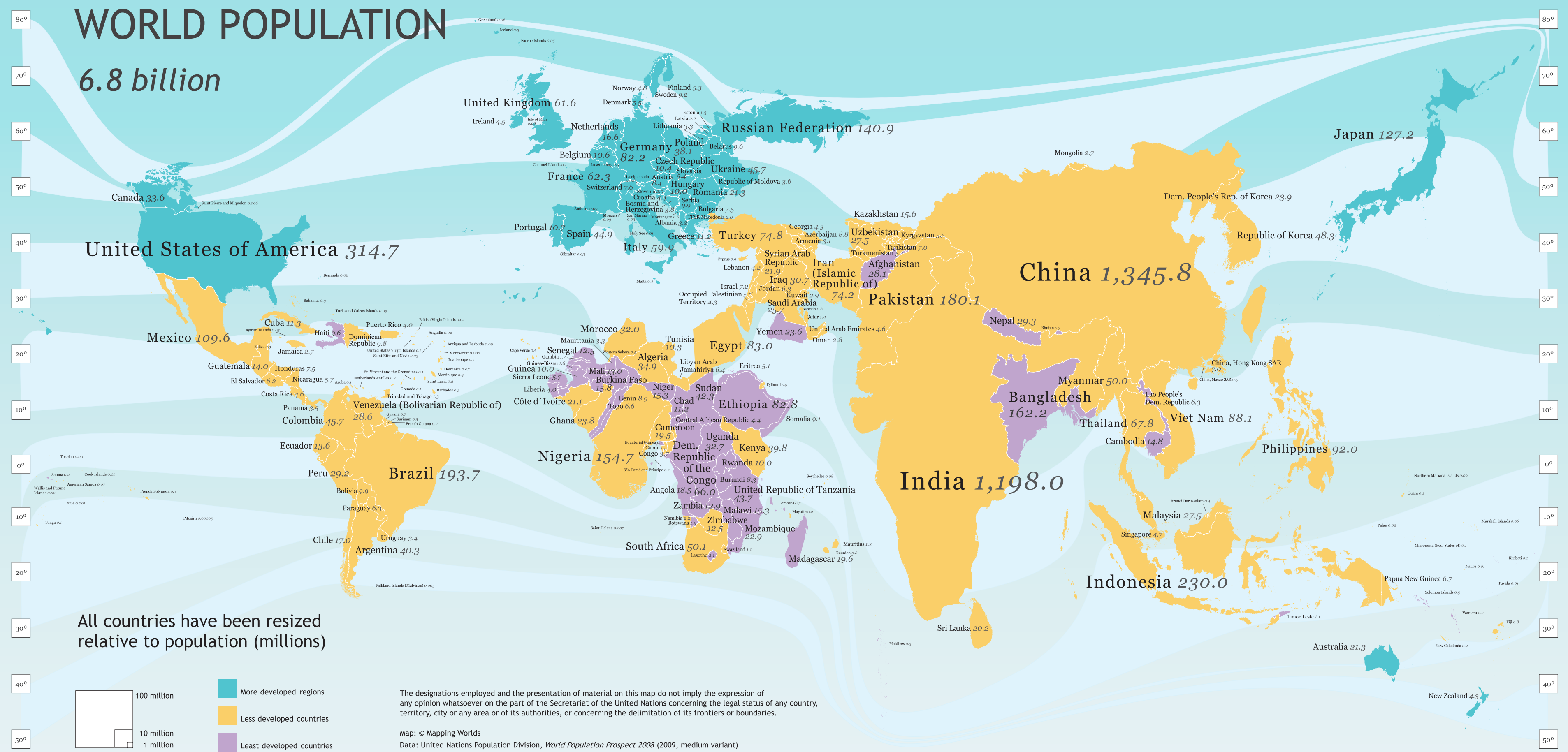




World Population 2008

Country or area	Mid-year population (thousands)			Population density (population per sq km)	Percentage urban	Average annual rate of population change (percent age)	Crude birth rate (births per 1,000 population)	Crude death rate (deaths per 1,000 population)	Total fertility rate (children per woman)	Percentage of all births to women under age 20 to all births to women aged 15-49	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Under-five mortality (deaths under age 5 per 1,000 live births)	Percentage of population Under age 15 or older
	2009	2025	2050										
World	6 829 360	8 011 533	9 149 984	50	50	1.2	20	8	2.6	11	68	77	21
More developed regions^a	1 233 282	1 277 113	1 275 243	23	75	0.3	11	10	1.6	6	77	8	17
Less developed regions^b	5 596 079	6 734 421	7 874 742	67	45	1.4	22	8	2.7	12	66	78	30
Least developed countries ^c	835 486	1 165 485	1 672 414	40	29	2.3	35	11	4.4	16	56	132	40
Other less developed countries ^d	4 760 593	5 568 936	6 202 328	77	48	1.2	20	8	2.5	11	68	62	28
Less developed regions, excluding China	4 242 768	5 272 708	6 448 481	58	45	1.6	25	8	3.1	14	64	87	33
Sub-Saharan Africa ^e	842 801	1 193 752	1 753 272	35	37	2.4	39	14	5.1	16	51	148	43
Africa	1 009 893	1 400 184	1 998 466	33	40	2.3	36	12	4.6	15	54	136	40
Eastern Africa	318 758	468 766	711 430	50	23	2.6	40	13	5.3	16	53	124	44
Burundi	8 303	11 161	14 846	298	11	2.9	35	14	4.7	3	50	166	38
Comoros	676	907	1 226	363	28	2.3	33	7	4.0	7	65	63	38
Djibouti	864	1 111	1 469	37	88	1.8	29	11	3.9	5	55	125	36
Eritrea	5 073	7 404	10 787	43	21	3.1	37	9	4.7	10	59	75	42
Ethiopia	82 825	119 822	173 811	75	17	2.6	39	12	5.4	15	55	131	44
Kenya	39 802	57 573	85 410	69	22	2.6	39	12	5.0	15	54	104	43
Madagascar	19 625	28 595	42 693	33	30	2.7	36	9	4.8	20	60	100	43
Malawi	15 263	23 194	36 575	129	19	2.8	40	12	5.6	18	53	121	45
Mauritius ^f	1 288	1 400	1 426	631	42	0.7	14	7	1.6	21	72	17	23
Mayotte	194	277	386	519	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mozambique	22 894	31 190	44 148	29	38	2.3	40	16	5.1	20	48	153	44
Réunion	827	973	1 096	329	94	1.3	19	5	2.4	8	76	9	26
Rwanda	9 998	14 676	22 082	380	19	2.7	41	15	5.4	5	50	155	42
Seychelles	84	91	97	185	55	0.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somalia	9 133	13 922	23 522	14	37	2.3	44	16	6.4	8	50	180	45
Uganda	32 710	53 406	91 271	136	13	3.3	46	13	6.4	18	52	122	49
United Republic of Tanzania	43 739	67 394	109 450	46	26	2.9	42	12	5.6	17	55	106	45
Zambia	12 935	18 890	28 957	17	36	2.4	43	17	5.9	18	45	160	46
Zimbabwe	12 523	16 780	22 178	32	38	0.3	30	16	3.5	14	44	94	40
Middle Africa	125 665	182 891	272 969	19	42	2.6	43	16	5.7	21	48	189	45
Angola	18 498	27 441	42 267	15	58	2.7	43	17	5.8	16	47	205	45
Cameroon	19 522	26 478	36 736	41	58	2.3	37	14	4.7	19	51	144	41
Central African Republic	4 422	5 747	7 603	7	39	1.9	36	17	4.8	16	47	180	41
Chad	11 206	16 906	27 776	9	27	2.8	46	17	6.2	19	49	211	46
Congo	3 683	5 094	6 863	11	62	1.9	35	13	4.4	18	54	128	40
Dem. Republic of the Congo	66 020	98 123	147 512	28	35	2.8	45	17	6.1	25	47	198	47
Equatorial Guinea	676	971	1 445	24	39	2.6	38	15	5.4	18	50	168	41
Gabon	1 475	1 915	2 471	6	86	1.8	27	10	3.4	18	60	80	36
Sao Tome and Principe	163	216	296	169	61	1.6	32	8	3.9	11	66	95	41
Northern Africa	209 365	263 120	321 077	25	52	1.7	24	7	2.9	7	68	56	32
Algeria	34 895	42 882	49 610	15	66	1.5	21	5	2.4	2	72	33	27
Egypt	82 999	104 970	129 533	83	43	1.8	25	6	2.9	8	70	41	32
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	6 420	8 144	9 819	4	78	2.0	23	4	2.7	1	74	20	30
Morocco	31 993	37 865	42 583	72	56	1.2	21	6	2.4	5	71	36	28
Sudan	42 272	56 688	75 884	17	44	2.2	32	10	4.2	10	58	111	39
Tunisia	10 272	11 797	12 711	63	67	1.0	16	6	1.9	2	74	22	23
Western Sahara	513	775	938	2	82	3.7	23	6	2.7	4	66	56	29
Southern Africa	57 483	62 674	67 388	21	58	1.0	23	15	2.6	14	52	72	31
Botswana	1 950	2 337	2 758	3	60	1.5	25	12	2.9	12	55	54	33
Lesotho	2 067	2 306	2 491	68	26	0.9	29	17	3.4	16	45	104	39
Namibia	2 171	2 810	3 588	3	37	1.9	28	8	3.4	15	61	52	37
South Africa	50 110	53 766	56 802	41	61	1.0	22	15	2.6	14	52	72	31
Swaziland	1 185	1 455	1 749	68	25	1.3	30	16	3.6	18	46	102	39
Western Africa	298 623	422 733	625 601	49	44	2.5	40	14	5.3	16	51	166	43
Benin	8 935	13 767	21 982	79	42	3.2	40	9	5.5	15	61	121	43
Burkina Faso	15 757	24 837	40 830	58	20	3.4	48	13	5.9	15	53	157	46
Cape Verde	506	616	703	125	60	1.4	24	5	2.8	24	71	31	36
Côte d'Ivoire	21 075	29 738	43 373	65	49	2.3	35	11	4.6	20	57	123	41
Gambia	1 705	2 478	3 763	151	57	2.7	37	11	5.1	12	56	116	42
Ghana	23 837	32 233	45 213	100	51	2.1	33	11	4.3	10	57	117	38
Guinea	10 069	15 158	23 975	41	35	2.3	40	11	5.5	20	58	148	43
Guinea-Bissau	1 611	2 296	3 555	45	30	2.2	41	17	5.7	15	48	196	43
Liberia	3 955	5 858	8 841	36	61	4.1	39	11	5.1	20	58	140	43
Mali	13 010	18 603	28 260	10	33	2.4	43	16	5.5	21	48	191	44
Mauritania	3 291	4 443	6 061	3	41	2.4	34	10	4.5	14	57	120	39
Niger	15 290	27 388	58 216	12	17	3.9	54	15	7.1	15	51	172	50
Nigeria	154 729	210 057	289 083	167	49	2.3	40	16	5.3	17	48	187	43
Saint Helena ^g	4	5	5	37	39	-1.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senegal	12 534	17 861	26 102	64	43	2.6	39	11	5.0	15	55	120	44
Sierra Leone	5 696	8 112	12 446	79	38	2.7	40	16	5.2	16	47	148	43
Togo	6 619	9 282	13 196	117	43	2.5	33	8	4.3	11	62	98	40
Asia	4 121 097	4 772 523	5 231 485	129	42	1.1	19	7	2.4	9	69	58	27
Eastern Asia	1 555 377	1 660 250	1 600 005	132	48	0.6	13	7	1.7	3	74	28	20
China ^h	1 345 751	1 453 140	1 417 045	140	44	0.6	14	7	1.8	3	73	29	20
China, Hong Kong SAR ⁱ	7 022	7 969	8 623	6 390	100	0.5	8	6	1.0	2	82	5	12
China, Macao SAR ^j	538	603	593	20 691	100	2.3	8	4	1.0	3	81	6	13
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	23 906	25 128	24 562	198	63	0.4	14	10	1.9	0	67	63	22
Japan	127 156	120 793	101 659	337	67	-0.1	8	9	1.3	1	83	4	13
Mongolia	2 671	3 134	3 446	2	57	1.2	19	7	2.0	5	66	44	26
Republic of Korea	48 333	49 484	44 077	486	82	0.4	9	5	1.2	2	79	6	17
South-Central Asia^k	1 754 622	2 137 252	2 493 681	163	32	1.5	24	8	2.8	13	64	82	32
Afghanistan	28 150	44 970	73 938	43	24	3.4	47	20	6.6	14	44	235	46
Bangladesh	162 221	195 012	222 495	1 127	28	1.4	22	7	2.4	17	66	57	31
Bhutan	697	865	1 013	15	36	1.7	22	7	2.7	10	66	64	31
India	1 198 003	1 431 272	1 613 800	364	30	1.4	23	8	2.8	14	63	81	31
Iran (Islamic Republic of)													

World Map: continent scale based on current population



World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision

WORLD POPULATION TO EXCEED 9 BILLION BY 2050

World population is projected to reach 7 billion early in 2012, up from the current 6.8 billion, and surpass 9 billion people by 2050. Most of the additional 2.3 billion people will enlarge the population of developing countries, which is projected to rise from 5.6 billion in 2009 to 7.9 billion in 2050, and will be distributed among the population aged 15-59 (1.2 billion) and 60 or over (1.1 billion) because the number of children under age 15 in developing countries will decrease. In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to change minimally, passing from 1.23 billion to 1.28 billion, and would have declined to 1.15 billion were it not for the projected net migration from developing to developed countries, which is projected to average 2.4 million persons annually from 2009 to 2050.

The 2008 Revision is the twenty-first round of official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. These are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring population information. The 2008 Revision builds on the 2006 Revision and incorporates both the results of the 2000 round of national population censuses and of recent specialized surveys carried out around the world. These sources provide both demographic and other information to assess the progress made in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The comprehensive review of past worldwide demographic trends and future prospects presented in the 2008 Revision provides the population basis for the assessment of those goals.

Key findings of the 2008 Revision can be summarized as follows:

- In July 2009, world population will reach 6.8 billion, 313 million more than in 2005 or a gain of 78 million persons annually. Assuming that fertility levels continue to decline, world population is expected to reach 9.1 billion in 2050 and to be increasing by about 33 million persons annually at that time, according to the medium variant.
- Future population growth is highly dependent on the path that future fertility takes. In the medium variant, fertility declines from 2.56 children per woman in 2005-2010 to 2.02 children per woman in 2045-2050. If fertility were to remain about half a child above the levels projected in the medium variant, world population would reach 10.5 billion by 2050. A fertility path half a child below the medium would lead to a population of 8 billion by mid-century. Consequently, population growth until 2050 is inevitable even if the decline of fertility accelerates.
- In the more developed regions, fertility has increased slightly in recent years so that its estimated level in 2005-2010, 1.64 children per woman, according to the 2008 Revision is higher than the one reported in the 2006 Revision (1.60 children per woman). As a result of the slightly higher projected fertility and a sustained net in-migration averaging 2.4 million annually, the population of the more developed regions is expected to increase slightly from 1.23 billion in 2009 to 1.28 billion in 2050.
- The population of the 49 least developed countries is still the fastest growing in the world, at 2.3 per cent per year. Although its rate of increase is expected to moderate significantly over the next decades, the population of the least developed countries is projected to double, passing from 0.84 billion in 2009 to 1.7 billion in 2050. Growth in the rest of the developing world is also projected to be robust, though less rapid, with its population rising from 4.8 billion to 6.2 billion between 2009 and 2050 according to the medium variant.
- Slow population growth brought about by reductions in fertility leads to population ageing; that is, it produces populations where the proportion of older persons increases while that of younger persons decreases. In the more developed regions, 22 per cent of population is already aged 60 years or over and that proportion is projected to reach 33 per cent in 2050. In developed countries as a whole, the number of older persons has already surpassed the number of children (persons under age 15), and by 2050 the number of older persons in developed countries will be more than twice the number of children.
- Population ageing is less advanced in developing countries. Nevertheless, the populations of a majority of them are poised to enter a period of rapid population ageing. In developing countries as a whole, just 9 per cent of the population is today aged 60 years or over but that proportion will more than double by 2050, reaching 20 per cent that year.
- Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over is expected almost to triple, increasing from 739 million in 2009 to 2 billion by 2050. Furthermore, already 65 per cent of the world's older persons live in the less developed regions and by 2050, 79 per cent will do so.

- In ageing populations, the numbers of persons of older ages grow faster the higher the age range considered. Thus, whereas the number of persons aged 60 or over is expected to triple, that of persons aged 80 or over (the oldest-old) is projected to increase four-fold, reaching 395 million in 2050. Today, just about half of the oldest-old live in developing countries but that share is expected to reach 69 per cent in 2050.
- Although the population of all countries is expected to age over the foreseeable future, the population will remain relatively young in countries where fertility is still high, many of which are experiencing very rapid population growth. High population growth rates prevail in many developing countries, most of which are least developed. Between 2010 and 2050, the populations of 31 countries, the majority of which are least developed, will double or more. Among them, the populations of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Niger, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Uganda are projected to increase by 150 per cent or more.
- In sharp contrast, the populations of 45 countries or areas are expected to decrease between 2010 and 2050. These countries include Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cuba, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, all of which are expected to see their populations decline by at least 10 per cent by 2050.
- Population growth remains concentrated in the populous countries. During 2010-2050, nine countries are expected to account for half of the world's projected population increase: India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, the United States of America, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania, China and Bangladesh, listed according to the size of their contribution to global population growth.
- Fertility has continued to fall in the vast majority of countries in the less developed regions. The number of developing countries with high fertility (5 children or more per woman) declined from 59 in 1990-1995 to 27 in 2005-2010, and their share of the world population dropped from 13 per cent to 9 per cent. Over the same period, the number of developing countries with fertility levels that do not ensure the replacement of the population increased from 15 to 38.
- Most developed countries have had below-replacement fertility (below 2.1 children per woman) for two or three decades. Among the 45 developed countries with at least 100,000 inhabitants in 2009, 42 had below-replacement fertility in 1990-1995 and 44 did in 2005-2010. However, between the 2000-2005 and 2005-2010, 34 developed countries experienced slight increases in fertility. For the more developed regions as a whole, total fertility increased from 1.58 to 1.64 children per woman between those two periods. Yet, in 2005-2010, 25 developed countries, including Japan and most of the countries in Southern and Eastern Europe, still had fertility levels below 1.5 children per woman.
- In 2005-2010, the 76 countries with below-replacement fertility accounted for 47 per cent of the world population. The most populous developed countries with below replacement fertility are China, Brazil, Viet Nam, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thailand and the Republic of Korea, in order of population size.
- Globally, total fertility is expected to fall from 2.56 children per woman in 2005-2010 to 2.02 in 2045-2050 according to the medium variant. However, in the more developed regions, total fertility is projected to increase from 1.64 children per woman currently to 1.80 in 2045-2050. A major reduction of fertility is projected for the group of least developed countries (from 4.39 to 2.41 children per woman) and the fertility of the rest of the developing world is expected to drop from 2.46 children per woman currently to 1.93 in 2045-2050, thus nearly converging with the fertility levels by then typical of the developed world.
- The median age, that is, the age that divides the population in two halves of equal size, is an indicator of population ageing. Globally, the median age is projected to increase from 29 to 38 years between 2009 and 2050. Europe today has the oldest population, with a median age of nearly 40 years, which is expected to reach 47 years in 2050.
- The median age is higher in countries that have been experiencing low fertility for a long time. In 2010, 19 developed countries or areas are expected to have a median age of 40 years or higher, up from 11 in 2005. In addition, two developing areas or countries, Hong Kong SAR China and Singapore, have also reached median ages above 40 years. The pervasiveness of population ageing will increase by 2050 when all 45 developed countries are projected to have median ages higher than 40 years and 43 developing countries will also have similarly high median ages. Whereas today about 7 per cent of the world population lives in countries where median ages are 40 years or higher, the equivalent proportion in 2050 is projected to be 43 per cent.
- Countries where fertility remains high and has declined only moderately will experience the slowest population ageing. By 2050, slightly fewer than one in five countries is projected to have a median age under 30 years (37 countries). The youngest populations will be found among the least developed countries, eight of which are projected to have median ages below 25 years in 2050, including Afghanistan, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

- Increasing longevity also contributes to population ageing. Globally, life expectancy at birth is projected to rise from 68 years in 2005-2010 to 78 years in 2045-2050. In the more developed regions, the projected increase is from 77 years in 2005-2010 to 83 years in 2045-2050, while in the less developed regions the increase is expected to be from 66 years currently to 74 years by mid-century.
- Life expectancy remains low in the least developed countries, at just 56 years in 2005-2010, and it is projected to reach 69 years in 2045-2050, realizing such an increase is contingent on reducing the spread of HIV and combating successfully other infectious diseases. Similar challenges must be confronted if the projected increase of life expectancy in the rest of the developing countries, from under 68 years today to 76 years by mid-century, is to be achieved.
- A major concern is that most developed countries are unlikely to meet the goal of reducing under-five mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015, as called for in the Millennium Development Goals. According to the 2008 Revision, 134 of the 151 developing countries with more than 100,000 inhabitants in 2009 will not reach that goal. Furthermore, 59 developing countries, located mainly in sub-Saharan Africa or belonging to the group of least developed countries, are projected to have in 2015 an under-five mortality higher than 45 deaths per 1000, the less demanding target set by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
- Among the more developed regions, Eastern Europe has the lowest life expectancy and it has experienced reductions in life expectancy at birth since the late 1980s. In 2005-2010, life expectancy in the region increased somewhat but at 69.2 years was lower than it had been in 1965-1970 (68.6 years). Despite having recorded some recovery since the late 1990s, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine currently have the lowest life expectancies among developed countries (below 70 years).
- Although the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to be a major issue of concern in the global health agenda, adult HIV prevalence reached a peak over the past decade or so in at least two thirds of the 58 countries considered to be most affected by the epidemic and a growing number of them are reaching and maintaining lower prevalence levels. Nevertheless, in countries where prevalence has been high, the impact of the epidemic in terms of morbidity, mortality and slower population growth continues to be evident. Thus, in Southern Africa, the region with the highest prevalence of the disease, life expectancy has fallen from 61 years in 1990-1995 to 52 years in 2005-2010 and is only recently beginning to increase. Nevertheless, life expectancy in the region is not expected to recover the level it had in the early 1990s before 2045. As a consequence, the growth rate of the population in the region has plummeted, passing from 2.4 per cent annually in 1990-1995 to 0.6 per cent annually in 2005-2010 and is expected to continue declining for the foreseeable future.
- Given the low fertility prevailing in developed countries, deaths are expected to exceed births over the foreseeable future. Consequently, the population of the more developed regions would be decreasing if the excess of deaths over births were not counterbalanced by a net migration gain. During 2010-2050, the net number of international migrants to more developed regions is projected to be 96 million, whereas the excess of deaths over births is 58 million, implying an overall growth of 38 million.
- In 2005-2010, net migration in nine countries or areas more than doubled the contribution of natural increase (births minus deaths) to population growth: Belgium, Macao SAR China, Luxembourg, Malta, Qatar, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. In addition, in a further 11 countries or areas, net migration counterbalanced totally or in part the excess of deaths over births. These countries are: Austria, the Channel Islands, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Portugal and the Russian Federation.
- In terms of annual averages, the major net receivers of international migrants during 2010-2050 are projected to be the United States (1.1 million annually), Canada (214,000), the United Kingdom (174,000), Spain (170,000), Italy (159,000), Germany (110,000), Australia (100,000) and France (100,000). The major countries of net emigration are projected to be Mexico (-334,000), China (-309,000 annually), India (-253,000), the Philippines (-175,000), Pakistan (-161,000), Indonesia (-156,000) and Bangladesh (-148,000). Although the current economic crisis may reduce migration flows in comparison to those registered over the recent past, the major economic and demographic asymmetries that will persist are likely to remain powerful generators of international migration over the medium-term future.

In addition to this wallchart, the full results and analysis of the 2008 Revision will be issued in a series of three volumes and a set of two CD-ROMs. A population database containing the results is available on the United Nations Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

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Population Division

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