Census of Population and Housing - 2024

Final Report

Department of Census and Statistics

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development





CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING 2024

FINAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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PREFACE

Census of Population and Housing is the most complex and extensive data collection operation conducted in any country. The Department of Census and Statistics successfully conducted the Fifteenth Census of Population and Housing of Sri Lanka in 2024. This census marks another significant milestone in the history of census operations in the country. Notably, for the first time, census data collection was carried out using tablet computers and smartphones instead of printed questionnaires, representing a major advancement in the methodology of data collection. This publication presents the Final Report, which provides population and housing information compiled based on the finalized data of the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

This report consists of twelve chapters. The first chapter presents information on the organization of the census, while the second chapter describes the mapping, geospatial data and administrative units of Sri Lanka. The third chapter provides details on the size, growth, and distribution of the population. The fourth to the twelfth chapters present information on the spatial distribution of the population, migration patterns, demographic and social characteristics, education and literacy, economic characteristics, marital status and fertility, household and family characteristics, as well as information on occupied housing units. It is expected that this report will serve as an important source of information for policymakers, planners, researchers, and other stakeholders engaged in academic and analytical work.

The Department conducts the census under the provisions of the Census Ordinance. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the staff of the Department of Census and Statistics, who worked with great enthusiasm and dedication to successfully complete this census despite the challenges encountered during the census period. I also express my sincere gratitude to the officers of all government and other institutions, development partners, and all the officers, including enumerators, who were engaged in the data collection process. Furthermore, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the people of Sri Lanka for their cooperation in providing accurate information, which greatly contributed to the successful completion of this important national undertaking.



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The successful completion of the Census of Population and Housing 2024 stands as a significant national achievement, made possible through the collective efforts, dedication, and cooperation of numerous individuals and institutions. The Census of Population and Housing, being one of the largest and most complex statistical operations undertaken in the country, requires careful planning, strong leadership, and unwavering commitment at all levels.

First and foremost, sincere appreciation is extended to Mrs. D.D.G.A. Seneviratne, Mr. P.M.P. Anura Kumara, and Dr. Mrs. I.R. Bandara, former Directors General who served as Census Superintendents, for their leadership and guidance during the critical phases of the census.

The senior management of the Department of Census and Statistics, particularly the Additional Directors General and Directors, who served as Deputy Census Superintendents and functioned as Provincial Coordinators are gratefully acknowledged for their leadership, strategic direction, and overall oversight of the census process at listing and enumeration stages. Directors, Deputy Directors, Senior Statisticians, and Statisticians who served as District Coordinators and Zonal Supervisors, are also sincerely recognized for their dedicated efforts in managing field operations.

Grateful acknowledgement is extended to the District Secretaries, who functioned as District Census Commissioners, as well as to the Deputy and Assistant Census Commissioners. Their administrative leadership and coordination of field work at the district and divisional levels greatly facilitated the smooth implementation of field activities across the country.

Special appreciation is extended to the technical and operational teams, particularly those responsible for information technology systems and the implementation of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). In this regard, the contributions of Mr. K.L.C.S. Weerasooriya (former Additional Director General – ICT), Ms. H.H.D.A.W. Damayanthi (former Deputy Director – ICT), Directors (ICT), Mr. P.D.D. Pieris, Mr. E.M.D. Ekanayake, and the staff of the Information and Communication Technology Division are sincerely appreciated.

The digital cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including the preparation of the Master Registry of Census Blocks (MRCB), formed the foundation of this digitalized census. The efforts of Mrs. M.L.A.P. Gunasekara (Deputy Director) and her team are gratefully acknowledged for the preparation of digital maps. The expert support provided by Mr. W.P.S. Sisilarathna, Director and his team in publishing census data using GIS technology is also highly valued.

The Heads of District Statistical Branches played a crucial role at the district level by coordinating field activities and ensuring the accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of census data. The contributions of Divisional Census Officers attached to Divisional Secretariats and other departmental field staff are sincerely appreciated. Area Supervisors, Circle Officers, Enumerators, and other field personnel carried out their duties with exceptional dedication—often under challenging conditions—to ensure complete and accurate data collection from every household and institution.

The Department expresses its sincere appreciation to all partner organizations, especially the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), for their continuous support throughout all stages of the census.

Appreciation is also extended to the World Food Programme (WFP), the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and other stakeholders for their technical, logistical, and institutional support, which significantly strengthened the overall quality and effectiveness of the operation.

The contributions of non-technical staff, including those in the Administrative Division under the leadership of the Additional Director General (Administration) and the Accounts Division under the guidance of the Chief Finance Officer, are gratefully acknowledged for their essential support throughout the census process.

The Department extends its heartfelt gratitude to the general public for their cooperation and willingness to provide accurate and timely information. The success of the census fundamentally depends on public trust and participation, and this support is deeply valued.

Special appreciation is extended to the contributors to this final report, particularly those involved in data processing and analysis, as well as the chapter writers and translators. Their dedicated efforts have transformed the collected data into meaningful statistical information for national development planning and policy formulation.

The Department also acknowledges with appreciation the contributions of officers who retired during the census process. Mr. P.M.R. Fernando and Mr. W.H.P.W. Weerasiri (former Additional Directors General – ICT), Mr. A.G.S. Kariyawasam (former Deputy Director of Population Census and Demography Division), and other retired staff made valuable contributions to the introduction of modern methodologies and the timely implementation of census activities.

Finally, special recognition is given to Dr. W.A.C. Wijebandara (Director), Ms. B.G. Kumari Premalatha (Deputy Director), and the staff of the Population Census and Demography Division for their leadership and commitment across all phases of the census, including planning, implementation, data processing, analysis, and dissemination.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 15th Census of Population and Housing of Sri Lanka was successfully completed in 2024, representing a historic milestone as the first instance where Information Technology was utilized for national-scale data collection. As the largest and most complex data gathering exercise in Sri Lanka, under the technical guidance of the Department of Census and Statistics and the direction of the District Administration, a vast number of government officials and other personnel from various levels participated in this national endeavor. This comprehensive operation involved the enumeration of all individuals within the entire land area of the country based on their place of usual residence, alongside the systematic collection of vital population and housing characteristics. The census moment was defined as 00:00 hours of the 19 December 2024.

The total population of Sri Lanka is reported at 21,781,800, with a national population density of 350 persons per square kilometer. The Western Province continues to serve as the nation's primary demographic hub, containing 28.1 percent of the total population. Collectively, nearly two-thirds of the country's inhabitants reside within four provinces: Western (28.1%), Central (12.5%), Southern (12.0%), and North-western (11.9%). At the district level, Gampaha reported the highest population (2,436,142), while Mullaitivu (122,619) remains the least populous.

The 2024 data highlight a significant transition toward an aging society. The elderly population (60 years and over) now constitutes 18.0 percent of the total population, while the child population (0-14 years) has contracted to 20.7 percent. This shift is further evidenced by an Aging Index of 87, indicating that there are 87 elderly persons for every 100 children. Furthermore, the Median Age (35 years) has increased by approximately five years compared to previous census conducted in 2012, reflecting a maturing population structure.

The national sex ratio is reported at 93.3, indicating that females outnumber males in the country. Marital analysis shows that 41.8 percent of the population is never married, and the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage is 29.2 years for males and 25.6 years for females. Notably, a significant gender disparity exists in late-life widowhood, with 44.2percent of female aged 65 and over being widowed, compared to 10.5 percent of males. Further, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stands at 1.3, remaining below the replacement threshold, while the Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) is 2.7.

While the working-age population (15-59 years) remains the largest cohort at 61.3 percent, the dependency structure is shifting. The Child Dependency Ratio has declined to 33.7, while the Old-Age Dependency Ratio has risen significantly to 29.4, placing an increased dependency burden on the current workforce.

The ethnic landscape of Sri Lanka in 2024 is characterized by a Sinhalese majority, which accounts for 74.1percent of the total population, followed by Sri Lanka Tamils at 12.3 percent and Sri Lanka Moors/Muslim at 10.5 percent. In terms of religious affiliation, Buddhism remains the predominant faith, practiced by 69.8 percent of the population, while Hindu, Islam, and Roman Catholic represent 12.6 percent, 10.7 percent, and 5.6 percent of the total population, respectively.

Sri Lanka has achieved a historic milestone in education, with the national language literacy rate rising to 97.4 percent in 2024, up from 95.7 percent in 2012. Notably, for the first time since the inception of the census in 1881, the traditional gender gap in literacy has closed, with both males and females reaching an almost equal literacy rates of 97.9 and 97.0 percent respectively. In terms of modern competencies, digital literacy among individuals aged 5 and over has reached 67.6 percent, while computer literacy stands at 34.7 percent, reflecting the nation's ongoing digital transformation.

Sri Lanka comprises a total of 6,111,315 households. The Nuclear Household remains the predominant structure, accounting for over 50.0 percent of all households. The average household size is 3.5 persons, with the Estate Sector reporting the highest average at 3.6. Nationally, over 70.0 percent of household heads are male. A critical demographic finding is the prevalence of Single-Person Households, which account for 10.5 percent of the total. Within this category, 640,704 households consist of individuals living alone; notably, 370,229 of these are aged 60 and over and of them majority are females (71.3%).

The census also provides statistics on functional difficulties among the population aged 5 years and over, across six core domains: vision, hearing, mobility (walking or climbing steps), cognition (remembering and concentration), self-care, and communication. 3,223,413 individuals (157 per 1,000) report at least one physical or mental difficulty. Within this group, 727,293 individuals were identified with significant disabilities across over six core functional domains. This represents a national disability rate of 35 per 1,000, with the highest prevalence rate reported in the Kurunegala District (43 per 1,000).

According to data for 2024, 19.2 percent of the population (4.18 million people) are reported to be suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Based on self-reported information, the highest prevalence rates are observed for High blood pressure (10.1%) and Diabetes (8.5%). These conditions are more widespread among females and older individuals, with more than half of the population aged 60 years and over affected by at least one chronic disease. Furthermore, as the level of education increases, the risk of experiencing non-communicable diseases gradually decreases. This indicates the existence of a significant "health literacy gap."

Lifetime migrants characterize 13 percent of the population. The districts with the highest percentages of lifetime migrants are Vavuniya (29.2%), Kilinochchi (24.0%), and Mullaitivu (23.9%), while Colombo hosts the largest absolute volume of migrants (491,236). Migration by previous residence is predominantly long-term (62.9 percent staying over 10 years) and driven largely by Marriage (41.8%), followed by Employment (17.5%). The highest internal in-migrant population is reported from Gampaha (524,737) and Colombo (519,379) is in second place. Interestingly, migration for employment is significantly higher in Colombo (37.8%) and Gampaha (26.1%) than the value reported for the country (17.5%).

As of 2024, 672,249 Sri Lankans are temporarily living abroad, a group dominated by males (61.3%). The primary drivers for overseas migration are Employment (86.0%) and Education (8.0%). The highest numbers of migrants originating from the Gampaha (12.8%), Colombo (10.6%), and Kurunegala (9.5%) districts. The Middle Eastern region remains the primary destination, specifically Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Australia and Japan are the main destinations of those who have migrated for Education.

In terms of workforce engagement, the census highlights a 47.3 percent labor force participation rate, leaving a substantial 52.7 percent of the working-age population is economically inactive. This inactivity is defined by a clear gender split: over half of inactive female (50.6%) are kept from the workforce by domestic duties and caregiving roles, whereas the largest share of inactive male (41.3 percent) is inactive due to education or professional training. Within the economically active cohort, the Employment Rate stands at 94 percent, while the Unemployment Rate is 6 percent. Spatial analysis reveals significant regional disparities; the Batticaloa District reports the highest incidence of unemployment at 10.1 percent, while the Moneragala District records the lowest unemployment rate of 3.9 percent.

Regarding living conditions, the census identified 6,030,541 occupied housing units, an increase of 822,801 units since 2012. The Rural sector contains the highest concentration of housing (4.77 million units), and Gampaha district reports the highest number of occupied dwellings. Infrastructure and utility access have seen considerable modernization. Access to the national electricity grid has reached a near universal 98.0 percent, while 92.2 percent of households have access to drinking water within their housing unit or garden. The National Water Supply and Drainage Board serves as the primary water source for 38.9 percent of households. In terms of energy, though 55.4 percent of households still utilize firewood for cooking, there has been a significant nationwide shift toward LPG (42.4%) compared to 2012. Sanitation standards are high, with 99.6 percent of households utilizing water-sealed toilets. Furthermore, a major shift in communication technology is evident: while use of radios, desktop computers, and fixed line phones has plummeted, laptop usage has surged from 5.6 percent to 19.7 percent, and motorcycles/scooters have emerged as the most prevalent mode of private transport.

1. Organization of the Census

1.1 History, Importance, and Methodology of the Census of Population and Housing

Introduction

A Census of Population and Housing is defined as the process of simultaneously enumerating all individuals residing within a specified geographical area (a country) at a particular point in time, together with the housing units in which they live. In the conduct of such a census, it is essential to ensure that no individual or housing unit is omitted and that none is counted more than once, thereby guaranteeing the accuracy, completeness, and reliability of the data collected.

According to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), a population census is defined as the comprehensive process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating demographic, economic, and social data for all individuals living within a specified geographical area (a country) at a given point in time. Similarly, a housing census refers to the entire process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing, and publishing data on the housing units in which those individuals reside. The combined conduct of these two processes constitutes the broader concept of a Census of Population and Housing.

The primary and fundamental objective of a Population and Housing Census is to collect the data required to provide essential information on the population and housing, which are necessary for the government and other stakeholders for planning national development activities as well as for formulating policies and programs. As this process is highly complex and involves substantial costs, most countries in the world conduct a Population and Housing Census once every five or ten years. Furthermore, in accordance with the general guidelines issued by the United Nations regarding the conduct of a Population and Housing Census, Sri Lanka, like many other countries worldwide, carries out its Population and Housing Census following these guidelines.

History of the Census of Population and Housing

According to United Nations guidelines, a Census of Population and Housing is recommended to be conducted at regular, consistent intervals, preferably in years ending with '0' or '1'. In practice, Sri Lanka generally conducts its censuses in years ending with '1'. Sri Lanka has a history of conducting censuses spanning over 150 years. The first legally mandated and scientifically conducted population census was held on 27 March 1871. Accordingly, Sri Lanka has the distinction of being the first country in South Asia to conduct a population census.

According to the first Population Census conducted in 1871, the population of Sri Lanka was reported at 2.4 million. Subsequently, Sri Lanka was able to conduct censuses at ten-year intervals in years ending with '1' (1881, 1901, 1911, 1921, and 1931) up until 1931. However, the 1941 census could not be conducted due to the Second World War, and the next census was held in 1946. Following this, population censuses were conducted in 1953 and 1963, and the country was again able to hold a census in a year ending with '1' in 1971. Subsequent censuses were conducted in 1981 and 2001. The 1981 census marked a significant change, being conducted as a Census of Population and Housing For the first time, data on housing units and housing-related characteristics were collected along with the enumeration of the population.

Due to prevailed adverse conditions in the country, it was not possible to conduct a census in 1991. Further, during the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, only 18 districts were covered fully. Accordingly, after the 1981 Census of Population and Housing, a census covering the entire country was conducted 30 years later, in 2012. According to the 14th census in the series, the 2012 Census of Population and Housing,

the population of Sri Lanka was reported at 20.4 million, representing an increase of 5.6 million compared to the 14.8 million reported in the 1981 census.

The 15th Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka was initially planned for 2021, which marked 150 years since the first census, making it a significant milestone in the country's census history. However, due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and economic setbacks affecting the country after 2019, the census was postponed and eventually conducted in 2024. According to the 15th Census of Population and Housing conducted in 2024, the total population of Sri Lanka was reported at 21,781,800.

Importance of the Census of Population and Housing

The Population and Housing Census is the primary source of complete and reliable information on the population living in a country and the housing units they occupy, and such information is highly valuable for national development activities. As it provides accurate information on the size, distribution, and characteristics of the population, it assists the government in formulating effective national policies. Moreover, the ability to make this information available down to the smallest administrative level is also highly significant. Accordingly, following are some of the activities that can be done by utilizing census data,

- Plan and allocate basic facilities and services such as education, health, housing, and transportation according to the needs of the population.
- Measure progress toward national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Determine electoral boundaries, calculate electoral populations, and support administrative planning.
- Conduct research and analysis on education, employment, migration, fertility trends, aging populations, and housing conditions.
- Serve as a sample frame for nationally planned surveys.
- The private sector institutes and investors can use census data to identify market size, consumer characteristics, and suitable locations for service provision.

Furthermore, the information collected through a Census of Population and Housing is used for comparative studies between countries at the international level, as well as to facilitate access to various forms of assistance and agreements provided by international organizations. Accordingly, the data gathered through a Census of Population and Housing is highly valuable both nationally and internationally.

Since a Census of Population and Housing is conducted once every ten years, the data collected serves as base information for a wide range of activities throughout the decade. Moreover, this data provides the basis for projecting population and other key variables, supporting future planning, policy formulation, and analysis.

Census Ordinance

A Census of Population and Housing in any country is conducted based on an established legal framework. According to historical records of censuses, the Census Ordinance enacted in 1868 was formulated based on the legal framework used for censuses in England. This ordinance provided the legal authority for conducting the first census in Sri Lanka in 1871. Subsequently, in 1900, a new Census Ordinance was enacted granting the government the authority to conduct censuses. The Census Ordinance enacted in 1900 has since served as the principal legal framework for conducting censuses in Sri Lanka for a long period. Considering the evolving requirements of censuses conducted once every ten years, minor amendments have been made to the ordinance from time to time. The most recent amendment was made

in 2011. Accordingly, the Census of Population and Housing -2024 was conducted under this amended Census Ordinance. Under the provisions of this ordinance, every person living in Sri Lanka is legally obliged to provide accurate information for the census. At the same time, the Department of Census and Statistics, together with all census officers, is legally bound under the ordinance to ensure the confidentiality and protection of the personal information collected.

The Department of Census and Statistics was established in 1947. Since then, the Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka has been conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics. All technical guidelines and instructions related to the Census of Population and Housing are prepared by the technical officers of the Department. According to the Census Ordinance, the Minister in charge of the line ministry under which the Department of Census and Statistics functions appoints the Census Superintendent (the Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics) and issues the official order to conduct the Census of Population and Housing. Furthermore, under the provisions of the Census Ordinance, Gazette notifications are issued specifying the positions of census officers such as Census Commissioners and Deputy Census Commissioners...etc., the period during which the census is to be conducted, and the information to be collected from citizens during the census. The overall responsibility for the census process rests with the Census Superintendent, who is vested with full authority to conduct the census in accordance with the prescribed census methodology.

Methodology of the Censuses of Population and Housing - 2024

Special Characteristics of the Data Collection Process

In the Censuses of Population and Housing conducted in 2012 and in earlier years, printed questionnaires were used to collect information. Furthermore, in the 2012 Census, for the first time, the completed printed questionnaires were digitized through scanning using OMR/ICR technology. As this method eliminated the need for officers to manually enter data into computers, significant savings in both time and financial resources were achieved. Consequently, compared to previous censuses, it was possible to release census information within a shorter period of time.

In the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, the Department of Census and Statistics collected information through Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method using tablet computers and smartphones. This marked the first time in the history of censuses in the country that such digital devices were used for data collection. It was also the first census conducted without relying primarily on printed questionnaires. In addition, information was collected through the internet using Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI). However, in a limited number of situations where the CAPI method could not be applied, data were collected using printed questionnaires for a very small number of units. Accordingly, the Department was able to reduce the time required for data collection, the cost involved, and the use of paper during the 2024 Census.

Furthermore, the use of the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method enabled census field operations to be carried out accurately and efficiently. As the data collected during the interview were directly stored in the server system at the time of the interview, there was no need for a separate data entry process, which was a significant advantage. As a result, the time required for data processing was considerably reduced, enabling census reports to be prepared more quickly. In addition, the inclusion of census divisions and digital maps in the tablet computers and smartphones used for data collection made it easier for enumerators to accurately identify and locate census units in the field. These modern technological facilities contributed to enhancing the accuracy and reliability of the data. By enabling the entire census process to be conducted more efficiently, they also facilitated the timely publication of census results.

Main activities related to the implementation of the Census process in stages

- Appointment of Census Operations Committees and Sub-committees
- Conducting workshops for data users to assess the current information needs to be collected during the census
- Preparing essential preliminary plans for the entire census process, including timelines, lists of equipment, cost estimates, and procurement plans
- Studying modern technological methods used in censuses in other countries and adapting them to the context of Sri Lanka
- Preparation of code lists required for data collection
- Preparation of reports required to obtain assistance from donor agencies
- Determining the census enumeration methodology, including the use of information technology for data collection
- Conducting pre-tests of the census process in the field, implementing a pilot census to examine the overall census operation, and improving computer programs based on the findings
- Ensuring the accurate transmission of data to the server system
- Planning training programs for officers involved in the census
- Developing a data preservation and data management system
- Preparing census publicity and public awareness programs
- Designing and printing the administrative and operational forms required for the census
- Distribution of equipment and materials to Districts and Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions
- Recruitment and training of census officers
- Launching the census enumeration process
- Data editing, processing, and analyzing
- Preparation of census reports and dissemination of census data

Appointment of Officers for the Census

In accordance with the Census Ordinance, District Secretaries and Divisional Secretaries/Assistant Divisional Secretaries serving in district and divisional administrative functions are appointed to the census positions of Census Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, or Assistant Commissioner. Census officers responsible for collecting and enumerating data are recruited externally. These may include government officers as well as non-government personnel (such as university students or individuals pursuing higher education). Based on the requirements of the census process, suitable individuals are selected and appointed at the Divisional Secretariat level by the Deputy/Assistant Census Commissioners.

Training, supervision, and other technical activities related to census officers were carried out by senior officers of the Department of Census and Statistics, including deputy census superintendents, assistant census superintendents, and Divisional Census Officers. In this process, the administrative activities of the census at the Divisional Secretariat level were carried out by the deputy/assistant census commissioners, while the technical activities were coordinated by the officer of the Department of Census and Statistics assigned to the respective Divisional Secretariat Division (Divisional Census Officer).

Administrative and Technical Organization in Enumeration Stage

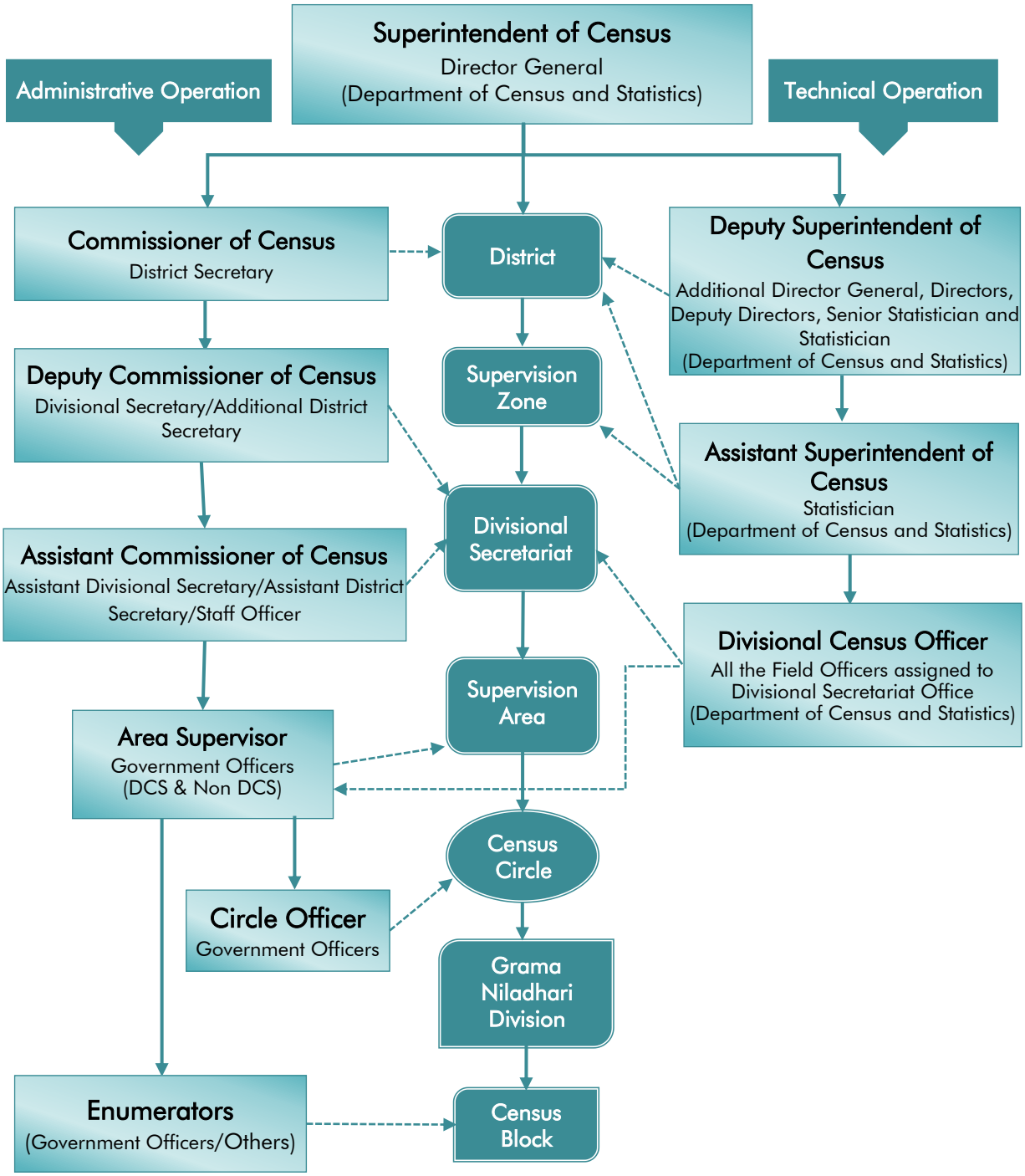


Table 1.1.1 : Officers who have Assigned for Census of Population and Housing 2024 Activities

District	Deputy Census Commissioners	Assistant Census Commissioners	Technical Staff				Other Non-Technical staff	Enumerators who used tablet computers (CAPI)	Enumerators who used Smart Phones (BYOAD)
			Zonal Supervisors + District Statistical branch Head	Divisional Census Officer	Area Supervisors	Circle Officers			
Total	365	365	120	340	601	1,026	1,825	15,321	14,396
Colombo	14	14	18	13	53	98	70	1,104	1,986
Gampaha	14	14	13	13	48	90	70	1,493	1,572
Kalutara	15	15	5	14	29	51	75	792	836
Kandy	21	21	6	20	36	63	105	1,056	779
Matale	12	12	3	11	16	27	60	432	317
Nuwara Eliya	11	11	4	10	19	35	55	557	431
Galle	23	23	5	22	32	55	115	836	642
Matara	17	17	4	16	23	40	85	626	497
Hambantota	13	13	3	12	19	31	65	488	435
Jaffna	16	16	3	15	18	28	80	431	375
Mannar	6	6	2	5	5	6	30	103	87
Vavuniya	5	5	2	4	6	10	25	117	152
Mullaitivu	7	7	2	6	6	8	35	117	89
Kilinochchi	5	5	2	4	5	6	25	97	103
Batticaloa	15	15	3	14	18	31	75	445	391
Ampara	21	21	4	20	23	34	105	492	529
Trincomalee	12	12	3	11	15	22	60	288	329
Kurunegala	31	31	8	30	54	94	155	1,478	1,052
Puttalam	17	17	4	16	24	37	85	589	581
Anuradhapura	23	23	5	22	33	57	115	812	655
Polonnaruwa	8	8	3	7	12	22	40	323	330
Badulla	16	16	4	15	28	46	80	661	552
Moneragala	12	12	3	11	17	27	60	381	406
Ratnapura	19	19	6	18	36	62	95	895	781
Kegalle	12	12	5	11	26	46	60	708	487

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.

Enumeration Method

In a Census of Population and Housing there are two main methods of data collection.

1. **de jure Enumeration**
   Under this method, individuals are enumerated at their usual place of residence, meaning the place where they normally live.

2. **de facto Enumeration**
   Under this method, individuals are enumerated at the place where they are present at the time of the census.

The censuses in Sri Lanka until 2001, were conducted using the de facto enumeration method. However, both the Censuses of Population and Housing in 2012 and 2024, enumeration of individuals was carried out using the de jure method. Once the primary enumeration method is determined, planning for the overall census process begins. In a Censuses of Population and Housing, all individuals and housing units in the country are enumerated, and detailed information on both individuals and households is collected. Accordingly, it is essential that enumeration and data collection carried out in such a way that no individual or census unit is omitted or counted twice.

All census activities must be carried out within a specific and short period of time and population data should be accurately collected with reference to a specific point in time (the census moment). To achieve this, the entire census process is generally conducted in four main stages.

(i) The Mapping stage
(ii) The Listing stage
(iii) The Enumeration stage
(iv) The Data Dissemination stage

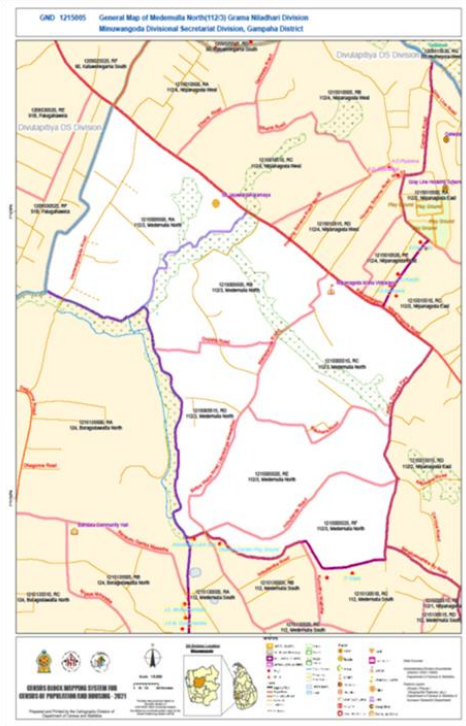
(i) Mapping stage

The mapping stage constitutes the first phase of a Census of Population and Housing. For the Census of Population and Housing -2024, mapping activities commenced in 2016. These activities were carried out using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

As part of this process, digital maps were prepared for all census blocks at the Grama Niladhari level, covering the entire country and incorporating the geographical features within each census block. Each census block was delineated to include approximately 80–120 buildings. (in urban areas 80–100 buildings and 100-120 in rural and estate areas) Accordingly, all Grama Niladhari Divisions in the country were subdivided into 87,944 census blocks, and maps were prepared for each of these blocks.

These census block maps include key features such as buildings, main roads, railway lines, tanks, rivers, streams, places of worship, schools, and other important landmarks. The availability of these maps enables enumerators to accurately identify and locate their assigned enumeration areas during field operations. Further details regarding the mapping process are presented in Chapter 2.



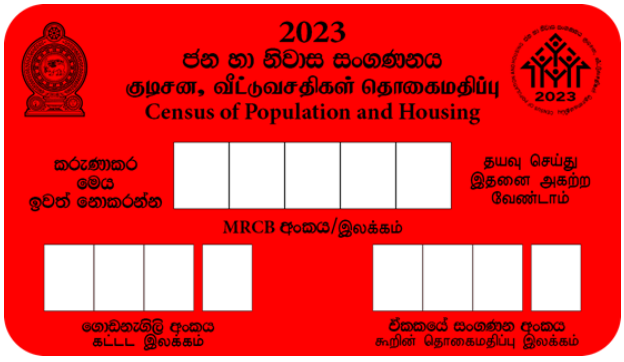


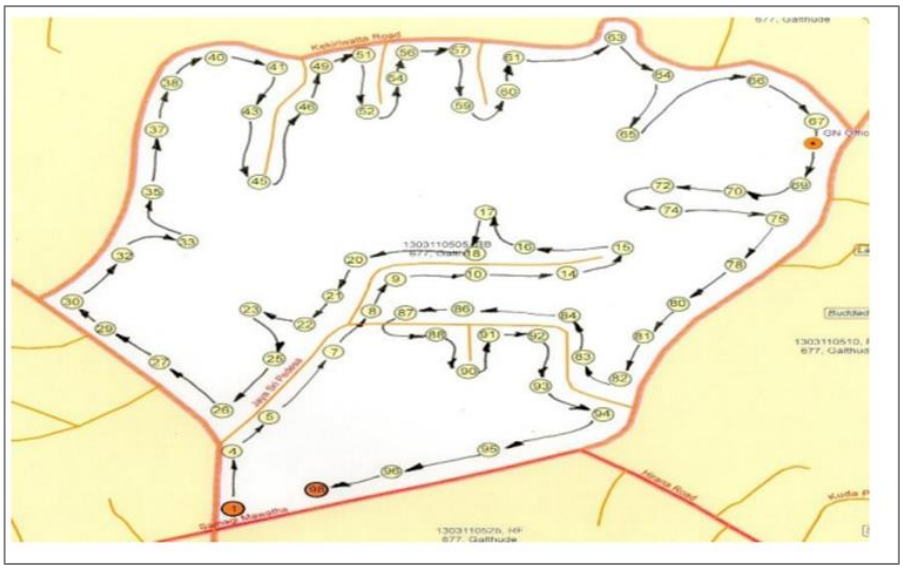
(ii) Listing stage

In a Population and Housing Census, a fundamental requirement is that no person or housing unit should be omitted and none should be counted more than once.

Generally, people reside in housing units; however, it is also possible to find individuals living in buildings that are not classified as housing units. In addition, there may be roofless persons. In conducting a population census, it is necessary to enumerate all such persons.

For this reason, in a Population and Housing Census, any building or part of a building in which people may reside is first classified into four categories according to the nature of occupancy, and these categories are clearly defined. These units are collectively referred to as census units. Accordingly, those are classified into four types: housing units, collective living quarters, residential institutions, and non-residential units. At the time of the census, any of these units may or may not be occupied by persons.





During the second stage of the census, the listing stage, all census units within a census block are listed based on the census block map. Systematic measures are followed during listing to prevent omissions or duplicate entries of census units. Accordingly, once the boundaries of a census block are clearly identified, listing begins from a building (census unit) located in a clearly recognizable part of the block. Each building, as well as each individual census unit within the building, is assigned a unique identification number. This number is written on a red sticker and affixed in a prominent location of the unit, such as the main entrance, to facilitate easy identification during the census enumeration process. Information, including the unit's address, is also recorded.

In this way, every census unit in the census block is assigned a unique number (MRCB number, building number, and census unit number). All census units in the block are listed sequentially until the final unit is recorded. Using this process, the 87,944 census blocks across 14,008 Divisional Secretariat divisions were fully listed. In addition, if there are individuals within a census block living without a shelter (roofless), this is also noted during the listing stage. This information is then used during the enumeration stage to ensure that all individuals without shelter are properly counted.

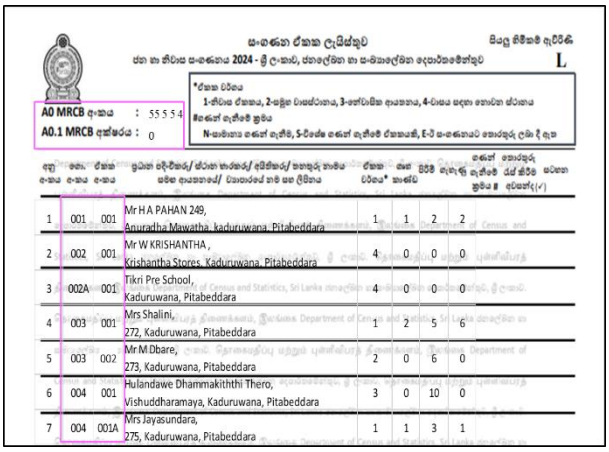
Field activities for the listing stage of the 2024 Census were conducted from October 2023 to January 2024. The list of buildings prepared during the census is referred to as the "Census Unit List." This Census Unit List is used as the census or sample frame for all censuses and surveys conducted during the intercensal period until the next census.

(iii) Enumeration stage

The third stage of a Census of Population and Housing is the enumeration of individuals and housing units. During this stage, detailed information is collected along with the counting of individuals and housing units. Based on an individual's usual place of residence, demographic, socio-economic, and housing-related information is gathered. In a census, information about all individuals and housing units in the country is collected and reported according to a specific reference point in time.

Accordingly, the enumeration stage is conducted in two main phases, the Data collection round and the Revision round. During the Data collection round, information is gathered from all census units where individuals are usually residing. Enumeration is carried out using the Census Unit List and the census block map prepared during the listing stage, with updates to the list made whenever necessary. Furthermore, in instances where the number of census units included within the initially prepared census blocks exceeded the recommended size, those blocks were subdivided, and total of 98,430 census blocks were prepared and used during the enumeration stage.

A designated enumerator is assigned to each census block, who collects information using a tablet computer or a smart mobile device. In addition, data collection was conducted online, and where necessary. Enumeration involved both face-to-face interviews, where the enumerator recorded responses directly, and e-enumeration, in which registered respondents themselves completed the census information. For e-enumeration, respondents were notified in advance via email and provided with a secure link and password to submit their information.



1	001	001	Mr H A PAHAN 249, Anuradha Mawatha, kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	1	1	2	2	
2	002	001	Mr W KRISHANTHA , Krishantha Stores, Kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	4	0	0	0	
3	002A	001	Tikri Pre School, Kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	4	0	0	0	
4	003	001	Mrs Shalini, 272, Kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	1	2	5	6	
5	003	002	Mr M Dbare, 273, Kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	2	0	6	0	
6	004	001	Hulandawe Dhammakiththi Thero, Vishuddharamaya, Kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	3	0	10	0	
7	004	001A	Mrs Jayasundara, 275, Kaduruwana, Pitabeddara	1	1	3	1	



Accordingly, field activities for the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 commenced on 7 October 2024 and were scheduled to conclude with the "census moment" at midnight on 18 December 2024. The census moment was defined as 00:00 hours at the start of 19 December 2024. The day following the census moment was designated as the "census day," and the subsequent five days (19–23 December 2024) were allocated for the Revision round. If any changes had occurred in the information collected during the data collection period, the necessary revisions were made accordingly. In all districts, the enumeration of roofless individuals was conducted during the night close to the census moment.

However, due to factors such as most households being closed during daytime and difficulty accessing condominiums, the collection of census information in some census blocks in the Colombo and Gampaha districts proved highly complex and challenging. In these areas, data collection continued until February 2025, based on the census moment.

Revision Round

In a Census of Population and Housing, information is published according to the census moment. However, data collected during the data collection phase reflect the time period of collection and may differ slightly from the census moment. Accordingly, certain essential updates such as births, deaths, or changes in usual residence are adjusted to correspond to the census moment.

Thus, population data collected from census units during the data collection phase were edited from 19 to 23 December 2024 to account for births, deaths, and changes in usual residence. For census units where data could not be collected by the census moment, information was subsequently gathered and adjusted to the census moment, and no further editing was required for these units.

Enumeration of Roofless Individuals (without Shelter)

It is essential to include in the census individuals without a usual place of residence, such as beggars and homeless persons. Accordingly, information on such individuals, who spend the night in public shelters, under bridges, or in other locations, was preliminarily identified by the census enumerators in the respective areas. On the night of 18 December 2024, close to the census moment, nationwide enumeration of individuals without shelter was carried out to ensure complete coverage of this population group.

Operational Procedures

Quality Control Unit for Methodological Matters

To ensure the quality of data collected in the field and to complete data collection within the designated time frame, an operations center was established, accessible through the telephone number 1901. The center was set up to provide guidance on methodological issues, address immediate problems encountered by the public and enumerators, and support the smooth conduct of field operations. Through this operations center, instructions on methodological matters arising during data collection, as well as clarifications related to questions in the questionnaire, were provided to ensure accurate and timely data collection.

Quality Control Unit for Information Technology

For the first time in the history of censuses, the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 was conducted using tablet computers. In this census, data collected by field officers were transmitted directly to the server systems at the headquarters. To manage these operations, a special operations unit was established during both the listing and enumeration phases of the census.

Through this operations unit, it was possible to monitor field progress and identify and correct errors in the data at the time of collection. Furthermore, when collecting data using tablet computers and smartphones, the unit ensured the security of the information collected, the supervision of census officers, and the prompt resolution of technical issues arising during the process.

In addition, the proper functioning of the census software and the use of devices were directly monitored through this operations unit.

Publicity Activities

Since the Census of Population and Housing collects information from every individual in the country, publicity and awareness activities play an extremely important role in the census process. Without the trust and awareness of the public, it is difficult to obtain accurate information. Therefore, a comprehensive publicity and awareness programme is incorporated into the overall methodology of the Census of Population and Housing. The plan was implemented according to the census stages and the types of media used. Special emphasis was placed on the listing and enumeration stages, with publicity carried out through electronic, printed, and social media. In addition, awareness programs targeted school children and government officials, along with general public awareness campaigns. Among these initiatives, the "Census Artists" drawing competition held for school children became particularly popular and successful.

Several projects were implemented as part of the census publicity campaign.

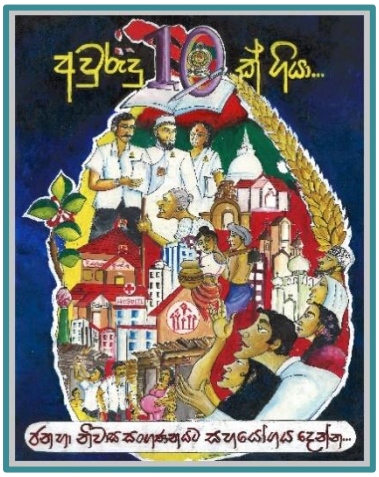
- On 21 March 2022, to mark the 150th anniversary of population censuses in Sri Lanka, a commemorative circulating coin was issued by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

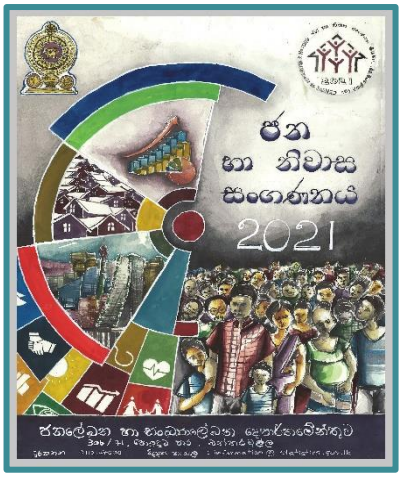


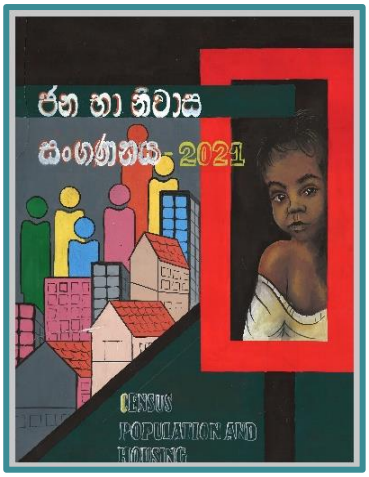




- A drawing competition titled "Census Artists" was held among school children.







The general public was made aware of the census through the following methods:

- Broadcasting promotional television advertisements.
- Producing a documentary program containing information related to the census.
- Creating a census-themed song.
- Informing the public through newspaper advertisements.
- Organizing media conferences.
- Sending messages about the census to school principals to raise awareness among students.
- Providing census-related messages to imams and priests to inform the public visiting Muslim mosques and Catholic churches.
- Disseminating information to the public through radio broadcasts.
- Broadcasting public awareness messages during television programs.
- Establishing and publicizing the telephone number 1901 to provide information in response to public inquiries regarding the census.

Census Questionnaires

The Population and Housing Questionnaire, referred to as F3, was used in the 2024 Census. For this census, a computer program was developed for tablet computers and mobile devices to collect information from individuals based on the questions included in this questionnaire. Information on individuals residing in special institutions was collected using the F3-SI questionnaire. Data on individuals without shelter were collected using the F4 questionnaire.

The main topics covered in the F3 questionnaire are as follows:

- **Demographic information :-**

  Relationship to head of household, date of birth, sex, marital status, religion, ethnic group migration information, non-communicable disease conditions, educational attainment, physical and mental disabilities, language literacy, computer and digital literacy, engagement in economic activities.

- **For individuals belonging to a household but residing elsewhere :-**

  Relationship to head of household, sex, date of birth, and the reason for residing at a different location, as well as their usual place of residence

- **For individuals belonging to a household but residing abroad for more than six months, or planning to stay abroad for more than six months :-**

  Relationship to head of household sex and the main reason for residing at a different location or going abroad for individuals belonging to a household but residing abroad for more than six months, or planning to stay abroad for more than six months.

- **Information on housing units :-**

  Information on the structure of the housing unit included the year of construction, the materials used for walls, floors, and the roof, and the number of rooms within the unit.

- **Information on household units :-**

  Information was also collected on housing facilities and services, including the main source of drinking water, the primary fuel or energy used for cooking, and the main source of lighting. Data were gathered on sanitation facilities, methods of solid waste disposal, household assets, communication facilities, and the registration of deaths.

Training of Census Enumerators

Training all officials involved in a Census of Population and Housing is a critical requirement. In the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, conducted for the first time using computer technology, it was a major achievement for the department to provide training to all officials involved not only on the collection of census information but also on the use of modern technology for data collection. The awareness and training provided to the officials were carried out as follows:

- Awareness sessions for District Secretaries and Divisional Secretaries.
- Briefings for senior officials of the Department.
- Awareness sessions for non-technical staff of the Department.
- Training-of-trainers programs for selected trainers.
- Training of Departmental statistical officers and senior officials as trainers.
- Training of district-level computer support officers for IT assistance.
- Training of field supervisors at the district level.
- Training of all enumerators at the Divisional Secretariat level.
- Training of enumerators responsible for special institutions.

All of these training sessions included both theoretical and practical components. In addition, awareness sessions for District Secretaries and Divisional Secretaries, who were responsible for administrative supervision during the census, were conducted at the district level. Each official received training relevant to their duties, with practical instruction provided on tablet-based computer programs during the training classes. Separate practical training sessions were also conducted for enumerators who used tablets and mobile phones for data collection.

(iv) Data dissemination stage

The final stage of a Census of Population and Housing is the analysis and publication of all collected data. The dissemination of census data is carried out in several stages, beginning with the release of preliminary reports and concluding with the publication of the final report. In addition, these data are made available to users through various channels, including printed reports, printed summaries, the Department's official website, and web-based data dashboards.

In the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, data collection was carried out primarily using the CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) method. As a result, the time and cost required for data entry were significantly reduced, enabling the publication of census data more rapidly compared with previous censuses.

Accordingly, the preliminary report containing basic census information (based on provisional data) titled "Population of Sri Lanka by District" was officially released on 24 March 2025. This report was presented to His Excellency the President, who serves as the Minister in charge of the line ministry, and it presented the total population of the country at the district level.

In the second stage, population and housing information at the Divisional Secretariat Division level was released on 30 October 2025. At the same time, selected population and housing statistics were also published as data tables and maps at the Grama Niladhari Division level, which is the smallest administrative unit in the country.

The final report and the Census dashboard of the Census of Population and Housing, which will include comprehensive and detailed information across a wide range of subject areas, is scheduled to be released on 20 March 2026.

Table 1.1.2 : The Questions and Topics Included in the Censuses of Sri Lanka 1871 - 2024

The question topics included in the census schedule	Census Year														
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931*	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012	2024
Demographic and Personal Information															
Name	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Relationship to head of the household	x	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	x
Date of birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x
Age	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-
Marital Status	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	s	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ethnic group	x	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	x
Citizenship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
N.I.C. No.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x
Status of clergy/priest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Educational Characteristics															
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	x
Literacy	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
English Literacy	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x		x	-	-	-	-	-
Sinhala, English & Tamil Literacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
Computer Literacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x
Digital Literacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Educational attainment/Highest level of Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xs	x	x	x	x	x	x
School Attendance/ Attend in educational activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x
Vocational & Apprenticeship qualification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x

The question topics included in the census schedule	Census Year														
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931*	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012	2024
Economic Information**															
Type of activity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Main occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XS	X	X	X	X	X	X
Additional employment	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Employment status	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Income (salary or wages)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dependency	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Period of unemployment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	X	-	-	-	-
Whether sought work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Ready to accept a job if received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Period of search for work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
Reason for not seeking work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X
Information on Migration & Residency															
District/Place of birth	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XS	XS	X	X	X
District of usual residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	-	X
Period of residency at usual residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	X	X
Previous usual residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	X	X
Period of residency in Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
District and Divisional Secretariat Division of permanent residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Reason for migration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Marital status & Fertility															
Marriage Date	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Date of 1st Marriage, If previously Married	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age at 1st Marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	-	-	-
Period of 1st Marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	-	-	-
If married more than once, time interval of previous marriages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	-	-	-
Age at birth of first child	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of live births	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XS	-	XS	-	X	X	X
No of children currently living	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	-	X	X	X
Dates of birth of the last live birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Other Topics															
Infirmity/Difficulty***	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Orphanhood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Distance from usual 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 (except for permanent residence)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Housing and Household Characteristics	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XS	XS	X	X	X
Birth and Death Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Having Non-communicable Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Having Communication equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Type of vehicle use at household	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Note : X - Collected from all the persons
XS - Collected from a sample only
- Information was not collected

* Detailed information collected from persons in Colombo Municipal council area while only enumerations of persons in other of the country
** The reference period for economic activity refers to the one-week period preceding the date of data collection in 2024
*** Difficulty status for aged five years and above collected in 2012 and 2024

1.2 Recommendations, Concepts and Definitions

This section provides only the main recommendations, concepts and definitions used in the census, while other chapters provide definitions of the relevant concepts.

1.2.1 International Recommendations

International recommendations for population and housing censuses are primarily issued by the United Nations, and are contained in the publication of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, published by the United Nations Statistics Division. These guidelines help to conduct censuses according to internationally accepted standards. According to those guidelines, a Population and Housing Census is the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating demographic, economic, and social data relating to all persons living in a country and the housing units in which they live, at a specified point in time. This is usually held once every 5 or 10 years in many countries, including Sri Lanka.

1.2.2 Essential Features of a Population and Housing Census

1. Universal Coverage within a Defined Territory Coverage

At the specified census moment, all persons within the geographical boundaries of the country must be covered. All housing units in which people reside should also be included. Omissions and double counting must be avoided.

2. Individual Enumeration

Each person should be counted separately, and their details should be recorded individually.

3. Simultaneity

Census data should refer to the same reference date or moment (census moment) for the entire country.

4. Regular Periodicity

The census should be conducted at regular intervals, typically once every 10 years.

5. Small Area Statistics

Data should be made available for small geographical or administrative units (such as Districts, Divisional Secretariat Divisions, and Grama Niladhari Divisions).

The following recommendations are also important

i. Defined Usual Residence Concept Topics

The concept of "usual residence" should be clearly defined and consistently applied.

ii. Standard Classifications and Core Topics

Core topics such as age, sex, marital status, education, economic activity, migration, and housing characteristics should be collected using internationally accepted standard classifications.

iii. Confidentiality and Data Protection Documentation

Personal data must be kept strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes.

iv. Quality Assurance and Documentation

High data quality should be ensured through proper planning, pre-testing, training, evaluation, and thorough documentation.

These recommendations ensure that census data are reliable, comparable across countries, and useful for national planning as well as monitoring the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.2.3 Concepts and Definitions Used for the Census of Population and Housing of Sri Lanka - 2024

Census Moment

The enumeration of all persons and households in the country is done based on a specific moment in time. In this census, the starting moment (00:00) on 19 December 2024, that is 12.00 midnight on 18 December 2024, was considered as the "census moment".

Usual Residence

At time of Census, the place at which a person has lived continuously for more than six months or the place where a person currently resides with an intention to live continuously for more than six months is considered as his/her place of usual residence.

That is the place where he uses to sleep and keeps his cloths and other belongings. If a person has more than one place of residence, the place where that person stays most of the days of a week should be considered as the person's usual residence.

Roofless people

People without a place of usual residence are referred to as "homeless people", and their data collection was conducted close to the "census moment".

Sector

- Urban Sector
  It is an area under a Municipal Council or an Urban Council that is not classified as Estate Urban.
- Estate Urban Sector
  It is an estate or a part of estate under a Municipal Council or an Urban Council, with a plantation of 20 acres or more, employing 10 or more resident workers.
- Rural Sector
  It is an area under a "Pradeshiya Sabha" that is not classified as Estate Rural.
- Estate Rural Sector
  It is an area under a Pradeshiya Sabha, with a plantation of 20 acres or more, employing 10 or more resident workers.

Type of Unit

- Housing Unit
  It should be intended for human habitation. In most cases, it is occupied by persons who are related to one another. It should be separate from other living quarters and must have a separate entrance of its own.

  In this census, a building or part of a building that meets the characteristics of a housing unit and is used as the usual residence by four or fewer unrelated persons who obtain their meals either jointly or separately was also considered a housing unit.
- Collective Living Quarters
  A building, part of a building, or sometimes a group of buildings that is separate from other units and in which five or more unrelated persons are usually residing together at the time of the census is defined as a collective living quarter.

  Such places are generally equipped with common facilities, and it is common for residents to share facilities such as cooking areas, bathing places, toilets, and sleeping rooms. Examples include tourist

bungalows, all government and private hospital wards except those where patients reside for long-term treatment, hostels, labour quarters, etc.

- Residential Institute

  This is a special category of collective living quarters where a group of persons associated with a common public or private function reside together under the administration of a chief authority. Examples include temples or monastic residences, police and military barracks, hostels, elders' homes, children's homes, hospital wards where patients reside for long-term treatment, and prisons.

- Non-Residential Unit

  A building or a part of a building or perhaps a group of buildings that is not a housing unit, collective living quarters or a residential institution is called a non-residential unit. These are often used for non-residential purpose. For example, offices, shops, factories, schools, temples, mosques, etc.

1.3 IT Operations and CAPI Implementation in the CPH 2024

1.3.1 Introduction

The Census of Population and Housing represents one of the most complex, resource-intensive, and data-driven exercises undertaken by any country. It serves as the fundamental source of demographic, social, and economic statistics essential for national planning and policy formulation. Conducted once every decade, the 15th Census of Population and Housing marked a historic milestone - not only in terms of its scale and coverage but also in its technological transformation. This was the first-ever fully digital census operation to be conducted across the entire country, encompassing all administrative divisions, districts, and enumeration areas using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

Historically, previous census operations had relied on paper-based methodologies, involving manual listing, field enumeration using printed questionnaires, and extensive post-enumeration data entry. Data processing in earlier censuses required the engagement of thousands of clerical data entry operators working over long periods, and the entire process from data collection to the release of final results typically spanned several years. In the last census 2012, a semi-digital approach was introduced, where optical mark recognition (OMR) and scanning technologies were used to digitize paper forms. While this approach reduced some manual data entry workload, it still depended heavily on physical forms, centralized scanning facilities, and post-field data cleaning operations.

The 15th Census of Population and Housing represented a paradigm shift from these legacy systems to a fully digital, real-time enumeration process. Both listing stage and enumeration stage were carried out using tablet-based applications. Enumerators collected data directly into structured digital forms, eliminating the need for paper questionnaires and post-field data entry. The integration of digital mapping technologies further enhanced geographic precision, allowing enumerators to navigate census blocks using geospatial references and GPS-enabled devices. This linkage between digital maps and CAPI applications provided a synchronized and highly accurate framework for location-based data collection.

In this groundbreaking operation, the ICT Division of the Department of Census and Statistics played a central role in designing, developing, and deploying a fully automated and integrated CAPI-based census system. The system was powered by CSPro and Open Data Kit (ODK) platforms, seamlessly integrated through an API-driven backend infrastructure. The ICT Division engineered a complete digital ecosystem capable of handling user management, assignment, data transfer, validation, and real-time monitoring through web-based dashboards. Robust encryption, authentication, and checksum-based validation mechanisms were employed to ensure data integrity, confidentiality, and authenticity at every stage.

The successful implementation of this end-to-end digital census positioned the country among the pioneers in South Asia to achieve nationwide digital enumeration at such a massive scale. It demonstrated the department's technological maturity, strategic planning, and operational capacity to manage complex, distributed ICT systems in real time. This innovation not only accelerated data availability and improved quality but also established a sustainable framework for future digital statistical operations.

1.3.2 System Architecture and Design

The ICT Division conceptualized a hybrid architecture combining CSPro for structured census data collection and ODK for Bring Your Own Android Device (BYOAD) environments. The overall architecture was built around modularity, interoperability, and security.

a. Core Components

- **CSPro Tablet Application:**

  The CSPro Tablet Application served as the primary data collection tool for official census tablets and was extensively customized to meet the complex operational needs of a nationwide census. Beyond

standard form-based data capture, the application incorporated a comprehensive suite of advanced features tailored to support real-time, block-based enumeration workflows.

The system was fully integrated with the backend API to enable dynamic assignment and re-assignment of census blocks, allowing enumerators to receive their workloads automatically upon login. These assignments were generated from the central management system, ensuring that users could only access the enumeration areas allocated to them and that any changes made at the supervisory or headquarters level were synchronized instantly to the device.

Working seamlessly with pre-collected listing data, the application supported a structured hierarchical workflow beginning with the household and structure listing phase. During the final enumeration, the tablet displayed each block's preloaded household frame, enabling enumerators to conduct person-level interviews with reference to the updated listing information. This ensured continuity, avoided duplication, and preserved the integrity of core census operations from listing to enumeration.

To guarantee data quality and operational control, the application included enhanced validation rules, cross-field consistency checks, error-checking logic, and range and skip pattern controls aligned with census concepts and definitions. GPS tagging functionality verified enumerator movement within assigned geographic boundaries, while field-level audit trails captured each action taken on the device supporting supervision, accountability, and post-enumeration verification.

Together, these customizations enabled the CSPro Tablet Application to operate as a fully autonomous digital enumeration tool, capable of supporting complex census processes with precision, security, and operational efficiency.

- **ODK (BYOAD) Integration:**

ODK Collect was deployed as a parallel data collection and supervisory tool, forming an integral component of the census's digital ecosystem. Approximately 40% of the designated census blocks were enumerated using ODK in a structured 40:60 distribution, with the remaining 60% supported by CSPro tablets. This hybrid approach ensured operational flexibility, optimized device utilization, and expanded the digital footprint beyond the official tablet inventory.

The ODK platform operated under the same census block framework as CSPro, ensuring identical operational logic, hierarchical structures, and enumeration workflows. Enumerators using ODK received their assignments dynamically through the central API, similar to CSPro users, enabling seamless block allocation, re-allocation, and user authentication across both systems. The system enforced strict block-level access controls, preventing cross-block data entry and preserving operational integrity.

ODK served multiple roles within the census operation. In addition to supporting **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** enumeration, it was used extensively for field supervision, monitoring verification visits, and quality assurance activities. Supervisory forms allowed real-time recording of observations, GPS validation, and structured spot checks against the pre-listing data and ongoing enumeration.

To maintain consistency, both CSPro and ODK data flows were fully synchronized through a unified API-driven backend, ensuring harmonized metadata, standardized validation rules, and integrated reporting. This interoperability enabled the dashboards and monitoring systems to treat data from both platforms uniformly, providing a consolidated national-level picture of census progress and data quality.

Through this hybrid deployment, ODK offered strategic flexibility accommodating user-owned devices, extending coverage in areas with limited tablet availability, and enhancing supervisory oversight while maintaining the same operational rigor required of a Census of Population and Housing.

- **Central Web Portal:**

  Provided a multi-tier operational dashboard ecosystem comprising assignment and re-assignment interfaces, performance tracking tools, and real-time progress visualization for all levels of census management. The system featured role-based dashboards designed for national-level policymakers, provincial and district coordinators, and field supervisors.

  At the highest level, decision makers accessed executive dashboards displaying nationwide enumeration progress, block completion rates, transmission statistics, device utilization, and regional performance comparisons. These dashboards integrated real-time analytics, geographic heat maps, and predictive indicators, enabling leadership to monitor census coverage, allocate resources, and resolve bottlenecks instantly.

  For operational managers, mid-level dashboards offered detailed views of assignment status, pending workloads, user login patterns, and data submission flows, supported by automated alerts for delayed or inactive census blocks. Field supervisors utilized a dedicated supervision dashboard to track their enumerators' daily activities, monitor GPS-based field movements, review audit trails, and verify data quality through sample checks.

  Together, these dashboards created a complete end-to-end monitoring environment, ensuring continuous situational awareness, data-driven decision making, and effective coordination throughout the entire census operation.

- **API Gateway:**

  The API Gateway served as the central communication and orchestration layer that connected all operational components of the digital census ecosystem, including CSPro tablets, ODK BYOD devices, supervisory applications, the central web portal, and backend servers. Designed as a high-throughput, high-availability service layer, the gateway managed millions of requests throughout the enumeration period with robust reliability and security.

  At its core, the gateway handled multi-factor user authentication, including OTP verification, token-based session management, and role-based authorization. It ensured that enumerators, supervisors, and administrators accessed only the census blocks, functions, and data permitted by their assigned roles. Advanced checksum validations and encrypted payload transfers safeguarded every interaction between field devices and the central servers.

  The API Gateway enabled dynamic task allocation across the operation. When supervisors assigned or re-assigned census blocks via the web portal, the gateway instantly propagated these updates to field devices. Enumerators received new or updated workloads automatically at login or synchronization, eliminating manual intervention and ensuring real-time operational control across 98,430 census blocks.

  Beyond assignment logic, the gateway facilitated secure bi-directional data transmission, handling the upload of listing and enumeration data, GPS coordinates, audit logs, and supervisory feedback. All data received by the gateway passed through structured validation layers before entering the central processing system.

  To support nationwide operations, the gateway was built on a load-balanced and horizontally scalable architecture, capable of distributing request loads across multiple servers. Failover mechanisms, redundancy, and performance monitoring ensured uninterrupted service even during peak traffic hours.

The gateway also maintained detailed API logs and transactional audit trails, enabling traceability, debugging, and post-enumeration analysis.

By acting as the unified gateway for all digital census applications, this component ensured real-time synchronization, operational consistency, security, and scalability making it the backbone of the country's first fully digital, end-to-end census system.

b. API-Driven Assignment System for CAPI Operations

A fully autonomous, CAPI-optimized assignment and re-assignment system was implemented to manage the large and geographically distributed enumeration workforce. This mechanism formed the operational backbone of the digital census, enabling real-time allocation of census blocks, seamless workflow transitions, and strict control over field operations across 98,430 census blocks nationwide.

The system replaced the traditionally manual, paper-based allocation process with a centrally managed, API-orchestrated digital framework, designed specifically to support the demands of large-scale CAPI deployments. The automation ensured that every enumerator, whether using CSPro tablets or ODK BYOD devices, always had access to the correct and most up-to-date workload.

Key operational features included:

- **Centrally Controlled Block Assignment:**

  Enumerators were assigned census blocks through a secure web administration portal. Supervisory officers at national, provincial, district, and divisional levels could allocate workloads based on staffing availability, geographic considerations, and progress status. The system ensured full traceability of who assigned what, when, and to whom.

- **Real-Time, Device-Level Synchronization:**

  Once a block was assigned, the enumerator's device whether CSPro or ODK automatically retrieved the relevant block information upon login. The API pulled the assignment package, including block metadata, geospatial boundaries, pre-loaded listing data, and the required forms for CAPI enumeration. This eliminated delays and ensured that enumerators entered the field fully prepared.

- **Instant Re-Assignment Logic (Dynamic CAPI Adaptation):**

  If an enumerator was reassigned due to operational needs, absence, poor performance, or device sharing requirements, the API triggered instant synchronization, pushing the updated workload to the new user. The system removed expired assignments from previous users, maintaining strict block integrity and preventing duplicate or unauthorized data collection.

- **End-to-End Automation to Reduce Administrative Burden:**

  This automated workflow significantly reduced the administrative overhead associated with managing 35,000 enumerators and a shared pool of 15,000 tablets. Instead of using manual lists, phone calls, or paper memos, supervisors managed all assignments digitally with real-time visibility into field operations.

- **Optimized Load Distribution Across 98,430 Census Blocks:**

  The assignment engine enabled equitable workload allocation by ensuring that census blocks were distributed based on real-time progress, staff availability, and device rotation schedules. This provided

operational resilience, especially in areas where tablets were shared between multiple enumerators or where difficult terrain required flexible deployment.

- **Integrated with CAPI Operational Controls:**

  The assignment system supported the full CAPI lifecycle, from pre-loaded listing data to final enumeration. It automatically locked completed blocks, prevented re-entry or unauthorized editing, and ensured that data flowed to the central system in accordance with defined workflows.

Together, these capabilities transformed the census assignment process into a fully digital, automated, and highly responsive CAPI-driven operational system. The API ensured that field operations remained synchronized, controlled, and efficient supporting the country's first large-scale digital census and setting a benchmark for future technology-driven statistical operations.

1.3.3 Security and Data Integrity Framework

Given the legal, ethical, and operational importance of population data, the digital census was built on a multi-layered, defense-in-depth security architecture designed to protect confidentiality, integrity, and availability throughout the entire data lifecycle—from field-level collection on CAPI devices to ingestion, storage, and processing within the central data centers.

The security framework adhered to modern cybersecurity principles, incorporating strong authentication, encrypted communication channels, access control enforcement, redundancy, high availability, and continuous monitoring. This ensured that the first fully digital Census of Population and Housing was conducted with the highest level of trust and reliability.

a. Authentication and Authorization

A sophisticated identity and access management (IAM) system governed all interactions between field users, supervisors, and backend components.

- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):**

  Enumerators logged in using a complex OTP-based verification system, binding users not only to their credentials but also to their assigned census blocks and device sessions. This ensured that only authorized personnel could initiate CAPI operations.

- **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC):**

  System access was strictly role-structured enumerators, supervisors, district officers, and headquarters administrators all operated within clearly defined permission boundaries. This prevented unauthorized access to sensitive or unassigned census blocks.

- **Secure Payload Integrity:**

  Checksum-based validation and password-protected encrypted data packages ensured that only authentic, unaltered data entered the system. Any tampering attempts or mismatched checksums were automatically rejected.

- **Dynamic Access Revocation:**

  Upon completion of a census block or re-assignment of duties, user access was automatically revoked. This enforced block-level data sovereignty only the currently assigned enumerator had written access to a specific block, preventing duplication or accidental overwriting of census records.

b. Data Encryption and Secure Transmission

To maintain data confidentiality over a large national geography with varied connectivity conditions, a fortified data transmission architecture was deployed.

- **Encrypted Field-to-Core Communication:**

  All data transmitted between CAPI devices and server infrastructure traveled through a dedicated, encrypted communication channel established over the public internet. Transport-level cryptographic protocols secured data even in low-signal zones.

- **End-to-End Asymmetric Encryption:**

  Enumerators' devices encrypted data locally before transmission using asymmetric key cryptography. Only the central system held the corresponding private keys, ensuring that no intermediary network providers, routers, or proxies could intercept or decipher the data.

- **Packet-Level Validation and Replay Protection:**

  Each data submission included digital signatures, timestamps, and unique hashes. The backend system validated all packets to prevent duplication, replay attacks, or accidental re-transmission a crucial feature in areas where low signal strength caused repeated sending attempts.

- **Integrity Enforcement Across Systems:**

  Both CAPI platforms (CSPro and ODK) adhered to the same encryption, hashing, and packet integrity standards, ensuring uniform security regardless of device type or operating environment.

c. Redundancy, High Availability (HA), and Disaster Resilience

Because census operations require 24/7 availability, uninterrupted data flow, and no risk of loss, the ICT Division deployed a robust, highly redundant infrastructure to support national operations.

- **High-Availability Server Architecture:**

  The core platform operated on a load-balanced HA cluster, distributing requests across multiple server nodes. This ensured that the system stayed responsive even when processing tens of thousands of concurrent connections from field devices.

- **Hybrid Infrastructure with UNDPA Support:**

  UNDPA provided additional, dedicated server resources that complemented the Department's local data center. This hybrid configuration increased redundancy, performance, and operational resilience.

- **Real-Time Synchronization and Failover:**

  Local server clusters maintained continuous replication of databases and application services. If one node failed, another node automatically took over ensuring zero interruption to field enumeration.

- **Automated Backup and Recovery Mechanisms:**

  Scheduled backups, continuous transaction logging, and off-site replication ensured that no data loss could occur, even in the event of infrastructure failures, network outages, or environmental disruptions.

- **Monitoring and Incident Detection:**

  System health, API performance, and transmission patterns were monitored in real-time. Automated alerts flagged anomalies such as unusual submission spikes, failed transmissions, or potential security threats, allowing for rapid intervention.

This multi-layered security and integrity framework ensured that the digital census operated with maximum trust, confidentiality, and resilience, supporting uninterrupted data collection from over 35,000 enumerators and guaranteeing the safe transmission and storage of millions of records. The architecture set a national benchmark for secure CAPI deployments and demonstrated the readiness of the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) to manage large-scale digital operations with global best practices.

1.3.4 Operational Deployment

a. Field Devices and Workforce

The CAPI operation deployed an extensive digital infrastructure of approximately 15,000 tablets, utilized by a dedicated workforce of more than 15,000 CAPI enumerators across the country. These devices formed the core of the digital data collection system for both listing and final enumeration, marking a complete shift away from the traditional paper-based approach.

Given the scale of the operation and the controlled number of tablets, a carefully planned rotational sharing strategy was implemented. Tablets were assigned to enumerators based on their designated census blocks and were systematically rotated once a block was completed. This ensured optimal utilization of the available devices and enabled consistent CAPI coverage across all regions. Each transfer of a tablet was closely managed through the API-driven assignment system, ensuring that the device automatically synchronized with the new user's profile and assigned workload.

The CAPI system supported highly structured, block-wise data collection, with each enumerator responsible for one or more census blocks. All field activities including login, assignment retrieval, data capture, validation, and submission were tied directly to the assigned block. This preserved strict operational control and minimized the risk of cross-block data contamination.

Every action performed on the device such as block acceptance, household interviews, GPS checks, or data submission was synchronized through the central platform, enabling real-time visibility for supervisors at national, provincial, district, and divisional levels. This end-to-end monitoring allowed management teams to track the progress of each block, measure enumerator performance, identify delays, and make rapid operational decisions during the two-month enumeration period.

Through this streamlined CAPI workforce model, the census successfully executed one of the largest digital field operations in the region, demonstrating exceptional coordination, device optimization, and adherence to a fully digital enumeration methodology.

b. Training and Capacity Building

A nationwide digital census of this scale demanded an extensive and well-orchestrated training and capacity-building program, designed to equip over 15,000 CAPI enumerators with around 17,000 BYOAD enumerators and a large supervisory workforce with the skills required to operate tablets, use the CSPro and ODK applications, manage data transmissions, and follow strict digital security protocols. The Department of Census and Statistics implemented a hierarchical, multi-phase training model that was executed over a compressed 10-week period, marking one of the largest technical training efforts undertaken in the national statistical system.

Hierarchical Training Model

The ICT Division adopted a structured Training of Trainers (ToT) approach:

- **Top-Level ToT (National & Regional Centers):**

  Senior officers and specialized trainers were trained directly by the ICT Division at the Headquarters and selected regional training centers. This high-level training focused on both conceptual and operational aspects of digital enumeration, including system architecture, device setup, application workflows, troubleshooting, operations, and secure data transmission.

- **Mid-Level Rollout (District & Divisional Officers):**

  Trained ToT officers then cascaded the training to divisional and district-level staff. Sessions were conducted in regional offices, combining classroom instruction with hands-on device demonstrations, block assignment simulations, and practice interviews using real CAPI modules.

- **Field-Level Enumerator Training:**
  At the final tier, field enumerators received hands-on training delivered by district and divisional trainers. Each session included:

  - Tablet handling and device care
  - Step-by-step use of CSPro and BYOAD applications
  - Block loading and assignment acceptance
  - Household listing and enumeration mock exercises
  - Field troubleshooting techniques
  - Proper procedures for data transmission through mobile networks

  These field-level sessions ensured that every enumerator regardless of prior ICT exposure received practical, proficiency-based training.

Use of Digital Training Materials

To strengthen uniformity and reduce dependency on limited ICT staff, the ICT Division produced a comprehensive suite of training videos, hosted on a dedicated YouTube training channel. These digital resources served multiple purposes:

- Allowed trainees to preview and revisit material at any time
- Standardized explanations across regions
- Reduced variation in the quality of trainer delivery
- Provided visual demonstrations of CAPI and BYOD workflows
- Supported remote learning for trainers in distant or resource-constrained areas

The availability of these digital materials significantly accelerated the learning cycle, especially during the initial ToT sessions.

Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

The execution of this nationwide training program encountered several operational challenges:

- Training 15,000 CAPI enumerators within a tight 10-week window was extremely demanding, particularly given the diverse geography and logistical constraints.
- The ICT Division faced an acute shortage of technical officers, making it challenging to support all training centers simultaneously.
- Training had to cover two parallel digital systems CSPro for official tablets and ODK under the BYOD model, which increased complexity and required more nuanced explanations.
- Significant variations existed in digital literacy among field staff, requiring trainers to adapt their pacing and often conduct extended hands-on practice sessions.
- Some regions had limited connectivity or inadequate facilities, complicating efforts to demonstrate real-time data transmission.

Despite these challenges, the ICT Division successfully executed the training program through:

- Efficient use of the cascade model
- Leveraging experienced master trainers at the national and regional levels
- Releasing detailed step-by-step instructional videos
- Deploying ICT officers strategically to high-demand regions
- Close coordination with regional and divisional census offices
- Continuous remote support and Q&A sessions

Through this well-structured and adaptive approach, the Department of Census and Statistics achieved uniform operational readiness across the entire country. Enumerators, supervisors, and technical staff entered the field with consistent skills, practical experience, and confidence in the CAPI tools. The effective implementation of this training strategy was a critical factor in the overall success of the nation's first fully digital census.

c. Data Transmission and Synchronization

Data transmission formed one of the most critical components of the digital census architecture. For the first time in national history, a census operation of this scale relied entirely on mobile data networks with over 15,000 CAPI enumerators and thousands of BYOD users transmitting data continuously from 98,430 census blocks. Almost all enumerators had no prior exposure to electronic data transmission in this scale, making system reliability and workflow simplicity essential for large-scale adoption.

Mobile Network and Connectivity Challenges

Given the diversity of terrain and infrastructure across the country, mobile network performance varied widely.
Key challenges included:

- Limited or unstable 4G coverage in rural, estate, and remote regions, resulting in delayed or failed uploads.
- Network congestion in high-density urban areas during peak hours, affecting real-time synchronization.
- Frequent signal drops in mountainous and forested zones, forcing enumerators to retry transmissions multiple times.
- Inconsistent availability of mobile data, as some areas had limited vendor coverage or seasonal fluctuations in signal strength.
- Low prior experience among enumerators with digital uploads, requiring additional guidance on when and how to retry transmissions.

Despite these constraints, the system design ensured that enumeration could proceed smoothly, with transmission occurring once stable connectivity became available.

Robust Synchronization and Error Handling

To accommodate network variability and protect against data loss, the system incorporated several resilience mechanisms:

- Local offline storage on tablets allowed enumerators to continue data collection even without network access.
- Checksum-based identity tagging ensured that each data package was uniquely identifiable.
- Automatic detection of duplicate submissions using checksum, timestamp, block ID and Device Identity matching.

- Graceful retry logic, enabling the system to re-attempt uploads without corrupting or overwriting previously sent data.
- Progress feedback indicators on the tablet interface to guide users during weak connectivity and prevent unnecessary resubmissions.

These features reduced error rates, minimized manual support requests, and provided a reliable transmission process under real-world field conditions.

Real-Time Operational Visibility

A comprehensive web-based monitoring dashboard enhanced decision-making and supervisory oversight at national, district, and divisional levels. The dashboard provided:

- Real-time data transmission tracking, highlighting successful uploads, pending submissions, and failed attempts.
- Enumerator performance analytics, including login activity, submission frequency, and operational status.
- Block-level progress visualization, enabling supervisors to pinpoint delays or bottlenecks.
- Data quality indicators, such as validation errors, incomplete cases, and suspicious patterns requiring further review.

This monitoring ecosystem enabled leadership to identify issues early, dispatch technical support proactively, and maintain steady progress toward national coverage targets.

Unprecedented Field Support through CTO and TTO Teams

In addition to the field operations, the census relied heavily on a nationwide technical support backbone consisting of the central Census Technical Operations (CTO) Team and nearly 1,000 Tablet Technical Officers (TTOs) deployed across the country. These officers were the first responders to every technical issue from device failures and login errors to assignment synchronization and network outages. Their commitment was extraordinary; during peak enumeration phases, both CTO and TTO teams operated in near-continuous 24-hour cycles, often without the possibility of a shift-based model due to acute shortages in domain-specific expertise. Their resilience and dedication enabled uninterrupted field operations despite unprecedented operational pressure.

1.3.5 Supervision and Quality Control

To uphold the highest standards of data accuracy and operational discipline, a dedicated Supervision and Quality Control System was developed entirely by the ICT Division. This system included a specialized supervision application designed to give supervisory officers comprehensive visibility into field operations. Through this platform, supervisors were able to:

- Monitor enumerator activities and data submissions in real time,
- Conduct targeted and random checks by comparing new enumeration entries with previously collected listing data,
- Review case-level progress and identify incomplete or inconsistent household records,
- Validate, comment on, and approve submissions directly through the application, ensuring continuous oversight.

The supervision application played a major role in controlling quality during both the listing and final enumeration stages. In addition to manual supervisory reviews, the system also implemented an extensive suite of automated data consistency checks at two levels:

1. **On-device validation (CAPI level)** – strict logic checks, mandatory field controls, skip patterns, and structured error-prevention rules ensured that enumerators captured data accurately before submission.

2. **Server-side ingestion checks** – advanced rules detected anomalies such as duplicate households, suspicious response patterns, block-level inconsistencies, and submission irregularities.

Any deviations were immediately flagged for supervisory review, enabling quick corrective actions. This integrated supervision framework ensured continuous data quality assurance across all 98,430 census blocks, supporting the overall reliability, completeness, and credibility of the digital census operation.

1.3.6 Data Management and Backend Operations

The backend data management ecosystem for the digital census was engineered to withstand one of the largest real-time complex data collections loads ever attempted in the country, with over 35,000 enumerators and supervisors actively operating in the field. Designed entirely on a Linux-based operational stack, the platform supported massive parallel ingestion, multi-layer validation, secure storage, and analytical processing, while maintaining uninterrupted service throughout the two-month enumeration period. The architecture was built not merely for performance, but for resilience under unpredictable network conditions and extreme concurrency levels inherent to a nationwide digital census.

a. Massive Parallel Ingestion Under Mobile-Network Constraints

All field users CAPI enumerators and BYOAD supervisors transmitted data exclusively through public mobile networks, often in environments with fluctuating signal quality and heavy bandwidth competition. At peak upload windows, especially during evening hours when enumerators transmitted accumulated work, the system received tens of thousands of concurrent API calls, authentication events, and block submissions.

Despite this unprecedented mobile-network load, the system remained remarkably stable. The steadiness of the backend under simultaneous pressure from more than 35,000 devices highlights the architectural maturity of the platform and the precision of its technical design. Every submission pathway from device to staging to core database was fortified to absorb and process massive, unpredictable surges without performance degradation.

b. Multi-Layered High-Throughput Data Pipeline

At the heart of the backend was a meticulously structured, high-throughput data pipeline designed for reliability, integrity, and parallel processing efficiency.

1. **Staging Layer - Temporary Ingestion Buffer**
   All incoming submissions from CSPro tablets and ODK BYOAD devices were routed to a high-speed staging buffer. This layer served as a shock absorber, capturing sudden bursts of uploads without overloading core systems.
   - Parallelized queues
   - Optimized file handlers
   - Priority-based routing rules
     enabled the platform to safely handle thousands of simultaneous transmissions.

2. **Validation Layer - Structural & Logical Verification**
   Submissions then underwent rigorous schema validation, structural checks, integrity verification, checksum authentication, and alignment with census block assignments.
   Advanced rule engines validated:
   - Sequence correctness
   - Block–enumerator mappings
   - Duplication triggers
   - Logical accuracy of collected records
     Suspicious or malformed submissions were automatically quarantined for technical review.
3. **Core Database Layer - Final Storage & Analytics**
   Validated data was transferred to the core analytical database optimized for:
   - High-volume reads
   - Rapid querying
   - Statistical processing
   - Long-term archiving
     This structure supported the needs of supervisors, analysts, and post-enumeration processing teams.

c. Containerized Ecosystem for Dynamic Scaling

The entire backend ecosystem was fully containerized, allowing modular deployments, isolated workloads, rapid patches, and seamless horizontal scaling. During heavy transmission spikes, container clusters automatically scaled to redistribute workloads, maintaining system responsiveness even under extreme concurrency. Backend servers operated on a 1 Gbps internal network backbone, ensuring fast inter-service communication and high-speed parallel processing.

A Network-Attached Storage (NAS) subsystem handled raw files, logs, backups, and transitional data, enabling high-availability I/O operations without bottlenecking ingestion speed.

d. Hybrid Infrastructure: Private Cloud and Local Data Center

To ensure redundancy, elasticity, and national-level resilience:

- Part of Critical services was deployed on a secure private cloud, providing elasticity during peak load.
- Complementary core services operated from the local data center, configured with high-availability (HA) clusters and failover capabilities.

This hybrid model guaranteed continuous service, optimized latency, and allowed seamless failover in case of partial system disruption.

e. Secure Communication Channels and Network Hardening

All communications from tablets to the API gateway, from APIs to backend servers, and between internal microservices were protected through end-to-end encryption. Certain segments were further secured with VPN tunnels, while others used TLS encryption with certificate pinning to prevent tampering.

A multi-layer security boundary implemented:

- Strict firewall rule sets
- Inline intrusion prevention systems
- Protocol whitelists

- Distributed upload surge (DUS) mitigation
- Advanced throttling and flood protection

These safeguards were essential given the massive exposure surface created by tens of thousands of mobile-network devices connecting from uncontrolled environments.

f. Intelligent Traffic Handling Algorithm

To sustain stability during peak periods with more than 35,000 concurrent field users, the ICT Division developed a custom traffic-handling algorithm that:

i. Distributed incoming requests across multiple ingestion nodes,

ii. Applied intelligent rate limits to prevent accidental flooding,

iii. Prioritized uploads based on block type and operational urgency,

iv. Triggered back-pressure signals to devices during congestion events.

Importantly, congestion control began at the device level, introduce to precise CAPI software engineering:

- Intelligent retry logic based on network availability
- Prevention of excessive resubmission
- Payload compression to reduce transmission costs
- Offline queuing with corruption protection

This end-to-end optimization, from device to central servers allowed the system to absorb enormous concurrency without operational disruption.

g. In-House Configuration and Operational Excellence

All server configurations, cluster orchestration, load balancers, security policies, monitoring dashboards, validation schemas, and operational scripts were developed and maintained exclusively by the in-house ICT Division. With no reliance on external vendors, the team executed full lifecycle administration:

- 24×7 backend monitoring
- Hotfix and patch deployment
- Real-time incident response
- Database and query tuning
- Security enforcement and log analysis
- System health tracking and performance optimization

Their technical expertise and relentless effort were instrumental in achieving a stable, resilient, and high-performing digital census backend capable of supporting an operation of unprecedented national scale.

1.3.7 Digital Innovation in Census Data Collection

The Census of Population and Housing - 2024 marked a major milestone in the digital transformation of census operations in Sri Lanka through the implementation of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technologies. In addition to the use of government-issued tablets running the CSPro CAPI application, the census also introduced an innovative Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) approach using the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform. Through this approach, trained enumerators were able to conduct census interviews using their personal Android smartphones within a secure and centrally managed digital data collection framework.

This approach significantly expanded the availability of digital devices for enumeration, improved operational flexibility, and enabled efficient large-scale data collection across the country. The integration of ODK-based BYOD operations with the broader census digital infrastructure demonstrated the feasibility of leveraging modern mobile technologies to support national statistical activities while maintaining high standards of data quality, security, and real-time monitoring.

a. ODK-based BYOD data collection within the CAPI framework.

An important technological innovation introduced in the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 was the implementation of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) methodology using the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform. This approach enabled trained enumerators to conduct census interviews using their personal Android smartphones within a secure and centrally managed digital census environment. The adoption of ODK for BYOD operations marked a significant milestone in the modernization of Sri Lanka's census data collection processes.

The decision to introduce the BYOD approach was influenced by both operational and strategic considerations. Although a large number of official tablets were deployed for Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) using the CSPro platform, the available devices were insufficient to support the entire enumeration workforce required for nationwide field operations. The BYOD framework allowed the Department of Census and Statistics to rapidly expand the number of digital data collection devices by leveraging enumerators' personal smartphones. This strategy enabled efficient scaling of census operations while avoiding the need for large-scale procurement of additional hardware, thereby reducing operational costs and logistical complexities.

The ODK Collect application was selected as the primary tool for BYOD data collection due to its reliability, flexibility, and compatibility with a wide range of Android devices. The platform allowed census questionnaires to be implemented in digital form with built-in validation rules, skip patterns, and logical consistency checks, which minimized data entry errors and improved the overall quality of collected information. These automated checks ensured that enumerators could complete interviews efficiently while maintaining high standards of data accuracy.

Another important feature of the ODK platform was its offline-first capability, which allowed enumerators to collect and store census data locally on their devices even in areas where internet connectivity was limited or unavailable. Once connectivity became available, the stored data could be securely synchronized with the central server infrastructure. This functionality was particularly valuable in rural and remote areas where mobile network coverage was inconsistent, ensuring that field operations could continue uninterrupted regardless of connectivity conditions.

The BYOD system also supported the capture of metadata and paradata during each interview. Information such as interview start and end times, interview duration, device identification, and submission timestamps were automatically recorded by the system. These additional data elements provided important inputs for monitoring field activities, verifying interview authenticity, and supporting quality assurance processes throughout the enumeration period.

The ODK-based BYOD framework was designed as an integrated component of the broader digital census architecture. Data collected through ODK devices were transmitted to centralized server infrastructure and processed through the same backend validation and monitoring systems used for other digital enumeration platforms. A centralized API-driven architecture enabled dynamic assignment of census blocks, secure authentication of enumerators, and real-time monitoring of field progress through web-based dashboards used by supervisors and census management teams.

To ensure smooth implementation of the BYOD approach, a structured technical support mechanism was established. Dedicated technical personnel were assigned to assist with device verification, application installation, configuration of server connections, and loading of census forms and listing datasets onto

enumerators' smartphones. These officers also provided troubleshooting support during field operations, ensuring that enumerators could continue data collection with minimal disruption.

Data security and confidentiality were treated as critical priorities within the BYOD framework. Each enumerator, TTO, and Supervisor was authenticated through a secure login process. Role-based access controls were implemented at the dashboard level, ensuring that TTOs and Supervisors could access operational management features appropriate to their responsibilities. Enumerators were provided access to only their assigned census block data; however, the download and installation of these block datasets onto the enumerators' mobile devices were performed by their respective TTOs. This arrangement ensured that enumerators could perform fieldwork efficiently while maintaining strict operational boundaries, preventing unauthorized access to other datasets and preserving the integrity and confidentiality of census data. Device identifiers were captured with each submission, allowing the system to verify that data originated from registered devices. Furthermore, all communications between field devices and central servers were transmitted through encrypted channels, protecting census data against unauthorized access and ensuring the integrity of the information collected.

The use of ODK within the BYOD environment generated several important operational benefits. It significantly increased the number of devices available for digital enumeration, enhanced the flexibility of field operations, and reduced logistical challenges associated with distributing and managing government-owned hardware. Enumerators were also able to use devices with which they were already familiar, thereby reducing training time and facilitating quicker adoption of digital data collection tools.

In addition, the BYOD approach strengthened the resilience and scalability of the digital census infrastructure. By diversifying the device ecosystem and integrating personal smartphones into the census technology framework, the Department of Census and Statistics was able to maintain continuous field operations even in situations where device availability might otherwise have limited progress.

Overall, the successful deployment of ODK-based BYOD data collection represented a major advancement in the digital transformation of census operations in Sri Lanka. The experience demonstrated that personal mobile devices can be effectively integrated into large-scale national statistical activities when supported by robust technical architecture, strong security safeguards, and well-coordinated operational procedures. The lessons learned from this implementation provide valuable guidance for future censuses and large-scale surveys that aim to leverage modern mobile technologies to improve efficiency, coverage, and data quality.

1.3.8 Achievements, Technical Breakthroughs, and Lessons Learned

The digital census operation stands as a landmark achievement—one of the first fully CAPI-driven, end-to-end digital censuses successfully executed at national scale in South Asia. Despite severe constraints in resources, documentation, technical support, and time, the ICT Division engineered, deployed, and operated a massive, multi-platform digital ecosystem capable of ingesting real-time data from nearly 35,000 field enumerators operating concurrently across the country.

a. Key Achievements

i. Complete End-to-End Digitization

The operation achieved full digital transformation across all key segments:

- Digital enumeration through CSPro-based CAPI tablets and ODK-based BYOAD devices.
- Real-time monitoring dashboards for supervisors, regional coordinators, and national-level decision makers.
- Automated assignment and re-assignment of census blocks using a custom API-driven workflow engine.
- Near real-time transmission, validation, and ingestion with full encryption and high availability.

ii. Autonomous API-Based Operational Intelligence

The custom-built API Gateway and orchestration engine enabled:

- Automatic task allocation and reassignment,
- Secure communication between tablets, BYOAD devices, portals, and backend services,
- Encrypted OTP authentication,
- Load balancing and traffic regulation across tens of thousands of simultaneous requests.

This was achieved despite the absence of any official integration guidance for Linux-based deployments, CSPro APIs, ODK server interaction models, or inter-platform security frameworks.

iii. Fully Secured Communication and Multi-Layer Redundancy

The team implemented:

- End-to-end encryption,
- VPN encapsulation for sensitive channels,
- Certificate pinning,
- Rate-limiting and firewall hardening,
- Multi-node containerized architecture with failover capability.

This ensured system stability even when nearly 33,000 enumerators and 18,000 devices were transmitting data simultaneously on public mobile networks.

iv. Efficient Use of Local Infrastructure Without External Vendors

All backend systems—including pipeline design, API infrastructure, monitoring stack, VPN, firewalls, NAS integration, cluster configuration, and orchestration—were built and operated entirely by the internal ICT Division. No official vendor support or enterprise-grade documentation was available for:

- CSPro CAPI integration,
- ODK Server and ODK Collect customizations,
- Linux-based deployment with cross-platform protocol requirements,
- Custom cryptographic workflows such as OTP encryption,
- Multi-layer validation workflows across heterogeneous devices.

Despite this, the system ran with high stability, resilience, and excellent ingestion throughput.

v. Near Real-Time Data Availability

The backend pipeline enabled:

- Instant staging of submissions,
- High-speed validation,
- Rapid population of analytical databases,
- Real-time status dashboards for supervisors and central management.

vi. Technical Challenges Encountered and How They Were Overcome

While the operation was highly successful, it confronted—and solved—multiple severe technical obstacles that provide critical lessons for future census developers.

- **Android Fragmentation and OS-Level Restrictions**

A major unforeseen obstacle emerged from the wide variety of Android device models and OS versions deployed in the field.
In particular:

- Android 13 and 14 devices enforced strict privacy sandboxes, app-level isolation, and background data restrictions.
- Customizations required for CAPI were blocked by the new OS-level security framework.
- Several capabilities such as file system access, folder permissions, ODK storage handling, and CSPro file mapping were significantly restricted.
- The team received no official support from CSPro or ODK vendors.
- No documentation existed for integrating these tools with newer Android and Linux server environments.

Most solutions were discovered through trial-and-error, reverse engineering, and creative workaround strategies, requiring hundreds of iterative fixes.

- **CAPI and BYOAD Development without Official Support**

Both CSPro CAPI and ODK Collect posed extreme challenges:

- No advanced developer guides for adapting them to high-security enterprise-grade workflows.
- No examples for integrating authentication layers, OTP workflows, or encrypted communication.
- No reference architecture for high-scale ODK Server deployments or multi-layer validation pipelines.
- BYOAD ODK verification during the revision round required complex, custom-built logic a process achieved only through domain expertise and repeated experimentation.

The team introduced several in-house “master techniques” and architectural hacks to achieve seamless operation.

- **Lack of Linux-Based Integration Guidance**

As all servers and the entire backend ran on Linux, the team had to build:

- Custom deployment scripts,
- Custom API gateway routing layers,
- Custom container orchestration procedures,
- Security and certificate frameworks,
- File system adaptors for CSPro and ODK uploads,

entirely without official instructions requiring ingenuity and deep technical insight.

- **Large-Scale Near Real-Time Transmission Over Mobile Networks**

Mobile network constraints were a substantial challenge:

- Thousands of concurrent transmissions caused network jitter and burst delays.
- Certain areas had poor or intermittent 4G coverage.
- Devices frequently attempted resubmissions, potentially overloading the ingestion nodes.
- The system had to handle massive concurrency while preventing duplication.

These risks were mitigated through:

- Smart retry logic inside CAPI/ODK applications,
- Backend de-duplication mechanism
- Traffic shaping algorithms,

- Load distribution across multiple ingestion endpoints.

- **Over-Collection and Late Submissions After Census Completion**

Even after enumeration officially ended:

- Some enumerators continued to send repeated submissions,
- Some devices retained queued offline files,
- This was controlled through:
- Server-level cutoff logic,
- Dynamic flags in the validation layer,
- Automated rejection/archival rules.

- **Hardware and Field-Level Usability Constraints**

Additional challenges included:

- Variability in device performance,
- Difficulties faced by non-technical enumerators in handling app caused network delays,
- Battery and Network issues in remote areas.

vii. Massive Operational Coordination and Support

- **Large-Scale Field Support Team Working Under Severe Constraints**

A dedicated nationwide technical support, force consisting of nearly 1,000 TTOs (Tablet Technical Officers) and CTO Team (Census Technical Operation Team), provided first-line troubleshooting throughout the operation.

Key characteristics:

- Operated almost continuously throughout peak periods (nearly 18 hours a day),
- No shift-based rotation was possible due to severe ICT-skilled manpower shortages,
- Supported configuration, diagnosis, and rapid issue resolution for tens of thousands of active devices,
- Provided live guidance to enumerators and supervisors across all districts.

Their relentless commitment was one of the cornerstone reasons the operation succeeded.

- **Comprehensive Training at Unprecedented Scale**

Training almost 16,000 enumerators for CAPI operations alongside 15,000 BYOAD operators, was an extraordinary undertaking carried out in just 10 weeks.

Training Model and Innovations

- Central ICT Division conducted high-level ToT for senior officers.
- Regional centers and head office facilities hosted hands-on sessions for top-level trainers.
- These trainers conducted multi-tier sessions in districts and divisional offices.
- Specialized YouTube-based tutorials were produced to ensure uniform first-exposure training across all field staff.
- Training covered device handling, data submission workflows, troubleshooting, encryption protocols, and secure data practices.
- Both CAPI and BYOAD training had to be conducted in parallel, doubling the complexity.

Despite limited ICT officers, no external support, and minimal prior exposure to digital census operations, training was delivered successfully and on time.

- Lessons Learned for Future Large-Scale Digital Census Operations

1. Android fragmentation is a critical risk - standardized hardware procurement is essential.
2. CAPI/BYOAD tools require deeper enterprise-grade documentation - future builds should include better developer guides and official security integration manuals.
3. Network-aware apps are mandatory - offline queuing, smart retry logic, and compression must be built in from the start.
4. Massive parallel ingestion must be tested early - simulation frameworks should be deployed before field roll-out.
5. Centralized support teams must be adequately staffed - ICT domain roles cannot be substituted easily.
6. Training-at-scale requires multimedia strategy - videos, interactive modules, and simulations significantly reduce field-level issues.
7. Clear shutdown and cutoff protocols are essential - to prevent over-collection after census completion.
8. Hybrid cloud with local deployment provides resilience - but requires clear orchestration and failover strategies.

Despite immense logistical, technical, and infrastructural challenges, absence of official support, fragmentation across device ecosystems, massive network constraints, compressed timelines, and unprecedented scale, the digital census system achieved full national coverage, stable real-time operation, and secure data capture from one of the largest field forces ever mobilized for a digital operation.

This achievement stands as a testament to the technical excellence, innovative problem-solving, organizational resilience, and unwavering dedication demonstrated by the ICT Division and its extended field support teams. Their ability to operate under pressure, overcome unprecedented technical barriers, and sustain high-intensity nationwide support made it possible to deliver a fully digital census operation at a scale never before attempted in the country.

The lessons, breakthroughs, and methodologies developed through this operation will serve as a foundation for future national-scale digital initiatives, both in census activities and other e-government transformation programs.

1.3.9 A Blueprint for the Future of Digital Statistics

The Census of Population and Housing - 2024 has established a definitive paradigm shift in the national statistical landscape of Sri Lanka. By successfully transitioning from legacy paper-based methodologies to a fully digital, end-to-end CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) ecosystem, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has demonstrated the technical maturity required to manage complex, distributed ICT systems at a massive scale.

Key Technical Breakthroughs

The success of this operation was underpinned by several critical architectural achievements:

- **API-Driven Orchestration:** The development of a central API Gateway allowed for the real-time management of 98,430 census blocks and the dynamic synchronization of workloads across 35,000 devices.

- **Hybrid Infrastructure Resilience:** By utilizing a combination of local data centers and private cloud resources, the system achieved high availability and zero interruption during peak transmission periods.
- **Multi-Layered Security:** The implementation of asymmetric encryption, OTP-based multi-factor authentication, and checksum-based packet validation ensured the integrity and confidentiality of national demographic data.
- **In-House Engineering Excellence:** The entire backend stack—including containerized microservices and custom traffic-handling algorithms—was engineered exclusively by the internal ICT Division, proving that enterprise-grade census systems can be maintained without external vendor dependency.

Future Strategic Targets

Moving forward, the methodologies and "master techniques" developed during this census will serve as the foundation for the next generation of e-government transformation programs. To build upon this momentum, the following technical objectives are prioritized:

1. **Standardization of the Device Ecosystem:** To mitigate the risks associated with Android fragmentation and OS-level restrictions (specifically observed with Android 14), future operations will move toward standardized hardware procurement and enhanced mobile device management (MDM) protocols.
2. **Advanced Data Analytics Integration:** Leveraging the high-speed data pipeline and analytical databases established for this census to enable automated, real-time longitudinal studies and predictive demographic modeling.
3. **Enhanced Operational Documentation:** Developing a comprehensive suite of enterprise-grade developer guides and security integration manuals based on the reverse-engineering and trial-and-error breakthroughs achieved with CSPro and ODK platforms.
4. **Scaling the Technical Workforce:** Addressing the acute shortage of ICT-skilled manpower by institutionalizing the Training of Trainers (ToT) model and expanding the use of multimedia-based training strategies for large-scale field forces.

This groundbreaking operation has not only accelerated data availability but has also positioned the country as a pioneer in South Asian digital enumeration. The technical infrastructure now in place ensures that all future statistical activities will be characterized by higher accuracy, increased security, and rapid delivery of insights for national policy formulation.

2. Mapping, Geospatial Data and Administrative Units of Sri Lanka

2.1 Mapping and geospatial data

Census mapping plays a vital role throughout the entire census process, from the initial stage of planning to the final release of census data.

As the first of the four main stages of a census, the preparation of maps is undertaken to facilitate census operations. In doing so, several factors are considered, including the country's available geographical resources, access to and availability of new technologies, the associated costs, the time that can be allocated, the availability of skilled personnel capable of using such technologies, and the need for developing geospatial data systems.

Although the Survey Department of Sri Lanka is the national authority responsible for surveying and mapping in the country, as the national statistical agency, mapping activities are carried out to establish the census frame and to maintain the statistics produced by the Department of Census and Statistics in the form of geospatial data.

Many countries around the world still use traditional paper-based maps for census mapping, while others have moved forward with modern technology to develop digital maps. In this context, new computer hardware and devices, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information System (GIS) software, and satellite imagery play a crucial role. It has been observed that countries which conduct censuses using digital maps after fulfilling these requirements achieve significantly higher levels of accuracy and efficiency in their census data. Moreover, developing data systems by integrating geospatial data in line with modern technological advancements can provide substantial long-term benefits to a country. This also enables institutions that produce statistics to continuously utilize such technologies for their mapping needs and creates opportunities to adopt more advanced methodologies. Additionally, these data systems are highly important for the analysis and presentation of census and survey data, as well as for future projections.

Accordingly, as the preparation of digital maps is essential for enhancing the quality of a census and for various other applications, the digitization of maps required for the Census of Population and Housing 2024 was successfully carried out, despite certain limitations in the availability of new technologies and experienced human resources.

2.1.1 Mapping methodology, used for the Census of Population and Housing - 2024

In the Census of Population and Housing, these maps provide the fundamental guidance required to develop the census frame to ensure that every person and all census units are counted once and only once, thereby preventing both omissions and double counting. In preparing maps for the census, the entire land area of the country is covered, and all the smallest administrative units, namely the Grama Niladhari Divisions, are further subdivided into smaller segments and mapped as "Census Blocks." This enables the systematic organization and supervision of listing and enumeration activities in the census, while also contributing to the analysis and presentation of census data.

A review of census history shows that, for censuses conducted between 1871 and 1981, the maps used were primarily sketch plans prepared for land areas. However, in the Census of Population and Housing 2001, Census Block maps were used for the first time. In this process, more accurate and scaled Census Block maps covering the entire land area of Sri Lanka were prepared using the 1:10,000 and 1:50,000 maps available at the time, along with maps drawn by Grama Niladharis for the 1981 census.

Grama Niladhari Division maps were prepared for the 2011 census with a more accurate scale and more accurate geographical features. For the first time, Grama Niladhari Division maps were prepared for

several districts using satellite images. At that time, since satellite images were not available to cover the entire Sri Lanka, all other Grama Niladhari Division maps were prepared based on the 1:10000 and 1:50000 maps available at the Survey Department of Sri Lanka. For boundaries that could not be identified by the Grama Niladhari in the field, accurate Grama Niladhari Division boundaries were identified using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

For the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, it was decided to use tablet computers (digital devices) for data collection instead of the previously used printed questionnaires. Accordingly, it was determined that the Census Block maps should be prepared as digital maps. The preparation of these maps was thus planned to be carried out in three phases. The three phases are:

1. Preparation of a digital map using the Grama Niladhari Divisional Map prepared in 2012 and Google satellite images.
2. Providing the prepared map to the field for verification and delineation of Census Blocks
3. The verified maps are checked at the Divisional Secretariat level and then returned to the Cartography Division at the head office of the Department of Census and Statistics for re-computerization and to print delineated Census Block maps.

Digital map preparation

The Department took steps to prepare a new digital map using ArcGIS software with the help of the Grama Niladhari Division map drawn to a scale of 2012 and satellite images downloaded from Google. Accordingly, maps were prepared for all 14,021 Grama Niladhari Divisions identified in the country at that time and they were printed as color maps including satellite images.

Providing the prepared map to the field for verification and delineation of Census Blocks

The responsibility for the verification and accuracy of the Grama Niladhari Division boundaries and geographical features within the drafted maps rested with the field-based Grama Niladharis. To facilitate this process, the maps were re-distributed to all relevant officers, who were formally instructed to confirm the accuracy of the data within a designated timeframe of three to five months.

Subsequently, the Grama Niladhari Division, which is the smallest administrative unit, was subdivided into smaller segments to ensure that census officers could easily cover those during enumeration activities. Accordingly, these were partitioned into smaller segments comprising 100–120 census units in urban sectors and 80–100 census units in rural and estate sectors. These specific geographical segments were designated as "Census Blocks." This task was carried out by the Grama Niladhari under the guidance of the Department Statistics Officer, in charge of the respective Divisional Secretariat Division.

The verified maps are checked at the Divisional Secretariat level and then returned to the Cartography Division at the head office of the Department of Census and Statistics for re-computerization and to print delineated Census Block maps.

The revisions made by the Grama Niladhari officers during the verification of the boundaries and physical features of their respective Grama Niladhari divisions were re-digitized within the Mapping Division. The delineation of census blocks was also carried out using ArcGIS software. Upon the successful completion of these processes, the Department was able to establish a geospatial data system covering the entire country.

The digital copies of the prepared census block maps and Grama Niladhari maps were used in the second stage of the Census of Population and Housing 2024, namely the Listing stage. The relevant software was installed on the tablet computers used for listing, which facilitated the accurate identification of census

blocks in the field. Furthermore, the Department also took steps to provide hard copies of these maps for the convenience of the officers.

2.1.2 Codes used for the Census database

The Department of Census and Statistics uses a formal coding system for the Census database. There are nine provinces in the country, and each province has been assigned a code. The country also has 25 administrative districts, and district codes have been assigned according to the province to which each district belongs. Accordingly, a district is identified by a two-digit code, the first digit represents the province code and the second digit represents the district code within the province.

Each district is further divided into Divisional Secretariat Divisions, and these divisions are also assigned numerical codes. The code assigned to a Divisional Secretariat Division is represented by two digits, and these numbers are given in multiples of three (03, 06, etc.). Therefore, the code for a Divisional Secretariat Division within a province and district consists of four digits.

Each Divisional Secretariat Division is further subdivided into Grama Niladhari Divisions, which are also assigned codes. The code for a Grama Niladhari Division is represented by three digits, which are assigned in multiples of five (005, 010, etc.). Accordingly, the complete code from the province level to the Grama Niladhari Division level consists of seven digits in total.

This is illustrated by the following example:

Western Province (1), Colombo District (1), Kolonnawa Divisional Secretariat Division (06), and Grama Niladhari Division (025).

Therefore, the code for this Grama Niladhari Division is: “1” + “1” + “06” + “025” = 1106025.

Furthermore, a Grama Niladhari Division is subdivided into Census Blocks, and a 5-digit code is used to uniquely identify each Census Block. Accordingly, the "Master Registry of Census Blocks" (MRCB) which include all relevant Census Block information was prepared and used for the Census of Population and Housing - 2024.

2.1.3 Geospatial data

During the listing phase of this census, it was possible to mark the geographical locations (GPS Locations) of buildings. Furthermore, since the digital map was integrated into the computer application used for data collection, marking these geographical locations further updated the Geospatial Information System (GIS) and enhanced its quality.

In the enumeration stage, which was carried out after the building listing, data related to all building units were entered based on these maps. This made the supervision process of the enumeration stage highly efficient.

In addition to the existing administrative units, the Department has also incorporated other administrative unit layers used by various functioning institutions in the country into this database.

2.2 Administrative Units of Sri Lanka

In the population and housing census of Sri Lanka, it is very important to obtain information about the population at the administrative division level. Accordingly, land areas in Sri Lanka were divided into census blocks with high accuracy in such a way that they do not cross the boundaries of existing administrative districts, Divisional Secretariat divisions, Grama Niladhari divisions, and other administrative boundaries.

Based on the census block data system (MRCB) prepared in this manner, the required data were systematically collected. As a result, it is possible to release census information according to various administrative levels such as administrative districts, Divisional Secretariat divisions, Grama Niladhari divisions, and sectors.

This section of the Chapter describes the changes that have occurred over time in the administrative divisions in Sri Lanka and the administrative divisions used for the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

2.2.1 Division by province

The present administrative demarcation of Sri Lanka can be described as a gradual development of the division of provinces made during the British colonial period, namely the Colebrooke Reforms of 1833. The Colebrooke Reforms, announced on 1 October 1833, divided Sri Lanka into five provinces according to geographical direction. Namely, the Northern Province, the Southern Province, the Eastern Province, the Western Province and the Central Province. Later, as other administrative activities expanded, this division underwent changes in terms of numbers and territory. The following are the cases in which this division has undergone changes in terms of boundaries.

1. On 1st October 1845, the Western Province was divided into two provinces: the North Western Province and the Western Province.

2. On 6th September 1873, a new province was created called the North Central Province by combining the Nuwara Kalaviya District (present-day Anuradhapura District) from the Northern Province, Thamankaduwa from the Eastern Province, and the Tamil region of Satkorala from the North Western Province.

3. On 5th February 1886, the Central Province was divided into two provinces, the Central Province and the Uva Province.

4. On 4th February 1889, the Western Province was divided into two provinces, the Western Province and the Sabaragamuwa Province.

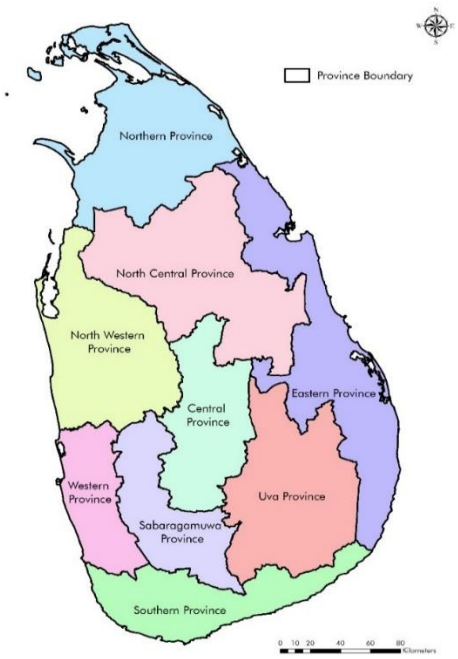


Figure 2.1 : Province Map of Sri Lanka

Accordingly, by 1889, the 9 provinces of Sri Lanka had been divided and since then, except for minor changes in the boundaries from time to time, the number of provinces has not changed numerically. Map No. 2.1 shows the division of the provinces of Sri Lanka.

2.2.2 Division by district

The 5 provinces established in 1833 by the Colebrooke Reform consisted of 23 districts. The boundaries of these districts have been subject to changes from time to time and due to these changes, the number of districts has changed in subsequent censuses. This is shown in the table 2.1 below.

Although the division of administrative districts changed from 1871 to 1981, in 2001 the country's territory was divided into 25 administrative districts, which remains the same today.

Table 2.1 : Evolution of the Number of Administrative Districts In Sri Lanka from 1871 to 2024

District	Census Year														
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012	2024
Total	18	21	22	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	22	24	25	25	25
Colombo	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Negambo		×	×												
Gampaha												×	×	×	×
Kalutara		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Kandy	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Matale	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Nuwara Eliya	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Badulla	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Galle	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Matara	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Hambantota	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Jaffna	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Mannar	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Vavuniya		×	×					×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Mullaitivu	×	×	×	×	×	×	×					×	×	×	×
Kilinochchi													×	×	×
Batticaloa	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Ampara										×	×	×	×	×	×
Trincomalee	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Kurunegala	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Puttalam	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Chilaw			×	×	×	×	×	×	×						
Anuradhapura	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Polonnaruwa										×	×	×	×	×	×
Moneragala										×	×	×	×	×	×
Ratnapura	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Kegalle	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

2.2.3 Division by Divisional Secretariat Division

The main subdivision of districts in the administrative hierarchy of Sri Lanka is known as Divisional Secretariat Divisions. These were known as Assistant Government Agent Divisions until 1991. Each district is divided into Divisional Secretariat Divisions for administrative convenience, and each Divisional Secretariat Division is further divided into Grama Niladhari Divisions.

A Grama Niladhari Division is the smallest administrative unit in Sri Lanka and operates under a Divisional Secretariat Division. The main responsible officer: Grama Niladhari, whose primary responsibilities include carrying out tasks related to the issuance of government documents and supporting the implementation of government programs and census activities at the field level. A Grama Niladhari Division may consist of a single village, a part of a village, or several villages.

In Sri Lanka, local government is organized into three main types of authorities that manage urban and rural areas at the local level: Municipal Councils, Urban Councils, and Pradeshiya Sabhas. Municipal Councils manage large cities and major urban areas; Urban Councils govern smaller towns and Pradeshiya Sabhas administer rural areas.

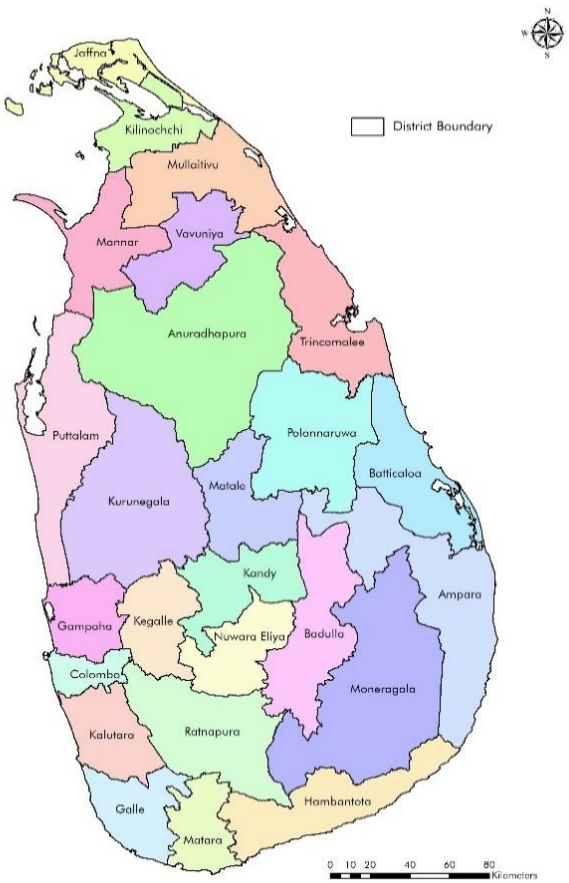


Figure 2.2 : District Map of Sri Lanka

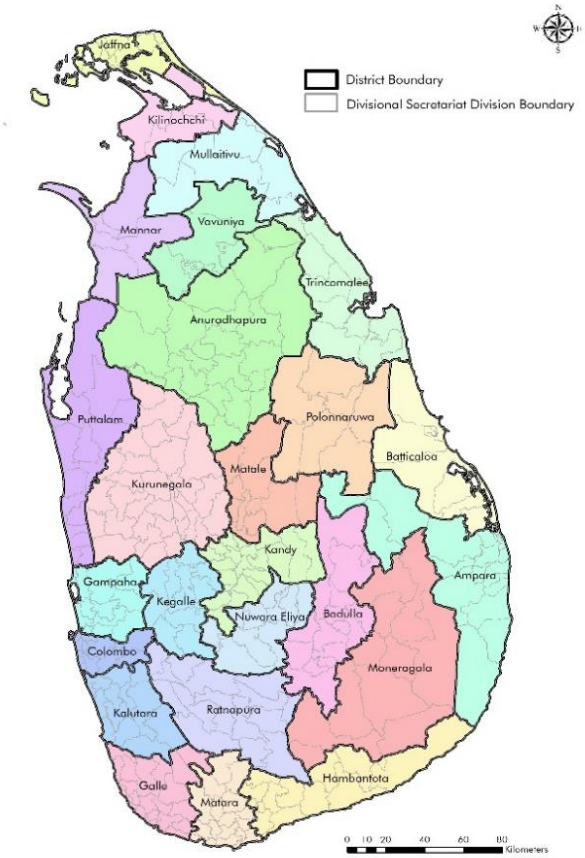


Figure 2.3 : Divisional Secretarial Division Map of Sri Lanka

Table 2.2, Table 2.3 and Table 2.4 give information about the number of Divisional Secretariat Divisions, Grama Niladhari Divisions and Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas in Sri Lanka in 1981, 2012 and 2024 population and housing censuses.

Table 2.2 : Administrative Structure by District, 1981

District	Number of Assistant Government Agent Divisions	Number of Grama Sewaka Divisions	Number of Municipal Councils	Number of Urban Councils	Number of Town Councils
Total	245	4,113	12	39	83
Colombo	8	121	2	4	6
Gampaha	13	389	1	6	9
Kalutara	10	230	-	4	6
Kandy	16	430	1	4	2
Matale	10	170	1	-	3
Nuwara Eliya	4	98	1	2	1
Galle	16	274	1	1	7
Matara	11	214	-	2	2
Hambantota	8	165	-	2	4
Jaffna*	16	150	1	3	9
Mannar	4	33	-	-	1
Vavuniya	4	23	-	1	-
Mullaitivu	4	26	-	-	1
Batticaloa	7	87	1	-	2
Ampara	12	108	-	1	2
Trincomalee	9	48	-	1	3
Kurunegala	17	510	1	1	3
Puttalam	10	178	-	2	5
Anuradhapura	16	189	-	1	1
Polonnaruwa	5	60	-	-	2
Badulla	14	151	1	2	4
Moneragala	8	88	-	-	1
Ratnapura	13	175	1	1	3
Kegalle	10	196	-	1	6

*At the time of the 1981 Census, the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts functioned as a single district under the name Jaffna.

Table 2.3 : Administrative Structure by District, 2012

District	Number of Divisional Secretariat Divisions	Number of Grama Niladhari Divisions	Number of Municipal Councils	Number of Urban Councils	Number of Pradeshiya Sabha
Total	331	14,021	23	41	271
Colombo	13	557	5	5	3
Gampaha	13	1177	2	5	12
Kalutara	14	762	-	4	12
Kandy	20	1187	1	4	17
Matale	11	545	2	-	11
Nuwara Eliya	5	491	1	2	5
Galle	19	895	1	2	17
Matara	16	650	1	1	15
Hambantota	12	576	1	1	10
Jaffna	15	435	1	3	13
Mannar	5	153	-	1	4
Vavuniya	4	102	-	1	4
Mullaitivu	6	136	-	-	4
Kilinochchi	4	95	-	-	3
Batticaloa	14	346	1	2	9
Ampara	20	503	2	1	17
Trincomalee	11	230	-	2	11
Kurunegala	30	1610	1	1	19
Puttalam	16	548	-	2	10
Anuradhapura	22	694	1	-	18
Polonnaruwa	7	295	-	-	7
Badulla	15	567	2	1	15
Moneragala	11	319	-	-	10
Ratnapura	17	575	1	2	14
Kegalle	11	573	-	1	11

Table 2.4 : Administrative Structure by District, 2024

District	Number of Divisional Secretariat Divisions	Number of Grama Niladhari Divisions	Number of Municipal Councils	Number of Urban Councils	Number of Pradeshiya Sabha
Total	340	14,008	29	36	276
Colombo	13	557	5	5	3
Gampaha	13	1177	2	5	12
Kalutara	14	762	1[3]	3[3]	13
Kandy	20	1187	1	4	17
Matale	11	532[1]	2	-	11
Nuwara Eliya	10	491	1	2	9
Galle	22	895	1	2	17
Matara	16	650	1	1	14
Hambantota	12	576	1	1	10
Jaffna	15	435	1	3	13
Mannar	5	153	-	1	4
Vavuniya	4	102	1[3]	-[3]	4
Mullaitivu	6	136	-	-	5
Kilinochchi	4	95	-	-	3
Batticaloa	14	346[2]	1	2	9
Ampara	20[4]	503	2	1	17
Trincomalee	11	230	1[3]	1[3]	11
Kurunegala	30	1610	1	1	19
Puttalam	16	548	1[3]	1[3]	10
Anuradhapura	22	694	1	-	18
Polonnaruwa	7	295	1	-	7
Badulla	15	567	2	1	15
Moneragala	11	319	-	-	10
Ratnapura	18	575	1	2	14
Kegalle	11	573	1[3]	-[3]	11

[1] During the implementation of the Kalu Ganga Project and the Moragahakanda Project, 13 out of the 545 Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Matale District had to be removed from the number of Grama Niladhari Divisions as they fall within the area belonging to the two reservoirs.

[2] Although the number of Grama Niladhari Divisions in Batticaloa District is stated as 346, the number of Grama Niladhari Divisions in the territory is 345. Punani East Grama Niladhari Division (211B) is permanently included in Koralaipattu North Divisional Secretariat Division. Ridithenna and Jayantiyaya villages belonging to Punani East Grama Niladhari Division (211B) are temporarily functioning under Koralaipattu Central Divisional Secretariat Division. Since that territory has been considered as a separate Grama Niladhari Division in the preparation of statistics, the number of Grama Niladhari Divisions is 346.

[3] 5 existing Urban Councils have been upgraded to 5 Municipal Councils by Gazette Nos. 2296/05 and 2296/37 published on 20.03.2023.

[4] The total number of Divisional Secretariat Divisions (20) mentioned in the Ampara District also includes the Kalmunai North Sub-Divisional Secretariat.

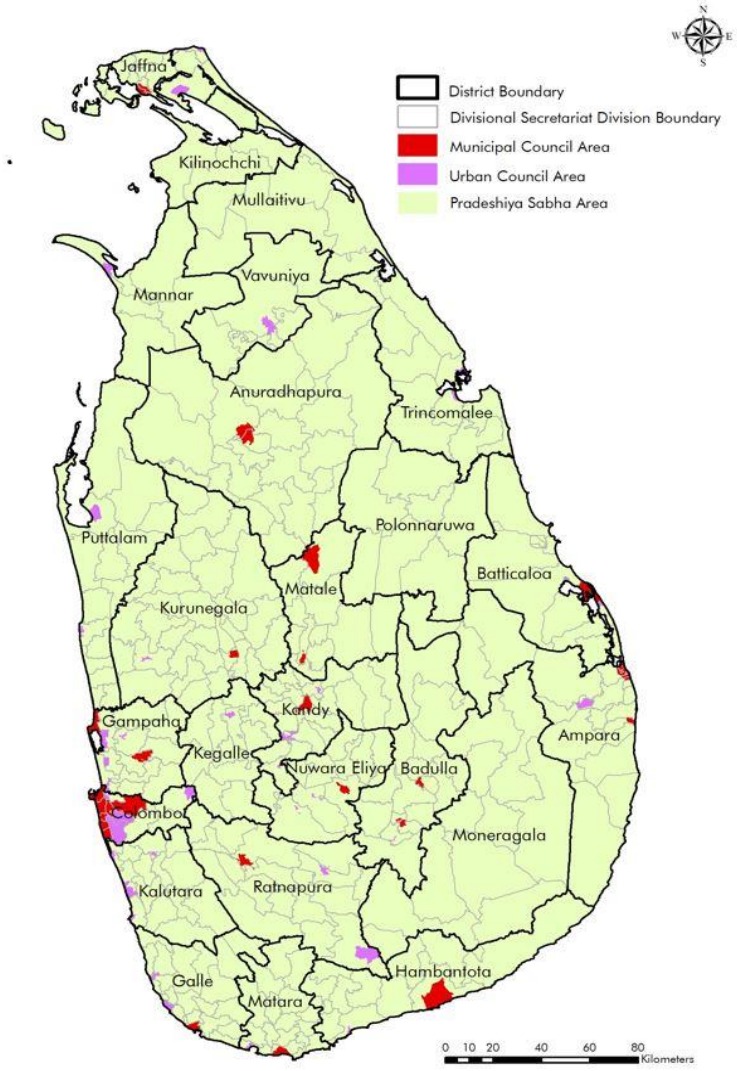


Figure 2.4 : Local Government Areas in Sri Lanka, 2012

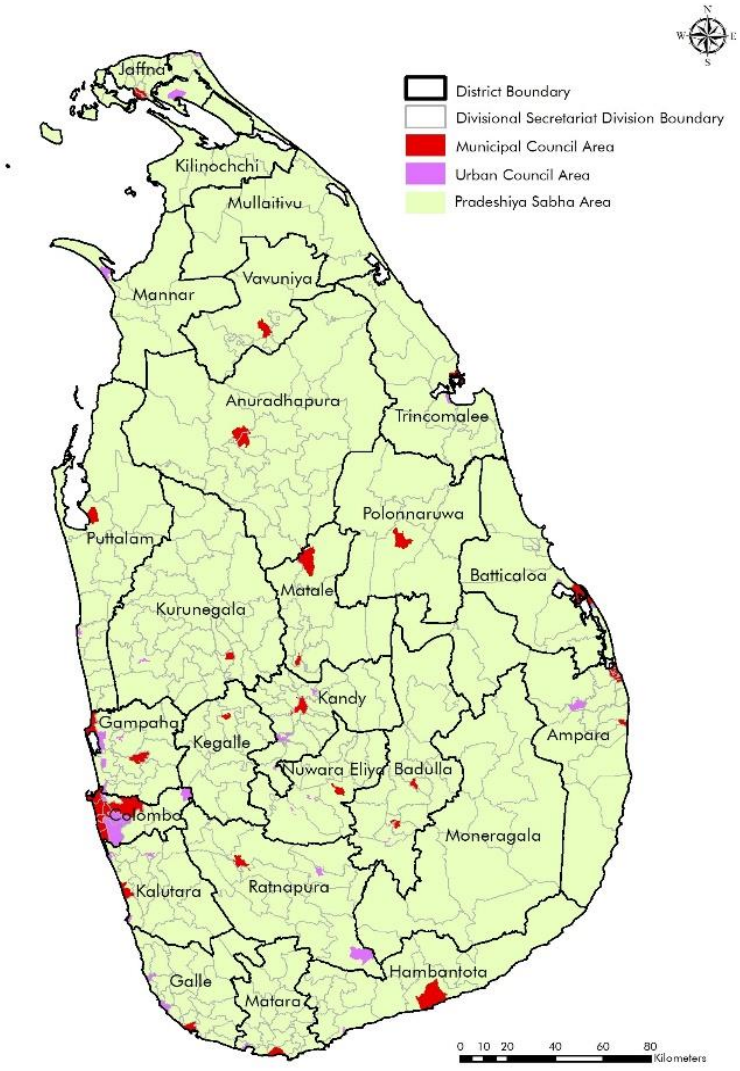


Figure 2.5 : Local Government Areas in Sri Lanka, 2024

3. Population Size, Growth and Distribution

A Census of population and housing collects information on the size, growth and distribution of a country's population, as well as on the demographic, social and economic activities related to the population. This chapter presents information on population size, growth and distribution related to the Census of Population and Housing -2024.

Here, Population size refers to the total number of people living in a country at a specific time. It is important for a country's economy, resource utilization, and development planning. Similarly, a Population growth of a country is the increase or decrease in the population living within the country over a specific time-period. Population size and growth depend on factors such as births, deaths and migration occurring within the country during a specific period. Population distribution refers to how the population is spread across geographical areas. Climate, geographical features, economic opportunities, and social and cultural factors influence population distribution.

Until the year 2001, in the Population and Housing Censuses conducted in Sri Lanka, people were counted at the place where they were found at the census moment (de facto enumeration). However, considering the difficulties that arise when counting people in this manner and when using such information, the 14th Census of Population and Housing conducted in 2012, as well as the present census, counted people based on their place of usual residence (de jure enumeration).

The Place of usual residence of a person was defined as "The location where they have lived continuously for more than 6 months, or where they are residing at the time of the census with the intention of staying continuously for more than 6 months ". Based on this definition, all occupants of housing units, as well as those staying in collective living quarters such as boarding houses, dormitories, prisons, rehabilitation camps, and long-term care facilities (e.g., mental hospitals, leprosy hospitals), were enumerated as usual residents of those specific locations. In instances where a person appeared to have more than one place of residence, the location where they spend most of the week was considered their place of usual residence for data collection purposes. Furthermore, homeless individuals (Roofless) were enumerated based on the moment of the census across the entire country during a specific timeframe close to the census moment.

3.1 Total Population and Population Growth by Census Year

In Sri Lanka, a population census is scheduled to be conducted once every ten years, and the first scientific census was carried out in 1871. Accordingly, the census carried out in 2024 was the fifteenth in that series. In each of the censuses conducted so far, the population enumerated, the intercensal growth, and the average annual population growth rate during the intercensal periods are shown in Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1.

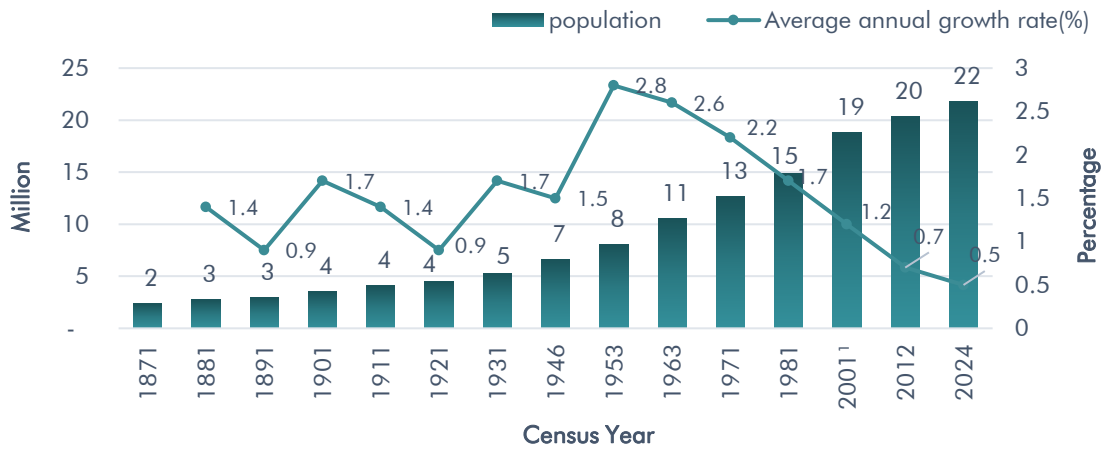


Figure 3.1 : Total Population and Average Annual Growth Rate by Census Year, 1871 - 2024

Table 3.1 : Total Population, Intercensal Increase and Average Annual Growth Rate by Census Year, 1871 - 2024

Census Date	Total Population	Intercensal Increase		Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
		Number	Percentage	
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[1]	18,797,257	3,950,507	26.6	1.2
20 March 2012	20,359,439	1,562,182	8.3	0.7
19 December 2024	**21,781,800**	**1,422,361**	**7.0**	**0.5**

Table 3.1 shows the population growth of Sri Lanka from 1871 to 2024. The period 1946–1963 was an era of rapid population growth, with the highest intercensal growth rate of 30.7 percent reported in the 1963 census. The highest average annual growth rate of 2.8 percent was reported in the 1953 census.

At the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 the total population of Sri Lanka was 21,781,800. Accordingly, the percentage of intercensal increase is 7 percent, and the average annual growth rate is 0.5 percent. In the 2012 census, the percentage of intercensal increase was 8.3 percent, and the average annual growth rate was 0.7 percent. Although the average annual growth rate further declined to 0.5 percent in this census, the fact that it remains a positive value indicates that Sri Lanka's population has continued to increase gradually, albeit at a slower pace.

[1] Note: Since the census work in the districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi in the Northern Province and the districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee in the Eastern Province was not completed in the 2001 census, the estimates for the entire country, which were finally calculated after estimating the population for those districts, are given under Population 2001.

3.2 Population Distribution by Province and District

Sri Lanka's total population is 21,781,800, and its distribution across provinces and districts is presented in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 : Distribution of Population by Province and District, 2024

Province and District	Population	
	Number	Percentage
Sri Lanka	21,781,800	100.0
Western Province	**6,117,341**	**28.1**
Colombo	2,375,415	10.9
Gampaha	2,436,142	11.2
Kalutara	1,305,784	6.0
Central Province	**2,714,045**	**12.5**
Kandy	1,461,895	6.7
Matale	526,870	2.4
Nuwara Eliya	725,280	3.3
Southern Province	**2,606,679**	**12.0**
Galle	1,097,372	5.0
Matara	837,889	3.8
Hambantota	671,418	3.1
Northern Province	**1,150,148**	**5.3**
Jaffna	594,751	2.7
Mannar	123,756	0.6
Vavuniya	172,312	0.8
Mullaitivu	122,619	0.6
Kilinochchi	136,710	0.6
Eastern Province	**1,783,214**	**8.2**
Batticaloa	595,918	2.7
Ampara	744,551	3.4
Trincomalee	442,745	2.0
North Western Province	**2,586,972**	**11.9**
Kurunegala	1,768,156	8.1
Puttalam	818,816	3.8
North Central Province	**1,407,610**	**6.5**
Anuradhapura	960,080	4.4
Polonnaruwa	447,530	2.1
Uva Province	**1,399,892**	**6.4**
Badulla	872,307	4.0
Moneragala	527,585	2.4
Sabaragamuwa Province	**2,015,899**	**9.3**
Ratnapura	1,145,423	5.3
Kegalle	870,476	4.0

Note: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest one decimal place

When considering the population distribution by province, it is reported that more than one fourth of the total population of the country is from the Western Province, accounting for 28.1 percent. More than 10 percent of the total population is reported from the Central (12.5%), Southern (12.0%), and North Western (11.9%) provinces each. The lowest population is reported from the Northern Province, with 5.3 percent.

Examining the population by district, the highest population is reported from the Gampaha District, which has 2,436,142 persons. The next highest population (2,375,415) is reported from the Colombo District. The district with the lowest population (122,619) is Mullaitivu.

3.3 Population Growth by District

To study population growth at the district level, data from the 2024 Census are presented together with data from the previous census years 1981, 2001, and 2012 in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 : Population and Average Annual Growth Rate by District, Census Years 1981- 2024

District	Population				Average Annual Growth Rate (%)			
	1981[2]	2001[3]	2012	2024	1981-2001	1981-2012	2001-2012	2012-2024
Sri Lanka	14,846,274	18,797,257	20,359,439	21,781,800	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.5
Colombo	1,675,847	2,239,696	2,324,349	2,375,415	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.2
Gampaha	1,367,813	2,060,470	2,304,833	2,436,142	2.0	1.7	1.0	0.4
Kalutara	823,964	1,065,635	1,221,948	1,305,784	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.5
Kandy	1,032,335	1,276,202	1,375,382	1,461,895	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.5
Matale	352,860	439,031	484,531	526,870	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7
Nuwara Eliya	583,716	702,689	711,644	725,280	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.1
Galle	805,403	989,769	1,063,334	1,097,372	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.2
Matara	642,235	760,990	814,048	837,889	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.2
Hambantota	421,277	525,913	599,903	671,418	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.9
Jaffna	734,474	-	583,882	594,751	-	-0.7	-	0.1
Mannar	105,276	-	99,570	123,756	-	-0.2	-	1.7
Vavuniya	93,694	-	172,115	172,312	-	2.0	-	0.0
Mullaitivu	73,886	-	92,238	122,619	-	0.7	-	2.2
Kilinochchi	90,778	-	113,510	136,710	-	0.7	-	1.4
Batticaloa	329,343	-	526,567	595,918	-	1.5	-	1.0
Ampara	383,275	592,596	649,402	744,551	2.1	1.7	0.9	1.1
Trincomalee	250,771	-	379,541	442,745	-	1.3	-	1.2
Kurunegala	1,198,795	1,458,385	1,618,465	1,768,156	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7
Puttalam	485,619	709,002	762,396	818,816	1.9	1.5	0.7	0.6
Anuradhapura	575,546	742,535	860,575	960,080	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.9
Polonnaruwa	253,411	358,804	406,088	447,530	1.7	1.5	1.2	0.8
Badulla	620,839	778,422	815,405	872,307	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.5
Moneragala	269,684	396,521	451,058	527,585	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.2
Ratnapura	779,927	1,016,221	1,088,007	1,145,423	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.4
Kegalle	678,456	784,371	840,648	870,476	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3

During the period from 1981 to 2024, the population of Sri Lanka increased from 14.8 million to 21.8 million. Considering the census period 2012–2024, the highest average annual growth rate (2.2%) was reported in the Mullaitivu District, which is also reported as the district with the lowest resident population.

[2] The data for Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts in the 1981 Census are presented according to the current district boundaries

[3] In the 2001 Census, enumeration was not fully completed in the districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee. Therefore, after estimating the population for these districts, the total estimated population for the entire country, as calculated at the end, is reported under 2001.

3.4 Population density

To identify districts where the population is highly concentrated, it is necessary to examine the distribution of the population in relation to land area. In other words, the number of persons living per square kilometer of land area namely, population density should be analyzed. The population densities calculated by district for the census years 1981, 2001, 2012, and 2024 are presented in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 : Population Density by District, 1981, 2001, 2012 and 2024

District	Population Density (Persons per Square Kilometer)			
	1981	2001	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	230	300	325	350
Colombo	2,605	3,330	3,438	3,551
Gampaha	994	1,539	1719	1776
Kalutara	516	677	775	805
Kandy	554	667	717	780
Galle	487	613	658	695
Matara	516	600	641	648
Jaffna	401	-	629	631
Kegalle	412	466	499	530
Nuwara Eliya	354	412	417	427
Kurunegala	254	316	350	380
Ratnapura	246	314	336	356
Badulla	227	276	288	314
Puttalam	165	246	265	278
Hambantota	164	211	240	273
Matale	180	226	248	268
Batticaloa	134	-	202	251
Trincomalee	98	-	150	181
Ampara	86	140	154	179
Anuradhapura	82	112	129	147
Polonnaruwa	77	117	132	137
Kilinochchi	-	-	94	115
Moneragala	49	72	82	96
Vavuniya	36	-	92	96
Mannar	53	-	53	66
Mullaitivu	39	-	38	51

Note :

i. At the time of the 1981 Census, the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts functioned as a single district under the name Jaffna.

ii. In the 2001 Census, enumeration was not fully completed in the districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee. Therefore, after estimating the population for these districts, the population density for Sri Lanka was calculated based on the estimated total population of the country.

iii. In calculating the population density for 2024, the total land area of the country (67,240 km²), revised in August 2024 and published on the website by the Survey Department, along with the corresponding district land areas prepared accordingly, were used.

In the 1981 Census, the population density of Sri Lanka was 230 persons per square kilometer. By the 2024 Census, this had increased to 350 persons per square kilometer. Compared with 2012, the population density has increased by 25 persons per square kilometer, rising from 325 to 350 persons per square kilometer.

At the district level, the highest population density is reported from the Colombo District. Its population density, which was 2,605, 3,330, and 3,438 persons per square kilometer in the 1981, 2001, and 2012 censuses respectively, has further increased to 3,551 persons per square kilometer in 2024. Following Colombo, the next highest population density is reported from the adjacent Gampaha District, with 1,776 persons per square kilometer.

The district with the lowest population density in the country is the Mullaitivu District, where the figure stands at 51 persons per square kilometer in 2024. In Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuniya, and Moneragala Districts, the number of persons per square kilometer is fewer than 100.

3.5 Distribution of Population by Sector

In the Census of Population and Housing-2012 information was collected by classifying the country into three sectors Urban, Rural, and Estate. However, in the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, this classification was further expanded into four sectors: Urban, Rural, Estate Urban, and Estate Rural. (Definitions of these four sectors are provided under paragraph 1.2).

Areas identified as "Estate Urban" in the 2024 Census were included under the "Urban Sector" in the 2012 Census. Similarly, the "Estate Sector" identified in the 2012 Census corresponds to the "Estate Rural" sector in the 2024 Census. The identification of the "Rural" sector remains unchanged between the 2012 and 2024 censuses.

Table 3.5 : Distribution of Population by Sector, 2012 and 2024

Sector	2012		2024	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	21,781,800	100.0
Urban*	3,704,470	18.2	3,819,203	17.5
Rural	15,753,322	77.4	17,096,918	78.5
Estate Rural**	901,647	4.4	865,679	4.0

*In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".
** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural.

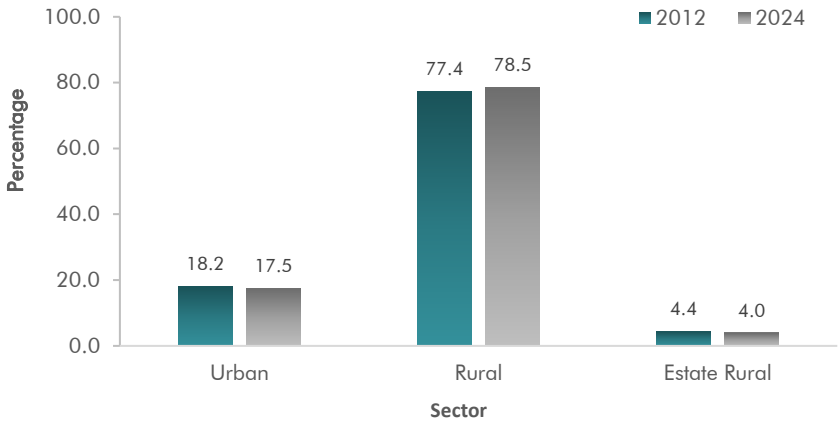


Figure 3.2 : Distribution of Population by Sector, 2012 and 2024

According to the Census of Population and Housing 2012, the population in the urban sector was 3,704,470, which accounted for 18.2 percent of the total population. In the current census, the urban sector population is 3,819,203, representing 17.5 percent of the total population. Compared to the 2012 census, the urban population in this census shows a decrease of 0.7 percentage points.

In the Census of Population and Housing -2012, the areas referred to as the Estate Sector correspond to what is identified as the Estate Rural sector in 2024. In 2012, the Estate Rural Sector population accounted for 4.4 percent of the total population, while in the 2024 Census this percentage has declined to 4 percent.

Furthermore, most of the population in Sri Lanka resides in the Rural sector, accounting for 78.5 percent of the total population. This represents an increase of 1.1 percentage points compared to the population reported in the 2012 Census.

Table 3.6 presents the distribution of district population according to urban, rural, estate urban and estate rural sectors in the 2024 census.

Table 3.6 : Population Distribution by District and Sector, 2024

District	Total Population		Sector							
			Urban		Estate Urban		Rural		Estate Rural	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Sri Lanka	21,781,800	100.0	3,807,135	17.4	12,068	0.1	17,096,918	78.5	865,679	4.0
Colombo	2,375,415	100.0	1,773,222	74.6	3,874	0.2	593,669	25.0	4,650	0.2
Gampaha	2,436,142	100.0	350,441	14.4	-	-	2,085,307	85.6	394	0.0
Kalutara	1,305,784	100.0	149,939	11.5	864	0.1	1,120,942	85.8	34,039	2.6
Kandy	1,461,895	100.0	171,416	11.7	241	0.0	1,208,607	82.7	81,631	5.6
Matale	526,870	100.0	62,848	11.9	-	-	447,122	84.9	16,900	3.2
Nuwara Eliya	725,280	100.0	36,649	5.0	5,666	0.8	308,357	42.5	374,608	51.7
Galle	1,097,372	100.0	135,514	12.3	-	-	944,811	86.1	17,047	1.6
Matara	837,889	100.0	98,886	11.8	-	-	721,903	86.2	17,100	2.0
Hambantota	671,418	100.0	33,918	5.1	-	-	637,442	94.9	58	0.0
Jaffna	594,751	100.0	113,821	19.1	-	-	480,930	80.9	-	-
Mannar	123,756	100.0	24,120	19.5	-	-	99,636	80.5	-	-
Vavuniya	172,312	100.0	28,681	16.6	-	-	143,631	83.4	-	-
Mullaitivu	122,619	100.0	-	-	-	-	122,619	100.0	-	-
Kilinochchi	136,710	100.0	-	-	-	-	136,710	100.0	-	-
Batticaloa	595,918	100.0	166,369	27.9	-	-	429,549	72.1	-	-
Ampara	744,551	100.0	175,516	23.6	-	-	569,035	76.4	-	-
Trincomalee	442,745	100.0	95,599	21.6	-	-	347,146	78.4	-	-
Kurunegala	1,768,156	100.0	31,023	1.8	-	-	1,731,422	97.9	5,711	0.3
Puttalam	818,816	100.0	70,747	8.6	-	-	747,062	91.3	1,007	0.1
Anuradhapura	960,080	100.0	52,737	5.5	-	-	906,885	94.5	458	0.0
Polonnaruwa	447,530	100.0	37,320	8.3	-	-	410,210	91.7	-	-
Badulla	872,307	100.0	72,155	8.3	175	0.0	645,548	74.0	154,429	17.7
Moneragala	527,585	100.0	-	-	-	-	518,967	98.4	8,618	1.6
Ratnapura	1,145,423	100.0	109,964	9.6	1,248	0.1	938,488	81.9	95,723	8.4
Kegalle	870,476	100.0	16,250	1.9	-	-	800,920	92.0	53,306	6.1

According to Table 3.6, the Colombo District has the largest urban population (1,773,222), while the highest rural population is reported from the Gampaha District (2,085,307). When considering the Estate Rural sector (374,608) and the Estate Urban sector (5,666), the highest population in both sectors is reported from the Nuwara Eliya District. As percentages of the total population of Nuwara Eliya District, these figures represent 51.7 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively.

4. Spatial Distribution of Population

The geographical distribution of Sri Lanka's population refers to the analysis of the population across administrative units, such as provinces and districts, as well as by sectors (urban, rural, and estate). Based on the usual place of residence at the time of the 2012 and 2024 Censuses of Population and Housing, this chapter describes the population concentration and the spatial distribution of the inhabitants of Sri Lanka.

The simplest method for describing the spatial distribution of a population is through its numerical distribution within specific geographical areas. This approach allows for the identification of trends in numerical population changes across different census years.

4.1 Population Concentration

Population Concentration refers to a situation where a large number of people reside within a limited land area of a country or region. This is a common characteristic of urban areas. The Lorenz Curve is used as a mathematical graphical representation to show how the population is distributed across a land area. In this curve, the x-axis represents the cumulative percentage of the land area, while the y-axis represents the cumulative percentage of the population living within that land area. If the Lorenz Curve aligns with the 45° diagonal line (the line of equality), it indicates that the population is distributed equally across the entire land area.

To construct the Lorenz curve for population and land area, first obtained the Divisional Secretariat Division (DSD) level population and land area data for each region and calculated the population density. Then, it is needed to arrange the DSDs in ascending order of density (from least to most densely populated). Next, computed each DSD's share of total population and total land area, and derived their cumulative percentages. The Lorenz curve is plotted by placing cumulative land area on the x-axis and cumulative population on the y-axis.

An analysis of the 90 percent threshold on the X-axis (cumulative land area) of the Lorenz Curve shown in Figure 4.1 reveals several significant points. In both 2012 and 2024, nearly 50 percent of the total population lived within a vast area covering approximately 90 percent of the country's total land. Conversely, the remaining 50 percent of the population is concentrated within a very small area, comprising only 10 percent of the total land. The primary finding from this data is that the population of Sri Lanka is distributed unevenly across its territory. The fact that the curve deviates significantly from the diagonal line (the line of equality) confirms that a substantial portion of the population is concentrated within a small fraction of the country's land. This phenomenon is identified as Population Concentration.

Further, the sharp vertical rise observed in the final segment of the curve (from 90 percent to 100 percent on the X-axis) indicates that a significant percentage of the population approximately over 30 percent is concentrated within a very small land area of about 5 percent. This concentration intensifies the pressure on infrastructure in these regions. When comparing the two curves, it is observed that the 2024 curve has moved slightly upward toward the diagonal line compared to 2012. This suggests that a minor decentralization in population distribution has occurred over the past decade. Nevertheless, as the fundamental shape of the curve remains largely unchanged, it can be concluded that the basic structural pattern of population distribution in Sri Lanka continues to remain stable.

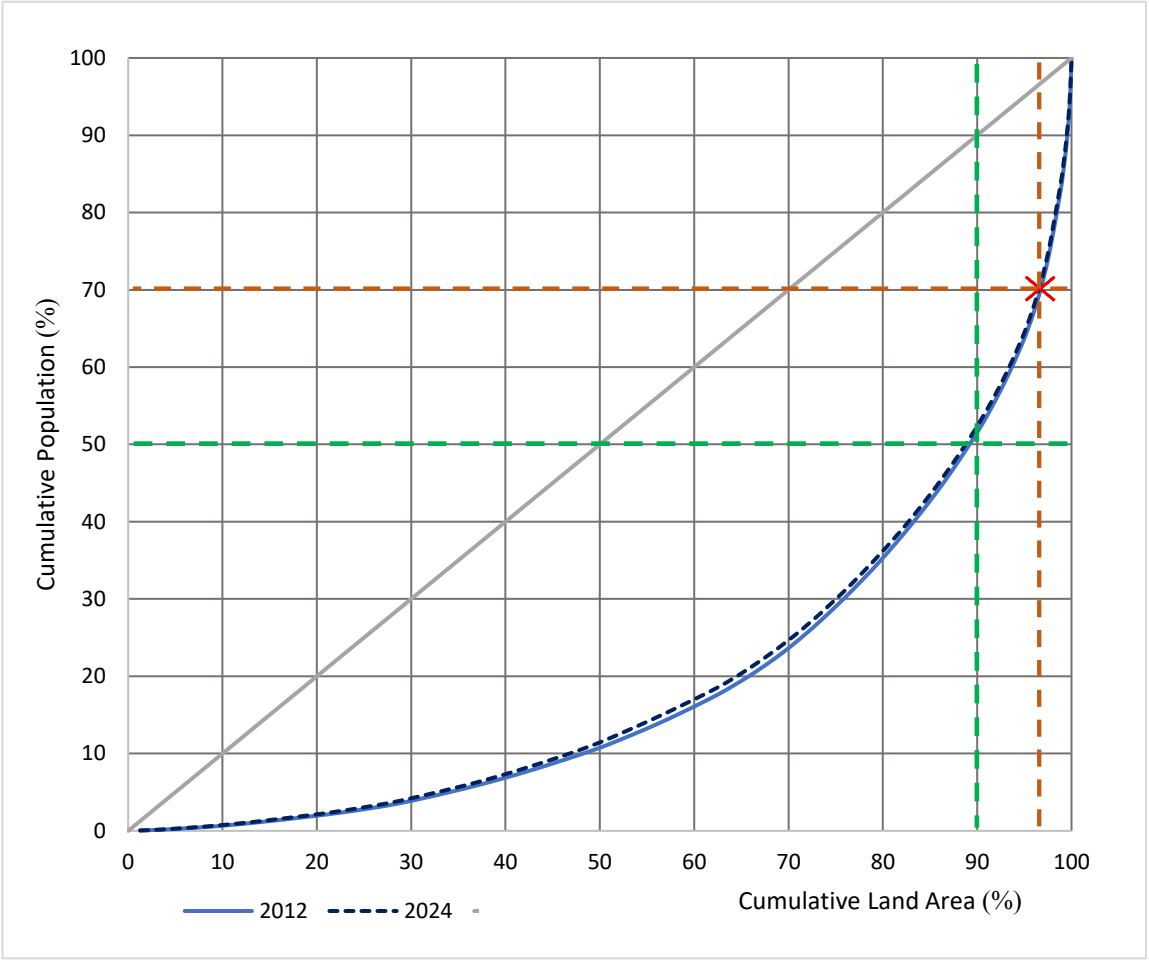


Figure 4.1 : Population Distribution Relative to Land Area in Sri Lanka (Lorenz Curve), 2012 and 2024

4.2 Population Distribution in Sri Lanka by Province and District

The column charts presented in the map in Figure 4.2 illustrate the population sizes by province for the years 2012 and 2024. Further, the map indicates the population changes reported during this intercensal period in the respective province. The highest intercensal change is reported from Western Province.

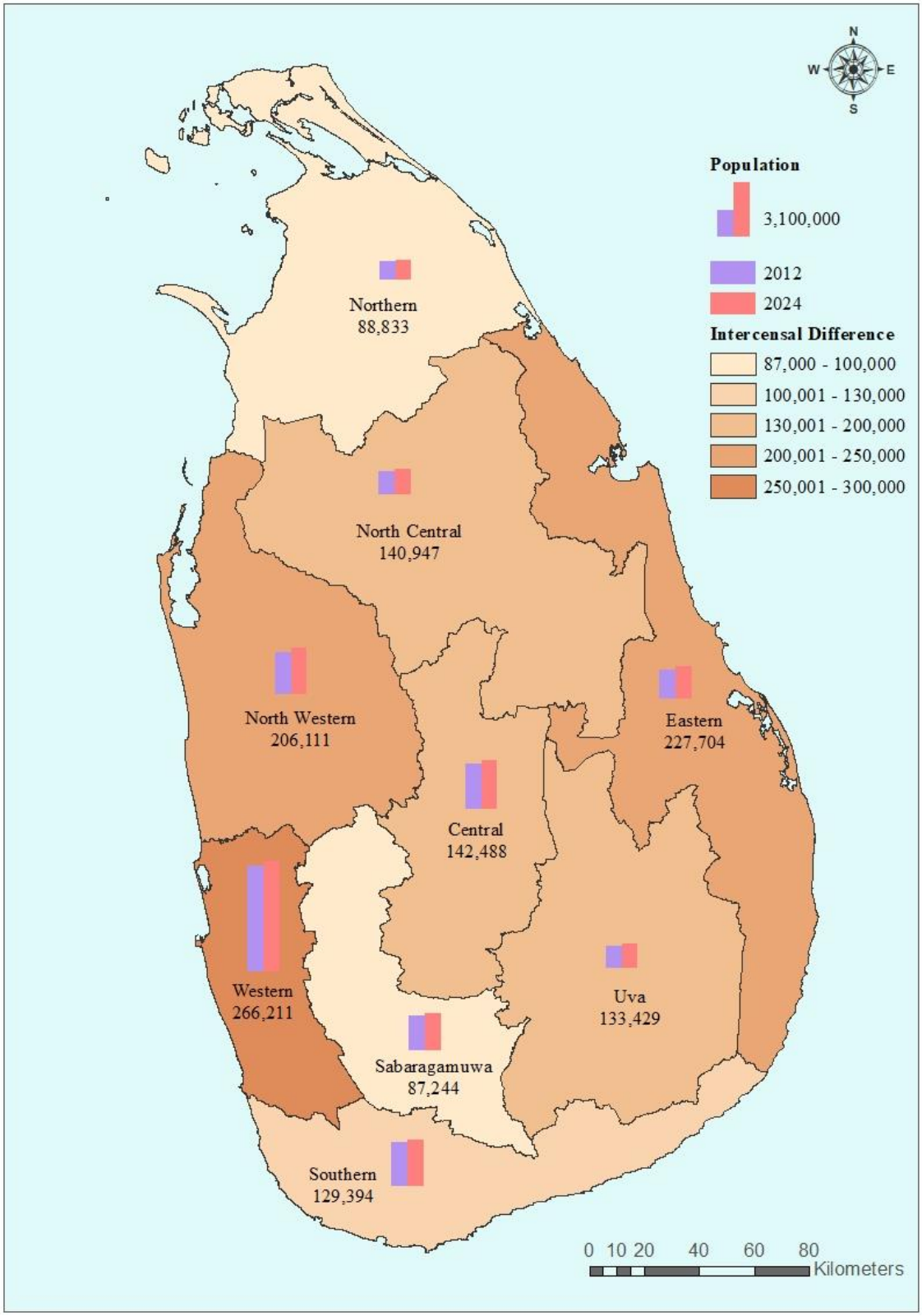


Figure 4.2 : Population Distribution and Intercensal Population Change in Sri Lanka by Province, 2012 and 2024

The Figure 4.3 shows the population distribution by district for 2024. The highest populated district is Gampaha, and the lowest populated district is Mullaitivu.

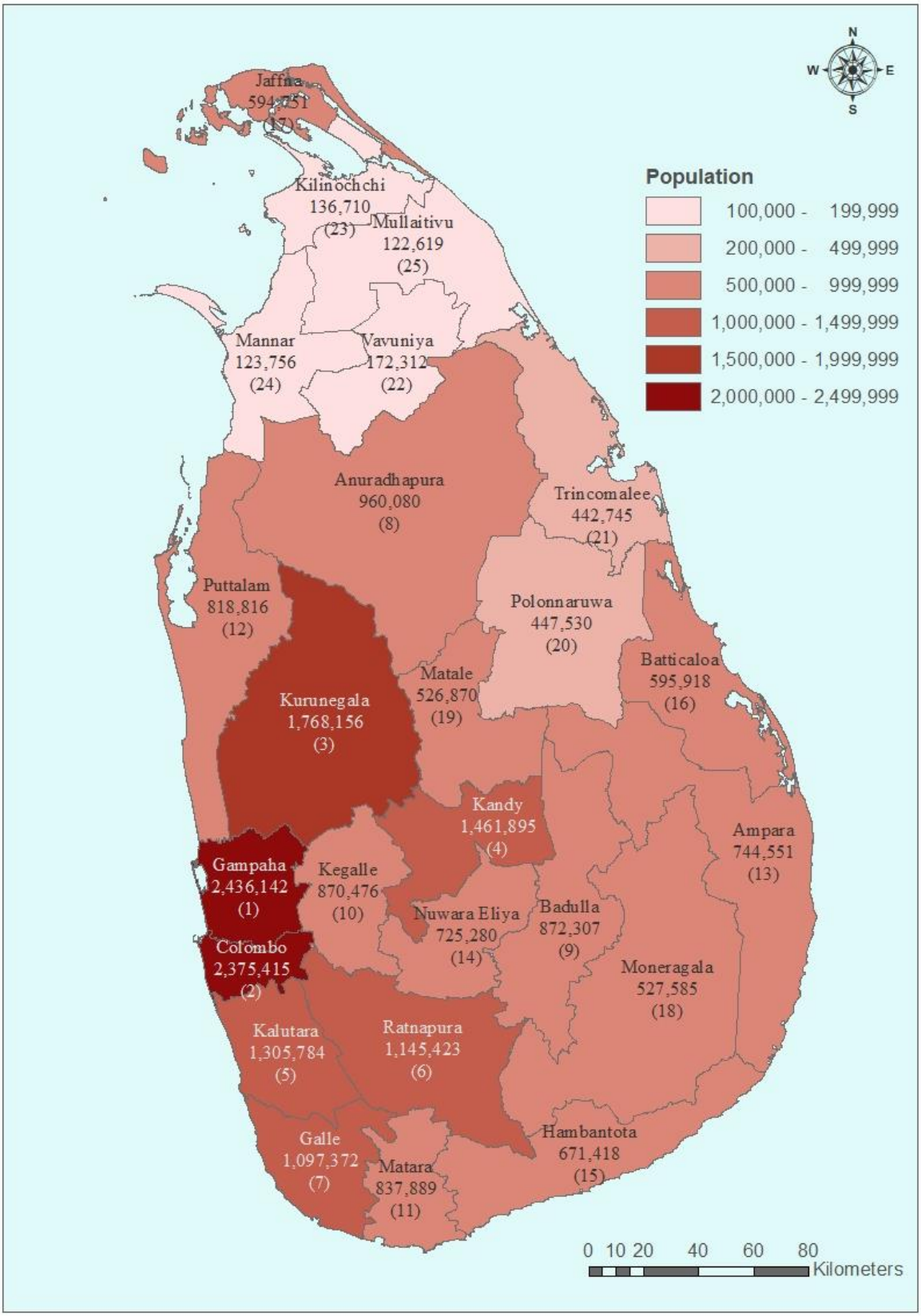


Figure 4.3 : Population Distribution by District, 2024

The map given in Figure 4.4 shows the population distribution in a dot distribution, where a dot indicates 1,000 persons. This figure confirms that the population distribution is asymmetric within the country.

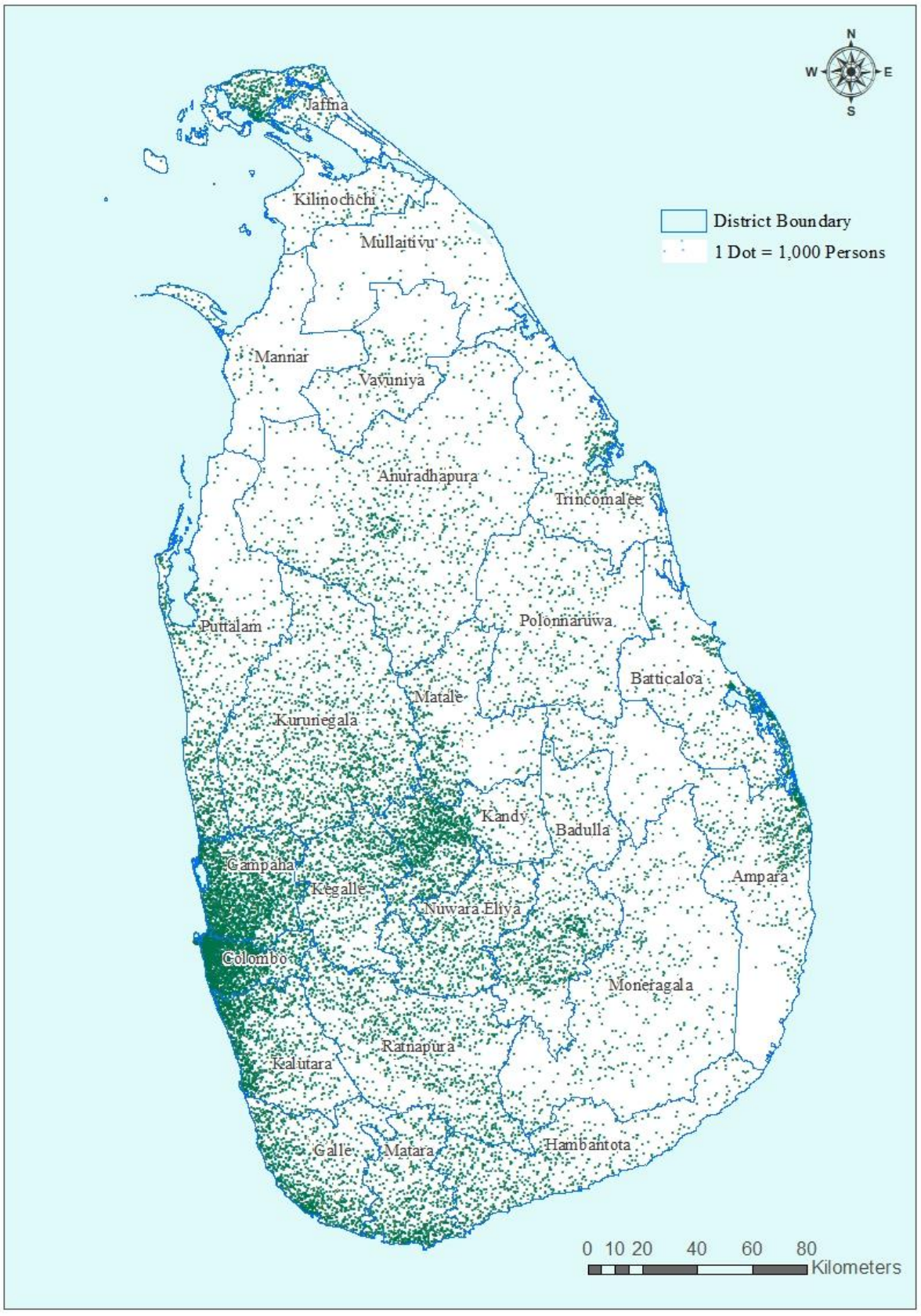


Figure 4.4 : Population Distribution within Sri Lanka, 2024

The bar charts in the map in Figure 4.5 represent the population sizes by district for 2012 and 2024. The population variation during this intercensal period is shown for each corresponding district within the figure.

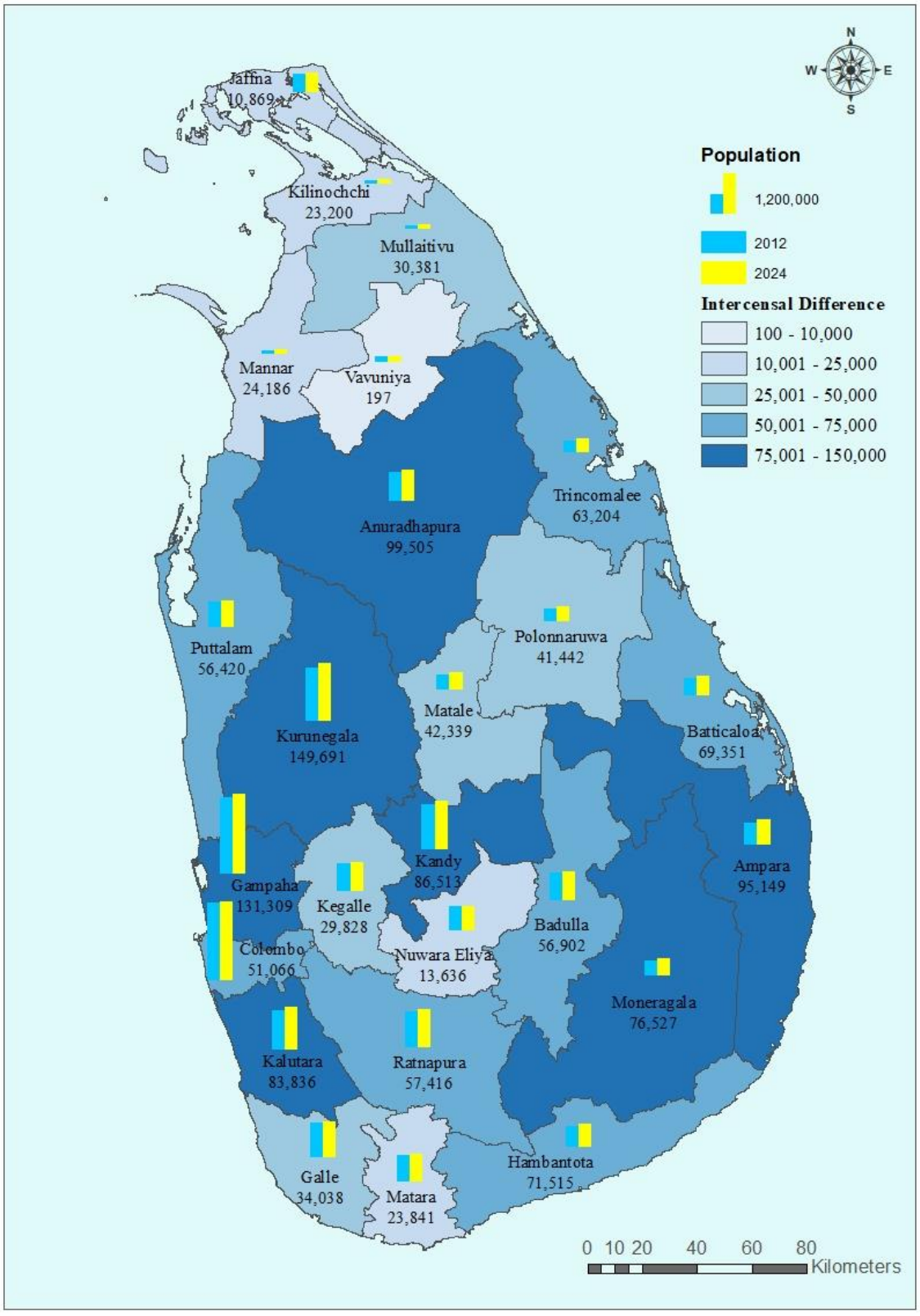


Figure 4.5 : Population Distribution and Intercensal Population Change in Sri Lanka by District, 2012 and 2024

The Figure 4.6 shows the population density by district.

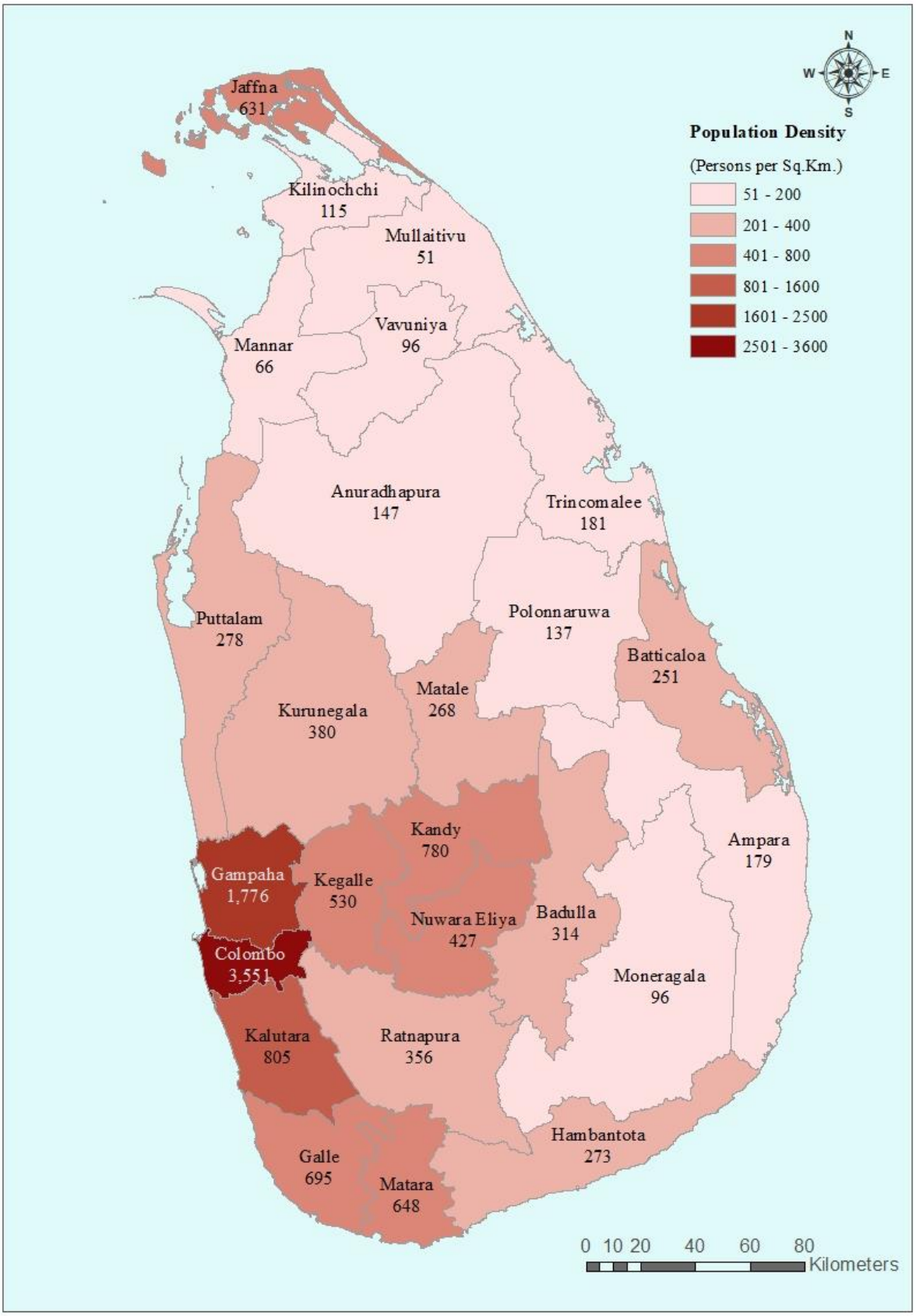
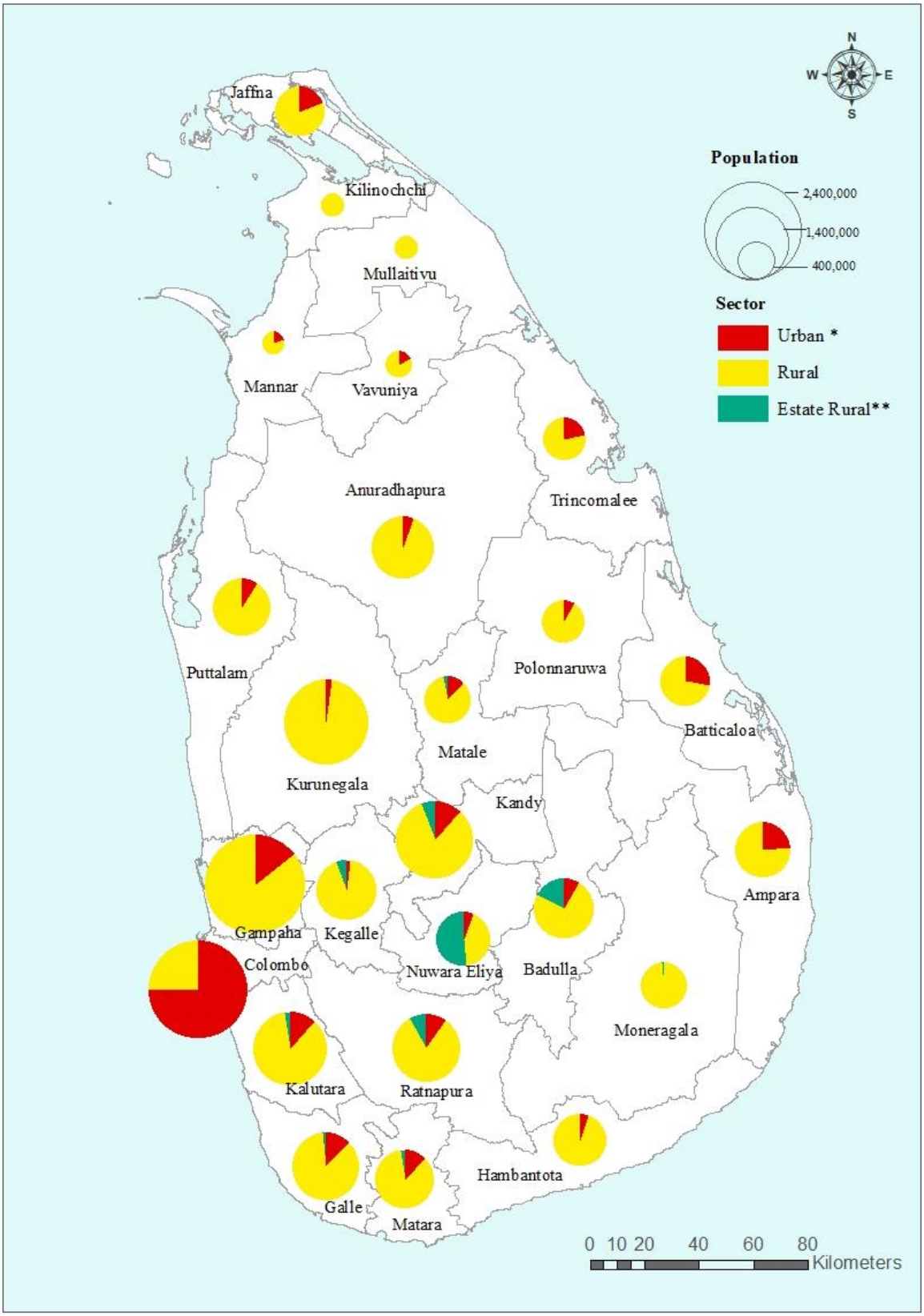


Figure 4.6 : Population Density in Sri Lanka by District, 2024

The map in Figure 4.7 illustrates the distribution of Sri Lanka's population based on the sector of residence.



*Although the Census 2024 collected data separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, these two categories have been combined and presented as "Urban" to facilitate easier comparison with 2012 Census data

**The category identified as "Estate" in the Census 2012 is presented as "Estate Rural" in the Census 2024.

Figure 4.7 : Population Distribution in Sri Lanka by District and Sector, 2024

5. Migration Patterns of the Population

Introduction

Human migration patterns are broadly classified into two categories: international migration and internal migration. Internal migration can be simply defined as the movement of people from one area to another across administrative boundaries within a country to change their residence, while the international migration refers to the movement of people from one country to another, either temporarily or permanently for the purpose of residence.

This chapter is organized into two primary sections. Accordingly, Section 5.1 examines the internal migration and lifetime migration patterns of the country's usually resident population as reported in the 2024 Census. Section 5.2 discusses household members who, while not having a usual place of residence at the time of the census, have been abroad for a period exceeding six months.

5.1 Internal Migration

Detailed information on the size, distribution and migration of the population of Sri Lanka is obtained from the Census of Population and Housing, which is conducted once every ten years. Furthermore, detailed migration information has not been collected from the very small group of people counted under the "Roofless" category.

This section of Chapter Five discusses the internal migration patterns within Sri Lanka. Accordingly, all usual residents (except roofless) were asked questions such as mother's usual residence district/country when a person was born, duration of currently reside in usual residence district, District/Country of previous (last) usual residence, Reason for moving to the district of current residence at the time of the census, Permanent residence district and permanent residence divisional secretariat division.

Concepts and Definition

Migration that occurs across the administrative boundaries of a country to change residence from one area to another is known as internal migration. Internal migration is a major factor that affects the distribution and balance of the population and contributes to imbalances in the distribution of human and physical resources. Therefore, studying the magnitude of internal migration, its directions, and the main factors influencing such migration is very important.

Internal Migrant

An internal migrant is a person who has changed his or her residence from one district to another within Sri Lanka. Accordingly, in the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, any person whose previous district of residence differs from their current district of usual residence is categorized as an internal migrant.

In migration, out migration and net migration

Internal migration patterns can be discussed under three main categories. Migration into a district or is called 'In-migration' and migration out of a district is called 'out-migration', and the difference between these migration flows is called 'net migration'. This net migration can be either a net positive migration or a net negative migration.

Lifetime migration

People whose district of usual residence is different from their district of birth (the mother's district of usual residence at the time of birth) at the time of the census are called 'life-time migrants'.

However, life time migration does not accurately reflect the full amount of migration that has occurred during the lifetime of the respective population and the total number of people who have migrated. This measure excludes all intermediate migrations that occurred between leaving the district of birth and arriving at the current district of usual residence. It also excludes people who have left the district of birth and

migrated back to the district of birth at the time of the census. Accordingly, if a person's district of birth and district of usual residence are the same at the time of the census, he or she is defined as a life-time non-migrant.

Net Migration Rate

The 'Net Migration Rate' is defined as the number of net migrants per thousand of the usually resident population in a district. A positive net migration rate indicates that in-migration to the district is relatively higher, whereas a negative value indicates that out-migration from the district is relatively higher.

Lifetime Migration Effectiveness Ratio (LMER)

The LMER is a demographic indicator that measures the "efficiency" or net impact of migration flows into and out of an area over the lifetime of its current residence. It is calculated using the following formula:

$$LMER = \frac{(Lifetime\ In\ migration - Lifetime\ Out\ migration)}{(Lifetime\ In\ migration + Lifetime\ Out\ migration)} \times 100$$

Lifetime migration

Table 5.1.1 provides an overview of the lifetime migration patterns in Sri Lanka as of the Census of Population and Housing - 2024.

Table 5.1.1 : Lifetime Migrants by District of Dirth and District of Usual Residence, 2024

District	Usual resident population (no roofless and foreign born) (a)	Population born by district of birth (b)	population currently residing in their birth district (c)	Foreign born population	Number of lifetime migrants (d)	% of Lifetime migrant to usual resident population (d)/(a)*100
Sri Lanka	21,755,774	21,755,774	18,922,950	23,709	2,832,824	13.0
Colombo	2,367,524	2,176,000	1,876,288	7,345	491,236	20.7
Gampaha	2,432,195	2,074,667	1,941,334	3,718	490,861	20.2
Kalutara	1,304,757	1,242,525	1,123,880	951	180,877	13.9
Kandy	1,460,164	1,585,038	1,302,243	1,591	157,921	10.8
Matale	526,495	548,896	448,233	354	78,262	14.9
Nuwara Eliya	725,003	836,051	672,433	248	52,570	7.3
Galle	1,096,263	1,188,742	1,008,225	962	88,038	8.0
Matara	837,418	956,258	754,961	338	82,457	9.8
Hambantota	671,189	709,865	606,207	194	64,982	9.7
Jaffna	593,590	646,935	567,486	1,109	26,104	4.4
Mannar	123,213	129,573	107,846	539	15,367	12.5
Vavuniya	171,256	139,892	121,244	1,024	50,012	29.2
Mullaitivu	122,464	109,333	93,185	153	29,279	23.9
Kilinochchi	136,397	120,243	103,674	313	32,723	24.0
Batticaloa	595,672	602,329	576,636	217	19,036	3.2
Ampara	744,304	725,616	672,037	227	72,267	9.7
Trincomalee	442,143	447,395	408,509	579	33,634	7.6
Kurunegala	1,766,965	1,776,441	1,574,556	1,058	192,409	10.9
Puttalam	817,466	793,740	717,800	1,237	99,666	12.2
Anuradhapura	959,507	925,982	814,641	394	144,866	15.1
Polonnaruwa	447,304	410,823	353,730	199	93,574	20.9
Badulla	871,974	960,329	801,537	265	70,437	8.1
Moneragala	527,459	507,458	446,067	73	81,392	15.4
Ratnapura	1,145,019	1,207,749	1,055,938	233	89,081	7.8
Kegalle	870,033	933,894	774,260	388	95,773	11.0

Approximately 13 percent of Sri Lanka's usually resident population are classified as lifetime migrants. The highest percentages of lifetime migrants were reported in Vavuniya (29.2%), Kilinochchi (24.0%), and Mullaitivu (23.9%) districts, respectively. Colombo District reported the highest absolute number of lifetime migrants (491,236). In this census, the lowest lifetime migration rate was reported in the Batticaloa District at 3.2 percent. Jaffna (4.4%) and Nuwara Eliya (7.3%) also showed relatively low levels of lifetime migration.

Lifetime Migration by Age

Lifetime migration can vary depending on a person's age. Accordingly, Figure 5.1.1 shows the number of lifetime migrants by age group, and-the percentage to the total population in that age group.

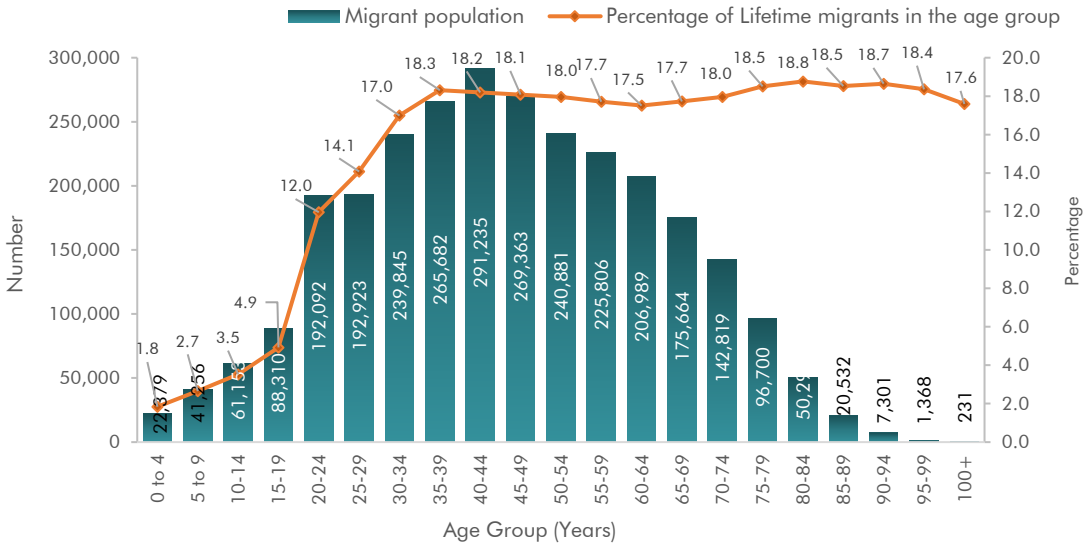


Figure 5.1.1 : Lifetime Migrants by Age Aroup, 2024

Figure 5.1.1 shows that lifetime migration is very low in childhood and increases sharply from late adolescence (15-19 years) onwards. Especially among the 35-49 age group, the number of lifetime migrants and the relative percentage within the age group are high, while after the age of 50, the lifetime migration rate stabilizes.

In, out and net lifetime migrants by district

As shown in Table 5.1.2, in the Western Province, the Gampaha District (+357,528) and Colombo District (+191,524) are the main districts attracting the largest number of lifetime migrants. These districts can be identified as the primary destinations for individuals seeking economic and social opportunities. Approximately one in every four persons who migrated from other districts settled in Gampaha. Conversely, Kandy (-124,874), Matara (-118,840), Nuwara Eliya (-111,048), and Galle (-92,479) districts reported the largest numbers of net negative lifetime migration, indicating substantial out-migration from these areas.

The Table 5.1.2 and Figure 5.1.2 show the Lifetime Migration Effectiveness Ratio by districts. Accordingly, Gampaha is the primary destination with the highest effectiveness index (approx. +57), while Colombo follows at a more moderate +24, likely due to people moving out of the city center into suburban areas. In contrast, Nuwara Eliya (−51) and Jaffna (−50) face the heaviest population drain, acting as the country's main sources of out-migration. Districts like Kurunegala remain nearly neutral (−2), indicating that their incoming and outgoing population flows are almost perfectly balanced. Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu in northern districts also show strong positive migration effectiveness, likely reflecting post-conflict resettlement and regional recovery.

Table 5.1.2 : In, Out and Net Lifetime Migrants by District, 2024

District	Lifetime In-migrants (1)	Lifetime Out-migrants (2)	Lifetime Net-migrants (1) - (2) = (3)	Migration Effectiveness Ratio ((3)/ (1) +(2)) *100
Colombo	491,236	299,712	+191,524	24.2
Gampaha	490,861	133,333	+357,528	57.3
Kalutara	180,877	118,645	+62,232	20.8
Kandy	157,921	282,795	-124,874	-28.3
Matale	78,262	100,663	-22,401	-12.5
Nuwara Eliya	52,570	163,618	-111,048	-51.4
Galle	88,038	180,517	-92,479	-34.4
Matara	82,457	201,297	-118,840	-41.9
Hambantota	64,982	103,658	-38,676	-22.9
Jaffna	26,104	79,449	-53,345	-50.5
Mannar	15,367	21,727	-6,360	-17.1
Vavuniya	50,012	18,648	+31,364	45.7
Mullaitivu	29,279	16,148	+13,131	28.9
Kilinochchi	32,723	16,569	+16,154	32.8
Batticaloa	19,036	25,693	-6,657	-14.9
Ampara	72,267	53,579	+18,688	14.8
Trincomalee	33,634	38,886	-5,252	-7.2
Kurunegala	192,409	201,885	-9,476	-2.4
Puttalam	99,666	75,940	+23,726	13.5
Anuradhapura	144,866	111,341	+33,525	13.1
Polonnaruwa	93,574	57,093	+36,481	24.2
Badulla	70,437	158,792	-88,355	-38.5
Moneragala	81,392	61,391	+20,001	14.0
Ratnapura	89,081	151,811	-62,730	-26.0
Kegalle	95,773	159,634	-63,861	-25.0

Note : + sign represents the in-migration.
- The sign represents out-migration.

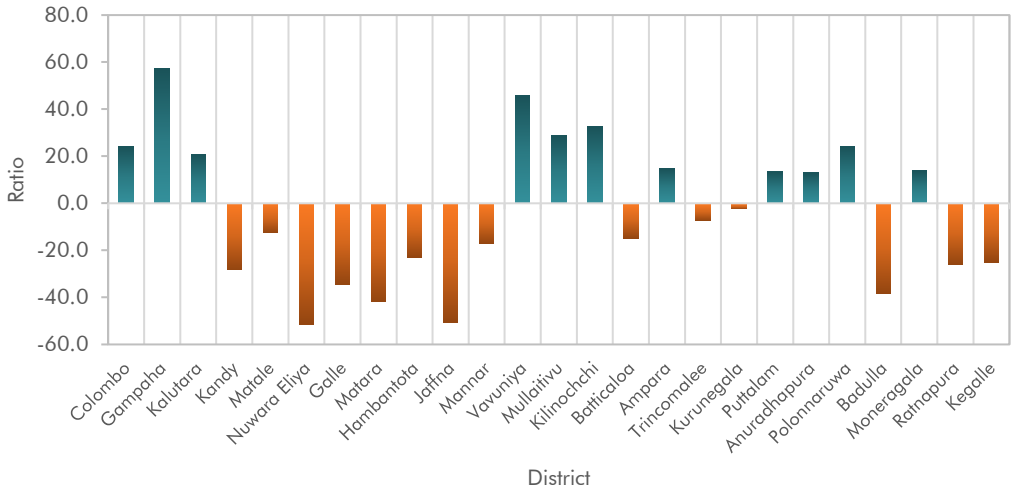


Figure 5.1.2 : Lifetime Migration Effectiveness Ratio by District, 2024

Migration Flows of Lifetime Migrants into and out of districts

It is important to study the patterns of migration flows of lifetime migrants into and out of districts. The following Figure 5.1.3 shows lifetime migration flows clearly by district. Further the figure depicts the flows larger than 10,000 migrants. Also, the information on the three largest migration flows into and out of each district is provided in Tables 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 respectively.

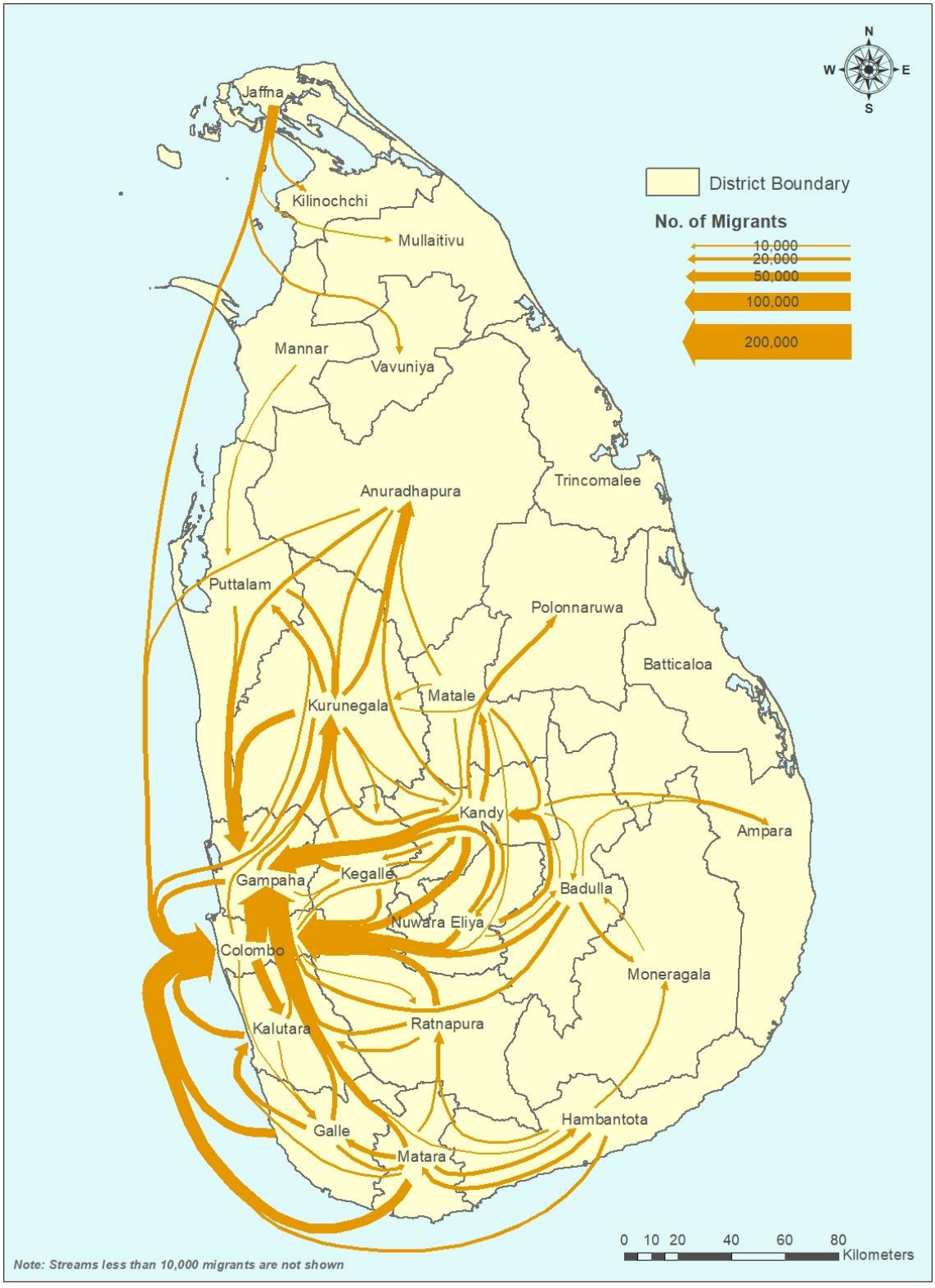


Figure 5.1.3 : Migration Flows (excluding less than 10,000 migrants) by District, 2024

Table 5.1.3 : Largest Migration Flows of Lifetime Migrants by District of Usual Residence, 2024

Usual residence District	Lifetime in migrants	Migrants to the District of Usual Residence					
		Largest stream		2nd Largest stream		3rd Largest stream	
		District	%	District	%	District	%
Colombo	491,236	Matara	10.9	Galle	10.2	Kandy	9.9
Gampaha	490,861	Colombo	23.4	Kurunegala	9.7	Kandy	8.4
Kalutara	180,877	Colombo	33.6	Galle	14.9	Ratnapura	9.4
Kandy	157,921	Nuwara Eliya	17.2	Matale	11.5	Kegalle	9.4
Matale	78,262	Kandy	33.4	Kurunegala	12.1	Anuradhapura	10.3
Nuwara Eliya	52,570	Kandy	36.1	Badulla	17.5	Kegalle	6.5
Galle	88,038	Matara	29.2	Kalutara	13.0	Colombo	12.2
Matara	82,457	Hambantota	25.2	Galle	23.4	Colombo	10.2
Hambantota	64,982	Matara	38.3	Ratnapura	12.0	Galle	9.8
Jaffna	26,104	Kilinochchi	22.0	Mullaitivu	17.0	Vavuniya	8.6
Mannar	15,367	Puttalam	36.0	Jaffna	20.7	Vavuniya	8.4
Vavuniya	50,012	Jaffna	31.9	Kilinochchi	9.1	Mullaitivu	7.9
Mullaitivu	29,279	Jaffna	34.5	Kilinochchi	9.8	Vavuniya	7.3
Kilinochchi	32,723	Jaffna	49.2	Mullaitivu	8.5	Kandy	8.3
Batticaloa	19,036	Ampara	23.4	Trincomalee	11.3	Badulla	10.3
Ampara	72,267	Kandy	19.2	Badulla	15.2	Batticaloa	8.5
Trincomalee	33,634	Anuradhapura	11.6	Kandy	10.8	Jaffna	9.8
Kurunegala	192,409	Kandy	12.7	Gampaha	12.5	Puttalam	11.6
Puttalam	99,666	Kurunegala	27.6	Gampaha	14.9	Mannar	10.5
Anuradhapura	144,866	Kurunegala	17.8	Kandy	14.3	Matale	10.9
Polonnaruwa	93,574	Kandy	18.8	Kurunegala	11.4	Kegalle	10.3
Badulla	70,437	Nuwara Eliya	14.9	Kandy	14.7	Moneragala	14.6
Moneragala	81,392	Badulla	25.9	Hambantota	17.9	Ratnapura	11.2
Ratnapura	89,081	Hambantota	14.1	Matara	13.1	Colombo	12.1
Kegalle	95,773	Kandy	17.8	Kurunegala	14.1	Colombo	10.9

Table 5.1.4 : Largest Migration Flows of Lifetime Migrants who have Migrated Out of their District of Birth, 2024

District of Birth	Lifetime out migrants	Migrants from District of birth to Other Districts					
		Largest stream		2nd Largest stream		3rd Largest stream	
		District	%	District	%	District	%
Colombo	299,712	Gampaha	38.3	Kalutara	20.3	Kurunegala	4.9
Gampaha	133,333	Colombo	25.7	Kurunegala	18.1	Puttalam	11.2
Kalutara	118,645	Colombo	35.9	Gampaha	15.9	Galle	9.6
Kandy	282,795	Colombo	17.2	Gampaha	14.6	Matale	9.3
Matale	100,663	Kandy	18.1	Anuradhapura	15.7	Gampaha	12.5
Nuwara Eliya	163,618	Colombo	21.4	Gampaha	17.3	Kandy	16.6
Galle	180,517	Colombo	27.8	Gampaha	15.6	Kalutara	15.0
Matara	201,297	Colombo	26.6	Gampaha	14.5	Galle	12.8
Hambantota	103,658	Matara	20.1	Colombo	17.9	Moneragala	14.0
Jaffna	79,449	Colombo	20.5	Kilinochchi	20.3	Vavuniya	20.0
Mannar	21,727	Puttalam	48.0	Vavuniya	13.7	Jaffna	6.9
Vavuniya	18,648	Anuradhapura	23.2	Jaffna	12.0	Mullaitivu	11.5
Mullaitivu	16,148	Jaffna	27.5	Vavuniya	24.4	Kilinochchi	17.1
Kilinochchi	16,569	Jaffna	34.7	Vavuniya	27.5	Mullaitivu	17.2
Batticaloa	25,693	Ampara	23.9	Colombo	14.8	Trincomalee	9.1
Ampara	53,579	Colombo	14.2	Gampaha	12.2	Polonnaruwa	9.2
Trincomalee	38,886	Anuradhapura	12.7	Gampaha	12.3	Colombo	9.6
Kurunegala	201,885	Gampaha	23.5	Puttalam	13.6	Anuradhapura	12.8
Puttalam	75,940	Kurunegala	29.5	Gampaha	26.9	Colombo	9.2
Anuradhapura	111,341	Gampaha	19.2	Kurunegala	16.3	Colombo	12.0
Polonnaruwa	57,093	Gampaha	15.3	Kurunegala	11.2	Kandy	11.2
Badulla	158,792	Colombo	20.8	Gampaha	15.2	Moneragala	13.3
Moneragala	61,391	Badulla	16.8	Colombo	15.7	Gampaha	12.5
Ratnapura	151,811	Colombo	27.3	Gampaha	15.0	Kalutara	11.2
Kegalle	159,634	Gampaha	21.7	Colombo	18.0	Kurunegala	13.4

Migration by Previous District of Residence

By studying migration based on the district of usual residence and the previous district of residence, we can identify various migration patterns. Only the previous district of residence is considered here and any prior residence in another country is not taken into account.

Migrant and Non-migrant population by Age groups

Figure 5.1.4 illustrates the migrant and non-migrant populations of Sri Lanka by sex and age group. It reflects that migration is concentrated among the working-age youth and middle-aged individuals, specifically between 20 and 59 years. In most age categories, the number of female migrants is slightly higher than male migrants, highlighting a significant female participation in migration. From around age 45, both migrant and non-migrant populations gradually decrease. Additionally, children and adolescents show very low migration rates.

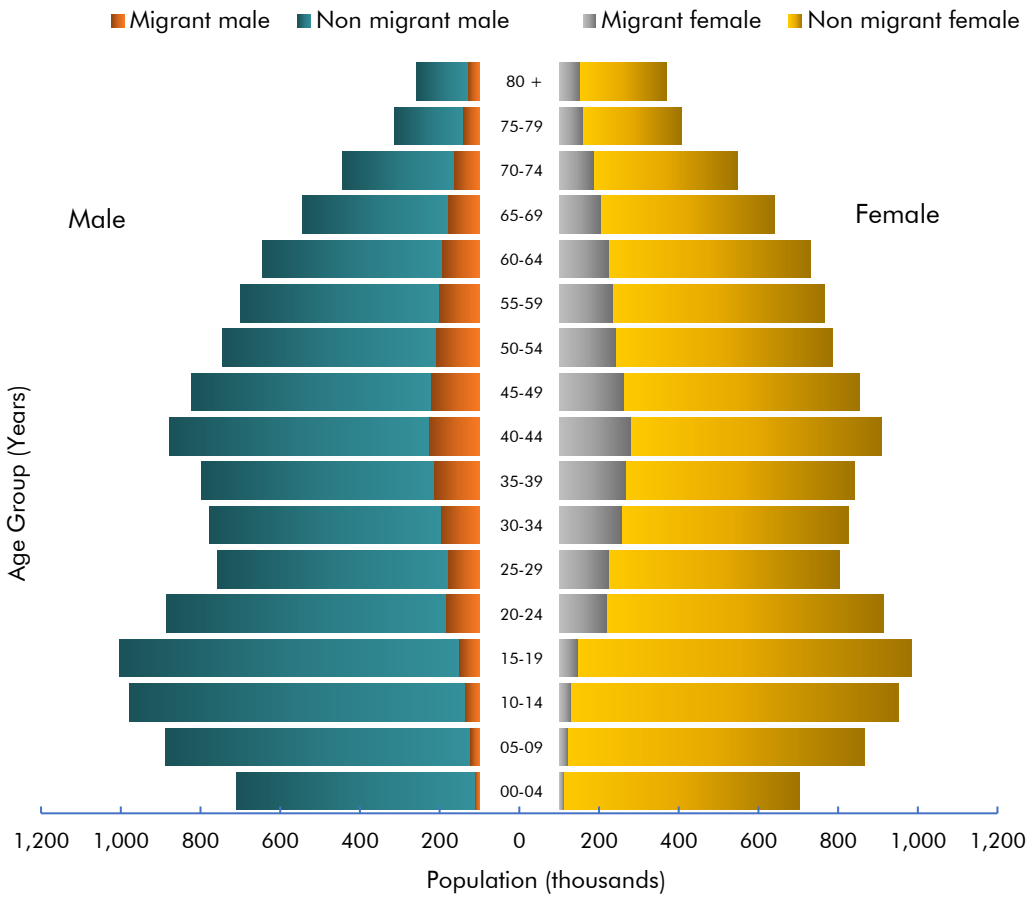


Figure 5.1.4 : Migrant and Non-Migrant Population, 2024

In, Out and Net Migration by District

As shown in Table 5.1.5, according to the Census of Population and Housing 2024, the migrant population moving into the Gampaha and Colombo districts exceeds 0.5 million. Additionally, while Colombo has a high number of people moving in, it also shows a high number of people moving out. The lowest number of people moving out (out-migration) was reported in Mullaitivu district, while the lowest number of people moving in (in-migration) was reported in the Batticaloa district."

Table 5.1.5 : In-migration, Out-migration, and Net Migration by District, 2024

District	In migration	Out migration	Net migration
Colombo	519,379	384,245	+135,134
Gampaha	524,737	155,712	+369,025
Kalutara	192,833	126,566	+66,267
Kandy	172,489	287,823	-115,334
Matale	82,805	105,145	-22,340
Nuwara Eliya	60,934	169,381	-108,447
Galle	95,154	183,490	-88,336
Matara	95,958	202,894	-106,936
Hambantota	69,567	107,848	-38,281
Jaffna	29,253	76,684	-47,431
Mannar	22,572	26,683	-4,111
Vavuniya	43,046	51,931	-8,885
Mullaitivu	27,573	1,981	+25,592
Kilinochchi	50,544	2,030	+48,514
Batticaloa	20,395	28,134	-7,739
Ampara	76,457	57,987	+18,470
Trincomalee	35,253	42,261	-7,008
Kurunegala	205,372	210,715	-5,343
Puttalam	104,263	88,874	+15,389
Anuradhapura	153,432	119,607	+33,825
Polonnaruwa	96,237	62,382	+33,855
Badulla	74,945	160,850	-85,905
Moneragala	85,183	64,841	+20,342
Ratnapura	95,751	155,436	-59,685
Kegalle	102,066	162,698	-60,632

Duration of Residence and Reason for Migration

Table 5.1.6 presents the duration of residence for in-migrants within their current district of usual residence. The data reveals that 62.9 percent of the total in-migrant population has resided in their current district for 10 years or more, indicating that internal migration in Sri Lanka is predominantly characterized by long-term mobility.

Furthermore, Table 5.1.7 enumerates the primary reasons for migrating to the district of usual residence. When considering the total migrant population, marriage emerges as the leading cause of migration, accounting for 41.8 percent of all movements. This is followed by employment or job-seeking (17.5%) and family-related reasons (16.6%).

Table 5.1.6 : In-migrants by District of Usual Residence and Duration of Residence, 2024

District of usual residence	In Migrant population	Duration of Residence (Years)					
		4 years or less		05 - 09 years		10 years or over	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	3,036,198	749,687	24.7	376,714	12.4	1,909,797	62.9
Colombo	519,379	149,236	28.7	65,105	12.5	305,038	58.7
Gampaha	524,737	139,859	26.7	71,540	13.6	313,338	59.7
Kalutara	192,833	47,096	24.4	28,994	15.0	116,743	60.5
Kandy	172,489	44,174	25.6	22,248	12.9	106,067	61.5
Matale	82,805	17,519	21.2	10,310	12.5	54,976	66.4
Nuwara Eliya	60,934	13,415	22.0	7,253	11.9	40,266	66.1
Galle	95,154	24,208	25.4	12,492	13.1	58,454	61.4
Matara	95,958	24,796	25.8	12,589	13.1	58,573	61.0
Hambantota	69,567	15,048	21.6	9,723	14.0	44,796	64.4
Jaffna	29,253	10,935	37.4	3,688	12.6	14,630	50.0
Mannar	22,572	3,292	14.6	2,220	9.8	17,060	75.6
Vavuniya	43,046	9,395	21.8	4,099	9.5	29,552	68.7
Mullaitivu	27,573	5,132	18.6	2,692	9.8	19,749	71.6
Kilinochchi	50,544	6,423	12.7	2,953	5.8	41,168	81.4
Batticaloa	20,395	9,791	48.0	2,368	11.6	8,236	40.4
Ampara	76,457	15,547	20.3	6,795	8.9	54,115	70.8
Trincomalee	35,253	8,426	23.9	4,603	13.1	22,224	63.0
Kurunegala	205,372	53,587	26.1	26,516	12.9	125,269	61.0
Puttalam	104,263	24,566	23.6	11,316	10.9	68,381	65.6
Anuradhapura	153,432	32,249	21.0	16,636	10.8	104,547	68.1
Polonnaruwa	96,237	12,868	13.4	7,976	8.3	75,393	78.3
Badulla	74,945	20,503	27.4	9,582	12.8	44,860	59.9
Moneragala	85,183	15,604	18.3	9,808	11.5	59,771	70.2
Ratnapura	95,751	23,481	24.5	12,010	12.5	60,260	62.9
Kegalle	102,066	22,537	22.1	13,198	12.9	66,331	65.0

Table 5.1.7 : Reasons for Migration from District of Previous Residence to District of Usual Residence, 2024

District of Usual Residence	Migrant population	Reason for migration (%)								
		Marriage	Employment/ Searching for job	Education	Accompanied a family member	Returning for permanent residence	Development projects	Resettled after displacement	A disaster/a displaced happened in the prior place	Other
Total	3,036,198	41.8	17.5	6.6	16.6	10.3	1.3	2.4	1.4	2.1
Colombo	519,379	25.5	37.8	11.8	17.4	5.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.4
Gampaha	524,737	34.9	26.1	4.3	19.0	12.8	0.2	0.2	0.6	1.8
Kalutara	192,833	43.0	11.3	3.4	17.3	19.7	0.1	0.5	1.1	3.6
Kandy	172,489	50.5	9.7	10.7	15.7	10.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	2.1
Matale	82,805	57.3	8.6	3.1	16.2	11.0	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.8
Nuwara Eliya	60,934	59.6	10.2	3.5	16.7	5.6	0.5	1.3	1.4	1.2
Galle	95,154	57.2	10.3	5.8	13.8	8.8	0.0	0.2	0.5	3.3
Matara	95,958	54.8	6.9	8.9	12.3	14.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	2.2
Hambantota	69,567	61.6	7.4	2.3	12.6	9.9	0.9	0.3	0.8	4.3
Jaffna	29,253	11.9	10.7	20.1	12.9	21.4	0.0	21.0	0.6	1.3
Mannar	22,572	15.3	5.3	1.4	12.8	11.3	0.1	48.5	5.0	0.4
Vavuniya	43,046	21.0	11.0	6.0	21.2	6.6	1.7	17.6	14.3	0.7
Mullaitivu	27,573	27.0	11.5	2.3	19.5	8.9	7.0	10.4	12.3	1.1
Kilinochchi	50,544	12.7	6.3	4.8	11.2	6.1	0.4	50.7	7.3	0.4
Batticaloa	20,395	29.6	13.3	26.0	16.2	7.4	0.2	2.4	3.8	1.1
Ampara	76,457	35.1	8.4	8.6	14.4	14.9	14.2	1.1	2.1	1.2
Trincomalee	35,253	39.9	12.8	6.9	23.8	7.2	1.4	4.9	2.1	1.0
Kurunegala	205,372	54.5	10.1	5.8	16.0	9.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	2.9
Puttalam	104,263	41.1	14.9	2.7	17.9	7.0	0.6	7.6	6.2	2.0
Anuradhapura	153,432	45.3	9.3	6.5	19.0	9.5	4.8	1.4	1.5	2.5
Polonnaruwa	96,237	41.6	8.8	2.1	17.8	14.2	11.9	0.7	1.3	1.7
Badulla	74,945	58.8	9.2	8.6	12.5	7.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	2.2
Moneragala	85,183	52.5	12.4	2.4	15.6	12.8	1.3	0.2	0.8	2.0
Ratnapura	95,751	55.4	10.8	5.8	14.7	9.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	3.2
Kegalle	102,066	66.0	6.9	3.8	12.4	7.8	0.0	0.1	0.5	2.5

The primary reason for migration to the Colombo District is employment or seeking a job (37.8%), a proportion higher than that observed in other districts. In contrast, in districts such as Kegalle and Hambantota, marriage is the main factor driving migration, exceeding 60 percent. In the Northern Province, including the districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, and Vavuniya, resettlement after displacement is the main factor influencing migration, with Kilinochchi showing a maximum of 50.7 percent. In Jaffna District, return migration for permanent residence (20.1%) represents a significantly high proportion. Unlike most other districts, in Ampara (14.2%) and Polonnaruwa (11.9%), a notable share of migration is driven by development projects.

Net Migration Rates by District, 2012 and 2024

Figure 5.1.5 presents a comparative analysis of the Net Migration Rates by district of usual residence for the years 2012 and 2024. Accordingly, in 2024, the highest net out-migration rate was reported in the Nuwara Eliya district (-149.6), followed by the Matara district (-128.1). Furthermore, high net negative migration rates were also reported in the Badulla, Jaffna, and Galle districts (-98.6, -86.4, and -80.7, respectively). The districts of Jaffna and Trincomalee, which were reported as having net positive migration in 2012, have shifted to net negative migration districts in 2024.

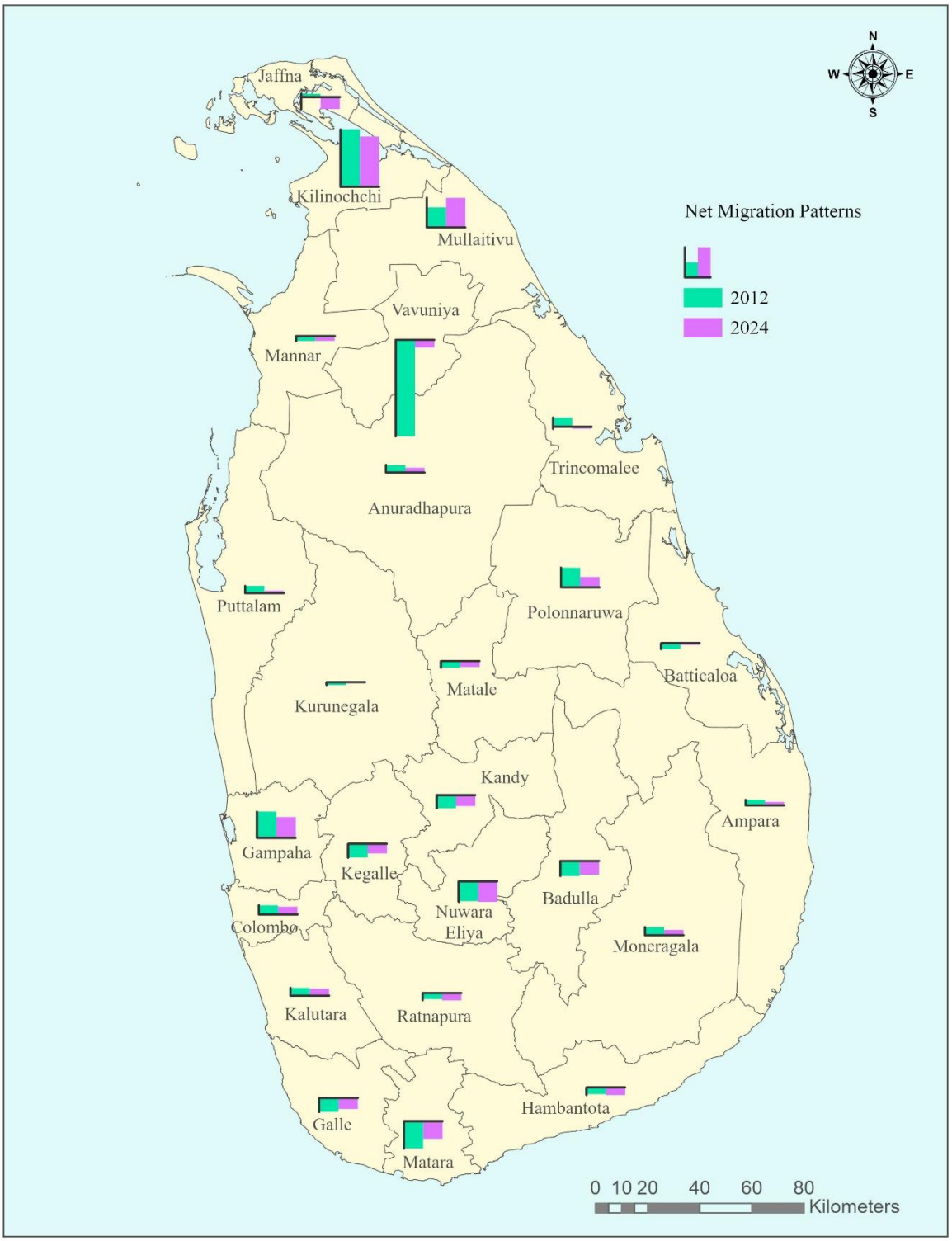


Figure 5.1.5 : The Net Migratory Rates by Districts, 2012 and 2024

Permanent Residence

According to Table 5.1.8, 97.9 percent (454,034) of the total population in Sri Lanka reside in the same district as their permanent residence. Among the usually resident population, the highest percentage of those holding permanent residence in a different district is reported in the Colombo District (5.5%). This figure stands at 3.9 percent in the Gampaha District, while Kilinochchi and Vavuniya districts reported 3.4 percent and 2.1 percent respectively. In all other districts, this percentage remains below 2 percent.

Table 5.1.8 : Distribution of the Usually Resident Population of a District by their Permanent Residence, 2024

Usual residence District	usual residence Population* (a)	Population usually reside in permanent residence district		Population with permanent residence in another district	
		Number (b)	Percentage	Number (a-b)	Percentage
Total	21,779,483	21,325,449	97.9	454,034	2.1
Colombo	2,374,869	2,244,323	94.5	130,546	5.5
Gampaha	2,435,913	2,340,241	96.1	95,672	3.9
Kalutara	1,305,708	1,287,854	98.6	17,854	1.4
Kandy	1,461,755	1,434,821	98.1	26,934	1.8
Matale	526,849	518,870	98.5	7,979	1.5
Nuwara Eliya	725,251	719,906	99.3	5,345	0.7
Galle	1,097,225	1,084,085	98.8	13,140	1.2
Matara	837,756	825,062	98.5	12,694	1.5
Hambantota	671,383	664,855	99.0	6,528	1.0
Jaffna	594,699	585,641	98.5	9,058	1.5
Mannar	123,752	122,800	99.2	952	0.8
Vavuniya	172,280	168,602	97.8	3,678	2.1
Mullaitivu	122,617	120,696	98.4	1,921	1.6
Kilinochchi	136,710	132,107	96.6	4,603	3.4
Batticaloa	595,889	588,704	98.8	7,185	1.2
Ampara	744,531	735,399	98.8	9,132	1.2
Trincomalee	442,722	438,683	99.1	4,039	0.9
Kurunegala	1,768,023	1,742,683	98.6	25,340	1.4
Puttalam	818,703	805,775	98.4	12,928	1.6
Anuradhapura	959,901	944,348	98.4	15,553	1.6
Polonnaruwa	447,503	441,668	98.7	5,835	1.3
Badulla	872,239	861,106	98.7	11,133	1.3
Moneragala	527,532	522,063	99.0	5,469	1.0
Ratnapura	1,145,252	1,134,639	99.1	10,613	0.9
Kegalle	870,421	860,518	98.9	9,903	1.1

*Excluding roofless population and person whose permanent residence is another country.

5.2 Population Temporarily Living Abroad

According to the Census of Population and Housing 2024, this analysis in chapter five is presented based on information regarding individuals living abroad temporarily for more than six months. In this context, "individuals temporarily living abroad" refers to persons who belonging to the household, but who have gone abroad for more than 6 months or who have gone abroad with the intention of staying abroad for more than 6 months. (except for permanent residence).

During the census, if there were individuals from a household who were temporarily living abroad, information regarding them was collected through a suitable respondent of that respective household. However, in instances where all members of a household were temporarily living abroad, it was not possible to collect information on those individuals; therefore, such data is not included in this analysis.

According to the Census of Population and Housing 2024, the total number of persons belonging to the household, but who have gone abroad for more than 6 months or who have gone abroad with the intention of staying abroad for more than 6 months. (except for permanent residence) was reported as 672,249.

Information regarding the population temporarily living abroad is presented in Table 5.2.1.

Table 5.2.1 : Population Temporarily Living Abroad by District and Sex, 2024

District	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	672,249	100.0	412,735	100.0	259,514	100.0
Colombo	71,439	10.6	43,531	10.5	27,908	10.8
Gampaha	86,077	12.8	54,734	13.3	31,343	12.1
Kalutara	41,352	6.2	25,238	6.1	16,114	6.2
Kandy	57,230	8.5	35,518	8.6	21,712	8.4
Matale	20,064	3.0	10,682	2.6	9,382	3.6
Nuwara-Eliya	16,913	2.5	6,158	1.5	10,755	4.2
Galle	40,344	6.0	25,283	6.1	15,061	5.8
Matara	21,320	3.2	14,822	3.6	6,498	2.5
Hambantota	14,231	2.1	9,432	2.3	4,799	1.8
Jaffna	9,425	1.4	8,091	2.0	1,334	0.5
Mannar	1,640	0.2	1,228	0.3	412	0.2
Vavuniya	3,621	0.6	2,413	0.6	1,208	0.5
Mullaitivu	1,383	0.2	961	0.2	422	0.2
Kilinochchi	1,625	0.2	1,309	0.3	316	0.1
Batticaloa	28,259	4.2	23,723	5.7	4,536	1.7
Ampara	31,337	4.7	26,917	6.5	4,420	1.7
Trincomalee	11,622	1.7	7,193	1.7	4,429	1.7
Kurunegala	64,116	9.5	34,699	8.4	29,417	11.3
Puttalam	47,223	7.0	27,185	6.6	20,038	7.7
Anuradhapura	25,622	3.8	12,343	3.0	13,279	5.1
Polonnaruwa	13,216	2.0	6,433	1.6	6,783	2.6
Badulla	13,232	2.0	5,749	1.4	7,483	2.9
Moneragala	4,828	0.7	2,765	0.7	2,063	0.8
Ratnapura	18,696	2.8	10,145	2.5	8,551	3.3
Kegalle	27,434	4.1	16,183	3.9	11,251	4.3

Out of the total population temporarily living abroad, 412,735 (61.4%) were males and 259,514 (38.6%) were females. Also, of the total population temporarily living abroad, 12.8 percent were reported from the Gampaha District, 10.6 percent from the Colombo District, and 9.5 percent from the Kurunegala District, while the lowest percentage, 0.2 percent, was reported from the Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi Districts.

According to Figure 5.2.1, the majority of the population temporarily living abroad, accounting for 66.8 percent (449,369), belonged to the 30–59 years age group. In addition, 2.9 percent (19,383) were persons under 18 years of age, while 2.4 percent (16,124) were aged 60 years and over.

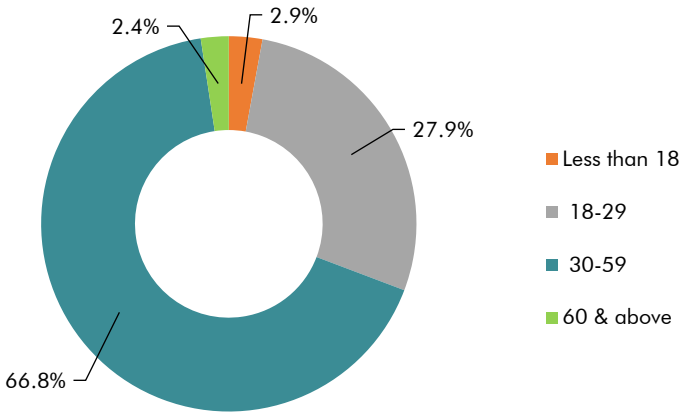


Figure 5.2.1 : Population Temporarily Living Abroad by Age Group, 2024

According to Table 5.2.2, the majority of the population reported as temporarily living abroad was from the rural sector (512,965). Furthermore, in every sector, the highest number of persons who had gone abroad belonged to the 30–59 years age group.

Table 5.2.2 : Population Temporarily Living Abroad by Sector, Sex and Age Group, 2024

Sector by Sex	Total	Age Group (Years)			
		Less than 18	18-29	30-59	60 & over
Total	672,249	19,383	187,373	449,369	16,124
Male	412,735	9,872	127,016	268,174	7,673
Female	259,514	9,511	60,357	181,195	8,451
Urban*	130,648	6,102	38,344	82,067	4,135
Male	87,781	3,054	25,809	56,438	2,480
Female	42,867	3,048	12,535	25,629	1,655
Rural	512,965	13,199	142,788	345,206	11,772
Male	318,828	6,785	99,100	207,776	5,167
Female	194,137	6,414	43,688	137,430	6,605
Estate Rural **	28,636	82	6,241	22,096	217
Male	6,126	33	2,107	3,960	26
Female	22,510	49	4,134	18,136	191

*In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".

** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural."

When compared by sex, it is observed that in both the urban and rural sectors, the number of males temporarily residing abroad exceeds that of females. However, in the estate rural sector, across all age categories, there is a notably higher prevalence of females temporarily residing abroad compared to males.

According to Table 5.2.3, the primary reason for temporary migration is employment. Accordingly, 86.0 percent (577,919) of the total population who migrated temporarily for employment purposes, while 8.0 percent (53,621) migrated for education. Additionally, 5.7 percent (38,218) migrated for reasons such as a family member's education, employment, or lookafter. A very small percentage, specifically 0.3 percent (2,491), migrated temporarily for other reasons.

Table 5.2.3 : Population Temporarily Living Abroad by District and Main Reason for Living in Abroad, 2024

District	Total		Main reason for living in abroad							
			Employment		Education		Accompanied a family member's need		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	672,249	100.0	577,919	86.0	53,621	8.0	38,218	5.7	2,491	0.3
Colombo	71,439	100.0	51,449	72.0	12,339	17.3	7,230	10.1	421	0.6
Gampaha	86,077	100.0	67,844	78.8	10,894	12.7	7,028	8.1	311	0.4
Kalutara	41,352	100.0	34,819	84.2	3,953	9.6	2,469	6.0	111	0.2
Kandy	57,230	100.0	48,904	85.5	4,242	7.4	3,891	6.8	193	0.3
Matale	20,064	100.0	18,526	92.3	755	3.8	730	3.6	53	0.3
Nuwara-Eliya	16,913	100.0	15,895	94.0	402	2.4	572	3.4	44	0.2
Galle	40,344	100.0	35,722	88.5	2,954	7.3	1,555	3.9	113	0.3
Matara	21,320	100.0	18,282	85.8	2,145	10.1	840	3.9	53	0.2
Hambantota	14,231	100.0	12,606	88.6	1,184	8.3	408	2.9	33	0.2
Jaffna	9,425	100.0	7,653	81.2	877	9.3	589	6.2	306	3.3
Mannar	1,640	100.0	1,506	91.8	78	4.8	35	2.1	21	1.3
Vavuniya	3,621	100.0	2,950	81.5	307	8.5	265	7.3	99	2.7
Mullaitivu	1,383	100.0	1,215	87.9	68	4.9	73	5.3	27	1.9
Kilinochchi	1,625	100.0	1,309	80.6	120	7.4	138	8.5	58	3.5
Batticaloa	28,259	100.0	26,980	95.5	490	1.7	745	2.6	44	0.2
Ampara	31,337	100.0	29,074	92.8	603	1.9	1,620	5.2	40	0.1
Trincomalee	11,622	100.0	10,886	93.7	301	2.6	388	3.3	47	0.4
Kurunegala	64,116	100.0	57,039	89.0	4,412	6.8	2,535	4.0	130	0.2
Puttalam	47,223	100.0	40,874	86.6	2,373	5.0	3,841	8.1	135	0.3
Anuradhapura	25,622	100.0	24,102	94.1	966	3.8	497	1.9	57	0.2
Polonnaruwa	13,216	100.0	12,558	95.0	355	2.7	281	2.1	22	0.2
Badulla	13,232	100.0	12,233	92.5	633	4.8	330	2.5	36	0.2
Moneragala	4,828	100.0	4,503	93.3	225	4.6	91	1.9	9	0.2
Ratnapura	18,696	100.0	16,927	90.5	1,175	6.3	555	3.0	39	0.2
Kegalle	27,434	100.0	24,063	87.7	1,770	6.5	1,512	5.5	89	0.3

The number of people temporarily migrating for education is relatively high in districts such as Colombo (12,339) and Gampaha (10,894). Considering the district level, the highest number of people migrating for employment is reported from the Gampaha district (67,844), while the lowest number is reported from the Mullaitivu district (1,215).

Table 5.2.4 : Population Temporarily Living Abroad by Main Reason for Living Abroad and Age Group, 2024

Age (Years)	Total		Main reason for living abroad							
			Employment		Education		Accompanied a family member's need		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	672,249	100.0	577,919	86.0	53,621	8.0	38,218	5.7	2,491	0.3
Less than 18	19,383	100.0	0	0.0	1,486	7.7	17,862	92.1	35	0.2
18 - 29	187,373	100.0	142,256	75.9	38,053	20.3	6,348	3.4	716	0.4
30 - 59	449,369	100.0	423,249	94.2	14,042	3.1	10,530	2.3	1,548	0.4
60 & over	16,124	100.0	12,414	77.0	40	0.2	3,478	21.6	192	1.2

According to Table 5.2.4, the majority of the population residing temporarily abroad for employment purposes (423,249) falls within the 30–59 age group. Furthermore, 53,621 (8.0%) individuals have traveled abroad for education, with the vast majority (38,053) belonging to the 18–29 age category. Among those under the age of 18, the highest number (17,862) migrated for family-related reasons.

As indicated in Table 5.2.5, the highest percentages of the temporarily overseas population are reported in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Among the male population migrating for employment, the highest proportion (18.3%) was reported in the United Arab Emirates, whereas the highest proportion of the female population (34.3%) was reported in Kuwait.

Regarding migration for education, 24.1percent of the population migrated to Australia, while 21.3 percent migrated to Japan. The highest percentage of the population who temporarily moved abroad to accompanied a family member's need was reported from Italy.

Table 5.2.5 : Population Temporarily Living Abroad, by Main Reason for Living Abroad, Country of Residence and Sex, 2024

Country of residence	Total			Main reason for living abroad (%)											
				Employment			Education			Accompanied a family member's need			Other		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	672,249	412,735	259,514	577,919	367,680	210,239	53,621	29,735	23,886	38,218	14,422	23,796	2,491	898	1,593
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Kuwait	15.2	7.1	28.3	17.4	7.8	34.3	0.6	0.5	0.8	3.7	2.8	4.2	4.5	2.0	5.8
United Arab Emirates	14.8	16.8	11.6	16.2	18.3	12.7	2.5	2.6	2.5	11.2	10.9	11.5	6.9	7.5	6.6
Saudi Arabia	11.6	9.1	15.5	13.0	10.0	18.4	0.7	0.9	0.5	5.6	5.0	6.0	3.6	2.9	4.0
Qatar	10.5	15.3	2.9	11.8	16.8	2.8	0.7	1.0	0.4	6.7	7.4	6.2	2.7	3.2	2.4
Italy	6.0	6.4	5.5	5.8	6.3	4.8	2.6	2.5	2.7	14.5	15.8	13.7	6.5	6.8	6.3
Japan	5.4	6.3	3.9	3.8	5.0	1.9	21.3	23.5	18.6	6.0	5.2	6.6	4.8	4.6	4.9
Australia	5.0	4.8	5.4	2.8	2.9	2.6	24.1	24.5	23.6	11.2	10.8	11.5	10.5	11.0	10.1
South Korea	3.5	5.3	0.6	3.8	5.8	0.4	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.1
United Kingdom	2.8	2.6	3.0	1.7	1.8	1.6	9.0	8.6	9.5	9.1	9.7	8.7	9.8	6.1	11.9
Canada	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.9	1.0	7.4	6.9	8.1	5.5	6.0	5.2	7.9	7.9	7.8
Maldives	1.8	2.6	0.6	2.1	2.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.3
Oman	1.8	1.1	3.0	2.0	1.1	3.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
United States of America	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.6	5.2	6.0	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.2	6.7	4.4
Malaysia	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.3	2.1	0.9
Israel	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.7	1.9	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.2
Jordan	1.2	0.6	2.0	1.3	0.6	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
Other	13.4	14.3	11.9	12.2	13.5	9.7	22.4	20.9	24.2	17.6	17.9	17.5	33.8	36.1	32.5

6. Demographic and Social Characteristics

6.1 Age, Sex, Religion and Ethnic Group

6.1.1 Introduction

Understanding the composition and social characteristics of a population is essential for national policy formulation, resource allocation, and the preparation of development plans. Based on data from the Census of Population and Housing 2024, this section presents information on the demographic and social structure of Sri Lanka and its related indicators. Specific focus is placed on fundamental data such as age and sex structure, the sex ratio, population pyramids, population distribution by district, population distribution by age group, dependency ratios, the size of the elderly population, the aging index, the median age of the population, and the distribution of population by religion and Ethnic group.

Concepts and Definitions

Age

In this census, age of a person has been calculated based on their date of birth. To obtain this information, the year and month of birth were reported during the Census of Population and Housing 2024. Accordingly, the age of an individual is determined as the number of years completed as of the census date.

Ethnic group

During the census, the ethnic group of all individuals usually residing in Sri Lanka at the time of the census was reported as declared by the respondents. Based on data from previous censuses, the Census schedule 2024 included the following ethnic groups: Sinhalese, Sri Lanka Tamil, Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar, Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim, Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty, Bharatha, and Veddas. Any person declaring an Ethnic group other than those listed was reported under the "Other" category, which may also include foreign nationals. In instances of mixed parental ethnic group, the child is categorized according to the father's ethnic group. The inclusion of specific ethnic groups at the census was determined by ethnic groups reported at historical censuses as well as the requirements of data users.

Religion

The religion of all individuals usually residing in Sri Lanka at the time of the census was reported as declared by the respondents. The categories included Buddhist, Hindu, Islam, Roman Catholic, and Other Christian. If an individual belonged to a religion not specified in these categories, it was reported under "Other." Furthermore, if a person declared that they do not follow any religion, they were also included in the "Other" category.

Population Distribution by Age and Sex

The distribution of the population by age and sex provides the essential data for socio-economic planning of a country. Based on age, the population structure is categorized into three main groups: the child population (ages 0 - 14), the working-age population (ages 15 - 59), and the elderly population (age 60 and over). This classification is vital for decision-making regarding the national labor force, education and health requirements, and income distribution.

Furthermore, analyzing the sex composition supports identifying sex balance, marriage trends, fertility patterns, and disparities in social and economic participation. Information on age and sex distribution also serves as the fundamental basis for analyzing population aging and forecasting future demographic trends.

Sex Ratio

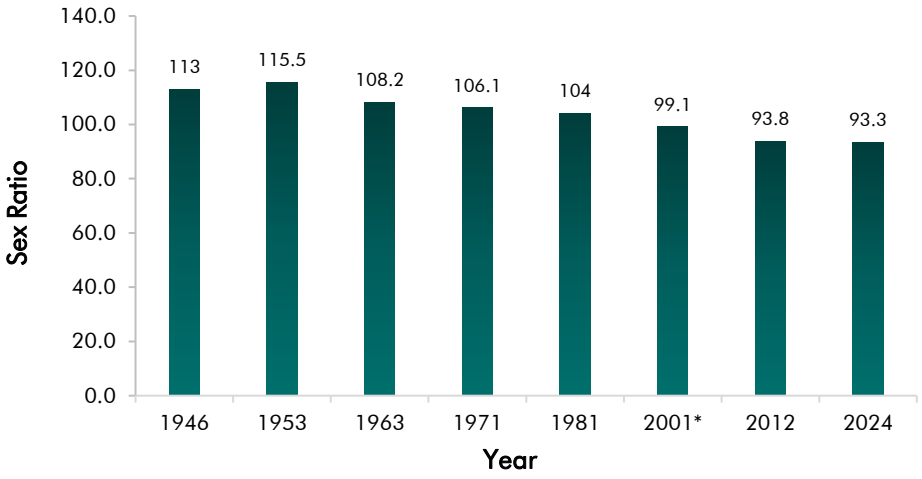
The sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females in a population. Table 6.1.1 presents the total population, sex ratios, and the percentage of males and females reported in the censuses conducted from 1946 to 2024.

Table 6.1.1 : Total Population, Sex ratio and the Percentage of Male and Female, 1946-2024

Census Year	Total Population	Sex Ratio	Percentage	
			Male	Female
1946	6,657,339	113.0	53.1	46.9
1953	8,097,895	115.5	52.7	47.3
1963	10,582,064	108.2	52.0	48.0
1971	12,689,897	106.1	51.5	48.5
1981	14,846,750	104.0	51.0	49.0
2001*	16,929,689	99.1	49.8	50.2
2012	20,359,439	93.8	48.4	51.6
2024	21,781,800	93.3	48.3	51.7

*18 Districts only

As shown in Table 6.1.1, the total population of the country was reported at approximately 6.7 million (6,657,339) in 1946, which has grown to approximately 21.8 million (21,781,800) by 2024. Over the past 78 years, from 1946 to 2024, the population has more than tripled and the sex ratio has decreased, reaching 93.3 in 2024. This indicates that there are approximately 93 males for every 100 females.



*18 Districts only

Figure 6.1.1 : Sex Ratio, 1946-2024

As illustrated in Figure 6.1.1, the sex ratio, was 113.0 in 1946, increased to 115.5 by 1953 and after, it has gradually declined to 93.3 in 2024. The peak value of 115.5 reported in 1953 remains the highest to date. In 2001, the sex ratio fell to 99.1, marking the beginning of a trend where the female population exceeds the male population.

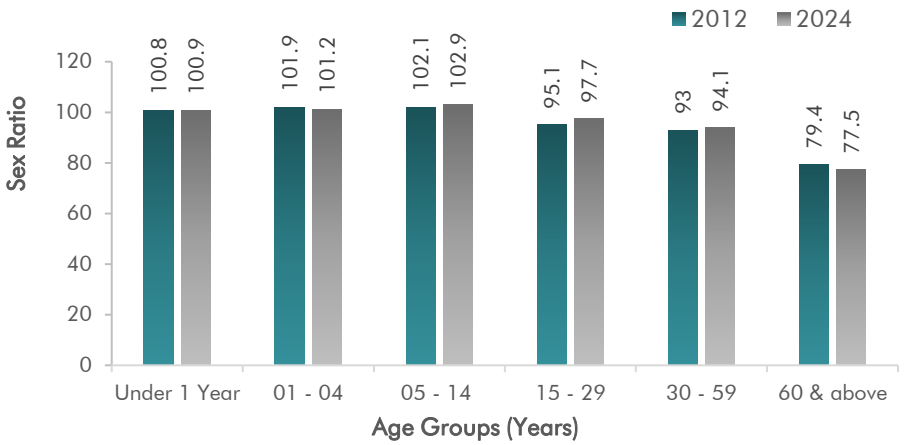


Figure 6.1.2 : Sex Ratio by Age Group, 2012 and 2024

According to Figure 6.1.2, the sex ratio for the child and adolescent population (ages 0–14) is over 100 (e.g., 100.9 for the under-1 age group). This indicates that in younger age groups, the number of males exceeds the number of females. From the age of 15 onwards, this ratio gradually declines. A consistent pattern across age groups is observed in both 2012 and 2024. Accordingly, for the population aged 60 and over in 2024, the sex ratio reaches its lowest point at 77.5.

Table 6.1.2 : Sex Ratio by Sector, 2024

Ethnicity	Sex Ratio
Sri Lanka	93.3
Urban	92.8
Rural	93.3
Estate Rural	94.4
Estate Urban	98.4

According to the data in Table 6.1.2, the sex ratio across all sectors in Sri Lanka is reported at a value below 100. This indicates that, in every sector, the number of females is higher than the number of males. The lowest sex ratio is reported in the urban sector (92.8), while the highest value is reported in the estate urban sector (98.4). However, only the urban sector (92.8) records a lower sex ratio than the national figure (93.3).

Population Pyramid

A population pyramid effectively illustrates the composition of population in a country by age and sex. By observing the population pyramid of Sri Lanka, one can identify significant details regarding how the nation's demographic structure has evolved over time in terms of age and sex distribution.

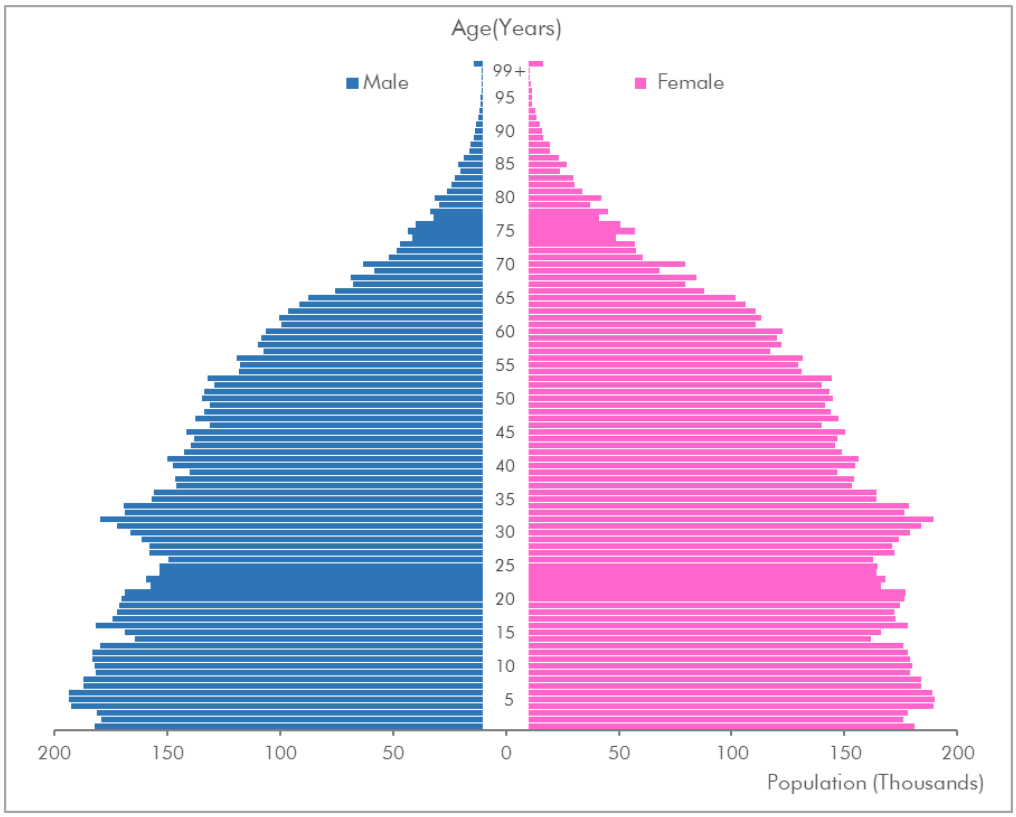


Figure 6.1.3 : Age Sex Distribution (Population Pyramid), 2012

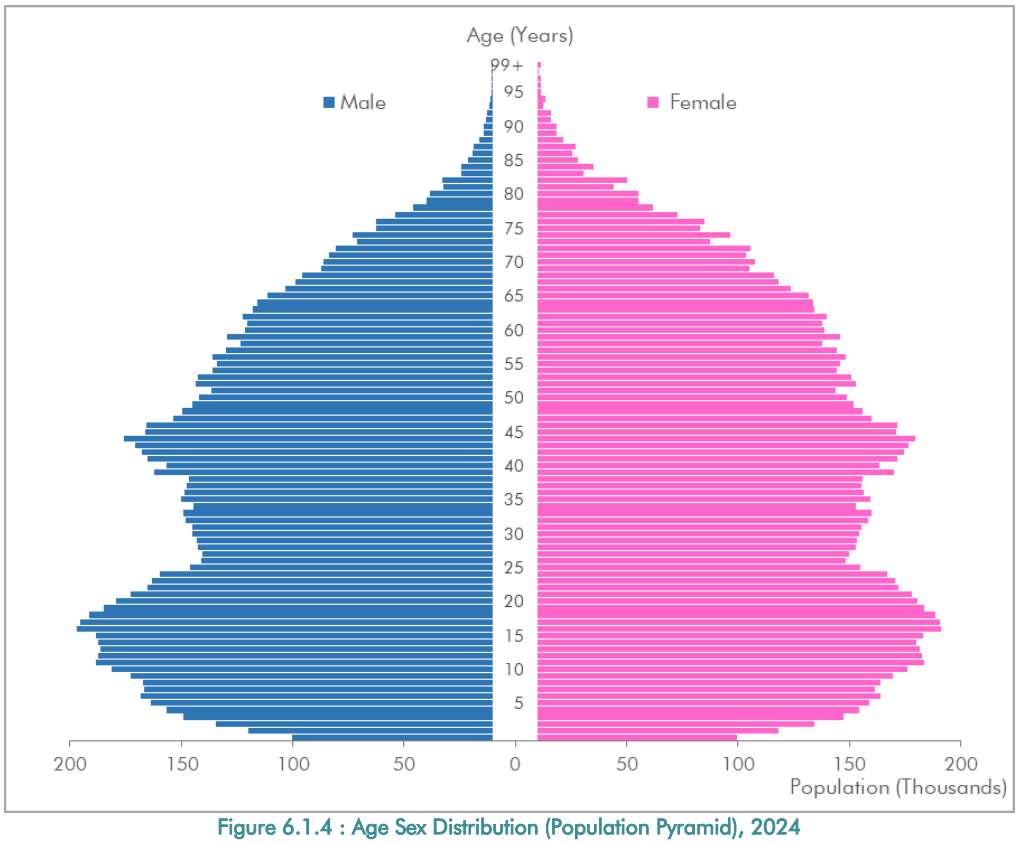


Figure 6.1.4 : Age Sex Distribution (Population Pyramid), 2024

Referring to the population structure of Sri Lanka as shown in Figures 6.1.3 and 6.1.4, it is evident that, compared to the base of the population pyramid in both census years, 2024 has narrowed while the upper section has expanded to some extent. This further illustrates the decrease in the child population and the increase in the elderly population as reported in the census.

The population distribution by five-year age groups for the census years 2012 and 2024 is presented in Table 6.1.3 below.

Table 6.1.3 : Population by Age Groups and Sex, 2012 and 2024

Age Group (Years)	2012			2024		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	9,856,634	10,502,805	21,781,800	10,512,344	11,269,456
00–04	1,743,862	879,223	864,639	1,215,120	611,081	604,039
05-09	1,747,752	882,108	865,644	1,556,523	788,544	767,979
10-14	1,640,052	829,069	810,983	1,735,196	880,905	854,291
15-19	1,644,249	819,927	824,322	1,795,038	907,739	887,299
20-24	1,532,883	742,316	790,567	1,608,606	790,215	818,391
25-29	1,552,848	743,510	809,338	1,372,458	662,751	709,707
30-34	1,639,415	796,866	842,549	1,414,060	682,568	731,492
35-39	1,409,077	686,037	723,040	1,452,703	705,129	747,574
40-44	1,359,209	661,623	697,586	1,602,344	785,927	816,417
45-49	1,285,830	618,140	667,690	1,490,765	730,439	760,326
50-54	1,219,460	581,293	638,167	1,341,807	651,086	690,721
55-59	1,064,229	500,871	563,358	1,276,056	603,425	672,631
60-64	917,910	425,428	492,482	1,183,310	548,145	635,165
65-69	633,289	283,764	349,525	991,814	446,921	544,893
70-74	412,414	181,846	230,568	795,539	344,637	450,902
75-79	283,186	116,389	166,797	522,990	214,919	308,071
80-84	159,379	64,250	95,129	268,415	102,860	165,555
85-89	73,441	28,293	45,148	111,029	39,747	71,282
90-94	24,258	9,293	14,965	39,235	12,620	26,615
95 and over	16,696	6,388	10,308	8,792	2,686	6,106

As shown in Table 6.1.4, data from the Censuses of Population and Housing between 1946 and 2024 reveal significant shifts in age structure of Sri Lanka across five-year age groups. During the 35-year period from 1946 to 1981, the elderly population (aged 60 and over) increased by only 1.1 percentage points, rising from 5.5 percent to 6.6 percent. However, in the short span of 12 years between 2012 and 2024, this figure grew remarkably by 5.6 percentage points, from 12.4 percent to 18.0 percent. According to the 2024 census data, 18 out of every 100 persons in Sri Lanka are now over the age of 60. Similarly, the percentage of the youngest segment, the new addition to the population (ages 0–4) has more than halved, dropping from 12.9 percent in 1946 to 5.6 percent in 2024.

Table 6.1.4 : Percentage Distribution of Population by Age Group, 1946–2024

Age Group	Census Year							
	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001*	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	100.0	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	5.6
05-09	12.2	13.4	13.7	13.2	11.3	8.8	8.6	7.1
10-14	12.1	11.4	12.6	12.7	11.4	9.0	8.1	8.0
15-19	10.2	8.7	9.7	10.7	10.8	9.7	8.1	8.1
20-24	9.6	9.5	8.4	10.0	10.2	9.4	7.5	7.4
25-29	8.7	8.8	7.0	7.5	8.6	7.9	7.6	6.3
30-34	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	7.6	7.6	8.1	6.5
35-39	7.0	6.6	6.2	5.7	5.7	7.4	6.9	6.7
40-44	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	6.9	6.7	7.4
45-49	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.1	6.1	6.3	6.8
50-54	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6	5.4	6.0	6.2
55-59	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	4.0	5.2	5.9
60 and over	5.5	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.6	9.2	12.4	18.0

*18 Districts only.
Note: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest decimal place

According to the Census of Population and Housing 2024, the population aged 18 and over is reported as 16,188,496, while the population below the age of 18 stands at 5,593,304. The distribution of this population by sex, sector, and district is presented in the following Table 6.1.5.

Table 6.1.5 : Population Over and Below 18 Years of Age by Sector and District, 2024

Sector and district	Total Population			Male			Female		
	Total	Age less than 18	Age 18 and over	Total	Age less than 18	Age 18 and over	Total	Age less than 18	Age 18 and over
Sri Lanka	21,781,800	5,593,304	16,188,496	10,512,344	2,831,838	7,680,506	11,269,456	2,761,466	8,507,990
Sector									
Urban	3,807,135	897,096	2,910,039	1,832,193	455,035	1,377,158	1,974,942	442,061	1,532,881
Rural	17,096,918	4,436,678	12,660,240	8,253,837	2,245,989	6,007,848	8,843,081	2,190,689	6,652,392
Rural Estate	865,679	256,135	609,544	420,330	129,059	291,271	445,349	127,076	318,273
Urban Estate	12,068	3,395	8,673	5,984	1,755	4,229	6,084	1,640	4,444
District									
Colombo	2,375,415	497,829	1,877,586	1,154,799	252,843	901,956	1,220,616	244,986	975,630
Gampaha	2,436,142	550,947	1,885,195	1,175,469	279,343	896,126	1,260,673	271,604	989,069
Kalutara	1,305,784	317,714	988,070	631,106	160,868	470,238	674,678	156,846	517,832
Kandy	1,461,895	383,300	1,078,595	696,713	194,314	502,399	765,182	188,986	576,196
Matale	526,870	142,146	384,724	255,221	72,380	182,841	271,649	69,766	201,883
Nuwara Eliya	725,280	209,614	515,666	346,471	105,340	241,131	378,809	104,274	274,535
Galle	1,097,372	273,593	823,779	527,640	138,737	388,903	569,732	134,856	434,876
Matara	837,889	215,664	622,225	401,980	109,369	292,611	435,909	106,295	329,614
Hambantota	671,418	184,670	486,748	329,210	93,135	236,075	342,208	91,535	250,673
Jaffna	594,751	142,788	451,963	281,553	72,254	209,299	313,198	70,534	242,664
Mannar	123,756	36,925	86,831	61,047	18,784	42,263	62,709	18,141	44,568
Vavuniya	172,312	47,427	124,885	82,831	24,053	58,778	89,481	23,374	66,107
Mullaitivu	122,619	35,280	87,339	59,718	17,984	41,734	62,901	17,296	45,605
Kilinochchi	136,710	38,873	97,837	66,124	19,672	46,452	70,586	19,201	51,385
Batticaloa	595,918	179,287	416,631	278,885	90,751	188,134	317,033	88,536	228,497
Ampara	744,551	231,884	512,667	354,018	117,922	236,096	390,533	113,962	276,571
Trincomalee	442,745	142,315	300,430	217,704	72,637	145,067	225,041	69,678	155,363
Kurunegala	1,768,156	452,513	1,315,643	849,072	230,121	618,951	919,084	222,392	696,692
Puttalam	818,816	229,566	589,250	394,244	115,546	278,698	424,572	114,020	310,552
Anuradhapura	960,080	271,330	688,750	466,571	137,145	329,426	493,509	134,185	359,324
Polonnaruwa	447,530	123,877	323,653	219,686	62,374	157,312	227,844	61,503	166,341
Badulla	872,307	231,996	640,311	422,818	116,892	305,926	449,489	115,104	334,385
Moneragala	527,585	150,741	376,844	260,927	75,636	185,291	266,658	75,105	191,553
Ratnapura	1,145,423	288,512	856,911	562,459	145,379	417,080	582,964	143,133	439,831
Kegalle	870,476	214,513	655,963	416,078	108,359	307,719	454,398	106,154	348,244

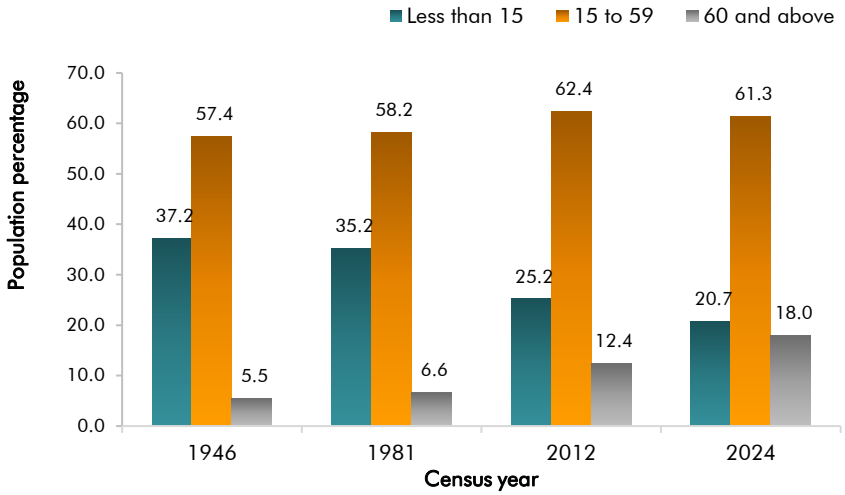


Figure 6.1.5 : Population by Age Groups, 1946-2024 for Selected Census Years

According to Figure 6.1.5, the child population under the age of 15 accounted for 37.2 percent of the total population in 1946, however, a declining trend has been observed in this percentage since 1981. By 2024, the child population (age below 15) comprises 20.7 percent of the total population.

The working-age population (aged 15–59), which accounted for 57.4 percent of the total population in 1946, has been reported as 61.3 percent in 2024. Although the distribution and percentage of the working-age population showed a gradual increase from 1981 to 2012, the 2024 data indicates a stabilization, with a slight decrease compared to 2012.

Regarding the elderly population aged 60 and over, a rapid increase has been observed over the past few decades. In 1946, the percentage of the population in the 60 and over age category was 5.5 percent, which has increased significantly to 18 percent by 2024.

Dependency Ratios

When considering the age structure of population in Sri Lanka, the dependency ratio serves as a key indicator to identify the levels of dependency within the socio-economic sector. Based on the data from the Census of Population and Housing 2024, these ratios have been calculated under three categories: The Child Dependency Ratio, the Elderly Dependency Ratio, and the Total Dependency Ratio.

The Child Dependency Ratio represents the ratio of the child population (ages 0–14) relative to every 100 persons in the working-age population (ages 15–59). A high value of this ratio indicates a greater demand for education, healthcare, and social services dedicated to children.

The Elderly Dependency Ratio is the ratio of the elderly population (aged 60 and over) relative to every 100 persons in the working-age population (ages 15–59). An increase in this ratio signifies a growing aging trend within the country and highlights the increasing need for care services, including healthcare, economic security, and social protection for the elderly.

The Total Dependency Ratio measures the combined ratio of both the child population (ages 0–14) and the elderly population (aged 60 and over) relative to every 100 persons in the working-age population (ages 15–59).

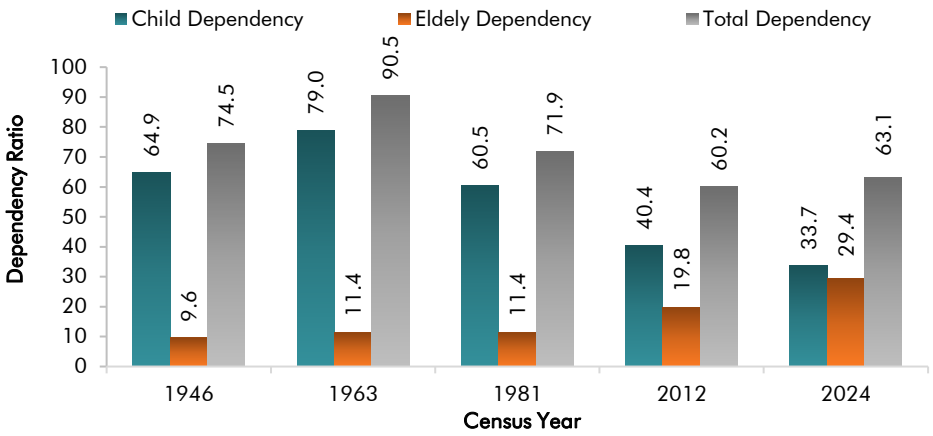


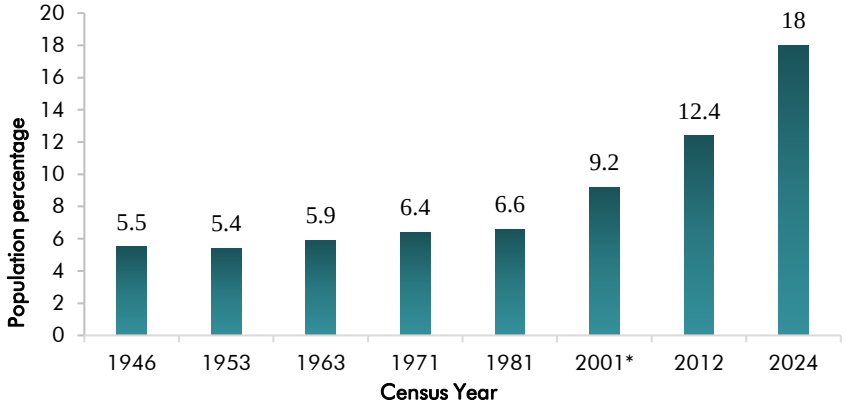
Figure 6.1.6 : Dependency Ratio, 1946-2024 for Selected Census Years

Among the child dependency ratios reported in previous census years, the maximum value of 79.0 was observed in 1963. Since then, the child dependency ratio has declined continuously, falling to 33.7 by 2024. This represents a reduction of more than half compared to this ratio reported in 1963.

In terms of the elderly dependency ratio, a very marginal increase was observed during the 35-year period from 1946 to 1981, with the ratio increasing from 9.6 to 11.4. However, after 1981, and particularly during the period from 2012 (19.8) to 2024 (29.4), the old-age dependency ratio has increased significantly.

Elderly Population and Population Aging

The population comprising individuals aged 60 and over is considered the elderly population. It is essential to focus closely on the numerical growth of this group, the trend of population aging, and the resulting social and economic challenges. Data regarding the distribution of the elderly and aging trends are vital for identifying the increasing demand in sectors such as healthcare, socio-economic security, retirement planning, and professional opportunities personalized for senior citizens.



*18 Districts only.
Note: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest decimal place.

Figure 6.1.7 : Percentage of the Population Aged 60 and Over, 1946-2024

According to Figure 6.1.7, the elderly population reported equal values of 5.5 percent in 1946 and 1953. However, a gradual percentage growth in the elderly population is observed starting from 1963. This figure reached 9.2 percent in 2001, marking the beginning of a new stage in Sri Lanka's aging trend. Subsequently, it grew to 12.4 percent in 2012 and reached 18 percent by 2024. Based on these data, it is evident that between 1981 and 2024, the proportion of the elderly population has nearly tripled, rising from 6.6 percent to 18 percent.

Aging Index

The Aging Index is defined as the number of persons aged 60 and over for every 100 children under the age of 15 in a country. This index serves as a key indicator of the various stages of demographic transition within a population.

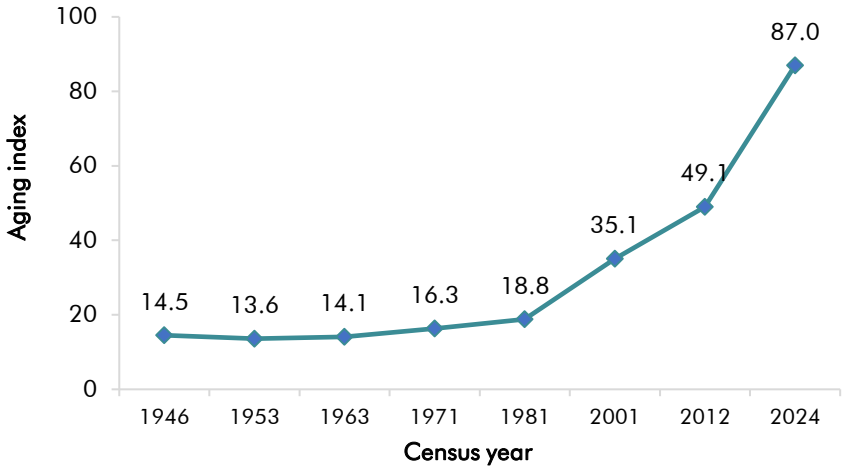


Figure 6.1.8 : Aging Index, 1946-2024

According to Figure 6.1.8, the Aging Index remained below 20 percent across the census years from 1946 to 1981; however, it has shown rapid growth since 2001. The index, which was at 18.8 percent in 1981, approximately doubled by 2001. By 2024, there are 87 elderly persons aged 60 and over for every 100 children under the age of 15. This indicates a trend where the proportions of the child and elderly populations are approaching parity.

Sex Ratio for Elderly Population

Table 6.1.6 : Elderly Population and Sex Ratio by Age Groups, 2012 and 2024

Year	60 - 74			75 and over		
	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
2012	891,038	1,072,575	83.1	224,613	332,347	67.6
2024	1,339,703	1,630,960	82.1	372,832	577,629	64.6

According to Table 6.1.6, in both 2012 and 2024, the female population exceeds the male population in both the 60–74 and the 75-and-over age categories. Sex Ratio shows how many males are there for 100 females and the ratio declined for both age groups in 2024. Furthermore, this male female population gap has increased significantly by 2024.

Median Age of the Population

The median age is the specific age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups. Simply, a half of the population (50%) is older than the median age, while the other half is younger. A low median age indicates a population structure with a large child population and high birth rates, leading to an increased demand for education, pediatric healthcare, and youth-oriented services. Conversely, a high median age reflects a trend of population aging and a growing elderly population.

According to Table 6.1.7, the median age of population of Sri Lanka remained at a relatively low level between 1946 and 1971, reaching a notable low of 19.4 years in 1963. By 1981, the median age increased to 21.4 years, showing no significant difference between males and females. However, notable increases were observed thereafter: the median age increased by approximately 9 years between 1981 and 2012, and by approximately 5 years between 2012 and 2024

Table 6.1.7 : Median Age of the Population, 1946-2024

Census Year	Total (Years)	Male (Years)	Female (Years)
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
2024	35.0	34.0	36.0

Population Distribution by Ethnic group and Religion

Ethnic group

During the Census of Population and Housing, the ethnic group and religion of all individuals usually resident in the country were reported as declared by the respondents. Identifying the distribution of the population in this manner provides a fundamental understanding of the socio-cultural structure of the country.

Data on ethnic group has been collected in every census conducted since the first national census in 1871. However, different terminologies have been used across various censuses. From 1871 to 1901, the term "Nationality" was used, while in 1911, "Race/Ethnicity" was adopted. Up to 1891, census reports categorized the population under eight major ethnic groups: Sinhalese, Tamil, Moor, Burgher, Eurasian, Malay, European, and Other. In censuses conducted from 1901 to 1971, the Sinhalese ethnic group was subdivided into two categories: "Low Country Sinhalese" and "Up Country Sinhalese" (Kandyan Sinhalese). In subsequent censuses, this sub-classification was removed, and they have since been reported as a single ethnic group, "Sinhalese". Similarly, the Moor ethnic group was subdivided into "Sri Lanka Moor" and "Indian Moor" until 1971. While the Veddas and European categories were listed separately until 1963, they were included under the "Other" category from 1963 onwards.

At the request of data users, the "Veddas" ethnic group was reintroduced, and similarly the Indian Tamil ethnic group was further named as Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar.

According to the data from the Census of Population and Housing 2024, the distribution of total population by ethnic group in the country is presented in the following table.

Table 6.1.8 : Population Distribution by Ethnic Group, 2024

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
Sri Lanka	21,781,800	100.00
Sinhalese	16,144,037	74.12
Sri Lanka Tamil	2,681,627	12.31
Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar	600,360	2.76
Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim	2,283,246	10.47
Burgher	31,721	0.15
Malay	26,650	0.12
Sri Lanka Chetty	2,443	0.01
Bharatha	1,183	0.01
Veddas	1,373	0.01
Other	9,160	0.04

According to Table 6.1.8, the Sinhalese represent the largest ethnic group in Sri Lanka, accounting for 74.12 percent of the total population. Sri Lanka Tamils and Sri Lanka Moors/Muslims are reported at 12.31 percent and 10.47 percent, respectively.

Figure 6.1.9 illustrates the distribution of the population by ethnic group. When comparing the percentage distributions of the 2012 and 2024 census years, an increase is observed in the percentages of the Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim and Sri Lanka Tamil ethnic groups while, a percentage decrease is reported for the Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar and Sinhalese ethnic groups

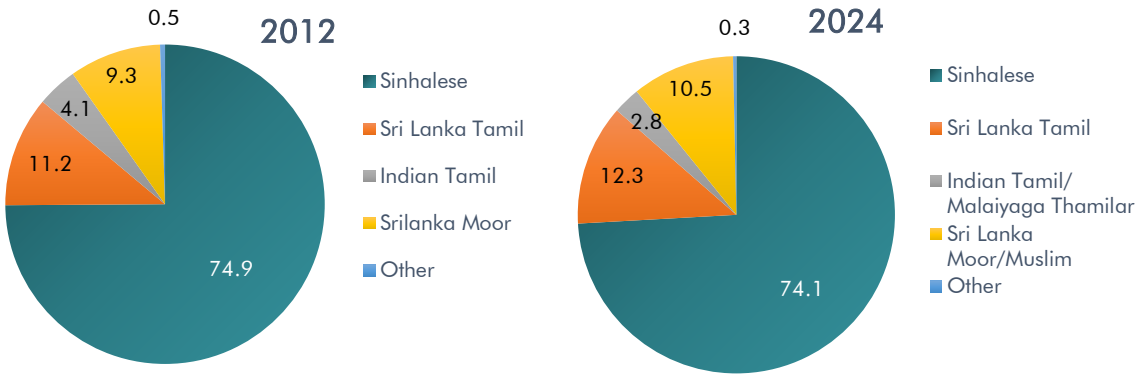


Figure 6.1.9 : Percentage Distribution of Population by Ethnic group, 2012 and 2024

Table 6.1.9 presents the percentage distribution of the population by ethnic group and province of usual residence during the census period.

Table 6.1.9 : Percentage Distribution of the Population by Ethnic Group and Province, 2024

Province	Ethnic group (%)										
	Total	Sinhalese	Sri Lanka Tamil	Indian Tamil/ Malaiyaga Thamilar	Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim	Burgher	Malay	Sri Lanka Chetty	Bharatha	Veddas	Other
Sri Lanka	100.0	74.1	12.3	2.8	10.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western	100.0	83.6	6.3	0.5	8.9	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Central	100.0	65.8	8.3	15.0	10.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern	100.0	94.8	1.2	0.4	3.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern	100.0	3.2	91.5	0.3	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eastern	100.0	22.1	38.1	0.1	39.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
North Western	100.0	84.8	2.7	0.1	12.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
North Central	100.0	90.5	0.9	0.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Uva	100.0	81.4	6.9	6.9	4.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sabaragamuwa	100.0	86.5	6.5	2.2	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

According to the data, the Sinhalese ethnic group reports a higher percentage in the Southern (94.8%), North Central (90.5%), Sabaragamuwa (86.5%), North Western (84.8%), and Western (83.6%) provinces. The Northern Province is predominantly inhabited by the Sri Lanka Tamil ethnic group, which accounts for 91.5 percent of its population. A significant distribution of Sri Lanka Tamils is also observed in the Eastern (38.1%) and Central (8.3%) provinces. The Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar ethnic group is concentrated in the Central Province (15%), with notable presence in the Uva (6.9%) and Sabaragamuwa (2.2%) provinces. The Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim ethnic group is reported as the largest ethnic group in the Eastern Province (39.5%), while also maintaining a significant presence in the North Western (12.2%), Central (10.7%), and Western (8.9%) provinces. The distribution of Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty, Bharatha, Veddas, and other ethnic groups totally remains below 0.4 percent across all provinces except Western province.

Table 6.1.10 illustrates the distribution of the population by ethnic group as reported in censuses from 1911 to 2024.

Table 6.1.10 : Population by Ethnic Group, 1911 - 2024 (in Thousands)

Ethnic group	Census Year										
	1911	1921[4]	1931[5]	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001[3]	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	4,106.4	4,498.6	5,306.0	6,657.3	8,097.9	10,582.0	12,689.9	14,846.8	16,929.7	20,359.4	21,781.8
Low Country Sinhalese	1,716.9	1,927.1	2,216.2	2,902.5	3,469.5	4,470.3	5,425.8	10,979.4[2]	13,876.2[2]	15,250.1[2]	16,144.0[2]
Up-country (Kandyan) Sinhalese	998.6	1,089.1	1,256.8	1,718.0	2,147.2	3,042.6	3,705.5				
Sri Lanka Tamil	528.0	517.3	598.9	733.7	884.7	1,164.7	1,424.0	1,886.9	732.1	2,269.1	2,681.6
Indian Tamil	531.0	602.7	818.5	780.6	974.1	1,123.0	1,174.9	818.7	855.0	839.5	600.4[6]
Sri Lanka Muslim	233.9	251.9	289.6	373.6	464.0	626.8	828.3	1,046.9	1,339.3	1,892.6	2,283.2
Indian Muslim	32.7	33.0	36.3	35.6	47.5	55.4	27.4	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
European	7.6	8.1	9.2	5.4	6.5	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Burgher & Eurasian	26.7	29.4	32.3	41.9	46.0	45.9	45.4	39.4[7]	35.3[7]	38.2[7]	31.7[7]
Malay	13.0	13.4	16.0	22.5	25.4	33.4	43.5	47.0	54.8	44.1	26.6
Sri Lanka Chetty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.8	5.6	2.4
Bharatha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.2	1.7	1.1
Veddas	5.3	4.5	5.2	2.4	0.8	0.4	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	1.3
Other	12.7	22.0	27.4	41.1	32.2	19.5	15.5	28.4	23.9	18.2	9.1

Information for the years 2012 and 2024 is presented based on data from the Census of Population and Housing, while data for previous years have been obtained from Statistical Abstracts.

(1) Included under the "Other" category.
(2) Low Country and Up-country Sinhalese have been combined.
(3) Data for 2001 are provided only for the 18 districts where the Census of Population and Housing was fully conducted.
(4) Estimated based on the 1921 Census.
(5) Includes 442 persons whose sex and ethnic group were not reported during the incomplete census of 1931.
(6) Indian Tamil has been referred to as "Malaiyaga Thamilar"
(7) Since 1981 only Burghers are included instead “Burgher & Eurasian” category.

Table 6.1.11 illustrates the distribution of the population by ethnic group and district for the year 2012 and 2024 and the Table 6.1.12 further shows the percentage distribution separately for 2012 and 2024 for each ethnic group.

When comparing Sinhalese population between 2012 and 2024, the Mannar and Nuwara Eliya districts show a population decline whereas all other districts show an increase in population, with the highest value reported in Kurunegala district (122,036). The percentage distribution given in Table 6.1.12 reveals no significant change in the district level composition between the years.

When observing the distribution of the Sri Lanka Tamil population by district between 2012 and 2024, the Vavuniya and Hambantota districts exhibit a population decline. Conversely, a significant increase was observed in the Badulla, Kandy, and Batticaloa districts, while a slight growth in this ethnic group was reported in all other districts. Further, no significant difference in district composition when percentage distribution is considered.

Further, the distribution of the Indian Tamil (Malaiyaga Thamilar) population by district indicates a decline across all districts in 2024 compared to the 2012 Census, except for Hambantota. The most pronounced decreases were observed in the districts of Badulla, Kandy, and Ratnapura. However, when considering district-level composition, the proportion of the Indian Tamil population in Nuwara Eliya District has increased from 45.0 percent in 2012 to 60.3 percent in 2024.

When considering the distribution of the Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim population by district, a population increase is observed across all districts in 2024 compared to the 2012 Census. The most significant increases were reported in the Ampara, Trincomalee, and Colombo districts.

For the Malay population, a decrease was reported across all districts, with the most significant drops occurring in Colombo, Hambantota, Gampaha, and Kandy.

Population belonging to the ethnic groups of Sri Lanka Chetty, Bharatha, Veddas and Other are categorized under the "Other" group in Table 6.1.11 and Table 6.1.12.

The following maps from Figure 6.1.10 to Figure 6.1.13 show the district level distribution of the populations separately for ethnic groups Sinhalese, Sri Lanka Tamil, Indian Tamil (Malaiyaga Thamilar), Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim respectively.

Table 6.1.11 : Distribution of Population by Ethnic Group and District, 2012 and 2024

District	Total		Sinhalese		Sri Lanka Tamil		Indian Tamil/ Malaiyaga Thamilar		Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim		Burgher		Malay		Other	
	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	21,781,800	15,250,081	16,144,037	2,269,266	2,681,627	839,504	600,360	1,892,638	2,283,246	38,293	31,721	44,130	26,650	25,527	14,159
Colombo	2,324,349	2,375,415	1,778,971	1,807,945	235,090	243,856	24,289	15,427	249,609	285,346	13,306	10,643	14,444	8,249	8,640	3,949
Gampaha	2,304,833	2,436,142	2,086,469	2,188,512	81,245	97,925	9,137	6,575	97,621	123,220	10,784	7,030	12,720	9,488	6,857	3,392
Kalutara	1,221,948	1,305,784	1,060,107	1,119,109	23,035	41,361	23,217	7,198	113,320	136,412	1,188	840	689	476	392	388
Kandy	1,375,382	1,461,895	1,023,488	1,077,312	69,210	122,772	85,111	38,311	191,570	219,905	2,384	1,891	2,444	1,001	1,175	703
Matale	484,531	526,870	391,305	424,788	24,279	42,172	23,238	7,716	44,786	51,471	386	359	392	283	145	81
Nuwara Eliya	711,644	725,280	282,053	281,904	32,563	60,288	377,637	362,299	17,652	19,245	761	1,252	543	216	435	76
Galle	1,063,334	1,097,372	1,003,722	1,030,354	13,953	17,600	6,146	2,883	38,790	45,672	256	244	106	85	361	534
Matara	814,048	837,889	767,580	788,804	8,772	11,119	12,127	8,082	25,254	29,430	131	259	58	44	126	151
Hambantota	599,903	671,418	582,301	651,274	2,105	2,054	120	121	6,629	13,809	146	99	8,164	3,931	438	130
Jaffna	583,882	594,751	2,284	3,395	577,338	586,491	1,807	782	2,162	3,947	126	64	23	7	142	65
Mannar	99,570	123,756	2,305	678	80,103	89,992	692	319	16,436	32,752	12	3	11	5	11	7
Vavuniya	172,115	172,312	17,138	18,575	141,144	135,164	1,979	1,625	11,748	16,632	58	32	8	4	40	280
Mullaitivu	92,238	122,619	8,927	11,190	79,107	108,082	2,281	223	1,821	3,102	49	12	11	3	42	7
Kilinochchi	113,510	136,710	1,331	1,704	110,494	133,023	1,030	685	629	1,273	1	21	2	0	23	4
Batticaloa	526,567	595,918	6,797	6,855	380,930	424,710	2,078	992	133,854	160,284	2,814	2,899	28	17	66	161
Ampara	649,402	744,551	252,458	276,583	112,457	125,751	846	664	281,702	339,290	1,036	1,168	187	136	716	959
Trincomalee	379,541	442,745	101,483	108,676	116,646	128,088	1,227	765	158,771	203,987	966	861	356	311	92	57
Kurunegala	1,618,465	1,768,156	1,479,863	1,601,899	18,041	21,775	2,594	1,788	115,302	140,888	663	478	1,220	796	782	532
Puttalam	762,396	818,816	560,838	591,753	48,341	48,544	1,953	1,229	147,546	174,497	1,152	1,726	631	558	1,935	509
Anuradhapura	860,575	960,080	782,808	870,049	4,728	5,063	477	412	70,692	83,283	246	174	161	101	1,463	998
Polonnaruwa	406,088	447,530	368,197	402,785	7,301	7,394	161	94	30,177	36,864	88	55	46	25	118	313
Badulla	815,405	872,307	595,372	640,625	21,880	81,854	150,484	95,686	44,716	52,188	992	890	1,351	715	610	349
Moneragala	451,058	527,585	428,104	499,366	8,206	14,765	5,001	1,249	9,508	12,085	116	61	63	17	60	42
Ratnapura	1,088,007	1,145,423	947,811	1,003,515	54,437	91,300	62,124	23,991	22,346	25,870	405	481	288	65	596	201
Kegalle	840,648	870,476	718,369	736,387	17,861	40,484	43,748	21,244	59,997	71,794	227	179	184	117	262	271

Table 6.1.12 : Percentage Distribution of Population by Ethnic Group and District, 2012 and 2024

District	Total		Sinhalese		Sri Lanka Tamil		Indian Tamil/ Malaiyaga Thamilar		Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim		Burgher		Malay		Other	
	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Colombo	11.4	10.9	11.7	11.2	10.4	9.1	2.9	2.6	13.2	12.5	34.7	33.6	32.7	31.0	33.8	27.9
Gampaha	11.3	11.2	13.7	13.6	3.6	3.7	1.1	1.1	5.2	5.4	28.2	22.2	28.8	35.6	26.9	24.0
Kalutara	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.9	1.0	1.5	2.8	1.2	6.0	6.0	3.1	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.5	2.7
Kandy	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	3.0	4.6	10.1	6.4	10.1	9.6	6.2	6.0	5.5	3.8	4.6	5.0
Matale	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6	1.1	1.6	2.8	1.3	2.4	2.3	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.6
Nuwara Eliya	3.5	3.3	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.2	45.0	60.3	0.9	0.8	2.0	3.9	1.2	0.8	1.7	0.5
Galle	5.2	5.0	6.6	6.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	2.0	2.0	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.3	1.4	3.8
Matara	4.0	3.8	5.0	4.9	0.4	0.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.1
Hambantota	2.9	3.1	3.8	4.0	0.1	0.1	-	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	18.5	14.8	1.7	0.9
Jaffna	2.9	2.7	0.0	0.0	25.4	21.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.5
Mannar	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.4	0.1	0.1	0.9	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vavuniya	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.1	6.2	5.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.0
Mullaitivu	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	3.5	4.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Kilinochchi	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	4.9	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Batticaloa	2.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	16.8	15.8	0.2	0.2	7.1	7.0	7.3	9.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.1
Ampara	3.2	3.4	1.7	1.7	5.0	4.7	0.1	0.1	14.9	14.9	2.7	3.7	0.4	0.5	2.8	6.8
Trincomalee	1.9	2.0	0.7	0.7	5.1	4.8	0.1	0.1	8.4	8.9	2.5	2.7	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.4
Kurunegala	7.9	8.1	9.7	9.9	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.3	6.1	6.2	1.7	1.5	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.8
Puttalam	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	2.1	1.8	0.2	0.2	7.8	7.6	3.0	5.4	1.4	2.1	7.6	3.6
Anuradhapura	4.2	4.4	5.1	5.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.7	3.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	5.7	7.0
Polonnaruwa	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.5	0.3	0.3	-	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	2.2
Badulla	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	1.0	3.1	17.9	15.9	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.5
Moneragala	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Ratnapura	5.3	5.3	6.2	6.2	2.4	3.4	7.4	4.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	0.7	0.2	2.3	1.4
Kegalle	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.6	0.8	1.5	5.2	3.5	3.2	3.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.9

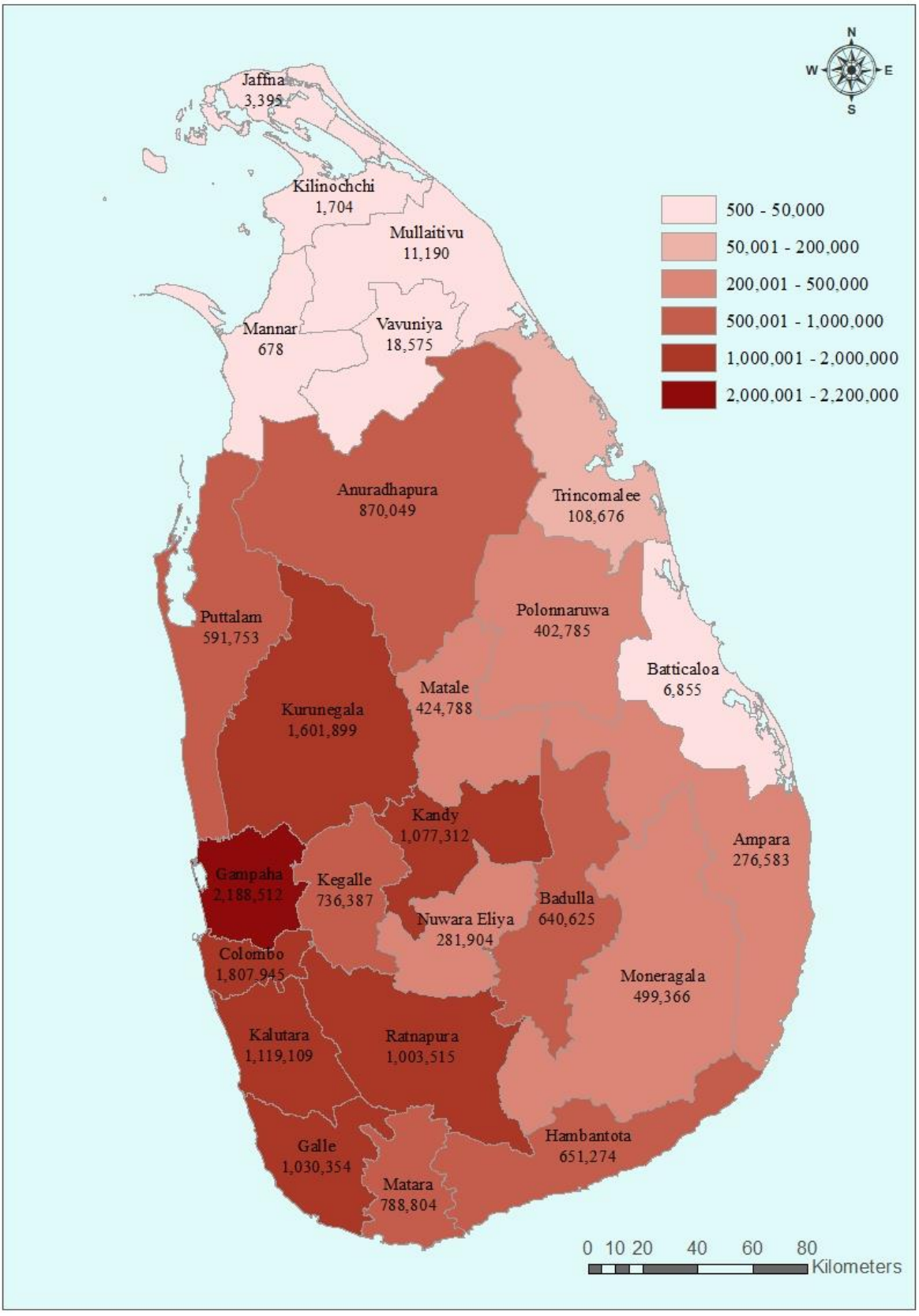


Figure 6.1.10 : Distribution of the Sinhalese Population by District, 2024

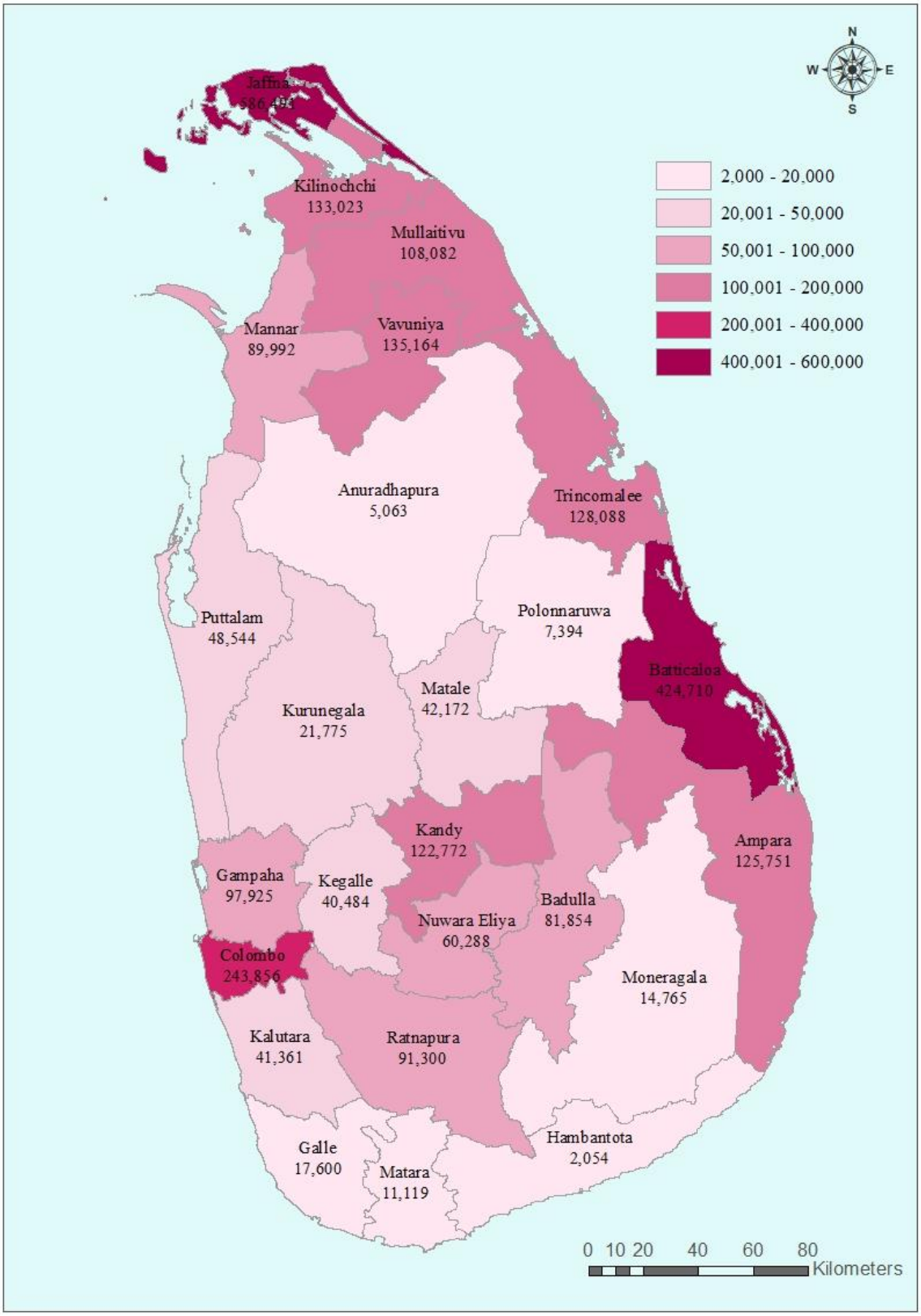


Figure 6.1.11 : Distribution of the Sri Lanka Tamil Population by District, 2024

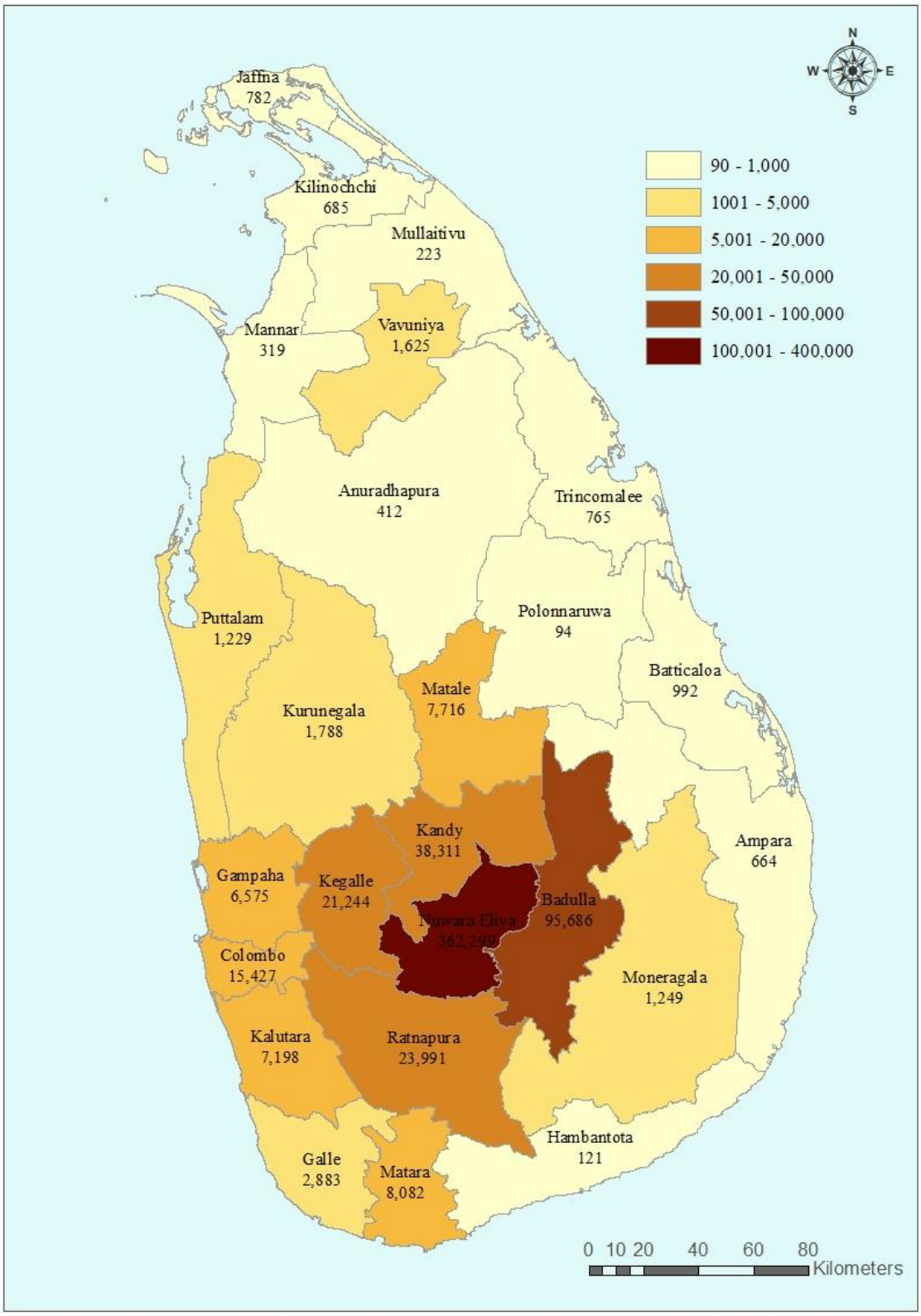


Figure 6.1.12 : Distribution of the Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar Population by District, 2024

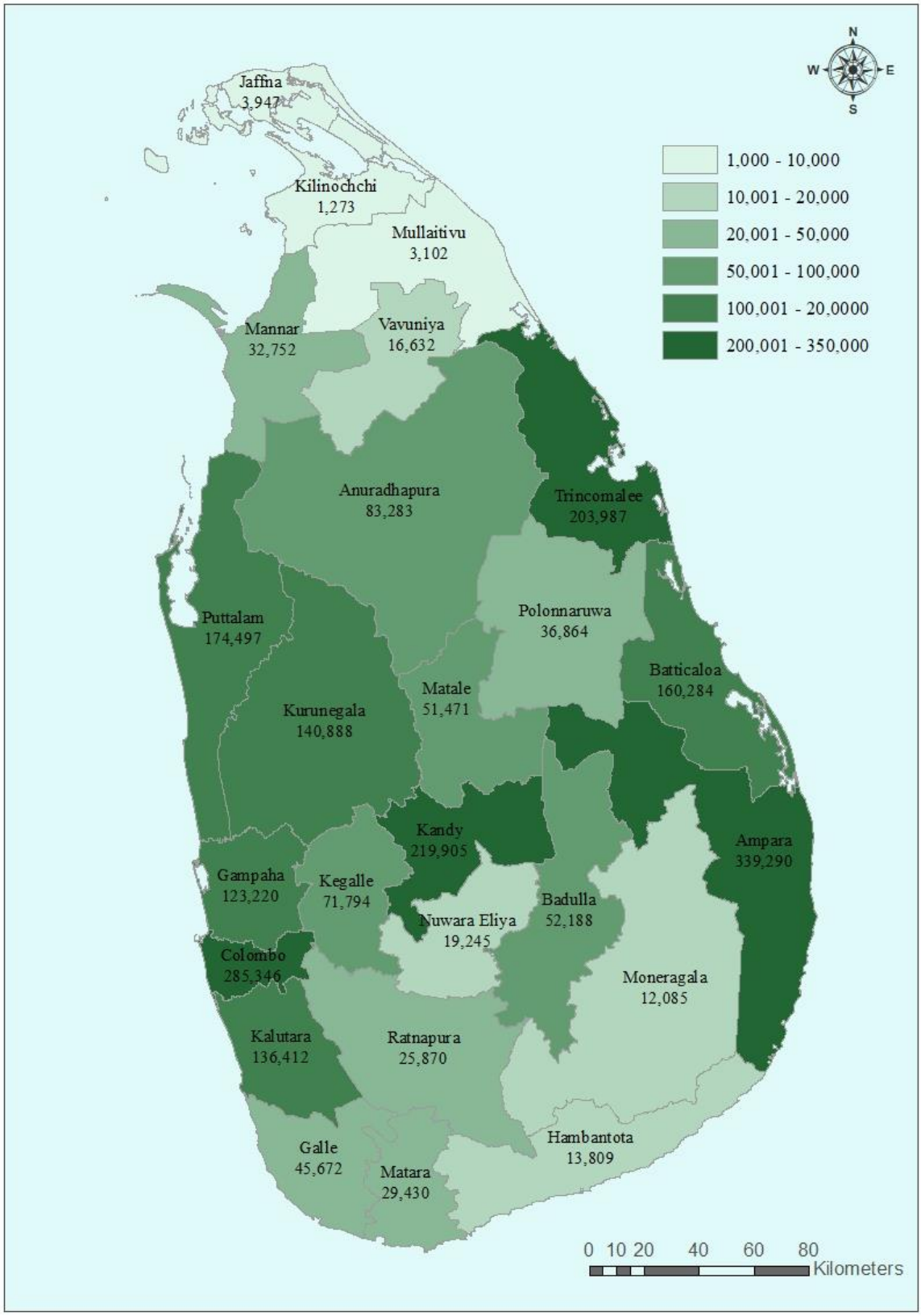


Figure 6.1.13 : Distribution of the Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim Population by District, 2024

Religion

Since the first national census in 1871, data on the religious affiliations of individuals have been continuously collected. Among the religions reported in Sri Lanka, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Roman Catholicism, and Other Christian denominations have been included as specific categories in the census questionnaire. Information regarding all other religious beliefs has been reported under the "Other" category.

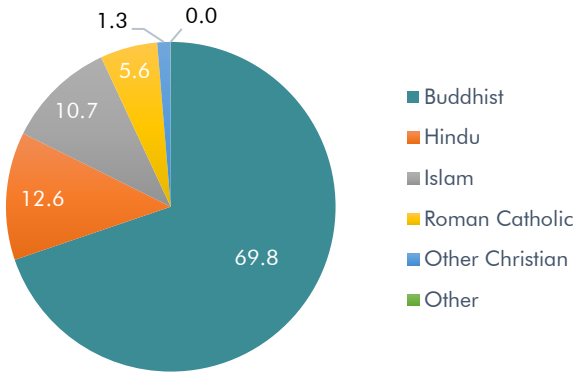


Figure 6.1.14 : Population Distribution by Religion, 2024

According to the Census of Population and Housing 2024, the distribution of the total population by religion is presented in Figure 6.1.14. The data indicates that Buddhists account for 69.8 percent of the population, followed by Hindus at 12.6 percent and Muslims (Islam) at 10.7 percent. Furthermore, Christians represent 6.9 percent of the total population, comprising 5.6 percent Roman Catholics and 1.3 percent belonging to other Christian denominations. The proportion reported under the "Other" category is minimal, representing approximately 0.01 percent of the total population.

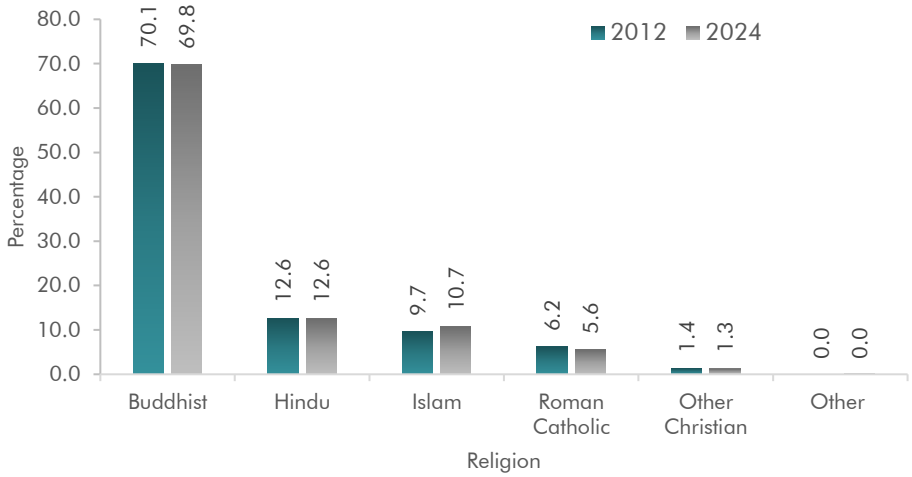


Figure 6.1.15 : Population Distribution by Religion, 2012 and 2024

According to Figure 6.1.15, the Buddhist population in Sri Lanka, which stood at 70.1 percent in 2012, reported a slight decrease to 69.8 percent by 2024. The percentage of the Hindu population remained at 12.6 percent in both 2012 and 2024. The Islam population increased by 1.0 percentage point, rising from 9.7 percent in 2012 to 10.7 percent in 2024. The Roman Catholic population showed a decrease of 0.6 percentage points, falling from 6.2 percent in 2012 to 5.6 percent in 2024, while the percentage of other Christian denominations decreased slightly from 1.4 percent to 1.3 percent.

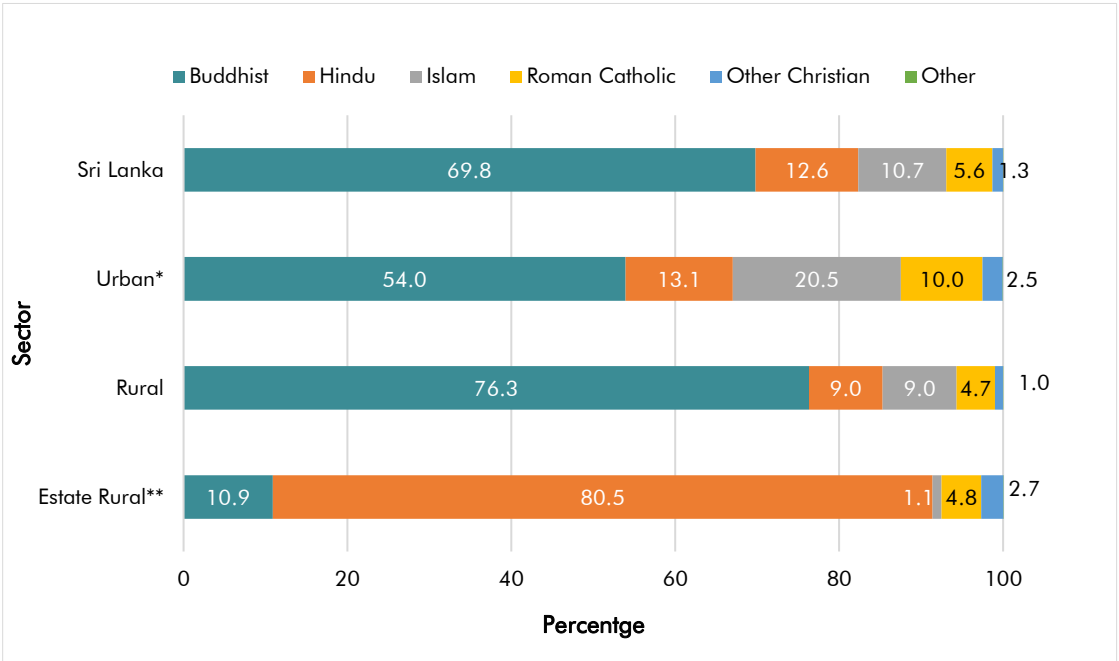
Consequently, while the fundamental structure of Sri Lanka's religious composition remained stable during the 12-year period between the last two censuses, the proportional growth of the Muslim community and the slight percentage decreases in the Buddhist and Catholic communities are identified as the primary population trends.

Table 6.1.13 : Population and Percentage Distribution by Sector and Religion, 2024

Sector	Total	Religion					
		Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Other Christian	Other
Sri Lanka	21,781,800	15,199,093	2,734,839	2,337,379	1,224,348	282,185	3,956
	100.0	69.8	12.6	10.7	5.6	1.3	0.0
Urban*	3,819,203	2,060,541	498,717	783,638	380,543	94,038	1,726
	100.0	54.0	13.0	20.5	10.0	2.5	0.0
Rural	17,096,918	13,044,342	1,539,173	1,544,664	801,977	164,634	2,128
	100.0	76.3	9.0	9.0	4.7	1.0	0.0
Estate Rural**	865,679	94,210	696,949	9,077	41,828	23,513	102
	100.0	10.9	80.5	1.1	4.8	2.7	0.0

*Although the Census 2024 collected data separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, these two categories have been combined and presented as "Urban" to facilitate easier comparison with 2012 Census data
**The category identified as "Estate" in the Census 2012 is presented as "Estate Rural" in the Census 2024.

As illustrated in Table 6.1.13 and Figure 6.1.16, the distribution of the population by religion varies across the urban, rural, and estate rural sectors. The urban sector displays a diverse religious composition, while the rural sector is characterized by a Buddhist majority. In contrast, the estate rural sector records a predominant Hindu majority.



*Although the Census 2024 collected data separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, these two categories have been combined and presented as "Urban" to facilitate easier comparison with 2012 Census data

**The category identified as "Estate" in the Census 2012 is presented as "Estate Rural" in the Census 2024.

Figure 6.1.16 : Percentage Distribution of the Population by Sector and Religion, 2024

Table 6.1.14 : Distribution of Population by Religion and District, 2012

District	Religion						
	Total	Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Other 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

According to the Census 2012 data, the total population of the country was 20,359,439. Significant variations in the geographical distribution of the major religious groups can be analyzed as follows, based on Table 6.1.14. The total Buddhist population is 14,272,056 and the highest concentration is reported in Gampaha (1,642,767), Colombo (1,632,225), and Kurunegala (1,431,632) districts. The Hindu population totals 2,561,299 and is primarily distributed across the Jaffna (483,255), Nuwara Eliya (363,163), and Batticaloa (338,882) districts. The total number of Islamic adherents is 1,967,523, with the highest numbers reported in the Ampara (281,987), Colombo (274,087), and Kandy (197,076) districts. The Roman Catholic population is largely concentrated in the Gampaha (449,398), Puttalam (240,221), and Colombo (162,314) districts. Similarly, the highest populations belonging to other Christian denominations are reported from the Colombo and Gampaha districts.

Table 6.1.15 : Distribution of Population by Religion and District, 2024

District	Religion						
	Total	Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Other Christian	Other
Sri Lanka	21,781,800	15,199,093	2,734,839	2,337,379	1,224,348	282,185	3,956
Colombo	2,375,415	1,682,524	197,759	298,422	139,882	55,624	1,204
Gampaha	2,436,142	1,744,475	69,429	134,422	442,291	44,540	985
Kalutara	1,305,784	1,080,638	42,528	138,230	36,510	7,733	145
Kandy	1,461,895	1,063,511	144,618	223,997	18,623	10,919	227
Matale	526,870	418,608	46,181	52,224	7,797	2,026	34
Nuwara Eliya	725,280	278,828	377,266	21,929	31,705	15,474	78
Galle	1,097,372	1,026,031	15,600	46,038	4,207	5,377	119
Matara	837,889	787,303	14,625	29,858	2,445	3,619	39
Hambantota	671,418	649,736	1,401	17,947	1,017	1,247	70
Jaffna	594,751	2,788	489,521	4,352	77,197	20,857	36
Mannar	123,756	382	26,214	33,883	57,713	5,560	4
Vavuniya	172,312	18,292	114,504	17,775	12,785	8,895	61
Mullaitivu	122,619	10,293	88,738	3,279	13,982	6,315	12
Kilinochchi	136,710	1,533	110,258	1,394	14,446	9,074	5
Batticaloa	595,918	6,024	374,836	161,494	25,803	27,728	33
Ampara	744,551	276,176	114,586	339,896	7,351	6,486	56
Trincomalee	442,745	106,919	108,050	205,664	14,353	7,714	45
Kurunegala	1,768,156	1,557,554	17,487	143,299	40,273	9,413	130
Puttalam	818,816	361,148	28,832	176,963	240,975	10,619	279
Anuradhapura	960,080	862,807	3,755	83,979	5,760	3,656	123
Polonnaruwa	447,530	399,488	7,215	37,097	2,560	1,086	84
Badulla	872,307	636,988	166,380	53,563	9,593	5,729	54
Moneragala	527,585	498,436	14,974	12,262	1,181	713	19
Ratnapura	1,145,423	999,682	103,883	26,796	8,607	6,394	61
Kegalle	870,476	728,929	56,199	72,616	7,292	5,387	53

According to the census 2024 data, as presented in Table 6.1.15, the total Buddhist community reported as 15,199,093 and its highest concentration reported in Gampaha (1,744,475), Colombo (1,682,524), and Kurunegala (1,557,554) districts. The Hindu population consists of 2,734,839 individuals, primarily distributed across Jaffna (489,521), Nuwara Eliya (377,266), and Batticaloa (374,836) districts. The total number of Islamic adherents is 2,337,379, with the highest concentrations found in the Ampara (339,896), Colombo (298,422), and Kandy (223,997) districts. Roman Catholics are most widely distributed in the Gampaha (442,291), Puttalam (240,975), and Colombo (139,882) districts. Additionally, the highest populations belonging to other Christian denominations are reported in the Colombo and Gampaha districts.

6.2 Population with Difficulties and Disabilities

6.2.1 Introduction

Persons with physical and mental difficulties or various disabilities constitute an important, distinctive, and significant group within society. Similarly, information regarding their living standards and access to education, health, employment and social services are matters that should receive special attention when formulating development plans. Accordingly, collecting accurate and reliable statistical information on the population with physical and mental difficulties is extremely important for government policy formulation, the planning of social protection programs, and the creation of a society that provides equal opportunities for all. This section of Chapter Six presents an overview of the distribution of persons with physical and mental difficulties and disabilities within the population, together with their main characteristics.

In the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, information was collected from every person aged 5 years and over on whether they had any physical or mental difficulties that affect their ability to carry out their daily activities. Accordingly, individuals were asked about the difficulties they experience when performing the following activities (functions).

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Walking or climbing steps
- Remembering or concentrating on something
- Self-care activities such as dressing or bathing oneself
- Communicating or exchanging ideas with others (communication)

Individuals were given the opportunity to respond according to their own understanding regarding the level of difficulty they experience when performing the above-mentioned activities, and the level of difficulty was reported based on the responses they provide. Accordingly, the severity of the reported level of difficulty is used to identify disability status in accordance with internationally recommended standards. Based on the information collected, this section presents the size of the population with difficulties, the size of the population with disabilities, and the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the identified population with disabilities.

6.2.2 Concepts and Definitions

Concepts and Definitions Recommended by the Washington Group

The definition of disability varies according to the purpose for which it is used. In particular, when collecting statistics on sensitive topics such as disability, it is important to adopt the most appropriate methodology. Furthermore, the complexities or limitations inherent in a Population and Housing Census should also be taken into consideration, and comparability of the information collected through censuses across countries is essential. Accordingly, many countries use the concepts and definitions recommended by the Washington Group to identify disability in censuses.

Persons with Difficulties

Accordingly, the Washington Group defines “difficulty” as the level of functional limitation a person experiences when performing basic activities such as seeing (vision), hearing, walking or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, self-care, and communication. The level of difficulty is reported based on the individual’s own perception using one of four response categories: “no difficulty,” “some difficulty,” “a lot of difficulty,” and “cannot do at all.”

Persons with Disabilities

Using the difficulty information, the level of functional limitation experienced by an individual is assessed, and disability status is identified in accordance with internationally recommended standards. Accordingly, individuals who reported "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in at least one of the six questions related to physical and mental difficulties included in the Washington Group Short Set of Questions (WG-SS) are identified as persons with disabilities.

In the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, information on physical and mental difficulties was collected from persons aged 5 years and over. Using this information, the population with functional difficulties and the population with disabilities within the relevant age groups were identified. Figure 6.2.1 illustrates this methodology.

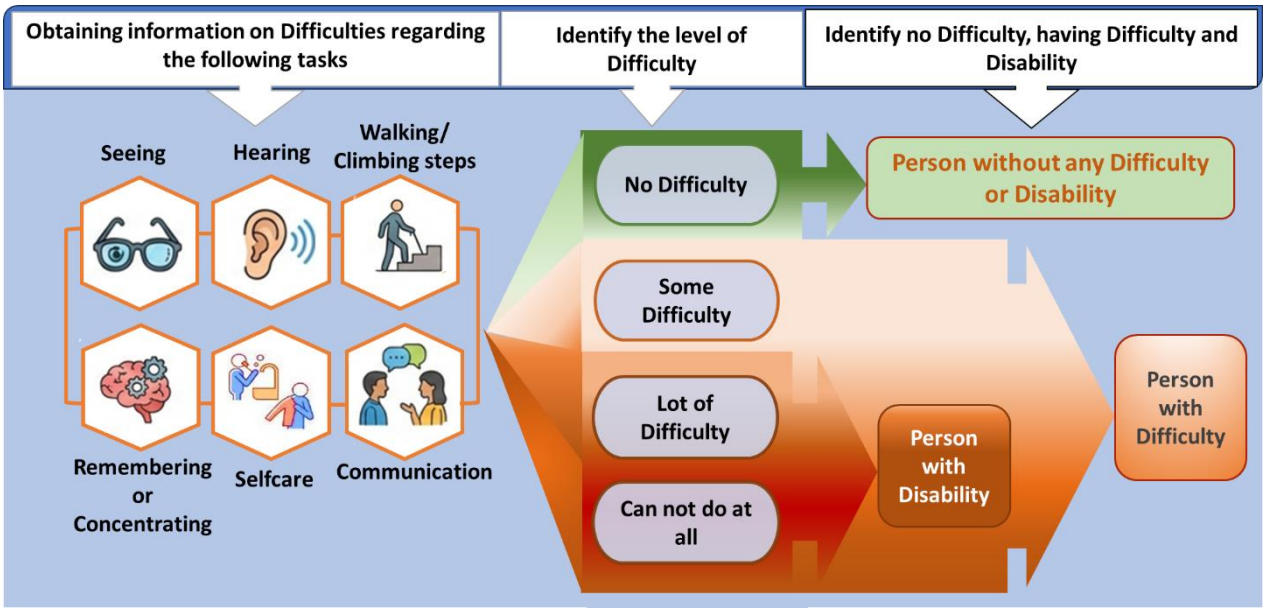


Figure 6.2.1 : Identification of the Population with Difficulties and the Population with Disabilities According to the Methodology Recommended by the Washington Group

Persons with multiple disabilities

Individuals who reported **"a lot of difficulty"** or **"cannot do at all"** in **two or more** of the following activities during data collection: seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, self-care (performing their daily activities by themselves), and communicating.

6.2.3 Persons with physical and mental difficulties

During the census, for persons aged 5 years and over, the level of difficulty was reported separately for each activity seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, performing daily activities such as dressing or bathing, and communicating with others using the response categories: "no difficulty," "some difficulty," "a lot of difficulty," and "cannot do at all."

According to the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, the total population aged 5 years and over in Sri Lanka was 20,566,680. Table 6.2.1 presents the distribution of this population according to the level of physical and mental difficulties. An individual may experience difficulties in more than one activity, and the information has been reported accordingly.

Table 6.2.1 : Distribution of the Population Aged 5 Years and Over by Level of Physical and Mental Difficulties for Each Functional Domain, 2024

Functional Domains	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty		Cannot do at all	
	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Seeing	18,626,725	906	1,747,377	85	168,207	8	24,371	1
Hearing	19,833,909	965	602,674	29	105,760	5	24,337	1
Walking or climbing steps	18,862,616	917	1,256,095	61	369,762	18	78,207	4
Remembering or concentrating on something	19,779,068	962	619,786	30	133,641	6	34,185	2
Selfcare, such as washing all over or dressing	19,926,695	969	450,693	22	124,756	6	64,536	3
Communicating with others	20,145,867	979	308,015	15	72,412	4	40,386	2

The highest number of individuals reporting any level of difficulty (“some difficulty,” “a lot of difficulty,” or “cannot do at all”) is observed for seeing. This means that out of every 1,000 persons aged 5 years and over, 94 individuals experience some level of difficulty in seeing. When obtaining information about vision, if a person reports no vision problems after wearing glasses, it is identified as "no difficulty”.

The lowest number of individuals reporting any level of difficulty is observed for communicating with others. In other words, out of every 1,000 persons aged 5 years and over, 21 individuals experience difficulty in communication.

Table 6.2.2 presents the distribution of persons aged 5 years and over with any difficulty by district. Accordingly, 3,223,413 persons aged 5 years and over have at least one physical or mental difficulty. This corresponds to 157 persons with a physical or mental difficulty per 1,000 individuals in the population aged 5 years and over.

Considering the prevalence of at least one physical or mental difficulty, the highest rate is reported in the Hambantota district, where 183 persons per 1,000 individuals aged 5 years and over have at least one difficulty. Furthermore, Hambantota district also reports the highest rate of persons with seeing difficulties and difficulty in communication. The highest rate of persons with hearing difficulties and difficulty in remembering or concentrating is reported in the Kegalle district, while the highest rate of persons with difficulty walking or climbing steps is reported in the Kurunegala district. The highest rate of persons with difficulty performing daily activities independently is reported in the Mannar district.

Table 6.2.3 shows the distribution of people aged 5 years and over with difficulty, who reported having “some difficulty”, “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” for each difficulty, by age group. The number of persons with difficulty per 1000 persons in the population of each age group is shown as its rate. Here, a significant increase is seen in the rate of persons with difficulty in seeing after the age of 45, and an increase is also seen in the rate of persons with difficulty in walking or climbing stairs after the age of 55. The population with difficulty reported in each of the considered functional domains and the rate increase with age.

Table 6.2.2 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Physical and Mental Difficulties by District and Difficulties, 2024

District	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Persons with at least one Physical or Mental Difficulty		Functional Domain											
				Difficulty in Seeing		Difficulty in Hearing		Difficulty in Walking or climbing steps		Difficulty in Remembering or concentrating		Difficulty in Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Difficulty in Communicating with others	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	3,223,413	157	1,939,955	94	732,771	36	1,704,064	83	787,612	38	639,985	31	420,813	20
Colombo	2,271,290	277,894	122	152,592	67	59,508	26	150,614	66	69,279	31	55,244	24	40,731	18
Gampaha	2,319,190	340,360	147	194,156	84	76,279	33	184,771	80	85,190	37	65,653	28	44,483	19
Kalutara	1,239,745	173,629	140	100,364	81	42,776	35	95,264	77	45,878	37	36,097	29	25,241	20
Kandy	1,382,499	229,991	166	133,777	97	54,309	39	127,934	93	57,599	42	41,366	30	29,762	22
Matale	496,910	87,412	176	52,463	106	20,217	41	48,307	97	22,094	44	15,106	30	10,414	21
Nuwara Eliya	680,431	119,550	176	72,180	106	23,606	35	63,822	94	26,066	38	22,496	33	13,826	20
Galle	1,039,455	164,255	158	100,166	96	40,849	39	85,974	83	43,463	42	30,609	29	23,279	22
Matara	792,812	144,400	182	91,333	115	33,262	42	73,867	93	35,908	45	22,831	29	17,363	22
Hambantota	631,619	115,319	183	76,574	121	26,427	42	60,341	96	28,688	45	20,944	33	15,295	24
Jaffna	559,228	78,731	141	44,851	80	19,593	35	36,754	66	20,583	37	25,622	46	12,190	22
Mannar	114,635	15,693	137	9,614	84	3,013	26	6,961	61	3,328	29	5,724	50	2,021	18
Vavuniya	161,045	24,581	153	16,783	104	3,986	25	9,737	60	4,443	28	6,028	37	2,344	15
Mullaitivu	114,411	18,931	165	11,787	103	3,507	31	7,446	65	4,248	37	4,956	43	2,377	21
Kilinochchi	127,536	19,104	150	11,858	93	4,091	32	8,284	65	4,656	37	5,877	46	2,399	19
Batticaloa	550,033	69,759	127	41,619	76	12,329	22	31,128	57	13,734	25	20,975	38	10,162	18
Ampara	688,172	96,762	141	60,812	88	18,195	26	45,225	66	20,544	30	28,406	41	12,323	18
Trincomalee	407,995	49,564	121	29,589	73	10,254	25	23,966	59	11,056	27	16,188	40	7,307	18
Kurunegala	1,671,998	292,273	175	173,734	104	68,769	41	163,414	98	74,169	44	54,425	33	36,048	22
Puttalam	766,720	124,717	163	76,334	100	25,358	33	65,914	86	30,257	39	27,408	36	16,798	22
Anuradhapura	903,486	151,596	168	91,904	102	33,199	37	85,225	94	33,912	38	25,233	28	17,011	19
Polonnaruwa	420,411	70,189	167	44,743	106	15,322	36	35,778	85	15,644	37	11,374	27	8,334	20
Badulla	822,169	138,037	168	84,691	103	32,279	39	76,673	93	33,607	41	24,377	30	17,674	21
Moneragala	494,374	81,779	165	54,543	110	19,705	40	41,463	84	19,533	40	14,693	30	10,308	21
Ratnapura	1,084,599	189,507	175	121,942	112	46,515	43	97,264	90	45,069	42	32,362	30	24,013	22
Kegalle	825,917	149,380	181	91,546	111	39,423	48	77,938	94	38,664	47	25,991	31	19,110	23

Table 6.2.3 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Physical and Mental Difficulties by Age Group and Difficulties, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Persons with at least one Physical or Mental Difficulty		Functional Domain											
				Difficulty in Seeing		Difficulty in Hearing		Difficulty in Walking or climbing steps		Difficulty in Remembering or concentrating		Difficulty in Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Difficulty in Communicating with others	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	3,223,413	157	1,939,955	94	732,771	36	1,704,064	83	787,612	38	639,985	31	420,813	20
05 - 09	1,556,523	54,572	35	11,808	8	4,493	3	11,683	8	13,430	9	29,556	19	17,505	11
10 - 14	1,735,196	49,774	29	21,988	13	6,004	3	12,967	7	12,676	7	11,908	7	14,088	8
15 - 19	1,795,038	58,367	33	30,524	17	6,589	4	14,523	8	13,647	8	10,169	6	14,490	8
20 - 24	1,608,606	54,853	34	27,860	17	6,274	4	14,656	9	12,703	8	9,315	6	13,383	8
25 - 29	1,372,458	51,041	37	24,105	18	6,590	5	15,010	11	12,176	9	8,836	6	12,367	9
30 - 34	1,414,060	59,431	42	26,681	19	7,805	6	19,457	14	13,634	10	9,723	7	13,393	9
35 - 39	1,452,703	80,188	55	38,818	27	8,894	6	27,929	19	15,406	11	11,353	8	13,775	9
40 - 44	1,602,344	161,777	101	106,436	66	13,057	8	45,340	28	19,938	12	14,847	9	15,870	10
45 - 49	1,490,765	233,069	156	163,791	110	18,517	12	68,656	46	23,994	16	18,532	12	17,318	12
50 - 54	1,341,807	264,705	197	178,696	133	22,982	17	97,564	73	29,548	22	23,073	17	17,514	13
55 - 59	1,276,056	322,044	252	206,186	162	37,497	29	144,965	114	43,400	34	34,004	27	22,172	17
60 - 64	1,183,310	382,191	323	235,785	199	59,812	51	201,601	170	63,641	54	49,559	42	28,085	24
65 - 69	991,814	403,878	407	242,174	244	88,344	89	242,584	245	86,685	87	66,083	67	34,314	35
70 - 74	795,539	405,534	510	240,740	303	125,102	157	274,919	346	118,070	148	89,346	112	45,423	57
75 - 79	522,990	320,828	613	188,727	361	133,163	255	240,740	460	125,749	240	97,010	185	50,605	97
80 & over	427,471	321,161	751	195,636	458	187,648	439	271,470	635	182,915	428	156,671	367	90,511	212

6.2.4 Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities

For each type of functional domain considered, the level of difficulty reported by an individual was used to identify persons with disabilities. If an individual reported "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" for any functionality, then they were classified as a person with a disability. An individual may have one or more disabilities.

Accordingly, 727,293 persons aged 5 years and over were identified having at least one disability under 6 functional domains: seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, performing daily activities independently, and communicating with others. Any individual with at least one disability is included in this count. Expressed as a rate, this corresponds to 35 persons with a disability per 1,000 individuals aged 5 years and over in Sri Lanka.

Table 6.2.4 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Sex and Domain of Disability, 2024

		Total	Male	Female
Total population aged 5 years and over	Number	20,566,680	9,901,263	10,665,417
Population aged 5 years and over with at least one disability	Number	727,293	313,354	413,939
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	35	32	39
Domain of Disability		Total	Male	Female
Seeing	Number	192,578	80,696	111,882
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	9	8	10
Hearing	Number	130,097	57,221	72,876
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	6	6	7
Walking or climbing steps	Number	447,969	180,620	267,349
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	22	18	25
Remembering or concentrating on something	Number	167,826	75,051	92,775
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	8	8	9
Selfcare, such as washing all over or dressing	Number	189,292	84,428	104,864
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	9	9	10
Communicating with others	Number	112,798	55,333	57,465
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	5	6	5

According to Table 6.2.4, the highest number of persons (447,969) were reported to have walking or climbing disability. This corresponds to 22 persons per 1,000 individuals aged 5 years and over. Further, the lowest number of persons (112,798) were reported to have disability in communicating with others. For all domains of disabilities, except communication the number and rate of females having disabilities are higher compared to those of males.

Table 6.2.5 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Sector and Domain of Disability, 2024

			Sector			
		Total	Urban	Estate Urban	Rural	Estate Rural
Total population aged 5 years and over	Number	20,566,680	3,613,813	11,299	16,131,086	810,482
Population with at least one disability	Number	727,293	96,426	260	601,740	28,867
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	35	27	23	37	36
Domain of Disability		Total	Urban	Estate Urban	Rural	Estate Rural
Seeing	Number	192,578	23,378	73	159,285	9,842
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	9	6	6	10	12
Hearing	Number	130,097	14,653	45	110,852	4,547
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	6	4	4	7	6
Walking or climbing steps	Number	447,969	60,562	146	371,207	16,054
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	22	17	13	23	20
Remembering or concentrating on something	Number	167,826	23,117	50	138,988	5,671
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	8	6	4	9	7
Selfcare, such as washing all over or dressing	Number	189,292	28,745	70	153,226	7,251
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	9	8	6	9	9
Communicating with others	Number	112,798	16,650	44	91,800	4,304
	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	5	5	4	6	5

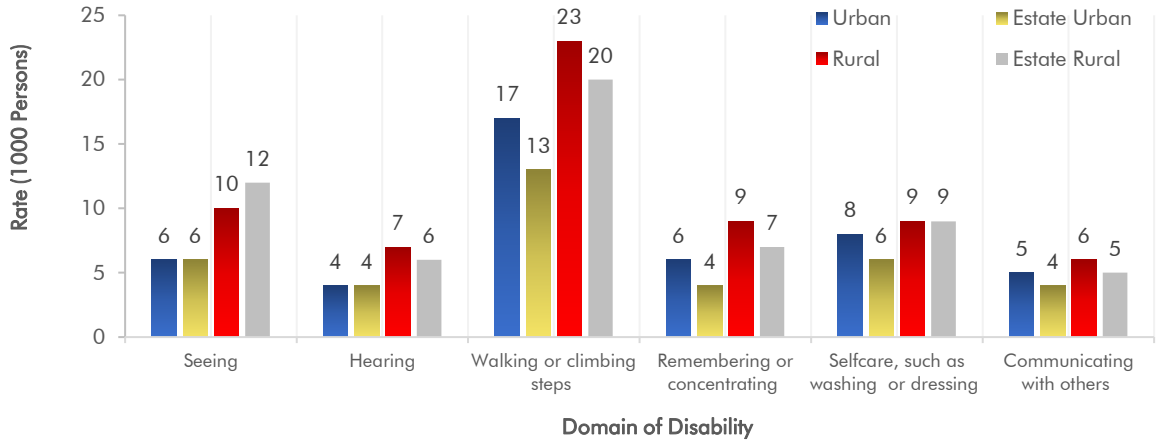


Figure 6.2.2 : Disability Rate (per 1,000 persons) by Sector and Domain of Disability, 2024

As presented in Table 6.2.5, among the four sectors, the rural sector reported the highest number of persons with disabilities for each type of disability. Furthermore, as illustrated in Figure 6.2.2, the rural sector also reported the highest rates of disability in walking or climbing (23 per 1,000 individuals), remembering or concentrating (9 per 1,000 individuals), hearing (7 per 1,000 individuals), and communication (6 per 1,000 individuals). However, with regard to disability in seeing the highest rate was observed in the estate rural sector, where 12 persons per 1,000 population were reported to have a seeing disability.

As given in Table 6.2.6 the highest number of persons with at least one disability (75,118) was reported in Gampaha district. However, the highest disability rate was observed in the Kurunegala district, where 43 persons per 1,000 population. The lowest rate of disability was reported from Colombo district, corresponding to 25 persons per 1,000 population.

Table 6.2.6 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by District and Domain of Disability, 2024

District	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Persons with at least one Disability		Domain of Disability											
				Seeing		Hearing		Walking or climbing steps		Remembering or concentrating		Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Communicating with others	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	727,293	35	192,578	9	130,097	6	447,969	22	167,826	8	189,292	9	112,798	5
Colombo	2,271,290	57,699	25	14,104	6	9,047	4	36,504	16	14,600	6	16,175	7	9,811	4
Gampaha	2,319,190	75,118	32	18,644	8	13,115	6	47,894	21	18,425	8	19,647	8	11,712	5
Kalutara	1,239,745	38,140	31	9,481	8	6,799	5	23,755	19	10,042	8	10,463	8	6,722	5
Kandy	1,382,499	50,920	37	13,417	10	9,188	7	31,825	23	11,750	8	11,875	9	7,553	5
Matale	496,910	20,074	40	5,188	10	3,644	7	12,578	25	4,415	9	4,266	9	2,744	6
Nuwara Eliya	680,431	27,426	40	8,845	13	4,379	6	15,715	23	5,311	8	6,415	9	3,401	5
Galle	1,039,455	37,428	36	9,732	9	7,556	7	22,876	22	9,813	9	10,001	10	6,727	6
Matara	792,812	33,083	42	8,935	11	6,519	8	20,559	26	8,317	10	8,065	10	5,307	7
Hambantota	631,619	26,196	41	7,631	12	4,848	8	16,678	26	6,608	10	6,351	10	4,326	7
Jaffna	559,228	18,710	33	4,206	8	3,785	7	10,055	18	4,005	7	7,357	13	3,406	6
Mannar	114,635	3,551	31	1,134	10	582	5	1,756	15	638	6	1,353	12	568	5
Vavuniya	161,045	5,313	33	1,766	11	811	5	2,646	16	1,013	6	1,843	11	805	5
Mullaitivu	114,411	4,295	38	1,194	10	748	7	2,190	19	736	6	1,501	13	649	6
Kilinochchi	127,536	4,416	35	1,196	9	800	6	2,257	18	985	8	1,511	12	732	6
Batticaloa	550,033	16,862	31	4,467	8	2,646	5	8,332	15	3,316	6	6,181	11	3,468	6
Ampara	688,172	21,995	32	5,959	9	3,539	5	12,570	18	4,744	7	8,023	12	3,666	5
Trincomalee	407,995	11,185	27	2,904	7	1,732	4	6,030	15	2,313	6	4,387	11	1,950	5
Kurunegala	1,671,998	72,466	43	17,982	11	13,182	8	48,325	29	16,091	10	16,850	10	9,864	6
Puttalam	766,720	29,894	39	7,953	10	4,573	6	18,808	25	6,690	9	7,904	10	4,743	6
Anuradhapura	903,486	37,531	42	9,573	11	6,330	7	24,714	27	7,720	9	7,596	8	4,818	5
Polonnaruwa	420,411	15,584	37	4,496	11	2,720	6	9,548	23	3,152	7	3,401	8	2,117	5
Badulla	822,169	30,144	37	8,924	11	5,340	6	18,273	22	6,200	8	6,605	8	4,225	5
Moneragala	494,374	17,448	35	5,289	11	3,165	6	10,486	21	3,907	8	4,227	9	2,690	5
Ratnapura	1,084,599	40,108	37	11,383	10	8,269	8	24,282	22	9,445	9	9,693	9	6,163	6
Kegalle	825,917	31,707	38	8,175	10	6,780	8	19,313	23	7,590	9	7,602	9	4,631	6

Table 6.2.7 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Age Group and Domain of Disability, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Persons with at least one Disability		Domain of Disability											
				Seeing		Hearing		Walking or climbing steps		Remembering or concentrating		Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Communicating with others	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	727,293	35	192,578	9	130,097	6	447,969	22	167,826	8	189,292	9	112,798	5
05 - 09	1,556,523	12,739	8	2,513	2	1,693	1	3,685	2	4,215	3	6,959	4	5,358	3
10 - 14	1,735,196	13,395	8	3,145	2	2,050	1	4,264	2	5,822	3	5,232	3	6,095	4
15 - 19	1,795,038	14,356	8	3,346	2	2,151	1	4,698	3	6,514	4	4,983	3	6,287	4
20 - 24	1,608,606	13,322	8	2,911	2	2,163	1	4,450	3	5,909	4	4,392	3	5,651	4
25 - 29	1,372,458	13,106	10	2,499	2	2,515	2	4,362	3	5,455	4	3,838	3	5,444	4
30 - 34	1,414,060	15,424	11	2,915	2	2,918	2	5,426	4	5,882	4	4,104	3	5,682	4
35 - 39	1,452,703	18,077	12	3,686	3	2,864	2	7,291	5	5,813	4	4,139	3	5,317	4
40 - 44	1,602,344	24,268	15	5,677	4	3,549	2	10,262	6	6,751	4	4,936	3	5,576	3
45 - 49	1,490,765	31,124	21	7,939	5	4,754	3	14,371	10	6,761	5	5,686	4	6,229	4
50 - 54	1,341,807	37,061	28	9,841	7	4,277	3	19,681	15	6,848	5	6,308	5	5,207	4
55 - 59	1,276,056	50,179	39	13,195	10	5,672	4	29,053	23	7,889	6	8,703	7	5,728	4
60 - 64	1,183,310	66,639	56	17,904	15	7,568	6	41,282	35	9,603	8	11,789	10	6,069	5
65 - 69	991,814	81,749	82	22,114	22	10,417	11	53,294	54	11,220	11	15,469	16	6,305	6
70 - 74	795,539	97,615	123	26,277	33	15,334	19	66,587	84	15,475	19	21,111	27	7,751	10
75 - 79	522,990	95,862	183	25,911	50	19,522	37	68,160	130	19,052	36	24,912	48	8,806	17
80 & over	427,471	142,377	333	42,705	100	42,650	100	111,103	260	44,617	104	56,731	133	21,293	50

Table 6.2.7 presents the distribution of persons with disabilities by age group. Among the population aged 80 years and over, one in every three individuals has at least one physical or mental disability

Table 6.2.8 presents the distribution of persons with a single disability and with multiple disabilities by age group. The rate of persons with multiple disabilities increases with age. According to the table, among persons aged 80 years and over, 63,071 individuals were reported to have a single disability, while 79,306 individuals were reported to have multiple disabilities

Table 6.2.8 : Distribution of Persons with a Single Disability and with Multiple Disabilities by Age Group, 2024

Age Group	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Persons with a Single Disability		Persons with More Than One Disability	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	452,247	22	275,046	13
05 - 09	1,556,523	7,320	5	5,419	3
10 - 14	1,735,196	6,995	4	6,400	4
15 - 19	1,795,038	7,643	4	6,713	4
20 - 24	1,608,606	7,169	4	6,153	4
25 - 29	1,372,458	7,156	5	5,950	4
30 - 34	1,414,060	8,909	6	6,515	5
35 - 39	1,452,703	11,522	8	6,555	5
40 - 44	1,602,344	16,534	10	7,734	5
45 - 49	1,490,765	21,690	15	9,434	6
50 - 54	1,341,807	27,220	20	9,841	7
55 - 59	1,276,056	36,944	29	13,235	10
60 - 64	1,183,310	48,823	41	17,816	15
65 - 69	991,814	58,416	59	23,333	24
70 - 74	795,539	65,119	82	32,496	41
75 - 79	522,990	57,716	110	38,146	73
80 & over	427,471	63,071	148	79,306	186

Table 6.2.9 presents the distribution of persons with disabilities by marital status. Among the population with disabilities, the highest number of individuals are currently married (385,815). The highest rate of disability is observed among the widowed population, with 152 persons with disabilities reported per 1,000 widowed individuals aged 5 years and over.

Table 6.2.9 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Marital Status and Sex, 2024

Marital Status	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over			Persons with at least one Disability					
				Total		Male		Female	
	Total	Male	Female	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	9,901,263	10,665,417	727,293	35	313,354	32	413,939	39
Never Married	7,885,030	4,197,243	3,687,787	139,784	18	75,568	18	64,216	17
Married	11,161,078	5,417,431	5,743,647	385,815	35	205,805	38	180,010	31
Widowed	1,234,418	175,421	1,058,997	187,613	152	25,746	147	161,867	153
Divorced	74,355	28,952	45,403	3,161	43	1,356	47	1,805	40
Legally Separated	44,904	17,047	27,857	1,837	41	814	48	1,023	37
Separated (not Legally)	166,895	65,169	101,726	9,083	54	4,065	62	5,018	49

Table 6.2.10 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Highest Educational Qualification and Sex, 2024.

Highest Education Qualification	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over			Persons with at least one Disability					
				Total	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Male		Female	
	Total	Male	Female			Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	9,901,263	10,665,417	727,293	35	313,354	32	413,939	39
Never attended School	686,465	282,453	404,012	110,110	160	41,224	146	68,886	171
Studied/Studying Special School/Educational unit	42,104	24,061	18,043	14,517	345	8,447	351	6,070	336
Passed Grade 1-5*	3,601,416	1,742,869	1,858,547	227,992	63	93,332	54	134,660	72
Passed Grade 6-8	2,766,674	1,418,432	1,348,242	127,874	46	58,185	41	69,689	52
Passed Grade 9-10	4,623,851	2,363,972	2,259,879	116,913	25	53,514	23	63,399	28
G.C.E. (O/L) or equivalent	4,266,317	2,092,848	2,173,469	81,876	19	37,019	18	44,857	21
G.C.E. (A/L) or equivalent	3,557,265	1,543,135	2,014,130	39,559	11	17,330	11	22,229	11
Degree & above	1,022,588	433,493	589,095	8,452	8	4,303	10	4,149	7

* Persons who are studying/have studied in Grade 1 are also included in this category

Table 6.2.10 presents the distribution of persons with disabilities aged 5 years and over by sex and the highest educational qualification attained as of the census date. Persons with disabilities who are currently or have been enrolled in a special school or educational unit show the highest disability rate, whereas the lowest disability rate is reported among those with a university degree or higher qualification.

Table 6.2.11 shows the prevalence of each disability domain by marital status. According to the table the highest number of persons with walking or climbing steps disability (247,239) is reported among those who are currently married. However, the highest rate of person with walking or climbing steps disability are reported among widowed persons. It is 112 per 1000 person in the widowed population.

Table 6.2.11 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Marital Status and Domain of Disability, 2024

Marital Status	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Domain of Disability											
		Seeing		Hearing		Walking or climbing steps		Remembering or concentrating		Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Communicating with others	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	192,578	9	130,097	6	447,969	22	167,826	8	189,292	9	112,798	5
Never Married	7,885,030	26,799	3	24,124	3	55,653	7	63,731	8	47,650	6	53,285	7
Married	11,161,078	108,272	10	64,434	6	247,239	22	58,641	5	84,887	8	38,237	3
Widowed	1,234,418	54,018	44	39,306	32	137,784	112	42,185	34	54,247	44	19,327	16
Divorced	74,355	712	10	499	7	1,553	21	840	11	633	9	494	7
Legally Separated	44,904	430	10	268	6	981	22	417	9	332	7	245	5
Separated(not Legally)	166,895	2,347	14	1,466	9	4,759	29	2,012	12	1,543	9	1,210	7

Table 6.2.12 : Distribution of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over with Disabilities by Highest Educational Qualification and Domain of Disability, 2024

Highest Education Qualification	Number of Persons Aged 5 Years and Over	Domain of Disability											
		Seeing		Hearing		Walking or climbing steps		Remembering or concentrating		Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Communicating with others	
		Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)	Number	Rate (per 1,000 persons)
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	192,578	9	130,097	6	447,969	22	167,826	8	189,292	9	112,798	5
Never attended School	686,465	30,146	44	27,485	40	61,681	90	46,627	68	43,022	63	39,767	58
Studied/Studying Special School/ Educational unit	42,104	1,086	26	3,518	84	2,664	63	7,992	190	4,516	107	9,367	222
Passed Grade 1-5*	3,601,416	66,400	18	45,542	13	144,615	40	51,177	14	60,164	17	28,445	8
Passed Grade 6-8	2,766,674	33,325	12	21,432	8	82,747	30	23,477	8	29,113	11	12,753	5
Passed Grade 9-10	4,623,851	29,431	6	16,295	4	71,595	15	19,057	4	23,440	5	11,283	2
G.C.E. (O/L) or equivalent	4,266,317	20,120	5	10,246	2	53,684	13	11,951	3	17,462	4	6,739	2
G.C.E. (A/L) or equivalent	3,557,265	9,754	3	4,577	1	25,683	7	6,207	2	9,369	3	3,538	1
Degree & above	1,022,588	2,316	2	1,002	1	5,300	5	1,338	1	2,206	2	906	1

* Persons who are studying/have studied in Grade 1 are also included in this category

Table 6.2.12 shows the prevalence of each disability domain according to the highest educational qualification attained. The highest rate of seeing disability and the highest rate of walking or climbing stairs disability are reported among person who have not attended school while disability rates of all other types of disabilities are highest among persons who are studying or have attended a special school/educational unit.

6.2.5 Economic Activities of Persons with Disabilities Aged 15 Years and Over

Table 6.2.13 : Economic Activities of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, 2024

Status of Economic Activity	Persons with at least one disability					
	Total	%	Male		Female	
			Number	%	Number	%
Aged 15 years and over	701,159	100.0	298,438	100.0	402,721	100.0
Economically active	91,706	13.1	62,021	20.8	29,685	7.4
Economically inactive	609,453	86.9	236,417	79.2	373,036	92.6
Economically active						
Employed	86,700	94.5	59,876	96.5	26,824	90.4
Unemployed	5,006	5.5	2,145	3.5	2,861	9.6
Economically inactive						
Reason for inactivity						
Engaged educational or vocational training activities	7,853	1.3	3,888	1.6	3,965	1.1
Household work/Engaged in Children/Elders Caring	48,773	8.0	3,041	1.3	45,732	12.2
Recipient such as investment income, rental, interest income	1,189	0.2	606	0.3	583	0.2
Unable/pensioner/too old to work	301,014	49.4	105,741	44.7	195,273	52.3
Long term illness/disabled	234,053	38.4	114,488	48.5	119,565	32.1
Does not want/interest to do any economic activity	6,178	1.0	2,442	1.0	3,736	1.0
Other	9,686	1.6	5,667	2.4	4,019	1.1
Living outdoor (Roofless persons)	707	0.1	544	0.2	163	0.0

Persons aged 15 years and over are considered the working-age population. Information on the economic activities of persons with physical and mental disabilities within this population is presented in Table 6.2.13. Among persons aged 15 years and over with disabilities, 13.1 percent are reported to be economically active. Furthermore, the number of employed persons with disabilities is reported as 86,700. The unemployment rate among persons with disabilities is 5.5 percent, while the corresponding rate for females is 9.6 percent and 3.5 percent for males.

Table 6.2.14 shows the distribution of persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over by domain of disability and their economic activity status. The highest workforce participation rate is observed among persons with seeing disability, at 17 percent. The highest percentage of economically inactive persons (97.4%) is reported among those with difficulty performing daily activities independently. Among them, a large percentage (56.0%) are economically inactive due to long-term illness or disability.

Table 6.2.14 : Economic Activity of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities by Domain of Disability, 2024

Economic Activity	Domain of Disability											
	Seeing		Hearing		Walking or climbing steps		Remembering or concentrating		Selfcare, such as washing or dressing		Communicating with others	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Persons with disabilities aged 15 and over	186,920	100.0	126,354	100.0	440,020	100.0	157,789	100.0	177,101	100.0	101,345	100.0
Economically active	31,863	17.0	18,240	14.4	37,321	8.5	6,518	4.1	4,624	2.6	9,828	9.7
Economically inactive	155,057	83.0	108,114	85.6	402,699	91.5	151,271	95.9	172,477	97.4	91,517	90.3
Economically active	31,863	100.0	18,240	100.0	37,321	100.0	6,518	100.0	4,624	100.0	9,828	100.0
Employed	30,041	94.3	17,459	95.7	35,127	94.1	6,004	92.1	4,011	86.7	9,206	93.7
Unemployed	1,822	5.7	781	4.3	2,194	5.9	514	7.9	613	13.3	622	6.3
Economically inactive	155,057	100.0	108,114	100.0	402,699	100.0	151,271	100.0	172,477	100.0	91,517	100.0
Engaged educational or vocational training activities	3,336	2.2	1,289	1.2	1,606	0.4	1,255	0.8	904	0.5	1,675	1.8
Household work/Engaged in Children/Elders Caring	16,368	10.6	8,125	7.5	22,565	5.6	3,869	2.6	3,048	1.8	4,710	5.1
Recipient such as investment income, rental, interest income	325	0.2	153	0.1	722	0.2	161	0.1	158	0.1	110	0.1
Unable/pensioner/too old to work	85,108	54.8	62,308	57.7	209,389	52.0	56,004	37.0	68,076	39.5	23,729	25.9
Long term illness/disabled	45,680	29.5	33,358	30.9	161,461	40.0	84,408	55.9	96,496	56.0	56,990	62.3
Does not want/interest to do any economic activity	1,929	1.2	1,318	1.2	2,279	0.6	1,268	0.8	765	0.4	1,067	1.2
Other	2,117	1.4	1,426	1.3	4,303	1.1	3,989	2.6	2,795	1.6	2,995	3.3
No Place to Live (Roofless persons)	194	0.1	137	0.1	374	0.1	317	0.2	235	0.1	241	0.3

6.3 Non-Communicable Diseases

Introduction

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), also referred to as chronic illnesses, are diseases of long duration that are not transmitted directly from one person to another. These conditions arise from a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental, and behavioral factors[1]. Considering the rapid increase in NCDs, information on several prevalent non-communicable diseases was collected from all usual residents in Sri Lanka during the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 for the first time in census history. Accordingly, this chapter presents prevalence of some commonly reported NCDs such as diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, kidney disease, thalassemia, cancer, stroke, asthma, and epilepsy.

If an individual reported having one or more of the diseases, the presence of each such disease was reported accordingly. Since individuals who unaware of having NCD may have responded having "no diseases". Therefore, the actual prevalence rates may differ from these reported figures. Furthermore, in the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, information was not collected from the 2,317 persons reported as the “roofless population,” that is, individuals living outdoors without a usual place of residence.

Population Reporting Non-Communicable Diseases

The population reporting at least one non-communicable disease is 4,185,749 (19.2%). According to this data analysis, it is revealed that one in every five persons in Sri Lanka population suffers some form of non-communicable disease.

Table 6.3.1 : Number of Persons Reporting and Not Reporting Diseases, 2024

Type	Number	%
Total Population*	21,779,483	100.0
Population reporting at least one non-communicable disease	4,185,749	19.2
Population not reporting the presence of any non-communicable diseases	17,593,734	80.8

*Excluding the roofless population

The majority of the total population, 17,593,734 persons (80.8%), reported not having any of the aforementioned medical conditions.

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases

In the analysis of self-reported non-communicable diseases (NCDs), prevalence rates were calculated for each disease. These rates represent the number of individuals with a particular NCD per one hundred persons in the relevant population.

Table 6.3.2 presents the number and prevalence rates of the population with at least one NCD, categorized by age group and sex. According to the analysis of prevalence rates, clear sex-based differences can be observed. Specifically, it is reported that 21.8 percent of the total female population (2,459,890) and 16.4 percent of the total male population (1,725,859) suffer from at least one NCD. This data confirms that the reporting of non-communicable diseases is higher among females compared to males.

[1] WHO. (2025). *World Health Organization*. Retrieved from Noncommunicable diseases: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases

Table 6.3.2 : Prevalence Rates of the Population with at Least One Non-Communicable Disease by Age Group and Sex, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Total Population			Population who has at least one NCD			Prevalence Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	21,779,483	10,510,498	11,268,985	4,185,749	1,725,859	2,459,890	19.2	16.4	21.8
00-04	1,215,095	611,067	604,028	13,673	7,507	6,166	1.1	1.2	1
05-09	1,556,507	788,536	767,971	29,688	16,709	12,979	1.9	2.1	1.7
10-14	1,735,181	880,895	854,286	35,588	20,225	15,363	2.1	2.3	1.8
15-19	1,795,024	907,730	887,294	31,370	16,270	15,100	1.7	1.8	1.7
20-24	1,608,577	790,203	818,374	29,256	13,480	15,776	1.8	1.7	1.9
25-29	1,372,421	662,725	709,696	36,874	16,189	20,685	2.7	2.4	2.9
30-34	1,414,013	682,539	731,474	67,032	28,862	38,170	4.7	4.2	5.2
35-39	1,452,617	705,065	747,552	127,106	56,111	70,995	8.8	8	9.5
40-44	1,602,207	785,827	816,380	239,883	107,296	132,587	15	13.7	16.2
45-49	1,490,573	730,288	760,285	351,226	153,081	198,145	23.6	21	26.1
50-54	1,341,549	650,882	690,667	441,704	185,056	256,648	32.9	28.4	37.2
55-59	1,275,751	603,165	672,586	534,828	217,942	316,886	41.9	36.1	47.1
60-64	1,182,973	547,858	635,115	587,563	239,189	348,374	49.7	43.7	54.9
65-69	991,489	446,651	544,838	558,098	226,178	331,920	56.3	50.6	60.9
70-74	795,319	344,465	450,854	488,211	194,928	293,283	61.4	56.6	65.1
75-79	522,832	214,786	308,046	337,335	129,980	207,355	64.5	60.5	67.3
80-84	268,326	102,783	165,543	176,798	63,951	112,847	65.9	62.2	68.2
85-89	111,009	39,731	71,278	71,442	24,326	47,116	64.4	61.2	66.1
90-94	39,232	12,619	26,613	23,568	7,251	16,317	60.1	57.5	61.3
95 & Over	8,788	2,683	6,105	4,506	1,328	3,178	51.3	49.5	52.1

*Excluding the roofless population

Analysis by age group confirms that the prevalence rate of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) rises sharply for both males and females from the age of 35 onwards. According to the data, 94 percent of the population reporting at least one NCD belongs to age groups over 35 years. The prevalence rate in the 20–34 age group remains at a relatively low level, ranging from 1.8 percent to 4.7 percent. However, the prevalence rate for the 40–44 age group stands at 15 percent, and by age 55–59, this figure nearly triples to 41.9 percent. Overall, the rate increases progressively from the 30–34 age group up to the 80-84 age group, after which it shows a slight decline.

When considering each age group individually, it is clear that after the age of 60, more than half of the population in every age category lives with at least one non-communicable disease. By the 80–84 age group, it is reported that two-thirds of the population (65.9%) have at least one NCD.

Figure 6.3.1 illustrates the percentage distribution of the population with at least one non-communicable disease by age group.

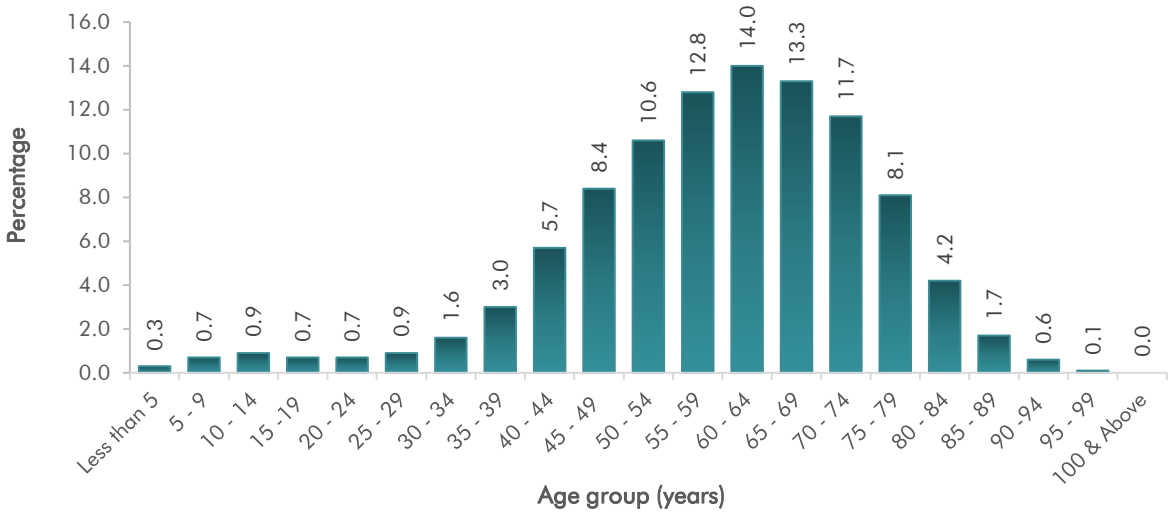


Figure 6.3.1 : Percentage Distribution of the Population with at least One Non-Communicable Disease by Age Group, 2024

According to the data in Table 6.3.3, high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol report the highest prevalence rates within the total population, respectively. Among these, high blood pressure is the most widely prevalent. One in every ten persons in the total population suffers from high blood pressure. The prevalence rates for diabetes and high cholesterol in the total population are 8.5 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively. Heart disease and asthma were reported by 2.5 percent and 1.8 percent of the total population, respectively. Other medical conditions, namely kidney disease, stroke, cancer, epilepsy, and thalassemia, were reported at rates of less than 1 percentage.

Table 6.3.3 : Number of Individuals Living with Non-Communicable Diseases and Prevalence Rates, 2024

Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)	Number	Prevalence Rate
High Blood Pressure	2,200,179	10.1
Diabetes	1,850,857	8.5
High Cholesterol	1,795,939	8.2
Heart Disease	534,480	2.5
Asthma	401,406	1.8
Kidney Disease	171,348	0.8
Stroke/Paralysis	128,396	0.6
Cancer	85,787	0.4
Epilepsy	65,008	0.3
Thalassemia	18,645	0.1

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by District

The prevalence rates of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by district are presented in Table 6.3.4. Accordingly, high blood pressure reports the highest prevalence rate in almost every district. A notable finding in the district-level analysis is that the diabetes and high blood pressure prevalence rates in Colombo, Gampaha, and Jaffna districts are over 10 percent. Among the districts, Kegalle (11.7%), Kandy (11.6%), and Matale (11.3%) report the highest prevalence rates for high blood pressure. The highest prevalence rates for diabetes were reported in Colombo (10.7%), Gampaha (10.5%), and Jaffna (10.4%) districts. Meanwhile, the highest prevalence rates for high cholesterol were reported in the Jaffna (9.9%), Gampaha (9.6%), and Matara (9.6%) districts.

Table 6.3.4 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by District, 2024

District	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Sri Lanka*	21,779,483	8.5	8.2	10.1	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.8	0.3
Colombo	2,374,869	10.7	9.1	10.5	2.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.2	0.2
Gampaha	2,435,913	10.5	9.6	10.7	2.5	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.2
Kalutara	1,305,708	9.2	8.9	10.2	2.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.3
Kandy	1,461,755	8.8	8.2	11.6	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.9	0.3
Matale	526,849	7.8	7.9	11.3	2.5	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.0	0.3
Nuwara Eliya	725,251	5.4	4.9	10.2	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.9	2.2	0.5
Galle	1,097,225	8.0	9.0	9.8	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.9	0.3
Matara	837,756	8.4	9.6	10.3	3.0	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	2.5	0.4
Hambantota	671,383	8.0	9.5	9.0	2.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.2	0.3
Jaffna	594,699	10.4	9.9	10.5	2.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.4	0.5
Mannar	123,752	7.7	6.6	8.9	2.1	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.5	2.0	0.4
Vavuniya	172,280	7.5	8.2	8.9	2.5	2.4	0.1	0.3	0.7	3.2	0.5
Mullaitivu	122,617	6.9	7.1	8.0	2.0	1.7	0.1	0.4	0.7	4.2	0.7
Kilinochchi	136,710	6.5	7.3	7.4	1.9	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.5	3.7	0.6
Batticaloa	595,889	7.1	6.3	7.9	1.8	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.6	4.4	0.4
Ampara	744,531	8.3	7.8	9.0	2.2	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.6	2.4	0.3
Trincomalee	442,722	6.7	6.1	7.0	1.6	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.6	0.3
Kurunegala	1,768,023	7.9	7.7	10.2	2.4	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.2
Puttalam	818,703	8.2	8.3	9.4	2.3	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.6	0.2
Anuradhapura	959,901	7.2	7.5	9.7	2.5	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.5	0.2
Polonnaruwa	447,503	7.8	8.6	10.0	2.8	1.9	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.3	0.2
Badulla	872,239	6.9	6.3	10.3	2.5	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.5	0.4
Moneragala	527,532	6.6	6.7	8.7	2.4	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.6	2.3	0.3
Ratnapura	1,145,252	7.5	7.5	9.7	2.3	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.7	2.1	0.4
Kegalle	870,421	8.6	8.9	11.7	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.7	1.7	0.3

*Excluding the roofless population

The highest prevalence rate for heart disease was reported in the Matara district (3%). Regarding the distribution of kidney disease, Vavuniya (2.4%), Polonnaruwa (1.9%), Mullaitivu (1.7%), and Anuradhapura (1.5%) districts report higher values compared to other districts. A prevalence rate of 0.2 percent for thalassemia was reported in the Anuradhapura district, while all other districts reported a rate of 0.1 percent.

Cancer prevalence rates range between 0.2 percent and 0.5 percent; the lowest rates were reported in Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts, while the highest rates were reported in Kurunegala and Moneragala districts. The lowest prevalence rate for stroke was reported in the Colombo district (0.4%), while the highest was reported in the Nuwara Eliya district (0.9%). The highest prevalence rates for asthma were reported in Batticaloa (4.4%), Mullaitivu (4.2%), and Kilinochchi (3.7%) districts. For epilepsy, several districts reported a minimum prevalence rate of 0.2 percent, while the highest rate of 0.7 percent was reported in the Mullaitivu district.

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Sector

The distribution of non-communicable diseases by sector is shown in Table 6.3.5. Higher prevalence rates for diabetes (10.4%), high blood pressure (10.3%), and high cholesterol (8.9%) were reported in the Urban sector compared to other sectors. The Rural sector reported higher prevalence rates for heart disease (2.5%), kidney disease (0.9%), and cancer (0.4%). Relatively higher prevalence rates for stroke (0.8%), epilepsy (0.6%), and asthma (2.5%) were reported in the Estate sector.

Table 6.3.5 : Prevalence Rates of Self-Reported Illnesses by Sector, 2024

Sector	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Total	21,779,483	8.5	8.2	10.1	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.8	0.3
Urban*	3,817,786	10.4	8.9	10.3	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.4	0.2
Rural	17,096,040	8.3	8.3	10.1	2.5	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.9	0.3
Estate Rural**	865,657	4.4	3.6	8.2	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.8	2.5	0.6

*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.
** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

Non-Communicable Disease Prevalence Rates by Sex

The distribution of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Sri Lanka by sex is presented in Table 6.3.6. According to the data, the prevalence of NCDs is generally higher among the female population compared to the male population. With the exception of heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, and epilepsy, all other non-communicable diseases were reported more frequently among females.

Table 6.3.6 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Sex, 2024

Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)	Male		Female	
	Number	Prevalence Rate	Number	Prevalence Rate
At Least One NCD	1,725,859	16.4	2,459,890	21.8
High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)	772,517	7.3	1,427,662	12.7
Diabetes	766,406	7.3	1,084,451	9.6
High Cholesterol	638,387	6.1	1,157,552	10.3
Heart Disease	282,539	2.7	251,941	2.2
Asthma	164,019	1.6	237,387	2.1
Kidney Disease	105,929	1.0	65,419	0.6
Stroke/Paralysis	73,088	0.7	55,308	0.5
Cancer	26,433	0.3	59,354	0.5
Epilepsy	36,984	0.4	28,024	0.2
Thalassemia	5,710	0.1	12,935	0.1

*Excluding the roofless population

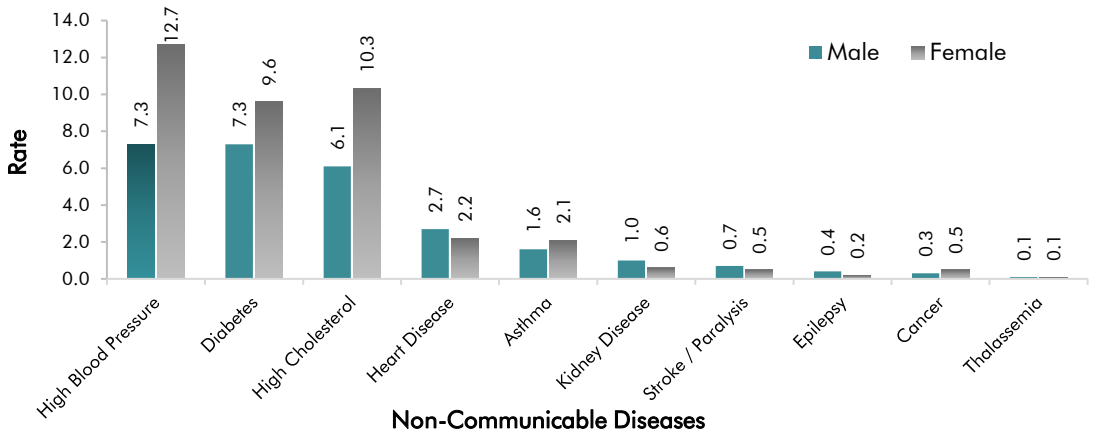


Figure 6.3.2 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Sex - 2024

As shown in Figure 6.3.2, there are clear differences in the prevalence rates of high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol between males and females. Higher prevalence rates are reported among females for high blood pressure (12.7%), high cholesterol (10.3%), and diabetes (9.6%) compared to males. Furthermore, asthma and cancer also show higher prevalence rates among the female population than the male population.

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Age Group

The distribution of prevalence rates for ten selected non-communicable diseases (NCDs) across five-year age groups is presented in Table 6.3.7. Accordingly, it is evident that the risk of non-communicable diseases gradually increases with aging.

Table 6.3.7 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Age Group, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Sri Lanka*	21,779,483	8.5	8.2	10.1	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.8	0.3
Less than 5	1,215,095	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
5-9	1,556,507	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2
10-14	1,735,181	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2
15-19	1,795,024	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.3
20-24	1,608,577	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.3
25-29	1,372,421	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.3
30-34	1,414,013	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.3
35-39	1,452,617	3.2	2.7	2.4	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.3	0.3
40-44	1,602,207	6.2	5.4	5.1	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.5	0.4
45-49	1,490,573	10.4	9.5	9.9	2.2	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.4	1.9	0.4
50-54	1,341,549	15.2	14.6	15.7	3.4	1.0	0.1	0.7	0.6	2.2	0.4
55-59	1,275,751	20.3	19.7	21.8	5.1	1.4	0.1	0.8	0.9	2.7	0.4
60-64	1,182,973	24.4	23.9	28.3	6.8	2.0	0.1	1.0	1.4	3.3	0.3
65-69	991,489	27.2	27.2	34.7	8.3	2.7	0.1	1.2	2.0	4.1	0.3
70-74	795,319	28.7	29.2	40.2	9.4	3.3	0.1	1.3	2.6	4.9	0.3
75-79	522,832	28.9	29.7	44.2	10.0	3.5	0.1	1.3	3.2	5.3	0.3
80-84	268,326	28.0	28.9	46.6	10.0	3.5	0.1	1.1	3.9	5.5	0.2
85-89	111,009	25.9	26.8	46.1	9.3	3.3	0.1	0.8	4.6	5.3	0.2
90-94	39,232	22.6	23.2	42.9	8.1	2.8	0.1	0.6	5.4	5.0	0.2
95+	8,788	17.5	18.0	35.8	6.4	2.0	0.0	0.4	5.5	4.0	0.2

*Excluding the roofless population

Information on the prevalence rates of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by broad age groups is presented in Table 6.3.8. Accordingly, in the 0–14 age group, the highest prevalence rate was reported for asthma (0.9%). Among the 15–59 age group, relatively higher prevalence rates were observed for diabetes (6.0%), high blood pressure (5.8%), and high cholesterol (5.5%). Within the population aged 60 years and over, higher prevalence rates were reported for high blood pressure (36.4%), high cholesterol (27.0%), diabetes (26.8%), heart disease (8.4%), asthma (4.3%), and kidney disease (2.8%), respectively.

Table 6.3.8 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Broad Age Groups, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Sri Lanka*	21,779,483	8.5	8.2	10.1	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.8	0.3
0 - 14	4,506,783	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.2
15 - 59	13,352,732	6.0	5.5	5.8	1.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.4	0.3
60 & Over	3,919,968	26.8	27.0	36.4	8.4	2.8	0.1	1.2	2.3	4.3	0.3

*Excluding the roofless population

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Marital Status

The distribution of non-communicable diseases according to the marital status of the population is presented in Table 6.3.9. When analyzing prevalence rates by marital status, the highest prevalence of NCDs is reported among the widowed population. Specifically, the rates for high blood pressure (40.4%), high cholesterol (29.5%), and diabetes (27%) are more than four times higher than the national average in Sri Lanka. Additionally, heart disease (7.5%) and asthma (4.8%) also show high prevalence rates within the widowed population. Furthermore, the prevalence rate for stroke among widowed individuals (2.1%) is significantly higher than in all other categories.

Table 6.3.9 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Marital Status, 2024

Marital Status	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Sri Lanka*	21,779,483	8.5	8.2	10.1	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.8	0.3
Never Married	9,099,161	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.4
Married	11,160,358	12.7	12.0	14.2	3.5	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.8	2.2	0.2
Widowed	1,234,122	27.0	29.5	40.4	7.5	2.2	0.1	1.2	2.1	4.8	0.3
Divorced	74,303	10.6	10.8	11.9	2.8	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.7	2.6	0.6
Legally Separated	44,887	10.1	10.8	11.6	2.8	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.7	2.8	0.6
Separated (Not legally)	166,652	10.2	10.7	12.4	3.3	1.2	0.1	0.8	0.8	3.6	0.7

*Excluding the roofless population

The reporting of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is lowest among never married individuals. The prevalence rates for high blood pressure (0.9%), diabetes (0.8%), and high cholesterol (0.7%) are all below 1 percent. This may be due to the fact that the majority of individuals in this category belong to younger age groups.

Among married individuals, prevalence rates for high blood pressure (14.2%) and diabetes (12.7%) remain at a high level. Analysis shows that prevalence rates are approximately similar for divorced and separated individuals, with diabetes ranging between 10.1 percent and 10.6 percent, while high blood pressure between 11.6 percent and 12.4 percent.

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Ethnic Group

The prevalence rates of NCDs by various ethnic groups are analyzed below. According to Table 6.3.10, the highest prevalence rates of non-communicable diseases are reported among the Malay and Burgher communities. Specifically, among the Malay community high blood pressure (13.8%), diabetes (11.5%), and high cholesterol (10.4%) all show higher rates than the national average in Sri Lanka. High prevalence rates for high blood pressure (12.2%), diabetes (10.7%), and high cholesterol (10.0%) were also reported among the Burgher community.

Table 6.3.10 : Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Ethnic Group, 2024

Ethnic group	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Sri Lanka*	21,779,483	8.5	8.2	10.1	2.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.8	0.3
Sinhala	16,142,478	8.6	8.7	10.5	2.6	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.7	0.3
Sri Lanka Tamil	2,681,263	8.0	7.2	8.8	2.1	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.6	3.0	0.4
Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar	600,245	4.6	3.5	8.5	2.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.9	2.4	0.6
Sri Lanka Moor/ Muslim	2,283,055	9.2	7.7	9.3	2.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.7	0.3
Burgher	31,717	10.7	10.0	12.2	3.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.6	1.9	0.2
Malay	26,649	11.5	10.4	13.8	3.0	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.7	0.3
Sri Lanka Chetty	2,441	7.8	9.5	10.5	2.1	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.5	0.3
Bharatha	1,178	9.6	8.9	10.4	2.4	0.4	-	0.2	0.7	1.2	0.1
Veddas	1,372	6.3	4.1	5.3	1.4	2.0	0.7	0.3	1.2	2.6	0.5
Other	9,085	5.7	4.6	6.2	1.7	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1

*Excluding the roofless population

Prevalence rates among the Sinhalese population are reported to be consistent with the national average of Sri Lanka. Among the Sri Lanka Moor population, the prevalence rate of diabetes (9.2%) is slightly higher than the national average. Within the Sri Lanka Tamil community, the prevalence rate of asthma (3.0%) is significantly higher than the national average (1.8%) of Sri Lanka. In contrast, the Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar population reports noticeably lower prevalence rates for diabetes (4.6%) and high cholesterol (3.5%) compared to other ethnic groups.

High prevalence rates for asthma (2.6%), kidney disease (2.0%), stroke (1.2%), and thalassemia (0.7%) are reported among the Veddas community. These figures are higher than those of all other major ethnic groups.

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Highest Educational Qualification

Considering the age structure of education in Sri Lanka, the following analysis was conducted by assuming 25 years as the average age at which most individuals complete their education.

Table 6.3.11 : Prevalence Rates for the Population Aged 25 and Over by Highest Educational Qualification, 2024

Highest Educational Attainment	Total Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Population aged 25 and over*	13,869,099	13.3	12.9	15.8	3.7	1.2	0.1	0.6	0.9	2.4	0.3
Never attended school	399,879	17.7	17.8	27.5	6.2	2.4	0.2	1.0	3.1	6.5	1.5
Studied/ Studying at the special school/special educational unit	17,104	8.0	6.0	6.8	1.9	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.6	3.6
Passed grade 1 - 5	1,721,103	20.1	20.9	28.7	6.9	2.7	0.1	1.0	2.2	5.4	0.6
Passed grade 6 - 8	1,655,351	18.3	18.3	23.1	5.9	2.0	0.1	0.9	1.5	3.6	0.5
Passed grade 9 - 10	3,385,486	12.1	11.7	13.7	3.3	1.0	0.1	0.6	0.7	2.2	0.3
G.C.E. (O/L) or equal	3,054,744	12.4	11.7	13.5	3.1	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.5	1.6	0.2
G.C.E. (A/L) or equal	2,677,005	9.7	8.9	10.0	2.0	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.1
Degree & above	958,427	7.4	6.5	7.0	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.1

*Excluding the roofless population

According to Table 6.3.11, as the level of education increases among the population aged 25 years and over in Sri Lanka, the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) shows a declining trend. Accordingly, a higher prevalence of NCDs can be observed among individuals with lower levels of education. Although the overall prevalence rate of diabetes is 13.3 percent, it exceeds 20 percent among those who have completed only Grade 1 to Grade 5. A relatively high prevalence rate of high blood pressure (27.5%) is observed among individuals who have never attended school, whereas among those with a degree or higher level of education, the rate is as low as 7 percent. Similarly, the prevalence of high cholesterol exceeds 20 percent among individuals with primary education (Grade 1–5), while it declines to 6.5 percent among those with degree-level or higher education. The prevalence of kidney disease remains below 3 percent among individuals who have never attended school or completed only Grade 1–5, whereas among those with degree-level or higher education, it is as low as 0.3 percent. Furthermore, the prevalence rates of cancer and stroke also demonstrate a declining trend with increasing levels of education. Overall, the data indicate that as the level of education increases, the risk of experiencing non-communicable diseases gradually decreases.

Prevalence Rates of Non-Communicable Diseases by Employment Status

Table 6.3.12 presents the prevalence rates of non-communicable diseases for the employed population aged 15 and over, based on their employment status at the time of the census.

Table 6.3.12 : Prevalence Rates of NCDs by Employment Status, 2024

Employment status	Employed Population	Diabetes	High Cholesterol	High Blood Pressure	Heart Disease	Kidney Disease	Thalassemia	Cancer	Stroke	Asthma	Epilepsy
Employed population aged 15 and over	7,670,749	7.8	7.1	7.9	2.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.2
Government paid employee	1,162,693	6.1	5.5	5.3	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.1
Semi government paid employee	170,713	7.6	6.9	6.5	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.1
Paid employee (private sector)	3,244,290	5.8	5.2	5.8	1.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.5	0.3
Employer (have employees)	277,868	13.8	11.0	10.5	2.8	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.1
Own account worker (don't have employees)	2,407,614	10.4	9.6	11.0	3.2	1.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	2.0	0.3
Contributing to family enterprise (unpaid family worker)	407,571	9.6	10.7	13.4	2.8	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	2.5	0.3

*Excluding the roofless population

The prevalence of diseases among paid employees in both the public and private sectors remains relatively lower than the national average in Sri Lanka. Specifically, rates for diabetes (5.8%) and high blood pressure (5.8%) are at a minimum among private sector employees.

When analyzing non-communicable disease prevalence by employment status, employers defined as those who conduct business or economic activities with hired employees report the highest prevalence rates for diabetes (13.8%) and high cholesterol (11.0%). This represents a significant increase compared to the national average. Among own-account workers (those engaged in their own economic activities), the prevalence of heart disease (3.2%) is higher than in all other employment categories. Similarly, the prevalence of high blood pressure (11%) is also high among this group. Unpaid family workers (those contributing to family economic activities without a wage) report the highest prevalence rates for high blood pressure (13.4%) and asthma (2.5%). The prevalence of high cholesterol (10.7%) is also high within this group. Furthermore, the prevalence rate of kidney disease among own-account workers and unpaid family workers (1.1%) is approximately four times higher than that of government employees (0.3%).

7. Education and Literacy

The data on education and literacy collected during a population census is vital for a country's human resource development and the formulation of future policies. In the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, information was collected for all persons aged three years and over on the educational activities in which they were engaged during the census reference period (defined as the 30 days preceding the date of enumeration) as well as on the highest level of educational attainment obtained at the time of the census. Based on these data, the government and relevant authorities are empowered to facilitate evidence-based decision-making in education, including the allocation of resources and the mitigation of educational disparities, as well as the formulation of new educational policies. Furthermore, information was collected on literacy in the main languages used in Sri Lanka "Sinhala," "Tamil," and "English" as well as on educational level, computer and digital literacy.

Education

In Sri Lanka, eligibility for admission to Grade 1 within the Government education system requires a child to have completed five years of age by the commencement of the relevant academic year. In government schools, the academic year generally extends from January to December. Admission to Grade 1 in private and international schools is also subject to the requirement that the child has completed five years of age. However, the academic calendars of private and international schools may differ from the academic year followed by government schools.

Educational activities during the reference period

Information on educational activities undertaken during the 30 days preceding the census enumeration date was collected from all persons aged three years and over. Accordingly, the specific educational activity in which an individual was engaged during the reference period was identified, and persons who were not engaged in any educational activity during that period were also distinguished. Furthermore, it should be noted that the 2024 Census period fell towards the latter part of the year, which directly impacted these statistics.

Table 7.1 : Population Aged 3 Years and Over by Sex and Educational Activity During the Census Reference Period, 2024

Educational activity	Population aged 03 years and over					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	21,134,659	100.0	10,187,314	100.0	10,947,345	100.0
Preschool education	482,106	2.3	243,648	2.4	238,458	2.2
School education	4,351,225	20.6	2,157,831	21.2	2,193,394	20.0
Degree/Postgraduate education	320,989	1.5	120,745	1.2	200,244	1.8
Vocational training/Technical education	122,457	0.6	70,149	0.7	52,308	0.5
Other educational activity	266,413	1.3	125,671	1.2	140,742	1.3
Not studying	15,591,469	73.7	7,469,270	73.3	8,122,199	74.2

Table 7.1 presents the distribution of the population aged three years and over according to their involvement in educational activities during the reference period, by sex. Approximately one-fourth of the population (26.2%) was engaged in some form of educational activity. Further, of the population 482,106 (2.3%) were attending pre-school, 4,351,225 (20.6%) were attending in school education, 320,989 (1.5%) were engaged in graduate or post-graduate studies, 0.6 percent were following vocational or technical education, and 1.3 percent were involved in other forms of education. Meanwhile, 73.7 percent of aged 3 years and over were not engaged in any educational activity during the reference period.

Disaggregated by sex, the percentage of females engaged in degree/postgraduate education is higher than the corresponding percentage of males.

Table 7.2 : Percentage Pistribution of Population Aged 03 Years and Over by Educational Activity and Age Group, 2024

Age group) (Years)	Population	Percentage						
		Total	Pre school	School education	Undergraduate/ Postgraduate education	Vocational training/ Technical education	Other educational activity	Not studying
Total	21,134,659	100.0	2.3	20.6	1.5	0.6	1.3	73.7
3 - 4	567,979	100.0	42.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	57.7
5 -14	3,291,719	100.0	7.4	88.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.5
15 -18	1,446,661	100.0	0.0	79.4	0.3	1.0	2.3	17.0
19 - 24	1,956,983	100.0	0.0	15.1	10.9	4.2	5.9	63.9
25 and over	13,871,317	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.7	98.3

As shown in Table 7.2, the percentage distribution of involvement or not involvement in educational activities during the reference period varies across different age groups. A higher percentage of the population in the 5–14 and 15–18 age groups were engaged in school education. Further, 63.9 percent of the population in the 19–24 age group were not engaged in educational activities, while 98.3 percent of the population aged 25 years and over were not engaged in educational activities during the reference period. In Sri Lanka, the compulsory school age is between 5 and 16 years. However, a possible reason for the relatively lower percentage of 88.4 percent of children aged 5–14 years attending school education observed at the census may be that, by the Census Date (19.12.2024), many children who had completed five years of age were scheduled to be admitted to Grade 1 in the following year (2025).

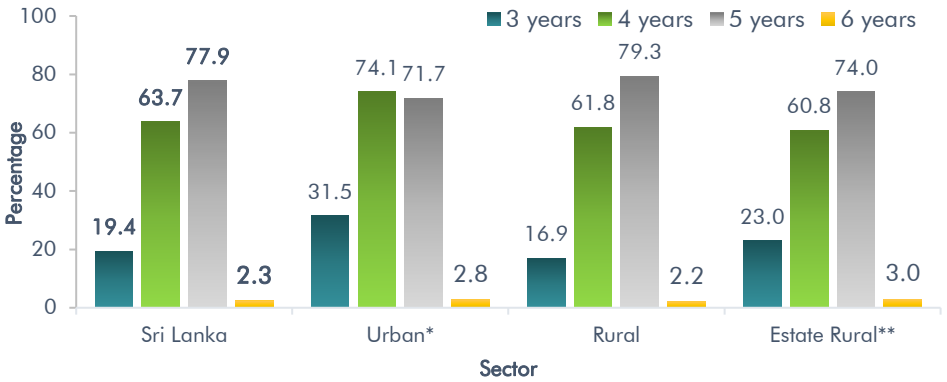
Engaging in preschool education activities during the reference period

Children aged 3 to 5 years are generally considered to be those receiving pre-school education. However, as children who enroll in pre-school typically continue their attendance until the commencement of formal schooling, this study focuses on children aged 3 to 6 years who are engaged in pre-school education.

Table 7.3 : Children Enrolled in Pre-school Education During the Reference Period by Age, 2024

Age of child	Total Population	Preschool population	Percentage to total population
3 years	276,648	53,785	19.4
4 years	291,331	185,644	63.7
5 years	302,414	235,434	77.9
6 years	312,159	7,243	2.3

According to Table 7.3, most children attending pre-school are aged 4 and 5 years, while children aged 3 and 6 years represent smaller percentage of the preschool population accounting for 19.4 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively.



*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.

** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

Figure 7.1 : Percentage of Children Attending Preschool by Age and Sector, 2024

As illustrated in Figure 7.1, it is reported that a higher percentage of children aged 3 (31.5%) in the urban sector were engaged in preschool education during the reference period, compared to the rural and estate rural sectors.

Table 7.4 : Percentage of Children Receiving Preschool Education by Age Group and District, 2024

District	Percentage of children in the relevant age group receiving preschool education			
	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years
Colombo	41.1	82.0	66.9	3.2
Gampaha	34.7	82.4	71.8	2.6
Kalutara	23.3	78.6	77.7	2.5
Kandy	11.8	53.5	78.3	2.0
Matale	9.9	55.5	80.8	2.1
Nuwara Eliya	23.9	65.9	75.3	3.1
Galle	14.1	66.3	80.4	2.1
Matara	12.1	60.3	82.9	1.4
Hambantota	8.6	49.1	80.0	1.7
Jaffna	40.9	84.6	83.8	2.8
Mannar	28.9	74.8	80.4	2.5
Vavuniya	34.8	76.2	77.4	3.6
Mullaitivu	43.3	83.7	81.9	1.9
Kilinochchi	53.7	86.5	85.0	2.7
Batticaloa	20.9	73.5	81.3	2.4
Ampara	10.6	59.6	80.0	2.4
Trincomalee	18.3	61.6	75.4	2.7
Kurunegala	9.8	50.0	81.7	2.2
Puttalam	15.6	62.7	78.6	2.7
Anuradhapura	12.9	60.8	81.4	1.7
Polonnaruwa	13.9	64.8	78.4	2.2
Badulla	14.2	54.1	78.7	2.1
Monaragala	8.9	52.8	81.8	1.4
Rathnapura	8.2	40.6	77.1	2.1
Kegalle	9.0	44.0	79.7	2.1

As given in Table 7.4, when considering all districts, the age of children attending preschool ranges from three to six years. While a very small percentage of children who have completed six years of age is reported across all districts. The Northern and Western provinces show a relatively higher percentage of three-year old engaged in preschool education.

Engaging in educational activities during the reference period

This section presents information on the population aged 3 years and over who reported being engaged in "school education/13 years of guaranteed education" during the census reference period. Individuals who attended either a government or non-government school during the relevant reference period are considered to be participating in educational activities.

Table 7.5 : Population Engaged in School Education During the Reference Period by Age Group and Sex, 2024

Age group (Years)	Total population aged 5-24 years	Population engaged in school education	%	Male			Female		
				Total population	Population engaged in school education	%	Total population	Population engaged in school education	%
Total	6,695,363	4,351,225	65.0	3,367,403	2,157,831	64.1	3,327,960	2,193,394	65.9
05 - 10	1,893,872	1,578,999	83.4	959,815	799,153	83.3	934,057	779,846	83.5
11 - 14	1,397,847	1,329,915	95.1	709,634	672,962	94.8	688,213	656,953	95.5
15 - 16	720,137	658,982	91.5	365,655	331,356	90.6	354,482	327,626	92.4
17 - 18	726,524	488,622	67.3	367,328	225,986	61.5	359,196	262,636	73.1
19 - 24	1,956,983	294,707	15.1	964,971	128,374	13.3	992,012	166,333	16.8

Table 7.5 shows the total population, population engaged in school education during the reference period and the percentage by sex and age group. The percentage of females receiving school education is higher than that of males across all age groups.

The highest level of education attained by an individual

During the Census of Population and Housing, the highest educational qualification or the highest examination passed was obtained for every individual aged 5 years and over. Accordingly, this section presents the highest educational qualification attained by an individual through school or university education as of the census date. A large percentage of the population aged 25 and over were not engaged in educational activities during the reference period (Table 7.2). Therefore, we can assume most of the age 25 years and over have completed their education.

Level of education attained by the population aged 25 and over

As shown in Table 7.6, the highest percentage of the population aged 25 and over (58.4%) has attained a secondary level of education, a trend that remains consistent across both sexes. Furthermore, when considering tertiary education levels, the percentage of females is higher than that of males. When compared with data from the 2012 Census of Population and Housing, there is a significant decrease in the percentages of those who reported having no schooling or having only a primary education as their highest qualification in 2024. Among aged 25 and above 6,690,333(48.2%) persons have G.C.E(O/L) or more qualifications in 2024 this was 4,498,135 (37.3%) in 2012.

In 2024, the percentage of the population reporting tertiary education as their highest qualification (26.2%) has increased compared to the 2012 figure (18.2%), with a more pronounced increase observed among females than males. Compared to the 2012 Census, the proportion of the population reporting higher educational qualifications has increased in 2024, with relatively higher values reported for the female population.

Table 7.6 : The Educational Level of the Population Age 25 Years and Over by Sex, 2012 and 2024

Educational level	Total population aged 25 and over				Male				Female			
	2012		2024		2012		2024		2012		2024	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Population 25 years and over	**12,050,641**	**100.0**	**13,871,317**	**100.0**	**5,703,991**	**100.0**	**6,533,860**	**100.0**	**6,346,650**	**100.0**	**7,337,457**	**100.0**
No schooling	561,163	4.7	**400,511**	**2.9**	**172,292**	**3.0**	**136,168**	**2.1**	**388,871**	**6.1**	**264,343**	**3.6**
Primary educational level	**2,214,792**	**18.4**	**1,738,942**	**12.5**	**1,058,900**	**18.6**	**794,197**	**12.2**	**1,155,892**	**18.2**	**944,745**	**12.9**
Passed Grades 1- 5*	2,214,792	18.4	1738942	12.5	1,058,900	18.6	794,197	12.2	1,155,892	18.2	944,745	12.9
Secondary educational level	**7,079,569**	**58.7**	**8,096,402**	**58.4**	**3,499,694**	**61.4**	**4,025,986**	**61.6**	**3,579,875**	**56.4**	**4,070,416**	**55.5**
Passed Grades 6 - 8	1,889,721	15.7	1,655,756	11.9	991,099	17.4	848,236	13.0	898,622	14.2	807,520	11.0
Passed Grades 9 - 10	2,886,830	23.9	3,385,775	24.5	1,407,833	24.7	1,692,481	25.9	1,478,997	23.3	1,693,294	23.1
G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	2,303,018	19.1	3,054,871	22.0	1,100,762	19.3	1,485,269	22.7	1,202,256	18.9	1,569,602	21.4
Tertiary educational level	**2,195,117**	**18.2**	**3,635,462**	**26.2**	**973,105**	**17.1**	**1,577,509**	**24.1**	**1,222,012**	**19.3**	**2,057,953**	**28.0**
G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	1,724,574	14.2	2,677,022	19.4	748,407	13.0	1,170,054	17.9	976,167	15.4	1,506,968	20.4
Degree	358,052	3.0	780,958	5.6	166,309	2.9	321,021	4.9	191,743	3.0	459,937	6.3
Post graduate Diploma	68,593	0.6	89,598	0.6	32,829	0.6	39,202	0.6	35,764	0.6	50,396	0.7
Post graduate Degree	37,341	0.3	76,127	0.5	21,299	0.4	40,158	0.6	16,042	0.3	35,969	0.5
PhD	6,557	0.1	11,757	0.1	4,261	0.1	7,074	0.1	2,296	0.0	4,683	0.1

* Person who studied/are studying in a special school/educational unit and are studying/studied in Grade 1 are included in this category.

Table 7.7 : Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 25 and Over by Educational Level and District, 2012 and 2024

District	Total population aged 25 and over		Total		No schooling		Passed Grades 1- 5		Passed Grades 6-10		G.C.E. O/L or equivalent		G.C.E. A/L or over	
	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	12,050,641	13,871,317	100.0	100.0	4.7	2.9	18.4	12.5	39.6	36.4	19.1	22.0	18.2	26.2
Colombo	1,450,574	1,601,927	100.0	100.0	2.6	1.6	9.6	5.8	33.2	26.6	25.3	25.9	29.4	40.1
Gampaha	1,419,483	1,620,233	100.0	100.0	1.8	1.1	9.7	6.1	40.8	33.2	25.2	27.1	22.6	32.5
Kalutara	748,643	847,732	100.0	100.0	3.1	1.8	14.5	9.4	40.0	36.6	22.4	23.8	20.0	28.4
Kandy	814,087	922,349	100.0	100.0	5.3	3.0	16.7	11.0	37.3	32.4	19.6	23.3	21.1	30.3
Matale	288,729	332,816	100.0	100.0	5.7	3.5	21.6	15.1	41.9	40.9	16.0	19.5	14.8	21.0
Nuwara Eliya	410,561	442,909	100.0	100.0	10.2	8.3	31.5	22.5	35.6	36.5	13.5	18.1	9.2	14.6
Galle	636,778	711,223	100.0	100.0	3.9	2.3	17.6	11.8	41.3	38.1	18.7	21.0	18.6	26.8
Matara	486,477	537,436	100.0	100.0	5.6	3.2	18.9	12.7	39.7	38.2	18.3	20.8	17.5	25.1
Hambantota	351,758	421,054	100.0	100.0	6.1	3.2	21.9	14.5	41.4	39.9	16.5	21.5	14.0	20.9
Jaffna	333,896	383,511	100.0	100.0	1.4	0.7	21.4	13.4	43.5	42.2	18.0	19.9	15.7	23.8
Mannar	53,032	72,300	100.0	100.0	2.3	1.5	27.6	18.6	42.3	40.4	13.6	17.7	14.2	21.8
Vavuniya	91,563	104,334	100.0	100.0	3.6	2.4	23.0	15.9	42.2	38.3	17.2	21.3	13.9	22.1
Mullaitivu	47,571	72,080	100.0	100.0	2.6	1.9	29.8	20.1	47.5	48.0	11.9	16.4	8.2	13.6
Kilinochchi	56,619	78,672	100.0	100.0	2.3	1.5	28.1	17.8	47.8	49.1	13.1	16.6	8.7	15.0
Batticaloa	265,148	341,410	100.0	100.0	10.9	6.6	32.5	24.4	29.4	34.7	13.9	15.7	13.2	18.6
Ampara	344,692	427,089	100.0	100.0	7.3	4.2	27.9	20.1	35.9	36.5	14.3	18.1	14.6	21.1
Trincomalee	191,239	246,541	100.0	100.0	6.9	4.2	26.2	17.8	39.2	39.1	14.7	19.8	13.1	19.1
Kurunegala	993,298	1,142,680	100.0	100.0	3.7	2.0	18.3	12.5	40.6	37.1	19.0	21.7	18.5	26.7
Puttalam	430,112	502,772	100.0	100.0	4.0	2.9	24.5	17.8	43.7	42.1	15.5	18.9	12.3	18.3
Anuradhapura	494,803	591,051	100.0	100.0	4.2	2.6	20.7	14.0	46.3	42.6	16.0	21.1	12.8	19.7
Polonnaruwa	238,011	279,680	100.0	100.0	4.9	3.2	22.3	15.2	47.8	44.9	14.2	19.9	10.9	16.8
Badulla	473,130	549,534	100.0	100.0	9.3	6.0	23.4	16.0	38.8	35.9	14.7	20.4	13.8	21.7
Moneragala	256,902	326,650	100.0	100.0	7.8	4.7	23.7	16.2	44.2	43.2	12.8	18.5	11.4	17.4
Rathnapura	656,850	746,826	100.0	100.0	7.3	4.5	22.2	15.6	41.3	39.9	15.5	19.3	13.7	20.7
Kegalle	516,685	568,508	100.0	100.0	4.4	2.4	17.8	11.6	40.3	35.6	19.5	23.3	18.0	27.1

According to the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, Nuwara Eliya (8.3%), Batticaloa (6.6%), and Badulla (6.0%) districts respectively reported the highest populations of individuals aged 25 and over who have never attended school. However, in all districts this percentage has declined in 2024 compared to that of 2012. In all districts the largest percentage of population age 25 and over consists of those who have completed Grades 6-10 except Colombo where the highest percentage is G.C.E. (A/L) and over.

A key observation from a comparison with the 2012 Census data is that, by 2024, the proportion of the population aged 25 years and over with educational attainment below the G.C.E. (O/L) level has declined in most districts, except for Nuwara Eliya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, and Ampara. Conversely, the proportion of the population with G.C.E. (O/L) and higher levels of education has increased, indicating an overall improvement in the educational attainment of the population.

Language literacy

"Sinhala", "Tamil" and "English" language literacy

The Census of Population and Housing - 2024 captured language literacy data for the population aged 10 and over. The enumeration captured the ability to speak, read, and write proficiency in three main languages used in Sri Lanka: Sinhala, Tamil, and English and did not account for proficiency in other languages.

Language literacy

Language literacy is defined as the ability of person aged 10 and over to read and write in at least one of the following languages: Sinhala, Tamil, or English. An individual is considered literate in a particular language only if they are capable of reading and writing a short letter or a paragraph with understanding. However, an individual who is only able to read or write their own name, numbers, or a memorized sentence is not considered a literate person.

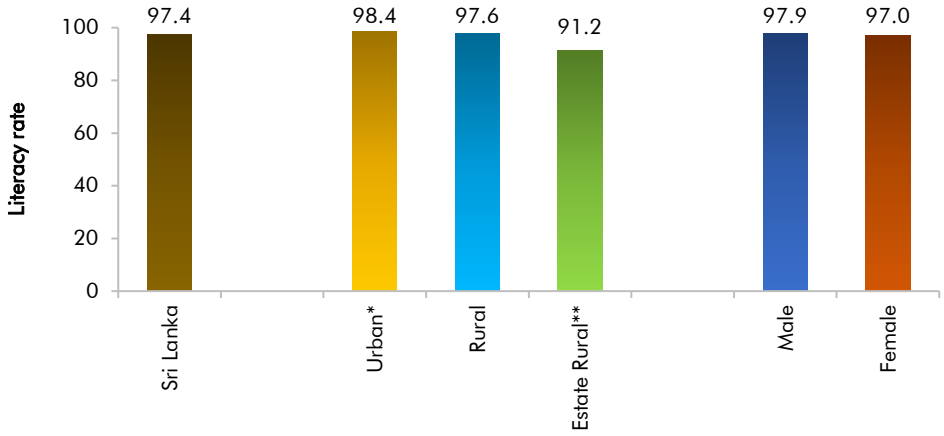
Language Literacy Rate

The language literacy rate is defined as the total number of individuals aged 10 years or over who reported their ability to read and write at least one of the aforementioned languages as 'Very Good,' 'Good,' or 'Poor' (excluding those categorized as 'unable to read and write'), expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 10 years or over.

Table 7.8 : Language Literacy Rate by Census Year and Sex, 2024

Census year	Language Literacy rate		
	Total	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
2024	97.4	97.9	97.0

According to Table 7.8, the language literacy rate is calculated by identifying individuals aged 10 years and above with the ability to both read and write in at least one language. In reviewing the historical data from the 1881 census to the present, the language literacy rate in Sri Lanka has shown a consistent upward trend, reaching 97.4 percent in 2024. While the male literacy rate historically remains higher than that of females, the data for 2024 indicates that the female literacy rate has nearly converged with the male rate.



*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.
** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

Figure 7.2 : Language Literacy Rate by Sector and Sex, 2024

According to Figure 7.2, considering literacy by sector, the Estate Rural sector shows a lower language literacy rate (91.2%) relative to the other sectors.

Table 7.9 : Language Literacy Rate by Language and Age Group, 2024

Age Group	Language Literacy rate		
	Sinhala	Tamil	English
Sri Lanka	85.2	45.3	57.3
10-14	85.9	63.5	70.6
15-19	87.2	62.7	79.1
20-29	86.1	54.4	73.6
30-39	86.1	47.0	63.5
40-49	86.0	40.9	53.9
50-59	84.8	36.1	45.6
60 and above	82.3	30.8	35.0

The Table 7.9 presents language literacy rates in Sri Lanka by age group for Sinhala, Tamil, and English, revealing clear generational patterns in language proficiency. Overall, Sinhala literacy is the highest across all age groups, with a national rate of 85.2%, followed by English (57.3%) and Tamil (45.3%). Sinhala literacy remains relatively stable across age groups, with only a slight decline among older populations. In contrast, Tamil and English literacy rates show more variation by age. Younger age groups, particularly those aged 10–14 and 15–19, report significantly higher literacy in both Tamil and English compared to older groups. This suggests improved access to education and greater emphasis on second-language learning in recent years. This is further illustrated in Figure 7.3.

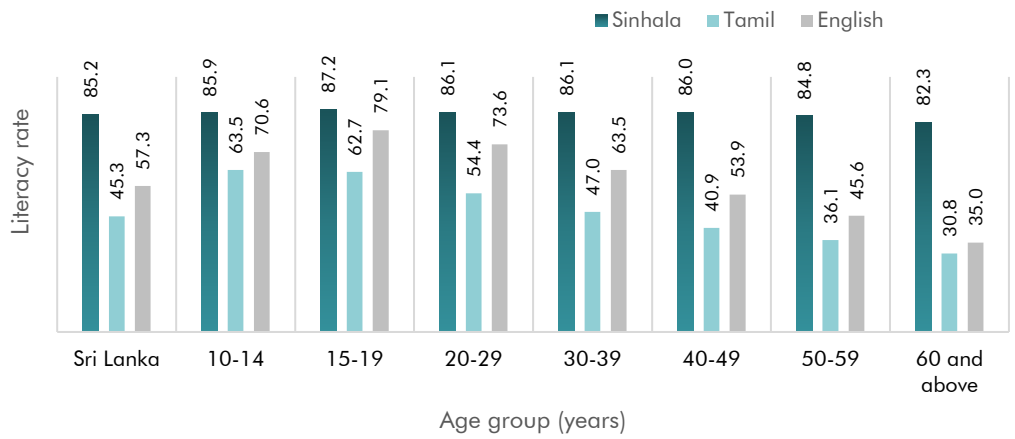


Figure 7.3 : Language Literacy Rate by Age Group and Language, 2024

As illustrated in Figure 7.3, literacy rates in Tamil and English decline steadily with increasing age. Among individuals aged 60 and above, Tamil literacy drops to 30.8% and English literacy to 35.0%, reflecting more limited educational opportunities and language exposure in the past.

Language Literacy by District Level

Table 7.10 : Language Literacy Rate by Language and District, 2024

District	Population Aged 10 & over	Literacy Rate (%)			
		At least one Language	Sinhala	Tamil	English
Sri Lanka	19,010,157	97.4	85.2	45.3	57.3
Colombo	2,139,371	98.6	94.1	41.5	74.2
Gampaha	2,169,227	98.9	97.1	32.9	67.2
Kalutara	1,151,651	98.5	96.0	36.6	62.5
Kandy	1,275,003	97.5	90.9	50.1	64.8
Matale	456,498	96.7	91.4	42.4	54.8
Nuwara Eliya	623,842	93.6	59.5	68.0	47.1
Galle	962,957	97.8	97.0	29.8	59.4
Matara	732,282	97.1	96.1	28.1	55.3
Hambantota	577,879	97.2	96.8	28.8	52.0
Jaffna	520,973	98.3	17.1	97.9	41.0
Mannar	104,513	98.4	16.7	97.9	33.2
Vavuniya	148,116	97.3	31.0	90.6	43.4
Mullaitivu	105,684	97.3	19.6	90.9	31.7
Kilinochchi	117,894	97.5	13.3	96.7	33.7
Batticaloa	500,111	92.7	23.0	91.9	41.6
Ampara	620,964	95.6	58.3	71.9	50.8
Trincomalee	367,577	95.5	44.3	77.7	42.3
Kurunegala	1,544,135	98.1	96.7	35.2	55.8
Puttalam	702,941	97.3	85.7	43.2	50.6
Anuradhapura	826,680	97.7	95.2	38.0	52.2
Polonnaruwa	384,562	97.2	92.9	34.7	46.9
Badulla	757,145	95.8	87.2	51.2	53.5
Moneragala	450,128	96.8	95.4	36.3	49.7
Rathnapura	1,003,077	97.0	93.8	36.3	50.9
Kegalle	766,947	98.1	94.8	41.1	58.2

According to Table 7.10, the lowest language literacy rate is reported in Batticaloa District (92.7%). Also, literacy rates exceeding 98 percent are reported from Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Mannar, Jaffna, Kurunegala, and Kegalle. Regarding English language literacy, the highest rate is observed in Colombo (74.2%), while the minimum value is reported in Mullaitivu district (31.7%). The literacy rates for Sinhala and Tamil vary by district, a trend likely influenced by the distribution of ethnic groups.

Language Literacy by Ethnic Group

Table 7.11 : Language Literacy Rate by Language and Ethnic Group, 2012 and 2024

Ethnic Group	Literacy rate %							
	Sinhala		Tamil		English		Language Literacy	
	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	79.7	85.2	26.4	45.3	30.8	57.3	95.7	97.4
Sinhala	96.4	97.8	5.3	29.2	31.1	58.6	96.5	98.1
Sri Lanka Tamil	17.3	36.3	94.1	94.0	24.3	45.2	94.3	95.6
Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar	20.9	40.8	86.2	90.0	19.4	44.6	86.4	91.1
Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim	40.6	62.5	94.8	94.5	38.7	65.4	95.0	96.8
Burgher	77.0	81.8	29.1	53.8	97.4	79.3	98.2	98.0
Malay	81.8	92.7	97.1	70.9	66.8	85.4	97.6	98.1
Other	54.1	56.1	38.3	33.1	80.8	70.2	95.0	89.9

According to Table 7.11, an analysis of language literacy rates for the population aged 10 and over by ethnic group reveals that Sinhala language literacy rate in 2024 has increased across all ethnic groups relative to the 2012 census. Similarly, the Tamil language literacy rate of the Sinhalese, Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar and Burgher ethnic groups shows an increase compared to 2012. Furthermore, excluding the Burgher ethnic group all other ethnicities demonstrate a significant upward trend in English language literacy rate in 2024.

Computer and Digital Literacy

In the Census of Population and Housing 2024, in addition to language literacy, information was also collected on the computer literacy and digital literacy of persons aged 5 years and over in Sri Lanka. While computer literacy information was previously collected during the 2012 Census, for the first time, information on digital literacy was collected in this census.

Computer Literacy

Computer literacy was defined as the "ability of an individual aged 5 years and over to independently power on a computer and perform a specific task using it". Furthermore, an individual is considered computer literate if they can execute at least one basic activity, such as playing a computer game, without external assistance.

Digital Literacy

"An individual aged 5 years and over is considered to have digital literacy if they demonstrate the ability to perform any task using a computer (Laptop, Desktop, or Minicomputer) or a smartphone."

Computer Literacy Rate

The computer literacy rate is defined as the total number of computer-literate individuals expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 5 years and over.

Digital Literacy Rate

The digital literacy rate is defined as the total number of digitally literate individuals expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 5 years and over.

Table 7.12 : Computer and Digital Literacy Rate by Sector,2024

Sector	Computer Literacy rate (%)	Digital Literacy Rate (%)
Sri Lanka	34.7	67.6
Urban*	47.0	76.8
Rural	33.0	66.4
Estate Rural**	14.9	50.2

*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.
** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

According to Table 7.12 the computer literacy rate for the population aged five years and over stands at 34.7 percent, while the digital literacy rate is reported at 67.6 percent. The Urban sector exhibits a higher computer literacy rate relative to other sectors. The digital literacy rate is higher than the computer literacy rate in every sector.

Table 7.13 : Computer and Digital Literacy Rate by District, 2024

District	Population Aged 5 years & over	Computer Literacy Rate	Digital Literacy Rate
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	34.7	67.6
Colombo	2,271,290	51.0	78.7
Gampaha	2,319,190	42.7	73.7
Kalutara	1,239,745	37.1	69.1
Kandy	1,382,499	38.5	69.0
Matale	496,910	31.4	65.7
Nuwara Eliya	680,431	23.9	56.4
Galle	1,039,455	36.1	67.1
Matara	792,812	35.0	65.9
Hambantota	631,619	30.1	64.1
Jaffna	559,228	29.0	66.5
Mannar	114,635	19.5	62.0
Vavuniya	161,045	25.4	67.9
Mullaitivu	114,411	20.4	66.5
Kilinochchi	127,536	22.1	66.3
Batticaloa	550,033	23.8	65.8
Ampara	688,172	27.4	64.4
Trincomalee	407,995	22.2	65.2
Kurunegala	1,671,998	34.1	65.6
Puttalam	766,720	26.1	66.6
Anuradhapura	903,486	30.7	66.6
Polonnaruwa	420,411	27.4	64.2
Badulla	822,169	29.7	59.8
Moneragala	494,374	26.4	60.0
Rathnapura	1,084,599	30.3	62.2
Kegalle	825,917	34.5	64.5

As given in Table 7.13 Colombo District records the highest computer literacy rate in Sri Lanka, with Gampaha and Kandy districts ranking second and third, respectively. The lowest computer literacy rate is reported in Mannar District. Notably, the digital literacy rate remains above 50 percent in every district

across the Sri Lanka. Colombo District shows the highest digital literacy rate, while Nuwara Eliya District records the lowest.

Table 7.14 : Computer and Digital Literacy Rate by Age Group, 2024

Age Group	Population Aged 5 & over	Computer Literacy Rate	Digital Literacy Rate
Sri Lanka	20,566,680	34.7	67.6
5-9	1,556,523	11.9	39.9
10-14	1,735,196	41.2	88.1
15-19	1,795,038	64.3	97.0
20-24	1,608,606	65.5	94.8
25-29	1,372,458	57.7	93.0
30-34	1,414,060	48.2	90.2
35-39	1,452,703	41.8	86.0
40-49	1,602,344	33.8	75.0
50-59	1,490,765	25.0	54.4
60-69	1,341,807	8.5	30.7
70 & over	1,276,056	3.7	15.5

As given in Table 7.14 and Figure 7.4, when considering computer and digital literacy rates by age group, the 20-24 age category has the highest computer literacy. However, the highest digital literacy rate is found in the 15-19 age group. A notable feature is that the digital literacy rate for the population aged 70 and over exceeds 15 percent.

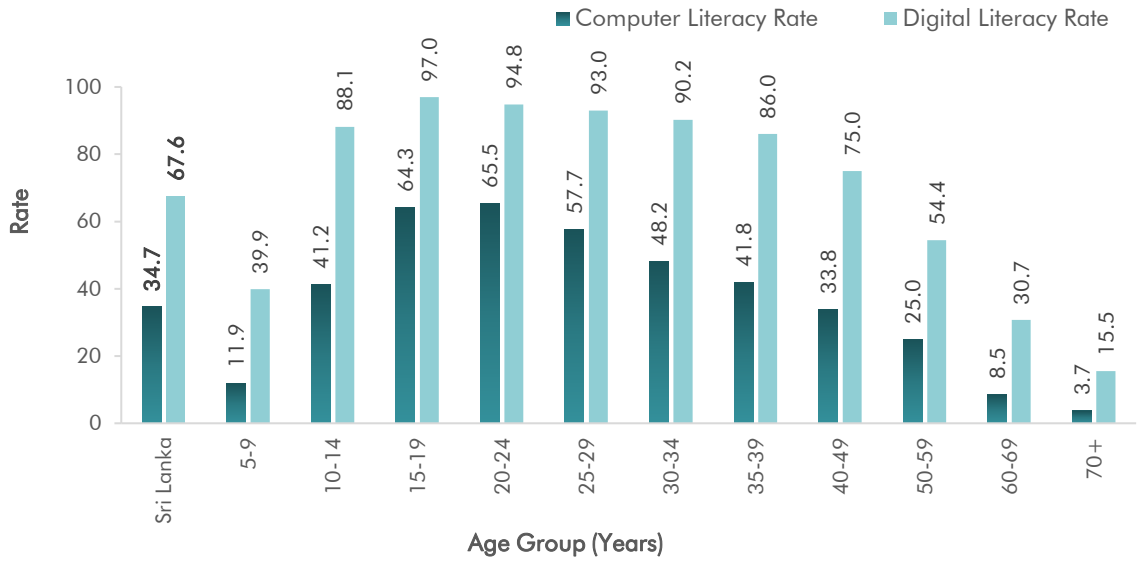


Figure 7.4 : Computer and Digital Literacy Rates by Age group, 2024

8. Economic Activities

8.1 Introduction

During the census the data on the labour supply of economically active individuals within the working-age population, who have the potential to contribute directly to the economic development of the country was collected. In addition, the issues such as whether there are individuals who are not currently participating in economic activities but have the potential to do so, the extent of such untapped labour, and the reasons why they are not contributing to the economic process. Accordingly, this chapter focuses on the population aged fifteen years and over, that is, the working-age population, and the economic activities they engage in.

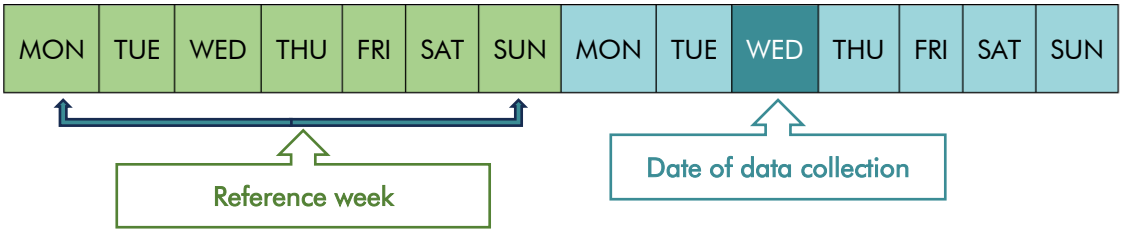
In this Census of Population and Housing, information was collected from every person aged fifteen years and over, considering a reference period of one week (seven days from Monday to Sunday) prior to the date of data collection. Data were gathered on the economic activities in which individuals were engaged during that period, as well as on activities they were not engaged in if they did not participate in any economic activity. Since Census Day was on 19 December 2024, it should be noted that the seasonal behavior of the labour force may not be fully reflected, which is a limitation of the data.

8.2 Concepts and Definitions Related to the Labour Force

The recommendations issued by the United Nations for conducting the 2020 census in all countries, as well as the concepts and definitions followed by the International Labour Organization in compiling statistics, have been applied in this census. Accordingly, the main concepts and definitions of the labour force used in this chapter are as follows:

Reference Period

The week preceding the date on which the census information is collected (seven days from Monday to Sunday) is considered the reference period. The following chart will help to clearly understand the reference period.



Accordingly, regardless of the day of the week on which the census information is collected, whether Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or any other day, the reference period is considered to be the seven days from Monday to Sunday of the preceding week. During this reference period, it was assessed whether an individual engaged in any economic activity for at least one hour.

Working-Age Population

The working-age population is defined as the total population aged 15 years and over. Since most people remain economically active beyond the age of 60, which is generally considered the normal retirement age, information was collected on all persons aged 15 years and over, regardless of any upper age limit.

Economically Active Population/Labour Force

The working-age population is considered the economically active population (labour force), which includes those who are engaged in economic activities or employment during the relevant reference period, as well as those who are currently unemployed but actively seeking work. Accordingly, this group is divided into two categories: employed and unemployed.

Employment

Each person aged 15 and over was assessed to determine whether they had engaged in any form of economic activity for at least one hour during the reference period, whether as a paid employee, an employer, a self-employed person, or a contributing family worker. Accordingly, if a person was engaged in a job or economic activity for at least one hour, that person was classified as employed. Furthermore, individuals who were temporarily absent from their work or economic activity during the reference period, but maintained a formal attachment to a job or an enterprise, were also classified as employed.

Unemployment

This includes individuals who did not engage in any job or economic activity for a minimum of one hour during the reference period and lacked a formal job attachment, but were seeking to engage in such activity. Such persons must have taken steps to look for work or to start self-employment in the four weeks preceding the reference period and must be prepared to accept a job if it becomes available within the following two weeks in order to be considered unemployed.

Economically Inactive Population

The economically inactive population is defined as the working-age population who are neither employed nor unemployed. This group includes full-time students, homemakers, retired or elderly persons, persons with disabilities or illness, and individuals with multiple sources of income, among others. It also includes those who are seeking work but have not taken any steps to find employment during the four weeks preceding the reference period, or who are not prepared to accept a job if one becomes available within the following two weeks.

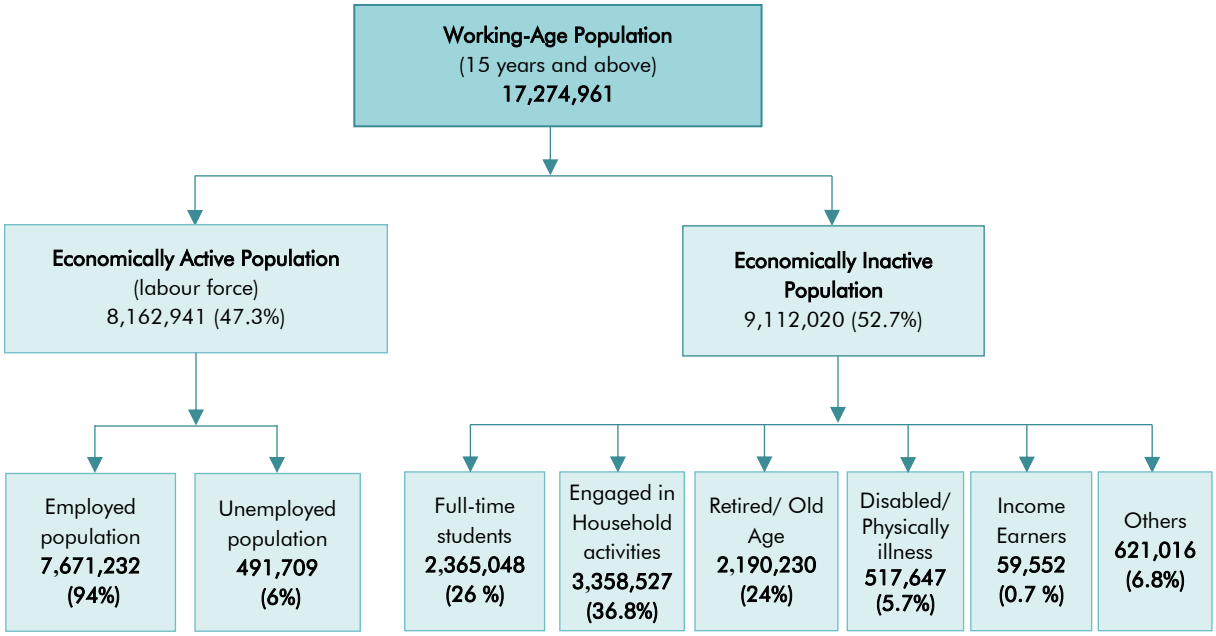


Figure 8.1 : Components Related to the Working Age Population

8.3 Working-Age Population

According to the current Census of Population and Housing, the population aged 15 years and over is reported as 17,274,961. Of this total, 8,231,814 are males and 9,043,147 are females. During the relevant reference period, the number of economically active individuals was 8,162,941. Among them, 7,671,232 were employed, while the number of unemployed persons stood at 491,709. Despite being within the working-age population, 9,112,020 individuals were identified as economically inactive based on their activities during the reference period. This group consists of full-time students aged 15 and over, those engaged in household duties, retirees, and individuals with illnesses or disabilities.

Table 8.1 : Economically Active and Inactive Population by Sex, 2024

Sex	Aged 15 years and over Population		Economically Active Population		Economically Inactive Population	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	17,274,961	100.0	8,162,941	100.0	9,112,020	100.0
Male	8,231,814	47.7	5,550,374	68.0	2,681,440	29.4
Female	9,043,147	52.3	2,612,567	32.0	6,430,580	70.6

Out of the working-age population aged 15 years and over, 47.7 percent were males and 52.3 percent were females. A higher percentage of the economically active population is male, accounting for 68.0 percent, while a higher percentage of the economically inactive population is female, accounting for 70.6 percent.

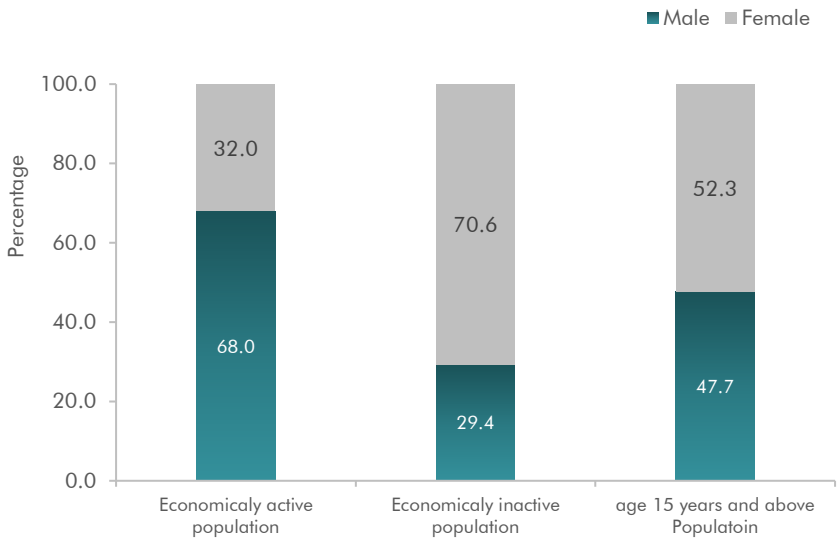


Figure 8.2 : Percentage Distribution of Economically Active and Inactive Population by Sex, 2024

8.4 Economically Active Population

The economically active population primarily consists of two components: those contributing labour to the economic process and those ready to contribute labour but currently without employment. Within this framework, individuals who are engaged in economic activity during the reference period are classified as employed, while those who are not engaged in economic activity during the reference period but are actively seeking and willing to engage in economic activity are classified as unemployed.

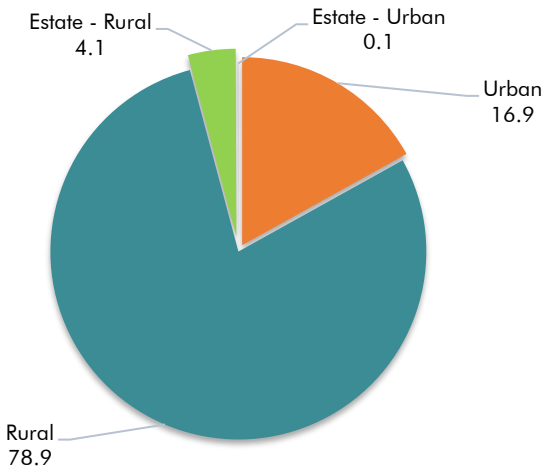


Figure 8.3 : Percentage Distribution of Economically Active Population by Sector, 2024

Considering the distribution of the economically active population by sector, as shown in Figure 8.3, out of 8,162,941 economically active population the rural sector accounts for 78.9 percent and the urban sector accounts for 16.9 percent. Furthermore, the sectors identified as estate rural and estate urban, which are primarily engaged in agricultural activities, account for 4.1 percent and 0.1 percent respectively.

Table 8.2 : Economically Active Population, by Sector and Sex, 2024

Sector	Economically Active Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	8,162,941	100.0	5,550,374	68.0	2,612,567	32.0
Urban	1,382,194	100.0	943,483	68.3	438,711	31.7
Estate - Urban	4,865	100.0	3,176	65.3	1,689	34.7
Rural	6,441,330	100.0	4,395,189	68.2	2,046,141	31.8
Estate – Rural	334,552	100.0	208,526	62.3	126,026	37.7

According to Table 8.2, when examining the sex distribution of the economically active population, no significant differences are observed between the urban and rural sectors. However, a relatively higher proportion of females is observed in the estate urban and estate rural sectors.

Table 8.3 : Economically Active Population by Sex and Age Group, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Economically Active Population			Percentage		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	8,162,941	5,550,374	2,612,567	100.0	68.0	32.0
15 - 19	149,443	105,358	44,085	100.0	70.5	29.5
20 - 24	660,587	431,002	229,585	100.0	65.2	34.8
25 - 29	838,591	548,881	289,710	100.0	65.5	34.5
30 - 34	925,708	627,056	298,652	100.0	67.7	32.3
35 - 39	970,645	658,779	311,866	100.0	67.9	32.1
40 - 44	1,074,786	729,822	344,964	100.0	67.9	32.1
45 - 49	989,616	666,969	322,647	100.0	67.4	32.6
50 - 54	853,872	577,876	275,996	100.0	67.7	32.3
55 - 59	717,440	489,343	228,097	100.0	68.2	31.8
60 - 64	476,645	342,653	133,992	100.0	71.9	28.1
65 - 69	293,008	214,132	78,876	100.0	73.1	26.9
70 - 74	147,523	109,248	38,275	100.0	74.1	25.9
75 and over	65,077	49,255	15,822	100.0	75.7	24.3

According to Table 8.3, the age group 40–44 years makes the highest contribution to the economically active population, numbering 1,074,786 persons. This age group records the highest contribution for both males and females. Contributions gradually decline in age groups on either side. Notably, a considerable number of persons aged 65 years and over were also reported as economically active.

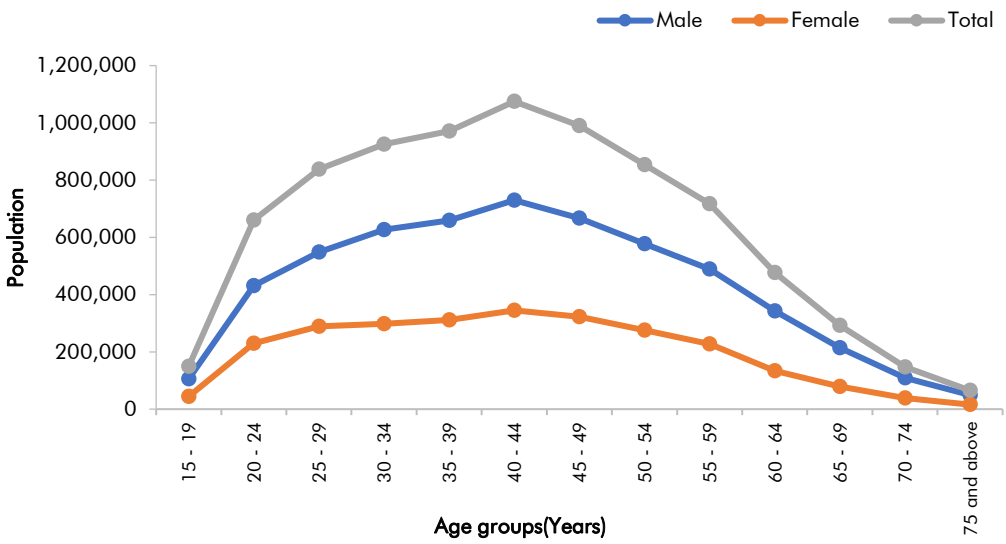


Figure 8.4 : Economically Active Population by Sex and Age Group, 2024

The Figure 8.4 further shows clearly that in all age groups male active population is higher than female active population.

8.5 Labour Force Participation Rate

The proportion of the economically active population to the total working-age population is defined as the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR). This rate indicates the number of individuals, out of every 100 persons aged 15 and over, who are either employed or unemployed but actively seeking and available for work. In other words, it provides an indication of the size of the population that contributes, or is willing and prepared to contribute, labour to the economy.

Table 8.4 : Labour Force Participation Rate by Age Group and Sex, 2024

Age Group (Years)	Labour Force Participation Rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Aged 15 & over	47.3	67.4	28.9
15 - 19	8.3	11.6	5.0
20 - 24	41.1	54.5	28.1
25 - 29	61.1	82.8	40.8
30 - 34	65.5	91.9	40.8
35 - 39	66.8	93.4	41.7
40 - 44	67.1	92.9	42.3
45 - 49	66.4	91.3	42.4
50 - 54	63.6	88.8	40.0
55 - 59	56.2	81.1	33.9
60 - 64	40.3	62.5	21.1
65 - 69	29.5	47.9	14.5
70 - 74	18.5	31.7	8.5
75 and over	6.8	13.2	2.7

According to Table 8.4, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) in Sri Lanka during the reference period was reported as 47.3 percent. The labour force participation rate for males was 67.4 percent, while the corresponding rate for females was 28.9 percent. However, when the data are considered separately by age group and sex, different values are observed. A notable feature is that the labour force participation rate for males is higher than that for females across all age groups. This distribution is clearly depicted in Figure 8.5.

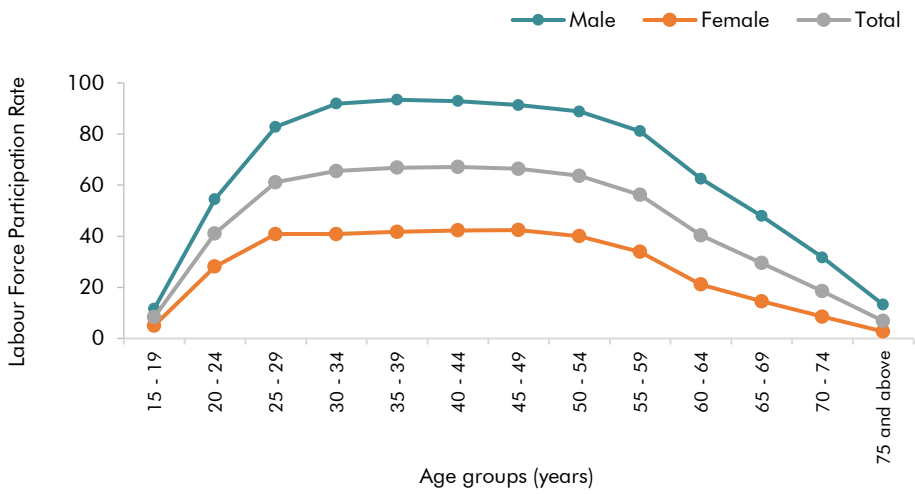


Figure 8.5 : Labour Force Participation Rate by Age Group and Sex, 2024

The highest labour force participation rate of 67.1 percent was reported in the 40–44 age group. In the age range from 30 to 49 years, the participation rate remained above 65 percent. Within this 30–49 age bracket, the male participation rate stands at a high of over 90 percent. For females, the peak participation rate is observed in the 45–49 age group, with the rate exceeding 40 percent for all female age cohorts between 25 and 54 years.

According to Table 8.5 and Figure 8.6, when considering the labour force participation rate (LFPR) by highest educational qualification, individuals with a degree or higher which includes postgraduate diplomas, postgraduate degrees, and PhDs, reported the highest labour force participation rates of 73.0 percent for females and 77.6 percent for males. Further in this category male - female participation gap is the minimum. Among other educational qualifications, the labour force participation rate for males is substantially higher than that for females, in some cases nearly double or more. The rate for those who attended special schools or educational units does not differ significantly between males and females.

Table 8.5 : Labour Force Participation Rate, by Highest Educational Qualification Attained and Sex, 2024

Level of Education	Labour Force Participation Rate	
	Male	Female
Never attended School	48.6	19.2
Studied in a special school/special unit	25.1	22.3
Passed Grade 1 - 5	62.3	20.6
Passed Grade 6 - 8	70.1	22.1
Passed Grade 9 - 10	69.6	24.7
Passed GCE O/L	65.1	22.9
Passed GCE A/L	67.8	35.1
Degree or above	77.6	73.0

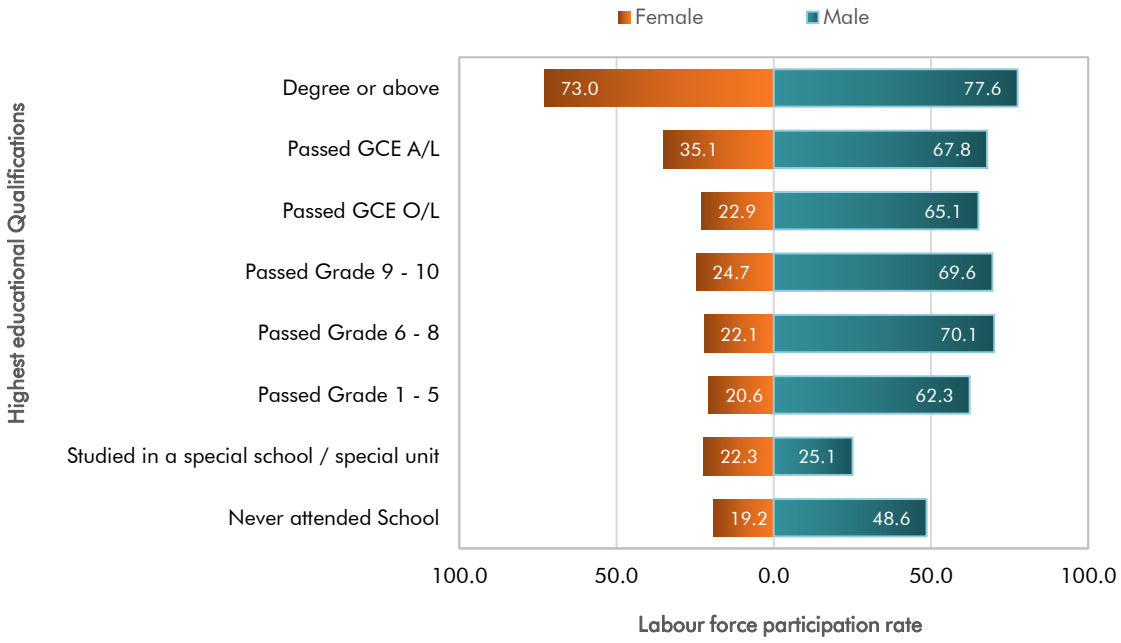


Figure 8.6 : Labour Force Participation Rate, by Highest Educational Qualification Attained and Sex, 2024

8.6 Employed population

As depicted in Table 8.6, the number of persons engaged in economic activities during the reference period, that is, the employed population, was 7,671,232. Of these, 5,317,703 (69.3%) were males and 2,353,529 (30.7%) were females.

Table 8.6 : Employed Population by Sector and Sex, 2024

Sector	Employed population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	7,671,232	100.0	5,317,703	69.3	2,353,529	30.7
Urban	1,293,887	100.0	900,141	69.6	393,746	30.4
Estate - Urban	4,602	100.0	3,025	65.7	1,577	34.3
Rural	6,067,097	100.0	4,220,045	69.6	1,847,052	30.4
Estate – Rural	305,646	100.0	194,492	63.6	111,154	36.4

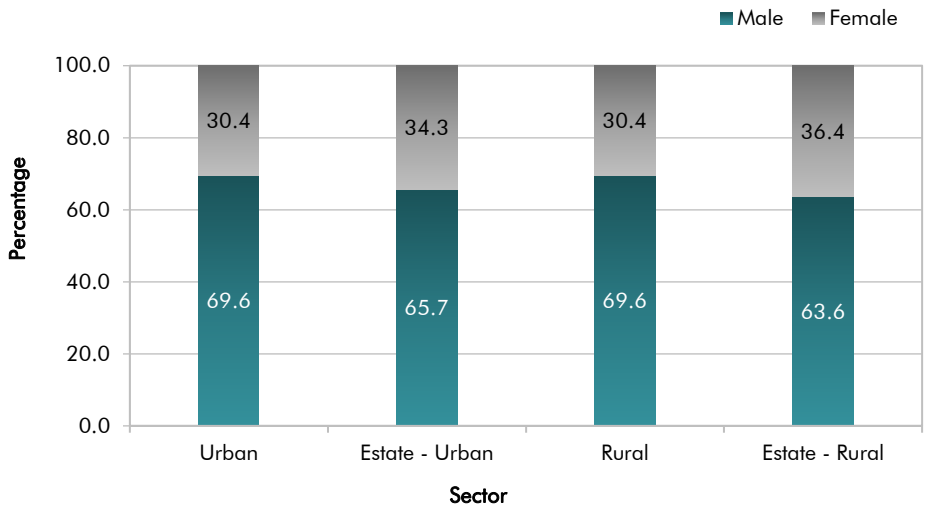


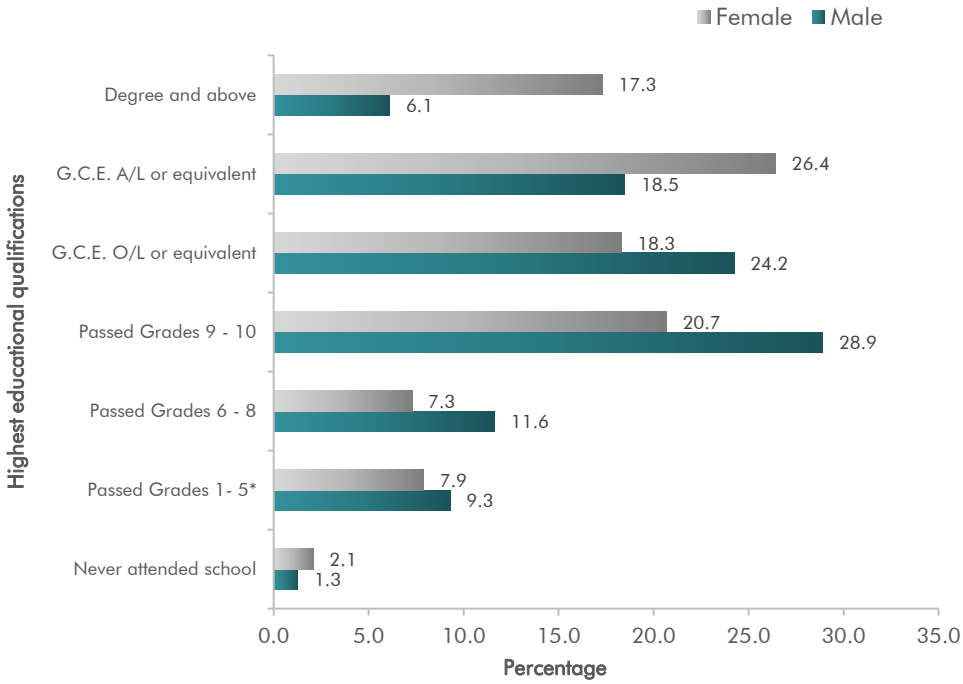
Figure 8.7 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Population, by Sector and Sex, 2024

The Figure 8.7, show clearly that female representation is relatively higher in the estate sectors, accounting for 36.4 percent in the estate rural sector and 34.3 percent in the estate urban sector.

Table 8.7 : Employed Population, by Highest Educational Attainment and Sex, 2024

Education level	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7,671,232	100.0	5,317,703	100.0	2,353,529	100.0
Never attended School	117,293	1.5	67,915	1.3	49,378	2.1
Studied in a special school / special unit	6,642	0.1	3,923	0.1	2,719	0.1
Passed Grade 1 - 5	677,130	8.8	493,163	9.3	183,967	7.8
Passed Grade 6 - 8	790,085	10.3	618,673	11.6	171,412	7.3
Passed Grade 9 - 10	2,023,455	26.4	1,536,837	28.9	486,618	20.7
Passed GCE O/L	1,719,327	22.4	1,288,859	24.2	430,468	18.3
Passed GCE A/L	1,604,637	20.9	982,912	18.5	621,725	26.4
Degree or above	732,663	9.6	325,421	6.1	407,242	17.3

According to Table 8.7 and Figure 8.8, about 47.1 percent of the total employment have education qualifications below G.C.E. (O/L). When considering the distribution by sex, 43.7 percent of employed females have G.C.E. (A/L) or higher educational qualifications, while that is 24.6 percent for the employed males.



* Person who studied/are studying in a special school/educational unit and are studying/studied in Grade 1 are included in this category

Figure 8.8 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Highest Educational Attainment and Sex, 2024

For each employed person, the employment status, occupation, and the industry of the establishment were identified in relation to their economic activity. The Figure 8.9 and Table 8.8 give the percentage distribution by employment status, and it is revealed that 42.3 percent of the employed population are paid employees in the private sector. This is true for both employed males and employed females.

Table 8.8 : Employed Population by Employment Status and Sex, 2024

Employment Status	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7,671,232	100.0	5,317,703	100.0	2,353,529	100.0
Government/Semi-Government Paid Employee	1,333,406	17.4	741,649	13.9	591,757	25.1
Private Sector Paid Employee	3,244,773	42.3	2,248,841	42.3	995,932	42.3
Employer	277,868	3.6	242,488	4.6	35,380	1.5
Own Account Worker	2,407,614	31.4	1,906,739	35.9	500,875	21.3
Contributing to Family Enterprise	407,571	5.3	177,986	3.3	229,585	9.8

Further, as shown in Table 8.8, 35.9 percent of the employed male population are engaged in their own economic activities. In addition, 13.9 percent of employed males are Government/Semi-Government paid employees, whereas among employed females, that percentage is 25.1. Among the employed female the employers account for 1.5 percent.

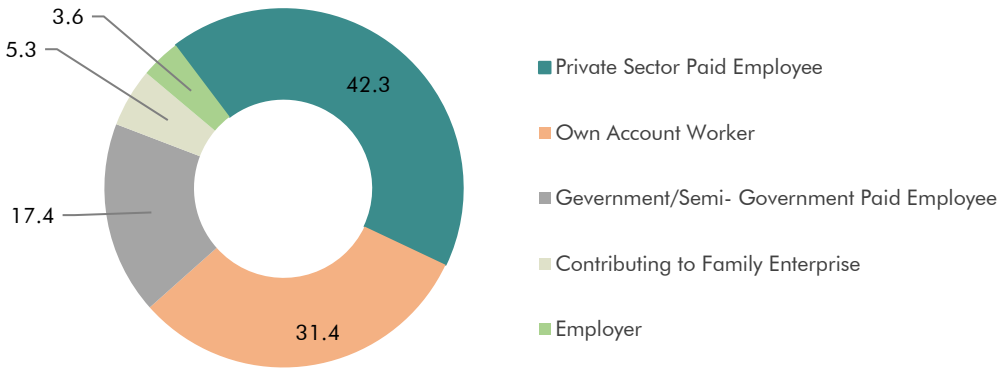


Figure 8.9 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Employment Status, 2024

Figure 8.10 shows the percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and employment status. The employer category exhibits the largest gap in male and female representation. Additionally, females account for a higher proportion of unpaid contributors to family economic activities, while in all other categories, males represent a higher proportion.

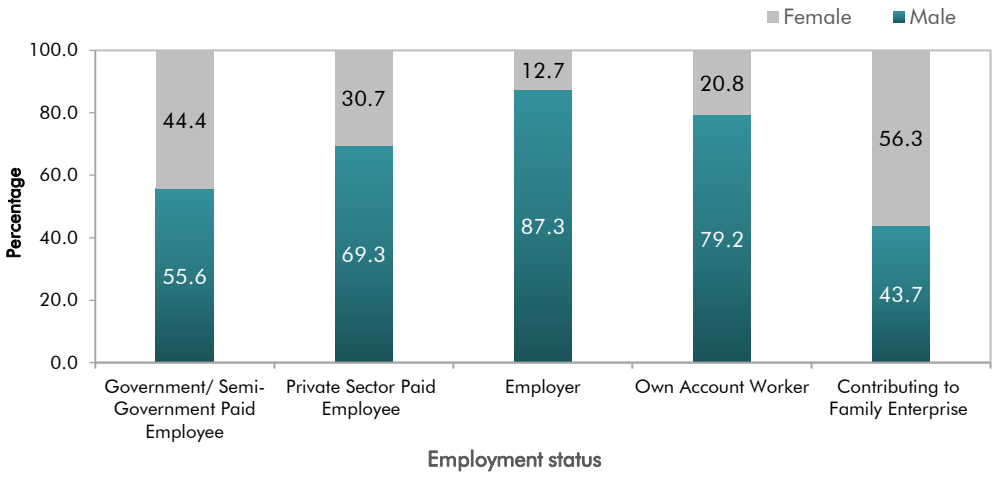


Figure 8.10 : Percentage Distribution of the Employed Population by Employment Status and Sex, 2024

8.7 Unemployed Population (Unemployment)

The unemployed population refers to individuals who were not engaged in any economic activity during the reference period but were actively seeking employment and have taken steps to find employment in the preceding four weeks and are willing to accept a job if one becomes available within the next two weeks. According to Table 8.9 out of the total labour force 491,709 were unemployed of that 232,671(47.3%) are males and 259,038 (52.7%) are females.

Table 8.9 : Unemployed Population by Sector and Sex, 2024

Sector	Unemployed Population					
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	491,709	100.0	232,671	47.3	259,038	52.7
Urban	88,307	100.0	43,342	49.1	44,965	50.9
Estate - Urban	263	100.0	151	57.4	112	42.6
Rural	374,233	100.0	175,144	46.8	199,089	53.2
Estate - Rural	28,906	100.0	14,034	48.6	14,872	51.4

As shown in Figure 8.11, the 20–24 age group has the highest number of unemployed people, with 135,538 individuals. The 25–29 age group follows with 90,055 people. Except for the 15–19, 20–24, age groups, there are more unemployed women than men in all other age categories.

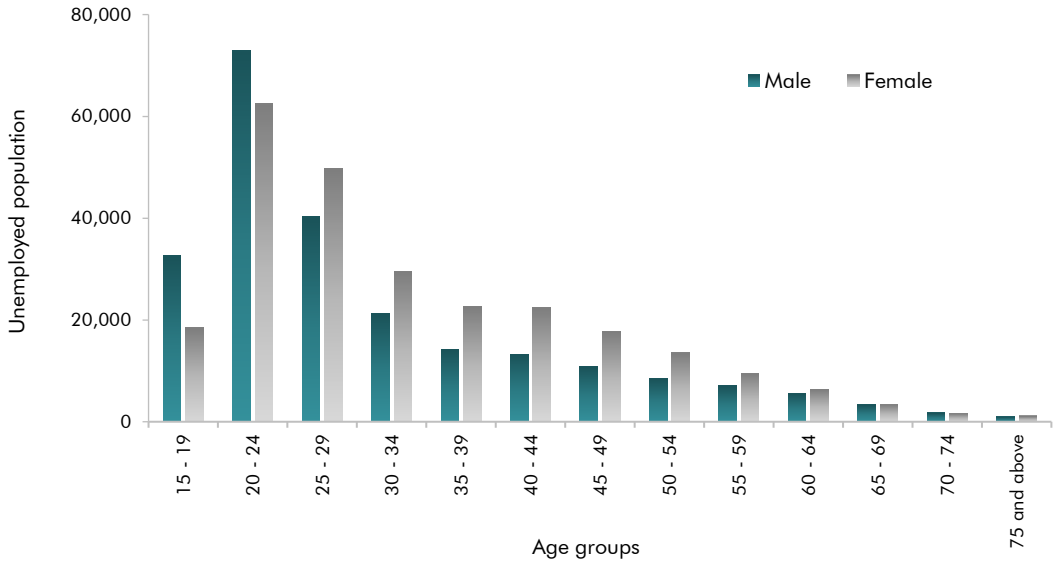


Figure 8.11 : Unemployed Population, by Age Group and Sex, 2024

8.8 Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate

According to Table 8.10, during the reference period, the employment rate in Sri Lanka was reported at 94 percent. At the district level, the highest employment rate was reported in Moneragala District at 96.1 percent, while the lowest was reported in Batticaloa district at 89.9 percent. During the same period, the unemployment rate in Sri Lanka was 6 percent. Examining the district-level data, the highest unemployment rate was observed in Batticaloa district at 10.1 percent, whereas the lowest was reported in Moneragala District at 3.9 percent.

Table 8.10 : Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate by District, 2024

District	Labour Force	Employment		Unemployment	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Sri Lanka	8,162,941	7,671,232	94.0	491,709	6.0
Colombo	920,746	867,111	94.2	53,635	5.8
Gampaha	942,323	889,380	94.4	52,943	5.6
Kalutara	488,622	462,465	94.6	26,157	5.4
Kandy	512,885	477,418	93.1	35,467	6.9
Matale	196,511	186,449	94.9	10,062	5.1
Nuwara Eliya	276,933	251,699	90.9	25,234	9.1
Galle	412,384	389,323	94.4	23,061	5.6
Matara	319,272	300,965	94.3	18,307	5.7
Hambantota	238,473	221,480	92.9	16,993	7.1
Jaffna	196,485	183,239	93.3	13,246	6.7
Mannar	42,780	39,588	92.5	3,192	7.5
Vavuniya	61,381	56,825	92.6	4,556	7.4
Mullaitivu	45,723	41,835	91.5	3,888	8.5
Kilinochchi	50,537	46,445	91.9	4,092	8.1
Batticaloa	191,235	172,013	89.9	19,222	10.1
Ampara	246,870	225,377	91.3	21,493	8.7
Trincomalee	137,617	124,470	90.4	13,147	9.6
Kurunegala	699,453	666,793	95.3	32,660	4.7
Puttalam	295,082	273,661	92.7	21,421	7.3
Anuradhapura	375,621	359,363	95.7	16,258	4.3
Polonnaruwa	165,786	156,426	94.4	9,360	5.6
Badulla	340,950	322,489	94.6	18,461	5.4
Moneragala	211,852	203,553	96.1	8,299	3.9
Ratnapura	454,935	432,107	95.0	22,828	5.0
Kegalle	338,485	320,758	94.8	17,727	5.2

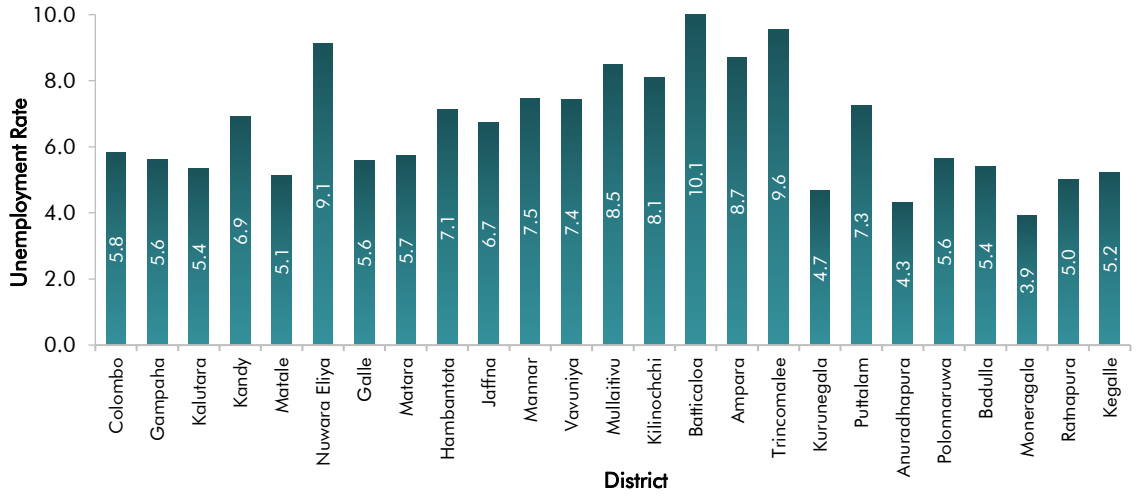


Figure 8.12 : Unemployment Rate by District, 2024

The Figure 8.12 and Figure 8.13 show the distribution of unemployment rate and employment rate by district respectively.

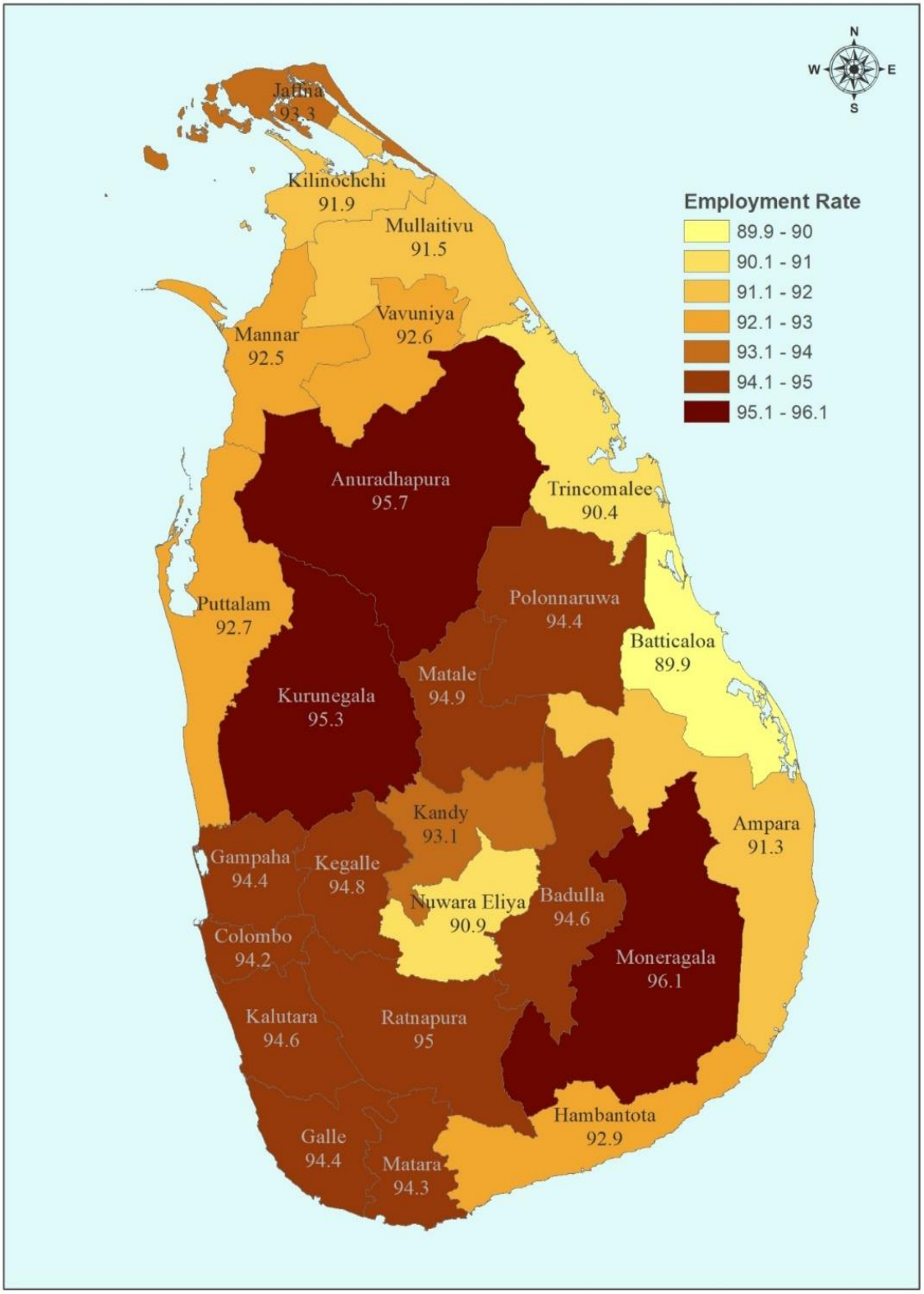


Figure 8.13 : Employment Rate by District, 2024

8.9 Economically Inactive Population

The economically inactive population, which accounts for 52% of the working-age population, may remain inactive for various reasons. During the census, the primary reason for being economically inactive were examined. As shown in Table 8.11, 36.8 percent of the economically inactive are due to household work/child or adult care. Further, 26.0 percent are inactive because they are engaged in education or vocational training and 24 percent are inactive since they are unable/too old to work/retired.

Table 8.11 : Economically Inactive Population by Main Reason for Inactivity, 2024

Reason for being inactive	Inactive Population	
	Number	%
Total	9,112,020	100.0
Engaged in Household work/Childcare/Elder Care	3,358,527	36.8
Engage in educational/Vocational training	2,365,048	26.0
Unable/Too old to work/Retired	2,190,230	24.0
Long term illness/Disabled	517,647	5.7
Does not want/interest to do any economic activity	447,121	4.9
Other	173,895	1.9
Income Recipient such as from investment, rental and interest	59552	0.7

As shown in Figure 8.14, the highest percentage of economically inactive women, amounting to 50.6%, are inactive due to household chores and the care of children or the elderly. In contrast, the largest proportion of economically inactive men, at 41.3%, are inactive because they are engaged in education or vocational training.

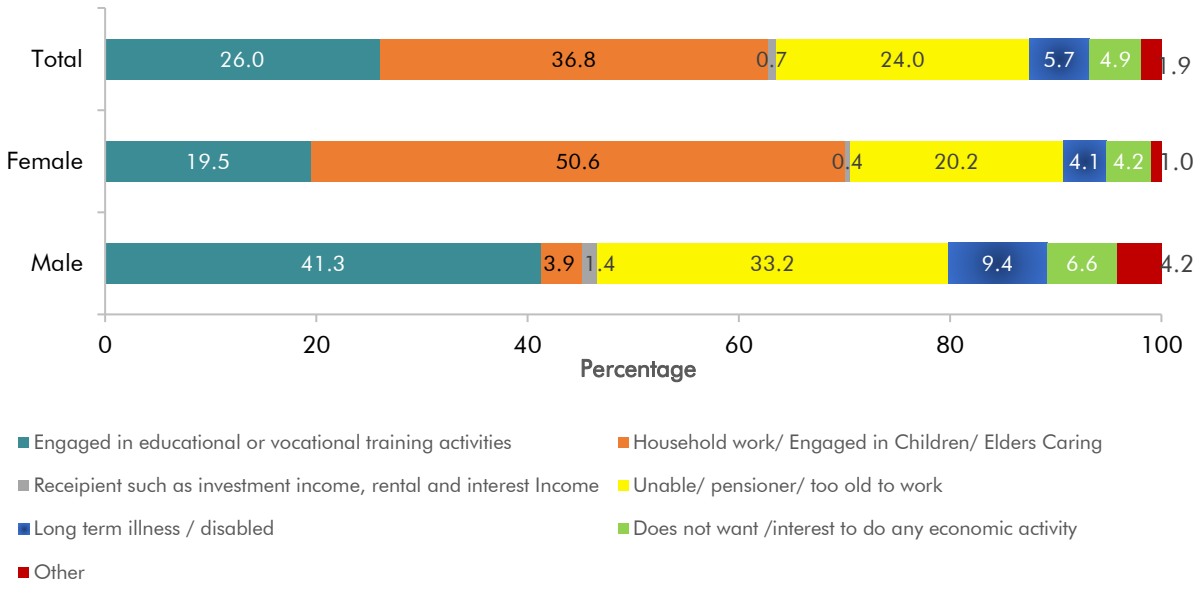


Figure 8.14 : Economically Inactive Population by Reasons for Inactivity and Sex, 2024

9. Marital Status and Fertility

Sri Lanka is a country with a long history built upon in cultural, religious, and social values. Marriage is regarded as a key sociological factor in the establishment of a family, gaining social recognition, and preserving societal values. Fertility associated with marriage is a major determinant of the size and structure of the country's population.

This chapter presents information on marital status and fertility collected in the Census of Population and Housing 2024. It also provides a comparison with information on marital status gathered in previous censuses. Information on marital status was obtained from respondents as specified in the questionnaire, and their responses have been reported exactly as provided.

9.1 Marital Status

Information on current marital status was collected from every individual during the Census of Population and Housing.

Concepts and Definitions

According to the census definitions, each individual's marital status is classified as follows

1. Never married - Person who has never been married during their lifetime.

2. Married – Person who is currently married and have legally registered the marriage or is married in a customary manner.

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 Law and English Laws, is enforced on the low country Sinhalese, Tamils as well as on ethnic and religious mixed marriages. Kandyan Sinhalese have the option to marry under either the General Marriage Law or the customary Kandyan Marriage Law. Muslim Marriage Law is applicable to the Muslims living in the country.

The minimum age for marriage under the General Law and the Kandyan Law is 18 years. However, under Muslim Law, females are permitted to marry after completing 12 years of age, and even girls below 12 years may be married with the approval of the Quazi Board (courts). Registration of a marriage is not compulsory, and when a marriage is conducted according to Buddhist, Hindu, or Christian customs, such marriages are recognized as legitimate for all legal purposes.

3. Widowed – person whose husband or wife has died and who has not remarried at present.

4. Divorced – person who has legally divorced and has not remarried at present.

5. Legally separated – person who is legally married but has not obtained a legal divorce and currently lives separately either through legal means or by court order.

6. Separated (not legally) – person who is married but lives separately by mutual consent, without having obtained a legal separation.

Marital Status by Age Group and Sex

Table 9.1 shows the distribution of the population by marital status, age group, and sex

Table 9.1: Population by Marital Status, Age Group, and Sex, 2024

Age Group	Population		Marital status											
			Never married		Married		Widowed		Divorced		Separated (Legally)		Separated (Not legally)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	10,512,344	11,269,456	4,808,324	4,291,826	5,417,431	5,743,647	175,421	1,058,997	28,952	45,403	17,047	27,857	65,169	101,726
Less than 15	2,280,530	2,226,309	2,280,530	2226291	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19	907,739	887,299	899,119	856,574	8,458	30,199	69	78	15	106	10	31	68	311
	100.0	100.0	99.1	96.6	0.9	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20-24	790,215	818,391	703,705	613,975	84,787	198,888	166	697	341	1,082	210	660	1,006	3,089
	100.0	100.0	89.2	75.0	10.7	24.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
25-29	662,751	709,707	401,913	257,574	254,738	438,683	519	2,079	1,396	3,046	855	1,876	3,330	6,449
	100.0	100.0	60.7	36.3	38.4	61.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.9
30-34	682,568	731,492	191,256	73,495	479,090	63,5307	1,091	4,816	3,203	4,946	1,786	3,086	6,142	9,842
	100.0	100.0	28.0	10.0	70.1	86.9	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.3
35-39	705,129	747,574	98,240	34,361	590,237	682,347	1,917	9,793	4,099	5,766	2,364	3,548	8,272	11,759
	100.0	100.0	13.9	4.6	83.7	91.2	0.3	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.2	1.6
40-44	785,927	816,417	67,500	27,938	696,745	741,533	3,289	20,406	5,096	6,849	3,027	4,345	10,270	15,346
	100.0	100.0	8.6	3.4	88.7	90.9	0.4	2.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.3	1.9
45-49	730,439	760,326	42,580	27,021	665,941	672,196	5,314	35,533	4,452	6,683	2,599	4,138	9,553	14,755
	100.0	100.0	5.8	3.6	91.2	88.4	0.7	4.7	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.3	1.9
50-54	651,086	690,721	30,589	27,610	599,264	584,622	7,793	57,399	3,378	5,371	2,093	3,382	7,969	12,337
	100.0	100.0	4.7	4.0	92.1	84.6	1.2	8.3	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.2	1.8
55-59	603,425	672,631	26,431	29,746	553,150	530,027	12,971	95,484	2,656	4,408	1,554	2,615	6,663	10,351
	100.0	100.0	4.4	4.4	91.7	78.8	2.1	14.2	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	1.1	1.5
60-64	548,145	635,165	22,917	31,092	497,468	453,180	19,753	138,006	1,907	3,129	1,153	1,946	4,947	7,812
	100.0	100.0	4.2	4.9	90.9	71.3	3.6	21.7	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.9	1.2
65 and over	1,164,390	1,573,424	43,544	86,149	987,553	776,647	122,539	694,706	2,409	4,017	1,396	2,230	6,949	9,675
	100.0	100.0	3.7	5.5	84.9	49.4	10.5	44.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6

Marital Status by Ethnic Group

Table 9.2 shows the distribution of the population by ethnic group, sex, and marital status.

Table 9.2 : Marital Status by Ethnic group and Sex, 2024

Ethnic group	Male/ Female	Total	Never Married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated (Legally)	Separated (Not legally)
Sri Lanka	Grand Total	21,781,800	9,100,150	11,161,078	1,234,418	74,355	44,904	166,895
		100.0	41.8	51.2	5.7	0.3	0.2	0.8
	Male	10,512,344	4,808,324	5,417,431	175,421	28,952	17,047	65,169
		100.0	45.7	51.5	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.6
	Female	11,269,456	4,291,826	5,743,647	1,058,997	45,403	27,857	101,726
		100.0	38.1	51.0	9.4	0.4	0.2	0.9
Sinhalese	Male	7,797,618	3,466,465	4,108,376	132,157	22,659	14,190	53,771
		100.0	44.5	52.7	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.7
	Female	8,346,419	3,103,304	4,315,965	805,320	29,347	20,190	72,293
		100.0	37.2	51.7	9.6	0.4	0.2	0.9
Sri Lanka Tamil	Male	1,286,998	614,117	639,373	22,547	2,051	1,337	7,573
		100.0	47.7	49.7	1.8	0.2	0.1	0.6
	Female	1,394,629	546,500	686,231	133,774	4,171	3,419	20,534
		100.0	39.2	49.2	9.6	0.3	0.2	1.5
Indian Tamil/ Malaiyaga Thamilar	Male	288,368	135,932	143,516	6,829	371	247	1,473
		100.0	47.1	49.8	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.5
	Female	311,992	126,358	149,035	32,895	666	427	2,611
		100.0	40.5	47.8	10.5	0.2	0.1	0.8
Sri Lanka Moor/ Muslim	Male	1,103,726	576,553	506,974	13,189	3,654	1,189	2,167
		100.0	52.2	45.9	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
	Female	1,179,520	502,703	572,992	83,305	10,880	3,664	5,976
		100.0	42.6	48.6	7.1	0.9	0.3	0.5
Burgher	Male	15,243	6,511	8,181	326	99	36	90
		100.0	42.7	53.7	2.1	0.6	0.2	0.6
	Female	16,478	5,792	8,535	1,758	136	87	170
		100.0	35.1	51.8	10.7	0.8	0.5	1.0
Malay	Male	12,696	5,563	6,715	271	76	32	39
		100.0	43.8	52.9	2.1	0.6	0.3	0.3
	Female	13,954	4,929	7,322	1,401	155	52	95
		100.0	35.3	52.5	10.0	1.1	0.4	0.7
Other	Male	7,695	3,183	4,296	102	42	16	56
		100.0	41.4	55.8	1.3	0.5	0.2	0.7
	Female	6,464	2,240	3,567	544	48	18	47
		100.0	34.7	55.2	8.4	0.7	0.3	0.7

Others – This category includes Sri Lanka Chetty, Bharata, Veddas, and other ethnic groups.

According to Table 9.2, the highest percentage of never-married males and females is observed among the Sri Lanka Moors (Muslim) community. Among the Sinhalese, Burgher, Malay and other ethnic groups, the percentage of married persons exceeds 50 percent for both males and females. Among the Sinhalese population, 52.7 percent of males and 51.7 percent of females are married, respectively. The corresponding percentages among the Burghers are 53.7 percent and 51.8 percent, respectively, while among the Malays community the percentages are 52.9 percent and 52.5 percent, respectively. The percentage of widowed females is higher among the Burgher and Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar ethnicities, at 10.7 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively. The highest percentage of divorced females is reported among the Malay community, at 1.1 percent.

Marital Status of the Population Aged 15 Years and Over

Table 9.3 presents the distribution of the population aged 15 years and over in Sri Lanka by marital status and sex, according to the Population and Housing Censuses 2012 and 2024.

Table 9.3 : Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Marital Status and Sex, 2012 and 2024

Marital status	2012				2024			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7,266,234	100.0	7,961,539	100.0	8,231,814	100.0	9,043,147	100.0
Never married	2,179,099	30.0	1,748,503	22.0	2,527,794	30.7	2,065,535	22 .8
Married	4,921,044	67.7	5,401,061	67.9	5,417,431	65.8	5,743,629	63.6
Widow	97,532	1.3	695,415	8.7	175,421	2.1	1,058,997	11.7
Divorced	14,847	0.2	26,328	0.3	28,952	0.4	45,403	0.5
Legal separated	11,135	0.2	19,778	0.2	17,047	0.2	27,857	0.3
Separated (not legally)	42,577	0.6	70,454	0.9	65,169	0.8	101,726	1.1

According to Table 9.3, in 2024, the number of never-married males exceeded that of never married females by 462,259. Similarly, the number of married females exceeded that of married males by 326,198. Furthermore, the number of widowed females exceeded the number of widowed males by 883,576.

Comparing 2012 and 2024, the percentage of widowed males has increased from 1.3 percent to 2.1 percent, while the percentage of widowed females has increased from 8.7 percent to 11.7 percent. The percentage of divorced males has increased from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent, while the percentage of divorced females has increased from 0.3 percent to 0.5 percent.

Figure 9.1 shows the percentage distribution of the population aged 15 years and over, by marital status and sex, according to the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

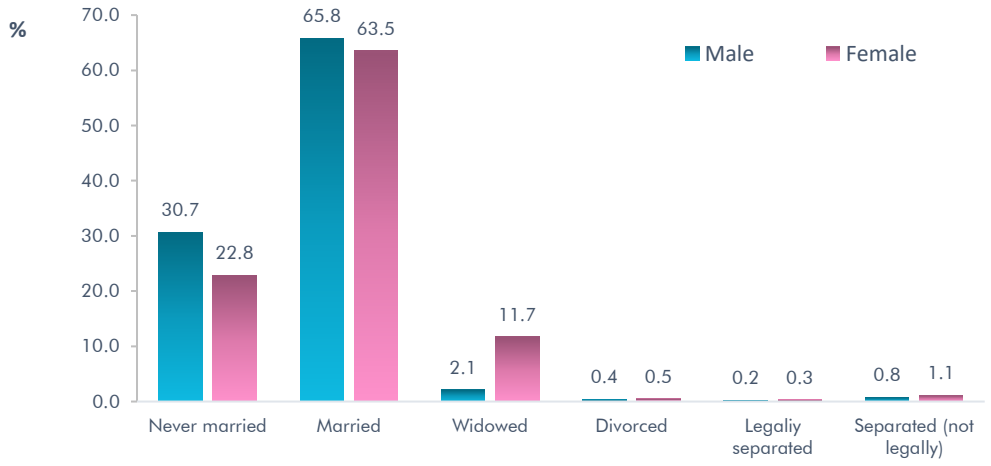


Figure 9.1 : Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 15 Years and Over, by Marital Status and Sex, 2024

Never Married Persons

Table 9.4 shows the percentage of never-married males and females in each age group, according to the population and housing censuses in 1981, 2012, and 2024.

Table 9.4 : Percentage of Never-Married Persons within the Age Group by Sex, 1981, 2012, and 2024

Age Group (Years)	Percentage of Never-Married Persons					
	Male			Female		
	1981	2012	2024	1981	2012	2024
Population 15 Years and Over	42.5	30.0	30.7	32.4	22.0	22.8
15-19	99.0	97.7	99.1	90.1	89.4	96.5
20-24	83.5	81.3	89.1	55.3	56.8	75.0
25-29	51.5	47.9	60.6	30.4	24.4	36.3
30-34	24.9	20.3	28.0	15.8	10.2	10.0
35-39	12.6	9.5	13.9	8.9	6.7	4.6
40-44	8.3	6.7	8.6	5.9	5.7	3.4
45-49	6.9	5.8	5.8	4.5	5.4	3.6
50-54	6.4	5.4	4.7	4.2	5.8	4.0
55-59	6.1	4.9	4.4	3.8	6.3	4.4
60-64	6.5	4.9	4.2	4.5	6.8	4.9
65 and over	6.8	5.1	3.7	4.8	5.3	5.5

When analyzing the percentage in the census years 1981, 2012, and 2024, the proportion of never-married males in the age groups 15 - 44 years has increased by 2024. Similarly, among females, the proportion who have never married has increased in the 15–29 age groups. Furthermore, in 2024, the percentage of never-married males declines after the age of 45 years, while among females, a decrease in the proportion who have never married is observed within the 30–64 age groups.

Married Persons

Table 9.5 shows the percentage of married males and females in each age group, according to the population and housing censuses in 1981, 2012, and 2024.

Table 9.5 : Percentage of Married Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Age Group, 1981, 2012, and 2024

Age Group (Years)	Percentage of Married Persons					
	Male			Female		
	1981	2012	2024	1981	2012	2024
Population 15 Years and Over	55.2	67.7	65.8	59.0	67.8	63.5
15-19	0.9	2.3	0.9	9.7	10.4	3.4
20-24	16.2	18.5	10.7	43.7	42.4	24.3
25-29	48.0	51.4	38.4	67.9	73.9	61.8
30-34	74.3	78.6	70.2	81.2	87.2	86.9
35-39	86.2	89.1	83.7	86.1	89.5	91.3
40-44	89.9	91.4	88.7	86.1	88.5	90.8
45-49	90.5	92.0	91.2	83.6	86.0	88.4
50-54	90.0	92.0	92.0	78.6	82.0	84.6
55-59	89.1	92.0	91.7	72.7	76.9	78.8
60-64	86.3	91.0	90.8	63.6	70.4	71.3
65 and over	79.3	85.4	84.8	47.0	55.4	49.4

In 2024, the percentage of married males in the age group 15–49 years was decreased compared with the corresponding percentage reported in the 2012 Census of Population and Housing. Similarly, in 2024, the percentage of married females in the age group 15–34 years has decreased compared to 2012. However, beginning from the 35–39 age group in 2024, the percentage of married females shows an increase relative to 2012. The highest percentage of married females was observed in the 35–39 age group, which was 91.3 percent. In the age group 65 years and over, the percentage of married males is 84.8 percent, while the percentage of married females is 49.4 percent. This indicates that the percentage of married males in this age group is 35.4 percentage points higher than that of females.

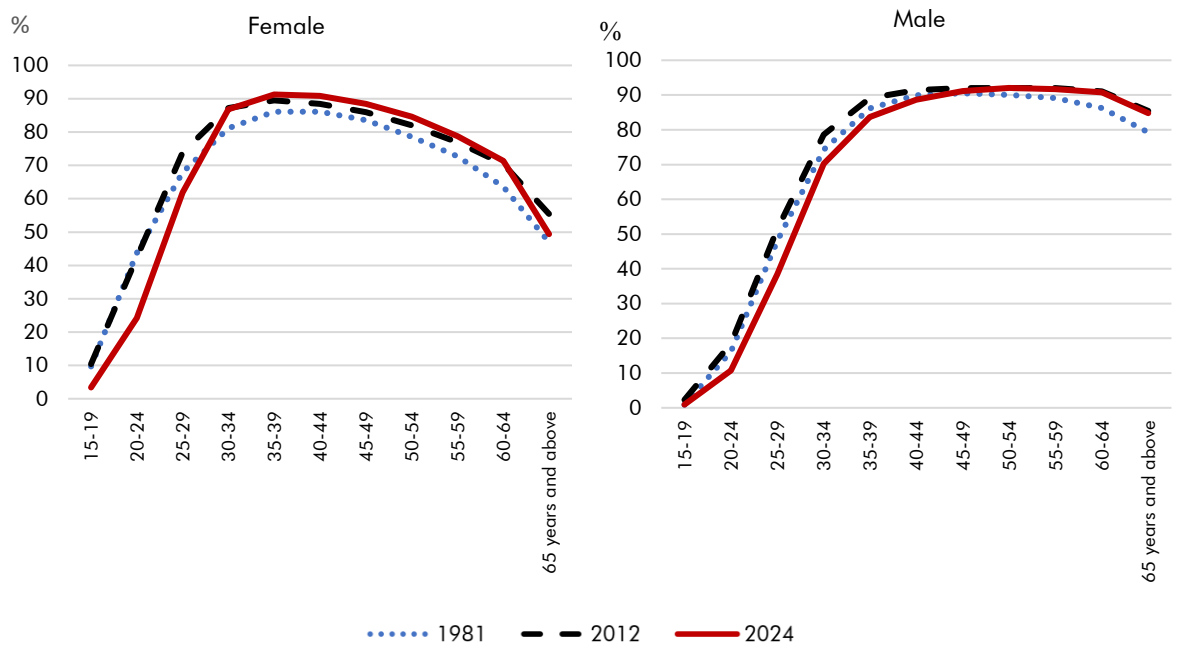


Figure 9.2 : Percentage of Married Males and Females by Age Group, 1981, 2012, and 2024

When comparing marriage patterns across the 1981, 2012, and 2024 censuses, it is observed that the age at which both females and males marry has increased in 2024 compared to 1981 and 2012.

In all census years, the highest percentage of married females is reported in the 35–39 age group, while the highest percentage of married males is reported in the 50–54 age group.

Widowed Persons

Table 9.6 shows the percentage of female and male aged 15 years and over who reported their marital status as "widowed" in the 1981, 2012, and 2024 Censuses.

Table 9.6 : Percentage of Widowed Population Aged 15 Years and over, 1981, 2012, and 2024

Age Group (Years)	Percentage of Widowed Persons					
	Male			Female		
	1981	2012	2024	1981	2012	2024
Population 15 years and over	1.2	1.3	2.1	5.2	8.7	11.7
15-19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
20-24	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.1
25-29	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.5	0.3
30-34	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.0	1.0	0.7
35-39	0.6	0.2	0.3	3.9	1.9	1.3
40-44	1.0	0.4	0.4	7.0	3.5	2.5
45-49	1.8	0.6	0.7	11.1	6.2	4.7
50-54	2.9	1.1	1.2	16.4	10.0	8.3
55-59	4.2	1.8	2.1	22.8	14.8	14.2
60-64	6.5	3.0	3.6	31.4	21.2	21.7
65 and over	13.3	8.6	10.5	47.7	38.4	44.2

As shown in Table 9.6, the incidence of widowhood increases with age. Among females aged 65 years and over, the percentage of widowed is as high as 44.2 percent, whereas the percentage of widowed males in the same age group is 10.5 percent. Furthermore, in every age group, the percentage of widowed females is higher than that of widowed males.

Divorced Persons/ Persons Separated from Spouse

Table 9.7 presents the number of divorced or separated persons per 10,000 population aged 15 years and over for the census years 1981, 2012, and 2024.

Table 9.7 : Number of Divorced or Separated Persons per 10,000 Population Aged 15 Years and Over, 1981, 2012, and 2024

Marital Status		1981		2012		2024	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Divorced		23	37	20	33	35	50
Separated	Legal	19	26	15	25	21	31
	Not legal	*	*	59	88	79	112

*No data were collected under "Separated (not legally)" in the 1981 Census

Divorce rate 2024 (per 10,000 persons) for both males and females have increased compared to 1981 and 2012. The rates are reported as 35 for males and 50 for females. Also, separations have increased. Non-legal separations showing a notable rise among both males and females by 2024. This is observed at a rate of 79 males and 112 females per 10,000 persons, respectively.

9.2 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 into 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. The mean age at first marriage is not a direct measure of the actual age at marriage of individuals; rather, it is a statistical estimate derived from the age distribution of unmarried persons in the population. This index is calculated based on the assumption that prevailing marriage patterns will remain constant in the future. The index enables the analysis of the average age at entry into marriage, marriage postponement, and changes in marital behavior.

Table 9.8 shows the mean age at marriage for males and females as revealed by the censuses conducted over the 71-year period from 1953 to the 2024.

Table 9.8 : Mean Age at Marriage, 1953–2024

Census Year	Mean Age at Marriage (Years)		
	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
2024	29.2	25.6	3.6

Although there were no major changes in the average age of marriage for males between 1953 and 2012, by 2024 the average age of marriage for males has increased to 29.2 years. This is a 2 year significant increase from 2012.

The average age at marriage for females has gradually increased since 1953 and during the period 1971 to 2012 the value was stagnant between 23 to 24. However, by 2024, the average age at marriage has increased significantly to 25.6 years.

While the average age gap between males and females at marriage was over 6 years in 1953, it has narrowed to 3.6 years by 2024.

Mean Age at Marriage by Sector

Table 9.9 : Mean Age at Marriage by Sector, 2024

Sector	Mean Age at Marriage (Years)		
	Male	Female	Difference
Sri Lanka	29.2	25.6	3.6
Urban *	29.8	26.6	3.2
Rural	29.0	25.4	3.6
Estate Rural **	28.4	24.5	3.9

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".

** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as “Estate”, whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as “Estate Rural.”

Table 9.9 shows the mean age at marriage for males and females in the urban, rural, and Estate Rural sectors, according to the 2024 Population and Housing Census.

The highest average age at marriage is reported in the urban sector, and this is valid for both males and females. The mean age at marriage is 29.8 years for males and 26.6 years for females. The data further indicate that both males and females in the Estate Rural sector marry at younger ages compared to those in other sectors.

Table 9.10 : Mean Age at Marriage by District of Usual Residence, 2012 and 2024

District	2012		2024	
	Male (years)	Female (years)	Male (years)	Female (years)
Sri Lanka	27.2	23.4	29.2	25.6
Colombo	28.0	24.9	30.1	27.2
Gampaha	27.5	24.3	29.7	26.5
Kalutara	27.2	23.7	29.4	26.0
Kandy	27.8	23.9	29.8	26.1
Matale	27.0	22.5	28.8	24.9
Nuwara Eliya	27.2	23.2	29.2	25.0
Galle	27.3	23.5	29.7	26.0
Matara	27.6	23.5	29.8	26.0
Hambantota	26.9	22.6	29.1	25.4
Jaffna	28.8	26.4	30.8	26.6
Mannar	27.2	24.1	28.5	24.8
Vavuniya	27.6	24.5	29.0	25.5
Mullaitivu	25.8	22.7	28.2	24.5
Kilinochchi	26.3	23.1	28.7	25.2
Batticaloa	26.2	23.0	27.4	23.6
Ampara	26.7	23.0	28.0	24.0
Trincomalee	25.6	22.3	26.8	23.4
Kurunegala	26.9	22.9	29.0	25.3
Puttalam	25.8	22.2	27.8	24.2
Anuradhapura	26.1	21.9	28.0	24.4
Polonnaruwa	25.9	21.8	28.0	24.1
Badulla	27.2	22.7	29.1	25.2
Moneragala	26.4	21.7	28.2	24.2
Ratnapura	27.2	22.9	29.3	25.5
Kegalle	27.5	23.6	29.8	26.0

Table 9.10 shows a comparison of the mean age at marriage for males and females by district of usual residence based on the Censuses of Population and Housing in 2012 and 2024. The mean age at marriage for both males and females has increased in 2024 compared to 2012 in all districts of the country. According to the above table, in 2024 the highest mean age at marriage for males was reported in Jaffna District at 30.8 years, while the highest mean age at marriage for females was reported in Colombo District at 27.2 years. Furthermore, the lowest mean age at marriage for both males and females were reported in Trincomalee District.

Mean Age at Marriage by Ethnic group

Table 9.11 shows the mean age at marriage by ethnic group as reported in the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

Table 9.11 : Mean Age at Marriage by Ethnic Group, 2024

Ethnic group	Male (Years)	Female (Years)
Sinhalese	29.5	26.1
Sri Lanka Tamil	29.0	25.1
Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar	28.5	24.7
Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim	27.2	23.4
Other*	29.5	25.9

*Others – This category includes Burgher, Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty, Bharata, Vedda, and other specified ethnic groups.

The lowest mean age at marriage for both males and females are reported among the Sri Lanka Moor/ Muslim ethnic group. The highest mean age at marriage is reported among the Sinhalese and other ethnic groups for males, and among the Sinhalese ethnic group when considering females.

9.3 Fertility

Fertility refers to the number of live births given by a woman of reproductive age (15–49 years) during a specified period. It is a key demographic indicator. Fertility indicators provide important insights into population growth, future population trends, and socio-economic planning in a country. These measures facilitate the analysis of reproductive patterns among women, the requirements for education and health services, the prospective size of the labour force, and the process of population ageing. In addition, fertility measures are essential for assessing family planning programs, making regional and temporal comparisons, and monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Concepts and Definitions

To prepare national and regional fertility indicators, information on live births was collected from ever-married females aged 15 years and over during the Census of Population and Housing 2024. Accordingly, all ever-married females aged 15 years and over were asked whether they had ever given a live birth, the total number of live births they had, and the number of boys and girls separately. In addition, data were collected on the number of children alive at the time of the census and the year and month of the last birth.

Table 9.12 shows the percentage distribution of live births among ever-married females aged 15-49 years in the urban, rural, and Estate Rural sectors, according to the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

Table 9.12 : Percentage Distribution of Ever-Married Women Aged 15 Years and Over by the Number of Live Births per Woman and Sector, 2024

Sector	Number of Ever-Married Women Aged 15 Years and Over	Percentage of women by number of Live Births								
		Total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
All Sectors	6,977,254	100.0	10.6	19.0	33.3	22.4	8.1	3.4	1.6	1.6
Urban*	1,207,941	100.0	12.9	21.3	34.0	19.9	6.9	2.7	1.2	1.1
Rural	5,504,477	100.0	10.0	18.7	33.4	22.6	8.2	3.5	1.6	1.8
Estate Rural **	264,836	100.0	12.4	16.0	26.2	28.3	10.7	3.8	1.4	1.2

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".

** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as “Estate”, whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as “Estate Rural.”

The percentage of ever-married women aged 15 years and over who have never given live birth is 10.6 percent. Among ever-married women in Sri Lanka, the majority (33.3 percent) have given birth to two live children during their lifetime. When females residing in the Estate Rural sector are considered, the highest percentage have given birth to three live children. However, the percentage of ever-married females in the Estate Rural sector who have never had a live birth is 12.4 percent. The highest percentage of females who have given birth to only one child is in the Urban sector" which is 21.3 percent.

Figure 9.3, illustrates the percentage distribution of ever-married women aged 15 years and over by the number of live births per woman and by sector.

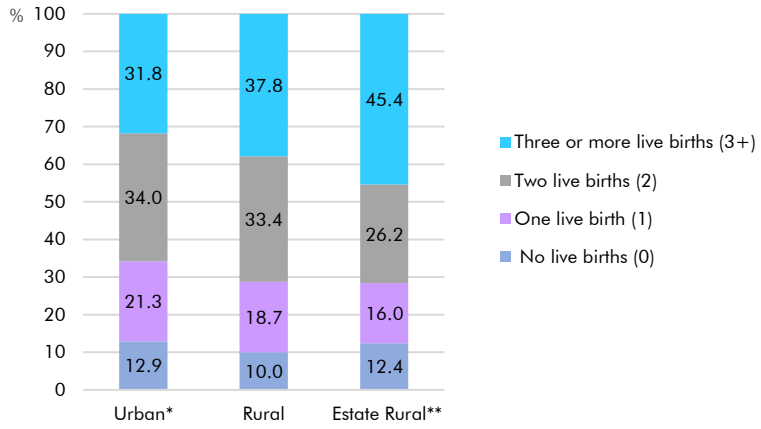


Figure 9.3 : Percentage Distribution of Ever-Married Women Aged 15 Years and Over by the Number of Live Births per Woman and Sector, 2024

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".
** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural."

According to census data, among ever-married females in the Estate Rural sector, 45.4 out of every 100 have given birth to three or more children. In the rural sector, 37.8 out of every 100 ever-married females have had three or more children, while in the urban sector, the corresponding figure is 31.8 out of every 100 ever-married females.

The age distribution of currently married females of reproductive age (15–49 years), based on the Censuses of Population and Housing in 2012 and 2024, is shows in Table 9.13. Also, shows the percentage of married women to total women population aged 15-49.

Table 9.13 : Number and Percentage Distribution of Married Women Aged 15–49 Years by Age Group, 2012 and 2024

Age Group	2012		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-19	85,392	2.4	30,199	0.9
20-24	335,158	9.3	198,888	5.9
25-29	598,450	16.7	438,683	12.9
30-34	734,555	20.4	635,307	18.7
35-39	646,905	18.0	682,347	20.1
40-44	617,503	17.2	741,533	21.8
45-49	574,175	16.0	672,196	19.8
Currently married women aged 15-49 years	3,592,138	100.0	3,399,153	100.0
All women aged 15-49 years	5,355,092		5,471,206	
Percentage married		67.1		62.1

According to the 2024 Census, 62.1 percent of females aged 15–49 years are currently married, representing a decrease of 5 percentage points compared with the 2012 Census.

The percentage distribution of married women of childbearing age by age group has changed between 2012 and 2024. In 2012, the highest percentage of married women was observed in the 30–34 years age group, whereas by 2024, the highest percentage had shifted to the 40–44 years age group. Furthermore, during this period, a decrease in the percentage of married women was observed in all age groups between 15 and 34 years.

Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR)

The Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) represents the number of live births per 1,000 women in a specific age group. ASFRs provide information on the ages at which women begin and end childbearing and, when compared over time, reveal changes in childbearing patterns.

Accordingly, in line with international standards and to ensure comparability of Sri Lanka's population data with other countries, Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) and the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) are provided for all females in the reproductive age group of 15–49 years.

In this census, fertility rates have been calculated considering the year 2024, using information collected in the census and applying demographic theories and methodologies.

Table 9.14 shows the age-specific fertility rates of females in the reproductive age group, based on information collected at the Censuses of Population and Housing in 2012 and 2024.

Table 9.14 : Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR), 2012 and 2024

Age group	Fertility Rate (per 1,000 women)		
	1981	2012	2024
15-19	38	36	7
20-24	177	107	41
25-29	226	147	86
30-34	204	118	83
35-39	90	58	38
40-44	28	16	9
45-49	4	2	1

According to Table 9.14, the Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) for almost all age groups show a notable decline between 2012 and 2024. In both the Population and Housing censuses in 2012 and 2024. The highest fertility rate is reported in the 25–29 age group, with 86 live births per 1,000 females. The number of live births per 1,000 females in the 15–19 age group has also decreased sharply by 2024. The lowest ASFR is observed among females aged 45–49, with only 1 live birth per 1,000 females in that age group in 2024.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) refers to the average number of live births a female would have by the end of her reproductive period if she were to experience the prevailing age-specific fertility rates throughout her reproductive life.

Table 9.15 shows the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of women in the reproductive age group, based on information collected at the Population and Housing censuses in 1981, 2012 and 2024.

Table 9.15 : Total Fertility Rate (TFR), 1981, 2012 and 2024

Year	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
1981	3.3
2012	2.4
2024	1.3

In 1981, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was reported as 3.3. By 2012, it had declined to 2.4, and by 2024 it had further decreased to 1.3.

Figure 9.4 shows the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of married females aged 15 years and over, by sector, ethnic group and educational level, based on the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

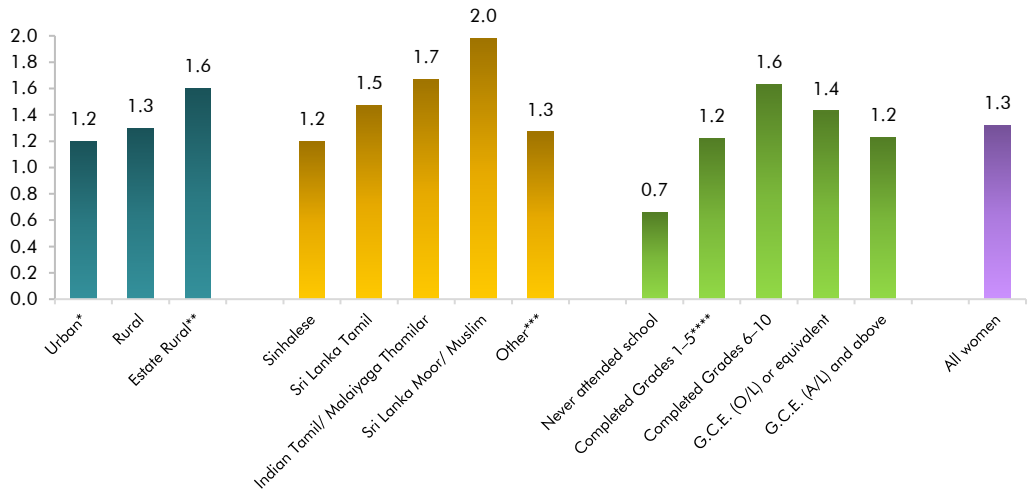


Figure 9.4 : Total Fertility Rate (TFR) by Sector, Ethnic Group and Educational Level, 2024

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".

** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as “Estate”, whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as “Estate Rural.”

***Others - Burghers, Malays, Sri Lanka Chetties, Bharatas, Vedas and other mentioned ethnic groups are mentioned under this.

**** Those studying/obtained in Grade 1 and those studying/obtained in a special school or special unit are also included in this category.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) among females in the estate sector is reported as 1.6, which is significantly higher than the fertility levels of females in the urban and rural sectors. The Total Fertility Rate among Sri Lanka Moor/ Muslim women is 2.0, which is the highest among all ethnic groups. Furthermore, by ethnic group, Sinhalese women show the lowest fertility rate, with a TFR of 1.2.

Analysis of fertility by the educational level of married females shows that females who have never attended school have lower fertility levels compared to those with primary, secondary, or higher educational qualifications. The highest fertility rate is observed among females who have completed grades 6–10, with a TFR of 1.6. Females with GCE Advanced Level (A/L) and higher education have a TFR of 1.2.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – by District

Figure 9.5 shows a comparison of Total Fertility Rates (TFR) by district of usual residence.

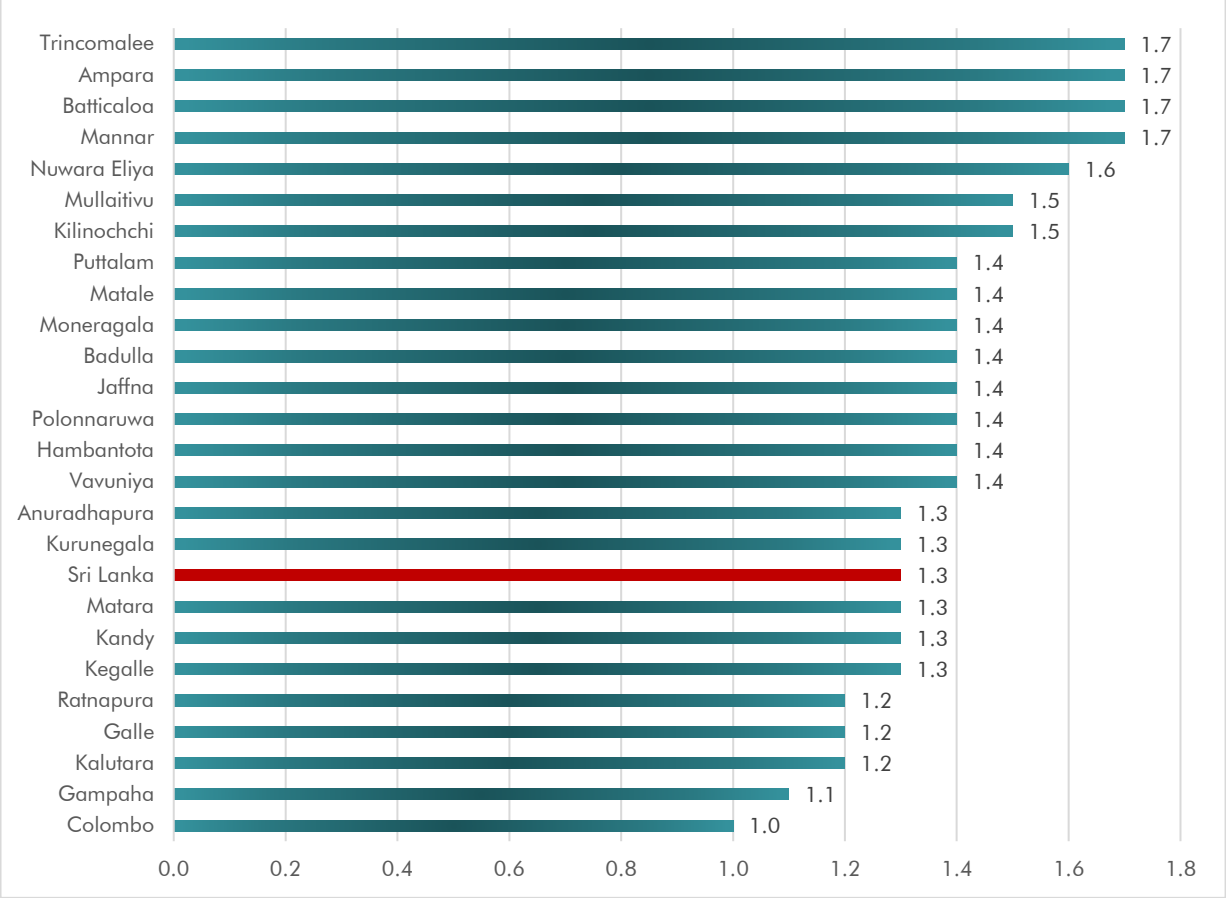


Figure 9.5 : Total Fertility Rates (TFR) by District, 2024

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) by district of usual residence ranges from 1.0 to 1.7. The highest TFR of 1.7 is reported in Trincomalee, Ampara, Batticaloa, and Mannar districts, followed by Nuwara Eliya (1.6), Mullaitivu (1.5), and Kilinochchi (1.5). The lowest TFR of 1.0 is observed in Colombo district.

Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR) and Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR)

In Sri Lankan culture, childbearing primarily occurs within marriage. Therefore, fertility levels largely depend on the proportion of married female, particularly those in the reproductive age group of 15–49 years, and their marital patterns. In addition, factors such as age at marriage, delayed entry into marriage, use of family planning methods, educational level, and socioeconomic conditions have direct and indirect effects on fertility. Accordingly, analyzing changes in fertility is important for understanding variations in population structure and for anticipating future population trends. Given that childbearing mainly occurs within marriage in Sri Lanka, Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rates (ASMFR) and the Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) have been calculated as follows to examine fertility trends and population changes.

Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR) refers to the number of live births per 1,000 married females in a specific age group (15-49 years). The Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) represents the total number of live births a married female would have by the end of her reproductive years if she had given the prevailing age-specific marital fertility rates.

Table 9.16 presents the Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR), Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) of women aged 15-49 years, based on data collected in the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

Table 9.16 : Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR), Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR)

Age Group	Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) (per 1,000 women)	Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR) (per 1,000 women)
15-19	7	139
20-24	41	143
25-29	86	126
30-34	83	91
35-39	38	40
40-44	9	9
45-49	1	1
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	1.3	
Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR)	2.7	

According to the table above, the Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR) and Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) are higher than the Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR). The Age-Specific Marital Fertility Rate (ASMFR) is calculated using married females in every age group. Moreover, the fertility rates reported for females aged 40 years and over are similar in both ASFR and ASMFR. This highlights that a female's marital status has a direct impact on these fertility rates.

Figure 9.6 presents the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of married females aged 15 years and over, by sector, ethnic group, and educational level, based on data from the Census Population and Housing 2024.

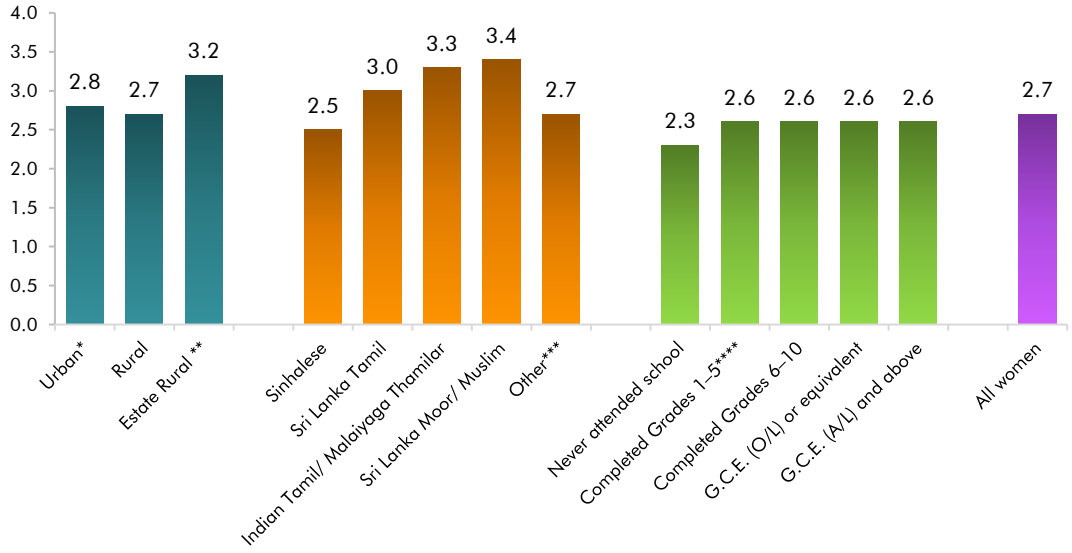


Figure 9.6 : Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) by Sector, Sthnic Group and Educational Level, 2024

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".
** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural."
***Others - Burghers, Malays, Sri Lanka Chetties, Bharatas, Vedas and other mentioned ethnic groups are mentioned under this.
**** Those studying/obtained in Grade 1 and those studying/obtained in a special school or special unit are also included in this category

The total marital fertility rate for females in the Estate Rural sector is reported to be 3.2, which is significantly higher than the corresponding fertility rates for urban and rural females. When ethnic group is considered, Sri Lanka Moor females record the highest total marital fertility rate of 3.4, which is higher than that of females belonging to other ethnic groups. Sinhalese females show the lowest total marital fertility rate of 2.5.

Analysis of fertility by the educational level of married females shows that females who have never attended school have lower fertility levels compared to those with primary, secondary, or higher educational qualifications. The Total Marital Fertility Rates (TMFR) is similar, at 2.6, for females who have passed grades 1–5, grades 6–10, GCE Ordinary Level (O/L) or equivalent, and GCE Advanced Level (A/L) or higher educational qualifications.

Differences in Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) among Districts

Figure 9.7 shows a comparison of Total Marital Fertility Rates (TMFR) by district of usual residence.

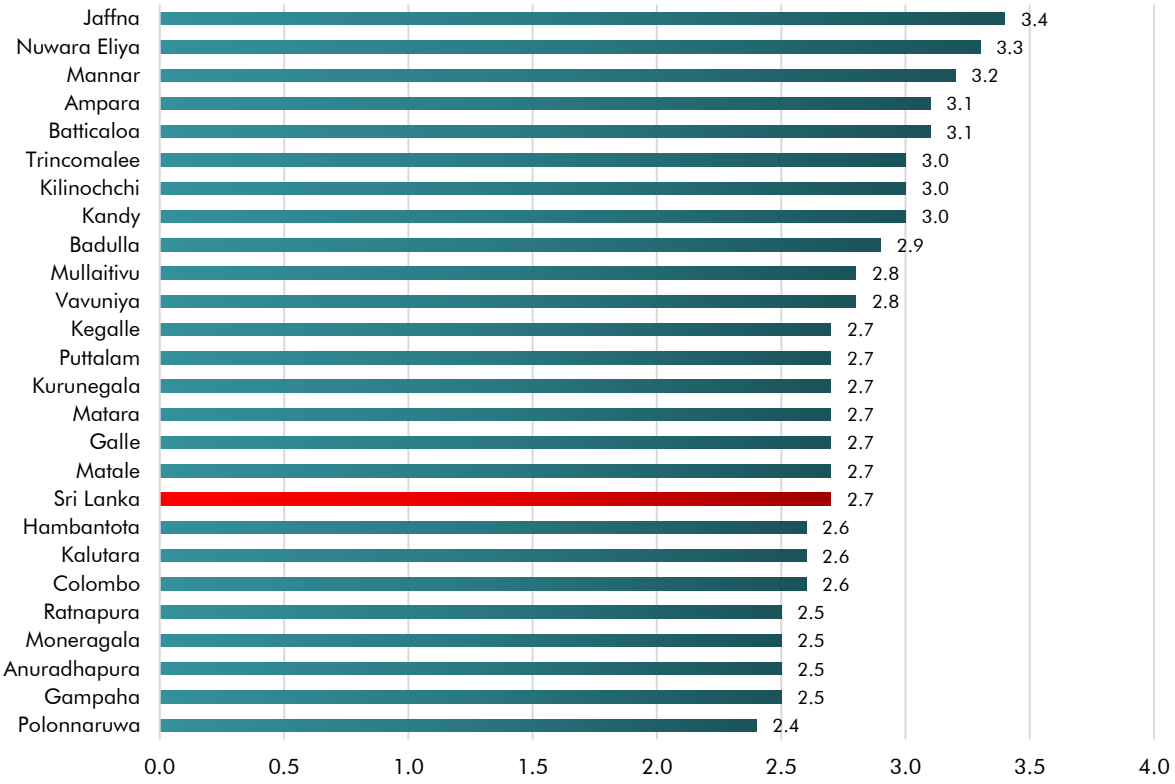


Figure 9.7 : Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) by District, 2024

The Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) by district of usual residence ranges from 2.4 to 3.4 across the 25 districts. The highest TMFR of 3.4 is observed in Jaffna district, followed by Nuwara Eliya (3.3) and Mannar (3.2). The lowest TMFR of 2.4 is reported in Polonnaruwa district.

Gross Reproduction Rate - GRR

The Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR) is the average number of daughters a woman would bear during her reproductive years (15-49). Calculated without accounting for mortality, it is an important demographic indicator used to analyze population generation replacement.

Table 9.17 shows the Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR) calculated using the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and the Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR), based on data collected in the Census of Population and Housing 2024.

Table 9.17 : Gross Reproduction Rate Using TFR and TMFR

Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR)	
Using the Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	Using the Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR)
0.63	1.31

10. Household and Family Characteristics

10.1 Household

Household

The concept of household is based on the arrangements made by persons in a housing unit, individually or in groups, for providing themselves with food and other essentials for living. Accordingly, a household may be either

(i) One person household
(ii) Multi person household

(i) One Person Household

A one-person household is a single person who lives alone, that is a person who makes provision for his or her own food and other essentials for living without combining with any other person.

(ii) Multi Person Household

A multi-person household, is a group of two or more persons living together who make common provision for food and other essentials for living.

Average Household Size

The average household size is obtained by dividing the total usual resident population in all households by the number of households.

10.2 Head of Household and Family

Head of Household

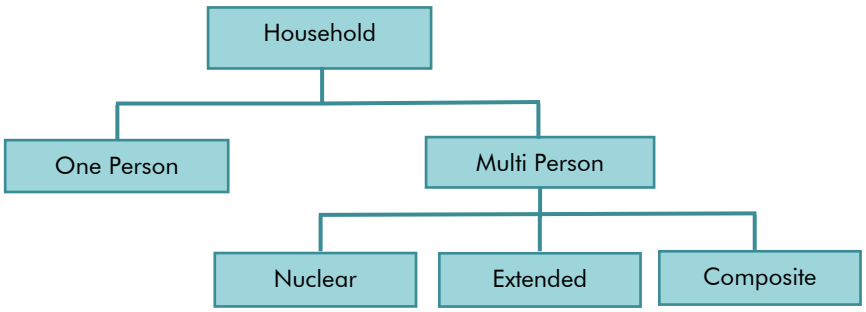
The head of household is the usual resident of a household who is recognized as the head by the members of that household. There can be only one head of household in a household, and every household must have a head. In cases where a housing unit contains more than one household, each household must have its own separate head, and in the case of a one-person household, that person is the head.

Family

A family is a group of individuals connected by blood relations, marriage, or adoption. It typically consists of parents, children, and other close relatives. The family is considered the basic unit of society. At a minimum, a family requires two individuals. The term 'family' is a socially recognized concept and is not used in presenting statistical data.

10.3 Types of Households

Types of households can be classified into four types based on the relationship to the head of the household. Accordingly, one-person households and the multi-person households which are further divided into three categories as follows.



Nuclear Household

A nuclear household is a household unit consisting only of parents (mother and father) and their unmarried children.

Extended Household

An extended household is a household consisting of a family unit that includes not only parents and children, but also paternal relatives/maternal relatives (such as paternal/maternal parents, paternal/maternal siblings, cousins, etc.)

Composite Household

A composite household category is a household consisting of a family unit living with individuals who are not relatives, either with a nuclear household or with an extended household, in the same housing unit.

10.4 Distribution of Household by Household Size

Table 10.1 : Percentage Distribution of Household Size by Sector, 2024

Sector	Total Number of Households	Household Size								Average Household Size
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7 & Over	Total	
Total	6,111,315	10.5	18.1	21.0	25.0	15.9	6.4	3.1	100.0	3.5
Urban*	1,045,665	10.6	17.7	20.5	25.8	15.1	6.4	3.9	100.0	3.5
Rural	4,827,055	10.4	18.2	21.3	25.0	15.9	6.3	2.9	100.0	3.5
Estate Rural**	238,595	11.4	17.8	19.0	21.6	18.3	7.5	4.4	100.0	3.6

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".
** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural."

The average household size in Sri Lanka is 3.5, and when considering each sector, the highest average household size of 3.6 is reported in the estate rural sector. The average household size in both urban and rural sectors is 3.5.

Among all household categories, one-person households account for 10.5 percent. In the estate rural sector, this proportion is slightly higher at 11.4 percent, representing the highest percentage among all sectors. Considering the distribution by household size, households comprising four members constitute the largest share, and this pattern is consistently observed across all sectors as well as at the national level.

The distribution of household size is broadly similar in the urban and rural sectors; however, the estate rural sector exhibits a distinct pattern, with a relatively higher percentage of larger households.

10.5 Distribution of Households by Household Type

The total number of households in Sri Lanka is reported to be 6,111,315, with the largest number being nuclear households. The lowest number being composite households. Accordingly, more than 50.0 percent of the total households in Sri Lanka are nuclear households. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that more than 50.0 percent of households in all sectors and districts are nuclear households.

When considering the distribution of household types, nuclear households (58.9%) represent the largest pecentage, followed by extended households (29.7%), one-person households (10.5%), and composite households (0.9%), in descending order.

Table 10.2 : Percentage Distribution of the Number and of Households by Sector, District and Household Type, 2024

Sector and District	Total Number of Households	%	Household Type and Percentage							
			One Person	%	Nuclear	%	Extended	%	Composite	%
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	100.0	640,704	10.5	3,598,976	58.9	1,815,522	29.7	56,113	0.9
Sector										
Urban	1,042,557	100.0	110,656	10.6	589,828	56.6	318,886	30.6	23,187	2.2
Estate Urban	3,108	100.0	243	7.8	1,624	52.3	1,225	39.4	16	0.5
Rural	4,827,055	100.0	502,502	10.4	2,878,631	59.6	1,413,593	29.3	32,329	0.7
Estate Rural	238,595	100.0	27,303	11.4	128,893	54.1	81,818	34.3	581	0.2
District										
Colombo	661,822	100.0	69,392	10.5	368,810	55.8	204,760	30.9	18,860	2.8
Gampaha	688,635	100.0	79,204	11.5	378,791	55.0	220,914	32.1	9,726	1.4
Kalutara	352,963	100.0	30,146	8.5	200,277	56.8	119,953	34.0	2,587	0.7
Kandy	397,626	100.0	37,663	9.5	227,856	57.3	128,989	32.4	3,118	0.8
Matale	151,132	100.0	16,281	10.8	88,182	58.3	45,750	30.3	919	0.6
Nuwara Eliya	200,261	100.0	21,435	10.7	111,832	55.9	66,308	33.1	686	0.3
Galle	307,704	100.0	31,145	10.1	179,230	58.2	95,257	31.0	2,072	0.7
Matara	231,946	100.0	21,716	9.4	137,577	59.3	71,010	30.6	1,643	0.7
Hambantota	188,638	100.0	19,492	10.3	120,108	63.7	48,267	25.6	771	0.4
Jaffna	159,753	100.0	17,874	11.2	92,908	58.1	48,086	30.1	885	0.6
Mannar	32,330	100.0	3,031	9.4	21,498	66.4	7,652	23.7	149	0.5
Vavuniya	48,399	100.0	5,449	11.3	31,406	64.8	11,308	23.4	236	0.5
Mullaitivu	34,786	100.0	4,312	12.4	22,643	65.0	7,567	21.8	264	0.8
Kilinochchi	36,734	100.0	3,841	10.5	24,569	66.9	8,159	22.2	165	0.4
Batticaloa	170,262	100.0	16,929	9.9	114,232	67.2	38,690	22.7	411	0.2
Ampara	207,007	100.0	19,615	9.5	139,315	67.3	47,608	23.0	469	0.2
Trincomalee	121,948	100.0	12,293	10.1	83,116	68.1	26,193	21.5	346	0.3
Kurunegala	511,166	100.0	58,765	11.5	288,531	56.5	160,165	31.3	3,705	0.7
Puttalam	234,027	100.0	27,324	11.7	136,416	58.3	68,445	29.2	1,842	0.8
Anuradhapura	275,084	100.0	30,309	11.0	168,779	61.4	74,575	27.1	1,421	0.5
Polonnaruwa	127,385	100.0	13,006	10.2	75,208	59.0	38,588	30.3	583	0.5
Badulla	248,262	100.0	26,616	10.7	152,914	61.6	67,534	27.2	1,198	0.5
Moneragala	151,763	100.0	15,864	10.5	102,353	67.4	32,865	21.7	681	0.4
Ratnapura	327,645	100.0	33,705	10.3	198,226	60.5	93,718	28.6	1,996	0.6
Kegalle	244,037	100.0	25,297	10.4	134,199	54.9	83,161	34.1	1,380	0.6

Gampaha District, reported as the most populous district, shows the highest number of households, followed by Colombo District, which has the second-highest number of households. The lowest number of households is reported from Mannar district, while the second lowest number of households is reported from Mullaitivu district.

Further Mullaitivu (12.4%) shows the highest percentage of one person households. Trincomalee (68.1%) shows the highest percentage of nuclear households, and Kegalle (34.1%) reports the highest percentage of extended households. The highest percentage of composite households (2.8%) is reported from Colombo district.

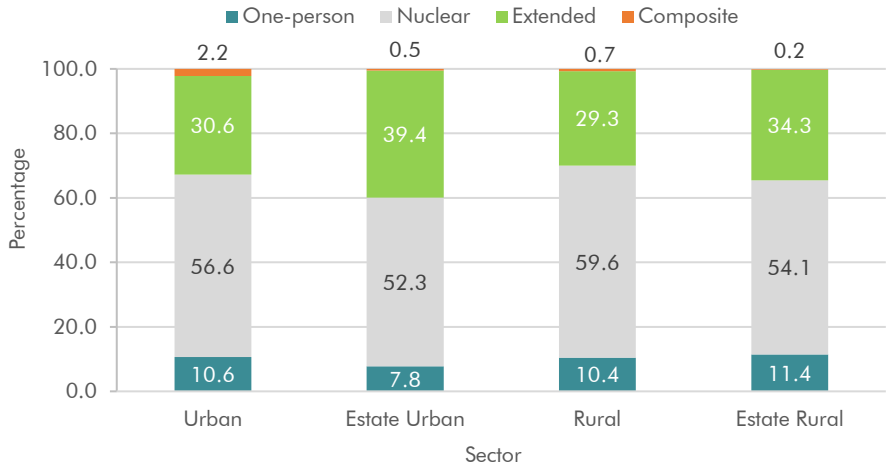


Figure 10.1 : Percentage Distribution of the Number of Households by Sector and Household Type, 2024

10.6 Characteristics of the Head of Household

The total number of households in Sri Lanka is 6,111,315, with a corresponding number of household heads. The distribution of household heads by his/her ethnic group and type of household is shown in Table 10.3. The highest number of household heads are reported from nuclear households, and no significant variation is observed in this pattern among the major ethnic groups. However, among household heads belonging to other ethnic groups, a relatively higher percentage of households are reported as one-person households.

Table 10.3 : Percentage Distribution of the Number of Household Heads by Ethnic group of the Head of Household and type of Household, 2024

Ethnic group of the Head of Household	Total number of Household Heads	Household Type			
		One Person	Nuclear	Extended	Composite
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	640,704	3,598,976	1,815,522	56,113
	100.0	10.5	58.9	29.7	0.9
Sinhala	4,629,912	502,826	2,706,132	1,373,944	47,010
	100.0	10.9	58.4	29.7	1.0
Sri Lanka Tamil	740,275	79,257	443,391	212,290	5,337
	100.0	10.7	59.9	28.7	0.7
Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar	163,147	16,975	88,030	57,446	696
	100.0	10.4	54.0	35.2	0.4
Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim	557,128	39,047	350,428	165,128	2,525
	100.0	7.0	62.9	29.6	0.5
Other	20,853	2,599	10,995	6,714	545
	100.0	12.5	52.7	32.2	2.6

Table 10.4 : Percentage Distribution of the Number of Household Heads by Sex, Age Group, and Sector, 2024

Sector	Total Number of Household Heads	Sex of the Head of Household		Age Group of the Head of Household		
		Male	Female	Aged below 20	Age 20-64	Aged 65 & over
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	4,489,242	1,622,073	8,709	4,581,256	1,521,350
	100.0	73.5	26.5	0.1	75.0	24.9
Urban	1,042,557	736,435	306,122	1,838	782,406	258,313
	100.0	70.6	29.4	0.2	75.0	24.8
Estate Urban	3,108	2,263	845	7	2,427	674
	100.0	72.8	27.2	0.2	78.1	21.7
Rural	4,827,055	3,577,499	1,249,556	6,224	3,612,403	1,208,428
	100.0	74.1	25.9	0.1	74.8	25.0
Estate Rural	238,595	173,045	65,550	640	184,020	53,935
	100.0	72.5	27.5	0.3	77.1	22.6

As shown in Table 10.4, when considering the distribution of household heads 73.5 percent of household heads are male. In urban sector about one third of households are female headed.

When the country is considered about 25 percent of household heads are aged 65 and over.

Table 10.5 : Percentage Distribution of the Number of Household Heads by District, Sex, and Age Group, 2024

District	Total Number of Household Heads	%	Sex of the Head of Household				Age Group of the Head of Household					
			Male	%	Female	%	Aged below 20	%	Age 20-64	%	Aged 65 & over	%
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	100.0	4,489,242	73.5	1,622,073	26.5	8,709	0.1	4,581,256	75.0	1,521,350	24.9
Colombo	661,822	100.0	478,413	72.3	183,409	27.7	1,038	0.2	494,815	74.7	165,969	25.1
Gampaha	688,635	100.0	514,672	74.7	173,963	25.3	1,361	0.2	521,172	75.7	166,102	24.1
Kalutara	352,963	100.0	268,885	76.2	84,078	23.8	259	0.1	259,458	73.5	93,246	26.4
Kandy	397,626	100.0	290,101	73.0	107,525	27.0	413	0.1	283,723	71.4	113,490	28.5
Matale	151,132	100.0	111,566	73.8	39,566	26.2	212	0.1	112,855	74.7	38,065	25.2
Nuwara Eliya	200,261	100.0	144,240	72.0	56,021	28.0	405	0.2	151,486	75.6	48,370	24.2
Galle	307,704	100.0	225,961	73.4	81,743	26.6	313	0.1	218,546	71.0	88,845	28.9
Matara	231,946	100.0	173,237	74.7	58,709	25.3	206	0.1	161,530	69.6	70,210	30.3
Hambantota	188,638	100.0	143,131	75.9	45,507	24.1	168	0.1	136,687	72.4	51,783	27.5
Jaffna	159,753	100.0	114,699	71.8	45,054	28.2	73	0.0	111,663	69.9	48,017	30.1
Mannar	32,330	100.0	24,973	77.2	7,357	22.8	23	0.1	26,261	81.2	6,046	18.7
Vavuniya	48,399	100.0	33,699	69.6	14,700	30.4	73	0.2	38,817	80.2	9,509	19.6
Mullaitivu	34,786	100.0	23,938	68.8	10,848	31.2	66	0.2	27,638	79.4	7,082	20.4
Kilinochchi	36,734	100.0	26,944	73.3	9,790	26.7	42	0.1	29,114	79.3	7,578	20.6
Batticaloa	170,262	100.0	99,896	58.7	70,366	41.3	671	0.4	143,530	84.3	26,061	15.3
Ampara	207,007	100.0	138,860	67.1	68,147	32.9	522	0.3	171,339	82.7	35,146	17.0
Trincomalee	121,948	100.0	89,492	73.4	32,456	26.6	403	0.3	101,853	83.6	19,692	16.1
Kurunegala	511,166	100.0	376,920	73.7	134,246	26.3	598	0.1	373,491	73.1	137,077	26.8
Puttalam	234,027	100.0	169,875	72.6	64,152	27.4	436	0.2	184,728	78.9	48,863	20.9
Anuradhapura	275,084	100.0	206,378	75.0	68,706	25.0	368	0.1	219,341	79.8	55,375	20.1
Polonnaruwa	127,385	100.0	91,169	71.6	36,216	28.4	233	0.2	98,927	77.6	28,225	22.2
Badulla	248,262	100.0	188,101	75.8	60,161	24.2	240	0.1	185,602	74.8	62,420	25.1
Moneragala	151,763	100.0	119,651	78.8	32,112	21.2	128	0.1	118,576	78.1	33,059	21.8
Ratnapura	327,645	100.0	256,335	78.2	71,310	21.8	258	0.1	239,966	73.2	87,421	26.7
Kegalle	244,037	100.0	178,106	73.0	65,931	27.0	200	0.1	170,138	69.7	73,699	30.2

As shown in Table 10.5, when considering the distribution of household heads by sex and district, the highest percentage of male-headed households (78.8%) was reported in Moneragala District, while the lowest percentage (58.7%) was reported in Batticaloa District.

The highest percentage of elderly household heads (aged 65 and over) is reported from Matara district (30.3%). While the lowest percentage of that is reported from Batticaloa (15.3%) district.

The percentage distribution of female-headed households by district is clearly given in Figure 10.2 and it the Batticaloa district reports the highest percentage (41.3%) of female-headed households.

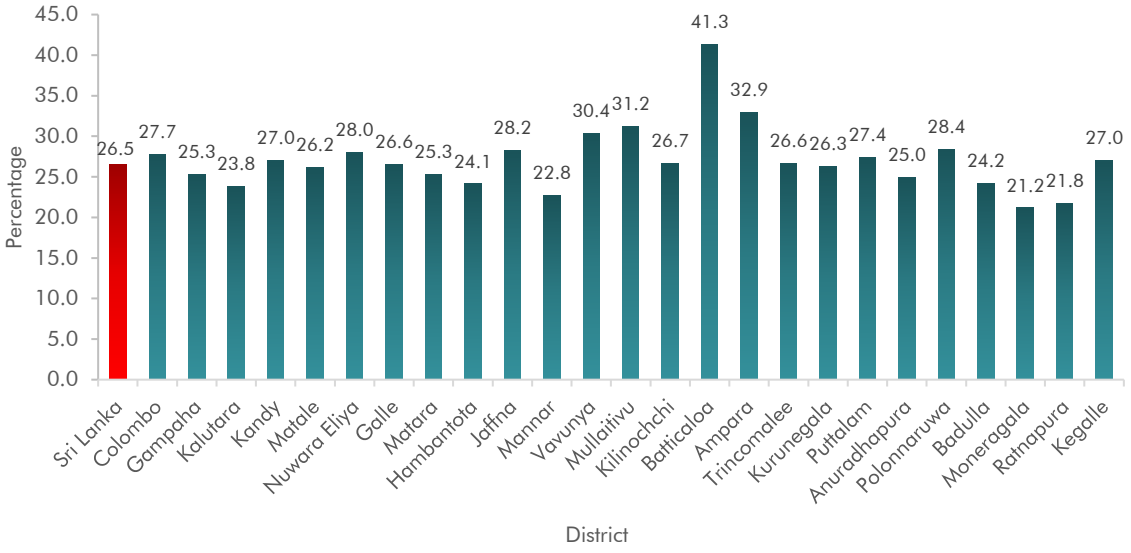


Figure 10.2 : Percentage Distribution of Female-Household Heads by District, 2024

Table 10.6 : Percentage Distribution of the Number of Household Heads by Sector and Marital Status, 2024

Sector	Total Number of Household heads	Marital Status					
		Never Married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Legally Separated	Separated (not Legally)
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	226,061	4,938,928	791,122	36,116	23,176	95,912
	100.0	3.7	80.8	12.9	0.6	0.4	1.6
Urban*	1,045,665	53,728	847,598	122,157	7,926	3,516	10,740
	100.0	5.1	81.1	11.7	0.8	0.3	1.0
Rural	4,827,055	164,609	3,899,676	634,181	27,535	19,238	81,816
	100.0	3.4	80.8	13.1	0.6	0.4	1.7
Estate Rural**	238,595	7,724	191,654	34,784	655	422	3,356
	100.0	3.2	80.3	14.6	0.3	0.2	1.4

* In 2024 information was collected separately for "Urban" and "Estate Urban" sectors, for comparison with the 2012 Census data, these two sectors have been combined and presented as "Urban".
** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural."

According to Table 10.6, 80.8 percent of all household heads in Sri Lanka are reported as married, while 12.9 percent are reported as widowed. Additionally, 3.7 percent of household heads have never married. This distribution is same in sectors too.

The percentage distribution of household heads by marital status and sex in shown in Table 10.7.

Table 10.7 : Percentage Distribution of the Number of Household Heads by Sex and Marital Status, 2024

Sex	Total Number of Household Heads	Marital Status					
		Never Married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Legally Separated	Separated (not Legally)
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	226,061	4,938,928	791,122	36,116	23,176	95,912
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	4,489,242	133,798	4,177,235	123,039	12,457	7,948	34,765
	73.5	59.2	84.6	15.6	34.5	34.3	36.2
Female	1,622,073	92,263	761,693	668,083	23,659	15,228	61,147
	26.5	40.8	15.4	84.4	65.5	65.7	63.8

Table 10.8 : Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Highest Educational Qualification Obtained and Sector, 2024

Sector	Total Number of Household Heads	%	Highest Educational Qualification Obtained									
			Never Attended School	%	Passed Grade 1 - 5 *	%	Passed Grade 6 - 10	%	G.C.E. (O/L) or Equivalent	%	G.C.E. (A/L) & over	%
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	100.0	174,144	2.8	933,438	15.3	2,443,894	40.1	1,310,679	21.4	1,249,160	20.4
Urban	1,042,557	100.0	16,211	1.6	87,831	8.4	313,916	30.1	263,964	25.3	360,635	34.6
Estate Urban	3,108	100.0	329	10.6	833	26.8	1,353	43.5	317	10.2	276	8.9
Rural	4,827,055	100.0	127,933	2.7	761,530	15.8	2,037,293	42.1	1,023,234	21.2	877,065	18.2
Estate Rural	238,595	100.0	29,671	12.4	83,244	34.9	91,332	38.3	23,164	9.7	11,184	4.7

*This category includes those who are studying/studied Grade 1 and those who are studying/ studied in a special school or special unit.

When considering the highest educational qualification of household heads, it shows that overall 40.1 percent of household heads passed Grades 6–10. The second highest percentage reports by heads with G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O/L) or equivalent qualifications.

When examined by sector, in the urban sector, the highest percentage (34.6%) of household heads reported G.C.E. Advanced Level (A/L) and over as their highest qualification. Household heads who have never attended school are reported in higher percentages in the estate rural, and estate urban sectors.

Table 10.9 : Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by District and Highest Educational Qualification Obtained, 2024

District	Total Number of Household heads	%	Highest Educational Qualification Obtained									
			Never attended school	%	Passed grade 1 - 5 *	%	Passed grade 6 - 10	%	G.C.E. (O/L) or equivalent	%	G.C.E. (A/L) & over	%
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	100.0	174,144	2.8	933,438	15.3	2,443,894	40.1	1,310,679	21.4	1,249,160	20.4
Colombo	661,822	100.0	9,113	1.4	41,277	6.2	189,119	28.6	178,500	27.0	243,813	36.8
Gampaha	688,635	100.0	6,336	0.9	45,940	6.7	254,321	36.9	194,820	28.3	187,218	27.2
Kalutara	352,963	100.0	6,052	1.7	40,233	11.4	144,218	40.8	84,890	24.1	77,570	22.0
Kandy	397,626	100.0	11,896	3.0	54,250	13.6	144,659	36.4	91,921	23.1	94,900	23.9
Matale	151,132	100.0	5,233	3.5	28,015	18.5	66,546	44.1	27,846	18.4	23,492	15.5
Nuwara Eliya	200,261	100.0	15,552	7.8	52,077	26.0	78,455	39.1	32,977	16.5	21,200	10.6
Galle	307,704	100.0	7,209	2.3	45,798	14.9	130,111	42.3	63,383	20.6	61,203	19.9
Matara	231,946	100.0	7,407	3.2	38,150	16.4	98,413	42.5	45,960	19.8	42,016	18.1
Hambantota	188,638	100.0	6,415	3.4	36,354	19.3	82,320	43.6	36,996	19.6	26,553	14.1
Jaffna	159,753	100.0	865	0.5	26,992	16.9	74,540	46.7	29,740	18.6	27,616	17.3
Mannar	32,330	100.0	502	1.6	7,504	23.2	14,627	45.2	5,046	15.6	4,651	14.4
Vavuniya	48,399	100.0	1,188	2.5	9,275	19.2	20,961	43.2	9,491	19.6	7,484	15.5
Mullaitivu	34,786	100.0	629	1.8	8,637	24.8	17,936	51.6	4,732	13.6	2,852	8.2
Kilinochchi	36,734	100.0	520	1.4	8,011	21.8	19,796	53.9	5,226	14.2	3,181	8.7
Batticaloa	170,262	100.0	11,078	6.5	44,364	26.1	62,261	36.5	26,394	15.5	26,165	15.4
Ampara	207,007	100.0	8,048	3.9	44,614	21.6	79,602	38.4	36,554	17.7	38,189	18.4
Trincomalee	121,948	100.0	5,050	4.1	24,084	19.7	51,077	41.9	23,139	19.0	18,598	15.3
Kurunegala	511,166	100.0	10,288	2.0	79,198	15.5	212,664	41.6	107,521	21.0	101,495	19.9
Puttalam	234,027	100.0	6,331	2.7	47,860	20.5	105,230	45.0	41,981	17.9	32,625	13.9
Anuradhapura	275,084	100.0	6,783	2.5	45,480	16.5	128,246	46.6	54,953	20.0	39,622	14.4
Polonnaruwa	127,385	100.0	4,100	3.2	24,114	18.9	61,692	48.5	22,557	17.7	14,922	11.7
Badulla	248,262	100.0	15,310	6.2	49,027	19.7	97,256	39.2	47,414	19.1	39,255	15.8
Moneragala	151,763	100.0	7,459	4.9	31,107	20.5	69,389	45.8	25,244	16.6	18,564	12.2
Ratnapura	327,645	100.0	15,130	4.6	65,729	20.1	142,076	43.3	57,516	17.6	47,194	14.4
Kegalle	244,037	100.0	5,650	2.3	35,348	14.5	98,379	40.3	55,878	22.9	48,782	20.0

* This category includes those who are studying/studied Grade 1 and those who are studying/ studied in a special school or special unit.

In the Colombo District, 36.8 percent of household heads reported their highest educational qualification as G.C.E. (A/L) & over. In all other districts, the highest percentage of household heads have secondary education (Grades 6–10) as their top qualification.

10.7 Characteristics of Household Heads who Lives in One Person Households

In Sri Lanka, there are 640,704 one-person households (Table 10.3). Among the household heads living in such households, 370,229 are aged 60 years and over. Of these elderly household heads, 71.3 percent are female, while 28.7 percent are male. As indicated in Table 10.9, within the population aged 60 years and over, the number of female household heads living alone exceeds that of males across all age groups. Notably, in the age group of 70 years and over, the number of males living alone is approximately one-third of the corresponding number of females.

Table 10.10: Number and Percentage Distribution of Individuals in One Person Households Aged 60 Years and Over, by Sex and Age Group, 2024

Age Group	Number of Household Heads and Percentage		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	370,229	106,102	264,127
	100.0	28.7	71.3
60 - 64	79,253	27,935	51,318
	100.0	35.2	64.8
65- 69	87,792	25,963	61,829
	100.0	29.6	70.4
70 - 74	88,157	22,660	65,497
	100.0	25.7	74.3
75 - 79	64,989	16,259	48,730
	100.0	25.0	75.0
80 & over	50,038	13,285	36,753
	100.0	26.5	73.5

The distribution of individuals living in one-person households aged 60 years and over, by sex and age group, is shown in Figure 10.3.

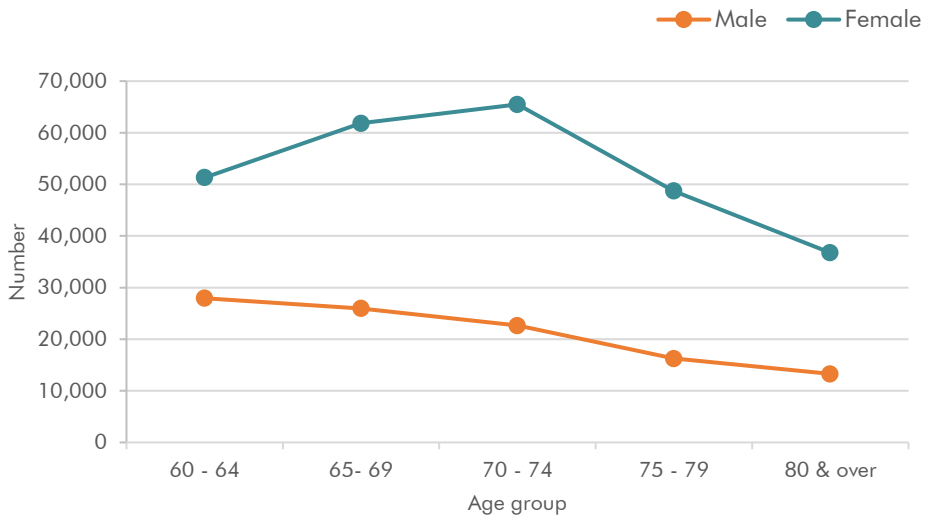


Figure 10.3 : Distribution of Elderly Household Heads Living in One Person Households by Sex and Age Group, 2024

Figure 10.3 clearly shows that, when elderly one-person households (aged 60 years and over) are analyzed by age group, the number of females is significantly higher than that of males across all age groups.

11. Information on Occupied Housing Units

This Chapter discusses detailed information on the occupancy, structure, and condition of housing units. Furthermore, it examines household data related to main source of drinking water, energy sources used for daily essentials such as cooking and lighting, and sanitation facilities including toilet usage. Additionally, the chapter covers household waste disposal methods, as well as the availability of communication technology equipment and vehicles.

11.1 Concepts and Definitions

Single housing unit

Housing units that have independent walls not connected to any other housing unit or building vertically or horizontally, are called 'single housing units'.

Attached housing unit.

If two or more housing units are attached to each other, either horizontally or vertically, each of those units is considered an attached housing unit.

11.2 Introduction

During the listing stage of the Census of Population and Housing – 2024 all buildings were listed and classified into four categories as housing units, collective living quarters, residential institutes, and non-residential units. Then at the enumeration stage, in addition to collecting the population data, information regarding occupied housing units was also collected. Also, data regarding housing units has been collected in every subsequent census after 1971. The information gathered during the current census, along with the relevant data analysis, is presented at the district level and categorized by sector namely: Urban, Estate-Urban, Rural, and Estate-Rural.

During the collection of housing data, information specific to housing units (such as occupancy, structure, ownership, condition of units, construction materials, and number of rooms) was gathered at the housing unit level. Concurrently, information regarding the living conditions within those units (including water supply, cooking fuel, lighting, sanitation, and waste disposal) was collected at the household level.

11.3 Residence, structure, ownership

Occupancy of housing units

The Table 11.1 shows the number of occupied housing units by sector as reported in the 2012 and 2024 Censuses.

Table 11.1 : Number of Occupied Housing Units by Sector, 2012 and 2024

Sector	Occupied housing units	
	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	5,207,740	6,030,541
Urban*	891,103	1,028,363
Rural	4,092,252	4,773,336
Estate-Rural**	224,385	228,842

*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.
** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

The table shows an overall increase in occupied housing units in Sri Lanka from 5,207,740 in 2012 to 6,030,541 in 2024, indicating a substantial growth in housing across the country. This upward trend is observed in all sectors.

The rural sector accounts for the largest share of occupied housing units, increasing from 4,092,252 to 4,773,336, and continues to dominate the national total. The urban sector also records a notable increase, rising from 891,103 to 1,028,363, reflecting ongoing urban expansion. In contrast, the estate sector shows only a marginal increase, from 224,385 to 228,842, suggesting relatively slow growth in housing within estate areas compared to the other sectors.

Table 11.2 : Number of Occupied Housing Units & Permanently Closed/Vacant Housing Units by District, 2012 and 2024

District	2012		2024	
	Occupied housing units	permanently closed/vacant	Occupied housing units	permanently closed/vacant
Sri Lanka	5,207,740	686,507	6,030,541	898,101
Colombo	562,550	78,052	654,051	113,837
Gampaha	598,674	65,355	683,025	102,557
Kalutara	302,371	35,199	349,430	45,678
Kandy	342,911	41,803	389,826	53,787
Matale	128,090	16,001	148,184	21,617
Nuwara Eliya	178,440	21,627	192,915	28,387
Galle	271,236	42,176	305,379	43,462
Matara	205,153	29,209	230,034	33,039
Hambantota	155,716	24,223	187,558	29,971
Jaffna	136,969	21,364	156,797	34,718
Mannar	23,338	4,352	32,005	7,477
Vavuniya	41,436	6,244	47,825	11,141
Mullaitivu	24,684	3,901	34,348	7,128
Kilinochchi	28,208	3,387	36,484	6,533
Batticaloa	133,436	20,866	167,150	23,788
Ampara	163,243	23,530	202,861	27,002
Trincomalee	95,679	16,957	119,351	17,885
Kurunegala	440,517	51,817	506,909	67,480
Puttalam	201,364	31,195	231,494	41,358
Anuradhapura	229,032	25,307	271,408	37,842
Polonnaruwa	110,326	13,556	126,482	17,291
Badulla	211,178	24,766	239,417	30,525
Moneragala	119,503	18,765	150,728	22,206
Ratnapura	284,282	41,887	324,853	42,866
Kegalle	219,404	24,971	242,027	30,526

According to the Census of Population and Housing – 2024, a total of 6,030,541 occupied housing units were reported in Sri Lanka. The highest number of occupied housing units was reported in the Gampaha District (683,025), while the lowest was observed in the Mannar District (32,005). Furthermore, as indicated in Table 11.2, the Colombo District reported the highest number of vacant housing units, whereas the lowest number of vacant units was reported in the Kilinochchi District.

Housing Units by Year of Construction

Table 11.3 : Number of Housing Units by the Year of Construction, 2024

Year	Housing units	Percentage
Total*	6,029,330	100.0
2024	107,031	1.8
2023	117,352	1.9
2022	152,976	2.5
2021	144,164	2.4
2020	216,142	3.6
2019	199,745	3.3
2018	323,965	5.4
2017 -2013	780,280	12.9
2012-2008	669,943	11.1
2007-2003	613,764	10.2
2002-1998	578,092	9.6
1997-1993	476,215	7.9
1992 or before	1,649,661	27.4

*This total does not include homes classified as 'container boxes' and 'other'.

Out of the total housing units in Sri Lanka, 79.1 percent were constructed prior to 2018, while only 1.8 percent were constructed after 2023.

Structure of housing units

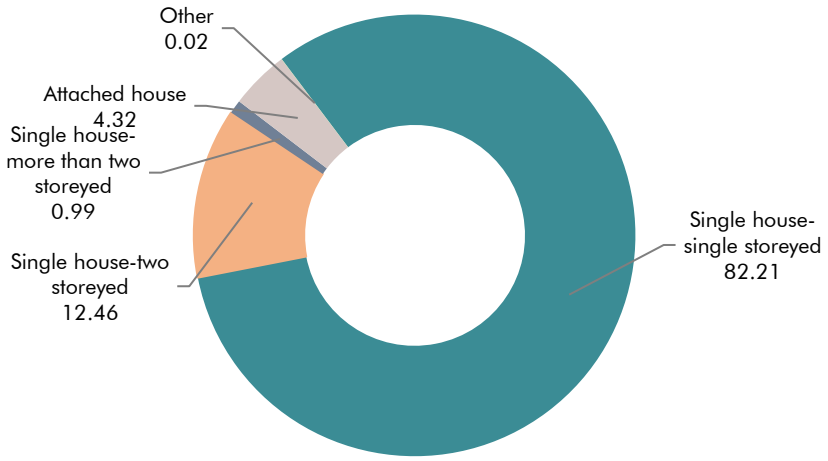


Figure 11.1 : Percentage of Occupied Housing Units by Housing Unit Structure, 2024

At the 2024 census, information was collected by classifying occupied housing units into three main structural types: single houses, attached houses, and other units. Single houses were further categorized into single house (single-story), single house (two-story), and single house (more than two stories), while attached houses were also classified according to the number of floors. Among these, the most prevalent type of housing unit in the country is the "single house – single-story" category, accounting for 82.21 percent.

Tenure of housing units

Table 11.4 : Tenure of Housing Units by Sector and District, 2024

Sector/ District	Total	Tenure of housing units					
		Owned by a household member	Rent/lease-Government owned	Rent/lease-privately owned	Free of Rent	Encroached	Other
Sri Lanka	100.0	84.6	2.0	6.4	5.4	0.7	0.9
Sector							
Urban	100.0	77.1	3.6	14.6	3.1	1.0	0.6
Estate- Urban	100.0	39.1	1.8	5.6	45.1	4.2	4.2
Rural	100.0	89.0	1.6	4.7	3.2	0.6	0.9
Estate- Rural	100.0	29.5	4.4	4.2	58.3	0.7	2.9
District							
Colombo	100.0	76.0	3.5	16.6	2.4	1.0	0.5
Gampaha	100.0	81.6	2.2	12.5	2.2	0.8	0.7
Kalutara	100.0	86.8	1.9	5.9	4.1	0.5	0.8
Kandy	100.0	84.6	3.0	5.3	5.0	0.7	1.4
Matale	100.0	86.7	1.7	3.8	5.9	0.7	1.2
Nuwara Eliya	100.0	52.2	2.1	4.4	39.8	0.7	0.8
Galle	100.0	89.5	1.4	4.1	3.2	0.5	1.3
Matara	100.0	88.8	1.5	3.7	4.0	0.4	1.6
Hambantota	100.0	93.3	1.3	2.2	1.5	0.8	0.9
Jaffna	100.0	74.4	2.1	8.7	13.8	0.3	0.7
Mannar	100.0	87.0	1.6	4.7	6.1	0.1	0.5
Vavuniya	100.0	83.5	2.5	7.2	6.0	0.4	0.4
Mullaitivu	100.0	89.4	1.5	3.0	5.4	0.4	0.3
Kilinochchi	100.0	89.0	1.2	3.6	5.4	0.3	0.5
Batticaloa	100.0	87.7	1.5	3.5	6.6	0.1	0.6
Ampara	100.0	90.9	1.2	2.7	4.3	0.6	0.3
Trincomalee	100.0	88.7	2.2	3.7	4.5	0.4	0.5
Kurunegala	100.0	91.2	1.1	3.1	2.7	0.6	1.3
Puttalam	100.0	87.2	1.4	5.2	4.6	0.7	0.9
Anuradhapura	100.0	91.5	1.9	2.5	2.5	0.9	0.7
Polonnaruwa	100.0	93.3	1.6	1.9	1.2	1.3	0.7
Badulla	100.0	80.5	2.4	3.9	10.8	1.0	1.4
Moneragala	100.0	91.5	1.4	1.9	2.7	1.6	0.9
Ratnapura	100.0	85.5	2.3	4.0	5.7	1.3	1.2
Kegalle	100.0	86.9	2.1	3.9	5.1	0.3	1.7

The information regarding the nature of tenure of housing units was collected and categorized into six groups as indicated in the Table 11.4 above. According to the data collected, the majority of housing units fall under the category 'Owned by a household member,' accounting for 84.6 percent. The highest percentage of housing units 'Owned by a household member' is reported in the Hambantota and Polonnaruwa districts each (93.3%). Furthermore, the highest percentage of housing units categorized as 'Rented/Leased from the private sector' is reported in the Colombo district (16.6%), followed by the Gampaha district at 12.5 percent. In addition, encroached housing units account for 0.7 percent of the total housing units reported in Sri Lanka. The 'Rent-free' category includes units such as estate housing or houses owned by family member or others for which no rent is paid; 5.4 percent of total housing units are reported as 'Rent-free'.

The percentages of housing units owned by members of the household, categorized by residential sector according to the 2012 and 2024 censuses, are presented in Table 11.5.

Table 11.5 : Percentage of Housing Units Owned by Household Members and Sector, 2012 and 2024

Sector	Percentage of housing units owned by household members	
	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	82.9	84.6
Urban*	75.0	76.9
Rural	88.0	89.0
Estate- Rural**	22.2	29.5

*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.
** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

According to Table 11.5, the proportion of housing units owned by 'household members' increased from 82.9 percent to 84.6 percent between 2012 and 2024.

11.4 Materials used to construct housing units

Materials used for constructing the walls, roof, and floor of housing units

Table 11.6 : Percentage of Housing units by Materials Used to Construct Walls, Roofs and Floors, 2024

Materials Used for Construction	Percentage of Housing Units
Sri Lanka	100.0
Wall	
Bricks	46.4
Cement block	46.9
Granite/Cube stones	1.6
Cabook	1.1
Pressed soil bricks	1.8
Mud/Warichchi	1.2
Cadjan/Palmyra	0.1
Planks/Metal sheets/Asbestos	0.7
Zink Aluminium Sheets	0.1
Other	0.0
Roof	
Tile	33.7
Asbestos	53.2
Concrete	7.3
Zink Aluminium Sheets	1.4
Metal Sheet	2.7
Cadjan/Palmyra/Straw	1.5
Other	0.2
Floor	
Cement	61.5
Terrazzo/Tile/Granite/Wood (Finished)/Titanium	28.1
Concrete	8.3
Mud	1.9
Wood	0.0
Sand	0.1
Other	0.1

As in the 2012 Census of Population and Housing, more than ninety percent of housing units in the current census have walls and roofs constructed using durable materials. According to Table 11.6, 46.9 percent of housing units used cement blocks for wall construction, while 46.4 percent used bricks. According to the 2024 Census, 53.2 percent of houses in Sri Lanka used asbestos for roofing, while the use of tiles stands at 33.7 percent. Regarding floor construction in housing units, cement is the most widely used material (61.5%), while the use of expensive materials such as terrazzo, tile or granite stands at 28.1 percent. Approximately 1.9 percent of housing units have floors prepared using mud.

11.5 Status of housing unit

In assessing the status of occupied housing units, it is essential to consider the materials used for their construction. Based on the materials used for walls, roofing and flooring, housing units can be classified into three categories: permanent, semi-permanent and units in need of improvement (improvised). The classification is as follows in the table below.

Basis for classifying status of housing units as permanent, semi-permanent, and improvised			
Status of Housing Unit	Building material used for		
	Walls	Roof	Floor
Permanent	1 Bricks/cement blocks/Granite, cube stones/ Cabook/Pressed soil bricks	Tiles/asbestos/concrete/Zink Aluminium sheets/Metal sheet	Cement/terrazzo/tile /granite/Wood (finished)/ titanium/concrete
	2. Mud/warichchi	Tiles/asbestos/Zink Aluminium sheet/Metal sheet	Cement/concrete
Semi-permanent	1. Bricks/cement blocks/ Granite, cube stones/Cabook /Pressed soil bricks	Tiles/asbestos /concrete/Zink Aluminium sheets/Metal sheet	Mud/Wood/Sand
	2. Bricks/cement blocks / Granite, cube stones/Cabook /Pressed soil bricks	Coconut leaves or palmyra leaves or straw /other	Cement/ concrete/Mud /Wood/ Sand
	3 Mud/warichchi	Tiles/asbestos/Zink Aluminium sheet/Metal sheet	Mud/Wood/Sand
	4. Mud/warichchi	Coconut leaves or palmyra leaves or straw/other	Cement/concrete/Mud/Wood
	5. Planks or Metal sheet or/asbestos/Zink Aluminium sheets	Tiles/asbestos/Zink Aluminium sheets/ Metal sheet/other	Cement/ concrete/Mud/Wood/ Sand
	6. Planks or Metal sheet /asbestos/Zink Aluminium sheets	Coconut leaves or palmyra leaves or straw	Cement/concrete
Improvised	1. Coconut leaves or palmyra leaves or straw	Any material	Any material
	2. Planks or Metal sheet /asbestos/Zink Aluminium sheets	Coconut leaves or palmyra leaves or straw	Mud/Wood/Sand

Based on that classification, the number of housing units and the status of the housing units by sector and district are shown in the table below (Table 11.7).

Table 11.7 :Number of Housing Units and Status of Housing Units, by Sector and District, 2024

Sector/District	Housing units		Status of housing units							
	Total	%	Permanent	%	Semi-permanent	%	Improvised	%	Not classified	%
Sri Lanka	6,030,541	100.0	5,802,099	96.2	212,758	3.5	11,146	0.2	4,538	0.1
Sector										
Urban*	1,028,363	100.0	1,010,342	98.2	16,668	1.6	734	0.1	619	0.1
Rural	4,773,336	100.0	4,596,479	96.3	163,297	3.4	10,153	0.2	3,407	0.1
Estate-Rural**	228,842	100.0	195,278	85.4	32,793	14.3	259	0.1	512	0.2
District										
Colombo	654,051	100.0	645,260	98.6	8,256	1.3	195	0.0	340	0.1
Gampaha	683,025	100.0	673,967	98.7	8,381	1.2	404	0.1	273	0.0
Kalutara	349,430	100.0	341,868	97.9	7,237	2.1	156	0.0	169	0.0
Kandy	389,826	100.0	369,080	94.7	20,395	5.2	216	0.1	135	0.0
Matale	148,184	100.0	139,556	94.2	8,492	5.7	75	0.1	61	0.0
Nuwara Eliya	192,915	100.0	179,664	93.1	12,472	6.5	344	0.2	435	0.2
Galle	305,379	100.0	298,982	98.0	6,129	2.0	138	0.0	130	0.0
Matara	230,034	100.0	223,653	97.3	6,193	2.7	113	0.0	75	0.0
Hambantota	187,558	100.0	183,050	97.7	4,364	2.3	84	0.0	60	0.0
Jaffna	156,797	100.0	151,345	96.5	4,360	2.8	681	0.4	411	0.3
Mannar	32,005	100.0	30,767	96.1	721	2.3	448	1.4	69	0.2
Vavuniya	47,825	100.0	45,540	95.3	2,118	4.4	109	0.2	58	0.1
Mullaitivu	34,348	100.0	32,391	94.3	1,636	4.8	247	0.7	74	0.2
Kilinochchi	36,484	100.0	34,320	94.2	1,684	4.6	315	0.9	165	0.5
Batticaloa	167,150	100.0	155,172	92.8	9,628	5.8	1,967	1.2	383	0.2
Ampara	202,861	100.0	194,136	95.7	8,112	4.0	417	0.2	196	0.1
Trincomalee	119,351	100.0	113,999	95.6	4,580	3.8	537	0.4	235	0.2
Kurunegala	506,909	100.0	490,386	96.8	15,815	3.1	468	0.1	240	0.0
Puttalam	231,494	100.0	219,032	94.6	8,778	3.8	3,485	1.5	199	0.1
Anuradhapura	271,408	100.0	261,751	96.4	9,432	3.5	138	0.1	87	0.0
Polonnaruwa	126,482	100.0	122,315	96.8	4,071	3.2	54	0.0	42	0.0
Badulla	239,417	100.0	223,698	93.4	15,445	6.5	36	0.0	238	0.1
Moneragala	150,728	100.0	139,342	92.4	11,152	7.4	106	0.1	128	0.1
Ratnapura	324,853	100.0	303,654	93.4	20,802	6.4	218	0.1	179	0.1
Kegalle	242,027	100.0	229,171	94.6	12,505	5.2	195	0.1	156	0.1

*Although the 2024 Census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.

** The sector identified as 'Estate' in the 2012 Census corresponds to the 'Estate Rural' category in the 2024 Census.

According to Table 11.7, the highest proportion of housing units in Sri Lanka consists of permanent housing units, accounting for 96.2 percent. When examined by sector, the estate rural sector records the highest share of semi-permanent housing units at 14.3 percent. At the district level, the highest proportion of semi-permanent housing is reported in Moneragala district (7.4%). Relatively higher percentages are also observed in Badulla district (6.5%) and Nuwara Eliya district (6.5%). Furthermore, the highest percentage of housing units classified as improvised is reported in Puttalam district (1.5%).

Rooms in housing units

Table 11.8 :Rooms in Housing Units by Sector, 2024

Sector	Total housing units	Percentages	Rooms in housing units			
			Houses with only one room	Percentage	Houses with more than one room	Percentage
Sri Lanka	6,030,541	100.0	358,358	5.9	5,672,183	94.1
Urban	1,025,330	100.0	80,249	7.8	945,081	92.2
Estate- Urban	3,033	100.0	377	12.4	2,656	87.6
Rural	4,773,336	100.0	251,344	5.3	4,521,992	94.7
Estate- Rural	228,842	100.0	26,388	11.5	202,454	88.5

The census also collects information on the room facilities available in the housing units. It is considered whether the housing unit has only a single room or more than one room. The information obtained on the number of rooms is shown in Table 11.8. There are 5,672,183 housing units with more than one room and 358,358 housing units with only one room.

11.6 Sources of Drinking Water, Cooking Fuel, Lighting, sanitation, waste disposal

The current census facilitated data collection at both the housing unit and household levels, noting that a single housing unit may accommodate one or more households. The total number of households in Sri Lanka was 6,111,315.

Main source of drinking water

Table 11.9 :Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Drinking Water, 2024

source of drinking water	Number of Households	Percentage
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	100.0
Protected well	1,624,506	26.6
Semi protected well	267,327	4.3
Unprotected well	77,806	1.3
Tube well	270,401	4.4
Spring/Fountain	230,268	3.8
Pipe borne water - National water supply & drainage board	2,374,349	38.9
Pipe borne water - Local Authority	100,764	1.6
Pipe borne water - Community based organization	419,247	6.9
Pipe borne water - Private water supply project	130,394	2.1
Tank/ River/Streams	59,336	1.0
Rainwater	4,346	0.1
Bottled water	63,753	1.0
Filter water (R.O. Plant)	456,849	7.5
Bowser	31,208	0.5
Other	761	0.0

As given in Table 11.9 in Sri Lanka 38.9 percent of households use Pipe borne water from the National Water Supply & Drainage Board for drinking. The percentage of households using protected wells is 26.6, while the percentage using filtered water (R.O. plant) is 7.5 percent.

Availability of drinking water facility

As given in Table 11.10, the number of households in Sri Lanka that has 'drinking water facilities within the housing unit and in premises is as high as 92.2 percent. Furthermore, among the districts where water facilities have been provided within the housing unit, the highest percentage is reported from the Colombo district (97.2 %). Further, the percentage having drinking water facilities outside household premises is 7.8 percent in Sri Lanka. The highest percentage having water facilities outside the premises is reported from the Northern Province. Among the districts Jaffna(29.4%) shows the highest percentage.

Table 11.10 : Percentage Distribution of Households by Availability of Drinking Water Facility, by Sector and District, 2024

Sector/ District	Total households	Availability of drinking water facility			
		Total	Within the housing unit	Within premises	Outside the premises
Sri Lanka	6,111,315	100.0	77.6	14.6	7.8
Sector					
Urban	1,042,557	100.0	90.2	7.2	2.6
Estate- Urban	3,108	100.0	66.4	22.8	10.8
Rural	4,827,055	100.0	76.4	15.2	8.5
Estate- Rural	238,595	100.0	43.7	37.9	18.4
District					
Colombo	661,822	100.0	97.2	2.1	0.7
Gampaha	688,635	100.0	89.6	7.3	3.1
Kalutara	352,963	100.0	89.8	6.4	3.8
Kandy	397,626	100.0	86.4	8.9	4.7
Matale	151,132	100.0	76.6	12.7	10.6
Nuwara Eliya	200,261	100.0	60.5	25.8	13.7
Galle	307,704	100.0	85.2	9.3	5.4
Matara	231,946	100.0	83.2	12.4	4.4
Hambantota	188,638	100.0	77.8	15.8	6.4
Jaffna	159,753	100.0	30.5	40.1	29.4
Mannar	32,330	100.0	29.3	54.0	16.7
Vavuniya	48,399	100.0	27.0	50.1	22.9
Mullaitivu	34,786	100.0	28.6	47.4	24.0
Kilinochchi	36,734	100.0	14.6	65.5	19.8
Batticaloa	170,262	100.0	40.2	46.8	13.0
Ampara	207,007	100.0	74.2	20.4	5.4
Trincomalee	121,948	100.0	62.5	28.7	8.8
Kurunegala	511,166	100.0	69.9	12.9	17.2
Puttalam	234,027	100.0	65.6	19.3	15.1
Anuradhapura	275,084	100.0	65.1	12.9	22.1
Polonnaruwa	127,385	100.0	73.9	14.7	11.4
Badulla	248,262	100.0	71.3	21.3	7.4
Moneragala	151,763	100.0	69.9	20.7	9.4
Ratnapura	327,645	100.0	79.2	14.6	6.2
Kegalle	244,037	100.0	82.5	11.3	6.2

Ability to obtain drinking water throughout the year from the main source of water supply

Table 11.11 shows the number and percentage distribution of households by ability to obtain drinking water throughout the year.

Table 11.11 : Distribution of Households in Sri Lanka's ability to Obtain Drinking Water Throughout the Year, 2024

Main source of drinking water	Ability to obtain drinking water throughout the year					
	Total households	Percentage	Households with water facilities throughout the year	Percentage	Households without water supply for at least one month	Percentage
Total*	5,559,505	100.0	5,374,541	96.7	184,964	3.3
Ground water	2,470,308	100.0	2,361,822	95.6	108,486	4.4
Pipe borne water	3,024,754	100.0	2,959,509	97.8	65,245	2.2
Other	64,443	100.0	53,210	82.6	11,233	17.4

*The total number of households here does not include households that obtain water from bottled water, R.O. Plant and bowser

According to Table 11.11, in Sri Lanka 96.7 percent of households have access to drinking water from a main source throughout the year. About 3.3 percent of households mentioned that they are unable to access main source of water supply at least one month during the year.

Main Source of fuel/energy used for cooking

Figure 11.2 presents information regarding the main source of fuel used for cooking by household in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, among the households, 55.4 percent use firewood as their main energy/fuel source for cooking, while 42.4 percent use gas.

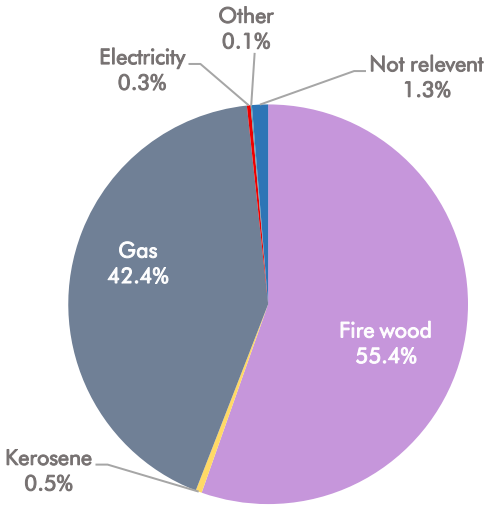


Figure 11.2 : Percentage of Households by Main Source of Fuel Used for Cooking , 2024

Percentage of households using firewood and gas as the main sources of energy for cooking

Comparing the 2012 and 2024 census data, the use of firewood has decreased, and the use of gas has increased in all districts and in all sectors. Compared to other districts, Colombo district (85.5%) shows the highest percentage of households cooking with gas. The highest percentage increase is in the Jaffna district.

Table 11.12 : Percentage of households Using Firewood and gas, by Sector and District, 2024

Sector/ District	Use of firewood		Use of gas	
	2012	2024	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	78.4	55.4	18.5	42.4
Sector				
Urban*	35.8	13.4	53.7	82.1
Rural	86.8	63.1	11.6	35.1
Estate- Rural**	95.0	83.4	3.7	15.3
District				
Colombo	28.8	9.9	60.5	85.5
Gampaha	62.5	31.8	31.0	63.9
Kalutara	77.1	42.4	21.2	55.9
Kandy	80.8	58.3	17.8	40.3
Matale	90.9	75.5	8.4	23.5
Nuwara Eliya	86.5	71.9	11.2	26.6
Galle	83.6	52.1	15.4	46.1
Matara	86.7	61.0	12.6	37.4
Hambantota	93.0	72.4	6.5	26.3
Jaffna	90.7	54.7	5.2	42.3
Mannar	88.5	55.9	8.5	41.1
Vavuniya	83.0	56.5	12.7	41.9
Mullaitivu	97.5	73.8	0.6	24.5
Kilinochchi	96.8	77.3	0.7	21.2
Batticaloa	74.6	42.8	20.3	54.5
Ampara	77.4	48.3	16.5	48.7
Trincomalee	82.4	48.9	13.8	47.9
Kurunegala	94.4	77.2	5.2	21.3
Puttalam	87.4	60.0	10.6	37.3
Anuradhapura	91.9	74.9	7.6	24.0
Polonnaruwa	93.7	77.6	5.7	21.2
Badulla	91.5	80.6	7.7	18.4
Moneragala	96.2	83.6	3.2	15.3
Ratnapura	92.7	78.1	6.7	20.8
Kegalle	92.7	72.9	6.8	26.0

*Although the 2024 census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.

** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as **"Estate"**, whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as **"Estate Rural"**.

Main and secondary energy/fuel type for lighting

Table 11.13 : Household Numbers and Percentages by Main and Secondary Energy/Fuel Type for Lighting, 2024

Energy/fuel type	Main source		Secondary source	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total	6,111,315	100.0	6,111,315	100.0
Electricity - National grid/Rural hydro power project	5,987,585	98.0	7,323	0.1
Kerosene lamp	95,150	1.6	2,789,215	45.6
Solar power (grid connected)	8,093	0.1	23,548	0.4
Solar power (standalone)	5,817	0.1	27,598	0.5
Other*	14,670	0.2	40,628	0.7
No secondary source	-	-	3,223,003	52.7

*Other- this category includes Biogas, Generator and Other '-' Not relevant

According to Table 11.13, the primary source of energy used for lighting in Sri Lanka is electricity supplied through the national power grid/Rural hydro power project, with 98.0 percent of households relying on this source. Although only 1.6 percent of households report kerosene as their main source of lighting, a considerably higher proportion (45.6%) use kerosene as a secondary source. It is noteworthy that, in certain instances, the secondary source reported may represent an alternative source utilized when the primary source is unavailable. Furthermore, 52.7 percent of households do not report the use of any secondary source of lighting energy.

Table 11.14 : Percentage of Households Using Electricity and Kerosene as the Main Sources of Lighting, by Residential Sector, 2012 and 2024

Sector	Electricity		Kerosene	
	2012	2024	2012	2024
Sri Lanka	87.0	98.0	12.2	1.6
Urban*	96.8	98.6	3.1	0.7
Rural	85.2	97.9	13.8	1.7
Estate- Rural **	79.9	96.6	19.2	2.9

*Although the 2024 census collected information separately as urban and estate urban, here the two categories are combined and shown as urban.
** In the 2012 Census, the sector was identified as "Estate", whereas in the 2024 Census it is referred to as "Estate Rural".

According to Table 11.14, the percentage of households using electricity was 87.0 percent in 2012, which grew by 11 percentage units by 2024. Conversely, the use of kerosene decreased significantly from 12.2 percent to 1.6 percent, reflecting a decline of 10.6 percentage units over the same period.

Access to Sanitary Facilities among Households

Table 11.15 : Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Toilet Facilities, 2012 and 2024

Toilet facilities	2012		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	5,264,282	100.0	6,111,315	100.0
Within the housing unit - Exclusively for the household	1,748,249	33.2	3,798,777	62.2
Within the housing unit - Sharing with another household	82,078	1.6	157,456	2.6
Within Premises - Exclusively for the household	2,817,362	53.5	1,832,587	30.0
Within Premises - Sharing with another household	358,453	6.8	197,678	3.2
No toilet but sharing with another housing unit/units	133,772	2.5	101,924	1.7
Common/ Public toilet	36,088	0.7	9,567	0.2
Not using a toilet (use jungle, beach and open ground)	88,280	1.7	13,326	0.2

According to Table 11.15, about 62.2 percent of households have toilets facilities 'exclusively for the household within the housing unit'. Also, 0.2 percent of households reported using jungle, beach, and open land without using any type of toilet.

Use of toilets, exclusively for households (Inside and outside the housing unit)

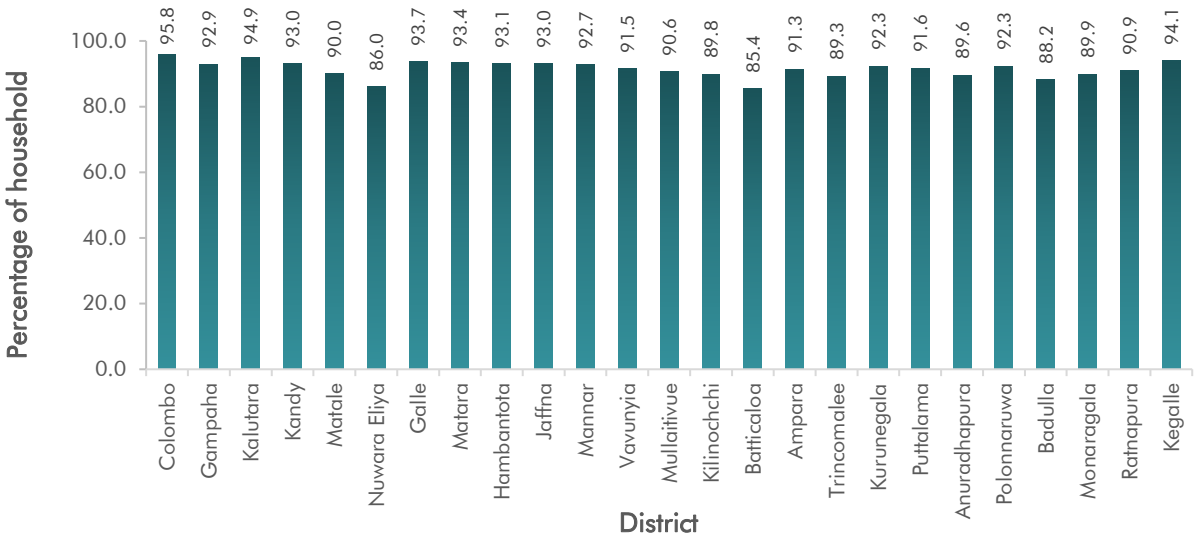


Figure 11.3 : Use of Toilets Exclusively for Households by District, 2024

According to Figure 11.3, the use of toilets exclusively for households is highest in Colombo (95.8%) district and lowest in Batticaloa (85.4%) district.

Type of toilet used by households

Table 11.16 : Percentage Distribution of Type of Toilet Used by households by Sector and District, 2024

Sector/District	Total	Type of toilet		
		Water-sealed	Not water-sealed	Other
Sri Lanka	100.0	99.5	0.4	0.1
Sector				
Urban	100.0	99.9	0.1	0.0
Estate- Urban	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Rural	100.0	99.5	0.4	0.1
Estate- Rural	100.0	98.6	1.4	0.0
District				
Colombo	100.0	99.9	0.1	0.0
Gampaha	100.0	99.8	0.2	0.0
Kalutara	100.0	99.7	0.3	0.0
Kandy	100.0	99.4	0.6	0.0
Matale	100.0	98.8	1.1	0.1
Nuwara Eliya	100.0	99.2	0.8	0.0
Galle	100.0	99.5	0.4	0.1
Matara	100.0	99.7	0.2	0.1
Hambantota	100.0	99.6	0.3	0.1
Jaffna	100.0	99.9	0.1	0.0
Mannar	100.0	99.1	0.9	0.0
Vavuniya	100.0	99.2	0.8	0.0
Mullaitivu	100.0	99.6	0.4	0.0
Kilinochchi	100.0	99.3	0.6	0.1
Batticaloa	100.0	99.5	0.4	0.1
Ampara	100.0	99.6	0.3	0.1
Trincomalee	100.0	99.5	0.5	0.0
Kurunegala	100.0	99.8	0.2	0.0
Puttalam	100.0	99.6	0.3	0.1
Anuradhapura	100.0	99.6	0.4	0.0
Polonnaruwa	100.0	99.4	0.5	0.1
Badulla	100.0	99.4	0.5	0.1
Moneragala	100.0	99.1	0.8	0.1
Ratnapura	100.0	99.5	0.4	0.1
Kegalle	100.0	99.4	0.5	0.1

According to Table 11.16, 99.5 percent of households in Sri Lanka use Water-sealed toilets and 0.4 percent uses not water-sealed toilets. The highest percentage of people using Water-sealed is in Colombo District (99.9%), while the highest percentage of people using not water-sealed toilets is reported in Matale District (1.1%).

Method of disposing solid waste by households

Table 11.17: Percentage Distribution of Households by the Main Method of Disposing Solid Waste, 2024

Method of disposing solid waste	Sri Lanka	Sector			
		Urban	Estate-Urban	Rural	Estate-Rural
Total number of households	6,111,315	1,042,557	3,108	4,827,055	238,595
Disposal of easy decaying waste					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By the local authority	23.9	81.9	43.0	12.4	2.7
Occupants burn	34.2	8.4	28.2	39.7	35.7
Occupants dispose within the premises	34.5	6.3	13.4	40.4	38.0
Composing solid waste	5.6	2.5	6.0	6.1	7.8
Dispose into Road/River/Canal/Sea/ Lagoon/Forest	0.5	0.2	4.1	0.2	9.1
Provide to the waste collectors	0.9	0.5	3.3	0.9	3.3
Other	0.4	0.2	2.0	0.3	3.5
Disposal of polythene and plastic					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By the local authority	25.3	84.1	39.1	13.8	2.0
Occupants burn	52.5	10.0	43.7	61.1	61.0
Occupants dispose within the premises	12.3	2.5	5.8	14.2	18.7
Dispose into Road/River/Canal/Sea/ Lagoon/Forest	0.4	0.1	3.5	0.2	7.0
Provide to the waste collectors	9.0	3.1	6.9	10.2	8.8
Other	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.5	2.5
Disposal of electronic waste					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By the local authority	24.5	80.4	39.7	13.5	2.5
Occupants burn	12.8	3.0	12.7	14.6	18.9
Occupants dispose within the premises	19.1	3.1	7.2	22.2	25.7
Dispose into Road/River/Canal/Sea/ Lagoon/Forest	0.6	0.2	2.7	0.3	7.9
Provide to the waste collectors	41.1	12.8	36.4	47.4	40.5
Other	1.9	0.5	1.3	2.0	4.5
Disposal glass cuttings/bottles					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By the local authority	24.3	79.6	41.2	13.4	2.6
Occupants dispose within the premises	25.8	5.0	13.9	29.8	36.2
Dispose into Road/River/Canal/Sea/ Lagoon/Forest	0.9	0.2	3.3	0.7	8.9
Provide to the waste collectors	47.5	14.8	40.4	54.5	48.5
Other	1.5	0.4	1.2	1.6	3.8
Disposal of other (Metal, tin, rubber etc.)					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By the local authority	22.8	76.8	35.5	12.2	2.5
Occupants burn	8.4	2.1	9.0	9.5	13.7
Occupants dispose within the premises	13.1	2.3	3.1	15.1	18.1
Dispose into Road/River/Canal/Sea/ Lagoon/Forest	0.6	0.2	2.4	0.4	6.9
Provide to the waste collectors	54.0	18.3	48.8	61.7	55.8
Other	1.1	0.3	1.2	1.1	3.0

Information on solid waste disposal was collected by classifying methods into five main categories. Regarding biodegradable (easily decomposable) waste, the most adopted method among households in

Sri Lanka is disposal within the premises, accounting for 34.5 percent. Approximately 52.5 percent of households report burning polythene and plastic waste as a method of disposal, while 41.1 percent hand over electronic waste to waste collectors. The predominant method of disposing of glass and bottles is also by handing them over to waste collectors, as reported by 47.5 percent of households. Furthermore, most households (54.0 %) dispose of other waste materials such as iron, tin, and rubber by handing them over to waste collectors.

Method of disposing liquid waste by households

Table 11.18 : Percentage Distribution of Households by the Main Method of Disposing Liquid Waste, 2024

Sector	Total	Main Method of Disposing Liquid Waste						
		To a properly closed pit	Open pit	Within the premises	Connected to a piped sewer	To a stream/sprin g/river/sea	To a drain on road	Other
Sri Lanka	100.0	26.7	7.1	57.3	1.5	1.1	6.1	0.2
Urban	100.0	46.2	2.5	23.7	8.5	1.5	17.3	0.3
Estate- Urban	100.0	11.0	5.9	41.3	0.0	2.5	39.3	0.0
Rural	100.0	23.4	8.0	64.6	0.1	0.7	3.0	0.2
Estate- Rural	100.0	9.4	9.0	55.5	0.0	7.3	18.1	0.7

In the census, information was collected regarding liquid waste disposal in addition to solid waste disposal. According to Table 11.18, "disposal within the premises" is the most common method of liquid waste disposal in Sri Lanka, accounting for 57.3 percent. Furthermore, a high percentage of households in the Estate-Urban (41.3%), Rural (64.6%), and Estate-Rural (55.5%) sectors also practice "disposal within the premises" Notably, in the Urban sector, the disposal of liquid waste into a "properly closed pit" (46.2%) is identified as the predominant method.

11.7 Communication technology devices and vehicles used

Table 11.19 : Percentage Distribution of Households Using Communication Technology Equipment and Vehicles by Sector, 2024

Sector	Communication Technology Equipment and Vehicles												
	Radio	Television	Fixed line telephone	Smart mobile phone	Normal mobile phone	Desktop computer	Laptop computer	Tablet computer	Internet facilities	Bicycle	Motorcycle/Scooter	Three-wheeler	Other
Sri Lanka	52.0	79.6	12.9	79.0	67.1	7.4	19.7	5.0	40.9	25.0	46.3	14.3	15.9
Urban	48.5	82.1	25.7	86.0	55.0	11.6	33.0	10.7	49.2	23.2	38.6	11.9	24.2
Estate- Urban	49.5	78.0	5.4	78.2	63.8	4.8	10.6	3.2	21.0	7.6	16.9	15.3	7.4
Rural	52.9	79.2	10.6	78.2	69.7	6.7	17.5	4.0	40.1	26.5	49.7	14.9	14.7
Estate- Rural	49.7	76.2	3.3	64.5	68.0	2.3	4.7	1.3	20.8	3.3	11.5	11.5	3.5

The information on electronic devices such as television, radio, landline telephones, smart mobile phones, normal mobile phones, desktop computers, laptops and tablet computers used in households was collected in the census of population and housing 2024. Also, collected information on using bicycle, motorcycle/scooter and three-wheeler. In Sri Lanka 46.3 percent of households use a 'motorcycle/scooter'. In this instance, only the utilization of equipment was Considered, regardless of ownership.

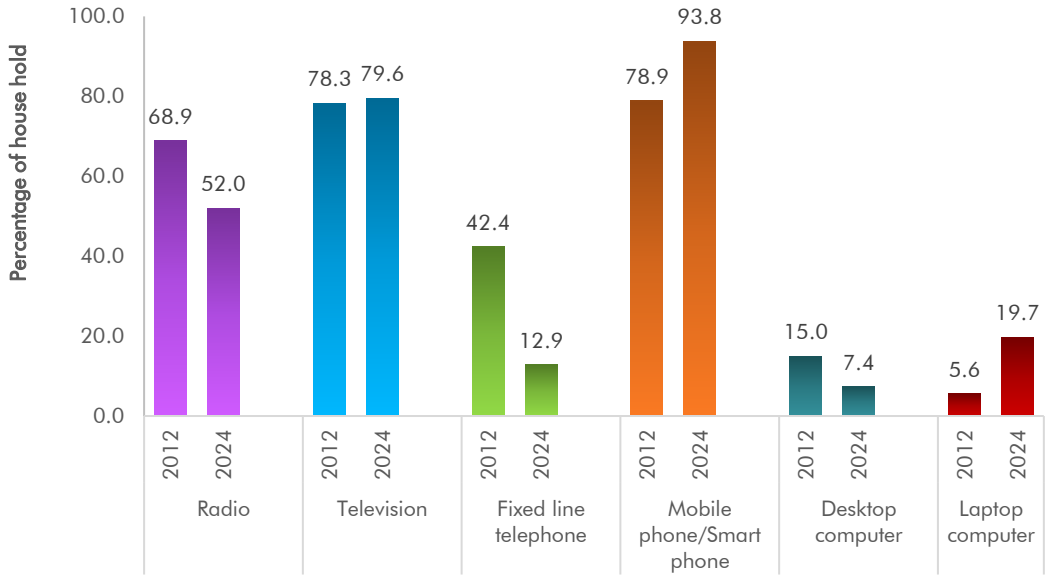


Figure 11.4 : Percentage of Households Use of Communication Technology Equipment by Census Years, 2012 and 2024

When considering the use of radio, television, landline telephones, desktop computers, and laptop computers, the use of television has slightly increased compared to 2012 and use of radio has decreased significantly. Compared to the census 2012, desktop computer usage has decreased from 15.0 percent to 7.4 percent, while laptop usage has increased from 5.6 percent to 19.7 percent. The use of mobile phone has increased from 78.9 percent in 2012 to 93.8 percent in 2024. Further, the data implies that about 94 percent of households use mobile phones.

12. Age - Sex Reporting Accuracy Indices

Among the basic information collected in a census, the accuracy of data on age and sex can be estimated using several indices. In data analysis, Myers' Index and Whipple's Index are commonly used for this purpose. These indices provide an understanding of the accuracy of census data.

12.1 Myers' Index

Myers' Index is a principal numerical measure used to assess the accuracy of age reporting in population data. The Myers' index measures the tendency for age to converge to single-digit values when considering absolute age, or to deviate from those values when reporting age. The Myers' index is calculated by measuring the extent to which the distribution of the last digit of a person's age, 0-9, deviates from the expected 10 percent distribution. The closer the index value is to 0, the more accurate the age data is reported, while the accuracy of the age data gradually decreases as the index value increases.

The accuracy of the data according to the value of the Myer's Index can be shown as follows.

Myers' Index Value	Level of Accuracy
Less than 6	**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.)
6 - 20	**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.)
Greater than 20	**Data with poor accuracy** (Data are obviously affected by heaping/ greater tendency to assemble towards units digit or to deviate from such numbers.)

Table 12.1 : Myer's Index by Sex, 1981, 2001, 2012 and 2024

Sex	Myers' Index			
	1981	2001*	2012	2024
Both sexes	9.7	2.7	1.7	1.2
Male	8.7	2.7	1.8	1.2
Female	11.2	3.0	1.7	1.1

*Based on 18 districts only.

According to Table 12.1, the Myers' Index for the total population in 2024 is 1.2. The index value is 1.1 for females and 1.2 for males. Compared with the 2012 Census, the index has further declined in 2024 for both sexes. This decline indicates an improvement in the accuracy of age reporting in the 2024 Census. The very low index values suggest that only a minimal proportion of the population exhibited digit preference or age misstatement. Accordingly, the age and sex data collected in the 2024 Population and Housing Census can be considered highly reliable based on Myers' Index.



* Based on 18 districts only.

Figure 12.1 : Myer's Index by Sex, 1981, 2001, 2012, and 2024

Table 12.2 : Deviations of Terminal Digits of Reported Age, 2012 and 2024

Terminal Digit	2012			2024		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
0	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1
1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
2	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	+0.3
3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	+0.1	+0.1	0.0
4	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.2	+0.2	+0.2
5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
6	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1
7	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
8	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
9	+0.4	+0.3	+0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Myer's Index	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.1

During the census, the clustering of individuals around a specific terminal digit when declaring their age is represented by positive values in the above table. Negative values indicate a deviation away from those terminal digits. A value of 0.0 signifies that there is neither clustering nor avoidance (dispersion) at those terminal digits. In 2024, both sexes showed a concentration toward the digits 2, 4, and 6, while showing a dispersion away from the digits 0, 1, 7 and 8. For ages ending in the digit 5 for both sexes, for females at ages ending in 3, and for males at ages ending in 9, this value was 0, confirming that ages were reported accurately for those specific digits. When comparing the 2012 and 2024 census years, it is evident that these deviations have numerically decreased.

Table 12.3 : Myers' Index by District and Sex, 2012, 2024

District	2012			2024			Percentage Change
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	
Sri Lanka	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.1	-29.4
Colombo	2.2	2.5	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.5	-27.3
Gampaha	2.2	2.3	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	-40.9
Kalutara	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	-50.0
Kandy	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	-18.8
Matale	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.4	-22.2
Nuwara Eliya	0.9	1.6	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.0	22.2
Galle	1.6	1.8	1.6	0.9	1.0	1.0	-43.8
Matara	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.1	-21.4
Hambantota	2.3	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	-39.1
Jaffna	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.9	26.1
Mannar	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.3	2.1	1.0	0.0
Vavuniya	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.0	-3.6
Mullaitivu	2.8	2.0	4.0	2.5	2.4	2.6	-10.7
Kilinochchi	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.5	-4.0
Batticaloa	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.1	1.9	28.6
Ampara	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.6	-20.0
Trincomalee	2.4	2.6	2.3	1.6	2.0	1.3	-33.3
Kurunegala	2.2	2.1	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	-40.9
Puttalam	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	-35.3
Anuradhapura	2.3	2.1	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.1	-13.0
Polonnaruwa	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.7	-27.3
Badulla	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0
Moneragala	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.1	-30.8
Ratnapura	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	-25.0
Kegalle	2.2	2.1	2.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	-36.4

Table 12.3 presents the values of Myers' Index calculated by district and sex for the 2012 and 2024 Censuses of Population and Housing. The value of Myers' Index for Sri Lanka declined from 1.7 in 2012 to 1.2 in 2024, representing a 29.4 percent reduction. This indicates that the accuracy of age reporting in the 2024 Census has improved compared to the 2012 Census.

At the district level, most districts show a decline in the Myers' Index value. Notably, substantial reductions are observed in Kalutara (-50.0%), Galle (-43.8%), Gampaha (-40.9%), and Kurunegala (-40.9%), suggesting improved accuracy in age reporting in these districts. However, a slight increase in the index value is observed in Batticaloa (28.6%), Jaffna (26.1%) and Nuwara Eliya (22.2%), which may indicate minor deviations in age reporting in those districts. Overall, the results suggest that the age data collected in the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 are of high accuracy, as reflected by the low values of Myers' Index.

12.2 Whipple's Index

Whipple's Index is another numerical indicator that can verify the accuracy of age reporting in population data. This represents the impact on the accuracy of 'age' when respondents report an age ending in the digits 0 and 5 during the data collection stage. Based on the value obtained by the Whipple's Index, it indicates the extent of clustering around ages ending in 0 and 5.

According to the value obtained by the Whipple's Index, the accuracy of the data can be shown as follows.

Whipple's Index Value	Level of Accuracy
Less than 105	Highly accurate data
105 – 109.9	Fairly accurate data
110 – 124.9	Approximately accurate data
125 – 174.9	Rough data
175 and over	Very rough data

Table 12.4 : Whipple's Index by Sex, 1981, 2001, 2012 and 2024

Sex	Whipple's Index			
	1981	2001*	2012	2024
Both sexes	118.6	97.0	100.2	99.2
Male	116.7	97.5	100.3	99.1
Female	120.5	96.4	100.0	99.2

* Based on 18 districts only.

In the 2012 Census, the value of Whipple's Index for both sexes was 100.2, and it slightly decreased to 99.2 in the 2024 Census. By sex, the index value in 2012 was 100.0 for females and 100.3 for males, while in 2024 it was 99.2 for females and 99.1 for males. Since these values are very close to 100, they indicate that the concentration of ages ending in digits 0 and 5 is minimal, suggesting a high level of accuracy in age reporting. Overall, both the 2012 and 2024 censuses demonstrate a high level of reliability in age data, with the 2024 Census showing a slightly improved pattern of age reporting.

Table 12.5 : Whipple's Index by District and Sex, 2012 and 2024

District	2012			2024			Percentage Change
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	
Sri Lanka	100.2	100.3	100.0	99.2	99.1	99.2	-1.0
Colombo	100.4	100.5	100.3	98.4	98.4	98.3	-2.0
Gampaha	100.2	100.6	99.9	99.0	98.7	99.3	-1.2
Kalutara	100.8	100.8	100.9	99.1	99.4	98.8	-1.7
Kandy	99.6	99.5	99.8	98.4	98.6	98.3	-1.2
Matale	100.2	99.5	100.9	98.4	98.3	98.6	-1.8
Nuwara Eliya	99.4	99.3	99.6	98.0	97.9	98.1	-1.4
Galle	101.0	101.1	100.9	99.6	99.5	99.7	-1.4
Matara	100.0	100.3	99.8	99.9	99.1	100.7	-0.1
Hambantota	99.5	99.4	99.7	100.5	100.0	101.0	1.0
Jaffna	100.3	100.6	100.0	101.6	101.8	101.4	1.3
Mannar	100.0	98.8	101.2	98.7	98.4	99.1	-1.3
Vavuniya	99.0	98.9	99.1	100.5	100.1	100.8	1.5
Mullaitivu	100.2	102.0	98.4	101.1	101.3	100.9	0.9
Kilinochchi	99.8	101.0	98.8	100.8	101.8	99.8	1.0
Batticaloa	98.7	99.4	98.0	99.2	99.2	99.2	0.5
Ampara	100.3	100.5	100.1	99.0	98.6	99.3	-1.3
Trincomalee	101.6	102.3	101.0	100.4	100.8	100.1	-1.2
Kurunegala	100.1	100.0	100.1	99.5	99.4	99.6	-0.6
Puttalam	100.7	101.0	100.5	99.1	99.4	98.9	-1.6
Anuradhapura	99.7	99.8	99.6	98.4	98.6	98.2	-1.3
Polonnaruwa	100.3	100.2	100.5	98.9	99.1	98.7	-1.4
Badulla	101.1	100.8	101.4	97.6	97.2	97.9	-3.5
Moneragala	100.4	100.5	100.3	99.9	99.8	100.1	-0.5
Ratnapura	99.5	99.5	99.4	99.9	99.7	100.2	0.4
Kegalle	99.4	100.1	98.8	99.7	100.2	99.3	0.3

Table 12.5 presents the values of Whipple's Index by district and sex for the 2012 and 2024 Censuses of Population and Housing. For Sri Lanka, the value of Whipple's Index declined slightly from 100.2 in 2012 to 99.2 in 2024, representing a 1.0 percent decrease. This indicates that the accuracy of age reporting in the 2024 Census is comparable to, or slightly improved from, that of the 2012 Census.

At the district level, the values of Whipple's Index remain very close to 100 in most districts, indicating a high level of accuracy in age reporting. Notable decreases are observed in Badulla (-3.5), Colombo (-2.0), Matale (-1.8), Kalutara (-1.7) and Puttalam (-1.6) districts. Meanwhile, slight increases are observed in Jaffna (1.3), Vavuniya (1.5), Kilinochchi (1.0), Hambantota (1.0), and Mullaitivu (0.9). However, since these values remain close to 100, the age data in these districts can still be considered highly accurate. Overall, the results suggest that the age data collected in the Census of Population and Housing - 2024 are reliable and exhibit a high degree of accuracy, as reflected by the Whipple's Index values.

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ANNEXURES

Confidential

Under the Census Ordinance, every person is required to provide this information to the best of his/her knowledge and ability. Individual information will not be divulged for any purpose.

Census of Population and Housing -2024
Sri Lanka
Population and Housing Schedule
Department of Census and Statistics

Form F3

Instructions

Follow the instructions below, before starting to obtain the information.

(a) Start with the first census unit in the census unit list and visit all the census units.

(b) Revisit to the census units temporary closed/ no suitable respondent/postponed.

(c) For permently closed or vacant unit complete ID information up to A18

(d) If the unit is demolished then complete ID information up to A18

(e) If it (new/missing)is not in the census unit list, enter the relevant census numbers and start collecting information.

Identification Information

Cheif Occupant/Person Incharge/Owner/ Name of Organization/business with designation

Address

A0 MRCB Number

A0.1 MRCB Letter

A1 Province and District

A2 DS Division

A3 GN Division

A10 Code of Census Block (Within GN Division)

A11 Building Number

A12 Census Unit Number

A12.1 Status of Unit

- Suitable respondent available 1
- Unit temporary closed/No suitable respondent available....2
- Unit Permanently closed/vacant....3
- Unit demolished....4
- Provided information from e-census 5
- Special enumeration unit....6

A13 Type of Unit

- Housing Unit....1
- Collective Living Quarter....2
- Residential Institute 3
- Non Residential Unit 4

A14 Are there any usual residents in this unit ?

- There are usual residents 1
- There are no usual residents....2

Enter code "98" for A15 and A16 also "001" for A17 and A18 and go to the next unit.

A15 Total number of households in this unit

Write "98" for collective living quarter, residential Institute and non residential unit.

A16 Serial number of this household

Write "98" for collective living quarter, residential Institute and non residential unit.

A17 This schedule's number

A18 Total number of used schedules

HHR
- **If a housing unit, the list of all members who belong to the household**
- **If it isn't a housing unit, the list of usual residents in the unit**

HHR1	Include members who are usual residents (Including members who are in abroad for 6 months or less)		
Serial No of Person (1)	Name of the person (2)	State of residence (3)	State of census moment (4)
HHR2	Include members who belong to the household but usually residing elsewhere in Sri Lanka. (except permanent residence)		
		3	
		3	
		3	
HHR3	Include persons belonging to the household but who have gone abroad for more than 6 months or who have gone abroad with the intention of staying abroad for more than 6 months. (except permanent residence)		
		4	
		4	
		4	

List of Code

State of Residence
- Usual resident 1
- Member is in abroad for 6 months or less....2
- Member usually residing else where in SriLanka....3
- Member is in abroad for more than 6 months 4

State of Census moment
- In usual residence 1
- Left the usual residence 2
- Dead 3
- New usual residence....4
- New born child....5

1

For all usual residents

P1 Serial No of Person ☐☐

P2a **Name**

If an infant is not yet named, write as 'baby'

☐

P2b National Identity Card Number

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

P3a Relationship to head of household

Head 1
Wife/Husband 2
Son/Daughter 3
Son/Daughter in law(According to marriage) . 4
Grand child 5
Mother/Father of head's or spouse's 6
Brother/Sister 7
Brother/Sister in law 8
Other Relatives 9
Domestic employee/Driver/ Watcher 10
Boarder 11
Non Relative 12

P3b Status of clergy/ priest

Clergy/ Priest 1
Not a Clergy/Priest 2

P4 Sex

Male 1
Female 2

P5a What's your/(name)'s birth year & month?

Should be mentioned the birth year. If the exact year is not known, write an estimated year of birth.

If the birth month is not known, write '88' for the month.

Year of birth ☐☐☐☐ Month ☐☐

P5b Was your/(name)'s birth registered in Sri Lanka?

Check whether they have ever had birth certificate

Yes 1
No 2
Don't Know 3
Not relevant 4

P6 What's your/**(name)'s** marital status?

Never Married 1
Married 2
Widowed 3
Divorced 4
Legally Separated 5
Separated (not legally) 6

P7 What's your/(name)'s religion?

Buddhist 1
Hindu 2
Islam 3
Roman Catholic 4
Other Christian 5
Other 6

(specify)

P8 What's your/(name)'s ethnic group?

Sinhalese 1
Sri Lanka Tamil 2
Indian Tamil/Malaiyaga Thamilar 3
Sri Lanka Moor/Muslim 4
Burgher 5
Malay 6
Sri Lanka Chetty 7
Bharatha 8
Veddhas 9
Other 10

(specify)

P9 What's your/(name)'s citizenship?

If a Sri Lankan mark '77'. If the citizenship unknown mark '88'. If a citizen of another country write the name and code of the country.

Sri Lankan 77

Other country (specify) code

☐ ☐☐

Unknown 88

P10 When you/(name) were/was born, what was your/name's mother's usual residence district/country ?

In this district at child birth, mark '77'. If any other district/country write it's name and code.

In this district 77

Other District code

☐ ☐☐ or

Other Country code

☐ ☐☐

P11 How long do/does you/(name) currently reside in the usual residence district? (in years)

If since birth, mark '999' and skip to P13(b).

If less than 1 year write '000'. If a person migrated from other district/country is more than once, state the duration since the last move.

Since birth ..... 999 → Go to P13b

Years ☐☐☐

P12a What is your/(name)'s district/ Country of previous (last) usual residence?

Specify the name and code of the district/ country of previous usual residence before moving to usual residence district.

District ☐ code ☐☐

or

Country ☐ code ☐☐

P12b What is the reason for migrating to current usually residing district.

If there is more than one reason, mark the main reason.

Marriage 1
Employment/Searching for job 2
Education 3
Accompanied a family member (Member's education, employment or lookafter) ... 4
Returning for permanent residence 5
Development projects 6
Resettled after displacement 7
A disaster/a displaced happened in the prior place 8
Other 9

(specify)

P13a What is your/(name)'s District of permanent residence

Write the name and code of the district where your/name's administrative activities are done

In this district 77

If any other district ☐ code ☐☐

Other Country ..... 99 → Go to P14

P13b What is your/(name)'s Divisional Secretariat Division of permenant residence

Write the name and code of the DS division where your/name's administrative activities are done.

Divisional Secretariat Division code

P14 Your/(name)'s non communicable diseases.

currently do/does you/(name) suffer any following non communicable disease/ diseases?

Diabetes 1
High Cholesterol 2
High Blood Pressure 3
Heart disease 4
Kidney disease 5
Thalassemia 6
Cancer 7
Paralysis 8
Asthma 9
Epileptic 10
Non of above these 11

For persons of age 3 years and above.

P15 What educational activity did you/ (name) involve in the last 30 days?

Pre-school education 1
School education/13 years guaranteed education 2
Undergraduate/Postgraduate education 3
Vocational Training/Technical education ... 4
Other educational activity 5
Not Studying 6

For persons of age 5 years and above

P16 What is your/(name)'s highest educational qualifications?

Mark the highest educational qualification or highest examination passed.

If never attended school or currently attending pre school mark '88'. Mark '00' if currently studying in grade 1 or not completed grade 1 education. If the highest qualification is an examination (not leading to any vocational qualification). mark the relevant number.

Never attended school 88
Studying/Studied grade 1 00
Passed grade 1 01
Passed grade 2 02
Passed grade 3 03
Passed grade 4 04
Passed grade 5 05
Passed grade 6 06
Passed grade 7 07
Passed grade 8 08
Passed grade 9 09
Passed grade 10 10
G.C.E. (O/L)or equalent 11
G.C.E. (A/L) or equalent 12
Degree 13
Post Graduate Diploma 14
Post Graduate Degree 15
Ph.D 16
Studied/Studying at the special school/special educational unit 17

P17a Can you/(name) do/does any work by your own using Smart phone/tablet computer?

Yes 1
No 2

P17b Can you/(name) do/does any work by your own using computer?

Yes 1
No 2

P18 Physical and mental difficulties

Inquire and mark the correct answer on difficulties at your/(name)'s daily usual activities in the domains Seeing, Hearing, Walking, Cognition, Selfcare & Communication

P18a.1 Do/Does you/(name) wear spectacles or lenses ?	Yes ..... 1 → Go to **P18a.3** No 2
P18a.2 Do/Does you/(name) have a difficulty in seeing? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot see at all ..... 4 → Go to **P18b.1**
P18a.3 Do/Does you/(name) have a difficulty in seeing even if wearing spectacles or lenses? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot see at all 4
P18b.1 Do/Does you/(name) have a difficulty hearing ? (When not using a hearing aid) Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 → Go to **P18c** Have some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot hear at all 4
P18b.2 Do/Does you/ (name) use a hearing aid ?	Yes ..... 1 No ..... 2 → Go to P18c
P18b.3 Do/Does you/(name) have a hearing difficulty even if using a hearing aid? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot hear at all 4
P18c Do/Does you/(name) have a difficulty in walking or climbing steps ? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have a some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot Walk at all 4
P18d Do/Does you/(name) have a difficulty remembering or concentrating ? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have a some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot remember anytime at all 4
P18e Do/Does you/(name) have a difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have a some difficulty ..... 2 Have a lot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot do at all 4
P18f Using usual language do/ does you/(name) have a difficulty communicating? Would you say	No difficulty ..... 1 Have a some difficulty ..... 2 Have a ot of difficulty ..... 3 Cannot do at all 4

For person of age 10 years and above

P19a Ability to speak languages

Mention whether the person can speak each of following languages

Ability to speak	Very Good	Good	Weak	Cannot speak
P19a.1 Sinhala	1	2	3	4
P19a.2 Tamil	1	2	3	4
P19a.3 English	1	2	3	4

P19b Ability to read and write in languages.

Mention whether the person can read and write with an understanding each of following languages

Read & Write with an understanding	Very Good	Good	Weak	Cannot read and Write
P19b.1 Sinhala	1	2	3	4
P19b.2 Tamil	1	2	3	4
P19b.3 English	1	2	3	4

For person from age 15 to 55 years

P20 Do/Does you/(name) obtain any vocational training or qualification (with a certificate)

Yes.....1

No.....2

For person of age 15 years and above

P21 Were/was you/(name) engaged, in any economic activity at least one hour during last week?

Inquire, whether he/she engaged in a salaried employment or an employer or own account worker or a contributing family worker for at least one hour during last week.

(Always consider 7days from Monday to Sunday as the last week.)

Though he/she was not engaged in a job or an economic activity temporary for some reason during last week he/she has a job then mark "yes".

(Assure that he/she will get back to the job which he/she was engaged in before the vacation.)

Yes.....1

No.....2

Go to P26a

P22a Mention clearly the main occupation (type of economic activity) that you /(name) engaged in the last week.

If a person was engaged in more than one occupation (economic activity) indicate the main occupation (economic activity) on which most time was spent.

For public and private sector employees, state the rank/designation of the job.

Eg - Paddy cultivator, Livestock farmer, House Painter, Accounts clerk, Lieutenant (Army), Three wheeler driver

P22b From the following your/(name)'s occupation belongs to which category?

Government paid employee 1
Semi Government paid employee 2

Go to P23

Paid employee (private sector).....3
Employer (have employees).....4
Own account worker (don't have employees).. 5
Contributing to family enterprise (unpaid family worker).....6

Go to P23a

P23 Write the name of the Institute (Ministry, Department, Corporation, Authority, Bureau, Government or semi government school /hospital)

Go to P25

P23a What is the main economic activity of your/(name)'s work place or your/(name)'s own work place?

Agriculture 1
Go to part (a) in P24

Mining & quarrying industry 2
Go to part (b) in P24

Manufacturing and other Industry 3
Go to part (c) in P24

Services..... 4
Go to part (d) in P24

P24 What is the nature of economic activity of your/(name)'s work place or your/(name)'s own work place?

(a) Nature of economic activity in agriculture

Paddy cultivation.....01
Season crop cultivation, except paddy (cereals, Vegetables etc.).....02
Permanent/ Semi Permanent crop cultivation (tea, rubber, coconut, cinnamon, cloves, fruits etc.).....03
Animal husbandry (including bee keeping, breeding of pets) 04
Fishing.....05
Aquaculture(including,breeding fish or ornamental fish).....06
Floriculture or Nursery for Sale.....07
Forestry & Logging.....08
Support activities for crops/livestock production and forestry.....09
An agricultural economic activity not mentioned above.....10

(b) Nature of economic activity in mining & quarrying industry

Mining of Gem 11
Quarrying of granite.....12
Quarrying of sand.....13
Other mining and quarrying (extraction of salt, quarrying lime stone, mining of clay, mining of graphite and other mineral).....14

(c) Nature of economic activity in manufacturing industry and other industry.

Manufacture of foods, beverages and tobacco products.....15
Manu.Apparel, textile coir and leather based products .16
Manufacture of all other products (Except 15,16) 17
Electric power gas generation and distribution and steam and air conditioning supply 18
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.....19
Construction of buildings, civil engineering, specialized construction activities and demolition 20

(d) Nature of the economic activity to which the service belongs.

Import and export activity, wholesale, retail trade and repair of motor vehicles & motorcycles.....21
Passengers & goods transportation, warehousing, support activities for transportation, postal and courier activities.....22
Supply accommodation, supply prepared food and beverages for immediate consumption that cannot be preserved.....23
Information and Communication activities including publishing.....24
Financial and insurance activities 25
Real estate for sale, rent/lease and related intermediate services 26
Professional, Scientific and technical activities..... 27
Renting and leasing of motor vehicles/equipment without operators,providing sanitation, Private security and manpower services, travel agency activities and supporting services of office administrative 28
Education.....29
Public health service, residential care, day care centres and other social service activities 30
Creative arts and entertainment activities, libraries, museums, planetarium, sports & entertainment sports, betting, sports clubs and amusement park activities.....31
Activities of chambers of commerce, business organizations, professional organizations, political & religious organizations & activities, repair of personal and household equipment including computers & communications equipment and personal service activies.....32
Services of household units that employ private employees (domestic servants and security guards).....33
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies 34
Does not belong to the above services 35

P25 In which District do/does you/ (name) work or engage in the economic activity?

In the usual resident district.....77
Other district code

Go to P28a

P26a If you(name) have/has not engaged in an economic activity during last week are you expecting to do a paid job or start a self employment?

Yes 1
No 2

Go to P27

Already got a job and ready to go/ already made arrangements for self employment activity 3

Go to P28a

P26b Did you /(name) take any steps during the last 4 weeks to find a job or to start a self employment?

Yes 1
No 2
Awaiting results of the examination/ interview held for a job.....3

P26c Are/is you/(name) ready to accept a job offered/ to start a self employment within next two weeks?

Yes 1

If P26b=1 or 3, **Go to P28a**
If P26b=2 **Go to P27**

No 2

P27 What is the main reason you/ (name) are/is not accepting a job/ not taking any action or not ready to start a self employment?

Engaged in educational or vocational training activities.....1
Household work/ Engaged in Children/ Elders Caring.....2
Recipient such as investment income, rental and interest Income.....3
Unable/ pensioner/ too old to work.....4
Long term illness / disabled.....5
Does not want/interest to do any economic activity.....6
Other 7
(specify)

Ever married women of age 15 years or over

P28a Have/Has you/(name) ever had a live birth ?

Had live births.....1
Did not have live births 2

Go to next person in the household M1

P28b Total number of live births do/ does you/(name) had?

Write the number of male and female children in separately, who live here, who live elsewhere or who died.

P28b.1 Number of male Children
P28b.2 Number of female Children

P29 Total number of living children do/ does you /(name) have/has?

Write the total number of daughters and sons who live here or who live elsewhere.

If there are no living children write '00'.

Number of Children

P30 What is the birth year and month of your/(name)'s last live born child.

Should be mentioned the birth year. If the exact year is not known, write an estimated year of birth.

If the birth month is not known, write the '88' for the month.

Year Month

Go to next person in the household
Otherwise go to M1.

Occupied housing units only

Include members who belong to the household but usually residing elsewhere in Sri Lanka. (except for permanent residence)

M1 Fill in the following information for the person who is listed of HHR 2

M1.0 Serial No of Person	M1.1 Name of the person	M1.2 Relationship to Head of Household	M1.3 Sex	M1.4 Age completed as at previous birthday in years	M1.5 Name and Code of the district of current residence	M1.6 Main reason for usually living elsewhere

Include persons belonging to the household but who have gone abroad for more than 6 months or who have gone abroad with the intention of staying abroad for more than 6 months. (Except for permanent residence).

M2 Fill in the following information for the person who is listed of HHR 3

M2.0 Serial No of Person	M2.1 Name of the person	M2.2 Relationship to Head of Hosehold	M2.3 Sex	M2.4 Age completed as at previous birth day in years	M2.5 Name and Code of the country of current residence	M2.6 Main reason for living in abroad	M2.7 Period of time spent in abroad (Years)(If less than 01year mention "00")

List of code

Relationship to head of household (M1.2/M2.2)

Husband/Wife of head of the household.....1
Son/Daughter.....2
Son/Daughter in law(According to marriage) 3
Grandchild 4
Other 5
(specify)

Sex (M1.3/M2.3)

Male.....1
Female.....2

Main reason for usually living elsewhere/ abroad (M1.6/M2.6)

Employment 1
Education.....2
Accompanied a family member's need
(Member's education, employment or lookafter).....3
Other.....4
(specify)

Household information

- Household information should be completed for all households.
- Household information should be recorded only in **the schedule in which the last person of the household** is entered.

H1 Number of usual residents in the household ☐☐

H2a Main Source/way of drinking water

Ground water
- Protected well 01
- Semi protected well 02
- Unprotected well 03
- Tube well 04
- Spring/Fountain 05

Pipe borne water
- National water supply & drainage board 06
- Local Authority 07
- Community base organiziation 08
- Private water supply project 09

Other
- Tank/ River/Streams 10
- Rain water 11
- Bottled water 12
- Filter water (R.O. Plant) 13
- Bowser 14
- Other 15

(specify)

Go to H2c

H2b Does drinking water facility to your household have inside the housing unit?
- Yes, There is water facilities in the housing unit 1
- No, In Premises 2
- No, Outside the premises 3

H2c Is it possible to get water throughout the year from the main source of drinking water above mentioned?
- Yes ..... 1 → Go to H3a
- No 2

H2d What were the months you didn't get drinking water during last year (2023) ?
- January 1
- February 2
- March 3
- April 4
- May 5
- June 6
- July 7
- August 8
- September 9
- October 10
- November 11
- December 12

H3a Main type of cooking fuel or energy
- Fire wood 1
- Kerosene 2
- Gas 3
- Electricity 4
- Saw dust/Paddy husk 5
- Bio gas 6
- Other 7

(specify)

- Not relevent ..... 8 → Go to H4a

H3b Type of secondary cooking fuel or energy
- Fire wood 1
- Kerosene 2
- Gas 3
- Electricity 4
- Saw dust/Paddy husk 5
- Bio gas 6
- Other 7

(specify)

- No secondary source of fuel or energy 8

H4a Main source of lighting
- Electricity - from National grid 1
- Electricity - from rural hydro power project 2
- Kerosene lamp 3
- Solar power (grid connected) 4
- Solar power (stand alone) 5
- Bio gas 6
- Generator 7
- Other 8

(specify)

H4b Secondary source of lighting.
- Electricity - from National grid 1
- Electricity - from rural hydro power project 2
- Kerosene lamp 3
- Solar power (grid connected) 4
- Solar power (stand alone) 5
- Bio gas 6
- Generator 7
- Other 8

(specify)

- No secondary source 9

H5 Toilet facilities

Within the housing unit
- Exclusively for the household 1
- Sharing with another household 2

Outside the housing unit (Within Premises)
- Exclusively for the household 3
- Sharing with another household 4

Other
- No toilet but sharing with another housing unit/units 5
- Common/Public toilet 6
- Not using a toilet (use jungle, beach and open ground) ..... 7 → Go to H7

H6 Type of toilet

Water sealed
- connected to septic tank 1
- connected to a pit 2
- connected to a piped sewer 3
- connected to a river or drain 4

Not water sealed
- Direct pit with layered 5
- Open direct pit without layered 6
- Other 7

(specify)

H9 Tenure
- Owned by a household member 1
- Rent/Lease-government owned 2
- Rent/Lease-Privately owned 3
- Free of rent 4
- Encroached 5
- Other 6

(specify)

H10 The communication technology & facilities items (currently in use) & vehicles that are for the use of the household.

(Read all in below & answer them.)

	Yes	No
a. Radio	1	2
b. Television	1	2
c. Fixed line telephone	1	2
d. Smart mobile phone	1	2
e. Normal mobile phone	1	2
f. Desktop computer	1	2
g. Laptop computer	1	2
h. Tablet computer	1	2
i. Accessing internet from household	1	2
j. Foot bicycle	1	2
k. Motor cycle/scooter	1	2
l. Threewheeler	1	2
m. Other motor vehicle (for private transport)	1	2

H7 Main method of solid waste disposal.

Type of solid waste	Main method of solid waste disposal. (circle the suitable code)						
	collected by Local Authorities	Occupants burn	Occupants dispose within the premises	Occupants composing solid waste	Occupants dispose solid waste into Road/River/ Canal/Sea/ Lagoon/Forest	Provide to the places / collectors of disposable materials	Other
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
H7a Easy decaying waste (Waste food/leaves branches etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
H7b Polythene, Plastic	1	2	3		5	6	7
H7c Electronic Wastage	1	2	3		5	6	7
H7d Glass Cuttings/ bottles	1		3		5	6	7
H7e Other (Metal, tin, Rubber etc)	1	2	3		5	6	7

H8 Disposal of liquid waste
- To a properly closed pit 1
- Open pit 2
- Within the premises 3
- Connected to a piped sewer 4
- To a stream/spring/river/sea 5
- To a drain on road 6
- Other 7

(specify)

H11a Has any member of this household died in year 2023 ?
- Yes 1
- No ..... 2 → Go to U0

H11b How many were died?

H11 b.1 Male ☐ **H11 b.2 Female** ☐

H11c From that how many deaths were registered?

H11 c.1 Male ☐ **H11 c.2 Female** ☐

If not any registered mention "0"

Housing Unit Information

- Unit Information should be completed **only once** for a housing unit.
- **If there is only one household**, housing unit information should be completed **in the schedule in which the last person of the household** is entered.
- **If there is more than one household**, housing unit information should be completed in the **last schedule of the first household.**

U0 This housing unit is

(Only for housing units with usual residents 04 or less than 4)

A general housing unit..... 1
A boarding house where non related person are living 2

U1 Structure of housing unit

Single house - single storeyed 1
Single house - two storeyed..... 2
Single house - more than two storeyed.....3
Attached house - 1st Floor 4
Attached house - 2nd Floor..... 5
Attached house - 3rd or 4 Floors..... 6
Attached house - 5th to 10th Floors..... 7
Attached house - 11th to 19th Floors 8
Attached house - From 20th Floors or more ... 9
Container box house..... 10
Other 11
(specify)
Go to U4

U2 Year of Construction

If not completed but occupied select the appropriate year when first occupied.

2024 1
2023 2
2022 3
2021 4
2020 5
2019 6
2018 7
2017 - 2013.....8
2012 - 2008.....9
2007 - 2003 10
2002 - 1998 11
1997 - 1993 12
1992 or before 13

U3 Main materials used for construction of the housing unit

A. Walls

Bricks.....1
Cement block.....2
Granite/Cube stones.....3
Cabook.....4
Pressed soil bricks.....5
Mud/Warichchi.....6
Cadjan/Palmyrah.....7
Planks/Metal Sheets/Asbestos 8
Zink Aluminium Sheets 9
Other 10
(specify)

B. Floor

Cement.....1
Terrazzo/Tile/Granite/
Wood (Finished)/Titanium.....2
Concrete.....3
Mud.....4
Wood.....5
Sand.....6
Other.....7
(specify)

C. Roof

Tile.....1
Asbestos 2
Concrete.....3
Zink Aluminium Sheet 4
Metal Sheet 5
Cadjan/Palmyrah/Straw 6
Other 7
(specify)

U4 Rooms of the housing unit

Whole house is one room.....1
Go to E1

More than one room.....2

U5 How many rooms are using as bedrooms? ☐☐

U6 How many rooms are there in this housing unit? (except garages, washrooms, toilets) ☐☐

E1 Ending Status of schedule

Completed 1
Partially completed.....2

Enumerator's/Supervisor's Informations

Number of the Enumerator ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ **Number of the Supervisor** ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Name of the Enumerator **Name of the Supervisor**

Date of Interview ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐ **Date of Supervision** ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐

Signature of the Enumerator ..... **Signature of the Supervisor** .....

Notes:
.....
.....
.....
.....

8

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 1740/5 - 2012 ජනවාරි 10 වැනි අඟහරුවාදා - 2012.01.10

No. 1740/5 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

My No. : 14/CPH/GEZ/2011.

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE

Rules made by the Minister of Finance and Planning under Section 5 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143).

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA,
Minister of Finance and Planning.

Colombo,
29th December, 2011.

Rules

PART I : PRELIMINARY

1. These rules may be cited as the Census of Population and Housing Rules, 2011.

2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, ordinance means the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143); 'Superintendent' means the Superintendent of Census, 'Commissioner' means the Commissioner of Census 'Deputy Commissioner' means the Deputy Commissioner of Census 'Assistant Commissioner' means the Assistant Commissioner of Census.

PART II : GENERAL

1. The Enumeration stage of the Census of Population and Housing - 2011 shall be conducted as follows.

	Process		*Time Frame*
I.	Collect information from all usual residents and housing units.	-	27 February to 19 March 2012
II.	Date of Census	-	20 March 2012
III.	Revision Round Revise information of usual residents based on date of Census and Census moment.	-	20 and 21 March 2012

1A

2. Every person shall supply to the enumerator or supervisor for the area, or to such other person as the Commissioner may direct, the information required to complete the Census schedule.

3. The verification of the particulars entered in the schedule shall be made in such a manner as the Superintendent may determine, and as far as possible during such period as the Superintendent may fix by notification published in the Gazette.

PART III : DUTIES OF CENSUS OFFICERS

1. Any power or duty conferred or imposed on the Superintendent by the Ordinance or any rule made there, under the general or special direction of the Superintendent, may be exercised or performed by a Deputy Superintendent of Census throughout the Island or by Deputy/Assistant Superintendent of Census within such areas as are allotted to that Deputy/Assistant Superintendent of Census.

2. Any power or duty conferred or imposed on a Commissioner by the Ordinance or any rule made there under may be exercised or performed by a Deputy Commissioner within the area for which he is appointed, under the general or special direction of the Commissioner of that area.

3. Every Supervisor shall attend for instruction classes or inspections on such dates and at such times and places as the Superintendent or the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner of the area for which he/she is appointed as supervisor.

4. Every enumerator shall attend for instruction classes or inspections on such dates and at such times and places as the Superintendent or the Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner of the area for which he/she is appointed as enumerator.

5. No Census Officer or other person employed for the purpose of taking Census shall without lawful authority publish or communicate to any person, otherwise than in the ordinary course of such employment, any information acquired by him/her for the purpose of filling up a schedule or any particulars entered in a schedule.

6. No Census Officer or other person employed for the purpose of taking Census shall, while he/she has in the custody of any schedules, books or other documents relating to any Census, permit any other person without lawful authority to have access thereto.

7. Every Census Officer or other person employed for the purpose of taking any Census shall, an employment as such make and subscribe the following oath or affirmation.

I …… swear/solemnly*, sincerely and truly affirm and declare that I will faithfully and honestly fulfill my duties as …… in conformity with the requirements of the Census Ordinance and all rules made there-under, and that I will not, without due authority in that behalf, publish or communicate any information which I may obtain in the course of my employment as a Census Officer.

……..
Signature

Before me.

Place……
Date……..

……..
Signature & Designation

* Delete inapplicable words.

8. Every Census Officer not below the rank of Supervisor may administer the oath or affirmation prescribed in the proceeding rule to any other Census Officer.

PART IV : INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CENSUS PURPOSES

1. Particulars regarding which information shall be obtained on the Census Schedules for the purposes of the Census are given below.

(a). Population and Housing Schedule :

(i) The following in respect of individuals.

Name:.....
National Identity Card Number:.....
Relationship to head of household
Sex:.....
Date of birth:.....
Marital Status:.....
Religion :.....
Ethnic group :.....
Citizenship :.....
District of birth :.....
Duration (in years) of residence in this district :.....
District of previous (last) residence :.....
Reason for migrating to this usually residing district :.....
Physical and mental difficulties :.....
Educational activity involved in the last 30 days :.....
Whether the person attends the educational activity daily from this unit :.....
Highest educational attainment :.....
Highest professional/ vocational qualification :.....
Whether a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) holder :.....
Speaking, reading and writing ability :.....
Ability to use the computer :.....
Activities in the last 12 months and their durations (in weeks) :.....
Main occupation or kind of work done in the last 12 months :.....
Nature of economic activity (agriculture, industry, business or service) of the work place :.....
Name of the work place :.....
Does the person attend work/economic activity daily from this unit :.....
Employment status and sector :.....
Main non economic activity in the last 12 months :.....
Total number of children born alive :.....
Total number of living children :.....
Date of birth of the last live born child :.....

(ii) Has a member of this household gone abroad for a duration of more than 6 months with the intention to return to this household ? If ' Yes '
Name :.....
Sex :.....
Completed age as at last birthday :.....
Name and code of currently residing country :.....
Reason for going abroad (Employment/ Education/ Other) :.....

(iii) Household Information
Number of usual residents in the household.
Principal source of drinking water :.....
Principal type of cooking fuel :.....

Principal type of lighting : .....
Toilet facilities : .....
Type of toilet : .....
Principal method of solid waste disposal : .....
Tenure : .....
Existing communication equipments : .....
Ability to access internet from house : .....
Whether accessing internet elsewhere : .....
If accessing internet from elsewhere, what is/are the place/s of access.

(iv) Housing Unit information
Number of households in the unit : .....
Number of usual residents in this unit : .....
Principal materials of construction of the housing unit : .....
Type of structure : .....
Year of Construction : .....
Unit usage : .....
Rooms : .....
Number of rooms : .....

(b) Schedule for roofless persons
Name : .....
National Identity Card Number : .....
Sex : .....
Date of birth/Age : .....
Marital status : .....
Religion : .....
Ethnic group : .....
Educational activity involved in the last 30 days : .....
Highest Educational attainment : .....
Speaking, reading & writing ability : .....
Involve in any occupation or economic activity : .....
If yes, occupation/economic activity : .....
Physical and mental disabilities : .....

2. A Census Officer may obtain the information necessary for the Census by asking questions relating to the particulars prescribed in rule I from all persons within his/her area regarding themselves as the persons constituting their respective households or by causing the particulars to be entered by such persons on prescribed forms.

3. A Census Officer may ask from any person such questions as may be necessary to ensure that the schedule of the Census of Population and Housing and the schedule of roofless persons are filled up correctly.

4. A Census Officer may inquire and revise the information collected on residents and housing units at any appropriate time as directed by the Superintendent.

5. A Census Officer may in order to satisfy himself/herself that the particulars referred to in rule I regarding any person had been recorded and ask that personal questions relating to his name, the place where he usually resides for recording all or some of the particulars referred to in rule I, and it shall be the duty of that person to answer these questions.

6. Every person who is required to fill up a schedule under the provisions of the ordinance or any rule made there under shall on the revision round, amend if necessary, these particulars entered by him/her in respect of any person whose name appears in that or any other schedule and shall enter these in any particulars referred to in rule I as if they are not entered therein already.

01-603

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2264/8 - 2022 ජනවාරි මස 25 වැනි අඟහරුවාදා - 2022.01.25

No. 2264/8 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

HON. Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation has under Section 6 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143), appointed District Secretary of each Administrative District hereto, to be in addition to own duties a Commissioner of Census for the District, under Section 7 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143) appointed each Officer mentioned in Column 2 of the Schedule hereto, to be in addition to own duties, a Deputy Commissioner of Census for the District and each Officer mentioned in Column 3 of the schedule hereto, to be in addition to own duties, an Assistant Commissioner of Census for the District specified in the Column 1 of that Schedule.

V.P.K. Anusha Palpita,
Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation.

Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation,
Colombo,
21st January, 2022.

1A- G 35898 - 20 (01/2022)
This Gazette Extraordinary can be downloaded from www.documents.gov.lk

Schedule

	Column 1 *District*	*Column 2* *Officer*	*Column 3* *Officer*
1.	Colombo	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
2.	Gampaha	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
3.	Kalutara	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
4.	Kandy	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
5.	Matale	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
6.	Nuwara Eliya	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
7.	Galle	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
8.	Matara	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
9.	Hambanthota	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
10.	Jaffna	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
11.	Mannar	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
12.	Vavuniya	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
13.	Mullaitivu	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
14.	Kilinochchi	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
15.	Batticaloa	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
16.	Ampara	Additional District Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
17.	Trincomalee	Additional District Secretary	Administrative Officer
18.	Kurunegala	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
19.	Puttalam	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
20.	Anuradhapura	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
21.	Polonnaruwa	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary
22.	Badulla	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
23.	Moneragala	Additional District Secretary	Assistant District Secretary
24.	Ratnapura	Additional District Secretary 2	Assistant District Secretary
25.	Kegalle	Additional District Secretary (Admin.)	Assistant District Secretary

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

HON. Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation has under Section 7 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143), appointed each Officer mentioned in Column 3 of the Schedule hereto, to be in addition to own duties a Deputy Commissioner of Census and each Officer mentioned in Column 4 of the Schedule hereto, to be in addition to own duties an Assistant Commissioner of Census for the Divisional Secretary's Division specified in the Column 2 of that Schedule.

V.P.K.ANUSHA PALPITA,
Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation.

Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation,
Colombo,
21st January, 2022.

Schedule

Column 1 *District*	*Column 2* *Divisional Secretary's Division*	*Column 3* *officer*	*Column 4* *officer*
1. Colombo	Colombo	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kolonnawa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kaduwela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Homagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Seethawaka	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Padukka	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Maharagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thimbirigasyaya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dehiwala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Ratmalana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Moratuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kesbewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
2. Gampaha	Negombo	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Katana	Divisional Secretary	Administrative GramaNiladhari
	Divulapitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mirigama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Minuwangoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Wattala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ja-Ela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Gampaha	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Attanagalla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dompe	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mahara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kelaniya	Divisional Secretary	Administrative GramaNiladhari
	Biyagama	Divisional Secretary	Administrative GramaNiladhari
3. Kalutara	Panadura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bandaragama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Horana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ingiriya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bulathsinhala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Madurawala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Millaniya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kalutara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Beruwala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dodangoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Matugama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Agalawatta	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Palinda Nuwara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Walallawita	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 District	*Column 2* Divisional Secretary's Division	*Column 3* officer	*Column 4* officer
4. Kandy	Thumpane	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Poojapitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Akurana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pathadumbara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Panwila	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Udadumbara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Minipe	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Medadumbara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kundasale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Gangawate Korale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Harispattuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Hatharaliyedda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Yatinuwara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Udunuwara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Doluwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pathahewaheta	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Delthota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Udapalatha	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ganga Ihala Korale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pasbage Korale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
5. Matale	Galewela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dambulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Naula	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pallepola	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Yatawatta	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Matale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ambanganga Korale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Laggala Pallegama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Wilgamuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Rattota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ukuwela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
6. Nuwara- Eliya	Kothmale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Hanguranketha	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Walapane	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nuwara Eliya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ambagamuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
7. Galle	Bentota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Balapitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Karandeniya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Elpitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Niyagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thawalama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Neluwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nagoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Baddegama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Wanduramba	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 District	*Column 2* Divisional Secretary's Division	*Column 3* officer	*Column 4* officer
7. Galle (*Contd*)	Weliwitiya- Divitura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ambalangoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Gonapinuwala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Madampagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Hikkaduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Rathgama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Galle Four Gravet	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bope- Poddala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Akmeemana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Yakkalamulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Imaduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Habaraduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
8. Matara	Pitabeddara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kotapola	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pasgoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mulatiyana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Athuraliya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Akuressa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Welipitiya	DivisionalSecretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Malimbada	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Kamburupitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Hakmana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kirinda Puhulwella	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thihagoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Weligama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Matara Four Gravets	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Devinuwara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dikwella	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
9. Hambantota	Sooriyawewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Lunugamvehera	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thissamaharama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Hambantota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ambalantota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Angunakolapelessa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Weeraketiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Katuwana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Walasmulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Okewela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Beliatta	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Tangalla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 District	*Column 2* Divisional Secretary's Division	*Column 3* officer	*Column 4* officer
10.Jaffna	Island North	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Karainagar	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	ValikamamWest	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	ValikamamSouthWest	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Valikamam North	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Valikamam South	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Valikamam East	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Vadamarachchi South West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Vadamarachchi East	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Vadamarachchi North	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thenmarachchi	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nallur	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Jaffna	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Island South	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Delft	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
11.Mannar	Mannar Town	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Manthai West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Madhu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nanattan	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Musali	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
12.Vavuniya	Vavuniya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Vavuniya North	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Vavuniya South	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Vengalacheddikulam	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
13.Mullaitivu	Thunukkai	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Manthai East	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Puthukkudiyirippu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Oddusuddan	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Maritime Pattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Welioya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
14.Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipallai	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kandawalai	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Karachchi	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Poonakary	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
15.Batticaloa	Koralai PattuNorth	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Koralai Pattu Central	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Koralai Pattu West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Koralai Pattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Koralai Pattu South	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Eravur Pattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Eravur Town	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Manmunai North	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Manmunai West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Katthankudy	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 District	*Column 2* Divisional Secretary's Division	*Column 3* officer	*Column 4* officer
15.Batticaloa (*Contd*)	Manmunai Pattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Manmunai South West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	PorathivuPattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Manmunai South &Eruvil Pattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
16.Ampara	Dehiattakandiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Padiyathalawa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Mahaoya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Uhana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ampara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Navithanveli	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Samanthurai	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kalmunai	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kalmunai North	Assistant Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning) Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Sainthamaruthu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Karathuivu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ninthavur	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Addalachchenai	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Irakkamam	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Akkaraipattu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Alaiyadivembu	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Damana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thirukkovil	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pothuvil	Assistant Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Lahugala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
17.Trincomalee	Padavi Sripura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kuchchaveli	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Gomarankadawala	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Morawewa	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Trincomalee Town and Four Gravets	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thambalagamuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kanthale	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Kinniya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Muthur	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Seruwila	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Verugal	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
18.Kurunegala	Giribawa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Galgamuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ahatuwewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ambanpola	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kotawehera	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Rasnayakapura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nikaweratiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Maho	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 *District*	*Column 2* *Divisional Secretary's Division*	*Column 3* *officer*	*Column 4* *officer*
18. Kurunegala *(Contd)*	Polpithigama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ibbagamuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ganewatta	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Wariyapola	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kobeigane	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bingiriya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Panduwasnuwara West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Panduwasnuwara East	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bamunakotuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Maspotha	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kurunegala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mallawapitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mawathagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Rideegama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Weerambugedara	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kuliyapitiya East	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kuliyapitiya West	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Udubaddawa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pannala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Narammala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Alawwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Polgahawela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
19. Puttalam	Kalpitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Wanathawilluwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Karuwalagaswewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nawagattegama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Puttalam	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mundalama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mahakumbukkadawala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Anamaduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Pallama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Arachchikattuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Chilaw	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Madampe	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Mahawewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nattandiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Wennappuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dankotuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
20. Anuradhapura	Padaviya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kebithigollewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Medawachchiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Mahawilachchiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nuwaragam Palatha Central	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Rambewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kahatagasdigiliya	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Horowpathana	Divisional Secretary	Deputy Director (Planning)
	Galenbindunuwewa	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Mihinthale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 District	*Column 2* Divisional Secretary's Division	*Column 3* officer	*Column 4* officer
20. Anuradhapura (*Contd*)	Nuwaragam Palatha East	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nachchaduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nochchiyagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Rajanganaya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Tambuttegama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Thalawa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thirappane	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Kekirawa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Palugaswewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ipalogama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Galnewa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Palagala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
21. Polonnaruwa	Hingurakgoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Medirigiriya	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Lankapura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Welikanda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Dimbulagala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thamankaduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Elahera	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
22. Badulla	Mahiyanganaya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Rideemaliyadda	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Meegahakivula	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Kandaketiya	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Soranathota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Passara	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Lunugala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Badulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Hali- Ela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Uva- Paranagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Welimada	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bandarawela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ella	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Haputale	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Haldummulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
23. Monaragala	Bibila	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Madulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Medagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Siyambalanduwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Monaragala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Badalkumbura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Wellawaya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Buttala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Katharagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Thanamalwila	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Sevanagala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

Schedule (*Contd.*)

Column 1 *District*	*Column 2* *Divisional Secretary's Division*	*Column 3* *officer*	*Column 4* *officer*
24. Ratnapura	Eheliyagoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kuruwita	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kiriella	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ratnapura	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Imbulpe	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Balangoda	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kalthota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Opanayaka	Divisional Secretary	Administrative Officer
	Pelmadulla	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Elapatha	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ayagama	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kalawana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Nivithigala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Kahawatta	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Godakawela	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
	Weligepola	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Embilipitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kolonna	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Director (Planning)
25. Kegalle	Rambukkana	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Mawanella	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Aranayake	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Kegalle	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Galigamuwa	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Warakapola	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Ruwanwella	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Bulathkohupitiya	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Yatiyantota	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Dehiowita	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary
	Deraniyagala	Divisional Secretary	Assistant Divisional Secretary

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

HON. Mahinda Rajapaksa as Minister of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation has under Section 4 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143), appointed the Officers mentioned in Schedule I hereto as Deputy Superintendents of Census and Officers mentioned in Schedule II hereto as Assistant Superintendents of Census for the census directed to be taken in the years of 2022 and 2023 by the order published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 2256/7 of 29th November 2021, of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule I

(i) All Additional Director Generals(statistics), Director(statistics), Deputy Director(statistics) and all officers who coverup duties of the above posts.

(ii) Senior Statisticians and Statisticians who have completed 10 years in executive category of the Department of Census and Statistics.

Schedule II

All Statisticians who are not included in the schedule I of the Department of Census and Statistics.

V.P.K. ANUSHA PALPITA,
Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation.

Ministry of Economic Policies and Plan Implementation,
Colombo,
21st January, 2022.

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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No. 2340/03 - MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

Order under Section 2

BY virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 2 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143), I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, direct that a Census of Population and Housing of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka be taken in the years of Two Thousand and Twenty-Three and Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE,
Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization
and National Policies.

Colombo,
28th June, 2023.

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2340/16 - 2023 ජූලි මස 11 වැනි අඟහරුවාදා - 2023.07.11

No. 2340/16 - TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

Order under Section 2

BY virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 2 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143), I, Ranil Wickremesinghe, Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, direct that the second stage of the Census of Population and Housing - 2024, inclusive of numbering of all buildings, numbering of all census units and listing of all census units of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka be taken in the end part of the year 2023.

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE,
Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization
and National Policies.

Colombo,
28th June, 2023.

EOG 07-0029

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2340/34 - 2023 ජූලි මස 12 වැනි බදාදා - 2023.07.12

No. 2340/34 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

RULES made by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies under section 5 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143).

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE,
Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization
and National Policies.

Colombo,
28th June,2023.

Rules

PART 1 : PRELIMINARY

1. These rules may be cited as the Rules of Census of Population and Housing 2024.

2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, "Ordinance" means the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143); 'Superintendent' means the Superintendent of Census, 'Commissioner' means the Commissioner of Census, 'Deputy Commissioner' means the Deputy Commissioner of Census, 'Assistant Commissioner' means the Assistant Commissioner of Census (Superintendent of Census and Commissioners of Census has been published by Extraordinary *Gazette Notification* No. 2264/8 dated 25th January 2022.) In addition to that, the officers involved in the Census duties are also meant as 'Census Officer'.

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PART II: GENERAL

1. The Listing stage of the Census of Population and Housing – 2024 shall be conducted as follows.

Process	*Time Frame*
Numbering all buildings and Census units and paste the same numbered labels on every Census units and collect information about those units and obtaining positional coordinates of locations of buildings using a digital device.	within 3rd and 4th quarters in 2023

2. Every person should supply the information relevant for the listing stage to the Census officer appointed for the relevant area by as the Superintendent or Commissioner

3. Particulars entered in the listing schedule should be checked by supervisors who are appointed by the Superintendent or the Commissioner.

PART III: DUTIES OF CENSUS OFFICERS

1. Any power or duty delegated or assigned on the Superintendent by the Ordinance or any other rule made thereunder, the general or special direction of the Superintendent, may be exercised or performed by a Deputy Superintendent of Census throughout the Island or by a Deputy / Assistant Superintendent of Census in the relevant area prescribed for the said Deputy / Assistant Superintendent of Census.

2. Any power or duty delegated or assigned on a Commissioner by the Ordinance or any other rule made thereunder, may be exercised or performed by a Deputy / Assistant Commissioner within the area for which he/she is appointed, under the general or special direction of the Commissioner of that area.

3. Every Census Officer should attend for instruction classes or inspections on such dates and at such times and places as directed by the Superintendent or Commissioner or the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of the area for which he/she is appointed as a Census Officer.

4. A Census Officer employed for the purpose of listing duties should not, except in connection with the particular service generally, divulge or communicate to any other person, without lawful authority, any information obtained by him for the purpose of completing a schedule.

5. A Census Officer employed for the purpose of listing duties should not disclose the information contained in the tablet computer relating to the listing duties, schedules or other documents to any person not authorized to do so until those are in his custody.

6. Every Census Officer employed for the purpose of taking any Census duties should make and sign the following oath or affirmation.

   I, ……., sincerely and truly affirm and declare that I will faithfully and honestly fulfill my duties as …… in conformity with the requirements of the Census Ordinance and all the rules made there-under, and that I will not, without due authority on that behalf, publish or communicate any information which I may obtain in the course of my employment as a Census Officer.

   …….
   Signature

   Before me.

   Place ……
   Date ……

   ……
   Signature & Designation

7. An officer, who is engaged directly in the administration or technical functions of the Census, should make above mentioned affirmation before an officer holding higher rank than the rank of Census Officer.

PART IV : INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR LISTING PURPOSES

1. Particulars of information that shall be obtained on the Census Schedules for the listing purposes are given below.

(a) Listing Schedule

(i) The following details of individuals.
Name: …….
Postal Address: …….
Telephone number to contact a member of the unit: …….

(ii) The following information about building
Name of the Building: .....
Location of the Building
Latitude: .....
Longitude: .....
Number of the floors in the Building: .....

(iii) The following information about listing units
Type of the unit: ……
Number of Buildings in the Non-Residential Unit: …….
State of Non-Residential Unit: …….
Structure of the Housing Unit: …….
Number of Households in the Housing Unit: …….
Number of usual residents in the unit: …….
Whether the unit has ability / facility and wiliness of the unit to provide information through internet for upcoming census: …….
Whether the premises of the unit or the premises where the unit is located has been affected by a disaster situation within the last 5 years: …….
Whether any members of the unit engage in agriculture related activities: ……
Whether key decision makers in Agricultural activities in the unit: …….
Agricultural land area: …….
Purpose of the Agricultural activities: …….
Whether any member of the unit carries out any non-agricultural economic activity within the unit/ within the premises or out of premises, without a separate building (For Housing Units, Collective Living Quarters and Residential Institutes only): …….

(iv) Special enumeration units identified

Identification information of the officer who should coordinate about the special enumeration unit
Name: …….
Designation: …….
Telephone number: …….

(v) Number of the roofless persons in the Census block: …….

2. A Census Officer may obtain the information necessary for the Census by asking questions relating to the particulars prescribed in Rule I of this Section from all persons within his/her area regarding themselves as the persons constituting their respective households or by arranging the particulars to be entered by such persons on prescribed forms.

3. A Census Officer may inquire and revise the information collected on usual residents and housing units by the place of usual resident at any appropriate time as directed by the Superintendent.

4. A Census Officer may in order to satisfy him/herself if the particulars referred to in Rule I of this Section regarding any person had been recorded and ask personal questions relating to his/her name and the place where he/she usually resides for recording all or some of the particulars referred to in Rule I of this Section, and it shall be the duty of that person to answer these questions.

EOG 07 - 0030

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2371/12 – 2024 පෙබරවාරි මස 13 වැනි අඟහරුවාදා – 2024.02.13
No. 2371/12 – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

(Published by Authority)

PART I: SECTION (I) – GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

Hon. President as the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, has under Section 3 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143) appointed Mrs. Dematagodage Dona Gauri Anoja Seneviratne, Director General of Census and Statistics as Superintendent of Census to Superintend the taking of the Census, directed to be taken in 2023 and 2024 by order published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 2340/03 dated 10th July, 2023 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

K. M. Mahinda Siriwardana,
Secretary,
Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and
National Policies.

Colombo,
05th February, 2024.

EOG 02 – 0092

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2408/06 – 2024 ඔක්තෝබර් මස 28 වැනි සඳුදා – 2024.10.28
No. 2408/06 – MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

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PART I: SECTION (I) – GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 143)

BY virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 2 of the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143), I, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism, direct that the third stage of the Census of Population and Housing – 2024, collection data of individuals and housing units of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka be taken in the end part of the year 2024.

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE,
Minister of Finance, Economic Development,
Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism.

Ministry of Finance, Economic Development,
Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism,
Colombo,
16th day of October 2024.

EOG 10 - 0240/1

1A – G 042988 – 24 (10/2024)
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2A I කොටස: (I) ඡේදය – ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශෙෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය – 2024.10.28
PART I: SEC. (I) – GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA – 28.10.2024

THE CENSUS ORDINANCE

Rules enacted by the Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism under section 5 (Chapter 143) of the Census Ordinance.

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE,
Minister of Finance, Economic Development,
Policy Formulation, Planning and Tourism.

Ministry of Finance, Economic Development,
Policy formulation, Planning and Tourism,
Colombo,
16th day of October 2024.

Rules

PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. These rules shall be cited as the Population and Housing Census Rules 2024.

2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, 'ordinance' means the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143); 'Superintendent' means the Superintendent of Census, 'Commissioner' means the Commissioner of Census, 'Deputy Commissioner' means the Deputy Commissioner of Census 'Assistant Commissioner' means the Assistant Commissioner of Census (Superintendent of Census and Commissioners of Census have been published by the *Extraordinary Gazette Notification* No. 2264/8 dated 25th January 2022.) In addition to that, the officers who are involved in the census duties are also meant as 'Census Officer'.

PART II – GENERAL

1. Enumeration stage of the Population and Housing Census – 2024 shall be conducted as follows.

	Process	Time Frame
(i)	Collecting information about persons according to the usual place of residence and collecting housing information by using tablet computers or "Android" mobile devices or a web form	October 2024 - December 2024
(ii)	Date of Census	19 December 2024
(iii)	Revision Round Enumeration by revising the information of usual residents based on date of the Census and the Census moment.	19 December 2024 - 23 December 2024

2. Information related to the enumeration stage should be provided by every person, to the Census Officers appointed to the area concerned by the Superintendent or Commissioner.

3. Supervising officers appointed by the Superintendent or Commissioner shall check the status of the information entered in the devices and other forms related to the enumeration stage.

PART III – DUTY OF THE CENSUS OFFICERS

1. Any power or duty delegated or entrusted on the Superintendent by the Ordinance or any rule made there, under the general or special direction of the Superintendent, may be exercised or performed by a Deputy Superintendent of Census throughout the Island or by a Deputy / Assistant Superintendent of Census in the area of his / her authority.

2. Any power or duty delegated or entrusted on a Commissioner by the Ordinance or any rule made thereunder may be exercised or performed by a Deputy / Assistant Commissioner within the area for which he/she is appointed, under the general or special direction of the Commissioner of that area.

3. Every Census Officer shall attend the instruction classes or inspections on the dates and at times and places directed by the in charge of Superintendent or Commissioner or the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of the area for which he/she is appointed as a Census Officer.

4. A Census Officer employed for the purpose of enumeration duties shall not, except in connection with that usual service, divulge or communicate to any other person, without lawful authority, any information obtained by him for the purpose of completing a schedule.

5. A Census Officer employed for the purpose of enumeration duties shall not disclose the information contained in the tablet computer or mobile devices or forms or other documents relating to the enumeration duties, devices or other documents to any unauthorized person until those are in his/her custody.

6. Every Census Officer employed for the purpose of taking any Census duties should make and sign the following oath or affirmation.

I, ……., sincerely and truly affirm and declare that I will faithfully and honestly fulfill my duties as …… in conformity with the requirements of the Census Ordinance and all rules made thereunder, and that I will not, without due authority on that behalf, publish or communicate any information which I may obtain in the course of my employment as a Census Officer.

.....
Signature

Before me.

Place : …….....

Date : …….....

……
Signature & Designation

7. Every Census Officer holding a post which is not below the rank of a Supervising Officer may obtain the oath or certificate statement mentioned under the preceding article from any other Census Officer.

PART IV: INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CENSUS PURPOSES

1. Particulars regarding which information shall be obtained on the Census Schedules for the census purposes are given below.

a. Population and Housing Schedule

(i) The following information regarding persons:

Name: .....
National Identity Card Number: .....
Relationship to the head of household: .....
Status of clergy/priest: .....
Sex: .....
Year and month of birth: .....
Whether the birth is registered in Sri Lanka: .....
Marital Status: .....
Religion: .....
Ethnic group: .....
Citizenship: .....
When you are born your mother's usual residence district / country: ……
Current period of residency in the usual district or residence (in years): ……
District/country of previous (last time) usual residence: .....
Reason for migrating to the current usually residing district: .....
District of permanent residence: .....
Divisional Secretariat of permanent residence: .....
Non-communicable disease conditions: .....
Education activity involve in the last 30 days: .....
Highest educational qualification obtained: .....
Whether it is possible to do any work alone using a smart mobile phone or tablet: .....
Whether it is possible to do any work alone using the computer: .....
Physical and mental difficulties: .....
Ability to speak languages: .....
Ability to read and write languages: .....
Whether you have obtained vocational training or qualification (with a certificate): .....
Have you engaged in any economic activity at least for one hour during last week? .....
Main occupation engaged in the last week (economic work done): .....
Category of occupation: .....

Name of the institute: .....

The main economic activity of the work place or the organization where you are employed : ....

The nature of the economic activities carried out work place or the organization where you are employed: .....

The district in which you are working or engaged in an economic activity: ....

In the last week you were no engaged in any economic work but whether you hope to get a paid employment or start a self-employment: .....

Whether you have taken any steps to obtain a paid job or start a self-employment in the last 4 weeks: ....

If you get a job opportunity in the next two weeks whether you are ready to take it up/ or start a self-employment: .....

The main reason of why don't you hope / ready to take up a job/ start a self-employment: ....

Whether a live birth has ever been given: .....

Total number of live births: .....

Total number of children currently alive: .....

Year and month of the last live birth took place: .....

(ii) For persons belonging to the household category but having usual residence elsewhere in the country (except for permanent residence)

Name: .....

Relationship to the head of the household: .....

Sex: .....

Age in years as at the last birthday: .....

Name and code of the district of current residence: .....

The main reason for usually living elsewhere: .....

(iii) For persons belonging to the household category but have gone abroad for more than 6 months or who have gone abroad intending to stay abroad for more than 6 months. (Except for permanent residence)

Name: .....

Relationship to the head of the household: .....

Sex: .....

Age in years as at the last birthday: .....

Name and code of the country of current residence: .....

Main reason for living in abroad: .....

Time spent in abroad: .....

(iv) Information about household category:

Number of usual residents in the household: .....
The main source of drinking water: .....
Whether you have access to drinking water in your household category within your house: .....
Availability of water throughout the year from the main source of drinking water: .....
Months in which drinking water was not available in the last year (2023): …….
Main type of energy/fuel used for cooking: .....
Secondary energy/fuel type used for cooking: .....
The main source of lighting: .....
Secondary source of lighting: .....
Toilet facilities: .....
Type of toilet: .....
The main system of disposal of solid waste: .....
Disposal of liquid waste: .....
Tenure of the house: .....
Available communication technology equipment, facilities (currently in use) and vehicles for the use of household category: .....
Whether any member of this household group died in 2023.: .....
Number of deceased people: .....
The number of registered deaths: .....

(v) Information on Housing Unit

Whether the housing unit is an ordinary housing unit or whether it is a chamari (co - housing) / boarding house where occupants are not relatives: .....
Structure of housing unit: .....
Year of completed: .....
Main materials used for construction: .....
Whether the housing unit is a single room or the number of rooms in the unit is more than one: .....
Number of bedrooms: .....
Total number of rooms in the housing unit: .....

b. Whether the questionnaire has been completed or a part has been completed: ……...

2. A Census Officer may obtain the information necessary for the Census by asking questions relating to the particulars prescribed in rule I in this Section from all persons within his/her area regarding themselves as the persons constituting their respective households or by arranging the particulars to be entered by such persons on prescribed forms.

3. It is acceptable for a Census Officer to ask any person the necessary questions to ensure that the Schedule for Population and Housing, the Schedule for Special Institutions and the Schedule of Persons without a shelter have been completed correctly.

4. A Census Officer may inquire and revise the information collected regarding usual residents and housing units as per the place of usual residence at any appropriate time as directed by the Superintendent.

5. A Census Officer may in order to satisfy him/herself that the particulars referred to in rule I in this Section regarding any person had been recorded and ask personal questions relating to his/her name and the place where he/she usually resides for recording all or some of the particulars referred to in rule I in this Section, and it shall be the duty of that person to answer these questions.

6. Every person is required to complete a schedule under the provisions of the Ordinance or any rules made thereunder may amend the particulars entered by him on behalf of any person whose name appears in that schedule or in any other schedule, if necessary during the revision round and to include certain matters which are not currently included under rule I in this Section.

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2437/45 - 2025 මැයි මස 22 වැනි බ්‍රහස්පතින්දා - 2025.05.22

No. 2437/45 - THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

NOTICE

THE Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka was conducted from October 2024 to December 2024 according to the Census Ordinance (Chapter 143). The population of Sri Lanka on district basis (Provisional) as per Census date 19th December 2024 is published herewith and district basis population taken from the Census conducted in 2012 is given for comparison purposes.

D.D.G.A. SENEVIRATNE,
Superintendent of Census.

3rd floor,
"Sankyana Mandiraya",
No.306/71, Polduwa Road,
Battaramulla.
22nd May, 2025.

District	*Census 2024 (Provisional)*	*Census 2012*	*Number increased 2012-2024*	*Percentage increased 2012-2024*	*Average annual growth rate 2012-2024*
Sri Lanka	**21,763,170**	**20,359,439**	**1,403,731**	**6.9**	**0.52**
Colombo	2,374,461	2,324,349	50,112	2.2	0.17
Gampaha	2,433,685	2,304,833	128,852	5.6	0.43

1A - G 44402- 14 (05/2025)
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District	*Census 2024 (Provisional)*	*Census 2012*	*Number increased 2012-2024*	*Percentage increased 2012-2024*	*Average annual growth rate 2012-2024*
Kalutara	1,305,552	1,221,948	83,604	6.8	0.52
Kandy	1,461,269	1,375,382	85,887	6.2	0.47
Matale	526,578	484,531	42,047	8.7	0.65
Nuwara Eliya	724,957	711,644	13,313	1.9	0.15
Galle	1,096,585	1,063,334	33,251	3.1	0.24
Matara	837,884	814,048	23,836	2.9	0.23
Hambantota	671,037	599,903	71,134	11.9	0.88
Jaffna	594,333	583,882	10,451	1.8	0.14
Mannar	123,674	99,570	24,104	24.2	1.70
Vavuniya	172,257	172,115	142	0.1	0.01
Mullaitivu	122,542	92,238	30,304	32.9	2.23
Kilinochchi	136,434	113,510	22,924	20.2	1.44
Batticaloa	595,435	526,567	68,868	13.1	0.96
Ampara	744,150	649,402	94,748	14.6	1.07
Trincomalee	442,465	379,541	62,924	16.6	1.20
Kurunegala	1,760,829	1,618,465	142,364	8.8	0.66
Puttalam	818,065	762,396	55,669	7.3	0.55
Anuradhapura	959,552	860,575	98,977	11.5	0.85
Polonnaruwa	447,338	406,088	41,250	10.2	0.76
Badulla	871,763	815,405	56,358	6.9	0.52
Moneragala	527,286	451,058	76,228	16.9	1.22
Ratnapura	1,145,138	1,088,007	57,131	5.3	0.40
Kegalle	869,901	840,648	29,253	3.5	0.19

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