

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [America Is Uniquely Ill-Suited To Handle a Falling Population](#)

Article Link: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2024/04/18/america-is-uniquely-ill-suited-to-handle-a-falling-population>

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Tweet: Between 2010 and 2020 over half of US counties, representing 25% of the population, saw their populations decline. Rural America's population decline is set to accelerate this decade as the birth rate declines and immigrants flow to major cities.

Summary: Between 2010 and 2020 the number of people in the country grew by around 7.4%. That was the slowest decade of growth since the Great Depression (when the population grew by 7.3%). In the 1990s the growth rate was 13%. The main culprit is falling birth rates. The total fertility rate—a measure of how many children a typical woman will have in her lifetime—was steady or rising for 30 years from the mid-1970s. In 2008, however, it fell below 2.1, the level needed to keep the population stable, and has since declined to 1.67. Death spirals [of declining population leading to declining tax revenues and public services] tend to be worse in America because of the remarkable level to which the government is decentralised. Local and regional authorities levy 48% of all tax collected in America, compared with just 20% in France and 6% in Britain. And even America's federal spending typically comes in the form of grants linked to population levels. So when local tax revenues shrink, services must be cut or taxes must rise. Related: Economic Prosperity is Shifting Toward the Mountain West and Southeast and Without Immigrants, US Working-Age Population Would Shrink and Immigration and the U.S. Economy Since the Pandemic: An Accounting Exercise

Primary Topic: Demographics

Topics: Database, Demographics, Immigration, News article, Politics, Weekly, Workforce

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