



DCS

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

Quarterly Report

4th Quarter - 2023

SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Quarterly Report – 2023
Fourth Quarter

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS
Ministry of Finance, Economic 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 fourth quarter 2023 was done in the month of October, November and December in year 2023. 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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Acknowledgements

This report is the hundred and twenty eighth 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 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, Mr. L.S.N. Perera, Ms. M.W.L.C.M. Chandrarathne, 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 Statistical Officer 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, Mr. P.M.R. Fernando, former Additional Director General (ICT) and Mr. W.H.P.W. Weerasiri, current Additional Director General (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, former 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 Mr. S.H. Mansoor, 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									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021Q4	2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Labour force participation rate										
By Gender										
Total	52.3	50.6	49.9	49.8	49.5	48.9	49.9	48.6	48.8	47.1
Male	73.0	71.9	71.0	70.5	70.2	69.0	69.6	68.8	68.4	67.4
Female	34.5	32.0	31.8	32.1	32.0	31.6	32.7	31.1	32.0	29.4
By residential sector										
Total	52.3	50.6	49.9	49.8	49.5	48.9	49.9	48.6	48.8	47.1
Urban	50.2	47.0	46.9	47.2	46.8	45.9	47.5	46.8	45.2	44.4
Rural	52.7	51.3	50.5	50.3	50.0	49.5	50.4	49.0	49.6	47.6
Unemployment Rate										
By Gender										
Total	4.8	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	5.2	4.7	4.3
Male	3.3	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.4	4.1	3.7	3.1
Female	7.4	8.5	7.9	6.5	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.4	6.7	6.8
By selected age Group (Year)										
20 - 29	15.3	18.1	18.3	16.2	16.3	17.2	17.1	16.4	17.7	16.6
20 - 24	20.3	25.2	26.8	21.8	23.6	23.3	21.5	22.0	23.1	20.0
25 - 29	11.0	12.0	11.4	11.7	10.3	12.3	13.6	11.6	13.4	13.6
By selected educational level										
GCE A/L and above										
Total	8.5	9.8	9.1	7.8	7.6	7.2	8.3	8.0	8.4	7.1
Male	5.0	6.2	6.2	5.5	5.5	5.2	4.7	6.3	6.8	5.5
Female	11.9	13.6	12.2	10.1	9.6	9.3	12.0	9.9	9.9	8.9
Employed population										
By Gender										
Total	8,180,693	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,146,367	8,015,006	8,199,792	8,014,492	8,006,250	7,819,131
Male	5,368,896	5,372,947	5,414,280	5,373,965	5,353,688	5,279,881	5,402,656	5,323,491	5,234,273	5,269,831
Female	2,811,796	2,626,146	2,699,228	2,773,766	2,792,679	2,735,125	2,797,136	2,691,001	2,771,977	2,549,300
By industry (Percentage)										
Total	8,180,693	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,146,367	8,015,006	8,199,792	8,014,492	8,006,250	7,819,131
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,071,940	2,169,679	2,213,015	2,158,559	2,127,835	2,258,476	2,187,563	2,058,421	2,032,281	2,075,112
%	25.3	27.1	27.3	26.5	26.1	28.2	26.7	25.7	25.4	26.5
Industry	2,258,421	2,152,746	2,109,482	2,158,199	2,198,797	1,946,352	2,090,031	2,104,249	2,001,320	1,977,017
%	27.6	26.9	26.0	26.5	27.0	24.3	25.5	26.3	25.0	25.3
Services	3,850,332	3,676,668	3,791,011	3,830,973	3,819,735	3,810,178	3,922,198	3,851,822	3,972,650	3,767,002
%	47.1	46.0	46.7	47.0	46.9	47.5	47.8	48.1	49.6	48.2
By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0*	6.4	14.6	9.6	5.8	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.5	3.0
1 - 9	1.7	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.8	2.0
10 - 39	26.8	27.1	29.6	31.9	30.4	31.6	30.5	32.6	30.9	31.0
40 & above	65.1	56.2	58.7	60.3	63.2	61.7	62.7	60.0	61.8	64.0

* 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 2023
Fourth Quarter
Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics

15 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	17,353,546	8,063,535	9,290,011	2,935,848	14,417,699
Labour force in this age group	8,170,434	5,436,230	2,734,204	1,303,786	6,866,648
Labour force participation rate	47.1	67.4	29.4	44.4	47.6
Employed population	7,819,131	5,269,831	2,549,300	1,251,826	6,567,305
Employment rate	95.7	96.9	93.2	96.0	95.6
Unemployed population	351,303	166,399	184,904	51,960	299,343
Unemployment rate	4.3	3.1	6.8	4.0	4.4
Not in labour force	9,183,112	2,627,306	6,555,807	1,632,061	7,551,051

18 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (18 years & over)	16,217,593	7,489,451	8,728,142	2,760,523	13,457,069
Labour force in this age group	8,140,769	5,411,427	2,729,343	1,302,106	6,838,663
Labour force participation rate	50.2	72.3	31.3	47.2	50.8
Employed population	7,799,394	5,251,968	2,547,425	1,250,910	6,548,484
Employment rate	95.8	97.1	93.3	96.1	95.8
Unemployed population	341,376	159,458	181,917	51,196	290,180
Unemployment rate	4.2	2.9	6.7	3.9	4.2
Not in labour force	8,076,823	2,078,024	5,998,799	1,458,417	6,618,406

20 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	15,534,316	7,145,816	8,388,501	2,659,359	12,874,957
Labour force in this age group	8,044,860	5,347,897	2,696,962	1,291,049	6,753,811
Labour force participation rate	51.8	74.8	32.2	48.5	52.5
Employed population	7,720,208	5,195,948	2,524,261	1,242,524	6,477,684
Employment rate	96.0	97.2	93.6	96.2	95.9
Unemployed population	324,652	151,950	172,702	48,524	276,128
Unemployment rate	4.0	2.8	6.4	3.8	4.1
Not in labour force	7,489,456	1,797,918	5,691,538	1,368,311	6,121,146

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Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes

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

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 (3rd 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 - 2023

Sector	Economically Active Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,170,434	100	5,436,230	66.5	2,734,204	33.5
Urban	1,303,786	100	866,399	66.5	437,387	33.5
Rural	6,471,504	100	4,314,576	66.7	2,156,928	33.3
Estate	395,144	100	255,255	64.6	139,889	35.4

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector, fourth quarter - 2023

Sector	Economically Inactive Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	9,183,112	100	2,627,306	28.6	6,555,807	71.4
Urban	1,632,061	100	494,263	30.3	1,137,799	69.7
Rural	7,201,687	100	2,028,257	28.2	5,173,429	71.8
Estate	349,364	100	104,786	30.0	244,579	70.0

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.1 million in the fourth quarter 2023. Of which 66.5 percent are males and 33.5 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 9.2 million. Out of the economically inactive population 28.6 percent are males and 71.4 percent are females. (Table 2)

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year, 2019 - 2023Q4

Year	Total	Male	Female
2019	52.3	73.0	34.5
2020	50.6	71.9	32.0
2021	49.9	71.0	31.8
2022	49.8	70.5	32.1
2021 Q4	49.5	70.2	32.0
2022 Q4	48.9	69.0	31.6
2023 Q1	49.9	69.6	32.7
2023 Q2	48.6	68.8	31.1
2023 Q3	48.8	68.4	32.0
2023 Q4	47.1	67.4	29.4

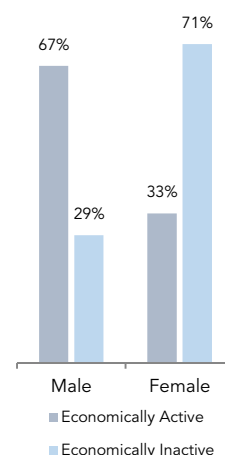
Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs by gender since year 2019. Referring the Table 3, it is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of female.

Table 4: LFPR by age group and gender, fourth quarter – 2023

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	47.1	67.4	29.4
15 - 19	6.9	9.6	4.1*
20 - 24	42.5	56.0	30.8
25 - 29	65.5	85.7	45.1
30 - 34	67.8	94.1	42.6
35 - 39	67.1	94.3	45.3
40 - 44	66.9	94.5	43.4
45 - 49	67.0	94.0	42.9
50 - 54	62.1	88.8	39.8
55 - 59	57.5	84.9	32.7
60+	26.8	44.0	13.3

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

Figure 1: Distribution of economically active vs inactive population, fourth quarter 2023



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 40 - 44 years (94.5%), while that for female is reported from 35 - 39 age group (45.3%).

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 2022 – fourth quarter 2023)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2022 Q4	8,015,006	2,258,476	1,946,352	3,810,178
(%)	100.0	28.2	24.3	47.5
2023 Q1	8,199,792	2,187,563	2,090,031	3,922,198
(%)	100.0	26.7	25.5	47.8
2023 Q2	8,014,492	2,058,421	2,104,249	3,851,822
(%)	100.0	25.7	26.3	48.1
2023 Q3	8,006,250	2,032,281	2,001,320	3,972,650
(%)	100.0	25.4	25.0	49.6
2023 Q4	7,819,131	2,075,112	1,977,017	3,767,002
(%)	100.0	26.5	25.3	48.2

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from fourth quarter 2022 to fourth quarter 2023. During fourth quarter of 2023, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as 7.8 million. Of which, about 48.2 percent engaged in service sector, 26.5 percent in agriculture sector and 25.3 percent in industry sector. In the fourth quarter of 2023, there is an increase in employed persons in industry sector compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

Main industry categories and sub sectors

Agriculture
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 - 2023

Employment Status	Sector					
	Sri Lanka		Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	7,819,131	100.0	2,075,112	26.5	5,744,019	73.5
Employee	4,541,837	100.0	748,524	16.5	3,793,313	83.5
Public	1,042,305	100.0	15,775*	1.5*	1,026,530	98.5
Private	3,499,532	100.0	732,749	20.9	2,766,783	79.1
Employer	200,765	100.0	25,496*	12.7*	175,269	87.3
Own Account Worker	2,667,262	100.0	1,079,381	40.5	1,587,881	59.5
Contributing Family Worker	409,268	100.0	221,711	54.2	187,556	45.8

*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 73.5 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 industry sector. Among employed females 25.3 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 27.1 percent for males.

Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture sector, fourth quarter - 2023

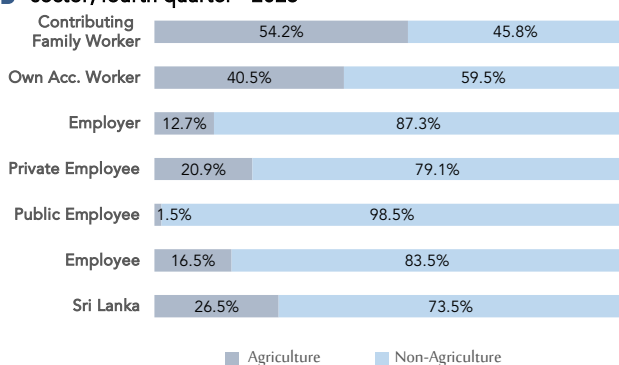


Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by major industry group & gender, fourth quarter – 2023

Major Industry group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.5	27.1	25.3
Industry	25.3	25.5	24.9
Services	48.2	47.4	49.8

Unemployment

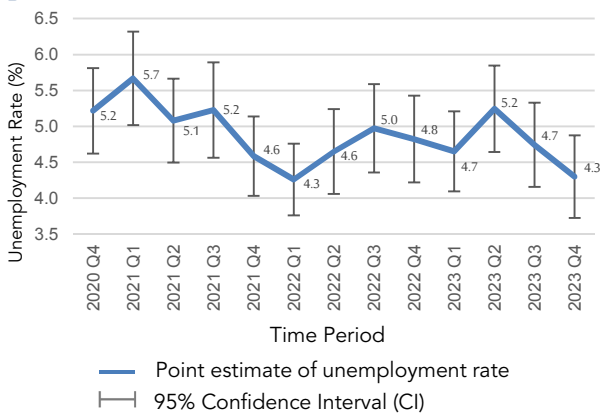
Unemployed

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, 2020Q4 - 2023Q4



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 351,303 during the fourth quarter 2023. The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2023 is 4.3 percent.

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

Table 8: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by age group and gender, fourth quarter - 2023

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
		Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	351,303	4.3	3.1	6.8
15 - 24	155,384	20.2	15.7	27.9
25 - 29	98,118	13.6	9.4	21.7
Over 30	97,800	1.5	1.0	2.3

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

Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by age group and gender, fourth quarter 2023



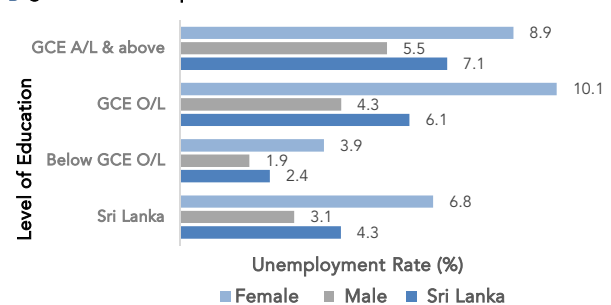
As per the table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 6.8 percent and it is 3.1 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the fourth quarter 2023 is 20.2 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 15.7 and 27.9 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 - 2023

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
		Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	351,303	4.3	3.1	6.8
Below GCE O/L	110,624	2.4	1.9	3.9
GCE O/L	92,586	6.1	4.3	10.1
GCE A/L & above	148,092	7.1	5.5	8.9

Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by level of education and gender, fourth quarter 2023



The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E.(A/L) and above group which is 7.1 percent. Corresponding percentages are 5.5 percent and 8.9 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)	
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
2021	17,133,659	8,553,290	49.9	8,113,507	94.9	439,783	5.1	8,580,369
2022	17,161,973	8,547,062	49.8	8,147,731	95.3	399,332	4.7	8,614,911
2021Q4	17,259,921	8,537,876	49.5	8,146,367	95.4	391,509	4.6	8,722,045
2022Q4	17,230,431	8,421,185	48.9	8,015,006	95.2	406,179	4.8	8,809,246
2023Q1	17,233,193	8,599,791	49.9	8,199,792	95.3	399,999	4.7	8,633,402
2023Q2	17,411,969	8,458,175	48.6	8,014,492	94.8	443,683	5.2	8,953,794
2023Q3	17,227,262	8,404,925	48.8	8,006,250	95.3	398,674	4.7	8,822,337
2023Q4	17,353,546	8,170,434	47.1	7,819,131	95.7	351,303	4.3	9,183,112

Table 1 A– 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)	
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
2021	7,915,659	5,621,223	71.0	5,414,280	96.3	206,943	3.7	2,294,436
2022	7,914,636	5,580,786	70.5	5,373,965	96.3	206,822	3.7	2,333,850
2021Q4	7,883,155	5,536,410	70.2	5,353,688	96.7	182,722	3.3	2,346,744
2022Q4	7,964,308	5,494,878	69.0	5,279,881	96.1	214,997	3.9	2,469,430
2023Q1	8,031,842	5,593,197	69.6	5,402,656	96.6	190,541	3.4	2,438,645
2023Q2	8,065,309	5,552,332	68.8	5,323,491	95.9	228,841	4.1	2,512,977
2023Q3	7,938,352	5,432,622	68.4	5,234,273	96.3	198,349	3.7	2,505,730
2023Q4	8,063,535	5,436,230	67.4	5,269,831	96.9	166,399	3.1	2,627,306

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)	
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
2021	9,218,000	2,932,067	31.8	2,699,228	92.1	232,840	7.9	6,285,933
2022	9,247,337	2,966,276	32.1	2,773,766	93.5	192,510	6.5	6,281,061
2021Q4	9,376,767	3,001,466	32.0	2,792,679	93.0	208,787	7.0	6,375,301
2022Q4	9,266,123	2,926,307	31.6	2,735,125	93.5	191,182	6.5	6,339,815
2023Q1	9,201,351	3,006,594	32.7	2,797,136	93.0	209,458	7.0	6,194,757
2023Q2	9,346,660	2,905,844	31.1	2,691,001	92.6	214,842	7.4	6,440,817
2023Q3	9,288,909	2,972,302	32.0	2,771,977	93.3	200,325	6.7	6,316,607
2023Q4	9,290,011	2,734,204	29.4	2,549,300	93.2	184,904	6.8	6,555,807

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

Age	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)	
All ages	17,353,546	8,170,434	47.1	7,819,131	95.7	351,303	4.3	9,183,112
15 – 19 Yrs	1,819,230	125,574	6.9	98,923	78.8	26,651	21.2	1,693,656
20 – 24 Yrs	1,514,348	643,422	42.5	514,689	80.0	128,733	20.0	870,927
25 – 29 Yrs	1,102,033	721,457	65.5	623,339	86.4	98,118	13.6	380,576
30 – 39 Yrs	2,444,600	1,648,014	67.4	1,599,261	97.0	48,753	3.0	796,586
40+ Yrs	10,473,335	5,031,967	48.0	4,982,920	99.0	49,047	1.0	5,441,367

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

Age	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)	
All ages	8,063,535	5,436,230	67.4	5,269,831	96.9	166,399	3.1	2,627,306
15 – 19 Yrs	917,720	88,332	9.6	73,883	83.6	14,449	16.4	829,388
20 – 24 Yrs	704,922	394,419	56.0	333,312	84.5	61,107	15.5	310,503
25 – 29 Yrs	553,154	474,149	85.7	429,751	90.6	44,398	9.4	79,005
30 – 39 Yrs	1,137,627	1,072,030	94.2	1,049,770	97.9	22,260	2.1	65,597
40+ Yrs	4,750,113	3,407,300	71.7	3,383,115	99.3	24,185	0.7	1,342,814

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

Age	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)	
All ages	9,290,011	2,734,204	29.4	2,549,300	93.2	184,904	6.8	6,555,807
15 – 19 Yrs	901,511	37,242	4.1	25,040	67.2	12,202	32.8	864,269
20 – 24 Yrs	809,427	249,003	30.8	181,377	72.8	67,626	27.2	560,424
25 – 29 Yrs	548,879	247,309	45.1	193,588	78.3	53,720	21.7	301,571
30 – 39 Yrs	1,306,973	575,984	44.1	549,491	95.4	26,493	4.6	730,989
40+ Yrs	5,723,221	1,624,667	28.4	1,599,805	98.5	24,863	1.5	4,098,554

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
2018	100.0	1.8	7.2	9.0	22.6	59.4
2019	100.0	1.9	7.1	9.3	22.6	59.1
2020	100.0	1.7	6.8	9.2	22.0	60.2
2021	100.0	1.4	6.3	9.4	21.1	61.8
2022	100.0	1.3	6.5	9.0	21.4	61.8
2021Q4	100.0	1.3	6.4	9.3	21.2	61.8
2022Q4	100.0	1.0	6.1	8.9	21.0	62.9
2023Q1	100.0	1.3	6.3	8.4	20.1	64.0
2023Q2	100.0	1.0	6.5	8.6	20.5	63.3
2023Q3	100.0	1.2	6.2	8.6	20.2	63.8
2023Q4	100.0	1.3	6.6	8.0	20.5	63.7

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

Year	All ages	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40+ Yrs
2018	100.0	2.0	7.3	9.4	22.6	58.7
2019	100.0	2.1	7.2	9.4	22.3	59.0
2020	100.0	1.9	7.0	9.1	21.8	60.3
2021	100.0	1.6	6.4	9.4	20.5	62.0
2022	100.0	1.3	6.4	9.1	21.2	62.0
2021Q4	100.0	1.6	6.3	9.4	20.9	61.8
2022Q4	100.0	1.2	6.2	8.9	21.1	62.6
2023Q1	100.0	1.5	6.2	8.3	20.1	63.9
2023Q2	100.0	1.1	6.8	8.5	20.2	63.3
2023Q3	100.0	1.4	6.2	8.5	19.8	64.1
2023Q4	100.0	1.4	6.3	8.2	19.9	64.2

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

Year	All ages	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40+ Yrs
2018	100.0	1.4	6.9	8.3	22.7	60.7
2019	100.0	1.4	7.0	9.1	23.1	59.4
2020	100.0	1.4	6.5	9.3	22.6	60.1
2021	100.0	1.1	6.0	9.3	22.3	61.4
2022	100.0	1.1	6.8	8.9	21.8	61.4
2021Q4	100.0	0.9	6.7	9.0	21.7	61.7
2022Q4	100.0	0.7	6.0	8.9	20.8	63.6
2023Q1	100.0	0.7	6.5	8.4	20.1	64.2
2023Q2	100.0	0.7	5.9	8.8	21.2	63.3
2023Q3	100.0	0.9	6.2	8.8	20.8	63.3
2023Q4	100.0	1.0	7.1	7.6	21.6	62.8

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
2018	100.0	14.9	45.9	18.1	21.2
2019	100.0	14.0	45.8	17.4	22.8
2020	100.0	13.7	46.0	17.8	22.5
2021	100.0	13.0	45.7	17.6	23.8
2022	100.0	12.7	45.1	17.6	24.6
2021Q4	100.0	13.6	45.0	17.5	23.9
2022Q4	100.0	13.1	44.4	16.9	25.6
2023Q1	100.0	11.8	44.2	19.8	24.3
2023Q2	100.0	13.2	43.2	17.8	25.8
2023Q3	100.0	13.5	42.8	18.1	25.6
2023Q4	100.0	11.9	45.3	18.1	24.7

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
2018	100.0	14.7	49.7	18.8	16.7
2019	100.0	14.1	49.6	18.0	18.2
2020	100.0	13.8	49.8	18.3	18.1
2021	100.0	13.0	49.6	18.6	18.8
2022	100.0	13.0	49.1	18.5	19.4
2021Q4	100.0	13.5	49.5	18.7	18.3
2022Q4	100.0	13.4	48.6	17.4	20.6
2023Q1	100.0	12.5	47.8	20.1	19.7
2023Q2	100.0	13.5	47.2	18.7	20.6
2023Q3	100.0	13.6	47.3	19.4	19.7
2023Q4	100.0	12.2	49.6	18.7	19.5

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
2018	100.0	15.2	38.4	16.5	29.9
2019	100.0	13.8	38.4	16.3	31.6
2020	100.0	13.4	38.1	16.8	31.7
2021	100.0	12.8	37.8	15.5	33.8
2022	100.0	12.0	37.2	16.1	34.7
2021Q4	100.0	13.7	36.4	15.1	34.8
2022Q4	100.0	12.6	36.2	15.8	35.3
2023Q1	100.0	10.4	37.2	19.2	33.2
2023Q2	100.0	12.7	35.4	15.9	36.0
2023Q3	100.0	13.3	34.3	15.8	36.6
2023Q4	100.0	11.5	36.3	16.9	35.3

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

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
2018	100.0	57.8	14.5	43.3	2.8	32.3	7.2
2019	100.0	57.9	14.9	43.0	2.6	32.5	7.0
2020	100.0	57.5	14.8	42.7	2.5	33.2	6.8
2021	100.0	57.3	15.2	42.0	2.7	33.4	6.6
2022	100.0	58.0	15.1	42.9	2.9	33.1	5.9
2021Q4	100.0	57.0	14.8	42.3	2.9	33.9	6.2
2022Q4	100.0	58.7	15.3	43.4	2.8	32.8	5.6
2022Q1	100.0	58.7	15.1	43.6	2.7	32.6	6.0
2022Q2	100.0	59.1	14.7	44.4	2.8	32.3	5.8
2022Q3	100.0	60.3	15.2	45.1	2.4	32.2	5.1
2022Q4	100.0	58.1	13.3	44.8	2.6	34.1	5.2

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			
2018	100.0	57.8	12.0	45.8	3.7	36.0	2.5
2019	100.0	57.7	12.2	45.5	3.5	36.5	2.3
2020	100.0	56.7	12.0	44.7	3.4	37.5	2.4
2021	100.0	56.6	12.1	44.4	3.7	37.3	2.4
2022	100.0	57.0	11.9	45.1	3.9	37.2	2.0
2021Q4	100.0	56.1	11.5	44.7	3.9	38.0	2.0
2022Q4	100.0	57.8	12.4	45.4	3.7	36.4	2.2
2022Q1	100.0	57.7	12.0	45.7	3.6	36.6	2.1
2022Q2	100.0	57.9	11.7	46.2	3.7	35.9	2.5
2022Q3	100.0	58.6	11.8	46.7	3.1	36.4	1.9
2022Q4	100.0	56.3	10.5	45.8	3.5	38.3	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			
2018	100.0	57.8	19.3	38.5	1.0	24.9	16.3
2019	100.0	58.3	19.9	38.4	0.8	24.8	16.1
2020	100.0	59.0	20.5	38.5	0.8	24.4	15.8
2021	100.0	58.7	21.5	37.2	0.8	25.4	15.2
2022	100.0	60.0	21.3	38.7	1.0	25.4	13.6
2021Q4	100.0	58.7	21.1	37.6	0.8	26.2	14.2
2022Q4	100.0	60.6	21.0	39.6	1.3	25.9	12.2
2022Q1	100.0	60.6	21.0	39.6	0.9	25.0	13.6
2022Q2	100.0	61.5	20.6	40.9	0.9	25.2	12.4
2022Q3	100.0	63.5	21.6	41.9	1.1	24.3	11.1
2022Q4	100.0	61.8	19.3	42.6	0.7	25.5	11.9

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	
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	
2021	8,113,507	2,213,015	54,586	1,362,311	692,585	1,153,516	481,703	214,497	72,881	182,313	80,762	136,073	490,106	423,135	174,539	128,418	201,726	51,342	
2022	8,147,731	2,158,559	58,979	1,408,819	690,401	1,142,754	486,346	235,544	71,054	182,379	87,337	146,494	456,844	461,829	169,298	162,099	157,590	71,404	
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	
2022Q4	8,015,006	2,258,476	43,045	1,311,915	591,392	1,068,939	458,248	247,743	77,518	215,179	86,672	152,399	474,249	449,119	164,862	168,376	176,395	70,478	
2023Q1	8,199,792	2,187,563	62,200	1,407,905	619,925	1,107,428	511,534	268,250	83,428	179,382	94,295	147,365	468,646	419,855	203,761	203,759	155,946	78,550	
2023Q2	8,014,492	2,058,421	76,369	1,448,216	579,664	1,161,025	491,912	257,061	81,927	168,149	101,302	124,748	438,598	424,179	166,729	209,377	171,564	55,252	
2023Q3	8,006,250	2,032,281	77,050	1,351,108	573,163	1,085,319	494,551	291,554	60,332	174,437	92,899	161,629	429,824	501,876	189,910	219,071	196,704	74,543	
2023Q4	7,819,131	2,075,112	42,804	1,303,517	630,696	1,156,214	520,584	294,091	87,700	185,599	71,288	108,348	415,555	371,335	179,657	204,307	119,437	52,887	

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	
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	
2021	5,414,280	1,423,619	53,512	775,837	663,925	834,545	465,940	136,349	51,631	108,793	49,777	96,394	290,754	127,846	63,616	96,710	134,475	40,557	
2022	5,373,965	1,422,010	58,657	758,623	658,525	831,372	466,203	141,812	48,341	100,235	55,248	104,400	271,425	139,674	61,720	123,033	79,292	53,396	
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	
2022Q4	5,279,881	1,507,626	43,045	687,287	557,459	775,386	431,941	151,085	53,409	126,813	53,570	104,273	301,155	139,198	58,433	131,015	105,135	53,050	
2023Q1	5,402,656	1,474,278	61,088	732,421	592,134	803,934	481,397	165,448	61,903	109,713	60,474	102,311	280,565	129,234	63,828	165,164	55,333	63,433	
2023Q2	5,323,491	1,401,382	76,369	776,085	547,264	842,369	466,425	154,340	62,651	95,831	67,598	84,486	281,692	119,959	54,321	167,005	80,424	45,289	
2023Q3	5,234,273	1,368,187	70,944	724,170	555,067	778,563	468,458	169,693	46,476	82,447	52,979	114,034	264,124	157,857	61,162	176,802	82,732	60,580	
2023Q4	5,269,831	1,430,487	42,804	694,823	604,518	867,190	504,778	178,700	72,751	102,976	49,448	70,879	253,888	104,936	60,299	159,302	33,228	38,823	

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	
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	
2021	2,699,228	789,396	1,074	586,474	28,660	318,971	15,763	78,147	21,250	73,519	30,985	39,679	199,352	295,289	110,923	31,708	67,251	10,785	
2022	2,773,766	736,549	322	650,196	31,877	311,382	20,144	93,732	22,712	82,144	32,089	42,094	185,419	322,155	107,578	39,066	78,298	18,009	
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	
2022Q4	2,735,125	750,850	..	624,628	33,933	293,553	26,307	96,658	24,109	88,365	33,103	48,126	173,094	309,921	106,429	37,361	71,260	17,428	
2023Q1	2,797,136	713,285	1,113	675,484	27,791	303,494	30,137	102,802	21,525	69,669	33,821	45,054	188,081	290,620	139,933	38,595	100,613	15,117	
2023Q2	2,691,001	657,039	..	672,131	32,400	318,656	25,487	102,721	19,276	72,318	33,704	40,263	156,906	304,220	112,408	42,371	91,140	9,962	
2023Q3	2,771,977	664,094	6,106	626,938	18,096	306,756	26,093	121,861	13,855	91,990	39,920	47,596	165,700	344,019	128,748	42,269	113,972	13,964	
2023Q4	2,549,300	644,625	..	608,694	26,178	289,024	15,806	115,391	14,949	82,622	21,840	37,469	161,667	266,399	119,358	45,005	86,209	14,065	

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high. .. Not reported
 Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>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)</p> | <p>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)</p> |
|---|--|

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

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2020	2021	2022	2021Q4	2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Total	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,146,367	8,015,006	8,199,792	8,014,492	8,006,250	7,819,131
Agriculture	2,169,679	2,213,015	2,158,559	2,127,835	2,258,476	2,187,563	2,058,421	2,032,281	2,075,112
Industry	2,152,746	2,109,482	2,158,199	2,198,797	1,946,352	2,090,031	2,104,249	2,001,320	1,977,017
Services	3,676,668	3,791,011	3,830,973	3,819,735	3,810,178	3,922,198	3,851,822	3,972,650	3,767,002

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

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2020	2021	2022	2021Q4	2022Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3	2023Q4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	27.1	27.3	26.5	26.1	28.2	26.7	25.7	25.4	26.5
Industry	26.9	26.0	26.5	27.0	24.3	25.5	26.3	25.0	25.3
Services	46.0	46.7	47.0	46.9	47.5	47.8	48.1	49.6	48.2

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	0
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
2021	8,113,507	324,769	576,124	681,988	282,448	947,824	1,308,645	1,142,171	816,954	2,000,483	32,101
2022	8,147,731	340,894	596,432	688,341	296,177	901,590	1,310,662	1,173,642	786,507	2,007,366	46,120
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
2022Q4	8,015,006	303,536	634,390	662,572	298,458	902,769	1,374,815	1,037,645	723,034	2,017,630	60,158
2023Q1	8,199,792	330,423	590,869	720,506	290,436	1,008,808	1,307,078	1,121,163	769,405	2,016,666	44,438
2023Q2	8,014,492	331,481	556,672	736,734	269,226	970,963	1,194,059	1,115,112	718,826	2,097,342	24,078
2023Q3	8,006,250	296,027	654,834	691,626	252,677	959,445	1,138,436	1,097,294	783,701	2,111,563	20,647
2023Q4	7,819,131	322,171	549,232	613,283	239,604	999,772	1,206,061	1,089,346	767,209	2,001,343	31,111

Table 7A - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Male

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
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
2021	5,414,280	261,533	211,883	440,246	133,690	639,288	981,016	843,075	644,676	1,228,363	30,511
2022	5,373,965	264,794	215,652	437,218	141,818	606,381	956,970	835,321	622,142	1,252,138	41,531
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
2022Q4	5,279,881	233,519	245,814	427,263	139,918	607,167	1,015,802	713,855	577,283	1,263,690	55,570
2023Q1	5,402,656	256,861	246,735	445,446	131,841	681,097	990,668	786,058	601,557	1,221,767	40,626
2023Q2	5,323,491	275,216	209,069	453,479	131,913	667,221	913,265	762,490	559,240	1,328,705	22,893
2023Q3	5,234,273	225,780	235,052	411,873	102,191	670,162	861,206	765,504	616,030	1,327,726	18,750
2023Q4	5,269,831	252,735	214,993	377,729	107,121	673,601	940,757	766,133	620,810	1,284,841	31,111

Table 7B - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Female

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
2019	2,811,796	169,256	380,200	264,139	160,388	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
2021	2,699,228	63,236	364,242	241,742	148,758	308,536	327,629	299,096	172,278	772,120	1,590
2022	2,773,766	76,101	380,779	251,123	154,359	295,209	353,692	338,321	164,364	755,227	4,589
2021Q4	2,792,679	81,454	373,536	252,430	148,891	334,520	351,247	352,859	161,252	736,489	..
2022Q4	2,735,125	70,018	388,576	235,309	158,540	295,602	359,013	323,790	145,751	753,939	4,587
2023Q1	2,797,136	73,562	344,135	275,060	158,595	327,711	316,410	335,105	167,847	794,899	3,811
2023Q2	2,691,001	56,264	347,602	283,255	137,313	303,742	280,795	352,622	159,587	768,637	1,185
2023Q3	2,771,977	70,247	419,783	279,753	150,486	289,283	277,230	331,790	167,671	783,837	1,897
2023Q4	2,549,300	69,437	334,240	235,553	132,483	326,171	265,304	323,212	146,398	716,502	..

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 Agriculture, 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	3.0	2.0	6.3	9.8	14.9	35.7	28.2
1	100.0	3.7	3.9	11.6	16.9	22.1	27.2	14.6
2	100.0	..	6.2	10.0	7.8	7.9	35.9	32.3
3	100.0	2.7	0.9	6.3	7.1	10.2	38.7	34.1
6	100.0	7.6	2.0	8.7	13.3	13.4	37.8	17.1
7	100.0	1.5	1.0	2.9	5.4	9.3	31.0	48.9
8	100.0	0.6	1.8	3.5	5.8	11.4	33.4	43.5
9	100.0	2.6	1.3	3.9	9.1	10.8	27.6	44.7
10	100.0	..	..	..	4.1	3.4	53.9	38.6
11	100.0	2.0	..	0.5	2.6	9.3	61.5	24.0
13	100.0	1.6	3.5	1.6	4.2	1.3	63.9	23.9
14	100.0	2.1	1.1	5.3	4.4	11.8	40.4	34.9
15	100.0	0.7	0.6	..	0.8	3.3	69.9	24.7
16	100.0	3.4	2.2	5.3	11.1	48.9	24.9	4.3
17	100.0	1.4	..	..	2.2	8.4	50.0	38.0
19	100.0	5.6	4.3	3.9	10.7	14.7	37.1	23.7
20	100.0	4.1	4.0	10.2	18.2	10.9	27.2	25.4
Other	100.0	2.0	..	4.9	11.9	2.2	50.8	28.2

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

.. Not reported

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

Industry group

- 1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
- 2 Mining & quarrying (B)
- 3 Manufacturing (C)
- 6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)
- 7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
- 8 Transportation and storage (H)
- 9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)
- 10 Information and communication (J)
- 11 Financial and insurance activities (K)
- 13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
- 14 Administrative and support service activities (N)
- 15 Public administration and 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
2018	100.0	14.1	38.9	22.5	15.0	9.5
2019	100.0	13.0	36.0	22.8	14.3	13.8
2020	100.0	13.5	39.3	21.5	13.8	12.0
2021	100.0	8.9	42.5	22.2	15.2	11.1
2022	100.0	9.6	37.2	24.4	14.1	14.7
2021Q4	100.0	9.0	41.5	22.2	13.9	13.3
2022Q4	100.0	9.0	36.8	24.6	15.3	14.2
2023Q1	100.0	9.3	35.2	26.9	14.6	14.0
2023Q2	100.0	14.0	33.1	20.4	15.1	17.3
2023Q3	100.0	8.2	37.3	26.8	12.9	14.8
2023Q4	100.0	7.6	36.6	27.9	13.9	14.0

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

Year	Total	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40 + Yrs
2018	100.0	20.5	40.9	17.5	10.7	10.5
2019	100.0	18.3	38.9	19.5	8.3	15.0
2020	100.0	18.8	41.0	18.6	11.9	9.7
2021	100.0	12.3	45.0	20.0	12.1	10.6
2022	100.0	12.9	38.9	21.2	12.1	14.8
2021Q4	100.0	10.0	44.8	21.3	12.0	11.8
2022Q4	100.0	10.0	40.9	21.1	11.7	16.3
2023Q1	100.0	10.9	35.7	22.6	14.1	16.7
2023Q2	100.0	18.9	35.4	15.3	13.0	17.4
2023Q3	100.0	15.2	38.6	23.5	8.5	14.3
2023Q4	100.0	8.7	36.7	26.7	13.4	14.5

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

Year	Total	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40 + Yrs
2018	100.0	9.1	37.3	26.5	18.4	8.7
2019	100.0	8.7	33.6	25.5	19.3	12.9
2020	100.0	8.5	37.7	24.1	15.6	14.1
2021	100.0	5.8	40.3	24.2	18.0	11.6
2022	100.0	6.1	35.2	27.7	16.3	14.6
2021Q4	100.0	8.2	38.6	23.0	15.6	14.6
2022Q4	100.0	8.0	32.2	28.5	19.3	11.9
2023Q1	100.0	8.0	34.8	30.8	15.0	11.5
2023Q2	100.0	8.8	30.7	25.9	17.4	17.2
2023Q3	100.0	1.3	36.0	30.1	17.2	15.4
2023Q4	100.0	6.6	36.6	29.1	14.3	13.4

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
2018	100.0	2.2	30.5	21.4	45.8
2019	100.0	2.9	31.4	23.9	41.9
2020	100.0	2.2	32.6	23.5	41.7
2021	100.0	1.4	29.6	24.9	44.1
2022	100.0	1.8	32.1	23.6	42.6
2021Q4	100.0	1.8	32.7	24.5	41.0
2022Q4	100.0	0.9	37.9	22.0	39.2
2023Q1	100.0	0.7	32.9	21.5	44.9
2023Q2	100.0	3.0	32.9	23.6	40.5
2023Q3	100.0	1.0	29.0	23.2	46.9
2023Q4	100.0	2.4	29.1	26.4	42.2

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

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE & Above
2018	100.0	3.1	43.1	25.0	28.9
2019	100.0	2.9	42.2	27.0	28.0
2020	100.0	2.3	41.5	27.7	28.5
2021	100.0	1.8	36.0	29.9	32.3
2022	100.0	2.2	40.1	28.0	29.6
2021Q4	100.0	2.5	38.3	27.8	31.4
2022Q4	100.0	0.6	46.6	25.0	27.8
2023Q1	100.0	1.5	45.2	25.8	27.6
2023Q2	100.0	4.4	40.5	23.0	32.1
2023Q3	100.0	..	36.5	25.5	38.0
2023Q4	100.0	3.0	34.2	26.7	36.2

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
2018	100.0	1.5	20.6	18.7	59.2
2019	100.0	2.9	22.5	21.4	53.3
2020	100.0	2.2	24.2	19.7	53.9
2021	100.0	1.0	23.9	20.5	54.6
2022	100.0	1.3	23.5	18.8	56.4
2021Q4	100.0	1.1	27.8	21.6	49.5
2022Q4	100.0	1.3	28.3	18.5	52.0
2023Q1	100.0	..	21.7	17.6	60.6
2023Q2	100.0	1.6	24.7	24.2	49.4
2023Q3	100.0	1.9	21.5	21.0	55.6
2023Q4	100.0	1.9	24.4	26.1	47.5

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

.. Not reported

Table 11 – Currently unemployed persons by sex and duration of unemployment

Sex	Total	Duration (2023 4 th Quarter)		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	351,303	151,227	83,603	116,472
%	100.0	43.0	23.8	33.2
Male	166,399	85,194	36,804	44,401
%	100.0	51.2	22.1	26.7
Female	184,904	66,033	46,799	72,072
%	100.0	35.7	25.3	39.0

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

	Estimated Value	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimated Value (Ratio)	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
General labour force characteristics						
Population (15 years & over)	17,353,546	171,645	1.0			
Employed Population	7,819,131	120,001	1.5			
Unemployed Population	351,303	24,767	7.1			
Employment Rate				95.7	0.29	0.31
Unemployment Rate				4.3	0.29	6.79
Labour Force	8,170,434	124,402	1.5			
Not in Labour Force	9,183,112	120,940	1.3			
Employed persons by major industry Groups						
1	2,075,112	85,062	4.1			
2	42,804	9,644	22.5			
3	1,303,517	55,636	4.3			
6	630,696	33,240	5.3			
7	1,156,214	49,146	4.3			
8	520,584	28,776	5.5			
9	294,091	26,127	8.9			
10	87,700	13,249	15.1			
11	185,599	19,129	10.3			
13	71,288	10,757	15.1			
14	108,348	14,092	13.0			
15	415,555	26,822	6.5			
16	371,335	25,245	6.8			
17	179,657	20,833	11.6			
19	204,307	18,488	9.0			
20	119,437	15,895	13.3			
Other	52,887	9,809	18.5			
Unemployed persons by level of education						
Below grade 6	8,570	4,619	53.9			
Grade 6 - 10	102,054	12,441	12.2			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	92,586	9,598	10.4			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	148,092	11,347	7.7			
Industry group						
1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)						
2 Mining & quarrying (B)						
3 Manufacturing (C)						
6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)						
7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)						
8 Transportation and storage (H)						
9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)						
10 Information and communication (J)						
11 Financial and insurance activities (K)						
13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)						
14 Administrative and support service activities (N)						
15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)						
16 Education (P)						
17 Human health and social work activities (Q)						
19 Other service activities (S)						
20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)						
Other						
	Other					
	Real estate activities (L)					
	Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)					
	Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)					

Special Statistical Appendix

Explanatory Notes

Coverage

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. This survey is being conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

This quarterly survey of households is conducted through a scientifically selected sample designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status etc. of each member of the household 15 years of age and older.

The field work of the survey is done during the third week of each month, Monday through Sunday. This is known as the "survey week". The inquiry relates to activity or status are referred in the preceding week of the survey week; referred to as the "reference week".

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

Concepts & Definitions

1. **Labour force:** The labour force is composed of the economically active population 15 years of age and over.
2. **The Economically Active Population:** is defined as those persons who are/were employed or unemployed during the reference period of the survey.
3. **Employed:** Persons, who during the reference period, worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers (self employed), or unpaid family workers are said to be employed. This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.
4. **Unemployed:** Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period.
5. **Currently Economically Active:** A person who was employed or unemployed during the current reference period is considered to be currently economically active.
6. **Not in the Labour Force (not economically active):** Persons who were neither working nor available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as: full time care of the household, full – time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another. Current and Usual definitions apply.
7. **Criteria for classification of underemployment:** In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed,

*Explanatory Notes (Page 2)**(i) If the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her main activity*

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

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

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

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

8. Informal Sector Employment

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

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

Reliability of the estimates

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

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

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

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

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

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

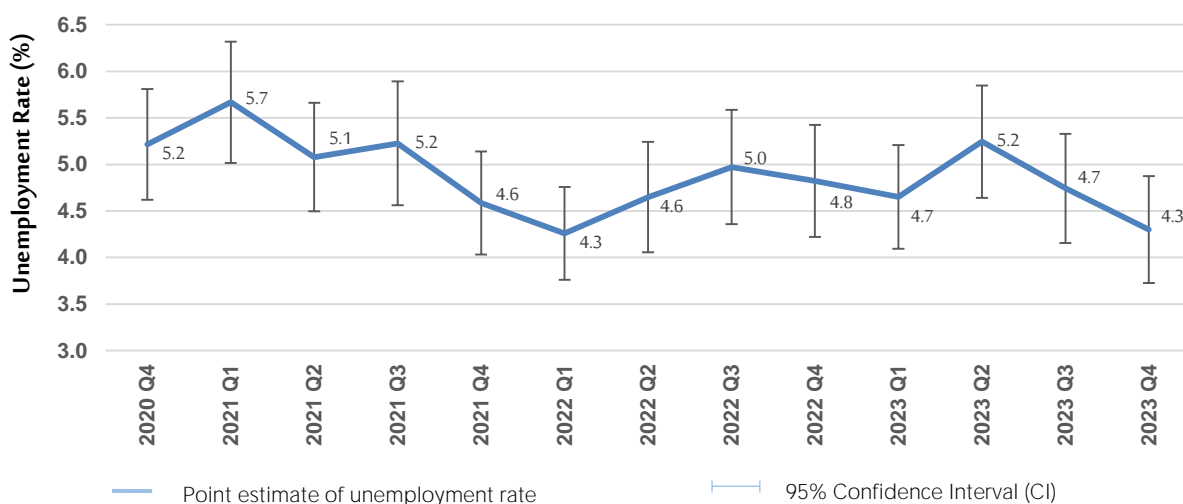
$$(4.5 \pm 0.539)$$

Explanatory Notes (Page 3)

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 (2020Q4- 2023Q4)



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 2020/2023, 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)

Explanatory Notes (Page 4)

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
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
2021	8,553,290	58,311	0.68	8,438,947	8,667,633	8,113,507	56,072	0.69	8,003,555	8,223,460
2022	8,547,062	58,034	0.68	8,433,262	8,660,862	8,147,731	56,377	0.69	8,037,181	8,258,281
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
2022Q4	8,421,185	114,716	1.36	8,195,879	8,646,491	8,015,006	112,370	1.40	7,794,307	8,235,705
2023Q1	8,599,791	105,701	1.23	8,392,190	8,807,392	8,199,792	103,384	1.26	7,996,741	8,402,843
2023Q2	8,458,175	110,268	1.30	8,241,605	8,674,746	8,014,492	106,267	1.33	7,805,781	8,223,203
2023Q3	8,404,925	125,613	1.49	8,158,216	8,651,633	8,006,250	120,034	1.50	7,770,499	8,242,001
2023Q4	8,170,434	124,402	1.52	7,926,107	8,414,761	7,819,131	120,001	1.53	7,583,446	8,054,816

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
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
2021	439,783	13,930	3.17	412,468	467,097	5.1	0.2	3.05	4.8	5.4
2022	399,332	13,022	3.26	373,797	424,867	4.7	0.1	3.17	4.4	5.0
2021Q4	391,509	24,736	6.32	342,924	440,094	4.6	0.3	6.13	4.0	5.1
2022Q4	406,179	26,368	6.49	354,391	457,967	4.8	0.3	6.36	4.2	5.4
2023Q1	399,999	24,888	6.22	351,118	448,879	4.7	0.3	6.08	4.1	5.2
2023Q2	443,683	26,916	6.07	390,819	496,548	5.2	0.3	5.85	4.6	5.8
2023Q3	398,674	26,269	6.59	347,081	450,267	4.7	0.3	6.28	4.2	5.3
2023Q4	351,303	24,767	7.05	302,660	399,946	4.3	0.3	6.79	3.7	4.9

Alternative estimates

Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

Official employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics are estimated at the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey, based on the internationally comparable concepts and definitions recommended by the ILO. However the validity of the concepts and definitions used at the survey is questioned very often in some forums, for the appropriateness of these concepts and definitions in the Sri Lankan context.

The concepts and definitions, which were found to be controversial, are as below.

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : A person who work **at least one hour** during the reference week, is considered **employed**, under these definitions.
- (2) **Working Age Population** : All persons of **age 10 years and over** are considered to be in the working age, before 2013. However, this was changed as **age 15 and over** from 2013 onward.
- (3) **Employment Status** : All,
 - a) Paid employees, (those who work for wages/salaries).
 - b) Employers (who have at least one paid employee under them).
 - c) Own account workers (who carry out the economic activity without having anypaid employees).
 - d) Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out bytheir own household, without wages/salaries).

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

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : Some pointed out that one hour per week is too low, to consider a person to be employed.
- (2) **Working Age Population** : Some pointed out those persons in the age group 10-14 yrs. are too young to be considered in the working age. (From 2013 onward the working age population is considered as age 15 and over).
- (3) **Employment Status** : Some pointed out that 'contributing family workers' may work in the family enterprise without payment because they have no other work, and so it is not appropriate to consider them as employed.

An attempt has been made to produce '**Alternative estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics,**' by revising the original concepts and definitions so that the above issues are addressed as explained below.

The revisions made are,

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : Persons who work **20 hours or more per week only** are considered to be employed.
- (2) **Contributing Family Worker** : Contributing family workers are **not** considered as employed. They are considered as **economically inactive** (not in the labour force) so only, **a) paid employees b) employers and c) own account workers are considered to be employed.**

Following tables are based on the above alternative concepts and definitions.

Alternative estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics

Table 1 - Labour force status of household population 15 years & over (Alternative estimates)

Year	Household population (15 years & over)	Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Labour Force				Not In labour Force Number
				Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	
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
2020	16,739,396	7,438,037	44.4	6,970,524	93.7	467,513	6.3	9,301,359
2021	17,133,659	7,471,067	43.6	7,031,284	94.1	439,783	5.9	9,662,592
2022	17,161,973	7,497,884	43.7	7,098,552	94.7	399,332	5.3	9,664,089
2021Q4	17,259,921	7,562,737	43.8	7,171,228	94.8	391,509	5.2	9,697,184
2022Q4	17,230,431	7,475,620	43.4	7,069,441	94.6	406,179	5.4	9,754,811
2023Q1	17,233,193	7,597,163	44.1	7,197,164	94.7	399,999	5.3	9,636,030
2023Q2	17,411,969	7,344,514	42.2	6,900,831	94.0	443,683	6.0	10,067,455
2023Q3	17,227,262	7,412,183	43.0	7,013,509	94.6	398,674	5.4	9,815,078
2023Q4	17,353,546	7,168,079	41.3	6,816,776	95.1	351,303	4.9	10,185,467

Table 2- Historical table of number and rate of unemployment by age (Alternative estimates)

Year	Total		Age group									
			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
2020	467,513	6.3	62,910	38.0	183,722	27.5	100,359	13.0	64,493	3.9	56,029	1.3
2021	439,783	5.9	39,102	30.8	187,104	29.7	97,631	12.5	66,973	4.2	48,972	1.1
2022	399,332	5.3	38,456	32.0	148,378	23.8	97,317	12.6	56,437	3.5	58,743	1.3
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
2022Q4	406,179	5.4	36,652	36.0	149,648	25.8	99,939	13.3	62,090	3.9	57,850	1.3
2023Q1	399,999	5.3	37,357	31.1	140,758	23.3	107,624	14.8	58,277	3.7	55,983	1.2
2023Q2	443,683	6.0	62,175	49.1	146,900	25.0	90,561	12.7	67,179	4.3	76,868	1.8
2023Q3	398,674	5.4	32,766	28.8	148,768	25.5	106,748	14.4	51,316	3.4	59,075	1.3
2023Q4	351,303	4.9	26,651	23.4	128,733	22.1	98,118	15.0	48,753	3.3	49,047	1.1

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

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

Year	Total	Industry group																	
		1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other	
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
2021	No.	7,031,284	1,645,518	47,771	1,236,731	643,441	1,015,162	452,687	183,091	71,279	177,033	76,063	129,244	476,399	373,300	168,807	109,266	181,500	43,994
	%	100.0	23.4	0.7	17.6	9.2	14.4	6.4	2.6	1.0	2.5	1.1	1.8	6.8	5.3	2.4	1.6	2.6	0.6
2022	No.	7,098,552	1,624,304	54,869	1,273,780	626,142	1,021,153	450,290	195,864	69,084	179,777	81,766	135,361	449,381	429,513	164,503	142,340	135,921	64,505
	%	100.0	22.9	0.8	17.9	8.8	14.4	6.3	2.8	1.0	2.5	1.2	1.9	6.3	6.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	0.9
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	77,701	175,622	463,829	390,327	159,336	96,361	214,600	43,542
	%	100.0	22.6	0.6	18.3	9.3	14.7	6.0	2.5	1.0	2.3	1.1	2.4	6.5	5.4	2.2	1.3	3.0	0.6
2022Q4	No.	7,069,441	1,733,776	40,228	1,197,047	543,074	960,320	433,519	208,220	77,518	215,179	82,533	141,374	471,987	436,458	161,644	147,611	154,749	64,205
	%	100.0	24.5	0.6	16.9	7.7	13.6	6.1	2.9	1.1	3.0	1.2	2.0	6.7	6.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	0.9
2023Q1	No.	7,197,164	1,634,400	59,930	1,294,232	573,118	979,739	484,342	245,415	82,517	178,851	88,879	140,465	467,732	394,192	198,998	170,574	137,918	65,862
	%	100.0	22.7	0.8	18.0	8.0	13.6	6.7	3.4	1.1	2.5	1.2	2.0	6.5	5.5	2.8	2.4	1.9	0.9
2023Q2	No.	6,900,831	1,545,137	70,736	1,261,278	511,778	1,002,492	464,253	227,391	80,709	164,820	93,232	107,570	433,470	408,281	162,791	173,028	149,101	44,764
	%	100.0	22.4	1.0	18.3	7.4	14.5	6.7	3.3	1.2	2.4	1.4	1.6	6.3	5.9	2.4	2.5	2.2	0.6
2023Q3	No.	7,013,509	1,507,509	74,783	1,242,295	513,495	957,670	466,594	247,021	59,225	171,666	87,238	156,370	428,750	466,225	188,723	200,969	178,172	66,802
	%	100.0	21.5	1.1	17.7	7.3	13.7	6.7	3.5	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.2	6.1	6.6	2.7	2.9	2.5	1.0
2023Q4	No.	6,816,776	1,574,885	35,901	1,171,864	560,259	1,036,152	490,532	237,283	86,008	184,607	67,682	101,464	412,921	343,622	175,586	185,270	102,456	50,283
	%	100.0	23.1	0.5	17.2	8.2	15.2	7.2	3.5	1.3	2.7	1.0	1.5	6.1	5.0	2.6	2.7	1.5	0.7

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

Industry Group

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

2023


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The Vision of DCS

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


The Mission of DCS

“Making contribution in the socioeconomic development of the country by providing accurate timely statistics, more Effectively by means of new technology, and utilising the services of dedicated staff under a strategic leadership to become a prosperous nation in the globalised environment.”

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