



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

**Quarterly Report – 2017**

**Third Quarter**

**DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS & STATISTICS  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS**

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## Preface

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*In the past, information on labour force characteristics, employment and unemployment etc. were collected through labour force and socio - economic surveys conducted at five yearly time intervals. However, the employment and unemployment data are required at very short intervals to monitor the programs made in the employment generating policies of the government. Therefore, to satisfy this need, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) designed a labour force survey on a quarterly basis, to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka on a continuous basis. This survey was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 and this report is the hundred and four in the series of quarterly reports published so far.*

*Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes were made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data. The significant revisions were made on the labour force survey questionnaire in 1996, 2006, 2013 and some small improvements were made in 2016. A reweighting is applied to labour force survey data series from 2011 onward, in order to adjust the population estimates with the calculated population at the 2012 Census of Population and Housing.*

*For the 2017 survey Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) method is introduced to collect survey data however in the 1st quarter 2017 paper questionnaire was also used until the CAPI is established fully for the data collection.*

*The field work of the survey for the third quarter 2017 was done in July, August and September in year 2017. This survey covered the whole country. A nationally representative annual sample of about 25,750 housing units have been selected for the survey in 2017. This report is based on a quarterly sample of 6,440 housing units.*

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## **Acknowledgements**

*This report is hundred and four 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 Mr. D.G.S.G. Munasinghe, Additional Director General (Statistics) and Mrs. K.M.D.S.D. Karunaratne, Director (Statistics) and under the direction of Mr. M.D. Sunil Senanayake, Deputy Director, Sample Surveys Division.*

*The survey activities were organized and supervised by Mrs. W.A.C.Wijebandara, Mr. K.S.R.L.Senadeera, Mrs. M.D.D.D.Deepawansa, Mrs. C.Jayawickrama, Mr. A.K.D.C.N.S.Karunarithna, Mr. K.Weerasiri, Mrs. U.S.Dilrukshi, Mr. M.L.K.P.Kumara, Mrs. M.W.L.C.M. Chandrarathne, Mrs. P.D.Nanayakkara, Ms.R.P.M.Subhashini, Statisticians & Senior Statistician, of the Sample Surveys Division.*

*The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu, Statistical Officer and Mrs. A.N. Ekanayake, Statistical Assistant of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Mrs. W.A.C.Wijebandara, Statistician. The Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants, Information and Communication Technology Assistants, Data Entry Operators/ Coding Clerks and Development Officers (iii) of the Sample Survey Division are acknowledged for their valuable contribution during the whole survey process.*

*The Information & Communication Technology Division, under the direction of Mrs. I.A.M. Fernando, Additional Director General (ICT) and under the supervision of Mr. P.M.R.Fernando, Director (ICT) and Mr. W.H.P.N. Weerasiri Director (ICT), were responsible for the survey data entry and preparation of data entry and computer edits programmes. Data entry was decentralized and manual editing, coding & data entry were done by responsible officers at district secretariats in all the districts. Developing of sample selection programme and its related computer software was done by Mr. K.M.R. Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director (ICT).*

*This publication was organized and prepared by Mrs. W.A.C.Wijebandara and A.K.D.C.N.S.Karunarithna, Statisticians, Sample Surveys Division, assisted by Mr. A.M.A.E.Atapattu, Statistical Officer and Mrs. Asanthi Ekanayaka, Statistical Assistant of Sample Surveys Division.*

*District staff of the Department who worked on the survey deserves a special word of thanks. The Deputy Directors/ Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians supervised the survey and field Statistical Officers, worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success. Printing of the report was done by the staff of Printing Division, under the supervision of Mr. M.J.M. Fernando, Statistician.*

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



**Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey**  
**Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics**  
**2017, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**  
**(All Island)**

**15 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	15,893,819	7,315,588	8,578,231	2,796,971	13,096,848
Labour force in this age group	8,522,219	5,381,432	3,140,787	1,394,651	7,127,568
Labour force participation rate	53.6	73.6	36.6	49.9	54.4
Employed population	8,163,869	5,237,380	2,926,489	1,340,747	6,823,122
Employment rate	95.8	97.3	93.2	96.1	95.7
Unemployed population	358,350	144,052	214,298	53,904	304,446
Unemployment rate	4.2	2.7	6.8	3.9	4.3
Not in labour force	7,371,600	1,934,157	5,437,444	1,402,320	5,969,280

**18 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (18 years & over)	14,873,584	6,776,327	8,097,256	2,618,400	12,255,184
Labour force in this age group	8,455,703	5,334,293	3,121,410	1,386,475	7,069,228
Labour force participation rate	56.9	78.7	38.5	53.0	57.7
Employed population	8,109,493	5,198,573	2,910,920	1,334,267	6,775,226
Employment rate	95.9	97.5	93.3	96.2	95.8
Unemployed population	346,210	135,720	210,491	52,207	294,003
Unemployment rate	4.1	2.5	6.7	3.8	4.2
Not in labour force	6,417,881	1,442,035	4,975,846	1,231,925	5,185,955

**20 years & over population**

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	14,249,385	6,482,123	7,767,262	2,494,686	11,754,698
Labour force in this age group	8,291,179	5,228,819	3,062,361	1,353,612	6,937,567
Labour force participation rate	58.2	80.7	39.4	54.3	59.0
Employed population	7,970,023	5,113,693	2,856,330	1,302,562	6,667,461
Employment rate	96.1	97.8	93.3	96.2	96.1
Unemployed population	321,156	115,125	206,031	51,050	270,106
Unemployment rate	3.9	2.2	6.7	3.8	3.9
Not in labour force	5,958,206	1,253,304	4,704,901	1,141,074	4,817,132

## Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015Q3	2016Q3	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	52.5	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	54.7	53.9	53.6
Male	74.9	74.9	74.6	74.7	75.1	74.8	75.0	75.1	74.6	73.6
Female	32.9	35.4	34.6	35.9	35.9	35.6	36.1	37.6	35.9	36.6
<b>By residential sector</b>										
Total	52.5	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	54.7	53.9	53.6
Urban	48.3	47.7	48.7	48.6	49.8	48.4	49.8	51.5	48.5	49.9
Rural	53.4	54.9	54.1	54.8	54.6	54.8	54.7	55.4	55.1	54.4
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.4	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.2
Male	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.7
Female	6.3	6.6	6.5	7.6	7.0	7.8	7.6	6.5	7.1	6.8
<b>By selected age Group (Year)</b>										
20 – 29	11.3	13.1	13.6	14.2	14.2	15.0	14.3	12.5	14.6	14.2
20 – 24	16.7	19.3	19.9	19.7	19.9	21.7	19.8	17.4	18.4	19
25 – 29	6.6	7.6	8.2	9.4	9.2	8.9	9.7	8.0	11.3	9.8
<b>By selected educational level</b>										
<b>GCE A/L and above</b>										
Total	7.6	8.7	8.2	9.2	8.3	10.3	9.3	7.8	8.2	8.5
Male	4.6	5.7	5.4	4.7	4.7	6.1	4.5	4.9	5.0	4.9
Female	10.8	11.8	11.1	13.5	11.9	14.3	13.9	10.8	11.8	11.9
<b>Employed population</b>										
<b>By Gender</b>										
Total	7,488,704	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,807,346	7,999,821	8,230,207	8,138,728	8,163,869
Male	5,046,057	5,024,340	5,075,426	5,097,798	5,149,948	5,115,215	5,171,424	5,235,046	5,315,916	5,237,380
Female	2,442,647	2,656,938	2,625,064	2,733,178	2,797,735	2,692,131	2,828,397	2,995,161	2,822,812	2,926,489
<b>By industry (Percentage)</b>										
Total	7,488,704	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,807,346	7,999,821	8,230,207	8,138,728	8,163,869
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100	100
Agriculture	2,333,342	2,321,215	2,222,859	2,244,547	2,153,874	2,168,233	2,168,982	2,221,761	2,114,336	1,983,870
%	31.2	30.2	28.9	28.7	27.1	27.8	27.1	27.0	26.0	24.3
Industry	1,940,615	1,996,730	2,027,426	2,018,171	2,097,503	2,105,576	2,144,808	2,306,398	2,301,377	2,372,007
%	25.9	26.0	26.3	25.8	26.4	27	26.8	28.0	28.3	29.1
Services	3,214,746	3,363,334	3,450,205	3,568,259	3,696,306	3,533,536	3,686,032	3,702,049	3,723,015	3,807,992
%	42.9	43.8	44.8	45.6	46.5	45.3	46.1	45	45.7	46.6
<b>By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</b>										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
0#	4.5	5.2	5.2	5.5	4.4	4.9	4.3	3.5	6.6	4.8
1 – 9	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7
10 – 39	26.1	27.5	27.6	27.2	26.2	26.7	26.0	26.7	27.3	24.1
40 & above	68.3	65.5	65.9	65.7	67.9	66.9	68.0	68.1	64.6	69.3

# has a job but not at work during the reference week

Note : Working age population considered as (age 15 & over population)



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*Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes*

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



# Introduction

## Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.6% for the Third Quarter of 2017.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.2%.

## Inside

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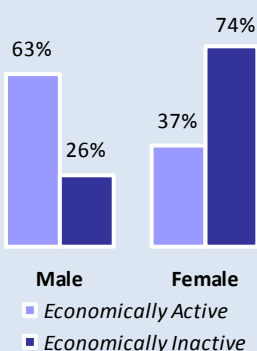


Figure 1: Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Third quarter-2017

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey (LFS) is designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. LFS has been conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

This bulletin contains labour force, employment and unemployment statistics for the third quarter 2017 based on the data collected in July, August and September covering the whole country.

## Labour Force .... (Economically Active Population)

Table 1: Economically active population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2017

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,522,219	100.0	5,381,432	63.1	3,140,787	36.9
Urban	1,394,651	100.0	916,009	65.7	478,642	34.3
Rural	6,743,099	100.0	4,254,697	63.1	2,488,403	36.9
Estate	384,469	100.0	210,726	54.8	173,743	45.2

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2017

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,371,600	100.0	1,934,157	26.2	5,437,444	73.8
Urban	1,402,320	100.0	381,986	27.2	1,020,334	72.8
Rural	5,681,762	100.0	1,456,934	25.6	4,224,828	74.4
Estate	287,518	100.0	95,237	33.1	192,281	66.9

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year

Year	Total	Male	Female
2012	52.5	74.9	32.9
2013	53.7	74.9	35.4
2014	53.2	74.6	34.6
2015	53.8	74.7	35.9
2016	54.1	75.1	36.0
2015 Q3	53.8	74.8	35.6
2016 Q3	53.8	75.0	36.1
2017 Q1	54.7	75.1	37.6
2017 Q2	53.9	74.6	35.9
2017 Q3	53.6	73.6	36.6

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2012. Referring the Table 3, It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of females.

Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male is reported from age group 35–39 years (96.4%), while that for female is reported from 40–44 age group (49.7%).

## Labour Force

This is the currently economically active population. Which is the number of persons (age 15 years & above) who are employed or unemployed during the reference week.

## Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

Labour force population expressed as a percentage of the population, age 15 years and over.

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.5 million in the third quarter 2017. Of which 63.1 percent are males and 36.9 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 7.3 million. Out of the economically inactive population 26.2 percent are males and 73.8 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 4: LFPR by age group and gender - Third Quarter 2017

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.6	73.6	36.6
15 - 19	14.0	18.3	9.7
20 - 24	55.1	69.2	42.4
25 - 29	67.4	92.7	46.0
30 - 34	68.0	96.3	46.0
35 - 39	69.1	96.4	46.9
40 - 44	70.4	94.2	49.7
45 - 49	70.0	95.7	49.0
50 - 54	69.2	92.8	49.3
55 - 59	61.3	84.5	40.4
60+	31.5	48.8	17.6

## Definition of 'Employed'

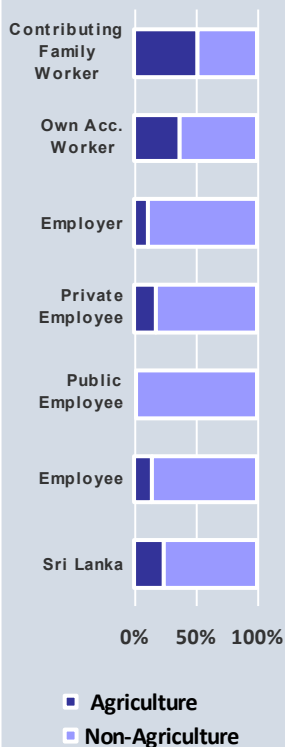
Persons, who worked at least one hour during the reference period, as paid employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers are said to be employed. This also includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.

### Reference Period :

Previous week of the survey week

## The Employment Rate

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.



**Figure 2 :** Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Third quarter 2017

## Employment ...

*Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry (Third Quarter 2016 – Third quarter 2017)*

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2016 Q3 (No.)	7,999,821	2,168,982	2,144,808	3,686,032
(%)	100.0	27.1	26.8	46.1
2016 Q4 (No.)	8,006,700	2,209,976	2,055,386	3,741,339
(%)	100.0	27.6	25.7	46.7
2017 Q1 (No.)	8,230,207	2,221,761	2,306,398	3,702,049
(%)	100.0	27.0	28.0	45.0
2017 Q2 (No.)	8,138,728	2,114,336	2,301,377	3,723,015
(%)	100.0	26.0	28.3	45.7
2017 Q3 (No.)	8,163,869	1,983,870	2,372,007	3,807,992
(%)	100.0	24.3	29.1	46.6

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from third quarter 2016 to third quarter 2017. During third quarter of 2017, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.2 million. Of which, about 46.6 percent engaged in Service sector, 29.1 percent in Industries sector and 24.3 percent in Agriculture sector.

*Table 6 : Distribution of employed population by employment status in Agriculture and Non-Agriculture sectors – Third quarter 2017*

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
	No.	%	Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
			No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,163,869	100.0	1,983,870	24.3	6,179,999	75.7
Employee	4,685,963	100.0	659,010	14.1	4,026,953	85.9
Public	1,146,652	100.0	19,845	1.7	1,126,806	98.3
Private	3,539,312	100.0	639,165	18.1	2,900,147	81.9
Employer	264,456	100.0	28,042	10.6	236,414	89.4
Own Account Worker	2,513,366	100.0	939,429	37.4	1,573,937	62.6
Contributing Family Worker	700,083	100.0	357,388	51.0	342,695	49.0

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

*Table 7 : Percentage distribution of Employed population by main industry & gender – Third quarter 2017*

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	24.3	21.9	28.5
Industry	29.1	30.5	26.5
Services	46.6	47.6	45.0

## Main industry categories and sub sectors

### Agriculture

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

### Industries

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

### Services

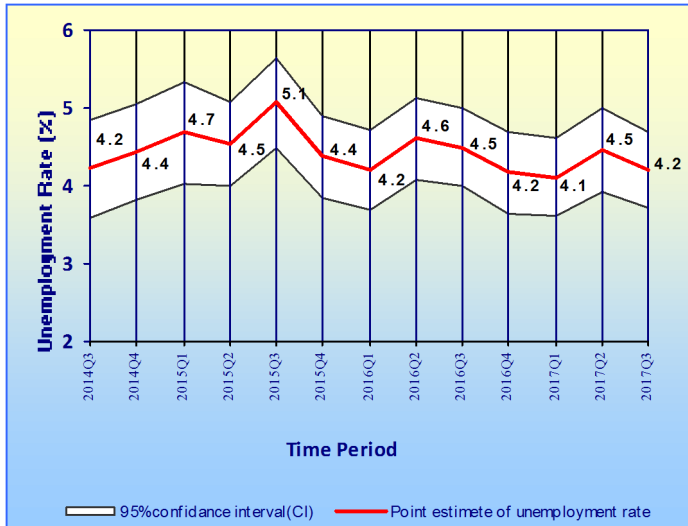
1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative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

Majority of the workforce are private sector employees followed by own account workers (Table 6) .

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industry sectors. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for agriculture sector. Among employed females 28.5 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 21.9 percent for males.

# Unemployment ...

Figure 3: Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2014Q3 - 2017Q3)



<sup>1</sup>Sampling error : When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, estimates differ from the true values of population they represent. This difference, or sampling error, occurs by chance, and its variability is measured by the sampling error of the estimate.

For more details, please refer the explanatory note given under the labour force link in the DCS website; [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 358,350 during the third quarter 2017. The unemployment rate for the third quarter 2017 is 4.2 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when sampling error<sup>1</sup> is considered there are no statistically significant drops/increases of unemployment rates reported in different time periods starting from third quarter 2014 to third quarter 2017.

## Definition of 'Unemployed'

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

## The Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

Table 8: Number of Unemployment and Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2017

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number	Unp. rate	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	358,350	4.2	2.7	6.8
15–24	177,934	18.3	14.7	23.9
25–29	78,691	9.8	5.4	17.4
Over 30	101,724	1.5	0.7	2.9

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

The survey results further revealed 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 Unemployment and Unemployment rate by level of education – Third quarter 2017

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number	Unp. rate	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	358,350	4.2	2.7	6.8
Below GCE O/L	104,164	2.1	1.7	2.8
GCE O/L	89,533	6.0	4.0	9.7
GCE A/L & above	164,653	8.5	4.9	11.9

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is about 8.5 percent. Corresponding percentages are 4.9 percent and 11.9 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

This 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.

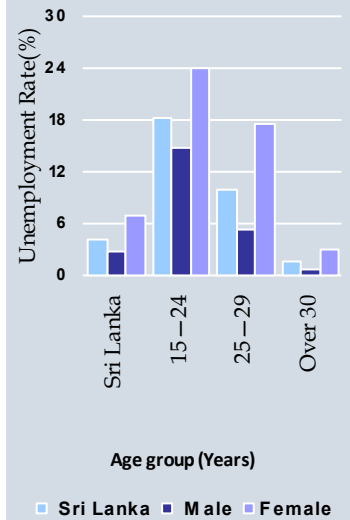


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2017

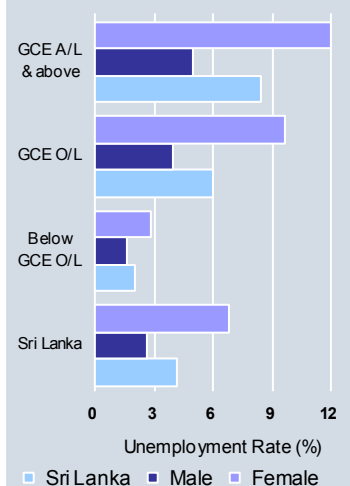


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Third quarter 2017

**TABLE 1 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD  
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - BOTH SEXES**

NATIONAL LEVEL DATA								
YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (15 YEARS & OVER)	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
2009 <sup>1</sup>	14,876,264	8,051,089	54.1	7,579,835	94.1	471,254	5.9	6,825,175
2010 <sup>1</sup>	15,166,285	8,096,477	53.4	7,696,142	95.1	400,335	4.9	7,069,808
2011 <sup>2</sup>	14,975,989	7,926,445	52.9	7,591,591	95.8	334,854	4.2	7,049,544
2012 <sup>2</sup>	14,857,578	7,798,407	52.5	7,488,704	96.0	309,703	4.0	7,059,171
2013 <sup>2</sup>	14,959,065	8,033,804	53.7	7,681,279	95.6	352,526	4.4	6,925,260
2014 <sup>2</sup>	15,134,484	8,048,884	53.2	7,700,489	95.7	348,395	4.3	7,085,600
2015 <sup>2</sup>	15,281,945	8,214,473	53.8	7,830,976	95.3	383,496	4.7	7,067,473
2016 <sup>2</sup>	15,448,679	8,310,682	53.8	7,947,683	95.6	362,999	4.4	7,137,997
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	15,560,390	8,376,002	53.8	7,999,821	95.5	376,180	4.5	7,184,388
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	15,684,110	8,583,082	54.7	8,230,207	95.9	352,875	4.1	7,101,029
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	15,813,790	8,519,322	53.9	8,138,728	95.5	380,594	4.5	7,294,468
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	15,893,819	8,522,219	53.6	8,163,869	95.8	358,350	4.2	7,371,600

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**TABLE 1A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD  
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - MALE**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN
	POPULATION	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		LABOUR
	(15 YEARS	LABOUR	FORCE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	FORCE
	& OVER)	FORCE	PARTICI:	(% TO TOTAL		(% TO TOTAL		NUMBER
			RATE(%)	LABOUR FORCE)		LABOUR FORCE)		
2009 <sup>1</sup>	6,925,821	5,173,106	74.7	4,949,825	95.7	223,281	4.3	1,752,715
2010 <sup>1</sup>	7,078,246	5,310,872	75.0	5,125,763	96.5	185,108	3.5	1,767,374
2011 <sup>2</sup>	7,027,780	5,203,267	74.0	5,061,214	97.3	142,053	2.7	1,824,513
2012 <sup>2</sup>	6,932,520	5,192,686	74.9	5,046,057	97.2	146,629	2.8	1,739,835
2013 <sup>2</sup>	6,926,750	5,187,873	74.9	5,024,341	96.8	163,533	3.2	1,738,877
2014 <sup>2</sup>	7,025,780	5,240,034	74.6	5,075,425	96.9	164,609	3.1	1,785,746
2015 <sup>2</sup>	7,036,944	5,255,593	74.7	5,097,798	97.0	157,794	3.0	1,781,352
2016 <sup>2</sup>	7,064,736	5,303,502	75.1	5,149,948	97.1	153,554	2.9	1,761,234
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	7,086,406	5,315,532	75.0	5,171,424	97.3	144,108	2.7	1,770,874
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	7,166,309	5,381,244	75.1	5,235,046	97.3	146,198	2.7	1,785,065
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	7,349,462	5,482,206	74.6	5,315,916	97.0	166,290	3.0	1,867,257
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	7,315,588	5,381,432	73.6	5,237,380	97.3	144,052	2.7	1,934,157

**TABLE 1B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD  
POPULATION, 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER - FEMALE**

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN
	POPULATION	TOTAL	LABOUR	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		LABOUR
	(15 YEARS	LABOUR	FORCE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	FORCE
	& OVER)	FORCE	PARTICI:	(% TO TOTAL		(% TO TOTAL		NUMBER
			RATE(%)	LABOUR FORCE)		LABOUR FORCE)		
2009 <sup>1</sup>	7,950,443	2,877,983	36.2	2,630,010	91.4	247,973	8.6	5,072,460
2010 <sup>1</sup>	8,088,039	2,785,605	34.4	2,570,379	92.3	215,226	7.7	5,302,434
2011 <sup>2</sup>	7,948,209	2,723,178	34.3	2,530,377	92.9	192,801	7.1	5,225,031
2012 <sup>2</sup>	7,925,058	2,605,721	32.9	2,442,647	93.7	163,074	6.3	5,319,336
2013 <sup>2</sup>	8,032,315	2,845,931	35.4	2,656,938	93.4	188,993	6.6	5,186,383
2014 <sup>2</sup>	8,108,704	2,808,850	34.6	2,625,064	93.5	183,786	6.5	5,299,854
2015 <sup>2</sup>	8,245,001	2,958,880	35.9	2,733,178	92.4	225,702	7.6	5,286,121
2016 <sup>2</sup>	8,383,943	3,007,180	35.9	2,797,735	93.0	209,445	7.0	5,376,764
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	8,473,984	3,060,469	36.1	2,828,397	92.4	232,072	7.6	5,413,514
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	8,517,801	3,201,838	37.6	2,995,161	93.5	206,677	6.5	5,315,964
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	8,464,328	3,037,116	35.9	2,822,812	92.9	214,304	7.1	5,427,212
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	8,578,231	3,140,787	36.6	2,926,489	93.2	214,298	6.8	5,437,444

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**TABLE 2 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - BOTH SEXES**

AGE	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
	POP: (15 YEARS & OVER)	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	15,893,819	8,522,219	53.6	8,163,869	95.8	358,350	4.2	7,371,600
15 - 19 YRS	1,644,434	231,039	14.0	193,846	83.9	37,194	16.1	1,413,395
20 - 24 YRS	1,345,951	742,144	55.1	601,403	81.0	140,740	19.0	603,807
25 - 29 YRS	1,188,057	800,912	67.4	722,220	90.2	78,691	9.8	387,145
30 - 39 YRS	2,913,336	1,998,148	68.6	1,934,660	96.8	63,489	3.2	915,187
40 + YRS	8,802,042	4,749,975	54.0	4,711,740	99.2	38,236	0.8	4,052,066

**TABLE 2A - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - MALE**

AGE	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
	POP: (15 YEARS & OVER)	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	7,315,588	5,381,432	73.6	5,237,380	97.3	144,052	2.7	1,934,157
15 - 19 YRS	833,465	152,613	18.3	123,686	81.0	28,927	19.0	680,852
20 - 24 YRS	638,416	442,051	69.2	383,593	86.8	58,458	13.2	196,365
25 - 29 YRS	544,794	504,882	92.7	477,824	94.6	27,058	5.4	39,912
30 - 39 YRS	1,292,655	1,245,408	96.3	1,225,209	98.4	20,198	1.6	47,248
40 + YRS	4,006,257	3,036,478	75.8	3,027,067	99.7	9,411	0.3	969,779

**TABLE 2B - LABOUR FORCE STATUS (CURRENT) OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE - FEMALE**

AGE	HOUSEHOLD	LABOUR FORCE						NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
	POP: (15 YEARS & OVER)	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
<b>ALL AGES</b>	8,578,231	3,140,787	36.6	2,926,489	93.2	214,298	6.8	5,437,444
15 - 19 YRS	810,969	78,426	9.7	70,159	89.5	8,267	10.5	732,542
20 - 24 YRS	707,534	300,093	42.4	217,810	72.6	82,283	27.4	407,441
25 - 29 YRS	643,262	296,030	46.0	244,396	82.6	51,633	17.4	347,232
30 - 39 YRS	1,620,680	752,741	46.4	709,450	94.2	43,290	5.8	867,940
40 + YRS	4,795,785	1,713,498	35.7	1,684,673	98.3	28,825	1.7	3,082,288

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



**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	3.0	8.5	10.9	24.0	53.5
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.1	8.6	11.0	24.3	53.0
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.5	8.3	11.0	25.2	53.0
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.7	7.9	10.1	24.8	54.5
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.4	7.2	9.7	25.2	55.5
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.2	7.5	9.7	24.5	56.1
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.0	7.3	9.5	24.2	57.0
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.1	7.2	9.6	23.5	57.6
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.2	7.5	9.0	23.4	57.8
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.9	7.4	9.3	24.3	57.1
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.4	7.4	8.8	23.7	57.7

**TABLE 3A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

Year	All Ages	Age Groups				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	3.1	8.2	11.3	24.1	53.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.2	8.7	11.3	24.3	52.5
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.7	8.3	11.2	25.2	52.6
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.9	7.8	10.2	25.0	54.1
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.5	7.3	9.6	25.4	55.2
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.3	7.3	9.7	24.4	56.2
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.2	7.3	9.4	24.2	56.9
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.3	7.1	9.8	23.6	57.2
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.4	7.2	9.6	23.0	57.8
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.2	7.5	9.1	25.0	56.2
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.4	7.3	9.1	23.4	57.8

**TABLE 3B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

Year	All Ages	Age Groups				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40+ YRS
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	2.9	9.2	10.0	23.9	54.0
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.8	8.5	10.3	24.4	53.9
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.2	8.4	10.5	25.1	53.8
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.4	8.0	10.0	24.3	55.3
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.2	7.1	9.9	24.8	56.0
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.1	7.8	9.6	24.7	55.9
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.6	7.2	9.6	24.3	57.3
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.7	7.4	9.3	23.3	58.2
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.0	7.9	8.1	24.2	57.9
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.5	7.3	9.8	22.9	58.6
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.4	7.4	8.4	24.2	57.6

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	20.2	48.2	15.9	15.8
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	18.8	48.1	15.7	17.4
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	18.7	47.3	17.5	16.6
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.1	18.2	47.9	15.9	18.1
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.4	48.9	16.0	18.6
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.7	47.4	17.3	18.6
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.2	47.4	16.3	20.1
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.3	47.8	15.7	20.1
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.6	46.6	16.7	20.1
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	15.6	47.4	16.7	20.3
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	15.1	45.9	17.2	21.8

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	19.1	51.6	16.2	13.1
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	18.3	51.0	16.1	14.6
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	18.0	51.2	17.7	13.1
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	17.8	51.5	16.0	14.6
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.4	52.6	16.2	14.8
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.7	51.1	17.7	14.6
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.1	51.1	16.7	16.1
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.7	51.2	16.0	16.1
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.3	50.6	16.7	16.5
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	15.4	50.8	17.0	16.8
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	15.1	49.5	17.7	17.7

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	22.3	41.3	15.3	21.1
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	19.9	42.2	14.9	23.0
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	19.9	39.3	17.2	23.7
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	18.8	41.0	15.6	24.6
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.5	41.7	15.8	26.0
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.6	40.4	16.7	26.3
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.3	40.6	15.6	27.5
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	15.7	41.6	15.2	27.4
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	17.1	39.7	16.6	26.6
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.0	40.9	16.2	27.0
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	14.9	39.4	16.4	29.3

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the Tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**TABLE 5 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN	UNPAID
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE		ACCOUNT WORKER	FAMILY WORKER
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	55.5	14.3	41.3	2.6	31.5	10.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.1	14.6	40.5	2.9	31.5	10.6
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.5	15.3	41.2	2.8	31.9	8.7
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.7	15.2	40.5	3.0	32.2	9.1
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.4	15.5	40.9	2.7	32.0	8.9
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.1	15.1	41.0	3.1	32.3	8.4
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	57.8	14.6	43.3	2.7	31.6	7.8
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	59.3	14.5	44.8	2.3	30.5	7.8
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	58.2	14.8	43.4	3.1	30.4	8.3
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	57.5	14.3	43.2	2.9	32.0	7.7
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	57.4	14.0	43.4	3.2	30.8	8.6

**TABLE 5A - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
(PERCENTAGE) - MALE**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN	UNPAID
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE		ACCOUNT WORKER	FAMILY WORKER
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	56.2	12.8	43.4	3.5	36.0	4.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.0	12.8	43.1	3.8	35.9	4.3
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.7	12.9	43.8	3.8	35.9	3.6
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.6	12.9	43.8	4.1	36.2	3.0
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	57.3	13.1	44.2	3.6	36.2	2.8
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.7	12.8	43.9	4.2	36.3	2.8
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	58.9	12.4	46.4	3.7	34.7	2.7
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	60.3	12.9	47.4	3.2	33.8	2.7
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	59.4	12.4	46.9	4.0	33.8	2.8
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	58.4	12.2	46.3	4.2	34.9	2.4
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	58.6	12.3	46.4	4.5	34.1	2.8

**TABLE 5B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
(PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

YEAR	TOTAL EMPLOYED	EMPLOYEE			EMPLOYER	OWN	UNPAID
		TOTAL	PUBLIC	PRIVATE		ACCOUNT WORKER	FAMILY WORKER
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	54.3	17.3	37.0	0.8	22.6	22.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	53.3	18.1	35.2	0.9	22.7	23.1
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.1	20.2	35.9	0.9	23.7	19.3
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	53.9	19.7	34.3	0.9	24.6	20.5
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	54.8	20.1	34.7	1.0	23.7	20.5
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.1	19.3	35.8	1.1	24.9	18.8
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.9	18.5	37.4	0.9	25.9	17.2
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	57.6	17.5	40.1	0.7	24.5	17.2
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	56.1	18.8	37.3	1.6	24.6	17.8
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.6	18.2	37.3	0.5	26.3	17.6
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	55.2	17.2	38.0	1.0	24.8	19.0

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

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the Tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**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
2014	7,700,489	2,222,859	74,643	1,389,250	563,532	1,012,447	481,331	181,246	63,038	145,871	47,356	101,247	594,300	313,926	126,950	131,274	195,125	56,094
2015	7,830,976	2,244,547	60,614	1,407,908	549,649	1,059,803	480,338	202,780	52,372	144,507	64,950	120,218	600,249	324,175	137,366	143,768	177,255	60,477
2016	7,947,683	2,153,874	59,907	1,420,628	616,968	1,102,337	516,128	203,083	61,522	159,325	54,703	107,490	609,205	343,837	141,836	137,552	209,101	50,188
2016Q3	7,999,821	2,168,982	70,164	1,439,792	634,851	1,105,492	484,916	207,699	72,891	157,117	46,260	97,390	581,073	357,699	150,840	136,649	233,289	54,719
2017Q1	8,230,207	2,221,761	49,566	1,571,862	684,970	1,082,766	501,556	193,613	69,871	153,957	60,406	126,487	617,182	379,848	145,561	122,189	197,871	50,742
2017Q2	8,138,728	2,114,336	50,160	1,549,489	701,729	1,200,451	514,549	202,897	61,493	146,126	59,549	121,121	578,048	344,861	154,536	124,512	154,145	60,727
2017Q3	8,163,869	1,983,870	73,828	1,585,977	712,201	1,216,250	529,532	248,053	75,636	176,802	62,997	151,249	535,076	368,057	135,725	108,016	144,143	56,456

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

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**Table 6A - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - Male**

Year	Total	Industry Group																
		1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other
2014	5,075,425	1,375,427	69,796	734,033	540,150	723,692	467,394	124,655	47,897	82,803	31,456	81,190	384,657	96,971	55,148	102,024	115,389	42,743
2015	5,097,797	1,360,831	57,116	741,643	527,419	756,298	465,920	140,042	41,206	79,485	42,853	91,639	395,291	92,824	45,976	105,307	107,469	46,478
2016	5,149,948	1,302,613	56,762	739,372	590,459	770,376	495,894	129,928	45,525	90,506	33,125	83,937	394,974	105,604	53,843	99,146	119,873	38,011
2016Q3	5,171,424	1,311,167	64,899	718,507	606,889	777,686	464,307	135,856	49,787	84,676	31,961	84,571	395,051	119,881	58,085	93,991	135,367	38,744
2017Q1	5,235,046	1,311,760	45,821	795,706	651,658	766,708	483,010	125,261	47,423	101,328	45,585	99,039	382,710	112,944	46,326	77,349	108,086	34,333
2017Q2	5,315,916	1,302,571	47,382	807,729	673,213	836,507	496,175	136,759	43,825	87,464	37,811	94,922	377,467	98,738	52,260	89,650	82,557	50,885
2017Q3	5,237,380	1,148,634	68,397	846,273	682,359	844,677	513,133	162,438	54,958	99,632	39,596	94,196	333,892	111,911	44,239	77,935	66,894	48,216

**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
2014	2,625,065	847,432	4,847	655,218	23,382	288,755	13,937	56,591	15,141	63,069	15,900	20,057	209,643	216,955	71,802	29,250	79,735	13,351
2015	2,733,179	883,716	3,498	666,265	22,230	303,507	14,418	62,738	11,165	65,023	22,097	28,579	204,958	231,350	91,389	38,461	69,786	13,999
2016	2,797,735	851,261	3,145	681,256	26,509	331,961	20,234	73,154	15,997	68,819	21,578	23,553	214,231	238,233	87,993	38,405	89,228	12,178
2016Q3	2,828,397	857,815	5,265	721,286	27,963	327,805	20,609	71,843	23,104	72,441	14,299	12,819	186,022	237,817	92,755	42,658	97,922	15,975
2017Q1	2,995,161	910,001	3,745	776,156	33,312	316,058	18,546	68,352	22,448	52,629	14,820	27,447	234,472	266,904	99,236	44,840	89,785	16,409
2017Q2	2,822,812	811,765	2,778	741,759	28,516	363,944	18,374	66,138	17,669	58,662	21,738	26,199	200,582	246,123	102,276	34,862	71,588	9,842
2017Q3	2,926,489	835,236	5,431	739,704	29,842	371,572	16,399	85,616	20,678	77,169	23,401	57,053	201,184	256,146	91,486	30,081	77,249	8,240

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

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

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						
	2014	2015	2016	2016Q3	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
Total	7,700,490	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,999,821	8,230,207	8,138,728	8,163,869
Agriculture	2,222,859	2,244,547	2,153,874	2,168,982	2,221,761	2,114,336	1,983,870
Industry	2,027,426	2,018,171	2,097,503	2,144,808	2,306,398	2,301,377	2,372,007
Services	3,450,205	3,568,258	3,696,306	3,686,032	3,702,049	3,723,015	3,807,992

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

Major Industry Group	Year						
	2014	2015	2016	2016Q3	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	28.9	28.7	27.1	27.1	27.0	26.0	24.3
Industry	26.3	25.8	26.4	26.8	28.0	28.3	29.1
Services	44.8	45.6	46.5	46.1	45.0	45.7	46.6

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

#### **Agriculture**

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery

#### **Industries**

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

#### **Services**

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

**Table 7 - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes**

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2013	7,681,279	365,049	483,587	447,965	281,095	847,409	1,490,219	1,302,496	640,410	1,773,456	49,593
2014	7,700,489	353,465	491,521	450,247	327,479	902,710	1,562,251	1,312,975	635,899	1,633,672	30,270
2015	7,830,976	480,097	511,230	470,645	311,455	852,722	1,457,350	1,266,101	673,380	1,766,704	41,292
2016	7,947,683	480,492	519,032	484,965	320,791	891,034	1,435,354	1,274,167	702,675	1,795,378	43,795
2016Q3	7,999,821	460,654	528,284	440,539	342,107	902,700	1,400,432	1,289,440	704,489	1,897,097	34,079
2017Q1	8,230,207	505,890	515,526	533,477	345,101	845,433	1,402,215	1,411,424	701,082	1,928,091	41,970
2017Q2	8,138,728	554,698	540,184	541,264	333,196	874,948	1,415,556	1,355,565	716,279	1,776,857	30,181
2017Q3	8,163,869	589,658	549,235	524,670	333,356	866,574	1,300,781	1,302,188	777,712	1,891,454	28,240

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

- |   |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6  | Skilled Agricultura, Forestry and Fishery workers   |
| 2 | Professionals                              | 7  | Craft and Related Trades workers                    |
| 3 | Technicians and Associate Professionals    | 8  | Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers          |
| 4 | Clerks and Clerical support workers        | 9  | Elementary occupations                              |
| 5 | Services and Sales workers                 | 10 | Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations |

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

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2013	5,024,340	258,974	184,962	288,509	138,934	587,580	980,699	884,473	556,576	1,099,578	44,055
2014	5,075,424	265,819	175,533	301,206	157,091	630,281	1,017,807	881,891	559,814	1,056,416	29,566
2015	5,097,798	355,643	174,644	318,745	150,246	585,455	965,084	833,470	577,038	1,101,377	36,096
2016	5,149,948	344,185	188,059	310,846	155,926	606,054	930,845	830,428	607,801	1,139,332	36,473
2016Q3	5,171,424	338,285	197,115	258,984	171,254	628,945	908,702	827,704	595,631	1,217,087	27,718
2017Q1	5,235,046	381,904	172,715	344,104	166,115	560,748	892,552	895,405	588,812	1,193,399	39,294
2017Q2	5,315,916	398,246	218,342	337,867	155,321	586,482	924,958	908,007	626,665	1,132,803	27,226
2017Q3	5,237,380	410,237	207,327	349,916	154,204	584,558	805,651	879,190	660,750	1,158,954	26,591

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

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2013	2,656,937	106,075	298,625	159,456	142,161	259,829	509,519	418,023	83,834	673,878	5,537
2014	2,625,065	87,646	315,988	149,041	170,388	272,429	544,444	431,084	76,085	577,256	704
2015	2,733,178	124,454	336,586	151,900	161,209	267,267	492,267	432,631	96,342	665,326	5,196
2016	2,797,735	136,307	330,973	174,120	164,865	284,980	504,509	443,739	94,874	656,046	7,322
2016Q3	2,828,397	122,369	331,169	181,555	170,853	273,755	491,730	461,736	108,858	680,010	6,361
2017Q1	2,995,161	123,986	342,811	189,373	178,986	284,685	509,663	516,019	112,270	734,692	2,676
2017Q2	2,822,812	156,452	321,842	203,398	177,875	288,466	490,598	447,558	89,614	644,054	2,955
2017Q3	2,926,489	179,421	341,908	174,754	179,153	282,016	495,129	422,998	116,962	732,500	1,649

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

- |   |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators | 6  | Skilled Agricultura, Forestry and Fishery workers   |
| 2 | Professionals                              | 7  | Craft and Related Trades workers                    |
| 3 | Technicians and Associate Professionals    | 8  | Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers          |
| 4 | Clerks and Clerical support workers        | 9  | Elementary occupations                              |
| 5 | Services and Sales workers                 | 10 | Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations |



**TABLE 8 - CURRENTLY EMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS PER WEEK ACTUALLY WORKED AT THE MAIN JOB AND MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP (PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUP	TOTAL	0 *	1 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 & OVER
Total	100.0	4.8	1.7	4.4	7.0	12.7	36.0	33.4
1	100.0	8.7	3.4	9.3	13.1	17.8	31.2	16.5
2	100.0	5.9	5.9	4.5	5.3	12.2	28.1	38.1
3	100.0	3.1	1.4	5.7	7.8	11.5	35.8	34.7
6	100.0	4.8	1.4	1.8	5.7	10.6	44.3	31.5
7	100.0	1.7	0.4	1.9	4.0	8.6	28.6	54.8
8	100.0	4.0	0.2	2.0	2.2	8.9	29.7	53.0
9	100.0	2.7	..	1.3	3.8	7.6	31.3	53.3
10	100.0	2.7	1.2	..	4.6	7.1	45.2	39.2
11	100.0	0.6	1.0	..	1.8	2.9	60.7	32.9
13	100.0	4.5	..	3.3	1.8	7.8	51.8	30.8
14	100.0	2.8	0.8	4.0	2.8	3.6	48.1	37.9
15	100.0	1.5	0.4	0.8	1.2	4.6	65.5	26.0
16	100.0	11.7	5.1	2.8	7.8	43.7	22.9	6.0
17	100.0	1.1	..	0.8	5.5	7.7	43.4	41.5
19	100.0	1.9	1.5	4.7	10.8	10.8	21.2	49.1
20	100.0	11.1	2.8	0.6	3.5	8.4	31.6	42.0
Other	100.0	..	2.0	5.7	5.5	15.3	35.7	35.8

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

.. Net reported

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

#### Industry group

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

**TABLE 9 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE GROUPS  
(PERCENTAGE) - BOTH SEXES**

YEAR	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS				
		15 - 19 YRS	20 - 24 YRS	25 - 29 YRS	30 - 39 YRS	40 + YRS
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	14.8	38.7	21.2	14.7	10.6
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	12.7	42.2	20.7	15.9	8.5
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	14.1	40.5	18.8	15.8	10.8
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	13.7	41.0	18.1	15.1	12.1
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	14.2	39.8	19.3	15.4	11.3
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	14.5	37.4	20.5	15.8	11.8
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.1	39.7	21.1	13.2	9.8
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.7	37.7	21.9	14.2	9.4
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	14.9	36.6	18.3	16.5	13.7
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	14.3	35.8	25.4	13.0	11.4
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	10.4	39.3	22.0	17.7	10.7

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	19.6	41.2	15.5	11.7	12.0
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	17.6	44.7	17.1	13.1	7.6
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	19.6	41.6	17.0	12.3	9.4
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	16.9	44.0	15.5	11.5	12.1
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	20.1	37.6	18.3	11.7	12.3
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	21.7	39.9	14.6	12.6	11.2
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	23.0	42.8	16.9	7.7	9.6
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	23.8	39.1	16.2	8.7	12.3
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	19.6	44.1	13.8	7.5	15.0
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	18.5	35.4	24.2	12.7	9.1
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	20.1	40.6	18.8	14.0	6.5

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	10.7	36.5	26.1	17.4	9.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	9.1	40.4	23.4	17.9	9.2
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	9.2	39.6	20.4	18.9	12.0
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	11.0	38.4	20.3	18.2	12.1
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	8.9	41.7	20.2	18.7	10.4
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	9.4	35.6	24.6	18.1	12.2
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	11.1	37.5	24.2	17.2	10.0
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	12.3	36.9	25.5	17.7	7.6
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	11.5	31.2	21.6	22.9	12.8
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	10.9	36.2	26.4	13.3	13.2
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.9	38.4	24.1	20.2	13.5

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

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the Tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	2.7	34.9	22.7	39.7
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.9	38.1	19.8	39.2
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.6	37.4	27.2	32.9
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.9	36.5	22.1	37.5
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.1	37.7	22.4	36.8
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.5	34.4	24.4	38.7
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.7	35.4	22.1	39.8
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.6	33.0	20.8	43.7
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	4.5	32.1	23.5	39.9
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.4	36.7	22.9	39.0
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.9	26.2	25.0	45.9

**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
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	3.4	40.4	25.4	30.9
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.0	47.8	20.3	29.9
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.0	46.7	29.6	21.7
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	4.7	43.7	24.3	27.4
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.1	48.1	22.7	26.0
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.7	44.1	30.9	23.4
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.5	48.2	23.9	26.4
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.9	45.2	25.5	27.4
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.3	39.1	29.2	30.4
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.2	42.9	27.7	28.1
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.2	36.8	26.6	33.4

**TABLE 10B - HISTORICAL TABLE OF CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE) - FEMALE**

YEAR	TOTAL	LEVEL OF EDUCATION			
		GRADE 5 & BELOW	GRADES 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCGE	GCE(A/L) HNCE & ABOVE
2010 <sup>1</sup>	100.0	2.1	30.1	20.5	47.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.5	30.9	19.4	46.1
2012 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.0	29.0	25.0	43.0
2013 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.2	30.2	20.3	46.2
2014 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.1	28.5	22.1	46.4
2015 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.0	27.7	19.9	49.4
2016 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.6	26.0	20.8	49.6
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	3.0	25.4	17.8	53.8
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	6.7	27.1	19.5	46.7
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	1.5	31.8	19.2	47.5
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	100.0	2.6	19.1	23.9	54.4

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

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern province

<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the Tables consist with reweighted estimates.

**TABLE 11 - CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

		(2017 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter)		
Sex	Total	Duration		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	358,350	125,430	93,034	139,886
%	100.0	35.0	26.0	39.0
Male	144,052	59,083	35,414	49,555
%	100.0	41.0	24.6	34.4
Female	214,298	66,347	57,620	90,331
%	100.0	31.0	26.9	42.2

**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)	15,893,819	134,093	0.8			
Employed Population	8,163,869	97,830	1.2			
Unemployed Population	358,350	22,006	6.1			
Employment Rate				95.8	0.25	0.26
Unemployment Rate				4.2	0.25	5.99
Labour Force	8,522,219	100,350	1.2			
Not in Labour Force	7,371,600	105,994	1.4			
<b>Employed persons by major industry Groups</b>						
1	1,983,870	82,821	4.2			
2	73,828	13,273	18.0			
3	1,585,977	59,111	3.7			
6	712,201	32,521	4.6			
7	1,216,250	50,646	4.2			
8	529,532	25,923	4.9			
9	248,053	22,521	9.1			
10	75,636	10,783	14.3			
11	176,802	14,294	8.1			
13	62,997	9,297	14.8			
14	151,249	13,599	9.0			
15	535,076	29,713	5.6			
16	368,057	21,757	5.9			
17	135,725	13,775	10.1			
19	108,016	13,816	12.8			
20	144,143	17,110	11.9			
Other	56,456	7,759	13.7			
<b>Unemployed persons by level of education</b>						
Below grade 6	10,253	4,703	45.9			
Grade 6 - 10	93,911	8,991	9.6			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	89,533	10,470	11.7			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	164,653	10,035	6.1			

**Industry group**

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

# Special Statistical Appendix

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Coverage

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

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

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

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

### Concepts & Definitions

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

**(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)

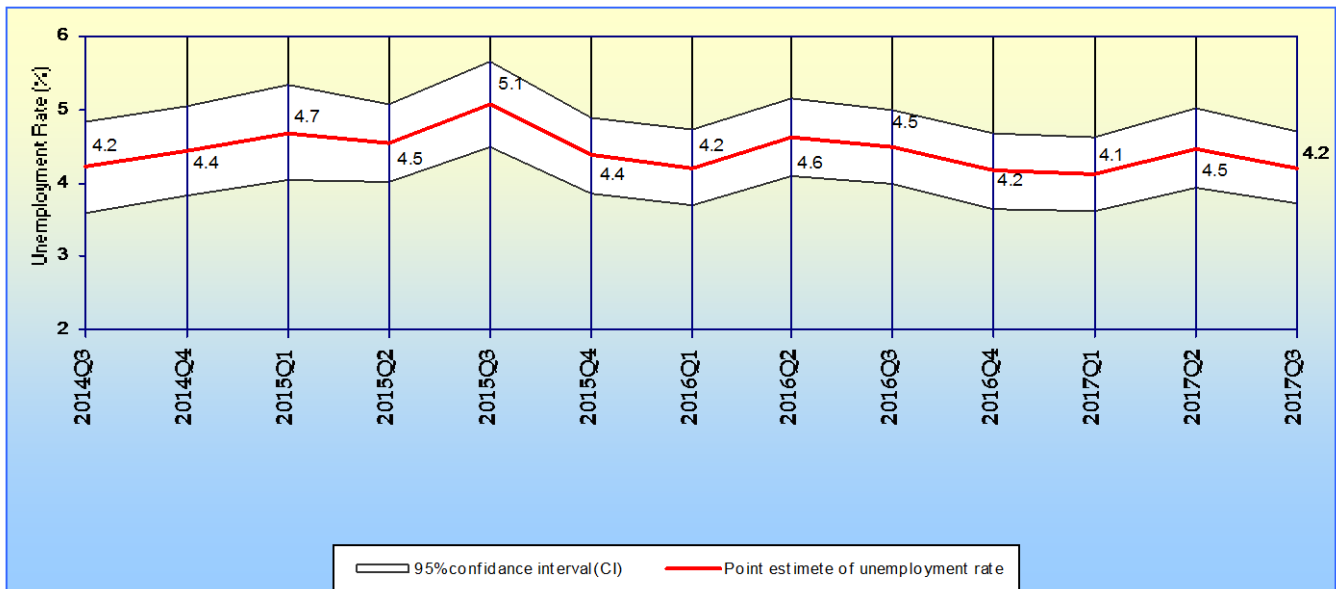
$$4.5 \pm (0.275) * (1.96)$$

$$(4.5 \pm 0.539)$$

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 (2014Q3 - 2017Q3)



**Note:**

As seen in figure 2, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant differences between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2014/2017, when sampling error was considered.

### Change in survey schedule

Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes have been made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data. In January 2006, some improvements were made to the labour force survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of data users and also to provide additional information for planning purposes. The revision was made focusing on literacy, household economic activities, and informal sector employment and under employment etc.

From January , 2013 onwards, the lower bound of working age populations is considered as age 15, hence age 15 and over population is considered as working age population. The survey schedule is updated to obtain more precise information on following age, informal employment, informal sector, secondary occupation, wages & income , unemployment & trainings.

### New Industry & Occupation classifications

From January 2013 onward the survey uses new industry & occupation classifications, such as

SLIC Rev 4:- Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification based on International Standard Industry classification - Rev.4 (ISIC Rev 4)

SLSCO 08:- Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 based on International Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 (ISCO 2008)



**Note :**

It is important to note that, all the data published here are the estimates based on a sample survey and these are subject to sampling errors. These sampling errors can be statistically evaluated from the survey results. Therefore, sampling error is normally measured in terms of the standard error of the particular variable. Standard error could be used to calculate the confidence limits with a prescribed accuracy where the true value of the estimates lies.

Further reliability of the estimates can be expressed in terms of Coefficient of Variation (CV). The CV is a relative measure of the sampling error and is calculated as sampling error divided by the expected value of the given characteristic.

In view of this, following table is given to show the estimates for some selected variables, it's standard error, CV and 95% Confidence interval.

It is also important to note that all the estimates we publish in this report are subject to sampling error and one should be cautious in the interpretation of results, especially with respect to the trends over time.

**Estimate of Confidence Intervals for some selected characteristics**

Year	Labour Force					Employed				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2010 <sup>1</sup>	8,096,477	110,375	1.36	7,880,065	8,312,889	7,696,142	105,457	1.37	7,489,372	7,902,913
2011 <sup>2</sup>	7,926,445	72,730	0.92	7,783,791	8,069,099	7,591,591	69,573	0.92	7,455,129	7,728,053
2012 <sup>2</sup>	7,798,407	66,291	0.85	7,668,392	7,928,422	7,488,704	63,894	0.85	7,363,389	7,614,018
2013 <sup>2</sup>	8,033,804	55,985	0.70	7,924,021	8,143,587	7,681,279	54,298	0.71	7,574,802	7,787,755
2014 <sup>2</sup>	8,048,884	60,868	0.76	7,929,525	8,168,243	7,700,489	58,417	0.76	7,585,937	7,815,042
2015 <sup>2</sup>	8,214,473	52,021	0.63	8,112,463	8,316,483	7,830,976	50,426	0.64	7,732,093	7,929,860
2016 <sup>2</sup>	8,310,682	66,023	0.79	8,181,215	8,440,148	7,947,683	64,616	0.81	7,820,977	8,074,389
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	8,376,002	93,505	1.12	8,192,356	8,559,647	7,999,821	91,820	1.15	7,819,486	8,180,157
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	8,583,082	96,084	1.12	8,394,371	8,771,793	8,230,207	93,303	1.13	8,046,958	8,413,456
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	8,519,322	92,362	1.08	8,337,922	8,700,722	8,138,728	88,761	1.09	7,964,400	8,313,057
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	8,522,219	100,350	1.18	8,325,129	8,719,308	8,163,869	97,830	1.20	7,971,729	8,356,009

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2010 <sup>1</sup>	400,335	14,742	3.68	371,430	429,240	4.9	0.2	3.39	4.6	5.3
2011 <sup>2</sup>	334,854	15,691	4.69	304,078	365,631	4.2	0.2	4.49	3.9	4.6
2012 <sup>2</sup>	309,703	13,287	4.29	283,643	335,763	4.0	0.2	4.14	3.6	4.3
2013 <sup>2</sup>	352,526	12,030	3.41	328,935	376,116	4.4	0.1	3.31	4.1	4.7
2014 <sup>2</sup>	348,395	12,697	3.64	323,497	373,293	4.3	0.2	3.50	4.0	4.6
2015 <sup>2</sup>	383,496	12,283	3.20	359,410	407,583	4.7	0.1	3.11	4.4	5.0
2016 <sup>2</sup>	362,999	11,186	3.08	341,064	384,933	4.4	0.1	3.02	4.1	4.6
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	376,180	21,704	5.77	333,554	418,806	4.5	0.3	5.66	4.0	5.0
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	352,875	22,757	6.45	308,179	397,570	4.1	0.3	6.28	3.6	4.6
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	380,594	24,201	6.36	333,062	428,125	4.5	0.3	6.15	3.9	5.0
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	358,350	22,006	6.14	315,129	401,571	4.2	0.3	5.99	3.7	4.7

<sup>1</sup> - Excluding Northern provinces<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included and the Tables consist with reweighted estimates

## ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES

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### Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

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

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

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

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

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

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

The revisions made are,

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

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

## Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1 - LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION 15 YEARS &amp; OVER (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

YEAR	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION (15 YEARS & OVER)	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICI: RATE(%)	LABOUR FORCE				NOT IN LABOUR FORCE NUMBER
				EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED		
				NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	NUMBER	RATE (% TO TOTAL LABOUR FORCE)	
2010 <sup>1</sup>	15,166,285	6,892,444	45.4	6,492,109	94.2	400,335	5.8	8,273,841
2011 <sup>2</sup>	14,975,989	6,687,771	44.7	6,352,916	95.0	334,854	5.0	8,288,219
2012 <sup>2</sup>	14,857,578	6,846,805	46.1	6,537,101	95.5	309,703	4.5	8,010,773
2013 <sup>2</sup>	14,958,239	6,966,035	46.6	6,600,172	94.7	365,863	5.3	8,007,536
2014 <sup>2</sup>	15,134,484	7,017,985	46.4	6,669,590	95.0	348,395	5.0	8,116,499
2015 <sup>2</sup>	15,281,945	7,156,393	46.8	6,772,896	94.6	383,496	5.4	8,125,553
2016 <sup>2</sup>	15,448,679	7,325,972	47.4	6,962,973	95.0	362,999	5.0	8,122,707
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	15,560,390	7,469,445	48.0	7,022,963	94.0	446,482	6.0	7,469,445
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	15,684,110	7,472,857	47.6	7,119,982	95.3	352,875	4.7	8,211,254
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	15,813,790	7,442,591	47.1	7,061,997	94.9	380,594	5.1	8,371,199
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	15,893,819	7,411,703	46.6	7,053,353	95.2	358,350	4.8	8,482,116

TABLE 2 - HISTORICAL TABLE OF NUMBER AND RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE (ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES)

YEAR	AGE GROUP											
	TOTAL		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 29		30 - 39		40 & ABOVE	
	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE
2010 <sup>1</sup>	400,335	5.8	59,339	26.5	154,788	22.5	84,777	10.5	59,041	3.6	42,390	1.2
2011 <sup>2</sup>	334,854	5.0	42,636	20.9	141,252	20.6	69,319	8.9	53,111	3.3	28,537	0.8
2012 <sup>2</sup>	309,703	4.5	43,745	23.5	125,556	19.4	58,227	7.3	48,794	2.8	33,381	1.0
2013 <sup>2</sup>	365,863	5.3	50,436	23.8	149,243	22.4	64,566	8.6	55,398	3.2	46,221	1.3
2014 <sup>2</sup>	348,395	5.0	49,540	25.7	138,565	22.2	67,235	9.3	53,648	3.0	39,407	1.1
2015 <sup>2</sup>	383,496	5.4	55,557	28.6	143,351	22.0	78,592	10.4	60,768	3.4	45,229	1.2
2016 <sup>2</sup>	362,999	5.0	58,622	32.8	144,156	22.2	76,624	10.0	47,956	2.7	35,640	0.9
2016Q3 <sup>2</sup>	446,482	6.0	74,844	37.2	171,471	25.4	94,779	11.8	64,812	3.6	40,577	1.0
2017Q1 <sup>2</sup>	352,875	4.7	52,415	27.4	129,114	19.1	64,751	8.8	58,234	3.3	48,361	1.2
2017Q2 <sup>2</sup>	380,594	5.1	54,242	29.9	136,443	20.4	96,763	12.4	49,661	2.8	43,485	1.1
2017Q3 <sup>2</sup>	358,350	4.8	37,194	19.6	140,740	21.0	78,691	10.7	63,489	3.6	38,236	0.9

<sup>1</sup>- Excluding Northern province<sup>2</sup> - All the districts are included

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

Year		Industry group																	
		Total	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other
2014	No.	6,669,590	1,596,116	70,007	1,263,233	530,836	885,220	465,856	159,389	58,863	142,990	44,516	98,294	578,793	293,937	124,437	123,966	181,864	51,273
	%	100.0	23.9	1.0	18.9	8.0	13.3	7.0	2.4	0.9	2.1	0.7	1.5	8.7	4.4	1.9	1.9	2.7	0.8
2015	No.	6,772,896	1,609,226	58,353	1,270,771	523,932	925,132	466,273	176,308	49,686	140,512	60,823	115,388	590,028	300,610	133,581	130,873	167,275	54,126
	%	100.0	23.8	0.9	18.8	7.7	13.7	6.9	2.6	0.7	2.1	0.9	1.7	8.7	4.4	2.0	1.9	2.5	0.8
2016	No.	6,962,973	1,563,142	56,945	1,297,576	591,710	974,467	501,897	175,754	59,445	158,159	51,192	103,576	602,318	317,987	138,767	126,838	196,875	46,324
	%	100.0	22.4	0.8	18.6	8.5	14.0	7.2	2.5	0.9	2.3	0.7	1.5	8.7	4.6	2.0	1.8	2.8	0.7
2016Q3	No.	7,022,963	1,568,341	68,250	1,321,049	616,047	966,906	473,361	182,493	70,921	156,212	44,300	95,299	578,712	337,309	146,588	126,933	216,372	53,871
	%	100.0	22.3	1.0	18.8	8.8	13.8	6.7	2.6	1.0	2.2	0.6	1.4	8.2	4.8	2.1	1.8	3.1	0.8
2017Q1	No.	7,119,982	1,591,080	46,469	1,402,368	651,196	935,447	489,824	159,536	64,378	153,957	58,243	121,688	609,921	362,256	137,373	105,791	186,480	43,975
	%	100.0	22.3	0.7	19.7	9.1	13.1	6.9	2.2	0.9	2.2	0.8	1.7	8.6	5.1	1.9	1.5	2.6	0.6
2017Q2	No.	7,061,997	1,575,512	45,134	1,349,354	644,039	1,052,761	502,327	173,425	58,108	143,909	56,375	112,960	569,304	321,565	152,562	108,742	139,299	56,622
	%	100.0	22.3	0.6	19.1	9.1	14.9	7.1	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.8	1.6	8.1	4.6	2.2	1.5	2.0	0.8
2017Q3	No.	7,053,353	1,441,400	64,987	1,369,164	684,955	1,037,103	510,681	216,333	71,456	174,948	59,656	141,715	528,675	338,816	130,652	97,442	133,252	52,116
	%	100.0	20.4	0.9	19.4	9.7	14.7	7.2	3.1	1.0	2.5	0.8	2.0	7.5	4.8	1.9	1.4	1.9	0.7

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

**Industry Group**

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining &amp; quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

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