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It is 5.1 percent and 13.2 percent for males and females respectively.

When the provincial distribution considered the highest unemployment rate is reported from the Eastern Province (6.0%). Female unemployment rates are higher compared to that of males in all provinces. In the Northern and Eastern Provinces comparatively very high female unemployment rates are observed. When the district level distribution is considered, the highest unemployment is reported from the Mannar District (7.1%), while the lowest rate is reported from Mullaitivu.

It is also observed that the working age household population (age 15 and above); has increased to about 0.35 million from 2017 to 2018. Also, the labour force survey reported that the labour force participation rate has declined by 2.3% from 2017 to 2018 and the employed population has declined about 0.2 million. The employment decline is significant among females, compared to male.

The estimated unemployment rate is 4.4% and it is a 0.2 percentage point increase, compared to 4.2% in 2017. There is a significant increase in inactive population, increase is about 0.53 million. The increase is mainly reported from female, youth (15-24) and elderly (age 60 and above).