

CHAPTER 2

Population Size, Growth and Distribution

2-1 Population Size

2-2 Change in population size

2-3 Population Distribution in provinces

2-4 Population Density

2-5 Urban- Rural Distribution of Population

2-6 Population Distribution by Religion

2-7 Population Classified by Place of Birth

2-8 Population by Mother Tongue

CHAPTER 2

Population Size, Growth and Distribution

2.1 Population Size

According to the 2008 Census the final population of Cambodia at 00.00 hours of March 3, 2008 stood at 13,395,682 comprising 6,516,054 males (48.64 percent) and 6,879,628 females (51.36 percent). This count included an estimate for non-response in respect of some households. The final population exceeded the provisional population of 13,388,910 marginally by 0.05 percent. This minor variation is due to different sources adopted to compile the population totals. The provisional results were based on a quick check and tabulation of summaries submitted by enumerators. The final figures released now are the results of detailed scrutiny, editing and validation of each and every filled-in schedule of about 2.8 million households.

The provisional figures were compiled in order to provide the population size of Cambodia and its provinces, quickly following the census as this was needed by administrators, planners and researchers on a priority basis for use in their respective work. The small difference between the two sets of figures does not however result in any significant change in the brief analysis of provisional population totals already published in August 2008.

The population of Cambodia according to the 2008 census falls short of the projected population of 14.6 million for that year. The assumptions made in the projection exercise have to be reviewed and fresh projections based on the 2008 census results will have to be made soon.

According to a mid-2008 estimate about 8.6 percent of the world's population of 6.7 billion lives in Southeast Asia. Cambodia which accounted for 2.3 percent of the Southeast Asian population in 1998 continues to do so in 2008 (Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Population Composition of Southeast Asia by Countries

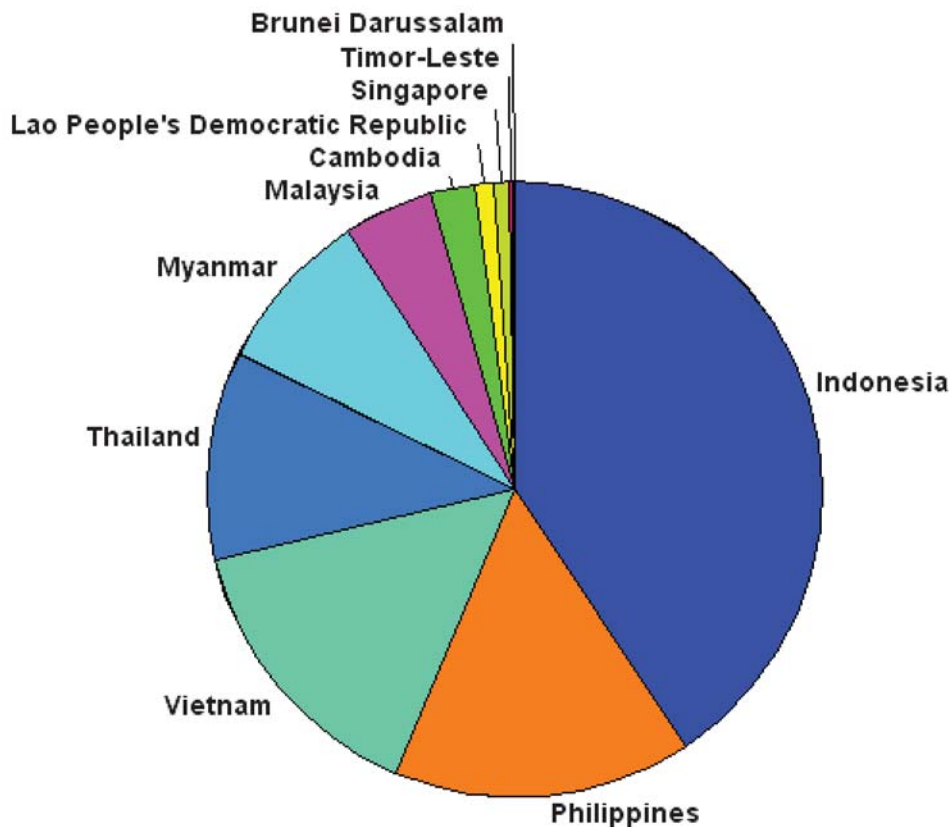


Table 2.1 Population of the Southeast Asian Countries

Name of the country	Population in mid-2008 (in thousands)	Annual Growth Rate (percent)
(1)	(2)	(3)
Southeast Asia	576,637	1.2
Brunei Darussalam	398	2.0
Cambodia	13,396	1.5
Indonesia	234,342	1.1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5,983	1.7
Malaysia	27,663	1.8
Myanmar	49,221	0.8
Philippines	90,457	2.0
Singapore	4,490	1.2
Thailand	63,121	0.4
Timor-Leste	1,193	3.5
Vietnam	86,373	1.3

Note: For all countries except Cambodia the source for the data is 2008 ESCAP Population Data Sheet, Bangkok, 2008. Cambodia's population is as per the 2008 Census

2.2 Changes in population Size

The population of Cambodia was 5.7 million according to the 1962 Census which was the first official census conducted after the country attained independence from the French rule. Cambodia's demographic scenario had changed completely after that census due to war and unrest. There were no further censuses until 1998, and there were no systematic national surveys until 1993-94. However, the population changes during the 1970s were examined in detail by several demographers and scholars who made different population estimates, and the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea carried out population counts in 1979 and 1980.

There was no further confirmed information about Cambodia's population until 1992. The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) registered 4.28 million voters aged 20 and over. The Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia conducted by the NIS in April 1994 estimated the country's population as 9.87 million. The NIS carried out the Demographic Survey in March 1996 covering 20,000 households and estimated the population as 10.7 million. This remained as the only source of population until the 1998 census conducted in March 1998.

Table 2.2 Population of Cambodia according to different sources

Source	Population			Remarks
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1962 census	5,728,771	2,862,939	2,865,832	Reference time of census was the night on April 17-18, 1962.
1980 General Demographic Survey	6,589,954	3,049,450	3,540,504	With reference to the end of 1980.
1993-94 Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia	9,870,000	4,714,000	5,156,000	Extrapolated population with reference to April 1994 based on a sample of 5,578 households.
1996 Demographic Survey of Cambodia	10,702,329	5,119,587	5,582,742	Extrapolated population with reference to March 20, 1996 based on a sample of 20,000 households.
1998 Census	11,437,656	5,511,408	5,926,248	With reference to March 3, 1998. Did not include a few areas where conflict took place at the time of the census. Population in these omitted areas was estimated at 45,000.
2004 Cambodia Inter-censal Population Survey (CIPS)	12,824,000	6,197,000	6,627,000	Estimate of population in regular households only as of March 3, 2004 as the survey did not cover institutional population, homeless population etc.
2008 Census	13,395,682	6,516,054	6,879,628	Reference date: March 3, 2008. Includes estimate for non-response in respect of some households.

Cambodia's population has increased by about 1.96 million during the decade 1998-2008. If the estimated population of 45,000 in the areas not covered by the 1998 census due to unrest in those areas (See Chapter 1) is added to the 1998 Census population of Cambodia, the decadal growth rate works out to 16.66 percent or an annual exponential growth rate of 1.54 percent (Table 2.3).

The annual exponential growth rate of the population of Cambodia is higher than that of Southeast Asia as a whole (Table 2.1). Cambodia's population has increased at a rate very much higher than that of Thailand, marginally higher than the growth rate of Viet Nam and marginally lower than the growth rate of Lao PDR.

Table 2.3 Growth Rates of Urban and Rural Population during 1998-2008, Cambodia

Total/ Urban/ Rural	Percentage Decadal growth Rate	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Total	16.66	1.54
Urban	24.77	2.21
Rural	14.85	1.38

2.3 Population Distribution in provinces

Table 2.4 shows the relative share of population of the Provinces to the total population of Cambodia according to the 2008 Census. The Table also provides the ranking of the provinces by population size in 2008 and 1998.

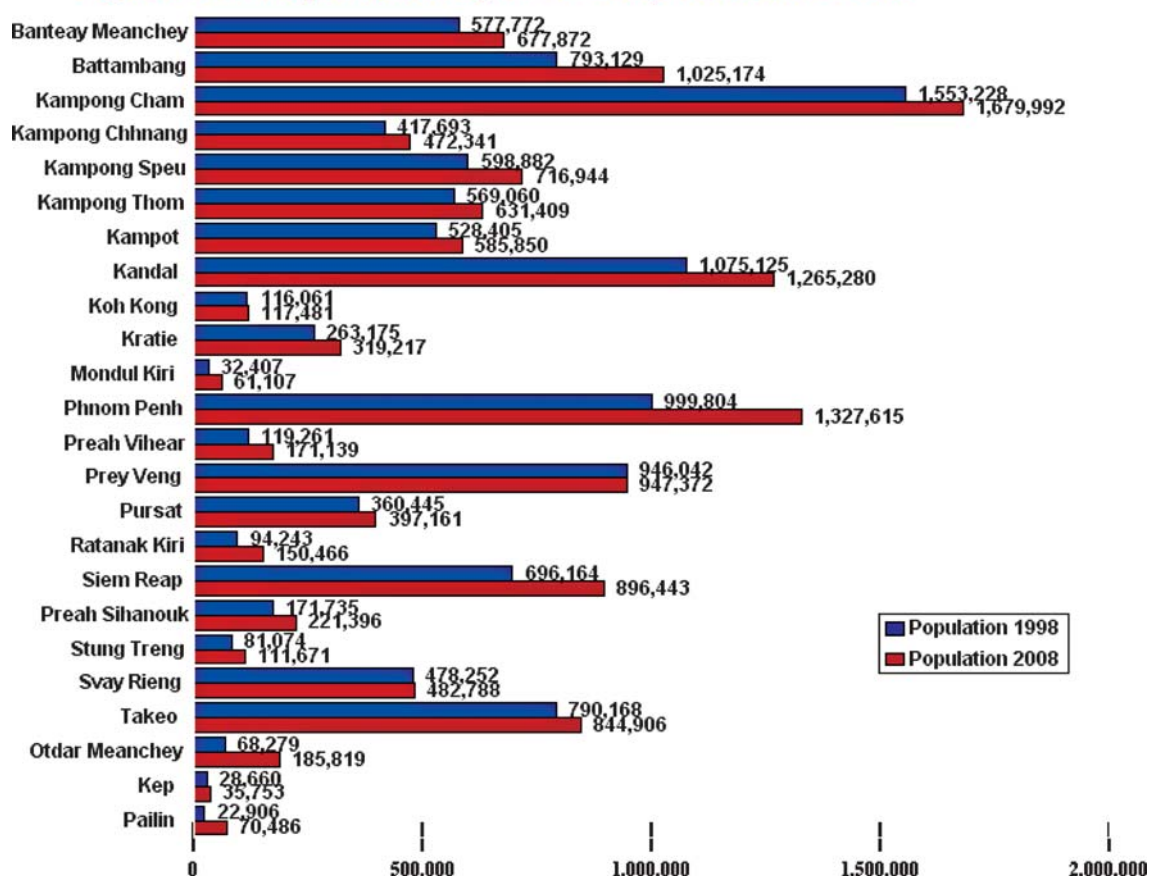
Table 2.4 Ranking of Provinces by Population Size: 1998 and 2008

Rank in 2008	Province/ Municipality	Percent to total population of Cambodia		Rank in 1998
		1998	2008	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Kampong Cham	14.07	12.54	1
2	Phnom Penh	8.74	9.91	3
3	Kandal	9.40	9.45	2
4	Battambang	6.93	7.65	5
5	Prey Veng	8.27	7.07	4
6	Siem Reap	6.09	6.69	7
7	Takeo	6.91	6.31	6
8	Kampong Speu	5.24	5.35	8
9	Banteay Meanchey	5.05	5.06	9
10	Kampong Thom	4.98	4.71	10
11	Kampot	4.62	4.37	11
12	Svay Rieng	4.18	3.60	12
13	Kampong Chhnang	3.65	3.53	13
14	Pursat	3.15	2.96	14
15	Kratie	2.30	2.38	15
16	Preah Sihanouk	1.50	1.65	16
17	Otdar Meanchey	0.60	1.39	21
18	Preah Vihear	1.04	1.28	17
19	Ratanak Kiri	0.82	1.12	19
20	Koh Kong	1.01	0.88	18
21	Stung Treng	0.71	0.83	20
22	Pailin	0.20	0.53	24
23	Mondul Kiri	0.28	0.46	22
24	Kep	0.25	0.27	23

Note: 1998 and 2008 Populations of Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk provinces are for areas according to the new frame. Ranks are based on these populations.

Kampong Cham continues to be the biggest province in terms of population (Figure 2.2), although it contains a lesser proportion of the country's population in 2008. There are shifts in ranks in respect of 13 provinces while there is no change in ranks in the remaining 11 provinces. Notably, Phnom Penh moved up to the second position with Kandal coming down to the third position. Otdar Meanchey which has registered a very high growth rate during the last decade has moved to the 17th position from the 21st position. On the other hand Koh Kong has gone to the 20th position (2008) from the 18th position (1998).

Figure 2.2 Population by Province, 1998 and 2008



2.4 Population Density

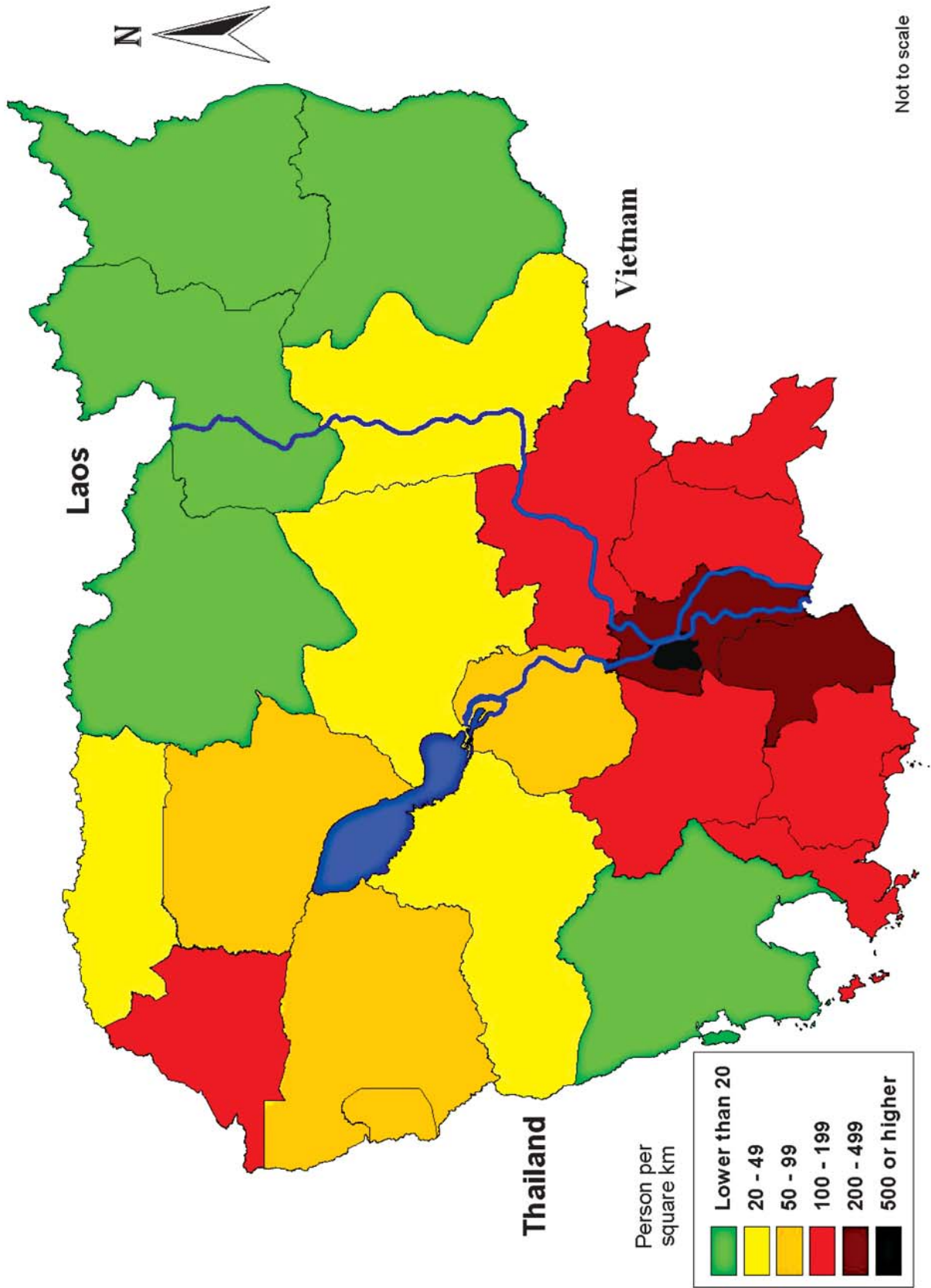
The density of population is one of the important indices of population concentration. It is defined as the number of persons per square kilometer. If population increases over a period with area remaining constant, population density increases proportionately. That is what is observed in Cambodia during the decade 1998-2008. The population density of Cambodia in 2008 was 75 persons per square kilometer as against 64 in 1998 which means that the number of persons living or staying in a square kilometer area in the country has increased by 11 during the decade.

Table 2.5 Population Density of the World and Countries in Southeast Asia

World/Southeast Asia/Country	Population density
World	49
Southeast Asia	130
Brunei	66
Cambodia	75
Indonesia	126
Lao People's Democratic Republic	25
Malaysia	84
Myanmar	73
Philippines	302
Singapore	7,013
Thailand	129
Timor-Leste	73
Viet Nam	260

Note: For all countries except Cambodia the source for the data is 2008 World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau, and Washington. Cambodia's population is as per the 2008 Census.

Map 2. Population Density by Province



As may be seen from Table 2.5, the population density in Cambodia is much less than that of Southeast Asia as a whole. Singapore is the densest country in the region followed by Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia and other countries. The country with the lowest density in the region is Laos.

There are four distinct natural regions in Cambodia. Among them, the plains region has always been the most densely populated in the country followed by the Tonle Sap, Coastal and the Plateau and Mountain regions in that order (Table 2.6 and Figure 2.3).

Table 2.6 Population Density by Natural Region

Cambodia / Natural Region	Areas (Km ²)	Population in 2008	Population Density (Persons/Km ²)	
			1998	2008
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Cambodia	181,035*	13,395,682	64	75
Plain Region	25,069	6,547,953	235	261
Tonle Sap Region	67,668	4,356,705	52	64
Coastal Region	17,237	960,480	49	56
Plateau and Mountain Region	68,061	1,530,544	17	22

Note: Includes area of Tonle Sap Lake (3,000Km²). Source for area figures: Ministry of Interior

2.5 Urban-Rural Distribution of Population

Table 2.7 shows the population in the urban and rural areas of Cambodia according to the 1998 and 2008 censuses. The urban populations of 1998 and 2008 are based on the revised definition of urban areas (See Chapter 1 for the definition).

The urban population of Cambodia which stood at about 2.1 million in 1998 has increased to about 2.6 million in 2008. Correspondingly the rural population of the country has risen from about 9.34 million counted in 1998 to about 10.78 million in 2008. The percentage of urban population to total population which is the measure of urbanization has increased from 18.2 in 1998 to 19.5 in 2008 (as worked out from Table 2.7). Still the urbanization level in Cambodia is much less than that for Southeast Asia as a whole (46 percent).

The increase in the level of urbanization in Cambodia has been rather small (1.3 percentage points) during the last decade. It has to be mentioned here that the percentage of urban population in Cambodia was 15.7 percent according to old definition of urban areas. This figure stands revised to 18.2 percent due to changes as a result of the adoption of the new definition evolved for the revised classification of urban areas in 2005.

It may be of interest to know that according to the 1962 Census the urban population constituted 10.3 percent of the total population. At that time Phnom Penh, three other municipalities of Kaeb, Bokor and Sihanouk Ville and 14 urban centers in provinces were treated as urban and the rest of the country as rural.

Figure 2.3 Percent Distribution of Population by Natural Regions, Cambodia 1998 and 2008

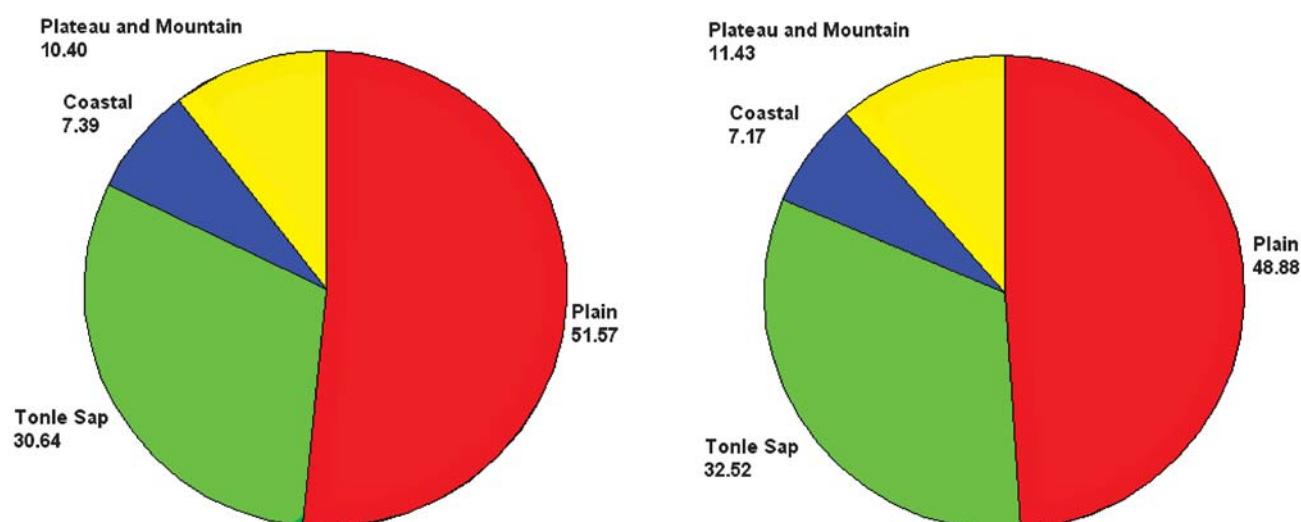


Table 2.7 Population by Urban-Rural Residence and Sex, Cambodia 1998 and 2008

Total/ Urban/ Rural	Population in					
	1998			2008		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Total	11,437,656	5,511,408	5,926,248	13,395,682	6,516,054	6,879,628
Urban	2,095,074	1,020,264	1,074,810	2,614,027	1,255,570	1,358,457
Rural	9,342,582	4,491,144	4,851,438	10,781,655	5,260,484	5,521,171

The urban population has registered a decadal growth of 24.77 percent or an average annual exponential growth rate of 2.21 percent during 1998-2008 (Table 2.3). The decadal growth rate and the average annual exponential growth rate of the rural population are much lower at 14.85 percent and 1.38 percent respectively.

2.6 Population Distribution by Religion

The predominant religion in Cambodia is Buddhism (Table 2.8). The category of “Others” contains mainly the local religious system of the highland tribal groups and a few minority religious groups from other countries.

The pattern of distribution of population by religion is more or less the same in 1998 and 2008. The sex ratio and age-wise distribution of the total population, Buddhists, and Muslims almost follow the same pattern (Table 2.9).

Table 2.8 Percent distribution of Population by Religion and Sex, Cambodia 1998 and 2008

Sex	Number	Year	Religious Group				
			Total	Buddhists	Muslims	Christians	Others
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Both Sexes	13,395,682	2008	100	96.93	1.92	0.37	0.78
	11,413,880	1998	100	96.56	2.15	0.46	0.83
Males	6,516,054	2008	100	96.90	1.92	0.39	0.79
	5,498,421	1998	100	96.52	2.15	0.48	0.85
Females	6,879,628	2008	100	96.96	1.92	0.36	0.76
	5,915,459	1998	100	96.59	2.15	0.44	0.82

Note: 1998 populations given exclude Religion “Not Reported”

Table 2.9 Sex Ratio and Percentage of Population by Broad Age Group for each Religion, Cambodia, 2008

Religious Group	Sex Ratio	Percent Distribution by Age Group		
		0-14	15-59	60+
Total	94.7	33.7	60	6.3
Buddhists	94.6	33.6	60	6.4
Muslims	94.9	33.6	59.9	6.5
Christians	104.4	32	62.6	5.4
Others	98.6	42	52.9	5.1

Among Christians, however, the number of males exceeds females. In terms of absolute numbers, there are 25,564 males and 24,492 females among 50,056 Christians. In the category of “Others” mainly consisting of highland tribal groups, higher level of fertility may perhaps be a cause for a higher percentage of children (age 0-14) among them when compared to the three religious groups.

2.7 Population classified by Place of birth

Table 2.10 classifies the enumerated population according to place of birth. It is observed that most of the persons enumerated were born within Cambodia, both at the time of the 1998 and 2008 Censuses. However, the percentage of foreign-born persons is almost halved during the decade (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4 Percentage Distribution of Population by Place of Birth, Cambodia 1998 and 2008

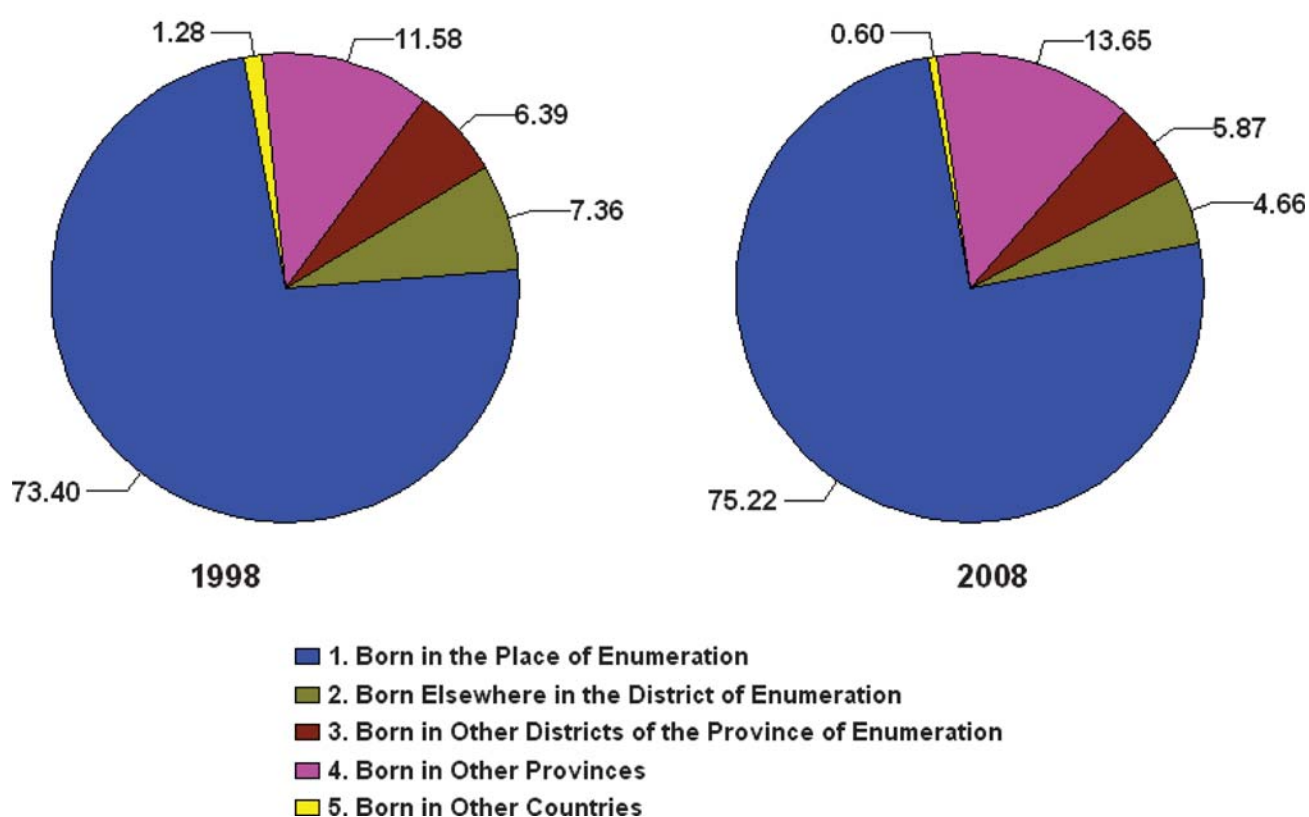


Table 2.10 Percent distribution of Enumerated Population* by Place of Birth and Sex, Cambodia, 1998 and 2008

Place of Birth	1998			2008		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Number	11,412,941	5,497,787	5,915,154	13,395,048	6,515,819	6,879,229
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
A. Born in Cambodia	98.72	98.65	98.79	99.40	99.35	99.45
1. Within the Province of Enumeration	87.15	86.42	87.82	85.75	85.35	86.14
(a) Born in the Place of Enumeration	73.40	71.61	75.06	75.22	73.97	76.40
(b) Born Elsewhere in the District of Enumeration	7.36	8.02	6.74	4.66	5.19	4.17
(c) Born in other Districts of the Province of Enumeration	6.39	6.79	6.02	5.87	6.19	5.57
2. Provinces in Cambodia beyond the Province of Enumeration	11.58	12.22	10.97	13.65	14.00	13.31
B. Born Abroad	1.28	1.35	1.21	0.60	0.65	0.55
1. In Countries of Asia	1.26	1.33	1.19	0.57	0.61	0.53
2. Other Countries	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.02

Note: *Excluding "Not classified" place of birth with a small number of persons.

Within Cambodia, people have moved from place of birth to places where they were enumerated. Out of a population of 13.40 million, about 10.08 million or 75 percent were born in the places of their enumeration according to the 2008 Census. In other words, only about one fourth of the country's population was enumerated in places other than the places of birth.

Table 2.11 Percents distribution of enumerated population (other than those born in the place of enumeration) by residence of place of birth

Enumerated in	Number	Percentage born in	
		Urban	Rural
Total	3,239,184	17.68	82.32
Urban	1,448,575	26.62	73.38
Rural	1,790,609	10.45	89.55

According to the 2008 Census, out of 2.57 million persons who were born in Cambodia and enumerated in urban areas, about 1.45 million or about 56 percent were born outside their places of enumeration. The corresponding proportion for persons enumerated in rural Cambodia is much less being about 17 percent. Table 2.11 shows the majority of those enumerated in urban areas (other than those born in place of enumeration) were born in rural areas. Most of the persons enumerated in rural areas (other than those born in place of enumeration) were born in rural areas.

2.8 Population by Mother Tongue

The percentage distribution of speakers of mother tongue given in (Table 2.12) shows that Khmer is the predominant mother tongue in the country. According to place of birth data less than one percent of the population was born outside Cambodia (Table 2.10). The mother tongue data also reveals that less than one percent of the population has one of the Southeast Asia languages as mother tongue. There is therefore consistency in the two sets of data.

Table 2.12 Percent distribution of Population by Mother Tongue and Sex, Cambodia 2008

Sex	Number	Mother Tongue							
		Total	Khmer	Viet-namense	Chinese	Lao	Thai	Minority Languages	Others
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Both Sexes	13,395,682	100	96.31	0.54	0.05	0.14	0.02	2.86	0.08
Males	6,516,054	100	96.25	0.57	0.06	0.14	0.02	2.86	0.09
Females	6,879,628	100	96.36	0.52	0.04	0.14	0.01	2.86	0.07

The speakers of minority languages numbering 383,273 as per the 2008 Census represent about three percent of the total population of Cambodia. This section of the population barring Chaam is mostly concentrated in forest and hill areas.

Table 2.13 gives the percentage distribution of the speakers of the minority languages. There are in all 23 minority mother tongues. Each of the minority languages mentioned separately in Table 2.13 forms five percent or more of all minority language speakers. The remaining which have each a very small