

POPULATION

Population growth is measured as the difference between births, deaths and net migration. During the last 50 years population growth in the OECD area has fallen to almost zero in 2011. The world population has more than doubled over the past 50 years. Projections for the next four decades show that world population will exceed 9 billion people in the 2040s while the population for the OECD total (if the OECD remains at 34 members) will reach 1.4 billion, i.e. around 15% of the world total.

Looking at the variations across OECD countries, the population in Japan is expected to shrink to less than 100 million by 2040s (i.e. around 80% of today's level), whereas the population of the United States, after having risen by around 10% in the last decade will increase by less than 1% in the next 30 years.

Among the emerging economies, India is expected to outpace both China and the OECD area in terms of population size by 2020, reaching approximately 1.7 billion people in the 2040s. However, the overall pattern among these countries is that of declining growth rates of the population since the 1980s, which are projected to turn negative over the next 40 years in China and the Russian Federation.

Policymakers need to take into account demographic trends in order to optimise government spending, for instance, on health care or education. In this respect, beyond population size, its composition also matters. The figure on the next

page shows data on the share of dependant population, where the word “dependent” refers to people aged less than 15 and over 65. In the OECD area, the share of the dependent population has been falling from around 38% in the 1960s to 33% in the 2000s. This share has been increasing in the 2010s and is projected to be close to 41% of the total population in the 2040s.

Within the OECD area, the United States has experienced a decline in its share of dependent population, followed by a flattening out at around 35% in the 2000s, and then by a ratio rising to 39% in the 2040s. In Japan, the upward trend in this share started earlier and was much steeper, with the share of the dependent population projected to be at around 47% of the total population by the 2040s. Higher shares of the dependent population are also expected in the other emerging economies with the exception of India, where this share is projected to continue to fall until at least 2050.

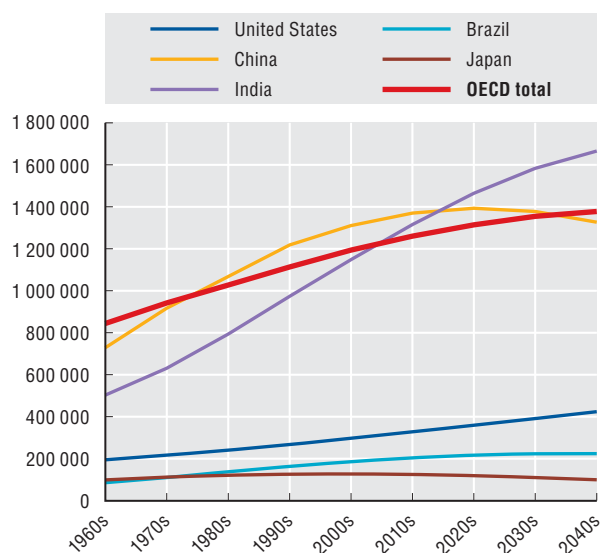
Sources

For more information, see: [Population and migration](#)

- Total population
- Dependent population

Population evolution over decades

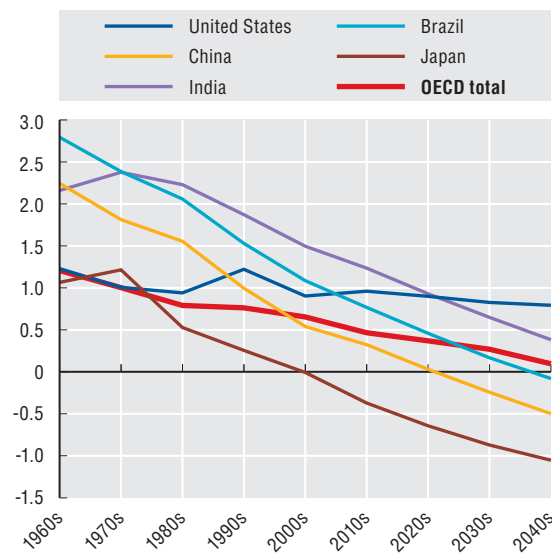
Average population levels, thousands



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932501840>

Population growth rates over decades

Average growth, percentage



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932501859>

Population evolution over decades

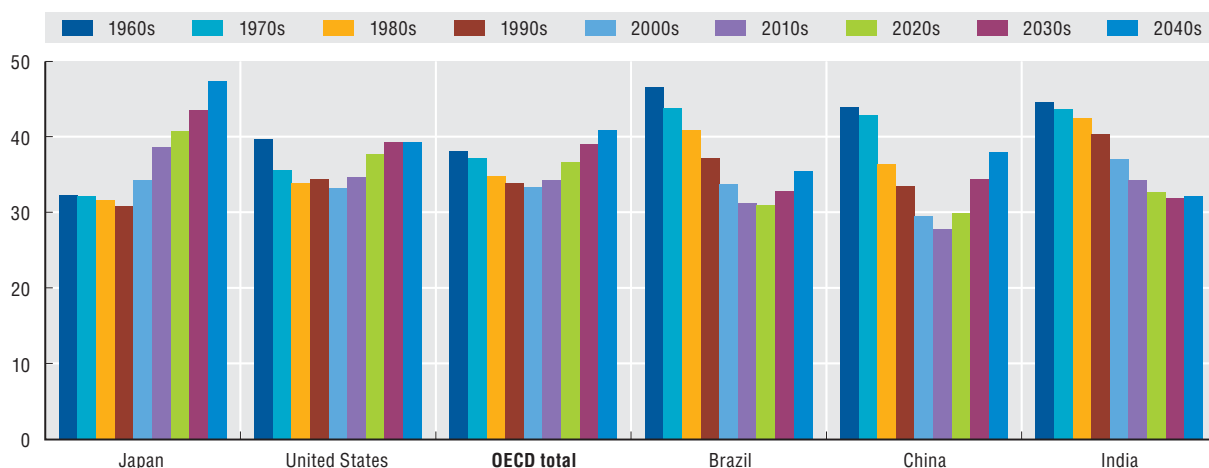
Average population levels, thousands

	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s	2030s	2040s
Australia	11 476	13 929	15 956	18 199	20 699	23 802	27 066	30 083	32 793
Austria	7 291	7 560	7 586	7 929	8 229	8 545	8 758	8 906	8 977
Belgium	9 457	9 789	9 882	10 141	9 458	10 697	10 914	11 026	10 964
Canada	20 231	23 248	26 106	29 415	32 485	35 129	37 740	39 880	41 367
Chile	8 723	10 473	12 240	14 453	16 341	17 916	19 150	19 908	20 181
Czech Republic	9 765	10 086	10 338	10 309	10 310	10 296	10 209	9 954	9 620
Denmark	4 774	5 059	5 123	5 245	5 438	5 539	5 638	5 690	5 653
Estonia	1 297	1 432	1 533	1 443	1 348	1 332	1 313	1 277	1 256
Finland	4 563	4 708	4 901	5 108	5 265	5 454	5 622	5 713	5 738
France	48 776	52 715	55 438	57 956	55 009	63 964	66 334	68 356	69 630
Germany	76 032	78 458	78 230	81 522	74 101	82 806	81 879	79 583	76 259
Greece	8 602	9 175	9 945	10 640	9 999	11 390	11 374	11 175	10 820
Hungary	10 173	10 556	10 612	10 309	10 085	9 929	9 717	9 356	8 921
Iceland	193	218	243	269	302	318	336	348	354
Ireland	2 881	3 196	3 513	3 637	4 185	4 592	4 949	5 220	5 423
Israel	2 613	3 488	4 276	5 618	7 009
Italy	52 247	55 434	56 600	56 859	52 686	59 096	58 611	57 708	56 454
Japan	98 815	111 866	121 093	125 599	127 575	125 047	118 796	110 127	99 910
Korea	29 042	35 535	40 936	45 236	48 364	49 239	49 031	47 535	44 260
Luxembourg	330	356	370	411	419	503	549	592	629
Mexico	45 175	59 797	76 595	92 246	104 287	112 602	118 833	122 306	122 575
Netherlands	12 353	13 693	14 564	15 497	14 673	16 625	16 897	16 990	16 863
New Zealand	2 649	3 079	3 295	3 691	4 144	4 432	4 714	4 926	5 029
Norway	3 741	4 008	4 167	4 373	4 669	4 922	5 241	5 527	5 755
Poland	31 466	34 185	37 177	38 242	38 172	37 361	36 770	35 900	34 366
Portugal	8 907	9 155	9 981	10 063	9 460	10 763	10 873	10 889	10 774
Slovak Republic	4 381	4 767	5 169	5 357	5 395	5 414	5 386	5 237	5 000
Slovenia	1 632	1 754	1 887	1 965	1 802	2 044	2 048	2 016	1 974
Spain	32 200	35 915	38 404	39 486	43 667	45 289	45 505	44 990	43 669
Sweden	7 768	8 206	8 392	8 788	9 093	9 463	9 879	10 161	10 382
Switzerland	5 864	6 294	6 508	7 025	7 493	8 148	8 587	8 833	8 951
Turkey	31 575	40 284	50 565	60 189	68 968	76 936	85 950	93 377	96 061
United Kingdom	54 397	56 186	56 664	58 115	59 991	64 757	69 025	72 573	75 650
United States	194 937	217 243	239 203	267 792	297 130	327 188	359 054	391 155	423 819
OECD total	844 328	941 851	1 027 492	1 113 127	1 193 825	1 260 223	1 314 223	1 354 611	1 377 852
Brazil	85 531	109 744	137 424	163 194	186 515	203 829	216 408	223 086	223 938
China	728 598	917 147	1 067 884	1 218 183	1 310 596	1 370 044	1 393 373	1 377 811	1 326 826
India	503 214	631 086	794 036	973 280	1 148 322	1 315 473	1 464 325	1 583 115	1 665 657
Indonesia	105 817	135 887	169 590	200 654	228 360	252 756	272 408	285 976	292 498
Russian Federation	126 656	134 735	144 108	148 247	144 070	142 023	138 684	133 525	128 535
South Africa	20 108	26 044	33 319	41 535	47 943	51 532	53 818	55 506	56 474
World	3 378 950	4 112 880	4 912 312	5 763 199	6 546 516	7 319 198	8 030 252	8 632 917	9 120 303

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932501878>

Share of the dependent population (people aged less than 15 and over 65)

Average percentage of the total population

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