

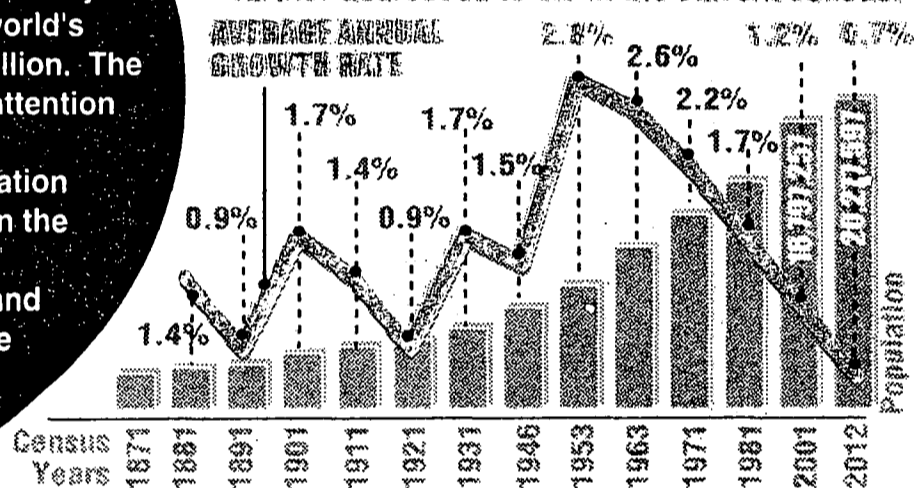
DECLINE OF SL POPULATION GROWTH RATES

Sri Lanka's population growth has fallen to 0.7 per cent in the past 10 years, according to recently released "Preliminary Report of the 2012 Census of Population and Housing" by the Census Department.

TODAY IS WORLD POPULATION DAY

The World Population Day was inaugurated in 1988 by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to mark July 11, 1987, when the world's population hit five billion. The Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, particularly in the context of overall development plans and programmes, and the need to find solutions for these issues.

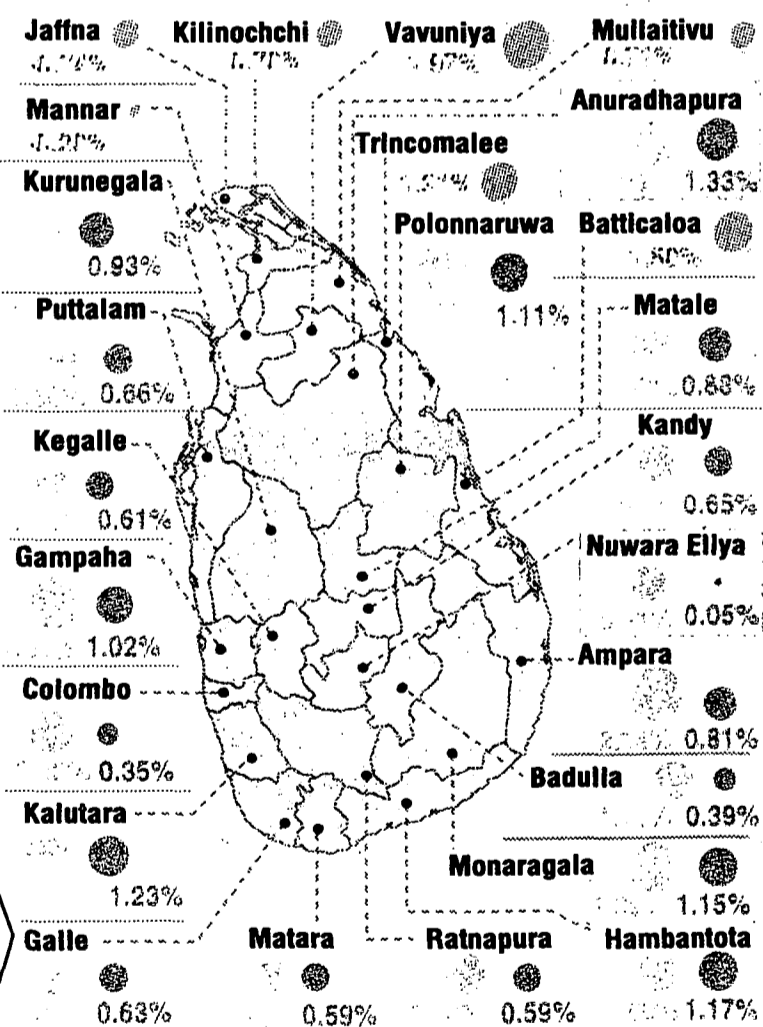
There is a decreasing trend in the population growth rate since the census of 1953 which recorded the highest population growth rate of 2.8 in the history of censuses. Accordingly, the population growth rate of 1.2 recorded in the census of 2001 has further decreased to 0.7 in the current census.



The long standing decline in the natural population increase which is the difference between births and deaths and migration has contributed to this low level of population growth. A gradual increase in the population however is observed in the country notwithstanding the low growth rate.

POPULATION GROWTH BY DISTRICT

- During the intercensal period of 2001 and 2012, districts in the dry zone reported the highest average annual population growth rates as in previous censuses.
- During the period highest average annual population growth rate of 1.33 per cent was reported from the Anuradhapura district.
- Nuwara Eliya and Badulla, which represent the upcountry estate sector reported low growth rates of 0.05 per cent and 0.37 per cent respectively.



Period	Annual Growth Rate (%)
1981-2001	1.2%
2001-2012	0.7%
1981-2001 (No census conducted 2001)	1.2%
2012-2001	0.7%

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

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