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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Ukraine hits Russian-held city deep behind front as talk of counteroffensive grows

KYIV, March 29 (Reuters) - Ukraine struck a railway depot and knocked out power in the Russian-occupied city of Melitopol deep behind front lines on Wednesday amid growing talk from Kyiv of a counterassault against Russian forces worn out by a failed winter offensive.

Unverified images on the internet showed explosions lighting up the night sky with streaks of contrails in Melitopol, base of the Russian-controlled administration in Zaporizhzhia, one of five Ukrainian provinces Russia claims to have annexed.

Ukraine's exiled mayor of the city confirmed there were explosions there. Russia's state TASS news agency, citing Moscow-installed officials, said a railway depot was damaged and power knocked out to the city and nearby villages.

Melitopol, which had a pre-war population of around 150,000, is a railway logistics hub for Russian forces in southern Ukraine and part of the land bridge linking Russia to the occupied Crimea peninsula.

There was no public information about the weapons Ukraine might have used for the strike. The city is at the far edge of the range of Ukraine's HIMARS rockets and within reach of newer weapons it is said to be deploying, including air-launched JDAM bombs and ground-launched GLSDB munitions promised by the United States. Russia said it shot down a GLSDB on Tuesday, the first time it has reported doing so.

The strike could hamper Moscow's rear logistics at a time when Kyiv has suggested it could soon mount a counterattack against Russian invasion forces who have scored no big victories in a months-long offensive despite the war's bloodiest fighting.

Melitopol is south of the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, visited on Wednesday.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy visits positions of Ukrainian Border Guards near the border with Russia, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Sumy region, Ukraine March 28, 2023. Ukrainian Presidential Press Service/Handout via REUTERS

day by U.N. nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi, who repeated calls for a safe zone there, saying the situation had not improved and fighting nearby had worsened.

Ukrainian forces have stuck mainly to a defensive footing since their last big advance nearly five months ago. In that time, Moscow has launched a winter assault using hundreds of thousands of reservists and thousands of convicts recruited from prisons for its Wagner private army.

But as the winter turns to spring, questions hover over how much longer the Russians can sustain their offensive and when the Ukrainians will strike back.

There are clear signs the Russian assault is flagging.

The average number of daily Russian attacks on the front line reported by Ukraine's general staff has declined for four straight weeks since the start of March, to 69 in the past seven days from 124 in the week of March 1-7. Just 57 attacks were reported on

Wednesday.

Reuters journalists near the front lines west of Bakhmut and further north also reported a notable decline in the intensity of Russian attacks last week.

A sense of anticipation ahead of the counteroffensive is building inside Ukraine.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy visits Sumy region

On Wednesday, Oleksiy Honcharenko, a lawmaker, posted a video on social media of dozens of manned Ukrainian fighting vehicles with their engines running in a large open field. Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of the video or when it was filmed.

The Russians have made no significant gains despite huge casualties on both sides, and Ukrainian and Western officials say they suspect the Russian attacking force will soon be spent.

Russian officials say their forces

are still capturing ground in street-by-street fighting inside Bakhmut, the small eastern city that has been their main target for months. But they have failed so far to encircle it and force the Ukrainians to withdraw, as had seemed likely weeks ago.

"The battle for Bakhmut today has already practically destroyed the Ukrainian army, and unfortunately, it has also badly damaged the Wagner Private Military Company," Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin said in an audio message.

In its evening update on Wednesday, Ukraine's military General Staff said Russian forces had had "a degree of success" in efforts to storm Bakhmut but Kyiv's forces continued to stand firm and were "repelling numerous enemy attacks".

TANKS FOR SPRING COUNTERATTACK
British military intelligence said on Wednesday the Ukrainians had successfully pushed the Russians back from the main supply route









to Bakhmut and Russian assaults in the city were lessening.

This past week Moscow also unleashed a new attack on Avdiivka, a smaller city further south. Britain said that too had failed to achieve gains, while leading to huge losses in Russian armour.

The week has also seen the arrival of the first full units of Western main battle tanks for Kyiv, promised two months ago to serve as the spearhead of a counteroffensive when warmer weather dries Ukraine's notorious sucking black mud.

In an apparent response, Russia's RIA news agency reported that Moscow had sent its troops hundreds of new and refurbished tanks of its own. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Wednesday that a plan announced this week to deploy tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of ally Belarus would force NATO to assess the gravity of the situation.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/28/2023

TikTok Is Another "Big" Issue

With the relationship between the U.S. and China deteriorating, the U.S. Congress, including both Democrat and Republican members, invited TikTok CEO Shou Yi Chew to Congress to testify about TikTok in the United States. The majority of the members of Congress believed, because of today's strained relationship with Beijing, that TikTok is a threat to America's national security.

The American TikTok, which is a different version than the Chinese version, currently has more than half of our population using the TikTok app. That means that of the 150 million users of the app, most of them young people, are the company's active clients who are driving a projected 2023 record revenue income volume of more than \$7.8 billion dollars. TikTok is the largest social media app that people have uploaded in recent years.

Today many of our other social media platforms are also facing



tough competition. In the growing and crowded market some of them are losing the battle and have laid off many their employees.

With the hot trade war going on between the U.S and China, science and technology products and services are playing increasingly

major roles as they enter into the social media culture.

If more than half of our people are using TikTok, the Biden administration will need to be careful in handling any ban of TikTok because most of these people are voters.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Cast member Jodie Turner-Smith attends the premiere for the film "Murder Mystery 2" in Los Angeles. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



Migrants cover their faces with a sheet to avoid being identified as they rest at the "Hijo Prodigio" migrant shelter in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. REUTERS/Victor Medina



Students from the nearby Harpeth Hall School pray while visiting a memorial at the school entrance after a deadly shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. REUTERS/Cheney Orr



A masked protester stands in front of a burning car during clashes at a demonstration as part of the tenth day of nationwide strikes and protests against the French government's pension reform in Nantes, France. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe



Hundreds of people fill the 1st floor rotunda at the Texas State Capitol to rally against House Bill 1686, which would prohibit health care providers from providing transgender-related and gender-affirming care to children, in Austin, Texas. Ricardo B. Brazziell /American-Statesman/USA TODAY NETWORK



King Charles III and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier plant a tree after attending a Green Energy reception at Bellevue Palace, Berlin, the official residence of the President of Germany. Ben Birchall/Pool.

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



By Hannah Ritchie, Edouard Mathieu, Lucas Rod s-Guirao and Marcel Gerber

#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%.

Key Points
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':



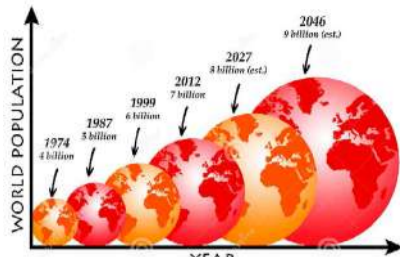
Overview
United Nations
July 11, 2022
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division
World Population Prospects 2022
The 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects is the twenty-seventh edition of official United Nations population estimates and projections that have been prepared by 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.



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. 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

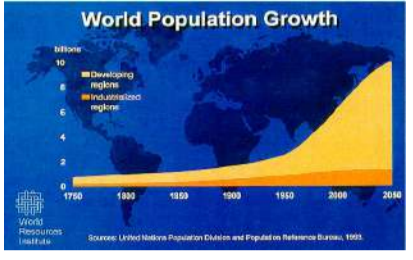
China has been the world's most populous country for decades. It is now home to more than 1.4 billion people. However, its population growth rate has fallen

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>.

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

China	1,450,762,207	India	1,408,316,238	USA	335,015,755
Indonesia	279,569,569	Pakistan	230,046,475	Brazil	215,692,458
Nigeria	217,184,939	Bangladesh	168,114,231	Russia	146,062,225
Mexico	131,763,917	Japan	125,692,247	Philippines	121,119,605
D.R. Congo	95,528,891	Turkey	86,236,993	Vietnam	99,167,605
Germany	84,334,434	Thailand			

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 US 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/>)

COVID-19 Is The Driving Force Of Change

Report: China Could Overtake U.S. As World's Largest Economy By 2028



A woman wearing a mask labors in a garment factory in Donghai county in east China's Jiangsu province Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020.

KEY POINTS

According to data from The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), China will overtake the U.S. to become the world's biggest economy by 2028

The report says China's "skilful management of the pandemic" and the overall long-term impact the pandemic are the reasons for the major change

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

China will overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy by 2028, five years earlier than previously forecast, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a report has found. The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), a UK-based think tank, said in its annual World Economic League Table released on Saturday that one of the impacts of the global health crisis as been "to redistribute economic momentum with Asia doing best and Europe worst". China's "skilful management of the pandemic" and the long-term impact the pandemic will have on Western growth means China's "relative performance has improved."

"We now think that the Chinese economy in dollar terms will overtake the US economy in 2028, a full 5 years earlier than we thought last year," the report states. It notes for instance that authorities reacted "vigorously" to the COVID-19 crisis, thus inflicting less damage on the economy. As a result, while most Western economies are expected to register negative growth for the year, China is forecast to record a 2 per cent growth rate.



It is then expected to grow by an annual 5.7 per cent between 2021-205 and

4.5 per cent annually from 2026 to 2030 and then 3.9 per cent the following five years. In contrast, the US is projected to grow by an annual 1.9 per cent from 2022 to 2024 and then by 1.6 per cent following a "strong post-pandemic rebound" next year.

"For some time, an overarching theme of global economics has been the economic and soft power struggle between the United States and China. The Covid-19 pandemic and corresponding economic fallout have certainly tipped this rivalry in China's favour," the report says.

The US is the world's most impacted country having lost more than 330,000 lives to the pandemic and recorded nearly 19 million infections since the beginning of the outbreak, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. (Courtesy weforum.org)



Related

World Economy Will Return To "Pre-Pandemic Levels" By 2022, Per Watchdog

Vaccinations and financial support from governments will help the global economy recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021, a global economic watchdog has predicted. But the forecast by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also said the bounce back will be uneven in countries around the world and will depend heavily on the

success of battling COVID-19. "The contribution of Europe and North America to global growth will remain smaller than their weight in the world economy," OECD chief economist Laurence Boone said introducing a report published last Tuesday.



"China, which started recovering earlier, is projected to grow strongly, accounting for over one-third of world economic growth in 2021."

OECD secretary-general Angel Gurr a said it was a sign of "hope" for the first time since the pandemic hit at the beginning of this year.

"The good news about vaccines has instilled a degree of optimism... but we are not out of the woods yet," he said. The OECD predicts the global economy will shrink about 4.2% this year and rebound by the same rate in 2021. It will grow by 3.7% the following year, the watchdog predicted. But Gurr a warned that "this would still leave all OECD economies smaller at the end of 2021 than they were at the end of 2019".



Many European governments have been gradually reopening their economies as virus cases come under control and the winter shopping season begins ahead of Christmas and the New Year. Boone said the vaccine would be crucial to the turnaround: "Efficient vaccination campaigns and better co-operation between

countries could accelerate the distribution of the vaccine worldwide.

"Conversely, the current resurgence of the virus in many places reminds us that governments may be forced again to tighten restrictions on economic activity." (Courtesy <https://www.euronews.com/>)



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