Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey
Quarterly Report
2nd Quarter - 2026

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

SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Quarterly Report – 2026
Second Quarter

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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 2026, published labour force estimates of 2025 were revised based on the population estimates of the Census of Population and Housing which was conducted in 2024. 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 Personal Interviewing (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 second quarter 2026 was done in the month of April, May and June in year 2026. 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.

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15.10.2026.

Acknowledgements

This report is the hundred and thirty ninth 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 Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Director (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.

The survey activities were organized and supervised by 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, Ms. W.A.S. Malkanthi, Mr. H.M.S.C. Bandara, Ms. I.S. Hamangoda, 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. 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. Developing of listing update programme and its related computer software was prepared by Mr. E.M.D. Ekanayake, Director (ICT).

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, Statistical Assistants and Development 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									
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024Q2	2025Q2	2026Q1	2026Q2
Labour force participation rate										
By Gender										
Total	50.6	49.9	49.8	48.6	47.4	49.4	47.8	49.1	49.2	50.0
Male	71.9	71.0	70.5	68.6	67.4	69.1	68.1	69.5	69.1	70.3
Female	32.0	31.8	32.1	31.3	29.8	32.4	30.0	31.3	32.5	32.7
By residential sector										
Total	50.6	49.9	49.8	48.6	47.4	49.4	47.8	49.1	49.2	50.0
Urban	47.0	46.9	47.2	46.0	44.3	46.5	45.4	45.7	46.7	46.8
Rural*	51.3	50.5	50.3	49.1	48.0	49.9	48.3	49.8	49.8	50.7
Unemployment Rate										
By Gender										
Total	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.4	3.9	4.7	3.7	3.7	4.0
Male	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.6	2.5	2.4	2.8
Female	8.5	7.9	6.5	7.0	7.1	6.1	7.0	6.0	6.1	6.1
By selected age Group (Year)										
20 - 29	18.1	18.3	16.2	17.0	16.1	13.9	16.9	13.6	13.7	14.3
20 - 24	25.2	26.8	21.8	21.6	20.7	17.8	23.7	18.9	15.8	17.0
25 - 29	12.0	11.4	11.7	13.0	12.5	10.6	11.2	9.4	11.8	12.1
By selected educational level										
GCE A/L and above										
Total	9.8	9.1	7.8	8.0	7.8	6.0	7.8	5.9	6.5	6.7
Male	6.2	6.2	5.5	5.8	5.4	3.9	5.8	3.0	3.2	3.9
Female	13.6	12.2	10.1	10.2	10.3	8.3	10.0	9.2	9.7	9.6
Employed population										
By Gender										
Total	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	7,949,751	8,079,040	7,988,626	8,077,102	8,102,868	8,246,216
Male	5,372,947	5,414,280	5,373,965	5,307,563	5,358,554	5,299,777	5,379,472	5,395,930	5,274,509	5,392,123
Female	2,626,146	2,699,228	2,773,766	2,702,354	2,591,197	2,779,262	2,609,154	2,681,172	2,828,359	2,854,092
By industry (Percentage)										
Total	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	7,949,751	8,079,040	7,988,626	8,077,102	8,102,868	8,246,216
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,169,679	2,213,015	2,158,559	2,088,344	2,066,651	1,932,548	2,000,744	2,084,463	1,920,505	1,930,785
%	27.1	27.3	26.5	26.1	26.0	23.9	25.0	25.8	23.7	23.4
Industry	2,152,746	2,109,482	2,158,199	2,043,154	2,031,417	2,120,455	2,116,002	2,068,425	2,096,104	2,254,859
%	26.9	26.0	26.5	25.5	25.6	26.2	26.5	25.6	25.9	27.3
Services	3,676,668	3,791,011	3,830,973	3,878,418	3,851,683	4,026,037	3,871,880	3,924,214	4,086,258	4,060,571
%	46.0	46.7	47.0	48.4	48.5	49.8	48.5	48.6	50.4	49.2
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**	14.6	9.6	5.8	4.2	2.5	2.6	4.0	3.9	2.4	5.4
1 - 9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.4	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.2	3.0
10 - 39	27.1	29.6	31.9	31.2	28.3	28.7	29.4	31.0	26.9	29.8
40 & above	56.2	58.7	60.3	62.1	67.4	66.7	64.3	62.8	68.5	61.8

* 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 2026
Second Quarter
Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics

15 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural*
Population (15 years & over)	17,168,741	7,887,023	9,281,718	2,898,033	14,270,709
Labour force in this age group	8,586,456	5,548,482	3,037,974	1,355,567	7,230,889
Labour force participation rate	50.0	70.3	32.7	46.8	50.7
Employed population	8,246,216	5,392,123	2,854,092	1,292,788	6,953,428
Employment rate	96.0	97.2	93.9	95.4	96.2
Unemployed population	340,240	156,358	183,882	62,779	277,461
Unemployment rate	4.0	2.8	6.1	4.6	3.8
Not in labour force	8,582,286	2,338,541	6,243,744	1,542,465	7,039,820

18 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural*
Population (18 years & over)	16,115,857	7,401,025	8,714,831	2,747,277	13,368,580
Labour force in this age group	8,559,643	5,529,668	3,029,975	1,353,102	7,206,542
Labour force participation rate	53.1	74.7	34.8	49.3	53.9
Employed population	8,226,554	5,377,486	2,849,068	1,291,726	6,934,828
Employment rate	96.1	97.2	94.0	95.5	96.2
Unemployed population	333,089	152,182	180,907	61,376	271,713
Unemployment rate	3.9	2.8	6.0	4.5	3.8
Not in labour force	7,556,213	1,871,357	5,684,856	1,394,175	6,162,038

20 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural*
Population (20 years & over)	15,403,034	7,038,065	8,364,969	2,600,462	12,802,572
Labour force in this age group	8,418,379	5,422,430	2,995,950	1,330,015	7,088,365
Labour force participation rate	54.7	77.0	35.8	51.1	55.4
Employed population	8,113,592	5,289,470	2,824,122	1,272,286	6,841,306
Employment rate	96.4	97.5	94.3	95.7	96.5
Unemployed population	304,788	132,960	171,828	57,729	247,059
Unemployment rate	3.6	2.5	5.7	4.3	3.5
Not in labour force	6,984,654	1,615,635	5,369,020	1,270,447	5,714,207

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

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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, second quarter - 2026

Sector	Economically Active Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,586,456	100	5,548,482	64.6	3,037,974	35.4
Urban	1,355,567	100	891,050	65.7	464,517	34.3
Rural	6,885,177	100	4,449,197	64.6	2,435,981	35.4
Estate*	345,711	100	208,235	60.2	137,477	39.8

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

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector, second quarter - 2026

Sector	Economically Inactive Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,582,286	100	2,338,541	27.2	6,243,744	72.8
Urban	1,542,465	100	416,638	27.0	1,125,828	73.0
Rural	6,749,176	100	1,819,714	27.0	4,929,462	73.0
Estate*	290,644	100	102,190	35.2	188,454	64.8

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

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.6 million in the second quarter 2026. Of which 64.6 percent are males and 35.4 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 8.6 million. Out of the economically inactive population 27.2 percent are males and 72.8 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year, 2021 - 2026Q2

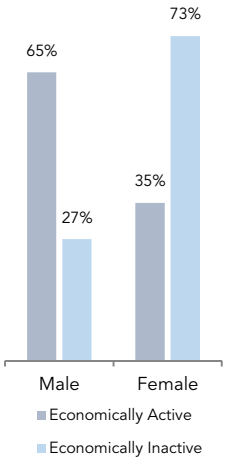
Year	Total	Male	Female
2021	49.9	71.0	31.8
2022	49.8	70.5	32.1
2023	48.6	68.6	31.3
2024	47.4	67.4	29.8
2025	49.4	69.1	32.4
2024 Q2	47.8	68.1	30.0
2025 Q2	49.3	69.5	31.7
2026 Q1	49.2	69.1	32.5
2026 Q2	50.0	70.3	32.7

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, second quarter – 2026

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	50.0	70.3	32.7
15 - 19	9.5	14.8	4.6
20 - 24	49.6	65.8	34.2
25 - 29	65.5	86.6	45.8
30 - 34	68.6	95.0	48.6
35 - 39	65.9	94.1	42.9
40 - 44	69.7	93.1	49.0
45 - 49	71.9	95.8	49.6
50 - 54	68.7	94.0	46.3
55 - 59	61.7	89.4	37.6
60+	28.7	45.2	16.2

Figure 1: Distribution of economically active vs inactive population, second quarter 2026



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 45 - 49 years (95.8%), while that for female is also reported from 45 - 49 age group (49.6%).

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 (second quarter 2025 – second quarter 2026)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
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*	8,036,367	1,854,939	2,115,117	4,066,311
(%)	100.0	23.1	26.3	50.6
2026 Q1	8,102,868	1,920,505	2,096,104	4,086,258
(%)	100.0	23.7	25.9	50.4
2026 Q2	8,246,216	1,930,785	2,254,859	4,060,571
(%)	100.0	23.4	27.3	49.2

* Corrected

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2025 to second quarter 2026. During second quarter of 2026, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as 8.2 million. Of which, about 49.2 percent engaged in service sector, 27.3 percent in industry sector and 23.4 percent in agriculture sector. In the second quarter of 2026, there are increases in employed persons in industry and service sectors compared to the second quarter of 2025.

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, second quarter - 2026

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,246,216	100.0	1,930,785	23.4	6,315,431	76.6
Employee	4,950,649	100.0	714,609	14.4	4,236,039	85.6
Public	1,128,212	100.0	16,516*	1.5*	1,111,696	98.5
Private	3,822,436	100.0	698,093	18.3	3,124,343	81.7
Employer	266,634	100.0	25,707*	9.6*	240,926	90.4
Own Account Worker	2,627,943	100.0	967,039	36.8	1,660,905	63.2
Contributing Family Worker	400,990	100.0	223,430	55.7	177,560	44.3

***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 76.6 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 21.9 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 24.2 percent for males.

Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture sector, second quarter - 2026

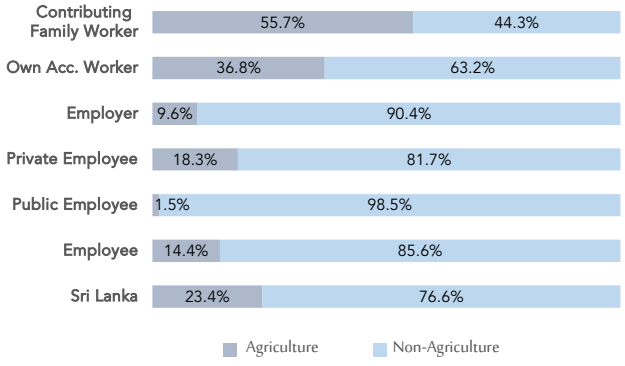


Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by major industry group & gender, second quarter – 2026

Major Industry group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	23.4	24.2	21.9
Industry	27.3	27.0	28.0
Services	49.2	48.8	50.1

Unemployment

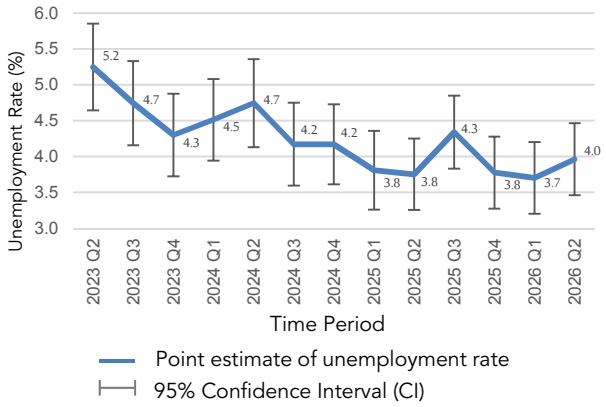
Unemployed

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

Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals, 2023Q2 - 2026Q2



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 340,240 during the second quarter 2026. The unemployment rate for the second quarter 2026 is 4.0 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[1] and the confidence limits need to considered.

Table 8: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by age group and gender, second quarter - 2026

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka		Gender	
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	340,240	4.0	2.8	6.1
15 - 24	150,684	17.8	15.5	22.4
25 - 29	93,968	12.1	7.7	19.7
Over 30	95,588	1.4	0.7*	2.6

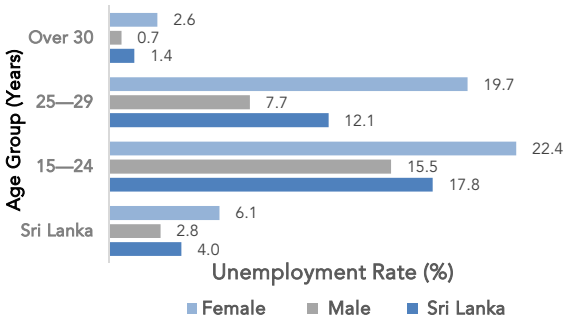
***These Figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of Variation) Values are high.**

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

Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by age group and gender, second quater 2026



As per the table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 6.1 percent and it is 2.8 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the second quarter 2026 is 17.8 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 15.5 and 22.4 percent respectively for age group 15 - 24.

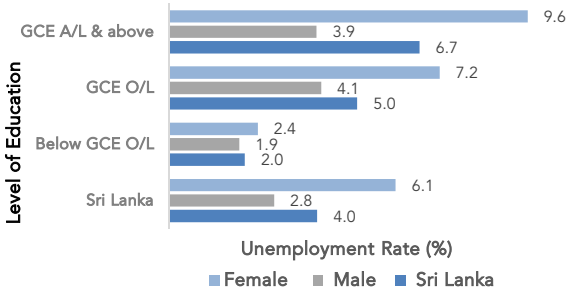
The survey results further reveals that the unemployment among females is higher than that of males, in all age groups. Youth and female unemployment contribute more to the overall unemployment of the country.

Table 9: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by level of education, second quarter - 2026

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka		Gender	
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	340,240	4.0	2.8	6.1
Below GCE O/L	90,182	2.0	1.9*	2.4
GCE O/L	84,696	5.0	4.1	7.2
GCE A/L & above	165,361	6.7	3.9	9.6

***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, second quater 2026



The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E.(A/L) and above group which is 6.7 percent. Corresponding percentages are 3.9 percent and 9.6 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

Survey results further shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males, which was observed consistently over the results of previous survey rounds as well.

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

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		Number
				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
2025	17,034,109	8,408,251	49.4	8,079,040	96.1	329,211	3.9	8,625,859
2024Q2	17,548,937	8,386,482	47.8	7,988,626	95.3	397,855	4.7	9,162,455
2025Q2	17,098,071	8,388,969	49.1	8,077,102	96.3	311,867	3.7	8,709,102
2026Q1	17,089,315	8,414,363	49.2	8,102,868	96.3	311,495	3.7	8,674,952
2026Q2	17,168,741	8,586,456	50.0	8,246,216	96.0	340,240	4.0	8,582,286

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
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		Number
				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
2025	7,889,837	5,449,708	69.1	5,299,777	97.2	149,931	2.8	2,440,129
2024Q2	8,194,669	5,580,419	68.1	5,379,472	96.4	200,947	3.6	2,614,250
2025Q2	7,969,838	5,535,670	69.5	5,395,930	97.5	139,740	2.5	2,434,169
2026Q1	7,817,410	5,401,458	69.1	5,274,509	97.6	126,950	2.4	2,415,951
2026Q2	7,887,023	5,548,482	70.3	5,392,123	97.2	156,358	2.8	2,338,541

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
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		Number
				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
2025	9,144,272	2,958,543	32.4	2,779,262	93.9	179,280	6.1	6,185,730
2024Q2	9,354,267	2,806,062	30.0	2,609,154	93.0	196,908	7.0	6,548,205
2025Q2	9,128,233	2,853,300	31.3	2,681,172	94.0	172,128	6.0	6,274,933
2026Q1	9,271,905	3,012,905	32.5	2,828,359	93.9	184,546	6.1	6,259,001
2026Q2	9,281,718	3,037,974	32.7	2,854,092	93.9	183,882	6.1	6,243,744

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	17,168,741	8,586,456	50.0	8,246,216	96.0	340,240	4.0	8,582,286
15 – 19 Yrs	1,765,708	168,076	9.5	132,624	78.9	35,452	21.1	1,597,631
20 – 24 Yrs	1,370,036	679,284	49.6	564,052	83.0	115,232	17.0	690,752
25 – 29 Yrs	1,189,810	779,748	65.5	685,780	87.9	93,968	12.1	410,062
30 – 39 Yrs	2,580,302	1,734,931	67.2	1,668,507	96.2	66,424	3.8	845,371
40+ Yrs	10,262,886	5,224,417	50.9	5,195,252	99.4	29,164	0.6	5,038,470

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	7,887,023	5,548,482	70.3	5,392,123	97.2	156,358	2.8	2,338,541
15 – 19 Yrs	848,959	126,052	14.8	102,654	81.4	23,398	18.6	722,907
20 – 24 Yrs	667,386	439,112	65.8	374,942	85.4	64,171	14.6	228,273
25 – 29 Yrs	574,711	497,886	86.6	459,421	92.3	38,464	7.7	76,825
30 – 39 Yrs	1,135,646	1,073,688	94.5	1,056,993	98.4	16,695	1.6	61,958
40+ Yrs	4,660,322	3,411,744	73.2	3,398,114	99.6	13,630	0.4	1,248,578

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	9,281,718	3,037,974	32.7	2,854,092	93.9	183,882	6.1	6,243,744
15 – 19 Yrs	916,749	42,025	4.6	29,971	71.3	12,054	28.7	874,725
20 – 24 Yrs	702,650	240,171	34.2	189,110	78.7	51,062	21.3	462,479
25 – 29 Yrs	615,099	281,862	45.8	226,359	80.3	55,503	19.7	333,236
30 – 39 Yrs	1,444,656	661,243	45.8	611,514	92.5	49,729	7.5	783,413
40+ Yrs	5,602,565	1,812,673	32.4	1,797,139	99.1	15,534	0.9	3,789,892

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
2025	100.0	1.3	6.6	8.6	20.7	62.8
2024Q2	100.0	1.4	6.2	8.6	19.5	64.3
2025Q2	100.0	1.2	6.5	8.9	20.3	63.1
2026Q1	100.0	1.5	7.1	8.5	20.5	62.4
2026Q2	100.0	1.6	6.8	8.3	20.2	63.0

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
2025	100.0	1.4	6.4	8.6	20.4	63.1
2024Q2	100.0	1.5	6.5	8.4	19.3	64.4
2025Q2	100.0	1.4	6.2	9.1	19.5	63.8
2026Q1	100.0	1.9	6.8	8.2	20.6	62.5
2026Q2	100.0	1.9	7.0	8.5	19.6	63.0

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
2025	100.0	1.0	6.9	8.6	21.4	62.1
2024Q2	100.0	1.3	5.6	9.2	19.9	64.0
2025Q2	100.0	0.9	6.9	8.7	21.8	61.7
2026Q1	100.0	0.7	7.8	9.1	20.1	62.3
2026Q2	100.0	1.1	6.6	7.9	21.4	63.0

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
2025	100.0	11.3	42.6	19.0	27.1
2024Q2	100.0	12.5	42.8	19.0	25.7
2025Q2	100.0	11.7	43.6	18.2	26.5
2026Q1	100.0	11.0	42.9	18.0	28.1
2026Q2	100.0	10.8	41.8	19.4	28.0

Table 4A – Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Male

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & Below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above
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
2025	100.0	11.3	46.7	20.0	21.9
2024Q2	100.0	12.8	47.0	19.6	20.6
2025Q2	100.0	11.6	48.3	18.5	21.6
2026Q1	100.0	11.4	47.0	19.3	22.4
2026Q2	100.0	10.9	45.8	20.8	22.5

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
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
2025	100.0	11.2	34.6	17.2	37.0
2024Q2	100.0	11.9	34.1	17.7	36.3
2025Q2	100.0	12.0	34.3	17.5	36.2
2026Q1	100.0	10.2	35.3	15.7	38.8
2026Q2	100.0	10.8	34.3	16.7	38.2

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
2025	100.0	60.5	15.2	45.3	3.1	31.8	4.5
2024Q2	100.0	59.0	14.4	44.6	3.3	33.0	4.8
2025Q2	100.0	60.1	14.1	45.9	3.3	31.9	4.7
2026Q1	100.0	61.1	14.5	46.5	3.0	31.3	4.6
2026Q2	100.0	60.0	13.7	46.4	3.2	31.9	4.9

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
2025	100.0	58.8	12.1	46.7	4.2	35.4	1.5
2024Q2	100.0	57.2	11.4	45.8	4.4	36.6	1.8
2025Q2	100.0	57.6	11.3	46.3	4.4	36.1	1.9
2026Q1	100.0	59.0	10.7	48.3	3.9	35.5	1.6
2026Q2	100.0	59.0	10.8	48.3	4.4	35.0	1.6

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
2025	100.0	63.7	21.1	42.6	1.1	24.9	10.2
2024Q2	100.0	62.7	20.4	42.3	1.0	25.4	10.8
2025Q2	100.0	65.0	19.8	45.2	0.9	23.6	10.5
2026Q1	100.0	64.9	21.7	43.2	1.3	23.4	10.4
2026Q2	100.0	61.9	19.2	42.8	1.0	26.0	11.0

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
2025	8,079,040	1,932,548	52,317	1,439,539	628,599	1,183,675	505,660	268,312	92,347	185,380	94,411	160,868	447,673	466,391	188,544	197,111	168,945	66,718
2024Q2	7,988,626	2,000,744	60,339	1,454,158	601,505	1,182,393	489,853	257,506	85,569	156,510	95,425	158,947	425,039	425,473	173,637	205,640	149,653	66,236
2025Q2	8,077,102	2,084,463	36,911	1,408,626	622,889	1,111,083	473,312	281,237	96,268	188,947	98,731	138,480	460,363	438,803	165,064	207,837	195,748	68,341
2026Q1	8,102,868	1,920,505	56,088	1,425,086	614,930	1,139,485	547,132	319,361	116,287	197,335	80,646	158,151	429,460	442,840	191,206	207,585	184,937	71,833
2026Q2	8,246,216	1,930,785	59,548	1,516,808	678,503	1,216,995	476,695	285,693	96,482	195,772	112,396	184,395	408,287	431,801	181,574	202,586	180,712	87,185

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
2025	5,299,777	1,298,371	51,063	770,468	599,088	848,704	478,836	162,253	66,039	99,579	58,159	111,957	271,223	140,978	68,714	149,377	73,893	51,076
2024Q2	5,379,472	1,424,001	60,339	775,013	580,303	847,189	461,997	171,167	63,801	91,970	55,409	112,321	262,600	135,737	57,446	161,030	62,215	56,934
2025Q2	5,395,930	1,432,017	36,911	793,776	594,281	827,866	453,364	174,076	76,739	91,703	62,671	90,144	286,319	116,417	66,002	157,937	81,238	54,469
2026Q1	5,274,509	1,267,486	50,628	735,997	583,443	821,898	526,206	223,735	73,354	95,662	55,909	108,335	243,742	127,920	61,932	161,240	84,497	52,525
2026Q2	5,392,123	1,306,372	57,067	753,913	644,010	863,741	447,784	197,379	71,077	113,113	62,650	133,132	250,230	119,901	67,067	147,274	87,272	70,143

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
2025	2,779,262	634,177	1,254	669,071	29,511	334,971	26,824	106,059	26,308	85,802	36,253	48,911	176,450	325,413	119,830	47,734	95,053	15,642
2024Q2	2,609,154	576,743	..	679,144	21,202	335,204	27,855	86,339	21,767	64,539	40,016	46,626	162,439	289,736	116,191	44,610	87,438	9,303
2025Q2	2,681,172	652,446	..	614,850	28,607	283,217	19,948	107,161	19,529	97,244	36,060	48,337	174,044	322,385	99,062	49,899	114,510	13,872
2026Q1	2,828,359	653,019	5,460	689,090	31,487	317,587	20,927	95,626	42,933	101,674	24,737	49,816	185,718	314,920	129,274	46,345	100,440	19,308
2026Q2	2,854,092	624,413	2,482	762,895	34,493	353,254	28,910	88,314	25,406	82,659	49,746	51,262	158,057	311,900	114,507	55,312	93,441	17,042

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 Minning & 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 teritorial organizations & bodies (U)

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

Major Industry Group	Year							
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024Q2	2025Q2	2026Q1	2026Q2
Total	8,147,731	8,009,916	7,949,751	8,079,040	7,988,626	8,077,102	8,102,868	8,246,216
Agriculture	2,158,559	2,088,344	2,066,651	1,932,548	2,000,744	2,084,463	1,920,505	1,930,785
Industry	2,158,199	2,043,154	2,031,417	2,120,455	2,116,002	2,068,425	2,096,104	2,254,859
Services	3,830,973	3,878,418	3,851,683	4,026,037	3,871,880	3,924,214	4,086,258	4,060,571

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

Major Industry Group	Year							
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024Q2	2025Q2	2026Q1	2026Q2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.5	26.1	26.0	23.9	25.0	25.8	23.7	23.4
Industry	26.5	25.5	25.6	26.2	26.5	25.6	25.9	27.3
Services	47.0	48.4	48.5	49.8	48.5	48.6	50.4	49.2

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

Agriculture

1. Agriculture Foresty and Fishery (A)

Industries

1. Minning & 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
2025	8,079,040	371,051	653,873	761,071	260,304	1,003,534	1,108,922	1,099,654	784,008	1,991,179	45,444
2024Q2	7,988,626	334,376	577,877	683,824	272,126	1,043,545	1,170,331	1,131,565	778,460	1,951,583	44,938
2025Q2	8,077,102	351,210	601,000	777,713	238,294	1,010,540	1,191,046	1,068,237	726,920	2,077,808	34,334
2026Q1*	8,102,868	364,807	652,334	682,663	231,687	1,132,425	1,156,974	1,102,202	852,216	1,897,282	30,279
2026Q2*	8,246,216	445,723	603,241	708,129	259,756	1,163,034	1,167,342	1,189,828	780,272	1,896,142	32,750

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
2025	5,299,777	270,005	242,189	490,525	111,013	680,751	838,147	770,499	609,397	1,247,136	40,114
2024Q2	5,379,472	250,696	211,193	448,692	146,131	695,019	907,179	807,471	602,390	1,268,971	41,730
2025Q2	5,395,930	256,797	225,724	499,122	104,644	703,509	916,728	782,081	581,999	1,294,563	30,762
2026Q1*	5,274,509	276,560	232,478	410,724	92,179	782,663	864,388	761,062	669,083	1,159,086	26,286
2026Q2*	5,392,123	328,792	208,628	437,412	139,827	802,352	884,886	799,088	573,850	1,185,774	31,515

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
2025	2,779,262	101,046	411,684	270,545	149,291	322,782	270,775	329,155	174,611	744,042	5,330
2024Q2	2,609,154	83,680	366,684	235,131	125,995	348,527	263,152	324,094	176,070	682,612	3,208
2025Q2	2,681,172	94,413	375,276	278,591	133,650	307,030	274,318	286,156	144,921	783,244	3,573
2026Q1*	2,828,359	88,247	419,856	271,939	139,507	349,762	292,586	341,140	183,133	738,196	3,993
2026Q2*	2,854,092	116,930	394,613	270,717	119,928	360,683	282,456	390,740	206,422	710,368	1,235

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

* Based on ISCO 08 (Release 2012)

1	Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators	6	Skilled Agricultura, Forestry and Fishery workers
2	Professionals	7	Craft and Related Trades workers
3	Technicians and Associate Professionals	8	Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers
4	Clerks and Clerical support workers	9	Elementary occupations
5	Services and Sales workers	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	5.4	3.0	5.9	8.8	15.1	33.2	28.6
1	100.0	6.6	4.9	8.6	15.8	20.5	27.0	16.5
2	100.0	12.6	6.2	5.8	10.9	6.6	31.1	26.9
3	100.0	8.1	2.8	6.1	6.9	11.1	33.6	31.3
6	100.0	7.9	3.1	5.1	10.6	15.0	35.1	23.2
7	100.0	3.1	1.8	4.9	5.5	12.3	29.2	43.0
8	100.0	4.1	1.7	3.9	5.4	9.2	31.7	44.0
9	100.0	4.0	1.4	5.3	6.0	12.6	25.5	45.3
10	100.0	1.1	2.7	2.9	5.3	13.3	42.5	32.2
11	100.0	3.4	..	1.1	5.5	7.3	53.1	29.7
13	100.0	1.9	..	7.3	9.3	8.0	50.0	23.6
14	100.0	2.0	2.8	2.5	3.3	9.1	37.6	42.7
15	100.0	0.3	1.4	3.1	3.0	4.7	61.8	25.7
16	100.0	5.6	3.8	3.7	7.6	41.2	31.0	7.1
17	100.0	3.8	2.0	1.7	4.4	9.8	36.1	42.2
19	100.0	5.7	3.0	7.4	8.6	14.5	34.1	26.7
20	100.0	4.8	1.8	11.7	11.1	17.6	27.2	25.8
Other	100.0	3.3	6.3	9.1	7.1	15.4	34.4	24.4

* 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 Minning & 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 teritorial 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
2025	100.0	11.7	35.0	25.0	15.8	12.6
2024Q2	100.0	13.5	38.3	22.0	14.6	11.5
2025Q2	100.0	11.4	39.0	24.0	14.4	11.2
2026Q1	100.0	8.2	34.8	29.8	14.3	12.9
2026Q2	100.0	10.4	33.9	27.6	19.5	8.6

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

Year	Total	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40 + Yrs
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
2025	100.0	17.1	37.5	22.1	11.0	12.3
2024Q2	100.0	15.6	37.9	22.0	13.8	10.7
2025Q2	100.0	15.5	43.6	18.9	10.4	11.5
2026Q1	100.0	15.2	45.4	20.8	8.1	10.5
2026Q2	100.0	15.0	41.0	24.6	10.7	8.7

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
2025	100.0	7.1	32.9	27.4	19.8	12.8
2024Q2	100.0	11.4	38.8	21.9	15.4	12.4
2025Q2	100.0	8.1	35.3	28.0	17.7	10.9
2026Q1	100.0	3.5	27.5	36.0	18.5	14.5
2026Q2	100.0	6.6	27.8	30.2	27.0	8.4

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
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
2025	100.0	1.9	28.3	27.1	42.7
2024Q2	100.0	2.4	30.8	23.2	43.6
2025Q2	100.0	2.9	26.4	27.8	43.0
2026Q1	100.0	0.8	26.1	22.3	50.7
2026Q2	100.0	1.1	25.4	24.9	48.6

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	42.2	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
2025	100.0	2.4	35.2	31.0	31.4
2024Q2	100.0	1.8	36.5	27.8	33.8
2025Q2	100.0	4.9	36.4	32.9	25.8
2026Q1	100.0	1.3	39.0	28.6	31.1
2026Q2	100.0	2.0	35.6	30.5	31.9

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
2025	100.0	1.5	22.5	23.8	52.1
2024Q2	100.0	3.0	25.0	18.5	53.5
2025Q2	100.0	1.2	18.2	23.6	57.0
2026Q1	100.0	0.5	17.2	18.1	64.2
2026Q2	100.0	0.2	16.8	20.1	62.8

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

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

(2026 2nd Quarter)

Sex	Total	Duration		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	340,240	158,900	95,895	85,445
%	100.0	46.7	28.2	25.1
Male	156,358	84,546	38,371	33,441
%	100.0	54.1	24.5	21.4
Female	183,882	74,354	57,524	52,004
%	100.0	40.4	31.3	28.3

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 (%)
General labour force characteristics						
Population (15 years & over)	17,168,741	157,405	0.9			
Employed Population	8,246,216	108,478	1.3			
Unemployed Population	340,240	22,801	6.7			
Employment Rate				96.0	0.25	0.27
Unemployment Rate				4.0	0.25	6.43
Labour Force	8,586,456	113,042	1.3			
Not in Labour Force	8,582,286	119,030	1.4			
Employed persons by major industry Groups						
1	1,930,785	81,203	4.2			
2	59,548	11,366	19.1			
3	1,516,808	59,498	3.9			
6	678,503	33,191	4.9			
7	1,216,995	54,617	4.5			
8	476,695	25,314	5.3			
9	285,693	23,600	8.3			
10	96,482	12,117	12.6			
11	195,772	17,666	9.0			
13	112,396	14,320	12.7			
14	184,395	18,806	10.2			
15	408,287	28,633	7.0			
16	431,801	26,322	6.1			
17	181,574	17,927	9.9			
19	202,586	19,353	9.6			
20	180,712	18,743	10.4			
Other	87,185	11,043	12.7			
Unemployed persons by level of education						
Grade 5 and below	3,653	2,362	64.6			
Grade 6 - 10	86,529	9,926	11.5			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	84,696	10,487	12.4			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	165,361	11,248	6.8			

Industry group

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
2 Minning & 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 teritorial 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 not 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 fallows

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) ± (standard error) * (1.96)

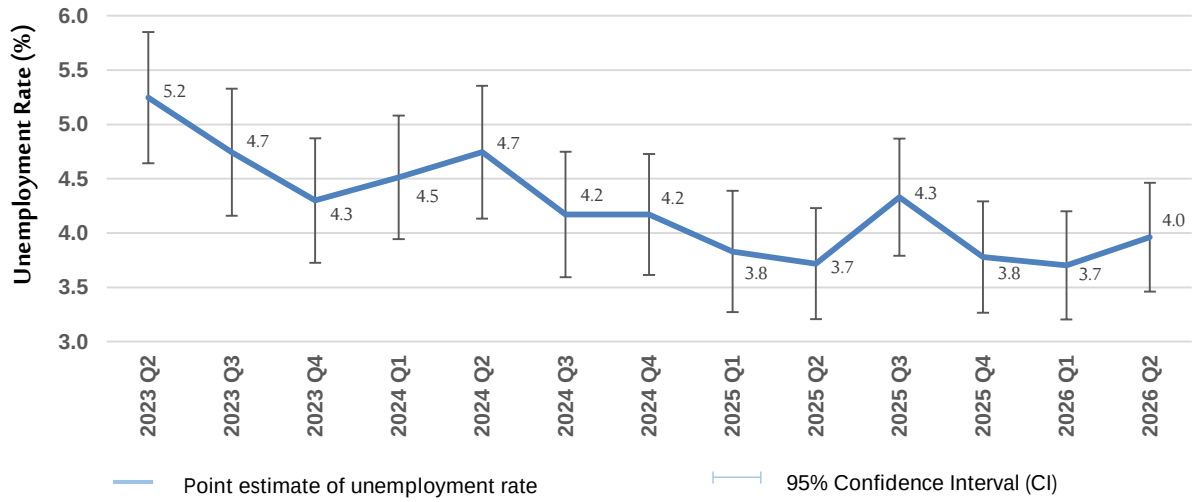
4.5 ± (0.275) * (1.96)
(4.5 ± 0.539)

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 (2023Q2- 2026Q2)



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 2023/2026, 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. Lower	95% C.I. Upper	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I. Lower	95% C.I. 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
2025	8,408,251	56,320	0.67	8,297,811	8,518,690	8,079,040	54,626	0.68	7,971,922	8,186,157
2024Q2	8,386,482	112,841	1.35	8,164,859	8,608,105	7,988,626	109,302	1.37	7,773,953	8,203,300
2025Q2	8,388,969	329,978	3.93	7,741,903	9,036,036	8,077,102	318,698	3.95	7,452,155	8,702,049
2026Q1	8,414,363	112,427	1.34	8,193,543	8,635,183	8,102,868	109,158	1.35	7,888,468	8,317,267
2026Q2	8,586,456	113,042	1.32	8,364,422	8,808,489	8,246,216	108,478	1.32	8,033,148	8,459,284

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I. Lower	95% C.I. Upper	Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I. Lower	95% C.I. 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
2025	329,211	11,634	3.53	306,397	352,025	3.9	0.1	3.43	3.7	4.2
2024Q2	397,855	26,961	6.78	344,903	450,808	4.7	0.3	6.57	4.1	5.4
2025Q2	311,867	24,944	8.00	262,954	360,781	3.7	0.3	7.01	3.2	4.2
2026Q1	311,495	21,954	7.05	268,375	354,616	3.7	0.3	6.85	3.2	4.2
2026Q2	340,240	22,801	6.70	295,456	385,024	4.0	0.3	6.43	3.5	4.5

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 (Page 2)

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)	
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
2025	17,034,109	7,538,839	44.3	7,209,628	95.6	329,211	4.4	9,495,271
2024Q2	17,548,937	7,492,062	42.7	7,094,207	94.7	397,855	5.3	10,056,874
2025Q2	17,098,071	7,405,012	43.3	7,093,145	95.8	311,867	4.2	9,693,059
2026Q1	17,089,315	7,542,235	44.1	7,230,740	95.9	311,495	4.1	9,547,079
2026Q2	17,168,741	7,501,186	43.7	7,160,946	95.5	340,240	4.5	9,667,556

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
2025	329,211	4.4	38,391	30.7	115,218	19.4	82,274	11.4	51,923	3.2	41,404	0.9
2024Q2	397,855	5.3	53,708	38.7	152,577	25.4	87,497	12.1	58,160	3.9	45,913	1.0
2025Q2	311,867	4.2	35,682	31.8	121,653	20.8	74,703	10.2	45,040	2.9	34,789	0.8
2026Q1	311,495	4.1	25,652	19.4	108,465	16.9	92,792	12.8	44,404	2.8	40,183	0.9
2026Q2	340,240	4.5	35,452	24.9	115,232	19.1	93,968	12.9	66,424	4.3	29,164	0.7

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

Alternative Estimates ***(Page 3)***

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
2025	No.	7,209,628	1,500,389	50,792	1,313,030	585,209	1,075,471	482,739	238,490	89,786	179,247	88,096	153,113	441,530	437,326	186,368	179,229	149,863	58,951
	%	100.0	20.8	0.7	18.2	8.1	14.9	6.7	3.3	1.2	2.5	1.2	2.1	6.1	6.1	2.6	2.5	2.1	0.8
2024Q2	No.	7,094,207	1,597,732	57,663	1,312,374	554,058	1,055,696	465,239	227,693	83,440	151,965	89,414	156,838	420,438	379,164	169,905	181,194	131,170	60,226
	%	100.0	22.5	0.8	18.5	7.8	14.9	6.6	3.2	1.2	2.1	1.3	2.2	5.9	5.3	2.4	2.6	1.8	0.8
2025Q2	No.	7,093,145	1,606,844	36,911	1,252,309	581,830	1,003,011	445,372	237,002	92,100	179,744	92,366	133,164	448,922	408,092	161,239	184,155	171,760	58,323
	%	100.0	22.7	0.5	17.7	8.2	14.1	6.3	3.3	1.3	2.5	1.3	1.9	6.3	5.8	2.3	2.6	2.4	0.8
2026Q1	No.	7,230,740	1,430,224	54,975	1,326,217	575,013	1,044,052	529,422	286,458	112,372	196,107	75,375	154,267	426,209	405,698	186,448	190,073	172,507	65,324
	%	100.0	19.8	0.8	18.3	8.0	14.4	7.3	4.0	1.6	2.7	1.0	2.1	5.9	5.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.9
2026Q2	No.	7,160,946	1,479,585	52,455	1,331,343	619,078	1,051,115	448,912	249,951	91,075	193,709	101,873	171,835	389,959	399,046	170,319	181,479	156,305	72,904
	%	100.0	20.7	0.7	18.6	8.6	14.7	6.3	3.5	1.3	2.7	1.4	2.4	5.4	5.6	2.4	2.5	2.2	1.0

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 Minning & 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)
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17 Human health and social work activities (Q)
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Other
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2026 Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Quarterly Report 2nd Quarter

The Vision of DCS

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