



# Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter - 2016

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## Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs

### Highlights

- The statistics of this bulletin are coming from the new series of statistics after the reweighting process of labour force statistics. The detailed information on reweighting is available online under the sub heading "Labour Force" in DCS website [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk).
- Labour force participation rate is 53.3% for the Second Quarter of 2016.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.6%.

The prevailed severe weather condition including number of earth slips and floods during 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016 may have had impact on the employment and unemployment distribution of the country.

### Inside

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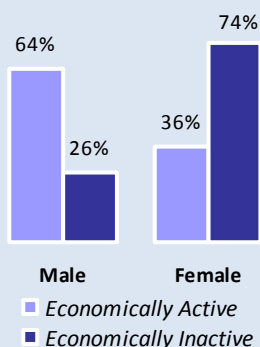


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population-

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

This bulletin contains labour force, employment and unemployment statistics for the second quarter 2016 based on the data collected in April, May and June covering the whole country.

### Labour Force ....

#### (Economically Active Population)

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector – Second-Quarter 2016

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,193,266	100.0	5,264,919	64.3	2,928,347	35.7
Urban	1,256,925	100.0	858,492	68.3	398,433	31.7
Rural	6,614,504	100.0	4,234,116	64.0	2,380,388	36.0
Estate	321,838	100.0	172,311	53.5	149,526	46.5

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender and sector – Second-Quarter 2016

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,190,655	100.0	1,765,725	24.6	5,424,930	75.4
Urban	1,277,267	100.0	328,132	25.7	949,135	74.3
Rural	5,722,012	100.0	1,381,045	24.1	4,340,967	75.9
Estate	191,376	100.0	56,548	29.5	134,828	70.5

Table 3 : LFPR by gender and year

Year	Total	Male	Female
2011	52.9	74.0	34.3
2012	52.5	74.9	32.9
2013	53.7	74.9	35.4
2014	53.2	74.6	34.6
2015	53.8	74.7	35.9
2013 Q2	54.1	75.3	35.4
2014 Q2	53.4	75.1	34.6
2015 Q2	54.2	74.8	36.6
2016 Q1	54.1	75.5	36.3
2016 Q2	53.3	74.9	35.1

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2011. Referring the Table 3, It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of females.

Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male was reported from age group 35–39 years (97.0%), while that for female was reported from the age group 40–44 years which is 51.5%.

### Labour Force

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

### Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

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

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.2 million in the second quarter 2016. Of which 64.3 percent are males and 35.7 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 24.6 percent are males and 75.4 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 4 : LFPR by age group and gender - Second Quarter 2016

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.3	74.9	35.1
15 - 19	13.8	20.6	6.9
20 - 24	57.8	74.1	42.6
25 - 29	67.0	92.3	47.6
30 - 34	65.3	96.4	41.9
35 - 39	67.7	97.0	42.6
40 - 44	72.1	95.9	51.5
45 - 49	69.9	95.6	49.1
50 - 54	68.8	93.5	46.1
55 - 59	60.6	85.2	40.0
60+	28.6	47.3	14.1

## Definition of 'Employed'

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

### Reference Period :

Previous week of the survey week

## The Employment Rate

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.

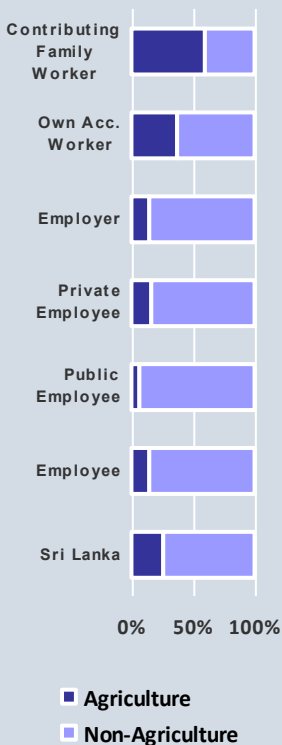


Figure 2: Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Second quarter 2016

## Employment ...

Table 5: Distribution of Employed population by main industry - Second Quarter

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2015 Q2 (No.)	7,887,850	2,275,821	2,013,896	3,598,133
(%)	100.0	28.9	25.5	45.6
2015 Q3 (No.)	7,807,346	2,168,233	2,105,576	3,533,536
(%)	100.0	27.8	27.0	45.3
2015 Q4 (No.)	7,828,639	2,200,361	1,957,031	3,671,247
(%)	100.0	28.1	25.0	46.9
2016 Q1 (No.)	7,968,931	2,274,722	2,068,453	3,625,756
(%)	100.0	28.5	26.0	45.5
2016 Q2 (No.)	7,815,280	1,961,818	2,121,365	3,732,097
(%)	100.0	25.1	27.1	47.8

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2015 to second quarter 2016. During second quarter of 2016, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 7.8 million. Of which, about 47.8 percent engaged in Service sector, 27.1 percent in Industries sector and 25.1 percent in Agriculture sector.

Table 6: Distribution of employed population by employment status in Agriculture and Non-Agriculture sectors - Second quarter 2016

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	7,815,280	100.0	1,961,818	25.1	5,853,462	74.9
Employee	4,509,517	100.0	627,823	13.9	3,881,695	86.1
Public	1,177,464	100.0	78,939	6.7	1,098,525	93.3
Private	3,332,053	100.0	548,884	16.5	2,783,169	83.5
Employer	227,469	100.0	33,462	14.7	194,006	85.3
Own Account Worker	2,468,440	100.0	936,589	37.9	1,531,851	62.1
Contributing Family Worker	609,853	100.0	363,944	59.7	245,910	40.3

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

Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by main industry & gender - Second quarter

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	25.1	23.7	27.8
Industry	27.1	27.7	26.1
Services	47.8	48.6	46.1

## Main industry categories and sub sectors

### Agriculture

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

### Industries

1. Mining & Quarrying (B)

2. Manufacturing (C)

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

### Services

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

2. Transportation and storage (H)

3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)

4. Information and communication (J)

5. Financial and insurance activities (K)

6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

7. Administrative and support service activities (N)

8. Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)

9. Education (P)

10. Human health and social work activities (Q)

11. Other service activities (S)

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

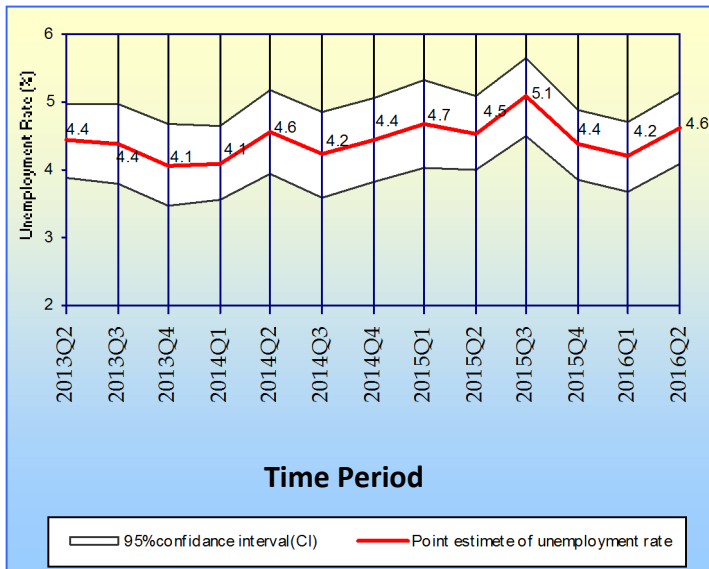
13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

As could be seen from the Figure 2 & Table 6 contributing family workers are highly concentrated in Agriculture sector.

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for industry sector. Among employed females 27.8 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 23.7 percent for males.

# Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2013Q2 - 2016Q2)



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

For more details, please refer the explanatory note given under the labour force link in the DCS website; [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)

Table 8: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – First quarter 2016

Age group (Years)	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.6	3.1	7.3
15–24	22.2	17.7	30.5
25–29	8.3	3.9	14.7
Over 30	1.5	0.8	2.7

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

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 7.3 percent and it is 3.1 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the second quarter 2016 is 22.2 percent and that reports the highest unemployment rate among all other age groups. Further rates for both male and female are 17.7 and 30.5 percent respectively for age group 15–24.

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

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is about 8.6 percent. Corresponding percentages are 4.6 percent and 12.5 percent for male and female respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

Table 9: Unemployment rate by level of education – Second quarter 2016

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	4.6	3.1	7.3
Below GCE O/L	2.8	2.5	3.4
GCE O/L	6.2	3.9	10.6
GCE A/L & above	8.6	4.6	12.5

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

## Definition of 'Unemployed'

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

## The Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

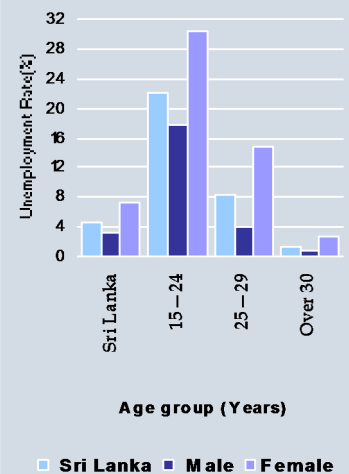


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Second quarter 2016

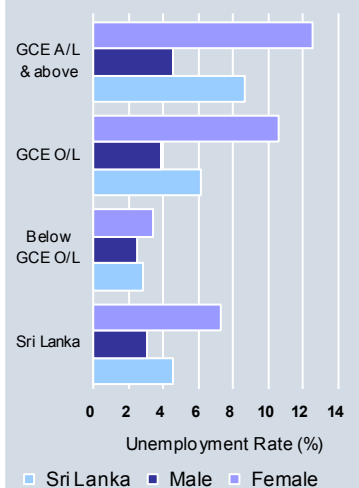


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Second quarter 2016



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**Selected Labour Force Indicators ...**

Indicator	Year								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2014Q2	2015Q2	2016Q1	2016Q2
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>									
<b>By Gender</b>									
Total	52.9	52.5	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.4	54.2	54.1	53.3
Male	74.0	74.9	74.9	74.6	74.7	75.1	74.8	75.5	74.9
Female	34.3	32.9	35.4	34.6	35.9	34.6	36.6	36.3	35.1
<b>By residential sector</b>									
Total	52.9	52.5	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.4	54.2	54.1	53.3
Urban	47.8	48.3	47.7	48.7	48.6	50.0	49.3	48.5	49.6
Rural	53.8	53.4	54.9	54.1	54.8	54.1	55.2	55.2	54.0
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>									
<b>By Gender</b>									
Total	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.6
Male	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.1
Female	7.1	6.3	6.6	6.5	7.6	6.8	7.1	6.1	7.3
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>									
20 – 29	12.4	11.3	13.1	13.6	14.2	13.8	14.6	14.2	14.4
20 – 24	17.7	16.7	19.3	19.9	19.7	18.9	21.1	19.7	21.2
25 – 29	7.7	6.6	7.6	8.2	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.4	8.3
<b>By selected educational level</b>									
<b>GCE A/L and above</b>									
Total	9.1	7.6	8.7	8.2	9.2	8.8	8.5	7.7	8.6
Male	5.4	4.6	5.7	5.4	4.7	5.8	3.8	5.9	4.6
Female	13.2	10.8	11.8	11.1	13.5	12.1	12.9	9.5	12.5
<b>Employed population</b>									
<b>By Gender</b>									
Total	7,591,591	7,488,704	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,693,110	7,887,850	7,968,931	7,815,280
Male	5,061,214	5,046,057	5,024,340	5,075,426	5,097,798	5,090,733	5,099,783	5,102,435	5,100,734
Female	2,530,377	2,442,647	2,656,938	2,625,064	2,733,178	2,602,377	2,788,067	2,866,496	2,714,545
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>									
Total	7,591,591	7,488,704	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,693,110	7,887,850	7,968,931	7,815,280
%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Agriculture	2,511,266	2,333,342	2,321,215	2,222,859	2,244,547	2,182,211	2,275,821	2,274,722	1,961,818
%	33.1	31.2	30.2	28.9	28.7	28.4	28.9	28.5	25.1
Industry	1,819,608	1,940,615	1,996,730	2,027,426	2,018,171	1,998,119	2,013,896	2,068,453	2,121,365
%	24.0	25.9	26.0	26.3	25.8	26.0	25.5	26.0	27.1
Services	3,260,717	3,214,746	3,363,334	3,450,205	3,568,259	3,512,780	3,598,133	3,625,756	3,732,097
%	43.0	42.9	43.8	44.8	45.6	45.7	45.6	45.5	47.8
<b>By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</b>									
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
0#	5.2	4.5	5.2	5.2	5.5	9.9	10.3	3.4	5.7
1 – 9	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.2	1.5	1.6
10 – 39	29.9	26.1	27.5	27.6	27.2	33.6	30.7	27.3	26.0
40 & above	63.2	68.3	65.5	65.9	65.7	54.8	56.7	67.7	66.6

# has a job but not at work during the reference week

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