

Profile of the Northern Region

The Northern Region is mostly low lying except in the north eastern corner with the Gambaga escarpment and along the western corridor. It shares boundaries with the Upper East and the Upper west regions to the north, the Brong Ahafo and the Volta Regions to the south and two neighbouring countries, Togo to the east and the Ivory Coast to the west. The region grew from 1,820,806 in 2000 to 2,479,461 in 2010. With a growth rate of 2.9% the population is estimated to increase to 7.0 million by 2040. Almost 50.0% of the population are males and females represents 50.4% The age structure of the region indicates that, the proportion of the population aged 0 - 14 (under 15 years) is 44.8%, and those aged 15 - 64 and 65+ are 50.8% and 4.4% respectively.

The region occupies a total land area of 70,383 sq. km, which makes it the largest among the regions in terms of land size. It has a population density of 35.2 people per sq. km. The region is 30.3% urban with an annual urban growth rate of 3.1%. The region experiences more outflows of people to other parts of the country than people migrating into the region, this therefore gave the region a negative net migration value of -332,086 in 2010. With regards to the economy, the labour force participation rate for population aged 15 - 64 is almost 76.2%.

The region recorded an Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one) of 66 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2011 Child Mortality Rate (deaths of children between age one and four) was 63 deaths per 1,000 live births, this was the highest recorded in 2011. Under Five Mortality (number of children who die by age five) was reported as 124 deaths per 1,000 live births, this was also the highest recorded by the region in that year. Maternal Mortality Rate (relates the number of deaths due to pregnancy related causes to the number of women of the child-bearing age group, 15 - 49 years) in the region, was 531 per 100,000 live births in 2010, this was higher than the national value of 485 per 100,000 live births.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of the region is slightly lower (6.6) as compared to the national TFR of 4.0. The average women in the Northern Region give birth to seven. In addition there are three births per every 100 adolescents in the region. With regards to Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR), the use of modern contraceptives among currently married women (Contraceptive Prevalence Rate) was 10.8% in 2014, the region with lowest contraceptive prevalence rate. In 2013, the HIV prevalence rate in the region was 0.8%, lower than the national HIV prevalence of 1.3%.

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