



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 third quarter 2009 was done in July, August and September in year 2009. 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 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 - Third Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically active population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8121637	100.0	5198633	64.0	2923004	36.0
Urban	872526	100.0	575906	66.0	296620	34.0
Rural	6831428	100.0	4394977	64.3	2436451	35.7
Estate	417683	100.0	227750	54.5	189933	45.5

Table 2: Economically Inactive population by sex and sector - Third Quarter 2009

Sector	Economically inactive population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8545659	100.0	2652936	31.0	5892722	69.0
Urban	1071154	100.0	323468	30.2	747686	69.8
Rural	7156159	100.0	2200526	30.8	4955633	69.2
Estate	318346	100.0	128943	40.5	189403	59.5

The survey results revealed that (Table 1), the estimated economically active population (or labour force) was about 8.1 million in third quarter 2009. Of which 64.0 percent were males and 36.0 percent were females. Out of the economically inactive population 31.0 percent were males and 69.0 percent were females (Table 2).

Figure 1 : Distribution of Economically active/Inactive population

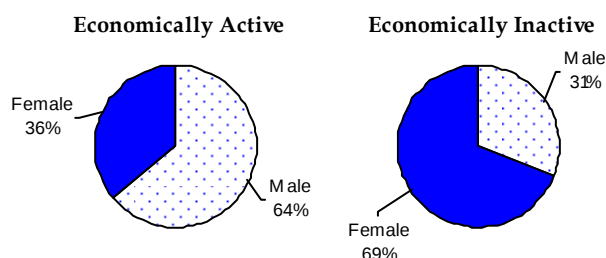


Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate by sex & year

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	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 Q1	49.9	67.4	34.3
2009 Q2	48.7	66.5	32.8
2009 Q3	49.3	66.3	34.3

* Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces

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 third quarter 2009 was about 66.3 percent and it was 34.3 percent for females. It was important to note that, male participation to the labour force was as twice as that of females.

Table 4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by age group & by sex - Third Quarter 2009

Age group	Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	48.7	66.2	33.2
15 - 19	19.9	25.8	14.1
20 - 24	58.0	77.2	42.2
25 - 29	64.7	90.4	42.6
30 - 34	68.6	94.9	45.0
35 - 39	69.6	96.0	48.1
40 - 44	70.5	95.3	49.5
45 - 49	71.9	95.2	50.6
50 - 54	67.2	89.9	47.7
55 - 59	58.6	80.7	38.0
60+	26.7	42.5	13.3

The distribution of labour force participation rate by age groups and by sex depicts more male participation compared to female in all age groups.

Highest male participation rate was reported from age group (35 - 39) while in female highest participation rate was reported from age group (45 - 49).

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, (Third quarter 2008 – Third Quarter 2009)

Year	Total	Major industry group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2008	7735132 100.0	2665917 34.5	2000537 25.9	3068678 39.7
Oct-Nov-Dec 4th Qtr - 2008	7712943 100.0	2617910 33.9	1960544 25.4	3134489 40.6
Jan-Feb-Mar 1st Qtr - 2009	7709784 100.0	2613350 33.9	1894279 24.6	3202155 41.5
April-May-June 2nd Qtr - 2009	7465030 100.0	2382913 31.9	1913893 25.6	3168224 42.4
July-Aug-Sept. 3rd Qtr - 2009	7641730 100.0	2426113 31.7	1912169 25.0	3303448 43.2

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

Agriculture

1. Agriculture (A)
2. Forestry and Fishery (B)

Industries

1. Manufacturing (D)
2. Construction (F)
3. Mining & Quarrying (C)
4. Electricity, Gas and Water supply (E)
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 Territorial Organizations & bodies (Q)
12. Industries not adequately described

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from third quarter 2008 to third quarter 2009. The total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka was estimated as about 7.6 million in third quarter 2009. Of which, about 43.2 percent engaged in services sector, 31.7 percent in agriculture sector, and 25.0 percent in Industries sector.

Table 6 : Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ non- agriculture sector - Third Quarter 2009

Employment Status	Total		Sector			
			Agriculture		Non Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7641730	100.0	2426113	31.7	5215617	68.3
Employee	4491301	100.0	794126	17.7	3697175	82.3
Public	1219097	100.0	179229	14.7	1039867	85.3
Private	3272204	100.0	614897	18.8	2657307	81.2
Employer	211577	100.0	34436	16.3	177141	83.7
Own account worker	2143753	100.0	1106607	51.6	1037146	48.4
Unpaid family worker	795099	100.0	490944	61.7	304155	38.3

Table 6 shows that, more than 82 percent 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 own account workers and unpaid family workers concentrated more in agriculture sector than in non-agriculture sector.

Table 7 : Distribution of Employed population by main industry & by sex - Third Quarter 2009

Major industry group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	31.7	29.7	35.5
Industry	25.0	24.8	25.5
Services	43.2	45.5	39.0

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 35.5 percent was in agriculture sector while this share was 29.7 percent for males.

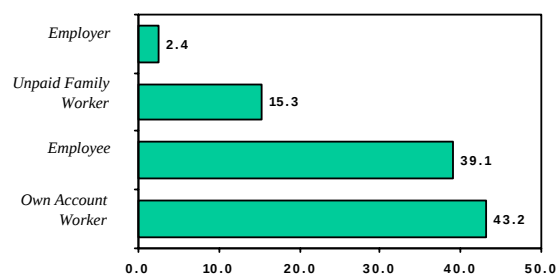
Table 8 : "Informal sector" employment by Agriculture/ Non-agriculture sector - Third Quarter 2009

Sector	Total	Agriculture	Non-agriculture
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Formal	38.7	16.6	48.9
Informal	61.3	83.4	51.1

It is also important to see the distribution of the employed population according to the formal and informal sector classification. Table 8 shows that, 61.3 percent of the total employment was in the informal sector. Further 83.4 percent of the agriculture sector employment was in informal sector, while it was 51.1 percent for non agriculture sector.

Further, 43.2 percent of those employed in the informal sector were own account workers, while 39.1 percent of them were paid employees. (Figure 2).

Figure 2 : Percentage Distribution of Informal sector employment by Employment status



Underemployment ⁽¹⁾

Table 9 : Underemployment rate by sex - Third Quarter 2009

Rate	Sex		Economic sector		Total
	Male	Female	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	
Underemployment rate	3.6	4.6	6.2	2.9	3.9

Table 9 reveals that, underemployment rate was higher for females (4.6%) than males (3.6%). And also it was higher in the agriculture sector (6.2%) than as that percentage in non-agriculture sector (2.9%).

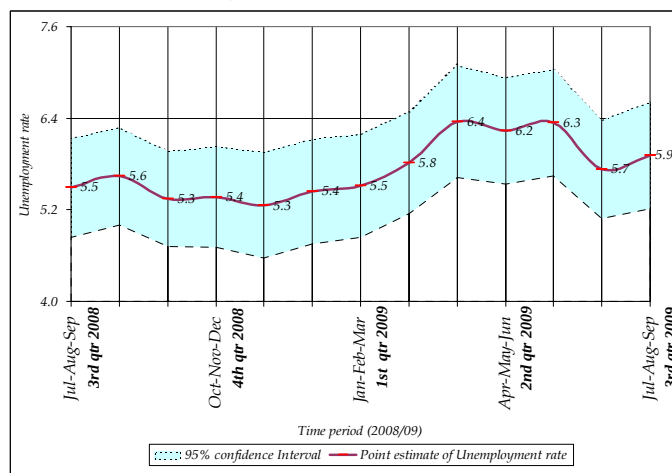
Note (1): Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site www.statistics.gov.lk for detailed concepts & definitions.

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 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals (2008 July - 2009 September)



The number of unemployed persons was estimated as about 480,000 during the third quarter 2009.

The unemployment rate for the third quarter 2009 was reported as 5.9 percent.

As seen in figure 3, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant difference between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2008/2009, when *sampling error*⁽²⁾ was considered.

Table 10 : Unemployment rate by level of education - Third Quarter 2009

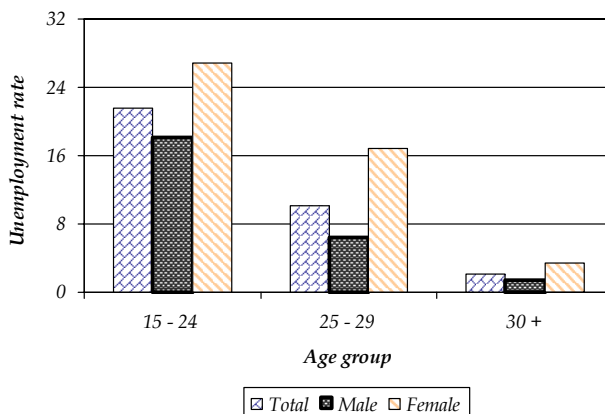
Level of Education	Unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	5.9	4.4	8.6
Below G.C.E. (O/L)	4.0	3.3	5.5
G.C.E. (O/L)	9.1	7.0	13.0
G.C.E. (A/L) & above	10.2	6.8	13.8



Table 11: Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Third Quarter 2009

Age group	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	5.9	4.4	8.6
15 - 24	21.5	18.1	26.9
25 - 29	10.1	6.5	16.9
30 +	2.2	1.5	3.4

Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by age group and sex - Third quarter 2009



As can be seen from table 11, overall the unemployment rate reported for females was 8.6 percent and 4.4 percent for males. Youth unemployment rate (15 - 24 yrs) reported for third quarter 2009 was 21.5. Highest unemployment rate was reported from age group (15 - 24 yrs), for both males (18.1) and females (26.9). 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 10.2 percent. There were 6.8 percent and 13.8 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 10).

Table 12: Literacy rate by sex & sector

Sex & sector	3 rd quarter 2008	3 rd quarter 2009
Total	90.3	91.6
Male	92.1	92.8
Female	88.7	90.5
Urban	91.5	95.5
Rural	91.1	91.9
Estate	73.2	76.6

Literacy ⁽³⁾

Table 12 shows that, during the third quarter of 2009, the literacy rate was about 91.6, and also the male literacy rate (92.8) was higher than that of females (90.5). Further, the survey results revealed that literacy level of estate sector (76.6) was relatively lower than urban (95.5) and rural (91.9) sectors.

⁽²⁾ 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.**

⁽³⁾ Please see the explanatory note under 'labour force' link in the DCS web site www.statistics.gov.lk for detailed concepts & definitions.

Selected Labour Force indicators (Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces)
(2000 - 2009 Q3)

	Year												
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009Q1	2009Q2	2008Q3	2009Q3	*2009Q3
Labour force participation rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	48.7	51.1	49.3	48.7
Male	66.2	67.9	67.5	67.2	67.3	68.1	67.8	67.9	67.4	66.5	69.1	66.3	66.2
Female	31.9	33.6	32.6	33.0	32.6	35.7	33.4	34.3	34.3	32.8	34.9	34.3	33.2
<i>by residential sector</i>													
Total	48.8	50.3	49.7	49.6	49.3	51.2	49.8	50.2	49.9	48.7	51.1	49.3	48.7
Urban	44.2	46.0	45.1	45.6	46.2	45.3	45.0	46.3	44.5	41.0	46.6	45.8	44.9
Rural	49.6	50.9	50.3	50.3	49.7	52.1	50.4	50.7	50.6	49.7	51.7	49.7	49.2
Unemployment rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	7.9	8.8	8.1	8.1	7.2	6.5	6.0	5.2	5.3	6.3	5.2	5.8	5.9
Male	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.6	4.1	4.7	3.8	4.4	4.4
Female	11.5	12.9	12.3	12.1	10.7	9.7	9.0	8.0	7.5	9.1	7.8	8.1	8.6
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>													
20 - 29	18.4	20.1	19.1	18.6	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.2	14.8	15.5	14.1	15.3	15.5
20 - 24	24.4	27.0	25.8	25.2	22.4	21.0	21.1	17.8	19.7	22.0	18.0	21.6	21.9
25 - 29	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.1	9.4	11.0	9.4	9.0	10.4	10.2	9.3	9.9	10.1
<i>by selected educational levels</i>													
G.C.E.(A/L) & above													
Both sexes	15.3	16.8	16.0	15.7	12.2	11.6	11.8	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.2
Male	10.1	10.8	10.1	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.6	5.6	7.4	3.9	6.1	6.9	6.8
Female	21.5	23.0	22.4	22.5	17.1	16.8	17.5	14.4	12.8	17.4	15.2	13.7	13.8
Employed population													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706.2	7250951	6998591	7192034	7183604	7641730
Male	4248877	4395164	4496136	4512082	4546397	4610643	4653067	4663277.5	4669522	4574261	4669346	4598416	4970147
Female	1986711	2124250	2113330	2191924	2241722	2494679	2388807	2511428.7	2581429	2424330	2522687	2585188	2671584
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>													
Total	6235588	6519415	6609466	6704006	6788119	7105322	7041874	7174706.2	7250951	6998591	7192034	7183604	7641730
%	(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)
Agriculture	2033343	2247602	2223691	2215282	2059293	2287268	2202098	2344414.8	2459978	2226901	2494966	2292224	2426113
%	(32.6)	(34.5)	(33.6)	(33.0)	(30.3)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.7)	(33.9)	(31.8)	(34.7)	(31.9)	(31.7)
Industry	1491408	1459194	1539035	1663383	1787274	1889953	1873857	1888003.5	1806035	1803556	1878184	1833177	1912169
%	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.3)	(24.8)	(26.3)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.3)	(24.9)	(25.8)	(26.1)	(25.5)	(25.0)
Services	2710837	2812619	2846740	2825341	2941552	2928101	2965919	2942288	2984938	2968134	2818883	3058203	3303448
%	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.1)	(42.1)	(43.3)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.0)	(41.2)	(42.4)	(39.2)	(42.6)	(43.2)
<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	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	4.3	5.6	7.3	5.3	4.9	6.7	6.5	7.4	5.3	13.7	6.7	6.8	7.0
1 - 9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.2	1.8	1.9	1.8
10 - 39	28.2	32.0	32.9	28.4	27.9	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.3	31.2	26.6	27.8	27.7
40+	66.1	60.9	58.0	64.7	65.7	62.8	63.7	61.2	63.3	51.8	64.8	63.4	63.6

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

* Including Eastern province

Note: However it is to be noted that the difference between corresponding figures in any given two quarters may not necessarily be statistically significant.

Selected Labour Force indicators (2000 - 2009 Q3)

	Year												
	2000#	2001#	2002#	2003*	2004**	2005***	2006 #	2007#	2008*	2009Q1*	2009Q2*	*2008Q3	*2009Q3
Labour force participation rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	48.3	50.3	48.7
Male	67.2	66.2	67.9	67.2	66.7	67.1	68.1	67.8	67.8	67.2	66.6	69.0	66.2
Female	33.9	31.9	33.6	31.4	31.5	30.9	35.7	33.4	33.2	33.3	32.0	33.5	33.2
<i>by residential sector</i>													
Total	50.3	48.8	50.3	48.9	48.6	48.3	51.2	49.8	49.5	49.2	48.3	50.3	48.7
Urban	44.9	44.2	46.0	44.4	44.9	45.5	45.3	45.0	45.9	44.0	41.3	45.4	44.9
Rural	51.2	49.6	50.9	49.6	49.2	48.7	52.1	50.4	50.0	50.0	49.2	51.0	49.2
Unemployment rate													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	6.2	5.5	5.9
Male	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.6	3.9	4.4
Female	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.2	12.8	11.9	9.7	9.0	8.4	7.9	9.2	8.4	8.6
<i>by selected age groups(yr)</i>													
20 - 29	17.4	18.4	20.1	19.4	19.2	17.2	15.9	15.0	13.7	15.2	15.2	14.0	15.5
20 - 24	23.0	24.4	27.0	26.4	25.9	24.6	21.0	21.1	18.1	20.3	21.6	18.2	21.9
25 - 29	10.9	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.4	9.5	11.0	9.4	9.5	10.7	9.9	10.2	10.1
<i>by selected educational levels</i>													
G.C.E.(A/L) & above													
Both sexes	14.9	15.3	16.8	16.5	16.8	13.8	11.6	11.8	10.5	10.6	10.4	11.8	10.2
Male	8.8	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.5	8.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	7.8	4.3	6.9	6.8
Female	21.5	21.5	23.0	23.3	23.8	19.1	16.8	17.5	15.3	13.4	17.1	17.4	13.8
Employed population													
<i>by sex</i>													
Both sexes	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7440226	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7465030	7735132	7641730
Male	4241546	4248877	4395164	4833483	5087861	5134765	4610643	4653067	5033449	5015959	4925869	5094909	4970147
Female	2068701	1986711	2124250	2179272	2352365	2383241	2494679	2388807	2614856	2693825	2539160	2640222	2671584
<i>by industry (percentage)</i>													
Total	6310247	6235588	6519415	7012755	7394029	7518007	7105322	7041874	7648305	7709784	7465030	7735132	7641730
%	(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)
Agriculture	2274153	2033343	2247602	2384397	2474725	2306039	2287268	2202098	2489731	2613350	2382913	2665917	2426113
%	(36.0)	(32.6)	(34.5)	(34.0)	(33.5)	(30.7)	(32.2)	(31.3)	(32.6)	(33.9)	(31.9)	(34.5)	(31.7)
Industry	1490795	1491408	1459194	1611493	1781447	1928014	1889953	1873857	2004880	1894279	1913893	2000537	1912169
%	(23.6)	(23.9)	(22.4)	(23.0)	(24.1)	(25.6)	(26.6)	(26.6)	(26.2)	(24.6)	(25.6)	(25.9)	(25.0)
Services	2545299	2710837	2812619	3016866	3137857	3283954	2928101	2965919	3153693	3202155	3168224	3068678	3303448
%	(40.3)	(43.5)	(43.1)	(43.0)	(42.4)	(43.7)	(41.2)	(42.1)	(41.2)	(41.5)	(42.4)	(39.7)	(43.2)
<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	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0 •	7.2	4.3	5.6	7.5	5.2	4.7	6.7	6.5	7.2	5.4	13.4	6.7	7.0
1 - 9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.1	3.1	1.7	1.8
10 - 39	32.7	28.2	32.0	32.6	28.7	27.6	28.6	28.3	28.9	29.0	31.2	26.6	27.7
40+	58.2	66.1	60.9	58.1	64.5	66.2	62.8	63.7	61.7	63.5	52.3	65.0	63.6

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

*Excluding Northern province

***All the districts are included

** Excluding Mullativu & Kilinochchi districts # Excluding Northern & Eastern provinces