

**Population by district and annual growth rate,
Censuses 1981, 2001 and 2012**

| District | Population | | | Average annual growth rate (Per cent) | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Population Census 1981 ⁽¹⁾ | Population Census 2001 ⁽²⁾ | Population Census 2012 | 1981-2001 | 1981-2012 | 2001-2012 |
| Sri Lanka | 14,846,274 | 18,797,257 | 20,263,723 | 1.16 | 1.00 | 0.70 |
| Colombo | 1,675,847 | 2,239,696 | 2,309,809 | 1.43 | 1.03 | 0.29 |
| Gampaha | 1,367,813 | 2,060,470 | 2,294,641 | 2.01 | 1.67 | 1.01 |
| Kalutara | 823,964 | 1,065,635 | 1,217,260 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.25 |
| Kandy | 1,032,335 | 1,276,202 | 1,369,899 | 1.04 | 0.91 | 0.66 |
| Matale | 352,860 | 439,031 | 482,229 | 1.07 | 1.01 | 0.88 |
| NuwaraEliya | 583,716 | 702,689 | 706,588 | 0.91 | 0.62 | 0.05 |
| Galle | 805,403 | 989,769 | 1,058,771 | 1.01 | 0.88 | 0.63 |
| Matara | 642,235 | 760,990 | 809,344 | 0.83 | 0.75 | 0.58 |
| Hambantota | 421,277 | 525,913 | 596,617 | 1.09 | 1.12 | 1.18 |
| Jaffna | 734,474 | - | 583,378 | - | -0.74 | |
| Mannar | 105,276 | - | 99,051 | - | -0.20 | |
| Vavuniya | 93,694 | - | 171,511 | - | 1.95 | |
| Mullaitivu | 73,886 | - | 91,947 | - | 0.70 | |
| Kilinochchi | 90,778 | - | 112,875 | - | 0.70 | |
| Batticaloa | 329,343 | - | 525,142 | - | 1.50 | |
| Ampara | 383,275 | 592,596 | 648,057 | 2.14 | 1.69 | 0.84 |
| Trincomalee | 250,771 | - | 378,182 | - | 1.32 | |
| Kurunegala | 1,198,795 | 1,458,385 | 1,610,299 | 0.96 | 0.95 | 0.93 |
| Puttalam | 485,619 | 709,002 | 759,776 | 1.86 | 1.44 | 0.65 |
| Anuradhapura | 575,546 | 742,535 | 856,232 | 1.25 | 1.28 | 1.33 |
| Polonnaruwa | 253,411 | 358,804 | 403,335 | 1.71 | 1.50 | 1.10 |
| Badulla | 620,839 | 778,422 | 811,758 | 1.11 | 0.86 | 0.39 |
| Monaragala | 269,684 | 396,521 | 448,142 | 1.89 | 1.64 | 1.15 |
| Ratnapura | 779,927 | 1,016,221 | 1,082,277 | 1.30 | 1.06 | 0.59 |
| Kegalle | 678,456 | 784,371 | 836,603 | 0.71 | 0.68 | 0.60 |

(1) Jaffna and Kilinochchi data is given based on current district boundaries.

(2) Under Census 2001, total estimated population for the country which is calculated based on the estimated population of Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi districts of Northern Province, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts of Eastern province, where enumeration was not taken place is given.

Note : population at the Census 2012 was enumerated based on their places of usual residence and therefore in this report, district-wise population in Censuses of 1981 and 2001 are presented by their places of usual residence to make the comparison more meaningful.