment

In general, agriculture sector in developing countries highly concentrate with informal sector employment. However, the geographical distribution of non-agricultural employment is heterogeneous. Hence, it is important to see the geographical distribution of informal sector employment in non-agricultural sector.

Table 7.6: Distribution of Informal sector employment in Non - Agriculture sector by district - 2025

| District | % | District | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 44.2 | Mullaitivu | 51.6 |
| Colombo | 35.1 | Kilinochchi | 51.5 |
| Gampaha | 35.0 | Batticaloa | 56.9 |
| Kalutara | 41.5 | Ampara | 50.7 |
| Kandy | 46.3 | Trincomalee | 47.4 |
| Matale | 37.8 | Kurunegala | 50.0 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 44.1 | Puttalam | 56.8 |
| Galle | 47.6 | Anuradhapura | 49.8 |
| Matara | 43.2 | Polonnaruwa | 42.5 |
| Hambantota | 50.9 | Badulla | 52.2 |
| Jaffna | 53.2 | Monaragala | 46.5 |
| Mannar | 57.3 | Rathnapura | 45.2 |
| Vavuniya | 45.8 | Kegalle | 46.0 |

Non-agricultural sector comprises with industry and service sector activities. The distribution of informal sector employment in non-agriculture by district is given in Table 7.6. In 2025 about 44.2 percent of non-agricultural sector employment comprises with informal sector activities. The existing differences of percentages among the districts may be due to the disparities in regional distribution of non-agricultural industries. Mannar district share 57.3 percent of their non-agriculture employment in informal sector (Map 8).

Map (8): Participation rate of informal sector in non-agriculture sector by districts – 2025

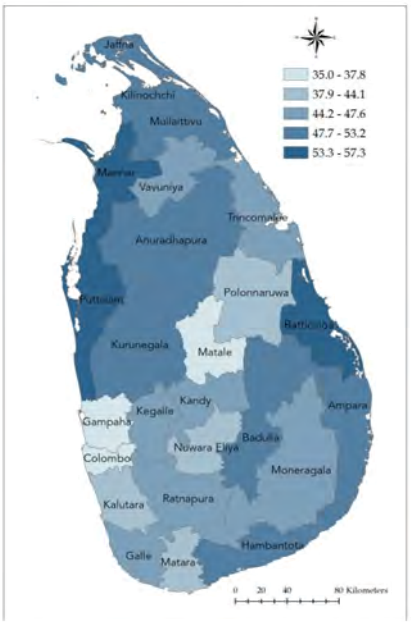
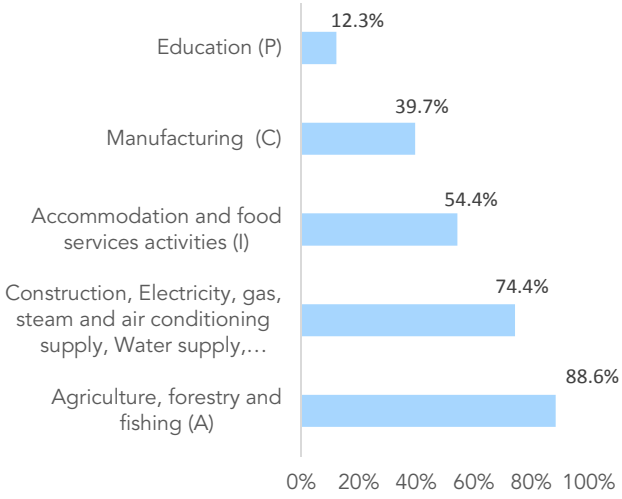



Figure 7.2:
Distribution of informal sector employment by selected industry groups - 2025




Looking at the Informal sector employment by selected industry groups (Figure 7.2), 88.6 percent of total agricultural employment is in the informal sector. The percentage of "Construction, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, one of the major group in industries is 74.4. "Education" group consist with comparatively a lower percentage of informal sector employment (12.3%).

CHAPTER EIGHT

# Total Jobs in Sri Lanka with Secondary Employment

*Multiple jobholding arises when individuals work in more than one job at the same time. The term 'Secondary Employment' comes with the multiple jobholding. This has been increased considerably in transition & industrialized countries in recent decades. Statistical information on multiple jobholding is limited in developing countries also in Sri Lanka when comparing with some other developing/developed countries. However at present, developing countries also collects information on multiple jobs due its importance at the statistical estimations on entire labour market. Also multiple jobholding directly affects the country's job market. Therefore it is vital to have detail statistics on multiple job holding in Sri Lanka.*

### *Multiple Job Holders*

*Multiple jobholders are persons who work more than one job at the same period of time (during survey reference period).*

### *Secondary Job Holders*

*Those who have engaged in a secondary activity other than the main activity during the survey reference period are considered as secondary job holders.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Employed Population | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8,079,040 |
| Male | 5,299,777 |
| Female | 2,779,262 |

| Secondary Employed Population | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 439,839 |
| Male | 348,726 |
| Female | 91,112 |

| Total Jobs | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8,518,878 |
| Male | 5,648,504 |
| Female | 2,870,375 |

## 8.1 Secondary Employment in Sri Lanka

Department of Census and Statistics released statistical data on multiple job holders for the first time in 2014. Individuals may have multiple jobs at the same time; however, due to practical problems labour force survey collects data only on two jobs, main and secondary. This part of chapter discusses secondary employment.

Table 8.1: Distribution of employed population & total jobs by main and secondary job (2021 – 2025)

| Year | Employment | | | | | | Jobs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | % | Main job only | % | Main and Secondary | % | Total |
| **2021** | 8,113,507 | 100.0 | 7,623,957 | 94.0 | 489,550 | 6.0 | 8,603,057 |
| **2022** | 8,147,731 | 100.0 | 7,661,571 | 94.0 | 486,160 | 6.0 | 8,633,890 |
| **2023** | 8,009,916 | 100.0 | 7,498,263 | 93.6 | 511,653 | 6.4 | 8,521,570 |
| **2024** | 7,949,751 | 100.0 | 7,549,501 | 95.0 | 400,250 | 5.0 | 8,350,001 |
| **2025** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 7,639,201 | 94.6 | 439,839 | 5.4 | 8,518,878 |

The survey results show that 439,839 (5.4%) of total employed, persons hold secondary jobs during the survey year 2025. Out of these secondary employed persons, 348,726 were males and 91,112 were females. Table 8.1 also illustrates that the 94.6 percent of employed population have been engaged in main job only. Considering main and secondary employment together, about 8.5 million total number of jobs are estimated at the survey year 2025.

Table 8.2: Distribution of employed population by main and secondary job and by sector – 2025

| Sector | Employed population | % | Main job only | % | Main and Secondary jobs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 7,639,201 | 94.6 | 439,839 | 5.4 |
| Urban | 1,303,505 | 100.0 | 1,277,360 | 98.0 | 26,145 | 2.0 |
| Rural | 6,462,937 | 100.0 | 6,056,909 | 93.7 | 406,028 | 6.3 |
| Estate | 312,599 | 100.0 | 304,933 | 97.5 | 7,666 | 2.5 |

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

Table 8.2 shows the distribution of main and secondary job population among sectors. Highest rate of secondary job was reported from Rural sector (6.3%) among all sectors whereas rates of Estate and Urban sectors are 2.5 and 2.0 percent respectively.

Out of the total secondary jobs, highest share is reported from Agriculture sector (63.7%) whereas Services and Industries sectors shares 25.6 and 10.7 percent respectively (Figure 8.1). When the employed population in main job is considered, services sector illustrates the highest share (49.8%) whereas Industry and Agriculture sectors shares 26.2 and 23.9 percent respectively (Figure 8.2). These results show that many of the jobs in secondary employment are agriculture activities.

Figure 8.1:
Distribution of employed population by considering secondary job by major industry groups – 2025

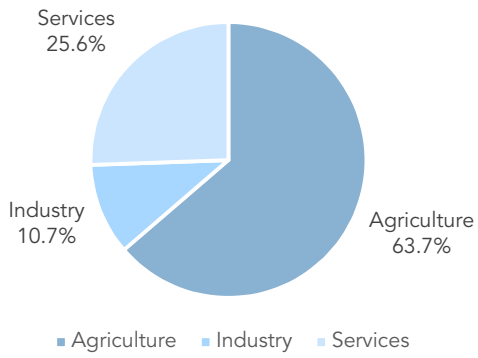



Figure 8.2:
Distribution of employed population by considering main job by major industry groups – 2025

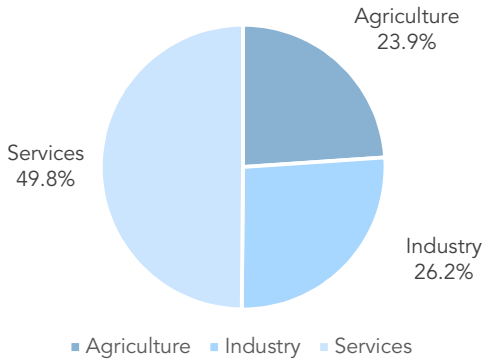


Table 8.3: Percentage distribution of secondary employment by employment status & gender – 2025

| Employment Status | Total No. | Total | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 439,839 | 100.0 | 79.3 | 20.7 |
| Employee | 72,932 | 100.0 | 84.0 | 16.0 |
| Employer | 13,217 | 100.0 | 89.1 | 10.9 |
| Own Account Worker | 311,393 | 100.0 | 84.0 | 16.0 |
| Contributing Family Worker | 42,297 | 100.0 | 33.3 | 66.7 |

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

Figure 8.3:
Percentage distribution of secondary employment by employment status by gender – 2025

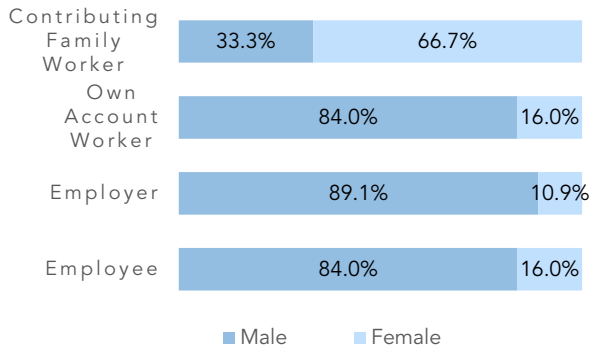
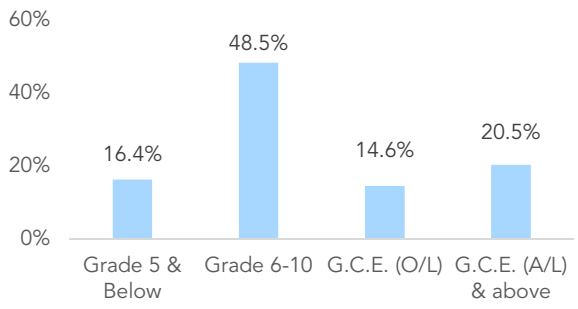



Table 8.3 & Figure 8.3 show the distribution of secondary employment by employment status. Share of contributing family workers is 66.7 percent for females, which is much higher compared to the contribution of male (33.3%) in the same category. In other three categories the percentages are much higher for males than females.

Figure 8.4:
Distribution of secondary employment by level of education – 2025




Those who have grade 6 to 10 level of education show highest percentage (48.5%) among secondary employed population (Figure 8.4).

Table 8.4: Distribution of secondary employment by occupation group – 2025

| Occupation Group | Secondary Employed Population | |
|---|---|---|
| | No | % |
| **Total** | 439,839 | 100.0 |
| Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 11,284 | 2.6 |
| Professionals | 32,250 | 7.3 |
| Technicians and Associate Professionals | 7,603 | 1.7 |
| Clerks and Clerical Support workers | 2,440 | 0.6 |
| Services and Sales workers | 17,656 | 4.0 |
| Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers | 221,514 | 50.4 |
| Craft and Related Trade workers | 29,493 | 6.7 |
| Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers | 28,652 | 6.5 |
| Elementary occupations | 88,947 | 20.2 |
| Armed Forces occupations and undefined occupations | .. | .. |

.. Not reported.

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

Table 8.4 shows the categorization of the secondary employed population by major occupation groups. The choice of multiple jobholding vary among different workers in different occupation groups. Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers are the highest percentage (50.4%) reported among secondary occupation.

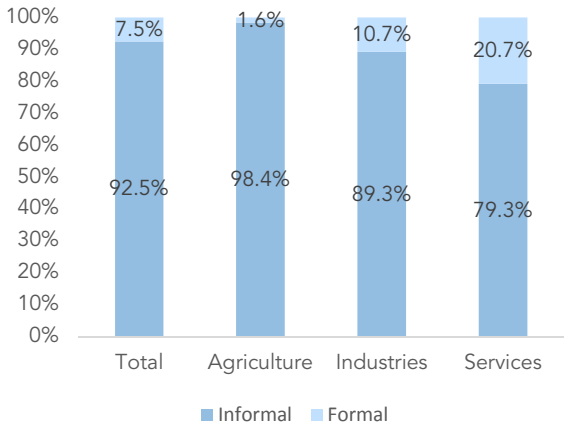
Table 8.5: Contribution of secondary employment to the Informal / Formal sector by major industry groups – 2025

| Formal/ Informal Sector | Major Industry groups | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Agriculture | Industries | Services |
| **Total** | 439,839 | 280,092 | 47,281 | 112,465 |
| **%** | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Formal | 32,919 | 4,530 | 5,065 | 23,324 |
| % | 7.5 | 1.6 | 10.7 | 20.7 |
| Informal | 406,919 | 275,562 | 42,216 | 89,141 |
| % | 92.5 | 98.4 | 89.3 | 79.3 |

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

Table 8.5 and Figure 8.5 show that, the share of informal sector employment to the total secondary employment is 92.5 percent in Sri Lanka. When considering the secondary employment in agriculture sector almost all are in informal sector (98.4%). Also the share of informal sector is very high in both Industries and services group.

Figure 8.5:
Contribution of secondary employment to the informal / formal sector by major industry groups – 2025




## 8.2 Total Jobs in Sri Lanka

To calculate total jobs, main and secondary employments are considered. Total number of jobs is estimated by adding the total number of main jobs (Total employment) and the total number of secondary jobs.

As gives in Table 8.1, the total estimated jobs in Sri Lanka in the survey year 2025, is about 8,518,878.

Figure 8.6:
Percentage distribution of jobs in Sri Lanka by gender – 2025

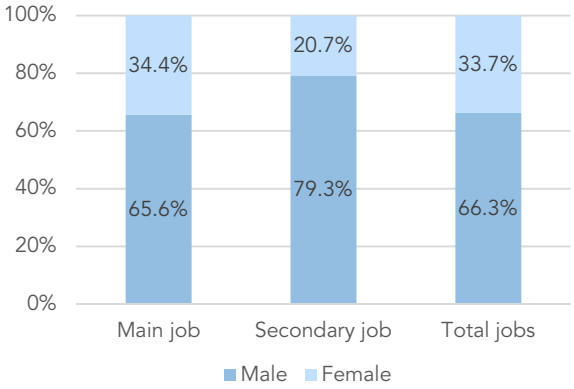



Figure 8.6 shows the contribution of male and female to the jobs in Sri Lanka separately for main, secondary and total jobs. The share of male in total jobs (66.3%) is almost twice that of females (33.7%).

Table 8.6: Distribution of total jobs by sector – 2025

| Sector | Main Jobs | % | Secondary Jobs | % | Total jobs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 439,839 | 100.0 | 8,518,878 | 100.0 |
| Urban | 1,303,505 | 16.1 | 26,145 | 5.9 | 1,329,649 | 15.6 |
| Rural | 6,462,937 | 80.0 | 406,028 | 92.3 | 6,868,965 | 80.6 |
| Estate | 312,599 | 3.9 | 7,666 | 1.7 | 320,264 | 3.8 |

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

Table 8.6 shows the distribution of jobs by residential sector separately for main, secondary and total jobs. It is estimated that 80.6 percent of total jobs are supplied by rural sector individuals.

Table 8.7: Distribution of total jobs by level of education – 2025

| Level of Education | Main Jobs | % | Secondary Jobs | % | Total Jobs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100 | 439,839 | 100 | 8,518,878 | 100 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 911,805 | 11.3 | 72,179 | 16.4 | 983,984 | 11.6 |
| Grade 6-10 | 3,438,761 | 42.6 | 213,284 | 48.5 | 3,652,045 | 42.9 |
| G.C.E. (O/L) | 1,538,721 | 19.0 | 64,371 | 14.6 | 1,603,092 | 18.8 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) & above | 2,189,753 | 27.1 | 90,004 | 20.5 | 2,279,757 | 26.8 |

As given in Table 8.7 about 54.4 percent of total jobs are supplied by the individuals with less than G.C.E. (O/L) level of education.

Table 8.8: Distribution of total jobs by age groups – 2025

| Age group (Yrs) | Main Jobs | % | Secondary Jobs | % | Total jobs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 439,839 | 100.0 | 8,518,878 | 100.0 |
| 15 - 19 | 103,648 | 1.3 | 1,083 | 0.2 | 104,731 | 1.2 |
| 20 - 24 | 531,458 | 6.6 | 6,552 | 1.5 | 538,010 | 6.3 |
| 25 - 29 | 695,730 | 8.6 | 15,539 | 3.5 | 711,269 | 8.3 |
| 30 - 39 | 1,676,300 | 20.7 | 77,359 | 17.6 | 1,753,659 | 20.6 |
| 40 & above | 5,071,904 | 62.8 | 339,306 | 77.1 | 5,411,210 | 63.5 |

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

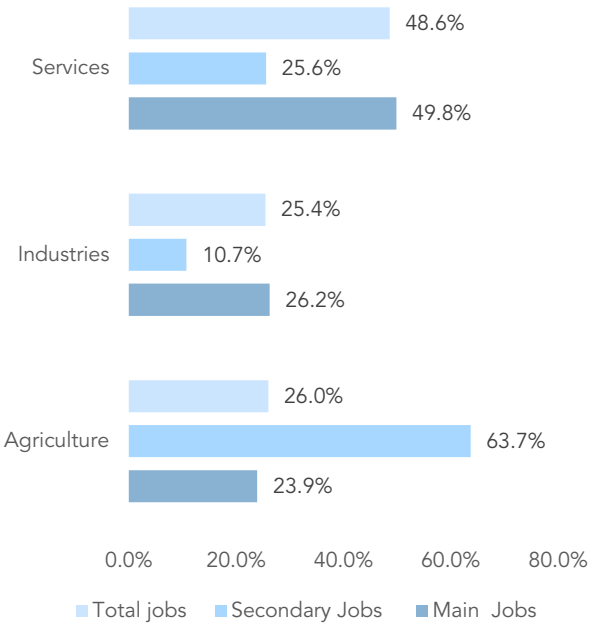
The Table 8.8 shows that about 63.5 percent of total jobs is supplied by the individuals with age 40 and above. The youth (15-24 years) labour supply for the total jobs is about 7.5 percent.

Table 8.9: Distribution of total jobs by major industry groups – 2025

| Industry groups | Main Jobs | % | Secondary Jobs | % | Total jobs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 439,839 | 100.0 | 8,518,878 | 100.0 |
| Agriculture | 1,932,548 | 23.9 | 280,092 | 63.7 | 2,212,640 | 26.0 |
| Industries | 2,120,455 | 26.2 | 47,281 | 10.7 | 2,167,736 | 25.4 |
| Services | 4,026,037 | 49.8 | 112,465 | 25.6 | 4,138,502 | 48.6 |

Table 8.9 and Figure 8.7 show the distribution of main, secondary and total jobs by major industry groups. Distribution of total number of jobs by industry groups is very important, especially when the productivities are calculated for total labour market.

Figure 8.7:
Distribution of jobs by major industry groups – 2025



CHAPTER NINE

# Informal Employment in Sri Lanka

*Informal employment accounts for a substantial portion employment in many developing countries. It encompasses persons in employment who, by law or in practice, are not subject to national labour legislation and income tax or entitled to social protection and employment benefits. Informal employment can exist in both the informal and the formal sector of the economy.*

*(Measuring informality: a statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment/International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2013)*

*Sri Lanka Quarterly Labour Force Survey questionnaire was revised in year 2006 so as to include questions to identify informal sector and informal employment. In 2013 new changes were made to study informal employment for declaration of the jobs or the employees in detail. A statistical definition for informal employment has finalized in 2017 and throughout this chapter, characteristics of informal employment is discussed broadly.*

***Key aspects of identifying Informal employment***

1) *All unpaid family workers*
2) *All employers and own account workers in informal sector*
3) *All paid employees who do not have a permanent employer*
4) *All paid employees whose employers are not contributing to pension scheme or provident fund on their behalf.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Informal Employment (%) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 64.8 |

| By Gender | |
|---|---|
| Male | 68.1 |
| Female | 58.4 |

| By Economic Sector | |
|---|---|
| Agriculture | 93.1 |
| Non-Agriculture | 55.9 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Informal Employment in Formal Sector Enterprises | 22.1 |

## 9.1 Concept of Informal Employment & Conceptual Framework

Goal Eight of seventeen SDG goals directly focuses an informal economy, specially in informal employment.

The 17th ICLS (International Conference of Labour Statisticians) Guidelines specifically say that "the operational criteria for defining informal jobs of employees are to be determined in accordance with national circumstances and data availability." Some countries (especially developing countries) may choose to develop a measure that includes informal jobs of own-account workers, employers etc. while other countries (especially developed countries) may wish to limit the measurement of informal employment to employee jobs only.

Also in 17th ICLS, Jobs (main job and secondary job) rather than employed persons were taken as the units of observation in informal employment. But in Sri Lankan scenario, main job of an employed person only to be considered to build the definition of informal employment.

However this can be further improved using information of the secondary employment.

Figure 9.1 gives the conceptual framework of Informal Employment[4].

In Figure 9.1 below type of production unit (rows in the table) is defined in terms of legal organization and other enterprise-related characteristics (classifications are done according to the informal sector definition of Sri Lanka), while type of job (columns) is defined in terms of status in employment and other job-related characteristics. The main occupation is used to calculate informal employment.

Figure 9.1:
Conceptual framework (17th ICLS Guidelines)

| Production units by type | Jobs by status in employment | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Own-account workers | | Employers | | Contributing family workers | Employees | | Members of producers' cooperatives | |
| | Informal | Formal | Informal | Formal | Informal | Informal | Formal | Informal | Formal |
| Formal sector enterprises | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Informal sector enterprises | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| Households | 9 | | | | | 10 | | | |

For Sri Lanka, yet the "Household" sector has not defined. Further the category "Members of Producer's cooperative" has not defined separately. Therefore the conceptual framework of Figure 9.1 is reduced to Table 9.1. By adding the cell values from 1 to 6, a value for the informal employment can be calculated.

Table 9.1: Conceptual framework informal employment – 2025

| | Jobs by status in employment | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Own-account workers | | Employers | | Contributing family workers | Employees | |
| | Informal | Formal | Informal | Formal | Informal | Informal | Formal |
| **Formal sector enterprises** | | | | | 55,058 | 752,178 | |
| **Informal sector enterprises** | 2,292,888 | | 110,336 | | 311,584 | 1,711,480 | |

The estimated total number of informal employment is about 5,233,525 This is about 64.8 percent of the total employment. When compared to informal sector employment which is about 54.8 percent of total employment. This shows that informal employment is higher than informal sector employment.

[4] Reference for ICLS 17th

## 9.2 Distribution of Informal / Formal Employment

Table 9.2: Composition of informal / formal employment by economic sector – 2025

| Informal / Formal Employment | | Economic Sector | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Agricultural | Non Agricultural |
| Total | No. | 8,079,040 | 1,932,548 | 6,146,492 |
| | % | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Formal Employment | No. | 2,845,515 | 132,973 | 2,712,542 |
| | % | 35.2 | 6.9 | 44.1 |
| Informal Employment | No. | 5,233,525 | 1,799,575 | 3,433,950 |
| | % | 64.8 | 93.1 | 55.9 |

Table 9.2 and Figure 9.3 show that in Agriculture sector 93.1 percent is informal employment while this percentage is 55.9 in Non- agriculture sector.

Figure 9.2:
Distribution of total employment, informal employment, informal sector – 2025

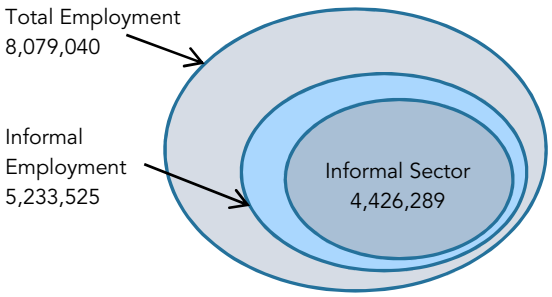



Figure 9.3:
Distribution of informal / formal employment by economic sector - 2025

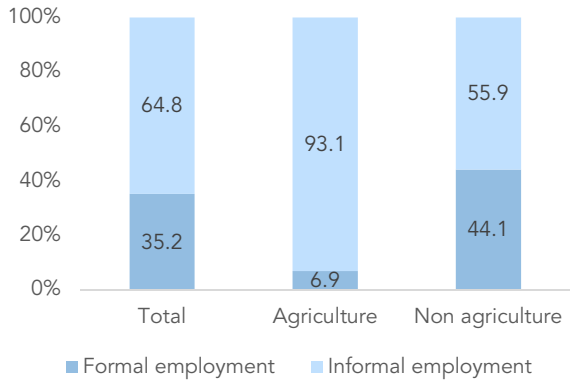



Table 9.3: Distribution of informal / formal employment by gender - 2025

| Gender | Total | | Employment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal Employment | | Informal Employment | |
| | No. | % | No. | %. | No. | % |
| Total | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 2,845,515 | 35.2 | 5,233,525 | 64.8 |
| Male | 5,299,777 | 100.0 | 1,690,351 | 31.9 | 3,609,426 | 68.1 |
| Female | 2,779,262 | 100.0 | 1,155,164 | 41.6 | 1,624,099 | 58.4 |

As given in Table 9.3 when male/ female employment distribution is considered 68.1 percent of employed males are in informal employment, while this percentage is 58.4 percent for female.

Table 9.4: Distribution of informal / formal employment by level of education - 2025

| Level of Education | Total | | Employment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal Employment | | Informal Employment | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 2,845,515 | 35.2 | 5,233,525 | 64.8 |
| Grade 5 & Below | 911,805 | 100.0 | 79,047 | 8.7 | 832,758 | 91.3 |
| Grade 6 - 10 | 3,438,761 | 100.0 | 662,201 | 19.3 | 2,776,560 | 80.7 |
| G.C.E.(O/L) | 1,538,721 | 100.0 | 566,247 | 36.8 | 972,474 | 63.2 |
| G.C.E.(A/L) & above | 2,189,753 | 100.0 | 1,538,021 | 70.2 | 651,732 | 29.8 |

Informal employment is higher among persons with lower level of education compared to that of persons with higher level of education.

Table 9.5: Distribution of informal / formal employment by employment status - 2025

| Status of Education | Total | | Employment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal Employment | | Informal Employment | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Total | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 2,845,515 | 100.0 | 5,233,525 | 100.0 |
| Employees | 4,889,419 | 60.5 | 2,425,760 | 85.2 | 2,463,659 | 47.1 |
| Employer | 252,029 | 3.1 | 141,693 | 5.0 | 110,336 | 2.1 |
| Own account worker | 2,570,950 | 31.8 | 278,062 | 9.8 | 2,292,888 | 43.8 |
| Contributing family worker | 366,642 | 4.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 366,642 | 7.0 |

According to the informal employment definition all of the contributing family workers are considered as informal employment. Table 9.5 shows 47.1 percent of informal employment are employees and 43.8 percent are own account workers.

Table 9.6: Distribution of informal / formal employment by occupation - 2025

| Occupation | Total | | Employment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Formal Employment | | Informal Employment | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 100.0 | 2,845,515 | 35.2 | 5,233,525 | 64.8 |
| 1.Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | | | | | | |
| Chief Executive, Senior Official, Legislators | 30,095 | 100.0 | 27,705 | 92.1 | 2,390 | 7.9 |
| Administrative & Commercial Managers | 105,802 | 100.0 | 93,447 | 88.3 | 12,355 | 11.7 |
| Production and Specialized services Managers | 115,201 | 100.0 | 88,065 | 76.4 | 27,136 | 23.6 |
| Hospitality, Shop and Related services Managers | 119,953 | 100.0 | 63,014 | 52.5 | 56,939 | 47.5 |
| 2.Professionals | 653,873 | 100.0 | 519,178 | 79.4 | 134,695 | 20.6 |
| 3.Technical & Associate Professionals | 761,071 | 100.0 | 583,858 | 76.7 | 177,213 | 23.3 |
| 4.Clerks and Clerical support workers | 260,304 | 100.0 | 199,399 | 76.6 | 60,905 | 23.4 |
| 5.Services and Sales workers | 1,003,534 | 100.0 | 359,471 | 35.8 | 644,062 | 64.2 |
| 6.Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers | 1,108,922 | 100.0 | 28,178 | 2.5 | 1,080,744 | 97.5 |
| 7.Craft and Related Trades workers | 1,099,654 | 100.0 | 190,350 | 17.3 | 909,304 | 82.7 |
| 8.Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers | 784,008 | 100.0 | 294,730 | 37.6 | 489,278 | 62.4 |
| 9.Elementary occupations | 1,991,179 | 100.0 | 354,926 | 17.8 | 1,636,253 | 82.2 |
| 10.Armed Forces occupations & Unidentified occupations | 45,444 | 100.0 | 43,193 | 95.0 | 2,251 | 5.0 |

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

The Table 9.6 disaggregates Formal/Informal employment into occupation groups as identified in SLSCO-08. It is clear that some occupation categories are highly consisted with informal employment, such as Skilled Agricultural Forestry and Fishery workers, Craft and Related Trades workers, Elementary occupations and etc. While some occupations have comparatively lower percentage of informal employment.

Table 9.7: Composition of employment in non-agriculture sector – 2025

| Informal / Formal Sector | | Non-agriculture Sector | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Formal Employment | Informal Employment |
| **Total** | **No.** | 6,146,492 | 2,712,542 | 3,433,950 |
| | % | 100.0 | 44.1 | 55.9 |
| Formal Sector | No. | 3,431,824 | 2,712,542 | 719,283 |
| | % | 100.0 | 79.0 | 21.0 |
| Informal Sector | No. | 2,714,667 | 0 | 2,714,667 |
| | % | 100.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |

About 55.9 percent of non-agriculture sector employment is informal employment. This percentage for male is 59.6 percent and for female it is 48.9 percent (Table 9.8).

Table 9.8: Composition of employment in non-agriculture sector by sex – 2025

| Sex | | Non-agriculture Sector | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Formal Employment | Informal Employment |
| **Total** | **No.** | 6,146,492 | 2,712,542 | 3,433,950 |
| | % | 100.0 | 44.1 | 55.9 |
| Male | No. | 4,001,406 | 1,617,041 | 2,384,365 |
| | % | 100.0 | 40.4 | 59.6 |
| Female | No. | 2,145,086 | 1,095,501 | 1,049,585 |
| | % | 100.0 | 51.1 | 48.9 |

Table 9.9: Percentage of informal employment in non-agriculture sector by district - 2025

| District | % | District | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 55.9 | Mullaitivu | 69.4 |
| Colombo | 47.8 | Kilinochchi | 55.8 |
| Gampaha | 45.2 | Batticaloa | 70.2 |
| Kalutara | 51.5 | Ampara | 60.1 |
| Kandy | 59.7 | Trincomalee | 57.9 |
| Matale | 48.2 | Kurunegala | 60.3 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 54.0 | Puttalam | 68.7 |
| Galle | 62.0 | Anuradhapura | 61.7 |
| Matara | 59.3 | Polonnaruwa | 52.4 |
| Hambantota | 62.5 | Badulla | 63.8 |
| Jaffna | 65.5 | Monaragala | 55.7 |
| Mannar | 65.1 | Rathnapura | 58.0 |
| Vavuniya | 62.8 | Kegalle | 57.5 |

Except Gampaha, Colombo and Matale, all other district more than fifty percent of employment are informal employment in non-agriculture sector, while in Batticaloa district this percentage is 70.2 percent. This information is clearly depicted in Figure 9.4.

Figure 9.4:
Distribution of informal employment in non-agriculture sector by district - 2025

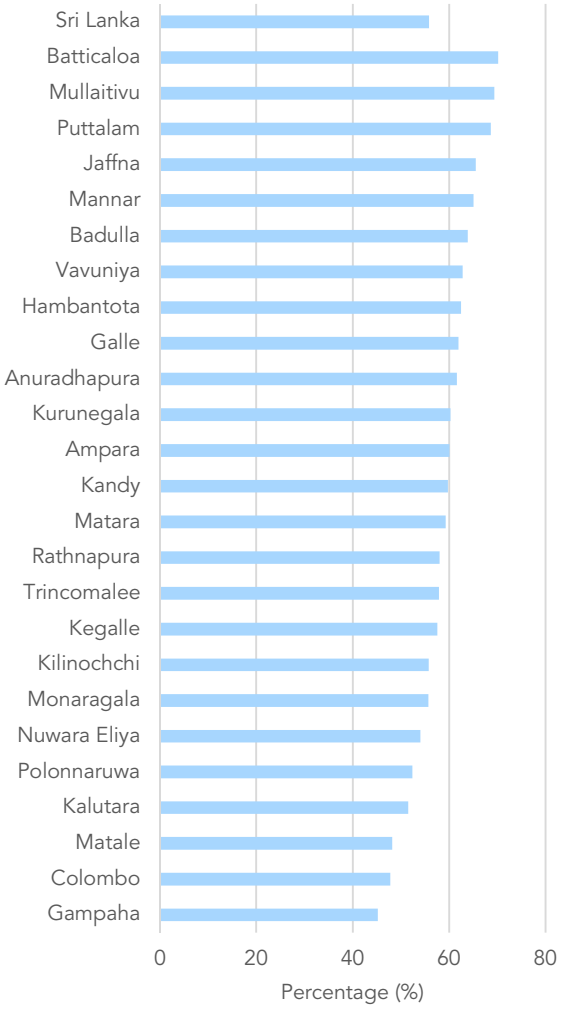



Table 9.10: Distribution of informal employees by job important characteristics - 2025

| All Employees | | Informal Employment | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Male | Female |
| Self-stated job category | Total | 2,463,659 | 1,770,233 | 693,426 |
| | Permanent | 119,760 | 85,651 | 34,109 |
| | Temporary | 1,181,372 | 799,739 | 381,633 |
| | Casual | 386,047 | 247,035 | 139,012 |
| | No permanent employer | 776,479 | 637,807 | 138,672 |

| Employees with permanent employer | | Informal Employment | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Male | Female |
| Entitled for annual paid leave or leave encashment | Total | 1,687,179 | 1,132,425 | 554,754 |
| | Yes | 88,160 | 53,568 | 34,591 |
| | No | 1,524,354 | 1,032,986 | 491,369 |
| | Do not know | 74,666 | 45,871 | 28,794 |
| Have an appointment letter (written contract) from your employer | Total | 1,687,179 | 1,132,425 | 554,754 |
| | Yes | 158,377 | 97,533 | 60,844 |
| | No | 1,464,030 | 995,222 | 468,809 |
| | Do not know | 64,772 | 39,671 | 25,101 |

As given in Table 9.10 among informal employee's majority reported that their employment is "Temporary". About 0.8 million informal employees do not have a permanent employer. Majority of informal employees with a permanent employment do not entitle for annual paid leave or leave encashment. Also majority of them do not have an appointment letter from their employer.

CHAPTER TEN

# Literacy

*In order to provide information for educational planners, especially in developing countries, literacy is an important variable regarding the issues such as improvement of the educational system and to increase the educational related programs etc.*

*As labour force surveys are often conducted at a higher frequency than the other surveys, it was decided to include the questions on literacy in order to provide quarterly/Annual estimates for the data users and for the policy makers. LFS therefore estimates literacy by considering the language literacy skills for Sinhala, Tamil and English. If a person (age 10 and above) is literate in any one of the language then he/she is considered as literate.*

***Who is literate?***

- *A person who can both read and write with understanding a short statement is considered as "Literate".*
- *A person who can read and write only his name, figures or memorized phrase, are not considered as "Literate".*

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Literacy Rate (%) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 93.3 |

| By Gender | |
|---|---|
| Male | 94.0 |
| Female | 92.7 |

| By Sector | |
|---|---|
| Urban | 96.3 |
| Rural | 93.2 |
| Estate | 82.7 |

## 10.1 Distribution of Literacy Rate

Table10.1: Literacy rate by sector & gender 2021 - 2025

| Year | Sri Lanka | Sector | | | Gender | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Urban | Rural | Estate | Male | Female |
| 2021 | 93.3 | 95.7 | 93.3 | 82.5 | 94.3 | 92.3 |
| 2022 | 93.1 | 95.4 | 93.2 | 82.2 | 93.9 | 92.4 |
| 2023 | 93.2 | 95.3 | 93.4 | 81.3 | 94.0 | 92.6 |
| 2024 | 93.3 | 95.8 | 93.3 | 82.6 | 94.0 | 92.6 |
| 2025 | 93.3 | 96.3 | 93.2 | 82.7 | 94.0 | 92.7 |

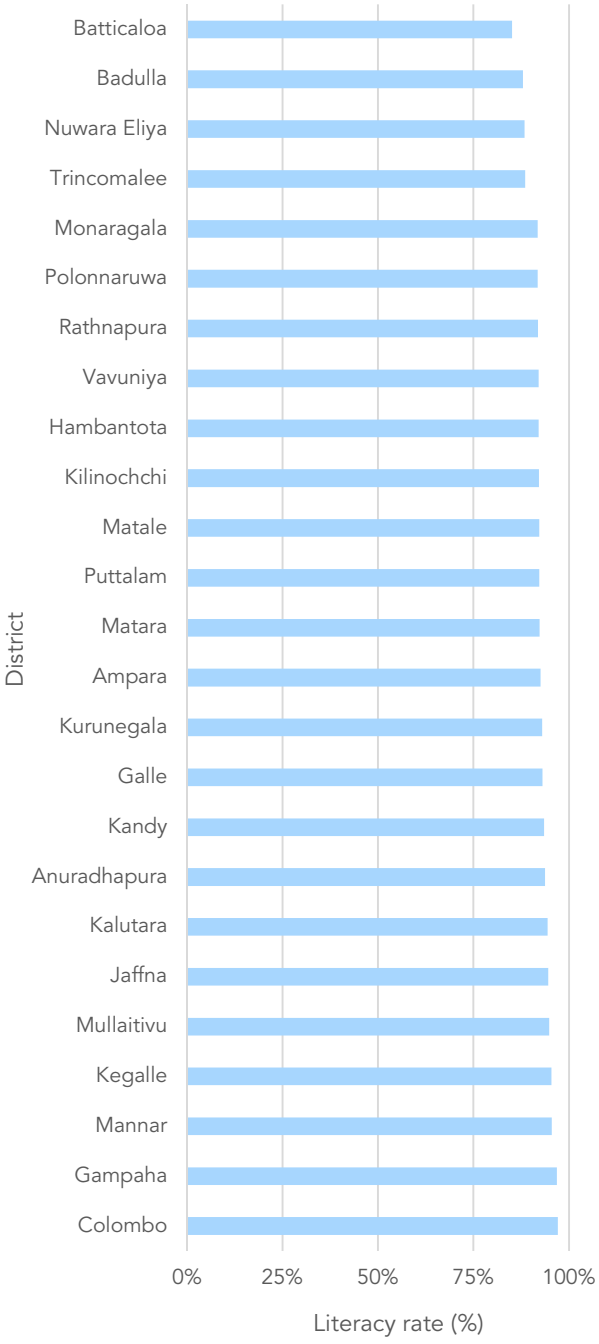
Literacy rate for the population aged 10 years and over is 93.3 percent in 2025. It means that about 93.3 percent of 10 years and above population can both read and write with understanding a short statement at least in any of three languages Sinhala, Tamil or English. Urban sector literacy rate is higher than Rural and Estate sector. Also male literacy is slightly higher when compared with that of the female.

Table10.2: Literacy rates by district & gender - 2025

| District | Literacy rate (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 93.3 | 94.0 | 92.7 |
| Colombo | 97.1 | 97.6 | 96.6 |
| Gampaha | 96.9 | 97.1 | 96.6 |
| Kalutara | 94.4 | 95.3 | 93.5 |
| Kandy | 93.5 | 94.9 | 92.4 |
| Matale | 92.2 | 92.7 | 91.8 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 88.4 | 90.3 | 86.7 |
| Galle | 93.1 | 92.9 | 93.2 |
| Matara | 92.3 | 92.9 | 91.8 |
| Hambantota | 92.0 | 91.5 | 92.4 |
| Jaffna | 94.5 | 94.7 | 94.4 |
| Mannar | 95.5 | 95.1 | 95.8 |
| Vavuniya | 92.0 | 93.1 | 91.2 |
| Mullaitivu | 94.8 | 96.0 | 93.7 |
| Kilinochchi | 92.1 | 93.1 | 91.2 |
| Batticaloa | 85.1 | 87.1 | 83.5 |
| Ampara | 92.6 | 93.2 | 92.1 |
| Trincomalee | 88.5 | 89.0 | 88.1 |
| Kurunegala | 93.0 | 92.8 | 93.1 |
| Puttalam | 92.2 | 92.3 | 92.2 |
| Anuradhapura | 93.7 | 94.5 | 93.0 |
| Polonnaruwa | 91.8 | 92.1 | 91.5 |
| Badulla | 88.0 | 90.6 | 85.7 |
| Monaragala | 91.8 | 92.8 | 90.9 |
| Rathnapura | 91.9 | 92.4 | 91.4 |
| Kegalle | 95.4 | 96.1 | 94.8 |

Table 10.2 provides district pattern of the literacy levels by gender.

Figure 10.1:
Literacy rates by district - 2025




According to the Table 10.2 Colombo districts shows the highest literacy rate (97.1%), the lowest literacy rate is reported from Batticaloa district.

Table10.3: Literacy rates by age group & gender - 2025

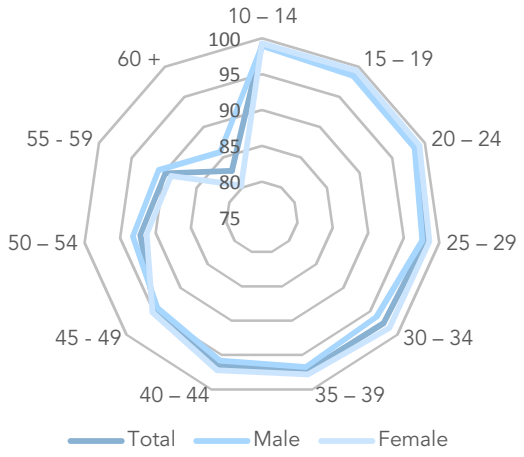
| Age group | Literacy rate (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Male | Female |
| **Total** | 93.3 | 94.0 | 92.7 |
| 10 – 14 | 99.1 | 99.0 | 99.3 |
| 15 – 19 | 99.0 | 98.5 | 99.4 |
| 20 – 24 | 98.8 | 98.4 | 99.2 |
| 25 – 29 | 98.1 | 97.6 | 98.6 |
| 30 – 34 | 97.5 | 96.2 | 98.6 |
| 35 – 39 | 97.4 | 96.8 | 97.8 |
| 40 – 44 | 96.6 | 95.8 | 97.2 |
| 45 - 49 | 94.8 | 94.3 | 95.2 |
| 50 – 54 | 92.1 | 93.2 | 91.2 |
| 55 - 59 | 89.8 | 90.9 | 89.0 |
| 60 + | 82.8 | 85.8 | 80.3 |

Lowest literacy rate (82.8%) is reported in population over 60 years while highest (99.1%) is reported among aged 10 – 14 years.

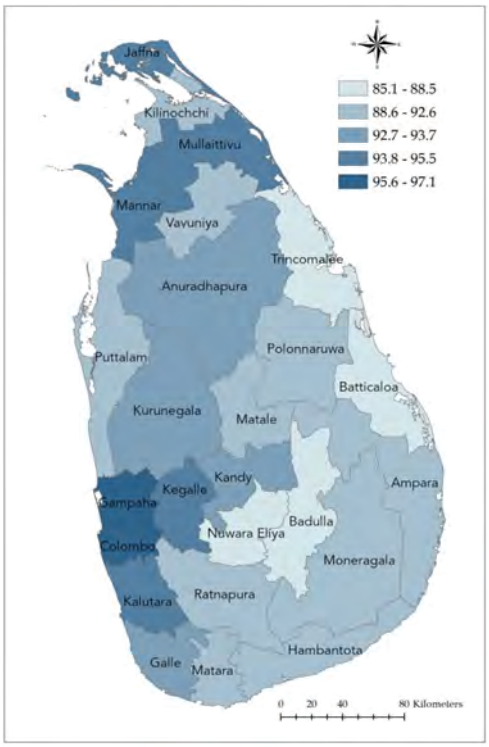
Younger cohorts show higher literacy rates and this indicates the achievement of primary education of the country. This is clearly depicted in the Figure 10.2. Also higher literacy among female in younger age groups (below age 49 years) compared to male literacy in same age groups show very important pattern. As such, it shows the absence of gender discrimination in achieving education of the country.

Map 9 shows the district level literacy rates, higher literacy rates observed in the Western area of the country.

Figure 10.2:
Literacy rates by age group & gender - 2025




Map (9): Literacy rate by district – 2025



CHAPTER ELEVEN

# Computer Literacy

*Timely and accurate information on Information and Communication Technology (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 that exist between demographic and geographic groups provides more insight for the scattering of ICT facilities.*

*To cater the relevant data need Department of Census & Statistics has conducted Computer Literacy Surveys in 2004, 2006/07 and 2009 to measure household characteristics of the usage of computers. Since 2014, new chapter is included to labour force survey report to disseminate computer literacy information annually.*

***What is the computer literacy?***

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

| Computer Literacy Rate (%) | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 39.2 |

| By Gender | |
|---|---|
| Male | 40.5 |
| Female | 38.0 |

| By Language Literacy | |
|---|---|
| Sinhala | 46.1 |
| Tamil | 47.6 |
| English | 76.2 |

## 11.1 Household Computer Ownership

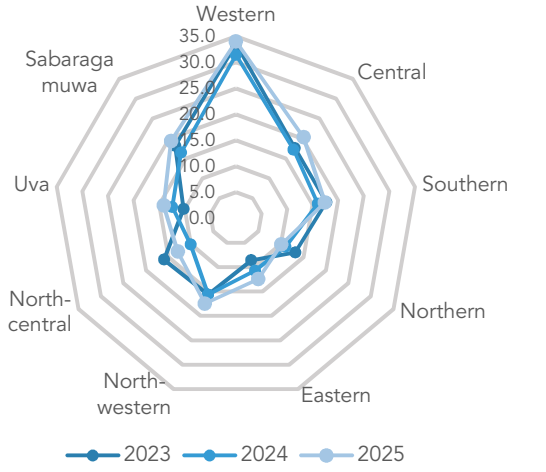
If a desktop or laptop is available at a household then that household is considered as a computer owned household. Table 11.1 shows the percentage distribution of computer owned households by Sector and Province. In 2025, at least one computer is available in 21.3 percent of households in the country. That is about one out of every five households owns either a desktop or a laptop computer. This percentage is 37.8 percent in Urban sector and Rural and Estate sector show 18.6 percent and 5.2 percent respectively. When the provinces are considered the highest availability is in the Western province (34.0%) while the lowest availability is reported from the Northern (10.1%).

Table11.1: Percentage of computer owned households by sector, province and survey year, 2023 - 2025

| Sector/ Province | Desktop(%) | | | Desktop or Laptop(%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 5.7 | 4.7 | 5.6 | 20.2 | 19.1 | 21.3 |
| Urban | 8.0 | 8.1 | 9.6 | 34.0 | 34.6 | 37.8 |
| Rural | 5.5 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 18.1 | 16.7 | 18.6 |
| Estate | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 4.6 | 1.5 | 5.2 |
| **Province** | | | | | | |
| Western | 8.5 | 7.4 | 8.8 | 33.5 | 31.4 | 34.0 |
| Central | 4.8 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 17.6 | 17.2 | 20.3 |
| Southern | 5.4 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 17.7 | 16.0 | 17.4 |
| Northern | 3.3 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 13.2 | 11.0 | 10.1 |
| Eastern | 1.6 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 8.6 | 10.7 | 12.5 |
| North Western | 4.8 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 15.7 | 15.7 | 17.5 |
| North Central | 4.7 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 16.0 | 10.1 | 12.9 |
| Uva | 3.7 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 10.2 | 12.4 | 14.1 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 7.7 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 18.2 | 16.5 | 19.4 |

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

Figure 11.1:
Percentage of desktop or laptop computer owned households by province, 2023 - 2025




Percentage of availability of desktop or laptop computer at a household vary between 19 percent - 21 percent between 2023 to 2025 period.

## 11.2 Computer Literacy and Digital literacy

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

**Definition for computer literacy rate:**
Computer Literate population expressed as a percentage to the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

**Definition for Digital literacy:**
A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a digital literate person if he/she could use computer, lap top, tablet or smartphone on his/her own.

**Definition for Digital literacy rate:**
Digital Literate population expressed as a percentage to the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

Table11.2: Computer literacy rate by sector, province and survey year, 2023 - 2025

| Sector/Province | Computer literacy rate (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 39.0 | 35.9 | 39.2 |
| **Sector** | | | |
| Urban | 52.9 | 47.3 | 54.0 |
| Rural | 37.1 | 34.5 | 37.1 |
| Estate | 17.9 | 14.9 | 19.5 |
| **Province** | | | |
| Western | 49.9 | 46.0 | 50.2 |
| Central | 37.0 | 34.0 | 35.9 |
| Southern | 39.6 | 34.3 | 37.0 |
| Northern | 38.2 | 35.9 | 37.8 |
| Eastern | 34.3 | 30.3 | 32.0 |
| North Western | 31.7 | 31.3 | 34.9 |
| North Central | 29.3 | 24.2 | 24.3 |
| Uva | 26.5 | 25.5 | 34.0 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 37.0 | 36.3 | 40.6 |

Percentage of Computer Literate population (Computer Literacy) over the survey periods has been fluctuating. Overall Computer Literacy reported in 2025 for Sri Lanka is 39.2 percent.

The survey results show an increase of 3.3 percentage points from 2024 to 2025. Urban sector shows the highest computer literacy rate (54.0%) among residential sectors in 2025. Computer literacy rate for Rural and Estate sectors are 37.1 percent and 19.5 percent respectively.

Among the provinces the highest level of computer literacy is reported from the Western province (50.2%). The lowest computer literacy is reported from the North Central province (24.3%).

As given in Table 11.3 the Computer literacy among males (40.5%) is higher than that of females (38.0%) in 2025. Young youths (aged 15 – 19 years) show the highest computer literacy rate (77.2%) among all other age groups.

The survey results reveal that higher the level of education higher the computer literacy. The group with A/L or above level of education shows the highest computer literacy rate (78.9%). Also computer literacy is higher among those who are literate in English language (76.2%) in 2025.

Table 11.3: Computer literacy rate by gender, age, level of education and language literacy, 2023 - 2025

| Gender, Age group, Education attainment and Language literacy | Computer literacy rate (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 39.0 | 35.9 | 39.2 |
| **By Sex** | | | |
| Male | 40.9 | 37.3 | 40.5 |
| Female | 37.2 | 34.6 | 38.0 |
| **By Age group(years)** | | | |
| 5 - 9 | 15.5 | 13.6 | 14.9 |
| 10 - 14 | 56.3 | 47.9 | 50.7 |
| 15 - 19 | 79.4 | 75.0 | 77.2 |
| 20 - 24 | 74.7 | 70.2 | 75.2 |
| 25 - 29 | 64.1 | 59.4 | 63.1 |
| 30 - 34 | 52.8 | 51.0 | 54.8 |
| 35 - 39 | 39.8 | 40.6 | 43.8 |
| 40 - 49 | 29.4 | 26.2 | 30.8 |
| 50 - 59 | 16.6 | 16.2 | 18.7 |
| 60 - 69 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 8.7 |
| **By Educational attainment** | | | |
| No schooling | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Below grade 6 | 14.3 | 10.8 | 13.1 |
| Grade 6-10 | 27.7 | 23.6 | 26.8 |
| G.C.E (O/L) | 51.9 | 47.5 | 51.7 |
| G.C.E. (A/L) or above | 80.1 | 75.6 | 78.9 |
| **By Language literacy** | | | |
| Sinhala | 45.4 | 41.9 | 46.1 |
| Tamil | 48.0 | 42.5 | 47.6 |
| English | 77.4 | 74.0 | 76.2 |

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

Figure 11.2:
Distribution of computer literacy rate by educational attainment and language literacy, 2023 - 2025

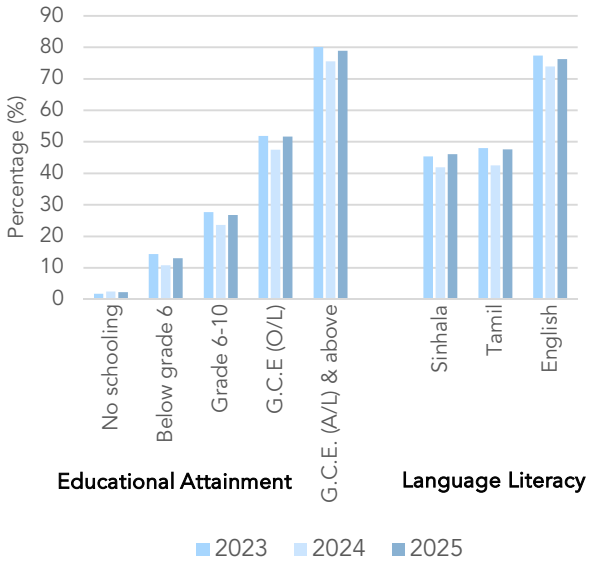


Table11.4: Computer literacy among computer aware employed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by occupation, 2023 - 2025

| Occupation group | Computer literacy (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 72.4 | 70.3 | 73.2 |
| Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 90.9 | 87.3 | 86.6 |
| Professionals | 96.0 | 94.3 | 94.3 |
| Technicians and Associate Professionals | 94.0 | 91.5 | 93.3 |
| Clerks and Clerical support workers | 94.1 | 93.1 | 96.8 |
| Services and Sales workers | 61.4 | 59.2 | 64.2 |
| Skilled Agricultura1, Forestry and Fishery workers | 26.2 | 22.4 | 26.1 |
| Craft and Related Trades workers | 50.5 | 43.6 | 45.8 |
| Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers | 45.7 | 42.0 | 44.9 |
| Elementary occupations | 39.0 | 32.2 | 34.4 |
| Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations | 96.4 | 90.0 | 84.4 |

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

Computer literacy among the employed population who are aware of computer in Sri Lanka is around 73.2 percent in 2025. The positions such as Senior officials and Managers (86.6%), Professionals (94.3%), Technical and Associate professionals (93.3%), Clerks and Clerical support workers (96.8%) have higher computer literacy rates. Also, even among the individuals engage in elementary occupations 34.4 percent are computer literate in 2025.

Table 11.5: Computer literacy among unemployed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by age groups, 2023 - 2025

| Age group (years) | Percentage of computer literate population among unemployment (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| **Sri Lanka** | 70.3 | 67.6 | 73.1 |
| 15 - 19 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 66.6 |
| 20 - 24 | 82.7 | 75.5 | 82.8 |
| 25 - 29 | 83.7 | 81.2 | 87.5 |
| 30 - 39 | 65.3 | 56.4 | 66.4 |
| 40 – 69 | 28.3 | 28.5 | 32.0 |

Among the unemployed, aged (25-29) group shows highest computer literate population percentage (87.5%) in 2025. Annual results reveal that among unemployed many have at least some ICT skills. Even among the group aged 40-69 every one out of four is computer literate (32.0%) in 2025 (Table 11.5).

Table11.6: Computer literacy rate and Digital literacy rate by gender, sector and age groups – 2025

| Gender, Sector, Age group | Computer Literacy | Digital Literacy |
|---|---|---|
| **Sri Lanka** | 39.2 | 72.0 |
| **By Sex** | | |
| Male | 40.5 | 73.8 |
| Female | 38.0 | 70.4 |
| **Sector** | | |
| Urban | 54.0 | 81.1 |
| Rural | 37.1 | 70.8 |
| Estate | 19.5 | 58.5 |
| **By Age group(years)** | | |
| 5 - 9 | 14.9 | 57.0 |
| 10 - 14 | 50.7 | 82.8 |
| 15 - 19 | 77.2 | 94.5 |
| 20 - 24 | 75.2 | 95.4 |
| 25 - 29 | 63.1 | 92.4 |
| 30 - 34 | 54.8 | 90.3 |
| 35 - 39 | 43.8 | 86.5 |
| 40 - 49 | 30.8 | 75.7 |
| 50 - 59 | 18.7 | 53.9 |
| 60 - 69 | 8.7 | 31.5 |

When the digital literacy is considered 72.0 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 (Table 11.6).

## 11.3 Source of Computer Training

Table 11.7 shows that the majority of those who are computer literate have received training from School/University. The training received through Government training centers are comparatively low.

Table 11.7: Percentage distribution of computer literate household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by sources of receiving computer knowledge* and sector – 2025

| Source of receiving computer knowledge | Total (%) | Residential sector (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Urban | Rural | Estate |
| Private training course | 20.8 | 21.8 | 20.6 | 14.6 |
| School/University | 62.6 | 56.7 | 63.9 | 81.2 |
| Govt. training centers | 7.2 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 9.4 |
| Employment activities | 22.0 | 28.5 | 20.3 | 7.3 |
| Work place | 14.8 | 21.0 | 13.2 | 3.2 |
| Family members | 29.5 | 36.2 | 27.9 | 11.8 |
| Friends/ Relatives | 28.3 | 35.4 | 26.5 | 13.4 |
| Self | 40.9 | 60.0 | 35.7 | 18.6 |
| Other | 10.7 | 14.3 | 9.8 | 3.2 |

* Multiple choice answers

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

## 11.4 Internet and E-mail use

Table 11.8: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by Sex, Sector and Age group, 2023 - 2025

| Gender, Sector, Age group (years) | Household Population (aged 5-69) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Internet (%) | | | E-mail (%) | | |
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Sri Lanka | 51.2 | 54.6 | 62.4 | 18.6 | 19.3 | 21.7 |
| By Sex | | | | | | |
| Male | 53.8 | 57.2 | 64.3 | 20.7 | 21.0 | 23.5 |
| Female | 48.8 | 52.2 | 60.7 | 16.6 | 17.7 | 20.1 |
| By Sector | | | | | | |
| Urban | 66.9 | 67.1 | 74.7 | 29.8 | 30.4 | 33.6 |
| Rural | 48.8 | 52.8 | 60.5 | 16.8 | 17.6 | 20.0 |
| Estate | 32.4 | 37.7 | 49.7 | 6.5 | 5.4 | 7.0 |
| By Age Groups | | | | | | |
| 5 - 14 | 41.3 | 45.1 | 53.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.8 |
| 15 - 19 | 78.5 | 79.2 | 85.1 | 28.3 | 28.9 | 32.0 |
| 20 - 24 | 87.2 | 88.4 | 91.6 | 47.3 | 47.7 | 50.9 |
| 25 - 29 | 82.4 | 84.9 | 87.0 | 42.3 | 41.8 | 44.1 |
| 30 - 34 | 74.5 | 79.6 | 84.5 | 32.6 | 35.3 | 36.2 |
| 35 - 39 | 64.7 | 71.9 | 79.4 | 24.1 | 27.5 | 29.8 |
| 40 - 49 | 50.2 | 55.5 | 65.7 | 16.7 | 17.3 | 21.7 |
| 50 - 59 | 29.6 | 34.4 | 43.8 | 10.0 | 10.8 | 14.6 |
| 60 - 69 | 15.4 | 17.8 | 24.0 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 5.4 |

The Table 11.8 depicts that 62.4 percent of the population aged 5 to 69 years use the internet facility at least once during twelve months in 2025 and 21.7 percent of the household population aged 5 – 69 years have used E–mail facility at least once during the last 12 months period in 2025. 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. Also persons in age group 20 - 24 indicate a higher internet and email usage compared to the persons in other age groups.

Figure 11.3:
Percentage distribution of internet and e-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2025

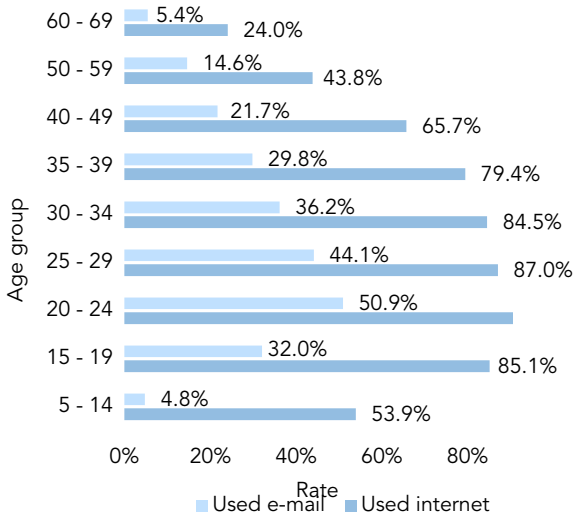



Table 11.9: Percentage distribution of device used to connect to internet/ email to all divices used by Sex, Sector and Age group – 2025

| Gender, Sector, Age group | Total (%) | Device use to connect to internet/ email (%) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Desktop / Laptop | Smart phone | Tablet computer | Mobile phone |
| Sri Lanka | 100.0 | 17.4 | 80.6 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| By Sex | | | | | |
| Male | 100.0 | 18.3 | 79.4 | 1.3 | 1.0 |
| Female | 100.0 | 16.5 | 81.7 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| By Sector | | | | | |
| Urban | 100.0 | 25.1 | 72.2 | 2.1 | 0.6 |
| Rural | 100.0 | 15.6 | 82.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| Estate | 100.0 | 5.0 | 94.0 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| By Age group(years) | | | | | |
| 5 - 9 | 100.0 | 9.0 | 89.2 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| 10 - 14 | 100.0 | 15.5 | 82.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| 15 - 19 | 100.0 | 19.5 | 78.3 | 1.0 | 1.2 |
| 20 - 24 | 100.0 | 22.3 | 75.7 | 1.1 | 0.9 |
| 25 - 29 | 100.0 | 21.4 | 76.2 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| 30 - 34 | 100.0 | 19.2 | 78.3 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| 35 - 39 | 100.0 | 16.9 | 80.6 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
| 40 - 49 | 100.0 | 15.8 | 82.1 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 50 - 59 | 100.0 | 15.6 | 82.8 | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| 60 - 69 | 100.0 | 9.6 | 89.1 | 0.9 | 0.4 |

* Multiple choice answers

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

# Statistical Appendix

Table 1 - Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population,15 years of age and over - Both sexes

| 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) | |
| 2018 | 16,196,232 | 8,387,759 | 51.8 | 8,015,166 | 95.6 | 372,593 | 4.4 | 7,808,473 |
| 2019 | 16,424,016 | 8,592,010 | 52.3 | 8,180,693 | 95.2 | 411,318 | 4.8 | 7,832,006 |
| 2020 | 16,739,396 | 8,466,606 | 50.6 | 7,999,093 | 94.5 | 467,513 | 5.5 | 8,272,790 |
| 2021 | 17,133,659 | 8,553,290 | 49.9 | 8,113,507 | 94.9 | 439,783 | 5.1 | 8,580,369 |
| 2022 | 17,161,973 | 8,547,062 | 49.8 | 8,147,731 | 95.3 | 399,332 | 4.7 | 8,614,911 |
| 2023 | 17,306,492 | 8,408,331 | 48.6 | 8,009,916 | 95.3 | 398,415 | 4.7 | 8,898,161 |
| 2024 | 17,547,864 | 8,315,702 | 47.4 | 7,949,751 | 95.6 | 365,951 | 4.4 | 9,232,162 |
| 2025 | 17,034,109 | 8,408,251 | 49.4 | 8,079,040 | 96.1 | 329,211 | 3.9 | 8,625,859 |

Table 1A - Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Male

| Year | Household population (15 years & over) | Labour force | | | | | | Not in labour force number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total labour force | Labour force number rate(%) | Employed | | Unemployed | | |
| | | | | Number | Rate (% to total labour force) | Number | Rate (% to total labour force) | |
| 2018 | 7,488,320 | 5,464,236 | 73.0 | 5,300,310 | 97.0 | 163,926 | 3.0 | 2,024,084 |
| 2019 | 7,610,113 | 5,554,192 | 73.0 | 5,368,896 | 96.7 | 185,296 | 3.3 | 2,055,920 |
| 2020 | 7,788,634 | 5,598,004 | 71.9 | 5,372,947 | 96.0 | 225,057 | 4.0 | 2,190,629 |
| 2021 | 7,915,659 | 5,621,223 | 71.0 | 5,414,280 | 96.3 | 206,943 | 3.7 | 2,294,436 |
| 2022 | 7,914,636 | 5,580,786 | 70.5 | 5,373,965 | 96.3 | 206,822 | 3.7 | 2,333,850 |
| 2023 | 8,024,760 | 5,503,595 | 68.6 | 5,307,563 | 96.4 | 196,032 | 3.6 | 2,521,164 |
| 2024 | 8,195,169 | 5,525,402 | 67.4 | 5,358,554 | 97.0 | 166,849 | 3.0 | 2,669,766 |
| 2025 | 7,889,837 | 5,449,708 | 69.1 | 5,299,777 | 97.2 | 149,931 | 2.8 | 2,440,129 |

Table 1B - Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Female

| 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) | |
| 2018 | 8,707,912 | 2,923,523 | 33.6 | 2,714,855 | 92.9 | 208,667 | 7.1 | 5,784,390 |
| 2019 | 8,813,903 | 3,037,818 | 34.5 | 2,811,796 | 92.6 | 226,022 | 7.4 | 5,776,085 |
| 2020 | 8,950,763 | 2,868,602 | 32.0 | 2,626,146 | 91.5 | 242,456 | 8.5 | 6,082,161 |
| 2021 | 9,218,000 | 2,932,067 | 31.8 | 2,699,228 | 92.1 | 232,840 | 7.9 | 6,285,933 |
| 2022 | 9,247,337 | 2,966,276 | 32.1 | 2,773,766 | 93.5 | 192,510 | 6.5 | 6,281,061 |
| 2023 | 9,281,733 | 2,904,736 | 31.3 | 2,702,354 | 93.0 | 202,382 | 7.0 | 6,376,997 |
| 2024 | 9,352,695 | 2,790,299 | 29.8 | 2,591,197 | 92.9 | 199,102 | 7.1 | 6,562,395 |
| 2025 | 9,144,272 | 2,958,543 | 32.4 | 2,779,262 | 93.9 | 179,280 | 6.1 | 6,185,730 |

Table 2 - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age - Both sexes

| Age | Household pop: (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) | |
| All ages | 17,034,109 | 8,408,251 | 49.4 | 8,079,040 | 96.1 | 329,211 | 3.9 | 8,625,859 |
| 15 - 19 Yrs | 1,796,035 | 142,039 | 7.9 | 103,648 | 73.0 | 38,391 | 27.0 | 1,653,996 |
| 20 - 24 Yrs | 1,377,059 | 646,677 | 47.0 | 531,458 | 82.2 | 115,218 | 17.8 | 730,383 |
| 25 - 29 Yrs | 1,165,734 | 778,004 | 66.7 | 695,730 | 89.4 | 82,274 | 10.6 | 387,729 |
| 30 - 39 Yrs | 2,567,653 | 1,728,223 | 67.3 | 1,676,300 | 97.0 | 51,923 | 3.0 | 839,430 |
| 40 + Yrs | 10,127,629 | 5,113,307 | 50.5 | 5,071,904 | 99.2 | 41,404 | 0.8 | 5,014,321 |

Table 2A - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age - Male

| Age | Household pop: (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) | |
| All ages | 7,889,837 | 5,449,708 | 69.1 | 5,299,777 | 97.2 | 149,931 | 2.8 | 2,440,129 |
| 15 - 19 Yrs | 885,566 | 101,133 | 11.4 | 75,517 | 74.7 | 25,615 | 25.3 | 784,433 |
| 20 - 24 Yrs | 657,350 | 395,199 | 60.1 | 338,963 | 85.8 | 56,236 | 14.2 | 262,151 |
| 25 - 29 Yrs | 549,026 | 490,721 | 89.4 | 457,625 | 93.3 | 33,096 | 6.7 | 58,305 |
| 30 - 39 Yrs | 1,157,355 | 1,097,766 | 94.9 | 1,081,273 | 98.5 | 16,493 | 1.5 | 59,589 |
| 40 + Yrs | 4,640,540 | 3,364,889 | 72.5 | 3,346,399 | 99.5 | 18,490 | 0.5 | 1,275,651 |

Table 2B - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age - Female

| Age | Household pop: (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) | |
| All ages | 9,144,272 | 2,958,543 | 32.4 | 2,779,262 | 93.9 | 179,280 | 6.1 | 6,185,730 |
| 15 - 19 Yrs | 910,469 | 40,907 | 4.5 | 28,131 | 68.8 | 12,776 | 31.2 | 869,563 |
| 20 - 24 Yrs | 719,709 | 251,477 | 34.9 | 192,495 | 76.5 | 58,982 | 23.5 | 468,232 |
| 25 - 29 Yrs | 616,707 | 287,283 | 46.6 | 238,105 | 82.9 | 49,178 | 17.1 | 329,424 |
| 30 - 39 Yrs | 1,410,298 | 630,457 | 44.7 | 595,027 | 94.4 | 35,430 | 5.6 | 779,841 |
| 40 + Yrs | 5,487,089 | 1,748,418 | 31.9 | 1,725,505 | 98.7 | 22,914 | 1.3 | 3,738,670 |

Table 3 - Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (percentage) - Both sexes

| Year | All ages | Age groups | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 15 - 19 Yrs | 20 - 24 Yrs | 25 - 29 Yrs | 30 - 39 Yrs | 40+ Yrs |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 1.8 | 7.2 | 9.0 | 22.6 | 59.4 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 1.9 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 22.6 | 59.1 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 1.7 | 6.8 | 9.2 | 22.0 | 60.2 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 6.3 | 9.4 | 21.1 | 61.8 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 1.3 | 6.5 | 9.0 | 21.4 | 61.8 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 1.2 | 6.4 | 8.4 | 20.3 | 63.7 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 1.3 | 6.3 | 8.7 | 19.7 | 64.0 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 1.3 | 6.6 | 8.6 | 20.7 | 62.8 |

Table 3A - Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (percentage) - Male

| Year | All ages | Age groups | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 15 - 19 Yrs | 20 - 24 Yrs | 25 - 29 Yrs | 30 - 39 Yrs | 40+ Yrs |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 2.0 | 7.3 | 9.4 | 22.6 | 58.7 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 2.1 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 22.3 | 59.0 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 1.9 | 7.0 | 9.1 | 21.8 | 60.3 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 1.6 | 6.4 | 9.4 | 20.5 | 62.0 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 1.3 | 6.4 | 9.1 | 21.2 | 62.0 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 6.4 | 8.4 | 20.0 | 63.9 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 6.4 | 8.6 | 19.3 | 64.4 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 6.4 | 8.6 | 20.4 | 63.1 |

Table 3B - Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (percentage) - Female

| Year | All ages | Age groups | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 15 - 19 Yrs | 20 - 24 Yrs | 25 - 29 Yrs | 30 - 39 Yrs | 40+ Yrs |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 6.9 | 8.3 | 22.7 | 60.7 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 7.0 | 9.1 | 23.1 | 59.4 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 6.5 | 9.3 | 22.6 | 60.1 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 6.0 | 9.3 | 22.3 | 61.4 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 6.8 | 8.9 | 21.8 | 61.4 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 0.8 | 6.4 | 8.4 | 20.9 | 63.4 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 1.0 | 6.1 | 9.1 | 20.7 | 63.1 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 1.0 | 6.9 | 8.6 | 21.4 | 62.1 |

Table 4 - Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage) - Both sexes

| Year | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Grade 5 & below | Grades 6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/ NCGE | GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 14.9 | 45.9 | 18.1 | 21.2 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 14.0 | 45.8 | 17.4 | 22.8 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 13.7 | 46.0 | 17.8 | 22.5 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 13.0 | 45.7 | 17.6 | 23.8 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 12.7 | 45.1 | 17.6 | 24.6 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 12.6 | 43.9 | 18.5 | 25.1 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 11.6 | 43.6 | 19.1 | 25.6 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 11.3 | 42.6 | 19.0 | 27.1 |

Table 4A - Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage) - Male

| Year | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Grade 5 & below | Grades 6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/ NCGE | GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 14.7 | 49.7 | 18.8 | 16.7 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 14.1 | 49.6 | 18.0 | 18.2 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 13.8 | 49.8 | 18.3 | 18.1 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 13.0 | 49.6 | 18.6 | 18.8 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 13.0 | 49.1 | 18.5 | 19.4 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 12.9 | 48.0 | 19.2 | 19.9 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 12.0 | 47.7 | 19.9 | 20.5 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 11.3 | 46.7 | 20.0 | 21.9 |

Table 4B - Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (percentage) - Female

| Year | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Grade 5 & below | Grades 6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/ NCGE | GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 15.2 | 38.4 | 16.5 | 29.9 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 13.8 | 38.4 | 16.3 | 31.6 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 13.4 | 38.1 | 16.8 | 31.7 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 12.8 | 37.8 | 15.5 | 33.8 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 12.0 | 37.2 | 16.1 | 34.7 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 12.0 | 35.8 | 17.0 | 35.3 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 10.8 | 35.3 | 17.6 | 36.3 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 11.2 | 34.6 | 17.2 | 37.0 |

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 | | | |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 57.8 | 14.5 | 43.3 | 2.8 | 32.3 | 7.2 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 57.9 | 14.9 | 43.0 | 2.6 | 32.5 | 7.0 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 57.5 | 14.8 | 42.7 | 2.5 | 33.2 | 6.8 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 57.3 | 15.2 | 42.0 | 2.7 | 33.4 | 6.6 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 58.0 | 15.1 | 42.9 | 2.9 | 33.1 | 5.9 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 59.0 | 14.6 | 44.5 | 2.6 | 32.8 | 5.5 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 58.8 | 14.4 | 44.4 | 2.9 | 33.1 | 5.2 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 60.5 | 15.2 | 45.3 | 3.1 | 31.8 | 4.5 |

Table 5A - Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (percentage) - Male

| Year | Total employed | Employee | | | Employer | Own account worker | Unpaid family worker |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Public | Private | | | |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 57.8 | 12.0 | 45.8 | 3.7 | 36.0 | 2.5 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 57.7 | 12.2 | 45.5 | 3.5 | 36.5 | 2.3 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 56.7 | 12.0 | 44.7 | 3.4 | 37.5 | 2.4 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 56.6 | 12.1 | 44.4 | 3.7 | 37.3 | 2.4 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 57.0 | 11.9 | 45.1 | 3.9 | 37.2 | 2.0 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 57.6 | 11.5 | 46.1 | 3.5 | 36.8 | 2.1 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 57.2 | 11.2 | 46.0 | 3.8 | 37.1 | 1.9 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 58.8 | 12.1 | 46.7 | 4.2 | 35.4 | 1.5 |

Table 5B - Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (percentage) - Female

| Year | Total employed | Employee | | | Employer | Own account worker | Unpaid family worker |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Public | Private | | | |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 57.8 | 19.3 | 38.5 | 1.0 | 24.9 | 16.3 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 58.3 | 19.9 | 38.4 | 0.8 | 24.8 | 16.1 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 59.0 | 20.5 | 38.5 | 0.8 | 24.4 | 15.8 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 58.7 | 21.5 | 37.2 | 0.8 | 25.4 | 15.2 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 60.0 | 21.3 | 38.7 | 1.0 | 25.4 | 13.6 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 61.9 | 20.6 | 41.2 | 0.9 | 25.0 | 12.2 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 62.2 | 21.2 | 41.0 | 1.1 | 24.9 | 11.9 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 63.7 | 21.1 | 42.6 | 1.1 | 24.9 | 10.2 |

Table 6 - Currently employed person by industry group (based on ISIC fourth revision) - Both sexes

| Year | Total | Industry group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 20 | Other |
| 2021 | 8,113,507 | 2,213,015 | 54,586 | 1,362,311 | 692,585 | 1,153,516 | 481,703 | 214,497 | 72,881 | 182,313 | 80,762 | 136,073 | 490,106 | 423,135 | 174,539 | 128,418 | 201,726 | 51,342 |
| 2022 | 8,147,731 | 2,158,559 | 58,979 | 1,408,819 | 690,401 | 1,142,754 | 486,346 | 235,544 | 71,054 | 182,379 | 87,337 | 146,494 | 456,844 | 461,829 | 169,298 | 162,099 | 157,590 | 71,404 |
| 2023 | 8,009,916 | 2,088,344 | 64,606 | 1,377,686 | 600,862 | 1,127,497 | 504,645 | 277,739 | 78,347 | 176,891 | 89,946 | 135,523 | 438,156 | 429,311 | 185,014 | 209,128 | 160,913 | 65,308 |
| 2024 | 7,949,751 | 2,066,651 | 60,445 | 1,366,492 | 604,479 | 1,175,059 | 521,450 | 259,043 | 80,357 | 158,144 | 85,106 | 147,556 | 419,058 | 422,348 | 183,209 | 200,086 | 138,315 | 61,951 |
| 2025 | 8,079,040 | 1,932,548 | 52,317 | 1,439,539 | 628,599 | 1,183,675 | 505,660 | 268,312 | 92,347 | 185,380 | 94,411 | 160,868 | 447,673 | 466,391 | 188,544 | 197,111 | 168,945 | 66,718 |

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D,E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Table 6A - Currently employed person by industry group (based on ISIC fourth revision) - Male

| Year | Total | Industry group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 20 | Other |
| 2021 | 5,414,280 | 1,423,619 | 53,512 | 775,837 | 663,925 | 834,545 | 465,940 | 136,349 | 51,631 | 108,793 | 49,777 | 96,394 | 290,754 | 127,846 | 63,616 | 96,710 | 134,475 | 40,557 |
| 2022 | 5,373,965 | 1,422,010 | 58,657 | 758,623 | 658,525 | 831,372 | 466,203 | 141,812 | 48,341 | 100,235 | 55,248 | 104,400 | 271,425 | 139,674 | 61,720 | 123,033 | 79,292 | 53,396 |
| 2023 | 5,307,563 | 1,418,583 | 62,801 | 731,875 | 574,746 | 823,014 | 480,265 | 167,045 | 60,945 | 97,742 | 57,625 | 92,927 | 270,067 | 127,997 | 59,902 | 167,068 | 62,929 | 52,031 |
| 2024 | 5,358,554 | 1,446,096 | 59,637 | 737,824 | 573,276 | 861,799 | 498,811 | 167,564 | 56,051 | 89,841 | 55,073 | 104,679 | 253,211 | 138,581 | 56,349 | 158,330 | 54,071 | 47,360 |
| 2025 | 5,299,777 | 1,298,371 | 51,063 | 770,468 | 599,088 | 848,704 | 478,836 | 162,253 | 66,039 | 99,579 | 58,159 | 111,957 | 271,223 | 140,978 | 68,714 | 149,377 | 73,893 | 51,076 |

Table 6B - Currently employed person by industry group (based on ISIC fourth revision) - Female

| Year | Total | Industry Group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 20 | Other |
| 2021 | 2,699,228 | 789,396 | 1,074 | 586,474 | 28,660 | 318,971 | 15,763 | 78,147 | 21,250 | 73,519 | 30,985 | 39,679 | 199,352 | 295,289 | 110,923 | 31,708 | 67,251 | 10,785 |
| 2022 | 2,773,766 | 736,549 | 322 | 650,196 | 31,877 | 311,382 | 20,144 | 93,732 | 22,712 | 82,144 | 32,089 | 42,094 | 185,419 | 322,155 | 107,578 | 39,066 | 78,298 | 18,009 |
| 2023 | 2,702,354 | 669,761 | 1,805 | 645,812 | 26,116 | 304,483 | 24,381 | 110,694 | 17,401 | 79,150 | 32,321 | 42,595 | 168,089 | 301,314 | 125,112 | 42,060 | 97,984 | 13,277 |
| 2024 | 2,591,197 | 620,555 | 809 | 628,668 | 31,203 | 313,260 | 22,639 | 91,479 | 24,306 | 68,303 | 30,034 | 42,877 | 165,847 | 283,767 | 126,859 | 41,756 | 84,244 | 14,591 |
| 2025 | 2,779,262 | 634,177 | 1,254 | 669,071 | 29,511 | 334,971 | 26,824 | 106,059 | 26,308 | 85,802 | 36,253 | 48,911 | 176,450 | 325,413 | 119,830 | 47,734 | 95,053 | 15,642 |

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

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
2 Mining & quarrying (B)
3 Manufacturing (C)
6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)
7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
8 Transportation and storage (H)
9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)
10 Information and communication (J)
11 Financial and insurance activities (K)
13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
14 Administrative and support service activities (N)
15 Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)
16 Education (P)
17 Human health and social work activities (Q)
19 Other service activities (S)
20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
Other

Other
12 Real estate activities (L)
18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)
21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

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

| Major industry group | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Total | 8,113,507 | 8,147,731 | 8,009,916 | 7,949,751 | 8,079,040 |
| Agriculture | 2,213,015 | 2,158,559 | 2,088,344 | 2,066,651 | 1,932,548 |
| Industry | 2,109,482 | 2,158,199 | 2,043,154 | 2,031,417 | 2,120,455 |
| Services | 3,791,011 | 3,830,973 | 3,878,418 | 3,851,683 | 4,026,037 |

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

| Major industry group | Year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Agriculture | 27.3 | 26.5 | 26.1 | 26.0 | 23.9 |
| Industry | 26.0 | 26.5 | 25.5 | 25.6 | 26.2 |
| Services | 46.7 | 47.0 | 48.4 | 48.5 | 49.8 |

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

**Agriculture**

1. Agriculture forestry and fishery (A)

**Industries**

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

**Services**

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

Table 7 - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes

| Year | Total | Occupation group | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |
| 2021 | 8,113,507 | 324,769 | 576,124 | 681,988 | 282,448 | 947,824 | 1,308,645 | 1,142,171 | 816,954 | 2,000,483 | 32,101 |
| 2022 | 8,147,731 | 340,894 | 596,432 | 688,341 | 296,177 | 901,590 | 1,310,662 | 1,173,642 | 786,507 | 2,007,366 | 46,120 |
| 2023 | 8,009,916 | 320,025 | 587,902 | 690,537 | 262,986 | 984,747 | 1,211,408 | 1,105,729 | 759,785 | 2,056,729 | 30,068 |
| 2024 | 7,949,751 | 339,787 | 589,418 | 686,022 | 283,293 | 978,857 | 1,212,157 | 1,077,931 | 783,781 | 1,957,410 | 41,094 |
| 2025 | 8,079,040 | 371,051 | 653,873 | 761,071 | 260,304 | 1,003,534 | 1,108,922 | 1,099,654 | 784,008 | 1,991,179 | 45,444 |

Occupation group

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Managers, senior officials and legislators | 6 | Skilled agriculture forestry and fishery workers |
| 2 | Professionals | 7 | Craft and related trades workers |
| 3 | Technicians and associate professionals | 8 | Plant and machine operators and assemblers |
| 4 | Clerks and clerical support workers | 9 | Elementary occupations |
| 5 | Services and sales workers | 0 | Armed forces occupations & unidentified occupations |

Table 7A - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Male

| Year | Total | Occupation group | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |
| 2021 | 5,414,280 | 261,533 | 211,883 | 440,246 | 133,690 | 639,288 | 981,016 | 843,075 | 644,676 | 1,228,363 | 30,511 |
| 2022 | 5,373,965 | 264,794 | 215,652 | 437,218 | 141,818 | 606,381 | 956,970 | 835,321 | 622,142 | 1,252,138 | 41,531 |
| 2023 | 5,307,563 | 252,648 | 226,462 | 422,132 | 118,267 | 673,020 | 926,474 | 770,046 | 599,409 | 1,290,760 | 28,345 |
| 2024 | 5,358,554 | 249,813 | 220,360 | 450,587 | 135,584 | 674,946 | 947,298 | 763,680 | 617,928 | 1,260,484 | 37,874 |
| 2025 | 5,299,777 | 270,005 | 242,189 | 490,525 | 111,013 | 680,751 | 838,147 | 770,499 | 609,397 | 1,247,136 | 40,114 |

Table 7B - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Female

| Year | Total | Occupation group | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |
| 2021 | 2,699,228 | 63,236 | 364,242 | 241,742 | 148,758 | 308,536 | 327,629 | 299,096 | 172,278 | 772,120 | 1,590 |
| 2022 | 2,773,766 | 76,101 | 380,779 | 251,123 | 154,359 | 295,209 | 353,692 | 338,321 | 164,364 | 755,227 | 4,589 |
| 2023 | 2,702,354 | 67,378 | 361,440 | 268,406 | 144,719 | 311,727 | 284,934 | 335,682 | 160,376 | 765,969 | 1,723 |
| 2024 | 2,591,197 | 89,974 | 369,058 | 235,434 | 147,709 | 303,911 | 264,859 | 314,251 | 165,854 | 696,926 | 3,221 |
| 2025 | 2,779,262 | 101,046 | 411,684 | 270,545 | 149,291 | 322,782 | 270,775 | 329,155 | 174,611 | 744,042 | 5,330 |

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

Occupation group

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Managers, senior officials and legislators | 6 | Skilled agriculture forestry and fishery workers |
| 2 | Professionals | 7 | Craft and related trades workers |
| 3 | Technicians and associate professionals | 8 | Plant and machine operators and assemblers |
| 4 | Clerks and clerical support workers | 9 | Elementary occupations |
| 5 | Services and sales workers | 0 | Armed forces occupations & unidentified occupations |

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 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 5.0 | 8.5 | 15.2 | 35.5 | 31.2 |
| 1 | 100.0 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 10.4 | 16.3 | 23.2 | 27.5 | 15.2 |
| 2 | 100.0 | 8.0 | .. | 2.9 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 37.1 | 38.6 |
| 3 | 100.0 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 4.5 | 7.3 | 11.5 | 38.0 | 34.1 |
| 6 | 100.0 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 9.9 | 15.4 | 38.8 | 25.7 |
| 7 | 100.0 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 4.6 | 8.6 | 30.9 | 52.0 |
| 8 | 100.0 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 4.8 | 11.0 | 31.9 | 46.7 |
| 9 | 100.0 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 3.4 | 8.5 | 10.6 | 28.5 | 45.4 |
| 10 | 100.0 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 4.1 | 51.9 | 38.9 |
| 11 | 100.0 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 64.0 | 26.8 |
| 13 | 100.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 3.5 | 6.8 | 8.2 | 50.0 | 29.8 |
| 14 | 100.0 | 2.5 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 4.7 | 7.1 | 39.9 | 41.8 |
| 15 | 100.0 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 3.1 | 61.5 | 31.2 |
| 16 | 100.0 | 4.8 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 7.6 | 44.6 | 29.8 | 7.2 |
| 17 | 100.0 | 1.3 | .. | 0.6 | 2.4 | 5.7 | 45.2 | 44.9 |
| 19 | 100.0 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 4.6 | 8.1 | 12.3 | 34.8 | 35.1 |
| 20 | 100.0 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 8.5 | 8.1 | 17.6 | 30.1 | 31.9 |
| Other | 100.0 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 14.2 | 37.5 | 27.0 |

* Has a job but not at work during the reference week .. Not reported

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

**Industry group**

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
2 Mining & quarrying (B)
3 Manufacturing (C)
6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)
7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
8 Transportation and storage (H)
9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)
10 Information and communication (J)
11 Financial and insurance activities (K)
13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
14 Administrative and support service activities (N)
15 Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)
16 Education (P)
17 Human health and social work activities (Q)
19 Other service activities (S)
20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
Other

Other
12 Real estate activities (L)
18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)
21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

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 |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 14.1 | 38.9 | 22.5 | 15.0 | 9.5 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 13.0 | 36.0 | 22.8 | 14.3 | 13.8 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 13.5 | 39.3 | 21.5 | 13.8 | 12.0 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 8.9 | 42.5 | 22.2 | 15.2 | 11.1 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 9.6 | 37.2 | 24.4 | 14.1 | 14.7 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 10.0 | 35.5 | 25.3 | 14.2 | 15.1 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 10.6 | 35.7 | 27.1 | 15.6 | 10.9 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 11.7 | 35.0 | 25.0 | 15.8 | 12.6 |

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 |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 20.5 | 40.9 | 17.5 | 10.7 | 10.5 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 18.3 | 38.9 | 19.5 | 8.3 | 15.0 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 18.8 | 41.0 | 18.6 | 11.9 | 9.7 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 12.3 | 45.0 | 20.0 | 12.1 | 10.6 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 12.9 | 38.9 | 21.2 | 12.1 | 14.8 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 13.8 | 36.6 | 21.5 | 12.2 | 15.8 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 14.9 | 37.7 | 24.1 | 13.6 | 9.7 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 17.1 | 37.5 | 22.1 | 11.0 | 12.3 |

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 |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 9.1 | 37.3 | 26.5 | 18.4 | 8.7 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 8.7 | 33.6 | 25.5 | 19.3 | 12.9 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 8.5 | 37.7 | 24.1 | 15.6 | 14.1 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 5.8 | 40.3 | 24.2 | 18.0 | 11.6 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 6.1 | 35.2 | 27.7 | 16.3 | 14.6 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 6.2 | 34.4 | 28.9 | 16.0 | 14.4 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 7.0 | 34.0 | 29.7 | 17.4 | 11.9 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 7.1 | 32.9 | 27.4 | 19.8 | 12.8 |

Table 10 - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Both sexes

| Year | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Grade 5 & below | Grades 6 - 10 | GCE(O/L) NCGE | GCE(A/L) HNCE & Above |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 2.2 | 30.5 | 21.4 | 45.8 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 2.9 | 31.4 | 23.9 | 41.9 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 2.2 | 32.6 | 23.5 | 41.7 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 29.6 | 24.9 | 44.1 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 1.8 | 32.1 | 23.6 | 42.6 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 1.8 | 31.1 | 23.6 | 43.6 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 26.9 | 25.0 | 46.8 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 1.9 | 28.3 | 27.1 | 42.7 |

Table 10A - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Male

| Year | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Grade 5 & Below | Grades 6 - 10 | GCE(O/L) NCGE | GCE(A/L) HNCE & Above |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 3.1 | 43.1 | 25.0 | 28.9 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 2.9 | 42.2 | 27.0 | 28.0 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 2.3 | 41.5 | 27.7 | 28.5 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 1.8 | 36.0 | 29.9 | 32.3 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 2.2 | 40.1 | 28.0 | 29.6 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 2.3 | 39.3 | 25.1 | 33.4 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 1.0 | 33.2 | 28.0 | 37.8 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 2.4 | 35.2 | 31.0 | 31.4 |

Table 10 B - Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Female

| Year | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | GRADE 5 & Below | GRADES 6 - 10 | GCE(O/L) NCGE | GCE(A/L) HNCE & ABOVE |
| 2018 | 100.0 | 1.5 | 20.6 | 18.7 | 59.2 |
| 2019 | 100.0 | 2.9 | 22.5 | 21.4 | 53.3 |
| 2020 | 100.0 | 2.2 | 24.2 | 19.7 | 53.9 |
| 2021 | 100.0 | 1.0 | 23.9 | 20.5 | 54.6 |
| 2022 | 100.0 | 1.3 | 23.5 | 18.8 | 56.4 |
| 2023 | 100.0 | 1.4 | 23.1 | 22.1 | 53.4 |
| 2024 | 100.0 | 1.7 | 21.5 | 22.4 | 54.4 |
| 2025 | 100.0 | 1.5 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 52.1 |

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

| Sex | Total | Duration | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Less than 6 months | 6 to less than 12 months | 12+ months |
| Both sexes | 329,211 | 147,693 | 90,903 | 90,615 |
| % | 100.0 | 44.9 | 27.6 | 27.5 |
| Male | 149,931 | 72,519 | 41,406 | 36,006 |
| % | 100.0 | 48.4 | 27.6 | 24.0 |
| Female | 179,280 | 75,174 | 49,498 | 54,609 |
| % | 100.0 | 41.9 | 27.6 | 30.5 |

Table 12 - Labour force status (Current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over by district - Both sexes

| District | 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) | |
| **Total** | **17,034,109** | **8,408,251** | **49.4** | **8,079,040** | **96.1** | **329,211** | **3.9** | **8,625,859** |
| Colombo | 1,902,461 | 934,508 | 49.1 | 906,877 | 97.0 | 27,631 | 3.0 | 967,953 |
| Gampaha | 1,972,215 | 928,585 | 47.1 | 904,299 | 97.4 | 24,286 | 2.6 | 1,043,631 |
| Kalutara | 1,057,142 | 520,673 | 49.3 | 498,265 | 95.7 | 22,408 | 4.3 | 536,469 |
| Kandy | 1,153,911 | 541,266 | 46.9 | 509,150 | 94.1 | 32,116 | 5.9 | 612,645 |
| Matale | 398,165 | 182,695 | 45.9 | 173,710 | 95.1 | 8,984 | 4.9 | 215,471 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 553,790 | 275,555 | 49.8 | 268,412 | 97.4 | 7,143 | 2.6 | 278,235 |
| Galle | 881,941 | 433,012 | 49.1 | 411,929 | 95.1 | 21,083 | 4.9 | 448,930 |
| Matara | 660,538 | 314,618 | 47.6 | 299,671 | 95.2 | 14,947 | 4.8 | 345,920 |
| Hambantota | 523,081 | 255,849 | 48.9 | 238,908 | 93.4 | 16,941 | 6.6 | 267,232 |
| Jaffna | 458,993 | 212,751 | 46.4 | 205,534 | 96.6 | 7,218 | 3.4 | 246,242 |
| Mannar | 92,892 | 50,563 | 54.4 | 49,650 | 98.2 | 913 | 1.8 | 42,329 |
| Vavunia | 128,125 | 71,420 | 55.7 | 69,245 | 97.0 | 2,175 | 3.0 | 56,705 |
| Mullativu | 94,772 | 44,258 | 46.7 | 43,520 | 98.3 | 738 | 1.7 | 50,514 |
| Kilinochchci | 103,552 | 45,149 | 43.6 | 42,980 | 95.2 | 2,169 | 4.8 | 58,403 |
| Batticaloa | 439,628 | 189,204 | 43.0 | 181,058 | 95.7 | 8,145 | 4.3 | 250,424 |
| Ampara | 544,630 | 215,473 | 39.6 | 208,453 | 96.7 | 7,020 | 3.3 | 329,158 |
| Trincomalee | 318,429 | 137,373 | 43.1 | 136,558 | 99.4 | 814 | 0.6 | 181,057 |
| Kurunegala | 1,384,957 | 740,245 | 53.4 | 708,354 | 95.7 | 31,890 | 4.3 | 644,712 |
| Puttalam | 631,275 | 323,941 | 51.3 | 313,320 | 96.7 | 10,621 | 3.3 | 307,334 |
| Anuradhapura | 719,883 | 388,599 | 54.0 | 374,010 | 96.2 | 14,590 | 3.8 | 331,283 |
| Polonnaruwa | 342,306 | 158,041 | 46.2 | 153,182 | 96.9 | 4,859 | 3.1 | 184,265 |
| Badulla | 689,004 | 386,333 | 56.1 | 370,334 | 95.9 | 15,999 | 4.1 | 302,671 |
| Moneragala | 401,172 | 214,488 | 53.5 | 203,438 | 94.8 | 11,049 | 5.2 | 186,685 |
| Ratnapura | 886,229 | 485,828 | 54.8 | 471,913 | 97.1 | 13,915 | 2.9 | 400,402 |
| Kegalle | 695,017 | 357,827 | 51.5 | 336,270 | 94.0 | 21,557 | 6.0 | 337,190 |

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

Table 12A - Labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over by district - Male

| District | 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) | |
| **Total** | **7,889,837** | **5,449,708** | **69.1** | **5,299,777** | **97.2** | **149,931** | **2.8** | **2,440,129** |
| Colombo | 893,559 | 597,631 | 66.9 | 580,978 | 97.2 | 16,653 | 2.8 | 295,928 |
| Gampaha | 919,391 | 606,005 | 65.9 | 597,194 | 98.5 | 8,812 | 1.5 | 313,385 |
| Kalutara | 499,847 | 339,737 | 68.0 | 327,549 | 96.4 | 12,187 | 3.6 | 160,110 |
| Kandy | 526,029 | 340,471 | 64.7 | 327,261 | 96.1 | 13,210 | 3.9 | 185,558 |
| Matale | 176,317 | 120,035 | 68.1 | 115,432 | 96.2 | 4,603 | 3.8 | 56,282 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 257,861 | 161,168 | 62.5 | 158,127 | 98.1 | 3,041 | 1.9 | 96,693 |
| Galle | 411,124 | 272,301 | 66.2 | 262,837 | 96.5 | 9,464 | 3.5 | 138,823 |
| Matara | 301,433 | 205,031 | 68.0 | 197,560 | 96.4 | 7,471 | 3.6 | 96,402 |
| Hambantota | 241,671 | 174,632 | 72.3 | 167,445 | 95.9 | 7,188 | 4.1 | 67,039 |
| Jaffna | 212,322 | 151,470 | 71.3 | 149,023 | 98.4 | 2,447 | 1.6 | 60,852 |
| Mannar | 44,864 | 35,078 | 78.2 | 34,467 | 98.3 | 611 | 1.7 | 9,786 |
| Vavunia | 57,969 | 43,983 | 75.9 | 43,384 | 98.6 | 599 | 1.4 | 13,986 |
| Mullativu | 43,856 | 31,749 | 72.4 | 31,219 | 98.3 | 531 | 1.7 | 12,106 |
| Kilinochchi | 49,268 | 34,949 | 70.9 | 33,603 | 96.1 | 1,346 | 3.9 | 14,319 |
| Batticaloa | 189,060 | 129,247 | 68.4 | 127,538 | 98.7 | 1,709 | 1.3 | 59,813 |
| Ampara | 243,970 | 160,783 | 65.9 | 157,777 | 98.1 | 3,006 | 1.9 | 83,187 |
| Trincomalee | 148,793 | 103,405 | 69.5 | 103,100 | 99.7 | 305 | 0.3 | 45,388 |
| Kurunegala | 631,918 | 461,188 | 73.0 | 447,896 | 97.1 | 13,292 | 2.9 | 170,730 |
| Puttalam | 297,992 | 220,774 | 74.1 | 215,272 | 97.5 | 5,502 | 2.5 | 77,218 |
| Anuradhapura | 329,259 | 251,226 | 76.3 | 245,548 | 97.7 | 5,678 | 2.3 | 78,034 |
| Polonnaruwa | 159,959 | 117,661 | 73.6 | 114,705 | 97.5 | 2,956 | 2.5 | 42,298 |
| Badulla | 319,116 | 227,321 | 71.2 | 219,777 | 96.7 | 7,545 | 3.3 | 91,795 |
| Moneragala | 192,225 | 138,782 | 72.2 | 133,200 | 96.0 | 5,582 | 4.0 | 53,443 |
| Ratnapura | 426,168 | 309,138 | 72.5 | 303,071 | 98.0 | 6,067 | 2.0 | 117,030 |
| Kegalle | 315,867 | 215,942 | 68.4 | 205,816 | 95.3 | 10,126 | 4.7 | 99,925 |

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

Table 12B - Labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over by district – Female

| District | 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) | |
| **Total** | **9,144,272** | **2,958,543** | **32.4** | **2,779,262** | **93.9** | **179,280** | **6.1** | **6,185,730** |
| Colombo | 1,008,902 | 336,876 | 33.4 | 325,898 | 96.7 | 10,978 | 3.3 | 672,026 |
| Gampaha | 1,052,825 | 322,579 | 30.6 | 307,105 | 95.2 | 15,474 | 4.8 | 730,245 |
| Kalutara | 557,295 | 180,937 | 32.5 | 170,716 | 94.4 | 10,221 | 5.6 | 376,359 |
| Kandy | 627,882 | 200,795 | 32.0 | 181,888 | 90.6 | 18,906 | 9.4 | 427,088 |
| Matale | 221,848 | 62,660 | 28.2 | 58,278 | 93.0 | 4,381 | 7.0 | 159,189 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 295,929 | 114,387 | 38.7 | 110,285 | 96.4 | 4,102 | 3.6 | 181,542 |
| Galle | 470,817 | 160,710 | 34.1 | 149,092 | 92.8 | 11,619 | 7.2 | 310,107 |
| Matara | 359,105 | 109,587 | 30.5 | 102,111 | 93.2 | 7,476 | 6.8 | 249,518 |
| Hambantota | 281,409 | 81,216 | 28.9 | 71,463 | 88.0 | 9,754 | 12.0 | 200,193 |
| Jaffna | 246,671 | 61,281 | 24.8 | 56,511 | 92.2 | 4,771 | 7.8 | 185,389 |
| Mannar | 48,028 | 15,485 | 32.2 | 15,182 | 98.0 | 302 | 2.0 | 32,544 |
| Vavunia | 70,156 | 27,437 | 39.1 | 25,861 | 94.3 | 1,576 | 5.7 | 42,719 |
| Mullativu | 50,917 | 12,509 | 24.6 | 12,301 | 98.3 | 208 | 1.7 | 38,408 |
| Kilinochchi | 54,284 | 10,199 | 18.8 | 9,377 | 91.9 | 822 | 8.1 | 44,084 |
| Batticaloa | 250,567 | 59,956 | 23.9 | 53,520 | 89.3 | 6,436 | 10.7 | 190,611 |
| Ampara | 300,660 | 54,690 | 18.2 | 50,676 | 92.7 | 4,014 | 7.3 | 245,970 |
| Trincomalee | 169,636 | 33,968 | 20.0 | 33,458 | 98.5 | 509 | 1.5 | 135,668 |
| Kurunegala | 753,039 | 279,057 | 37.1 | 260,459 | 93.3 | 18,598 | 6.7 | 473,982 |
| Puttalam | 333,283 | 103,167 | 31.0 | 98,048 | 95.0 | 5,119 | 5.0 | 230,116 |
| Anuradhapura | 390,623 | 137,374 | 35.2 | 128,462 | 93.5 | 8,912 | 6.5 | 253,250 |
| Polonnaruwa | 182,347 | 40,380 | 22.1 | 38,478 | 95.3 | 1,903 | 4.7 | 141,967 |
| Badulla | 369,888 | 159,012 | 43.0 | 150,557 | 94.7 | 8,454 | 5.3 | 210,876 |
| Moneragala | 208,947 | 75,706 | 36.2 | 70,238 | 92.8 | 5,467 | 7.2 | 133,241 |
| Ratnapura | 460,062 | 176,690 | 38.4 | 168,843 | 95.6 | 7,847 | 4.4 | 283,372 |
| Kegalle | 379,151 | 141,885 | 37.4 | 130,454 | 91.9 | 11,431 | 8.1 | 237,265 |

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

Table 13 - Employment by major industry group by districts - Both sexes

| District | Total | | Agriculture | | Industry | | Services | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No | % | No | % | No | % | No | % |
| **Total** | **8,079,040** | **100.0** | **1,932,548** | **23.9** | **2,120,455** | **26.2** | **4,026,037** | **49.8** |
| Colombo | 906,877 | 100.0 | 23,106 | 2.5 | 232,684 | 25.7 | 651,087 | 71.8 |
| Gampaha | 904,299 | 100.0 | 30,978 | 3.4 | 323,574 | 35.8 | 549,747 | 60.8 |
| Kalutara | 498,265 | 100.0 | 60,403 | 12.1 | 175,747 | 35.3 | 262,115 | 52.6 |
| Kandy | 509,150 | 100.0 | 87,383 | 17.2 | 129,755 | 25.5 | 292,012 | 57.4 |
| Matale | 173,710 | 100.0 | 47,282 | 27.2 | 38,133 | 22.0 | 88,295 | 50.8 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 268,412 | 100.0 | 144,443 | 53.8 | 40,323 | 15.0 | 83,646 | 31.2 |
| Galle | 411,929 | 100.0 | 95,252 | 23.1 | 113,375 | 27.5 | 203,302 | 49.4 |
| Matara | 299,671 | 100.0 | 102,445 | 34.2 | 61,248 | 20.4 | 135,978 | 45.4 |
| Hambantota | 238,908 | 100.0 | 87,120 | 36.5 | 55,365 | 23.2 | 96,423 | 40.4 |
| Jaffna | 205,534 | 100.0 | 39,723 | 19.3 | 55,513 | 27.0 | 110,298 | 53.7 |
| Mannar | 49,650 | 100.0 | 22,075 | 44.5 | 7,559 | 15.2 | 20,015 | 40.3 |
| Vavuniya | 69,245 | 100.0 | 25,822 | 37.3 | 14,971 | 21.6 | 28,452 | 41.1 |
| Mullaitivu | 43,520 | 100.0 | 24,200 | 55.6 | 6,769 | 15.6 | 12,551 | 28.8 |
| Kilinochchi | 42,980 | 100.0 | 14,567 | 33.9 | 10,036 | 23.4 | 18,377 | 42.8 |
| Batticaloa | 181,058 | 100.0 | 45,922 | 25.4 | 46,841 | 25.9 | 88,295 | 48.8 |
| Ampara | 208,453 | 100.0 | 63,341 | 30.4 | 47,939 | 23.0 | 97,172 | 46.6 |
| Trincomalee | 136,558 | 100.0 | 32,990 | 24.2 | 30,342 | 22.2 | 73,226 | 53.6 |
| Kurunegala | 708,354 | 100.0 | 177,717 | 25.1 | 210,464 | 29.7 | 320,174 | 45.2 |
| Puttalam | 313,320 | 100.0 | 73,812 | 23.6 | 99,205 | 31.7 | 140,303 | 44.8 |
| Anuradhapura | 374,010 | 100.0 | 154,358 | 41.3 | 66,272 | 17.7 | 153,380 | 41.0 |
| Polonnaruwa | 153,182 | 100.0 | 61,603 | 40.2 | 33,283 | 21.7 | 58,296 | 38.1 |
| Badulla | 370,334 | 100.0 | 157,403 | 42.5 | 58,504 | 15.8 | 154,427 | 41.7 |
| Monaragala | 203,438 | 100.0 | 97,540 | 47.9 | 35,255 | 17.3 | 70,644 | 34.7 |
| Rathnapura | 471,913 | 100.0 | 185,626 | 39.3 | 126,820 | 26.9 | 159,467 | 33.8 |
| Kegalle | 336,270 | 100.0 | 77,436 | 23.0 | 100,479 | 29.9 | 158,356 | 47.1 |

Table 13A - Employment by major industry group by districts – Male

| District | Total | | Agriculture | | Industry | | Services | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No | % | No | % | No | % | No | % |
| **Total** | **5,299,777** | **100.0** | **1,298,371** | **24.5** | **1,420,618** | **26.8** | **2,580,788** | **48.7** |
| Colombo | 580,978 | 100.0 | 15,769 | 2.7 | 166,848 | 28.7 | 398,361 | 68.6 |
| Gampaha | 597,194 | 100.0 | 24,948 | 4.2 | 205,434 | 34.4 | 366,811 | 61.4 |
| Kalutara | 327,549 | 100.0 | 37,036 | 11.3 | 116,369 | 35.5 | 174,145 | 53.2 |
| Kandy | 327,261 | 100.0 | 49,927 | 15.3 | 85,652 | 26.2 | 191,683 | 58.6 |
| Matale | 115,432 | 100.0 | 32,332 | 28.0 | 26,431 | 22.9 | 56,669 | 49.1 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 158,127 | 100.0 | 78,813 | 49.8 | 25,746 | 16.3 | 53,568 | 33.9 |
| Galle | 262,837 | 100.0 | 61,399 | 23.4 | 72,565 | 27.6 | 128,873 | 49.0 |
| Matara | 197,560 | 100.0 | 74,544 | 37.7 | 42,655 | 21.6 | 80,360 | 40.7 |
| Hambantota | 167,445 | 100.0 | 71,246 | 42.5 | 38,109 | 22.8 | 58,091 | 34.7 |
| Jaffna | 149,023 | 100.0 | 30,440 | 20.4 | 48,240 | 32.4 | 70,343 | 47.2 |
| Mannar | 34,467 | 100.0 | 16,616 | 48.2 | 5,798 | 16.8 | 12,053 | 35.0 |
| Vavuniya | 43,384 | 100.0 | 14,653 | 33.8 | 10,724 | 24.7 | 18,007 | 41.5 |
| Mullaitivu | 31,219 | 100.0 | 19,228 | 61.6 | 4,379 | 14.0 | 7,612 | 24.4 |
| Kilinochchi | 33,603 | 100.0 | 13,278 | 39.5 | 7,965 | 23.7 | 12,360 | 36.8 |
| Batticaloa | 127,538 | 100.0 | 36,705 | 28.8 | 33,798 | 26.5 | 57,035 | 44.7 |
| Ampara | 157,777 | 100.0 | 54,017 | 34.2 | 34,136 | 21.6 | 69,624 | 44.1 |
| Trincomalee | 103,100 | 100.0 | 30,432 | 29.5 | 22,362 | 21.7 | 50,306 | 48.8 |
| Kurunegala | 447,896 | 100.0 | 116,744 | 26.1 | 129,978 | 29.0 | 201,174 | 44.9 |
| Puttalam | 215,272 | 100.0 | 54,140 | 25.1 | 69,485 | 32.3 | 91,647 | 42.6 |
| Anuradhapura | 245,548 | 100.0 | 103,581 | 42.2 | 40,169 | 16.4 | 101,798 | 41.5 |
| Polonnaruwa | 114,705 | 100.0 | 53,541 | 46.7 | 22,657 | 19.8 | 38,507 | 33.6 |
| Badulla | 219,777 | 100.0 | 84,640 | 38.5 | 37,626 | 17.1 | 97,511 | 44.4 |
| Monaragala | 133,200 | 100.0 | 67,874 | 51.0 | 24,820 | 18.6 | 40,507 | 30.4 |
| Rathnapura | 303,071 | 100.0 | 111,526 | 36.8 | 93,508 | 30.9 | 98,037 | 32.3 |
| Kegalle | 205,816 | 100.0 | 44,941 | 21.8 | 55,166 | 26.8 | 105,709 | 51.4 |

Table 13B - Employment by major industry group by districts - Female

| District | Total | | Agriculture | | Industry | | Services | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No | % | No | % | No | % | No | % |
| **Total** | **2,779,262** | **100.0** | **634,177** | **22.8** | **699,836** | **25.2** | **1,445,249** | **52.0** |
| Colombo | 325,898 | 100.0 | 7,337 | 2.3 | 65,836 | 20.2 | 252,726 | 77.5 |
| Gampaha | 307,105 | 100.0 | 6,030 | 2.0 | 118,140 | 38.5 | 182,936 | 59.6 |
| Kalutara | 170,716 | 100.0 | 23,367 | 13.7 | 59,378 | 34.8 | 87,971 | 51.5 |
| Kandy | 181,888 | 100.0 | 37,456 | 20.6 | 44,103 | 24.2 | 100,329 | 55.2 |
| Matale | 58,278 | 100.0 | 14,950 | 25.7 | 11,702 | 20.1 | 31,626 | 54.3 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 110,285 | 100.0 | 65,630 | 59.5 | 14,577 | 13.2 | 30,078 | 27.3 |
| Galle | 149,092 | 100.0 | 33,853 | 22.7 | 40,810 | 27.4 | 74,429 | 49.9 |
| Matara | 102,111 | 100.0 | 27,901 | 27.3 | 18,593 | 18.2 | 55,617 | 54.5 |
| Hambantota | 71,463 | 100.0 | 15,874 | 22.2 | 17,256 | 24.1 | 38,333 | 53.6 |
| Jaffna | 56,511 | 100.0 | 9,284 | 16.4 | 7,272 | 12.9 | 39,955 | 70.7 |
| Mannar | 15,182 | 100.0 | 5,459 | 36.0 | 1,761 | 11.6 | 7,962 | 52.4 |
| Vavuniya | 25,861 | 100.0 | 11,169 | 43.2 | 4,248 | 16.4 | 10,445 | 40.4 |
| Mullaitivu | 12,301 | 100.0 | 4,973 | 40.4 | 2,390 | 19.4 | 4,939 | 40.1 |
| Kilinochchi | 9,377 | 100.0 | 1,289 | 13.8 | 2,071 | 22.1 | 6,017 | 64.2 |
| Batticaloa | 53,520 | 100.0 | 9,217 | 17.2 | 13,043 | 24.4 | 31,260 | 58.4 |
| Ampara | 50,676 | 100.0 | 9,324 | 18.4 | 13,803 | 27.2 | 27,548 | 54.4 |
| Trincomalee | 33,458 | 100.0 | 2,558 | 7.6 | 7,981 | 23.9 | 22,920 | 68.5 |
| Kurunegala | 260,459 | 100.0 | 60,973 | 23.4 | 80,486 | 30.9 | 119,000 | 45.7 |
| Puttalam | 98,048 | 100.0 | 19,671 | 20.1 | 29,721 | 30.3 | 48,655 | 49.6 |
| Anuradhapura | 128,462 | 100.0 | 50,778 | 39.5 | 26,103 | 20.3 | 51,582 | 40.2 |
| Polonnaruwa | 38,478 | 100.0 | 8,062 | 21.0 | 10,626 | 27.6 | 19,790 | 51.4 |
| Badulla | 150,557 | 100.0 | 72,763 | 48.3 | 20,878 | 13.9 | 56,916 | 37.8 |
| Monaragala | 70,238 | 100.0 | 29,666 | 42.2 | 10,435 | 14.9 | 30,138 | 42.9 |
| Rathnapura | 168,843 | 100.0 | 74,100 | 43.9 | 33,312 | 19.7 | 61,430 | 36.4 |
| Kegalle | 130,454 | 100.0 | 32,495 | 24.9 | 45,313 | 34.7 | 52,647 | 40.4 |

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

Table 14 - Currently employed person by occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) by province - Both sexes

| Province | Total | Occupation group | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |
| **Total** | **8,079,040** | **371,051** | **653,873** | **761,071** | **260,304** | **1,003,534** | **1,108,922** | **1,099,654** | **784,008** | **1,991,179** | **45,444** |
| Western | 2,309,441 | 197,193 | 246,117 | 308,963 | 119,792 | 281,578 | 88,258 | 338,547 | 306,116 | 401,725 | 21,151 |
| Central | 951,272 | 30,827 | 73,438 | 74,836 | 22,596 | 141,160 | 116,645 | 104,671 | 84,224 | 300,744 | 2,132 |
| Southern | 950,507 | 23,033 | 67,017 | 70,853 | 27,534 | 116,990 | 154,208 | 142,461 | 79,459 | 264,786 | 4,166 |
| Northern | 410,929 | 8,289 | 38,148 | 36,860 | 7,751 | 54,485 | 80,648 | 51,626 | 25,054 | 107,945 | 121 |
| Eastern | 526,069 | 13,972 | 45,894 | 47,804 | 10,275 | 85,745 | 93,935 | 84,825 | 25,329 | 116,035 | 2,256 |
| North Western | 1,021,674 | 59,786 | 68,504 | 95,218 | 25,777 | 93,291 | 157,857 | 166,717 | 115,714 | 234,821 | 3,989 |
| North Central | 527,192 | 10,205 | 26,334 | 23,616 | 12,057 | 72,936 | 151,058 | 54,998 | 38,003 | 132,775 | 5,211 |
| Uva | 573,773 | 11,445 | 33,863 | 34,881 | 13,290 | 68,350 | 139,626 | 51,233 | 31,190 | 185,161 | 4,734 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 808,183 | 16,301 | 54,559 | 68,040 | 21,232 | 88,998 | 126,686 | 104,577 | 78,919 | 247,186 | 1,684 |

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

**Occupation group**

1 Managers, senior officials and legislators
2 Professionals
3 Technicians and associate Professionals
4 Clerks and clerical support workers
5 Services and sales workers
6 Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
7 Craft and related trades workers
8 Plant and machine operators and assemblers
9 Elementary occupations
0 Armed forces occupations & unidentified occupations

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 08

Table 15 - Currently employed person by industry group (Based on ISIC fourth revision) by province - Both sexes

| Province | Total | Industry group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 20 | other |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 1,932,548 | 52,317 | 1,439,539 | 628,599 | 1,183,675 | 505,660 | 268,312 | 92,347 | 185,380 | 94,411 | 160,868 | 447,673 | 466,391 | 188,544 | 197,111 | 168,945 | 66,718 |
| Western | 2,309,441 | 114,487 | 3,769 | 561,262 | 166,974 | 402,389 | 197,002 | 96,476 | 62,133 | 81,673 | 46,360 | 64,592 | 121,810 | 137,489 | 66,582 | 77,952 | 79,866 | 28,626 |
| Central | 951,272 | 279,108 | 3,435 | 137,382 | 67,394 | 150,701 | 60,783 | 28,746 | 6,342 | 17,996 | 10,166 | 14,404 | 50,410 | 56,129 | 21,182 | 27,022 | 11,819 | 8,253 |
| Southern | 950,507 | 284,817 | 3,069 | 152,483 | 74,436 | 120,550 | 50,575 | 40,253 | 7,836 | 20,161 | 6,318 | 20,159 | 53,015 | 51,827 | 25,905 | 20,591 | 12,422 | 6,091 |
| Northern | 410,929 | 126,389 | 103 | 36,324 | 58,421 | 49,112 | 20,315 | 11,521 | 2,168 | 6,082 | 4,557 | 7,740 | 28,049 | 32,446 | 7,065 | 7,382 | 11,132 | 2,121 |
| Eastern | 526,069 | 142,253 | 4,256 | 74,365 | 46,501 | 81,759 | 23,117 | 15,277 | 1,171 | 9,837 | 5,647 | 11,070 | 42,601 | 36,463 | 13,262 | 12,203 | 4,729 | 1,555 |
| North Western | 1,021,674 | 251,529 | 4,170 | 206,252 | 99,247 | 153,007 | 72,479 | 16,612 | 5,994 | 20,847 | 10,126 | 17,462 | 49,528 | 54,644 | 16,987 | 20,776 | 14,144 | 7,871 |
| North Central | 527,192 | 215,961 | 1,502 | 71,924 | 26,128 | 71,266 | 16,300 | 15,117 | 1,799 | 8,000 | 3,576 | 14,880 | 34,549 | 19,522 | 9,178 | 11,337 | 2,663 | 3,491 |
| Uva | 573,773 | 254,943 | 2,139 | 56,237 | 35,382 | 61,145 | 27,721 | 22,510 | 1,914 | 7,423 | 2,420 | 5,830 | 28,922 | 34,410 | 12,622 | 8,155 | 8,300 | 3,699 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 808,183 | 263,062 | 29,874 | 143,309 | 54,115 | 93,745 | 37,369 | 21,800 | 2,990 | 13,361 | 5,242 | 4,732 | 38,789 | 43,461 | 15,761 | 11,693 | 23,871 | 5,010 |

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

**Industry group**

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D,E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

Table 16 - Currently employed person by employment status by province - Both sexes

| Province | Total | Employee | | | Employer | Own Account Worker | Unpaid Family Worker |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Public | Private | | | |
| **Total** | 8,079,040 | 4,889,419 | 1,229,332 | 3,660,087 | 252,029 | 2,570,950 | 366,642 |
| Western | 2,309,441 | 1,574,155 | 329,480 | 1,244,675 | 106,829 | 578,046 | 50,412 |
| Central | 951,272 | 585,754 | 147,315 | 438,438 | 30,284 | 290,808 | 44,426 |
| Southern | 950,507 | 584,073 | 145,663 | 438,411 | 29,485 | 295,589 | 41,360 |
| Northern | 410,929 | 265,335 | 70,746 | 194,589 | 9,330 | 125,963 | 10,301 |
| Eastern | 526,069 | 311,666 | 110,380 | 201,287 | 16,610 | 181,469 | 16,324 |
| North Western | 1,021,674 | 560,640 | 144,138 | 416,501 | 29,054 | 367,239 | 64,741 |
| North Central | 527,192 | 226,787 | 77,464 | 149,323 | 7,994 | 248,860 | 43,551 |
| Uva | 573,773 | 281,735 | 91,141 | 190,594 | 5,326 | 227,307 | 59,405 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 808,183 | 499,274 | 113,005 | 386,269 | 17,117 | 255,669 | 36,123 |

Table 16A - Currently employed person by employment status by province – Male

| Province | Total | Employee | | | Employer | Own Account Worker | Unpaid Family Worker |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Public | Private | | | |
| **Total** | 5,299,777 | 3,117,992 | 642,892 | 2,475,100 | 222,080 | 1,877,805 | 81,900 |
| Western | 1,505,721 | 972,614 | 171,286 | 801,328 | 93,192 | 426,567 | 13,348 |
| Central | 600,820 | 351,756 | 67,851 | 283,905 | 28,040 | 212,917 | 8,106 |
| Southern | 627,842 | 375,412 | 68,577 | 306,835 | 25,334 | 217,948 | 9,148 |
| Northern | 291,696 | 185,448 | 35,233 | 150,215 | 8,429 | 92,087 | 5,732 |
| Eastern | 388,415 | 237,883 | 68,957 | 168,925 | 14,713 | 130,057 | 5,762 |
| North Western | 663,167 | 354,465 | 72,771 | 281,694 | 25,910 | 270,980 | 11,812 |
| North Central | 360,252 | 154,914 | 50,702 | 104,211 | 6,302 | 186,538 | 12,499 |
| Uva | 352,977 | 176,466 | 50,837 | 125,629 | 5,326 | 161,040 | 10,145 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 508,887 | 309,034 | 56,678 | 252,356 | 14,834 | 179,670 | 5,348 |

Table 16B - Currently employed person by employment status by province -Female

| Province | Total | Employee | | | Employer | Own Account Worker | Unpaid Family Worker |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Public | Private | | | |
| **Total** | 2,779,262 | 1,771,426 | 586,439 | 1,184,987 | 29,949 | 693,145 | 284,742 |
| Western | 803,720 | 601,541 | 158,194 | 443,347 | 13,636 | 151,478 | 37,064 |
| Central | 350,452 | 233,997 | 79,464 | 154,533 | 2,244 | 77,891 | 36,320 |
| Southern | 322,665 | 208,661 | 77,086 | 131,575 | 4,151 | 77,642 | 32,212 |
| Northern | 119,233 | 79,887 | 35,513 | 44,374 | 901 | 33,876 | 4,569 |
| Eastern | 137,654 | 73,783 | 41,422 | 32,361 | 1,897 | 51,412 | 10,562 |
| North Western | 358,506 | 206,175 | 71,367 | 134,807 | 3,144 | 96,259 | 52,929 |
| North Central | 166,940 | 71,874 | 26,762 | 45,112 | 1,692 | 62,322 | 31,052 |
| Uva | 220,796 | 105,269 | 40,304 | 64,964 | .. | 66,267 | 49,260 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 299,297 | 190,240 | 56,327 | 133,913 | 2,283 | 75,999 | 30,775 |

.. Not reported

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

Table 17 - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job by district - Both sexes

| District | Total | 0* | 1 - 9 | 10 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 - 39 | 40 - 49 | 50 & over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 100.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 5.0 | 8.5 | 15.2 | 35.5 | 31.2 |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 2.3 | 4.9 | 10.7 | 41.9 | 38.1 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 10.1 | 41.8 | 38.5 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 5.5 | 6.7 | 14.6 | 41.7 | 27.9 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 3.7 | 7.4 | 14.9 | 29.2 | 40.0 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 3.7 | 5.1 | 7.1 | 9.8 | 17.0 | 29.3 | 28.0 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 100.0 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 6.5 | 15.7 | 43.9 | 30.9 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 8.2 | 12.6 | 16.8 | 27.8 | 25.9 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 6.6 | 10.6 | 16.5 | 33.4 | 26.3 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 4.3 | 2.7 | 8.6 | 15.2 | 15.7 | 30.7 | 22.8 |
| Jaffna | 100.0 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 8.1 | 20.9 | 45.7 | 19.8 |
| Mannar | 100.0 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 5.2 | 9.3 | 14.2 | 36.6 | 32.3 |
| Vavuniya | 100.0 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 5.6 | 17.3 | 22.6 | 31.9 | 20.3 |
| Mullaitivu | 100.0 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 6.2 | 33.4 | 47.1 | 8.5 |
| Kilinochchi | 100.0 | 3.0 | 0.2 | .. | 1.1 | 18.1 | 56.7 | 20.9 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 0.6 | 2.7 | 4.6 | 7.4 | 14.9 | 31.2 | 38.8 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 2.8 | 8.2 | 19.6 | 42.3 | 25.5 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 4.5 | 1.9 | 5.8 | 9.0 | 13.3 | 44.6 | 20.9 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 3.2 | 3.9 | 7.5 | 10.1 | 14.3 | 31.5 | 29.4 |
| Puttalam | 100.0 | 3.2 | 1.9 | 5.1 | 9.2 | 17.9 | 37.7 | 25.1 |
| Anuradhapura | 100.0 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 6.4 | 9.3 | 16.9 | 27.9 | 36.8 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 10.7 | 9.5 | 9.1 | 22.2 | 42.7 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 7.3 | 12.6 | 18.8 | 30.4 | 24.9 |
| Monaragala | 100.0 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 6.9 | 8.6 | 14.8 | 26.8 | 34.5 |
| Rathnapura | 100.0 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 5.9 | 12.3 | 17.1 | 31.8 | 26.3 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 2.9 | 8.7 | 21.0 | 34.1 | 30.0 |

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

.. Not reported

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

Table 17A - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job by district – Male

| District | Total | 0* | 1 - 9 | 10 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 - 39 | 40 – 49 | 50 & over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 100.0 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 4.2 | 7.4 | 13.0 | 35.5 | 35.9 |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 4.3 | 8.1 | 39.7 | 43.9 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 1.7 | 3.1 | 8.2 | 40.8 | 43.6 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 10.8 | 41.4 | 33.0 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 2.9 | 6.5 | 11.4 | 26.8 | 48.7 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 5.2 | 8.6 | 14.8 | 31.3 | 33.0 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 100.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 4.2 | 13.0 | 45.1 | 34.0 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 6.5 | 12.2 | 15.3 | 28.2 | 29.2 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 6.3 | 11.3 | 14.6 | 30.6 | 31.1 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 4.4 | 2.3 | 7.5 | 17.0 | 16.0 | 30.2 | 22.5 |
| Jaffna | 100.0 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 2.6 | 6.9 | 18.5 | 45.7 | 24.1 |
| Mannar | 100.0 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 8.5 | 9.3 | 39.6 | 39.3 |
| Vavuniya | 100.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 3.1 | 13.9 | 19.8 | 36.9 | 24.4 |
| Mullaitivu | 100.0 | 1.4 | .. | 1.1 | 4.8 | 34.6 | 49.3 | 8.7 |
| Kilinochchi | 100.0 | 1.9 | 0.3 | .. | 0.3 | 17.2 | 55.1 | 25.2 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 11.1 | 31.0 | 47.6 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 7.3 | 17.8 | 45.6 | 26.3 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 5.2 | 1.3 | 4.2 | 8.0 | 10.6 | 48.5 | 22.1 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 5.6 | 9.7 | 13.2 | 30.1 | 34.8 |
| Puttalam | 100.0 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 3.6 | 8.9 | 16.7 | 39.4 | 26.8 |
| Anuradhapura | 100.0 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 4.9 | 8.8 | 14.6 | 28.8 | 40.6 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 11.4 | 9.6 | 7.9 | 21.7 | 44.1 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 6.3 | 9.2 | 16.5 | 31.3 | 31.3 |
| Monaragala | 100.0 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 15.8 | 26.9 | 37.3 |
| Rathnapura | 100.0 | 4.4 | 2.1 | 5.0 | 8.6 | 14.6 | 34.0 | 31.3 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 6.4 | 16.4 | 35.5 | 37.3 |

Table 17B - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job by district - Female

| District | Total | 0* | 1 - 9 | 10 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 - 39 | 40 – 49 | 50 & over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 100.0 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 6.6 | 10.6 | 19.4 | 35.6 | 22.3 |
| Colombo | 100.0 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 5.8 | 15.5 | 45.8 | 27.8 |
| Gampaha | 100.0 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 6.1 | 13.6 | 43.6 | 28.7 |
| Kalutara | 100.0 | 4.2 | 0.6 | 4.1 | 8.5 | 22.0 | 42.4 | 18.1 |
| Kandy | 100.0 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 5.3 | 8.9 | 21.2 | 33.7 | 24.3 |
| Matale | 100.0 | 4.6 | 7.7 | 10.8 | 12.3 | 21.3 | 25.2 | 18.1 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 100.0 | .. | 0.5 | 1.4 | 9.7 | 19.6 | 42.2 | 26.6 |
| Galle | 100.0 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 11.2 | 13.5 | 19.4 | 27.2 | 20.0 |
| Matara | 100.0 | 3.1 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 9.4 | 20.3 | 38.7 | 16.8 |
| Hambantota | 100.0 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 11.2 | 10.8 | 15.0 | 31.8 | 23.5 |
| Jaffna | 100.0 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 4.5 | 11.5 | 27.2 | 45.6 | 8.4 |
| Mannar | 100.0 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 14.9 | 11.0 | 25.2 | 29.8 | 16.4 |
| Vavunia | 100.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 9.9 | 22.9 | 27.4 | 23.5 | 13.3 |
| Mullativu | 100.0 | 8.1 | 0.9 | 2.0 | 9.6 | 30.3 | 41.4 | 7.7 |
| Kilinochcchi | 100.0 | 7.2 | .. | .. | 3.8 | 21.3 | 62.4 | 5.3 |
| Batticaloa | 100.0 | 0.6 | 5.4 | 8.0 | 12.7 | 23.9 | 31.6 | 17.8 |
| Ampara | 100.0 | 2.7 | .. | 5.9 | 10.9 | 25.2 | 32.2 | 23.2 |
| Trincomalee | 100.0 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 10.8 | 11.9 | 21.3 | 32.8 | 17.1 |
| Kurunegala | 100.0 | 3.3 | 4.4 | 10.7 | 10.9 | 16.3 | 34.0 | 20.3 |
| Puttalam | 100.0 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 8.5 | 9.9 | 20.5 | 34.0 | 21.2 |
| Anuradhapura | 100.0 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 9.3 | 10.1 | 21.3 | 26.2 | 29.6 |
| Polonnaruwa | 100.0 | 5.9 | 1.8 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 12.7 | 23.6 | 38.4 |
| Badulla | 100.0 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 8.6 | 17.5 | 22.2 | 29.1 | 15.5 |
| Moneragala | 100.0 | 3.8 | 6.1 | 8.4 | 12.8 | 13.1 | 26.7 | 29.2 |
| Ratnapura | 100.0 | 4.0 | 2.8 | 7.5 | 19.1 | 21.4 | 27.9 | 17.3 |
| Kegalle | 100.0 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 3.9 | 12.4 | 28.2 | 32.1 | 18.4 |

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

.. Not reported

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

Table 18 - Unemployment rate by level of education by province - Both sexes

| Province | Total | Level of education | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Grade 5 & Below | Grades 6 - 10 | GCE (O.L)/ NCGE | GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above |
| **Total** | 3.9 | 0.7 | 2.6 | 5.5 | 6.0 |
| Western | 3.1 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 4.7 | 3.3 |
| Central | 4.8 | 0.5 | 2.9 | 6.7 | 8.5 |
| Southern | 5.3 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 7.5 | 9.7 |
| Northern | 3.1 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 4.0 | 6.5 |
| Eastern | 2.9 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 4.7 |
| North Western | 4.0 | 0.9 | 3.3 | 4.9 | 6.0 |
| North Central | 3.6 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 7.2 | 8.1 |
| Uva | 4.5 | 0.9 | 3.5 | 6.3 | 8.2 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 4.2 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 5.3 | 8.7 |

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

Table 19 - Unemployment rate by age group by province - Both sexes

| Province | Total | Age group | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 15 - 19 | 20 - 24 | 25 - 29 | 30 & over |
| Total | 3.9 | 27.0 | 17.8 | 10.6 | 1.4 |
| Western | 3.1 | 22.2 | 14.0 | 7.2 | 1.1 |
| Central | 4.8 | 28.2 | 23.2 | 12.1 | 1.8 |
| Southern | 5.3 | 39.3 | 24.1 | 15.7 | 1.9 |
| Northern | 3.1 | 18.3 | 11.6 | 9.2 | 0.5 |
| Eastern | 2.9 | 13.1 | 7.6 | 10.1 | 1.5 |
| North Western | 4.0 | 28.5 | 15.9 | 11.5 | 1.4 |
| North Central | 3.6 | 20.9 | 15.9 | 11.5 | 1.1 |
| Uva | 4.5 | 41.9 | 23.8 | 11.4 | 1.6 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 4.2 | 33.9 | 25.9 | 13.2 | 1.1 |

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

Table 20 - Employment in formal/ informal employment by status in employment - Both sexes

| Status of Employment | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total employment** | 8,147,731 | 8,009,916 | 7,949,751 | 8,079,040 |
| Total informal employment | 5,471,252 | 5,424,906 | 5,286,581 | 5,233,525 |
| Informal employees | 2,395,916 | 2,471,850 | 2,399,606 | 2,463,659 |
| Informal employees in the informal sector | 1,658,348 | 1,747,585 | 1,695,321 | 1,711,480 |
| Informal employees in the formal sector | 737,568 | 724,265 | 704,284 | 752,178 |
| Informal entrepreneurs (employers + own account workers) | 2,593,262 | 2,508,957 | 2,474,788 | 2,403,224 |
| Contributing family workers | 482,075 | 444,100 | 412,187 | 366,642 |
| Contributing family workers in the informal sector | 427,080 | 390,653 | 356,115 | 311,584 |
| Contributing family workers in the formal sector | 54,994 | 53,446 | 56,072 | 55,058 |
| Total formal employment | 2,676,478 | 2,585,010 | 2,663,170 | 2,845,515 |
| Formal employees | 2,332,509 | 2,257,861 | 2,276,046 | 2,425,760 |
| Formal employees in the formal sector | 2,332,509 | 2,257,861 | 2,276,046 | 2,425,760 |
| Formal employees in the informal sector | - | - | - | - |
| Formal entrepreneurs (employers + own account workers) | 343,970 | 327,149 | 387,124 | 419,755 |
| **Total employment in non-agricultural sector** | 5,989,172 | 5,921,572 | 5,883,100 | 6,146,492 |
| Total informal employment | 3,498,521 | 3,495,721 | 3,380,530 | 3,433,950 |
| Informal employees | 1,817,995 | 1,875,159 | 1,830,177 | 1,870,303 |
| Informal employees in the informal sector | 1,152,536 | 1,219,735 | 1,198,425 | 1,204,268 |
| Informal employees in the formal sector | 665,459 | 655,424 | 631751.4 | 666,035 |
| Informal entrepreneurs (employers + own account workers) | 1,486,425 | 1,432,815 | 1,374,145 | 1,397,935 |
| Contributing family workers | 194,101 | 187,747 | 176,209 | 165,713 |
| Contributing family workers in the informal sector | 144,099 | 139,095 | 126,228 | 112,465 |
| Contributing family workers in the formal sector | 50,002 | 48,653 | 49,981 | 53,248 |
| Total formal employment | 2,490,651 | 2,425,851 | 2,502,570 | 2,712,542 |
| Formal employees | 2,174,032 | 2,124,616 | 2,145,633 | 2,319,711 |
| Formal employees in the formal sector | 2,174,032 | 2,124,616 | 2,145,633 | 2,319,711 |
| Formal employees in the informal sector | - | - | - | - |
| Formal entrepreneurs (employers + own account workers) | 316,619 | 301,234 | 356,937 | 392,831 |

# Special Statistical Appendix

## 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 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 15 years of age and older.

The field work of the survey is done during the third week of 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 as the "reference week/reference period".

The concepts and definitions underlying labour force data are as follows.

### Concepts & Definitions

1. L*abour force*: The labour force is composed of the currently economically active population 15 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, or unpaid family workers are said to be employed. This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.

    a. Paid employees, (those who work for wages/salaries).
    b. Employers (entrepreneurs those who have at least one paid employee under them).
    c. Own account workers (entrepreneurs those who don't have any paid employee).
    d. Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out by their own household, without wages/salaries).

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

4 *Currently Economically Active*: A person who was employed or unemployed during the current reference (one week) period is considered to be currently economically active.

*5* *Not in the Labour Force (not economically active)*: Persons who were neither working not available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as; full time care of the household, full – time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another.

*6* *Criteria for classification of underemployment:* In order to classify 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.

**Until 2012, only the time spent on main activity was considered to decide cutoff time limit. However, from 2013 onward this has being changed and time spent on both main and secondary activities were considered to decide cutoff time limit.**

7 *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

*8 NEET*

Youths (age 15-24 population) not in employment, education or training.

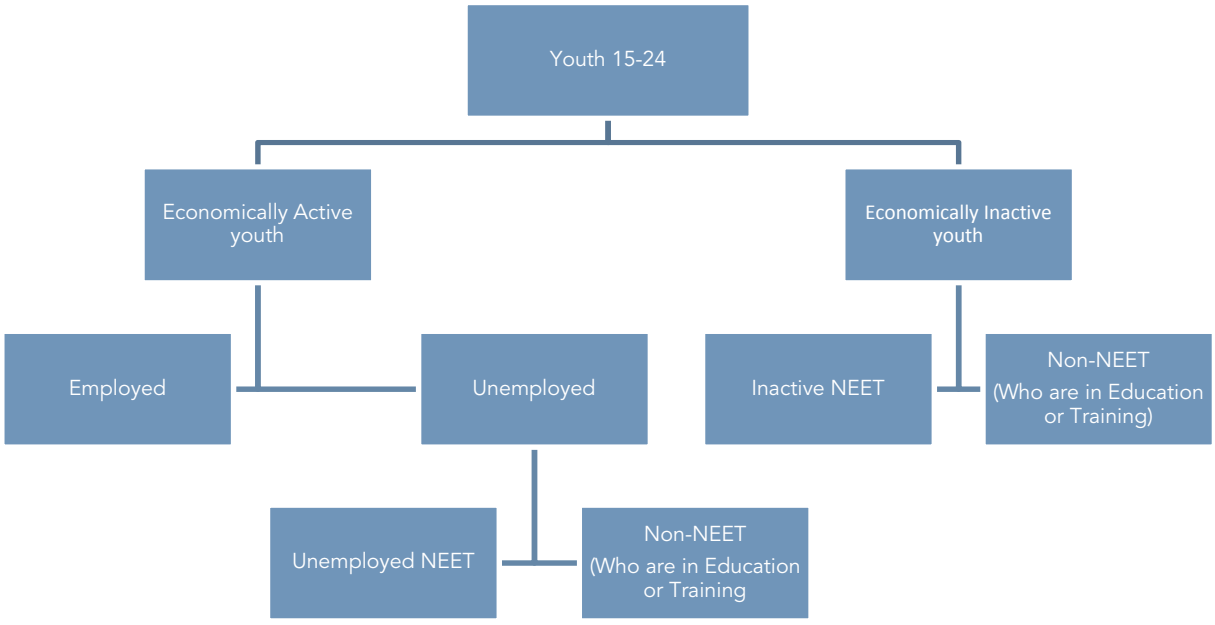



*Chart 01: Distribution of youth population by various economic conditions*

# 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)* ± (standard error) * (1.96)

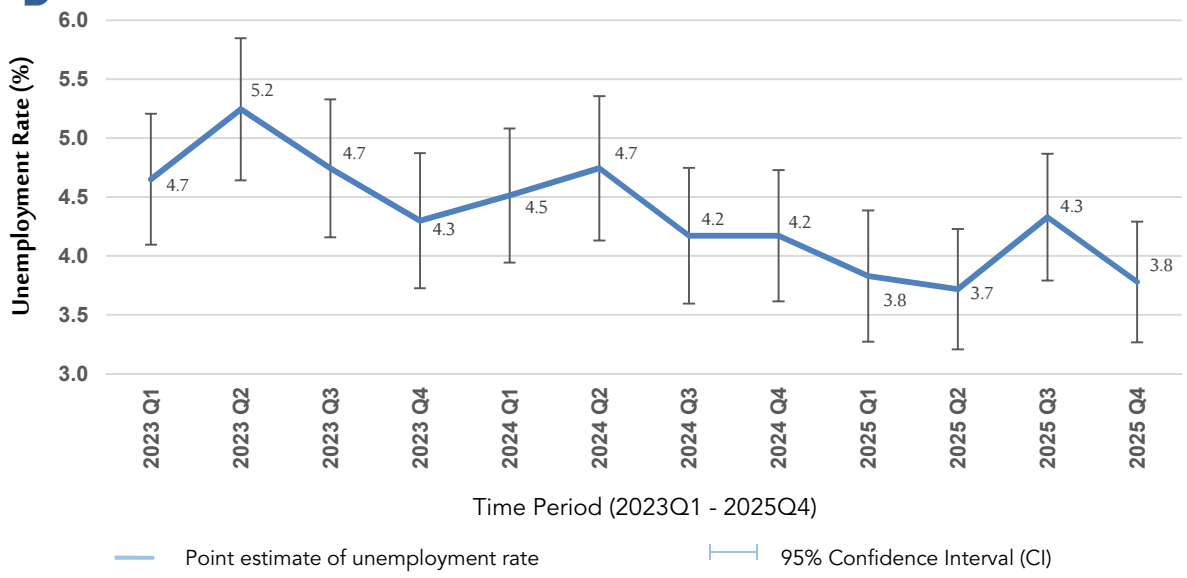
6.4 ± (0.4) * (1.96)
(6.4 ± 0.784)

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.

## *Distribution of unemployment rates and 95% confidence intervals (2023Q1 -2025Q4)*

Figure3 : *Unemployment rates and 95% confidence intervals (2023Q1- 2025Q4)*




As seen in Figure, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant differences between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2023/2025, when sampling error was 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. In January 2006, some improvements were made to the labour force survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of data users and also to provide additional information for planning purposes. The revision was made focusing on literacy, household economic activities, and informal sector employment and under employment etc.

From January , 2013 onwards, the lower bound of working age populations is considered as age 15, hence age 15 and over population is considered as working age population .The survey schedule is updated to obtain more precise information on following age, informal employment, informal sector, secondary occupation, wages & income , unemployment & trainings.

## New Industry & Occupation classifications

From January 2013 onward the survey uses new industry & occupation classifications, such as

SLIC Rev 4 - Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification based on International Standard Industry classification - Rev.4 (ISIC Rev 4)

SLSCO 08 - Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupation -2008 based on International Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 (ISCO 2008)

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 |
| 2018 | 8,387,759 | 57,008 | 0.68 | 8,275,971 | 8,499,546 | 8,015,166 | 55,036 | 0.69 | 7,907,245 | 8,123,087 |
| 2019 | 8,592,010 | 54,293 | 0.63 | 8,485,546 | 8,698,475 | 8,180,693 | 52,108 | 0.64 | 8,078,513 | 8,282,872 |
| 2020 | 8,466,606 | 58,917 | 0.70 | 8,351,075 | 8,582,137 | 7,999,093 | 56,610 | 0.71 | 7,888,086 | 8,110,101 |
| 2021 | 8,553,290 | 58,311 | 0.68 | 8,438,947 | 8,667,633 | 8,113,507 | 56,072 | 0.69 | 8,003,555 | 8,223,460 |
| 2022 | 8,547,062 | 58,034 | 0.68 | 8,433,262 | 8,660,862 | 8,147,731 | 56,377 | 0.69 | 8,037,181 | 8,258,281 |
| 2023 | 8,408,331 | 60,811 | 0.72 | 8,289,086 | 8,527,576 | 8,009,916 | 58,584 | 0.73 | 7,895,039 | 8,124,794 |
| 2024 | 8,315,702 | 59,437 | 0.71 | 8,199,151 | 8,432,253 | 7,949,751 | 57,380 | 0.72 | 7,837,234 | 8,062,267 |
| 2025 | 8,408,251 | 56,320 | 0.67 | 8,297,811 | 8,518,690 | 8,079,040 | 54,626 | 0.68 | 7,971,922 | 8,186,157 |

| Year | Unemployed | | | | | Unemployment Rate | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | Standard error | C.V (%) | 95% C.I. | | Rate | Standard error | C.V (%) | 95% C.I. | |
| | | | | Lower | Upper | | | | Lower | Upper |
| 2018 | 372,593 | 11,350 | 3.05 | 350,337 | 394,849 | 4.4 | 0.1 | 2.94 | 4.2 | 4.7 |
| 2019 | 411,318 | 12,814 | 3.12 | 386,191 | 436,444 | 4.8 | 0.1 | 3.00 | 4.5 | 5.1 |
| 2020 | 467,513 | 14,029 | 3.00 | 440,004 | 495,022 | 5.5 | 0.2 | 2.88 | 5.2 | 5.8 |
| 2021 | 439,783 | 13,930 | 3.17 | 412,468 | 467,097 | 5.1 | 0.2 | 3.05 | 4.8 | 5.4 |
| 2022 | 399,332 | 13,022 | 3.26 | 373,797 | 424,867 | 4.7 | 0.1 | 3.17 | 4.4 | 5.0 |
| 2023 | 398,415 | 13,036 | 3.27 | 372,852 | 423,978 | 4.7 | 0.1 | 3.15 | 4.4 | 5.0 |
| 2024 | 365,951 | 12,835 | 3.51 | 340,782 | 391,120 | 4.4 | 0.1 | 3.39 | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| 2025 | 329,211 | 11,634 | 3.53 | 306,397 | 352,025 | 3.9 | 0.1 | 3.43 | 3.7 | 4.2 |

*Standard error (**Page 1**)*

# Standard error and coefficient of variation of selected variables

| | Estimated Value | Standard Error | Coefficient of Variation (%) | Estimated Value (Ratio) | Standard Error | Coefficient of Variation (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General labour force characteristics** | | | | | | |
| Population ( 15 years & over) | 17,034,109 | 93,251 | 0.55 | | | |
| Employed Population | 8,079,040 | 54,626 | 0.68 | | | |
| Unemployed Population | 329,211 | 11,634 | 3.53 | | | |
| Employment Rate | | | | 96.1 | 0.1 | 0.14 |
| Unemployment Rate | | | | 3.9 | 0.1 | 3.43 |
| Labour Force | 8,408,251 | 56,320 | 0.67 | | | |
| Not in Labour Force | 8,625,859 | 70,606 | 0.82 | | | |
| **Employed persons by major industry Groups** | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1,932,548 | 41,057 | 2.12 | | | |
| 2 | 52,317 | 6,129 | 11.71 | | | |
| 3 | 1,439,539 | 30,186 | 2.10 | | | |
| 6 | 628,599 | 16,087 | 2.56 | | | |
| 7 | 1,183,675 | 25,098 | 2.12 | | | |
| 8 | 505,660 | 14,170 | 2.80 | | | |
| 9 | 268,312 | 11,320 | 4.22 | | | |
| 10 | 92,347 | 7,644 | 8.28 | | | |
| 11 | 185,380 | 9,136 | 4.93 | | | |
| 13 | 94,411 | 6,387 | 6.77 | | | |
| 14 | 160,868 | 8,656 | 5.38 | | | |
| 15 | 447,673 | 14,718 | 3.29 | | | |
| 16 | 466,391 | 14,235 | 3.05 | | | |
| 17 | 188,544 | 8,981 | 4.76 | | | |
| 19 | 197,111 | 9,447 | 4.79 | | | |
| 20 | 168,945 | 9,249 | 5.47 | | | |
| Other | 66,718 | 5,162 | 7.74 | | | |
| **Unemployed persons by level of education** | | | | | | |
| Below grade 5 | 6,384 | 1,447 | 22.67 | | | |
| Grade 5 - 9/Year 6 - 10 | 93,180 | 5,540 | 5.95 | | | |
| G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E. | 89,157 | 5,385 | 6.04 | | | |
| G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above | 140,491 | 6,090 | 4.34 | | | |

**Industry group**

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
2 Mining & quarrying (B)
3 Manufacturing (C)
6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)
7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
8 Transportation and storage (H)
9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)
10 Information and communication (J)
11 Financial and insurance activities (K)
13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
14 Administrative and support service activities (N)
15 Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)
16 Education (P)
17 Human health and social work activities (Q)
19 Other service activities (S)
20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)
18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)
21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

# 2024 Census of Population and Housing-based Re-weighting of Labour Force Survey Estimates *Revised Labour Force Statistics: 2025*

## 1. Introduction

The national statistics office in Sri Lanka; the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) recognized the need of re-weighting Labour Force Survey (LFS) using mid-year population estimate of 2025 published by the Register General Department (RGO). As practiced in many other countries after a Census of Population & Housing, the process of re-weighting enables the national statistics office to keep LFS estimates in line with the latest population data. This is the second time a re-weighting is applied to LFS data in Sri Lanka.

## 2. The procedure of the re-weighting

Following steps were taken to reweight the labour force statistics for 2025.

- For this LFS re-weighting, the base population is the district level mid-year population estimate of 2025. This mid-year population estimate of 2025 by district level were used to calculate 2025 second quarter population estimate of the LFS.
- To derive the household population from the total population, the institutional population was excluded from the total population. That represents about 1.7% of the total population as reported in CPH 2024.
- By using the percentages of institutional population by District level institutional population was calculated for each district. Then the institutional population was deducted to get the household population by district. These calculated district level household population was used for LFS second quarter 2025. Then the annual district level population growth rates acquired from RGO were used to calculate district level household population estimates for other quarters of 2025. Finally, district level household population was calculated for all four quarters in 2025.
- Then published annual and quarterly weights of LFS 2025 were adjusted to these newly calculated household population estimates by district level.

## 3. The impact of re-weighting on LFS and already published estimates

I. The trends in the main estimates of reweighted series over the period are very similar to those currently published(un-reweighted)

II. Published LFS rates (un-reweighted), such as labour force participation rate, employment rate and unemployment rate do not show significant changes due to re-weighting.

## Table 01: Reweighted Labour Force Status (Current) of the household population aged 15 years and over, 2025Q1-2025Q4

| Year | Household Population (Age 15 years & over) | Labour Force | | Employed | | Unemployed | | Not in Labour Force Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | Number | Employment Rate (% to total Labour Force) | Number | Unemployment Rate (% to total Labour Force) | |
| 2025 Q1 | 16,927,335 | 8,408,788 | 49.7 | 8,086,773 | 96.2 | 322,015 | 3.8 | 8,518,548 |
| 2025 Q2 | 17,098,071 | 8,388,969 | 49.1 | 8,077,102 | 96.3 | 311,867 | 3.7 | 8,709,102 |
| 2025 Q3 | 16,997,915 | 8,484,301 | 49.9 | 8,116,945 | 95.7 | 367,357 | 4.3 | 8,513,614 |
| 2025 Q4 | 17,113,115 | 8,350,945 | 48.8 | 8,035,339 | 96.2 | 315,606 | 3.8 | 8,762,170 |

## Table 02: Published Labour Force statistics of the household population aged 15 years and over 2025Q1-2025Q4

| Year | Household Population (Age 15 years & over) | Labour Force | | Employed | | Unemployed | | Not in Labour Force Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | Number | Employment Rate (% to total Labour Force) | Number | Unemployment Rate (% to total Labour Force) | |
| 2025 Q1 | 17,032,793 | 8,461,936 | 49.7 | 8,139,605 | 96.2 | 322,331 | 3.8 | 8,570,857 |
| 2025 Q2 | 17,214,317 | 8,491,296 | 49.3 | 8,172,638 | 96.2 | 318,657 | 3.8 | 8,723,021 |
| 2025 Q3 | 16,959,508 | 8,465,161 | 49.9 | 8,097,879 | 95.7 | 367,282 | 4.3 | 8,494,346 |
| 2025 Q4 | 17,113,993 | 8,351,786 | 48.8 | 8,036,367 | 96.2 | 315,419 | 3.8 | 8,762,207 |

## Table 03: Difference between Reweighted & Published Labour Force statistics of the household population aged 15 years and over, 2025Q1-2025Q4

| Year | Difference in Household Population (Age 15 years & over) | Difference in Labour Force | | Difference in Employed | | Difference in Unemployed | | Difference in Not in Labour Force Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | percentage points | Number | percentage points | Number | percentage points | |
| 2025 Q1 | -105,458 | -53,148 | 0.00 | -52,832 | -0.02 | -316 | 0.02 | -52,309 |
| 2025 Q2 | -116,245 | -102,326 | -0.26 | -95,537 | 0.04 | -6,790 | -0.04 | -13,919 |
| 2025 Q3 | 38,408 | 19,140 | 0.00 | 19,066 | 0.01 | 74 | -0.01 | 19,268 |
| 2025 Q4 | -878 | -841 | 0.00 | -1,028 | 0.00 | 187 | 0.00 | -37 |

# ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES

## 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, before 2013. However, this was changed as age 15 and over from 2013 onward.

(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) Contributing 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 pointed out that one hour per week is too low, to consider a person to be employed.

(2) **Working Age Population** : Some pointed out those persons in the age group 10-14 yrs. are too young to be considered in the working age. (From 2013 onward the working age population is considered as age 15 and over).

(3) **Employment Status** : Some pointed out that 'contributing 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) **Contributing Family Worker** : Contributing family workers are **not** considered as employed. They 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.

*Alternative estimates (page 2)*

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) | |
| 2018 | 16,196,232 | 7,428,999 | 45.9 | 7,056,406 | 95.0 | 372,593 | 5.0 | 8,767,233 |
| 2019 | 16,424,016 | 7,609,700 | 46.3 | 7,198,383 | 94.6 | 411,318 | 5.4 | 8,814,316 |
| 2020 | 16,739,396 | 7,438,037 | 44.4 | 6,970,524 | 93.7 | 467,513 | 6.3 | 9,301,359 |
| 2021 | 17,133,659 | 7,471,067 | 43.6 | 7,031,284 | 94.1 | 439,783 | 5.9 | 9,662,592 |
| 2022 | 17,161,973 | 7,497,884 | 43.7 | 7,098,552 | 94.7 | 399,332 | 5.3 | 9,664,089 |
| 2023 | 17,306,492 | 7,380,485 | 42.6 | 6,982,070 | 94.6 | 398,415 | 5.4 | 9,926,008 |
| 2024 | 17,547,864 | 7,445,218 | 42.4 | 7,079,267 | 95.1 | 365,951 | 4.9 | 10,102,646 |
| 2025 | 17,034,109 | 7,538,839 | 44.3 | 7,209,628 | 95.6 | 329,211 | 4.4 | 9,495,271 |

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 |
| 2018 | 372,593 | 5.0 | 52,624 | 30.4 | 144,824 | 22.1 | 84,000 | 11.3 | 55,853 | 3.3 | 35,291 | 0.8 |
| 2019 | 411,318 | 5.4 | 53,652 | 29.3 | 148,046 | 22.4 | 93,793 | 11.8 | 59,009 | 3.4 | 56,818 | 1.3 |
| 2020 | 467,513 | 6.3 | 62,910 | 38.0 | 183,722 | 27.5 | 100,359 | 13.0 | 64,493 | 3.9 | 56,029 | 1.3 |
| 2021 | 439,783 | 5.9 | 39,102 | 30.8 | 187,104 | 29.7 | 97,631 | 12.5 | 66,973 | 4.2 | 48,972 | 1.1 |
| 2022 | 399,332 | 5.3 | 38,456 | 32.0 | 148,378 | 23.8 | 97,317 | 12.6 | 56,437 | 3.5 | 58,743 | 1.3 |
| 2023 | 398,415 | 5.4 | 39,737 | 33.5 | 141,290 | 24.0 | 100,763 | 14.2 | 56,381 | 3.7 | 60,244 | 1.4 |
| 2024 | 365,951 | 4.9 | 38,809 | 32.7 | 130,640 | 22.4 | 99,305 | 13.5 | 57,229 | 3.8 | 39,968 | 0.9 |
| 2025 | 329,211 | 4.4 | 38,391 | 30.7 | 115,218 | 19.4 | 82,274 | 11.4 | 51,923 | 3.2 | 41,404 | 0.9 |

*Alternative Estimates (Page 3)*

**Table 3 - Currently employed person by industry group (Based on ISIC fourth revision) (Alternative estimates) - Both sexes**

| Year | | Total | Industry group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 20 | other |
| 2021 | No. | 7,031,284 | 1,645,518 | 47,771 | 1,236,731 | 643,441 | 1,015,162 | 452,687 | 183,091 | 71,279 | 177,033 | 76,063 | 129,244 | 476,399 | 373,300 | 168,807 | 109,266 | 181,500 | 43,994 |
| | % | 100.0 | 23.4 | 0.7 | 17.6 | 9.2 | 14.4 | 6.4 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 6.8 | 5.3 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 0.6 |
| 2022 | No. | 7,098,552 | 1,624,304 | 54,869 | 1,273,780 | 626,142 | 1,021,153 | 450,290 | 195,864 | 69,084 | 179,777 | 81,766 | 135,361 | 449,381 | 429,513 | 164,503 | 142,340 | 135,921 | 64,505 |
| | % | 100.0 | 22.9 | 0.8 | 17.9 | 8.8 | 14.4 | 6.3 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 0.9 |
| 2023 | No. | 6,982,070 | 1,565,483 | 60,338 | 1,242,417 | 539,663 | 994,013 | 476,430 | 239,278 | 77,115 | 174,986 | 84,258 | 126,467 | 435,718 | 403,080 | 181,525 | 182,460 | 141,912 | 56,928 |
| | % | 100.0 | 22.4 | 0.9 | 17.8 | 7.7 | 14.2 | 6.8 | 3.4 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 0.8 |
| 2024 | No. | 7,079,267 | 1,617,302 | 58,145 | 1,249,437 | 561,979 | 1,050,283 | 499,891 | 230,156 | 78,001 | 156,020 | 81,737 | 144,857 | 415,785 | 396,749 | 179,543 | 182,482 | 121,181 | 55,717 |
| | % | 100.0 | 22.8 | 0.8 | 17.6 | 7.9 | 14.8 | 7.1 | 3.3 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 1.7 | 0.8 |
| 2025 | No. | 7,209,628 | 1,500,389 | 50,792 | 1,313,030 | 585,209 | 1,075,471 | 482,739 | 238,490 | 89,786 | 179,247 | 88,096 | 153,113 | 441,530 | 437,326 | 186,368 | 179,229 | 149,863 | 58,951 |
| | % | 100.0 | 20.8 | 0.7 | 18.2 | 8.1 | 14.9 | 6.7 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 0.8 |

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

**Industry group**

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
2 Mining & quarrying (B)
3 Manufacturing (C)
6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D,E,F)
7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
8 Transportation and storage (H)
9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)
10 Information and communication (J)
11 Financial and insurance activities (K)
13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
14 Administrative and support service activities (N)
15 Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)
16 Education (P)
17 Human health and social work activities (Q)
19 Other service activities (S)
20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
Other

Other
12 Real estate activities (L)
18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)
21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**For Office Use Only**

| Confidential |
| --- |
| The Information collected in this survey will be strictly confidential and individual level information will not be divulged to any person or agency. |

| Year | Month | | Name of the District | Serial No. of Housing Unit | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | | | | | |

# SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2025

## SURVEY SCHEDULE

**Department of Census & Statisics**

**Sri Lanka**

IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Address (Where it belongs ) :- .....

.....

2. Province :- .....

3. District :- .....

4. DS Division :- .....

5. GN Division Number :- ..... Name :- .....

6. Sector :- .....

7. Name of M.C./U.C./P.S. :- .....

8. Name of Ward/ Village/Estate :- .....

9. C.B.No :- ..... Sample Series No :- .....

10. Survey Quarter :- .....

11. Number of Household :- ..... No :- .....

12. Name of Head of Household :- .....

.....

13. Respondent's Name :- .....

Signature :- ..... Telephone No :- .....

14. Interviewer's Name :- .....

Signature :- ..... Date :- .....

15. Supervisor's Name :- .....

Signature :- ..... Date :- .....

## Office use Only

| Year | | Month | | Sector | District | | D.S.Division No | | Special Census Block No (PSU) | | | Housing unit Sample code No (within Census Block) | | Household No (within Housing Unit) | Household Serial No (Within District) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Concept and definitions:**

1. **Labour Force** : The labour force is composed of the economically active population 15 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**: A person (during the reference period) worked as played employee, employers, own account workers (self employed), or unpaid family worker is said to be employed. This includes a person with a job but were absent from that job during that period on a temporary basis such as persons who during the reference period were sick , on vacation, maternity leave, strike or temporarily laid off.
4. **Unemployed** : Persons available and /or looking for work , and who did not work but taken steps during last 4 weeks to find a job and ready to accept a job if given a work opportunity within next two weeks .
5. **Reference Period** :

   Current Reference Period : The week preceding the week of the survey; i.e. last week.
6. **Not in the Labour Force (not economically active)** : A person who was neither working nor available / looking for a job 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. **Underemployment :** is defined based on hours of working in his occupation/Economic activity. i.e. The persons who are willing and able to work beyond the total hours work.
8. **Informal Sector :** If the institute of the employed person is not officially registered, and if the institute does not keep formal accounts and if the institute has less than 10 regular employees then the institute is define as an informal sector institute.

## Controlling Information

| Interviewer's Visits | First | Second | Third |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Date | | | |
| 2. Result* | | | |
| 3. Time taken to complete schedule | Minutes | Minutes | Minutes |

***** Result Code

| | |
|---|---|
| Completed | 1 |
| Deferred | 2 |
| Housing unit not available currently ** | 3 |
| Not competent respondent at home | 4 |
| Refused | 5 |
| Housing unit is temporarily closed | 6 |
| Other (Specify) | 7 |

****** Specify the reasons for not available particular housing unit now

(i) Being empty

(ii) Not used by non-seasons

(iii) Unable to live

(iv) Demolished

4. If the housing unit is consolidated, No. of H.U.'s listed for this unit.

5. If the housing unit is divided, No. of H.U.'s in this unit as at present.

**6. Office use only**

Code of Final Result

| | |
|---|---|
| Completed | 1 |
| Not completed | 2 |
| Non related unit | 3 |

# CODES FOR PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

## Column - 3 Relationship to Head of Household

Head of Household.....1
Wife / Husband .....2
Son / Daughter.....3
Parents.....4
Other Relative.....5
Domestic Servant.....6
Boarder.....7
Other.....8

## Column - 4 Gender

Male.....1
Female.....2

## Column - 7 Ethnic Group

Sinhala.....1
Sri Lankan Tamil.....2
Indian Tamil.....3
Sri Lankan Moor.....4
Malay.....5
Burger.....6
Other.....9

## Column - 8 Religion

Buddhist .....1
Hindu.....2
Islam.....3
Roman Catholic.
Other Christians } .....4
Other.....9

## Column - 9 Marital Status

Never Married.....1
Married.....2
Widowed.....3
Divorced.....4
Separated.....5

## Column - 10 Educational Attainment

Studying / Studied Grade 1 .....00
Passed Grade - 1.....01
Passed Grade - 2.....02
Passed Grade - 3 .....03
Passed Grade - 4.....04
Passed Grade - 5.....05
Passed Grade - 6.....06
Passed Grade - 7.....07
Passed Grade - 8.....08
Passed Grade - 9.....09
Passed Grade - 10.....10
Passed G.C.E.(O/L) / N.C.G.E.....11
Passed Grade - 12.....12
Passed G.C.E.(A/L) / H.N.C.E.....13
Passed G.A.Q./G.S.Q.....14
Degree.....15
Post Graduate Degree / Diploma.....16
Special educational Institutions.....17
No Schooling.....19

## Column – 10a Basic Degree

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arts | 01 | Indigeneous Medicine | 10 |
| Law | 02 | Paramedical Studies (1) | 11 |
| Management | 03 | Engineering | 12 |
| Commerce | 04 | Fashion Design/ Transport & | |
| Medicine | 05 | Logistic Management | 13 |
| Dental Surgery | 06 | Architecture/ Quantity | |
| Veterinary Medicine | 07 | Surveying (2) | 14 |
| Agriculture | 08 | Computer Science/IT (3) | 15 |
| Science | 09 | Other | 19 |

## Column - 11 Attendance at Schooling or other Educational Institution

School .....1
University.....2
Other Educational Institution .....3
Vocational / Technical institution.....4
Does not attend .....5

## Column - 12, 13, 14 Literacy

Able to read and write .....1

Unable to read and write .....2

## For Question No.2 in the Labour Force Part

Inquire whether (S)he was engaged in following activities
Except which are mentioned in question No.2

* Activities as (Ploughing, Sowing, with regard to transplanting Rice, harvesting paddy, cultivation crops, spraying weedicide Pesticide, fertilizing … etc.)

*All above activities with regarding(vegetable/ permanent crops/ Fruits/ flower( commercial purposes)
*Livestock operations/ feeding and milking animals, churning Milk, grassing, bee keeping

*Making clothes, sowing pieces of cloths or leather, knitting Embroidery, mat and rope making, ginning, spinning and weaving

*Making foods/ ice packets for selling purposes

*Selecting fish, making dried fish

*Copra making, coir preparing, coir yarn spinning, cadjan Weaving, coconut husk crushing, cinnamon crushing
Beedi making

## Personal Information

| Serial Number | Name of the Individuals who usually live here including those who are temporarily absent(include boarders, lodgers, servants, etc. and exclude temporary visitors) | Relationship between head of the household | Male/ Female | Birth year and Month | | | | Age (as at last Birthday ) | | Race | Religion | Marital Status | 5 Years and above | | | | | 10 years and above | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Educational Attainment | | If Q10 =15 or 16 then the Basic Degree | | Current Education Status | Literacy | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sinhala | Tamil | English |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** Year | | Month | | **6** Years | | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | | **10a** | | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** |
| 01 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 02 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 03 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 04 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 05 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 06 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 07 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 08 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 09 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Serial Number | Name of the Individuals who usually live here including those who are temporarily absent(include boarders, lodgers, servants, etc. and exclude temporary visitors) | For all person | | | | | | 15 Years and above |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Disability | | | | | | Education/ Training |
| | | Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses? | Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid? | Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps? | Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating? | Do you have difficulty with self-care? | Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating? | Do you attend any formal/ informal education/ training in previous 12 months? (If currently attend any formal/ informal education/ training mention "Yes" ) 1.Yes 2. No |
| **1** | **2** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** |
| 01 | | | | | | | | |
| 02 | | | | | | | | |
| 03 | | | | | | | | |
| 04 | | | | | | | | |
| 05 | | | | | | | | |
| 06 | | | | | | | | |
| 07 | | | | | | | | |
| 08 | | | | | | | | |
| 09 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | |

| Column 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 – Disability Conditions | |
|---|---|
| No difficulties | 1 |
| Have miner difficulties | 2 |
| Have major difficulties | 3 |
| Cannot do anything | 4 |

## Information on Labour Force (Age 15 years and above) exclude persons who are presently abroad

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01. (a) Name of the Person | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| (b) Serial No. | | | | |
| 02. Were you Engaged, last week, even for a few hours in paid employment, own account profitable work or contributing family work as an economic activity (including employer) (If it is not possible to identify the person as being engaged in a specific economic activity, inquire whether (S)he was engaged in an activity specified in page 4 of the questionnaire | Yes 1 → Go to Q 4<br>No 2 | Yes 1 → Go to Q 4<br>No 2 | Yes 1 → Go to Q 4<br>No 2 | Yes 1 → Go to Q 4<br>No 2 |
| 03. During last week on what activity you were engaged in?<br>1. The main economic activity .....<br>2. Another economic activity .....<br>3. The main economic activity and Another economic activity ..... | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 7 | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 7 | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 7 | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 7 |
| 04. Even if you were not engaged in any of the above economic activity during last week, did you have an economic activity to be engaged in? Yes / No | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 6 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 6 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 6 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 6 |
| 05.Why were you not involving work during last week? (circle the most appropriate code)<br>1. Off season/Bad weather .....<br>2. Temporary stopping economic activity (disorganization, suspension of work , mechanical/ electrical breakdown, Shortage of raw material/ equipment/ workers, financial difficulties, strikes, no works .....<br>3. Sick/Injury/personal .....<br>4. Leave/holiday/ vacation/educational leave or training .....<br>5. Personal/ family needs .....<br>9. Others (specify) ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 } Go to Q 7 ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 } Go to Q 7 ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 } Go to Q 7 ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 } Go to Q 7 ..... |
| 06. (a) Were you engaged in one or more of the following activities during last week? (Purchasing firewood is not relevant here. If firewood/ Water is only brought from outside, specify the time spent) Yes / No | 1 → Go to Q 6(b)<br>2 → Go to Q 47 | 1 → Go to Q 6(b)<br>2 → Go to Q 47 | 1 → Go to Q 6(b)<br>2 → Go to Q 47 | 1 → Go to Q 6(b)<br>2 → Go to Q 47 |
| (b) Activities | Time spent (hrs.) | Time spent (hrs.) | Time spent (hrs.) | Time spent (hrs.) |
| 1. bringing firewood for home(own) consumption ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Bringing water from outside for home(own) consumption ..... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Engaging in a repairing working in own house or building ..... | 3 } Go to Q 47 | 3 } Go to Q 47 | 3 } Go to Q 47 | 3 } Go to Q 47 |

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 07. What is the main economic activity, you are engaged in ?<br>Describe the main activities relevant to this economic activity (occupation) | * | * | * | * |
| 08. What is the main production activity/ service/activity which is relevant to the work you are engaged in, at your institution or enterprise/ your place of work? (Industry) | * | * | * | * |
| 08A. What is the District your institution or enterprise locate? | * | * | * | * |
| 09. Status in Employment<br>1. Employee<br>2. Employer<br>3. Own account worker<br>4. Contributing Family Worker | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 →Go To Q 15 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 →Go To Q 15 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 →Go To Q 15 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 →Go To Q 15 |
| Only for paid Employees ( If Q.9=1) | Only for Q 9=1 | Only for Q 9=1 | Only for Q 9=1 | Only for Q 9=1 |
| 10. Is your employment permanent/ temporary/ casual ?<br>1 . Permanent<br>2. Temporary<br>3. Casual<br>4. No permanent employer | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 15 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 15 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 15 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 15 |
| 11. Is your employer contributing to a pension scheme or provident fund on your behalf ?<br>Yes .....<br>No.....<br>Do not know..... | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 12. Are you entitled for annual paid leave or leave encashment?<br>Yes .....<br>No.....<br>Do not know..... | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 13. Do you have an appointment letter (written contract) from your employer ?<br>Yes .....<br>No.....<br>Do not know..... | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 14. To which sector the institution where you work belongs?<br>1. Government.....<br>2. Semi Government .....<br>3. Private..... | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 20 | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 20 | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 20 | 1<br>2<br>3 } Go to Q 20 |

* For office use only

| Serial No. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| For persons with Q10= 4 , Q14= 3 or Q9= 2, 3 or 4 | | For persons with Q10=4 Q14=3or Q9=2,3or 4 | For persons with Q10=4 Q14=3or Q9=2,3or 4 | For persons with Q10=4 Q14=3or Q9=2,3or 4 | For persons with Q10=4 Q14=3or Q9=2,3or 4 |
| 15. Is your institution of work/ your business or enterprise (agricultural/ non-agricultural) registered under employees provident fund or Inland Revenue Department ? | yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | No | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Do not know | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 16. How does your institution of work/ your business or enterprise (agricultural/ non-agricultural) maintain account recording system? | | | | | |
| 1. Formal | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Informal | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. No account recording system | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4. Do not know | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 17. What is the total number of regular employees, employed at your Institution of work/ your Institution? | | | | | |
| 1. Less than 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. 5 to 9 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. 10 to 15 | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4. 16 to 49 | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. 50 to 99 | | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6. 100 or more | | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7. No paid employees/ regular employees | | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8. Working for household | | 8 → Go to Q 20 | 8 → Go to Q 20 | 8 → Go to Q 20 | 8 → Go to Q 20 |
| 18. What is the legal status of your institution of work/ your business or enterprise? | | | | | |
| 1. Publicly Listed/ Limited liability/ Registered corporative | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Individual business/ partnership with members of household | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Ordinary partnership with members of other household | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 9. Other (specify) | | 9 ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... |
| 19. Does the products/ services of your institute sell or barter | | | | | |
| 1. Yes | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. No | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Do not know | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20. What is the number of hours you usually worked at this occupation work per week? | Hours | Hours | Hours | Hours |
| 21. What is the number of hours you actually worked at this occupation during the reference period ? | Hours | Hours | Hours | Hours |
| 22. If Q 21 < Q 20 then go to Q 23. Otherwise go to Q 24 | If Q21< Q 20 then go to Q 23. Otherwise go to Q 24 | If Q21< Q 20 then go to Q 23. Otherwise go to Q 24 | If Q21< Q 20 then go to Q 23. Otherwise go to Q 24 | If Q21< Q 20 then go to Q 23. Otherwise go to Q 24 |
| 23. What is the reason for working fewer hours than usual ? | | | | |
| 1. Off season/ Bad weather ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Temporary stopping economic activities in the organization (disorganization, suspension of work, mechanical, electrical breakdown, Shortage of raw material, financial difficulties, strikes .... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Could not find more work ..... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4. Temporary lay-off (lack of work) ..... | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. Job started/ ended within preference period ..... | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6. Temporary dismissed by employer ..... | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7. Sick / injury/ personal ..... | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8. Leave/ holyday/ vacation/ educational leave or training ..... | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 9. Other (specify) ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... |
| 24. Were you engaged in a secondary occupation / economic activity in the last week ? | | | | |
| Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 → Go to Q 40 | 2 → Go to Q 40 | 2 → Go to Q 40 | 2 → Go to Q 40 |
| 25. What was your secondary occupation ? Describe the main activities relevant to this activity. | * | * | * | * |
| 26. What is the main production/ service/ activity which is relevant to the Secondary work you are engaged in, at your institution or enterprise/ your place of work ? | * | * | * | * |

* Office use only

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27. Status of secondary Occupation<br>1. Employee<br>2. Employer<br>3. Own account worker<br>4. Contributing Family Worker | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 33 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 33 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 33 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 33 |
| Only for paid employees<br>If Q 27 = 1 | If Q 27 = 1 | If Q 27 = 1 | If Q 27 = 1 | If Q 27 = 1 |
| 28. Is your employment permanent/ temporary/ casual ?<br>1 . Permanent<br>2. Temporary<br>3. Casual<br>4. No permanent employer | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 33 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 33 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 33 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 33 |
| 29. Is your employer contributing to a pension scheme or provident fund on your behalf ?<br>Yes .....<br>No.....<br>Do not know..... | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 30. Are you entitled for annual paid leave or leave encashment?<br>Yes .....<br>No.....<br>Do not know..... | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 31. Do you have an appointment letter (written contract) from your employer ?<br>Yes .....<br>No.....<br>Do not know..... | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 32. To which sector the institution where you work belongs?<br>1. Government.....<br>2. Semi Government .....<br>3. Private..... | 1<br>2<br>3 } →Go to Q 38. | 1<br>2<br>3 } →Go to Q 38. | 1<br>2<br>3 } →Go to Q 38. | 1<br>2<br>3 } →Go to Q 38. |
| 33. Is your institution of work/ your business or enterprise (agricultural/ non-agricultural) registered under employees provident fund or Inland Revenue Department ?<br>yes<br>No<br>Do not | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ☐☐ | ☐☐ | ☐☐ | ☐☐ |
| 34. How does your institution/business or enterprise (agricultural/ non- agricultural) Maintain account recording system? | | | | |
| 1. Formal..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Informal..... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. No account recording system..... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4. Do not know..... | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 35. What is the total number of regular employees, employed at your Institution? | | | | |
| 1. Less than 5 ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. 5 to 9 ..... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. 10 to 15 ..... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4. 16 to 49 ..... | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. 50 to 99 ..... | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6. 100 or more ..... | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7. No paid employees/ regular employees ..... | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8. Working for household ..... | 8 →Go to Q 38 | 8 →Go to Q 38 | 8 →Go to Q 38 | 8 →Go to Q 38 |
| 36. What is the legal status of your institution/ business or enterprise? | | | | |
| 1. Publicly Listed/ Limited liability/ Registered corporative | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Individual business/ partnership with members of household | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Ordinary partnership with members of other household | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 9. Other (specify) ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... | 9 ..... |
| 37. Does the products/ services of your institute sell or barter | | | | |
| 1. Yes ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. No ..... | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Do not know ..... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 38. What is the number of hours you usually work per week? | ☐☐☐ Hours | ☐☐☐ Hours | ☐☐☐ Hours | ☐☐☐ Hours |
| 39. What is the number of hours you actually worked at this occupation during the reference period ? | ☐☐☐ Hours | ☐☐☐ Hours | ☐☐☐ Hours | ☐☐☐ Hours |

For all persons who are employed and age 15 and above

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40. (a) Total No. of hours in Q 20 and Q 38 (state)..... | Less than 35 → Go to Q41<br>35 & over → Go to Q 40(b) | Less than 35 → Go to Q41<br>35 & over → Go to Q 40(b) | Less than 35 → Go to Q41<br>35 & over → Go to Q 40(b) | Less than 35 → Go to Q 41<br>35 & over → Go to Q 40(b) |
| (b) Total No. of hours in Q 21 and Q 39 (state)..... | Less than 35 → Go to Q 40(c)<br>35 & over → Go to Q 45 | Less than 35 → Go to Q 40(c )<br>35 & over → Go to Q 45 | Less than 35 → Go to Q 40(c )<br>35 & over → Go to Q 45 | Less than 35 → Go to Q 40(c )<br>35 & over → Go to Q 45 |
| (c) ..... | Q 23 code 1 → Go to Q 41<br>Q 23 code 2 - 9 → Go to Q 45 | Q 23 code 1 → Go to Q 41<br>Q 23 code 2 - 9 → Go to Q 45 | Q 23 code 1 → Go to Q 41<br>Q 23 code 2 - → Go to Q 45 | Q 23 code 1 → Go to Q 41<br>Q 23 code 2 - 9 → Go to Q 45 |
| 41. Would you like to work, if you are given an opportunity to work during a longer period (than you usually work ..... hours )<br>(i) in the present occupation/ economic activity.<br>(ii) in another occupation in addition to the present occupation<br>(iii) engaging yourself fully in another occupation | Yes 1<br>No 2 → Go to Q 45 | Yes 1<br>No 2 → Go to Q 45 | Yes 1<br>No 2 → Go to Q 45 | Yes 1<br>No 2 → Go to Q 45 |
| 42. If so, how would you like to work?<br>1. In the present occupation<br>2. In another occupation in addition to the present occupation<br>3. Fully in another occupation<br>4. Any of the above | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 |
| 43. How many extra hours you would be able to work, in addition to those you usually work per week ? | Hours | Hours | Hours | Hours |
| 44. As mentioned above, are you ready to work on these extra hours, if you get an opportunity within next two weeks? | Yes 1<br>No 2 | Yes 1<br>No 2 | Yes 1<br>No 2 | Yes 1<br>No 2 |

For all employed persons aged 15 and above

| Serial Number | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45. Are you an employee in the main occupation? Yes / No | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) |
| **For month salary earners:** | | | | |
| (a) (i) Gross salary for last month (Rs.) (including all allowances) | | | | |
| (ii) Additional earnings during last month (Rs.) (overtime payment etc.) | | | | |
| (iii) Income in kind (if there is any) (Rs.) | | | | |
| **For daily wage earners :** | | | | |
| (b) (i) Daily wage (Rs.) | | | | |
| (ii) Number of days worked last month | | | | |
| (iii) Total income (Rs.) | | | | |
| (iv) Income in kind (if there is any ) (Rs.) | | | | |
| **For employers and own account workers :** | | | | |
| (excluding contributing family workers) | | | | |
| (c) (i) Monthly income (Rs.) | | | | |
| 46. Are you an employee in the secondary occupation? Yes / No | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) | 1 / 2 → Go to (c) |
| No secondary occupation …… | 3 → Go to Q 62 | 3 → Go to Q 62 | 3 → Go to Q 62 | 3 → Go to Q 62 |
| **For month salary earners:** | | | | |
| (a) (i) Gross salary for last month (Rs.) (including all allowances) | | | | |
| (ii) Additional earnings during last month (Rs.) (overtime payment etc.) | | | | |
| (iii) Income in kind (if there is any) (Rs.) | | | | |
| **For daily wage earners :** | | | | |
| (b) (i) Daily wage (Rs.) | | | | |
| (ii) Number of days worked last month | | | | |
| (iii) Total income (Rs.) | | | | |
| (iv) Income in kind (if there is any ) (Rs.) | | | | |
| **For employers and own account workers :** | | | | |
| (excluding contributing family workers) | | | | |
| (c) (i) Monthly income (Rs.) | Go to Q 62 | Go to Q 62 | Go to Q 62 | Go to Q 62 |

For all persons aged 15 and above other than Employed persons (persons answered 1 or 2 for Q6 (a))

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47. Would you expected to do a paid job or to start a self employment? Yes / No | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 52 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 52 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 52 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 52 |
| Already got a job and ready to go / already made arrangements for self employment activity | 3 → Go to Q 53 | 3 → Go to Q 53 | 3 → Go to Q 53 | 3 → Go to Q 53 |
| 48. Did you take any steps during the last 4 weeks to find a job or to start a self employment? Yes / No | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 50 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 50 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 50 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 50 |
| 49. What are the steps taken?<br>(Encircle most relevant codes up to a maximum of 3)<br>1. Registered for a government job<br>2. Registered in private sector Institutions/Internet<br>3. Replying for advertisements in government gazette/news papers/ Publishing advertisements<br>4. Inquiring from persons with public sector/ private sector job contacts/ Friends/ relations<br>5. Taking action to find financial and other resources to start a self Employment<br>9. Other (specify)………….. | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ………………. <br>Go to Q 51 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ………………. <br>Go to Q 51 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ………………. <br>Go to Q 51 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ………………. <br>Go to Q 51 |
| 50. What was the main reason for not taking any action to find a job during the last 4 weeks (circle the most appropriate code)<br>1. Awaiting results of the examination/interview held for a job<br>2. Does not believe that (S)he gets a suitable job<br>3. Unable to find any work<br>4. Does not possess skills or training required for a job<br>5. Personal difficulties faced while finding a job<br>6. Household work<br>7. Educational activities<br>9. Other (specify)…………. | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>9 ………………. | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>9 ………………. | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>9 ………………. | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>7<br>9 ………………. |

| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51. Are you ready to accept a job, if offered within next two weeks/ to start a self employment within next two weeks? Yes / No | 1 → Go to Q 53<br>2 | 1 → Go to Q 53<br>2 | 1 → Go to Q 53<br>2 | 1 → Go to Q 53<br>2 |
| 52. What is the reason for not accepting the job in Q51 ?<br>1. Educational or vocational training activities<br>2. Household activities<br>3. Retired/Old age<br>4. Physically illness/ disabled<br>9. Other (specify) | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>9 →Go to Q 62<br>..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>9 →Go to Q 62<br>..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>9 →Go to Q 62<br>..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>9 →Go to Q 62<br>..... |
| 53. Do you expect a self-employment or a paid employment?<br>1. Self employment<br>2. Paid employment<br>3 .Any employment | 1 → Go to Q 55<br>2<br>3 → Go to Q 57 | 1 → Go to Q 55<br>2<br>3 → Go to Q 57 | 1 → Go to Q 55<br>2<br>3 → Go to Q 57 | 1 → Go to Q 55<br>2<br>3 → Go to Q 57 |
| 54. Would you expect your job in the public sector? private sector or semi government sector?<br>1. Public sector<br>2. Semi Government sector<br>3. Private sector<br>4. Any sector | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 56 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 56 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 56 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 → Go to Q 56 |
| 55. (a) If you are interested in starting a self employment, do you expect any help from the Government/ Other institution for basic needs ? Yes / No | 1 → Go to (b)<br>2 → Go to Q 56 | 1 → Go to (b)<br>2 → Go to Q 56 | 1 → Go to (b)<br>2 → Go to Q 56 | 1 → Go to (b)<br>2 → Go to Q 56 |
| (b) What type of assistance do you expect? (maximum 3 options only)<br>1. Getting a loan facility<br>2. An institution/ a person to seek the necessary knowledge<br>3. Facilities to sell the production<br>4. Capital resources such as land/machinery<br>5. Not decided yet<br>9. Other (specify) | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ..... | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>9 ..... |
| 56. Describe the nature of the occupation/ economic activity/ self employment that you like to be engaged in | Code * | Code * | Code * | Code * |

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| Serial No. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 57. What is the minimum monthly salary/income that you expect through the employment/business? (Rs.) | | | | |
| 58. How long have you been looking for work?<br>1. Less than 6 months<br>2. Between 6 - 12 months<br>3. One year or more | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 | 1<br>2<br>3 |
| 59. Have you ever been engaged in a paid job or self employment or family work continuously for 2 weeks?<br>Yes<br>No | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 62 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 62 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 62 | 1<br>2 → Go to Q 62 |
| 60. What are your main activities of that job/work?<br>60a. Occupation | * Code | * Code | * Code | * Code |
| 60b. Industry | * Code | * Code | * Code | * Code |
| 61. Status of your Occupation<br>1. Employee<br>2. Employer<br>3. Own account worker<br>4. Contributing Family Worker | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 62 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 62 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 62 | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4 } Go to Q 62 |

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For all persons aged 15 and above

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Serial No. | | | | | |
| 62. Have you successfully completed a formal professional/ technical training, relevant to an occupation/ self-employment | Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | No | 2 → Go to Q 64 | 2 → Go to Q 64 | 2 → Go to Q 64 | 2 → Go to Q 64 |
| 63. **(a) Training (1)** | | | | | |
| (i) Name of the training (state the highest stage passed, if relevant) | | | | | |
| (ii) Field of training | | * | * | * | * |
| (iii) Nature of the certificate received: | | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 |
| 1. General Certificate | | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 |
| 2. Diploma Certificate | | 3 / 4 | 3 / 4 | 3 / 4 | 3 / 4 |
| 3. Higher Diploma or above Higher Diploma Certificate | | 5 / 6 | 5 / 6 | 5 / 6 | 5 / 6 |
| (iv) Institution (the institution that offered the qualification) | | | | | |
| (v) Duration : (in months) (if not defined mention 00) | | ..... * | ..... * | ..... * | ..... * |
| **(a) Training (2)** | | | | | |
| (i) Name of the training (state the highest stage passed, if relevant) | | | | | |
| (ii) Field of training | | * | * | * | * |
| (iii) Nature of the certificate received: | | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 | Non NVQ / NVQ 1- 4 / NVQ 5- 7 |
| 1. General Certificate | | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 | 1 / 2 |
| 2. Diploma Certificate | | 3 / 4 | 3 / 4 | 3 / 4 | 3 / 4 |
| 3. Higher Diploma or above Higher Diploma Certificate | | 5 / 6 | 5 / 6 | 5 / 6 | 5 / 6 |
| (iv) Institution (the institution that offered the qualification) | | ..... * | ..... * | ..... * | ..... * |
| (v) Duration : (in months) (if not defined mention 00) | | End | End | End | End |
| 64. What was the reason for not having such a formal professional/ technical training (circle the most appropriate code) | | | | | |
| 1. Thinking that the current higher educational qualifications are sufficient For having a job …….. | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Does not feel the need of having such training to find a job…… | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3. Financial difficulties to get a suitable formal training……..... | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4. Unavailability of training projects or institutions to get a proper training In their living area …….. | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5. No confidence about the institutions in their area…… | | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6. Currently having a training/ studying at school …….. | | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7. Does not feel the need…… | | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8. No training provided from the working institute…… | | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 9. Could not receive training due to job activities……... | | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 10. Other (specify)…… | | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

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## Digital Literacy ( For all persons aged 5 and above )

| **Person serial number and name according to labour force schedule** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C 01. Do you have the following digital devices (Communication devices), If yes, then how many? | **Device available Yes No** / **Number** | **Device available Yes No** / **Number** | **Device available Yes No** / **Number** | **Device available Yes No** / **Number** |
| (1)Desktop …… | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- |
| (2)Laptop …… | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- |
| (3)Tablet …… | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- |
| (4)Mobile Phone (Smart) …… | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- |
| (5)Mobile Phone (Non -Smart) …… | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- |
| (6)Other …… | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- | 1 2 ---------- |
| C 02. Are you aware about the activities done by the computer? Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 → Go to C 05 | 2 → Go to C 05 | 2 → Go to C 05 | 2 → Go to C 05 |
| What purposes? ( Maximum 3 options) | | | | |
| (1) Educational activities …… | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| (2) Economic activities …… | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| (3) Entertainment activities …… | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| (4) Internet/ E-mail facilities …… | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| (5) Other (specify) …… | 9 …… | 9 …… | 9 …… | 9 …… |
| C 03. Can you do some activity using a computer? Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 → Go to C 05 | 2 → Go to C 05 | 2 → Go to C 05 | 2 → Go to C 05 |
| What purposes? ( Maximum 3 options) | | | | |
| (1) Educational activities …… | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| (2) Economic activities …… | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| (3) Entertainment activities …… | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| (4) Internet/ E-mail facilities …… | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| (5) Other (specify) …… | 9 …… | 9 …… | 9 …… | 9 …… |
| C 04. How did you get computer knowledge? ( Maximum 5 options) | | | | |
| (1) Followed a private computer course (6) From family members | 1 6 | 1 6 | 1 6 | 1 6 |
| (2) School/ University (7) From friends/relations | 2 7 | 2 7 | 2 7 | 2 7 |
| (3) Government resource centers (8) Self study | 3 8 | 3 8 | 3 8 | 3 8 |
| (4) Job related activities (9) Using media | 4 9 | 4 9 | 4 9 | 4 9 |
| (5) Training given from the office (10)Other | 5 10 | 5 10 | 5 10 | 5 10 |
| C 05. Can you do some activity using a smart phone/Tablet? Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| C 06. Did you use email at least once during last 12 months? Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| C 07. Did you use internet at least once during last 12 months? Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 → Go to next person | 2 → Go to next person | 2 → Go to next person | 2 → Go to next person |
| C 08. Which device did you use to connect to internet/ email? (Maximum 4 options) | | | | |
| (1) Computer (Desktop/Laptop) (3) Tablet | 1 → Go to 3 | 1 → Go to 3 | 1 → Go to 3 | 1 → Go to 3 |
| (2) Smart Phone (4) Mobile Phone | 2 C 09 4 | 2 C 09 4 | 2 C 09 4 | 2 C 09 4 |
| C 09. Where did you use internet during last 12 months? (Maximum 3 options) | | | | |
| (1) At office (5) School/ University | 1 4 | 1 4 | 1 4 | 1 4 |
| (2) At home (6) Government provided | 2 5 | 2 5 | 2 5 | 2 5 |
| (3) At friend's/relative's home "Nenasala", "Vidatha", | 3 6 | 3 6 | 3 6 | 3 6 |
| (4) At a private institute "Vishwaghana", | | | | |

# 2025

# Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Annual Report

**The Vision of DCS**

"To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country's development goals."

**The Mission of DCS**

"Making contribution in the socioeconomic development of the country by providing accurate timely statistics, more Effectively by means of new technology, and utilising the services of dedicated staff under a strategic leadership to become a prosperous nation in the globalised environment."


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