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Chapter 1

223

1.1 223.guide

Texified version of data for Sri Lanka.

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Sri Lanka

1.2 223.guide/Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka

Geography (Sri Lanka)
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1.3 223.guide/Geography (Sri Lanka)

Geography (Sri Lanka)

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Location:
 South Asia, 29 km southeast of India across the Palk Strait in the Indian Ocean
 Map references:
 Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World
 Area:
 total area:
 65,610 km²
 land area:
 64,740 km²
 comparative area:
 slightly larger than West Virginia
 Land boundaries:
 0 km
 Coastline:
 1,340 km
 Maritime claims:
 contiguous zone:
 24 nm
 continental shelf:
 200 nm or the edge of continental margin
 exclusive economic zone:
 200 nm
 territorial sea:
 12 nm
 International disputes:
 none
 Climate:
 tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)
 Terrain:
 mostly low, flat to rolling plain; mountains in south-central interior
 Natural resources:
 limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay
 Land use: arable land:
 16%
 permanent crops:

17%
 meadows and pastures:
 7%
 forest and woodland:
 37%
 other:
 23%
 Irrigated land:
 5,600 km² (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 occasional cyclones, tornados; deforestation; soil erosion
 Note:
 strategic location near major Indian Ocean sea lanes

1.4 223.guide/People (Sri Lanka)

People (Sri Lanka)

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Population:
 17,838,190 (July 1993 est.)
 note:
 since the outbreak of hostilities between the government and armed Tamil separatists in the mid 1980s, several hundred thousand Tamil civilians have fled the island; as of late 1992, nearly 115,000 were housed in refugee camps in south India, another 95,000 lived outside the Indian camps, and more than 200,000 Tamils have sought political asylum in the West; fewer than 10,000 Tamils have been successfully repatriated to Sri Lanka
 Population growth rate:
 1.11% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 18.71 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 5.84 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -1.81 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 22.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 71.51 years
 male:
 68.94 years
 female:
 74.21 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.13 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Sri Lankan(s)
 adjective:
 Sri Lankan
 Ethnic divisions:

Sinhalese 74%, Tamil 18%, Moor 7%, Burgher, Malay, and Vedda 1%

Religions:
 Buddhist 69%, Hindu 15%, Christian 8%, Muslim 8%

Languages:
 Sinhala (official and national language) 74%, Tamil (national language) 18%

note:
 English is commonly used in government and is spoken by about 10% of the population

Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1990)
 total population:
 88%
 male:
 93%
 female:
 84%

Labor force:
 6.6 million

by occupation:
 agriculture 45.9%, mining and manufacturing 13.3%, trade and transport 12.4%, services and other 28.4% (1985 est.)

1.5 223.guide/Government (Sri Lanka)

Government (Sri Lanka)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
 conventional short form:
 Sri Lanka
 former:
 Ceylon

Digraph:
 CE

Type:
 republic

Capital:
 Colombo

Administrative divisions:
 8 provinces; Central, North Central, North Eastern, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Uva, Western

Independence:
 4 February 1948 (from UK)

Constitution:
 31 August 1978

Legal system:
 a highly complex mixture of English common law, Roman-Dutch, Muslim, Sinhalese, and customary law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:
 Independence and National Day, 4 February (1948)

Political parties and leaders:

United National Party (UNP), Dingiri Banda WIJETUNGA; Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), Sirimavo BANDARANAIKE; Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), M. H. M. ASHRAFF; All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC), Kumar PONNAMBALAM; People's United Front (MEP, or Mahajana Eksath Peramuna), Dinesh GUNAWARDENE; Eelam Democratic Front (EDF), Edward SEBASTIAN PILLAI; Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), leader NA; Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (EROS), Velupillai BALAKUMARAN; New Socialist Party (NSSP, or Nava Sama Samaja Party), Vasudeva NANAYAKKARA; Lanka Socialist Party/Trotskyite (LSSP or Lanka Sama Samaja Party), Colin R. DE SILVA; Sri Lanka People's Party (SLMP, or Sri Lanka Mahajana Party), Ossie ABEYGUNASEKERA; Communist Party, K. P. SILVA; Communist Party/Beijing (CP/B), N. SHANMUGATHASAN; Democratic United National Front (DUNF), Lalith ATHULATHMUDALI and Gamini DISSANAYAKE

note:
 the United Socialist Alliance (USA) includes the NSSP, LSSP, SLMP, CP/M, and CP/B

Other political or pressure groups:
 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and other smaller Tamil separatist groups; Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front and several other radical chauvinist Sinhalese groups); Buddhist clergy; Sinhalese Buddhist lay groups; labor unions

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal

Elections:
 President:
 last held 19 December 1988 (next to be held NA December 1994); results - Ranasinghe PREMADASA (UNP) 50%, Sirimavo BANDARANAIKE (SLFP) 45%, other 5%; note - following the assassination of President PREMADASA on 1 May 1993, Prime Minister WIJETUNGA became acting president; on 7 May 1993, he was confirmed by a vote of Parliament to finish out the term of the assassinated president

1.6 223.guide/Government (Sri Lanka 2. usage)

Government (Sri Lanka 2. usage)

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Parliament:
 last held 15 February 1989 (next to be held by NA February 1995); results - UNP 51%, SLFP 32%, SLMC 4%, TULF 3%, USA 3%, EROS 3%, MEP 1%, other 3%; seats - (225 total) UNP 125, SLFP 67, other 33

Executive branch:
 president, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
 unicameral Parliament

Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court

Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Dingiri Banda WIJETUNGA (since 7 May 1993)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Ranil WICKREMASINGHE (since 7 May 1993)

Member of:

AsDB, C, CCC, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-24, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, NAM, PCA, SAARC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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Flag:

yellow with two panels; the smaller hoist-side panel has two equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) and orange; the other panel is a large dark red rectangle with a yellow lion holding a sword, and there is a yellow bo leaf in each corner; the yellow field appears as a border that goes around the entire flag and extends between the two panels

1.7 223.guide/Economy (Sri Lanka)

Economy (Sri Lanka)

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Overview:

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing dominate the economy, employing half of the labor force and accounting for one quarter of GDP. The plantation crops of tea, rubber, and coconuts provide about one-third of export earnings. ←

The economy has been plagued by high rates of unemployment since the late 1970s ←

Economic growth, which has been depressed by ethnic unrest, accelerated in 1991-92 as domestic conditions began to improve and conditions for foreign investment brightened.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$7.75 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

4.5% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$440 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
10% (1992)

Unemployment rate:
15% (1991 est.)

Budget:
revenues \$2.0 billion; expenditures \$3.7 billion, including capital expenditures of \$500 million (1992)

Exports:
\$2.0 billion (f.o.b., 1991)
commodities:
textiles and garments, teas, petroleum products, coconuts, rubber, other agricultural products, gems and jewelry, marine products, graphite
partners:
US 27.4%, Germany, Japan, UK, Belgium, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China

Imports:
\$3.1 billion (c.i.f., 1991)
commodities: food and beverages, textiles and textile materials, petroleum ←
and petroleum
products, machinery and equipment
partners:
Japan, Iran, US 5.7%, India, Taiwan, Singapore, Germany, UK

External debt:
\$5.7 billion (1991 est.)

Industrial production:
growth rate 7% (1991 est.); accounts for 20% of GDP

Electricity:
1,300,000 kW capacity; 3,600 million kWh produced, 200 kWh per capita ←
(1992)

Industries:
processing of rubber, tea, coconuts, and other agricultural commodities;
cement, petroleum refining, textiles, tobacco, clothing

Agriculture:
accounts for 26% of GDP and nearly half of labor force; most important staple crop is paddy rice; other field crops – sugarcane, grains, pulses, oilseeds, roots, spices; cash crops – tea, rubber, coconuts; animal ←
products
– milk, eggs, hides, meat; not self-sufficient in rice production

Economic aid:
US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.0 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1980-89), \$5.1 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$169 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$369 million

Currency:
1 Sri Lankan rupee (SLRe) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:
Sri Lankan rupees (SLRes) per US\$1 – 46.342 (January 1993), 43.687 (1992), 41.372 (1991), 40.063 (1990), 36.047 (1989), 31.807 (1988)

1.8 223.guide/Economy (Sri Lanka 2. usage)

Economy (Sri Lanka 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:
calendar year

1.9 223.guide/Communications (Sri Lanka)

Communications (Sri Lanka)

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Railroads:

1,948 km total (1990); all 1.868-meter broad gauge; 102 km double track; no electrification; government owned

Highways:

75,749 km total (1990); 27,637 km paved (mostly bituminous treated), 32,887 km crushed stone or gravel, 14,739 km improved earth or unimproved earth; several thousand km of mostly unmotorable tracks (1988 est.)

Inland waterways:

430 km; navigable by shallow-draft craft

Pipelines:

crude oil and petroleum products 62 km (1987)

Ports:

Colombo, Trincomalee

Merchant marine:

27 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 276,074 GRT/443,266 DWT; includes 12 cargo, 6 refrigerated cargo, 3 container, 3 oil tanker, 3 bulk

Airports:

total:

14

usable:

13

with permanent-surface runways:

12

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

1

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

8

Telecommunications:

very inadequate domestic service, good international service; 114,000 telephones (1982); broadcast stations - 12 AM, 5 FM, 5 TV; submarine cables extend to Indonesia and Djibouti; 2 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth stations

1.10 223.guide/Defense Forces (Sri Lanka)

Defense Forces (Sri Lanka)

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Branches:

Army, Navy, Air Force, Police Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 4,779,221; fit for military service 3,730,737; reach
military age (18) annually 178,032 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$365 million, 4.7% of GDP (1992)