

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [East Asia's Coming Population Collapse](#)

Article Link: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/east-asias-coming-population-collapse#:~:text=According%20to%20projections%20from%20the,respectively%2C%20between%202020%20and%202050.>

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Tweet: Nicholas Eberstadt @AEIecon notes East Asia is depopulating; over the next 26 years Japan's population is projected to fall by 18%, China's by 8%, South Korea's by 12% and Taiwan's by 8%. The US population is projected to grow by 12%.

Summary: According to projections from the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic Social Affairs, China's and Japan's populations are set to fall by 8% and 18%, respectively, between 2020 and 2050. South Korea's population is poised to shrink by 12%. And Taiwan's will go down by an estimated 8%. The U.S. population, by contrast, is on track to increase by 12%. The region's "potential support ratios"—that is, the number of people who are between 20 and 64 relative to those who are 65 and older—are expected to plunge in the years ahead. In 2020, that ratio was 5.1 to 1 for China, 4.4 to 1 for Taiwan, 4.2 to 1 for South Korea, and 1.8 to 1 for Japan. In 2050, it will be 1.8 to 1 for China, 1.4 to 1 for Taiwan, and an almost unfathomable 1.2 to 1 in Japan and South Korea—meaning that, in Japan and South Korea, there will be almost as many people over 65 as between 20 and 64. This transformation will likely depress individual productivity, savings, and investments, as workers and their parents devote ever more time and money to elder care.

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Primary Topic: Demographics

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

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