

**Census of Population and Housing of Sri Lanka, 2012**

**Table A30: Population aged 10 years and over, by ability to speak, ability to read and write main languages, ethnic group, sex and sector**

Ethnic group, sex and sector	Population aged 10 years & over	Ability to speak						Ability to read and write					
		Sinhala		Tamil		English		Sinhala		Tamil		English	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Ratnapura District</b>													
<b>All Sectors</b>													
<b>Both Sexes</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>906,327</b>	<b>882,751</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>149,450</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>130,285</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>798,086</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>126,036</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>194,760</b>	<b>21.5</b>
Sinhala	795,210	790,840	99.5	41,104	5.2	114,941	14.5	757,012	95.2	33,044	4.2	173,675	21.8
Sri Lanka Tamil	42,928	35,122	81.8	41,775	97.3	4,853	11.3	14,900	34.7	35,913	83.7	7,095	16.5
Indian Tamil	49,693	39,529	79.5	49,044	98.7	3,945	7.9	13,698	27.6	39,678	79.8	5,937	11.9
Sri Lanka Moor	17,439	16,350	93.8	16,807	96.4	6,086	34.9	11,747	67.4	16,700	95.8	7,196	41.3
Burgher	348	330	94.8	185	53.2	167	48.0	278	79.9	144	41.4	323	92.8
Malay	246	237	96.3	178	72.4	126	51.2	212	86.2	237	96.3	131	53.3
Other	463	343	74.1	357	77.1	167	36.1	239	51.6	320	69.1	403	87.0
<b>Male</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>445,124</b>	<b>436,475</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>76,946</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>62,423</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>398,114</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>63,238</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>90,501</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Sinhala	390,579	388,607	99.5	23,761	6.1	54,166	13.9	376,282	96.3	14,885	3.8	79,456	20.3
Sri Lanka Tamil	21,258	18,340	86.3	20,699	97.4	2,578	12.1	7,849	36.9	18,747	88.2	3,708	17.4
Indian Tamil	24,083	20,814	86.4	23,769	98.7	2,190	9.1	7,516	31.2	20,830	86.5	3,146	13.1
Sri Lanka Moor	8,683	8,251	95.0	8,366	96.3	3,246	37.4	6,097	70.2	8,436	97.2	3,754	43.2
Burgher	164	158	96.3	90	54.9	82	50.0	132	80.5	69	42.1	154	93.9
Malay	118	115	97.5	84	71.2	62	52.5	103	87.3	116	98.3	65	55.1
Other	239	190	79.5	177	74.1	99	41.4	135	56.5	155	64.9	218	91.2
<b>Female</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>461,203</b>	<b>446,276</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>72,504</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>67,862</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>399,972</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>62,798</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>104,259</b>	<b>22.6</b>
Sinhala	404,631	402,233	99.4	17,343	4.3	60,775	15.0	380,730	94.1	18,159	4.5	94,219	23.3
Sri Lanka Tamil	21,670	16,782	77.4	21,076	97.3	2,275	10.5	7,051	32.5	17,166	79.2	3,387	15.6
Indian Tamil	25,610	18,715	73.1	25,275	98.7	1,755	6.9	6,182	24.1	18,848	73.6	2,791	10.9
Sri Lanka Moor	8,756	8,099	92.5	8,441	96.4	2,840	32.4	5,650	64.5	8,264	94.4	3,442	39.3
Burgher	184	172	93.5	95	51.6	85	46.2	146	79.3	75	40.8	169	91.8
Malay	128	122	95.3	94	73.4	64	50.0	109	85.2	121	94.5	66	51.6
Other	224	153	68.3	180	80.4	68	30.4	104	46.4	165	73.7	185	82.6

Urban Sector

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Ethnic group, sex and sector	Population aged 10 years & over	Ability to speak						Ability to read and write					
		Sinhala		Tamil		English		Sinhala		Tamil		English	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Ratnapura District</b>													
<b>Both Sexes</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,806</b>	<b>81,695</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>16,904</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>26,167</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>77,220</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>16,478</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>32,814</b>	<b>39.6</b>
Sinhala	71,112	70,713	99.4	5,671	8.0	21,253	29.9	69,329	97.5	5,461	7.7	27,287	38.4
Sri Lanka Tamil	3,702	3,408	92.1	3,557	96.1	1,301	35.1	2,185	59.0	3,386	91.5	1,471	39.7
Indian Tamil	973	909	93.4	952	97.8	359	36.9	552	56.7	898	92.3	392	40.3
Sri Lanka Moor	6,801	6,467	95.1	6,578	96.7	3,113	45.8	4,974	73.1	6,587	96.9	3,497	51.4
Burgher	67	64	95.5	33	49.3	42	62.7	58	86.6	19	28.4	62	92.5
Malay	111	107	96.4	91	82.0	68	61.3	96	86.5	107	96.4	66	59.5
Other	40	27	67.5	22	55.0	31	77.5	26	65.0	20	50.0	39	97.5
<b>Male</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,179</b>	<b>39,748</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>8,791</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>12,870</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>37,841</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>8,063</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>15,776</b>	<b>39.3</b>
Sinhala	34,325	34,155	99.5	3,159	9.2	10,239	29.8	33,736	98.3	2,451	7.1	12,871	37.5
Sri Lanka Tamil	1,815	1,714	94.4	1,744	96.1	683	37.6	1,101	60.7	1,711	94.3	767	42.3
Indian Tamil	459	440	95.9	451	98.3	183	39.9	280	61.0	438	95.4	195	42.5
Sri Lanka Moor	3,473	3,342	96.2	3,369	97.0	1,694	48.8	2,639	76.0	3,393	97.7	1,862	53.6
Burgher	33	32	97.0	17	51.5	23	69.7	30	90.9	11	33.3	31	93.9
Malay	54	53	98.1	44	81.5	32	59.3	44	81.5	53	98.1	30	55.6
Other	20	12	60.0	7	35.0	16	80.0	11	55.0	6	30.0	20	100.0
<b>Female</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,627</b>	<b>41,947</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>8,113</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>13,297</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>39,379</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>8,415</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>17,038</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Sinhala	36,787	36,558	99.4	2,512	6.8	11,014	29.9	35,593	96.8	3,010	8.2	14,416	39.2
Sri Lanka Tamil	1,887	1,694	89.8	1,813	96.1	618	32.8	1,084	57.4	1,675	88.8	704	37.3
Indian Tamil	514	469	91.2	501	97.5	176	34.2	272	52.9	460	89.5	197	38.3
Sri Lanka Moor	3,328	3,125	93.9	3,209	96.4	1,419	42.6	2,335	70.2	3,194	96.0	1,635	49.1
Burgher	34	32	94.1	16	47.1	19	55.9	28	82.4	8	23.5	31	91.2
Malay	57	54	94.7	47	82.5	36	63.2	52	91.2	54	94.7	36	63.2
Other	20	15	75.0	15	75.0	15	75.0	15	75.0	14	70.0	19	95.0

Rural Sector  
Both Sexes

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Ethnic group, sex and sector	Population aged 10 years & over	Ability to speak						Ability to read and write					
		Sinhala		Tamil		English		Sinhala		Tamil		English	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Ratnapura District</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>744,418</b>	<b>737,452</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>62,375</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>97,491</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>691,917</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>52,685</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>150,772</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Sinhala	712,384	708,485	99.5	32,058	4.5	91,674	12.9	676,735	95.0	26,138	3.7	143,315	20.1
Sri Lanka Tamil	12,141	10,917	89.9	11,438	94.2	1,680	13.8	5,088	41.9	9,744	80.3	2,098	17.3
Indian Tamil	9,306	8,180	87.9	8,932	96.0	995	10.7	3,078	33.1	6,891	74.0	1,235	13.3
Sri Lanka Moor	9,911	9,274	93.6	9,518	96.0	2,871	29.0	6,548	66.1	9,484	95.7	3,555	35.9
Burgher	243	237	97.5	117	48.1	106	43.6	198	81.5	97	39.9	231	95.1
Malay	122	117	95.9	75	61.5	53	43.4	106	86.9	118	96.7	60	49.2
Other	311	242	77.8	237	76.2	112	36.0	164	52.7	213	68.5	278	89.4
<b>Male</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,296</b>	<b>363,382</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>33,686</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>45,929</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>344,914</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>25,367</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>68,876</b>	<b>18.8</b>
Sinhala	350,447	348,676	99.5	18,682	5.3	42,858	12.2	337,053	96.2	11,700	3.3	65,054	18.6
Sri Lanka Tamil	6,099	5,642	92.5	5,764	94.5	891	14.6	2,677	43.9	5,153	84.5	1,091	17.9
Indian Tamil	4,561	4,166	91.3	4,382	96.1	531	11.6	1,608	35.3	3,597	78.9	623	13.7
Sri Lanka Moor	4,856	4,594	94.6	4,651	95.8	1,506	31.0	3,337	68.7	4,713	97.1	1,820	37.5
Burgher	111	109	98.2	54	48.6	50	45.0	90	81.1	44	39.6	106	95.5
Malay	60	58	96.7	36	60.0	27	45.0	56	93.3	59	98.3	32	53.3
Other	162	137	84.6	117	72.2	66	40.7	93	57.4	101	62.3	150	92.6
<b>Female</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>378,122</b>	<b>374,070</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>28,689</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>51,562</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>347,003</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>27,318</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>81,896</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Sinhala	361,937	359,809	99.4	13,376	3.7	48,816	13.5	339,682	93.9	14,438	4.0	78,261	21.6
Sri Lanka Tamil	6,042	5,275	87.3	5,674	93.9	789	13.1	2,411	39.9	4,591	76.0	1,007	16.7
Indian Tamil	4,745	4,014	84.6	4,550	95.9	464	9.8	1,470	31.0	3,294	69.4	612	12.9
Sri Lanka Moor	5,055	4,680	92.6	4,867	96.3	1,365	27.0	3,211	63.5	4,771	94.4	1,735	34.3
Burgher	132	128	97.0	63	47.7	56	42.4	108	81.8	53	40.2	125	94.7
Malay	62	59	95.2	39	62.9	26	41.9	50	80.6	59	95.2	28	45.2
Other	149	105	70.5	120	80.5	46	30.9	71	47.7	112	75.2	128	85.9
<b>Estate Sector</b>													
<b>Both Sexes</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,103</b>	<b>63,604</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>70,171</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>6,627</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>28,949</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>56,873</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>11,174</b>	<b>14.1</b>

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Ethnic group, sex and sector	Population aged 10 years & over	Ability to speak						Ability to read and write					
		Sinhala		Tamil		English		Sinhala		Tamil		English	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Ratnapura District</b>													
Sinhala	11,714	11,642	99.4	3,375	28.8	2,014	17.2	10,948	93.5	1,445	12.3	3,073	26.2
Sri Lanka Tamil	27,085	20,797	76.8	26,780	98.9	1,872	6.9	7,627	28.2	22,783	84.1	3,526	13.0
Indian Tamil	39,414	30,440	77.2	39,160	99.4	2,591	6.6	10,068	25.5	31,889	80.9	4,310	10.9
Sri Lanka Moor	727	609	83.8	711	97.8	102	14.0	225	30.9	629	86.5	144	19.8
Burgher	38	29	76.3	35	92.1	19	50.0	22	57.9	28	73.7	30	78.9
Malay	13	13	100.0	12	92.3	5	38.5	10	76.9	12	92.3	5	38.5
Other	112	74	66.1	98	87.5	24	21.4	49	43.8	87	77.7	86	76.8
<b>Male</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,649</b>	<b>33,345</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>34,469</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>15,359</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>29,808</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>5,849</b>	<b>15.1</b>
Sinhala	5,807	5,776	99.5	1,920	33.1	1,069	18.4	5,493	94.6	734	12.6	1,531	26.4
Sri Lanka Tamil	13,344	10,984	82.3	13,191	98.9	1,004	7.5	4,071	30.5	11,883	89.1	1,850	13.9
Indian Tamil	19,063	16,208	85.0	18,936	99.3	1,476	7.7	5,628	29.5	16,795	88.1	2,328	12.2
Sri Lanka Moor	354	315	89.0	346	97.7	46	13.0	121	34.2	330	93.2	72	20.3
Burgher	20	17	85.0	19	95.0	9	45.0	12	60.0	14	70.0	17	85.0
Malay	4	4	100.0	4	100.0	3	75.0	3	75.0	4	100.0	3	75.0
Other	57	41	71.9	53	93.0	17	29.8	31	54.4	48	84.2	48	84.2
<b>Female</b>													
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,454</b>	<b>30,259</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>35,702</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>13,590</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>27,065</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Sinhala	5,907	5,866	99.3	1,455	24.6	945	16.0	5,455	92.3	711	12.0	1,542	26.1
Sri Lanka Tamil	13,741	9,813	71.4	13,589	98.9	868	6.3	3,556	25.9	10,900	79.3	1,676	12.2
Indian Tamil	20,351	14,232	69.9	20,224	99.4	1,115	5.5	4,440	21.8	15,094	74.2	1,982	9.7
Sri Lanka Moor	373	294	78.8	365	97.9	56	15.0	104	27.9	299	80.2	72	19.3
Burgher	18	12	66.7	16	88.9	10	55.6	10	55.6	14	77.8	13	72.2
Malay	9	9	100.0	8	88.9	2	22.2	7	77.8	8	88.9	2	22.2
Other	55	33	60.0	45	81.8	7	12.7	18	32.7	39	70.9	38	69.1

Source: Census of population and housing -2012