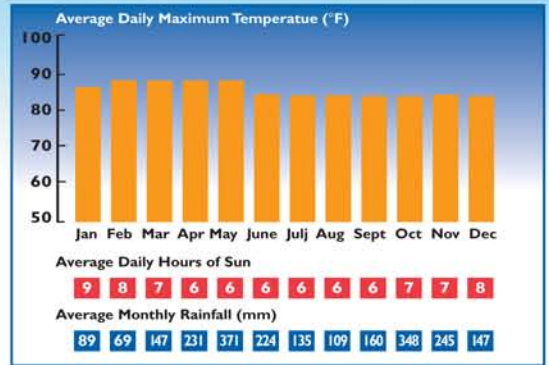


Sri Lanka at a Glance



- Capital:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Commercial centre:** Colombo
- Area:** 65,606 sq kms (25,322 sq miles)
- Population:** 19.4 million
- Languages:** Sinhala, Tamil and English are the main languages, English is widely used and understood in tourist areas.
- Religion:** Buddhism (69%), Hinduism (16%), Islam (8%), Christianity (7%),
- Time:** GMT + 6 hrs (Winter Time), BST + 5 hours (Summer time)
- International airport:** Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake (34 km north of Colombo)
- Entry regulations:** Free 30-day visa on arrival for most nationalities. 60-day extension on request (variable fee) at the Department of Immigration and Emigration
- Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee (One Rupee = 100 cents)
- Exchange rate:** Approx Sri Lanka Rs 150 = £1

- Banks:** Generally open 0900-1300 or 1500 Mon to Fri; 24-hr facilities at the airport. ATMs accepting Visa, Mastercard and Cirrus are widely available in cities and towns.
- Credit Cards:** Most international Credit Cards are accepted in major establishments within and outside Colombo including almost all major hotels.
- Climate:** Warm and sunny year-round, with an average of 27°C in Colombo. Hill country districts are generally around 10°C cooler. The best time to visit the west, south and Central Highlands is October to March, after the southwest monsoon, while the East Coast is best between May and September.

What to wear: Lightweight cotton or linen clothing. Higher reaches of the hill country can get chilly at night so a sweater is recommended.

Electricity: 220 – 240V 50 Cycles A/C. Round three-pin sockets

Transport: Island-wide, inexpensive railway and public and private bus service. A/c or non a/c car rental with or without driver. Luxury vehicles, radio-controlled cabs and three-wheeler auto-rickshaws also available. Air transport is through private helicopters and fixed wing aircraft are available on request (mainly Colombo-Jaffna route).

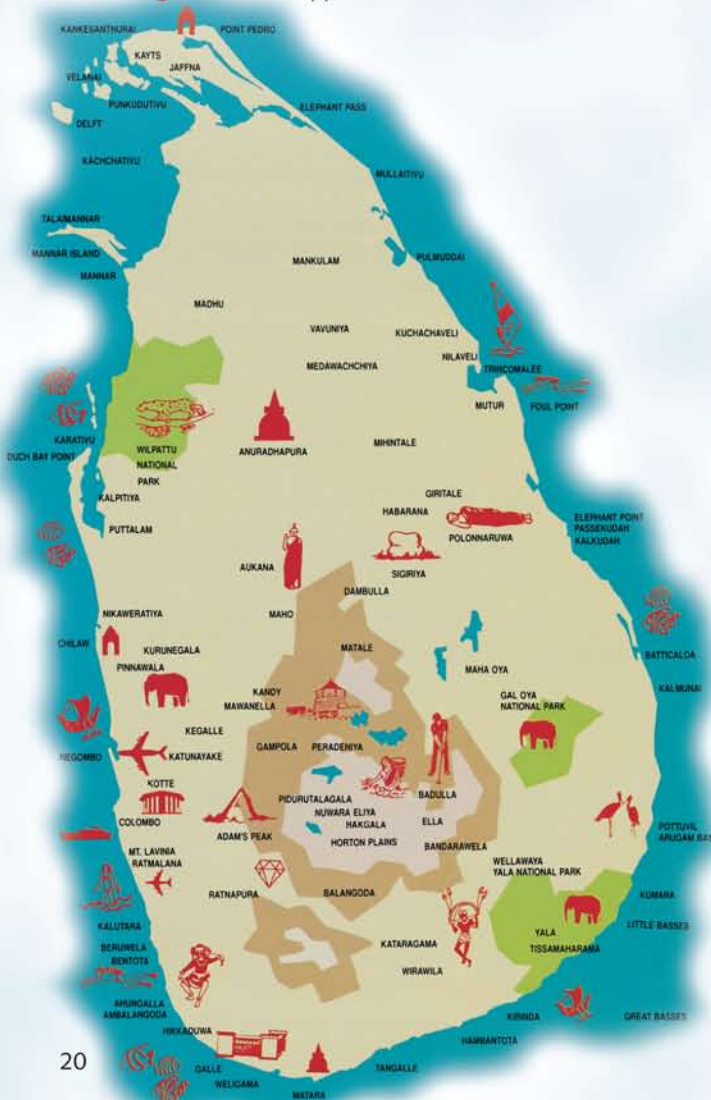
Tipping: Generally expected for most services

Medical services: State owned hospitals in all parts of the country provide free medical and surgical attention. The principal hospital of the city of Colombo is the National Hospital, Colombo 8. Telephone 0094112/269 3510 Ambulance 2422222

Holidays: Saturday, Sunday and every Full Moon Day (called Poya Day) are holidays in Sri Lanka. On Poya Days all Public places of entertainment are closed and selling of alcohol is prohibited. However hotels make special arrangements for their in-house guests.

Important Websites:

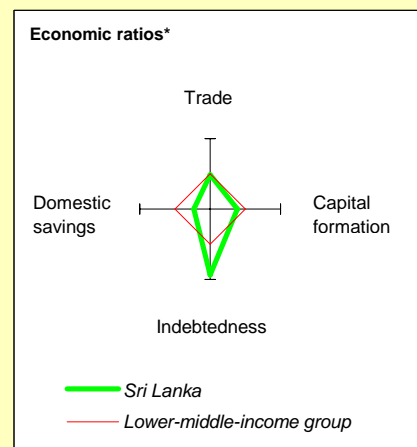
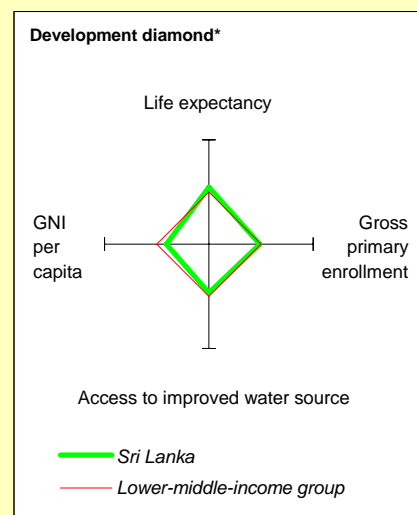
- Ministry of Tourism www.slmts.slt.lk
- Sri Lanka High Commission in the UK www.slhclondon.org
- Central Cultural Fund www.lanka.net/ccf
- Sri Lanka Board of Investment www.boi.lk
- Sri Lanka Tea Board www.pureceylon tea.com
- Buddhist Temple www.kelaniyatemple.com
- Sri Dalada Maligawa (Temple of the Tooth Relic) www.sridaladamaligawa.lk
- Sri Lanka Cricket www.srilankacricet.lk
- Wildlife Department www.dwlc.lk/
- Currency Exchange Rates www.lanka.net/centralbank/
- Weather www.meteo.slt.lk/



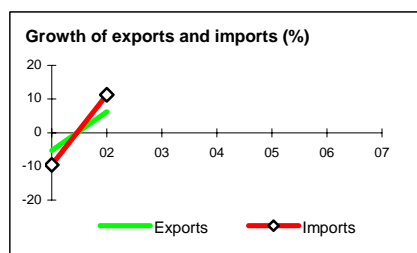
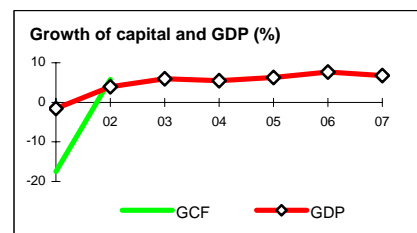
Sri Lanka at a glance

9/24/08

POVERTY and SOCIAL	Sri Lanka	South Asia	Lower-middle-income		
2007					
Population, mid-year (millions)	19.9	1,520	3,437		
GNI per capita (Atlas method, US\$)	1,540	880	1,887		
GNI (Atlas method, US\$ billions)	30.8	1,339	6,485		
Average annual growth, 2001-07					
Population (%)	1.0	1.6	1.1		
Labor force (%)	1.6	2.1	1.5		
Most recent estimate (latest year available, 2001-07)					
Poverty (% of population below national poverty line)	23	..	..
Urban population (% of total population)	15	29	42		
Life expectancy at birth (years)	75	64	69		
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	11	62	41		
Child malnutrition (% of children under 5)	..	41	25		
Access to an improved water source (% of population)	82	87	88		
Literacy (% of population age 15+)	91	58	89		
Gross primary enrollment (% of school-age population)	108	108	111		
Male	108	111	112		
Female	108	104	109		
KEY ECONOMIC RATIOS and LONG-TERM TRENDS					
	1987	1997	2006	2007	
GDP (US\$ billions)	6.7	15.1	28.3	32.4	
Gross capital formation/GDP	23.3	24.4	27.4	27.2	
Exports of goods and services/GDP	25.2	36.5	30.1	29.2	
Gross domestic savings/GDP	12.8	17.3	17.0	17.6	
Gross national savings/GDP	19.8	21.7	23.3	25.1	
Current account balance/GDP	-4.8	-2.6	-4.7	-4.1	
Interest payments/GDP	1.9	1.0	0.7	..	
Total debt/GDP	71.1	53.8	40.5	..	
Total debt service/exports	23.2	8.0	8.6	..	
Present value of debt/GDP	32.7	..	
Present value of debt/exports	83.0	..	
	1987-97	1997-07	2006	2007	2007-11
<i>(average annual growth)</i>					
GDP	5.0	4.7	7.7	6.8	6.5
GDP per capita	3.7	4.0	6.5	6.5	5.6
Exports of goods and services	7.9	5.0



STRUCTURE of the ECONOMY	1987	1997	2006	2007
<i>(% of GDP)</i>				
Agriculture	27.0	21.9	11.3	11.7
Industry	27.4	26.9	30.6	29.9
Manufacturing	16.0	16.4	19.2	18.5
Services	45.6	51.2	58.0	58.4
Household final consumption expenditure	77.2	72.3	68.3	67.8
General gov't final consumption expenditure	9.9	10.4	15.4	15.3
Imports of goods and services	35.7	43.6	41.2	39.5
	1987-97	1997-07	2006	2007
<i>(average annual growth)</i>				
Agriculture	2.1	1.7	6.3	3.3
Industry	6.7	4.5	8.1	7.6
Manufacturing	8.2	4.0	5.5	6.4
Services	5.4	5.6	7.7	7.1
Household final consumption expenditure	4.6	4.8	..	..
General gov't final consumption expenditure	25.0	2.0	..	..
Gross capital formation	4.2	2.3	..	..
Imports of goods and services	7.1	6.1	..	..



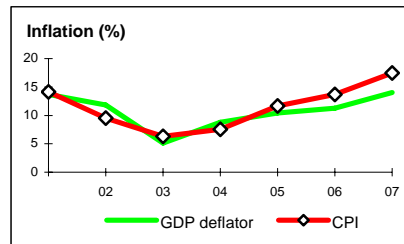
Note: 2007 data are preliminary estimates.

This table was produced from the Development Economics LDB database.

* The diamonds show four key indicators in the country (in bold) compared with its income-group average. If data are missing, the diamond will be incomplete.

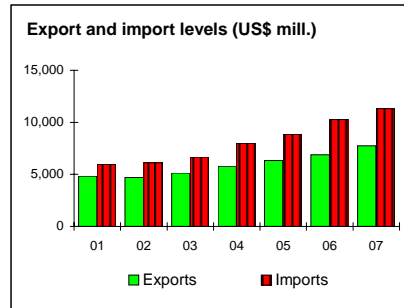
PRICES and GOVERNMENT FINANCE

	1987	1997	2006	2007
Domestic prices				
<i>(% change)</i>				
Consumer prices	7.7	9.6	13.7	17.5
Implicit GDP deflator	7.8	8.9	11.3	14.0
Government finance				
<i>(% of GDP, includes current grants)</i>				
Current revenue	21.4	19.4	17.3	17.1
Current budget balance	1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-0.2
Overall surplus/deficit	-8.7	-7.0	-7.0	-6.0



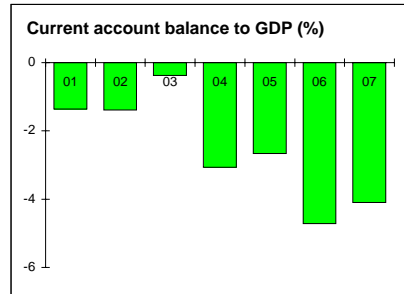
TRADE

	1987	1997	2006	2007
<i>(US\$ millions)</i>				
Total exports (fob)	1,397	4,639	6,883	7,740
Tea	362	719	882	1,025
Other agricultural goods and unclassified ex	99	394	461	..
Manufactures	241	2,274	3,088	3,342
Total imports (cif)	1,866	5,852	10,253	11,301
Food	..	781	757	831
Fuel and energy	..	539	2,070	2,497
Capital goods	..	1,325	2,246	2,685
Export price index (2000=100)	..	80	128	135
Import price index (2000=100)	..	81	134	140
Terms of trade (2000=100)	..	99	96	96



BALANCE of PAYMENTS

	1987	1997	2006	2007
<i>(US\$ millions)</i>				
Exports of goods and services	1,725	5,514	8,508	9,451
Imports of goods and services	2,399	6,568	11,621	12,885
Resource balance	-674	-1,054	-3,113	2,687
Net income	-142	-165	-389	..
Net current transfers	493	831	2,169	2,774
Current account balance	-323	-388	-1,333	-1,326
Financing items (net)	245	551	1,267	1,622
Changes in net reserves	78	-163	66	-296
Memo:				
Reserves including gold (US\$ millions)	289	2,029	2,947	3,644
Conversion rate (DEC, local/US\$)	29.4	59.0	103.9	110.6



EXTERNAL DEBT and RESOURCE FLOWS

	1987	1997	2006	2007
<i>(US\$ millions)</i>				
Total debt outstanding and disbursed	4,751	8,118	11,446	..
IBRD	89	31	0	0
IDA	619	1,514	2,245	2,357
Total debt service	497	531	958	..
IBRD	12	9	0	0
IDA	6	22	60	66
Composition of net resource flows				
Official grants	192	113	391	..
Official creditors	249	308	286	..
Private creditors	-63	222	-83	..
Foreign direct investment (net inflows)	60	430	480	..
Portfolio equity (net inflows)	0	0	-304	..
World Bank program				
Commitments	20	128	100	32
Disbursements	87	78	100	74
Principal repayments	5	16	43	49
Net flows	82	62	57	25
Interest payments	13	14	17	17
Net transfers	70	48	40	7

