

Census of Population and Housing of Sri Lanka, 2012

Table A32 :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.	%
Sri Lanka													
All Sectors													
Both sexes													
Total	16,867,825	14,670,239	87.0	4,807,584	28.5	4,019,583	23.8	13,439,904	79.7	4,456,056	26.4	5,194,996	30.8
Sinhala	12,764,681	12,701,932	99.5	812,738	6.4	3,033,659	23.8	12,311,434	96.4	671,583	5.3	3,966,714	31.1
Sri Lanka Tamil	1,871,960	614,169	32.8	1,835,657	98.1	390,676	20.9	324,654	17.3	1,760,820	94.1	455,718	24.3
Indian Tamil	671,378	412,685	61.5	664,541	99.0	87,435	13.0	140,633	20.9	578,471	86.2	130,441	19.4
Sri Lanka Moor	1,467,956	862,397	58.7	1,442,875	98.3	446,146	30.4	595,789	40.6	1,391,570	94.8	567,513	38.7
Burgher	33,170	29,277	88.3	12,738	38.4	24,412	73.6	25,541	77.0	9,648	29.1	32,308	97.4
Malay	36,567	34,899	95.4	28,975	79.2	24,202	66.2	29,895	81.8	35,495	97.1	24,433	66.8
All other	22,113	14,880	67.3	10,060	45.5	13,053	59.0	11,958	54.1	8,469	38.3	17,869	80.8
Male													
Total	8,095,303	7,190,566	88.8	2,367,373	29.2	2,014,002	24.9	6,568,127	81.1	2,153,667	26.6	2,518,428	31.1
Sinhala	6,140,074	6,111,296	99.5	465,724	7.6	1,492,968	24.3	5,973,777	97.3	310,070	5.0	1,892,932	30.8
Sri Lanka Tamil	889,204	342,409	38.5	871,800	98.0	202,832	22.8	174,657	19.6	846,176	95.2	227,352	25.6
Indian Tamil	316,049	225,635	71.4	312,833	99.0	47,716	15.1	73,251	23.2	290,226	91.8	67,876	21.5
Sri Lanka Moor	704,930	473,457	67.2	692,383	98.2	239,920	34.0	313,904	44.5	681,672	96.7	293,030	41.6
Burgher	15,529	13,909	89.6	6,097	39.3	11,629	74.9	12,150	78.2	4,503	29.0	15,216	98.0
Malay	17,116	16,420	95.9	13,609	79.5	11,628	67.9	14,320	83.7	16,748	97.8	11,738	68.6
All other	12,401	7,440	60.0	4,927	39.7	7,309	58.9	6,068	48.9	4,272	34.4	10,284	82.9
Female													
Total	8,772,522	7,479,673	85.3	2,440,211	27.8	2,005,581	22.9	6,871,777	78.3	2,302,389	26.2	2,676,568	30.5
Sinhala	6,624,607	6,590,636	99.5	347,014	5.2	1,540,691	23.3	6,337,657	95.7	361,513	5.5	2,073,782	31.3
Sri Lanka Tamil	982,756	271,760	27.7	963,857	98.1	187,844	19.1	149,997	15.3	914,644	93.1	228,366	23.2
Indian Tamil	355,329	187,050	52.6	351,708	99.0	39,719	11.2	67,382	19.0	288,245	81.1	62,565	17.6

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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.	%
SriLankaMoor	763,026	388,940	51.0	750,492	98.4	206,226	27.0	281,885	36.9	709,898	93.0	274,483	36.0
Burgher	17,641	15,368	87.1	6,641	37.6	12,783	72.5	13,391	75.9	5,145	29.2	17,092	96.9
Malay	19,451	18,479	95.0	15,366	79.0	12,574	64.6	15,575	80.1	18,747	96.4	12,695	65.3
All other	9,712	7,440	76.6	5,133	52.9	5,744	59.1	5,890	60.6	4,197	43.2	7,585	78.1
Urban Sector													
Both sexes													
Total	3,130,283	2,665,689	85.2	1,294,442	41.4	1,381,251	44.1	2,412,056	77.1	1,223,867	39.1	1,547,334	49.4
Sinhala	1,998,321	1,989,869	99.6	206,456	10.3	905,319	45.3	1,967,906	98.5	152,150	7.6	1,019,257	51.0
SriLankaTamil	526,441	275,973	52.4	515,365	97.9	208,115	39.5	157,263	29.9	508,719	96.6	221,899	42.2
IndianTamil	40,107	31,875	79.5	39,121	97.5	17,664	44.0	16,187	40.4	37,858	94.4	18,626	46.4
SriLankaMoor	521,762	331,216	63.5	508,060	97.4	218,079	41.8	239,763	46.0	499,079	95.7	250,841	48.1
Burgher	16,971	14,528	85.6	7,020	41.4	12,972	76.4	12,493	73.6	5,445	32.1	16,538	97.4
Malay	17,319	16,353	94.4	14,019	80.9	11,532	66.6	13,747	79.4	16,817	97.1	11,443	66.1
All other	9,362	5,875	62.8	4,401	47.0	7,570	80.9	4,697	50.2	3,799	40.6	8,730	93.2
Male													
Total	1,510,749	1,326,645	87.8	636,805	42.2	700,576	46.4	1,188,816	78.7	594,055	39.3	770,334	51.0
Sinhala	965,508	961,465	99.6	113,286	11.7	450,547	46.7	953,690	98.8	71,540	7.4	499,297	51.7
SriLankaTamil	249,831	149,771	59.9	244,371	97.8	107,327	43.0	84,344	33.8	243,411	97.4	111,843	44.8
IndianTamil	19,112	16,335	85.5	18,633	97.5	9,154	47.9	8,170	42.7	18,448	96.5	9,479	49.6
SriLankaMoor	255,283	181,543	71.1	248,399	97.3	117,929	46.2	127,690	50.0	248,265	97.3	131,795	51.6
Burgher	7,906	6,886	87.1	3,363	42.5	6,092	77.1	5,920	74.9	2,567	32.5	7,754	98.1
Malay	8,150	7,766	95.3	6,635	81.4	5,538	68.0	6,653	81.6	7,973	97.8	5,493	67.4
All other	4,959	2,879	58.1	2,118	42.7	3,989	80.4	2,349	47.4	1,851	37.3	4,673	94.2

Census of Population and Housing of Sri Lanka, 2012

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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.	%
Female													
Total	1,619,534	1,339,044	82.7	657,637	40.6	680,675	42.0	1,223,240	75.5	629,812	38.9	777,000	48.0
Sinhala	1,032,813	1,028,404	99.6	93,170	9.0	454,772	44.0	1,014,216	98.2	80,610	7.8	519,960	50.3
SriLankaTamil	276,610	126,202	45.6	270,994	98.0	100,788	36.4	72,919	26.4	265,308	95.9	110,056	39.8
IndianTamil	20,995	15,540	74.0	20,488	97.6	8,510	40.5	8,017	38.2	19,410	92.5	9,147	43.6
SriLankaMoor	266,479	149,673	56.2	259,661	97.4	100,150	37.6	112,073	42.1	250,814	94.1	119,046	44.7
Burgher	9,065	7,642	84.3	3,657	40.3	6,880	75.9	6,573	72.5	2,878	31.7	8,784	96.9
Malay	9,169	8,587	93.7	7,384	80.5	5,994	65.4	7,094	77.4	8,844	96.5	5,950	64.9
All other	4,403	2,996	68.0	2,283	51.9	3,581	81.3	2,348	53.3	1,948	44.2	4,057	92.1
Rural Sector													
Both sexes													
Total	13,021,416	11,540,351	88.6	2,853,275	21.9	2,566,240	19.7	10,832,583	83.2	2,682,416	20.6	3,525,730	27.1
Sinhala	10,683,077	10,629,440	99.5	574,405	5.4	2,113,490	19.8	10,267,638	96.1	508,451	4.8	2,926,231	27.4
SriLankaTamil	1,254,476	268,315	21.4	1,230,646	98.1	174,313	13.9	141,965	11.3	1,176,062	93.7	220,840	17.6
IndianTamil	95,234	73,201	76.9	92,661	97.3	21,933	23.0	32,411	34.0	82,854	87.0	25,993	27.3
SriLankaMoor	941,378	527,800	56.1	930,060	98.8	227,263	24.1	354,530	37.7	888,213	94.4	315,496	33.5
Burgher	15,750	14,409	91.5	5,324	33.8	11,251	71.4	12,849	81.6	3,861	24.5	15,371	97.6
Malay	19,078	18,393	96.4	14,792	77.5	12,604	66.1	16,059	84.2	18,516	97.1	12,916	67.7
All other	12,423	8,793	70.8	5,387	43.4	5,386	43.4	7,131	57.4	4,459	35.9	8,883	71.5
Male													
Total	6,245,244	5,612,853	89.9	1,417,303	22.7	1,273,343	20.4	5,278,033	84.5	1,281,445	20.5	1,684,454	27.0
Sinhala	5,133,824	5,109,388	99.5	335,452	6.5	1,034,434	20.1	4,981,826	97.0	232,804	4.5	1,382,860	26.9
SriLankaTamil	595,581	156,231	26.2	584,360	98.1	91,126	15.3	76,957	12.9	564,000	94.7	108,856	18.3
IndianTamil	44,891	37,230	82.9	43,640	97.2	11,444	25.5	16,375	36.5	40,583	90.4	13,127	29.2
SriLankaMoor	447,387	290,142	64.9	441,751	98.7	121,590	27.2	185,488	41.5	431,295	96.4	160,673	35.9

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		Sinhala		Tamil		English		Sinhala		Tamil		English	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Burgher	7,408	6,841	92.3	2,540	34.3	5,433	73.3	6,125	82.7	1,768	23.9	7,261	98.0
Malay	8,882	8,579	96.6	6,893	77.6	6,057	68.2	7,622	85.8	8,694	97.9	6,212	69.9
All other	7,271	4,442	61.1	2,667	36.7	3,259	44.8	3,640	50.1	2,301	31.6	5,465	75.2
Female													
Total	6,776,172	5,927,498	87.5	1,435,972	21.2	1,292,897	19.1	5,554,550	82.0	1,400,971	20.7	1,841,276	27.2
Sinhala	5,549,253	5,520,052	99.5	238,953	4.3	1,079,056	19.4	5,285,812	95.3	275,647	5.0	1,543,371	27.8
SriLankaTamil	658,895	112,084	17.0	646,286	98.1	83,187	12.6	65,008	9.9	612,062	92.9	111,984	17.0
IndianTamil	50,343	35,971	71.5	49,021	97.4	10,489	20.8	16,036	31.9	42,271	84.0	12,866	25.6
SriLankaMoor	493,991	237,658	48.1	488,309	98.8	105,673	21.4	169,042	34.2	456,918	92.5	154,823	31.3
Burgher	8,342	7,568	90.7	2,784	33.4	5,818	69.7	6,724	80.6	2,093	25.1	8,110	97.2
Malay	10,196	9,814	96.3	7,899	77.5	6,547	64.2	8,437	82.7	9,822	96.3	6,704	65.8
All other	5,152	4,351	84.5	2,720	52.8	2,127	41.3	3,491	67.8	2,158	41.9	3,418	66.3
Estate Sector													
Both sexes													
Total	716,126	464,199	64.8	659,867	92.1	72,092	10.1	195,265	27.3	549,773	76.8	121,932	17.0
Sinhala	83,283	82,623	99.2	31,877	38.3	14,850	17.8	75,890	91.1	10,982	13.2	21,226	25.5
SriLankaTamil	91,043	69,881	76.8	89,646	98.5	8,248	9.1	25,426	27.9	76,039	83.5	12,979	14.3
IndianTamil	536,037	307,609	57.4	532,759	99.4	47,838	8.9	92,035	17.2	457,759	85.4	85,822	16.0
SriLankaMoor	4,816	3,381	70.2	4,755	98.7	804	16.7	1,496	31.1	4,278	88.8	1,176	24.4
Burgher	449	340	75.7	394	87.8	189	42.1	199	44.3	342	76.2	399	88.9
Malay	170	153	90.0	164	96.5	66	38.8	89	52.4	162	95.3	74	43.5
All other	328	212	64.6	272	82.9	97	29.6	130	39.6	211	64.3	256	78.0

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		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male													
Total	339,310	251,068	74.0	313,265	92.3	40,083	11.8	101,278	29.8	278,167	82.0	63,640	18.8
Sinhala	40,742	40,443	99.3	16,986	41.7	7,987	19.6	38,261	93.9	5,726	14.1	10,775	26.4
SriLankaTamil	43,792	36,407	83.1	43,069	98.3	4,379	10.0	13,356	30.5	38,765	88.5	6,653	15.2
IndianTamil	252,046	172,070	68.3	250,560	99.4	27,118	10.8	48,706	19.3	231,195	91.7	45,270	18.0
SriLankaMoor	2,260	1,772	78.4	2,233	98.8	401	17.7	726	32.1	2,112	93.5	562	24.9
Burgher	215	182	84.7	194	90.2	104	48.4	105	48.8	168	78.1	201	93.5
Malay	84	75	89.3	81	96.4	33	39.3	45	53.6	81	96.4	33	39.3
All other	171	119	69.6	142	83.0	61	35.7	79	46.2	120	70.2	146	85.4
Female													
Total	376,816	213,131	56.6	346,602	92.0	32,009	8.5	93,987	24.9	271,606	72.1	58,292	15.5
Sinhala	42,541	42,180	99.2	14,891	35.0	6,863	16.1	37,629	88.5	5,256	12.4	10,451	24.6
SriLankaTamil	47,251	33,474	70.8	46,577	98.6	3,869	8.2	12,070	25.5	37,274	78.9	6,326	13.4
IndianTamil	283,991	135,539	47.7	282,199	99.4	20,720	7.3	43,329	15.3	226,564	79.8	40,552	14.3
SriLankaMoor	2,556	1,609	62.9	2,522	98.7	403	15.8	770	30.1	2,166	84.7	614	24.0
Burgher	234	158	67.5	200	85.5	85	36.3	94	40.2	174	74.4	198	84.6
Malay	86	78	90.7	83	96.5	33	38.4	44	51.2	81	94.2	41	47.7
All other	157	93	59.2	130	82.8	36	22.9	51	32.5	91	58.0	110	70.1

Source: Census of population and housing -2012