



PRESS RELEASE

**THE ATLAS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SRI LANKA – 2013 / 14**

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The Department of Census and Statistics recently launched the first version of “Atlas of Economic Activities of Sri Lanka – 2013/14” which depicts the findings of Listing Stage of the Economic Census 2013/14.

Sri Lanka was the first country to conduct a Census of Population and Housing in the South Asia Region in 1871. Yet only in the year 2014, Sri Lanka could conduct an Economic Census combining Agriculture and Industry Censuses which were conducted separately before 2014. These statistics will be much useful for planning economic development, strategic planning of business community, researches and identifying new market for products and services.

According to the Economic Census conducted in Sri Lanka (2014) there are 1.02 million establishments enumerated in Non-Agricultural Economic Sector which include 0.26 million Industry & Construction, 0.49 million Trade and 0.34 million Service establishments.

The combination of geographic and special data compiled through Economic Censuses provides an evidence based tool for policymakers, development experts, and other stakeholders to gain an understanding of spatial dynamics which affects economy and making truthful decisions. Distribution of economic activities in the country, effectiveness of the industrial sector, distribution of services sector, where the informal economic sector is most prominent, employment opportunities in non-agricultural economic sector and identification of potential geographic areas for economic development are some of the areas concerned on this regard.

The Economic Atlas broad themes are analysed and well interpreted using maps with better visual illustration techniques including comparisons with other statistics such as population density, poverty, etc. The Atlas includes maps of different levels of Administrative Divisions, Sectors, Economic Sectors, Sri Lanka Standard Industrial Classification Categories (SLSIC), Establishment / Persons Engaged Distributions, Density Types, Small and Medium Scale Establishment (SME) Classification, etc. Relevant data tables and charts are also included at appropriate positions for further clarifications and explorations.

Therefore the Department states that, the Atlas will provide set of innovative outputs for inputs of economic policy makings, economic researches, business planning, and education in a new dimension.

A copy of the Atlas has been published in the official website ([www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk)) of the Department of Census & Statistics.

Director General,

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