

World Population 2006

Country or area	Mid-year population (thousands)			Population density (population per sq km)	Percentage urban	Average annual rate of population change (percent-ages)	Crude birth rate (births per 1,000 population)	Crude death rate (deaths per 1,000 population)	Total fertility rate (children per woman)	Percentage of all births to women aged 15-49	Under-five mortality rate (deaths under age 5 per 1,000 live births)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Under-15 population (percent of total)
	2007	2020	2050										
World	6 671 226	7 667 090	9 191 287	49	50	1.2	20	9	2.6	11	67	74	28
More developed regions^a	1 223 004	1 253 852	1 245 247	23	75	0.3	11	10	1.6	7	77	7	21
Less developed regions^b	5 448 223	6 413 238	7 946 040	66	44	1.4	22	8	2.8	12	65	81	30
Least developed countries^c	804 450	1 075 104	1 741 959	39	28	2.4	36	12	4.6	17	55	141	41
Other less developed countries^d	4 643 773	5 338 134	6 204 081	75	47	1.2	20	8	2.5	10	68	62	28
Less developed regions, excluding China	4 311 906	4 983 415	6 527 680	56	44	1.6	25	9	3.1	14	63	69	33
Sub-Saharan Africa^e	807 425	1 081 029	1 760 724	33	36	2.4	39	15	5.1	17	50	155	43
Africa	964 973	1 270 528	1 937 835	32	39	2.3	36	13	4.7	15	53	143	41
Eastern Europe (continued)	307 860	419 782	692 942	48	23	2.5	39	14	5.3	15	51	134	44
Burundi	8 508	13 062	28 315	306	11	3.9	47	16	6.8	7	50	169	44
Comoros ¹	839	1 112	1 715	375	38	2.5	33	6	4.3	8	65	63	42
Djibouti	833	1 027	1 480	36	87	1.7	29	11	3.9	5	55	126	37
Eritrea	4 851	6 937	11 465	41	20	3.2	39	9	5.0	10	58	77	43
Ethiopia	83 099	112 896	183 404	75	16	2.5	38	13	5.3	14	53	145	44
Kenya	37 538	51 691	84 757	65	21	2.7	39	12	5.0	15	54	104	43
Madagascar	19 683	27 005	44 453	34	27	2.7	36	10	4.8	20	59	106	43
Malawi	13 925	19 150	31 944	118	26	4.1	15	5.6	18	48	132	47	5
Mauritius ²	1 262	1 374	1 446	618	42	0.8	15	7	1.9	11	73	37	24
Mozambique	21 397	28 809	39 117	27	36	1.9	39	20	5.1	20	42	164	45
Réunion	807	926	1 072	321	93	1.3	18	5	2.4	8	76	15	26
Rwanda	9 725	13 731	22 627	369	21	2.8	44	17	5.9	6	46	188	43
Seychelles	87	92	100	190	54	0.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somalia	8 699	12 291	21 057	14	36	2.9	43	17	6.0	8	48	193	44
Uganda	30 884	46 749	92 835	128	13	3.2	47	13	6.5	18	52	127	49
United Republic of Tanzania	40 454	54 479	85 077	43	25	2.5	39	13	5.2	17	53	118	44
Zambia	11 922	15 133	22 868	16	35	1.9	39	19	5.2	18	42	157	46
Zimbabwe	13 449	15 258	19 112	34	37	1.0	28	18	3.2	14	43	94	38
Middle Africa	119 096	169 062	312 671	18	41	2.8	45	17	6.0	21	47	190	46
Angola	17 024	24 169	44 566	14	65	2.8	47	21	6.4	16	43	231	46
Cameroon	16 549	23 252	33 144	39	56	2.0	35	14	4.3	19	50	144	41
Central African Republic	4 343	5 434	7 609	7	7	1.8	36	19	4.6	18	45	163	42
Chad	10 781	15 336	29 395	8	26	2.9	45	15	6.2	19	51	189	46
Congo	3 768	4 907	7 561	11	61	2.1	35	11	4.5	18	55	102	42
Dem. Republic of the Congo	62 636	93 375	186 837	27	33	3.2	50	18	6.7	24	46	196	47
Equatorial Guinea	507	693	1 183	18	39	2.4	39	15	5.4	17	52	155	42
Gabon	1 331	1 599	2 081	5	85	1.5	26	12	3.1	17	57	86	35
Sao Tome and Principe	158	197	296	164	60	1.6	32	8	3.9	11	66	95	41
Northern Africa	196 108	239 526	310 239	23	52	1.7	24	6	2.9	7	69	52	32
Algeria	33 858	40 630	49 610	14	65	1.5	21	5	2.4	2	72	33	28
Egypt	75 498	92 578	121 219	75	43	1.8	24	6	2.9	8	71	34	33
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5 160	7 656	9 683	4	85	2.0	23	4	2.7	1	74	20	30
Morocco	31 224	36 200	42 583	70	60	1.2	29	5	3.4	17	72	29	38
Sudan	38 560	50 027	73 029	15	43	2.2	32	10	4.2	10	59	105	40
Tunisia	10 327	11 712	13 178	63	66	1.1	17	6	1.9	2	74	22	25
Western Sahara	480	723	938	2	92	3.7	23	6	2.7	4	66	56	30
Southern Africa	55 682	59 254	65 049	21	57	0.6	23	17	2.7	14	49	69	33
Botswana	1 882	2 165	2 703	3	59	1.2	25	14	2.9	12	51	68	35
Lesotho	2 008	2 163	2 356	66	19	0.6	29	19	3.4	16	43	98	40
Namibia	2 074	2 428	3 041	3	36	1.3	26	12	3.2	14	53	66	37
South Africa	48 577	51 281	55 590	40	60	0.6	22	17	2.6	14	49	66	32
Swaziland	1 141	1 218	1 360	66	25	0.6	29	21	3.4	8	40	114	39
Western Africa	286 227	382 903	617 033	47	44	2.4	40	15	5.3	17	50	176	43
Benin	9 033	12 874	22 506	80	41	3.0	40	11	5.4	16	57	146	44
Burkina Faso	14 784	21 034	37 503	54	19	2.9	44	14	6.0	15	52	181	46
Cape Verde	530	690	1 002	122	59	1.2	29	5	3.4	17	72	29	38
Côte d'Ivoire	19 262	24 315	34 704	60	46	1.8	35	15	4.5	18	48	183	41
Gambia	1 709	2 301	3 649	151	56	2.6	35	10	4.7	15	59	128	41
Ghana	23 478	29 672	41 881	98	49	2.0	30	9	3.8	10	60	90	38
Guinea	9 370	12 966	22 711	38	34	2.2	40	12	5.4	20	56	156	43
Guinea-Bissau	1 695	2 513	5 324	47	30	3.0	50	18	7.1	20	46	195	48
Liberia	3 750	5 849	12 460	34	60	4.5	50	18	6.8	23	46	205	47
Mali	12 337	18 034	34 231	10	32	3.0	48	15	6.5	21	54	200	48
Mauritania	3 124	4 153	6 364	3	41	2.5	32	8	4.4	13	64	92	40
Niger	14 226	22 222	33 183	11	17	3.1	49	14	7.9	20	57	189	48
Nigeria	148 093	193 099	288 696	160	50	2.3	40	17	5.3	17	47	187	44
Saint Helena ³	7	7	9	54	39	1.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senegal	12 379	16 442	25 257	63	42	2.5	35	9	4.7	14	63	115	42
Sierra Leone	5 866	7 747	13 624	82	42	2.0	46	22	6.5	18	43	278	43
Togo	6 585	8 984	14 050	116	42	2.6	37	10	4.8	13	58	126	43
Asia	4 029 665	4 596 189	5 265 995	126	41	1.1	19	7	2.3	9	69	59	27
Eastern Asia	1 538 927	1 631 368	1 591 242	131	46	0.5	13	7	1.7	2	74	28	20
China ⁴	1 328 630	1 421 260	1 408 846	138	42	0.6	13	7	1.7	2	73	29	21
China, Hong Kong SAR ⁵	7 206	8 040	8 980	6 557	100	0.8	6	10	0.6	2	82	5	14
China, Macao SAR ⁶	481	523	524	18 505	100	0.7	8	5	0.9	3	81	8	14
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	23 790	24 838	24 666	197	62	0.3	13	10	1.9	0	67	62	23
Japan	127 967	124 469	102 511	339	66	0.0	8	9	1.3	1	83	26	28
Monrovia	2 629	2 987	3 388	2	57	1.0	18	14	2.9	14	67	54	27
Republic of Korea	48 224	49 221	42 327	484	81	0.3	9	6	1.2	1	79	5	18
South-Central Asia⁷	1 698 208	2 032 724	2 536 010	157	31	1.5	24	8	2.9	13	65	82	33
Afghanistan	27 145	40 993	79 423	42	24	3.9	48	20	7.1	12	44	235	47
Bangladesh	158 665	193 333	254 084	1 102	26	1.7	25	8	2.8	26	64	69	34
Bhutan	658	780	935	14	12	1.4	18	7	2.2	11	66	65	31
India	1 169 016	1 379 198	1 668 270	356	29	1.5	23	8	2.8	13	65	79	32
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	71 208	84 244	100 174	43	68	1.4	20	5	2.0	6	71	35	27
Kazakhstan	15 422	16 723	17 312	6	58	0.7	20	10	2.3	7	67	29	24
Kyrgyzstan	5 317	6 024	6 566	27	36	1.1	22	8	2.5	8	66	64	30
Maldives	306	363	510	1 025	31	1.8	23	6	2.6	6	64	42	32
Nepal	28 396	33 688	51 891	192	17	2.0	28	8	3.3	22	64	72	38
Pakistan	163 902	208 315	292 205	206	36	1.8	27	7	3.5	8			



World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision

WORLD POPULATION WILL GROW FROM 6.7 BILLION TO 9.2 BILLION IN 2050

The world population will likely increase by 2.5 billion over the next 43 years, passing from the current 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion in 2050. This increase is equivalent to the size that the world population had in 1950, and it will be absorbed mostly by the less developed regions, whose population is projected to rise from 5.4 billion in 2007 to 7.9 billion in 2050. In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to remain largely unchanged at 1.2 billion and would have declined were it not for the projected net migration from developing to developed countries, which is expected to average 2.3 million persons a year after 2010.

The 2006 Revision is the twentieth round of official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. These are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring population information. The 2006 Revision builds on the 2004 Revision and incorporates the results both of the 2000 round of national population censuses and of recent specialized surveys carried around the world. These sources provide both demographic and other information to assess the progress made in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The comprehensive review of past worldwide demographic trends and future prospects presented in the 2006 Revision provides the population basis for the assessment of those goals.

Key findings of the 2006 Revision can be summarized as follows:

1. In July 2007, the world population would reach 6.7 billion, 547 million more than in 2000, or a gain of 78 million persons annually. Assuming that fertility levels continue to decline, the world population is expected to reach 9.2 billion in 2050 and to be increasing by about 30 million persons annually at that time, according to the medium variant.
2. Future population growth is highly dependent on the path that future fertility takes. In the medium variant, fertility of the world declines from 2.55 children per woman today to slightly over 2 children per woman in 2050. If fertility was to remain about half a child above the levels projected in the medium variant, world population would reach 10.8 billion by 2050. A fertility path half a child below the medium variant would lead to a population of 7.8 billion by mid-century. That is, at the world level, continued population growth until 2050 is inevitable even if the decline in fertility accelerates.
3. Because of its low and declining rate of population growth, the population of developed countries as a whole is expected to remain virtually unchanged between 2007 and 2050, at about 1.2 billion, according to the medium variant. In contrast, the population of the 50 least developed countries will likely more than double, passing from 0.8 billion in 2007 to 1.7 billion in 2050. Growth in the rest of the developing world is also projected to be robust, though less rapid, with its population rising from 4.6 billion to 6.2 billion between 2007 and 2050 according to the medium variant.
4. Slow population growth brought about by reductions in fertility leads to population ageing, that is, it produces populations in which the proportion of older persons increases while that of younger persons decreases. In the more developed regions, 20 per cent of the population is already aged 60 years or over, and that proportion is projected to reach 33 per cent in 2050. In developed countries as a whole, the number of older persons (persons aged 60 or over) has already surpassed the number of children (persons under age 15), and by 2050 the number of older persons is expected to be more than double the number of children in developed countries.
5. Population ageing is less advanced in developing countries. Nevertheless, the populations of a majority of them are poised to enter a period of rapid population ageing. In developing countries as a whole, just 8 per cent of the population today is aged 60 years or over, but by 2050, 20 per cent of their population is expected to be in that age range.
6. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is expected nearly to triple, increasing from 673 million in 2005 to 2 billion by 2050. Over the same period, the share of older persons living in developing countries is expected to rise from 64 per cent in 2005 to nearly 80 per cent in 2050.
7. A feature of ageing populations is that the numbers of older persons increase faster the higher the age range considered. Thus, whereas the number of persons aged 60 or over is expected to triple, that of persons aged 80 or over (the oldest-old) is projected to increase nearly fivefold, from 88 million in 2005 to 402 million in 2050. Today, about half of the oldest-old live in developing countries, but that share is expected to reach 71 per cent in 2050.
8. Although the populations of all countries are expected to age over the foreseeable future, the populations of countries where fertility is still high will remain relatively young and will increase rapidly. High population growth rates prevail in a number of developing countries, the majority of which are least developed. Between 2005 and 2050, the populations of Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Niger, Timor-Leste and Uganda are projected to increase at least threefold.
9. In sharp contrast, the populations of 46 countries or areas, including Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, most of the successor States of the former Soviet Union and several small island States are expected to be smaller in 2050 than in 2005.
10. Population growth remains concentrated in the populous countries. During 2005-2050, eight countries are expected to account for half of the world's projected population increase: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the United States of America, Bangladesh and China, listed according to the size of their contribution to global population growth.
11. The median age, that is, the age that divides the population in two halves of equal size, is an indicator of population ageing. At the world level, the median age is projected to increase from 28 to 38 years between 2005 and 2050. Europe today has the oldest population, with a median age of nearly 39 years; its median age is expected to reach 47 years in 2050.
12. The median age is higher in countries having low fertility for long periods. In 2005, the median age in 13 developed countries or areas was higher than 40 years. The pervasiveness of population ageing is reflected by the fact that 93 countries are projected to have median ages above 40 years in 2050, 48 of which are developing countries.
13. Countries where fertility remains high and has declined only moderately will experience the slowest population ageing. By 2050, about one in five countries is projected to have a median age below 30 years. The least developed countries will have the youngest populations, with eight of them having median ages below 24 years in 2050, namely, Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Niger and Uganda.
14. As noted above, fertility reductions are the main cause of population ageing. At the world level, fertility is estimated to be 2.55 children per woman, about half the level of fertility in 1950-1955, which was 5 children per woman. In the medium variant, global fertility is projected to decline further, to 2.02 children per woman. Average world levels result from quite different trends in the major development groups. In developed countries as a whole, fertility is currently 1.60 children per woman and is projected to increase slowly to 1.79 children per woman in 2045-2050. In the least developed countries, fertility is 4.63 children per woman and is expected to drop by about half, to 2.50 children per woman by 2045-2050. In the rest of the developing world, fertility is already moderately low at 2.45 children per woman and is expected to decline further to 1.91 children per woman by mid-century, thus nearly converging to the fertility levels by then typical of the developed world.
15. In 2005-2010, fertility remains above 5 children per woman in 27 of the 150 developing countries, and those 27 countries account for 9 per cent of the world population. Most countries with very high fertility are poor and belong to the group of least developed countries. In contrast, fertility has reached below-replacement levels in 28 developing countries, which account for 25 per cent of the world population. This group includes China, whose average fertility during 2005-2010 is estimated at 1.73 children per woman.
16. Fertility is also below replacement level in all 45 developed countries or areas, which account for 19 per cent of the world population. In 27 of them, including Japan and most of

the countries located in Southern and Eastern Europe, fertility remains below 1.5 children per woman. Since 1990-1995, fertility decline has been the rule among the vast majority of developed countries and is leading to rapid population ageing.

17. Another factor contributing to population ageing is the reduction of mortality at adult ages. Global life expectancy at birth, which is estimated to have risen from 58 years in 1970-1975 to 67 years in 2005-2010, is expected to keep on rising to reach 75 years in 2045-2050. In the more developed regions, the projected increase is from 77 years today to 82 years by mid-century, and in the less developed regions life expectancy is projected to rise from 65 years in 2005-2010 to 74 years in 2045-2050.
18. Life expectancy remains low in the least developed countries, at just 55 years, and although it is projected to reach 67 years in 2045-2050, achieving such an increase is contingent on reducing the spread of HIV and combating successfully other infectious diseases. Similar challenges must be confronted if the projected increase of life expectancy in the rest of the developing countries, from under 68 years today to 76 years by mid-century, is to be achieved.
19. Among the more developed regions, Eastern Europe has the lowest life expectancy at birth and has had a declining life expectancy since the late 1980s. In 2005-2010 life expectancy in the region, at 68.6 years, is lower than it was in 1950-1955 (69.3 years). The Russian Federation and Ukraine have experienced serious increases in mortality, partly because of the spread of HIV.
20. Despite the advances made in treating people infected with HIV and in controlling the spread of the epidemic, its impact in terms of morbidity, mortality and slower population growth continues to be evident in many countries. In Southern Africa, the region with the highest prevalence of the disease, life expectancy has fallen from 62 years in 1990-1995 to 49 years in 2005-2010 and is not expected to regain the level it had in the early 1990s before 2045. As a consequence, the growth rate of the population in the region has plummeted, passing from 2.5 per cent annually in 1990-1995 to 0.6 per cent annually in 2005-2010, and is expected to continue declining for the foreseeable future.
21. The contribution of international migration to population growth in the more developed regions has increased in significance as fertility declines. During 2005-2050, the net number of international migrants to more developed regions is projected to be 103 million, a figure that counterbalances the excess of deaths over births (74 million) projected over the period.
22. In 2005-2010, the net migration more than doubled the contribution of natural increase (births minus deaths) to population growth in eight countries or areas, namely, Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong (China SAR), Luxembourg, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. In a further eight countries or areas, net migration counterbalanced the excess of deaths over births. These countries are: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Channel Islands, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia.
23. In terms of annual averages during 2005-2050, the major net receivers of international migrants are projected to be the United States (1.1 million annually), Canada (200,000), Germany (150,000), Italy (139,000), the United Kingdom (130,000), Spain (123,000) and Australia (100,000). The countries with the highest levels of net emigration are projected to be: China (-329,000 annually), Mexico (-306,000), India (-241,000), Philippines (-180,000), Pakistan (-167,000) and Indonesia (-164,000).

In addition to this wallchart, the full results and analysis of the 2006 Revision will be issued in a series of three volumes and a set of two CD-ROMs. A population database containing the results is available on the United Nations Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

Enquiries and comments should be addressed to Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA (fax: 1 212 963 2147).



Economic & Social Affairs

World Population 2006

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

United Nations publication
ST/ESA/SER/A/267
Sales No. E.08.XIII.3
ISBN 978-92-15-14377-7

Copyright © United Nations, 2008
All rights reserved.
Manufactured in the United States of America

Enquiries should be directed to:
Director, Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA

Fax number: (212) 963-2147
07-52240—February 2008—11,385



United Nations