



Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey is designed to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. This survey is being conducted quarterly, since the first quarter of 1990.

The field work of the survey for the Fourth quarter 2012 was done in October, November and December in year 2012. This bulletin consists of summery statistics covering the whole country.

(Please log on to the DCS website (www.statistics.gov.lk) for detailed tables.)

Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons (age 10 & above) who were employed or unemployed during the reference week

Labour force participation rate: Labour force expressed as a percentage of population age 10 yr. & over

Table 1: Economically active population by sex and sector - Fourth Quarter 2012

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8,715,983	100.0	5,781,277	66.3	2,934,706	33.7
Urban	1,391,853	100.0	946,599	68.0	445,254	32.0
Rural	6,846,775	100.0	4,555,937	66.5	2,290,839	33.5
Estate	477,355	100.0	278,741	58.4	198,613	41.6

Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector - Fourth Quarter 2012

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	9,407,380	100.0	2,773,338	29.5	6,634,042	70.5
Urban	1,821,046	100.0	533,601	29.3	1,287,445	70.7
Rural	7,235,249	100.0	2,125,730	29.4	5,109,519	70.6
Estate	351,085	100.0	114,007	32.5	237,078	67.5

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 8.7 million in Fourth Quarter 2012. Of which 66.3 percent were males and 33.7 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 29.5 percent were males and 70.5 percent were females (Table 2) .

Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population

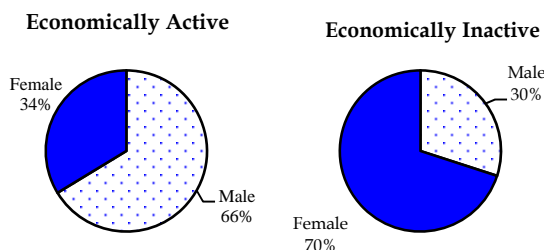


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

Year	Labour force participation rate		
	Total	Male	Female
2008	49.5	67.8	33.2
2009	48.7	66.6	32.8
2010	48.1	67.1	31.2
2011	48.2	66.5	31.8
2012Q2	46.8	66.7	29.0
2012Q3	47.5	66.5	30.7
2012Q4	48.6	67.9	31.3

Note: Excluding Northern province

Table 3 provides the information on labour force participation rates since year 2000. As can be seen from this table, male participation rate for the Fourth Quarter 2012 was about 67.6 percent and it was 30.7 percent for females. It is important to note that, male participation to the labour force was almost twice as that of females.

Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Fourth Quarter 2012

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.1	67.6	30.7
15 - 19	15.1	21.7	8.7
20 - 24	57.2	76.1	40.8
25 - 29	67.0	94.4	40.7
30 - 34	64.6	95.0	39.4
35 - 39	67.0	95.9	42.7
40 - 44	70.3	96.2	47.8
45 - 49	70.5	95.8	48.2
50 - 54	66.0	90.7	44.3
55 - 59	59.5	81.7	38.5
60+	28.9	47.9	13.1

The distribution of labour force participation rate by age group and by sex depicts more male participation compared to female in all age groups.

Highest male participation rate was reported from age group (40 - 44) yrs, while in female highest participation rate was reported from age group (45 - 49) yrs.

Employed: Persons who are engaged in some kind of work for pay or profit or family gain during the reference week.

Table 5 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry, (Second Quarter 2011 – Fourth Quarter 2012)

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
April-May-June 2011 Q2	7956518 100.0	2684299 33.7	1877724 23.6	3394495 42.7
July-Aug-Sept. 2011 Q3	7943295 100.0	2609757 32.9	1916181 24.1	3417357 43.0
April-May-June 2012 Q2	7609654 100.0	2288487 30.1	2049269 26.9	3271898 43.0
July-Aug-Sept. 2012 Q3	7746663 100.0	2391021 30.9	1978624 25.5	3377016 43.6
Oct-Nov-Dec 2012 Q4	8049420 100.0	2573487 32.0	2103536 26.1	3372397 41.9

Note:

* *Excluding Northern province*

* *Survey was not conducted in the fourth quarter 2011 & first quarter 2012 due to activities of population census.*

* *The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q..*

Agriculture

1. Agriculture (A)
2. Forestry and Fishery (B)

Industries

1. Manufacturing (D)
2. Construction (F)
3. Mining & Quarrying (C)

Services

1. Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
2. Hotels and Restaurants (H)
3. Transport, Storage and Communication (I)
4. Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)
5. Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security (L)
6. Education (M)
7. Health and Social work (N)
8. Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities (O)
9. Private Households with Employed Persons (P)
10. Miscellaneous Labour work
11. Extra Territorial Organizations & bodies (Q)
12. Industries not adequately described

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from Second Quarter 2011 to Fourth Quarter 2012. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 8.4 million in Fourth Quarter 2012. Of which, about 42.0 percent engaged in services sector, 32.0 percent in agriculture sector, and 26.0 percent in Industries sector.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non-Agriculture sector – Fourth Quarter 2012

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	8375009	100.0	2684019	32.0	5690990	68.0
Employee	4735720	100.0	852555	18.0	3883165	82.0
Public	1347618	100.0	170062	12.6	1177556	87.4
Private	3388102	100.0	682493	20.1	2705609	79.9
Employer	254457	100.0	33952	13.3	220505	86.7
Own account worker	2628017	100.0	1244311	47.35	1383706	52.7
Contributing family worker	756815	100.0	553201	73.1	203614	26.9

Table 6 shows that, comparatively higher percentage of employees both in private & public sector engage in non-agricultural activities. Also more employers were in non agriculture sector than in agriculture sector. But contributing family workers were more concentrated in agriculture sector.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & sex – Fourth Quarter 2012

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	32.0	30.5	35.1
Industry	26.0	26.0	25.8
Services	42.0	43.4	39.0

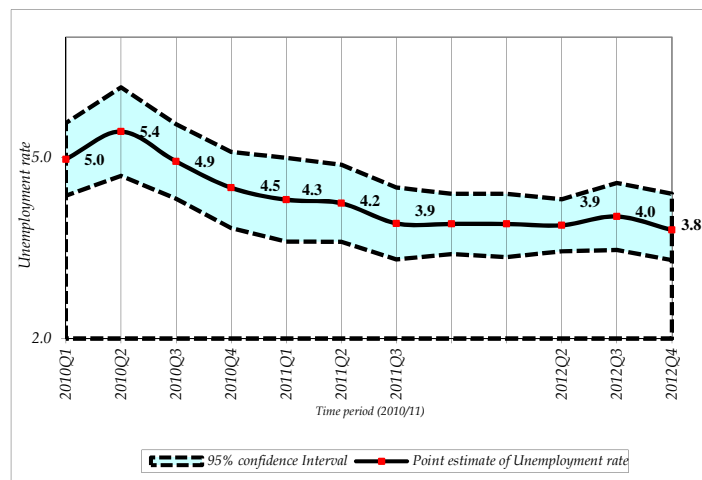
Table 7 depicts the distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Regardless of sex, highest employment concentrated in service sector. Further among employed women about 35.1 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 30.5 percent among males.

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate : The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force

Unemployed : Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period

Figure 2 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2010 Q2 - 2012 Q4) - Excluding Northern Province



Note:

•Survey was not conducted in the fourth quarter 2011 & first quarter 2012 due to activities of population census.

The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 336,002 during the Fourth quarter 2012.

The unemployment rate for the Fourth quarter 2012 was reported as 3.9 percent.

Table 8: Unemployment rate by level of education - Fourth Quarter 2012

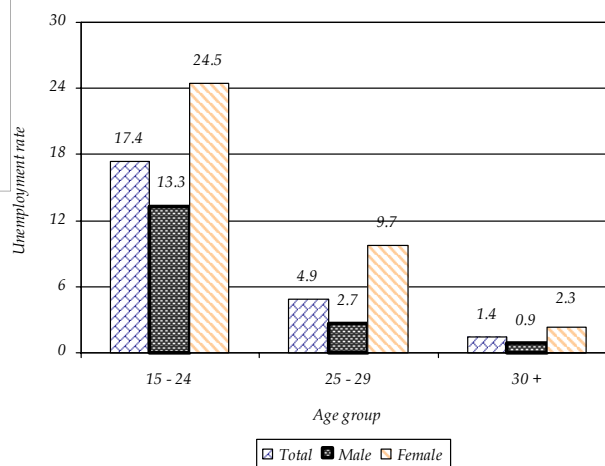
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	3.9	2.7	6.3
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	2.6	2.4	3.2
G.C.E. (O/L)	5.3	3.4	9.1
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	7.1	3.5	11.4



Table 9: Unemployment rate by age group and sex – Fourth Quarter 2012

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	3.9	2.7	6.3
15 - 24	17.4	13.3	24.5
25 - 29	4.9	2.7	9.7
30 +	1.4	0.9	2.3

Figure 3 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex – Fourth Quarter 2012



As can be seen from table 9, overall unemployment rate reported for female was 6.3 percent and it was 2.7 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 – 24 yrs reported for Fourth quarter 2012 was 17.4 percent and that age group reported the highest unemployment rate. For both males (13.3) and females (24.5). Further the survey results revealed that the unemployment was severe among females than that of males, in all age groups.

The highest unemployment rate was reported from the G.C.E(A/L) and above group which was about 7.1 percent. There were 3.5 percent and 11.4 percent for males and females respectively. This shows the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males (Table 8).

⁽¹⁾ Sampling error :

When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, estimates differ from the true population values they represent. This difference, or sampling error, occurs by chance, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. **For more details, please refer the explanatory note on the labour force link in the DCS website.**

Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(2003 - 2012 Q4)

	year									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012Q2	2012Q3	2012Q4
Labour force participation rate										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.2	48.6	48.8	47.2	48.1	49.3
Male	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	66.7	67.3	66.7	66.7	66.7	68.3
Female	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	33.7	32.1	32.8	29.8	31.6	32.3
<i>by residential sector</i>										
Total	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.2	48.6	48.8	47.2	48.1	49.3
Urban	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	43.9	42.5	44.7	44.6	45.0	44.0
Rural	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	49.8	49.5	49.4	47.8	48.8	50.4
Unemployment rate										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.7	4.9	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8
Male	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.5	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.7
Female	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	8.2	7.5	6.3	5.4	5.9	5.9
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>										
20 - 29	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	15.1	13.7	11.8	11.9	10.6	10.1
20 - 24	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	21.0	18.9	17.5	17.2	14.7	16.0
25 - 29	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.1	9.1	7.0	7.2	7.2	4.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>										
G.C.E.(A/L) & above										
Both sexes	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.8	11.3	8.4	8.4	6.0	6.8
Male	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	6.6	7.5	5.1	5.2	4.1	2.9
Female	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	15.1	15.6	12.1	11.4	8.0	11.4
Employed population										
<i>by sex</i>										
Both sexes	6,788,119	7,105,322	7,041,874	7,174,706	7,139,537	7,235,641	7,429,794	7,120,518	7,304,238	7,579,136
Male	4,546,397	4,610,643	4,653,067	4,663,277	4,609,198	4,770,376	4,855,242	4,780,209	4,815,934	5,007,780
Female	2,241,722	2,494,679	2,388,807	2,511,429	2,530,339	2,465,265	2,574,552	2,340,309	2,488,304	2,571,356
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>										
Total	6,788,119	7,105,322	7,041,874	7,174,706	7,139,537	7,235,641	7,429,794	7,120,518	7,304,238	7,579,136
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2,059,293	2,287,268	2,202,098	2,344,415	2,318,621	2,353,599	2,445,251	2,120,992	2,246,539	2,393,634
%	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(32.5)	(32.5)	(32.9)	(29.8)	(30.8)	(31.6)
Industry	1,787,274	1,889,953	1,873,857	1,888,004	1,822,685	1,777,130	1,841,444	1,963,537	1,881,883	2,014,404
%	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(25.5)	(24.6)	(24.8)	(27.6)	(25.8)	(26.6)
Services	2,941,552	2,928,101	2,965,919	2,942,288	2,998,231	3,104,913	3,143,100	3,035,990	3,175,816	3,171,099
%	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(42.0)	(42.9)	(42.3)	(42.6)	(43.5)	(41.8)
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	7.9	6.1	5.2	3.7	5.8	4.3
1 - 9	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.4
10 - 39	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.0	28.6	30.1	27.6	24.3	25.6
40+	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	60.8	63.5	62.8	67.6	68.7	68.7

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week

Selected Labour Force indicators

(2003 - 2012 Q4)

	year										
	2005 ³	2006 ¹	2007 ¹	2008 ²	2009 ²	2010 ²	2011 ²	2011 ³	2012 Q2 ³	2012 Q3 ³	2012 Q4 ³
Labour force participation rate											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.1	48.2	47.8	46.4	47.2	48.1
Male	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	66.6	67.1	66.5	66.2	66.5	66.2	67.6
Female	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	32.8	31.2	31.8	31.2	28.6	30.3	30.7
<i>by residential sector</i>											
Total	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	48.7	48.1	48.2	47.8	46.4	47.2	48.1
Urban	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	43.5	42.0	44.0	43.4	43.7	44.0	43.3
Rural	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	49.4	49.0	48.8	48.4	47.0	47.9	49.1
Unemployment rate											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.8	4.9	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.9
Male	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.7
Female	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	8.6	7.7	6.8	7.0	5.9	6.5	6.3
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>											
20 - 29	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.4	13.8	12.4	12.3	12.3	11.2	10.5
20 - 24	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	21.4	19.1	18.0	17.7	17.6	15.9	16.8
25 - 29	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.3	9.2	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.4	4.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>											
G.C.E.(A/L) & above											
Both sexes	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	11.2	11.6	9.0	9.0	8.6	7.1	7.1
Male	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.0	7.9	5.4	5.4	5.5	4.9	3.5
Female	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	15.5	15.8	13.1	13.1	11.7	9.3	11.4
Employed population											
<i>by sex</i>											
Both sexes	7,518,007	7,105,322	7,041,874	7,648,305	7,602,414	7,706,593	7,894,439	8,196,927	7,936,294	8,074,808	8,375,009
Male	5,134,765	4,610,643	4,653,067	5,033,449	4,963,176	5,131,986	5,227,317	5,460,328	5,410,758	5,396,138	5,624,370
Female	2,383,241	2,494,679	2,388,807	2,614,856	2,639,238	2,574,608	2,667,123	2,736,599	2,525,535	2,678,670	2,750,639
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>											
Total	7,518,007	7,105,322	7,041,874	7,648,305	7,602,414	7,706,593	7,894,439	8,196,927	7,936,294	8,074,808	8,375,009
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
Agriculture	2,306,039	2,287,268	2,202,098	2,489,731	2,475,921	2,519,905	2,601,824	2,708,020	2,377,937	2,495,859	2,684,018
%	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(32.6)	(32.7)	(33.0)	(33.0)	(30.0)	(30.9)	(32.0)
Industry	1,928,014	1,889,953	1,873,857	2,004,880	1,910,318	1,866,733	1,915,022	1,977,063	2,127,622	2,054,953	2,174,557
%	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(25.1)	(24.2)	(24.3)	(24.1)	(26.8)	(25.4)	(26.0)
Services	3,283,954	2,928,101	2,965,919	3,153,693	3,216,175	3,319,955	3,377,593	3,511,844	3,430,734	3,523,996	3,516,434
%	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(42.3)	(43.1)	(42.8)	(42.8)	(43.2)	(43.6)	(42.0)
<i>by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)</i>											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	7.9	6.0	5.3	5.2	3.5	5.7	4.4
1 - 9	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.3
10 - 39	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	28.8	28.5	29.7	30.0	27.7	24.6	26.0
40+	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	61.0	63.9	63.2	63.0	67.8	68.5	68.3

• Has a job but not at work during the reference week

¹ - Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

³ - All the districts are included

² - Including Eastern province but Excluding Northern province