

Chapter II POPULATION TRENDS

1. The purpose of this chapter is to examine the size and growth of the world population and regional populations, along with the demographic components of fertility, mortality and international migration that determine these trends.

2. The presentation is based on the results of the United Nations 1996 revision of global population and demographic estimates and projections, prepared by the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat.¹ As in the past revisions, population estimates and projections have been prepared for the world, more developed regions,² less developed regions,³ least developed countries,⁴ six major areas,⁵ 20 regions,⁶ and 228 countries or areas. The population and demographic estimates presented are derived from available national data that have been evaluated and, whenever necessary, adjusted for census undercounts and under-recording of vital events. The estimates for the world, major areas, regions and so on are aggregations from the national estimates and projections.

3. Population estimates are provided at five-year intervals from 1950 to 1995, with population projections carried out at five-year intervals from 1995 to 2050, using the component method. Assumptions are made for each country concerning future trends in fertility (three variants), mortality (one variant), and international migration (usually, one variant).

4. The newly announced data from *World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision* broadly confirm conclusions found in *The 1994 Revision*: notably slower population growth, lower levels of fertility, more diverse trends in mortality and greater migration flows during the first half of the 1990s than experienced in prior decades. In fact, *The 1996 Revision* shows that population growth fell faster, national fertility declines were broader and deeper, and migration flows were larger than previous estimates had indicated.

A. POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH

5. In mid-1996 world population stood at 5.77 billion (table 2.1). Since mid-1995, world population has grown by 81 million and annual growth is expected to remain at this level until 2000. Currently, 4.59 billion people or 80 per cent of the world's population live in the less developed regions. The total population size in the more developed regions is 1.18 billion.

6. Between 1990 and 1995 world population grew at 1.48 per cent per year, significantly below the 1.72 per cent rate at which the population had been growing for the past two decades. The current population growth rate is the lowest since the Second World War and marks the resumption of the declining growth rates that prevailed from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s.

7. United Nations medium fertility-variant projections indicate that the population growth rate will continue declining, to 1.37 per cent per year in 1995-2000, and 0.45 per cent in 2045-2050. Consequently, the world population is projected to reach 6.09 billion in 2000 and 9.37 billion in 2050 (figure 2.1).

8. Despite the decline in the rate of growth, the annual increment to the world's population will remain steady, around 80 million per year through 2025, and will gradually decline thereafter to 41 million between 2045 and 2050, about half of the current annual increment (figure 2.2).

9. Between 1950 and 1996, the population of the less developed regions increased by 168 per cent, compared with an increase of 45 per cent for the more developed regions. Between 1990 and 1995 the population of the less developed regions grew at 1.8 per cent per year. During that period the population of the more developed regions grew at an annual rate of 0.4 per cent (table 2.2). According to the medium-variant projections the population of the less developed regions will increase by a further 79 per cent between 1996 and 2050. In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to increase to 1.22 billion by 2025 and decline thereafter so that the population in 2050 will be 1 per cent less than it was in 1996.

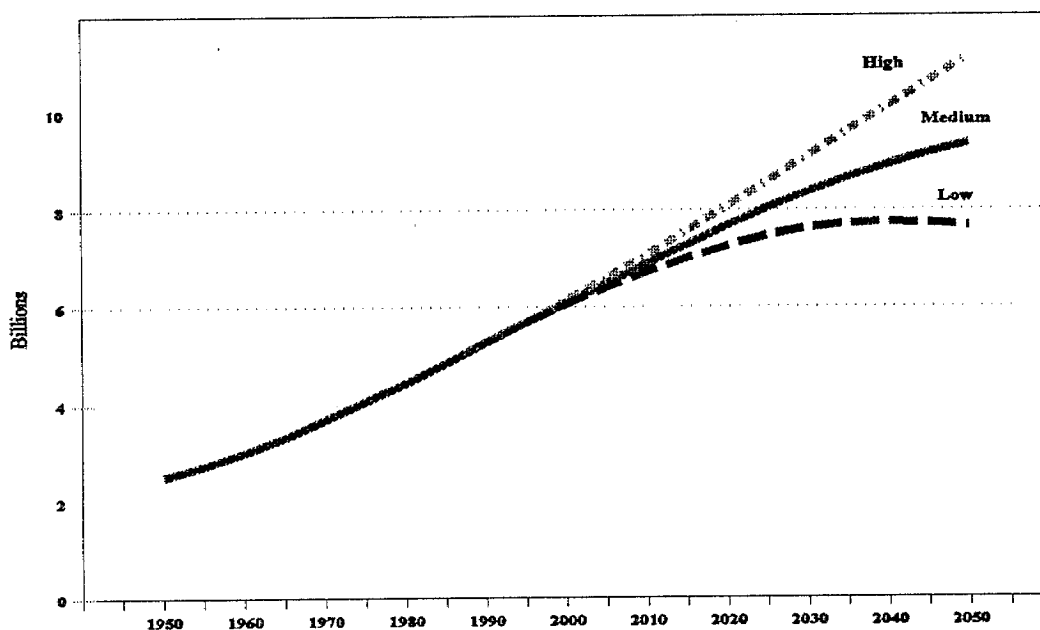
10. The substantial consequences of the differences in population growth rates across regions is perhaps best illustrated by examining the average annual increments to the total population of the more developed and the less developed regions. Between 1950 and 1955 the annual increment to world population was 47 million people. Of this total, 22 per cent came from the more developed regions and 78 per cent from the less developed regions. By 1990-1995, 6 per cent of the annual increment originated in the more developed regions, while 94 per cent originated in the less developed regions. By 2045-2050 the population of the more developed regions is expected to be declining so that all of the net population growth will come from the less developed regions.

TABLE 2.1. WORLD POPULATION: PAST ESTIMATES
AND MEDIUM-VARIANT PROJECTIONS

Year	Population (billions)
1950	2.52
1990	5.28
1996	5.77
2000	6.09
2015	7.29
2025	8.04
2050	9.37

Source: World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

Figure 2.1. World population growth, 1950-2050
(Estimates and medium-, high- and low-fertility variants)



Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision* (New York, United Nations publication, forthcoming).

11. The 48 least developed countries are characterized by higher fertility, higher mortality and higher population growth rates than the other countries of the less developed regions. Between 1950 and 1995 the population of the least developed countries increased by 193 per cent, compared with 160 per cent for the other less developed countries. And by 1995, 579 million persons lived in the least developed countries. Between 1990 and 1995 the annual population growth rate of the least developed countries was 2.6 per cent, almost a full percentage point greater than that of the other countries in the less developed regions. In fact, during that period the 48 least developed countries accounted for 17 per cent of total world population growth.

12. Population distribution and population growth differ markedly among the major areas of the world, both currently and historically. Between 1950 and 1995 the population of Africa grew from 224 million to 720 million. Africa's average increase of 2.6 per cent per year (221 per cent growth in total) was the fastest population growth rate during that period. The populations of Latin America and Asia have also grown at more than 2 per cent per year since 1950. Growing at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent, the population of Latin America rose from 166 million in 1950 to 477 million in 1995. The population of Asia has grown at 2 per cent per year and totalled 3.4 billion in 1995. In contrast, the population of Europe grew by only 0.6 per cent per year. Europe is the only major area whose annual growth rate was less than 1 per cent during 1950-1995.

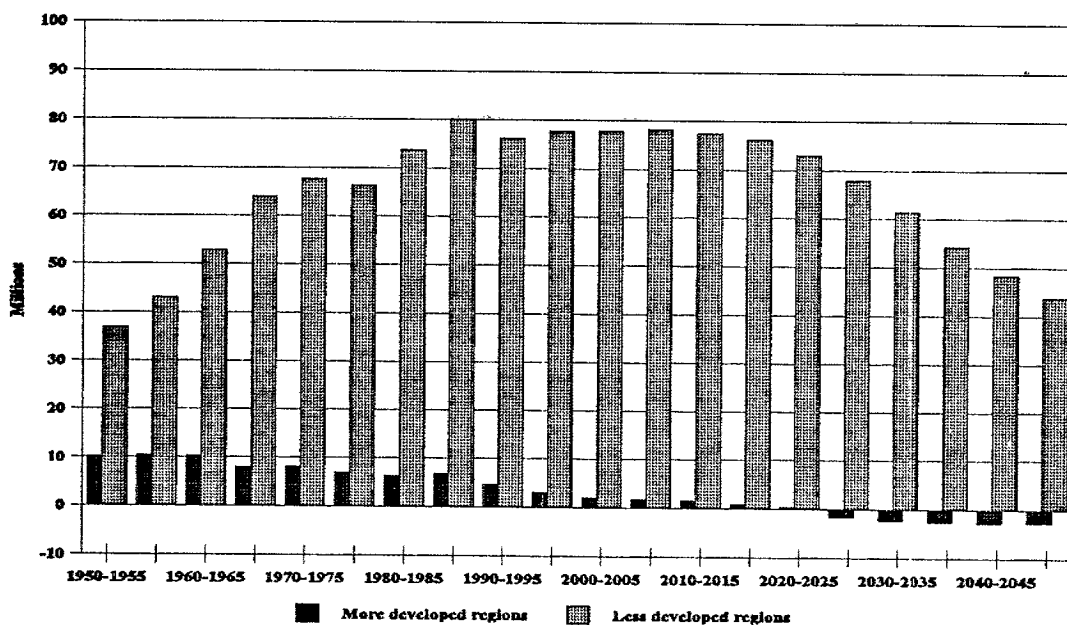
13. Africa continues to exhibit the highest population growth rate (2.7 per cent per year) in 1990-1995. Latin America and the Caribbean is growing a full percentage point slower (1.7 per cent). Asia is growing at 1.5 per cent per year, Oceania at 1.4 per cent and North America at 1.0 per cent.

TABLE 2.2. POPULATION GROWTH RATE OF THE WORLD, MORE DEVELOPED AND LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS, AND MAJOR AREAS

	1950-1955	1990-1995	2045-2050
World	1.8	1.5	0.5
More developed regions . .	1.2	0.4	-0.2
Less developed regions . .	2.1	1.8	0.6
Least developed countries .	1.9	2.6	1.1
Africa	2.2	2.7	1.1
Asia	1.9	1.5	0.3
of which, China	1.9	1.1	-0.1
India	2.0	1.8	0.4
Europe	1.0	0.2	-0.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.7	1.7	0.5
Northern America	1.7	1.0	0.1
Oceania	2.2	1.4	0.4

Source: *World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision* (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

Figure 2.2. Average annual population increase: world and more developed and less developed regions, 1950-2050



Source: United Nations World Population Prospects: 1996 Revision, (New York, United Nations publication, forthcoming).

14. Population is growing slowest in Europe, where it is nearly stationary. The four regions of Europe have experienced very different trends recently. Western Europe is exhibiting the highest annual population growth rate among the more developed regions (0.56 per cent) during 1990-1995. The current growth rate is higher than that exhibited during 1980-1985 (0.14 per cent) or 1985-1990 (0.49 per cent). The rise is mainly due to increasing numbers of migrants entering the region (particularly Germany): 153,000 between 1980 and 1985, 2,790,000 between 1985 and 1990, and 4,208,000 between 1990 and 1995. In contrast, the population growth rate of Eastern Europe turned negative during 1990-1995—those years characterized by out-migration, sharp fertility declines and rising or stagnant mortality.

15. Southern Europe has exhibited a downward trend in the rate of population growth during the past 15 years, from an average annual rate of 0.80 per cent in 1975-1980 to 0.41 per cent in 1980-1985, 0.33 per cent in 1985-1990 and 0.04 per cent in 1990-1995. The dramatic decline in Southern Europe's total fertility rate from 2.3 children per woman in 1975-1980 to 1.4 children in 1990-1995 has been a key factor in the region's slow rate of growth. The population growth rate in Northern Europe stands at 0.2 per cent per year, half the level of the growth rate recorded during 1985-1990 and similar to the rate prevalent during 1975-1985. These trends are consistent with movements in fertility; data show that fertility levels bottomed out in Northern Europe at 1.81 children per woman

in 1975-1985, rose slightly to 1.84 in 1985-1990 and fell again to 1.81 in 1990-1995.

16. Of the 81 million people added annually to the world's population during 1990-1995, 69 million (85 per cent) are Asian and African. Of this total figure 51 million (63 per cent) are Asian (13 million from China and 16 million from India).

17. The medium-variant projections indicate that the population of Africa will increase by 184 per cent between 1995 and 2050. The projected population of 2.1 billion people in 2050 will be almost three times its 1995 population and almost 10 times its 1950 population. The projected African population growth rate is far greater than that of any other major area. Between 1995 and 2050 Latin America and the Caribbean is projected to increase by 70 per cent, Asia by 58 per cent and North America by 30 per cent. The population of Europe is projected to decline by 13 per cent during those years.

B. FERTILITY

18. Estimates for the decade 1980-1985 to 1990-1995 suggest that the average total fertility rate (TFR) in the world has continued to decline and at a somewhat faster pace during 1990-1995 than in the past. During the decade, the world TFR fell by 17 per cent, from 3.6 to 3.0 births per woman. The world average, however, conceals large differences across countries and regions. Indeed, during 1990-1995 the average TFR for the more developed region was only 1.7 births per woman compared

with 5.5 births for the least developed countries (see table 2.3), a disparity that strongly reflects the differences in social and economic development and contraceptive prevalence between those two groups of countries.

19. Estimates show that fertility in the less developed regions remains relatively high. Fertility continues to be highest in Africa. The African TFR in 1980-1985 was almost twice as high as that of other less developed regions: 6.3 births per woman in Africa compared with 3.8 in Latin America and 3.7 in Asia. By 1990-1995, despite a slow but continuous decline, Africa's TFR was still estimated to be as high as 5.7, compared with 2.9 in Latin America and 2.8 in Asia. The decennial decline of 10 per cent during that period is less than half the decline in Asia and Latin America (see table 2.3).

20. Within Africa, large regional differences prevail. Middle, Eastern and Western Africa have the highest fertility rates, where women average 6.4 births and where, during the past decade, fertility barely declined: 7 and 5 per cent respectively in Eastern and Western Africa, and 2 per cent in Middle Africa. Conversely, in Northern and Southern Africa, the TFRs are much lower, 4.1 and 4.2 births per woman, a decline of 27 per cent for Northern Africa (the largest reduction in the world during the decade) and 14 per cent for Southern Africa (see table 2.3). Differences in modernization, economic development, social change and contraceptive use underlie the different patterns of fertility change.

21. A large number of recent demographic surveys now allow a better assessment and understanding of the fertility patterns in Africa. While in the 1970s the high African fertility rate was sustained by sub-Saharan countries, where fertility exceeded seven or even eight births per woman, in the 1990s most of those countries experienced substantial fertility declines, notably Kenya, where the TFR of 8.0 in 1977-1978 fell to 5.4 in 1990-1993, and Rwanda, where the TFR of 8.5 in 1978-1983 fell to 6.2 in 1989-1992. Most of the reduction in sub-Saharan Africa is found in countries that started their fertility transition in the 1980s. The sharpest reductions in TFR were experienced in Northern Africa, notably Algeria, where the TFR fell from 8.1 in 1970 to 4.4 in 1987-1992. In Egypt and Morocco fertility also fell to levels below 5.0, and was as low as 3.3 in Tunisia in 1992. The lowest TFR in Africa (2.3) was observed in Mauritius in 1990; the highest (7.4, the third highest in the world) was in the Niger.

22. Asia and Latin America have experienced similar rates of fertility decline, about 24 per cent, during the past decade and reached similar TFRs in 1990-1995, at 2.8 and 2.9 births per woman. The regional fertility patterns in those two major areas are, however, quite different. In Asia the overall average masks relatively large regional differences. The differences in TFRs in 1990-1995 exceed two births per woman, ranging from a below-replacement level of 1.9 in East Asia to 4.1 and 3.7 in Western Asia and South-Central Asia. Differences are even larger at the individual country level: Gaza's TFR of 8.8 and Yemen's TFR of 7.6 are the highest in the world, while at the other extreme, Japan reports a TFR of 1.5. The 24 per cent decline in Asia from 1980-1985 to 1990-1995 is a result of the rapid decline (24 per cent) in the highly populated/low-fertility countries of East Asia (the latter decline is readily accounted for by the sharp fertility decline in China) and the smaller (18 per cent) reduc-

tion that took place in the high-fertility countries of Western Asia (see table 2.3).

23. In Latin America average TFR levels are comparatively more uniform. In 1990-1995 they ranged from 2.7 in the Caribbean to 3.4 in Central America. Deviations from this range are, however, found in some Caribbean islands, such as the Bahamas, Barbados and Cuba, where the TFR was below the population replacement level in 1990-1995. At the opposite end of the scale stands Honduras, with a TFR of 4.9 in 1990-1995. Central America experienced the largest fertility decline in Latin America (24 per cent) during the 1990s, with a decline in its TFR from 4.5 to 3.4.

24. In the more developed regions the situation has changed little overall. With average TFRs in the range of 1.7 to 1.8, fertility in the region was below replacement level during the past decade, with the overall TFR declining by only 6 per cent. However, there are also major differences within the more developed regions. In Europe TFRs have continued to decline from 1.9 to 1.6 births per woman, about a 16 per cent reduction during the decade, reflecting the compensating effects of fertility trends in different European regions. The average TFR remained constant in Northern Europe (at 1.8), whereas it fell by over 20 per cent in Southern Europe from 1.8 in 1980-1985 to 1.4 in 1990-1995. In Eastern Europe the TFR fell from 2.1 to 1.6 in 1990-1995 and in Western Europe it declined from 1.6 to 1.5 (see table 2.3). As of 1990-1995, the lowest European TFR is that of Italy (1.2) and the highest is that of Albania (2.9).

25. In North America fertility is on an upward trend, and TFRs evolved from 1.8 in 1980-1985 to 2.0 in 1990-1995, representing an increase of about 11 per cent. In Australia and New Zealand (the developed countries of Oceania), fertility remained constant at 1.9 during the same period, compared with the whole of Oceania, where TFRs still fluctuate at about 2.5-2.6 (table 2.3).

C. MORTALITY

26. Mortality is continuing to decline in most countries. Globally, life expectancy at birth reached 64.3 years in 1990-1995, an increase of 6.4 years since 1970-1975. Life expectancy at birth in the more developed regions was 74.2 years, more than 12 years higher than that in the less developed regions (62.1 years), which was in turn more than 12 years higher than the average life expectancy in the least developed countries (49.7 years) (table 2.4). Life expectancy is highest in the major areas of North America (76.2 years), followed by Europe (72.7 years) and Oceania (72.9 years). It is lowest in Africa (51.8 years). Asia and Latin America fell in between, with life expectancies of 64.5 years and 68.5 years. In 1990-1995 there were three regions with an average life expectancy of less than 50 years: Eastern Africa, Middle Africa and Western Africa. The lowest life expectancies in the world are in Rwanda (22.6 years), Sierra Leone (34.4 years) and Uganda (41 years). It is estimated that, on average, life expectancy is above 75 years in Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Japan has the highest life expectancy in the world at 79.5 years, followed by Iceland at 78.8 years and Canada at 78.5 years.

TABLE 2.3. ESTIMATED FERTILITY RATES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE: WORLD, MAJOR AREAS AND REGIONS
(Percentage)

Major area and region	Total fertility rates*			Percentage change		
	1980- 1985	1985- 1990	1990- 1995	1980-1985 to 1985-1990	1985-1990 to 1990-1995	1980-1985 to 1990-1995
	World total	3.6	3.4	3.0	-5.6	-11.8
More developed region	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	-5.6	-5.6
Less developed region	4.1	3.8	3.3	-7.3	-13.2	-19.5
Least developed countries	6.4	6.0	5.5	-6.3	-8.3	-14.1
Africa	6.3	6.0	5.7	-4.8	-5.0	-9.5
Eastern Africa	6.9	6.7	6.4	-2.9	-4.5	-7.2
Middle Africa	6.5	6.5	6.4	0.0	-1.5	-1.5
Northern Africa	5.6	4.8	4.1	-14.3	-14.6	-26.8
Southern Africa	4.9	4.5	4.2	-8.2	-6.7	-14.3
Western Africa	6.7	6.6	6.4	-1.5	-3.0	-4.5
Asia	3.7	3.4	2.8	-8.1	-17.6	-24.3
East Asia	2.5	2.4	1.9	-4.0	-20.8	-24.0
South-Central Asia	4.9	4.4	3.7	-10.2	-15.9	-24.5
South-East Asia	4.2	3.6	3.2	-14.3	-11.1	-23.8
Western Asia	5.0	4.7	4.1	-6.0	-12.8	-18.0
Europe	1.9	1.8	1.6	-5.3	-11.1	-15.8
Eastern Europe	2.1	2.1	1.6	0.0	-23.8	-23.8
Northern Europe	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern Europe	1.8	1.6	1.4	-11.1	-12.5	-22.2
Western Europe	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	-6.3	-6.3
Latin America	3.8	3.3	2.9	-13.2	-12.1	-23.7
Caribbean	3.1	2.9	2.7	-6.5	-6.9	-12.9
Central America	4.5	3.9	3.4	-13.3	-12.8	-24.4
South America	3.7	3.2	2.8	-13.5	-12.5	-24.3
North America	1.8	1.9	2.0	5.6	5.3	11.1
Oceania	2.6	2.5	2.5	-3.8	0.0	-3.8

Source: United Nations *World Population Prospects: the 1996 Revision*, (New York, United Nations publication, forthcoming).

* Number of births per woman.

27. The gap in life expectancy at birth between Eastern, Middle and Western Africa, on the one hand, and Northern and Southern Africa, on the other, has increased over the past 20 years. Eastern, Middle and Western Africa have registered only a two- to seven-year increase in life expectancy over the 20-year period, whereas in Northern and Southern Africa, life expectancy rose by about 10 years. Eastern, Middle and Western Africa have been worst hit by the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, which, along with war and its effects, accounts in part for the widening gap in life expectancy.

28. In the regions of Europe life expectancy increased by about three to five years between 1970-1975 and 1990-1995, except in Eastern Europe, where life expectancy declined from 69.4 years in 1970-1975 to 68.2 years in 1990-1995. By 1980-1985 a decline in life expectancy to 69 years was already evident. These reductions can be largely attributed to an increase in death rates from cardiovascular diseases. Between 1989 and 1993 the situation worsened, as death rates from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, digestive diseases, infectious diseases and external causes, including suicides and accidents, all increased.⁷ The worst affected have been men between the ages of 20 and 59 years.

29. On average, women can be expected to live about four years longer than men. For the world, life expectancy for men is 62.2 years while that for women is 66.5 years (table 2.4). In the more developed regions this male-female disparity is as high as 7.6 years, whereas in the

less developed regions women live only three years longer than men. In most major areas of the world, the gap between male and female life expectancies increased or stayed the same between 1970-1975 and 1990-1995. In North America, however, female life expectancy improved by four years over the past two decades, while male life expectancy improved by five years, thereby decreasing the male-female gap from 7.7 years to 6.7 years. The male-female gap also decreased slightly in Africa, from 3.1 to 2.9 years, and in Oceania, from 5.4 to 5.3.

30. South-Central Asia has the lowest sex differential in life expectancy. Male life expectancy is less than one year lower than female life expectancy. In 1970-1975, male life expectancy was 50.8 years, 1.2 years higher than that for women. Over the past 20 years, however, women made greater improvements than men: by 1990-1995, female life expectancy was 0.9 years higher. Eastern Europe has the highest sex differential in life expectancy. Women in Eastern Europe with a life expectancy of 73.6 years in 1990-1995 could expect to live 10.6 years longer than men, a differential that has increased from 8.6 years in 1970-1975. This widening gap is caused mainly by a decline in male life expectancy from 64.8 years in 1970-1975 to 63.0 years in 1990-1995. In contrast, female life expectancy increased from 73.4 years to 73.6 years over the same period.

31. The infant mortality rate for the world was estimated to be 62 deaths per 1,000 births in 1990-1995 (table 2.4). In the more developed regions the infant mor-

TABLE 2.4. ESTIMATES OF LIFE EXPECTANCY AND INFANT MORTALITY FOR MAJOR AREAS AND REGIONS OF THE WORLD, 1990-1995

	Life expectancy			Infant mortality rate ^a
	Both sexes	Male	Female	
World	64.3	62.2	66.5	62
More developed regions	74.2	70.4	78.0	11
Less developed regions	62.1	60.6	63.7	68
Least developed countries	49.7	48.7	50.8	109
Africa	51.8	50.4	53.3	94
Eastern Africa	46.7	45.4	48.0	108
Middle Africa	51.0	49.3	52.7	97
Northern Africa	62.1	60.8	63.4	67
Southern Africa	62.1	59.3	64.9	55
Western Africa	49.5	48.0	51.1	98
Asia	64.5	63.2	66.0	62
East Asia	69.7	67.6	71.9	41
South-Central Asia	60.4	59.9	60.8	78
South-East Asia	63.7	61.7	65.6	54
Western Asia	66.3	64.4	68.4	60
Europe	72.7	68.5	76.9	13
Eastern Europe	68.2	63.0	73.6	19
Northern Europe	75.8	72.8	78.8	7
Southern Europe	76.0	72.7	79.3	11
Western Europe	76.7	73.2	80.2	7
Latin America	68.5	65.3	71.8	40
Caribbean	68.5	66.4	70.8	43
Central America	70.5	67.6	73.4	37
South America	67.8	64.4	71.4	41
North America	76.2	72.8	79.5	9
Oceania ^b	72.9	70.3	75.6	26
Australia and Zealand	77.4	74.5	80.3	7

Source: United Nations World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision, (New York, United Nations publication, forthcoming).

^a Deaths per 1,000 births.

^b Includes Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

tality rate was 11 per 1,000, but the corresponding rates is more than six times as large, 68 per 1,000 births, in the less developed regions. Although the difference in infant mortality rates between the more developed and the less developed regions has declined from 83 in 1970-1975 to 57 in 1990-1995, the ratio of infant mortality in the less developed regions to that in the more developed regions has increased from about 5:1 in 1970-1975 to almost 6:1 in 1980-1985, and to slightly more than 6:1 in 1990-1995.

32. During 1990-1995 infant mortality was estimated to be above 60 in two major areas: Africa, with a rate of 94 deaths per 1,000 live births, and Asia, with 62 deaths per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality rates were greater on average than 90 deaths per 1,000 live births in all of Africa, except for Southern Africa. At the other extreme, infant mortality rates were below 10 per 1,000 in Northern and Western Europe, North America, and Australia and New Zealand.

33. The average infant mortality rate for Africa was the highest in the world during 1990-1995. Although important progress has been made in reducing childhood

mortality rates in Africa over the past two decades, Africa's average infant mortality rate fell by 36 infant deaths per 1,000 births from 1970-1975 to 1990-1995. The largest absolute decrease among all major areas in the world occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the average infant mortality rate fell by 40 infant deaths per 1,000 births between 1970-1975 and 1990-1995. Notable, also, is the decline in Northern Africa, where infant mortality fell from 132 to 67 deaths per 1,000 births. But infant mortality has remained virtually stagnant or has even increased in some countries, such as Armenia, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

34. According to World Health Organization (WHO) reports, Africa is still the area most affected by the AIDS epidemic.⁸ As of late 1994, nearly two thirds (about 11 million adults) of all HIV cases were in Africa. However, the epidemic is expanding rapidly in some parts of South and South-East Asia, and the annual number of new infections in Asia is expected to surpass that of Africa if the current rate of infection continues. WHO estimates that there were more than 3 million AIDS cases by the end

of 1994 in Africa, constituting more than 70 per cent of the total number of cases in the world. Nine per cent occurred in the United States, more than 9 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 4 per cent in Europe. Because the epidemic started relatively recently in Asia, about 6 per cent of the AIDS cases in the world occurred there.

D. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

35. Over the past decade, international migration has been the component of population most clearly affected by the momentous changes in the world geopolitical order. In particular, the disintegration of nation-States has resulted in significant population movements. Thus the conflict that has accompanied the disintegration of some States has led to visible and substantial flows of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons who have brought migration issues to the forefront of the international agenda. But, such developments have yet to be translated into better monitoring systems for quantifying international migration. Consequently, the data available on recent developments are still somewhat sketchy. Indeed, even for earlier periods the available estimates are generally partial (referring to only a few countries or regions) and lack comparability; hence the importance of having a set of comparable estimates for the world. Such estimates have now been derived for 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1990.

36. Estimates of the stock of international migrants in every country as of the beginning of 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1990 have been derived from information on the size of the foreign-born population (or, in some cases, the foreign population) enumerated by the censuses of different countries, as well as from information on the number of refugees present in developing countries. The estimates indicate that the world's stock of international migrants increased from 75 million persons in 1965 to 119 million in 1990 (table 2.5). Thus, over 1965-1990, the annual rate of growth of the migrant stock was 1.9 per cent. However, estimates of the rate of growth for intermediate periods indicate that the pace at which the world's migrant stock has been increasing has quickened, passing from 1.2 per cent per year during 1965-1975 to 2.2 per cent during 1975-1985, and reaching 2.6 per cent in 1985-1990. The experience of developed and developing countries contrasts markedly. Thus, whereas the annual growth rate of the international migrant stock in the developed countries increased only moderately, passing from 2.3 per cent per year during 1965-1975 to 2.4 per cent during 1985-1990, that of the total number of migrants in the developing countries increased ninefold, rising from 0.3 per cent during 1965-1975 to 2.7 per cent during 1985-1990.

37. Despite the rapid growth of the number of international migrants in the developing countries, by 1990 they accounted for only 55 per cent of the world's migrant stock, whereas the developing countries accounted for 72 per cent of the world's population. Consequently, the proportion of international migrants among the total population of developing countries remains low (1.6 per cent). In contrast, international migrants constitute 4.1 per cent of the population of developed countries. Thus, proportionately, international migration continues to have greater numerical importance for the developed world.

38. There has been considerable variation in the growth and distribution of international migrants among the major world regions (table 2.5). By 1990 Europe and North America were hosting 24 and 25 million international migrants. In North America the United States alone hosted 20 million international migrants, a number that includes the majority of the nearly 3 million undocumented migrants whose status was regularized by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. In the developing world Asia has been hosting the largest number of migrants (43 million in 1990). But, their distribution over the continent is far from uniform. East and South-East Asia, a region that includes China and Japan, have had relatively few international migrants (nearly 8 million), despite the fact that labour shortages in the newly industrializing economies of that region and in Japan have been fuelling increased interregional migration. According to some estimates, by the early 1990s Japan was hosting nearly 300,000 undocumented migrants in addition to the million or so foreign residents legally present in the country. Taiwan Province of China has had about 45,000 migrants in an irregular situation, whereas in the Republic of Korea a regularization drive carried out in 1992 had produced 61,000 applications. Similarly, in Malaysia 320,000 undocumented migrants applied for legalization under an amnesty programme instituted in 1992.⁹ Such numbers indicate that, despite a reluctance to import foreign workers, the rapidly growing economies of Asia may have to do so to remain competitive.

39. The largest concentration of international migrants in Asia is found in South-Central Asia, particularly in India and Pakistan, where the survivors of the 1948 partition of those countries and the remaining refugees from Afghanistan account for most of the 16 million migrants. In Western Asia, the rapid increase in the migrant stock since 1975 is associated with the inflow of foreign workers to the oil-producing countries of the region, whose revenues increased markedly after the oil-price rises of the 1970s. Although the pace of worker migration to Western Asia declined somewhat during the 1980s, the migrant stock in the oil-producing countries continued to grow during that decade. Despite the massive repatriations incurred from the Gulf war and its aftermath, statistics on outflows from the main source countries for foreign workers indicate that labour flows to Western Asia have not abated during the 1990s.

40. The marked increase in the number of international migrants in Central America is the result of the civil strife and conflict that reigned in the region during the 1980s, and which have since largely abated. In South America migration, which is mostly interregional, did not increase the migrant stock over the period considered, whereas in the Caribbean the number of international migrants, though small, increased in the late 1980s.

41. In Europe increases in the migrant stock during 1985-1990 were associated with the changes that led to the end of the cold war and with the relaxation of exit controls in Eastern and Central European countries, as well as in the former Soviet Union. As a result of such changes, a growing number of citizens from those countries found their way to the market economies of Europe, where they sought asylum within the context of the waning cold war or were admitted as immigrants under special categories. The latter categories include the *Aussiedler*,

TABLE 2.5. KEY INDICATORS OF TRENDS IN MIGRANT STOCK, BY REGION, 1965, 1975, 1985 AND 1990

Region	Estimated foreign-born population (thousands)					As percentage of total population					Annual rate of change †					Percentage distribution by region				
	1965	1975	1985	1990	1965	1975	1985	1990	1965	1975	1985	1990	1965-1975	1975-1985	1985-1990	1990	1965	1975	1985	1990
World total	75,214	84,494	105,194	119,761	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	1.2	2.2	2.2	2.6	1.9	2.6	1.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Developed countries	30,401	38,317	47,991	54,231	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	40.4	45.3	45.6	45.3	
Developing countries	44,813	46,177	57,203	65,530	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.3	2.1	2.1	2.7	1.5	2.7	1.5	59.6	54.7	54.4	54.7	
Africa	7,952	11,178	12,527	15,631	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.5	3.4	1.1	1.1	4.4	2.7	1.1	4.4	10.6	13.2	11.9	13.1	
Northern Africa	1,016	1,080	2,219	1,982	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.4	0.6	7.2	7.2	-2.3	2.7	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	2.1	1.7	
Sub-Saharan Africa	6,936	10,099	10,308	13,649	2.9	3.2	2.5	2.8	3.8	0.2	0.2	5.6	2.7	9.2	12.0	9.2	12.0	9.8	11.4	
Asia	31,429	29,662	38,731	43,018	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.4	-0.6	2.7	2.7	2.1	1.3	41.8	35.1	41.8	35.1	36.8	35.9	
East and South-East Asia	8,136	7,723	7,678	7,931	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	-0.5	-0.1	0.6	0.6	-0.1	10.8	9.1	10.8	9.1	7.3	6.6	
China	266	305	331	346	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	
Other East and South-East Asia	7,870	7,419	7,347	7,58	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.2	-0.6	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.6	10.5	8.8	7.0	6.3	
South-Central Asia ^a	18,610	15,565	19,243	20,784	2.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	-1.8	2.1	1.5	0.4	24.7	18.4	18.3	24.7	18.4	18.3	17.4	
Western Asia	4,683	6,374	11,810	14,304	7.4	7.6	10.4	10.9	3.1	6.2	3.8	4.5	6.2	7.5	11.2	6.2	7.5	11.2	11.9	
Latin America and the Caribbean	5,907	5,788	6,410	7,475	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.7	-0.2	1.0	3.1	0.9	7.9	6.9	6.1	7.9	6.9	6.1	6.2	
Caribbean	532	665	832	959	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.4	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Central America ^b	445	427	948	2,047	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.8	-0.4	8.0	15.4	6.1	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.7	
South America	4,930	4,695	4,629	4,469	3.0	2.2	1.8	1.5	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7	-0.4	6.6	5.6	4.4	6.6	5.6	4.4	3.7	
North America	12,695	15,042	20,460	23,895	6.0	6.3	7.8	8.6	1.7	3.1	3.1	2.5	16.9	17.8	19.5	16.9	17.8	19.5	20.0	
Europe and the Soviet Union (former)	14,728	19,504	22,959	25,068	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.2	2.8	1.6	1.8	2.1	19.6	23.1	21.8	19.6	23.1	21.8	20.9	
Countries with economies in transition ^c	2,835	2,394	2,213	2,055	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.7	-1.7	-0.8	-1.5	-1.3	3.8	2.8	2.1	3.8	2.8	2.1	1.7	
Soviet Union (former)	140	148	156	159	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Other Europe	11,753	16,961	20,590	22,853	3.6	4.9	5.8	6.1	3.7	1.9	2.1	2.7	15.6	20.1	19.6	15.6	20.1	19.6	19.1	
Oceania	2,502	3,319	4,106	4,675	14.4	15.6	16.9	17.8	2.9	2.1	2.6	2.5	3.3	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.9	3.9	3.9	

Source: Derived from Trends in Total Migrant Stock, Rev.3, a database maintained by the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat.

^a Excluding Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

^b Including Mexico.

^c Including Albania, Bulgaria, the former Democratic Republic of Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the former Yugoslavia. Excluding the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

admitted by the Federal Republic of Germany, who were people of German descent originating in transition countries other than the former German Democratic Republic, and the Pontian Greeks, people of Greek descent, originating mostly in the former Soviet Union, who were admitted to Greece. During 1985-1990 the Federal Republic of Germany admitted 1.1 million *Aussiedler* from countries in transition. Indeed, the increase in *Aussiedler* admissions proceeded so quickly after 1988 that once East and West Germany were reunified, the Government of Germany imposed limits on the number that was admitted annually and provided persons of German descent living in countries in transition with alternatives to emigration. Also indicative of the growth of East-West migration during the 1980s was the fact that out of the 1.3 million persons filing asylum applications in countries with market economies during 1983-1989, 30 per cent originated in countries with economies in transition.

42. The break-up of the Soviet Union increased concern about the possibilities of further migration to the developed countries. Although large East-West flows have failed to materialize, there have nevertheless been important changes in the migration dynamics of the region, paramount of which is the growing migration directed towards the Russian Federation, as ethnic Russians move there from other successor States. In addition, flows of refugees or forced migrants between successor States experiencing ethnic conflict have been growing, and there are reports of new migration flows directed to certain Central and Eastern European countries. Thus, 35,000 citizens of the former Soviet Union, 20,000 Romanians and up to 10,000 people from Bulgaria and the former Yugoslavia were reported to be present illegally in the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1992.¹⁰

43. Since 1990 the major source of migrants in Europe has been the former Yugoslavia, whose dissolution has involved armed conflict in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and has led to the largest movement of war victims and internally displaced persons in Europe since the Second World War. As of mid-1994 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that the number of persons in need of protection inside the former Yugoslavia stood at 3.8 million, 2.7 million of whom were in Bosnia and Herzegovina and half a million in Croatia.¹¹ By the end of 1995 there were still 1.3 million displaced persons in the former Yugoslavia, 1.1 million of whom were in Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹² In addition, several countries had provided temporary asylum to people from the former Yugoslavia, including Austria, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

44. In Africa, the increases in the migrant stock recorded during 1985-1990 are mainly attributable to the rising number of refugees in the region. In late 1995 there were an estimated 5.7 million refugees, the majority of whom were in Middle and Eastern Africa, particularly in Zaire (1.3 million) and Tanzania (0.9 million). Although the independence of Eritrea in 1993 and the elections in Mozambique enabled the repatriation of refugees (90,000 in Eritrea and 1.7 million in Mozambique), conflict continues to uproot and displace people. The crisis in Somalia, for instance, led to an estimated outflow of 1 million Somalis, about a quarter of whom have since returned, and to the repatriation of half a million Ethio-

pian refugees. The Sudan, which is reported to be hosting 840,000 refugees, is itself the source of 350,000 refugees, who have found asylum in the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zaire.¹³ In addition, upheavals in Burundi, Rwanda and Togo have led to extensive population outflows, especially in Rwanda, where the death of the president in April 1994 triggered ethnic violence that left thousands dead within a few weeks. Large numbers of Rwandans sought refuge in neighbouring countries, and the majority of the 300,000 Burundi refugees who had fled to Rwanda in 1993 were forced to leave. At the end of 1995 Zaire was hosting 1.1 million Rwandan refugees and the United Republic of Tanzania a further half million. In addition, continued civil strife in Liberia uprooted thousands of people, 300,000 of whom were hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and a further 400,000 by Guinea.

45. The repatriation of Afghan refugees from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan reduced their numbers from 6.2 million early in 1990 to 2.3 million by the end of 1995. But, continued fighting in Afghanistan has prevented full repatriation from taking place. In addition, an agreement reached in 1993 between the Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar paved the way for the repatriation of about 250,000 citizens of Myanmar who sought refuge in Bangladesh during 1991-1992. However, by the end of 1995 there were still 51,000 refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh.

NOTES

¹ *World Population Prospects: The 1996 Revision* (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

² More developed regions include all regions of Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

³ Less developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), and Latin America and the Caribbean, and the regions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

⁴ Least developed countries, as defined by the General Assembly as of 1995, include 48 countries, of which 33 are in Africa, 9 in Asia, 1 in Latin America and 5 in Oceania. They are included in the less developed regions.

⁵ These are Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania.

⁶ These are Eastern Africa, Middle Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Asia, South-Central Asia, South-East Asia, Western Asia, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Australia and New Zealand, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

⁷ UNICEF, *Crisis in Mortality, Health and Nutrition*, Economics in Transition Studies, Regional Monitoring Report No. 2 (New York, August 1994).

⁸ Thierry E. Mertens and others, "Global estimates and epidemiology of HIV-1 infections and AIDS", *AIDS 1995*, vol. 9, supplement A (1995), pp. 5259-5272.

⁹ Peter Stalker, *The Work of Strangers: A Survey of International Labour Migration* (Geneva, ILO, 1994).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/49/12)*.

¹² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Populations of concern to UNHCR: a statistical overview" (Geneva, 31 December 1995).

¹³ Ferrando del Mundo, "The future of asylum in Africa", *Refugees*, No. 96 (1994), pp. 399-422.