

Highlights
Census of Population and Housing 2012
Eastern Province

Indicator		Unit	Eastern Province	Batticaloa District	Ampara District	Trincomalee District
Population	Total	Number	1,555,510	526,567	649,402	379,541
By Sex	Male	Number	752,500	250,676	314,352	187,472
	Female	Number	803,010	275,891	335,050	192,069
By Sector	Urban	Percent	25.1	28.7	23.6	22.4
	Rural	Percent	74.9	71.3	76.4	77.6
	Estate	Percent	-	-	-	-
By Ethnic Groups	Sinhalese	Percent	23.2	1.3	38.9	26.7
	Tamil	Percent	39.5	72.7	17.4	31.1
	Sri Lanka Moor	Percent	36.9	25.4	43.4	41.8
	Other	Percent	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4
By Religious Groups	Buddhist	Percent	23.0	1.2	38.7	26.2
	Hindu	Percent	34.7	64.4	15.8	25.9
	Islam	Percent	37.0	25.5	43.4	42.0
	Other	Percent	5.3	9.0	2.0	5.9
By Education Status	No schooling	Percent	5.8	7.2	5.2	4.9
	Passed primary	Percent	31.6	34.3	30.6	29.7
	Passed secondary	Percent	38.4	35.5	38.9	41.8
	Passed G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	Percent	13.2	12.5	13.5	13.6
	Passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	Percent	8.9	8.2	10.0	8.1
	Degree or above	Percent	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.9
By Economic status	Total Active	Number	510,106	168,240	217,784	124,082
	Male Active	Number	398,715	131,505	168,842	98,368
	Female Active	Number	111,391	36,735	48,942	25,714
	Total Inactive	Number	573,031	196,485	240,468	136,078
	Male Inactive	Number	115,337	37,642	48,802	28,893
	Female Inactive	Number	457,694	158,843	191,666	107,185
Literacy Rate		Rate	91.9	89.5	92.8	93.5
Computer Literacy Rate		Rate	18.6	18.6	18.8	18.5

Census of Population and Housing 2012

Eastern Province

1.0 Introduction

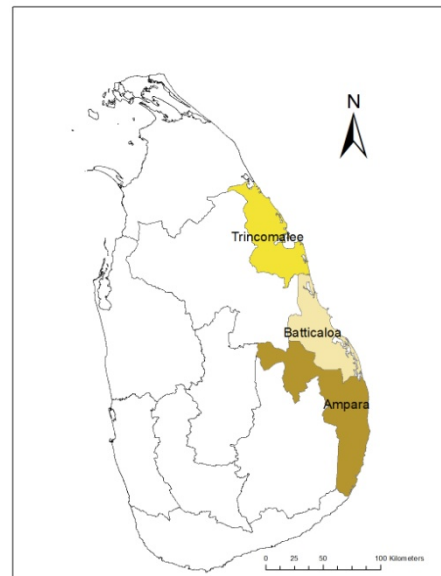
The Department of Census and Statistics was able to conduct 14th consecutive Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka on 20th March, 2012. Enumeration stage of this Census comprised of two rounds. During the first round, performed from 27th February to 19th March 2012, data were collected from persons 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.

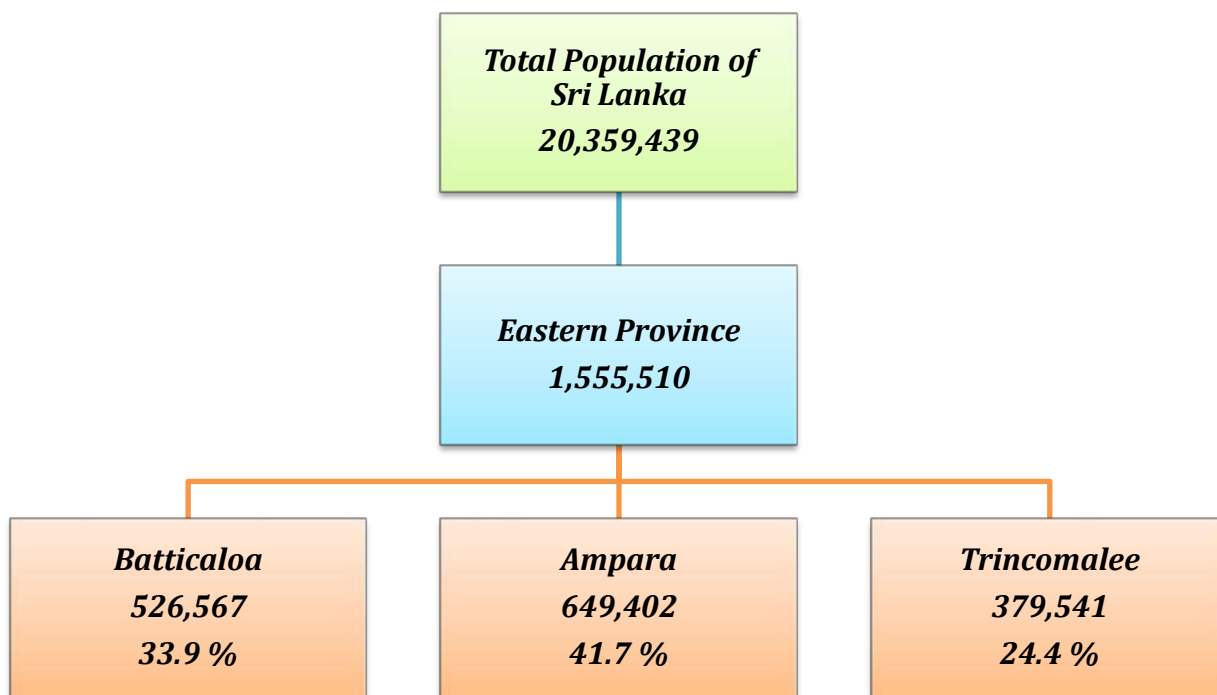
According to the data dissemination plan of the Census, province level reports will be published with district level

information. In addition district level, DS division level and GN level data will be provided through softcopies in CD's. This publication presents population information of Eastern province, which consist of three districts namely Batticaloa , Ampara and Trincomalee .

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

Figure 1: Location of Eastern province





2.0 Population distribution

Eight percent (or 1,555,510) of Sri Lankan population lived in Eastern province. Almost 87 percent of population in this province lives in the same province since birth. Out of the total population of this province, the highest population is recorded from Ampara district 649,402 (41.7%). The second highest population is

recorded from Batticaloa district (526,567).

Population density (or number of persons per square km) of the province is 156. Population density of Batticaloa district (185) is higher than Ampara(147) and Trincomalee(139) districts.

2.1 Population distribution by DS division

There are 14 DS divisions in Batticaloa district, 20 DS divisions in Ampara district and 11 DS divisions in Trincomalee district.

recorded from Trincomalee Town and Gravets DS division (97,487).

Considering divisional secretariat division level population in this province the highest DS division level population was

Below Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 present population distribution by DS division in Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee districts.

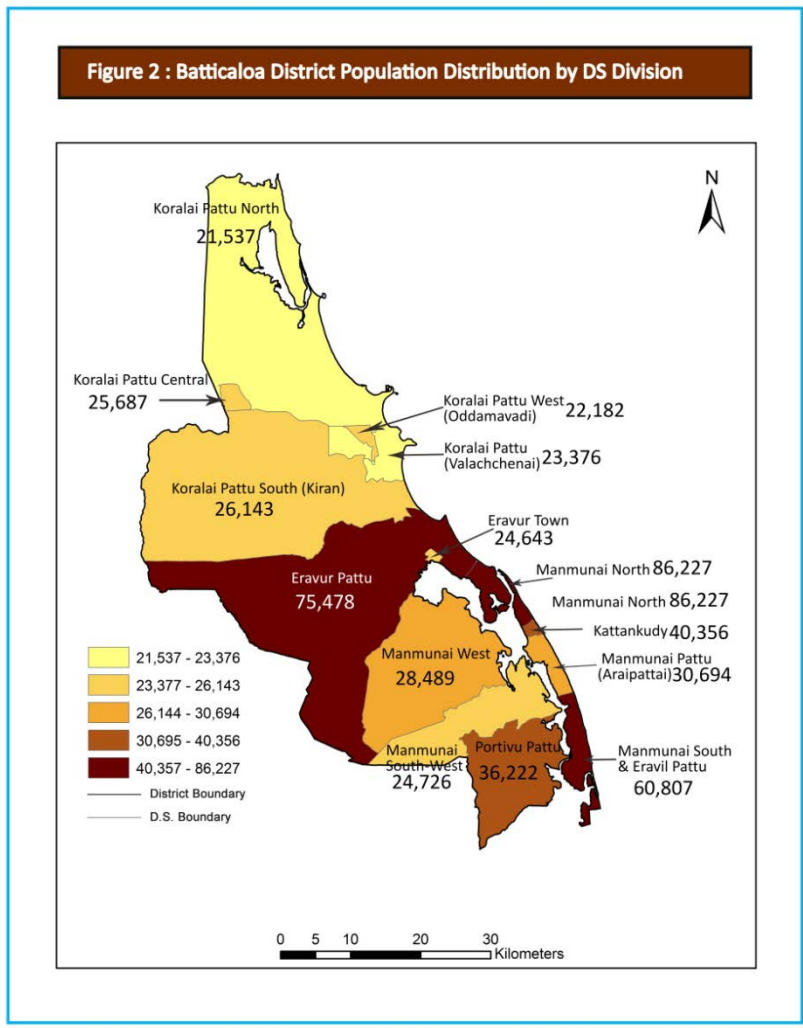
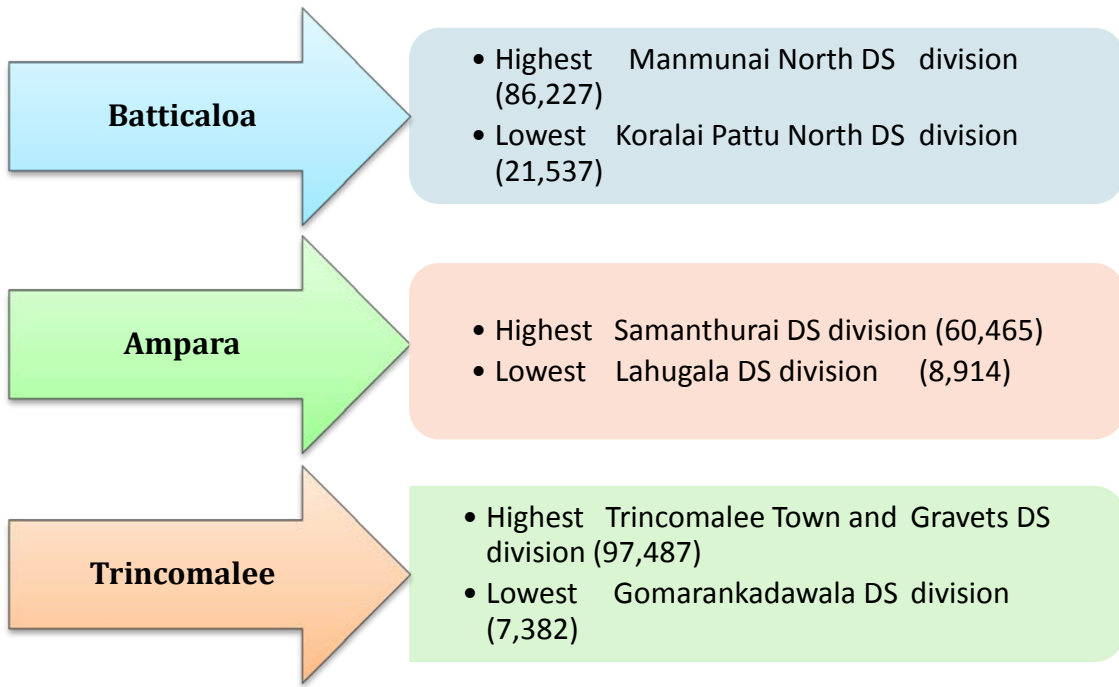


Figure 3 : Ampara District Population Distribution by DS Division

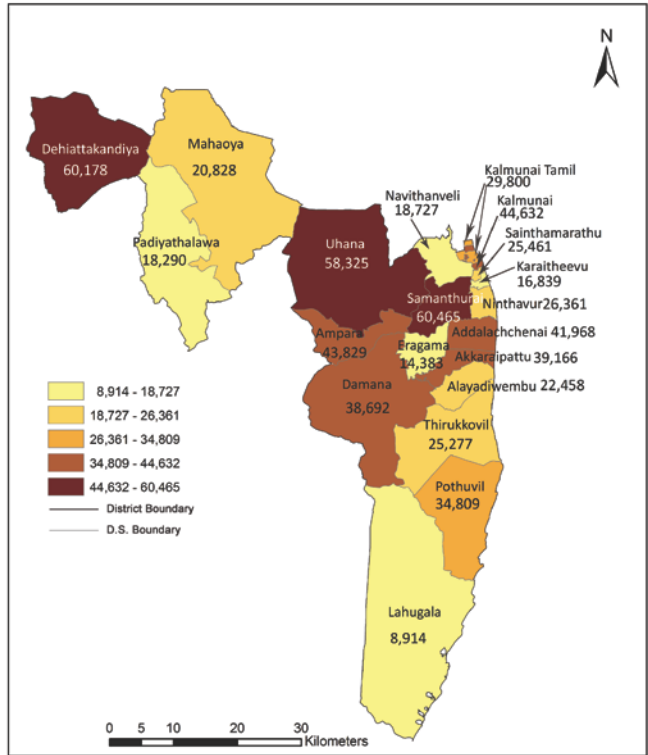
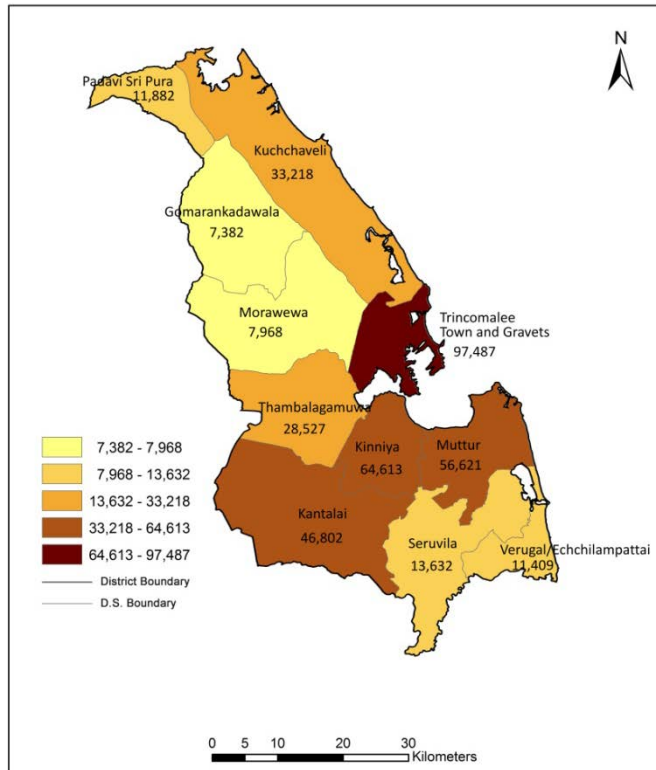


Figure 4 : Trincomalee District Population Distribution by DS Division



2.2 Population distribution by sector

Majority of population in Eastern province live in rural sector. Percentage distribution of population by sector is given in Table 1. Among three districts Batticaloa district has shown the highest percentage of urban population and

Trincomalee district has shown the highest percentage of rural population. According to the estate sector definition no areas were identified as estates in Eastern province.

Table 1 : Percentage distribution of population by sector

	Population	Sector			
		Total	Urban	Rural	Estate
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	18.2	77.4	4.4
Eastern	1,555,510	100.0	25.1	74.9	--
Batticaloa	526,567	100.0	28.7	71.3	--
Ampara	649,402	100.0	23.6	76.4	--
Trincomalee	379,541	100.0	22.4	77.6	--

2.3 Population distribution by Municipal and Urban councils

Areas of Municipal and Urban councils are defined as urban areas in Sri Lanka. Municipal council population in Batticaloa and Ampara districts are 86,227 and 130,827 respectively. There are no Municipal council areas in Trincomalee district. Five urban council areas belong to the Eastern province.

Two urban councils Kattankudy(40,356) and Eravur(24,643) are in Batticaloa district, one urban council in Ampara district (Ampara: 22,511) and two urban councils in Trincomalee district (Trincomalee: 48,351 and Kinniya: 36,772). Total urban council Population of this province is 172,633.

3.0 Demographic characteristics of population

3.1 Population distribution by sex

Out of the total population of Eastern province, 752,500 (or 48.4%) are males and 803,010 (or 51.6 %) are females.

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.

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

According to the data Trincomalee district sex ratio (98) is higher than those ratios in Batticaloa district (91) and Ampara district (94).

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
Eastern	752,500	100.0	24.7	75.3	--
Batticaloa	250,676	100.0	28.3	71.7	--
Ampara	314,352	100.0	23.4	76.6	--
Trincomalee	187,472	100.0	22.2	77.8	--
Female					
Sri Lanka	10,502,805	100.0	18.1	77.4	4.5
Eastern	803,010	100.0	25.3	74.7	--
Batticaloa	275,891	100.0	29.1	70.9	--
Ampara	335,050	100.0	23.8	76.2	--
Trincomalee	192,069	100.0	22.7	77.3	--

3.3 Population by age group and sex

Age-sex composition of a population describes the patterns of the distribution of 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 show age-sex pyramids for Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee districts respectively.

In Batticaloa district the highest male population is seen in age group 10-14 and the highest female population is seen

in age group 15-19. Both Ampara and Trincomalee districts recorded age group 00-05 as the age group with the highest population for both sexes. The lowest population is shown in the age group 80 and over for both male and female of these three districts in this province.

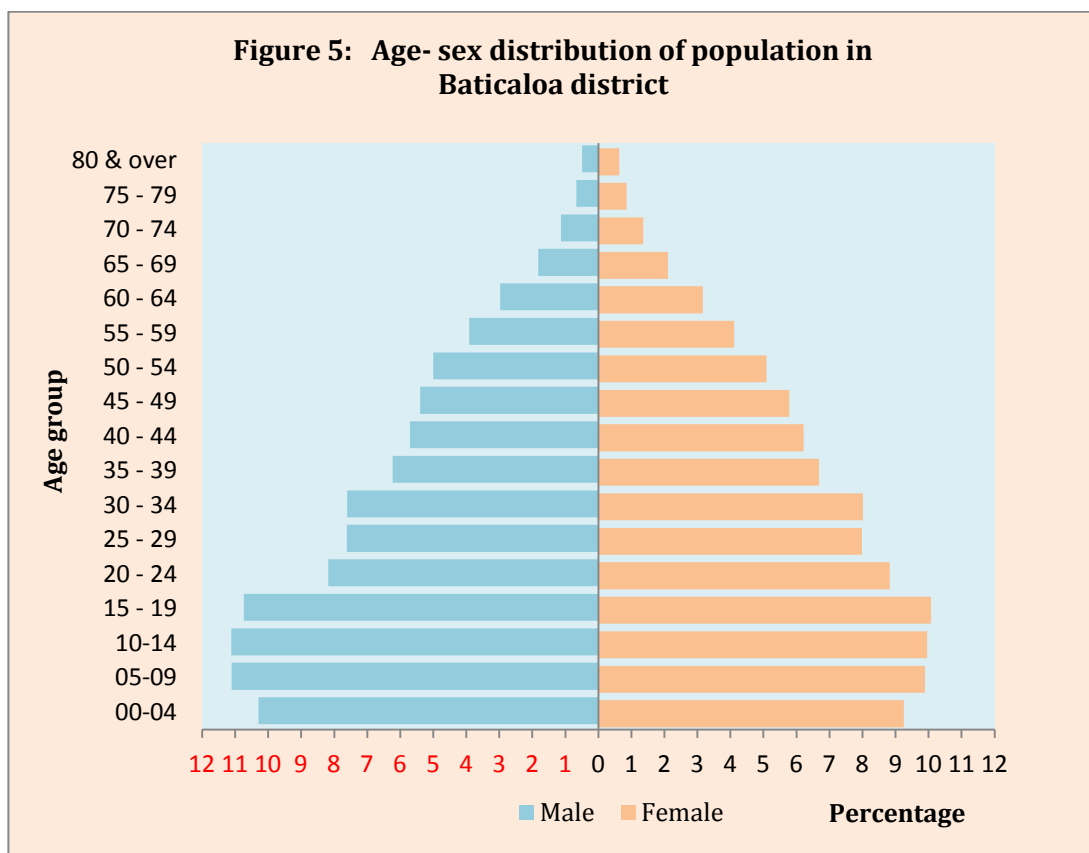


Figure 6: Age- sex distribution of population in Ampara district

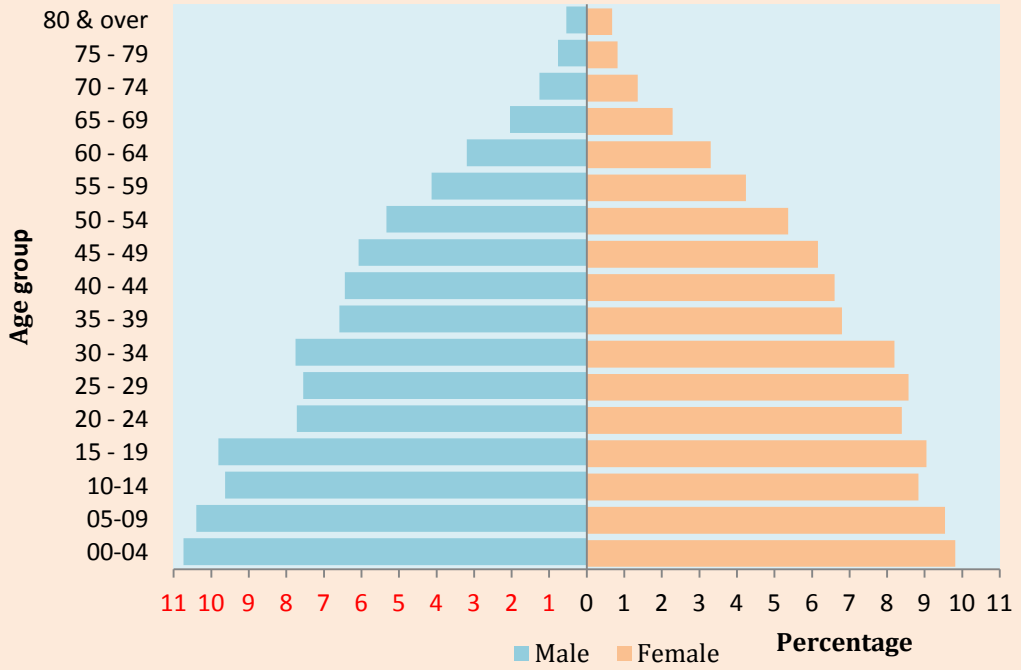
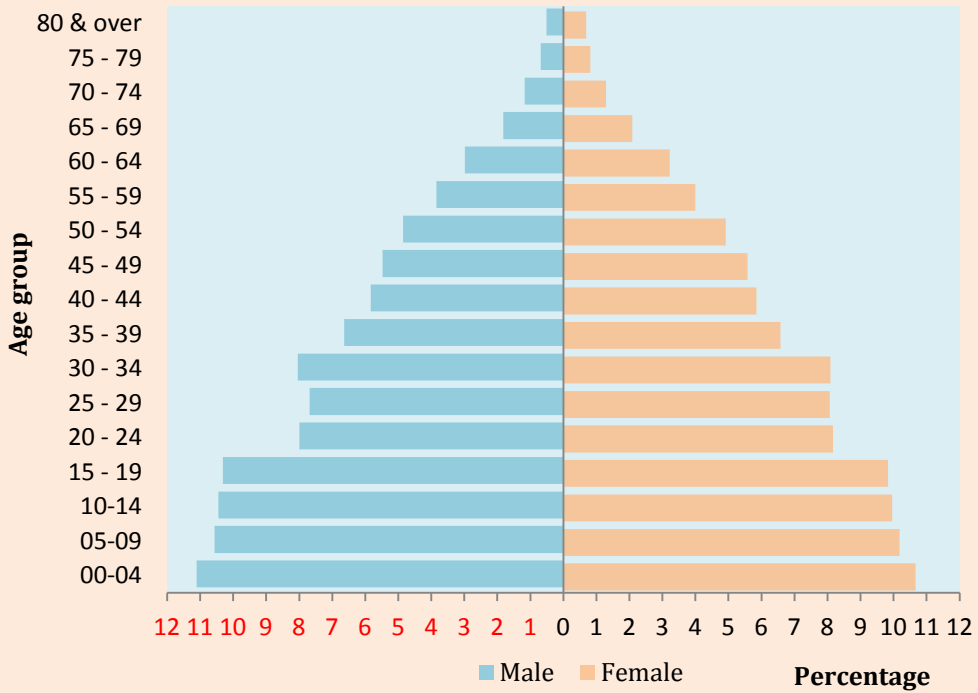


Figure 7: Age- sex distribution of population in Trincomalee district



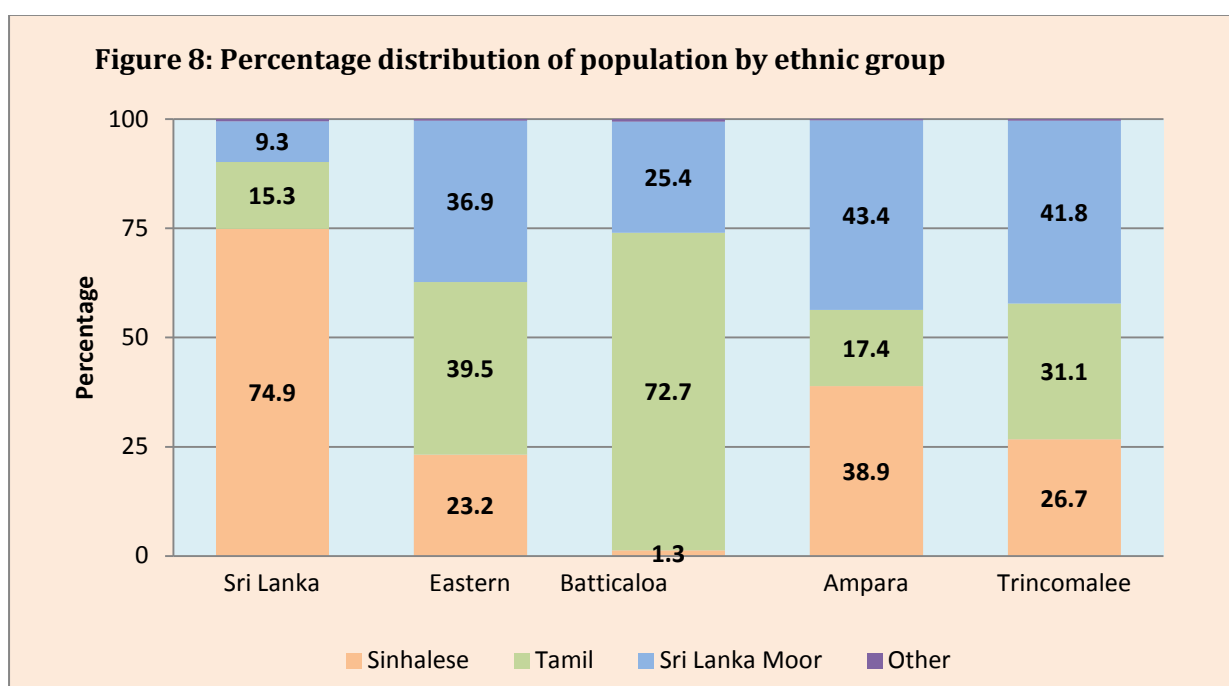
3.4 Population distribution by ethnicity

More than one third of population in Eastern province is Tamils (39.5%). Among the three districts, the highest Tamil population is reported from Batticaloa district. Sri Lanka Moor population in this province is 36.9 percent and the highest Sri Lankan Moor population is reported from Ampara district. Sinhalese (23.2%) is third largest ethnic group in Eastern province

and Sinhalese population is seen in Ampara and Trincomalee. Very little Sinhalese population could be seen in Batticaloa district. Other ethnic groups namely Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha represent only 0.4 percent of the total population in this province. The following 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
Eastern	1,555,510	100.0	23.2	39.5	36.9	0.4
Batticaloa	526,567	100.0	1.3	72.7	25.4	0.6
Ampara	649,402	100.0	38.9	17.4	43.4	0.3
Trincomalee	379,541	100.0	26.7	31.1	41.8	0.4



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 respectively. Among the Sri Lanka Moor population

30.3 percent of them live in Eastern province. Among the Tamil population 19.8 percent and among the Sinhalese population 2.4 percent live in Eastern province.

Table 4: Percentage distribution of population by religion

	Population	Total	Religion			
			Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	70.1	12.6	9.7	7.7
Eastern	1,555,510	100.0	23.0	34.7	37.0	5.3
Batticaloa	526,567	100.0	1.2	64.4	25.5	9.0
Ampara	649,402	100.0	38.7	15.8	43.4	2.0
Trincomalee	379,541	100.0	26.2	25.9	42.0	5.9

3.5 Population distribution by religion

According to the Table 4, majority of Eastern province population is Islam (37.0%) followed by Hindus (34.7%), Buddhist (23.0%) and other religions (5.3%). Data shows that the most of Hindu people of this province live in Batticaloa district and Islamic people of this province live in Ampara and

Trincomalee districts. Further Buddhist people of this province live in Ampara district, relative to the other two districts.

Among the total Islam population of Sri Lanka, 29.2 percent live in Eastern province.

3.6 Population distribution by marital status

Marital status is another important demographic characteristic of population. Table 5 shows that 66.7 percent of 15 years and above population is married and almost 26.3

percent is never married in Eastern province. Male's percentage of never married population is higher than Female's percentage. Divorced and separated population is also higher

among females than males. Percentage of widowed females is seven times higher than percentage of widowed males. According to the Table 5, more than ten

percent of 15 years and above females in Batticaloa district are widowed while other two districts reported more than 8 percent.

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
Eastern	1,083,137	100.0	26.3	66.7	5.5	0.4	1.2
Batticaloa	364,725	100.0	27.3	64.6	6.4	0.3	1.4
Ampara	458,252	100.0	25.8	67.7	5.0	0.4	1.0
Trincomalee	260,160	100.0	25.6	67.8	5.1	0.3	0.9
Male							
Sri Lanka	7,266,234	100.0	30.0	67.7	1.3	0.2	0.7
Eastern	514,052	100.0	30.8	67.0	1.3	0.2	0.7
Batticaloa	169,147	100.0	31.7	66.0	1.5	0.2	0.7
Ampara	217,644	100.0	30.7	67.3	1.1	0.2	0.6
Trincomalee	127,261	100.0	29.8	67.8	1.4	0.2	0.7
Female							
Sri Lanka	7,961,539	100.0	22.0	67.8	8.7	0.3	1.1
Eastern	569,085	100.0	22.1	66.4	9.2	0.5	1.7
Batticaloa	195,578	100.0	23.5	63.4	10.6	0.5	2.0
Ampara	240,608	100.0	21.4	68.1	8.5	0.6	1.4
Trincomalee	132,899	100.0	21.5	67.9	8.6	0.4	1.6

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 Eastern 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 or equivalent, passed G.C.E.A/L or equivalent and degree or above are 31.6, 38.4, 13.2, 8.9 and 2.0 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 (2.0%) is significantly low in Eastern province. Nearly 5.8 percent of

the population in Eastern province reported that they have never attended in a school. However, not attended to a school is higher among old aged population.

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 majority of people such that, 78.2 percent of people speak Tamil while 70.8 percent can read and write Tamil in this province. Figure 9 shows the percentages of speaking, reading and writing abilities of population aged 10 years and above for three districts. That figure also presents 36.0 percent of Eastern province population speak Sinhala language while 31.6 percent read and write Sinhala.

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 Eastern province stands at 91.9 percent. The corresponding rate for male

and female are 94.0 and 89.9 percent respectively.

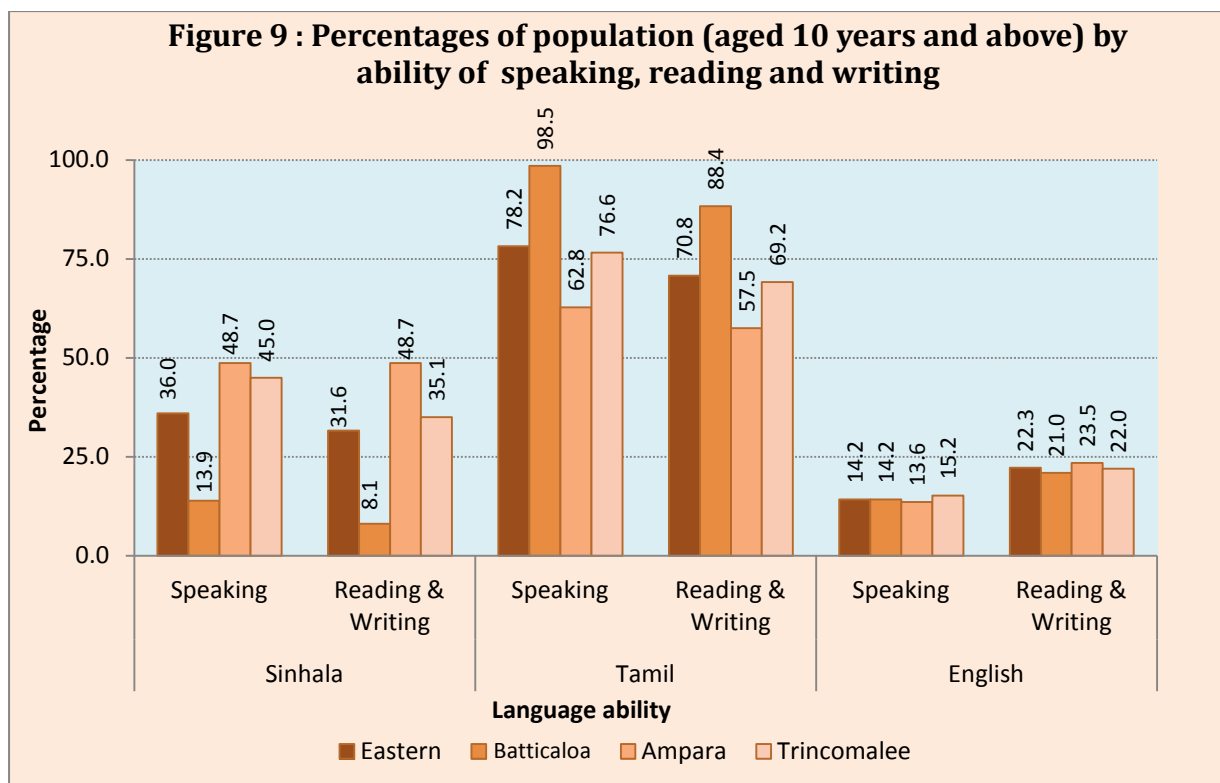


Table 6 : Percentages of literate population (aged 10 years and above) by sex

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	95.7	96.9	94.6
Eastern	1,237,082	91.9	94.0	89.9
Batticaloa	420,092	89.5	91.5	87.8
Ampara	518,108	92.8	95.2	90.6
Trincomalee	298,882	93.5	95.5	91.7

4.3 Computer literacy by sex

According to the Table 7, computer literacy of the population aged 10 years and above in Eastern province stands at

18.6 percent. The corresponding percentages for male and female are 22.0 and 15.5 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
Eastern	1,237,082	18.6	22.0	15.5
Batticaloa	420,092	18.6	22.0	15.6
Ampara	518,108	18.8	22.5	15.3
Trincomalee	298,882	18.5	21.3	15.7

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 47.1 percent of aged 15 years and above population is economically active in this province. Batticaloa , Ampara and

Trincomalee districts are reported 46.1, 47.5 and 47.7 percents of economically active population respectively. 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
Eastern				
Total	510,106	100.0	78.2	21.8
Urban	123,497	100.0	76.3	23.7
Rural	386,609	100.0	78.8	21.2
Batticaloa				
Total	168,240	100.0	78.2	21.8
Urban	47,643	100.0	75.0	25.0
Rural	120,597	100.0	79.4	20.6
Ampara				
Total	217,784	100.0	77.5	22.5
Urban	48,219	100.0	77.8	22.2
Rural	169,565	100.0	77.5	22.5
Trincomalee				
Total	124,082	100.0	79.3	20.7
Urban	27,635	100.0	76.0	24.0
Rural	96,447	100.0	80.2	19.8

5.2 Employed and unemployed population

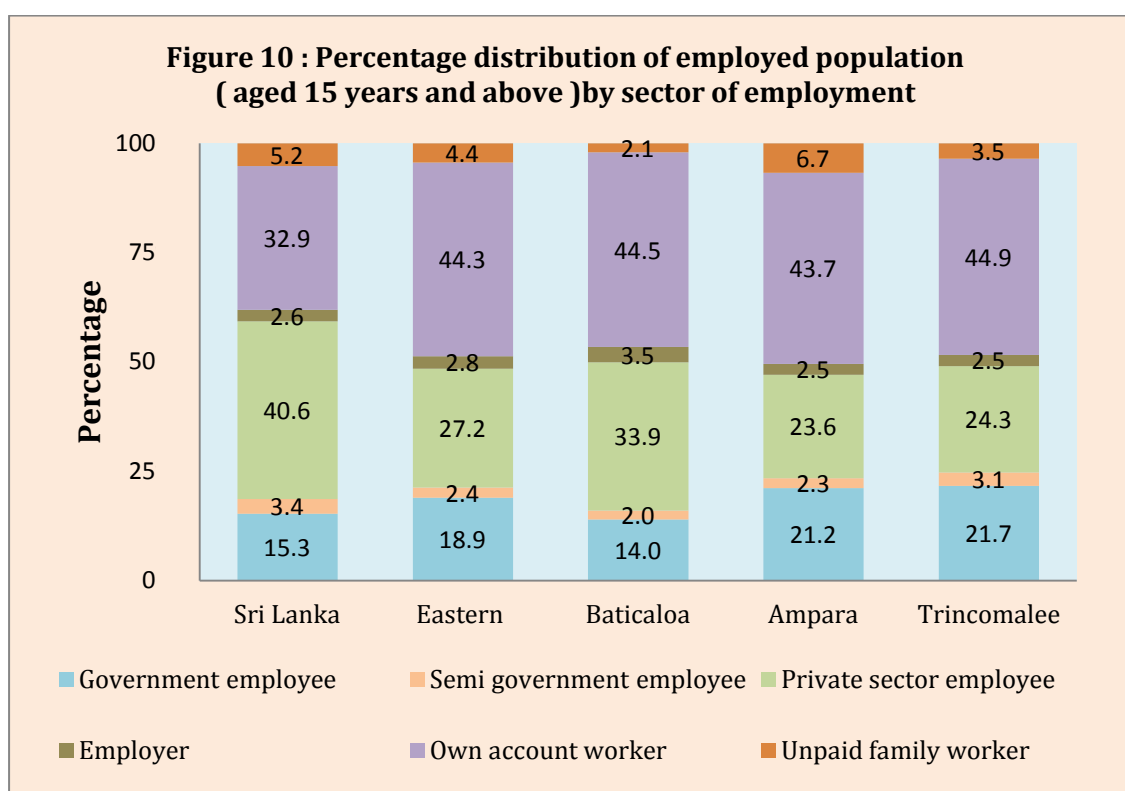
Total employed and unemployed population in Eastern province is 460,088 and 50,018 respectively. In Batticaloa district total employed population is reported as 150,516 while that figure is 195,838 in Ampara district and 113,734 in Trincomalee district.

Among the employed population, 18.9 percent is engaged in government sector employments in this province. Table 9 present 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
Eastern				
Total	460,088	100.0	79.7	20.3
Government employee	87,163	100.0	70.4	29.6
Semi government employee	10,984	100.0	79.2	20.8
Private sector employee	124,970	100.0	88.2	11.8
Employer	13,060	100.0	92.0	8.0
Own account worker	203,631	100.0	81.9	18.1
Unpaid family worker	20,280	100.0	37.7	62.3
Batticaloa				
Total	150,516	100.0	80.2	19.8
Government employee	21,057	100.0	61.9	38.1
Semi government employee	3,040	100.0	74.8	25.2
Private sector employee	51,008	100.0	90.9	9.1
Employer	5,289	100.0	93.8	6.2
Own account worker	67,001	100.0	78.7	21.3
Unpaid family worker	3,121	100.0	45.5	54.5
Ampara				
Total	195,838	100.0	78.7	21.3
Government employee	41,482	100.0	72.3	27.7
Semi government employee	4,440	100.0	80.4	19.6
Private sector employee	46,269	100.0	86.7	13.3
Employer	4,909	100.0	91.5	8.5
Own account worker	85,557	100.0	83.5	16.5
Unpaid family worker	13,181	100.0	34.7	65.3

Trincomalee				
Total	113,734	100.0	80.7	19.3
Government employee	24,624	100.0	74.6	25.4
Semi government employee	3,504	100.0	81.5	18.5
Private sector employee	27,693	100.0	85.8	14.2
Employer	2,862	100.0	89.6	10.4
Own account worker	51,073	100.0	83.3	16.7
Unpaid family worker	3,978	100.0	41.3	58.7



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

Eastern province is reported as 52.9 percent. The corresponding figures for males and females reported as 22.4 percent and 80.4 percent respectively. Figure 11 shows the percentages of economically inactive population (aged 15 years and above) by sex.

Figure 11: Percentages of economically inactive population (aged 15 years and above) by sex

