

Occupation & Human Resources in Himachal Pradesh

1. Occupation

The mainstay of the people of Himachal Pradesh is agriculture on which 66.71% population depends for their livelihood. The topography being mostly hilly, the type of cultivation is terraced. Close to 80 percent of all holdings fall in the category of small and marginal farmers. Due to ideal climate for fruit cultivation, horticulture and vegetable growing (seasonal as well as off-season), a well-diversified farm economy has developed rapidly during the past three decades. The percentage of main workers to total population is 32.31 and the percentage of cultivators to main workers is 55.45. The percentage of agricultural labourers to total workers is 1.22 as per 2001 census.

2. Human Resources

2.1 The population of Himachal Pradesh according to 2001 Census is 60.78 lakh out of which 54.82 lakh (90.20 percent) live in rural areas and 5.95 lakh (9.80 percent) in urban areas. Thus the majority of population is associated with such economic activities as are related to rural economy.

2.2 The following table depicts the decadal increase in work force for the period (1991-2001): -

Table – 2
Details of Work Force 1991-2001 Decade

Sr. No.	Item	Unit	1991 Census	2001 Census	%age Increase/Decrease
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1.	Total Population	Lakh Persons	51.71	60.78	17.54
2.	Main Workers:	Lakh Persons	17.79	19.64	10.40
a)	Cultivators	Lakh Persons	11.25	10.89	3.20
b)	Agricultural Labourers	Lakh Persons	0.59	0.36	38.98
c)	Household Industry	Lakh Persons	0.25	0.35	40.00
d)	Other Workers	Lakh Persons	5.70	8.04	41.05
3.	Marginal Workers	Lakh Persons	4.35	10.29	136.55
4.	Non-Workers	Lakh Persons	29.56	30.85	4.36

2.3 The above table reveals that in 1991-2001 decade, work force increased from 22.14 lakh in 1991 to 29.93 lakh in 2001, recording a growth of 35.18% as against 17.54% growth of population. In the year 1991, the work force constituted 42.82% of the total population while in 2001, it accounted for 49.24%. Thus, during the 1991-2001 decade the workforce increased by 6.42%. The percentage of main workers, to total population decreased from 34.41% to 32.31% during 1991-2001 decade, while marginal workers increased more than double from 8.41% to 16.92% during the same period and non- workers decreased from 57.16% to 50.76%.

2.4 The other feature of the work force reveals that “other workers” recorded a growth of 41.05% over the period of a decade. Noticeable feature of the main workforce is the decrease in the category of cultivators and agricultural labourers. As would reveal from above table cultivators decreased by 3.2% and agricultural labourers by 38.98% in the decade between 1991-2001. The trend in decline shows that main workforce preferred to jobs in private sector. It also speaks of the shifting of the workforce from the traditional occupation of agriculture to commercial and industrial activities.