Assam is home to 31 million people, a third of whom are poor. While poverty levels in Assam declined rapidly between 1994 and 2005, the state has since lagged behind most other states in reducing poverty. The incidence of poverty in Assam remains higher than the national average, with poverty levels being very high in some parts of the state. Growth, which is driven mainly by services, is among the lowest in the country. Consumption inequality, while low relative to other Indian states, has been increasing, especially in urban areas.

**Poverty in Assam is higher than in most other Indian states**

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

**There are pockets of very high poverty within Assam**

District level poverty, 2012

Population below the poverty line, 2012 (%)

- 6-20
- 20-26
- 26-32
- 32-43
- 43-60
Since 2005, the pace of poverty reduction in Assam has been slower than in most other states.

Poverty declined sharply in both rural and urban areas of Assam between 1994 and 2005.

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
Assam lags behind most Indian states in economic growth

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

Interpreting the graph

Assam GSDP

All India GDP

Services contribute most to Assam’s economic growth, which is lower than the national average

Components of GSDP growth rate, (%)

Assam GSDP

All India GDP
Poverty reduction has been the slowest in Assam after 2005

Assam is home to a larger share of India’s poor relative to its population
Consumption inequality is increasing in Assam, a lot more in urban areas

**Gini coefficient**

- **Total**: 0.20 (1994), 0.22 (2005), 0.25 (2012)
- **Rural**: 0.18 (1994), 0.19 (2005), 0.22 (2012)
- **Urban**: 0.28 (2012), 0.31 (2012), 0.35 (2012)

Consumption inequality in Assam is lower than in most other states

**Gini coefficient, 2012**

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