Significant changes ahead in world population

Between now and 2100, the world’s population is predicted to change in major ways.

Global population, 2020–2100

Global population is forecasted to peak at 9.73 billion people in 2064, and then decrease to 8.79 billion by 2100.

The decrease is a result of improved access to women’s reproductive services and education.

In 2100, if labor force participation by age and sex does not change, the ratio of the non-working adult population to the working population could reach 1.16 globally, up from 0.80 in 2017. This means that, globally, each worker would have to support 1.16 non-workers over age 15.

The population declines that many countries will encounter over the next 80 years will have major implications for workforce, education, and health and social care planning, as well as an impact on economic growth, geopolitical stability, and the environment.

Most affected by this trend will be high-income countries, where decreases are projected in the number of people under 65 and increases in those 65 or older, which means fewer people of working age (20–64).

Open immigration policies could help countries with declining working-age populations better maintain population size and support economic growth without compromising gains in women’s reproductive access and educational attainment.