



NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MANPOWER RESOURCES OF  
CEYLON 1956-1981

BY

R. M. SUNDRUM, PH.D. (LOND.)

with the assistance of

V. R. RAO., M.SC. (BOMBAY)

and

S. SELVARATNAM, B.A. HONS. (CEYLON)

ANNING SECRETARIAT, COLOMBO, CEYLON

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PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, CEYLON



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A report prepared at the Demographic Training and Research Centre, Chembur,  
Bombay, at the request of the Planning Secretariat, Government of Ceylon.

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## FOREWORD

THE study on the Manpower Resources of Ceylon, 1956-81 is the second of the series undertaken by the Demographic Training and Research Centre, Bombay for the Planning Secretariat. It forms part of the original request by the Planning Secretariat for a study of future population and manpower trends in Ceylon. The first study "POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR CEYLON 1956-81" has been published separately.

Projections of the work force are usually beset with many difficulties, particularly those relating to a definition, valid for the projection period, of the economically active population. Assumptions have to be made about several factors closely affected by social and economic changes which are themselves difficult to visualise. Nevertheless estimates of the probable size and composition of the persons who take part in a nation's economic life are important for effective programming. The present study is the first of its kind pertaining to Ceylon and has already proved of considerable use in the preparation of the 10 year Plan.

The Planning Secretariat is much indebted to the Demographic Training and Research Centre, Bombay and to the authors—Dr. Sundram of the Centre's Staff and Messrs. Rao and Selvaratnam—for undertaking this study.

GAMANI COREA,  
*Director,*  
*Planning Secretariat.*

The Planning Secretariat,  
Colombo, 11 May, 1959.

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Table I

URBAN POPULATION OF CEYLON BY AGE AND SEX, 1953-1981

(Rounded to nearest thousand)

Age-group	Year						
	1953	1956	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981
	<i>Males</i>						
0-4	94,000	119,000	142,000	174,000	223,000	282,000	344,000
5-9	74,000	87,000	119,000	143,000	176,000	226,000	285,000
10-14	68,000	74,000	95,000	130,000	160,000	193,000	245,000
15-19	70,000	71,000	89,000	113,000	152,000	187,000	226,000
20-24	80,000	78,000	91,000	114,000	145,000	191,000	235,000
25-29	74,000	88,000	95,000	113,000	141,000	176,000	231,000
30-34	61,000	74,000	94,000	102,000	123,000	153,000	188,000
35-39	48,000	61,000	78,000	99,000	108,000	130,000	162,000
40-44	43,000	46,000	61,000	91,000	99,000	108,000	130,000
45-49	34,000	41,000	45,000	59,000	90,000	99,000	108,000
50-54	27,000	32,000	40,000	45,000	58,000	89,000	98,000
55-59	18,000	24,000	31,000	39,000	44,000	57,000	86,000
60-64	12,000	15,000	22,000	29,000	37,000	41,000	54,000
65-69	9,000	10,000	14,000	20,000	26,000	33,000	37,000
70-74	5,000	7,000	8,000	11,000	16,000	21,000	28,000
75-79	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	8,000	12,000	16,000
80 and over	3,000	2,000	3,000	5,000	6,000	8,000	12,000
All ages	723,000	833,000	1,032,000	1,293,000	1,612,000	2,006,000	2,485,000
	<i>Females</i>						
0-4	91,000	116,000	138,000	169,000	216,000	273,000	333,000
5-9	72,000	83,000	115,000	138,000	171,000	219,000	277,000
10-14	60,000	71,000	89,000	124,000	149,000	184,000	235,000
15-19	54,000	62,000	82,000	104,000	142,000	171,000	211,000
20-24	50,000	60,000	76,000	101,000	126,000	170,000	206,000
25-29	48,000	54,000	71,000	90,000	120,000	147,000	196,000
30-34	39,000	47,000	60,000	77,000	98,000	130,000	159,000
35-39	32,000	39,000	49,000	63,000	82,000	103,000	136,000
40-44	27,000	30,000	39,000	50,000	64,000	82,000	104,000
45-49	21,000	26,000	30,000	39,000	50,000	64,000	83,000
50-54	19,000	20,000	25,000	30,000	38,000	50,000	64,000
55-59	13,000	16,000	20,000	25,000	31,000	38,000	50,000
60-64	10,000	12,000	16,000	19,000	24,000	30,000	37,000
65-69	8,000	8,000	10,000	14,000	17,000	22,000	28,000
70-74	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	12,000	14,000	18,000
75-79	3,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	8,000	11,000
80 and over	3,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	8,000
All ages	555,000	656,000	835,000	1,060,000	1,351,000	1,711,000	2,156,000

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Table II

RURAL POPULATION OF CEYLON BY AGE AND SEX, 1953-1981

(Rounded to nearest thousands)

Age	1953	1956	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981
	<i>Males</i>						
0-4	668,000	693,000	763,000	848,000	944,000	1,067,000	1,191,000
5-9	488,000	604,000	670,000	743,000	830,000	927,000	1,051,000
10-14	395,000	457,000	590,000	655,000	723,000	811,000	904,000
15-19	320,000	369,000	440,000	569,000	630,000	693,000	775,000
20-24	299,000	306,000	342,000	411,000	534,000	588,000	642,000
25-29	289,000	288,000	286,000	318,000	382,000	500,000	545,000
30-34	245,000	270,000	277,000	276,000	304,000	366,000	483,000
35-39	222,000	233,000	262,000	268,000	266,000	294,000	354,000
40-44	187,000	209,000	228,000	243,000	263,000	261,000	288,000
45-49	166,000	177,000	203,000	223,000	236,000	256,000	254,000
50-54	134,000	153,000	169,000	195,000	215,000	228,000	247,000
55-59	94,000	117,000	144,000	160,000	184,000	203,000	216,000
60-64	70,000	81,000	106,000	132,000	146,000	170,000	187,000
65-69	53,000	59,000	70,000	92,000	115,000	128,000	148,000
70-74	35,000	40,000	46,000	53,000	74,000	92,000	103,000
75-79	20,000	23,000	28,000	33,000	40,000	53,000	66,000
80 and over	24,000	14,000	21,000	28,000	33,000	40,000	53,000
All ages	3,709,000	4,093,000	4,645,000	5,248,000	5,919,000	6,677,000	7,507,000
	<i>Females</i>						
0-4	651,000	675,000	740,000	822,000	915,000	1,035,000	1,154,000
5-9	470,000	584,000	650,000	718,000	804,000	899,000	1,018,000
10-14	376,000	437,000	572,000	636,000	704,000	788,000	880,000
15-19	312,000	349,000	423,000	554,000	616,000	680,000	759,000
20-24	302,000	299,000	331,000	402,000	529,000	586,000	644,000
25-29	282,000	292,000	283,000	313,000	379,000	506,000	557,000
30-34	220,000	258,000	281,000	273,000	302,000	367,000	491,000
35-39	188,000	206,000	250,000	273,000	265,000	295,000	357,000
40-44	152,000	175,000	201,000	244,000	268,000	260,000	289,000
45-49	128,000	143,000	170,000	196,000	239,000	262,000	254,000
50-54	101,000	118,000	137,000	164,000	187,000	232,000	255,000
55-59	71,000	88,000	112,000	131,000	161,000	179,000	223,000
60-64	57,000	63,000	82,000	104,000	120,000	151,000	170,000
65-69	43,000	48,000	55,000	72,000	92,000	106,000	134,000
70-74	30,000	33,000	38,000	44,000	58,000	74,000	87,000
75-79	19,000	20,000	23,000	26,000	30,000	40,000	53,000
80 and over	21,000	10,000	16,000	20,000	24,000	26,000	35,000
All ages	3,423,000	3,798,000	4,361,000	4,993,000	5,693,000	6,485,000	7,460,000

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Table III

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE MALE POPULATION OF CEYLON BY AGE, 1956-1981

(Rounded to nearest thousands)

<i>Age-group</i>	1956	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981
			<i>Urban</i>			
10-14	8,000	10,000	14,000	17,000	21,000	20,000
15-19	38,000	47,000	60,000	81,000	100,000	121,000
20-24	66,000	77,000	96,000	122,000	161,000	198,000
25-29	81,000	88,000	104,000	130,000	163,000	214,000
30-34	70,000	89,000	97,000	116,000	145,000	178,000
35-39	57,000	73,000	93,000	102,000	122,000	152,000
40-44	42,000	57,000	85,000	92,000	101,000	121,000
45-49	38,000	41,000	54,000	82,000	90,000	99,000
50-54	28,000	36,000	40,000	51,000	79,000	86,000
55-59	18,000	23,000	29,000	33,000	43,000	65,000
60-64	10,000	14,000	18,000	24,000	26,000	34,000
65 and over	11,000	15,000	20,000	28,000	36,000	45,000
All ages	467,000	570,000	710,000	878,000	1,087,000	1,333,000
			<i>Rural</i>			
10-14	105,000	135,000	150,000	166,000	186,000	207,000
15-19	255,000	307,000	396,000	438,000	482,000	539,000
20-24	264,000	295,000	355,000	461,000	507,000	554,000
25-29	267,000	265,000	294,000	354,000	463,000	505,000
30-34	258,000	264,000	263,000	290,000	349,000	461,000
35-39	225,000	253,000	259,000	257,000	286,000	342,000
40-44	202,000	219,000	234,000	254,000	251,000	273,000
45-49	169,000	194,000	214,000	226,000	245,000	244,000
50-54	144,000	159,000	183,000	202,000	214,000	232,000
55-59	103,000	128,000	141,000	163,000	180,000	191,000
60-64	68,000	90,000	111,000	123,000	143,000	158,000
65 and over	79,000	97,000	122,000	152,000	182,000	215,000
All ages	2,139,000	2,406,000	2,722,000	3,086,000	3,488,000	3,901,000
			<i>Total</i>			
10-14	113,000	145,000	164,000	183,000	207,000	227,000
15-19	293,000	354,000	456,000	519,000	582,000	660,000
20-24	330,000	372,000	451,000	583,000	668,000	752,000
25-29	348,000	353,000	398,000	484,000	626,000	719,000
30-34	320,000	353,000	360,000	406,000	494,000	639,000
35-39	282,000	326,000	352,000	359,000	408,000	494,000
40-44	244,000	276,000	319,000	346,000	352,000	394,000
45-49	207,000	235,000	268,000	308,000	335,000	343,000
50-54	172,000	195,000	223,000	253,000	293,000	318,000
55-59	121,000	151,000	170,000	196,000	223,000	256,000
60-64	78,000	104,000	129,000	147,000	169,000	192,000
65 and over	90,000	112,000	142,000	180,000	218,000	260,000
All ages	2,606,000	2,976,000	3,432,000	3,964,000	4,575,000	5,254,000