

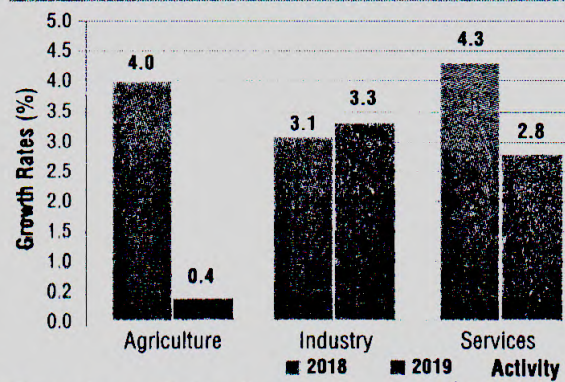
# 3Q posts 2.7% growth

- Shows recovery from 1.6% growth recorded in 2Q but lower in comparison to 3.5% a year ago
- Stronger showing of 3.3% growth in industry, 2.8% in services
- Agriculture fails to impress with just 0.4% growth
- 7.5% contraction in accommodation and food services showing slow recovery in tourism
- Manufacturing growth driven by food, apparel, mineral products
- Trade, transportation, financial services drive growth
- IT programming, consultancy, related services jump 20.5% in 3Q
- Telecommunications grow by 11%

SRI Lanka's economy grew by 2.7% in the third quarter of 2019, recovering somewhat from the Easter Sunday attacks that slashed the previous quarter growth to a five-year low of 1.6%, and showing stronger expansion in the industry and services segment, the Census and Statistics Department said yesterday. In the corresponding quarter of last year, GDP grew by 3.5%.

The economy grew at its slowest pace in more than five years from April to June 2019, with 2Q showing only a 1.6% gain, slowing from a growth rate of 3.7% the first quarter. However, the impact on some segments including the accommodation, food

Figure 1 - Comparison of Growth Rates in Q3 (2018, 2019)



Source: Census & Statistics Department

GraphicsDesk

and beverage service activities were slower by 7.5% when compared to the third quarter of 2018, data showed. Agriculture also failed to show a significant growth despite better weather seen in 2019, the Census and Statistics (CSD) said.

Issuing a communique on releasing National Accounts Estimates for the third quarter of 2019, the department stated that the GDP growth rate for the third quarter of 2019 has been estimated as 2.7%.

More Page 4