

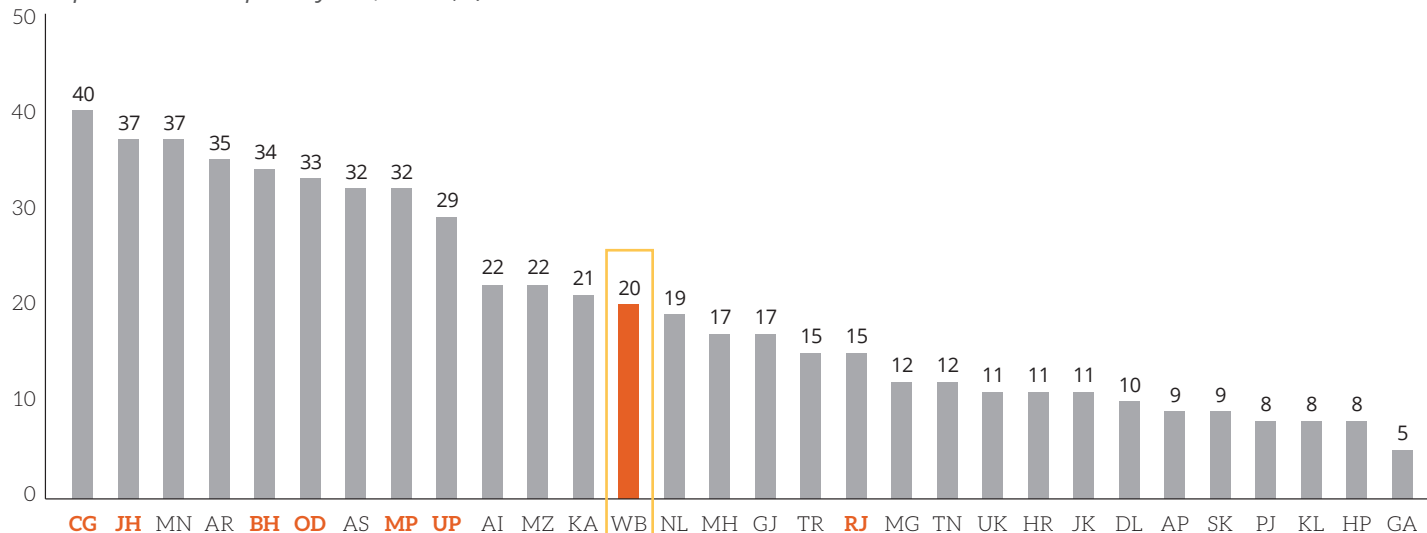
# West Bengal

## Poverty, Growth & Inequality

West Bengal is India's 4th most populous state in India with 91 million people, a fifth of who are poor. Although poverty reduction in the state was faster after 2005, pockets of high poverty still persist within the state. What's more, after 2005, the state's economic growth, which is driven mainly by services, has been weak. So much so that West Bengal grew at an even slower pace than the country's other low income states. Furthermore, consumption inequality, which increased marginally after 2005, is close to the national average.

### Poverty in West Bengal is close to the national average

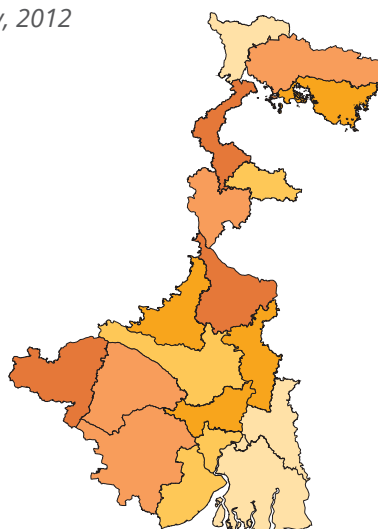
Population below poverty line, 2012 (%)



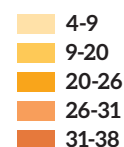
Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

### Some districts in West Bengal have very high poverty

District level poverty, 2012



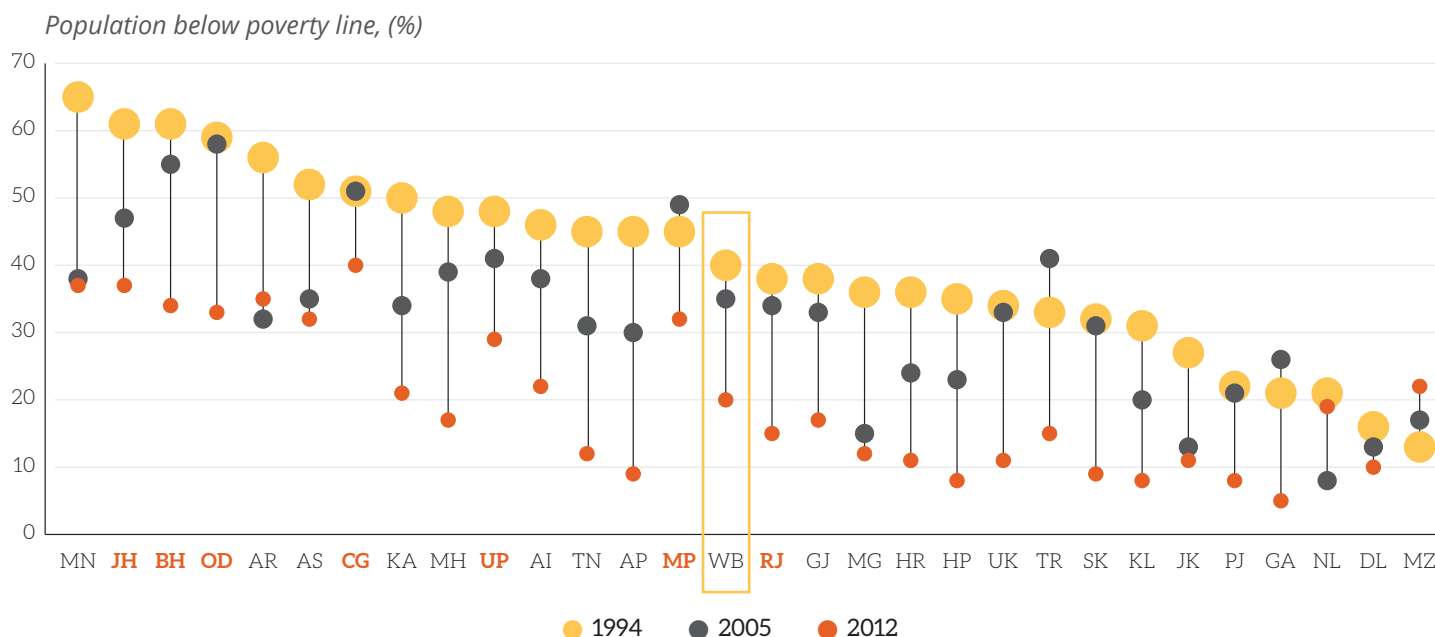
Population below the poverty line, 2012 (%)



# West Bengal

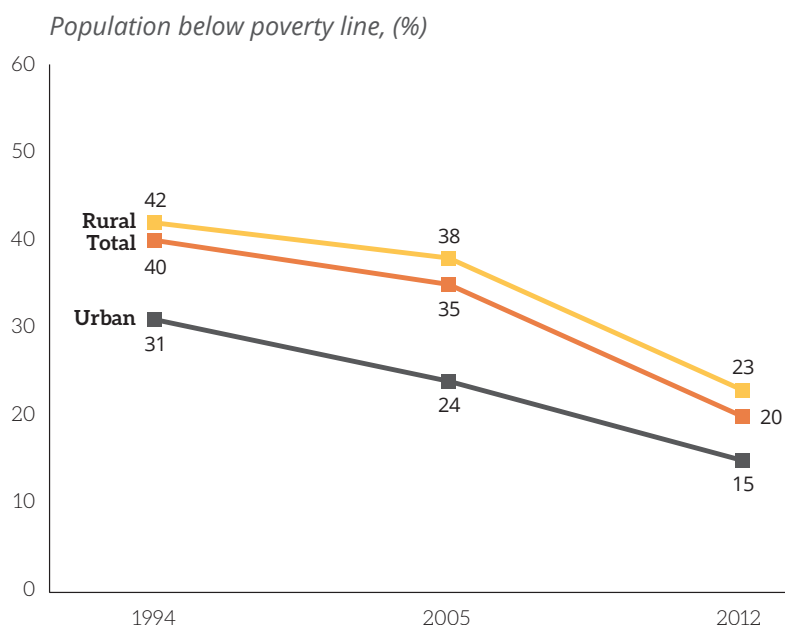
## Poverty, Growth & Inequality

Like many other states, poverty reduction in West Bengal was faster after 2005



Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

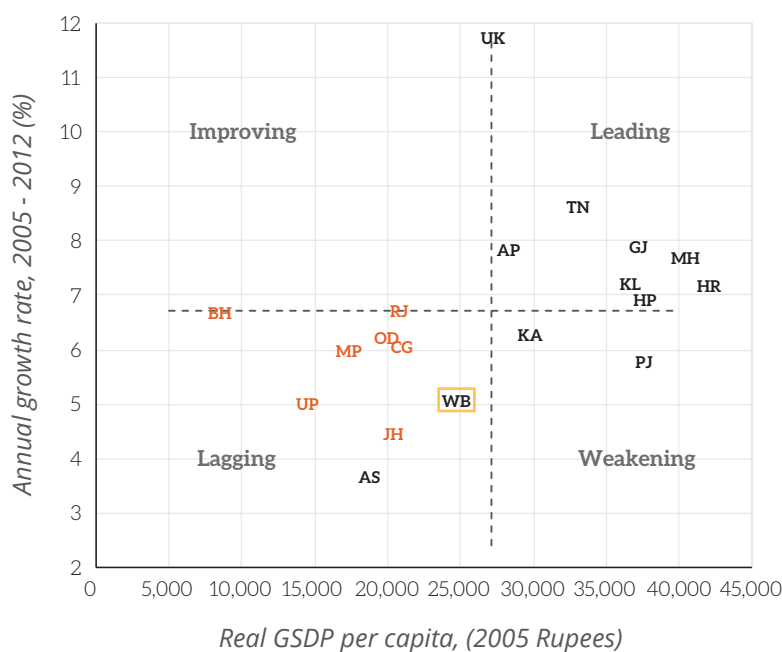
There was faster poverty reduction in both rural and urban areas of West Bengal after 2005



# West Bengal

## Poverty, Growth & Inequality

Since 2005, West Bengal's growth has lagged behind most other states in India, including the Low Income States



--- All India

Data for 19 large states and All India.  
Low Income States are highlighted in orange.

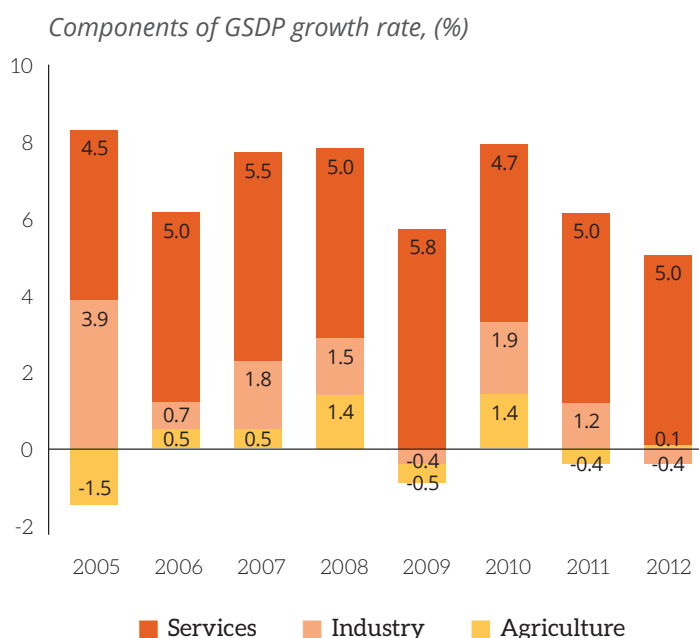
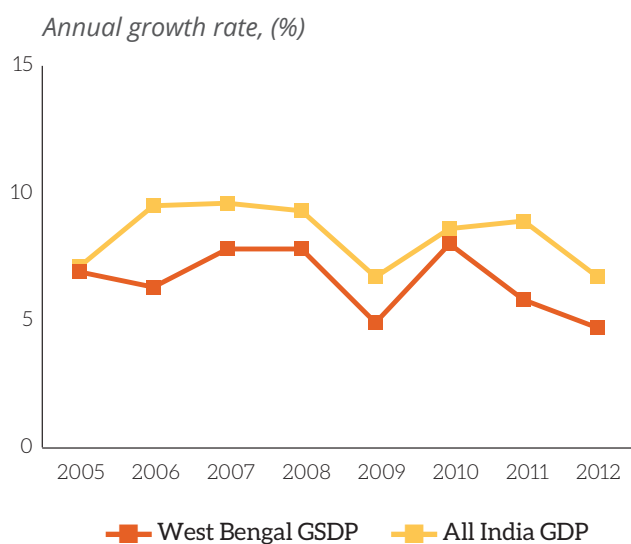
### Interpreting the graph

Improving Low income, high growth	Leading High income, high growth
Lagging Low income, low growth	Weakening High income, low growth

Improvement from 2005 to 2012

Standard of living, 2005

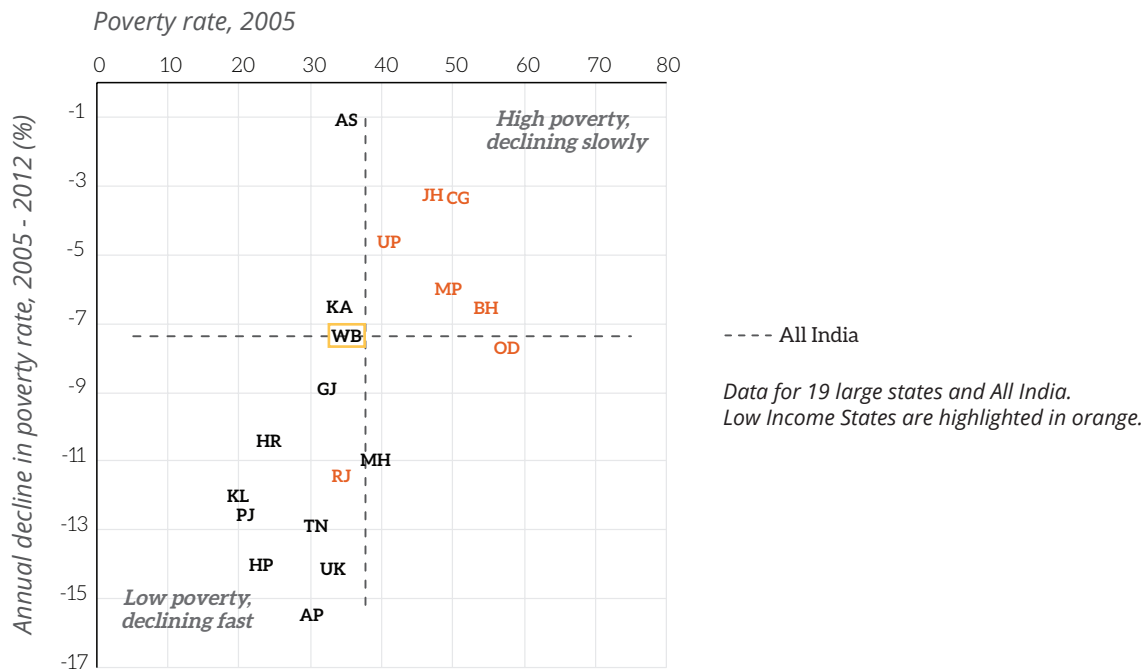
### Services contribute the most to West Bengal's growth



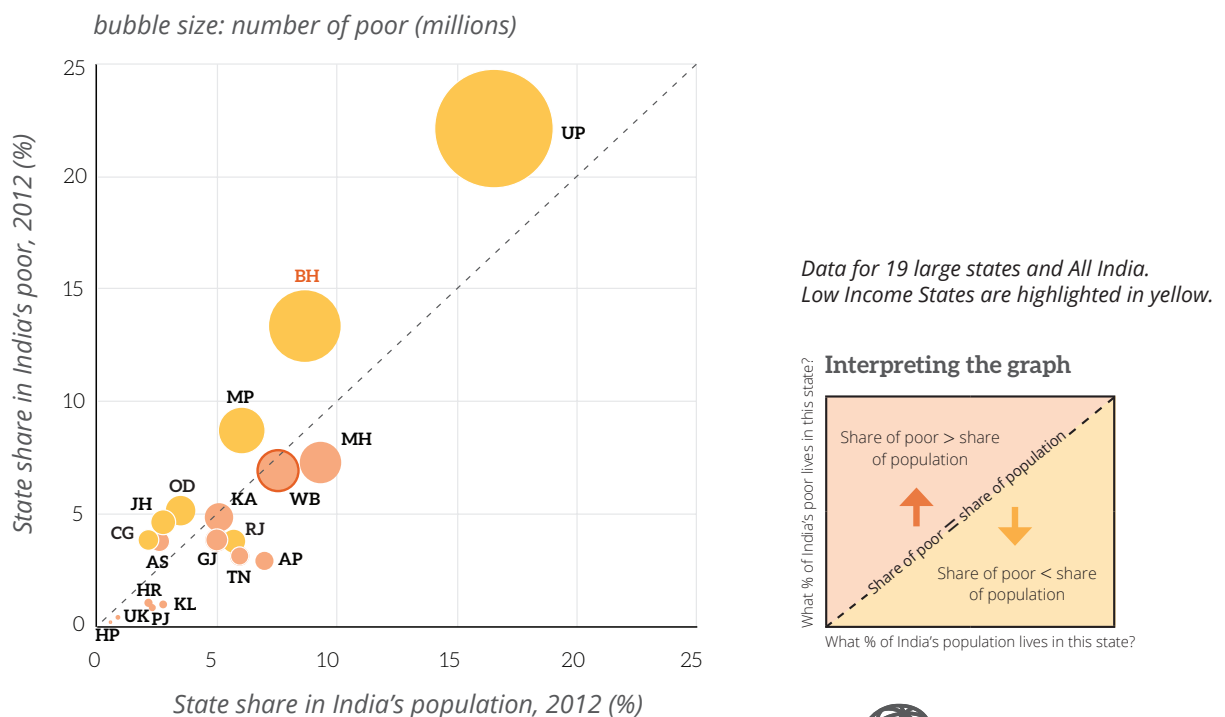
# West Bengal

## Poverty, Growth & Inequality

The pace of poverty reduction in West Bengal after 2005 was similar to the national average



A substantial share of India's poor live in West Bengal



# West Bengal

## Poverty, Growth & Inequality

Since 2005, consumption inequality has increased marginally in West Bengal



Consumption inequality in West Bengal is close to the national average

