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Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs

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**Press Release**

**Calculating the Life Expectancy for Sri Lankan Population  
Life Tables 2011-2013**

Department of Census and Statistics has published the Life Tables for Sri Lanka for the years 2011-2013. These life tables are used to get an idea about the life expectancy of population in the country. Sri Lanka has a long history in preparing life tables. The first life table was published in 1888. Life tables have been usually prepared for Census years since 1901. Before the years 2011-2013 the life tables were prepared for the years 2000-2002.

Basically the age specific death rates are used to prepare life tables. Life expectancy at birth, life expectation of a person in a specific age group, the proportion of population in a specific age group that would survive to reach the next age group and the probability of surviving of a population in one age group to another age group could be measured from a life table. These information have immense practical importance in many disciplines, such as education, health, insurance and actuarial science.

The standard principle of preparing the life tables is for males and females separately. The basic inputs for construction of life tables are age-specific mortality rates three years prior to the census year. The data required to obtain such rates are the distribution of population by age and sex and the distribution of deaths by age and sex. Population data are obtained from the 'Census of Population and Housing', conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics and the data on deaths are obtained by the 'Civil Registration system' of the Registrar Generals Department. Since the last Census was conducted in year 2012, population data from the 'Census 2012' and the deaths occurred in 2011, 2012 and 2013 are used to calculate the life expectancy for the years 2011-2013.

For Sri Lanka, for the years 2011-2013, life expectancy is 72.0 years for males and 78.6 for females. The life expectancies for males and females for the year 2001 are 68.8 and 77.2 years respectively. Therefore there is an increase of life expectancy for both males and females in year 2012 compared to year 2001. The difference between female and male life expectancy at birth in 2012 is 6.6 years is reduced compared to the value 8.4 years in 2001. Life tables are prepared for Sri Lanka by national level and by district levels. Life tables prepared by the Department of Census and Statistics are published at the department website [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk).

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