

Highlights
Census of Population and Housing 2012
Western Province

Indicator		Unit	Western Province	Colombo District	Gampaha District	Kalutara District
Total population		Number	5,851,130	2,324,349	2,304,833	1,221,948
By Sex	Male	Number	2,848,649	1,140,472	1,116,893	591,284
	Female	Number	3,002,481	1,183,877	1,187,940	630,664
By Sector	Urban	Percent	38.8	77.6	15.6	8.9
	Rural	Percent	60.4	22.1	84.3	88.0
	Estate	Percent	0.8	0.3	0.1	3.1
By Ethnic Group	Sinhalese	Percent	84.2	76.5	90.5	86.8
	Tamil	Percent	6.8	11.2	3.9	3.8
	Sri Lanka Moor	Percent	7.9	10.7	4.2	9.3
	Other	Percent	1.2	1.6	1.3	0.2
By Religion	Buddhist	Percent	73.4	70.2	71.3	83.4
	Hindu	Percent	4.8	8.0	2.3	3.2
	Islam	Percent	8.6	11.8	4.9	9.4
	Roman Catholic	Percent	11.1	7.0	19.5	3.3
	Other		2.1	3.0	2.0	0.8
By Education	No Schooling	Percent	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.7
	Passed primary	Percent	17.5	16.3	16.8	21.0
	Passed secondary	Percent	38.2	34.5	40.8	40.3
	Passed G.C.E. O/L or equivalent	Percent	21.5	22.2	21.8	19.4
	Passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent	Percent	16.6	18.9	15.7	14.0
	Degree or above	Percent	4.0	5.7	3.1	2.6
By Economic Status	Total Active	Number	2,339,818	948,693	919,817	471,308
	Male Active	Number	1,615,530	650,257	639,430	325,843
	Female Active	Number	724,288	298,436	280,387	145,465
	Total Inactive	Number	2,184,311	871,752	859,445	453,114
	Male Inactive	Number	561,682	234,967	211,800	114,915
	Female Inactive	Number	1,622,629	636,785	647,645	338,199
Literacy		Rate	98.0	98.0	98.5	97.2
Computer Literacy		Rate	32.9	38.0	31.1	26.4

Census of Population and Housing 2012

Western Province

1.0 Introduction

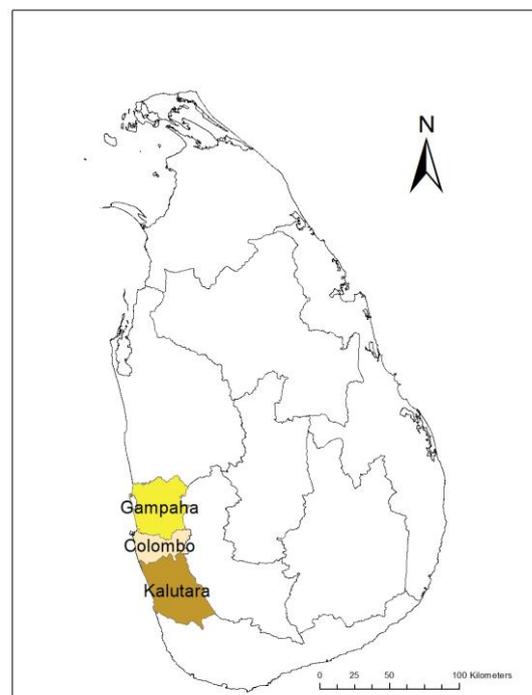
The Department of Census and Statistics was able to conduct 14th consecutive Population and Housing Census in Sri Lanka on 20th March, 2012. Enumeration stage of this Census comprised of two rounds. During the first round, performed from 27th February to 19th March 2012, data were collected from persons according to their places of usual residence. In the second round, data collected in the first round was updated taking into account events such as births, deaths or changes of usual residence between the date of data collection and the **Census date**, declared as 20th March 2012. These updates were done, based on the **Census Moment** which was **declared** as mid night of 19th March 2012. Enumeration of homeless people, who do not have a usual place of residence, was carried out during the mid-night of 19th March 2012.

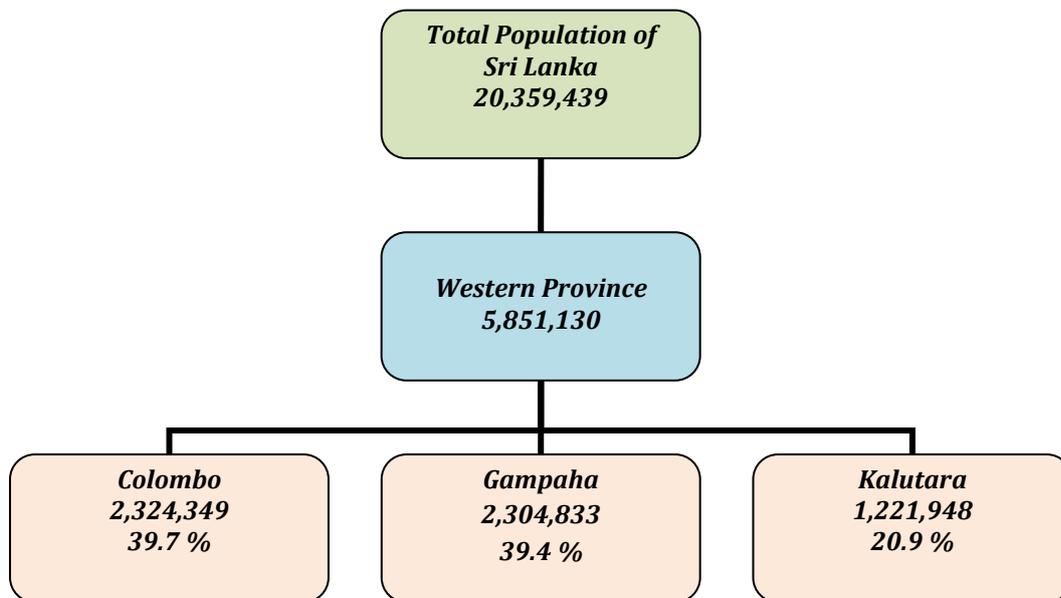
According to the data dissemination plan of the Census, province level reports will be published with district level information. In addition district level, DS

division level and GN division level data will be provided through softcopies in CD's. This publication presents population information of Western province, which consist of three districts namely Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara.

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

Figure1: Location of Western province





2.0 Population distribution

Twenty eight point seven percent (or 5,851,130) of Sri Lankan population lived in Western province.

Out of the total population of the province, 2,324,349 (39.7%) belongs to Colombo district. Gampaha district and Kalutara district population are 2,304,833 (39.4%) and 1,221,948 (20.9%) respectively. Population density (or number of persons per square km) of the province is 1,588. Population density of Colombo district (3,325) is almost twice than that of Gampaha district (1,662) and Kalutara district has the lowest population density(765).

2.1 Population distribution by DS division

There are 13 DS divisions in Colombo and Gampaha districts and 14 DS divisions in Kalutara district. The highest and the lowest population in Colombo district is reported from Colombo DS division (323,257) and Padukka DS division (65,267) respectively. In Gampaha district the highest and the lowest population is reported from Katana DS division (235,291) and Kelaniya DS division (137,339). The highest and the lowest population in Kalutara district is reported from Panadura (182,285) and Madurawala (34,381) DS divisions. Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 present population distribution by DS division in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara districts.

Figure 2 : Colombo District Population Distribution by DS Division

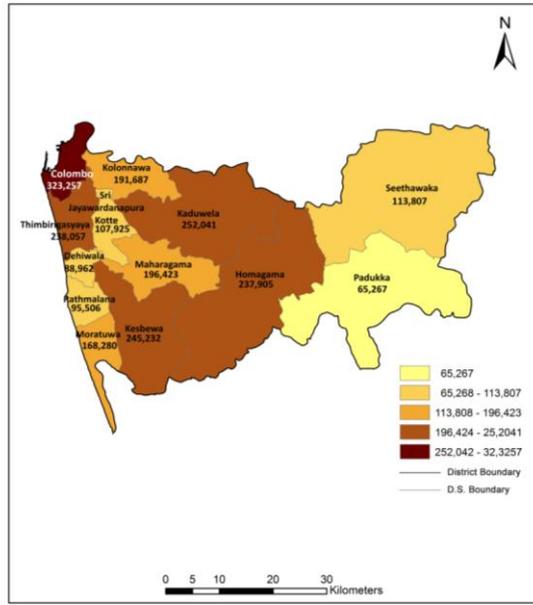
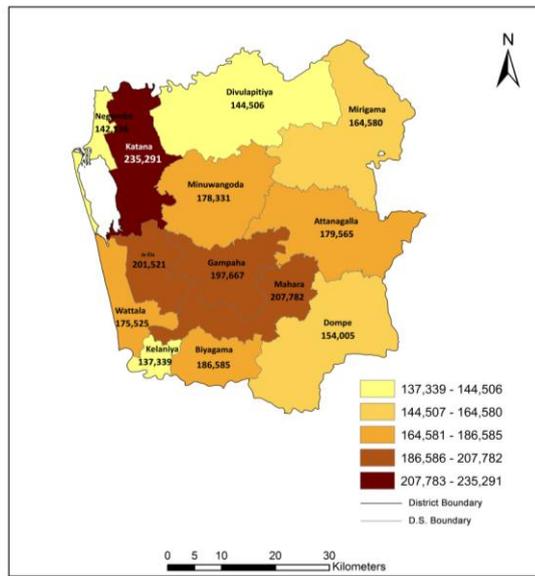
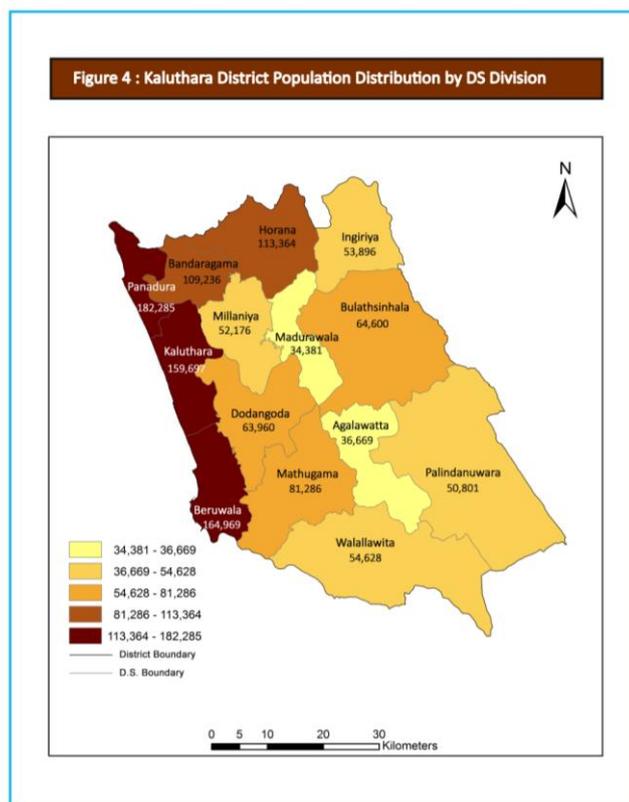


Figure 3 : Gampaha District Population Distribution by DS Division





2.2 Population distribution by sector

Majority of population in Western province live in rural sector. However, the distribution of population by sector within districts shows a different pattern. Majority of population in Colombo district live in urban sector whereas in Gampaha and Kalutara districts the majority live in rural sector.

Percentage distribution of population by sector is given in Table 1. According to the Table 1 percentage of estate sector population in Western province is only 0.8 percent of the total population. Kalutara district record the highest percentage of estate population (3.1%). In Gampaha district, estate sector population is only 0.1 percent of total population.

Table 1 : Percentage distribution of population by sector

	Population	Sector			
		Total	Urban	Rural	Estate
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	18.2	77.4	4.4
Western	5,851,130	100.0	38.8	60.4	0.8
Colombo	2,324,349	100.0	77.6	22.1	0.3
Gampaha	2,304,833	100.0	15.6	84.3	0.1
Kalutara	1,221,948	100.0	8.9	88.0	3.1

2.3 Population distribution by Municipal and Urban councils

Municipal councils and Urban council areas are defined as urban areas in Sri Lanka. There are five municipal councils in Colombo district namely Colombo, Dehiwala - Mt Lavenia, Moratuwa, Sri Jayawardhanapura kotte and Kaduwela. Municipal council population in Colombo district is 1,274,028 and 44% and 20% of the population live in Colombo and Kaduwela Municipal Council areas respectively. The population of Kolonnawa, Seethawakapura, Maharagama, Kesbawa and Baralesgamuwa Urban council areas of the Colombo district is 532,007.

Population of the two Municipal council areas of Negambo and Gampaha in Gampaha district are 142,449 and 62,335 respectively. The population of five urban council areas (Ja-Ela, Katunayaka-Seeduwa, Minuwangada, Peliyagoda and Wattala-Mabola) is 155,437.

There are no Municipal council areas in Kalutara district and the population of the four urban council areas (Beruwala, Horana, Kalutara and Panadura) of the district is 109,829.

3.0 Demographic characteristics of population

3.1 Population distribution by sex

Out of the total population of Western province, 2,848,649 (or 48.7%) are males and 3,002,481 (or 51.3%) are

females. Table 2 presents percentage distribution of population by sector and sex.

3.2 Sex ratio

Sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females. Census 2012 reports that there are 94 males for every 100 females in Sri Lanka.

According to the data Colombo district sex ratio (96) is higher than that of Gampaha and Kalutara districts (94).

Table 2 : Percentage distribution of population by sector and sex

	Population	Total	Sector		
			Urban	Rural	Estate
Male					
Sri Lanka	9,856,634	100.0	18.3	77.3	4.4
Western	2,848,649	100.0	39.1	60.1	0.8
Colombo	1,140,472	100.0	77.6	22.0	0.3
Gampaha	1,116,893	100.0	15.7	84.3	0.1
Kalutara	591,284	100.0	8.9	88.0	3.1
Female					
Sri Lanka	10,502,805	100.0	18.1	77.4	4.5
Western	3,002,481	100.0	38.6	60.6	0.8
Colombo	1,183,877	100.0	77.5	22.1	0.3
Gampaha	1,187,940	100.0	15.6	84.3	0.1
Kalutara	630,664	100.0	9.0	88.0	3.0

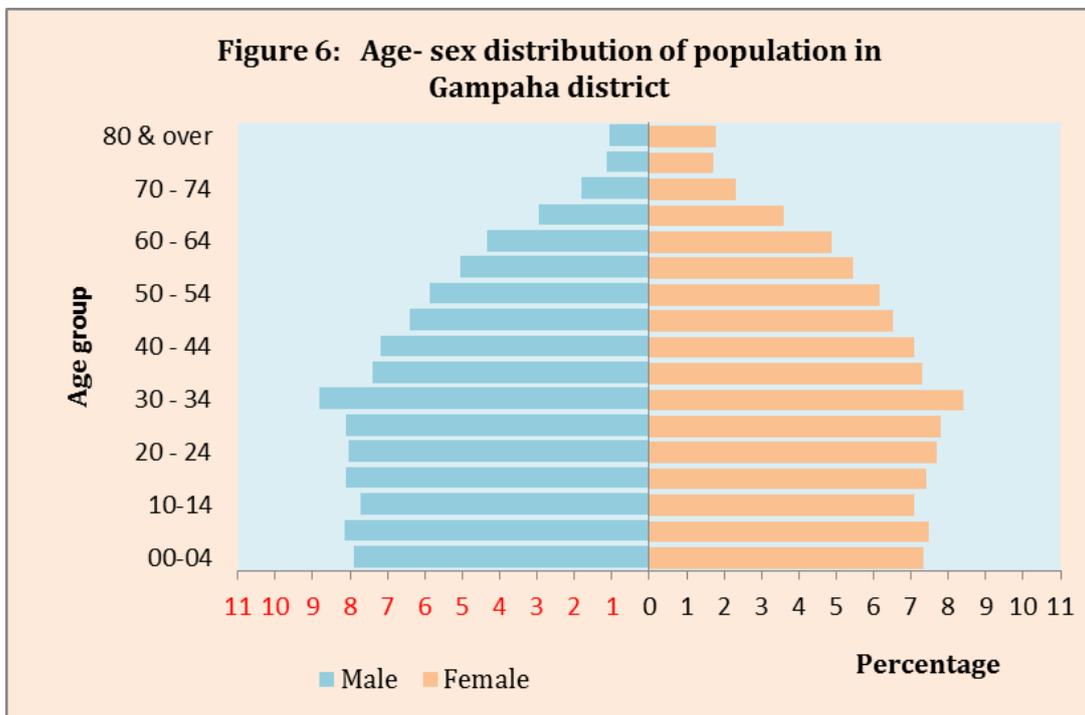
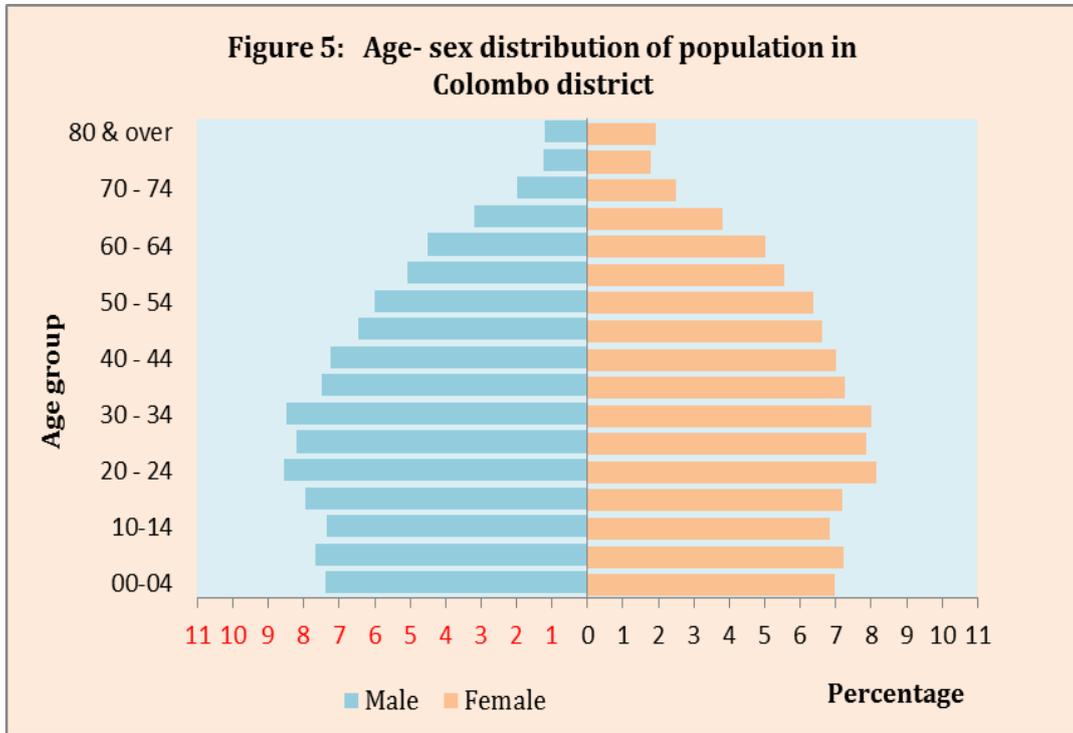
3.3 Population by age group and sex

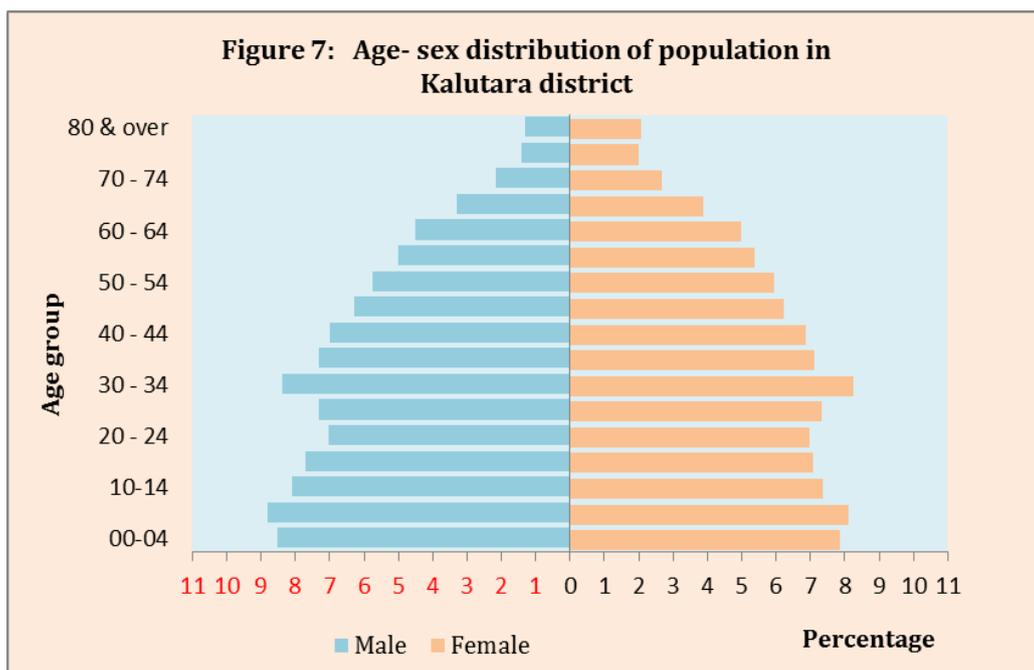
Age-sex composition of a population describes the patterns of the distribution of a population in different age-sex categories. Age-sex distribution reflects important demographic characteristics of sub populations such as child population, elderly population and working population.

Figure 5, Figure 6 and figure 7 shows age-sex pyramids for Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara districts respectively. In Colombo district, the highest population is seen in 20-24 age group for both sexes. Gampaha and Kalutara districts recorded the highest population in 30-34 age group for both sexes.

In all three districts the lowest population for males is observed in 80 and over age group and for females 75-

79 age group recorded the lowest population.





3.4 Population distribution by ethnicity

Majority of population in Western province is Sinhalese (84.2%). The second highest ethnic group is Sri Lanka Moors (7.9%) followed by Tamils (6.8 %) and other ethnic groups namely Burgher,

Malay, Sri Lanka Chetty and Bharatha which form 1.2 percent. Table 3 presents the ethnic distribution of three districts of Western province.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group

	Population	Total	Ethnic group			
			Sinhalese	Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	74.9	15.3	9.3	0.5
Western	5,851,130	100.0	84.2	6.8	7.9	1.2
Colombo	2,324,349	100.0	76.5	11.2	10.7	1.6
Gampaha	2,304,833	100.0	90.5	3.9	4.2	1.3
Kalutara	1,221,948	100.0	86.8	3.8	9.3	0.2

Total Sinhalese population, Tamil population and Sri Lanka Moor population are 15,250,081, 3,108,770 and 1,892,638 respectively. Out of the

total Sinhalese population in Sri Lanka 32.3 percent live in Western province. More than ten percent (12.7%) of total

Tamil population and nearly one fourth (24.3%) of total Sri Lankan Moor population also live in this province.

3.5 Population distribution by religion

Table 4: Percentage distribution of population by religion

	Population	Total	Religion				
			Buddhist	Hindu	Islam	Roman Catholic	Other
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	70.1	12.6	9.7	6.2	1.5
Western	5,851,130	100.0	73.4	4.8	8.6	11.1	2.1
Colombo	2,324,349	100.0	70.2	8.0	11.8	7.0	3.3
Gampaha	2,304,833	100.0	71.3	2.3	4.9	19.5	2.0
Kalutara	1,221,948	100.0	83.4	3.2	9.4	3.3	0.8

Majority of Western province population is Buddhist (73.4%) followed by Roman Catholic (11.1%), Islam (8.6%), Hindus (4.8%), and Other religions (2.1%). Out of the total Buddhists in Sri Lanka 30.1 percent of them are in Western province. Out of total Roman Catholics more than

half of (51.7%) them and out of Other Christians 41.9 percent of them also live in Western province. Similarly, one fourth of total Islamic followers (25.5%) and 10.9 percent of Hindus in Sri Lanka also live in this province.

3.6 Population distribution by marital status

Marital status is another important demographic characteristic of a population. Table 5 shows that 66.8 percent of 15 years and above population is married and 27.4 percent is never married in Western province. Percentage of never married males is higher than females. However, divorced

and separated population is higher among females than males. Percentage of widowed females in western province is almost eight times higher than percentage of widowed males.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of population (aged 15 years and above) by sex and marital status

	Population aged 15 years and above	Total	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated
Both Sexes							
Sri Lanka	15,227,773	100.0	25.8	67.8	5.2	0.3	0.9
Western	4,524,129	100.0	27.4	66.8	4.8	0.3	0.8
Colombo	1,820,445	100.0	29.1	65.9	4.0	0.3	0.6
Gampaha	1,779,262	100.0	26.8	66.7	5.3	0.3	0.9
Kalutara	924,422	100.0	24.9	68.6	5.3	0.3	0.9
Male							
Sri Lanka	7,266,234	100.0	30.0	67.7	1.3	0.2	0.7
Western	2,177,212	100.0	31.4	66.7	1.1	0.2	0.6
Colombo	885,224	100.0	33.0	65.3	1.0	0.2	0.5
Gampaha	851,230	100.0	30.9	67.0	1.2	0.2	0.7
Kalutara	440,758	100.0	28.8	68.9	1.4	0.2	0.7
Female							
Sri Lanka	7,961,539	100.0	22.0	67.8	8.7	0.3	1.1
Western	2,346,917	100.0	23.7	66.9	8.1	0.4	0.9
Colombo	935,221	100.0	25.4	66.6	6.8	0.4	0.8
Gampaha	928,032	100.0	23.1	66.5	9.0	0.3	1.0
Kalutara	483,664	100.0	21.4	68.4	8.9	0.3	1.0

4.0 Educational attainment

Through the Census 2012, information on the highest educational attainment, the highest professional/vocational qualifications were collected from persons who were aged 5 years and above. Information on involvement in any educational activity during 30 days prior to the date of Census was collected from population aged 3 years and above.

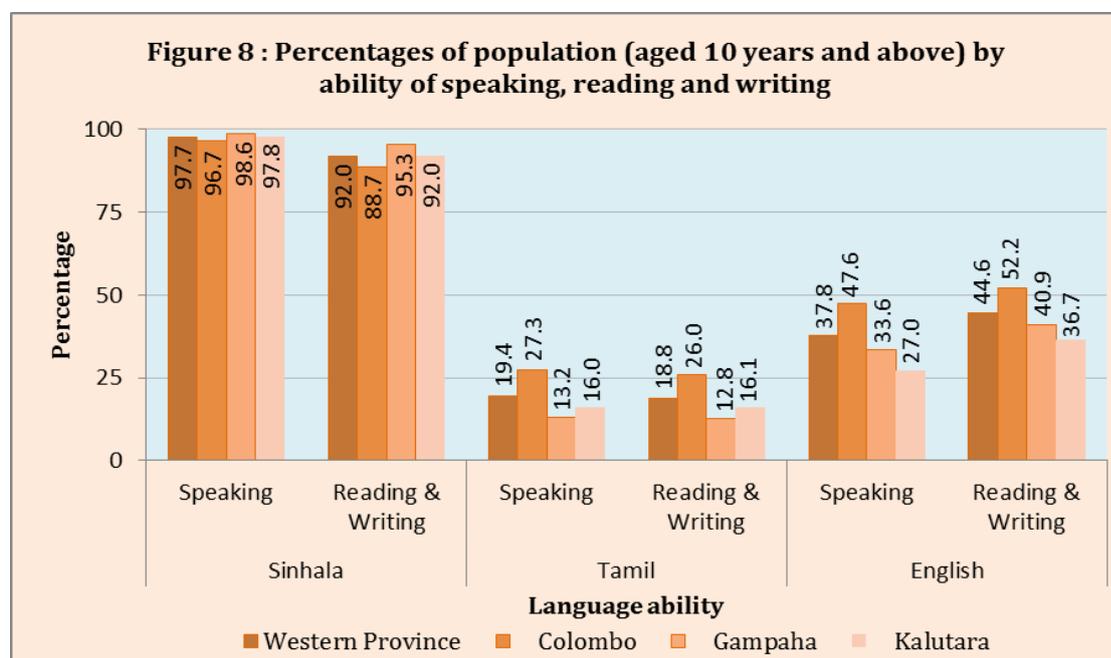
Purpose of having these data is to collect information on current involvement of educational activity of a person. In addition, information on ability to speak, read and write in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages and ability to use computers were also collected from those who were aged 10 years and above.

4.1 Language ability

Information on ability of speaking, reading and writing of population aged 10 years and above were collected in the Census 2012. According to the data 97.7 percent of people speak Sinhala while 92.0 percent can read and write Sinhala. Figure 8 shows the percentages of speaking, reading and writing abilities of population aged 10 years and above for all three districts.

In Western province percentages of passed primary (including those who are studying in grade 1 at the time of the Census), passed secondary, passed

G.C.E.O/L or equivalent, passed G.C.E. A/L or equivalent and degree or above are 17.5, 38.2, 21.5, 16.6 and 4.0 percent respectively. These figures show that majority of the population completed education up to secondary level. Those who have completed the highest education level which is degree and above (4.0%) is significantly high in Western province. The percentage of population whose highest educational level is degree or above is high in Colombo district (5.7%) when compared to Gampaha (3.1%) and Kalutara (2.6%).



4.2 Literacy rate

Literacy rate is a key indicator to measure the level of reading and writing ability of persons in a country. The

definition of literate person is given as “A person who can both read and write a short statement with understanding is

considered as literate". According to the results shown in the Table 6 literacy rate of the population aged 10 years and above in Western province stands at 98.0

percent. The corresponding rate for males and females are 98.5 and 97.6 percent respectively.

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

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	95.7	96.9	94.6
Western	4,953,138	98.0	98.5	97.6
Colombo	1,984,851	98.0	98.5	97.6
Gampaha	1,949,613	98.5	98.8	98.2
Kalutara	1,018,674	97.2	97.8	96.6

4.3 Computer literacy by sex

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

32.9 percent. The corresponding percentage for males and females are 36.3 and 29.7 percent respectively.

Table 7: Percentages of population able to use computer (aged 10 years and above) by sex

	Population aged 10 years and above	Sex		
		Both sexes	Male	Female
Sri Lanka	16,867,825	24.2	26.5	22.1
Western	4,953,138	32.9	36.3	29.7
Colombo	1,984,851	38.0	41.4	34.7
Gampaha	1,949,613	31.1	34.8	27.6
Kalutara	1,018,674	26.4	28.9	24.0

5.0 Economic activities

Economic activities that people engaged for their livelihood are very important characteristic in a population. Census 2012 gathered information on economic status of population aged 15 years and

above considering 52 weeks prior to the Census date. Therefore, the indicators reflect usual economic status of the population rather than current economic status.

5.1 Economically active population

Economically active population or the labour force comprised of employed and unemployed persons. According to the data 51.7 percent of aged 15 years and above population is economically active in western province. Kalutara district (51.0%) reported a lower economically active percentage than Colombo (52.1%)

and Gampaha (51.7%) districts. Table 8 present percentages of economically active population by sector and sex. According to the table female participation in economic activities is high in Estate sector. In all three districts over 94 percent of the economically active population is employed.

5.2 Employed and unemployed population

Total employed and unemployed population in Western province is 2,214,165 and 125,653 respectively. The total employed population in Colombo district is reported as 904,028 while the corresponding figures for Gampaha and Kalutara districts are 867,161 and

442,976 respectively. Among the employed population in western province 13.9 percent is employed in the government sector. Table 9 present percentages of employed population by sector of employment and sex.

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

	Economically active Population aged 15 years and above	Both sexes	Sex	
			Male	Female
Sri Lanka				
Total	7,857,370	100.0	69.9	30.1
Urban	1,416,955	100.0	69.8	30.2
Rural	6,048,095	100.0	70.8	29.2
Estate	392,320	100.0	55.7	44.3
Western				
Total	2,339,818	100.0	69.0	31.0
Urban	921,769	100.0	68.7	31.3
Rural	1,396,142	100.0	69.4	30.6
Estate	21,907	100.0	58.5	41.5
Colombo				
Total	948,693	100.0	68.5	31.5
Urban	734,873	100.0	68.5	31.5
Rural	209,973	100.0	68.8	31.2
Estate	3,847	100.0	59.6	40.4
Gampaha				
Total	919,817	100.0	69.5	30.5
Urban	149,681	100.0	68.4	31.6
Rural	769,609	100.0	69.7	30.3
Estate	527	100.0	67.0	33.0
Kalutara				
Total	471,308	100.0	69.1	30.9
Urban	37,215	100.0	73.5	26.5
Rural	416,560	100.0	69.2	30.8
Estate	17,533	100.0	58.1	41.9

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

	Employed Population	Total	Sex Male	Sex Female
Sri Lanka				
Total	7,335,432	100.0	70.8	29.2
Government employee	1,122,734	100.0	64.4	35.6
Semi government employee	244,989	100.0	62.0	38.0
Private sector employee	2,980,361	100.0	70.5	29.5
Employer	190,680	100.0	86.2	13.8
Own account worker	2,414,258	100.0	79.8	20.2
Unpaid family worker	382,410	100.0	31.9	68.1
Western Province				
Total	2,214,165	100.0	69.6	30.4
Government employee	306,834	100.0	61.4	38.6
Semi government employee	74,714	100.0	64.4	35.6
Private sector employee	1,181,827	100.0	69.0	31.0
Employer	69,041	100.0	84.8	15.2
Own account worker	523,023	100.0	78.1	21.9
Unpaid family worker	58,726	100.0	34.9	65.1
Colombo				
Total	904,028	100.0	69.0	31.0
Government employee	127,927	100.0	60.2	39.8
Semi government employee	29,753	100.0	60.8	39.2
Private sector employee	494,114	100.0	68.7	31.3
Employer	32,455	100.0	83.5	16.5
Own account worker	197,145	100.0	78.1	21.9
Unpaid family worker	22,634	100.0	36.2	63.8
Gampaha				
Total	867,161	100.0	70.0	30.0
Government employee	113,836	100.0	63.1	36.9
Semi government employee	30,061	100.0	67.3	32.7
Private sector employee	465,256	100.0	68.9	31.1
Employer	26,031	100.0	86.0	14.0
Own account worker	209,325	100.0	78.7	21.3
Unpaid family worker	22,652	100.0	34.2	65.8
Kalutara				
Total	442,976	100.0	69.7	30.3
Government employee	65,071	100.0	60.9	39.1
Semi government employee	14,900	100.0	65.8	34.2
Private sector employee	222,457	100.0	70.1	29.9
Employer	10,555	100.0	85.5	14.5
Own account worker	116,553	100.0	76.9	23.1
Unpaid family worker	13,440	100.0	33.9	66.1

Figure 9: Percentages of economically active population in Western Province by sector and sex

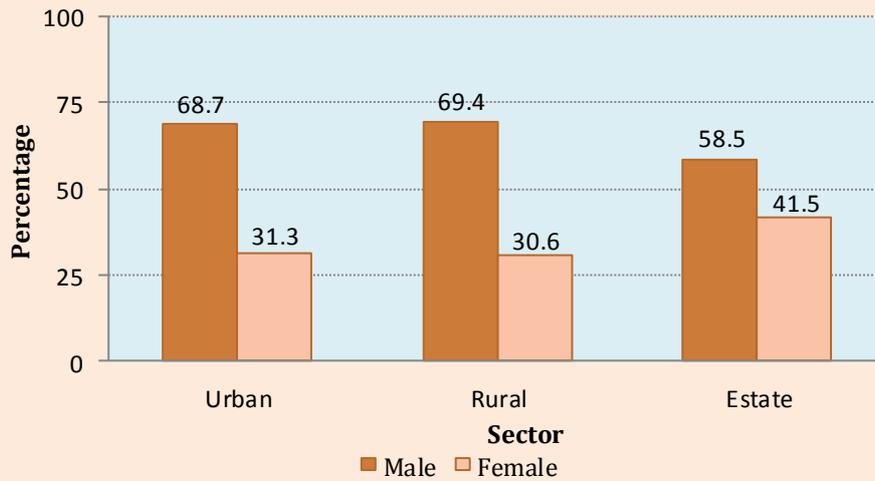
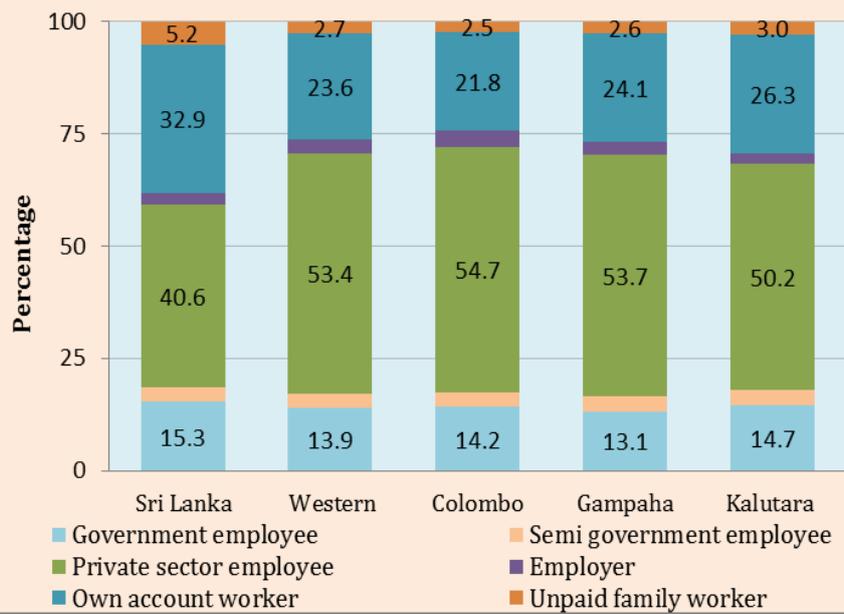
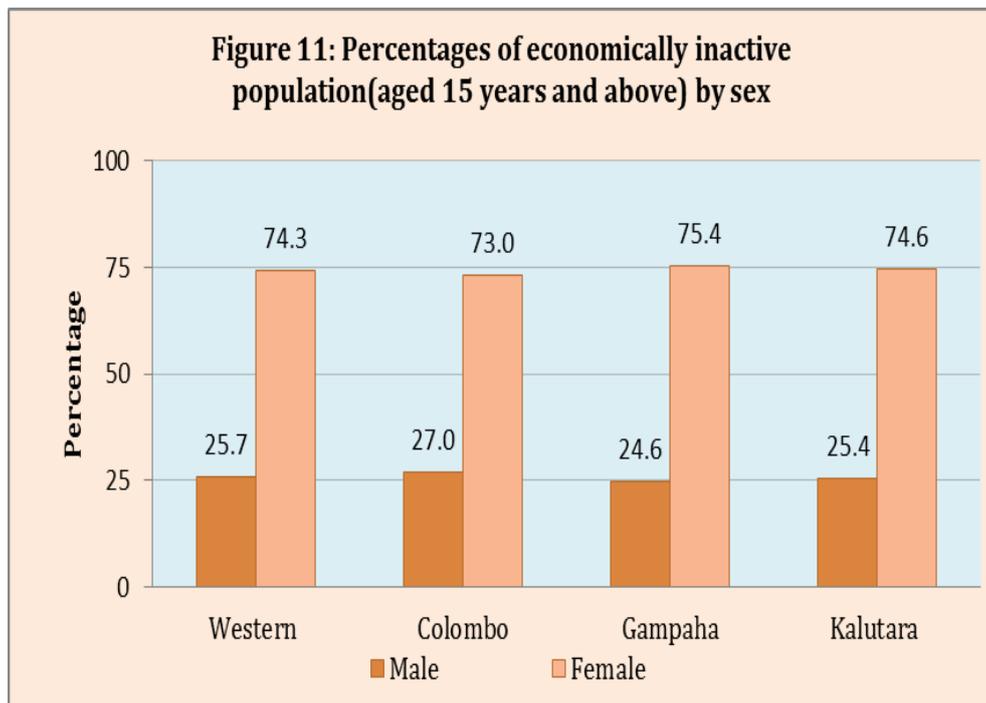


Figure 10 : Percentage distribution of employed population (aged 15 years and above) by sector of employment





5.3 Economically inactive population

Students, those who are engaged in household work, income recipient/pensioners, unable to work, unpaid social worker, children not attending school and other non-economic activities are considered as economically inactive population. According to Census 2012, economically inactive population in Western province is reported as 48.3 percent. The corresponding figure

for males and females reported as 12.4 percent and 35.9 percent respectively. Figure 11 shows the percentages of economically inactive population (aged 15 years and above) by sex. Data shows that the percentage of economically inactive population out of total 15 years and over population in Kalutara district (49.0%) is higher than the corresponding figure for Gampaha (48.3%) and Colombo (47.9%) districts.