



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

# KERALA ECONOMY 1960-61 TO 1987-88

(published in connection with the 72nd annual conference of the indian economic association at trivandrum on 31st december 1989 and 1st january 1990)

department of economics & statistics  
trivandrum 1989



Government of Kerala

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## **PREFACE**

The economic development of Kerala during the last quarter century has attracted the attention of a large number of social scientists all over the world. This booklet presents the salient features of Kerala Economy and its course of development during the period. It is hoped that this publication would be of much help to the delegates of 72nd Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association in giving an insight into Kerala Economy.

Trivandrum,  
18-12-1989.

**P.L. Sreedevi Amma**  
Director of Economics & Statistics



**Kerala Economy 1960-61 to 1987-88**

Sl. No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981
<b>I. Population</b>					
1.	Population	lakhs	169	213	255
2.	No. of households	"	29	35	44
3.	Average size of households	No.	5.8	6.0	5.8
4.	Density of population	No./sq.km.	435	549	655
5.	Decadal increase in population	%	24.8	26.3	19.2
6.	Sex ratio	females/ 1000 males	1022	1016	1032
7.	Literacy rate -				
	Persons	%	46.8	60.4	70.4
	Males	"	55.0	66.6	75.3
	Females	"	38.9	54.3	65.7
8.	Percentage of urban population.	"	15.1	16.3	18.7
9.	Religion-wise distribution of popln.				
	Hindus	%	60.8	59.4	58.1
	Muslims	"	17.9	19.5	21.3
	Christians	"	21.2	21.1	20.6
	Others	"	0.1	N	N

N-Negligible

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981	1987
10.	Scheduled Caste (SC) population	lakhs	14.3	17.7	25.5	
11.	Scheduled Tribe (ST) "	"	2.1	2.7	2.6	
12.	Literacy rate of SC population					
	Persons	%	24.4	40.2	56.0	
	Males	"	31.6	47.1	62.3	
	Females	"	17.4	33.4	49.7	
13.	Literacy rate ST population					
	Persons	%	17.3	25.7	31.8	
	Males	"	22.6	32.0	37.5	
	Females	"	11.9	19.4	26.0	
14.	Birth rates -					
	Combined	per 1000	38.9	31.6	25.6	21.3
	Rural	persons	-	31.9	26.0	21.2
	Urban	"	-	30.2	23.5	22.0
15.	Death rates -					
	Combined	"	16.9	9.2	6.6	6.0
	Rural	"	-	9.2	6.7	6.0-
	Urban	"	-	8.6	5.8	6.2
16.	Infant mortality rates -					
	Combined	per 1000	-	60.9	37.0	26.0
	Rural	live birth	-	60.0	40.0	26.0
	Urban	"	-	48.0	24.0	24.0



Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981
17.	Mean age at marriage				
	Male	years	26.3	26.7	27.7
	Female	"	19.8	21.1	21.9 <sub>B</sub>
18.	Expectation of life at birth				
	Male	"	46.2	60.5	60.6 <sub>d</sub>
	Female	"	50.0	61.1	62.1
<b>II. Workers and non workers</b>					
19.	Total workers*	lakhs	56.3	62.2	77.7
	Males	"	39.5	47.7	56.2
	Females	"	16.8	14.5	21.5
20.	Work participation rate				
	Persons	%	33.3	29.1	30.5
	Males	"	47.2	45.0	44.9
	Females	"	19.7	13.5	16.6
21.	Distribution of workers by industrial categories (9 way)				
	i. Cultivators	%	20.9	17.8	13.1
	ii. Agricultural labourers	"	17.4	30.7	28.2
	iii. Livestock, forestry, fisheries*	"	8.7**	7.0	9.6
	iv. Mining & quarrying	"	-	0.5	0.8
	<u>Sub-total primary</u>		47.0	56.0	51.7

\*includes marginal workers also:

\*\* iii & iv combined

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981
v.	Manufacturing sector -				
a)	Household industry	"	8.7	4.3	3.7
b)	Manufacturing other than household industry	"	9.4	11.4	12.2
vi.	Construction	"	1.2	1.7	3.0
	Sub-total secondary	"	19.3	17.4	18.9
vii.	Trade & commerce	"	5.7	9.1	11.0
viii.	Transport, storage, communication	"	2.7	3.9	5.0
ix.	Other services	"	25.3	13.6	13.4
	Sub-total tertiary	"	33.7	26.6	29.4
22.	Sex-wise distribution of workers in Agricultural sector	-			
i.	Cultivators -				
	Persons	%	20.9	17.8	13.1
	Males	"	22.9	21.8	15.7
	Females	"	16.3	4.6	4.9
ii.	Agricultural labourers -				
	Persons	"	17.4	30.7	28.2
	Males	"	13.1	25.1	23.3
	Females	"	27.4	49.1	43.6

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
	Agricultural sector (i+ii) -					
	Persons	"	38.3	48.5	41.3	
	Males	"	36.0	46.9	39.0	
	Females	"	43.7	53.7	48.5	
23.	Work participation rate of SC popln.					
	Persons	"	47.8	42.9	36.3	
	Males	"	52.8	50.4	44.4	
	Females	"	43.0	35.4	28.3	
24.	Work participation rate of ST popln.					
	Persons	%	47.0	41.4	40.5	
	Males	"	53.8	52.6	50.3	
	Females	"	40.2	30.3	30.7	
25.	No. of applicants on the live register of employment exchanges					
		'000s	141	367	1904	2910
26.	Employment in the organised sector -					
	Public sector	"	211	293	499	586
	Private sector	"	356	410	508	511
	Total	"	567	703	1007	1097

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
<b>II. Agriculture &amp; allied sectors</b>						
27.	Total geographical area (reporting area)	'000 hect.	3885	3885	3885	3885
28.	Net area sown	"	1924	2172	2180	2211
29.	Gross cropped area	"	2349	2933	2885	2900
30.	Net area sown as % of geographical area	%	49.5	55.9	56.1	56.9
31.	Cropping intensity**	"	122.1	135.0	132.3	131.1
32.	No. of operational holdings	'000s	-	2823	4181	*4887
33.	Area of operational holdings	'000 hect.	-	1606	1805	*1753
34.	Average size of holdings	hect.	-	0.60	0.43	*0.36
35.	Gross area irrigated	'000 hect.	-	-	381	393
36.	Proportion of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area	%	-	-	13.0	13.5
37.	Fertilizer consumption	'000 tonnes	12	57	98	181
38.	Fertilizer consumption per hect.of gross cropped area	Kg.	-	20	34	62

\* relate to 1985-86; \*\* percentage of gross cropped area to net area sown

Sl. No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
39.	Area under important crops					
	Rice	'000 hect.	779	875	802	604
	Coconut	"	501	719	651	775
	Tapioca	"	242	294	245	173
	Rubber	"	123	179	238	359
	Pepper	"	100	118	108	146
	Arecanut	"	54	86	61	61
	Cashewnut	"	54	103	141	122
	Ginger	"	12	12	13	14
	Tea	"	38	38	36	35
	Coffee	"	17	32	58	66
	Cardamom	"	27	47	54	65

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
40.	Production of important crops					
	Rice	lakh tonnes	10.7	13.0	12.7	10.3
	Coconut	million nuts	3220	3981	3008	3346
	Tapioca	lakh tonnes	16.8	46.2	40.6	32.4
	Rubber	'000 tonnes	23.0	88.9	140.3	216.6
	Pepper (black)	"	27.0	25.1	28.5	46.8
	Arecanut	"	42	70	58	58
	Ginger (dry)	"	11.3	19.7	32.0	45.5
	Tea	"	40.4	42.8	45.4	52.0
	Coffee	"	7.4	12.6	33.6	22.9
	Cardamom (processed)	"	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.1
41.	Total livestock population*	lakhs	46.4	49.4	53.2	55.0
42.	Production of milk	lakh tonnes	-	2.8	9.1	12.2
43.	Poultry population	lakhs	99	122	135	180
44.	Egg production	million Nos.	-	-	962	1312
45.	Total catch and landings of fish	'000 tonnes	257	405	305	313

\* relate to 1966, 1972, 1977 and 1987.

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1980			% *
			OAE	EST	TOTAL	
<b>IV. Non-agricultural enterprises</b>						
46.	No. of non-agricultural enterprises	'000nos.	543.0	282.6	825.6	
47.	No. of total persons usually working in non-agricultural enterprises	"	705.0	1670.4	2375.4	
48.	No. of hired persons normally working in establishments	"	-	1515.2	1515.2	
49.	Distribution of non-agricultural enterprises according to major activity groups --					
	i. Mining & quarrying	"	2.3	1.3	3.5	0.43
	ii. Manufacture & repair services	"	147.7	88.4	236.1	28.60
	iii. Electricity, gas & water	"	0.3	1.3	1.6	0.19
	iv. Construction	"	3.5	2.4	5.9	0.71

OAE - own account enterprises; EST - establishments; N - negligible  
 \* percentage to total non-agricultural enterprises

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1980			%
			OAE	EST	TOTAL	
v.	Wholesale & retail trade	"	238.3	64.9	303.2	36.73
vi.	Hotels & restaurants	"	70.5	19.4	89.9	10.89
vii.	Transport	"	4.7	4.1	8.8	1.07
viii.	Storage & ware housing	"	2.0	2.2	4.2	0.51
ix.	Communication	"	N4.8	4.8	0.58	
x.	Finance, insurance, real estate & business services	'000s	8.7	11.6	20.3	2.46
xi.	Community, social & personal services	"	63.8	80.7	144.5	17.51
xii.	Others	"	1.1	1.6	2.7	0.32
	All activities	"	543.0	282.6	825.5	100.0

N-negligible



Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1980			
			Total persons	%	Hired workers	%
50.	Distribution of persons usually working in non-agricultural enterprises	persons in '000s				
	i. Mining and quarrying	"	7.0	0.29	4.3	0.28
	ii. Manufacture & repair services	"	865.9	36.45	578.8	38.20
	iii. Electricity, gas & water	"	9.0	0.37	8.7	0.57
	iv. Construction	"	12.4	0.52	7.8	0.51
	v. Wholesale & retail trade	"	442.4	18.62	138.7	9.16
	vi. Hotels & restaurants	"	170.2	7.16	51.6	3.41
	vii. Transport	"	40.2	1.69	33.9	2.24
	viii. Storage & ware housing	"	9.9	0.41	7.2	0.48
	ix. Communications	"	29.0	1.22	28.9	1.91
	x. Finance, insurance, real estate & business services	"	86.7	3.65	71.3	4.71
	xi. Community, social and personal services	"	686.9	28.92	570.4	37.65
	xii. Others	"	15.8	0.70	13.6	0.88
	Total	"	2375.4	100.00	1515.2	100.00

Sl.No.	Item	unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
<b>V. Industries</b>						
52.	No. of registered working factories	No.	2475	3024	9099	11489
53.	Estimated average daily employment	'000 Nos.	172	208	303	300
54.	No. of registered small scale industrial units	"	-	8.6	18.4	47.2
55.	Annual index of industrial production (1970=100)		-	100	187	171
<b>VI. Energy and power</b>						
56.	Installed capacity	MW	137	546	1012	1477
57.	Power generation	million Kwh.	582	2126	5242	4094
58.	Sale of energy	"	-	1859	4500	3627
59.	Per capita power consumption	Kwh	30	72	109	126

Sl.No.	Item	Unit	1961	1971	1981	1987
60.	Railway - route length	Kms.	888	894	916	941
61.	Road - total length	'000 Kms.	46	74	99	*114
62.	Total no. of registered motor vehicles	'000 Nos.	25	86	195	474
63.	Registered motor vehicles per lakh of population	"	145	404	765	1861
64.	Total no. of post offices	"	2800	3859	4581	4782
65.	No. of telephone connections	"	13000	37989	93302	184770

\* provisional

Sl.No.	Item	unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
<b>VIII. Education</b>						
66.	Universities	No.	2	2	4	5
67.	Arts & Science Colleges	"	46	117	134	172
68.	Engineering & technical colleges	"	4	6	6	7
69.	Medical colleges (MBBS)	"	3	4	5	5
70.	Teachers training colleges	"	18	19	19	19
71.	High schools	No.	895	1384	1976	2431
72.	Upper primary schools	"	1932	2544	2753	2885
73.	Lower primary schools	"	6954	6886	6861	6817
74.	Students in high school section	lakhs	3.3	7.3	13.1	13.5
75.	Students in upper primary section	"	8.8	12.7	16.9	18.1
76.	Students in primary section	"	20.6	28.1	25.9	26.4
77.	Per capita government expenditure on education	Rs.	9.6	28.5	83.0	193(86-87)

Sl.No.	Item	unit	1961	1971	1981	1987-88
<b>IX. Health &amp; family welfare</b>						
78.	<u>Allopathic (Govt. only)</u>					
	Hospitals	No.	67	112	145	*138
	Dispensaries	"	33	441	625	*188
	No. of beds	'000 Nos.	14	22	31	36
	Sterilisation done	"	7	68	113	136
	IUD insertions	"	-	31	18	86
79.	<u>Ayurvedic</u>					
	Hospitals	Nos.	37	41	85	99
	Dispensaries	"	172	250	419	485
	No. of beds	"	NA	NA	1471	1869
80.	<u>Homoeopathic</u>					
	Hospitals	"	1	2	17	24
	Dispensaries	"	5	45	159	255
	No. of beds	"	NA	NA	535	715
81.	Per capita expenditure on health (medical & public health)	Rs.	0.8	7.1	32.0	<u>86-87</u> 61.0

\* The decrease in the number of hospitals in 1987-88 is due to the conversion of some of the hospitals into community health centres. The decrease in the number of dispensaries is due to the conversion of some of the dispensaries into primary health centres.

Sl.No.	Item:	unit	1960-61	70-71	80-81	30-9-88
<b>X. Banking &amp; Co-operation</b>						
82.	No.of commercial bank offices	No.	-	845	2340	2763
83.	No. of bank offices per lakh of population	"	-	4.0	9.2	9.9
84.	Deposits (sch.commercial banks)	Rs.crores	-	184	1482	5080
85.	Credit	"	-	131	1042	3126
86.	Credit deposit ratio	%	-	71.2	70.3	61.5
87.	Primary agricultural credit societies	'00 Nos.	22.4	18.9	15.6	15.3
88.	Membership	'000 Nos.	798	1660	3691	6579

Sl.No.	Item	unit	1960-61	70-71	80-81	87-88	QE
<b>XI. State Income</b>							
<u>Old series (1970-71 series)</u>							
89.	Net state domestic product	crores	432	1255	3505	-	
90.	Sectoral contribution						
	Primary	%	55.98	49.44	41.38		
	Secondary sector	"	15.24	16.32	22.33		
	Tertiary sector	"	28.78	34.24	36.29		
91.	Per capita net domestic product	Rs.	259	594	1385		
<u>New series (1980-81 series)</u>							
92.	Net state domestic product	crores	-	1320	3702	7830	
93.	Sectoral contribution						
	Primary sector	%		47.53	40.51	35.32	
	Secondary sector	"		16.80	22.79	21.55	
	Tertiary sector	"		35.67	36.70	43.13	
94.	Per capita net domestic product	Rs.	-	625	1463	2739	
QE-quick estimate							

Sl.No.	Item	unit	1960-61	70-71	80-81	87-88
<b>XII. Public finance</b>						
95.	Revenue receipts	Rs.crores	*53	151	640	1586
96.	Revenue expenditure	"	59	164	668	2028
97.	Total tax revenue	"	29	98	488	1215
98.	Non tax revenue	"	24	53	152	372
99.	% of tax revenue to total revenue	%	54.7	65.1	76.3	76.6
100.	Per capita state tax revenue	Rs.	11.9	32.3	132.0	351.0
101.	Tax income ratio	%	4.4	5.5	10.1	12.3**
102.	Per capita development expenditure (revenue account)	Rs.	-	51	198	405
103.	Per capita non development expenditure (revenue account)	"	-	25	63	194
104.	Source-wise state tax revenue					
			1975-76	% to total	1987-88	% to total
a)	Stamps & registration fees	Rs.crores	14.2	6.6	66.7	7.0
b)	State excise	"	20.3	9.4	145.7	15.3
c)	Sales tax	"	102.0	47.1	599.7	62.8
d)	Vehicle taxes	"	11.5	5.3	55.2	5.8
e)	Electricity duty	"	3.7	1.7	38.0	4.0
f)	others	"	11.4	5.3	3.5	0.4
	Total state tax revenue	"	163.1	75.4	925.0	23.8
	State share in central taxes	"	53.3	24.6	289.0	76.2
	Total tax revenue	"	216.4	100.0	1214.0	100.0

\* relates to 1961-62;

\*\* relates to 1985-86



Sl.no.	Items	unit	1965-66	1970-71	1980-81	1985-86
<b>XIII. Miscellaneous</b>						
105.	Per capita household consumption expenditure on food articles*					
	Rural	Rs.	13	35	90	-
	Urban	"	16	41	105	-
106.	Per capita household consumption expenditure - total*					
	Rural	"	19	44	145	-
	Urban	"	26	56	176	-
107.	Consumer price index numbers for Agricultural labourers and industrial workers (base 1970 = 100)		<u>1970</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986</u>
	Kerala State average		100	164	229	340
						<u>1988</u>
						395

\* figures relate to NSS 17th round - 1961-62, 28th round 1973-74 and 38th round 1983 respectively.

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