



Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey

Quarterly Report

4th Quarter - 2024

SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Quarterly Report – 2024
Fourth Quarter

Department of Census and Statistics
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

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Preface

Department of Census and Statistics has a long history of conducting the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Sri Lanka. For instance, before 1990 this survey was conducted at every five yearly time intervals and from 1990 onward it was conducted as a regular survey to provide quarterly and annual labour force indicators. Labour Force Surveys provide various labour force indicators including employment and unemployment status of the country. Specially the survey provides necessary information to compile GDP and other important economic indicators of the country.

Various improvements were incorporated into the LFS during past period without breaking its core concepts and definitions which were used since 1990. In 2006, new modules were added to the LFS to capture the information on computer literacy, household economic activities and informal sector employment. The structure of the LFS questionnaire which was used during 2006-2012 was revised in 2013 with new improvements for concepts and classifications used. It is important to note that in 2013 the definition of working age population was revised from age ten and above population to age fifteen and above population.

In 2016, published labour force estimates from 2011 to 2015 were revised according to the population estimates of the Census of Population and Housing which was conducted in 2012. This revision was done along with the international best practices.

Another major achievement for data collection for LFS was taken place in 2017 with the introduction of Computer Assisted Data Collection (CAPI) using tablet computers. Before 2017 enumerators used paper based method and used survey questionnaires to record the answers given by the respondents. A known probability sampling technique is used to select the sample and the annual labour force indicators are compiled using 25,750 housing units covering the entire country. The enumerators who are permanent officers of the Department visited each of these randomly selected housing units to collect the information with a great effort. The field work of the survey for the fourth quarter 2024 was done in the month of October, November and December in year 2024. This report is based on the data collected in quarterly sample of 6,430 housing units.

I hope the information in this report is very valuable and useful to make evidence based decisions for various users to identify the issues as well as the changes in the labour market of Sri Lanka.

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Acknowledgements

This report is the hundred and thirty three in the series of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey which was commenced from the first quarter of 1990 and is being continued by the Department of Census and Statistics.

Planning and execution of the survey was done by the staff of the Sample Surveys Division under the guidance of Ms. K.M.D.S.D. Karunaratne, Additional Director General (Statistics) and Mr. S.H. Mansoor, Director (Statistics) and under the direction of Mr. W. Gnanathilaka and Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Deputy Directors, Sample Surveys Division.

The survey activities were organized and supervised by Ms. H.M.D. Sepalika, Mr. T.D.M.S.D. Perera, Ms. U.S. Dilrukshi, Mr. L.S.N. Perera, Ms. M.W.L.C.M. Chandrarathne, Ms. M.M.G.D Manamperi, Ms. R.P.M. Subhashini, Mr. H.M.S.C. Bandara and Ms. A.H.L.T. Sandaruwini, Statisticians, of the Sample Surveys Division.

The computer data processing and final tabulations were done by Mr. A.M.A.E. Atapattu Statistical Officer of the Sample Surveys Division, under the supervision of Mr. T.D.M.S.D. Perera, Statistician. The Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants, Development Officers, Information and Communication Technology Assistants and Data Entry Operators/ Coding Clerks of the Sample Survey Division are acknowledged for their valuable contribution during the whole survey process.

The Information & Communication Technology Division, Mr. K.L.C.S. Weerasooriya, Additional Director General (ICT) and Mr. E.M.D. Ekanayake, Director (ICT) were responsible for implementing CAPI methodology and preparation of data collection and computer edits programmes. Maintaining of sample selection programme and its related computer software was done by Mr. P.D.D. Peiris, Director (ICT).

This publication was organized and prepared by Mr. T.D.M.S.D. Perera, Statistician, Sample Surveys Division, assisted by Mr. A.M.A.E. Atapattu Statistical Officer, under the guidance of Mr. S.H. Mansoor, Director (Statistics) and Dr(Ms). M.D.D.D. Deepawansa, Deputy Director (Statistics), Sample Surveys Division.

District staff of the Department who worked on the survey deserves a special word of thanks. The Deputy Directors/ Senior Statisticians/ Statisticians supervised the survey and field Statistical Officers, worked hard at the data collection stage, to make this survey a success. Printing of the report was done by the staff of Printing Division, under the supervision of Mr. M.L.K.P. Kumara, Statistician and under the direction of Ms. U.V. Jayakody, Director (Statistics).

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to all the respondents of the survey for their valuable cooperation.

Selected Labour Force Indicators

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022Q4	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4
Labour force participation rate										
By Gender										
Total	50.6	49.9	49.8	48.6	48.9	47.1	47.1	47.8	46.9	47.7
Male	71.9	71.0	70.5	68.6	69.0	67.4	67.2	68.1	66.8	67.6
Female	32.0	31.8	32.1	31.3	31.6	29.4	29.6	30.0	29.4	30.3
By residential sector										
Total	50.6	49.9	49.8	48.6	48.9	47.1	47.1	47.8	46.9	47.7
Urban	47.0	46.9	47.2	46.0	45.9	44.4	46.3	45.4	43.4	42.2
Rural	51.3	50.5	50.3	49.1	49.5	47.6	47.2	48.3	47.7	48.9
Unemployment Rate										
By Gender										
Total	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.2
Male	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.1	3.1	3.6	2.6	2.8
Female	8.5	7.9	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.8	7.4	7.0	7.2	6.9
By selected age Group (Year)										
20 - 29	18.1	18.3	16.2	17.0	17.2	16.6	16.8	16.9	15.8	15.2
20 - 24	25.2	26.8	21.8	21.6	23.3	20.0	20.7	23.7	19.9	18.5
25 - 29	12.0	11.4	11.7	13.0	12.3	13.6	13.7	11.2	12.4	12.7
By selected educational level										
GCE A/L and above										
Total	9.8	9.1	7.8	8.0	7.2	7.1	8.3	7.8	7.8	7.1
Male	6.2	6.2	5.5	5.8	5.2	5.5	5.8	5.8	5.6	4.7
Female	13.6	12.2	10.1	10.2	9.3	8.9	11.0	10.0	10.3	10.0
Employed population										
By Gender										
Total	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	8,015,006	7,819,131	7,901,693	7,988,626	7,838,793	8,069,891
Male	5,372,947	5,414,280	5,373,965	5,307,563	5,279,881	5,269,831	5,320,151	5,379,472	5,310,683	5,423,908
Female	2,626,146	2,699,228	2,773,766	2,702,354	2,735,125	2,549,300	2,581,542	2,609,154	2,528,110	2,645,983
By industry (Percentage)										
Total	7,999,093	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	8,015,006	7,819,131	7,901,693	7,988,626	7,838,793	8,069,891
%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	2,169,679	2,213,015	2,158,559	2,088,344	2,258,476	2,075,112	2,039,574	2,000,744	2,066,789	2,159,496
%	27.1	27.3	26.5	26.1	28.2	26.5	25.8	25.0	26.4	26.8
Industry	2,152,746	2,109,482	2,158,199	2,043,154	1,946,352	1,977,017	1,949,786	2,116,002	1,988,578	2,071,302
%	26.9	26.0	26.5	25.5	24.3	25.3	24.7	26.5	25.4	25.7
Services	3,676,668	3,791,011	3,830,973	3,878,418	3,810,178	3,767,002	3,912,333	3,871,880	3,783,426	3,839,094
%	46.0	46.7	47.0	48.4	47.5	48.2	49.5	48.5	48.3	47.6
By no. of hours worked per week (percentage)										
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0*	14.6	9.6	5.8	4.2	4.9	3.0	2.7	4.0	1.9	1.2
1 - 9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.4	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.6
10 - 39	27.1	29.6	31.9	31.2	31.6	31.0	29.7	29.4	27.1	26.9
40 & above	56.2	58.7	60.3	62.1	61.7	64.0	65.8	64.3	69.2	70.3

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

Note : Working age population considered as (age 15 & over population)

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey 2024 Fourth Quarter Summary Statistics on Labour Force Characteristics

15 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (15 years & over)	17,640,423	8,247,612	9,392,811	3,034,917	14,605,506
Labour force in this age group	8,421,180	5,577,872	2,843,307	1,281,908	7,139,272
Labour force participation rate	47.7	67.6	30.3	42.2	48.9
Employed population	8,069,891	5,423,908	2,645,983	1,237,751	6,832,141
Employment rate	95.8	97.2	93.1	96.6	95.7
Unemployed population	351,288	153,964	197,324	44,157	307,131
Unemployment rate	4.2	2.8	6.9	3.4	4.3
Not in labour force	9,219,244	2,669,740	6,549,504	1,753,009	7,466,235

18 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (18 years & over)	16,550,903	7,712,911	8,837,992	2,848,085	13,702,817
Labour force in this age group	8,388,744	5,553,467	2,835,277	1,276,422	7,112,323
Labour force participation rate	50.7	72.0	32.1	44.8	51.9
Employed population	8,045,477	5,404,342	2,641,135	1,232,265	6,813,212
Employment rate	95.9	97.3	93.2	96.5	95.8
Unemployed population	343,267	149,125	194,142	44,157	299,110
Unemployment rate	4.1	2.7	6.8	3.5	4.2
Not in labour force	8,162,159	2,159,443	6,002,715	1,571,664	6,590,495

20 years & over population

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Population (20 years & over)	15,868,422	7,384,503	8,483,919	2,719,108	13,149,314
Labour force in this age group	8,278,417	5,475,431	2,802,986	1,256,995	7,021,422
Labour force participation rate	52.2	74.1	33.0	46.2	53.4
Employed population	7,964,085	5,343,182	2,620,903	1,218,097	6,745,988
Employment rate	96.2	97.6	93.5	96.9	96.1
Unemployed population	314,331	132,249	182,083	38,898	275,433
Unemployment rate	3.8	2.4	6.5	3.1	3.9
Not in labour force	7,590,005	1,909,072	5,680,933	1,462,113	6,127,892

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Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes

Appendix 2: Alternative estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics

Labour Force

All persons aged 15 years & over who are currently economically active during the reference period (Labour Force = employed persons + unemployed persons)

Reference Period:

Previous week of the survey week
(3rd week of every month)

Labour force participation rate (LFPR)

Labour force as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over.

Labour Force (Economically Active Population)

Table 1: Economically active population by gender and sector, fourth quarter - 2024

Sector	Economically Active Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	8,421,180	100	5,577,872	66.2	2,843,307	33.8
Urban	1,281,908	100	892,352	69.6	389,556	30.4
Rural	6,788,929	100	4,475,030	65.9	2,313,899	34.1
Estate	350,342	100	210,490	60.1	139,853	39.9

Table 2: Economically inactive population by gender and sector, fourth quarter - 2024

Sector	Economically Inactive Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Sri Lanka	9,219,244	100	2,669,740	29.0	6,549,504	71.0
Urban	1,753,009	100	528,136	30.1	1,224,874	69.9
Rural	7,114,193	100	2,009,210	28.2	5,104,983	71.8
Estate	352,042	100	132,394	37.6	219,648	62.4

According to the Table 1, the estimated economically active population is about 8.4 million in the fourth quarter 2024. Of which 66.2 percent are males and 33.8 percent are females. The economically inactive population is about 9.2 million. Out of the economically inactive population 29.0 percent are males and 71.0 percent are females (Table 2).

Table 3: LFPR by gender and year, 2020 - 2024Q4

Year	Total	Male	Female
2020	50.6	71.9	32.0
2021	49.9	71.0	31.8
2022	49.8	70.5	32.1
2023	48.6	68.6	31.3
2022 Q4	48.9	69.0	31.6
2023 Q4	47.1	67.4	29.4
2024 Q1	47.1	67.2	29.6
2024 Q2	47.8	68.1	30.0
2024 Q3	46.9	66.8	29.4
2024 Q4	47.7	67.6	30.3

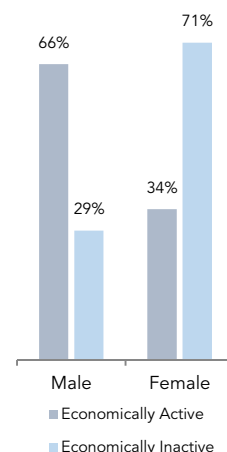
Table 3 provides the information on LFPRs by gender since year 2020. Referring the Table 3, it is important to note that, male participation to the labour force is always higher than that of female.

Table 4: LFPR by age group and gender, fourth quarter - 2024

Age group (Years)	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	47.7	67.6	30.3
15 - 19	8.1	11.9	4.4*
20 - 24	42.6	55.4	31.5
25 - 29	67.9	88.6	47.7
30 - 34	69.9	92.5	49.2
35 - 39	66.9	93.4	42.9
40 - 44	66.3	95.4	44.4
45 - 49	67.5	94.6	42.6
50 - 54	65.1	91.8	39.9
55 - 59	58.0	84.0	36.0
60+	27.2	43.3	13.6

*These Figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of Variation) Values are high.

Figure 1: Distribution of economically active vs inactive population, fourth quarter 2024



Considering the Table 4, the distribution of LFPR by age group and by gender depicts high male participation compared to female in all age groups. The highest participation rate for male is reported from age group 40 - 44 years (95.4%), while that for female is reported from 30 - 34 age group (49.2%).

Employment**Employed**

Persons, who worked at least one hour during the reference period, as paid employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers are said to be employed. This also includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.

Employment Rate

The proportion of employed population to the total labour force.

Table 5: Distribution of employed population by main industry (fourth quarter 2023 - fourth quarter 2024)

Quarter	Sri Lanka	Major Industry Group		
		Agriculture	Industries	Services
2023 Q4	7,819,131	2,075,112	1,977,017	3,767,002
(%)	100.0	26.5	25.3	48.2
2024 Q1	7,901,693	2,039,574	1,949,786	3,912,333
(%)	100.0	25.8	24.7	49.5
2024 Q2	7,988,626	2,000,744	2,116,002	3,871,880
(%)	100.0	25.0	26.5	48.5
2024 Q3	7,838,793	2,066,789	1,988,578	3,783,426
(%)	100.0	26.4	25.4	48.3
2024 Q4	8,069,891	2,159,496	2,071,302	3,839,094
(%)	100.0	26.8	25.7	47.6

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of employed population by main industry from fourth quarter 2023 to fourth quarter 2024. During fourth quarter of 2024, the total number of employed persons in Sri Lanka is estimated as 8.1 million. Of which, about 47.6 percent engaged in service sector, 26.8 percent in agriculture sector and 25.7 percent in industry sector. In the fourth quarter of 2024, there are increases in employed persons in all sectors compared to the fourth quarter of 2023.

Main industry categories and sub sectors

Agriculture

Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

Industries

1. Mining & Quarrying (B)
2. Manufacturing (C)
3. Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E, F)

Services

1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative and support service activities (N)
8. Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)
9. Education (P)
10. Human health and social work activities (Q)
11. Other service activities (S)
12. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Table 6: Distribution of employed population by employment status in agriculture and non - agriculture sectors, fourth quarter - 2024

Employment Status	Sector					
	Sri Lanka		Agriculture		Non-Agriculture	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	8,069,891	100.0	2,159,496	26.8	5,910,395	73.2
Employee	4,826,117	100.0	762,609	15.8	4,063,508	84.2
Public	1,233,472	100.0	52,256	4.2	1,181,216	95.8
Private	3,592,644	100.0	710,353	19.8	2,882,292	80.2
Employer	226,867	100.0	24,940*	11.0*	201,927	89.0
Own Account Worker	2,582,708	100.0	1,102,546	42.7	1,480,161	57.3
Contributing Family Worker	434,200	100.0	269,402	62.0	164,799	38.0

*These Figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of Variation) Values are high.

According to the Table 6 Majority of the workforce are private sector employees followed by own account workers. Non agriculture sector covers 73.2 percent of employed population in Sri Lanka, employees and own account workers are highly constraining in that sector.

Table 7 depicts the percentage distribution of male and female employed population by main industry sectors. Highest employment share is in service sector and this is true for both male & female, while the lowest shares are for industry sector. Among employed females 24.8 percent is in agriculture sector while this share is 27.7 percent for males.

Figure 2 : Distribution of employed population by employment status and Agriculture/ Non- Agriculture sector, fourth quarter - 2024

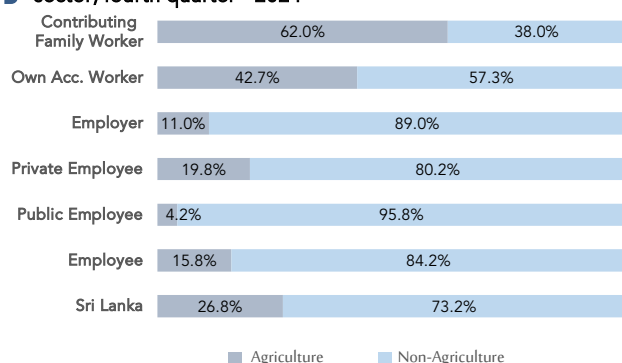


Table 7: Percentage distribution of Employed population by major industry group & gender, fourth quarter – 2024

Major Industry group	Sri Lanka	Gender	
		Male	Female
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	26.8	27.7	24.8
Industry	25.7	26.2	24.6
Services	47.6	46.1	50.7

Unemployment

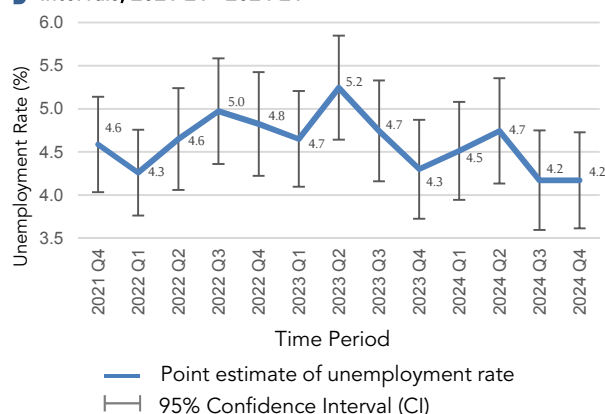
Unemployed

Persons available and/or looking for work, and who did not work and taken steps to find a job during last four weeks and ready to accept a job given a work opportunity within next two weeks are defined as be unemployed.

Unemployment Rate

The proportion of unemployed population to the total labour force.

Figure 3 : Unemployment rates and it's 95% confidence intervals, 2021Q4 - 2024Q4



The number of unemployed persons is estimated as 351,288 during the fourth quarter 2024. The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter 2024 is 4.2 percent.

As shown in Figure 3, it is very important to note that, when the changes in unemployment rate is explained the corresponding sampling errors¹ and the confidence limits need to be considered.

Table 8: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by age group and gender, fourth quarter - 2024

Age group (Years)	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	351,288	4.2	2.8	6.9
15 - 24	153,658	19.8	16.3	25.7
25 - 29	106,703	12.7	7.5	22.0
Over 30	90,927	1.3	0.8*	2.5

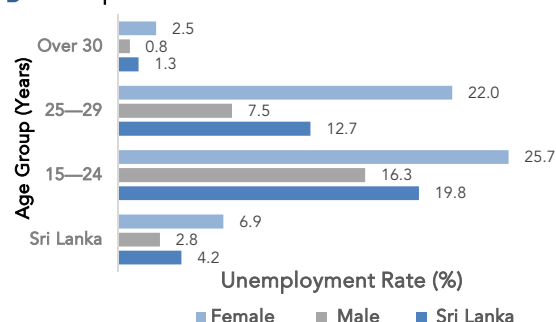
*These Figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of Variation) Values are high.

1 Sampling error

When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, estimates differ from the true values of population they represent. This difference, or sampling error, occurs by chance, and its variability is measured by the sampling error of the estimate.

For more details, please refer the explanatory note given under the labour force link in the DCS website; www.statistics.gov.lk

Figure 4 : Unemployment rate by age group and gender, fourth quarter 2024



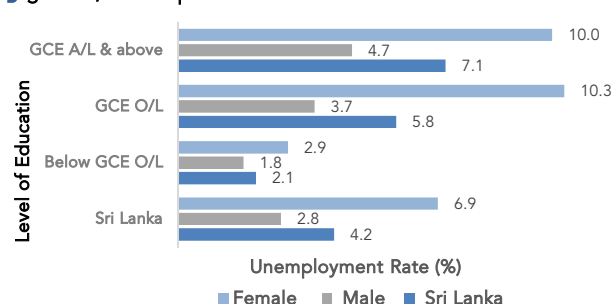
As per the table 8, overall unemployment rate reported for female is 6.9 percent and it is 2.8 percent for male. Youth unemployment rate (age 15 – 24 years) corresponding to the fourth quarter 2024 is 19.8 percent and that is the highest reported unemployment rate among all age groups. Further the unemployment rates for males and females are 16.3 and 25.7 percent respectively for age group 15 - 24.

The survey results further reveals that the unemployment among females is higher than that of males, in all age groups. Youth and female unemployment contribute more to the overall unemployment of the country.

Table 9: Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by level of education, fourth quarter - 2024

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Sri Lanka	Gender		
	Number	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	351,288	4.2	2.8	6.9
Below GCE O/L	94,696	2.1	1.8	2.9
GCE O/L	95,628	5.8	3.7	10.3
GCE A/L & above	160,964	7.1	4.7	10.0

Figure 5 : Unemployment rate by level of education and gender, fourth quarter 2024



The highest unemployment rate is reported from the G.C.E.(A/L) and above group which is 7.1 percent. Corresponding percentages are 4.7 percent and 10.0 percent for males and females respectively. Female unemployment rates are higher than those of males in all levels of education.

Survey results further shows that the problem of unemployment is more acute in the case of educated females than educated males, which was observed consistently over the results of previous survey rounds as well.

Table 1 – Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Both sexes

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Labour force				Not in labour force Number
				Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	
2016	15,448,679	8,310,682	53.8	7,947,683	95.6	362,999	4.4	7,137,997
2017	15,843,735	8,566,686	54.1	8,208,179	95.8	358,507	4.2	7,277,049
2018	16,196,232	8,387,759	51.8	8,015,166	95.6	372,593	4.4	7,808,473
2019	16,424,016	8,592,010	52.3	8,180,693	95.2	411,318	4.8	7,832,006
2020	16,739,396	8,466,606	50.6	7,999,093	94.5	467,513	5.5	8,272,790
2021	17,133,659	8,553,290	49.9	8,113,507	94.9	439,783	5.1	8,580,369
2022	17,161,973	8,547,062	49.8	8,147,731	95.3	399,332	4.7	8,614,911
2023	17,306,492	8,408,331	48.6	8,009,916	95.3	398,415	4.7	8,898,161
2022Q4	17,230,431	8,421,185	48.9	8,015,006	95.2	406,179	4.8	8,809,246
2023Q4	17,353,546	8,170,434	47.1	7,819,131	95.7	351,303	4.3	9,183,112
2024Q1	17,575,175	8,275,154	47.1	7,901,693	95.5	373,461	4.5	9,300,021
2024Q2	17,548,937	8,386,482	47.8	7,988,626	95.3	397,855	4.7	9,162,455
2024Q3	17,426,919	8,179,992	46.9	7,838,793	95.8	341,199	4.2	9,246,927
2024Q4	17,640,423	8,421,180	47.7	8,069,891	95.8	351,288	4.2	9,219,244

Table 1 A– Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Male

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Labour force				Not in labour force Number
				Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	
2016	7,064,736	5,303,502	75.1	5,149,948	97.1	153,554	2.9	1,761,234
2017	7,292,047	5,434,510	74.5	5,279,158	97.1	155,352	2.9	1,857,537
2018	7,488,320	5,464,236	73.0	5,300,310	97.0	163,926	3.0	2,024,084
2019	7,610,113	5,554,192	73.0	5,368,896	96.7	185,296	3.3	2,055,920
2020	7,788,634	5,598,004	71.9	5,372,947	96.0	225,057	4.0	2,190,629
2021	7,915,659	5,621,223	71.0	5,414,280	96.3	206,943	3.7	2,294,436
2022	7,914,636	5,580,786	70.5	5,373,965	96.3	206,822	3.7	2,333,850
2023	8,024,760	5,503,595	68.6	5,307,563	96.4	196,032	3.6	2,521,164
2022Q4	7,964,308	5,494,878	69.0	5,279,881	96.1	214,997	3.9	2,469,430
2023Q4	8,063,535	5,436,230	67.4	5,269,831	96.9	166,399	3.1	2,627,306
2024Q1	8,167,457	5,488,120	67.2	5,320,151	96.9	167,969	3.1	2,679,336
2024Q2	8,194,669	5,580,419	68.1	5,379,472	96.4	200,947	3.6	2,614,250
2024Q3	8,170,937	5,455,198	66.8	5,310,683	97.4	144,514	2.6	2,715,739
2024Q4	8,247,612	5,577,872	67.6	5,423,908	97.2	153,964	2.8	2,669,740

Table 1B – Historical table of labour force status (current) of the household population, 15 years of age and over - Female

Year	Household population: (15 years & over)	Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Labour force				Not in labour force Number
				Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	Number	Rate (% to total labour force)	
2016	8,383,943	3,007,180	35.9	2,797,735	93.0	209,445	7.0	5,376,764
2017	8,551,688	3,132,176	36.6	2,929,021	93.5	203,155	6.5	5,419,512
2018	8,707,912	2,923,523	33.6	2,714,855	92.9	208,667	7.1	5,784,390
2019	8,813,903	3,037,818	34.5	2,811,796	92.6	226,022	7.4	5,776,085
2020	8,950,763	2,868,602	32.0	2,626,146	91.5	242,456	8.5	6,082,161
2021	9,218,000	2,932,067	31.8	2,699,228	92.1	232,840	7.9	6,285,933
2022	9,247,337	2,966,276	32.1	2,773,766	93.5	192,510	6.5	6,281,061
2023	9,281,733	2,904,736	31.3	2,702,354	93.0	202,382	7.0	6,376,997
2022Q4	9,266,123	2,926,307	31.6	2,735,125	93.5	191,182	6.5	6,339,815
2023Q4	9,290,011	2,734,204	29.4	2,549,300	93.2	184,904	6.8	6,555,807
2024Q1	9,407,718	2,787,034	29.6	2,581,542	92.6	205,492	7.4	6,620,684
2024Q2	9,354,267	2,806,062	30.0	2,609,154	93.0	196,908	7.0	6,548,205
2024Q3	9,255,983	2,724,794	29.4	2,528,110	92.8	196,685	7.2	6,531,188
2024Q4	9,392,811	2,843,307	30.3	2,645,983	93.1	197,324	6.9	6,549,504

Table 2 - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age – Both sexes

Age	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force Number
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
					(% to total labour force)		(% to total labour force)	
All ages	17,640,423	8,421,180	47.7	8,069,891	95.8	351,288	4.2	9,219,244
15 – 19 Yrs	1,772,002	142,763	8.1	105,806	74.1	36,957	25.9	1,629,239
20 – 24 Yrs	1,482,411	631,777	42.6	515,076	81.5	116,701	18.5	850,634
25 – 29 Yrs	1,240,007	841,928	67.9	735,224	87.3	106,703	12.7	398,080
30 – 39 Yrs	2,432,587	1,662,610	68.3	1,605,473	96.6	57,137	3.4	769,977
40+ Yrs	10,713,416	5,142,102	48.0	5,108,312	99.3	33,790	0.7	5,571,314

Table 2A - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age – Male

Age	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force Number
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
					(% to total labour force)		(% to total labour force)	
All ages	8,247,612	5,577,872	67.6	5,423,908	97.2	153,964	2.8	2,669,740
15 – 19 Yrs	863,109	102,442	11.9	80,726	78.8	21,716	21.2	760,668
20 – 24 Yrs	688,104	381,433	55.4	324,307	85.0	57,126	15.0	306,670
25 – 29 Yrs	611,896	542,149	88.6	501,473	92.5	40,676	7.5	69,747
30 – 39 Yrs	1,157,686	1,076,082	93.0	1,051,644	97.7	24,439	2.3	81,604
40+ Yrs	4,926,817	3,475,766	70.5	3,465,758	99.7	10,008	0.3	1,451,051

Table 2B - Labour force status (current) of the household population 15 years of age and over, by age – Female

Age	Household population: (15 years & over)	Labour force						Not in labour force Number
		Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
					(% to total labour force)		(% to total labour force)	
All ages	9,392,811	2,843,307	30.3	2,645,983	93.1	197,324	6.9	6,549,504
15 – 19 Yrs	908,892	40,321	4.4	25,080	62.2	15,241	37.8	868,571
20 – 24 Yrs	794,307	250,344	31.5	190,769	76.2	59,575	23.8	543,963
25 – 29 Yrs	628,111	299,778	47.7	233,751	78.0	66,027	22.0	328,333
30 – 39 Yrs	1,274,901	586,527	46.0	553,829	94.4	32,698	5.6	688,373
40+ Yrs	5,786,599	1,666,336	28.8	1,642,554	98.6	23,782	1.4	4,120,263

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Table 3 – Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Both sexes

Year	All ages	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40+ Yrs
2018	100.0	1.8	7.2	9.0	22.6	59.4
2019	100.0	1.9	7.1	9.3	22.6	59.1
2020	100.0	1.7	6.8	9.2	22.0	60.2
2021	100.0	1.4	6.3	9.4	21.1	61.8
2022	100.0	1.3	6.5	9.0	21.4	61.8
2023	100.0	1.2	6.4	8.4	20.3	63.7
2022Q4	100.0	1.0	6.1	8.9	21.0	62.9
2023Q4	100.0	1.3	6.6	8.0	20.5	63.7
2024Q1	100.0	1.2	6.3	8.8	19.2	64.5
2024Q2	100.0	1.4	6.2	8.6	19.5	64.3
2024Q3	100.0	1.2	6.3	8.3	20.4	63.8
2024Q4	100.0	1.3	6.4	9.1	19.9	63.3

Table 3A – Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Male

Year	All ages	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40+ Yrs
2018	100.0	2.0	7.3	9.4	22.6	58.7
2019	100.0	2.1	7.2	9.4	22.3	59.0
2020	100.0	1.9	7.0	9.1	21.8	60.3
2021	100.0	1.6	6.4	9.4	20.5	62.0
2022	100.0	1.3	6.4	9.1	21.2	62.0
2023	100.0	1.4	6.4	8.4	20.0	63.9
2022Q4	100.0	1.2	6.2	8.9	21.1	62.6
2023Q4	100.0	1.4	6.3	8.2	19.9	64.2
2024Q1	100.0	1.3	6.5	8.5	18.5	65.1
2024Q2	100.0	1.5	6.5	8.4	19.3	64.4
2024Q3	100.0	1.3	6.5	8.1	19.9	64.2
2024Q4	100.0	1.5	6.0	9.2	19.4	63.9

Table 3B – Historical table of currently employed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Female

Year	All ages	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40+ Yrs
2018	100.0	1.4	6.9	8.3	22.7	60.7
2019	100.0	1.4	7.0	9.1	23.1	59.4
2020	100.0	1.4	6.5	9.3	22.6	60.1
2021	100.0	1.1	6.0	9.3	22.3	61.4
2022	100.0	1.1	6.8	8.9	21.8	61.4
2023	100.0	0.8	6.4	8.4	20.9	63.4
2022Q4	100.0	0.7	6.0	8.9	20.8	63.6
2023Q4	100.0	1.0	7.1	7.6	21.6	62.8
2024Q1	100.0	0.9	5.7	9.4	20.7	63.2
2024Q2	100.0	1.3	5.6	9.2	19.9	64.0
2024Q3	100.0	0.9	6.0	8.9	21.3	62.9
2024Q4	100.0	0.9	7.2	8.8	20.9	62.1

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Table 4 – Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Both sexes

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & Below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above
2019	100.0	14.0	45.8	17.4	22.8
2020	100.0	13.7	46.0	17.8	22.5
2021	100.0	13.0	45.7	17.6	23.8
2022	100.0	12.7	45.1	17.6	24.6
2023	100.0	12.6	43.9	18.5	25.1
2022Q4	100.0	13.1	44.4	16.9	25.6
2023Q4	100.0	11.9	45.3	18.1	24.7
2024Q1	100.0	11.3	43.7	19.1	25.9
2024Q2	100.0	12.5	42.8	19.0	25.7
2024Q3	100.0	11.2	44.6	19.2	25.0
2024Q4	100.0	11.4	43.5	19.1	25.9

Table 4A – Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Male

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & Below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above
2019	100.0	14.1	49.6	18.0	18.2
2020	100.0	13.8	49.8	18.3	18.1
2021	100.0	13.0	49.6	18.6	18.8
2022	100.0	13.0	49.1	18.5	19.4
2023	100.0	12.9	48.0	19.2	19.9
2022Q4	100.0	13.4	48.6	17.4	20.6
2023Q4	100.0	12.2	49.6	18.7	19.5
2024Q1	100.0	11.2	48.2	20.2	20.4
2024Q2	100.0	12.8	47.0	19.6	20.6
2024Q3	100.0	12.0	48.2	20.0	19.8
2024Q4	100.0	12.1	47.2	19.6	21.1

Table 4B – Historical table of currently employed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Female

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & Below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE (O.L)/ NCGE	GCE (A.L)/ HNCE & above
2019	100.0	13.8	38.4	16.3	31.6
2020	100.0	13.4	38.1	16.8	31.7
2021	100.0	12.8	37.8	15.5	33.8
2022	100.0	12.0	37.2	16.1	34.7
2023	100.0	12.0	35.8	17.0	35.3
2022Q4	100.0	12.6	36.2	15.8	35.3
2023Q4	100.0	11.5	36.3	16.9	35.3
2024Q1	100.0	11.6	34.5	16.9	37.1
2024Q2	100.0	11.9	34.1	17.7	36.3
2024Q3	100.0	9.6	37.0	17.6	35.9
2024Q4	100.0	10.1	35.9	18.1	35.8

Table 5 – Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (Percentage) - Both sexes

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
2019	100.0	57.9	14.9	43.0	2.6	32.5	7.0
2020	100.0	57.5	14.8	42.7	2.5	33.2	6.8
2021	100.0	57.3	15.2	42.0	2.7	33.4	6.6
2022	100.0	58.0	15.1	42.9	2.9	33.1	5.9
2023	100.0	59.0	14.6	44.5	2.6	32.8	5.5
2022Q4	100.0	58.7	15.3	43.4	2.8	32.8	5.6
2023Q4	100.0	58.1	13.3	44.8	2.6	34.1	5.2
2024Q1	100.0	59.2	14.9	44.3	2.7	33.0	5.2
2024Q2	100.0	59.0	14.4	44.6	3.3	33.0	4.8
2024Q3	100.0	57.2	13.2	44.0	2.8	34.6	5.4
2024Q4	100.0	59.8	15.3	44.5	2.8	32.0	5.4

Table 5A – Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (Percentage) - Male

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
2019	100.0	57.7	12.2	45.5	3.5	36.5	2.3
2020	100.0	56.7	12.0	44.7	3.4	37.5	2.4
2021	100.0	56.6	12.1	44.4	3.7	37.3	2.4
2022	100.0	57.0	11.9	45.1	3.9	37.2	2.0
2023	100.0	57.6	11.5	46.1	3.5	36.8	2.1
2022Q4	100.0	57.8	12.4	45.4	3.7	36.4	2.2
2023Q4	100.0	56.3	10.5	45.8	3.5	38.3	2.0
2024Q1	100.0	58.0	11.7	46.3	3.4	36.4	2.2
2024Q2	100.0	57.2	11.4	45.8	4.4	36.6	1.8
2024Q3	100.0	55.7	10.2	45.5	3.6	38.7	2.0
2024Q4	100.0	57.8	11.4	46.4	3.6	36.8	1.8

Table 5B – Historical table of currently employed persons by employment status (Percentage) - Female

Year	Total employed	Employee			Employer	Own account worker	Unpaid family worker
		Total	Public	Private			
2019	100.0	58.3	19.9	38.4	0.8	24.8	16.1
2020	100.0	59.0	20.5	38.5	0.8	24.4	15.8
2021	100.0	58.7	21.5	37.2	0.8	25.4	15.2
2022	100.0	60.0	21.3	38.7	1.0	25.4	13.6
2023	100.0	61.9	20.6	41.2	0.9	25.0	12.2
2022Q4	100.0	60.6	21.0	39.6	1.3	25.9	12.2
2023Q4	100.0	61.8	19.3	42.6	0.7	25.5	11.9
2024Q1	100.0	61.7	21.4	40.2	1.1	25.9	11.4
2024Q2	100.0	62.7	20.4	42.3	1.0	25.4	10.8
2024Q3	100.0	60.5	19.7	40.8	0.9	26.0	12.6
2024Q4	100.0	63.9	23.3	40.6	1.2	22.2	12.7

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Table 6 - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - both sexes

Year	Total	Industry Group																
		1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other
2021	8,113,507	2,213,015	54,586	1,362,311	692,585	1,153,516	481,703	214,497	72,881	182,313	80,762	136,073	490,106	423,135	174,539	128,418	201,726	51,342
2022	8,147,731	2,158,559	58,979	1,408,819	690,401	1,142,754	486,346	235,544	71,054	182,379	87,337	146,494	456,844	461,829	169,298	162,099	157,590	71,404
2023	8,009,916	2,088,344	64,606	1,377,686	600,862	1,127,497	504,645	277,739	78,347	176,891	89,946	135,523	438,156	429,311	185,014	209,128	160,913	65,308
2022Q4	8,015,006	2,258,476	43,045	1,311,915	591,392	1,068,939	458,248	247,743	77,518	215,179	86,672	152,399	474,249	449,119	164,862	168,376	176,395	70,478
2023Q4	7,819,131	2,075,112	42,804	1,303,517	630,696	1,156,214	520,584	294,091	87,700	185,599	71,288	108,348	415,555	371,335	179,657	204,307	119,437	52,887
2024Q1	7,901,693	2,039,574	66,853	1,278,491	604,442	1,161,471	556,339	242,696	63,318	152,521	90,037	154,273	412,578	456,883	210,551	206,449	141,198	64,019
2024Q2	7,988,626	2,000,744	60,339	1,454,158	601,505	1,182,393	489,853	257,506	85,569	156,510	95,425	158,947	425,039	425,473	173,637	205,640	149,653	66,236
2024Q3	7,838,793	2,066,789	63,589	1,365,901	559,089	1,193,121	523,749	279,423	95,767	166,178	73,548	141,451	386,567	380,739	160,871	206,330	112,927	62,755
2024Q4	8,069,891	2,159,496	51,001	1,367,419	652,882	1,163,251	515,861	256,548	76,774	157,368	81,416	135,554	452,049	426,299	187,776	181,923	149,483	54,792

Table 6A - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - Male

Year	Total	Industry Group																
		1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other
2021	5,414,280	1,423,619	53,512	775,837	663,925	834,545	465,940	136,349	51,631	108,793	49,777	96,394	290,754	127,846	63,616	96,710	134,475	40,557
2022	5,373,965	1,422,010	58,657	758,623	658,525	831,372	466,203	141,812	48,341	100,235	55,248	104,400	271,425	139,674	61,720	123,033	79,292	53,396
2023	5,307,563	1,418,583	62,801	731,875	574,746	823,014	480,265	167,045	60,945	97,742	57,625	92,927	270,067	127,997	59,902	167,068	62,929	52,031
2022Q4	5,279,881	1,507,626	43,045	687,287	557,459	775,386	431,941	151,085	53,409	126,813	53,570	104,273	301,155	139,198	58,433	131,015	105,135	53,050
2023Q4	5,269,831	1,430,487	42,804	694,823	604,518	867,190	504,778	178,700	72,751	102,976	49,448	70,879	253,888	104,936	60,299	159,302	33,228	38,823
2024Q1	5,320,151	1,422,258	65,370	711,642	560,555	840,721	533,959	156,008	42,090	84,905	60,898	116,221	250,454	156,623	65,463	166,129	35,637	51,217
2024Q2	5,379,472	1,424,001	60,339	775,013	580,303	847,189	461,997	171,167	63,801	91,970	55,409	112,321	262,600	135,737	57,446	161,030	62,215	56,934
2024Q3	5,310,683	1,433,800	63,269	717,115	527,828	902,316	502,982	170,821	71,336	95,539	51,049	94,589	244,123	127,057	47,481	159,676	56,268	45,435
2024Q4	5,423,908	1,504,325	49,569	747,525	624,417	856,971	496,306	172,259	46,978	86,950	52,936	95,586	255,669	134,908	55,007	146,484	62,165	35,853

Table 6B - Currently Employed person by Industry group (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - Female

Year	Total	Industry Group																
		1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other
2021	2,699,228	789,396	1,074	586,474	28,660	318,971	15,763	78,147	21,250	73,519	30,985	39,679	199,352	295,289	110,923	31,708	67,251	10,785
2022	2,773,766	736,549	322	650,196	31,877	311,382	20,144	93,732	22,712	82,144	32,089	42,094	185,419	322,155	107,578	39,066	78,298	18,009
2023	2,702,354	669,761	1,805	645,812	26,116	304,483	24,381	110,694	17,401	79,150	32,321	42,595	168,089	301,314	125,112	42,060	97,984	13,277
2022Q4	2,735,125	750,850	..	624,628	33,933	293,553	26,307	96,658	24,109	88,365	33,103	48,126	173,094	309,921	106,429	37,361	71,260	17,428
2023Q4	2,549,300	644,625	..	608,694	26,178	289,024	15,806	115,391	14,949	82,622	21,840	37,469	161,667	266,399	119,358	45,005	86,209	14,065
2024Q1	2,581,542	617,316	1,483	566,849	43,886	320,750	22,380	86,688	21,228	67,616	29,139	38,051	162,124	300,260	145,088	40,320	105,560	12,802
2024Q2	2,609,154	576,743	..	679,144	21,202	335,204	27,855	86,339	21,767	64,539	40,016	46,626	162,439	289,736	116,191	44,610	87,438	9,303
2024Q3	2,528,110	632,989	320	648,786	31,260	290,805	20,767	108,602	24,431	70,639	22,499	46,862	142,444	253,682	113,390	46,654	56,659	17,321
2024Q4	2,645,983	655,171	1,432	619,894	28,465	306,280	19,555	84,288	29,796	70,419	28,480	39,969	196,380	291,391	132,768	35,439	87,318	18,939

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

.. Not reported

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E, F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Table 6C: Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group - Both sexes

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2021	2022	2023	2022Q4	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4
Total	8,113,507	8,147,731	8,009,916	8,015,006	7,819,131	7,901,693	7,988,626	7,838,793	8,069,891
Agriculture	2,213,015	2,158,559	2,088,344	2,258,476	2,075,112	2,039,574	2,000,744	2,066,789	2,159,496
Industry	2,109,482	2,158,199	2,043,154	1,946,352	1,977,017	1,949,786	2,116,002	1,988,578	2,071,302
Services	3,791,011	3,830,973	3,878,418	3,810,178	3,767,002	3,912,333	3,871,880	3,783,426	3,839,094

Table 6D: Historical table of currently employed population by major industry group (percentage) - Both sexes

Major Industry Group	Year								
	2021	2022	2023	2022Q4	2023Q4	2024Q1	2024Q2	2024Q3	2024Q4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	27.3	26.5	26.1	28.2	26.5	25.8	25.0	26.4	26.8
Industry	26.0	26.5	25.5	24.3	25.3	24.7	26.5	25.4	25.7
Services	46.7	47.0	48.4	47.5	48.2	49.5	48.5	48.3	47.6

Note: These Industry groups are based on ISIC - Rev. 4

Agriculture

1. Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (A)

Industries

1. Mining & Quarrying (B)
2. Manufacturing (C)
3. Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

Services

1. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
2. Transportation and storage (H)
3. Accommodation and food services activities (I)
4. Information and communication (J)
5. Financial and insurance activities (K)
6. Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
7. Administrative and support service activities (N)
8. Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)
9. Education (P)
10. Human health and social work activities (Q)
11. Other service activities (S)
12. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
13. Real estate activities (L) Arts, entertainment and recreation (R) Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Table 7 - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Both sexes

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
2020	7,999,093	512,087	531,298	695,206	306,448	756,851	1,373,582	1,222,380	729,394	1,833,523	38,325
2021	8,113,507	324,769	576,124	681,988	282,448	947,824	1,308,645	1,142,171	816,954	2,000,483	32,101
2022	8,147,731	340,894	596,432	688,341	296,177	901,590	1,310,662	1,173,642	786,507	2,007,366	46,120
2023	8,009,916	320,025	587,902	690,537	262,986	984,747	1,211,408	1,105,729	759,785	2,056,729	30,068
2022Q4	8,015,006	303,536	634,390	662,572	298,458	902,769	1,374,815	1,037,645	723,034	2,017,630	60,158
2023Q4	7,819,131	322,171	549,232	613,283	239,604	999,772	1,206,061	1,089,346	767,209	2,001,343	31,111
2024Q1	7,901,693	304,685	623,962	650,597	293,904	1,014,114	1,164,285	1,070,523	789,030	1,954,603	35,991
2024Q2	7,988,626	334,376	577,877	683,824	272,126	1,043,545	1,170,331	1,131,565	778,460	1,951,583	44,938
2024Q3	7,838,793	360,739	538,628	711,384	255,372	914,269	1,277,850	1,084,706	776,165	1,871,411	48,270
2024Q4	8,069,891	359,346	617,207	698,282	311,769	943,501	1,236,164	1,024,930	791,470	2,052,043	35,179

Table 7A - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Male

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
2020	5,372,947	373,757	191,282	452,640	140,458	540,840	984,507	883,796	617,644	1,154,222	33,801
2021	5,414,280	261,533	211,883	440,246	133,690	639,288	981,016	843,075	644,676	1,228,363	30,511
2022	5,373,965	264,794	215,652	437,218	141,818	606,381	956,970	835,321	622,142	1,252,138	41,531
2023	5,307,563	252,648	226,462	422,132	118,267	673,020	926,474	770,046	599,409	1,290,760	28,345
2022Q4	5,279,881	233,519	245,814	427,263	139,918	607,167	1,015,802	713,855	577,283	1,263,690	55,570
2023Q4	5,269,831	252,735	214,993	377,729	107,121	673,601	940,757	766,133	620,810	1,284,841	31,111
2024Q1	5,320,151	220,010	220,227	446,549	150,647	704,851	902,606	756,066	627,007	1,258,938	33,248
2024Q2	5,379,472	250,696	211,193	448,692	146,131	695,019	907,179	807,471	602,390	1,268,971	41,730
2024Q3	5,310,683	270,594	214,295	473,941	110,154	642,197	987,693	754,040	611,234	1,202,039	44,496
2024Q4	5,423,908	257,951	235,726	433,167	135,405	657,716	991,715	737,142	631,080	1,311,986	32,020

Table 7B - Currently Employed person by Occupation group (Based on ISCO 08) - Female

Year	Total	Occupation group									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
2020	2,626,146	138,329	340,016	242,566	165,990	216,011	389,075	338,584	111,750	679,301	4,524
2021	2,699,228	63,236	364,242	241,742	148,758	308,536	327,629	299,096	172,278	772,120	1,590
2022	2,773,766	76,101	380,779	251,123	154,359	295,209	353,692	338,321	164,364	755,227	4,589
2023	2,702,354	67,378	361,440	268,406	144,719	311,727	284,934	335,682	160,376	765,969	1,723
2022Q4	2,735,125	70,018	388,576	235,309	158,540	295,602	359,013	323,790	145,751	753,939	4,587
2023Q4	2,549,300	69,437	334,240	235,553	132,483	326,171	265,304	323,212	146,398	716,502	..
2024Q1	2,581,542	84,675	403,734	204,048	143,257	309,262	261,679	314,456	162,023	695,664	2,743
2024Q2	2,609,154	83,680	366,684	235,131	125,995	348,527	263,152	324,094	176,070	682,612	3,208
2024Q3	2,528,110	90,145	324,333	237,443	145,218	272,071	290,157	330,666	164,931	669,372	3,773
2024Q4	2,645,983	101,395	381,481	265,115	176,364	285,785	244,449	287,788	160,391	740,057	3,159

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

- 1 Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technicians and Associate Professionals
- 4 Clerks and Clerical support workers
- 5 Services and Sales workers

- 6 Skilled Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery workers
- 7 Craft and Related Trades workers
- 8 Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations
- 0 Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations

Table 8 - Currently employed persons by hours per week actually worked at the main job and major Industrial group (Percentage) - Both sexes

Major Industrial group	Total	0 *	1 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 & Over
Total	100.0	1.2	1.6	4.6	8.3	14.1	38.2	32.2
1	100.0	1.7	3.3	9.6	17.0	20.5	30.3	17.4
2	100.0	4.8	..	2.0	3.4	10.7	48.5	30.6
3	100.0	0.7	1.0	3.5	6.6	9.3	41.4	37.6
6	100.0	2.0	1.9	3.9	9.5	15.2	41.9	25.6
7	100.0	0.6	0.5	2.0	3.3	6.5	35.2	51.7
8	100.0	0.8	0.9	1.4	3.1	8.0	28.8	56.9
9	100.0	1.0	0.7	2.8	5.0	15.6	29.8	45.0
10	100.0	..	..	2.7	..	8.4	46.2	42.7
11	100.0	..	..	..	0.6	2.5	76.9	20.1
13	100.0	1.3	..	..	1.5	13.3	62.0	21.9
14	100.0	1.0	1.7	0.7	1.3	7.3	38.5	49.5
15	100.0	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	2.6	67.3	28.1
16	100.0	3.6	1.6	2.9	8.2	44.9	34.2	4.6
17	100.0	..	..	1.4	1.9	7.1	50.7	38.9
19	100.0	1.3	2.0	5.5	7.8	14.0	26.8	42.6
20	100.0	..	0.6	10.6	9.4	14.2	30.5	34.8
Other	100.0	..	..	3.4	5.3	18.8	47.0	25.5

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

.. Not reported

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Industry group

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Table 9 – Historical table of currently unemployed persons by age groups (Percentage) - Both Sexes

Year	Total	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40 + Yrs
2018	100.0	14.1	38.9	22.5	15.0	9.5
2019	100.0	13.0	36.0	22.8	14.3	13.8
2020	100.0	13.5	39.3	21.5	13.8	12.0
2021	100.0	8.9	42.5	22.2	15.2	11.1
2022	100.0	9.6	37.2	24.4	14.1	14.7
2023	100.0	10.0	35.5	25.3	14.2	15.1
2022Q4	100.0	9.0	36.8	24.6	15.3	14.2
2023Q4	100.0	7.6	36.6	27.9	13.9	14.0
2024Q1	100.0	6.2	34.7	29.6	16.3	13.2
2024Q2	100.0	13.5	38.3	22.0	14.6	11.5
2024Q3	100.0	12.2	36.2	27.1	15.5	9.0
2024Q4	100.0	10.5	33.2	30.4	16.3	9.6

Table 9A– Historical table of currently unemployed persons by age groups (Percentage) – Male

Year	Total	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40 + Yrs
2018	100.0	20.5	40.9	17.5	10.7	10.5
2019	100.0	18.3	38.9	19.5	8.3	15.0
2020	100.0	18.8	41.0	18.6	11.9	9.7
2021	100.0	12.3	45.0	20.0	12.1	10.6
2022	100.0	12.9	38.9	21.2	12.1	14.8
2023	100.0	13.8	36.6	21.5	12.2	15.8
2022Q4	100.0	10.0	40.9	21.1	11.7	16.3
2023Q4	100.0	8.7	36.7	26.7	13.4	14.5
2024Q1	100.0	11.3	36.9	24.3	13.9	13.6
2024Q2	100.0	15.6	37.9	22.0	13.8	10.7
2024Q3	100.0	19.2	39.0	24.1	10.4	7.3
2024Q4	100.0	14.1	37.1	26.4	15.9	6.5

Table 9B – Historical table of currently unemployed persons by age groups (Percentage) – Female

Year	Total	Age groups				
		15 – 19 Yrs	20 – 24 Yrs	25 – 29 Yrs	30 – 39 Yrs	40 + Yrs
2018	100.0	9.1	37.3	26.5	18.4	8.7
2019	100.0	8.7	33.6	25.5	19.3	12.9
2020	100.0	8.5	37.7	24.1	15.6	14.1
2021	100.0	5.8	40.3	24.2	18.0	11.6
2022	100.0	6.1	35.2	27.7	16.3	14.6
2023	100.0	6.2	34.4	28.9	16.0	14.4
2022Q4	100.0	8.0	32.2	28.5	19.3	11.9
2023Q4	100.0	6.6	36.6	29.1	14.3	13.4
2024Q1	100.0	1.9	32.9	34.0	18.2	13.0
2024Q2	100.0	11.4	38.8	21.9	15.4	12.4
2024Q3	100.0	7.1	34.2	29.2	19.2	10.3
2024Q4	100.0	7.7	30.2	33.5	16.6	12.1

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Table 10 – Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) - Both sexes

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCE	GCE(A/L) HNCE & Above
2018	100.0	2.2	30.5	21.4	45.8
2019	100.0	2.9	31.4	23.9	41.9
2020	100.0	2.2	32.6	23.5	41.7
2021	100.0	1.4	29.6	24.9	44.1
2022	100.0	1.8	32.1	23.6	42.6
2023	100.0	1.8	31.1	23.6	43.6
2022Q4	100.0	0.9	37.9	22.0	39.2
2023Q4	100.0	2.4	29.1	26.4	42.2
2024Q1	100.0	1.5	21.7	27.4	49.4
2024Q2	100.0	2.4	30.8	23.2	43.6
2024Q3	100.0	1.5	27.7	22.1	48.7
2024Q4	100.0	..	27.0	27.2	45.8

Table 10A – Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) – Male

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCE	GCE(A/L) HNCE & Above
2018	100.0	3.1	43.1	25.0	28.9
2019	100.0	2.9	42.2	27.0	28.0
2020	100.0	2.3	41.5	27.7	28.5
2021	100.0	1.8	36.0	29.9	32.3
2022	100.0	2.2	40.1	28.0	29.6
2023	100.0	2.3	39.3	25.1	33.4
2022Q4	100.0	0.6	46.6	25.0	27.8
2023Q4	100.0	3.0	34.2	26.7	36.2
2024Q1	100.0	1.1	28.3	31.0	39.6
2024Q2	100.0	1.8	36.5	27.8	33.8
2024Q3	100.0	1.0	29.6	26.8	42.7
2024Q4	100.0	..	37.5	26.2	36.2

Table 10B – Historical table of currently unemployed persons by level of education (Percentage) – Female

Year	Total	Level of education			
		Grade 5 & below	Grades 6 - 10	GCE(O/L) NCE	GCE(A/L) HNCE & Above
2018	100.0	1.5	20.6	18.7	59.2
2019	100.0	2.9	22.5	21.4	53.3
2020	100.0	2.2	24.2	19.7	53.9
2021	100.0	1.0	23.9	20.5	54.6
2022	100.0	1.3	23.5	18.8	56.4
2023	100.0	1.4	23.1	22.1	53.4
2022Q4	100.0	1.3	28.3	18.5	52.0
2023Q4	100.0	1.9	24.4	26.1	47.5
2024Q1	100.0	1.9	16.3	24.4	57.4
2024Q2	100.0	3.0	25.0	18.5	53.5
2024Q3	100.0	1.8	26.3	18.7	53.2
2024Q4	100.0	..	18.7	28.0	53.3

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

.. Not reported

Table 11 – Currently unemployed persons by sex and duration of unemployment

(2024 4th Quarter)

Sex	Total	Duration		
		Less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	12+ months
Both sexes	351,288	119,213	100,610	131,466
%	100.0	33.9	28.6	37.4
Male	153,964	50,314	47,990	55,660
%	100.0	32.7	31.2	36.2
Female	197,324	68,898	52,619	75,806
%	100.0	34.9	26.7	38.4

Table 12 – Standard error and coefficient of variation of selected variables

	Estimated Value	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimated Value (Ratio)	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
General labour force characteristics						
Population (15 years & over)	17,640,423	177,557	1.0			
Employed Population	8,069,891	117,439	1.5			
Unemployed Population	351,288	24,761	7.0			
Employment Rate				95.8	0.28	0.30
Unemployment Rate				4.2	0.28	6.79
Labour Force	8,421,180	121,809	1.4			
Not in Labour Force	9,219,244	126,348	1.4			
Employed persons by major Industry Groups						
1	2,159,496	91,543	4.2			
2	51,001	13,049	25.6			
3	1,367,419	52,926	3.9			
6	652,882	35,323	5.4			
7	1,163,251	48,233	4.1			
8	515,861	29,106	5.6			
9	256,548	20,782	8.1			
10	76,774	11,941	15.6			
11	157,368	15,687	10.0			
13	81,416	11,066	13.6			
14	135,554	13,845	10.2			
15	452,049	29,648	6.6			
16	426,299	27,510	6.5			
17	187,776	17,253	9.2			
19	181,923	18,052	9.9			
20	149,483	16,611	11.1			
Other	54,792	8,716	15.9			
Unemployed persons by level of education						
Below grade 6	..					
Grade 6 - 10	94,696	11,361	12.0			
G.C.E.(O/L)/N.C.G.E.	95,628	10,978	11.5			
G.C.E.(A/L)/H.N.C.E. & above	160,964	14,199	8.8			

Industry group

.. Not reported

- 1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)
2 Mining & quarrying (B)
3 Manufacturing (C)
6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)
7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)
8 Transportation and storage (H)
9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)
10 Information and communication (J)
11 Financial and insurance activities (K)
13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)
14 Administrative and support service activities (N)
15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)
16 Education (P)
17 Human health and social work activities (Q)
19 Other service activities (S)
20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)
Other

Other
Real estate activities (L)
Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)
Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

Special Statistical Appendix

Explanatory Notes

Coverage

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey was 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.

This quarterly survey of households is conducted through a scientifically selected sample designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status etc. of each member of the household 15 years of age and older.

The field work of the survey is done during the third week of each month, Monday through Sunday. This is known as the "survey week". The inquiry relates to activity or status are referred in the preceding week of the survey week; referred to as the "reference week".

The concepts and definitions underlying labour force data are as follows.

Concepts & Definitions

1. **Labour force:** The labour force is composed of the economically active population 15 years of age and over.
2. **The Economically Active Population:** is defined as those persons who are/were employed or unemployed during the reference period of the survey.
3. **Employed:** Persons, who during the reference period, worked as paid employees, employers, own account workers (self employed), or unpaid family workers are said to be employed. This includes persons with a job but not at work during the reference period.
4. **Unemployed:** Persons who are seeking and available for work, but had no employment during the reference period.
5. **Currently Economically Active:** A person who was employed or unemployed during the current reference period is considered to be currently economically active.
6. **Not in the Labour Force (not economically active):** Persons who were neither working nor available/looking for work are classified as "not in the labour force". Persons are not in the labour force for such reasons as: full time care of the household, full – time students, retired or old age, infirmed or disabled, or are not interested in working for one reason or another. Current and Usual definitions apply.
7. **Criteria for classification of underemployment:** In order to classify an employed persons as visibly underemployed,

*Explanatory Notes (Page 2)**(i) If the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her main activity*

In Sri Lanka scenario, 35 hours per week is taken as the cut-off point applicable to all workers, except government teachers. As in practice, though teachers do have a normal duration of work which is below the general cut-off point, they should be on a full time schedule according to the nature of their job. Further, those who do have a secondary job or those who are employers, were considered as having worked the normal duration in their respective activity.

Therefore, if the person has worked less than the normal duration in his/her activity (as described above), then the person is further questioned to ascertain whether he/She is prepared and available for further work if provided. Such persons are considered underemployed in their respective employment.

(ii) If the person has worked more than the normal duration in his/her activity

If the person has worked even more than 35 hours as usually, but he has worked less than 35 hours actually in the reference period, only due to the off season or bad weather, such persons were also further questioned to check their underemployment situation, considering them as a special category.

8. Informal Sector Employment

In order to classify a person to be employed in informal sector employment, following information were used.

- (i) Registration of the organization
- (ii) Accounts keeping practices of the organization
- (iii) Total number of regular employees of the organization.

Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the quarterly labour force data are subject to both sampling and non - sampling errors. When a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the "true" population values they represent.

The exact differences or sampling error, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 95 percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.96 standard errors from the "true" population value, because of sampling error. Analyses relating to the Labour Force Survey are generally conducted at the 95 percent level of confidence.

For example, the confidence interval for the quarterly unemployment rate is calculated as follows

When the estimated unemployment rate is 4.5 and standard error of unemployment rate is 0.275 then 95% confidence interval

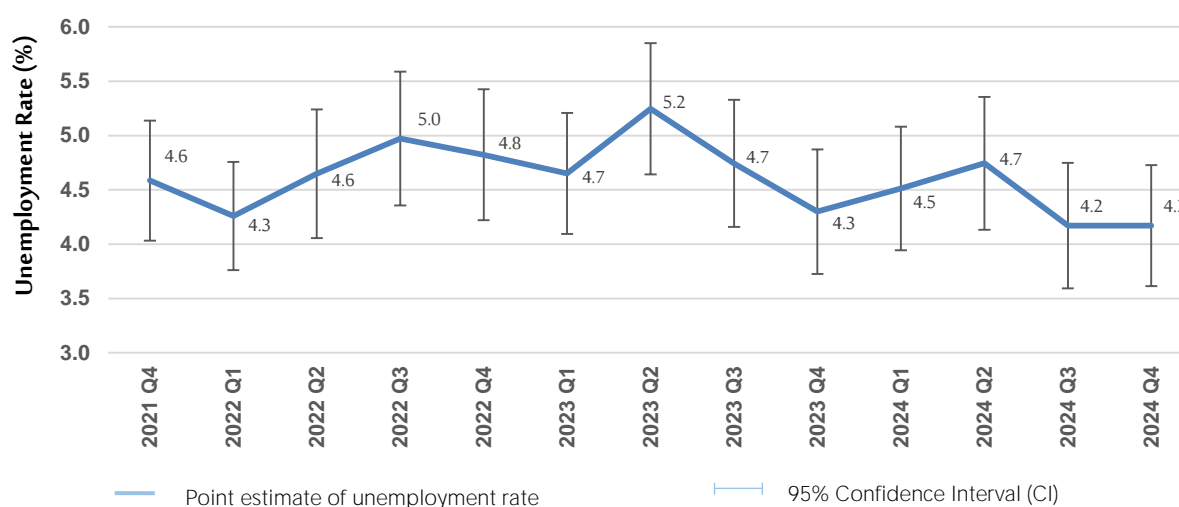
Estimated value (of the unemployment rate) \pm (standard error) * (1.96)

4.5 \pm (0.275) * (1.96)
(4.5 \pm 0.539)

Explanatory Notes (Page 3)

This means, the 95 percent confidence interval on the quarterly unemployment rate could range from (4.0 to 5.0). This implies that there is about 95 percent chance that the "true" unemployment rate lies within this interval. This range includes all the values range from 4.0 to 5.0. When the comparison of this estimate is done between two quarters, if any of the value within the 95 percent confidence interval of one quarter overlaps with the confidence interval of the other, it means that the estimates of this two quarters are not significantly different.

Therefore, in each quarterly labour force report, a separate table is given including approximate standard errors for some selected variables, so that users could understand this statistical scenario clearly.

Distribution of unemployment rates and 95% confidence intervals (2021Q4- 2024Q4)

As seen in figure, it is very important to note that, there were no statistically significant differences between the unemployment rates reported in different time periods of 2021/2024, when sampling error was considered.

Change in survey schedule

Current survey concepts and methods are very similar to those introduced at the beginning of the survey in 1990. However, some changes have been made over the years to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the data. In January 2006, some improvements were made to the labour force survey schedule in order to fulfill the requirements of data users and also to provide additional information for planning purposes. The revision was made focusing on literacy, household economic activities, and informal sector employment and under employment etc.

From January, 2013 onwards, the lower bound of working age populations is considered as age 15, hence age 15 and over population is considered as working age population. The survey schedule is updated to obtain more precise information on following age, informal employment, informal sector, secondary occupation, wages & income, unemployment & trainings.

New Industry & Occupation classifications

From January 2013 onward the survey uses new industry & occupation classifications, such as
 SLIC Rev 4:- Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification based on International Standard Industry classification - Rev.4 (ISIC Rev 4)
 SLSCO 08:- Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 based on International Standard Classification of Occupation-2008 (ISCO 2008)

Explanatory Notes (Page 4)

Note :

It is important to note that, all the data published here are the estimates based on a sample survey and these are subject to sampling errors. These sampling errors can be statistically evaluated from the survey results. Therefore, sampling error is normally measured in terms of the standard error of the particular variable. Standard error could be used to calculate the confidence limits with a prescribed accuracy where the true value of the estimates lies.

Further reliability of the estimates can be expressed in terms of Coefficient of Variation (CV). The CV is a relative measure of the sampling error and is calculated as sampling error divided by the expected value of the given characteristic.

In view of this, following table is given to show the estimates for some selected variables, its standard error, CV and 95% Confidence interval.

It is also important to note that all the estimates we publish in this report are subject to sampling error and one should be cautious in the interpretation of results, especially with respect to the trends over time.

Estimate of Confidence Intervals for some selected characteristics

Year	Labour Force					Employed				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2017	8,566,686	49,822	0.58	8,468,989	8,664,382	8,208,179	48,420	0.59	8,113,231	8,303,126
2018	8,387,759	57,008	0.68	8,275,971	8,499,546	8,015,166	55,036	0.69	7,907,245	8,123,087
2019	8,592,010	54,293	0.63	8,485,546	8,698,475	8,180,693	52,108	0.64	8,078,513	8,282,872
2020	8,466,606	58,917	0.70	8,351,075	8,582,137	7,999,093	56,610	0.71	7,888,086	8,110,101
2021	8,553,290	58,311	0.68	8,438,947	8,667,633	8,113,507	56,072	0.69	8,003,555	8,223,460
2022	8,547,062	58,034	0.68	8,433,262	8,660,862	8,147,731	56,377	0.69	8,037,181	8,258,281
2023	8,408,331	60,811	0.72	8,289,086	8,527,576	8,009,916	58,584	0.73	7,895,039	8,124,794
2022Q4	8,421,185	114,716	1.36	8,195,879	8,646,491	8,015,006	112,370	1.40	7,794,307	8,235,705
2023Q4	8,170,434	124,402	1.52	7,926,107	8,414,761	7,819,131	120,001	1.53	7,583,446	8,054,816
2024Q1	8,275,154	121,902	1.47	8,035,740	8,514,568	7,901,693	117,778	1.49	7,670,377	8,133,008
2024Q2	8,386,482	112,841	1.35	8,164,859	8,608,105	7,988,626	109,302	1.37	7,773,953	8,203,300
2024Q3	8,179,992	111,704	1.37	7,960,602	8,399,382	7,838,793	106,628	1.36	7,629,372	8,048,214
2024Q4	8,421,180	121,809	1.45	8,181,938	8,660,421	8,069,891	117,439	1.46	7,839,235	8,300,548

Year	Unemployed					Unemployment Rate				
	No.	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.		Rate	Standard error	C.V (%)	95% C.I.	
				Lower	Upper				Lower	Upper
2017	358,507	11,347	3.17	336,256	380,758	4.2	0.1	3.08	3.9	4.4
2018	372,593	11,350	3.05	350,337	394,849	4.4	0.1	2.94	4.2	4.7
2019	411,318	12,814	3.12	386,191	436,444	4.8	0.1	3.00	4.5	5.1
2020	467,513	14,029	3.00	440,004	495,022	5.5	0.2	2.88	5.2	5.8
2021	439,783	13,930	3.17	412,468	467,097	5.1	0.2	3.05	4.8	5.4
2022	399,332	13,022	3.26	373,797	424,867	4.7	0.1	3.17	4.4	5.0
2023	398,415	13,036	3.27	372,852	423,978	4.7	0.1	3.15	4.4	5.0
2022Q4	406,179	26,368	6.49	354,391	457,967	4.8	0.3	6.36	4.2	5.4
2023Q4	351,303	24,767	7.05	302,660	399,946	4.3	0.3	6.79	3.7	4.9
2024Q1	373,461	24,804	6.64	324,747	422,175	4.5	0.3	6.41	3.9	5.1
2024Q2	397,855	26,961	6.78	344,903	450,808	4.7	0.3	6.57	4.1	5.4
2024Q3	341,199	25,053	7.34	291,994	390,405	4.2	0.3	7.04	3.6	4.7
2024Q4	351,288	24,761	7.05	302,656	399,920	4.2	0.3	6.79	3.6	4.7

Alternative estimates

Alternative Estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

Official employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics are estimated at the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey, based on the internationally comparable concepts and definitions recommended by the ILO. However the validity of the concepts and definitions used at the survey is questioned very often in some forums, for the appropriateness of these concepts and definitions in the Sri Lankan context.

The concepts and definitions, which were found to be controversial, are as below.

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : A person who work **at least one hour** during the reference week, is considered **employed**, under these definitions.
- (2) **Working Age Population** : All persons of **age 10 years and over** are considered to be in the working age, before 2013. However, this was changed as **age 15 and over** from 2013 onward.
- (3) **Employment Status** : All,
 - a) Paid employees, (those who work for wages/salaries).
 - b) Employers (who have at least one paid employee under them).
 - c) Own account workers (who carry out the economic activity without having anypaid employees).
 - d) Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities carried out by their own household, without wages/salaries).

The validity of the above concepts and definitions is raised due to the following reasons.

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : Some pointed out that one hour per week is too low, to consider a person to be employed.
- (2) **Working Age Population** : Some pointed out those persons in the age group 10-14 yrs. are too young to be considered in the working age. (From 2013 onward the working age population is considered as age 15 and over).
- (3) **Employment Status** : Some pointed out that 'contributing family workers' may work in the family enterprise without payment because they have no other work, and so it is not appropriate to consider them as employed.

An attempt has been made to produce '**Alternative estimates of Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics**,' by revising the original concepts and definitions so that the above issues are addressed as explained below.

The revisions made are,

- (1) **Number of Hours of Work** : Persons who work **20 hours or more per week only** are considered to be employed.
- (2) **Contributing Family Worker** : Contributing family workers are **not** considered as employed. They are considered as **economically inactive** (not in the labour force) so only, **a) paid employees b) employers and c) own account workers are considered to be employed.**

Following tables are based on the above alternative concepts and definitions.

Alternative estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force characteristics

Table 1 - Labour force status of household population 15 years & over (Alternative estimates)

Year	Household population (15 years & over)	Total labour force	Labour force partici: rate (%)	Labour Force				Not in labour Force Number
				Employed		Unemployed		
				Number	Rate (%) to total labour force)	Number	Rate (%) to total labour force)	
2014	15,134,484	7,017,985	46.4	6,669,590	95.0	348,395	5.0	8,116,499
2015	15,281,945	7,156,393	46.8	6,772,896	94.6	383,496	5.4	8,125,553
2016	15,448,679	7,325,972	47.4	6,962,973	95.0	362,999	5.0	8,122,707
2017	15,843,735	7,474,883	47.2	7,116,376	95.2	358,507	4.8	8,368,851
2018	16,196,232	7,428,999	45.9	7,056,406	95.0	372,593	5.0	8,767,233
2019	16,424,016	7,609,700	46.3	7,198,383	94.6	411,318	5.4	8,814,316
2020	16,739,396	7,438,037	44.4	6,970,524	93.7	467,513	6.3	9,301,359
2021	17,133,659	7,471,067	43.6	7,031,284	94.1	439,783	5.9	9,662,592
2022	17,161,973	7,497,884	43.7	7,098,552	94.7	399,332	5.3	9,664,089
2023	17,306,492	7,380,485	42.6	6,982,070	94.6	398,415	5.4	9,926,008
2022Q4	17,230,431	7,475,620	43.4	7,069,441	94.6	406,179	5.4	9,754,811
2023Q4	17,353,546	7,168,079	41.3	6,816,776	95.1	351,303	4.9	10,185,467
2024Q1	17,575,175	7,386,041	42.0	7,012,580	94.9	373,461	5.1	10,189,133
2024Q2	17,548,937	7,492,062	42.7	7,094,207	94.7	397,855	5.3	10,056,874
2024Q3	17,426,919	7,332,255	42.1	6,991,056	95.3	341,199	4.7	10,094,664
2024Q4	17,640,423	7,570,512	42.9	7,219,224	95.4	351,288	4.6	10,069,911

Table 2- Historical table of number and rate of unemployment by age (Alternative estimates)

Year	Total		Age group									
			15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 29		30 - 39		40 & above	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
2014	348,395	5.0	49,540	25.7	138,565	22.2	67,235	9.3	53,648	3.0	39,407	1.1
2015	383,496	5.4	55,557	28.6	143,351	22.0	78,592	10.4	60,768	3.4	45,229	1.2
2016	362,999	5.0	58,622	32.8	144,156	22.2	76,624	10.0	47,956	2.7	35,640	0.9
2017	358,507	4.8	46,016	25.1	135,121	19.7	79,727	10.4	53,053	3.0	44,590	1.1
2018	372,593	5.0	52,624	30.4	144,824	22.1	84,000	11.3	55,853	3.3	35,291	0.8
2019	411,318	5.4	53,652	29.3	148,046	22.4	93,793	11.8	59,009	3.4	56,818	1.3
2020	467,513	6.3	62,910	38.0	183,722	27.5	100,359	13.0	64,493	3.9	56,029	1.3
2021	439,783	5.9	39,102	30.8	187,104	29.7	97,631	12.5	66,973	4.2	48,972	1.1
2022	399,332	5.3	38,456	32.0	148,378	23.8	97,317	12.6	56,437	3.5	58,743	1.3
2023	398,415	5.4	39,737	33.5	141,290	24.0	100,763	14.2	56,381	3.7	60,244	1.4
2022Q4	406,179	5.4	36,652	36.0	149,648	25.8	99,939	13.3	62,090	3.9	57,850	1.3
2023Q4	351,303	4.9	26,651	23.4	128,733	22.1	98,118	15.0	48,753	3.3	49,047	1.1
2024Q1	373,461	5.1	22,997	23.1	129,609	22.3	110,668	15.1	60,718	4.2	49,469	1.1
2024Q2	397,855	5.3	53,708	38.7	152,577	25.4	87,497	12.1	58,160	3.9	45,913	1.0
2024Q3	341,199	4.7	41,575	36.4	123,671	21.6	92,351	13.2	52,901	3.5	30,702	0.7
2024Q4	351,288	4.6	36,957	30.2	116,701	20.3	106,703	13.4	57,137	3.7	33,790	0.7

These figures are to be treated with caution as the corresponding CV (Coefficient of variation) values are high.

Table 3 - Currently Employed persons by Industry group (No. and percentage) (Based on ISIC Fourth Revision) - (Alternative estimates)

Year		Total	Industry group																
			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	Other
2021	No.	7,031,284	1,645,518	47,771	1,236,731	643,441	1,015,162	452,687	183,091	71,279	177,033	76,063	129,244	476,399	373,300	168,807	109,266	181,500	43,994
	%	100.0	23.4	0.7	17.6	9.2	14.4	6.4	2.6	1.0	2.5	1.1	1.8	6.8	5.3	2.4	1.6	2.6	0.6
2022	No.	7,098,552	1,624,304	54,869	1,273,780	626,142	1,021,153	450,290	195,864	69,084	179,777	81,766	135,361	449,381	429,513	164,503	142,340	135,921	64,505
	%	100.0	22.9	0.8	17.9	8.8	14.4	6.3	2.8	1.0	2.5	1.2	1.9	6.3	6.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	0.9
2023	No.	6,982,070	1,565,483	60,338	1,242,417	539,663	994,013	476,430	239,278	77,115	174,986	84,258	126,467	435,718	403,080	181,525	182,460	141,912	56,928
	%	100.0	22.4	0.9	17.8	7.7	14.2	6.8	3.4	1.1	2.5	1.2	1.8	6.2	5.8	2.6	2.6	2.0	0.8
2022Q4	No.	7,069,441	1,733,776	40,228	1,197,047	543,074	960,320	433,519	208,220	77,518	215,179	82,533	141,374	471,987	436,458	161,644	147,611	154,749	64,205
	%	100.0	24.5	0.6	16.9	7.7	13.6	6.1	2.9	1.1	3.0	1.2	2.0	6.7	6.2	2.3	2.1	2.2	0.9
2023Q4	No.	6,816,776	1,574,885	35,901	1,171,864	560,259	1,036,152	490,532	237,283	86,008	184,607	67,682	101,464	412,921	343,622	175,586	185,270	102,456	50,283
	%	100.0	23.1	0.5	17.2	8.2	15.2	7.2	3.5	1.3	2.7	1.0	1.5	6.1	5.0	2.6	2.7	1.5	0.7
2024Q1	No.	7,012,580	1,574,861	63,758	1,161,145	558,130	1,037,713	529,422	219,045	63,318	151,094	83,846	154,273	408,904	432,936	204,917	191,894	122,607	54,715
	%	100.0	22.5	0.9	16.6	8.0	14.8	7.5	3.1	0.9	2.2	1.2	2.2	5.8	6.2	2.9	2.7	1.7	0.8
2024Q2	No.	7,094,207	1,597,732	57,663	1,312,374	554,058	1,055,696	465,239	227,693	83,440	151,965	89,414	156,838	420,438	379,164	169,905	181,194	131,170	60,226
	%	100.0	22.5	0.8	18.5	7.8	14.9	6.6	3.2	1.2	2.1	1.3	2.2	5.9	5.3	2.4	2.6	1.8	0.8
2024Q3	No.	6,991,056	1,618,426	61,171	1,256,010	521,375	1,070,935	501,975	240,825	91,776	163,654	72,272	135,921	386,567	367,668	158,289	188,487	99,712	55,995
	%	100.0	23.1	0.9	18.0	7.5	15.3	7.2	3.4	1.3	2.3	1.0	1.9	5.5	5.3	2.3	2.7	1.4	0.8
2024Q4	No.	7,219,224	1,678,188	49,988	1,268,218	614,354	1,036,787	502,927	233,063	73,469	157,368	81,416	132,398	447,231	407,228	185,063	168,354	131,237	51,934
	%	100.0	23.2	0.7	17.6	8.5	14.4	7.0	3.2	1.0	2.2	1.1	1.8	6.2	5.6	2.6	2.3	1.8	0.7

Note: The tabulation groups based on ISIC (Rev.4) are indicated as A,B,C.....U. Due to the limitations on reliability (based on CV), some of these groups have been combined.

Industry Group

1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing (A)

2 Mining & quarrying (B)

3 Manufacturing (C)

6 Construction, Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (D, E,F)

7 Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles(G)

8 Transportation and storage (H)

9 Accommodation and food services activities (I)

10 Information and communication (J)

11 Financial and insurance activities (K)

13 Professional, scientific and technical activities (M)

14 Administrative and support service activities (N)

15 Public administration and defence compulsory social security (O)

16 Education (P)

17 Human health and social work activities (Q)

19 Other service activities (S)

20 Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services - producing activities of households for own use (T)

Other

Other

12 Real estate activities (L)

18 Arts, entertainment and recreation (R)

21 Activities of extra territorial organizations & bodies (U)

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"To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country's development goals."


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