



World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results

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*The following key messages are based on **World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results**, which presents the latest round of global population estimates and projections by the United Nations*

Ten key messages

1. The world's population continues to grow, but the pace of growth is slowing down.

In 2020, the growth rate of the global population fell under 1 per cent per year for the first time since 1950. The latest projections by the United Nations suggest that the world population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050; it is projected to reach a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100. The world's population is projected to reach 8 billion on 15 November 2022, and India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.

2. Policies aimed at reducing fertility would have little immediate impact on the pace of global growth.

Two-thirds of the projected increase in global population through 2050 will be driven by the momentum of past growth that is embedded in the youthful age structure of the current population. For this reason, further actions by Governments aimed at reducing fertility would not have a major impact on the pace of growth between now and mid-century, beyond the gradual slowdown anticipated by the projections. Nevertheless, the cumulative effect of lower fertility

5. A rising share of population in the working ages can help boost economic growth per capita.

In most countries of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in parts of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the share of population at working ages (between 25 and 64 years) has been increasing thanks to recent reductions in fertility. This shift in the age distribution provides a time-bound opportunity for accelerated economic growth per capita, known as the “demographic dividend”. To maximize the potential benefits of a favourable age distribution, countries should invest in the further development of their human capital by ensuring access to health care and quality education at all ages and by promoting opportunities for productive employment and decent work.

6. The population of older persons is increasing both in numbers and as a share of the total.

The population above age 65 years is growing more rapidly than the population below that age. As a result, the share of global population at ages 65 and above is projected to rise from 10 per cent in 2022 to 16 per cent in 2050. At that point, it is expected that the number of persons aged 65 years or over worldwide will be more than twice the number of children under age 5 and about the same as the number under age 12. Countries with ageing populations should take steps to adapt public programmes to the growing numbers of older persons, including by establishing universal health care and long-term care systems and by improving the sustainability of social security and pension systems.

7. More and more countries have begun to experience population decline.

Fertility rates are falling below replacement level in many countries, leading to population decline. This trend is expected to continue in the coming decades, with significant implications for economic growth and social security systems.