

PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Socio-Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level

*KP experiences slowest urbanization within 4 provinces, with only 2% increase in urban population share since 1998 census– **Increase in the population of KP– Socio Economic Indicators of KP at District Level 2024***

Islamabad, 21st May, 2024

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is looking at the population increase in KP. This data is part of a publication called the ‘Socio Economic Indicators of KP at District Level’.

The current edition looks at data from Socio Economic Indicators of KP at District Level 2024 (which can be found [HERE](#))

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan’s Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: “The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [Socio Economic Indicators of KP at District Level](#), which seldom has data points not covered in many other reports. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan.”

What data points this current edition covers:

This series aims to present the important learnings from the Socio-Economic Indicators of KP at District Level for policy makers, the public, as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way. This edition looks at the increase in KP’s population. These insights are important to examine because the population increase and consequent demographic breakdown in KP can have implications for policy programs and social welfare. The series’ main aim is to provide data. Implications of these data points for development sector as well as wider socio-political ramifications is something we would like to trigger in relevant circles.

Niha Nazar an analyst at Gallup Pakistan says, “While urbanization is a trend that has been noticeable across Pakistan, for some reason the adoption of it seems to be slow in KP. There could be a multitude of reasons for this, one could be that due to safety and security concerns people prefer to remain close to their familial lands- which are more often than not in rural areas.

Additionally, considering that mostly rural to urban migration occurs in search for better opportunities, resources or lifestyle- one could also assume a certain level of satisfaction of inhabitants in rural areas of KP. This would make rural to urban migration a choice, rather than a necessity; thereby explaining the slow pace of urbanization in KP. Further, Unlike other provinces, many from KP have also been forced to or opted to move to other provinces of Pakistan, for instance, to urban areas such as Karachi. In other words, rural to urban migration happened but did not happen internally within KP, but externally. We hope that these statistics would open debate on this matter”

Today's topic is “Increase in the population of KP” from table 1.1, figure 1.1, figure 1.2 and table 1.3, Socio-Economic Indicators of KP at District Level

Key Findings:

- 1) **Overall growth:** Since 1998, KP's population has increased from 17.7 million to 30.5 million in 2017
- 2) **Rural-urban distribution:** While KP is experiencing urbanization like the rest of Pakistan, it is not as rapid as in other parts of the country. Rural population (24.7 million) remains greater than the urban population (5.7 million).
- 3) **Population by sex:** Out of the total 30.5 million population of KP, there is a near even gender split, with 15.4 million males and 15 million females.
- 4) **Dependency ratio:** Based on the 2017 census, the age dependency ratio in KP is 88.34%, with a higher percentage among males, and in rural areas.

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Socio-Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level



Since 1998, KP's population has increased from **17.7 million** to **30.5 million** in 2017.



While KP is experiencing urbanization like the rest of Pakistan, it is not as rapid as in other parts of the country.

Rural population (**24.7 million**) remains greater than the urban population (**5.7 million**)



Out of the total **30.5 million** population of KP, there is a near even gender split, with **15.4 million** males and **15 million** females.



Urban
5.7 million

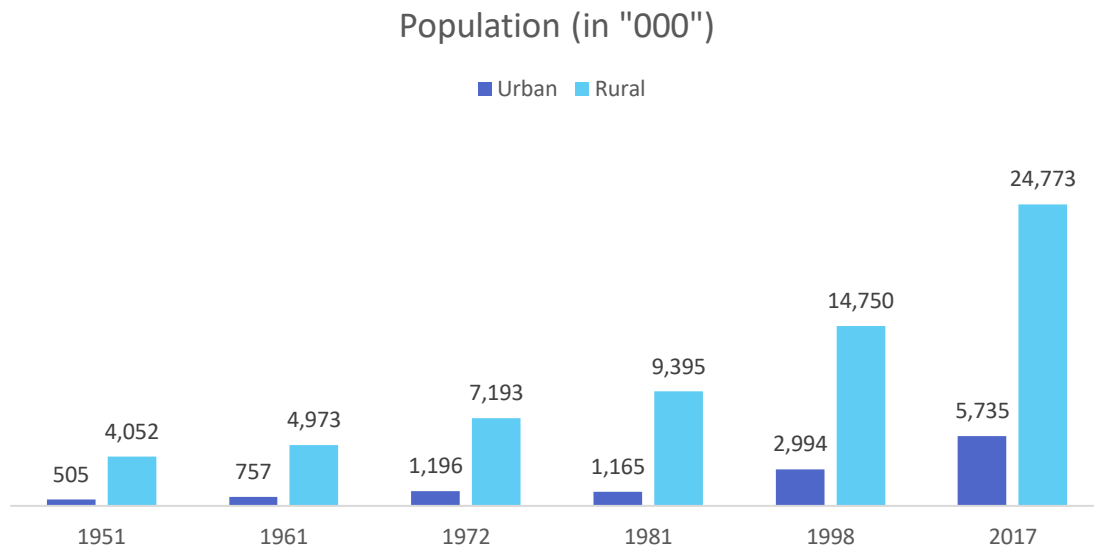


Rural
24.7 million

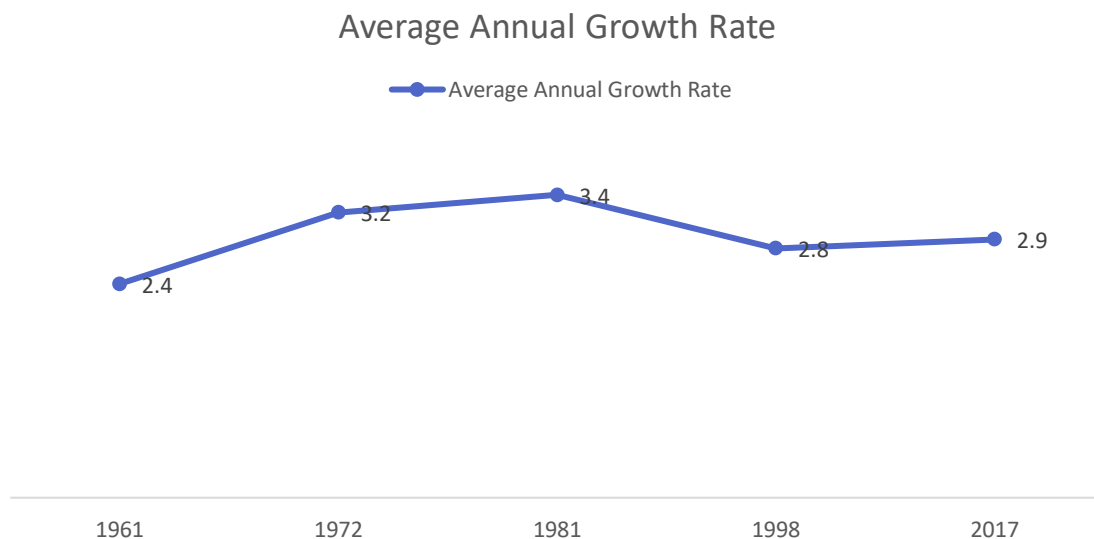
Based on the 2017 census, the age dependency ratio in KP is **88.34%**, with a higher percentage among males, and in rural areas.

Overall Growth

Since 1998, KP's population has increased from 17.7 million to 30.5 million in 2017- which signifies a 71.94% increase in population since the last census in 1998. This also brings the average annual growth rate to 2.9% between 1998 and 2017. In 1961, the average annual growth rate was 2.4%, which peaked to 3.4% in 1981. After that, the government worked towards reducing the fertility rate, which seemed to work initially as the average annual growth rate decreased to 2.8% in 1998. However, a reversal in the trend was apparent as it once again increased to 2.9% in 2017.



Source: Socio Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

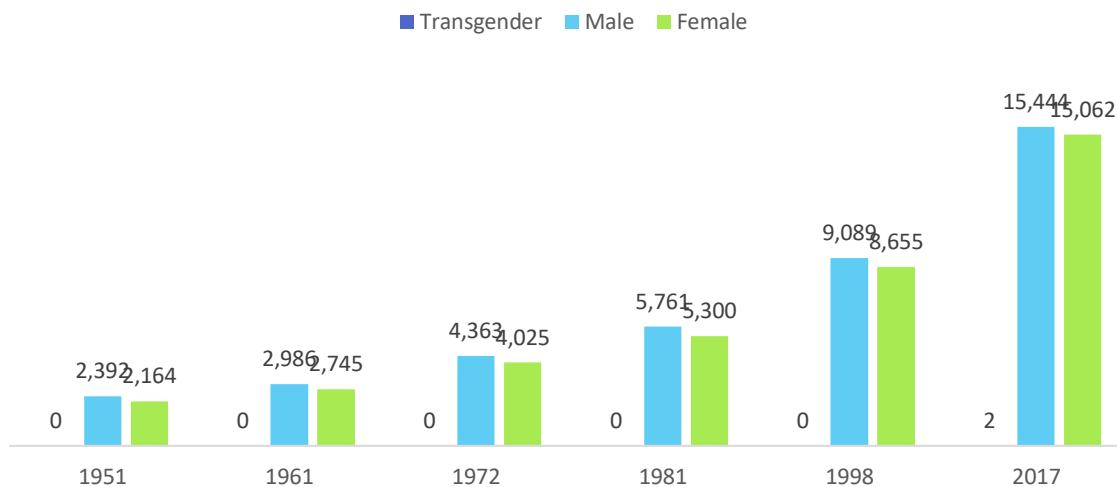


Source: Socio Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

Population by Sex

Out of the total 30.5 million population of KP, there is a near even gender split, with 15.4 million males and 15 million females. DI Khan is the division with the highest percentage difference between the two sexes: 2.97%. Considering that 2017 was the first time the government started recording transgender community, 2000 of them are accounted for within the total population of KP.

Population by Sex and Year (000's)

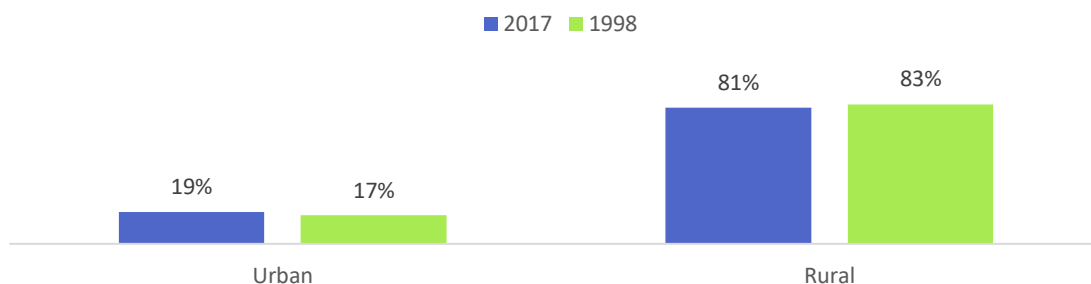


Source: Socio Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

Rural-Urban Distribution

While KP is experiencing urbanization like the rest of Pakistan, it is not as rapid as in other parts of the country. Rural population (24.7 million) remains greater than the urban population (5.7 million). According to this, while urban population of KP makes up only 18.80% of the total population, the share for rural population is 81.26%. Between 1998 and 2017, rural population decreased by 2%.

Rural-Urban Distribution (1998-2017)

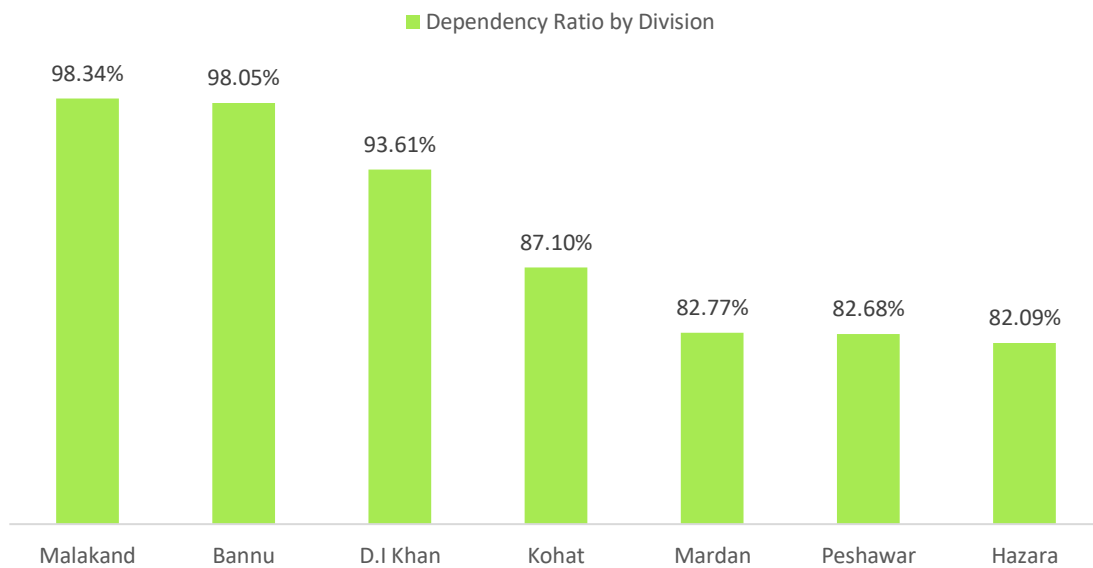


Source: Socio Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

Dependency Ratio

Dependency ratio is defined as the sum of the population under age '15' and the population age '65 and over' relative to the working age population age '15-64'. Based on the 2017 census, the age dependency ratio in KP is 88.34%, with a higher percentage among males, and in rural areas. Out of the 7 divisions, Malakand has the highest dependency ratio (98.34%), followed by Bannu (98.05) and D.I Khan (93.61%).

Dependency Ratio by Division



Source: Socio Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand both the Big Data Analysis project as well as this study of Socio-Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Wish to know more about the Socio-Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level?

Social Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa up to District level report is an effort to provide a wide range of data on social indicators like Population, Education, Agriculture, Health and Crime Statistics. These Demographic statistics are beneficial for policymakers, planners, and administrators for planning of development programs. The present edition is the 2nd in the series following release of population and housing census 2017 results. The last report was published over twenty years ago in 2002.

You can find more information on the Socio-Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level, and complete tables, on www.pbs.gov.pk

Or visit:

[Socio Economic Indicators of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at District Level 2024](#)

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