

# Computer Literacy Statistics - 2014

## Department of Census and Statistics Sri Lanka



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The birth of the Information Age which is also known as Computer Age, is associated with the Digital Revolution, just as the Industrial Revolution marked the birth of the Industrial Age. The Digital and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolutions are twin revolutions. The rapid developments in ICT have greatly contributed in enhancing human living standards worldwide. The advanced capability of this technology facilitates with extremely efficient collaboration and access to correct, consistent and effective information, which is fundamental to manage the quality in total. In developed world, most of the key economically effective environments are increasingly ICT dominant and therefore, investing on ICT developments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has become a compulsory requirement for a country to survive.

Timely and accurate information on ICT itself is essential for justification and proper direction of the Government efforts, private sector investments, to study the changing pattern of the demand for internet services and for continuous progress monitoring on ICT achievements.

For this computer literacy data can contribute immensely to an understanding of the demand and supply of skills in the global, knowledge based economy. Also statistics on the availability of a computer/laptop in households and usage of internet and email that exist between demographic and geographic groups provides more insight for the scattering of ICT facilities.

To cater the relevant data need the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has conducted several surveys on computer literacy in Sri Lanka. The surveys were in 2004, 2006/07 and 2009 and latest is in 2014. This bulletin exposes the major findings of the first six months starting from January to June in 2014. More detailed report will be available with the full year dataset. For the current analysis a nationally distributed sample of 12,500 households with 35,818 persons aged 5 – 69 years were enumerated.

### Household computer ownership

If a desktop or laptop is available at a household then that household is considered as a computer owned household. The Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of computer owned households by Sector/ Province levels. In 2014, at least one computer is available in 22% of households of the country. That is one out of every five households is having a computer. This percentage is about 36% in Urban Sector and Rural and Estate Sector show 20.4% and 4.6% respectively. The highest availability is in Western province (33.0%) while the lowest availability is reported from North Central. Over the survey periods from 2004 till 2014 overall percentage has increased sharply from 3.8% to 16.6%.

**Table 1: Percentage of computer owned households by Sector and Province - 2004, 2006/07, 2009 and 2014.**

Sector/ Province	Desktop (%)				Desktop or Laptop (%)	
	2004	2006/07	2009	2014	2009	2014
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>22.4</b>
Urban	10.5	17.8	23.6	25.8	26.3	35.8
Rural	3.1	6.9	9.2	15.3	9.8	20.4
Estate	0.3	1.1	3.1	2.7	3.3	4.6
<b>Province</b>						
Western	8.4	16.4	19.0	24.5	20.7	33.0
Central	3.3	6.7	9.7	18.0	10.4	23.5
Southern	2.2	4.9	6.6	16.0	7.2	21.0
Northern	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	10.8	N.A.	19.5
Eastern	1.2	3.7	5.8	9.6	5.9	14.7
North-western	3.1	4.8	6.9	14.5	7.1	20.1
North-central	1.4	2.7	6.1	7.4	6.8	10.1
Uva	0.4	2.7	4.6	9.2	4.9	11.1
Sabaragamuwa	2.0	3.3	7.3	13.7	7.5	16.6

N.A. - not available

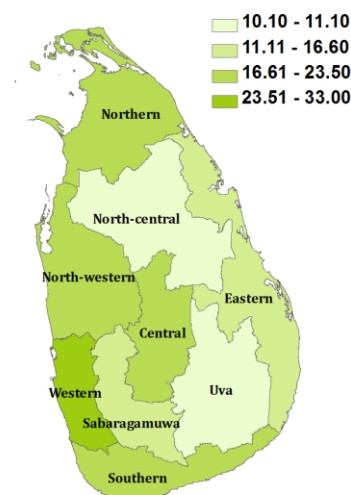
Table 2 shows the year of acquisition of the first computer to the household. It was revealed that 65 percent of the households have acquired the first computer during the last five years (2010 – 2014) and the Rural sector shows a higher recent acquisition (68%) than the Urban sector (55%).

**Table 2: Computer owned households (percentage) by the year of first acquisition of a computer -2014**

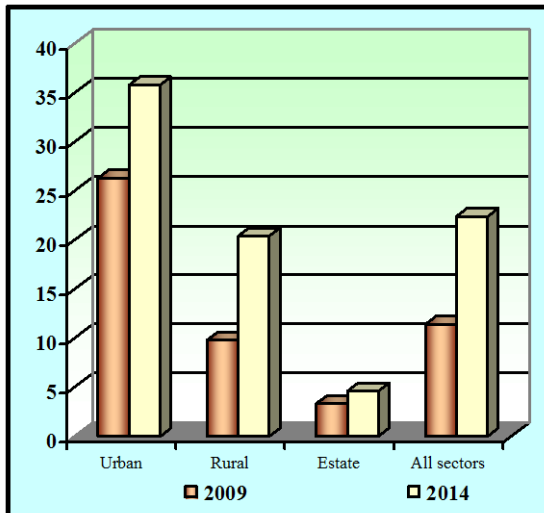
Sector	Total	Before 2001	2001-2004	2005-2009	2010-2014
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>64.7</b>
Urban	100.0	6.8	9.8	28.0	55.5
Rural *	100.0	4.3	5.5	22.3	67.8

\*Including Estate sector

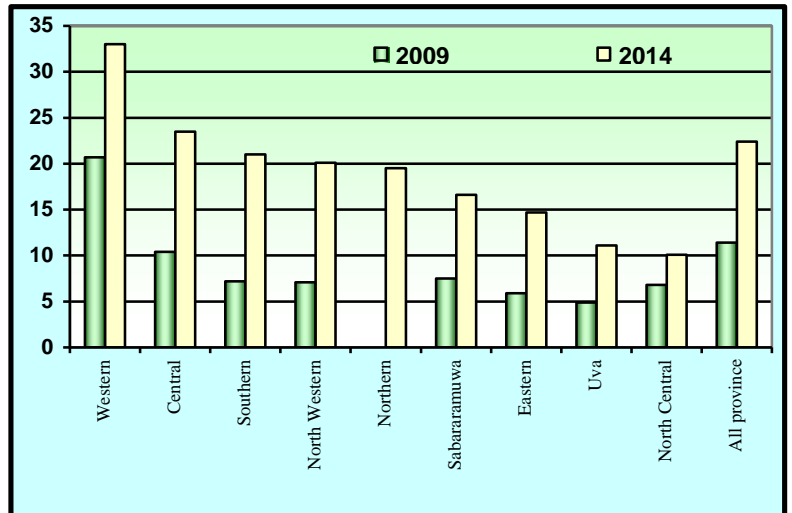
**Map1: Household computer ownership (percentage) -2014**



**Figure 1: Percentage of Desktop or Laptop computer owned households by Sector: 2009 and 2014**



**Figure 2: Percentage of Desktop or Laptop computer owned households by province: 2009 and 2014**



### Computer literacy

**Definition for Computer literacy:** A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a computer literate person if he/she could use computer on his/her own. For example, even if a 5 years old child can play a computer game then he/she is considered as a computer literate person.

**Definition for computer literacy rate:** Computer Literate population expressed as a percentage to the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

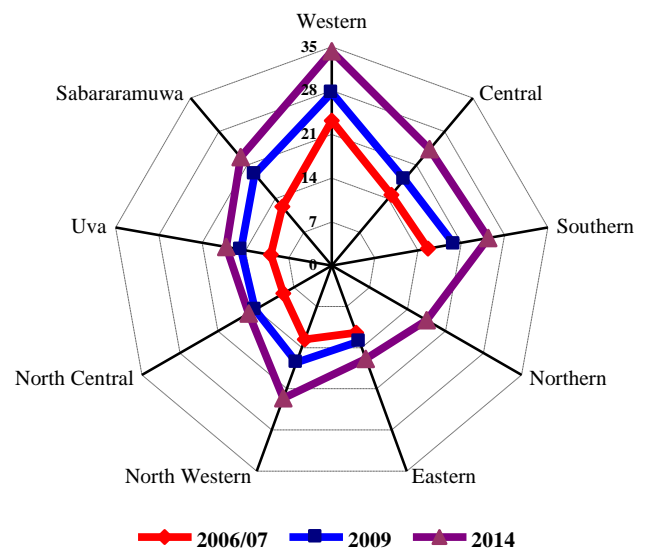
The Urban sector shows the highest computer literacy rate (34.6%) among residential sectors. Computer literacy rate for Rural and Estate are 23.8% and 6.2% respectively. Among the provinces the highest level of computer literacy is reported from the Western province (34.3%) while the lowest percentage is reported from North Central province. Existing differences among Provinces show the prevailing digital divide (Figure 3).

**Table 3: Computer literacy rate by sector and province**

Sector/Province	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2006/07	2009	2014
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>25.1</b>
<b>Sector</b>			
Urban	25.1	31.1	34.6
Rural	15.1	19.3	23.8
Estate	04.3	08.4	6.2
<b>Province</b>			
Western	23.2	27.7	34.3
Central	14.8	18.0	24.3
Southern	15.6	19.8	25.4
Northern	N.A.	N.A.	17.5
Eastern	11.4	12.9	15.9
North Western	12.6	16.5	22.6
North Central	8.9	14.1	15.3
Uva	9.9	14.7	17.1
Sabaragamuwa	12.3	19.1	22.6

N.A. - not available

**Figure 3: Computer literacy rate by province in 2006/07, 2009 and 2014**



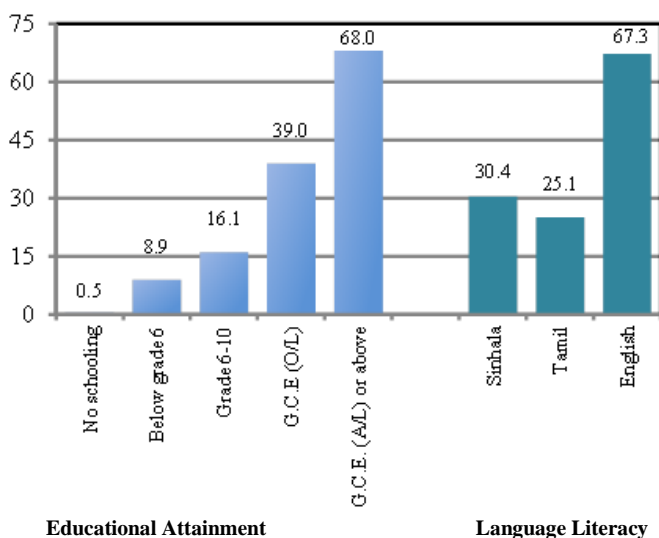
Percentage of Computer Literate population (Computer Literacy) over the survey periods has been gradually increasing. Overall Computer Literacy reported in 2014 or Sri Lanka is 25.1%. The survey results show an increase of 5 percentage points from 2009 to 2014.

**Table 4: Computer literacy rate by Gender, Age, Level of education, and Language literacy – 2014**

Gender, Age group, Educational attainment and Language literacy	Computer literacy rate (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>25.1</b>
<b>By Sex</b>	
Male	27.0
Female	23.3
<b>By Age group(years)</b>	
5 - 9	12.3
10 - 14	36.5
15 - 19	54.4
20 - 24	49.3
25 - 29	40.3
30 - 34	30.3
35 - 39	23.5
40 - 49	15.4
50 - 59	9.3
60 - 69	6.0
<b>By Educational attainment</b>	
No schooling	0.5
Below grade 6	8.9
Grade 6-10	16.1
G.C.E (O/L)	39.0
G.C.E. (A/L) or above	68.0
<b>By Language literacy</b>	
Sinhala	30.4
Tamil	25.1
English	67.3

As given in Table 4 the Computer literacy among male (27%) is higher than that of female (23.3%) in 2014. Young youths (aged 15 – 19 years) show the highest computer literacy rate (54.4%) among all other age groups. Age 50 years and above groups show low computer literacy rates.

**Figure 4: Distribution of computer literacy rate by Educational attainment and Language literacy - 2014**



The survey results reveal that higher the level of education higher the computer literacy. The group with A/L or above level of education shows the highest computer literacy rate (68%). Also computer literacy is higher among those who are literate in English language (67.3%).

**Table 5: Computer literacy rate of employed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by Occupation - 2014**

Occupation group	Computer literacy (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>50.3</b>
Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators	74.3
Professionals	80.0
Technicians and Associate Professionals	80.8
Clerks and Clerical support workers	86.5
Services and Sales workers	46.3
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers	22.3
Craft and Related Trades workers	33.7
Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers	33.4
Elementary occupations	19.8
Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations	58.3

Computer literacy among the employed population in Sri Lanka is around 50 % in the first half of 2014 and the positions such as Senior officials and Managers (74.3%), Professionals (80%), Technical and Associate professionals (80.8%) and Clerks and Clerical support workers (86.5%) have higher computer literacy. However, even among the individuals engage in elementary occupations twenty percent are computer literate.

**Table 6: Computer literacy among unemployed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by age group – 2014**

Age group (years)	Total	Computer literate population	
		Literate (%)	Not literate (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	100.0	68.8	31.2
15 - 19	100.0	64.8	35.2
20 - 24	100.0	73.7	26.3
25 - 29	100.0	75.9	24.1
30 - 39	100.0	61.3	38.7
40 - 69	100.0	43.5	56.5

The unemployed youths (15 – 29) have high computer literacy. Moreover, Sri Lanka Quarterly Labour Force Survey reports higher unemployment rates among youth (aged 15 – 29 years). The computer literacy results reveal that among unemployed many have at least some ICT skills. For example among aged 25-29 unemployed group, every three out of four are computer literate.

### Source of computer training

Table 7 shows that majority of those who are computer literate have received training from Private institutions or School/University. The training received through Government training centres are comparatively low (5.9%).

**Table 7: Percentage distribution of Computer literate household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by sources of receiving computer knowledge\* and sector – 2014**

Source of computer training (multiple ans.)	Total (%)	Residential sector (%)		
		Urban	Rural	Estate
Private training course	32.3	31.8	32.3	50.1
School/University	37.8	36.1	38.3	36.1
Govt. training centres	5.9	5.6	6.0	6.2
Employment activities	14.5	18.7	13.3	8.8
Work place	7.3	10.3	6.5	2.4
Family members	23.1	28.4	21.6	14.1
Friends/ Relatives	18.3	21.2	17.4	17.5
Self	22.3	30.7	20.0	6.5
Other	3.6	5.1	3.1	3.2

\* Multiple choice answers

### Internet and E-mail use

The Table 8 depicts that about 10 % of the population aged 5 to 69 years uses the internet facility at least once during last twelve months. Urban sector, where the facilities are largely available, shows highest usage of both e-mail and internet among the other sectors.

**Table 8: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by sector and province – 2014**

Sector and Province	Household Population (age 5-69)	
	Internet (%)	E-mail (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	10.3	8.3
<b>Sector</b>		
Urban	18.3	15.5
Rural	9.0	7.1
Estate	1.8	1.7
<b>Province</b>		
Western	17.5	14.9
Central	8.9	7.0
Southern	7.7	5.7
Northern	11.2	8.3
Eastern	6.8	5.4
North Western	8.3	6.2
North Central	4.3	2.8
Uva	4.5	3.7
Sabaragamuwa	5.4	4.1

Different usage patterns of internet usage can be observed among Provinces. Western Province shows the highest percentage (17.5%) of population using internet while North Central shows the lowest percentage (4.3%).

The survey results reveals that about 8 percent of the household population aged 5 – 69 years has used E-mail facility at least once during the last 12 months period. Highest e-mail usage is reported from the Western province (14.9%) followed by the Northern Province (8.3%). The lowest e-mail usage (2.8%) among the provinces has reported from the North-Central Province.

**Table 9: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2014**

Age group (years)	Household Population (age5-69)	
	Internet (%)	E-mail (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	10.3	8.3
5 - 14	3.2	1.6
15 - 19	17.5	12.0
20 - 24	25.3	21.4
25 - 29	20.2	17.4
30 - 34	16.1	13.6
35 - 39	12.4	10.8
40 - 49	8.0	6.9
50 - 59	5.2	4.4
60 - 69	3.3	2.3

The Table 9 and Figure 5 show the high popularity of e-mail and internet among youth who are in the age group of 15 – 29 years. Among youths in 20 - 24 years age group, one out of every four persons has used the internet facility at least once during the last 12 months and the same group shows the highest usage of e-mail.

**Figure 5: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2014**

