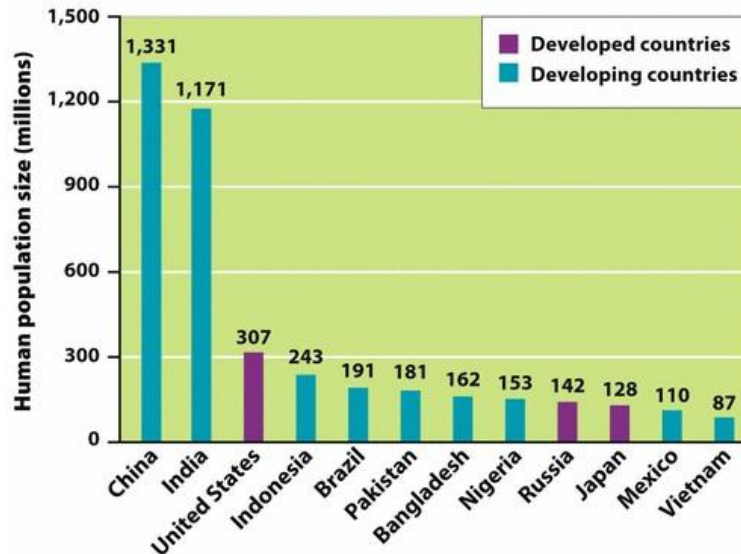


# THE WORLD POPULATION

## Distribution, Density and Growth

### **PATTERNS OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE WORLD**

The 10 most populous countries of the world contribute about 60% of the world's population. Of these 10 countries, 6 are located in Asia.



### DENSITY OF POPULATION

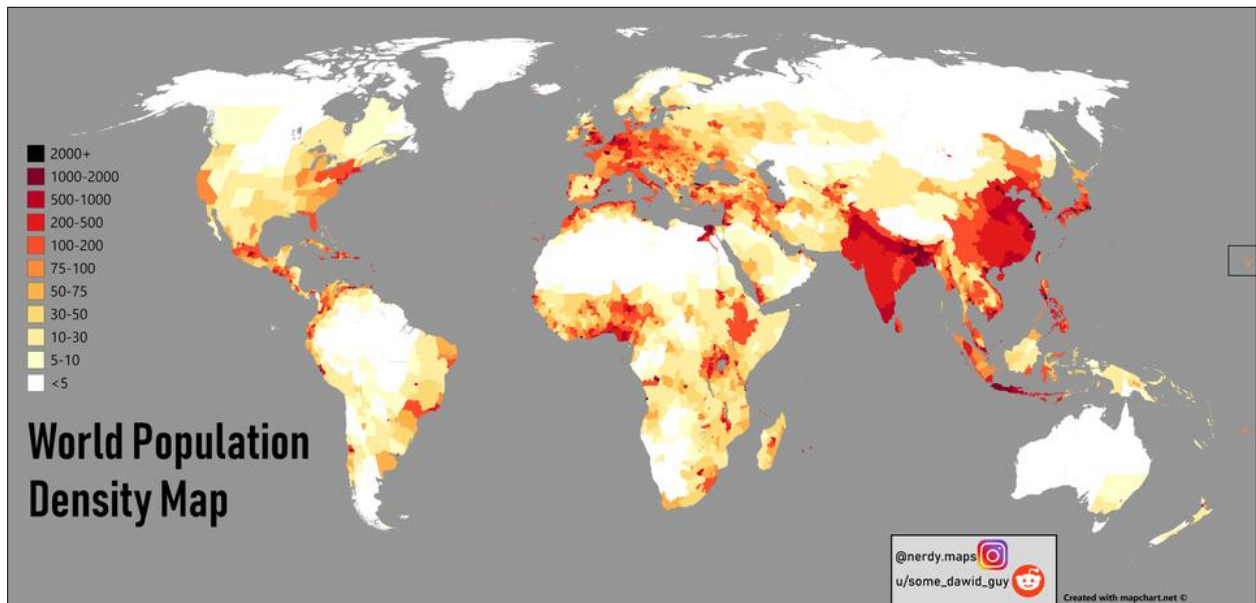
$$\text{Density of Population} = \frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Area}}$$

Densely Populated Regions -- more than 200 persons per sq.km

1. East Asia(China,Japan,South Korea and Taiwan)
2. South Asia(India,Pakistan,Bangladesh,Sri Lanka and Nepal)
3. North-West Europe (U.K, France,Germany,Netherlands, Belgium,Luxemberg,Ireland,Denmark,Spain and Italy)
4. Eastern North America (North-East United States and South- East Canada)

Sparsely Populated Regions – less than 01 person per sq.km

1. Deserts (hot and cold), arid and semi-arid areas
2. The polar caps(Tundra and Antarctica)
3. The lofty and rugged mountains
4. The Equatorial dense forests



## **FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION**

### **I. Geographical Factors**

- (i) Availability of water: It is the most important factor for life. So, people prefer to live in areas where fresh water is easily available. Water is used for drinking, bathing and cooking- and also for cattle. Crops industries and navigation. It is because of this that river valleys are among the most densely populated areas of the world.
- (ii) Landforms: People prefer living on flat plains and gentle slopes. These areas are favorable for the production of crops and to build roads and industries. Development of transport is difficult on mountainous and hilly areas. Agricultural and industrial development is difficult on mountainous and hilly areas. So, these areas tend to be less populated. The Ganga plains are among the most densely populated areas of the world while the Himalayas are scarcely populated.
- (iii) Climate: Extreme climates such as very hot or cold deserts are uncomfortable for human habitation. Areas with comfortable climate, where there is not much seasonal variation attract more people. Areas with heavy rainfall or extreme and harsh climate have low population. Mediterranean regions have more people due to their pleasant climate.
- (iv) Soils: Fertile soils are important for agricultural and allied activities. Therefore areas which have fertile loamy soils have more people living on them as these can support intensive agriculture. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have

fertile soil, so the population density is more whereas parts of Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir have poor soil, so these areas are thinly populated.

## II. Economic Factors

- (i) *Minerals*: Areas with mineral deposits attract industries. Mining and industrial activities generate employment. So, skilled and semi-skilled workers move to these areas and make them densely populated. Eg: Katanga Zambia copper belt in Africa
- (ii) *Urbanization*: Cities offer better employment opportunities, educational and medical facilities, better means of transport and communication. Good civic amenities and the attraction of city life draw people to the cities. It leads to rural to urban migration and cities grow in size. Mega cities attract large number of migrants every year.
- (iii) *Industrialization*: Industrial belts provide job opportunities and attract large numbers of people. These include factory workers, transport operators, shopkeepers, bank employees, doctors, teachers and other service providers. E.g.: Kobe-Osaka region of Japan is thickly populated because of the presence of a number of industries.

## III. Social and Cultural Factors

Some places attract more people because they have religious or cultural significance. In the same way-people tend to move away from places where there is social and political unrest. Many times government offer incentives to people to live in sparsely populated areas or move away from overcrowded places.

## POPULATION GROWTH

***Growth of Population*** - It refers to the change in number of inhabitants of a territory during a specific period of time. This change may be positive as well as negative. It can be expressed either in terms of absolute numbers or in terms of percentage.

***Growth Rate of Population:*** This is the change of population expressed in percentage.

***Natural Growth of Population:*** This is the population increased by difference between births and deaths in a particular region between two points of time.

Natural Growth = Births – Deaths

Actual Growth of Population: Births-Deaths + In Migration – Out Migration

***Positive Growth of Population:*** This happens when the birth rate is more than the death rate between two points of time or when people from other countries migrate permanently to a region.

***Negative Growth of Population:*** If the population decreases between two points of time it is known as negative growth of population. It occurs when the birth rate falls below the death rate or people migrate to other countries.

### COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

There are three components of population change

- (i) Births
- (ii) Deaths
- (iii) Migration

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) –It is expressed as number of live births in a year per thousand of population.

$CBR = Bi/P * 1000$

CBR = Crude Birth Rate; Bi = live births during the year; P= Midyear population of the area

Crude Death Rate (CDR) – It is expressed in terms of number of deaths in a particular year per thousand of population in a particular region.

$CDR = D/P * 1000$

CDR= Crude Death Rate; D= Number of deaths; P= Estimated mid-year population of that year.

