



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 2nd Quarter - 2017

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Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Highlights

- Labour force participation rate is 53.9% for the Second Quarter of 2017.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.5%.

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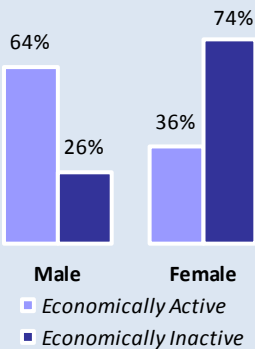


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Second quarter -2017

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 first quarter 2017 based on the data collected in April, May and June covering the whole country.

Labour Force (Economically Active Population)

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

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,519,322	100.0	5,482,206	64.4	3,037,116	35.6
Urban	1,373,913	100.0	938,927	68.3	434,986	31.7
Rural	6,710,241	100.0	4,295,015	64.0	2,415,226	36.0
Estate	435,168	100.0	248,264	57.1	186,904	42.9

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

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	7,294,468	100.0	1,867,257	25.6	5,427,212	74.4
Urban	1,460,251	100.0	369,817	25.3	1,090,433	74.7
Rural	5,583,508	100.0	1,423,314	25.5	4,160,194	74.5
Estate	250,710	100.0	74,125	29.6	176,585	70.4

Table 3 : LFPR by gender and year

Year	Total	Male	Female
2011	52.9	74.0	34.3
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 Q2	54.2	74.8	36.6
2016 Q2	53.3	74.9	35.1
2017 Q1	54.7	75.1	37.6
2017 Q2	53.9	74.6	35.9

Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs since year 2011. 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 35–44 years (97.0%), while that for female is reported from 45–49 age group (54.1%).

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 second quarter 2017. Of which 64.4 percent are males and 35.6 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 25.6 percent are males and 74.4 percent are females (Table 2).

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

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	53.9	74.6	35.9
15 - 19	13.3	18.8	8.0
20 - 24	57.1	73.5	42.0
25 - 29	67.7	92.8	47.5
30 - 34	67.8	94.8	43.1
35 - 39	68.1	97.0	42.8
40 - 44	70.1	97.0	48.3
45 - 49	73.2	95.4	54.1
50 - 54	68.8	93.6	48.9
55 - 59	60.8	84.1	39.1
60+	31.0	48.4	16.5

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.

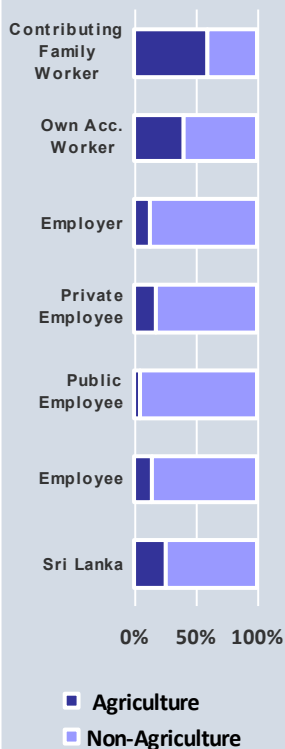


Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/Non-Agriculture sector - Second quarter 2017

Employment ...

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

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2016 Q2 (No.)	7,815,280	1,961,818	2,121,365	3,732,097
(%)	100.0	25.1	27.1	47.8
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

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2016 to second quarter 2017. During second quarter of 2017, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.1 million. Of which, about 45.7 percent engaged in Service sector, 28.3 percent in Industries sector and 26.0 percent in Agriculture sector.

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

Employment Status	Sri Lanka		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,138,728	100.0	2,114,336	26.0	6,024,392	74.0
Employee	4,675,764	100.0	665,042	14.2	4,010,721	85.8
Public	1,162,738	100.0	54,816	4.7	1,107,921	95.3
Private	3,513,026	100.0	610,226	17.4	2,902,800	82.6
Employer	237,563	100.0	29,291	12.3	208,272	87.7
Own Account Worker	2,601,122	100.0	1,047,148	40.3	1,553,973	59.7
Contributing Family Worker	624,280	100.0	372,854	59.7	251,425	40.3

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

Major Industry Group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.0	24.5	28.8
Industry	28.3	28.7	27.4
Services	45.7	46.7	43.9

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)

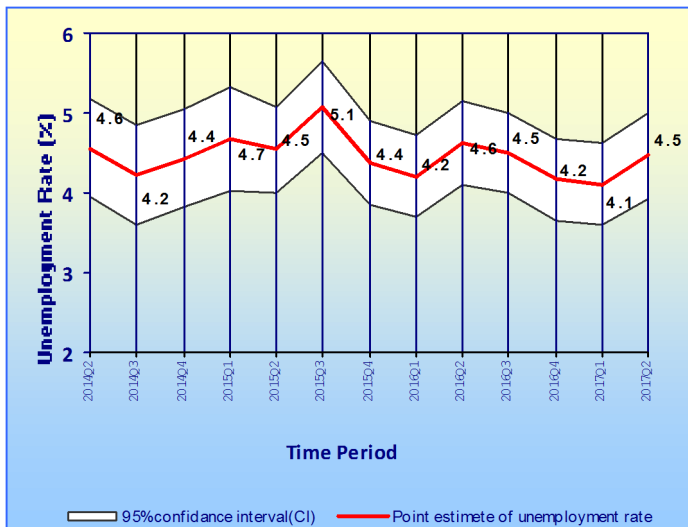
13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

As could be seen from the Figure 2 & Table 6 contributing family workers are highly concentrated in Agriculture sector.

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. 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 28.8 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 24.5 percent for males.

Unemployment ...

Figure 3: Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2014Q2 - 2017Q2)



¹Sampling 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

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

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number	Unp. rate	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	380,594	4.5	3.0	7.1
15–24	190,685	20.0	14.8	29.1
25–29	96,763	11.3	7.7	17.0
Over 30	93,146	1.4	0.8	2.4

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 – Second quarter 2017

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Gender	
	Number	Unp. rate	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	380,594	4.5	3.0	7.1
Below GCE O/L	144,924	2.7	2.0	4.3
GCE O/L	87,161	6.0	4.9	8.3
GCE A/L & above	148,509	8.2	5.0	11.8

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is about 8.2 percent. Corresponding percentages are 5.0 percent and 11.8 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.

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 380,594 during the second quarter 2017. The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2017 is 4.5 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when sampling error¹ is considered there are no statistically significant drops/increases of unemployment rates reported in different time periods starting from Second quarter 2014 to Second quarter 2017.

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 7.1 percent and it is 3.0 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the second quarter 2017 is 20.0 percent and that reports the highest unemployment rate among all other age groups. Further rates for both males and females are 14.8 and 29.1 percent respectively for age group 15–24.

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.

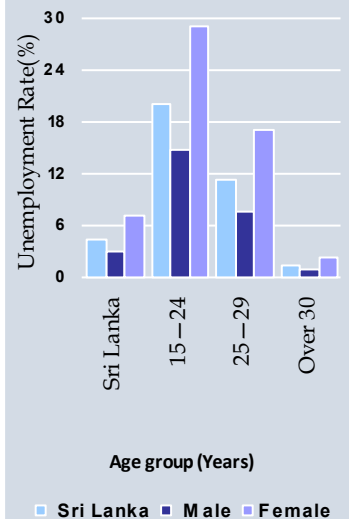


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Second quarter 2017

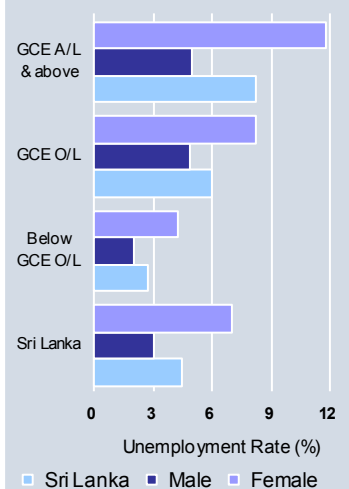


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Second quarter 2017



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Vision of the DCS

*"To be the leader in
the region in produc-
ing timely statistical
information to
achieve the country's
development goals."*

Mission of the DCS

*"Making contribution
in the socioeconomic
development of the
country by providing
accurate timely statis-
tics, more Effectively
by means of new
technology, and utiliz-
ing the services of
dedicated staff under
a strategic leadership
to become a prosper-
ous nation in the
globalized environ-
ment."*

Selected Labour Force Indicators ...

Indicator	Year								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015Q2	2016Q2	2017Q1	2017Q2
Labour force participation rate									
By Gender									
Total	52.5	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.8	54.2	53.3	54.7	53.9
Male	74.9	74.9	74.6	74.7	75.1	74.8	74.9	75.1	74.6
Female	32.9	35.4	34.6	35.9	35.9	36.6	35.1	37.6	35.9
By residential sector									
Total	52.5	53.7	53.2	53.8	53.8	54.2	53.3	54.7	53.9
Urban	48.3	47.7	48.7	48.6	49.8	49.3	49.6	51.5	48.5
Rural	53.4	54.9	54.1	54.8	54.6	55.2	54.0	55.4	55.1
Unemployment Rate									
By Gender									
Total	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.1	4.5
Male	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.7	3.0
Female	6.3	6.6	6.5	7.6	7.0	7.1	7.3	6.5	7.1
By selected age Group (Year)									
20 – 29	11.3	13.1	13.6	14.2	14.2	14.6	14.4	12.5	14.6
20 – 24	16.7	19.3	19.9	19.7	19.9	21.1	21.2	17.4	18.4
25 – 29	6.6	7.6	8.2	9.4	9.2	9.2	8.3	8.0	11.3
By selected educational level									
GCE A/L and above									
Total	7.6	8.7	8.2	9.2	8.3	8.5	8.6	7.8	8.2
Male	4.6	5.7	5.4	4.7	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.9	5.0
Female	10.8	11.8	11.1	13.5	11.9	12.9	12.5	10.8	11.8
Employed population									
By Gender									
Total	7,488,704	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,887,850	7,815,280	8,230,207	8,138,728
Male	5,046,057	5,024,340	5,075,426	5,097,798	5,149,948	5,099,783	5,100,734	5,235,046	5,315,916
Female	2,442,647	2,656,938	2,625,064	2,733,178	2,797,735	2,788,067	2,714,545	2,995,161	2,822,812
By industry (Percentage)									
Total	7,488,704	7,681,279	7,700,489	7,830,976	7,947,683	7,887,850	7,815,280	8,230,207	8,138,728
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,333,342	2,321,215	2,222,859	2,244,547	2,153,874	2,275,821	1,961,818	2,221,761	2,114,336
%	31.2	30.2	28.9	28.7	27.1	28.9	25.1	27.0	26.0
Industry	1,940,615	1,996,730	2,027,426	2,018,171	2,097,503	2,013,896	2,121,365	2,306,398	2,301,377
%	25.9	26	26.3	25.8	26.4	25.5	27.1	28.0	28.3
Services	3,214,746	3,363,334	3,450,205	3,568,259	3,696,306	3,598,133	3,732,097	3,702,049	3,723,015
%	42.9	43.8	44.8	45.6	46.5	45.6	47.8	45.0	45.7
By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100.0	100.0
0#	4.5	5.2	5.2	5.5	4.4	10.3	5.7	3.5	6.6
1 – 9	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.5	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.5
10 – 39	26.1	27.5	27.6	27.2	26.2	30.7	26.0	26.7	27.3
40 & above	68.3	65.5	65.9	65.7	67.9	56.7	66.6	68.1	64.6

has a job but not at work during the reference week

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