



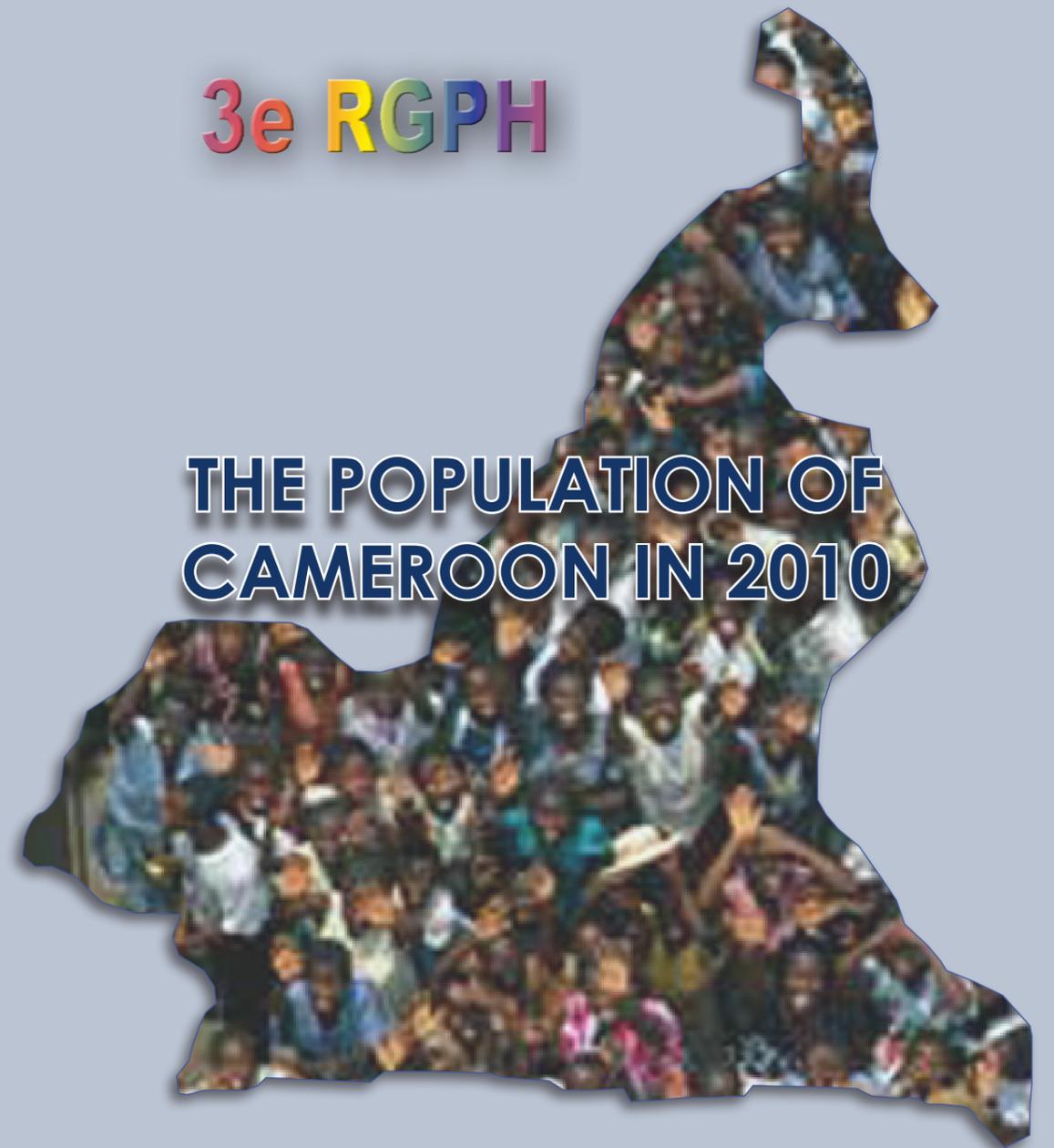
Republic of Cameroon
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République du Cameroun
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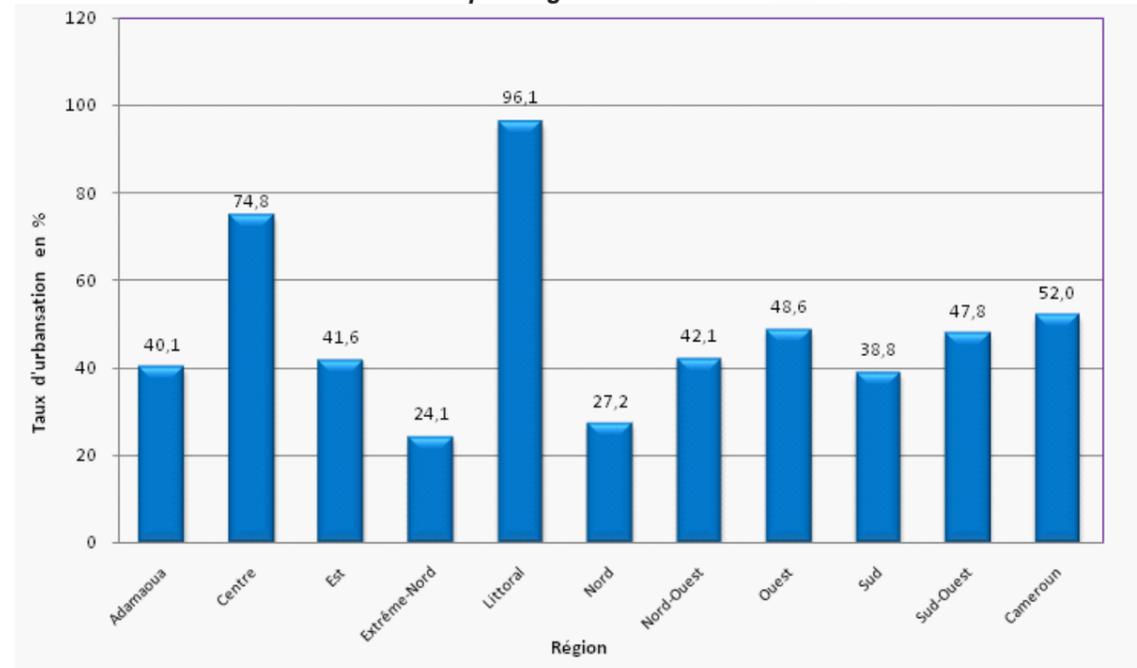
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THE POPULATION OF
CAMEROON IN 2010



of a town. This notion is mainly characterized by an administrative criterion. At the regional level, there are great variations in the urbanization rates. Thus, the Littoral and Centre Regions have extremely high rates which are 96.1% and 74.8% respectively. None of the other 8 regions of the country has an urbanization level which is at least equal to the national average rate.

Chart no. 6: The 2010 Urbanization Rate per Region



CONCLUSION

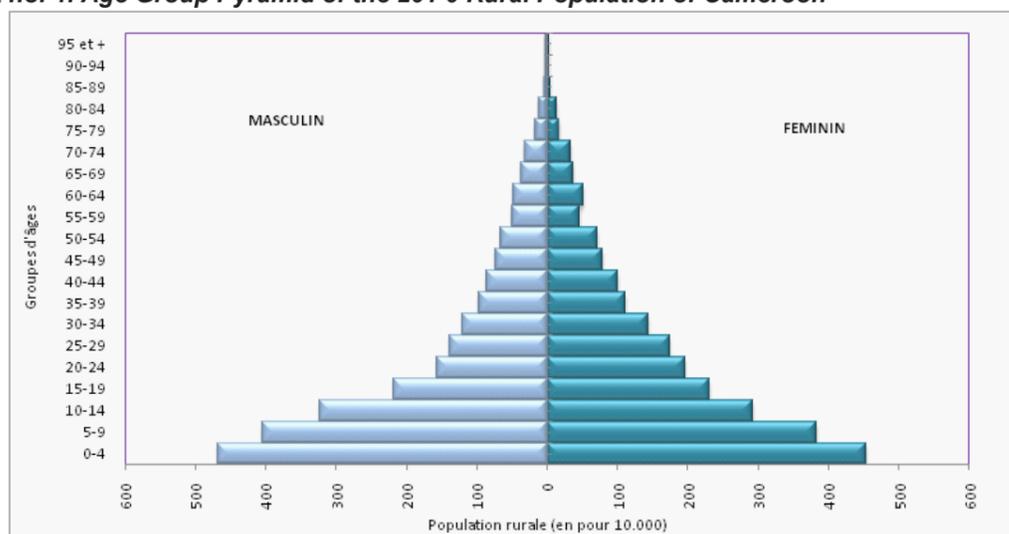
The profile of the population of Cameroon as of 1 January 2010 portrays significant demographic stakes. The population growth is still high. Population characteristics are, namely, a great geographical disparity, a galloping urbanization and extreme youthfulness.

This demographic situation of Cameroon is, at the same time, an advantage for the country and a picture of development problems. It is an advantage in terms of the national market dealing with the consumption of goods and services, and of development problems as concerns the social needs to be satisfied (health, education, employment, social protection, etc).

Taking cognizance of these facts, it is advisable for targeted topics for studies to be analysed so as to satisfy Government needs in the domain of development and social protection.

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Chart no. 4: Age Group Pyramid of the 2010 Rural Population of Cameroon



II. REGIONAL POPULATION DATA

On the basis of the numerical strength of population sizes, the regions of Cameroon may be classified under 3 categories, namely :

- First category: The most populated regions , with more than 2 million inhabitants each ; these regions are the Centre (3 525 664 inhabitants), Far North(3 480 414 inhabitants), Littoral (2 865 795 inhabitants) and the North (2 050 229 inhabitants).
- Second category: Regions whose population is between 1 and 2 million inhabitants each; these regions are the North-West (1 804 695 inhabitants), West (1 785 285 inhabitants), South-West (1 384 286 inhabitants) and the Adamawa (1 015 622 inhabitants).
- Third category: Regions whose population is less than 1 million inhabitants each; these regions are the East (801 968 inhabitants) and the South (692 142 inhabitants).

Table no. 3: Regional Distribution of 2010 the Population of Cameroon According to Sex

Region	Population			Percentage of total population	Surface Area		population Density (inhabitants/ km ²)
	Male	Female	Total		(in km ²)	%	
Adamawa	500 901	514 721	1 015 622	5,2	63 701	13,7	15,9
Centre	1 770 628	1 755 036	3 525 664	18,2	68 953	14,8	51,1
East	400 542	401 426	801 968	4,1	109 002	23,4	7,4
Far North	1 722 189	1 758 225	3 480 414	17,9	34 263	7,4	101,6
Littoral	1 433 925	1 431 870	2 865 795	14,8	20 248	4,3	141,5
North	1 016 557	1 033 672	2 050 229	10,6	66 090	14,2	31,0
North-West	862 269	942 426	1 804 695	9,3	17 300	3,7	104,3
West	839 225	946 060	1 785 285	9,2	13 892	3,0	128,5
South	352 879	339 263	692 142	3,6	47 191	10,1	14,7
South-West	700 109	684 177	1 384 286	7,1	25 410	5,4	54,5
Cameroon	9 599 224	9 806 876	19 406 100	100	466 050	100	41,6

* The surface area of Cameroon is 475 650 km², of which 466 050 km² constitutes the inland part and 9600 km², the maritime part
In terms of population sizes, it could be deduced from the chart below that the population of the Centre is 18.2% of the total population of the country and that of the Far North is 17.9% . Littoral (14.8%) and the

INTRODUCTION

As of 1 January 2010, the population of Cameroon stood at 19 406 100 inhabitants. This figure is based on an analysis of the demographic trends of the 1976, 1987 and 2005 Censuses.

In 1976, Cameroon had 7 663 246 inhabitants; in 1987, it was 10 493 655 inhabitants. In 2005, the final 3rd GPHC results indicated that there were 17 463 836 inhabitants in Cameroon. This upward trend confirms the fact that there is a steady population potential in the country (the average annual population growth rate is estimated at 2.8 % during the 1987-2005 period, and at 2.6% between 2005 and 2010) .

On the strength of the population trends thus noticed from 1976 to 2005, it is possible to obtain, on a yearly basis, the past and projected figures of the population of Cameroon.

I. OVERALL POPULATION AS WELL AS SEX AND AGE STRUCTURES

From 2005 to 2010, the population of Cameroon increased at an average annual rate of 2.6%. At this rate, and other things being equal, this population will double in approximately 27 years, that is, about 2037. However, it should be remarked that the decrease in growth rate between 2005 and 2010 was due to:

- a relative increase in the mortality rate which was attributable to:
 - maternal mortality (it increased from 430 deaths per 100 000 live births during the 1989-1998 period, to 669 during the 1998-2004 period(DHS);
 - the impact of HIV/AIDS;
 - child mortality (it increased from 64.3 deaths per 1 000 in 1991 to 74.1 deaths per 1 000 in 2004 (DHS);
- a relative decrease in fertility measured on the basis of the total fertility rate (this rate increased from 6.4 children per woman in 1978 (NFS) to 5.8 children in 1991 (DHS) ; it then fell to 5.2 children in 1998 (DHS) and 5.0 children in 2004 (DHS) . This decrease was more significant in urban areas than in rural ones.

1.1 SEX STRUCTURE

Since 1976, the population of Cameroon has mainly comprised women. However, as the years go by, there is a gradual movement towards a male/female parity.

Table no. 1: Evolution of the Population of Cameroon from 1976 to 2010

Year	Sex		Total	Sex ratio (%)	Average annual growth (%)
	Male	Female			
1976	3 754 991	3 908 255	7 663 246	96,1	-
1987	5 173 372	5 320 283	10 493 655	97,2	2,9
2005	8 632 036	8 831 800	17 463 836	97,7	2,8
2010	9 599 224	9 806 876	19 406 100	97,9	2,6

1.2 AGE STRUCTURE

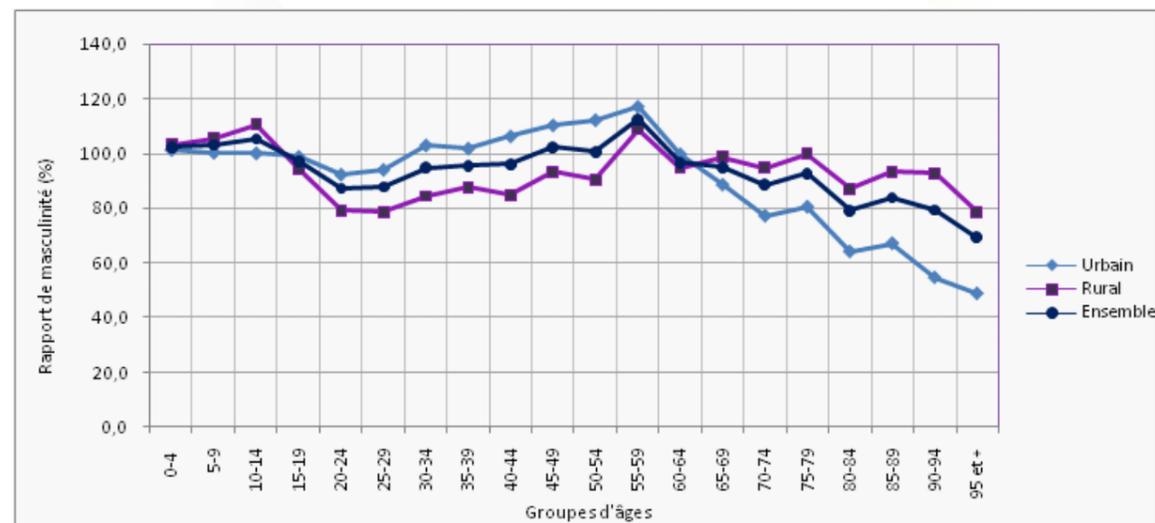
The 2010 population is still characterized by its extreme youthfulness. The median age is 17.7 years while the average age is 22.1 years. The age group below 15 years is 43.6% of the overall population whereas that below 25 years is 64.2%. It should be mentioned that the number of old persons (60 years and above) is not insignificant. In fact, it is 5% of the overall population

Table no. 2: 2010 Population Distribution According to Age Groups and Sex

Age	Total Population	Male	Female	Sex ratio (%)
0-4	3 287 234	1 662 298	1 624 936	102,3
5-9	2 783 459	1 412 467	1 370 992	103,0
10-14	2 394 671	1 227 470	1 167 201	105,2
15-19	2 170 035	1 068 509	1 101 526	97,0
20-24	1 837 289	855 334	981 955	87,1
25-29	1 525 816	712 550	813 266	87,6
30-34	1 209 607	588 210	621 397	94,7
35-39	942 713	460 394	482 319	95,5
40-44	793 846	388 539	405 307	95,9
45-49	640 247	323 507	316 740	102,1
50-54	521 910	261 626	260 284	100,5
55-59	337 988	178 876	159 112	112,4
60-64	315 879	155 208	160 671	96,6
65-69	227 290	110 645	116 645	94,9
70-74	189 571	88 969	100 602	88,4
75-79	98 078	47 173	50 905	92,7
80-84	71 585	31 609	39 976	79,1
85-89	26 564	12 109	14 455	83,8
90-94	15 715	6 942	8 773	79,1
95 and above	16 603	6 789	9 814	69,2
Total	19 406 100	9 599 224	9 806 876	97,9

Irrespective of the environment of residence, the sex ratio curves (number of men per 100 women) according to age groups indicate that between 0 and 15 years, there are more boys than girls . This situation is due to the fact that , at birth, there are more boys than girls. The said situation is reversed after 15 years due to an excessive male mortality. After 60 years, there is a gradual decrease in the number of men; the decrease is increasingly significant as the years go by.

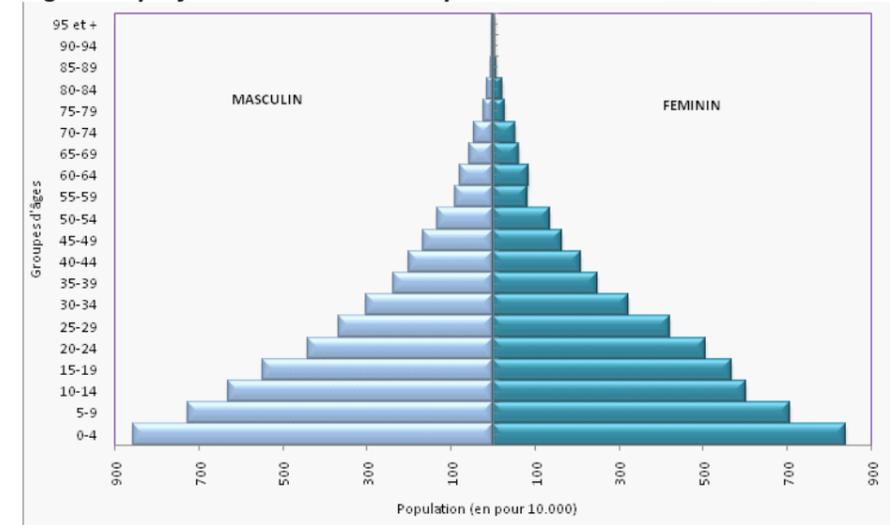
Chart no. 1: Sex Ratio Curves (%) According to the Age Groups of the 2010 Population in Cameroon and the Environment of Residence



1.3 POPULATION PYRAMIDS

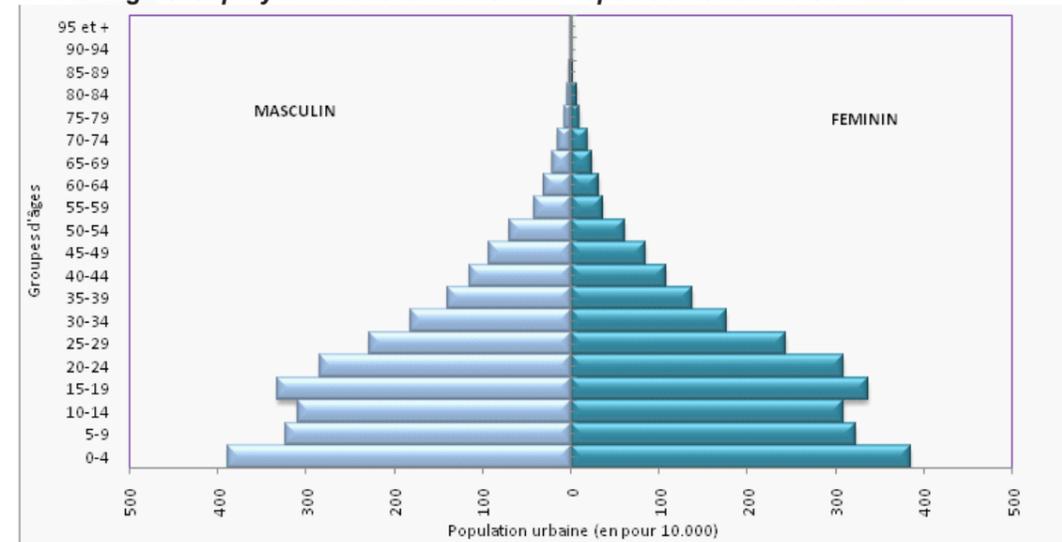
Generally, the population pyramid of Cameroon in 2010 is similar to the ones in Sub-Saharan countries. It has a very broad base and it gradually narrows as ages increase. This pyramid indicates that there is a high fertility rate and a high mortality rate. As concerns age groups, there is no great difference in the case of sex structures at young ages; differences are clearly noticeable only at old age. The said pyramid portrays the extreme youthfulness of the population of Cameroon.

Chart no. 2: Age Group Pyramid for the 2010 Population of Cameroon



The age pyramid of the urban population of Cameroon portrays an unstable situation right up to about the age of about 25 due, obviously, to the internal migration of youths for educational and economic reasons. The consequence is a high increase in the population of the groups of young persons. As ages increase, the pyramid continues to narrow.

Chart no. 3: Age Group Pyramid of the 2010 Urban Population of Cameroon



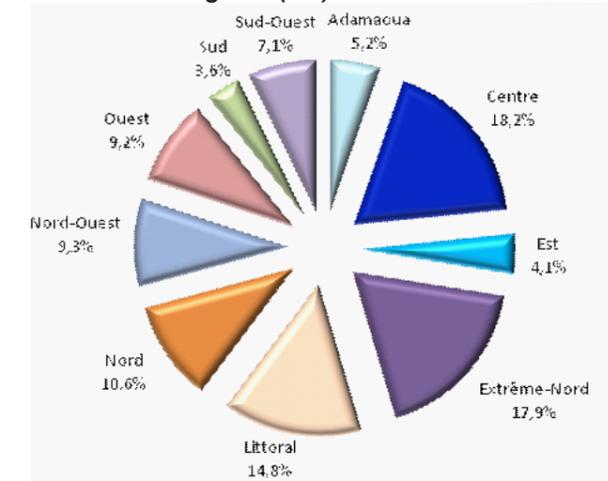
The age pyramid of the rural population portrays a high fertility rate and an insignificant figure as concerns the active population. This insignificant figure may be due to a high migration rate of young adults towards urban areas. Moreover, active women are more than active men in number.



North (10.6 %) each have a population size which is above 10% while the North-West, South-West and the Adamawa each have a population size which is between 3.3% and 5.2%. The South (3.6%) and East(4.1) each have a population size which is less than 5%.

Among the most populated regions, two are very populated owing to their national status. They are, namely, the Centre, that contains Yaounde, which is the political and administrative capital, as well as Littoral, which is the economic capital.

Chart no.5: The Population Sizes of Regions (%) in 2010



In terms of the occupation of space, the following provinces have the highest population densities : Littoral (141.5 inhabitants per sq. km), the West (128.5 inhabitants sq. km), the North-West (104.3 inhabitants per sq. km) and the Far North (101.6 inhabitants per sq. km). Conversely, the regions with the lowest population densities are the East (7.4% inhabitants per sq. km), the South (14.7 inhabitants per sq. km) and Adamawa (15.9 inhabitants per sq. km).

III. URBANIZATION

According to the environment of residence, the 2010 urban population of Cameroon stands at 10 091 172 inhabitants as against a rural population of 9 314 928 inhabitants. Table no.4 presents the distribution of the population according to sex and regions.

Table no. 4: Population Distribution According to Regions and on the Basis of the Environment of Residence and Sex

Region	2010 urban population			2010 rural population		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Adamawa	204 124	202 933	407 057	296 777	311 788	608 565
Centre	1 318 714	1 319 934	2 638 648	451 914	435 102	887 016
East	168 401	165 245	333 646	232 141	236 181	468 322
Far North	424 969	414 062	839 031	1 297 220	1 344 163	2 641 383
Littoral	1 370 984	1 384 027	2 755 011	62 941	47 843	110 784
North	283 294	274 714	558 008	733 263	758 958	1 492 221
North-West	369 693	390 766	760 459	492 576	551 660	1 044 236
West	419 908	448 454	868 362	419 317	497 606	916 923
South	138 876	129 987	268 863	214 003	209 276	423 279
South-West	331 030	331 057	662 087	369 079	353 120	722 199
Cameroon	5 029 993	5 061 179	10 091 172	4 569 231	4 745 697	9 314 928

The 2010 urbanization rate in Cameroon is estimated at 52.0%. This high rate is based on the notion

