Historical population data and projections (1950-2050)

Statistical population

This dataset presents annual population data from 1950 to 2050 by sex and five year age groups as well as age-dependency ratios. The data is available for 46 countries. Data from 1950 to 2011 (2012) are historical data while data from 2012 (2013) are projections.

In order to estimate the population in coming years, fertility rate, life expectancy and level of immigration have to be estimated. Assumptions underlying the estimations of each of these three elements are usually categorise as low, medium or high within one specific country. Where a range of projections are available, the projection data presented here are based on the "medium variant". Assumptions underlying the projection data shown are described country per country in the metadata table as well as the source of data.

There are three sources for the data: national statistical institutes, Eurostat or the United Nations.

The population data is presented in 18 five year age groups which refer to the population from 0-4 to 85 and more. The following age groups are also available: less than 15, less than 20, 15 to 64, 20-64, 65 and over. Age-dependency ratios are also presented.

Assumptions by country.

Data are presented for 46 countries. The 34 OECD member countries, the 6 EU countries not belonging to the OECD, and Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, China, Russia and South Africa.

Key statistical concept

Age-dependency ratios are a measure of the age structure of the population. They relate the number of persons that are likely to be "dependent" on the support of others for their daily living to the number of those who are capable of providing such support. The potentially dependent persons are the youths and the elderly. Age-dependency ratios are calculated here as ratios between the number of persons potentially outside the labour force and those potentially within the labour force.

The indicator "Age dependency ratio" is the ratio between the persons aged less than 20 (15) and those aged 65 and more over persons aged 20-64 (15-20). Two old age-dependency ratios are shown corresponding to two measures of the working age population, namely persons aged 15-64 and 20-64. The indicator "65+share" represents the share of 65 and over in the population. The indicator "80+share" represents the share of 80 and over in the population.