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## Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2006/07

### Summary Findings

Department of Census & Statistics  
Sri Lanka

#### 1. Introduction

Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) conducts the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) once in every five years. HIES 2006/07 is the sixth in the series. The objectives of this survey are to measure levels and changes in living standard of the people and to compute various socio economic indicators such as per capita consumption, per capita income, poverty indices etc. HIES 2006/07 survey questionnaire was expanded to collect more information related to poverty.

Generally HIES survey is conducted over a period of 12 monthly rounds to capture seasonal variations of income, expenditure and consumption data. Data collection of the survey was done during the period from July 2006 to June 2007 throughout the island excluding the Northern province and Trincomalee district in the Eastern province. The completed sample size was 18,544 households. **The information contained in this report supersedes the results so far published in the preliminary publications.**

#### 2. Household Income

All receipts by all the members of the household from various sources, in cash or in kind are considered as household income.

The survey results revealed that the monthly mean household income is Rs. 26,286. According to the HIES 2002 the respective figure was Rs.12,803. Hence the mean household income has doubled during last 5 years. However mean income is influenced by higher values of income. Therefore the median income is a better indicator to explain the household income.

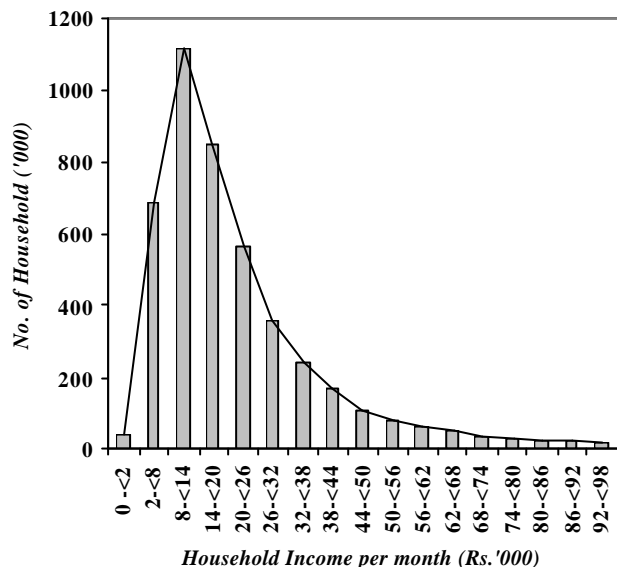
The survey results reveal that the median household income per month for Sri Lanka is Rs. 16,735, which means 50 percent of the total households receive less than Rs.16,735 per month.

Among the districts the highest median household income is reported from Colombo district (Rs.24,711) and the lowest median household income is reported from Nuwara Eliya district (Rs. 11,914).

**Table 1:**  
**Monthly household income by district**

District	Median household income Rs.	Mean household income Rs.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>16735</b>	<b>26286</b>
Colombo	24711	42825
Gampaha	20564	29038
Kalutara	18500	27721
Kandy	16203	24444
Matale	14119	19678
Nuwara Eliya	11914	25621
Galle	17517	24907
Matara	16229	22914
Hambantota	16784	24076
Batticaloa	15593	21032
Ampara	14556	20676
Kurunegala	14500	22870
Puttalam	15612	21939
Anuradhapura	16133	21995
Polonnaruwa	15913	30530
Badulla	14804	22035
Moneragala	12320	20118
Ratnapura	14356	22741
Kegalle	13114	18062

**Graph 1: Distribution of income**



### 3. Per Capita Income

Per capita mean income is estimated by dividing the estimated total income of all households in the area (sector, province, and district) by the estimated total population in the area.

According to the HIES 2006/07 in Sri Lanka, the monthly mean per capita income is reported as Rs.6,463. The survey results reveal that the highest mean per capita income is reported from Colombo district (Rs.10,165) while the lowest per capita income (Rs 4,527) is recorded from Kegalle district. (Table 2)

Survey results further reveal that the monthly per capita median income in Sri Lanka is Rs. 4,043. Which means monthly per capita income of the 50 percent of the population in Sri Lanka is below Rs. 4,043 at national level.

The monthly per capita median income in Colombo district is Rs. 5,750. This is reported as the highest value among districts. The lowest per capita median income (Rs. 2,902) is reported from Nuwara Eliya district.

### 4. Income Receiver's Income

All persons, those who fulfill following conditions were considered as income receivers in this survey.

- I. Person's age is 10 years or more than 10 years and
- II. His / Her total income is more than or equal to Rs. 150 per month.

Survey results reveal that the income receiver's mean income per month in Sri Lanka is Rs.14,457. Further it reveals that the income receiver's mean income in Colombo district is reported as Rs. 21,355 and in Kegalle district is reported as Rs. 9,761.

**Table 2:**  
**Per capita and income receiver's income per month by district.**

District	Mean per capita income Rs.	Median per capita income Rs.	Income receiver's mean income Rs.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>6463</b>	<b>4043</b>	<b>14457</b>
Colombo	10165	5750	21355
Gampaha	7065	4836	14825
Kalutara	6650	4213	14220
Kandy	5928	3679	14005
Matale	5069	3681	11112
Nuwara Eliya	6281	2902	13685
Galle	6068	4217	13528
Matara	5475	3819	11943
Hambantota	5789	4114	13474
Batticaloa	5211	3765	13641
Ampara	4754	3400	13387
Kurunegala	5960	3723	12957
Puttalam	5436	3731	13107
Anuradhapura	5913	4405	13662
Polonnaruwa	7943	4074	18763
Badulla	5428	3425	12781
Moneragala	4837	3087	12756
Ratnapura	5626	3499	12627
Kegalle	4527	3432	9761

## 5. Household Expenditure

Household expenditure was collected under three main sections of the survey schedule.

- (i) Expenditure on food
- (ii) Expenditure on non – food
- (iii) Expenditure incurred by boarders and domestic servants.

To maintain the quality, accuracy, and reliability of data, different reference periods were imposed on above three sections, depending on the consumer behavior pattern of food items and non food items.

The survey results revealed that the mean household expenditure per month is Rs.22,952. Out of this amount food expenditure is Rs.8,641. It is 37.6 percent of the household expenditure and this proportion is defined as Food ratio.

**Table 3:**  
**Monthly household expenditure**

District	Mean household expenditure Rs.	Mean household size
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>22952</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Colombo	37011	4.2
Gampaha	29145	4.1
Kalutara	24911	4.2
Kandy	21762	4.1
Matale	19067	3.9
Nuwara Eliya	14220	4.1
Galle	23079	4.1
Matara	21348	4.2
Hambantota	20568	4.2
Batticaloa	21592	4.0
Ampara	22311	4.3
Kurunegala	18453	3.8
Puttalam	21332	4.0
Anuradhapura	20290	3.7
Polonnaruwa	21202	3.8
Badulla	17334	4.1
Moneragala	13155	4.2
Ratnapura	16423	4.0
Kegalle	15773	4.0

The survey results further reveal that the highest household expenditure (Rs.37,011) is reported from Colombo district and the lowest household expenditure (Rs.13,155) is reported from Moneragala district.

## 6. Consumption of Selected Food Items.

According to the survey the mean per capita consumption of rice is reported as 9.0 kg. That indicates, a person needs 108 kg of rice per year. Per capita consumption of bread is high in urbanized districts such as Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara. The highest per capita consumption of Wheat flour (3.7 kg per month) is reported from Nuwara Eliya district where large number of estates are located.

**Table 4:**  
**Monthly per capita consumption of selected food items by district**

District	Rice kg	Wheat flour kg	Bread kg
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Colombo	6.6	0.2	2.5
Gampaha	7.5	0.3	2.2
Kalutara	8.5	0.2	2.1
Kandy	8.6	1.1	1.4
Matale	9.3	0.8	1.1
Nuwara Eliya	9.6	3.7	1.0
Galle	8.7	0.3	2.2
Matara	9.8	0.1	1.4
Hambantota	11.5	0.1	0.8
Batticaloa	8.7	0.3	1.6
Ampara	10.0	0.3	1.0
Kurunegala	9.8	0.3	1.0
Puttalam	8.5	0.6	1.7
Anuradhapura	10.1	0.5	1.0
Polonnaruwa	11.0	0.4	0.8
Badulla	10.8	1.3	0.8
Moneragala	11.8	0.3	0.5
Ratnapura	11.0	0.6	1.0
Kegalle	8.8	0.6	1.2

## 7. Household Monthly Non - Food Expenditure

According to the survey results the average household non-food expenditure per month is Rs. 14,311. Among the items in the non - food group, the highest expenditure (Rs.2,639) is recorded on housing (percentage is given in Table 6)

**Table 5:**  
**Monthly household non-food expenditure**

Expenditure group	Rs.
All groups	14311
Housing	2639
Fuel & light	1042
Personal care & Health	980
Transport	1862
Communication	539
Education	632
Cultural activities & Entertainment	260
Non durable household goods & household services	301
Clothing Textiles & foot wear	694
Durable household goods	786
Other miscellaneous expenses	2292
Liquor & Tobacco	492
Other adhoc expenses	1791

**Table 6:**  
**Major expenses as a percentage of the total non-food expenditure.**

Expenditure group	Percentage of expenditure
Housing	18.4
Transport	13.0
Fuel & light	7.2
Personal care & Health	6.8
Education	4.4

## 8. Living Standard

Some important data, which were collected from HIES 2006/07 is given at national level in Table 7.

**Table 7:**  
**Percentage of households by item**

Item	Percentage of households
<b>Principal Type of Lighting</b>	
Main electricity	79.9
Kerosene oil	17.8
Other	2.3
<b>Use of Telephone Facilities</b>	
Fixed line only	16.4
Mobile only	15.3
Both	14.8
No telephone	53.5
<b>Main Source of Drinking Water</b>	
Safe	85.0
Not safe	15.0
<b>Principal Type of Cooking fuel</b>	
Fire wood	79.5
LP gas	17.1
Kerosene oil	2.4
Other	1.0
<b>Availability of Toilet</b>	
Separately	89.1
Sharing	7.3
None	3.6
<b>Type of Toilets</b>	
Water seal	76.6
Pour flush	14.1
Pit	5.5
Other	3.8