

Web Edition:

PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS

Chapter 5

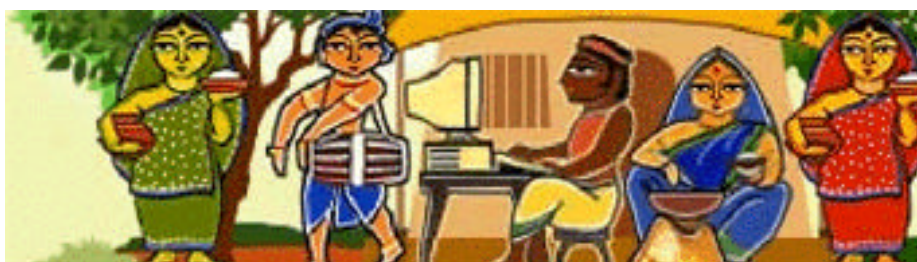
Census of India 2001

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Chapter 5

Density of Population



Density of Population

One of the important indices of population concentration is the density of population. It is defined as the number of persons per square kilometer. The population density of India in 2001 was 324 persons per square kilometre, which means that now 57 more people live in a square kilometer area in the country than the number that lived a decade ago.

The population density of India from 1901 to 2001 is shown in Statement 14. At the beginning of the twentieth century i.e. in 1901 the density of India was as low as 77 and this steadily increased from one decade to another to reach 324 in 2001. The persons living in per sq. km. has increased by 21.3 per cent in 2001 as compared to 1991.

Statement 14
Density of population, India: 1901-2001

Census year	Density (per sq. km)
1	2
1901	77
1911	82
1921	81
1931	90
1941	103
1951	117
1961	142
1971	177 ¹
1981	216 ²
1991	267 ²
2001	324 ²

Notes:

1. While working out the density of India, Jammu & Kashmir has been excluded as comparable figures of area and population are not available for that State.
2. The density has been worked out on comparable data.

High increase in the density of population is a matter of great concern as it puts immense pressure on our natural resources. Also it may adversely affect the quality of life. Due to difference in climatic conditions, availability of resources etc., the states and Union territories of our country largely varied in terms of density. It is, therefore, essential to analyse the variations across the States and Union territories.

In Statement 15 States and Union territories of India are ranked in descending order of densities. The population density within the country widely varies across the States and Union territories. It varied from 13 persons per sq. km. in Arunachal Pradesh to 9294 in Delhi. The density of population has been increased in all States and Union territories of our country between 1991 and 2001 but huge variations in the rate of increase in density has been noticed. The area and population of all the States and Union territories are given in Figure 9. Among major states, West Bengal is still the most thickly populated, where population density has gone up from 767 in 1991 to 904 in 2001. However, among major states, Bihar is now the second highest densely populated State pushing Kerala to the third spot in terms of ranking. Similarly, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have now interchanged their relative position of tenth and eleventh ranks respectively in 1991.

Statement 15

Ranking of States and Union territories by density : 1991 and 2001

Rank in 2001	States/Union territories *	Density (per sq. km)		Rank in 1991
		2001	1991	
1	2	3	4	5
1	Delhi *	9,294	6,352	1
2	Chandigarh *	7,903	5,632	2
3	Pondicherry *	2,029	1,683	3
4	Lakshadweep *	1,894	1,616	4
5	Daman & Diu *	1,411	907	5
6	West Bengal	904	767	6
7	Bihar	880	685	8
8	Kerala	819	749	7
9	Uttar Pradesh	689	548	9
10	Punjab	482	403	11
11	Tamil Nadu	478	429	10
12	Haryana	477	372	12
13	Dadra & Nagar Haveli *	449	282	15
14	Goa	363	316	13
15	Assam	340	286	14
16	Jharkhand	338	274	16
17	Maharashtra	314	257	18

18	Tripura	304	263	17
19	Andhra Pradesh	275	242	19
20	Karnataka	275	235	20
21	Gujarat	258	211	21
22	Orissa	236	203	22
23	Madhya Pradesh	196	158	23
24	Rajasthan	165	129	26
25	Uttaranchal	159	133	24
26	Chhatisgarh	154	130	25
27	Nagaland	120	73	31
28	Himachal Pradesh	109	93	27
29	Manipur	107	82	28
30	Meghalaya	103	79	29
31	Jammu and Kashmir ¹	99	77	30
32	Sikkim	76	57	32
33	Andaman & Nicobar Islands *	43	34	33
34	Mizoram	42	33	34
35	Arunachal Pradesh	13	10	35

Notes:

While working out the density figures for Jammu and Kashmir for 1991 and 2001 censuses, the entire area and population of those portions of Jammu and Kashmir which are under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China have not been taken into account.

An attempt has been made to see the differentials in population densities across the six regions in the country. Statement 16 gives the states included in different regions and densities of each of the regions.

Statement 16

Distribution of States and Union territories by density in different regions:

1991 and 2001

Region	States and Union territories*	Number of States/Union territories	Density (per sq. km)	
			1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5
Northern	Jammu & Kashmir Himachal Pradesh Punjab Chandigarh* Haryana Delhi* Rajasthan	7	174	223

Central	Uttaranchal Uttar Pradesh Chhatisgarh Madhya Pradesh	4	278	347
Eastern	Bihar Sikkim West Bengal Jharkhand Orissa Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	6	431	525
North East	Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland Manipur Mizoram Tripura Meghalaya Assam	7	124	151
Western	Gujarat Daman & Diu* Dadra & Nagar Haveli* Maharashtra	4	239	293
Southern	Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Goa Lakshadweep* Kerala Tamil Nadu Pondicherry*	7	310	351

Note:

1. See note below Statement 15.

It may be seen that the Eastern region has by far the highest density and the North Eastern region the lowest. Eastern region has recorded the highest increase in density from 431 in 1991 to 525 in 2001 followed by Central region and Western region respectively.

