



**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE
SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE
SURVEY**

Quarterly Report – 2020

Third Quarter

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS

Ministry of Finance

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Preface

Department of Census and Statistics has a long history of conducting the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Sri Lanka. For instance, before 1990 this survey was conducted at every five yearly time intervals and from 1990 onward it was conducted as a regular survey to provide quarterly and annual labour force indicators. Labour Force Surveys provide various labour force indicators including employment and unemployment status of the country. Specially the survey provides necessary information to compile GDP and other important economic indicators of the country.

Various improvements were incorporated into the LFS during past period without breaking its core concepts and definitions which were used since 1990. In 2006, new modules were added to the LFS to capture the information on computer literacy, household economic activities and informal sector employment. The structure of the LFS questionnaire which was used during 2006-2012 was revised in 2013 with new improvements for concepts and classifications used. It is important to note that in 2013 the definition of working age population was revised from age ten and above population to age fifteen and above population.

In 2016, published labour force estimates from 2011 to 2015 were revised according to the population estimates of the Census of Population and Housing which was conducted in 2012. This revision was done along with the international best practices.

Another major achievement for data collection for LFS was taken place in 2017 with the introduction of Computer Assisted Data Collection (CAPI) using tablet computers. Before 2017 enumerators used paper based method and used survey questionnaires to record the answers given by the respondents. A known probability sampling technique is used to select the sample and the annual labour force indicators are compiled using 25,750 housing units covering the entire country. The enumerators who are permanent officers of the Department visited each of these randomly selected housing units to collect the information with a great effort. The field work of the survey for the third quarter 2020 was done in the month of July, August and September in year 2020. This report is based on the data collected in quarterly sample of 6,440 housing units.

I hope the information in this report is very valuable and useful to make evidence based decisions for various users to identify the issues as well as the changes in the labour market of Sri Lanka.

Mr. P.M.P. Anura Kumara
Director General of Census & Statistics

Department of Census & Statistics,
"Sankhyana Mandiraya",
306/71,
Polduwa Road,
Baththaramulla

05.05.2021.

Acknowledgements

This report is the hundred and sixteenth in the series of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey which was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 and is being continued by the Department of Census and Statistics.

Planning and execution of the survey was done by the staff of the Sample Surveys Division under the guidance of Ms. K.M.D.S.D.Karunaratne, Additional Director General (Statistics) and Ms. K.A.Sajeewa Kodikara, Director (Statistics) and under the direction of Ms. E.A.A.P.Egodawatte, Mr. W.Gnanathilaka and Ms. M.D.D.D.Deepawansa, Deputy Directors, Sample Surveys Division.

The survey activities were organized and supervised by Ms. H.M.D.Sepalika, Mr. A.K.D.C.N.S.Karunarithna, Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Ms. U.S.Dilrukshi, Mr. K.T.Sureskumar, Ms. M.W.L.C.M.Chandrarathne, Ms. M.M.G.D.Manamperi, Ms. P.D.Nanayakkara, Ms. R.P.M.Subhashini and Mr. H.M.S.C.Bandara Statisticians, of the Sample Surveys Division.

The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu and Ms. A.N.Ekanayake Statistical Officers of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Statistician. The Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants, Development Officers, Information and Communication Technology Assistants and Data Entry Operators/ Coding Clerks of the Sample Survey Division are acknowledged for their valuable contribution during the whole survey process.

The Information & Communication Technology Division, under the direction of Ms. I.A.M.Fernando, Additional Director General (ICT) and under the supervision of Mr. P.M.R.Fernando, Director (ICT) and Mr. W.H.P.N.Weerasiri, Director (ICT), were responsible for implementing CAPI methodology and preparation of data collection and computer edits programmes. Developing of sample selection programme and its related computer software was done by Mr. K.M.R.Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director (ICT).

This publication was organized and prepared by Mr. T.D.M.S.D.Perera, Statistician, Sample Surveys Division, assisted by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu and Ms. A.N.Ekanayake Statistical Officers, under the guidance of Ms. K.A.Sajeewa Kodikara, Director (Statistics) and Mr. W.Gnanathilaka, 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, 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 Ms. U.V.Jayakody, Director (Statistics).

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

Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018Q3	2019Q3	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3
Labour force participation rate									
By Gender									
Total	53.8	54.1	51.8	52.3	51.8	52.2	51.0	50.2	51.0
Male	75.1	74.5	73.0	73.0	72.7	72.9	72.4	71.7	72.5
Female	35.9	36.6	33.6	34.5	34.0	34.1	32.5	31.6	32.4
By residential sector									
Total	53.8	54.1	51.8	52.3	51.8	52.2	51.0	50.2	51.0
Urban	49.8	50.5	49.6	50.2	48.3	48.7	47.1	46.4	48.6
Rural	54.6	54.8	52.3	52.7	52.6	53.0	51.7	51.0	51.6
Unemployment Rate									
By Gender									
Total	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.1	5.1	5.7	5.4	5.8
Male	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.3
Female	7.0	6.5	7.1	7.4	6.6	8.5	9.6	8.2	8.6
By selected age Group (Year)									
20 - 29	14.2	13.5	15.0	15.3	14.3	16.9	18.8	18.2	17.6
20 - 24	19.9	17.8	20.1	20.3	18.7	23.1	26.1	26.5	22.8
25 - 29	9.2	9.5	10.4	11.0	10.6	11.8	11.6	11.0	13.0
By selected educational level									
GCE A/L and above									
Total	8.3	8.1	9.1	8.5	9.5	8.7	10.1	10.0	9.6
Male	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.5	6.3	6.7
Female	11.9	11.3	13.2	11.9	14.2	12.9	14.7	14.2	12.7
Employed population									
By Gender									
Total	7,947,683	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	8,040,704	8,155,341	8,020,446	7,977,000	7,967,695
Male	5,149,948	5,279,158	5,300,310	5,368,896	5,272,527	5,422,965	5,381,218	5,369,119	5,348,960
Female	2,797,735	2,929,021	2,714,855	2,811,796	2,768,177	2,732,376	2,639,227	2,607,881	2,618,735
By industry (Percentage)									
Total	7,947,683	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	8,040,704	8,155,341	8,020,446	7,977,000	7,967,695
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,153,874	2,140,185	2,043,698	2,071,940	2,034,894	2,062,790	2,127,212	2,159,609	2,061,630
%	27.1	26.1	25.5	25.3	25.3	25.3	26.5	27.1	25.9
Industry	2,097,503	2,331,494	2,239,262	2,258,421	2,305,822	2,205,072	2,174,148	2,146,862	2,188,330
%	26.4	28.4	27.9	27.6	28.7	27.0	27.1	26.9	27.5
Services	3,696,306	3,736,500	3,732,206	3,850,332	3,699,988	3,887,479	3,719,086	3,670,528	3,717,735
%	46.5	45.5	46.6	47.1	46.0	47.7	46.4	46.0	46.7
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	100.0
0#	4.4	4.7	5.6	6.4	5.8	6.4	12.7	31.5	5.6
1 - 9	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.5	1.7
10 - 39	26.2	26.1	25.7	26.8	26.1	27.1	27.7	25.5	26.6
40 & above	67.9	67.5	66.9	65.1	66.3	64.7	57.2	40.6	66.1

has a job but not at work during the reference week

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

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey
Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics
2020, 3rd Quarter
(All Island)

15 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	16,561,964	7,709,032	8,852,932	2,862,840	13,699,125
Labour force in this age group	8,454,219	5,590,124	2,864,095	1,392,316	7,061,903
Labour force participation rate	51.0	72.5	32.4	48.6	51.6
Employed population	7,967,695	5,348,960	2,618,735	1,307,226	6,660,470
Employment rate	94.2	95.7	91.4	93.9	94.3
Unemployed population	486,524	241,164	245,360	85,091	401,433
Unemployment rate	5.8	4.3	8.6	6.1	5.7
Not in labour force	8,107,745	2,118,908	5,988,837	1,470,524	6,637,222

18 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (18 years & over)	15,493,413	7,169,874	8,323,540	2,692,303	12,801,110
Labour force in this age group	8,412,283	5,555,275	2,857,008	1,383,787	7,028,496
Labour force participation rate	54.3	77.5	34.3	51.4	54.9
Employed population	7,941,522	5,325,207	2,616,314	1,302,093	6,639,428
Employment rate	94.4	95.9	91.6	94.1	94.5
Unemployed population	470,762	230,068	240,694	81,694	389,068
Unemployment rate	5.6	4.1	8.4	5.9	5.5
Not in labour force	7,081,130	1,614,599	5,466,531	1,308,516	5,772,614

20 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	14,783,271	6,823,294	7,959,977	2,562,994	12,220,277
Labour force in this age group	8,237,626	5,441,279	2,796,347	1,361,348	6,876,278
Labour force participation rate	55.7	79.7	35.1	53.1	56.3
Employed population	7,829,006	5,249,460	2,579,546	1,283,952	6,545,055
Employment rate	95.0	96.5	92.2	94.3	95.2
Unemployed population	408,620	191,819	216,801	77,396	331,223
Unemployment rate	5.0	3.5	7.8	5.7	4.8
Not in labour force	6,545,645	1,382,015	5,163,630	1,201,646	5,343,999

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Introduction

Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 51.0% for the Third Quarter of 2020.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 5.8%.

Inside

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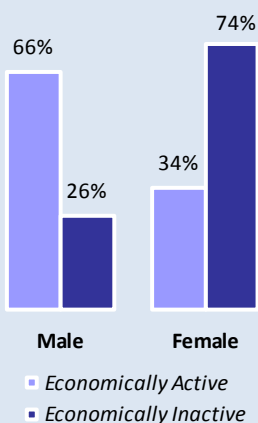


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Third quarter- 2020

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 report contains labour force, employment and unemployment statistics for the third quarter 2020 based on the data collected in July, August and September in 2020 covering the whole country.

Labour Force

(Economically Active Population)

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2020

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,454,219	100.0	5,590,124	66.1	2,864,095	33.9
Urban	1,392,316	100.0	939,902	67.5	452,414	32.5
Rural	6,652,502	100.0	4,408,391	66.3	2,244,111	33.7
Estate	409,401	100.0	241,830	59.1	167,570	40.9

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2020

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,107,745	100.0	2,118,908	26.1	5,988,837	73.9
Urban	1,470,524	100.0	404,009	27.5	1,066,515	72.5
Rural	6,354,209	100.0	1,630,197	25.7	4,724,012	74.3
Estate	283,013	100.0	84,702	29.9	198,311	70.1

Table 3 : LFPR by gender and year - All Island

Year	Total	Male	Female
2015	53.8	74.7	35.9
2016	54.1	75.1	36.0
2017	54.1	74.5	36.6
2018	51.8	73.0	33.6
2019	52.3	73.0	34.5
2018 Q3	51.8	72.7	34.0
2019 Q3	52.2	72.9	34.1
2020 Q1	51.0	72.4	32.5
2020 Q2	50.2	71.7	31.6
2020 Q3	51.0	72.5	32.4

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2015. Referring the Table 3, it is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of female.

Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male is reported from age group 35–39 years (96.4%), while that for female is reported from 25–29 age group (46.6%).

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 one week period.

Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

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

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.5 million in the third quarter 2020. Of which 66.1 percent are males and 33.9 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 8.1 million. Out of the economically inactive population 26.1 percent are males and 73.9 percent are females.

Table 4 : LFPR by age group and gender - Third Quarter 2020

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	51.0	72.5	32.4
15 - 19	12.2	16.8	7.6
20 - 24	52.3	70.9	34.3
25 - 29	66.5	90.1	46.6
30 - 34	67.5	95.3	42.9
35 - 39	66.6	96.4	43.3
40 - 44	67.3	94.8	42.9
45 - 49	68.5	93.6	45.4
50 - 54	68.5	94.2	44.7
55 - 59	58.5	84.2	37.2
60+	30.3	48.7	15.5

Definition of 'Employed'

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

Reference Period :

Previous week of the survey week

The Employment Rate

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.

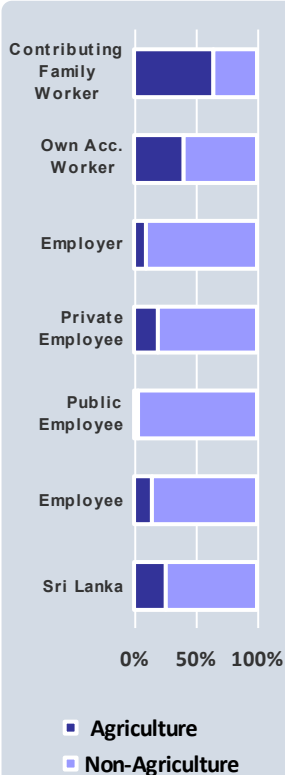


Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Third quarter 2020

Employment ...

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry (Third quarter 2019 – Third quarter 2020)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2019 Q3 (No.)	8,155,341	2,062,790	2,205,072	3,887,479
(%)	100.0	25.3	27.0	47.7
2019 Q4 (No.)	8,181,442	2,215,128	2,196,895	3,769,420
(%)	100.0	27.1	26.9	46.1
2020 Q1 (No.)	8,020,446	2,127,212	2,174,148	3,719,086
(%)	100.0	26.5	27.1	46.4
2020 Q2 (No.)	7,977,000	2,159,609	2,146,862	3,670,528
(%)	100.0	27.1	26.9	46.0
2020 Q3 (No.)	7,967,695	2,061,630	2,188,330	3,717,735
(%)	100.0	25.9	27.5	46.7

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from third quarter 2019 to third quarter 2020. During third quarter of 2020, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.0 million. Of which, about 46.7 percent engaged in Service sector, 27.5 percent in Industry sector and 25.9 percent in Agriculture sector. In the third quarter of 2020, there is a decrease in number of employed persons in all three sectors compared to the third quarter of 2019.

Table 6 : Distribution of employed population by employment status in Agriculture and Non-Agriculture sectors – Third quarter 2020

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	7,967,695	100.0	2,061,630	25.9	5,906,065	74.1
Employee	4,617,144	100.0	679,286	14.7	3,937,858	85.3
Public	1,153,555	100.0	28,144	2.4	1,125,411	97.6
Private	3,463,589	100.0	651,142	18.8	2,812,447	81.2
Employer	241,361	100.0	24,919	10.3	216,442	89.7
Own Account Worker	2,608,658	100.0	1,036,286	39.7	1,572,372	60.3
Contributing Family Worker	500,532	100.0	321,139	64.2	179,393	35.8

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

Table 7 : Percentage distribution of Employed population by main industry & gender – Third quarter 2020

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	25.9	24.7	28.2
Industry	27.5	28.5	25.4
Services	46.7	46.8	46.4

Main industry categories and sub sectors

Agriculture

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

Industries

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

Services

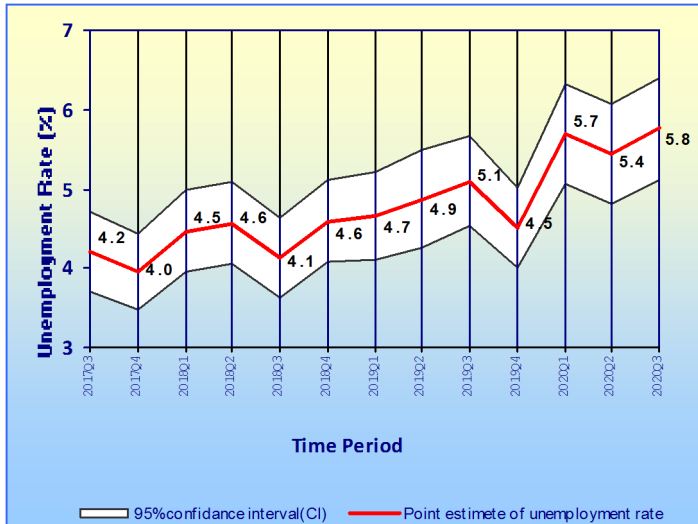
1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative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

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

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industry sectors. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for agriculture sector. Among employed females 28.2 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 24.7 percent for males.

Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2017Q3 - 2020Q3)



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

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

Table 8: Number of Unemployed and Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2020

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	486,524	5.8	4.3	8.6
15–24	242,570	25.9	21.0	35.8
25–29	106,652	13.0	9.7	18.4
Over 30	137,302	2.0	1.3	3.5

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 8.6 percent and it is 4.3 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the third quarter 2020 is 25.9 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 21.0 and 35.8 percent respectively for age group 15 – 24.

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

Table 9: Number of Unemployed and Unemployment rate by level of education – Third quarter 2020

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	486,524	5.8	4.3	8.6
Below GCE O/L	182,426	3.7	3.3	4.8
GCE O/L	109,601	7.3	5.6	11.3
GCE A/L & above	194,496	9.6	6.7	12.7

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is 9.6 percent. Corresponding percentages are 6.7 percent and 12.7 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

Survey results 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 number of unemployed persons is estimated as 486,524 during the third quarter 2020. The unemployment rate for the third quarter 2020 is 5.8 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when the changes in unemployment rate is explained the corresponding sampling errors¹ and the confidence limits need to be considered.

The Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

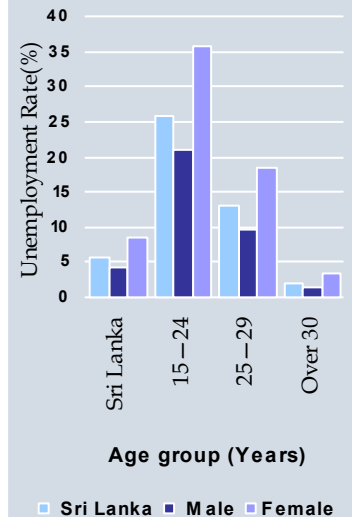


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2020

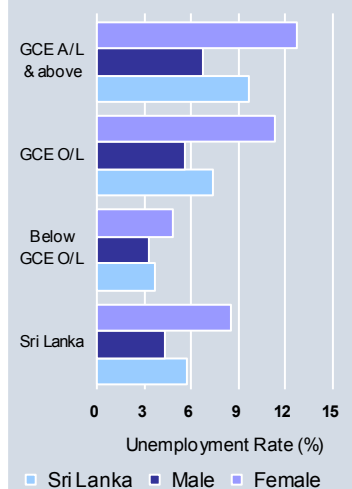


Figure 5: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Third quarter 2020

**TABLE 1 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - BOTH SEXES**

								NATIONAL LEVEL DATA
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)	
2011	14,975,989	7,926,445	52.9	7,591,591	95.8	334,854	4.2	7,049,544
2012	14,857,578	7,798,407	52.5	7,488,704	96.0	309,703	4.0	7,059,171
2013	14,959,065	8,033,804	53.7	7,681,279	95.6	352,526	4.4	6,925,260
2014	15,134,484	8,048,884	53.2	7,700,489	95.7	348,395	4.3	7,085,600
2015	15,281,945	8,214,473	53.8	7,830,976	95.3	383,496	4.7	7,067,473
2016	15,448,679	8,310,682	53.8	7,947,683	95.6	362,999	4.4	7,137,997
2017	15,843,735	8,566,686	54.1	8,208,179	95.8	358,507	4.2	7,277,049
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
2018Q3	16,177,183	8,387,701	51.8	8,040,704	95.9	346,998	4.1	7,789,482
2019Q3	16,457,727	8,593,138	52.2	8,155,341	94.9	437,797	5.1	7,864,590
2020Q1	16,689,726	8,503,617	51.0	8,020,446	94.3	483,172	5.7	8,186,108
2020Q2	16,793,046	8,435,358	50.2	7,977,000	94.6	458,359	5.4	8,357,687
2020Q3	16,561,964	8,454,219	51.0	7,967,695	94.2	486,524	5.8	8,107,745

**TABLE 1A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - MALE**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN
	POPULATION	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		LABOUR
	(15 YEARS	LABOUR	FORCE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	FORCE
	& OVER)	FORCE	PARTICI:	(% TO TOTAL		(% TO TOTAL		NUMBER
			RATE(%)	LABOUR FORCE)		LABOUR FORCE)		
2011	7,027,780	5,203,267	74.0	5,061,214	97.3	142,053	2.7	1,824,513
2012	6,932,520	5,192,686	74.9	5,046,057	97.2	146,629	2.8	1,739,835
2013	6,926,750	5,187,873	74.9	5,024,341	96.8	163,533	3.2	1,738,877
2014	7,025,780	5,240,034	74.6	5,075,425	96.9	164,609	3.1	1,785,746
2015	7,036,944	5,255,593	74.7	5,097,798	97.0	157,794	3.0	1,781,352
2016	7,064,736	5,303,502	75.1	5,149,948	97.1	153,554	2.9	1,761,234
2017	7,292,047	5,434,510	74.5	5,279,158	97.1	155,352	2.9	1,857,537
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
2018Q3	7,456,943	5,423,477	72.7	5,272,527	97.2	150,950	2.8	2,033,466
2019Q3	7,689,506	5,606,707	72.9	5,422,965	96.7	183,742	3.3	2,082,799
2020Q1	7,719,272	5,585,314	72.4	5,381,218	96.3	204,095	3.7	2,133,958
2020Q2	7,799,716	5,595,969	71.7	5,369,119	95.9	226,850	4.1	2,203,747
2020Q3	7,709,032	5,590,124	72.5	5,348,960	95.7	241,164	4.3	2,118,908

**TABLE 1B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - FEMALE**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN
	POPULATION	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		LABOUR
	(15 YEARS	LABOUR	FORCE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	FORCE
	& OVER)	FORCE	PARTICI:	(% TO TOTAL		(% TO TOTAL		NUMBER
			RATE(%)	LABOUR FORCE)		LABOUR FORCE)		
2011	7,948,209	2,723,178	34.3	2,530,377	92.9	192,801	7.1	5,225,031
2012	7,925,058	2,605,721	32.9	2,442,647	93.7	163,074	6.3	5,319,336
2013	8,032,315	2,845,931	35.4	2,656,938	93.4	188,993	6.6	5,186,383
2014	8,108,704	2,808,850	34.6	2,625,064	93.5	183,786	6.5	5,299,854
2015	8,245,001	2,958,880	35.9	2,733,178	92.4	225,702	7.6	5,286,121
2016	8,383,943	3,007,180	35.9	2,797,735	93.0	209,445	7.0	5,376,764
2017	8,551,688	3,132,176	36.6	2,929,021	93.5	203,155	6.5	5,419,512
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
2018Q3	8,720,240	2,964,224	34.0	2,768,177	93.4	196,047	6.6	5,756,016
2019Q3	8,768,221	2,986,431	34.1	2,732,376	91.5	254,055	8.5	5,781,790
2020Q1	8,970,454	2,918,304	32.5	2,639,227	90.4	279,077	9.6	6,052,150
2020Q2	8,993,330	2,839,390	31.6	2,607,881	91.8	231,509	8.2	6,153,940
2020Q3	8,852,932	2,864,095	32.4	2,618,735	91.4	245,360	8.6	5,988,837

TABLE 2 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - BOTH SEXES

AGE	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
	POP:	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
	(15 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE	FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	16,561,964	8,454,219	51.0	7,967,695	94.2	486,524	5.8	8,107,745
15 - 19 YRS	1,778,694	216,593	12.2	138,689	64.0	77,904	36.0	1,562,100
20 - 24 YRS	1,379,818	721,013	52.3	556,347	77.2	164,666	22.8	658,805
25 - 29 YRS	1,232,132	818,890	66.5	712,238	87.0	106,652	13.0	413,242
30 - 39 YRS	2,784,375	1,865,829	67.0	1,794,857	96.2	70,972	3.8	918,546
40 + YRS	9,386,946	4,831,894	51.5	4,765,564	98.6	66,329	1.4	4,555,052

TABLE 2A - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - MALE

AGE	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
	POP:	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
	(15 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE	FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	7,709,032	5,590,124	72.5	5,348,960	95.7	241,164	4.3	2,118,908
15 - 19 YRS	885,739	148,845	16.8	99,500	66.8	49,346	33.2	736,893
20 - 24 YRS	678,141	480,544	70.9	397,760	82.8	82,784	17.2	197,596
25 - 29 YRS	562,920	506,921	90.1	457,716	90.3	49,205	9.7	55,999
30 - 39 YRS	1,260,370	1,208,347	95.9	1,177,213	97.4	31,134	2.6	52,023
40 + YRS	4,321,863	3,245,466	75.1	3,216,771	99.1	28,696	0.9	1,076,397

TABLE 2B - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - FEMALE

AGE	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
	POP:	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
	(15 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE	FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
ALL AGES	8,852,932	2,864,095	32.4	2,618,735	91.4	245,360	8.6	5,988,837
15 - 19 YRS	892,955	67,748	7.6	39,189	57.8	28,559	42.2	825,207
20 - 24 YRS	701,677	240,468	34.3	158,586	65.9	81,882	34.1	461,209
25 - 29 YRS	669,212	311,969	46.6	254,522	81.6	57,447	18.4	357,243
30 - 39 YRS	1,524,006	657,483	43.1	617,644	93.9	39,839	6.1	866,523
40 + YRS	5,065,083	1,586,427	31.3	1,548,794	97.6	37,634	2.4	3,478,655

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

**TABLE 3 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

Year	All Ages	Age Groups				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
2013	100.0	2.7	7.9	10.1	24.8	54.5
2014	100.0	2.4	7.2	9.7	25.2	55.5
2015	100.0	2.2	7.5	9.7	24.5	56.1
2016	100.0	2.0	7.3	9.5	24.2	57.0
2017	100.0	2.1	7.6	9.2	23.4	57.7
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
2018Q3	100.0	2.0	7.1	9.4	23.1	58.4
2019Q3	100.0	1.8	6.8	9.4	22.7	59.3
2020Q1	100.0	1.7	7.4	9.0	22.3	59.6
2020Q2	100.0	1.8	6.5	9.1	22.3	60.3
2020Q3	100.0	1.7	7.0	8.9	22.5	59.8

**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
2013	100.0	2.9	7.8	10.2	25.0	54.1
2014	100.0	2.5	7.3	9.6	25.4	55.2
2015	100.0	2.3	7.3	9.7	24.4	56.2
2016	100.0	2.2	7.3	9.4	24.2	56.9
2017	100.0	2.3	7.5	9.4	23.5	57.3
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
2018Q3	100.0	2.2	7.2	9.8	22.7	58.0
2019Q3	100.0	2.0	7.0	9.4	23.0	58.7
2020Q1	100.0	1.9	7.2	8.7	22.5	59.7
2020Q2	100.0	2.0	6.4	9.2	21.7	60.7
2020Q3	100.0	1.9	7.4	8.6	22.0	60.1

**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
2013	100.0	2.4	8.0	10.0	24.3	55.3
2014	100.0	2.2	7.1	9.9	24.8	56.0
2015	100.0	2.1	7.8	9.6	24.7	55.9
2016	100.0	1.6	7.2	9.6	24.3	57.3
2017	100.0	1.7	7.8	9.0	23.2	58.3
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
2018Q3	100.0	1.7	7.0	8.5	23.7	59.1
2019Q3	100.0	1.5	6.4	9.5	22.1	60.5
2020Q1	100.0	1.3	7.7	9.5	22.1	59.3
2020Q2	100.0	1.4	6.8	8.9	23.6	59.4
2020Q3	100.0	1.5	6.1	9.7	23.6	59.1

**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
2013	100.1	18.2	47.9	15.9	18.1
2014	100.0	16.4	48.9	16.0	18.6
2015	100.0	16.7	47.4	17.3	18.6
2016	100.0	16.2	47.4	16.3	20.1
2017	100.0	15.8	46.1	17.3	20.8
2018	100.0	14.9	45.9	18.1	21.2
2019	100.0	14.0	45.8	17.4	22.8
2018Q3	100.0	14.6	46.8	18.3	20.3
2019Q3	100.0	14.3	45.5	17.1	23.1
2020Q1	100.0	14.7	45.0	17.6	22.7
2020Q2	100.0	13.6	46.3	18.4	21.8
2020Q3	100.0	13.6	46.0	17.4	23.0

**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
2013	100.0	17.8	51.5	16.0	14.6
2014	100.0	16.4	52.6	16.2	14.8
2015	100.0	16.7	51.1	17.7	14.6
2016	100.0	16.1	51.1	16.7	16.1
2017	100.0	15.7	49.8	17.6	16.9
2018	100.0	14.7	49.7	18.8	16.7
2019	100.0	14.1	49.6	18.0	18.2
2018Q3	100.0	14.5	50.9	18.2	16.4
2019Q3	100.0	14.3	49.7	17.2	18.8
2020Q1	100.0	15.0	49.2	17.9	17.9
2020Q2	100.0	13.7	49.6	18.8	17.9
2020Q3	100.0	13.7	50.0	18.3	18.0

**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
2013	100.0	18.8	41.0	15.6	24.6
2014	100.0	16.5	41.7	15.8	26.0
2015	100.0	16.6	40.4	16.7	26.3
2016	100.0	16.3	40.6	15.6	27.5
2017	100.0	16.1	39.4	16.8	27.7
2018	100.0	15.2	38.4	16.5	29.9
2019	100.0	13.8	38.4	16.3	31.6
2018Q3	100.0	14.7	39.0	18.6	27.7
2019Q3	100.0	14.4	37.0	16.8	31.8
2020Q1	100.0	14.1	36.4	16.9	32.6
2020Q2	100.0	13.4	39.3	17.4	29.8
2020Q3	100.0	13.4	38.0	15.6	33.0

**TABLE 5 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN	UNPAID
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE		ACCOUNT WORKER	FAMILY WORKER
2013	100.0	55.7	15.2	40.5	3.0	32.2	9.1
2014	100.0	56.4	15.5	40.9	2.7	32.0	8.9
2015	100.0	56.1	15.1	41.0	3.1	32.3	8.4
2016	100.0	57.8	14.6	43.3	2.7	31.6	7.8
2017	100.0	57.7	14.4	43.3	3.0	31.3	8.0
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
2018Q3	100.0	56.6	13.2	43.3	2.8	32.8	7.9
2019Q3	100.0	58.1	14.8	43.2	2.6	31.9	7.4
2020Q1	100.0	57.6	14.9	42.7	2.5	33.2	6.6
2020Q2	100.0	58.0	14.8	43.2	2.3	32.8	7.0
2020Q3	100.0	57.9	14.5	43.5	3.0	32.7	6.3

**TABLE 5A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN	UNPAID
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE		ACCOUNT WORKER	FAMILY WORKER
2013	100.0	56.6	12.9	43.8	4.1	36.2	3.0
2014	100.0	57.3	13.1	44.2	3.6	36.2	2.8
2015	100.0	56.7	12.8	43.9	4.2	36.3	2.8
2016	100.0	58.9	12.4	46.4	3.7	34.7	2.7
2017	100.0	58.8	12.3	46.4	4.1	34.5	2.6
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
2018Q3	100.0	56.8	11.0	45.8	3.9	36.6	2.7
2019Q3	100.0	57.8	12.0	45.8	3.6	36.1	2.5
2020Q1	100.0	55.7	11.9	43.8	3.4	38.4	2.6
2020Q2	100.0	57.1	12.4	44.6	2.9	37.2	2.8
2020Q3	100.0	58.0	12.1	45.9	4.2	36.2	1.7

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

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN	UNPAID
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE		ACCOUNT WORKER	FAMILY WORKER
2013	100.0	53.9	19.7	34.3	0.9	24.6	20.5
2014	100.0	54.8	20.1	34.7	1.0	23.7	20.5
2015	100.0	55.1	19.3	35.8	1.1	24.9	18.8
2016	100.0	55.9	18.5	37.4	0.9	25.9	17.2
2017	100.0	55.7	18.0	37.7	1.1	25.6	17.7
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
2018Q3	100.0	56.2	17.5	38.6	0.7	25.3	17.8
2019Q3	100.0	58.6	20.4	38.2	0.6	23.7	17.2
2020Q1	100.0	61.6	21.1	40.4	0.7	22.7	15.0
2020Q2	100.0	59.9	19.6	40.2	1.0	23.7	15.5
2020Q3	100.0	57.9	19.4	38.5	0.7	25.7	15.7

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

Table 6 - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC 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
2016	7,947,683	2,153,874	59,907	1,420,628	616,968	1,102,337	516,128	203,083	61,522	159,325	54,703	107,490	609,205	343,837	141,836	137,552	209,101	50,188
2017	8,208,179	2,140,185	63,014	1,580,936	687,544	1,160,443	512,991	210,380	70,264	159,813	69,568	152,363	526,732	377,129	149,272	118,917	161,681	66,947
2018	8,015,166	2,043,698	62,136	1,463,919	713,207	1,141,416	502,126	238,145	55,220	173,330	86,286	166,978	434,348	425,092	142,861	116,733	194,303	55,368
2019	8,180,693	2,071,940	60,902	1,504,314	693,205	1,134,496	514,469	232,344	64,382	187,933	90,317	205,009	436,175	425,931	169,232	135,247	186,970	67,828
2018Q3	8,040,704	2,034,894	62,508	1,528,501	714,813	1,144,752	488,205	253,075	60,100	162,092	87,576	168,661	382,597	407,652	149,981	125,746	195,760	73,793
2019Q3	8,155,341	2,062,790	48,087	1,475,319	681,667	1,159,376	519,056	229,331	69,246	193,741	70,363	199,399	461,391	431,342	156,524	139,645	198,692	59,373
2020Q1	8,020,446	2,127,212	59,953	1,443,674	670,521	1,104,399	568,839	211,187	55,478	182,028	91,620	188,096	435,267	384,154	153,477	123,566	162,842	58,133
2020Q2	7,977,000	2,159,609	50,717	1,434,736	661,410	1,070,356	525,323	213,496	50,468	179,197	92,850	161,055	426,347	427,455	179,937	116,665	176,960	50,417
2020Q3	7,967,695	2,061,630	52,886	1,419,295	716,149	1,115,078	559,201	222,015	69,161	182,556	87,635	166,976	440,603	402,873	147,139	121,706	161,307	41,488

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 defence 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 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
2016	5,149,948	1,302,613	56,762	739,372	590,459	770,376	495,894	129,928	45,525	90,506	33,125	83,937	394,974	105,604	53,843	99,146	119,873	38,011
2017	5,279,158	1,279,980	60,026	822,518	655,436	814,523	495,005	134,587	50,551	93,495	46,100	109,152	336,452	114,026	48,245	83,172	84,014	51,877
2018	5,300,310	1,270,968	59,514	785,112	688,318	835,444	483,618	153,022	38,942	92,422	53,152	118,324	286,200	135,153	52,200	83,418	119,488	45,016
2019	5,368,896	1,333,249	59,244	784,687	665,725	800,488	497,102	145,858	46,255	105,999	59,418	149,307	278,608	131,014	61,889	93,078	101,972	55,004
2018Q3	5,272,527	1,258,479	58,184	790,992	698,948	825,137	472,958	153,461	37,311	83,543	60,374	128,016	255,251	115,972	60,103	94,746	121,128	57,924
2019Q3	5,422,965	1,343,147	46,304	807,303	656,782	830,824	502,398	141,616	54,278	111,251	45,323	148,338	296,733	129,045	63,342	91,412	112,360	42,510
2020Q1	5,381,218	1,395,307	58,325	780,399	648,645	796,584	536,446	156,187	39,601	107,449	56,530	137,677	257,803	111,491	62,739	95,945	98,637	41,454
2020Q2	5,369,119	1,419,558	50,004	771,838	629,393	758,582	511,152	144,660	43,200	115,751	61,649	118,819	292,614	138,060	71,696	94,509	109,759	37,875
2020Q3	5,348,960	1,322,551	48,723	788,145	686,947	816,645	540,772	147,801	52,316	101,491	61,975	117,587	297,698	112,499	47,424	87,299	88,278	30,807

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
2016	2,797,735	851,261	3,145	681,256	26,509	331,961	20,234	73,154	15,997	68,819	21,578	23,553	214,231	238,233	87,993	38,405	89,228	12,178
2017	2,929,021	860,204	2,988	758,418	32,108	345,921	17,986	75,792	19,713	66,319	23,468	43,211	190,280	263,103	101,027	35,745	77,667	15,070
2018	2,714,855	772,730	2,622	678,808	24,888	305,972	18,507	85,123	16,278	80,908	33,134	48,654	148,149	289,939	90,661	33,314	74,815	10,352
2019	2,811,796	738,692	1,658	719,627	27,479	334,008	17,368	86,486	18,126	81,934	30,899	55,701	157,567	294,916	107,344	42,169	84,998	12,825
2018Q3	2,768,177	776,415	4,324	737,509	15,865	319,614	15,247	99,614	22,789	78,549	27,202	40,645	127,346	291,680	89,878	30,999	74,632	15,869
2019Q3	2,732,376	719,643	1,783	668,015	24,884	328,552	16,658	87,716	14,968	82,491	25,040	51,062	164,658	302,297	93,182	48,233	86,332	16,864
2020Q1	2,639,227	731,905	1,628	663,275	21,876	307,815	32,393	55,000	15,877	74,579	35,090	50,419	177,464	272,663	90,737	27,621	64,206	16,679
2020Q2	2,607,881	740,052	713	662,898	32,017	311,774	14,170	68,837	7,268	63,446	31,201	42,236	133,733	289,395	108,241	22,156	67,201	12,542
2020Q3	2,618,735	739,079	4,162	631,151	29,202	298,433	18,429	74,214	16,845	81,064	25,660	49,389	142,904	290,374	99,715	34,406	73,028	10,681

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

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

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 defence 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							
	2017	2018	2019	2018Q3	2019Q3	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3
Total	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	8,040,704	8,155,341	8,020,446	7,977,000	7,967,695
Agriculture	2,140,185	2,043,698	2,071,940	2,034,894	2,062,790	2,127,212	2,159,609	2,061,630
Industry	2,331,494	2,239,262	2,258,421	2,305,822	2,205,072	2,174,148	2,146,862	2,188,330
Services	3,736,500	3,732,206	3,850,332	3,699,988	3,887,479	3,719,086	3,670,528	3,717,735

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

Major Industry Group	Year							
	2017	2018	2019	2018Q3	2019Q3	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.1	25.5	25.3	25.3	25.3	26.5	27.1	25.9
Industry	28.4	27.9	27.6	28.7	27.0	27.1	26.9	27.5
Services	45.5	46.6	47.1	46.0	47.7	46.4	46.0	46.7

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 defence 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	10
2015	7,830,976	480,097	511,230	470,645	311,455	852,722	1,457,350	1,266,101	673,380	1,766,704	41,292
2016	7,947,683	480,492	519,032	484,965	320,791	891,034	1,435,354	1,274,167	702,675	1,795,378	43,795
2017	8,208,179	560,734	557,870	554,603	327,836	822,243	1,404,798	1,367,232	739,821	1,838,349	34,692
2018	8,015,166	619,312	558,574	662,323	286,493	701,676	1,308,806	1,297,912	706,185	1,836,250	37,635
2019	8,180,693	622,467	609,084	741,805	308,894	707,967	1,375,540	1,307,767	714,546	1,757,807	34,816
2018Q3	8,040,704	602,787	550,849	678,919	274,926	665,657	1,315,943	1,307,874	688,591	1,911,190	43,967
2019Q3	8,155,341	636,225	588,326	795,511	296,792	720,721	1,406,276	1,305,497	679,832	1,684,066	42,094
2020Q1	8,020,446	598,043	551,015	756,544	343,462	650,251	1,358,583	1,237,597	723,782	1,763,093	38,077
2020Q2	7,977,000	497,841	516,004	754,071	307,304	674,327	1,463,588	1,219,456	723,269	1,786,681	34,459
2020Q3	7,967,695	600,793	548,296	605,077	294,112	747,669	1,218,047	1,242,883	800,041	1,867,864	42,912

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

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6 | Skilled Agricultura, 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 | 10 | 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	10
2015	5,097,798	355,643	174,644	318,745	150,246	585,455	965,084	833,470	577,038	1,101,377	36,096
2016	5,149,948	344,185	188,059	310,846	155,926	606,054	930,845	830,428	607,801	1,139,332	36,473
2017	5,279,158	406,096	211,033	355,936	154,428	553,098	892,473	899,082	631,271	1,144,468	31,274
2018	5,300,310	458,466	195,476	441,897	141,871	504,461	882,375	891,693	607,346	1,145,178	31,548
2019	5,368,896	453,211	228,884	477,666	148,506	494,410	943,543	892,716	619,409	1,080,828	29,724
2018Q3	5,272,527	440,502	199,744	460,820	142,677	489,145	876,410	839,768	599,874	1,189,451	34,137
2019Q3	5,422,965	466,881	232,553	506,432	136,465	511,872	970,145	912,581	607,229	1,040,560	38,246
2020Q1	5,381,218	440,447	197,413	472,316	161,103	477,001	968,633	862,281	633,810	1,138,664	29,551
2020Q2	5,369,119	349,202	176,175	501,713	144,961	482,506	1,046,715	876,369	628,655	1,133,669	29,154
2020Q3	5,348,960	437,374	198,569	407,400	126,042	527,631	883,418	903,513	674,130	1,150,499	40,386

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	10
2015	2,733,178	124,454	336,586	151,900	161,209	267,267	492,267	432,631	96,342	665,326	5,196
2016	2,797,735	136,307	330,973	174,120	164,865	284,980	504,509	443,739	94,874	656,046	7,322
2017	2,929,021	154,639	346,838	198,667	173,408	269,145	512,325	468,150	108,550	693,881	3,418
2018	2,714,855	160,846	363,098	220,426	144,622	197,215	426,431	406,219	98,839	691,072	6,088
2019	2,811,796	169,256	380,200	264,139	160,388	213,557	431,997	415,051	95,138	676,978	5,092
2018Q3	2,768,177	162,285	351,106	218,099	132,250	176,512	439,533	468,106	88,717	721,739	9,830
2019Q3	2,732,376	169,344	355,774	289,079	160,327	208,849	436,131	392,916	72,602	643,506	3,848
2020Q1	2,639,227	157,596	353,602	284,228	182,359	173,250	389,950	375,316	89,972	624,429	8,526
2020Q2	2,607,881	148,639	339,829	252,359	162,343	191,821	416,873	343,087	94,614	653,011	5,305
2020Q3	2,618,735	163,419	349,727	197,678	168,071	220,038	334,630	339,371	125,911	717,365	2,526

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

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6 | Skilled Agricultura, 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 | 10 | 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	5.6	1.7	4.5	8.3	13.8	35.3	30.8
1	100.0	6.3	3.5	9.4	13.6	21.3	27.9	18.0
2	100.0	10.4	2.1	2.4	8.4	..	30.8	45.9
3	100.0	3.8	0.9	3.8	7.1	12.6	42.1	29.8
6	100.0	6.4	1.2	3.7	10.1	12.3	38.3	28.0
7	100.0	3.5	1.3	2.1	4.9	6.1	31.3	50.9
8	100.0	5.8	1.2	2.7	6.7	7.1	29.2	47.4
9	100.0	11.8	0.5	4.1	8.9	11.8	21.6	41.2
10	100.0	1.2	..	1.5	4.8	11.7	51.4	29.5
11	100.0	2.1	2.5	4.6	59.9	31.0
13	100.0	2.8	..	3.0	1.1	9.7	60.4	23.0
14	100.0	9.1	0.9	0.7	2.3	6.8	37.1	43.1
15	100.0	2.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	2.3	61.4	32.8
16	100.0	15.9	2.8	4.0	7.8	38.5	24.3	6.7
17	100.0	1.2	0.7	0.7	4.1	6.1	46.1	41.2
19	100.0	6.0	1.1	4.2	8.5	14.8	27.5	37.9
20	100.0	3.0	..	2.8	12.8	16.5	31.8	33.1
Other	100.0	9.6	3.1	12.1	14.4	11.8	25.8	23.1

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

.. Net 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 defence 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
2013	100.0	13.7	41.0	18.1	15.1	12.1
2014	100.0	14.2	39.8	19.3	15.4	11.3
2015	100.0	14.5	37.4	20.5	15.8	11.8
2016	100.0	16.1	39.7	21.1	13.2	9.8
2017	100.0	12.8	37.7	22.2	14.8	12.4
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
2018Q3	100.0	13.6	38.0	25.9	14.9	7.7
2019Q3	100.0	10.9	38.0	23.5	13.8	13.9
2020Q1	100.0	12.0	43.2	19.6	12.1	13.1
2020Q2	100.0	14.9	40.8	19.5	13.0	11.8
2020Q3	100.0	16.0	33.8	21.9	14.6	13.6

**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
2013	100.0	16.9	44.0	15.5	11.5	12.1
2014	100.0	20.1	37.6	18.3	11.7	12.3
2015	100.0	21.7	39.9	14.6	12.6	11.2
2016	100.0	23.0	42.8	16.9	7.7	9.6
2017	100.0	18.1	40.3	19.7	10.8	11.1
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
2018Q3	100.0	20.4	42.2	20.1	10.5	6.8
2019Q3	100.0	13.8	42.5	21.0	7.9	14.7
2020Q1	100.0	15.0	49.0	17.6	8.3	10.0
2020Q2	100.0	22.2	40.9	15.3	11.8	9.7
2020Q3	100.0	20.5	34.3	20.4	12.9	11.9

**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
2013	100.0	11.0	38.4	20.3	18.2	12.1
2014	100.0	8.9	41.7	20.2	18.7	10.4
2015	100.0	9.4	35.6	24.6	18.1	12.2
2016	100.0	11.1	37.5	24.2	17.2	10.0
2017	100.0	8.8	35.7	24.2	17.9	13.5
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
2018Q3	100.0	8.3	34.7	30.3	18.3	8.4
2019Q3	100.0	8.8	34.7	25.3	18.0	13.2
2020Q1	100.0	9.7	39.0	21.0	15.0	15.3
2020Q2	100.0	7.7	40.7	23.5	14.2	13.9
2020Q3	100.0	11.6	33.4	23.4	16.2	15.3

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

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
2013	100.0	3.9	36.5	22.1	37.5
2014	100.0	3.1	37.7	22.4	36.8
2015	100.0	2.5	34.4	24.4	38.7
2016	100.0	2.7	35.4	22.1	39.8
2017	100.0	3.1	30.3	24.7	41.9
2018	100.0	2.2	30.5	21.4	45.8
2019	100.0	2.9	31.4	23.9	41.9
2018Q3	100.0	2.6	27.1	21.2	49.1
2019Q3	100.0	2.9	29.4	26.5	41.2
2020Q1	100.0	3.1	32.2	22.5	42.2
2020Q2	100.0	1.4	32.9	23.5	42.1
2020Q3	100.0	2.3	35.2	22.5	40.0

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
2013	100.0	4.7	43.7	24.3	27.4
2014	100.0	3.1	48.1	22.7	26.0
2015	100.0	1.7	44.1	30.9	23.4
2016	100.0	1.5	48.2	23.9	26.4
2017	100.0	2.0	37.5	30.0	30.5
2018	100.0	3.1	43.1	25.0	28.9
2019	100.0	2.9	42.2	27.0	28.0
2018Q3	100.0	3.3	41.1	26.9	28.6
2019Q3	100.0	2.5	38.0	31.3	28.2
2020Q1	100.0	3.5	43.1	25.9	27.4
2020Q2	100.0	1.8	43.5	26.1	28.6
2020Q3	100.0	2.8	44.7	23.9	28.6

TABLE 10B - 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
2013	100.0	3.2	30.2	20.3	46.2
2014	100.0	3.1	28.5	22.1	46.4
2015	100.0	3.0	27.7	19.9	49.4
2016	100.0	3.6	26.0	20.8	49.6
2017	100.0	3.9	24.8	20.7	50.7
2018	100.0	1.5	20.6	18.7	59.2
2019	100.0	2.9	22.5	21.4	53.3
2018Q3	100.0	2.0	16.3	16.8	64.9
2019Q3	100.0	3.2	23.2	23.1	50.6
2020Q1	100.0	2.8	24.2	20.0	53.0
2020Q2	100.0	1.0	22.5	21.0	55.5
2020Q3	100.0	1.8	25.9	21.2	51.1

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

		(2020 3 rd Quarter)		
Sex	Total	Duration		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	486,524	181,574	132,635	172,315
%	100.0	37.3	27.3	35.4
Male	241,164	101,537	70,729	68,899
%	100.0	42.1	29.3	28.6
Female	245,360	80,037	61,907	103,416
%	100.0	32.6	25.2	42.1

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)	16,561,964	149,537	0.9			
Employed Population	7,967,695	109,767	1.4			
Unemployed Population	486,524	28,361	5.8			
Employment Rate				94.2	0.32	0.34
Unemployment Rate				5.8	0.32	5.63
Labour Force	8,454,219	113,655	1.3			
Not in Labour Force	8,107,745	105,334	1.3			
Employed persons by major industry Groups						
1	2,061,630	77,347	3.8			
2	52,886	10,383	19.6			
3	1,419,295	54,716	3.9			
6	716,149	35,330	4.9			
7	1,115,078	44,481	4.0			
8	559,201	27,064	4.8			
9	222,015	19,028	8.6			
10	69,161	10,732	15.5			
11	182,556	17,753	9.7			
13	87,635	11,030	12.6			
14	166,976	16,675	10.0			
15	440,603	26,739	6.1			
16	402,873	24,392	6.1			
17	147,139	14,167	9.6			
19	121,706	12,554	10.3			
20	161,307	15,467	9.6			
Other	41,488	6,824	16.4			
Unemployed persons by level of education						
Below grade 6	11,080	3,577	32.3			
Grade 6 - 10	171,346	14,546	8.5			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	109,601	10,900	9.9			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	194,496	14,484	7.4			
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 defence 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						
Real estate activities (L)						
Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)						
Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)						

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 quarterly survey of households is conducted through a scientifically selected sample designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status etc. of each member of the household 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 to as the "reference week".

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

Concepts & 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:** Persons, who during the reference period, worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers (self employed), or unpaid family workers are said to be employed. This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.
4. **Unemployed:** Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period.
5. **Currently Economically Active:** A person who was employed or unemployed during the current reference period is considered to be currently economically active.
6. **Not in the Labour Force (not economically active):** Persons who were neither working nor available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as: full time care of the household, full – time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another. Current and Usual definitions apply.
7. **Criteria for classification of underemployment:** In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed,

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

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

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

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

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

8. Informal Sector Employment

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

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

Reliability of the estimates

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

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

For example, the confidence interval for the quarterly unemployment rate is calculated as follows

When the estimated unemployment rate is 4.5 and standard error of unemployment rate is 0.275 then 95% confidence interval

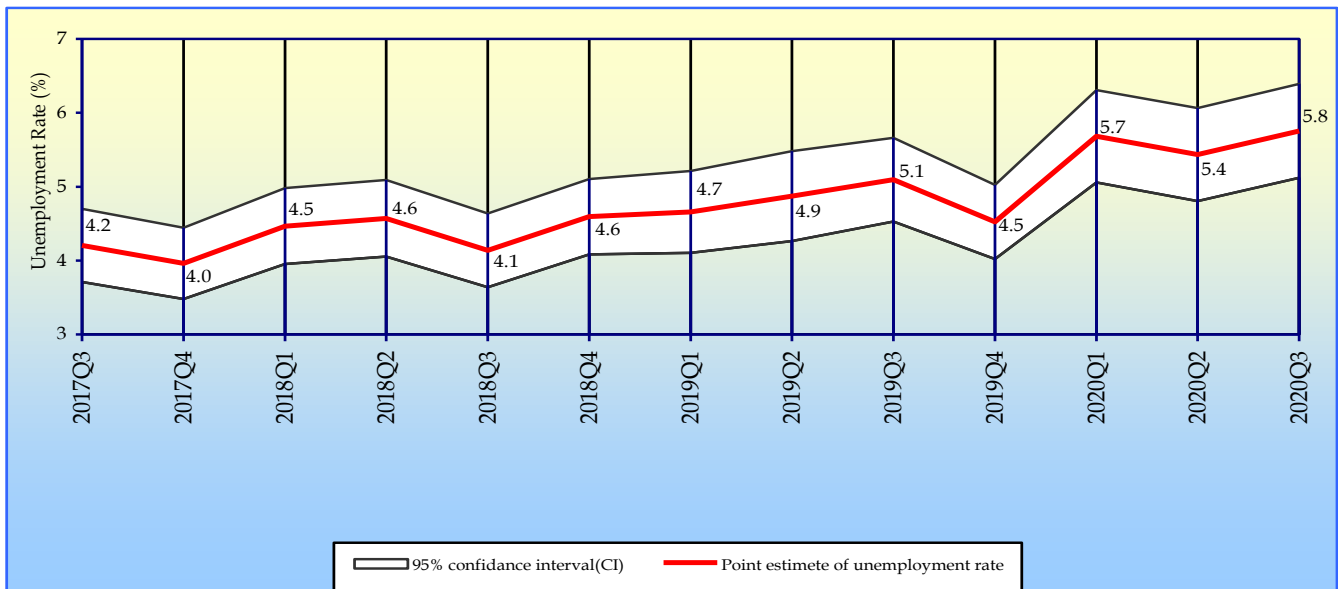
Estimated value (of the unemployment rate) \pm (standard error) * (1.96)

4.5 \pm (0.275) * (1.96)
 (4.5 \pm 0.539)

This means, the 95 percent confidence interval on the quarterly unemployment rate could range from (4.0 to 5.0). 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 4.0 to 5.0. 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 (2017Q3 - 2020Q3)



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 2017/2020, 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
2011	7,926,445	72,730	0.92	7,783,791	8,069,099	7,591,591	69,573	0.92	7,455,129	7,728,053
2012	7,798,407	66,291	0.85	7,668,392	7,928,422	7,488,704	63,894	0.85	7,363,389	7,614,018
2013	8,033,804	55,985	0.70	7,924,021	8,143,587	7,681,279	54,298	0.71	7,574,802	7,787,755
2014	8,048,884	60,868	0.76	7,929,525	8,168,243	7,700,489	58,417	0.76	7,585,937	7,815,042
2015	8,214,473	52,021	0.63	8,112,463	8,316,483	7,830,976	50,426	0.64	7,732,093	7,929,860
2016	8,310,682	66,023	0.79	8,181,215	8,440,148	7,947,683	64,616	0.81	7,820,977	8,074,389
2017	8,566,686	49,822	0.58	8,468,989	8,664,382	8,208,179	48,420	0.59	8,113,231	8,303,126
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
2018Q3	8,387,701	112,385	1.34	8,166,975	8,608,428	8,040,704	110,003	1.37	7,824,654	8,256,753
2019Q3	8,593,138	102,633	1.19	8,391,563	8,794,712	8,155,341	98,464	1.21	7,961,953	8,348,729
2020Q1	8,503,617	112,662	1.32	8,282,339	8,724,896	8,020,446	107,862	1.34	7,808,594	8,232,298
2020Q2	8,435,358	110,818	1.31	8,217,707	8,653,010	7,977,000	105,088	1.32	7,770,603	8,183,397
2020Q3	8,454,219	113,655	1.34	8,230,994	8,677,444	7,967,695	109,767	1.38	7,752,107	8,183,284

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2011	334,854	15,691	4.69	304,078	365,631	4.2	0.2	4.49	3.9	4.6
2012	309,703	13,287	4.29	283,643	335,763	4.0	0.2	4.14	3.6	4.3
2013	352,526	12,030	3.41	328,935	376,116	4.4	0.1	3.31	4.1	4.7
2014	348,395	12,697	3.64	323,497	373,293	4.3	0.2	3.50	4.0	4.6
2015	383,496	12,283	3.20	359,410	407,583	4.7	0.1	3.11	4.4	5.0
2016	362,999	11,186	3.08	341,064	384,933	4.4	0.1	3.02	4.1	4.6
2017	358,507	11,347	3.17	336,256	380,758	4.2	0.1	3.08	3.9	4.4
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
2018Q3	346,998	21,787	6.28	304,208	389,788	4.1	0.3	6.15	3.6	4.6
2019Q3	437,797	25,692	5.87	387,336	488,257	5.1	0.3	5.65	4.5	5.7
2020Q1	483,172	28,300	5.86	427,589	538,755	5.7	0.3	5.62	5.1	6.3
2020Q2	458,359	28,417	6.20	402,546	514,172	5.4	0.3	5.91	4.8	6.1
2020Q3	486,524	28,361	5.83	430,821	542,227	5.8	0.3	5.63	5.1	6.4

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 anypaid employees).
 - d) Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out bytheir 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 of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS & OVER (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (15 YEARS & OVER)	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	LABOUR FORCE				NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
				EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
2013	14,958,239	6,966,035	46.6	6,600,172	94.7	365,863	5.3	8,007,536
2014	15,134,484	7,017,985	46.4	6,669,590	95.0	348,395	5.0	8,116,499
2015	15,281,945	7,156,393	46.8	6,772,896	94.6	383,496	5.4	8,125,553
2016	15,448,679	7,325,972	47.4	6,962,973	95.0	362,999	5.0	8,122,707
2017	15,843,735	7,474,883	47.2	7,116,376	95.2	358,507	4.8	8,368,851
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
2018Q3	16,177,183	7,387,293	45.7	7,040,295	95.3	346,998	4.7	8,789,891
2019Q3	16,457,727	7,594,574	46.1	7,156,777	94.2	437,797	5.8	8,863,154
2020Q1	16,689,726	7,464,431	44.7	6,981,259	93.5	483,172	6.5	9,225,294
2020Q2	16,793,046	7,300,540	43.5	6,842,181	93.7	458,359	6.3	9,492,506
2020Q3	16,561,964	7,547,212	45.6	7,060,688	93.6	486,524	6.4	9,014,752

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
2013	365,863	5.3	50,436	23.8	149,243	22.4	64,566	8.6	55,398	3.2	46,221	1.3
2014	348,395	5.0	49,540	25.7	138,565	22.2	67,235	9.3	53,648	3.0	39,407	1.1
2015	383,496	5.4	55,557	28.6	143,351	22.0	78,592	10.4	60,768	3.4	45,229	1.2
2016	362,999	5.0	58,622	32.8	144,156	22.2	76,624	10.0	47,956	2.7	35,640	0.9
2017	358,507	4.8	46,016	25.1	135,121	19.7	79,727	10.4	53,053	3.0	44,590	1.1
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
2018Q3	346,998	4.7	47,151	26.0	131,734	20.6	89,740	11.7	51,622	3.0	26,750	0.7
2019Q3	437,797	5.8	47,771	28.2	166,196	25.4	102,981	12.6	60,203	3.5	60,645	1.4
2020Q1	483,172	6.5	57,797	35.7	208,946	28.5	94,561	12.4	58,685	3.5	63,183	1.5
2020Q2	458,359	6.3	68,256	40.3	186,900	29.0	89,292	12.2	59,636	3.7	54,275	1.3
2020Q3	486,524	6.4	77,904	41.3	164,666	24.4	106,652	13.7	70,972	4.2	66,329	1.6

Table 3 - Currently Employed persons by Industry group (No. and percentage) (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - (Alternative estimates)

Year	Industry group																		
	Total	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other	
2016	No.	6,962,973	1,563,142	56,945	1,297,576	591,710	974,467	501,897	175,754	59,445	158,159	51,192	103,576	602,318	317,987	138,767	126,838	196,875	46,324
	%	100.0	22.4	0.8	18.6	8.5	14.0	7.2	2.5	0.9	2.3	0.7	1.5	8.7	4.6	2.0	1.8	2.8	0.7
2017	No.	7,116,376	1,555,527	57,397	1,397,453	650,665	1,007,347	497,936	180,162	66,999	158,429	66,035	145,217	519,684	352,121	145,028	105,521	149,109	61,746
	%	100.0	21.9	0.8	19.6	9.1	14.2	7.0	2.5	0.9	2.2	0.9	2.0	7.3	4.9	2.0	1.5	2.1	0.9
2018	No.	7,056,406	1,513,837	58,743	1,336,902	676,629	1,010,560	487,204	205,377	54,000	171,779	81,274	158,089	431,126	398,079	140,278	101,641	178,313	52,575
	%	100.0	21.5	0.8	18.9	9.6	14.3	6.9	2.9	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.2	6.1	5.6	2.0	1.4	2.5	0.7
2019	No.	7,198,383	1,538,804	58,117	1,365,637	659,891	992,825	500,547	204,840	62,552	184,666	87,913	193,082	430,760	401,519	164,487	119,721	172,494	60,528
	%	100.0	21.4	0.8	19.0	9.2	13.8	7.0	2.8	0.9	2.6	1.2	2.7	6.0	5.6	2.3	1.7	2.4	0.8
2018Q3	No.	7,040,295	1,481,066	59,145	1,396,753	675,117	1,013,938	482,587	211,172	57,493	160,740	84,766	159,316	380,238	375,113	145,797	105,117	181,237	70,699
	%	100.0	21.0	0.8	19.8	9.6	14.4	6.9	3.0	0.8	2.3	1.2	2.3	5.4	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.6	1.0
2019Q3	No.	7,156,777	1,507,675	48,087	1,350,671	643,506	1,030,188	500,351	196,572	68,080	190,777	69,989	190,793	453,854	400,583	148,567	118,880	186,025	52,181
	%	100.0	21.1	0.7	18.9	9.0	14.4	7.0	2.7	1.0	2.7	1.0	2.7	6.3	5.6	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.7
2020Q1	No.	6,981,259	1,549,052	55,220	1,315,354	632,769	964,939	536,316	186,590	54,310	170,338	87,597	179,976	423,591	368,907	149,691	112,884	141,658	52,067
	%	100.0	22.2	0.8	18.8	9.1	13.8	7.7	2.7	0.8	2.4	1.3	2.6	6.1	5.3	2.1	1.6	2.0	0.7
2020Q2	No.	6,842,181	1,545,311	41,261	1,293,477	621,688	946,070	487,781	181,658	46,921	162,820	86,609	153,463	399,221	384,858	176,092	109,113	164,716	41,122
	%	100.0	22.6	0.6	18.9	9.1	13.8	7.1	2.7	0.7	2.4	1.3	2.2	5.8	5.6	2.6	1.6	2.4	0.6
2020Q3	No.	7,060,688	1,550,619	50,481	1,302,095	679,722	997,712	532,659	194,444	64,938	182,556	85,035	160,101	437,448	375,498	145,196	114,503	153,483	34,198
	%	100.0	22.0	0.7	18.4	9.6	14.1	7.5	2.8	0.9	2.6	1.2	2.3	6.2	5.3	2.1	1.6	2.2	0.5

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.4) are indicated as A,B,C.....U. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV),some of these groups have been combined.

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 defence 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)