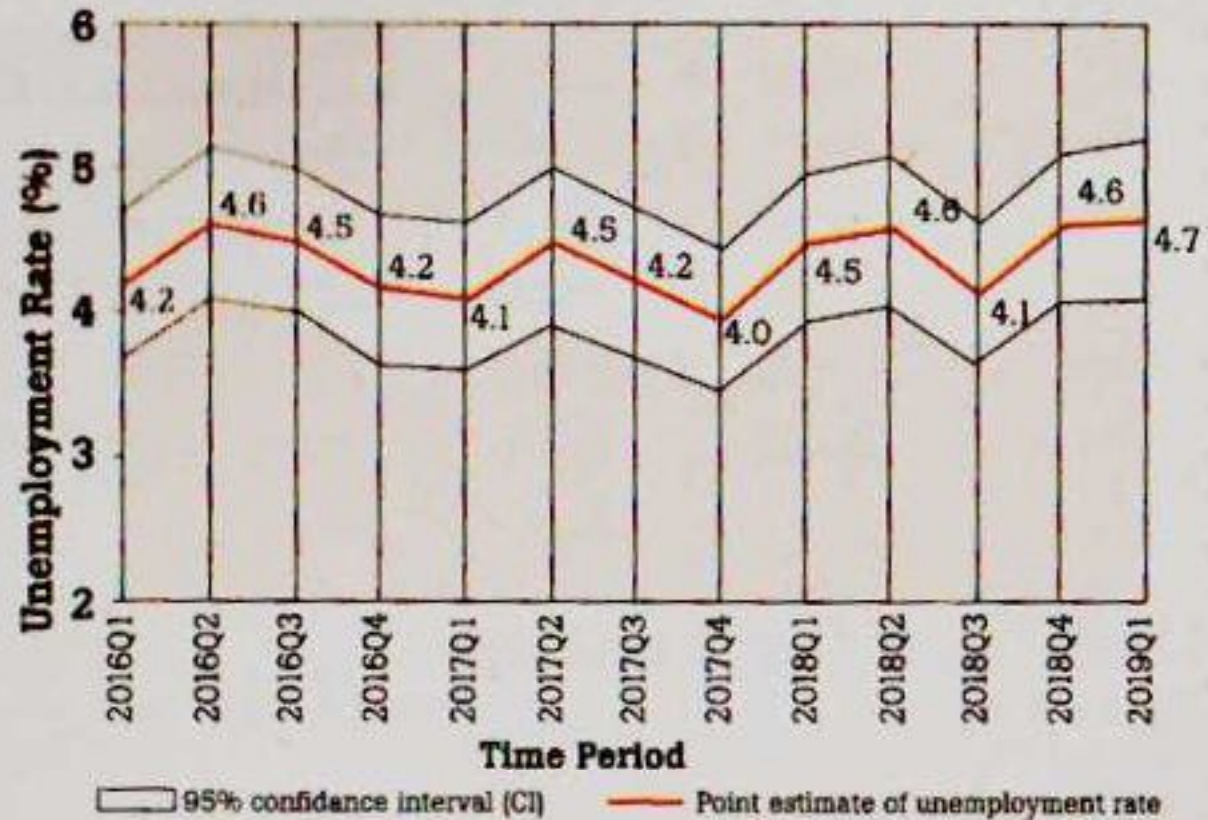


# Unemployment in 1Q edges up to 4.7%

Sri Lanka's unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2019 (1Q19) edged up to 4.7 percent from 4.5 1Q18 even though 221, 612 new jobs were created from 12 months ago, the data released by the government statistics office showed.

The number of unemployed persons is estimated at 399, 784. Male unemployment rate in 1Q19 rose 3.4 percent from 2.9 percent from 12 months ago while female



unemployment dropped to 6.9 percent from 7.4 percent.

This was reflected by the improvement in female labour

force participation to 34.9 percent in 1Q19 from 33.5 percent in 1Q18. Male labour participation in 1Q19 remained flat at 73.4 percent.

**MORE ON P4**