A million new houses were built in Sri Lanka. In 2001 there were 4,687,157 houses. The total number of houses has been increased up to 5,773,678 in 2011. Newly built houses which were added to the total number of houses within the past ten years was 1,096,521 this is an increase of 23.2%.

In 1981 there were 2,943,610 houses and it was an increase of 96% when compared with the number of houses in 2011. These facts were reported according to the Building Census held as a primary phase for the Housing and Population Census 2011, which is being conducted at present.

Majority of new houses constructed during past 10 years was reported from North and Eastern Provinces. Highest percentage (61%) of the new houses were built in Vavuniya District, the next highest percentage was (35%) from the Jaffna District. When considering the Eastern Province as a whole, 35% of new houses were built in Trincomalee and 34.9% in Batticaloa.

In past ten - year period lowest amount of new houses was built at Nuwara Eliya District - 197,903 an increase of 12.8%. Gampaha District was the only district where 26.5% of new houses were built apart from North and Eastern Provinces. The amount of new houses built in Colombo District was 507,708 and it was an increase of 34.4%. During the period under review, lowest housing units were reported from Colombo District when comparing with total buildings in the district. As a percentage of total 41.4% and in 2001 it was 65.9. It was revealed that in the past ten years, a large number of non housing units were built in the Colombo District.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

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