

## **Demographic Profile of Himachal Pradesh**

1. According to Surveyor General of India, the total area of Himachal Pradesh is 55,673 square kilometers. Out of this total area, 45,318 square kilometres is the measured area according to the revenue papers. Although there are minor variations in the area according to village papers vis-à-vis the area according to Surveyor General of India for almost all the districts yet the major difference by way of a shortfall is accounted for by Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti and Sirmaur districts. Area-wise, Hamirpur is the smallest district of the Pradesh which covers an area of 1,118 sq. kilometres (2.01%) and Lahaul & Spiti has the largest area of 13,835 sq. kilometres (24.85%).

2. The total population of Himachal Pradesh, according to 2001 census was 60,77,900, which gives a density of population of 109 persons. There are wide variations in area and population of the districts and the district-wise density varies from 2 persons per sq. kilometre in Lahaul and Spiti to 369 persons in Hamirpur district. Out of the total population, the number of males and females is 30,87,940 and 29,89,960, respectively, which means that the number of females per 1000 males is 968. The sex ratio of females per thousand males has been rising continuously in Himachal Pradesh since 1951 census but declined from 976 in 1991 census to 968 in 2001 census. The decline is pronounced in the 0-6 year's age group and is a matter of concern for policy planners. The total percentage of rural population is 90.20% of the total population residing in 17,495 inhabited villages. Himachal Pradesh has the highest percentage of rural population among all the States of the country.

3. The scheduled caste population in the State is 15,02,170 persons (2001 census) which is 24.72% of the total population as per 2001 census. The scheduled tribe population of the Pradesh, which has its concentration in districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti and parts of Chamba, district and scattered in other districts is 2,44,587, which is 4.02% of the total population. About 60 percent of the State's tribal population falls under the tribal sub-plan areas.

4. There are 56 Urban Local Bodies viz. one Nagar Nigam, 20 Municipal Councils and 28 Nagar Pachayats and 7 Cantonment Boards in Himachal Pradesh. In addition to it, there are seven cantonment areas and one census town. The population of these urban settlements is 5,95,581 as per 2001 census. The largest one is the Shimla Town with a population of 1,42,161 and the smallest one, is Narkanda with a population of 712.

5. There are 19,63,882 main workers and 10,28,579 marginal workers in the State as per 2001 census. This means that there is one main worker for every 3.09 persons and one marginal worker for 5.91 persons. Combining the number of main and marginal workers, it works out that there is one worker for every 2.03 persons.

6. According to 2001 census, the overall literacy percentage of Himachal Pradesh was 76.5% (85.30% for males and 67.40% for females). Comparatively, it is much higher than the all-India literacy rate, which is 65.38%. The literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh has been improving faster than the all-India figures. Himachal Pradesh is characterised by a very strong correlation between sex ratio (females per thousand and males) and literacy. Districts with higher density of female population vis-à-vis male population have high literacy rates.