

Census of Population and Housing 2001 by S. Madurapperuma, Sri Lanka

1. Introduction

A census of Population and Housing is an official count of the population in Sri Lanka and the number of dwellings. It is the only data sources, which will provide information on every individual of the country. In addition to the head count, it also gives very valuable information on demographic and other related characteristics, which will be very useful to planners, policy makers, administrators, researchers and other data users.

Sri Lanka has a long history of census taking. The first scientific census has been conducted in 1871. Since then censuses have been conducted, once in ten years with certain exceptions as can be seen in Table below: The last census was conducted in 1981.

The following table gives the population figures based on the Census so far conducted in Sri Lanka.

Table: Population enumerated, Percentage Increase and Average Annual Growth Rate- (Census 1871 – 1981)

Year and date of Population Census	Population Enumerated	Percentage Increased	Av. Annual Growth Rate
1871 March 27	2400380	-	-
1881 February 17	2759738	15	1.42
1891 February 26	3007789	9	0.86
1901 March 01	3565954	18.6	1.72
1911 March 01	4106350	15.2	1.42
1921 March 18	4497854	9.5	0.91
1931 February 26	5306863	18	1.68
1946 March 19	6657339	25.4	1.52
1953 March 20	8097845	21.6	2.84
1963 July 08	10582064	30.7	2.65
1971 October 09	12689897	19.9	2.2
1981 March 17	14846750	17	1.67

The census, which was scheduled for 1991, could not be conducted due to unsettled conditions in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Consequently there is a dearth of population and housing data specially at lower administrative levels. However, the Department was able to fulfil the requirements of the data users to a certain extent by conducting a large scale 'Demographic Survey' in 1994 using a sample of around 1000,000 housing units, which provided estimates down to the level of Divisional Secretary Division. For planning at grass root level planners need information down to the level of at least Grama Niladhari (GN) Division. Recognizing the long-felt need of all types of data users, the Department has made all the necessary arrangements to conduct the next Census of Population and Housing in June 2001.

2. Legal Authority and Organization of Census

The Census will be conducted under the census ordinance which was recently amended by the census (Amendment) Act. No. 55 of 2000. **Census Ordinance places the legal obligation upon the public to give accurate information to the Census Officers. This ordinance also guarantees the confidentiality of the information collected at individual level.** As such the public need not have any fear what-so-ever to provide the information requested. Department of Census and Statistics assures the Public that the individual information will not be divulged to any one and will be used only for statistical purposes.

Director General of Census and Statistics has been appointed by the Excellency the President as the **Superintended of Census**, under the Legal authority vested in her as the Ministry in-charge of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, as the Department of Census and Statistics, comes under this Ministry. Superintended of Census has the legal authority to conduct the Census throughout the country. The **District Secretaries/Government Agents** have been appointed as **Census Commissioners** with the responsibility and authority to conduct the Census in the respective Districts and **Divisional Secretaries/Assistant Government Agents**, who have been appointed as **Deputy Census Commissioners** will be responsible for the census in the areas under their preview. **Directors and Deputy Directors** of the Department of Census and Statistics have been appointed as **Deputy Superintendents** of Census and The **Statistician and Statistical Officers** have been appointed as **Assistant Superintendents** of Census. **The field officers of the DCS** who are in-charge of the census activities in Divisional Secretary Divisions are designated as **Divisional Census Officers**.

3. Different Stages of the Census

Preparation and Finalization of lists of administrative divisions down to the level of villages /wards have been completed. Another important preliminary step is the preparation of lists of Estates. According to the Census ordinance, an Estate is defined as a plantation, 20 acres or more in extent with 10 or more resident labourers. The preparation of estate lists has also been completed.

Other major stages in the Census are

- (i) Preparation of Grama Niladhari Division Maps (From Mid 2000 to end 2000)
- (ii) Pre listing (from First week of February to Mid March 2001)
- (iii) Preliminary Census (From 25th June-5th July 2001)
- (iv) Final Census (On 17th July 2001)

(i) Preparation of Grama Niladhari (GN) Division Maps

At present there are 14,113 GN Divisions in the Country. To conduct a proper census without omissions or duplications of housing units or other buildings or any individual it is necessary to have GN Division maps with clearly identifiable boundaries. Preparation of GN Division maps has now been completed. As the GN divisions are too large to handle in a Census operation they were subdivided into smaller area units called the census blocks. A census block will comprise of

around 60 houses and /or other buildings in the rural sector and around 80 houses or other buildings in the urban sector. The census block boundaries are also marked on the GN Division maps, in such a way that they could be identified in the field, in order to ensure that no building is omitted or duplicated. Action will be taken to digitize the maps so that they could be made use of to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS) at GN Level, as the Census will provide very valuable information at GN level.

(ii) Pre Listing

The Listing of '**Housing Units**', '**Collective Living Quarters**', '**Institutions**' and '**Non Housing Units**', is one of the most important tasks that has to be carried out in preparation for the actual census enumeration and therefore it is important that this be done with great care. The pre-listing officer, usually the Grama Niladhari, who is assigned a GN Division, or an authorized officer appointed by the Divisional Secretary, will list all the buildings units within the GN Division, on a specially designed form called **Pre-Listing Form** (F1). The listed units are serially numbered and this number known as the 'Census Unit Number', is written on a Census Label and affixed at a prominent place preferably on the frame of the front door. Following information is collected during the listing operation.

- (a) Postal Address of the unit
- (b) Name of chief occupant or person in charge if the unit is a place of residence and Name of Business, owner or person in-charge if it is a non housing unit
- (c) Description of the unit (Housing unit; Collective Living Quarters; Institution; Non-housing unit)
- (d) Number of persons usually spending the night in the unit
- (e) Whether Agricultural Activity is being carried-out by any member of the unit
- (f) Whether any Non-Agricultural Economic Activity is being carried out

The list with the above important information will provide the basic frame for the censuses and for various surveys, which will be conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics, during the next ten years. The operation is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2001.

The general public could assist the Department of Census and Statistics by allowing Grama Niladhari or any other authorized officer to affix the label either on the frame of the front door or any other prominent place near the front door and by not removing it until the end of the Year 2001. Reliability and accuracy of statistical data will depend entirely on the accuracy of the provided by the general public.

As such, it is the responsibility of every person in our country to assist the Department of Census and Statistics in the listing operation as well as in the actual census, which will be conducted in June/July 2001. If by any chance any housing unit or other building has not been given a Census unit Number by end of March 2001, occupants of such units should inform the Grama Niladhari or the Divisional Secretary of the area, immediately so that a Census Number could be assigned to such units and relevant information is collected. This is extremely important, as otherwise much units may get excluded from the Census.

(iii) Preliminary Census

The Preliminary Census is scheduled to be conducted from 25th June to 05th July 2001. In this stage the census enumerators will visit all the housing units and other buildings according to the serial number which is given in the census label. At the preliminary census information pertaining to every individual who usually lives in the housing unit will be collected by the census enumerator using the "Population and Housing Schedule (Form F3)". Each 'Census Block' will be assigned to an enumerator and as such, there will be around 100,000 enumerators through out the country.

The type information collected at this stage is given below.

- P1 Serial Number of the person (This will be assigned by the enumerator)
- P2 Name (This is required only to identify the person during the data collection stage and will not be entered into the computer)
- P3 Relationship to Head of Household (Head; Wife/Husband; Son/Daughter; Son/Daughter-in-law; Grand Child/Great Grand Child; Parent of head or spouse; Other relative, Domestic Employee; Boarder; Non-relative; Visitor; Clergy)
- P4 Sex (Male; Female)
- P5 Date of Birth (Year; Month)
- P6 Marital Status (Never Married; Married (Registered); Married (Customary); widowed; Divorced; Legally separated; Separated (Not legally))
- P7 Citizenship
- P8 Religion
- P9 Ethnic Group
- P10 District of Birth
- P11 District of Usual Residence
- P12 Duration (in years) of Residence in usually Residing District
- P13 District of Previous (last) Residence
- P14 Physical and Mental Disability (If a person is physically or mentally disabled, detailed information on such person will be collected on a separate schedule)

The above information will be collected in respect of all persons who usually live in the unit. For persons who have gone abroad (except those who have gone abroad for permanent residence) only the questions P1 to P11 will be asked.

Following information will be collected only from those who are 3 years of age and over.

- P15 Attendance at school/other educational/vocational/technical institutions, in the last 30 days.
- P16 Educational Attainment

Following information will be collected only from persons who are 10 years of age and over.

- P17 Speaking, Reading and Writing Ability (Sinhala, Tamil and English separately)
- P18 Activities in the last 12 months and the duration in weeks: (Number of weeks under each of the following category is to be recorded)
 - A as a Paid Employee
 - B as an Employer

- C as an Own Account Worker
- D as a Contributing family worker (Unpaid)
- E was Available for work/seeking work
- F Engaged in Non Economic Activities (Students; house keeping; income recipient/pensioner; unable/too old to work; child not attending school; other non economic activity)

Questions P19 to P21 will be asked only from those who are employed (i.e. if there is an entry under A, B, C or D above).

- P19 Principal occupation or kind of work done in the last 12 months (A description of the occupation is expected)
- P20 Industry, Business or Service (A description of Industry, Business or Service is expected)
- P21 Employment status: (Government Employee; Semi Government Employee: Private Sector Employee; Employer; Own account worker; Unpaid Family Worker)
- P22 Principal Non-Economic Activity in the last 12 months: (Student; Household Work; Income recipients/Pensioner; Unable/too old to work; child not attending school; other non-economic activity)

The questions P23 to P25 will be asked only from females born before June 1986 and who are ever-married.

- P23 Total Number of children Born Alive
- P24 Total Number of living Children
- P25 Date of Birth of the Last Live Born Child

Information on Disabled Persons: In addition to the above information following information on physically and/or mentally disabled persons will also be collected using the "Disability Schedule (Form F4)", for those who say 'yes' to the screening question in P14 in the Population and Housing schedule (Form – F3).

- D1 Census Unit Number (Same number as given in Population and Housing Schedule)
- D2 Household Number
- D3 Name
- D4 Column Number of Person as given in the Population and Housing Schedule
- D5 Sex
- D6 Date of Birth
- D7 Educational Attainment
- D8 (A) Disability in Seeing (Totally Blind; One eye blind; Weak vision)
- (B) Age at which above disability occurred
- (C) Cause of above disability (Congenital; Illness; Road traffic accident; Occupational accident ; Riot and Violence, other accident; War/Terrorism; Other)
- D9 (A) Disability in Hearing/Speaking (Dumb; Deaf; Dumb and Deaf; Speaking difficulties)
- (B) Age at which above disability occurred
- (C) Cause of above disability (Categories as given in D8 (C) above)
- D10 (A) Disability in Hands (loss of one hand including elbow; loss of both hands including elbows; loss of one hand below elbows; loss of both hands below elbows. Paralysis of one hand; Paralysis of both hands; Other disability in one hand; other disability in

- both hands)
- (B) Age at which above disability occurred
- (C) Cause of above disability (Categories as given in D8 (C) above)
- D11 (A) Disability in Legs (loss of one legs including knee; loss of both legs including knees; loss of one leg below knee; loss of both legs below knees; Paralysis of one leg; Paralysis of both legs; Other disability in one leg; Other disability in both legs)
- (B) Age at which above disability occurred.
- (C) Cause of above disability (Categories as given in D8 (C) above)
- D 12 (A) Other Physical Disability
- (B) Age at which disability occurred
- (C) Cause of above disability (Categories as given in D8 (C) above)
- D 13 (A) Mental Disability (Mentally retarded ; Psychosis)
- (B) Age at which above disability occurred.
- (C) Cause of above disability (Categories as given in D8 (C) above)
- D14 Whether the Disabled person is living in an institution.
- D15 Principal Means of Livelihood of the disabled person.(Employment ; Support by family or relation ; Support by Government/Institution/Organization; Begging; Other)
- D 16 If trained for any vocation as a Disabled person description of the type of training
- D17 Occupation

Housing Information: Useful Housing and Household Information will also be collected in this census pertaining all the units on a 100 percent basis. In the previous census, information on housing was collected on a 100 percent basis only in the urban sector. In the Rural and Estate sector such information was collected only from 10 percent of the Census Blocks. One of the main reasons for collecting Housing information in the forthcoming census is to make use of the Housing and House-hold information to identify the areas with Urban characteristics, as there is a difficulty in identifying the urban areas at present. In 1981, Municipal Council (MC), urban Council (UC) and Town Council (TC) areas were treated as Urban. However, with the absorption of TCs into 'Pradesheeya Sabas' such areas are treated as rural at present, though certain areas within the Pradesheeya Saba have urban characteristics. As such, action is being taken to make use of the information such as population, population density, percentages of housing units with electricity, pipe borne water etc., within each Grama Niladhari Division to identify the GN Divisions with Urban characteristics. For example, if in a particular GN Division, the percentage of housing units with predetermine characteristics exceed a specified limit, such divisions could be treated as Urban, for Statistical purposes.

Following information on Housing Units will be collected during the Census: **Occupancy status** (occupied; Vacant); **Number of Households in the unit; Number of persons usually living in the unit; principal Materials Construction** (Wall, Floor; Roof); **Type of Structure** (Single House; Attached house/Annex; Flat; Row House/Line room; Hut/Shanty; Other); **Year of Construction; Unit Usage** (Residential only; residential and commercial); **Number of Rooms** (Bed rooms; Living/Dining; Kitchen/Pantry; Office rooms; Other rooms for Living).

Following household information pertaining each and every household will also be collected: **Number of persons usually living in the household; Availability of Toilet** (Exclusively for the household; Having a toilet but sharing with another household; Not having a toilet, but sharing with another household; Common/Public toilet; None); **Type of Toilet** (Water seal; Pour flush (Not water seal); Pit; Bucket; Other); **Source of Drinking Water** (Protected well within premises; Protected well outside premises; Unprotected well; Tube well; Tap within unit/premises

(Main line); Tap outside premises (Main Line) ; Bowser; Tank, River, Streams etc.; Other); **Principal Type of lighting** (Kerosene; Electricity; Solar; Other); **Principal Type of Cooking fuel** (Fire wood; Gas; Kerosene; Electricity; Saw dust/Paddy husk; Other); **Tenure** (Owned by a member of the household; Rented free; Rent/leased; Encroached; Other).

All the above information will be collected during the Preliminary Census from 25th June to 05th July 2001. The Preliminary Census will cover around 98 percent of the population. However it will not cover the homeless persons, persons living in Army barracks, Police barracks, Hospitals, Institutions, etc Homeless persons/ Persons living in streets will be covered only on the final census day. The persons in Army/Police/Air Force/Navy barracks/Camps, Operational areas, Hospitals, Institutions will be enumerated two to three days before the final census. Special arrangements are being made to cover such institutions. The enumerators will be appointed within the Institutions to collect the data.

(iv) Final Census

The Final census enumeration is scheduled to be carried-out on the night of 17th July 2001, between 6.00 pm to 12.00 mid night. The time may be changed in certain areas, depending on the prevailing ground situation in the area. The referred date for the census is the final date and all information relating to each individual will be as at 6.00 pm on 17th July 2001. The final census enumeration is carried out as a direct check on the persons enumerated in the Preliminary Census, in-order to ensure that no person is missed or enumerated more than once.

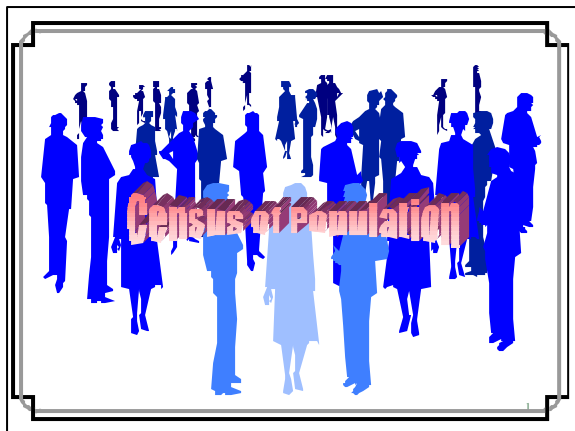
If a person included in the schedule at the Preliminary Census is not present at the time of the final enumeration on the final census day, a code '2' will be given for such persons in 'question PO', which will be completed only in the final census. If the person who has been enumerated in the preliminary census is actually present at the final enumeration also, such person will be given the code '1'. If the household member is absent as he has gone abroad at the time of the final enumeration, such person will be given the code '3'. If a person who has not been enumerated during preliminary census is present at the time of the final enumeration all information pertaining such persons need to be collected and a code '4' will be given in 'questions PO'.

In addition to the enumerators who will visit the units, which have been already listed and given a census unit number Out door Enumerators will also be appointed, to cover the persons who live in streets (homeless), those who happen to be in bus stands, railway stations, in busy places, etc. Once a person is enumerated on the road or some such place, while on the move they will be given a card indicating that the person has been already counted, so that if he/she comes across another enumerator, this card could be shown and avoid getting counted again.

Identified Institutions like barracks/camps of forces, hospitals, large hostels etc. will be covered by officers selected for the purpose from their own institutions.

The entire operations in the Final Census Day are expected to be completed within 6 hours. Once the enumerators complete their final enumeration they are expected to prepare a summary for his/her enumeration area (census block) which will provide the summary information for the census block: Total number of persons: total number of Males/Females: total number of persons below 18 years: 18 years and over: population by Religion: Population by ethnicity. These summary informations will be used to prepare the summaries at Grama Niladhari Division Level, Divisional Secretaries Divisional Level, District level and finally at National Level. As such it is possible to provide the basic population figures within less than one week after the census.

Providing detailed tabulation will however, take sometime, as detailed information pertaining to nearly 20 million persons will have to be checked, coded, edited and entered into computers, before the tabulations could be prepared.



STAGES OF THE CENSUS

- Preparation of Grama Niladhari Division Maps (From mid 2000 to End of 2000)
- Pre-listing and Numbering of Census Units (Feb-April 2001)
- Preliminary Census (25th June – 5th July 2001)
- Final Census (17th July 2001) - from 6.00 p.m. to 12 mid night.

2

INFORMATION COLECTED IN THE LISTING OPERATION

- Postal Address of the Unit
- Name of the Chief Occupant or Person in-charge
- Description of the Unit
- Number of Persons Usually Spending the Night in the Unit
- Whether Agricultural Activity is being carried-out
- Whether any Non-Agricultural Activity is being carried-out

3

INFORMATION COLECTED AT PRELIMINARY CENSUS

- Name, Relationship to Head of Household, Sex, Date of Birth, Marital Status, Citizenship, Religion, Ethnic Group
- District of Birth, District of Usual Residence, Duration of Residence in Usually Residing District, District of Previous (last) Residence
- Physical and Mental Disability

4

INFORMATION COLECTED AT PRELIMINARY CENSUS

- Attendance at School/Educational institute, Educational attainment
- Speaking/Reading/Writing Ability (Sinhalese, Tamil, English)
- Activities in the last 12 months
- Principal Occupation or kind of work done in the last 12 months
- Industry, Business or Service

5

INFORMATION COLECTED AT PRELIMINARY CENSUS

- Employment Status (Govt. Employee, Semi Government Employee, Private Sector Employee, Employer, Own Account worker, Unpaid Family Worker)
- Principal Non-Economic Activity in the last 12 months
- Total number of Children Born Alive, Total Number of Living Children, Date of Birth of the Last Live Born Child

6

Information on Housing

- No. of Households in the Unit
- No. of Persons Usually Living in the Unit
- Principal Materials of Construction (Walls, Floor, Roof)
- Type of Structure (Single House, Attached House/Annex, Flat, Row/Line Room, Hut/Shanty, Other)
- Year of Construction; Unit Usage
- Number of rooms

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Information on Household

- Number of Persons in the Household
- Availability of Toilet
- Type of Toilet
- Source of Drinking Water
- Principal Type of Lighting
- Principal Type of Cooking Fuel
- Tenure

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DISTRICTS COVERED IN THE CENSUS 2001

- 18 DISTRICTS ,INCLUDING AMPARA DISTRICT WERE COVERED COMPLETELY
- VAVUNIYA (96.1%); MANNAR (27.5%); BATTICALOA (64.6%); TRICOMALEE (56.7%) g WERE COVERED PARTIALLY
- JAFFNA, KILINOCCHI & MULATIVU DISTRICTS WERE NOT COVERED IN THE PRELIMINARY AND THE FINAL CENSUSES (LISTING AND NUMBERING WAS DONE EVEN IN THESE AREAS
- HOWEVER 94 % OF POPULATION IN SRI LANKA WAS COVERED

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Population Size - Census 2001

- POPULATION IN THE 18 DISTRICTS COVERED COMPLETELY - 16.86 MILLION
- TOTAL POPULATION ENUMERATED IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY - 17.56 MILLION
- TOTAL POPULATION IN SRI LANKA INCLUDING AREAS NOT COVERED IN THE CENSUS - 18.73 MILLION
- AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE DURING 1981 -2001 PERIOD - 1.14

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CENSUS OF POPULATION 1981 & 2001

DISTRICT	CEN. -1981	CEN. -2001	%	G/R
COLOMBO	1,699,241	2,234,289	31.5	/ 1.3
GAMPAHA	1,390,862	2,066,096	48.5	/ 1.9
KALUTARA	829,704	1,060,800	27.9	/ 1.2
KANDY	1,048,317	1,272,463	21.4	/ 1.0
MATALE	357,354	442,427	23.8	/ 1.1
N'ELIYA	603,577	700,083	16.0	/ 0.7
GALLE	814,531	990,539	21.6	/ 1.0
MATARA	643,786	761,236	18.2	/ 0.8
HAMBANTOT	424,344	525,370	23.8	/ 1.1

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CENSUS OF POPULATION 1981 & 2001

DISTRICT	POP. -1981	POP. -2001	%	G/R
AMPARA	338,970	589,344	51.5	2.0
KURUNEGAL	1,211,801	1,452,369	19.9	0.9
PUTTALAM	492,533	705,342	43.2	1.8
A'PURA	587,929	746,466	27.0	1.2
P'NARUWA	261,563	359,197	37.3	1.6
BADULLA	640,952	774,555	20.8	0.9
MONARAGAL	273,570	396,173	44.8	1.8
RATNEPURA	797,087	1,008,164	26.5	1.2
KEGALLE	684,944	779,774	13.8	0.6

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CENSUS OF POPULATION – 1981 & 2001

DISTRICT	POP. 1981	POP. 2001	%	G/R
JAFFNA	738,788	490,621	-2.0	
MANNAR	106,235	151,577	1.7	
VAVUNIYA	95,428	149,835	2.2	
MULATIVU	77,189	121,667	2.2	
KILINCHCHI	91,764	127,263	1.6	
BATTICALOA	330,333	486,447	1.9	
TRINCOMALE	255,948	340,158	1.4	
18 DISTRICTS	13,151,065	16,864,687	28.2	1.2
SRI LANKA	14,846,750	18,732,255		1.1

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Sex Ratio(Number of Males per 100 Females)

- More females (176,616) than males in 18 districts.
- Sex ratio is 97.9
- Highest sex ratio for Polonnaruwa (108.8)
- Five other districts have values exceeding 100. (Colombo (103.3), Anuradhapura (102.9), Moneragala (102.5), Ratnapura (101.6) and Ampara (100.4))

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- Lowest sex ratio for Matara (93.3)
- Four other districts have values less than 100 Galle (93.8), Kandy (94.0), Gampaha (94.6) and Kegalle (95.1)
- Sex ratio declined by 6 points from 103.9 in 1981 census.
- Sex ratio declined for all the districts.
- Polonnaruwa and Moneragala shows sharp declines (22.3 and 18.6 units)

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Age Composition (in the 18 Districts)

- Nearly 1/3 is under 18 years
- Under 18 percentage lowest for Colombo (27.1) and highest for Ampara (39.8)
- Under 18 percentage declined by 8.7 percentage points during 1981-2001 (From 41.6% in 1981 to 32.9% in 2001)
- All the districts record declines

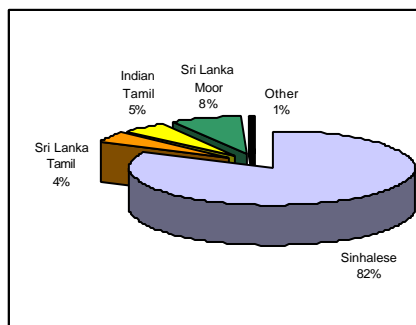
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Ethnic Composition

- In the 18 districts
Sinhalese - 81.9%, Sri Lanka Tamil - 4.4%
Indian Tamil - 5.1%, Sri Lanka Moor - 8.0%
Burgher - 0.2%, Malay - 0.3%
Other - 0.2%
- Highest percentage of Sinhalese in Hambantota (97.1%), lowest in Ampara (39.3%)
- Out of 18 Districts Sri Lanka Tamil percentage is highest for A Ampara (18.7%), next is Colombo (11.2%)

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Population Distribution by Ethnicity

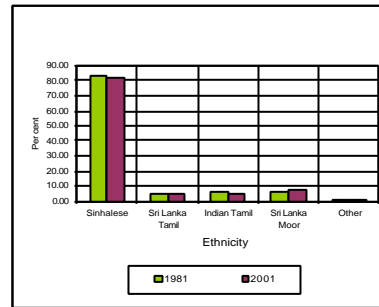


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- ◆ Sri Lanka Moor percentage is highest for Ampara (41.6%), next is Puttalam (18.7%)
- ◆ Indian Tamils are highest in Nuwara-Eliya (51.3%), next is Badulla (18.2%)
- ◆ During 1981 – 2001 (in the 18 Districts) overall percentages declined for Sinhalese (0.6 percentage points), Sri Lanka Tamil (0.3 percentage points), Indian Tamil (0.6 percentage points), Burgher (0.1 percentage points) and Malay (0.1 percentage points)
- ◆ During 1981 – 2001 percentage increase for Moors is 1.6 percentage points in the 18 Districts (Sri Lanka Moors who got displaced from the Northern Province are also living in these Districts, specially in Puttalam District).

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Population Distribution by Ethnicity 1981 and 2001



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- ◆ Sinhalese percentage has increased in Badulla (3.0 percentage points), Moneragala (1.8 percentage points), Ratnapura (1.6 percentage points), Ampara (1.5 percentage points) and Matale (0.2 percentage points) districts
- ◆ All other districts show a marginal decrease in Sinhalese percentage

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- ◆ Decline is highest for Puttalam district (8.8 percentage points), Moor population increased there by equal magnitude
- ◆ Sri Lanka Tamil population increased in Colombo (1.2), Ratnapura (1.0), Puttalam (0.3), Galle (0.3) and Kalutara (0.1)
- ◆ All other districts show some decrease
- ◆ Decrease is highest for Nuwara-eliya (6.8)

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- ◆ But Indian Tamils increased in Nuwara-Eliya by 8.6 percentage points
- ◆ Misreporting of Sri Lanka Tamils as Indian Tamils occurred in 1981 probably have got rectified in 2001
- ◆ Sri Lanka Moor percentage has increased marginally in 17 out of 18 districts, Highest in Puttalam (8.8 percentage points)

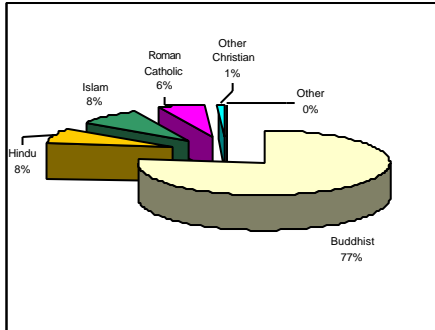
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Religion Composition

- ◆ In the 18 districts -
Buddhists - 76.7%, Hindu - 7.9%
Islam - 8.5%, Roman Catholics - 6.1%
Other Christian - 0.8%
- ◆ Highest percentages
Buddhists - Hambantota (96.9%)
Hindus - Nuwara-Eliya (51.3)
Islam - Ampara (41.6%)
Roman Catholics - Puttalam (32.7%)

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Population Distribution by Religion

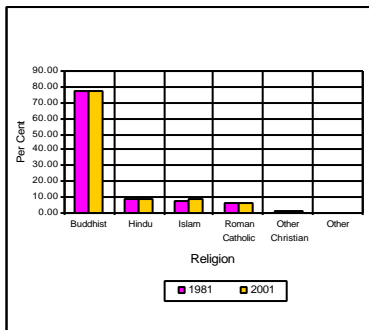


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- ◆ During 1981 - 2001 overall percentages declined for Buddhists (0.6), Hindus (0.8), Roman Catholics (0.3)
- ◆ But for Islam, percentage increased by 1.6 points
- ◆ For other Christians too percentage increased slightly by 0.1 points
- ◆ During 1981-2001, decline of Buddhist percentage is highest for Puttalam (4.9)
- ◆ Puttalam has the highest percentage increase for Islam (8.8)

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Population Distribution by Religion 1981 and 2001



27

Sectoral Composition

- ◆ In 2001 census urban sector comprises of all MCC and UCC
- ◆ Definition is not comparable with that of 1981
- ◆ For 18 districts Urban - 14.6% Rural - 80.0%, Estate - 5.3%
- ◆ Highest Estate population is in Nuwara-Eliya (53.3%)

28

Census of Population and Housing 2001

Sri Lanka

S. Madurapperuma

Census of Population and Housing, 2001 Summary of Preliminary Results (Provisional)

1. Coverage

The census enumeration was able to carry out completely, in 18 districts. These include all the 17 districts in Western, Central, Southern, North Western, North Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa provinces and Ampara district in Eastern province. In Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts no enumeration was done. In Mannar district, out of 5 Divisional Secretariat (D.S) divisions only one was enumerated partially. In Vavuniya district, out of 4 D.S. divisions, one was enumerated completely and 2 were enumerated partially. In Batticaloa district, out of 12 D.S. divisions, 5 were enumerated completely and 6 were enumerated partially. In Trincomalee district out of 11 D.S. divisions, 7 were enumerated completely and 2 were enumerated partially.

The summary of preliminary results (provisional) described below relates to the 18 districts for which the enumeration was completed. However the partial information is also shown in the relevant district tables. These figures have been compiled from the summaries prepared by Census Enumerators and Supervisors and should be regarded as provisional.

2. Population Size and Growth

The total population enumerated in the 18 districts on the final census night is 16,864,687. This represents 28 percent increase since the last census in 1981. The enumerated population, intercensal increase and growth rates by districts are shown in Table A. The average annual growth rate for the 18 districts during 1981-2001 is 1.2 percent. Growth rate does not show much spatial variation. The lowest is recorded for Kegalle (0.6 percent) and highest is reported for Ampara district (2.0 percent). Most of the wet zone districts have very low growth rates of less than 1 percent. A very clear exception is Gampaha which

Table A - Population Enumerated at the Census, Intercensal Increase and Annual Growth Rates by Districts, 1981-2001

District	Enumerated Population		Intercensal Increase		Average Annual Growth Rate 1981-2001 (per cent)
	1981 Census	2001 Census	Number	Percent	
Colombo	1,699,241	2,234,289	535,048	31.5	1.3
Gampaha	1,390,862	2,066,096	675,234	48.5	1.9
Kalutara	829,704	1,060,800	231,096	27.9	1.2
Kandy	1,048,317	1,272,463	224,146	21.4	1.0
Matale	357,354	442,427	85,073	23.8	1.1
Nuwara Eliya	603,577	700,083	96,506	16.0	0.7
Gape	814,531	990,539	176,008	21.6	1.0
Matara	643,786	761,236	117,450	18.2	0.8
Hambantota	424,344	525,370	101,026	23.8	1.1
Ampara	388,970	589,344	200,374	51.5	2.0
Kurunegala	1,211,801	1,452,369	240,568	19.9	0.9
Puttalam	492,533	705,342	212,809	-43.2	1.8
Anuradhapura	587,929	746,466	158,537	27.0	1.2
Polonnaruwa	261,563	359,197	97,634	37.3	1.6
Badulla	640,952	774,555	133,603	20.8	0.9
Moneragala	273,570	396,173	122,603	44.8	1.8
Ratnapura	797,087	1,008,164	211,077	26.5	1.2
Kegalle	684,944	779,774	94,830	13.8	0.6
Total	13,151,065	16,864,877	3,713,622	28.2	1.2

has the second highest growth rate (1.9 percent). This could be due to the migration, particularly to export processing zones. Colombo district too has a growth rate which is more than the average value. Dry zone districts, on the other hand, have growth rates exceeding 1 percent.

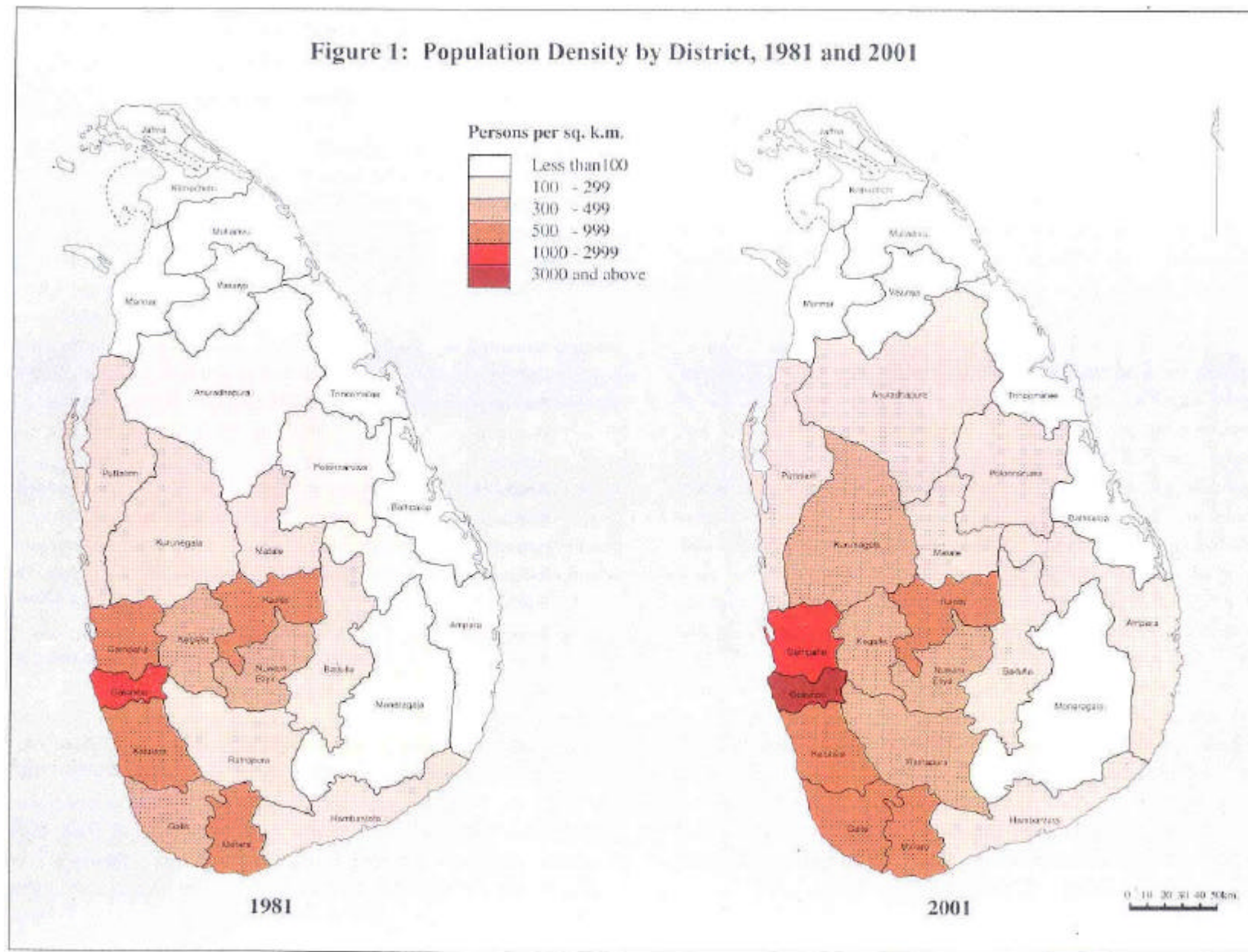
3. Population Density

Population density, measured as the number of persons per area of land is shown in Table B and Figure 1. For the 18 districts population density stands at 342 persons per square kilometre. It should be noted that if all the 25 districts are taken into account the density would have been significantly lower than the above figure. Wide variation in population density exists across the districts. Colombo is overwhelmingly the most densely populated district with 3305 persons per square kilometre which is nearly 10 times higher than the average figure for 18 districts. Colombo is followed by Gampaha. The lowest value of 72 persons per square kilometre is recorded for Moneragala. The coastal districts of the wet zone from Colombo to Matara known as maritime districts generally have higher population densities. Kandy which is a hill country plantation district is also densely populated. Other hill country plantation districts such as Nuwara-Eliya and Kegalle fall into intermediate levels of the densities. In general, dry-zone districts such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Moneragala show low densities. Population densities according to rank order show that Colombo and Gampaha which are the largest districts in terms of population size rank 1 and 2. But Kurunegala district with the third highest population size ranks only 9th in terms of density. Population wise Anuradhapura ranks the 11th, but it ranks the 17th in density. Comparison with 1981 census data reveals that the population densities have increased for all the 18 districts under consideration. The percentage increase is highest for Gampaha (55.0 percent) and lowest for Kegalle (12.4 percent) Figure 1 shows that Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Kurunegala, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Ampara districts have moved into the next higher levels of density categories during 1981 and 2001.

Table B - Population Density by Districts , 1981 and 2001

<u>District</u>	<u>Persons per sq. k.m.</u>		<u>Rank</u>	
	1981	2001	1981	2001
Colombo	2605	3305	1	1
Gampaha	994	1541	2	2
Kalutara	516	673	4	3
Kandy	554	664	3	4
Matale	180	227	12	13
Nuwara Eliya	354	410	8	8
Galle	487	613	6	5
Matara	516	599	4	6
Hambantot	164	210	14	14
Ampara	86	140	15	15
Kurunegala	254	314	9	9
Puttalam	165	245	13	12
Anuradhapura	82	112	16	17
Polonnaruwa	77	117	17	16
Badulla	227	274	11	11
Moneragala	49	72	18	18
Ratnapura	246	312	10	10
Kegalle	412	463	7	7
Total	258	342		

Figure 1: Population Density by District, 1981 and 2001



4. Sex Composition

Sex composition of a population refers to the distribution of people according to sex. For the 18 districts as a whole where the census was done completely, the total number of females outnumber the males by 177,961. A useful measure of sex composition is the sex ratio which is defined as the number of males per 100 females in the population. Hence, a sex ratio above 100 denotes an excess of males and one below 100 denotes an excess of females. Sex ratios for the 18 districts are shown in Table C together with the 1981 figures.

Among the 18 districts, the highest sex ratio of 108.8 was recorded for Polonnaruwa while five more districts have values in excess of 100. viz. Colombo (103.1), Anuradhapura (102.9), Moneragala (102.5), Ratnapura (101.6), and Ampara (100.4). On the other hand Matara (93.3) has the lowest sex ratio. Galle (93.8), Kandy (94.0), Gampaha (94.6) and Kegalle (95.1) districts also show fairly low sex ratios.

Comparison with 1981 census figures reveals that the overall sex ratio for the 18 districts has declined by 6.0 units from 103.9 in 1981 to 97.9 in 2001. While all the districts record declines, Polonnaruwa and Moneragala show very sharp drop in sex ratios. (viz. 22.3 in Polonnaruwa and 18.6 in Moneragala).

5. Age Composition

At this preliminary stage, age distribution is available only as a dichotomy i.e. population under 18 years and 18 years and over. This is shown in Table D. Nearly one third of the population (32.9 percent) is under 18 years. This is lowest for Colombo (27.1 percent) and highest for Ampara (39.8 percent). In 1981, the percentage under 18 years was 41.1 percent and the decline between 1981-2001 is 8.7 percentage points. This indicates the narrowing of the population age pyramid at the lower ages which is mainly attributed to the decline in fertility. All the districts record declines in the percentage under 18 years of age. The decline is highest for Anuradhapura followed by Matale and Gampaha.

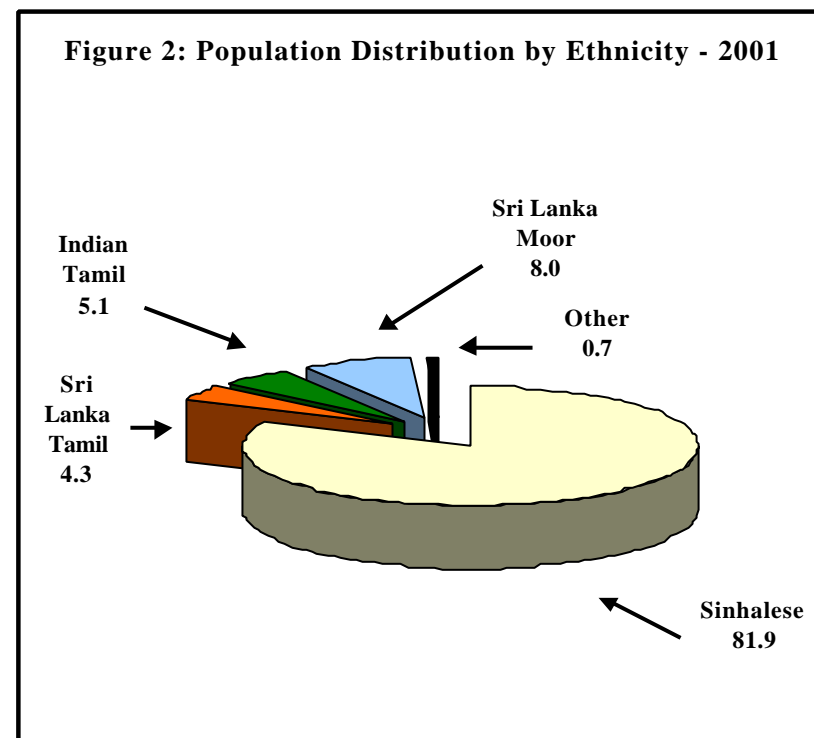
Table C - Sex Ratio by Districts , 1981 and 2001

District	Sex Ratio	
	1981	2001
Colombo	110.6	103.1
Gampaha	101.2	94.6
Kalutara	99.2	96.4
Kandy	98.2	94.0
Matale	103.6	98.8
Nuwara Eliya	101.5	97.1
Galle	95.0	93.8
Matara	94.2	93.3
Hambantota	104.5	98.9
Ampara	109.9	100.4
Kurunegala	102.3	96.5
Puttalam	103.6	97.4
Anuradhapura	114.8	102.9
Polonnaruwa	131.1	108.8
Badulla	103.2	97.9
Moneragala	121.1	102.5
Ratnapura	107.6	101.6
Kegalle	98.7	95.1
Total	103.9	97.9

Table D- Percentage Distribution of Population under 18 and 18 years and over by Districts, 1981 and 2001

District	Under	18	78	and over
	1981	Years 2001	Years 1981	2001
Colombo	37.0	27.1	63.0	72.9
Gampaha	38.7	28.7	61.3	71.4
Kalutara	39.9	30.4	60.1	69.6
Kandy	43.0	33.8	57.0	66.2
Matale	44.3	33.9	55.7	66.1
Nuwara Eliya	41.8	36.6	58.2	63.4
Galle	41.0	33.7	59.0	66.3
Matara	42.4	34.5	57.6	65.5
Hambantota	44.6	36.3	55.4	63.7
Ampara	48.8	39.8	51.3	60.2
Kurunegala	42.1	33.7	57.9	66.3
Puttalam	44.0	36.4	56.0	63.6
Anuradhapura	46.9	35.6	53.1	64.4
Polonnaruwa	43.9	34.7	56.2	65.3
Badulla	44.9	37.0	55.1	63.0
Monaragala	47.3	39.2	52.7	60.8
Ratnapura	42.4	34.3	57.6	65.8
Kegalle	40.6	32.1	59.4	67.9
Total	41.6	32.0	58.4	67.1

The distribution of the population by ethnic groups is shown in Table E. In the 18 districts Sinhalese, Sri Lanka Tamil, Indian Tamil and Sri Lanka Moor population comprises of 81.9 percent, 4.3 percent, 5.1 percent and 8.0 percent respectively (see Figure 2). Highest percentage of Sinhalese population is reported from Hambantota district (97.1 percent) and the lowest percentage is recorded for Ampara (39.3 percent). Percentage of Sri Lanka Tamil population is highest for Ampara (18.7 percent) district followed by Colombo district (11.0 percent). Sri Lanka Moor population is concentrated in Ampara and Puttalam districts (41.6 and 18.7 percent respectively) and fairly large proportion is found in Kandy (13.3 percent) district. On the other hand, Indian Tamils comprise more than half of the population in Nuwara Eliya district (51.3 percent). In Badulla they account for 18.2 percent of its population.



6. Ethnic Composition

Table E - Percentage Distribution of Ethnicity by Districts, 1981 and 2001

District	Sinhalese		Sri Lanka Tamil		Indian Tamil		Sri Lanka Moor		Burgher		Malay		Sri Lanka Chetty		Bharatha		Other*	
	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001
Colombo	77.6	76.6	10.0	11.0	1.2	1.2	8.2	9.2	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.9	..	0.1	..	0.0	0.5	0.4
Gampaha	92.0	91.1	3.5	3.1	0.4	0.4	2.7	3.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	..	0.3	..	0.0	0.2	0.1
Kalutara	87.2	87.1	1.2	1.3	4.1	2.7	7.4	8.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.1	0.0
Kandy	74.3	74.0	5.0	3.9	9.4	8.4	10.5	13.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.3	0.1
Matale	80.0	80.2	5.8	5.4	7.0	5.3	7.0	8.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.2	0.1
Nuwara Eliya	42.1	40.0	12.7	5.9	42.7	51.3	2.0	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.2	0.0
Galle	94.5	94.3	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.9	3.2	3.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.1	0.0
Matara	94.5	94.2	0.7	0.6	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hambantota	97.1	97.1	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.0	(.)0	1.0	1.4	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arnpa	37.8	39.3	20.0	18.7	0.4	0.1	41.5	41.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.1	0.1
Kurunegala	92.9	91.7	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.2	5.0	(i.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.1	0.0
Puttalam	82.6	73.8	6.6	6.9	0.5	0.3	9.9	18.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	..	0.1	..	0.0	0.1	0.1
Anuradhapura	91.1	90.8	1.4	0.7	0.1	0.1	7.1	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.2	0.2
Polonnaruwa	91.4	90.3	2.0	2.0	0.1	0.0	6.4	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.2	0.0
Badulla	69.1	72.1	5.9	4.2	20.2	18.2	4.2	5.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.4	0.1
Ivlonaragala	92.7	94.5	2.0	1.4	3.2	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.1	0.0
Ratnapura	85.0	86.6	2.4	3.4	10.6	7.8	1.7	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.2	0.0
Kegalle	85.9	85.6	2.2	1.8	6.7	5.9	5.0	6.6	0.0	(.)0	0.1	0.0	..	0.0	..	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total	82.5	81.9	4.6	4.3	5.7	5.1	6.4	8.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	..	0.1	..	0.0	0.2	0.1

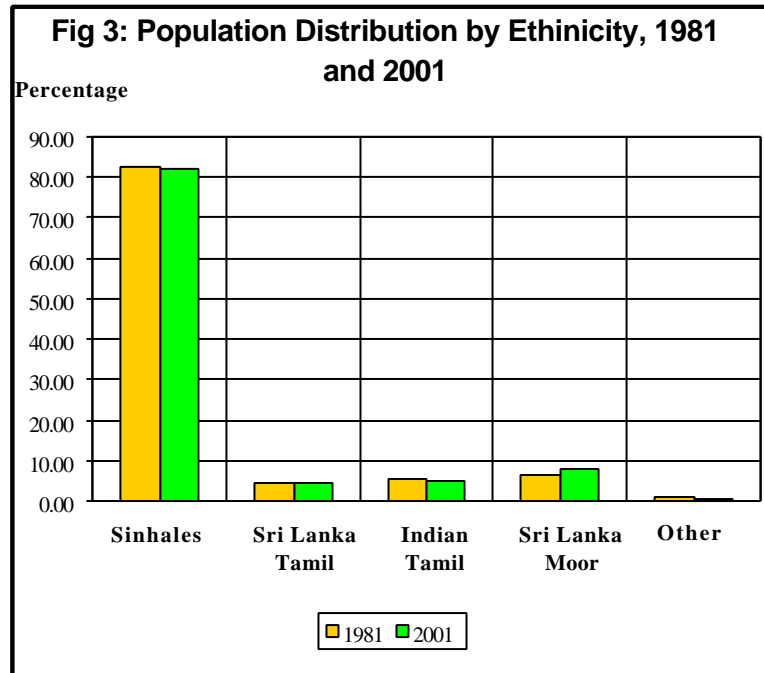
.. Not available in 1981*

1981 and 2001 figures are not comparable

Comparison with the corresponding 1981 census figures reveals that the overall percentages for 18 districts have declined slightly for all the ethnic groups except for Sri Lanka Moor (see Figure 3). They show an increase of 1.6 percentage points during 1981 to 2001. The percentage of Sinhalese population has increased for Badulla (3.0 percentage points), Moneragala (1.8 percentage points), Ratnapura

(1.6 percentage points), Arnpa (1.5 percentage points) and Matale (0.2 percentage points) districts and all other districts show some decrease. The percentage share of Sinhalese population in Puttalam district has dropped by 8.5 percentage points while an increase of similar magnitude is recorded for Sri Lanka Moor population.

Figure 3: Population Distribution by Ethnicity, 1981 and 2001



The share of Sri Lanka Tamil population has increased in Colombo (1.0 percentage points), Ratnapura (1.0 percentage points), Puttalam (0.3 percentage points), Galle (0.3 percentage points) and Kalutara (0.1 percentage points) districts and all other districts show some decrease. This decrease is highest for Nuwara Eliya (6.8 percentage points) but the Indian Tamil population there has increased by 8.6 percentage points. It was documented that some of Indian Tamils have misreported as Sri Lanka Tamils during the 1981 Census. The percentage changes in opposite directions of the two ethnic groups could probably suggest that the misreporting has rectified to some extent during the 2001 Census. One remarkable feature of the change in ethnic distribution between 1981-2001 is the increase in the percentage share of Sri Lanka Moor population in 17 out of 18 districts under consideration. The exception is for Hambantota. The increase is highest for Puttalam district (8.8 percentage points).

7. Religious Composition

The distribution of the population by religion is shown in Table F and in Figure 4: The religious affiliations in the 18 districts show that out of the total population 76.7 percent are Buddhists, 7.9 percent are Hindus, 8.5 percent are followers of Islam, 6.1 percent are Roman Catholics and 0.8 percent are other Christians. Highest percentage of Buddhists is reported from Hambantota district (96.9 percent) and lowest percentage is recorded for Ampara (39.2 percent). The highest percentage of Hindus are reported from Nuwara Eliya district (51.3 percent) followed by Badulla district (20.7 percent). This is expected as the percentage of Tamil population is high in these areas. The followers of Islam religion is highest in Ampara district (41.6 percent) since large proportion of Moors are living there.

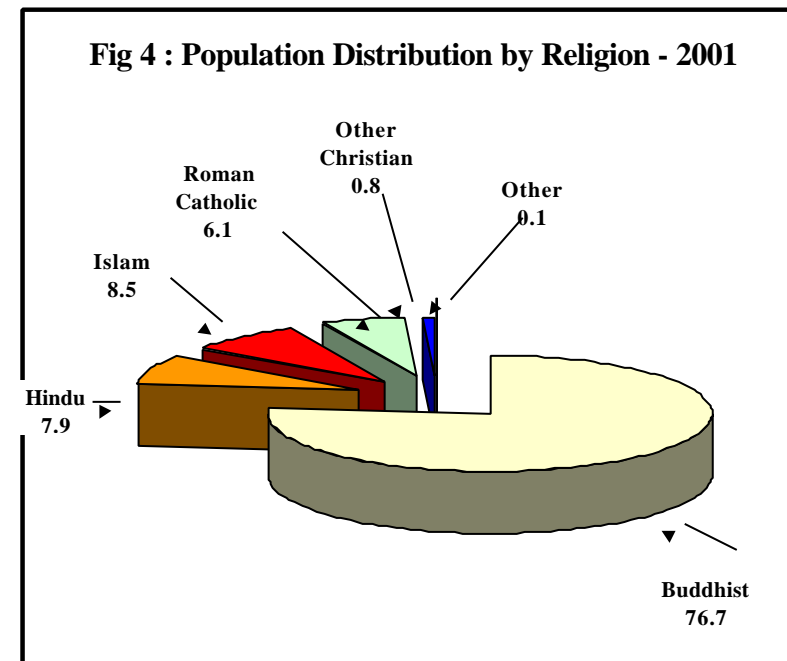
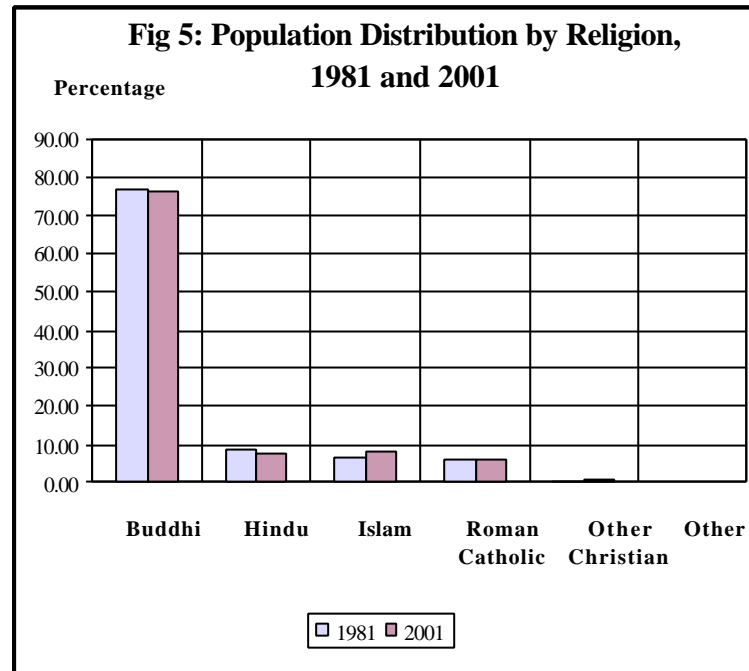


Table F - Percentage Distribution of Religion by Districts, 1981 and 2001

District	Buddhist		Hindu		Islam		Roman Catholic		Other Christian		Other	
	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001
Colombo	70.1	70.4	7.7	8.9	9.9	10.7	9.4	7.8	2.4	2.1	0.2	0.2
Gampaha	71.1	71.6	1.9	2.1	3.5	4.6	22.5	20.4	0.9	1.4	0.1	0.1
Kalutara	84.3	83.9	4.5	3.4	7.6	8.9	3.3	3.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
Kandy	73.6	73.1	12.7	10.7	11.1	13.7	1.9	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1
Matale	78.6	79.1	11.6	9.7	7.3	9.0	2.1	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Nuwara Eliya	41.6	39.5	50.3	51.3	2.5	2.9	4.7	4.7	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.1
Galle	94.2	94.1	1.9	1.6	3.2	3.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0
Matara	94.6	94.0	2.4	2.4	2.6	3.0	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
Hambantota	97.1	96.9	0.5	0.3	2.2	2.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Ampara	37.5	39.2	18.7	17.2	41.7	41.6	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.0
Kurunegala	90.1	88.9	1.2	1.0	5.3	6.9	3.0	2.8	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.0
Puttalam	48.0	43.1	3.9	4.3	10.2	19.0	37.5	32.7	0.4	1.0	0.1	0.0
Anuradhapura	90.1	90.1	1.2	0.1	7.3	8.3	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0
Polonnaruwa	90.1	89.3	1.8	1.9	6.5	7.7	1.3	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Badulla	68.8	71.6	24.3	20.7	4.6	5.5	1.8	1.6	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0
Moneragala	92.7	94.4	4.7	3.0	2.0	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Ratnapura	84.8	86.4	11.6	9.9	2.0	2.2	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0
Kegalle	85.2	84.7	7.9	6.8	5.2	6.8	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0
Total	77.3	76.7	8.6	7.9	6.9	8.5	6.4	6.1	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1

Comparison with the corresponding 1981 census figures reveals that the overall percentages for 18 districts have declined slightly for all the religious groups except for Islam and Other Christians (see Figure 5). Followers of Islam

have increased by 1.6 percentage points and Other Christians by marginal 0.1 percentage points.



8. Sectoral Composition

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. Although the definition of estate sector is similar to that used in the 1981 census, the definition of urban sector is not comparable between the two censuses. This happened as a consequence of abolishing Town Councils which were treated as urban in the 1981 census and absorbing the administration of such areas into Pradesheeya Sabhas which are considered as rural since 1987. Therefore the urban population figures and percentages should be interpreted cautiously.

Table G shows the population distribution by sectors. For the 18 districts, urban, rural and estate percentages are 14.6, 80.0 and 5.3 respectively. The highest

Table G - Population Distribution by Sector and Districts, 2001

District	Total Population		Urban		Rural		Estate	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Colombo	2,234,289	100.0	1,221,904	54.7	1,005,071	45.0	7,314	0.3
Gampaha	2,066,096	100.0	301,699	14.6	1,763,828	85.4	569	0.0
Kalutara	1,060,800	100.0	112,715	10.6	913,199	86.1	34,886	3.3
Kandy	1,272,463	100.0	156,923	12.3	1,022,895	80.4	92,645	7.3
Matale	442,427	100.0	36,352	8.2	384,209	86.8	21,861	4.9
Nuwara Eliya	700,083	100.0	43,050	6.1	283,870	40.5	373,163	53.3
Galle	990,539	100.0	110,654	11.2	862,880	87.1	17,005	1.7
Matara	761,236	100.0	64,539	8.5	676,533	88.9	20,164	2.6
Hambantota	525,370	100.0	21,671	4.1	502,268	95.6	1,431	0.3
Ampara	589,344	100.0	112,422	19.1	476,922	80.9	-	-
Kurunegala	1,452,369	100.0	34,719	2.4	1,410,904	97.1	6,746	0.5
Puttalam	705,342	100.0	65,072	9.2	638,728	90.6	1,542	0.2
Anuradhapura	746,466	100.0	56,632	7.6	689,834	92.4	-	-
Polonnaruwa	359,197	100.0	-	-	359,197	100.0	-	-
Badulla	774,555	100.0	53,018	6.8	563,894	72.8	157,143	20.4
Moneragala	396,173	100.0	-	-	387,949	97.9	8,224	2.1
Ratnapura	1,008,164	100.0	58,371	5.8	847,896	84.1	101,897	10.1
Kegalle	779,774	100.0	17,430	2.2	706,726	90.6	55,618	7.1
Total	16,864,687	100.0	2,467,171	14.6	13,496,803	80.0	900,713	5.3

urban population is concentrated in Colombo district (54.7 percent) followed by Ampara (19.1 percent) and Gampaha (14.6 percent). As expected the percentage of estate population is highest in Nuwara Eliya district (53.3 percent). Estate population is comparatively high in Badulla and Ratnapura districts (20.4 percent and 10.1 percent respectively).