

Highlights
Census of Population and Housing - 2012
North Central Province

Indicator	Unit	North Central Province	Anuradhapura District	Polonnaruwa District
Total population	Number	1,266,663	860,575	406,088
By Sex				
Male	Number	620,880	420,100	200,780
Female	Number	645,783	440,475	205,308
By Sector				
Urban	Percent	4.0	5.9	0.0
Rural	Percent	96.0	94.1	100.0
Estate	Percent	0.0	0.0	0.0
By Ethnicity				
Sinhalese	Percent	90.9	91.0	90.7
Tamil	Percent	1.0	0.6	1.8
Sri Lanka Moor	Percent	8.0	8.2	7.4
Other	Percent	0.1	0.2	0.1
By Religion				
Buddhist	Percent	90.0	90.1	89.7
Hindu	Percent	0.8	0.4	1.7
Islam	Percent	8.0	8.3	7.5
Other	Percent	1.2	1.2	1.1
By Education Status				
No schooling	Percent	3.5	3.4	3.9
Passed primary	Percent	25.6	25.2	26.4
Passed secondary	Percent	46.6	46.1	47.7
Passed G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	Percent	14.1	14.5	13.1
Passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	Percent	8.6	9.1	7.7
Degree or above	Percent	1.5	1.7	1.2
By Economic status				
Total Active	Number	509,797	353,004	156,793
Male Active	Number	366,202	245,647	120,555
Female Active	Number	143,595	107,357	36,238
Total Inactive	Number	419,865	276,660	143,205
Male Inactive	Number	85,520	58,684	26,836
Female Inactive	Number	334,345	217,976	116,369
Literacy	Rate	95.4	95.7	94.8
Computer Literacy	Rate	17.7	18.3	16.4

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North Central Province

1.0 Introduction

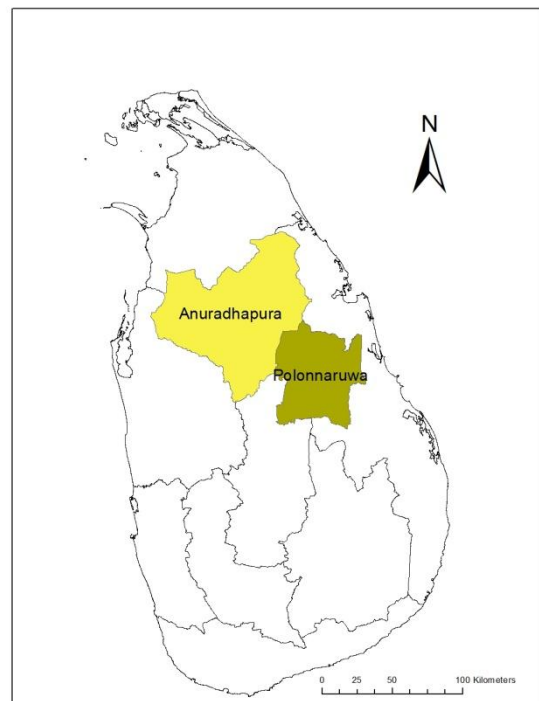
The Department of Census and Statistics successfully conducted 14th consecutive Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka on 20th March, 2012. Enumeration stage of this Census comprised of two rounds. During the first round, performed from 27th February to 19th March 2012, data were collected from persons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

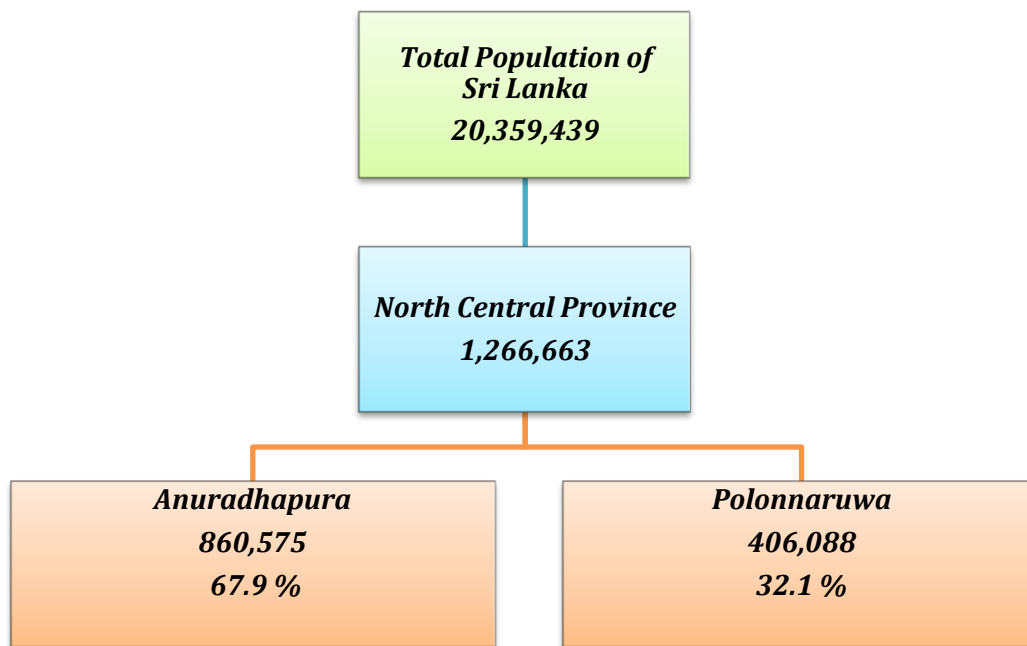
According to the data dissemination plan of the Census, province level reports will be published with district level information. In addition district level, DS

division level and GN level data will be provided through softcopies in CD's. This publication presents population information of North Central province, which consist of two districts namely Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa .

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

Figure 1 : Location of North Central province





2.0 Population distribution

Six percent (or 1,266,663) of Sri Lankan population lived in North Central province. Almost 77 percent of population in this province live in the same Province since birth. However, in Polonnaruwa district, percentage of population since birth is 69.1 percent. This means 30 percent of population was migrated to Polonnaruwa district from other districts.

Out of the total population in the province, 860,575 (67.9 %) belongs to Anuradhapura district. Polonnaruwa district population is 406,088 (32.1%). Population density (or number of persons per square km) of the Province is 130. Population density of Polonnaruwa district (132) is higher than Anuradhapura district (129).

2.1 Population distribution by DS division

There are 22 DS divisions in Anuradhapura district and 7 DS divisions in Polonnaruwa district. The highest and the lowest population in Anuradhapura district is reported from Nuwaragam Palatha East DS division (69,737) and Palugaswewa DS division (15,582) respectively. In Polonnaruwa district the highest and the lowest population is reported from Thamankaduwa DS division (82,426) and Welikanda DS division (33,770).

Figure 2 and Figure 3 present population distribution by DS division in Anuradhapura district and Polonnaruwa district.

Figure 2 : Anuradhapura District Population Distribution by DS Division

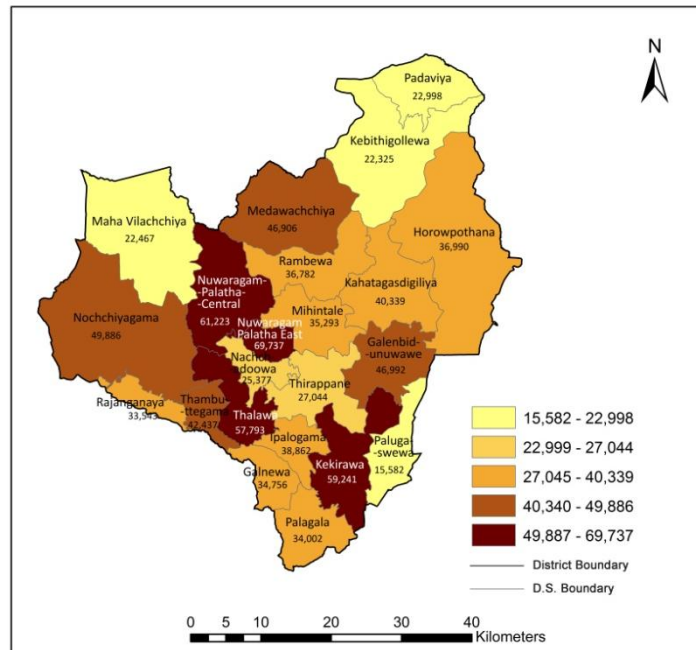
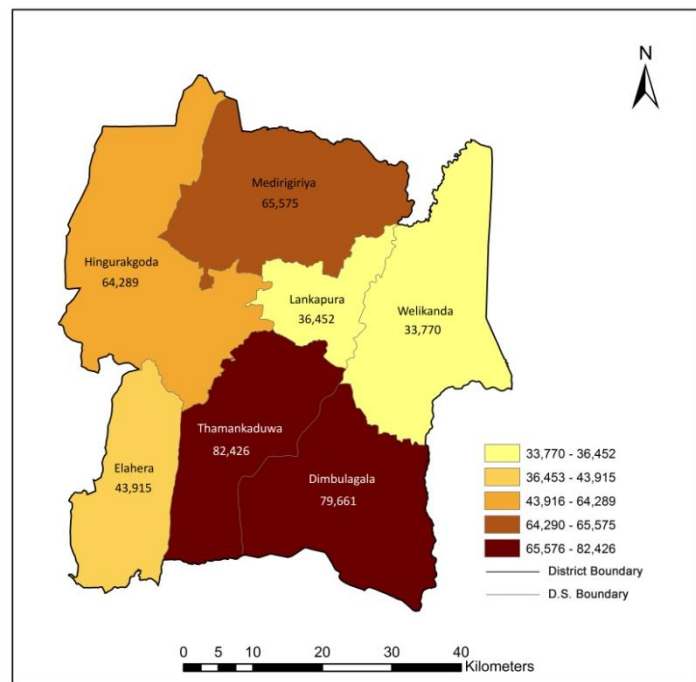


Figure 3 : Polonnaruwa District Population Distribution by DS Division



2.2 Population distribution by sector

Majority of population in North Central province (96%), is in Rural sector. According to the definition no Urban areas are in Polonnaruwa district and no Estate areas in Anuradhapura district. In

Anuradhapura district, Urban sector is located in Nuwaragam Palatha Central, Mihintale and Nuwaragam Palatha West. Almost all population in Polonnaruwa district is in Rural sector. Percentage distribution of population by sector is given in Table1.

Table 1 : Percentage distribution of population by sector

	Population	Sector			
		Total	Urban	Rural	Estate
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	18.2	77.4	4.4
North Central	1,266,663	100.0	4.0	96.0	0.0
Anuradhapura	860,575	100.0	5.9	94.1	-
Polonnaruwa	406,088	100.0	-	100.0	0.0

2.3 Population distribution by Municipal and Urban councils

Areas of Municipal councils and Urban councils are defined as urban areas in Sri Lanka. Municipal council population in

Anuradhapura district is 50,595 and no Urban areas in Polonnaruwa district.

3.0 Demographic characteristics of population

3.1 Population distribution by sex

Out of the total population of North Central province, 620,880 (or 49.0%) are males and 645,783 (or 51.0%) are

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

3.2 Sex ratio

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

the data Polonnaruwa district sex ratio (98) is higher than that ratio in Anuradhapura district (95).

Table 2 : Percentage distribution of population by sector and sex

	Population	Total	Sector		
			Urban	Rural	Estate
Male					
Sri Lanka	9,856,634	100.0	18.3	77.3	4.4
North Central	620,880	100.0	4.0	96.0	0.0
Anuradhapura	420,100	100.0	6.0	94.0	-
Polonnaruwa	200,780	100.0	-	100.0	0.0
Female					
Sri Lanka	10,502,805	100.0	18.1	77.4	4.5
North Central	645,783	100.0	4.0	96.0	0.0
Anuradhapura	440,475	100.0	5.8	94.2	-
Polonnaruwa	205,308	100.0	-	100.0	0.0

3.3 Population by age group and sex

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

Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows age – sex pyramids for Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa district respectively. According to the figure 4 and 5, the highest population is seen in 0-4 age group for both sexes. The lowest population is seen in 80 and over age group for both sexes.

Figure 4: Age- sex distribution of population in Anuradhapura district

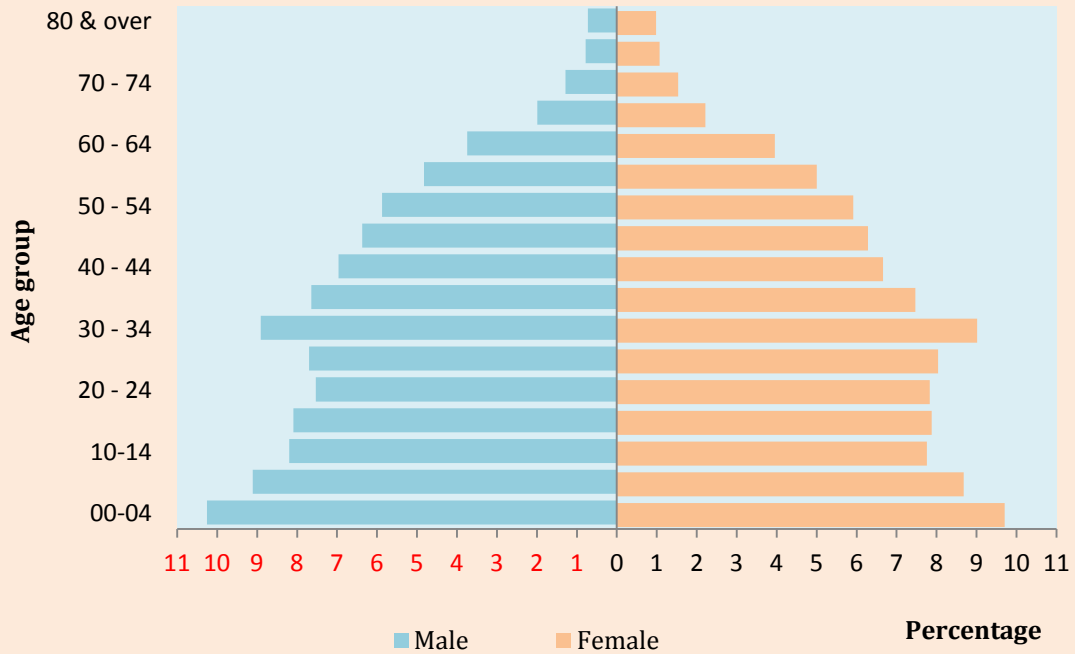
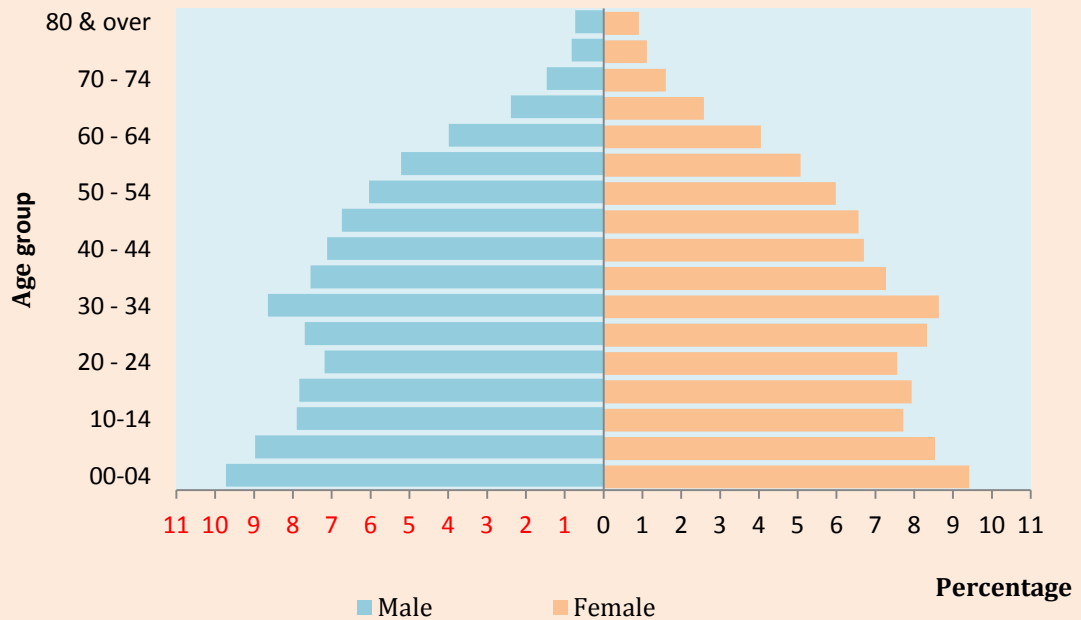


Figure 5: Age- sex distribution of population in Polonnaruwa district



3.4 Population distribution by ethnicity

Majority of population in North Central province is Sinhalese (90.9%). The second highest ethnic group is Sri Lanka Moors (8.0%) and Tamil population is 1.0 percent. Other ethnic groups namely

Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha form 0.1 percent. Table 3 presents ethnic distribution in two districts.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group

	Population	Total	Ethnic group			
			Sinhalese	Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	74.9	15.3	9.3	0.5
North Central	1,266,663	100.0	90.9	1.0	8.0	0.1
Anuradhapura	860,575	100.0	91.0	0.6	8.2	0.2
Polonnaruwa	406,088	100.0	90.7	1.8	7.4	0.1

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

Sinhalese population 7.5 percent of them live in North Central Province. Among the Sri Lankan Moor population 5.3 percent live in North Central province.

3.5 Population distribution by religion

Almost 90 percent of North Central province population is Buddhist followed by Hindus (0.8 %), Islam (8.0%)

and Roman Catholic and Other religions (1.2%).

Table 4: Percentage distribution of population by religion

	Population	Total	Religion			
			Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	70.1	12.6	9.7	7.6
North Central	1,266,663	100.0	90.0	0.8	8.0	1.2
Anuradhapura	860,575	100.0	90.1	0.4	8.3	1.2
Polonnaruwa	406,088	100.0	89.7	1.7	7.5	1.1

Among the total Buddhists in Sri Lanka 8.0 percent lives in North Central Province. While 0.4 percent consist of

Hindus and 5.2 percent are the followers of Islam religion.

3.6 Population distribution by marital status

Marital status is another important demographic characteristic of a population. Table 5 shows that 71.2 percent of 15 years and above population is married and almost 22.1 percent is never married in North Central province. Males percentage of

never married population is higher than females. However, divorced and separated population is higher among females than males. Percentage of widowed females is seven times higher than percentage of widowed males.

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

	Population aged 15 years and above	Total	Marital status				
			Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated
Both Sexes							
Sri Lanka	15,227,773	100.0	25.8	67.8	5.2	0.3	0.9
North Central	929,662	100.0	22.1	71.2	5.2	0.3	1.1
Anuradhapura	629,664	100.0	22.4	70.8	5.3	0.3	1.2
Polonnaruwa	299,998	100.0	21.5	72.1	5.1	0.2	1.1
Male							
Sri Lanka	7,266,234	100.0	30.0	67.7	1.3	0.2	0.7
North Central	451,722	100.0	26.8	70.7	1.2	0.2	1.0
Anuradhapura	304,331	100.0	27.1	70.4	1.2	0.3	1.0
Polonnaruwa	147,391	100.0	26.1	71.4	1.3	0.2	1.0
Female							
Sri Lanka	7,961,539	100.0	22.0	67.8	8.7	0.3	1.1
North Central	477,940	100.0	17.7	71.7	9.0	0.3	1.3
Anuradhapura	325,333	100.0	18.1	71.2	9.0	0.4	1.3
Polonnaruwa	152,607	100.0	17.0	72.7	8.8	0.3	1.2

4.0 Educational attainment

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

In North Central province percentages of passed primary (including those who are studying in grade 1 at the time of the Census), passed secondary, passed G.C.E.O/L or equivalent, passed G.C.E.A/L or equivalent and degree or above are 25.6, 46.6, 14.1, 8.6 and 1.5 percent respectively. These figures show that majority of the population completed education up to secondary level. Those who have completed the highest education level which is degree and above (1.5%) is significantly low in North Central province. Nearly 4

percent of the population in Polonnaruwa district reported that they have never attended in a school.

4.1 Language ability

Information on ability of speaking, reading and writing of population aged 10 years and above were collected in the Census 2012. According to the data 96.2 percent of people in North Central province speak Sinhala while 90.4 percent can read and write Sinhala. Figure 6 shows the percentages of speaking, reading and writing abilities of population aged 10 years and above for both districts.

4.2 Literacy rate

Literacy rate is a key indicator to measure the level of reading and writing ability of persons in a country. The definition of literate person is given as *“If a person can both read and write a short statement with understanding is considered as literate”*. According to the results shown in the Table 6 literacy rate of the population aged 10 years and above in North Central province stands at 95.4 percent. The corresponding rates for males and females are 96.6 and 94.3 percent respectively.

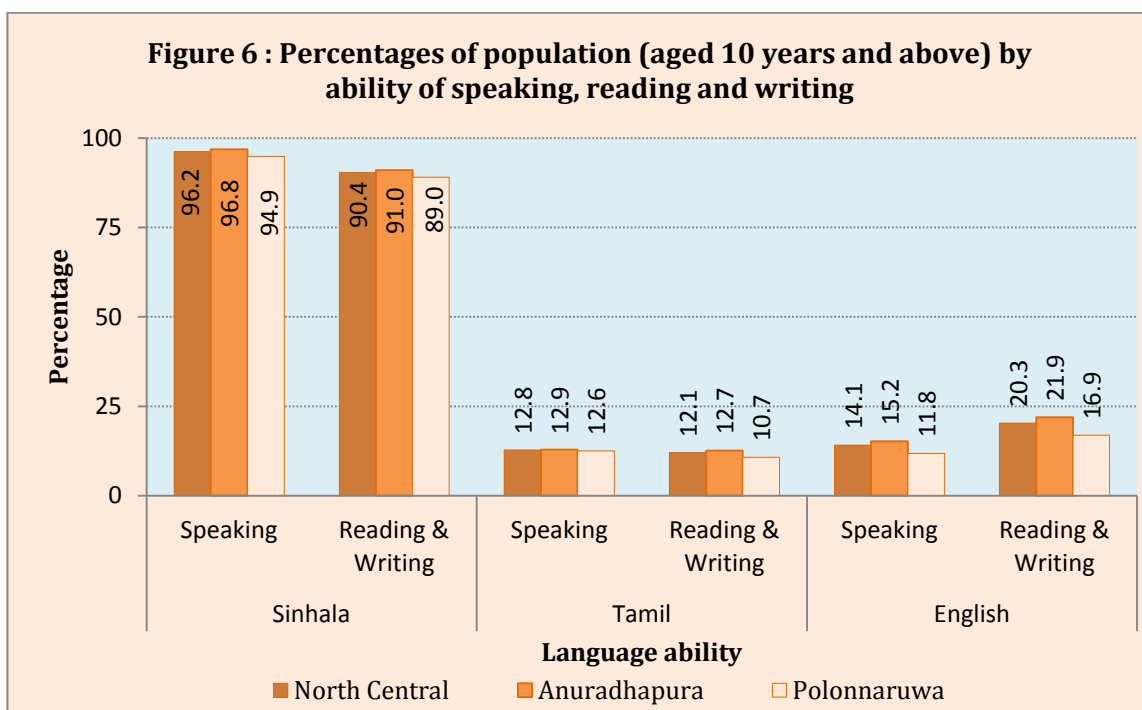


Table 6 : Percentages of literate population (aged 10 years and above) by sex

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	95.7	96.9	94.6
North Central	1,029,994	95.4	96.6	94.3
Anuradhapura	698,281	95.7	97.0	94.6
Polonnaruwa	331,713	94.8	96.0	93.7

4.3 Computer literacy by sex

According to the Table 7, computer literacy of the population aged 10 years and above in North Central province stands at 17.7 percent. The

corresponding percentages for males and females are 19.2 and 16.3 percent respectively.

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

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	24.2	26.5	22.1
North Central	1,029,994	17.7	19.2	16.3
Anuradhapura	698,281	18.3	20.0	16.8
Polonnaruwa	331,713	16.4	17.5	15.3

5.0 Economic activities

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

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

5.1 Economically active population

Economically active population or the labour force comprised of employed and unemployed persons. According to the data 54.8 percent of aged 15 years and above population is economically active in this province. Polonnaruwa district

(52.3%) is reported lower economically active percentage than that of Anuradhapura district (56.1%). Table 8 present percentages of economically active population by sector and sex.

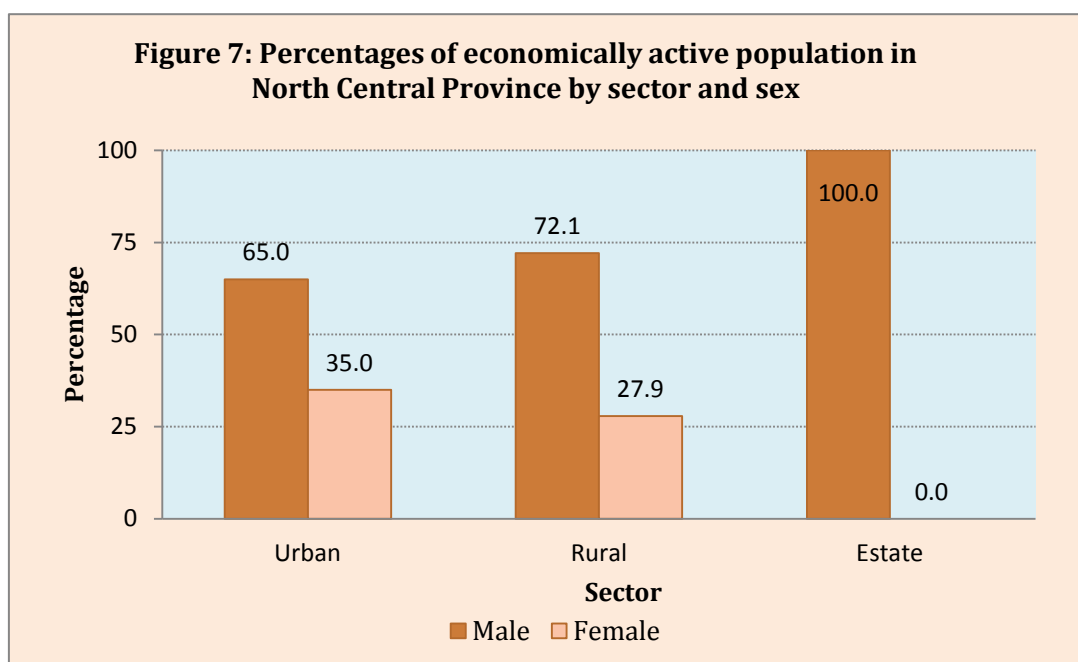
5.2 Employed and unemployed population

Total employed and unemployed population in North Central province is 484,697 and 25,100 respectively. In Anuradhapura district total employed population is reported as 336,930 while that figure is 147,767 in Polonnaruwa district. Among the employed population

in Anuradhapura district, one in every five person(21.5 %) is engaged in government sector employment. Table 9 present percentages of employed population by sector of employment and sex.

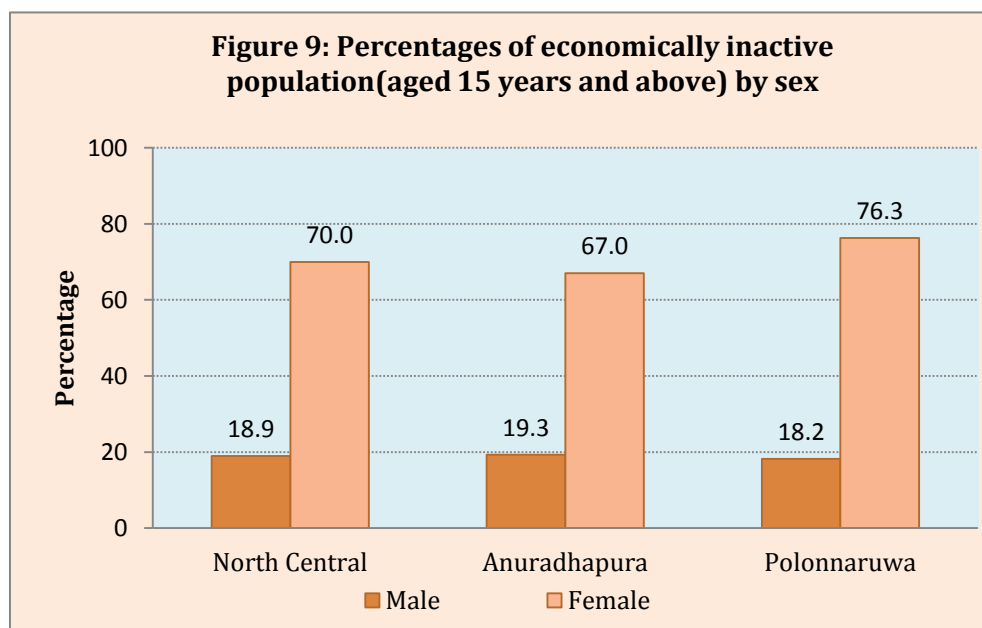
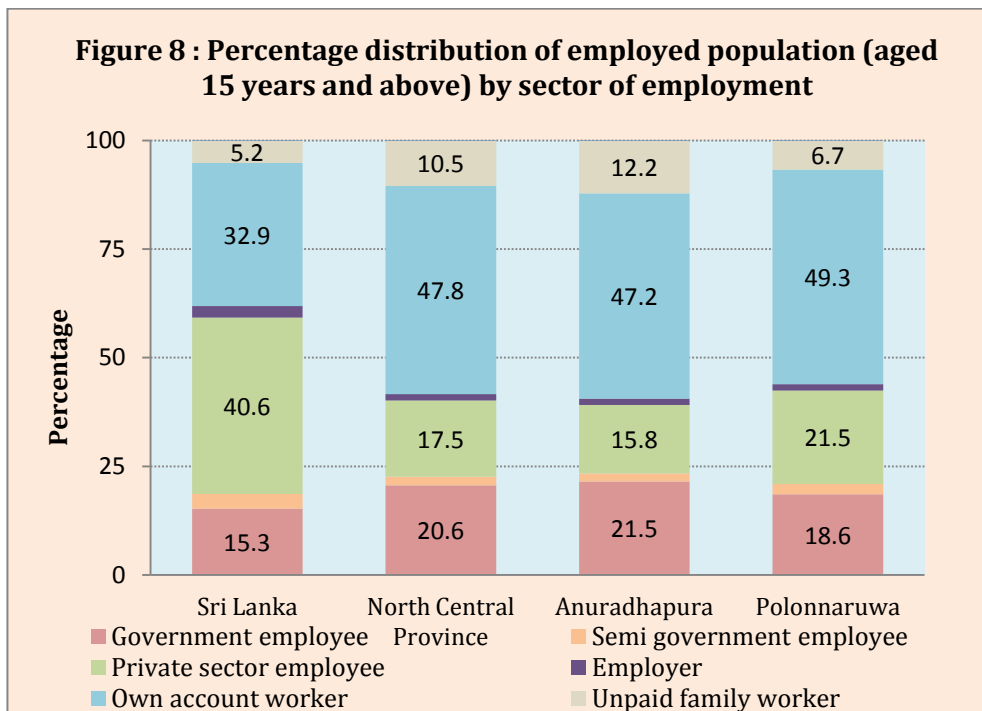
**Table 8: Percentages of economically active population
(aged 15 years and above) by sector and sex**

	Economically active Population aged 15 years and above	Total	Sex	
			Male	Female
Sri Lanka				
Total	7,857,370	100.0	69.9	30.1
Urban	1,416,955	100.0	69.8	30.2
Rural	6,048,095	100.0	70.8	29.2
Estate	392,320	100.0	55.7	44.3
North Central				
Total	509,797	100.0	71.8	28.2
Urban	20,708	100.0	65.0	35.0
Rural	489,073	100.0	72.1	27.9
Estate	16	100.0	100.0	0.0
Anuradhapura				
Total	353,004	100.0	69.6	30.4
Urban	20,708	100.0	65.0	35.0
Rural	332,296	100.0	69.9	30.1
Estate	-	-	-	-
Polonnaruwa				
Total	156,793	100.0	76.9	23.1
Urban	-	-	-	-
Rural	156,777	100.0	76.9	23.1
Estate	16	100.0	100.0	0.0



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

	Employed Population	Total	Sex	
			Male	Female
Sri Lanka				
Total	7,335,432	100.0	70.8	29.2
Government employee	1,122,734	100.0	64.4	35.6
Semi government employee	244,989	100.0	62.0	38.0
Private sector employee	2,980,361	100.0	70.5	29.5
Employer	190,680	100.0	86.2	13.8
Own account worker	2,414,258	100.0	79.8	20.2
Unpaid family worker	382,410	100.0	31.9	68.1
North Central				
Total	484,697	100.0	72.6	27.4
Government employee	100,045	100.0	76.1	23.9
Semi government employee	9,737	100.0	69.4	30.6
Private sector employee	84,916	100.0	72.7	27.3
Employer	7,176	100.0	83.9	16.1
Own account worker	231,848	100.0	80.4	19.6
Unpaid family worker	50,975	100.0	28.9	71.1
Anuradhapura				
Total	336,930	100.0	70.2	29.8
Government employee	72,554	100.0	76.3	23.7
Semi government employee	6,238	100.0	69.3	30.7
Private sector employee	53,161	100.0	72.2	27.8
Employer	4,966	100.0	82.6	17.4
Own account worker	158,990	100.0	77.8	22.2
Unpaid family worker	41,021	100.0	26.0	74.0
Polonnaruwa				
Total	147,767	100.0	78.0	22.0
Government employee	27,491	100.0	75.5	24.5
Semi government employee	3,499	100.0	69.7	30.3
Private sector employee	31,755	100.0	73.5	26.5
Employer	2,210	100.0	86.8	13.2
Own account worker	72,858	100.0	86.1	13.9
Unpaid family worker	9,954	100.0	40.9	59.1



5.3 Economically inactive population

Students, those who are engaged in household work, income recipient/pensioners, unable to work, unpaid social worker, children not attending school and other non-economic activities are considered as economically inactive population. Economically inactive population in

North Central province is reported as 45.2 percent. Data shows that the percentage of economically inactive population in Polonnaruwa district (47.7%) is higher than that in Anuradhapura district (43.9%). Figure 9 shows the percentages of economically inactive by sex.