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Mid-Year Population

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Births, deaths and migration are the main factors that affect the population change of a country. As births, deaths and migrations are a continuous process, the population of a country or any territory is constantly changing over time. Therefore, every country conducts a population census to count the population at any specific moment of time. Accordingly, the last Census of Population and Housing in Sri Lanka was conducted in 2012 and the next census is planned to be conducted in the last few months of the year 2024.

During the inter-census period the mid-year population is estimated annually based on administrative data on births, deaths, and migration in the country and it is estimated as at July 01st in every year. The mid-year population estimate for a respective year is calculated by adding the difference between registered births and deaths from July 1st of the previous year to June 30th of the respective year (Natural Increase) and net migration, to the mid-year population count of the previous year.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mid-year population of the relevant year} = & \text{Mid-year population of the previous year} \\ & + \text{Number of births} - \text{Number of deaths} \\ & + \text{Number of arrivals} - \text{Departures} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Natural increase} = \text{number of births} - \text{number of deaths}$$

$$\text{Net migration} = \text{Number of arrivals to the country} - \text{Number of departures from the country}$$

Table 1: Annual Births, Deaths, Net Migration and Population Change 2013 -2024

Time Period	Year	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Population Change	Mid Year Population ('000)
July 2012 to June 2013	2013	352,450	125,626	226,824	-71,730	155,094	20,585
July 2013 to June 2014	2014	361,800	125,334	236,466	-44,714	191,752	20,778
July 2014 to June 2015	2015	342,108	129,577	212,531	-17,055	195,476	20,970
July 2015 to June 2016	2016	331,525	129,936	201,589	34,995	236,584	21,209
July 2016 to June 2017	2017	325,512	138,582	186,930	57,028	243,958	21,453
July 2017 to June 2018	2018*	325,741	136,403	189,338	32,826	222,164	21,670
July 2018 to June 2019	2019*	329,177	141,104	188,073	-54,681	133,392	21,803
July 2019 to June 2020	2020*	299,875	139,203	160,672	-44,160	116,512	21,919
July 2020 to June 2021	2021*	295,418	136,685	158,733	77,600	236,333	22,156
July 2021 to June 2022	2022*	289,863	179,052	110,811	-85,572	25,239	22,181
July 2022 to June 2023	2023*	268,920	190,600	78,320	-222,715	-144,395	22,037
July 2023 to June 2024	2024*	228,091	171,714	56,377	-176,932	-120,555	21,916

*Provisional

Source: Department of Registrar General
Department of Immigration and Emigration

According to Table 1, during the time period from July 2012 to June 2013 there were 352,450 registered births and from July 2013 - June 2014 period, the number of registered births has been increased to 361,800. In the time periods of July 2014 to June 2015 and July 2016 to June 2017, registered births had reported a gradual decrease. The periods of July 2017 to June 2018 and from July 2018 to June 2019 had reported an increase in registered births compared to the previous year. However, again from the period July 2019 – June 2020 to the period July 2023 – June 2024, a gradual decrease has been reported in the number of registered births. The most nearby period from July 2023 to June 2024, the number of registered births has been reported as 228,091.

Further, there has been a gradual growth in the reported number of registered deaths from July 2012 to June 2024. But Compared to the time period July 2022 to June 2023, there has been a decrease in the number of registered deaths in the period from July 2023 to June 2024.

According to the data from the Department of Immigration and Emigration, during the periods from July 2015 to June 2018 and July 2020 to June 2021, arrivals were higher than

departures (positive net migration) and in the rest of the periods; departures were higher than arrivals (negative net migration).

The net migration from July 2022 to June 2023 was negative 222,715, and it was negative 176,932 from July 2023 to June 2024.

Thus, the mid-year population in the year 2024 has decreased by 120,555 compared to the previous year, because of the decrease in births and the increase in the departures from the country.

