



2.1 Population

	Total population			Average annual population growth rate		Age dependency ratio		Population aged 65 and above		Women aged 65 and above	
	millions			%		dependents as proportion of working-age population		% of total		per 100 men	
	1980	1998	2015	1980-98	1998-2015	1980	1998	1998	2015	1998	2015
Albania	2.7	3.3	3.9	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.6	6.5	8.6	128	123
Algeria	18.7	29.9	39.8	2.6	1.7	1.0	0.7	3.8	4.7	115	117
Angola	7.0	12.0	19.4	3.0	2.8	0.9	1.0	2.9	2.5	124	123
Argentina	28.1	36.1	42.8	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.6	9.5	10.6	144	142
Armenia	3.1	3.8	4.1	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.5	8.4	10.9	150	157
Australia	14.7	18.8	21.5	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.5	11.8	15.2	129	120
Austria	7.6	8.1	8.0	0.4	-0.1	0.6	0.5	14.9	19.2	166	136
Azerbaijan	6.2	7.9	9.3	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.6	6.4	7.3	159	158
Bangladesh	86.7	125.6	161.8	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.8	3.3	4.0	81	94
Belarus	9.6	10.2	9.4	0.3	-0.5	0.5	0.5	13.0	13.4	202	181
Belgium	9.8	10.2	10.2	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	16.2	19.5	147	133
Benin	3.5	5.9	9.1	3.0	2.5	1.0	1.0	2.9	2.6	102	118
Bolivia	5.4	7.9	10.9	2.2	1.9	0.9	0.8	3.9	4.6	123	128
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.1	3.8	4.3	-0.5	0.8	0.5	0.4	8.1	12.9	147	146
Botswana	0.9	1.6	1.8	3.0	0.9	1.0	0.8	2.3	1.7	173	146
Brazil	121.7	165.9	200.0	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	4.9	6.5	130	142
Bulgaria	8.9	8.3	7.3	-0.4	-0.7	0.5	0.5	15.5	18.9	134	148
Burkina Faso	7.0	10.7	15.9	2.4	2.3	1.0	1.0	2.8	2.2	110	143
Burundi	4.1	6.5	9.2	2.6	2.0	0.9	0.9	2.6	1.9	155	153
Cambodia	6.8	11.5	14.8	2.9	1.5	0.7	0.8	3.0	3.8	179	159
Cameroon	8.7	14.3	20.3	2.8	2.1	0.9	0.9	3.5	3.4	120	119
Canada	24.6	30.3	33.7	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.5	12.3	15.9	134	126
Central African Republic	2.3	3.5	4.6	2.3	1.6	0.8	0.9	3.6	2.6	138	139
Chad	4.5	7.3	11.6	2.7	2.7	0.8	1.2	3.1	2.2	89	150
Chile	11.1	14.8	17.7	1.6	1.1	0.6	0.6	6.9	9.7	143	136
China	981.2	1,238.6	1,388.5	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.5	6.7	8.9	105	104
Hong Kong, China	5.0	6.7	7.9	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	10.0	12.8	125	113
Colombia	28.4	40.8	51.4	2.0	1.4	0.8	0.6	4.5	5.7	130	138
Congo, Dem. Rep.	27.0	48.2	79.1	3.2	2.9	1.0	1.0	2.7	2.6	134	125
Congo, Rep.	1.7	2.8	4.3	2.8	2.6	0.9	1.0	3.1	2.4	131	140
Costa Rica	2.3	3.5	4.4	2.4	1.3	0.7	0.6	5.0	7.7	115	118
Côte d'Ivoire	8.2	14.5	19.1	3.2	1.6	1.0	0.9	2.7	2.3	93	86
Croatia	4.6	4.5	4.3	-0.1	-0.3	0.5	0.5	14.1	18.1	168	156
Cuba	9.7	11.1	11.6	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	9.2	14.0	110	120
Czech Republic	10.2	10.3	9.9	0.0	-0.2	0.6	0.4	13.5	18.6	160	141
Denmark	5.1	5.3	5.3	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	14.7	19.0	140	122
Dominican Republic	5.7	8.3	10.4	2.1	1.3	0.8	0.6	4.3	5.9	106	113
Ecuador	8.0	12.2	15.6	2.4	1.5	0.9	0.6	4.4	5.7	119	124
Egypt, Arab Rep.	40.9	61.4	78.7	2.3	1.5	0.8	0.7	4.4	5.5	120	115
El Salvador	4.6	6.1	8.0	1.5	1.6	0.9	0.7	4.7	5.1	131	135
Eritrea	2.4	3.9	5.7	2.7	2.3	..	0.9	2.7	2.8	130	121
Estonia	1.5	1.4	1.3	-0.1	-0.5	0.5	0.5	13.6	16.7	210	200
Ethiopia	37.7	61.3	87.6	2.7	2.1	0.9	1.0	2.7	2.0	127	105
Finland	4.8	5.2	5.3	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.5	14.5	20.2	165	138
France	53.9	58.8	61.1	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.5	15.5	18.1	150	139
Gabon	0.7	1.2	1.7	3.0	2.2	0.7	0.8	5.7	4.9	123	118
Gambia, The	0.6	1.2	1.8	3.6	2.2	0.8	0.8	3.0	3.4	121	118
Georgia	5.1	5.4	5.3	0.4	-0.1	0.5	0.5	12.2	14.7	170	172
Germany	78.3	82.0	78.7	0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.5	15.7	20.3	167	133
Ghana	10.7	18.5	26.8	3.0	2.2	0.9	0.9	3.1	3.5	120	119
Greece	9.6	10.5	10.3	0.5	-0.1	0.6	0.5	16.9	21.0	127	132
Guatemala	6.8	10.8	15.5	2.6	2.1	1.0	0.9	3.4	3.4	110	126
Guinea	4.5	7.1	10.0	2.6	2.0	0.9	0.9	2.6	2.7	110	105
Guinea-Bissau	0.8	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.8	0.8	0.9	4.0	3.5	124	120
Haiti	5.4	7.6	10.0	2.0	1.6	0.9	0.8	3.6	3.6	126	142
Honduras	3.6	6.2	8.8	3.0	2.1	1.0	0.8	3.2	3.6	118	121



Population 2.1

	Total population			Average annual population growth rate		Age dependency ratio		Population aged 65 and above		Women aged 65 and above	
	millions			%		dependents as proportion of working-age population		% of total		per 100 men	
	1980	1998	2015	1980-98	1998-2015	1980	1998	1998	2015	1998	2015
Hungary	10.7	10.1	9.4	-0.3	-0.4	0.5	0.5	14.3	17.1	166	166
India	687.3	979.7	1,224.4	2.0	1.3	0.7	0.6	4.7	5.7	107	107
Indonesia	148.3	203.7	250.5	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.6	4.5	6.0	117	123
Iran, Islamic Rep.	39.1	61.9	82.1	2.6	1.7	0.9	0.7	4.6	5.0	105	107
Iraq	13.0	22.3	31.3	3.0	2.0	0.9	0.8	3.1	4.2	114	111
Ireland	3.4	3.7	4.1	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	11.4	13.5	134	125
Israel	3.9	6.0	7.6	2.4	1.4	0.7	0.6	9.3	10.7	133	129
Italy	56.4	57.6	54.4	0.1	-0.3	0.5	0.5	17.0	22.5	145	142
Jamaica	2.1	2.6	3.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.6	6.4	7.3	126	120
Japan	116.8	126.4	124.4	0.4	-0.1	0.5	0.5	16.0	24.7	139	130
Jordan	2.2	4.6	6.7	4.1	2.3	1.1	0.8	2.9	4.1	79	101
Kazakhstan	14.9	15.6	16.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	7.1	8.1	197	173
Kenya	16.6	29.3	39.1	3.1	1.7	1.1	0.9	2.8	2.1	117	107
Korea, Dem. Rep.	17.7	23.2	26.2	1.5	0.7	0.8	0.5	4.9	7.2	189	126
Korea, Rep.	38.1	46.4	51.1	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	6.3	10.8	162	138
Kuwait	1.4	1.9	2.9	1.7	2.5	0.7	0.6	1.9	4.8	85	97
Kyrgyz Republic	3.6	4.7	5.6	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.7	5.9	5.5	170	159
Lao PDR	3.2	5.0	7.2	2.4	2.2	0.8	0.9	3.6	3.3	113	131
Latvia	2.5	2.4	2.1	-0.2	-0.8	0.5	0.5	14.0	17.8	218	197
Lebanon	3.0	4.2	5.2	1.9	1.2	0.8	0.6	5.7	5.9	117	132
Lesotho	1.3	2.1	2.7	2.4	1.6	0.9	0.8	4.1	4.7	132	123
Libya	3.0	5.3	7.4	3.1	2.0	1.0	0.7	3.0	5.0	90	95
Lithuania	3.4	3.7	3.6	0.5	-0.1	0.5	0.5	12.8	15.7	194	195
Macedonia, FYR	1.9	2.0	2.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	9.5	12.7	121	131
Madagascar	8.9	14.6	22.9	2.8	2.7	0.9	0.9	3.0	3.5	124	117
Malawi	6.2	10.5	15.3	3.0	2.2	1.0	1.0	2.5	2.5	118	103
Malaysia	13.8	22.2	29.2	2.7	1.6	0.8	0.6	4.0	6.0	118	119
Mali	6.6	10.6	16.7	2.6	2.7	1.0	1.0	3.3	2.7	134	135
Mauritania	1.6	2.5	3.7	2.7	2.3	0.9	0.9	3.1	3.3	136	122
Mauritius	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	6.1	8.7	133	139
Mexico	67.6	95.8	120.8	1.9	1.4	1.0	0.6	4.4	6.0	126	134
Moldova	4.0	4.3	4.2	0.4	-0.2	0.5	0.5	9.6	10.6	167	163
Mongolia	1.7	2.6	3.3	2.4	1.5	0.9	0.7	3.9	4.4	128	116
Morocco	19.4	27.8	35.3	2.0	1.4	0.9	0.6	4.3	5.2	116	134
Mozambique	12.1	16.9	23.8	1.9	2.0	0.9	0.9	3.9	3.2	84	132
Myanmar	33.8	44.5	53.8	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.5	4.7	5.3	118	125
Namibia	1.0	1.7	2.2	2.7	1.7	0.9	0.8	3.7	3.3	120	109
Nepal	14.5	22.9	32.5	2.5	2.1	0.8	0.8	3.6	3.9	98	108
Netherlands	14.2	15.7	16.3	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.5	13.5	17.9	144	124
New Zealand	3.1	3.8	4.1	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.5	11.6	14.8	130	126
Nicaragua	2.9	4.8	6.9	2.8	2.2	1.0	0.9	3.0	3.5	126	126
Niger	5.6	10.1	17.0	3.3	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.1	130	130
Nigeria	71.1	120.8	184.7	2.9	2.5	1.0	0.9	2.5	2.8	135	126
Norway	4.1	4.4	4.7	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5	15.6	18.1	136	124
Oman	1.1	2.3	3.3	4.1	2.2	0.9	0.9	2.6	4.6	102	75
Pakistan	82.7	131.6	194.6	2.6	2.3	0.9	0.8	3.2	3.8	97	103
Panama	2.0	2.8	3.4	1.9	1.2	0.8	0.6	5.4	7.4	106	117
Papua New Guinea	3.1	4.6	6.2	2.2	1.8	0.8	0.7	3.1	3.9	105	113
Paraguay	3.1	5.2	7.3	2.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	3.4	4.1	140	122
Peru	17.3	24.8	31.8	2.0	1.5	0.8	0.6	4.5	5.6	120	125
Philippines	48.3	75.2	100.0	2.5	1.7	0.8	0.7	3.6	5.1	119	117
Poland	35.6	38.7	38.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	11.6	14.4	165	157
Portugal	9.8	10.0	9.8	0.1	-0.1	0.6	0.5	16.1	16.8	161	155
Puerto Rico	3.2	3.9	4.4	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	10.0	13.0	135	167
Romania	22.2	22.5	21.3	0.1	-0.3	0.6	0.5	12.5	14.5	138	149
Russian Federation	139.0	146.9	137.6	0.3	-0.4	0.5	0.5	12.2	13.4	223	190



2.1 Population

	Total population			Average annual population growth rate		Age dependency ratio		Population aged 65 and above		Women aged 65 and above	
	millions			%		dependents as proportion of working-age population		% of total		per 100 men	
	1980	1998	2015	1980-98	1998-2015	1980	1998	1998	2015	1998	2015
Rwanda	5.2	8.1	11.8	2.5	2.2	1.0	0.9	2.0	1.9	137	116
Saudi Arabia	9.4	20.7	33.7	4.4	2.9	0.9	0.8	2.8	4.4	97	71
Senegal	5.5	9.0	13.3	2.7	2.3	0.9	0.9	2.6	2.6	123	122
Sierra Leone	3.2	4.9	6.7	2.3	1.9	0.9	0.9	2.6	2.8	134	134
Singapore	2.3	3.2	3.7	1.8	1.0	0.5	0.4	6.6	11.4	122	114
Slovak Republic	5.0	5.4	5.5	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.5	11.1	13.4	159	158
Slovenia	1.9	2.0	1.9	0.2	-0.2	0.5	0.4	13.1	18.2	179	146
South Africa	27.6	41.4	49.4	2.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	4.8	4.7	164	124
Spain	37.4	39.4	38.1	0.3	-0.2	0.6	0.5	16.3	18.8	140	142
Sri Lanka	14.7	18.8	22.6	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.5	6.3	9.2	103	126
Sudan	18.7	28.3	40.6	2.3	2.1	0.9	0.7	3.1	3.4	119	118
Sweden	8.3	8.9	8.6	0.4	-0.1	0.6	0.6	17.2	22.0	135	124
Switzerland	6.3	7.1	7.0	0.7	-0.1	0.5	0.5	14.9	20.8	147	130
Syrian Arab Republic	8.7	15.3	21.8	3.1	2.1	1.1	0.8	3.0	3.5	111	128
Tajikistan	4.0	6.1	7.9	2.4	1.5	0.9	0.8	4.4	4.1	141	128
Tanzania	18.6	32.1	44.8	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.9	2.4	2.0	123	112
Thailand	46.7	61.2	71.0	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.5	5.3	7.9	130	130
Togo	2.6	4.5	6.3	3.0	2.0	0.9	1.0	3.0	2.5	124	120
Trinidad and Tobago	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	6.2	8.5	118	121
Tunisia	6.4	9.3	11.5	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.6	5.6	6.5	97	117
Turkey	44.5	63.5	77.9	2.0	1.2	0.8	0.5	5.5	6.9	119	122
Turkmenistan	2.9	4.7	6.0	2.8	1.5	0.8	0.7	4.2	4.3	157	142
Uganda	12.8	20.9	30.7	2.7	2.3	1.0	1.0	2.1	1.3	115	96
Ukraine	50.0	50.3	44.0	0.0	-0.8	0.5	0.5	13.9	14.9	205	184
United Arab Emirates	1.0	2.7	3.7	5.3	1.9	0.4	0.4	2.1	8.3	48	28
United Kingdom	56.3	59.1	59.2	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.5	15.8	18.9	138	125
United States	227.2	270.3	304.9	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.5	12.3	15.1	142	132
Uruguay	2.9	3.3	3.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	12.5	12.8	148	161
Uzbekistan	16.0	24.1	30.3	2.3	1.4	0.9	0.8	4.4	4.6	152	139
Venezuela, RB	15.1	23.2	30.2	2.4	1.5	0.8	0.6	4.3	6.3	122	123
Vietnam	53.7	76.5	94.4	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.7	4.9	4.9	142	146
West Bank and Gaza	..	2.7	5.0	..	3.5	..	1.0	3.5	2.8	126	140
Yemen, Rep.	8.5	16.6	26.6	3.7	2.8	1.1	1.1	3.0	2.4	91	105
Yugoslavia, FR (Serb./Mont.)	9.8	10.6	10.7	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	12.9	14.6	129	130
Zambia	5.7	9.7	13.0	2.9	1.7	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.9	97	94
Zimbabwe	7.0	11.7	14.1	2.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	2.8	2.3	117	108
World	4,430.2	5,896.6	7,112.9	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.6	6.8	7.9	128	122
Low income	2,526.6	3,536.4	4,436.2	1.9	1.3	0.8	0.6	5.0	5.9	109	108
Excl. China & India	840.4	1,295.0	1,797.1	2.4	1.9	0.9	0.8	3.4	3.7	116	118
Middle income	1,114.4	1,474.4	1,748.3	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	6.6	7.7	151	141
Lower middle income	677.4	886.5	1,039.8	1.5	0.9	0.7	0.6	7.0	7.6	158	144
Upper middle income	437.1	587.9	708.5	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.6	6.1	7.9	139	136
Low & middle income	3,641.0	5,010.8	6,184.5	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.6	5.5	6.4	122	118
East Asia & Pacific	1,397.8	1,817.1	2,098.6	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	6.1	8.0	110	109
Europe & Central Asia	425.8	474.6	482.8	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.5	10.6	11.7	181	165
Latin America & Carib.	360.3	501.7	623.3	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.6	5.2	6.6	129	136
Middle East & N. Africa	174.0	285.7	390.2	2.8	1.8	0.9	0.7	4.0	4.7	110	110
South Asia	902.6	1,304.6	1,676.2	2.0	1.5	0.8	0.7	4.4	5.2	104	106
Sub-Saharan Africa	380.5	627.1	913.5	2.8	2.2	0.9	0.9	2.9	2.7	126	120
High income	789.1	885.8	928.4	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5	14.1	18.0	143	131
Europe EMU	275.9	291.1	286.5	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.5	15.8	19.6	152	138



About the data

Knowing the size, growth rate, and age distribution of a country's population is important for evaluating the welfare of the country's citizens, assessing the productive capacity of its economy, and estimating the quantity of goods and services that will be needed to meet its future needs. Thus governments, businesses, and anyone interested in analyzing economic performance must have accurate population estimates.

Population estimates are usually based on national population censuses, but the frequency and quality of these vary by country. Most countries conduct a complete enumeration no more than once a decade. Pre-census and postcensus estimates are interpolations or extrapolations based on demographic models. Errors and undercounting occur even in high-income countries; in developing countries such errors may be substantial because of limits on the transport, communications, and other resources required to conduct a full census. Moreover, the international comparability of population indicators is limited by differences in the concepts, definitions, data collection procedures, and estimation methods used by national statistical agencies and other organizations that collect population data.

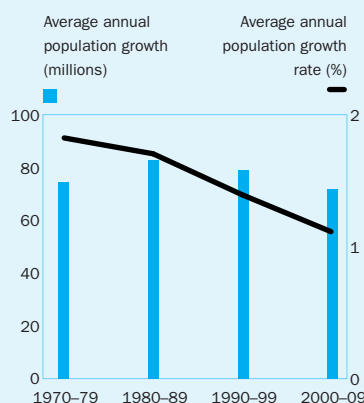
Of the 148 economies listed in the table, 125 (about 85 percent) conducted a census between 1989 and 1999. The currentness of a census, along with the availability of complementary data from surveys or registration systems, is one of many objective ways to judge the quality of demographic data. In some European countries registration systems offer complete information on population in the absence of a census. See *Primary data documentation* for the most recent census or survey year and for registration completeness.

Current population estimates for developing countries that lack recent census-based data, and pre- and post-census estimates for countries with census data, are provided by national statistical offices, the United Nations Population Division, or other agencies. The standard estimation method requires fertility, mortality, and net migration data, which are often collected from sample surveys, some of which may be small or limited in coverage. These estimates are the product of demographic modeling and so are also susceptible to biases and errors because of shortcomings of the model as well as the data. Population projections are made using the cohort component method (see box 2a in the introduction to this section).

The quality and reliability of official demographic data are also affected by the public trust in the government, the government's commitment to full and accurate enumeration, the confidentiality and protection against misuse accorded to census data, and the independence of census agencies from undue political influence.

Figure 2.1

The rate of population growth is slowing faster than absolute growth is



Source: World Bank staff estimates.

The global population growth rate has declined rapidly since the 1970s, but the number of people added each year started to decline—gradually—only in the early 1990s. In the first decade of the 21st century the world's population is projected to grow 1.1 percent a year, adding 70 million people annually.

Definitions

- **Total population** of an economy includes all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship—except for refugees not permanently settled in the country of asylum, who are generally considered part of the population of their country of origin. The indicators shown are midyear estimates for 1980 and 1998 and projections for 2015.
- **Average annual population growth rate** is the exponential change for the period indicated. See *Statistical methods* for more information.
- **Age dependency ratio** is the ratio of dependents—people younger than 15 and older than 64—to the working-age population—those aged 15–64.
- **Population aged 65 and above** is the percentage of the total population that is 65 or older.
- **Women aged 65 and above** is the ratio of women to men in that age group.

Data sources

The World Bank's population estimates are produced by its Human Development Network and Development Data Group in consultation with its operational staff and resident missions. Important inputs to the World Bank's demographic work come from the following sources: census reports and other statistical publications from country statistical offices; demographic and health surveys conducted by national agencies, Macro International, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; United Nations Statistics Division, *Population and Vital Statistics Report* (quarterly); United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision*; Eurostat, *Demographic Statistics* (various years); South Pacific Commission, *Pacific Island Populations Data Sheet 1999*; Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía, *Boletín Demográfico* (various years); and U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Database.