



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact

**John Robbins 281-965-6390**  
**Jun Gai 281-498-4310**

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins

**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Sunday, January 08 2023

## China in talks with Pfizer for generic COVID drug

HONG KONG/BEIJING, Jan 6 (Reuters) - China is in talks with Pfizer Inc (PFE.N) to secure a licence that will allow domestic drugmakers to manufacture and distribute a generic version of the U.S. firm's COVID-19 antiviral drug Paxlovid in China, three sources told Reuters.

China's medical products regulator - the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) - has been leading the talks with Pfizer since late last month, one of the sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Beijing is keen to finalise licensing deal terms before the Lunar New Year which begins on Jan. 22, the source said.

Chinese hospitals are under intense pressure after the government abruptly abandoned its "zero-COVID" policy last month, sending infections soaring. The surging wave of infections across the country has overwhelmed hospitals, emptied pharmacies of medicines and caused international alarm.

U.S. FDA approves Eisai, Biogen Alzheimer's drug CureVac says COVID vaccine produced immune response in early-stage trial

Pfizer explores options for some rare disease, cancer drugs BioNTech signs deal with UK for personalised cancer therapies

Paxlovid, found to have reduced hospitalisations in high-risk patients by around 90% in a clinical trial, is in high demand with many Chinese attempting to get the drug abroad and have it shipped to China. Beijing has been largely resistant to western vaccines and treatments. Oral treatment Paxlovid is one of the few foreign ones it has approved.

In February last year, China approved Paxlovid, which was supposed to be largely available via hospitals, to treat high-risk patients in several provinces. Pfizer last month reached an agreement to export Paxlovid to China through a local company to make the medicine more widely available.

The NMPA and the State Council Information Office, which handles media queries for the government, did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

A Pfizer spokesperson said the company is actively collaborating with Chinese authorities and all stakeholders to secure an adequate supply of Paxlovid in China.

All the sources declined to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to media.

The NMPA held a meeting with several Chinese drugmakers in late December to discuss preparations needed to make a generic version of Paxlovid hoping it would be able to secure the licence in the near future, two of the sources said.

Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceutical (600521.SS), which signed a deal with Pfizer in August to produce Paxlovid only for use on the mainland, and CSPC Pharmaceutical



Group (1093.HK), a developer of a potential mRNA COVID vaccine, are among those that attended the meeting, the first source said.

The second source said the NMPA has also advised firms to prepare to register with the regulator to produce the generic version of Paxlovid.

### GENERIC DRUGMAKERS

Prospective candidates including Huahai and CSPC have in recent weeks been conducting "bioequivalence tests", which are required by Chinese regulators before generic drugs can be launched, the two sources and another source with direct knowledge of the matter said.

For a generic drug to be deemed equivalent to a branded medicine, such tests are required to make sure they work the same way in the body.

Both Huahai and CSPC expect to submit the tests results to the NMPA later this month, one of them added.

Huahai and CSPC did not respond to a request for comment.

In March, 35 generic drugmakers around the world including five Chinese firms agreed to make cheap versions of Paxlovid for 95 poorer countries through a licensing arrangement with the U.N.-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP). That licence does not allow the companies to sell generic Paxlovid in China. read more

The MPP licensing arrangement is royalty free for Pfizer, while COVID-19 remains classified as a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Following the pandemic period, sales to low-income countries will remain royalty free, lower-middle-income countries and upper-middle-income countries will be subject to a 5% royalty for sales to the public sector and a 10% royalty for sales to the private sector, MPP said at that time.

Due to severe shortages of antivirals as 1.4 billion Chinese battle infections, many have turned to underground channels to secure Paxlovid and other drugs, according to domestic media. Scalpers charge as much as 50,000 yuan (\$7,260) for a box of Paxlovid, more than 20 times its original price of 2,300 yuan.

China has also pressed Pfizer to lower the price of Paxlovid as the government aims to include the drug in the national medical insurance scheme which could cover part of the cost, the three sources said

**休士頓黃頁**  
SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS



美南報業電視傳媒集團  
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

走進歷史 · 策劃將來



休斯頓最具影響力的中文黃頁

T 281-498-4310  
F 281-498-2728

11122 Bellaire Blvd Houston, TX 77072

ad@scdaily.com  
www.scdaily.com

# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/06/2023

## We Are Thankful To Congressman Al Green

A few days ago I attended Congressman Al Green's breakfast meeting when it was announced that more than twenty public and private groups had received grants from the federal government, including \$2.5 million dollars for the Houston International District for infrastructure, public safety and other improvements in our district.

Twenty years ago, the Texas Legislature passed a resolution to set up an International District from Beltway 8 to Highway 6. Since that time, we have used about \$1.5 million dollars to improve the district's safety and infrastructure projects.

However, the planning and construction in the area is still insufficient. In our master plan, we want to build an international gate, an



outdoor theater and sponsor various activities to attract more visitors to our district to increase economic prosperity.

Congressman Green has been our good friend for a long time.

Whenever we have faced any disaster or difficulties, he has always been on the front line.

Al, we really thank you for what you have done for our district.



**Wea H. Lee**  
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas  
Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO  
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



### Southern DAILY Make Today Different

### Editor's Choice



Tanya McLean, aunt of Jacob Blake, reacts to the verdict in the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse, outside the Kenosha County Courthouse in Kenosha, N REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



A man holds a placard as he protests against the verdict in Kenosha, . REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



A woman stands behind a car with shattered glass near the scene of a shooting at the Boise Towne Square shopping mall in Boise, Idaho. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



Hannah Gittings, girlfriend of victim Anthony Huber, is embraced as she speaks to the media after the verdict, REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



Fishermen throw a bottle of beer during the traditional carp haul near the town of Blatna, Czech Republic. REUTERS/David W Cerny



Supporters of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange protest outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls

# Here's What Happened In 2022 A Photo Essay Of World Events

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



### Key Point

The year 2022 has been full of rapid and unexpected changes. From severe flooding in Pakistan to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the following pictures cover major news events from the past 12 months.

2022 has been a year like no other. Economic, environmental and geopolitical turmoil have defined the past 12 months, in a year that saw the death of the British monarch Queen Elizabeth II and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

### 1. Inflation surges around the world



Inflation has been unusually high in many countries around the world in 2022. Inflation has been unusually high in countries around the world in 2022. Price increases in the US peaked at more than 9.1% in June, and at 11.1% in the UK in October. This has resulted in a cost-of-living crisis,

with many families, even in some of the world's wealthiest nations, being forced to choose between eating or heating this winter.

### 2. The Omicron coronavirus variant spreads



The Omicron variants were a highlight in the year 2022. Image: REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

The highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19 spread around the world this year. Two Omicron "cousins" have also recently been named by the UK Health Security Agency, as the virus continues to mutate.

### DISCOVER 3. Russia invades Ukraine



Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, 2022. Image: REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, leading to global crises for both food and energy, as well as displacing millions of people.

### 4. U.S. Supreme Court overturns abortion rights



The vote for abortion rights was 5-4 to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe vs Wade ruling, on 24 June, 2022. Image: REUTERS/Michael A. McCoy  
In a controversial ruling on 24 June, the US Supreme Court revoked women's constitutional right to abortion, restoring the ability of individual states to determine a woman's reproductive rights.

### 5. Record-breaking heatwaves worldwide



Climate change has led to many record-breaking temperatures around the world. From runways melting to devastating wildfires, no country was safe from the extreme levels of heat experienced this year.

### 6. Droughts around the world



The summer of 2022 produced Europe's worst drought in 500 years Image: REUTERS/Susana Vera

This summer produced Europe's worst drought in 500 years, with two-thirds of the continent experiencing some sort of extreme heat warning. In China, factories were forced to shut down in August due to decreased water levels around the Yangtze river basin, which curbed electricity generation at hydropower plants.

### 7. Massive flooding in Pakistan



A flooded highway in Sehwan, Pakistan. Image: REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro  
Flooding in Pakistan from June to August killed more than 1,391 people and caused an estimated \$30 billion in damage as houses, crops and key infrastructure were swept away.

### 8. Queen Elizabeth II passes away

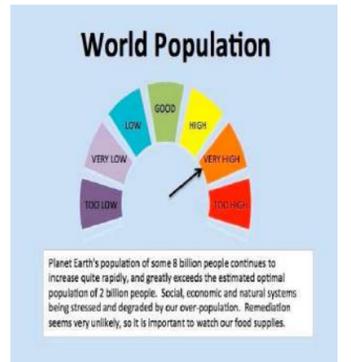


Queen Elizabeth II died at Balmoral

Castle in Scotland on 8 September, 2022. Image: Tristan Fewings/Pool via REUTERS

Queen Elizabeth II died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on 8 September and was succeeded by her eldest son, King Charles III. She died at 96 years of age after 70 years on the throne, making her the world's second longest-ever reigning monarch

### 9. World population exceeds 8 billion



On 15 November 2022, the world surpassed 8 billion people. Image: REUTERS/Jon Nazca

The world reached its first landmark of 1 billion people in 1803. Over 200 years later, on 15 November 2022, the world surpassed 8 billion people.

### 10. COP27's 'loss and damage' fund for vulnerable countries



One of the many issues discussed at the UN summit was 'loss and damage'. Image: REUTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany  
The fund agreed at the COP27 summit will support poor countries that are being heavily impacted by climate change, despite their historically low emissions. It will cover the cost of any climate-related damage that these countries cannot avoid or adapt to. (Courtesy weforum.org)

# COMMUNITY

## Highlights From The United Nations' Latest Release Of Its World Population Estimates

### Key Findings From The 2022 United Nations Population Prospects Study

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



How many people are there in the world? How many die each year, and how many babies are born? These are key questions that we need to understand the world around us. The global population dataset is one of our most important at Our World in Data: it underpins nearly every topic we cover. The UN releases an update of its World Population Prospects every two years. Its latest release was due in 2021 but was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, today – on World Population Day – the long-awaited dataset has been released. The following article highlights some of the key findings of the twenty-seventh publication of the 'World Population Prospects'.

### #1. The World Population Will Pass 8 Billion At The End Of 2022

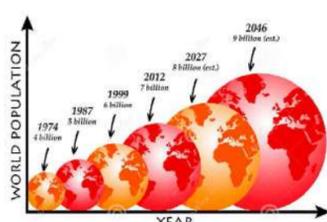
Since 1975 the world has been adding another billion people every 12 years. It passed its last milestone – 7 billion in 2011. And, by the end of 2022, it will pass another one: there will be 8 billion people in the world. While this rate of absolute growth is similar to previous decades, the growth rate continues to fall. Since 2019, the global population growth rate has fallen below 1%.



That's less than half its peak rate of growth – of 2.3% – in the 1960s. As global fertility rates continue to fall (see below), this rate will continue to fall.

### #2. The UN Estimates Around 15 Million Excess Deaths In 2020 And 2021 From The COVID-19 Pandemic

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on global population and migration trends. We know that the confirmed death toll from COVID-19 is likely to significantly underestimate the true number of deaths because of limited testing. One way to get a better estimate of the total mortality impact of the pandemic is to look at excess mortality data. We can look at the total number of deaths and compare this to the number we expect to occur in a non-pandemic year. In its latest population dataset, the UN estimates that in 2020, there were approximately 5 million excess deaths. In 2021, this figure was 10 million. This estimate of 15 million excess deaths over 2020 and 2021 is in line with estimates from other organizations. The Economist put its central estimate of excess deaths at 17.6 million. The World Health Organization, which is a UN organization, estimated 14.9 million excess deaths. These death figures are highly uncertain. But what's clear is that the number of confirmed deaths – which was just 5.4 million by the end of 2021 – captures just a fraction of the true impact of the pandemic.



### #3. The Global Population Is Projected To Peak At Around 10.4 Billion In 2086

The world population has increased rapidly over the last century. When will it come to an end? Previous versions of the UN World Population Prospects showed a significant slowdown in population growth, with very slow growth – almost reaching a plateau – by the end of the century. In its previous release, it projected that the world population would be around 10.88 billion in 2100, and would not yet have peaked. In this new release, the UN projects that the global population will peak before the end of the century – in 2086 at just over 10.4 billion people.1 There are several reasons for this earlier, and lower, peak. One is that the UN expects fertility rates to fall more quickly in low-income countries compared to previous revisions. It also expects less of a 'rebound' in fertility rates across high-income countries in the second half of the century.

### #4. The Global Fertility Rate Has Continued To Decline To 2.3 Births Per Woman

A key determinant of the global population rate is the average number of children that women have over their lifetime – the 'fertility rate'. Fertility rates have fallen rapidly across the world in recent decades. In 1950, the average woman gave birth around 5 times. Since then, fertility rates have more than halved. In 2021, this global figure was 2.3 births per woman.



If you switch to the map tab in the interactive chart you see that most people in the world now live in countries where fertility rates are at – or below – the 'replacement level'. This is the level at which populations would stabilize or shrink over the long-term. The UN reports that two-thirds of people live in countries where the fertility rate is below 2.1 births per woman. In some high-income countries such as South Korea, Japan, Spain, or Italy, it is as low as 1.3 births per woman.

### #5. Next Year India Is Expected To Take Over From China As The World's Most Populous Country

China has been the world's most populous country for decades. It is now home to more than 1.4 billion people. However, its population growth rate has fallen

significantly following a rapid drop in its fertility rate over the 1970s and 80s. The fertility rate in India has also fallen substantially in recent decades – from 5.7 births per woman in 1950 to just 2 births per woman today. However, the rate of this decline has been slower. Because of this, India will very soon overtake China as the most populous country in the world. The UN expects this to happen in 2023. (Courtesy https://ourworldindata.org/) For more information, go here: https://ourworldindata.org/world-population-update-2022.

### Related

### World Population Highlights The Current World Population 7,961,890,500 TOP 20 LARGEST COUNTRIES BY POPULATION

1	China	1,450,762,207	2	India	1,408,316,238	3	USA	335,015,755
4	Indonesia	279,569,569	5	Pakistan	230,046,479	6	Brazil	215,692,458
7	Nigeria	217,194,939	8	Bangladesh	168,114,231	9	Russia	146,062,225
10	Mexico	131,763,917	11	Japan	125,692,247	12	Ethiopia	121,119,695
13	Philippines	112,649,389	14	Egypt	106,448,353	15	Vietnam	99,162,605
16	D.R. Congo	95,528,891	17	Turkey	86,236,933	18	Iran	86,251,924
19	Germany	84,334,434	20	Thailand				

### World Population: Past, Present, and Future

At the dawn of agriculture, about 8000 B.C., the population of the world was approximately 5 million. Over the 8,000-year period up to 1 A.D. it grew to 200 million (some estimate 300 million or even 600, suggesting how imprecise population estimates of early historical periods can be), with a growth rate of under 0.05% per year. A tremendous change occurred with the industrial revolution: whereas it had taken all of human history until around 1800 for world population to reach one billion, the second billion was achieved in only 130 years (1930), the third billion in 30 years (1960), the fourth billion in 15 years (1974), and the fifth billion in only 13 years (1987).



• During the 20th century alone, the population in the world has grown from 1.65 billion to 6 billion.  
• In 1970, there were roughly half as many people in the world as there are now.  
• Because of declining growth rates, it will now take over 200 years to double again.  
**Population Growth Rate**  
Population in the world is, as of 2020, growing at a rate of around 1.05% per year (down from 1.08% in 2019, 1.10% in 2018, and 1.12% in 2017). The current average population increase is estimated at 81 million

people per year. Annual growth rate reached its peak in the late 1960s, when it was at around 2%. The rate of increase has nearly halved since then, and will continue to decline in the coming years. World population will therefore continue to grow in the 21st century, but at a much slower rate compared to the recent past. World population has doubled (100% increase) in 40 years from 1959 (3 billion) to 1999 (6 billion). It is now estimated that it will take another nearly 40 years to increase by another 50% to become 9 billion by 2037.



The latest world population projections indicate that world population will reach 10 billion persons in the year 2057.

**World Population Forecast (2020-2050)**  
10 Billion (2057) The United Nations projects world population to reach 10 billion in the year 2057.

9 Billion (2037) World population is expected to reach 9 billion in the year 2037.

8 Billion (2023) World population is expected to reach 8 billion people in 2023 according to the United Nations (in 2026 according to the U.S. Census Bureau).

7.96 Billion (2022) The current world population is 7.96 billion as of July 2022 [1] according to the most recent United Nations estimates elaborated by Worldometer. The term "World Population" refers to the human population (the total number of humans currently living) of the world.



7 Billion (2011) According to the United Nations, world population reached 7 billion on October 31, 2011. The U.S. Census Bureau made a lower estimate, for which the 7 billion mark was only reached on March 12, 2012.

6 Billion (1999) According to the United Nations, the 6 billion figure was reached on October 12, 1999 (celebrated as the Day of 6 Billion). According to the U.S. Census Bureau instead, the six billion milestone was reached on July 22, 1999, at about 3:49 AM GMT. Yet, according to the U.S. Census, the date and time of when 6 billion was reached will probably change because the already uncertain estimates are constantly being updated. (Courtesy https://www.worldometers.info)



Overview  
**United Nations**  
July 11, 2022  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division  
**World Population Prospects 2022**  
The 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects is the twenty-seventh edition of official United Nations population estimates and projections that have been prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. It presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 237 countries or areas, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends. This latest assessment considers the results of 1,758 national population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2022, as well as information from vital registration systems and from 2,890 nationally representative sample surveys. The 2022 revision also presents population projections to the year 2100 that reflect a range of plausible outcomes at the global, regional and national levels.