

Census of Population and Housing - 2012 Central Province

Indicator	Unit	Central Province	Kandy District	Matale District	Nuwara Eliya District
Total population	Number	2,571,557	1,375,382	484,531	711,644
By Sex					
Male	Number	1,229,795	655,791	233,657	340,347
Female	Number	1,341,762	719,591	250,874	371,297
By Sector					
Urban	Percent	10.5	12.4	12.4	5.6
Rural	Percent	70.6	81.4	83.6	40.9
Estate	Percent	18.9	6.2	3.9	53.5
By Ethnic Group					
Sinhalese	Percent	66.0	74.4	80.8	39.6
Tamil	Percent	23.8	11.2	9.8	57.6
Sri Lanka Moor	Percent	9.9	13.9	9.2	2.5
Other	Percent	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
By Religion					
Buddhist	Percent	65.0	73.4	79.5	39.1
Hindu	Percent	21.0	9.7	9.0	51.0
Islam	Percent	10.3	14.3	9.4	3.0
Other	Percent	3.7	2.6	2.1	6.9
By Education Status					
No schooling	Percent	5.2	4.2	4.5	7.6
Passed primary	Percent	26.3	22.5	26.0	33.9
Passed secondary	Percent	39.2	38.5	43.1	38.1
Passed G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	Percent	15.5	17.4	14.4	12.7
Passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	Percent	11.4	14.3	10.2	6.6
Degree or above	Percent	2.4	3.2	1.9	1.1
By Economic Status					
Total Active	Number	982,407	498,721	185,617	298,069
Male Active	Number	650,758	341,260	131,798	177,700
Female Active	Number	331,649	157,461	53,819	120,369
Total Inactive	Number	911,153	525,767	172,944	212,442
Male Inactive	Number	236,221	136,546	38,434	61,241
Female Inactive	Number	674,932	389,221	134,510	151,201
Literacy Rate		93.9	95.4	94.2	90.9
Computer Literacy Rate		24.1	28.9	21.2	16.5

Census of Population and Housing - 2012

Central Province

1.0 Introduction

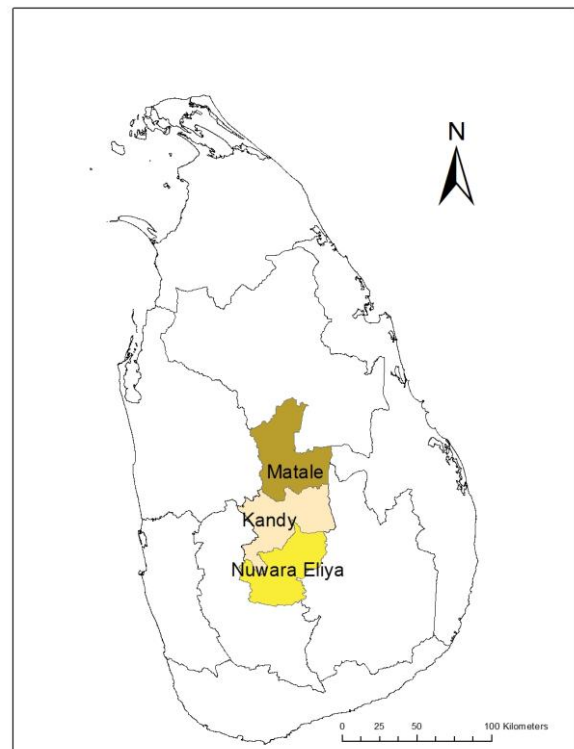
The Department of Census and Statistics successfully conducted 14th consecutive Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka on 20th March, 2012. Enumeration stage of this Census comprised of two rounds. During the first round, performed from 27th February to 19th March 2012, data were collected from persons according to their places of usual residence. In the second round, data collected in the first round was updated taking into account events such as births, deaths or changes of usual residence between the date of data collection and the **Census date**, declared as 20th March 2012. These updates were done, based on the **Census Moment** which was **declared** as mid night of 19th March 2012. Enumeration of homeless people, who do not have a usual place of residence, was carried out during the mid-night of 19th March 2012.

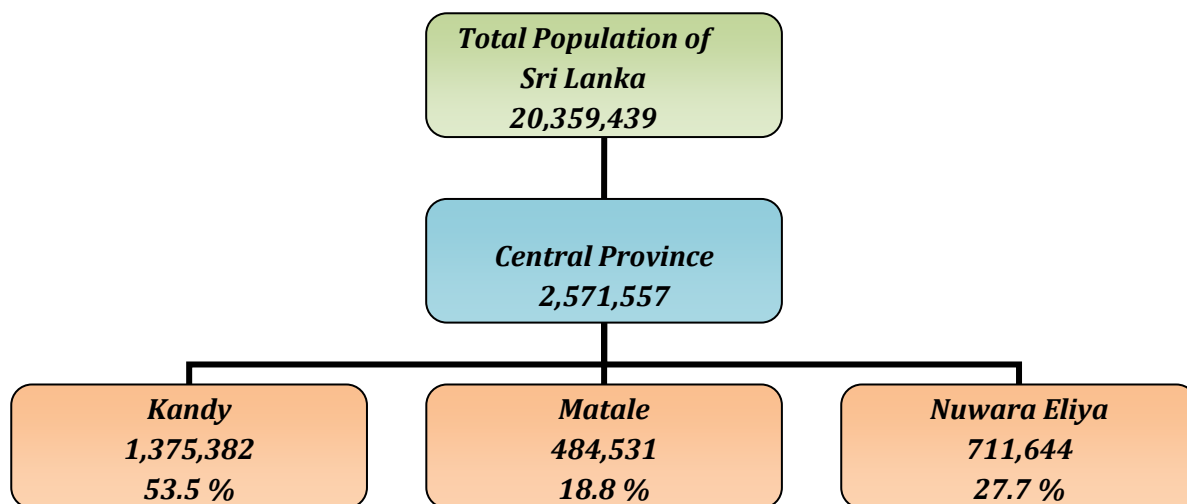
According to the data dissemination plan of the Census, province level reports will be published with district level information. In addition district level, DS

division level and GN level data will be provided through soft copies in CD's. This publication presents population information of Central province, which consist of three districts namely Kandy, Matale and Nuwar Eliya.

A brief review of population distribution, demographic characteristics, educational attainment and economic activities of Central province is presented here followed by detailed statistical tables.

Figure 1: Location of Central Province





2.0 Population Distribution

Thirteen percent (or 2,571,557) of Sri Lankan population lived in Central province. Almost 83 percent of population in Kandy district live in the same district since birth. Corresponding figures for Matale district and Nuwara Eliya district are 79.4 percent and 87.3 percent respectively.

Out of the total population in the Central province 1,375,382 (53.5%) belongs to

Kandy district. Matale district and Nuwara Eliya district population are 484,531 (18.8%) and 711,644 (27.7%) respectively. Population density (or number of persons per square kilometer) of the province is 461p.p.km². Population density of Kandy district (717 p.p.km²) is higher than Matale district (248 p.p. km²) and Nuwara Eliya district (417 p.p. km²).

2.1 Population distribution by DS division

There are 20 DS divisions in Kandy district, 11 DS divisions in Matale district and 5 DS divisions in Nuwara Eliya district.

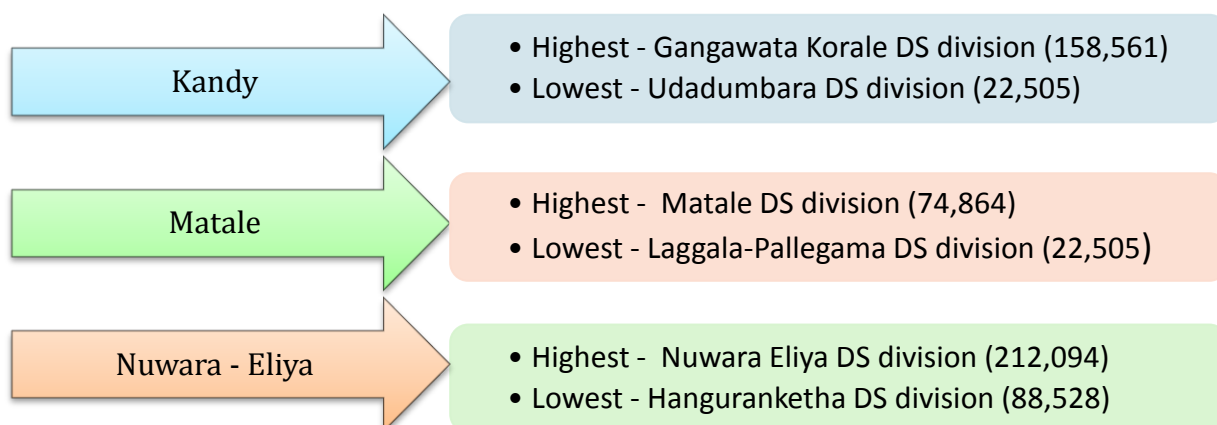


Figure 2 : Kandy District Population Distribution by DS Division

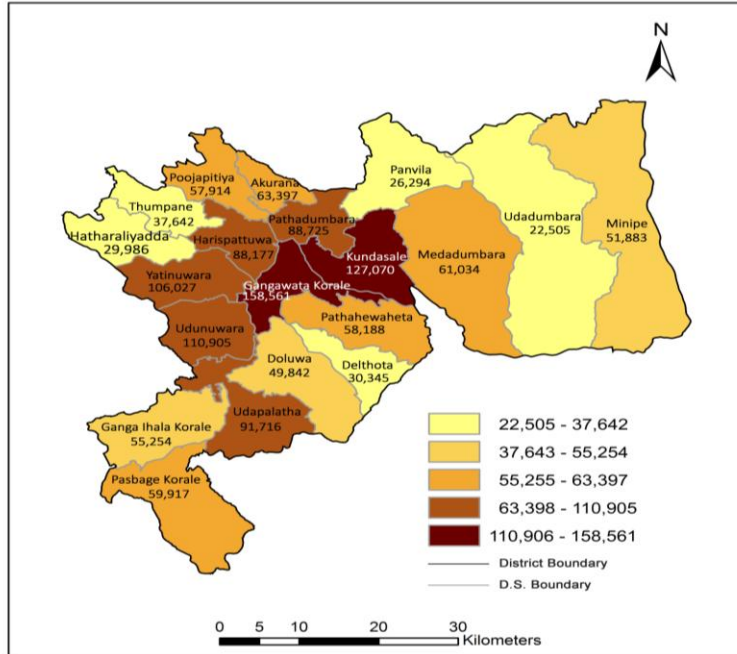
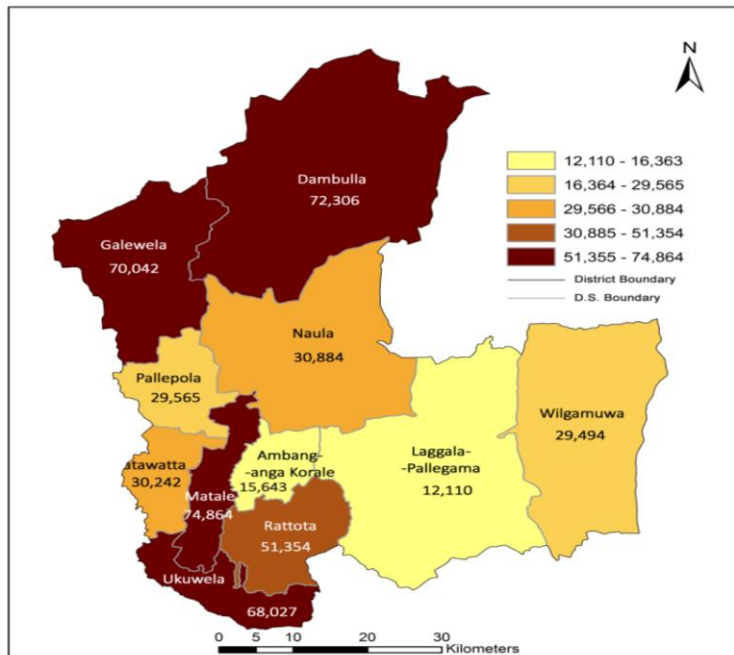
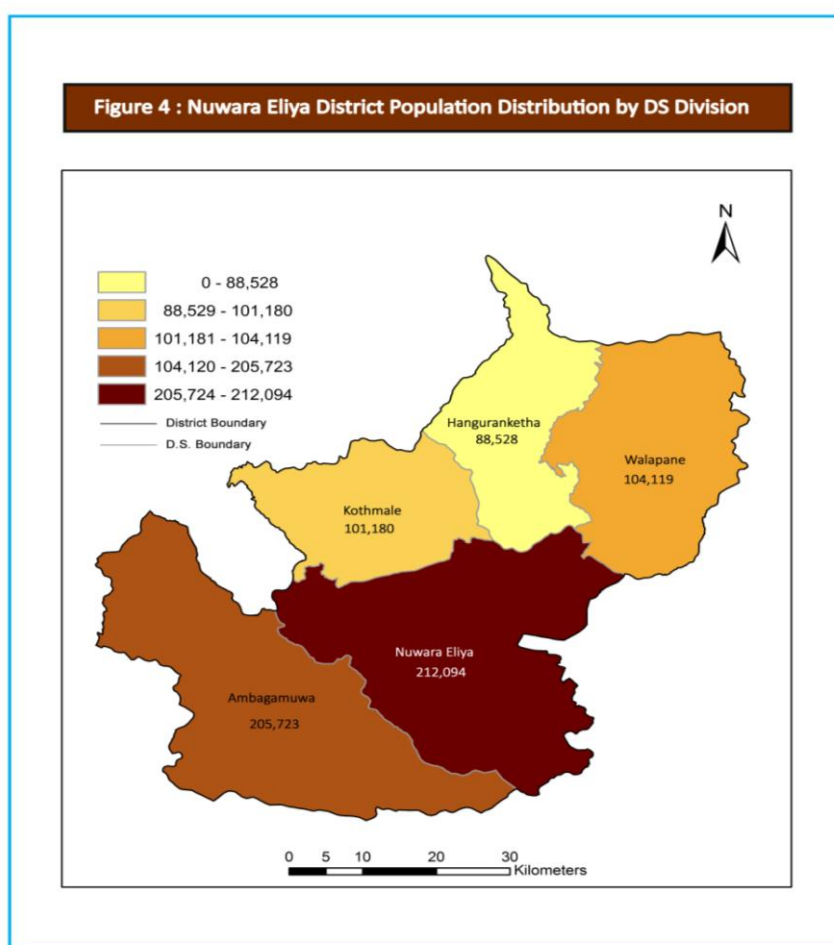


Figure 3 : Matale District Population Distribution by DS Division





2. 2 Population distribution by sector

Table 1 : Percentage distribution of population by sector

	Population	Total	Sector		
			Urban	Rural	Estate
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	18.2	77.4	4.4
Central	2,571,557	100.0	10.5	70.6	18.9
Kandy	1,375,382	100.0	12.4	81.4	6.2
Matale	484,531	100.0	12.4	83.6	3.9
Nuwara Eliya	711,644	100.0	5.6	40.9	53.5

Majority of population in Central province (70.6%), especially in Kandy district (81.4%) and Matale district

(83.5%) are in rural sector. But in Nuwara Eliya district estate sector population is 53.5 percent of it s'

population. According to the Table 1 percentage of urban sector population in Kandy district and Matale district are same and higher than that of Nuwara Eliya district. In Kandy district percentage of population in urban sector

is doubled compare to estate sector. However, in Nuwara Eliya district estate sector population is nearly 80 percent of Central province estate sector population. Percentage distribution of population by sector is given in Table1.

2. 3 Population distribution by Municipal and Urban councils

Areas of Municipal and Urban are defined as urban areas in Sri Lanka. Municipal council population in Kandy district is 98,828, Matale district is 60,276 and Nuwara Eliya district is 23,804. There are four Urban councils (Gampola, Kadugannawa, Nawalapitiya and Wattegama) in Kandy district, no Urban council areas in Matale district

and two Urban councils in Nuwara Eliya district (Hatton-Dikoya and Thalawakele-Lindula). Population in Gampola, Kadugannawa, Nawalapitiya, Wattegama, Hatton-Dikoya and Thalawakele-Lindula Urban council areas are 37,871, 12,654, 13,338, 8,157, 14,585 and 4,691 respectively.

3.0 Demographic characteristics of population

3.1 Population distribution by sex

Out of the total population of Central province, 1,229,795 (or 47.8%) are males and 1,341,762 (or 52.2%) are

females. Table 2 presents percentage distribution of population by sector and sex.

3.2 Sex ratio

Sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females. Census 2012 reports that there are 94 males for every 100 females in Sri Lanka.

According to the data Matale district sex ratio (93) is higher than those ratios in Kandy district (91) and Nuwara Eliya district (92).

Table 2: Percentage distribution of population by sector and sex

	Population	Total	Sector		
			Urban	Rural	Estate
Male					
Sri Lanka	9,856,634	100.0	18.3	77.3	4.4
Central	1,229,795	100.0	10.6	70.5	18.8
Kandy	655,791	100.0	12.5	81.3	6.2
Matale	233,657	100.0	12.5	83.6	3.8
Nuwara Eliya	340,347	100.0	5.7	40.7	53.6
Female					
Sri Lanka	10,502,805	100.0	18.1	77.4	4.5
Central	1,341,762	100.0	10.5	70.7	18.9
Kandy	719,591	100.0	12.3	81.4	6.3
Matale	250,874	100.0	12.4	83.6	4.0
Nuwara Eliya	371,297	100.0	5.6	41.0	53.4

3.3 Population by age group and sex

Age–sex composition of a population describes the patterns of the distribution of a population in a different age-sex categories. Age-sex distribution reflects important demographic composition of sub populations such as child population, elderly population and working population.

Figure 5, Figure 6 and Figure 7 shows age–sex pyramids for Kandy, Matale and

Nuwara Eliya district respectively. According to the Figure 5 and Figure 7 the highest population is seen in 5-9 age group for both sexes. The lowest population is seen in 80 and over age group for both sexes. According to the Figure 6 the highest population is seen in 5 –9 age group for both sexes. The lowest population is seen in 80 and over age group for both sexes.

Figure 5: Age-sex distribution of population in Kandy district

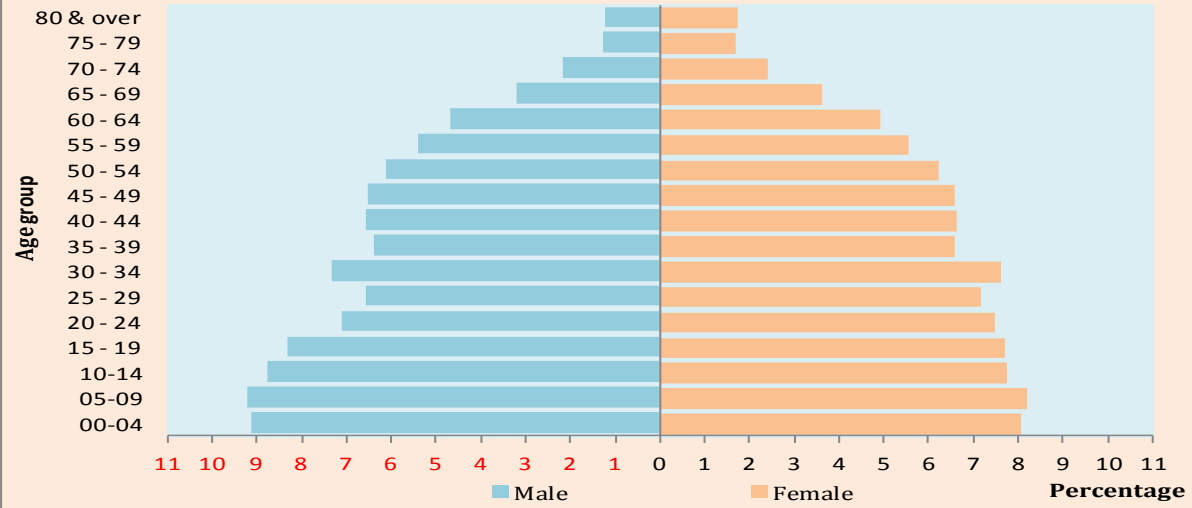


Figure 6: Age-sex distribution of population in Matale district

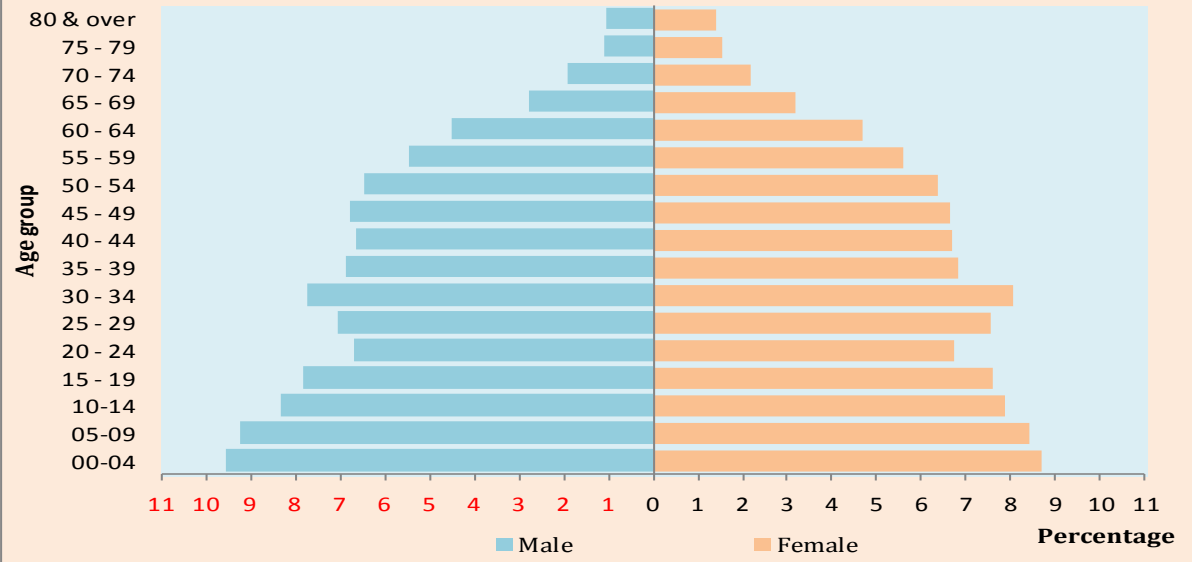
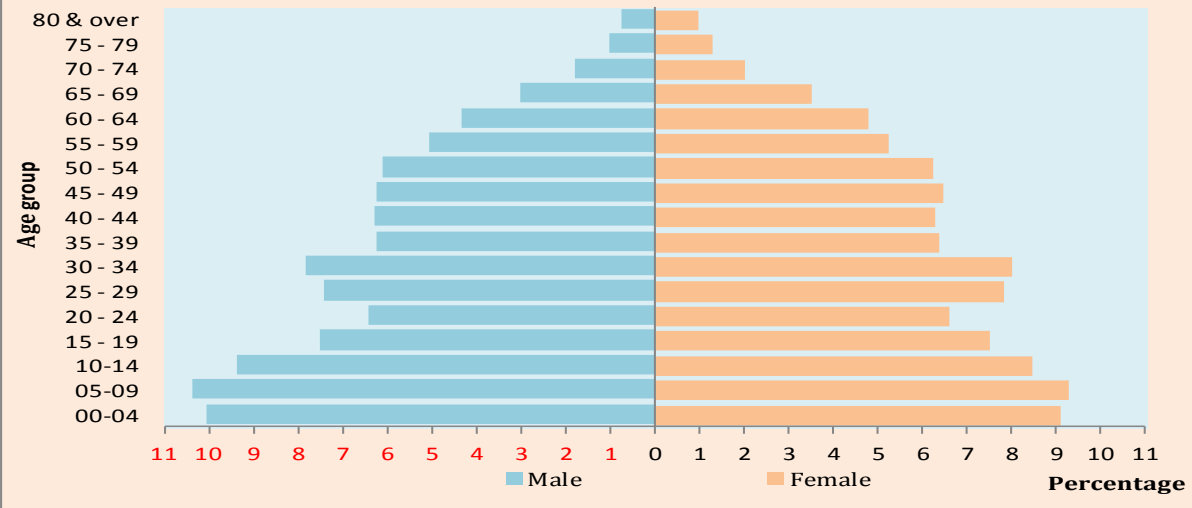


Figure 7: Age-sex distribution of population in Nuwara Eliya district



3.4 Population distribution by ethnicity

Majority of population in Central Province is Sinhalese (66.0 %). The second highest ethnic group is Tamil (23.8%) followed by Sri Lanka Moor (9.9%) and other ethnic groups namely

Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha form 0.3 percent. Table 3 presents ethnic distribution in three districts.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group

	Population	Total	Ethnic group			
			Sinhalese	Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	74.9	15.3	9.3	0.5
Central	2,571,557	100.0	66.0	23.8	9.9	0.3
Kandy	1,375,382	100.0	74.4	11.2	13.9	0.4
Matale	484,531	100.0	80.8	9.8	9.2	0.2
Nuwara Eliya	711,644	100.0	39.6	57.6	2.5	0.2

Total Sinhalese population in Sri Lanka is 15,250,081 and total Tamil population and Sri Lanka Moor population are 3,108,770 and 1,892,638. Among the Sinhalese population 11.1 percent of

them live in Central province. Among the Tamil population almost one fifth of them and among the Sri Lankan Moor population 13.4 percent live in Central province.

3.5 Population distribution by religion

Table 4: Percentage distribution of population by religion

	Population	Total	Religion				
			Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	70.1	12.6	9.7	6.2	1.4
Central	2,571,557	100.0	65.0	21.0	10.3	2.5	1.2
Kandy	1,375,382	100.0	73.4	9.7	14.3	1.6	1.0
Matale	484,531	100.0	79.5	9.0	9.4	1.6	0.5
Nuwara Eliya	711,644	100.0	39.1	51.0	3.0	4.7	2.2

Majority of Central Province population is Buddhist (65.0%) followed by Hindus (21.0%), Islam (10.3%), Roman Catholic (2.5%) and other religions (1.2%). Among the total Hindus in Sri Lanka

more than one fifth of population (21.1 percent) lives in Central province. While 13.4 percent consist of Islam, 11.7 percent consist of Buddhists and 5.1 percent consist of Roman Catholic.

3.6 Population distribution by marital status

Table 5: Percentage distribution of population (aged 15 years and above) by sex and marital status

	Population aged 15 years and above	Total	Marital Status				
			Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated
Both Sexes							
Sri Lanka	15,227,773	100.0	25.8	67.8	5.2	0.3	0.9
Central	1,893,560	100.0	25.2	68.7	5.2	0.2	0.7
Kandy	1,024,488	100.0	26.6	67.5	5.0	0.3	0.7
Matale	358,561	100.0	23.1	70.4	5.3	0.3	1.0
Nuwara Eliya	510,511	100.0	23.9	69.7	5.6	0.2	0.7
Male							
Sri Lanka	7,266,234	100.0	30.0	67.7	1.3	0.2	0.7
Central	886,979	100.0	29.2	68.5	1.5	0.2	0.6
Kandy	477,806	100.0	30.4	67.4	1.4	0.2	0.5
Matale	170,232	100.0	27.7	70.0	1.3	0.2	0.9
Nuwara Eliya	238,941	100.0	27.8	69.7	1.9	0.1	0.5
Female							
Sri Lanka	7,961,539	100.0	22.0	67.8	8.7	0.3	1.1
Central	1,006,581	100.0	21.6	68.8	8.5	0.3	0.8
Kandy	546,682	100.0	23.2	67.6	8.1	0.3	0.8
Matale	188,329	100.0	18.9	70.8	9.0	0.3	1.0
Nuwara Eliya	271,570	100.0	20.4	69.7	8.9	0.2	0.8

Marital status is another important demographic characteristic of a population. Table 5 shows that 68.7 percent of 15 years and above population is married and almost 25.2 percent is never married in Central province. Male's percentage of never

married population is higher than females. However, divorced and separated population is higher among females than males. Percentage of widowed females is six times higher than percentage of widowed males.

4.0 Educational attainment

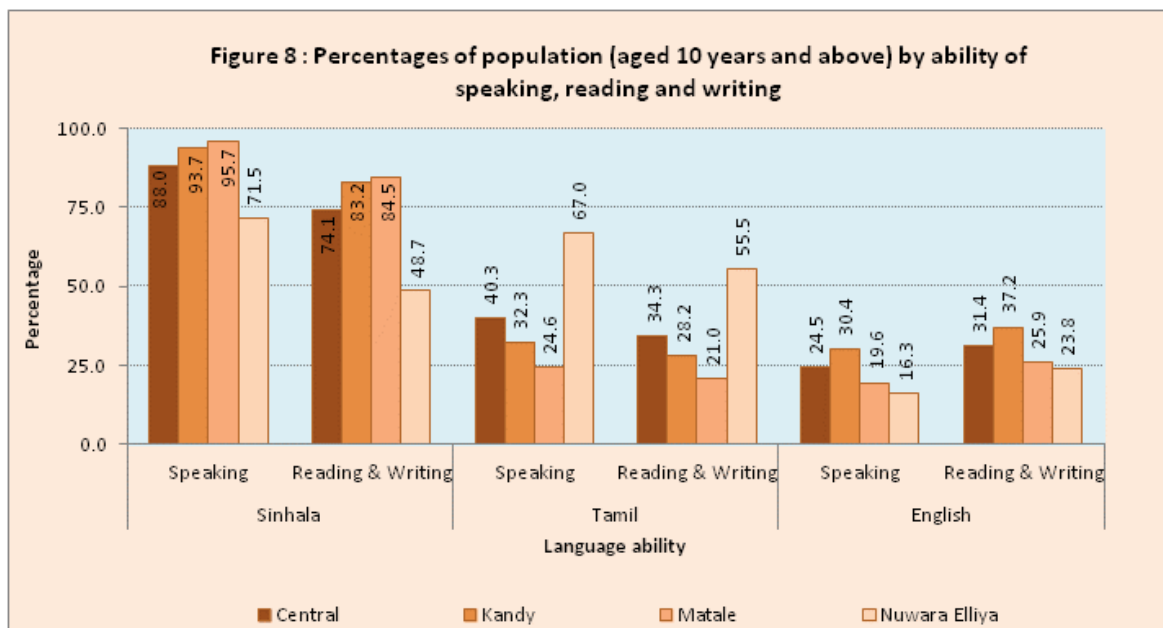
Through the Census 2012, information on the highest educational attainment, the highest professional/vocational qualifications were collected from persons who were aged 5 years and above. Information on involvement in any educational activity during 30 days prior to the date of Census was collected from population aged 3 years and above. Purpose of having these data is to collect information on current involvement of educational activity of a person. In addition, information on ability to speak, read and write in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages and ability to use computers were also collected from those who were aged 10 years and above.

In Central Province percentages of passed primary (including those who are studying in grade 1 at the time of the Census), passed secondary, passed G.C.E. (O/L), passed G.C.E. (A/L) or equivalent and degree or above are 26.3, 39.2, 15.5, 11.4 and 2.4 percent respectively. These figures show that majority of the population completed education up to secondary level. Those who have completed the highest education level which is degree and above (2.4%) is significantly low in Central Province. Nearly 8 percent of the population in Nuwara-Eliya district reported that they have never attended in a school.

4.1 Language ability

Information on ability of speaking, reading and writing of population aged 10 years and above was collected in the Census 2012. According to the data 88.0 percent of people in Central province

speak Sinhala while 74.1 percent can read and write Sinhala. Figure 8 shows the percentages of speaking, reading and writing abilities of population aged 10 years and above for three districts.



4.2 Literacy rate

Literacy rate is a key indicator to measure the level of reading and writing ability of persons in a country. The definition of literate person is given as “*If a person can both read and write a short statement with understanding is considered as literate*”. According to the

results shown in the Table 6 literacy rate of the population aged 10 years and above in Central province stands at 93.9 percent. The corresponding rate for males and females are 96.1 percent and 92.0 percent respectively.

Table 6 : Percentages of literate population (aged 10 years and above) by sex

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	95.7	96.9	94.6
Central	2,109,607	93.9	96.1	92.0
Kandy	1,138,036	95.4	96.8	94.2
Matale	397,755	94.2	95.7	92.8
Nuwara Eliya	573,816	90.9	94.9	87.2

4.3 Computer literacy by sex

According to the Table 7, computer literacy of the population aged 10 years and above in Central province stands at 24.1 percent. The corresponding

percentages for males and females are 26.1 percent and 22.3 percent respectively.

Table 7: Percentages of population able to use computer (aged 10 years and above) by sex

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	24.2	26.5	22.1
Central	2,109,607	24.1	26.1	22.3
Kandy	1,138,036	28.9	31.4	26.8
Matale	397,755	21.2	23.0	19.6
Nuwara Eliya	573,816	16.5	17.9	15.3

5.0 Economic activities

Economic activities that people engaged for their livelihood are very important characteristic in a population. Census 2012 gathered information on economic status of population aged 15 years and

above considering 52 weeks prior to the Census date. Therefore, the indicators reflect usual economic status of the population rather than current economic status.

5.1 Economically active population

Economically active population or the labour force comprised of employed and unemployed persons. According to the data 51.9 percent of aged 15 years and above population is economically active in this province. Kandy district (48.7%)

is reported lower economically active percentage than Matale district (51.8%) and Nuwara Eliya district (58.4%).

Table 8 present percentages of economically active population by sector and sex.

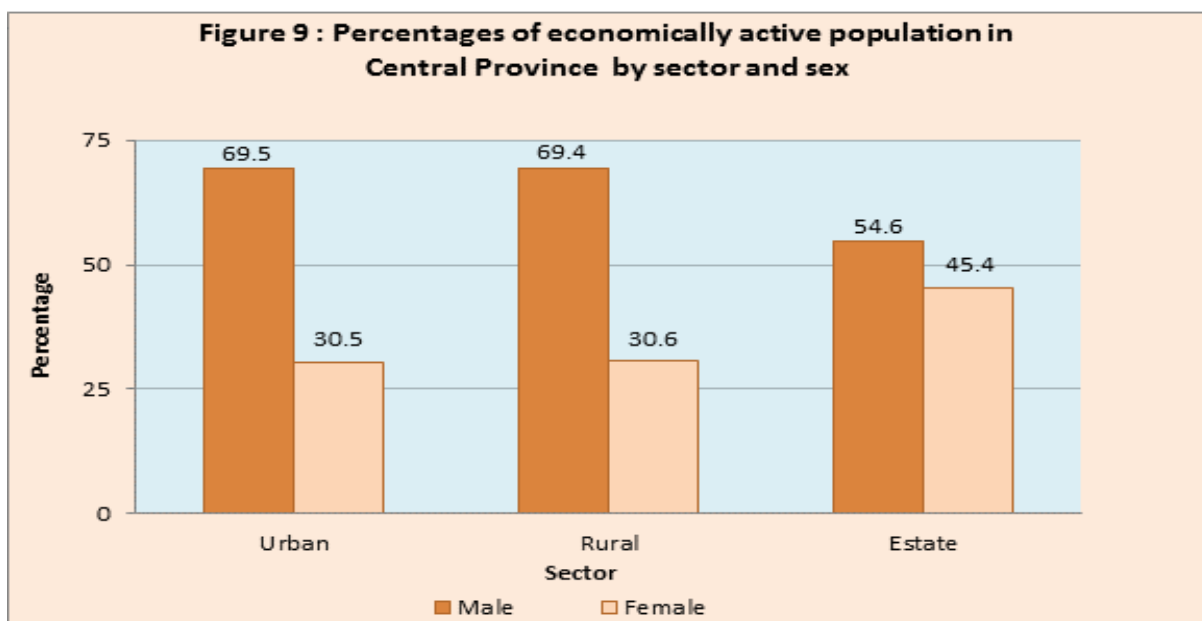


Table 8: Percentages of economically active population (aged 15 years and above) by sector and sex

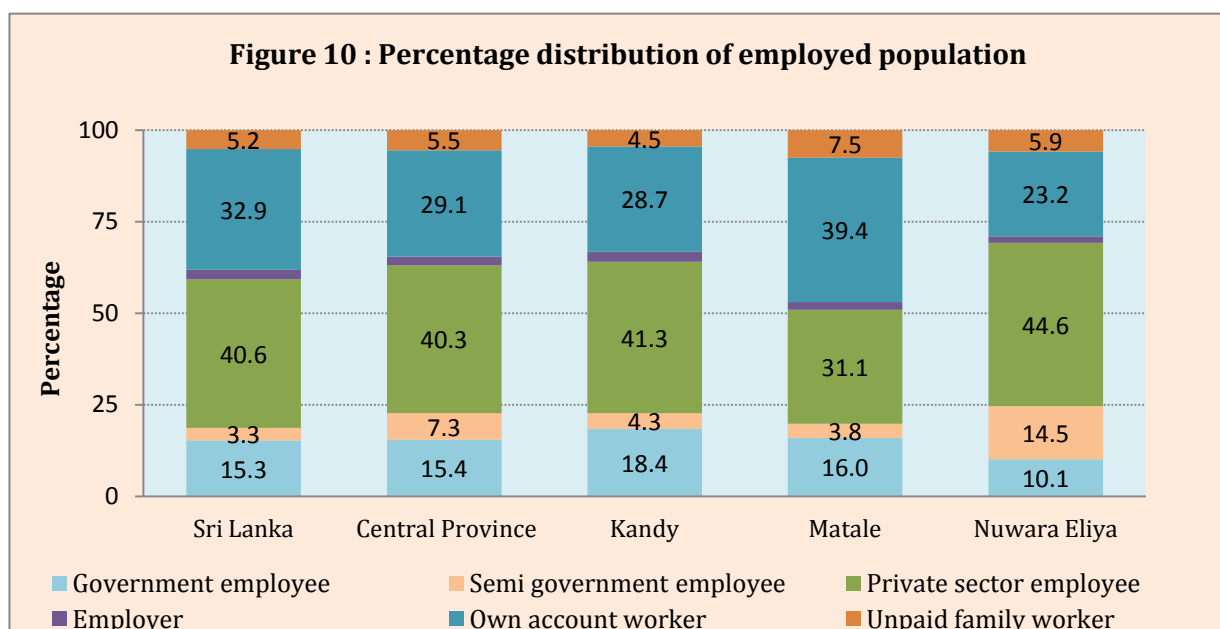
	Economically active Population aged 15 years and above	Both sexes	Sex	
			Male	Female
Sri Lanka				
Total	7,857,370	100.0	69.9	30.1
Urban	1,416,955	100.0	69.8	30.2
Rural	6,048,095	100.0	70.8	29.2
Estate	392,320	100.0	55.7	44.3
Central				
Total	982,407	100.0	66.2	33.8
Urban	97,650	100.0	69.5	30.5
Rural	675,772	100.0	69.4	30.6
Estate	208,985	100.0	54.6	45.4
Kandy				
Total	489,721	100.0	68.4	31.6
Urban	58,783	100.0	69.1	30.9
Rural	405,213	100.0	69.3	30.7
Estate	34,725	100.0	57.0	43.0
Matale				
Total	185,617	100.0	71.0	29.0
Urban	22,261	100.0	71.4	28.6
Rural	155,815	100.0	71.5	28.5
Estate	7,541	100.0	59.9	40.1
Nuwara - Eliya				
Total	298,069	100.0	59.6	40.4
Urban	16,606	100.0	68.1	31.9
Rural	114,744	100.0	66.8	33.2
Estate	166,719	100.0	53.8	46.2

5.2 Employed and unemployed population

Total employed and unemployed population in Central province is 913,496 and 68,911 respectively. In Kandy district total employed population is reported as 462,795 while that figures are 175,747 and 274,954 in Matale district and Nuwara Eliya district. Among the employed population in Kandy

district, almost one in every five person (18.4%) is engaged in government sector employment. Figure 10)

Table 9 presents percentages of employed population by sector of employment and sex.



**Table 9: Percentages of employed population (aged 15 years and above)
by sector of employment and sex**

	Employed Population	Total	Sex	
			Male	Female
Sri Lanka				
Total	7,335,432	100.0	70.8	29.2
Government employee	1,122,734	100.0	64.4	35.6
Semi government employee	244,989	100.0	62.0	38.0
Private sector employee	2,980,361	100.0	70.5	29.5
Employer	190,680	100.0	86.2	13.8
Own account worker	2,414,258	100.0	79.8	20.2
Unpaid family worker	382,410	100.0	31.9	68.1
Central Province				
Total	913,496	100.0	67.1	32.9
Government employee	141,049	100.0	62.5	37.5
Semi government employee	66,383	100.0	52.7	47.3
Private sector employee	368,449	100.0	66.2	33.8
Employer	21,552	100.0	84.6	15.4
Own account worker	265,731	100.0	80.0	20.0
Unpaid family worker	50,332	100.0	29.7	70.3
Kandy				
Total	462,795	100.0	69.4	30.6
Government employee	85,219	100.0	60.9	39.1
Semi government employee	19,845	100.0	59.8	40.2
Private sector employee	191,133	100.0	70.2	29.8
Employer	12,893	100.0	86.1	13.9
Own account worker	132,733	100.0	79.2	20.8
Unpaid family worker	20,972	100.0	33.1	66.9
Matale				
Total	175,747	100.0	71.8	28.2
Government employee	28,121	100.0	67.0	33.0
Semi government employee	6,663	100.0	61.9	38.1
Private sector employee	54,668	100.0	72.8	27.2
Employer	3,822	100.0	88.5	11.5
Own account worker	69,255	100.0	81.9	18.1
Unpaid family worker	13,218	100.0	25.4	74.6
Nuwara Eliya				
Total	274,954	100.0	60.1	39.9
Government employee	27,709	100.0	63.0	37.0
Semi government employee	39,875	100.0	47.6	52.4
Private sector employee	122,648	100.0	57.0	43.0
Employer	4,837	100.0	77.5	22.5
Own account worker	63,743	100.0	79.4	20.6
Unpaid family worker	16,142	100.0	28.9	71.1

5.3 Economically inactive population

Students, those who are engaged in household work, income recipient/pensioners, unable to work, unpaid social worker, children not attending school and other non-economic activities are considered as economically inactive population. According to Census 2012, economically inactive population in Central province is reported as 48.1 percent. Data shows that the

economically inactive population in Kandy district (51.3%) is higher than economically inactive population in Matale district (48.2%) and Nuwara Eliya district (43.7).

Figure 11 shows the percentages of economically inactive population (aged 15 years and above) by sex.

