



Sri Lanka Labour Force Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 3rd Quarter - 2016

ISSN 1391- 3050

Issue No.74

3rd Quarter - 2016

Highlights

The statistics of this bulletin are coming from the new series of statistics after the reweighting process of labour force statistics. The detailed information on reweighting is available in "Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2015" and "2012 Census based Re-weighting of Labour Force Survey Estimates" under the sub heading "Labour Force" in DCS website www.statistics.gov.lk.

- Labour force participation rate is 53.8% for the Third Quarter of 2016.
- Unemployment rate for the survey period is 4.5%.

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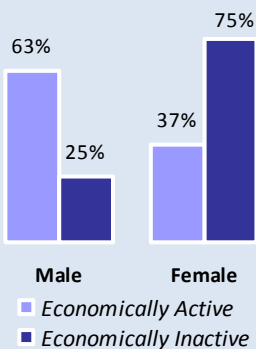


Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population- Third quarter-2016

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs

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 third quarter 2016 based on the data collected in July, August and September covering the whole country.

Labour Force

(Economically Active Population)

Table 1 : Economically active population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2016

| Sector | Economically active population | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| | Total | % | Male | % | Female | % |
| Sri Lanka | 8,376,002 | 100.0 | 5,315,532 | 63.5 | 3,060,469 | 36.5 |
| Urban | 1,333,508 | 100.0 | 870,441 | 65.3 | 463,067 | 34.7 |
| Rural | 6,598,355 | 100.0 | 4,185,612 | 63.4 | 2,412,743 | 36.6 |
| Estate | 444,139 | 100.0 | 259,479 | 58.4 | 184,660 | 41.6 |

Table 2 : Economically inactive population by gender and sector – Third Quarter 2016

| Sector | Economically inactive population | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| | Total | % | Male | % | Female | % |
| Sri Lanka | 7,184,388 | 100.0 | 1,770,874 | 24.6 | 5,413,514 | 75.4 |
| Urban | 1,344,795 | 100.0 | 344,019 | 25.6 | 1,000,776 | 74.4 |
| Rural | 5,599,188 | 100.0 | 1,364,622 | 24.4 | 4,234,565 | 75.6 |
| Estate | 240,406 | 100.0 | 62,232 | 25.9 | 178,173 | 74.1 |

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 |
| 2013 Q3 | 53.8 | 74.8 | 35.7 |
| 2014 Q3 | 53.1 | 74.6 | 34.3 |
| 2015 Q3 | 53.8 | 74.8 | 35.6 |
| 2016 Q1 | 54.1 | 75.5 | 36.3 |
| 2016 Q2 | 53.3 | 74.9 | 35.1 |
| 2016 Q3 | 53.8 | 75.0 | 36.1 |

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 was reported from age group 35–39 years (98.1%), while that for female was reported from the age group 45–49 years which is 54.1 percent.

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 8.4 million in the Third quarter 2016. Of which 63.5 percent are males and 36.5 percent are females. Out of the economically inactive population 24.6 percent are males and 75.4 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 4 : LFPR by age group and gender - Third Quarter 2016

| Age group (Years) | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Sri Lanka | 53.8 | 75.0 | 36.1 |
| 15 - 19 | 15.3 | 20.1 | 10.4 |
| 20 - 24 | 55.5 | 71.7 | 42.0 |
| 25 - 29 | 64.4 | 93.1 | 42.8 |
| 30 - 34 | 66.1 | 97.8 | 41.0 |
| 35 - 39 | 69.1 | 98.1 | 46.5 |
| 40 - 44 | 74.6 | 97.2 | 53.9 |
| 45 - 49 | 73.2 | 95.4 | 54.1 |
| 50 - 54 | 67.0 | 94.5 | 45.1 |
| 55 - 59 | 61.0 | 85.4 | 40.1 |
| 60+ | 31.2 | 49.3 | 16.6 |

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.

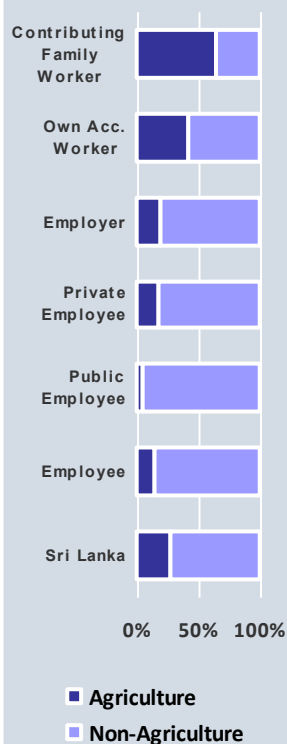


Figure 2: Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector - Third quarter 2016

Employment ...

Table 5: Distribution of Employed population by main industry - Third Quarter 2015 - Third quarter 2016

| Quarter | Sri Lanka | Major Industry Group | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| | | Agriculture | Industries | Services |
| 2015 Q3 (No.) | 7,807,346 | 2,168,233 | 2,105,576 | 3,533,536 |
| (%) | 100.0 | 27.8 | 27.0 | 45.3 |
| 2015 Q4 (No.) | 7,828,639 | 2,200,361 | 1,957,031 | 3,671,247 |
| (%) | 100.0 | 28.1 | 25.0 | 46.9 |
| 2016 Q1 (No.) | 7,968,931 | 2,274,722 | 2,068,453 | 3,625,756 |
| (%) | 100.0 | 28.5 | 26.0 | 45.5 |
| 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 |

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from third quarter 2015 to third quarter 2016. During third quarter of 2016, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as about 8.0 million. Of which, about 46.1 percent engaged in Service sector, 27.1 percent in Agriculture sector and 26.8 percent in Industries sector.

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)

Table 6: Distribution of employed population by employment status in Agriculture and Non - Agriculture sectors – Third quarter 2016

| Employment Status | Sri Lanka | | Sector | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | No. | % | Agriculture | | Non-Agriculture | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Sri Lanka | 7,999,821 | 100.0 | 2,168,982 | 27.1 | 5,830,839 | 72.9 |
| Employee | 4,744,995 | 100.0 | 716,617 | 15.1 | 4,028,378 | 84.9 |
| Public | 1,160,518 | 100.0 | 64,727 | 5.6 | 1,095,791 | 94.4 |
| Private | 3,584,478 | 100.0 | 651,891 | 18.2 | 2,932,587 | 81.8 |
| Employer | 187,362 | 100.0 | 35,313 | 18.8 | 152,049 | 81.2 |
| Own Account Worker | 2,442,120 | 100.0 | 1,008,398 | 41.3 | 1,433,722 | 58.7 |
| Contributing Family Worker | 625,344 | 100.0 | 408,654 | 65.3 | 216,690 | 34.7 |

Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by main industry & gender - Third quarter 2016

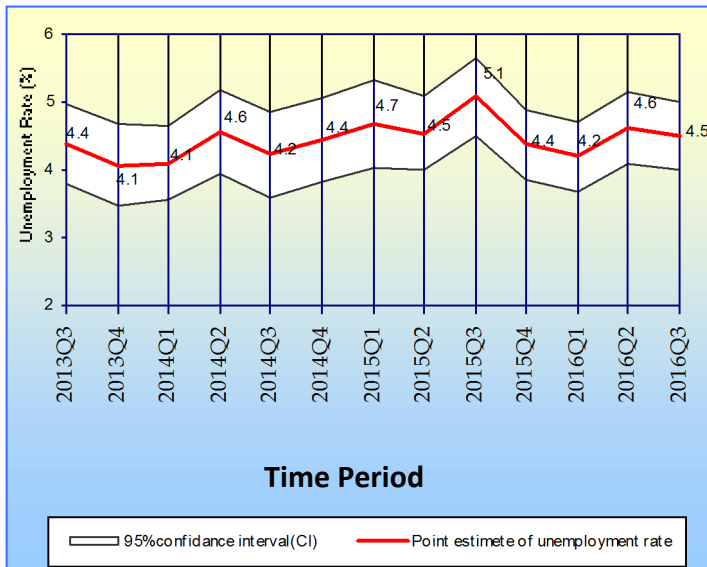
| Major Industry Group | Sri Lanka | Gender | |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Sri Lanka | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Agriculture | 27.1 | 25.4 | 30.3 |
| Industry | 26.8 | 26.9 | 26.7 |
| Services | 46.1 | 47.8 | 43.0 |

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. The highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for industry sector. Among employed females 30.3 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 25.4 percent for males.

Unemployment ...

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and its 95% confidence intervals (2013Q3- 2016Q3)



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: Unemployment rate by age group and gender – Third quarter 2016

| Age group (Years) | Sri Lanka | Gender | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| Sri Lanka | 4.5 | 2.7 | 7.6 |
| 15–24 | 21.6 | 15.7 | 30.6 |
| 25–29 | 9.7 | 4.4 | 18.3 |
| Over 30 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 2.5 |

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

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.

The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E (A/L) and above group which is about 9.3 percent. Corresponding percentages are 4.5 percent and 13.9 percent for male and female 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.

Table 9: Unemployment rate by level of education – Third quarter 2016

| Level of Education | Unemployment Rate (%) | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| | Sri Lanka | Male | Female |
| Sri Lanka | 4.5 | 2.7 | 7.6 |
| Below GCE O/L | 2.5 | 1.9 | 3.9 |
| GCE O/L | 5.8 | 4.2 | 8.8 |
| GCE A/L & above | 9.3 | 4.5 | 13.9 |

The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 376,180 during the third quarter 2016. The unemployment rate for the third quarter 2016 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 third quarter 2013 to third quarter 2016.

As can be seen from Table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 7.6 percent and it is 2.7 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the third quarter 2016 is 21.6 percent and that reports the highest unemployment rate among all other age groups. Further rates for both male and female are 15.7 and 30.6 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 – Third quarter 2016

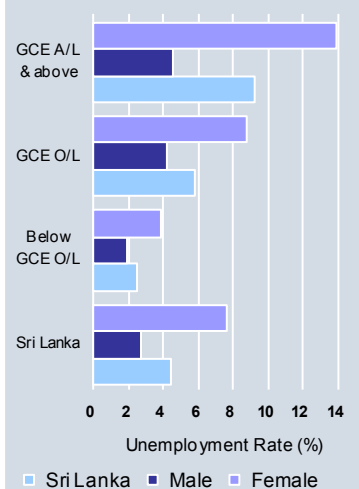


Figure 4: Unemployment rate by level of education and gender – Third quarter 2016



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tical information to
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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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014Q3 | 2015Q3 | 2016Q1 | 2016Q2 | 2016Q3 |
| Labour force participation rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| By Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 52.9 | 52.5 | 53.7 | 53.2 | 53.8 | 53.1 | 53.8 | 54.1 | 53.3 | 53.8 |
| Male | 74.0 | 74.9 | 74.9 | 74.6 | 74.7 | 74.6 | 74.8 | 75.5 | 74.9 | 75.0 |
| Female | 34.3 | 32.9 | 35.4 | 34.6 | 35.9 | 34.3 | 35.6 | 36.3 | 35.1 | 36.1 |
| By residential sector | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 52.9 | 52.5 | 53.7 | 53.2 | 53.8 | 53.1 | 53.8 | 54.1 | 53.3 | 53.8 |
| Urban | 47.8 | 48.3 | 47.7 | 48.7 | 48.6 | 47.0 | 48.4 | 48.5 | 49.6 | 49.8 |
| Rural | 53.8 | 53.4 | 54.9 | 54.1 | 54.8 | 54.4 | 54.8 | 55.2 | 54.0 | 54.7 |
| Unemployment Rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| By Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.2 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| Male | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.7 |
| Female | 7.1 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 7.6 | 6.0 | 7.8 | 6.1 | 7.3 | 7.6 |
| By selected age Group (Year) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 – 29 | 12.4 | 11.3 | 13.1 | 13.6 | 14.2 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 14.2 | 14.4 | 14.3 |
| 20 – 24 | 17.7 | 16.7 | 19.3 | 19.9 | 19.7 | 20.8 | 21.7 | 19.7 | 21.2 | 19.8 |
| 25 – 29 | 7.7 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 9.4 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 9.4 | 8.3 | 9.7 |
| By selected educational level | | | | | | | | | | |
| GCE A/L and above | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 9.1 | 7.6 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 9.2 | 8.2 | 10.3 | 7.7 | 8.6 | 9.3 |
| Male | 5.4 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| Female | 13.2 | 10.8 | 11.8 | 11.1 | 13.5 | 9.9 | 14.3 | 9.5 | 12.5 | 13.9 |
| Employed population | | | | | | | | | | |
| By Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 7,591,591 | 7,488,704 | 7,681,279 | 7,700,489 | 7,830,976 | 7,729,955 | 7,807,346 | 7,968,931 | 7,815,280 | 7,999,821 |
| Male | 5,061,214 | 5,046,057 | 5,024,340 | 5,075,426 | 5,097,798 | 5,120,891 | 5,115,215 | 5,102,435 | 5,100,734 | 5,171,424 |
| Female | 2,530,377 | 2,442,647 | 2,656,938 | 2,625,064 | 2,733,178 | 2,609,064 | 2,692,131 | 2,866,496 | 2,714,545 | 2,828,397 |
| By industry (Percentage) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 7,591,591 | 7,488,704 | 7,681,279 | 7,700,489 | 7,830,976 | 7,729,955 | 7,807,346 | 7,968,931 | 7,815,280 | 7,999,821 |
| % | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Agriculture | 2,511,266 | 2,333,342 | 2,321,215 | 2,222,859 | 2,244,547 | 2,265,894 | 2,168,233 | 2,274,722 | 1,961,818 | 2,168,982 |
| % | 33.1 | 31.2 | 30.2 | 28.9 | 28.7 | 29.3 | 27.8 | 28.5 | 25.1 | 27.1 |
| Industry | 1,819,608 | 1,940,615 | 1,996,730 | 2,027,426 | 2,018,171 | 2,042,957 | 2,105,576 | 2,068,453 | 2,121,365 | 2,144,808 |
| % | 24.0 | 25.9 | 26.0 | 26.3 | 25.8 | 26.4 | 27.0 | 26.0 | 27.1 | 26.8 |
| Services | 3,260,717 | 3,214,746 | 3,363,334 | 3,450,205 | 3,568,259 | 3,421,103 | 3,533,536 | 3,625,756 | 3,732,097 | 3,686,032 |
| % | 43.0 | 42.9 | 43.8 | 44.8 | 45.6 | 44.3 | 45.3 | 45.5 | 47.8 | 46.1 |
| By no. of hours worked per week (percentage) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 0# | 5.2 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 5.7 | 4.3 |
| 1 – 9 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| 10 – 39 | 29.9 | 26.1 | 27.5 | 27.6 | 27.2 | 24.7 | 26.7 | 27.3 | 26.0 | 26.0 |
| 40 & above | 63.2 | 68.3 | 65.5 | 65.9 | 65.7 | 70.2 | 66.9 | 67.7 | 66.6 | 68.0 |

has a job but not at work during the reference week

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