

Highlights
Census of Population and Housing
Final Report –Southern Province 2012

Indicator	Unit	Southern Province	Galle District	Matara District	Hambantota District	
Population						
Total population	Number	2,477,285	1,063,334	814,048	599,903	
By Sex	Male	Number	1,194,541	509,902	389,903	294,736
	Female	Number	1,282,744	553,432	424,145	305,167
By Sector	Urban	Percent	10.6	12.5	11.9	5.3
	Rural	Percent	87.7	85.7	85.3	94.7
	Estate	Percent	1.7	1.8	2.8	--
By Ethnicity	Sinhalese	Percent	95.0	94.4	94.3	97.0
	Tamil	Percent	1.7	1.9	2.6	0.4
	Sri Lanka Moor	Percent	2.9	3.6	3.1	1.1
	Other	Percent	0.4	0.1	0.0	1.5
By Religion	Buddhist	Percent	94.7	93.9	94.1	96.8
	Hindu	Percent	1.3	1.5	2.0	0.2
	Islam	Percent	3.2	3.7	3.2	2.5
	Other	Percent	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5
By Education Status	No schooling	Percent	3.9	3.4	4.5	4.6
	Passed primary	Percent	23.9	22.8	23.8	25.9
	Passed secondary	Percent	41.7	42.0	40.6	42.5
	Passed G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	Percent	16.3	16.5	16.5	15.4
	Passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	Percent	11.9	13.0	12.1	9.6
	Degree or above	Percent	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.0
By Economic status	Total Active	Number	944,273	401,869	308,583	233,821
	Male Active	Number	653,440	272,890	209,560	170,990
	Female Active	Number	290,833	128,979	99,023	62,831
	Total Inactive	Number	911,090	397,409	302,582	211,099
	Male Inactive	Number	226,398	102,917	77,815	45,666
	Female Inactive	Number	684,692	294,492	224,767	165,433
Literacy		Rate	95.3	96.2	94.8	94.1
Computer Literacy		Rate	22.4	24.3	21.7	20.0

Census of Population and Housing - 2012

Final Report – Southern Province

1.0 Introduction

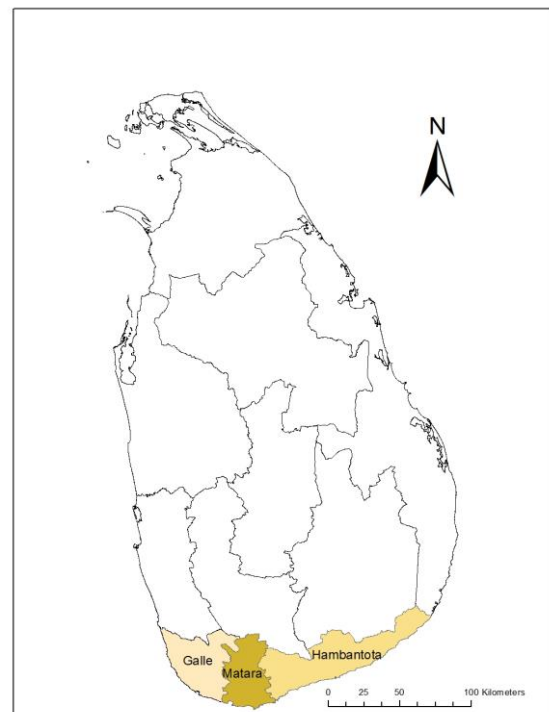
The Department of Census and Statistics was successfully conducted 14th consecutive Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka on 20th March, 2012. Enumeration stage of this Census comprised of two rounds. During the first round, performed from 27th February to 19th March 2012, data were collected from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

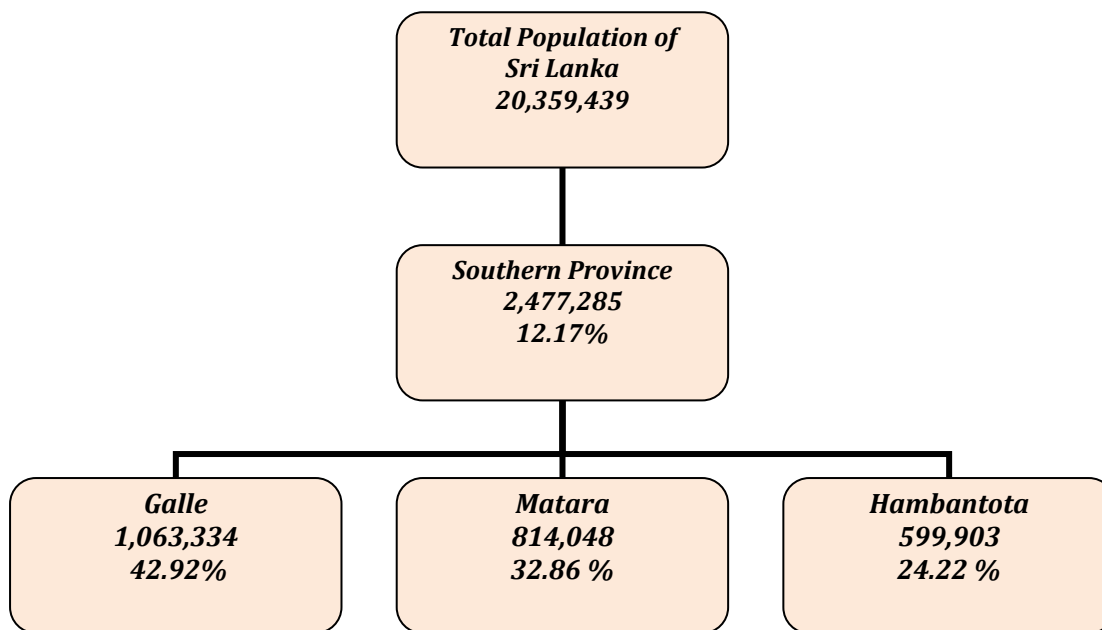
According to the data dissemination plan of the Census, province level reports will be published with district level information. In addition district level, DS division level and GN level data will be provided through softcopies in CD's. This

publication presents population information of Southern province, which consist of three districts namely Galle, Matara and Hambantota .

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

Figure 1 : Location of Southern province





2.0 Population distribution

Twelve percent (or 2,477,285) of Sri Lankan population lived in Southern province. Out of the total population in the province, 1,063,334 (42.92 %) belongs to Galle district. Matara district population is 814,048 (32.86%) and Hambantota district population is 599,903 (24.22%). Population density (or number of persons per square km) of the Province is 460. Population density of Galle district (658) is the highest and the population density of Matara district (641) is higher than Hambantota district (240).

2.1 Population distribution by DS division

There are 19 DS divisions in Galle district, 16 DS divisions in Matara district and 12 DS divisions in Hambantota district. The highest and the lowest population in Galle

district is reported from HikkaduwaDS division (101,909) and Gonapeenuwala DS division (21,755) respectively. In Matara district the highest and the lowest population is reported from Matara Four Gravets DS division (115,805) and Kirinda Puhulwella DS division (20,291). In Hambantota district the highest and the lowest population is reported from Ambalantota DS division (72,943) and Okewela DS division (19,018).

Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 present population distribution by DS division in Galle, Matara districts and Hambantota district.

Figure 2 : Galle District Population Distribution by DS Division

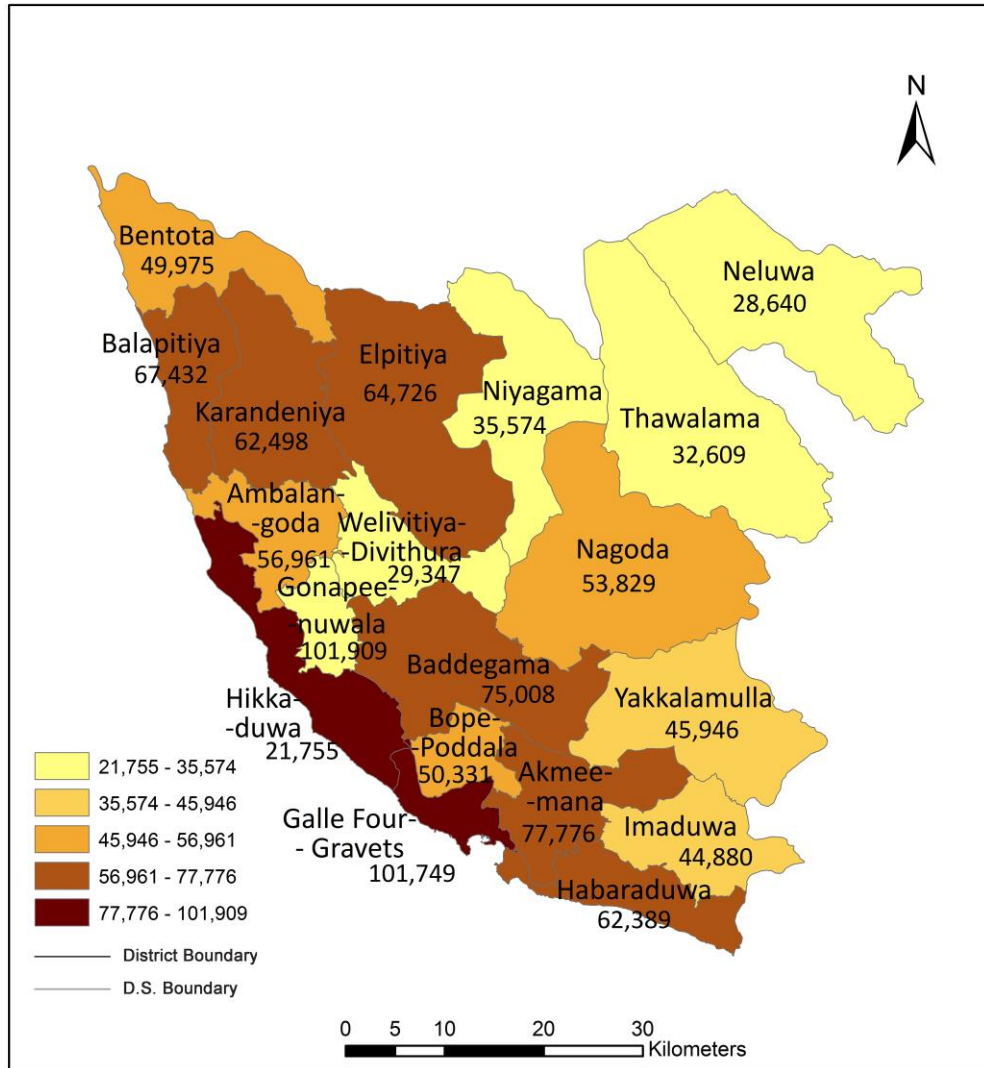


Figure 3 : Matara District Population Distribution by DS Division

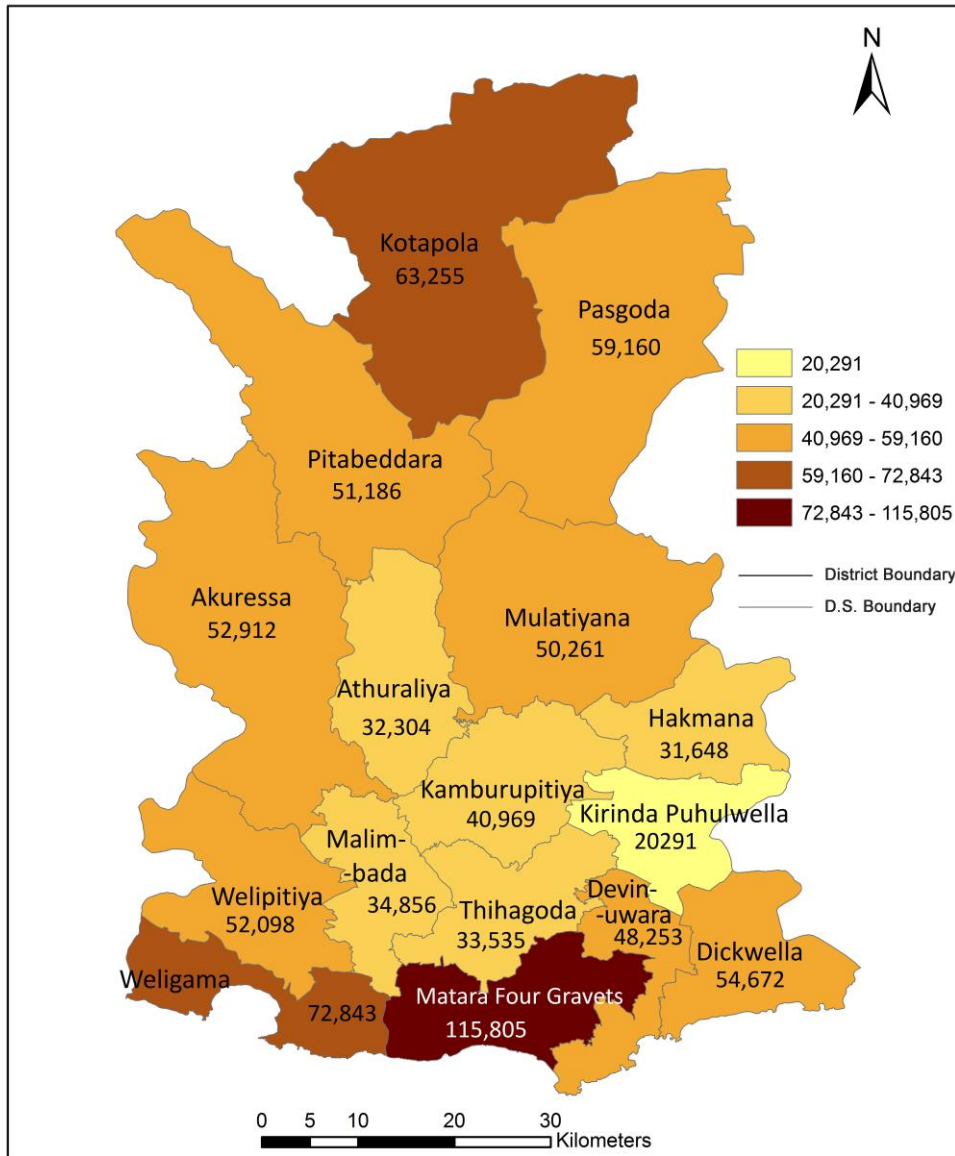
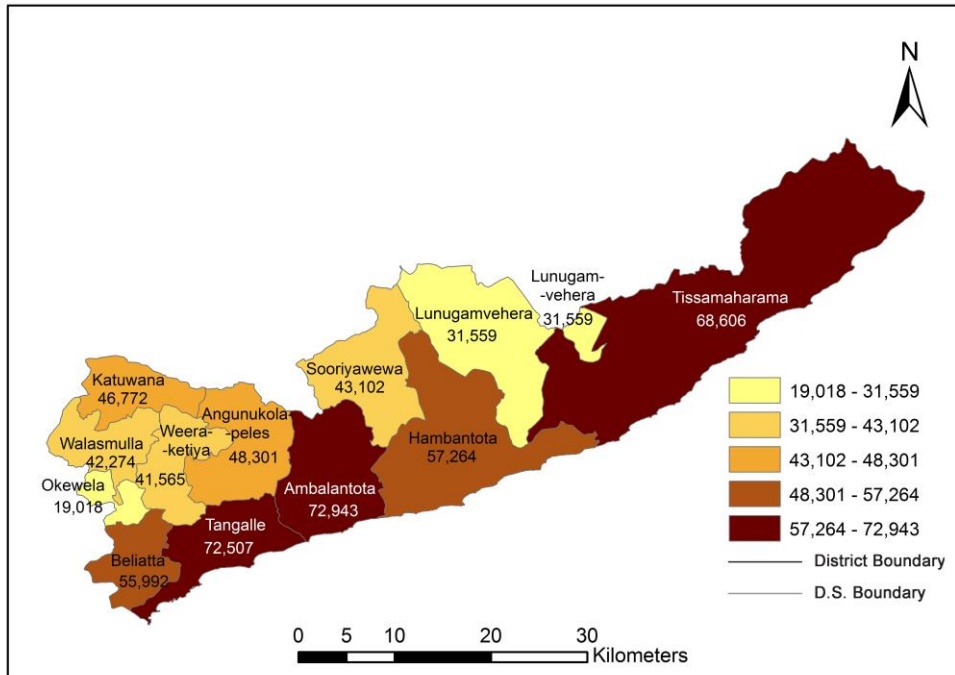


Figure 4 : Hambantota District Population Distribution by DS Division



2.2 Population distribution by sector

Majority of population in Southern Province (87.7%), is in Rural sector. According to the definition no Estate areas in Hambantota district. In Galle district, urban sector is located in

Ambalangoda, Hikkaduwa and Galle Four Gravets. In Matara district, urban sector is located in Weligama and Matara Four Gravets. In Hambantota district, urban sector is located in Hambantota and Tangalle. 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
Southern	2,477,285	100.0	10.6	87.7	1.7
Galle	1,063,334	100.0	12.5	85.7	1.8
Matara	814,048	100.0	11.9	85.3	2.8
Hambantota	599,903	100.0	05.3	94.7	-

2.3 Population distribution by Municipal and Urban councils

Municipal councils and Urban councils are defined as urban areas in Sri Lanka. Urban area population in Galle district is

133,398. Urban population in Matara district and Hambantota district are 96,570 and 31,709 respectively.

3.0 Demographic characteristics of population

3.1 Population distribution by sex

Out of the total population of Southern province, 1,194,541 (or 48.2%) are males and 1,282,744 (or 51.8%) 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 Hambantota district sex ratio (97) is higher than that ratio in Galle district (92) and Matara district (92).

Table 2 : Percentage distribution of population by sector and sex

	Population	Total	Sector		
			Urban	Rural	Estate
Male					
Sri Lanka	9,856,634	100.0	18.3	77.3	4.4
Southern	1,194,541	100.0	10.5	87.8	1.7
Galle	509,902	100.0	12.5	85.7	1.8
Matara	389,903	100.0	11.8	85.4	2.8
Hambantota	294,736	100.0	5.3	94.7	-
Female					
Sri Lanka	10,502,805	100.0	18.1	77.4	4.5
Southern	1,282,744	100.0	10.6	87.8	1.6
Galle	553,432	100.0	12.6	85.7	1.7
Matara	424,145	100.0	11.9	85.4	2.7
Hambantota	305,167	100.0	5.3	94.7	-

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 5 Figure 6 and Figure 7 shows age – sex pyramids for Galle, Matara and Hambantota districts respectively.

According to the figure 5, 6 and 7, the highest population is seen in 5-9 age group for both sexes in Galle and Matara districts while 0-4 age group in Hambantota district. The lowest population is seen in 75-79 age group for both sexes.

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

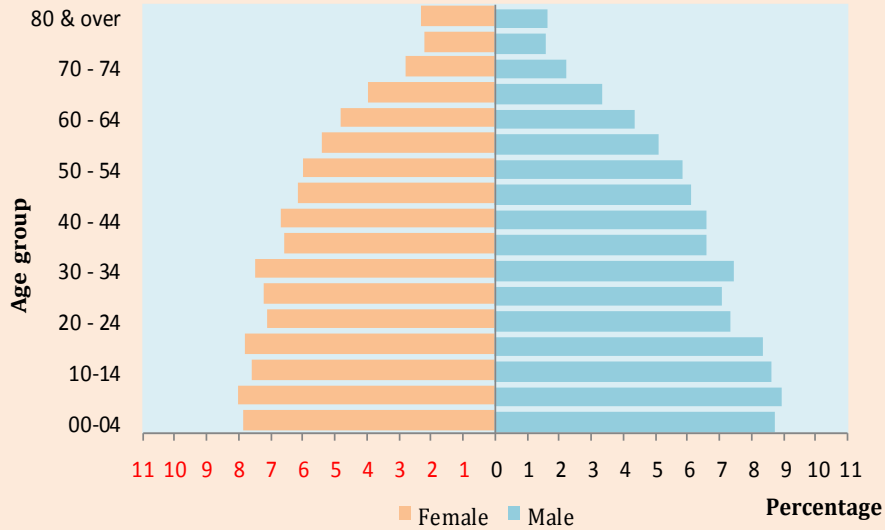


Figure 6: Age-sex distribution of population in Matara district

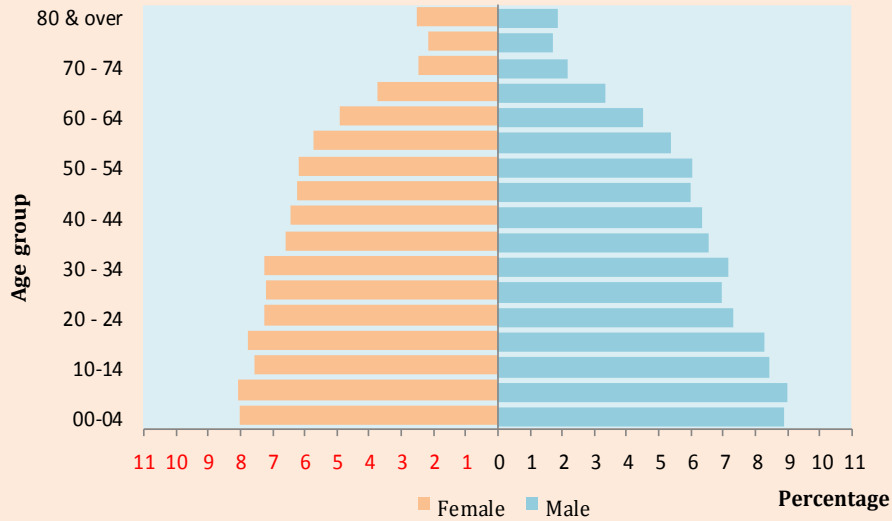
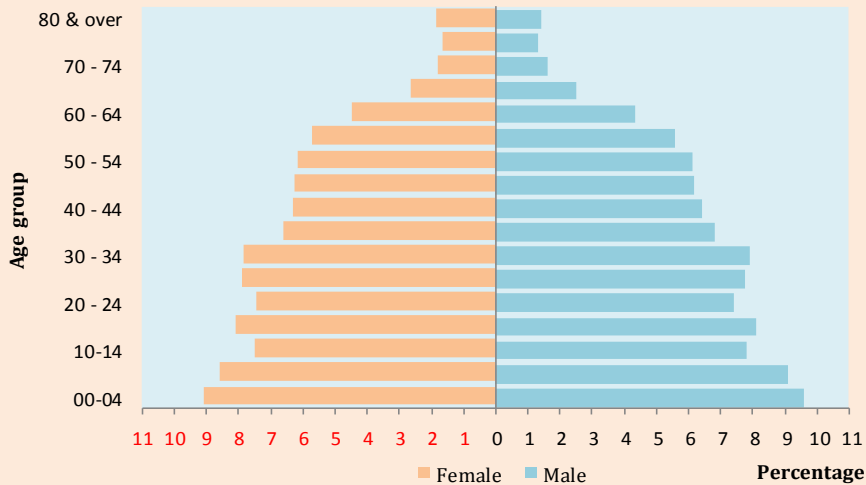


Figure 7: Age-sex distribution of population in Hambantota district



Population distribution by ethnicity

Majority of population in Southern province is Sinhalese (95.0%). The second highest ethnic group is Sri Lanka Moors (2.9%) and Tamil population is 1.7 percent. Other ethnic groups namely

Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha form 0.4 percent. Table 3 presents ethnic distribution in three districts.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group

	Population	Total	Ethnic group			
			Sinhalese	Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	74.9	15.3	9.3	0.5
Southern	2,477,285	100.0	95.0	1.7	2.9	0.4
Galle	1,063,334	100.0	94.4	1.9	3.6	0.1
Matara	814,048	100.0	94.3	2.6	3.1	0.0
Hambantota	599,903	100.0	97.0	0.4	1.1	1.5

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 15.4 percent of them live in Southern province. Among the Sri Lankan Moor population 3.7 percent live in Southern province.

3.5 Population distribution by religion

Almost 95 percent of Southern province population is Buddhist followed by

Hindus (1.3 %), Islam (3.2%) and Roman Catholic and Other religions (0.8%).

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
Southern	2,477,285	100.0	94.7	1.3	3.2	0.8
Galle	1,063,334	100.0	93.9	1.5	3.7	0.9
Matara	814,048	100.0	94.1	2.0	3.2	0.7
Hambantota	599,903	100.0	96.8	0.2	2.5	0.5

Among the total Buddhists in Sri Lanka

16.4 percent lives in Southern Province.

3.6 Population distribution by marital status

Marital status is another important demographic characteristic of a population. Table 5 shows that 67.7 percent of 15 years and above population is married and almost 26.2 percent is never married in Southern 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 almost six 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
Southern	1,855,363	100.0	26.2	67.7	5.0	0.2	0.9
Galle	799,278	100.0	26.5	67.2	5.2	0.2	0.9
Matara	611,165	100.0	26.7	67.2	5.1	0.2	0.8
Hambantota	444,920	100.0	24.9	69.2	4.7	0.2	0.9
Male							
Sri Lanka	7,266,234	100.0	30.0	67.7	1.3	0.2	0.7
Southern	879,838	100.0	30.2	67.5	1.4	0.2	0.7
Galle	375,807	100.0	30.3	67.4	1.4	0.2	0.7
Matara	287,375	100.0	30.7	67.1	1.4	0.2	0.6
Hambantota	216,656	100.0	29.4	68.3	1.3	0.2	0.8
Female							
Sri Lanka	7,961,539	100.0	22.0	67.8	8.7	0.3	1.1
Southern	975,525	100.0	22.6	67.8	8.3	0.3	1.0
Galle	423,471	100.0	23.2	66.8	8.6	0.3	1.1
Matara	323,790	100.0	23.2	67.2	8.3	0.3	1.0
Hambantota	228,264	100.0	20.7	70.1	7.8	0.3	1.1

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 Southern 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 23.9, 41.7, 16.3, 11.9 and 2.3 percent respectively. These figures show that majority of the population completed education up to secondary level. Those who have completed the highest education level which is degree and above (2.3%) is significantly low in Southern province. Nearly 4.6 percent

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

2.3.1 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 98.9 percent of people in Southern province speak Sinhala while 93.9 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 Southern province stands at 95.3 percent. The corresponding rates for males and females are 96.3 and 94.4 percent respectively.

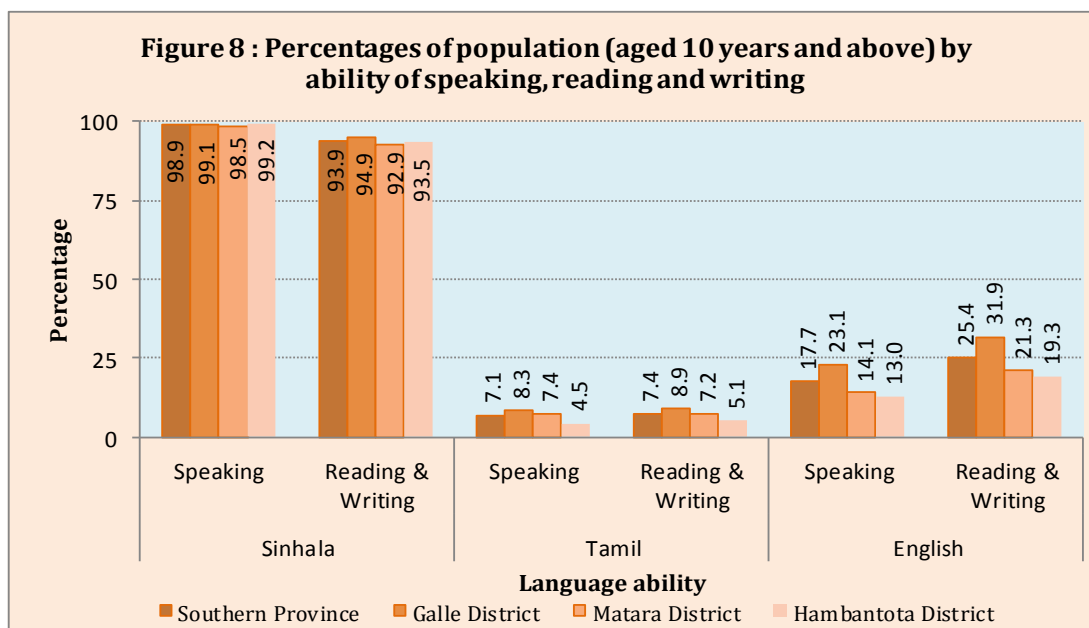


Table 6 : Percentages of literate population (aged 10 years and above) by sex

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	95.7	96.9	94.6
Southern	2,052,466	95.3	96.3	94.4
Galle	885,475	96.2	96.9	95.6
Matara	676,068	94.8	95.9	93.8
Hambantota	490,923	94.1	95.6	92.8

4.3 Computer literacy by sex

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

22.4 percent. The corresponding percentages for males and females are 23.7 and 21.2 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
Southern	2,052,466	22.4	23.7	21.2
Galle	885,475	24.3	26.3	22.6
Matara	676,068	21.7	22.7	20.8
Hambantota	490,923	20.0	20.7	19.3

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 50.9 percent of aged 15 years and above population is economically active in this province. Galle district (50.3%) is

reported lower economically active percentage than that of Hambantota district (52.6%). Table 8 present percentages of economically active population by sector and sex.

5.2 Employed and unemployed population

Total employed and unemployed population in Southern province is 865,204 and 79,069 respectively. In Galle district total employed population is reported as 370,017 while that figure is 213,946 in Hambantota district. Among

the employed population in Southern province 15.8% 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
Southern				
Total	944,273	100.0	69.2	30.8
Urban	89833	100.0	69.6	30.4
Rural	835,682	100.0	69.4	30.6
Estate	18,758	100.0	58.0	42.0
Galle				
Total	401,869	100.0	67.9	32.1
Urban	45,798	100.0	69.8	30.2
Rural	347,404	100.0	67.9	32.1
Estate	8,667	100.0	58.7	41.3
Matara				
Total	308,583	100.0	67.9	32.1
Urban	32,455	100.0	68.6	31.4
Rural	266,037	100.0	68.2	31.8
Estate	10,091	100.0	57.4	42.6
Hambantota				
Total	233,821	100.0	73.1	26.9
Urban	11,580	100.0	72.1	27.9
Rural	222,241	100.0	73.2	26.8
Estate	-	-	-	-

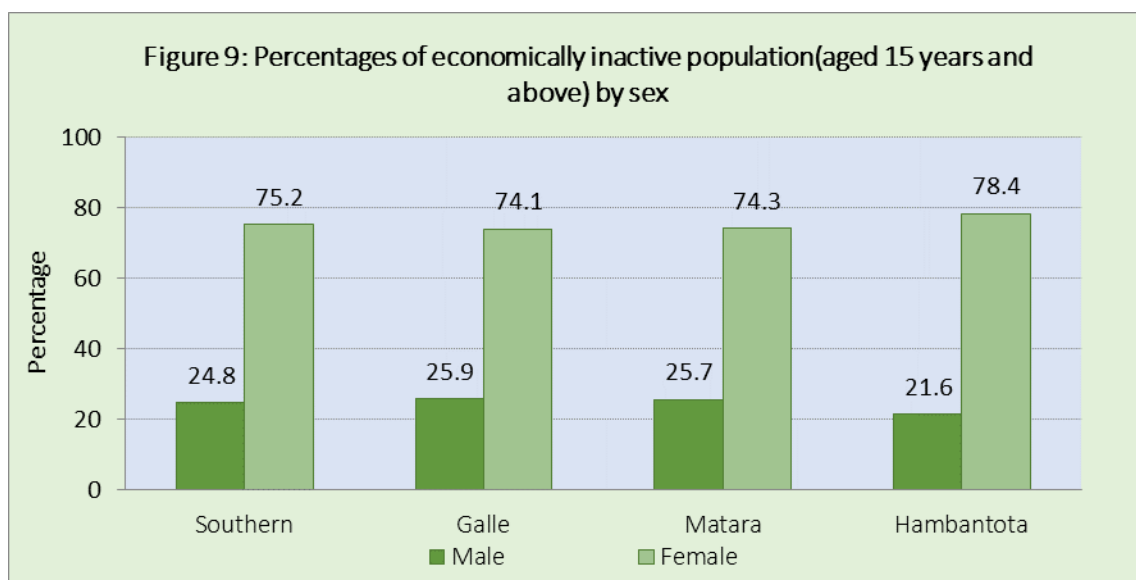
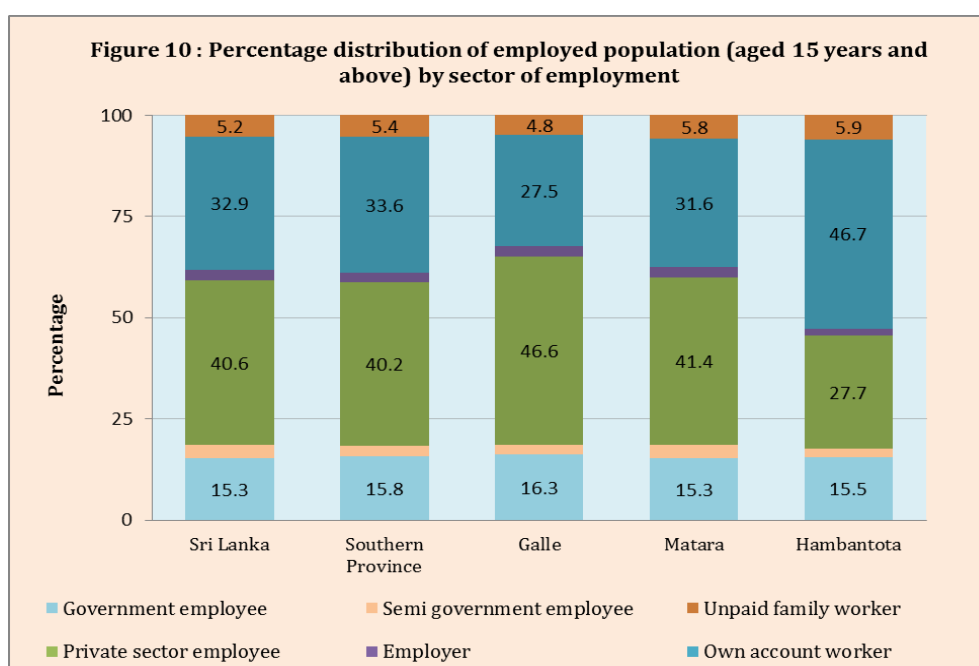
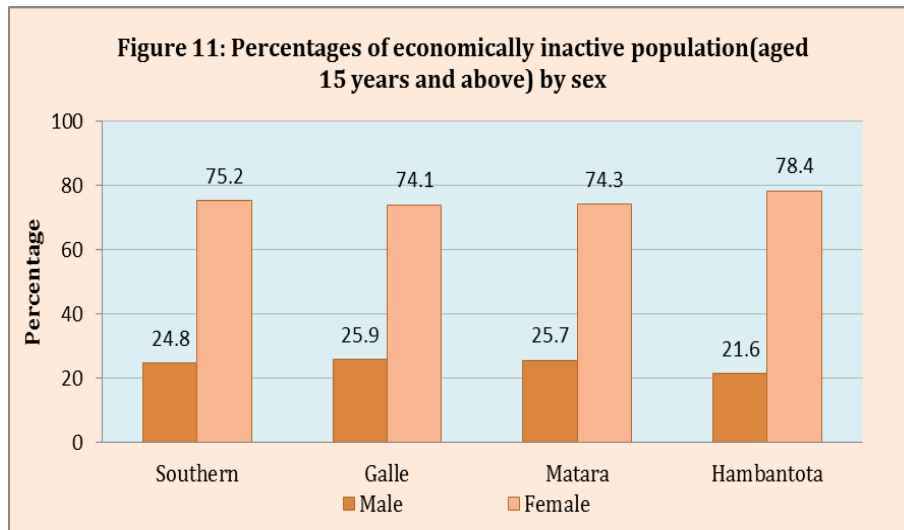


Table 9: Percentages of employed population (aged 15 years and above) by sector of employment and sex

	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
Southern				
Total	865,204	100.0	70.4	29.6
Government employee	136,492	100.0	62.0	38.0
Semi government employee	23,028	100.0	62.9	37.1
Private sector employee	347,953	100.0	72.1	27.9
Employer	20,326	100.0	86.6	13.4
Own account worker	290,597	100.0	78.5	21.5
Unpaid family worker	46,808	100.0	29.2	70.8
Galle				
Total	370,017	100.0	68.9	31.1
Government employee	60,145	100.0	62.4	37.6

Semi government employee	8,839	100.0	61.8	38.2
Private sector employee	172,278	100.0	71.1	28.9
Employer	9,194	100.0	85.6	14.4
Own account worker	101,686	100.0	75.2	24.8
Unpaid family worker	17,875	100.0	28.9	71.1
Matara				
Total	281,241	100.0	69.2	30.8
Government employee	43,108	100.0	59.3	40.7
Semi government employee	9,439	100.0	61.6	38.4
Private sector employee	116,330	100.0	71.6	28.4
Employer	7,169	100.0	86.5	13.5
Own account worker	88,895	100.0	77.9	22.1
Unpaid family worker	16,300	100.0	28.4	71.6
Hambantota				
Total	213,946	100.0	74.6	25.4
Government employee	33,239	100.0	65.0	35.0
Semi government employee	4,750	100.0	67.7	32.3
Private sector employee	59,345	100.0	75.9	24.1
Employer	3,963	100.0	89.2	10.4
Own account worker	100,016	100.0	82.3	17.7
Unpaid family worker	12,633	100.0	30.7	69.3





5.2 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 Southern province is reported as 49.1 percent. Data shows that the percentage of economically inactive population in Galle district (49.7%) is higher than that in Hambantota district (47.4%). Figure 9 shows the percentages of economically inactive by sex.

