

Bulletin of Labour Force Statistics of Sri Lanka

Fourth Quarter 2004



Issue No.32
Department of Census & Statistics
ISSN 1391- 3050

Introduction: The national estimates given in this bulletin are based on all 25 districts of Sri Lanka. In the interpretation of results, one need to be cautious about the domain of coverage of the survey, in the respective time period. The respective domain of coverage of the survey for different time periods are as given below.

- 2002 and before - All the districts excluding Northern & Eastern provinces
- 2003 - All the districts excluding Northern province
- 2004 (First quarter) - All the districts excluding Vavunia, Mulativu and Kilinochchi districts
- 2004 (2nd - 4th quarter) - All 25 districts are covered.

Labour force participation rate

Labour Force: Number of persons 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.

Total labour force is estimated as 8161824 in the fourth quarter 2004 where 67 percent of that are males. Labour force participation rate is recorded as 48.8 percent of age 10 years & over population.

Table 1: Labour force participation rate by sex over time

Year	Labour force Participation Rate		
	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*	48.9	67.2	31.4
2004 Q4 ***	48.8	67.0	31.7

* Excluding Northern province

*** All the districts are included

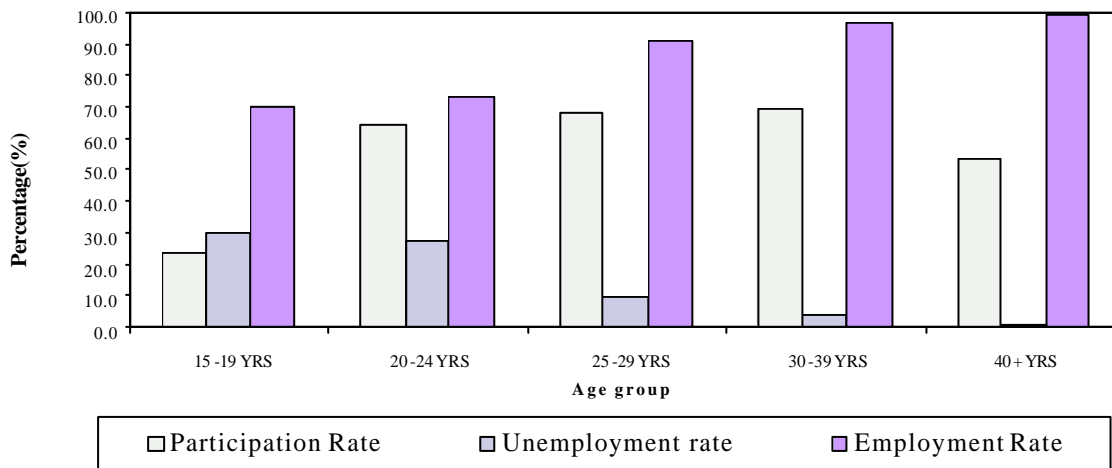
(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

Table 2: Labour force participation rate by age & sex - fourth quarter 2004

Age group(yr.)	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.8	67.0	31.7
15 - 19	23.2	31.2	14.8
20 - 24	64.4	79.6	50.7
25 - 29	68.6	95.0	43.5
30 - 39	68.9	96.4	44.5
40 +	52.9	76.3	31.3

There is no any contrast change in labour force participation rate in fourth quarter compared to previous years. Males in age group (30 - 39 yrs) shows the highest labour force participation rate (96.4) among males, while females in age group (20 - 24 yrs) shows the highest labour force participation rate (50.7) among females.

Figure 1 : Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate, Employment Rate by age groups for fourth quarter-2004



It can be noticed that youths in both (15 - 19 yrs) and (20 - 24 yrs) age groups show higher unemployment rates than those in other age groups.

Unemployment

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

The survey conducted in the fourth quarter 2004 estimates the unemployed population as 666816 of which 327593 are males and 339223 are females.

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

Table 3: Trend of unemployment rate over time by sex

Year	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
1992	14.6	10.7	22.2
1993	13.8	9.7	21.7
1994	13.1	9.7	20.1
1995	12.3	9.0	18.7
1996	11.3	8.2	17.7
1997	10.5	7.7	16.1
1998	9.2	6.5	14.0
1999	8.9	6.7	13.0
2000	7.6	5.8	11.1
2001	7.9	6.2	11.5
2002	8.8	6.6	12.9
2003 *	8.4	6.0	13.2
2004 Q1 **	8.1	6.2	12.2
2004 Q2 ***	9.0	6.6	14.0
2004 Q3 ***	8.5	6.0	13.5
2004 Q4 ***	8.2	6.0	12.5

* Excluding Northern province

** Excluding Vavunia, Mulathivu and Kilinochchi districts

*** All the districts are included (Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

A declining trend in the unemployment rate can be observed from the second quarter 2004.

Table 4: Unemployment rate by sector and quarter - 2004

Sector	Quarter			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total	8.1	9.0	8.5	8.2
Urban	6.9	12.2	7.7	8.5
Rural	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.1

Overall unemployment rate is higher in 2nd quarter and Urban unemployment rate shows the highest value. Some small fluctuations in quarterly unemployment rate can be noticed in urban sector, but not in rural sector.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by reason for not seeking work by sex - fourth quarter 2004

Sex	Total	Reason for not seeking work			
		1	2	3	6
Total	100.0	51.9	24.8	7.6	15.8
Male	100.0	65.8	21.8	3.1	9.2
Female	100.0	40.2	27.2	11.3	21.3

1 - Discouraged by not being able to get a job

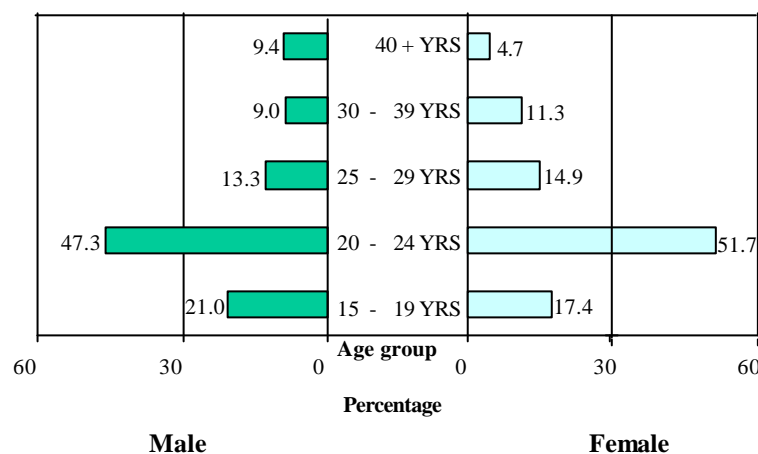
2 - Believe no suitable work available

3 - Had no training / or skill

6 - Other

More than 50 percent of unemployed persons have declared that the reason for not seeking work as "Discouraged by not being able to get a job". Around 11.3 percent unemployed females have told that they are not seeking job since they have no skill or training while it is 3.1 percent for males.

Figure 2: Percentage distribution of unemployed population by age and sex - 4th quarter 2004



Nearly 50 percent of the unemployed population, belongs to the age group (20 - 24 yrs) and a higher proportion of females in age group (20 - 24 yrs) are unemployed, compared to the males in same age group.

Employment

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

The estimated employed population is 7495007 in the fourth quarter 2004. Of this number 5113831 are males and 2381177 are females.

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of employed population by industry group & sex – fourth quarter 2004

Industry group	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (A,B)	34.5	31.9	40.2
Manufacturing (D)	17.1	13.4	24.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Personal and Household Goods (G)	12.2	13.9	8.4
Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)	2.1	1.9	2.4
Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security(L)	7.0	7.8	5.2
Education (M)	3.4	1.9	6.6
*Other	23.8	29.2	12.2

*Other : Construction (F), Hotel and Restaurants (H), Transport and Storage and Communication (I), Health and social work(N), Other community, Social and personal Service activities(O), Private Households with Employed Persons (P), Miscellaneous Labour work Other (C,E,Q), Mining & Quarrying (C) Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E), Extra Territorial Organization & bodies (Q), Industries not adequately described

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

In fourth quarter 2004, the highest percentage (34.5) of employed persons are engaged in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery, industries.

A majority of the females are engaged in Manufacturing sector industries, next to Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery industries.

About 58.9 percent of employed persons are employees and more than 79 percent of them are engaged in private sector employments.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of employed population by selected industry groups by quarter - 2004

Quarter	Total	Industry group				
		1	2	4	6	Other
**2004 1st Q	100.0	32.1	16.9	13.7	5.5	31.8
***2004 2nd Q	100.0	35.7	16.9	12.0	6.3	29.1
***2004 3rd Q	100.0	34.1	16.7	12.8	5.7	30.7
***2004 4th Q	100.0	34.5	17.1	12.2	5.5	30.8

** - Excluding Vavunia, Mulathivu, Kilinochchi districts.

*** All the districts are included

Industry group

- 1 Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)
- 2 Manufacturing (D)
- 4 Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods (G)
- 6 Transport, Storage and Communication (I)

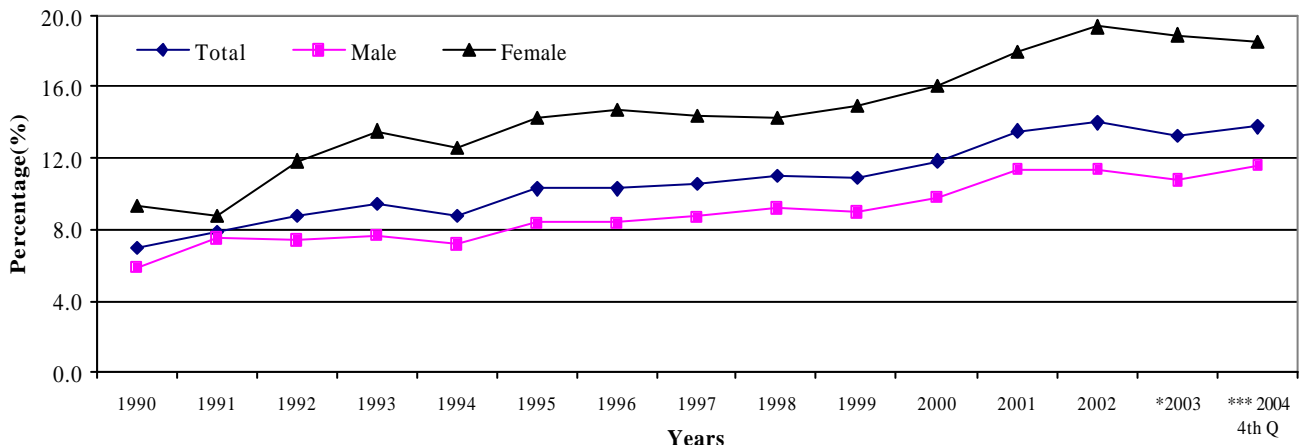
Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.3) are indicated as A,B,C.....Q. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

Considerable differences cannot be seen in distribution of employed population by industry groups in different quarters of 2004.

Table 8: Percentage Distribution of employed population by employment status & by sex – fourth quarter 2004

Employment status	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employee	58.9	58.9	59.0
Public	(12.2)	(11.4)	(13.9)
Private	(46.7)	(47.4)	(45.0)
Employer	2.4	3.1	1.0
Own account worker	28.8	32.8	20.1
Unpaid family worker	9.9	5.2	19.9

Figure 3: Percentage of employed population with education G.C.E.(A/L) & above & by sex overtime



* Excluding Northern province *** All the districts are included
(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

A marked increase in the proportion of educated females (G.C.E.(A/L) & above) among the employed, can be observed during the past 15 years period. The increase is from 9.3 percent in 1990 to 18.5 percent in 4th quarter 2004.

Selected Labour Force Indicators

	Year							
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004Q3***	2004Q4***
Labour force participation rate								
<i>by sex</i>								
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	47.8	48.8
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	65.7	67.0
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.0	31.7
<i>by residential sector</i>								
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	47.8	48.8
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	45.0	43.8
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	48.2	49.8
Unemployment rate								
<i>by sex</i>								
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.5	8.2
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.0
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	13.5	12.5
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>								
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	21.4	18.7
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	30.0	27.3
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.5	8.9
<i>by selected educational levels</i>								
G.C.E.(A/L) & above								
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	17.3	16.8
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	11.9	11.1
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	23.3
Employed population								
<i>by sex</i>								
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7304547	7495007
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	4991170	5113831
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2313377	2381177
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>								
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	37.4	39.3	36.0	32.6	34.5	34.0	34.1	34.5
Manufacturing	14.6	14.9	16.6	17.0	16.5	16.5	16.7	17.1
Other	48.0	45.8	47.4	50.4	49.1	49.5	49.2	48.4
<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
0 •	4.9	5.3	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	4.3	3.3
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.1
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	27.8	34.5
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	66.5	61.1

* Excluding Northern province

*** All the districts are included

(Before 2003, estimates excluded both Northern & Eastern provinces)

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