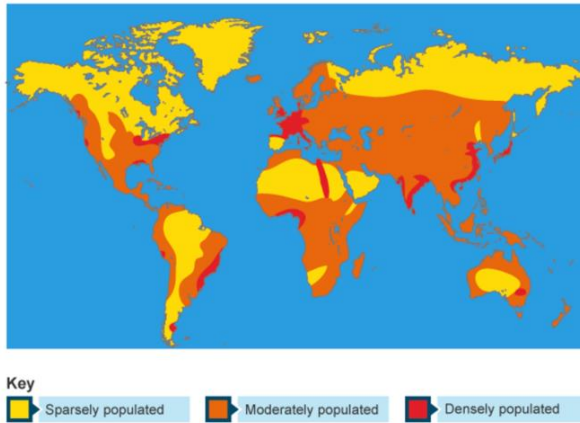


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Population density

refers to the number of people living in an area. It is worked out by dividing the number of people in an area by the size of the area. If there are few people living in an area this means that it is **sparsely populated**, while a **densely populated** area has many people living there.



Factors affecting population density

Factors that can lead to dense populations include:

- flat or gently sloping land
- mild climate
- good soils
- lowland
- water
- good transport and communication links, e.g. ports
- places to work
- resources, e.g. coal, oil

Factors that can lead to sparse populations include:

- steep slopes
- harsh climate - very hot or very cold
- dense forest
- dry conditions
- isolated areas with poor transport links
- few jobs
- lack of resources

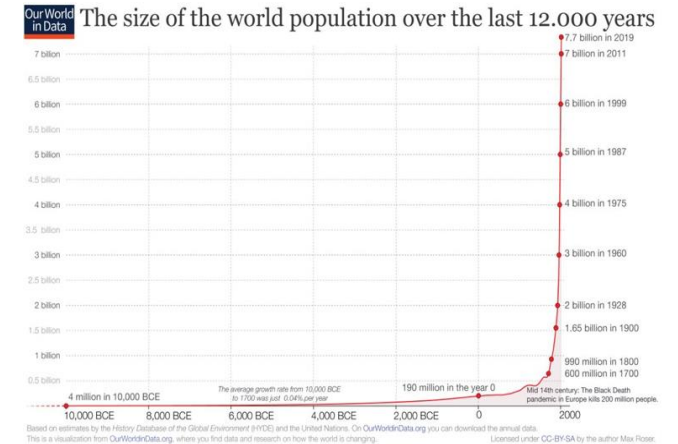
Population changes

The world's population has changed over time. During the 1st century AD, the world population was about 300,000 people. The current population is over 8 billion, and most of the growth has taken place within the last 100 years.

What causes population to change?

- births
- deaths
- migration

Overtime, as healthcare has improved, death rates have continued to fall. The introduction of vaccines has also helped to protect people from diseases. As a result, **life expectancy** has increased.

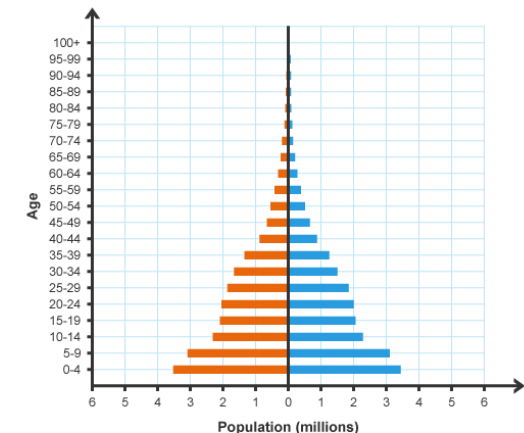


Population Pyramids

Population structures are shown using population pyramids. A population structure refers to the number of males and females in each age group that are found within a specific place.

What does this mean?

- A wide base means there are lots of young people, and suggests a **high birth rate**.
- A narrow base means a smaller proportion of young people, suggesting a **low birth rate**.
- A thin middle, short pyramid means a smaller ageing population, suggesting that there is not a **long-life expectancy**.



While improvements in healthcare have historically lowered death rates, increased access to contraception has lowered birth rates.

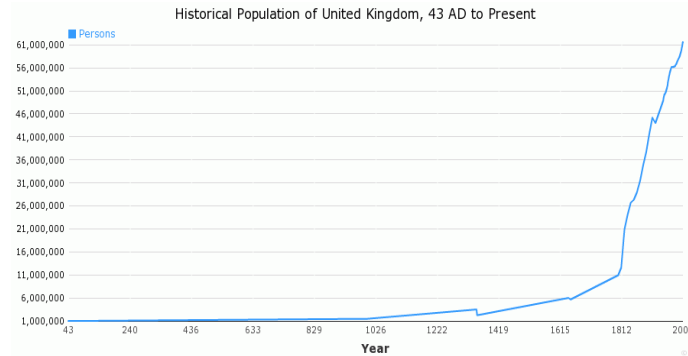
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Key Words

- Ageing Population** – a country with a high proportion of people over the age of 65.
- Birth Rate** – the number of people born per 1000 of the population.
- Death Rate** – the number of people who die per 1000 of the population.
- Densely Populated** – many people living in an area.
- Fertility Rate** – the average number of babies born, per woman in her lifetime.
- Life Expectancy** - the average number of years a person is expected to live.
- Population Density** – the average number of people living in a place per square kilometre.
- Population Growth Rate** – a measure of how quickly the number of people in an area increases.
- Sparsely Populated** – few people living in an area.
- GNI per person** – a measure of people’s wealth.
- Sustainable** – can be carried on into the future without harming people’s quality of life, the economy or the environment.

The UK’s population is growing why?

- **Natural Increase** – more births than deaths
- People are living longer – **ageing population**
- People moving here from other countries – **immigrants** – more immigrants than **emigrants** (people leaving the UK to live in other countries)



Migration Push factors

These are the reasons for why someone would want to move away from a place:

- Lack of services
- War
- Famine (starvation/food shortages)
- Few Jobs
- Natural Disasters

Pull factors

These are the reasons for why someone would want to move to a place:

- Higher quality of life (better homes, etc.)
 - Access to education
 - “Bright Lights” of the city
 - Better healthcare
- Better job opportunities

The Future Key Points

With a global population continuing to rise – the greater the demand for resources – there will be competition for these.
Impacts – habitat loss, more waste, climate change.

Ageing Populations – **HIC’s** – pressure on the working population to support and health care systems – immigrants will be needed.

Very young populations – **LIC’s** – competition for jobs – people may have to emigrate.

Population Growth Around the World

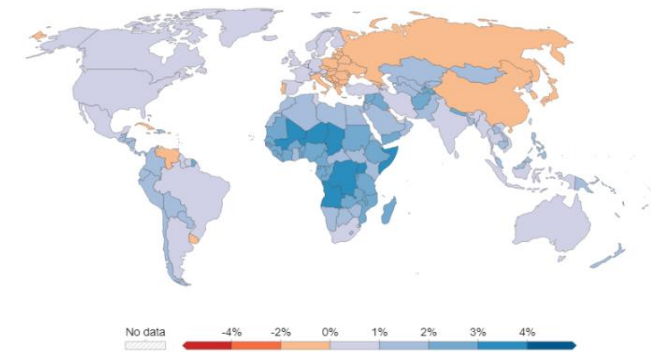
The Earth’s population is growing, but not at the same rate around the world.

HIC’s – low **fertility rates** – why? Women are better educated and go out to work so generally have fewer children. With high costs of living parents opt for smaller families which also helps the planet. Contraception is widely available.

LIC’s – high **fertility rates** – why? Children needed to work and support their families, girls are poorly educated, drop out of school, marry young and have lots of children. Many young women have no access to advice about family planning so have little control over how many children they have.

Population growth rate, 2021

Annual rate of population change from 1950, including UN projections to 2100 based on its median scenario. This takes births, deaths and migration into account.



Source: United Nations - Population Division (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/world-population-growth/ - CC BY

