



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation- Religion- King**

**(Summary)**

# **General Population Census of Cambodia 2008**

## **Provisional Population Totals**



**National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**Funded by:  
UNFPA, JICA, Government of Japan, and Government  
of the Federal Republic of Germany**

**August, 2008**

# PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS

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## FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that we present this report containing the preliminary results of the 2008 General Population Census of Cambodia. The last census which was the first census to be conducted in 36 years was held in March 1998. The results presented are based on careful scrutiny and tabulation of summary figures prepared by enumerators. They give the population of Cambodia and provinces by sex and rural-urban classification. At present, data processing of filled-in census questionnaires of about 2.8 million households is in progress. When it is completed, the final census data in the form of a number of statistical tables will be available for analysis. These tables are expected to be ready by the middle of next year. In the meanwhile, these preliminary figures are published to give advance information about the present size and distribution of the population of Cambodia.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for his constant support which enabled successful completion of the census. Our thanks are due to H.E. Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, members of the National Census Committee, Census Technical Committee and the National Steering Committee for Census Information Campaign for their guidance from time to time.

It would not have been possible to accomplish this great task without the support and encouragement of Samdech Prime Minister and H.E. Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the National Census Committee (NCC). It was my privilege and pleasure to function as Vice Chairman of NCC and as Chairman of the Technical Committee for the Census and National Steering Committee for Census Information and Education Campaign.

We thank the Governors and the members of the Provincial Census Committees for their assistance. Our thanks are due to the Press, the Radio and the TV who played a very important role in census publicity. We gratefully acknowledge funding and technical assistance provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Government of Japan and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The census is a massive administrative-cum-statistical exercise and its completion has been possible with the total help and co-operation received from one and all. The major share of the credit for the success of the census should go to the people of Cambodia themselves and to the large number of devoted, hard working and loyal enumerators, supervisors, village chiefs, commune, district and province census officers and their colleagues, regional and assistant regional officers and the staff of National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and Ministry of Planning (MoP) drafted for census work. H.E. San Sy Than, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics, ably coordinated the census operations, assisted by four Deputy Director Generals: H.E. Ms. Hang Lina, Mr. Has Bunton, Mr. Seng Soeurn, and Mr. Hor Darith. Thanks are due to every one of them.

Ministry of Planning  
Phnom Penh  
August, 2008

**CHHAY THAN**  
Senior Minister  
Minister of Planning

**Composition of the National Committee  
For the General Population Census of Cambodia, 2008**

1- HE. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior	Chairman
2- HE. Senior Minister, Minister of Planning	Vice Chairman
3- HE. Secretary of State of Council of Ministers	Member
4- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Economy and Finance	Member
5- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of National Defense	Member
6- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Planning	Member
7- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Member
8- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training	Member
9- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction	Member
10-HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Rural Development	Member
11-HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Health	Member
12-HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Information	Member
13-HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Women's Affaires	Member
14-HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy	Member
15-HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Tourism	Member
16-HE. Director General, NIS, MoP	Secretary

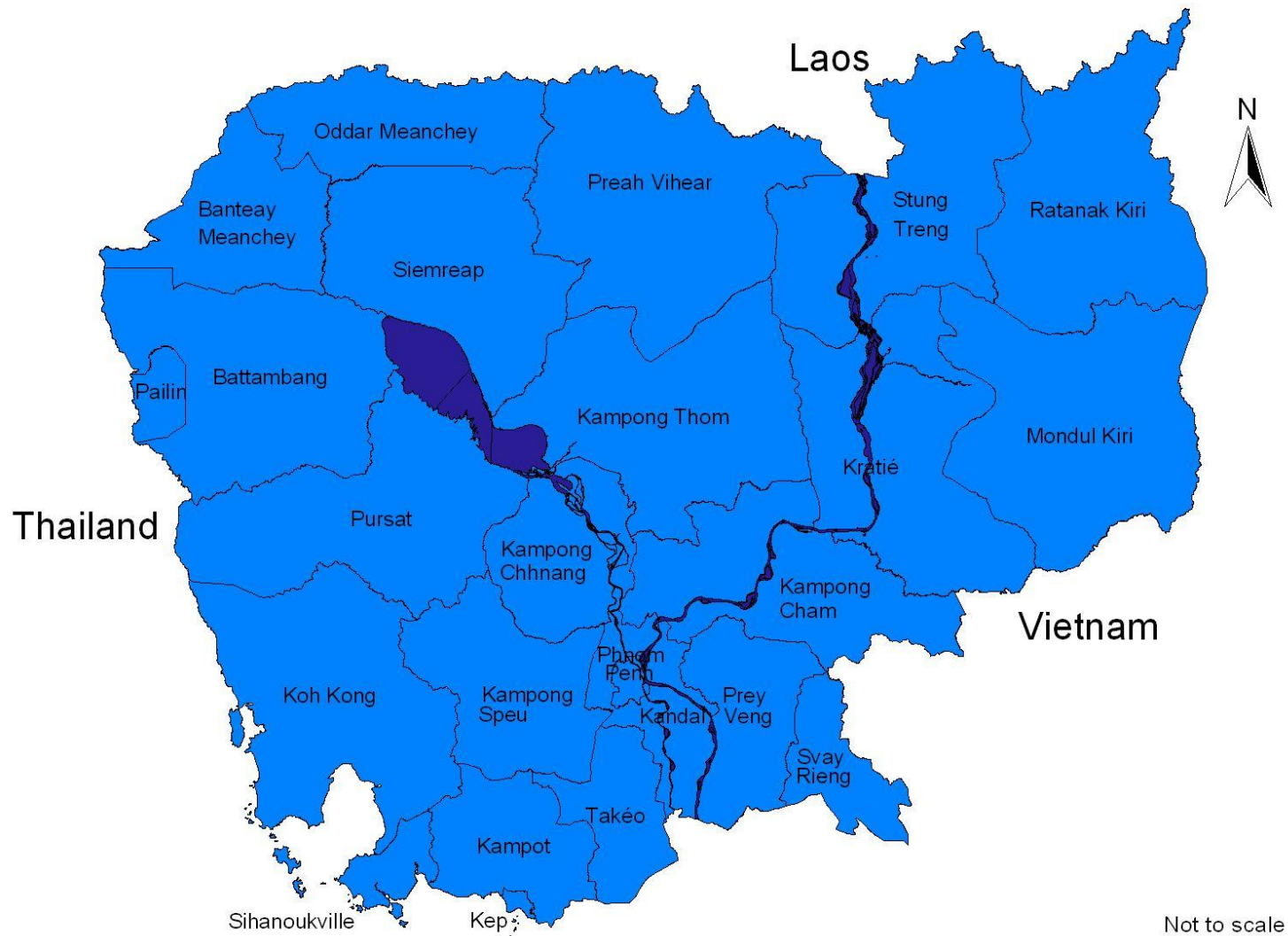
**Composition of the Technical Committee  
For the General Population Census of Cambodia, 2008**

1- HE. Senior Minister, Minister of Planning	Chairman
2- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Planning	Vice Chairman
3- HE. Under-Secretary of State of Ministry of Planning	Member
4- HE. Secretary General of NCPD, Council of Minister	Member
5- HE. Director General of NIS, MoP	Permanent Member
6- HE. Deputy Director General, Administrative Directorate, MoI	Member
7- HE. Chief of Cabinet of Ministry of Planning	Member
8- HE. Director of Geographic Department, MLUC	Member
9- HE. Ms. Deputy Director General, NIS, MoP	Secretary

**Composition of the National Steering Committee  
for Census Information Campaign, 2008**

1- HE. Senior Minister, Minister of Planning	Chairman
2- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Planning	Vice Chairman
3- HE. Secretary of State of Ministry of Information	Vice Chairman
4- HE. Director General of Radio and TV	Vice Chairman
5- HE. Director General, NIS, MoP	Permanent Member
6- Representative of Ministry of Interior	Member
7- Representative of Ministry of Education Youth and Sports	Member
8- Representative of Ministry of Health	Member
9- Representative of Ministry of Religion and Cults	Member
10-Representative of Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts	Member
11-HE. President of League of Cambodian Journalists	Member
12-Representative of Khmer Press Agency	Member
13- Deputy Director General, NIS, MoP	Secretary

# Map 1. Cambodia - Provinces

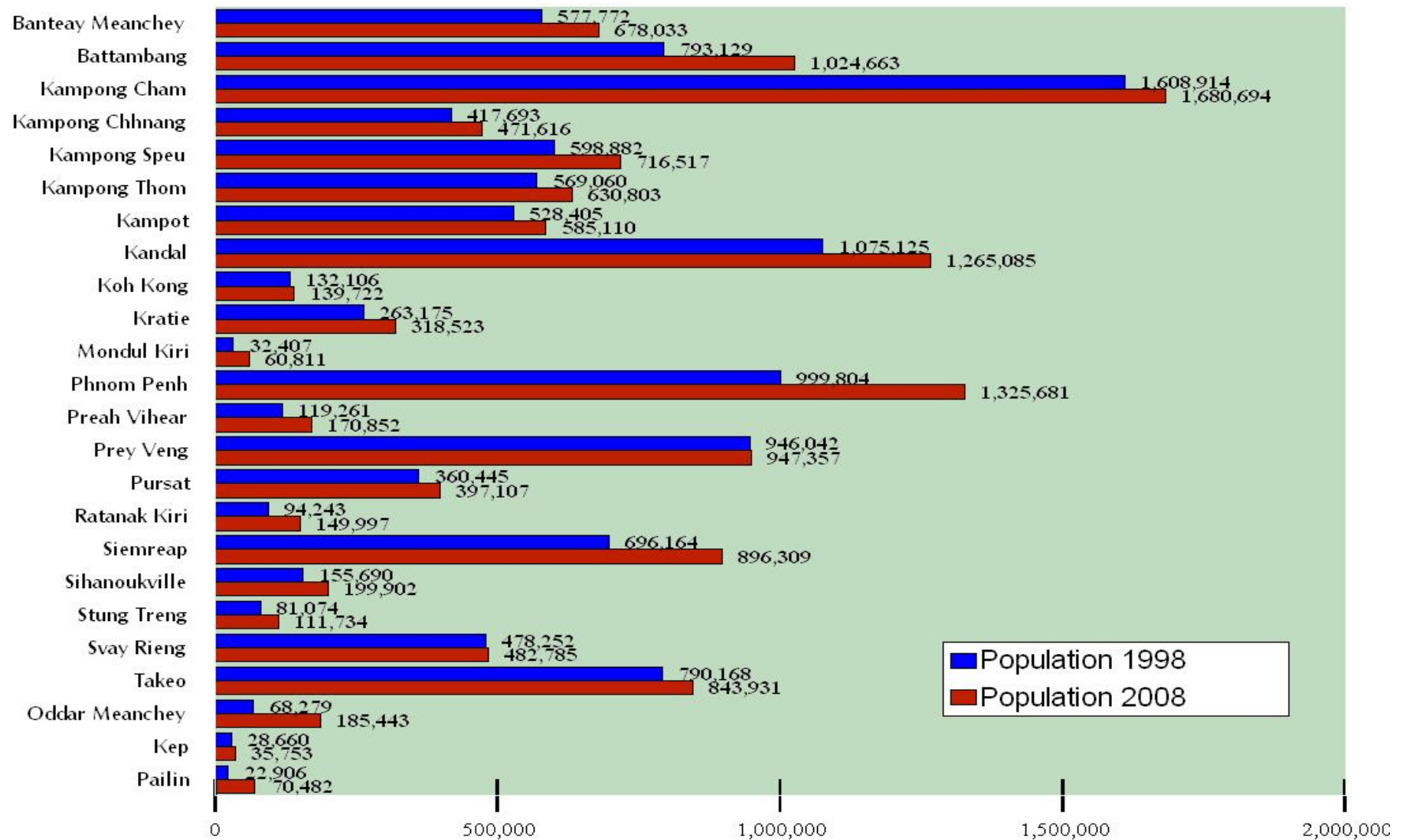


## PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS

### Figures at a Glance

Number of Provinces		24
Number of Districts		185
Number of Communes		1,621
Number of Villages		14,073
Population of Cambodia	Both Sexes	13,388,910
	Males	6,495,512
	Females	6,893,398
Percentage of Urban Population		19.5
Annual Population Growth Rate (percent)		1.54
Density of Population		75 per Km <sup>2</sup>
Sex Ratio (males per 100 females)		94.2
Average Size of Household		4.7

**Figure 1- Population by Province**



# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The population and housing census of any country is the main source of information about the size and geographic distribution of its population and housing as well as the demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of the people. The chief merit of a census is that it covers the population of the entire country and provides continuity and comparability of population data over time. In accordance with U.N recommendations and the stipulation in the Statistical Law of Cambodia, the Royal Government of Cambodia had decided to conduct a general population census every ten years beginning with the 1998 census.

### 1.2 Organization of the 2008 Census

The 2008 census was conducted on a *de facto* basis with reference to 3 March, 2008 exactly ten years after the last census was held. The 1998 General Population Census of Cambodia carried out for the first time in 36 years provided a comprehensive population data base which proved very useful to the Royal Government in implementing development programmes in the country. A wide range of population and socio-economic statistics are needed for monitoring progress, making assessments, and guiding further policy formulation. The 2008 census data together with data from other sources like the Cambodia Demographic and Health Surveys, Socio Economic Surveys, the Establishment Census etc is expected to contribute in a large measure to benchmarking important aspects of demographic and socio-economic levels and conditions of the people of Cambodia. It will also be invaluable in shaping the population policy and for poverty alleviation, economic development, and provision of social services such as education and health care.

The census was conducted under the overall guidance in policy matters by the National Committee for the 2008 census under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. It was assisted in all technical issues by the Technical Committee for the 2008 census under the chairmanship of the Senior Minister, Minister of Planning. The National Steering Committee for census information campaign with Senior Minister, Minister of Planning at the head was responsible for developing the census publicity campaign to inform the public about the census and solicit their cooperation. The composition of these committees is given on page iv. Each province had a provincial census committee under the chairmanship of the respective provincial governor. The role of this committee was to oversee and monitor census work.

The Ministry of Planning was responsible for overall census planning and implementation. The census was carried out under the supervision of the Director General, NIS in the Ministry of Planning assisted by Deputy Director Generals. The census office within the NIS coordinated the census work in the country. All these staff members had experience of census or survey work. The Director of The Provincial Planning Office, or The Provincial Census Officer (PCO) was responsible for the census in his/her province and was assisted by The Deputy Director/Bureau Chief. The District Planning Officer and the Commune Chief were responsible for the census in their respective areas. The PCO was assisted on technical issues by Regional and Assistant Regional officers drawn from experienced staff of NIS.

Unlike in the 1998 Census when there were UN experts serving as long term resident technical advisers for census and data processing, external technical assistance was kept at the minimum for the 2008 Census. UNFPA provided the services of short term consultants for census and data processing. NIS also had the benefit of advice from JICA consultants on mapping, editing, coding,

tabulation, etc. The total estimated cost of US \$ 6.02 million for the 2008 census was shared by different agencies as follows: UNFPA (\$ 1.46 million), Japan International Co-operation Agency or JICA (\$ 0.57 million), Government of Japan (\$ 1.69 million) and the Government of Federal Republic of Germany (\$ 1.55 million). The Royal Government of Cambodia provided \$0.75 million. In addition to this, the Government of Japan provided one new building (\$ 0.92 million).

### **1.3 Pre-census Cartography**

Preparatory work for the census commenced in June 2006 with the development of maps. To ensure complete coverage of the population, it was necessary to divide the entire country into small enumeration areas (EAs). The intention was to assign an EA to an enumerator so that he/she might completely enumerate all persons found in that area within the census enumeration period of 11 days. Proper delineation of enumeration areas in each village/town was the first most important step in census preparations. In the absence of precise and detailed maps of scale 1 to 5,000 required for a census, photographs and satellite maps were used as reference material in the cartographic field work.

The pre-census cartographic work was supported financially and technically by JICA. Thirty mapping staff members from NIS were thoroughly trained both theoretically and practically to do the job. Village boundaries were checked and measurement of location of each village was taken using GPS. Enumeration areas were demarcated with an average size of about 100 households each.

### **1.4 Staff for the Census**

The 2008 census covered approximately 2.8 million households spread over the different terrains of the 24 provinces of the country. Most of them were enumerated during the eleven-day census enumeration period. In addition to households living in dwellings, those staying in institutions like hotels, hostels, pagodas, hospitals, prisons etc. were also enumerated. Special arrangements were made to enumerate the homeless population, transient population and those found in boats on the night of 2 March 2008.

The enumeration was done by about 28,000 enumerators and 7,000 supervisors by interviewing every household. There were 72 provincial census officers, 500 field staff trainers, 370 district census officers, 1,621 commune census officers, 500 translators and additional supervisors and enumerators for special settlements. Selected staff of MoP and NIS participated in training field staff and supervision of field work. Enumerators and supervisors were drawn from teachers and other officials. Provincial, district and commune officers assisted in training and intense supervision of the census count. The Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, Secretary of State for Statistics and other senior officers of the Ministry of Planning, as well as representatives of development partners, undertook field visits to supervise the census and encourage the enumerators in their arduous job.

### **1.5 Census Information Campaign**

An advocacy and public information campaign for the census was carried out with the overall guidance of the committee set up for the purpose. The public was informed well in advance about the scope and purpose of the census through different media with a view to enlisting their co-operation. It commenced in the second half of 2007 with newspaper advertisements, sensitization of community leaders and others through local meetings. Census publicity reached its peak during the census phase. It was accomplished through electronic media, especially radio, television and the press, and also through more conventional methods of communication such as banners, stickers etc. Physical networks such as those of the line Ministries and of religious groups (mainly pagodas)

were also utilized. Village chiefs played an important role in informing the residents of their respective villages about the census and getting their cooperation.

## **1.6 Census Questionnaires**

Two meetings were held to elicit the views of stake holders and data users regarding the contents of the census questionnaires and the tabulation plan. The census questionnaires were pre-tested twice in the field. A pilot census was conducted in a few EAs as a dress rehearsal for the census. All these exercises proved very useful in finally adopting the census questionnaires and the tabulation plan.

There were two main census questionnaires :- (i). the houselist (Form A) and (ii). the household questionnaire (Form B). A few census forms were also to be filled-in by enumerators. Buildings with households were first listed in Form A. This was done three days ahead of the main enumeration along with updating the EA map (29 February to 2 March 2008). Form B which is the main census questionnaire was filled-in by enumerators after interviewing each household during March 3 to March 13. Specimen copies of the two questionnaires are attached as Appendix 2 and 3.

## **1.7 Training Programme**

The technical assistance provided for the 1998 census contributed substantially to capacity building of national staff in undertaking 2008 census activities. This capacity was further supplemented by an additional training programme.

First, core NIS staff (about 120) was trained by the census consultant through pre-tests, pilot census and training sessions. This staff was utilized for training of trainers for field staff and as regional and assistant regional census officers to assist and supervise the census work in the provinces. Second, the provincial staff was trained by the NIS staff. Third, approximately 500 trainers of field staff were trained. Fourth, approximately 40,000 enumerators and supervisors were trained (February 2008). About 1,000 training sessions were conducted by the 500 trainers. Training manuals and materials were used in all the training sessions.

## **1.8 Post-Enumeration Survey**

All large scale surveys suffer from some level of errors. It is therefore necessary to assess the level of such error in the census. For this purpose a post-enumeration survey was conducted immediately after the census in 100 selected enumeration areas. The results of the survey will give an estimate of coverage and content errors in the population covered.

## **1.9 Data Processing Plan**

The data processing division of NIS is responsible for manual editing and coding of questionnaires, data entry, computer editing and tabulation, and the generation of products like the population data base and maintenance of the web site. The new five-storey building that was supported by the Japanese Government houses the census office and has sufficient space for archiving and handling the large number of census records. . This facilitates proper organization of post-census activities. The data processing division has established its editing, coding and data entry teams in the different floors of the building.

CSPro is used for data entry, computer editing as well as tabulation. The staff of the data processing division has been trained by the data processing consultant in using this software.

The manual coding and editing of the census schedules were organized in three stages. First the enumerator's summary statements were scrutinized and edited followed by data entry. This provided the basis for the provisional census results (population by sex at national and provincial levels) released through this publication. The second stage will relate to coding and editing of the main census questionnaire (Form B). This will be followed by editing of the Houselist (Form A) at the third stage. The computerized census data will be used to generate a number of statistical tables according to an approved Tabulation Plan. The final census tabulation is expected to be completed by mid-2009.

#### **1.10 Analysis and Dissemination of Data**

Census data will be disseminated through the NIS Data Users Service Center and through publications and the electronic media (CD-Rom). Increased use of census web site for dissemination will be made. National staff who was trained in data analysis will be involved in the analysis programme with the guidance of subject matter specialists. This is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2009. Dissemination and utilization seminars for census data will be held both at national and provincial levels to promote utilization of census data.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Brief Analysis of Provisional Census Data**

#### **2.1 General**

The 2008 census provisional totals for Cambodia and its 24 provinces have been generated on completion of field work by aggregating the household and population totals at Enumeration Area level in Form 2 Enumerator's summary (Appendix 1). After the records of all the EAs from all provinces have been received and stored, each enumerator's summary was checked with reference to the corresponding Form B Household questionnaire to ensure that the population given in the summary tallies with those in the filled-in questionnaires. The summary figures were later entered on the computer by the data entry staff. Provisional Table 1 on Number of Households and Population by Province and Sex for Cambodia –Total, presented at the end of this document contains the provisional results of the 2008 census for Cambodia. Provisional Tables 2 and 3 relate to preliminary urban and rural results respectively. In this chapter the provisional results contained in these Tables are briefly analyzed. Please note that the provisional population figures are released for advance information of data users and the public as processing of the entire census data set will take nearly one year. There may be slight variations between the preliminary census figures released now which are based on field totals received from the enumerators, and the final census figures which will be available after careful editing and processing of all individual data of more than thirteen million persons in 2.8 million households.

#### **2.2 Changes in Population Size and Distribution**

The population of Cambodia as of 00.00 hours, March 3, 2008, was approximately 13.4 million consisting of 6.5 million males and 6.9 million females. This includes an estimate for non-response in respect of some households. The 2008 census covered all areas in the country without exception. About 8.6 percent of the world population of 6,625 million (mid 2007 estimate), lives in Southeast Asia (573 million). Cambodia accounts for about 2.3 percent of the Southeast Asian population, as it did in 1998.

The first census was conducted in 1962 when the population of Cambodia was 5.7 million. War and unrest since that census has completely changed the demographic scene of the country. There were no further censuses until 1998, and there were no systematic national surveys until 1993-94.

However, population changes during the 1970s were examined in detail by several scholars who made different population estimates, and the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea carried out population counts in 1979 and 1980.

Until 1992 there was little further information about Cambodia's population. The number of voters aged 20 and over who were registered by The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was 4.28 million. The extrapolated population estimated by the April 1994 Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia conducted by NIS was 9.87 million. The NIS carried out the Demographic Survey of Cambodia (DSC) with March 20, 1996 as reference date and covered 20,000 households.

The results of The DSC were extrapolated to give the population of the entire country excluding some areas not covered by the survey for security reasons. The population of Cambodia according to DSC was 10,702,329. The DSC remained the only source of population data until the 1998 census held in March 1998.

**Statement 2.1**  
**Population of Cambodia according to different sources**

Source	Population			Remarks
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	
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	13,388,910	6,495,512	6,893,398	With reference to March 3, 2008. Includes estimate for non-response in respect of some households.

During the last decade, Cambodia's population has increased by 1.95 million. Three Statements 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 are presented below showing the annual percentage growth rates of population in Cambodia and provinces for total urban and rural areas respectively. The following two important points have to be noted while studying the three Statements:

1. At the 1998 census it was not possible to enumerate the population of four small areas in the country as they were insecure. These were: (i) Whole districts of Anlong Veang in Oddar Meanchey province, Samlot in Battambang and Veal Veang in Pursat province (ii) Village of Ou Beichoan of Ou Chrov District in Banteay Meanchey province. Their estimated population of 45,000 was allocated as follows: 10,000 to Oddar Meanchey province 2,000 to Banteay Meanchey province 23,000 to Battambang province and 10,000 to Pursat province. For the limited purpose of

calculating the growth rates of population for 1998-2008 these population figures have been added to the 1998 population of Cambodia and the rural portion of the four provinces respectively as they were all rural areas.

2. In 2004 a reclassification of urban areas in Cambodia was made by NIS on the basis of a new set of criteria for classifying a commune as urban. Details of this exercise can be seen in the section on urban population in this report. For the 2008 census the reclassified urban areas were used. For the sake of comparability the 1998 census urban population of each province was revised applying the new definition. It is shown in Statement 2.3 along with the growth rate of urban population during 1998-2008. In Statement 2.4 the rural figures of 1998 have also been revised consequent to the revision of urban figures. It has to be noted that these revisions of 1998 census figures are for the limited purpose of comparison only. The published 1998 census figures will continue as they are and will not be affected.

The annual growth rate of the population during the last decade in Cambodia is 1.54 percent at the national level. This is higher than the growth rate of Southeast Asia (1.3 percent). The growth rates in the neighbouring countries are: Thailand: 0.5 percent, Laos: 1.7 percent and Vietnam: 1.4 percent.

The growth rates for urban and rural areas are respectively 2.55 percent and 1.30 percent. At the provincial level, the population growth rate was small (less than one percent) in Kampong Cham, Koh Kong, Prey Veng, Pursat, Svay Rieng and Takeo. The increase is very marginal in respect of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng. The following small provinces (with less than 100,000 population in 1998) registered high growth rates: Mondul Kiri, Ratanak Kiri, Stung Treng, Oddar Meanchey, Kep and Pailin. In fact Pailin registered the highest growth rate followed by Oddar Meanchey, Mondul Kiri, Ratanak Kiri, Preah Vihear and Stung Treng. The provinces of Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siemreap and Sihanoukville registered more than two percent annual growth each.

While the population has increased, in total and in the rural areas of all provinces, the following three provinces have shown marginal decrease in their urban areas: - Koh Kong, Prey Veng and Pursat.

**Statement 2.2. Growth Rates of Population during 1998 - 2008 by Province  
Cambodia – Total**

**Statement 2.3. Growth Rates of Population during 1998 - 2008 by Province  
Cambodia – Urban**

**Statement 2.4. Growth Rates of Population during 1998 - 2008 by Province  
Cambodia – Rural**

Fertility, mortality and migration data which will be available after data processing is expected to provide the estimate of natural growth rate and the size of inter-province as well as rural-urban movements of population. This data will enable an in-depth analysis of changes in population at the provincial level.

Certain general observations however could be made at this stage based on reports received from provinces. The provinces of Phnom Penh and Kandal, particularly their urban areas, have been attracting a large number of younger women who take up jobs in garment factories. Oddar Meanchey province has attracted many male workers in connection with large scale de-mining activities. The district of Anlong Veang in this province, which was not accessible in 1998 due to the Khmer Rouge occupation, has been showing signs of development with more people coming in from other provinces for setting up trade or to work in construction of major roads like road number 67 which connects Anlong Veang with Siemreap. Rubber plantations and gold mining activities in Ratanak Kiri have also drawn labourers from other provinces.

People have also moved from places like Phnom Penh to Preah Vihear and Ratanak Kiri. Stung Treng is bustling with activity due to rapid expansion of agro-industry plantations (cashew nut, rubber and a special kind of timber called “mayasak,”) and construction of a road and bridges connecting it with neighbouring Laos. The fertile lands of Battambang, increased agriculture production and de-mining activities in Pailin and road construction activities in Preah Vihear have been getting labourers from other provinces as well. Kampong Cham and provinces that have shown marginal increase in population during 1998-2008 are likely to be the out migrating provinces for of the economically active population. It also appears that people in the densely populated provinces of the plain region, especially the poorer provinces like Takeo and Svey Rieng, are moving to less densely populated provinces in other regions.

In Koh Kong province, most of the migrant labourers, including those from Thailand, who are involved in fishing and logging often return to their place of origin. This reduces the rate of increase in the population. In a *de facto* census people are enumerated where they are found on the census night. Temporary out movers might therefore have been enumerated at the places where they had gone to earn a living, provided the places were within Cambodia.

Statement 2.5 shows the percentage distribution of population by province in the 1998 and 2008 censuses, and the rank of each province. Kampong Cham continues to be the biggest province in terms of population, although it contains a lesser proportion of the population in 2008. There are shifts in rank in respect of 12 provinces while 12 provinces retained their 1998 ranks. Phnom Penh moved up to the second position with Kandal coming down to the third position. Oddar Meanchey, which has registered a very high growth rate during the last decade, has moved to 17<sup>th</sup> position from the 21<sup>st</sup> position. Meanwhile, Koh Kong has gone to 20<sup>th</sup> position from the 17<sup>th</sup> position in 1998.

### **Statement 2.5 Provinces ranked by percentage of population in 1998 and 2008**

## **2.3 Population Projections**

The latest population projections of Cambodia are available in the report “Demographic Estimates and Revised Population Projections” published by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning in June 2005. This report projected the population of Cambodia for the year 2008 as 14.6 million. According to the 2008 census provisional results the country’s population is 13.4 million. Only an in-depth analysis based on the final census results on age, sex, marital status, fertility, mortality and migration can throw more light on this wide difference. Subject to confirmation, the following may perhaps be the main causes for the earlier projection exceeding the census count:

1. In the revised and earlier projections the base population i.e. the 1998 Census population was adjusted in such a way that it was increased to 12.2 million as against the actual count of 11.4

million. In particular population for the age group 0.4 was adjusted for “under enumeration and misreporting” by increasing the number of children in that age group by 459,606 (23.9 per cent) applying demographic techniques. This substantial increase in the base population might have increased the projections for subsequent years leading to a high estimate of 14.6 million for 2008.

2. The changes in TFR (Total Fertility Rate)\* between the 2000 and 2005 CDHS indicate a sharp decline in fertility from 4.0 births per woman in 2000 (CDHS 2000) to 3.4 births per woman in 2005 (2005 CDHS.). Further, infant and child mortality have also experienced a substantial decline.

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(\*) In CDHS 2000 the current level of fertility referred to data on live births occurring in the five-year period preceding the survey. In CDHS 2005 it referred to live births in the three-year period preceding the survey.

3. Out migrants to other countries for study, training or temporary work except those working in Cambodian missions abroad, were not covered in the census as it was conducted on a *de facto* basis. This could have happened to a lesser degree in respect to internal migrants.

The population projections will be revised based on the 2008 census results.

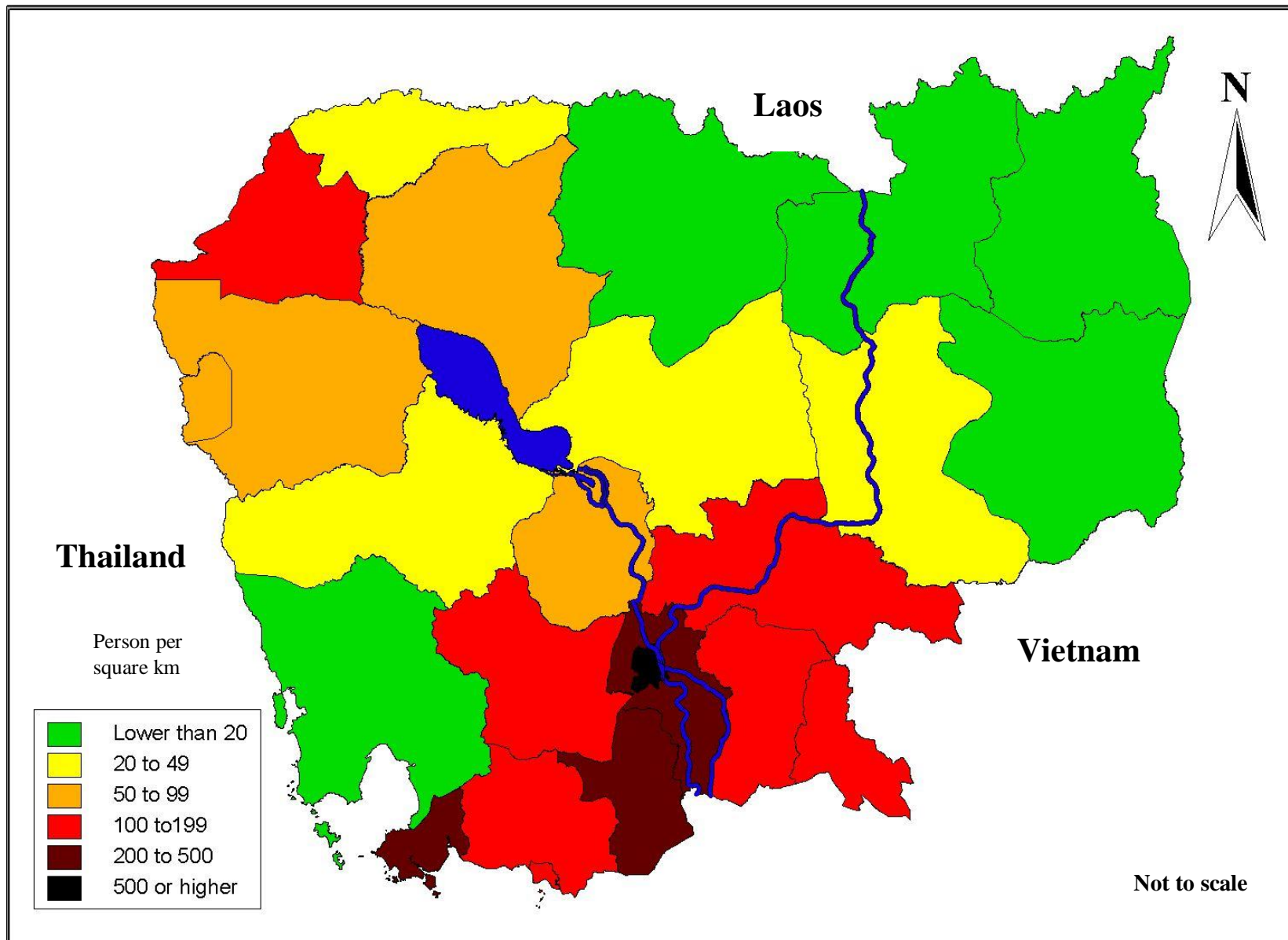
## **2.4 Average Household Size**

The average size of a normal or regular household (i.e. excluding institutional, homeless, boat and transient household) in Cambodia as a whole has come down from 5.2 in 1998 to 4.7 in 2008. In urban areas the decrease is from 5.5 in 1998 to 5.0 in 2008. In rural areas it has decreased from 5.1 in 1998 to 4.6 in 2008 (see Provisional Tables 1 to 3 at the end of this document). This is understandable as during the last decade the number of households in the country has been increasing at an annual rate of 2.7 percent, whereas population increase was at a lower rate of 1.5 per cent.

In the recent past, joint and extended families are gradually yielding place to nuclear families for a variety of reasons. For instance, after marriage sons or daughters prefer to live separately from their parents. If members of a household have to move to another place for economic reasons they have to live in a separate household. In Cambodia (Total), Ratanak Kiri province has the highest household size of 5.5, while Prey Veng and Svay Rieng both recorded the lowest size of 4.2.

## **Statement 2.6 Population Density, Cambodia and Provinces, 1998 and 2008**

## Map 2. Population Density by Province



## **Statement 2.7**

### **Population Density by Natural Region**

#### **2.5 Population Density**

Population density measured as the number of persons per square kilometer, is an index of population concentration. If population increases over a period with area remaining constant, population density increases proportionately. That is what is observed in the case of provinces in Cambodia.

The population density for the country as a whole increased from 64 to 75 in the last decade. This is much less than the population density seen in Southeast Asia (126). The Philippines, with 288, is the densest country in Southeast Asia (barring Singapore which has 7,205), followed by Vietnam (254) and Thailand (127). Lao's density (26) is very much lower than that of Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Among provinces (Statement 2.6) population density varies from as low as 4 in Mondul Kiri to 4,571 in Phnom Penh. Among the natural regions, the plains region has historically been the most densely populated followed by the Tonle Sap, coastal, and plateau and mountain regions (Statement 2.7).

## **Statement 2.8**

### **Sex Ratio in Cambodia over the years**

<b>Source of information</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
1962 Census	99.9
1980 General Demographic Survey	86.1
1993-94 Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia	91.4
1996 Demographic Survey	91.7
1998 Census	93.0
2004 CIPS	93.5
2008 Census	94.2

#### **2.6 Sex Ratio**

The sex composition of a population is governed by several factors including mortality levels of males and females, sex selective migration, and sex ratio at birth. The sex ratio, defined as the number of males per 100 females, is a useful and simple measure of sex composition. The trends in the sex ratio in Cambodia may be seen in Statement 2.8. The sex ratio was at a very low level, 86, in the early 1980s owing to heavy mortality among men during the Khmer Rouge years. However, it has been showing gradual improvements since that time, and reached 94.2 in 2008.

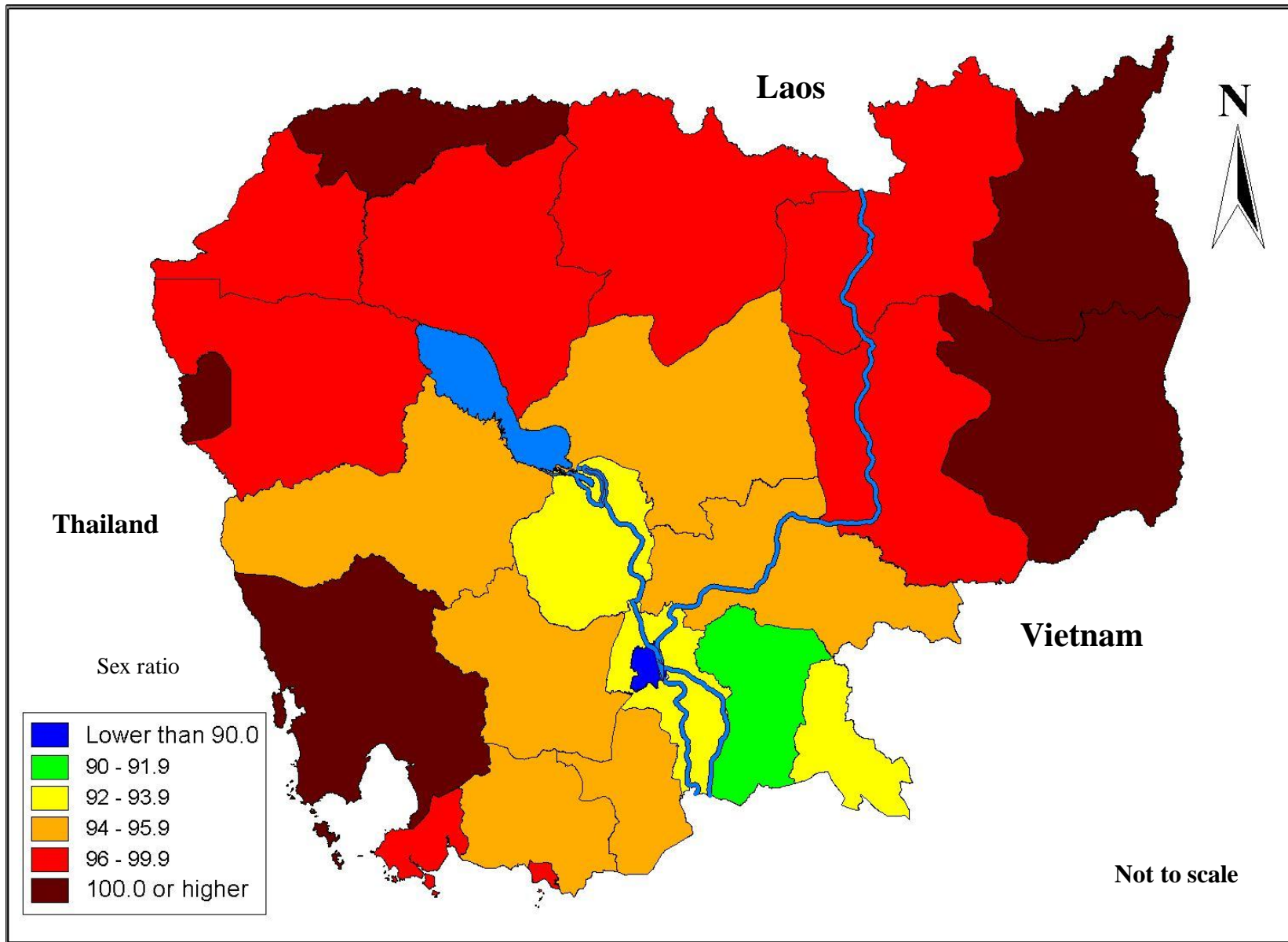
Sixteen provinces have registered a sex ratio higher than the national average of 94.2 (Provisional Table 1). Provinces that have a sex ratio above parity are Koh Kong (102.3), Mondul Kiri (104.9), Ratanak Kiri (102.2), Oddar Meanchey (101) and Pailin (105.5). Pailin's sex ratio continues to be the highest among all the provinces although it has declined from 117.9 in 1998 to 105.5 in 2008.

In 1998 the sex ratio in the provinces of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng was the lowest (88.9). In 2008 also these two provinces have recorded low sex ratios, 91.2 and 91.8 respectively.

In 1998 the sex ratio of urban areas (95.7) was higher than the sex ratio of rural areas (92.5) in Cambodia. The position, however, reversed in 2008. The sex ratio of urban areas (91.7) is lower than that of rural areas (94.8). This is mainly due to very low sex ratios in the urban parts of Phnom Penh (88.2) and Kandal (88.0). An interesting observation regarding sex ratio from Provisional Table 2 on Cambodia –urban is that the sex ratio of urban Cambodia as a whole increases from 91.7 to 96.3, higher than rural sex ratio of 94.8, once Phnom Penh and Kandal are excluded. In other words, urban Phnom Penh and urban Kandal with their large female populations, depress the sex ratio of urban Cambodia as a whole.

Subject to confirmation by age and migration data, the possible reasons for the large numbers of females in these two areas in the *de facto* count could be: (i). Large scale migration of younger women to work in garment factories in Phnom Penh, Ta Khmau etc. (ii) Sizeable out migration of men to provinces like Battambang, Oddar Meanchey, Stung Treng, Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Pailin, Preah Vihear etc.

### Map 3. Sex Ratio by Province



## 2.7 Urban Population

The classification of places as urban and rural is not a matter of mere academic interest, but is of great importance for planning purposes. For the 1998 census of Cambodia the following areas were treated as urban:

- (i) All provincial towns (which are whole districts)
- (ii) Four districts of Phnom Penh municipality (the other three were considered rural)
- (iii) The entire provinces of Sihanoukville, Kep and Pailin which are called Kongs or municipalities.

The designation of places as urban as above was based only on administrative criteria. This was not considered satisfactory for planning for the needs of actual urban populations. There were a number of problems in the classification of urban areas following the above definition. The main problem was that it made decisions at the level of province and district. The provincial towns encompassed vast areas of agriculture, wastelands and un-inhabited areas including mountainous terrains. A more refined definition of urban areas required designation of urban or rural at a lower administrative level-the commune or, ideally, the village. It was decided by The Royal Government of Cambodia that a classification of urban areas was needed that was consistent with Cambodian conditions and optimum for planning purposes.

A study was therefore undertaken by The NIS in 2004 with expert guidance to reclassify urban areas. It attempted to provide recommendations about a classification of urban places based on a consistent set of criteria utilizing the 1998 census data on population and workers in agriculture.

After careful consideration of all relevant aspects, field study and consultation with agencies concerned, the study applied the following criteria to every commune so as to treat it as urban:

- (a) Population density exceeding 200 per km<sup>2</sup>
- (b) Percentage of male employment in agriculture below 50 percent
- (c) Total population of the commune should exceed 2,000.

The study's recommendations were accepted by the Royal Government of Cambodia, and subsequently used for the 2008 census. For details of this study one may refer to the publication of NIS, Ministry of Planning on "Reclassification of Urban Areas in Cambodia" (November 2004).

As may be seen from Statement 2.3, the estimated urban population of Cambodia in 1998 according to the revised definition is 2.03 million, or 17.6 per cent of the total population (11,437,656 plus 45,000 estimated areas due to security reasons in 1998 census). It may be pointed out that according to the old definition, the percentage of urban population in 1998 was 15.7. In 2008 the urban population (2.61 million) constituted 19.5 percent of the total population of 13.4 million according to the revised definition. Thus, the percentage of the urban population has increased by 1.9 percent between 1998 and 2008.

## 2.8 Summary and Conclusions

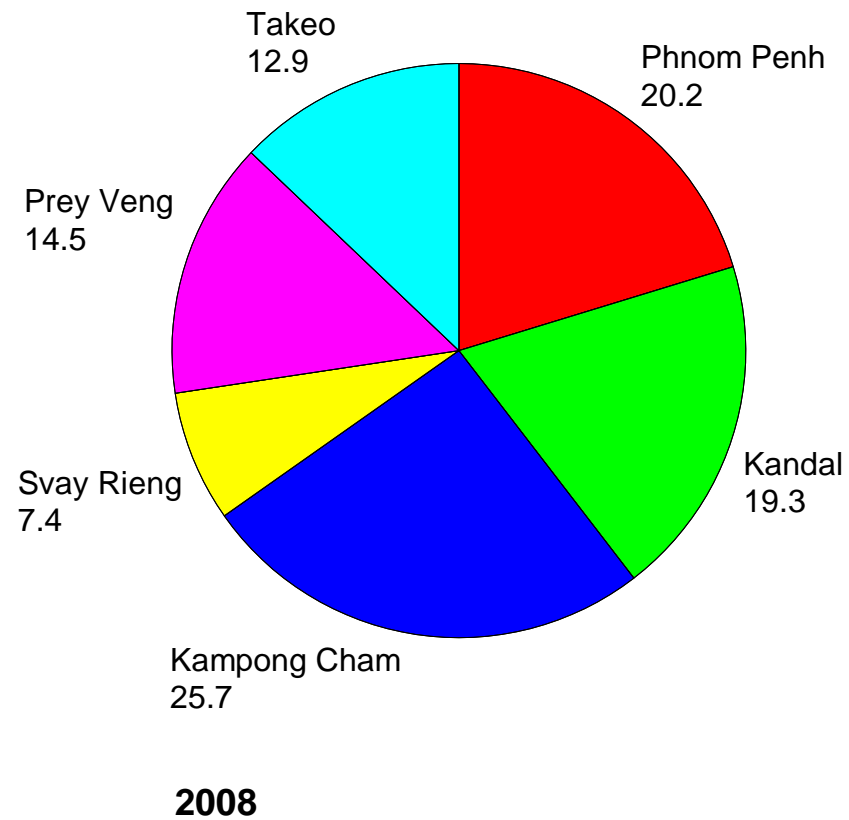
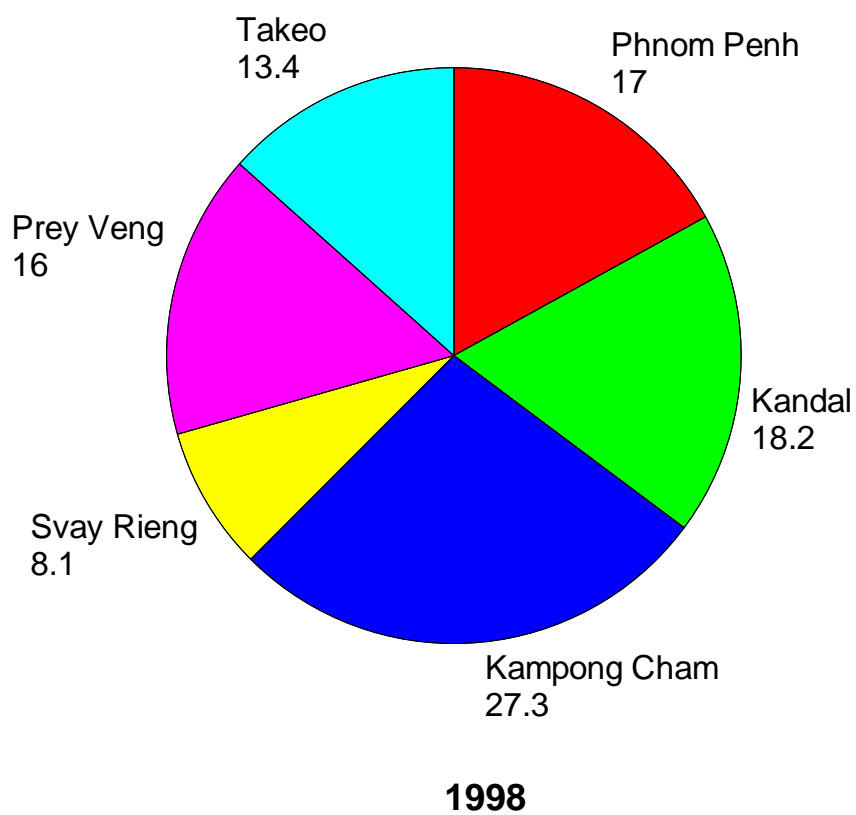
The provisional results published in this report are for advance information of stakeholders and the public until the final census results are available in mid 2009. The 2008 General Population Census of Cambodia was conducted on a *de facto* basis with 00:00 hours of March 3, 2008 as reference time. Provisional Tables 1, 2 and 3 given at the end of this document present the provisional population totals for Cambodia total, urban and rural respectively. With a population of 13.4 million, Cambodia continues to account for 2.3 percent of Southeast Asia's population.

Cambodia's annual population growth rate of 1.54 is higher than that of Southeast Asia as a whole. Growth rates vary from province to province depending on the interaction of fertility, mortality and migration factors. Kampong Cham continues to be the biggest province in terms of population, although it registered a very low growth rate. Inter-provincial migration seems to have been the main reason for depletion of population in some provinces and large increase in others. The population density in the country as a whole has increased from 64 to 75 between 1998 and 2008.

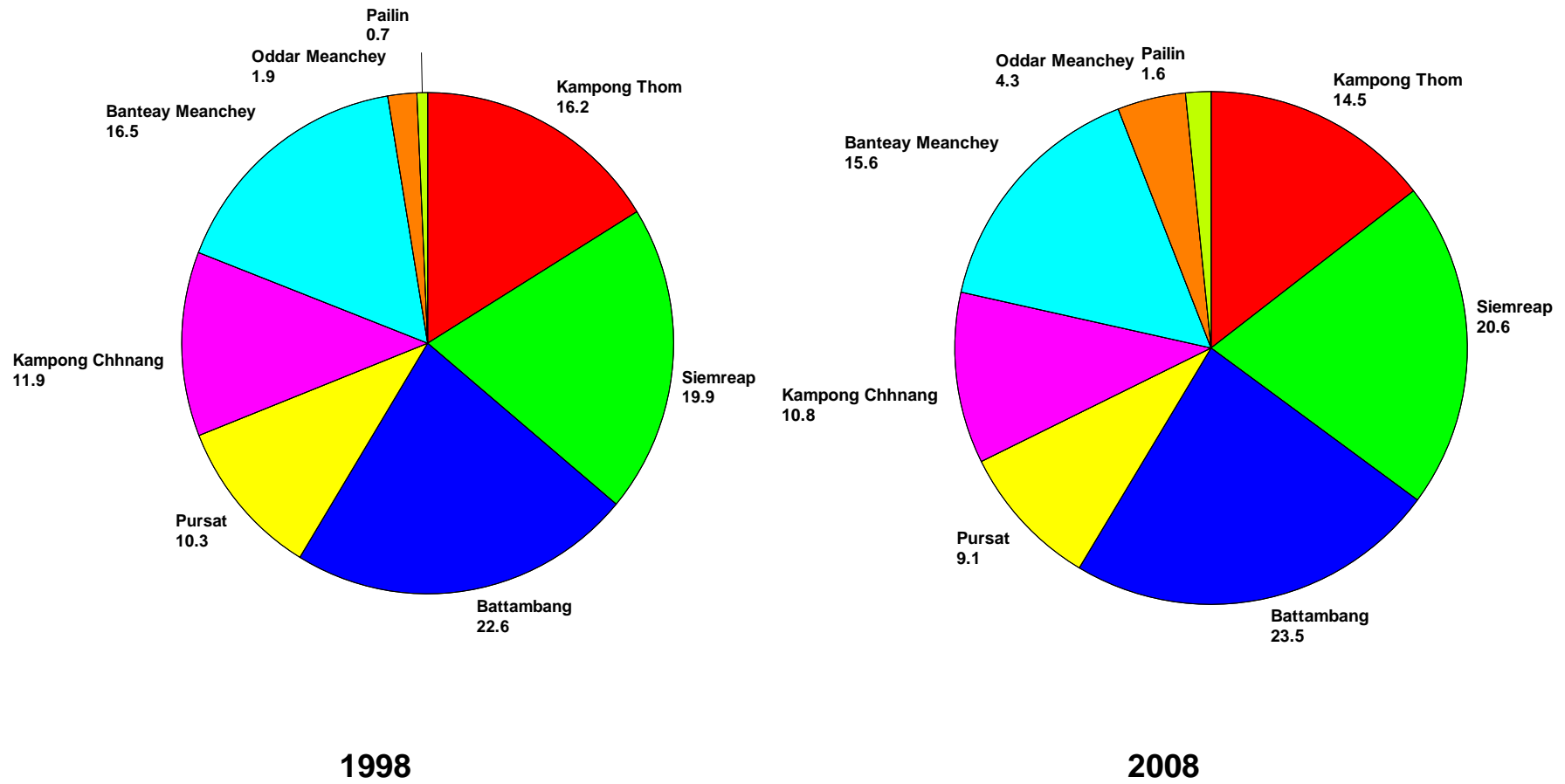
The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was very low (86) in 1980 due to male casualties during the Khmer Rouge years. It has been showing gradual improvements in later years reaching 94.2 in 2008. There are variations in the sex ratio among the provinces. Again, this may be largely attributed to differential movement of men and women. Urban areas of Phnom Penh and Kandal have a number of major garment factories which have thousands of women workers drawn from around the country. Male construction workers, labourers for constructing roads and petty traders are believed to have moved to provinces in the sparsely populated North, North West and North East areas of Cambodia from the densely populated provinces of the plains region.

Urbanization has increased over the last decade. The percentage of urban population according to the new definition of urban areas has increased from 17.4 in 1998 to 19.5 in 2008. In-depth analysis of the population and its characteristics will be undertaken once the final census figures are available.

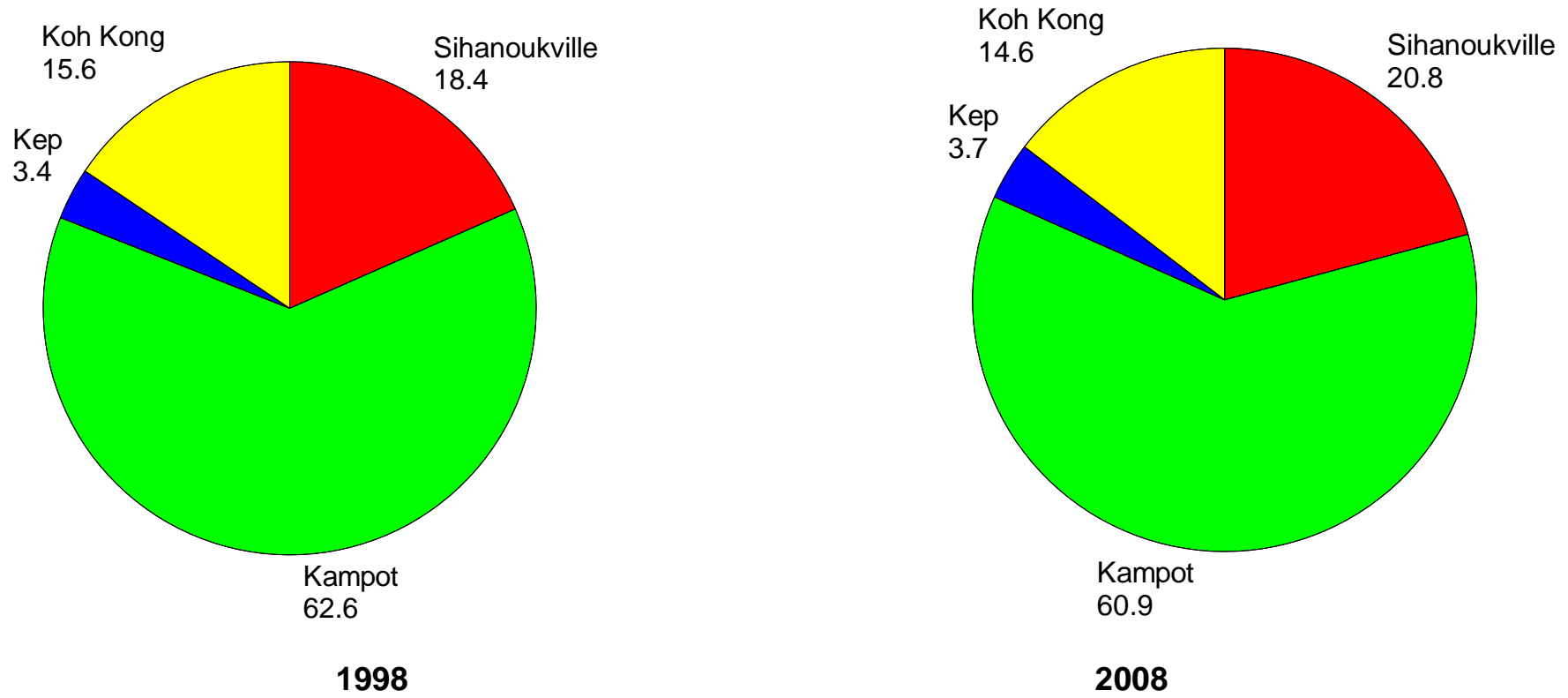
**Figure 2- Distribution (Percentage) of Population of Plain Region by Province in 1998 and 2008**



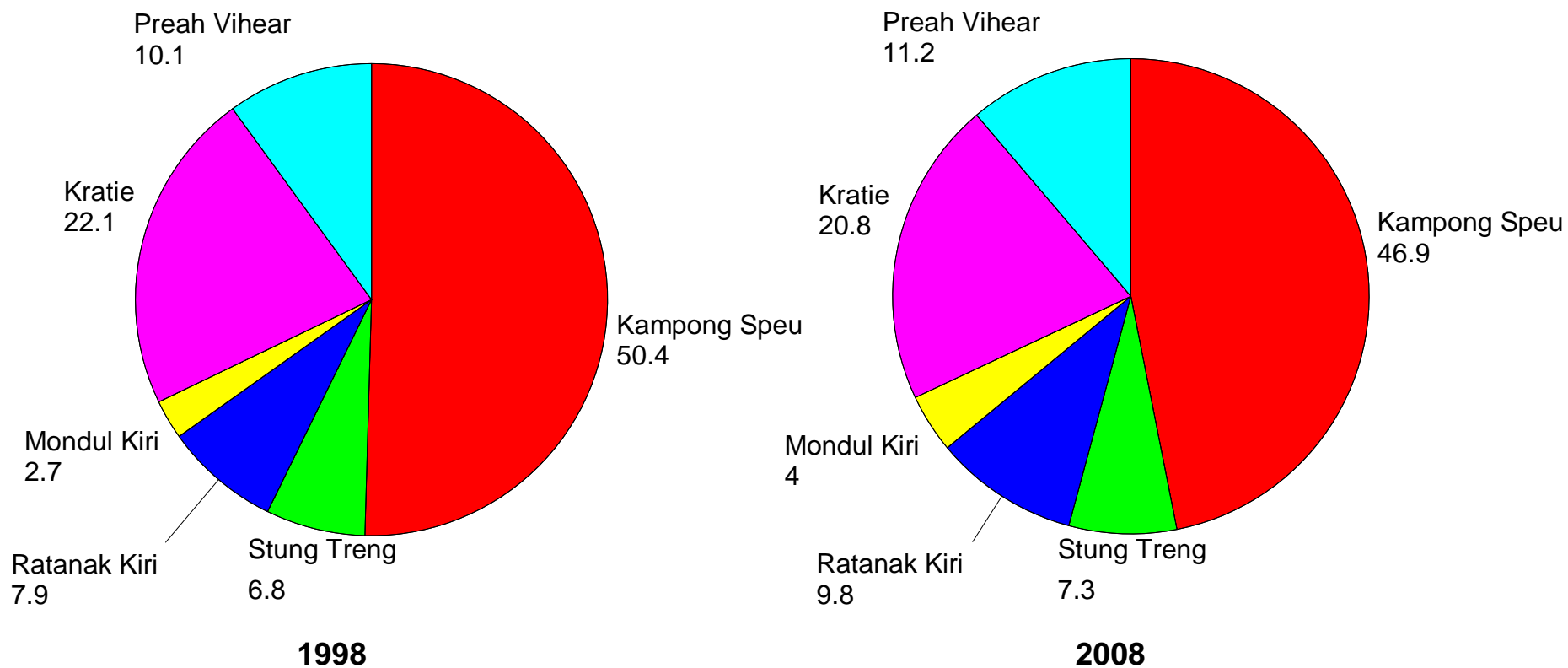
**Figure 3- Distribution (Percentage) of Population of Tonle Sap Region by Province in 1998 and 2008**



**Figure 4- Distribution (Percentage) of Population of Coastal Region by Province in 1998 and 2008**



**Figure 5- Distribution (Percentage) of Population of Plateau and Mountain Region by Province in 1998 and 2008**



**Provisional Table 1. Number of Households and Population by Province and Sex**

**Provisional Table 2. Number of Households and Population by Province and Sex**

**Provisional Table 3 Number of Households and Population by Province and Sex**

Appendix 1  
Form 2

Appendix 2  
Form A Houselist

Appendix 3  
Form B Household Questionnaire

