

Census of Population and Housing

2012

Department of Census & Statistics

Ministry of Policy Planning and Economic Affairs

Prologue

Department of Census & Statistics has successfully completed the 14th Population & Housing Census in 2012. This Census, conducted to cover the whole island after three decades i.e. since 1981, marks an important juncture in the history of conducting Census in Sri Lanka. This publication is the demographic and housing information report prepared based on the final information of the census on Population & Housing of 2012.

The report, comprising 12 chapters, initially contains information on the history and importance of Census and how the Census activities were organized. Secondly it deals with the administrative structure of Sri Lanka and the third chapter is on the growth, distribution and trends of population in the country. Henceforth, from 4th to 12th Chapters of the report gives the breakdown of the population by age-sex distribution, status of marriage and fertility, urbanization, internal migratory trends, physical or mental impairments, distribution of the population by race and religion, education, economically active/ non active and information regarding houses inhabited by this population.

It is hoped that the contents of this report would be used by the national policy formulators, administrators, researches and intellectuals for the purpose of uplifting the standard of life in this country and also by school children and university students productively for educational purposes.

In accomplishing this task my heartfelt thanks go out to, all the officers of the Department of Census and Statistic, the officers of other government institutions who have contributed to Census activity while attending to their own duties, all enumerating officers who collected information and all demographic experts for their suggestions and ideas. Similarly, I also owe a debt of gratitude to all the persons in this country, who are the subject of this Census, for co-operating by providing the required information to make this national endeavour a success.

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Acknowledgement

Considering the scope of the task, the persons who contributed to make the 14th Population and Housing Census of the department a success are too numerous. Yet however, the contributions made by certain persons and groups stand out in their own right to be acknowledged in the report.

Thus, it is with a sense of admiration that we mention the leadership given by the retired former Director General of the department and the Superintendent of Census 2012, Ms D.B.P.S. Vidyaratne in accomplishing this task by taking up the sole responsibility of planning this Census that covered the country in its entirety after 30 years, offering advice through the main operational committees and, by introduction of new methods and technologies to facilitate the Census. Similarly, the retired former Director General, Mr. D.C.A Gunewardene, who succeeded Ms Vidyaratne and took over the direction of Census operations during the period 2013 / 2014, has also earned his place in this acknowledgement.

Further, the entire district administration, including the District secretaries, who functioned as District Census Commissioners during the conduct of this Census, need special acknowledgement. Also acknowledged here are the officers who co-operated in the conduct of Census activity representing other government institutions as well as those institutions that rendered local and foreign assistance for the completion of this Census.

The Additional Director Generals of the department who constantly co-operated with the Census Superintendent with their technical assistance to make the Census a success, all Directors, Deputy Directors and the Assistant Directors of the department, deserve to be acknowledged with gratitude. All Senior Statisticians, Statisticians, Statistical Officers, Statistical Assistants, all officers of the Information and Communication Technology division, including all officers of the Information Communication Technology service, all officers of the Establishment branch, Administrative branch and Accounts branch, all employees of the Press, Office assistants, Vehicle drivers and other employees of the department of Census and Statistics who made contributions to successfully accomplish different stages of the Census activity are also acknowledged. Let us also not forget to acknowledge the services of officers of the department who were engaged in Census during the last three years, but are now retired.

Special acknowledgement should also be made of the untiring efforts of the Directress of the Population Census and Demographic division, Ms I. R. Bandara and all the staff in her division who

were entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the final report of the 2012 Census of Population and Housing.

Finally, all Enumerating Officers, Grama Niladhari officers and the Sri Lankan public who contributed to the successful completion of this Census by providing the required information, deserve a special acknowledgement with thanks.

The English version of the Population and Housing report 2012 was composed and edited by Mr Palitha Senanayake, hired translator.

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Summary

The 14th Population and Housing Census of Sri Lanka was held in the year 2012 by the Department of Census & Statistics. The Census operations were conducted by the district administration with the participation of a large number of Government officers and other officers in different organizations, under the technical advice and guidance of the department.

Enumerating and collection of information, from the totality of a populace inhabiting the total area of a country, based on their usual place of residence, at an appointed day, is a gigantic task by any standards. Thus, it behoves a responsibility on the users of the information, to make the best and most appropriate use of the information, so collected.

According to the final results of the Census on Population and Housing, the total population of Sri Lanka is 20,359,439 persons and the population density is 325 persons per square kilo meter of the country. When the distribution of this population is considered according to province level, two third of this total population lives in the four provinces, Western (28.7 percent), Central (12.6 percent), South (12.2 percent) and North-western (11.7 percent). The highest population is recorded in Colombo district while the lowest population is recorded in Mullaitivu district. When the usual place of residency of persons is considered in terms of sector of residence; urban, rural and estate, it is revealed that the highest population resides in the rural sector.

Further, according to the demographic information revealed in the Census on Population and Housing, 48.4 percent of the total population are males while 51.6 percent are females. In addition, 25.3 percent of this total population is under 15 years of age while 62.4 percent of the total population is between 15 - 59 years. Accordingly, the elderly population aged 60 years and over, is 12.4 percent of the total population. In analysing the marital status of the population, aged 15 years and over, it is revealed that 50.7 percent are married while 30 percent have never been married. Similarly 3.9 percent of the total adult population is recorded to have been widowed.

When population is analysed on the basis of ethnicity, it is revealed that the majority, 74.9 percent of the total population is Sinhalese. Besides, Sri Lankan Tamils at 11.2 percent, Indian Tamils at 4.1 percent, Sri Lankan moor at 9.3 percent and other ethnicities at 0.5 percent, represent the total population of Sri Lanka. When the total population is analysed on the basis of religion, a similar pattern emerges and accordingly the majority of the population, 70.1 percent are Buddhist while the next popular religion, Hinduism is patronised by 12.6 percent of the population. The believers in Islam are recorded as 9.7 percent of the population.

According to the findings of the 2012 Census information, the percentage of married population by gender, which was recorded as 55 percent for males and 59 percent for females respectively in the 1981 Census has increased to 67 percent for both the sexes by the year 2012. Similarly between the 31 years from 1981 to 2012, the never married percentage for males has recorded a reduction from 43 percent to 30 percent while the corresponding female percentage has come down from 32 percent to 22 percent.

The higher level of education attainment in Sri Lanka, being a developing country, is evident in the reflection of the high literacy rate. Accordingly, the language literacy rate of the populace has reported as 95.7 percent for the total population while the language literacy rate for males has remained above that of the females. According to the data reported on computer use of persons, above 10 years of age, it is recorded that the computer literacy of the total population aged 10 years and above is 24.2 percent as at the year 2012.

The Census of 2012 has collected data on internal as well as international migration. On internal migration, the Western Province has recorded the highest incidence of inward migration. Further, on inward migration, the most popular district has been Colombo district. On international migration of the total population, it is found that the males recorded a higher incidence among those who stay abroad for a period of 6 months or more.

The Census on Population and Housing has also paid attention to the urbanisation of the population, or the incidence of the rate of increase in the population in areas considered 'urban'. Accordingly, 18.2 percent of the total population of the country lives in urban areas.

Of the population above 15 years of age, which represent a three fourth of the total population, 51.6 percent are economically active while the balance 48.4 percent of that population belongs to the economically inactive category. The Census on Population and Housing also report 1,617,924 impaired persons among the total population. When considering district level, Kandy, Nuwara-eliya and Ratnapura districts have recorded a high presence of impaired persons among their populations.

On housing, the current Census on Population and Housing has reported the existence of 5,267,159 building units used as occupied units by the population. Of these, Gampaha district has reported the highest number of building units occupied by persons while Mannar district has reported the least number of such building units. Similarly, the Census has revealed that 80.9 percent of these dwelling houses have safe sources of drinking water while 87 percent of them have been obtain electricity by the national electricity grid.

History, Importance and the Census process

1.0 History, Importance and the Census process

The History

A Census on Population and Housing is the total enumeration of all persons who live in a well-defined territory at a particular time with the collection, analysis and publication of that country's demographic, social, economic and collecting information on occupied dwelling units. Since it is an extremely complex and an expensive exercise, countries generally conduct population Census only once in 10 years. However, planning for the conducting of Census has to be in regular intervals. The UN recommends that it is more appropriate to conduct Census in a year that ends with either 1 or zero. Sri Lanka has chosen to conduct its Census on Population and Housing on years that end with '1', but at times this pattern may have been disturbed due to numerous considerations.

Sri Lanka possesses a long history of conducting Census on Population and Housing and it was on the 27th March 1871 that the first legitimate Census had been conducted in this country. That, incidentally, had been the first scientific (national) Census conducted in a South Asian region. In 1871 the population of Sri Lanka has been recorded as 2.4 million. Subsequent to 1871 Sri Lanka has conducted its Census during the years 1881, 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931, all on years ending with '1' but the Census due in 1941 had not been conducted due to World War II. However, the conducting of Census had resumed in 1946 followed by 1953 and 1963 and then continued in years 1971, 1981, 2001 and 2012. The unsettled atmosphere that prevailed in the country during the latter half of 1980-1990 decade had prevented the conducting of Census on Population and Housing and as a result the Census due in 1991 had not been conducted. Then in the year 2001 it had been possible to collect information only from 18 out of the 25 districts of the country. Therefore, the significance of the 14th Census conducted in 2012 is intrinsically in its position of being the Census that covered the country, in its entirety, since the year 1981. According to the Population Census of 2012 the total population of Sri Lanka is recorded as 20,359,439 persons.

For the purpose of conducting Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka, the Department of Census and Statistics had been established formerly in the year 1947. Thus, the series of Census conducted prior to that, had been done under the colonial administration. The Census Ordinance of Sri Lanka that empowered the conducting of Census had been enacted in 1868 and since then it has been revised time to time with amendments to accommodate changing situations. This ordinance, while making it mandatory upon every citizen to disclose correct information during a Census, also makes the responsibility of safeguarding the confidentiality of such information legally binding upon the Department of Census and Statistics. Similarly, it is the responsibility of all the citizens in the country

to use the information disclosed in a Census, productively, positively and for the common good of the entire population of Sri Lankans.

The importance of census

A Census on Population and Housing makes available the demographic, social and housing information regarding the entire human population in a country at a specific day. Administratively, it is the Census on Population and Housing that could provide information to the smallest administrative unit of the country.

Further, it is this information of Census that forms the basis for development planning activity in the country at both the regional and national levels. Census information is also used to monitor the development activity initiated at the smallest administrative level and to prepare numerous national and international indexes on population.

It is the Census information that provides the most credible information, to determine the size of a country's current population and its composition, to prepare projections on future population growth, to prepare plans on education and on employment and to identify migratory trends. The researchers and those who are engaged in educational activity will also find Census information, a reliable source of primary data. In addition Census information will form the basis on which administrative areas and electoral constituencies are demarcated.

Further, conducting a Census on population and housing requires the preparation of a frame that lists out all the buildings and dwelling habitats in the country and that frame would form an indispensable source of information for subsequent economic census activities and also in numerous sample surveys conducted by the department under different subjects.

The Census Process

The principal stages of a Census

Of the many stages of activity involving the conduct of a Census, the following could be listed as the 4 main stages.

Stage 1. Preparation of maps depicting the smallest administrative units (GN divisions) and

Demarcate census block boundaries

Stage 2. Listing of all the building units.

Stage 3. Enumeration and collection of data relating to persons and building/ dwelling units.

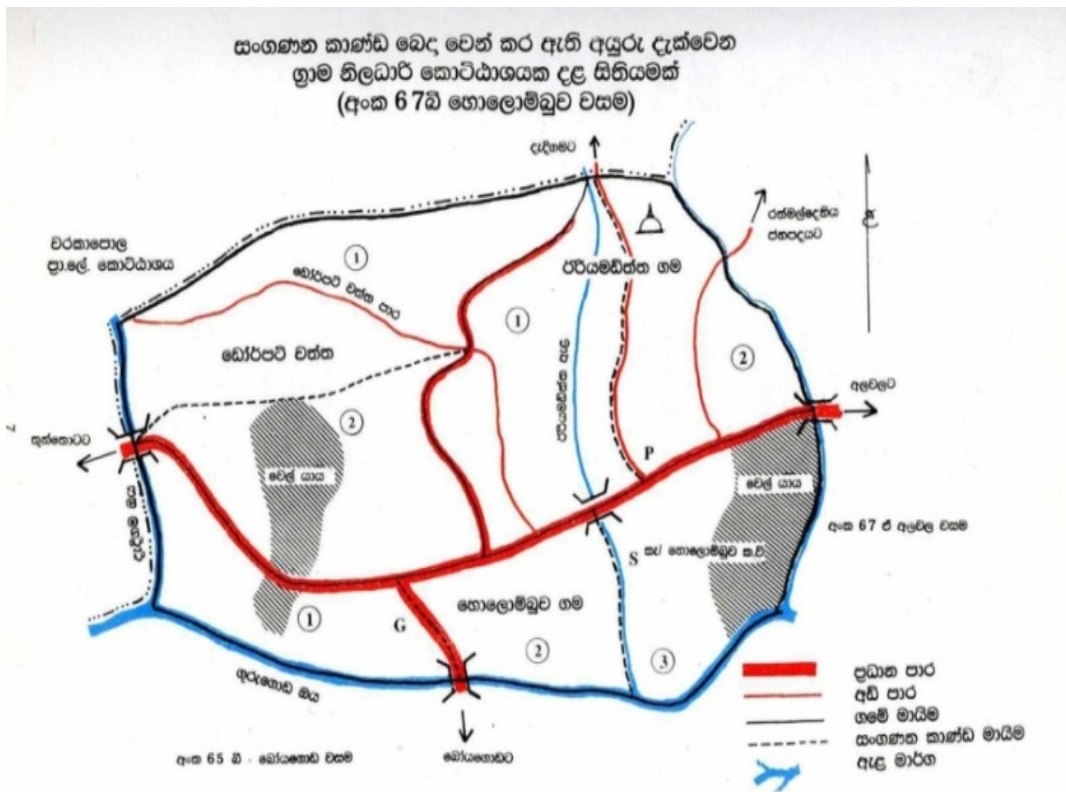
Stage 4. Analysis of data and the disseminate Census information.

These stages are described in greater detail below.

**Stage 1- Preparation of maps depicting the smallest administrative unit (G N division)
and the demarcate census blocks**

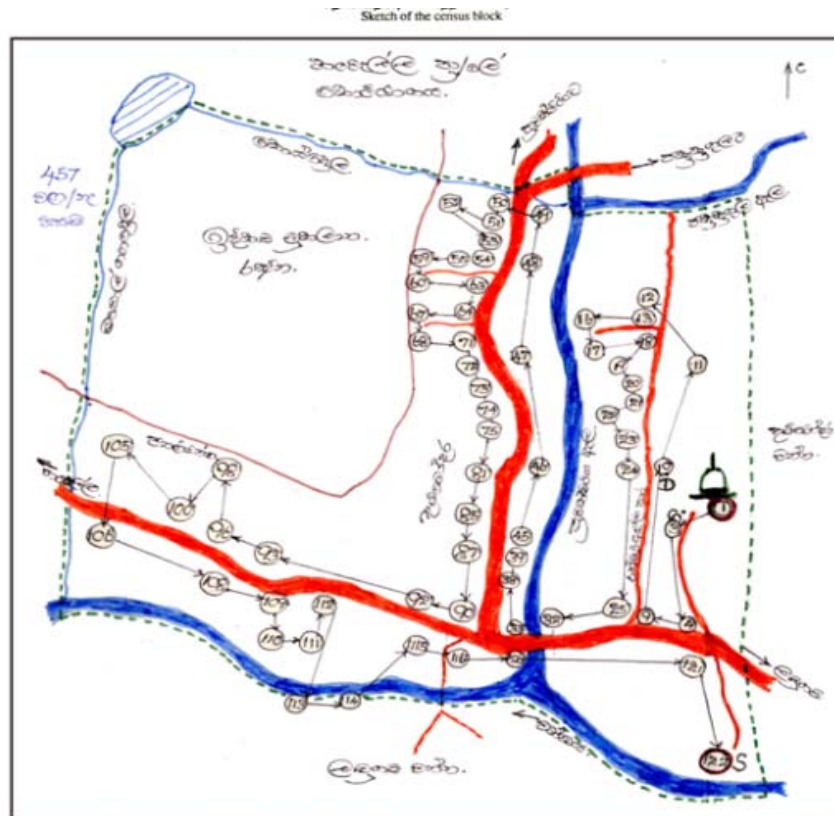
There were 14,022 GN divisions in the country by the year 2012 and the maps relating to all these GN divisions were drawn under direction of the district staff of Department of Census and Statistics by the respective Grama Niladharies. For instance a draft map (as shown in Figure 1.1) was provided by the cartography division of the Department of Census and Statistics to Grama Niladharies. Thereafter the map was update with latest information while paying careful attention to ensure that neither overlapping nor omission of areas take place between adjoining Grama Niladhari divisions. This process has to be attended with diligence and care as the boundaries of the GN divisions are subject to changes from time to time and also as the GN division forms the bedrock in data collection for the Census. Having prepared/ drawn up the GN division, each GN division is subdivided in to census blocks on the basis of approximately 150 building units per Census Block and then Census Block level maps are prepared with more details (Figure 1.2). The demarcation of Census Blocks take in to account the state of the area/land of the GN division while 150 building units are chosen as that is considered to be the quantity a single enumerating officer could successfully handle in the course of data collection.

Diagram 1.1: A sketch map depicting the division of a GN division in to Census blocks



No. 67 B Holombuwa division

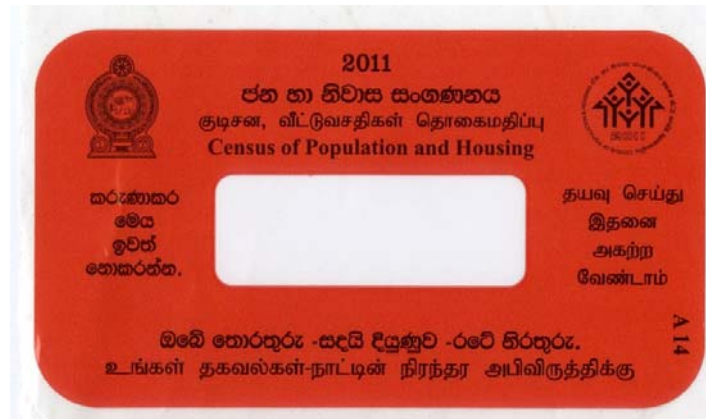
Diagram 1.2: A sketch map prepared in line with Census blocks



Stage 2- The listing of all the building units

The next stage of the Census operation is to prepare a list of all the buildings in each census block. This pre-prepared list is known as the F1 list and the listing in this is done by the Grama Niladhari of the division. The buildings in the block are then categorised as housing units, collective living quarters and non-housing units and the red label marked with the number given as per the FI list would be pasted on the buildings (Figure 1.3). The listing activity stage of the Census has to precede the information collecting stage of the Census. Thus the officer appointed to enumerate, in order to do his/her duty, will identify the buildings of the area by linking the numbers in the lists with the red label numbers that are affixed to the buildings in the area. The Grama Niladhari of the area, when listing out the buildings of his/her area in the F1 list, will record the name of the owner of a particular building, its address and whether that building unit is a housing unit, a collective housing unit or a non-housing unit. This F1 list will be retained as the 'Census Frame' for future activities of the Census operation.

Diagram 1.3: The red label prepared for buildings

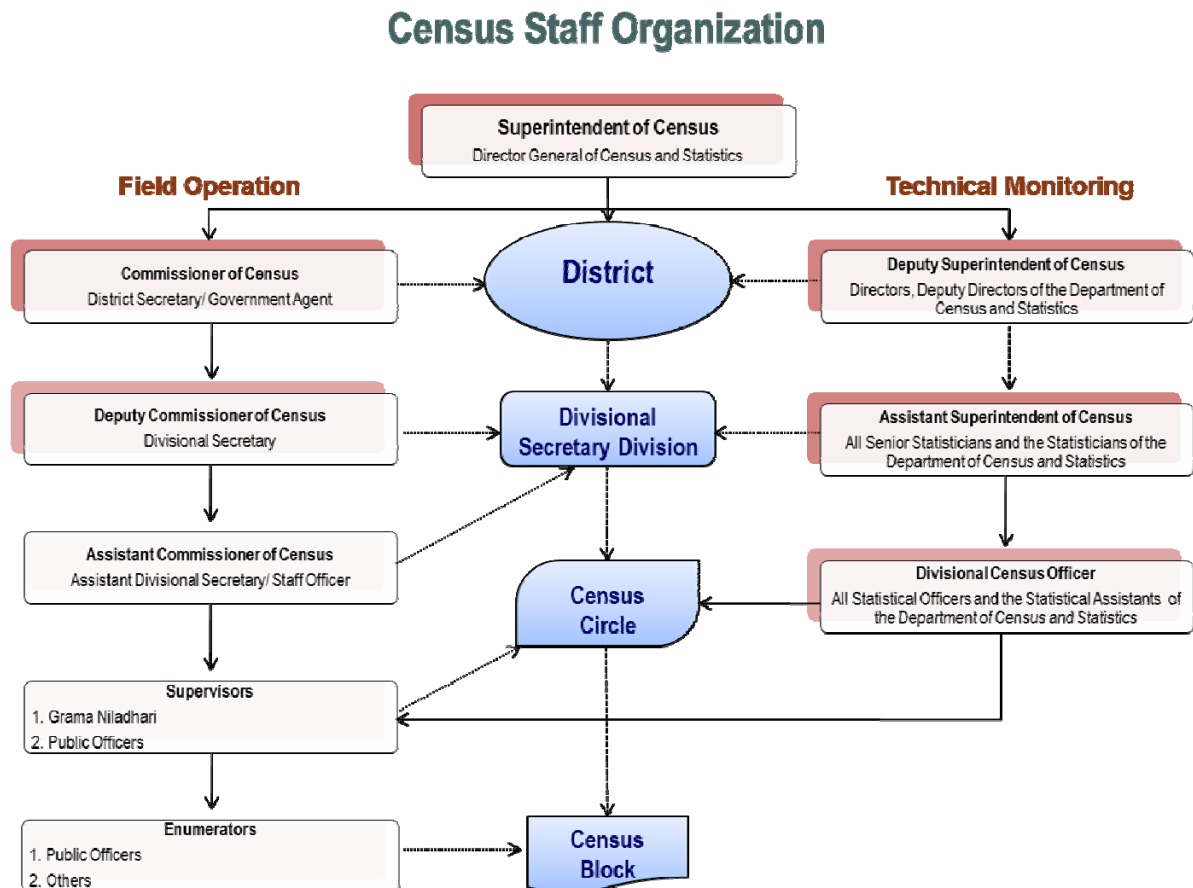


Census Conducting Procedure

According to the Census Ordinance, the Department of Census and Statistics is entrusted with the entire technical responsibility of conducting a Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka. In order to conduct this Census, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in keeping with the Census Ordinance, will appoint the Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics as the 'Superintendent of Census' proclaiming the same through a gazette notification. The Department of Census and Statistics accordingly will take necessary action to plan and conduct the Census on the date mentioned in the said gazette proclamation.

In conducting the Census, the technical officers attached to the Department of Census and Statistics will provide the technical know-how and the skills, while the Department will use the administrative structure of the government to conduct field activities. Accordingly every District Secretary is appointed as the ‘District Commissioner of Census’ while every Divisional Secretary is appointed as the ‘Deputy Commissioner of Census’. The officers who visit every house to collect information during a Census are the temporary enumerating officers that are recruited, at the divisional level, for the purpose. Those officers will enumerate and collect data under the guidance and supervision of the Grama Niladhari of the division. The officers of the Department of Census and Statistics will provide training on the process of conducting a Census to Grama Niladharies and these temporary officers. The Organization Plan of the Census is given in Diagram 1.4.

Diagram 1.4: The Organization structure of the Census of Population and Housing



Stage 3 - Collection of data from persons and houses

In 2012, for the first time in the history of Census, persons were enumerated in the usual place of their residence. This is known as 'de-jure' enumeration. In this the 'normal place of residence' is defined as A place where a person has been living continuously more than six or expects to stay for more than 6 months continuously at the time of Census.

The questions to be included in the questionnaire that is designed to collect data on persons and on housing and how the answers to those questions should be recorded was decided by the questionnaire sub- committee that designed the Census schedule (F3 schedule) at the Census planning stage. This questionnaire has been pre-tested in every Divisional Secretariat of the country and the final (F3) schedule has been prepared after incorporating the amendments relating to issues identified, making it a schedule acceptable to all.

20th March of 2012 has been named as the Census date in 2012 and the dawn of 20th March, i.e. the midnight of 19th March has been named as the Census Moment.

Accordingly the pre listing form (F1 form) with a Census Block containing the listing of 150 building units as described above and a map giving directions of access to the units would be handed over to each enumerating officer to collect data. The preparation of the GN division map was done by the Grama Niladharies. Further the demarcation of Census Blocks and the preparation of F1 forms with listing of building units is also the responsibility of the Grama Niladharies. However, the supervision of these tasks was done by the Field Statistical Officers of the Department who are appointed as 'Divisional Census Officers'.

The collection and verification of data of this Census was done in two main rounds. The first round is the information collecting round and for this the enumerating officers were given a period of three weeks prior to the Census date i.e. from 27th February to 19th March 2012. During this period the enumeration officer had to visit places of residence in the Census Block, collect data on persons who are usually living in the units and collect housing information only on houses that are occupied, and record such information in the Census schedule. This means that information on housing is not collected from collective living quarters and Non-housing units.

Thereafter the verification round commences. At the verification and amendment round the enumerating officer visited the same units that he did during the information collecting round and correct information, on new born babies based on the Census moment, delete information from F3 form for those persons who have died before the Census moment and incorporate changes in data if

any, that have taken place since the collection of data during prior three weeks March 20th and 21st were allocated to this second round.

Enumerating the population that has no permanent place of abode

Census 2012 enumerated persons on their usual place of residence. Yet it is possible that for some people in this country there is no particular place or house to live in. There are those, who spent the day roaming and contend to take out the night on pavements or such make –shift places. However, as such persons are a part of the population of the country enumeration of those were also done during the night of the Census. Further the Census Officers had gathered information in advance about such persons and their probable places of abode from the Grama Niladhari of the area. Thus, considering the practical difficulties, the enumeration of such persons was performed between 10.p.m. and 12 midnight on the 19th March 2012. Accordingly, the Census have recorded that there are 3418 persons in this country who have no permanent place of abode.

The changes in the method of enumeration process in the 2012 Census

There are two main methods of eliciting information during a Census.

- 1) To enumerate persons at a place where physically they are found during the Census enumeration (De-facto method)
- 2) To enumerate persons on their usual place of residence (De jure method)

The method used during the 2012 Census is the de-jure method whereas the method used on all the previous Census has been the 1st method or the de-facto method. The use of the de-jure method this time was influenced by the state of affairs, as well as the requirements, of the country. However this change of method has brought to light certain practical difficulties in the de-facto, or Census as it is, method. For instance the de-facto method requires the deployment of a large contingent of officers to enumerate during the night of the Census day, quite in the open. This could leave room for shortcomings in the enumeration work. Further, the development plans prepared for activities at the district administrative level requires the number of persons usually residing in the respective divisions. These reasons influenced Census 2012 to opt for the de-jure method in enumerating.

Therefore, comparatively, as against the above disadvantages of the de- facto method the de- jure method could be said to possess a number of advantages. Among these advantages is the ability to allow adequate time to the enumerating officers to collect data enabling them to obtain correct information minimising the possibility of missing or duplicating of persons. Accordingly, places

where people residing temporarily such as hospitals, tourist hotels, rest houses, holiday resorts, airports and offices were not considered as places of usual residence.

Main tasks involved in a Census process

- *Appointing Census steering committee and sub committees.
- * Conducting district level workshops to identify requirements.
- * Planning out the Census date and plan time frame for related activities accordingly.
- * Familiarising with new technology and methods used in other countries.
- * Updating the village list and preparation of the Census frame.
- * Planning out the process of updating the maps used in the Census.
- * Updating the occupation and Industry code list.
- * Preparing proposals required to obtain assistance for Census activity from the United Nations Population fund and other such agencies.
- * Determining the enumerating process of the Census.
- * Preparing the Census schedule.
- * Conducting pre-test for the Census schedule.
- * Preparing the administrative and legal frames required for Census activity.
- * Conducting the discussion rounds with the data users.
- * Planning out the computerized coding system.
- * Planning the data capturing process analysing process.
- * Planning out the pilot Survey on Census process.

- * Preparing the Census data dissemination programme
- * Preparation and printing of instruction manuals required in Census activity in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil and English).
- * Designing the training programmes for various officers, to be engaged in Census activity.
- * Preparing the data archiving system.
- * Initiating and preparation Census publicity programme
- * Designing and printing of forms required in the administration and conduct of the Census.
- * Recruitment and train of officers required for Census.
- * Designing of post enumeration survey activity.
- * Distribution of schedules and other material required at district level to conduct the Census.
- * Preparation of pre listing and enumerating system in the Census.
- * Designing the system to elicit data on 5 percent samples.
- * Commencing of Census activity.
- * Preparation and printing of Census reports.
- * Concluding the Census work.

Estimating the expenditure on Census

- Obtaining cabinet approval for the Census expenditure.
- Obtaining the authority for payment.

Conducting publicity activity

- At the listing stage
- At the enumerating stage

Collection of data and supervision

- Supervision of the data collection stage
- Supervision of the preparation of summary tables and despatch them to respective district offices on the completion of Census.

Data computerization, editing and the preparation of tables

- Identifying the new methods and technology in data processing.
- Data scanning
- Provision of data scanning facilities
- Training of officers
- Preparation of data editing instructions
- Designing computer programmes and includes amendments to obtain data tables from pilot survey data.
- To work towards the obtaining of final data tables.

The data releasing stages

- The issue of preliminary reports.
- Issue of reports with data tables obtained from summaries.
- To take action to issue the 5 percent Sample Survey report.
- Issue of final data tables to the department's web site.
- Issue of provincial level Census reports.
- Issue of final Census report.
- Issue of Census thematic reports under special topics
- Conduct seminars to disseminate Census data.

Census Schedules

Two types of schedules have been deployed to enumerate persons during the Census operation.

- 1) Schedule on Population and Housing – Also known as the F3 schedule; this is the main schedule used to collect information in persons according to the usual place of residence. Information collected there from persons lined in all three types of units namely, housing units, collective living quarters and also Non-housing units. However, information on houses was collected only from houses which have been occupied by people.
- 2) Schedule on persons with no permanent abode – This is identified as the F4 schedule and has been used to collect information from persons with no permanent place of residence.

Given below are the primary headings under which the Census schedule F3 collected information.

Demographic information - Date of birth, Sex, Religion, Ethnicity, Marital status, Migratory information, Impairments (physical and mental), Educational status, Language literacy, Computer literacy, Economic activity engaged in and Fertility.

Persons temporarily resident abroad – Sex, age Country of residence, Reason for being abroad

Housing unit information - Structure of the unit, materials used to construct the walls, roof and the floor, year of construction.

Household unit Information - Main source of drinking water, main source of lighting, sanitary facilities, communication facilities and methods of having access to internet facilities

Training of Census officers

Training of Census officers was conducted in a few stages. First, the Statistical Officers and the officers above that rank of the department were trained as the principal training officers. Afterward the Census awareness programmes were conducted with the participation of the senior officers of the Department for District Secretaries and the Divisional Secretaries in all 25 districts uniformly. For this purpose power point presentations of the programs were made available in all three languages. The conducting of district level training programs for Grama Niladharies was done by the trained officers of the department. Thereafter the department officers conducted another training program at

district level to train the enumerating officers. In this program the number of enumerators for a class was restricted to 45 and all the training classes were aided by power point presentations. In 2001, due to limitations in technology and facilities at that time, printed materials were used for these training programs. All the divisional training programs were conducted under the auspices of the Divisional Secretary of the respective division and the senior officers of the department participated in supervisory capacity. Questions and issues raised by the prospective enumerating officers were entertained, clarifications made and solutions were prescribed at these training classes. Given below in Table 1.1 is the number of training programmes conducted at district level by the department.

Table 1.1: Number of Training programmes conducted at district level with officers participated therein

District		No. of Training programmes Conducted	Supervising Staff	Enumerating Officers	Deputy Census Commissioners	Assistant Census Commissioners	Other Non-Technical Staff	Technical Staff		
								Assistant Census Commissioners	Regional Census Officers	Other Technical Staff
Total		2562	16304	80046	356	356	1770	59	518	216
1	Colombo	224	1094	9768	14	14	70	20	58	130
2	Gampaha	239	1568	7871	14	14	70	4	32	26
3	Kalutara	138	865	4323	15	15	75	3	30	17
4	Kandy	183	1270	5545	21	21	105	2	27	2
5	Matale	69	550	1990	12	12	60	1	16	1
6	Nuwara-Eliya	83	553	2576	6	6	30	2	9	-
7	Galle	135	915	3946	20	20	90	2	26	5
8	Matara	105	678	3115	17	17	85	2	21	4
9	Hambantota	78	596	2306	13	13	65	1	15	2
10	Jaffna	77	483	2309	16	16	80	-	20	-
11	Mannar	23	153	664	6	6	30	-	8	-
12	Vavuniya	24	149	820	5	5	25	-	6	2
13	Mullaitivu	25	159	559	7	7	35	1	10	-
14	Kilinochchi	17	122	588	5	5	25	-	8	-
15	Batticaloa	69	391	1868	15	15	75	1	19	-
16	Ampara	78	565	2135	21	21	105	2	24	3
17	Trincomalee	46	282	1452	12	12	60	2	15	2
18	Kurunegala	219	1662	6392	31	31	155	3	35	4
19	Puttalam	91	602	2626	17	17	85	1	23	5

20	Anuradhapura	115	742	3332	23	23	115	2	27	1
21	Polonnaruwa	46	320	1383	8	8	40	1	11	1
22	Badulla	110	598	3260	16	16	80	2	20	-
23	Moneragala	65	361	1920	12	12	60	1	17	3
24	Ratnapura	144	701	4602	18	18	90	4	25	6
25	Kegalle	94	605	2896	12	12	60	2	16	2
	Other	65	320	1800						

Note

1' A District Census Commissioner and a District Co-ordinating officer have been appointed for each district.

2. Other officers including Accountants, Management Assistants and Office Assistants have been included as Non-technical officers.

Publicity activities

Publicity activity plays an important part in eliciting correct information from the public at a Census. Publicity activities were designed targeting different social groups of the population. Given below are the programs implemented in this respect.

Drawing competition for school children

Census publicity work commenced with the education of school children and school teachers. A poster competition among school children was organized at the 'junior' and 'senior' levels with grades from 6-9 representing junior and grades from 10 – 13 representing the seniors. A special adjudicating team selected the first, second and third places and also another 40 winner in the two categories of this competition. The presentation of cash prizes for the first three places in both the categories were ceremonially awarded at the World Statistical Day held on 10/10/2010.

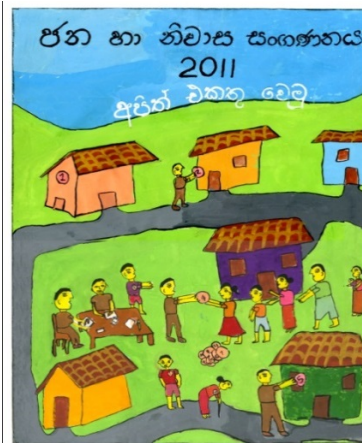
The posters that won the first, second and third places in the two categories are presented below.

Junior Section (Grades 6-9)

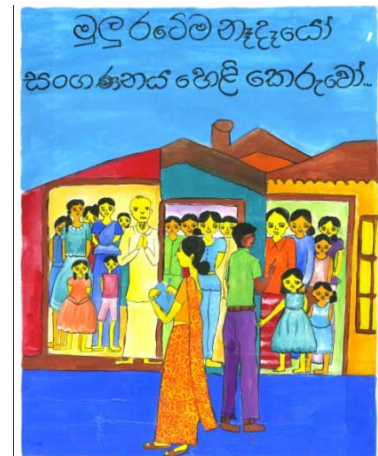
First place



Second Place



Third Place



Senior Section (Grades 10-13)

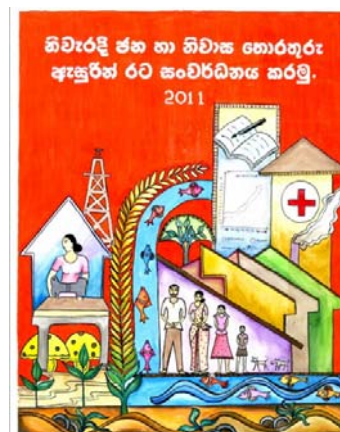
First place



Second Place



Third Place



Census Publicity stickers

Steps were taken to paste Census publicity stickers in Sinhala and Tamil languages on more than 50 vehicles deployed in Census field activity. In addition arrangements were made to paste stickers in public transport and the Ceylon Transport Board (CTB) took the initiative in distributing these stickers to all public buses that travel through the length and breadth of the island.

Census Message

The Census message was printed on the department letter heads and envelopes. In addition, the Census message was also printed on the caps, bags, pens and the plastic folders issued to enumerating officers.

Census Message: “

Census Book Mark

About 300,000 numbers of A4 size leaflets and book marks containing the Census message were distributed at the ‘Dayata Kirula’ exhibition held in 2010 at Pallekeley in Kandy.

Census Calendars

Census message was printed on department calendars designed for the year 2011, the Government desk calendars printed during that year and 200,000 pocket calendars. The pocket calendars were distributed at the 'Dayata Kirula' exhibition held in 2011. The winning posters of the school poster competition were used in these pocket calendars.

Census Hand bill

In order to educate the general public at large on the Census and its relevance, a hand bill was printed and distributed publicly. Depicted below are the Census hand bills printed and distributed.



Census information leaflet

The progress of the Census was publicised through the departmental website. However, at the listing stage of the Census, an information leaflet was prepared and distributed among the general public through the distribution network of 'Lankadeepa' (Sinhala) and 'Thinakaran' (Tamil) newspapers.

Census Posters

75,000 Census posters during the listing stage of the Census and 200,000 Census posters at the enumerating stage of the Census were printed and distributed at the district level.

Census Banners and Boards

2000 copies of 2 types of banners were printed and made available to the District officers through the respective District secretariats. These banners were made for the purpose of displaying them at public places frequented by people.



30 large boards were designed and displayed throughout the country with the sponsorship and contribution of the United Nations Population Fund.

United Nations Population Fund provided financial assistance to construct 30 large boards with census messages throughout the country to increase the awareness among people about the Census.

Media Seminars

During the period of the Census operation, three media seminars were conducted through the Government media department and electronic and printed media were availed to educate the media personnel.

The message of educating school children through the Department of Education

A message emphasising the importance of the Census was communicated to all the schools in the island through the department of education and this made possible the education of the students through the respective school principals with the view of instilling a sense of necessity in co-operating with enumerating officers.

Publicity activity through the Television

In order to educate the general public on the importance of disclosing correct information to the enumerating officers, publicity programs and advertisements were carried out in the television media at the listing and enumerating stages of the Census.

Computerising the Census data

During the Census of Population and Housing conducted in the year 1946, data entry of Census data had been done using punch cards. This mechanism had been updated during the 1953 Census operation. Since 1971, method of Census data entry had been developed with the remarkable advances made in computer technology.

By 1981, computer technology had made further advances and a special computer, IBM 4331, had been used in the processing of Census data. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Foundation (UNFPA) Population Activities had made meaningful contributions in this process. In 2001 computerisation of Census data had been done in two stages; namely the 'hand coding stage' and the 'preparation by computer stage'.

However, since the manual data entry takes considerable time and human effort, the Census of 2012 introduced data scanning technology for the first time. This has paved the way for capturing data through scanning digital imaging such as OMR /ICR technology incorporating specially data quality control checks. The Census of 2012 has taken a further step in that direction by verifying the validity of all the data and editing wherever/whenever necessary through the computer itself.

In the current social setting collecting information by visiting the houses could lead to difficult and embarrassing situations. Also it may not be possible to meet people in person during day time as people could be out of their houses engaged in employment/ livelihood during that time. As a solution to this problem Census 2012 deployed e- census technology to collect information from 300 selected dwelling units within the Colombo Municipal council limits as an exponential basis. In this, arrangements were made to obtain the required information through the internet by introducing a secret password to the household unit and then to ensure the confidentiality of the information so obtained.

Further, in previous Census, the coding of the respondents employment and industry was done by the staff manually whereas this time software for the purpose has been designed and accomplished by

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) division of the department. Accordingly the coding was done in the 5 percent sample and then estimated to the entire population.

Stage 4 – Analysis of data and the issue of Census information

The issuing of Census information is done over a number of stages. The reason for this is the need to scrutinise data about every 80,000 Census block subjecting those to a validation process, and that takes considerable time. This means there is a time lag between the time of Census and issuing of the final report and as a mitigating measure the Census information is released in the following 5 stages.

1st stage of release

Immediately after the collection of Census information the enumerating officers will prepare a summary of the information collected from their respective Census blocks. Thereafter a Grama Niladhari level summary of Census information will be prepared by collating the information of all the Census blocks that falls under the particular Grama Niladhari division. Then, with the help of the statistical officers stationed at the Divisional secretariat, the Grama Niladhari division reports will be collated to make a Divisional Secretariat summary for each Divisional Secretariat. A similar exercise is then performed at the District Secretariat level by the statistical officers attached to the District Secretariat division in collating the information of all the Divisional Secretariats to prepare the District level Census summary information. This District Census summary information will then be submitted to the population Census division of the Department of Census and Statistics which will then prepare the Census summary report for the country by collecting the summary reports of all the 25 districts. The current Sri Lanka 2012 Census summary report was published within one month of the conclusion of the Census operation.

2nd stage of release

Two Census reports containing the population and housing information at Divisional Secretariat level, prepared according to the summary tables produced by the enumerating officers, have been released in October 2012.

3rd stage of release

At the initial stage of the Census it was decided to release a 5 percent sample report of the Census information early for the benefit of the Census data users. A separate colour has been used to print the Census schedules of these samples Census blocks and they had been subject to a scanning process for

their validation. Subsequently the 5 percent sample report, with relevant details, has been issued in March 2014.

4th stage of release

A considerable number of final Census tables and the provincial level reports have been released through the department's website in December 2014.

5th Stage of release

On 12th December 2014 a seminar was held for 500 selected invitees to disseminate them on the key findings of Population and Housing Census 2012. Simultaneously, at this seminar, a report with key findings of Population and Housing Census has been released in three languages.

It is the duty of all the citizens in the country to make maximum use of the Census information. Census information could be used to identify the problems associated with the increase or decrease in the population, establishing the reasons for the concentration of population in certain areas of the country, taking policy decisions in caring for the aging population, analysing the changes within the family units due to changes in these society and the effects of such changes on persons and the society at large. The decision makers as well as the general population of the country should take evidence based decisions based on Population Census information be in the interest of country and the human community as a whole.

The Question and Topics included in the Census of Sri Lanka, 1871-2012

The Question Heads Included In The Census Schedule	Years of Census													
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931*	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012
<u>Demographic and Personal Information</u>														
Name	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Relationship to the householder	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sex	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Date of birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x
Age	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
Marital Status	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ethnicity	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Religion	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Citizenship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x
NIC No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
<u>Educational Information</u>														
Ability to speak Sinhala & Tamil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
Ability to speak English	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
Ability to speak Sinhala, English & Tamil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x
Literacy Rate	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-
English Literacy Rate	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
Sinhala, English & Tamil Literacy Rate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x
Educational qualifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x
School Attendance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
Vocational & Apprenticeship qualifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x

The Question Heads Included In The Census

Schedule

Years of Census

	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931*	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012
<u>Economic Information</u>														
Task engaged in	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
Main employment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XS	X	X	X	X	X
Additional employment	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Employment status	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-
Dependency	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Period of unemployment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	X	-	-	-
Hunting for a job?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Job hunting period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Reason of not hunting for a job	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Normal activity- non economic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
<u>Information on Migration & Residency</u>														
District of birth	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XS	XS	X	X
District of normal residency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	-
Period of residency at normal residency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	X
Previous residency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	X
Period of residency in Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Marital status & Fertility</u>														
Marriage Date	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-
Date of 1 st Marriage, if previously married	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-
Age at 1 st marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	-	-

Period of 1 st marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	-	-
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Topics Included In The Census Schedule	Census Years													
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931*	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012
If married more than once, time interval of previous marriages.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	-	-
Age at birth of first child	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-
Total live births	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	XS	-	X	X
No. of children currently living	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	X	X
Date of birth of the last child	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Other Topics

Distance from normal residency to place of employment or school	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Source of transport to place of employment or school	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Member of the dwelling unit currently temporarily abroad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Note - x Collected from all the persons

xs Collected from a sample only

- Information not collected

* Detailed information collected from persons in Colombo Municipal council area while only enumeration of persons in other parts of the country.

Administrative Divisions in Sri Lanka

2.0

Administrative Divisions in Sri Lanka

During a population and housing census in Sri Lanka the information on persons is collected at the administrative division level. Accordingly when demarcating census blocks for data collection care has been exercised not to cut through the administrative boundaries including the boundaries of Districts, Divisional secretariat divisions and Grama Niladhari divisions. Similarly in issuing census information, the department website www.statistics.gov.lk has facilitated the issue of information at National, District, Divisional secretariat divisions and Grama Niladhari divisional levels.

This chapter hopes to analyse briefly the evolution of the administrative divisions in Sri Lanka and their impact on the census on population and housing held in the year 2012.

Division according to Provinces

The present administrative demarcations in Sri Lanka could be described as an evolutionary development on the Colebrook reforms introduced in 1833 during the British colonial rule.

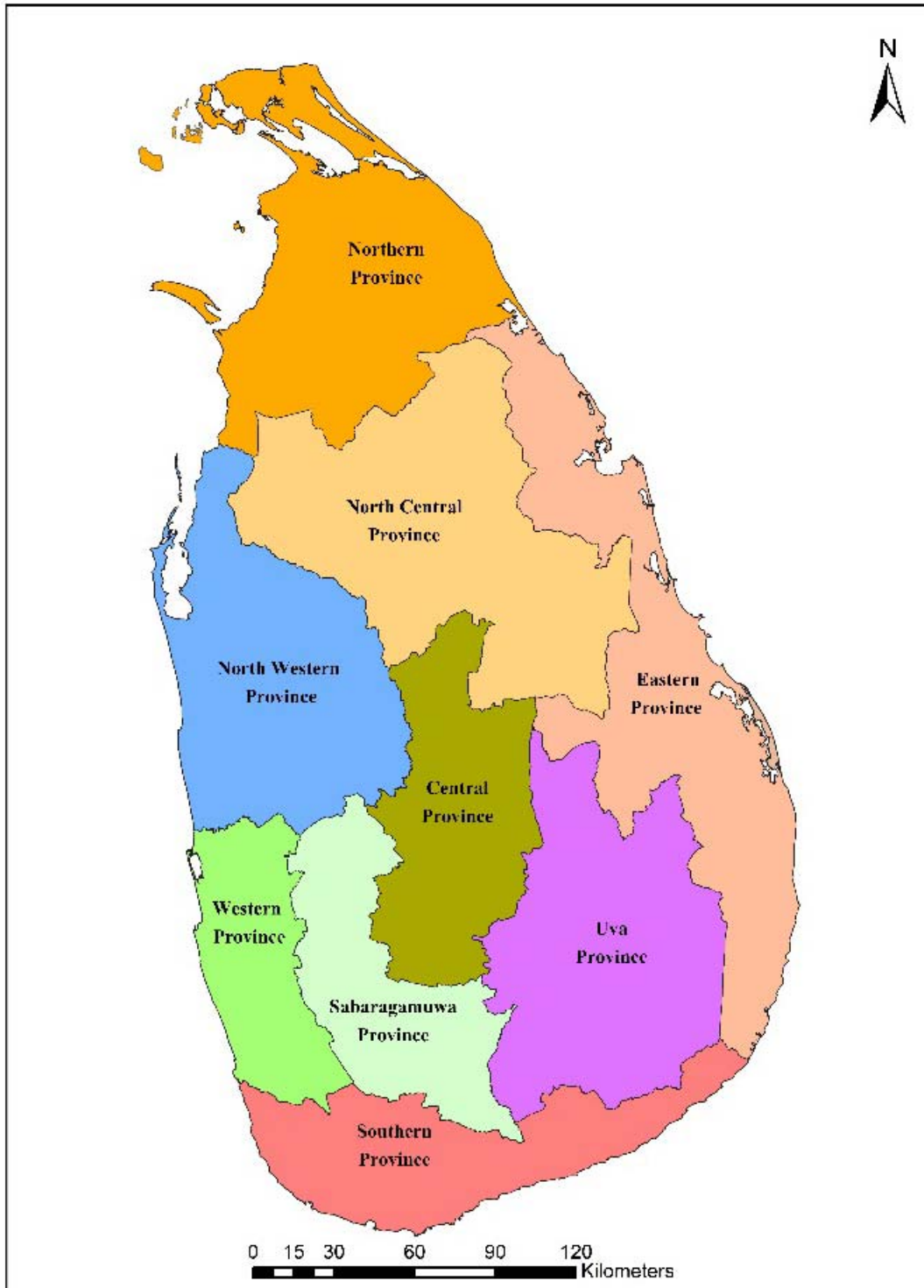
According to the declarations made on 01.10.1833 under the Colebrook reforms provincially Sri Lanka had been divided in to 5 provinces for administrative purposes. Namely those are the Northern Province, Southern province, Western province, Eastern province and the Central province.

Subsequently, due to the complexity in administrative and other activities, this division has been subject to change in the following manner, based on the numeracy and geological differences in the areas.

- 1) On 1st October 1845 the Western province has been re-demarcated as the Western and North-Western provinces.
- 2) On 6th September 1873 the North central province had been established by carving out, the Nuwarakalaviya district (present Anuradhapura district) from the Northern Province, Thamankaduwa from the Eastern province and the Demala pattuwa of Sathkorale from the North-Western province.
- 3) On 5th February 1886 the Central province had been re-demarcated in to two provinces as the Central province and the Uva province.
- 4) On 4th February 1889 the Western Province had been re-demarcated in to two provinces as the Western province and the Sabaragamuwa province.

- 5) Accordingly by 1889 Sri Lanka had been divided in to 9 provinces and since then except for the minor changes in provincial boundaries from time to time, there had been no change in the numeracy of the provinces. This division is depicted pictorially by the map in diagram 2.1

Diagram 2.1 : Provincial level map of Sri Lanka



Division according to districts

The 1833 Colebrook reforms that made 5 administrative provinces contained 23 districts within those 5 provinces. The boundaries of these districts have been subject to change from time to time and accordingly the numbers of district in the subsequent census have also changed. These changes are depicted in table 2.1 below

Table 2.1 : Districts in Sri Lanka as at Censuses, 1871 - 2012

Districts	Census Years													
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001*	2012
Total	18	21	22	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	22	24	25	25
Colombo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Negombo		X	X											
Gampaha												X	X	X
Kalutara		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kandy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Matale	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nuwara-Eliya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Badulla	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Galle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Matara	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hambantota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jaffna	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mannar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vavuniya		X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mullaitivu	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X
Kilinochchi													X	X
Batticaloa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ampara										X	X	X	X	X
Trincomalee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kurunegala	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puttalam	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chilaw			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Anuradhapura	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polonnaruwa										X	X	X	X	X
Moneragala										X	X	X	X	X
Ratnapura	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kegalle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

*In the year 2001 census was taken in only 18 districts while estimates were prepared for the balance 7 districts

As depicted in table 2.1 only 18 districts had been subject to census activity in the year 1871. Subsequently the districts of Negombo, Kalutara and Vavuniya had been established in the years 1875, 1876 and 1879 respectively. Accordingly at the time of the census in 1881 the number of districts in the country had been 21. Then in 1887 the Puttalam district in the North- Western province had been re-demarcated in to Puttalam and Chilaw districts. This had made the number of districts increase to 22 and census of 1891 had been performed in all these 22 districts.

In the year 1896, the Negombo district, which was made out of Aluthkuru koralaya and Hapitigam koralaya of the Colombo district in 1875 was re –absorbed in to the Colombo district. Similarly in 1898 the Vavuniya district has been eliminated from the district map by fragmenting an absorbing the fragmented areas in to other adjoining districts in the Northern Province. Thus in the year 1901 census was performed on the basis that there are only 20 administrative districts in the country.

In 1953 the Polonnaruwa district was created by upgrading the Thamankaduwa divisional secretariat division of the Anuradhapura district in to a district. During this time the two districts of Chilaw and Puttalam has been amalgamated in to one administrative district. In 1959, Wellawaya, Buttala and Wellassa divisions of the Badulla district have been made in to form the Moneragala district. On 10th April 1961 the Ampara district has been established by bringing together certain sections of the Batticaloa district. Due to these changes the census of 1963 had 22 administrative districts in its records. The same position prevailed during the census of 1971.

Mullaitivu and Gampaha were recognised as districts in 1978 making the total number of districts in the country to 24. The population and Housing census of 1981 covered the total of these 24 districts in full. Even though there are no changes in the number of districts from 1971 to 1981 but there had been some changes in the boundaries of the districts. In the census years of 2001 and 2012 the number of districts are shown as 25 due to the creation of the Kilinochchi district in 1984 in the Northern Province. Diagram 2.2 depicts the demarcations of districts in present day Sri Lanka.

Sub division of districts in to Divisional secretarial areas

In the administrative division of Sri Lanka, the districts now face their next sub division in the form of Divisional secretarial areas. These areas were known as Assistant Government Agent area until 1991.

Every district has been subdivided in to Divisional secretarial areas and every Divisional secretarial area in turn has been further sub divide in to Grama Niladhari divisions. These Grama Niladhari divisions are made, of either a collection of small villages or, of a part of a larger village. The two tables numbering 2.2 and 2.3 places this position in perspective by giving the number of Divisional

secretarial areas, Grama Niladhari divisions, villages, Municipal councils, Town councils, Urban councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas at the census years of 1981 and 2012.

Diagram 2.2 : District level map of Sri Lanka

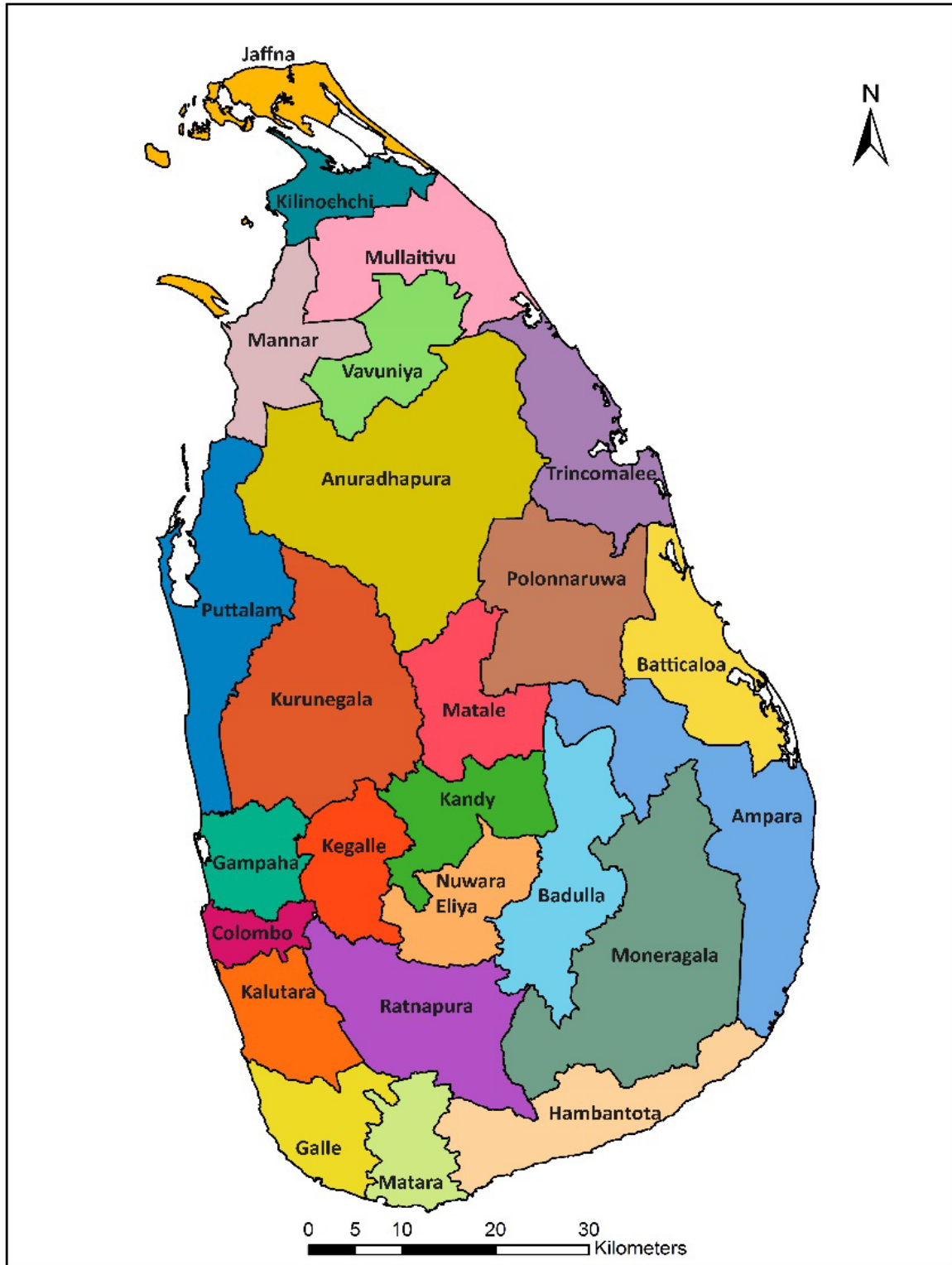


Table 2.2: Distribution of A.G.A. Divisions, G.S. Divisions and Urban areas by districts, 1981

District	1981					
	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of
	Government Agent Divisions	Grama Sewaka Divisions	Villages	Municipal Councils	Urban Councils	town Councils
Total	245	4,113	25,453	12	39	83
Colombo	8	121	188	2	4	6
Gampaha	13	389	836	1	6	9
Kalutara	10	230	630	-	4	6
Kandy	16	430	1,998	1	4	2
Matale	10	170	881	1	-	3
Nuwara-Eliya	4	98	648	1	2	1
Galle	16	274	1,445	1	1	7
Matara	11	214	690	-	2	2
Hambantota	8	165	1,014	-	2	4
Jaffna	16	150	551	1	3	9
Mannar	4	33	581	-	-	1
Vavuniya	4	23	579	-	1	-
Mullaitivu	4	26	297	-	-	1
Batticaloa	7	87	667	1	-	2
Ampara	12	108	467	-	1	2
Trincomalee	9	48	374	-	1	3
Kurunegala	17	510	4,141	1	1	3
Puttalam	10	178	1,001	-	2	5
Anuradhapura	16	189	3,402	-	1	1
Polonnaruwa	5	60	381	-	-	2
Badulla	14	151	1,126	1	2	4
Moneragala	8	88	873	-	-	1
Ratnapura	13	175	1,586	1	1	3
Kegalle	10	196	1,097	-	1	6

Source: Census Report, 1981

Table 2.3 : Distribution of D.S. Divisions, G.N. Divisions, Urban areas and Pradeshiya Sabha areas by districts, 2012

Districts	2012					
	No. of Divisional Secretariat Divisions	No. of Grama Niladhari Divisions	No. of Villages*	No. of Municipal Councils	No. of Urban Councils	No. of Pradeshiya Sabha Areas
Total	331	14,021	36,822	23	41	271
Colombo	13	557	357	5	5	3
Gampaha	13	1,177	1,565	2	5	12
Kalutara	14	762	2,352	-	4	12
Kandy	20	1,187	2,833	1	4	17
Matale	11	545	1,344	2	-	11
Nuwara-Eliya	5	491	1,199	1	2	5
Galle	19	895	2,423	1	2	17
Matara	16	650	1,662	1	1	15
Hambantota	12	576	1,380	1	1	10
Jaffna	15	435	1,251	1	3	13
Mannar	5	153	680	-	1	4
Vavuniya	4	102	421	-	1	4
Mullaitivu	6	136	607	-	-	4
Kilinochchi	4	95	350	-	-	3
Batticaloa	14	346	947	1	2	9
Ampara	20	503	737	2	1	17
Trincomalee	11	230	602	-	2	11
Kurunegala	30	1,610	4,533	1	1	19
Puttalam	16	548	1,328	-	2	10
Anuradhapura	22	694	2,633	1	-	18
Polonnaruwa	7	295	629	-	-	7
Badulla	15	567	1,960	2	1	15
Moneragala	11	319	1,346	-	-	10
Ratnapura	17	575	2,101	1	2	14
Kegalle	11	573	1,582	-	1	11

Source: MRCB Main Register on Census blocks

* villages not limited to a single GN division has been shown as separate villages under the relevant GN division'

According to table 2.2 and table 2.3, during the period between 1981 and 2012, the number of Divisional secretariat areas in Sri Lanka have increased by 86 while the Grama Niladhari divisions have registered an increase of 9,908 divisions. Similarly the numbers of Municipal Councils have increased from 12 to 23 while the numbers of Town councils have increased from 39 to 41.

The Population growth, its Distribution and Trends

3.0

The Population growth, its distribution and trends

The Census of Population and Housing 2012 reveals a number of scenarios that the country's population has been subjected to during the period under consideration. The census 2012 was of special significance to the country as it covered Sri Lanka in its entirety unlike the census held in the years 1991 and 2001. Thus it is after a period of 31 years, since 1981, that the whole of Sri Lanka has been subjected to a census in 2012. Thus, for purposes of comparison in analysing the census results, the 1981 census results have been used as a reasonable and realistic basis. The alternative being the census held in the year 2001 where the total population was computed by making estimates for the 7 districts where the census was not completed.

Growth of Population

The following table (Table 3.1) gives the total picture of the population growth in Sri Lanka; the total population, inter census growth and annual growth as a percentage; since the commencement of population census in the country in year 1871.

Table 3.1: Total population as per each year of census, Intercensal growth and the Average annual growth rate, 1871-2012

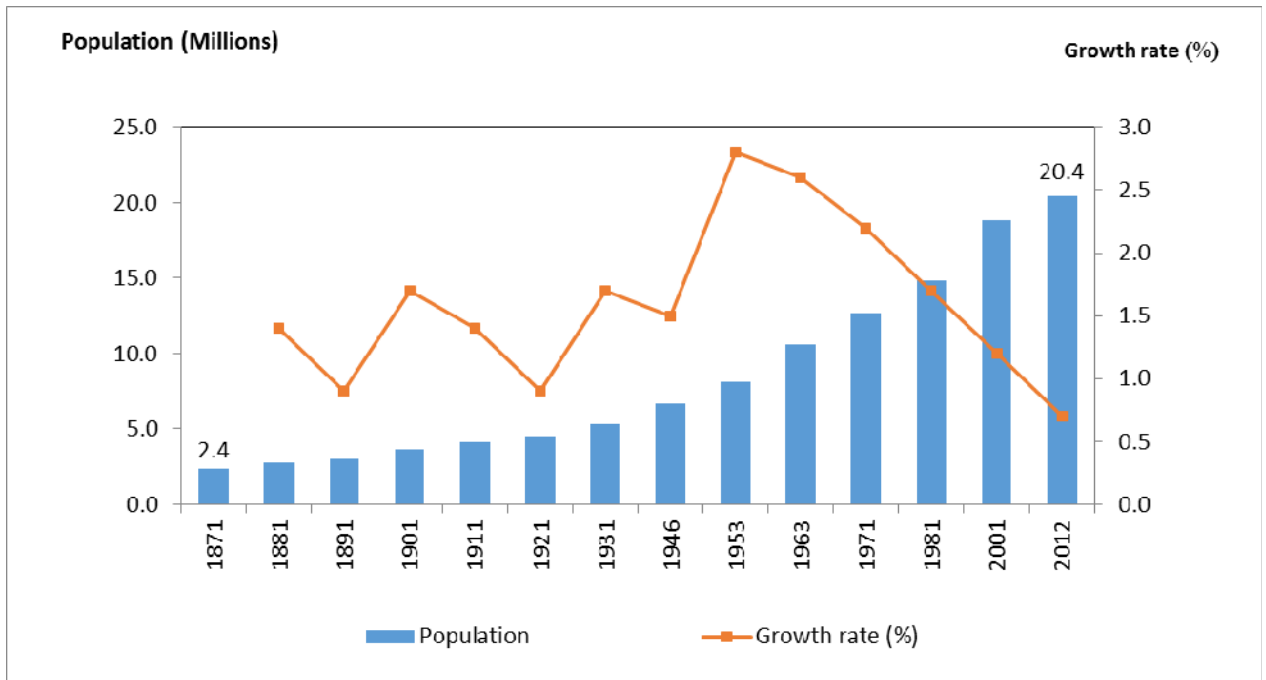
Census Date	Total Population of Sri Lanka	Intercensal Growth		Average Annual Growth Rate (per cent)
		Number	%	
27 March 1871	2,400,380	-	-	-
17 February 1881	2,759,738	359,358	15.0	1.4
26 February 1891	3,007,789	248,051	9.0	0.9
01 March 1901	3,565,954	558,165	18.6	1.7
10 March 1911	4,106,350	540,396	15.2	1.4
18 March 1921	4,498,605	392,255	9.6	0.9
26 February 1931	5,306,871	808,266	18.0	1.7
19 March 1946	6,657,339	1,350,468	25.4	1.5
20 March 1953	8,097,895	1,440,556	21.6	2.8
08 July 1963	10,582,064	2,484,169	30.7	2.6
09 October 1971	12,689,897	2,107,833	19.9	2.2
17 March 1981	14,846,750	2,156,853	17.0	1.7
17 July 2001	18,797,257	3,950,507	26.6	1.2
20 March 2012	20,359,439	1,562,182	8.3	0.7

Note : Under census 2001, total estimated population for the country which is calculated based on the estimated population of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts of Northern Province, Batticaloa, Trincomalee districts of Eastern Province, where enumeration was not taken place is given.

According to Tale 3.1 above, the highest annual growth rate of 2.8 percent for population growth has been registered in the year 1953. Since then there had been a gradual decline in this growth rate of the total population and it is recorded as 0.7 percent in the current census.

Even though the decline in the natural population growth rate and the increase in the external migratory rate have impacted on the net population growth rate, the population of the country, in terms of numbers, have registered an increasing trend.

Diagram 3.1 : Population size and its growth, 1871-2012



Distribution in population according to provinces and districts

Table 3.2: Province wise and district wise population, 2012

Province & District	Total Population	
	No.	%
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0
Western Province	5,851,130	28.7
Colombo	2,324,349	11.4
Gampaha	2,304,833	11.3
Kalutara	1,221,948	6.0
Central Province	2,571,557	12.6
Kandy	1,375,382	6.8
Matale	484,531	2.4
Nuwara-Eliya	711,644	3.5
Southern Province	2,477,285	12.1
Galle	1,063,334	5.2
Matara	814,048	4.0
Hambantota	599,903	2.9
Northern Province	1,061,315	5.4
Jaffna	583,882	2.9
Mannar	99,570	0.5
Vavuniya	172,115	0.9
Mullaitivu	92,238	0.5
Kilinochchi	113,510	0.6
Eastern Province	1,555,510	7.6
Batticaloa	526,567	2.6
Ampara	649,402	3.2
Trincomalee	379,541	1.9
North-Western Province	2,380,861	11.7
Kurunegala	1,618,465	7.9
Puttalam	762,396	3.7
North-Central Province	1,266,663	6.2
Anuradhapura	860,575	4.2
Polonnaruwa	406,088	2.0
Uva Province	1,266,463	6.2
Badulla	815,405	4.0
Moneragala	451,058	2.2
Sabaragamuwa Province	1,928,655	9.5
Ratnapura	1,088,007	5.3
Kegalle	840,648	4.1

In considering the distribution of population provincially, the western province has the highest population concentration with 28.7 percent of the country's total population resident in the province as against the Northern province which has only 5.4 percent of the country's total population resident in that province, which is the least population concentration.

Similarly, district wise the highest population is recorded from Colombo with 11.4 percent of the country's total population, while Mullaitivu in the Northern Province records the least population of 0.5 percent of the country's population.

District wise increase in population

In considering the district wise population increase, the current census data could be compared with the data of the census 1981 and also with the data of census 2001, albeit census 2001 recorded actual data relating to only 18 of the 25 districts in the country.

According to data given in Table 3.3 the highest rate of population increase in the country has taken place in the dry zone's Anuradhapura district of the North Central province. However, generally it is the districts in the wet zone that is popular among the residents of the country for recording high concentrations in population. Gampaha and Kalutara districts in the Western province record an increase in their populations mainly due to their rate of urbanization and commercialisation which invites migration from other districts. In analysing the data relating to the three inter census periods given in table 3.3, a fact that clearly emerges is that, other than in the three districts of Hambantota, Kalutara and Anuradhapura the average annual rate of increase in population in all other districts have shown a decreasing trend.

The increase in population is observed to be particularly low in the districts of Badulla and Nuwara Eliya and this could be explained as being due to estate population of these districts migrating out due to employment prospects and also being due to persons who previously sought shelter in these areas due to security reasons migrating back to their district of residence after the dawn of peace.

As persons displaced in the other districts of the Northern Province due to terrorist disturbances have migrated to Vavuniya district, the population in the Vavuniya district has almost doubled between 1981 and 2012 and that when converted to average annual increase in population for the district results is an unusual annual increase rate above 1 percent during the 31 year period. Further it could also be observed that the population in Jaffna and Mannar districts have recorded a corresponding decrease in their populations between 1981 and 2012 as population of these areas have been effected by terrorist disturbances and migrated out.

Table 3.3: Growth in population by districts, 1981- 2012

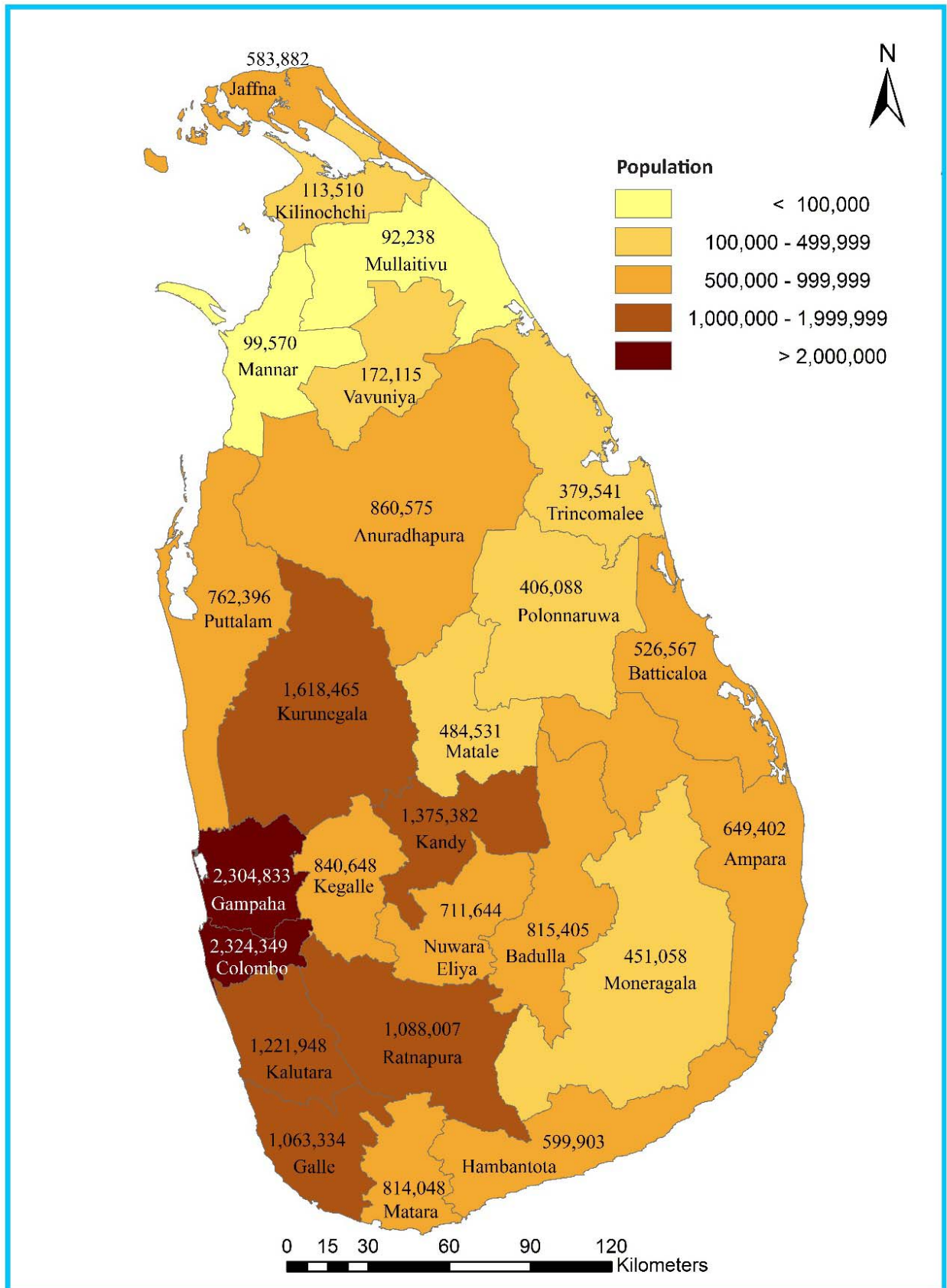
Districts	Total Population			Average Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	1981(1)	2001(2)	2012	1981-2001	1981-2012	2001-2012
Sri Lanka	14,846,274	18,797,257	20,359,439	1.16	1.02	0.75
Colombo	1,675,847	2,239,696	2,324,349	1.43	1.05	0.35
Gampaha	1,367,813	2,060,470	2,304,833	2.01	1.68	1.05
Kalutara	823,964	1,065,635	1,221,948	1.26	1.27	1.28
Kandy	1,032,335	1,276,202	1,375,382	1.04	0.92	0.70
Matale	352,860	439,031	484,531	1.07	1.02	0.92
Nuwara-Eliya	583,716	702,689	711,644	0.91	0.64	0.12
Galle	805,403	989,769	1,063,334	1.01	0.90	0.67
Matara	642,235	760,990	814,048	0.83	0.76	0.63
Hambantota	421,277	525,913	599,903	1.09	1.14	1.23
Jaffna	734,474	-	583,882	-	-0.74	-
Mannar	105,276	-	99,570	-	-0.18	-
Vavuniya	93,694	-	172,115	-	1.96	-
Mullaitivu	73,886	-	92,238	-	0.71	-
Kilinochchi	90,778	-	113,510	-	0.72	-
Batticaloa	329,343	-	526,567	-	1.51	-
Ampara	383,275	592,596	649,402	2.14	1.70	0.86
Trincomalee	250,771	-	379,541	-	1.34	-
Kurunegala	1,198,795	1,458,385	1,618,465	0.96	0.95	0.97
Puttalam	485,619	709,002	762,396	1.86	1.45	0.68
Anuradhapura	575,546	742,535	860,575	1.25	1.30	1.38
Polonnaruwa	253,411	358,804	406,088	1.71	1.52	1.16
Badulla	620,839	778,422	815,405	1.11	0.88	0.43
Moneragala	269,684	396,521	451,058	1.89	1.66	1.21
Ratnapura	779,927	1,016,221	1,088,007	1.30	1.07	0.64
Kegalle	678,456	784,371	840,648	0.71	0.69	0.65

1. Jaffna and Kilinochchi data is given based on current district boundaries.

2. Under Census 2001, total estimated population for the country which is calculated based on the estimated population of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts of Northern Province, Batticaloa and Trincomalee of Eastern Province, where enumeration was not taken place is given.

Note: Population at the Census 2012 was enumerated based on their places of usual residence and therefore in this report, district-wise population in Censuses of 1981 and 2001 are presented by their places of usual residence to make the comparison more meaningful.

Diagram 3.2 : Distribution of population by districts, 2012



The Population density

What is meant by population density is the average number of persons living within one square kilo meter of a particular area. This data was obtained during the census of 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2012 and those are tabulated below in table 3.4.

Table 3.4 : The Population density as per the districts, 1981, 2001 and 2012

District	Population Density (Persons per 1 km ²)		
	1981	2001	2012
Sri Lanka	230	300	325
Colombo	2,605	3,330	3,438
Gampaha	994	1,539	1,719
Kalutara	516	677	775
Kandy	554	667	717
Galle	487	613	658
Matara	516	600	641
Jaffna	401	-	629
Kegalle	412	466	499
Nuwara-Eliya	354	412	417
Kurunegala	254	316	350
Ratnapura	246	314	336
Badulla	227	276	288
Puttalam	165	246	265
Matale	180	226	248
Hambantota	164	211	240
Batticaloa	134	-	202
Ampara	86	140	154
Trincomalee	98	-	150
Polonnaruwa	77	117	132
Anuradhapura	82	112	129
Kilinochchi	-	-	94
Vavuniya	36	-	92
Moneragala	49	72	82
Mannar	53	-	53
Mullaitivu	39	-	38

Note: Population density for the whole country was computed on the basis of estimates made for total population in 2001.

In general, the population density in a country increases corresponding to the increase in the total population. The population density that was 230 persons per square kilo meter in 1981 census has increased to 325 by the 2012 census. In comparison to the census of 2001, the population density has increased by 25 persons between 2001 and 2012 from 300 persons to 325 persons.

Similarly when you focus on the population density on district basis, it could be seen that the districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara in the Western province, Galle and Matara districts in the Southern province, Kandy district in the Central province, Jaffna district in the Northern province have all recorded comparatively high densities in population. In Colombo district, where there is a high concentration of people, the population density which had been 2,605 persons in 1981 has increased to 3,330 persons by the census of 2001 and has increased further to 3,438 persons by census of 2012. Gampaha district in the Western province is the second in terms of population density and according to the census of 2012 the population density in Gampaha district is 1,719 persons. The districts, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Kandy and Jaffna have also recorded population densities in excess of 600 persons.

According to 1981 census and as depicted in table 3.4, the population densities of all the districts listed below the Batticaloa district in the table, recorded a less than 100 population density, whereas in the current census it is only in the districts of Mullaitivu, Mannar, Moneragala, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya that have recorded population densities less than 100 persons per square km.

In 2012 census Mullaitivu district has recorded the lowest population density per square km and it is 38 persons.

Distribution of population by sectors of residence

Broadly there are three sectors of residence in Sri Lanka which are traditionally considered to possess characteristics distinguishably different to each other and those are the Urban, Rural and Estate sectors. Urban sector is made up of Municipal council and Town council areas. Estate sector is comprised of commercial lands that are in extent of 20 acres or above and where more than 10 labourers are employed. All such commercial lands are defined as estates and those form the estate sector in Sri Lanka. Rural sector is comprised of all other areas that do not come under the above two sectors; urban and estate.

However, even though the statistics are presented on the basis of these definitions it is increasingly felt that these definitions and the categorisations accordingly, are in need of revision in the current

context of things. The main reason for this being the existence of areas with urbanized characteristics in the country that do not fall within the Municipal or Town council areas.

However, at a census taking the total population of the country and its distribution is categorised in the three sectors of Urban, Rural and Estate in keeping with the above definitions. Thus, according to table 3.5 of the 2012 census, the urban population of Sri Lanka is 18.2 percent of the total population of the country and numerically it stands at 3,704,470 persons. In comparison to census 1981 this is an increase of about 500,000 persons above the 3,192,489 persons recorded therein. Table 3.5 also gives the distribution of population district wise. Of this urban population, 61.4 percent of them live in Municipal council areas while the balance 38.6 percent live in urban council areas.

The rural population in Sri Lanka is 77.4 percent of the total population and the majority of the people of the country live in this sector. The population in the districts such as Polonnaruwa, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, in the absence of an urban sector, are considered to live 100 percent in the rural sector.

The Estate sector population of Sri Lanka is 4.4 percent of the country's total population. The highest percentage of estate sector population is recorded in the Nuwara Eliya district and it is recorded as 53.5 percent of the district's population. In Badulla district the estate sector population is 18.9 percent of the district's population. Similarly in the districts of Kandy, Kegalle and Ratnapura the estate sector population is recorded to exceed 6 percent of the respective district populations.

According to table 3.5 Colombo district is the district with the highest urbanized population in the country with 78 percent of its population reported to be living in the urban sector. The Colombo district urban sector population however accounts for almost half, or 48.6 percent of the total urbanized population in the country. Similarly in the districts of Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee and Mannar the urbanized population is reported as 28.7 percent, 23.6 percent, 22.4 percent and 24.5 percent respectively. This represents approximately a quarter of the total population in those districts.

The urban population reported in the districts of Jaffna and Vavuniya in the Northern Province also exceed 20 percent of the population of those two districts. In other districts however, the urbanized population exceeds 10 percent of the district's population only in districts such as Gampaha, Galle, Kandy, Matale and Matara.

The lowest urbanized population is reported from the two districts of Kurunegala and Kegalle. The urbanized population of these two districts are less than 2 percent of their total population, respectively.

Table 3.5: Population by districts and sectors of residence, 2012

District	Total		Sector					
			Urban		Rural		Estate	
	Number	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	3,704,470	18.2	15,753,322	77.4	901,647	4.4
Colombo	2,324,349	100.0	1,802,904	77.6	513,534	22.1	7,911	0.3
Gampaha	2,304,833	100.0	360,221	15.6	1,943,418	84.3	1,194	0.1
Kalutara	1,221,948	100.0	109,069	8.9	1,075,246	88.0	37,633	3.1
Kandy	1,375,382	100.0	170,544	12.4	1,119,221	81.4	85,617	6.2
Matale	484,531	100.0	60,276	12.4	405,176	83.6	19,079	3.9
Nuwara-Eliya	711,644	100.0	40,151	5.6	290,913	40.9	380,580	53.5
Galle	1,063,334	100.0	133,398	12.5	911,159	85.7	18,777	1.8
Matara	814,048	100.0	96,570	11.9	694,948	85.4	22,530	2.8
Hambantota	599,903	100.0	31,709	5.3	568,194	94.7	-	-
Jaffna	583,882	100.0	117,575	20.1	466,307	79.9	-	-
Mannar	99,570	100.0	24,417	24.5	75,153	75.5	-	-
Vavuniya	172,115	100.0	34,816	20.2	137,299	79.8	-	-
Mulaitivu	92,238	100.0	-	-	92,238	100.0	-	-
Kilinochchi	113,510	100.0	-	-	113,510	100.0	-	-
Batticaloa	526,567	100.0	151,226	28.7	375,341	71.3	-	-
Ampara	649,402	100.0	153,338	23.6	496,064	76.4	-	-
Trincomalee	379,541	100.0	85,123	22.4	294,418	77.6	-	-
Kurunegala	1,618,465	100.0	30,342	1.9	1,580,556	97.7	7,567	0.5
Puttalam	762,396	100.0	66,952	8.8	693,844	91.0	1,600	0.2
Anuradhapura	860,575	100.0	50,595	5.9	809,980	94.1	-	-
Polonnaruwa	406,088	100.0	-	-	406,072	100.0	16	-
Badulla	815,405	100.0	69,800	8.6	591,707	72.6	153,898	18.9
Monaragala	451,058	100.0	-	-	442,710	98.1	8,348	1.9
Ratnapura	1,088,007	100.0	99,451	9.1	888,845	81.7	99,711	9.2
Kegalle	840,648	100.0	15,993	1.9	767,469	91.3	57,186	6.8

Age Sex Composition of the Population

4.0

Age Sex composition of the population

The Age Sex relativity composition of a population presents a clearer picture of a particular population's diffusion in terms of Sex and Age. The population pyramid depicts the changes in the composition of a population due to births, deaths and migratory trends in that population. The Age Sex relativity composition is of significance in terms of social and economic developments of a country as it shows the different ages in the population that represents the working age population, child population and elderly population.

The 2012 census collected data on the birth month and year of persons in order to compute the age of the population. In the case of respondents who were not aware of their month and year of birth the enumerators estimated their year of birth with the help of material such as the, national Identity card, certificate of birth, horoscope, birth certificates of the children or other such appropriate evidence. The data relating to the sex of the population was collected through the census schedules.

**Table 4.1 : Total population, sex ratio and the percentage of females
(census years 1946 - 2012)**

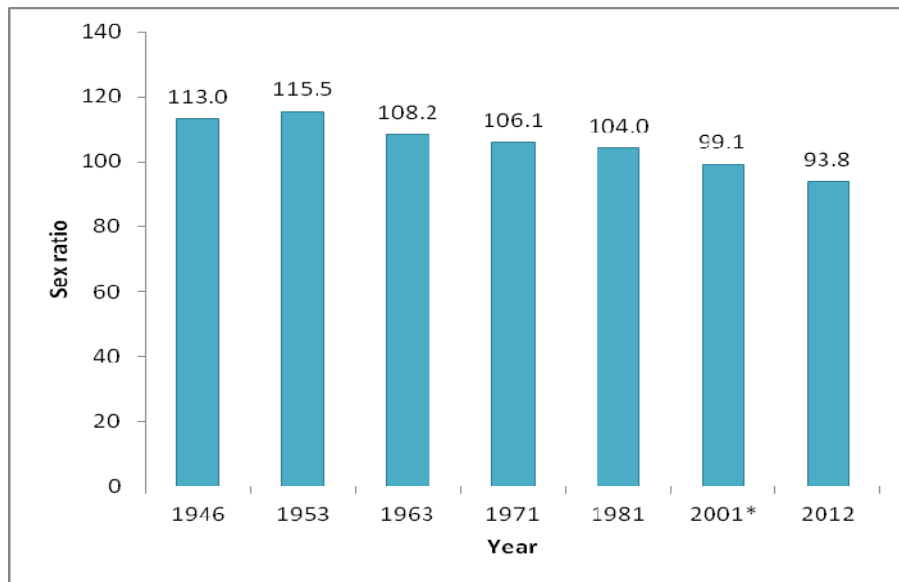
Census Year	Sri Lanka total		Female
	population	Sex Ratio ***	percentage
1946	6,657,339	113.0	46.9
1953	8,097,895	115.5	47.3
1963	10,582,064	108.2	48.0
1971	12,689,897	106.1	48.5
1981	14,846,750	104.0	49.0
2001*	16,929,689	99.1	50.2
2012	20,359,439	93.8	51.6

* 18 districts only

*** Sex ratio is the number of men for every 100 women

In the history of census, counting from the first census conducted in 1871 up to the census of 1981, the percentage of males in the population has recorded to be exceeding the female percentage of the population. The percentage of female population, that was 46.9 percent in the 1946 census grew to be 49 percent in the 1981 census and then to reach 51.6 percent by the 2012 census.

Diagram 4.1: Sex ratio, 1946 - 2012



* 18 districts only

The highest Sex ratio in the history of census, 115.5 has been recorded in the year 1953. However the sex ratio has gradually declined over the years and in 2012 it represents a value of 93.8. This increase in the number of females in relation to males in the recent years could be explained as being due to the higher life expectancy rate among females and the reduction of maternal mortality at the point of child birth. The Sex ratio that consistently reported a value above 100 till 1981 records a value below 100 for the first time in the census year 2001 at 99.1. This could also be expressed in a simpler terms by stating that for every 100 females of the Sri Lankan population there were 99 males in the year 2001.

Diagram 4.2 : Population distribution by single years of age and sex, 1981

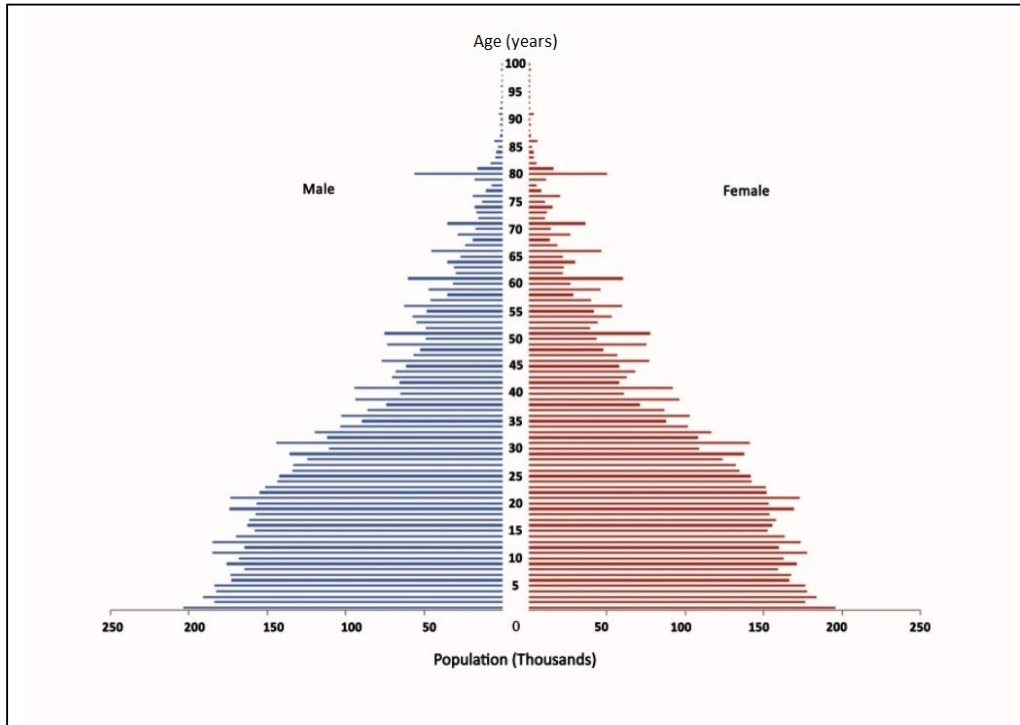
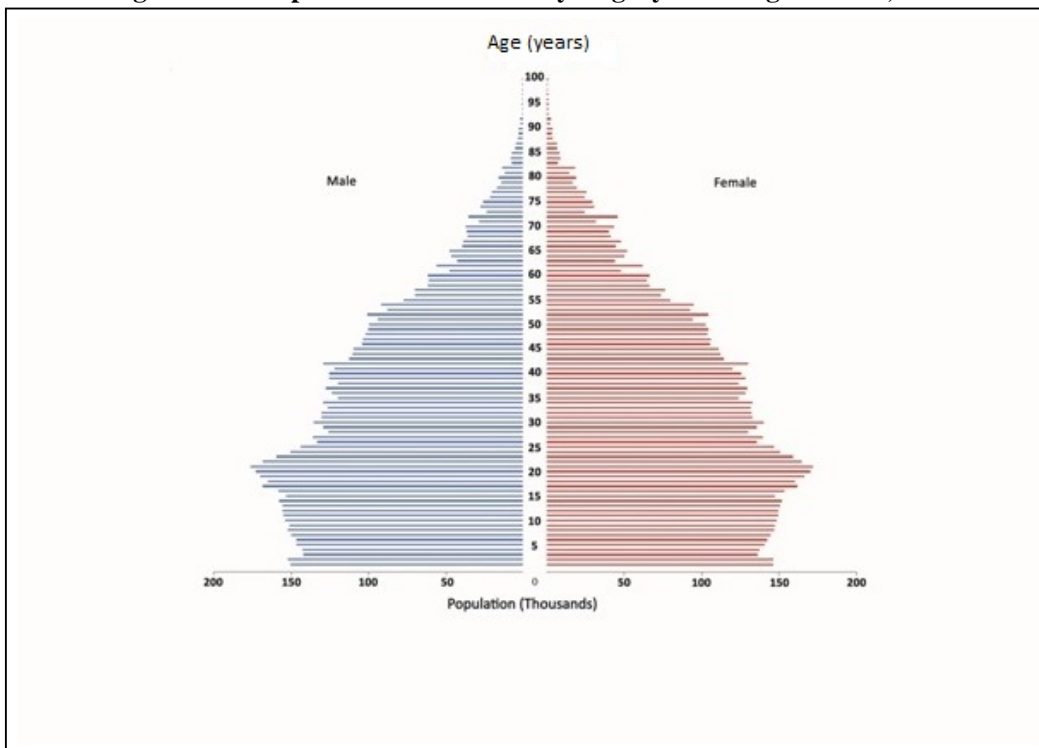
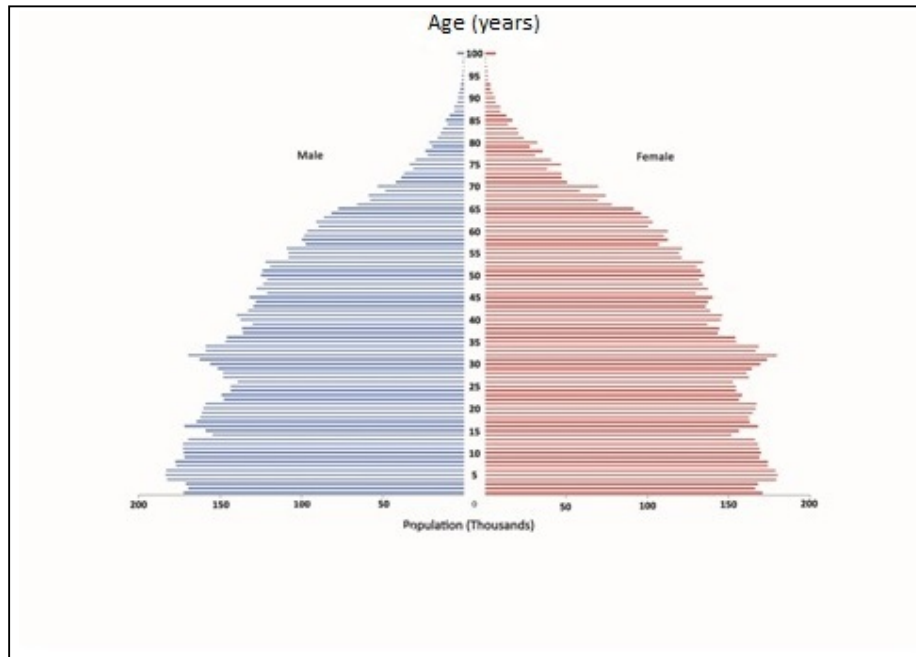


Diagram 4.3 : Population distribution by single years of age and sex, 2001*



* 18 districts only

Diagram 4.4 : Population distribution by single years of age and sex, 2012



The three pyramid diagrams above show how the Age Sex composition of the population has evolved over three census years spanning. The pyramid diagram of 4.2 shows that the Sri Lankan population by the year 1981 has passed the higher stationary stage (the stage of high birth and death rates known as the higher stability level of population), which is the 1st phase of demographic transition. Due to the high numbers in the child population during the year 1981 the base of the pyramid in diagram 4.2 is broad with its turret pointed.

This situation is closer to phase II of the demographic transition of the population and it could be described as pre expansive stage.

By the year 2012 the working population and the elderly population has increased in relation to the child population. The shape in this pyramid resembles quite closely to a pyramid that is late expanding. This situation is in the proximity of post expansion phase which is Phase III of the demographic transition of population.

The data on age sex composition will continue to change with increase in elderly (aged) population and with that the picture of the pyramid also is expected to change until the pyramid resembles more of a barrel than a pyramid. It is forecasted that this situation could be a reality for Sri Lankan population by the year 2041. This situation known as the 'Low stationary level' of the population (with low birth and death rates) and is the phase IV of the demographic transition of population.

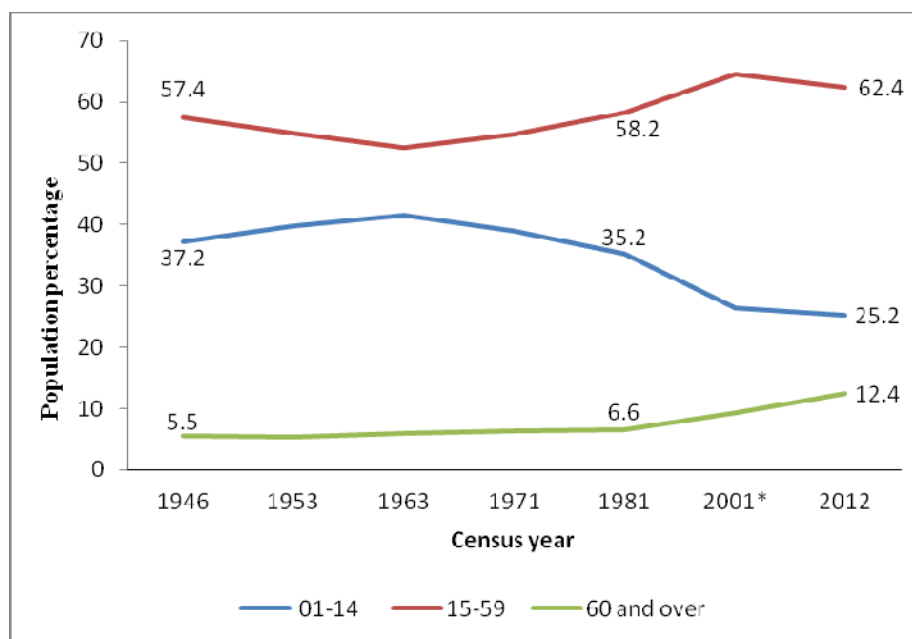
Table 4.2 : Percentage distribution of the total population by five year age groups, 1946 – 2012

Age Group	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001*	2012
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
00-04	12.9	14.9	15.2	13.1	12.5	8.5	8.6
05-09	12.2	13.4	13.7	13.2	11.3	8.8	8.6
10-14	12.1	11.4	12.6	12.7	11.4	9.0	8.1
15 - 19	10.2	8.7	9.7	10.7	10.8	9.7	8.1
20 - 24	9.6	9.5	8.4	10.0	10.2	9.4	7.5
25 - 29	8.7	8.8	7.0	7.5	8.6	7.9	7.6
30 - 34	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	7.6	7.6	8.1
35 - 39	7.0	6.6	6.2	5.7	5.7	7.4	6.9
40 - 44	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	6.9	6.7
45 - 49	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.1	6.1	6.3
50 - 54	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6	5.4	6.0
55 - 59	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	4.0	5.2
60 and over	5.5	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.6	9.2	12.4

* 18 districts only

Note: Percentages have been rounded off to the nearest decimal

Diagram 4.5 : Percentage distribution of the total population by broad age groups, 1946 – 2012



* 18 districts only

The results of census 2012 show a significant demographic evolution in the age composition in the population when compared with the results of the preceding census years. That is the gradual reduction in the child population and the corresponding increase in the elderly population. By the census year 2012 the child population is 25.2 percent of the total population and this percentage, compared to the year 1981 where the child population had been decreased by 10 percent of the total population, register a considerable decrease. Corresponding to this reduction there had been an increase in the aged population, 60 years and over, in the year 2012 registering at 12.4 percent of the total population. This is, approximately a two fold increase in the aged population of census 1981. Thus, if this trend in the increase in elderly population is to continue it is forecasted that by the year 2041 the elderly population will double again and reach 24.8 percent of the total population**.

During the inter census period between 1981 and 2012, the young population (the working population/ Labour force) has registered a gradual increase from 58.2 percent of the population to 62.4 percent of the population. The existence of a sizeable population segment that has the potential to make an impact on the country's economic development, will auger well for the country's economy. Demographically such situations are known as situations of demographic dividend. Therefore, a demographic dividend is a situation, in which a country's population age composition, in its structure, reaches an optimum level to facilitate the country's economic progress.

In a situation where a country is experiencing a demographic dividend the increase in its child population could be marginal while its working population is relatively high. However, in this period of demographic transition there is lesser number of child dependents, to take care of the working age population. Thus, a situation of that nature demands more innovative and appropriate policies to sustain the social and economic progress with regard to future dependency of the population.

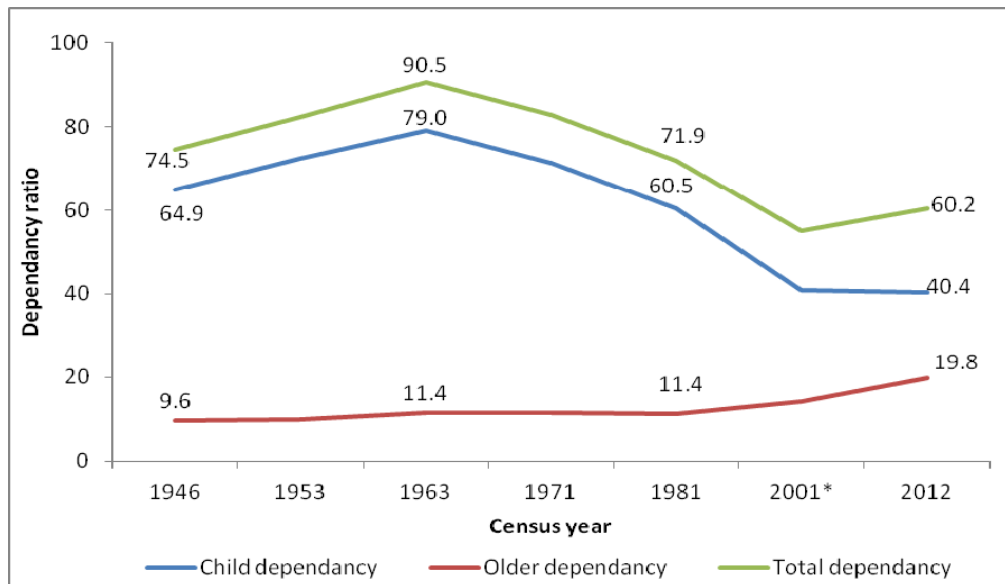
This is a demographic transition stage and an increase in the growth rate of the dependent population, i.e. children and elder, could bring about a negative demographic dividend. The demographic dividend experienced in Sri Lanka however, with its current low rate of growth in the child and elderly population is expected to last 40 years, from 1990 to 2030, and hence national plans should be a foot to make the maximum from this current demographic dividend.

** De Silva, W.I., 2007, A Population projection of Sri Lanka for the Millennium, 2001- 2101: Trends and Implications, Institute of Health Policy, Colombo

The Dependency ratios

Dependency on a population could be two fold; child and elderly. Child dependency ratio is the number of children below 15 years of age per every 100 members of the working age (between 15 and 59 years of age) population. Similarly the number of elderly (60 years and over) per every 100 members of the working population is called the Elder dependency ratio. The Total dependency ratio is the total number of dependents, i.e. the number of persons below 15 years of age and the number of persons above 60 years of age in a population, per every 100 working age persons in that population.

Diagram 4.6 : Dependency ratios, 1946 - 2012



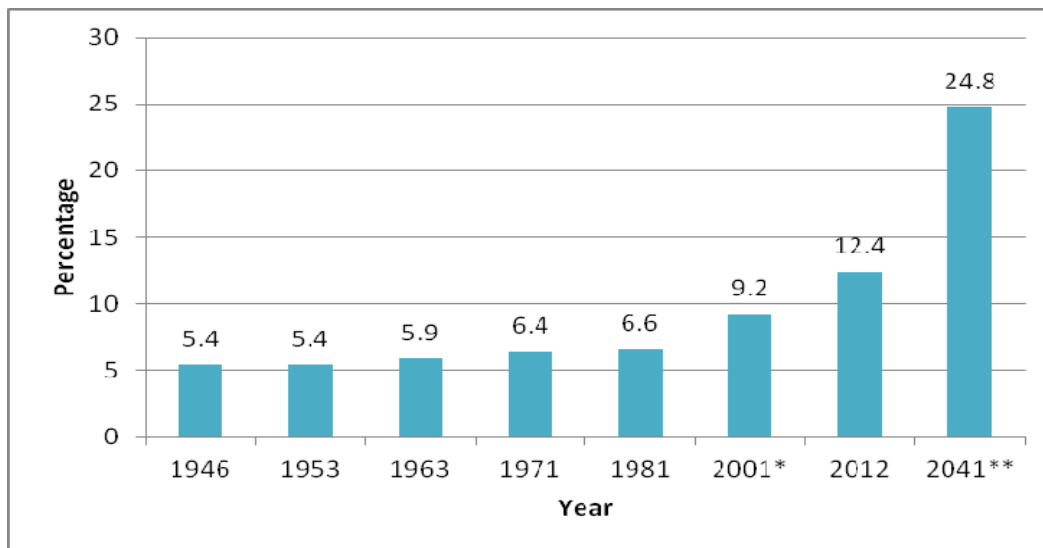
*18 districts only

In considering the preceding census years, it could be observed from diagram 4.6 that there is a pattern in the changes experienced over the years in Child dependency ratio, Elder dependency ratio and the Total dependency ratio. The highest point of the Total dependency ratio is recorded in 1963 and it is recorded as 90.5. In that year the Child dependency ratio is 79.0 while the Elder dependency ratio has been 11.4. From the year 1963 onwards the Total dependency ratio has declined steadily till 2001 but has registered an increase again thereafter. The Total dependency ratio in 2012 is 60.2 and that is composed of an Elder dependency ratio of 19.8 and a Child dependency ratio of 40.4. Thus from 1981 to 2012 the child dependency ratio has registered a steady decline from 60.5 to 40.4 while the elder dependency ratio has increased from 11.4 to 19.8. The feature to note here is that though there is an increase in the elderly population the net result of this period is a decline in the total dependency ratio from 71.9 to 60.2 and this is a reduction in the total dependency ratio by 11.7 percent.

Aging of the population, 1946 - 2041

The demographic process of aging of the population has taken place simultaneously to the decline in the fertility rate of population. The decreases of fertility and mortality, the negative rate of the net international migration and the increase in the life expectancy have all contributed to an increase in the aging process of the population.

Diagram 4.7 : Percentage of population above 60 years of age, 1946 - 2041



*18 districts only

The population above 60 years of age in Sri Lanka is 2.5 million by the year 2012 and represents 1/8th of the total population. The aging population has remained around 5 percent to 7 percent of the total population during the inter census period of 1946 to 1981 and from there onwards the aging process has registered an increase. Consequently, though it has taken approximately fifty years for the elderly population to record its first doubling; i.e. from 1953(5.4. percent) to 2003 (10.8 percent)it is expected that the second doubling will take a comparatively lesser number of years. The elderly population which was 6.6 percent of the total population in 1981 has increased to 12.4 percent by the year 2012. On the assumption that the rate of increase in the elderly population remains constant, it has been projected that by the year 2041 the elderly population in Sri Lanka would be 24.8 percent of the total population**.

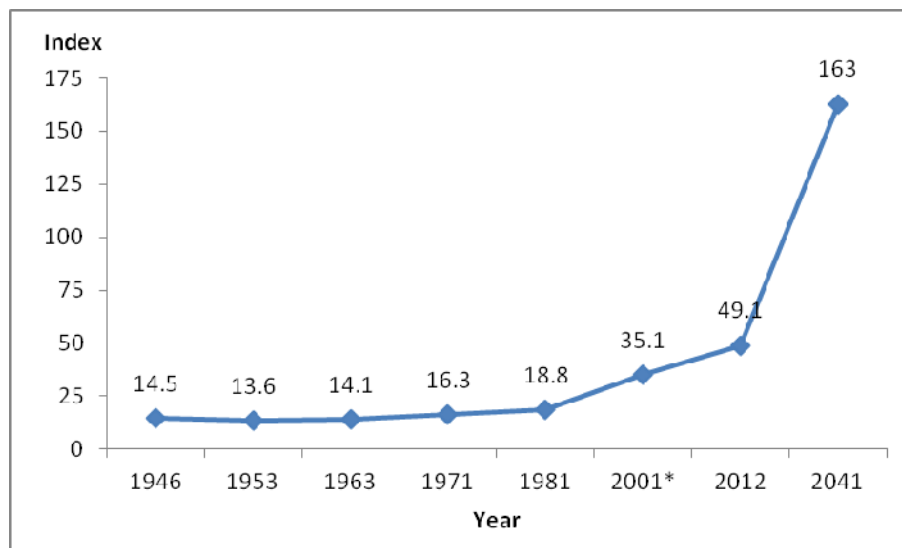
** De Silva W.I.,2007 A Population projection of Sri Lanka for the millennium 2001,2101; Trends and Implications, Institute of Health Policy, Colombo.

In other words one in every 4 persons in the Sri Lankan population would be an elderly person. Further it could well be expected that the highest rate in the growth of the elderly population will be recorded within the coming two decades.

The Index of Aging

The Aging index will present the number of elderly persons in the population per every 100 children below the age of 15. This index could be deployed to elucidate different stages of the demographic transition process.

Diagram 4.8 : The Index of Aging, 1946 – 2041



*18 districts only

Diagram 4.8 clearly shows the structural changes that have taken place in the Aging composition. The Aging index that was 14.5 in the year 1946 has reached 49.1 in the year 2012. This is a more than 3 fold increase in the aging index. Analytically, though the index has registered a 4.3 percent increase for the 35 year period from 1946 to 1981 the increase for the consequent 31 year period from 1981 to 2012 has been 30.3 percent. Accordingly a turning point in the aging index has come around in the year 1981. Thus, it is projected that the increase in elderly population will continue to the future in relation to the child population and by the year 2041 the Aging index will reach 163**. That is, that there will be 163 elderly persons per 100 children in the population.

** De Silva W.I.,2007 A Population projection of Sri Lanka for the millennium 2001,2101; Trends and Implications, Institute of Health Policy, Colombo

The Sex ratio of the elderly in 1981 had been recorded as 113.7 while in 2012 it has reached 79.4. This indicates that female member representation in the elderly population has become higher than the male representation over the years.

Table 4.3 : Aging population and sex ratio by age groups, 1981 - 2012

Year	60-74 Aged Population			75+ Aged Population		
	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
1981	413,800	359,547	115.1	108,600	99,861	108.8
2012	891,038	1,072,575	83.1	224,613	332,347	67.6

Demographically, the aging population is separated in to two groups for the purpose of monitoring and study. Accordingly, those between the ages of 60 and 74 years are called the ‘Young elderly’ population while those above 75 and over are called the ‘Old elderly’ population.

The Sex ratio of the Young elderly (60 -74 ages) is 83.1 while the Sex ratio of the Old elderly (75- and above ages) is recorded as 67.6, as per the current census. Accordingly the majority among the elder population is Females. The Sex ratio of the elderly population will have a bearing on the life style of the elderly population.

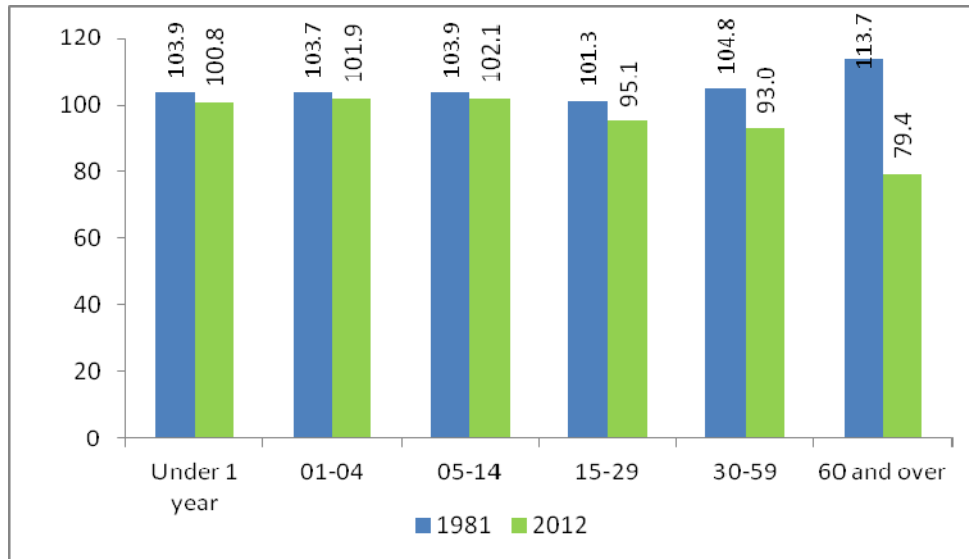
Table 4.4 : Median age of the population, 1946 - 2012

Census Year	Total Yrs.	Male	Female
		Yrs.	Yrs.
1946	21.3	22.1	20.5
1953	20.8	21.7	19.9
1963	19.4	20.0	18.4
1971	19.7	20.0	19.3
1981	21.4	21.5	21.4
2012	30.0	30.0	31.0

Table 4.4 shows how the median age of the population has changed over the years. During the inter census period of 1981 and 2012 the median age of the total population has changed by 8.6 years representing a female change of 9.6 years and a male change of 8.5 years. In the period prior to 1981 the median age of males had been higher than that of females. Thus, if the change in the aging trend

that was established in 1981 is to continue, the median age of the Sri Lankan population would reach the 40 year mark by the year 2041.

Diagram 4.9 : Sex ratio by age groups, 1981 and 2012

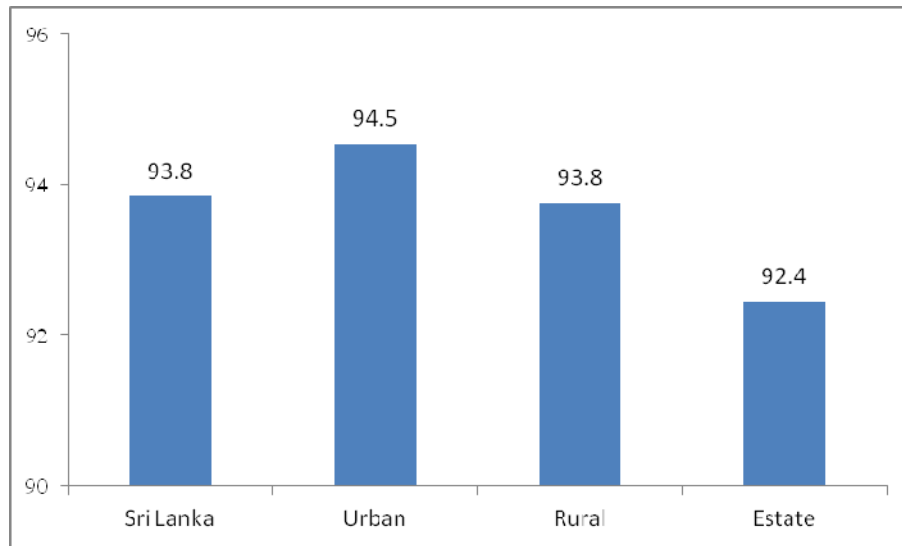


The Sex ratio of children below the age of 1 year had been 103.9 in the year 1981 and has come down to 100.8 by 2012. Similarly the Sex ratios of children in the age groups of 1 to 4 years, 5 to 14 years has come down from 103.7 to 101.9 and from 103.9 to 102.1, respectively. The Sex ratio of the young population between 15 to 29 years has recorded a decrease from 101.3 to 95.1. This decrease, considered in relation to the median age of marriage of the young marriage eligible population, would tend to have an impact on the marriage of that group in the population. The Sex ratio of the middle aged population(ages 30-59) that was 104.8 in 1981 has come down to 93.0 in the year 2012.

With regard to the population above 60 years of age, the sex ratio has recorded a steady decrease from 1981 to 2012. Thus, by the year 2012 the number of males per every 100 females has come down to 79. This is also reflected in the higher widowed rate of females against the widowed rate of males among elderly population. In the age group of adults above 75 years of age the Sex ratio has come further down to 67.6 indicating that the higher representation in the elderly population is for females as the life expectancy of females remain higher than the males. Accordingly the society should be mindful of the fact that there is a greater number of elderly females devoid of male companionship in the society, and that they deserve adequate social recognition and protection.

Another feature of this is the presence of more females than men in the 15 to 59 year age group where the Sex ratio is 93.8. This is the working population of the total population and accordingly attention should be paid in mobilizing the excess female labour force appropriately.

Diagram 4.10 : Sex ratio by sector of residence, 2012



The Sex ratio when analysed according to Sector of residence shows that the highest sex ratio is present in the urban sector at 94.5 with the lowest in the estate sector at 92.4. Accordingly there are more females than males in the estate sector and that ratio is in excess of the national sex ratio reported.

When the Sex ratio is considered according to ethnicity in Table 4.5 below it could be observed that by the year 1981 period all ethnic communities had more men to every 100 women whereas according to the census of Population and Housing 2012, all ethnic communities are having less men per every 100 women.

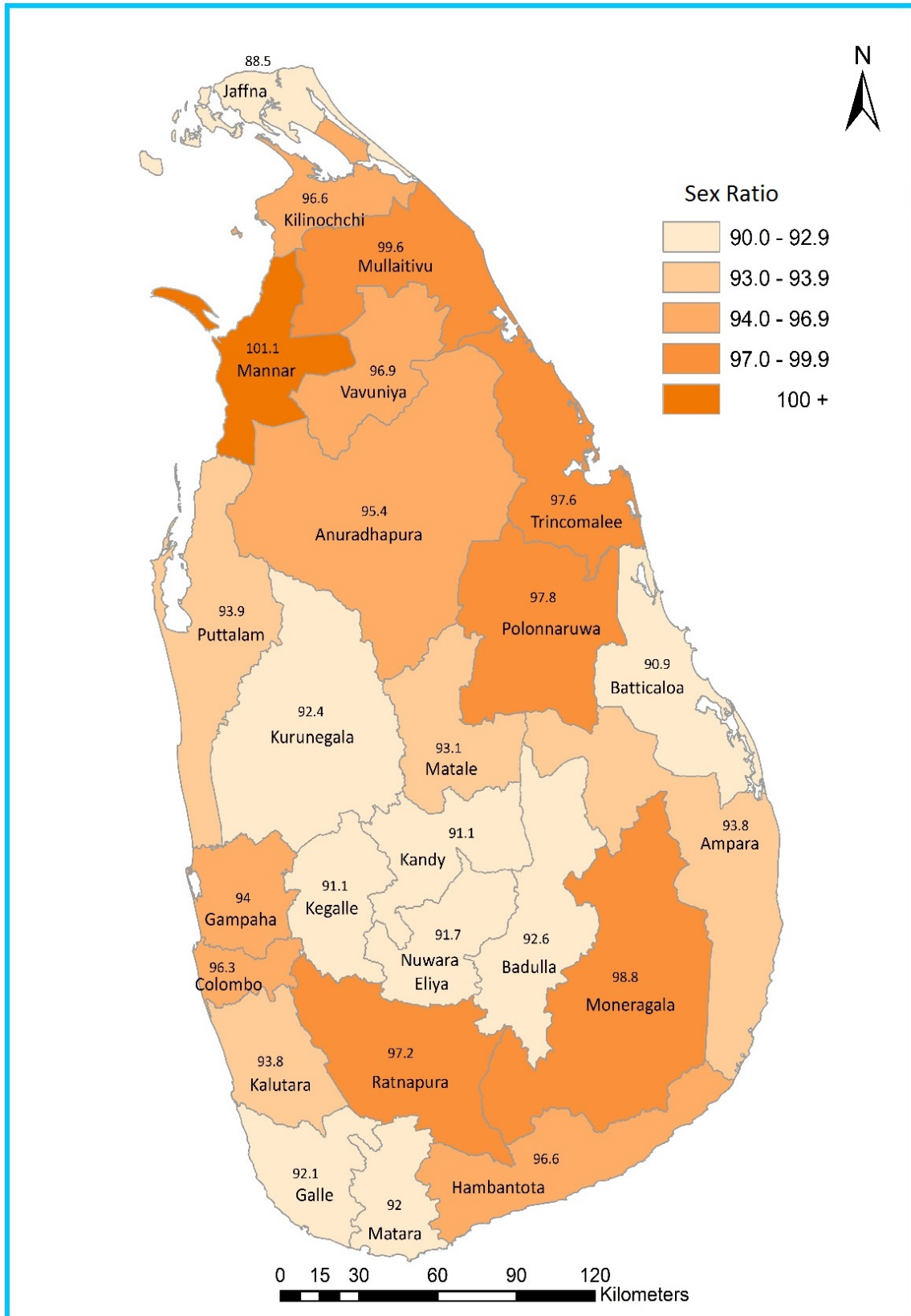
Table 4.5 : Sex ratio by ethnicity, 1981 and 2012

Ethnicity	Sex Ratio	
	1981	2012
Sri Lanka	104.0	93.8
Sinhalese	103.7	94.1
Sri Lankan Tamil	106.5	92.3
Indian Tamil	101.3	91.5
Sri Lankan Moor	104.5	94.6
Other	-	97.4

Sex ratio by Districts

The Diagram 4.11 below depicts the Sex ratio according to districts. The highest sex ratio of 101.1 is reported from the Mannar district suggesting that there are more males than females in the district. Other than Mannar all other districts recorded a value less than 100 for the sex ratio. The lowest sex ratio of 88.5 is reported from the Jaffna district. The overall sex ratio between 1981 and 2012 has decline from 104 to 93.8. This change could be due to the women's life expectancy increased together with the reduction in maternal mortality. Thus, serious attention should be paid to preparing necessary plans to increase the life expectancy rate of men.

Diagram 4.11 : Sex ratio by districts, 2012



Age accuracy indices by sex

Accuracy of the primary data on age and sex which is collected at a census operation, can be evaluated by means of several indices. This exercise will also help to establish an idea about the degree of accuracy and reliability of the census data.

Myers' Index

Myers' index has been designed to provide a measure of preference for (assembling towards) or the avoidance of (deviating from) specific terminal digits (units digit), when considering the complete age.

Myers' index can be divided into ranges indicating the different levels of accuracy of data.

- Myers' index is less than 6 (low range) :
Data with a high degree of accuracy (the data are very slightly affected by heaping/ There is less tendency to assemble towards units digit to deviate from such numbers.)
- Myers' index is between 6 and 20 (continuous range) :
Data with a less degree of accuracy (Data are under the influence of heaping/ tends to assemble towards units digit or to deviate from such numbers)
- Myers' index over 20 (high range) :
Data with poor accuracy (data are obviously affected by heaping/ greater tendency to assemble towards units digit or to deviate from such numbers)

(Ueda, 1980)

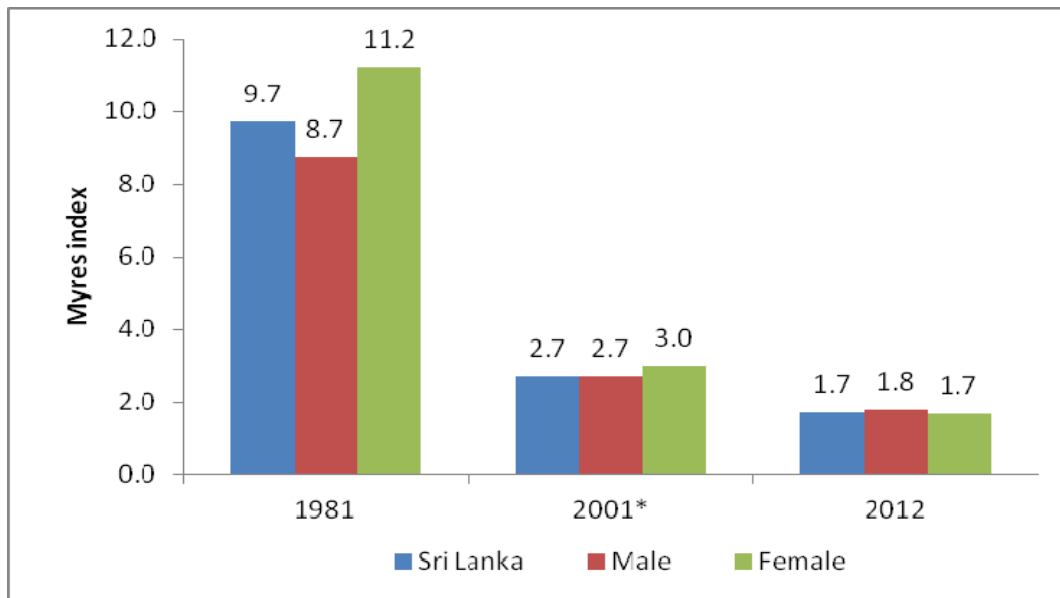
Table 4.6 : Myers' Index by sex, 1981, 2001 and 2012

Sex	Myers' Index			Percent Change (1981-2012)
	1981	2001*	2012	
Both sex	9.7	2.7	1.7	82.4
Male	8.7	2.7	1.8	79.6
Female	11.2	3.0	1.7	85.0

* 18 districts only

In the census of 2012, the Myers' index on the total population is 1.7. On the female population the index reflected 1.7 while on the male population the reflection was 1.8. These results when compared with the results of 1981 shows that the values of readings have dropped down by more than 6 points. This confirms that the data presented by the male and female population during the 2012 census is of high accuracy and that those who have declared a false age are negligible in the context of the final results. When compared with the year 1981 the total decrease in the Myers's index is 82.4 percent while for male and female populations it is 79.6 percent and 85.0 percent respectively. These indications confirm that the Age data relating to Sex of the population in the 2012 population and housing census is of high accuracy.

Diagram 4.12 : Myers' Index by sex , 1981, 2001 and 2012



*18 districts only

Table 4.7 : Deviations of complete(total) age from 10.0 percent at terminal digits, 1981 and 2012

One Digit Value	1981		2012	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Myer's Index	8.7	11.2	1.8	1.7
0	+2.4	+2.9	+0.2	+0.1
1	-0.6	-1.1	+0.2	+0.1
2	+0.1	-0.3	+0.2	+0.1
3	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
4	-0.7	-0.8	0.0	0.0
5	+0.9	+1.2	-0.1	-0.1
6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3
7	-1.2	-1.4	-0.1	0.0
8	+1.0	+1.4	-0.2	-0.2
9	-1.2	-1.4	+0.3	+0.4

The positive values in the above table indicate heaping at the ages ending with the respective digits, when the age is declared by persons at census. Negative values indicate the disliking from the respective digits. 0.0 indicates that there is neither a heaping nor a distancing from the one digit number. Both the male and female results of census 2012 indicate a heaping towards values 0, 1, 2 and 9 and disliking from values 3,5,6,7 and 8. The 0.0 in the above table against 4 for both sexes and against 7 for females indicate that data collected on age where the last digit is 4 for both sexes and 7 for females is completely accurate. It could be noted that when compared with results of census year 1981 the departures have narrowed numerically.

Whipple's Index

This index is capable of confirming the accuracy of data relating to age and male/femaleness in a census. The index is designed to detect (indicate) the effect on the accuracy of data relating to age, from concentration or heaping in terminal digits 0 and 5, at the data collecting stage of the census. The heaping on terminal digits "0" and "5" of ages is measured by Whipple's Index.

The degree of accuracy is reflected by the following summarized categories of the index.

- Indications of 105 and below : Highly accurate data
- Indications between 105 and 109.9 : Fairly accurate data
- Indications between 110 and 124.9 : Approximately accurate data
- Indications between 125 and 174.9 : Rough data
- Indications between 174.9 and above : Very rough data

(U.N. Statistics)

Table 4.8 : Whipple’s Index by sex, 1981, 2001 and 2012

Sex	Whipple’s Index		
	1981	2001*	2012
Both Sex	118.6	97.0	100.2
Male	116.7	97.5	100.3
Female	120.5	96.4	100.0

* 18 districts only

Whipple’s index that indicated a value of 118.6 in 1981 has reached 100.2 in the year 2012. When population pyramids from 1981 to 2012 are considered, in the 1981 population pyramid the ages that ends with 0 and 5 shows a tendency to heaping. In 2012 the Whipple’s index for women is 100.0 while for men it is 100.3. Thus these indicators confirm that the age data in the 2012 census contains a high degree of accuracy. The reason for this could be the calculation of age by inquiring and recording the date of birth in the census queries.

Marital Status and Fertility

5.0

Marital Status and Fertility

In addition to demographic data on sex, age, ethnicity etc., the data on marital status and fertility of every person in the population is an equally vital subject on which data is collected in a census of population and housing. Marital status of a population is a demographic feature that has a bearing on biological, social, economic, legal and religious factors of that population.

Thus, marital status in a population could be considered as the primary factor that influences growth of that population. Marital status, while impacting on the fertility rate of a population directly, influences the mortality rate and the migratory rate of that population indirectly. In addition, the marital status of a population could also be reflected in social and economic factors such as the level of education and the labour force participation of that population.

In Sri Lanka there are three conventional legal systems of marriage, called the General marriage law, the Kandyan marriage law and the Muslim marriage law, in operation. The general law that has evolved on Roman, Dutch and English laws, is enforced on the low country Sinhalese, Tamils as well as on ethnic and religious mixed marriages. Kandyan Sinhalese have an option of getting married either under the Kandyan marriage law or the general marriage law. Muslim marriage law is applicable to the Muslims living in the country.

Though two main types of marriages exist in the world namely monogamy and polygamy, polygamous marriages are almost none-existent in Sri Lanka. The minimum age for marriage under the General and Kandyan laws is 18 years of age. However, under the Muslim law, women are entitled to marry after completing 12 years and even women less than 12 years of age could marry with the permission of the Kwasi board (courts). Registering of a marriage is not compulsory and when a marriage takes place according to Buddhist, Hindu or Christian customs such marriages are recognised as legitimate marriages for all purposes.

This chapter will offer an analytical review of the marital status data collected during the census of Population and Housing 2012 and also a comparative study of the current census information against the information of previous censuses.

Prior to census of Population and Housing 2012, a census covering the whole island was taken only in 1981. The 2001 census covered only 18 out of the 25 districts as some districts were inaccessible due to terrorist activity. Those are, the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya

in the Northern Province and Batticaloa and Trincomalee in the Eastern province. Even though 2001 census collected valuable information covering parts of the districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee, census 2001 could not be considered to project a realistic picture of the country's demography, in its entirety at the time, due to its inability to cover areas inhabited by Tamils and Muslims of the country. Therefore, for the purpose of comparative study and for establishing evolutionary patterns, census data of 1981 and, if necessary the census data of 1971, have been used against the current data of census of Population and Housing 2012.

The Marital status according to the census definition

From the questions posed during 2012 census of Population and Housing at every adult person (above 15 years of age) in the population, on his/ her marital status, the current position of the population's marital status could be ascertained. Thus in keeping with the census definition every adult person in the population could be categorised as belonging to any one of the groups below.

1. Never married — Those who have never been married during their life time.
2. Married (Registered) — Those who are continuing to be married and who have registered their marriage.
3. Married (customary) — Those who are continuing to be married but have not registered their marriage and instead declare that they have been customarily married (Included in this category are those who have been widowed but at present live together, on their own accord, with another person).
4. Widowed — Those who have been widowed due to death of spouse and does not have a married life of any sort at present.
5. Divorced — Those who have been divorced from the spouse and stay single at present.
6. Legally separated — Those who have been married legally but currently stay separated legally or through a court order but not divorced.
7. Separated (not legally) — Those who have been legally married but stay separated at present on their own accord without being divorced or legally separated.

The general law in Sri Lanka permits one person to stay married at any time only with one person. The Muslim law however permits a Muslim male to take four females as his wives at any one time. In practice however, the incidence of polygamy even among the Muslim males, who constitute 4.5 percent of the total population of the country, is sparse.

The most appropriate way to verify the accuracy of the married information collected at the census is, by matching the number of women who declared themselves ‘married’ for census data against the number of men who declared themselves ‘married’ for the same purpose.

Table 5.1 shows the number of persons recorded as married (legally and customary) during the censuses of Population and Housing 1981 and 2012. In this, as could be observed, there is a general proclivity to have greater number of married women as against the married men in the census information. Accordingly, as for the 2012 census data, the number of women who declare to be married exceed the number of men who declare to be married by 483,547.

Table 5.1: Number of married persons by sex and type of marriage, 1981 and 2012

Marital Status	1981				2012			
	Male	Female	The No. of Females exceeding the Males		Male	Female	The No. of Females exceeding the Males	
			No.	%			No.	%
All Marital Statuses	2,709,285	2,784,876	75,591	2.8	4,921,044	5,404,591	483,547	9.8
Registered Marriages	2,439,496	2,493,608	54,112	2.2	4,726,489	5,183,280	456,791	9.7
Customary Marriages	269,789	291,268	21,479	8.0	194,555	221,311	26,756	13.8

To explain this excess, a few assumptions may have to be made. Among those could be that either the husbands of some women are living abroad due to employment etc. or, due to cultural norms prevalent in Sri Lanka women do not wish to admit that their husbands do stay away from them due to whatever reason.

Table 5.2 shows the distribution of the Sri Lankan adult population (aged 15 years and above) according to marital status and sex as per the census of Population and Housing 1981 and census of Population and Housing 2012.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of the population aged 15 years and above
by marital status and sex, 1981 and 2012**

Marital Status	1981				2012			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
All Marital Statuses	4,905,730	100.0	4,714,422	100.0	7,266,234	100.0	7,961,539	100.0
Never Married	2,085,222	42.5	1,525,309	32.4	2,179,099	30.0	1,748,503	22.0
Married	2,709,283	55.2	2,782,228	59.0	4,921,044	67.7	5,401,061	67.9
Widow	90,516	1.9	377,199	8.0	97,532	1.3	695,415	8.7
Divorced	11,546	0.2	17,658	0.4	14,847	0.2	26,328	0.3
Legally Separated	9,163	0.2	12,028	0.3	11,135	0.2	19,778	0.2
Separated(not legally)	*	*	*	*	42,577	0.6	70,454	0.9

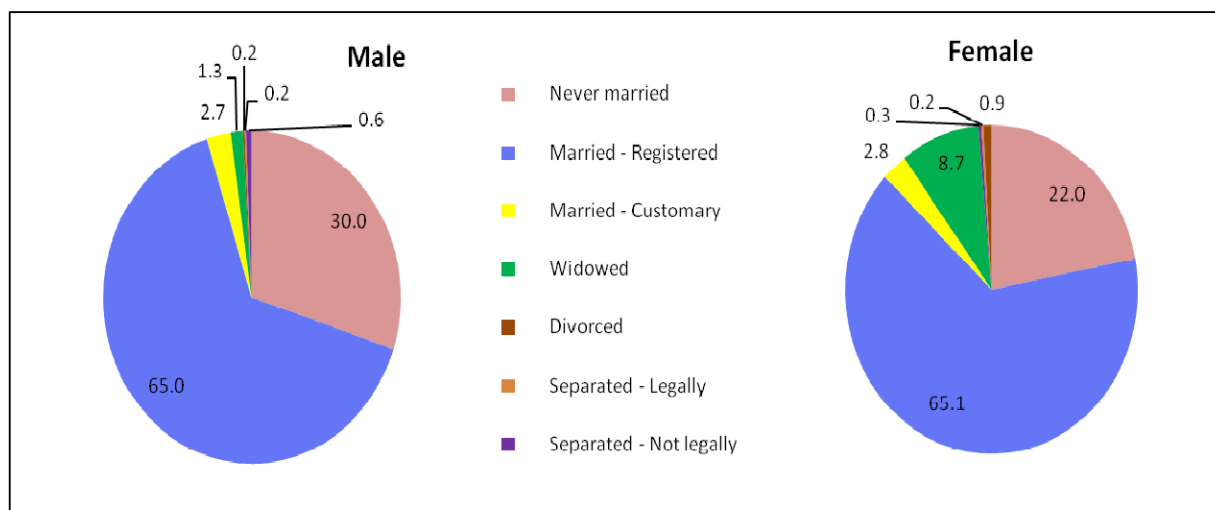
* No data has been collected in 1981 under heading 'Separated (not legally)'

Comparatively, there is no remarkable difference in the percentage of number of adult persons (15 years and above) who have been divorced, separated or widowed during the 31 years from 1981 to 2012.

Yet there is a decrease in the percentage of never married persons during these 31 years causing the male percentage to come down from 43 to 30 and the female percentage from 32 to 22. Further, the percentage of married persons that was 55 for males and 59 for females in 1981 has increased to hover around 68 percent for both sexes by the year 2012.

Diagram 5.1 depicts the marital status of the population as per the Census of Population & Housing 2012.

Diagram 5.1: Marital status of the population aged 15 years and over by sex, 2012



Never married persons

As per the census of Population and Housing 1971, 1981 and 2012 the percentage of never married persons (above 15 years of age) in the population in different age groups is given in table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Percentages of never married persons in the population aged 15 years and above by age and sex, 1971, 1981 and 2012

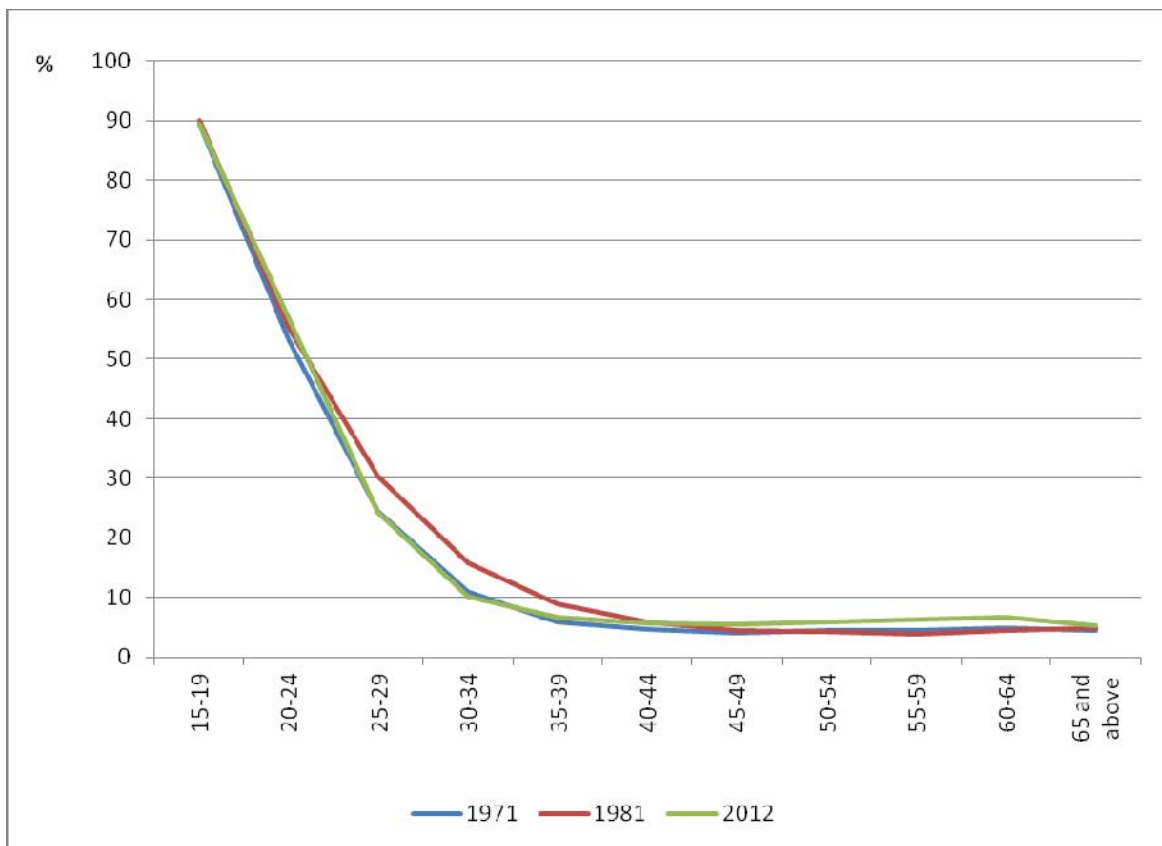
Age Group	Male			Female		
	1971	1981	2012	1971	1981	2012
All Age Groups 15 years and over	43.7	42.5	30.0	31.3	32.4	22.0
15-19	99.4	99.0	97.7	89.4	90.1	89.4
20-24	86.6	83.5	81.3	53.2	55.3	56.8
25-29	53.2	51.5	47.9	24.6	30.4	24.4
30-34	25.6	24.9	20.3	10.9	15.8	10.2
35-39	13.4	12.6	9.5	5.8	8.9	6.7
40-44	9.2	8.3	6.7	4.7	5.9	5.7
45-49	8.0	6.9	5.8	4.1	4.5	5.4
50-54	7.5	6.4	5.4	4.5	4.2	5.8
55-59	7.2	6.1	4.9	4.4	3.8	6.3
60-64	7.5	6.5	4.9	4.8	4.5	6.8
65 and over	7.5	6.8	5.1	4.5	4.8	5.3

When observing the changes in the percentages of never married persons in the inter census periods 1971-1981 and 1981- 2012, the trend over the past 40 years shows that the number of never married males in every age group have been decreasing.

However, there is an observable difference in the data for never married males and females in the post 1971 era. That is that the young females in the age group of 25 to 34 have shown a tendency to stay away from marriage during the decade from 1971 to 1981. According to the census of Population and Housing data of 2012 however, this position has changed in the post 1981 era to fall in line with the pre 1971 status. Again when you observe the increase in the ‘above 55 year’ age group of never married females in the census of Population and Housing 2012, it becomes clear that the majority of these young females who were not married between 1971 and 1981 have still not been married by the year 2012.

Diagram 5.2 shows the percentage change in female- never married population with age by age groups for the census years 1971, 1981 and 2012.

Diagram 5.2: Percentages of never married females by age groups, 1971, 1981 and 2012



Married Persons

Table 5.4 gives the percentages of married persons in the population by age groups as per the censuses of population and housing 1971, 1981 and 2012.

Table 5.4 : Percentages of married population (15 years and above) by age groups and sex, 1971, 1981 and 2012

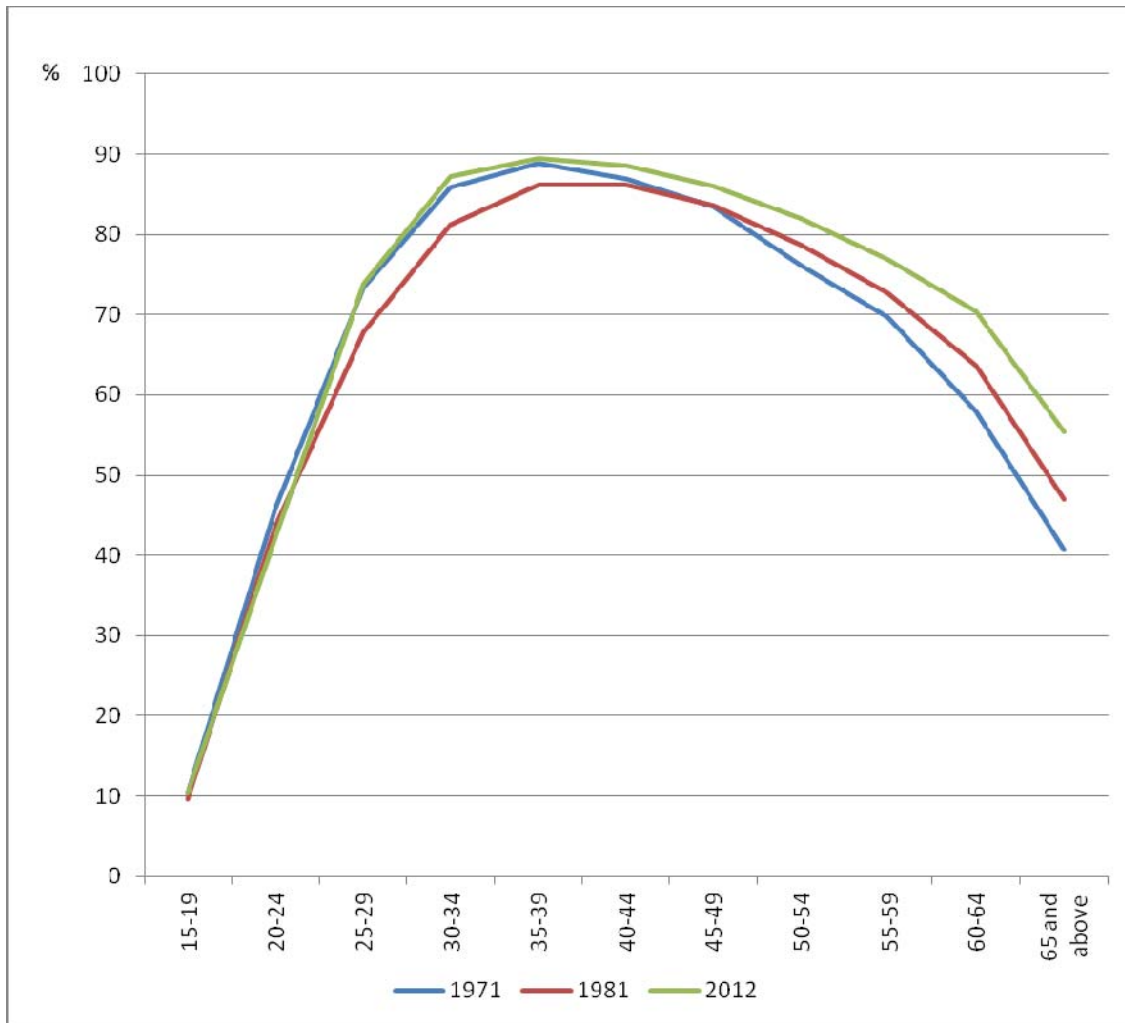
Age Group	Male			Female		
	1971	1981	2012	1971	1981	2012
15 years and over all	53.6	55.2	67.7	59.1	59.0	67.8
Age Groups						
15-19	0.6	0.9	2.3	10.4	9.7	10.4
20-24	13.3	16.2	18.5	45.9	43.7	42.4
25-29	46.2	48.0	51.4	73.4	67.9	73.9
30-34	73.4	74.3	78.6	85.8	81.2	87.2
35-39	85.0	86.2	89.1	88.9	86.1	89.5
40-44	88.7	89.9	91.4	86.9	86.1	88.5
45-49	89.1	90.5	92.0	83.5	83.6	86.0
50-54	88.2	90.0	92.0	76.1	78.6	82.0
55-59	86.9	89.1	92.0	69.7	72.7	76.9
60-64	83.8	86.3	91.0	58.0	63.6	70.4
65-65+	76.3	79.3	85.4	40.7	47.0	55.4

Corresponding to the decrease in never married persons in the male population from 1971 to 2012, the percentage of married persons in the male population has shown an increase during the 41 year period from 1971 to 2012. This trend has been more observable during the years from 1981 to 2012. The percentage of married persons in the male population, that was 55 percent in the year 1981, has risen by 12 percentage points by the year 2012 and it is observed that nearly 68 percent of the male population has been married according to Census of Population and Housing, 2012.

When changes in percentages of female married persons are considered by age groups, there has been an increase in the female married population of all ages from 59.1 percent in 1971 to 67.8 percent by 2012. However, it is noticeable that this overall increase in the percentage of female married population is due to an increase mainly in the female married population above 45 years of age during the past 41 years.

As depicted in diagram 5.3 it is clear that the percentages of married female population in the age between 15-44 years, has registered a decline during the 10 years of 1971 to 1981. However, this trend has been reversed during the period from 1981 to 2012 where the married female population percentage has been almost restored to what it was in the pre- 1971 era.

Diagram 5.3 : Percentage of married female population by 5 year age groups, 1971, 1981 and 2012



When marital status of the population is considered according to census 1971, 1981 and 2012, there is a particular age group in the population (20-24) that exhibits an extraordinary feature. That is, in a scenario where the marital statuses of all age groups have increased over the years, the married status of young women in the age group of 20 to 24 years has recorded a decrease over this period. This age group has recorded a small decreasing trend of married percentage between 1970 to 2012 period, whereas none of the other male and female age groups in the population have recorded a decrease in

their rates. The fact that young females have been in the pursuit of higher education in greater numbers during recent years in addition to basic education, could be assumed as the reason for this unique feature.

More than 90 percent of the male population has reached 'married' status when they reach the age of 44 and thereafter the percentage continues to be in that region for the male elderly population. Yet in the case of females the percentage drops fairly drastically towards the age groups of 60-64 and 65 and above, i.e. 70 percent and 55 percent. The reason for this could again be the higher life expectancy rate of females as they outlive their male companions as they advance in age, attaining widowhood.

Customary Marriages

There has been a marked decrease in the customary marriages during the period from 1971 to 2012. According to 1971 and 1981 census the customary marriage percentage among the married population had been 18 percent and 10 percent respectively. Yet in the year 2012 the customary marriage percentage has reached a 4 percent low of the total married population.

When the marital status findings of the 2012 census is analysed according to the sector of residence it could be observed that the highest percentage of customary married persons are in the estate sector. The percentage of customary married person in the estate sector is 7 percent while in the urban and rural sectors the customary married percentage is 3.5 percent and 4 percent respectively.

Beyond this feature of the customary marriage, when different age groups are considered, the highest percentage of customary married persons (16 percent) are found among the age groups of 'less than 15 years' and '15 to 19 years'. This exceptionally high percentage of customary marriage is unique to this particular age group.

The tendency for high customary marriage in the estate sector could be explained as being due to, the low education level among the estate population, the difficulty in obtaining facilities for marriage registration in the estate sector and the need to reach 18 years of age to register a marriage under the general laws of Sri Lanka.

Table 5.5 : Customary married persons as a percentage of ever married persons by sector of residence and sex, 1971- 2012

Census Years	Sri Lanka		Urban		Rural		Estate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1971	18.4	18.8	11.7	12	20.3*	20.6*	-	-
1981	10.0	10.5	6.4	6.6	11.0*	11.5*	-	-
2012	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.8	3.5	6.5	6.8

* Includes the estate sector

Widowed Persons

Table 5.6 shows the percentages of males and females, aged 15 years and over in the population, who declared their marital status as ‘widowed’ in the census of 1971, 1981 and 2012.

Table 5.6 : Percentages of widowed persons, 15 years and above by age and sex, 1971, 1981 and 2012

Age group	Widowers			Widows		
	1971	1981	2012	1971	1981	2012
All Age Blocks						
15 Years and over	1.4	1.2	1.3	5.4	5.2	8.7
15-19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
20-24	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.2
25-29	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.5
30-34	0.5	0.3	0.1	2.3	2.0	1.0
35-39	0.9	0.6	0.2	4.3	3.9	1.9
40-44	1.3	1.0	0.4	7.5	7.0	3.5
45-49	2.2	1.8	0.6	11.5	11.1	6.2
50-54	3.6	2.9	1.1	18.6	16.4	10.0
55-59	5.2	4.2	1.8	25.2	22.8	14.8
60-64	8.0	6.5	3.0	36.7	31.4	21.2
65-65+	15.6	13.3	8.6	54.4	47.7	38.4

According to the above table 5.6 the tendency to become widowed in the married population for all ages has clearly come down steadily over the years from 1971 to 2012. While the benefit of the drop

in mortality rate is reflected in this, it could also be observed that, as expected the widowed percentage increases with the advancement in age. Similarly it is also a feature that for every age group the number of female widows is higher compared to the male widowers.

Especially for the age group from 35 to 59 years, the increase in female widowed persons is almost ten times the widowed males. The reason for this, most probably, could be that the tendency among males to get married again after being widowed is greater than the tendency for the same among females.

Divorced persons/ Persons separated from spouse

According to the census of population and housing 2012 there are 14,847 aged 15 years and over divorced males and 26,328 divorced females in the adult population of the country. It could be assumed that the reasons for this increase of divorced females in the population is the lower mortality rate among females as against males and the greater proclivity among males as against females to get married again after being divorced.

Similarly it could also be observed that even among persons who have been legally separated and not legally separated, the number of females is greater than that of males. In this however, since those who are legally allowed to be separated and not legally separated are not permitted to re- marry, 'males marrying again' could not be cited as a reason for the increase of females in this particular category.

In the census conducted during the years 1971 and 1981 no data has been collected on persons separated (not legally) and it is in 2001 that data has been collected on this category for the first time. Thus it could be observed that even during the census years 1971 and 1981 the number so divorced/ separated from the husband is greater than those who have been separated/ divorced from the wife.

Persons divorced/ separated from spouse in the age 15 years and over population are given in table 5.7. Even though there is a slight increase in the percentage of divorced persons from 1971 to 1981, by the year 2012 the percentage tend to come down to the pre 1971 position. Yet the percentage of persons separated by law is observed to be decreasing over the period.

According to the census of 2012, 58 male for every 10,000 males and 88 females for every 10,000 females live separately from the spouse even though they have not sought to be separated from their spouses.

Table 5.7 : Number of divorced/ separated persons per 10,000 population aged 15 years and above, 1971, 1981 and 2012

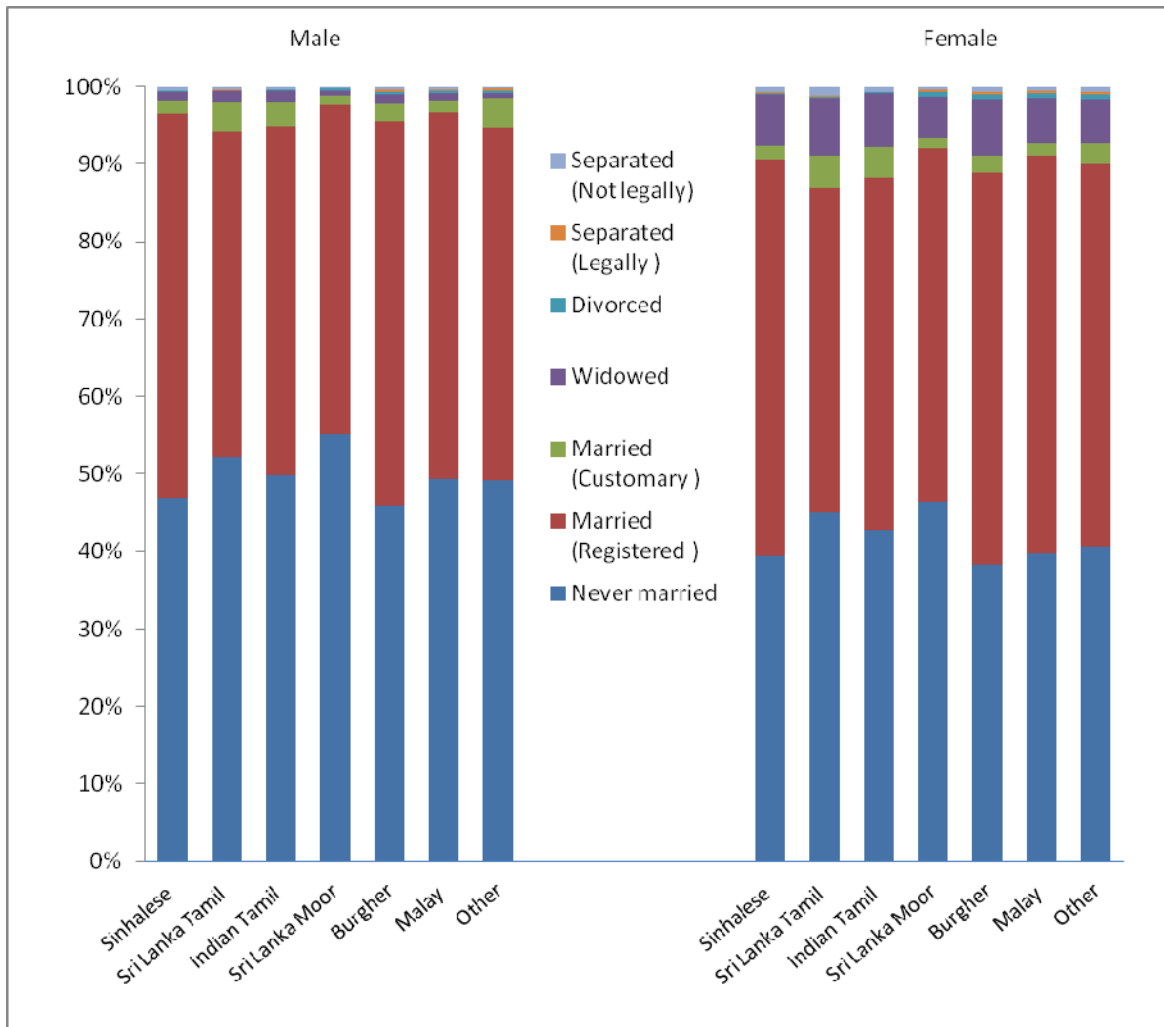
Census Years /Sexuality	Divorced	Separated	
		Legal	Not legal
1971 Male	22	21	-
Female	32	31	-
1981 Male	23	19	-
Female	37	26	-
2012 Male	20	15	59
Female	33	25	88

Note: census 1971 and census 1981 have not collected data on separated (not legally) category

Marital status according to ethnicity

The results on the data collected from different ethnicities on their marital status during the 2012 census are depicted in Diagram 5.4.

Diagram 5.4 : Marital status of population by ethnicity and sex, 2012



In the case of males, all ethnicities show a similar pattern in the distribution of percentages for different positions within the marital status except the Tamil community whose distribution in percentage is somewhat different. Among the Tamil males the percentage of registered marriages are comparatively low (the percentage among other communities is generally 65 percent while for the Tamils it is 60 percent of the total married male Tamil population). The customary marriages among Tamil males are higher compared to other ethnicities thereby creating this deficiency in the registered marriages for Tamil males. The customary marriage percentage is 2.7 generally for all ethnicities whereas for Tamils it is 5.2 percent. Even among Tamil females the distribution of different positions of the marital status tends to take different turn with other women recording a high percentage of widowed persons.

Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM)

Mean age at the first marriage or Singulate mean age at marriage-SMAM is a summary index of the distribution of ages of males and females at the time of marriage in a population. The index reflects the average number of years, which a group of people who enter marriage at the age of 50, would remain as bachelors, taking in to account the patterns of marriage that currently exists. The mean age arrived this way, could be used as an estimate of the mean age at which persons in the population get married.

Table 5.8 below shows the mean age at which people have been getting married during the past 60 year period, as revealed from the information collected at Censuses held from 1953 to 2012.

Table 5.8 : Mean age at marriage, 1953 - 2012

Census Year	Mean Age at Marriage		
	Male	Female	Difference
1953	27.2	20.9	6.3
1963	27.9	22.1	5.8
1971	28.0	23.5	4.5
1981	27.9	24.4	3.5
2012	27.2	23.4	3.8

From the above it could be observed that there is no tangible change in the age at which males get married over the past 60 year period, and that it has been fluctuating between the ages of 27.2 and 28 years. An important feature in this is that the mean age at which Sri Lankan males get married in 2012 has reached the same mean age at which they got married in 1953.

For females the mean age at marriage has been on the increase during the 28 years from 1953 to 1981 and the increase has been 3 ½ years from 20.9 to 24.4. However, thereafter from 1981 to 2012 the mean age at marriage for females has decreased by one year from 24.4 to 23.4 years. Accordingly though the difference in ages of males and females at the time of marriage had been over 6 years in 1953, the difference has steadily reduced over the 60 year period to 4 years. Thus it could be seen that the reason for this change in the age difference between males and females at marriage, is the increase in the mean age at marriage of the females.

Mean age at the first marriage- Regional differences

Table 5.9 shows the mean age at marriage of males and females in the sector of their residence i.e. urban, rural and estate. Accordingly, those who spent the highest number of years as bachelors, for both males and females, live in the urban sector. The rural sector takes the second place in this order of highest mean age at marriage with the estate sector displaying a preference to give their young in marriage at an early age.

Table 5.9 : Mean age at marriage by sector, 2012

Divisions	Mean Age at marriage (years)		
	Male	Female	Difference
Sri Lanka	27.2	23.4	3.8
Urban	28.1	24.8	3.3
Rural	27.0	23.1	3.9
Estate	26.2	22.8	3.4

Table 5.10 : Mean age at marriage by district, 1981 and 2012

District	1981		2012	
	Male(years)	Female(years)	Male(years)	Female(years)
Sri Lanka	27.9	24.4	27.2	23.4
Colombo	28.9	25.4	28.0	24.9
Gampaha	28.3	25.0	27.5	24.3
Kalutara	28.8	25.4	27.2	23.7
Kandy	28.6	25.4	27.8	23.9
Matale	27.7	24.0	27.0	22.5
Nuwara-Eliya	27.8	24.3	27.2	23.2
Galle	28.9	26.1	27.3	23.5
Matara	29.2	26.7	27.6	23.5
Hambantota	28.1	24.8	26.9	22.6
Jaffna	28.1	24.9	28.8	26.4
Mannar	25.4	21.9	27.2	24.1
Vavuniya	26.7	22.3	27.6	24.5
Mullaitivu	26.2	21.9	25.8	22.7
Kilinochchi	-	-	26.3	23.1
Batticaloa	25.8	21.1	26.2	23.0
Ampara	26.7	21.8	26.7	23.0
Trincomalee	26.1	21.3	25.6	22.3
Kurunegala	27.0	24.0	26.9	22.9
Puttalam	25.5	22.2	25.8	22.2
Anuradhapura	26.2	22.2	26.1	21.9
Polonnaruwa	27.4	22.3	25.9	21.8
Badulla	27.6	24.3	27.2	22.7
Moneragala	27.2	22.4	26.4	21.7
Ratnapura	28.0	24.3	27.2	22.9
Kegalle	28.4	25.5	27.5	23.6

- Kilinochchi was not a separate district during census 1981

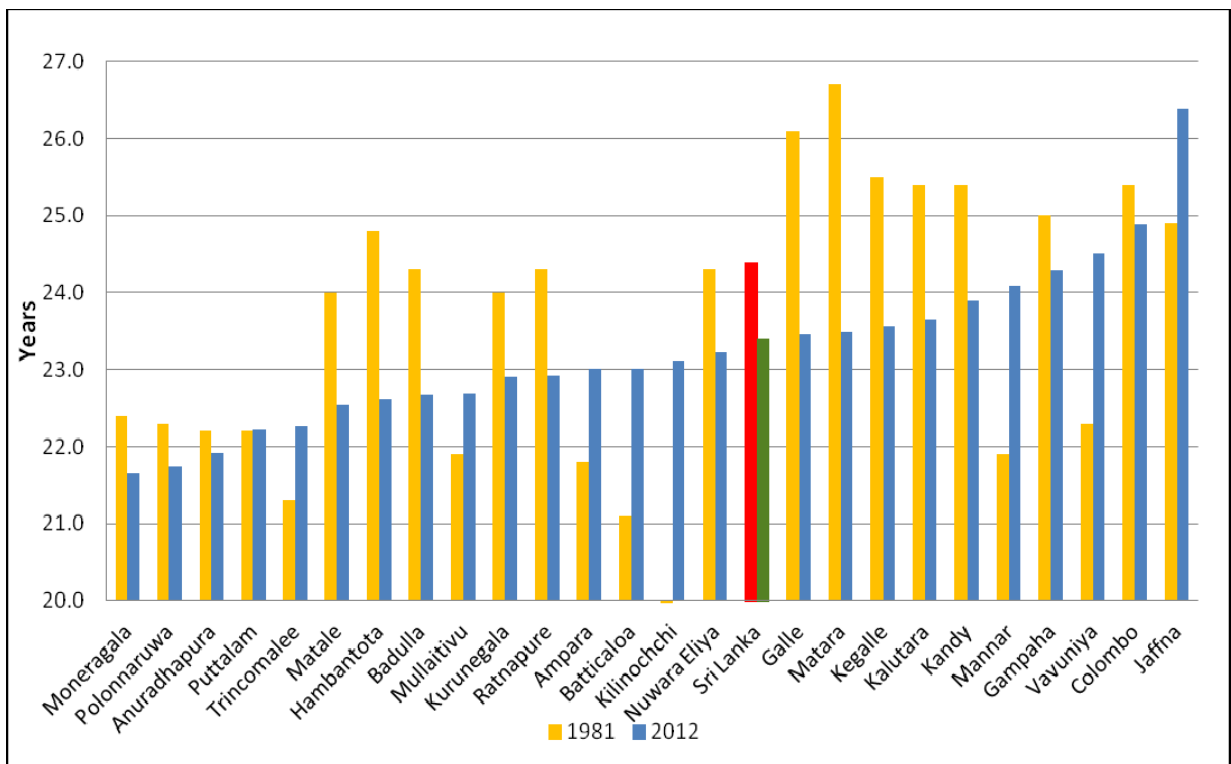
The above table 5.10 gives the difference in age of the population at the time of marriage by the district of residence in comparative terms between the years 1981 and 2012 as per the census results of those years.

As illustrated by diagram 5.5 below, considering the 1981 census data, it is the females in the Matara district that have entered marriage at the oldest age compared to other married females in the country.

They have remained bachelors for 26.7 years of their lives while the females of the Batticaloa district have entered marriage before other females in general in the country at 21.1 years making Batticaloa the district with the lowest mean age at marriage for females in the country in 1981.

In 2012 it is the females in the Jaffna district that have remained bachelors over and above females of the country in other districts. They have entered marriage at the mean age of 26.4 and this is 3 years more than the mean age (23.4 years) for the whole country. Similarly the females in the Moneragala district have recorded the lowest mean age at marriage at 21.7 years.

Diagram 5.5 : Mean age at marriage for females, 1981 and 2012



Mean age at marriage – ethnic differences

According to the information revealed at the 2012 census of Population and Housing the mean age at marriage by ethnicity is given in table 5.11.

Table 5.11 : Mean age at marriage by ethnicity, 2012

Ethnicity	Male (Years)	Female (Years)
Sinhalese	27.3	23.4
Sri Lankan Tamil	27.4	24.4
Indian Tamil	26.5	23.2
Sri Lankan Moor	26.4	22.7
Other	27.7	23.4

It is observed that the males and females of the Sri Lanka moor community have a tendency to enter marriage quite early compared to other ethnicities in the country. Among the females, the highest mean age at marriage is recorded among Tamil females who enter marriage at the age of 24-25.

Fertility

Fertility of the population is the primary factor that effects the changes of a country's population. The basis of fertility is the number of children born alive. In Sri Lanka, where child bearing primarily takes place within the family establishment, the fertility of the population depends on the number of ever married women of child bearing age (15 to 49 years of age) in the population.

As per the census of population and housing 1981 and 2012, the number of women in child bearing age (15 to 49 years of age) is given in Table 5.12. Accordingly in 1981, 58 percent of the women in the 15 to 49 year age group have been married while in 2012 the married percentage of women in the 15 to 49 year age group has risen to 67 percent.

Table 5.12 : Percentage of currently married women between 15- 49 years of age, 1981 and 2012

Age Group	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
15-19	76,559	3.5	85,392	2.4
20-24	332,468	15.1	335,158	9.3
25-29	432,418	19.7	598,450	16.7
30-34	451,338	20.6	734,555	20.4
35-39	359,352	16.4	646,905	18.0
40-44	291,177	13.3	617,503	17.2
45-49	251,242	11.4	574,175	16.0
Age 15- 49 Married Females	2,194,554	100.0	3,592,138	100.0
Age 15-49 Total Females	3,800,063		5,355,092	
Marriage Percentage		57.8		67.1

Composition of the age distribution of married women in child bearing age in population has changed between 1981 and 2012. Comparatively the percentage of married females in under 29 year age groups have decreased in the year 2012 as against the percentages in 1981.

In order to calculate fertility indicators, at the national and regional level, information was collected during the census of population and housing 2012 only from ever married females in the age group of 15 to 49 on child births that have happened to them. Accordingly questions were posed as to the number of child births that have happened to them, the number of those children living at the time of the 2012 census and the year and month of the last child birth from every female in that age group who have ever been married in their life time.

From that information, percentage distribution of live births that have happened to ever married females by the sector of their residence were given in Table 5.13.

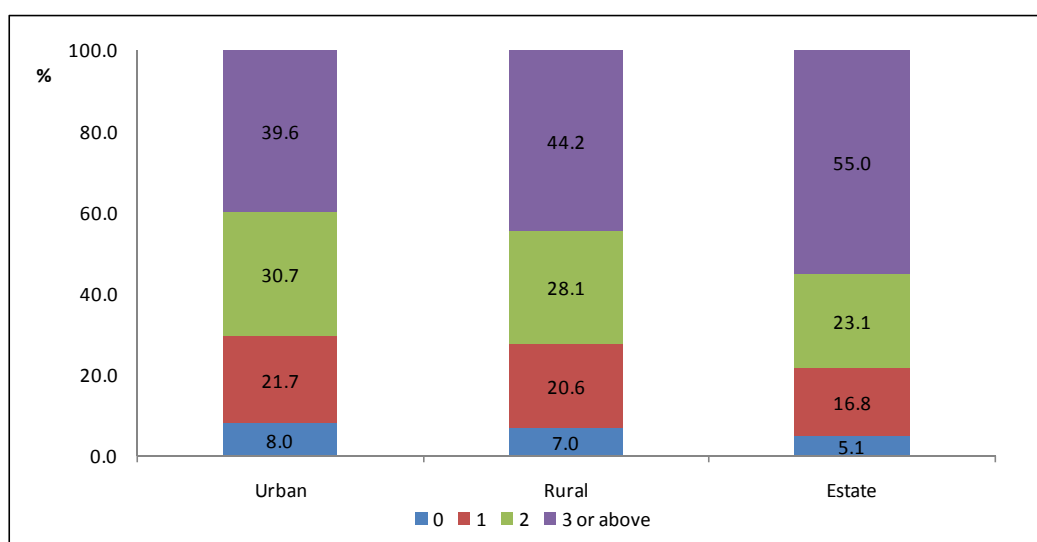
Table 5.13 : Percentage distribution of ever married women aged 15 years and above, according to the number of children born alive by sector, 2012

Sector	No. of ever Married Females Aged 15 Years and above	Total	Percentage of Live Births							
			0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
All Sectors	6'213'036	100'0	7'1	20'6	28'4	20'5	10'0	5'5	3'1	4'8
Urban	1'092'930	100'0	8'0	21'7	30'7	20'0	9'0	4'7	2'5	3'4
Rural	4'851'501	100'0	7'0	20'6	28'1	20'3	10'0	5'6	3'2	5'1
Estate	268'605	100'0	5'1	16'8	23'1	27'5	13'7	6'7	3'1	4'0

From the census of Population and Housing, 2012 information it is revealed that slightly over 7 percent of the ever married females of 15 years and above have never had live births in their life time, while majority of the Sri Lankan females have had only two child births during their life time. Yet when the estate females are taken in to consideration it is observed that a majority percentage of them have had three child births during their lifetimes.

The percentage distribution of live births, happened to ever married females of 15 years and above by each sector, is depicted in diagram 5.6.

Diagram 5.6 : The percentage distribution of live births happened to ever married females aged 15 years and above by sector, 2012



Accordingly, in the estate sector 55 out of every 100 ever married females have had either three or more child births during their lifetimes. Further, the census information also reveals that in the urban and rural sectors only 40 and 44 out of every 100 ever married females respectively have had either 2 or more child births.

Age specific fertility rates

Age specific fertility rate is the number of live births happened to 1000 females in a particular age group. Age specific fertility rate shows the commencing and concluding age of females in child birth and also by comparing the age specific fertility rate over a particular time range the frequency of child birth and the patterns of child birth could also be observed.

Table 5.14 gives the age specific fertility rates of females in the reproductive age group according to the census of 1981 and 2012.

Table 5.14 : Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR), 1981 and 2012

Age Group	Fertility Rate (Per 1000 Women)	
	1981	2012
15-19	38	36
20-24	177	107
25-29	226	147
30-34	204	118
35-39	90	58
40-44	28	16
45-49	4	2

According to the 1981 and 2012 census information the maximum fertility was reported among females in the age group of 25 to 29. Every 1000 females in this age group has had 226 child births as per the 1981 census and 147 child births as per the 2012 census .

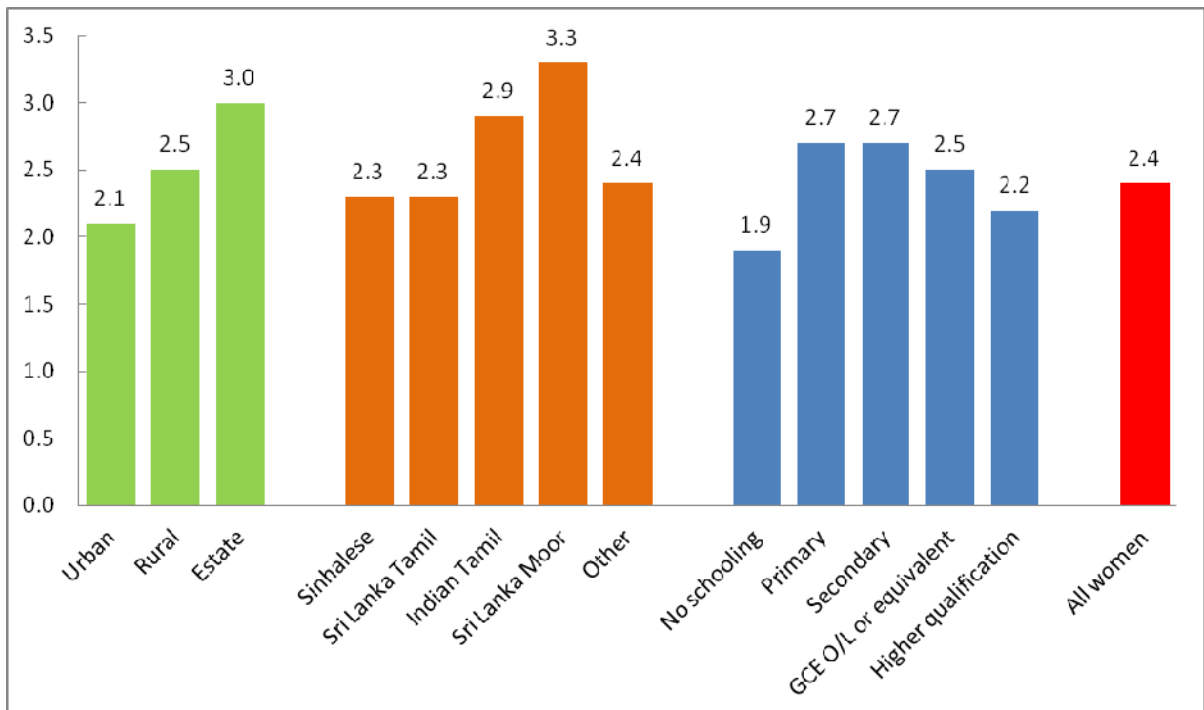
Minimum age specific fertility rate has been reported from the females in the age group of 45 – 49 years. In the Census of population and housing 2012, only two females for every 1000 females in this age group have had child births. This minimum fertility rate is mainly due to the declining reproductive capacity in this age and also because majority of females have completed their reproductive needs by the time they reach this age.

Total Fertility rate

Total Fertility rate is the total number of child births a female will have by the time she completes her reproductive age, if she experiences child births according to the prevailing age specific fertility rate.

Diagram 5.7 depicts the comparisons of total fertility rates of females between the sectors of residence, ethnicities and educational statuses as revealed by census 2012.

Diagram 5.7 : Total fertility rates by sector, ethnicity and educational attainment, 2012



Census information 2012 reported the total fertility rate of females living in the estate sector as 3.0 and this is considerably high in comparison to the females in the urban and rural sectors. Total fertility rate as per ethnicities show a considerably high rate for Sri Lankan Moor community with 3.3, an increase of 0.9, against other ethnicities. Females of Sinhalese and Sri Lanka Tamils have the minimum fertility rate of 2.3.

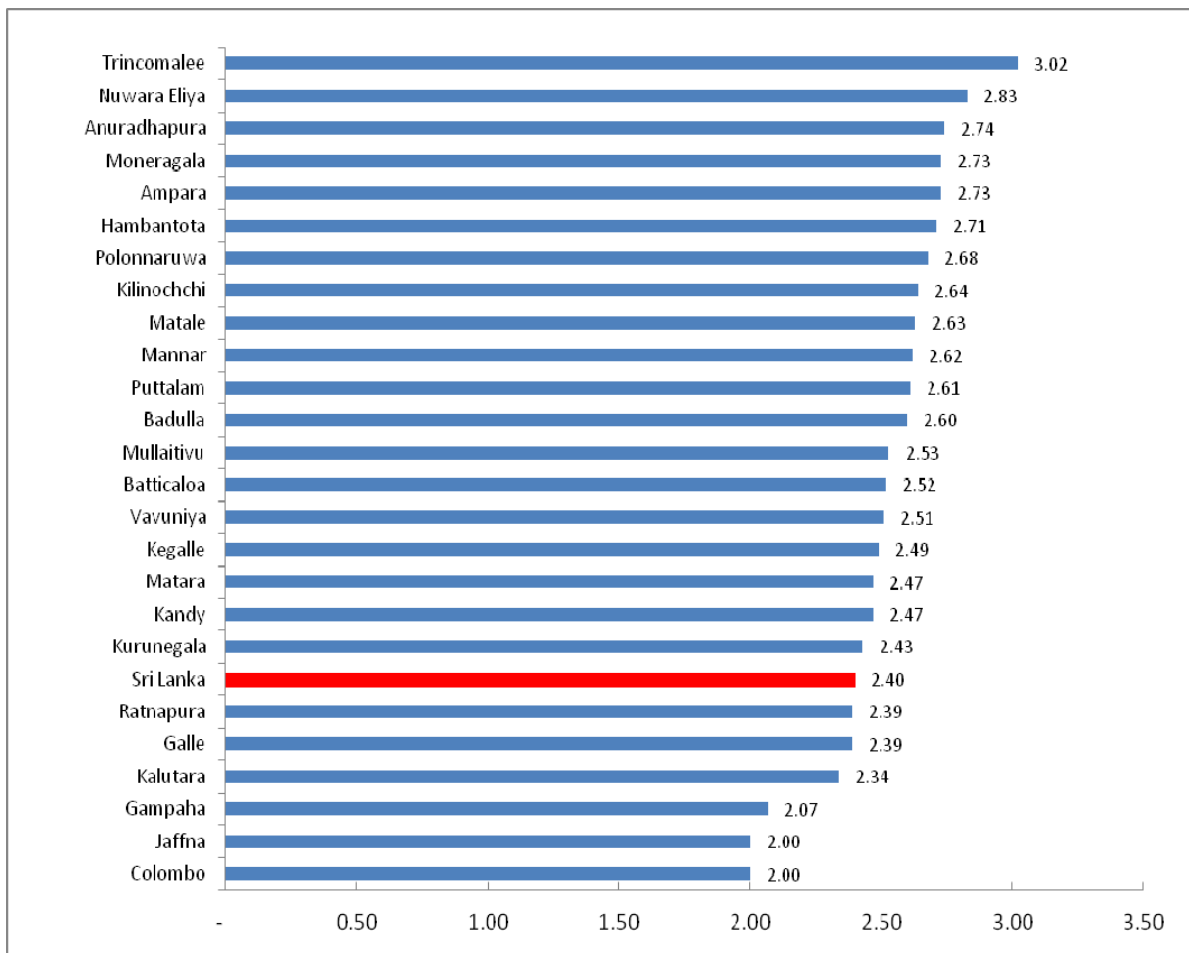
The results obtained by analysing the total fertility rate take a different pattern than the one that was expected. When females with different levels of education are considered, it could be observed that females who have never been to a school, record the least fertility rate. Females with some education score high on fertility while females with high education score moderately yet higher than the

uneducated females. The reason for this could be the success of family planning programs conducted targeting low income as well as low education groups in the society.

Total fertility rate – differences between districts

Diagram 5.8 depicts the comparison of the total fertility rate by the district of usual residence.

Diagram 5.8 : Total fertility rate by district, 2012



The above diagram is drawn to show the total fertility rates, which females in each of the districts are expected to achieve by the time they complete their reproductive ages. The differences by districts are quite clear.

While the highest total fertility rates are shown in the districts of Trincomalee, Nuwara-Eliya and Anuradhapura in that order, rates lower than the replacement fertility rate of 2.1 has been evident

from the districts of Colombo, Jaffna and Gampaha in that order. When the fertility results of the two districts with the highest total fertility and the lowest total fertility is compared, i.e. Trincomalee and Colombo, it could be observed that a female in Trincomalee would have one more child birth during her reproductive years as against a female in Colombo.

URBANIZATION

6.0

Urbanization

Any society is bound to experience long term as well as short term changes. Generally, the long term changes occur on the basis of 6 over bearing factors and those are the industrialization, modernization, urbanization, commercialization, westernization and globalization. What is meant by urbanization in a country is the rate of increase in the population in areas defined as urban in that country. As a result of industrialization in the European countries, job opportunities occurred centrally followed by the need for collective facilities. This made people who traditionally resided in rural areas to migrate to industrialised areas. This process creates towns and cities attracting more and more people as facilities improved cyclically when they are centrally patronised. Further, it brings in its wake commercialization and modernization giving rise to urbanization. Urbanization then is the collection of mutually dependent dynamisms that sets a cyclical motion. This is the onset of urbanization and often the rest of the world recognised this concept for its collective dynamism.

However, there is a difference in the way urbanization takes place in developed countries and how it happens in developing countries. That is, in developed countries urbanised areas were created targeting economic development while in developing countries over urbanization happens around administrative centres due to want of development. Thus when urbanization takes place around administrative centres it not only fails to realise the benefits of urbanization but creates complicated administrative issues for the country. Therefore, in majority of the developing countries what is observable are these urbanised chimeras. Shanties and ghettos with bulging cities are an effect of this unhealthy urbanization. Therefore, a country should have a balanced and comprehensive policy on urbanization aimed at its economic and social wellbeing.

In urbanization, in South Asian countries, an observable feature is that in majority of the countries urbanization is not only not complimentary to the development of the country but it often acts to counter development. The total rural population in Sri Lanka is 15,753,322 persons. This is a high 77.4 percent of the country's total population. Consequently the urban population of the country is 3,704,470 persons representing a low 18.2 percent of the country's total population. Accordingly Sri Lanka, compared to counties in the region, is somewhat behind in urbanization even though the country is rated high in its humanistic socio development as against these same countries in the region.

The state of urbanization in a country or its nature is a reflection of the economic development of that county and the standard of living of its people. The best and the most reliable source of information

available to study this process of urbanization in the country is the population and census data. Even though there could be limitations in the preparation of data due to changes in definitions on urbanization not being timely, the census data is quite adequate for the purpose of pursuing urbanization in Sri Lanka.

The Growth of the urban population

The profile of urbanization in a country depends on how it is defined. Currently areas considered ‘urban’ in Sri Lanka are the municipal council area and the urban council areas of the country. Table 6.1 shows the increase in the urban population of the country over time.

Table 6.1: Urban population of the country over time, 1871 - 2012

Census Years	Urban Population	%
1881	281,065	10.2
1891	321,413	10.7
1901	414,025	11.6
1911	542,945	13.2
1921	637,870	14.2
1931	737,272	13.9
1946	1,023,042	15.4
1953	1,239,133	15.3
1963	2,016,285	19.1
1971	2,848,116	22.4
1981	3,192,489	21.5
2001	2,467,301	13.1*
2012	3,704,470	18.2

* Estimated figure

Before 1987, prior to the introduction of the Provincial council system in 1987, urbanised sector comprised Municipal council areas, Town council areas and also the urban council areas. On the introduction of the provincial councils however, these urban council areas were incorporated in to the Pradeshiya Sabha areas. Subsequently according to the revised definitions some of those Pradeshiya Sabhas were absorbed in to rural sector while certain others were brought under town councils. In this situation certain urban councils lost their urban status.

At the time of conducting 2012 census there were 56 areas in the country categorised as urban. Of these 56 areas 26 were very small towns with a total population in all those 26 towns less than 25,000

persons (against a population of 3.7 mn. in the 56 areas). The urban areas with a sizeable population are the municipal council areas of Colombo, Kaduwela, Dehiwala, Mt. Lavinia, Moratuwa, Negambo and Kotte and the town council areas of Kesbewa and Maharagama. More than 50 percent of the country's urban population live in these 9 areas (out of 56).

Urbanization according to districts

According to the current definition of urbanization and also on current demarcations of CMC and TC areas the urbanization level of the country is a low 18.2 percent of the total population. However, had the demarcations of urban areas been more realistic the country's urbanization level may have been higher than what it is at present. Table 6.2 gives the percentages of urbanised population by district and province. A study of the data on urbanization would reveal the inherent inconsistencies therein.

Table 6.2: Urban population by districts, 2012

Province	District	Total Population	Urban Population	%
	Sri Lanka	20,359,439	3,704,470	18.2
Western Province	Colombo	2,324,349	1,802,904	77.6
	Gampaha	2,304,833	360,221	15.6
	Kalutara	1,221,948	109,069	8.9
Central Province	Kandy	1,375,382	170,544	12.4
	Matale	484,531	60,276	12.4
	Nuwara-Eliya	711,644	40,151	5.6
Southern Province	Galle	1,063,334	133,398	12.5
	Matara	814,048	96,570	11.9
	Hambantota	599,903	31,709	5.3
Northern Province	Jaffna	583,882	117,575	20.1
	Mannar	99,570	24,417	24.5
	Vavuniya	172,115	34,816	20.2
	Mullaitivu	92,238	-	-
	Kilinochchi	113,510	-	-
Eastern Province	Batticaloa	526,567	151,226	28.7
	Ampara	649,402	153,338	23.6
	Trincomalee	379,541	85,123	22.4
North Western Province	Kurunegala	1,618,465	30,342	1.9
	Puttalam	762,396	66,952	8.8
North Central Province	Anuradhapura	860,575	50,595	5.9
	Polonnaruwa	406,088	-	-
Uva Province	Badulla	815,405	69,800	8.6
	Moneragala	451,058	-	-
Sabaragamuwa Province	Ratnapura	1,088,007	99,451	9.1
	Kegalle	840,648	15,993	1.9

2012 census information has revealed that 50 percent of the urban population (1,802,904) lives in the district of Colombo. People prefer to live in Colombo due to the convenience in proximity to economic and administrative centres and the availability of infrastructure facilities including health and education. 77.6 percent or 3/4th of the Colombo population lives in urban areas. Of this urban population 44 percent lives in the Colombo MC area while 20 percent, 15 percent, 13 percent and 8 percent lives in the MC areas of Kaduwela, Dehiwala/ Mt. Lavinia, Moratuwa and Sri Jayawarenepura Kotte respectively.

Even though all districts in the country, except Polonnaruwa, Moneragala, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, have areas that portray urbanised characteristics, the populations living in those areas are considered inadequate by Colombo standards. This however has created certain inconsistencies in the country's urbanization distribution.

According to the census data, a population of 28.7 percent in the districts of Batticaloa, 23.6 percent in the district of Ampara and 22.4 percent in the district of Trincomalee in the Eastern province and 24.5 percent in the district of Mannar, 20.2 percent in the district of Vavuniya and 20.1 percent in the district of Jaffna in the Northern province, lives in urban areas of the country and that is 1/5th or 20 percent of the total population in those districts. On the other hand only 1.9 percent of the population in the districts of Kurunegala and Kegalle lives in urban areas of those districts.

Colombo Municipal Council

Approximately 15 percent of the total urban population of the country lives in the Colombo Municipal council area. The land area of the CMC is 37.3 square Kilo meters and comprises two Divisional secretariat divisions Colombo, with 35 Grama Niladhari divisions, and Thimbirigasyaya, with 20 Grama Niladhari divisions. Colombo CMC area has 5 electorates and for administrative purposes it has been divided in to 47 wards and 15 postal zones.

Table 6.3 gives the population in Colombo and the population density in Colombo during the preceding census years illustrating the steady increase in the population within the Colombo Municipality area. However, since in 2012 census enumeration was done on the basis of normal residency the population in 2012 appears to have decreased by 86,000 persons between 2001 census and 2012 census.

Diagram 6.1: Colombo Municipal Council

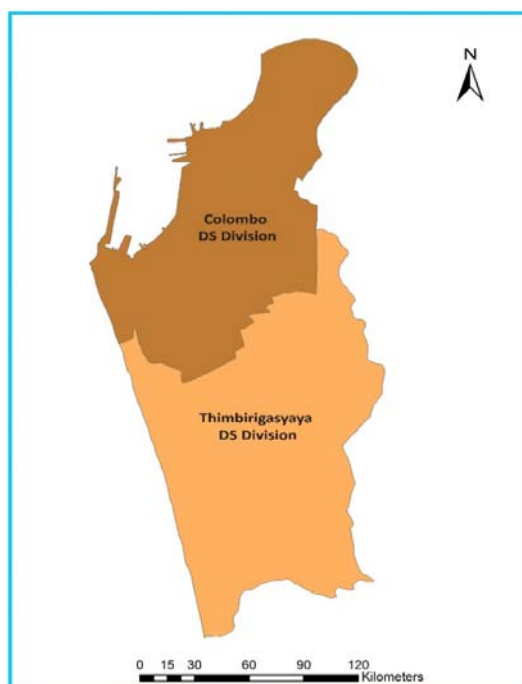


Table 6.3: Population and the population density in Colombo Municipal council area during census years, 1881 - 2012

Census Year	Population	Area (Km ²)	Population Density (People per 1Km ²)
1881	110,502	24.47	4,516
1891	126,825	24.47	5,183
1901	154,691	25.90	5,973
1911	211,274	30.92	6,833
1921	244,163	33.51	7,287
1931	284,155	33.67	8439
1946	362,074	34.39	10,529
1953	426,127	34.65	12,298
1963	511,644	34.70	14,745
1971	562,160	37.29	15,075
1981	587,647	37.29	15,759
2001	647,100	37.29	15,407
2012	561,314	37.29	13,364

Source: Population and Housing report 1981

(Data for 2001 and 2012 are as per the Population & Housing reports for the respective years.)

Table 6.4 gives the total population in the Colombo Municipal Council by the two divisional secretariats of Colombo and Thimbirigasyaya and also by the Grama Niladhari division in each of those divisional secretariats. Accordingly the Colombo divisional secretariat has a population of 323,257 persons while the Thimbirigasyaya divisional secretariat has a population of 238,057 persons making up the Colombo Municipal council population.

Table 6.4 : Total population in the Colombo divisional secretariat by the Grama Niladhari Divisions, 2012

Grama Niladhari Division	Total Population	Male	Female
Total	323,257	162,798	160,459
Sammanthranapura	7,829	4,017	3,812
Mattakkuliya	28,003	14,029	13,974
Modara	17,757	8,794	8,963
Madampitiya	12,970	6,505	6,465
Mahawatte	8,809	4,367	4,442
Aluthmawatha	13,625	6,602	7,023
Lunupokuna	12,423	6,352	6,071
Blue Mandel	13,802	6,740	7,062
East Kotahena	6,385	3,024	3,361
West Kotahena	9,409	4,617	4,792
Kochchikade North	9,339	5,005	4,334
Jinthupitiya	8,110	3,901	4,209
Masangus Avenue	8,516	4,303	4,213
New Bazaar	13,436	6,753	6,683
Grandpass South	17,588	8,739	8,849
Grandpass North	8,904	4,433	4,471
Nawagampura	6,821	3,459	3,362
Maligawatte West	11,524	5,774	5,750
Kettarama	13,683	6,907	6,776
Aluthkade East	10,053	4,987	5,066
Aluthkade West	7,517	3,914	3,603
Kochchikade South	7746	4,062	3,684
Pettah	1,924	1,854	70
Fort	1,473	1,065	408
Galle-Face	3,789	1,880	1,909
Slave Island	3,795	1,868	1,927
Hunupitiya	6,883	3,335	3,548
Suduwella	3,915	2,007	1,908
Keselwatte	7,221	3,637	3,584
Panchikawatte	8,467	4,195	4,272
Maligawatte West	8,968	4,363	4,605
Maligakande	8,526	4,530	3,996
Maradana	4,591	2,424	2,167
Ibbanwala	2,617	1,027	1,590
Weakanda	6,839	3,329	3,510

According to table 6.4, the Grama Niladhari division with the highest population in the Colombo Municipal council is Mattakkuliaya Grama Niladhari division. Numerically it is 28,003. The lowest population is recorded from the Grama Niladhari division of Fort with a population of 1,473. An extraordinary feature with regard to the Pettah Grama Niladhari division is that there are only 70 females living in that division of 1854 males. Accordingly the ratio of women to men in that GS division is unusually high 1 to 26.

In the case of the other divisional secretariat division comprising the Colombo MC, Thimbrigasyaya, the highest population is recorded from the Grama Niladhari division of Borella north with a population of 21,326 persons. The lowest population is recorded in the Grama Niladhari division of Borella south with a population of 5,127 persons. However, again an exceptional situation of inequality in male female ratio is reported from Borella north where there are 5908 more males than females in the division.

Table 6.5: Total population in the Thimbrigasyaya divisional secretariat by Grama Niladhari Divisions, 2012

Grama Niladhari Division	Total Population	Male	Female
Total	238,057	118,660	119,397
Collpetty	6,711	3,549	3,162
Bambalapitiya	7,564	3,621	3,943
Cinnamon Gardens	9,914	4,703	5,211
Kuppiyawatte West	6,954	3,468	3,486
Kuppiyawatte East	10,577	5,498	5,079
Dematagoda	18,602	9,356	9,246
Wanathamulla	17,355	8,547	8,808
Borella North	21,326	13,617	7,709
Borella South	5,127	2,566	2,561
Gothamipura	6,498	3,213	3,285
Narahenpita	11,194	5,503	5,691
Thimbrigasyaya	12,675	5,949	6,726
Milagiriya	7,389	3,214	4,175
Havelock Town	7,455	3,464	3,991
Kirula	20,237	9,576	10,661
Kirulapone	17,846	8,818	9,028
Wellawatte North	14,967	7,131	7,836
Wellawatte South	10,826	5,059	5,767
Pamanada West	12,451	5,658	6,793
Pamankda East	12,389	6,150	6,239

National and International Migratory Trends

7.0

National and international Migratory patterns

Change of residence from one administrative area to another within the country is known as internal migration while change of residence from the recognized borders of one country to another is known as international migration. Internal migration is a primary factor effecting the balance and redistribution of a country's population and it could also lead to imbalances in the distribution of human and physical resources in a country. International migration on the other hand is one among the primary factor that could cause a change in a country's population. Thus, it is important to study the nature of migrations, their extent and direction and the factors effecting migrations.

The illustrated information on the country's population, its re-diffusion and migration is available only at the population and housing census conducted every 10 years. During the population and housing census of 2012 the information with regard to internal migration and temporary residence abroad was elicited on the basis of the following questions.

- 1. The district of birth:** When a person is born, the district or country in which the mother of that person is resident, is considered the district or country of birth of that person.
- 2. The period of residence in the district of usual residency (years):** If a person is resident in the district of his usual residency since birth, that fact is recorded, and if not, the date on which a person commenced his residency in the district of his usual residency and the duration of residency was recorded. If a person has been resident away and has come back to reside in the district /country of his birth, the duration of his residency was recorded not from birth but from the time he has come to reside in the current district.
- 3. The district of previous (last) residency:** Whether the previous residence was in the same district where the person usually resided was recorded. If the district/ country of previous residence was elsewhere, the name of that district/country was recorded.
- 4. The reason for migrating to this usually residing district :** Under this, the reason for migrating to this usually residing district was inquired and recorded such as Marriage, Employment, Education, Displacement, Resettlement, Development projects, due to a requirement of a family member or any other reason.

- 5. A member of the household residing abroad, other than on permanent residency, for a period exceeding 6 months:** Under this, information such as, the male/femaleness of the person staying abroad, the country in which the person is staying and the reason for staying abroad etc., were collected.

According to census definition, the person's usual residency district is the district to which that person's place of living or his usual residency at census enumeration. If a person has more than one place of residency, the district in which that person stays most days of week, is taken as the district of his usual residency.

The patterns and features of internal migration in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, internal migration has made a significant contribution in unequal distribution of population across the district for many decades. The direction, pattern, volume and steam of migration have been influenced by a number of socio-economic and political factors.

Three patterns of internal migration are presented. They are the inflow of persons in to a district or a province could be termed 'In migration' while the outflow from a district or province could be termed the 'Out migration'. The difference between these two forms of migrations could be termed the 'Net migration'. In the case of this net migration, it could either be positive net migration or negative net migration.

Life time migration

A life time migrant is one whose usual residence is a place other than the place of birth. Such life time migrants will be compiled based on the information obtained on the district of usual residency of a person and on the district of his birth. A non-migrant is the one whose usual residence is same as the place of birth.

In a census, often it is one person who will give information regarding a household on behalf of all the residents in that household. In that situation it is possible that this respondent would answer certain questions, especially those regarding relatives or non- related persons in the household, by conjecture. Further, the answer to a particular question will depend on how the respondent perceives that question and hence may not be the right answer. For instance though what is expected as the district of birth is the district in which the mother permanently lived at child birth, the respondent may state the district in which the hospital where child birth took place is situated or the district where the mother temporarily stayed impending child birth.

In Sri Lanka 16.9 percent of the population, or one in every six persons, is a 'life time migrant'. According to the table 7.1 the highest number of life time migrants is found in the districts of Colombo (615,558) and Gampaha (596,472). Similarly the lowest number of life time migrants is reported from the Batticaloa district (23,087).

Table 7.1: Life time migrants by the district of usual residency and district of birth, 2012

District of Usual Residency	Population of District of Usual Residency	Population born in the District	Usually Resident Population born in the District	Life time migrants	
				Number	%
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	20,320,972	16,916,180	3,443,259	16.9
Colombo	2,324,349	2,101,129	1,708,791	615,558	26.5
Gampaha	2,304,833	1,854,617	1,708,361	596,472	25.9
Kalutara	1,221,948	1,155,918	1,011,654	210,294	17.2
Kandy	1,375,382	1,542,367	1,184,941	190,441	13.8
Matale	484,531	508,326	391,980	92,551	19.1
Nuwara-Eliya	711,644	813,921	632,694	78,950	11.1
Galle	1,063,334	1,183,527	961,898	101,436	9.5
Matara	814,048	989,770	735,978	78,070	9.6
Hambantota	599,903	635,845	518,762	81,141	13.5
Jaffna	583,882	676,167	551,873	32,009	5.5
Mannar	99,570	111,686	79,871	19,699	19.8
Vavuniya	172,115	118,039	94,673	77,442	45
Mullaitivu	92,238	88,916	58,634	33,604	36.4
Kilinochchi	113,510	101,448	75,082	38,428	33.9
Batticaloa	526,567	535,855	503,480	23,087	4.4
Ampara	649,402	617,753	563,050	86,352	13.3
Trincomalee	379,541	367,710	325,769	53,772	14.2
Kurunegala	1,618,465	1,669,443	1,422,889	195,576	12.1
Puttalam	762,396	705,130	624,155	138,241	18.1
Anuradhapura	860,575	801,233	689,925	170,650	19.8
Polonnaruwa	406,088	334,260	280,488	125,600	30.9
Badulla	815,405	915,168	728,656	86,749	10.6
Moneragala	451,058	417,172	353,831	97,227	21.6
Ratnapura	1,088,007	1,141,039	972,798	115,209	10.6
Kegalle	840,648	934,533	735,947	104,701	12.5

The highest number of life time migrants is recorded from the districts of Vavuniya (45 percent), Mullaitivu (36.4 percent) and Kilinochchi (33.9 percent) in the Northern Province and Polonnaruwa (30.9 percent) in the North – Central province in comparison to the usual resident population of a district.

It is important to study the migratory flow patterns that result when life time migrants migrate in to, and out of, a particular district. Table 7.2 and table 7.3 give the three main migratory flows when migrants migrate in to, and out of, each district.

Table 7.2: Life time migrants by the three migratory streams by the district of usual residency, 2012

District	Lifetime in migrants to district	Migrants to the District of usual Residency					
		Largest stream		2 nd Largest stream		3 rd Largest stream	
			%		%		%
Colombo	615,558	Matara	11.3	Galle	10.9	Kandy	9.9
Gampaha	596,472	Colombo	26	Kurunegala	9.9	Kandy	8
Kalutara	210,294	Colombo	35.3	Galle	15.9	Matara	7.7
Kandy	190,441	Nuwara-Eliya	17.4	Matale	11.4	Colombo	11
Matale	92,551	Kandy	37.7	Kurunegala	12.7	Anuradhapura	8.2
Nuwara-Eliya	78,950	Kandy	41.3	Badulla	17.4	Kegalle	6.1
Galle	101,436	Matara	30	Colombo	14	Kalutara	13.9
Matara	78,070	Galle	25.8	Hambantota	25	Colombo	12
Hambantota	81,141	Matara	45.1	Ratnapura	10.3	Galle	9.8
Jaffna	32,009	Kilinochchi	30.1	Mullaitivu	23.6	Vavuniya	7.2
Mannar	19,699	Jaffna	29	Puttalam	13.9	Kilinochchi	8.9
Vavuniya	77,442	Jaffna	34.1	Mullaitivu	15.6	Kilinochchi	9.9
Mullaitivu	33,604	Jaffna	33.5	Kilinochchi	11.4	Vavuniya	9.9
Kilinochchi	38,428	Jaffna	51.4	Kandy	8.7	Mullaitivu	8.4
Batticaloa	23,087	Ampara	24.3	Trincomalee	12.7	Jaffna	11.3
Ampara	86,352	Kandy	19.9	Badulla	15.9	Kegalle	8.4
Trincomalee	53,772	Jaffna	12.7	Kandy	10.6	Anuradhapura	9.2
Kurunegala	195,576	Kandy	13.6	Gampaha	13.1	Puttalam	12.1
Puttalam	138,241	Kurunegala	27.7	Gampaha	15.3	Mannar	11.9
Anuradhapura	170,650	Kurunegala	18.6	Kandy	15.9	Matale	11.4
Polonnaruwa	125,600	Kandy	20.3	Kegalle	12.2	Matale	10.1
Badulla	86,749	NuwaraEliya	17	Kandy	16.7	Moneragala	13.7
Moneragala	97,227	Badulla	30.6	Hambantota	17.6	Matara	10.8
Ratnapura	115,209	Hambantota	14.3	Matara	14.2	Colombo	13.9
Kegalle	104,701	Kandy	18.2	Kurunegala	14.3	Colombo	12.9

Table 7.2 shows that, apart from the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Trincomalee, Kurunegala and Ratnapura, nearly 50 percent of the migration in to all other districts has happened from the 3 main migratory flows in to the districts. For instance table 7.2 shows 58.9 percent of the persons who migrated in to the Kalutara district have flowed in from the three districts of Colombo, Galle and Matara.

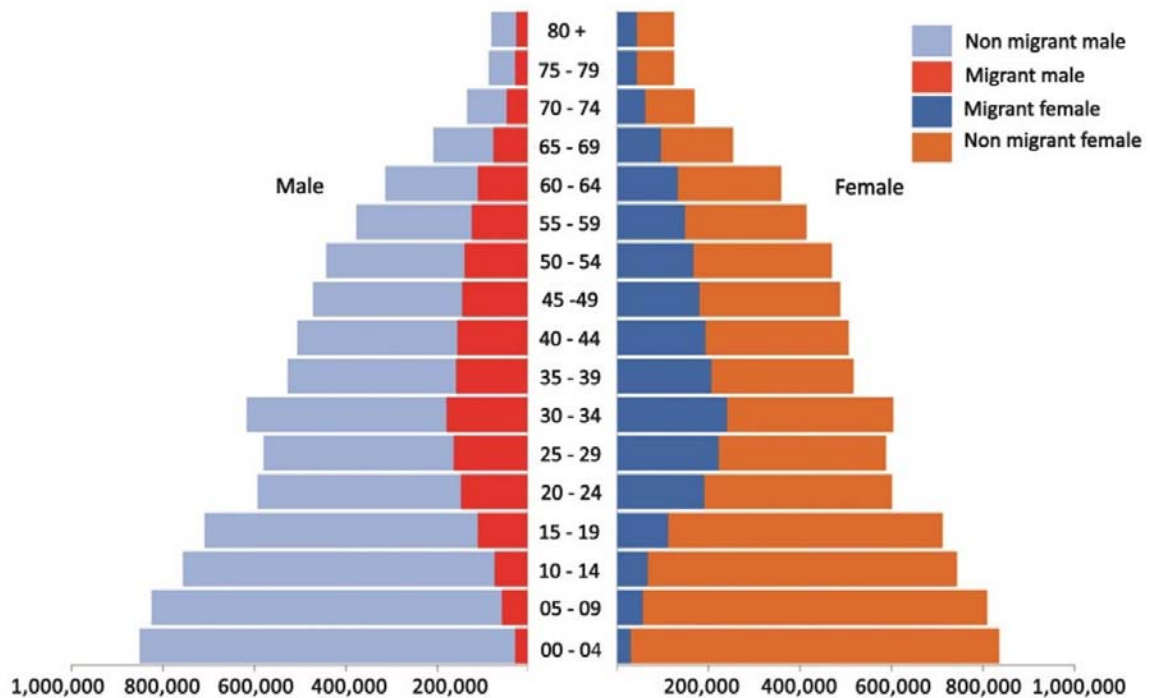
Colombo and Gampaha districts could be recognised as the main central points of in migration. It could be discerned from table 7.3 that except for the districts of Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, migration has taken place mainly in to Colombo and Gampaha districts from all other districts. Similarly the majority of the out migrants from all the districts have migrated mainly in to three districts.

Table 7.3: The main migratory streams of life time migrants who have migrated out of their district of birth, 2012

District of Birth	Lifetime out migrants	Migrants from District of birth to Other Districts					
		Largest stream		2 nd Largest stream		3 rd Largest stream	
			%		%		%
Colombo	392,338	Gampaha	39.6	Kalutara	18.9	Kandy	5.3
Gampaha	146,256	Colombo	23.8	Puttalam	14.5	Kegalle	7.3
Kalutara	144,264	Colombo	37.4	Gampaha	15.7	Galle	9.8
Kandy	357,426	Colombo	17.1	Gampaha	13.3	Matale	9.8
Matale	116,346	Kandy	18.7	Anuradhapura	16.7	Gampaha	12.2
Nuwara-Eliya	181,227	Colombo	20.9	Kandy	18.3	Gampaha	15.2
Galle	221,629	Colombo	30.3	Gampaha	15.5	Kalutara	15.1
Matara	253,792	Colombo	27.5	Hambantota	14.4	Gampaha	13.4
Hambantota	117,083	Colombo	19.6	Matara	16.7	Moneragala	14.6
Jaffna	124,294	Colombo	24.6	Vavuniya	21.3	Kilinochchi	15.9
Mannar	31,815	Puttalam	51.5	Vavuniya	13.7	Colombo	5.8
Vavuniya	23,366	Anuradhapura	23.9	Mullaitivu	14.2	Kilinochchi	13.2
Mullaitivu	30,282	Vavuniya	39.8	Jaffna	25	Kilinochchi	10.6
Kilinochchi	26,366	Jaffna	36.6	Vavuniya	29	Mullaitivu	14.5
Batticaloa	32,375	Ampara	20.7	Colombo	15.3	Trincomalee	13
Ampara	54,703	Colombo	16	Gampaha	12.5	Batticaloa	10.3
Trincomalee	41,941	Gampaha	13.4	Anuradhapura	11.1	Colombo	10.7
Kurunegala	246,554	Gampaha	23.9	Puttalam	15.5	Anuradhapura	12.9
Puttalam	80,975	Gampaha	31.5	Kurunegala	29.3	Colombo	10.6
Anuradhapura	111,308	Gampaha	20.4	Kurunegala	15	Colombo	12.3
Polonnaruwa	53,772	Gampaha	16	Colombo	10.8	Kurunegala	10.1
Badulla	186,512	Colombo	21	Moneragala	16	Gampaha	14.1
Moneragala	63,341	Badulla	18.7	Colombo	17.4	Gampaha	13.7
Ratnapura	168,241	Colombo	29	Gampaha	15.4	Kalutara	1.1
Kegalle	198,586	Gampaha	20.2	Colombo	17.4	Kurunegala	11.7

The district of usual residency and the district of birth are used to estimate lifetime migration. Those who have been resided in other district, but have come back to reside in the district of birth at the time of census enumeration are not counted as migrants. As a result of that it is possible that the recorded number of life time migrants is less than number of actual lifetime migrants. When migration is considered against the district of previous residency and since all those who have ever changed their residence belongs to the life time migrant category, by studying this, it is possible to identify different migratory patterns. Diagram 7.1 gives the migratory and non-migratory persons according to their usual resident district and the previous district of residency.

Diagram 7.1: Migratory and non- migratory population, 2012



The age- sex distribution of non-migrant population and migrant population for 2012 has shown in the pyramid (Diagram 7.1). It is clearly shown that there is a relatively small proportion of children and school going population (age less than 19 years) among the migrant population for both sex when compared to the non-migrant population. Age distribution of migrant population in Sri Lanka shows dominance of working age groups especially in age group 25-39 years. Female migrants are more among the migratory population below the age of 24 years.

According to the revelations of the 2012 census, 20.2 percent of the population of Sri Lanka, in other words either about 4 million persons or 1 out of every 5 persons in the population has changed the district of his residence at least once.

Table 7.4: Internal Migratory patterns by the district of usual residency and the district of previous residency, 2012

District of usual Residency	Out Migration	In Migration	Net Migration
Colombo	485,956	641,922	155,966
Gampaha	174,590	613,070	438,480
Kalutara	157,139	226,289	69,150
Kandy	354,897	223,640	-131,257
Matale	119,860	96,228	-23,632
Nuwara-Eliya	191,029	88,403	-102,626
Galle	226,584	117,580	-109,004
Matara	256,135	94,343	-161,792
Hambantota	124,766	94,786	-29,980
Jaffna	98,235	112,230	13,995
Mannar	43,056	39,461	-3,595
Vavuniya	209,738	89,652	-120,086
Mullaitivu	70,512	83,789	13,277
Kilinochchi	59,112	106,288	47,176
Batticaloa	51,537	28,222	-23,315
Ampara	65,493	91,454	25,961
Trincomalee	52,123	77,093	24,970
Kurunegala	256,333	222,962	-33,371
Puttalam	103,049	142,855	39,806
Anuradhapura	134,369	181,463	47,094
Polonnaruwa	68,942	126,818	57,876
Badulla	191,895	102,814	-89,081
Moneragala	74,320	100,586	26,266
Ratnapura	179,270	131,179	-48,091
Kegalle	205,744	121,557	-84,187

According to the table 7.4, Colombo has shown the largest volume of both in and out migrants in the country. The highest net migration is reported from Gampaha district. The highest negative net migration is reported from Matara district while Southern province has reported a high negative net migration. The net migration for the Vavuniya district is negative 120,086. That is, that the number of migrants who have left the district is far greater than the migrants who have come in to the district.

Table 7.5 : In migrants to the district of usual residency and duration of residency, 2012

District of usual Residency	Migratory Population	Duration of Residence(Years)					
		Less than 05 Years		Between 05-09 Years		10 Years and above	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	3,954,684	1,352,689	34.2	545,452	13.8	2,056,543	52.0
Colombo	641,922	200,720	31.3	101,416	15.8	339,786	52.9
Gampaha	613,070	196,690	32.1	104,044	17.0	312,336	50.9
Kalutara	226,289	69,013	30.5	42,251	18.7	115,025	50.8
Kandy	223,640	70,463	31.5	34,460	15.4	118,717	53.1
Matale	96,228	24,482	25.4	12,930	13.4	58,816	61.1
Nuwara-Eliya	88,403	22,890	25.9	11,845	13.4	53,668	60.7
Galle	117,580	36,714	31.2	18,638	15.9	62,228	52.9
Matara	94,343	29,715	31.5	15,480	16.4	49,148	52.1
Hambantota	94,786	29,883	31.5	14,949	15.8	49,954	52.7
Jaffna	112,230	53,006	47.2	12,185	10.9	47,039	41.9
Mannar	39,461	28,415	72.0	2,781	7.0	8,265	20.9
Vavuniya	89,652	38,839	43.3	7,524	8.4	43,289	48.3
Mullaitivu	83,789	80,515	96.1	399	0.5	2,875	3.4
Kilinochchi	106,288	106,163	99.9	70	0.1	55	0.1
Batticaloa	28,222	12,157	43.1	4,461	15.8	11,604	41.1
Ampara	91,454	20,702	22.6	9,235	10.1	61,517	67.3
Trincomalee	77,093	35,006	45.4	7,917	10.3	34,170	44.3
Kurunegala	222,962	66,787	30.0	33,765	15.1	122,410	54.9
Puttalam	142,855	33,713	23.6	16,316	11.4	92,826	65.0
Anuradhapura	181,463	46,601	25.7	20,406	11.2	114,456	63.1
Polonnaruwa	126,818	23,008	18.1	10,836	8.5	92,974	73.3
Badulla	102,814	33,714	32.8	15,011	14.6	54,089	52.6
Moneragala	100,586	21,985	21.9	11,008	10.9	67,593	67.2
Ratnapura	131,179	35,927	27.4	18,302	14.0	76,950	58.7
Kegalle	121,557	35,581	29.3	19,223	15.8	66,753	54.9

When the duration of residency is considered for the district of usual residency, table 7.5 shows that more than 60 % of those who have migrated in to the districts of Polonnaruwa, Moneragala, Ampara, Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Matale and Nuwara-Eliya have done so more than 10 years ago. In the districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Mannar in the Northern Province 99.9 percent, 96.1 percent and 72.0 percent respectively of the in migrants, have settled in those districts within a period less

than 5 years. It could be mainly due to displacement or resettlement after the conflict. Similarly the number of in migrants is considered with the duration of residency, it could be seen that 339,786 and 312,336 in migrants have come to the Colombo and Gampaha districts respectively, more than 10 years ago. It is more than 50 percent of the total in migrations to Colombo and Gampaha districts.

Table 7.6: The reasons for migration from the district of previous residency to the district of usual residency, 2012

District of usual Residency	Migratory Population	Reasons for Migration (%)							
		Marriage	Employment	Education	Displacement	Resettlement after Displacement	Development Projects	Requirement of a Family Member	Other
Total	3,954,684	31.7	20.4	5.4	3.3	8.9	2.2	18.8	9.3
Colombo	641,922	22.8	42.8	10.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	17.2	5.6
Gampaha	613,070	29.2	30.6	4.3	1.1	0.4	0.4	21.5	12.5
Kalutara	226,289	36.8	13.7	3.5	1.6	1.4	0.5	22.4	20.1
Kandy	223,640	42.1	14.5	10.7	1.2	0.3	0.4	19.9	10.9
Matale	96,228	46.8	12.5	3.2	2.1	0.4	2.0	23.0	9.9
Nuwara-Eliya	88,403	47.5	17.9	4.7	6.9	0.7	0.6	16.5	5.2
Galle	117,580	47.0	14.4	6.3	1.1	0.3	0.2	19.1	11.7
Matara	94,343	49.5	10.2	7.8	1.3	0.2	0.1	19.5	11.4
Hambantota	94,786	45.1	13.0	2.8	1.2	0.4	3.8	19.3	14.4
Jaffna	112,230	3.6	3.9	4.3	7.6	70.1	0.2	7.7	2.6
Mannar	39,461	5.4	10.1	2.2	9.3	66.0	0.2	6.0	0.9
Vavuniya	89,652	7.3	10.4	2.8	36.9	28.5	1.7	10.3	2.0
Mullaitivu	83,789	1.2	3.6	0.7	0.5	88.3	2.0	3.5	0.2
Kilinochchi	106,288	0.6	2.1	0.5	0.3	95.6	0.1	0.7	0.2
Batticaloa	28,222	24.2	21.8	13.9	16.5	3.1	0.1	16.6	3.9
Ampara	91,454	26.3	13.7	5.1	3.7	1.6	20.4	21.8	7.4
Trincomalee	77,093	19.7	15.0	3.3	4.7	33.2	3.4	17.3	3.4
Kurunegala	222,962	45.6	12.5	4.6	1.3	0.3	0.8	20.4	14.5
Puttalam	142,855	30.8	16.2	3.0	17.6	1.2	1.4	21.7	8.1
Anuradhapura	181,463	36.3	14.0	3.6	3.4	0.8	8.1	24.1	9.6
Polonnaruwa	126,818	31.1	11.9	1.7	1.7	0.8	17.6	25.5	9.7
Badulla	102,814	42.6	16.5	6.7	1.5	0.4	1.5	20.5	10.2
Moneragala	100,586	40.4	18.9	2.1	1.6	0.7	4.8	25.0	6.6
Ratnapura	131,179	44.7	17.0	4.4	1.0	0.4	1.6	23.0	8.0
Kegalle	121,557	53.3	10.3	3.9	0.9	0.3	0.2	17.3	13.8

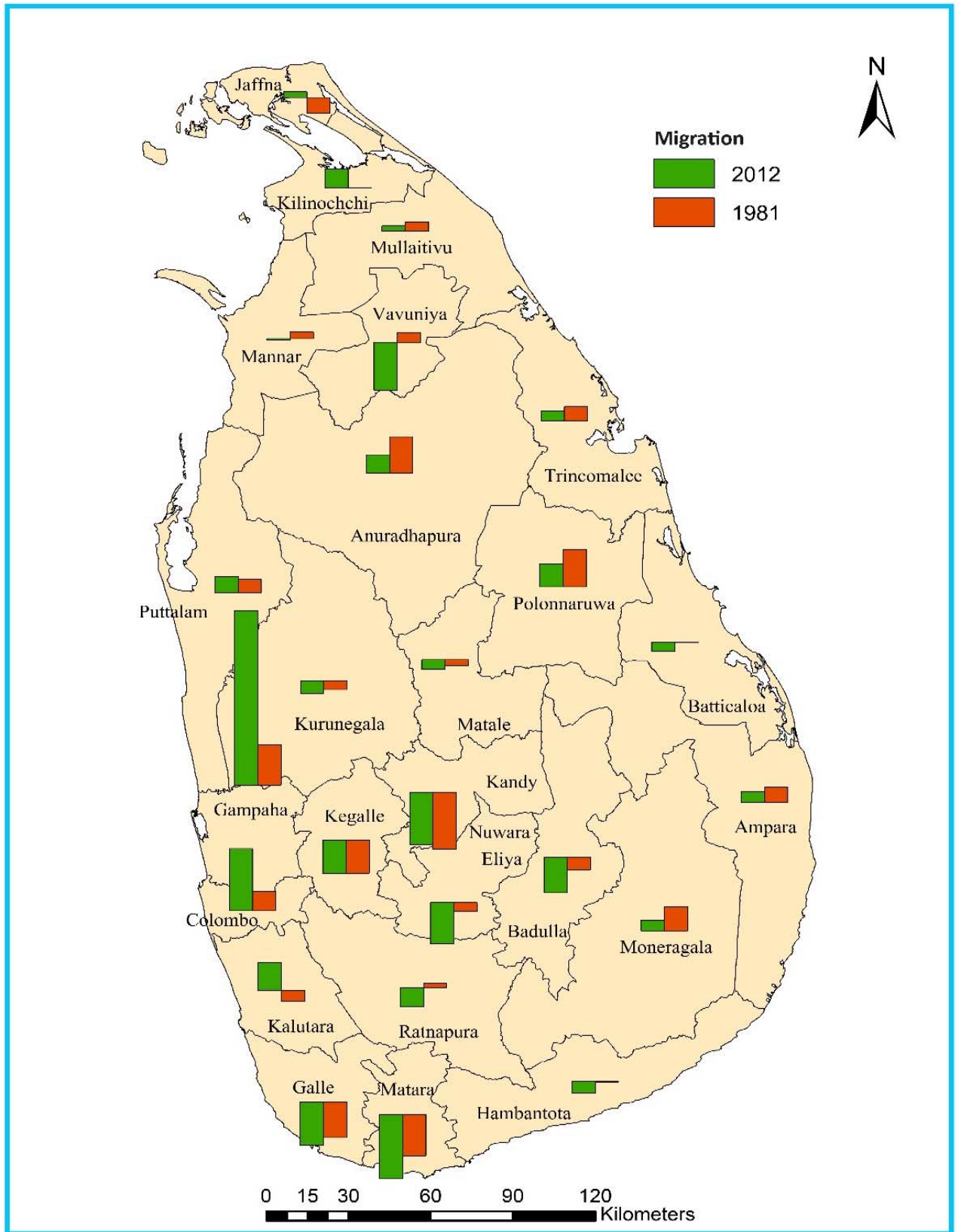
When the reasons for migration is analysed 'Marriage' has been identified as the most prominent factor that has made persons migrate from one district to another. In addition the migration as a result of employment also figures prominently. The highest number of persons that have migrated on the grounds of marriage i.e. 179,125 persons, have done so to the Gampaha district while the highest migration on the grounds of employment, i.e. 274,475 persons, has been to the Colombo district. In the Northern Province, the districts of Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi have shown high percentages of migration due to the resettlement of displaced persons in those districts. At the time of census, 25.4 percent and 19.3 percent of the migrants due to displacement have been resident in the districts of Vavuniya and Puttalam respectively. The population that migrated on the grounds of education have migrated in to the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy and Kurunegala.

The Net migratory rate by district, 1981 and 2012

Diagram 7.2 presents a comparative picture of the net migratory rate of persons between the years 1981 and 2012 according to the district of usual residency. Since the district of Kilinochchi was created after 1981 only results of 2012 are available for that district. The number of net migrants for every thousand of the population in each district is known as the 'Net migratory rate' of the district.

According to diagram 7.2 the highest negative net migratory rate (-697.7) was recorded from the district of Vavuniya while the next highest negative rate (-198.7) has been reported from Matara. Similarly from the districts of Nuwara-Eliya, Badulla, Galle and Kegalle a high negative net migratory rates have been reported and those values are -144.2,-109.2,-102.5 and -100.1 respectively. During the period from 1981 to 2012 the districts of Nuwara-Eliya, Badulla and Hambantota show a tendency to augment their negative net migratory rates. The districts of Polonnaruwa, Moneragala and Anuradhapura showed a high positive net migratory rate in the year 1981, but those districts have shown a comparatively lesser positive net migratory rates in the year 2012. The districts of Vavuniya, Mannar and Ratnapura that indicated a positive net migratory rates in the year 1981, have turned out to be districts with a negative net migratory rates in the year 2012. On the other hand the districts of Kalutara and Jaffna that was in negative net migratory status in the year 1981 have turned out to show positive net migratory rates in the year 2012.

Diagram 7.2: The net migratory rates by districts, 1981 and 2012



The population that temporarily living abroad

This analysis is presented on the basis of information of persons temporarily living abroad for a period exceeding 6 months. During the census, information was collected from households on persons who have been temporarily living abroad for a period exceeding 6 months. However, when all the members of a particular household had been living abroad, that information has not been included for this purpose, since it is not possible to collect information on such persons. Similarly when persons have gone abroad through illegal avenues or through avenues beyond acceptability, the particular household would be reluctant to disclose such information and hence, in considering all such instance it is surmised that the information here could be underestimated.

However, according to the census information 2012 the number of persons temporarily living abroad for a period exceeding 6 months is 604,540 persons. Of this number of 59 percent were males.

Table 7.7: Numbers of persons living abroad temporarily by sex, age group and sector of residence, 2012

Sector by Sex	All Ages	Age Category (Years)		
		Less Than 18	Between 18 - 59	60 & above
Total	604,540	29,218	565,460	9,862
Male	354,462	15,653	333,582	5,227
Female	250,078	13,565	231,878	4,635
Urban	140,384	8,216	128,476	3,692
Male	94,429	4,555	87,705	2,169
Female	45,955	3,661	40,771	1,523
Rural	432,880	18,491	408,447	5,942
Male	249,959	9,856	237,131	2,972
Female	182,921	8,635	171,316	2,970
Estate	31,276	2511	28,537	228
Male	10,074	1,242	8,746	86
Female	21,202	1,269	19,791	142

When considering the population temporarily living abroad, 92.6 percent or 565,460 persons, are in the age group between 18 – 59 years of age. Similarly, of these persons abroad in the age group between 18 -59 years 72 percent are from the rural sector. When all the age groups in the estate sector are considered, it could be seen that in every age group more females have gone abroad temporarily than males.

Table 7.8: The population temporarily living abroad, by reason for being abroad, the country and sex, 2012

Country of residence	Reasons for being Abroad (%)									
	Total	For Employment			For Education			Other		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	604,540	513,527	306,368	207,159	42,095	27,101	14,994	48,918	20,993	27,925
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Korea	2.9	3.2	4.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.6	2.7	0.8
U.A.E.(Dubai, Abu-Dhabi)	11.6	12.4	13.5	10.8	4.0	3.7	4.6	9.7	9.6	9.9
Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	19.7	21.6	20.5	23.1	4.1	3.7	4.8	13.2	14.3	12.3
Oman(Musket)	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.5	2.0
Jordan	3.3	3.6	1.4	7.0	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.9	1.5	2.2
Kuwait	14.2	15.8	9.1	25.8	2.3	1.8	3.3	7.9	6.9	8.7
Lebanon	1.8	2.0	0.7	4.0	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.1
Cyprus	1.5	1.6	0.7	2.9	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8
Qatar(Doha)	12.9	14.1	20.2	5.1	3.1	3.3	2.8	8.9	11.8	6.7
Bahrain	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.9
Australia	3.0	1.5	1.7	1.2	15.8	15.7	16.1	7.3	6.4	8.0
U.S.A	1.8	1.0	1.2	0.7	9.2	9.2	9.2	3.7	3.4	3.9
UK	3.6	1.7	2.1	1.1	22.3	24.7	18.1	7.1	6.5	7.6
Italy	7.4	7.4	8.6	5.6	4.5	3.9	5.5	10.6	9.7	11.3
Other	13.1	10.7	12.7	7.7	30.7	30.3	31.5	22.9	23.1	22.6

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal

54.2 percent of the male population that is temporarily abroad for reasons of employment are resident in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and emirates while 66.0 percent of the female population that is abroad is found to be resident in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and emirates. However, of the population that is temporarily resident abroad for educational purposes, 47.4 percent is reported to be in Australia, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Few Middle East countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Emirates have become popular destinations for Sri Lankan temporarily labour migrant. Out of the male Sri Lankan population temporarily living in abroad, 54.2 percent males are found to be in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Emirates while from the female population temporarily living in abroad it is about 66.0 percent. However only

47.4 percent of total population temporarily living in abroad has gone for countries like USA, UK and Australia for educational purposes.

Physically or Mentally Impaired persons

8.0

Physically or mentally impaired persons

A healthy and able population is a pre requisite for a country that is upwardly mobile and at the same time the social wellbeing of a society could be judged by how the disabled in that society is looked after. Hence it is necessary to be educated on persons in the population impaired in either physical or mental functions. It is only then that appropriate and comprehensive policies could be formulated in their interests.

Information on physically or mentally impaired persons were collected during the 14th census of Sri Lanka. This was done by addressing a questionnaire (6 questions) to the children, young and elderly alike with the view of ascertaining whether they experience a physical or mental difficulty of any form in their day to day activities. These questions were meant to find out whether the person experience difficulty in managing his/her day to day activities due to impairments in vision, audibility, walking, climbing steps, memory retrieval, concentration, dressing up, bathing and in exchanging ideas. This impairment information was collected under the three categories of 'no difficulty' 'difficult' and 'nothing at all' and the information collected under the two categories of 'difficult' and 'nothing at all' was counted upon to present the total number of persons mentally or physically impaired.

In collecting this information, only responses from the population above 5 years of age were considered since the responses of children under 5 years of age cannot be considered with a degree of reliability.

Mentally or physically impaired persons above 5 years of age

According to the population and housing information of 2012 there are 1,617,924 impaired persons in the total population who have either a mental or a physical impairment. The majority of these persons (996,939) have impairments in their vision while the next common difficulty in the population is in walking; 734,213 persons. Those who have audible deficiencies are reported as 389,077 persons of the population. According to this information the number of physically or mentally impaired persons per 1000 in the population is 87 persons.

Table 8.1 gives the number of impaired persons per 1000 in the population according to the type of their impairment.

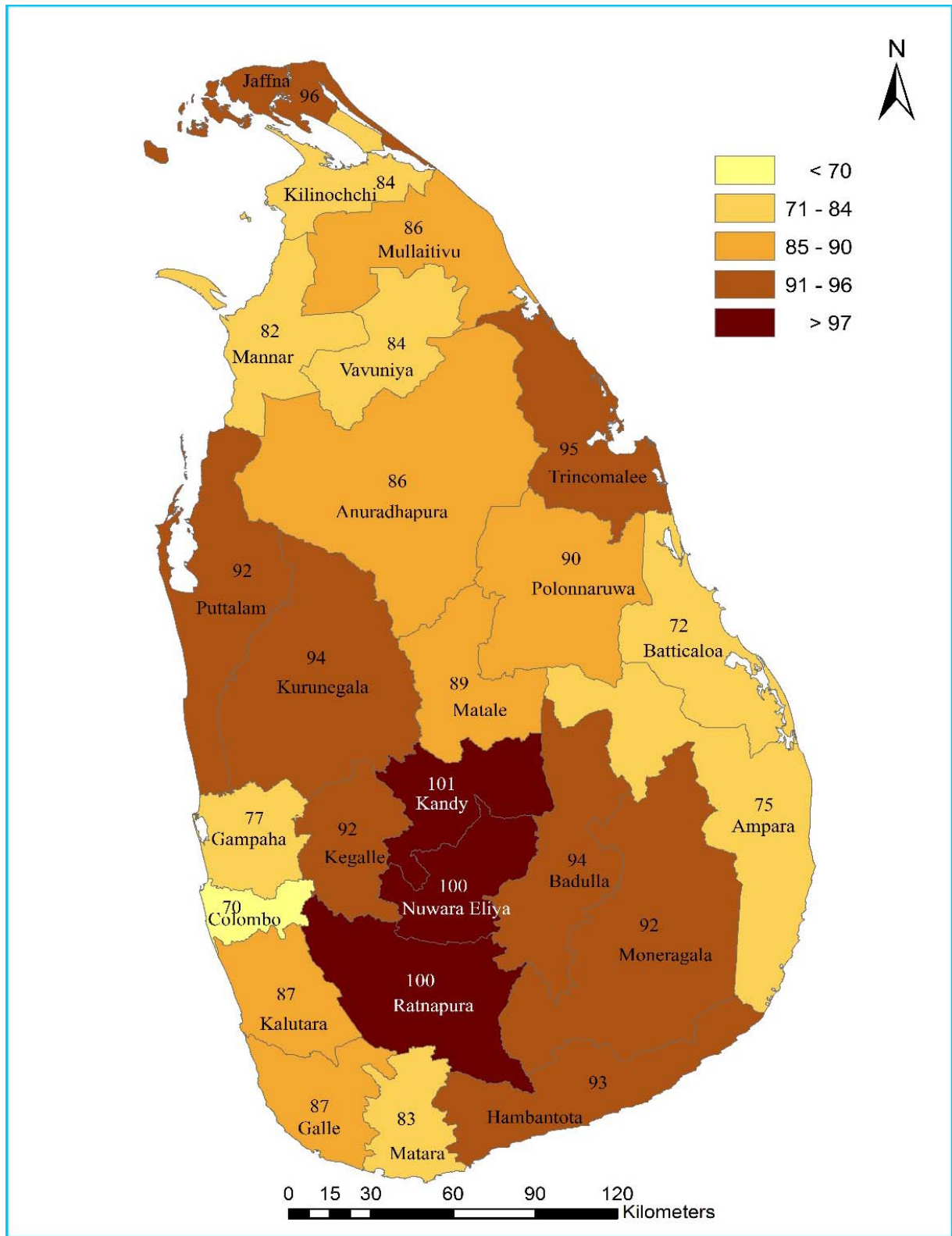
Table 8.1: Number of physically or mentally impaired persons per 1000 in the Population by their impairment, 2012

Impairment	No.	Rate (Per 1000 persons)
Impaired Population	1,617,924	87
Sight	996,939	54
Hearing	389,077	21
Walking	734,213	39
Memory	343,689	18
Self-Containing	197,575	11
Communication Problems	180,833	10

When these physical or mental impairments are analysed according to age groups as in table 8.2, it is discernible that half of the population above 75 year of age is impaired in one way or the other. The incidents of impairment evidently decrease with the ‘less old’ populations. Hence in the age group of 70- 74 years the impairment is one in every three persons while in the age group of 60 to 69 years it is one in every four persons. Similarly impaired persons in the age groups of 5 to 14 year and 15 to 29 years is less than 20 persons per every 1000 in the population and in the ‘labour force’ age group of the population (15 – 59) the impairment rate is found to be 62 persons per every 1000. When the population above 50 years of age is considered, the rate of impairment among the female population is found to be higher than that of the male population.

The diagram 8.1 shows the rate of physical or mentally impaired persons per 1000 in the population district wise. Accordingly the highest number of impaired persons (101) is reported from the Kandy district. The next highest numbers are from Ratnapura and Nuwara-Eliya where the number is 100. Colombo district records the lowest rate for physically or mentally impaired persons with a rate of 70. Similarly, comparatively low rates are reported from Batticaloa and Ampara districts where the rate is 72 and 75 respectively

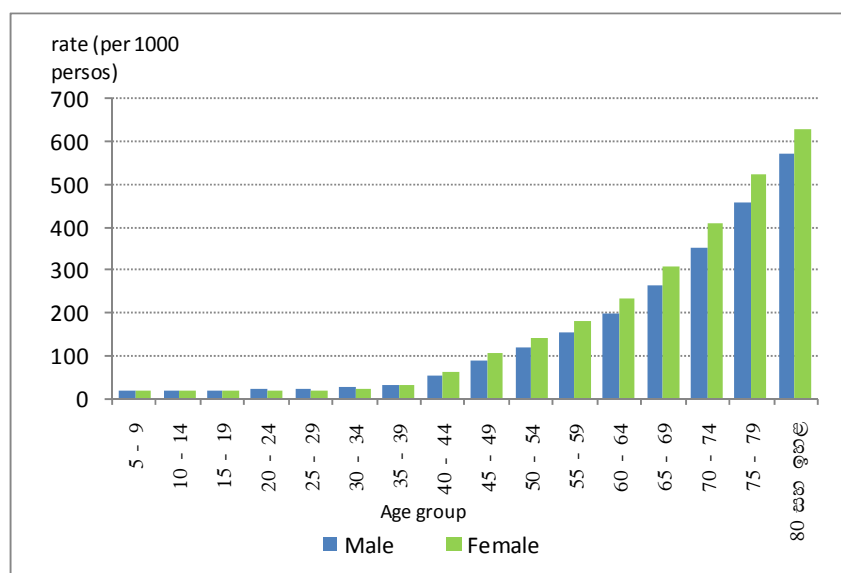
**Diagram 8.1: The rate of physically or mentally impaired persons
(per 1000 in the population) by district, 2012**



**Table 8.2: The rate of impaired persons by sex and by age group
(per 1000 in population), 2012**

Age Block	Physical or Mental Impairments		Male		Female	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
	Total	1,617,924	86.9	695,263	77.4	922,661
5 - 9	31,545	18.0	16,991	19.3	14,554	16.8
10 - 14	27,527	16.8	14,910	18.0	12,617	15.6
15 - 19	29,668	18.0	15,174	18.5	14,494	17.6
20 - 24	27,810	18.1	15,050	20.3	12,760	16.1
25 - 29	29,331	18.9	16,192	21.8	13,139	16.2
30 - 34	37,773	23.0	20,231	25.4	17,542	20.8
35 - 39	44,790	31.8	22,559	32.9	22,231	30.7
40 - 44	79,712	58.6	35,173	53.2	44,539	63.8
45 - 49	125,424	97.5	54,906	88.8	70,518	105.6
50 - 54	158,085	129.6	68,472	117.8	89,613	140.4
55 - 59	177,281	166.6	76,374	152.5	100,907	179.1
60 - 64	199,663	217.5	84,588	198.8	115,075	233.7
65 - 69	183,472	289.7	75,126	264.7	108,346	310.0
70 - 74	158,864	385.2	64,236	353.2	94,628	410.4
75 - 79	140,525	496.2	53,331	458.2	87,194	522.8
80 & More	166,454	608.0	61,950	572.4	104,504	631.3

Diagram 8.2 : Impaired persons by sex and age group (per 1000 in population), 2012



The status of education of the physically and mentally impaired persons

In the sphere of education, a noticeable feature is that according to table 8.3; 30,308 of the 88,740 impaired persons in the school going age group (5 to 19 years) are not engaged in educational activity. This should be of concern, especially when it is revealed that 6,404 of the 31,545 children or 20.3 percent children in the primary education age group (5-9 years) are not receiving any form of formal education. There are 2,142 impaired children attending pre- schools. Similarly 2,076 of these persons above 10 years or more are studying to obtain a degree or a higher level in education while 2,445 of these persons are reported to be undergoing vocational and technical training.

Table 8.3: The educational activity in which physically or mentally impaired persons have been engaged in during the 30 days preceding census, 2012

Age Block	Total Impaired Population Aged 05yrs. or above	Education activity engaged in					Other Educational Activities	Not engaged in any Educational Activity
		Pre school	School	Graduate and above	Technical Vocation			
Total	1,617,924	2,142	54,311	2,076	2,445	8,266	1,548,684	
5 - 9	31,545	2,142	22,582	-	-	417	6,404	
10 - 14	27,527	-	19,283	-	8	776	7,460	
15 - 19	29,668	-	11,508	32	539	1,145	16,444	
20 - 24	27,810	-	938	1,161	722	1,084	23,905	
25 - 29	29,331	-	-	324	359	566	28,082	
30 - 34	37,773	-	-	120	192	424	37,037	
35 - 39	44,790	-	-	97	181	349	44,163	
40 - 44	79,712	-	-	102	166	428	79,016	
45 - 49	125,424	-	-	89	157	621	124,557	
50 - 54	158,085	-	-	81	111	717	157,176	
55 - 59	177,281	-	-	42	10	571	176,658	
60 - 64	199,663	-	-	26	-	595	199,042	
65 - 69	183,472	-	-	2	-	499	182,971	
70 - 74	158,864	-	-	-	-	74	158,790	
75 - 79	140,525	-	-	-	-	-	140,525	
80 or More	166,454	-	-	-	-	-	166,454	

The Economic activities of physically or mentally impaired persons

As shown in table 8.4 the number of impaired persons 15 or more years of age is 1,558,852. Of these 453,091 persons (or 29.1 percent) are engaged in some form of economic activity while 1,105,761 persons (or 70.9 percent) are not engaged in any economic activity. Of the 453,091 persons engaged in economic activity 442,138 persons are formerly employed while 10,953 or the remaining persons are formerly unemployed but engaged in some economic activity representing only 2.4 percent of the economically engaged impaired persons.

Of the impaired population that is not engaged in any economic activity 408,253 persons are engaged in household work while 530,306 persons are not in a position to be engaged in any work due to old age. These two categories represent 36.9 percent and 48 percent respectively of the economically not engaged impaired population.

Table 8.4: Economic activities of physically or mentally impaired persons, 2012

Economic Activity	No.	%
Impaired persons aged 15 Years & above	1,558,852	100.0
Number economically active	453,091	29.1
Number not engaged in Economic activity	1,105,761	70.9
Economically Active		
Total No.	453,091	100.0
Employed	442,138	97.6
Unemployed	10,953	2.4
Economically non- active		
Total No.	1,105,761	100.0
Students	22,018	2.0
Household Chores	408,253	36.9
Income receivers	10,850	1.0
Pensioners	78,333	7.1
Unable to Work/ Old	530,306	48.0
Community Service	4,376	0.4
Children non- schooling	3,683	0.3
Other Non- economic Activities	47,942	4.3

Distribution of population according to Ethnicity and Religion

9.0

Distribution of population according to Ethnicity and Religion

Ethnicity

The population of Sri Lanka is comprised mainly of the Sinhalese population with a few other ethnicities. In the Census of Population and Housing 2012 the population of Sri Lanka has been reported under 8 ethnicities. Namely those are the Sinhalese, Sri Lankan Tamil, Indian Tamil, Sri Lanka Moor, Burger, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetti and Bharatha. The ethnicities that do not fall under any of these 8 categories have been classed as 'Others'. Further in cases where the ethnicity of a person has been of mixed origin, the ethnicities of such persons have been determined on the ethnicity of the father.

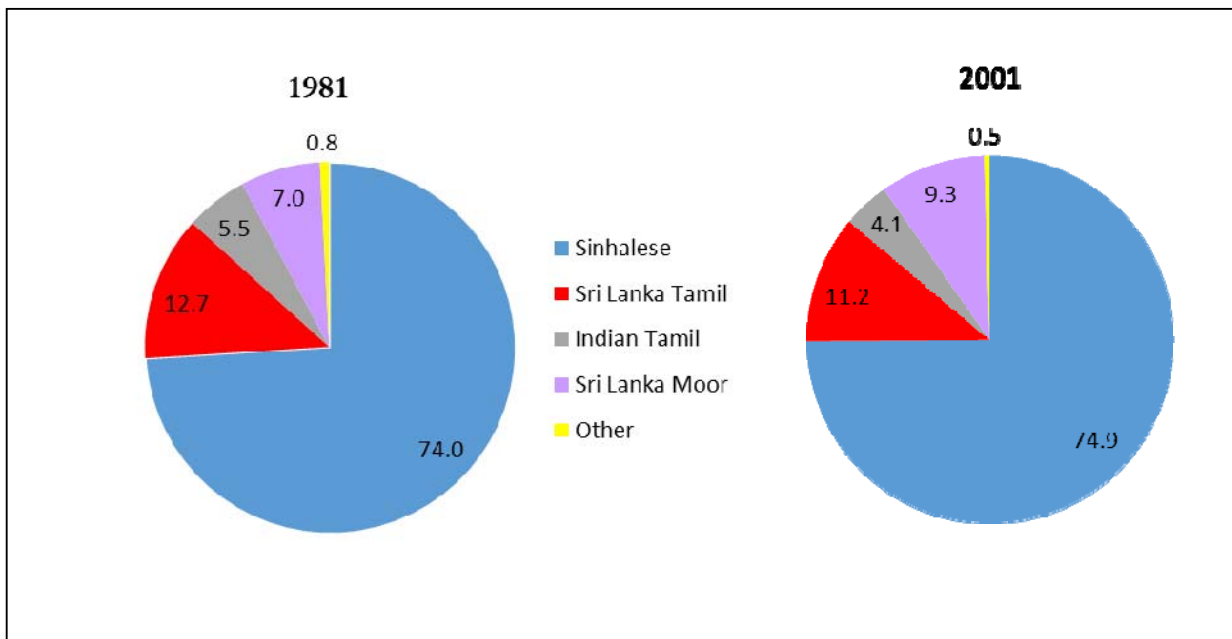
In all the censuses held in the country since 1871, information had been collected on the ethnicity of the population. However, the terminology used had been different at times and hence in the census from 1871 to 1901 the word 'nationality' had been used while in the 1911 census the word 'ethnicity' had replaced nationality. In the census records up to 1891 the population had been recorded under 8 categories. Those categories are Sinhalese, Tamil, Moor, Burger, Eurasian, Malay and European and other. In the census conducted from 1901 to 1971 the Sinhalese population had been bisected to 'Low country Sinhalese' and 'Up country Sinhalese'. However in the census held since then this division has been removed and the Sinhalese had been reported as one ethnicity. Similarly the moor community too had been bisected in to 'Sri Lanka Muslims' and 'Indian Muslims'. In the 2012 population and housing census the 'Sri Lanka Muslims' has been re-classified as 'Sri Lanka Moor'. Due to the steady decrease in the European and aboriginal populations over the years, those categories, though reported as separate ethnicities up to 1963, have been classed under 'Others' since then.

Table 9.1 and diagram 9.1 gives the diffusion of the total Sri Lankan population according to ethnicities as per the data collected at the Population and Housing Census 2012.

Table 9.1: Distribution of the total Sri Lankan population by ethnicity, 2012

Ethnicity	No.	%
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0
Sinhalese	15,250,081	74.9
Sri Lanka Tamil	2,269,266	11.2
Indian Tamil	839,504	4.1
Sri Lanka Moor	1,892,638	9.3
Burgher	38,293	0.2
Malay	44,130	0.2
Sri Lanka Chetty	5,595	0.0
Bharatha	1,717	0.0
Other	18,215	0.1

Diagram 9.1: Percentage distribution of the Sri Lankan population by ethnicity, 1981 and 2001



In diagram 9.1 above, 5 ethnicities, Burger, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Other, have been classed under 'Others'. According to the revelation of the 2012 population and housing census 3/4th of the Sri Lankan population is Sinhalese while Sri Lanka Tamils represent only 11.2 percent of the population. Sri Lanka moor is the 3rd highest population in Sri Lanka and they represent 9.3 percent of the total population.

Table 9.2 shows how the Sri Lankan population has evolved from 1911 to 2012 with changes in the numerical strength of different ethnicities.

Table 9.2: Number of Sri Lankan population (in 1000's) by ethnicity, 1911 - 2012

Ethnicity	Year									
	1911	1921 ⁽⁴⁾	1931 ⁽⁵⁾	1946	1953	1963	19471	1981	2001 ⁽³⁾	2012
Sri Lanka	4,106.40	4,498.60	5,306.00	6,657.30	8,097.90	10,582.00	12,689.90	14,846.80	16,929.70	20,359.40
Low-Country Sinhalese	1,716.90	1,927.10	2,216.20	2,902.50	3,469.50	4,470.30	5,425.80	10,974.4 ⁽²⁾	13,876.2 ⁽²⁾	15,250.1 ⁽²⁾
Up-Country Sinhalese	998.6	1,089.10	1,256.80	1,718.00	2,147.20	3,042.60	3,705.50			
Sri Lanka Tamil	528	517.3	598.9	733.7	884.7	1,164.70	1,424.00	1,886.90	732.1	2,269.10
Indian Tamil	531	602.7	818.5	780.6	974.1	1,123.00	1,174.90	818.7	855	839.5
Sri Lanka Muslim	233.9	251.9	289.6	373.6	464	626.8	828.3	1,046.90	1,339.30	1,892.60
Indian Muslim	32.7	33	36.3	35.6	47.5	55.4	27.4	(1)	(1)	(1)
European Burgher & Eurasian	7.6	8.1	9.2	5.4	6.5	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Malay	26.7	29.4	32.3	41.9	46	45.9	45.4	39.4	35.3	38.2
Malay	13	13.4	16	22.5	25.4	33.4	43.5	47	54.8	44.1
Sri Lanka Chetty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.8	5.6
Bharatha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.2	1.7
Veddhas	5.3	4.5	5.2	2.4	0.8	0.4	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other	12.7	22	27.4	41.1	32.2	19.5	15.5	28.4	23.9	18.2

Source: Statistical Abstract 2013

Note: Information relating only to 2012 have been presented as per Census of population & Housing, 2012

(1) Included under 'Other'

(2) Low country Sinhalese and Up-country Sinhalese have been amalgamated

(3) Data have been provided only for the 18 districts in which complete census were held in 2001.

(4) Presented in proportion to the population census of 1921

(5) 442 persons with unspecified sex and ethnicity have been included in the incomplete census of 1931

According to the above table there has been a steady growth over the years in the Sinhalese and Sri Lanka Tamil populations. The Indian Tamil population has also increased at a steady rate up to 1971 and thereafter there had been a decline. The Sri Lanka moor community has recorded a phenomenal growth over these years from 1911 to 2012 but the Indian Muslim community has recorded a moderate growth till 1963 after which it had declined steadily to be classified under 'Others' since 1981. The 'European' community too had been classified under 'Others' due to its traditionally low

numbers. The Burger and Eurasian population has increased moderately till 1953 and has declined thereafter only to record a slight increase in the past decade but yet remains low. The Malay population has steadily increased till 2001 but has declined during the last decade. The Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha communities had not been counted as a separate community till 2001 and they both record a decline during the period of 2001 to 2012. The aboriginal community has recorded a decline in their numbers over the years becoming insignificant eventually to be classified under 'Others' from 1971.

Diffusion of the population by the provinces

According to the table 9.3 below, in all provinces except the Northern Province and the Eastern province the Sinhalese community is in the majority while the other ethnicities too have been adequately represented indicating a multi ethnic character. In the Northern and Eastern provinces the Sri Lanka Tamils are in the majority. In the Eastern province however the percentage differences in populations between Sri Lanka Tamil, Sri Lanka moor and the Sinhalese communities are marginal.

Table 9.3: Distribution of ethnicity by provinces (in percentages), 2012

Province	Ethnicity %								
	Sinhalese	Sri Lanka Tamil	Indian Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Burgher	Malay	Sri Lanka Chetty	Bharatha	Other
Western	84.2	5.8	1.0	7.9	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2
Central	66.0	4.9	18.9	9.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Southern	95.0	1.0	0.7	2.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern	3.0	93.1	0.7	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eastern	23.2	39.2	0.3	36.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
North-Western	85.7	2.8	0.2	11.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
North-Central	90.9	0.9	0.1	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Uva	80.8	2.4	12.3	4.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Sabaragamuwa	86.4	3.7	5.5	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Census of Population and housing, 2012

The fluctuations in the ethnic populations at district level between 1981 and 2012 could be observed in comparative terms from table 9.4 and table 9.5 below,

Table 9.4: Distribution of population by ethnicity and districts, 1981

District	Total	Ethnicity						
		Sinhalese	Sri Lanka Tamil	Indian Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Burger	Malay	Other
Sri Lanka	14,846,750	10,979,568	1,886,864	818,656	1,046,927	39,374	46,963	28,398
Colombo	1,699,241	1,318,835	170,590	19,824	139,743	19,688	22,233	8,328
Gampaha	1,390,862	1,279,512	48,182	5,919	37,826	8,423	8,675	2,325
Kalutara	829,704	723,483	9,744	33,659	61,159	431	762	466
Kandy	1,048,317	778,801	52,791	98,436	109,779	2,122	2,755	3,633
Matale	357,354	285,354	20,579	24,912	24,995	272	574	668
Nuwara-Eliya	603,577	254,375	76,449	257,478	12,163	696	1,136	1,280
Galle	814,531	769,343	7,271	11,056	25,678	288	186	709
Matara	643,786	608,516	4,683	13,875	16,122	205	79	306
Hambantota	424,344	412,055	2,500	284	4,899	82	4,445	79
Jaffna	830,552	6,659	790,385	19,980	12,958	383	72	115
Mannar	106,235	8,683	54,474	13,850	27,717	36	35	1,440
Vavuniya	95,428	15,794	54,179	18,714	6,505	25	34	177
Mullaitivu	77,189	3,992	58,209	11,215	3,651	95	19	8
Batticaloa	330,333	11,255	233,713	4,074	78,829	2,292	46	124
Ampara	388,970	146,943	77,826	1,411	161,568	697	168	357
Trincomalee	255,948	85,503	87,760	5,372	75,039	1,169	831	274
Kurunegala	1,211,801	1,125,912	14,920	6,616	60,791	562	1,259	1,741
Puttalam	492,533	407,067	32,282	2,289	49,000	440	954	501
Anuradhapura	587,929	535,834	8,026	719	41,777	228	338	1,007
Polonnaruwa	261,563	238,965	5,267	124	16,636	59	109	403
Badulla	640,952	443,024	37,520	129,498	26,600	613	1,419	2,278
Moneragala	273,570	253,572	5,346	8,859	5,312	70	193	218
Ratnapura	797,087	677,510	19,094	84,740	13,791	342	412	1,198
Kegalle	684,944	588,581	15,074	45,752	34,389	156	229	763

Source: Statistical Abstract, 2013

Table 9.5: Distribution of population by ethnicity and districts, 2012

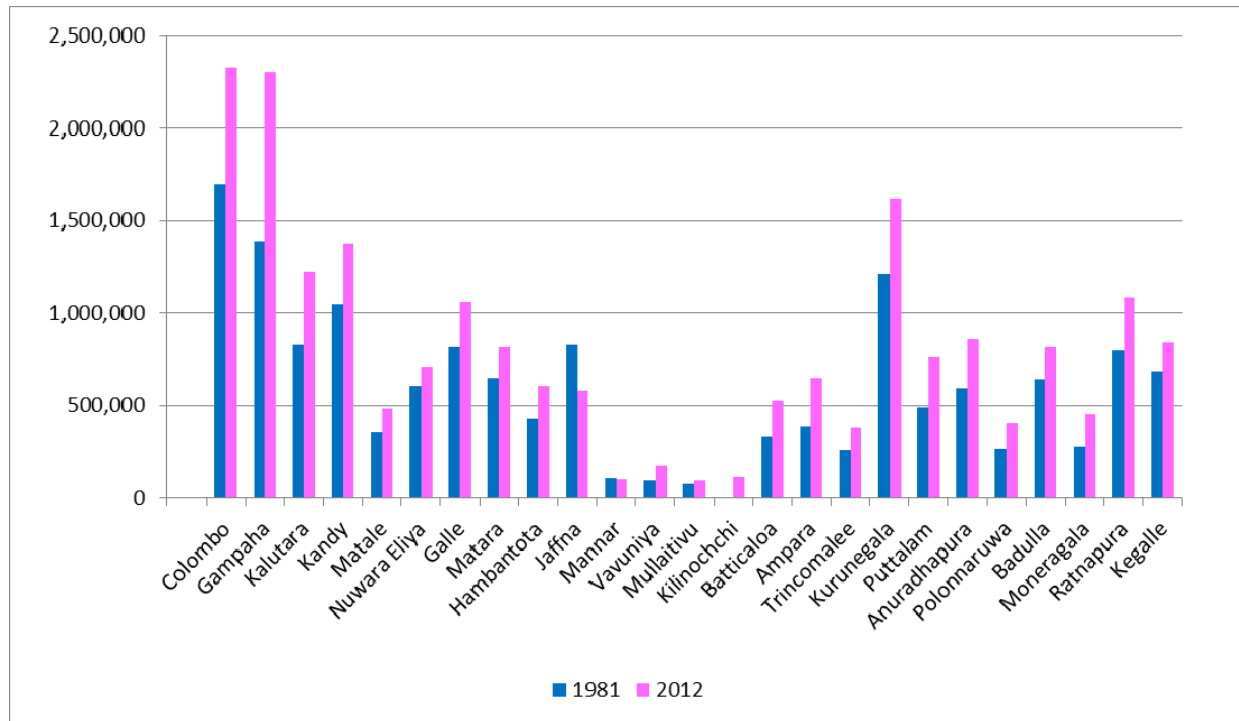
District	2012									
	Total	Sinhalese	Sri Lanka Tamil	Indian Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Burgher	Malay	Sri Lanka Chetty	Bharatha	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	15,250,081	2,269,266	839,504	1,892,638	38,293	44,130	5,595	1,717	18,215
Colombo	2,324,349	1,778,971	235,090	24,289	249,609	13,306	14,444	915	690	7,035
Gampaha	2,304,833	2,086,469	81,245	9,137	97,621	10,784	12,720	3,861	568	2,428
Kalutara	1,221,948	1,060,107	23,035	23,217	113,320	1,188	689	36	43	313
Kandy	1,375,382	1,023,488	69,210	85,111	191,570	2,384	2,444	91	33	1,051
Matale	484,531	391,305	24,279	23,238	44,786	386	392	22	11	112
Nuwara-Eliya	711,644	282,053	32,563	377,637	17,652	761	543	75	11	349
Galle	1,063,334	1,003,722	13,953	6,146	38,790	256	106	12	8	341
Matara	814,048	767,580	8,772	12,127	25,254	131	58	6	11	109
Hambantota	599,903	582,301	2,105	120	6,629	146	8,164	17	3	418
Jaffna	583,882	2,284	577,338	1,807	2,162	126	23	23	22	97
Mannar	99,570	2,305	80,103	692	16,436	12	11	1	-	10
Vavuniya	172,115	17,138	141,144	1,979	11,748	58	8	-	-	40
Mullaitivu	92,238	8,927	79,107	2,281	1,821	49	11	-	1	41
Kilinochchi	113,510	1,331	110,494	1,030	629	1	2	-	-	23
Batticaloa	526,567	6,797	380,930	2,078	133,854	2,814	28	7	-	59
Ampara	649,402	252,458	112,457	846	281,702	1,036	187	5	-	711
Trincomalee	379,541	101,483	116,646	1,227	158,771	966	356	16	4	72
Kurunegala	1,618,465	1,479,863	18,041	2,594	115,302	663	1,220	119	40	623
Puttalam	762,396	560,838	48,341	1,953	147,546	1,152	631	200	201	1,534
Anuradhapura	860,575	782,808	4,728	477	70,692	246	161	21	34	1,408
Polonnaruwa	406,088	368,197	7,301	161	30,177	88	46	3	5	110
Badulla	815,405	595,372	21,880	150,484	44,716	992	1,351	66	16	528
Moneragala	451,058	428,104	8,206	5,001	9,508	116	63	15	-	45
Ratnapura	1,088,007	947,811	54,437	62,124	22,346	405	288	35	12	549
Kegalle	840,648	718,369	17,861	43,748	59,997	227	184	49	4	209

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2012

The Total Population

According to the diagram 9.2 below the total population of Sri Lanka in 2012, as against the population in 1981, has shown an increase in all the districts except in the districts of Jaffna and Mannar. During this period between 1981- 2012 Jaffna district has recorded the highest numerical decrease in its population with the decrease being an extraordinary 246,670 persons. During this period the highest population increase for a district in the country, in relation to 1981, has been recorded from the Gampaha district with the increase being 913,971 persons. In the Western Province the highest population concentration has been recorded during the period from 1981 to 2012, province wise.

Diagram 9.2: Total population by district, 1981 and 2012



*Kilinochchi district was not demarcated in 1981

Sinhalese population

During the period from 1981 to 2012 the Sinhalese population has shown a steady increase in all the districts except in the districts of Jaffna, Batticaloa and Mannar. Similarly the highest increase in the Sinhalese population could be observed in the Gampaha district with an increase of 806,957 persons than 1981. By the year 2012, the Sinhalese population in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha,

Kalutara, Kandy, Galle and Kurunegala alone have risen to 1 million persons. However, it is observable that there is a concentration of Sinhalese population in the Western province.

Table 9.6: Distribution of the Sinhalese population by district, 1981 and 2012

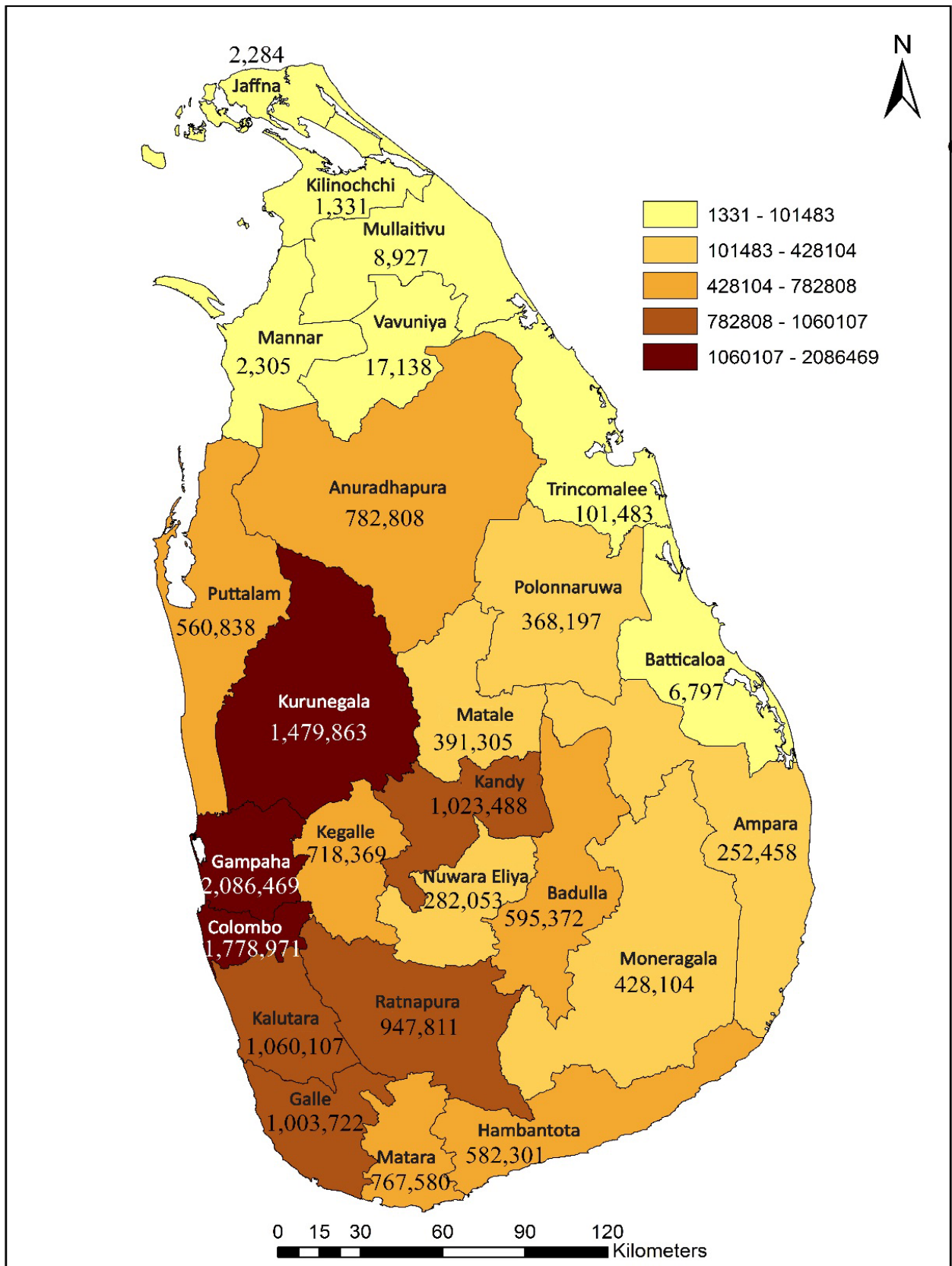
District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	10,979,568	100.0	15,250,081	100.0
Colombo	1,318,835	12.0	1,778,971	11.7
Gampaha	1,279,512	11.7	2,086,469	13.7
Kalutara	723,483	6.6	1,060,107	7.0
Kandy	778,801	7.1	1,023,488	6.7
Matale	285,354	2.6	391,305	2.6
Nuwara-Eliya	254,375	2.3	282,053	1.8
Galle	769,343	7.0	1,003,722	6.6
Matara	608,516	5.5	767,580	5.0
Hambantota	412,055	3.8	582,301	3.8
Jaffna	6,659	0.1	2,284	0.0
Mannar	8,683	0.1	2,305	0.0
Vavuniya	15,794	0.1	17,138	0.1
Mullaitivu	3,992	0.0	8,927	0.1
Kilinochchi	*	*	1,331	0.0
Batticaloa	11,255	0.1	6,797	0.0
Ampara	146,943	1.3	252,458	1.7
Trincomalee	85,503	0.8	101,483	0.7
Kurunegala	1,125,912	10.3	1,479,863	9.7
Puttalam	407,067	3.7	560,838	3.7
Anuradhapura	535,834	4.9	782,808	5.1
Polonnaruwa	238,965	2.2	368,197	2.4
Badulla	443,024	4.0	595,372	3.9
Moneragala	253,572	2.3	428,104	2.8
Ratnapura	677,510	6.2	947,811	6.2
Kegalle	588,581	5.4	718,369	4.7

* Kilinochchi district was not demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data- Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population & Housing, 2012

Diagram 9.3: Distribution of the Sinhalese population by district, 2012



Sri Lanka Tamil Population

According to table 9.7 the majority of the Tamil population is concentrated in the Northern Province. However according to the census information of 2012 and as against the 1981 population, the highest increase in the Tamil population between 1981 and 2012 is recorded in the district of Batticaloa at 147,217 persons. Further during this period between 1981 and 2012 an increase in the Sri Lanka Tamil population is observable in all the districts other than in the districts of Jaffna, Nuwara-Eliya, Hambantota, Badulla and Anuradhapura. The decrease in the Tamil population during this period has happened primarily around Jaffna district and that was a decrease of 213,047 persons. The reason for this high decrease is due to the inability of the population to get about with their daily chores because of the bad situation experienced during the 3 decades.

Table 9.7: Distribution of the Sri Lanka Tamil population by district, 1981 and 2012

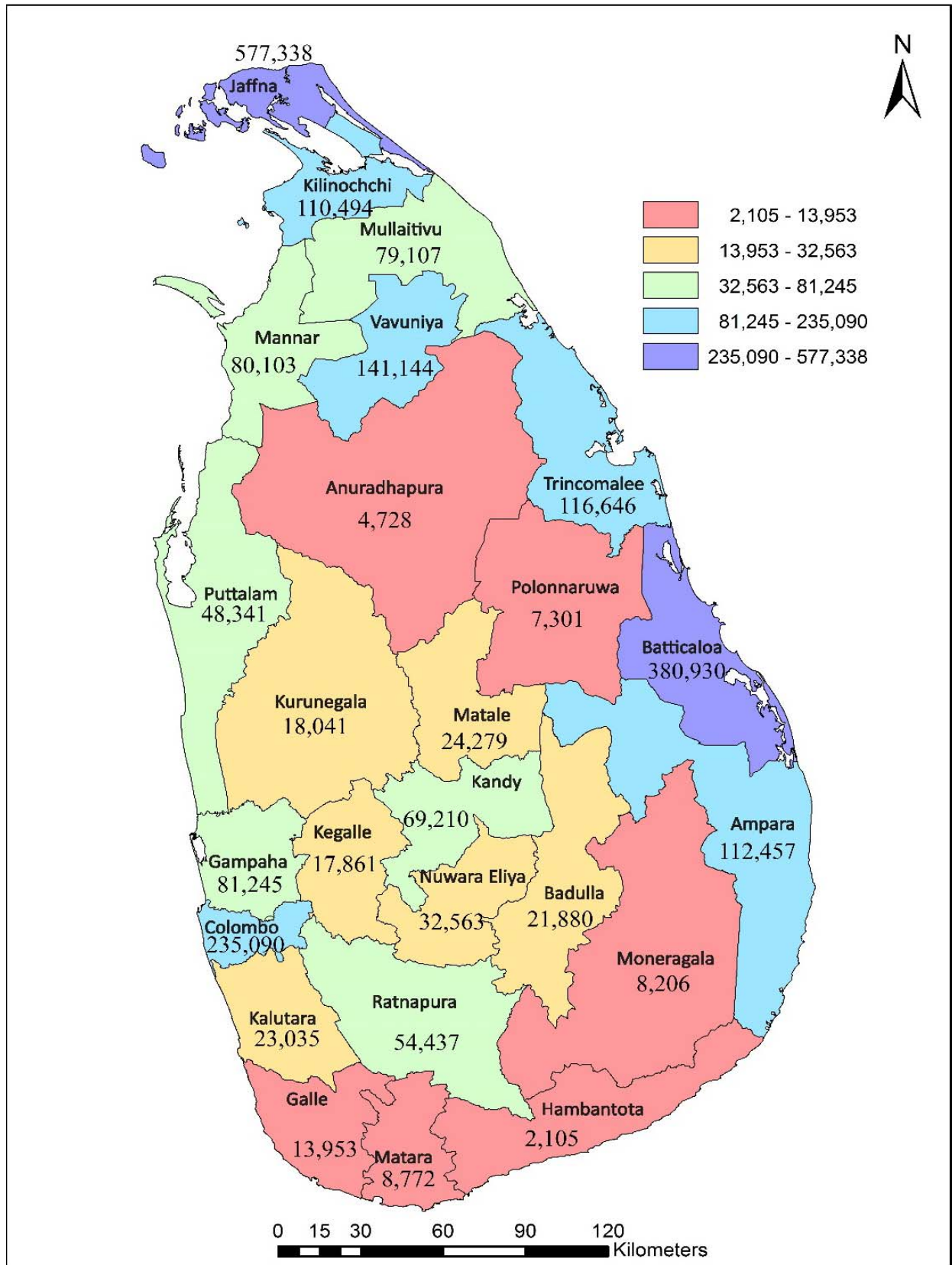
District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	1,886,864	100.0	2,269,266	100.0
Colombo	170,590	9.0	235,090	10.4
Gampaha	48,182	2.6	81,245	3.6
Kalutara	9,744	0.5	23,035	1.0
Kandy	52,791	2.8	69,210	3.0
Matale	20,579	1.1	24,279	1.1
Nuwara-Eliya	76,449	4.1	32,563	1.4
Galle	7,271	0.4	13,953	0.6
Matara	4,683	0.2	8,772	0.4
Hambantota	2,500	0.1	2,105	0.1
Jaffna	790,385	41.9	577,338	25.4
Mannar	54,474	2.9	80,103	3.5
Vavuniya	54,179	2.9	141,144	6.2
Mullaitivu	58,209	3.1	79,107	3.5
Kilinochchi	*	*	110,494	4.9
Batticaloa	233,713	12.4	380,930	16.8
Ampara	77,826	4.1	112,457	5.0
Trincomalee	87,760	4.7	116,646	5.1
Kurunegala	14,920	0.8	18,041	0.8
Puttalam	32,282	1.7	48,341	2.1
Anuradhapura	8,026	0.4	4,728	0.2
Polonnaruwa	5,267	0.3	7,301	0.3
Badulla	37,520	2.0	21,880	1.0
Moneragala	5,346	0.3	8,206	0.4
Ratnapura	19,094	1.0	54,437	2.4
Kegalle	15,074	0.8	17,861	0.8

* Kilinochchi district had not been demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data-Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

Diagram 9.4: Distribution of the Sri Lanka Tamil population by district, 2012



Indian Tamil population

According to table 9.8 the concentration of the Indian Tamil population is in the district of Nuwara-Eliya which is predominantly a plantation district. Even in other districts the presence of Indian Tamil population is found in the districts where there is plantation activity. Compared to 1981 the decrease in the Indian Tamil population has taken place only in the district of Ratnapura and that is by 22,616 persons. Similarly the highest increase of the Indian Tamil population during this same period has taken place in the Nuwara-Eliya district and that is by 120,159 persons.

Table 9.8: Distribution of the Indian Tamil population by district, 1981 and 2012

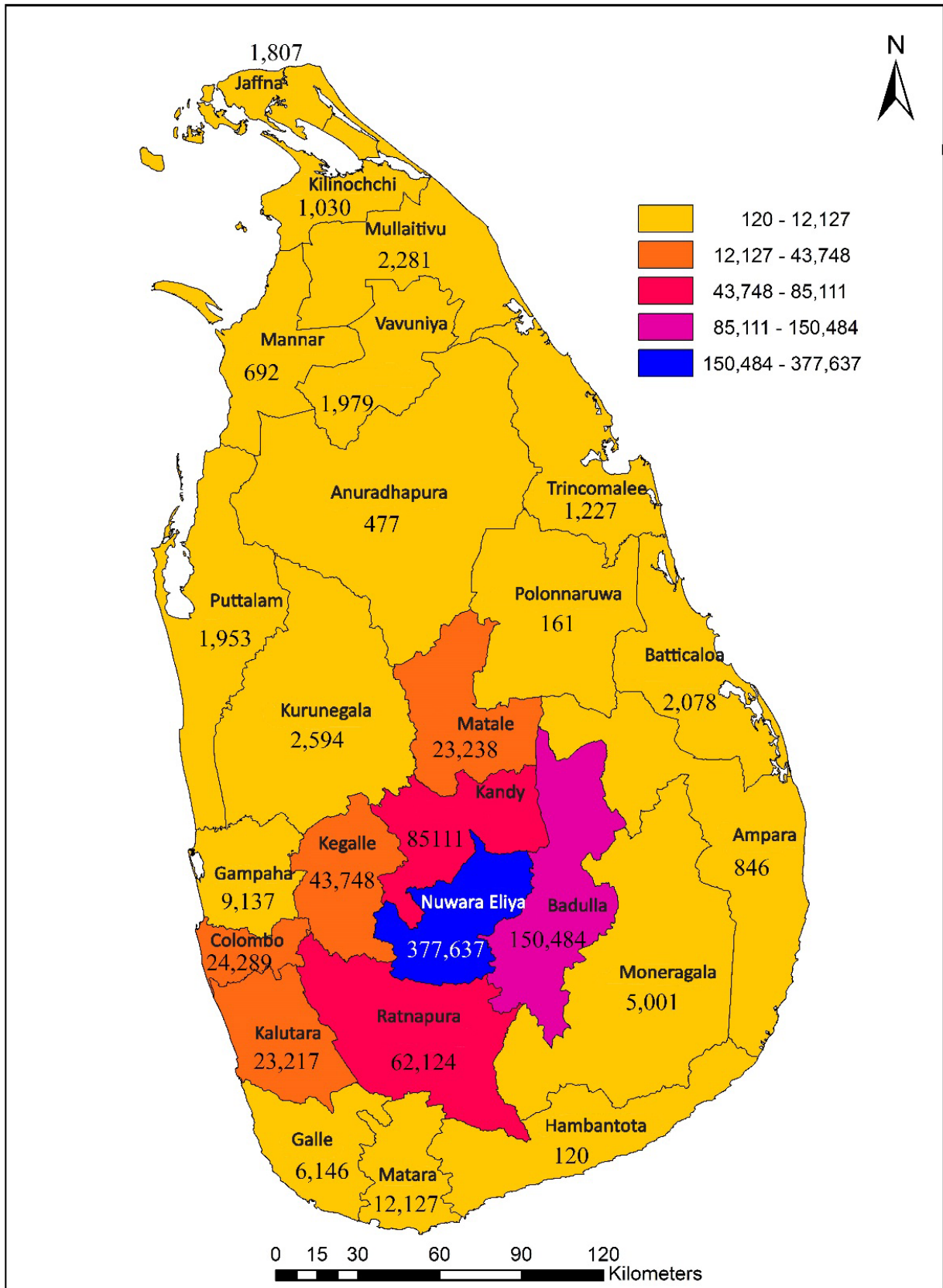
District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	818,656	100.0	839,504	100.0
Colombo	19,824	2.4	24,289	2.9
Gampaha	5,919	0.7	9,137	1.1
Kalutara	33,659	4.1	23,217	2.8
Kandy	98,436	12.0	85,111	10.1
Matale	24,912	3.0	23,238	2.8
Nuwara-Eliya	257,478	31.5	377,637	45.0
Galle	11,056	1.4	6,146	0.7
Matara	13,875	1.7	12,127	1.4
Hambantota	284	0.0	120	0.0
Jaffna	19,980	2.4	1,807	0.2
Mannar	13,850	1.7	692	0.1
Vavuniya	18,714	2.3	1,979	0.2
Mullaitivu	11,215	1.4	2,281	0.3
Kilinochchi	*	*	1,030	0.1
Batticaloa	4,074	0.5	2,078	0.2
Ampara	1,411	0.2	846	0.1
Trincomalee	5,372	0.7	1,227	0.1
Kurunegala	6,616	0.8	2,594	0.3
Puttalam	2,289	0.3	1,953	0.2
Anuradhapura	719	0.1	477	0.1
Polonnaruwa	124	0.0	161	0.0
Badulla	129,498	15.8	150,484	17.9
Moneragala	8,859	1.1	5,001	0.6
Ratnapura	84,740	10.4	62,124	7.4
Kegalle	45,752	5.6	43,748	5.2

* Kilinochchi district was not demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data- Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

Diagram 9.5: Distribution of the Indian Tamil population by district, 2012



Sri Lanka Moor population

According to table 9.9 the Sri Lanka Moor community has shown an increase in its population in 2012 in relation to 1981 in all the districts except the districts of Jaffna, Mannar and Mullaitivu. The highest numerical decrease in the Moor population has happened during this period in the district of Mannar and that is by 11,281 persons. Similarly the highest increase in the Moor population has taken place in the district of Ampara and that is by 120,134 persons. By the year 2012 the highest concentration of the Moor population, i.e. more than 150,000 persons each, has been in the districts of Colombo, Kandy, Trincomalee and Ampara.

Table 9.9: Distribution of the Sri Lanka Moor population by district, 1981 and 2012

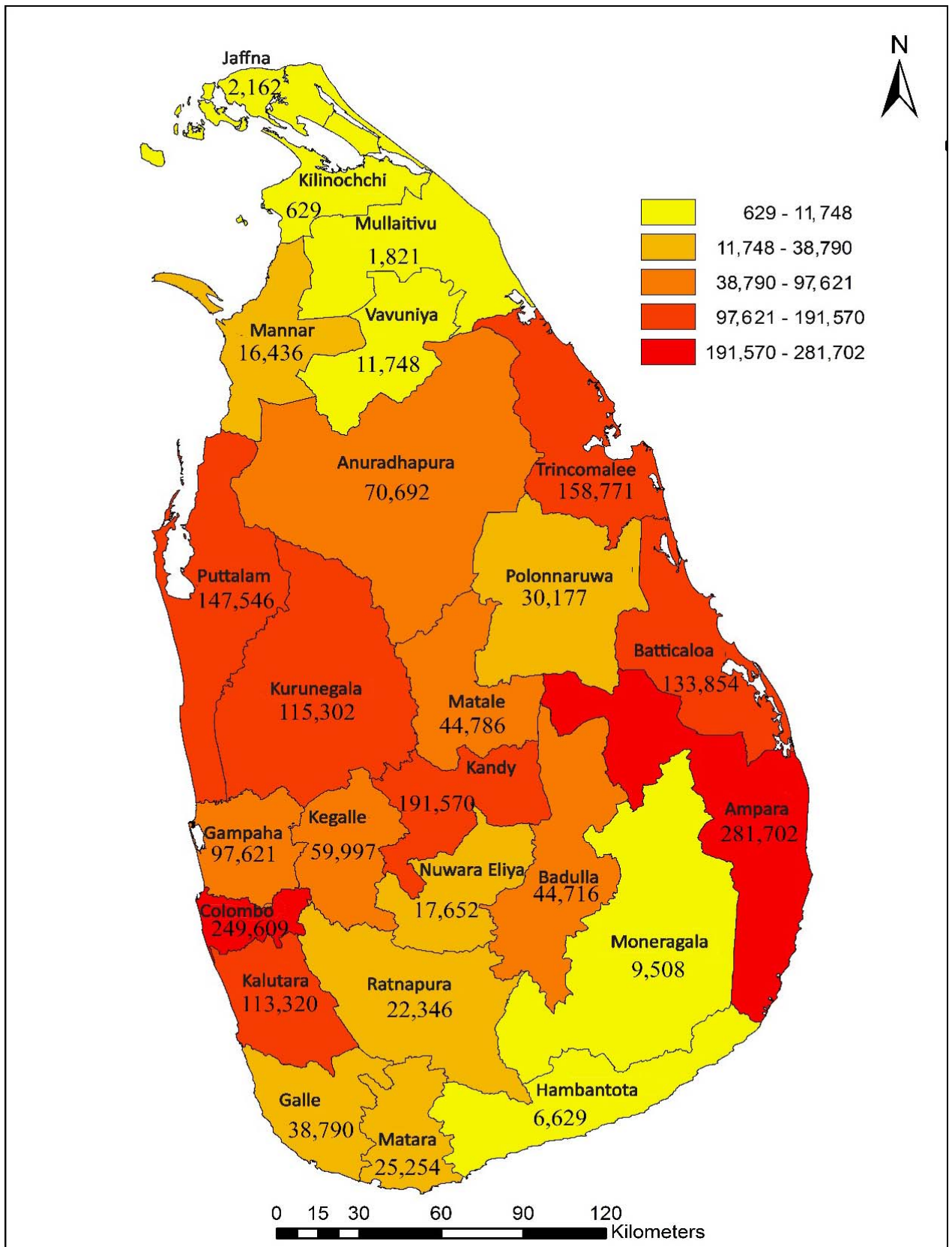
District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	1,046,927	100.0	1,892,638	100.0
Colombo	139,743	13.3	249,609	13.2
Gampaha	37,826	3.6	97,621	5.2
Kalutara	61,159	5.8	113,320	6.0
Kandy	109,779	10.5	191,570	10.1
Matale	24,995	2.4	44,786	2.4
Nuwara-Eliya	12,163	1.2	17,652	0.9
Galle	25,678	2.5	38,790	2.0
Matara	16,122	1.5	25,254	1.3
Hambantota	4,899	0.5	6,629	0.4
Jaffna	12,958	1.2	2,162	0.1
Mannar	27,717	2.6	16,436	0.9
Vavuniya	6,505	0.6	11,748	0.6
Mullaitivu	3,651	0.3	1,821	0.1
Kilinochchi	*	*	629	0.0
Batticaloa	78,829	7.5	133,854	7.1
Ampara	161,568	15.4	281,702	14.9
Trincomalee	75,039	7.2	158,771	8.4
Kurunegala	60,791	5.8	115,302	6.1
Puttalam	49,000	4.7	147,546	7.8
Anuradhapura	41,777	4.0	70,692	3.7
Polonnaruwa	16,636	1.6	30,177	1.6
Badulla	26,600	2.5	44,716	2.4
Moneragala	5,312	0.5	9,508	0.5
Ratnapura	13,791	1.3	22,346	1.2
Kegalle	34,389	3.3	59,997	3.2

* Kilinochchi district was not demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data- Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

Diagram 9.6: Distribution of the Sri Lanka Moor population by district, 2012



Burger population

According to table 9.10 the Burger community has shown an overall decrease in its population in 2012 in relation to 1981 but has increased in numbers in all the districts except in the districts of Colombo, Galle, Matara, Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Trincomalee. The highest numerical decrease in the Burger population has happened during this period in the district of Colombo and that is by 6,382 persons. Similarly the highest increase in the Burger population has taken place in the district of Gampaha and that is by 2,361 persons.

Table 9.10: Distribution of the Burger population by district, 1981 and 2012

District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	39,374	100.0	38,293	100.0
Colombo	19,688	50.0	13,306	34.7
Gampaha	8,423	21.4	10,784	28.2
Kalutara	431	1.1	1,188	3.1
Kandy	2,122	5.4	2,384	6.2
Matale	272	0.7	386	1.0
Nuwara-Eliya	696	1.8	761	2.0
Galle	288	0.7	256	0.7
Matara	205	0.5	131	0.3
Hambantota	82	0.2	146	0.4
Jaffna	383	1.0	126	0.3
Mannar	36	0.1	12	0.0
Vavuniya	25	0.1	58	0.2
Mullaitivu	95	0.2	49	0.1
Kilinochchi	*	*	1	0.0
Batticaloa	2,292	5.8	2,814	7.3
Ampara	697	1.8	1,036	2.7
Trincomalee	1,169	3.0	966	2.5
Kurunegala	562	1.4	663	1.7
Puttalam	440	1.1	1,152	3.0
Anuradhapura	228	0.6	246	0.6
Polonnaruwa	59	0.1	88	0.2
Badulla	613	1.6	992	2.6
Moneragala	70	0.2	116	0.3
Ratnapura	342	0.9	405	1.1
Kegalle	156	0.4	227	0.6

* Kilinochchi district had not been demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data- Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

Malay population

According to table 9.11 the Malay community has shown an overall decrease in its population in 2012 in relation to 1981 and also in majority of the districts in the country. The numerical increase in Malay population has happened during this period only in the districts of Gampaha, Hambantota and Ampara.

Table 9.11: Distribution of the Malay population by district, 1981 and 2012

District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	46,963	100.0	44,130	100.0
Colombo	22,233	47.3	14,444	32.7
Gampaha	8,675	18.5	12,720	28.8
Kalutara	762	1.6	689	1.6
Kandy	2,755	5.9	2,444	5.5
Matale	574	1.2	392	0.9
Nuwara-Eliya	1,136	2.4	543	1.2
Galle	186	0.4	106	0.2
Matara	79	0.2	58	0.1
Hambantota	4,445	9.5	8,164	18.5
Jaffna	72	0.2	23	0.1
Mannar	35	0.1	11	0.0
Vavuniya	34	0.1	8	0.0
Mullaitivu	19	0.0	11	0.0
Kilinochchi	*	*	2	0.0
Batticaloa	46	0.1	28	0.1
Ampara	168	0.4	187	0.4
Trincomalee	831	1.8	356	0.8
Kurunegala	1,259	2.7	1,220	2.8
Puttalam	954	2.0	631	1.4
Anuradhapura	338	0.7	161	0.4
Polonnaruwa	109	0.2	46	0.1
Badulla	1,419	3.0	1,351	3.1
Moneragala	193	0.4	63	0.1
Ratnapura	412	0.9	288	0.7
Kegalle	229	0.5	184	0.4

* Kilinochchi district was not demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data- Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

Sri Lanka Chetty population

According to table 9.12 the majority of the Sri Lanka Chetty population is concentrated around the district of Gampaha. Before the census of 2001 the Sri Lanka Chetty community had not been accounted for separately and hence no comparative figures are available.

Table 9.12: Distribution of the Sri Lanka Chetty population by district, 2012

District	2012	
	No.	%
Total	5,595	100.0
Colombo	915	16.4
Gampaha	3,861	69.0
Kalutara	36	0.6
Kandy	91	1.6
Matale	22	0.4
Nuwara-Eliya	75	1.3
Galle	12	0.2
Matara	6	0.1
Hambantota	17	0.3
Jaffna	23	0.4
Mannar	1	0.0
Vavuniya	-	-
Mullaitivu	-	-
Kilinochchi	-	-
Batticaloa	7	0.1
Ampara	5	0.1
Trincomalee	16	0.3
Kurunegala	119	2.1
Puttalam	200	3.6
Anuradhapura	21	0.4
Polonnaruwa	3	0.1
Badulla	66	1.2
Moneragala	15	0.3
Ratnapura	35	0.6
Kegalle	49	0.9

Source: 2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

Bharatha

According to table 9.13 the total Bharatha population in the country does not exceed 2000 persons and the majority of them live in the western province. Before the census of 2001 the Indian community had not been accounted for separately.

Table 9.13: Distribution of the Indian population by district, 2012

District	2012	
	No.	%
Total	1,717	100.0
Colombo	690	40.2
Gampaha	568	33.1
Kalutara	43	2.5
Kandy	33	1.9
Matale	11	0.6
Nuwara-Eliya	11	0.6
Galle	8	0.5
Matara	11	0.6
Hambantota	3	0.2
Jaffna	22	1.3
Mannar	-	-
Vavuniya	-	-
Mullaitivu	1	0.1
Kilinochchi	-	-
Batticaloa	-	-
Ampara	-	-
Trincomalee	4	0.2
Kurunegala	40	2.3
Puttalam	201	11.7
Anuradhapura	34	2.0
Polonnaruwa	5	0.3
Badulla	16	0.9
Moneragala	-	-
Ratnapura	12	0.7
Kegalle	4	0.2

Source: 2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

‘Other’ population

According to table 9.14 the ‘other’ population in the country lives in all the districts of the country in more or less proportions. In the year 2012 the other communities have been reported more from the Gampaha district.

Table 9.14: Distribution of the ‘Other’ population by district, 1981 and 2012

District	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	29,398	100.0	18,215	100.0
Colombo	8,328	29.3	7,035	38.6
Gampaha	2,325	8.2	2,428	13.3
Kalutara	466	1.6	313	1.7
Kandy	3,633	12.8	1,051	5.8
Matale	668	2.4	112	0.6
Nuwara-Eliya	1,280	4.5	349	1.9
Galle	709	2.5	341	1.9
Matara	306	1.1	109	0.6
Hambantota	79	0.3	418	2.3
Jaffna	115	0.4	97	0.5
Mannar	1,440	5.1	10	0.1
Vavuniya	177	0.6	40	0.2
Mullaitivu	8	0.0	41	0.2
Kilinochchi	*	*	23	0.1
Batticaloa	124	0.4	59	0.3
Ampara	357	1.3	711	3.9
Trincomalee	274	1.0	72	0.4
Kurunegala	1,741	6.1	623	3.4
Puttalam	501	1.8	1,534	8.4
Anuradhapura	1,007	3.5	1,408	7.7
Polonnaruwa	403	1.4	110	0.6
Badulla	2,278	8.0	528	2.9
Moneragala	218	0.8	45	0.2
Ratnapura	1,198	4.2	549	3.0
Kegalle	763	2.7	209	1.1

* Kilinochchi district was not demarcated in 1981

Source: 1981 data- Statistical Abstract, 2013

2012 data- Census of Population and Housing, 2012

The variety in Sri Lankan populations by Religion

Data has been collected on the subject of religions in population since the commencement of census taking in the country from year 1871. In Sri Lanka, Buddhism is the main religion patronised by the majority Sinhalese from antiquity. In addition there are four other religions practiced by tangible numbers of persons in the population and those are Hinduism, Islam, Roman Catholic and Christianity. Apart from these there are also other religions patronised by small groups in the country and due to their numerical paucity they have all been classified as ‘other religions’ for census purposes. This position could be illustrated from the diagram 9.7 below.

Diagram 9.7: Distribution of Sri Lankan populations by religion, 2012

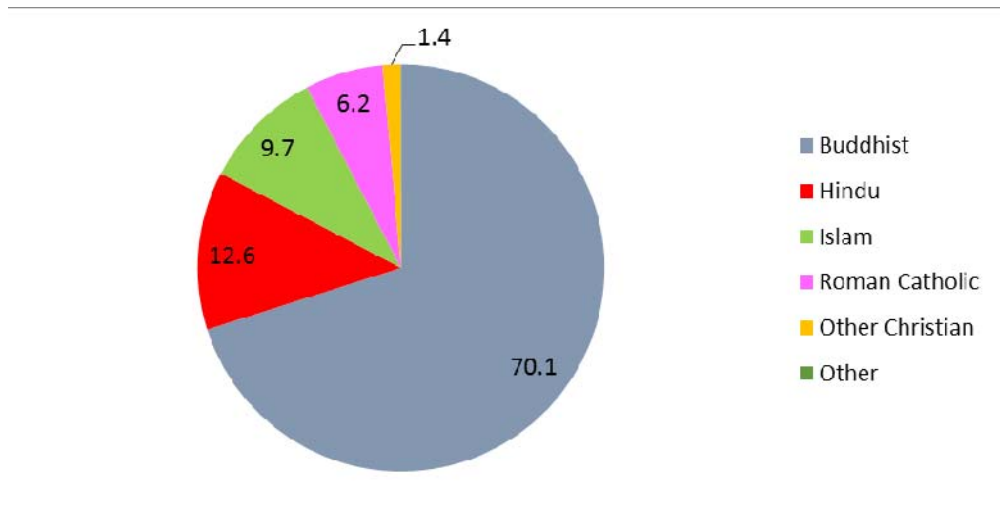
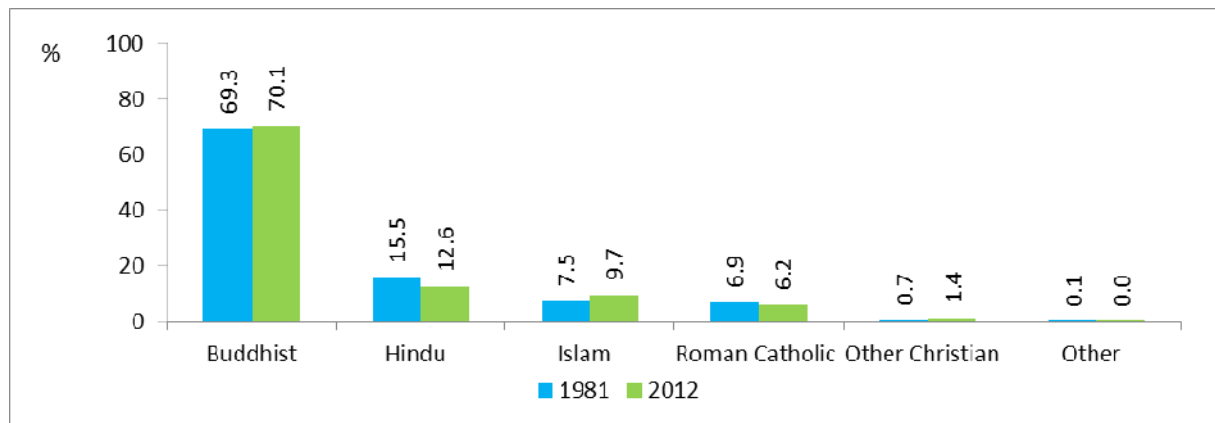


Diagram 9.8: Distribution of Sri Lankan population by religion, 1981 - 2012



Religious variety in Sri Lankan population by the Sector of residence

According to table 9.15 majority of persons of all the religions live in the rural sector of the country. The next highest number of persons of all the religions, except Hinduism, live in the urban sector of the country. The exceptional nature of the living of the followers of Hinduism is mainly due to the fact that Hinduism in Sri Lanka is the predominant religion of the estate population who live in the plantation districts of Nuwara–Eliya, Badulla etc. Apart from this oddity in Hinduism the general distribution in religion by the sector of living follows the general population distribution pattern where the rural, urban and estate sectors come in that order of their numerical proportions in the total population.

Table 9.15: Distribution of Sri Lankan population by religion and the sector of residence, 2012

Section	Religion					
	Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Christian	Other
Sri Lanka	14,272,056	2,561,299	1,967,523	1,261,194	290,967	6,400
Urban	2,007,401	480,480	697,200	410,206	106,361	2,822
Rural	12,163,955	1,366,785	1,261,106	801,356	156,688	3,432
Estate	100,700	714,034	9,217	49,632	27,918	146

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2012

According to the data collected at the Population and housing census conducted between 1981 and 2012, the religious distribution of population by districts could be given, numerically, as below. Thus, as per table 9.16, in the year 1981 the highest proportion of the Buddhist population has lived in the district of Colombo while the lowest proportion of Buddhists have lived in the district of Mullaitivu. The highest proportion of Hindus had been in the district of Jaffna while their lowest proportional representation had been in the district of Hambantota. The believers in Islam have had their highest proportional representation in the Colombo district while their lowest proportional representation had been in the Mullaitivu district. Roman Catholics have had their numbers concentrated in the district of Gampaha while in Hambantota their concentration had been the lowest. The Christian population have lived mostly in the district of Colombo while Hambantota had been the district with the lowest number of Christians.

Table 9.16: Distribution of population by religion and district, 1981

District	Religion						
	Total	Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Christian	Other
Sri Lanka	14,846,750	10,288,328	2,297,806	1,121,715	1,023,713	106,854	8,334
Colombo	1,699,241	1,196,964	130,215	168,863	159,947	40,598	2,654
Gampaha	1,390,862	989,212	26,750	48,117	313,352	12,563	868
Kalutara	829,704	699,613	37,035	62,659	27,697	2,424	276
Kandy	1,048,317	771,435	132,943	115,941	20,067	7,498	433
Matale	357,354	281,004	41,352	26,265	7,443	1,202	88
Nuwara-Eliya	603,577	251,247	303,571	14,902	28,382	5,312	163
Galle	814,531	767,661	15,086	26,301	3,586	1,452	445
Matara	643,786	608,714	15,356	16,670	2,026	818	202
Hambantota	424,344	411,919	2,174	9,408	542	174	127
Jaffna	830,552	5,104	705,705	14,844	95,613	9,153	133
Mannar	106,235	3,363	28,885	29,161	43,633	1,056	137
Vavuniya	95,428	15,754	65,574	6,740	6,493	845	22
Mullaitivu	77,189	1,060	60,117	3,789	11,735	476	12
Batticaloa	330,333	9,127	218,812	78,810	19,704	3,795	85
Ampara	388,970	145,687	72,809	162,140	5,643	2,387	304
Trincomalee	255,948	82,602	80,843	76,404	14,303	1,280	516
Kurunegala	1,211,801	1,092,128	15,133	64,112	36,340	3,641	447
Puttalam	492,533	236,241	18,997	50,351	184,555	2,082	307
Anuradhapura	587,929	530,008	6,843	42,999	6,949	939	191
Polonnaruwa	261,563	235,758	4,781	17,090	3,471	351	112
Badulla	640,952	440,755	156,037	29,317	11,529	3,081	233
Moneragala	273,570	253,576	12,778	5,584	1,224	314	94
Ratnapura	797,087	675,785	92,156	15,576	11,107	2,188	275
Kegalle	684,944	583,611	53,854	35,672	8,372	3,225	210

Source: Statistical Abstract, 2013

According to table 9.17, by the year 2012 Colombo district have the highest proportion of Buddhists while Kilinochchi district has had the lowest proportion of Buddhists. The Hindus have stayed concentrated in the district of Jaffna while Hambantota district again reported the lowest concentration of Hindus. In the case of Islamists Ampara district have the highest concentration while again the lowest concentration of Islamists has been reported from Kilinochchi district. Again Gampaha and Hambantota districts have reported the highest and lowest concentration respectively of Roman Catholics. Christian population has the highest concentration in Colombo while the lowest concentration has been in Moneragala district.

Table 9.17: Distribution of population by religion and district, 2012

District	Religion						
	Total	Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Christian	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	14,272,056	2,561,299	1,967,523	1,261,194	290,967	6,400
Colombo	2,324,349	1,632,225	186,454	274,087	162,314	66,994	2,275
Gampaha	2,304,833	1,642,767	52,973	112,746	449,398	46,080	869
Kalutara	1,221,948	1,018,909	39,541	114,556	39,774	8,956	212
Kandy	1,375,382	1,009,220	133,744	197,076	22,379	12,798	165
Matale	484,531	385,151	43,432	45,682	7,899	2,342	25
Nuwara-Eliya	711,644	278,254	363,163	21,116	33,476	15,508	127
Galle	1,063,334	998,647	15,584	39,267	4,415	5,315	106
Matara	814,048	766,323	16,421	25,614	2,432	3,208	50
Hambantota	599,903	580,344	1,222	15,204	1,139	1,692	302
Jaffna	583,882	2,168	483,255	2,363	75,474	20,511	111
Mannar	99,570	1,809	24,027	16,512	52,415	4,790	17
Vavuniya	172,115	16,853	119,401	11,972	15,305	8,498	86
Mullaitivu	92,238	8,185	69,377	1,880	9,063	3,664	69
Kilinochchi	113,510	1,275	92,986	700	12,063	6,436	50
Batticaloa	526,567	6,281	338,882	134,065	24,454	22,833	52
Ampara	649,402	251,427	102,829	281,987	7,588	5,541	30
Trincomalee	379,541	99,344	98,442	159,418	14,493	7,774	70
Kurunegala	1,618,465	1,431,632	14,721	118,305	43,711	9,926	170
Puttalam	762,396	329,705	28,811	150,404	240,221	12,093	1,162
Anuradhapura	860,575	775,366	3,231	71,493	6,747	3,660	78
Polonnaruwa	406,088	364,229	6,886	30,465	3,192	1,276	40
Badulla	815,405	591,799	157,608	47,192	12,020	6,615	171
Moneragala	451,058	426,762	11,997	9,809	1,601	859	30
Ratnapura	1,088,007	943,464	101,962	24,446	10,844	7,212	79
Kegalle	840,648	709,917	54,350	61,164	8,777	6,386	54

Source: Census of Population and Housing report, 2012

District wise the concentration of the highest Buddhist population has shifted from Colombo district to Gampaha district and the lowest concentration of Buddhist has shifted to Kilinochchi from Mullaitivu. This is mainly because the Kilinochchi was not accounted for as a separate district in the census of 1981. The highest concentration of believers in Islam has changed from Colombo to Ampara. The lowest concentration of Christian population has changed from Hambantota to

Moneragala. Other than these, all other positions of highest and lowest concentrations of different religious populations in districts remain unchanged as those were, in 1981.

Information on Education in Sri Lanka

10.0

Information on Education in Sri Lanka

Social and economic well being of a country depends on the educational background of the citizens. As a result of free education introduced to the country coinciding with independence in 1948, the literacy rate and the general level of education in Sri Lanka has reached commendable heights during the past decades. The census on population and housing 2012 collected information on the literacy level, educational achievements and the school attendance of every member of the population. The purpose of this chapter is to analyse and present that information illustratively on the basis of sex, age, district and the level of education.

The current status of education in Sri Lanka

The information collected during the Census of Population and Housing, 2012 reveals that there are 4,709,701 children above 3 years of age attending pre-school and formal school education in Sri Lanka at the time of the Census. Of these, 551,276 children are attending pre-school education in the ages of 3, 4, and 5 years.

According to the census of 2012 there are 18,615,577 persons in the ages above 5 years of age in the Sri Lankan population. Of this population 4,390,536 persons have completed the primary education while 10,731,218 persons have completed secondary education and 2,793,404 persons have completed tertiary education. In this midst there are 700,000 persons in the ages 5 years and above getting reported as not having attended in schooling above 5 years of age.

Furthermore among the age 5 years and above population (18,615,577) there are 4,379,337 children between 5 – 17 years of age. This is 23.5 percent of the total population above 5 years of age.

Educational status achieved by the Sri Lankan population above 25 years of age

It is plain knowledge that the educational status of a person depends on his/her age. Generally a person obtains his primary education in the age of 5 to 10 years, secondary education in the age of 11 to 15 years and the tertiary education when he/she is above 15 years of age.

In the education system in Sri Lanka, when a person reaches 25 years of age, there is a high probability to complete his / her education. Thus it would be reasonable to compile the general status of the total population's education by analysing the educational status of the population above 25

years of age. At the Census of Population and Housing, 2012 the highest educational qualification of a person obtained has been listed as his educational status, but a person's vocational competencies have not been listed similarly.

As per the data presented in table 10.1, the highest percentage of the educational level of the population, above 25 years of age, is the secondary educational level at 58.7 percent of the population. Gender wise this percentage is analysed and as 61.4 percent for males above 25 year and that is found to be higher than the 56.4 percent recorded for females above 25 years of age. Yet numerically the number of females who have completed secondary education (3,579,875) exceeds the male population with secondary education (3,499,694). Those who have never attended a school, in this population above 25 years, stands at 4.7 percent and this percentage could be termed 'low' compared to the percentages in preceding census. In the census of 1981 and 2001 the non- school attended percentages have been recorded as 18.0 percent and 6.2 percent respectively. Of these non- school attended total percentage Of 4.7 percent, females at 6.1 percent is double the male percentage at 3.0 percent. Those who have completed tertiary education in this population is 18.2 percent and that when compared with the primary education completed 18.4 percent and the secondary level completed 58.7 percent, is found to be low.

When the tertiary education completed population is analysed on sex, the female population percentage (19.3 percent) is found higher than the male population percentage (17.1 percent). This tells us that even though more males complete the secondary education level, more females study up to the tertiary level.

**Table 10.1: The educational level of the population above 25 years of age
by sex, 2012**

Educational level	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
All Educational Levels	12,050,641	100.0	5,703,991	100.0	6,346,650	100.0
No-Schooling	561,163	4.7	172,292	3.0	388,871	6.1
Primary educational Level	2,214,792	18.4	1,058,900	18.6	1,155,892	18.2
1-5 Grades Passed	2,214,793	18.4	1,058,900	18.6	1,155,892	18.2
Secondary Educational Level	7,079,569	58.7	3,499,694	61.4	3,579,875	56.4
6-8 Grades Passed	1,889,721	15.7	991,099	17.4	898,622	14.2
9-10 Grades Passed	2,886,830	24.0	1,407,833	24.7	1,478,997	23.3
G.C.E (O/L) or Replacement	2,303,018	19.1	1,100,762	19.3	1,202,256	18.9
Tertiary Educational Level	2,195,117	18.2	973,105	17.1	1,222,012	19.3
G.C.E (A/L) or Replacement	1,724,574	14.3	748,407	13.1	976,167	15.4
Graduate	358,052	3.0	166,309	2.9	191,743	3.0
Post Graduate Diploma	68,893	0.6	32,829	0.6	35,764	0.6
Post Graduate	37,341	0.3	21,299	0.4	16,042	0.3
Doctorate Graduate	6,557	0.1	4,261	0.1	2,296	0.0

As per table 10.2, when all educational levels are considered on district basis, the highest percentage has recorded from the Grade 6 to 10 passed population. However, it could be observed that apart from the districts of Colombo, Kandy and Mannar, in all other districts the percentage that qualifies the GCE O/L or equivalent is higher than the percentage that qualifies the GCE A/L or equivalent. In the districts of Colombo and Kandy there is an appreciable increase in the population percentages that qualifies the GCE A/L or equivalent as against the population percentage that qualifies the GCE O/L or equivalent. Another noticeable feature is that the highest percentages of never attended school population are reported from the Batticaloa and the Nuwara-Eliya districts.

Table 10.2: Distribution of Population above 25 years of age by the level of education and district, 2012

District	Total Percentage	1-5 Grades Passed	6-10 Grades Passed	GCE O/L or Equivalent	GCE A/L or Equivalent	Never attended School
Sri Lanka	100.0	18.4	39.6	19.1	18.2	4.7
Colombo	100.0	9.6	33.2	25.3	29.4	2.6
Gampaha	100.0	9.7	40.0	25.2	22.6	1.8
Kalutara	100.0	14.5	40.8	22.4	20.0	3.1
Kandy	100.0	16.7	37.3	19.6	21.1	5.3
Matale	100.0	21.6	41.9	16.0	14.8	5.7
Nuwara-Eliya	100.0	31.5	35.6	13.5	9.2	10.2
Galle	100.0	17.6	41.3	18.7	18.6	3.9
Matara	100.0	18.9	39.7	18.3	17.5	5.6
Hambantota	100.0	21.9	41.4	16.5	14.0	6.1
Jaffna	100.0	27.6	43.5	18.0	15.7	1.4
Mannar	100.0	23.0	42.3	13.6	14.2	2.3
Vavuniya	100.0	29.8	42.2	17.2	13.9	3.6
Mullaitivu	100.0	28.1	47.5	11.9	8.2	2.6
Kilinochchi	100.0	32.5	47.8	13.1	8.7	2.3
Batticaloa	100.0	32.5	29.4	13.9	13.2	10.9
Ampara	100.0	27.9	35.9	14.3	14.6	7.3
Trincomalee	100.0	26.2	39.2	14.7	13.1	6.9
Kurunegala	100.0	18.3	40.6	19.0	18.5	3.7
Puttalam	100.0	24.5	43.7	15.5	12.3	4.0
Anuradhapura	100.0	20.7	46.3	16.0	12.8	4.2
Polonnaruwa	100.0	22.3	47.8	14.2	10.9	4.9
Badulla	100.0	23.4	38.8	14.7	13.8	9.3
Moneragala	100.0	23.7	44.2	12.8	11.4	7.8
Ratnapura	100.0	22.2	41.3	15.5	13.7	7.3
Kegalle	100.0	17.8	40.3	19.5	18.0	4.4

Children obtaining pre-school education in Sri Lanka

Even though pre-school education is not compulsory in Sri Lanka, majority of the parents, in recent times, have been inclined to send children over 3 years of age, to a pre-school in the country. The purpose of pre-school education is to allow children of the same age to get mixed up and to get accustomed to a class room atmosphere before they take to formal education. In Sri Lanka it is

necessary that a child should complete 5 years of age before he/she is admitted to a school. Generally, children who attend pre-schools continue to attend same till they commence school. Hence it is sometimes possible to come across children who are 6 years of age still attending pre-school. The population and housing census 2012 has revealed that there are 1,087,680 children in the ages between 3-5 years. It is also revealed that, of these children 551,576 are attending pre-schools at the time of census. The majority of the preschool children in Sri Lanka is 4 years. According to the Census of Population and Housing, 2012 45 percent of the 3 year old 361,960 children are attending pre-schools while, of the 4 year old 365,564 children, 86 percent attend pre-schools. Diagram 10.1 below shows the percentages of pre-school attending children by the sector of residence. It is observed that children in the estate sector are less inclined to attend pre-schools compared to the other two sectors.

Diagram 10.1: Percentages of pre-school attending children by age and sector of residence, 2012

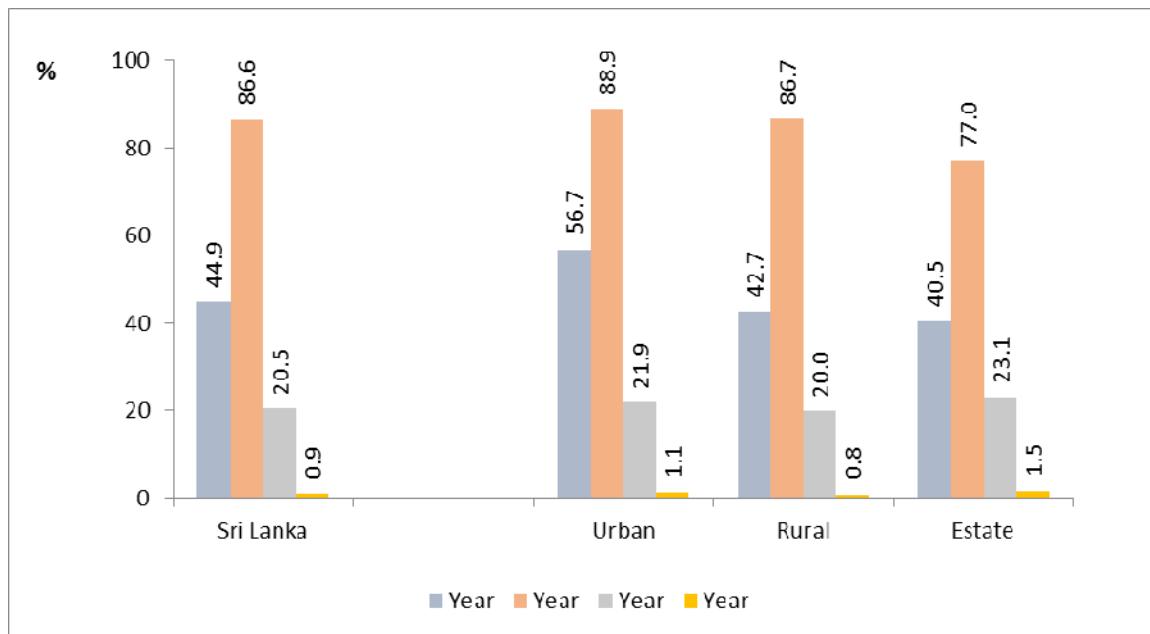
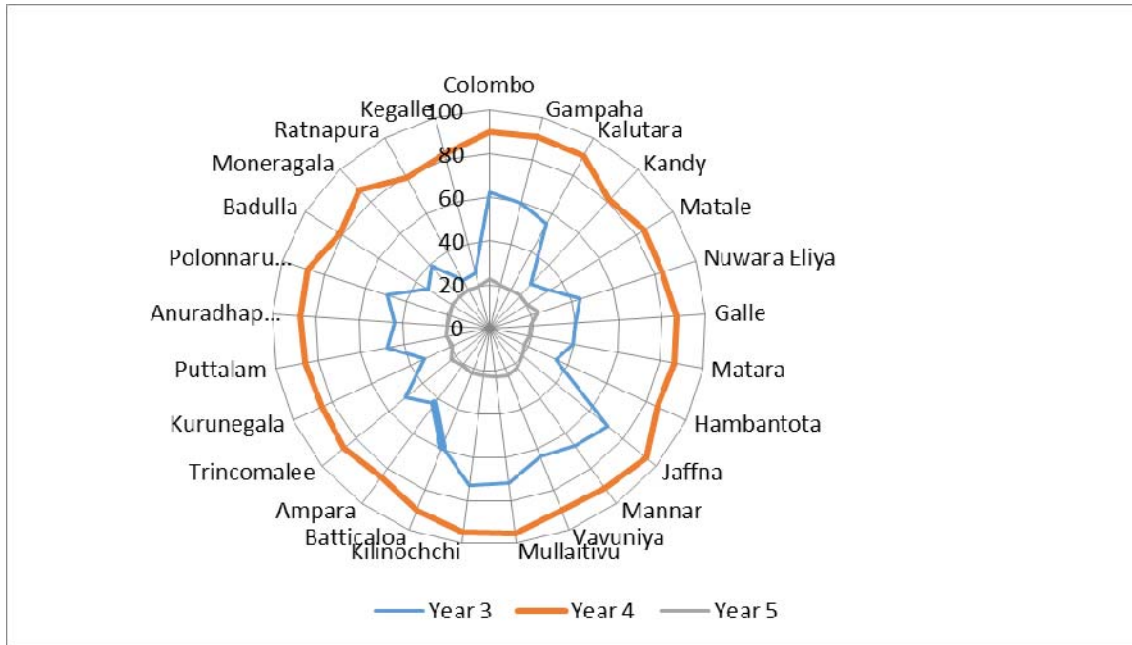


Diagram 10.2 below depicts the percentages of pre-school attending children in the ages of 3, 4 and 5 years on district basis. Accordingly it could be observed that in every district more than 80 percent of the children of 4 years in age, do attend pre-school. Further, the diagram also shows that in the districts of Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi in the Northern Province and Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara in the Western province, the pre-school attending percentage of 4 year old children is comparatively higher than in the other districts. The fact that there are improved pre-school facilities in the Western province and also that mothers could engage themselves in other

economic activities during the day may contribute to the high percentage in the pre-school attendance in the Western province.

Diagram 10.2: Pre-school attending children by age and district, 2012



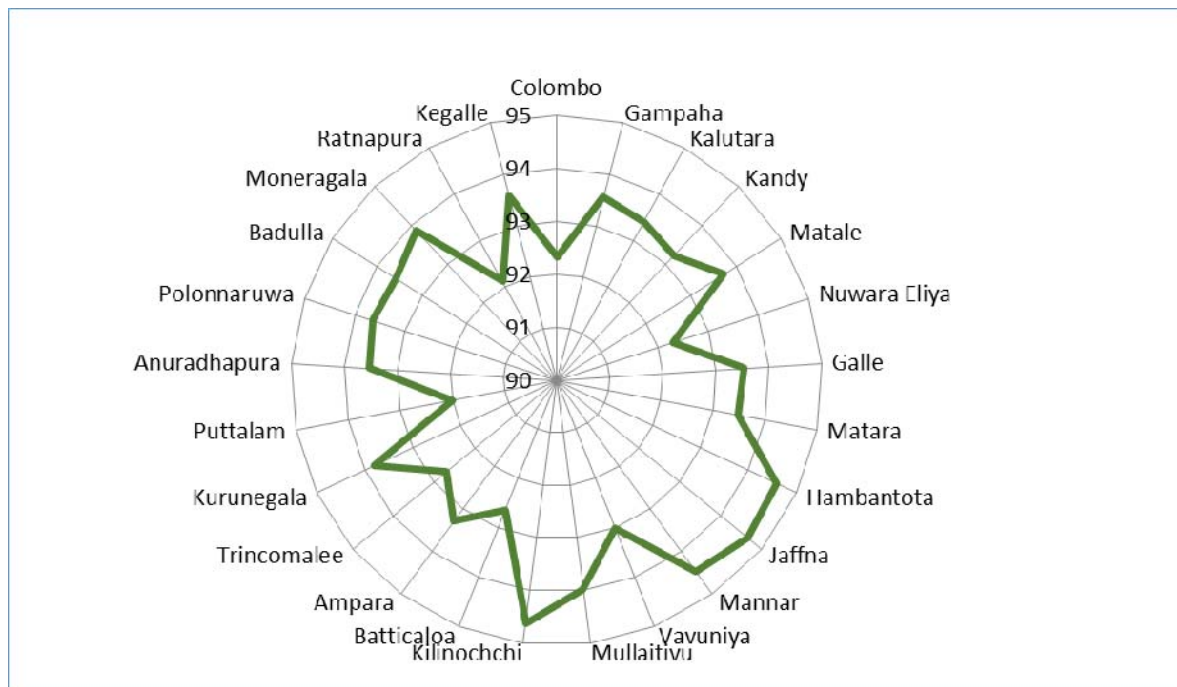
Since there are a few languages in the country, the language of the child is of special importance in the field of education. An important factor in the development of pre-school education is the training of teachers for pre-school education. According to the census almost 70 percent of the pre-school children are Sinhalese. Tamil and Muslim students are 15 percent and 12 percent respectively. Even though it is possible that some of these Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim children may enrol themselves in the English medium for general education and it is necessary that Sinhala teachers for the majority of Sinhala students and Tamil teachers for the Tamil and Muslim students should be trained in pre-school disciplines. Apart from training the teachers, to uplift pre-school education, it is necessary to pay attention to the language when preparing the texts and other educational additives of pre-schooling.

Education of the Age group between 5 to 14 years

From the total child population (below 18 year of age), 52.5 percent is in the ages between 5 to 14 years. The numerical strength of this age group population, sex wise, is 1,711,177 males and 1,676,627 females. According to the Government educational policy a systematic education with a

curriculum is compulsory for children in the age group of 5 to 14 years. Making education compulsory is the main reason in achieving a 99 percent literacy rate among the children of this age. According to the population and housing census information 93.3 percent of the children in the age group of 5 to 14 years receive a systematic education and the analysis of this by sector of residence is 92.7 percent, 93.6 percent and 90.1 percent for urban, rural, and estate sectors respectively. Therefore the fact that around 7 percent of the children in the compulsory schooling age group is not attending school should warrant special attention with emphasis on estate sector. There are instances where 6, 7 or 8 year old students (in the age group of 5-14) were found studying in grade 1 due to a variety of reasons.

Diagram 10.3: Percentages of school attendance of children aged 5 to 14 years by district, 2012

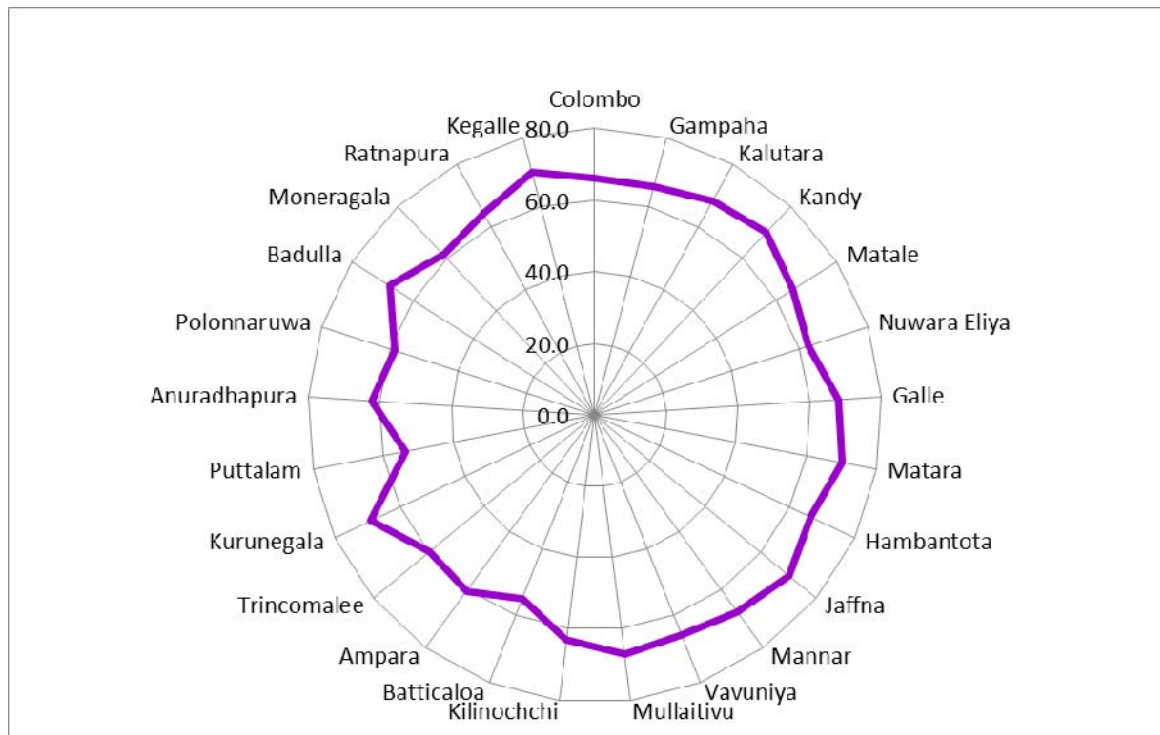


Education of children in the age group of 15 -18 years

Children in the age group of 15 – 18 years represents 20 percent of the child population (18 years and below). Numerically there are 659,661 male children and 657,621 female children in this age group. Approximately 2/3rds of these children, who are in an age where they should receive education, are receiving a formal education and the sector wise analysis of that would be 65.5 percent, 67.9 percent and 52.4 percent for rural, urban and estate sectors respectively. Compared to the percentage of urban

rural and estate sector school children, 50 percent of school children in estate sector have left from school and it should be deserved concern specially. The reasons for this could be the poverty in the estate sector, illiteracy of the parents and as well as issues associated with estate schools.

Diagram 10.4: Percentages of school attendance of children aged 15-18 years by district, 2012



Literacy of the population

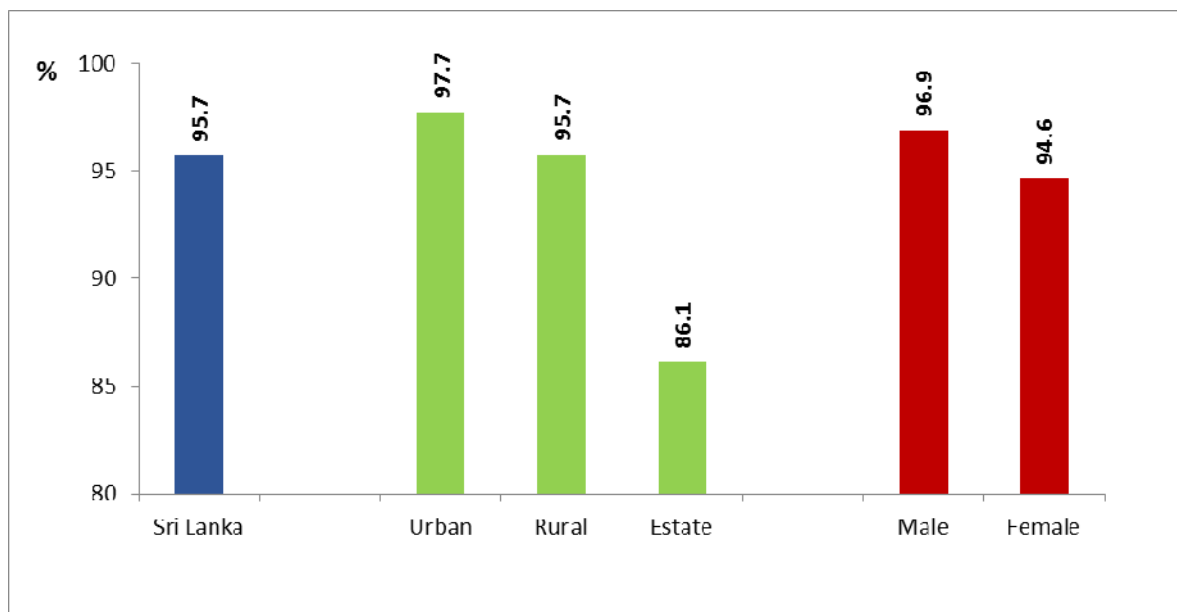
According to census, literacy is defined as the ability of a person, to read and understand a short letter or a paragraph in a particular language and ability to write by understanding.

During the population and housing census of 2012 questions were posed on literacy to the population to ascertain the competency of persons in all three languages. As a result, it was found that the literacy rate of the Sri Lankan population above 10 years of age, i.e. the ability to deal at least in one language, is 95.7 percent. In other words out of a population of 16,867,825 persons over 10 years of age, 95.7 percent or 16,142,267 persons are literate. Similarly the literacy ratio between the sexes is 96.9 percent for males and 94.6 percent for females. Accordingly on the subject of population's literacy, Sri Lanka enjoys a very high position among the countries in South Asia. The fact that

education up to 14 years of age is made compulsory, availability of non- fee levying education up to university level, and the provision of text books and support material in education, can be cited as the reasons for this high level of literacy in the Sri Lankan population.

When the literacy rate of the population is considered by the sector of living, urban sector recorded a high 97.7 percent while the estate sector recorded a comparatively low 86.1 percent. The literacy rate of the rural sector is 95.7 percent.

Diagram 10.5: Literacy of the population by sex and sector of residence, 2012



In 1981 the literacy rate in Sri Lanka was reported as 87.2 percent and thus there has been an improvement of 8.5 percent in the literacy rate by the year 2012. Similarly, the male and female literacy rates too have improved considerably compared to the preceding census. The Free education bill introduced in 1944 opened up new vistas in education for the people in Sri Lanka. The literacy rate of the population increased by 17.9 percent by the year 1946 as against 1921 as a harbinger of what was to follow. The next fillip to the education is the 'swabasha' bill of 1956 which opened up the flood gates of education to all and sundry. Consequently, the literacy rate improved by a further 11.7 percent during the ten years between 1953 and 1963. Further, the male literacy rate has maintained itself consistently above that of females. Another noticeable feature is that the female literacy has doubled between 1921 and 1946 due to these progressive developments in the country.

Table 10.3: Literacy rate by sex and by the year of census, 1881 - 2012

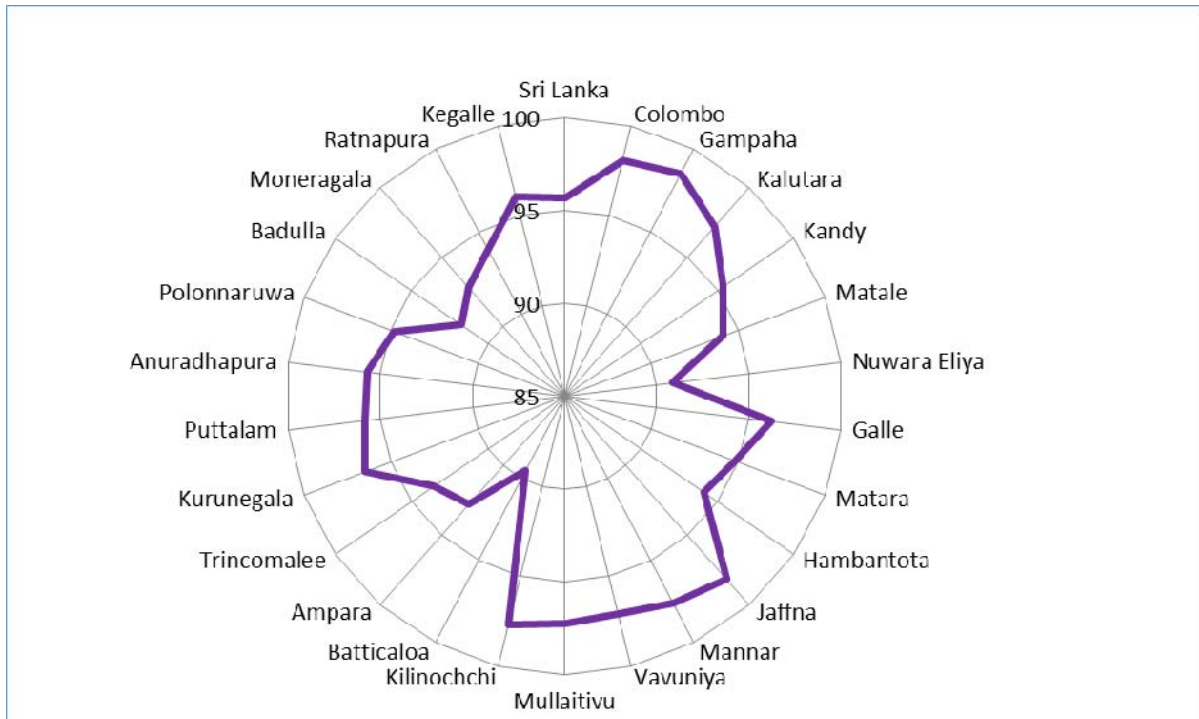
Census Year	Literacy Rate %		
	Total Percentage	Male	Female
1881	17.4	29.8	3.1
1891	21.7	36.1	5.3
1901	26.4	42.0	8.5
1911	31.0	47.2	12.5
1921	39.9	56.3	21.2
1946	57.8	70.1	43.8
1953	65.4	75.9	53.6
1963	77.1	85.8	67.5
1971	78.5	85.6	70.9
1981	87.2	91.1	83.2
2001	91.1	92.6	89.7
2012	95.7	96.9	94.6

There are three main languages in use in the country and those are Sinhala, Tamil and English. Of these three languages, Sinhala language recorded as 80 percent literacy while Tamil and English recorded literacy rates of 26 percent and 31 percent respectively.

Population and housing census of 2012 collected information on the multi- language literacy of the population. Accordingly it was revealed that 8 percent of the population is literate in all three languages, Sinhala, Tamil and English while 28 percent is literate in Sinhala and English. The percentage of the population literate in Sinhala and Tamil is 10 percent and those who are literate in Tamil and English is also 10 percent of the population.

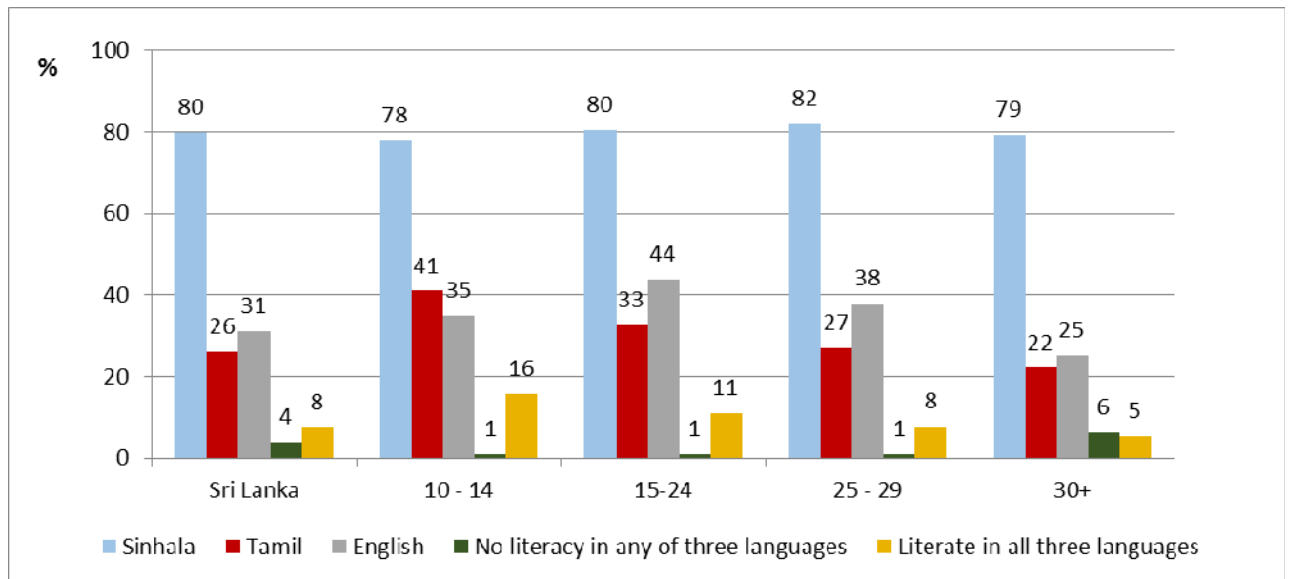
When literacy in Sri Lanka is considered on a district basis the highest literacy rate is reported from the district of Gampaha while the lowest literacy rate is reported from Batticaloa district. The districts of Ampara, Nuwara-Eliya, Badulla and Hambantota have recorded poor literacy rates in comparison to the other districts.

Diagram 10.6: Literacy rate by district, 2012



When the language literacy of the population is analysed on the basis of age, Sinhala language literacy is spread evenly among different ages of the population. Yet in the case of English it was revealed that when the literacy rate is analysed according to the age groups 10-14 years, 15 to 24 years, 25 to 29 years and above 30 years, the comparatively high literacy rate of 44 percent is found in the age group 15-24 years. On the other hand the highest Tamil literacy rate of 41 percent is found in the age group 10-14 years. This could well be the result of introducing Tamil language as a subject in to the school curriculum in Sri Lanka. Further the highest literacy rate in all three languages is reported in the age group 10-14 years of the population. In the 'above 30 years' age group population who have no literacy rate in all three languages is reported high comparable to other age groups.

Diagram 10.7: Literacy rate by age and medium of language, 2012



Language literacy according to ethnicity

Table 10.4 below is constructed on the basis of information revealed at the 2012 census on language literacy of persons above 10 year of age by ethnicity. In the Sri Lankan population above 10 years of age, Sinhala language literacy is the highest while English and Tamil record the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

Among the Sinhala population above 10 years of age, the Sinhala language literacy is 96.4 percent while Tamil and English language literacy rates are 5.3 percent and 31.1 percent respectively.

The highest Sinhala language literacy rate is found among the Sinhalese while the highest Tamil/English language literacy is found among the Muslims and Burger populations in that order. Similarly the lowest Sinhala language literacy is found among the Sri Lankan Tamils while the lowest Tamil/English literacy is found among the Sinhalese and Indian Tamils in that order. When all the ethnicities are considered in relation to language literacy the Malay community reports the highest literacy rates in all three languages.

Table 10.4: Language literacy by ethnicity, 2012

Ethnicity	Literacy Rate %		
	Sinhala	Tamil	English
Sri Lanka	79.7	26.4	30.8
Sinhalese	96.4	5.3	31.1
Sri Lankan Tamil	17.3	94.1	24.3
Indian Tamil	20.9	86.2	19.4
Sri Lankan Moor	40.6	94.8	38.7
Burgher	77.0	29.1	97.4
Malay	81.8	97.1	66.8
Other	54.1	38.3	80.8

Computer literacy of the population

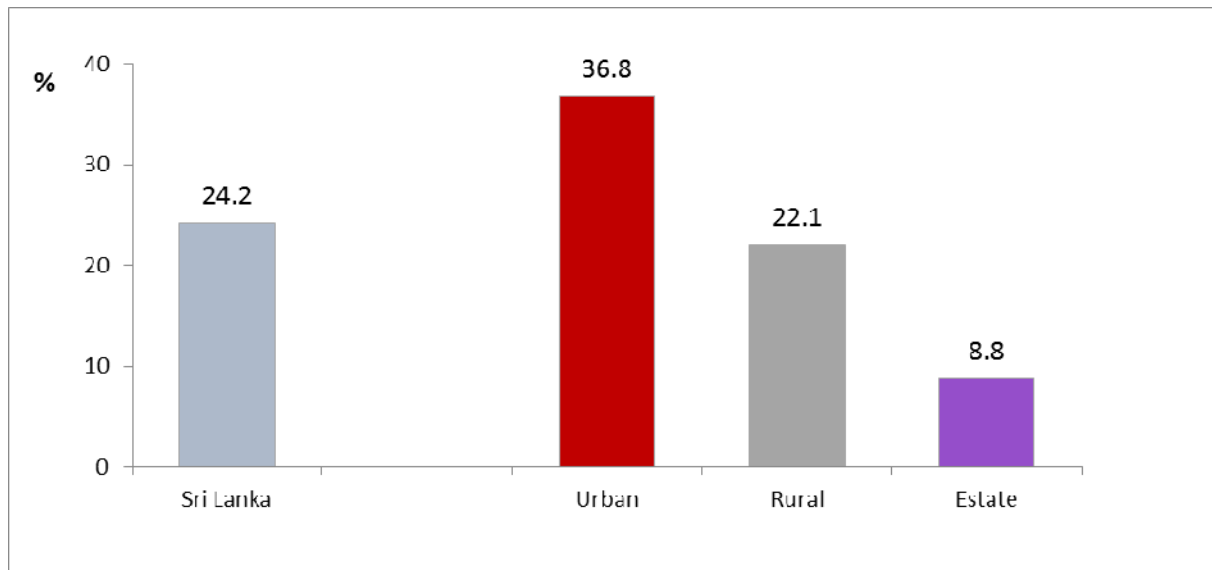
Internationally and as well as in Sri Lanka using computers is a very famous event that has been added in the recent past. Therefore, during the population and housing census of 2012 data was collected on the population's computer literacy or the level of competency in the use of computers. All persons above 10 years of age in the population were quizzed on the state of their computer literacy.

Census definition of 'computer literacy' is *the ability of a person to accomplish a task that he needs accomplishing, on his own, through the use of a computer without help from an outside (the type of the task is not relevant here).*

Thus, according to the data collected from persons above 10 years of age it is revealed that the Sri Lankan nation as a whole enjoys a 24.2 percent computer literacy among its general population. This means, of the 16,867,825 persons who are above 10 years of age in the population, 4,086,167 persons could use computers. Further, of this computer literate population 2,143,901 persons or 52.5 percent are males while the balance 1,942,266 or 47.5 percent, are females.

Computer literacy, when analysing according to the sector of residence, reveals that the highest rate of literacy is in the urban sector with 36.8 percent while the estate sector reports the lowest computer literacy with 8.8 percent. Computer literacy rate of the rural sector is reported as 22.1 percent.

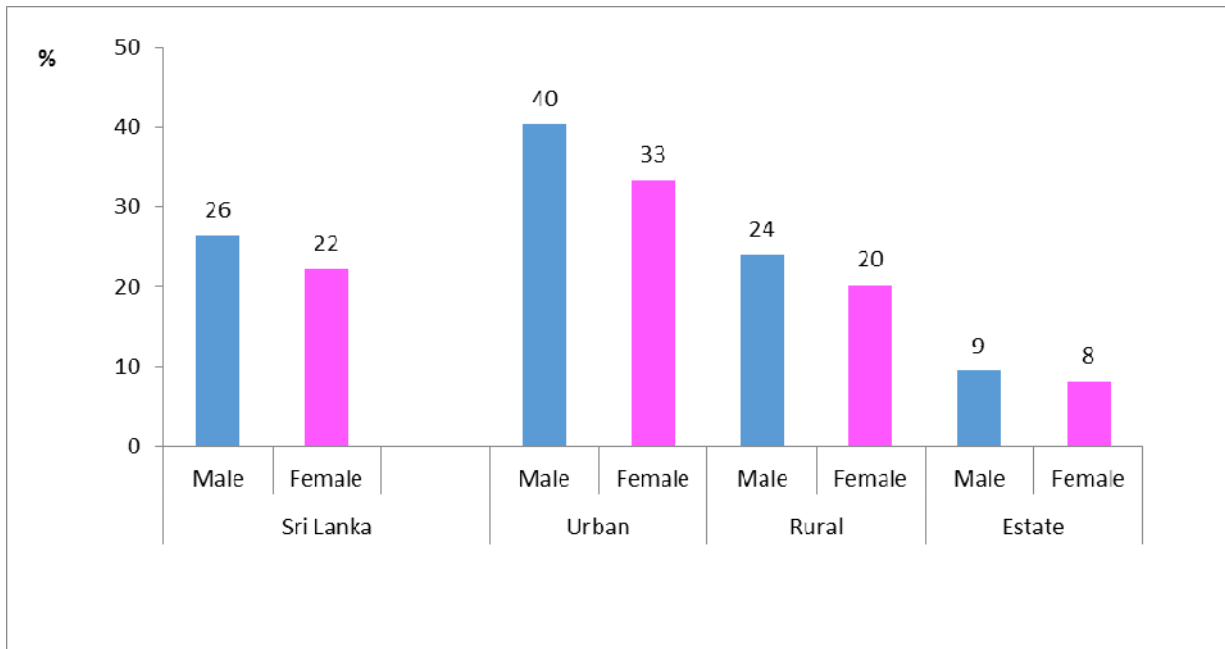
Diagram 10.8: Computer literacy of the population by sector of residence, 2012



When the computer literate population is analysed on age, it is found that the highest literacy rate of 48 percent is found among the ages between 15 – 24 years. The lowest computer literacy of 14 percent is found among the population above 30 years of age. In addition, the computer literacy of the age groups of 10-14 years and 25-29 years is recorded as 34 percent and 36 percent respectively.

When computer literacy is considered on the basis of sex it is found that, among the Sri Lankan population in general and also on the basis of the sector of residence, the males are more computer literate than females.

Diagram 10.9: Computer literacy in Sri Lanka by sex and sector, 2012

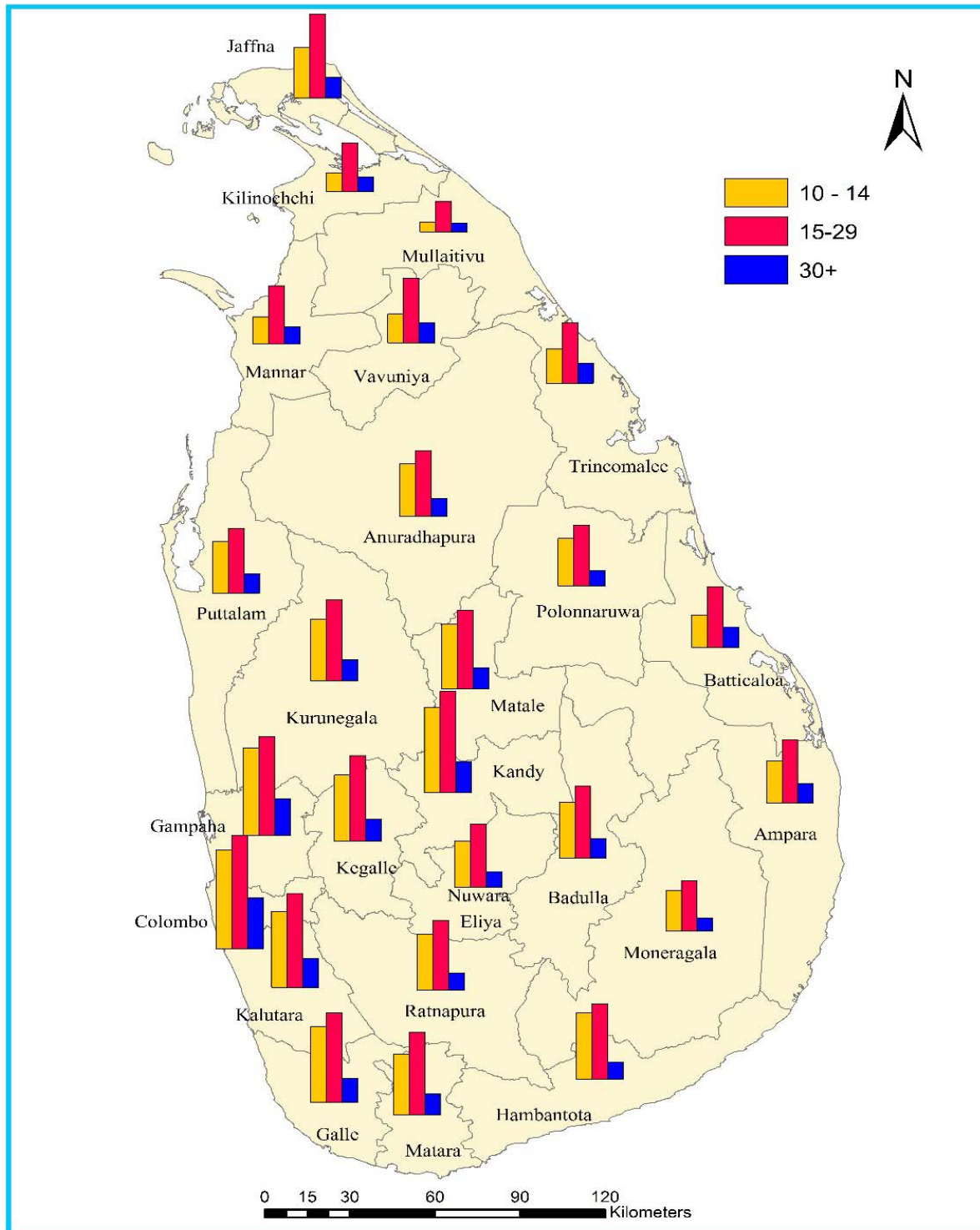


On the basis of districts, the highest computer literacy of 38 percent is found in the district of Colombo. Similarly the other districts that report a high percentage in computer literacy are, Gampaha (30.5 percent), Kandy (28.9 percent) and Kalutara (26.4 percent).

A noticeable feature in the area wise computer literacy in Sri Lanka is that in the Northern Province in general, the computer literacy rate is comparatively low. The lowest district wise computer literacy (8.4 percent) is reported from the district of Mullaitivu in the Northern Province. This is one of the many adverse outcomes of the disturbances that the Northern Province had to undergo during the past 30 years. However, the computer literacy in Jaffna district at 22.8 percent is found to be high compared to the neighbouring districts in the Northern Province.

When computer literacy is considered on the basis of age it is noticeable that the highest literacy rate of persons above 30 years of age is found in the three districts of Colombo, Kandy and Gampaha only. The reasons for this, is the existence of Higher education institutes, Government and Mercantile establishments and the general high standards of facilities in these districts resulting in the high incidence of computer use. In every district the highest computer literacy rate is in the age group of 15 -29 years. Mullaitivu district, where the lowest district wise computer literacy rate is reported, also reports the lowest literacy rate for every age group.

Diagram 10.10: Computer literacy by age and district, 2012



Economically Active and In-active Persons

11.0

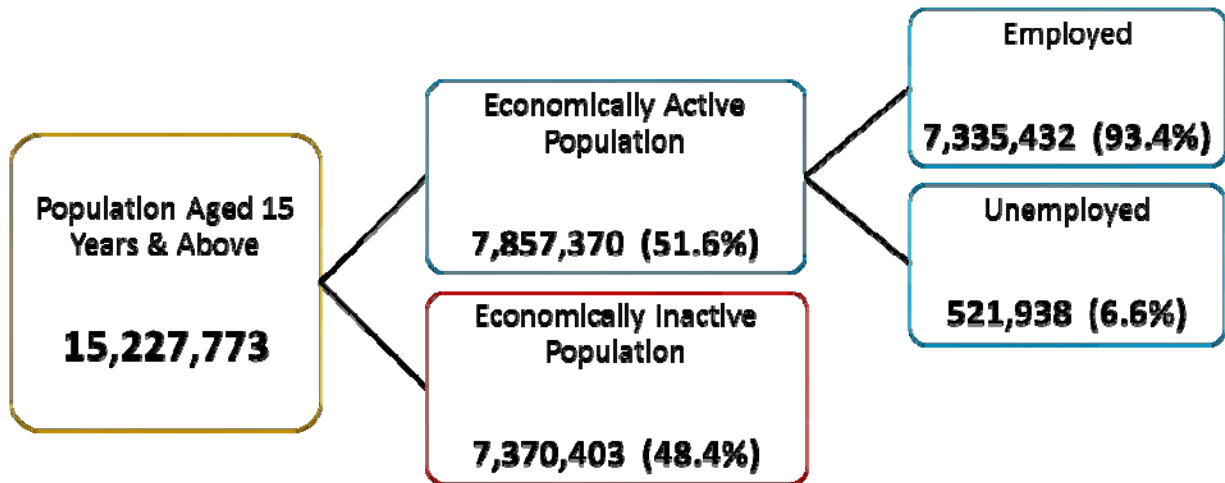
Economically Active and In-active Persons

The contribution made by the labour force of a country, in the age group of 15 years and above, which normally makes up for 2/3rd of the country's total population, is of special significance to that country's economic development. Collecting information on persons that falls in to this category of the population is done at the Quarterly labour force survey as well as at the Census of population and housing. What is collected at the census is the basic information on economically active and inactive persons whereas the information of the quarterly labour force survey is more comprehensive. At the quarterly labour force survey, the period for current data to reflect on 'current economic activities' is the 7 preceding days before the date of collection of data whereas at census, the period for collecting information to reflect on 'usual economic activities' is one year preceding the date of data collection. Accordingly, at census data was collected on all activities persons above 15 years of age have been engaged in during the preceding one year. The purpose of that exercise was to identify the economically active as well as economically inactive persons during the past one year.

According to the census of population and housing 2012 the number of persons in the population above 15 years of age who have the capacity to be economically active is 15,227,773 persons. Of this population 48 percent or 7,266,234 persons are males while 52 percent or 7,961,539 persons are females. When you analyse the activities of this population during the 52 weeks preceding the census it is observed that despite their capacity to be economically active only 7,857,370 persons of the total population have been economically active for a minimum of 26 weeks of the period. Of this economically active population 93 percent are engaged in employment while the balance 7 percent or 521,938 persons are not employed. Further, it is revealed that 48 percent of persons in the population who above 15 years or more, are not economically active.

For the purpose of census of population and housing 2012 an 'employed person' is a person who is a government servant, a semi government servant, a private sector employee, an employer, a self-employed person or an unpaid family economic worker. Similarly economically inactive persons are; full time students, persons engaged in household chores, income receiver, pensioners, elderly persons, persons engaged in social work, children not attending school and those engaged in activities that are not economical. Diagram 11.1 depicts the engagement and non- engagement in economic activity by persons above 15 years of age in the population.

Diagram 11.1: Categorisation of the population aged 15 years and above on the basis of their engagement in economic activity, 2012



Population engaged in economic activity

In keeping with the census definition, the population that is engaged in economic activity during the preceding one year is 7.3 million persons and of this population 70.8 percent are males. As in other countries of the world, the majority engaged in economic activity in Sri Lanka are also males. The reasons for this could be the availability of more male centred jobs in the country's economy and the traditional social thinking that household chores are the responsibility of women.

When economic activity is analysed on the basis of sector of living, the estate women's contribution to the economy could be noticed. The poverty of estate women, their limited education and the availability of jobs in the sector they live, all contribute to prompt women in the estate sector to be economically active. The noticeable limited participation of women in the sectors that produce goods and services is another factor that may have a direct impact on the country's economic development. Therefore it would be necessary to establish investment zones, industries and self-employment schemes where women could participate with the minimum of impact on their household obligations.

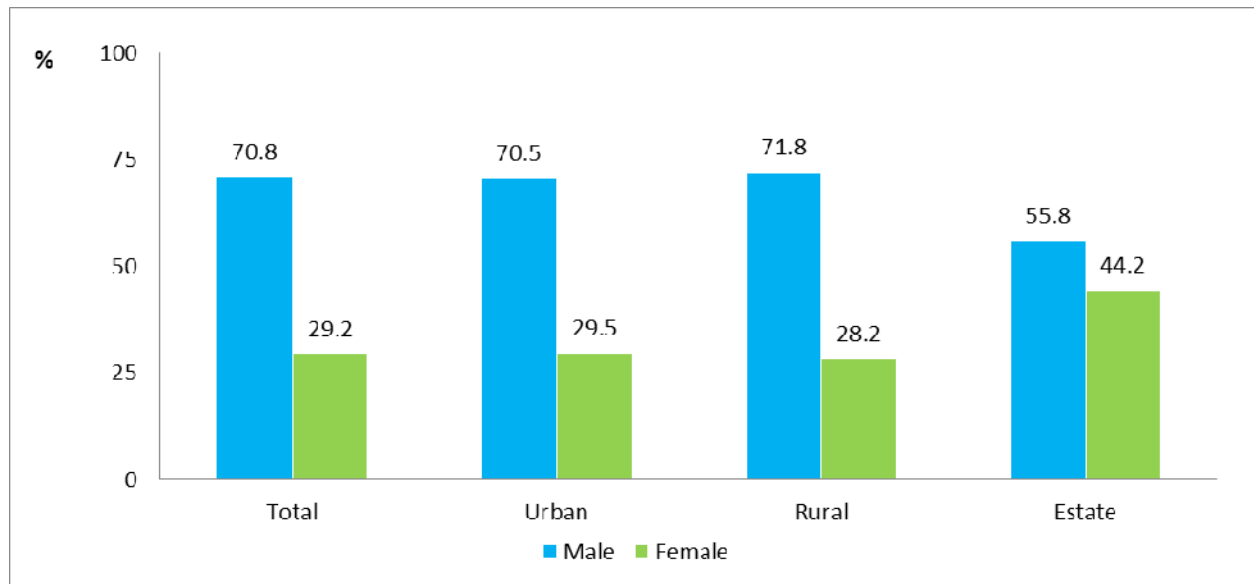
Further, realizing more women- power in the economy, on a more permanent basis would require improvement in infrastructure such as transport, electricity and water service and a reliable mechanism to look after children. As per the 2012 census data more than 75 percent of women above 25 years of age in the population are educated and have studied at least up to grade 6. Further the

status of education in the urban and rural sectors could improve in the future. Therefore, some serious national thinking may be required on how best to compromise between optimising educated women power in the economy and maintaining the family unit. While education is a human right the development of a country would depend on how best that country utilises its educated population.

Table 11.1: Economically engaged population by sex and sector of residence, 2012

Section	Total Population above 15 Years	Population Engaged in Economic Activity					
		Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	15,227,773	7,335,432	100.0	5,190,697	100.0	2,144,735	100.0
Urban	2,843,630	1,332,572	18.1	939,080	18.1	393,492	18.3
Rural	11,753,182	5,638,585	76.9	4,048,473	78.0	1,590,112	74.1
Estate	630,961	364,275	5.0	203,144	3.9	161,131	7.5

Diagram 11.2: Economically engaged population by sex and sector of residence, 2012



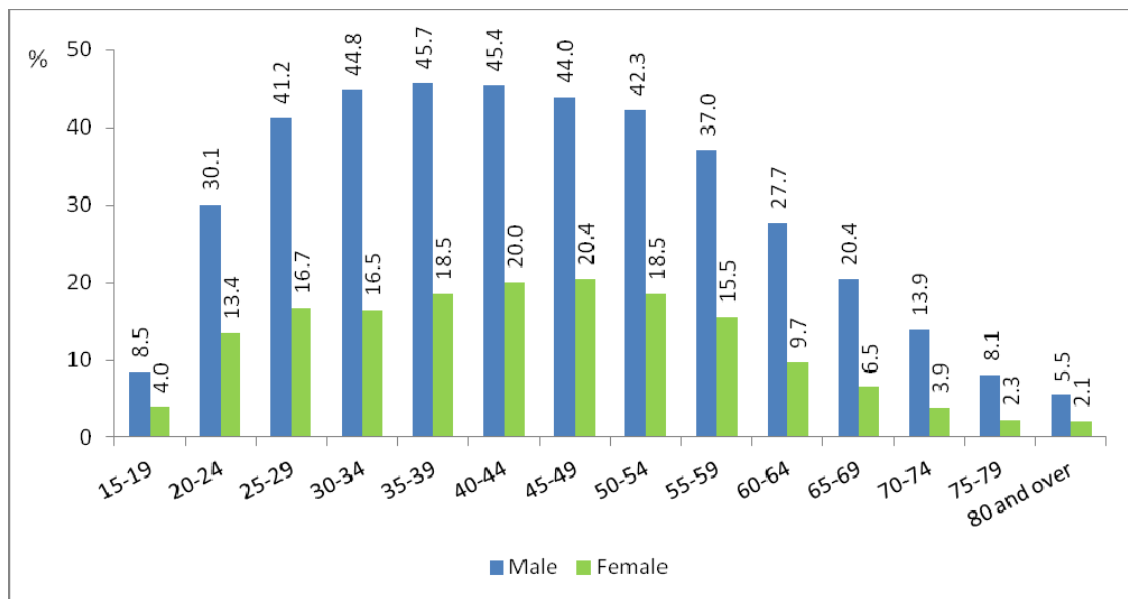
Economically engaged population by sex and sector of residence is given in table 11.1. According to data, while estate women make a 7.5 percent contribution in labour to the total economy the estate

male's contribution remains at 3.9 percent. According to diagram 11.2 the percentage contribution in labour made by females to the economy in urban and rural sectors is around 30 percent while in the estate sector female contribution is a high 44.2 percent. This confirms the premise that women in the estate sector are called upon to work harder than their own men and also than women in other sectors.

Economically engaged population- Features and Trends

Analysis of data on age, sex and marital status of economically engaged population reveals many features and trends in the population. Diagram 11.3 shows the economically engaged population by age and accordingly males show a tendency to get engaged in economic activity at early ages. Further the engagement in economic activity among males in the age group 35 -39 is quite high denoting the need to bear family responsibilities that corresponds to that age. In the case of females however, the increasing tendency to be engaged in economic activity is seen only after they pass 40 years. This naturally is due to family limitations which prevents females from getting engaged in economic activity until an elder age. The tendency to gradually withdraw from economic activity after 60- 64 years is common to both sex.

Diagram 11.3: Economically engaged population by age and sex, 2012



Further revelations on economically engaged population could be made by analysing the data by marital status. Since 68 percent of the population above 15 years of age in the Sri Lankan population

is married that makes the majority of the persons engaged in economic activity also married, and numerically it is 5,577,917 persons. Further 3 out of every four married persons engaged in economic activity are males. According to census data there are 5,401,061 married females above 15 years of age in the population but their engagement in the economy is only 28 percent. That amounts to 3/4th of the married females staying out of economic activity. In addition, with regard to other marital status on economic activity, it is revealed that the majority or 79.6 percent among the economically active widowed population and 51.1 percent among the divorced and separated population are females.

Table 11.2: Economically engaged population by sex and marital status, 2012

Marital Status	Total Population above 15 Years	Population Engaged in Economic Activity				
		Total	Male		Female	
			No.	%	No.	%
Total	15,227,773	7,335,432	5,190,697	70.8	2,144,735	29.2
Never Married	3,927,602	1,476,694	1,026,540	69.5	450,154	30.5
Married	10,322,105	5,577,917	4,076,523	73.1	1,501,394	26.9
Widowed	792,947	174,194	35,503	20.4	138,691	79.6
Divorced or Separated	185,119	106,627	52,131	48.9	54,496	51.1

Table 11.3: Economically engaged population by status of employment and sector, 2012

Sex	Economical ly Engaged Population	Employment Status and Sector					Engaged in Family economic activity without wages
		Governme nt servants	Semi- Governme nt servants	Private Sector employees	Employers	Self- Employed	
Total	7,335,432	1,122,734	244,989	2,980,361	190,680	2,414,258	382,410
%	100.0	15.3	3.3	40.6	2.6	32.9	5.2
Male	5,190,697	723,457	151,992	2,101,865	164,276	1,927,228	121,879
%	100.0	13.9	2.9	40.5	3.2	37.1	2.3
Female	2,144,735	399,277	92,997	878,496	26,404	487,030	260,531
%	100.0	18.6	4.3	41.0	1.2	22.7	12.1

Table 11.3 represents economically engaged population by sector and by status of employment. Accordingly, of the economically engaged population, 40.6 percent is engaged as salaried employees in the private sector, 32.9 percent is engaged as self- employed persons, 15.3 percent is engaged as salaried employees in the government sector and 3.3 percent is engaged as salaried employees in the semi- government sector. In this midst 5.2 percent of the economically engaged persons are engaged in helping family business without a salary. On the basis of sex females seem to prefer the government and semi government sectors for employment. Further, a high 12.1 percent of the females engaged in economic activity are helping family business without being paid.

Information on Economically engaged Householders

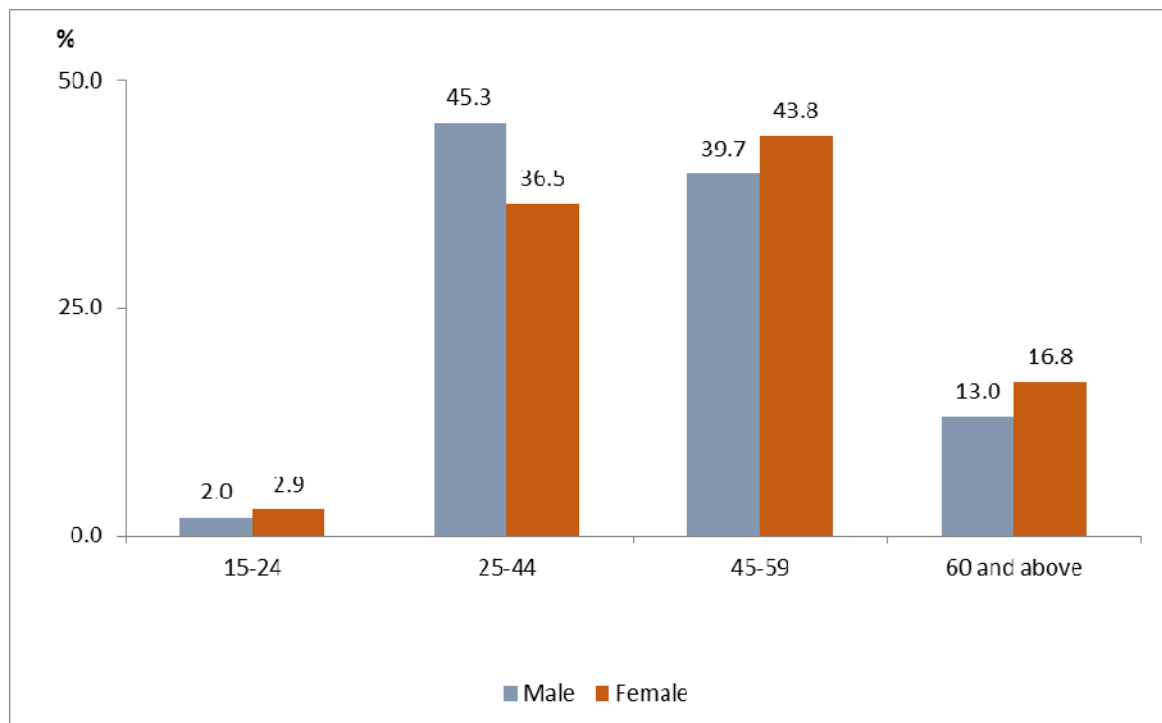
Economically engaged householders are listed in table 11.4 by age blocks and by sex. Accordingly half the economically engaged persons (3,618,683 persons) happen to be householders. Majority of these householders are males and, of those males, majority are persons above 30 years of age. There are 369,246 dwelling units in the country where female is a householder and of these 30.7 percent (113,222) is in the age block of 45-54 years and another 23.7 percent (87,589) is in the age block of 35- 44 years. Further, another 62,166 of these dwelling units headed by a female belongs to the age block of 'over 60 years'.

Table 11.4: Number of economically engaged household heads by sex and by age, 2012

Age Group	No. of economically engaged Householders		%	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	3,249,437	369,246	100.0	100.0
15-19	7,278	2,569	0.2	0.7
20-24	57,583	8,060	1.8	2.2
25-29	187,740	17,109	5.8	4.6
30-34	373,877	29,904	11.5	8.1
35-44	909,835	87,589	28.0	23.7
45-54	934,435	113,222	28.8	30.7
55-59	355,439	48,627	10.9	13.2
60 or More	423,250	62,166	13.0	16.8

When economically engaged householders are considered on the basis of sex and age block, the highest male householders are evident in the 25-44 year age block.

Diagram 11.4: Economically engaged household heads by sex and age group, 2012



Unemployed population

The population, that is employable but not employed and yet have been in the pursuit of a job during the year preceding the census date, is known as the ‘unemployed population’ for census purposes. According to data the unemployed population is 521,938 persons and the majority of that population are males.

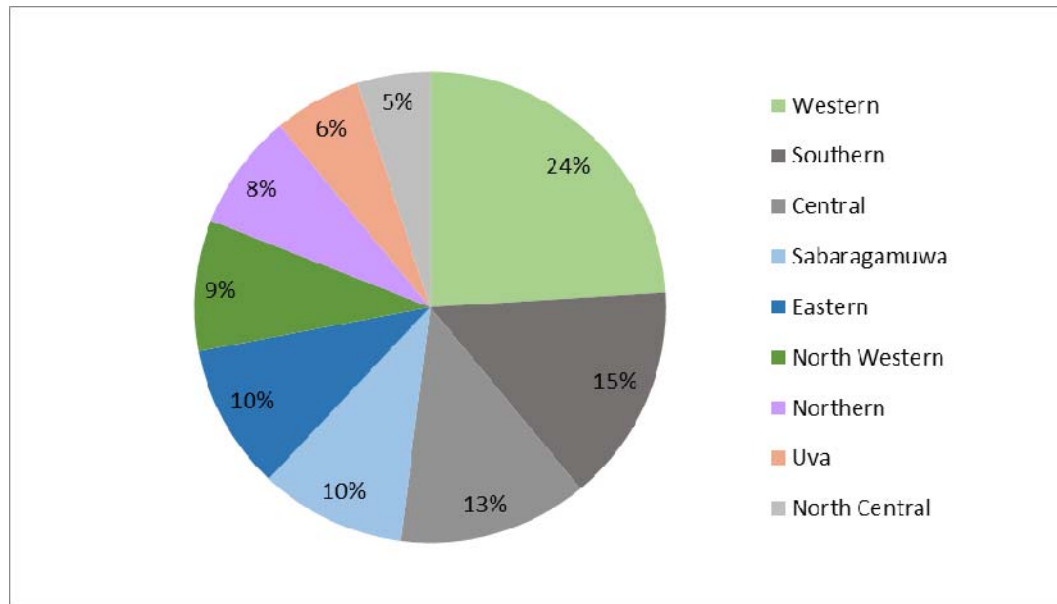
Table 11.5 gives the unemployed population by sex and by the sector of residence. Accordingly of the unemployed population the male percentage is 59.3 percent, 57.4 percent and 54.8 percent in the urban, rural and estate sectors respectively. However, the fact that there are 409,510 unemployed persons in the rural sector denotes that the current economic activity at rural level is inadequate. Intervention by state and private sector is suggested to increase job opportunities in the rural sector.

Table 11.5: Unemployed population by sex and sector of residence, 2012

Sector of Living	Total Population above 15 Years	Unemployed Population				
		Total	Male		Female	
			No.	%	No.	%
Total	15,227,773	521,938	300,432	57.6	221,506	42.4
Urban	2,843,630	84,383	50,019	59.3	34,364	40.7
Rural	11,753,182	409,510	235,042	57.4	174,468	42.6
Estate	630,961	28,045	15,371	54.8	12,674	45.2

Numerically the highest number of unemployed persons (125,653) is reported from the Western province. This is 24 percent of the total unemployed population in the country. Accordingly 15 percent, 13 percent, 10 percent and another 10 percent of this unemployed population lives in Southern, Central, Eastern and Sabaragamuwa provinces respectively. Only 5 percent of the total unemployed population is found in the North central province.

Diagram 11.5: Unemployed population by the province of residence, 2012



In analysing the unemployed population on the basis of marital status, table 11.6 reveals that 78.9 percent of this population is persons who have never been married while the balance of just over 20 percent of this population is married. In the case of married persons, since there could be dependents, the married unemployed could spawn a few social issues. Further, 53.4 percent of this unemployed married population is females and females, who aspire but cannot secure employment with a family to support, may experience economic hardships. Therefore, the situation deserves special attention in finding suitable job opportunities for women.

Since the life expectancy of females is higher than that of males, there are more female widows than male widows in the population. As per table 11.6, the majority of unemployed widows are females. Thus, the destitute state of being woman, unemployed in widowhood, with no means of succour while ageing, could be an extremely pathetic situation that warrants immediate attention of the authorities.

Table 11.6: Unemployed population by marital status and sex, 2012

Marital status	Unemployed Population	Male		Female	
		No.	%	No.	%
Total	521,938	300,432	57.6	221,506	42.4
Never Married	411,796	250,148	60.7	161,648	39.3
Married	102,950	48,026	46.6	54,924	53.4
Widowed	2,919	461	15.8	2,458	84.2
Divorced or Separated	4,273	1,797	42.1	2,476	57.9

The unemployed population by status of education is shown in diagram 11.6. According to this diagram a majority (36.5 percent) of the unemployed persons have passed grade 6-10 while 30 percent and 23.7 percent of the population happens to be GCE A/L and GCE O/L qualified persons respectively. A noticeable feature however is that 5.7 percent of the unemployed persons are graduates and this could be due to the difficulty in finding employment that corresponds with qualifications.

Population and housing census 2012 data reported a total number of 383,855 graduates in the country and a noticeable issue is that 29,601(7.7 percent) of these graduates had not found suitable employment up to the period of census. Further, of the unemployed persons with GCE A/L or above qualification, the majority are females as per diagram 11.7.

Diagram 11.6: Unemployed population by level of education, 2012

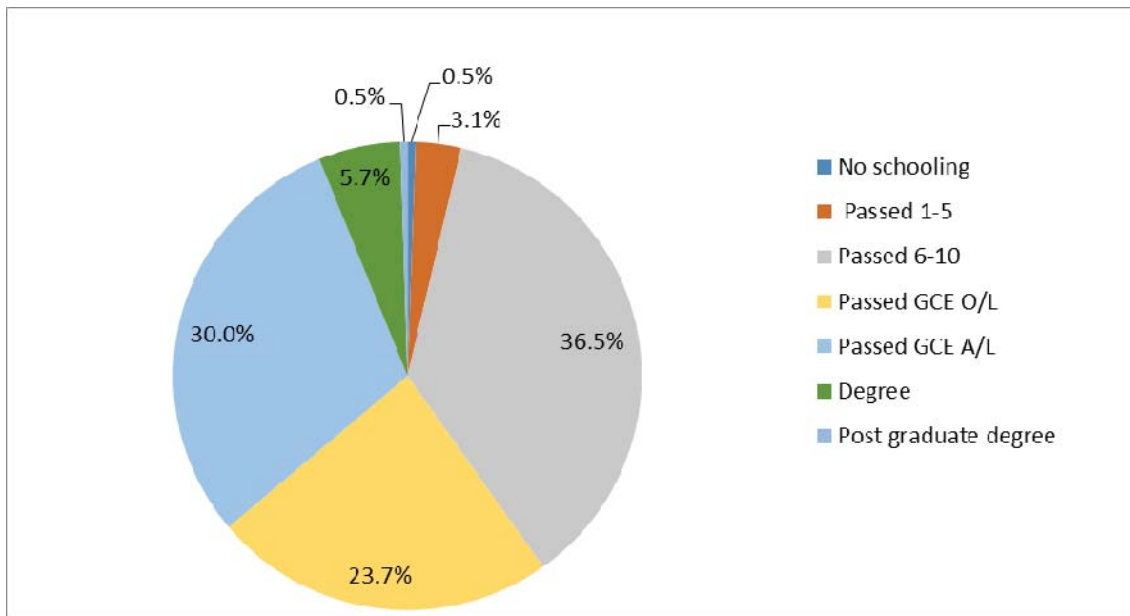
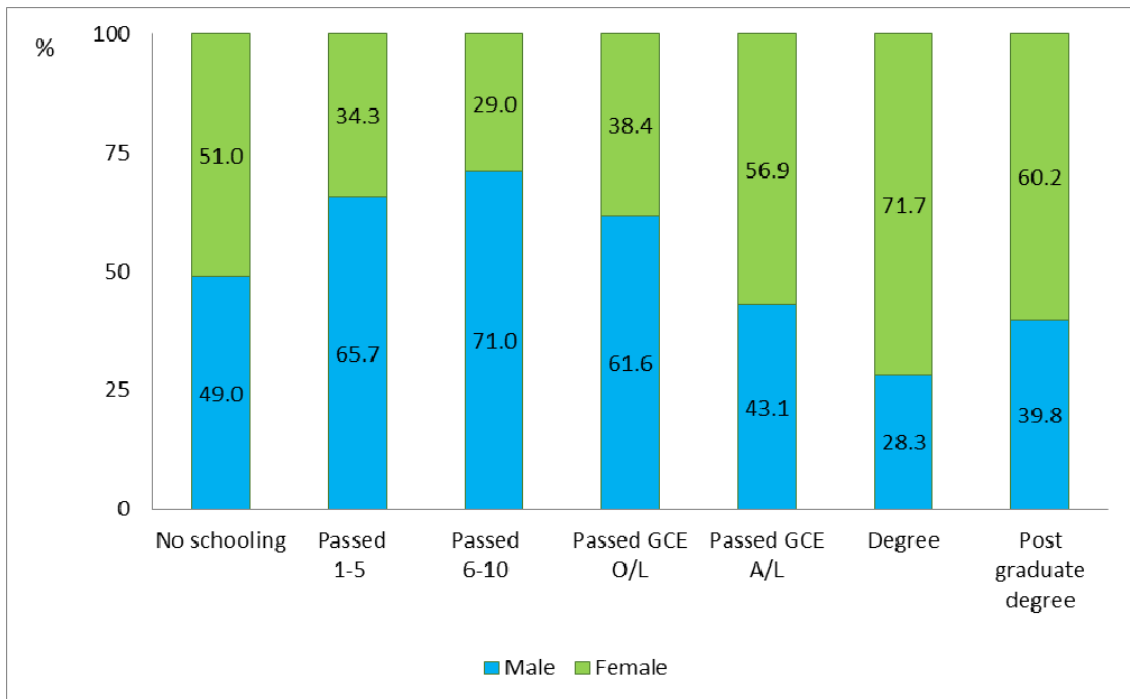


Diagram 11.7: Unemployed population by sex and level of education, 2012



Population not engaged in economic activity

Approximately half of the 15,227,773 persons above 15 year of age in the Sri Lankan population fall in the ‘economically inactive’ category. Numerically it is about 7,370,403 persons. For the purpose of population and housing census an economically inactive person is, a person who is not employed because he/she is either not employable or is not aspiring to be employed. 75 percent of the population not engaged in economic activity are females. When the population not engaged in economic activity is analysed on the basis of sector of residence and by sex, it is observed that the economically inactive females are 3 times higher compared to economically inactive males in the two sectors other than the estate sector.

50.2 percent of the urban population and 48.5 percent of the rural population, above 15 years of age, are not active economically. The estate sector shows a noticeable difference and in that the economically inactive percentage of the estate population is 37.8 percent. The reason for this is the high incidence of participation in economic activity by estate sector women in plantations. Table 11.7 and diagram 11.8 illustrates this position.

Table 11.7: Population not engaged in economic activity by sex and sector of residence, 2012

Sector	Total Population above 15 years	Population Not Engaged In economic activity					
		Total	Male	%	Female	%	
Total	15,227,773	7,370,403	1,775,105	24.1	5,595,298	75.9	
Urban	2,843,630	1,426,675	376,010	26.4	1,050,665	73.6	
Rural	11,753,182	5,705,087	1,321,154	23.2	4,383,933	76.8	
Estate	630,961	238,641	77,941	32.7	160,700	67.3	

Diagram 11.8: Population not engaged in economic activity by sex and sector of residence, 2012

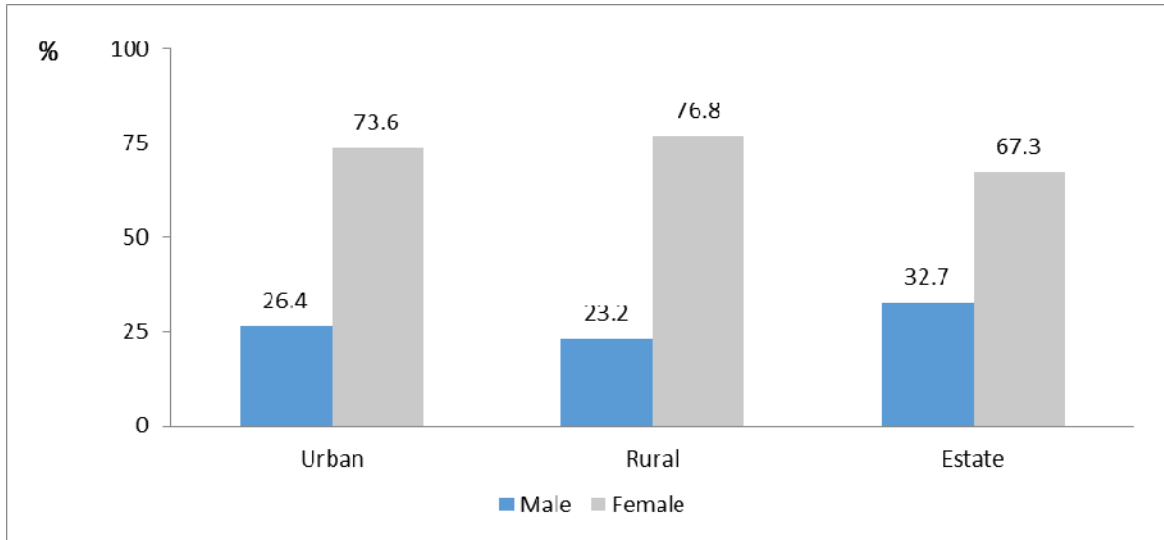
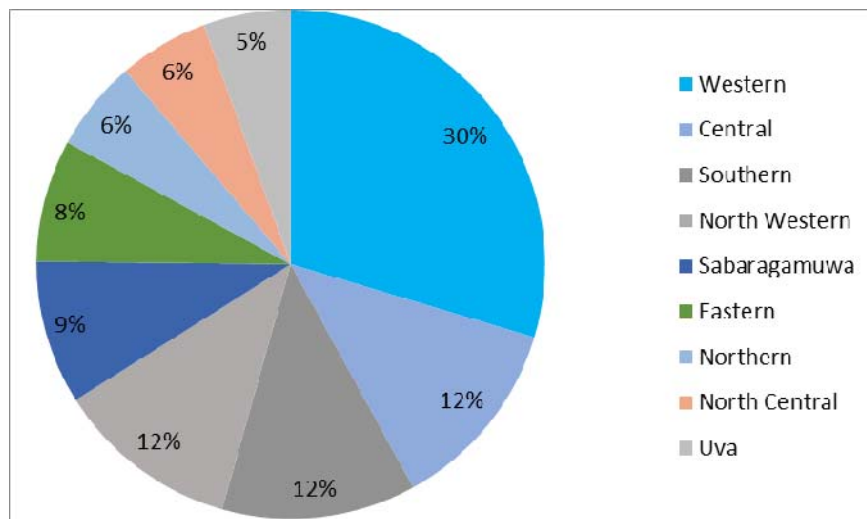


Diagram 11.9 gives the population not engaged in economic activity by province of residence. The highest percentage of economically inactive populations is found in the Western, Central, Southern and North –Western provinces.

Diagram 11.9: Population not engaged in economic activity by province of residence, 2012



When the population not engaged in economic activity is analysed on the basis of sex, the Western province reports 561,682 economically inactive males. In each province between 20 -26 percentage of the male population is reported as economically inactive. Eastern province reports the widest gap between male and female economic non participation with 20.1 percent of the male population and

79.9 percent of the female population reporting as economically inactive. The lowest difference between the sexes is reported from the Central province but generally in every province females exceed males as more economically inactive.

Table 11.8: Population not engaged in economic activity by province of residence and sex, 2012

Province	Population Not engaged in economic activity	Male		Female		Male Female Difference
		No.	%	No.	%	
Total	7,370,403	1,775,105	24.1	5,595,298	75.9	51.8
Western	2,184,311	561,682	25.7	1,622,629	74.3	48.6
Central	911,153	236,221	25.9	674,932	74.1	48.1
Southern	911,090	226,398	24.8	684,692	75.2	50.3
North-Western	861,392	187,725	21.8	673,667	78.2	56.4
Sabaragamuva	672,323	167,686	24.9	504,637	75.1	50.1
Eastern	573,031	115,337	20.1	457,694	79.9	59.7
Northern	427,002	96,373	22.6	330,629	77.4	54.9
North-Central	419,865	85,520	20.4	334,345	79.6	59.3
Uva	410,236	98,163	23.9	312,073	76.1	52.1

Table 11.9 gives information on population not engaged in economic activity by age blocks. Accordingly, a greater percentage of economically inactive persons (25.5 percent) are found in the age block of persons above 60 years of age. Naturally the reason for this could be senility associated with aging. The next highest economically inactive population is found in the age block of 15-19 years and continuation in education could be the reason for this. However, of the economically inactive population 49.9 percent or 3,676,059 persons are in the ages between 20 and 54 years. This is the age group of the country's labour force and this means that a near 50 percent of the labour force of the population is economically inactive. It could be that a good number of persons in the age block of 20-24 years representing 9 percent of the total economically inactive population (660,017 persons) are also engaged in higher education. However, whichever the way we attempt to make compromises, the fact that 49.9 percent of the economically inactive population is between the ages of 20 to 54 years representing the most active segment of the country's labour force may not auger well for the economy of a developing country.

Table 11.9: Population not engaged in economic activity by age groups, 2012

Age blocks	Total Population above 15 Years	Population Not engaged in economic activity	%
Total	15,227,773	7,370,403	100.0
15-19	1,644,249	1,316,779	17.9
20-24	1,532,883	660,017	9.0
25-29	1,552,848	554,469	7.5
30-34	1,639,415	590,869	8.0
35-44	2,768,286	947,242	12.9
45-54	2,505,290	923,462	12.5
55-59	1,064,229	501,339	6.8
60 or More	2,520,573	1,876,226	25.5

Table 11.10 gives the population not engaged in economic activity by the task engaged in and by sex. Accordingly the majority of the population not engaged in economic activity is engaged in household work and that is a good 50 percent of the total economically inactive population. In housework, females exceed males by 3,734,026 persons. This state of affairs denotes that even though Sri Lanka has reached a literacy level and a status of education comparable with developed countries, traditional practices prevent the country from making optimum use of its labour force.

Table 11.10: Population not engaged in economic activity by the task engaged in and sex, 2012

Activity Engaged	Population Not economically engaged	Male		Female	
		No.	%	No.	%
Total	7,370,403	1,775,105	24.1	5,595,298	75.9
Schooling	1,431,105	671,460	46.9	759,645	53.1
Household Chores	4,199,558	232,766	5.5	3,966,792	94.5
Receiving Income	66,547	38,517	57.9	28,030	42.1
Receiving Pension	346,084	213,089	61.6	132,995	38.4
Unable to Work	914,934	399,610	43.7	515,324	56.3
Social work	32,909	20,796	63.2	12,113	36.8
Not-Schooling	32,869	20,649	62.8	12,220	37.2
Other Non-economic Activity	346,397	178,218	51.4	168,179	48.6

Information on Occupied Housing Units

12.0

Information on Occupied Housing Units

From the census conducted since 1946, enumeration of dwelling houses, in addition to enumeration of persons, had been carried out at every census in Sri Lanka. At the listing stage of the census, all building units were categorised under housing units, collective living quarters and non-housing units. This way the houses where persons live were identified and the information was collected only from those building units identified as dwelling house. Thereafter information was collected from those units as to, the source of drinking water, sanitary facilities, source of lighting, source of energy for cooking, the ownership of the house, the method of waste disposal and, the construction material used and the present state of such houses.

The census 2012 reported the existence of 5,267,159 dwelling housing units in country and Gampaha district with 607,662 units reported the highest number of dwelling units while Mannar district with 23,539 units reported the lowest number of dwelling units. The census also reported that 95 percent of these housing units have been used exclusively for dwelling purposes while in the balance 5 percent some economic activity, in addition to dwelling, such as making meal packets, some minor industry, bridal dressing, mat making, tailoring, textile weaving and tug making has been carried out.

For the purpose of census, a household where one or more persons live together, making their meals together has been defined as a 'Dwelling unit'. Therefore it is possible that a housing unit may contain one or more dwelling units. According to census information majority of the houses contain only one dwelling unit while there are 370,302 (7.1 percent) units where only one person is living.

Table 12.1 gives the number of building units occupied reported in 1981 and in 2012, according to the sector of residence. Thus, although it is evident that all the sectors have increased their housing stocks during the inter census period, it is noticeable that the increase in the estate sector does not correspond with the increase in the other two sectors.

During the period of 31 years when the population has increased from 14,846,750 to 20,359,439 persons, the occupied housing stock has increased from 2,813,844 to 5,267,159 units. Accordingly, the average occupants per housing unit have come down from 5.3 to 3.9 persons between 1981 and 2012.

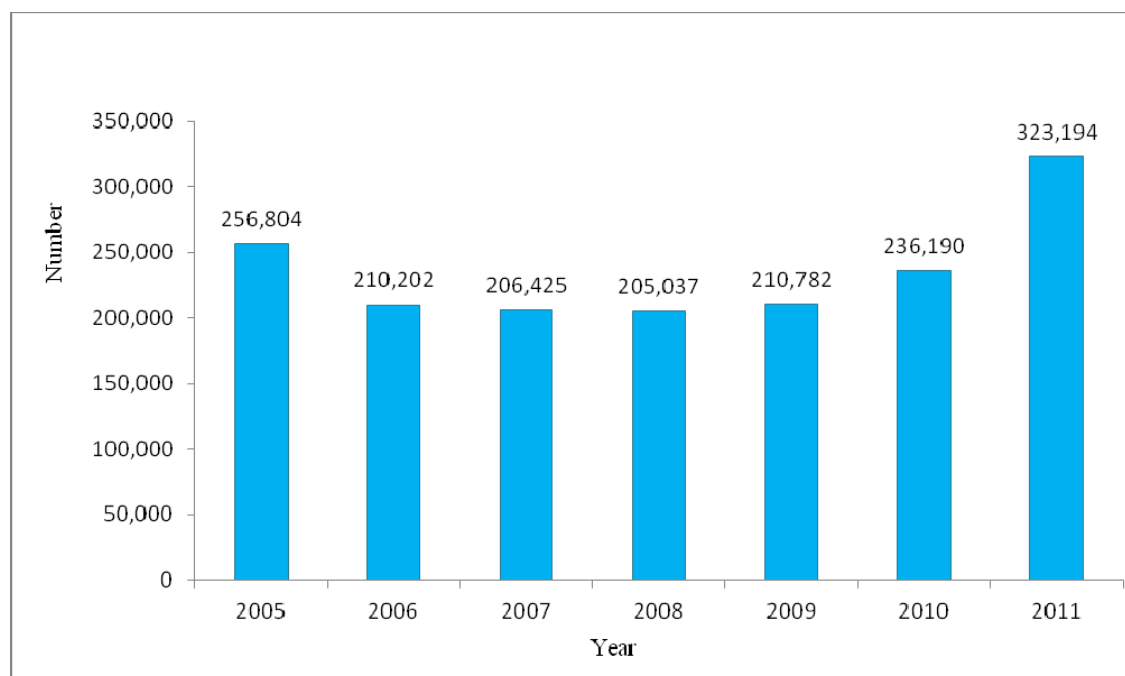
Table 12.1: Number of occupied building units by the sector of residence, 1981 and 2012

Section	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	2,813,844	100.0	5,267,159	100.0
Urban	511,810	18.2	908,078	17.2
Rural	2,084,841	74.1	4,133,982	78.5
Estate	217,193	7.7	225,099	4.3

The year of construction of the houses

The year of construction of a house is an important and a common criterion that reflects on the condition of that house. According to census data there are 1.6 million houses in the country that have been constructed and occupied recently; that is after 2005. Among those there are 323,194 houses that have been constructed and occupied during the year 2011.

Diagram 12.1: Number of housing units by the year of construction, 2005-2011



In 2004, the Tsunami totally destroyed a considerable number of houses in the coastal areas. Therefore 2005 is of special significance with the number of houses constructed and occupied registering at 256,804. Thereafter the number of houses constructed in subsequent years, as shown in diagram 12.1, has recorded the normal pattern of increase but with some momentum in construction again towards 2011.

Different types of the houses

Since the housing units are different in their structure and nature they are categorised accordingly under single houses, storied houses, annexes, twin houses, lined houses and shanties. The houses that are not a part of another building and those that have walls of its own are categorised as single houses and majority of the dwelling houses (84.8 percent) belongs to this category of single storied houses. In addition two storied single houses have been reported as 7.2 percent of the housing stock while lined houses have been reported as 3.6 percent of the housing stock. Majority of the lined housing units have been reported from Nuwara-Eliya district at 31.2 percent of the total lined houses while Badulla district also reported a 11.5 percent share of the Lined houses. During 2012 the highest number of temporary abodes and shanties in the country has been reported from Mullaitivu (44.5 percent) and Kilinochchi (24.4 percent) districts.

The right to enjoy the house

Census 2012 has collected information on the right of occupants to enjoy the dwelling they occupy and thus it is revealed that 82.9 percent of the dwellings have been owned by a member of the occupants while 6.3 percent of the houses are occupied on rent basis. In Colombo district those who occupy the house on rent basis is 15.8 percent while in Gampaha district, it is 13.2 percent. In addition it is also revealed by the census that 1.3 percent of the occupants are occupying their dwellings unlawfully.

In order to study how the ownership has changed over the years from 1981 to 2012, Table 12.2 gives the basis of occupation of the dwellings in 1981 as well as 2012 by the sector of residence. Accordingly all the sectors have recorded an improvement in the ownership of the dwellings they live in while the biggest improvement has been evident in the estate sector where the ownership has improved from 1.3 percent to 22.2 percent.

When you consider the position of occupation of the dwellings on rent basis, the number of dwellings on rent basis has come down in the urban and rural sectors while in the estate sector it has increased from 1.3 percent to 5.3 percent.

Table 12.2: percentage of housing units owned by a member of the household and rented by the sector of residence, 1981 and 2012

Sector	Owned		Resident on rent	
	by Residents			
	1981	2012	1981	2012
Sri Lanka	69.5	82.9	10.2	6.3
Urban	58.0	75.0	29.1	14.8
Rural	79.5	88.0	6.5	4.5
Estate	1.3	22.2	1.3	5.3

The durability state of house construction

According to the information on population and housing census conducted in 2012, 81.4 percent of the 5,207,740 housing units dwelled in by persons in the country are constructed with durable building materials while 17.8 percent of the houses are constructed with semi durable materials. The balance houses have been constructed using ephemeral building material. The highest number of houses constructed with semi durable materials is found in the Nuwara-Eliya district (11.7 percent) while the highest number of ephemeral material constructed houses is found in the Batticaloa district (16.8 percent). Further, in the districts of Mullaitivu, Nuwara-Eliya and Kilinochchi more than half the houses have been constructed using semi durable or ephemeral building materials.

Table 12.3: Number of housing units by nature of construction material, 1981 and 2012

Building Material	1981		2012	
	No.	%	No.	%
Sri Lanka	2,813,839	100.0	5,207,740	100.0
Permanent Material	1,178,575	41.9	4,238,491	81.4
Semi-Permanent Material	1,453,316	51.6	927,408	17.8
Ephemeral Material	181,948	6.5	41,841	0.8

Note

Durable material: bricks, stones, or cement blocks for walls and tiles, asbestos and concrete for the roof and cement, tiles, wood or terrazzo for the floor.

Semi durable material: Clay for the walls and galvanised sheets for the roof and stones for the floor

Ephemeral material: straw, cadjan leaves for the roof and clay or sand for the floor.

Materials used for construction of walls, roof and floor of dwelling units

At census 2012 information was collected on materials used for construction of walls, roof and floor of dwelling units. Generally, it is plausible to construct the walls of the houses with bricks, cement or clay. According to census data, more than half of the dwelling housing units (53.1 percent) has been constructed using bricks for walls. Yet in the district of Kilinochchi (0.8 percent), Jaffna (2.1 percent) and Mannar (2.3 percent), the use of bricks have been minimal. The use of cement blocks in wall construction in dwelling housing units of the country has been 33.8 percent while 5 percent of dwelling units in the country has used clay for wall construction.

Majority of the houses in the country (72.5 percent) have used cement for floor paving while the use of more expensive tile, terrazzo and granite have been used in 12.2 percent of the houses. Yet 7.5 percent of the houses have still used clay for floor paving.

The use of tiles for roof construction remains most appropriate for countries with tropical climatic conditions. Use of tiles has been recorded in 47.6 percent of the houses in the country while the use of asbestos has been recorded in 34.6 percent of the houses. In Colombo district alone the use of asbestos has been a high 64.6 percent. Further, in the district of Colombo 14.0 percent of the roofs have been constructed with concrete. In the Nuwara-Eliya district 55.3 percent of the dwelling houses have used galvanise sheets. In Northern Province too, apart from Jaffna district the use of galvanised sheets have been popular. Further in the Northern Province and in the district of Puttalam in North –western province, thatched roofs made of straw, coconut or palm leaves have been common in house construction.

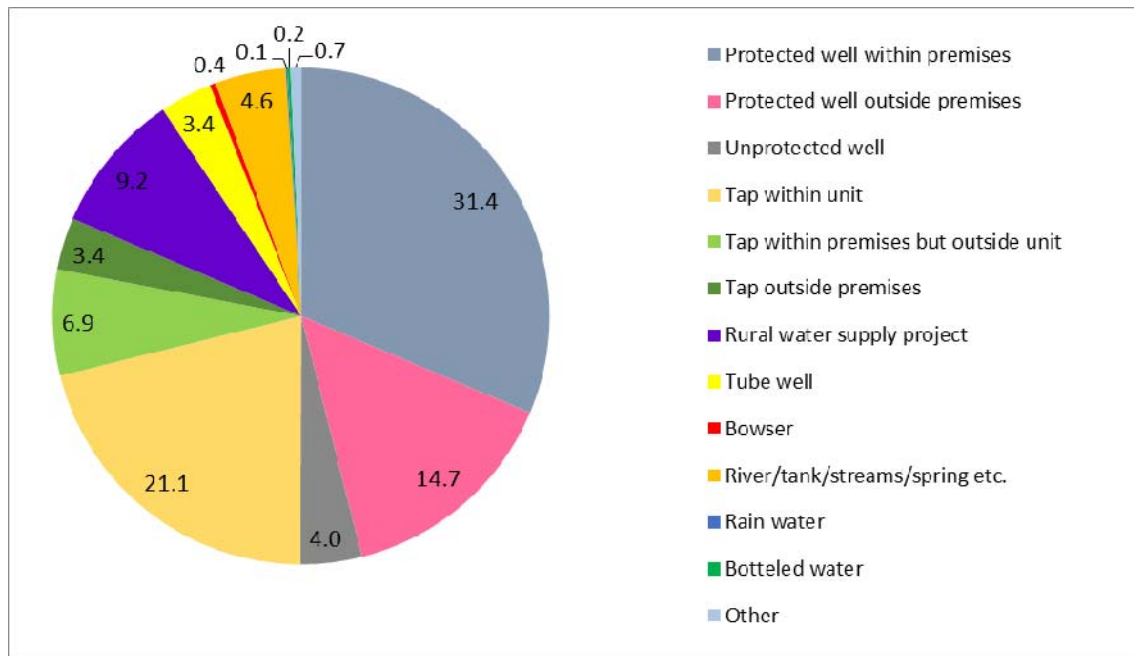
Sanitary and other utilities in dwelling units

At census 2012 information was also collected on sanitary and other utilities available to the dwelling units. Thus, toilet facilities, source of drinking water, source of lighting, source of cooking fuels and the sources of solid waste disposal were considered therein.

Main sources of drinking water

According to census 2012 safe drinking water is available to 80.9 percent of the dwelling units in the country. 21.1 percent of the houses have pipe borne water while 31.4 percent of the houses have a protected well with aquifers providing safe drinking water.

Diagram 12.2: Distribution of percentages in dwelling units by the source of drinking water, 2012



When data on the sources of drinking water is compared between census 1981 and census 2012, availability of pipe borne water in dwelling unit has recorded an appreciable increase in all the three sectors of residence, urban, rural and estate (Table 12.4). Since water is available in the house the time taken to fetch water has been minimised. Of the users of pipe borne water 89.1 percent of the users have water within the house in 2012 whereas in 1981 only 46.6 percent of the houses enjoyed that facility. Further, a high incidence of the percentage in availability of pipe borne water is reported from the districts of Matara, Colombo and Kalutara.

According to census 2012 the percentage of dwelling units that obtain water from the common pipe outside the house is 10.9 percent of the pipe borne water users. This shows a decrease of 42.5 percent compared to census 1981. The highest incidence of the use of common pipe outside the house is reported from the Northern Province and among the districts in the North; Jaffna district reports the highest percentage at 72.6 percent.

Table 12.4: Percentages of dwelling houses with pipe borne water by the sector of residence and district, 1981 and 2012

Sector/District	1981		2012	
	Pipe borne water inside the House	Pipe borne water outside the House	Pipe borne water inside the House	Pipe borne water outside the House
	Sri Lanka	46.6	53.4	89.1
Urban	52.9	47.1	92.1	7.9
Rural	35.4	64.6	87.9	12.1
Estate	43.9	56.1	69.7	30.3
Colombo	61.1	38.9	93.6	6.4
Gampaha	52.9	47.1	89.9	10.1
Kalutara	56.3	43.7	92.8	7.2
Kandy	49.5	50.5	91.7	8.3
Matale	43.7	56.3	88.9	11.1
Nuwara-Eliya	28.3	71.7	78.0	22.0
Galle	41.8	58.2	90.3	9.7
Matara	54.5	45.5	94.3	5.7
Hambantota	21.5	78.5	91.2	8.8
Jaffna	29.9	70.1	27.4	72.6
Mannar	11.4	88.6	79.4	20.6
Vavuniya	43.7	56.3	57.4	42.6
Mullaitivu	20.7	79.3	53.2	46.8
Kilinochchi	*	*	73.5	26.5
Batticaloa	25.5	74.5	91.7	8.3
Ampara	55.5	44.5	91.5	8.5
Trincomalee	34.2	65.8	88.0	12.0
Kurunegala	45.6	54.4	82.5	17.5
Puttalam	46.9	53.1	84.7	15.3
Anuradhapura	42.0	58.0	86.3	13.7
Polonnaruwa	43.0	57.0	87.4	12.6
Badulla	35.0	65.0	85.0	15.0
Moneragala	54.8	45.2	87.1	12.9
Ratnapura	47.5	52.5	80.7	19.3
Kegalle	60.8	39.2	83.7	16.3

* Kilinochchi was not treated as a separate district in 1981

Common fuels used for cooking

78.4 percent of the dwelling units in Sri Lanka use fire wood as the fuel for cooking while 18.5 percent use liquid petroleum gas as cooking fuel. Census data shows that compared to the other districts there is high incidence of use of petroleum gas as cooking fuel in the district of Colombo at 60.5 percent.

Table 12.5: Percentages of dwelling units using fire wood and gas as cooking fuel by district and sector of residence, 1981 and 2012

Sector/District	Use of Firewood		Use of L.P. Gas	
	1981	2012	1981	2012
Sri Lanka	94.1	78.4	0.4	18.5
Urban	85.4	35.8	2.2	53.7
Rural	96.6	86.8	0.0	11.6
Estate	90.0	95.0	0.1	3.7
Colombo	82.3	28.8	3.6	60.5
Gampaha	96.3	62.5	0.3	31.0
Kalutara	97.7	77.1	0.1	21.2
Kandy	96.7	80.8	0.2	17.8
Matale	98.1	90.9	0.1	8.4
Nuwara-Eliya	96.4	86.5	0.1	11.2
Galle	97.7	83.6	0.1	15.4
Matara	98.1	86.7	0.1	12.6
Hambantota	98.6	93.0	0.0	6.5
Jaffna	96.5	90.7	0.2	5.2
Mannar	98.4	88.5	0.0	8.5
Vavuniya	96.6	83.0	0.0	12.7
Mullaitivu	97.8	97.5	0.0	0.6
Kilinochchi	*	96.8	*	0.7
Batticaloa	97.6	74.6	0.1	20.3
Ampara	97.2	77.4	0.1	16.5
Trincomalee	96.5	82.4	0.1	13.8
Kurunegala	98.2	94.4	0.0	5.2
Puttalam	97.7	87.4	0.0	10.6
Anuradhapura	98.0	91.9	0.0	7.6
Polonnaruwa	97.8	93.7	0.1	5.7
Badulla	97.3	91.5	0.1	7.7
Moneragala	98.6	96.2	0.0	3.2
Ratnapura	98.1	92.7	0.1	6.7
Kegalle	98.3	92.7	0.0	6.8

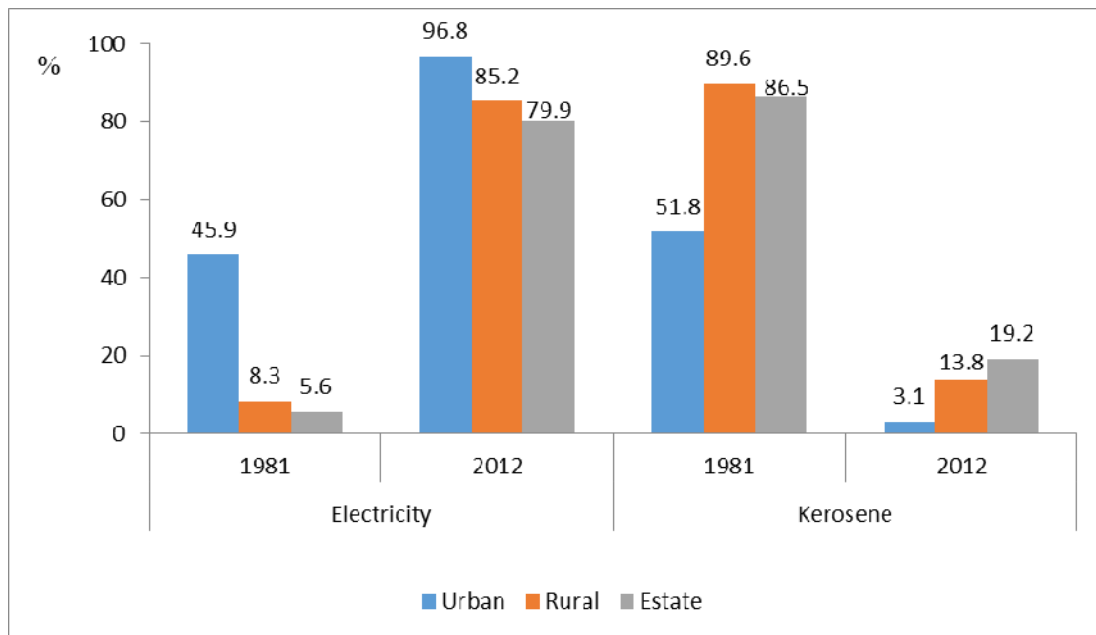
* Kilinochchi was not treated as a separate district in 1981

In comparing data of census 1981 and census 2012 it is evident that in all the districts in the country, there is an increased use of petroleum gas with a corresponding decrease in the use of fire wood as cooking fuel, during this period. However in the districts of Matale, Hambantota, Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, Moneragala, Ratnapura and Kegalle the use of fire wood still remains high (above 90 percent) compared to the remaining districts. The district of Colombo, where 82.3 percent of the dwelling units used fire wood as cooking oil in 1981, has registered a decrease of same to 28.8 percent in the year 2012. Similarly the use of petroleum gas has increased from 3.6 percent to 60.5 percent during this period in the Colombo district.

The source of lighting

The popular source of lighting of dwelling units in today’s society is electricity. At this present moment the national grid provides electricity to 87 percent of the houses in Sri Lanka. According to data the national grid has supplied electricity to 96.8 percent dwelling units in the urban sector while it is 85.2 percent and 79.9 percent for the rural and estate sectors respectively. From the year 1981 up to 2012 there has been a considerable increase in the procurement and supply of electricity in the country which is evident in the increase in use of electricity for lighting in every sector of living in the country. Further it could be observed that by 2012 the percentage differences in the use of electricity for lighting between the sectors of living have narrowed considerably.

Diagram 12.3: The use of electricity and kerosene oil for lighting, 1981 and 2012



According to census 2012, the use of kerosene oil in the country for lighting is 12.2 percent and that is a considerable decrease from the year 1981. In 1981, a half or 51.8 percent of the dwelling units in the urban sector used kerosene oil for lighting while in the rural and estate sectors the percentages that used kerosene for lighting had been 89.6 percent and 86.5 percent respectively. As per census 2012 the use of kerosene oil for lighting in the urban sector has come down to 3.1 percent of the dwelling units while similar decreases could be witnessed in the other two sectors as well.

Table 12.6: Percentages of dwelling units that use electricity and kerosene oil for lighting by district and sector of living, 1981 and 2012

Sector/District	Electricity		Kerosene	
	1981	2012**	1981	2012
Sri Lanka	14.9	87.0	82.5	12.2
Urban	45.9	96.8	51.8	3.1
Rural	8.3	85.2	89.6	13.8
Estate	5.6	79.9	86.5	19.2
Colombo	45.4	97.7	54.4	2.2
Gampaha	21.8	96.3	78.1	3.6
Kalutara	18.0	93.4	81.8	6.2
Kandy	19.3	92.6	80.6	7.2
Matale	7.1	84.4	92.7	14.8
Nuwara-Eliya	10.1	88.0	89.7	11.8
Galle	12.3	93.7	87.5	6.2
Matara	10.2	93.6	89.7	6.2
Hambantota	5.3	88.3	94.4	11.3
Jaffna	25.6	72.4	74.3	27.3
Mannar	3.9	58.3	94.8	39.8
Vavuniya	5.7	69.7	93.4	28.8
Mullaitivu	2.1	20.5	97.1	72.8
Kilinochchi	*	9.8	*	78.9
Batticaloa	11.6	67.2	88.2	32.4
Ampara	13.4	81.3	86.2	17.9
Trincomalee	11.7	76.2	87.8	23.4
Kurunegala	4.6	85.1	95.2	13.4
Puttalam	10.8	83.7	89.0	15.0
Anuradhapura	6.4	82.8	93.5	16.0
Polonnaruwa	4.7	82.4	95.0	16.7
Badulla	10.8	85.9	89.0	13.4
Moneragala	3.5	69.4	96.2	27.4
Ratnapura	6.0	82.8	93.7	15.7
Kegalle	5.6	88.2	94.3	11.4

* Kilinochchi was not treated as a separate district in 1981

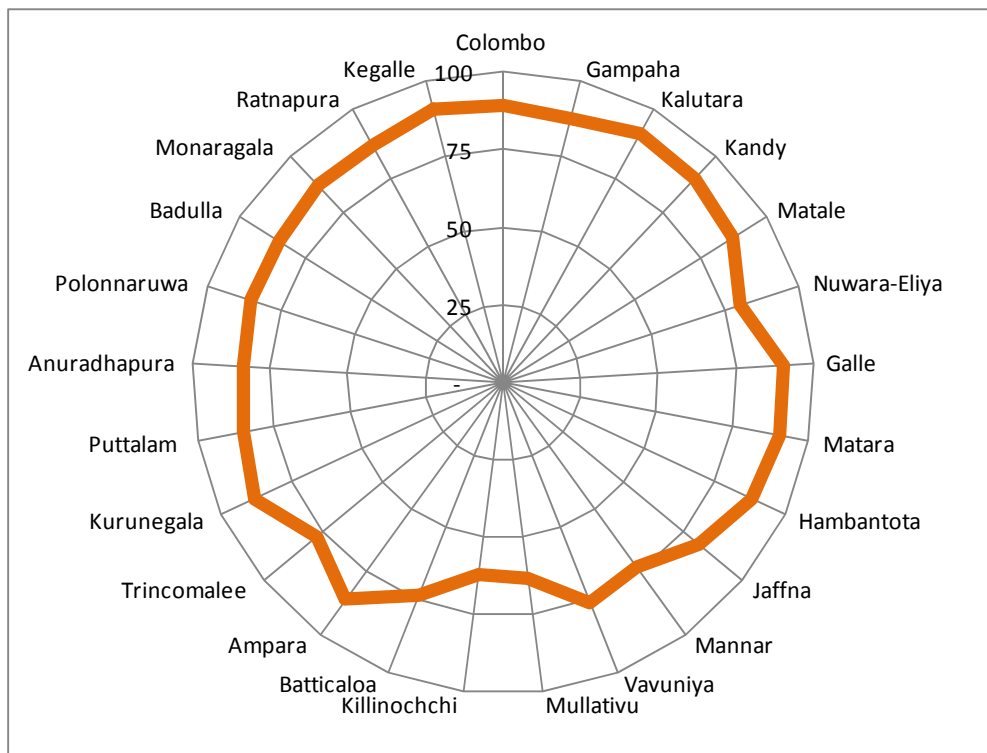
** Percentage that used the national grid and electricity generated by rural electricity schemes

The census 2012 information has revealed that 0.6 percent of the dwelling units in the country is using solar power as the source of lighting. In the district of Kilinochhi, 11.1 percent of the dwelling units use solar power as their main source of lighting.

Sanitary facilities in dwelling units

In sanitary facilities, it could be observed that the use of water sealed toilet has become very popular in recent times. During the period from 1981 to 2012 the use of water sealed toilets has increased from 22.1 percent to 93.6 percent. According to census 2012, 86.7 percent of the dwelling units in Sri Lanka have a toilet for its own exclusive use while 10.9 percent of the units have shared toilets. Occupants of 0.7 percent of the dwelling units use public toilets.

Diagram 12.4: Distribution of households with an exclusive toilet by district, 2012



During census 1981 dwelling units with no toilet facilities whatsoever were recorded as 33.5 percent while at census 2012 it is recorded as only 1.7 percent. Nevertheless, this should mean that numerically 88,280 dwelling units in the country have no toilet facilities. 68 percent of these dwelling units with no toilet facilities are located in the Northern, Eastern and North-central provinces.

When this position is considered district wise, it could be observed that in the districts of Mullaitivu (20.6 percent) and Kilinochchi (21.9 percent) one in every five dwelling units have no toilet facility while in Batticaloa district one in every eight dwelling units or 12.5 percent have no toilet facilities.

Solid waste disposal

On the subject of solid waste disposal by the dwelling units, it is revealed that majority of the dwelling units (47.2 percent) burn their solid waste. On the basis of sector of living, in the rural and estate sectors the dwelling units that burn their waste is 53.9 percent and 50.2 percent respectively. In totality of the dwelling units in the country burying waste is resorted to by 23.3 percent while disposal through local government authorities take place in 20.5 percent of the dwelling units. In this midst 7.7 percent of the dwelling units have reported making compost manure from solid waste and this category is reported at urban, rural an estate sectors at 2.7 percent, 8.8 percent and 7.6 percent respectively.

The inappropriate practice of releasing solid waste in to waterways/ streams or dumping by the roadside is carried out mostly by the occupants in estate dwelling (12.8 percent) units. In the district of Nuwara-Eliya it is reported that 11.7 percent of the waste in dwelling units is either being released to streams, dumped by the road side or thrown in to the woods.

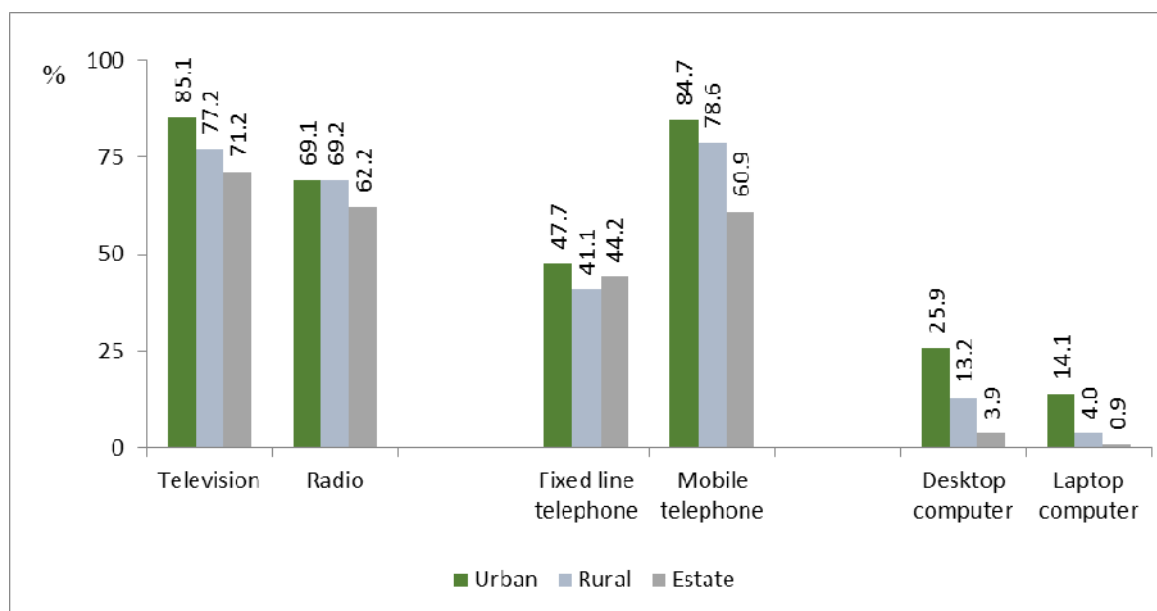
Table 12.7: Percentages in solid waste disposing avenues by sector of residence, 2012

Sector	Solid waste disposal avenues					
	Removal by Provincial Authorities	By burning Waste domestically	By burying Waste domestically	Making Compost	Disposal of Waste in-appropriately to rivers, highways and Forests	Other
Sri Lanka	20.5	47.2	23.3	7.7	0.9	0.3
Urban	75.1	16.0	5.6	2.7	0.4	0.3
Rural	9.4	53.9	27.3	8.8	0.3	0.2
Estate	3.2	50.2	22.5	7.6	12.8	3.7

The use of electronic equipment

Census 2012 collected information on the use of different electronic items that are in use within dwelling units such as television sets, radios, mobile phones, stationary phones, desktop computers and laptop computers and accordingly their percentage uses have been recorded as 78.3, 68.9, 78.9, 42.4, 15.0 and 5.6 respectively for the whole island. When this use is analysed on the sector of living the urban sector invariably recorded high percentages. There is a noticeable difference in the use of computers between the sectors. Further, in the capacity to avail communication equipment Colombo district scored high percentage values as against other districts.

Diagram 12.5: Distribution of households' use of electronic equipment by sector of residence, 2012



Census 2012, for the first time in history of census, collected information on the capacity of dwelling units to access the internet. Accordingly it was revealed that 10.9 percent of dwelling units in the country has capacity to access the internet. When the information was analysed on the sector of residence; of the total dwelling units, 23.4 percent in the urban sector, 8.6 percent in the rural sector and 4.1 percent in the estate sector have access to internet. Diagram 12.6 and diagram 12.7 show the percentages of dwelling units with capacity to access internet on their own and dwelling units that could access internet through another facility. Accordingly the majority of dwelling units with capacity to access internet on their own are located in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kandy.

The highest percentage of dwelling units with ability to access internet through other facilities such as Nanesala, Internet cafes and other avenues happens to be in the districts of Northern Province.

Diagram 12.6: Distribution of housing units with capacity to access internet on their own by district, 2012

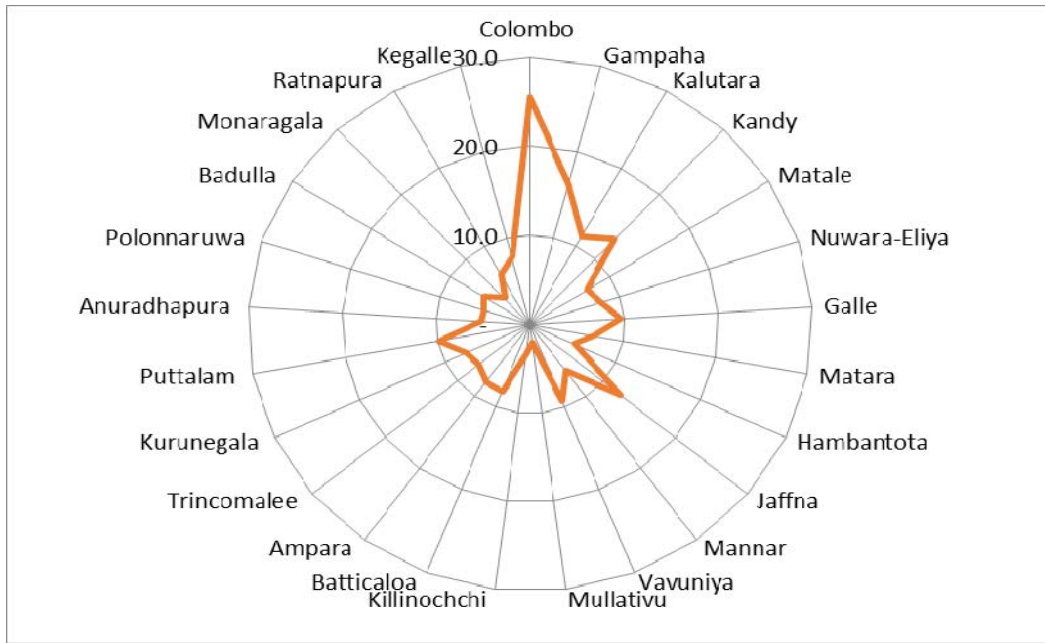
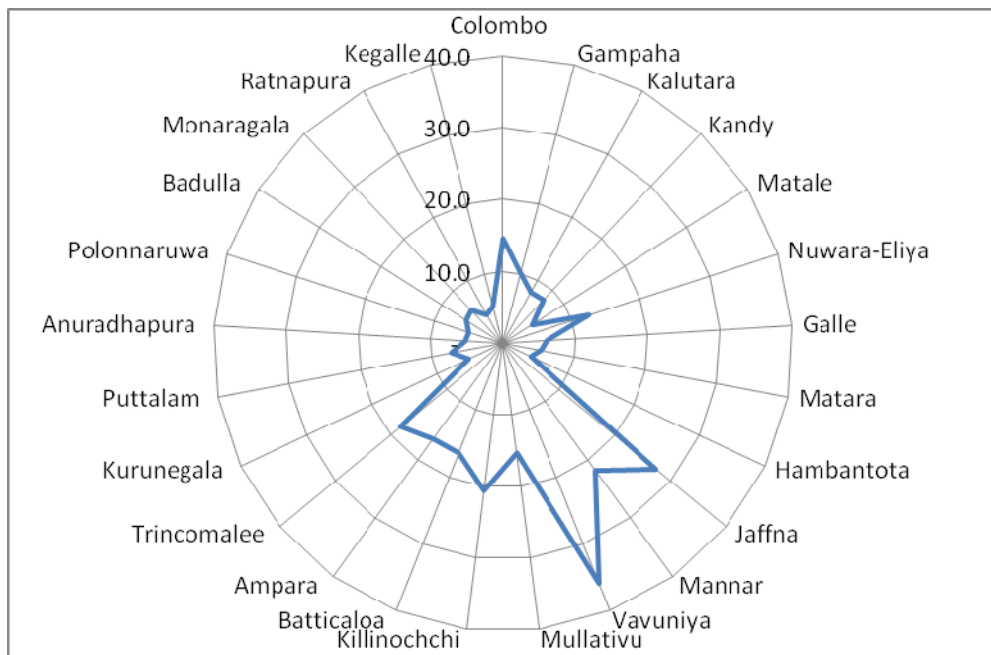


Diagram 12.7: Distribution of housing units with ability to access internet through other facilities by district, 2012



Enclosures

Concepts and definitions

1. Sector

Urban sector - All areas administered by Municipal councils and urban councils comes under the Urban sector.

Estate sector - Areas comprising of estates of all plantations in extent of 20 acres and above fall under the Estate sector.

Rural sector - All area in the country that do not come under either urban or estate sectors belong to the Rural sector.

2. Place of usual residence

Usual place of residence is the place where a person is resident at the time of census and where he contemplates to reside for the next six months.

E.g. Generally the usual place of resident is the house or the collective household where a person lives, sleeps and keeps his clothes and other belongings. It is the place from where a person goes to work and, if a student, he/she would go to school. Although the usual place of resident invariably is the permanent place of resident as well, it need not necessarily be so always.

3. Dwelling unit and the Householder

Dwelling unit

A dwelling unit could comprise either a single person or a collection of persons. A single dwelling unit is a situation where a person lives alone, on his own, procuring his meals while a collective dwelling unit is where two or more persons live among themselves procuring meals collectively. A dwelling unit may generally comprise the members of a family, i.e. husband, wife, children, and any other person or persons who live under that common arrangement procuring meals in a common way. A person who stays with a dwelling unit but procures his meals separately is considered as a separate dwelling unit.

Householder

Householder is a person who lives in a dwelling unit and is recognised as the householder or chief occupant by the rest of the members in the dwelling unit.

4. The date of birth

The enumerating officers are required to note down the year and month of birth of every person. When the respondent is not aware of either of those the enumerating officers have been instructed to estimate a person's age either with the help of an elder relative who is acquainted with the ages of the family members or, in relation to a popular personal or public incident that has taken place within that person's life time.

5. Marital status

What is considered as 'marital status' is the marital status of a person at the time of the census. If a person's marriage is registered that person is listed as 'married' (registered). If a person has not registered his/ her marriage but states that he/she is married such persons are also considered 'married' (customary). A person is listed as 'divorced' only if that person has obtained a divorce from a Court of law. If a divorced person has married again such persons are considered as 'married' and not as 'divorced'. Listing of 'Legally separated' is given to those who live separately with an arrangement from courts but not divorced. Those who have separated on their own accord with no arrangement from the courts are listed as 'not legally separated'.

6. Ethnicity

For the purpose of census Sri Lankans could be categorised ethnically as Sinhalese, Sri Lankan Tamil, Indian Tamil, Sri Lankan moor, Burger, Malay, Sri Lankan Chetty and Indian. All others who do not fall under any of the above categories have been listed as 'others'. Even though those categorised as Indian Tamils may have parents who have obtained Sri Lankan citizenship those are so categorised for the purpose of identification. In the case of ethnically mixed parentage, the child is considered to be of father's ethnicity.

7. Citizenship

The census has not listed a person's citizenship to say whether it is by decent or by registration. In doubtful situations the enumerating officer had been instructed to examine papers and establish the citizenship of the persons. When the enumerating officers come across persons who are not citizens of Sri Lanka they are expected to list down the citizenship of such persons.

8. The district of birth

The district of birth of a person is the district where the mother of that person was normally resident at the time of his/her birth. If a person was born abroad the country of birth is listed as the district of that person's birth. In cases involving districts that are demarcated recently the enumerating officers have been instructed to identify the new boundaries and adopt the new name of the district.

9. Period of residence in the usual place of residence

By period here is meant the time between, the date a person comes to reside in the district where he is resident at the time of census and the census date.

10. Participation in pre-school, school, University, professional body or vocational training centre or any other place of learning

Persons who have engaged themselves in an 'acceptable' educational activity during the 30 days preceding census have been counted under this. Further if a person has not attended the educational activity due to ill health, vacation or any other such reason, the person is considered as 'having followed the course'.

Pre-school is a place to which a child is admitted before he attends school and a place where the child is equipped to take up formal education.

A school is either a government or private registered educational institution that conducts classes from grade 1 up to GCE (A/L).

All registered universities (including the Open University) have been treated as universities.

A vocational training/ technical centre is a place that conducts standard vocational training courses and at the end issues a certificate that enables a person to start employment or self-employment.

Sewing centres and private training institutes that bestow a certificate acceptable to employer and self-employment programs are categorised under 'other educational institutes'.

11. The highest educational qualification

The highest academic qualification, a person has obtained has been considered under this.

12. Literacy

Any one of the three common languages in the country, Sinhala, Tamil and English were considered in this when reference is made to a 'language'. A person is considered capable of reading and writing in a language if that person could read a language and comprehend the contents of reading and also if that person could write a short paragraph from that language. The ability to read and write any one of the three languages to the above level makes a person 'literate'.

13. Computer literacy

If a person could accomplish a task (any task) using a computer with no help from outside (on his own), that person is considered computer literate. Accordingly if a person could play a computer game on his own that person is considered 'computer literate'.

14. Labour force

This force is made up of persons above 15 years of age in a population who have the capacity to be economically active.

15. Economically active general population

This is the population that has been engaged in economic activity during the period under consideration (in at least half of the 12 month period that preceded census) and those who are prepared to be engaged in economic activity classed as 'unemployed' during that period. Half of the 12 month period is a period of 26 weeks.

16. Employed

This is the population that has been economically active at least in half of the 12 months preceding census by engaged in salaried employment and those who are contributing to a family economic activity without emoluments.

17. Unemployed

The population that is economically not active due to being unemployed but aspire to be employed during the 12 month period under consideration.

18. Employment status

The employment status could take the following 4 statuses.

(i) Employed

Those who are engaged in some task in consideration of salary, wages, commission or share of profits. The payments under above could be monthly, weekly, daily, on piece meal or on proportion basis. The performance of the services could be on permanent, as a probationer, casual or on contract basis. Payment need not necessarily be on cash as it could be in kind (by profit or benefit). Depending on the sector of employment the employees could be sub divided in to Government, Semi government or Private.

(ii) Employer

A person who engages one or more persons continuously in an industry or business owned by him or his family by paying them emoluments.

(iii) Self- employed

A person engaged in his own economic activity without employing another, often performing all the functions by him/her self. Mostly those who have specialised in a trade such as tailor, barber, lottery ticket seller, welder etc.

(iv) Family worker without emoluments

A person who helps/ contributes in the family business or trade without receiving a particular emolument as such.

