



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

**Quarterly Report – 2020**

**Fourth Quarter**

**DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS**

**Ministry of Finance**

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# Preface

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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 fourth quarter 2020 was done in the month of October, November and December 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.

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## **Acknowledgements**

*This report is the hundred and seventeenth 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	2018Q4	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	53.8	54.1	51.8	52.3	52.2	51.9	51.0	50.2	51.0	50.1
Male	75.1	74.5	73.0	73.0	73.2	72.2	72.4	71.7	72.5	70.9
Female	35.9	36.6	33.6	34.5	34.3	34.3	32.5	31.6	32.4	31.7
<b>By residential sector</b>										
Total	53.8	54.1	51.8	52.3	52.2	51.9	51.0	50.2	51.0	50.1
Urban	49.8	50.5	49.6	50.2	52.0	49.4	47.1	46.4	48.6	45.7
Rural	54.6	54.8	52.3	52.7	52.3	52.4	51.7	51.0	51.6	51.0
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.6	4.5	5.7	5.4	5.8	5.2
Male	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.1
Female	7.0	6.5	7.1	7.4	7.1	6.9	9.6	8.2	8.6	7.5
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>										
20 - 29	14.2	13.5	15.0	15.3	14.4	14.5	18.8	18.2	17.6	18.0
20 - 24	19.9	17.8	20.1	20.3	19.6	19.2	26.1	26.5	22.8	25.2
25 - 29	9.2	9.5	10.4	11.0	9.5	10.4	11.6	11.0	13.0	12.4
<b>By selected educational level</b>										
<b>GCE A/L and above</b>										
Total	8.3	8.1	9.1	8.5	8.7	7.7	10.1	10.0	9.6	9.3
Male	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.5	6.3	6.7	6.3
Female	11.9	11.3	13.2	11.9	11.9	10.4	14.7	14.2	12.7	12.8
<b>Employed population</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	7,947,683	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	8,088,448	8,181,442	8,020,446	7,977,000	7,967,695	8,031,233
Male	5,149,948	5,279,158	5,300,310	5,368,896	5,300,402	5,353,552	5,381,218	5,369,119	5,348,960	5,392,490
Female	2,797,735	2,929,021	2,714,855	2,811,796	2,788,046	2,827,890	2,639,227	2,607,881	2,618,735	2,638,742
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>										
Total	7,947,683	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	8,088,448	8,181,442	8,020,446	7,977,000	7,967,695	8,031,233
%	100.0	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	2,072,954	2,215,128	2,127,212	2,159,609	2,061,630	2,330,266
%	27.1	26.1	25.5	25.3	25.6	27.1	26.5	27.1	25.9	29.0
Industry	2,097,503	2,331,494	2,239,262	2,258,421	2,236,604	2,196,895	2,174,148	2,146,862	2,188,330	2,101,645
%	26.4	28.4	27.9	27.6	27.7	26.9	27.1	26.9	27.5	26.2
Services	3,696,306	3,736,500	3,732,206	3,850,332	3,778,889	3,769,420	3,719,086	3,670,528	3,717,735	3,599,322
%	46.5	45.5	46.6	47.1	46.7	46.1	46.4	46.0	46.7	44.8
<b>By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</b>										
Total	100.0	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	4.4	5.8	12.7	31.5	5.6	8.7
1 - 9	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	2.3	2.5	1.7	1.8
10 - 39	26.2	26.1	25.7	26.8	25.2	27.2	27.7	25.5	26.6	28.5
40 & above	67.9	67.5	66.9	65.1	68.9	65.5	57.2	40.6	66.1	61.0

# 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**  
**(All Island)**

**15 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	16,912,850	7,926,515	8,986,335	2,960,181	13,952,669
Labour force in this age group	8,473,230	5,620,610	2,852,620	1,351,549	7,121,680
Labour force participation rate	50.1	70.9	31.7	45.7	51.0
Employed population	8,031,233	5,392,490	2,638,742	1,280,904	6,750,328
Employment rate	94.8	95.9	92.5	94.8	94.8
Unemployed population	441,997	228,120	213,877	70,645	371,352
Unemployment rate	5.2	4.1	7.5	5.2	5.2
Not in labour force	8,439,620	2,305,905	6,133,715	1,608,632	6,830,988

**18 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (18 years & over)	15,858,120	7,380,549	8,477,571	2,790,487	13,067,632
Labour force in this age group	8,436,899	5,591,010	2,845,889	1,347,875	7,089,024
Labour force participation rate	53.2	75.8	33.6	48.3	54.2
Employed population	8,005,038	5,369,601	2,635,436	1,278,516	6,726,521
Employment rate	94.9	96.0	92.6	94.9	94.9
Unemployed population	431,861	221,408	210,453	69,359	362,503
Unemployment rate	5.1	4.0	7.4	5.1	5.1
Not in labour force	7,421,221	1,789,540	5,631,681	1,442,612	5,978,609

**20 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	15,179,960	7,022,705	8,157,255	2,675,535	12,504,425
Labour force in this age group	8,301,509	5,491,633	2,809,876	1,332,460	6,969,049
Labour force participation rate	54.7	78.2	34.4	49.8	55.7
Employed population	7,907,194	5,302,067	2,605,128	1,265,755	6,641,440
Employment rate	95.3	96.5	92.7	95.0	95.3
Unemployed population	394,315	189,567	204,748	66,705	327,610
Unemployment rate	4.7	3.5	7.3	5.0	4.7
Not in labour force	6,878,451	1,531,072	5,347,379	1,343,076	5,535,375



# CONTENTS

	Page No.
Preface	iii
Acknowledgements	v
Highlights	vii
Summary Statistics	viii
Contents	ix
Labour Force	1
Employment	2
Unemployment	3
Tables	
Table No.	
1. Historical table of Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population, 15 years of Age and over - Both Sexes	4
1A. Historical table of Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population, 15 years of Age and over – Male	5
1B. Historical table of Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population, 15 years of Age and over – Female	5
2. Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population 15 years of Age and over, by Age - Both Sexes	6
2A. Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population 15 years of Age and over, by Age – Male	7
2B. Labour Force Status (current) of the Household Population 15 years of Age and over, by Age – Female	7
3. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Both Sexes	8
3A. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Age Groups (percentage) – Male	8
3B. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Age Groups (percentage) – Female	8
4. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Both Sexes	9
4A. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Level of Education (percentage) – Male	9
4B. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Level of Education (percentage) – Female	9
5. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Employment Status (percentage) - Both Sexes	10
5A. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Employment Status (percentage) – Male	10
5B. Historical table of Currently Employed persons by Employment Status (percentage) – Female	10
6. Currently employed persons by Industry group (Based on ISIC Rev.4) – Both sexes	11
6A. Currently employed persons by Industry group (Based on ISIC Rev.4) – Male	12
6B. Currently employed persons by Industry group (Based on ISIC Rev.4) – Female	13
6C. Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group - Both sexes	14
6D. Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group (percentage) - Both sexes	14
7. Currently employed persons by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes	15
7A. Currently employed persons by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) – Male	16
7B. Currently employed persons by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) – Female	16
8. Currently Employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job and Major Industrial group (percentage) - Both Sexes	17
9. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Age Groups (percentage) - Both Sexes	18
9A. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Age Groups (percentage) – Male	18
9B. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Age Groups (percentage) – Female	18
10. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Level of Education (percentage) - Both Sexes	19
10A. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Level of Education (percentage) – Male	19
10B. Historical table of Currently Unemployed persons by Level of Education (percentage) – Female	19
11. Currently Unemployed Persons by Sex and Duration of Unemployment	20
12. Standard error and coefficient of variation of selected variables	21

*Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes*

*Appendix 2: Alternative estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics*



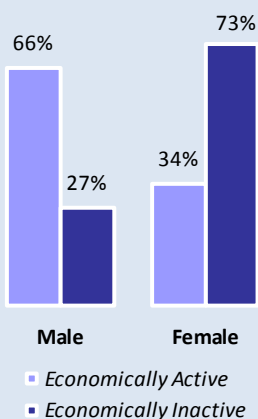
# Introduction

## Highlights

- **Labour force participation rate is 50.1% for the Fourth Quarter of 2020.**
- **Unemployment rate for the survey period is 5.2%.**

## Inside

- Labour Force **1**
- Employment **2**
- Unemployment **3**
- Selected Labour Force Indicators **4**



**Figure 1:** Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population - Fourth 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 fourth quarter 2020 based on the data collected in October, November and December in 2020 covering the whole country.

## Labour Force ....

### (Economically Active Population)

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

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,473,230	100.0	5,620,610	66.3	2,852,620	33.7
Urban	1,351,549	100.0	913,263	67.6	438,286	32.4
Rural	6,702,585	100.0	4,466,054	66.6	2,236,531	33.4
Estate	419,095	100.0	241,293	57.6	177,803	42.4

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,439,620	100.0	2,305,905	27.3	6,133,715	72.7
Urban	1,608,632	100.0	473,179	29.4	1,135,453	70.6
Rural	6,552,786	100.0	1,731,666	26.4	4,821,119	73.6
Estate	278,203	100.0	101,059	36.3	177,143	63.7

*Table 3: LFPR by gender and year - All Island*

Year	Total	Male	Female
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 Q4	52.2	73.2	34.3
2019 Q4	51.9	72.2	34.3
2020 Q1	51.0	72.4	32.5
2020 Q2	50.2	71.7	31.6
2020 Q3	51.0	72.5	32.4
2020 Q4	50.1	70.9	31.7

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2016. 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 (96.8%), 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 fourth quarter 2020. Of which 66.3 percent are males and 33.7 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 8.4 million. Out of the economically inactive population 27.3 percent are males and 72.7 percent are females.

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

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	50.1	70.9	31.7
15 - 19	9.9	14.3	5.2
20 - 24	48.3	65.5	31.5
25 - 29	68.9	91.8	46.6
30 - 34	66.4	96.0	40.5
35 - 39	66.6	96.8	42.3
40 - 44	67.2	95.1	44.9
45 - 49	69.0	95.7	45.2
50 - 54	67.1	92.4	45.3
55 - 59	59.9	85.8	37.8
60+	28.9	46.1	14.9

## 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.

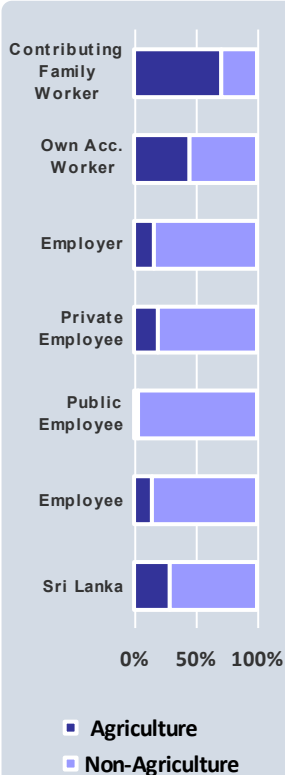


Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Fourth quarter 2020

## Employment ...

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

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
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
2020 Q4 (No.)	8,031,233	2,330,266	2,101,645	3,599,322
(%)	100.0	29.0	26.2	44.8

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from fourth quarter 2019 to fourth quarter 2020. During fourth quarter of 2020, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.0 million. Of which, about 44.8 percent engaged in Service sector, 29.0 percent in Agriculture sector and 26.2 percent in Industry sector. In the fourth quarter of 2020, there is an increase in employed persons in Agriculture sector compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 by 115,138.

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

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,031,233	100.0	2,330,266	29.0	5,700,967	71.0
Employee	4,517,760	100.0	658,903	14.6	3,858,857	85.4
Public	1,202,137	100.0	37,696	3.1	1,164,440	96.9
Private	3,315,624	100.0	621,207	18.7	2,694,417	81.3
Employer	185,220	100.0	31,062	16.8	154,158	83.2
Own Account Worker	2,746,711	100.0	1,231,194	44.8	1,515,517	55.2
Contributing Family Worker	581,541	100.0	409,107	70.3	172,434	29.7

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 – Fourth quarter 2020

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	29.0	27.5	32.2
Industry	26.2	28.2	22.1
Services	44.8	44.4	45.7

## 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

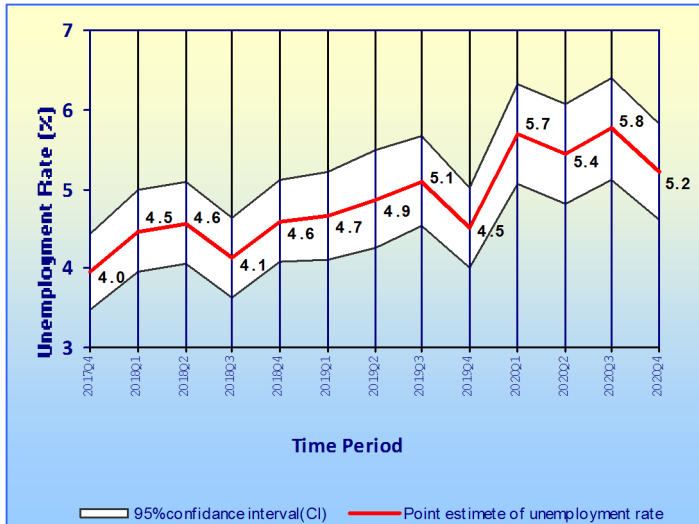
1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative 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 industry sector. Among employed females 32.2 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 27.5 percent for males.

# Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2017Q4 - 2020Q4)



<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: Number of Unemployed and Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Fourth quarter 2020

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Male	Female	
Sri Lanka	441,997	5.2	4.1	7.5
15–24	222,060	25.7	22.2	33.3
25–29	110,930	12.4	8.1	20.7
Over 30	109,008	1.6	1.1	2.7

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 7.5 percent and it is 4.1 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the fourth quarter 2020 is 25.7 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 22.2 and 33.3 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 – Fourth quarter 2020

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Male	Female	
Sri Lanka	441,997	5.2	4.1	7.5
Below GCE O/L	140,434	2.9	2.3	4.1
GCE O/L	113,671	7.3	7.5	7.0
GCE A/L & above	187,893	9.3	6.3	12.8

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is 9.3 percent. Corresponding percentages are 6.3 percent and 12.8 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 441,997 during the fourth quarter 2020. The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2020 is 5.2 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when the changes in unemployment rate is explained the corresponding sampling errors<sup>1</sup> and the confidence limits need to be considered.

## The Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

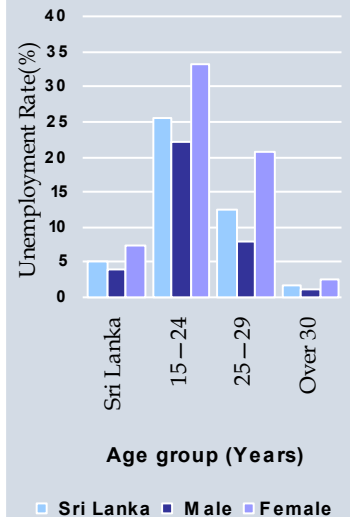


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Fourth quarter 2020

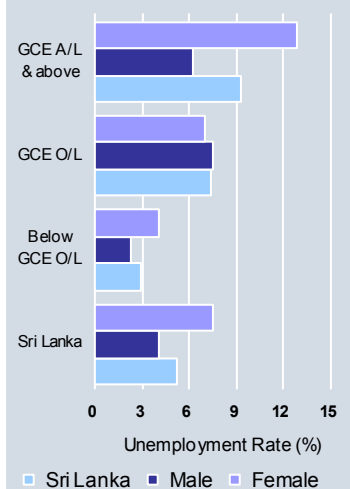


Figure 5: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Fourth quarter 2020

**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
2018Q4	16,225,975	8,477,854	52.2	8,088,448	95.4	389,406	4.6	7,748,121
2019Q4	16,511,101	8,568,902	51.9	8,181,442	95.5	387,460	4.5	7,942,199
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
2020Q4	16,912,850	8,473,230	50.1	8,031,233	94.8	441,997	5.2	8,439,620

**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
2018Q4	7,477,068	5,475,647	73.2	5,300,402	96.8	175,245	3.2	2,001,421
2019Q4	7,658,601	5,530,953	72.2	5,353,552	96.8	177,402	3.2	2,127,648
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
2020Q4	7,926,515	5,620,610	70.9	5,392,490	95.9	228,120	4.1	2,305,905

**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
2018Q4	8,748,907	3,002,207	34.3	2,788,046	92.9	214,161	7.1	5,746,701
2019Q4	8,852,500	3,037,949	34.3	2,827,890	93.1	210,058	6.9	5,814,551
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
2020Q4	8,986,335	2,852,620	31.7	2,638,742	92.5	213,877	7.5	6,133,715

**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)	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)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	16,912,850	8,473,230	50.1	8,031,233	94.8	441,997	5.2	8,439,620
15 - 19 YRS	1,732,890	171,720	9.9	124,038	72.2	47,682	27.8	1,561,169
20 - 24 YRS	1,434,918	693,303	48.3	518,926	74.8	174,377	25.2	741,615
25 - 29 YRS	1,298,925	894,961	68.9	784,031	87.6	110,930	12.4	403,965
30 - 39 YRS	2,636,261	1,752,897	66.5	1,684,217	96.1	68,680	3.9	883,364
40 + YRS	9,809,856	4,960,348	50.6	4,920,021	99.2	40,327	0.8	4,849,508

**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)	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)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	7,926,515	5,620,610	70.9	5,392,490	95.9	228,120	4.1	2,305,905
15 - 19 YRS	903,809	128,977	14.3	90,424	70.1	38,553	29.9	774,833
20 - 24 YRS	709,768	465,129	65.5	371,808	79.9	93,322	20.1	244,638
25 - 29 YRS	640,625	587,979	91.8	540,453	91.9	47,526	8.1	52,645
30 - 39 YRS	1,198,869	1,156,094	96.4	1,123,887	97.2	32,207	2.8	42,775
40 + YRS	4,473,444	3,282,430	73.4	3,265,919	99.5	16,512	0.5	1,191,013

**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)	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)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	8,986,335	2,852,620	31.7	2,638,742	92.5	213,877	7.5	6,133,715
15 - 19 YRS	829,080	42,744	5.2	33,615	78.6	9,129	21.4	786,336
20 - 24 YRS	725,150	228,174	31.5	147,118	64.5	81,056	35.5	496,976
25 - 29 YRS	658,301	306,981	46.6	243,578	79.3	63,403	20.7	351,319
30 - 39 YRS	1,437,392	596,803	41.5	560,330	93.9	36,473	6.1	840,589
40 + YRS	5,336,412	1,677,918	31.4	1,654,102	98.6	23,816	1.4	3,658,494

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
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
2018Q4	100.0	1.6	7.7	9.1	22.3	59.3
2019Q4	100.0	1.5	7.1	9.1	21.6	60.6
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
2020Q4	100.0	1.5	6.5	9.8	21.0	61.3

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	1.9	7.7	9.4	22.3	58.6
2019Q4	100.0	1.9	6.9	9.4	20.7	61.1
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
2020Q4	100.0	1.7	6.9	10.0	20.8	60.6

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	1.1	7.8	8.5	22.2	60.4
2019Q4	100.0	0.9	7.4	8.7	23.3	59.8
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
2020Q4	100.0	1.3	5.6	9.2	21.2	62.7

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	14.6	45.3	18.4	21.7
2019Q4	100.0	13.4	46.5	16.7	23.3
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
2020Q4	100.0	12.8	46.6	17.9	22.7

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	14.0	49.5	19.4	17.2
2019Q4	100.0	13.5	51.0	17.4	18.1
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
2020Q4	100.0	12.8	50.5	18.3	18.5

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	15.9	37.3	16.5	30.3
2019Q4	100.0	13.3	38.2	15.4	33.2
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
2020Q4	100.0	12.8	38.6	17.3	31.3

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	57.3	14.5	42.8	3.0	32.4	7.4
2019Q4	100.0	57.2	14.7	42.5	2.5	33.1	7.2
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
2020Q4	100.0	56.3	15.0	41.3	2.3	34.2	7.2

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	57.4	11.8	45.6	3.9	36.3	2.3
2019Q4	100.0	56.2	11.6	44.6	3.3	38.1	2.4
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
2020Q4	100.0	56.1	11.6	44.5	3.2	38.4	2.4

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	57.0	19.7	37.3	1.2	24.9	16.9
2019Q4	100.0	59.1	20.5	38.5	1.0	23.7	16.2
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
2020Q4	100.0	56.6	21.9	34.7	0.6	25.6	17.2

■ 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
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
2018Q4	8,088,448	2,072,954	52,707	1,491,895	692,001	1,152,256	499,036	250,043	43,198	153,373	97,249	184,395	454,058	434,235	129,452	114,856	205,445	61,293
2019Q4	8,181,442	2,215,128	55,564	1,462,640	678,690	1,091,208	515,667	236,325	55,046	171,844	108,769	198,732	376,233	460,079	172,498	148,795	167,700	66,525
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
2020Q4	8,031,233	2,330,266	63,867	1,293,053	744,724	1,091,704	441,252	222,426	56,203	190,115	71,856	143,190	485,988	396,748	145,144	130,943	167,910	55,841

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
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
2018Q4	5,300,402	1,260,816	51,848	802,717	662,312	859,021	484,860	152,178	30,905	84,915	52,995	122,344	298,033	137,188	45,644	80,238	125,030	49,357
2019Q4	5,353,552	1,466,456	54,672	714,387	649,131	791,641	488,694	151,631	41,724	103,780	71,803	144,565	239,770	128,307	62,171	99,977	91,161	53,682
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
2020Q4	5,392,490	1,480,279	61,547	737,729	718,725	831,130	429,974	126,989	39,065	110,509	39,932	101,932	290,305	121,773	51,065	98,844	107,716	44,976

**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
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
2018Q4	2,788,046	812,138	859	689,178	29,689	293,235	14,175	97,865	12,293	68,459	44,254	62,051	156,025	297,047	83,808	34,618	80,415	11,936
2019Q4	2,827,890	748,672	892	748,253	29,559	299,567	26,973	84,694	13,321	68,064	36,966	54,167	136,463	331,772	110,327	48,817	76,539	12,843
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
2020Q4	2,638,742	849,987	2,321	555,324	26,000	260,574	11,278	95,436	17,138	79,606	31,924	41,259	195,683	274,976	94,079	32,099	60,194	10,865

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	2018Q4	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
Total	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	8,088,448	8,181,442	8,020,446	7,977,000	7,967,695	8,031,233
Agriculture	2,140,185	2,043,698	2,071,940	2,072,954	2,215,128	2,127,212	2,159,609	2,061,630	2,330,266
Industry	2,331,494	2,239,262	2,258,421	2,236,604	2,196,895	2,174,148	2,146,862	2,188,330	2,101,645
Services	3,736,500	3,732,206	3,850,332	3,778,889	3,769,420	3,719,086	3,670,528	3,717,735	3,599,322

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

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2017	2018	2019	2018Q4	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.1	25.5	25.3	25.6	27.1	26.5	27.1	25.9	29.0
Industry	28.4	27.9	27.6	27.7	26.9	27.1	26.9	27.5	26.2
Services	45.5	46.6	47.1	46.7	46.1	46.4	46.0	46.7	44.8

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 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
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
2018Q4	8,088,448	653,589	584,826	674,642	293,700	701,628	1,328,890	1,305,648	706,019	1,804,709	34,795
2019Q4	8,181,442	569,300	627,459	705,406	305,446	702,381	1,464,333	1,257,135	770,292	1,748,016	31,673
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
2020Q4	8,031,233	351,670	509,876	665,132	280,914	955,157	1,454,108	1,189,585	670,484	1,916,456	37,852

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
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
2018Q4	5,300,402	488,913	204,723	467,023	133,108	499,352	884,248	915,560	586,309	1,091,316	29,849
2019Q4	5,353,552	423,044	218,060	462,775	136,924	493,674	1,058,874	849,882	652,964	1,030,286	27,070
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
2020Q4	5,392,490	268,007	192,971	429,132	129,726	676,222	1,039,261	893,021	533,981	1,194,057	36,113

**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
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
2018Q4	2,788,046	164,676	380,104	207,619	160,592	202,276	444,643	390,088	119,710	713,393	4,945
2019Q4	2,827,890	146,256	409,399	242,631	168,522	208,707	405,459	407,254	117,328	717,731	4,604
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
2020Q4	2,638,742	83,663	316,905	235,999	151,188	278,934	414,847	296,564	136,503	722,399	1,739

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	8.7	1.8	5.1	9.7	13.8	33.3	27.7
1	100.0	3.3	3.5	8.6	15.0	21.4	29.4	18.7
2	100.0	13.2	2.0	1.4	8.9	11.5	19.9	43.1
3	100.0	8.2	1.1	3.9	7.7	10.3	38.4	30.4
6	100.0	6.6	1.4	3.7	12.0	13.5	39.4	23.4
7	100.0	9.2	0.4	2.5	8.6	7.7	26.6	45.0
8	100.0	14.7	0.5	3.2	6.1	10.0	27.8	37.7
9	100.0	17.8	1.7	2.7	4.9	11.3	24.7	37.0
10	100.0	9.0	..	2.9	2.3	9.5	41.2	35.2
11	100.0	3.5	1.1	3.0	3.0	5.5	61.1	22.7
13	100.0	3.8	1.5	1.1	8.8	13.4	54.6	16.7
14	100.0	15.7	1.3	3.6	6.3	7.7	31.1	34.3
15	100.0	6.4	1.1	1.2	3.8	3.3	53.0	31.2
16	100.0	32.0	2.6	8.1	7.7	26.4	19.8	3.6
17	100.0	2.7	0.2	3.7	1.2	2.5	41.6	48.2
19	100.0	16.5	0.9	7.1	8.7	11.8	27.6	27.5
20	100.0	16.0	0.6	7.7	6.6	17.6	23.8	27.7
Other	100.0	11.4	4.3	0.0	8.5	9.1	36.8	29.8

\* 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
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
2018Q4	100.0	15.5	39.0	20.0	12.6	12.9
2019Q4	100.0	13.4	35.7	22.4	13.7	14.9
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
2020Q4	100.0	10.8	39.5	25.1	15.5	9.1

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	23.5	40.6	12.4	8.0	15.5
2019Q4	100.0	18.0	35.4	22.5	7.9	16.3
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
2020Q4	100.0	16.9	40.9	20.8	14.1	7.2

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	8.9	37.7	26.2	16.4	10.8
2019Q4	100.0	9.5	35.9	22.4	18.6	13.7
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
2020Q4	100.0	4.3	37.9	29.6	17.1	11.1

■ 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
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
2018Q4	100.0	2.0	30.1	24.7	43.1
2019Q4	100.0	3.2	34.7	20.9	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
2020Q4	100.0	2.1	29.7	25.7	42.5

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	3.3	41.7	24.5	30.5
2019Q4	100.0	2.6	45.9	23.3	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
2020Q4	100.0	1.1	34.8	34.8	29.3

**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
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
2018Q4	100.0	1.0	20.6	24.9	53.5
2019Q4	100.0	3.6	25.3	18.9	52.1
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
2020Q4	100.0	3.2	24.1	16.1	56.6

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	441,997	168,960	134,010	139,027
%	100.0	38.2	30.3	31.5
Male	228,120	93,657	75,138	59,325
%	100.0	41.1	32.9	26.0
Female	213,877	75,304	58,872	79,702
%	100.0	35.2	27.5	37.3

## STANDARD ERROR AND COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION OF SELECTED VARIABLES

	Estimated Value	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimated Value (Ratio)	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
<b>General labour force characteristics</b>						
Population ( 15 years & over)	16,912,850	160,055	0.9			
Employed Population	8,031,233	115,933	1.4			
Unemployed Population	441,997	26,377	6.0			
Employment Rate				94.8	0.30	0.32
Unemployment Rate				5.2	0.30	5.80
Labour Force	8,473,230	119,196	1.4			
Not in Labour Force	8,439,620	118,438	1.4			
<b>Employed persons by major industry Groups</b>						
1	2,330,266	93,185	4.0			
2	63,867	12,106	19.0			
3	1,293,053	50,911	3.9			
6	744,724	34,744	4.7			
7	1,091,704	47,173	4.3			
8	441,252	25,414	5.8			
9	222,426	20,501	9.2			
10	56,203	10,031	17.8			
11	190,115	17,798	9.4			
13	71,856	10,798	15.0			
14	143,190	14,951	10.4			
15	485,988	29,576	6.1			
16	396,748	26,499	6.7			
17	145,144	14,102	9.7			
19	130,943	16,402	12.5			
20	167,910	16,195	9.6			
Other	55,841	9,500	17.0			
<b>Unemployed persons by level of education</b>						
Below grade 6	9,332	2,689	28.8			
Grade 6 - 10	131,101	11,594	8.8			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	113,671	11,781	10.4			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	187,893	13,320	7.1			

### 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

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### 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

$$\text{Estimated value (of the unemployment rate)} \pm (\text{standard error}) * (1.96)$$

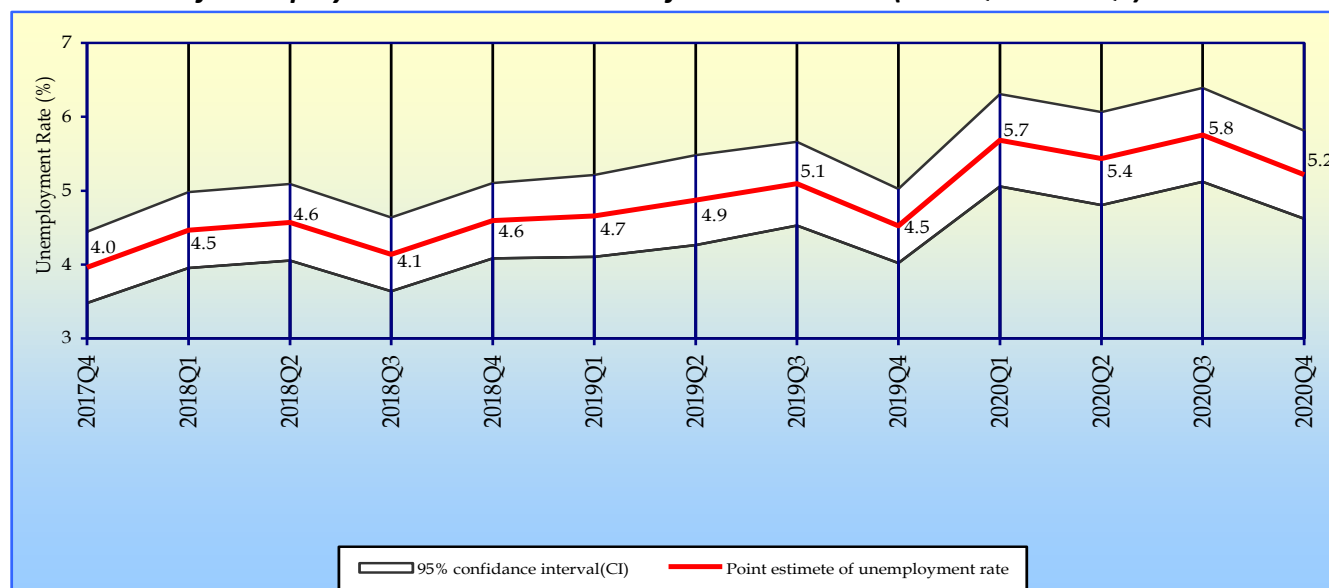
$$4.5 \pm (0.275) * (1.96)$$

$$(4.5 \pm 0.539)$$

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 (2017Q4 - 2020Q4)



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
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
2018Q4	8,477,854	100,533	1.19	8,280,404	8,675,303	8,088,448	96,666	1.20	7,898,594	8,278,301
2019Q4	8,568,902	98,729	1.15	8,374,989	8,762,815	8,181,442	94,432	1.15	7,995,970	8,366,914
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
2020Q4	8,473,230	119,196	1.41	8,239,121	8,707,338	8,031,233	115,933	1.44	7,803,534	8,258,931

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
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
2018Q4	389,406	22,837	5.86	344,554	434,259	4.6	0.3	5.65	4.1	5.1
2019Q4	387,460	22,861	5.90	342,558	432,362	4.5	0.3	5.66	4.0	5.0
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
2020Q4	441,997	26,377	5.97	390,191	493,803	5.2	0.3	5.80	4.6	5.8

## ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES

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### 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 &amp; 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)	
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
2018Q4	16,225,975	7,517,574	46.3	7,128,168	94.8	389,406	5.2	8,708,401
2019Q4	16,511,101	7,604,140	46.1	7,216,679	94.9	387,460	5.1	8,906,962
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
2020Q4	16,912,850	7,439,965	44.0	6,997,968	94.1	441,997	5.9	9,472,884

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
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
2018Q4	389,406	5.2	60,315	35.8	151,953	21.7	77,747	10.4	49,051	2.9	50,340	1.2
2019Q4	387,460	5.1	51,749	32.2	138,274	21.5	86,934	11.3	52,949	3.2	57,555	1.3
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
2020Q4	441,997	5.9	47,682	33.6	174,377	28.1	110,930	13.6	68,680	4.4	40,327	0.9

**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	
2017	No.	<b>7,116,376</b>	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
	%	<b>100.0</b>	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.	<b>7,056,406</b>	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
	%	<b>100.0</b>	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.	<b>7,198,383</b>	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
	%	<b>100.0</b>	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
2018Q4	No.	<b>7,128,168</b>	1,527,529	51,108	1,380,310	658,414	1,025,605	479,193	212,340	43,198	151,225	90,038	173,631	448,695	407,262	128,381	109,186	186,537	55,515
	%	<b>100.0</b>	21.4	0.7	19.4	9.2	14.4	6.7	3.0	0.6	2.1	1.3	2.4	6.3	5.7	1.8	1.5	2.6	0.8
2019Q4	No.	<b>7,216,679</b>	1,689,791	54,604	1,337,227	637,906	947,632	501,593	205,550	52,176	168,343	108,769	185,523	374,050	430,250	169,645	135,996	156,318	61,307
	%	<b>100.0</b>	23.4	0.8	18.5	8.8	13.1	7.0	2.8	0.7	2.3	1.5	2.6	5.2	6.0	2.4	1.9	2.2	0.8
2020Q1	No.	<b>6,981,259</b>	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
	%	<b>100.0</b>	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.	<b>6,842,181</b>	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
	%	<b>100.0</b>	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.	<b>7,060,688</b>	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
	%	<b>100.0</b>	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
2020Q4	No.	<b>6,997,968</b>	1,723,188	60,662	1,193,756	706,823	972,190	421,798	181,775	54,579	182,271	69,988	136,297	474,675	354,578	139,612	120,517	152,345	52,913
	%	<b>100.0</b>	24.6	0.9	17.1	10.1	13.9	6.0	2.6	0.8	2.6	1.0	1.9	6.8	5.1	2.0	1.7	2.2	0.8

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 &amp; 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 &amp; bodies (U)