

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The Global Fertility Crisis Is Worse Than You Think](#)

Article Link: <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-global-fertility-crisis-is-worse-than-you-think/>

Author(s)	Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde
Publication	The Spectator
Publication Date	August 23, 2024

Tweet: Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde estimates UN projections overstate the fertility rate which he puts at 2.18 and argues "Creating the conditions for large families to flourish is the only way to reverse the trend in fertility rates." @AElecon

Summary: By adjusting the UN's figures to account for the lower births in many countries, I estimate the global fertility rate last year was 2.18, i.e. below the 2.21 replacement threshold. It could be even lower than that, as it's likely that the birth rate in many African countries saw a larger fall than the UN estimated. This doesn't mean the global population is already falling. 'Demographic momentum' means that women born in the 1990s and 2000s are currently having children, while their parents' generations haven't yet died. Longevity, meanwhile, is increasing. So although global births are falling, they still exceed deaths. At present rates the human population will peak in around 30 years. Then start plummeting. Creating the conditions for large families to flourish is the only way to reverse the trend in fertility rates. If we fail to do so, then the coming demographic winter will be far harsher than anyone cares to admit.

Related Articles: The Wealth of Working Nations and East Asia's Coming Population Collapse and Exploring the Implications of Sub-Saharan Africa's Demographic Explosion

Primary Topic: Demographics

Topics: Demographics, Family/Marriage, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Weekly, Workforce

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/jesus-fernandez-villaverde-estimate-s-un-projections-overstate-the-fertility-rate-which-he-puts-at-2-18-and-argues-creating-the-conditions-for-large-families-to-flourish-is-the-only-way-to-reverse-th?view=detail>

Featured Image Link: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/22828-the-global-fertility-crisis-is-worse-than-you-think-featured-thumbnail-image.png>