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# Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

## Quarterly Report

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter - 2025

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# SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Quarterly Report – 2025  
Fourth Quarter

Department of Census and Statistics  
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

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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 25,000 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 2025 was done in the month of October, November and December in year 2025. This report is based on the data collected in quarterly sample of 6,250 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.*

*K.M.D.S.D. Karunaratne  
Director General of Census & Statistics*

*Department of Census & Statistics,  
"Sankayana Mandiraya",  
306/71,  
Polduwa Road,  
Battaramulla.*

*17.04.2026.*



## Acknowledgements

*This report is the hundred and thirty seventh 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, Director General (Statistics) and under the direction of Mr. S.H. Mansoor, former Director (Statistics) and Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Director (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.*

*The survey activities were organized and supervised by Ms. H.M.D. Sepalika, Mr. T.D.M.S.D. Perera, Ms. U.S. Dilrukshi, Mr. L.S.N. Perera, Ms. M.W.L.C.M. Chandrarathne, Ms. M.M.G.D Manamperi, 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, under the guidance of Mr. J. Liyanage and Ms. W.A.D.R.D. Athukorala, Deputy Directors (Statistics), 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 Ms. M.W.L.C.M. Chandrarathne, Statistician. The Statistical Officers, 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. K.L.C.S. Weerasooriya, former Additional Director General (ICT) and Mr. P.D.D. Peiris and Mr. E.M.D. Ekanayake, Directors (ICT) were responsible for implementing CAPI methodology and preparation of data collection and computer edits programmes.*

*This publication was organized and prepared by Ms. M.W.L.C.M. Chandrarathne, Statistician, Sample Surveys Division, assisted by Mr. A.M.A.E. Atapattu Statistical Officer, under the guidance of Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Director (Statistics) and Ms. W.A.D.R.D. Athukorala, 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/ Statisticians supervised the survey and field Statistical Officers, worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success.*

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



## Selected Labour Force Indicators

Indicator	Year / Quarter									
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	49.9	49.8	48.6	47.4	47.1	47.7	49.7	49.3	49.9	48.8
Male	71.0	70.5	68.6	67.4	67.4	67.6	70.1	69.5	68.6	68.1
Female	31.8	32.1	31.3	29.8	29.4	30.3	32.0	31.7	33.9	32.3
<b>By residential sector</b>										
Total	49.9	49.8	48.6	47.4	47.1	47.7	49.7	49.3	49.9	48.8
Urban	46.9	47.2	46.0	44.3	44.4	42.2	47.0	45.7	47.7	45.9
Rural*	50.5	50.3	49.1	48.0	47.6	48.9	50.2	50.1	50.4	49.4
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.3	3.8
Male	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.6	3.2	2.7
Female	7.9	6.5	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.0	6.2	5.7
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>										
20 - 29	18.3	16.2	17.0	16.1	16.6	15.2	13.8	13.8	14.9	13.1
20 - 24	26.8	21.8	21.6	20.7	20.0	18.5	18.3	19.6	16.8	17.3
25 - 29	11.4	11.7	13.0	12.5	13.6	12.7	10.1	9.3	13.3	9.5
<b>By selected educational level</b>										
<b>GCE A/L and above</b>										
Total	9.1	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.1	7.1	6.1	5.9	7.0	5.2
Male	6.2	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.5	4.7	4.2	3.0	4.9	3.6
Female	12.2	10.1	10.2	10.3	8.9	10.0	8.2	9.1	9.0	7.0
<b>Employed population</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	7,949,751	7,819,131	8,069,891	8,139,605	8,172,638	8,097,879	8,465,808
Male	5,414,280	5,373,965	5,307,563	5,358,554	5,269,831	5,423,908	5,399,400	5,446,537	5,188,255	5,514,454
Female	2,699,228	2,773,766	2,702,354	2,591,197	2,549,300	2,645,983	2,740,205	2,726,101	2,909,624	2,951,354
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>										
Total	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	7,949,751	7,819,131	8,069,891	8,139,605	8,172,638	8,097,879	8,465,808
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,213,015	2,158,559	2,088,344	2,066,651	2,075,112	2,159,496	1,906,832	2,104,353	1,896,470	1,960,333
%	27.3	26.5	26.1	26.0	26.5	26.8	23.4	25.7	23.4	23.2
Industry	2,109,482	2,158,199	2,043,154	2,031,417	1,977,017	2,071,302	2,135,102	2,063,914	2,166,884	2,225,352
%	26.0	26.5	25.5	25.6	25.3	25.7	26.2	25.3	26.8	26.3
Services	3,791,011	3,830,973	3,878,418	3,851,683	3,767,002	3,839,094	4,097,671	4,004,372	4,034,524	4,280,123
%	46.7	47.0	48.4	48.5	48.2	47.6	50.3	49.0	49.8	50.6
<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**	9.6	5.8	4.2	2.5	3.0	1.2	1.6	3.7	2.4	2.5
1 - 9	2.0	2.1	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.2	1.9
10 - 39	29.6	31.9	31.2	28.3	31.0	26.9	28.1	30.6	28.0	27.7
40 & above	58.7	60.3	62.1	67.4	64.0	70.3	68.7	63.3	67.4	67.9

\* The 'rural sector' encompasses rural, urban estates and rural estates

\*\* 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 2025**  
**Fourth Quarter**  
**Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics**

**15 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural*
Population (15 years & over)	18,023,110	8,324,308	9,698,802	3,151,580	14,871,530
Labour force in this age group	8,798,160	5,669,184	3,128,976	1,445,768	7,352,392
Labour force participation rate	48.8	68.1	32.3	45.9	49.4
Employed population	8,465,808	5,514,454	2,951,354	1,406,508	7,059,300
Employment rate	96.2	97.3	94.3	97.3	96.0
Unemployed population	332,352	154,730	177,622	39,259	293,092
Unemployment rate	3.8	2.7	5.7	2.7	4.0
Not in labour force	9,224,950	2,655,124	6,569,826	1,705,813	7,519,137

**18 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural*
Population (18 years & over)	16,913,307	7,730,941	9,182,367	2,980,053	13,933,254
Labour force in this age group	8,766,237	5,643,652	3,122,585	1,443,142	7,323,095
Labour force participation rate	51.8	73.0	34.0	48.4	52.6
Employed population	8,437,896	5,491,175	2,946,720	1,403,883	7,034,013
Employment rate	96.3	97.3	94.4	97.3	96.1
Unemployed population	328,341	152,476	175,865	39,259	289,082
Unemployment rate	3.7	2.7	5.6	2.7	3.9
Not in labour force	8,147,071	2,087,289	6,059,782	1,536,911	6,610,160

**20 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural*
Population (20 years & over)	16,147,776	7,350,143	8,797,633	2,864,267	13,283,510
Labour force in this age group	8,633,264	5,550,268	3,082,996	1,427,209	7,206,055
Labour force participation rate	53.5	75.5	35.0	49.8	54.2
Employed population	8,342,124	5,423,190	2,918,934	1,392,263	6,949,861
Employment rate	96.6	97.7	94.7	97.6	96.4
Unemployed population	291,140	127,078	164,062	34,946	256,194
Unemployment rate	3.4	2.3	5.3	2.4	3.6
Not in labour force	7,514,512	1,799,876	5,714,636	1,437,057	6,077,455

\* The 'rural sector' encompasses rural, urban estates and rural estates

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

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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 (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 - 2025

Sector	Economically Active Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	8,798,160	100	5,669,184	64.4	3,128,976	35.6
<b>Urban</b>	1,445,768	100	971,395	67.2	474,373	32.8
<b>Rural</b>	7,008,696	100	4,491,903	64.1	2,516,792	35.9
<b>Estate*</b>	343,697	100	205,886	59.9	137,811	40.1

\* The 'estate sector' encompasses both urban estates and rural estates

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector, fourth quarter - 2025

Sector	Economically Inactive Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	9,224,950	100	2,655,124	28.8	6,569,826	71.2
<b>Urban</b>	1,705,813	100	510,829	29.9	1,194,983	70.1
<b>Rural</b>	7,204,450	100	2,042,516	28.4	5,161,934	71.6
<b>Estate*</b>	314,687	100	101,778	32.3	212,909	67.7

\* The 'estate sector' encompasses both urban estates and rural estates

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.8 million in the fourth quarter 2025. Of which 64.4 percent are males and 35.6 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 9.2 million. Out of the economically inactive population 28.8 percent are males and 71.2 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year, 2021 - 2025Q4

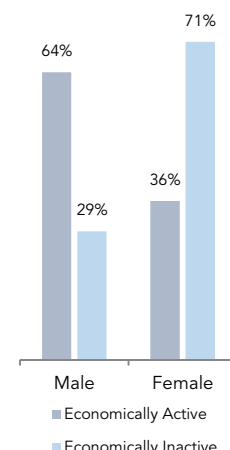
Year	Total	Male	Female
<b>2021</b>	49.9	71.0	31.8
<b>2022</b>	49.8	70.5	32.1
<b>2023</b>	48.6	68.6	31.3
<b>2024</b>	47.4	67.4	29.8
<b>2023 Q4</b>	47.1	67.4	29.4
<b>2024 Q4</b>	47.7	67.6	30.3
<b>2025 Q1</b>	49.7	70.1	32.0
<b>2025 Q2</b>	49.3	69.5	31.7
<b>2025 Q3</b>	49.9	68.6	33.9
<b>2025 Q4</b>	48.8	68.1	32.3

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs by gender since year 2021. 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 – 2025

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	48.8	68.1	32.3
15 - 19	8.8	12.2	5.1
20 - 24	47.8	59.9	36.2
25 - 29	64.5	90.4	44.0
30 - 34	66.3	93.9	42.5
35 - 39	67.8	94.9	46.5
40 - 44	68.5	94.6	46.0
45 - 49	68.9	94.7	45.9
50 - 54	67.6	90.1	46.7
55 - 59	58.3	83.5	38.3
60+	27.5	43.4	15.2

Figure 1: Distribution of economically active vs inactive population, fourth quarter 2025



Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male is reported from age group 35 - 39 years (94.9%), while that for female is reported from 50 - 54 age group (46.7%).

### 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 2024 – fourth quarter 2025)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2024 Q4	8,069,891	2,159,496	2,071,302	3,839,094
(%)	100.0	26.8	25.7	47.6
2025 Q1	8,139,605	1,906,832	2,135,102	4,097,671
(%)	100.0	23.4	26.2	50.3
2025 Q2	8,172,638	2,104,353	2,063,914	4,004,372
(%)	100.0	25.7	25.3	49.0
2025 Q3	8,097,879	1,896,470	2,166,884	4,034,524
(%)	100.0	23.4	26.8	49.8
2025 Q4	8,465,808	1,960,333	2,225,352	4,280,123
(%)	100.0	23.2	26.3	50.6

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from fourth quarter 2024 to fourth quarter 2025. During fourth quarter of 2025, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as 8.5 million. Of which, about 50.6 percent engaged in service sector, 26.3 percent in industry sector and 23.2 percent in agriculture sector. In the fourth quarter of 2025, there are increases in employed persons in industry and service sectors compared to the fourth quarter of 2024.

**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 - 2025**

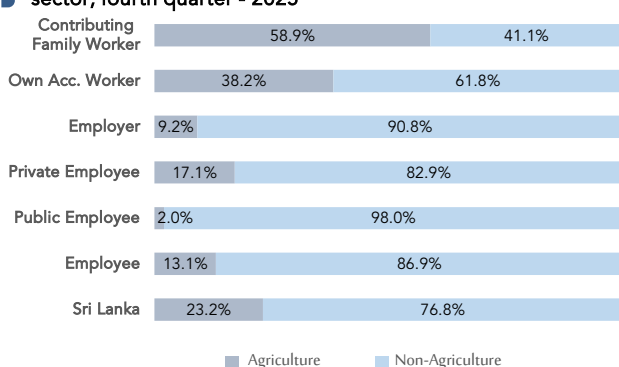
Employment Status	Sector					
	Sri Lanka		Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,465,808	100.0	1,960,333	23.2	6,505,475	76.8
Employee	5,089,052	100.0	668,189	13.1	4,420,863	86.9
Public	1,349,331	100.0	27,526*	2.0*	1,321,805	98.0
Private	3,739,721	100.0	640,663*	17.1*	3,099,058	82.9
Employer	258,227	100.0	23,656	9.2	234,571	90.8
Own Account Worker	2,746,557	100.0	1,049,281	38.2	1,697,276	61.8
Contributing Family Worker	371,972	100.0	219,208	58.9	152,765	41.1

\*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 76.8 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 23.0 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 23.2 percent for males.

**Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture sector, fourth quarter - 2025**



**Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by major industry group & gender, fourth quarter – 2025**

Major Industry group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	23.2	23.2	23.0
Industry	26.3	26.5	25.8
Services	50.6	50.2	51.2

## Unemployment

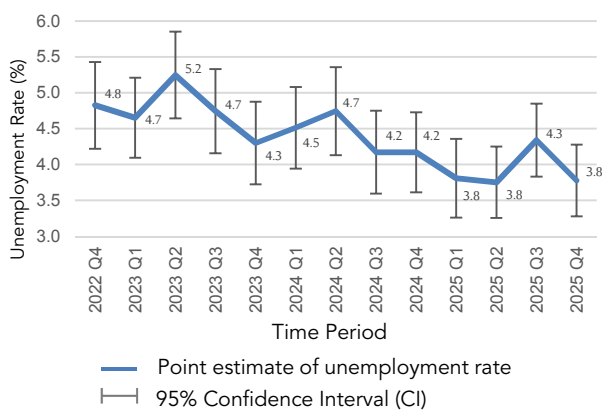
### Unemployed

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, 2022Q4 - 2025Q4**



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 332,352 during the fourth quarter 2025. The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2025 is 3.8 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when the changes in unemployment rate is explained the corresponding sampling 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 - 2025**

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	332,352	3.8	2.7	5.7
15 - 24	160,433	18.7	17.1	21.6
25 - 29	74,922	9.5	6.3*	14.6
Over 30	96,997	1.4	0.7*	2.6

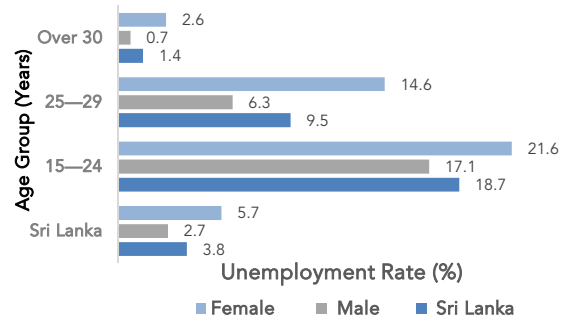
\*These Figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of Variation) Values are high.

#### 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 2025**



As per the table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 5.7 percent and it is 2.7 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the fourth quarter 2025 is 18.7 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 17.1 and 21.6 percent respectively for age group 15 - 24.

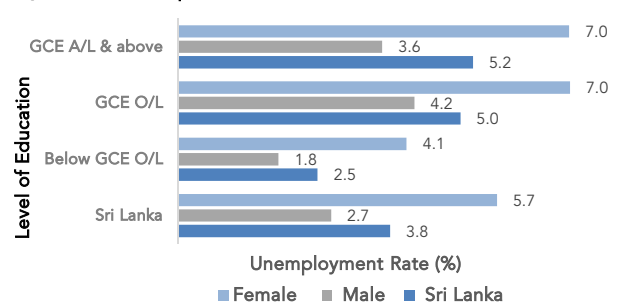
The survey results further reveals that the unemployment among females is higher than that of males, in all age groups. Youth and female unemployment contribute more to the overall unemployment of the country.

**Table 9: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by level of education, fourth quarter - 2025**

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	332,352	3.8	2.7	5.7
Below GCE O/L	113,443	2.5	1.8	4.1
GCE O/L	85,230	5.0	4.2	7.0*
GCE A/L & above	133,679	5.2	3.6	7.0

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

**Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by level of education and gender, fourth quarter 2025**



The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E.(A/L) and above group which is 5.2 percent. Corresponding percentages are 3.6 percent and 7.0 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)	
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
2023	17,306,492	8,408,331	48.6	8,009,916	95.3	398,415	4.7	8,898,161
2024	17,547,864	8,315,702	47.4	7,949,751	95.6	365,951	4.4	9,232,162
2023Q4	17,353,546	8,170,434	47.1	7,819,131	95.7	351,303	4.3	9,183,112
2024Q4	17,640,423	8,421,180	47.7	8,069,891	95.8	351,288	4.2	9,219,244
2025Q1	17,032,793	8,461,936	49.7	8,139,605	96.2	322,331	3.8	8,570,857
2025Q2	17,214,317	8,491,296	49.3	8,172,638	96.2	318,657	3.8	8,723,021
2025Q3	16,959,508	8,465,161	49.9	8,097,879	95.7	367,282	4.3	8,494,346
2025Q4	18,023,110	8,798,160	48.8	8,465,808	96.2	332,352	3.8	9,224,950

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)	
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
2023	8,024,760	5,503,595	68.6	5,307,563	96.4	196,032	3.6	2,521,164
2024	8,195,169	5,525,402	67.4	5,358,554	97.0	166,849	3.0	2,669,766
2023Q4	8,063,535	5,436,230	67.4	5,269,831	96.9	166,399	3.1	2,627,306
2024Q4	8,247,612	5,577,872	67.6	5,423,908	97.2	153,964	2.8	2,669,740
2025Q1	7,905,930	5,538,301	70.1	5,399,400	97.5	138,901	2.5	2,367,630
2025Q2	8,049,609	5,590,609	69.5	5,446,537	97.4	144,071	2.6	2,459,000
2025Q3	7,812,621	5,362,270	68.6	5,188,255	96.8	174,014	3.2	2,450,351
2025Q4	8,324,308	5,669,184	68.1	5,514,454	97.3	154,730	2.7	2,655,124

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)	
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
2023	9,281,733	2,904,736	31.3	2,702,354	93.0	202,382	7.0	6,376,997
2024	9,352,695	2,790,299	29.8	2,591,197	92.9	199,102	7.1	6,562,395
2023Q4	9,290,011	2,734,204	29.4	2,549,300	93.2	184,904	6.8	6,555,807
2024Q4	9,392,811	2,843,307	30.3	2,645,983	93.1	197,324	6.9	6,549,504
2025Q1	9,126,863	2,923,635	32.0	2,740,205	93.7	183,430	6.3	6,203,228
2025Q2	9,164,708	2,900,687	31.7	2,726,101	94.0	174,586	6.0	6,264,021
2025Q3	9,146,887	3,102,892	33.9	2,909,624	93.8	193,268	6.2	6,043,995
2025Q4	9,698,802	3,128,976	32.3	2,951,354	94.3	177,622	5.7	6,569,826

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)	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	18,023,110	8,798,160	48.8	8,465,808	96.2	332,352	3.8	9,224,950
15 – 19 Yrs	1,875,334	164,896	8.8	123,684	75.0	41,212	25.0	1,710,438
20 – 24 Yrs	1,445,313	690,830	47.8	571,609	82.7	119,221	17.3	754,484
25 – 29 Yrs	1,226,329	791,522	64.5	716,599	90.5	74,922	9.5	434,807
30 – 39 Yrs	2,657,052	1,781,097	67.0	1,728,312	97.0	52,785	3.0	875,955
40+ Yrs	10,819,082	5,369,816	49.6	5,325,604	99.2	44,212	0.8	5,449,266

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)	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	8,324,308	5,669,184	68.1	5,514,454	97.3	154,730	2.7	2,655,124
15 – 19 Yrs	974,164	118,916	12.2	91,264	76.7	27,652	23.3	855,248
20 – 24 Yrs	708,337	424,252	59.9	359,054	84.6	65,199	15.4	284,085
25 – 29 Yrs	542,732	490,687	90.4	459,811	93.7	30,876	6.3	52,045
30 – 39 Yrs	1,200,525	1,132,905	94.4	1,121,299	99.0	11,606	1.0	67,620
40+ Yrs	4,898,549	3,502,424	71.5	3,483,026	99.4	19,397	0.6	1,396,126

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)	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	9,698,802	3,128,976	32.3	2,951,354	94.3	177,622	5.7	6,569,826
15 – 19 Yrs	901,169	45,980	5.1	32,420	70.5	13,560	29.5	855,190
20 – 24 Yrs	736,976	266,577	36.2	212,555	79.7	54,022	20.3	470,399
25 – 29 Yrs	683,597	300,834	44.0	256,788	85.4	44,046	14.6	382,763
30 – 39 Yrs	1,456,527	648,193	44.5	607,014	93.6	41,179	6.4	808,334
40+ Yrs	5,920,533	1,867,392	31.5	1,842,578	98.7	24,814	1.3	4,053,141

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
2023	100.0	1.2	6.4	8.4	20.3	63.7
2024	100.0	1.3	6.3	8.7	19.7	64.0
2023Q4	100.0	1.3	6.6	8.0	20.5	63.7
2024Q4	100.0	1.3	6.4	9.1	19.9	63.3
2025Q1	100.0	1.2	6.6	8.7	21.4	62.0
2025Q2	100.0	1.2	6.3	9.1	20.3	63.1
2025Q3	100.0	1.2	6.5	8.3	20.9	63.0
2025Q4	100.0	1.5	6.8	8.5	20.4	62.9

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
2023	100.0	1.4	6.4	8.4	20.0	63.9
2024	100.0	1.4	6.4	8.6	19.3	64.4
2023Q4	100.0	1.4	6.3	8.2	19.9	64.2
2024Q4	100.0	1.5	6.0	9.2	19.4	63.9
2025Q1	100.0	1.2	6.4	8.9	21.6	61.9
2025Q2	100.0	1.4	6.0	9.2	19.5	63.9
2025Q3	100.0	1.4	6.4	8.2	20.2	63.7
2025Q4	100.0	1.7	6.5	8.3	20.3	63.2

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
2023	100.0	0.8	6.4	8.4	20.9	63.4
2024	100.0	1.0	6.1	9.1	20.7	63.1
2023Q4	100.0	1.0	7.1	7.6	21.6	62.8
2024Q4	100.0	0.9	7.2	8.8	20.9	62.1
2025Q1	100.0	1.2	6.9	8.4	21.2	62.4
2025Q2	100.0	1.0	6.9	8.8	21.9	61.5
2025Q3	100.0	0.9	6.7	8.4	22.1	61.9
2025Q4	100.0	1.1	7.2	8.7	20.6	62.4

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
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
2023	100.0	12.6	43.9	18.5	25.1
2024	100.0	11.6	43.6	19.1	25.6
2023Q4	100.0	11.9	45.3	18.1	24.7
2024Q4	100.0	11.4	43.5	19.1	25.9
2025Q1	100.0	11.8	41.9	19.6	26.7
2025Q2	100.0	11.9	43.4	18.1	26.6
2025Q3	100.0	11.4	42.6	19.2	26.8
2025Q4	100.0	10.4	42.1	19.0	28.5

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
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
2023	100.0	12.9	48.0	19.2	19.9
2024	100.0	12.0	47.7	19.9	20.5
2023Q4	100.0	12.2	49.6	18.7	19.5
2024Q4	100.0	12.1	47.2	19.6	21.1
2025Q1	100.0	11.8	46.0	20.2	22.0
2025Q2	100.0	11.8	48.3	18.4	21.6
2025Q3	100.0	11.6	46.8	20.5	21.2
2025Q4	100.0	10.5	45.8	20.7	22.9

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
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
2023	100.0	12.0	35.8	17.0	35.3
2024	100.0	10.8	35.3	17.6	36.3
2023Q4	100.0	11.5	36.3	16.9	35.3
2024Q4	100.0	10.1	35.9	18.1	35.8
2025Q1	100.0	11.9	33.7	18.4	36.0
2025Q2	100.0	12.2	33.8	17.5	36.5
2025Q3	100.0	11.1	35.3	17.0	36.7
2025Q4	100.0	10.1	35.1	15.8	38.9

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			
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
2023	100.0	59.0	14.6	44.5	2.6	32.8	5.5
2024	100.0	58.8	14.4	44.4	2.9	33.1	5.2
2023Q4	100.0	58.1	13.3	44.8	2.6	34.1	5.2
2024Q4	100.0	59.8	15.3	44.5	2.8	32.0	5.4
2025Q1	100.0	62.8	16.0	46.8	2.9	30.2	4.2
2025Q2	100.0	60.9	14.3	46.7	3.3	31.1	4.7
2025Q3	100.0	59.4	14.8	44.7	3.3	32.5	4.8
2025Q4	100.0	60.1	15.9	44.2	3.1	32.4	4.4

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			
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
2023	100.0	57.6	11.5	46.1	3.5	36.8	2.1
2024	100.0	57.2	11.2	46.0	3.8	37.1	1.9
2023Q4	100.0	56.3	10.5	45.8	3.5	38.3	2.0
2024Q4	100.0	57.8	11.4	46.4	3.6	36.8	1.8
2025Q1	100.0	61.4	12.9	48.5	3.8	33.5	1.3
2025Q2	100.0	58.6	11.4	47.2	4.4	35.1	1.9
2025Q3	100.0	58.4	11.8	46.6	4.5	35.5	1.5
2025Q4	100.0	58.2	12.5	45.8	4.0	36.3	1.4

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			
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
2023	100.0	61.9	20.6	41.2	0.9	25.0	12.2
2024	100.0	62.2	21.2	41.0	1.1	24.9	11.9
2023Q4	100.0	61.8	19.3	42.6	0.7	25.5	11.9
2024Q4	100.0	63.9	23.3	40.6	1.2	22.2	12.7
2025Q1	100.0	65.5	22.1	43.4	1.1	23.6	9.8
2025Q2	100.0	65.6	19.9	45.7	0.9	23.1	10.4
2025Q3	100.0	61.3	20.1	41.3	1.0	27.0	10.7
2025Q4	100.0	63.6	22.4	41.2	1.3	25.2	9.9

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
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
2023	8,009,916	2,088,344	64,606	1,377,686	600,862	1,127,497	504,645	277,739	78,347	176,891	89,946	135,523	438,156	429,311	185,014	209,128	160,913	65,308
2024	7,949,751	2,066,651	60,445	1,366,492	604,479	1,175,059	521,450	259,043	80,357	158,144	85,106	147,556	419,058	422,348	183,209	200,086	138,315	61,951
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
2024Q4	8,069,891	2,159,496	51,001	1,367,419	652,882	1,163,251	515,861	256,548	76,774	157,368	81,416	135,554	452,049	426,299	187,776	181,923	149,483	54,792
2025Q1	8,139,605	1,906,832	58,592	1,442,248	634,261	1,149,546	497,674	276,082	102,655	224,863	103,823	175,445	450,783	462,818	198,096	208,072	184,463	63,352
2025Q2	8,172,638	2,104,353	38,061	1,389,082	636,771	1,139,588	486,366	288,978	80,091	192,699	101,481	141,616	470,358	447,445	168,392	212,615	204,412	70,331
2025Q3	8,097,879	1,896,470	64,329	1,467,878	634,678	1,279,947	505,208	273,024	94,376	153,154	83,063	164,166	410,170	464,853	209,866	181,149	142,274	73,274
2025Q4	8,465,808	1,960,333	56,107	1,504,895	664,350	1,260,851	577,493	259,335	81,031	184,538	98,037	173,232	493,629	528,791	191,937	200,595	165,337	65,316

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
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
2023	5,307,563	1,418,583	62,801	731,875	574,746	823,014	480,265	167,045	60,945	97,742	57,625	92,927	270,067	127,997	59,902	167,068	62,929	52,031
2024	5,358,554	1,446,096	59,637	737,824	573,276	861,799	498,811	167,564	56,051	89,841	55,073	104,679	253,211	138,581	56,349	158,330	54,071	47,360
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
2024Q4	5,423,908	1,504,325	49,569	747,525	624,417	856,971	496,306	172,259	46,978	86,950	52,936	95,586	255,669	134,908	55,007	146,484	62,165	35,853
2025Q1	5,399,400	1,316,064	57,011	770,705	609,300	829,968	474,558	168,761	73,630	121,101	60,610	124,617	258,569	160,587	82,893	160,302	84,235	46,488
2025Q2	5,446,537	1,435,970	38,061	778,928	608,166	849,992	466,046	178,320	60,304	93,166	64,115	91,272	292,077	118,205	67,047	162,105	86,457	56,306
2025Q3	5,188,255	1,231,747	62,076	769,695	607,474	862,531	480,436	158,824	61,813	86,149	48,898	105,160	253,882	139,709	68,824	134,568	59,002	57,468
2025Q4	5,514,454	1,281,150	54,810	781,996	626,133	924,292	535,688	158,840	55,077	104,419	64,607	134,338	299,780	156,812	60,821	151,745	75,663	48,281

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
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
2023	2,702,354	669,761	1,805	645,812	26,116	304,483	24,381	110,694	17,401	79,150	32,321	42,595	168,089	301,314	125,112	42,060	97,984	13,277
2024	2,591,197	620,555	809	628,668	31,203	313,260	22,639	91,479	24,306	68,303	30,034	42,877	165,847	283,767	126,859	41,756	84,244	14,591
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
2024Q4	2,645,983	655,171	1,432	619,894	28,465	306,280	19,555	84,288	29,796	70,419	28,480	39,969	196,380	291,391	132,768	35,439	87,318	18,939
2025Q1	2,740,205	590,768	1,581	671,543	24,961	319,578	23,116	107,321	29,024	103,762	43,213	50,828	192,214	302,231	115,203	47,769	100,228	16,864
2025Q2	2,726,101	668,383	..	610,154	28,605	289,597	20,320	110,658	19,787	99,532	37,367	50,344	178,281	329,240	101,345	50,510	117,954	14,024
2025Q3	2,909,624	664,724	2,253	698,183	27,204	417,416	24,772	114,200	32,564	67,005	34,165	59,006	156,288	325,144	141,042	46,582	83,272	15,806
2025Q4	2,951,354	679,184	1,297	722,899	38,217	336,558	41,805	100,495	25,954	80,119	33,430	38,894	193,849	371,979	131,116	48,850	89,674	17,035

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

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

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

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2022	2023	2024	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Total	8,147,731	8,009,916	7,949,751	7,819,131	8,069,891	8,139,605	8,172,638	8,097,879	8,465,808
Agriculture	2,158,559	2,088,344	2,066,651	2,075,112	2,159,496	1,906,832	2,104,353	1,896,470	1,960,333
Industry	2,158,199	2,043,154	2,031,417	1,977,017	2,071,302	2,135,102	2,063,914	2,166,884	2,225,352
Services	3,830,973	3,878,418	3,851,683	3,767,002	3,839,094	4,097,671	4,004,372	4,034,524	4,280,123

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

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2022	2023	2024	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q1	2025Q2	2025Q3	2025Q4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.5	26.1	26.0	26.5	26.8	23.4	25.7	23.4	23.2
Industry	26.5	25.5	25.6	25.3	25.7	26.2	25.3	26.8	26.3
Services	47.0	48.4	48.5	48.2	47.6	50.3	49.0	49.8	50.6

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
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
2023	8,009,916	320,025	587,902	690,537	262,986	984,747	1,211,408	1,105,729	759,785	2,056,729	30,068
2024	7,949,751	339,787	589,418	686,022	283,293	978,857	1,212,157	1,077,931	783,781	1,957,410	41,094
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
2024Q4	8,069,891	359,346	617,207	698,282	311,769	943,501	1,236,164	1,024,930	791,470	2,052,043	35,179
2025Q1	8,139,605	388,842	678,169	811,994	258,907	990,920	1,074,089	1,092,217	776,946	2,012,828	54,693
2025Q2	8,172,638	356,842	613,833	780,828	245,266	1,033,478	1,136,318	1,093,878	743,483	2,133,468	35,244
2025Q3	8,097,879	376,591	657,244	750,590	292,321	989,133	1,061,565	1,142,244	798,168	1,989,748	40,274
2025Q4	8,465,808	385,983	720,747	742,352	264,948	1,084,341	1,157,598	1,155,660	877,704	2,022,445	54,030

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
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
2023	5,307,563	252,648	226,462	422,132	118,267	673,020	926,474	770,046	599,409	1,290,760	28,345
2024	5,358,554	249,813	220,360	450,587	135,584	674,946	947,298	763,680	617,928	1,260,484	37,874
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
2024Q4	5,423,908	257,951	235,726	433,167	135,405	657,716	991,715	737,142	631,080	1,311,986	32,020
2025Q1	5,399,400	280,017	276,401	514,769	105,353	684,772	815,856	762,733	600,644	1,306,784	52,071
2025Q2	5,446,537	261,508	230,886	494,610	107,542	719,248	872,458	801,282	598,281	1,329,064	31,659
2025Q3	5,188,255	264,915	240,694	484,538	127,631	640,114	800,835	777,068	610,285	1,207,290	34,886
2025Q4	5,514,454	292,578	241,839	489,277	112,107	736,576	850,851	803,019	681,293	1,263,187	43,726

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
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
2023	2,702,354	67,378	361,440	268,406	144,719	311,727	284,934	335,682	160,376	765,969	1,723
2024	2,591,197	89,974	369,058	235,434	147,709	303,911	264,859	314,251	165,854	696,926	3,221
2023Q4	2,549,300	69,437	334,240	235,553	132,483	326,171	265,304	323,212	146,398	716,502	..
2024Q4	2,645,983	101,395	381,481	265,115	176,364	285,785	244,449	287,788	160,391	740,057	3,159
2025Q1	2,740,205	108,826	401,768	297,225	153,554	306,148	258,233	329,484	176,302	706,044	2,622
2025Q2	2,726,101	95,334	382,946	286,219	137,725	314,230	263,860	292,596	145,201	804,405	3,585
2025Q3	2,909,624	111,676	416,551	266,053	164,690	349,018	260,730	365,177	187,883	782,458	5,388
2025Q4	2,951,354	93,404	478,908	253,076	152,841	347,764	306,747	352,641	196,411	759,257	10,304

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

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6 | Skilled Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery workers   |
| 2 | Professionals                              | 7 | Craft and Related Trades workers                    |
| 3 | Technicians and Associate Professionals    | 8 | Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers          |
| 4 | Clerks and Clerical support workers        | 9 | Elementary occupations                              |
| 5 | Services and Sales workers                 | 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	2.5	1.9	4.8	8.2	14.7	35.8	32.1
1	100.0	2.8	3.6	10.7	17.3	23.9	25.6	16.1
2	100.0	9.2	..	..	2.4	6.9	36.7	44.8
3	100.0	2.3	1.6	3.6	6.1	11.5	38.9	35.9
6	100.0	3.1	2.7	4.1	9.9	14.6	36.3	29.4
7	100.0	0.8	0.3	2.5	4.6	8.7	32.7	50.5
8	100.0	1.9	1.6	3.9	4.1	10.4	33.4	44.7
9	100.0	1.3	0.8	3.3	7.3	9.8	35.4	42.3
10	100.0	..	..	..	2.0	3.6	53.5	40.9
11	100.0	..	0.6	2.7	..	4.5	65.2	27.0
13	100.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	9.5	6.0	50.3	30.7
14	100.0	4.2	2.4	2.1	7.2	4.4	35.1	44.5
15	100.0	2.8	0.3	0.5	0.5	2.6	61.3	32.0
16	100.0	7.3	3.9	3.3	6.5	39.0	31.5	8.5
17	100.0	0.7	..	0.8	..	1.9	48.6	48.0
19	100.0	2.6	..	1.8	6.7	8.8	41.5	38.5
20	100.0	1.2	3.0	8.4	9.1	18.9	27.0	32.4
Other	100.0	8.7	2.0	6.4	4.3	14.4	34.4	29.8

\* 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
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
2023	100.0	10.0	35.5	25.3	14.2	15.1
2024	100.0	10.6	35.7	27.1	15.6	10.9
2023Q4	100.0	7.6	36.6	27.9	13.9	14.0
2024Q4	100.0	10.5	33.2	30.4	16.3	9.6
2025Q1	100.0	11.3	37.0	24.8	15.7	11.1
2025Q2	100.0	11.4	39.4	23.8	14.4	11.1
2025Q3	100.0	11.6	29.1	28.1	17.0	14.3
2025Q4	100.0	12.4	35.9	22.5	15.9	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
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
2023	100.0	13.8	36.6	21.5	12.2	15.8
2024	100.0	14.9	37.7	24.1	13.6	9.7
2023Q4	100.0	8.7	36.7	26.7	13.4	14.5
2024Q4	100.0	14.1	37.1	26.4	15.9	6.5
2025Q1	100.0	15.7	36.8	25.2	11.9	10.4
2025Q2	100.0	15.4	43.9	18.6	10.6	11.5
2025Q3	100.0	19.0	29.3	23.9	13.8	14.1
2025Q4	100.0	17.9	42.1	20.0	7.5	12.5

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
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
2023	100.0	6.2	34.4	28.9	16.0	14.4
2024	100.0	7.0	34.0	29.7	17.4	11.9
2023Q4	100.0	6.6	36.6	29.1	14.3	13.4
2024Q4	100.0	7.7	30.2	33.5	16.6	12.1
2025Q1	100.0	7.9	37.2	24.6	18.6	11.6
2025Q2	100.0	8.1	35.6	28.1	17.6	10.7
2025Q3	100.0	4.9	28.9	31.9	19.8	14.4
2025Q4	100.0	7.6	30.4	24.8	23.2	14.0

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
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
2023	100.0	1.8	31.1	23.6	43.6
2024	100.0	1.4	26.9	25.0	46.8
2023Q4	100.0	2.4	29.1	26.4	42.2
2024Q4	100.0	..	27.0	27.2	45.8
2025Q1	100.0	1.5	26.3	28.7	43.5
2025Q2	100.0	2.8	26.9	27.5	42.7
2025Q3	100.0	2.5	27.4	26.1	44.1
2025Q4	100.0	0.8	33.4	25.6	40.2

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
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
2023	100.0	2.3	39.3	25.1	33.4
2024	100.0	1.0	33.2	28.0	37.8
2023Q4	100.0	3.0	34.2	26.7	36.2
2024Q4	100.0	..	37.5	26.2	36.2
2025Q1	100.0	1.4	33.0	28.4	37.2
2025Q2	100.0	4.8	37.3	32.6	25.3
2025Q3	100.0	3.3	34.6	29.8	32.2
2025Q4	100.0	..	36.7	32.5	30.8

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
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
2023	100.0	1.4	23.1	22.1	53.4
2024	100.0	1.7	21.5	22.4	54.4
2023Q4	100.0	1.9	24.4	26.1	47.5
2024Q4	100.0	..	18.7	28.0	53.3
2025Q1	100.0	1.6	21.2	28.9	48.3
2025Q2	100.0	1.2	18.4	23.3	57.1
2025Q3	100.0	1.8	20.8	22.7	54.7
2025Q4	100.0	1.4	30.4	19.7	48.4

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		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	332,352	143,475	96,040	92,837
%	100.0	43.2	28.9	27.9
Male	154,730	76,571	43,660	34,500
%	100.0	49.5	28.2	22.3
Female	177,622	66,904	52,380	58,338
%	100.0	37.7	29.5	32.8

(2025 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

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

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 (%)
<b>General labour force characteristics</b>						
Population ( 15 years & over)	18,023,110	142,075	0.8			
Employed Population	8,465,808	106,239	1.3			
Unemployed Population	332,352	23,076	6.9			
Employment Rate				96.2	0.25	0.26
Unemployment Rate				3.8	0.25	6.74
Labour Force	8,798,160	109,594	1.2			
Not in Labour Force	9,224,950	123,398	1.3			
<b>Employed persons by major industry Groups</b>						
1	1,960,333	85,223	4.3			
2	56,107	13,797	24.6			
3	1,504,895	58,482	3.9			
6	664,350	35,246	5.3			
7	1,260,851	53,552	4.2			
8	577,493	31,539	5.5			
9	259,335	21,133	8.1			
10	81,031	11,702	14.4			
11	184,538	18,182	9.9			
13	98,037	13,416	13.7			
14	173,232	18,050	10.4			
15	493,629	34,042	6.9			
16	528,791	31,147	5.9			
17	191,937	18,741	9.8			
19	200,595	19,030	9.5			
20	165,337	18,226	11.0			
Other	65,316	10,698	16.4			
<b>Unemployed persons by level of education</b>						
Grade 5 and below	2,547	1,801	70.7			
Grade 6 - 10	110,896	11,844	10.7			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	85,230	11,653	13.7			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	133,679	11,280	8.4			
<b>Industry group</b>						
1	Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)					
2	Mining & quarrying (B)					
3	Manufacturing (C)					
6	Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)					
7	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)					
8	Transportation and storage (H)					
9	Accommodation and food services activities (I)					
10	Information and communication (J)					
11	Financial and insurance activities (K)					
13	Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)					
14	Administrative and support service activities (N)					
15	Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)					
16	Education (P)					
17	Human health and social work activities (Q)					
19	Other service activities (S)					
20	Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)					
Other	Other Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)					

## Special Statistical Appendix

### Explanatory Notes

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#### Coverage

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

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

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

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

#### Concepts & Definitions

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

*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)

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

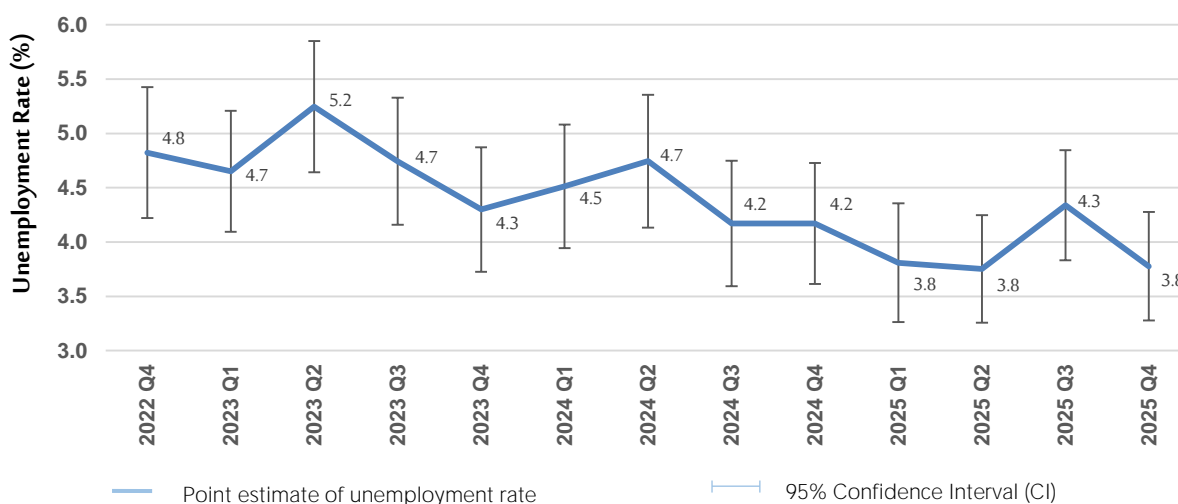
$$(4.5 \pm 0.539)$$

*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 (2022Q3- 2025Q3)***



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 2022/2025, 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
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
2023	8,408,331	60,811	0.72	8,289,086	8,527,576	8,009,916	58,584	0.73	7,895,039	8,124,794
2024	8,315,702	59,437	0.71	8,199,151	8,432,253	7,949,751	57,380	0.72	7,837,234	8,062,267
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
2024Q4	8,421,180	121,809	1.45	8,181,938	8,660,421	8,069,891	117,439	1.46	7,839,235	8,300,548
2025Q1	8,461,936	100,567	1.19	8,264,407	8,659,464	8,139,605	97,268	1.19	7,948,557	8,330,653
2025Q2	8,491,296	102,560	1.21	8,289,854	8,692,738	8,172,638	99,002	1.21	7,978,185	8,367,092
2025Q3	8,465,161	104,546	1.24	8,259,818	8,670,505	8,097,879	100,834	1.25	7,899,827	8,295,931
2025Q4	8,798,160	109,594	1.25	8,582,900	9,013,421	8,798,160	109,594	1.25	8,582,900	9,013,421

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
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
2023	398,415	13,036	3.27	372,852	423,978	4.7	0.1	3.15	4.4	5.0
2024	365,951	12,835	3.51	340,782	391,120	4.4	0.1	3.39	4.1	4.7
2023Q4	351,303	24,767	7.05	302,660	399,946	4.3	0.3	6.79	3.7	4.9
2024Q4	351,288	24,761	7.05	302,656	399,920	4.2	0.3	6.79	3.6	4.7
2025Q1	322,331	24,223	7.51	274,753	369,908	3.8	0.3	7.30	3.3	4.4
2025Q2	318,657	22,132	6.95	275,187	362,128	3.8	0.3	6.73	3.3	4.2
2025Q3	367,282	22,662	6.17	322,771	411,793	4.3	0.3	5.96	3.8	4.8
2025Q4	332,352	23,076	6.94	287,028	377,676	3.8	0.3	6.74	3.3	4.3

## 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 &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)	
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
2023	17,306,492	7,380,485	42.6	6,982,070	94.6	398,415	5.4	9,926,008
2024	17,547,864	7,445,218	42.4	7,079,267	95.1	365,951	4.9	10,102,646
2023Q4	17,353,546	7,168,079	41.3	6,816,776	95.1	351,303	4.9	10,185,467
2024Q4	17,640,423	7,570,512	42.9	7,219,224	95.4	351,288	4.6	10,069,911
2025Q1	17,032,793	7,686,993	45.1	7,364,663	95.8	322,331	4.2	9,345,800
2025Q2	17,214,317	7,525,375	43.7	7,206,718	95.8	318,657	4.2	9,688,942
2025Q3	16,959,508	7,586,491	44.7	7,219,209	95.2	367,282	4.8	9,373,016
2025Q4	18,023,110	7,919,363	43.9	7,587,011	95.8	332,352	4.2	10,103,747

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
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
2023	398,415	5.4	39,737	33.5	141,290	24.0	100,763	14.2	56,381	3.7	60,244	1.4
2024	365,951	4.9	38,809	32.7	130,640	22.4	99,305	13.5	57,229	3.8	39,968	0.9
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
2024Q4	351,288	4.6	36,957	30.2	116,701	20.3	106,703	13.4	57,137	3.7	33,790	0.7
2025Q1	322,331	4.2	36,398	31.5	119,386	19.5	80,069	10.7	50,677	3.0	35,800	0.8
2025Q2	318,657	4.2	36,256	31.6	125,396	21.5	75,786	10.1	45,924	2.9	35,294	0.8
2025Q3	367,282	4.8	42,514	32.3	106,784	18.3	103,348	14.3	62,268	3.8	52,368	1.2
2025Q4	332,352	4.2	41,212	27.4	119,221	19.0	74,922	10.4	52,785	3.2	44,212	0.9

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	
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
2023	No.	6,982,070	1,565,483	60,338	1,242,417	539,663	994,013	476,430	239,278	77,115	174,986	84,258	126,467	435,718	403,080	181,525	182,460	141,912	56,928
	%	100.0	22.4	0.9	17.8	7.7	14.2	6.8	3.4	1.1	2.5	1.2	1.8	6.2	5.8	2.6	2.6	2.0	0.8
2024	No.	7,079,267	1,617,302	58,145	1,249,437	561,979	1,050,283	499,891	230,156	78,001	156,020	81,737	144,857	415,785	396,749	179,543	182,482	121,181	55,717
	%	100.0	22.8	0.8	17.6	7.9	14.8	7.1	3.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	5.9	5.6	2.5	2.6	1.7	0.8
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
2024Q4	No.	7,219,224	1,678,188	49,988	1,268,218	614,354	1,036,787	502,927	233,063	73,469	157,368	81,416	132,398	447,231	407,228	185,063	168,354	131,237	51,934
	%	100.0	23.2	0.7	17.6	8.5	14.4	7.0	3.2	1.0	2.2	1.1	1.8	6.2	5.6	2.6	2.3	1.8	0.7
2025Q1	No.	7,364,663	1,504,148	54,357	1,345,479	593,113	1,060,341	477,728	246,060	98,875	222,851	96,798	171,634	446,414	440,477	198,096	187,176	162,471	58,646
	%	100.0	20.4	0.7	18.3	8.1	14.4	6.5	3.3	1.3	3.0	1.3	2.3	6.1	6.0	2.7	2.5	2.2	0.8
2025Q2	No.	7,206,718	1,637,649	38,061	1,248,117	594,242	1,029,593	458,164	243,880	75,912	183,429	94,950	136,186	458,821	416,372	164,318	188,733	178,402	59,886
	%	100.0	22.7	0.5	17.3	8.2	14.3	6.4	3.4	1.1	2.5	1.3	1.9	6.4	5.8	2.3	2.6	2.5	0.8
2025Q3	No.	7,219,209	1,488,152	62,394	1,322,717	586,822	1,152,598	490,979	244,212	91,992	149,420	77,205	149,835	404,532	439,109	206,475	159,843	129,576	63,346
	%	100.0	20.6	0.9	18.3	8.1	16.0	6.8	3.4	1.3	2.1	1.1	2.1	5.6	6.1	2.9	2.2	1.8	0.9
2025Q4	No.	7,587,011	1,503,253	56,107	1,392,797	618,117	1,147,770	545,933	241,738	81,031	174,413	91,466	165,383	490,063	489,190	190,338	194,440	146,479	58,494
	%	100.0	19.8	0.7	18.4	8.1	15.1	7.2	3.2	1.1	2.3	1.2	2.2	6.5	6.4	2.5	2.6	1.9	0.8

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

#### Industry Group

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & 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)

# 2025


## 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."



### 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."

 Department of Census & Statistics  
Sankyana Mandiraya  
No. 306/71, Polduwa Road  
Battaramulla

 [info@statistics.gov.lk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.lk)  
 +94 11-2147000  
 +94 11-2147011  
 [statistics.gov.lk](http://statistics.gov.lk)

This publication is produced by the  
Sample Surveys Division

 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of Census and Statistics  
 [sample.survey@statistics.gov.lk](mailto:sample.survey@statistics.gov.lk)  
 +94 11-2147446  +94 11-2147447