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The Population of China in Perspective

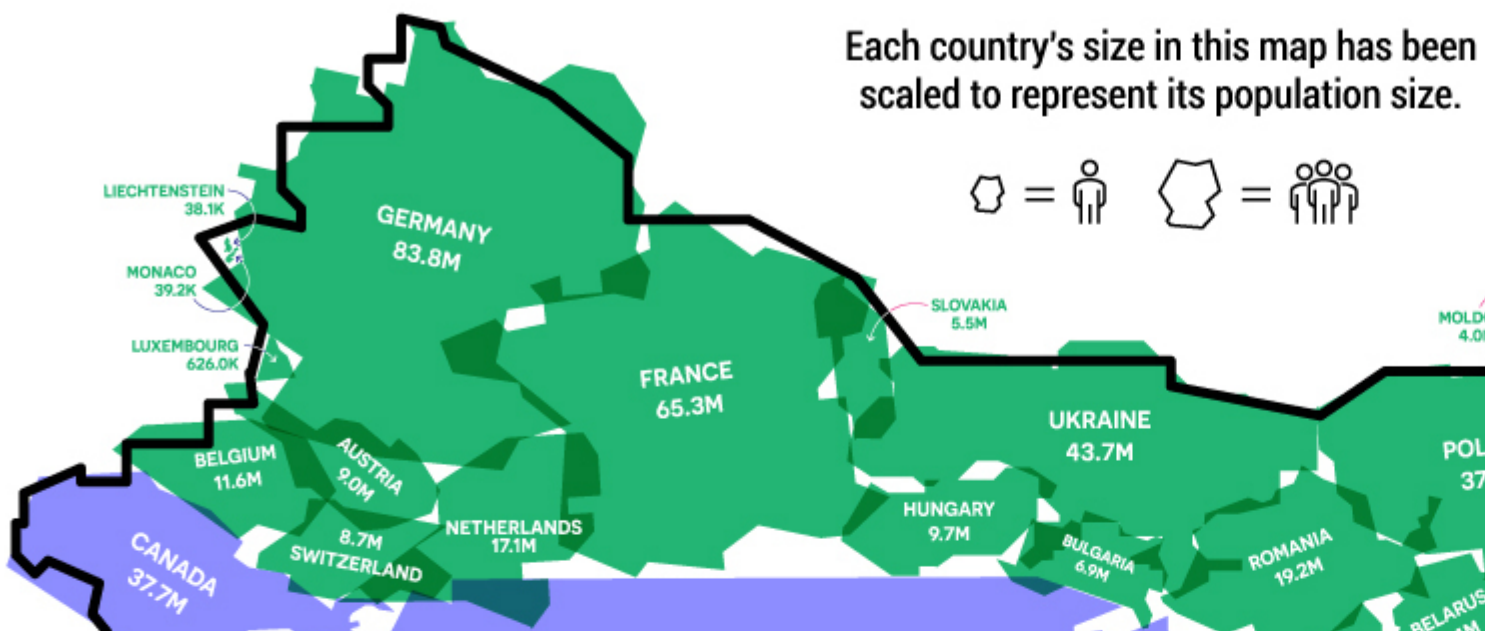


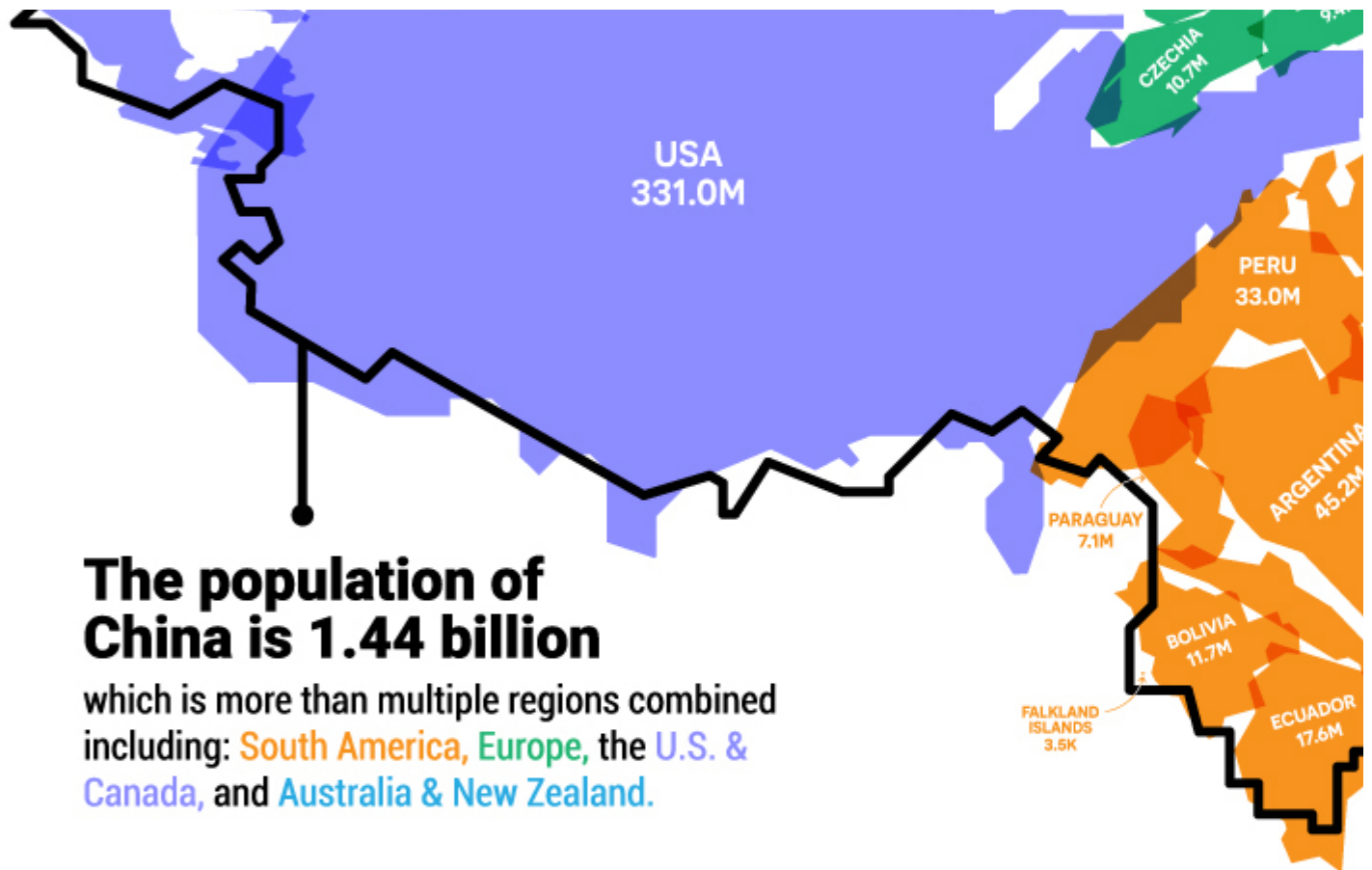
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By **Avery Koop**

THE POPULATION OF CHINA IN PERSPECTIVE

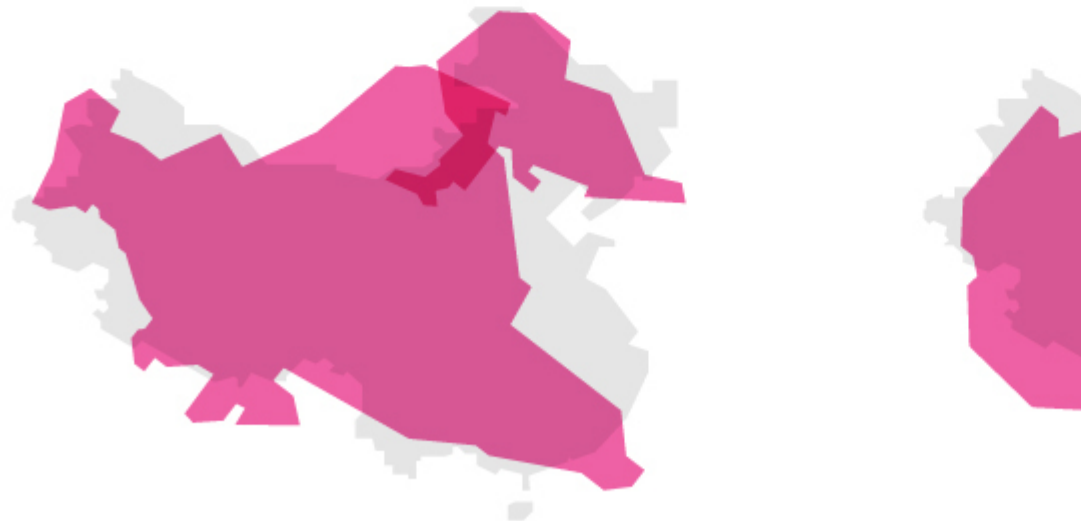
Each country's size in this map has been scaled to represent its population size.





The population of China is 1.44 billion

which is more than multiple regions combined including: South America, Europe, the U.S. & Canada, and Australia & New Zealand.



India
1.38B

To keep the visualization e

▼ Use This Visualization

The Population of China in Perspective

China is the world’s most populous country with an astounding **1.44 billion** citizens. Altogether, the size of the population of China is larger than nearly four regions combined: South America, Europe (excluding Russia), the U.S. & Canada, and Australia & New Zealand.

Using data from the United Nations, this unconventional map reveals the comparative size of China’s population next to a multitude of other countries.

Note: To keep the visualization easy to read, we’ve simplified the shapes representing countries. For example, as we’ve included Alaska and Hawaii in U.S. population totals, the U.S. is represented by the contiguous states map.

A Historical Perspective

Looking at history, the population of China has more than doubled since the 1950s. The country was the first in the world to hit one billion people in 1980.

However, in 1979, in an attempt to control the burgeoning population, the infamous one-child policy was introduced, putting controls on how many children Chinese citizens could have.

While the government eventually recognized the negative implications of this policy, it appeared to be too little, too late. The two-child policy was introduced in 2016, but it has not yet reversed the current slowdown in population growth.

Year	China's Population (Millions)	Annual Rate of Growth (%)	Median Age	Fertility Rate
1955	612.2	2.00%	22.2	6.11
1960	660.4	1.53%	21.3	5.48
1965	724.2	1.86%	19.8	6.15
1970	827.6	2.70%	19.3	6.30
1975	926.2	2.28%	20.3	4.85

Year	China's Population (Millions)	Annual Rate of Growth (%)	Median Age	Fertility Rate
1980	1,000.1	1.55%	21.9	3.01
1985	1,075.6	1.47%	23.5	2.52
1990	1,176.9	1.82%	24.9	2.73
1995	1,240.9	1.07%	27.4	1.83
2000	1,290.6	0.79%	30.0	1.62

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The fertility rate has been consistently falling from over 6 births per woman in 1955 to 1.6 in 2020. Today, the median age in China is 38 years old, rising from 22 in 1955. Longer life spans and fewer births form a demographic trend that has many social and economic implications.






Overall, China’s young population is becoming scarcer, meaning that the domestic labor force will eventually begin shrinking. Additionally, the larger share of elderly citizens will require publicly-funded resources, resulting in a heavier societal and financial burden.

Strength in Numbers

Despite these trends, however, China’s current population remains massive, constituting 20% of the world’s total population. Right now 71% of the Chinese population is between the ages of 15 and 65 years old, meaning that the labor supply is still immense.

Here are the populations of 65 countries from various regions of the world—and added to the list you’ll see they still fall short of the population of China:

Search:

Country	Population	Region
 Hungary	9,660,351	Europe
 Belarus	9,449,323	Europe
 Bulgaria	6,948,445	Europe
 Slovakia	5,459,642	Europe
 Moldova	4,033,963	Europe
Total	1,431,528,252	

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To break it down even further, here’s a look at the population of each of the regions listed

- Australia and New Zealand: 30.3 million
- Europe (excluding Russia): 601.7 million
- South America: 430.8 million
- The U.S. and Canada: 368.7 million

Combined their population is **1.432 billion** compared to China’s 1.439 billion.

Overall, the population of China has few comparables. India is one exception, with a pop of 1.38 billion. As a continent, Africa comes in close as well at 1.34 billion people. Here’s a breakdown of Africa’s population for further comparison.

Search:

Country	Population
 Nigeria	206,139,589
 Ghana	31,072,940
 Côte d'Ivoire	26,378,274
 Niger	24,206,644
 Burkina Faso	20,903,273
 Mali	20,250,833
 Senegal	16,743,927
 Guinea	13,132,795
 Benin	12,123,200
 Togo	8,278,724
Total	1,340,598,147

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Future Outlook on the Population of China

Whether or not China’s population growth is slowing appears to be less relevant when looking at its sheer size. While India is expected to match the country’s population by 2026, China will remain one of the world’s largest economic powerhouses regardless.

It is estimated, however, that the population of China will drop below one billion people year 2100—bumping the nation to third place in the ranking of the world’s most populous countries. At the same time, it’s possible that China’s economic dominance may be challenged by these same demographic tailwinds as time moves forward.

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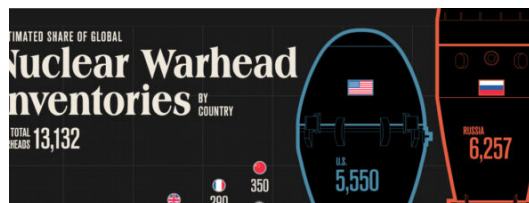
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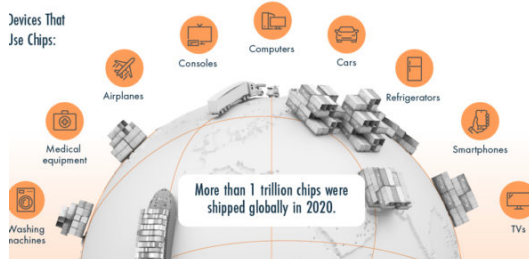
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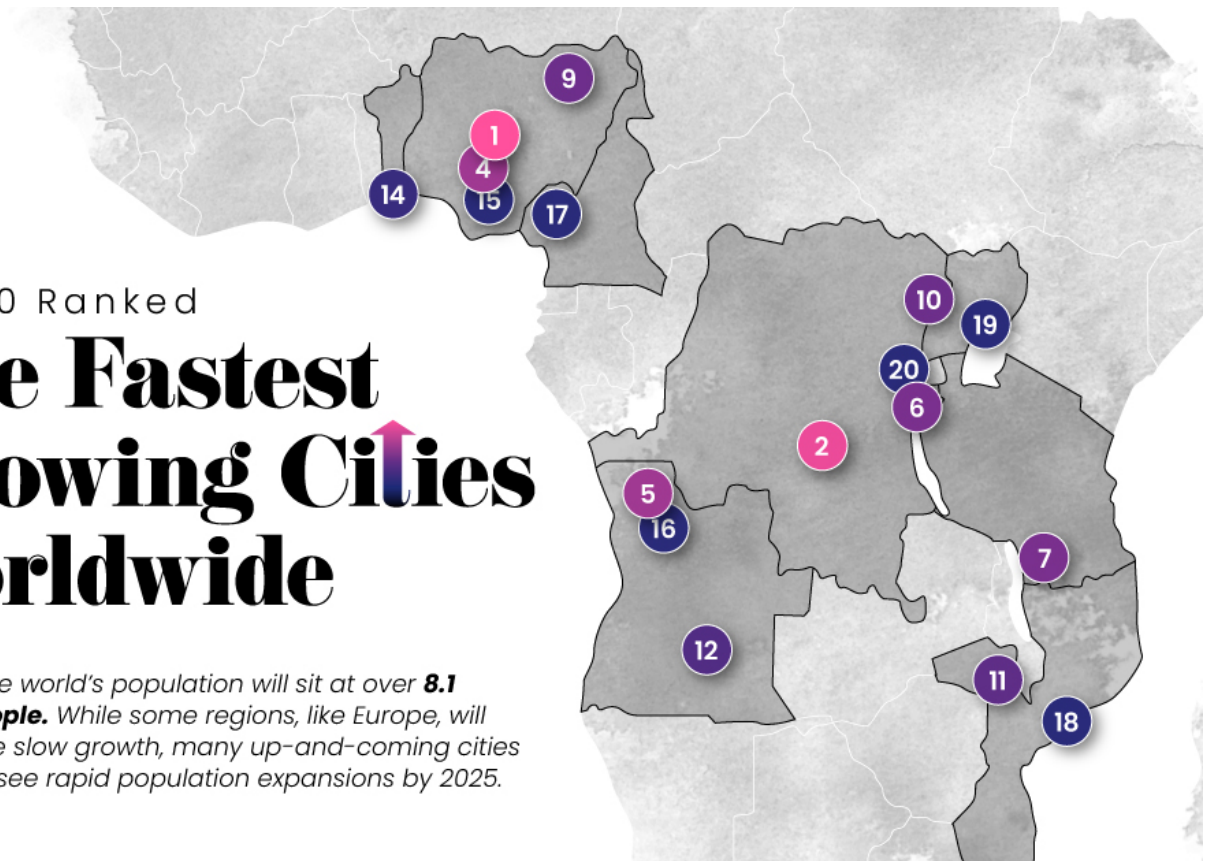
By **Avery Koop**



Top 20 Ranked

The Fastest Growing Cities Worldwide

By 2025 the world's population will sit at over **8.1 billion people**. While some regions, like Europe, will experience slow growth, many up-and-coming cities are set to see rapid population expansions by 2025.



Ranked: The World's Fastest Growing Cities

By 2025, the world's population will reach over **8.1 billion** people.

Most of that population growth will be concentrated in cities across Africa and Asia. To help paint a detailed picture, this map uses data from the United Nations to rank the 20 fastest growing cities in the world in terms of average annual growth rate from 2020 to 2025.

Full Speed Ahead

The majority of the world's fastest growing cities are located in Africa—in fact, 17 of the 20 are located on the continent, with four of the 20 cities labeled based in Nigeria.

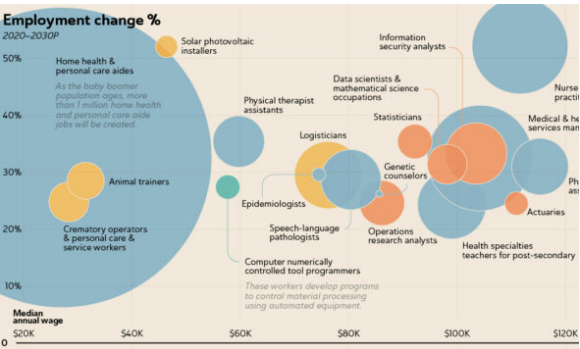
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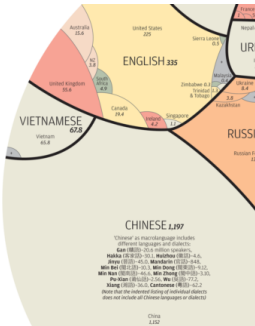
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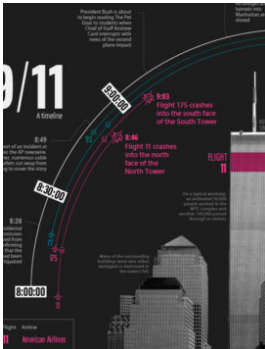
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






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