Bulletin of Labour Force Statistics of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey – Second Quarter 2010



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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 second quarter 2010 was done in April, May and June in year 2010. Even though it was planned to conduct the survey in Northern province, the survey was not conducted fully due to unsettled conditions in districts of Northern province, therefore this bulletin consists of summary statistics excluding Northern province.

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 - Second Quarter 2010

	Economically active population										
Sector	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%					
Total	8050603	100.0	5297069	65.8	2753534	34.2					
Urban	869542	100.0	605610	69.6	263933	30.4					
Rural	6790186	100.0	4469509	65.8	2320678	34.2					
Estate	390874	100.0	221950	56.8	168924	43.2					

Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector - Second Quarter 2010

Ct	E	Economically inactive population									
Sector	Total	%	M ale	%	Female	%					
Total	8759209	100.0	2577744	29.4	6181465	70.6					
Urban	1230795	100.0	354303	28.8	876492	71.2					
Rural	7225194	100.0	2111242	29.2	5113952	70.8					
Estate	303221	100.0	112200	37.0	191021	63.0					

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 8.1 million in second quarter 2010. Of which 65.8 percent were males and 34.2 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 29.4 percent were males and 70.6 percent were females (Table 2).

Figure 1: Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population

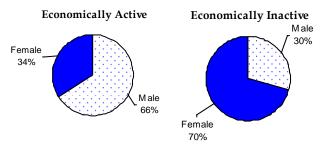


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

V	Labour fo	orce particip	ation rate
Year	Total	Male	Female
2000	50.3	67.2	33.9
2001	48.8	66.2	31.9
2002	50.3	67.9	33.6
2003	49.7	67.5	32.6
2004	49.6	67.2	33.0
2005	49.3	67.3	32.6
2006	51.2	68.1	35.7
2007	49.8	67.8	33.4
2008	50.2	67.9	34.3
2009	49.9	67.4	34.3
2010Q1	49.1	67.8	32.7
2010Q2	48.5	67.6	31.6

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 second quarter 2010 was about 67.6 percent and it was 31.6 percent for females. It was important note that. male participation to the labour force was more than twice as that of females.

Note: Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

Table 4: Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Second Quarter 2010

Age group —		Sex	
rige group —	Total	M ale	Female
Total	47.9	67.3	30.8
15 - 19	17.3	23.4	10.8
20 - 24	58.2	78.0	41.3
25 - 29	63.3	91.2	39.6
30 - 34	66.3	97.1	41.0
35 - 39	67.7	95.5	45.3
40 - 44	67.2	94.9	44.8
45 - 49	72.2	96.0	50.6
50 - 54	63.2	91.2	39.8
55 - 59	60.4	84.9	36.4
60+	27.2	45.1	12.0

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 (30 – 34) yrs, while in female highest participation rate was reported from age group (45 - 49) yrs.

Employment

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 2009 - Second Quarter 2010)

v	T 4 1	Major industry group						
Year	Total	Agriculture	Industries	Services				
April-May-June	7465030	2382913	1913893	3168224				
2nd Qtr - 2009	100.0	31.9	25.6	42.4				
July-Aug-Sept.	7641730	2426113	1912169	3303448				
3rd Qtr - 2009	100.0	31.7	25.0	43.2				
Oct-Nov-Dec	7592833	2481308	1920825	3190700				
4th Qtr - 2009	100.0	32.7	25.3	42.0				
Jan-Feb-Mar	7725753	2600463	1911428	3213861				
1st Qtr - 2010	100.0	33.7	24.7	41.6				
April-May-June	7613267	2439391	1795204	3378672				
2nd Qtr - 2010	100.0	32.0	23.6	44.4				

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

Agriculture

Industries

- 1. Agriculture (A)
- 1. Manufacturing (D)
- 2. Foresty and Fishery (B) 2. Construction (F)
 - 3. Minning & Quarrying (C)
 - 4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)

- 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 Teritorial Organizations & bodies (Q)
- 12. Industries not adequately described

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from second quarter 2009 to second quarter 2010. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 7.6 million in second quarter 2010. Of which, about 44.4 percent engaged in services sector, 32.0 percent in agriculture sector, and 23.6 percent in Industries sector.

Table 6: Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture sector - Second Quarter 2010

Employment	Tot	al	Sector					
Status			Agricu	lture	Non Agr	iculture		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Total	7613267	100.0	2439391	32.0	5173876	68.0		
Employee	4292787	100.0	798178	18.6	3494609	81.4		
Public	1076717	100.0	112152	10.4	964565	89.6		
Private	3216071	100.0	686026	21.3	2530044	78.7		
Employer	198807	100.0	34884	17.5	163922	82.5		
Own account worker	2334295	100.0	1078631	46.2	1255664	53.8		
Contributing family worker	787378	100.0	527697	67.0	259681	33.0		

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 - Second Quarter 2010

Major industry	Total	Sex			
group	1 Otai	Male	Female		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Agriculture	32.0	29.1	37.8		
Industry	23.6	23.4	23.9		
Services	44.4	47.4	38.3		

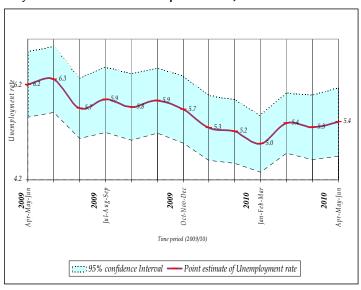
Table 7 depicts the distribution of male and female employed population by main industries. Highest employment concentrated in service sector for both male and female. Further among employed women about 37.8 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 29.1 percent for males.

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 (2009 April - 2010 June)



The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 437,000 during the second quarter 2010.

The unemployment rate for the second quarter 2010 was reported as 5.4 percent.

As seen in figure 2, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant difference between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2009/2010, when *sampling error*⁽¹⁾ was considered.

Table 8: Unemployment rate by level of education - Second Quarter 2010

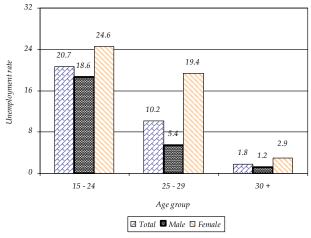
Level of Education	Unemployment rate						
Level of Education	Total	Male	Female				
Total	5.4	4.1	8.0				
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	3.1	2.5	4.3				
G.C.E. (O/L)	7.8	7.0	9.4				
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	12.3	8.5	16.4				



Table 9: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Second Quarter 2010

Age group	Total -	Se	х
Age group	Total -	Male	Female
Total	5.4	4.1	8.0
15 - 24	20.7	18.6	24.6
25 - 29	10.2	5.4	19.4
30 +	1.8	1.2	2.9

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Second quarter 2010



be seen from table 9, overall As can unemployment rate reported for female was 8.0 percent and it was 4.1 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate 15 - 24 yrs reported for 2010 was 20.7. Highest second quarter unemployment rate was reported from age group 15 - 24 yrs, for both males (18.6) and females (24.6). 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 12.3 percent. There were 8.5 percent and 16.4 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 - 2010 Q2)

					(20	<i>703 - 2</i>	Year	<i>(2)</i>					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4	2009	2010Q1	2010Q2
Labour force	e participat	tion rate											
by sex													
Both sexes	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	48.7	49.3	48.9	49.2	49.1	48.5
Male	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	67.4	66.5	66.3	66.5	66.7	67.8	67.6
Female	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	34.3	32.8	34.3	33.5	33.7	32.7	31.6
by residential	sector												
Total	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	48.7	49.3	48.9	49.2	49.1	48.5
Urban	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	44.5	41.0	45.8	44.4	43.9	44.1	42.3
Rural	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	50.6	49.7	49.7	49.4	49.8	49.8	49.3
Unemployme	ent rate												
by sex													
Both sexes	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.3	6.3	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.1	5.4
Male	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.1	4.7	4.4	3.9	4.3	3.5	4.2
Female	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	7.5	9.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	7.9	7.7
by selected ag	ge groups(y	r)											
20 - 29	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	14.8	15.5	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	14.9
20 - 24	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	19.7	22.0	21.6	20.6	21.0	20.1	20.4
25 - 29	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.4	10.2	9.9	9.8	10.1	9.8	10.0
by selected ed	lucational l	levels											
G.C.E.(A/L)													
Both sexes	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.3	12.5	10.8	11.9	12.3
Male	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	7.4	3.9	6.9	8.3	6.6	7.8	8.6
Female	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	12.8	17.4	13.7	16.8	15.1	16.4	16.2
Employed po	pulation												
by sex													
Both sexes	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7250951	6998591	7183604	7124899	7139537	7287198	7145578
Male	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277	4669522	4574261	4598416	4594540	4609198	4771572	4731075
Female	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511429	2581429	2424330	2585188	2530359	2530339	2515626	2414503
by industry (p	perentage)												
Total	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706	7250951	6998591	7183604	7124898	7139537	7287198	7145578
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)		(100.0)
Agriculture	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344415	2459978	2226901	2292224	2295380	2318621	2455665	2299235
%	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(33.9)	(31.8)	(31.9)	(32.2)	(32.5)	(33.7)	(32.2)
Industry	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888004	1806035	1803556	1833177	1847868	1822685	1835359	1696088
%	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(24.9)	(25.8)	(25.5)	(25.9)	(25.5)	(25.2)	(23.7)
Services	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2984938	2968134	3058203	2981650	2998231	2996174	3150255
%	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(41.2)	(42.4)	(42.6)	(41.8)	(42.0)	(41.1)	(44.1)
by no. of hou	rs worked 1	per week (1	percentage	·)									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	5.3	13.7	6.8	5.9	7.9	3.8	10.7
1 - 9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.2	1.9	2.3	2.4	1.3	2.9
10 - 39	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.3	31.2	27.8	27.5	29.0	28.8	32.2
40+	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	63.3	51.8	63.4	64.3	60.8	66.0	54.2

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

Selected Labour Force indicators (2003 - 2010 Q2)

						003 - 2	Year	(4)					
_	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006#	2007#	2008*		2009Q2*	*2009Q3	*2009Q4	2009*	2010Q1*	2010Q2*
Labour fo	rce par	ticipati	on rate										
by sex													
Both sexes	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	48.3	48.7	48.5	48.7	48.2	47.9
Male	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	67.2	66.6	66.2	66.5	66.6	67.3	67.3
Female	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	33.3	32.0	33.2	32.9	32.8	31.6	30.8
by resident	ial sector	p											
Total	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	48.3	48.7	48.5	48.7	48.2	47.9
Urban	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	44.0	41.3	44.9	43.9	43.5	42.8	41.4
Rural	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	50.0	49.2	49.2	49.2	49.4	42.8	48.8
			40.7	32.1	50.4	30.0	30.0	49.2	49.2	49.2	42.4	49.0	40.0
Unemploy	ment r	ate											
by sex													
Both sexes	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.0	5.4
Male	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.0	4.3	3.4	4.1
Female	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	7.9	9.2	8.6	8.7	8.6	7.9	8.0
by selected	age groi	ıps(yr)											
20 - 29	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.2	15.2	15.5	15.7	15.4	14.3	14.9
20 - 24	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	20.3	21.6	21.9	21.8	21.4	19.7	20.2
25 - 29	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.7	9.9	10.1	10.5	10.3	9.7	10.2
			1										
by selected			ls										
G.C.E.(A/L)			12.0	11.6	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.4	10.2	12.4	11.0	12.0	10.0
Both sexes	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.2	13.4	11.2	12.0	12.3
Male Female	10.4 23.3	10.5 23.8	8.9 19.1	6.9 16.8	6.6 17.5	6.0 15.3	7.8 13.4	4.3	6.8 13.8	9.1 17.8	7.0 15.5	8.0 16.7	8.5
			19.1	10.6	17.3	13.3	15.4	17.1	15.6	17.0	13.3	10.7	16.4
Employed	l popula	ation											
by sex													
			7518007				7709784		7641730	7592833	7602414	7725753	7613267
Male			5134765				5015959		4970147	4940502	4963176	5108289	5081075
Female	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2693825	2539160	2671584	2652331	2639238	2617464	2532192
by industry	(perente	ige)											
Total	•	0 ,	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7465030	7641730	7592833	7602414	7725753	7613267
%	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	
Agriculture							2613350		2426113	2481308	2475921	2600463	2439391
%	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(33.9)	(31.9)	(31.7)	(32.7)	(32.6)	(33.7)	(32.0)
Industry			1928014				1894279		1912169	1920825	1910318	1911428	1795204
%	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(24.6)	(25.6)	(25.0)	(25.3)	(25.1)	(24.7)	(23.6)
Services			3283954					3168224			3216175	3213861	3378672
%	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(41.5)	(42.4)	(43.2)	(42.0)	(42.3)	(41.6)	(44.4)
						(11.2)	(11.5)	(12.1)	(13.2)	(12.0)	(12.3)	(11.0)	(11.1)
by no. of he		•	•			40= =	40.7	4.5	40==	46-	40-	465	465
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	5.4	13.4	7.0	5.8	7.9	3.7	10.4
1 - 9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.1	1.8	2.3	2.3	1.3	2.7
10 - 39	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	29.0	31.2	27.7	27.5	28.8	28.6	31.9
40+	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	63.5	52.3	63.6	64.5	61.0	66.5	55.0

[•] Has a job but not at work during the reference week *Excluding Northern province ** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts

^{***}All the districts are included

[#] Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces