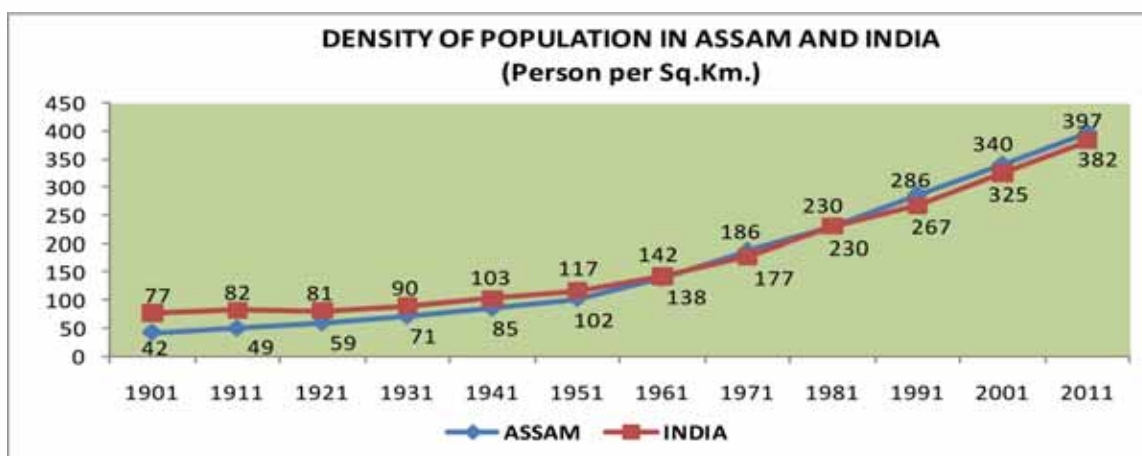


CHAPTER - II POPULATION

Assam is situated in the North-East region of India – bordering seven States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal and two countries viz. Bangladesh and Bhutan. With a geographical area of 78,438 sq. kms. i.e, about 2.4 per cent of the country’s total geographical area, Assam provides shelter to 2.2 per cent population of the Country. Most of the State’s population lives in the lush and verdant valleys of its two major river systems in the twenty four districts of the Brahmaputra valley and the three districts of the Barak valley. Less densely populated are the two hill districts of Karbi-Anglong and the North Cachar Hills, set in the low-lying hills that separate the two valleys. For administrative and revenue purposes, the State has 27 districts including Kamrup (Metro) district and four districts under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas viz. Kokrajhar, Baska, Chirang and Udalguri.



According to 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 neighbouring states and countries. The density of the population of Assam has gone upto 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.

TABLE – 2.1
POPULATION TREND IN ASSAM AND INDIA

Year	Population (in lakh)		Percentage Decadal Variation		Density (Person per Sq.Km.)	
	ASSAM	INDIA	ASSAM	INDIA	ASSAM	INDIA
1901	33	2384	-	-	42	77
1911	38	2521	17.0	5.8	49	82
1921	46	2513	20.5	0.3	59	81
1931	56	2789	19.9	11.0	71	90
1941	67	3186	20.4	14.2	85	103
1951	80	3611	19.9	13.3	102	117
1961	108	4392	35.0	21.5	138	142
1971	146	5481	35.0	24.8	186	177
1981	*180	6833	*23.4	24.7	*230	230
1991	224	8463	24.2	23.9	286	267
2001	266	10270	18.9	21.5	340	325
2011#	312	12102	16.9	17.6	397	382

*Interpolated. # Provisional

Source: Census of India.

Some important features of population of Assam and India are shown in the following Table.:

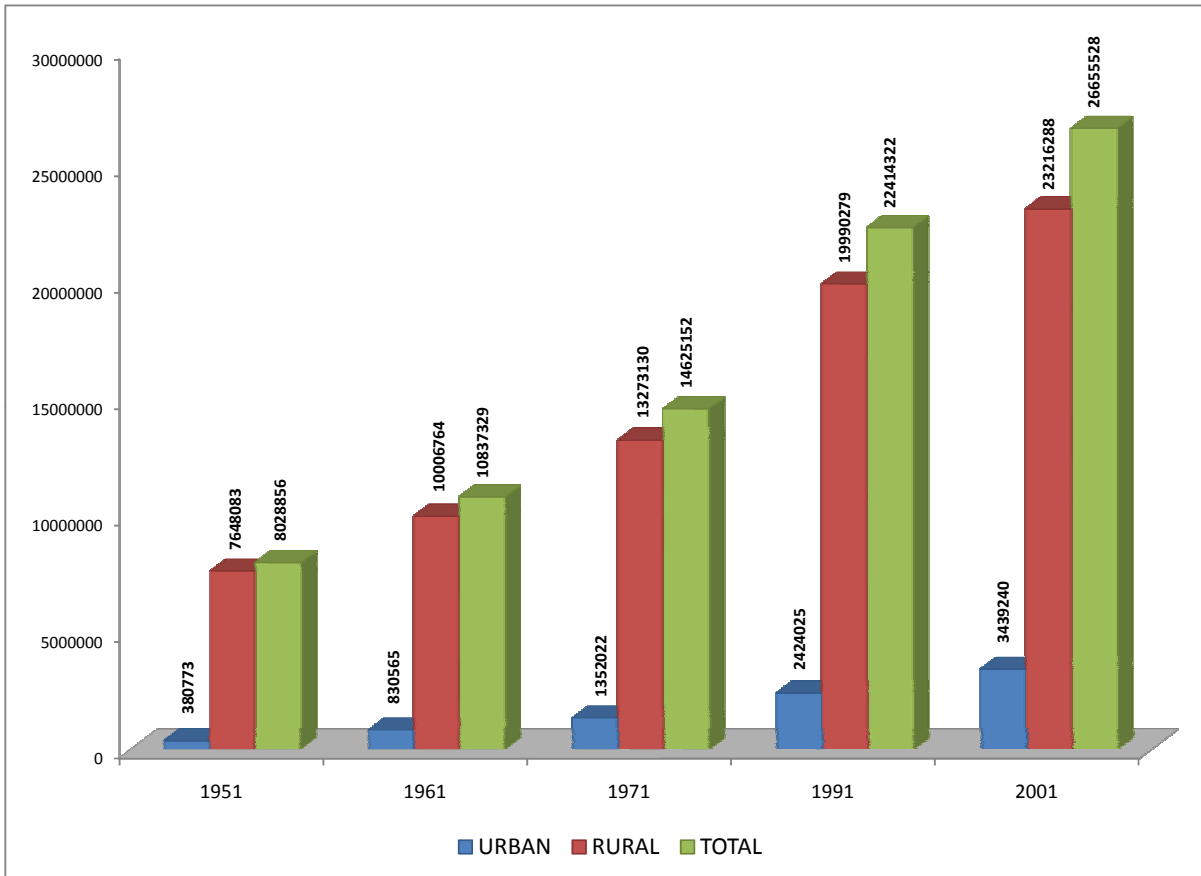
TABLE – 2.2
POPULATION FEATURES AT A GLANCE ASSAM AND INDIA

Particulars	Unit	2001 Census		2011 Census (P)	
		Assam	India	Assam	India
1. Population	Lakh	267	10287	312	12102
2. Decadal Growth	Per cent	18.92	21.54	16.93	17.64
3. Change in percentage of decadal growth	Per cent	(-) 5.32	(-) 2.32	(-) 2.03	(-) 3.86
4. Density	Per Sq. Km.	340	325	397	382
5. Sex-Ratio	Females per 1000 males	935	933	954	940
6. Literacy	Per cent	63.25	64.80	73.18	74.04
(a) Male	Per cent	71.28	75.30	78.81	82.14
(b) Female	Per cent	54.61	58.70	67.27	65.46
7. Urban Population	Per cent	12.90	27.82	-	-
(a) Male	Per cent	13.33	28.29	-	-
(b) Female	Per cent	12.44	27.31	-	-
8. Rural Population	Per cent	87.10	72.18	-	-
(a) Male	Per cent	86.67	71.71	-	-
(b) Female	Per cent	87.56	72.69	-	-
9. S.C. Population	Per cent	6.85	16.20	-	-
10. S.T. Population	Per cent	12.41	8.20	-	-

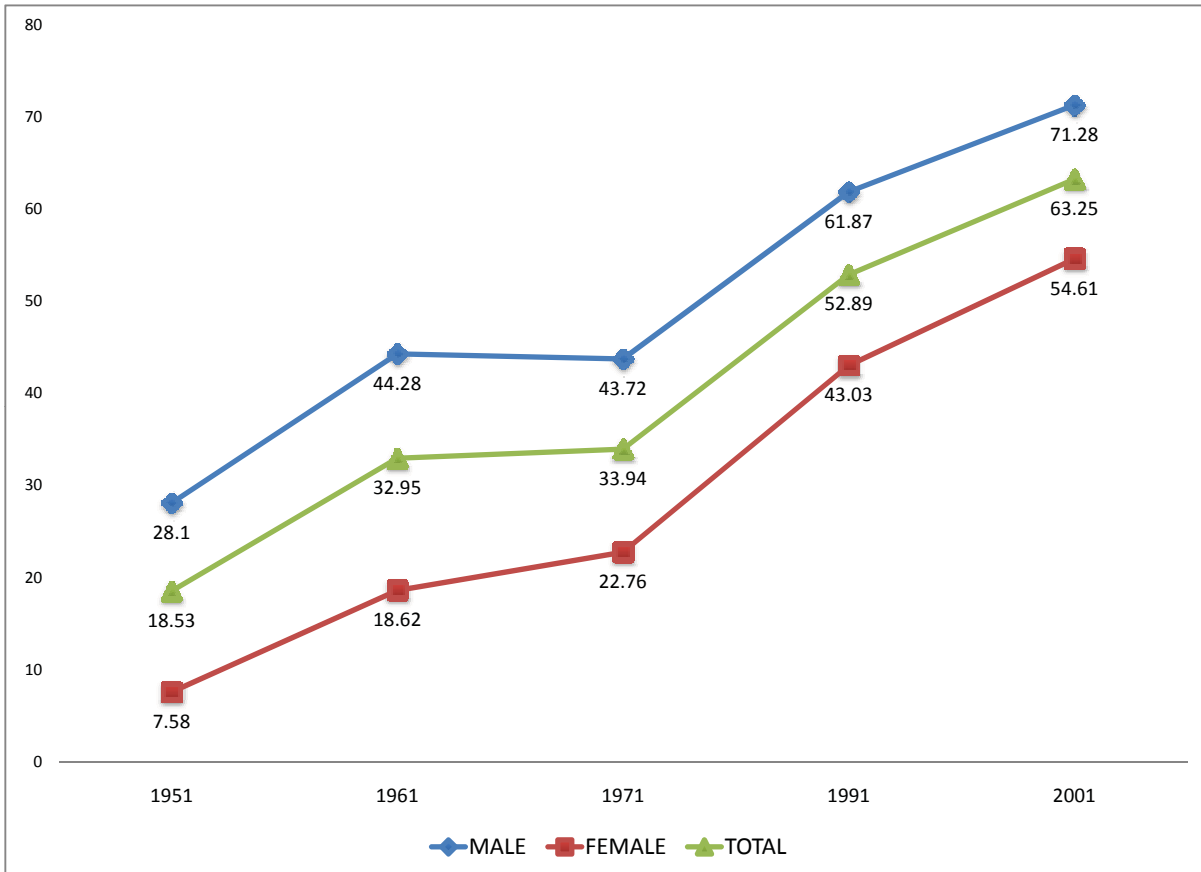
(P) Provisional

Source : Census of India, 2001 and 2011.

POPULATION TREND IN ASSAM



LITERACY RATE OF ASSAM



Population: Rural and Urban

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.

Sex Ratio

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. Some important characteristics such as highest and lowest population, percentage of growth, literacy rate, sex ratio and density among the districts of Assam may be seen at Table- 2.3.

TABLE – 2.3
COMPARATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS of ASSAM (2001 Census)

Information on		Highest among the districts		Lowest among the districts	
1) Total Population		Kamrup	25,22,324	North Cachar Hills	1,88,079
2) Total Rural population		Nagaon	20,36,342	North Cachar Hills	1,28,644
3) Total Urban population		Kamrup	9,08,217	Nalbari	27,486
4) Percentage of population growth (1991-2001)		Kamrup	26.11	Kokrajhar	12.00
Information on		Highest among the districts		Lowest among the districts	
5) Literacy Rates	Total	Jorhat	76.33	Dhubri	48.21
	Rural	Jorhat	74.07	Dhubri	43.90
	Urban	Karimganj	90.37	Goalpara	76.65
6) Sex ratio		Goalpara	956	North Cachar Hills	884
7) Density		Dhubri	585	North Cachar Hills	38

Population – religion-wise:

Religion-wise percentage distribution of population, according to Population Census 2001, reveals that out of total population in the State 64.89 per cent were Hindus, 30.92 per cent were Muslims, 3.70 per cent were Christians, 0.08 per cent were Sikhs, 0.19 per cent were Buddhists, 0.09 per cent were Jains, 0.09 per cent were from other religions and persuasions and 0.04 per cent were religion not stated.

Following table shows the distribution of population in Assam by major scheduled languages:

TABLE – 2.4
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY SCHEDULED LANGUAGES IN Assam

(Census, 2001)

Mother Languages	Total Population	Percentage of Population
1) Assamese	13010478	53.08
2) Bengali	7343338	29.96
3) Hindi	1569662	6.40
4) Bodo	1296162	5.29
5) Nepali	564790	2.30
6) Santali	242886	0.99
7) Oriya	231474	0.94
8) Manipuri	154059	0.63
9) Others	100082	0.41
All Total (ASSAM)	24512931	100.00

Population by Economic Activity

Classification of population by economic activity according to the result of Population Census, 2001 reveals that out of total population of 26655528 in the State, 9538591 were total workers of which 7114097 were main workers and 2424494 were marginal workers. Among male workers 85 per cent were main workers, 15 per cent were marginal workers, while among females 47 per cent were main workers and 53 per cent were marginal workers. Out of the total 9538591 workers in Assam, 3730773 were Cultivators (39 per cent), 1263532 were Agricultural labourers (13 per cent), 344912 were engaged in Household Industries (4 per cent) and 4199374 were Other Workers (44 per cent). Thus, about 52 per cent working population was engaged in Agriculture (i.e. cultivators and agricultural labourers) in the State.

TABLE-2.5
DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS AND NON WORKERS IN ASSAM, 2001 CENSUS

WORKERS	PERSON	MALE	FEMALE
Total workers	9538591	6870960	2667631
Main workers	7114097	5849032	1265065
Marginal workers	2424494	1021928	1402566
WORKERS	PERSON	MALE	FEMALE
Cultivators	3730773	2634068	1096705
Agricultural labourers	1263532	832508	431024
Household Industries workers	344912	133902	211010
Other workers	4199374	3270482	928892
Non workers	17116937	6906077	10210860

Birth and Death Rates

The data obtained from the Sample Registration Bulletin published by the Registrar General of India depicts some idea about the trend in the birth and death rates, natural growth rate and infant mortality rate in the State. It is evident from the information that birth rates, death rates and infant mortality rates in the State were found to be higher than that of the country as a whole, although there has been a trend of gradual declination. As per available information received from the Registrar General of India, during the year 2009, the birth rates, death rates and infant mortality rates of Assam have been 23.6, 8.4 and 61 per mille as against 22.5, 7.3 and 50 per mille respectively at all-India level. The Table - 2.6 shows the birth, death, natural growth and infant mortality rates of Assam and India from 2001 to 2009.

TABLE - 2.6
BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, NATURAL GROWTH RATE AND INFANT
MORTALITY RATE OF ASSAM AND INDIA (PER MILLE)

YEAR	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Natural Growth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	ASSAM	INDIA	ASSAM	INDIA	ASSAM	INDIA	ASSAM	INDIA
2001	27.0	25.4	9.6	8.4	17.4	17.0	74	66
2002	26.6	25.0	9.2	8.1	17.4	16.9	70	63
2003	26.3	24.8	9.1	8.0	17.2	16.8	67	60
2004	25.1	24.1	8.8	7.5	16.3	16.6	66	58
2005	25.0	23.8	8.7	7.6	16.3	16.3	68	58
2006	24.6	23.5	8.7	7.5	15.9	16.0	67	57
2007	24.3	23.1	8.6	7.4	15.7	15.7	66	55
2008	23.9	22.8	8.6	7.4	15.4	15.4	64	53
2009	23.6	22.5	8.4	7.3	15.2	15.2	61	50

Source : Sample Registration Bulletin, R.G.I., New Delhi.

POPULATION CENSUS 2011

The published result of Population Census, 2011, revealed that total Provisional Population of Assam as on 1st March, 2011 stands at 311,69,272 out of which 159,54,927 are males and 152,14,345 are female representing a decadal growth of 16.93 percent during the last decade 2001-11. On the other hand, the percentage of population in the age group 0-6 has declined to 14.47 in 2011 from 16.87 percent in 2001. The provisional population of the country as a whole, as per Census 2011, stands at 1,210,193,422 out of which male and female population figured at 623,724,248 and 586,469,174 respectively. Assam provides shelter to 2.57 per cent population of the Country. The highest growth, at the District level, is found in Dhubri (24.40). The Sex ratio, i.e. number of females per 1000 males in the State shows an improvement from 935 in 2001 to 954 in 2011. According to the Provisional Population calculated at the Census of India 2011, the Density of Population per square kilometre in the State has gone up to 397 as against 340 in 2001 with no change in the State geographical area of 78,438 square kilometers. The Density is found highest in the district of Kamrup. The Density of the country per sq kilometers calculated at 382 in 2011 against 325 in 2001. The effective Literacy rate as per Census 2011 for Assam comes to 73.18 percent while it is 78.81 percent for males and 67.27 percent for females. The figure for the Literacy rate of the country stands at 74.04 percent, as per Population Census, 2011.