

## SRI LANKA

**Region:** Asia and the Pacific

**Income group:** Lower-middle income

**Summary:** Sri Lanka has reported 2 metadata sources, which collect information on international labour migration statistics. One is the *Census of Population and Housing* carried out by the Department of Census and Statistics and the other is the *record of Border/Admission Statistics* held by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Geographically the census cover whole country. The statistics on the following population groups are available:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Nationals (citizens) living abroad (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Nationals (citizens) living and working abroad (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Refugees (covered by the Census of Population and Housing)*
- *Exit nationals leaving for temporary purposes such as for tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc. (covered by the Border/Admission Statistics)*

Periodicity of data collection varies depending on the type of sources. The *Census of Population and Housing* was last processed in 2012 and the *record of the Border/Admission Statistics* is carried out continuously starting from 1985.

The three essential demographic characteristics covered by both the sources are age, sex, and marital status. Data on educational attainment and household size can also be found in the census.

International migration characteristic covered by both the sources is country of birth. Additionally, the *Census of Population and Housing* covers country of citizenship, country of previous residence for foreigners, country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned, and information about household members and their characteristics who left to live, work or study abroad.

Labour related characteristics such as employment status and occupation are available in both the sources. Data on industry/economic sector, status in employment, disability is also obtained in the census.

Definitions of “*international migrant workers*”, “*nationals living abroad*”, and “*employment*” are applied in the sources.

To classify occupation, industry, and status in employment, national adaptation of international classifications are applied.

Micro data files from the census are available for research and analysis outside the agency free of charge or at different costs depending on user and data type.

### Metadata sources:

Type of source	Name of the source	Agency Responsible	Periodicity of data collection	Year the source started	Year of the last source
Q1. Population Census	Census of Population and Housing	Department of Census and Statistics	-	-	2012
Q3. Border/Admission Statistics	A record of Border/Admission Statistics	Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment	Continuously	1985	-

### Findings:

The latest *Census of Population and Housing* was processed in 2012 by the Department of Census and Statistics, covering the whole country. There are seven population groups examined in the Census:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) living abroad,*
- *Nationals (citizens) living and working abroad,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country,*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country, and*
- *Refugees.*

The Census obtains detailed data on demographic characteristics of these population groups, such as:

- Age,
- Sex,
- Marital status,
- Educational attainment, and
- Household size.

The questions raised in the assessment on the topic of international migration related characteristics are:

- Country of birth,
- Country of citizenship,
- Country of previous residence for foreigners, and
- Country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned.

In addition to the characteristics, the Census asks information about household members who left to live, work or study abroad, such as name, sex, main reason for leaving, and age at present. The *Census of Population and Housing* covers labour related characteristics of all current household members aged 15 years old and over, such as:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Status in employment, and
- Disability.

In the *Census of Population and Housing*, "**national living abroad**" refers to household members who have gone abroad for duration of more than 6 months other than for permanent residence. "**Employment**" covers persons who are in one of the following categories; (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 any paid employees) or (d) Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities came out by their own household without wages/ salaries).

To classify occupation, industry, and status in employment, national adaptation of international classifications are applied. For example:

- National adaptation of ISCO (SLSCO – 11, based on ISCO-08) (where three digits are used to release the data);
- National adaptation of ISIC (SLSIC, based on ISIC rev.4); and
- National adaptation of ICSE.

Micro data is available for research and analysis outside the agency for free or at various costs depending on capacity of the data files and the user type.

The *Border/Admission Statistics* are covered by the Annual Statistical Report and obtained from the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment. In 1985, this category of source originated in SRI LANKA which collects data continuously. It processes the population group of exit nationals leaving for temporary purposes such as for tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc.

The *Border/Admission Statistics* cover data on demographic characteristics such as age, sex, and marital status. Statistics on the international migration related characteristics presented through the source is country of birth. For the population groups assessed in the Annual Statistical Report, the data on labour related characteristics is available, particularly for:

- Employment status and
- Occupation.

To measure "**international migrant workers**", the source defines Sri Lankan migrant worker as Sri Lankans who work abroad under a legal contract of employment. To classify occupation, national adaptation of ISCO, where four digits are used to release the data, is applied.

Micro data are unavailable for research and analysis outside the agency.

## Q1. Population Census

### *SOURCE*

**Title of source:** Census of Population and Housing

**Year of last census:** 2012

**Agency responsible:** Department of Census and Statistics

### *COVERAGE*

**Geographical coverage:** Whole country

**Population groups covered:** Nationals (citizens) in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, nationals (citizens) living abroad, nationals (citizens) living and working abroad, foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country, refugees

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (citizens) in the country, nationals (citizens) employed in the country, nationals (citizens) living abroad, nationals (citizens) living and working abroad

### *TOPIC COVERED*

**Demographic characteristics:** Age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, household size

**International migration related characteristics:** Country of birth, country of citizenship, country of previous residence for foreigners, country of previous residence for citizens who lived abroad but returned

- **Coverage for international migration related characteristics:** All persons
- **Exceptions for international migration related characteristics:** N.A.

**Information about household members left to live abroad:** Yes (For the last 6 months)

- **Information refers to the last time the person left:** Yes
- **Limited to certain age or work status:** No
- **Limited to those who left the household abroad within the last X years and have not returned:** No
- **Characteristics of persons who left to live abroad:** Name, sex, main reason for leaving, age at present

**Labour related characteristics of all current household members:** Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, disability

- **Age coverage:** 15 years old and over

**Remittances related characteristics:** N.A.

**Information on immigrants and return migrants:** No

- **Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the household last time is obtained:** N.A.

**Data collected and not published/disseminated:** No

### *CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS*

**Definition of international migrant workers:** N.A.

**Definition of national (citizen) living abroad:** It refers to household members who have gone abroad for duration of more than 6 months other than for permanent residence.

**Definition of employment:** It refers to persons who are in one of following categories:

- (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 any paid employees); and
- (d) Contributing family workers (who make their contribution to the economic activities came out by their own household without wages/ salaries).

### *CLASSIFICATION*

**Classification used for occupation:** National adaptation of ISCO (SLSCO - 11, based on ISCO-08)

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** 3

**Classification used for industry:** National adaptation of ISIC (SLSIC, based on ISIC rev.4)

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** N.A.

**Classification used for status in employment:** National adaptation of ICSE

**Classification used for status in education:** N.A.

#### ***DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION***

**Data collection method:** Face-to-face interview by census enumerator using paper questionnaire (PAPI), face-to-face computer assisted interview by census enumerator (CAPI), self-administered online (web) census questionnaire /Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI)

**Compulsory participation of households:** Yes

**Official estimate of under-coverage rate:** No

**Dissemination of results:** Printed publications (please refer the official website: [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)); electronic format (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, diskettes, etc.); Web site ([www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk))

**Metadata has been prepared and disseminated:** Yes

**Micro-data availability outside NSO/responsible agency:** Yes

- **Limitations:** It has the Terms and Conditions on the use of public use files.
- **Cost of obtaining micro-data:** Its cost depends on capacity the data files and the user type.

### **Q3. Border/Admission Statistics**

#### ***SOURCE***

**Title of source:** Annual Statistical Report

**Agency responsible:** Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

#### ***PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE***

**Periodicity of data collection:** Continuously

**Year the statistics first started:** 1985

**Population coverage:** Exit nationals leaving for temporary purposes such as for tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Exit nationals leaving for temporary purposes such as for tourism, shopping, visiting, business, etc.

**Age coverage:** Legal conditions

#### ***CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS COVERED***

**Demographic characteristics:** Age, sex, marital status

**Migration related characteristics:** Country of birth

**Labour related characteristics:** Employment status, occupation

**Data collected and not published/disseminated:** No

### *CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS*

**Definition of overseas visitor:** N.A.

**Definition of country of residence:** N.A.

**Definition of international migrant workers:** Sri Lankan migrant worker means Sri Lankans who work abroad under a legal contract of employment.

### *CLASSIFICATION*

**Classification used for occupation:** National adaptation of ISCO

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** 4

**Classification used for industry:** N.A

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** N.A.

**Classification used for status in employment:** N.A.

**Classification used for status in education:** N.A.

### *DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION*

**Data collection method:** It is a legal requirement to register with the SLBFE given the necessary information to the designed formats by the individual migrant workers and the licenced recruitment agents

**Dissemination of results:** Printed publication (Annual Statistical Report), Web site ([www.slbfe.lk](http://www.slbfe.lk))

**Metadata has been prepared and disseminated:** No

**Micro-data availability outside NSO/responsible agency:** N.A.