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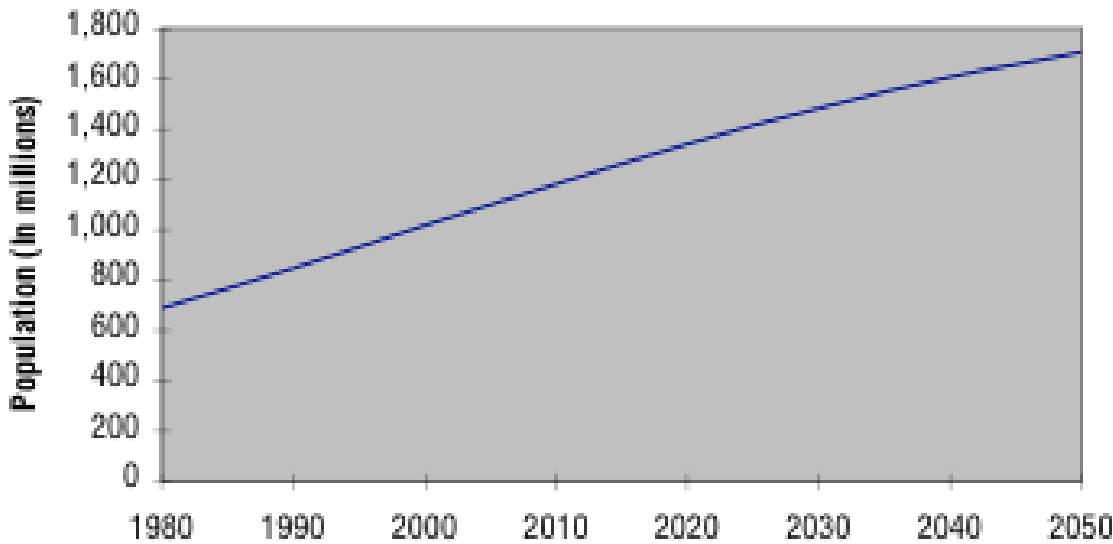
# Global Trade & Transportation News

February 2010

## Country Report: India

### Population and Demographics

#### India: Population



(Source: United Nations, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs: <http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp>)

#### Population

India is currently the 2nd most populous country in the world, containing about 17% of the world's population. India's population experienced rapid growth between 1980 and 2010, its population increasing approximately 71%. Currently, about 1.183 billion people live in India, its population surpassing the 1 billion-person mark in 2000. India's annual growth rate is expected to decline from 1.46% annually to about .32% a year between 2045 and 2050. However, the U.S. Census Bureau predicts India to surpass China as the most populous country in the world in 2025 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau [http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/international\\_population/014499.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/international_population/014499.html)). India's population continues to grow, and China's population is expected to reach a point of decline. The United Nations expects India's population to increase to almost 1.8 billion Indians by 2050.

## Population Growth and Fertility

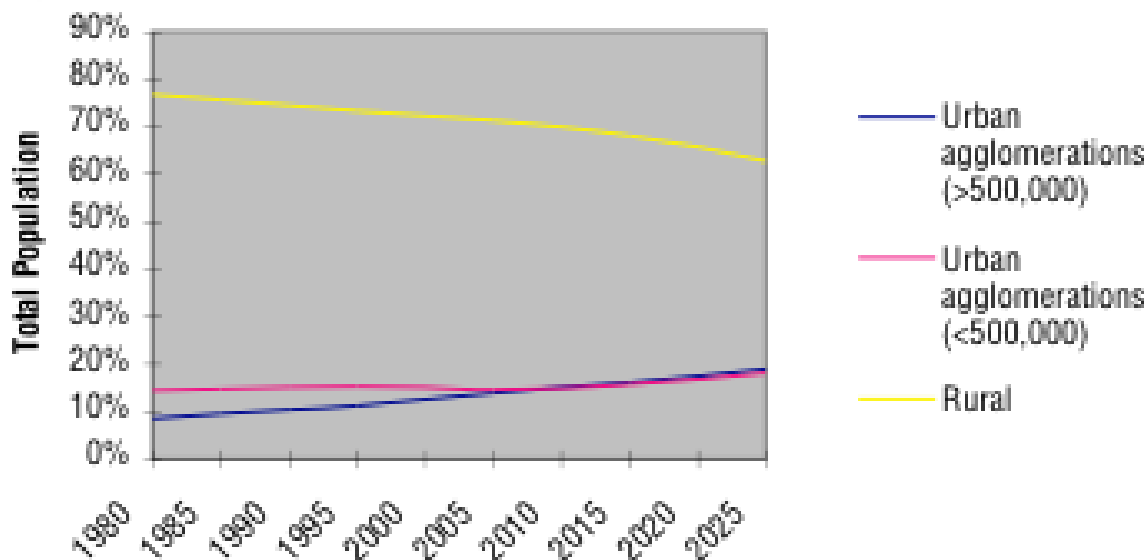
India's fertility rate has fallen substantially over the last two decades. In 1991, India's fertility rate was 3.6 births per woman; in 2009, it was 2.7 births per woman. The U.S. Census Bureau expects India's fertility rate to decrease to 2.1 births per woman by 2034 and stay at this level through 2050 (Source: US Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/country.php>). India is actively seeking to decrease its population through lowering its fertility rates, decreasing the number of births per woman. India has a National Population Policy in place which seeks to lower fertility rates and control population growth (Source: About.com: Geography: <http://geography.about.com/od/obtainpopulationdata/a/india-population.htm>).

## Rural and Urban Population

India's population is predominately rural, but the United Nations expects the Central Asian country's urban population to continue to grow. The United Nations expects India's rural population to begin declining annually sometime between 2025 and 2030. The percentage of rural dwellers in India has steadily declined over the past few decades. In 1980, more than three fourths of Indians lived in rural areas; today, more than two thirds are rural dwellers, but, by 2050, the Indian population is expected to be split, percent wise, in half. About half of Indians will live in rural India, and about half will live in urban India.

India's largest cities will continue to grow in population. The United Nations expects 4 cities to emerge in India with more than 10 million Indians by 2025. High rates of population growth have been consistent in India: in 2010, 40 cities had populations of 1 million or more, while just 7 did in 1980. More and more people will live in larger cities; cities with greater than 500,000 people are expected to host the majority of urban Indians beginning in 2015; however, cities with fewer than 500,000 Indians are still expected to continue to host about half of India's population through 2025 (Source: <http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp>).

## Population Distribution: Urban/Rural



## **Geography**

India occupies about 2.5% of the world's land area and contains about 17% of the world's population. The Indo-Gangetic Plains in India are one of the most populous stretches of land in the world. Also called the North Indian River Plain, the plains cover the majority of northern and eastern India and host about 900 million people. The plains are known for their fertile soil, consisting mainly of alluvium, a fine dirt suitable for agriculture.

Uttar Pradesh is the nation's most populous state, with more than 190 million people; the state is in Northeastern India in the Indo-Gangetic Plains. It borders Nepal and Delhi, the nation's capital. The nation's most populous cities are Mumbai and Delhi, with 13.9 and 12.3 million Indians, respectively.

The eastern and western coastal regions of the Deccan Plateau – the plateau that makes up the majority of India – are also densely populated. Maharashtra, the country's second most populous state, in which Mumbai is found, is in the western coastal region. While the southern and western coastal regions and the northern and northeastern areas are heavily populated, the farthest northern and northeastern states along the Himalayan Mountains are less populous because of the tremendous geographical barriers and extreme physical conditions there. (Source: India Government Web site: <http://india.gov.in/knowindia/profile.php>)