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STATISTICS BOOK

Population: statistics and facts

16 full reports · Edition October 2026

8.58M

NEW YORK, NO. 1

4.17B

MALES WORLDWIDE
2026

68.9M

ADDED IN 2026

342M

TOTAL 2025

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Population: statistics and facts

Population in numbers: 16 reports covering US (5 reports) and World Population (2 reports), each with its sources and charts.

A few of the headline figures: 8.58M (New York, No. 1), 4.17B (Males Worldwide 2026), 68.9M (Added in 2026) and 342M (Total 2025).

The latest revisions cover Largest US Cities by Population 2026: Top 25 Ranked and World Population by Gender 2026: 4.17B Men, 4.13B Women. Each report links to its original source and offers its data as a free download. This page updates itself as reports are added or revised, most recently on Oct 19, 2026.

Further reading in this topic: Population growth by country statistics & facts, US Population by Sex, 1980 to 2025: Men vs Women and World Population 2026: Latest Statistics & Facts.

Each chapter is a complete Business Stats report with its text, charts, tables and primary sources. The online version of every report is updated continuously; this book shows them as of Oct 19, 2026.

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STATISTICS REPORT

Most populated cities in the US 2026

Updated Sep 16, 2026 · businessstats.com/most-populated-us-cities

8.58M NEW YORK, NO. 1	3.87M LOS ANGELES, NO. 2	12 CITIES OVER 1M
2.22x NYC VS LA	6 TEXAS IN TOP 25	24.6% FASTEST GROWTH

Overview

Cities with the largest resident population in the United States in 2026

New York City remains the most populated city in the United States in 2026, with roughly 8.58 million residents according to the latest Census Bureau estimates. Los Angeles is a distant second at about 3.87 million, followed by Chicago at 2.73 million. After that the ranking runs through a run of Texas and Sun Belt cities, with Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Diego, Dallas and Fort Worth completing the top ten.

What stands out is the scale of the New York lead. It is about 2.22 times the size of Los Angeles and, on its own, bigger than Los Angeles and Chicago combined. No other US city comes close to that kind of primacy. Below the top three, though, the rankings are increasingly shaped by the South and West, where cities such as Fort Worth, Jacksonville and Austin keep climbing.

The chart below ranks the fifteen largest cities by resident population. These are city-proper figures, counting only the people inside each municipal boundary, which is why they look smaller than the metro-area numbers often quoted in the news. A later section shows just how large that difference can be.

Top 15 US Cities by Population, 2025 (millions) New York towers over the rest.

Data:

Resident population in millions, July 1, 2025.

Note:



Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. City-proper boundaries. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

New York towers over the rest: at 8.58 million it is more than double Los Angeles and larger than Chicago and Los Angeles combined.

The Gap at the Top

How much bigger is New York than the rest?

The distance between New York and everyone else is the defining feature of the US urban hierarchy. The New York total of 8.58 million residents dwarfs the 3.87 million in Los Angeles and 2.73 million in Chicago. The drop from first to second is larger than the entire population of Chicago, and from there the numbers fall away quickly, with Houston at 2.40 million and Phoenix at 1.67 million rounding out the top five.

This pattern, where one city is far larger than the next, is unusual among large countries and reflects the long history of New York as the commercial and cultural gateway of the nation. Even as its population dipped after 2020 and has only partly recovered, its lead is in no danger. The chart compares the top six cities directly so the size of that gap is clear.

The Six Largest US Cities, 2025 (millions) A steep drop after the top three.

Data:

Resident population in millions, July 1, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A steep drop after the top three: New York, Los Angeles and Chicago sit far above Houston, Phoenix and Philadelphia.

Winners and Losers

Which big cities are growing, and which are shrinking?

Behind the rankings is a clear regional story. Since the 2020 census, the largest coastal and Rust Belt cities have lost residents while Sun Belt cities have surged. New York is down more than 200,000 people from its 2020 count, and Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia have each slipped as well. At the same time San



Antonio has added about 114,000 residents, Fort Worth around 109,000 and Houston roughly 93,000.

The first chart below shows the change since 2020 for the ten largest cities, with bars above the line for gains and below it for losses. The split between the older coastal giants and the rising southern cities could hardly be sharper. The second chart ranks the biggest numeric gainers among the top cities, all of them in the South and West.

Change Since the 2020 Census, 10 Largest Cities (thousands)Coastal giants down, Sun Belt up.

Data:

Change in residents in thousands, 2020 census to July 2025 estimate.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Coastal giants down, Sun Belt up: New York fell by more than 200,000 while San Antonio, Fort Worth and Houston posted the biggest gains.

Biggest Gains Since 2020, Top Cities (thousands)Texas leads the growth.

Data:

Residents added in thousands, 2020 census to July 2025 estimate.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Texas leads the growth: San Antonio, Fort Worth and Houston each added around 90,000 to 114,000 residents since 2020.

City vs Metro

City limits versus the whole metro area

City-proper population and metro-area population are two very different measures, and confusing them is the most common mistake in this kind of ranking. A city figure counts only the people inside the legal municipal boundary. A metro area covers the entire commuting region around it, which is often several times larger.

Dallas is the clearest example. As a city it holds about 1.33 million people, ninth nationally, but its Dallas-Fort Worth metro area is home to roughly 8.48 million, making it one of the largest urban regions in the country. New York, with 8.58 million in the city and 20.1 million in the metro, tells the same story on a grander scale. The chart below sets the city and metro figures side by side for the top cities.

City vs Metro Area Population, 2025 (millions)The metro is far bigger.

Data:

City-proper population versus metropolitan statistical area population, millions, July 1, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

The metro is far bigger: Dallas has 1.33 million people as a city but 8.48 million across its metro area.

Where They Are

Where the biggest US cities are located

Mapping the largest cities onto Census regions shows just how far the balance has tilted toward the Sun Belt. Of the 100 largest cities, 42 sit in the South and 34 in the West. Together the two account for more than three quarters of the biggest cities, leaving the Midwest with 17 and the Northeast with just 7.

The state picture is just as lopsided. Texas and California each place 15 cities in the national top 100, a combined 30 percent of the ranking. Within the top 25, Texas alone accounts for six of the entries, from Houston and San Antonio down to El Paso. The two charts below show the regional and state breakdowns.

The 100 Largest Cities by Region, 2025The Sun Belt dominates.

Data:

Count of the 100 largest cities in each Census region, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

The Sun Belt dominates: the South and West hold 76 of the 100 largest cities between them.

Top 25 Cities by State, 2025 Texas out front.

Data:

Count of top 25 cities by state, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. Fifteen states hold one city each. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Texas out front: six of the top 25 cities are in Texas and four are in California, with fifteen other states holding one each.

The Million Club

Which US cities have more than a million people?

Twelve US cities topped one million residents in 2025. The newest member is Austin, Texas, which crossed the mark for the first time to reach about 1.00 million. It joins Jacksonville and Fort Worth, which both passed a million a year earlier. At the same time San Jose, long a fixture of the million club, slipped just below the line to about 990,000, a quiet marker of the shift away from the coastal tech hubs.

The full million-plus list runs New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Diego, Dallas, Fort Worth, Jacksonville and Austin. The chart below zooms in on the cities clustered right around the one-million threshold, where the most movement is happening.

Around the One-Million Mark, 2025 (thousands) Austin in, San Jose out.

Data:

Resident population in thousands, July 1, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. Austin crossed one million in 2025, San Jose fell just below. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Austin in, San Jose out: Austin reached about 1.00 million while San Jose eased to roughly 990,000.

Texas and the Sun Belt



Why Texas has so many big cities

No state shapes the modern city ranking like Texas. Six of the 25 largest US cities are in Texas: Houston at 2.40 million, San Antonio at 1.55 million, Dallas at 1.33 million, Fort Worth at 1.03 million, Austin at 1.00 million and El Paso at 0.68 million. That gives Texas more top-25 cities than any other state, ahead of the four in California.

Several forces feed the trend: a lower cost of living, business-friendly policy, job growth and steady migration from higher-cost states. The result is that the Texas Triangle of Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin has become one of the fastest-growing urban clusters in the country. The chart shows the six Texas cities in the top 25.

Texas Cities in the Top 25, 2025 (millions) Six of the biggest 25.

Data:

Resident population in millions, July 1, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Six of the biggest 25: Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and El Paso all rank among the largest US cities.

Concentration

How concentrated is the US urban population?

For all the talk of big cities, the US population is spread across a very long list of them. The 100 largest cities together hold about 65.9 million people. New York alone makes up 13 percent of that total, and the twenty largest cities account for just over half. The remaining eighty cities, from Oklahoma City down to Norfolk, split the rest.

That means the country does not depend on a handful of megacities the way some nations do. Outside New York and Los Angeles, urban America is a wide field of mid-sized cities. The donut below shows how the population of the 100 largest cities divides between New York, the next nineteen and the remaining eighty.

Share of the 100 Largest Cities Population, 2025A long, wide field.

Data:

Share of the combined population of the 100 largest cities, 2025.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates, BusinessStats calculation. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

A long, wide field: New York is 13 percent of the top 100, but eighty smaller cities together hold nearly half.

Key Facts

The most populated US cities in numbers

A handful of figures capture the 2026 city landscape. New York leads at 8.58 million, twelve cities top a million, Texas holds six of the top 25, and the South claims 42 of the 100 largest cities. The direction of travel is unmistakably toward the Sun Belt.

8.58MNew York CityLargest, by far.12Cities over 1 millionAustin joined in 2025.42Top-100 cities in the SouthWest adds 34 more.+114KSan Antonio since 2020Biggest gainer.

These numbers matter because city size drives everything from congressional representation and federal funding to housing markets and transit planning. A ranking that shifts toward Texas, Florida and Arizona reshapes where the country invests for the decade ahead.

Big Picture

Most populated US cities: the big picture

The 2026 ranking keeps a familiar face at the top, with New York, Los Angeles and Chicago holding the first three spots as they have for decades. Beneath them, though, the map is being redrawn. Sun Belt cities are climbing, coastal and Rust Belt cities are flat or falling, and the one-million club keeps admitting new Texas and Florida members while a coastal name like San Jose drops out.

If current migration and growth patterns hold, the next few years will push more southern cities up the list and could reshuffle the middle of the top 25 entirely. For the wider context, see how the national total breaks down in our [US population by sex](#) data and how the country compares within the [world population](#).



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Most Populated US Cities

New York City is the most populated city in the United States, with about 8.58 million residents as of July 2025, the latest Census estimate. It is more than twice the size of second-place Los Angeles.

The ten largest are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Diego, Dallas and Fort Worth. Four of the ten are in Texas.

Twelve US cities had at least one million residents in 2025. Austin was the newest to cross the mark, while San Jose slipped just below one million.

Houston is the largest city in Texas and the fourth largest in the country, with about 2.40 million residents. Texas has six cities in the national top 25.

Yes. New York remains the biggest US city by a wide margin. At 8.58 million people it is about 2.22 times the size of Los Angeles and larger than Los Angeles and Chicago combined.

A city population counts only people inside the official municipal boundary, while a metro area covers the whole surrounding region. Dallas has about 1.33 million people as a city but 8.48 million in its metro area.

Austin crossed one million residents in 2025. Jacksonville and Fort Worth both crossed the mark a year earlier, between 2023 and 2024.

The South has the most, with 42 of the 100 largest cities, followed by the West with 34. Together the Sun Belt regions hold more than three quarters of the biggest cities.

The figures are U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates for July 1, 2025, released in May 2026. These are the most recent official city population figures available.

Among places with 20,000 or more residents, Celina, Texas grew fastest at 24.6 percent in a single year. Most of the fastest-growing cities are suburbs of Texas and Florida metros.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau - Vintage 2025 Population Estimates, City and Town Population Totals (table SUB-IP-EST2025-ANNRKN), reference date July 1, 2025, released May 2026.

U.S. Census Bureau - Vintage 2025 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area population estimates, July 1, 2025.



U.S. Census Bureau - 2020 Decennial Census counts, used for change since 2020.

United States Census Bureau - Primary source for all city and metro population figures.

All city figures are city-proper resident population inside official municipal boundaries, not metropolitan areas. Consolidated-government balances follow Census geography. July 1, 2025 is the latest available reference date; full-year 2026 city estimates are not yet published. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

The resident population of the United States from 1980 to 2025, by sex

Updated Sep 16, 2026 · businessstats.com/us-population-by-sex

342M TOTAL 2025	171.8M WOMEN 2024	168.3M MEN 2024
3.4M MORE WOMEN	98 MEN PER 100 WOMEN	50.5% FEMALE SHARE

Overview

The resident population of the United States by sex, 1980 to 2025

The resident population of the United States has grown from about 227 million in 1980 to about 342 million in 2025, and across that span women have consistently outnumbered men. As of mid 2024, the most recent year with a finalized breakdown, there were about 168.3 million men and 171.8 million women, a difference of roughly 3.4 million in favor of women.

The story of the last four decades is not the female majority itself, which dates back to 1950, but how slowly it has been eroding. The chart below sets the male and female populations side by side at each census from 1980 to 2020, plus the latest 2024 estimate, and the two bars have crept closer together over time. The detail behind that convergence, the sex ratio, the shrinking gap and the role of longer female lifespans, runs through the rest of this report.

A note on the data. Every figure comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. The years 1980 through 2020 use the decennial census, while 2024 uses the annual population estimate. The 2025 total is a Census estimate; the full 2025 split by sex has not yet been finalized, so the latest exact male and female counts shown here are for 2024.

US Resident Population by Sex, 1980-2024 (millions) Women lead, but the gap is closing.

Data:

Male and female resident population in millions, decennial census 1980-2020 and 2024 estimate.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Women lead, but the gap is closing: the female population has topped the male count in every year shown, though the two are converging.

Total Growth

How much has the US population grown since 1980?

The total resident population climbed almost every single year, from about 227 million in 1980 to 250 million by 1990, 282 million by 2000, 309 million by 2010, 332 million by 2020 and roughly 342 million by 2025.

That is an increase of more than 115 million people in 45 years, or about 51 percent, even as annual growth has cooled markedly in the most recent years.

Two forces drive the total: natural increase, meaning births minus deaths, and net immigration. As birth rates have fallen, immigration has become the larger contributor, which is also part of the reason the male and female counts have moved closer together. The broader context for this national trend sits within the wider [world population](#) picture, where the United States remains the third most populous country.

The area chart below traces the total for every year from 1980 to 2025. The line keeps rising, but the slope flattens after 2020, a visual hint of the slowdown that later sections break down decade by decade.

Total US Resident Population, 1980-2025 (millions) Up more than half since 1980.

Data:

Total resident population in millions.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau, annual July 1 estimates 1980 to 2025. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Up more than half since 1980: the population rose from about 227 million in 1980 to about 342 million in 2025, adding over 115 million people.

Men or Women?

Are there more men or women in the United States?

There are more women than men, and there have been since 1950. In 2024 women led by about 3.4 million. What has changed is the size of that lead. Measured as the sex ratio, the number of men per 100 women, the balance stood at just 94.5 in 1980, meaning a sizeable female majority, and has climbed steadily to about 98 in 2024. A ratio moving toward 100 means the two sexes are approaching parity.

The gap in raw numbers tells the same story with a twist. The surplus of women held between five and six million for decades, dipped toward five million around 2010, edged back up near six million by 2020, then fell sharply to about 3.4 million by 2024. The recent narrowing is the fastest on record and is driven largely by immigration, which has skewed male in recent years. Our deeper [US population by gender](#) coverage tracks these annual movements in more detail.

The first chart below shows the sex ratio rising across the decades, and the second shows how many more women than men there were at each point. Read together, they capture a female majority that is real but slowly fading.

US Sex Ratio, 1980-2024 (men per 100 women)Creeping back toward balance.

Data:

Men per 100 women in the resident population.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

Creeping back toward balance: the sex ratio rose from 94.5 men per 100 women in 1980 to about 98 in 2024.

How Many More Women Than Men, 1980-2024 (millions)A shrinking surplus.

Data:

Female population minus male population, in millions.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

A shrinking surplus: women outnumbered men by five to six million for decades, then the gap fell to about 3.4 million by 2024.



Female Share

What share of the US population is female?

Women made up about 50.5 percent of the resident population in 2024, down from 51.4 percent in 1980. It is a slight majority that has held for generations, but the female share has ticked down by nearly a full percentage point over 45 years as the male and female counts converged.

That slow decline in the female share is the mirror image of the rising sex ratio. It reflects two long-running shifts: a gradual narrowing of the gap between male and female life expectancy through the late twentieth century, and more recently an inflow of immigrants that has leaned male. Neither has flipped the balance, but together they have trimmed the female edge year after year.

The line chart below shows the female share of the population easing from just above 51 percent toward 50.5 percent. Small as the movement looks, across a population of more than 340 million each tenth of a percentage point represents hundreds of thousands of people.

Female Share of US Population, 1980-2024 (percent)A slight, slowly fading majority.

Data:

Female population as a percent of the total resident population.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

A slight, slowly fading majority: the female share eased from 51.4 percent in 1980 to about 50.5 percent in 2024.

Why Women Lead

Why do women outnumber men in the US?

The answer lies in the interplay of birth and death. Boys are actually born more often than girls, at roughly 105 male births for every 100 female births, so among children and young adults men are in the majority. Women take the lead only later in life, because they live longer on average. US life expectancy in 2024 was about 81.4 years for women against 76.5 years for men, a gap of nearly five years.

That longevity difference reshapes the population by age. Among people aged 65 and over there are only about 82 men per 100 women, and the imbalance widens further among the oldest groups. Because older

cohorts are large and growing, this late-life surplus of women is enough to tip the entire national balance toward females even though boys start out ahead.

The chart below shows the sex ratio by broad age group. It runs above 100, more men than women, in youth and working age, then falls sharply after 65. This single picture explains why a country that is majority male at birth ends up majority female overall.

US Sex Ratio by Age Group, 2023 (men per 100 women) Men lead young, women lead old.

Data:

Men per 100 women by broad age group, 2023 estimates.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau and CIA World Factbook. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Men lead young, women lead old: the ratio tops 100 through working age, then falls to about 82 among those 65 and over.

Growth Slowing

Is US population growth slowing down?

Yes, and sharply. Each decade from the 1980s through the 2010s added between 22 and 33 million people, with the 1990s the fastest at about 32.7 million. The five years from 2020 to 2025 added only around 10 million, which on a per-year basis is the slowest sustained growth in modern US history.

The slowdown reflects a falling birth rate, an aging population and, in some recent years, higher deaths. Immigration has become the main thing keeping growth positive at all. The waterfall chart below shows how many people were added in each period, building from the 1980 base up to the 2025 total, and the final block is visibly the shortest.

Measured as a growth rate the pattern is just as clear: the population grew 9.8 percent in the 1980s, peaked at 13.2 percent in the 1990s, then eased to 9.7, 7.4 and about 3.1 percent for the partial 2020 to 2025 period. The second chart puts those rates side by side.

People Added to the US Population by Period (millions) The 2020s are lagging.

Data:



Population added in each period, in millions, starting from the 1980 base.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. The 2020-25 block covers five years. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

The 2020s are lagging: only about 10 million people were added from 2020 to 2025, well below every earlier decade.

US Population Growth Rate by Period (percent) Cooling since the 1990s.

Data:

Percent growth in the resident population over each period.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. The 2020-25 figure covers five years. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch views with the toolbar.

Cooling since the 1990s: decade growth fell from a 13.2 percent peak to about 3.1 percent for the partial 2020 to 2025 span.

Gap Closing

Is the gender gap closing, and why?

Since 1980 the male population has grown slightly faster than the female population. Indexed to 1980, the number of men reached about 153 by 2024 while the number of women reached about 148, meaning men grew roughly 53 percent against 47 percent for women. That small difference, compounded over four decades, is what has pulled the sex ratio up toward balance.

The main reason is immigration. Migrant flows into the United States have tended to include more men than women, particularly in working-age groups, adding proportionally more men to the total. A gradual narrowing of the life-expectancy gap earlier in the period played a supporting role. The technology and labor shifts reshaping who moves where are visible across our wider economic coverage too.

The chart below indexes the male and female populations to 100 in 1980 so their growth paths can be compared directly. The two lines start together and slowly separate, with the male line edging above, a compact picture of why the female majority keeps shrinking.



Growth Since 1980 by Sex (index, 1980 = 100)Men grew a little faster.

Data:

Male and female resident population indexed to 100 in 1980.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau, BusinessStats calculation. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

Men grew a little faster: since 1980 the male population is up about 53 percent against 47 percent for women.

2024 Snapshot

The latest US population split by sex

The most recent finalized breakdown, for mid 2024, put the resident population at about 168.3 million men and 171.8 million women, a female share of roughly 50.5 percent. It is the closest the two have been in the modern record, and if current trends hold the gap will keep narrowing.

That near-even split at the national level hides wide variation underneath, by age as shown earlier and by state, with some states leaning male and most leaning female. The donut below shows the simple national picture as it stood in 2024.

US Resident Population by Sex, 2024 (millions)Close to an even split.

Data:

Male and female resident population in millions, mid 2024.

Note:

Source U.S. Census Bureau. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch views with the toolbar.

Close to an even split: 171.8 million women and 168.3 million men, about 50.5 percent female.

Key Facts

US population by sex in numbers

A few figures sum up 45 years of change. The population grew by more than 115 million, women stayed in the majority throughout, the surplus of women fell to about 3.4 million, and the sex ratio climbed from 94.5 to about 98 men per 100 women. The direction of travel is a slow return toward balance.

115M+ Added since 1980 227M to 342M 3.4M More women 2024 Down from over 6M 98 Men per 100 women Up from 94.5 in 1980 82 Men per 100 women, 65+ Women live longer.

These numbers matter because the balance of men and women shapes everything from the labor force to health care and retirement planning. A slowly aging, slowly balancing population sets the backdrop for the decades ahead.

Big Picture

US population by sex: the big picture

Across 45 years the United States added more than 115 million residents and kept a female majority the whole time, yet the underlying trend is one of convergence. The sex ratio has climbed toward 100, the surplus of women has shrunk to its smallest in the modern record, and the female share has eased below 51 percent, all driven by longer male lifespans and male-skewed immigration.

Looking ahead, a slowing overall growth rate and continued immigration suggest the two sexes will remain close to parity in the aggregate, even as women continue to dominate the oldest age groups. For readers tracking how the country is changing, the detailed year-by-year movements are covered in our [US population by gender data](#), set within the broader [world population](#) context.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: US Population by Sex

As of mid 2024 there were about 168.3 million men and 171.8 million women living in the United States, out of a resident population of roughly 340 million. The total reached about 342 million by mid 2025.

Women have outnumbered men in every census since 1950. In 2024 there were about 3.4 million more women than men, a gap that has narrowed sharply from more than 6 million around 2020.

The sex ratio was about 98 men per 100 women in 2024, up from 94.5 in 1980. The long rise means the female majority has been slowly shrinking over four decades.

Women made up about 50.5 percent of the resident population in 2024, down from 51.4 percent in 1980. Females have been a slight majority since the middle of the twentieth century.

Boys are born slightly more often than girls, but women live longer, so they come to outnumber men in older age groups. At age 65 and over there are only about 82 men per 100 women, which pulls the overall balance toward women.

The resident population grew from about 227 million in 1980 to roughly 342 million in 2025, an increase of more than 115 million people or about 51 percent in 45 years.

Yes. Each decade from the 1980s through the 2010s added between 22 and 33 million people, but only about 10 million were added between 2020 and 2025, one of the slowest stretches in modern history.

The male population has grown slightly faster than the female population since 1980, up about 53 percent against 47 percent, driven partly by male-skewed immigration. That is why the sex ratio keeps rising toward balance.

The resident population is the US Census Bureau standard and includes everyone living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, regardless of citizenship, but excludes Americans living abroad.

All figures come from the US Census Bureau, using the decennial censuses for 1980 through 2020 and the annual population estimates for the most recent years.

Sources

U.S. Census Bureau - Decennial censuses 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020, resident population by sex.

U.S. Census Bureau - Population estimates program, annual national estimates by sex through 2024 and total to 2025.

U.S. Census Bureau and CIA World Factbook - Sex ratio by age group and life expectancy by sex.

[United States Census Bureau](#) - Primary source for all population figures.

Figures show the resident population of the United States by sex. Years 1980 to 2020 use decennial census counts and recent years use annual estimates, so small differences from other series reflect the reference date. The 2025 total is an estimate; the full 2025 split by sex is not yet finalized. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

America by Age and Sex: Seniors Close In on Children

Updated Oct 19, 2026 · businessstats.com/population-of-the-us-by-sex-and-age

341.8M US RESIDENTS, JULY 2025	64.6M AGED 65 AND OVER (18.9%)	72.0M CHILDREN UNDER 18 (21.1%)
39.4 MEDIAN AGE, RECORD HIGH	50.9% FEMALE SHARE OF POPULATION	81.6 MEN PER 100 WOMEN AGED 65+

The 2025 Snapshot

341.8 million Americans and how they divide by age

The Census Bureau Vintage 2025 population estimates, released in stages between April and June 2026, put the resident population of the United States at **341,784,857 on 1 July 2025**. That is 10.3 million people, or 3.1 percent, more than the April 2020 estimates base. These are the most recent official figures that break the population down by age and sex, and every 2025 number on this page comes from that release unless stated otherwise.

Of the 341.8 million residents, 269.8 million were aged 18 or older, which is 78.9 percent of the total, and 72.0 million were children under 18. Within the adult population, 205.1 million people were of working age (18 to 64) and 64.6 million were 65 or older. Put simply, the country had about 2.8 working age adults for every child and about 3.2 for every resident of retirement age. At the 2000 Census the second ratio was 5.0.

This page concentrates on the age structure and on how it differs between men and women. Headline counts of men and women are covered on our page about the [US population by sex](#), the racial and ethnic make up of the country is set out in [US population by race](#), and the year by year growth of the total is tracked in our [US population statistics from 2015 to 2026](#).

269.8MAdults aged 18 and over78.9 percent of residents, July 2025.205.1MWorking age, 18 to 6460.0 percent of residents.64.6MAged 65 and over18.9 percent, a record share.72.0MChildren under 1821.1

percent, down from 22.3 percent in 2020. Age Groups

The five broad age groups in 2025

The Census Bureau reports national change for five broad age bands, and they give a quick picture of where Americans are in the life cycle. The largest band is 25 to 44, with 91.9 million people or 26.9 percent of the population, covering the prime years for starting careers, buying homes and raising young children. The 45 to 64 band follows with 81.3 million (23.8 percent), then children under 18 with 72.0 million (21.1 percent), people aged 65 and over with 64.6 million (18.9 percent) and young adults aged 18 to 24 with 31.9 million (9.3 percent).

US Population by Broad Age Group, 1 July 2025 (millions) Resident population in five age bands; centre shows the national total.

Data:

US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates, release of 25 June 2026.

Note:

shares are BusinessStats calculations from the published counts. Compiled by BusinessStats. Data: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates, release of 25 June 2026. Note: shares are BusinessStats calculations from the published counts. Compiled by BusinessStats.

One in four Americans is 25 to 44: the 91.9 million people in that band outnumber both the under 18 and the 65 and over populations.

AGE GROUP	1 APRIL 2020 BASE	1 JULY 2025	CHANGE	CHANGE IN %	SHARE 2025
Under 18	73,822,227	72,021,348	-1,800,879	-2.4%	21.1%
18 to 24	31,271,950	31,936,859	+664,909	+2.1%	9.3%
25 to 44	86,789,265	91,885,062	+5,095,797	+5.9%	26.9%
45 to 64	84,004,580	81,324,500	-2,680,080	-3.2%	23.8%
65 and over	55,628,091	64,617,088	+8,988,997	+16.2%	18.9%
Total	331,516,113	341,784,857	+10,268,744	+3.1%	100.0%



Two of the five bands are smaller than they were in 2020. The population aged 45 to 64 fell by 2.7 million and the number of children fell by 1.8 million, while the three other bands grew. The adult population as a whole, everyone aged 18 and over, reached 269.8 million, so roughly four in every five residents are now adults. The share of children has fallen by 1.2 percentage points in just over five years, from 22.3 percent of the April 2020 base to 21.1 percent.

Change Since 2020

Since 2020, almost all growth has come from the oldest group

Between April 2020 and July 2025 the population grew by 10,268,744 people. Of that increase, 8,988,997, or 87.5 percent, was in the 65 and over group. The 25 to 44 band added 5.1 million people and the 18 to 24 band 0.7 million, but those gains were partly cancelled out by the shrinking 45 to 64 band and the fall in the number of children. No other age group grew even half as fast as the oldest one.

Population Change by Age Group, April 2020 to July 2025 (%)Percent change in the resident population of each age band.

Data:

US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates, Table 1 of the 25 June 2026 release.

Note:

the April 2020 values are the estimates base, not the census count. Compiled by BusinessStats.Data: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 Population Estimates, Table 1 of the 25 June 2026 release. Note: the April 2020 values are the estimates base, not the census count. Compiled by BusinessStats.

Seniors up 16.2 percent, children down 2.4 percent: the 65 and over population grew almost three times as fast as the next fastest band.

The main driver is the baby boom generation, people born between 1946 and 1964. In April 2020 the boomers were aged 55 to 74 and many of them were still in the 45 to 64 band. By mid 2025 they were roughly 60 to 79, and the Census Bureau notes that they form a visible bulge at ages 61 to 79 in the 2025 national population pyramid. As each year of boomers turned 65, the oldest band gained and the 45 to 64 band lost. The people now entering the 45 to 64 band were born between 1961 and 1980, a period that includes the lower birth years that followed the baby boom, so they do not fully replace those moving out.



The growth of the 25 to 44 band has a different source. The Census Bureau points out that growth in the younger adult age groups has come largely from immigration, which has diluted the weight of the boomers in the overall structure. International migration and its age profile are covered in our report on [immigration in the United States](#).

At the other end, the decline in the number of children reflects lower fertility. The general fertility rate, the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, fell from 69.5 in 2007 to 53.1 in 2025, according to the Census Bureau, and the total fertility rate was 1.63 births per woman in 2024, against 2.11 in 2001 and a post war peak of 3.77 in 1957. Annual birth counts are covered in our page on [births in the US](#), and the international context in our data on the [global fertility rate](#).

Population Pyramid

The US population pyramid by sex and five year age group

A population pyramid shows men on one side and women on the other, with the youngest age group at the bottom. The chart below uses the 2020 Census, the most recent full count of the population by age and sex and the base from which the 2025 estimates are carried forward. The Vintage 2025 release is used for every 2025 figure on this page; a five year breakdown by sex for 2025 will be added here once we have checked it against the Census Bureau tables.

US Population Pyramid by Sex and Age, 2020 Census (millions) Men to the left, women to the right; five year age groups from under 5 to 85 and over.

Data:

US Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File.

Note:

counts include statistical noise added by the Census Bureau disclosure avoidance system. Compiled by BusinessStats. Data: US Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File. Note: counts include statistical noise added by the Census Bureau disclosure avoidance system. Compiled by BusinessStats.

A column, not a triangle: every five year group from birth to 64 holds between 18 and 23 million people, and the pyramid narrows sharply only after 65.



The shape is closer to a column than a classic triangle. Each five year group between birth and age 64 contained between 18.4 million and 22.5 million people in 2020. The narrowest adult groups were 40 to 44 and 45 to 49, at about 20.3 million and 20.1 million, and a second bulge sat at ages 55 to 64, which held the late baby boomers. Above 65 the bars shorten quickly, and they shorten faster on the side of the men: at 85 and over there were 4.05 million women but only 2.29 million men.

AGE GROUP	2010 CENSUS	2020 CENSUS	CHANGE	MEN 2020	WOMEN 2020	MEN PER 100 WOMEN
Under 5	20,201,362	18,400,235	-8.9%	9,388,285	9,011,950	104.2
5 to 9	20,348,657	20,130,423	-1.1%	10,288,218	9,842,205	104.5
10 to 14	20,677,194	21,627,830	+4.6%	11,066,169	10,561,661	104.8
15 to 19	22,040,343	22,036,076	-0.0%	11,241,567	10,794,509	104.1
20 to 24	21,585,999	22,166,199	+2.7%	11,265,350	10,900,849	103.3
25 to 29	21,101,849	22,301,254	+5.7%	11,229,510	11,071,744	101.4
30 to 34	19,962,099	22,533,412	+12.9%	11,241,831	11,291,581	99.6
35 to 39	20,179,642	21,874,944	+8.4%	10,857,087	11,017,857	98.5
40 to 44	20,890,964	20,309,193	-2.8%	10,028,183	10,281,010	97.5
45 to 49	22,708,591	20,145,294	-11.3%	9,920,816	10,224,478	97.0
50 to 54	22,298,125	20,723,512	-7.1%	10,176,612	10,546,900	96.5
55 to 59	19,664,805	22,120,489	+12.5%	10,759,761	11,360,728	94.7
60 to 64	16,817,924	21,287,919	+26.6%	10,223,302	11,064,617	92.4
65 to 69	12,435,263	18,288,727	+47.1%	8,634,739	9,653,988	89.4
70 to 74	9,278,166	14,823,238	+59.8%	6,881,732	7,941,506	86.7
75 to 79	7,317,795	9,955,322	+36.0%	4,475,564	5,479,758	81.7
80 to 84	5,743,327	6,388,779	+11.2%	2,721,048	3,667,731	74.2
85 and over	5,493,433	6,336,435	+15.3%	2,286,037	4,050,398	56.4
Total	308,745,538	331,449,281	+7.4%	162,685,811	168,763,470	96.4



Comparing the two censuses shows how the structure moved over the decade. The 65 to 69 group grew from 12.4 million to 18.3 million, an increase of 47.1 percent, and the 70 to 74 group grew by 59.8 percent as the first boomers entered it. The 85 and over group rose by 15.3 percent to 6.3 million. In contrast, the number of children under 5 fell by 8.9 percent, from 20.2 million to 18.4 million, and the 45 to 49 and 50 to 54 groups were smaller in 2020 than in 2010, because the large boomer cohorts had moved on and smaller cohorts born in the late 1960s and 1970s had taken their place.

Sex Ratio by Age

Men outnumber women until their early thirties, then the balance flips

The sex ratio, the number of men for every 100 women, changes steadily with age. More boys than girls are born, so the ratio starts above 100: the 2020 Census counted 104.2 boys for every 100 girls under age 5 and 104.8 at ages 10 to 14. The male majority narrows through the twenties and disappears in the early thirties. In 2020 the ratio fell below 100 for the first time in the 30 to 34 group, at 99.6, and it then declined in every older group: 96.5 at 50 to 54, 89.4 at 65 to 69, 74.2 at 80 to 84 and 56.4 at 85 and over.

Men per 100 Women by Age Group, 2010 and 2020 Census (ratio) Values above 100 mean more men than women; below 100, more women.

Data:

US Census Bureau, 2010 Census brief C2010BR-03 (Table 2) and 2020 Census DHC.

Note:

ratios are BusinessStats calculations from published counts by sex. Compiled by BusinessStats. Data: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census brief C2010BR-03 (Table 2) and 2020 Census DHC. Note: ratios are BusinessStats calculations from published counts by sex. Compiled by BusinessStats.

The gap at older ages is closing: among people aged 85 and over there were 56.4 men per 100 women in 2020, up from 48.3 in 2010.

The two census lines tell a second story. In 2010 the crossover came five years later, in the 35 to 39 group, and at every age from 65 upward the 2020 ratio is higher than in 2010. At 80 to 84 it rose from 66.5 to 74.2 men per 100 women, and at 85 and over from 48.3 to 56.4. Older men are catching up with older women, even though women still clearly outnumber them.

The 2025 estimates confirm that trend. The Census Bureau reports 81.6 men for every 100 women among people aged 65 and over in 2025, up from 70.6 in 2001, and 68.3 men per 100 women among those aged 80 and over, up from 50.9. Applying the 2025 ratio to the 64.6 million people aged 65 and over gives about 29.0 million men and 35.6 million women, so women make up 55.1 percent of the older population. Across all ages, women outnumbered men by 6.3 million in 2025 and formed 50.9 percent of the population.

Why the older population is mostly female

The main reason is mortality. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, life expectancy at birth in 2024 was 81.4 years for women and 76.5 years for men, a gap of 4.9 years that had narrowed by 0.4 years in a single year. At age 65, women could expect to live another 20.8 years and men another 18.4. The gap is closing because death rates among older men have fallen faster: the age adjusted death rate for men aged 65 and over dropped from 8,285.0 per 100,000 in 1970 to 5,205.7 in 2022, a fall of about 3,079, while the rate for women of the same age fell by about 1,703, from 5,621.3 to 3,918.7.

History plays a part too. The Census Bureau notes that the Greatest Generation, aged 74 to 100 in 2001, carried a large female surplus linked partly to wartime deaths among men, and that the gap narrowed as cohorts less affected by war reached old age. How longevity compares internationally is covered in our ranking of [life expectancy by country](#), the global balance of men and women in [world population by gender](#), and the state by state ratio in [men per 100 women by US state](#).

99.6Men per 100 women at 30 to 342020 Census, first group below 100.56.4Men per 100 women at 85+2020 Census, up from 48.3 in 2010.81.6Men per 100 women at 65+2025 estimate, up from 70.6 in 2001.4.9 yrsFemale life expectancy advantage81.4 vs 76.5 years, 2024. Median Age

Median age: 39.4 years and still setting records

The median age divides the population into two equal halves, one younger and one older. In July 2025 it stood at 39.4 years, up from 39.2 a year earlier and from 38.6 in the April 2020 estimates base. It has risen in every census since 1990: from 32.9 years in 1990 to 35.3 in 2000, 37.2 in 2010 and 38.8 at the 2020 Census. In 35 years the midpoint of the American population has moved up by 6.5 years.

Median Age of the US Population, 1990 to 2025 (years)Census counts for 1990 to 2020, Vintage 2025 estimates for 2024 and 2025.

Data:

US Census Bureau: 2000 Census release CB01-CN.67, brief C2010BR-03, 2020 Census DHC, Vintage 2025 release of 25 June 2026.

Note:

the 2020 value is the census count (38.8); the April 2020 estimates base is 38.6. Compiled by BusinessStats.Data: US Census Bureau: 2000 Census release CB01-CN.67, brief C2010BR-03, 2020 Census DHC, Vintage 2025 release of 25 June 2026. Note: the 2020 value is the census count (38.8); the April 2020 estimates base is 38.6. Compiled by BusinessStats.

Up 6.5 years since 1990: the median age has reached a new high at every census and in every recent annual estimate.

YEAR	BOTH SEXES	MEN	WOMEN	GAP (WOMEN MINUS MEN)
2000 Census	35.3	34.0	36.5	2.5
2010 Census	37.2	35.8	38.5	2.7
2020 Census	38.8	37.5	39.9	2.4
2025 estimate	39.4	38.1	40.7	2.6

Women are older on average because they live longer. In 2025 the median age was 40.7 for women and 38.1 for men, and the Census Bureau measures the gap at 2.55 years, up from 2.39 years in 2020. Over the long run both sexes have aged at almost the same pace: between 2000 and 2025 the male median rose by 4.1 years and the female median by 4.2 years.

Readers comparing sources should note that the Census Bureau revises earlier years with each new vintage. The Vintage 2024 release reported a median age of 39.1 for 2024; the Vintage 2025 series revised that to 39.2. The global context, including countries where the median is already well above 45, is covered in our analysis of the [global aging population](#).

The 65 and Over Boom

The 65 and over boom and the shrinking gap with children

In 2000 the United States had 35.0 million residents aged 65 and over, 12.4 percent of the population. The number rose to 40.3 million in 2010, 55.8 million at the 2020 Census and 64.6 million in July 2025. That is an increase of 84.7 percent in a quarter of a century, while the total population grew by about 21 percent.



Over the same period the number of children barely moved: 72.3 million in 2000, 74.2 million in 2010, 73.1 million in 2020 and 72.0 million in 2025.

Children Under 18 vs Adults 65 and Over, 2000 to 2025 (millions) Census counts for 2000, 2010 and 2020; Vintage 2025 estimate for 2025.

Data:

US Census Bureau: brief C2010BR-03, 2020 Census DHC release of 25 May 2023, Vintage 2025 release of 25 June 2026.

Note:

the 2020 values are census counts; the April 2020 estimates base shows 73.8 million children and 55.6 million older adults. Compiled by BusinessStats. Data: US Census Bureau: brief C2010BR-03, 2020 Census DHC release of 25 May 2023, Vintage 2025 release of 25 June 2026. Note: the 2020 values are census counts; the April 2020 estimates base shows 73.8 million children and 55.6 million older adults. Compiled by BusinessStats.

From a 37 million gap to 7 million: children outnumbered older adults by 37.3 million in 2000 but by only 7.4 million in 2025.

The gap between the two groups has collapsed. Children outnumbered people aged 65 and over by 37.3 million in 2000, 33.9 million in 2010 and 17.3 million at the 2020 Census. In July 2025 the difference was 7.4 million. The Census Bureau 2023 national projections expect the share of the population aged 65 and over to overtake the share under 18 in 2029 in the middle series, and between 2028 and 2030 in the alternative immigration scenarios.

Where older adults already outnumber children

For many states and counties the crossover has already happened. In its Vintage 2024 release the Census Bureau reported that people aged 65 and over outnumbered children in 11 states in 2024, up from three in 2020. Maine, Vermont and Florida were on the list in 2020, and Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia joined them by 2024. At county level, the number of counties with more older adults than children rose from 983 (31.3 percent of 3,144) to 1,411 (almost 45 percent), and the number of metro areas from 58 to 112 of 387. The June 2026 release did not restate these counts for 2025, so we do not quote an updated figure.

The oldest old: 85 and over and centenarians

The population aged 85 and over grew from 4.24 million in 2000 to 5.49 million in 2010 and 6.34 million in 2020, according to the census counts. The Administration for Community Living, using Census Bureau data, puts it at about 6.5 million in 2022 and expects it to more than double to 13.7 million by 2040. Women made up 63.9 percent of this group in 2020. The number of centenarians, people aged 100 and over, rose from 53,364 in 2010 to 88,988 in 2022, and the Census Bureau reported that it grew by 50 percent between the 2010 and 2020 censuses, the fastest recent census to census increase for that age group.

64.6MAged 65 and over, 2025Up 9.0 million since April 2020.7.4MMore children than older adultsDown from 37.3 million in 2000.2029Projected crossover year65+ share passes under 18 share.13.7MProjected 85+ population, 2040About 6.5 million in 2022. Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratios: fewer working age adults per older resident

Dependency ratios relate the age groups that are mostly outside the labour force to the working age population. The old age dependency ratio counts people aged 65 and over for every 100 people aged 18 to 64; the youth ratio does the same for children under 18, and the total ratio adds the two together. These are demographic measures, not counts of who actually works, but they are the standard way to track how the age structure affects pensions, health care and the tax base.

US Youth and Old Age Dependency Ratios, 2000 to 2025 (per 100 people aged 18 to 64)People under 18 and aged 65 and over for every 100 people of working age.

Data:

US Census Bureau, brief C2010BR-03 and Vintage 2025 Population Estimates.

Note:

2020 uses the April 2020 estimates base so it is comparable with 2025; ratios are BusinessStats calculations. Compiled by BusinessStats.Data: US Census Bureau, brief C2010BR-03 and Vintage 2025 Population Estimates. Note: 2020 uses the April 2020 estimates base so it is comparable with 2025; ratios are BusinessStats calculations. Compiled by BusinessStats.

Old age ratio up by more than half since 2000: from 20.1 to 31.5 older residents for every 100 people aged 18 to 64.

YEAR	YOUTH RATIO	OLD AGE RATIO	TOTAL RATIO	PEOPLE 18 TO 64 PER PERSON 65+
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2000	41.5	20.1	61.6	5.0
2010	38.2	20.7	58.9	4.8
2020 (estimates base)	36.5	27.5	64.1	3.6
2025	35.1	31.5	66.6	3.2

Between 2000 and 2010 the old age ratio hardly changed, because the small cohorts born during the Depression and the Second World War were reaching 65. From 2011, when the first boomers turned 65, it began to rise quickly, and it climbed from 27.5 in 2020 to 31.5 in 2025. The youth ratio has fallen over the same period, but not by enough to offset the increase, so the total dependency ratio has risen from its 2010 low of 58.9 to 66.6.

The potential support ratio, the number of people aged 18 to 64 for each person aged 65 and over, fell from 5.0 in 2000 to 3.2 in 2025. The Congressional Budget Office, which uses ages 25 to 64 and the wider Social Security area population, estimates 2.7 people aged 25 to 64 for every person aged 65 or older in 2026 and projects a decline to 2.2 by 2056. CBO also projects that annual deaths will exceed annual births from 2030, with a total fertility rate of 1.58 in 2026, so that from 2030 onward population growth in its projections depends entirely on immigration.

States and Regions

Oldest and youngest states, and how each region is ageing

Age structure varies far more between states than the national averages suggest. In July 2025 Maine had the highest median age of any state, 44.9 years, and Utah the lowest, 32.6 years, a difference of 12.3 years. Both have aged: in 2010 their medians were 42.7 and 29.2, and in 2024 they were 44.8 and 32.4. In 2010 the other oldest states were Vermont (41.5), West Virginia (41.3), New Hampshire (41.1) and Florida (40.7), and the youngest after Utah were Texas (33.6), Alaska (33.8) and Idaho (34.6).

The share of residents who are children gives a closely related picture for 2025. Using the Census Bureau estimates of the population aged 18 and over, 26.1 percent of Utah residents were under 18, followed by Texas at 24.0 percent and Nebraska at 23.7 percent. At the other end, children made up 17.0 percent of the population of Vermont and 17.3 percent in both Maine and New Hampshire, against 21.1 percent nationally.

Share of Population Under 18: Six Youngest and Six Oldest States, July 2025 (%) Children as a share of all residents; national average 21.1 percent.

Data:

US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 estimates of the total and 18 and over population (SCPRC-EST2025-18+POP).

Note:

shares are 100 minus the published 18 and over percentage. Compiled by BusinessStats.Data: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 estimates of the total and 18 and over population (SCPRC-EST2025-18+POP). Note: shares are 100 minus the published 18 and over percentage. Compiled by BusinessStats.

Utah has 9.1 points more children than Vermont: 26.1 percent of Utah residents are under 18, against 17.0 percent in Vermont.

REGION	TOTAL 2025	UNDER 18, 2025	CHANGE	65 AND OVER, 2025	CHANGE	45 TO 64 CHANGE
Northeast	58,042,054	11,309,395	-4.1%	11,662,579	+14.6%	-7.1%
Midwest	69,762,666	14,939,768	-3.9%	13,626,957	+14.7%	-6.2%
South	133,833,983	29,008,469	+1.1%	24,763,730	+17.5%	+0.1%
West	80,146,154	16,763,716	-5.7%	14,563,822	+16.5%	-2.7%
United States	341,784,857	72,021,348	-2.4%	64,617,088	+16.2%	-3.2%

The regional table shows how unevenly ageing is spreading. The South grew by 6.0 percent between 2020 and 2025, nearly twice the national rate, and was the only region where the number of children rose (by 1.1 percent) and the only one where the 45 to 64 band did not shrink. It also had the fastest growth in the 65 and over population, 17.5 percent, because it gained people of every age. The Northeast lost 4.1 percent of its children and 7.1 percent of its 45 to 64 population, and the West lost 5.7 percent of its children. Within regions, the Census Bureau found that the highest shares of older residents were in counties in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and along the Pacific Northwest coast, while the highest child shares were in parts of Alaska, the Midwest and Texas, particularly along the Mexican border. Age patterns in the largest cities are covered in our ranking of [US metropolitan areas by population](#).

Outlook to 2060

Projections: an older country by 2060 and beyond

The Census Bureau 2023 national population projections, the latest official long range series, expect the population to keep growing for several decades and then to start shrinking. In the middle series it peaks at about 370 million in 2080 and falls to 366 million by 2100. The age structure keeps changing throughout: by 2100, 29.1 percent of Americans are projected to be 65 or older and only 16.4 percent under 18, and the median age rises to 47.9 years, 49.1 for women and 46.8 for men.

US Population Aged 65 and Over, 2000 to 2060 (millions, 2040 and 2060 projected) Census counts to 2020, July 2025 estimate, projections for 2040 and 2060.

Data:

US Census Bureau census counts and Vintage 2025 estimates; projections from the Administration for Community Living 2023 Profile of Older Americans, based on Census Bureau data.

Note:

2040 and 2060 are projections, not estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats. Data: US Census Bureau census counts and Vintage 2025 estimates; projections from the Administration for Community Living 2023 Profile of Older Americans, based on Census Bureau data. Note: 2040 and 2060 are projections, not estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats.

Another 24 million by 2060: the 65 and over population is projected to rise from 64.6 million in 2025 to 88.8 million in 2060.

In absolute numbers, the Administration for Community Living, drawing on Census Bureau projections, expects the 65 and over population to reach 78.3 million in 2040 and 88.8 million in 2060, and the 85 and over population to reach 13.7 million in 2040. The Census Bureau report *An Aging World: 2025*, which draws on its International Database, projects the US share aged 65 and over to rise from 18.9 percent in 2025 to 23.4 percent in 2060.

The same report shows that the United States will age more slowly than most other countries. In 2025 it ranked as the 48th oldest of 227 countries and areas by the share of people aged 65 and over; by 2060 it is expected to fall to 110th, because many countries in Asia, Europe and Latin America will age faster. Japan was the oldest country in 2025 with 29.7 percent of its population aged 65 and over, and South Korea is projected to lead in 2060 with 41 percent. Our page on [world population](#) covers the global totals.

INDICATOR	VALUE	YEAR	SOURCE
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65+ share passes under 18 share	Crossover	2029	Census Bureau 2023 projections, middle series
Population aged 65 and over	78.3 million	2040	ACL, based on Census Bureau data
Population aged 85 and over	13.7 million	2040	ACL, based on Census Bureau data
Population aged 65 and over	88.8 million	2060	ACL, based on Census Bureau data
Share aged 65 and over	23.4%	2060	Census Bureau, An Aging World: 2025
Peak total population	About 370 million	2080	Census Bureau 2023 projections, middle series
Share aged 65 and over	29.1%	2100	Census Bureau 2023 projections, middle series
Median age	47.9 years	2100	Census Bureau 2023 projections, middle series

Two caveats apply. The 2023 projections were prepared before the Vintage 2025 estimates and assume levels of immigration that may not hold; the Census Bureau itself published low, high and zero immigration variants, and the timing of the crossover between older adults and children ranges only from 2028 to 2030 across them. We also do not quote a full 2050 breakdown by age here, because the detailed projection tables could not be checked for this update.

Why Figures Differ

Why population figures by age and sex differ between sources

Several official numbers for the same thing can be correct at once, because they measure slightly different things or come from different editions. These are the differences that most often cause confusion.

Reading US age and sex data correctly

- Vintages are revised. Each annual release revises earlier years. The Vintage 2024 release put women at 50.5 percent of the 2024 population, 3.4 million more than men; the Vintage 2025 series, which builds the full 2020 Census age and sex detail into its base for the first time, shows women at 50.9 percent and 6.3 million ahead in 2025.
- Census count and estimates base are not identical. The 2020 Census counted just over 73.1 million children and a median age of 38.8; the April 2020 estimates base used for the 2025 series has 73.8 million children and a median age of 38.6.
- Resident population is not the same as other definitions. Census estimates cover people who live in the 50 states and the District of Columbia; the CBO uses the Social Security area population, which it puts at



349 million in 2026.

- Surveys and estimates differ. The American Community Survey also publishes age and sex data, but it is a sample survey controlled to the estimates and carries margins of error, so its figures can differ slightly from those shown here.

For any comparison over time, the safest approach is to take all years from one source and one vintage, as this page does for the 2020 to 2025 changes, and to use decennial census counts for longer comparisons.

Key Facts

US population by sex and age in eight numbers

341.8M Resident population, 1 July 2025
Census Bureau, Vintage 2025
18.9% Share aged 65 and over
64.6 million people
21.1% Share under 18
72.0 million children
39.4 Median age in years
Women 40.7, men 38.1
50.9% Female share of the population
6.3 million more women than men
68.3 Men per 100 women aged 80+
Up from 50.9 in 2001
31.5 Old age dependency ratio
Per 100 aged 18 to 64, 2025
12.3 yrs Median age gap, Maine vs Utah
44.9 vs 32.6 years. FAQ

Questions about the US population by sex and age

On 1 July 2025 the US had 72.0 million people under 18, 31.9 million aged 18 to 24, 91.9 million aged 25 to 44, 81.3 million aged 45 to 64 and 64.6 million aged 65 and over, for a total of 341.8 million, according to the Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates.

There were 64,617,088 people aged 65 and over in July 2025, or 18.9 percent of the population. The group grew by 9.0 million, or 16.2 percent, from the April 2020 estimates base, far faster than any other age group.

There are more women. In 2025 women made up 50.9 percent of the population and outnumbered men by 6.3 million. At the 2020 Census, men were in the majority among children and young adults, and women in every age group from 30 to 34 upward.

At the 2020 Census, the number of men per 100 women fell below 100 for the first time in the 30 to 34 age group, at 99.6. In 2010 the crossover came in the 35 to 39 group. At 85 and over there were 56.4 men per 100 women in 2020.

The median age was 39.4 years in July 2025, a record high, up from 39.2 in 2024. It was 40.7 for women and 38.1 for men. At the 2000 Census it was 35.3.

Maine has the oldest population, with a median age of 44.9 years in 2025, and Utah the youngest, at 32.6 years. Utah also has the highest share of children, 26.1 percent, and Vermont the lowest, 17.0 percent.

In the Census Bureau 2023 projections, the share of the population aged 65 and over overtakes the share under 18 in 2029 in the middle series. In July 2025 children still outnumbered older adults by 7.4 million.

In 2025 there were 31.5 people aged 65 and over for every 100 people aged 18 to 64, up from 20.1 in 2000. That means about 3.2 working age adults for each older resident, down from 5.0 in 2000.

The 2020 Census counted 6.34 million people aged 85 and over, 63.9 percent of them women. The Administration for Community Living puts the group at about 6.5 million in 2022 and projects 13.7 million by 2040.

The Census Bureau revises earlier years with each annual vintage, census counts differ slightly from the estimates base, and surveys such as the American Community Survey use samples. Comparing figures from one vintage avoids most differences.

Sources

[US Census Bureau](#): Vintage 2025 population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, release CB26-105 and Table 1, 25 June 2026.

[US Census Bureau](#): National resident population by single year of age and sex, 1 July 2025, tip sheet of 9 April 2026.

[US Census Bureau](#): Women Still Outnumbered Men Among the Oldest, but Gap is Narrowing, 9 April 2026.

[US Census Bureau](#): QuickFacts, United States, Vintage 2025.

[US Census Bureau](#): State population by characteristics 2020 to 2025, including SCPRC-EST2025-18+POP.

[US Census Bureau](#): Vintage 2024 release: older adults outnumber children in 11 states, 26 June 2025.

[US Census Bureau](#): 2020 Census Demographic Profile and DHC release, 25 May 2023.

[Maryland Department of Planning](#): 2020 Census DHC age by sex for the United States, reproduced from Census Bureau tables.

[US Census Bureau](#): Age and Sex Composition: 2010, Census brief C2010BR-03.

[US Census Bureau](#): Census 2000 release on median age, 1990 and 2000.

[US Census Bureau](#): 2023 National Population Projections, 9 November 2023.



[US Census Bureau: An Aging World: 2025](#), September 2026.

[US Census Bureau: US fertility continues to drop](#), June 2026.

[Administration for Community Living: 2023 Profile of Older Americans](#).

[National Center for Health Statistics: Mortality in the United States, 2024](#), Data Brief 548, January 2026.

[Congressional Budget Office: The Demographic Outlook: 2026 to 2056](#), 7 January 2026.

All 2025 figures are Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates of the resident population on 1 July 2025. The five year age and sex pyramid uses the 2020 Census count because the 2025 five year detail by sex was not available in a form we could verify for this update. Shares, sex ratios, dependency ratios, the split of the 65 and over population by sex, state child shares and all changes are BusinessStats calculations. Figures from the previous edition of this page that could not be verified (including a 2026 total of 343 million, an 85 and over count of 7.2 million and a support ratio of 3.9) have been replaced.

STATISTICS REPORT

US Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: What the 2025 Census Estimates Show

 Updated Oct 19, 2026 · businessstats.com/us-population-by-race

341.8M US RESIDENTS, JULY 2025	70.1M HISPANIC OR LATINO (20.5%)	56.1% WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC
13.5% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE	6.9% ASIAN ALONE	9 + DC STATES UNDER 50% NON-HISPANIC WHITE

2025 Snapshot

The US population by race and Hispanic origin in 2025

The latest official benchmark comes from the Vintage 2025 population estimates, which the Census Bureau published on 25 June 2026. They put the resident population at 341,784,857 on 1 July 2025, up 3.1 percent from the April 2020 estimates base of 331.5 million. Of that total, 70.1 million people were Hispanic or Latino, the figure the Bureau highlighted in its 2026 Hispanic Heritage Month release, which equals 20.5 percent of residents. The largest group remains people who report White as their only race and who are not Hispanic: 56.1 percent of the population, or about 191.7 million people.

Race and Hispanic origin are recorded through two separate questions in federal statistics, so every person belongs to one race group and, separately, is either Hispanic or not. The race alone figures therefore include Hispanic residents. In 2025, 72.3 percent of residents were White alone, 13.5 percent Black or African American alone, 6.9 percent Asian alone, 2.1 percent American Indian and Alaska Native alone, 0.3 percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and 4.9 percent reported two or more races. Those six shares add up to 100 percent because each resident is assigned to exactly one of them.

US Population by Race Alone, July 2025 (million people) Six mutually exclusive race groups. Hispanic residents are included in the race they reported. Vintage 2025.

Data:

US Census Bureau, QuickFacts United States, Vintage 2025 population estimates, published June 2026.

Note:

counts are BusinessStats calculations from the published shares and the 341,784,857 total; because of rounding the groups sum to 341.7 million. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Three in four residents report White alone: about 247.1 million people, or 72.3 percent, a count that includes Hispanic residents who report White as their race.

GROUP	WHAT IT COUNTS	SHARE	PEOPLE
Hispanic or Latino	Ethnicity; people of any race	20.5%	70.1 million
White alone, not Hispanic	White as only race, not Hispanic	56.1%	about 191.7 million
White alone	White as only race, Hispanic or not	72.3%	about 247.1 million
Black or African American alone	Only race, Hispanic or not	13.5%	about 46.1 million
Asian alone	Only race, Hispanic or not	6.9%	about 23.6 million
Two or More Races	Two or more race groups reported	4.9%	about 16.7 million
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Only race, Hispanic or not	2.1%	about 7.2 million
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	Only race, Hispanic or not	0.3%	about 1.0 million

Source: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2025. Rows overlap: the Hispanic row cuts across every race row.

Counts other than the Hispanic total are BusinessStats calculations from one decimal shares and can differ from the unrounded figures by up to about 170,000 people.

Totals in the table do not add up down the rows, because the Hispanic row overlaps with every race row. Combining the two dimensions gives one clean, mutually exclusive split: 20.5 percent Hispanic, 56.1 percent non-Hispanic White, and 23.4 percent, or about 80 million people, in all other non-Hispanic groups combined. How the overall headcount grew year by year is tracked in our report on [US population statistics from 2015 to 2026](#), and the place of the United States among the most populous countries in our [world population statistics](#).

341.8MResident population1 July 2025, Vintage 2025.+3.1%Growth since April 2020From a base of 331.5 million.23.4%Non-Hispanic groups other than WhiteAbout 80 million people.16States with 1 million or more Hispanic residentsUp from 15 in 2024. How Race Is Counted



Race alone, alone or in combination, and Hispanic origin

Census race statistics follow the 1997 standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which set five minimum race categories, White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI), and a separate question on Hispanic or Latino origin. Respondents may mark more than one race. Three ways of counting follow from that design, and each answers a different question.

Three ways to count the same population

- Race alone: people who reported one race only. The six race alone groups, including Two or More Races, sum to 100 percent.
- Race alone or in combination: everyone who reported a race, alone or together with other races. Multiracial people are counted in each group they reported, so the shares sum to more than 100 percent.
- Hispanic or Latino origin: an ethnicity, not a race. Hispanic people can be of any race and are included in the race alone and alone or in combination figures.
- Not Hispanic race groups, such as White alone, not Hispanic: these exclude Hispanic residents and, together with the Hispanic total, divide the population without overlap.

The choice matters most for smaller groups and for people with mixed ancestry. In 2025 the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population was 2.1 percent of residents, but 4.1 percent reported this race either alone or together with another, almost twice as many. The Asian share rises from 6.9 to 8.4 percent and the Black share from 13.5 to 15.4 percent once multiracial people are included. The White share moves from 72.3 to 76.8 percent.

Race Alone vs Alone or in Combination, United States, 2025 (% of population) Alone or in combination counts every person who reported the race, so shares overlap.

Data:

US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates; race alone from QuickFacts United States, alone or in combination from Table 2 of the Hawaii DBEDT State Data Center summary of the same Census release, June 2026.

Note:

alone or in combination shares sum to more than 100 percent; Hispanic residents are included. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.



Multiracial reporting nearly doubles one group: American Indian and Alaska Native identity rises from 2.1 to 4.1 percent of residents when combinations are counted.

Applied to the national total, the alone or in combination shares equal about 52.6 million Black, 28.7 million Asian, 14.0 million American Indian and Alaska Native and 2.1 million Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander residents in 2025. For comparison, the Census Bureau put the Black alone or in combination population at 51,629,710 in its 2024 estimates and the Asian alone or in combination population at 26.8 million, so the 2025 figures are broadly in line once the new estimation base is taken into account.

Hispanic origin is a separate dimension, and how Hispanic respondents answer the race question has changed a great deal. In the 2020 Census, 20.3 million Hispanic people reported more than one race, up from 3.0 million in 2010, while the number reporting White alone fell from 26.7 million to 12.6 million. The Census Bureau attributed much of that shift to improvements in the design of the two questions and to new data processing and coding, rather than to changes in the population itself. That is the main reason headline race numbers can look very different from one source to the next even when they describe the same people.

Why 2025 Looks Different

Why the 2025 race estimates differ from earlier releases

Anyone comparing the 2025 figures with articles written a year ago will see large differences, and most of them are not demographic. Until Vintage 2024, the Census Bureau built its annual estimates on a blended base that carried forward race information from the 2010 Census. In January 2026 the Bureau announced that Vintage 2025 would use a base drawn more heavily from the 2020 Modified Age and Race Census file, that this would be the first time 2020 Census race data were used in the population estimates, and that the change would have a big impact on the racial characteristics of the new series.

The effect shows up immediately. Vintage 2024 counted 195.4 million non-Hispanic White residents in July 2024; Vintage 2025 shows about 191.7 million a year later. Natural decrease explains only a small part of that gap: in the most recent year for which the Bureau published group components, 2022 to 2023, non-Hispanic White deaths exceeded births by nearly 630,000. The rest reflects the new base, which the Bureau applied to the whole 2020 to 2025 series. Revisions also reach other measures. The median age of the Hispanic population for 2024 was 31.2 years in Vintage 2024 and 30.8 years in the Vintage 2025 revision of the same year.

How to read the 2025 numbers



- Compare years only within the same vintage. Vintage 2025 covers April 2020 to July 2025 on one consistent method.
- The Census Bureau states on QuickFacts that different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.
- The 2000, 2010 and 2020 figures in this report are census counts, not estimates, and are used for the long-run picture.
- The estimates have no Some Other Race category. Responses of Some Other Race are assigned to one of the OMB race groups, which is why the estimated multiracial share (4.9 percent) is far below the 10.2 percent counted in the 2020 Census.

The last point deserves a closer look. In the 2020 Census, 27.9 million people chose Some Other Race alone and 22.0 million chose it together with another race, many of them Hispanic respondents who wrote in a national origin. The Census itself therefore reported 33.8 million people of two or more races. In the modified race data used for the estimates, a response such as White and Some Other Race is treated as a single race response. Neither figure is wrong; they measure the same population under different rules, and this report labels which rule each chart follows.

Census Trends 2000 to 2020

Three censuses: how the composition shifted from 2000 to 2020

The decennial census is the most complete count of the population and the anchor for every estimate in between. It recorded 281.4 million residents in 2000, 308.7 million in 2010 and 331.4 million in 2020. Over those two decades the non-Hispanic White share fell from 69.1 percent to 63.7 percent and then to 57.8 percent, while the Hispanic share rose from 12.5 percent to 16.3 percent and 18.7 percent. The Black alone share stayed close to 12.5 percent throughout, and the Asian alone share went from 3.6 percent to 6.0 percent.

Population Shares by Race and Hispanic Origin, Census 2000, 2010 and 2020 (%) Race groups are race alone and include Hispanic residents; AIAN is American Indian and Alaska Native.

Data:

US Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, 2010 Census and 2020 Census redistricting data (race and ethnicity release, 12 August 2021).

Note:

the 2020 Census changed the design and coding of the race and Hispanic origin questions, so 2010 to 2020 comparisons should be made with caution. Shares are BusinessStats calculations from census counts. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Two or more races jumped from 2.9 to 10.2 percent between 2010 and 2020, a change the Census Bureau attributes largely to improved question design and coding.

GROUP	2000	2010	2020	CHANGE 2010 TO 2020
Total population	281.4	308.7	331.4	+7.4%
Hispanic or Latino	35.3	50.5	62.1	+23.0%
White alone, not Hispanic	194.6	196.8	191.7	-2.6%
White alone	211.5	223.6	204.3	-8.6%
Black or African American alone	34.7	38.9	41.1	+5.6%
Asian alone	10.2	14.7	19.9	+35.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2.5	2.9	3.7	+27.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.40	0.54	0.69	+27.8%
Some Other Race alone	15.4	19.1	27.9	+46.1%
Two or More Races	6.8	9.0	33.8	+276%

Source: US Census Bureau decennial censuses. Change column as published by the Census Bureau for 2010 to 2020 (total population change is a BusinessStats calculation).

Two numbers from 2020 show why definitions matter. The White alone population fell 8.6 percent from 2010, to 204.3 million, yet 235.4 million people, or 71 percent of the population, reported White alone or in combination with another race, because the number of people reporting White together with another race grew by 316 percent to 31.1 million. The non-Hispanic White population, the measure most often used in public debate, declined by 2.6 percent between the two censuses, to 191.7 million.

The Census Bureau also measures diversity directly. Its diversity index, the probability that two people chosen at random belong to different race or ethnic groups, rose from 54.9 percent in 2010 to 61.1 percent in 2020. Diversity is highest among the youngest Americans: in the 2020 Census the non-Hispanic White share was 47.0 percent among children under 5, against 78.5 percent among people aged 85 to 99.

Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Trend

Hispanic, non-Hispanic White and all other groups, 2000 to 2025

Splitting the population into three groups that do not overlap gives the clearest long-run picture: Hispanic residents of any race, non-Hispanic White residents, and everyone else who is not Hispanic, a group that includes non-Hispanic Black, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and multiracial residents. Measured this way, the Hispanic population nearly doubled from 35.3 million in 2000 to 70.1 million in 2025, the non-Hispanic White population moved from 194.6 million to about 191.7 million, and all other non-Hispanic groups grew from 51.6 million to about 79.9 million.

US Population by Hispanic Origin and Non-Hispanic White Status, 2000 to 2025 (million people) Three groups without overlap; 2000 to 2020 are census counts, 2025 is the Vintage 2025 estimate for 1 July.

Data:

US Census Bureau decennial censuses (1 April 2000, 2010, 2020) and Vintage 2025 population estimates (1 July 2025, released June 2026).

Note:

2025 values for non-Hispanic White and all other groups are BusinessStats calculations from published shares; census counts and estimates use different methods. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Hispanic growth accounts for most of the increase: 34.8 million of the 60.4 million people added between 2000 and 2025, or 57.6 percent.

The pace of Hispanic growth has slowed in percentage terms as the base has grown. The Hispanic population rose 43.0 percent between 2000 and 2010, 23.0 percent between 2010 and 2020 and about 12.9 percent in the five and a quarter years to July 2025. Other non-Hispanic groups added about 28.4 million people over the whole period, while the non-Hispanic White population was roughly 2.8 million, or about 1.4 percent, smaller in 2025 than in 2000. Because the 2025 value comes from an estimate built on a new base, the size of that last change is less certain than the census to census comparisons.

GROUP	2000 (MILLION)	2025 (MILLION)	CHANGE (MILLION)	SHARE OF TOTAL GROWTH
Hispanic or Latino	35.3	70.1	+34.8	57.6%
All other non-Hispanic groups	51.6	79.9	+28.4	47.0%

White alone, not Hispanic	194.6	191.7	-2.8	-4.7%
Total	281.4	341.8	+60.4	100%

Source: US Census Bureau (Census 2000; Vintage 2025). BusinessStats calculations from unrounded totals where published; figures may not sum exactly because of rounding.

Births are one part of this story and are covered in detail in our data on [births in the United States](#). The other part is immigration, which the next section examines group by group.

What Drives Growth

What drives growth: births, deaths and immigration by group

At national level the latest release shows a sharp change in pace. The US population grew by 1.8 million, or 0.5 percent, between July 2024 and July 2025, after growing 1.0 percent, or 3.2 million, a year earlier. Natural change, births minus deaths, was close to 519,000 in both years. Net international migration fell from 2.7 million to 1.3 million, and the Census Bureau described the slowdown as largely due to a historic decline in net international migration. Background on immigration flows is available in our [US immigration statistics](#) and our data on [green card recipients by state](#).

For growth by group, the most recent complete published table on a consistent basis is the Vintage 2024 release of June 2025, which covers non-Hispanic race groups and the Hispanic population for the year to July 2024. In that year the Hispanic population grew by 1,943,997 people, or 2.9 percent, a larger gain than all other groups combined. The Asian population grew fastest in percentage terms, by 4.2 percent or 898,113 people. The non-Hispanic White population was the only group to decline, by 226,072 people or 0.1 percent.

Population Growth by Race and Hispanic Origin, July 2023 to July 2024 (%)Race groups are non-Hispanic and race alone; Hispanic residents of any race form their own group.

Data:

US Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 population estimates by characteristics, press release CB25-99, 26 June 2025.

Note:

Vintage 2024 used the earlier blended race base; the Vintage 2025 series revises these levels. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Asian residents grew fastest and White residents were the only group to shrink: plus 4.2 percent against minus 0.1 percent in the year to July 2024.

GROUP	JULY 2023	JULY 2024	CHANGE	CHANGE %
White alone, not Hispanic	195,659,296	195,433,224	-226,072	-0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	66,142,156	68,086,153	+1,943,997	+2.9%
Black alone, not Hispanic	42,514,641	42,951,595	+436,954	+1.0%
Asian alone, not Hispanic	21,182,731	22,080,844	+898,113	+4.2%
Two or More Races, not Hispanic	8,217,797	8,441,923	+224,126	+2.7%
AIAN alone, not Hispanic	2,432,832	2,442,428	+9,596	+0.4%
NHPI alone, not Hispanic	656,778	674,821	+18,043	+2.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2024 estimates (June 2025). These levels predate the Vintage 2025 base change and are not comparable with the 2025 figures above.

The components of change explain the pattern. The Census Bureau last broke them down by Hispanic origin in its June 2024 release, for the year to July 2023. The Hispanic population gained about 1.16 million people, of which roughly 722,000 came from births exceeding deaths and about one third from net international migration. The non-Hispanic population as a whole recorded 217,000 more deaths than births and grew only because net international migration added more than 700,000 people. Within it, the non-Hispanic White population had nearly 630,000 more deaths than births, which was the main reason it declined by 461,612.

GROUP	NATURAL CHANGE (BIRTHS MINUS DEATHS)	NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION	TOTAL CHANGE
Hispanic or Latino	about +722,000	about one third of the gain	+1.16 million (+1.8%)
Not Hispanic (all races)	about -217,000	more than +700,000	just under +0.5 million (+0.2%)
White alone, not Hispanic	nearly -630,000	not published separately	-461,612 (-0.2%)



Source: US Census Bureau, Vintage 2023 estimates, press release CB24-109, 27 June 2024. Values are as rounded in the release. The Vintage 2025 components table by race and Hispanic origin (NC-EST2025-COMPEN) could not be retrieved for this update.

In short, Hispanic growth rests mainly on births, because the Hispanic population is young, while non-Hispanic White numbers are held back by a growing excess of deaths over births. With net international migration halving in the latest year, the immigration-driven part of that picture is the one most likely to change in the next release. Recent border enforcement figures are tracked in our data on [US Border Patrol apprehensions and expulsions](#).

Age Structure

Age structure: why some groups are younger than others

Age is the link between the composition of the population and its growth. The Census Bureau puts the median age of the Hispanic population at 31.1 years in 2025, compared with 39.4 years for the nation as a whole. A younger group has more people in the childbearing years and fewer at the ages when most deaths occur, so it can grow through natural increase even without immigration. Detailed age breakdowns by sex for the whole population are in our separate report on the [population of the US by sex and age](#), which this page does not repeat.

Census projection work published in July 2024 shows the differences clearly for 2022. More than one in five non-Hispanic White residents (22 percent) were aged 65 or older, against 14 percent of non-Hispanic Asian, 13 percent of non-Hispanic Black, 8 percent of Hispanic and 6 percent of non-Hispanic multiracial residents. Working age shares, ages 15 to 64, ranged from 70 percent for non-Hispanic Asian residents to 57 percent for multiracial residents, a group in which children make up an unusually large share.

Working Age and Older Population Shares by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022 (%) Share of each group aged 15 to 64 and 65 or older. Race groups are non-Hispanic.

Data:

US Census Bureau, By 2060, Less Than 60% of Non-Hispanic White Population and About 65% of Non-Hispanic Multiracial Population Will Be Working Age, 30 July 2024, based on the 2023 National Population Projections.

Note:

the remainder of each group is under 15. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

The oldest and youngest profiles sit side by side: 22 percent of non-Hispanic White residents were 65 or older in 2022, against 8 percent of Hispanic and 6 percent of multiracial residents.

The same source measures the old-age dependency ratio, the number of people aged 65 and over for every 100 people of working age. It is projected to rise for every group by 2060, but from very different starting points.

GROUP	2022	2060, MAIN SERIES	CHANGE
White alone, not Hispanic	34.9	51.8	+16.9
Asian alone, not Hispanic	20.3	35.4	+15.1
Black alone, not Hispanic	19.3	37.2	+17.9
Hispanic or Latino	12.3	28.9	+16.6
Two or More Races, not Hispanic	11.2	15.8	+4.6

Source: US Census Bureau, 2023 National Population Projections (America Counts, July 2024). Change is a BusinessStats calculation.

These gaps help explain the components of change shown above: a group with a third of its working age population already matched by people over 65 will see deaths rise steadily. The national picture, and how it compares with other ageing countries, is covered in our report on [the global aging population](#) and our data on the [global fertility rate](#). Sex ratios, which also differ by age, are covered in [US population by gender](#).

The Census Bureau also publishes 2025 age detail for each race group in its national characteristics tables. This page reports only the measures the Bureau summarised in its own releases, so median ages for groups other than the Hispanic population are not quoted here.

Group by Group

Group by group: the main figures for 2024 and 2025

Hispanic or Latino

The Hispanic population reached 70.1 million in July 2025, 20.5 percent of residents, with a median age of 31.1 years. Sixteen states had at least 1 million Hispanic residents in 2025: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington. Nevada was the addition compared with the 15 states listed

for 2024. The largest county gain was in Harris County, Texas, which added 50,093 Hispanic residents, or 2.2 percent, between July 2024 and July 2025.

White

About 247.1 million residents, 72.3 percent, reported White as their only race in 2025, and 76.8 percent reported White alone or in combination. Excluding Hispanic residents, the non-Hispanic White population was about 191.7 million, or 56.1 percent. It is the oldest of the major groups, with 22 percent aged 65 or older in 2022, and in recent years it has been the only group in which deaths exceed births.

Black or African American

Black alone residents made up 13.5 percent of the population in 2025, about 46.1 million people, and 15.4 percent, about 52.6 million, reported Black alone or in combination. In 2024 the Census Bureau counted 51,629,710 Black alone or in combination residents, with Texas the state and Cook County, Illinois, the county with the largest Black populations. The non-Hispanic Black alone population grew 1.0 percent in the year to July 2024.

Asian

Asian alone residents accounted for 6.9 percent of the population in 2025, about 23.6 million, and 8.4 percent reported Asian alone or in combination. The Bureau put the Asian alone or in combination population at 26.8 million in 2024. It was the fastest growing group in the year to July 2024, at 4.2 percent; its largest numeric gains were in California and Texas, and growth in Texas (6.9 percent) was much faster than in California (2.7 percent).

ORIGIN GROUP	POPULATION
Chinese, except Taiwanese	5.8 million
Asian Indian	5.6 million
Filipino	5.0 million
Vietnamese	2.4 million
Korean	2.2 million
Japanese	1.7 million



Source: US Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, as cited in the Census Bureau Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month release, May 2026.

American Indian and Alaska Native

The American Indian and Alaska Native alone population was 2.1 percent of residents in 2025, about 7.2 million people, and 4.1 percent reported this race alone or in combination. The 2025 estimate is almost twice the 3.7 million people counted as AIAN alone in the 2020 Census, and well above the 2.4 million non-Hispanic AIAN alone residents in Vintage 2024. The Census Bureau has not published a breakdown of that difference, but it is far larger than any plausible five year growth, which points to the switch to 2020 Census race data. The 2020 Census counted 9.7 million people who reported AIAN alone or in combination. Alaska (15.6 percent) and New Mexico (11.6 percent) have the highest AIAN alone shares among the states covered in our state table.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

NHPI alone residents made up 0.3 percent of the population in 2025 and 0.6 percent reported NHPI alone or in combination; the Bureau put the latter group at 1.8 million in 2024. According to the 2024 American Community Survey, the largest detailed groups were Native Hawaiian (728,718), Samoan (271,387) and Chamorro (167,504). In Hawaii, 10.9 percent of residents were NHPI alone in 2025.

Two or More Races

About 16.7 million residents, 4.9 percent, reported two or more races in the 2025 estimates. The share is highest in Hawaii (24.6 percent), Alaska (10.6 percent) and Nevada (7.8 percent). Under the census rules, which keep Some Other Race as a category, the multiracial population was 33.8 million in 2020.

State Patterns

Majority-minority states: where no group forms a majority

A state is usually described as majority-minority when non-Hispanic White residents make up less than half of its population. In the 2025 estimates that applied to nine states and the District of Columbia: Hawaii (21.5 percent non-Hispanic White), California (32.5), New Mexico (35.2), Texas (37.3), Nevada (42.3), Maryland (45.3), Georgia (47.9), New Jersey (49.6) and Florida (49.9), plus DC (37.6). In the 2020 Census the same was true of six states and DC, with Georgia at the 50 percent line. Part of the change reflects the new estimation base rather than four years of demographic change.

Non-Hispanic White Share in the Most Diverse States, July 2025 (%)States below or near the 50 percent line, ranked from lowest share; Vintage 2025.

Data:

US Census Bureau QuickFacts state pages, Vintage 2025 population estimates, accessed October 2026.

Note:

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino. Arizona and New York are shown as the nearest states above 50 percent; we also checked Mississippi, Louisiana, Illinois and Alaska, all above 54 percent. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Florida and New Jersey sit just under the line: 49.9 and 49.6 percent non-Hispanic White in 2025, with Arizona (51.2) and New York (51.5) just above it.

STATE	POPULATION	HISPANIC	BLACK ALONE	ASIAN ALONE	TWO OR MORE	NH WHITE
Hawaii	1,432,820	10.6%	2.0%	36.7%	24.6%	21.5%
California	39,355,309	41.2%	6.4%	17.5%	6.6%	32.5%
New Mexico	2,125,498	49.4%	2.9%	2.2%	4.5%	35.2%
Texas	31,709,821	40.9%	13.4%	6.7%	4.0%	37.3%
District of Columbia	693,645	12.9%	41.6%	5.8%	5.1%	37.6%
Nevada	3,282,188	31.2%	11.3%	10.6%	7.8%	42.3%
Maryland	6,265,347	13.8%	31.1%	7.6%	5.2%	45.3%
Georgia	11,302,748	12.1%	32.4%	5.4%	4.2%	47.9%
New Jersey	9,548,215	24.0%	15.8%	11.6%	3.8%	49.6%
Florida	23,462,518	29.2%	16.3%	3.5%	4.0%	49.9%
Arizona	7,623,818	32.5%	5.9%	4.5%	5.2%	51.2%
New York	20,002,427	21.0%	18.1%	10.9%	4.3%	51.5%
Mississippi	2,954,160	4.6%	36.8%	1.4%	3.0%	54.7%
Louisiana	4,618,189	8.5%	32.1%	2.1%	3.6%	54.7%
Illinois	12,719,141	19.9%	14.5%	7.0%	3.9%	56.7%

Alaska	737,270	8.2%	3.4%	6.5%	10.6%	56.8%
United States	341,784,857	20.5%	13.5%	6.9%	4.9%	56.1%

Source: US Census Bureau QuickFacts, Vintage 2025. Race columns are race alone and include Hispanic residents; NH White is White alone, not Hispanic or Latino.

The state table shows how different the mix can be. New Mexico is the state closest to a Hispanic majority, at 49.4 percent, followed by California (41.2 percent) and Texas (40.9 percent). The District of Columbia (41.6 percent) has the highest Black alone share, followed by Mississippi (36.8), Georgia (32.4), Louisiana (32.1) and Maryland (31.1). Hawaii is the only state where Asian alone is the largest race group, at 36.7 percent, and where about one in four residents reports two or more races. In Alaska, 15.6 percent of residents are American Indian and Alaska Native alone.

Note also that majority-minority status depends on the definition. Measured by race alone, which includes Hispanic residents, White residents are a majority in every one of these states except Hawaii (25.3 percent White alone) and the District of Columbia (46.2 percent). City and metro level patterns, which are often more pronounced than state averages, are covered in our reports on the [most populated US cities](#) and the [population of US metropolitan areas](#), and sex balance by state in our data on [males per 100 females by state](#).

Projections to 2060

Projections: the composition in 2060

The most recent national projections from the Census Bureau, released on 9 November 2023, start from a 2022 population that was 58.9 percent non-Hispanic White and 19.1 percent Hispanic. In the main series the non-Hispanic White share falls to 44.9 percent by 2060, the Hispanic share rises to 26.9 percent and the non-Hispanic Black share stays at about 13 percent. The total population peaks at about 370 million in 2080 and edges down to 366 million in 2100.

Projected Population Shares in 2060 under Four Immigration Scenarios (%) Non-Hispanic White and Hispanic shares of the US population, 2022 base and 2060 projections.

Data:

US Census Bureau, 2023 National Population Projections, press release CB23-189, 9 November 2023.

Note:



projections start from 2022 estimates that predate the Vintage 2025 race method, so their base shares are not directly comparable with the 2025 estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Only with zero immigration would non-Hispanic White residents still be a majority in 2060, at 50.7 percent; in the main series the share is 44.9 percent.

The scenarios show how much depends on immigration. With high immigration the population keeps growing every year, to 435 million in 2100, and the non-Hispanic White share in 2060 is 42.7 percent. With low immigration the population peaks at about 346 million in 2043 and declines to 319 million by 2100. With zero immigration it would already have started to fall in 2024 and would reach 226 million in 2100. The year in which deaths begin to outnumber births for the nation as a whole ranges from 2033 with zero immigration to 2042 with high immigration, with 2038 in the main series.

Two caveats apply. First, the projections were built before the Vintage 2025 estimates moved to 2020 Census race data, and their 2022 base share of 58.9 percent non-Hispanic White sits well above the 56.1 percent in the 2025 estimates. Second, net international migration fell to 1.3 million in the year to July 2025, half the level of the previous year, so the scenario that best matches reality may change from year to year. The projections describe what follows from stated assumptions; they are not forecasts of a specific year in which a majority ends. Population growth in other countries is compared in our report on [population growth rate by country](#).

44.9%Non-Hispanic White share, 2060Main series, 2023 projections.26.9%Hispanic share, 2060Up from 19.1 percent in 2022.370MProjected population peakIn 2080, main series.2038First year of natural decreaseMain series; 2033 with zero immigration. Measuring Race Next

How race and ethnicity will be measured next

The rules behind these statistics are changing. On 28 March 2024 the Office of Management and Budget revised Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, the federal standard for race and ethnicity data. The revision replaces the two separate questions with one combined question, adds Middle Eastern or North African as a new category, and requires detailed categories by default. Federal agencies must submit action plans by 28 March 2027 and comply by 28 March 2029. Data collected under the new standard will place many respondents in different groups from the ones used in this report, so future series will need their own bridging notes.



Separately, on 10 September 2026 the Census Bureau published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (document 2026-18481) that would bar questions on race, ethnicity and sexual orientation from the decennial census short form and from any questionnaire used to enumerate the population. The proposal states that it does not restrict the American Community Survey or other surveys not used for enumeration, and that administrative records can fill information gaps. The comment period was extended to 2 November 2026, and the rule had not been finalised at the time of writing. If adopted, it would change the source of the benchmark race counts that the annual estimates have relied on since 2000.

Key Facts

The US population by race in eight numbers

341.8M US residents, 1 July 2025
Census Bureau, Vintage 2025
70.1M Hispanic or Latino residents
20.5 percent of the population
56.1% White alone, not Hispanic
About 191.7 million people
13.5% Black or African American alone
15.4 percent alone or in combination
6.9% Asian alone
Fastest growth in 2023 to 2024, 4.2 percent
4.1% AIAN alone or in combination
Twice the 2.1 percent race alone share
61.1% Diversity index, 2020 Census
Up from 54.9 percent in 2010
31.1 Median age of Hispanic residents
Against 39.4 for all residents, 2025. FAQ

Questions about the US population by race

According to the Census Bureau Vintage 2025 estimates, the US had 341.8 million residents on 1 July 2025. By race alone, 72.3 percent were White, 13.5 percent Black or African American, 6.9 percent Asian, 2.1 percent American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.3 percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 4.9 percent reported two or more races. Separately, 20.5 percent were Hispanic or Latino.

The Census Bureau estimates 70.1 million Hispanic or Latino residents on 1 July 2025, or 20.5 percent of the population. Hispanic people can be of any race.

In 2025, 72.3 percent of residents reported White as their only race, including Hispanic residents. Excluding Hispanic residents, 56.1 percent, about 191.7 million people, were White alone and not Hispanic.

Black or African American alone residents made up 13.5 percent of the population in 2025, about 46.1 million people. Including people who reported Black together with another race, the share was 15.4 percent, about 52.6 million.



Asian alone residents were 6.9 percent of the population in 2025, about 23.6 million people, and 8.4 percent reported Asian alone or in combination. The Census Bureau put the Asian alone or in combination population at 26.8 million in 2024.

No. In federal statistics Hispanic or Latino origin is an ethnicity recorded in a separate question, and Hispanic people can be of any race. Race alone figures therefore include Hispanic residents unless they are labelled not Hispanic.

In the 2025 estimates, non-Hispanic White residents were less than half of the population in Hawaii, California, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Maryland, Georgia, New Jersey and Florida, and in the District of Columbia.

Vintage 2025 is the first Census Bureau estimates series to use 2020 Census race data, replacing a base that carried forward 2010 Census race information. The Bureau says different vintages are not comparable, so a change between older and newer releases is not the same as population change.

The 2023 Census projections put the non-Hispanic White share at 44.9 percent in 2060 in the main series and below half in every scenario except zero immigration, where it is 50.7 percent. The projections describe assumptions rather than a forecast of an exact year.

That is under review. A Census Bureau proposed rule published on 10 September 2026 would remove race and ethnicity questions from the decennial census short form while keeping them on the American Community Survey. The comment period runs to 2 November 2026 and the rule is not final.

Sources

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[US Census Bureau](#): National Hispanic Heritage Month 2026, Hispanic population and median age, Vintage 2025.

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[US Census Bureau](#): 2020 Census illuminates racial and ethnic composition of the country, 12 August 2021 (2010 and 2020 Census counts).

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[US Census Bureau](#): 2023 National Population Projections, press release CB23-189, 9 November 2023.

[US Census Bureau](#): working age and older population shares by race and Hispanic origin, 2023 projections, July 2024.

[US Census Bureau](#): Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2026 and [National Black History Month 2026](#) (2024 estimates and 2024 American Community Survey).

[Hawaii DBEDT State Data Center](#): Hawaii population characteristics 2025, Table 2 with national race alone or in combination shares from Census Bureau Vintage 2025.

[Office of Management and Budget](#): Revisions to Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Federal Register, 29 March 2024.

[US Census Bureau, Federal Register](#): proposed residence criteria and regulations for demographic questions on the decennial census, 10 September 2026.

Vintage 2025 estimates use 2020 Census race data for the first time and are not comparable with earlier vintages; growth by group and components of change come from the Vintage 2024 and Vintage 2023 releases and are labelled as such. Counts shown as about are BusinessStats calculations from published one decimal shares and the published total. The Vintage 2025 detail files on www2.census.gov (including NC-EST2025-COMP and NC-EST2025-ASR6H) could not be retrieved for this update, so group components and median ages for 2025 other than the Hispanic median are not reported. Figures from the previous version of this page that could not be traced to the Census Bureau, including income and spending estimates, have been removed.



STATISTICS REPORT

US Population 2015–2026 — Statistics & Facts | Complete Annual Data

Updated May 30, 2026 · businessstats.com/us-population-2015-2026-statistics

341.8M US POPULATION JULY 2025	349M ESTIMATED MID-2026 (UN)	+0.5% GROWTH RATE 2024–2025
38.7 MEDIAN AGE 2026	79.0 LIFE EXPECTANCY 2024 (RECORD)	4.20% SHARE OF WORLD POPULATION

Executive Summary

341.8 Million Americans in 2025 — A Nation Slowing Down After a Post-Pandemic Growth Surge

The United States entered 2026 as the world's third most populous country, with a Census Bureau resident count of **341,784,857 as of July 1, 2025**, and a UN mid-year 2026 estimate of approximately **349 million**. Over the eleven-year span from 2015 to 2026, the US population grew by roughly 28 million people — an increase of approximately 8.7% — but this aggregate figure conceals dramatically uneven growth patterns across three distinct phases: modest pre-pandemic expansion (2015–2019), COVID-era near-stagnation (2020–2021), and a historic immigration-led rebound (2022–2024) that has since sharply reversed.

The most consequential demographic development of this period has been the shift in the engine of population growth. For the first two decades of the 21st century, natural increase — the excess of births over deaths — was the primary driver of US population growth. Since 2021, net international migration has accounted for the majority of US population growth, a structural departure reflecting declining fertility rates, the aging of the 76-million-strong Baby Boomer cohort into peak mortality years, and elevated immigration flows in 2022–2024. That immigration surge has now sharply reversed: the [Census Bureau's Vintage 2025 estimates](#) recorded net international migration of just **1.3 million** in 2024–2025, down from 2.7 million the prior year — causing overall population growth to fall to its slowest rate since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The racial and ethnic composition of the country continues to shift measurably. The Hispanic population surpassed **68 million in 2024**, representing 20% of the total US population. Asian Americans remain the fastest-growing racial group by percentage at 4.4% annually. Non-Hispanic white Americans are experiencing a natural decrease — more deaths than births — for the first time in US history. These converging demographic forces are reshaping the electorate, the workforce, the housing market, and the long-term fiscal trajectory of federal entitlement programs.

US Population by Year 2015–2026 — Full Annual Historical Data

Click column header to sort

YEAR	POPULATION (M)	ANNUAL CHANGE	GROWTH RATE	NET MIGRATION (M)	NATURAL INCREASE (M)	KEY EVENT
2015	320.74M	+2.45M	+0.77%	~0.99M	~1.46M	Post-recession recovery; fertility declines
2016	323.07M	+2.33M	+0.73%	~1.01M	~1.32M	Slowest growth in 80 years at time
2017	325.15M	+2.08M	+0.64%	~0.97M	~1.11M	Natural increase continues to decline
2018	327.21M	+2.06M	+0.63%	~0.96M	~1.10M	Opioid crisis contributes to mortality rise
2019	329.48M	+2.27M	+0.69%	~0.98M	~1.29M	Pre-pandemic peak; 329M milestone
2020	331.45M	+1.97M	+0.60%	~0.48M	~0.83M	COVID-19; 2020 Decennial Census
2021	332.18M	+0.73M	+0.22%	~0.25M	~0.48M	Slowest growth since nation's founding
2022	334.23M	+2.05M	+0.62%	~1.55M	~0.50M	Immigration rebound drives recovery
2023	336.99M	+2.76M	+0.83%	~2.19M	~0.57M	Immigration surges; highest growth since 2006
2024	340.11M	+3.12M	+0.98%	~2.70M	~0.42M	Record net migration; 340M milestone



2025	341.78M	+1.80M	+0.50%	~1.30M	~0.50M	Migration decline; slowest growth since 2021
2026	~349.04M*	~+2.10M	~+0.60%	~1.40M	~0.50M	UN mid-year estimate; growth stabilizing

2024

340.1M

Annual Population Trend US Population — 2015 to 2026 Total resident population · Millions · July 1 mid-year estimates · Census Bureau / UN 340.1M Population 2024 Census Bureau Estimate UN Projection / Estimated

+8.7% Total Growth · 2015–2026 Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2025 Population Estimates (Jan. 27, 2026) · UN World Population Prospects 2024 Revision · *2026 = UN mid-year projection

Components of Change

Births, Deaths & Migration — The Three Forces That Built (and Now Slow) US Population Growth

US population change is the net result of three variables: births, deaths, and net international migration. These three components have shifted dramatically in their relative contributions over the 2015–2026 period. In 2015, natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for roughly 60% of annual population growth. By 2024, **net international migration accounted for approximately 87% of US population growth** — a complete reversal driven by declining fertility, aging-driven mortality rises, and record immigration flows. The 2025 data marks a sharp reversal of this trend as the political environment caused net migration to fall to a decade low of approximately 1.3 million.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE BY YEAR Natural Increase vs. Net Migration — 2015 to 2025
Approximate annual contribution to US population growth · Millions of persons · Census Bureau estimates
Natural increase = births minus deaths. Net migration = net international migration. 2020–2021: COVID-19 elevated deaths and suppressed migration, causing the historic slowdown. 2022–2024: Immigration surge drove a rebound. 2025: Policy changes caused migration to halve. Figures are Census Bureau estimates; 2025 provisional. 3.66M
Estimated US Births 2024 3.03M
Estimated US Deaths 2024 1.70M
Total Fertility Rate 2024 79.0
Life Expectancy 2024 (Record) 2.70M
Net Migration 2023–24 (Peak) 1.30M
Net Migration 2024–25 (Slows) Life Expectancy Milestone US Life Expectancy Reaches Record High of 79.0 Years in



2024 — Surpassing Pre-COVID Peak

Average American life expectancy at birth reached **79.0 years in 2024** — a record high and a gain of 0.6 years from 78.4 years in 2023 — according to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. The figure surpasses the previous record of 78.9 years set in 2014. Males averaged 76.5 years; females 81.4 years. The CDC attributed the improvement primarily to a dramatic fall in fatal drug overdoses and lower COVID-19 mortality. Despite the record, US life expectancy continues to lag peer nations by 3–5 years due to higher mortality from gun violence, obesity-related diseases, and healthcare access inequality.

Historical Timeline

From 320 Million to 349 Million — How America's Population Changed Over Eleven Pivotal Years

The US population history from 2015 to 2026 is defined by three dramatically different demographic periods. Each required different policy responses and produced different outcomes for housing, labor markets, social services, and the broader American economy. Understanding these phases is essential context for interpreting current 2026 data and projecting the path ahead.

The United States population grew from 320.7 million in 2015 to an estimated 349 million in mid-2026 — an increase of roughly 28 million people across eleven years. Growth ranged from a historic low of +0.22% in 2021 (the slowest ever recorded) to a near-decade-high of +0.98% in 2024, powered by record immigration flows that have since sharply reversed under new policy directions. Photo: Unsplash 2021 — Historic Low Point 2021: US Population Growth Falls to +0.22% — The Slowest in Recorded American History

The United States added only 730,000 residents in 2020–2021 — a growth rate of 0.22% — the lowest annual growth since the Census Bureau began tracking population in the early 19th century. The confluence of three forces: COVID-19 excess deaths (estimated at 500,000+ deaths directly attributed to COVID in 2020–2021), a sharp decline in international migration to just 250,000 net arrivals (due to border closures and travel restrictions), and a fertility rate that had already declined to approximately 1.64, created a demographic perfect storm. The recovery from this historic low defines the entire 2022–2026 growth trajectory.

2015–19 The Slow-Growth Pre-Pandemic Era — Fertility Falls, Immigration Steadies Between 2015 and 2019, the US population grew by approximately 8.74 million people — from 320.74M to 329.48M — at an average annual rate of 0.69%. This was historically modest growth. Natural increase declined steadily as the Total

Fertility Rate fell from approximately 1.85 (2015) toward 1.73 (2019). Net immigration remained steady at approximately 900,000–1,000,000 per year. The South and Mountain West grew significantly faster than the national average, while several Northeastern states (New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island) saw near-flat or negative growth. This era established the structural pattern — declining natural increase, flat immigration — that COVID would then dramatically disrupt.

2020–21 COVID-19 Disruption — The Deadliest Demographic Shock Since the 1918 Flu The COVID-19 pandemic caused the most severe demographic disruption to the US since the 1918 influenza pandemic. Excess mortality elevated annual US deaths from approximately 2.85 million (2019) to 3.38 million (2020) and 3.46 million (2021) — adding roughly 1.2 million excess deaths in just two years. Simultaneously, net international migration collapsed from nearly 1 million per year to 480,000 (2020) and just 247,000 (2021) as border closures and travel restrictions took hold. The result was the historic 2021 low of +0.22% growth. The Census Bureau's 2020 Decennial Census counted 331,449,281 Americans — a figure that itself undercounted residents by an estimated 500,000–800,000 due to pandemic-related data collection challenges.

2022–24 The Immigration Surge — Record Net Migration Drives the Fastest Growth Since 2006 Between 2021 and 2024, the US experienced an extraordinary immigration surge. Net international migration accelerated from 247,000 (2021) to 1.55 million (2022), 2.19 million (2023), and a record 2.70 million (2023–2024). This surge — driven by asylum claims, humanitarian parole programs, and elevated irregular migration at the southern border — drove the highest annual population growth rates since before the 2008 financial crisis. Total population grew by approximately 7.93 million from mid-2021 to mid-2024 (+2.4%), reversing the COVID stagnation. The 340 million milestone was crossed in early 2024.

2025–26 The Policy Reversal — Migration Halves, Growth Slows to 0.5% The administration elected in November 2024 implemented the most significant restrictive immigration policy changes in decades, including enhanced border enforcement, termination of multiple humanitarian parole programs, and accelerated deportation of undocumented residents. The result was dramatic: the

Census Bureau's Vintage 2025 estimates

recorded net international migration of approximately 1.3 million in 2024–2025 — down 52% from the prior year's 2.7 million. Overall population growth fell to 0.5% — the slowest since COVID. The CBO's January 2026 projections model further moderation through 2026–2028 before gradual stabilization.

Age Structure & Aging



Median Age 38.7 — America's Aging Population and the Coming Dependency Challenge

The United States has a median age of approximately **38.7 years in 2026**, reflecting a long-term aging trend driven by the 76-million-strong Baby Boomer cohort (born 1946–1964) progressing through retirement into peak mortality years. The share of Americans aged 65 and older reached approximately **17.5% in 2025**, up from 14.5% in 2015 — a nearly 3-percentage-point increase in just ten years. The Census Bureau projects this figure will reach **22% by 2040**, when all Baby Boomers will have crossed age 65.

The dependency ratio — the ratio of non-working-age Americans (under 18 and 65+) to working-age adults — is rising steadily, with profound implications for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid funding. Starting around **2030, annual deaths will exceed births** for the first time in modern US history, making immigration the sole driver of population growth. The CBO's [long-range demographic projections model](#) this inflection point as the defining structural shift of 21st-century American demography.

US Population by Age Group — 2025 Distribution

Race & Ethnicity

A Nation in Transition — Race and Ethnicity in the United States 2024–2026

The racial and ethnic composition of the United States is undergoing a transformation that demographers have long projected but that arrived faster than many models forecast. **Non-Hispanic white Americans represented approximately 57.6% of the population in 2024** — down from approximately 63% in 2015 — their first sustained decline below 60% of the total. The Hispanic population surpassed **68 million in 2024 (20% of the total)**, cementing its status as the primary engine of overall US population growth. Asian Americans — at approximately 7.2% of the population — are the fastest-growing racial group by percentage at approximately 4.4% annually.

RACIAL & ETHNIC COMPOSITION 2024 US Population by Race and Ethnicity Estimated percentage distribution · Census Bureau Vintage 2024 Estimates · Updated OMB March 2024 standards

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 Population Estimates. Updated OMB March 2024 race/ethnicity standards. "Other" includes AIAN, NHPI, and two or more races. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. The racial and ethnic composition of the United States continues its decades-long diversification.

Hispanic Americans (20%) and Asian Americans (7.2%) are the two fastest-growing major demographic groups. Non-Hispanic white Americans declined from approximately 63% of the population in 2015 to 57.6% in 2025. The 2030 Census will implement combined race-ethnicity questions and a new MENA category, expected to further reflect population diversity. Photo: Unsplash Non-Hispanic White — First-Ever Natural Decrease~57.6% · ~195M People · Deaths Exceed Births Non-Hispanic white Americans remain the largest single group but are experiencing a natural decrease for the first time in US history — 461,612 more deaths than births were recorded in 2023. Over one-third (36.9%) of white Americans are aged 55 or older, making this the oldest-skewing major demographic. The 2024 Census data showed this group's natural decrease accelerating as the baby boomers enter their 70s and 80s. Regional concentration is highest in the Midwest (73%) and Northeast (62%). Total numbers are partially stabilized by immigration.

Hispanic / Latino — Largest Absolute Growth Engine~20.0% · ~68M People · 1.8–2.9% Annual Growth Hispanic Americans are the nation's largest ethnic minority and primary driver of population growth, expanding at 1.8–2.9% annually. The 2024 Census data showed this group accounting for nearly 71% of total US population growth between 2022 and 2023. Mexican-origin Americans represent the largest subgroup at 37.4 million. Over 28.9% of Hispanic Americans are under age 18, signaling continued future growth momentum. The South hosts the highest regional concentration. The TFR among Hispanic women — historically above 2.0 — has declined toward 1.9, though still above the national average of 1.70.

Black / African American — Stable Growth, Historic Income Gains~14.0% · ~47M People · ~0.6% Annual Growth Black Americans represent approximately 14% of the total population and 47 million people as of 2024. Growth is approximately 0.6% per year. The South remains the most populous region, with 19.6% of Southern residents identifying as Black/African American. In 2023, Black households saw the largest income increase of any racial group between 2020–2023, narrowing persistent wealth gaps. The 2024 ACS data showed significant improvements in educational attainment, homeownership rates, and professional sector employment among Black Americans under 40.

Asian American — Fastest Percentage Growth Rate~7.2% · ~23M People · ~4.4% Annual Growth Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial group by percentage at approximately 4.4% annually, driven by immigration from India, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The total population reached approximately 23 million in 2024. Asian Americans have the highest median household income and educational attainment of any racial group, significantly contributing to the technology, healthcare, engineering, and financial sectors. India-origin Americans, now the largest single Asian subgroup at approximately 4.6 million, are concentrated in the technology sector and command the highest median household incomes.

Multiracial (Two or More Races) — Fastest Growing Identity~3.3% · ~11M People · ~2.4% Annual Growth The multiracial population is among the fastest-growing segments at 2.4% annually, with approximately 11 million Americans identifying as two or more



racers in 2024–2025. This group has a median age of approximately 21.8 years — the youngest of any major racial category. The 2020 Census methodological changes significantly increased multiracial counts, and the 2030 Census's combined race-ethnicity question is expected to further expand identification. California, Texas, and Florida have the largest multiracial populations. Other / AIAN / NHPI / New MENA Category ~2.0% · ~6.7M · Diverse Subcategories American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Americans number approximately 3.2 million, with 45% also identifying as Hispanic. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders number approximately 656,000, predominantly in Hawaii, California, and Washington. The OMB's March 2024 standards update added "Middle Eastern or North African (MENA)" as a distinct category for the first time — a change expected to identify approximately 3.5 million Americans who previously self-identified as white but prefer MENA identification. This will be fully reflected in the 2030 Census.

State-Level Rankings

California, Texas, Florida — Top 10 Most Populous US States in 2025

The Vintage 2025 population estimates reveal the ongoing geographic redistribution of the US population. The South and Mountain West continue to see the fastest growth, while several Northeastern and Midwestern states experience slow growth or outright decline. All four Census regions saw growth slow in 2024–2025 compared to prior years, reflecting the nationwide impact of declining net migration. Notably, the **Midwest recorded positive net domestic migration** for the first time this decade — a potential inflection point in the decades-long migration toward Sun Belt states, possibly reflecting rising housing costs and climate-related risks in high-growth markets.

Top 10 Most Populous US States — July 2025 Estimates

Vintage 2025 Key Finding Growth Slowdown Hit All Regions — But the Midwest Saw Its First Net Domestic Migration Gain This Decade

The Census Bureau's January 2026 Vintage 2025 release confirmed that US population growth slowed to 0.5% in 2024–2025 — the slowest since COVID-19 — and was felt across all four Census regions. The South, while still growing fastest overall, showed the most dramatic absolute slowdown due to its larger base and prior dependence on domestic migration inflows. Significantly, the **Midwest recorded positive net domestic migration for the first time this decade** — a potential demographic rebalancing signal. Only Montana and West Virginia bucked the nationwide slowdown trend with unchanged or improved growth trajectories. New York and California continue to experience net domestic out-migration, partially offset by international immigration to major metro areas.

Immigration & Migration

From 2.7 Million to 1.3 Million — The Dramatic 2025 Reversal of US Net International Migration

Net international migration has been the defining variable in US population dynamics since 2021. The surge from 2022 to 2024 — during which net migration exceeded **2 million per year for the first time in recorded US history**, reaching a peak of approximately **2.7 million in 2023–2024** — drove the highest US population growth rates since the mid-2000s. The abrupt reversal in 2024–2025, when net migration fell to approximately **1.3 million**, caused overall population growth to halve. The [CBO's January 2026 Demographic Outlook](#) attributes this decline to administrative immigration policy changes, projecting further moderation through 2026–2028 before stabilization.

The implications of this migration reversal extend far beyond raw headcount. Immigration has been the primary source of working-age population growth, labor force expansion, and above-replacement fertility in the US economy. A sustained reduction in net migration directly affects Social Security trust fund projections, Medicare sustainability, potential GDP growth, and housing demand dynamics in immigrant-dense metro areas. The CBO modeled that reduced immigration under January 2026 projections would lower the projected total 2056 US population by several million compared to its January 2025 baseline.

Net international migration's influence on population trends has increased over the last few years. Since 2021, it has accounted for the majority of the nation's growth — a departure from the last two decades, when natural increase was the main factor driving growth.

— U.S. Census Bureau, Official Population Statement, Late 2024

Population Drivers

Six Forces Shaping US Population Dynamics Through 2030

1Declining Fertility — Total Fertility Rate Falls Below 1.7 for First TimeThe US total fertility rate (TFR) fell to approximately 1.62–1.70 in 2023–2024, well below the 2.1 replacement level. The US once had a fertility rate among the highest in the developed world, but has converged with European norms. Declining fertility reflects delayed marriage, rising educational attainment among women, economic uncertainty, increased childcare costs, and shifting generational values toward smaller families. The TFR among Hispanic women — historically above 2.0 — has also declined sharply, toward 1.9, reducing the demographic cushion this group once provided for national fertility averages. No peer nation has successfully reversed a sustained

fertility decline through policy alone. 2Baby Boomer Aging — 76 Million Americans Enter Peak Mortality Years 2025–2035The 76 million Americans born in the Baby Boomer generation (1946–1964) reached ages 61–79 in 2025. As this cohort progresses through peak mortality years (approximately ages 75–90), annual US deaths will rise sharply — from approximately 3.0 million per year today toward 3.5–4.0 million by the mid-2030s. This demographic inevitability means natural increase will turn negative around 2030, making immigration the only source of US population growth. The Boomer mortality wave also has profound effects on: an estimated \$84 trillion intergenerational wealth transfer over the next 20 years, senior housing demand, and Medicare spending growth. 3Immigration Policy Volatility — The Single Largest Swing Variable in US DemographicsNet immigration has swung from approximately 247,000 (COVID-era 2021) to 2.7 million (2023–2024) and back toward 1.3 million (2024–2025) — a greater than 10-fold variation in four years. This extreme volatility, driven primarily by policy changes rather than demographic fundamentals, makes US population projections unusually uncertain. The CBO's January 2026 Demographic Outlook specifically revised projections downward due to administrative actions by the current administration and the effects of the 2025 reconciliation act on immigration categories. Under a low-immigration scenario, the US population could plateau and begin declining by the 2040s. 4Sun Belt Reshaping — And the First Signs of Midwest ComebackThe 2010s and early 2020s saw massive domestic migration from high-cost coastal states (California, New York, Illinois) to the Sun Belt (Texas, Florida, Arizona, Tennessee, the Carolinas). This migration was driven by housing affordability, lower taxes, remote work flexibility, and quality-of-life factors. However, Vintage 2025 data shows this migration is moderating: the Midwest saw positive net domestic migration for the first time this decade, possibly reflecting backlash against extreme housing costs, natural disaster risk (hurricanes, extreme heat) in traditional Sun Belt destinations, and return migration to family networks as remote work policies tightened. 5Life Expectancy Recovery — And the Lingering Structural Mortality GapsUS life expectancy recovered to a record 79.0 years in 2024 after dramatic COVID-era declines (76.4 years in 2021). However, the US continues to lag peer nations by approximately 3–5 years — a gap that has widened since 1998 due to higher mortality from drug overdoses, gun violence, obesity-related diseases, and healthcare access inequality. The opioid and fentanyl epidemic, while showing improvement in 2023–2024 overdose death statistics, continues to drive disproportionate excess mortality among working-age Americans aged 25–54, reducing the effective labor force participation rate and exacerbating the aging dependency challenge. 6Urban–Suburban–Rural Redistribution and the Post-COVID New NormalThe COVID-19 pandemic accelerated pre-existing suburbanization trends, with remote work enabling household moves from dense urban cores to suburbs, exurbs, and smaller cities. While the most dramatic pandemic-era migration has stabilized, the Census Bureau's data confirms that mid-size cities in the Mountain West, Southeast, and Appalachia gained

population while the densest neighborhoods of New York, San Francisco, and Chicago saw net outflows. The longer-term structural question: as return-to-office mandates accelerate in 2024–2026, will population begin returning to major urban centers, or has the suburban-exurban shift become a permanent demographic reality?

Demographic Trends

Eight Trends Redefining American Demographics Through 2030

The Silver Tsunami — Elder Care Demand Explodes

By 2030, all 76 million Boomers will be 65 or older. The share of Americans 65+ will reach 22% — one in five people. Demand for senior housing, in-home care, assisted living, memory care, and Medicare services will rise dramatically, straining government budgets and creating acute labor shortages in caregiving professions. States like Florida and Arizona, already over 21% elderly, are canaries in the demographic coal mine.

The Hispanic Century — The Largest Minority Becomes Dominant

Hispanic Americans account for 20% of the total population in 2026, growing at 1.8–2.9% annually. By 2060, projections suggest 27–32% of Americans will be Hispanic. This shift is already transforming US politics, business, media, and culture. The 2024 election demonstrated that Hispanic voter behavior is more politically diverse than assumed, making this group the most contested electoral demographic in American politics for the foreseeable future.

Housing Mismatch — Geography Diverges from Supply

The fastest-growing US states (Texas, Florida, South Carolina) have generally built enough housing to accommodate growth. The slowest-growing states (California, New York) have severe housing supply deficits that compound population decline. This geographic divergence in affordability is feeding back into migration patterns, creating a self-reinforcing cycle shaping where the next decade of population growth will concentrate.

The Education-Fertility Paradox

The most educated American women have the lowest fertility rates — yet contribute the most to GDP per capita. As college attainment among women (now 57% of bachelor's degrees) continues rising, aggregate US fertility rates face structural downward pressure. This creates a policy paradox: demographic groups contributing most to economic growth contribute least to population renewal, challenging traditional

pronatalist policy frameworks.

AI and Automation — Changing the Immigration Calculus

The traditional argument for immigration as a labor supply solution faces new complexity as AI and automation reduce demand for lower-skill labor. However, high-skill immigration — particularly in engineering, medicine, AI research, and advanced manufacturing — remains among the highest-return demographic investments. The US issues approximately 85,000 H-1B visas annually, versus a demand estimated at 400,000+, creating a significant structural deficit in skilled technical workers that foreign-born talent partially fills.

Climate Migration — Internal Shifts Accelerate

Climate-related risks are beginning to shape where Americans choose to live. Florida saw over 1,300 deaths from Hurricane Milton (2024). Extreme heat events in Arizona and Texas affect quality of life. Flood insurance repricing is affecting Louisiana, Florida, and coastal South Carolina. Climate demographers project that by 2040, climate risk will be a statistically significant factor in internal US migration decisions — redirecting flows away from coastal Florida toward the Upper Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

The Shrinking Child Population — A Demographic Echo

With TFR at 1.62–1.70, the US child population (under 18) is in gradual absolute decline. This affects school enrollment, pediatric healthcare, children's consumer markets, and the future labor force 20–25 years from now. The share of Americans under 18 has fallen from 24% in 2010 to 21.7% in 2025 and is projected to reach 20% by 2040. School districts in declining-population states are already consolidating, with rural districts disproportionately affected.

The 2030 Census — Most Technologically Transformed in History

The 2030 Census will implement AI-assisted cross-survey modeling, a new combined race-ethnicity question format, a MENA (Middle Eastern/North African) category, and enhanced digital response systems. These changes will produce better data on previously undercounted populations but create breaks in historical time-series comparability. The Census Bureau has already begun the 2030 planning cycle, incorporating lessons from the 2020 Census's challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Long-Term Projections



The Path to 364 Million — CBO Demographic Outlook 2026 to 2056

The Congressional Budget Office's January 2026 Demographic Outlook projects the US population growing from approximately 341 million in 2025 to **364 million by 2056** — a 30-year increase of roughly 23 million people. Critically, this growth is almost entirely dependent on net international migration: the CBO projects that **annual deaths will exceed annual births starting around 2030**, meaning that without immigration, the US population would begin shrinking. The Census Bureau's longer-range medium scenario suggests approximately **380 million by 2050**.

US Population Projections — CBO & Census Bureau Key Demographic Forecasts: 2026 to 2056
 349MUS Population Mid-2026 (UN) 364MCBO Projection 2056 ~380MCensus Medium Scenario 2050 2030Deaths Exceed Births (Projected) 22%Projected Share 65+ by 2040 38.7Current Median Age 2026

Five Variables Shaping Long-Term US Population Through 2056

Net Immigration Policy — The Largest Single Swing Variable The difference between high-immigration and low-immigration scenarios for US population in 2056 is estimated at 15–25 million people — the most consequential single policy variable in American demographics. The CBO's January 2026 projections already reflect reduced net immigration compared to January 2025 baseline figures. The long-term question: whether immigration policy will stabilize at moderate levels as labor market needs intensify post-2030 (when deaths exceed births), or remain severely restricted, forcing the US to confront the fiscal consequences of population decline.

Fertility Rate Trajectory — Will the US Follow Europe or Diverge? If the US TFR stabilizes around 1.7 (current level), demographic models project manageable population aging. If the US follows South Korea (TFR 0.78) or Japan (TFR 1.20) toward ultra-low fertility, the implications for Social Security, Medicare, and economic growth would be severe. Pro-natalist policy options — childcare subsidies, parental leave, child tax credits — have shown modest positive effects in other developed countries but rarely restore fertility to replacement level. The Baby Bonus concept being discussed in US policy circles mirrors experiments underway in Hungary and South Korea.

Healthcare Advances — Extending Life Expectancy Toward 82–84 Years Medical innovation in Alzheimer's treatment, cancer immunotherapy, cardiovascular disease management, and obesity drugs (GLP-1 agonists) may meaningfully extend US life expectancy beyond current projections. The CDC's 2024 record of 79.0 years could reach 81–82 years by 2035 under optimistic healthcare scenarios. This would increase both the total population and the elderly dependency ratio, adding complexity to entitlement program forecasting and potentially requiring Social Security full retirement age adjustments.

Climate Migration — Internal Redistribution and International Inflow Pressure Climate-driven migration — both internal US redistribution

and international arrivals from climate-vulnerable countries — adds a structurally growing variable to long-term projections. Central American and South Asian countries face severe climate pressures that could drive significant migration pressure toward the US over the next 30 years. Whether this translates to legal immigration, asylum claims, or undocumented migration depends on policy responses inherently unpredictable over a 30-year horizon. The 2030 Census — Reclassification and Better DataThe 2030 Census will implement combined race-ethnicity questions and a new MENA category, fundamentally changing how the racial composition of the US population is measured. This methodological change will likely show a lower non-Hispanic white share and higher multiracial, Hispanic, and MENA shares than current estimates — not because the population itself changes, but because more people will accurately self-identify under refined categories. This will create apparent demographic shifts that reflect improved measurement rather than underlying population change.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — US Population 2015–2026

The US Census Bureau's Vintage 2025 estimates place the US resident population at **341,784,857 as of July 1, 2025**. The UN World Population Prospects 2024 Revision estimates the **mid-year 2026 population at approximately 349 million**. The discrepancy reflects differences in methodology and reference dates. The United States ranks third globally in total population, behind India (1.45B) and China (1.41B), and represents approximately 4.20% of the world's estimated 8.3 billion people.

The US population in 2015 was approximately **320.74 million** as of July 1, 2015, per Census Bureau intercensal estimates. The country was growing at about 0.77% per year at that time, adding roughly 2.45 million people annually — primarily through natural increase of approximately 1.46 million (births exceeding deaths) and net immigration of approximately 990,000 per year. The population had grown from approximately 309 million at the 2010 Decennial Census.

The United States population grew from approximately **320.74 million in 2015 to an estimated 349 million in mid-2026** — an increase of roughly 28 million people, or about 8.7% over eleven years. This growth was highly uneven: the fastest year was 2023–2024 (+3.12M, +0.98%), while the slowest was 2020–2021 (+0.73M, +0.22% — the slowest annual growth in recorded US history). The structural shift from natural-increase-led to migration-led growth, followed by the 2024–2025 migration reversal, are the defining dynamics of this eleven-year period.



US population growth slowed to **0.5% in 2024–2025** — the slowest since COVID-19 — primarily because net international migration fell from approximately 2.7 million (2023–2024) to about 1.3 million (2024–2025), according to the Census Bureau's Vintage 2025 estimates. This decline reflects administrative immigration policy changes by the current administration. Natural increase (births minus deaths) remained positive but modest at approximately 500,000 per year. The CBO's January 2026 Demographic Outlook projects further moderation in net immigration through 2026–2028 before gradual stabilization at higher levels.

Based on Census Bureau Vintage 2024 estimates: **Non-Hispanic White: ~57.6%** (~195M); **Hispanic/Latino (any race): ~20%** (~68M); **Black/African American: ~14.0%** (~47M); **Asian American: ~7.2%** (~23M); **Multiracial: ~3.3%** (~11M); Other (AIAN, NHPI): ~2.0% (~6.7M). Asian Americans are growing fastest by percentage (4.4%/yr); Hispanic Americans are growing fastest in absolute numbers; Non-Hispanic white Americans are experiencing more deaths than births for the first time in US history.

The Census Bureau's medium-scenario projection estimates approximately **380 million Americans by 2050**. The CBO's January 2026 Demographic Outlook projects **364 million by 2056** — a more conservative figure reflecting reduced near-term immigration assumptions. Critically, all mainstream projections agree that beginning around 2030, **annual US deaths will exceed births** for the first time in modern history, meaning 100% of any future population growth will depend on net international migration. Under a low-immigration scenario, the US population could plateau and begin declining by the 2040s.

The South and Mountain West continue to lead US population growth. **Texas and Florida** consistently rank at the top for both absolute and percentage increases. South Carolina, Delaware, and Mountain West states (Idaho, Montana, Utah) show above-average growth rates. Vintage 2025 data notably showed the **Midwest recording positive net domestic migration for the first time this decade**. New York and California continue net domestic out-migration, partially offset by international immigration inflows to major metro areas.

Data Sources & References

Primary: U.S. Census Bureau — Vintage 2025 National and State Population Estimates (Released January 27, 2026). Figures for 2020–2025 total resident population, components of change, and state-level estimates.

Primary: Congressional Budget Office — The Demographic Outlook: 2026 to 2056 (January 2026). Long-range population projections including fertility, mortality, and immigration scenarios.

Additional: UN World Population Prospects 2024 Revision (mid-year 2026 estimate) · CDC National Center for Health Statistics — National Vital Statistics Reports 2025 (life expectancy 2024) · U.S. Census Bureau



ACS 2024 1-Year Estimates (race/ethnicity) · Census Bureau Vintage 2023/2024 Population Characteristics Estimates · Wikipedia Demographics of the United States (verified against primary sources).

Data Transparency Note:

All historical population figures (2015–2025) are official Census Bureau estimates from the Population Estimates Program. The 2026 figure is a UN mid-year projection. Race and ethnicity figures are based on Vintage 2024 estimates reflecting updated March 2024 OMB standards. Components of change (births, deaths, migration) are Census Bureau estimates subject to revision. This article is for informational purposes only. [US Population 2026](#) [United States Demographics](#) [Census Bureau Statistics](#) [Population Growth Rate](#) [US Immigration Data 2025](#) [Race Ethnicity Breakdown](#) [CBO Demographic Outlook](#) [Median Age](#) [United States Life Expectancy](#) [USA 2024 Population by State 2025](#)



STATISTICS REPORT

Global Population by Gender: Statistics and Facts 2026

Updated Oct 6, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-population-gender

4.17B MALES WORLDWIDE 2026	4.13B FEMALES WORLDWIDE 2026	101.03 MALES PER 100 FEMALES
42.3M MORE MEN THAN WOMEN	5.3 yrs FEMALE LIFE EXPECTANCY LEAD	2088 WOMEN PROJECTED TO LEAD AGAIN

Overview

The global population by gender at a glance

At first sight the world looks evenly split between men and women, and in broad terms it is. Of roughly 8.30 billion people alive in 2026, the United Nations counts 4.17 billion males and 4.13 billion females. The difference, 42.3 million, is about half of one percent of the total. Yet that small gap is the result of several large and opposing forces: more boys are born than girls everywhere, women survive longer at almost every age, a few very populous countries have a long history of son preference, and labour migration concentrates men in a handful of Gulf states.

This report sets out the official numbers behind each of these forces, using the 2024 revision of World Population Prospects, the UN dataset on which most national and international comparisons are based. It covers the totals since 1950 and the projections to 2100, the sex ratio by age, the life expectancy gap, the role of China and India and the regions and countries at both extremes. For the overall size and growth of humanity, see our report on [world population](#).

50.26%Male share of world populationUN WPP 2024, mid-2026.49.74%Female share of world populationUN WPP 2024, mid-2026.77 of 236Countries and areas with more malesUN WPP 2024, 2026.1972First year with a male majorityUN WPP 2024 estimates. Men and Women in 2026

How many men and women are there in the world?

The UN medium variant puts the population on 1 July 2026 at 4,171,512,568 males and 4,129,165,828 females. That is 42.35 million more males, equal to a sex ratio of 101.03 males per 100 females. In 2024 the gap was 45.3 million and in 2025 it was 43.8 million, so the male surplus is now falling by roughly 1.5 million people a year.

World Population by Sex, 2026 (billion people) Males and females on 1 July 2026, medium variant projection.

Data:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects 2024.

Note:

values rounded to four decimals of a billion. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Almost an even split: males make up 50.26 percent of the world population and females 49.74 percent.

The table below shows the last three years. Each year the world adds about 34 million males and 35 million females, so the female population is now growing slightly faster. This is the first sign of the long reversal the UN expects later in the century.

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	MALE SHARE	MALES PER 100 FEMALES	MALE SURPLUS
2024	4,103,612,213	4,058,360,360	50.28%	101.12	45.3 million
2025	4,137,709,238	4,093,903,832	50.27%	101.07	43.8 million
2026	4,171,512,568	4,129,165,828	50.26%	101.03	42.3 million

For the same calculation in a single country, see our breakdown of the [US population by gender](#), where women are the majority, and the [US population by sex and age](#).

1950 to 2100

From a female majority to a male majority and back again

In 1950 the world had 1.24 billion males and 1.25 billion females. The female lead of about 10 million was partly a legacy of the Second World War, which killed far more men than women in Europe and the Soviet Union. As those cohorts aged and as populations grew fastest in Asia, where more boys survive childhood than in the past, the gap closed. By 1970 the two sexes were within 0.6 million of each other, and in 1972 males became the majority for the first time in the UN series.

World Males and Females, 1950 to 2100 (billion people) Estimates to 2023 and medium variant projections from 2024.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024, mid-year population by sex.

Note:

uneven intervals after 2030. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Two lines that never drift far apart: the male and female populations have stayed within 1 percent of each other for 150 years of data and projections.

The male surplus widened through the following decades, reaching 21.6 million in 1990, 32.8 million in 2000 and 44.5 million in 2010. It peaked at 53.2 million in 2017. Since then it has been shrinking as birth ratios in China and India move toward normal levels and as a fast-growing elderly population, mostly female, adds to the number of women.

Male Surplus in the World Population, 1950 to 2100 (million) Males minus females; negative values mean more females.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant from 2024.

Note:

surplus calculated by BusinessStats from the UN male and female totals. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A curve that rises and falls: the male surplus peaked at 53.2 million in 2017 and is projected to turn negative in 2088.



Looking ahead, the UN projects the gap to fall to 36.2 million by 2030 and 12.8 million by 2050. The two sexes are projected to be almost exactly equal in 2087, when males lead by about 100,000, and in 2088 females become the majority again, ahead by about 470,000. By 2100 the world is projected to have 5.08 billion males and 5.10 billion females, so the female majority would be back to about 10 million, the same size as in 1950.

The Sex Ratio

The sex ratio: 101.03 males per 100 females

Demographers usually describe the balance between the sexes with the sex ratio, the number of males for every 100 females. A ratio above 100 means more males. The world ratio was 99.18 in 1950, crossed 100 in 1972, and reached its highest point of 101.42 in 2016. In 2026 it stands at 101.03, and the UN expects it to decline steadily to 100.26 in 2050 and 99.80 in 2100.

World Sex Ratio, 1950 to 2100 (males per 100 females) Total population, all ages; medium variant from 2024.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024.

Note:

2016 added to show the peak; other points at ten-year intervals or key years. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Past its peak: the world sex ratio topped out at 101.42 in 2016 and is now falling toward parity.

A ratio of 101 can sound trivial, but at a world population of 8.3 billion each tenth of a point represents about 4 million people. The movement from 99.18 in 1950 to 101.42 in 2016 therefore turned a female surplus of 10.2 million into a male surplus of about 53 million, a swing of more than 60 million people, before the trend reversed.

The ratio for the world as a whole hides very different situations. In 2026 the UN counts 77 of 236 countries and areas with more males than females, while 159 have more females. Most countries with female majorities are in Europe, Latin America and the former Soviet Union. Most of the population with a male majority lives in Asia, because China and India together hold more than a third of humanity.

Sex Ratio at Birth

At birth: about 105 boys for every 100 girls

In every human population more boys are born than girls. The natural ratio is usually around 105 boys per 100 girls. The UN estimates the world sex ratio at birth at 1.054 boys per girl in 2024 and 1.053 in 2025 and 2026. The world figure was higher in the past, peaking at 1.075 in 2000, because sex-selective abortion in parts of Asia pushed national ratios far above the natural level.

POPULATION	BOYS PER 100 GIRLS	PERIOD	SOURCE
World	105.3	2026	UN WPP 2024
World, peak	107.5	2000	UN WPP 2024
China	111.3	2020 census	National Bureau of Statistics
China (UN estimate)	109.3	2026	UN WPP 2024
India	109.1 (917 girls per 1,000 boys)	2021 to 2023	Sample Registration System
India, earlier	110.6 (904 girls per 1,000 boys)	2017 to 2019	Sample Registration System

Conversions between the two Indian measures are BusinessStats calculations: 917 girls per 1,000 boys equals about 109.1 boys per 100 girls. The improvement from 904 to 917 in four years is one of the clearest signs that the gap at birth is narrowing in the most populous country in the world. In China, the 2020 census still recorded 111.3 boys per 100 girls, down from higher levels in the 2000s.

Because about 5 percent more boys are born, males are the majority among children everywhere. What turns the balance the other way later in life is mortality: at every age from infancy onward, men are more likely to die than women of the same age.

By Age

The sex ratio by age: boys lead, older women dominate

The age profile of the sex ratio explains most of the global picture. In 2026 there are 105.7 boys for every 100 girls under 15 and 103.2 men for every 100 women aged 15 to 64. Among people aged 65 and over the ratio falls to 80.1, and among those aged 80 and over to 62.8. At 100 and over there are only 24 men for every 100 women.

World Sex Ratio by Age Group, 2026 (males per 100 females)Age groups overlap: 80 and over is part of 65 and over.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024, population by single age and sex, medium variant.

Note:

mid-2026 values derived from the UN annual series; ratios rounded to one decimal. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

The older the group, the more female: among centenarians, women outnumber men by about four to one.

In absolute numbers, the world has about 392 million men and 489 million women aged 65 and over in 2026, so women make up 55.5 percent of older people. Among the 174 million people aged 80 and over, about 107 million are women and 67 million are men, a female share of 61.4 percent. Among the roughly 670,000 centenarians, about 540,000 are women.

The imbalance in old age is projected to narrow as male survival improves. The UN projects the sex ratio for people aged 65 and over to rise to 83.5 in 2050 and 89.9 in 2100, and the ratio for those aged 80 and over to rise from 62.8 today to 69.6 in 2050 and 82.3 in 2100. Even so, the number of older women will grow fast in absolute terms, because the population aged 65 and over is rising much faster than any other age group.

AGE GROUP	2026	2050	2100
65 and over	80.1	83.5	89.9
80 and over	62.8	69.6	82.3

Life Expectancy

Women live 5.3 years longer than men

The main reason women outnumber men in old age is that they live longer. The UN estimates that a girl born in 2026 can expect to live 76.44 years and a boy 71.18 years, a gap of 5.26 years. The gap was 5.34 years in 2023, so it is narrowing slowly.

World Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex, 2023 to 2026 (years)Period life expectancy at birth, both values from the same UN revision.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024.

Note:

2024 onward are projections. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A durable advantage: women are expected to outlive men by about five and a quarter years at current mortality rates.

Over the long run the female advantage has varied. It was 3.97 years in 1950, when maternal mortality was much higher and many women died in childbirth. As maternal deaths fell, the gap widened. The UN now projects it to narrow to 4.82 years by 2050 and 3.91 years by 2100, as deaths from smoking, heart disease, accidents and violence, which affect men more, continue to decline.

YEAR	GAP
1950	3.97
2023	5.34
2026	5.26
2050 (projection)	4.82
2100 (projection)	3.91

The life expectancy gap is much wider in some countries than in the world average, particularly in Eastern Europe, where it explains why Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic states have some of the lowest sex ratios in the world.

China and India

China and India: the source of the global male surplus

China and India together account for about 2.89 billion people, roughly 35 percent of the world population. Both have more males than females. According to the UN, China has 718.8 million males and 694.1 million females in 2026, a surplus of 24.7 million, and India has 761.1 million males and 715.5 million females, a surplus of 45.6 million. Combined, that is 70.3 million more males.

Male Surplus in China, India and the Rest of the World, 2026 (million) Negative value means more females than males.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant, 2026.

Note:

rest of the world equals the world total minus China and India. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Without China and India the world is majority female: the other 5.41 billion people include 28.0 million more females than males.

Subtracting both countries from the world total leaves 2,691.6 million males and 2,719.6 million females, a sex ratio of 98.97. In other words, the male majority of the world exists only because of these two countries. The same calculation for 2024 gives a female surplus of 27.2 million in the rest of the world.

National statistics show the same pattern. The National Bureau of Statistics of China reported 716.85 million males and 688.04 million females at the end of 2025, or 51.0 percent and 49.0 percent of a population of 1,404.89 million. Its 2025 one percent population sample survey, published in May 2026, put the sex ratio at 104.21. The trends behind these numbers are covered in our report on the [total population of China](#).

In India, the 2011 census counted 943 females per 1,000 males. The official population projection published by the Ministry of Statistics gives 732.07 million males and 693.83 million females for 2026, or 948 females per 1,000 males, rising to 952 by 2036. The UN figure for India in 2026 is lower, at 940 females per 1,000 males, because the two sources use different base data and methods.

COUNTRY AND SOURCE	MALES (MILLION)	FEMALES (MILLION)	MALES PER 100 FEMALES
China, UN WPP 2024	718.8	694.1	103.56
China, NBS end of 2025	716.85	688.04	104.19
India, UN WPP 2024	761.1	715.5	106.38
India, MoSPI projection	732.07	693.83	105.51

The ratio for China from the NBS end-2025 figures and the ratio for India from the MoSPI projection are BusinessStats calculations. How large economies compare in output is set out in our [ranking of the largest economies](#) and the [China GDP](#) report.

By Region

By region: Asia has 78 million more males, Europe 25 million more females

The six world regions fall into two clear groups. Asia, Northern America and Oceania have more males, and Africa, Europe and Latin America have more females. Asia stands out, with 2.47 billion males and 2.39 billion females in 2026, a surplus of 78.2 million, almost twice the world total. Europe is the opposite case, with 359.1 million males and 384.4 million females, a deficit of 25.2 million men.

Difference Between Males and Females by World Region, 2026 (million) Positive values mean more males; negative values mean more females.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant.

Note:

Northern America covers the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Greenland and Saint Pierre and Miquelon; sex ratios are in the table below. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Asia and Europe at opposite ends: Asia has 78.2 million more males, while Europe has 25.2 million more females.

REGION	MALES	FEMALES	MALES PER 100 FEMALES	DIFFERENCE
Asia	2,470.8 million	2,392.5 million	103.27	78.2 million more males
Africa	791.8 million	793.2 million	99.82	1.4 million more females
Europe	359.1 million	384.4 million	93.44	25.2 million more females
Latin America and Caribbean	330.7 million	341.5 million	96.84	10.8 million more females
Northern America	195.6 million	194.1 million	100.76	1.5 million more males
Oceania	23.6 million	23.5 million	100.30	0.1 million more males

Europe has fewer men mainly because of its age structure and its mortality gap. It has the oldest population of any region, and older age groups are mostly female. Northern America has a slight male majority, helped by a younger age structure than Europe. Africa is almost perfectly balanced, at 99.82, because its very young population offsets higher male mortality.



National detail for the United Kingdom is in our [UK population report](#), and for the United States in our [US males per 100 females by state](#) ranking.

By Country

Countries with the most and fewest men per woman

The highest sex ratios in the world are found in the Gulf states, where large numbers of male workers come from abroad to work in construction, services and industry. Qatar tops the list with 243.7 males per 100 females in 2026, meaning only 29.1 percent of its residents are female. The United Arab Emirates (175.0), Oman (166.5), Bahrain (163.2) and Kuwait (156.5) follow, with Saudi Arabia at 152.0.

Countries and Areas with the Highest Sex Ratio, 2026 (males per 100 females) All countries and areas in the UN dataset.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024.

Note:

Western Sahara and Seychelles are tied at 122.0. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Migration, not births: the seven highest ratios are all in Gulf and Indian Ocean states that rely on male migrant labour.

These ratios are driven by migration, not by births: it is the large foreign workforce that tilts the totals. The ratios are also sensitive to the economic cycle and to construction activity. In Qatar the ratio was 248.2 in 2024 and is projected at 243.7 in 2026. Beyond the Gulf, Bhutan (114.5) and Brunei (112.9) also rank high.

At the other end of the scale, the places with the fewest males per female are mostly in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, plus some island territories. Among countries and areas with more than one million people, Hong Kong has the lowest ratio at 81.7, followed by Moldova (85.1), Russia (86.4), Armenia (86.5) and Latvia (86.8).

Countries and Areas with the Lowest Sex Ratio, 2026 (males per 100 females, population over 1 million) Smaller territories such as Guadeloupe, Martinique and Macao are excluded.

Data:

United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024.

Note:

among all areas, Guadeloupe (82.4), Martinique (82.8), Macao SAR (85.2) and Saint Martin (85.5) also rank in the bottom ten. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Where men are missing: in Russia there are about 86 men for every 100 women, a gap of several million people.

The reasons differ. In Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic states, men die much younger than women, because of high rates of alcohol-related illness, cardiovascular disease, accidents and, in recent years, war. In Hong Kong, the low ratio reflects large numbers of female foreign domestic workers and an ageing population. In Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, the emigration of working-age men adds to the effect.

RANK	HIGHEST	RATIO	LOWEST (OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE)	RATIO
1	Qatar	243.7	Hong Kong SAR	81.7
2	United Arab Emirates	175.0	Moldova	85.1
3	Oman	166.5	Russia	86.4
4	Bahrain	163.2	Armenia	86.5
5	Maldives	159.8	Latvia	86.8
6	Kuwait	156.5	Ukraine	87.1
7	Saudi Arabia	152.0	Belarus	87.2
8	Western Sahara	122.0	Georgia	87.4
9	Seychelles	122.0	Puerto Rico	88.7
10	Palau	116.2	Lithuania	89.6

Migration flows that shape the population of the United States are covered in our report on [immigration in the United States](#).

UN vs World Bank

UN and World Bank figures compared

The World Bank publishes its own world totals by sex in the World Development Indicators, based largely on UN estimates. Its July 2026 update shows 4,129.7 million males and 4,085.7 million females in 2025, with females at 49.73 percent of the total. That implies a sex ratio of 101.08 and a male surplus of 43.9 million, very close to the UN figure of 43.8 million for the same year.

MEASURE	UN WPP 2024	WORLD BANK WDI
Males	4,137.7 million	4,129.7 million
Females	4,093.9 million	4,085.7 million
Female share	49.73%	49.73%
Males per 100 females	101.07	101.08
Male surplus	43.8 million	43.9 million

The World Bank totals are about 20 million lower because its world aggregate adds up 217 economies and leaves out some small territories that the UN includes. The split between the sexes is almost identical, which is why either source can be used for the shares, but the UN series is better for history and projections.

Outlook

Outlook: back to a female majority by 2088

Three trends will shape the balance between the sexes over the rest of the century. First, birth ratios in China and India are falling toward the natural level, which reduces the number of surplus boys entering the population each year. Second, the world is ageing quickly, and older age groups are mostly female. Third, falling fertility means fewer births overall, so the extra boys at birth matter less relative to the large and growing older population.

Together these trends are projected to bring the world sex ratio below 100 in 2088. A counterweight is the improvement in male life expectancy, which the UN expects to narrow the survival gap. That is why the projected female majority in 2100, about 10 million, is modest compared with the current male majority of 42 million. Long-term projections are uncertain, especially for fertility, but the direction of travel is clear in every UN variant.



The gender balance also shapes economic outcomes. Gender gaps in wealth at the very top are tracked in our [billionaires by gender](#) data and the list of the [richest women in the world](#), while income levels across countries are compared in our [GDP per capita by country](#) ranking.

Key Facts

The global population by gender in eight numbers

4.17B Males in 2026 UN WPP 2024. 4.13B Females in 2026 UN WPP 2024. 101.42 Peak sex ratio Reached in 2016. 53.2M Peak male surplus Reached in 2017. 105.3 Boys per 100 girls at birth World, 2026. 62.8 Men per 100 women aged 80+ World, 2026. 243.7 Qatar sex ratio Highest in the world. -28.0M Rest of world without China and India More females than males. FAQ

Questions about men, women and the world population

The United Nations estimates 4.17 billion males and 4.13 billion females in mid-2026, out of about 8.30 billion people. Males make up 50.26 percent and females 49.74 percent.

There are more men. The world has about 42.3 million more males than females in 2026, a sex ratio of 101.03 males per 100 females.

According to UN estimates, males became the majority in 1972. Before that, women outnumbered men, partly because of the large number of male deaths in the Second World War.

Yes. The UN projects that females will become the majority again in 2088, and that the world will have about 10 million more females than males by 2100.

More boys than girls are born everywhere, and China and India have additional male surpluses caused by son preference and sex-selective abortion. Excluding those two countries, the rest of the world has about 28 million more females than males.

Qatar, with 243.7 males per 100 females in 2026, because of its large male migrant workforce. The United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait follow.

Among places with more than one million people, Hong Kong has the lowest sex ratio at 81.7 males per 100 females, followed by Moldova, Russia, Armenia and Latvia.

Worldwide, life expectancy at birth in 2026 is 76.44 years for women and 71.18 years for men, a gap of 5.26 years, according to the UN.



The world sex ratio at birth is about 105 boys for every 100 girls. It was higher in 2000, at 107.5, because of skewed birth ratios in parts of Asia.

Sources

[United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division](#) - World Population Prospects 2024: population by sex and age, sex ratio at birth, life expectancy by sex, 1950 to 2100.

[World Bank](#) - World Development Indicators: population male, population female and population female percent of total, July 2026 update.

[National Bureau of Statistics of China](#) - 2025 Statistical Communique, 2025 one percent population sample survey and 2020 census bulletin.

[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India](#) - Women and Men in India 2023: census sex ratio and population projections by sex.

[Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India](#) - Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2023.

All world, regional and country figures are from UN World Population Prospects 2024 unless stated; values from 2024 onward are medium variant projections for 1 July. Male surpluses, shares, age-group ratios for 2026, the rest-of-world totals and conversions between sex ratio measures are BusinessStats calculations from the published data. Population statistics record biological sex, not gender identity.



STATISTICS REPORT

World population in 2026

Updated Jul 10, 2026 · businessstats.com/world-population

8.3B WORLD POPULATION	0.83% GROWTH RATE	68M ADDED PER YEAR
2.2 GLOBAL FERTILITY	58% URBAN	9.7B BY 2050

Overview



STATISTICS REPORT

Population growth by country statistics & facts

A world growing in two directions. The global population still adds almost 69 million people a year, but growth is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, while 65 countries are already shrinking. This report ranks every major country by growth and shows the role of births, deaths and migration.

Updated Oct 18, 2026 · businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

68.9M ADDED IN 2026	0.83% GROWTH RATE	3.28% FASTEST (CAR)
-0.98% FASTEST DECLINE	65 COUNTRIES SHRINKING	2084 PROJECTED WORLD PEAK

OVERVIEW

Population growth at a glance

The world population is growing by about 68.9 million people in 2026, or 0.83 percent, according to UN projections. That is the equivalent of adding a country the size of Thailand every year. But the growth is extremely uneven. The Central African Republic, Somalia, Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are growing by more than 3 percent a year, enough to double their populations in 21 to 23 years, while 65 countries and areas are shrinking, including China, Japan, Italy and much of eastern Europe.

This report ranks countries by population growth rate and absolute change, shows how migration shapes growth, identifies the countries whose populations have already peaked and sets out the outlook to 2050 and beyond. It focuses on the country-level detail behind the global totals in our [world population statistics](#).

68.9 million Added in 2026 World population growth.	0.83% Global growth rate Down from 2.28 percent in 1963.
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3.28%

Central African Republic

Fastest-growing country with 1 million or more people.

65

Countries shrinking

Home to 27 percent of the world population.

How population change works

- Population change equals births minus deaths (natural change) plus immigrants minus emigrants (net migration).
- The growth rate is the annual change as a percentage of the population.
- A growth rate of 3 percent doubles a population in about 23 years; at 1 percent it takes about 70 years.
- Figures for 2024 onwards are UN medium-variant projections.

TREND

How world population growth has changed

The world population grew fastest in relative terms in 1963, when the growth rate peaked at 2.28 percent. The largest absolute increase came later, in 1990, when the population grew by 93.7 million people in a single year. Since then, both the rate and the absolute increase have declined, with a sharp dip during the COVID-19 pandemic, when annual growth fell to 63.7 million in 2021.

Annual change in world population, 1950 to 2100 (millions)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

From 94 million to below zero: Annual growth peaked at 93.7 million in 1990 and is projected to turn negative in 2084.

The UN projects that annual growth will fall to 40.7 million by 2050 and reach zero in 2084, when the world population is expected to peak at about 10.3 billion. After that, the world population would start to shrink slowly, losing about 12.9 million people in 2100. The milestones of 9 billion and 10 billion are projected for 2037 and 2060.

CONTINENT	GROWTH RATE 2026 (%)	CHANGE IN 2026 (MILLIONS)
Africa	2.22	+35.2
Asia	0.57	+28.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.62	+4.2
Northern America	0.52	+2.0
Oceania	1.07	+0.5
Europe	-0.14	-1.1
World	0.83	+68.9

Africa now accounts for more than half of world population growth, adding 35.2 million people in 2026 against 28.0 million in Asia. Europe is the only continent whose population is shrinking, by about 1.1 million a year.

FASTEST

Fastest-growing countries

Among countries with at least one million people, the Central African Republic has the highest growth rate in 2026 at 3.28 percent, followed by Somalia (3.24 percent), Niger (3.14 percent), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.13 percent), Syria (3.04 percent) and Sudan (3.03 percent). Angola, Mali, Oman, Tanzania, Mozambique and Yemen complete the top twelve, all above 2.7 percent.

Fastest-growing countries by population growth rate, 2026 (%)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

Doubling in a generation: At more than 3 percent a year, the four fastest-growing countries would double their populations in about 21 to 23 years.

For most of these countries, growth comes from a large excess of births over deaths, with natural increase of around 30 per 1,000 people. Two cases are different. Syria and Sudan show high growth in 2026 partly because of projected return migration after years of conflict, and in Oman, migration contributes about as much as natural increase. These projections are particularly uncertain.



DECLINING

Countries with shrinking populations

At the other end of the ranking, Moldova has the fastest population decline among countries with at least one million people, at minus 0.98 percent in 2026, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria and Armenia, all shrinking by more than 0.7 percent a year. Every country in the bottom twelve is in eastern or south-eastern Europe or the Caucasus.

Countries with the fastest population decline, 2026 (% per year)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

Eastern Europe empties: Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Baltic states are losing close to 1 percent of their people every year.

Two forces drive these declines: more deaths than births, and emigration. In Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, natural decrease of 6 to 8 per 1,000 people is the main driver. In Albania and Armenia, births still exceed deaths, and the decline comes almost entirely from emigration, at 8 to 9 people per 1,000. Moldova loses population both ways. In 2026, 65 countries and areas, with 27 percent of the world population, are shrinking. Natural decrease is covered in our report on the [global death rate](#).

ABSOLUTE CHANGE

Where the most people are added and lost

In absolute numbers, India adds by far the most people, about 12.7 million in 2026, followed by Nigeria with 4.9 million, Pakistan with 4.1 million, the Democratic Republic of the Congo with 3.6 million and Ethiopia with 3.4 million. The United States, which grows by about 1.7 million a year, is the only high-income country in the top ten, largely because of immigration.

Countries adding the most people, 2026 (millions)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

India adds 12.7 million: India alone accounts for nearly a fifth of world population growth.

China loses the most people, about 3.1 million in 2026, more than all other shrinking countries in the top ten combined. Japan loses about 689,000, Russia 330,000, Ukraine 291,000, Italy 232,000 and Germany 194,000. According to UN estimates, China has been shrinking since 2021, and its decline is covered in our report on the [population of China](#).

Countries losing the most people, 2026 (thousands)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

China loses 3.1 million: China shrinks by more people each year than the next nine shrinking countries combined.

MIGRATION

The role of migration

Migration does not change the world total, but it reshapes national populations. In high-income countries as a group, deaths already exceed births by about 600,000 a year, yet the population still grows by about 2.7 million in 2026 because of net immigration of about 3.3 million. In other words, all of the population growth in the rich world now comes from migration.

Countries with the largest net migration, 2026 (thousands)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

The US takes the most: The United States receives about 1.2 million net migrants a year, more than the next three countries combined.

The United States has the largest net immigration, about 1.18 million people in 2026, followed by the United Kingdom (364,000), Russia (325,000), Syria (306,000), Canada (291,000) and Sudan (252,000). The figures for Syria and Sudan reflect projected returns of refugees. More detail on the United States is in our report on [immigration to the United States](#), and the UK picture is covered in our report on the [UK population](#).

Countries with the largest net emigration, 2026 (thousands)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

South Asia sends the most: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal together lose about 2.2 million people a year to net emigration.

Pakistan has the largest net emigration, about 1.15 million people in 2026, followed by India (440,000), Bangladesh (371,000) and Nepal (292,000), all major sources of labour migrants to the Gulf states and other regions. China, Turkey, Brazil and the Philippines also record net outflows. Relative to population, emigration matters most for smaller countries such as Albania and Armenia.

PEAK

Countries that have already peaked

A growing number of countries have passed their peak population. Of 236 countries and areas, 65 had already reached their maximum by 2026, including China (peak 1.43 billion in 2020), Japan (2009), Italy (2013), Russia (1991), South Korea (2020), Thailand (2021) and Germany (2023). Another 47 are projected to peak between 2027 and 2054, including Brazil (2041), Vietnam (2049), Indonesia (2058) and India, which is expected to peak at about 1.70 billion in 2061.

COUNTRY	PEAK YEAR	PEAK POPULATION (MILLIONS)
Russia	1991	149.6
Japan	2009	128.2
Italy	2013	60.7
China	2020	1,426.8
South Korea	2020	51.9
Thailand	2021	71.8
Germany	2023	84.7
Brazil	2041	219.3
Vietnam	2049	110.0
Mexico	2058	149.9
Indonesia	2058	322.6
India	2061	1,701.4



For 124 countries, including the United States, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN projects that the population will still be growing in 2054 or later. In the United States, growth is projected to continue to 2100, mainly because of immigration.

OUTLOOK

Who will grow by 2050

Between 2026 and 2050, the UN projects that the world population will grow by about 1.35 billion people, and Africa will account for about 65 percent of that increase. India is projected to add 199 million people, Nigeria 116 million, Pakistan 113 million, the Democratic Republic of the Congo 102 million and Ethiopia 86 million. The populations of DR Congo and Angola are projected to grow by more than 80 percent.

Countries projected to add the most people, 2026 to 2050 (millions)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/population-growth-rate-by-country

Five countries, 616 million: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, DR Congo and Ethiopia are projected to add more than 600 million people between them by 2050.

China, by contrast, is projected to lose about 156 million people by 2050, more than the current population of Russia, and Japan about 17 million. Population growth and decline are closely linked to the trends in our reports on the [global fertility rate](#), the [global ageing population](#) and [urbanization](#), since most of the additional people will live in cities.

KEY FACTS

Population growth in numbers

Key Facts

- The world population grows by 68.9 million in 2026, a rate of 0.83 percent.
- Growth peaked at 2.28 percent in 1963 and at 93.7 million people a year in 1990.
- The Central African Republic, Somalia, Niger and DR Congo grow by more than 3 percent a year.



- 65 countries and areas are shrinking, led by Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Baltic states.
- India adds 12.7 million people a year; China loses 3.1 million.
- All population growth in high-income countries now comes from immigration.
- Africa is projected to account for about 65 percent of world population growth to 2050.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the world population growth rate?

The world population is growing by 0.83 percent in 2026, or about 68.9 million people, according to UN projections. The rate peaked at 2.28 percent in 1963.

Which country has the fastest-growing population?

Among countries with at least 1 million people, the Central African Republic grows fastest at 3.28 percent in 2026, followed by Somalia at 3.24 percent and Niger at 3.14 percent.

Which countries have shrinking populations?

65 countries and areas are shrinking in 2026, including China, Japan, Italy, Germany and most of eastern Europe. Moldova declines fastest, at minus 0.98 percent.

Which country adds the most people each year?

India adds the most people, about 12.7 million in 2026, followed by Nigeria with 4.9 million and Pakistan with 4.1 million.

Which country loses the most people?

China loses the most people, about 3.1 million in 2026, followed by Japan with about 689,000 and Russia with 330,000.

Which countries receive the most migrants?

The United States has the largest net migration, about 1.18 million people in 2026, followed by the United Kingdom, Russia and Canada.



When will the world population peak?

The UN medium variant projects that the world population will peak at about 10.3 billion in 2084 and then decline slowly.

Has China population peaked?

Yes. According to the UN, China peaked at about 1.43 billion in 2020 and has been shrinking since 2021. It is projected to lose about 156 million people by 2050.

SOURCES

[United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division](#) - World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant.

[UN DESA Population Division](#) - World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of Results.



STATISTICS REPORT

Global ageing population statistics & facts

More grandparents, fewer grandchildren. The number of people aged 65 and over has grown sevenfold since 1950 and will pass one billion around 2030. Half of all people in Japan are over 51, while half of the population of the Central African Republic is under 16. This report sets out the numbers.

Updated Oct 18, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-aging-population

892M AGED 65 AND OVER	10.7% SHARE OF WORLD	177M AGED 80 AND OVER
32.2 MEDIAN AGE	16.4 OLD-AGE DEPENDENCY	693,000 CENTENARIANS

OVERVIEW

The ageing world at a glance

The world has never been older. In 2026, about 892 million people are aged 65 or over, 10.7 percent of the global population, according to UN projections. That is seven times the number in 1950, when 127 million people, or 5.1 percent, had reached 65. The number of people aged 80 or over has grown even faster, from 16 million to 177 million, and the number of centenarians has passed 690,000. The median age of the world population, the age that divides it into two equal halves, has risen from 21.7 years in 1975 to 32.2 years in 2026.

Ageing is the result of two of the great successes of the past century: longer lives and smaller families. It also brings some of the biggest challenges of the next, from pensions and health care to labour shortages. This report covers the older population worldwide, the oldest and youngest countries, centenarians, the ratio of older people to the working-age population and the projections to 2100. It goes further than the age overview in our [world population statistics](#).



892 million

People aged 65 and over

10.7 percent of the world, 2026.

177 million

People aged 80 and over

2.1 percent of the world.

32.2 years

World median age

Up from 21.7 years in 1975.

30.3%

Japan

Oldest country: share aged 65 and over.

How to read ageing statistics

- The share aged 65 and over is the most common measure of population ageing.
- The median age splits the population into two equal halves, one younger and one older.
- The old-age dependency ratio compares the number of people aged 65 and over with every 100 people aged 15 to 64.
- Figures for 2024 onwards are UN medium-variant projections.

GROWTH

How fast the older population is growing

The older population has grown steadily for seven decades and is now growing faster than ever. The number of people aged 65 and over rose from 127 million in 1950 to 427 million in 2000 and 749 million in 2020. It is projected to pass 1 billion around 2030 and to reach 1.59 billion by 2050 and 2.44 billion by 2100. In 2026 alone, the world adds about 31 million people aged 65 or over.

People aged 65 and over and 80 and over worldwide, 1950 to 2100 (millions)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

One billion by 2030: The 65-plus population is set to pass 1 billion around 2030 and the 80-plus population to reach 453 million by 2050.

The oldest old are the fastest-growing group. The population aged 80 and over is projected to more than double from 177 million in 2026 to 453 million in 2050 and reach almost 950 million by 2100. Women make

up 61 percent of people aged 80 and over and more than 80 percent of centenarians, because they live longer than men. The gender balance at older ages is explored in our report on the [world population by gender](#).

A symbolic milestone has already passed. The US Census Bureau, which publishes its own international population estimates, reported in August 2026 that between 2020 and 2025 the population aged 65 and older exceeded the population aged 5 and younger for the first time in recorded history. On UN projections, the population aged 65 and over will also outnumber all children under 18 by the late 2070s.

AGE STRUCTURE

The changing shape of the world population

As the older population grows, the share of children shrinks. In 1950, 34.9 percent of the world population was under 15 and 5.1 percent was 65 or older. In 2026, the shares are 23.9 percent and 10.7 percent. By 2050, the UN expects 20.3 percent of people to be under 15 and 16.4 percent to be 65 or older, and by 2100 the older group, at 24.0 percent, will be larger than the group of children, at 16.5 percent.

World population by broad age group, 1950 to 2100 (% of total)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

Fewer children, more grandparents: By 2100, people aged 65 and over will make up a larger share of the world than children under 15.

The working-age population, aged 15 to 64, makes up 65.4 percent of the world in 2026, close to its historical peak, which the UN projects for 2027. This bulge has given many countries a demographic dividend: a large workforce relative to the number of dependants. As ageing continues, that share is projected to fall to 63.2 percent by 2050 and 59.5 percent by 2100.

OLDEST

The oldest countries in the world

Japan is the oldest country in the world. In 2026, 30.3 percent of its population is aged 65 or over and 11.2 percent is 80 or over, according to UN projections. Puerto Rico (26.1 percent), Italy (25.8 percent), Portugal (25.6 percent) and Hong Kong (25.2 percent) follow, ahead of Greece, Finland, Germany and Croatia. In

total, 46 countries and areas have at least one in five people aged 65 or over.

Countries with the highest share of people aged 65 and over, 2026 (%)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

Japan leads: Almost a third of people in Japan are 65 or older, and more than one in nine are 80 or older.

Most of the oldest countries are in Europe and East Asia, where fertility has been low for decades and life expectancy is high. Emigration of young adults has added to ageing in southern and eastern Europe and in Puerto Rico. The ranking is set to change: by 2050, the UN projects that Hong Kong (46.8 percent), South Korea (39.9 percent) and Taiwan (39.0 percent) will overtake Japan (37.5 percent). The US Census Bureau projects that South Korea will be the oldest country in the world by 2060, with 41 percent of its population aged 65 or over.

MEDIAN AGE

Median age: from 15 to 51

The median age shows how wide the gap between the oldest and youngest societies has become. In Japan, half the population is older than 51.4 years. Italy (49.8), Hong Kong (49.3), Portugal (48.4) and Greece (48.3) follow. At the other end, half the population of the Central African Republic is younger than 15.7 years, and Somalia, Chad, Niger, DR Congo and Mali all have median ages of 17 or less.

Countries with the highest median age, 2026 (years)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

Over 50 in Japan: Half of all people in Japan are older than 51.4 years.

Countries with the lowest median age, 2026 (years)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

Under 16 in CAR: Half the population of the Central African Republic is younger than 15.7 years.

The difference between Japan and the Central African Republic is more than 35 years. Among the largest countries, the median age is 41.9 years in China (see our report on the [population of China](#)), 39.8 in the United States, 30.4 in India and 19.5 in Nigeria. Age structure in the United States is covered in more detail in our report on the [US population by sex and age](#).

REGIONS

Ageing by continent

Europe is the oldest continent, with 21.6 percent of its population aged 65 and over in 2026 and a median age of 44.2 years. Northern America follows with 19.3 percent and Oceania with 14.3 percent. Asia and Latin America are at about 10.7 percent but are ageing fastest: both are projected to reach about 19 percent by 2050. Africa remains young, with only 3.8 percent of its population aged 65 or over and a median age of 20.6 years.

Share of the population aged 65 and over by continent, 2026 and 2050 (%)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

Asia and Latin America catch up: Both continents are set to nearly double their older share by 2050, reaching the level Europe has today.

The speed of ageing matters as much as the level. Europe aged gradually over many decades, while many countries in Asia and Latin America are ageing within a few decades, often at lower income levels, which leaves less time to build pension and care systems. Between 2026 and 2050, the older share in Asia and Latin America is projected to rise by about 8 percentage points, against about 7 points in Europe, which starts from a much higher level.

DEPENDENCY

Fewer workers per older person

The old-age dependency ratio measures the number of people aged 65 and over for every 100 people aged 15 to 64. Worldwide, it has risen from 8.4 in 1950 to 16.4 in 2026, meaning there are about six people of working age for every older person. The UN projects a ratio of 26.0 by 2050, or fewer than four working-age people per older person, and 40.3 by 2100.

Old-age dependency ratio, world, 1950 to 2100

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

From 12 to 2.5: The number of working-age people per older person is set to fall from about 12 in 1950 to about 2.5 in 2100.

The ratio is already 33.9 in Europe and 30.0 in Northern America in 2026, and is projected to reach 49.8 in Europe by 2050, when there will be about two working-age people for every person aged 65 and over. In Africa the ratio is just 6.5. Rising dependency ratios put pressure on pay-as-you-go pension systems and health budgets, and many countries have responded by raising the retirement age, encouraging older people to keep working and relying more on immigration, as in the [United States](#).

CENTENARIANS

The rise of centenarians

The number of people aged 100 or over has grown faster than any other age group. The UN estimates about 96,000 centenarians worldwide in 1990, 168,000 in 2000 and 566,000 in 2023. In 2026 the projected number is about 693,000. By 2050 it is expected to approach 2.7 million, and by 2100 more than 18 million.

Countries with the most people aged 100 and over, 2026 (thousands)

Interactive chart online: businessstats.com/global-aging-population

Japan has the most: About 127,000 Japanese are aged 100 or over, more than in the United States, which has almost three times the population.

Japan has by far the largest number of centenarians, about 127,000 in 2026, followed by the United States with 79,000, China with 54,000 and India with 45,000. France, Russia, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Thailand complete the top ten. Four in five centenarians are women. Counting the very old is difficult, especially where birth registration was incomplete a century ago, so these estimates carry more uncertainty than those for younger ages.



OUTLOOK

What an older world means

Population ageing is now irreversible for most of the world. The UN projects that the number of countries and areas where at least one in five people is aged 65 or over will rise from 46 in 2026 to 112 by 2050. Older populations will change demand for health care, housing and consumer goods, and will shape labour markets and public finances. The drivers of ageing are covered in our reports on the [global fertility rate](#) and [life expectancy by country](#), and its consequences for the number of deaths in our report on the [global death rate](#). For country-level growth and decline, see [population growth by country](#).

KEY FACTS

The ageing world in numbers

Key Facts

- 892 million people, 10.7 percent of the world, are aged 65 and over in 2026.
- The 65-plus population is projected to pass 1 billion around 2030 and reach 1.59 billion by 2050.
- Japan is the oldest country, with 30.3 percent aged 65 and over and a median age of 51.4 years.
- The Central African Republic is the youngest, with a median age of 15.7 years.
- There are about 6 working-age people per person aged 65 and over, falling to under 4 by 2050.
- About 693,000 people are aged 100 or over, 127,000 of them in Japan.
- People aged 65 and over will outnumber children under 18 by the late 2070s.



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many people in the world are over 65?

About 892 million people are aged 65 and over in 2026, 10.7 percent of the world population, according to UN projections. The number is expected to pass 1 billion around 2030.

Which country has the oldest population?

Japan has the oldest population, with 30.3 percent of people aged 65 and over in 2026 and a median age of 51.4 years. Italy, Portugal, Hong Kong and Greece follow.

Which country has the youngest population?

The Central African Republic has the youngest population, with a median age of 15.7 years in 2026, followed by Somalia, Chad and Niger at about 17.

What is the median age of the world?

The world median age is 32.2 years in 2026, up from 21.7 years in 1975. It is projected to reach 37.2 years by 2050 and 43.2 by 2100.

How many centenarians are there in the world?

About 693,000 people are aged 100 or over in 2026, according to UN projections. Japan has the most, about 127,000, followed by the United States with about 79,000.

When will older people outnumber children?

On UN projections, people aged 65 and over will outnumber children under 18 by the late 2070s. The US Census Bureau reports that people aged 65 and over already outnumber children aged 5 and younger.

What is the old-age dependency ratio?

It is the number of people aged 65 and over for every 100 people aged 15 to 64. Worldwide it is 16.4 in 2026 and projected to reach 26.0 in 2050. In Europe it is already 33.9.

Why is the world population ageing?

Ageing is driven by falling fertility, which means fewer young people, and rising life expectancy, which means more people survive to old age.



SOURCES

[United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division](#) - World Population Prospects 2024, medium variant.

[UN DESA Population Division](#) - World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of Results.

[US Census Bureau](#) - Global older adult population projected to nearly double by 2060, August 2026.

STATISTICS REPORT

Church members as a percentage of the total population in Sweden 2010-2026

Updated Jun 20, 2026 · businessstats.com/sweden-church-members-as-a-percentage-of-total-population

70% MEMBERS 2010	~49% MEMBERS 2026	~5.4M MEMBERS 2024
-1pp PER YEAR	82% IN 2000	~14k JOINED 2024

Overview

Share of church members as a percentage of the total population in Sweden from 2010 to 2026

Membership of the Church of Sweden has fallen steadily for years, even as it remains the largest single organisation in the country. The share of church members as a percentage of the total population dropped from about 70 percent in 2010 to roughly 49 percent by 2026. This report tracks church members as a percentage of the total population in Sweden from 2010 to 2026. It is one of the clearest measures of Swedish secularisation. The trend line points firmly downward. A steady fall, year upon year. No sign of the decline reversing. The downward trajectory remains firmly in place.

The decline is remarkably steady, averaging a little over one percentage point a year. The Church of Sweden, the Lutheran state church until 2000, still counts around 5.4 million members, but that number shrinks each year through deaths and resignations. The same secular drift appears in our [share who believe in God in Sweden](#) analysis.

Church Members as a Share of Sweden Population, 2010-2026 (%) Registered Church of Sweden members as a percentage of the total population.

Data:

Share of Church of Sweden members as a percentage of the total population, 2010 to 2026, in percent, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden membership statistics and Statistics Sweden

population data.

Note:

2010, 2022 and 2024 are reported anchor points; intermediate years are interpolated from the steady reported decline, and 2025 to 2026 are estimates. Members are registered members, not active attenders. Switch views with the toolbar.

The headline decline: church membership slid from 70% of the population in 2010 to about 49% by 2026, crossing below half for the first time. The fall has been remarkably steady, just over a point a year.

Two forces drive the falling share. The Church loses members faster than it gains them, and the total population keeps growing through immigration, mostly of people who never join. Together these push the membership share down faster than the raw member count falls, a dynamic also visible across our [religion in Europe](#) coverage.

A note on the data. Figures are registered Church of Sweden members as a percentage of the total population, from Church of Sweden statistics and Statistics Sweden. The 2010, 2022 and 2024 values are reported anchor points; intermediate years are interpolated from the steady decline, and the 2025 and 2026 figures are estimates. Members are registered, not necessarily active. Active churchgoers are a far smaller group. Registered members rarely attend services. Active churchgoers number only a few percent. Belonging far outstrips practising. Few members darken a church door.

Membership Data Table

Church Members as a Percentage of Sweden Population, 2010-2026

Church Members as a Percentage of the Population, 2010-2026 Click any column to sort

YEAR	MEMBERS (% OF POP)	CHANGE VS 2010
2010	70.0%	+0.0
2011	68.5%	-1.5
2012	67.0%	-3.0
2013	65.5%	-4.5
2014	64.0%	-6.0
2015	62.5%	-7.5



2016	61.0%	-9.0
2017	59.5%	-10.5
2018	58.5%	-11.5
2019	57.5%	-12.5
2020	55.8%	-14.2
2021	54.4%	-15.6
2022	53.0%	-17.0
2023	52.0%	-18.0
2024	51.0%	-19.0
2025	50.0%	-20.0
2026	49.0%	-21.0

The table lists church members as a percentage of the total population in Sweden for each year from 2010 to 2026, in percent. It shows an unbroken decline from 70 percent to about 49 percent, the point at which fewer than half of Swedes belong to the church. Sorting the figures highlights how consistent the yearly losses have been. The decline almost never varies in pace. Each year removes a similar slice. The losses compound over time. Decades of decline have reshaped the church.

Since 2000

Church Membership in Sweden Since 2000

The decline did not begin in 2010. Membership of the Church of Sweden was near universal for much of the twentieth century, when joining was effectively automatic at birth. As recently as 2000, when the church was formally separated from the state, around 82 percent of Swedes were members.

The separation in 2000 was a turning point. Once membership stopped being automatic and leaving became a simple administrative step, the share began a long, steady slide, from roughly 82 percent in 2000 to 70 percent by 2010 and under 50 percent by 2026. The end of the state church unleashed a quarter-century of steady decline. The slide has continued ever since. Voluntary membership changed everything for the church.



Church of Sweden Membership Since 2000 (% of population) The long decline since church and state separated in 2000.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

The longer view: membership was around 82% in 2000, when the church separated from the state. Once enrolment stopped being automatic, the share began a steady quarter-century slide toward 49%.

Seen over the full period since 2000, the trend is strikingly linear. There has been no single dramatic collapse, just a relentless yearly erosion as older members die and are not replaced by younger ones joining at the same rate. The long view makes clear this is a structural shift, not a passing dip, much like the patterns in our [The trend is structural, not cyclical, much like the patterns in our share of non-religious people in Spain.](#)

Members vs Population

Church Members vs a Growing Swedish Population

Behind the falling percentage lies a more nuanced story about absolute numbers. The Church of Sweden had roughly 6.6 million members in 2010; by 2024 that had fallen to about 5.4 million. That is a real decline, but a gentler one than the headline share suggests. The raw count fell more slowly than the percentage. Population growth widened the gap. Most newcomers never join the church.

The reason the share falls faster than the headcount is population growth. Sweden total population rose from about 9.4 million in 2010 to over 10.7 million by 2025, largely through immigration. Most newcomers never join the Church of Sweden, so the denominator grows while the numerator shrinks, a squeeze that also shapes our [A growing population masks the real picture, a squeeze that also shapes our religious community data in Finland.](#)

Church Members vs Total Population in Sweden (millions) Members falling while the population rises.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

Why the share falls fastest: members dropped from about 6.6M to 5.4M, but the population climbed from 9.4M to over 10.7M through immigration. A shrinking numerator over a growing denominator drives the percentage down sharply.

This distinction matters for interpreting the decline. The Church is losing members, but it is also being diluted by a growing, more diverse population. The falling percentage reflects both a genuine loss of members and the changing makeup of Sweden itself, a duality relevant to our [Catholic population in Germany](#) comparison.

Annual Decline

Annual Decline in Church Membership in Sweden

The year-by-year change shows just how steady the decline has been. In almost every year, the membership share falls by between one and one and a half percentage points. There is no year of growth and no year of collapse, only a persistent, grinding loss. The direction never changes. The line only ever points down.

This consistency is itself striking. Few social trends move so smoothly in one direction for so long. The steadiness reflects the underlying mechanics: a roughly fixed annual rate of deaths and resignations among members, set against steady population growth, a pattern as reliable as anything in our [German church tax revenue](#) data.

Annual Change in Church Membership Share in Sweden (pp) How much the membership share fell each year.



Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

Every single year a loss: the share falls by roughly one to one and a half points annually, shown here in red. There is no year of growth, just a relentless, predictable erosion.

The relentless nature of the decline is what makes projections so confident. Barring a dramatic reversal, the share will keep falling by around a point a year, dropping further below the halfway mark through the late 2020s, a trajectory with little sign of bending.

New Joiners

New Members Joining the Church of Sweden

One part of the story runs counter to the decline: the number of people actively joining the Church of Sweden has risen. Where 5,000 to 6,000 people joined each year in the late 2000s, that number passed 12,000 in 2021 and reached around 14,000 in 2024, the most in decades. The rise in joiners is genuine. Younger Swedes lead the way in.

This rise in joiners, driven largely by younger Swedes, is real but not enough to reverse the overall trend. Each year, far more members are lost through death and resignation than are gained through joining. The joiners slow the decline at the margin without halting it, a tension that mirrors our [Church of England attendance by age findings](#).

New Members Joining the Church of Sweden per Year (thousands) Annual joiners, rising despite the overall decline.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

A counter-current: annual joiners rose from 5-6,000 in the late 2000s to around 14,000 in 2024, led by the young. It slows the decline but cannot reverse it, as deaths and resignations still outnumber joiners.

Still, the rising number of joiners is significant. It suggests the Church of Sweden retains real pull, especially among the young, even as its overall share shrinks. The contrast between falling membership and rising joiners captures a church in transition rather than simple freefall, a nuance also present in our [The church is changing, not vanishing](#), a nuance also present in our [weekly church attendance in Italy](#) analysis.

Life-Passage Rites

Church of Sweden and Life-Passage Rites

Even as formal membership falls, the Church of Sweden remains woven into the rituals of Swedish life. Around 65 percent of funerals are still held in the church, the most resilient of the life-passage rites. Roughly 40 percent of newborns are baptised, and about 30 percent of marriages involve a church wedding.

These figures reveal a church that is culturally present far beyond its active congregation. Confirmations, once a near-universal rite of passage, now involve about a quarter of fifteen-year-olds. The rituals persist as tradition even where belief has faded, a striking cultural attachment that endures across Sweden.

Culture outlasts active belief.

Swedish Life Events Still Held in the Church (%) Funerals, baptisms, weddings and confirmations.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are

approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

Culturally still present: about 65% of funerals and 40% of baptisms remain in the church, far above its active congregation. The rituals endure as tradition even where weekly belief has faded.

The endurance of these rites, especially funerals, shows that leaving the church entirely is a slower process than the membership numbers alone suggest. For many Swedes, the church remains the default setting for life major moments, even as weekly belief and attendance have largely disappeared, a pattern that contrasts with our [Catholic church followers in Poland](#) data.

Membership vs Belief

Church Membership vs Belief in God in Sweden

A striking feature of Swedish religion is that church membership runs well ahead of actual belief. Around 49 percent of Swedes are church members, but only about 38 percent say they believe in God, and far fewer in a personal God. Many members, in other words, do not believe. Membership is often purely nominal. Many belong without any active faith.

This gap between belonging and believing is the hallmark of the Swedish cultural church. People remain members for reasons of tradition, family, or access to rites like funerals and weddings, rather than faith. The membership figure clearly overstates genuine religiosity in Sweden. Belonging and believing have split apart.

Church Membership vs Belief in God in Sweden (%) Members consistently outnumber believers.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

Belonging beats believing: about 49% are members but only ~38% believe in God. Many belong for tradition or access to rites, not faith. The gap is the signature of the Swedish cultural church.

Both lines are falling, but membership remains consistently above belief throughout the period. As nominal members continue to resign, the two measures may slowly converge, with membership drifting down toward the level of actual belief, a convergence worth watching alongside our [belief in God in the United Kingdom data](#).

Across the Period

Church Membership in Sweden, 2010 to 2026

Tracing church membership across the period, from 2010 through 2018 to 2026, captures the steady decline in three snapshots. It fell from 70 percent in 2010 to around 58 percent in 2018, and to roughly 49 percent by 2026. Each eight-year span removed a similar slice of the population.

The slope is almost perfectly straight. Unlike many social trends that accelerate or stall, Church of Sweden membership has declined at a near-constant rate for well over a decade. The predictability of the line is one of its most remarkable features of all.

Church Membership in Sweden: 2010, 2018 and 2026 (%)The decline in three snapshots.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

An almost perfectly straight line: 70% in 2010, ~58% in 2018, ~49% in 2026. Each eight-year span removed a similar slice, with no acceleration or pause in the decline.

Projected forward, the same slope points toward a Church of Sweden that represents well under half the population through the late 2020s. The straight line of decline shows little sign of bending, marking a historic shift for an institution that once enrolled nearly every Swede at birth. That era is now firmly over.

Joining is now an active choice.

Vs the Nordics

Church Membership: Sweden vs the Nordics

Compared with its Nordic neighbours, Sweden stands out for how far its church membership has fallen. The Lutheran folk churches of Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland all retain higher membership shares, from roughly 58 percent in Iceland to around 71 percent in Denmark, against Sweden 49 percent.

All the Nordic churches are declining, but Sweden leads the way down. Having separated church and state earliest, in 2000, and being one of the most secular societies on earth, Sweden has secularised its formal religion faster than any of its Nordic neighbours. Sweden leads the regional decline. Its neighbours trail a few years behind.

Church Membership Across the Nordic Countries (% of population) Sweden compared with its Lutheran folk-church neighbours.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

Lowest in the region: Denmark (~71%), Finland (~66%) and Norway (~64%) all keep majority-member churches, while Sweden has already fallen to 49%. Sweden leads a shared Nordic decline.

The Nordic comparison frames Sweden as the frontrunner in a shared regional trend. Where Denmark and Norway remain majority-member churches, Sweden has already crossed below the halfway line. The other Nordic countries appear to be following the same path, a few years behind Sweden.

Sweden in 2026

Religious Composition of Sweden in 2026

Breaking down the Swedish population by religious standing in 2026 puts church membership in context. Church of Sweden members make up about 49 percent. Other Christian denominations and other faiths, including a Muslim minority of roughly 8 percent, account for around a further 13 percent.

That leaves a large share, close to 38 percent, with no religious affiliation at all. Sweden is now a country where the single largest religious group, the Church of Sweden, is no longer a majority, and where the unaffiliated form one of the biggest blocs of all. The unaffiliated keep growing. Sweden has become a plural society.

Religious Composition of Sweden, 2026 (% of population) Church members, other faiths and the unaffiliated.

Data:

Derived from Church of Sweden membership as a share of the Swedish population, 2010 to 2026, compiled by BusinessStats from Church of Sweden and Statistics Sweden data.

Note:

Absolute members, annual change, joining figures, life-passage rites, comparisons with belief and with other countries draw on Church of Sweden reports and related survey sources. Some figures are approximate; cross-country figures use different definitions and are indicative. Switch views with the toolbar.

No longer a majority: Church of Sweden members (~49%) now share the country with a large unaffiliated bloc (~38%) and minority faiths. The historic Lutheran majority has gone.

This composition captures modern Sweden: a historically Lutheran society that has become religiously plural and largely secular. The Church of Sweden remains the largest single group, but it now shares the landscape with growing unaffiliated and minority-faith populations, a diversity also reflected in our [church members in the Netherlands](#) data.

70%2010Were members. ~49%2026Are members. ~5.4MMembersIn 2024. -1ppPer YearSteady decline.

Church members as a percentage of the total population in Sweden fell from about 70 percent in 2010 to roughly 49 percent by 2026, a steady decline of more than one point a year. The Church of Sweden, automatic for most Swedes until 2000, now enrolls fewer than half the population, diluted both by resignations and by a growing, more diverse population. Both forces push the share down. The squeeze is



structural and lasting.

Yet the picture is not one of simple collapse. The number of people actively joining has risen, life-passage rites like funerals remain common, and the church stays culturally woven into Swedish life. Membership still runs ahead of actual belief, a gap that defines the Swedish cultural church, even as the long, steady decline of formal membership continues year after year. The long decline shows no end in sight.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Church Members in Sweden

As of 2026, about 49 percent of Sweden's population are members of the Church of Sweden, down from around 70 percent in 2010. This means that, for the first time, fewer than half of Swedes belong to the church. The figure has fallen steadily by a little over one percentage point a year. Membership refers to registered members of the Church of Sweden, the Lutheran church that was the state church until 2000, and not to active churchgoers, who are a much smaller share.

The Church of Sweden had around 5.4 million members in 2024, down from roughly 6.6 million in 2010. It remains the largest single organisation in Sweden by membership. However, the number falls each year as older members die and others resign, and is only partly offset by new members joining. Because Sweden's total population has grown through immigration, the membership share has fallen faster than the absolute number of members.

Church of Sweden membership is declining for several reasons. The biggest turning point was the year 2000, when the church separated from the state and membership stopped being automatic, making it easy to leave. Members are lost through deaths and resignations faster than they are replaced by new joiners. At the same time, Sweden's population has grown through immigration, mostly of people who never join. The church tax of around one percent of income also gives some members a financial reason to leave.

No. The Church of Sweden was the official state church from 1536 until the year 2000, when church and state were formally separated. Before 2000, membership was effectively automatic, with most Swedes enrolled at birth. After the separation, membership became voluntary and leaving became a simple administrative step. This change is the single biggest reason behind the long, steady decline in membership as a share of the population that has followed ever since.

Often not. Church membership in Sweden runs well ahead of actual belief: around 49 percent of Swedes are church members, but only about 38 percent say they believe in God, and far fewer in a personal God.

Many people remain members for reasons of tradition, family or access to rites such as funerals and weddings, rather than faith. This large gap between belonging and believing is the hallmark of what is sometimes called the Swedish cultural church.

Sweden has the lowest church membership share among the Nordic countries. The Lutheran folk churches of Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland all retain higher membership, ranging from roughly 58 percent in Iceland to around 71 percent in Denmark, compared with Sweden's 49 percent. All these churches are declining, but Sweden, having separated church and state earliest and being one of the most secular societies on earth, has secularised its formal religion fastest, leading a shared regional trend.

Yes, and in rising numbers. Where 5,000 to 6,000 people joined the Church of Sweden each year in the late 2000s, that number passed 12,000 in 2021 and reached around 14,000 in 2024, the most in decades. This rise is driven largely by younger Swedes. However, it is not enough to reverse the overall decline, because far more members are still lost each year through death and resignation than are gained through joining.

Yes, especially for funerals. Around 65 percent of funerals in Sweden are still held in the church, making it the most resilient of the life-passage rites. Roughly 40 percent of newborns are baptised, about 30 percent of marriages involve a church wedding, and around a quarter of fifteen-year-olds are confirmed. These rituals persist as cultural tradition even where active belief and weekly attendance have largely disappeared, showing the church remains woven into Swedish life.

Close to 38 percent of Sweden's population have no religious affiliation at all in 2026, making the unaffiliated one of the largest groups in the country. Church of Sweden members make up about 49 percent, while other Christian denominations and other faiths, including a Muslim minority of roughly 8 percent, account for the rest. Sweden has become a country where the largest religious group is no longer a majority, and where the religiously unaffiliated form a major bloc.

It already has, or is about to. Church members as a percentage of the population are estimated at around 49 to 50 percent by 2025 to 2026, meaning Sweden has reached the historic point where fewer than half its people belong to the Church of Sweden. With the share falling by roughly one point a year and little sign of the trend bending, membership is projected to continue declining well below half through the late 2020s, barring a major and unexpected reversal.

Sources



Church of Sweden (Svenska kyrkan) membership statistics - Source for the number and share of registered church members.

Statistics Sweden (SCB) - Reference for total population used to calculate the membership share.

Church of Sweden statistics - Reference for membership and life-rite figures.

Figures are registered Church of Sweden members as a percentage of the total population, from Church of Sweden membership statistics and Statistics Sweden. The share fell from about 70 percent in 2010 to 53 percent in 2022 and roughly 49 percent by 2026, with the Church counting around 5.4 million members in 2024. The 2010, 2022 and 2024 values are reported anchor points; intermediate years are interpolated from the steady decline, and 2025 to 2026 are estimates. Absolute member, joining, life-rite and cross-country figures are approximate and drawn from various sources.

STATISTICS REPORT

World Religions statistics & facts

 Updated Sep 6, 2026 · businessstats.com/world-religions

2.3B CHRISTIANITY - LARGEST RELIGION, 28.8% OF WORLD (2020)	2.0B ISLAM - 2ND LARGEST, FASTEST GROWING MAJOR RELIGION	1.9B UNAFFILIATED - 3RD LARGEST GROUP, 24.2% OF WORLD
76% WORLD POPULATION IDENTIFYING WITH A RELIGION	4,300+ RECOGNIZED RELIGIONS WORLDWIDE	2050 ISLAM PROJECTED TO NEARLY EQUAL CHRISTIANITY IN FOLLOWERS

Overview

Key statistics and facts about world religions

Religion is among the most fundamental aspects of human civilization, shaping culture, politics, law, and daily life for the majority of the world's 8 billion people. **Approximately 76% of the global population identifies with a religion**, while around 1.9 billion people (24%) are religiously unaffiliated as of 2020 - now the third-largest group in the world, behind Christians and Muslims. Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism together account for over 73% of all people on Earth.

There are approximately 4,300 recognized religions in the world today - some estimates place the number as high as 10,000 distinct religious traditions when including indigenous and folk religions. Despite this diversity, the religious landscape is heavily concentrated: the top four religions alone cover roughly 6 billion people. The population distribution across these religions is closely tied to global demographic patterns, fertility rates, and geographic concentrations that differ significantly by continent and region. The world population context for these religious distributions is in our [world population analysis](#).

The most significant demographic shift underway is Islam's rapid growth relative to other major religions. Pew Research Center's June 2025 report confirms that Islam grew by 347 million between 2010 and 2020 - more than all other religions combined. Pew projects Islam will grow by 73% between 2010 and 2050, compared to Christianity's 35% growth over the same period. By 2050, the Muslim and Christian global populations are expected to be roughly equal. This shift is primarily driven by higher birth rates in Muslim-majority countries, particularly across sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. A country-level

view of the world's Muslim population is in our [countries with the largest Muslim population analysis](#).

Global Population Share 2020 World Religions - Global Population Share 2020 (%) Christianity: 28.8%. Islam: 25.6%. Unaffiliated: 24.2%. Hinduism: 14.9%. Buddhism: 4.1%. Other Religions: 2.2%. Judaism: 0.2%. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report. 28.8%Christianity

Christianity2.3 Billion Followers, 28.8% - World's Largest Religion (Pew June 2025)Spread across Americas (North and South), Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania. About 50% Catholic, 37% Protestant, 12% Orthodox. USA (253M), Brazil (185M), Mexico (118M) are the largest Christian nations. Rose 122M from 2010-2020 but fell as a share. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report. Islam2.0 Billion Followers, 25.6% - Fastest Growing Major ReligionDominant in Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, parts of Southeast Asia. About 82% Sunni, 14% Shia. 50 Muslim-majority countries. Grew 347M from 2010-2020 - more than all others combined. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report. Hinduism1.2 Billion Followers, 14.9% - World's Oldest Major Religion95%+ of adherents in India and Nepal. Third-largest religion globally but geographically concentrated. Origins dating back to 2000 BCE in ancient India. Projected 34% growth 2010-2050. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025, Population Education 2025. Buddhism324 Million Followers, 4.1% - Concentrated in Asia-PacificAbout half of Buddhists reside in China. Also strong in Thailand, Myanmar, Japan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea. Founded ~5th century BCE in ancient India. Lost followers 2010-2020 through religious switching. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025. Full Religions Table

All Major World Religions – Followers, Share, Origin and 2050 Growth Projection

World Religions by Population 2020 (Pew Research Center, June 2025) Click any column to sort

RELIGION	FOLLOWERS	% GLOBAL	FOUNDED	ORIGIN REGION	GROWTH 2010-2050
Christianity	2.3B	28.8%	~30 CE	Middle East	+35%
Islam	2.0B	25.6%	622 CE	Arabia	+73%
Unaffiliated	1.9B	24.2%	N/A	Global	-9%
Hinduism	1.2B	14.9%	~2000 BCE	South Asia	+34%
Buddhism	0.32B	4.1%	~500 BCE	South Asia	Decline
Other Religions	0.19B	2.2%	Various	Various	+5%

Judaism	0.015B	0.2%	~2000 BCE	Middle East	+16%
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The table highlights the extraordinary concentration of global religion: just 4 religions account for over 73% of all people. The "Other Religions" category (roughly 190 million, 2.2%) folds in traditional African religions, Chinese folk religion, Sikhism, Jainism and others - practices often under-counted because followers may simultaneously identify with a major religion. The religiously unaffiliated (1.9 billion) are now the third-largest single group when ranked alongside individual religions, having overtaken Hinduism in Pew's 2020 estimates.

Population Chart

Christianity 2.3B to Judaism 15M – World Religion Population Comparison 2020

Population by Religion 2020 World Religions by Population 2020 (Billions of Followers) Christianity: 2.3B (28.8%). Islam: 2.0B (25.6%). Unaffiliated: 1.9B (24.2%). Hinduism: 1.2B (14.9%). Buddhism: 0.32B (4.1%). Other Religions: 0.19B (2.2%). Judaism: 0.015B (0.2%). Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report.

2.3BChristianity

Abrahamic religions Dharmic religions Non-religious / Other

The Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism) together account for approximately 4.3 billion people - over half the world's population. All three trace their roots to the ancient Middle East and share foundational concepts including monotheism, prophetic tradition, and scriptural revelation. The Dharmic religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism) account for approximately 1.55 billion, concentrated primarily in Asia. The remaining roughly 190 million practise folk and other religions (traditional African, Chinese folk, indigenous traditions) which are often under-counted in surveys because practitioners may simultaneously identify with a major religion.

Christianity

Christianity – 2.3 Billion Followers Across 157+ Countries, 50% Catholic

Christianity, founded approximately 30 CE in the Middle East, is practised in 157+ countries and is the majority religion across the Americas, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, and Oceania. With approximately 2.3 billion followers representing 28.8% of the world's population (Pew Research, June 2025), it is the largest religion by adherents. The United States has the largest Christian population of any single country



(approximately 253 million), followed by Brazil (185 million) and Mexico (118 million).

Christianity by Denomination Christianity by Denomination - Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox (2025) Catholic: ~50%. Protestant: ~37%. Orthodox: ~12%. Other: ~1%. Total: ~2.3 billion (Pew 2025). Catholic dominant in Latin America, Southern Europe. Protestant dominant in Northern Europe, USA. Orthodox dominant in Eastern Europe. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025, Population Education 2025. 50% Catholic 37% Protestant

Christianity's global spread was driven by multiple waves: the early Roman Empire period (1st-4th century CE), the Byzantine era (5th-15th century), and most significantly European colonisation between the 15th and 20th centuries, which introduced Christianity across the Americas, sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of Asia. Today's 2.3 billion Christians are the product of 2,000 years of geographic expansion through different mechanisms in different regions. The fastest growth in Christianity is now occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, where Pentecostal and evangelical denominations are expanding rapidly. By 2050, Africa is projected to be home to the largest share of the world's Christian population, overtaking Europe and Latin America.

Islam

Islam - 2.0 Billion Followers, 50 Muslim-Majority Countries, 73% Growth by 2050

Islam, founded in Arabia in 622 CE, is the world's second-largest and fastest-growing major religion with approximately 2.0 billion followers - approximately 25.6% of the global population as of 2020. There are 50 Muslim-majority countries, with Islam the dominant religion across the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, and large parts of Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In the Maldives, Mauritania, and Saudi Arabia, virtually 100% of inhabitants identify as Muslim.

Islam by Sect - Sunni vs Shia Islam by Sect - Sunni vs Shia (2025) Sunni: ~82%. Shia: ~14%. Other Muslim: ~4%. Total: ~2.0 billion. Sunni dominant in most of the world. Shia majority in Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Bahrain. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report. 82% Sunni

Islam's projected 73% growth between 2010 and 2050 - the fastest of any major religion - is driven by three factors: a younger-than-average global Muslim population (median age 24 vs 30 for Christians), higher fertility rates in Muslim-majority countries (average 3.1 children per woman vs 2.7 for Christians globally), and net positive conversion rates. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the majority of projected Muslim population growth - Nigeria alone is projected to have a Muslim population of over 200 million by



2050, making it one of the world's largest Muslim nations.

Hinduism

Hinduism – 1.2 Billion Followers, World's Oldest Major Religion, 95% in India and Nepal

Hinduism, with origins in the Indian subcontinent dating back to approximately 2000 BCE, is the world's oldest major religion and third-largest by population with approximately 1.2 billion followers (14.9% of the global population). Unlike Christianity and Islam, Hinduism has not historically spread through active missionary activity - the overwhelming majority of Hindus (over 94%) live in India, with Nepal having the second-largest Hindu population. This geographic concentration makes Hinduism unique among billion-follower religions.

Hinduism by Country Hinduism - Geographic Distribution by Country (Top Nations, 2025) India: ~1,060M (88% of all Hindus). Nepal: ~27M. Bangladesh: ~13M. Indonesia: ~4M. Pakistan: ~4M. USA: ~3.3M. UK: ~0.9M. Total diaspora outside India/Nepal: ~60M. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025, World Population Review 2025. +-5%. 94% in India

Hinduism is projected to grow by approximately 34% between 2010 and 2050, driven primarily by population growth in India. However, India's own fertility rate decline means Hindu population growth will slow over time. The Hindu diaspora communities in the USA, UK, Canada, and the Caribbean tend to be highly educated and economically prominent relative to their population share. A country-level demographic view of India and the wider world is in our [world population analysis](#).

Buddhism

Buddhism – 324 Million Followers, Half in China, Declined 2010–2020

Buddhism, founded by Siddhartha Gautama in ancient India in approximately the 5th century BCE, has approximately 324 million followers worldwide (about 4.1% of the global population) by Pew's strict 2020 self-identification count - though broader estimates that include those who blend Buddhism with folk and Taoist traditions, especially in China and Japan, run closer to 500 million. Buddhism is the only major religion whose global population actually shrank between 2010 and 2020 (Pew Research June 2025 report). Buddhist-majority countries in East Asia - particularly Japan and South Korea - have extremely low fertility rates and aging populations, causing decline. China alone is home to roughly half of the world's Buddhists.

Buddhism by Country Buddhism - Top Countries by Number of Buddhist Followers (2025) China: ~244M. Japan: ~84M. Thailand: ~66M. Myanmar: ~41M. Sri Lanka: ~15M. Vietnam: ~15M. Cambodia: ~14M. South Korea: ~11M. Country figures include broader cultural adherents. Source: World Population Review 2025, Pew Research Center. +-5%. 324MPew 2020 count

The decline of the Buddhist population stands in contrast to the growth trajectories of Islam and Christianity. Countries with the highest Buddhist concentration - China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand - all have total fertility rates well below 2.1 (the replacement level), meaning their populations are aging and declining. China's Buddhist population is particularly complex: official statistics tend to undercount folk religious practices that blend Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian elements. Actual Buddhist-affiliated populations in China may be significantly higher than survey data suggests.

Unaffiliated

1.9 Billion Unaffiliated - Atheists, Agnostics, and Non-Religious People Globally

Unaffiliated by Country Unaffiliated Population - Top Countries (2025) China: ~700M (about 37% of all unaffiliated). Czech Republic: 72% of population. France: ~40% unaffiliated. Japan: ~57% unaffiliated. Estonia: ~75%. USA: ~26% (growing). Sweden: ~68%. UK: ~53%. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report. +-5%. 1.9BUnaffiliated 24.2%of world

China's estimated 700 million religiously unaffiliated people account for over a third of the world's entire unaffiliated population - despite official Communist Party atheism, a significant portion of these individuals practice folk religion, ancestor veneration, or folk Buddhist and Taoist rituals without formally identifying with any religion. In Western Europe and North America, the unaffiliated share has grown consistently since the 1980s. In the USA, the "nones" (those with no religious affiliation) grew from approximately 16% of the population in 2007 to 26% by 2023 according to Pew Research.

Pew's earlier 2015 model had projected the unaffiliated share of the world population would gradually decline, on the assumption that secular populations have lower birth rates. The June 2025 report found the opposite: the religiously unaffiliated grew by 270 million between 2010 and 2020, rising nearly a full percentage point to 24.2% and overtaking Hinduism to become the third-largest group worldwide. The primary driver was religious switching - people, especially in the West, shedding a religious identity they were raised with. Whether that share keeps climbing or eventually reverses as higher-fertility religious populations expand remains the key open question for the decades ahead.

By Region

Christianity Dominates Americas and Europe, Islam Leads MENA – Religion by World Region

Religion by World Region World Religions by Region - Christianity vs Islam vs Hinduism (Millions, 2025)

Sub-Saharan Africa: Christianity dominant (625M). Americas: Christianity dominant (808M). Europe:

Christianity dominant (558M). MENA: Islam dominant (341M). Asia-Pacific: Islam (986M) and Hinduism

(1,189M) both large. Source: Pew Research Center regional data, World Population Review 2025. +-5%.

6world regions

Christianity (millions) Islam (millions) Hinduism (millions)

The Asia-Pacific region is the most religiously diverse in the world, containing significant populations of every major religion plus the world's largest unaffiliated population (China). It is home to approximately 99% of all Hindus and Buddhists, 50% of all Muslims, and 12% of all Christians. Sub-Saharan Africa has the most rapid religious growth of any region, with both Christianity and Islam expanding rapidly as the region's population grows toward a projected 2 billion by 2050.

Growth to 2050

Islam +73%, Christianity +35%, Buddhism 0% – Projected Religious Growth 2010-2050

Religious Growth 2010-2050 Projected Religious Population Growth 2010-2050 (Pew Research Center)

Islam: +73%. Christianity: +35%. Hinduism: +34%. Judaism: +16%. Other: +6%. Buddhism: 0% (stable).

Unaffiliated: share projected to change. Source: Pew Research Center "The Future of World Religions"

2015, updated projections 2023. +-10%. +73%Islam growth 2050near-equal point

The Pew Research Center's 2010-2050 projections remain the most authoritative long-range religious demographic study. The projections model fertility rates, mortality, migration, and religious switching across 2,500 population sub-groups. Key insight: Islam's growth advantage is not primarily from conversion but from demographics - younger median age (24 vs 30 for Christians) and higher fertility rates (3.1 vs 2.7 average children per woman). By 2050, both Islam and Christianity are projected to have approximately 2.9 billion followers each.

Pew's 2015 model projected the unaffiliated share would fall from 16% toward 13% by 2050, on the assumption that secular populations have lower birth rates. Yet the observed 2020 data (24.2%) has already run well ahead of that projection - a reminder that religious switching is difficult to model. The underlying demographic math still holds, however: religious populations in high-fertility developing countries grow faster than secular populations in low-fertility developed ones. Europe and North America, where the unaffiliated are concentrated, have below-replacement fertility, while sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, heavily religious, have above-replacement rates.

Religion and Economy

Christian-Majority Nations 68% of World GDP, Muslim-Majority 11% - Religion and Economic Output

GDP by Majority Religion Estimated World GDP Share by Majority-Religion of Nation (2025) Christian-majority nations: ~68% of world GDP. Muslim-majority: ~11%. Hindu-majority (India): ~4%. Buddhist-majority: ~4%. Mixed/other: ~13%. Note: This reflects national majority religion, not individual religious affiliation. Source: World Bank GDP data, Pew Research Center June 2025 report. +-5%. 68%Christian nations

Christian-majority nations Muslim-majority nations Other/mixed majority

Christian-majority nations' dominant GDP share (approximately 68%) reflects their concentration in the world's wealthiest economies: USA, Germany, UK, France, Australia, Canada, Brazil, and many others. This does not imply causation - the wealth of these nations is a product of complex historical, geographic, and institutional factors rather than religion per se. Muslim-majority nations' 11% GDP share substantially understates the economic potential of their ~26% population share, reflecting the development gap between MENA and South Asian economies versus Western ones - though this gap is closing rapidly. The wider economic backdrop is in our [global economy analysis](#).

India (Hindu-majority, ~4% of world GDP) is the fastest-growing major economy and is projected to overtake Germany and Japan to become the world's third-largest economy by GDP within this decade. Hindu-majority economic output may reach 6-8% of world GDP by 2030. The economic rise of Hindu-majority and Muslim-majority nations represents one of the most significant economic shifts of the 21st century, closely tied to the religious demographic projections described above. A full ranking of the world's economies is in our [largest economies by GDP analysis](#).

Judaism and Other Religions

Judaism 14 Million, Sikhism 25 Million – Smaller World Religions by Numbers

Smaller World Religions Smaller World Religions - Followers 2025 (Millions) Sikhism: ~25M (India dominant). Judaism: ~14-15M (Israel 7M, USA 6M). Baha'i: ~7-8M. Jainism: ~5-6M. Shinto: ~3-4M (Japan). Zoroastrianism: ~0.2M. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025, Britannica, World Population Review 2025. +-10%. 25MSikhism 14MJudaism

Judaism, with approximately 14-15 million followers, is the smallest of the major world religions by population but one of the most historically influential. Israel has the largest Jewish population (approximately 7 million), with the USA second (approximately 6 million). Judaism is the oldest of the Abrahamic religions and the direct ancestor of both Christianity and Islam theologically. Despite its small number of adherents, Jewish communities have had disproportionate cultural, intellectual, and economic influence globally.

Sikhism, founded in 15th century Punjab (modern-day India/Pakistan), has approximately 25 million followers - primarily in the Indian state of Punjab, with significant diaspora communities in the UK (approximately 700,000), USA (approximately 500,000), and Canada (approximately 500,000). Jainism (5-6 million, virtually all in India) and Zoroastrianism (approximately 200,000) are among the world's oldest surviving religions. The wider demographic context for all these communities is in our [world population analysis](#).

The "Other Religions" category in Pew Research's framework encompasses several hundred million people across traditional African religions, Chinese folk religion (including those who blend folk practices with Buddhism and Taoism), Native American religions, and Australian Aboriginal spirituality. Chinese folk religion is particularly notable: while official Communist Party policy is atheism, hundreds of millions of Chinese people practice folk religious traditions including ancestor veneration, local deity worship, and feng shui alongside or independently of formal Buddhism or Taoism.

Key Statistics

World Religions – Key Statistics and Facts 2025

Most and Least Religious Countries Most and Least Religious Countries - % Identifying With a Religion (2025) Most religious: Ethiopia 98%, Somalia 98%, Afghanistan 99%, Indonesia 97%. Least religious:



Czech Republic 28% (72% unaffiliated), Estonia 25%, Sweden 32%, Japan 43%. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report, World Population Review 2025. +-5%. 76%world avg

76%World Population Identifies With a Religion - About 6.2 of 8.2 BillionApproximately 6.2 billion of the world's 8.2 billion people identified with a religion as of 2020. The remaining 1.9 billion (24.2%) are religiously unaffiliated - atheists, agnostics, and those who say they have no religion in particular. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report. +73%Islam - Fastest Growing Major Religion, Projected 2010-2050 GrowthIslam's 73% projected growth (Pew 2010-2050) is driven by higher fertility rates (3.1 children/woman) and younger median age (24) compared to other major religions. By 2050, Muslim and Christian populations are projected to be nearly equal at approximately 2.9 billion each. Source: Pew Research Center 2015. 4,300+Recognized Religions Exist Worldwide - Over 10,000 Distinct TraditionsDespite 4,300+ recognized religions (10,000+ distinct traditions by some counts), over 75% of humanity belongs to just 4 religions: Christianity (29%), Islam (26%), Hinduism (15%), Buddhism (4%). The concentration is extraordinary given the diversity of human civilization. Source: Pew Research Center, Britannica. 50 nationsMuslim-Majority Countries - More Than Any Other ReligionThere are 50 Muslim-majority countries - the most of any religion. Christianity is majority religion in 157+ countries but across a much larger land area. In 3 countries (Maldives, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia), virtually 100% of inhabitants identify as Muslim. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025, World Population Review 2025. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions - World Religions Statistics and Facts

Christianity with approximately 2.3 billion followers (28.8% of the global population) as of 2020, the latest Pew Research global estimate. The USA (253M), Brazil (185M), and Mexico (118M) have the largest Christian populations. Sub-Saharan Africa is the fastest-growing region for Christianity. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report.

Islam is the world's fastest-growing major religion, having grown 347 million between 2010 and 2020 - more than all other religions combined - and projected to grow 73% between 2010 and 2050. This is driven by higher fertility rates (3.1 children/woman) and younger median age (24) in Muslim-majority countries. By 2050, Islam is expected to nearly equal Christianity in total followers. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report and 2015 projections.

Approximately 1.9 billion people (24.2%) are religiously unaffiliated worldwide - the third-largest group, behind Christians and Muslims. China alone accounts for roughly 700 million (about 37%) of all unaffiliated people. The "nones" grew by 270 million between 2010 and 2020, overtaking Hinduism. Source: Pew

Research Center June 2025 report.

Approximately 4,300 recognized religions in the world, with some estimates reaching 10,000 distinct traditions. About 75.8% of humanity belongs to a religion, and most belong to just 4: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism. Source: Pew Research Center, Britannica.

Approximately 25.6% of the world's population - around 2.0 billion people as of 2020. Islam is the majority religion in 50 countries. By 2050 this share is projected to grow to roughly 30%. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report.

Hinduism is generally considered the world's oldest major religion, with origins dating back to approximately 2000 BCE in the Indian subcontinent. Some scholars argue that indigenous folk religions predate Hinduism, but Hinduism is the oldest surviving major organized religion with a continuous, documented tradition. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025, Population Education 2025.

Approximately 2.3 billion Christians (28.8% of the global population) as of 2020. This includes Catholic (~50%), Protestant (~37%), Orthodox (~12%), and other denominations. Christians rose by 122 million from 2010-2020 but fell as a share of world population. Growth is fastest in sub-Saharan Africa. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025.

Approximately 14.9% of the global population - around 1.2 billion people. Over 94% of all Hindus live in India or Nepal. Hinduism is the world's fourth-largest group (after the unaffiliated) but the most geographically concentrated of the major world religions. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025 report.

Approximately 324 million Buddhists (4.1% of global population) by Pew's strict 2020 count - broader estimates including cultural adherents run closer to 500 million. About half live in China. Buddhism was the only major religion to lose followers between 2010 and 2020. Source: Pew Research Center June 2025.

Pew Research Center projects **Islam will nearly equal but not definitively overtake Christianity by 2050** - both projected to have approximately 2.9 billion followers each. Islam's growth advantage is primarily demographic (higher birth rates of 3.1 vs 2.7, younger median age of 24 vs 30) rather than from net conversion. The tipping point could come after 2050 if current trends continue. Source: Pew Research Center "The Future of World Religions" 2015, updated 2023.

Sources

[Pew Research Center - How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020 \(June 2025\)](#) - Primary source for all 2020 follower counts and shares: Christians 28.8%, Muslims 25.6%, unaffiliated 24.2%, Hindus 14.9%. Based on more than 2,700 censuses and surveys.



[Pew Research Center - The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections 2010-2050](#) - Source for all growth projection data. Models fertility, mortality, migration, switching for 2,500 sub-groups. Published 2015, widely cited as the global standard.

[World Population Review - Religion by Country \(2025\)](#) - Source for updated country-level follower counts and denominational breakdowns. Cites Pew Research and Britannica. +-2-5%.

[Population Education - World Population by Religion \(2025\)](#) - Source for Christianity denomination breakdown (~50% Catholic, ~37% Protestant, ~12% Orthodox), Hindu/Buddhist geographic context, USA Christian population (253M).

Follower counts based on self-identification surveys. +-2-5% across sources due to different survey methodologies and date ranges. "Unaffiliated" includes atheists, agnostics, and "nothing in particular" category. Share figures are for 2020 (Pew's latest global estimate). Growth projections model 2010-2050 and are subject to revision. Not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Annual population growth in Austria 1961–2026

Updated May 12, 2026 · businessstats.com/population-growth-in-austria

9.22M POPULATION 2026E	7.07M POPULATION 1961	+30.4% TOTAL GROWTH 1961–2026
1.48 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE 2024	+1.2% PEAK GROWTH RATE (2015)	20% FOREIGN-BORN SHARE

Population Growth Chart

Austria Annual Population Growth 1961–2026 — Full Chart

The two charts below are the core of this dataset. The **area chart** shows total population in millions from 1961 to 2026 — the S-shaped growth curve clearly visible. The **bar chart** shows the annual growth rate — the percentage change from year to year — which is where the dramatic events become visible: the 1980s near-stagnation, the 1990s Yugoslav wars surge, and the unmistakable 2015 refugee crisis spike.

Total Population 1961–2026 Austria — Total Population (Millions) 1961–2026 Statistik Austria · World Bank · UN WPP 2024 · BusinessStats Research · April 2026 Total Population (M)

Annual mid-year population estimates · Statistik Austria Bevölkerungsstatistik · World Bank WDI · UN WPP 2024 · 2026 = BusinessStats Research estimate

Key events marked: 1960s Gastarbeiter 1973 Oil crisis slowdown 1990s Yugoslav wars 1995 EU accession 2015 Refugee crisis 2022 Ukraine war

Annual Growth Rate Austria — Annual Population Growth Rate (%) 1962–2026 Statistik Austria · World Bank · BusinessStats Research · April 2026 +1.2% Peak — 2015

Annual Growth Rate (%) 2015 refugee crisis: +1.2% — largest annual increase in history Source: Statistik Austria · World Bank WDI · BusinessStats Research · April 2026

The growth rate chart reveals the distinct phases of Austrian demographic history. The **1960s** saw consistent growth of ~0.7% driven by Gastarbeiter immigration. The **1970s–80s** show a dramatic slowdown — with the 1979–1984 period barely above zero as economic stagnation, return migration, and falling birth

rates combined. The **1990s** brought a sharp recovery as Yugoslav war refugees arrived and Austria joined the EU. The **2015 spike** to 1.2% stands out as a dramatic outlier — more than 3× the long-run average. Austria's economy and its role as a high-income destination for migrants is covered in our [global GDP analysis](#).

Annual Data Table

Austria Population — Complete Annual Data Table 1961–2026

The sortable table below shows Austria's population for every 5-year interval (1961–2000) and every year from 2000–2026. Click any column to sort. All figures are mid-year estimates in millions.

Austria Annual Population 1961–2026 Click column to sort 

YEAR	POPULATION	ANNUAL CHANGE	GROWTH RATE %	KEY EVENT
1961	7,073,807	—	—	Gastarbeiter program begins
1965	7,270,889	+49,271/yr avg	+0.69%	Peak guest worker era
1970	7,467,086	+39,239/yr avg	+0.53%	Fertility decline accelerates
1975	7,578,903	+22,363/yr avg	+0.30%	Oil crisis economic slowdown
1980	7,549,433	−5,894/yr avg	−0.08%	Return migration; population dips
1985	7,574,561	+5,026/yr avg	+0.07%	Near-stagnation era
1990	7,729,468	+30,981/yr avg	+0.41%	Yugoslav wars refugee influx
1995	8,040,976	+62,302/yr avg	+0.80%	EU accession — free movement
2000	8,011,566	−5,882/yr avg	−0.07%	Net emigration slightly positive
2005	8,227,829	+43,253/yr avg	+0.54%	EU enlargement eastern migration
2010	8,404,252	+35,285/yr avg	+0.43%	Steady growth continues
2011	8,443,018	+38,766	+0.46%	—
2012	8,484,000	+40,982	+0.49%	—
2013	8,525,000	+41,000	+0.48%	—
2014	8,584,926	+59,926	+0.70%	Pre-crisis migration increase

2015	8,689,168	+104,242	+1.21%	Syrian refugee crisis — record
2016	8,747,358	+58,190	+0.67%	Post-crisis normalization
2017	8,797,566	+50,208	+0.57%	—
2018	8,840,521	+42,955	+0.49%	—
2019	8,901,064	+60,543	+0.68%	—
2020	9,006,398	+105,334	+1.18%	COVID-19 pandemic year
2021	9,043,070	+36,672	+0.41%	COVID dampened migration
2022	9,104,772	+61,702	+0.68%	Ukraine war refugees (+80K)
2023	9,132,383	+27,611	+0.30%	Return migration normalizing
2024	9,158,000	+25,617	+0.28%	—
2025	9,190,000	+32,000	+0.35%	Provisional estimate
2026E	9,222,000	+32,000	+0.35%	BusinessStats Research estimate

Austria Population Growth 1961–2026 (BusinessStats Research · Statistik Austria · World Bank): Population grew from 7.07M (1961) → 9.22M (2026E) · +30.4% total growth · Peak annual growth 2015 (+1.21%, +104K) during refugee crisis · Near-stagnation 1980–1985 (~0.1% p.a.) · Total fertility rate 1.48 (2024) — immigration drives all net growth. Source: Statistik Austria · World Bank WDI · April 2026.

Key Historical Events

Key Events That Shaped Austria's Population Growth 1961–2026

Austria's demographic history from 1961 to 2026 is not a smooth upward curve — it is a story shaped by **economic cycles, geopolitical crises, and deliberate migration policy**. Each major turn in the population growth rate chart corresponds to a real-world event that pushed or pulled people across Austria's borders. Understanding these events is essential to reading the data correctly. The economic prosperity that made Austria an attractive destination is tracked in our [global GDP analysis](#).

1961–1973 Gastarbeiter Era — Guest Worker Recruitment +0.7% p.a. Population: 7.07M → 7.56M Austria signed bilateral recruitment agreements with Yugoslavia (1962) and Turkey (1964) to address chronic labor shortages during the postwar economic boom. Guest workers — primarily men — arrived to work in construction, industry, and hospitality. Austria's population grew at approximately 0.7% annually during this



period — its fastest sustained growth of the postwar era. The system was designed as temporary, but many workers stayed permanently. 1974–1984 Oil Crisis & Near-Stagnation ~0.1% p.a. Population: 7.56M → 7.56M (essentially flat) The 1973 OPEC oil crisis triggered a sharp economic slowdown. Austria halted new guest worker recruitment and many existing workers returned home — particularly Yugoslavs who faced economic difficulties in Austria but had relative prosperity at home. Combined with the fertility rate falling below replacement level (~1.65 in 1975, heading lower), population growth nearly stopped. The 1980 census showed Austria's population was almost identical to 1975 — a rare period of demographic stagnation for a Western European country. 1990–1995 Yugoslav Wars — Refugee Influx +0.5–0.9% p.a. Population: 7.73M → 8.04M The violent dissolution of Yugoslavia (1991–1995) generated one of Europe's largest refugee crises since WWII. Austria, sharing a border with the former Yugoslav republics and having large existing Yugoslav communities, received hundreds of thousands of refugees from Croatia, Bosnia, and later Kosovo. Population growth accelerated sharply. Many refugees were eventually granted permanent residency or Austrian citizenship. The Bosnian community alone grew to approximately 80,000 permanent residents. Jan 1, 1995 EU Accession — Freedom of Movement Structural shift Population crossed 8.0 million in 1995 Austria's accession to the European Union on January 1, 1995 created a new legal framework for migration — EU citizens gained the right to live and work in Austria without a visa or work permit. The immediate effect was significant: population grew by approximately 62,000 per year in 1994–1997. The 2004 EU enlargement (adding Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, and others) brought a second wave of EU mobility into Austria from Eastern Europe. Austria's economic strength — one of Europe's highest GDPs per capita — made it a prime destination. 2015 Syrian Refugee Crisis — Record Annual Growth +1.21% Population: 8.58M → 8.69M (+104,242 in 12 months) The 2015 Syrian refugee crisis produced Austria's single largest population jump in recorded history. Austria received approximately 88,000 first-time asylum applications — more per capita than any EU country except Sweden. Combined with regular immigration, the total population increased by 104,242 people — +1.21% — in a single year. This was both the largest absolute and the largest percentage annual growth since records began. The spike is unmistakable in the growth rate chart. By 2026, many 2015 arrivals are Austrian citizens or permanent residents, now integrated into the labor market and society. 2020 COVID-19 — Anomalous Growth Spike Statistical quirk Population: 8.90M → 9.01M (+105,334) — crossed 9 million! Paradoxically, Austria's population grew by its second-largest absolute amount (+105,334) in 2020 — the COVID pandemic year. This was primarily a statistical artifact: many foreign nationals who were already in Austria (as students, workers, seasonal employees) were counted in the population register because lockdowns prevented them from returning to their home countries. Austria crossed the symbolic 9 million population threshold in 2020. Actual underlying migration was significantly lower than the registered

figures suggest. 2022 Ukraine War — 80,000 Refugees +0.68% Population: 9.04M → 9.10M (+61,702) Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine triggered Europe's largest displacement crisis since WWII. Approximately 80,000 Ukrainian refugees registered in Austria in 2022 under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive, which granted them immediate right to live and work without an asylum application. Austria has a small existing Ukrainian community, making this a significant addition. Unlike 2015 asylum seekers, Ukrainian refugees (predominantly women with children) received immediate labor market access, contributing to an economic integration outcome different from previous refugee waves. 2023–2026 Moderation — Return to Baseline Growth ~0.30–0.35% p.a. Population: 9.10M → 9.22M Population growth moderated to approximately 0.30–0.35% annually in 2023–2026 — close to the long-run average. Some Ukrainian refugees have returned home or moved to other EU countries. Regular labor migration from EU countries (Romania, Hungary, Germany, Czech Republic) continues as Austria's low unemployment and high wages attract workers. Natural growth (births minus deaths) is slightly negative — Austria would lose population without immigration.

Growth Drivers

What Drives Austria's Population Growth — Immigration, Births & Deaths

Since approximately 1995, **net immigration** has been the sole driver of Austria's population growth. The total fertility rate (TFR) of **1.48 children per woman** in 2024 is significantly below the replacement rate of 2.1 needed to maintain population stability through natural growth alone. In 2025, Austria recorded approximately **85,000 live births** and approximately **90,000 deaths** — a natural decrease of approximately 5,000. All 37,000 in net population gain came from net immigration. Austria is in this respect typical of Western Europe — wealthier, more educated populations tend to have fewer children, and immigration compensates for demographic shortfalls. Austria's status as one of Europe's wealthiest economies — tracked in our [global GDP rankings](#) — makes it a natural immigration destination.

- **Total fertility rate (TFR):** 1.48 (2024) — below replacement (2.1) · declining from 2.82 in early 1960s
- **Live births 2025:** ~85,000 · crude birth rate ~9.2/1,000 · down from ~18/1,000 in 1961
- **Deaths 2025:** ~90,000 · crude death rate ~9.8/1,000 · natural decrease ~5,000
- **Net migration 2025:** ~+37,000 · accounts for 100%+ of population growth
- **Foreign-born population:** ~20% of total (~1.84M) · 37% in Vienna specifically
- **Life expectancy:** 81.8 years (men: 79.3 · women: 84.4) — one of Europe's highest

Austria — Birth Rate vs Death Rate vs Net Migration 2000–2026

The grouped bar chart below shows how the three components of population change have evolved since 2000. The widening gap between net migration (positive) and natural growth (near zero or negative) clearly illustrates Austria's growing dependence on immigration for population maintenance.

Population Components 2000–2026 Austria — Births, Deaths & Net Migration per 1,000 Population
 2000–2026 Statistik Austria · Eurostat · BusinessStats Research · April 2026 1.48TFR 2024 –5KNatural
 Change

Immigration = 100% of growth · natural change near zero since 2015 Source: Statistik Austria · Eurostat ·
 BusinessStats Research · April 2026

Austria — Population by Decade: Absolute Growth vs Growth Rate

The AUV bars below show how different each decade was. The 1960s top the absolute growth chart per year (~49K/yr) while the 1980s bottom out (~2K/yr). The 2010s — including the 2015 spike — averaged approximately 56K/yr, the highest of any complete decade.

Decade-by-Decade Growth Austria — Average Annual Population Increase by Decade (persons/year)
 Statistik Austria · World Bank · BusinessStats Research · April 2026

Austria Population Growth Components (BusinessStats Research · Statistik Austria · Eurostat): TFR 1.48
 (2024) — below replacement 2.1 · Births ~85K vs Deaths ~90K = natural decrease –5K · Net migration
 ~+37K = all growth · Foreign-born 20% of population (37% in Vienna) · Life expectancy 81.8 years. Source:
 Statistik Austria · Eurostat · April 2026.

Demographics

Austria's Population Structure — Age, Cities & Regional Distribution

Vienna — Austria's capital and primate city — dominates national population geography with approximately **1.93 million residents** in 2026, representing **21% of the total Austrian population** in just 0.5% of the country's land area. Vienna is one of Europe's most multicultural cities: approximately **37% of its residents were born outside Austria**, reflecting wave after wave of migration — from the Habsburg Empire's diverse nationalities, to postwar Yugoslav workers, to EU expansion, to recent refugees. Red Bull, Austria's most globally recognized brand, exemplifies how this globally connected economy attracts international talent — the company's energy drink market trajectory is tracked in our [global energy drinks analysis](#). The digital

connection of Austria's diverse communities to social media platforms is tracked in our [social media statistics](#).

- **Vienna:** 1,931,000 (21% of Austria) · density 4,650/km² · 37% foreign-born · 6th largest EU city
- **Graz:** 295,000 (3.2%) · 2nd largest city · Styria capital · significant student population
- **Linz:** 205,000 (2.2%) · 3rd largest · Upper Austria capital · industrial hub
- **Salzburg:** 157,000 (1.7%) · 4th largest · tourism and culture center
- **Innsbruck:** 131,000 (1.4%) · 5th largest · Tyrol capital · alpine tourism hub
- **Population density:** ~109 persons/km² nationally · highly concentrated in eastern lowlands

Austria's **age structure** reflects decades of below-replacement fertility and increasing longevity. The median age in 2026 is approximately **43.5 years** — up from approximately 33 years in 1961. The share of population aged **65 and over** has grown from approximately 12% in 1961 to approximately **20% in 2026**. The **working-age population** (15–64) has been sustained by immigration — without immigrants and their children, the working-age share would be declining faster. This demographic challenge — an aging population supported by a shrinking working-age base — is Austria's central long-term demographic and fiscal concern. The wealth implications of an aging society are analyzed in our [global company valuations report](#), where healthcare and pension-related companies increasingly dominate.

Key Insight Without Immigration, Austria's Population Would Already Be Declining

Austria's **total fertility rate of 1.48** means that each generation is approximately **30% smaller** than the previous one on a natural basis. In 2025, Austria recorded approximately **5,000 more deaths than births** — a natural population decrease. The approximately **37,000 net migrants** who arrived more than compensated, producing an overall population increase of approximately 32,000. But this simple calculation understates immigration's true contribution: immigrants and their Austrian-born children also account for a significant share of the 85,000 births recorded. Statistik Austria estimates that without any immigration since 1970, Austria's current population would be approximately **6.8 million** — almost exactly what it was in the mid-1960s. The economic consequences of demographic aging — for pension systems, healthcare, and labor markets — are among Austria's most pressing policy challenges of the next 30 years.

Austria Population Demographics 2026 (BusinessStats Research · Statistik Austria): Vienna 1.93M (21% of total, 37% foreign-born) · Graz 295K · Linz 205K · Median age 43.5 years · 65+ share: 20% · Population density 109/km² · Foreign-born: ~1.84M (20%) · Life expectancy 81.8 years. Source: Statistik Austria · Eurostat · April 2026.

Key Statistics

Austria Population Growth — Key Statistics & Facts 1961–2026

9.22M Austria's Population in 2026 Approximately 9,222,000 people (BusinessStats Research estimate based on Statistik Austria 2025 provisional data). Growth from 7.07M in 1961 represents +2.15M people (+30.4%) over 65 years. Annual growth currently ~0.35% (~32,000 people/year).

+104K Largest Annual Population Increase — 2015 Austria's population grew by 104,242 people in 2015 — the largest absolute annual increase in recorded history (+1.21%). Driven by the Syrian/Afghan refugee crisis: ~88,000 first-time asylum applications. 2nd largest: 2020 (+105,334) but partly a statistical COVID artifact.

1.48 Total Fertility Rate (TFR) 2024 Below replacement rate (2.1). Down from 2.82 in early 1960s. Austria's fertility rate has been below 2.1 since approximately 1970. Without immigration, Austria's population would be declining. Austrian-born women: TFR ~1.4; foreign-born women: TFR ~1.7 (higher but converging over time).

20% Share of Population Born Outside Austria Approximately 1.84 million of Austria's 9.22M residents were born outside Austria. Vienna: 37% foreign-born. Largest origin groups: Germany, Serbia, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Bosnia, Poland, Afghanistan. One of the highest foreign-born shares in the EU. ~0.1%

Lowest Growth Era — 1980–1985 The 1980–1985 period saw Austria's lowest population growth since WWII — approximately 0.1% annually or just 2,000–5,000 people per year. The 1980 census actually showed a slight population decrease vs 1975. Caused by return migration of guest workers + very low fertility rates (TFR ~1.5).

43.5 Median Age in Austria 2026 (Years) Up from approximately 33 years in 1961. Austria's population is aging rapidly. Population aged 65+: ~20% (2026), up from 12% (1961). Projected to reach 28% by 2050. Median age is one of the highest in Europe, exceeded only by Italy and Germany.

1.93M Vienna Population 2026 Austria's capital holds 21% of national population in 0.5% of land area. 37% of Vienna residents foreign-born. 6th largest EU city. Vienna's population has grown from 1.57M (1961) to 1.93M (2026) — faster than national average due to internal migration and immigration concentration.

81.8 Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) 2025 Men: 79.3 years · Women: 84.4 years. Up from approximately 68 years (men) and 74 years (women) in 1961 — a gain of 10+ years in six decades. Increasing longevity contributes to the aging population challenge by expanding the older age cohorts even without high birth rates.

7.07M Austria's Population in 1961 The baseline year: 7,073,807 people. Postwar reconstruction era. Fertility rate still elevated (~2.8). Economic "Wirtschaftswunder" (economic miracle) beginning. Gastarbeiter recruitment about to begin (Yugoslavia agreement: 1962, Turkey: 1964). West Germany, Switzerland also recruiting workers from same countries.

9.4M Austria Population Forecast 2030 Statistik Austria main scenario projects ~9.4M by 2030 assuming modest continued net migration (+20–30K/year).



UN WPP 2024 medium variant: ~9.35M. Key uncertainty: immigration levels. If migration falls to near zero, growth would turn negative due to natural decrease.

Forecast 2030–2050

Austria Population Forecast & Outlook 2030–2050

Statistik Austria's main population projection scenario projects Austria reaching approximately **9.4 million by 2030** and approximately **9.8–10.2 million by 2050**. These projections assume continued modest positive net migration of approximately 20,000–30,000 per year — well below recent peaks but sufficient to offset the natural population decrease. The key demographic uncertainty is **whether the fertility rate stabilizes or declines further**. A continued decline toward 1.3 (Italy/Spain territory) would require even higher immigration to prevent population loss. Conversely, the 2022 baby bonus and family policy expansions could modestly increase the TFR toward 1.6–1.7.

- **2030 projection:** ~9.4M (Statistik Austria main scenario) · CAGR ~0.3–0.4%
- **2040 projection:** ~9.6–9.8M · assuming continued moderate immigration
- **2050 projection:** ~9.8–10.2M · high uncertainty range; immigration is key variable
- **Without immigration:** Population would begin declining by 2025–2028 · fall to ~8.5M by 2050
- **Aging:** 65+ share to rise from 20% (2026) → ~28% by 2050 — major pension/healthcare pressure
- **Working-age population:** May actually decline in absolute terms by 2035 without sustained migration
- **Risk — migration reversal:** Stricter EU immigration policy or economic slowdown could sharply reduce inflows
- **Risk — fertility collapse:** Housing costs and cost of living in Vienna are among Europe's highest → further fertility suppression
- **Upside — integration:** Better integration outcomes for 2015/2022 cohorts → higher labor force participation → higher living standards
- **Upside — EU skilled migration:** Austria's tech sector growth attracting high-skilled EU workers from Romania, Czech Republic

Austria Population Outlook Key Population Projections — Statistik Austria · UN WPP 2024 ~9.4M
Population 2030E ~9.8M
Population 2040E ~10.0M
Population 2050E ~28%
65+ Share by 2050 ~1.5
TFR Forecast 2030 +20–30K
Annual Net Migration 2027E

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Austria Population Growth

Austria's population in 2026 is approximately **9.22 million people** (9,222,000 — BusinessStats Research estimate based on Statistik Austria 2025 provisional data and projected trend). Austria has grown from **7.07 million in 1961** — an increase of approximately **2.15 million people (+30.4%)** over 65 years. The current annual growth rate is approximately **0.35%** (~32,000 people/year), driven entirely by net immigration as natural growth (births minus deaths) is slightly negative at approximately -5,000 per year.

Austria's population in 1961 was **7,073,807**. This was the baseline year from which this dataset begins. In 1961, Austria was experiencing its postwar economic recovery "Wirtschaftswunder" (economic miracle), had a total fertility rate of approximately **2.82 children per woman** (well above replacement level), and was about to begin its first major postwar immigration wave — the **Gastarbeiter (guest worker) programs** with Yugoslavia (1962) and Turkey (1964).

Austria's annual population growth rate in 2025/26 is approximately **0.35%** per year — equivalent to approximately **32,000 additional people annually**. This is above the EU average (~0.1%) but moderate by historical Austrian standards. The growth rate has ranged dramatically: highest in 2015 (**+1.21%**, Syrian refugee crisis), lowest in the early 1980s (**~+0.07%**, near-stagnation). The current 0.35% is close to Austria's long-run average since 1961. All growth comes from net immigration — natural growth (births minus deaths) is slightly negative.

Austria's total fertility rate (TFR) is approximately **1.48 children per woman** in 2024 (Statistik Austria preliminary). This is significantly below the replacement rate of **2.1** needed to maintain population stability through natural growth alone. Austria's TFR peaked at approximately **2.82 in the early 1960s**, fell rapidly through the 1970s, and has been between 1.4 and 1.8 since approximately 1975. Without immigration, Austria's population would begin declining. The low TFR reflects European patterns: high female education, labor force participation, high housing costs, and delayed family formation.

The 2015 population spike — Austria's largest annual population increase in recorded history at **+104,242 people (+1.21%)** — was caused by the **Syrian refugee crisis**. Austria received approximately **88,000 first-time asylum applications** in 2015 — the highest number per capita of any EU country except Sweden. The influx was driven by the Syrian civil war, Afghan conflict, and Iraqi instability, combined with the so-called "Balkan route" through Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, and Austria to Germany. Austria was primarily a transit country for Germany-bound refugees but retained many who were granted asylum there.

By 2026, many 2015 arrivals have received Austrian citizenship or permanent residency.

The Gastarbeiter (guest worker) program of the 1960s was Austria's first major postwar immigration wave. Bilateral agreements with **Yugoslavia (1962)** and **Turkey (1964)** allowed Austria to recruit workers to fill labor shortages during its economic boom. Population grew from approximately **7.07M (1961)** to **7.56M (1975)** — approximately 0.6–0.7% annually. The system was intended as temporary, but many workers stayed permanently and brought their families. The **Bosnian, Serbian, and Turkish communities** in Austria today are largely descended from these original guest workers and their subsequent family reunification migrants. Return migration in the 1970s/80s is why the 1980s saw near-population stagnation.

Approximately **20% of Austria's resident population** (~1.84 million people) was born outside Austria as of 2025. In Vienna specifically, the foreign-born share reaches approximately **37%**. The largest groups by country of birth: **Germany** (~230,000), **Serbia** (~120,000), **Turkey** (~115,000), **Romania** (~110,000), **Hungary** (~80,000), **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (~80,000), **Poland** (~70,000), **Afghanistan** (~65,000), and **Ukraine** (~60,000 post-2022). Austria's foreign-born share is one of the highest in the EU, comparable to Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Austria's **crude birth rate** in 2025 is approximately **9.2 births per 1,000 population** (~85,000 live births). Austria's **crude death rate** is approximately **9.8 deaths per 1,000 population** (~90,000 deaths). This produces a **natural population decrease** of approximately **5,000 per year** — births minus deaths is negative. In 1961, the birth rate was approximately 18.0/1,000 and the death rate approximately 12.7/1,000, producing natural growth. The crossover point where deaths exceeded births occurred in the 2010s as the large baby boom cohort began dying and young adult cohorts shrank.

Austria's national population density is approximately **109 persons per square kilometer** (based on 9.22M people in 83,871 km²). However, this national average is highly misleading: Austria is approximately 60% mountainous (Alps), with population heavily concentrated in valleys and eastern lowlands. **Vienna** has a density of approximately **4,650 persons/km²**. The province of **Vorarlberg** (~160/km²) and **Vienna** are the densest; **Salzburg** and **Tyrol** (largely Alpine) have densities of 75–80/km².

Austria's accession to the European Union on **January 1, 1995** had a significant demographic impact. EU citizenship meant that citizens of all EU member states could live and work in Austria without a work permit. Population growth accelerated to approximately **+62,000 per year** in the immediate post-accession years. The **2004 EU enlargement** (adding 10 countries including Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia) created a second wave: Austria introduced 5-year transitional restrictions on labor mobility from new EU members, but lifted these in 2011, after which Eastern European migration accelerated. **Romanians**

and Hungarians are now among Austria's largest immigrant communities.

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, approximately **80,000 Ukrainian refugees** registered in Austria under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive in 2022. Unlike the 2015 asylum system (which required lengthy processing), the Temporary Protection Directive granted immediate right to reside and work in Austria. Austria's population grew by approximately **61,702 people** in 2022 (+0.68%), with Ukrainian refugees being the largest single contributor. By 2026, approximately 55,000–60,000 Ukrainians remain in Austria, with others having returned to Ukraine or moved to other EU countries.

Austria's life expectancy at birth in 2025 is approximately **81.8 years overall — men: 79.3 years, women: 84.4 years**. This has improved dramatically from approximately 68 years (men) and 74 years (women) in 1961 — a gain of more than 10 years in six decades. Increasing longevity is a key driver of Austria's aging population structure — people are living longer, expanding the older age cohorts even without high birth rates. COVID-19 caused a temporary dip in life expectancy in 2020–2021 (by approximately 0.5 years), but recovery has since occurred.

Austria's population growth rate of ~0.35% (2026) compares favorably to its neighbors: **Germany** (~0.1%, large-scale immigration needed to offset low TFR); **Switzerland** (~0.7%, higher immigration rates); **Italy** (negative growth, very low TFR ~1.2); **Czech Republic** (~0.3%); **Hungary** (~0.0%, near-flat); **Slovenia** (~0.1%). Austria is demographically more dynamic than most of its immediate neighbors due to its economic attractiveness and liberal immigration framework (within EU/Schengen rules). By European standards, Austria's population story is one of modest but sustained growth — neither the stagnation of Italy nor the higher growth of Switzerland.

Statistik Austria's main population projection scenario (published 2024): **2030: ~9.4 million; 2040: ~9.6–9.8 million; 2050: ~9.8–10.2 million**. The UN World Population Prospects 2024 medium variant projects a similar trajectory. These projections assume continued positive net migration of approximately 20,000–30,000 per year. Key uncertainty: the range between the **low migration scenario** (~9.0M by 2050, declining) and the **high migration scenario** (~10.8M by 2050) illustrates how immigration policy is the dominant variable. Population aging is certain under all scenarios: the 65+ share is projected to reach ~28% by 2050 regardless of migration levels.

Austria's population experienced a brief near-decline in the early 1980s — with the 1985 census showing essentially the same population as 1975 (~7.55M). Two forces combined: **(1) Return migration** — many Yugoslav and Turkish guest workers returned home as Austria's economy slowed after the 1973/1979 oil

crises, and Austria actively promoted return migration by offering financial incentives. **(2) Fertility collapse** — the total fertility rate fell from 2.82 (1961) to approximately 1.52 (1978), producing very few natural increase. With emigration partially offsetting the small natural increase, the net result was near-stagnation. The 1980–1985 era is the lowest population growth period in postwar Austrian history.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Statistik Austria — Population Count \(Bevölkerungsstand\) · Official annual population register data 1961–2026 · Births, deaths, net migration components](#)

Primary: [World Bank World Development Indicators — Austria Population Total · Annual series 1961–2024 · SP.POP.TOTL indicator](#)

Supporting: [United Nations World Population Prospects 2024 — Austria · Medium variant projection to 2100 · Vital statistics historical series](#)

Supporting: [Eurostat — General and Regional Statistics · Austria demographic data · Birth rate, death rate, net migration, TFR time series](#)

All population figures are from Statistik Austria official population register (Bevölkerungsregister) data for 1961–2025, converted to mid-year estimates where necessary. World Bank WDI series SP.POP.TOTL is used for cross-validation. Annual growth rates calculated as: $(\text{population_year_n} - \text{population_year_n-1}) / \text{population_year_n-1} \times 100$. 2026 figure is a BusinessStats Research estimate based on Statistik Austria 2025 provisional data and interpolated trend. Total fertility rate from Statistik Austria Vital Statistics (Demographisches Jahrbuch) annual publication. The 2015 figure (+104,242) and 2020 figure (+105,334) are per official Statistik Austria population register; the 2020 figure includes a COVID-related statistical artifact (foreign nationals unable to deregister during lockdowns).



STATISTICS REPORT

Countries with the Largest Muslim Population 2026 – 2.06 Billion Muslims Worldwide

Updated Sep 4, 2026 · businessstats.com/countries-with-the-largest-muslim-population

2.06B MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE 2026	25%+ OF WORLD POPULATION	242.7M INDONESIA – #1 COUNTRY
~50 MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRIES	2.8B PROJECTED 2050	#1 FASTEST-GROWING RELIGION

Overview

Muslim Population 2026 – 2.06 Billion Across 195+ Countries

Islam is the world's **second-largest religion**, with approximately **2.06 billion followers**, commonly known as **Muslims** or adherents of Islam. They are collectively referred to as the **Ummah** (the global Muslim community) also known as **Muslims** or adherents of **Islam** – more than one in every four people on Earth. Muslims are present in virtually every country on the planet, from Indonesia (242.7 million) to Iceland (fewer than 15,000). What most people do not realise is that the geographic heart of the Islamic world is not the Middle East but **South and Southeast Asia**, which together are home to more than half of all Muslims globally.

Islam is also the **world's fastest-growing major religion** – expanding at approximately **1.84% per year**, faster than any other faith including Christianity (1.38%).

The primary driver is demographic: Muslim-majority countries have **higher fertility rates** of 3.1 children per woman (vs. world average of 2.4), as tracked in our [global population by gender data](#). They also have a significantly **younger age structure**, meaning more women of childbearing age. The **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**, the world's largest intergovernmental body after the United Nations with 57 member states, reflects this geographic spread. At this rate, Islam's global total is projected to reach **2.8 billion by 2050**, nearly matching Christianity for the first time in history. These patterns sit within broader [global population trends](#) and the wider landscape of [world religions](#).

Full Data Table

Muslim Population by Country 2026 – Full Ranked Table (Top 30 Islamic Nations)

Muslim Population by Country - Top 30 Ranked 2026Click column to sort

RANK	COUNTRY	REGION	MUSLIM POP (M)	% OF COUNTRY	% OF WORLD MUSLIMS
1	Indonesia	Southeast Asia	242.7M	87%	12.3%
2	Pakistan	South Asia	240.8M	96.5%	12.2%
3	India	South Asia	200M	14%	10.1%
4	Bangladesh	South Asia	150.8M	91%	7.6%
5	Nigeria	West Africa	97M	~49%	4.9%
6	Egypt	North Africa	90M	90%+	4.6%
7	Turkey	Middle East/Europe	84.4M	99%	4.3%
8	Iran	Middle East	82.5M	99%	4.2%
9	China	East Asia	~50M	~3.5%	2.5%
10	Algeria	North Africa	43.7M	99%	2.2%
11	Iraq	Middle East	39.7M	99%	2.0%
12	Sudan	East Africa	38.6M	97%	2.0%
13	Afghanistan	South Asia	37M	99%	1.9%
14	Morocco	North Africa	36.4M	99%	1.8%
15	Ethiopia	East Africa	34.7M	36%	1.8%
16	Saudi Arabia	Middle East	31.5M	99%	1.6%
17	Uzbekistan	Central Asia	29.9M	88%	1.5%
18	Yemen	Middle East	26.8M	99%	1.4%
19	Niger	West Africa	21.1M	99%	1.1%
20	Malaysia	Southeast Asia	20.1M	61%	1.0%

21	Tanzania	East Africa	19.4M	35%	1.0%
22	Mali	West Africa	17.5M	95%	0.9%
23	Senegal	West Africa	17.4M	96%	0.9%
24	Russia	Europe/Asia	16.4M	~11%	0.8%
25	Syria	Middle East	15.8M	90%+	0.8%
26	Kazakhstan	Central Asia	14.8M	70%	0.7%
27	Libya	North Africa	6.9M	97%	0.4%
28	Jordan	Middle East	~10M	97%	0.5%
29	Tunisia	North Africa	10.5M	99%	0.5%
30	Burkina Faso	West Africa	12.3M	61%	0.6%

Top 20 Countries

Top 20 Countries with the Largest Muslim Population 2026

The chart below shows the **twenty countries with the most Muslims** in absolute numbers. The scale is striking: Indonesia alone has more Muslims than all Arab countries combined. Pakistan and India are virtually tied for second place in total numbers, though India's Muslim share of its total population (approximately 14%) is far smaller than Pakistan's (nearly 97%).

Top 20 Countries · 2026 Countries with the Largest Muslim Population - Top 20 (Millions) Pew Research Center · CIA World Factbook · World Population Review 2026 242.7M Indonesia - #1

Top 20 countries hold ~88% of all world Muslims · Hover for % of country & world share Source: Pew Research Center · CIA World Factbook · April 2026

The chart below breaks down the world's **2.06 billion Muslims by geographic region**. Asia-Pacific dominates with 61% - meaning more than 1 in 2 Muslims on Earth lives in South or Southeast Asia. The Middle East and North Africa, despite being the birthplace of Islam, account for only 20%. Hover each bar to see the total Muslim population for that region and its projected growth rate through 2050.

Regional Breakdown · 2026 Muslim Population by Region - Where Do World's Muslims Live? Pew Research Center · UN Population Division · April 2026 +170% Sub-Saharan Africa Growth

Sub-Saharan Africa: +170% growth 2010-2050 - fastest growing Muslim region Source: Pew Research Center · April 2026

Sub-Saharan Africa deserves special attention: its Muslim population is growing at the fastest pace of any region.

Nigeria alone has nearly 100 million Muslims, and countries like Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mali, Niger, and Senegal each have tens of millions more. The continent's high birth rates and young populations mean Africa will be home to a significantly larger share of world Muslims by 2050.

Europe currently has approximately 25–26 million Muslims (about 5–6% of its population), concentrated in France, Germany, the UK (see our [UK population analysis](#)), and the Netherlands. This growth comes primarily from immigration and their descendants. The **Muslim diaspora** in Western countries, particularly in Europe, North America, and Australia - represents an additional 30–40 million Muslims outside their countries of heritage. These shifts are steadily reshaping the [religious landscape of Europe](#).

Muslim-Majority Countries

Muslim-Majority Countries - Which Nations Are 90%+ Islamic?

There are approximately **50 Muslim-majority countries**, also called **Islamic countries** or **Muslim nations**. These are nations where more than 50% of the population is Muslim. Within this group, a number of countries have populations that are **95% or more Muslim**, effectively representing near-total Islamic societies. These include the Maldives, Mauritania, Afghanistan, Western Sahara (disputed), Somalia, Yemen, and several others where non-Muslim populations are extremely small minorities.

The chart below ranks the countries with the **highest percentage of Muslim population** - note how these differ completely from the countries with the largest absolute numbers. Small nations like the Maldives (almost 100% Muslim) or Mauritania (99.9%) rank above Indonesia and Pakistan on the percentage scale. These nations are culturally and legally organized around Islamic principles, with Islam often enshrined in their constitutions as the state religion.

Muslim % of Population Countries by Highest Muslim Population Percentage - 2026 CIA World Factbook · World Population Review 2026 ~100% Maldives, Mauritania

Maldives, Mauritania, Somalia, Yemen - all 99%+ Muslim population Source: CIA World Factbook · World Population Review · April 2026



An important distinction: **Saudi Arabia**, birthplace of Islam and home of Mecca and Medina, has a Muslim population of approximately **99%** but only ranks 16th in total Muslim numbers (31.5 million). Similarly, **Iran** is 99% Muslim but ranks 8th by total numbers (82.5 million). **Turkey**, officially a secular state since Atatürk's reforms in the 1920s, nonetheless has approximately 99% of its population identifying as Muslim - though the government maintains strict separation of religion and state.

Surprising Insight India Has More Muslims Than Any Arab Country

India is an 80% Hindu country - yet its Muslim minority of approximately **200 million people** is larger than the entire Muslim population of any Arab nation. Egypt, the largest Arab country by Muslim population, has approximately 90 million Muslims. India's Muslim community is larger than Pakistan's entire population in 1947. This makes India home to the **world's largest Muslim minority** and the third-largest Muslim population of any country.

By Percentage

Muslim Population as a Share of Total - Sunni & Shia Countries 2026

Understanding which countries have the highest percentage of Muslim population versus which have the highest total Muslim population reveals two very different pictures of the Islamic world. Below are key facts for the most significant Muslim-population countries by both measures.

- **Indonesia (87% Muslim, 242.7M):** The world's largest Muslim-majority country by population. Islam arrived in Indonesia primarily through Arab traders in the 13th–14th centuries. Indonesian Islam is known for its moderate, syncretic character, blending Islamic practice with local Hindu-Buddhist traditions in many regions. Despite being Muslim-majority, Indonesia is constitutionally a secular state based on Pancasila principles.
- **Pakistan (96.5% Muslim, 240.8M):** Created specifically as a homeland for South Asian Muslims at Partition in 1947. Pakistan is constitutionally an Islamic Republic. It will likely surpass Indonesia as the world's most populous Muslim country by 2030, given its higher fertility rate (approximately 3.3 children per woman vs. Indonesia's 2.3). Approximately 85–90% of Pakistani Muslims are Sunni; 10–15% are Shia.
- **India (14% Muslim, 200M):** India's Muslim community - descended from both indigenous converts and Muslim rulers - is the world's largest Muslim minority. Despite being only 14% of India's population, the sheer size of India's total population (1.44 billion) means even a minority becomes one of the world's

largest Muslim communities. India's Muslim population is growing slightly faster than its Hindu population.

- **Bangladesh (91% Muslim, 150.8M):** One of the most densely populated Muslim-majority nations. Bangladesh separated from Pakistan in 1971. Its Muslim population is overwhelmingly Sunni. Bangladesh maintains a secular constitution despite its near-total Muslim majority.
- **Nigeria (~49% Muslim, 97M):** Africa's most populous country is roughly split between Muslims (predominantly in the north) and Christians (predominantly in the south). Nigeria's Muslim population is growing faster than its Christian population and may form a clear majority by 2060, according to Pew Research projections.
- **Egypt (90%+, 90M):** The most populous Arab country and the largest Muslim-majority nation in the Arab world. Islam is the state religion under Egypt's constitution. The vast majority are Sunni Muslim, with a Coptic Christian minority of approximately 10%.
- **Turkey (99%, 84.4M):** Officially secular since 1923, yet 99% Muslim. Turkey's unique position - bridging Europe and Asia, secular constitution with overwhelming Muslim population - makes it a distinctive case in the global Muslim demographic picture. Istanbul was once the seat of the Ottoman Caliphate.
- **Iran (99%, 82.5M):** The world's primary Shia Muslim nation and the center of Shia Islamic governance. Approximately 90–95% of Iranian Muslims are Shia - making Iran the most important country for the world's 240–340 million Shia Muslims. Iran has been an Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution.

Fastest Growing Muslim Regions - Projected Growth 2010 to 2050

Sub-Saharan Africa will experience the most dramatic Muslim population growth of any region by 2050. The chart below shows **projected % growth from 2010 to 2050** for each major region. While Asia-Pacific and the Middle East will grow significantly, Sub-Saharan Africa's **+170% projected growth** is unmatched - driven by the world's highest fertility rates in countries like Niger, Mali, and Nigeria.

Regional Growth 2010–2050 Muslim Population Growth by Region - % Change 2010 to 2050 Pew Research Center · UN Population Division · April 2026 +170% Sub-Saharan Africa 2010–2050

Sub-Saharan Africa: +170% - fastest growing Muslim region Source: Pew Research Center · April 2026

Key Statistics

Muslim Population 2026 – Key Statistics by Country & Region

2.06BTotal World Muslim Population 202625%+ of the global population of ~8.25 billion. Islam is the second-largest religion after Christianity (~2.4B). Every 1 in 4 people on Earth is Muslim. Fastest-growing major religion at 1.84% annual growth. **242.7M**Indonesia - World's #1 Muslim Country87% of Indonesia's 279 million people are Muslim. More Muslims than all 22 Arab League nations combined. 12.3% of all world Muslims. Indonesia's Islam is notably moderate and syncretic in character. **240.8M**Pakistan - #2, Will Overtake Indonesia by 203096.5% Muslim (Islamic Republic). Pakistan's higher fertility rate (~3.3 children/woman vs Indonesia's 2.3) means it will likely surpass Indonesia as the world's most populous Muslim country within this decade. **200M**India - World's Largest Muslim MinorityOnly 14% of India's population, yet 200 million people - more than any Arab country. India's Muslim population is growing at a slightly faster rate than its Hindu majority and is projected to reach 333 million by 2060 (Pew Research). ~50Muslim-Majority Countries WorldwideCountries where 50%+ of the population is Muslim. Spanning Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. 26 countries have Islam as the official state religion. Most are concentrated in a geographic belt from West Africa to Southeast Asia. **61%**Asia-Pacific Share of World MuslimsThe single most important geographic fact about global Islam: the majority of Muslims live in Asia, not the Arab world or Middle East. Indonesia, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, and Uzbekistan collectively house over 1.2 billion Muslims. **20%**MENA Share of World MuslimsThe Middle East and North Africa region - often mistakenly seen as the heart of the Islamic world - contains only about 400 million Muslims, or approximately 20% of the global total. Egypt (90M), Turkey (84M), and Iran (82M) are the largest MENA Muslim populations. **15%**Sub-Saharan Africa Share - Fastest GrowingApproximately 300 million Muslims in Sub-Saharan Africa, growing at the fastest rate of any region. Nigeria alone has 97 million. West Africa (Mali, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso) and East Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Sudan) are key growth regions. ~26MMuslims in EuropeApproximately 5–6% of Europe's population is Muslim. Concentrated in France (~6M), Germany (~5M), UK (~4M), and the Netherlands (~1M). European Muslim population is projected to grow to 52.8 million (8% of Europe) by 2030. **3.1**Average Children per Muslim WomanThe highest fertility rate of any major religious group, compared to the world average of 2.4. This demographic advantage - combined with a younger average age structure - is the primary driver of Islam's faster growth rate compared to Christianity and other religions. **85%**Sunni Muslims WorldwideApproximately 1.75 billion of the world's Muslims are Sunni. Shia Muslims number approximately 240–340 million (12–17%), concentrated primarily in Iran (90–95% Shia), Iraq (65–70%), Bahrain, and significant communities in Pakistan, India, Lebanon, and Yemen. **2.8B**Projected Muslim Population by 2050Pew Research Center projection: 2.76–2.8 billion Muslims by 2050, representing

approximately 30% of the world's projected 9.7 billion people. At that point, Muslims and Christians (2.9B) will be nearly equal in number for the first time in history. Growth & Projections

Muslim Population Growth – From 200 Million in 1900 to 2.8 Billion by 2050

The growth of the global Muslim population over the past century is extraordinary. In **1900**, there were approximately **200 million Muslims** worldwide, about 12% of the global population at the time. Today, the figure stands at **2.06 billion**: a tenfold increase in just 125 years. This growth has outpaced overall world population growth, meaning Muslims represent a steadily growing share of humanity.

The chart below tracks the Muslim population from 1900 to 2026 and projects forward to 2060. The acceleration visible from the 1970s onward reflects both the post-colonial population boom in Muslim-majority countries and the continued high fertility rates that distinguish Muslim demographics from other religious groups. Pakistan is projected to overtake Indonesia as the world's most populous Muslim country by approximately **2030**. Nigeria could have more Muslims than either country by **2060–2070**, given its explosive demographic growth trajectory.

The chart below tracks the **historical growth of the world's Muslim population** from 1900 to present day, with projections to 2060. Notice the steep acceleration from the 1970s onward – this coincides with the post-independence population boom in Muslim-majority nations across Asia and Africa. The projection line (dashed) shows Islam on track to nearly match Christianity in total followers by 2050.

The donut chart shows how the world's **2.06 billion Muslims are distributed by region**. The dominance of Asia-Pacific (61%) is striking – nearly two-thirds of all Muslims live in South and Southeast Asia, not the Middle East. Hover over each segment to see the exact population and the projected growth rate for each region through 2050.

Historical & Projected Growth World Muslim Population Growth – 1900 to 2060 (Billions) Pew Research Center · Wikipedia Muslim Population Growth · April 2026 +70% Growth 2015–2060 (Pew)

Muslims grew from 12% of world in 1900 to 25%+ in 2026 – projected 30% by 2050 Source: Pew Research Center · Wikipedia Muslim Population Growth · April 2026

The donut chart below visualises the same regional data in a different format, showing **proportional shares** at a glance. Asia-Pacific's golden segment (61%) dwarfs all others. The center displays the total world Muslim population. Sub-Saharan Africa's blue segment (15%) is today's smallest major region but will grow

dramatically - its share is projected to increase significantly by 2050 as fertility rates in West and East Africa remain high.

Regional Distribution World Muslims - Share by Region 2026 (Donut) Pew Research Center · April 2026
61% Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific has more Muslims than all other regions combined Source: Pew Research Center · April 2026
Projections 2030–2060 Global Muslim Population - Key Projections 2.2BWorld Muslims by 2030 2.8BWorld Muslims by 2050 30%Share of World Pop 2050 Pakistan#1 Muslim Country by 2030E 333MIndia Muslims by 2060E ~2060Islam Surpasses Christianity

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions – Muslim Population by Country 2026

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any single country, with approximately **242.7 million Muslims** as of 2026 - representing about 87% of Indonesia's total population and approximately 12.3% of all Muslims worldwide. Pakistan is a close second with approximately **240.8 million Muslims** and is projected to overtake Indonesia by 2030 due to its higher fertility rate. India is third with approximately **200 million Muslims** - a minority (14%) of India's population but larger in absolute numbers than any Arab country.

There are approximately **2.06 billion Muslims** in the world as of 2026, representing more than **25% of the global population** of approximately 8.25 billion. Islam is the world's second-largest religion after Christianity (approximately 2.4 billion), and it is the fastest-growing major religion globally. The Muslim population grew from approximately 200 million in 1900 to 2.06 billion in 2026 - a tenfold increase in 125 years.

Muslims make up approximately **25–26% of the world's population** as of 2026 - meaning roughly 1 in every 4 people on Earth is Muslim. This share has grown significantly from approximately 12% in 1900. Pew Research Center projects this will increase to approximately **30%** by 2050, as Muslim-majority countries continue to grow faster than the global average due to higher fertility rates and younger population structures.

Yes. Islam is the **world's fastest-growing major religion**, with an annual growth rate of approximately **1.84%** - outpacing Christianity (1.38%), Hinduism (1.52%), and all other major faiths. According to Pew Research Center, Muslims will grow more than **twice as fast** as the overall world population between 2015

and 2060. The primary driver is **demographic**: Muslim-majority countries have higher fertility rates (3.1 children per woman on average vs. the world's 2.4) and a younger age structure.

Egypt is the most populous Arab country and has the largest Muslim population of any Arab nation, with approximately **90 million Muslims** (90%+ of its population). Egypt is followed by **Algeria** (~43.7 million, 99% Muslim), **Iraq** (~39.7 million, 99%), **Sudan** (~38.6 million, 97%), and **Morocco** (~36.4 million, 99%). **Saudi Arabia**, despite being the birthplace of Islam and home to Mecca and Medina, has only approximately **31.5 million Muslims** - ranking 16th globally in total Muslim population.

India has approximately **200 million Muslims** as of 2026, making it the country with the world's **third-largest Muslim population** and the world's **largest Muslim minority**. Despite being only approximately **14% of India's total population** of 1.44 billion, India's Muslim community is larger in absolute terms than the entire Muslim population of any Arab country. Pew Research projects India's Muslim population will grow to approximately **333 million by 2060**, representing 19.4% of India's population at that time.

There are approximately **50 Muslim-majority countries** in the world - nations where more than 50% of the population is Muslim. The exact number varies slightly by source depending on whether disputed territories like Western Sahara or Palestine are counted as separate countries. Of these, approximately **26 countries have Islam as the official state religion**. The most Muslim-majority region by country count is the Middle East and North Africa, though Asia has the largest total Muslim population.

Asia, by a significant margin. The Asia-Pacific region is home to approximately **61% of all Muslims worldwide** - more than all other regions combined. This is primarily due to the enormous Muslim populations of Indonesia (242.7M), Pakistan (240.8M - the **Muslim population of Pakistan** being the world's second largest), India (200M), and Bangladesh (150.8M). The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, often mistakenly seen as the center of Islam, accounts for only approximately **20%** of the world's Muslim population. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for approximately **15%**.

The Sunni-Shia split is the largest division within Islam, originating from a disagreement over the succession of leadership after the Prophet Muhammad's death in 632 CE. **Sunni Muslims** make up approximately **85–87% of all Muslims worldwide** (about 1.75 billion people) and are the majority in most Muslim-majority countries. **Shia Muslims** number approximately **240–340 million** (12–17% of Muslims) and are concentrated primarily in **Iran** (90–95% Shia), **Iraq** (65–70%), Bahrain, and significant communities in Pakistan, India, Lebanon, and Azerbaijan.

Europe has approximately **25–26 million Muslims** as of 2026, representing approximately 5–6% of Europe's total population. The largest Muslim populations in Europe are in **Russia** (~16 million), **France** (~6

million), **Germany** (~5 million), **United Kingdom** (~4 million), and the **Netherlands** (~1 million). Pew Research projects Europe's Muslim population could grow to **52.8 million** (8% of Europe) by 2030, primarily through continued immigration and higher birth rates among Muslim communities.

Pakistan is projected to overtake **Indonesia** as the country with the world's largest Muslim population by approximately **2030**. Pakistan's economic and demographic growth is driven by its fertility rate of approximately 3.3 children per woman, which significantly exceeds Indonesia's 2.3, meaning Pakistan's Muslim population is growing faster in both absolute and relative terms. Looking further ahead, **Nigeria** - with its explosive demographic growth and nearly 100 million Muslims today - could eventually challenge both Pakistan and Indonesia for the top spot by 2060–2070.

The United States has approximately **3.45–4 million Muslims** as of 2026, representing approximately **1–1.2% of the U.S. population**. American Muslims are a diverse community representing over 75 countries of origin, with the largest communities in New York, Michigan, California, New Jersey, and Illinois. Pew Research projects the U.S. Muslim population will grow to approximately **2%** by 2030, making Muslims the second-largest non-Christian faith group in America (surpassing Jews).

According to Pew Research Center projections, Islam will **nearly equal Christianity** in total population by **2050** (2.8 billion Muslims vs. 2.9 billion Christians). Islam is projected to **surpass Christianity** as the world's largest religion sometime in the **second half of the 21st century** - most likely between **2060 and 2100**, depending on how fertility rates evolve in Muslim-majority countries and whether religiosity rates change. This is primarily a demographic projection based on current trends, not a certainty.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Pew Research Center - The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections 2010–2050](#) · Updated 2025 · Gold standard for global religious demographic data

Primary: [World Population Review - Muslim Population by Country 2026](#) · CIA World Factbook data · Country-level estimates updated April 2026

Reference: [Wikipedia - Islam by Country](#) · Comprehensive country-level data combining Pew Research, CIA World Factbook, and national census sources · Updated 2026

All Muslim population figures are BusinessStats Research compilations based on Pew Research Center projections (updated 2025), CIA World Factbook 2025–2026 national estimates, and World Population Review 2026 country data. Figures represent estimates - precise Muslim population counts are unavailable for many countries as not all nations conduct religious censuses. Ranges are provided in source data;



BusinessStats uses midpoint estimates. All projections (2030, 2050, 2060) from Pew Research Center's landmark 2015 study, cross-referenced with 2025 update data. April 2026.



STATISTICS REPORT

Population of the United Kingdom 1871–2026 — ~70 Million Inhabitants

Updated Aug 23, 2026 · businessstats.com/uk-population

~70M UK POPULATION 2026	31.5M UK POPULATION 1871	84% ENGLAND SHARE OF UK
~8.8M LONDON POPULATION	0.61% ANNUAL GROWTH RATE 2026	289/km² POPULATION DENSITY

Overview

UK Population 2026 — ~70 Million People, 155 Years of Growth

The **United Kingdom** — comprising England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland — had an estimated population of approximately **69.93 million inhabitants** as of July 1, 2026 (UN/StatisticsTimes estimate), with live trackers in April 2026 showing figures between **69.8 and 70.4 million** depending on methodology. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) had projected the UK would cross the **70 million** threshold in 2026, and that milestone is effectively being reached.

The UK is the **22nd most populous country in the world**, the **3rd most populous in Europe** after Germany (~84M) and France (~68M), and home to approximately **0.84%** of the global population. The UK ranks **7th most densely populated in Europe**, with a population density of approximately **289 people per km²**. The country covers a total land area of 241,930 km² (93,410 sq. miles).

Approximately **84.7% of the UK population is urban** — one of Europe's most urbanised nations. The median age is **40.2 years**, reflecting a steadily ageing population, with approximately **19% of the population** (around 12.7 million people) aged 65 or over. The UK's demographic and economic significance connects to our [UK financial markets analysis](#).

The story of UK population from **1871 to 2026** is the story of modernisation. In 1871, the UK was in the midst of the **Industrial Revolution** — already shifting the population from rural to urban and from high birth and death rates toward the modern pattern of low birth and low death rates. The 1871 population of

approximately **31.5 million** was itself the result of rapid Victorian-era growth: at the 1801 Census, Great Britain had only **10.5 million** people.

From 1871 to 2026, the UK population **more than doubled** — adding approximately **38.5 million people** over 155 years. This journey was not smooth: **World War One (1914–1918)** and **World War Two (1939–1945)** each caused visible drops in the UK population through deaths and emigration.

The postwar **baby boom** of the late 1940s saw a peak of **1.02 million live births in 1947**. A second baby boom in the 1960s saw over **1 million births in 1964**. Since then, the UK birth rate has fallen steadily — from 18.8 per 1,000 people in 1964 to a record low of just **10.2 per 1,000** in 2020. The UK's broader economic performance is tracked in our [world GDP analysis](#).

UK population 1871–2026 (BusinessStats Research · ONS Population Estimates): 31.5M (1871) → 38.2M (1901) → 50.3M (1951) → 55.9M (1971) → 59.1M (2001) → ~70M (2026E). More than doubled in 155 years. Two visible dips: WWI (1914–18) and WWII (1939–45). Baby boom peaks: 1947 (1.02M births) and 1964 (1M+ births). Growth now driven by international migration. England = 84% of UK total. Source: ONS UK Population Estimates 1871–2024 · UN Population Division 2024.

Historical 1871–2026

UK Population Growth 1871–2026 — Industrial Revolution to 70 Million

Era 1 — Victorian Industrial Growth (1871–1914): The UK population grew rapidly from approximately 31.5 million in 1871 to approximately 42 million by 1911, driven by declining death rates thanks to better sanitation, nutrition, and early medical advances. By 1901, over **80% of the population** of England and Wales already lived in urban areas — far ahead of most other nations. This was the era of Britain's global industrial and imperial supremacy, when cities like Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and Glasgow swelled with factory workers.

Era 2 — World Wars and Stagnation (1914–1951): Both World Wars caused significant disruption. **World War One** killed approximately 750,000 British military personnel, and the civilian population declined through deaths, emigration, and collapsing birth rates. **World War Two** similarly reduced the home population — though the postwar **baby boom** quickly reversed this, with births surging to a peak of **1.02 million in 1947**. The UK crossed **50 million** for the first time around 1951.

Era 3 — Postwar Growth and Immigration (1951–1981): The 1950s–1970s saw continued natural growth alongside the beginning of modern mass immigration. The British Nationality Act 1948 allowed



Commonwealth citizens to settle in Britain, and from the 1950s, significant numbers from the Caribbean (particularly Jamaica), India, and Pakistan began arriving. The UK reached approximately **55.9 million by 1971**. In the mid-1970s, growth temporarily stalled as emigration exceeded immigration and births fell below replacement level for the first time in 1973.

UK Population Growth 1871–2026 (Millions)

155-Year Historical GrowthUnited Kingdom Population 1871–2026 (Millions)BusinessStats Research · ONS Population Estimates 1871–2024 · UN Population Division 2024 ~70MUK Population 2026 UK Population (Millions) +38.5M added 1871–2026 · Population more than doubled Source: BusinessStats Research · ONS "Estimated Population of UK 1871–2024" · UN World Population Prospects 2024 · April 2026 By Nation

UK Population by Nation — England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland 2026

England is overwhelmingly dominant at approximately **56–57 million people** — accounting for **84%** of the UK total. The 2021 England & Wales Census recorded **59,597,300 people** — the highest ever, up 6.3% from 2011. The East of England grew fastest (+8%); the North East slowest (+2%).

Scotland has approximately **5.4–5.5 million people** (8.4%), anchored by Edinburgh and Glasgow. **Wales** has approximately **3.1 million** (4.8%), with just 1% growth since 2011 — slowest of all UK nations. **Northern Ireland** has approximately **1.9 million** (2.8%), the fastest-growing at +4.9% since 2011, driven by higher birth rates. The UK's European position connects to our European statistics analysis.

UK Population by Nation — Share & Total 2026

By Nation 2026 UK Population by Constituent Nation — Share & Estimated Total 2026 BusinessStats Research · ONS Census 2021 · National Records of Scotland · NISRA

Biggest Cities

UK Population by City — London, Birmingham, Leeds & Beyond

London is the largest city in the United Kingdom by a significant margin. With approximately **8.8 million residents** in the city proper and approximately **13–14 million** in the wider Greater London urban area and commuter belt, London is not just the UK capital but one of the world's truly global megacities and the largest financial centre in Europe. London's population makes up approximately **12.5%** of the entire UK

population alone. The city has experienced a remarkable recovery from its pandemic-era population dip, driven by record international immigration and the return of international students and workers.

Birmingham is the UK's second most populous city with approximately **1.2 million** residents. **Leeds**, in West Yorkshire, is third with over **800,000** residents — the largest economic centre outside London. **Glasgow**, Scotland's largest city, has approximately **598,830** residents. Other major UK cities include **Sheffield** (~580,000), **Bradford** (~550,000), **Manchester** (~550,000 city proper; ~3.3 million metro), **Liverpool** (~500,000), **Bristol** (~470,000), and **Edinburgh** (~540,000). Almost one-third of the UK's total population lives in England's **southeast**, which is predominantly urban and suburban, centred on London. The UK's financial capital status connects to the patterns in our [global financial markets analysis](#).

UK Population by Major City — 2026

City Rankings 2026UK Population by City — Top 10 Cities (Millions) 2026BusinessStats Research · ONS
Mid-Year Population Estimates 2024 ~8.8MLondon #1 ~1.2MBirmingham #2

London alone = ~12.5% of total UK population Source: BusinessStats Research · ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates · April 2026 Full Data Table

UK Population — Full Historical Table 1871–2026

Estimated UK Population 1871–2026 (Millions)Click column to sort

YEAR	UK POPULATION	CHANGE VS PRIOR	KEY EVENT
1871	31.5M	—	Industrial Revolution peak · Census
1881	34.9M	+3.4M	Urbanisation accelerating · Census
1891	37.7M	+2.8M	Victorian growth continues · Census
1901	38.2M	+0.5M	80%+ urban in E&W · Census
1911	42.1M	+3.9M	Pre-WWI peak · Census (NI data starts)
1921	44.0M	+1.9M	Post-WWI recovery · Census
1931	46.1M	+2.1M	Inter-war growth · Census
1941	~48.2M	+2.1M	WWII — no census taken
1951	50.3M	+2.1M	Crossed 50M · Baby boom · Census

1961	52.7M	+2.4M	1960s baby boom · Commonwealth migration
1971	55.9M	+3.2M	South Asian immigration wave · Census
1981	56.4M	+0.5M	Slow growth — net emigration in 1970s
1991	57.8M	+1.4M	Migration reversal begins · Census
2001	59.1M	+1.3M	EU enlargement begins · Census: 58.8M
2011	63.3M	+4.2M	Record EU migration 2004–2011 · Census: 63.2M
2021	67.0M	+3.7M	COVID-19 pandemic · Census: E&W 59.6M
2022	67.6M	+0.6M	Post-COVID recovery · Record net migration
2023	68.5M	+0.9M	Net migration: ~685K (record high)
2024	69.3M	+0.8M	ONS estimate · Migration moderating
2025	~69.6M	+0.3M	Growth slowing · Lower immigration
2026E	~70M	+0.3M	ONS projected 70M milestone

UK population by major city 2026 (BusinessStats Research · ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2024): London ~8.8M (12.5% of UK) · Birmingham ~1.2M · Leeds ~820K · Glasgow ~598K · Sheffield ~580K · Manchester ~550K · Edinburgh ~540K · Liverpool ~500K · Bristol ~470K. Almost 1/3 of UK population lives in England's southeast. 84.7% of UK population is urban. Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2024.

Key Statistics

UK Population — Key Statistics 2026

~70MUK Population 202669.93M per UN/StatisticsTimes (July 1, 2026). ONS projected UK to reach 70 million in 2026. Live trackers show 69.8–70.4M. 22nd most populous country globally, 3rd in Europe after Germany and France. 31.5MUK Population in 1871Starting point of the ONS official historical dataset. In 155 years, the UK population more than doubled (+38.5M). 1871 UK was already among the world's most urbanised and industrialised nations. ~56–57MEngland Population 202684% of UK total. 2021 Census: 56.5M. The 2021 E&W Census total of 59.6M was the highest ever recorded, up 6.3% from 2011. East of England: fastest growing region (+8%). London alone: ~8.8M. ~8.8MLondon Population 2026Largest UK city by far. ~12.5% of entire UK population. Largest financial centre in Europe. ~13–14M in Greater London urban area. Recovered from COVID-era dip via record international immigration. ~5.5MScotland Population

20268.4% of UK total. Capital: Edinburgh. Largest city: Glasgow (598,830). Scotland's 2022 Census (delayed from 2021 due to COVID). Slower natural growth than England; relies more on migration. ~3.1M Wales Population 20264.8% of UK total. Capital: Cardiff. 2021 Census: ~3.1M, slowest growth of all UK nations (+1% since 2011). Welsh language spoken by ~29% of residents. ~1.9M Northern Ireland Population 20262.8% of UK total. Capital: Belfast. Fastest census growth rate in 2021: +4.9% since 2011, driven by younger demographics and higher birth rates than UK average. 40.2 yrs UK Median Age 2026 steadily ageing population. ~19% of UK residents (12.7M) aged 65+. Percentage aged 65+ rose from 14.1% (1975) to 19% (2022). Children aged under 15 fell from 24%+ to below 20%. NHS pressures increasing. 289/km² UK Population Density 289 people per km² (749 per mi²). 7th most densely populated in Europe. Total land area: 241,930 km². 84.7% of population lives in urban areas. Almost 1/3 of population in England's southeast. 78 / 82.3 Life Expectancy Male / Female Male: 78 years. Female: 82.3 years. Total life expectancy: 80.1 years (above global average of 73.78). Rate of improvement stalling since 2011 — potentially linked to austerity measures and NHS pressures. 1.49 UK Fertility Rate 2026 Total fertility rate of 1.49 — lowest on record and well below replacement level of 2.1. Was 1.92 in 2012. ~605,000 babies born per year (one every 52 seconds). Foreign-born mothers account for 25%+ of UK births. 0.61% UK Annual Growth Rate 2026 +1,210 people per day in 2026 (2,431 births - 545 deaths + 545 net migrants per day). Growth almost entirely immigration-driven since late 1990s. Natural increase (births over deaths) weakening as birth rate falls.

Growth Drivers

What Drives UK Population Growth? — Migration, Birth Rate & Ageing

Since the late 1990s, **net international migration** has been the dominant driver of UK population growth — overtaking natural increase (births minus deaths) as the main cause of growth in 1998. This shift was accelerated dramatically by two waves of EU migration. The first wave came after the **EU's 2004 enlargement**, when the UK — unlike most existing EU member states — allowed immediate free movement for the A8 countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and others). An estimated **1 million+ Polish migrants** and many others from Eastern Europe arrived between 2004 and 2011.

The second wave followed the 2007 Romanian and Bulgarian accession. These two waves together drove the extraordinary **+4.2 million** population increase between 2001 and 2011 — the fastest decade of growth since the early Victorian era. In the 2020s, following Brexit (which ended EU free movement in January 2021), **non-EU migration** became the dominant source of new arrivals, reaching record net migration levels of approximately **685,000 in 2023**. The main sources shifted to India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, and

international students.

Meanwhile, **natural population growth** — once the bedrock of UK population increase — is weakening rapidly. The UK's total fertility rate fell to a record low of **1.49** in recent years, meaning UK-born women are having significantly fewer children than the replacement level of 2.1. The ONS projects that **natural increase may turn negative** (more deaths than births) from around 2026 onwards among the native-born population, making migration not just the main driver but potentially the only driver of future UK population growth. The UK's economic policy response connects to our [European fintech analysis](#).

UK by Nation 2026 UK Population by Constituent Nation — Share 2026 BusinessStats Research · ONS
Census 2021 · National Records of Scotland · NISRA · April 2026

Outlook

UK Population Outlook — Ageing, Migration & the Road to 75 Million

The UK population outlook to 2040 is shaped by three competing forces. **First, continued migration:** even with post-2024 government efforts to reduce net migration, the UK's structural labour shortages in healthcare (the NHS employs approximately **1 in 5 staff from overseas**, rising to 29% of nurses), hospitality, logistics, and agriculture will sustain significant net inflows. The ONS principal projection assumed net migration settling at approximately **500,000–600,000 per year through 2026**, then declining below current levels from 2028.

Second, population ageing: the UK is ageing rapidly. By 2040, approximately **24% of the UK population** is projected to be aged 65 or over — placing severe pressure on the NHS, social care, pensions, and housing. The 'old-age dependency ratio' will increase significantly, with major fiscal implications. **Third, declining natural growth:** with the UK fertility rate at a record low of 1.49, natural population increase is projected to turn negative among the native-born population around 2026–2028. At the current trajectory, the UK population is projected to reach approximately **72–75 million by 2040** — though this depends heavily on migration policy. The demographic picture connects to our [US metropolitan populations comparison](#).

UK population growth drivers 2026 (BusinessStats Research · ONS): Net migration: dominant driver since 1998 — record 685K (2023) · UK fertility rate: 1.49 (record low, vs 2.1 replacement level) · Natural increase: expected to turn negative ~2026–28 · NHS: 29% of nurses from overseas · 65+ population: 19% of UK (12.7M) and rising · UK projected to reach 72–75M by 2040 · Without migration: UK population would decline. Source: ONS Population Estimates · House of Commons Library 2024. UK Outlook 2030–2040
United Kingdom Population — Key Projections ~72MUK Population by 2030E ~75MUK Population by



2040E 24%Population Aged 65+ by 2040E 1.49Fertility Rate — Record Low ~2026Natural Growth Turns Negative MigrationOnly Driver of Future Growth

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — UK Population 2026

The population of the United Kingdom in 2026 is approximately **69.93 million people** (StatisticsTimes/UN estimate for July 1, 2026), with most sources rounding to approximately **70 million**. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) projected the UK population would reach 70 million in 2026. Live trackers in April 2026 show figures between 69.8 and 70.4 million. The UK is the **22nd most populous country in the world** and the 3rd most populous in Europe after Germany (~84M) and France (~68M). The population density is approximately 289 people per km².

The population of England in 2026 is approximately **56–57 million people**, representing approximately **84%** of the total UK population of approximately 70 million. The 2021 Census recorded approximately 56.5 million people in England, with England and Wales together recording 59,597,300 — the highest census figure ever. England is the 25th largest country in the world by population if counted independently, and the 5th largest in Europe. The most populous city is **London** with approximately 8.8 million residents.

Approximately **70 million people** live in the United Kingdom in 2026 (officially ~69.93 million per UN projections). This includes approximately 56–57 million in England (84%), 5.4–5.5 million in Scotland (8.4%), 3.1 million in Wales (4.8%), and 1.9 million in Northern Ireland (2.8%). The UK population is growing at approximately **0.61% per year**, adding roughly 1,210 people per day through a combination of natural births (2,431/day) minus deaths and plus net immigration (545 net migrants/day).

The UK population in 1871 was approximately **31.5 million people**, according to the ONS historical estimates. This figure represents the UK at the height of the Industrial Revolution, when Britain was the workshop of the world and urban populations were growing rapidly. Note that pre-1911 ONS figures include all of Ireland (including what is now the Republic of Ireland), and exclude the Islands in the British Seas and Armed Forces/Merchant Service Abroad. From 31.5 million in 1871 to approximately 70 million in 2026 represents a **doubling of the population in 155 years**.

The UK population has grown from **31.5 million (1871)** to approximately **70 million (2026)** — more than doubling in 155 years. Key milestones: crossed **40 million** around 1911; crossed **50 million** around 1951; crossed **60 million** around 2005; approaching **70 million** in 2026. Two visible population drops occurred during **World War One** (1914–1918) and **World War Two** (1939–1945). Fastest decade of growth: 2001–2011

(+4.2M), driven by EU enlargement migration. Growth slowed in the 1970s–80s when net emigration briefly exceeded immigration.

The UK population is **currently growing** at approximately **0.61% per year** (adding ~441,000 people in 2026). However, this growth is almost entirely driven by **net international migration**. Natural increase (births minus deaths) is extremely weak — the UK fertility rate of 1.49 is well below the 2.1 replacement level, and natural increase is projected to turn **negative around 2026–2028** among the native-born population. Without immigration, the UK population would be declining. The ONS projects the UK population will continue growing to approximately 72–75 million by 2040, but this depends heavily on migration policy.

London has approximately **8.8 million residents** in the city proper (Greater London) in 2026, making it by far the largest city in the UK and one of the world's truly global cities. London accounts for approximately **12.5%** of the entire UK population. The wider London metropolitan area and commuter belt has approximately **13–14 million people**. London is the largest financial centre in Europe and is recovering strongly from pandemic-era population dips, driven by record international immigration from India, Nigeria, and other countries.

The three smaller UK nations in 2026: **Scotland**: approximately **5.4–5.5 million** (8.4% of UK). Capital: Edinburgh. Largest city: Glasgow (~598,830). Scotland's census was held in 2022 (delayed from 2021 due to COVID). **Wales**: approximately **3.1 million** (4.8% of UK). Capital: Cardiff. Slowest population growth of all UK nations (just 1% between 2011 and 2021 censuses). **Northern Ireland**: approximately **1.9 million** (2.8% of UK). Capital: Belfast. Fastest census growth rate: +4.9% between 2011 and 2021, driven by higher birth rates.

The UK has approximately **70 million inhabitants** in 2026, making it the **3rd most populous country in Europe**, behind **Germany** (~84 million) and **France** (~68 million, though France is close to the UK). The UK is ahead of Italy (~58M), Spain (~48M), and Poland (~38M). At its population density of 289/km², the UK is the **7th most densely populated country in Europe**. By comparison, Germany's density is 234/km², France's is 119/km², and Spain's is 94/km².

Key UK population milestones: **10.5 million** — 1801 (first Census, Great Britain only). **20 million** — approximately 1840s. **30 million** — approximately 1861. **40 million** — approximately 1911. **50 million** — approximately 1951. **55 million** — approximately 1971. **60 million** — approximately 2005. **65 million** — approximately 2016. **70 million** — approximately 2026 (ONS projection). Each successive 10-million milestone has taken less time to reach, reflecting the acceleration of population growth driven by

immigration in the 2000s–2020s.

UK population growth in 2026 is driven almost entirely by **net international migration**. Natural increase (births minus deaths) has collapsed as the fertility rate hit a record low of **1.49** children per woman — far below the 2.1 replacement level. Net migration reached a record **~685,000 in 2023** and remains elevated in 2026 despite government efforts to reduce it. The main source countries for migration are India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, China, and international students. The ONS projects that without migration, the UK population would be declining. Migration-driven growth creates both economic benefits (filling labour shortages) and pressures (housing, NHS, schools, infrastructure).

Yes — the British population is ageing significantly and rapidly. The median age in the UK is **40.2 years** in 2026, up from around 34 years in 1990. Approximately **19% of UK residents** (around 12.7 million people) are aged 65 or over — up from 14.1% in 1975. The proportion of children (under 15) has fallen from over 24% to below 20%. By 2040, approximately **24% of the UK population** is projected to be aged 65+. This ageing is placing severe pressure on the NHS, social care budgets, pensions, and housing. The ONS notes that **1 in 5 NHS workers in England** is from overseas, reflecting how the health system has become dependent on international recruitment to serve an ageing population.

The first national Census in England was taken in **1801**, following the Census Act of 1800, revealing a Great Britain population of approximately **10.5 million** (England 8.3M, Wales 0.6M, Scotland 1.6M). Since 1801, the UK census has been conducted almost every decade without interruption — except in **1941** (no census due to World War Two). The most recent Census in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland was held on **21 March 2021**. Scotland's 2021 Census was delayed to **20 March 2022** due to COVID-19. Census records from 1871 are used as the starting point of the ONS official long-run historical population dataset. Registration of births and deaths has been compulsory in the UK since **1838**.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Statista / ONS — Estimated Population of the United Kingdom from 1871 to 2024](#) · Office for National Statistics · Published September 26, 2025

Primary: [House of Commons Library — The UK's Changing Population](#) · ONS Population Projections & Migration Analysis · Updated October 2024

Primary: [StatisticsTimes — United Kingdom Population 2026](#) · 69,931,528 (July 1, 2026 projection) · UN Population Division 2024 Revision



All UK population figures for 1871–2024 are based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) official historical population estimates dataset (© Crown, licensed under Open Government Licence v3.0). Note: 1871–1910 figures exclude Islands in the British Seas and Armed Forces/Merchant Service Abroad. Pre-1911 figures include Eire (all of Ireland, not just Northern Ireland). Northern Ireland data starts 1911. 2025–2026 figures are BusinessStats projections based on UN Population Division 2024 Revision and StatisticsTimes estimates. By-nation data from 2021 Census (ONS, NRS, NISRA). All estimates subject to revision by ONS.

uk population
population of the uk
uk number of inhabitants
england population
population british
population of england
number of inhabitants in uk
number of inhabitants in the uk
population in uk
population of the britain
uk population 2026
united kingdom population statistics
britain population history 1871
uk population growth
how many people live in uk
uk population by nation
england scotland wales northern ireland
population
ons population estimates
uk census 2021
london population 2026
uk population density
uk demographic statistics
uk inhabitants 2026
british population 2026



STATISTICS REPORT

Total Population of the United States by Gender — 2010–2027 Statistics & Facts

Updated Apr 7, 2026 · businessstats.com/us-population-by-gender

~171.3M MEN IN THE US 2026	~172.3M WOMEN IN THE US 2026	~343.6M TOTAL US POPULATION 2026
99:100 MALE-FEMALE RATIO	50.1% FEMALE SHARE	4.9 yrs FEMALE LIFE EXP. ADVANTAGE

Overview

US Population by Gender 2026 — ~171M Men & ~172M Women

The United States had an estimated total population of approximately **341.8 million** as of July 1, 2025, according to the US Census Bureau. In 2026, BusinessStats estimates the total US population at approximately **343.6 million**, split between approximately **171.3 million males** (49.9%) and **172.3 million females** (50.1%). Women have historically outnumbered men in the United States — a pattern driven primarily by women’s significantly longer average life expectancy (81.4 years versus 76.5 years for men, a gap of 4.9 years). However, this gap has been **narrowing steadily**: in 2010, there were approximately **5.17 million more women than men** in the US; by 2026 that difference has narrowed to approximately **1 million**, and projections suggest it will reach approximately **3 million** by 2027 (Statista/IMF projection, using 50.47% female baseline). The narrowing is driven by **rising male immigration** — particularly from Latin America and Asia — which has added more males than females to the US population in recent years, shifting the overall sex ratio. The gender demographics of the US population connect to broader trends tracked in our [US population by race analysis](#).

The overall gender ratio of approximately **99 males per 100 females** is a national average that conceals dramatic age-based variation. Among the youngest Americans, boys significantly outnumber girls: there are approximately **104.8 boys per 100 girls** under age 18, reflecting the universal biological constant where approximately 104–107 boys are born for every 100 girls worldwide. This male numerical advantage persists through young adulthood. The **crossover point** — where females begin to outnumber males — occurs



around the **45–49 age group**, where the ratio drops to approximately 99 males per 100 females. By ages 60–64, there are only approximately **94.6 males per 100 females**, and among Americans aged 85 and older, just **57.5 males exist per 100 females**. This stark imbalance at older ages reflects the cumulative effect of **higher male mortality** throughout life from accidents, cardiovascular disease, violence, occupational hazards, and other causes. The population and economic dynamics of the US connect to our [world economies analysis](#).

US population by gender 2026 (BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau Vintage 2025): ~171.3M men (49.9%) · ~172.3M women (50.1%) · Total ~343.6M · Gender ratio ~99 males per 100 females · At birth: 104.7 boys per 100 girls · Age 85+: 57.5 males per 100 females · Female life expectancy 81.4 yrs vs male 76.5 yrs · Gender gap narrowing from 5.17M more women (2010) to ~3M by 2027. Source: US Census Bureau Population Estimates Vintage 2025.

How Many Men & Women

How Many Men & Women Are in the US? — 2026 Data

As of 2026, **approximately 171.3 million men** live in the United States — equivalent to roughly the combined populations of Germany and France combined. The male US population has grown from approximately **151.8 million in 2010** to an estimated **171.3 million in 2026**, an increase of approximately 19.5 million over 16 years (+12.8%). The male population is projected to reach approximately **172.1 million by 2027**. **Approximately 172.3 million women** live in the United States in 2026. The female population has grown from approximately **157.5 million in 2010** to an estimated **172.3 million in 2026**, an increase of approximately 14.8 million (+9.4%). Female population growth has been slightly slower than male population growth in percentage terms over this period, primarily because recent male-skewed immigration has added proportionally more men than women. Together, the US male and female populations of approximately 343.6 million make the United States the world's **third most populous country** after India and China. The economic significance of this population base connects to the patterns in our [US financial markets analysis](#) and the [US stock market](#).

US Population by Gender — Male vs Female 2010–2026 (Millions)

Gender Population 2010–2026 US Male & Female Population — 2010–2026 (Millions) BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 · IMF Population Data ~172M Female Population 2026 Total US Population (Millions) US population grew from 309M (2010) to ~344M (2026) Source: BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 · April 2026



Male vs Female Population Share — Annual Trend

Gender Share 2026 US Population — Male vs Female Share 2026 BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 · ACS 2023

Male–Female Ratio

US Male to Female Ratio — What Does 99:100 Mean?

The **US male to female ratio** is approximately **99 males per 100 females** (or 0.99:1) at the overall population level in 2026. This means for every 100 women in America, there are approximately 99 men. In percentage terms, women represent approximately **50.1%** and men approximately **49.9%** of the total US population. However, this near-perfect balance at the aggregate level conceals significant structural differences. The US gender ratio has been shifting: in the mid-20th century, the ratio was considerably more female-heavy (falling to its lowest point of approximately **94.6 males per 100 females in 1971**). Since then, improving male life expectancy and increasing male immigration have pushed the ratio steadily higher. StatisticsTimes projects the US gender ratio to reach approximately **104.9 males per 100 females by 2100** — meaning the US would eventually have more males than females overall — though this projection depends significantly on immigration patterns and continued male mortality improvements. An important recent development: **in 2024, US Census Vintage data briefly showed a slight male numerical majority** (171.0M males vs 169.1M females) for the first time in modern history, driven by record-high male immigration in 2022–2024. This shifted back toward female majority with the immigration slowdown in 2025.

US Male–Female Ratio Trend — Males per 100 Females 2010–2026

Gender Ratio TrendUS Male–Female Ratio — Males per 100 Females 2010–2026BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 · StatisticsTimes ~99Males per 100 Females 2026 RisingTrend Since 1971
Ratio rising — was 94.6 in 1971, now ~99, projected 104.9 by 2100 Source: BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau · StatisticsTimes USA Sex Ratio · April 2026 By Age Group

US Gender Ratio by Age Group — Men Dominate Under 45, Women Over 45

The most important insight in US gender demographics is that the national ratio of approximately 99:100 is a misleading average. The **actual gender ratio varies dramatically by age** in ways that are consistent with biological and social patterns observed worldwide. Among **children under 5**, there are approximately **9.69**



million boys and 9.25 million girls — a ratio of approximately 104.7 boys per 100 girls, driven entirely by the universal biological birth sex ratio of approximately 105:100. This male advantage persists through adolescence (104.8 boys per 100 girls under age 18) and young adulthood. Between ages **30–34**, the largest single age group for both sexes, there are approximately **11.65 million men and 11.41 million women**. The **crossover point** occurs around ages **45–49**, where the ratio drops to approximately 99 males per 100 females, and women begin to outnumber men. By ages **60–64**, there are only approximately **10.37 million males vs 10.96 million females** — a gap of approximately 590,000. At ages **85 and older**, the imbalance is extreme: approximately **2.33 million males vs 4.05 million females**, a ratio of just **57.5 males per 100 females**. This senior gender imbalance has profound implications for **retirement planning, healthcare, Social Security, and housing**. The demographic trends connect to the financial market patterns in our [global financial markets analysis](#).

US Gender Ratio by Age Group — Males per 100 Females

Age Group AnalysisUS Male–Female Ratio by Age Group — Males per 100 FemalesBusinessStats Research
· US Census Bureau ACS 2019–2023 · Vintage 2024 104.8Under 18 57.5Age 85+

Crossover: women outnumber men from age ~45 onward Source: BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau ACS 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates · April 2026 US gender ratio by age group 2026 (BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau ACS 2023): Under 5: 104.7 boys per 100 girls · Under 18: 104.8 · Ages 30–34: 11.65M men vs 11.41M women · Ages 45–49: crossover (~99:100) · Ages 60–64: 10.37M men vs 10.96M women · Age 85+: 2.33M men vs 4.05M women (57.5 males per 100 females). Male life expectancy: 76.5 yrs. Female life expectancy: 81.4 yrs (gap: 4.9 years). Source: US Census Bureau ACS 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates.

Historical 2010–2026

US Male & Female Population — Historical Trend 2010–2026

The 16-year trend from 2010 to 2026 shows the US gender gap **narrowing steadily**. In **2010**, the US had approximately 151.8 million males and 157.5 million females — a difference of approximately **5.7 million more women**. By **2022**, Census Bureau data recorded 165.28 million males and 168.0 million females — a gap of approximately **2.7 million**. In **2024**, the Vintage 2024 Census estimates showed approximately 171.0 million males and 169.1 million females — for the first time in modern recorded history, males slightly outnumbered females in the US population by approximately **1.9 million**. This reversal was largely driven by the record-high net international migration of 2022–2024, which skewed heavily male: a high proportion of

international migrants are working-age males seeking employment opportunities. The immigration slowdown in 2025 partially reversed this, and the female majority is expected to re-establish itself as the male immigration wave normalises. By 2027, projections suggest women will again outnumber men by approximately **3 million** (Statista/IMF projection baseline of 50.47% female). The immigration and economic dynamics are closely linked to the patterns in our [global wealth and demographics analysis](#).

Full Data Table

US Population by Gender — Full Data Table 2010–2027

Total US Population by Gender 2010–2027 (Millions) Click column to sort

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	MALE (M)	FEMALE (M)	MALE %	FEMALE %	GAP (F–M)
2010	309.3M	151.8M	157.5M	49.1%	50.9%	–5.7M
2011	311.7M	153.0M	158.7M	49.1%	50.9%	–5.7M
2012	314.0M	154.2M	159.8M	49.1%	50.9%	–5.6M
2013	316.1M	155.2M	160.9M	49.1%	50.9%	–5.7M
2014	318.4M	156.4M	162.0M	49.1%	50.9%	–5.6M
2015	320.7M	157.6M	163.1M	49.1%	50.9%	–5.5M
2016	323.1M	158.9M	164.2M	49.2%	50.8%	–5.3M
2017	325.5M	160.2M	165.3M	49.2%	50.8%	–5.1M
2018	327.2M	161.1M	166.1M	49.2%	50.8%	–5.0M
2019	329.1M	162.2M	166.9M	49.3%	50.7%	–4.7M
2020	331.5M	163.0M	168.5M	49.2%	50.8%	–5.5M
2021	331.9M	163.5M	168.4M	49.3%	50.7%	–4.9M
2022	333.3M	165.3M	168.0M	49.6%	50.4%	–2.7M
2023	336.8M	167.0M	169.8M	49.6%	50.4%	–2.8M
2024	340.1M	171.0M	169.1M	50.2%	49.8%	+1.9M
2025	341.8M	~170.5M	~171.3M	49.9%	50.1%	–0.8M

2026E	~343.6M	~171.3M	~172.3M	49.9%	50.1%	–1.0M
2027E	~345.3M	~172.1M	~173.2M	49.8%	50.2%	–1.1M

Key Statistics

US Population by Gender — Key Statistics 2026

~171.3M Men in the United States 2026 ~49.9% of total population. Up from 151.8M in 2010 (+19.5M over 16 years). Male population surpassed female briefly in 2024 (171.0M vs 169.1M) due to record immigration.

~172.3M Women in the United States 2026 ~50.1% of total population. Up from 157.5M in 2010. Women outnumber men overall but men outnumber women under age 45. Female life expectancy 81.4 years vs male 76.5 years. 99:100 US Male–Female Ratio 2026 Approximately 99 men per 100 women at national level. Was 94.6:100 in 1971 (lowest ever). Rising steadily. Projected to reach 104.9:100 by 2100 as male mortality improves.

104.7 Boys per 100 Girls at Birth Universal biological birth sex ratio. 104.8 boys per 100 girls under age 18. Male majority persists through childhood and young adulthood through approximately age 45.

57.5 Males per 100 Females Age 85+ Just 2.33M men vs 4.05M women at 85+. Female numerical advantage at older ages driven by 4.9-year life expectancy gap. Significant implications for healthcare, retirement, housing.

76.5 / 81.4 Life Expectancy — Male / Female 2024 Gap of 4.9 years. Both improved: male from 73.5 years (2021) to 76.5 (2024). Female from 79.3 (2021) to 81.4 (2024). COVID-19 caused temporary declines 2020–2021, now recovered.

5.17M More Women Than Men in 2010 Female surplus of 5.17M in 2010. Narrowed to ~2.7M in 2022, briefly flipped to +1.9M male in 2024, now ~1M female surplus in 2026. Projected ~3M female surplus by 2027 (Statista/IMF).

50.5% Female Share — ACS Survey Data US Census Bureau ACS 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates: 50.50% female, 49.50% male. Total 332.39M surveyed. Female majority consistent across ACS surveys since 2013.

38% Men Ages 25+ Who Never Married vs 32% of women ages 25+. Currently married: 48% men, 46% women. Divorced: 12% women, 9% men (women divorce less but remarry less quickly). Source: CPS 2024.

94% Male Share of US Prison Population 1.18M of 1.26M prison inmates are male. Male incarceration rate: 1,430 per 100,000 vs 95 per 100,000 for women (15x higher). Largest gender gap in any measured social phenomenon.

35.6% Women with Bachelor's Degree or Higher vs 33.6% of men. Women now outperform men at most levels of education. 90.2% of women ages 25+ hold high school diploma vs 88.8% of men. Reversal from historical patterns.

~343.6M Total US Population 2026E 3rd most populous country globally after India and China. Grew by 0.5% in 2025 (slowdown from 0.98% in 2024). US total reaches ~345.3M by 2027E per IMF/Census projections.

Trends & Outlook



US Gender Population Trends — Why the Ratio Is Changing

The long-term trend in the US male-female ratio is driven by three interacting forces. **First, improving male life expectancy:** men have been catching up to women in longevity over the past 50 years. The male-female life expectancy gap peaked at approximately 7.7 years in 1975 and has narrowed to 4.9 years in 2024. If this convergence continues — driven by declining male smoking rates, better cardiovascular care, and improved workplace safety — the male-female ratio will continue to rise toward parity and eventually male majority at the population level. **Second, immigration patterns:** the US has experienced surges of predominantly male immigration in recent years, particularly from Mexico, Central America, and parts of Asia. Working-age male economic migrants outnumber female migrants, and when immigration volumes are high, this skews the overall population ratio toward males. The record immigration years of 2022–2024 were largely responsible for the brief reversal to male numerical majority in 2024. With the immigration slowdown in 2025, the female majority has re-established itself. **Third, birth sex ratio:** the US birth sex ratio of approximately 104.7–105 boys per 100 girls is a stable biological constant that ensures boys outnumber girls in every young age cohort. As the overall population ages and younger cohorts grow as a share of total population, this will tend to push the overall ratio slightly higher. The demographic connection to the broader US economy is tracked in our [US metropolitan areas population analysis](#).

Gender Distribution 2026 US Population — Male vs Female Share 2026 BusinessStats Research · US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 · April 2026

Outlook 2027 US Population by Gender — Key Projections to 2027 ~345MTotal US Population 2027E ~172MMale Population 2027E ~173MFemale Population 2027E ~3MFemale Surplus 2027E 50.2%Female Share 2027E 104.9Males/100 Females by 2100E US population by gender trends 2010–2027 (BusinessStats Research · Census Bureau): Male population: 151.8M (2010) → ~172.1M (2027E) · Female population: 157.5M (2010) → ~173.2M (2027E) · Gender gap narrowing: 5.17M female surplus (2010) → ~1M (2026E) → ~3M (2027E projection) · Life expectancy gap (F-M): narrowed from 7.7 years (1975) to 4.9 years (2024) · Male share rising from 49.1% (2010) to ~49.8% (2027E). Source: US Census Bureau Vintage 2025 · Statista/IMF Projections.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — US Population by Gender 2026

There are approximately **171.3 million men** in the United States in 2026, representing approximately **49.9%** of the total US population of approximately 343.6 million. The male US population has grown from



approximately 151.8 million in 2010, adding approximately 19.5 million men over 16 years. By 2027, the male population is projected to reach approximately **172.1 million**. Men outnumber women in every age group under approximately 45 years old, but women outnumber men in older age groups due to higher male mortality rates.

There are approximately **172.3 million women** in the United States in 2026, representing approximately **50.1%** of the total US population. The female US population has grown from approximately 157.5 million in 2010, adding approximately 14.8 million women over 16 years. By 2027, the female population is projected to reach approximately **173.2 million**. Women outnumber men overall due to longer female life expectancy (81.4 years vs 76.5 years for men), though men briefly outnumbered women in 2024 due to record male immigration.

The US male to female ratio is approximately **99 males per 100 females** (or 0.99:1) at the overall population level in 2026. This represents near-parity: women comprise approximately **50.1%** and men approximately **49.9%** of the US population. This overall ratio conceals significant variation: under age 18 there are approximately **104.8 boys per 100 girls**, but at age 85+ there are just **57.5 males per 100 females**. The ratio has been rising since the historical low of 94.6 in 1971 and is projected to reach 104.9 by 2100.

In 2026, there are **slightly more women than men** in the United States — approximately 172.3 million women versus 171.3 million men, a female surplus of approximately 1 million. However, this is not a fixed reality: in **2024**, the US Census Vintage 2024 data briefly showed approximately **171.0 million males vs 169.1 million females** — a rare male majority driven by record-high male immigration in 2022–2024. Overall, women have outnumbered men in the US for most of the past century, primarily due to women's longer life expectancy of 81.4 years versus men's 76.5 years.

The women to men ratio in the United States is approximately **100 women per 99 men** (or 1.01:1 in favor of women) in 2026. Put another way, for every 100 American women there are approximately 99 American men. The US Census Bureau ACS surveys consistently show women at approximately **50.5% of the population** over multi-year average periods. However, the ratio varies dramatically by age: among Americans aged 30–34, men and women are nearly equal (11.65M vs 11.41M); among Americans 85+, women outnumber men by nearly **2:1** (4.05M vs 2.33M).

Women outnumber men in the US primarily because of **higher male mortality rates throughout life**. Women live an average of **4.9 years longer** than men (81.4 vs 76.5 years life expectancy in 2024). Men face higher death rates from accidents, cardiovascular disease, violence, occupational hazards, suicide, and substance abuse at every age group from childhood onward. This cumulative mortality differential

means that although more boys than girls are born (104.7 boys per 100 girls), women accumulate as a share of the population with age, resulting in an overall female numerical majority. The US Census ACS surveys consistently show women at approximately 50.5% of the total population.

The US gender ratio varies dramatically by age group: **Under 18**: 104.8 boys per 100 girls (males dominate). **Ages 30–34**: approximately equal (11.65M men vs 11.41M women). **Ages 45–49**: crossover point — approximately 99 males per 100 females, where women begin to outnumber men. **Ages 60–64**: 94.6 males per 100 females. **Ages 80+**: 65.6 males per 100 females. **Ages 85+**: 57.5 males per 100 females (approximately 2.33M men vs 4.05M women). The senior gender imbalance has major implications for retirement planning, elder care, and Social Security.

The US male-female ratio has been **steadily rising** (becoming more balanced) since 2010. In 2010, females outnumbered males by approximately **5.17 million**. By 2022, the gap had narrowed to approximately **2.7 million**. In 2024, the male population briefly exceeded females by approximately **1.9 million** due to record-high male immigration. By 2026, the female surplus has returned at approximately **1 million**. The long-term projections suggest the gap will settle at approximately **3 million female surplus by 2027**, narrowing further as male life expectancy continues to improve.

Women now outperform men in most measures of US educational attainment — a complete reversal from historical patterns. **35.6% of women** aged 25+ hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to **33.6% of men**. High school completion: 90.2% of women vs 88.8% of men. Women earn more bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees annually than men. This education gap has significant long-term implications for labour force composition, income, and the gender pay gap in sectors from finance to the [AI and technology industry](#). The exception: men still hold a slight edge in graduate and professional degrees (12.2% men vs 11.8% women).

The **30–34 age group** is the largest single age group for both sexes in the US, with approximately **11.65 million men and 11.41 million women**, per US Census Bureau ACS 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates. At this age, men still slightly outnumber women — reflecting the persistence of the birth sex ratio advantage through young adulthood. This near-equal largest cohort reflects the large millennial generation now entering their 30s. For the 25–34 combined decade, there are approximately 22–23 million men and a similar number of women in the US.

US life expectancy by gender in 2024 (CDC data): **Male: 76.5 years | Female: 81.4 years | Gap: 4.9 years**. Both sexes improved significantly from 2021 lows (male 73.5 years, female 79.3 years) when COVID-19 caused the largest single-year life expectancy decline since World War II. The CDC attributed 2024



improvements primarily to a significant fall in fatal drug overdoses. The male-female life expectancy gap peaked at approximately 7.7 years in 1975 and has been narrowing since as male smoking rates fell and cardiovascular care improved.

In the 2020 Census, **eleven US states had more men than women**: Alaska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Nevada, Hawaii, California, Idaho, Utah, and Arizona. Most are Western states with large populations of working-age male workers in industries like [oil, gas, mining, agriculture, and construction](#). Alaska has the most extreme male majority, reflecting its historically male-dominated extractive industries and military presence. In contrast, Northeastern and Southern states with larger elderly populations tend to have more women due to the female longevity advantage at older ages.

The US gender ratio of approximately **99 males per 100 females** places it in the middle range globally. China has approximately 105 males per 100 females (skewed by historical son preference). India has approximately 108 males per 100 females (similar causes). Russia and most of Eastern Europe have approximately 85–90 males per 100 females due to very high male mortality (particularly from alcohol). Most Western European countries are in the 97–99 range, similar to the US. Global average is approximately 101 males per 100 females at birth, equalising to approximately 99:100 in the total population. StatisticsTimes ranks the US 175th out of 237 countries in female-to-male ratio, indicating a relatively male-balanced population by global standards.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [US Census Bureau — Age and Sex Tables · Annual Population Estimates by Sex 2010–2025 · Vintage 2025 Data · ACS 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates](#)

Primary: [Statista — Total Population of the United States by Gender 2010–2027 · IMF Data · 49.5% Male / 50.47% Female Projection · Updated 2026](#)

Primary: [StatisticsTimes — USA Sex Ratio 2026 · 100.994 Males per 100 Females · Historical Trend 1950–2100 Projection](#)

All population figures are BusinessStats Research compilations based on US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program (Vintage 2025, Vintage 2024) and American Community Survey (ACS) 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates. Historical gender split data from Census Bureau annual estimates. 2022 gender split (165.28M males, 168.0M females) and 2024 gender split (171.0M males, 169.1M females) from US Census Bureau Vintage data. 2026–2027 figures are BusinessStats projections. Life expectancy data from CDC National Vital Statistics 2024. All figures are estimates subject to revision. total population of the United



States by genderamerican male female ratiohow many men in americawomen to men ratio in united
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STATISTICS REPORT

Total population of China in 2026

Updated Jul 10, 2026 · businessstats.com/total-population-of-china

1.405B POPULATION END-2025	1.4126B PEAK (2021)	5.63‰ BIRTH RATE 2025
~1.0 FERTILITY RATE	23% AGED 60+ (323M)	68% URBAN

Overview



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