



STATUS OF STATISTICS IN INFORMAL SECTOR USING SRI LANKA LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

In the past, information on labour force characteristics, employment, and unemployment etc. were collected through the labour force and socio-economic surveys conducted at five year time intervals. But the government of Sri Lanka required the employment and unemployment data at very short intervals to monitor the progress of the employment generating policies of the country. Therefore, to cater the demand, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) designed a Labour Force Survey (LFS) on a quarterly basis to measure the levels and trends of Employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka on a continuous basis. This survey commenced from the first quarter 1990 with USAID technical assistance and is being continued by the DCS.

LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS

- Working Age Population (15 years and above)
- Economically Active Population (Labour Force)
- Economically Inactive Population
- Employed Population
- Unemployed Population
- Full Time Students
- Retired/ Old Age Persons
- Engaged in Household duties
- Infirm/ Disabled

PREPARATION (CONDUCT A SURVEY)

- Sample selection
- Data collection (Field Work)
- Field supervision
- Analyze (findings)
- Report

COUNTRY POLICIES ON THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

A review of national statistical definitions of the informal sector in different countries shows that they do not always fully correspond to the international definition adopted by the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (15th ICLs) and the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993.

The international comparability of data on the informal sector is affected by national differences in data sources, in the geographical coverage of surveys, in the branches of economic activity covered etc. Therefore, a criterion which is to define the informal sector varies among countries. However, most of the countries tend to collect informal sector information, especially those using labour force or other household surveys for the measurement of employment in the informal sector, were advised by the experts to use the criteria of registration of the organization, accounts keeping system and size of their organization.

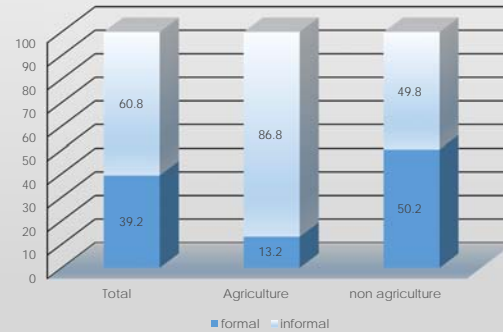
COUNTRY POLICIES ON THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

- Providing Social Security to people in the informal sector
- policy reforms for improving returns to livelihoods
- Minimizing variability of incomes
- health insurance schemes, micro finance schemes, old age protection, etc.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR TO THE ECONOMY

- in Sri Lanka the contribution of informal sector employment to the total employment is about 60.8 percent.
- The survey results also reveal that 86.8 percent of agricultural employment comprises with informal sector employment, and agriculture formal sector employment is only 13.2 percent.

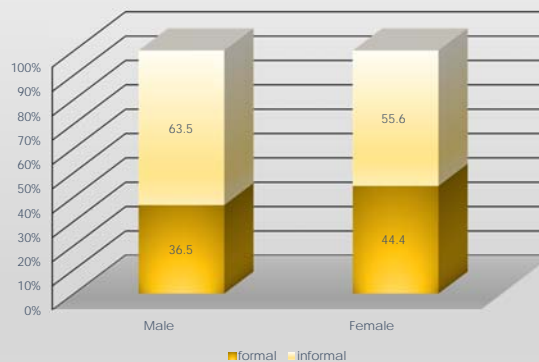
Contribution of Informal / Formal sector employment by economic sector - 2013



CONTRIBUTION OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR TO THE ECONOMY

- Among both employed males and females majority are working in the informal sector.
- The percentages are 63.5 percent for males and 55.6 percent for females.
- Female informal sector participation is lower compared to that of male

Contribution of Informal / Formal sector employment by gender-2013



REFERENCE

- Publications

- Sri Lanka Labour force survey Annual Report – 2013

Web

www.statistics.gov.lk

(official website of the department of census and statistics – Sri Lanka)