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# Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

## Quarterly Report

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter - 2021

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# SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Quarterly Report – 2021

Fourth Quarter

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS

Ministry of Finance, Economics Stabilization and National Policies

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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 first quarter 2021 was done in the month of October, November and December in year 2021. This report is based on the data collected in quarterly sample of 6,430 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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17.10.2022

## Acknowledgements

This report is the hundred and twenty one 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. Karunathna, 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, Mr. H.M.S.C. Bandara, Ms. C.R. Liyanage and Ms. A.H.L.T. Sandaruwini, 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 Mr. P.M.R. Fernando, Head of the division (ICT) and under the supervision of Mr. W.H.P.N. Weerasiri, Director (ICT), were responsible for implementing CAPI methodology and preparation of data collection and computer edits programs. Developing of sample selection program 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, Statistical Officer, 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.

## Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 2021 Fourth Quarter Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics

### 15 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	17,259,921	7,883,155	9,376,767	3,055,267	14,204,654
Labour force in this age group	8,537,876	5,536,410	3,001,466	1,428,620	7,109,256
Labour force participation rate	49.5	70.2	32.0	46.8	50.0
Employed population	8,146,367	5,353,688	2,792,679	1,368,078	6,778,289
Employment rate	95.4	96.7	93.0	95.8	95.3
Unemployed population	391,509	182,722	208,787	60,542	330,967
Unemployment rate	4.6	3.3	7.0	4.2	4.7
Not in labour force	8,722,045	2,346,744	6,375,301	1,626,648	7,095,398

### 18 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (18 years & over)	16,202,140	7,371,391	8,830,749	2,891,814	13,310,326
Labour force in this age group	8,498,706	5,506,440	2,992,266	1,427,565	7,071,141
Labour force participation rate	52.5	74.7	33.9	49.4	53.1
Employed population	8,116,132	5,328,277	2,787,854	1,367,023	6,749,108
Employment rate	95.5	96.8	93.2	95.8	95.4
Unemployed population	382,574	178,163	204,411	60,542	322,032
Unemployment rate	4.5	3.2	6.8	4.2	4.6
Not in labour force	7,703,434	1,864,951	5,838,483	1,464,249	6,239,186

### 20 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	15,510,730	7,010,687	8,500,043	2,769,639	12,741,091
Labour force in this age group	8,392,758	5,432,448	2,960,310	1,416,670	6,976,088
Labour force participation rate	54.1	77.5	34.8	51.1	54.8
Employed population	8,036,610	5,268,044	2,768,566	1,357,429	6,679,181
Employment rate	95.8	97.0	93.5	95.8	95.7
Unemployed population	356,147	164,404	191,743	59,240	296,907
Unemployment rate	4.2	3.0	6.5	4.2	4.3
Not in labour force	7,117,972	1,578,239	5,539,733	1,352,969	5,765,003

## Selected Labour Force Indicators

Indicator	Year									
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019Q4	2020Q4	2021Q1	2021Q2	2021Q3	2021Q4
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<b>by gender</b>										
Total	54.1	51.8	52.3	50.6	51.9	50.1	50.9	49.8	49.5	49.5
Male	74.5	73.0	73.0	71.9	72.2	70.9	71.7	71.1	71.0	70.2
Female	36.6	33.6	34.5	32.0	34.3	31.7	33.4	30.9	30.9	32.0
<b>by residential sector</b>										
Total	54.1	51.8	52.3	50.6	51.9	50.1	50.9	49.8	49.5	49.5
Urban	50.5	49.6	50.2	47.0	49.4	45.7	48.6	46.6	45.6	46.8
Rural	54.8	52.3	52.7	51.3	52.4	51.0	51.4	50.5	50.2	50.0
<b>Unemployment rate</b>										
<b>by gender</b>										
Total	4.2	4.4	4.8	5.5	4.5	5.2	5.7	5.1	5.2	4.6
Male	2.9	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.2	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.3
Female	6.5	7.1	7.4	8.5	6.9	7.5	8.9	7.7	8.2	7.0
<b>by selected age group (year)</b>										
20 – 29	13.5	15.0	15.3	18.1	14.5	18.0	20.3	18.2	18.3	16.3
20 – 24	17.8	20.1	20.3	25.2	19.2	25.2	28.8	30.2	24.6	23.6
25 – 29	9.5	10.4	11.0	12.0	10.4	12.4	13.0	9.2	13.1	10.3
<b>by selected educational level</b>										
<b>GCE A/L an above</b>										
Total	8.1	9.1	8.5	9.8	7.7	9.3	10.1	9.1	9.6	7.6
Male	5.0	5.1	5.0	6.2	4.9	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.5	5.5
Female	11.3	13.2	11.9	13.6	10.4	12.8	13.8	12.5	12.9	9.6
<b>Employed population</b>										
<b>by gender</b>										
Total	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	7,999,093	8,181,442	8,031,233	8,181,491	8,082,303	8,043,868	8,146,367
Male	5,279,158	5,300,310	5,368,896	5,372,947	5,353,552	5,392,490	5,369,194	5,504,060	5,430,176	5,353,688
Female	2,929,021	2,714,855	2,811,796	2,626,146	2,827,890	2,638,742	2,812,297	2,578,243	2,613,692	2,792,679
<b>by industry (percentage)</b>										
Total	8,208,179	8,015,166	8,180,693	7,999,093	8,181,442	8,031,233	8,181,491	8,082,303	8,043,868	8,146,367
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,140,185	2,043,698	2,071,940	2,169,679	2,215,128	2,330,266	2,083,102	2,250,273	2,390,849	2,127,835
%	26.1	25.5	25.3	27.1	27.1	29.0	25.5	27.8	29.7	26.1
Industry	2,331,494	2,239,262	2,258,421	2,152,746	2,196,895	2,101,645	2,228,028	2,041,674	1,969,427	2,198,797
%	28.4	27.9	27.6	26.9	26.9	26.2	27.2	25.3	24.5	27.0
Services	3,736,500	3,732,206	3,850,332	3,676,668	3,769,420	3,599,322	3,870,361	3,790,355	3,683,592	3,819,735
%	45.5	46.6	47.1	46.0	46.1	44.8	47.3	46.9	45.8	46.9
<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*	4.7	5.6	6.4	14.6	5.8	8.7	3.3	15.9	14.7	4.8
1 – 9	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.3	2.9	2.2	1.6
10 – 39	26.1	25.7	26.8	27.1	27.2	28.5	26.3	31.4	30.4	30.4
40 & above	67.5	66.9	65.1	56.2	65.5	61.0	69.1	49.8	52.7	63.2

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

Note: Working age population considered as age 15 &amp; over population

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**Labour Force**

All persons aged 15 years & over who are currently economically active during the reference period (Labour Force = employed persons + unemployed persons)

**Reference Period:**

Previous week of the survey week  
(3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month)

**Labour force participation rate (LFPR)**

Labour force as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.

**Labour Force (Economically Active Population)****Table 1: Economically active population by gender and sector, fourth quarter - 2021**

Sector	Economically Active Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	8,537,876	100	5,536,410	64.8	3,001,466	35.2
<b>Urban</b>	1,428,620	100	898,887	62.9	529,732	37.1
<b>Rural</b>	6,692,728	100	4,399,553	65.7	2,293,176	34.3
<b>Estate</b>	416,528	100	237,970	57.1	178,558	42.9

**Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender, and sector, fourth quarter - 2021**

Sector	Economically Inactive Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	8,722,045	100	2,346,744	26.9	6,375,301	73.1
<b>Urban</b>	1,626,648	100	506,604	31.1	1,120,044	68.9
<b>Rural</b>	6,813,827	100	1,751,583	25.7	5,062,244	74.3
<b>Estate</b>	281,571	100	88,558	31.5	193,013	68.5

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.5 million in the fourth quarter 2021. Of which 64.8 percent are males and 35.2 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 8.7 million. Out of the economically inactive population 26.9 percent are males and 73.1 percent are females. (Table 2)

**Table 3: LFPR by gender and year, 2017 - 2021Q4**

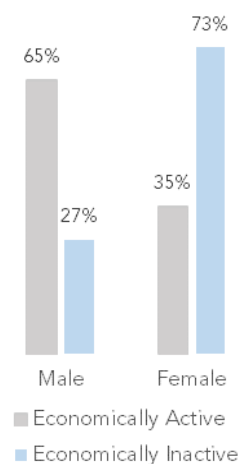
Year	Total	Male	Female
<b>2017</b>	54.1	74.5	36.6
<b>2018</b>	51.8	73.0	33.6
<b>2019</b>	52.3	73.0	34.5
<b>2020</b>	50.6	71.9	32.0
<b>2019 Q4</b>	51.9	72.2	34.3
<b>2020 Q4</b>	50.1	70.9	31.7
<b>2021 Q1</b>	50.9	71.7	33.4
<b>2021 Q2</b>	49.8	71.1	30.9
<b>2021 Q3</b>	49.5	71.0	30.9
<b>2021 Q4</b>	49.5	70.2	32.0

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs by gender since year 2017. Referring the Table 3, it is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of female.

**Table 4: LFPR by age group and gender, fourth quarter – 2021**

Age group Total Male Female (Years)

Sri Lanka	Total	Male	Female
15 - 19	8.3	11.9	4.7
20 - 24	46.2	59.9	33.9
25 - 29	66.6	89.5	45.6
30 - 34	66.4	95.1	43.6
35 - 39	67.9	97.4	43.7
40 - 44	68.4	95.5	46.0
45 - 49	69.0	94.3	47.7
50 - 54	69.5	94.8	45.8
55 - 59	58.7	87.1	37.6
60+	27.6	45.3	13.9

**Figure 1: Distribution of economically active vs inactive population, fourth quarter 2021**

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 rates for male is reported from age group 35 - 39 years (97.4%), while that for female is reported from 45 - 49 age group (47.7%).

**Employment****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.

**Employment Rate**

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.

**Table 5: Distribution of employed population by main industry (fourth quarter 2020 – fourth quarter 2021)**

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2020 Q4	8,031,233	2,330,266	2,101,645	3,599,322
(%)	100.0	29.0	26.2	44.8
2021 Q1	8,181,491	2,083,102	2,228,028	3,870,361
(%)	100.0	25.5	27.2	47.3
2021 Q2	8,082,303	2,250,273	2,041,674	3,790,355
(%)	100.0	27.8	25.3	46.9
2021 Q3	8,043,868	2,390,849	1,969,427	3,683,592
(%)	100.0	29.7	24.5	45.8
2021 Q4	8,146,367	2,127,835	2,198,797	3,819,735
(%)	100.0	26.1	27.0	46.9

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from fourth quarter 2021 to fourth quarter 2021. During fourth quarter of 2021, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as 8.1 million. Of which, about 46.9 percent engaged in service sector, 27.0 percent in industry sector and 26.1 percent in agriculture sector. In the fourth quarter of 2021, there is an increase in employed persons in industry and service sectors compared to the fourth quarter of 2020.

### 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 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 6: Distribution of employed population by employment status in agriculture and non - agriculture sectors, fourth quarter - 2021**

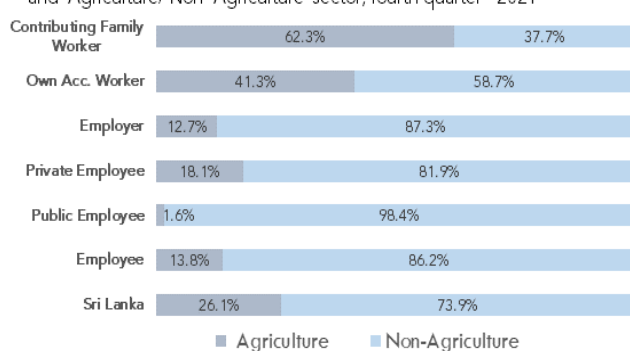
Employment Status	Sector					
	Sri Lanka		Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,146,367	100.0	2,127,835	26.1	6,018,532	73.9
Employee	4,644,599	100.0	642,740	13.8	4,001,858	86.2
Public	1,202,537	100.0	19,083	1.6*	1,183,455	98.4
Private	3,442,061	100.0	623,658	18.1	2,818,403	81.9
Employer	234,573	100.0	29,779	12.7*	204,794	87.3
Own Account Worker	2,765,404	100.0	1,142,529	41.3	1,622,875	58.7
Contributing Family Worker	501,791	100.0	312,786	62.3	189,005	37.7

\*These Figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of Variation) Values are high

According to the Table 6 Majority of the workforce are private sector employees followed by own account workers. Non agriculture sector covers 73.9 percent of employed population in Sri Lanka, employees and own account workers are highly constraining in that sector.

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' 27.0 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 25.7 percent for males

**Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture sector, fourth quarter - 2021**



**Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by major industry group & gender, fourth quarter – 2021**

Major Industry group	Gender		
	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.1	25.7	27.0
Industry	27.0	28.6	23.9
Services	46.9	45.7	49.1

## Unemployment

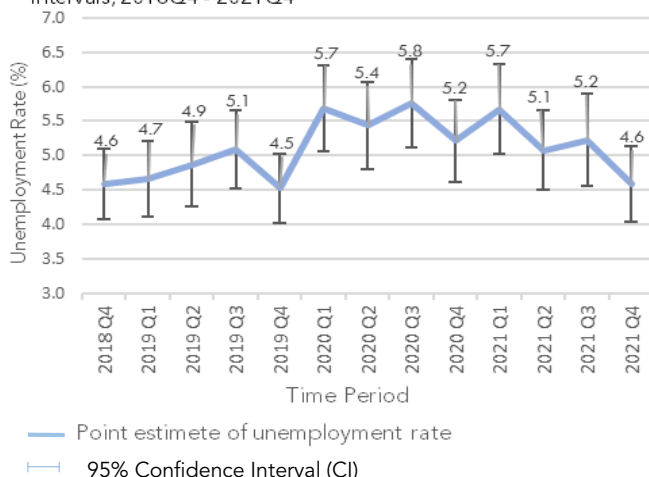
### Unemployed

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

### Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals, 2018Q4 - 2021Q4



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 391,509 during the fourth quarter 2021. The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2021 is 4.6 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.

Table 8: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by age group and gender, fourth quarter - 2021

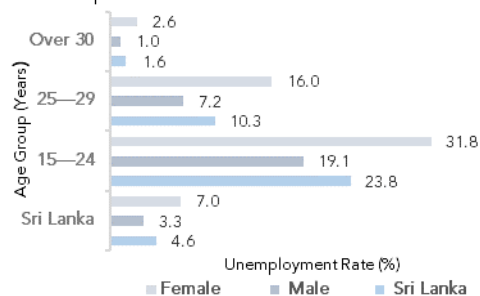
Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	391,509	4.6	3.3	7.0
15 - 24	197,890	23.8	19.1	31.8
25 - 29	86,975	10.3	7.2	16.0
Over 30	106,644	1.6	1.0	2.6

#### 1 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)

Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by age group and gender, fourth quarter - 2021



As per the table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 7.0 percent and it is 3.3 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the Third quarter 2021 is 28.1 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 19.1 and 31.8 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, fourth quarter - 2021

Level of Education	Sri Lanka	Unemployment Rate (%)		
		Gender		
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	391,509	4.6	3.3	7.0
Below GCE O/L	135,113	2.8	2.2	4.1
GCE O/L	95,789	6.3	4.8	9.6
GCE A/L & above	160,607	7.6	5.5	9.6

Figure 5: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender, fourth quarter - 2021



The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E.(A/L) and above group which is 7.6 percent. Corresponding percentages are 5.5 percent and 9.6 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.

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

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force Number
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	
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
2020	16,739,396	8,466,606	50.6	7,999,093	94.5	467,513	5.5	8,272,790
2019Q4	16,511,101	8,568,902	51.9	8,181,442	95.5	387,460	4.5	7,942,199
2020Q4	16,912,850	8,473,230	50.1	8,031,233	94.8	441,997	5.2	8,439,620
2021Q1	17,025,000	8,673,078	50.9	8,181,491	94.3	491,587	5.7	8,351,922
2021Q2	17,092,123	8,514,766	49.8	8,082,303	94.9	432,463	5.1	8,577,357
2021Q3	17,157,591	8,487,440	49.5	8,043,868	94.8	443,572	5.2	8,670,151
2021Q4	17,259,921	8,537,876	49.5	8,146,367	95.4	391,509	4.6	8,722,045

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

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force Number
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total 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
2020	7,788,634	5,598,004	71.9	5,372,947	96.0	225,057	4.0	2,190,629
2019Q4	7,658,601	5,530,953	72.2	5,353,552	96.8	177,402	3.2	2,127,648
2020Q4	7,926,515	5,620,610	70.9	5,392,490	95.9	228,120	4.1	2,305,905
2021Q1	7,789,803	5,585,902	71.7	5,369,194	96.1	216,708	3.9	2,203,901
2021Q2	8,043,095	5,722,184	71.7	5,504,060	96.2	218,124	3.8	2,320,910
2021Q3	7,946,584	5,640,394	71.0	5,430,176	96.3	210,218	3.7	2,306,190
2021Q4	7,883,155	5,536,410	70.2	5,353,688	96.7	182,722	3.3	2,346,744

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

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force Number
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	
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
2020	8,950,763	2,868,602	32.0	2,626,146	91.5	242,456	8.5	6,082,161
2019Q4	8,852,500	3,037,949	34.3	2,827,890	93.1	210,058	6.9	5,814,551
2020Q4	8,986,335	2,852,620	31.7	2,638,742	92.5	213,877	7.5	6,133,715
2021Q1	9,235,197	3,087,176	33.4	2,812,297	91.1	274,879	8.9	6,148,021
2021Q2	9,049,028	2,792,581	30.9	2,578,243	92.3	214,339	7.7	6,256,447
2021Q3	9,211,007	2,847,046	30.9	2,613,692	91.8	233,354	8.2	6,363,961
2021Q4	9,376,767	3,001,466	32.0	2,792,679	93.0	208,787	7.0	6,375,301

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)	
All ages	17,259,921	8,537,876	49.5	8,146,367	95.4	391,509	4.6	8,722,045
15 – 19 Yrs	1,749,191	145,118	8.3	109,757	75.6	35,362	24.4	1,604,073
20 – 24 Yrs	1,488,915	687,414	46.2	524,886	76.4	162,528	23.6	801,501
25 – 29 Yrs	1,263,754	842,258	66.6	755,283	89.7	86,975	10.3	421,495
30 – 39 Yrs	2,648,779	1,780,340	67.2	1,725,808	96.9	54,532	3.1	868,439
40+ Yrs	10,109,283	5,082,746	50.3	5,030,634	99.0	52,112	1.0	5,026,537

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)	
All ages	7,883,155	5,536,410	70.2	5,353,688	96.7	182,722	3.3	2,346,744
15 – 19 Yrs	872,468	103,962	11.9	85,644	82.4	18,318	17.6	768,505
20 – 24 Yrs	702,368	420,920	59.9	339,061	80.6	81,859	19.4	281,447
25 – 29 Yrs	605,881	542,016	89.5	503,069	92.8	38,947	7.2	63,865
30 – 39 Yrs	1,183,462	1,140,653	96.4	1,118,650	98.1	22,003	1.9	42,809
40+ Yrs	4,518,977	3,328,859	73.7	3,307,263	99.4	21,595	0.6	1,190,118

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	labourforc e partici: rate (%)	Labour force				Not in labour force Number
				Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	rate (% to total labour force)	Number	rate (% to total labour force)	
All ages	9,376,767	3,001,466	32.0	2,792,679	93.0	208,787	7.0	6,375,301
15 – 19 Yrs	876,724	41,156	4.7	24,113	58.6	17,043	41.4	835,568
20 – 24 Yrs	786,547	266,493	33.9	185,824	69.7	80,669	30.3	520,054
25 – 29 Yrs	657,873	300,242	45.6	252,214	84.0	48,028	16.0	357,631
30 – 39 Yrs	1,465,317	639,687	43.7	607,158	94.9	32,529	5.1	825,630
40+ Yrs	5,590,306	1,753,888	31.4	1,723,371	98.3	30,517	1.7	3,836,418

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
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
2020	100.0	1.7	6.8	9.2	22.0	60.2
2019Q4	100.0	1.5	7.1	9.1	21.6	60.6
2020Q4	100.0	1.5	6.5	9.8	21.0	61.3
2021Q1	100.0	1.5	6.5	9.3	21.2	61.5
2021Q2	100.0	1.3	5.7	9.9	20.7	62.4
2021Q3	100.0	1.6	6.5	9.0	21.4	61.5
2019Q4	100.0	1.3	6.4	9.3	21.2	61.8

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
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
2020	100.0	1.9	7.0	9.1	21.8	60.3
2019Q4	100.0	1.9	6.9	9.4	20.7	61.1
2020Q4	100.0	1.7	6.9	10.0	20.8	60.6
2021Q1	100.0	1.6	6.6	9.4	20.7	61.8
2021Q2	100.0	1.5	5.8	10.0	20.1	62.7
2021Q3	100.0	1.8	7.1	8.9	20.6	61.6
2019Q4	100.0	1.6	6.3	9.4	20.9	61.8

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
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
2020	100.0	1.4	6.5	9.3	22.6	60.1
2019Q4	100.0	0.9	7.4	8.7	23.3	59.8
2020Q4	100.0	1.3	5.6	9.2	21.2	62.7
2021Q1	100.0	1.4	6.3	9.2	22.3	60.9
2021Q2	100.0	0.7	5.7	9.7	22.1	61.8
2021Q3	100.0	1.2	5.2	9.4	23.0	61.2
2021Q4	100.0	0.9	6.7	9.0	21.7	61.7

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

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
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
2020	100.0	13.7	46.0	17.8	22.5
2019Q4	100.0	13.4	46.5	16.7	23.3
2020Q4	100.0	12.8	46.6	17.9	22.7
2021Q1	100.0	12.7	44.4	18.2	24.7
2021Q2	100.0	12.5	46.1	17.5	24.0
2021Q3	100.0	13.1	47.2	17.1	22.6
2021Q4	100.0	13.6	45.0	17.5	23.9

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
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
2020	100.0	13.8	49.8	18.3	18.1
2019Q4	100.0	13.5	51.0	17.4	18.1
2020Q4	100.0	12.8	50.5	18.3	18.5
2021Q1	100.0	13.0	47.9	19.3	19.7
2021Q2	100.0	12.8	49.4	18.6	19.3
2021Q3	100.0	12.7	51.6	17.8	17.9
2021Q4	100.0	13.5	49.5	18.7	18.3

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
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
2020	100.0	13.4	38.1	16.8	31.7
2019Q4	100.0	13.3	38.2	15.4	33.2
2020Q4	100.0	12.8	38.6	17.3	31.3
2021Q1	100.0	12.1	37.5	16.1	34.2
2021Q2	100.0	11.8	39.3	15.0	33.9
2021Q3	100.0	13.8	38.1	15.8	32.3
2021Q4	100.0	13.7	36.4	15.1	34.8

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

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
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
2020	100.0	57.5	14.8	42.7	2.5	33.2	6.8
2019Q4	100.0	57.2	14.7	42.5	2.5	33.1	7.2
2020Q4	100.0	56.3	15.0	41.3	2.3	34.2	7.2
2021Q1	100.0	58.0	15.7	42.3	2.7	33.2	6.1
2021Q2	100.0	57.0	15.6	41.4	2.7	33.1	7.3
2021Q3	100.0	57.1	14.9	42.2	2.9	33.2	7.0
2021Q4	100.0	57.0	14.8	42.3	2.9	33.9	6.2

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

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
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
2020	100.0	56.7	12.0	44.7	3.4	37.5	2.4
2019Q4	100.0	56.2	11.6	44.6	3.3	38.1	2.4
2020Q4	100.0	56.1	11.6	44.5	3.2	38.4	2.4
2021Q1	100.0	57.5	12.9	44.7	3.8	36.6	2.0
2021Q2	100.0	56.1	12.3	43.8	3.5	37.6	2.9
2021Q3	100.0	56.5	11.8	44.6	3.6	37.2	2.7
2021Q4	100.0	56.1	11.5	44.7	3.9	38.0	2.0

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

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
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
2020	100.0	59.0	20.5	38.5	0.8	24.4	15.8
2019Q4	100.0	59.1	20.5	38.5	1.0	23.7	16.2
2020Q4	100.0	56.6	21.9	34.7	0.6	25.6	17.2
2021Q1	100.0	58.8	21.2	37.6	0.6	26.7	13.9
2021Q2	100.0	58.8	22.5	36.2	1.0	23.6	16.7
2021Q3	100.0	58.4	21.2	37.2	0.8	24.8	16.0
2021Q4	100.0	58.7	21.1	37.6	0.8	26.2	14.2

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
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
2020	7,999,093	2,169,679	56,856	1,397,689	698,201	1,095,384	523,654	217,281	57,828	183,474	85,990	164,829	447,051	402,808	156,424	123,220	167,255	51,470
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
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
2021Q1	8,181,491	2,083,102	58,888	1,454,350	714,791	1,174,877	510,635	214,348	67,096	161,965	89,844	122,662	511,317	467,123	152,103	130,024	221,055	47,310
2021Q2	8,082,303	2,250,273	56,277	1,315,591	669,807	1,097,913	504,156	222,172	71,008	218,047	91,583	122,019	499,076	400,053	199,863	144,145	173,057	47,263
2021Q3	8,043,868	2,390,849	48,745	1,256,663	664,020	1,161,082	454,929	224,255	83,320	182,532	62,195	114,079	480,492	391,757	181,237	120,344	167,560	59,810
2021Q4	8,146,367	2,127,835	54,434	1,422,642	721,721	1,180,191	457,093	197,211	70,098	166,707	79,426	185,532	469,541	433,609	164,954	119,158	245,231	50,984

**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
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
2020	5,372,947	1,404,424	54,650	769,527	670,928	800,735	504,586	143,909	43,545	108,800	55,021	119,004	284,605	120,956	58,231	94,149	101,098	38,778
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
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
2021Q1	5,369,194	1,357,836	57,781	760,977	681,666	832,230	500,982	126,135	43,603	97,449	56,356	78,198	297,756	157,857	49,234	91,812	137,694	41,629
2021Q2	5,504,060	1,421,380	54,771	798,382	652,796	832,847	486,323	147,242	48,800	128,123	65,565	86,077	298,887	128,581	82,334	108,075	127,420	36,456
2021Q3	5,430,176	1,541,928	48,337	756,890	629,071	850,006	441,179	142,972	65,751	118,733	34,592	84,487	285,613	108,150	67,282	87,634	122,914	44,637
2021Q4	5,353,688	1,373,333	53,157	787,099	692,165	823,097	435,275	129,048	48,368	90,869	42,595	136,813	280,760	116,797	55,616	99,320	149,872	39,505

**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
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
2020	2,626,146	765,256	2,206	628,162	27,273	294,649	19,068	73,372	14,282	74,674	30,969	45,826	162,446	281,852	98,193	29,071	66,157	12,692
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
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
2021Q1	2,812,297	725,266	1,107	693,373	33,124	342,647	9,652	88,213	23,493	64,517	33,488	44,465	213,561	309,266	102,869	38,213	83,361	5,681
2021Q2	2,578,243	828,893	1,505	517,209	17,011	265,067	17,833	74,930	22,208	89,924	26,017	35,942	200,189	271,472	117,529	36,071	45,637	10,807
2021Q3	2,613,692	848,921	407	499,772	34,949	311,076	13,750	81,284	17,569	63,799	27,603	29,591	194,880	283,607	113,955	32,711	44,645	15,173
2021Q4	2,792,679	754,502	1,277	635,543	29,557	357,095	21,818	68,163	21,730	75,838	36,831	48,719	188,780	316,811	109,338	19,838	95,359	11,479

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 fishery (A)

2. Mining &amp; quarrying (B)

3. Manufacturing ©

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

7. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicle and motor cycled (G)

8. Transportation and storage (H)

9. Accommodation and storage (I)

10. Information and communication (J)

11. Financial and insurance activities (K)

13. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14. Administrative and support service activities (N)

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

16. Education (P)

17. Human health and social work activities (Q)

19. Other service activities (S)

20. Activated of Household as employers: undifferentiated goods and services- producing activities of households for own use (T)

Others

12. Real estate activities (L)

18. Arts, entertainment and recreation ©

21. Activities of extra territorial organization &amp; bodies (U)

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

Major industry group	Year								
	2018	2019	2020	2019Q4	2020Q4	2021Q1	2021Q2	2021Q3	2021Q4
Total	8,015,166	8,180,693	7,999,093	8,181,442	8,031,233	8,181,49	8,082,303	8,043,868	8,146,367
Agriculture	2,043,698	2,071,940	2,169,679	2,215,128	2,330,266	2,083,102	2,250,273	2,390,849	2,127,835
Industry	2,239,262	2,258,421	2,152,746	2,196,895	2,101,645	2,228,028	2,041,674	1,969,427	2,198,797
Services	3,732,206	3,850,332	3,676,668	3,769,420	3,599,322	3,870,361	3,790,355	3,683,592	3,819,735

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

Major industry group	Year								
	2018	2019	2020	2019Q4	2020Q4	2021Q1	2021Q2	2021Q3	2021Q4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	25.5	25.3	27.1	27.1	29.0	25.5	27.8	29.7	26.1
Industry	27.9	27.6	26.9	26.9	26.2	27.2	25.3	24.5	27.0
Services	46.6	47.1	46.0	46.1	44.8	47.3	46.9	45.8	46.9

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

### Agriculture

1. Agriculture, forestry and fishery (A)

### Industries

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

### Services

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

Table 7- Currently employed person by occupation groups (based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes

Year	Occupation group										
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
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
2020	7,999,093	512,087	531,298	695,206	306,448	756,851	1,373,582	1,222,380	729,394	1,833,523	38,325
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
2021Q1	8,181,491	351,632	632,856	663,271	287,492	965,816	1,235,624	1,136,273	890,197	1,990,776	27,553
2021Q2	8,082,303	292,699	566,083	668,897	317,059	924,873	1,323,606	1,118,628	808,019	2,019,552	42,887
2021Q3	8,043,868	345,062	525,376	702,917	262,691	909,791	1,353,767	1,097,480	762,730	2,046,290	37,766
2021Q4	8,146,367	309,683	580,183	692,866	262,552	990,817	1,321,585	1,216,303	806,868	1,945,313	20,199

Table 7A - currently employed person by occupation groups (based on ISCO 08) - Male

Year	Occupation group										
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
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
2020	5,372,947	373,757	191,282	452,640	140,458	540,840	984,507	883,796	617,644	1,154,222	33,801
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
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
2021Q1	5,369,194	289,474	243,561	419,111	146,129	598,708	935,292	793,085	691,364	1,226,848	25,624
2021Q2	5,504,060	239,158	217,735	431,059	155,014	679,659	996,627	870,358	633,074	1,241,306	40,070
2021Q3	5,430,176	289,273	179,589	470,377	119,956	622,488	1,021,808	845,412	608,648	1,236,474	36,151
2021Q4	5,353,688	228,229	206,646	440,436	113,661	656,297	970,338	863,443	645,616	1,208,823	20,199

Table 7B - currently employed person by occupation groups (based on ISCO 08) - Female

Year	Occupation group										
	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
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	160,338	213,557	431,997	415,051	95,138	676,978	5,092
2020	2,626,146	138,329	340,016	242,566	165,990	216,011	389,075	338,584	111,750	679,301	4,524
2019Q4	2,827,890	146,256	409,399	242,631	168,522	208,707	405,459	407,254	117,328	717,731	4,604
2020Q4	2,638,742	83,663	316,905	235,999	151,188	278,934	414,847	296,564	136,503	722,399	1,739
2021Q1	2,812,297	62,159	389,296	244,160	141,363	367,108	300,332	343,188	198,833	763,928	1,930
2021Q2	2,578,243	53,541	348,348	237,838	162,045	245,214	326,979	248,270	174,945	778,246	2,817
2021Q3	2,613,692	55,789	345,787	232,540	142,735	287,302	331,959	252,068	154,081	809,816	1,615
2021Q4	2,792,679	81,454	373,536	252,430	148,891	334,520	351,247	352,859	161,252	736,489	.....

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

..... Not Reported

1. Managers, senior officials and legislators
2. Professionals
3. Technicians and associate professionals
4. Clerks and clerical support workers
5. Services and sales workers

6. Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
7. Craft and related trades workers
8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers
9. Elementary occupations
0. Armed forces occupations & unidentified occupations

**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	4.8	1.6	5.3	9.5	15.6	33.4	29.7
1	100.0	3.7	2.5	9.8	16.7	21.4	28.4	17.5
2	100.0	8.1	11.0	2.0	13.4	9.7	18.1	37.6
3	100.0	3.4	1.1	3.8	7.7	11.7	37.4	34.9
6	100.0	7.2	1.7	5.4	8.5	17.2	37.0	23.0
7	100.0	3.2	0.3	2.3	6.1	11.0	25.9	51.1
8	100.0	3.0	0.5	4.5	8.1	9.0	26.7	48.1
9	100.0	14.1	1.3	0.9	10.2	11.5	25.8	36.3
10	100.0	....	....	....	1.6	4.8	51.5	42.2
11	100.0	4.0	0.8	1.5	2.0	5.5	56.4	29.8
13	100.0	4.6	....	2.2	12.2	10.5	48.2	22.3
14	100.0	10.8	1.2	3.8	1.6	3.5	41.7	37.5
15	100.0	4.2	0.4	0.8	4.0	5.9	62.2	22.6
16	100.0	11.9	3.0	6.6	8.0	43.7	23.8	3.1
17	100.0	1.7	0.9	....	1.5	7.8	51.5	36.7
19	100.0	3.8	4.2	13.3	4.6	18.6	22.1	33.3
20	100.0	5.7	2.8	6.8	11.3	18.2	25.8	29.5
Other	100.0	7.3	10.1	4.5	6.5	9.0	34.6	28.0

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

....Not Reported

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

**Industry group**

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

Table 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
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
2020	100.0	13.5	39.3	21.5	13.8	12.0
2019Q4	100.0	13.4	35.7	22.4	13.7	14.9
2020Q4	100.0	10.8	39.5	25.1	15.5	9.1
2021Q1	100.0	8.5	43.6	23.1	16.5	8.3
2021Q2	100.0	9.8	46.4	18.7	14.8	10.4
2021Q3	100.0	8.4	38.5	24.7	15.4	13.0
2021Q4	100.0	9.0	41.5	22.2	13.9	13.3

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
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
2020	100.0	18.8	41.0	18.6	11.9	9.7
2019Q4	100.0	18.0	35.4	22.5	7.9	16.3
2020Q4	100.0	16.9	40.9	20.8	14.1	7.2
2021Q1	100.0	13.6	46.2	20.6	13.6	6.0
2021Q2	100.0	13.0	48.4	14.4	11.6	12.6
2021Q3	100.0	12.2	40.6	24.0	11.1	12.2
2021Q4	100.0	10.0	44.8	21.3	12.0	11.8

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
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
2020	100.0	8.5	37.7	24.1	15.6	14.1
2019Q4	100.0	9.5	35.9	22.4	18.6	13.7
2020Q4	100.0	4.3	37.9	29.6	17.1	11.1
2021Q1	100.0	4.4	41.6	25.0	18.8	10.1
2021Q2	100.0	6.5	44.3	23.0	17.9	8.3
2021Q3	100.0	4.9	36.7	25.3	19.3	13.8
2021Q4	100.0	8.2	38.6	23.0	15.6	14.6

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
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
2020	100.0	2.2	32.6	23.5	41.7
2019Q4	100.0	3.2	34.7	20.9	41.2
2020Q4	100.0	2.1	29.7	25.7	42.5
2021Q1	100.0	0.5	28.9	24.3	46.4
2021Q2	100.0	1.4	28.2	25.4	44.9
2021Q3	100.0	2.0	29.0	25.5	43.5
2021Q4	100.0	1.8	32.7	24.5	41.0

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
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
2020	100.0	2.3	41.5	27.7	28.5
2019Q4	100.0	2.6	45.9	23.3	28.2
2020Q4	100.0	1.1	34.8	34.8	29.3
2021Q1	100.0	0.4	36.2	29.5	33.9
2021Q2	100.0	2.4	33.8	32.1	31.7
2021Q3	100.0	1.9	36.2	29.7	32.2
2021Q4	100.0	2.5	38.3	27.8	31.4

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
2015	100.0	3.0	27.7	19.4	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
2020	100.0	2.2	24.2	19.7	53.9
2019Q4	100.0	3.6	25.3	18.9	52.1
2020Q4	100.0	3.2	24.1	16.1	56.6
2021Q1	100.0	0.5	23.1	20.2	56.2
2021Q2	100.0	0.4	22.5	18.6	58.4
2021Q3	100.0	2.0	22.6	21.7	53.8
2021Q4	100.0	1.1	27.8	21.6	49.5

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	391,509	120,616	112,696	158,197
%	100.0	30.8	28.8	40.4
Male	182,722	65,627	58,755	58,340
%	100.0	35.9	32.2	31.9
Female	208,787	54,989	53,941	99,857
%	100.0	26.3	25.8	47.8

Table 12 – Standard error and coefficient of variation of selected variation

	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)	17,259,921	153,022	0.9			
Employed population	8,146,367	103,814	1.3			
Unemployment population	391,509	24,736	6.3			
Employment rate				95.4	0.28	0.29
Unemployment rate				4.6	0.28	6.13
Labour force	8,537,876	107,038	1.3			
Not in labour force	8,722,045	118,646	1.4			
<b>Employed persons by major industry groups</b>						
1	2,127,835	81,874	3.8			
2	54,434	12,050	22.1			
3	1,422,642	52,668	3.7			
6	721,721	34,968	4.8			
7	1,180,191	46,615	3.9			
8	457,093	27,065	5.9			
9	197,211	18,260	9.3			
10	70,098	11,155	15.9			
11	166,707	15,164	9.1			
13	79,426	11,148	14.0			
14	185,532	16,420	8.9			
15	469,541	27,906	5.9			
16	433,609	25,496	5.9			
17	164,954	16,384	9.9			
19	119,158	12,379	10.4			
20	245,231	23,344	9.5			
Other	50,984	7,988	15.7			
<b>Unemployed persons by level of education</b>						
Below grade 6	7,011	2,706	38.6			
Grade 6 – 10	128,102	12,670	9.9			
G.C.E.(O/L)/ N.C.G.E.	95,789	12,183	12.7			
G.C.E.(A/L)/ H.N.G.E. & above	160,607	11,476	7.1			

**Industry group**

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



## 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 person 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 she/he 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 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)

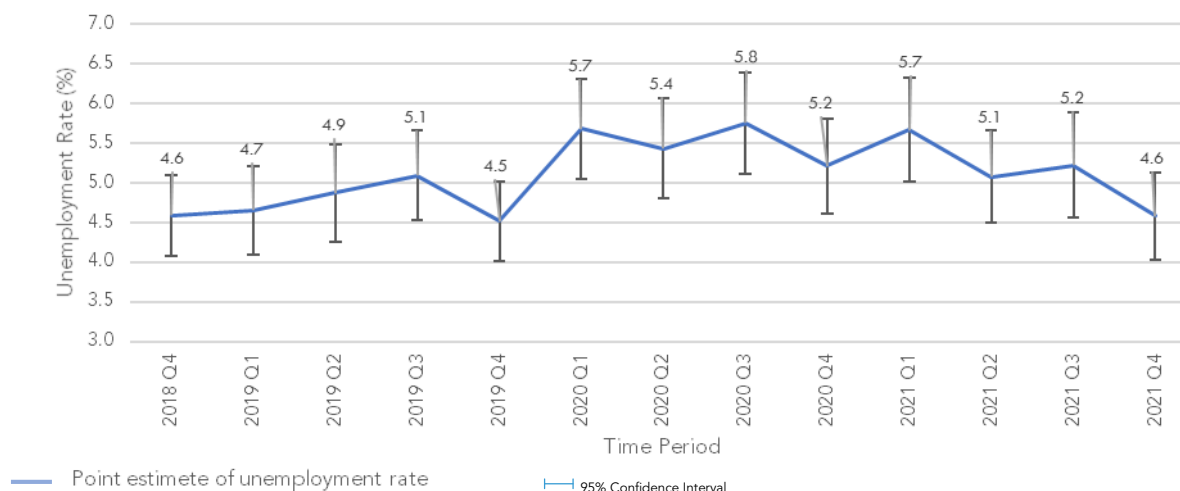
$$4.5 \pm (0.275) * (1.96)$$

$$(4.5 \pm 0.539)$$

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 (2018Q4 - 2021Q4)



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 2018/2021, 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, its 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
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
2020	8,466,606	58,917	0.70	8,351,075	8,582,137	7,999,093	56,610	0.71	7,888,086	8,110,101
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
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
2021Q1	8,673,078	118,961	1.37	8,439,427	8,906,728	8,181,491	113,000	1.38	7,959,548	8,403,433
2021Q2	8,514,766	117,564	1.38	8,283,862	8,745,670	8,082,303	112,486	1.39	7,861,372	8,303,233
2021Q3	8,487,440	114,908	1.35	8,261,752	8,713,128	8,043,868	111,964	1.39	7,823,963	8,263,773
2021Q4	8,537,876	107,038	1.25	8,327,645	8,748,108	8,146,367	103,814	1.27	7,942,466	8,350,268

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V. (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V. (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
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
2020	467,513	14,029	3.00	440,004	495,022	5.5	0.2	2.88	5.2	5.8
2019Q4	387,460	22,861	5.90	342,558	432,362	4.5	0.3	5.66	4.0	5.0
2020Q4	441,997	26,377	5.97	390,191	493,803	5.2	0.3	5.80	4.6	5.8
2021Q1	491,587	30,185	6.14	432,300	550,873	5.7	0.3	5.85	5.0	6.3
2021Q2	432,463	26,450	6.12	380,513	484,413	5.1	0.3	5.85	4.5	5.7
2021Q3	443,572	29,504	6.65	385,624	501,519	5.2	0.3	6.48	4.6	5.9
2021Q4	391,509	24,736	6.32	342,924	440,094	4.6	0.3	6.13	4.0	5.1

## 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) | <b>Number of Hours of work</b> | : | A person who works at least one hour during the reference week, is Work considered employed, under these definitions.  |
| (2) | <b>Working Age Population</b>  | : | 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) | <b>Employment Status</b>       | : | All, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Paid employees, (those who work for wages/salaries).</li> <li>b. Employers (who have at least one paid employee under them).</li> <li>c. Own account workers (who carry out the economic activity without having any paid employees).</li> <li>d. Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out by their own household, without wages/salaries).</li> </ul> |

The validity of the above concepts and definitions is raised due to the following reasons.

- |     |                                |   |  |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|--|
| (1) | <b>Number of Hours of Work</b> | : | Some pointed out that one hour per week is too low, to consider a person to be employed.   |
| (2) | <b>Working Age Population</b>  | : | 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) | <b>Employment Status</b>       | : | 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) | <b>Number of Hours of Work</b>    | : | Persons who work <b>20 hours or more per week only</b> are considered to be employed.   |
| (2) | <b>Contributing Family Worker</b> | : | Contributing family workers are <b>not</b> considered as employed. They are considered as <b>economically inactive</b> (not in the labour force) so only, <b>a) paid employees b) employers and c) own account workers are considered to be employed.</b> |

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)	
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	373,593	5.0	8,767,233
2019	16,424,016	7,609,700	46.3	7,198,383	94.6	411,318	5.4	8,814,316
2020	16,739,396	7,438,037	44.4	6,970,524	93.7	467,513	6.3	9,301,359
2019Q4	16,511,101	7,604,140	46.1	7,216,679	94.9	387,460	5.1	8,906,962
2020Q4	16,912,850	7,439,965	44.0	6,997,968	94.1	441,997	5.9	9,472,884
2021Q1	17,025,000	7,779,648	45.7	7,288,061	93.7	491,587	6.3	9,245,352
2021Q2	17,092,123	7,219,755	42.2	6,787,292	94.0	432,463	6.0	9,872,368
2021Q3	17,157,591	7,322,128	42.7	6,878,556	93.9	443,572	6.1	9,835,463
2021Q4	17,259,921	7,562,737	43.8	7,171,228	94.8	391,509	5.2	9,697,184

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
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
2020	467,513	6.3	62,910	38.0	183,722	27.5	100,359	13.0	64,493	3.9	56,029	1.3
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
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
2021Q1	491,587	6.3	41,723	30.4	214,538	31.3	113,387	13.8	81,119	4.8	40,820	0.9
2021Q2	432,463	6.0	42,284	36.6	200,484	34.1	80,678	10.3	63,867	4.2	45,150	1.1
2021Q3	443,572	6.1	37,040	27.7	170,865	27.9	109,485	14.9	68,376	4.3	57,806	1.4
2021Q4	391,509	5.2	35,362	29.1	162,528	25.7	86,975	11.0	54,532	3.4	52,112	1.2

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	
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
2020	No	6,970,524	1,592,043	51,906	1,276,171	660,251	970,228	494,638	186,117	55,187	174,496	82,307	157,459	433,734	370,960	152,648	114,254	153,050	45,075
	%	100.0	22.8	0.7	18.3	9.5	13.9	7.1	2.7	0.8	2.5	1.2	2.3	6.2	5.3	2.2	1.6	2.2	0.6
2019Q4	No	7,216,679	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
	%	100.0	21.1	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
2020Q4	No	6,997,968	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
	%	100.0	22.0	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
2021Q1	No	7,288,061	1,612,570	57,168	1,311,637	681,122	1,064,661	492,513	188,016	67,096	157,996	86,181	110,047	507,180	433,574	148,064	119,170	207,144	43,920
	%	100.0	22.1	0.8	18.0	9.3	14.6	6.8	2.6	0.9	2.2	1.2	1.5	7.0	5.9	2.0	1.6	2.8	0.6
2021Q2	No	6,787,292	1,590,524	42,038	1,161,475	602,815	943,740	464,258	181,757	68,491	211,074	211,074	118,790	473,037	331,556	193,035	124,206	153,547	42,008
	%	100.0	23.4	0.6	17.1	8.9	13.9	6.8	2.7	1.0	3.1	3.1	1.8	7.0	4.9	2.8	1.8	2.3	0.6
2021Q3	No	6,878,556	1,755,378	45,779	1,159,277	623,103	997,445	420,659	183,842	80,368	176,135	176,135	112,516	461,552	337,741	174,793	97,327	150,708	46,504
	%	100.0	25.5	0.7	16.9	9.1	14.5	6.1	2.7	1.2	2.6	2.6	1.6	6.7	4.9	2.5	1.4	2.2	0.7
2021Q4	No	7,171,228	1,623,599	46,097	1,314,537	666,725	1,054,799	433,316	178,748	69,161	162,927	162,927	175,622	463,829	390,327	159,336	96,361	214,600	43,542
	%	100.0	21.5	0.6	18.9	9.3	14.7	6.9	2.9	1.0	2.3	2.3	2.4	6.5	5.4	2.2	1.4	3.0	0.6

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agriculture forestry and fishery (A)</li> <li>2. Mining &amp; quarrying (B)</li> <li>3. Manufacturing (C)</li> <li>6. Construction, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E, F)</li> <li>7. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)</li> <li>8. Transportation and storage (H)</li> <li>9. Accommodation and food services activities (I)</li> <li>10. Information and communication (J)</li> <li>11. Financial and insurance activities (K)</li> <li>13. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)</li> <li>14. Administrative and support service activities (N)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Public administration and defense compulsory social security (O)</li> <li>16. Education (P)</li> <li>17. Human health and social work activities (Q)</li> <li>19. Other service activities (S)</li> <li>20. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)</li> </ul> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Real estate activities (L)</li> <li>18. Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)</li> <li>21. Activities of extra territorial organizations &amp; bodies (U)</li> </ul> |
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# 2021

## Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Quarterly Report 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter





### The Vision of DCS

“To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country’s development goals.”




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