

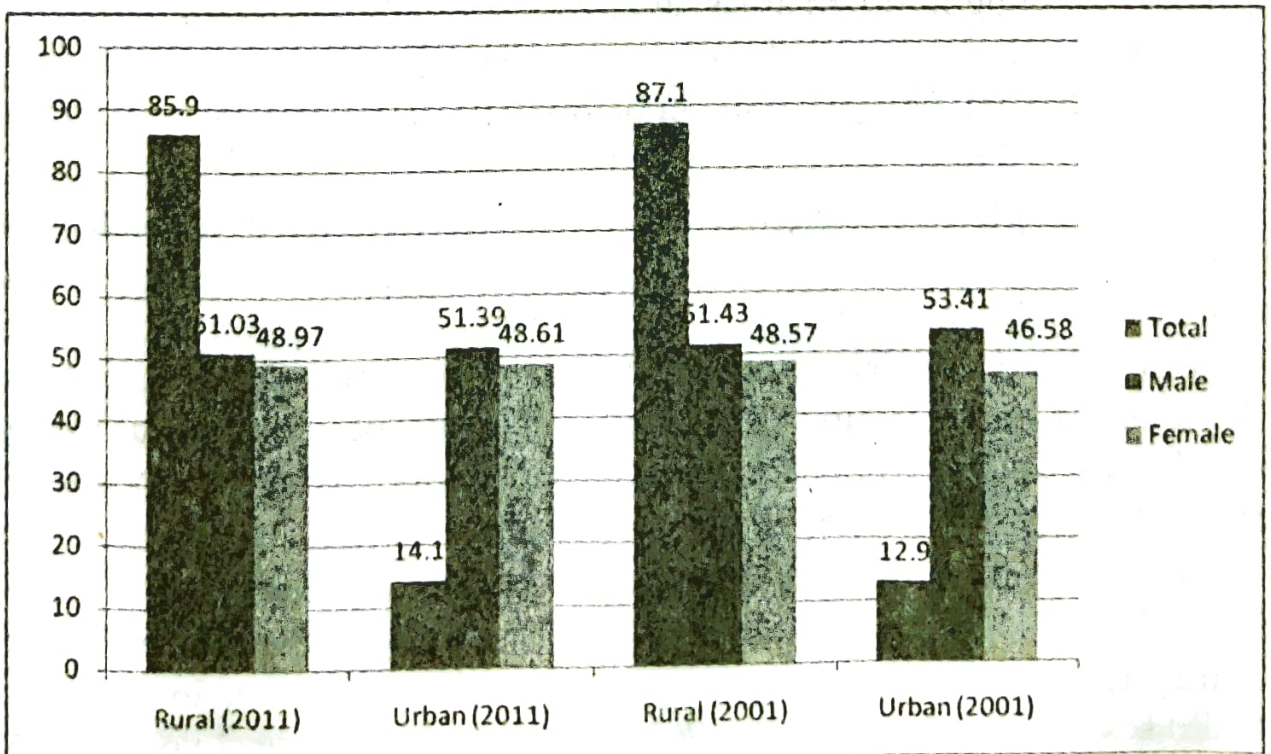
Composition of Population in Assam:

According to 1971 census, the age composition of Assam's population shows that in the groups 0-14 and 15-59 the percentage of population was 46.9 and 48.4 as against 42.2 and 52.0 per cent in India. This shows that the dependency burden of population in Assam is 51.6 per cent and that of India is 48%. The 1991 census shows a total change in the age composition and dependency burden of population in Assam. In 1991

population age group 0-6 years as a percentage of total population in Assam was 19.73 per cent as against 17.94 per cent for all India. Moreover the percentage distribution of estimated population of Assam as per age group in 1992 shows that in the age groups 0-14 years, 15-59 years and 60 and above, the percentage of population are 36.1 per cent, 59.4 per cent and 4.5 per cent which shows that the dependency burden of population in Assam is 40.6 per cent. Total workers as percentage of total population were 36.9 per cent as compared to 37.46 per cent in all India. Thus the percentage of non-workers to total population in Assam was 63.9 % as compared with 62.5 per cent for all over India.

As per the Census of India, 2011 the population of Assam stands at 3, 11, 69,272, of which 1, 59, 54,927 are males and 1, 52, 14,345 females. The decadal growth of the State's population works out to 16.93 per cent during the decade 2001-2011 as against 17.64 per cent for the country as a whole. In most of the decades during the last century the growth rate of population in Assam has been well above the national growth rate. This difference has been witnessed perhaps due to continuous migration from the neighboring states and countries. The density of the population of Assam has gone up to 397 in 2011 which was 340 in 2001 Census. In 2011 Census the density of population of India was 382 as against State's density 397. The trend of high density of population in the State than national density of population continues since 1971.

Figure: 1.2
Rural -Urban and Male- Female Composition



Source: Census of India, 2011

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>2001 Census</i>	<i>2011 Census</i>
SC population	7.40	7.15
ST population	12.83	12.45

Source: Census of India, 2011

Distribution of the Population:

Assam has a predominantly rural population with 88.8% of the total population living in the rural areas. The state Assam is under urbanised to a great extent. The following represents rural-urban distribution of population in Assam:

	<i>1971</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1991</i>
	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>
Assam	91.1	8.9	88.8	11.2
India	80.1	19.9	74.3	25.7

Source: Census of India, 2011

As per 1991 census out of the total population of 224 lakh in Assam, 199 lakh i.e. 88.8 per cent persons are living in rural areas and the remaining 25 lakh are living in urban areas i.e. 11.2 per cent. Of the total population living in the rural areas for all India was 74.3 per cent as compared to 88.8 per cent in Assam. The total number of towns in Assam has increased from 53 in 1961 to 72 in 1971 and in present Assam has 93 towns.

As per Population Census, 2001, the rural population of the State was 87 per cent of the total population. This percentage was much higher than that for All-India (72 per cent). The proportion of rural population in the State decreased from 89 per cent in 1991 to 87 per cent in 2001. As per the Population Census around 13 per cent of the State population was living in urban areas. The proportion of urban population in the State increased from 11 per cent in 1991 to 13 per cent in 2001.

The sex-ratio in the State shows an improvement from 923 in 1991 to 935 in 2001. The sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years is the vital indicator of the future trends of the sex composition in the population in the State. Child sex ratio in the State was 965 female per 1000 male child. The sex ratio in the State for the age group 0-6 years declined to 967 in 2001 from 975 in 1991. The growth of literacy in Assam has shown an encouraging

sign. The literacy rate for Assam as per Census 2001 comes to 63 per cent with 71 per cent for males and 55 per cent for females. The literacy rates for rural and urban areas remained at 60 per cent and 85 per cent respectively.

Population Density

Density of population implies total population living in per square k.m. in an area. The following table shows the density of population of Assam and other north eastern states. The density of population has been increasing since independence in Assam and is higher than that of India as a whole.

Table: 1.10
Population Density of Assam and Other North-East States

State	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Arunachal Pradesh	4	6	8	10	13	17
Assam	138	186	230	286	340	397
Manipur	35	48	64	82	107	122
Meghalaya	34	45	60	79	103	132
Mizoram	13	16	23	33	42	52
Nagaland	22	31	47	73	120	119
Tripura	109	149	196	263	304	350
India	134	177	216	273	324	382

Source: Census of India

Corresponding to the high growth rate of population, there has also been an increase in the density of population in the State. However, the density of population in the State continued to be lower than the all India average density up to 1961. It abruptly jumped up in 1971 and continued to rise since then. As per 2001 Census, the density of population in the State is 340 against the all India average of 324.

As per details from Census 2011, Assam has population of 3.12 Crores, an increase from figure of 2.67 Crore in 2001 census. Total population of Assam as per 2011 census is 31,205,576 of which male and female are 15,939,443 and 15,266,133 respectively. The density of population of the State has gone up to 397 as against India's density 382 as per 2011 Census. The corresponding State's figure as per 2001 Census was 340. In 2001, total population was 26,655,528 in which males were 13,777,037 while females were 12,878,491. The total population growth in this decade was 17.07 percent while in previous decade it was 18.85 percent. The population of Assam forms 2.58 percent of India in 2011. In 2001, the figure was 2.59 percent.