

Labour Force Demand and Supply Data

This Report is furnished inclusive of the data on labour demand and supply. All data were extracted from the official publications of the Department of Census and Statistics in relation to the Annual Labour Force Surveys and the Labour Demand Survey carried out in 2017.

Labour Demand Data - 2017

1. Number of employments by occupational group and sector (%) – 2017

Occupation Group	Agriculture	Industry	Construction (Sub Sector)	Services	Trade (Sub Sector)	Tourism (Sub Sector)	Overall
Managers	0.9	4.2	5.5	9.5	9.9	9.9	7.8
Professionals	0.0	4.1	8.4	12.3	7.2	10.6	8.6
Associate Professionals	0.1	3.6	12.0	6.8	8.1	9.1	6.2
Service and Sale Workers	0.3	5.0	3.8	41.4	40.7	26.4	28.8
Clerical Support Workers	3.4	7.4	9.9	11.5	12.4	16.3	10.5
Skilled agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers	16.8	0.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	2.2	0.9
Craft and related Trades Workers	0.6	12.4	13.4	2.1	2.7	8.4	5.6
Plant and machine Operators and Assemblers	0.6	39.6	17.9	2.8	7.0	5.1	14.6
Elementary Occupation	73.3	22.7	29.3	13.4	10.7	12.0	16.9

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

According to the main occupational groups and sections, the highest overall demand for labour was reported in the 'Service and Sales workers' category. However, in Agriculture Sector and Construction Sub-Sector, the highest demands were for the 'Elementary Occupations', while it was for 'Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers' in Industrial Sector.

2. Share of Sector by Ownership

Sector	Ownership			Total
	Sri Lankan (%)	Foreign (%)	Both (%)	
Agriculture	97.0	0.0	3.0	100.0
Industry	97.1	2.1	0.8	100.0
Construction (sub-sector)	98.7	1.3	0.0	100.0
Services	98.6	0.7	0.7	100.0
Trade (sub-sector)	99.2	0.5	0.3	100.0
Tourism (sub-sector)	93.6	3.3	3.1	100.0

Source - Labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

3. Status of Employment by Occupation Group (%) - 2017

Occupation	Permanent	Temporary	With written contracts
Managers	89.1	1.7	9.2
Professionals	80.6	5.3	14.1
Associate Professionals	82.3	7.1	10.7
Service and Sale Workers	85.4	4.9	9.8
Clerical Support Workers	68.9	15.0	16.1
Skilled agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers	82.7	0.4	16.9
Craft and related Trades Workers	77.0	14.0	9.0
Plant and machine Operators and Assemblers	91.2	5.6	3.2
Elementary Occupation	65.5	24.3	10.1

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

4. The Occupations with highest labour demand in Sri Lanka – 2017

Occupations	No of. Vacancies	Percentage
Sewing Machine Operators	77,189	15.5
Security Guards	57,008	11.5
Other Manufacturing Labourers	39,397	7.9
Shop Sales Assistants	28,180	5.7
Advertising and Marketing Professionals	21,067	4.2
Commercial and Sales Representatives	19,775	4.0
Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	18,614	3.7
Manufacturing Supervisors	8,921	1.8
General Office Clerks	8,732	1.8
Stall and Market Salespersons	8,273	1.7
Cashiers and Ticket Clerks	8,011	1.6
Tailors, Dressmakers, Furriers and Hatters	7,772	1.6
Hand Packers	7,398	1.5
Carpenters and Joiners	5,253	1.1
Building Construction Labourers	5,174	1.0
Waiters	4,967	1.0
Customer Relations Officer	4,843	1.0
Sewers, Embroiders and Related Workers	4,572	0.9
Mechanical Engineering Technicians	4,407	0.9
Hairdressers	4,358	0.9
Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	4,048	0.8
Beauticians and Related Workers	3,896	0.8
Insurance Representatives	3,835	0.8
Tea Pluckers	3,827	0.8
Accounting Associate Professionals	3,642	0.7
Creative and Performing Artists NEC	3,347	0.7
Cleaning and Housekeeping Supervisors in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	3,268	0.7
Stock Clerks	3,242	0.7
Nursing Professionals	3,230	0.6
Heavy Truck and Lorry Drivers	3,142	0.6

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

5. Number of vacancies by sector / sub-sector

Sector	No. of Vacancies	Percentage
Service	177,813	35.8
Industry	175,250	35.2
Trade	110,770	22.3
Construction	20,224	4.1
Tourism	10,207	2.1
Agriculture (Plantation)	3,033	0.6

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

6. Labour Demand by Sector (Main 10 occupations were included)

6.1. Formal Sector

Agriculture (Plantation)		
Occupation	No. of Vacancies	Percentage
Tea Pluckers	2,474	81.6
Rubber Tappers	437	14.4
General Office Clerks	23	0.8
Cleaning and Housekeeping Supervisors in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	21	0.7
Agricultural Technicians	20	0.7
6 Crop Farm Labourers	16	0.5
7 Manufacturing Supervisors	13	0.4
8 Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	10	0.3
9 Livestock Farm Labourers	10	0.3
10 Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	4	0.1

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Industry Sector		
Occupation	No.of	
	Vacancies	Percentage
Sewing Machine Operators	59,659	44.5
Other Manufacturing Labourers	17,859	13.3
Manufacturing Supervisors	7,874	5.9
Tailors, Dressmakers, Furriers and Hatters	7,061	5.3
Hand Packers	5,412	4.0
Sewers, Embroiders and Related Workers	3,542	2.6
Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	1,726	1.3
Textile, Leather and Related Pattern-Makers and Cutters	1,573	1.2
Weaving and Knitting Machine Operators	1,451	1.1
Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	1,274	0.9

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Construction Sector		
Occupation	No. of	
	Vacancies	Percentage
Building Construction Labourers	4,358	24.5
Other Manufacturing Labourers	4,250	23.9
Heavy Truck and Lorry Drivers	1,030	5.8
Earth-moving and Related Plant Operators	864	4.9
Masons (General)	818	4.6
Mining and Quarrying Labourers	714	4
Civil Engineering Technicians	508	2.8
Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	500	2.8
Stationary Plant and Machine Operators NEC	429	2.4
Riggers and Cable Splicers	400	2.2

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Service Sector

Occupation	No.of	
	Vacancies	Percentage
Security Guards	56,674	38.9
Commercial and Sales Representatives	14,360	9.9
Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	13,712	9.4
General Office Clerks	4,514	3.1
Nursing Professionals	3,021	2.1
Financial Analysts	2,358	1.6
Insurance Representatives	1,847	1.3
Child Care Workers	1,828	1.3
Information and Communication Technology Operations Technicians	1,815	1.2
Credit and Loans Officers	1,766	1.2

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Trade Sector

Occupation	No.of	
	Vacancies	Percentage
Shop Sales Assistants	22,255	26.4
Advertising and Marketing Professionals	20,744	24.6
Cashiers and Ticket Clerks	6,808	8.1
Stall and Market Salespersons	4,623	5.5
Commercial and Sales Representatives	3,650	4.3
Stock Clerks	2,482	2.9
Packing, Bottling and Labelling Machine Operators	2,184	2.6
Hand Packers	1,660	2
Accounting Associate Professionals	1,045	1.2
Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	919	1.1

Source - Labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Highest Demanded Vacancy - Tourism Sub Sector

Occupation	No.of	
	Vacancies	Percentage
Waiters	1451	14.2
Cleaning and Housekeeping Supervisors in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	1207	11.8
Cooks	744	7.3
Chefs	611	6.0
Bartenders	595	5.8
Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	560	5.5
Accounting Associate Professionals	526	5.2
Kitchen Helpers	399	3.9
Stall and Market Salespersons	371	3.6
Car, Taxi and Van Drivers	293	2.9

Source - Labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

6.2 Informal Sector

Occupation	Industry	
	No.of Vacancies	Percentage
Sewing Machine Operators	13,858	33.9
Other Manufacturing Labourers	7,181	17.5
Carpenters and Joiners	4,213	10.3
Cement, Stone and Other Mineral Products Machine Operators	1,545	3.8
Handicraft Workers in Wood, Cane and Related Materials	1,311	3.2
Metal Processing Plant Operators	1,197	2.9
Stone Masons, Stone Cutters, Stone Splitters and Stone Carvers	1,059	2.6
Sewers, Embroiders and Related Workers	1,030	2.5
Shoemakers and Related Workers	983	2.4
Heavy Truck and Lorry Drivers	863	2.1

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Construction

Occupation	No.of Vacancies	Percentage
Building Construction Labourers	671	28.2
Masons (General)	647	27.2
Civil Engineering Labourers	380	16
Carpenters and Joiners	302	12.7
Roofers	302	12.7
Construction Supervisors	74	3.1

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Trade Sector

Occupation	No.of Vacancies	Percentage
Shop Sales Assistants	4,143	15.7
Waiters	1,730	6.6
Stall and Market Salespersons	1,514	5.7
Sales Workers	1,487	5.6
Door to Door Salespersons	1,460	5.5
Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	1,318	5
Vehicle Cleaners	1,168	4.4
Cleaning and Housekeeping Supervisors in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	1,038	3.9
Commercial and Sales Representatives	876	3.3
General Office Clerks	610	2.3

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Service Sector

Occupation	No.of	
	Vacancies	Percentage
Hairdressers	4,182	14.2
Beauticians and Related Workers	3,624	12.3
Creative and Performing Artists NEC	3,347	11.4
Insurance Representatives	1,988	6.7
General Office Clerks	1,629	5.5
Secondary Education Teachers	1,555	5.3
Waiters	1,394	4.7
Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	1,279	4.3
Cooks	1,272	4.3
Bakers, Pastry-cooks and Confectionery Makers	954	3.2

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

7. Occupations which are difficult to fill (Main 40 occupations were listed)

7.1 Formal Sector

Occupation	No.of Vacancy	Percentage
1. Sewing Machine Operators	46,576	19.2
2. Security Guards	45,316	18.7
3. Commercial and Sales Representatives	31,277	12.9
4. Other Manufacturing Labourers	17,568	7.2
5. Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	7,814	3.2
6. Shop Sales Assistants	6,305	2.6
7. Administrative and Executive Secretaries	4,437	1.8
8. Tailors, Dressmakers, Furriers and Hatters	3,849	1.6
9. Stall and Market Salespersons	3,689	1.5
10. Manufacturing Supervisors	3,431	1.4
11. Hand Packers	2,773	1.1
12. Nursing Professionals	2,724	1.1
13. General Office Clerks	2,720	1.1
14. Sewers, Embroiders and Related Workers	2,610	1.1
15. Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	1,851	0.8
16. Mining and Quarrying Labourers	1,588	0.7
17. Packing, Bottling and Labelling Machine Operators	1,521	0.6
18. Electrical Mechanics and Fitters	1,511	0.6
19. Insurance Representatives	1,405	0.6
20. Child Care Workers	1,385	0.6
21. Waiters	1,362	0.6
22. Cooks	1,310	0.5
23. Masons (General)	1,252	0.5
24. Mechanical Engineering Technicians	1,225	0.5
25. Weaving and Knitting Machine Operators	1,212	0.5
26. Cleaning and Housekeeping Supervisors in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	1,184	0.5
27. Cashiers and Ticket Clerks	1,176	0.5
28. Information and Communication Technology Operations Technicians	1,103	0.5
29. Welders and Flame Cutters	1,041	0.4
30. Car, Taxi and Van Drivers	990	0.4
31. Stationary Plant and Machine Operators NEC	943	0.4
32. Metal Processing Plant Operators	923	0.4
33. Messengers, Package Deliverers and Luggage Porters	873	0.4
34. Stock Clerks	795	0.3

35. Laundry Machine Operators	743	0.3
36. Generalist Medical Practitioners	737	0.3
37. Mail Carriers and Sorting Clerks	737	0.3
38. Textile, Leather and Related Pattern-Makers and Cutters	716	0.3
39. Elementary Service Workers NEC	714	0.3
40. Financial Analysts	693	0.3

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

7.2 Informal Sector

Occupation	No.of Vacancy	Percentage
1. Sewing Machine Operators	14,667	22.8
2. Other Manufacturing Labourers	7,800	12.1
3. Creative and Performing Artists NEC	3,347	5.2
4. Carpenters and Joiners	3,229	5.0
5. Waiters	2,957	4.6
6. Shop Sales Assistants	2,098	3.3
7. Beauticians and Related Workers	1,952	3.0
8. Door to Door Salespersons	1,460	2.3
9. Secondary Education Teachers	1,444	2.2
10. Hairdressers	1,394	2.2
11. Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	1,318	2.1
12. General Office Clerks	1,311	2
13. Mechanical Engineering Technicians	1,204	1.9
14. Vehicle Cleaners	1,168	1.8
15. Kitchen Helpers	1,115	1.7
16. Stone Masons, Stone Cutters, Stone Splitters and Stone Carvers	1,059	1.6
17. Cleaning and Housekeeping Supervisors in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	1,038	1.6
18. Precision-instrument Makers & Repairers	983	1.5
19. Shoemakers and Related Workers	983	1.5
20. Stationary Plant and Machine Operators NEC	941	1.5
21. Wood Processing Plant Operators	913	1.4
22. Elementary Service Workers NEC	894	1.4
23. Commercial and Sales Representatives	876	1.4
24. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics	836	1.3
25. Building Construction Labourers	671	1.0
26. Undertakers and Embalmers	656	1.0
27. Tailors, Dressmakers, Furriers and Hatters	656	1.0
28. Bakers, Pastry-cooks and Confectionery Makers	622	1.0
29. Cabinet-makers and Related Workers	598	0.9

30. Sales Workers NEC	574	0.9
31. Cooks	547	0.9
32. Pre-Press Technicians	530	0.8
33. Stall and Market Salespersons	513	0.8
34. Cleaners and Helpers in Offices, Hotels and Other Establishments	432	0.7
35. Masons (General)	404	0.6
36. Civil Engineering Labourers	380	0.6
37. Metal Finishing, Plating and Coating Machine Operators	346	0.5
38. Textile, Leather and Related Pattern-Makers and Cutters	328	0.5
39. Crop Farm Labourers	292	0.5
40. Health Care Assistants	279	0.4

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

8. Skills needed to be improved

Skills	Percentage
Team working	37.3
Oral communication	29.2
Taking initiative	26.2
Literacy	20.6
Public speaking /instructing / training	20.6
Written communication	20.5
Customer handling	17.3
Planning and organizing	16.7
Planning and organizing	16.7
IT literacy / using IT	14.6
Numeracy	13.7
Management responsibilities /taking a lead	9.7
Advanced IT application / development	8.8
Knowledge of a foreign language	8.1
Clerical / administrative tasks	6.8
Manual dexterity	3.3
Other	0.8

Source - labour Demand Survey -2017 (Department of Census and statistics)

Labour Supply Data

1. Working Age population and Labour Force

Year	Working Age population			Labour force		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2011	7,027,780	7,948,209	14,975,989	5,203,267	2,723,178	7,926,445
2012	6,932,520	7,925,058	14,857,578	5,192,686	2,605,721	7,798,407
2013	6,926,750	8,032,315	14,959,065	5,187,873	2,845,931	8,033,804
2014	7,025,780	8,108,704	15,134,484	5,240,034	2,808,850	8,048,884
2015	7,036,944	8,245,001	15,281,945	5,255,593	2,958,880	8,214,473
2016	7,064,736	8,383,943	15,448,679	5,303,502	3,007,180	8,310,682

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

2. Labour Force participation Rate

Year	Labor force participation rate		
	Male	Female	Total
2011	74.0	34.3	52.9
2012	74.9	32.9	52.5
2013	74.9	35.4	53.7
2014	74.6	34.6	53.2
2015	74.7	35.9	53.8
2016	75.1	35.9	53.8

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

3. Labour Force and Employment -2016

	Total	Male	Female
Labour Force	8,310,682	5,303,502	3,007,180
Employed Population	7,947,683	5,149,948	2,797,735
Employment Population Rate	95.6	97.1	93.0

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

4. Labour Force Participation Ratio (Per Age, Gender and Sections) 2016

Age group	Labor force participation rate		
	Male	Female	Total
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-19	13.8	75.1	35.9
20-24	55.6	74.1	40.0
25-29	65.8	92.9	44.8
30-39	67.6	96.5	44.3
40+	54.4	76.8	35.6
Urban	49.8	72.6	30.2
15-19	12.6	16.6	8.4
20-24	56.1	71.3	43.1
25-29	71.1	93.6	50.7
30-39	65.1	96.0	38.9
40+	47.2	73.0	25.9
Rural	54.2	75.5	36.3
15-19	13.6	19.1	8.2
20-24	55.1	74.3	38.7
25-29	64.4	92.5	43.5
30-39	67.4	96.5	44.2
40+	55.5	77.6	36.8

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

5. Employment - The Ratio of Employment to the working Age population (%)

Year	Male	Female	Total
2011	72.0	31.8	50.6
2012	72.7	30.8	50.4
2013	72.5	33.0	51.3
2014	72.2	32.3	50.8
2015	72.4	33.1	51.2
2016	72.8	33.3	51.4

Source: Computed by the Labour Market Information Unit, using the information of the Department of Census and Statistics

6. Employed population by Service Conditions (%) – 2016

Service quality	Total		Gender			
			Male		Female	
Overall	7,947,683	100.0	217,215	100.0	2,797,735	100.0
Public Servants	1,157,658	14.6	639,665	12.4	517,993	18.5
Private Employees	3,437,919	43.3	239,914	46.4	1,046,004	37.4
Employers	217,215	2.7	190,858	3.7	26,357	0.9
Self-helpers	2,511,750	31.6	1,785,888	34.7	725,861	25.9
Family workers who have not been paid	623,141	7.8	141,622	2.7	481,519	17.2

Sources: KLIM 05/06 - International Labour Organization

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7. The Economically active population by Educational Level (%) - 2016

Education level	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
To grade 5	20.1	19.8	20.2
Grade 6 - 10	46.1	44.7	46.5
G.C.E.(O/L)	21.4	24.4	20.4
G.C.E.(O/L) and Above	12.5	11.1	12.9

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

8. The Reasons for Economic Decline in Gender (Male/Female) (%) - 2016

Causes of Economic Disability	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
Overall of Economic disability	100.0	100.0	100.0
Doing homework	48.3	6.0	62.2
Educational activities	20.2	38.4	14.3
Retirement / Old Age	19.8	32.5	15.6
Physically ill / Disabled	7.8	15.9	5.2
Others	3.8	7.2	2.6

9. Unemployment Rate (%)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Female	7.1	6.3	6.6	6.5	7.6	7.0
Total	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.4

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

10. Unemployment by Age group

Year	Total	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40&Above
2008	433,042	68,487	166,409	93,202	58,838	46,107
2009	471,254	68,447	176,801	100,508	70,988	54,511
2010	400,335	59,339	154,788	84,777	59,041	42,390
2011	334,908	42,636	141,252	69,319	53,111	28,537
2012	309,756	43,745	125,556	58,227	48,794	33,381
2013	365,921	50,436	149,243	64,566	55,398	46,221
2014	348,455	49,540	138,565	67,235	53,648	39,407
2015	383,561	55,557	143,351	78,592	60,768	45,229
2016	362,999	58,622	144,156	76,624	47,956	35,640

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

11. Unemployment Rate by Education Level (%) - 2016

Education Level	Total	Female	Male
To G.C.E O/L	2.7	3.7	2.2
G.C.E.(O/L)	5.8	9.1	4.1
G.C.E.(A/L) and Above	8.3	11.9	4.7
Total	4.4	7.0	2.9

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

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12. Composition of Unemployment by Educational Level (%)

Year	Gender	Below Grade 5	Between Grade 5– 9	G.C.E (O/L)	G.C.E.(A/L) and Above	Total
2012	Male	2.0	46.8	29.7	21.5	100.0
	Female	3.0	28.8	25.1	43.1	100.0
	Total	2.6	37.4	27.2	32.8	100.0
2013	Male	4.6	43.6	24.3	27.5	100.0
	Female	3.2	30.4	20.3	46.1	100.0
	Total	3.9	36.5	22.1	37.4	100.0
2014	Male	3.1	48.3	22.9	25.7	100.0
	Female	3.2	28.5	22.1	46.2	100.0
	Total	3.2	37.9	22.4	36.5	100.0
2015	Male	1.7	44.1	30.9	23.4	100.0
	Female	3.0	27.7	19.9	49.4	100.0
	Total	2.5	34.4	24.4	38.7	100.0
2016	Male	1.5	48.2	23.9	26.4	100.0
	Female	3.6	26.0	20.8	49.6	100.0
	Total	2.7	35.4	22.1	39.8	100.0

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

13. Unemployment in terms of Employment

Year	Less than 6 Months	Among 6-12 Months	More than 12 months
2010	29.5	20.9	49.6
2011	28.5	25.8	45.7
2012	33.3	27.9	38.8
2013	18.1	52.6	29.3
2014	12.1	65.0	22.8
2015	36.2	22.7	41.1
2016	35.4	26.3	38.4

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

14. Sectorial Contribution of Employment (%)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Agriculture	32.7	32.5	32.7	33.0	30.7	29.7	28.5	28.7	27.1
Industry	26.3	25.5	24.2	24.1	26.6	26.2	26.5	25.8	26.4
Service	41.0	42.0	43.1	42.8	42.6	44.1	45.0	45.6	46.5

Source: Department of Census and Statistics