



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by production Approach

First Quarter of 2021

Base year 2010

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Economic policies and Plan Implementation

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) Sri Lanka has released the estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current and constant (2010) price by Production approach with the other macroeconomic indicators for the first quarter of 2021 (from January to March).

The Gross Domestic Product at current price for the first quarter of year 2021 reported as Rs.4,173,783 million as against the Rs.3,844,079 million reported for the same quarter of the year 2020. The Gross Domestic Product at constant (2010) prices for the first quarter of year 2021 reported as Rs.2,393,922 million as against the Rs.2,295,432 million reported for the first quarter of year 2020.

- ❗ **Sri Lanka's economy grew by 4.3 percent in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the negative growth rate of 1.8 percent reported in the first quarter of 2020.**
- ❗ Compared the GDP growth rates of major economic activities in the first quarter of 2021 with the first quarter of 2020, the 'Agricultural', 'Industry' and 'Services' activities grew by 6.1 percent, 5.5 percent and 3.0 percent respectively in this quarter.
- ❗ The four major components of the economy; 'Agriculture', 'Industry', 'Services' and 'Taxes less subsidies on products' have contributed their share to the GDP at current prices by 7.8 percent, 29.2 percent, 57.4 percent and 5.7 percent respectively in the first quarter of 2021.

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Source Publication

http://www.statistics.gov.lk/NationalAccounts/StaticInformation/Detail_Note/First_Quarter_2021_en

1.0 General Description for the first quarter of year 2021

Compared to the year 2020, the year 2021 began under favourable terrain conditions for Sri Lanka and provided some relief from the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, which began to spread in the fourth quarter of 2020. Though, amidst the second wave, the economy continued to carry out most of the business activities, even under the Covid-19 imposed restrictions, except very few; such as tourism and entertainment related activities. Furthermore, throughout the first quarter of this year, even in the midst of the epidemic, there was a new normalization of people's lifestyles, and economic activities were seen to be assisting them to run their businesses at a satisfactory level.

Although we started the year 2020 as a country free from the Covid-19 pandemic, many East Asian, European and American countries were severely affected by the disease. Although Sri Lankan society did not survive for the first two months, the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread in the country in early March and by mid-March the country was fully locked down. As a result, the first quarter recorded relatively a low negative economic growth rate of 1.8 percent.

Economic growth rate for the first quarter of 2021 is estimated by comparing the GDP value estimated for the first quarter of 2020. The estimated GDP value and the economic growth rate of the first quarter of 2021 indicates that the recovery of the slowdown economic condition in 2020.

Under these circumstances described above, it recorded a 4.3 percent growth rate for the first quarter of 2021 as compared to the 1.8 percent of negative growth rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. The value of real GDP of the first quarter of 2019 was Rs. 2,336,391 million. It was declined to Rs. 2,295,432 million in the first quarter of 2020 and had recovered to Rs. 2,393,922 million in the first quarter of 2021.

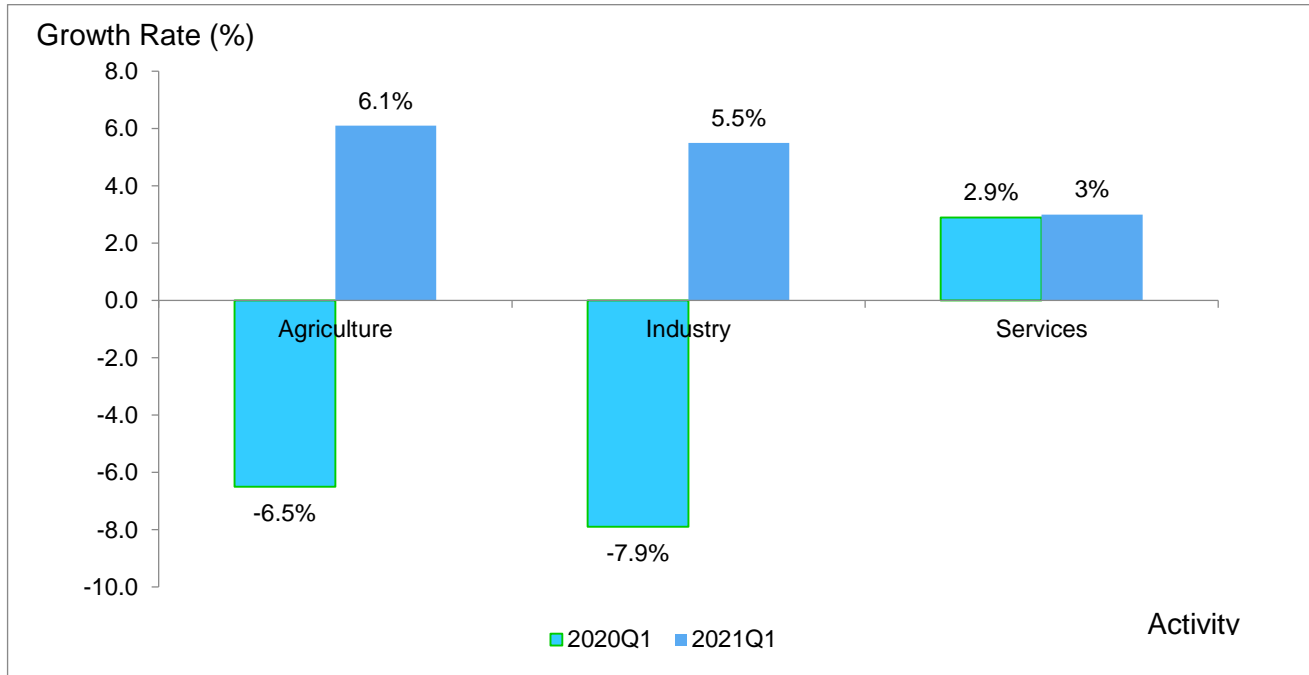
In the first quarter of 2021, Economic growth rate of 4.3 percent was recorded as a result of positive growth values recorded for all the three sectors of Agriculture, Industry and Services. The growth in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors have been mainly due to the fact that despite the occasional restrictions on the control of the virus, it has been allowed to engage in agricultural activities and to keep industrial establishments open and productive.

The Gross Domestic Product at current price and at constant (2010) price of the first quarter 2021, reported as Rs.4,173,783 million and Rs.2,393,922 million respectively against the current and constant (2010) prices of Gross Domestic Product reported in same quarter of 2020 which was recorded as Rs.3,844,079 million and Rs.2,295,432 million respectively.

The four major components of the economy; 'Agriculture', 'Industry', 'Services' and 'Taxes less subsidies on products' have contributed their share to the GDP at current prices by 7.8 percent, 29.2

percent, 57.4 percent and 5.7 percent respectively in the first quarter of 2021. Accordingly, all three major economic activities of agriculture, industry and services in the first quarter of 2021 recorded growth rates of 6.1 percent, 5.5 percent and 3.0 percent respectively compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

Figure 1: Comparison of Growth Rates in the first quarters of 2020 and 2021



In the first quarter of 2021, among the agricultural activities, 'Growing of tea' (37.9 percent), 'Growing of Cereals' (34.8 percent) and 'Fresh water fishing' (27.0 percent) recorded significant positive growth rates. In this quarter while many other agricultural activities reported noteworthy expansions compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Among them 'Growing of rubber' (16.0 per cent), ' Growing of vegetable ' (14.5 percent), 'Plant propagation and agriculture support service activities (10.9 percent)', 'Growing of fruit' (6.9 percent), , ' Growing of Oleaginous fruits include Coconut'(6.4 percent) , 'Animal production' (5.5 percent), Forestry and Logging'(5.4 percent) , 'Growing of Spices ' (4.9 percent) are the key activities. The activities such as 'Marine fishing' (16.0 percent), ' Growing of rice ' (6.3 percent) and 'Growing of other beverages crops' (2.8 percent) reported contractions in this quarter.

The industrial sector, which was the most affected sector from Covid 19 pandemic during the year of 2020, recorded a 5.5 percent growth in this quarter compared to the same quarter of 2020. Overall manufacturing sector has reported 6.8 percent expansion in this quarter. Within the Manufacture activities, ' Manufacture of chemical products and basic pharmaceutical products' (20.0 percent), 'Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products' (15.3 percent), 'Manufacture of rubber and plastic products' (12.9 percent) , 'Manufacture of paper products' (12.4 percent) and 'Manufacture of wood and wood products' (12.0 percent) reported significant expansions in this quarter. 'Manufacture of food beverages and tobacco products' which has the highest share to the GDP of industrial sector showed substantial increase in the growth rate by 6.0 percent. 'Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel and

leather related products' which affected heavily due to Covid-19 pandemic in the year 2020, showed an expansion of 8.4 percent in this quarter. However, 'Manufacture of coak & refined petroleum products' recorded significant contraction of 44.3 percent in this quarter. The activity of 'Water collection and treatment' (3.5 percent) and 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' (2.7 percent) have further expanded in the first quarter of 2021. In the first quarter of 2021, 'Mining and quarrying' (3.7 percent) and 'Construction' (3.4 percent) activities reported considerable expansions.

During the year of 2020, the performance of Service sector was underpinned mainly by the sub activities of 'Telecommunication' (19.1 percent), 'IT programming consultancy related activities' (14.9 percent), 'Financial service activities' (13.1 percent) and 'Insurance activities' (11.4 percent) which reported significant expansions within this quarter. The highest share holder of GDP in the Services sector of the first quarter of 2021, the activity of 'Wholesale and retail trade' expanded by 3.7 percent. The activity of 'Transportation of goods and passengers including ware housing' which shared 9.4 percent of GDP at current price in this quarter, has recorded expansion of 1.0 percent in this quarter when compared to same quarter of 2020. The 'Programming and broadcasting activities and audio video productions' (4.2 percent), "Real estate" (3.9 percent), 'Postal and courier activities' (3.5 percent), 'Professional service' (3.0 percent), 'Human health activities' (2.9 percent) , and 'Other personal service activities' (2.0 percent) have reported moderate expansions in this quarter. In the first quarter of 2021, 'Accommodation, food and beverage service activity has heavily affected by the Covid- 19 pandemic reported 31.9 percent further contraction compared to the first quarter of 2020.

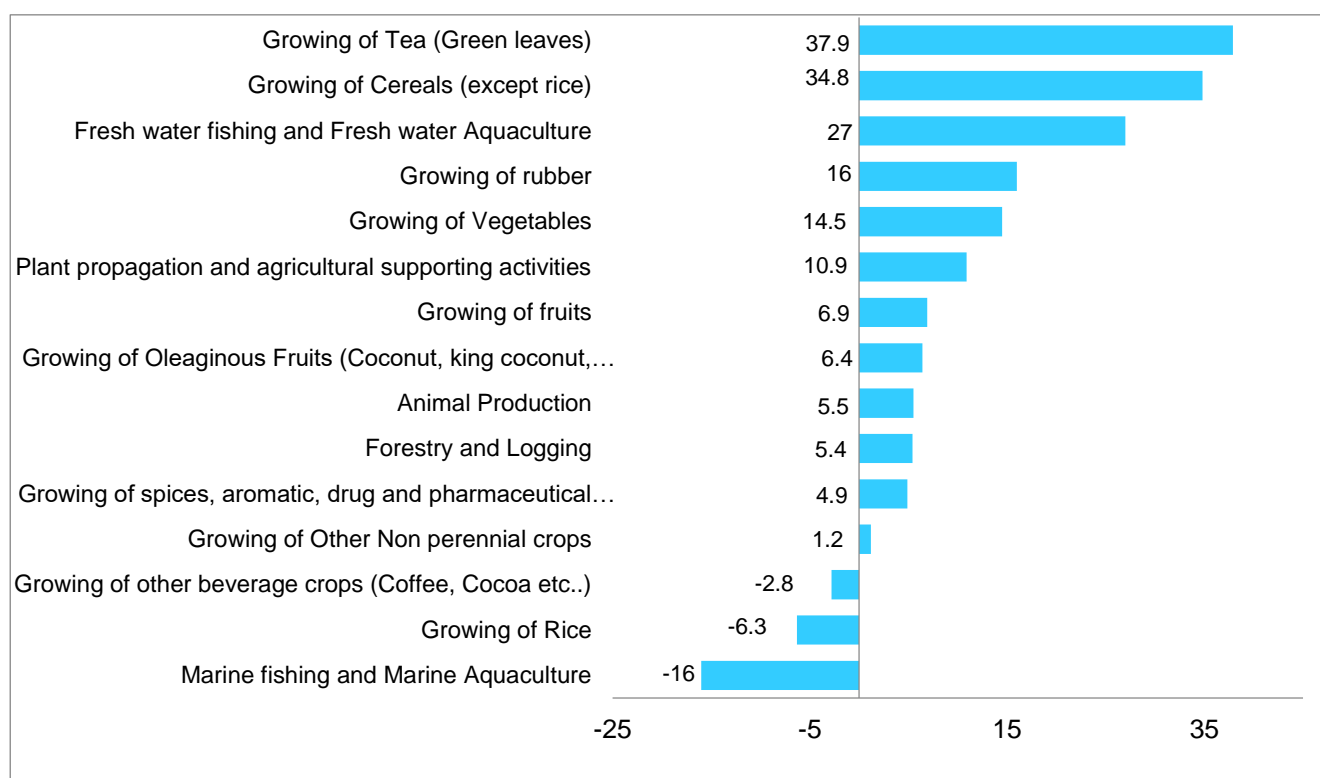
GDP implicit price deflator which measures the price change in the economy with respect to a specific base year (2010=100), increased to 174.35 in the first quarter of 2021 from 167.47 recorded in the first quarter of 2020 indicating 4.1 percent of inflation rate.

The Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) (2013 = 100) increased to 138.9 in the first quarter of 2021, from 134.2 recorded in the first quarter of 2020, indicating 3.5 percent of inflation rate.

1.1 Agricultural Activities

In the first quarter of 2021 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector reported a substantial expansion by 6.1 percent and shared 7.8 percent of GDP at current price when compared to 6.5 percent contraction recorded in the first quarter of 2020.

The 'Growing of Cereals (except rice)' recorded a considerable positive growth rate of 34.8 percent in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020 that reported a negative growth of 1.9 percent. The growth values of the production of some cereals such as Kurakkan (79 percent), Maize (36 percent), Green gram (18 percent), Cowpea (12 percent), Black gram (77 percent), Gingerly (106 percent) & Groundnuts (17 percent) were contributed for this composite growth of the activity. According to the Department of Agriculture, some major crops have achieved above 90 percent of their targets.

Figure2: A comparison of percentage growth rates of Agricultural activities in the first quarter of 2021

The value added of the activity of “Growing of rice” recorded a negative growth rate of 6.3 percent in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the first quarter of 2020. Paddy production of 2020/2021 maha season has decreased by 6.2 percent.

In the first quarter, the value addition of growing of vegetables consist three months production of the Maha cultivation period. In the first quarter of 2021, the production was estimated using the cultivation extent data published in the ‘Crop forecast’ values of the Department of Agriculture. According to the latest Crop forecast report, cultivation extents of almost all of the vegetable items in that list have increased. Simultaneously, most of the vegetable items reported decrease in their producer prices in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same value of the first quarter of the previous year. Hence, at the current prices, the Gross Value Added of vegetables increased marginally by 0.4 but in real terms, it has reported 14.5 percent growth rate in the first quarter of 2021.

The activity of ‘Growing of Oleaginous fruits’ including coconut and king-coconut has contributed Rs.15,587 million to the GDP at constant (2010) price in the first quarter of 2021 and the share to the GDP was reported as 0.6 percent. ‘Growing of Oleaginous fruits’ reported an increase of 6.4 percent within the first quarter 2021, when compared to the first quarter of 2020. The average producer price of a coconut increased from Rs.44.77 to Rs.67.69 from the respective quarters in 2020 to 2021, exceeding 51 percent price increase. Estimated coconut production in this quarter recorded as Mn.720.46 nuts. Export of coconuts in the first quarter of 2021 was reported as 4,250 thousand nuts, reporting a decrease by 19.5 percent compared to first quarter of 2020.

The 'Growing of tea' recorded a positive growth rate of 37.9 percent in first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020, reported a negative growth of 26.9 percent. The made tea production has increased by 37.9 percent in the first quarter of 2021. The average price of one kg of 'Made Tea' at Colombo Auction has increased from Rs.594.81 to Rs.648.63 by 9.0 percent in this quarter, compared to the first quarter of 2020. The low grown tea which has the largest market share around 62.3 percent of the total tea production, recorded a 48.8 percent increase in this quarter.

The value added as well as the latex production of "Growing of Rubber" recorded an increase of 16.0 percent in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the decrease of 8.7 percent recorded in the first quarter of 2020. According to the Rubber Development Department, the average price received for one kilogram of latex increased by 56.1 percent from Rs.322.00 per Kg to Rs.502.67 per Kg in the first quarter of 2021.

The activity of "Growing of other perennial crops" consist with several sub activities viz ; 'growing of areca-nut', 'growing of Odeal', 'growing of betel', 'growing of jak-fruit, bread-fruit' and 'toddy tapping'. The overall activity has contributed Rs.4,061 million to the total GDP at constant (2010) prices, and it's a 1.2 percent increase in the first quarter of 2021. The export of betel has decreased by 23.9 percent in this quarter compared to the first quarter of 2021.

'Animal production' comprised with several sub categories viz. 'Raising animals for meat', 'Diary farming' and 'Eggs production'. The overall value addition of this activity in the first quarter of 2021 at constant (2010) price was Rs.15,890 million and the share to the GDP was reported as 0.9 percent. The 'Animal Production' activities reported of 5.5 percent growth in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020. According to the 'Department of Animal Production and Health', the animal slaughtering in the country has increased considerably in this quarter except cattle. Dairy farming showed healthy expansion in this quarter compared to the first quarter of 2020, reporting high milk production. Due to high demand for milk, the producer price of milk also has increased by 7.3 percent from Rs.77.5 to Rs. 83.2 per litter of milk. Meanwhile the Eggs production has increased by 18 percent in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020 resulted a producer price of egg has decreased by 14 percent in this quarter.

The activity of 'Forestry and logging' contributed Rs.12,475 million to the GDP at constant (2010) prices in the first quarter of 2021 recording a 5.4 percent growth compared to that of first quarter 2020. The major contribution of about 90 percent comes through the Logging part which includes the firewood as well. In this quarter, the 'State Timber Corporation' alone has recorded nearly 35 percent increase in their log volume, while 53 percent decrease in value terms. Finally altogether total value added in real terms has increased by 5.4 percent in the first quarter 2021 compared to the respective quarter of 2020.

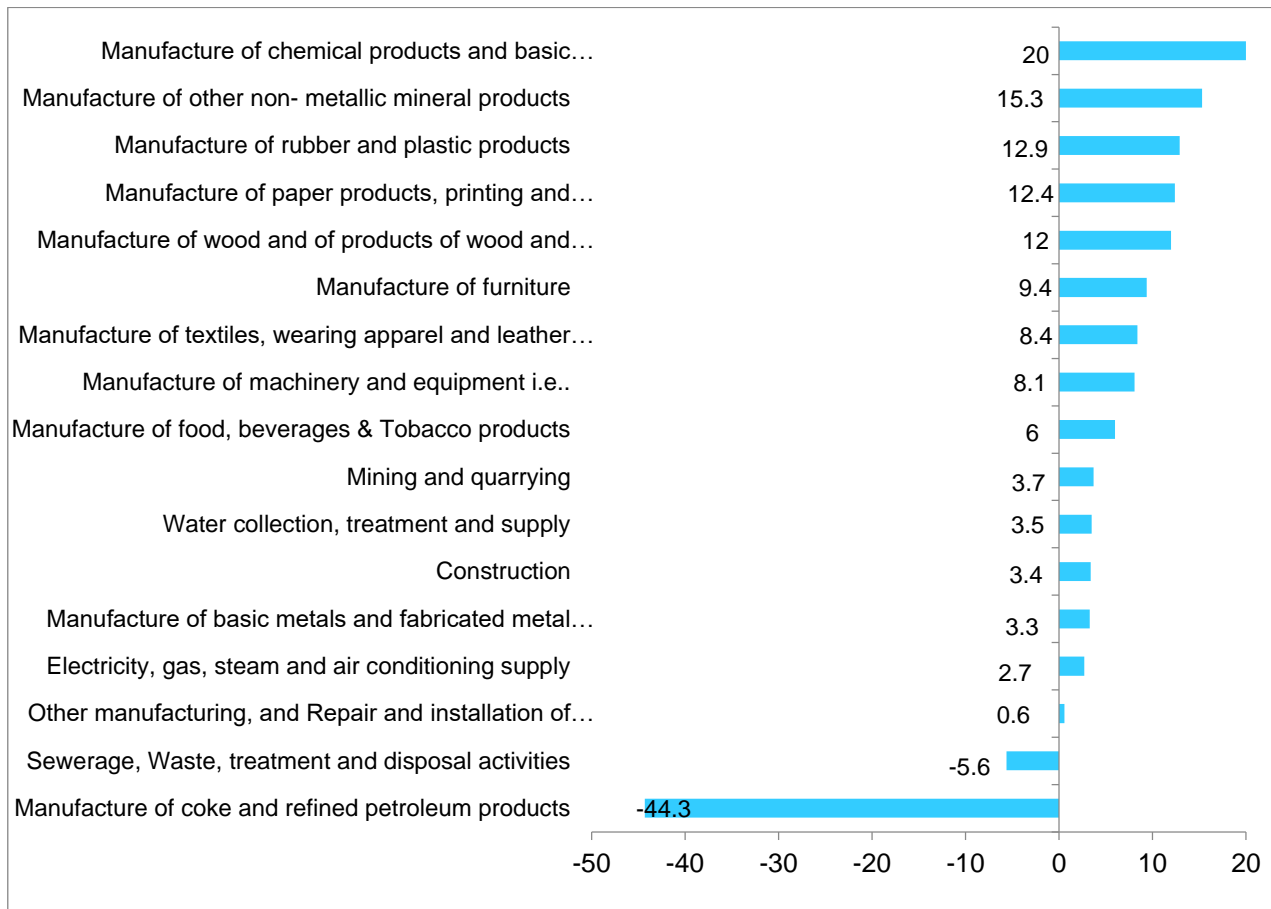
Compared to the first quarter of 2020, the 'Marine Fisheries and Aquatic Aquaculture' activities reported Rs.31,778 million contribution to the total GDP, and shared 0.8 percent at current price in the first

quarter of 2021. The value added of this activity has contracted by 16.0 percent at constant(2010) price. 'Ministry of Fisheries' has reported 15.0 percent decrease while reporting 10.4 percent and 18.2 percent decreases from Deep sea fish production and coastal fish production respectively. Due to the re-emergence of the corona virus in the Western Province from October 2020, the Peliyagoda Central Fish Market and the main fishing harbours were temporarily closed. This situation was badly affected for the reduction of fish production in the first quarter of 2021. As the people reduced fish consumption, marine fisheries producer price also was decreased in this quarter. According to the 'Ministry of Fisheries', Inland fishery production has increased by 27.0 percent in the first quarter of 2021 when compared to the same value of the last year.

1.2 Industry Activities

In the first quarter of 2021, overall Industry activities reported a significant expansion of 5.5 percent compared the contraction of 7.9 percent reported in the first quarter of 2020. The Industry activities, which shared 29.2 percent of the GDP at current price, contributed Rs.1,217,842 million at current price.

The 'Mining and Quarrying' activity which contributes nearly 2.2 percent to the total GDP, reported 3.7 percent positive growth in this quarter, when compared to the same quarter of 2021. 'Mining and Quarrying' activity consists mainly with three sub activities, 'Mining of Construction Materials', 'Gem Mining' and 'Mining of other minerals'. Out of these three sub activities 'Gem mining' recorded 16.2 percent expansion. The value added of 'Mining of construction materials' which gives the highest contribution to the overall 'Mining and Quarrying' activity, increased by 3.2 percent.

Fig 3: A comparison of percentage growth rates of Industrial activities in the first quarter of 2021

1.2.1 Manufacturing Activities

The Covid-19 pandemic had a lesser impact on manufacturing activities recorded a significant high growth rate of 6.8 percent present in the First quarter of 2021. The sub-activity of 'Manufacture of food, beverages and tobacco products' which is contributed 7.5 percent share to the GDP, recorded a considerably high growth rate of 6.0 percent in First quarter of 2021 when compared to the growth rate of 3.2 percent recorded in the First quarter of 2020.

The second largest activity of 'Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel and leather products' has recorded an expansion of 8.4 percent in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the negative growth rate of 12.1 percent recorded in the first quarter of 2020.

The activity of 'Manufacture of Wood and product of wood cork except furniture' has recorded 2.5 percent growth rates in the first Quarter of 2020. It further increased by 12.0 percent in same quarter of 2021.

The 'Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products' recorded negative 19.2 percent growth rate in the first quarter of 2020 and it further decreased by 44.3 percent in the first quarter of 2021. The petroleum production Value has decreased by 54.1 percent in this quarter.

The activity of 'Manufacture of Chemical products and basic pharmaceutical products' which was recorded 9.1 percent decline in the first quarter of 2020 has been recovered and notable increase was observed and also 20.0 percent increase is recorded in same quarter of 2021. This high growth rate reported as a result of higher demand for medicines and other health related products needed to control the Covid-19 outbreak.

The activity of 'Manufacture of rubber and plastic products, leather and related products', reported a decline of 13.3 percent in the first quarter 2020. However, notable recovery was observed in this activity expansion of 12.9 percent recorded in first quarter of 2021.

Further, The activities of 'Manufacture of furniture' (9.4 percent), 'Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products' (15.3 percent), 'Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products' (3.3 percent), 'Manufacture of paper products and printing product' (12.4 percent), 'Manufacture of machinery and equipment' (8.1 percent), and 'Other manufacturing and Repair and installation' (0.6 percent) reported positive growth rates in the first quarter of 2021.

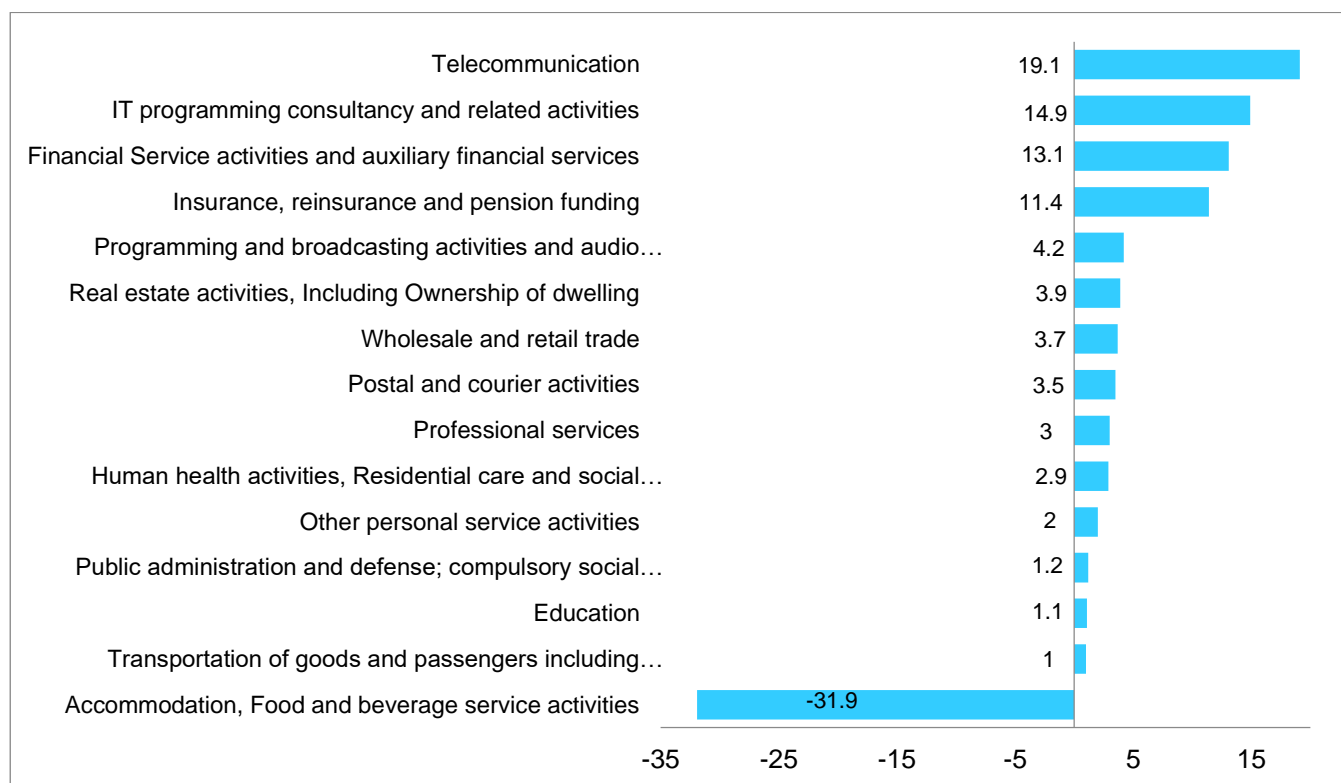
The real value added of 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' has reported a 2.7 percent growth in the first quarter of 2021. The electricity power generation has increased from Gwh 3,947 to Gwh 4,065 indicating a 3.0 percent increase in-between first quarter of 2020-2021. Meanwhile the total revenue from sales of electricity has increased by 6.1 percent in this quarter. In addition the existed ratio of 23:73:4 hydro powers, thermal and NCRE power generation in the first quarter of 2020 has changed to 22:73:5 in this quarter.

The activity of 'Water collection, treatment and supply' has reported a 3.5 percent positive growth in the first quarter of 2021. The volume of water supply for the first quarter of 2020 was 191,742 (thousand m3) and it has increased to 198,383 (thousand m3) in the first quarter of 2021, registering a 3.5 percent increase. In addition, total revenue for this quarter also increased by 5.5 percent.

Despite the pandemic in the country, construction activity increased by 3.4 percent in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020. The share of construction activity to the total GDP reported as 6.3 percent in this quarter. Cement imports declined by 21.59 percent during the quarter, but domestic cement production increased by 29.01 percent. Accordingly, the total supply of cement has increased by 2.39 percent.

1.3 Service Activities

The overall contribution of service activities at current price and constant (2010) price to the total GDP are reported as Rs.2,393,749 million and Rs.1,411,836 million respectively for the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020 and recorded positive growth rate of 3.0 percent. The share to the GDP in service activities is reported as 57.4 percent at current price in this quarter.

Fig 4: A Comparison of percentage growth rates of Service activities in the first quarter of 2021

The 'Wholesale and retail trade' which contributes nearly 11.3 percent to the GDP at current price, reported 3.7 percent of positive growth rate in the first quarter of year 2021 when compared to the 4.2 percent of growth rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020. After the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic, throughout the first quarter in the year 2021, the country experienced the normalization of business activities and return to new-normality in day to day life style of the people. As a result, the wholesale and retail trade activity recorded 3.7 percent of positive growth rate during this quarter.

The value added of wholesale and retail trade activity is affected by fluctuations in total domestic production and total imports. Therefore, the growth rate of this activity is dependent on the variations in above three variables of Imports, Domestic Agricultural production and Domestic Industrial production. The 'Wholesale and retail trade' activity covers trade of food and non-food essential consumer goods as well as other categories such as clothing, footwear and accessories, fashion and jewellery, electronics, household and consumer durables, entertainment, shelter and housing.

According to the External Trade Statistics of Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), the total import expenditure for the first quarter of 2021 has increased up to Rs.978,240 Million from Rs.821,457 million reported for the first quarter of 2020, by 19.1 percent. Also, the value of consumer goods import expenditure has increased by 9.8 percent during this quarter from Rs.176,285 million to Rs.193,527 million. According to the Trade Indices released by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the import volume index value of consumer goods has increased by 0.4 percent, further the total import volume index has increased by 9.2 percent during the first quarter of 2021 when it compared with the values of the same quarter in 2020. In addition, during this quarter, the total trade margin value of domestic industrial

production has increased substantially up to Rs.414,548 million from Rs.356,590 million in the first quarter of 2021 by 16.3 percent when compared with the first quarter of 2020.

Moreover, according to the External Trade Statistics of CBSL, the total export value to the rest of the world has been increased by 19.7 percent during this first quarter of 2021, when compared to the first quarter in 2020. According to the CBSL Trade Indices, the total export volume index has increased 11.3 percent. Due to the expansion in the domestic manufacturing and the agricultural production in the first quarter, the agricultural and industrial exports to the rest of the world have been grown remarkably. Accordingly, among the exports, the volume indices of agricultural exports and the industrial exports have expanded by 22.0 percent and 9.0 percent respectively during this quarter.

The activity of 'Transportation of goods and passengers & Warehousing activities' is a combination of land transport, water transport, air transport and warehousing and support activities for transportation. During the first quarter of 2021, land transport activity recorded a positive growth rate, which mainly attributed to goods transport and new registration of land vehicles. However, air transport and water transport both recorded negative growth rates in the first quarter of 2021. Meanwhile support activities including warehousing for transportation recorded a positive growth in this quarter. All in all, transport as a whole recorded 1.0 percent positive growth in the first quarter of 2021.

The activity of 'Postal and courier activities' has recorded a positive growth rate of 3.5 percent in the first quarter of 2021 with compared to the same quarter of previous year recording Rs1,320 million value added at constant prices in this quarter over the value of Rs1,276 million recorded in the first quarter of 2020.

The 'Accommodation, food and beverage serving' activities sector declined drastically due to the covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown restrictions. As the outbreak continued to spread globally and locally, the international travel bans and local travel restrictions were imposed. This affected severally on tourism related industries. Hence, the generated gross value addition from 'Accommodation, food and beverage serving activity' contracted by 31.9 percent in the first quarter of 2021, when compared to the same quarter in 2020. According to the first quarter (Jan to March) financial statements of listed companies of hotels registered at Sri Lanka Colombo stock exchange, the reported quarterly turnover of their hotels altogether has been declined by about 35 percent during this first quarter when compared to the first quarter financial (Jan to March) statements of the year 2020.

The activity of 'Programming and broadcasting activities and audio video productions' has reported a positive growth rate of 4.2 percent in the first quarter of 2021 with compared to the same quarter of previous year. Most of the television broadcasting Companies' has increased revenues in during this period.

Telecommunication activity was sustained a 15.8 percent growth in the first quarter of 2020 and have further reported a 19.1 percent growth in the first quarter of 2021. This activity experiences relatively

high growth rates in past five quarters owing to working-from-home and learning-from-home arrangements practiced amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the first quarter of 2021, fixed access wireless telephone connections have increased 21.4 percent, while mobile connections recorded a 8.3 percent decrease compared to first quarter of 2020. The internet and email subscribers have increased continuously from recorded 0.5 million subscribers in 2010 to approximately 19 million subscribers in the first Quarter of 2021. The 'IT programming and consultancy including IT BPM is one of the major emerging industry in Sri Lanka recorded substantial performance during this first quarter of 2021, amidst Covid-19 pandemic. It is one of the main industries which recorded substantial positive growth rate of 14.9 percent. Most of the companies in this industry were able to continue their work following working from home concept. According to the CBSL Balance of Payment Statistics, credit value of export revenue from computer services has increased by 19.0 percent during this quarter.

Financial intermediation is the main service, provided by financial institutions supplied by licensed commercial banks (LCB's), licensed specialized banks (LSBs), other registered financial companies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo stock exchange (CSE) and persons representing household in Sri Lankan economy. This activity recorded 13.1 percent real growth rate for the 1st Quarter of 2021, recording Rs.173,995 million value added at constant prices in this Quarter over the value of Rs 153,834 million recorded in the 1st Quarter of 2020. The value of loans, advances and deposits of financial institutions has recorded an increase by 13.2 percent and 21.0 percent respectively in this Quarter. 'Average Weighted Lending Rate' (AWLR) and average 'Average Weighted Deposit Rate' (AWDR) compiled by Central Bank of Sri Lanka recorded 9.91 percent and 5.20 percent respectively in the first quarter of 2021.

The real value added of 'Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding' which reported an increase of 1.0 percent in the first quarter of 2020, further grew by 11.4 percent in the first quarter of 2021. During this period, the staff cost and the profit before tax of insurance companies have increased by 11.7 percent. The usage of this activity is represented by the total of the values of premiums and the claim incurred, has increased by 16.4 percent in this quarter.

The 'Real Estate Activities including Ownership of dwellings' expanded further by 3.9 percent in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the first quarter of 2020. This activity reported a value addition of Rs.157,287 million in real terms to the total GDP, sharing 6.2 percent at nominal terms.

The activity of "Professional services" has contributed Rs.43,484 million at constant (2010) price and shared 1.7 percent to the total GDP at current price. This activity is a combination of eight compilation categories. It is mainly comprised by 'Legal and accounting activities', 'Architectural and engineering activities', 'Scientific research and development', 'advertising and market research, other professional, scientific and technical activities and publishing activities', 'Veterinary activities', 'Rental and leasing activities', 'Employment, travel agency, security and investigation activities' and 'Services to building and


landscape activities'. the real value added of these sub activities in this quarter has increased by 3.0 percent compared to the same quarter of 2020.

During the first quarter of 2021, Human health activities recorded 2.9 percent of growth when compared to the same quarter in the previous year. Especially private health services expanded considerably. According to the first quarter (January to March) financial statements of listed companies of major five hospitals in the country, which are registered at 'Colombo Stock Exchange', the reported quarterly turnover of hospitals, altogether has been increased by 32.9 percent during this first quarter when compared to the first quarter financial (January to March) statements of the year 2020. In addition, e-channeling services have been expanded substantially during this quarter.

The "Other personal service activities", which contributes 9.8 percent to the total GDP at current price, consists of the two economic activities "arts and public entertainment" and "other personal activities". In the wake of the country-wide outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, everyday lifestyles have declined somewhat due to the strict social policies and regulations imposed for the welfare of the people, but for the first quarter of 2021, this activity has increased by 2.0 percent.

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