

Computer Literacy Statistics – 2016 (First six months)

Department of Census and Statistics

Sri Lanka

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The birth of the Information Age which is also known as Computer Age, is associated with the Digital Revolution, just as the Industrial Revolution marked the birth of the Industrial Age. The Digital and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolutions are twin revolutions. The rapid developments in ICT have greatly contributed in enhancing human living standards worldwide. The advanced capability of this technology facilitates with extremely efficient collaboration and access to correct, consistent and effective information, which is fundamental to manage the quality in total. In developed world, most of the key economically effective environments are increasingly ICT dominant and therefore, investing on ICT developments in the 21st century has become a compulsory requirement for a country to survive.

Timely and accurate information on ICT itself is essential for justification and proper direction of the Government efforts, private sector investments, to study the changing pattern of the demand for internet services and for continuous progress monitoring on ICT achievements.

For this computer literacy data can contribute immensely to an understanding of the demand and supply of skills in the global, knowledge based economy. Also statistics on the availability of a computer/laptop in households and usage of internet and email that exist between demographic and geographic groups provides more insight for the scattering of ICT facilities.

To cater the relevant data need the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has conducted several surveys on computer literacy in Sri Lanka. The surveys were in 2004, 2006/07, 2009, 2014, 2015 and latest is in 2016. This bulletin exposes the major findings of the first six months starting from January to June in 2016. More detailed report will be available with the full year dataset. For the current analysis of the computer literacy survey a nationally distributed sample of 12,875 households with persons aged 5 – 69 years were enumerated.

Household computer ownership

If a desktop or laptop is available at a household then that household is considered as a computer owned household. The Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of computer owned households by Sector/ Province levels. In 2016, at least one computer is available in 22.5% of households in the country. That is more than one out of every five households owns either a desktop or a laptop computer. This percentage is 35.3% in Urban Sector and Rural and Estate Sector show 20.7% and 6.4% respectively. The highest availability is in Western province (34.8%) while the lowest availability is reported from Eastern.

Table 1: Percentage of computer owned households by Sector and Province - 2014 to 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Sector/ Province	Desktop (%)			Desktop or Laptop (%)		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Sri Lanka	16.5	15.3	13.1	22.2	24.4	22.5
Urban	25.7	23.0	19.6	35.8	41.5	35.3
Rural	15.2	14.4	12.2	20.3	21.9	20.7
Estate	2.7	4.1	5.0	4.6	5.6	6.4
Province						
Western	24.5	23.3	19.6	32.9	38.6	34.8
Central	17.9	15.9	13.9	23.4	22.7	22.4
Southern	16.0	13.2	11.9	21.0	20.0	19.2
Northern	10.7	8.5	6.9	19.3	18.9	15.5
Eastern	9.5	8.1	6.0	14.7	12.8	12.2
North-western	14.5	13.8	10.0	20.1	21.8	20.4
North-central	7.4	12.9	8.9	10.0	20.3	13.5
Uva	9.0	6.9	9.2	10.8	10.9	12.9
Sabaragamuwa	13.7	12.9	12.9	16.6	18.2	18.6

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

Table 2 shows the year of acquisition of the first computer to the household. It was revealed that about 62.1 percent of the households have acquired the first computer during 2010 to 2014 and 2015 to mid of 2016, about 15.0 percent acquisition computers.

Table 2: Computer owned households (percentage) by the year of first acquisition of a computer – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Sector	Total	Before 2001	2001-2004	2005 - 2009	2010 - 2014	2015 - 2016
Sri Lanka	100.0	3.5	3.5	16.0	62.1	15.0
Urban	100.0	6.0	5.4	18.5	62.7	7.4
Rural *	100.0	2.7	2.8	15.2	61.9	17.4

Map 1: Household computer ownership (percentage) – 2016 (during 1st 6 months)

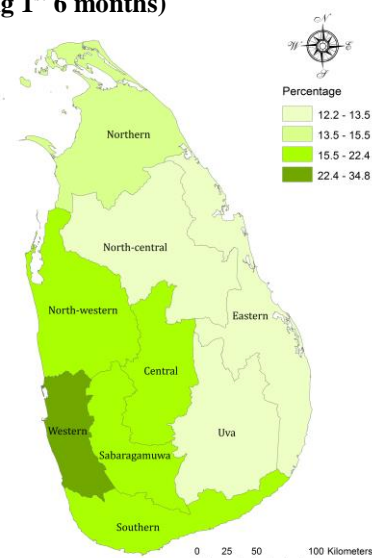


Figure 1: Percentage of Desktop or Laptop computer owned households by Sector: 2014, 2015 and 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

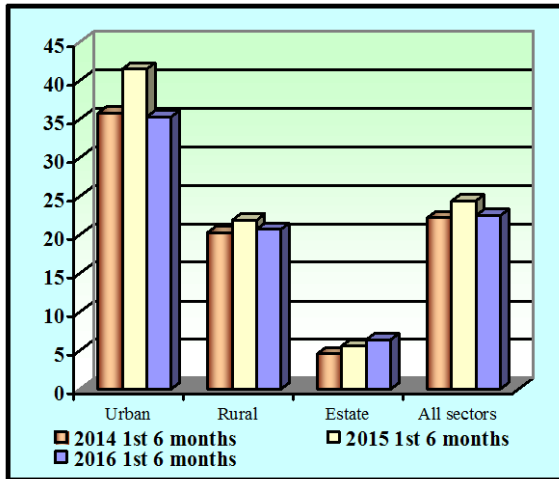
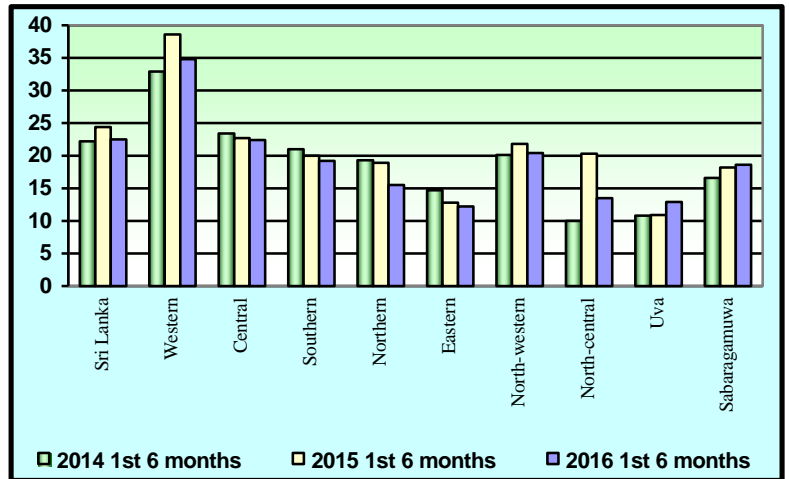


Figure 2: Percentage of Desktop or Laptop computer owned households by province: 2014, 2015 and 2016 (during 1st 6 months).



Computer literacy

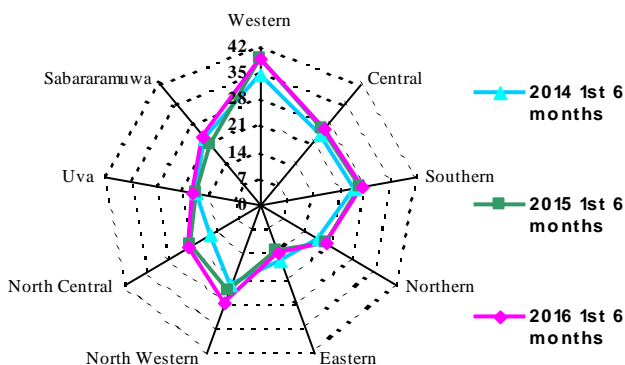
Definition for Computer literacy: A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a computer literate person if he/she could use computer on his/her own. For example, even if a 5 years old child can play a computer game then he/she is considered as a computer literate person.

Definition for computer literacy rate: Computer Literate population expressed as a percentage to the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

Table 3: Computer literacy rate by sector and province – 2014, 2015 & 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Sector/Province	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2014	2015	2016
Sri Lanka	24.8	26.6	27.5
Sector			
Urban	34.5	39.9	38.5
Rural	23.6	24.8	26.1
Estate	6.0	7.9	9.9
Province			
Western	34.2	38.2	38.5
Central	24.1	25.5	26.0
Southern	25.4	26.8	27.2
Northern	17.4	19.9	19.9
Eastern	15.9	12.8	13.4
North Western	22.5	24.2	27.3
North Central	15.3	21.2	21.6
Uva	16.7	16.8	18.5
Sabaragamuwa	22.5	20.7	23.4

Figure 3: Computer literacy rate by province – 2014, 2015 & 2016 (during 1st 6 months)



Overall Computer Literacy reported in 1st half of 2016 for Sri Lanka is 27.5%. The survey results show an increase of 0.9 percentage points from 2015 (1st half) to 2016 (1st half).

The Urban sector shows the highest computer literacy rate (38.5%) among residential sectors. Computer literacy rate for Rural and Estate are 26.1% and 9.9% respectively. Among the provinces with the highest level of computer literacy is reported from the Western province (38.5%) while the lowest percentage is reported from Eastern province.

Table 3.1: Computer literacy rate by district – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

District	Literacy Rate	District	Literacy Rate
All Island	27.5	Mulativu	14.8
Colombo	45.4	Kilinochchi	17.3
Gampaha	34.2	Batticaloa	15.2
Kalutara	33.8	Ampara	12.9
Kandy	31.6	Trincomalee	11.9
Matale	27.6	Kurunegala	27.5
Nuwara Eliya	14.5	Puttalam	26.9
Galle	27.3	Anuradhapura	22.4
Matara	28.1	Polonnaruwa	19.9
Hambantota	26.1	Badulla	17.6
Jaffna	20.7	Monaragala	20.0
Mannar	11.2	Ratnapura	23.3
Vavunia	27.5	Kegalle	23.5

The table 3.1 shows the computer literacy rates recorded in 1st half of 2016, by district level.

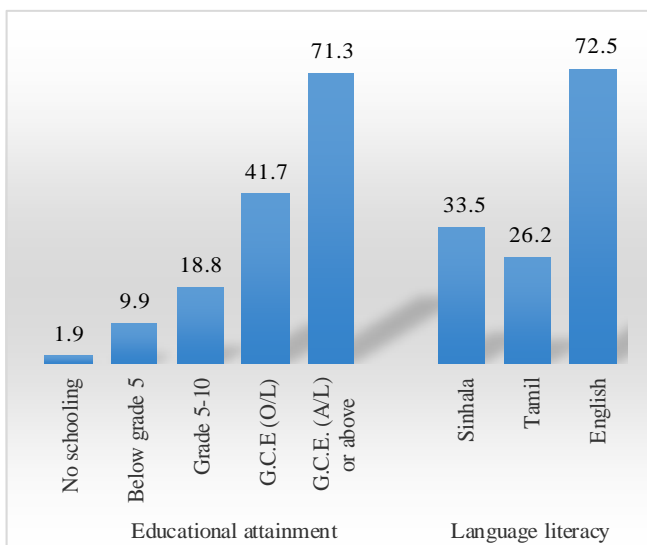
Table 4: Computer literacy rate by Gender, Age, Level of education, and Language literacy – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Gender, Age group, Educational attainment and Language literacy	Computer literacy rate (%)
Sri Lanka	27.5
By Sex	
Male	29.3
Female	26.0
By Age group (years)	
5 - 9	14.1
10 - 14	36.4
15 - 19	60.6
20 - 24	53.2
25 - 29	43.9
30 - 34	33.5
35 - 39	27.0
40 - 49	19.4
50 - 59	10.0
60 - 69	6.4
By Educational attainment	
No schooling	1.9
Below grade 6	9.9
Grade 6-10	18.8
G.C.E (O/L)	41.7
G.C.E. (A/L) or above	71.3
By Language literacy (age 10 - 69)	
Sinhala	33.5
Tamil	26.2
English	72.5

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

As given in Table 4 the Computer literacy among male (29.3%) is higher than that of female (26.0%) in 1st half of 2016. Young youths (aged 15 – 19 years) show the highest computer literacy rate (60.6%) among all other age groups. Age 50 years and above groups show low computer literacy rates.

Figure 4: Distribution of computer literacy rate by Educational attainment and Language literacy – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).



The survey results reveal that higher the level of education higher the computer literacy. The group with G.C.E.(A/L) or above level of education shows the highest computer literacy rate (71.3%). Also computer literacy is higher among those who are literate in English language (72.5%).

Table 5: Computer literacy among computer aware employed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by Occupation – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Occupation group	Computer literacy (%)
Sri Lanka	64.8
Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators	76.1
Professionals	90.3
Technicians and Associate Professionals	88.7
Clerks and Clerical support workers	91.5
Services and Sales workers	60.1
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers	22.3
Craft and Related Trades workers	43.4
Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers	53.3
Elementary occupations	27.3
Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations	86.6

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

Computer literacy among the employed population who are aware of computer in Sri Lanka is around 64.8 % in 1st half of 2016 and the positions such as Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators (76.1%), Professionals (90.3%), Technical and Associate professionals (88.7%) and Clerks and Clerical support workers (91.5%) have higher computer literacy. However, even among the individuals engage in Elementary occupations 27.3 percent are computer literate.

Table 6: Computer literacy among unemployed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by age group – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Age group (years)	Total	Computer literate population	
		Literate (%)	Not literate (%)
Sri Lanka	100.0	59.6	40.4
15 – 19	100.0	54.7	45.3
20 – 24	100.0	70.2	29.8
25 – 29	100.0	67.0	33.0
30 – 39	100.0	55.2	44.8
40 – 69	100.0	16.4	83.6

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

Among the unemployed, aged (20-24) group shows highest computer literacy. The survey results reveal that among unemployed many have at least some ICT skills.

Source of computer training

Table 7 shows that the majority of those who are computer literate have received training from Private institutions or School/University. The training received through Government training are comparatively low (6.0%), however in the Estate sector this percentage is about 5.7%.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of Computer literate household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by sources of receiving computer knowledge* and sector – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Source of computer training multiple	Total (%)	Residential sector (%)		
		Urban	Rural	Estate
Private training course	27.0	26.2	27.4	17.7
School/University	43.8	43.1	43.5	66.7
Govt. training centres	4.6	2.9	5.0	6.2
Employment activities	17.6	23.3	16.1	5.0
Work place	7.3	11.1	6.2	3.6
Family members	25.5	26.6	25.4	10.5
Friends/ Relatives	24.4	21.8	25.3	16.1
Self	26.5	27.6	26.4	13.5
Other	4.0	2.8	4.3	7.1

* Multiple choice answers

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

Internet and E-mail use

The Table 8 depicts that 15.1 % of the population aged 5 to 69 years uses the internet facility at least once during last twelve months.

Table 8: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by District – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

District	Household Population (age 5-69) Using	
	Internet (%)	E-mail (%)
Sri Lanka	15.1	8.6
Colombo	30.1	19.2
Gampaha	22.2	12.2
Kalutara	18.8	8.9
Kandy	17.4	11.5
Matale	15.4	5.1
Nuwara Eliya	7.0	4.2
Galle	11.8	8.2
Matara	10.4	5.4
Hambantota	9.4	5.4
Jaffna	14.8	6.2
Mannar	13.2	6.2
Vavunia	22.7	9.6
Mulativu	11.4	3.1
Kilinochchi	5.7	4.6
Batticaloa	13.4	7.0
Ampara	6.4	3.3
Trincomalee	3.3	3.7
Kurunegala	15.8	8.1
Puttalam	18.2	10.6
Anuradhapura	3.6	2.3
Polonnaruwa	9.4	5.5
Badulla	4.6	4.2
Monaragala	6.2	3.6
Ratnapura	11.0	5.6
Kegalle	10.3	6.0

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

Different usage patterns of internet usage can be observed among districts (Table 8). Colombo district shows the highest percentage (30.1%) of population using internet while Trincomalee district shows the lowest percentage (3.3%). The survey results reveals that 8.6 percent of the household population aged 5 – 69 years has used E-mail facility at least once during the last 12 months period. Highest e-mail usage is reported from the Colombo district (19.2%) followed by Gampaha district (12.6%). The lowest e-mail usage among the districts has reported from the Anuradhapura district.

Table 9: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

Age group (years)	Household Population (age5-69) Using	
	Internet (%)	E-mail (%)
Sri Lanka	15.1	8.6
5 - 14	5.5	1.6
15 - 19	26.0	11.6
20 - 24	36.7	22.8
25 - 29	33.1	20.3
30 - 34	24.2	14.4
35 - 39	18.5	11.4
40 - 49	12.2	8.1
50 - 59	5.7	3.7
60 - 69	4.4	2.8

The Table 9 and Figure 5 show the high popularity of e-mail and internet among youth who are in the age group of 15 – 29 years. Among youths in 20 - 24 years age group, above one out of every three persons has used the internet facility at least once during the last 12 months and the same group shows the highest usage of e-mail.

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2016 (during 1st 6 months).

