

## 2.2 Age composition

The population is conveniently divided into 3 broad age groups. Percentage of these age groups is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of population by selected age groups and by sector – 2006

Sector	Age group(Years)			
	Total (%)	0 -14 (%)	15 -59 (%)	60 and above (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Urban	100	25.2	64.7	10.0
Rural	100	25.0	63.3	11.8
Estate	100	31.2	61.3	7.5

The economically dependent part is recognized to be children who are too young to work and individuals that are too old. Generally individuals under the age of 15 and over the age of 60 are considered as dependants in this survey. The ratio of the population in the age groups 0-14 years and 60 years and over to the population in the age group 15-59 years is called dependency ratio. According to the survey dependency ratio is 57.6 percent for Sri Lanka in 2006. The corresponding figure for estate sector is 63.2 percent, which is the highest proportion among sectors.

Table 2.4: Percentage distribution of head of the household by age group and by sector - 2006

Sector	Age group (Years)				
	Total (%)	10 - 24 (%)	25 - 39 (%)	40 - 59 (%)	60 and above (%)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>
Urban	100	1.0	20.6	53.8	24.6
Rural	100	1.0	21.5	50.7	26.8
Estate	100	2.1	28.0	50.7	19.2

Table 2.4 shows that the majority of heads fall into 40-59 age groups (51 percent). Heads of households whose age below 24 years are recorded nearly 1 percent in Sri Lanka.