

ЛИНГВОСТРАНОВЕДЕНИЕ

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THE GLOBAL POPULATION GROWTH: CURRENT TRENDS

What does global population mean? Global population means the total number of people alive in the world. During the past millennia, there have been some astonishing changes in world population. The world's population has been growing at an unprecedented rate in recent years, with the current global population estimated to be around 7.8 billion people. This growth is largely due to advances in medicine, improved living conditions, and increased access to education. However, this rapid population growth is also putting a strain on resources and the environment, leading to concerns about sustainability and the future of our planet.

According to the United Nations, the global population is projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, and 11.2 billion by the end of the century. While some countries are experiencing declining birth rates and aging populations, others are still seeing significant population growth, particularly in Africa and Asia.

Whereas the current global population growth is a relatively new phenomenon, history has shown that there have been periods of massive population decline in the past. It is a known fact, about 2000 years ago, during the Roman era, the world population is estimated to have been approximately 170 million people. Then there was the fall of the Roman Empire, which saw Europe's population drop from an estimated 170 million to just 50 million over the course of several centuries. Later, in the 14th century, about 700 years ago, there was a massive population decline caused by the Black Death in medieval Europe. As much as one-half of the European population died from the disease, and the Black Death, in general, wiped out an estimated 30–60 % of Europe's population that time. However, by the late fourteenth century, global population trends had reversed and once again continued to move upwards, and the world population at that time was about 370 million people. By the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution led to a massive surge in population growth in Europe and North America, with the global population reaching around 1.6 billion by 1900. Yet another example of massive population decline happened when the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide. Meanwhile, the population growth continued into the 20th century, with the global population reaching 6 billion by the year 2000.

According to the United Nations, the world's population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, up from 8 billion in 2023. This population growth is mainly due to the high birth rates in developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia. One notable example is India. India is projected to soon surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027, and its population is expected to reach

1.64 billion by 2050. Nigeria is another country where the population is projected to increase rapidly, and it is expected to become the world's third most populous country by 2050.

While overpopulation is a serious issue in most countries of the world, current trends suggest that the global population growth rate may decrease in the coming decades. Japan and China are examples of countries where the population is now in decline. Japan has the world's highest percentage of elderly people, and, due to its very low birth rate, its population is projected to drop from its current estimate of 126 million to around 88 million by 2065. China's population is also expected to decrease due to its one-child policy, which was in place from 1979 to 2015. Although the policy is no longer in effect, many Chinese couples continue to have only one child.

Overpopulation occurs when there are too many people for the available resources and infrastructure to support. This can lead to a range of problems, including food and water shortages, overcrowding, pollution, and increased competition for jobs and housing. Some examples of countries that are currently experiencing overpopulation include India, China, Nigeria, and Pakistan. These countries have large populations and limited resources, which can make it difficult for them to provide basic necessities like food, water, and healthcare to their citizens.

The consequences of overpopulation can be severe and far-reaching, affecting not only individuals but also entire societies and ecosystems. One of the most pressing issues is climate change, which is exacerbated by increasing greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation. Overpopulation, even if limited to only certain parts of the world, can have severe consequences for all alive today. It puts a strain on the planet's resources, including food, water, and energy. It can also lead to environmental degradation, such as deforestation and habitat destruction, military conflict, and even contribute to climate change. Furthermore, overpopulation can lead to social and economic problems, such as overcrowding, poverty, and inequality. It is essential, therefore, to address the issue of overpopulation to ensure a sustainable future for the planet and all of its inhabitants.

Thus, the evident consequences of overpopulation include climate change, increased poverty and inequality, political instability, and the spread of infectious diseases. In order to address these challenges, it will be necessary to find sustainable solutions that balance the needs of people and the planet.