

UN Projections: World Population By 2050

In February the United Nations Population Division released the 2004 revisions to its World Population Prospects publication, projecting how much further world population is likely to grow.

Under the UN's medium variant scenario, world population will reach 9.1 billion in 2050. This represents a slight upward revision from more recent estimates that had world population reaching just 8.9 billion in 2050.

Almost all of that growth will occur in the developing world. Ninety-five percent of all population growth today is occurring in the developing world compared to just 5 percent in the developed world according to the UN Population Division. Of that estimated 9.1 billion, only slightly over 1.2 billion will live in countries that are currently designated as developed -- about what the population of the developed world is today.

Vocabularies:

Prospects - something expected; a possibility

Scenario - an outline of an expected sequence of events

Questions for Discussion:

1. Is overpopulation a problem in your country? If it is, how does your government control the problem?
2. What are the causes of overpopulation?
3. What are the problems that are likely to occur if world population does reach up to 9.1 billion by 2050?
4. How would you envision your life by 2050?
5. What are your personal suggestions to solve the problem on world overpopulation?