Basic Guide to the World

Population

1960 to 2003
Changes and trends

A report from The Global Social Change Research Project

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This report was prepared by The Global Social Change Research Project

The project began in 2000, as a way to help understand how society works. This project includes presenting reports about how the world has changed recently, for example population and economic changes.

We hope that our reports can be used to help the public come to a better understanding of society today.

We also hope that the reports and data used to prepare these reports will be useful for researchers, students and teachers.

All reports and data sets used to create these reports are available through the project web site and are freely available for teaching and research use.

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Population Trends
Population trends:

In this report, we use graphs and tables to show how the world population has changed in the last 40 years. We show where most people live, which areas have grown the most, which are the largest countries, and how they have changed.

The graphs and tables in this report show that:

More developed versus less developed countries:
- The majority of the world population is in the less developed countries.
- Population growth is faster among the less developed countries.
- Population growth is slowing down for both more and less developed countries.

Regions:
- The majority of the world population is in Asia.
- The next largest regions are sub-Saharan Africa and Latin American Caribbean.
- The fastest growing regions are sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East and Northern Africa.
- Population growth has declined among all regions.

World's Largest Countries:
- The countries with the largest populations, by far, are China and India.
- United States is the distant third largest country.
- In general, population growth has declined among the largest countries, except possibly Bangladesh and the United States.
Figures and Tables
Figure 1

World Population, More vs Less developed countries

Number of people

Less Developed
More Developed

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Charts may be used freely.

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base retrieved 4/21/05 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html in Online Demographic Aggregation
Figure 2

World Population, by geographic region

Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base retrieved 4/21/05 from http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html in Online Demographic Aggregation

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World Population by geographic region, excluding Asia

Number of people


World Population, by geographic region, excluding Asia

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Population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, International Data Base
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Figure 3
Figure 4

World Population, 9 largest countries

Number of people


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### Table 1.
**Average percent change in population**
**By region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Less Developed</th>
<th>More Developed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000s</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2
**Average percent change in population**
**By Country**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000s</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Information

These web sites have basic guides to world population growth.

The Global Social Change Research Project Research page
http://gsociology.icaap.org/research.html
Links to many sources.

The US Census's Global Population Profile: 2002
http://www.census.gov/ ipc/www/wp02.html
Also see the Census Bureau's International Data Base for data
http://www.census.gov/ ipc/www/idbnew.html

United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

Especially see the report: Population Estimates and Projections

Population Reference Bureau
http://www.prb.org/
Especially see the World Population Data Sheets
http://www.prb.org/wpds
and the Population Handbook, in the PRB library.