

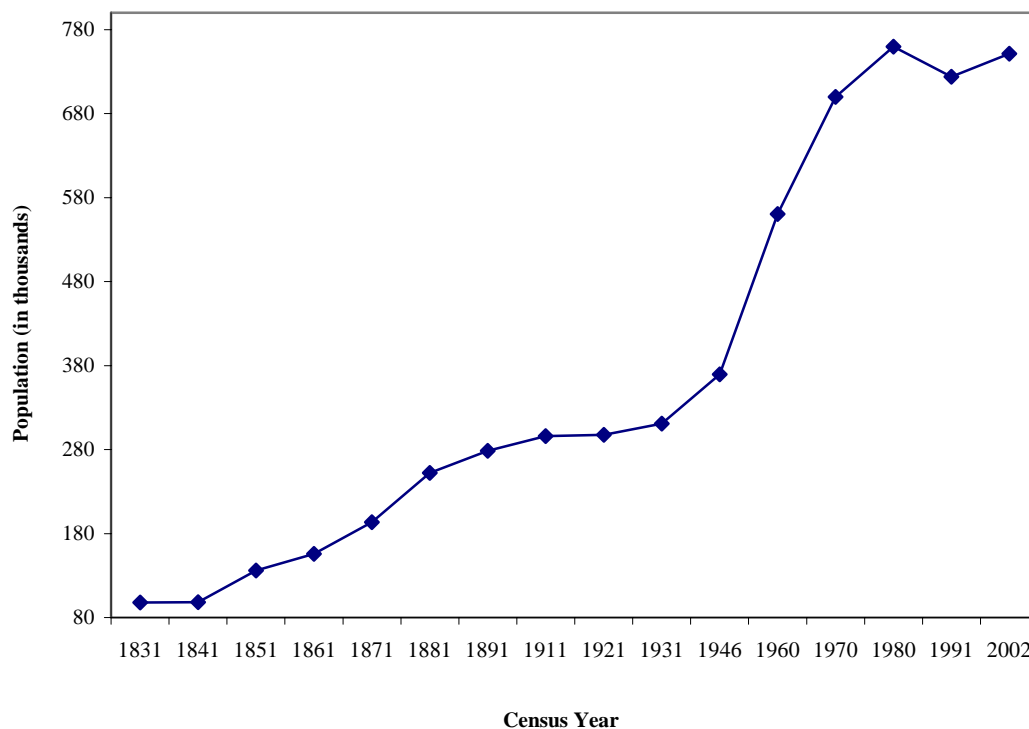
CHAPTER I NATIONAL POPULATION TRENDS: SIZE, GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION

1.1 Size

The population of Guyana, obtained from the 2002 Population and Housing Census, consists of approximately 751,223 persons. This number includes persons enumerated in the households, those in institutions (7,403 persons), such as hospitals, prisons, military barracks, etc. (see Appendix A for concepts and definitions used in the census) and 5,505 persons who were not available to be enumerated after several attempts.

The population growth since the earliest censuses in the 1800s right up to the first census of the 21st century is shown in Table 1.1 and illustrated in Figure 1.1. They both show that except for census 1991, the population of Guyana increased at each census although increases in both absolute numbers and rates of growth were relatively small between 1911 and 1921. The largest increase was between 1946 and 1960, reflecting the post-war baby boom that took place worldwide. The 1991 census was the first in the history of Guyana's census taking that recorded a population decline (of approximately 36,000 persons). The population decline at census 1991 appears to be consistent with the peak emigration flows recorded during the decade of the 1980s as well as continuously falling fertility rates.

Fig. 1.1: Population Trends of Guyana (1831 - 2002)



**Table 1.1: Population trends and Growth Rate,
Guyana: 1831 - 2002**

Census Year	Population	Change	% Change	Growth Rate
1831	98,000	x	x	x
1841	98,154	154	0.2	0.02
1851	135,994	37,840	38.6	3.31
1861	155,907	19,913	14.6	1.37
1871	193,491	37,584	24.1	2.18
1881	252,186	58,695	30.3	2.68
1891	278,328	26,142	10.4	0.99
1911	296,041	17,713	6.4	0.31
1921	297,691	1,650	0.6	0.06
1931	310,933	13,242	4.4	0.44
1946	375,701	64,768	20.8	1.27
1960	560,330	184,629	49.1	2.9
1970	701,718	141,388	25.2	2.28
1980	759,567	57,849	8.2	0.80
1991	723,673	-35,894	-4.7	-0.44
2002	751,223	27,550	3.8	0.33

Note: x = not applicable

The decline in population numbers from 1980 to 1991 is reversed between 1991 and 2002, when the population shows an increase of approximately 28,000 persons. This pattern of population change between 1980 and 2002 is examined through a cohort survival analysis.

Table 1.2 shows census survival ratios between 1980 and 2002. In order to conduct this analysis, the age distribution of the population at the two census dates is made comparable. This is done by regrouping the five-year age groups from x to $x + 4$ identified at the 1980 census into their respective cohorts at the second census in 2002, twenty-two years later (as age groups from $x + 22$ to $x + 26$). Thus, the survivors of those aged 0-4 in 1980 are aged 22-26 in 2002. As a further adjustment, the population distribution for 2002 is moved backward by 0.345 year (four months), that is, from the second census date of September 15, 2002 to May 12, 2002. The survival ratios are then derived from these two distributions.

**Table 1.2: National Census Survival Ratios for
Both Sexes, Guyana: 2002**

Age at:		Population		
First	Second			
Census	Census	1980	2002	Survival
(1980)	(2002)	(Age 0+)	(Age 22+)	Ratios
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)=(4)/(3)
	Births	x	362,799	x
0-4	22-26	97,928	63,095	0.6443
5-9	27-31	106,949	61,508	0.5751
10-14	32-36	105,733	55,280	0.5228
15-19	37-41	96,939	51,172	0.5279
20-24	42-46	77,542	42,664	0.5502
25-29	47-51	57,731	32,662	0.5658
30-34	52-56	44,215	24,557	0.5554
35-39	57-61	33,708	17,011	0.5047
40-44	62-66	28,359	13,260	0.4676
45-49	67-71	25,873	10,424	0.4029
50-54	72-76	23,025	7,208	0.3131
55-59	77-81	18,280	4,567	0.2498
60-64	82-86	13,522	2,287	0.1691
65-69	87-91	12,810	1,315	0.1027
70-74	92-96	7,535	424	0.0562
75 +	97 +	9,420	137	0.0145

x = Not applicable

Note: Age not stated has been prorated.

Births refer to population 0-21 years in 2002.

The results in column 5 of Table 1.2 show low survival rates for the age group 0-4 onwards. For example, about 64 percent of those aged 0-4 years in 1980 and now 22-26 years in 2002 were reported to have still been in the population. The rates are even much lower for 5-9 and 10-14 years; for example, about 42 and 48 percent seemed not to have reached 27-31 and 32-36 years in 2002 respectively. With the increase in life expectancy for the country, (65.5 years for both sexes combined) mortality alone cannot account for the proportions of such low survival. It is more probable that the ongoing emigration and other factors had strongly influenced the demographic processes of population change.

In percentage terms, the population grew by 3.8 percent between 1991 and 2002 reversing the decline (-4.7 percent) experienced between 1980 and 1991. The distribution of the 2002 population by sex indicates that males narrowly outnumber females - with 50.1 percent of the population being male and 49.9 percent female (see Table 1.3 and Figure 1.2).

Table 1.3: Total Population by Sex, Guyana: 1980, 1991 and 2002

Census Ref. Date	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Sept. 15, 2002	751,223	100	376,034	50.1	375,189	49.9
May 12, 1991	723,673	100	356,540	49.3	367,133	50.7
May 12 1980	759,567	100	376,381	49.5	383,186	50.5
Change (1991 - 2002)	27,550	3.8	19,494	2.7	8,056	1.1
Change (1980 - 1991)	-35,894	-4.7	-19,841	-2.6	-16,053	-2.1

This finding is different from the censuses of 1991 and 1980 when females accounted for 50.7 percent and 50.5 percent of the population respectively. The observed numerical majority of male population at the 2002 census corroborates with the earlier prediction made by the Bureau in 1994 in the National Report to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. The report predicted that because of the preponderance of females in the ongoing emigration flows, females will lose their numerical superiority in the population during the period 2001 - 2011¹.

Fig. 1.2: Population of Guyana by Sex: 1980-2002

1.2 Growth

Average annual rates of growth in the late 1870s and 1880s have been among the highest. Growth rates however fell off in the early to mid 1900s, only to pick up again in 1960. The high growth rate observed in 1960 would have been the result of the post-war baby boom.

Average annual growth rates between 1991 and 2002 are small (0.33 percent per annum). Nevertheless it is a positive trend shown by the first census of the millennium, since it

¹Benjamin, Lennox (1994) National Report to the Population of Guyana Prepared for the ICPD Conference Cairo 5th – 13th September 1994 (Unpublished -Available at the Bureau of Statistics)

compares with a decrease of -0.44 percent per annum between 1980 and 1991. The reason for the negative growth rate between 1980 and 1991 has already been given and is suspected to be the impact of the outflow on people in their prime working ages. This is an issue for further in-depth research and analysis.

When the growth between 1991 and 2002 is disaggregated for the sexes, the female population shows an increase of 1.1 percent over the decade and the males 2.7 percent. By comparison, growth for the sexes between 1980 and 1991 shows a decrease in population by 2.1 percent for females and 2.6 percent for males. This result probably means that females have been migrating at a faster rate than males; a finding which can be substantiated by the results of the Living Condition Survey² conducted during the 1990s. The results showed that in the ongoing emigration flows, 53 out of every 100 persons emigrating were females.

1.3 The Effects of International Migration on the Population Size

1.3.1 The Effect of Immigration

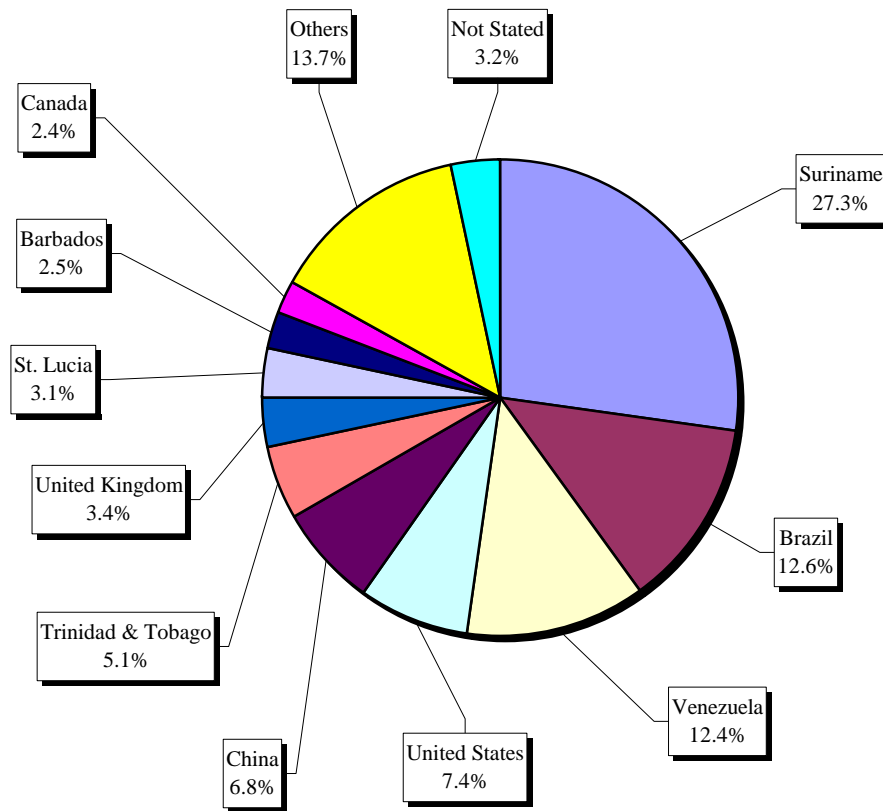
Changes in the size of the foreign-born population are examined in this section. As shown in Table 1.4, the contribution of foreign-born residents to the population size is still relatively insignificant in 2002, although it does show a rise over the 1980 and 1991 numbers and percentages. Foreign-born residents in 1980 were 0.8 percent of the total population, dropping to 0.5 percent in 1991, and rising to 1.3 percent in 2002 (see Table 1.4).

**Table 1.4: Percentage Distribution of Local and Foreign-Born,
Guyana: 1980 - 2002**

Census Year	Guyanese		Foreign-born		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2002	741,772	98.7	9,451	1.3	751,223	100
1991	719,733	99.5	3,940	0.5	723,673	100
1980	753,165	99.2	6,402	0.8	759,567	100

²Bureau of Statistics (2000) Guyana Survey of Living Conditions (Available at the Bureau of Statistics - Unpublished)

**Fig. 1.3: Foreign-Born Population by Country of Birth
Guyana: 2002**



Approximately 63 percent of the foreign-born population comes from the English-speaking Caribbean and Guyana's next-door neighbors. Suriname alone contributes 27.3 percent of the foreign-born population. Other foreign nationals found in large numbers among the foreign-born component of the resident Guyanese population include Brazil, (12.6 percent), Venezuela, (12.4 percent), United States, (7.4 percent), China, (6.8 percent) and United Kingdom, (3.4 percent). However, it is difficult to determine reciprocity of movement between Guyana and these countries because of lack of information on Guyanese-born citizens who migrated to those countries (see Table 1.5 and Figure 1.3).

Table 1.5: Distribution of Resident Foreign-Born by Country of Birth and Sex, Guyana: 2002

Country of Birth	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Suriname	1,245	1,331	2,576	13.2	14.1	27.3
Brazil	714	481	1,195	7.6	5.1	12.6
Venezuela	590	586	1,176	6.2	6.2	12.4
United States	375	328	703	4.0	3.5	7.4
China	378	268	646	4.0	2.8	6.8
Trinidad & Tobago	259	220	479	2.7	2.3	5.1
United Kingdom	174	149	323	1.8	1.6	3.4
St. Lucia	169	125	294	1.8	1.3	3.1
Barbados	123	117	240	1.3	1.2	2.5
Cnanda	115	110	225	1.2	1.2	2.4
Others	759	532	1,291	8.0	5.6	13.7
Not Stated	160	143	303	1.7	1.5	3.2
Total	5,061	4,390	9,451	53.5	46.5	100

1.3.2 The Effect of Emigration

In Table 1.1 we raised some issues regarding the trends and growth of the population, particularly the impact of ongoing emigration on the demographic change in Guyana. In furtherance thereof, we presented the vital statistics results of the country covering the period 1988 to 2000 to examine the effect of international migration on the size of the population. It is often difficult to compare both sources of data because they employ different methods in the data collection process. While vital statistics deals with registration of vital events, such as deaths, births and migration, census employs a de facto method, that is, everybody is expected to be counted on the census night. At the same time, we should bear in mind the porosity of the border crossing points, because information collected is limited to arrivals and departures at legal and popular crossing destinations. However, in a strict sense, they enable analysts to overview the extent to which either data had suffered from coverage or omission errors and as such, it should be borne in mind when interpreting Table 1.6.

In any case, if we assume that registration of births and deaths was reported with similar degree of accuracy to that of arrivals and departures, then, we can conclude that net migration had been the integral part of the negative growth rate realized in 1991. The net increase on account of these components of population growth as depicted in Table 1.6 shows that the population figure dropped from its 1980 level of 759,567 to as low as 740,153 in 1991 due to emigration. From there, natural increase began to exceed net migration.

As noted earlier, the difference between the census counts and the expected population estimates based on vital registration should be interpreted with caution. Probably, some vital events were unregistered due to weaknesses in the vital registration system, among them being undocumented illegal migration which may have created the difference referred to above.

**Table 1.6: Population Estimates Derived From Net Natural Increase and Net Migration,
Guyana: 1998-2000**

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural	Arrivals	Departures	Net	Net	Population
			Increase (B-D)			Migration (A-D)	Increase/ Decrease	
1988	19,568	5,967	13,601	na	na	-12,094	1,507	757,207
1989	20,521	5,605	14,916	na	na	-15,304	-388	756,819
1990	17,522	6,134	11,388	na	na	-17,559	-6,171	750,648
1991	18,229	5,170	13,059	134,272	157,826	-23,554	-10,495	740,153
1992	18,224	4,735	13,489	170,917	164,515	6,402	19,891	760,044
1993	20,027	5,063	14,964	189,461	196,441	-6,980	7,984	768,028
1994	21,810	5,328	16,482	181,876	181,626	250	16,732	784,760
1995	22,651	5,417	17,234	184,879	192,390	-7,511	9,723	794,483
1996	22,452	5,616	16,836	170,885	183,483	-12,598	4,238	798,721
1997	21,861	5,302	16,559	161,066	177,377	-16,311	248	798,969
1998	20,898	5,244	15,654	146,221	166,661	-20,440	-4,786	794,183
1999	17,950	5,102	12,848	178,982	191,146	-12,164	684	794,867
2000	18,463	5,594	12,869	191,764	202,865	-11,101	1,768	796,635

Source: General Registrar Office, Guyana

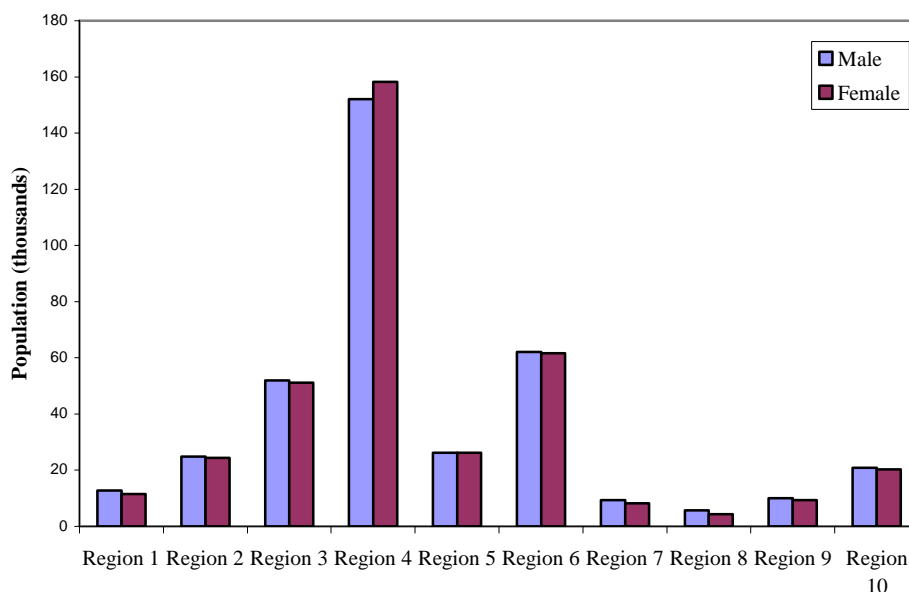
1.4 Regional Distribution

The percentage distribution of the population by region and sex for 2002 is elaborated in Table 1.7. The sex distribution of the population of the regions is similar to the national distribution. With the exception of Region 4, the proportion of males is higher than for females in 2002 census. The largest sex differentials – where men outnumber women are seen in Regions 8, 1, 7 and 9, in ranking order (see Figure 1.4).

Table 1.7: Population Distribution by Sex and Region, Guyana: 2002

Region	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Region 1	24,275	3.2	12,815	1.7	11,460	1.5
Region 2	49,253	6.6	24,847	3.3	24,407	3.3
Region 3	103,061	13.7	51,944	6.9	51,117	6.8
Region 4	310,320	41.3	152,136	20.3	158,184	21.1
Region 5	52,428	7.0	26,207	3.5	26,221	3.5
Region 6	123,695	16.5	62,079	8.3	61,615	8.2
Region 7	17,597	2.3	9,373	1.3	8,224	1.1
Region 8	10,095	1.3	5,750	0.8	4,345	0.6
Region 9	19,387	2.6	10,009	1.3	9,378	1.3
Region 10	41,112	5.5	20,874	2.8	20,238	2.7
Total	751,223	100	376,034	50.1	375,189	49.9

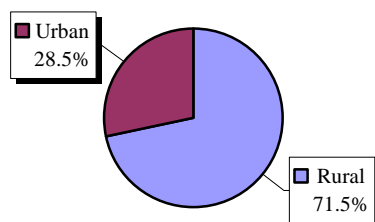
Fig.1. 4: Regional Population Distribution by Sex, Guyana: 2002



1.5 Rural and Urban Distribution

Four of the ten administrative regions have urban centers, that is, Regions 2, 4, 6 and 10. The combined population of these towns and the capital city, Georgetown, totaled 213,705 or 28.5 percent of the population in 2002. The remaining 71.5 percent of the population is clustered in villages, mainly along the coastal belt, while a few others are scattered deep in the hinterland of the country (see Figure 1.5 and Table 2.9).

Fig.2.5: Population by Rural and Urban Status, Guyana: 2002



Females account for 51.7 percent of the urban dwellers compared to 48.3 percent for males. This situation is the reverse for the rural areas, where males account for 50.8 percent of the rural population and females 49.2 percent.