

# Computer Literacy Statistics – 2018 (Annual)

## Department of Census and Statistics

### Sri Lanka

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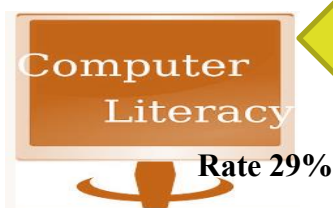


The birth of the Information Age which is also known as Computer Age, is associated with the Digital Revolution, just as the Industrial Revolution marked the birth of the Industrial Age. The Digital and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolutions are twin revolutions. The rapid developments in ICT have greatly contributed in enhancing human living standards worldwide. The advanced capability of this technology facilitates with extremely efficient collaboration and access to correct, consistent and effective information, which is fundamental to manage the quality in total. In developed world, most of the key economically effective environments are increasingly ICT dominant.

Timely and accurate information on use of ICT itself is essential for justification and proper direction of the Government efforts, private sector investments, to study the changing pattern of the demand for internet services and for continuous progress monitoring on ICT achievements. For this computer literacy data, can contribute immensely to an understanding of the demand and supply of skills in the global, knowledge based economy. Also statistics on the availability of a computer/laptop in households and usage of internet and email can be used to assess digital divide.

To cater the relevant data needs the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has conducted several surveys on computer literacy in Sri Lanka. The surveys were conducted in 2004, 2006/07, 2009 and from 2014 onward a survey module is attached to Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey. From 2014 onward two separate bulletins are published on Computer Literacy. This bulletin reveals the major findings of the survey conducted in the year 2018. For the analysis of the computer literacy survey a nationally distributed sample of 25,750 households and persons of aged 5 – 69 years were enumerated. Other than the indicators published in first six months bulletin, some district level statistics are published in this annual bulletin

## Highlights



More than one out of four person (aged 5-69) computer literated.

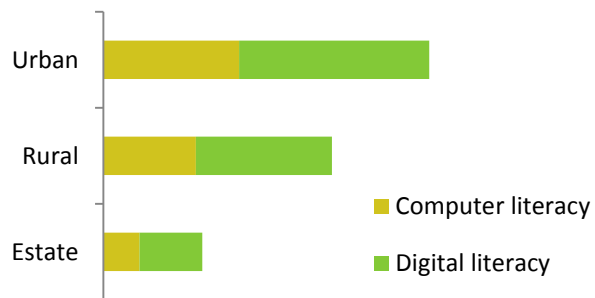
More than two out of five person (aged 5-69) digital literated.



22.3% of households owned desktop or laptop computer.



Urban sector shows more literated on both computer and digital literacy.



Computer literacy and Digital literacy by Sector

## Computer literacy

**Definition for Computer literacy:** A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a computer literate person if he/she could use computer on his/her own. For example, even if a 5 years old child can play a computer game then he/she is considered as a computer literate person.

**Definition for computer literacy rate:** Computer Literate population expressed as a percentage to the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

## Digital literacy

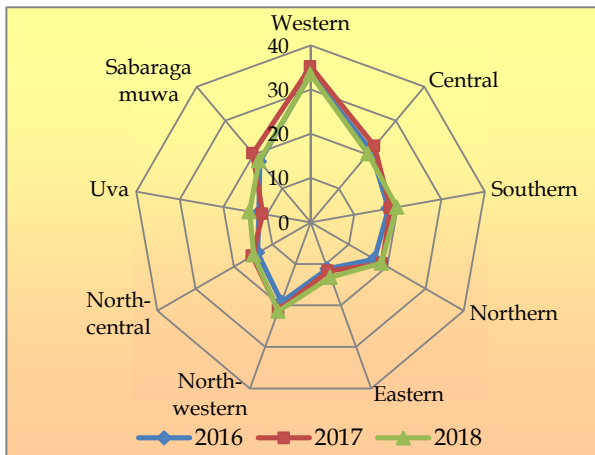
**Definition for Digital literacy:** A person (aged 5-69) is considered as a digital literate person if he/she could use computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone on his/her own.

**Definition for Digital literacy rate:** Digital Literate population expressed as a percentage to the total population, (aged 5 – 69 years) within the respective domain.

## Household computer ownership

If a desktop or laptop is available at a household then that household is considered as a computer owned household. Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of computer owned households by Sector and Province. In 2018, at least one computer is available in 22.3 percent of households in the country. That is about one out of every five households owns either a desktop or a laptop computer. This percentage is 37.5 in Urban sector and Rural and Estate sector show 20.0 percent and 4.2 percent respectively. When the provinces are considered the highest availability is in the Western province (33.4%) while the lowest availability is reported from the Eastern (13.2%).

**Figure 1: Percentage of Desktop or Laptop computer owned households by Province**



Percentage of availability of desktop or laptop computer at a household vary between 22% - 24% between 2015 to 2018 period.

**Table 1: Percentage of computer owned households by sector, province and Survey year**

Sector/ Province	Desktop (%)				Desktop or Laptop (%)			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	14.9	12.1	12.1	9.5	24.4	21.6	22.8	22.3
Urban	21.9	17.6	18.5	13.4	41.5	35.4	38.2	37.5
Rural	14.1	11.4	11.2	9.1	22.0	19.6	20.6	20.0
Estate	3.0	4.1	2.9	1.5	4.5	6.1	4.5	4.2
<b>Province</b>								
Western	22.7	18.3	18.2	13.7	38.5	33.6	35.2	33.4
Central	15.0	12.4	12.4	9.5	22.7	21.2	22.5	20.2
Southern	12.6	10.8	9.6	8.6	20.3	17.9	18.3	19.8
Northern	8.8	6.5	7.2	6.0	20.3	16.7	18.7	18.5
Eastern	8.1	5.8	5.6	5.5	13.8	11.2	11.7	13.2
North-western	12.9	9.7	11.4	8.8	21.1	19.2	21.2	21.4
North-central	11.1	8.7	7.0	5.9	17.9	13.8	15.2	14.8
Uva	8.8	8.2	6.9	6.4	12.5	11.9	11.0	14.0
Sabaragamuwa	13.3	11.7	12.8	9.6	18.2	17.9	20.3	18.1

## Computer Literacy and Digital Literacy

**Table 2: Computer literacy rate by sector, province and survey year**

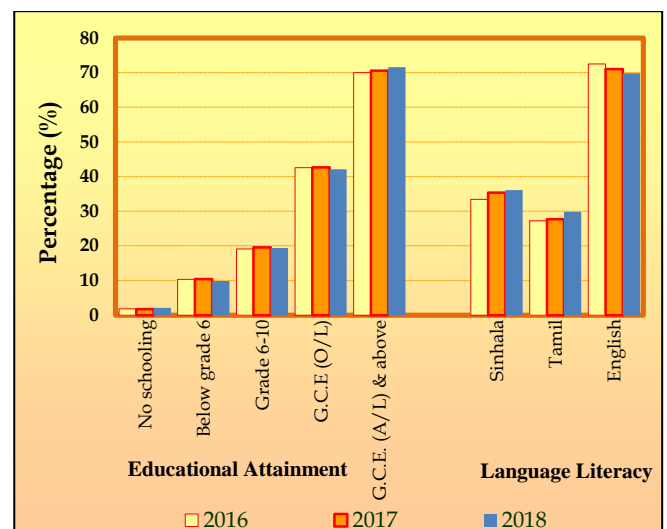
Sector/Province	Computer literacy rate (%)			
	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	27.1	27.6	28.6	29.0
<b>Sector</b>				
Urban	39.2	39.2	40.5	40.4
Rural	25.5	26.1	27.1	27.5
Estate	9.0	10.4	9.1	10.8
<b>Province</b>				
Western	38.4	38.1	38.8	40.0
Central	25.9	26.3	28.8	28.7
Southern	27.3	27.4	29.3	30.6
Northern	19.4	21.1	16.9	19.5
Eastern	13.2	14.8	14.7	14.8
North Western	25.3	27.1	28.0	29.8
North Central	21.7	21.7	23.6	21.6
Uva	17.8	18.3	17.9	18.8
Sabaragamuwa	22.1	24.0	26.8	23.5

Percentage of Computer Literate population (Computer Literacy) over the survey periods has been gradually increasing. Overall Computer Literacy reported in 2018 for Sri Lanka is 29.0 percent.

The survey results show an increase of 1.9 percentage points from 2015 to 2018. Urban sector shows the highest computer literacy rate (40.4%) among residential sectors. Computer literacy rate for Rural and Estate sectors are 27.5 percent and 10.8 percent respectively.

Among the provinces the highest level of computer literacy is reported from the Western province (40.0%). The lowest computer literacy is reported from the Eastern province (14.8%).

**Figure 2: Distribution of computer literacy rate by Educational attainment and Language literacy – 2016, 2017 & 2018**



As given in Table 3 the Computer literacy among males (31.0%) is higher than that of females (27.2%) in 2018. Young youths (aged 15 – 19 years) show the highest computer literacy rate (60.8%) among all other age groups.

The survey results reveal that higher the level of education higher the computer literacy. The group with A/L or above level of education shows the highest computer literacy rate (71.6%). Also computer literacy is higher among those who are literate in English language (69.8%).

**Table 3: Computer literacy rate by Gender, Age, Level of education, and Language literacy - 2016, 2017 & 2018**

Gender, Age group, Educational attainment and Language literacy	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	27.6	28.6	29.0
<b>By Sex</b>			
Male	29.5	31.1	31.0
Female	26.0	26.4	27.2
<b>By Age group(years)</b>			
5 - 9	13.7	13.2	12.4
10 - 14	37.6	40.6	39.5
15 - 19	62.5	63.0	60.8
20 - 24	54.3	56.9	58.7
25 - 29	43.8	46.7	47.9
30 - 34	33.5	35.2	37.5
35 - 39	26.7	26.6	27.5
40 - 49	19.4	19.8	20.9
50 - 59	9.8	11.0	11.7
60 - 69	5.9	5.9	6.1
<b>By Educational attainment</b>			
No schooling	1.8	1.7	2.1
Below grade 6	10.3	10.4	9.9
Grade 6-10	19.1	19.6	19.4
G.C.E (O/L)	42.6	42.7	42.1
G.C.E. (A/L) and above	70.0	70.6	71.6
<b>By Language literacy</b>			
Sinhala	33.4	35.4	36.1
Tamil	27.2	27.7	29.8
English	72.5	71.0	69.8

**Table 5: Computer literacy among unemployed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by age group – 2016, 2017 & 2018**

Age group (years)	Percentage of computer literate population among unemployment (%)		
	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	59.6	57.7	63.7
15 - 19	52.5	51.3	47.1
20 - 24	70.0	69.6	72.6
25 - 29	66.7	67.7	76.1
30 - 39	51.7	42.3	58.2
40 - 69	24.2	27.7	30.1

Among the unemployed, aged (25-29) group shows highest computer literate population percentage (76.1%). Annual results reveal that among unemployed many have at least some ICT skills. Even among the group aged 40-69 every one out of three is computer literate (30.1%) in 2018.

**Table 4: Computer literacy among computer aware employed population (aged 15 – 69 years) by Occupation group – 2016, 2017 & 2018**

Occupation group	Computer literacy rate (%)		
	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	64.8	59.0	63.2
Managers, Senior Officials and Legislators	75.3	70.0	70.2
Professionals	89.3	86.8	87.4
Technicians and Associate Professionals	87.8	82.9	83.8
Clerks and Clerical support workers	92.3	89.1	89.9
Services and Sales workers	59.9	56.6	60.5
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers	24.7	22.2	21.0
Craft and Related Trades workers	46.1	37.6	41.6
Plant and Machine operators and Assemblers	51.6	41.9	42.4
Elementary occupations	27.3	24.0	30.5
Armed Forces Occupations & unidentified occupations	86.7	77.8	80.1

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

Computer literacy among the employed population who are aware of computer in Sri Lanka is around 63.2 % in 2018. The positions such as Senior officials and Managers (70.2%), Professionals (87.4%), Technical and Associate professionals (83.8%), Clerks and Clerical support workers (89.9%) have higher computer literacy rates. Also, even among the individuals engage in elementary occupations 30.5 percent are computer literate.

**Table 6: Computer literacy rate and Digital literacy rate by Gender, Sector and Age groups – 2018**

Gender, Sector, Age group	Computer Literacy	Digital Literacy
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	29.0	42.4
<b>By Sex</b>		
Male	31.0	46.5
Female	27.2	38.7
<b>Sector</b>		
Urban	40.4	56.6
Rural	27.5	40.5
Estate	10.8	18.7
<b>By Age group(years)</b>		
5 - 9	12.4	24.0
10 - 14	39.5	50.1
15 - 19	60.8	73.9
20 - 24	58.7	77.6
25 - 29	47.9	68.9
30 - 34	37.5	58.0
35 - 39	27.5	47.3
40 - 49	20.9	35.9
50 - 59	11.7	20.3
60 - 69	6.1	10.1

When the digital literacy is considered 42.4% (aged 5 -69) has digital literacy. Digital literacy is higher than computer literacy for all disaggregated levels, showing the drift from Personal Computer to Smartphones/Tablets.

## Source of computer training

Table 7 shows that the majority of those who are computer literate have received training from School/University or Private institutions. The training received through Government training centres are comparatively low (5.5%).

**Table 7: Percentage distribution of Computer literate household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by sources of receiving computer knowledge\* and sector – 2018**

Source of receiving computer knowledge	Total (%)	Residential sector (%)		
		Urban	Rural	Estate
Private training course	23.7	26.5	23.0	19.0
School/University	50.9	52.9	50.1	58.7
Govt. training centres	5.5	5.0	5.8	2.7
Employment activities	18.6	27.6	16.0	8.7
Work place	11.5	16.3	10.0	5.0
Family members	25.6	27.8	25.3	8.6
Friends/ Relatives	23.6	20.7	24.7	16.0
Self	34.1	36.9	33.5	15.3
Other	3.4	2.0	3.9	1.8

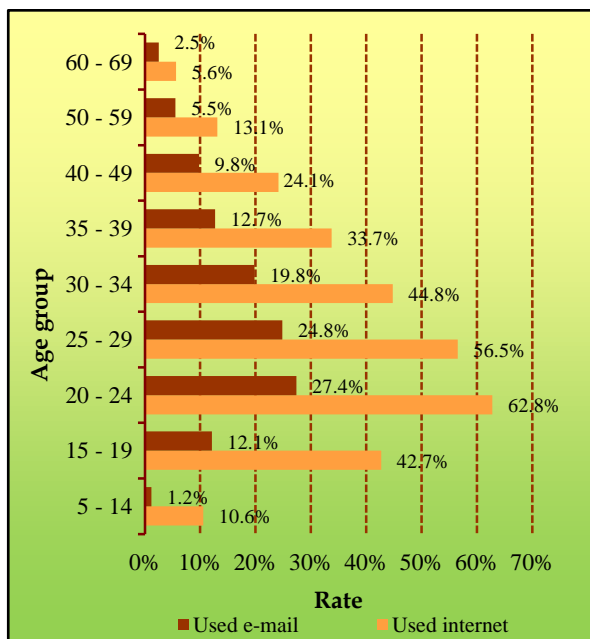
\* Multiple choice answers

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

## Internet and E-mail use

The Table 8 depicts that 26.8 percent of the population aged 5 to 69 years use the internet facility at least once during twelve months in 2018. The survey results further reveal that in the Urban sector, where the facilities are largely available, shows the highest usage of both e-mail and internet compared to other two sectors.

**Figure 3: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by age group – 2018**



The Table 8 and Figure 3 show that persons in age group 20 - 24 indicate a higher internet and email usage compared to the persons in other age groups.

**Table 8: Percentage distribution of Internet and E-mail using household population (aged 5 – 69 years) by Sex, Sector and Age group – 2016, 2017 & 2018**

Gender, Sector, Age group (years)	Household Population (aged 5-69)					
	Internet (%)			E-mail (%)		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	16.4	22.7	26.8	9.0	11.2	10.2
<b>By Sex</b>						
Male	19.5	27.0	31.4	10.7	13.5	12.3
Female	13.7	19.0	22.7	7.5	9.2	8.2
<b>By Sector</b>						
Urban	28.2	38.1	42.7	17.0	21.8	20.5
Rural	14.6	20.3	24.3	7.6	9.4	8.3
Estate	4.2	5.2	9.0	2.0	2.5	2.8
<b>By Age Groups</b>						
5 - 14	6.2	9.3	10.6	1.8	2.3	1.2
15 - 19	28.2	38.7	42.7	12.6	16.0	12.1
20 - 24	40.1	55.4	62.8	23.6	29.7	27.4
25 - 29	35.9	49.2	56.5	21.2	27.3	24.8
30 - 34	26.7	37.0	44.8	15.4	19.2	19.8
35 - 39	20.7	28.1	33.7	11.8	14.4	12.7
40 - 49	13.2	18.9	24.1	8.3	10.0	9.8
50 - 59	6.4	9.5	13.1	3.7	5.5	5.5
60 - 69	3.9	4.9	5.6	2.3	2.8	2.5

The survey results reveal that 10.2 percent of the household population aged 5 – 69 years have used E-mail facility at least once during the last 12 months period.

**Table 9: Percentage distribution of device use to connect to internet/ email household population\* (aged 5 – 69 years) by Sex, Sector and Age group – 2018**

Gender, Sector, Age group	Desktop/ Laptop	Smartphone	Tablet computer	Mobile phone
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	26.3	68.7	2.8	2.2
<b>By Sex</b>				
Male	14.6	38.5	1.6	1.2
Female	11.7	30.2	1.2	1.0
<b>Sector</b>				
Urban	9.0	19.1	1.1	0.4
Rural	17.2	48.6	1.6	1.8
Estate	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.0
<b>By Age group (years)</b>				
5 - 9	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.0
10 - 14	1.5	3.5	0.2	0.1
15 - 19	3.7	9.8	0.3	0.3
20 - 24	4.3	12.5	0.4	0.4
25 - 29	3.5	10.2	0.3	0.3
30 - 34	3.0	8.4	0.3	0.3
35 - 39	2.5	7.5	0.3	0.3
40 - 49	4.0	9.5	0.5	0.3
50 - 59	2.5	4.7	0.3	0.2
60 - 69	0.8	1.5	0.1	0.1

\* Multiple choice answers

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