Projected Change in Working-Age Population, 2010-30

Growth will slow almost everywhere. Most advanced economies face shrinking work forces, while many less developed countries face explosive growth. Europe’s working-age population is projected to decline by 10%, or nearly 50 million. Less developed countries are projected to see a workforce gain of nearly 1 billion, with about half of that occurring in Asia and nearly 40% in Africa.

Change in Working-Age Population, 1990-2010

Over the past 20 years, the fastest growth in working-age population occurred in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Worldwide, the working-age population increased by 40%, or 1.3 billion, with 95% of that growth occurring in less developed countries. Asia accounted for two-thirds of worldwide growth and Africa 20%.

Divergent work-force changes have strategic implications for economic activity.

The Global Aging Program at the Stanford Center on Longevity focuses on the economic and political implications of longevity. The program specifically addresses the risks and opportunities of population age shifts around the world. Understanding the implications of these changes will be critical for effective policy making.

The Stanford Center on Longevity is working to transform the culture of human aging. The Center studies the nature and development of the entire human life span, looking for innovative ways to use science and technology to solve the problems of people over 50 and improve the well-being of people of all ages. To inspire change of this scale, the Center brings together the best minds in academia, business and government to target the most important challenges and solutions for older populations. The Center was founded by two of the world’s leading authorities on longevity and aging, Stanford professors Laura L. Carstensen, PhD, and Thomas Rando MD, PhD, and received its initial funding from Texas investor Richard Rainwater.

Adele Hayutin, Ph.D., Senior Research Scholar and Director of SCL’s Global Aging Program, is a leader in the field of comparative international demographics and population aging. Dr. Hayutin combines broad knowledge of the underlying data with the ability to translate that data into practical, easy to understand language and implications. She has developed a comparative international perspective that highlights surprising demographic differences across countries and illustrates the unexpected speed of critical demographic changes. Previously she was director of research and chief economist of the Fremont Group (formerly Bechtel Investments) where she focused on issues and trends affecting business investment strategy. Dr. Hayutin received a BA from Wellesley College and a Master’s in Public Policy and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Definition: Working-age population = 15-64
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### 2. BRICs

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### 3. Beyond the BRICs

Among the “Next 11” emerging economies, only the youngest will face continued work-force growth. The oldest, South Korea, faces a steep decline in working-age population.

### Data Source

United Nations, World Population Prospects, The 2008 Revision Medium Variant Forecast
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