

## 2. Demographic Characteristics

Collecting information on demographic characteristics is usually done in national household surveys. Based on this data estimated values of population by sex, by age group, by level of education, by marital status, by labour force etc. are published.

The information collected in Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) – 2006/07 was based on households in Sri Lanka. Therefore the population given in the following sections is recorded as the estimated household population. The household population excludes those people living in places other than households (e.g. Army barracks, boarding houses, prison etc.)

### 2.1 Population

Table 2.1 shows the household population by sex. According to the survey results the estimated household population is 18.3 million in Sri Lanka. Of the household population the female population is 9.5 million, which exceeds the male population, which is recorded as 8.8 million. The female population is about 52 percent as a proportion. The estimated household population has distributed 79.5 percent, 14.9 percent and 5.5 percent in, rural, urban and estate sectors respectively.

Table 2.1: Household population by sex and by sector – 2006

Sector	Population (in million)			Percentage (%)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>51.9</b>
Urban	2.8	1.3	1.5	100	46.9	53.1
Rural	14.5	7.0	7.5	100	48.4	51.6
Estate	1.0	0.5	0.5	100	47.9	52.1

According to our cultural practices in most households, men are usually enumerated as head of households. This situation shows in Table 2.2. According to Table 2.2 male headed households are reported as 76 percent of total households.

Table 2.2: Household population of head of the household by sex and by sector – 2006

Sector	Heads (in thousands)			Percentage (%)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>4494</b>	<b>3406</b>	<b>1088</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>24.2</b>
Urban	636	465	171	100	73.2	26.8
Rural	3623	2761	862	100	76.2	23.8
Estate	235	180	55	100	76.7	23.3