

Bulletin of Labour Force Statistics of Sri Lanka



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Third Quarter 2004

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 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 (Second quarter) - All 25 districts are covered.
- 2004 (Third 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 7983613 in the third quarter 2004. Of this number 5309677 are males & 2673936 are females.

Figure 1 : Changing pattern of labour force over time

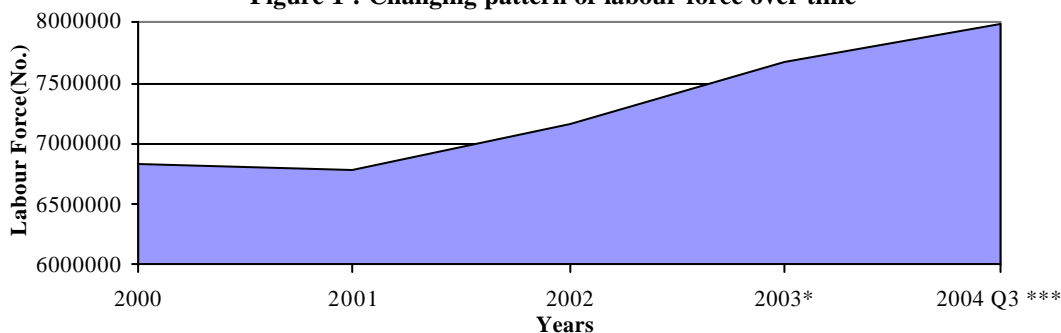


Table 1: Labour force by sex over time

Year	Labour force		
	Total	Male	Female
2000	6827312	4501597	2325716
2001	6772834	4529016	2243818
2002	7145382	4705586	2439796
2003*	7653716	5144206	2509510
2004 Q3 ***	7983613	5309677	2673936

* Excluding Northern province

*** All the districts are included

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

- Total Labour force increased by 4.3 percent during the period from 2003 to third quarter 2004. This increase is 3.2 percent and 6.5 percent for males & females respectively. (It should be noted that all the districts are included in the third quarter 2004.)

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

Age group(yr.)	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	47.8	65.7	31.0
15 - 19	23.1	27.5	18.6
20 - 24	66.0	83.7	48.1
25 - 29	69.5	95.0	44.6
30 - 39	67.3	96.3	42.9
40 +	50.1	72.7	29.8

- The overall labour force participation rate is reported as 47.8 in the third quarter 2004. The peak stage of labour force participation rate reported in the age group 25 - 29 yrs.

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

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

* Excluding Northern province

**Excluding Vavunia, Mulathivu and Kilinochchi districts

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

- The unemployment rate is reported as 8.5 percent in the third quarter 2004. It is 6.0 and 13.5 percent for males and females respectively. It shows a slight decline compared with the second quarter 2004.

Table 4: Percentage distribution of unemployed population by level of education - third quarter 2004

Sex	Total	Level of education			
		Below Gr. 5	Gr. 5 - 9	G.C.E.(O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) & above
Total	100.0	3.7	32.7	30.1	33.6
Male	100.0	4.6	40.6	28.2	26.6
Female	100.0	2.9	25.7	31.7	39.7

- The total number of unemployed persons are reported as 679066 in the third quarter 2004. Male & female numbers are 318507 and 360559 respectively

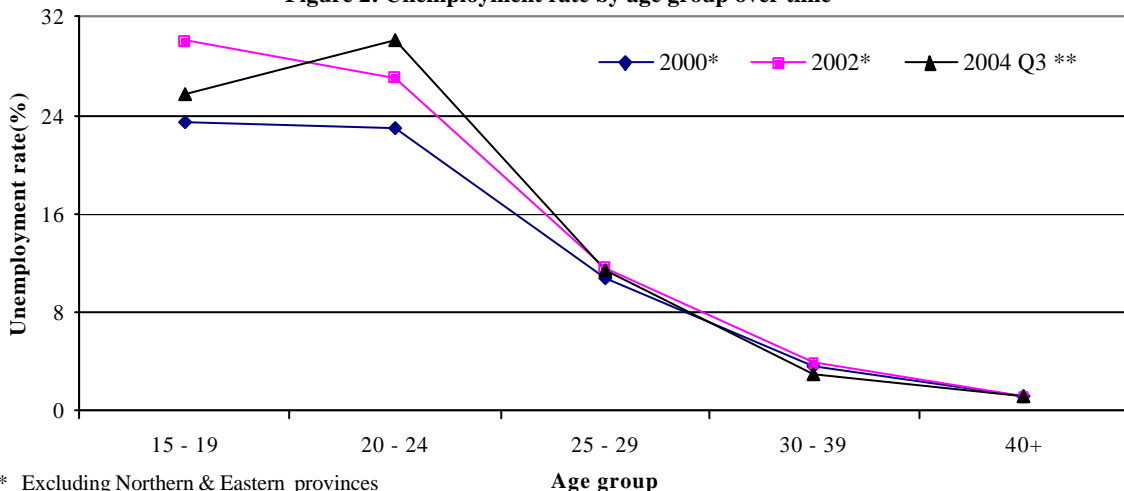
- Proportion of unemployed females who have attained qualifications G.C.E.(O/L) & above is about 72 percent while corresponding proportion of males is only about 55 percent.

Table 5: Unemployment rate by age & sex

Age group(yr.)	Total	Male	Female
Total	8.5	6.0	13.5
15 - 19	25.8	22.9	30.2
20 - 24	30.0	22.3	43.6
25 - 29	11.5	6.6	21.7
30 - 39	2.9	2.1	4.5
40 +	1.1	0.7	1.8

- Youths in 20 - 24 yrs age group have reported highest rate of unemployment in the third quarter 2004.
- The estimated unemployment rate is as high as 44 percent for the females of 20 - 24 yr. age group in the third quarter 2004.

Figure 2: Unemployment rate by age group over time



* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

** All the districts are included

- The unemployment rate of age 20 - 24 yrs shows marked increase in the third quarter 2004 compared with the previous years

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 7304547 in the third quarter 2004. Of this number 4091170 are males and 2313377 are females.

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of employed population by industry group & sex- third quarter 2004

Industry group	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A,B)	34.1	31.0	40.9
Manufacturing (D)	16.7	13.6	23.3
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Personal and Household Goods (G)	12.8	14.8	8.42
Financial Intermediation and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (J,K)	2.6	2.4	2.9
Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security(L)	7.0	7.9	5.2
Education (M)	3.6	1.7	7.8
*Other	23.15	28.6	11.3

*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.

About 34 percent of employed persons were agricultural related workers while another 30 percent of them have engaged in manufacturing and trade related activities taken together.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of employed population in selected industry groups by hours worked - Third quarter 2004.

Major industrial group	Total	0 *	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 & over
Total	100.0	4.3	1.4	4.9	9.8	13.1	35.1	31.5
1	100.0	6.3	2.0	9.0	14.6	17.5	35.2	15.4
2	100.0	2.5	1.2	3.1	8.5	9.8	39.7	35.3
4	100.0	2.4	0.6	2.5	5.9	8.4	26.9	53.2
6	100.0	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.8	4.2	26.3	63.6

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

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)

Table 8: Percentage Distribution of employed population by occupation & residential sector - third quarter 2004

Occupation Group	Total	Sector	
		Urban	Rural
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Senior Officials and Managers	1.8	4.7	1.4
Professionals	5.6	10.4	4.9
Technical and Associate Professionals	4.7	8.0	4.2
Clerks	4.1	8.5	3.5
Proprietors and Managers of Enterprises	5.9	10.2	5.3
Sale and Service workers	8.6	14.2	7.8
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers	20.7	6.2	22.8
Craft and Related workers	14.3	15.1	14.2
Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers	6.1	6.1	6.1
Elementary occupations	27.2	15.3	29.0
Unidentified	1.0	1.4	0.9

Note: It is to be noted here that these occupation groups are based on ISCO - 88, but they are not necessarily the major groups of ISCO - 88 classification.

- More than 50 percent of employed persons in rural sector were engaged in agricultural and elementary occupation activities . Corresponding proportion in urban sector is only 22 percent

- 66 percent of employed persons have worked 40 or more than 40 hours per week.

- Corresponding proportions are 90 percent and 80 percent in transport and trade sectors respectively.

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.

Selected Labour Force Indicators

	Year						
	1996*	1998*	2000*	2001*	2002*	2003**	2004Q3***
Labour force participation rate							
by sex							
Both sexes	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	47.8
Male	65.9	67.5	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	65.7
Female	31.6	36.4	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.0
by residential sector							
Total	48.6	51.7	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	47.8
Urban	44.4	45.2	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	45.0
Rural	49.5	52.7	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	48.2
Unemployment rate							
by sex							
Both sexes	11.3	9.2	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.5
Male	8.2	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0
Female	17.7	14.0	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	13.5
by selected age groups(yr)							
20 - 29	22.0	19.3	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	21.4
20 - 24	29.1	25.4	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	30.0
25 - 29	14.4	12.4	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.5
by selected educational levels							
G.C.E.(A/L) & above							
Both sexes	19.0	17.5	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	17.3
Male	10.1	9.4	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	11.9
Female	28.3	25.8	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8
Employed population							
by sex							
Both sexes	5536216	6049388	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7304547
Male	3856411	4004621	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	4991170
Female	1679805	2044767	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2313377
by industry (percentage)							
Total	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
Manufacturing	14.6	14.9	16.6	17.0	16.5	16.5	16.7
Other	48.0	45.8	47.4	50.4	49.1	49.5	49.2
by no. of hours worked per week (percentage)							
Total	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
1 - 9	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.4
10 - 39	32.0	32.9	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	27.8
40+	61.3	59.6	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	66.5

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

** Excluding Northern province

*** All the districts are included

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