

Population by district, census years
(Thousands)

District	Both sexes													
	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1946	1953	1963	1971	1981	2001	2012
Sri Lanka	2,400.4	2,759.8	3,007.8	3,566.0	4,106.4	4,497.9	5,306.9	6,657.3	8,097.9	10,582.0	12,689.9	14,846.8	18,797.3⁽¹⁾	20,263.7
Colombo	430.0	506.5	578.9	690.8	826.8	923.1	1,081.2	1,420.3	1,708.7	2,207.4	2,672.3	1,699.2	2,251.3	2,309.8
Gampaha												1,390.9	2,063.7	2,294.6
Kalutara	145.7	165.0	183.6	229.9	279.5	323.7	363.8	456.6	523.6	631.5	729.5	829.7	1,066.2	1,217.3
Kandy	232.2	288.3	288.4	377.6	408.4	434.0	587.7	711.4	840.4	1,043.6	1,188.0	1,048.3	1,279.0	1,369.9
Matale	75.2	86.7	76.6	92.2	108.4	116.6	129.7	155.7	201.0	255.6	314.4	357.4	441.3	482.2
Nuwara - Eliya	58.2	98.7	109.6	153.0	155.5	167.2	235.8	268.1	325.3	397.7	450.3	603.6	703.6	706.6
Galle	194.4	209.7	222.9	258.1	291.0	313.1	363.6	459.8	524.4	641.5	735.2	814.5	990.5	1,058.8
Matara	143.3	151.9	177.6	203.8	227.3	238.5	283.3	351.9	413.4	514.9	586.4	643.8	761.4	809.3
Hambantota	60.9	71.9	89.3	104.9	110.5	119.6	124.4	149.7	191.5	274.3	340.3	424.3	526.4	596.6
Jaffna	246.1	265.6	279.3	300.9	326.7	330.5	355.4	424.8	491.8	612.6	701.6	830.6	490.6 ⁽¹⁾	583.4
Mannar	20.3	21.3	24.5	24.9	25.6	25.6	25.1	31.5	43.7	60.1	77.8	106.2	151.6 ⁽¹⁾	99.1
Vavuniya	15.3	15.6	15.5	15.2	17.3	18.7	18.3	23.2	35.1	68.6	95.2	95.4	149.8 ⁽¹⁾	171.5
Mullaitivu												77.2	121.7 ⁽¹⁾	91.9
Kilinochchi													127.3 ⁽¹⁾	112.9
Batticaloa]	93.1	105.4	122.7	145.2	153.9	158.7	174.9	203.2	270.5	196.1	256.7	330.3	486.4 ⁽¹⁾	525.1
Ampara]										211.7	272.6	388.9	593.0	648.1
Trincomalee	19.4	22.2	25.7	28.4	29.8	34.1	37.5	75.9	83.9	138.5	188.2	255.9	340.2 ⁽¹⁾	378.2
Kurunagala	207.1	215.2	230.2	249.4	306.8	354.2	397.2	485.0	626.9	852.6	1,025.6	1,211.8	1,460.2	1,610.3
Puttalam]	68.1	78.2	26.7	29.8	39.7	35.6	35.1	43.1	58.8	302.5	378.4	492.5	709.7	759.8
Chilaw]			63.2	74.4	87.6	102.4	114.6	139.8	170.1					
Anuradhapura]	63.7	66.1	75.3	79.1	86.3	96.5	97.4	139.5	229.3	279.8	388.8	587.9	745.7	856.2
Polannaruwa]										113.9	163.7	261.6	359.0	403.3
Badulla]	129.0	165.7	159.2	186.7	216.7	233.9	303.2	372.2	466.9	521.8	615.4	641.0	780.0	811.8
Monaragala]										132.2	193.0	273.6	397.4	448.1
Ratnapura	92.2	105.9	108.0	133.0	166.0	203.0	263.8	343.6	421.6	546.0	661.3	797.1	1,015.8	1,082.3
Kegalle	105.3	120.0	150.6	188.8	242.5	268.8	314.6	401.8	471.6	578.5	654.8	684.9	785.5	836.6

Gampaha and Mullaitivu Districts were carved out in September 1978. Killinochchi was carved out in February 1984

Total maynot tally due to rounding off figures are first decimal place

(1) Estimates

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

