



# Demographics of the world

Earth has a human population of over 8 billion as of 2024, with an overall population density of 50 people per km<sup>2</sup> (130 per sq. mile). Nearly 60% of the world's population lives in Asia, with more than 2.8 billion in the countries of India and China combined. The percentage shares of China, India and rest of South Asia of the world population have remained at similar levels for the last few thousand years of recorded history.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The world's literacy rate has increased dramatically in the last 40 years, from 66.7% in 1979 to 86.3% today.<sup>[3]</sup> Lower literacy levels are mostly attributable to poverty. Lower literacy rates are found mostly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>[4]</sup>

The world's population is predominantly urban and suburban,<sup>[5]</sup> and there has been significant migration toward cities and urban centres. The urban population jumped from 29% in 1950 to 55.3% in 2018.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Interpolating from the United Nations prediction that the world will be 51.3 percent urban by 2010, Ron Wimberley, Libby Morris and Gregory Fulkerson estimated 23 May 2007 would have been the first time the urban population was more populous than the rural population in history.<sup>[8]</sup> India and China are the most populous countries,<sup>[9]</sup> as the birth rate has consistently dropped in wealthy countries and until recently remained high in poorer countries. Tokyo is the largest urban agglomeration in the world.<sup>[7]</sup>

As of 2024, the total fertility rate of the world is estimated at 2.25 children per woman,<sup>[10]</sup> which is slightly below the global average for the replacement fertility rate of approximately 2.33 (as of 2003).<sup>[11]</sup> However, world population growth is unevenly distributed, with the total fertility rate ranging from the world's lowest of 0.8 in South Korea,<sup>[12]</sup> to the highest of 6.7 in Niger.<sup>[13]</sup> The United Nations estimated an annual population increase of 1.14% for the year of 2000.<sup>[14]</sup> The current world population growth is approximately 1.09%.<sup>[7]</sup> People under 15 years of age made up over a quarter of the world population (25.18%), and people age 65 and over made up nearly ten percent (9.69%) in 2021.<sup>[7]</sup>

The world population more than tripled during the 20th century from about 1.65 billion in 1900 to 5.97 billion in 1999.<sup>[15][16][17]</sup> It reached the 2 billion mark in 1927, the 3 billion mark in 1960, 4 billion in 1974, and 5 billion in 1987.<sup>[18]</sup> The overall population of the world is approximately 8 billion as of November 2022. Currently, population growth is fastest among low wealth, least developed countries.<sup>[19]</sup> The UN projects a world population of 9.15 billion in 2050, a 32.7% increase from 6.89 billion in 2010.<sup>[15]</sup>

## History

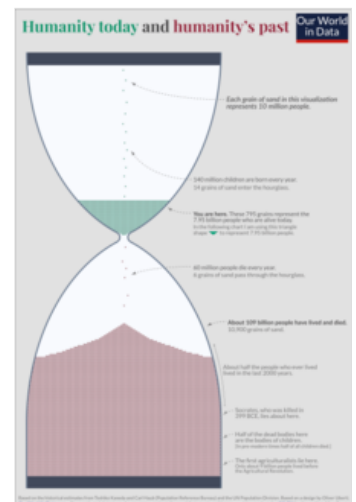
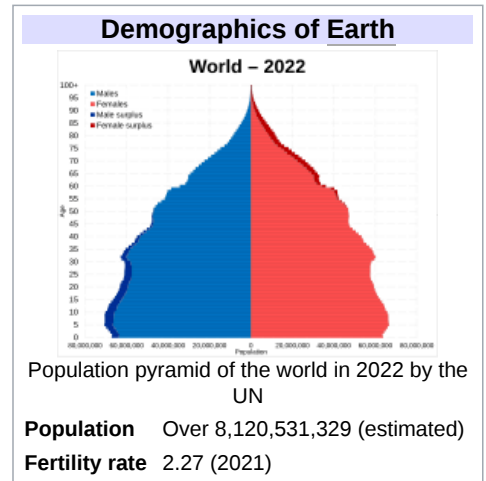
Historical migration of human populations begins with the movement of *Homo erectus* out of Africa across Eurasia about a million years ago. *Homo sapiens* appear to have occupied all of Africa about 300,000 years ago, moved out of Africa 50,000 – 60,000 years ago, and had spread across Australia, Asia and Europe by 30,000 years BC. Migration to the Americas took place 20,000 to 15,000 years ago, and by 2,000 years ago, most of the Pacific Islands were colonized.

Until c. 10,000 years ago, humans lived as hunter-gatherers. They generally lived in small nomadic groups known as band societies. The advent of agriculture prompted the Neolithic Revolution, when access to food surplus led to the formation of permanent human settlements. About 6,000 years ago, the first proto-states developed in Mesopotamia, Egypt's Nile Valley and the Indus Valley. Early human settlements were dependent on proximity to water and, depending on the lifestyle, other natural resources used for subsistence. But humans have a great capacity for altering their habitats by means of technology.

Since 1800, the human population has increased from one billion<sup>[20]</sup> to over eight billion.<sup>[21]</sup> In 2004, some 2.5 billion out of 6.3 billion people (39.7%) lived in urban areas. In February 2008, the U.N. estimated that half the world's population would live in urban areas by the end of the year.<sup>[22]</sup> Problems for humans living in cities include various forms of pollution and crime,<sup>[23]</sup> especially in inner city and suburban slums. Both overall population numbers and the proportion residing in cities are expected to increase significantly in the coming decades.<sup>[24]</sup>

## World Population, AD 1–1998 (in thousands)

Source: Maddison and others. (University of Groningen).<sup>[25]</sup>



Comparison of humans living today with all previous generations

Year	1	1000	1500	1600	1700	1820	1870	1913	1950	1973	1998
Western Europe	24 700	25 413	57 268	73 778	81 460	132 888	187 532	261 007	305 060	358 390	388 399
Eastern Europe (excluding USSR countries)	4 750	6 500	13 500	16 950	18 800	36 415	52 182	79 604	87 289	110 490	121 006
Former USSR	3 900	7 100	16 950	20 700	26 550	54 765	88 765	156 192	180 050	249 748	290 866
<b>Total Europe (including USSR countries)</b>	<b>33 350</b>	<b>39 013</b>	<b>87 718</b>	<b>111 428</b>	<b>126 810</b>	<b>224 068</b>	<b>328 386</b>	<b>496 803</b>	<b>572 399</b>	<b>718 628</b>	<b>800 271</b>
United States <sup>[26]</sup>	680	1 300	2 000	1 500	1 000	9 981	40 241	97 606	152 271	212 909	279 040
Other Western Offshoots	490	660	800	800	750	1 249	5 892	13 795	23 823	39 036	52 859
<b>Total Western Offshoots</b>	<b>1 170</b>	<b>1 960</b>	<b>2 800</b>	<b>2 300</b>	<b>1 750</b>	<b>11 230</b>	<b>46 133</b>	<b>111 401</b>	<b>176 094</b>	<b>250 945</b>	<b>323 420</b>
Mexico	2 200	4 500	7 500	2 500	4 500	6 587	9 219	14 970	28 485	57 643	98 553
Other Latin America	3 400	6 900	10 000	6 100	7 550	14 633	30 754	65 545	137 352	250 807	409 070
<b>Total Latin America</b>	<b>5 600</b>	<b>11 400</b>	<b>17 500</b>	<b>8 600</b>	<b>12 050</b>	<b>21 220</b>	<b>39 973</b>	<b>80 515</b>	<b>165 837</b>	<b>308 450</b>	<b>507 623</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>7 500</b>	<b>15 400</b>	<b>18 500</b>	<b>27 000</b>	<b>31 000</b>	<b>34 437</b>	<b>51 672</b>	<b>83 563</b>	<b>108 660</b>	<b>126 469</b>
China	59 600	59 000	103 000	160 000	138 000	381 000	358 000	437 140	546 815	881 940	1 242 700
India	75 000	77 000	113 000	145 000	201 000	209 000	239 000	319 000	362 000	549 000	1 029 000
Other Asia	36 600	41 400	55 400	65 000	71 800	89 366	119 619	185 092	392 481	677 214	1 172 243
<b>Total Asia (excluding Japan)</b>	<b>171 200</b>	<b>175 400</b>	<b>268 400</b>	<b>360 000</b>	<b>374 800</b>	<b>679 366</b>	<b>730 619</b>	<b>925 932</b>	<b>1 298 296</b>	<b>2 139 154</b>	<b>3 389 943</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>16 500</b>	<b>33 000</b>	<b>46 000</b>	<b>55 000</b>	<b>61 000</b>	<b>74 208</b>	<b>90 466</b>	<b>124 697</b>	<b>228 342</b>	<b>387 645</b>	<b>759 954</b>
<b>World (thousands)</b>	<b>230,820</b>	<b>268,273</b>	<b>437,818</b>	<b>555,828</b>	<b>603,410</b>	<b>1,041,092</b>	<b>1,270,014</b>	<b>1,791,020</b>	<b>2,524,531</b>	<b>3,913,482</b>	<b>5,907,680</b>

## Shares of world population, AD 1–1998 (% of world total)

Source: Maddison and others. (University of Groningen).<sup>[25]</sup>

Year	1	1000	1500	1600	1700	1820	1870	1913	1950	1973	1998
Western Europe	10.7	9.5	13.1	13.3	13.5	12.8	14.8	14.6	12.1	9.2	6.6
Eastern Europe (excluding USSR countries)	2.1	2.4	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.4	3.5	2.8	2.0
Former USSR	1.7	2.6	3.9	3.7	4.4	5.3	7.0	8.7	7.1	6.4	4.9
<b>Total Europe (including USSR countries)</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>13.5</b>
United States	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.0	3.2	5.4	6.0	5.4	4.6
Other Western Offshoots	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9
<b>Total Western Offshoots</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Mexico	1.0	1.7	1.7	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.7
Other Latin America	1.5	2.6	2.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.4	3.7	5.4	6.4	6.9
<b>Total Latin America</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>
China	25.8	22.0	23.5	28.8	22.9	36.6	28.2	24.4	21.7	22.5	21.0
India	32.5	28.0	25.1	24.3	27.3	20.1	19.9	17.0	14.2	14.8	16.5
Other Asia	15.9	15.4	12.7	11.7	11.9	8.6	9.4	10.3	15.5	17.3	19.8
<b>Total Asia (excluding Japan)</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>57.4</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>12.9</b>
<b>World</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Historical vital statistics

The following estimates of global trends in various demographic indicators from 1950 to 2021 are from UN DESA's *World Population Prospects 2022*. In July 2022, UN DESA published its 2022 World Population Prospects, a biennially-updated database where key demographic indicators are estimated and projected worldwide and on the country and regional level.<sup>[27]</sup>

Year	World population (in thousands)	Population density per km <sup>2</sup>	Live births (in thousands)	Deaths (in thousands)	Growth (in thousands)	Population growth (in %)	Crude birth rate (per 1000)	Crude death rate (per 1000)	Total fertility rate (TFR)	Infant mortality (per 1000 births)	Life expectancy (in years)
1950	2 499 322	19.2	92 083	48 789	43 294	1.73	36.8	19.5	4.86	143.4	46.5
1951	2 543 130	19.5	92 837	48 515	44 322	1.74	36.5	19.1	4.83	141.3	47.1
1952	2 590 271	19.9	97 607	47 647	49 960	1.93	37.7	18.4	5.01	137.3	48.2
1953	2 640 279	20.2	97 556	47 499	50 057	1.90	36.9	18.0	4.94	134.5	48.8
1954	2 691 979	20.6	100 348	47 003	53 345	1.98	37.3	17.5	5.01	131.7	49.6
1955	2 746 072	21.1	101 807	46 966	54 841	2.00	37.1	17.1	5.01	128.8	50.1
1956	2 801 003	21.5	101 827	46 807	55 020	1.96	36.4	16.7	4.94	125.8	50.6
1957	2 857 867	21.9	105 978	47 269	58 709	2.05	37.1	16.5	5.08	123.7	50.9
1958	2 916 108	22.4	104 557	46 783	57 774	1.98	35.9	16.0	4.94	121.1	51.5
1959	2 970 292	22.8	101 922	51 327	50 595	1.70	34.3	17.3	4.74	129.6	49.3
1960	3 019 233	23.2	102 262	54 974	47 288	1.57	33.9	18.2	4.70	135.1	47.7
1961	3 068 371	23.5	100 990	50 003	50 987	1.66	32.9	16.3	4.57	124.2	50.4
1962	3 126 687	24.0	112 053	46 406	65 647	2.10	35.8	14.8	5.03	112.9	53.1
1963	3 195 779	24.5	119 819	47 280	72 539	2.27	37.5	14.8	5.32	110.1	53.6
1964	3 267 212	25.1	117 393	47 065	70 328	2.15	35.9	14.4	5.13	108.2	54.2
1965	3 337 112	25.6	117 932	48 460	69 472	2.08	35.3	14.5	5.08	108.4	53.9
1966	3 406 417	26.1	117 182	48 044	69 138	2.03	34.4	14.1	4.96	106.8	54.5
1967	3 475 448	26.7	116 840	47 915	68 925	1.98	33.6	13.8	4.86	105.0	54.9
1968	3 546 811	27.2	121 750	47 948	73 802	2.08	34.3	13.5	4.96	101.9	55.5
1969	3 620 655	27.8	122 123	48 235	73 888	2.04	33.7	13.3	4.87	100.2	55.8
1970	3 695 390	28.3	124 117	48 534	75 583	2.05	33.6	13.1	4.83	98.5	56.1
1971	3 770 163	28.9	123 647	49 684	73 963	1.96	32.8	13.2	4.68	97.7	55.9
1972	3 844 801	29.5	123 275	47 962	75 313	1.96	32.1	12.5	4.55	95.0	57.1
1973	3 920 252	30.1	123 269	47 680	75 589	1.93	31.4	12.2	4.42	93.4	57.6
1974	3 995 517	30.6	122 437	47 494	74 943	1.88	30.6	11.9	4.27	92.0	58.0
1975	4 069 437	31.2	120 491	47 593	72 898	1.79	29.6	11.7	4.08	90.7	58.3
1976	4 142 506	31.8	120 648	47 408	73 240	1.77	29.1	11.4	3.98	88.7	58.7
1977	4 215 772	32.3	120 040	46 746	73 294	1.74	28.5	11.1	3.85	86.9	59.4
1978	4 289 658	32.9	121 337	46 860	74 477	1.74	28.3	10.9	3.79	84.9	59.7
1979	4 365 583	33.5	124 288	46 914	77 294	1.77	28.5	10.7	3.78	82.6	60.2
1980	4 444 008	34.1	126 793	47 317	79 476	1.79	28.5	10.6	3.75	80.4	60.6
1981	4 524 628	34.7	129 153	47 388	81 765	1.81	28.5	10.5	3.72	78.3	61.0
1982	4 607 985	35.3	132 513	47 562	84 951	1.84	28.8	10.3	3.71	76.1	61.4
1983	4 691 884	36.0	130 983	48 134	82 849	1.77	27.9	10.3	3.58	75.7	61.6
1984	4 775 836	36.6	133 397	48 341	85 056	1.78	27.9	10.1	3.55	74.1	61.9
1985	4 861 731	37.3	135 420	48 685	86 735	1.78	27.9	10.0	3.52	72.4	62.2
1986	4 950 063	38.0	138 420	48 487	89 933	1.82	28.0	9.8	3.51	70.4	62.8
1987	5 040 984	38.7	140 545	48 634	91 911	1.82	27.9	9.6	3.48	68.3	63.2
1988	5 132 294	39.4	139 993	49 284	90 709	1.77	27.3	9.6	3.39	67.8	63.3
1989	5 223 704	40.1	141 177	49 064	92 113	1.76	27.0	9.4	3.35	65.9	63.8
1990	5 316 176	40.8	142 451	49 620	92 831	1.75	26.8	9.3	3.31	64.6	64.0
1991	5 406 246	41.5	137 392	50 082	87 310	1.62	25.4	9.3	3.13	64.6	64.1
1992	5 492 686	42.1	135 754	50 182	85 572	1.56	24.7	9.1	3.04	63.8	64.3
1993	5 577 434	42.8	134 693	50 769	83 924	1.51	24.2	9.1	2.98	62.6	64.4
1994	5 660 728	43.4	134 185	51 519	82 666	1.46	23.7	9.1	2.93	61.6	64.5
1995	5 743 219	44.0	133 673	51 355	82 318	1.43	23.3	8.9	2.88	60.6	64.9

1996	5 825 145	44.7	133 053	51 519	81 534	1.40	22.8	8.8	2.83	59.4	65.1
1997	5 906 481	45.3	132 598	51 459	81 139	1.37	22.5	8.7	2.79	58.1	65.5
1998	5 987 312	45.9	132 287	51 762	80 525	1.35	22.1	8.6	2.76	57.0	65.7
1999	6 067 758	46.5	132 364	51 997	80 367	1.33	21.8	8.6	2.73	55.1	66.1
2000	6 148 899	47.2	134 014	52 100	81 914	1.33	21.8	8.5	2.73	53.3	66.5
2001	6 230 747	47.8	133 878	52 095	81 783	1.31	21.5	8.4	2.70	51.8	66.8
2002	6 312 407	48.4	134 020	52 481	81 539	1.29	21.2	8.3	2.67	50.1	67.1
2003	6 393 898	49.0	134 302	52 858	81 444	1.27	21.0	8.3	2.65	48.3	67.5
2004	6 475 751	49.7	135 228	52 965	82 263	1.27	20.9	8.2	2.64	46.6	67.8
2005	6 558 176	50.3	135 800	53 213	82 587	1.26	20.7	8.1	2.62	44.9	68.2
2006	6 641 416	50.9	136 910	53 016	83 894	1.26	20.6	8.0	2.61	43.1	68.7
2007	6 725 949	51.6	138 563	53 392	85 171	1.27	20.6	7.9	2.61	41.4	69.1
2008	6 811 597	52.2	140 164	54 038	86 126	1.26	20.6	7.9	2.61	39.9	69.3
2009	6 898 306	52.9	141 201	53 910	87 291	1.27	20.5	7.8	2.61	38.4	69.8
2010	6 985 603	53.6	141 633	54 329	87 304	1.25	20.3	7.8	2.59	37.1	70.1
2011	7 073 125	54.2	142 135	54 394	87 741	1.24	20.1	7.7	2.57	35.8	70.5
2012	7 161 698	54.9	144 194	54 790	89 404	1.25	20.1	7.7	2.59	34.4	70.9
2013	7 250 593	55.6	143 422	55 034	88 388	1.22	19.8	7.6	2.56	33.5	71.2
2014	7 339 013	56.3	143 671	55 218	88 453	1.21	19.6	7.5	2.55	32.3	71.6
2015	7 426 598	57.0	142 608	55 893	86 715	1.17	19.2	7.5	2.52	31.5	71.8
2016	7 513 474	57.6	143 239	56 201	87 038	1.16	19.1	7.5	2.53	30.5	72.1
2017	7 599 822	58.3	142 624	56 966	85 658	1.13	18.8	7.5	2.50	29.6	72.3
2018	7 683 790	58.9	139 629	57 352	82 277	1.07	18.2	7.5	2.44	29.2	72.6
2019	7 764 951	59.5	137 984	57 939	80 045	1.03	17.8	7.5	2.41	28.7	72.8
2020	7 840 953	60.1	135 133	63 174	71 959	0.92	17.2	8.1	2.35	28.3	72.0
2021	7 909 295	60.7	133 975	69 248	64 727	0.82	16.9	8.8	2.32	27.9	71.0

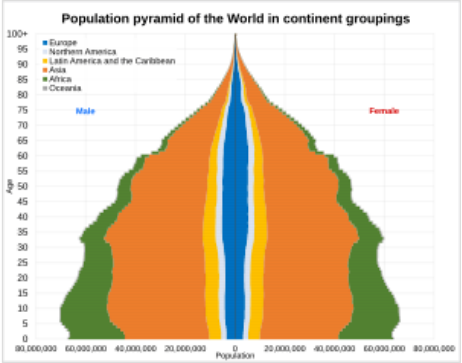
Notable events in World demography:

- 1958–1961– Great Chinese Famine
- 1989 - Fall of the Berlin Wall, Revolutions of 1989
- 2020–2022– COVID-19

## Current world population and latest projection

Current world population and latest projection according the [UN](#). Population in (millions) and percent of the global population in that year.<sup>[28]</sup>

Region	2022 (percent)	2030 (percent)	2050 (percent)
Sub-Saharan Africa	<b>1,152</b> (14.51%)	<b>1,401</b> (16.46%)	<b>2,094</b> (21.62%)
Northern Africa and Western Asia	<b>549</b> (6.91%)	<b>617</b> (7.25%)	<b>771</b> (7.96%)
Southern and Central Asia	<b>2,065</b> (26.13%)	<b>2,248</b> (26.41%)	<b>2,575</b> (26.58%)
Eastern Asia <sup>[29]</sup>	<b>1,642</b> (20.71%)	<b>1,647</b> (19.32%)	<b>1,522</b> (15.71%)
Southeastern Asia <sup>[29]</sup>	<b>675</b> (8.49%)	<b>721</b> (8.47%)	<b>771</b> (7.95%)
Europe and North America	<b>1120</b> (14.10%)	<b>1129</b> (13.26%)	<b>1125</b> (11.61%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>658</b> (8.29%)	<b>695</b> (8.17%)	<b>749</b> (7.73%)
Australia/New Zealand	<b>31</b> (0.39%)	<b>34</b> (0.40%)	<b>38</b> (0.39%)
Other Oceania	<b>14</b> (0.18%)	<b>15</b> (0.18%)	<b>20</b> (0.21%)
World	<b>7,942</b>	<b>8,512</b>	<b>9,687</b>



Population pyramid of the world in continental groupings in 2023














## Major cities

The world has hundreds of major cities, mostly in coastal regions. According to the latest official data, the world population is 8,179,580,000 people.

As of 2022, the world had 159 metropolitan areas with a population of over 3,000,000 people each.<sup>[30]</sup>

As of 2010, about 3 billion people live in or around urban areas.<sup>[7]</sup>

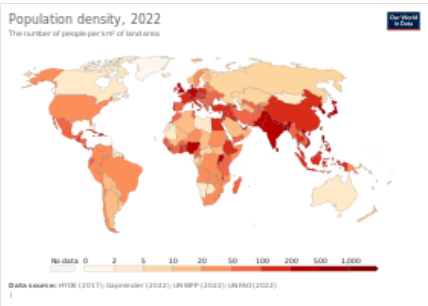
The following table shows the populations of the top thirteen conglomerations.

Rank	City	Population	Country	Statistical concept <sup>[31]</sup>	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>[a]</sup>	Density (p/km <sup>2</sup> )
1	Tokyo	37,500,000	 Japan	Metropolitan area <sup>[b]</sup>	13,500	2,777.78
2	Shanghai	24,180,000	 China	Urban agglomeration <sup>[c]</sup>	3,920	6,168
3	New York City	23,600,000 <sup>[32]</sup>	 United States	Urban agglomeration	21,483 <sup>[33]</sup>	1,098
4	Mexico City	22,460,000	 Mexico	Metropolitan area (zona metropolitana)	7,815	2,490
5	Delhi	22,157,000	 India	Urban agglomeration <sup>[d]</sup>	33,578	659
6	São Paulo	22,048,504 <sup>[34]</sup>	 Brazil	Metropolitan Area	7,946.96	2,714.45
7	Moscow	21,534,777	 Russia	Metropolitan area	26,000	770
8	Lagos	21,000,000	 Nigeria	Metropolitan area	1,171	17,933
9	Cairo	20,901,000	 Egypt	Metropolitan area	1,709 <sup>[35]</sup>	10,400
10	Karachi	20,382,881 <sup>[36]</sup>	 Pakistan	Metropolitan area (megacity)	3,530	4,224
11	Mumbai	20,041,000	 India	Urban agglomeration	1,097 <sup>[e]</sup>	18,268
12	Kolkata	15,552,000	 India	Urban agglomeration	1,026 <sup>[37]</sup>	15,158
13	Dhaka	14,648,000	 Bangladesh	Metropolitan area (megacity)	1,600	9,155

## Population density

The world's population is over 8 billion<sup>[38]</sup> and Earth's total surface area (including land and water) is 510 million square kilometres (197 million square miles).<sup>[39]</sup> Therefore, the worldwide human population density is 8 billion ÷ 510 million km<sup>2</sup> (197 million sq mi) = 15.7 people/km<sup>2</sup> (41 people/sq mi). If only the Earth's land area of 150 million km<sup>2</sup> (58 million sq mi) is taken into account, then human population density increases to 53.3 people/km<sup>2</sup> (138 people/sq mi).<sup>[40][41]</sup>

Several of the most densely populated territories in the world are city-states, microstates or dependencies.<sup>[42][43]</sup> These territories share a relatively small area and a high urbanization level, with an economically specialized city population drawing also on rural resources outside the area, illustrating the difference between high population density and overpopulation.



Population density (people per km<sup>2</sup>) by country

## Religion

The table below lists religions classified by philosophy; however, religious philosophy is not always the determining factor in local practice. Please note that this table includes heterodox movements as adherents to their larger philosophical category, although this may be disputed by others within that category. For example, Cao Đài is listed because it claims to be a separate category from Buddhism, while Hòa Hảo is not, even though they are similar new religious movements.



Major denominations and religions of the world

The population numbers below are computed by a combination of census reports, random surveys (in countries where religion data is not collected in census, for example United States or France), and self-reported attendance numbers, but results can vary widely depending on the way questions are phrased, the definitions of religion used and the bias of the agencies or organizations conducting the survey. Informal or unorganized religions are especially difficult to count. Some organizations may wildly inflate their numbers.

Global religious affiliation

Religious category	Number of followers (in millions)		Cultural tradition	Main regions covered
<u>Christianity</u>	2,300–2,400	[44]	<u>Abrahamic religions</u>	Predominant in the <u>Western world</u> (Western Europe, the Americas, Oceania), Eastern Europe, Russia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Philippines, and East Timor in Southeast Asia. Minorities worldwide, see <u>Christianity by country</u> . <sup>[45]</sup>
<u>Islam</u>	1,600–1,800	[46][47][48]	<u>Abrahamic religions</u>	West Asia, Northern Africa, Central Asia, Indian Subcontinent, Western Africa, Maritime Southeast Asia with large population centers existing in Eastern Africa, Balkan Peninsula, Russia and China. <sup>[49]</sup>
<u>Hinduism</u>	1,110–1,200	[50]	<u>Indian religions</u>	Indian Subcontinent, Bali, Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, and among the <u>overseas Indian communities</u> .
<u>No religion</u>	1,100	[51]	Secularism, half of those are theistic (but do not fit in with the major religions)	Predominant in the <u>Western world</u> , East Asia. Minorities worldwide, see <u>list of countries by irreligion</u> .
<u>Buddhism</u>	400–600	[52][53][54]	<u>Indian religions</u>	Indian Subcontinent, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia and some regions of Russia.
<u>Folk religions</u>	600–3,000	[f]	<u>Folk religions</u>	Africa, Asia, Americas
<u>Chinese folk religions</u> (including Taoism and Confucianism)	400–1,000	[55][f]	<u>Chinese Religions</u>	East Asia, <u>Vietnam</u> , <u>Singapore</u> and <u>Malaysia</u> .
<u>Shinto</u>	27–65	[56]	<u>Japanese Religions</u>	Japan
<u>Sikhism</u>	24–30	[57][52]	<u>Indian religions</u>	Indian Subcontinent, Australasia, Northern America, Southeast Asia, the United Kingdom and Western Europe.
<u>Judaism</u>	14–18	[52]	<u>Abrahamic religions</u>	Israel and the worldwide Jewish diaspora (mostly North America, South America, Europe, Ethiopia, and Asia).
<u>Jainism</u>	8–12	[9]	<u>Indian religions</u>	India, and East Africa.
<u>Bahá'í Faith</u>	7.3–7.9	[58]	<u>Abrahamic religions</u> <sup>[h]</sup>	Noted for being dispersed worldwide <sup>[59][60]</sup> but the top ten populations (amounting to about 65% of the world's Bahá'í Faith adherents) are (in order of size of community) India, United States, Kenya, <u>Vietnam</u> , <u>DR of the Congo</u> , Philippines, Iran, Zambia, South Africa, <u>Bolivia</u> . <sup>[61]</sup>
<u>Cao Đài</u>	1–3	[62]	<u>Vietnamese Religions</u>	<u>Vietnam</u> .
<u>Cheondoism</u>	3	[63]	<u>Korean religions</u>	<u>North Korea</u> and <u>South Korea</u>
<u>Tenrikyo</u>	2	[64]	<u>Japanese religions</u>	Japan, <u>Brazil</u> .
<u>Wicca</u>	1	[65]	<u>New religious movements</u>	United States, Australia, Europe, Canada.
<u>Church of World Messianity</u>	1	[66]	<u>Japanese Religions</u>	Japan, Brazil
<u>Seicho-no-ie</u>	0.8	[64]	<u>Japanese religions</u>	Japan, Brazil.
<u>Rastafari movement</u>	0.7	[67]	<u>New religious movements</u> , <u>Abrahamic religions</u>	<u>Jamaica</u> , Caribbean, Africa.
<u>Unitarian Universalism</u>	0.63	[68]	<u>New religious movements</u>	United States, Canada, Europe.

Since the late 19th century, the demographics of religion have changed a great deal. Some countries with a historically large Christian population have experienced a significant decline in the numbers of professed active Christians: see demographics of atheism. Symptoms of the decline in active participation in Christian religious life include declining recruitment for the priesthood and monastic life, as well as diminishing attendance at church. On the other hand, since the 19th century, large areas of sub-Saharan Africa have been converted to Christianity, and this area of the world has the highest population growth rate. In the realm of Western civilization, there has been an increase in the number of people who identify themselves as secular humanists. Despite the decline, Christianity remains the dominant religion in the Western world, where 70% of the population is Christian.<sup>[69]</sup> In many countries, such as the People's Republic of China, communist governments have discouraged religion, making it difficult to count the actual number of believers. However, after the collapse of communism in numerous countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, religious life has been experiencing resurgence there, in the form of traditional Eastern Christianity.<sup>[70]</sup> While, Islam however has gained considerably in the Soviet Unions former republics in Central Asia.

Following is some available data based on the work of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*:<sup>[71]</sup>

Trends in annual growth of adherence

1970–1985 <sup>[72]</sup>	1990–2000 <sup>[73][74]</sup>	2000–2005 <sup>[75]</sup>
2.74%: Islam	2.13%: Islam	1.84%: Islam
3.65%: Bahá'í Faith	2.28%: Bahá'í Faith	1.70%: Bahá'í Faith
2.34%: Hinduism	1.69%: Hinduism	1.57%: Hinduism
1.64%: Christianity	1.36%: Christianity	1.32%: Christianity
1.09%: Judaism	1.87%: Judaism	1.62%: Judaism
1.67%: Buddhism	1.09%: Buddhism	
	2.65%: Zoroastrianism	
	The annual growth in the world population over the same period is 1.41%.	

Studies conducted by the [Pew Research Center](#) have found that, generally, poorer nations had a larger proportion of citizens who found religion to be very important than richer nations, with the exceptions of the United States<sup>[76]</sup> and Kuwait.<sup>[77]</sup>

## Marriage

The average age of marriage varies greatly from country to country and has varied through time. Women tend to marry earlier than men and currently varies from 17.6 for women in [Niger](#), to 32.4 for women in [Denmark](#) while men range from 22.6 in [Mozambique](#) to 35.1 in [Sweden](#).<sup>[78]</sup>

In 2021, 13.3 million babies, or about 10 per cent of the total worldwide, were born to mothers under 20 years old.<sup>[28]</sup>

## Age structure

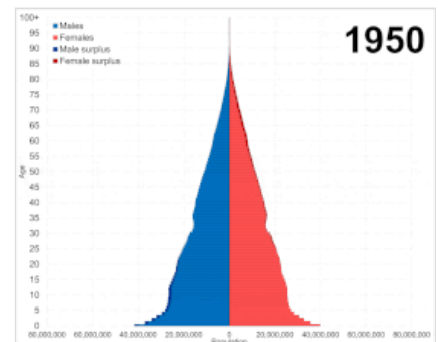
According to the 2021 [CIA World Factbook](#), around 25% of the world's population is below 15 years of age.<sup>[79]</sup>

- 0–14 years: 25.2% (male 1,010,373,278/female 946,624,579)<sup>[7]</sup>
- 15–64 years: 65.1% (male 2,562,946,384/female 2,498,562,457)<sup>[7]</sup>
- 65 years and over: 9.7% (male 337,244,947/female 415,884,753) (2021 est.)<sup>[7]</sup>
- Median Age – 31 years (male: 30.3 years, female: 31.8 years, 2021 est.)

According to a report by the Global Social Change Research Project, worldwide, the percent of the population age 0–14 declined from 34% in 1950 to 27% in 2010. The elderly population (60+) increased during the same period from 8% to 11%.<sup>[80]</sup>

Median age by continent, 2018<sup>[81]</sup>

Region	Median age
Asia	31 yo
Africa	18 yo
Europe	42 yo
North America	35 yo
South America	31 yo
Oceania	33 yo

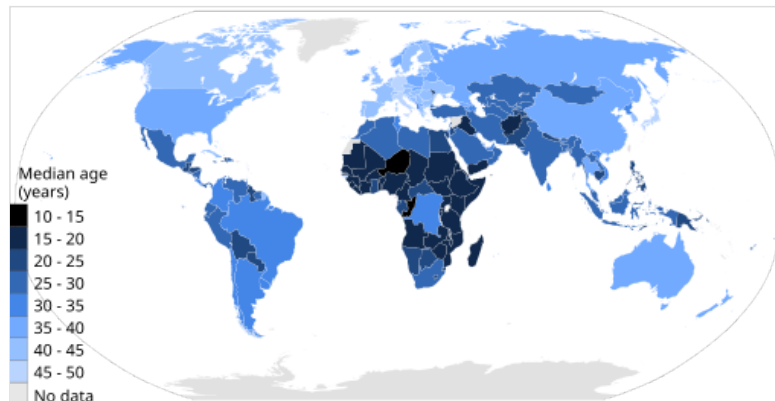


Population pyramid of the World from 1950 to 2100 by the [UN](#)



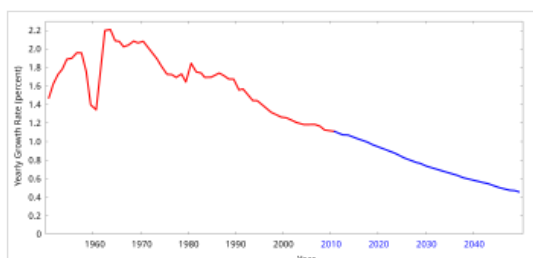
Select age groups by continent, 2018<sup>[81]</sup>

Region	Under 15 years (proportion of population)	Over 65 years (proportion of population)
Asia	24%	8%
Africa	41%	3%
Europe	16%	18%
Latin America-Caribbean	26%	8%
North America	19%	15%
Oceania	23%	12%
World	26%	9%



Median age by country as of 2017. A youth bulge is evident for Africa, and to a lesser extent for West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and parts of the Americas.

## Population growth rate



Growth rate of world population (1950–2010)

The sharp decline in world population growth in the early 1960s caused primarily by the Great Chinese Famine

million in 2006. Since then, annual growth has declined. In 2009, the human population increased by 74.6 million, which is projected to fall steadily to about 41 million per annum in 2050, at which time the population will have increased to about 9.2 billion.<sup>[82]</sup> Each region of the globe has seen great reductions in growth rate in recent decades, though growth rates remain above 2% in some countries of the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, and also in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.<sup>[88]</sup>

Some countries experienced negative population growth, especially in Eastern Europe mainly due to low fertility rates, high death rates and emigration. In Southern Africa, growth is slowing due to the high number of HIV-related deaths. Some Western Europe countries might also encounter negative population growth.<sup>[89]</sup> Japan's population began decreasing in 2005.<sup>[90]</sup>

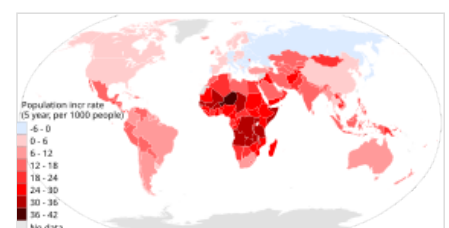
Population in the world increased from 1990 to 2008 with 1,423 billion and 27% growth. Measured by persons, the increase was highest in India (290 million) and China (192 million). Population growth was highest in Qatar (174%) and United Arab Emirates (140%).<sup>[91]</sup>

In 2022 the world population reached the 8 billion. The latest projections by the United Nations suggest that the global population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100.<sup>[28]</sup>











More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and Tanzania.<sup>[28]</sup>

Globally, the growth rate of the human population has been declining since peaking in 1962 and 1963 at 2.20% per annum. In 2009, the estimated annual growth rate was 1.1%.<sup>[82]</sup> The CIA World Factbook gives the world annual birthrate, mortality rate, and growth rate as 1.915%, 0.812%, and 1.092% respectively.<sup>[83]</sup> The last one hundred years have seen a rapid increase in population due to medical advances and massive increase in agricultural productivity<sup>[84]</sup> made possible by the Green Revolution.<sup>[85][86][87]</sup>

The actual annual growth in the number of humans fell from its peak of 88.0 million in 1989, to a low of 73.9 million in 2003, after which it rose again to 75.2



2010–2015 net population increase rate, per 1000 people










Rank	Country	Population (thousands) 1990	Population (thousands) 2010	Population (thousands) 2023 <sup>[29]</sup>	Growth (%) 1990–2010
	World	5,306,425	6,895,889	8,035,118	30.0%
1	 India	873,785	1,224,614	1,428,627	40.2%
2	 China	1,145,195	1,341,335	1,425,671	17.1%
3	 United States	253,339	310,384	331,002	22.5%
4	 Indonesia	184,346	239,871	273,523	30.1%
5	 Pakistan	111,845	173,593	220,892	55.2%
6	 Brazil	149,650	194,946	212,559	30.3%
7	 Nigeria	97,552	158,423	206,139	62.4%
8	 Bangladesh	105,256	148,692	164,689	41.3%
9	 Russia	148,244	142,958	145,934	–3.6%
10	 Mexico	86,007	114,092	128,932	32.7%

## Births

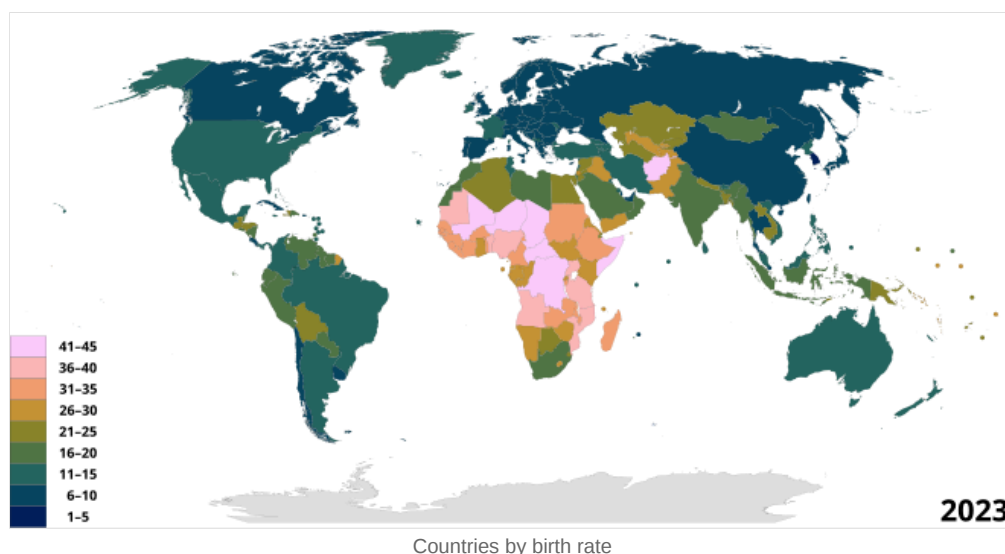
In 2021, most births worldwide occurred in two regions: sub-Saharan Africa (29 per cent of global births), the region with the highest fertility level, Central and Southern Asia (28 per cent of global births) and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (18 per cent).<sup>[92]</sup>

## Birth count

The 10 countries with the highest estimated number of births in 2021 according to the *World Population Prospects 2022* of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.<sup>[93]</sup>

Rank	Country	Number of births (2021)
1	 India	23,114,000
2	 China	10,881,567
3	 Nigeria	7,923,294
4	 Pakistan	6,374,741
5	 Indonesia	4,496,383
6	 Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,034,953
7	 Ethiopia	3,895,734
8	 United States	3,722,822
9	 Bangladesh	3,019,672
10	 Brazil	2,760,958

## Birth rate



As of 2009, the average birth rate (unclear whether this is the weighted average rate per country [with each country getting a weight of 1], or the unweighted average of the entire world population) for the whole world is 19.95 per year per 1000 total population, a 0.48% decline from 2003's world birth rate of 20.43 per 1000 total population.

According to the [CIA – The World Factbook](#), the country with the highest birth rate currently is Niger at 51.26 births per 1000 people. The country with the lowest birth rate is Japan at 7.64 births per 1000 people. Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of China, is at 7.42 births per 1000 people. As compared to the 1950s, birth rate was at 36 births per 1000 in the 1950s,<sup>[95]</sup> birth rate has declined by 16 births per 1000 people. In July 2011, the U.S. National Institutes of Health announced that the adolescent birth rate continues to decline.<sup>[96]</sup>

Birth rates vary even within the same geographic areas. In Europe, as of July 2011, Ireland's birth rate is 16.5 percent, which is 3.5 percent higher than the next-ranked country, the UK. France has a birth rate of 12.8 per cent while Sweden is at 12.3 percent.<sup>[97]</sup> In July 2011, the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced a 2.4% increase in live births in the UK in 2010 alone.<sup>[98]</sup> This is the highest birth rate in the UK in 40 years.<sup>[98]</sup> By contrast, the birth rate in Germany is only 8.3 per 1,000, which is so low that both the UK and France, which have significantly smaller populations, produced more births in 2010.<sup>[99]</sup> Birth rates also vary within the same geographic area, based on different demographic groups. For example, in April 2011, the U.S. CDC announced that the birth rate for women over the age of 40 in the U.S. rose between 2007 and 2009, while it fell among every other age group during the same time span.<sup>[100]</sup> In August 2011, Taiwan's government announced that its birth rate declined in the previous year, despite the fact that it implemented a host of approaches to encourage its citizens to have babies.<sup>[101]</sup>











World historical and predicted crude birth rates (1950–2050)











UN, medium variant, 2008 rev.<sup>[94]</sup>











Years	CBR	Years	CBR
1950–1955	37.2	2000–2005	21.2
1955–1960	35.3	2005–2010	20.3
1960–1965	34.9	2010–2015	19.4
1965–1970	33.4	2015–2020	18.2
1970–1975	30.8	2020–2025	16.9
1975–1980	28.4	2025–2030	15.8
1980–1985	27.9	2030–2035	15.0
1985–1990	27.3	2035–2040	14.5
1990–1995	24.7	2040–2045	14.0
1995–2000	22.5	2045–2050	13.4

Birth rates ranging from 10 to 20 births per 1000 are considered low, while rates from 40 to 50 births per 1000 are considered high. There are problems associated with both an extremely high birth rate and an extremely low birth rate. High birth rates can cause stress on the government welfare and family programs to support a youthful population. Additional problems faced by a country with a high birth rate include educating a growing number of children, creating jobs for these children when they enter the workforce, and dealing with the environmental effects that a large population can produce. Low birth rates can put stress on the government to provide adequate senior welfare systems and also the stress on families to support the elders themselves. There will be less children or working age population to support the constantly growing aging population.

The ten countries with the highest and lowest crude birth rate, according to the 2018 and 2022 [CIA World Factbook](#) estimates, are:<sup>[102]</sup>

Rank (2022)	Country	Highest birth rates (2022) (annual births/1000 persons)
1	 <a href="#">Niger</a>	47.08
2	 <a href="#">Angola</a>	41.80
3	 <a href="#">Benin</a>	41.15
4	 <a href="#">Mali</a>	41.07
5	 <a href="#">Uganda</a>	40.94
6	 <a href="#">Chad</a>	40.45
7	 <a href="#">DRC</a>	40.08
8	 <a href="#">Somalia</a>	37.98
9	 <a href="#">South Sudan</a>	37.69
10	 <a href="#">Mozambique</a>	37.47











Rank (2022)	Country	Lowest birth rates (2022) (annual births/1000 persons) <sup>[1]</sup>
1	 <a href="#">Saint Pierre and Miquelon</a>	6.47
2	 <a href="#">Monaco</a>	6.66
3	 <a href="#">Andorra</a>	6.88
4	 <a href="#">South Korea</a>	6.92
5	 <a href="#">Japan</a>	6.95
6	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	6.95
7	 <a href="#">Spain</a>	7.13
8	 <a href="#">Taiwan</a>	7.39
9	 <a href="#">Greece</a>	7.61
10	 <a href="#">Puerto Rico</a>	7.87











Rank (2018)	Country	Highest birth rates (2018) (annual births/1000 persons)
1	 <a href="#">Angola</a>	43.70
2	 <a href="#">Niger</a>	43.60
3	 <a href="#">Mali</a>	43.20
4	 <a href="#">Chad</a>	43.00
5	 <a href="#">Uganda</a>	42.40
6	 <a href="#">Zambia</a>	41.10
7	 <a href="#">Burundi</a>	40.90
8	 <a href="#">Malawi</a>	40.70
9	 <a href="#">Somalia</a>	39.30
10	 <a href="#">Liberia</a>	37.90











Rank (2018)	Country	Lowest birth rates (2018) (annual births/1000 persons) <sup>[1]</sup>
1	 <a href="#">Monaco</a>	6.50
2	 <a href="#">Andorra</a>	7.30
3	 <a href="#">Japan</a>	7.50
4	 <a href="#">Portugal</a>	8.20
5	 <a href="#">Taiwan</a>	8.20
6	 <a href="#">Greece</a>	8.30
7	 <a href="#">South Korea</a>	8.30
8	 <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	8.50
9	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	8.50
10	 <a href="#">Germany</a>	8.60











## Death rate

The ten countries with the highest and lowest crude death rate, according to the 2018 and 2022 [CIA World Factbook](#) estimates, are:<sup>[103]</sup>

Rank (2022)	Country	Highest death rates (2022) (annual deaths/1000 persons)
1	 <a href="#">Serbia</a>	16.39
2	 <a href="#">Romania</a>	15.26
3	 <a href="#">Lithuania</a>	15.12
4	 <a href="#">Latvia</a>	14.65
5	 <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	14.41
6	 <a href="#">Ukraine</a>	13.77
7	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	13.36
8	 <a href="#">Estonia</a>	13.10
9	 <a href="#">Belarus</a>	12.88
10	 <a href="#">Croatia</a>	12.88

Rank (2022)	Country	Lowest death rates (2022) (annual deaths/1000 persons)
1	 <a href="#">Qatar</a>	1.42
2	 <a href="#">United Arab Emirates</a>	1.56
3	 <a href="#">Kuwait</a>	2.25
4	 <a href="#">Bahrain</a>	2.82
5	 <a href="#">Palestine, Gaza Strip</a>	2.91
6	 <a href="#">Oman</a>	3.23
7	 <a href="#">Palestine, West Bank</a>	3.40
8	 <a href="#">Saudi Arabia</a>	3.42
9	 <a href="#">Libya</a>	3.45
10	 <a href="#">Jordan</a>	3.45

Rank (2018)	Country	Highest death rates (2018) (annual deaths/1000 persons)
1	 <a href="#">South Sudan</a>	19.30
2	 <a href="#">Lesotho</a>	15.10
3	 <a href="#">Lithuania</a>	14.80
4	 <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	14.50
5	 <a href="#">Latvia</a>	14.50
6	 <a href="#">Ukraine</a>	14.30
7	 <a href="#">Serbia</a>	13.60
8	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	13.40
9	 <a href="#">Afghanistan</a>	13.20
10	 <a href="#">Belarus</a>	13.20

Rank (2018)	Country	Lowest death rates (2018) (annual deaths/1000 persons) <sup>[k]</sup>
1	 <a href="#">Qatar</a>	1.60
2	 <a href="#">United Arab Emirates</a>	1.70
3	 <a href="#">Kuwait</a>	2.30
4	 <a href="#">Bahrain</a>	2.80
5	 <a href="#">Oman</a>	3.30
6	 <a href="#">Saudi Arabia</a>	3.30
7	 <a href="#">Jordan</a>	3.40
8	 <a href="#">Singapore</a>	3.50
9	 <a href="#">Brunei</a>	3.70
10	 <a href="#">Libya</a>	3.70

See [list of countries by mortality rate](#) for worldwide statistics.

According to the [World Health Organization](#), the 10 leading [causes of death](#) in 2002 were:

1. 12.6% [Ischemic heart disease](#)
2. 9.7% [Cerebrovascular disease](#)
3. 6.8% [Lower respiratory infections](#)
4. 4.9% [HIV/AIDS](#)
5. 4.8% [Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)
6. 3.2% [Diarrhoeal diseases](#)
7. 2.7% [Tuberculosis](#)
8. 2.2% [Trachea/bronchus/lung cancers](#)
9. 2.2% [Malaria](#)
10. 2.1% [Road traffic accidents](#)

Causes of death vary greatly between first and third world countries.

According to [Jean Ziegler](#) (the [United Nations](#) Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for 2000 to March 2008), mortality due to [malnutrition](#) accounted for 58% of the total mortality in 2006:

"In the world, approximately 62 millions people, all causes of death combined, die each year. In 2006, more than 36 millions died of hunger or diseases due to deficiencies in [micronutrients](#)".<sup>[105]</sup>

Of the roughly 150,000 people who died each day across the globe, about two-thirds—100,000 per day—died of age-related causes in 2001, according to an article which counts all deaths "due to causes that kill hardly anyone under the age of 40" as age-related.<sup>[106]</sup> In industrialized nations, the proportion was even higher according to that article, reaching 90%.<sup>[106]</sup>

World historical and predicted crude death rates (1950–2050)  
UN, medium variant, 2008 rev.<sup>[104]</sup>

Years	CDR	Years	CDR
1950–1955	19.5	2000–2005	8.6
1955–1960	17.3	2005–2010	8.5
1960–1965	15.5	2010–2015	8.3
1965–1970	13.2	2015–2020	8.3
1970–1975	11.4	2020–2025	8.3
1975–1980	10.7	2025–2030	8.5
1980–1985	10.3	2030–2035	8.8
1985–1990	9.7	2035–2040	9.2
1990–1995	9.4	2040–2045	9.6
1995–2000	8.9	2045–2050	10

## Total fertility rate

The Total fertility rate is the average number of children born per mother. In 2021, fertility levels high were found in sub-Saharan Africa (4.6 births per woman), Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand (3.1), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2.8), and Central and Southern Asia (2.3).<sup>[28]</sup>

There is an inverse correlation between income and fertility, wherein developed countries usually have a much lower fertility rate. Various fertility factors may be involved, such as education and urbanization. Mortality rates are low, birth control is understood and easily accessible, and costs are often deemed very high because of education, clothing, feeding, and social amenities. With wealth, contraception becomes affordable. However, in countries like Iran where contraception was made artificially affordable before the economy accelerated, birth rate also rapidly declined. Further, longer periods of time spent getting higher education often mean women have children later in life.<sup>[107]</sup> Female labor participation rate also has substantial negative impact on fertility. However, this effect is neutralized among Nordic or liberalist countries.<sup>[108]</sup>

In undeveloped countries on the other hand, families desire children for their labour and as caregivers for their parents in old age. Fertility rates are also higher due to the lack of access to contraceptives, generally lower levels of female education, patriarchal culture and lower rates of female employment in industry.

### **Total fertility rates by region, 2010–2015**

Total fertility rate is the number of children born per woman.

Region	Total fertility rate (2010–2015) <sup>[109]</sup>
World	2.5
Africa	4.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	5.1
Western Africa	5.5
Middle Africa	5.8
Eastern Africa	4.9
Northern Africa	3.3
Southern Africa	2.5
Oceania	2.4
Asia	2.2
Europe	1.6
Latin America-Caribbean	2.2
North America	1.9

## **Health**

The average number of hospital beds per 1,000 population is 2.94. It is highest in Switzerland (18.3) and lowest in Mexico (1.1)<sup>[111]</sup>

96% of the urban population has access to improved drinking water, while only 78% of rural inhabitants have improved drinking water. A total average of 87% of urban and rural have access to improved drinking water.

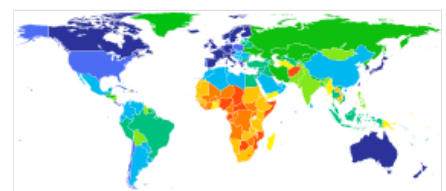
76% of the urban population has access to sanitation facilities, while only 45% of the rural population has access. A total world average of 39% do not have access to sanitation facilities.

As of 2009, there are an estimated 33.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS, which is approximately 0.8% of the world population, and there have been an estimated 1.8 million deaths attributed to HIV/AIDS.

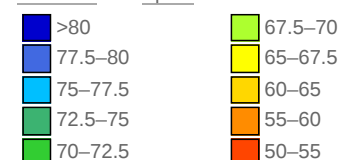
As of 2010, 925 million people are undernourished.<sup>[112]</sup>

Life Expectancy at Birth:

- total population: 71.4 years
- male: 69.1 years
- female: 73.8 years (2015 est.)<sup>[110]</sup>



Life expectancy (as of 2016) varies greatly from country to country. It is lowest in certain countries in Africa and higher in Japan, Australia and Spain.<sup>[110]</sup>



World historical and predicted total life expectancy at birth (1950–2050)  
UN, 2017 rev.<sup>[113]</sup>

Years	LEB	Years	LEB
1950–1955	47.9	2000–2005	67.2
1955–1960	49.3	2005–2010	69.1
1960–1965	51.2	2010–2015	70.8
1965–1970	55.5	2015–2020	72.0
1970–1975	58.1	2020–2025	73.0
1975–1980	60.3	2025–2030	73.8
1980–1985	62.1	2030–2035	74.7
1985–1990	63.7	2035–2040	75.5
1990–1995	64.6	2040–2045	76.2
1995–2000	65.7	2045–2050	77.0

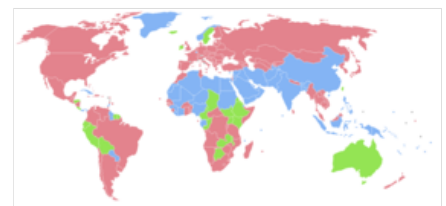
## Sex ratio

The value for the entire world population is 1.02 males/female,<sup>[114]</sup> with 1.07 at birth, 1.06 for those under 15, 1.02 for those between 15 and 64, and 0.78 for those over 65.

The Northern Mariana Islands have the highest female ratio with 0.77 males per female. Qatar has the highest male ratio, with 2.87 males/female. For the group aged below 15, Sierra Leone has the highest female ratio with 0.96 males/female, and Georgia and China are tied for the highest male ratio with 1.13 males/female (according to the 2006 CIA World Factbook).

The "First World" G7 members all have a gender ratio in the range of 0.95–0.98 for the total population, of 1.05–1.07 at birth, of 1.05–1.06 for the group below 15, of 1.00–1.04 for the group aged 15–64, and of 0.70–0.75 for those over 65.

Countries on the Arabian Peninsula tend to have a "natural" ratio of about 1.05 at birth but a very high ratio of males for those over 65 (Saudi Arabia 1.13, United Arab Emirates 2.73, Qatar 2.84), indicating either an above-average mortality rate for females or a below-average mortality for males, or, more likely in this case, a large population of aging male guest workers. Conversely, countries of Eastern Europe (the Baltic states, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia) tend to have a "normal" ratio at birth but a very low ratio of males among those over 65 (Russia 0.46, Latvia 0.48, Ukraine 0.52); similarly, Armenia has a far above average male ratio at birth (1.17), and a below-average male ratio above 65 (0.67). This effect may be caused by emigration and higher male mortality as result of higher post-Soviet era deaths; it may also be related to the enormous (by western standards) rate of alcoholism in the former Soviet states. Another possible contributory factor is an aging population, with a higher than normal proportion of relatively elderly people: we recall that due to higher differential mortality rates the ratio of males to females reduces for each year of age.



Map indicating the human sex ratio by country.  
■ Countries with more **females** than males.  
■ Countries with **similar** number of males and females.  
■ Countries with more **males** than females.  
■ No data

## Unemployment rate

8.7% (2010 est.) 8.2% (2009 est.) note: 30% combined unemployment and underemployment in many non-industrialized countries; developed countries typically 4%–12% unemployment (2007 est.)

## Languages

Worldwide, English is used widely as a lingua franca and can be seen to be the dominant language at this time. The world's largest language by native speakers is Mandarin Chinese which is a first language of around 960 million people, or 12.44% of the population, predominantly in Greater China. Spanish is spoken by around 330 to 400 million people, predominantly in the Americas and Spain. Hindustani (Hindi-Urdu) is spoken by about 370 to 420 million speakers, mostly in India and Pakistan.

Arabic is spoken by around 350 million people predominantly in Arab world. Bengali is spoken by around 250 million people worldwide, predominantly in Bangladesh and India. Portuguese is spoken by about 230 million speakers in Portugal, Brazil, East Timor, and Southern Africa.



There are numerous other languages, grouped into nine major families:

1. Indo-European languages 46% (Europe, Western Asia, South Asia, North Asia, North America, South America, and Oceania)
2. Sino-Tibetan languages 21% (East Asia, Mainland Southeast Asia, and South Asia)
3. Niger–Congo languages 6.4% (Sub-Saharan Africa)
4. Afroasiatic languages 6.0% (North Africa to Horn of Africa, and Western Asia)
5. Austronesian languages 5.9% (Oceania, Madagascar, and Maritime Southeast Asia)
6. Dravidian languages 3.7% (South Asia)
7. Altaic languages (controversial combination of Turkic, Mongolic, and Tungusic families) 2.3% (Central Asia, North Asia (Siberia), and Anatolia)<sup>[1]</sup>
8. Austroasiatic languages 1.7% (Mainland Southeast Asia)
9. Kra–Dai languages 1.3% (Southeast Asia)

There are also hundreds of non-verbal sign languages.



official language is by country in the world

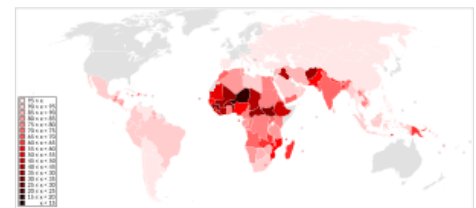


map of the human language families

## Education

Total population: 83.7% over the age of 15 can read and write, 88.3% male and 79.2% female note: over two-thirds of the world's 793 million illiterate adults are found in only eight countries (Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Pakistan); of all the illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women; extremely low literacy rates are concentrated in three regions, the Arab states, South and West Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where around one-third of the men and half of all women are illiterate (2005–09 est.)

As of 2008, the school life expectancy (primary to tertiary education) for a man or woman is 11 years.



World map of countries shaded according to the literacy rate for all people aged 15 and over, as of 2015.<sup>[115]</sup>

## See also

- Demographics of Africa
- Demographics of Antarctica
- Demographics of Asia
- Demographics of Europe
- Demographics of North America
  - List of Caribbean countries by population
- Demographics of Oceania
- Demographics of South America
- World population

## Notes

- a. The area figures are taken from individual national censuses according to the criteria and statistical concepts noted in the World Urbanization Prospects.
- b. As defined by the Statistics Bureau of Japan; refers to Kanto major metropolitan area (M.M.A.)
- c. The population of the city is composed of population in all City Districts meeting the criteria such as "contiguous built-up area", being the location of the local government, being a Street or Having a Resident Committee.
- d. Based on a definition of urban agglomeration that is not restricted to state boundaries.
- e. The Greater Mumbai urban agglomeration is defined by the municipal corporations of Greater Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivali, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Ulhasnagar, plus the municipal councils of Ambarnath, Badlapur and Mira-Bhayandar. Not to be confused with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, which includes some additional urban and rural units.
- f. The number of people who consider themselves party to a "folk tradition" is impossible to determine.
- g. Figures for the population of Jains differ from just over six million to twelve million due to difficulties of Jain identity, with Jains in some areas counted as a Hindu sect. Many Jains do not return Jainism as their religion on census forms for various reasons such as certain Jain castes considering themselves both Hindu and Jain. Following a major advertising campaign urging Jains to register as such, the 1981 Census of India returned 3.19 million Jains. This was estimated at the time to still be half the true number. The 2001 Census of India had 8.4 million Jains.
- h. Historically, the Bahá'í Faith arose in 19th century Persia, in the context of Shia Islam, and thus may be classed on this basis as a divergent strand of Islam, placing it in the Abrahamic tradition. However, the Bahá'í Faith considers itself an independent religious tradition, which draws from Islam but also other traditions. The Bahá'í Faith may also be classed as a new religious movement, due to its comparatively recent origin, or may be considered sufficiently old and established for such classification to not be applicable.
- i. This list includes only independent countries, not regions.
- j. This list includes only independent countries, not regions.

k. This list includes only independent countries, not regions.

l. Since the Mongolic and Tungusic language families have only a relatively small number of speakers, the majority of the Altaic percentage represents speakers of Turkic languages.

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