

Global Britain Briefing Note

No 124

21st April 2017

Commonwealth & world demography from 2020 to 2080

- The 53 Commonwealth countries will account for almost a third of global population by 2020 *Table 1*
- Sixty years later, by 2080, the 53 Commonwealth countries are projected to account for almost 40 % of global population *Table 1*
- Asian Commonwealth countries, principally India, Pakistan & Bangladesh, will continue to account for more than half of total Commonwealth population *Table 2*
- African Commonwealth countries' population will grow significantly as a proportion of total Commonwealth population, from 23 % in 2020 to 40 % in 2080 *Table 3*
- In Africa, the populations of a number of large non-Commonwealth countries will also grow rapidly between 2020 & 2080 *Table 7*
- In Asia, the populations of China & Japan will shrink significantly between 2020 & 2080, while those of Indonesia & the Philippines will grow *Table 7*
- The population of the USA is projected to grow by almost 100 million between 2020 & 2080 *Table 7*
- Russia's population is projected to shrink by 17% - 24 million - between 2020 & 2080; that of Ukraine is projected to shrink by 36 % over the same period *Table 7*
- The aggregate population of EU 27 (the current EU less the UK) is projected to shrink by almost 50 million between 2020 & 2080 *Table 7*

Table 1: Global population by main region in billions				
Region	2020	2050	2080	<i>Growth 2080/2020</i>
Asia	4.60	5.27	5.14	+ 12 %
Africa	1.34	2.48	3.72	2.78 times
Europe	0.74	0.71	0.66	<i>Shrinkage by 11%</i>
Latin America/Caribbean	0.67	0.78	0.78	+ 16 %
North America	0.37	0.43	0.48	+ 30 %
Oceania (inc. Australia/NZ)	0.04	0.06	0.07	+ 60 %
World	7.76	9.73	10.85	+ 40 %
<i>Of which Commonwealth c'tries</i>	<i>2.58</i>	<i>3.59</i>	<i>4.28</i>	<i>+ 66 %</i>
<i>Commonwealth as % of World</i>	<i>33 %</i>	<i>37 %</i>	<i>39 %</i>	

Table 2: The nine Asian Commonwealth countries: population in millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	<i>Growth 2080/2020</i>
India	1388.9	1705.3	1737.2	+ 25 %
Pakistan	208.4	309.6	359.8	+ 73 %
Bangladesh	170.5	202.2	189.3	+ 11 %
Malaysia	32.4	40.7	42.1	+ 30 %
Sri Lanka	21.2	20.1	17.4	<i>negative</i>
Papua New Guinea	7.1	7.1	7.1	zero
Singapore	6.0	6.7	6.1	+ 2 %
Brunei Darsalaam	0.4	0.5	0.5	+ 25 %
Maldives	0.4	0.5	0.5	+ 25 %
Totals	1835.3	2292.7	2360.0	+ 29%

Table 3: The eighteen African Commonwealth countries: population in millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	<i>Growth 2080/2020</i>
Nigeria	206.8	398.5	622.7	3.0 times
Tanzania	62.3	137.1	236.2	3.8 times
South Africa	56.7	65.5	67.7	+ 19 %
Kenya	52.2	95.5	138.0	2.6 times
Uganda	45.9	101.9	167.5	3.6 times
Mozambique	32.0	65.5	105.8	3.3 times
Ghana	30.5	50.1	66.5	2.2 times
Cameroon	26.3	48.4	71.3	2.7 times
Malawi	20.0	43.2	71.2	3.6 times
Zambia	18.9	43.0	78.7	4.2 times
Zimbabwe *	17.5	29.6	38.1	2.2 times
Rwanda	13.0	21.2	25.7	2.0 times
Sierra Leone	7.2	11.4	14.1	2.0 times
Namibia	2.7	4.3	5.4	2.0 times
Botswana	2.5	3.4	3.7	1.5 times
Lesotho	2.3	3.0	3.5	1.3 times
Swaziland	1.4	1.8	2.1	1.5 times
Mauritius	1.3	1.2	1.1	<i>negative</i>
Totals	595.6	1119.4	1713.5	2.9 times
<i>*Currently suspended from the Commonwealth</i>				

Table 4: The thirteen Commonwealth countries of the Americas: population in millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	<i>Growth 2080/2020</i>
Canada	37.6	44.1	48.0	+ 28%
Jamaica	2.8	2.7	2.1	<i>negative</i>
Trinidad & Tobago	1.4	1.3	1.1	<i>negative</i>
Guyana	0.8	0.8	0.7	<i>negative</i>
Belize	0.4	0.6	0.7	+ 75 %
Bahamas	0.4	0.5	0.5	+ 25 %
Barbados	0.3	0.3	0.3	<i>nil</i>
St Lucia	0.2	0.2	0.2	<i>nil</i>
St Vincent & Grenadines	0.1	0.1	0.1	<i>nil</i>
Antigua & Barbuda	0.1	0.1	0.1	<i>nil</i>
Dominica	0.1	0.1	0.1	<i>nil</i>
St Kitts & Nevis	0.1	0.1	0.1	<i>nil</i>
Grenada	0.1	0.1	0.1	<i>nil</i>
Totals	44.4	51.0	54.0	+ 22 %

Table 5: The Ten Commonwealth Countries of Oceania: population in millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	<i>Growth 2080/2020</i>
Australia	25.6	33.5	38.6	+ 51%
Papua New Guinea	8.4	13.2	16.8	+ 100 %
New Zealand	4.7	5.6	6.0	+ 28 %
Fiji	0.9	0.9	0.8	<i>negative</i>
Solomon Islands	0.6	1.0	1.3	2.2 times
Vanuatu	0.5	0.5	0.6	+ 20 %
Samoa	0.2	0.2	0.3	+ 50 %
Tonga	0.1	0.1	0.2	+ 100 %
Kiribati	0.1	0.2	0.2	+ 100 %
Tuvalu	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	<i>not available</i>
Totals	41.1	55.2	64.8	+ 58 %

Table 6: The Three Commonwealth Countries in Europe: population in millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	<i>Growth 2080/2020</i>
United Kingdom	66.7	75.4	80.3	+ 20 %
Cyprus	1.2	1.4	1.4	+ 17 %
Malta	0.4	0.4	0.4	<i>nil</i>
Totals	68.3	77.2	82.1	+ 20 %

Table 7: Selected Non-Commonwealth Countries: population in millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	Growth 2080/2020
Africa				
Ethiopia	112	188	237	2.1 times
Congo(Dem. Rep.)	90	195	321	3.6 times
Egypt	101	151	188	1.9 times
Sudan	45	80	113	2.5 times
Niger	24	72	152	6.3 times
East Asia				
China	1403	1348	1123	Shrinkage 20 %
Indonesia	272	322	324	+ 19 %
Japan	125	107	90	Shrinkage 28 %
Philippines	108	148	167	+ 55 %
Vietnam	98	113	110	+ 12%
Middle East				
Iran	83	92	79	Shrinkage 5 %
Iraq	42	84	134	3.2 times
Latin America				
Brazil	216	238	220	+ 2 %
Mexico	135	164	161	+8 %
North America				
USA	334	389	431	+ 29 %
Europe/Near Europe				
Russia	143	129	119	Shrinkage 17 %
Turkey	83	96	94	+ 13 %
Ukraine	44	35	28	Shrinkage 36 %
Switzerland	9	10	11	+ 22 %
Norway	5	7	7	+ 40 %
EU-27#	442	424	392	Shrinkage 11 %
# see Global Britain Briefing Note No 123: <i>Post-Brexit, Remaining EU to lose 49 million of population by 2080</i>				

Data Source

United Nations: Department of Economic & Social Affairs, Population Division:-

World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Volume 1: Comprehensive Tables:

2020 - 2100: Medium Variant:

https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf

Shortly after its foundation, in 1946, the United Nations began publishing *World Population Prospects*. The “2015 Revision”, from which the data used in this Briefing Note is summarised, is the twenty-third. The previous issue was the “2012 Revision” published in 2013. Individual UN member states provide the “raw” population data which the UN Population Division then processes and harmonises to produce its projections.

The three essential components or drivers of population change are fertility (numbers of children per woman), mortality and migration. The UN makes three estimates or “variants” of future population growth: “upper”, “medium” and “lower”. This Briefing Note uses the Medium Variant.

Africa is the fastest-growing major area. More than half of global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in that continent. Africa has the highest rate of population growth among major areas, growing at a pace of 2.55 per cent annually in 2010-2050. Consequently, of the additional 2.4 billion people projected to be added to the global population between 2015 and 2050, 1.3 billion will be added in Africa. Asia is projected to be the second largest contributor to future global population growth, adding 0.9 billion people between 2015 and 2050, followed by Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania, which are projected to have much smaller increments. In the medium variant, Europe is projected to have a smaller population in 2050 than in 2015.

Shrinking populations are typically ageing populations in which the ratio of “non-working” people to “working” people increases, with consequent effects on public - and private - finances, healthcare provision, pensions, housing etc etc.

Global Britain

Ewen Stewart

Director

Brian Monteith

Director of Communications

Howard Timms

Treasurer

Ian Milne

Chairman Emeritus

www.globalbritain.co.uk

**Global Britain Briefing Note No 124:
Commonwealth & world demography from 2020 to 2080**

19th April 2017