



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
CRIS

Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies



## Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

### Title of the report

**Brief Review of World Demographic Trends - Population**

### Area

Demography

### Reporter

Global Social Change Project

### Type of the Reporter

Private Organisation

### Periodically updated?

Yes

### First issued year

2002

### Latest update

2012

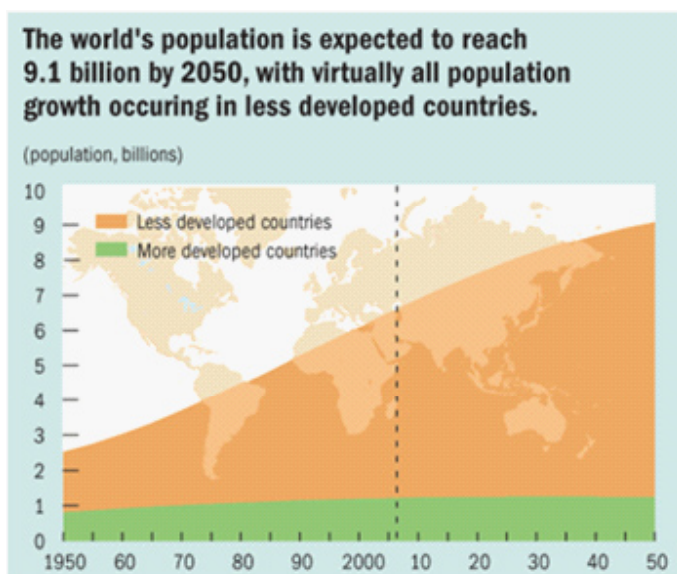
### Official website

<http://gsociology.icaap.org>

### Language available

English

### Short summary



The world and most regions and countries are experiencing unprecedentedly rapid demographic increase. In the last 50 years, the world's population has increased dramatically, and this trend is not likely to stop anytime soon. Less developed countries have the largest population growth, growing at a rate that is more than five times faster than in developed countries. This report provides an overview of several governmental and non-governmental documents on the current and future demographic, and human development trends.

Another re-occurring trend is the move to urban areas. According to the IMF, the world's urban population is expected to grow by 1.8 percent a year between 2000 and 2030, almost twice as fast as global population growth. The number of people living in urban areas will rise from 3 billion in 2005 to 5 billion in 2030.

## Key trends

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World Population will continue to grow:

- Population is growing slower in developed countries than it is in undeveloped countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the fastest growing region.

The population is rapidly moving to urban areas.

As a consequence of the differing growth rates, and differing slowdown of growth rates, the proportion of world population that is from each region has changed over time. The largest change was that Sub-Saharan Africa increased from 7.4% of world population in 1950 to 12.4% in 2010, while Europe declined from 21.6% to 10.7%.

Areas that increased as percent of total world population:

- Asia, slightly, from 55.5% in 1950 to 60.3% in 2010.
- Sub-Saharan Africa, from 7.4% in 1950 to 12.4% in 2010.
- Latin America and the Caribbean, slightly, from 6.6% in 1950 to 8.5% in 2010.

Areas that decreased as percent of total world population:

- Europe, from 21.6% in 1950 to 10.7% in 2010.
- Northern America, from 6.8% in 1950 to 5% in 2010.

## Suggestions

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## Methodology

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Survey and modelling

## Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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- IMF Global Demographic Trends
- The US Census Bureau shows world population and growth rates
- Rapid Growth in Less Developed Regions
- World Population Prospects: 2010
- Human population growth and the demographic transition. John Bongaarts. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B 27 October 2009 vol. 364 no. 1532 2985-2990
- World Population Growth, 1950-2050, Population Reference Bureau
- European population compared with world population
- Population Growth over Human History
- Population: A Lively Introduction