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Notes

The Data Sheet lists all geopolitical entities with populations of 150,000 or more and all members of the United Nations, including sovereign states, dependencies, overseas departments, and some territories whose status or boundaries may be undetermined or in dispute.

More-developed, less-developed, and least-developed regions follow the UN classification (un.org/ohrfls/content/least-developed-countries). **High-income, middle-income** (composed of **upper middle-income** and **lower middle-income**), and **low-income** economies follow the World Bank classification based on GNI per capita (datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups).

World and Regional Totals: Regional population totals are independently rounded and include small countries or areas not shown. Regional and world rates and percentages are weighted averages of countries for which data are available. Regional averages are shown when data or estimates are available for at least three-quarters of the region's population.

World Population Data Sheets from different years **should not be used as a time series**. Fluctuations in values from year to year often reflect revisions based on new data or estimates rather than actual changes in levels.

Sources

The rates and figures are primarily compiled from the following sources: online databases, reports, and other materials from national statistical offices and regional organizations; demographic and family planning surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), and Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) surveys; the United Nations (*UN Demographic Yearbook 2024* and *Population and Vital Statistics Report*, vol. LXXVII (January 2026), of the UN Statistics Division; *World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision*, *World Contraceptive Use 2024*, and *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2025*

Revision of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division; the International Database of the International Programs Center, U.S. Census Bureau; the World Development Indicators database of the World Bank; FAOSTAT of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the UNESCO Institute for Statistics UIS Data Browser; ILOSTAT of the International Labour Organization; the Inter-Parliamentary Union; the AIDSinfo database of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; and estimates from the United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group, comprising the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank Group, and the UN Population Division. The sources also include direct communication with national statistical offices, demographers, and country experts. Specific data sources may be obtained by contacting the authors of the *2026 World Population Data Sheet*.

Demographic rates for countries with complete vital registration are those most recently reported. For more-developed countries, the rates refer to 2025 or 2024. For other indicators, see Definitions for data years.

The data source for the map is the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Data sources for the line chart are the Demographic and Health Surveys (Ethiopia and Nigeria) and national statistical offices (Germany, Spain, Colombia, and Thailand).

Definitions

POPULATION, MID-2026 AND PROJECTED POPULATION, MID-2025 AND MID-2050 (MILLIONS) Current population estimates and projections are based on recent censuses, official national data, and analyses conducted by national statistical offices, regional organizations, PRB, the UN Population Division, and the International Programs Center of the U.S. Census Bureau. The effects of refugee movements, large numbers of foreign workers, and population shifts due to current events are incorporated to the extent possible. Projections are based on assumptions about the future course of fertility, mortality, and migration.

BIRTHS/DEATHS PER 1,000 POPULATION Crude birth and death rates, or the annual number of births and deaths per 1,000 population, respectively.

RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE (%) The annual rate at which a population grows or declines as a result of births and deaths, excluding migration. It is calculated as the birth rate minus the death rate and expressed as a percentage.

NET MIGRATION RATE The annual net number of migrants—immigrants minus emigrants—per 1,000 population. For some countries, the rate is calculated as the difference between population change and natural increase or decrease. Because rates are rounded to whole numbers, “0” indicates a rate below 0 but greater than -0.5, while “0” indicates a rate from 0 up to, but not including, 0.5.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE The annual number of deaths among children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 live births.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE The average number of children a woman would have over her lifetime if current age-specific fertility rates remained constant throughout her reproductive years (typically defined as ages 15–49).

POPULATION AGES -15 AND AGES 65+ (%) The percentage of the total population under age 15, and the percentage age 65 or older—together considered the dependent-age population.

URBAN POPULATION (%) The percentage of the total population living in areas termed urban by that country.

POPULATION PER KM² OF ARABLE LAND The mid-year 2026 population divided by the area of arable land in the country, measured in square kilometers. Arable land includes land under temporary crops, temporary meadows and pastures, and temporary fallow. Arable land data refer to 2024.

GNI PER CAPITA, PPP (CURRENT INTERNATIONAL \$) Gross national income converted to purchasing power parity (PPP) and divided by the mid-year population. Data are for 2025 except where shown in *italics*, which indicate 2024 data.

MEAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING, AGES 25- BY SEX The average number of completed years of education among people ages 25 and older, by sex, excluding years spent repeating individual grades. Data refer to the latest available year between 2018 and 2024.

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, AGES 15-64 (%), BY SEX The percentage of people ages 15–64 who are working or actively seeking and available for work, by sex. Data are modeled estimates for 2026.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (%) The percentage of seats in the lower or single chamber of the national parliament held by women. Parliament is a national representative body that makes laws and oversees government action, such as a congress or national assembly. Data are as of January 2026.

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS), BY SEX The average number of years a newborn would be expected to live if the sex- and age-specific death rates prevailing in a given year remained constant throughout the newborn's life, calculated separately for females and males.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO The number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in a given year. Maternal deaths are deaths during pregnancy, childbirth, or within 42 days after a pregnancy ends, from causes related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management; accidental or incidental deaths are excluded. Data are modeled estimates for 2023.

FAMILY PLANNING AMONG MARRIED WOMEN: USE OF ANY METHOD, USE OF MODERN METHODS, AND DEMAND SATISFIED BY MODERN METHODS (%) Among women ages 15–49 who are currently married or in union, the percentage currently using any contraceptive method; the percentage currently using a modern contraceptive method; and, among those with a need for family planning, the percentage whose need is satisfied by modern methods. Modern methods generally include clinic and supply methods, including the pill, injectable, implant, IUD, condom, and sterilization. The classification of lactational amenorrhea and the Standard Days Method as modern methods varies across countries. Data are from the most recently available national surveys conducted since 2016. Data prior to 2021 are shown in *italics*. Definitions of currently married or in union and the age ranges covered by surveys may vary by country. Data for Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Uruguay refer to ever-married women.

YOUTH AGES 15-24 LIVING WITH HIV (%), BY SEX The HIV prevalence rate among young people, or the percentage of the population ages 15–24 who are living with HIV, shown for females and males. Data are modeled estimates for 2025.

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The World Population Data Sheet, produced annually by PRB since 1962, is both a reference document and an educational tool. With two dozen critical POPULATION, HEALTH, and ENVIRONMENT indicators carefully researched, developed, and vetted by PRB demographers and analysts for more than 200 countries and territories, it provides a snapshot of the demographic patterns shaping our world today and previews what we can expect in the future.