

**Highlights**  
**Census of Population and Housing - 2012**  
**Sabaragamuwa Province**

Indicator	Unit	Sabaragamuwa Province	Ratnapura District	Kegalle District
Total Population	Number	1,928,655	1,088,007	840,648
By Sex				
Male	Number	937,221	536,401	400,820
Female	Number	991,434	551,606	439,828
By Sector				
Urban	Percent	6.0	9.1	1.9
Rural	Percent	85.9	81.7	91.3
Estate	Percent	8.1	9.2	6.8
By Ethnic Group				
Sinhalese	Percent	86.4	87.1	85.5
Tamil	Percent	9.2	10.7	7.3
Sri Lanka Moor	Percent	4.3	2.1	7.1
Other	Percent	0.1	0.1	0.1
By Religion				
Buddhist	Percent	85.7	86.7	84.4
Hindu	Percent	8.1	9.4	6.5
Islam	Percent	4.4	2.2	7.3
Other	Percent	1.7	1.7	1.8
By Education Status				
No schooling	Percent	4.8	5.7	3.6
Passed primary	Percent	24.8	26.0	23.2
Passed secondary	Percent	41.5	42.1	40.8
Passed G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	Percent	15.7	14.3	17.3
Passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	Percent	11.3	10.1	12.8
Degree or above	Percent	1.9	1.7	2.3
By Economic Status				
Total Active	Number	788,805	460,154	328,651
Male Active	Number	533,772	314,231	219,541
Female Active	Number	255,033	145,923	109,110
Total Inactive	Number	672,323	364,635	307,688
Male Inactive	Number	167,686	89,812	77,874
Female Inactive	Number	504,637	274,823	229,814
Literacy Rate		94.8	93.9	96.0
Computer Literacy Rate		19.9	18.4	21.9

# Census of Population and Housing - 2012

## Sabaragamuwa Province

### 1.0 Introduction

The Department of Census and Statistics was successfully conducted 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. Enumeration stage of this Census comprised of two rounds. During the first round, performed from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012. These updates were done, based on the **Census Moment** which was **declared** as mid night of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Enumeration of homeless people, who do not have a usual place of residence, was carried out during the mid-night of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

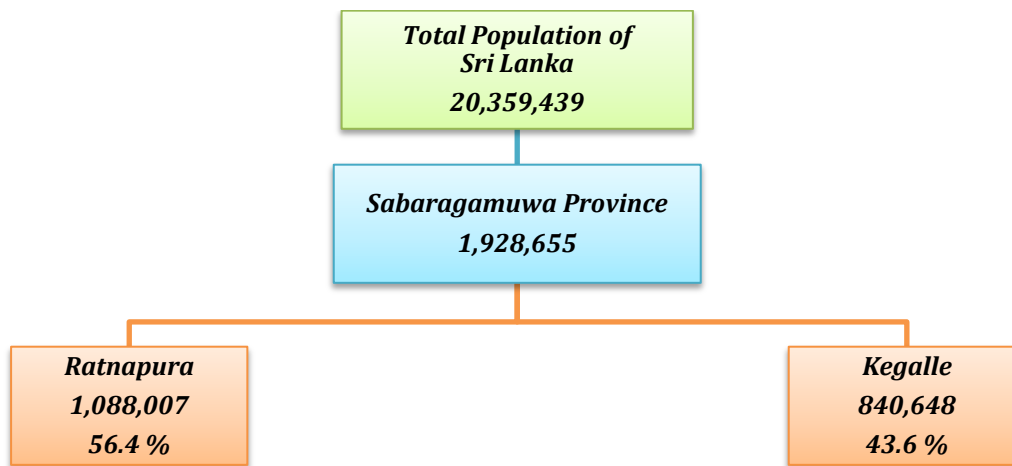
According to the data dissemination plan of the Census, province level reports will be published with district level information. In addition district level, DS division level and GN level data will be provided through soft copies in CD's.

This publication presents population information of Sabaragamuwa province, which consist of two districts namely Ratnapura and Kegalle .

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

**Figure 1 : Location of Sabaragamuwa province**





## 2.0 Population distribution

Nine percent (or 1,928,655) of Sri Lankan population lived in Sabaragamuwa province and 88 percent of population in Ratnapura district lives in the same district since birth. However, in Kegalle district that figure is 84 percent. Out of the total population, 1,088,007 (56.4%) belongs to Ratnapura

district. Kegalle district population is 840,648 (43.6%).

Population density (or number of persons per square kilo meters) of the province is 392 p.p.km<sup>2</sup>. Population density of Kegalle district (499 p.p.km<sup>2</sup>) is higher than Ratnapura district (336 p.p.km<sup>2</sup>).

## 2.1 Population distribution by DS division

There are 17 DS divisions in Ratnapura district and 11 DS divisions in Kegalle district. The highest and the lowest population in Ratnapura district is reported from Embilipitiya DS division (134,713) and Opanayake DS division (26,587) respectively. In Kegalle district

the highest and the lowest population is reported from Warakapola DS division (113,056) and Deraniyagala DS division (45,869). Figure 2 and Figure 3 present population distribution by DS division in Ratnapura and Kegalle districts.

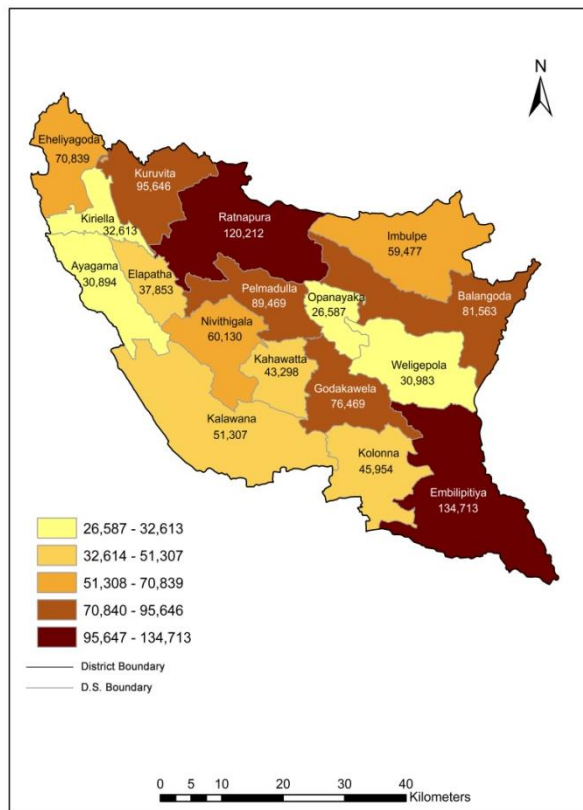
## 2.2 Population distribution by sector

Majority of population in Sabaragamuwa province, especially in Kegalle district live in rural sector. Percentage distribution of population by sector is given in Table 1. According to the Table 1

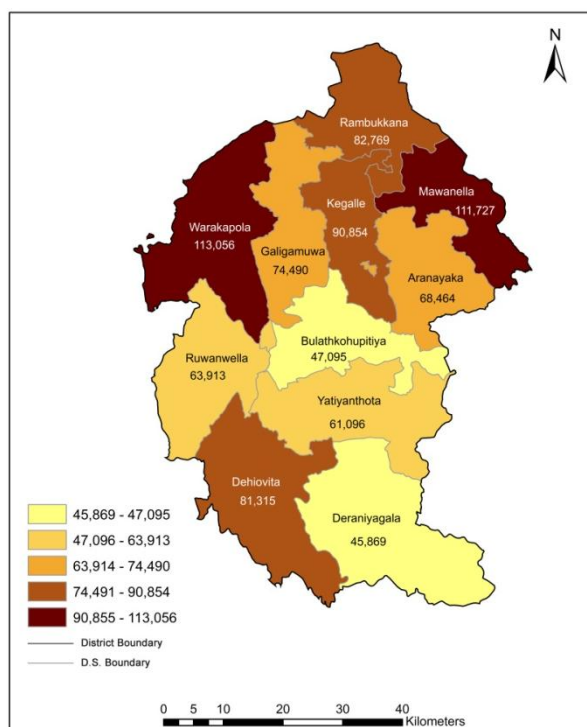
percentage of urban sector population in Ratnapura district is higher than that of Kegalle district. In Ratnapura district percentages of population in urban and estate sector are almost same. However,

in Kegalle district urban sector population. population is 1.9 percent of its'

**Figure 2 : Ratnapura District Population Distribution by DS Division**



**Figure 3 : Kegalle District Population Distribution by DS Division**



**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
Sabaragamuwa	1,928,655	100.0	6.0	85.9	8.1
Ratnapura	1,088,007	100.0	9.1	81.7	9.2
Kegalle	840,648	100.0	1.9	91.3	6.8

### 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 Ratnapura district is 47,105 and there are no Municipal council areas in Kegalle district. There are two urban councils

(Balangoda and Embilipitiya) in Ratnapura district and one urban council in Kegalle district (Kegalle). Population in Balangoda, Embilipitiya and Kegalle urban council areas are 16,510, 36,712 and 15,993 respectively.

## 3.0 Demographic characteristics of population

### 3.1 Population distribution by sex

Out of the total population of Sabaragamuwa province, 937,221 (or 48.6%) are males and 991,434 (or

51.4%) 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 Ratnapura district sex ratio (97) is higher than that ratio in Kegalle district (91).

**Table 2 : Percentage distribution of population by sector and sex**

	Population	Total	Sector		
			Urban	Rural	Estate
<b>Male</b>					
Sri Lanka	9,856,634	100.0	18.3	77.3	4.4
Sabaragamuwa	937,221	100.0	6.0	85.8	8.2
Ratnapura	536,401	100.0	9.0	81.8	9.1
Kegalle	400,820	100.0	1.9	91.2	6.9
<b>Female</b>					
Sri Lanka	10,502,805	100.0	18.1	77.4	4.5
Sabaragamuwa	991,434	100.0	6.0	85.9	8.1
Ratnapura	551,606	100.0	9.2	81.6	9.2
Kegalle	439,828	100.0	1.9	91.4	6.7

### 3.3 Population by age group and sex

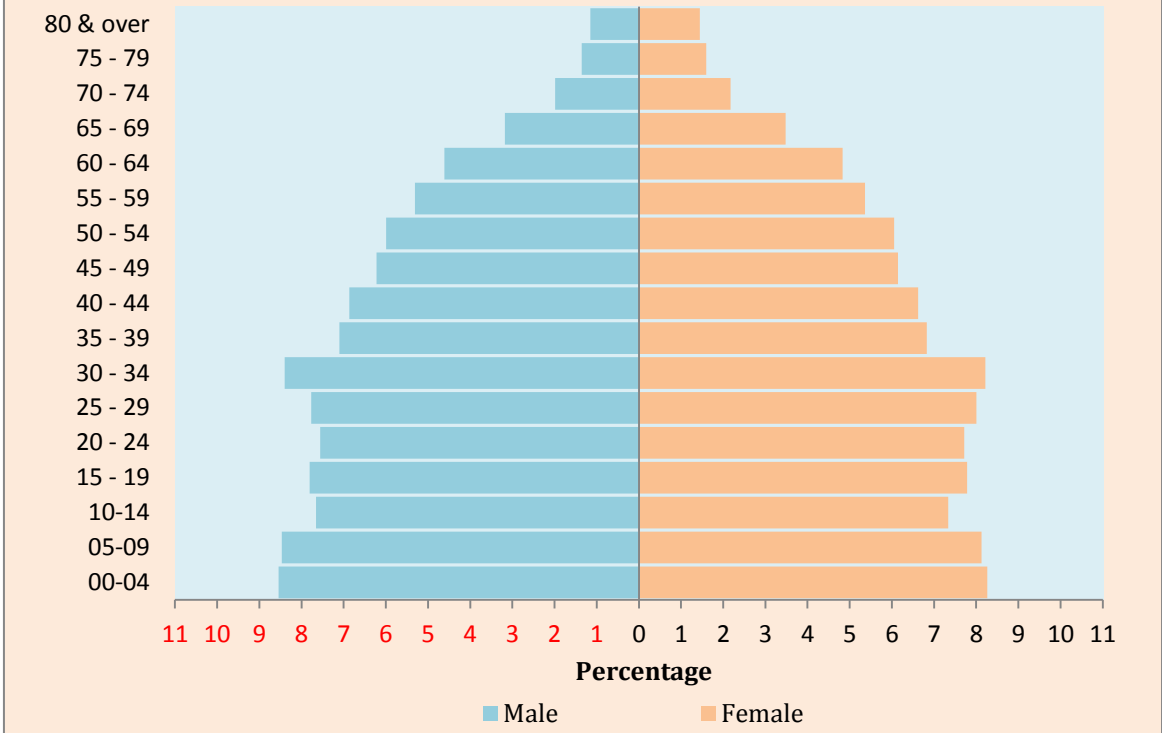
Age-sex composition of a population describes the patterns of the distribution of a population in a different age-sex categories. Age-sex distribution reflects important demographic composition of sub populations such as child population, elderly population and working population.

Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows age-sex pyramids for Ratnapura and Kegalle district respectively. According to the

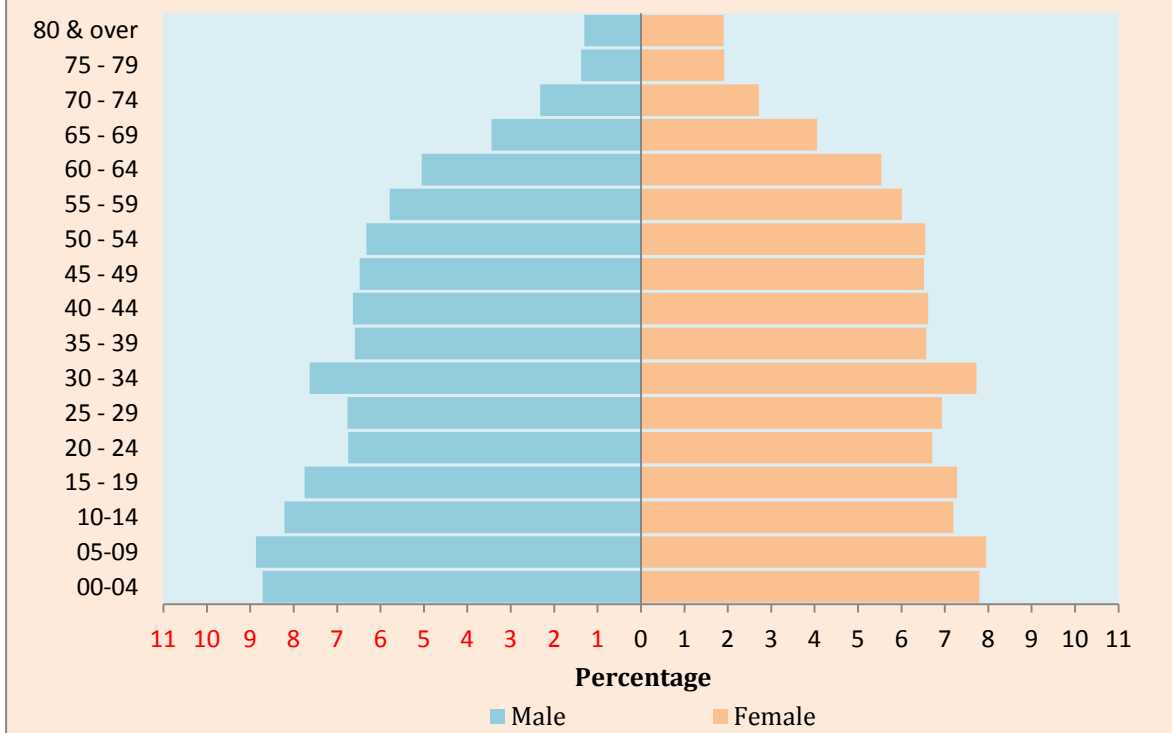
Figure 4, the highest population is seen in 0-4 age group for both sexes. The lowest population is seen in 80 and over age group for both sexes.

In Kegalle district, the highest population is seen in 5-9 age group indicating low births in the youngest age cohort which is 0-4 years. The lowest population is seen in 80 and over age group for both sexes.

**Figure 4: Age- sex distribution of population in Ratnapura district**



**Figure 5: Age- sex distribution of population in Kegalle district**



### 3.4 Population distribution by ethnicity

Majority of population in Sabaragamuwa province is Sinhalese (86.4%). The second highest ethnic group is Tamil (9.2%) followed by Sri Lanka Moor (4.3%) and other ethnic groups namely

Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha which 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
Sabaragamuwa	1,928,655	100.0	86.4	9.2	4.3	0.1
Ratnapura	1,088,007	100.0	87.1	10.7	2.1	0.1
Kegalle	840,648	100.0	85.5	7.3	7.1	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 one tenth of them

live in Sabaragamuwa province. Among the Tamil population 5.7 percent and among the Sri Lankan Moor population 4.4 percent live in Sabaragamuwa province.

### 3.5 Population distribution by religion

Majority of Sabaragamuwa province population is Buddhist (85.7%) followed by Hindus (8.1%), Islam (4.4%) and

Roman Catholic and Other religions (1.7%).

**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
Sabaragamuwa	1,928,655	100.0	85.7	8.1	4.4	1.7
Ratnapura	1,088,007	100.0	86.7	9.4	2.2	1.7
Kegalle	840,648	100.0	84.4	6.5	7.3	1.8



Among the total Buddhists in Sri Lanka 11.6 percent lives in Sabaragamuwa province. While 6.1 percent consist of

Hindus and 4.4 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 68.8 percent of 15 years and above population is married and almost 25.0 percent is never married in Sabaragamuwa 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
<b>Both Sexes</b>							
Sri Lanka	15,227,773	100.0	25.8	67.8	5.2	0.3	0.9
Sabaragamuwa	1,461,128	100.0	25.0	68.8	5.0	0.3	0.9
Ratnapura	824,789	100.0	25.3	69.2	4.3	0.2	1.0
Kegalle	636,339	100.0	24.7	68.2	6.0	0.3	0.9
<b>Male</b>							
Sri Lanka	7,266,234	100.0	30.0	67.7	1.3	0.2	0.7
Sabaragamuwa	701,458	100.0	29.7	68.0	1.3	0.2	0.8
Ratnapura	404,043	100.0	30.1	67.6	1.2	0.2	0.8
Kegalle	297,415	100.0	29.1	68.5	1.4	0.2	0.8
<b>Female</b>							
Sri Lanka	7,961,539	100.0	22.0	67.8	8.7	0.3	1.1
Sabaragamuwa	759,670	100.0	20.7	69.5	8.4	0.3	1.1
Ratnapura	420,746	100.0	20.7	70.8	7.2	0.3	1.1
Kegalle	338,924	100.0	20.8	67.9	9.9	0.3	1.0

## 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 Sabaragamuwa 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 24.8, 41.5, 15.7, 11.3 and 1.9 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 (1.9%) is significantly low in Sabaragamuwa province. Nearly 6

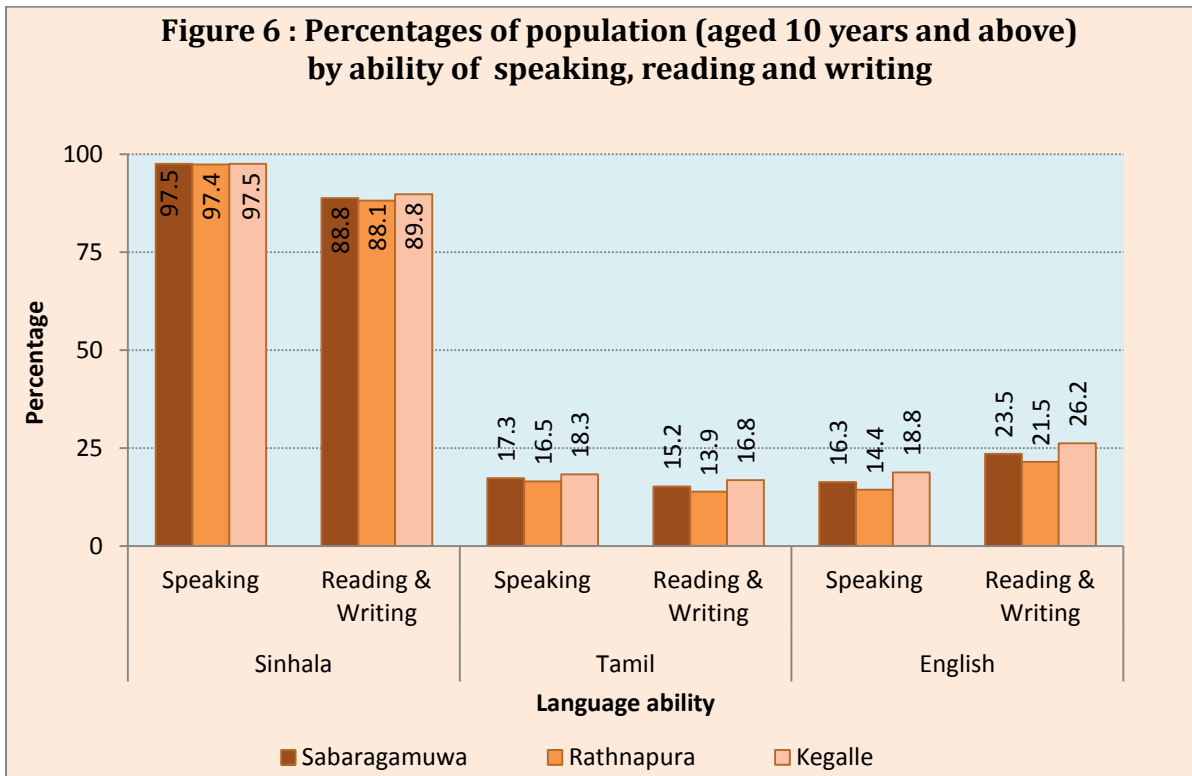
percent of the population in Ratnapura district reported that they have never attended in a school. However, not attended to a school is higher among old aged population.

### 4.1 Language ability

Information on ability of speaking, reading and writing of population aged 10 years and above were collected in the Census 2012. According to the data 97.5 percent of people speak Sinhala while 88.8 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 Sabaragamuwa province stands at 94.8 percent. The corresponding rates for males and females are 96.3 and 93.5 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
Sabaragamuwa	1,607,252	94.8	96.3	93.5
Ratnapura	906,327	93.9	95.5	92.4
Kegalle	700,925	96.0	97.3	94.9

### 4.3 Computer literacy by sex

According to the Table 7, computer literacy of the population aged 10 years and above in Sabaragamuwa province stands at 19.9 percent. The

corresponding percentages for males and females are 21.2 and 18.7 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
Sabaragamuwa	1,607,252	19.9	21.2	18.7
Ratnapura	906,327	18.4	19.1	17.8
Kegalle	700,925	21.9	24.0	19.9

## 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 54.0 percent of aged 15 years and above population is economically active in this province. Kegalle district (51.6%) is reported lower economically active

percentage than that of Ratnapura district (55.8%). Table 8 presents percentages of economically active population by sector and sex. According to the table 8 female participation in economic activities in estate sector is high.

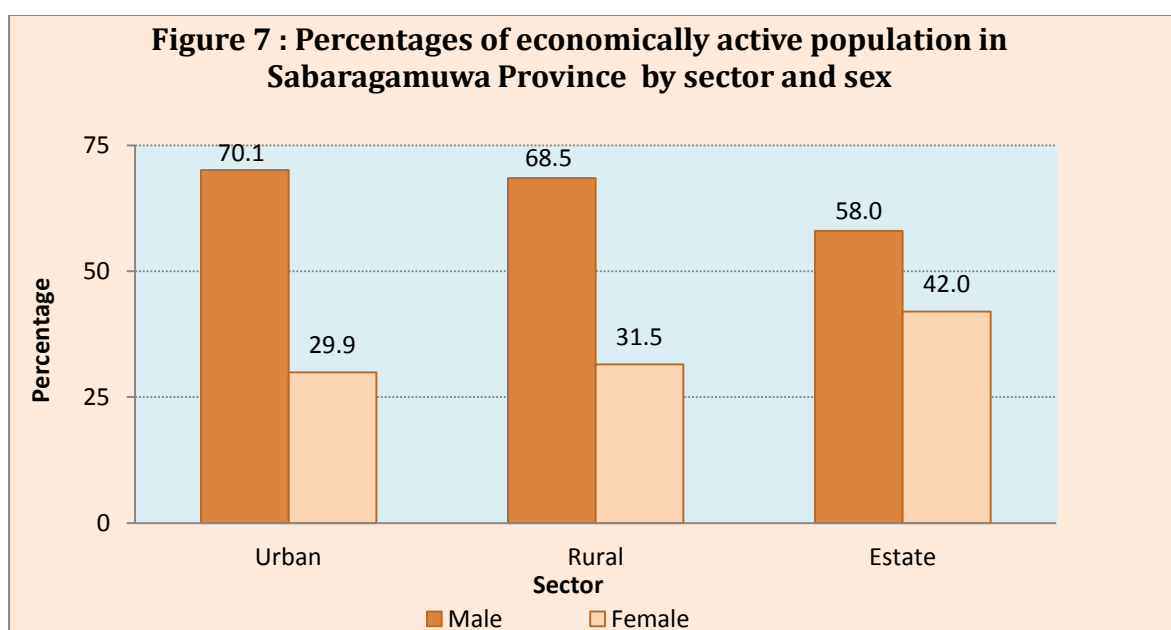
### 5.2 Employed and unemployed population

Total employed and unemployed population in Sabaragamuwa province is 735,316 and 53,489 respectively. In Ratnapura district total employed population is reported as 430,023 while that figure is 305,293 in Kegalle district. Among the employed population in

Kegalle district, one in every seven person(15.9%) is engaged in government sector employment. Table 9 presents percentages of employed population by sector of employment and sex.

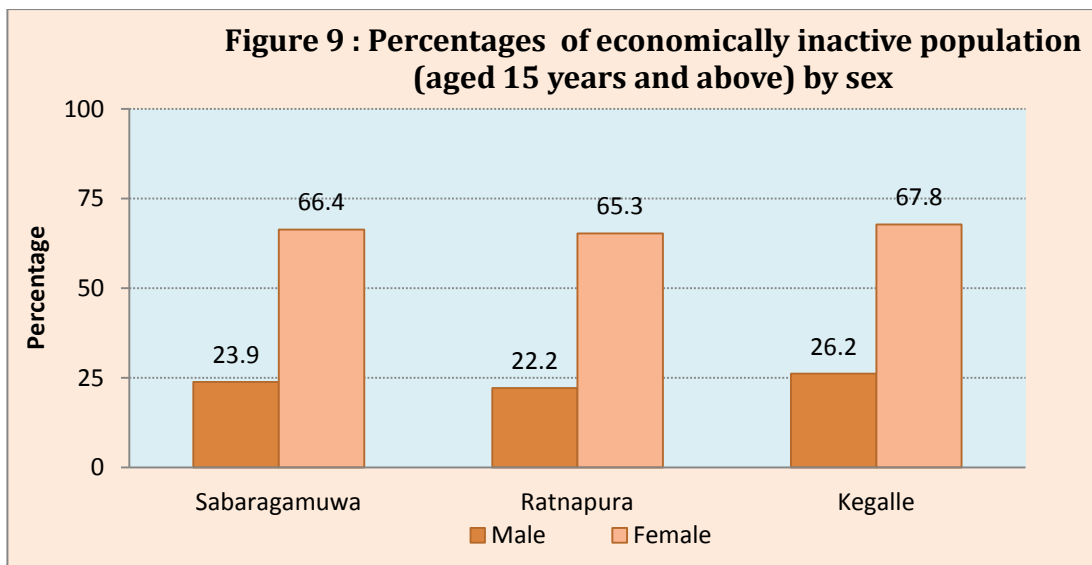
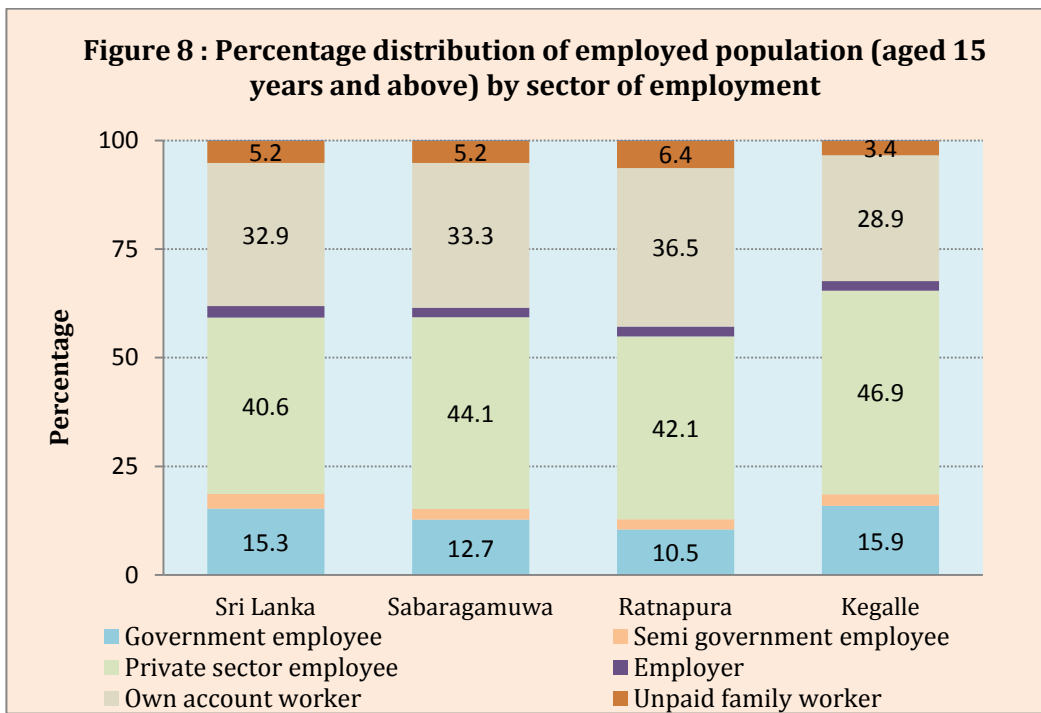
**Table 8: Percentages of economically active population  
(aged 15 years and above) by sector and sex**

	Economically active Population aged 15 years and above	Total	Sex	
			Male	Female
<b>Sri Lanka</b>				
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
<b>Sabaragamuwa</b>				
Total	788,805	100.0	67.7	32.3
Urban	45,357	100.0	70.1	29.9
Rural	673,166	100.0	68.5	31.5
Estate	70,282	100.0	58.0	42.0
<b>Ratnapura</b>				
Total	460,154	100.0	68.3	31.7
Urban	39,394	100.0	70.9	29.1
Rural	376,232	100.0	69.2	30.8
Estate	44,528	100.0	58.2	41.8
<b>Kegalle</b>				
Total	328,651	100.0	66.8	33.2
Urban	5,963	100.0	64.7	35.3
Rural	296,934	100.0	67.6	32.4
Estate	25,754	100.0	57.5	42.5



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

	Employed Population	Total	Sex	
			Male	Female
<b>Sri Lanka</b>				
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
<b>Sabaragamuwa</b>				
Total	735,316	100.0	68.4	31.6
Government employee	93,640	100.0	61.6	38.4
Semi government employee	18,338	100.0	63.3	36.7
Private sector employee	324,011	100.0	67.2	32.8
Employer	16,331	100.0	83.1	16.9
Own account worker	245,030	100.0	77.6	22.4
Unpaid family worker	37,966	100.0	32.7	67.3
<b>Ratnapura</b>				
Total	430,023	100.0	69.1	30.9
Government employee	45,089	100.0	59.9	40.1
Semi government employee	10,068	100.0	60.3	39.7
Private sector employee	180,981	100.0	68.8	31.2
Employer	9,644	100.0	82.6	17.4
Own account worker	156,773	100.0	78.1	21.9
Unpaid family worker	27,468	100.0	32.3	67.7
<b>Kegalle</b>				
Total	305,293	100.0	67.5	32.5
Government employee	48,551	100.0	63.2	36.8
Semi government employee	8,270	100.0	67.0	33.0
Private sector employee	143,030	100.0	65.1	34.9
Employer	6,687	100.0	83.8	16.2
Own account worker	88,257	100.0	76.7	23.3
Unpaid family worker	10,498	100.0	33.8	66.2



### 5.3 Economically inactive population

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

46.0 percent. Data shows that the economically inactive population in Kegalle district (48.4%) is higher than economically inactive population in Ratnapura district (44.2%). Figure 9 shows the percentages of economically inactive population (aged 15 years and above) by sex.

