

Census of Population and Housing 2001

Number and percentage of population by district and sector

District	Total population	Population in urban sector		Population in rural sector		Population in estate sector	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total (18 districts)	16,929,689	2,467,301	14.6	13,547,710	80.0	914,678	5.4
Colombo	2,251,274	1,229,572	54.6	1,014,388	45.1	7,314	0.3
Gampaha	2,063,684	300,933	14.6	1,762,028	85.4	723	0.0
Kalutara	1,066,239	113,188	10.6	915,477	85.9	37,574	3.5
Kandy	1,279,028	155,987	12.2	1,030,172	80.5	92,869	7.3
Matale	441,328	36,103	8.2	383,468	86.9	21,757	4.9
Nuwara Eliya	703,610	43,073	6.1	283,659	40.3	376,878	53.6
Galle	990,487	109,921	11.1	863,309	87.2	17,257	1.7
Matara	761,370	64,361	8.5	676,499	88.9	20,510	2.7
Hambantota	526,414	21,571	4.1	503,410	95.6	1,433	0.3
Ampara	592,997	112,536	19.0	480,461	81.0	-	-
Kurunegala	1,460,215	34,691	2.4	1,418,881	97.2	6,643	0.5
Puttalam	709,677	65,294	9.2	642,210	90.5	2,173	0.3
Anuradhapura	745,693	53,151	7.1	691,573	92.7	969	0.1
Polonnaruwa	358,984	-	-	358,679	99.9	305	0.1
Badulla	779,983	51,536	6.6	567,178	72.7	161,269	20.7
Moneragala	397,375	-	-	388,226	97.7	9,149	2.3
Ratnapura	1,015,807	58,245	5.7	855,178	84.2	102,384	10.1
Kegalle	785,524	17,139	2.2	712,914	90.8	55,471	7.1

Note : In the 2001 Census, urban sector comprises of all Municipal and Urban Council areas. Estate sector is defined as plantations of 20 acres or more in extent upon which there are 10 or more resident labourers. Rest of the areas are treated as rural sector.