

# Population growth

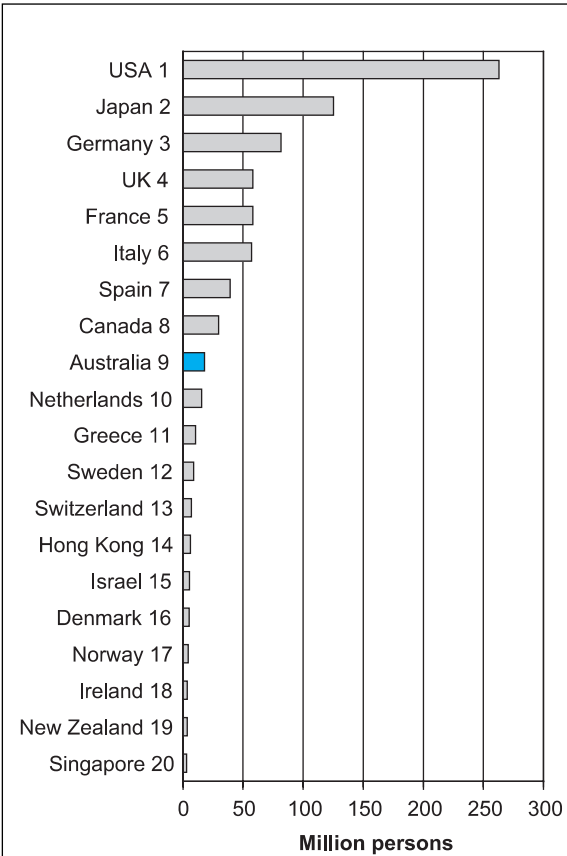


Figure 1: Population estimates, 1995

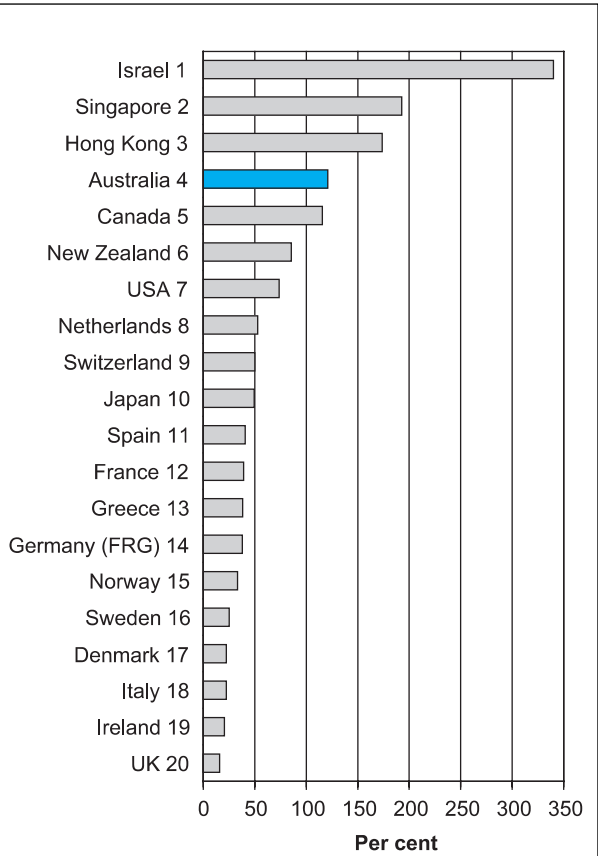


Figure 2: Population growth, 1950 to 1995

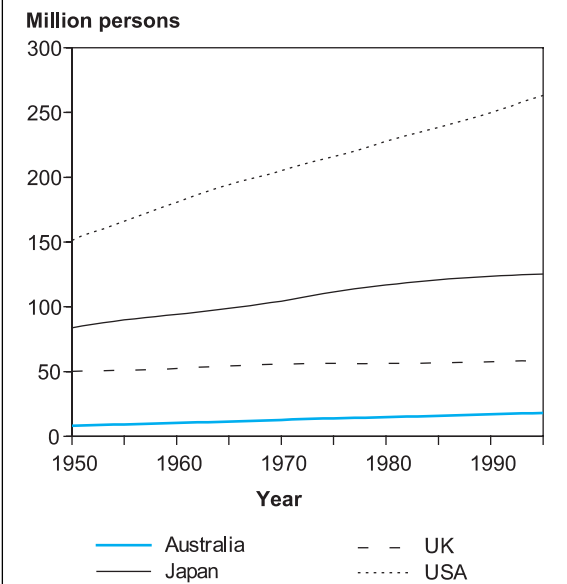


Figure 3: Trends in population numbers, 1950 to 1995

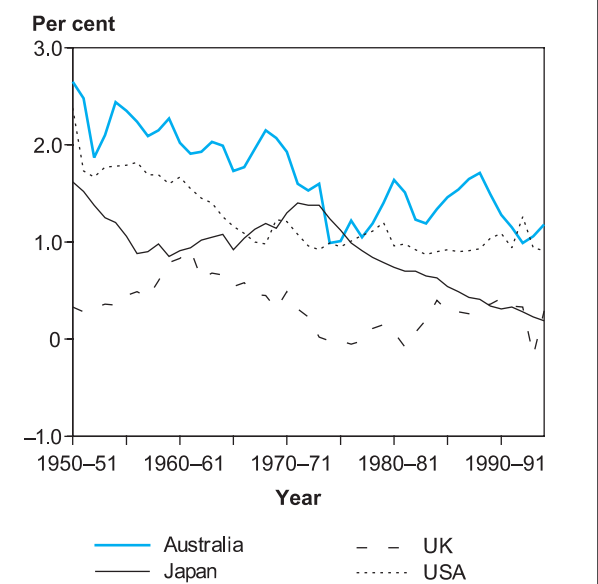


Figure 4: Trends in population growth rates, 1950-51 to 1994-95

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### Estimates of mid-year population ('000 persons)

Country	1950	1960	1970	1980	1993	1994	1995	% change 1950 to 1995
Australia	8,179	10,275	12,507	14,695	17,662	17,847	18,063	120.8
Canada	13,740	17,909	21,324	24,043	28,941	29,248	29,606	115.5
Denmark	4,270	4,581	4,929	5,123	5,189	5,205	5,228	22.4
France	41,740	45,684	50,772	53,880	57,667	57,747	58,143	39.3
Germany (FRG) <sup>(a)</sup>	47,850	53,220	60,710	61,561	81,187	81,410	81,642	37.9
Greece	7,570	8,327	8,793	9,643	10,380	10,426	10,458	38.2
Hong Kong	2,260	3,060	3,960	5,063	5,919	6,061	6,190	173.9
Ireland	2,970	2,834	2,940	3,401	3,563	3,571	3,582	20.6
Israel	1,260	2,110	2,970	3,878	5,261	5,399	5,545	340.1
Italy	46,770	49,640	53,661	56,434	57,057	57,193	57,187	22.3
Japan	83,805	93,220	103,400	116,807	124,670	124,961	125,197	49.4
Netherlands	10,110	11,480	13,030	14,144	15,290	15,382	15,451	52.8
New Zealand	1,910	2,370	2,810	3,113	3,451	3,493	3,542	85.4
Norway	3,270	3,585	3,879	4,086	4,312	4,325	4,360	33.3
Singapore	1,020	1,630	2,070	2,414	2,874	2,930	2,987	192.8
Spain	27,870	30,649	33,876	37,542	39,083	39,143	39,210	40.7
Sweden	7,050	7,480	8,043	8,310	8,719	8,780	8,831	25.3
Switzerland	4,690	5,360	6,190	6,319	6,938	6,994	7,040	50.1
UK	50,330	52,373	55,420	56,330	58,191	58,091	58,258	15.8
USA	151,326	179,323	203,302	227,757	258,233	260,651	263,034	73.8

(a) The estimated population of the former Federal Republic of Germany in 1992 was 64.86 million persons.

Sources: United Nations 1971, 1980, 1990, 1997.

- The size of a nation's population, along with the rate of population growth and the age-sex composition of the population has a bearing on perceived quality of life, sustainable growth and the allocation and use of health care resources.
- In the post-war years, Australia exhibited one of the largest proportional increases in population numbers among developed countries—over 120% between 1950 and 1995—an average growth rate of 2.7% per year. Only Israel, Singapore and Hong Kong have shown larger increases. Canada, starting with a similar population base, has had a growth rate parallel to that for Australia. In contrast, only two European countries, the Netherlands and Switzerland, had population growth exceeding 50% between 1950 and 1995. Four countries—Denmark, Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom—had less than 25% growth in population numbers during the same time period (Figure 2).
- Immigration has been a major contributor to population growth in Australia, and currently contributes between one-third and one-half of annual population growth. Immigration has also been responsible for a large proportion of population growth in a number of other developed countries, such as Canada.
- Population growth in Australia was high in the decade between 1950 and 1960, at 2.6% per annum. Israel, Singapore, Hong Kong and Canada also had high growth rates during this period. Growth in Australia's population continued through the ensuing decades—2.2% per annum during 1960–70 (fourth behind Israel, Hong Kong and Singapore), 1.8% in 1970–80 (third behind Israel and Hong Kong) and 1.5% in 1980–95 (behind Israel).
- Annual population growth rates in Australia had a downward trend until the mid-1970s, then a levelling off to approximately 1.5% per annum. The trend was similar to that seen in the United States, except that there it began to level off in the late 1960s. The United Kingdom recorded a negative growth for several years between the mid-1970s and early 1980s. The annual growth rate for Japan's population peaked in the early 1970s and has been in decline since then (Figure 4).

#### For more information, see:

United Nations 1997. 1995 demographic yearbook. New York: United Nations.