Sri Lanka

Sources:
Paukert 1973, Table 6 p.104-105
Jain 1975
Cromwell 1977, Table 1
Lecaillon et al. 1984, Table 4 p. 26-27
UN 1985
Bhalla 1988
Fields 1989
Datt 1994
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
Sri Lanka, Department of Census and Statistics website 2005
Sri Lanka, CFSES, Tables 81, 84 and 87 are used from the 1978/79 edition. Tables 5.7, 5.11 and 6.6 are used from the 1981/82 edition
Sri Lanka, DCS

Surveys:
Sri Lanka Consumer Finance and Socio-Economic Surveys (CFSES) 1953, 1963, 1973, 1979 and 1982
Before 1979 the survey was called the Consumer Finance Survey. The survey is used by several authors but the main sources are the various issues of the CFSES-reports by the Central Bank of Ceylon.

In 1953 the sample size was only 1000 households. The sample was a one stage sample with two strata: estate and non-estate sector. The estate sector refers to households in tea and rubber estates of over 20 acres and with more than 10 resident workers. Incomes were asked for the preceding month.

In 1963, 4984 of 5184 households responded. A multi-stage sample scheme was adapted and the number of strata was raised to three: the urban, rural and estate sector. The survey suffered from an inadequate sampling frame. Incomes were asked for both the two and the twelve months preceding the survey.

In 1973 the sample was divided into 5 zones and 3 sectors and the number of strata were 11. The sample size was around 5000. The reference period for the incomes was the two and the six months preceding the survey. In 1973 the degree of accuracy was better than before since the sampling frame was based on the Population Census in 1971.

In 1978/79 the samples size rose to 8000 housing units and 7617 households were successfully interviewed. The survey was carried out between October, 1 1978 and September, 30 1979. This time only trained in-house staff did the interviews which lead to improvements in the survey quality. The sample was a self weighting three-stage stratified sample with the country divided in zones and sectors resulting in 13 strata. For

the first time the data was collected in four rounds to compensate for seasonal variation, 2000 households were surveyed in each round. Food consumption was collected for 7 consecutive days in three visits to the household. Record keeping was encouraged. Non-food items were asked for the 30 preceding days. Among items covered in the expenditure questionnaire the following are mentioned: non-food items, rents, repairs and rates, clothing, transport, education, health, recreation, ceremonial, laundry, litigation, gifts, personal expenditures and servants. Both self-consumption and in-kind incomes were recorded and partly imputed. Imputed rents were also covered. Durables were included with their purchase value. Incomes covered employment income, pensions, other government transfers such as charitable allowances and social service benefits, transfers from friends and relatives, remittances, other transfers and property income including, rents, interests, dividends and annuities. In-kind items were also asked and self-consumption and imputed rents are included in the income concept.

The survey in 1981/82 was very similar to the one in 1978/79. This time the census of 1981 was used as the sampling frame. A more extensive report than before was provided of the survey. The incomes were collected with a separate schedule for each income receiver. The field work was undertaken October 1 1981 to September 30 1982. A pilot survey was carried out before the main survey. Almost all households in the sample responded, the response rate was 99.1% and resulted in a final sample of 7927 households.

According to the CFSES-reports, the surveys from 1963 and 1981/82 are quite comparable even if some modifications have been done over the years. The largest non-sampling errors occur in the incomes due to understatements of both high and low incomes. Low income groups under report their incomes in hope of food subsidies. Recall errors also occur due to the reference periods. Consumption is believed to be well estimated. The income sharing unit is household (strictly speaking, spending unit but this is in practice very close to households, boarder and lodgers are however excluded).

Labour Force and Socio-Economic Survey 1980, 1986

The survey is used by several sources. It was conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics. The 1980/81 survey started in May 1980 and the information was collected in four consecutive rounds covering a period of one year. The main objective of the survey was to obtain information on labour force characteristics. The survey covered all districts in Sri Lanka and all three sectors namely urban, rural and estate sector within each district. The sample covered 10000 households in 1980 and close to 20000 in 1986. The income concept was gross income covering monetary and non-monetary incomes. The monetary income was recorded for each individual income receiver while the non-monetary income was recorded only for the entire household. The monetary income includes employee's salaries, wages and other related receipts from employment, income from agricultural activities (net of costs), profit from business (net of costs), rents, dividends, interests, pensions, remittances and cash allowances received from outside household and other periodic cash receipts. The average monthly dividends and interests were calculated on the basis of the annual dividends and the annual interests. The non-

monetary income includes three main categories: the goods and services provided free by the employer or received free from other sources valued at prevailing market prices; net rental value of owner-occupied dwelling and the value of home produces consumed within the household during the preceding year valued at prevailing market prices.

In Deininger & Squire (2004), durables and non-consumption expenditures appear to be excluded from the consumption aggregate in 1986.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey 1991, 1996, 2002

The survey is used by several sources. Despite of the different naming the survey is apparently similar to the Labour Force and Socio-Economic Survey. Northern and eastern parts of the country including some 15 % of the population were however excluded from the survey. A two stage stratified random sample design was used with the urban, rural and estate sectors of the district as the domains for stratification. The sample frame for the 2002 survey was the list of buildings that were prepared for the Census of Population and Housing 2001. Around 20000 households were covered each year. The surveys were conducted in twelve monthly rounds to capture seasonal variation.

The main income sources considered in this survey were wages and salaries, income from agricultural activities (seasonal and non-seasonal crops), income from non-agricultural activities, other cash income (including pension payments, disability payments, Samurdhi, local and foreign transfers, windfall income such as lottery wins, donations etc.) and income in-kind. Income in-kind was the estimated values of goods or services received in-kind and consumed within the survey reference period. This value was formed by home grown fruits and vegetables, firewood, home consumed quantities of the products of agricultural activities, estimated rental value of owner-occupied house or freely occupied housing units and other goods or concession values received from employer or other parties.

Concerning expenditures, quantities and values of food items were collected during seven consecutive days in a reference week. For non-food items the reference periods varied from one month to twelve months depending on the items or services obtained. The non-food items included the following main groups: Housing; fuel and light; clothing, textiles and personal effects; personal care and health expenses; transport and communication; education; cultural activities and entertainment; non durable household goods, durable household goods and other expenses.

In Deininger & Squire (2004), durables and non-consumption expenditures appear to be excluded from the aggregate in 1991 but included in 1996. On the income side, it is not clear if all the items as listed above are included.

Sri Lanka Integrated Survey 2000

This survey is used by Deininger & Squire (2004) and is different compared to the above once and generate different results. It was carried out across all provinces of the country between October 1999 and the third quarter of 2000. A total of 7500 households were surveyed in 500 urban, rural and estate communities. The survey includes less detail on

expenditures than the surveys described above. For food items, expenditure information was collected for 62 items and quantity information for 57 items. Money value of purchases, home production and in-kind receipts were recorded. Total household monthly income was calculated by adding up monthly proceeds from the following sources: individual earnings for all individuals in the household (casual labour, labour in estates, salary income, labour income from abroad and income from operating business); income from home produced and home consumed goods; Samurdhi benefits and other social transfers; profits from farming, farm subsidies, livestock and fishing proceeds; other earned income (income from selling snacks, cooked food, forest products, handcrafts) and other non-earned income (remittances, insurance, inheritance, etc.).