

Economy grows by 6.8% in Q2

The country's economy has grown by 6.8% in the second quarter from a year earlier, accelerating from 6% in the first quarter of 2013.

The Department of Census and Statistics said yesterday the economic output of Sri Lanka as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Q2 (April/June), of 2013 at constant (2002) prices is estimated at Rs. 779,974 million as against Rs. 730,641 million in Q2 2012, registering a 6.8% growth.

The agriculture sector, one of the three major sectors of the economy, has recorded a negative 1.1% growth in the reference quarter.

Industry and Services sectors recorded 10.1% and 6.6% increases respectively in the reference quarter.

The sub sectors which registered relative significant growth among the major sectors in the Q2 2013 were Mining and Quarrying 12.6%, Electricity, Gas and

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Water 16.2%, Construction 17.8%, Hotels and Restaurants 21.1%, Transport and Communication 9.5% and Banking, Insurance and Real Estate 6.3%, the Department said.

The percentage share of the three major sectors: Agriculture, Industry and Services to total GDP reported as usual at 10.7%, 30.2% and 59.1% respectively. The index number of GDP implicit price deflator (2002=100) rose to 254.7 in Q2 2013, from 239.7 in the same quarter of 2012, registering an inflation rate of 6.3% for Q2 2013.

The Colombo Consumers' Price Index (2006/2007=100) which reflects the average price level of consumers' goods increased to 173.5 in Q2 2013 from 162.4 in Q2 of 2012.

Accordingly, the inflation rate is recorded as 6.8% for Q2 2013 whereas it was 7.5% in the corresponding quarter of 2012.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector decreased by 1.1% in the second quarter of 2013. This sector recorded 8.5% growth in the same quarter in 2012.

The real terms value added of the industry sector grew by 10.1% in Q2 2013 as against the 9.5% growth in Q2 2012.

The Manufacturing sub sector which is the highest contributor to the Industry sector grew by 5.3% in the Q2 of 2013.

The overall Services sector grew only by 6.6% in the reference quarter.

This sector grew by 4.5% in the same quarter of 2012.

