



World Population Prospect 2019: release note about major differences in total population estimates for mid-2019 between 2017 and 2019 revisions

Release date: 17 June 2019 – updated on 28 August 2019 (revision 1)

Technical correction: 28 August 2019 (rev.1):

On 28 August 2019 the population projection for the United Arab Emirates after 2050 has been revised. The projected level of net migration for the United Arab Emirates was expected to be negative in 2045-2050, reflecting the anticipated net return of many of the labour migrants presently in the country. Holding the projected level of net migration constant at this level through 2100, as assumed for all countries in World Population Prospects, produced an implausible population projection for the United Arab Emirates over the long term. Instead, a more plausible long-term migration scenario with a transition to a positive level of net migration by 2055-2060, kept constant through 2100, was applied. This adjustment increased the total population projected for the United Arab Emirates in 2100 by approximately 3.9 million, which is equivalent to 30 per cent of the 12.9 million people projected in the country at the end of the century.

To ensure balancing of net migration across the world (the net migration levels across all countries must sum to zero for each period) the positive adjustment to net migration for the United Arab Emirates for 2050-2100 was offset by a negative adjustment to the projected levels of net migration in India over the same period. This change decreased the projected population in India in 2100 by approximately 3.4 million, equivalent to 0.2 per cent of the 1.4 billion total population projected for India in that year.

Projected populations of aggregates (e.g., regions, sub-regions, income groups, etc.) that include the United Arab Emirates or India have also been revised to reflect the above adjustments for the period 2050-2100.

Further, the population interpolated by single year and single age for both sexes has been revised to maintain consistency with the sum of the interpolated population for males and females. This revision leads only to extremely minor numerical changes (e.g., the average absolute difference is 0.1%) for the various indicators related to annually interpolated populations by single year and/or single age for all countries and areas/aggregates and periods.

Initial release date: 17 June 2019:

The UN Population Division has been estimating and projecting the world's population since 1951. The estimates are based on all available sources of data on population size and levels of fertility, mortality and international migration for 235 countries or areas.

For each revision, any new, recent but also historical, information that has become available from population censuses, vital registration of births and deaths, and household surveys is considered to produce consistent time series of population estimates for each country or areas from 1950 to today.

For the *2019 revision*, the latest assessment, 1,690 population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2018, as well as information on births and deaths from vital registration systems for 163 countries and demographic indicators from 2,700 surveys were considered. The availability of new information contributed to revise recent, as well as past, population estimates and demographic indicators.

Below is a brief summary of the reasons for the major differences in total population estimates for mid-2019 between the *2017* and *2019 revisions* (for countries or areas with 90,000 or more inhabitants). The first table provides the list of the top twelve countries with the largest relative difference in population size.

The second table lists the countries which experienced a revision by more than one million people from the previously estimated 2019 population.

Table 1. Top twelve countries or areas with the largest relative difference in population size for mid-2019 between the 2017 and 2019 revisions, ranked by percentage difference

Country/Area	Summary of revisions in total population estimates for mid-2019 between 2017 and 2019 revisions
Eritrea	The population of Eritrea in 2019 is 3.5 million, which is about 1.8 million (34.1 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The decrease is due to the availability of new official population estimates for several years (population count in 2000, official estimates up to 2018) that contribute to lower the size of the population in the recent years, as well as to revised past estimates since 1950.
Puerto Rico	The population of Puerto Rico in 2019 is 2.9 million, which is about 722 thousand (19.7 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is due to higher estimates of out-migration, in particular following Hurricane Maria in 2017, and a downward revision of the total fertility rate.
Eswatini	The population of Eswatini in 2019 reaches 1.1 million, which is about 267 thousand (18.9 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The population was revised based on the new results of the 2017 census. This decrease results from lower levels and trends of total fertility rates and upward revision of previous assessments of out-migration.
Maldives	The population of Maldives in 2019 is 531 thousand, which is about 79.2 thousand (17.5 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This increase results from upward revision of estimates of in-migration.
South Sudan	The population of South Sudan in 2019 is 11.1 million, which is about 2.2 million (16.6 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is due from upward revision of estimates of out-migration following the situation prevailing in the country.
Zimbabwe	The population of Zimbabwe in 2019 is 14.6 million, which is about 2.7 million (15.3 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The population was revised based on new official population data and the 2017 Intercensal Demographic Survey (ICDS) data. Previous assessments of out-migration were revised upward and life expectancy at birth was slightly reduced.
Lebanon	The population of Lebanon in 2019 is 6.9 million, which is 789 thousand (13.0 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This increase results from changes in recent levels and trends of total fertility that account for different fertility patterns of the large Syrian refugee population.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	The population of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2019 is 28.5 million, which is about 4.3 million (13.1 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is largely due to increased estimates of out-migration following the situation prevailing in the country, although recent decline in life expectancy at birth also contributed to the decrease.
Guadeloupe	The population of Guadeloupe in 2019 is 400 thousand, which is 48.7 thousand (10.9 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is due to a change in the territorial definition used for statistical purpose. In the <i>2017 revision</i> , Guadeloupe comprised the island of Guadeloupe and the French territories (“COM” or collectivités d’outre-mer) of Saint-Martin (French part) and Saint-Barthélemy. In the <i>2019 revision</i> , each of these areas are estimated separately and the population was revised based on the results of the 2015 census (rolling 2013-2018 census).
Syrian Arab Republic	The population of the Syrian Arab Republic is 17.1 million, which is 1.4 million (7.7 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease results from increased estimates of out-migration following the situation prevailing in the country.

**Summary of revisions in total population estimates for mid-2019
between 2017 and 2019 revisions**

Country/Area

Bhutan	The population of Bhutan in 2019 is 763 thousand, which 63.1 thousand (7.6 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The population was revised based on the new results of the 2017 census. Previous assessments of out-migration were revised upward.
Lesotho	The population of Lesotho in 2019 is 2.1 million, which is 167.4 thousand (7.3 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The population was revised based on the new results of the 2016 census, and a re-assessment of past censuses. Previous assessments of out-migration were revised upward.

The designations employed in this note and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This note has been issued without formal editing.

Table 2. Countries or areas with change between the 2017 and 2019 revisions in total population size for mid-2019 by more than one million people, ranked by absolute difference

Country/Area	Summary of revisions in total population estimates for mid-2019 between 2017 and 2019 revisions
China	The population of China in 2019 is 1.43 billion, which is 13.7 million (0.97 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This increase is due to higher levels of total fertility rate following the availability of new estimates from the 2017 National Fertility Survey (NFS) and register data up to 2017, and higher levels of life expectancy at birth following the availability of new estimates from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) up to 2017.
Pakistan	The population of Pakistan in 2019 is 217 million, which is 12.0 million (5.9 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. The population was revised based on the new results of the 2017 census (provisional total). Previous assessments of total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth were revised slightly upward.
Bangladesh	The population of Bangladesh in 2019 is 163 million, which is 5.0 million (3.2 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. The population was revised based on new official data for 2017 and estimates for 2017 based on the Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS). Previous assessments of total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth were slightly reduced.
Mexico	The population of Mexico in 2019 is 128 million, which is 4.8 million (3.6 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This decrease results from lower levels of life expectancy at birth following recent stagnation in mortality (males) in the country and revision of migration estimates based on the most recent publication of the Mexican's National Population Council (CONAPO).
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	The population of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2019 is 28.5 million, which is 4.3 million (13.1 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This decrease is largely due to increased estimates of out-migration following the situation prevailing in the country, although recent decline in life expectancy at birth also contributed to the decrease.
United Republic of Tanzania	The population of the United Republic of Tanzania in 2019 is 58.0 million, which is 2.9 million (4.8 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This decrease is due to lower levels of life expectancy at birth.
Zimbabwe	The population of Zimbabwe in 2019 is 14.6 million, which is about 2.7 million (15.3 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. The population was revised based on new official population data and the 2017 Intercensal Demographic Survey (ICDS) data. Previous assessments of out-migration were revised upward and life expectancy at birth was slightly reduced.
India	The population of India in 2019 is 1.37 billion, which is 2.3 million (0.2 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This decrease results from slightly lower levels of total fertility rate following the availability of new estimates from the 2015-2016 National Fertility and Health Survey (NFHS) and from the Sample Registration System (SRS) for 2016, and increased estimates of out-migration.
South Sudan	The population of South Sudan in 2019 is 11.1 million, which is 2.2 million (16.6 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This decrease is due from upward revision of estimates of out-migration following the situation prevailing in the country.
Russian Federation	The population of the Russian Federation in 2019 is 146 million, which is 2.0 million (1.4 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. Higher levels of total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth, as well as increased estimates of in-migration, contributed jointly to increase the population.
Ethiopia	The population of Ethiopia in 2019 is 112 million, which is 1.9 million (1.8 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2017 revision. This increase results from higher levels of total fertility rate following the availability of new estimates from the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), and increased estimates of in-migration.

**Summary of revisions in total population estimates for mid-2019
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Eritrea	The population of Eritrea in 2019 is 3.5 million, which is about 1.8 million (34.1 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The decrease is due to the availability of new official population estimates for several years (population count in 2000, official estimates up to 2018) that contribute to lower the size of the population in the recent years, as well as revise past estimates since 1950.
Uganda	The population of Uganda in 2019 is 44.3 million, which is 1.4 million (3.2 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease results from lower levels of total fertility rate and changes in the estimates of net migration.
Syrian Arab Republic	The population of the Syrian Arab Republic is 17.1 million, which is 1.4 million (7.7 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease results from increased estimates of out-migration following the situation prevailing in the country.
Brazil	The population of Brazil in 2019 is 211 million, which is 1.3 million (0.6 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is due to the re-assessment of the 2010 census under enumeration based on the most recent estimates of the Brazilian National Statistics Institute.
Italy	The population of Italy in 2019 is 60.6 million, which is 1.3 million (2.3 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This increase is due to increased estimates of in-migration.
Nepal	The population of Nepal in 2019 is 28.6 million, which is 1.3 million (4.5 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . Lower levels of total fertility rate and life expectancy at birth and increased estimates of out-migration contributed jointly to decrease the population.
Iraq	The population of Iraq in 2019 is 39.3 million, which is 1.1 million (2.7 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is due to lower levels of total fertility rate estimated based on the availability of new data from the 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).
Malawi	The population of Malawi in 2019 is 18.6 million, which is 1.1 million (5.5 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This decrease is due to lower levels of total fertility rate and increased estimates of out-migration.
Indonesia	The population of Indonesia in 2019 is 271 million, which is 1.1 million (0.4 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This increase results from higher levels of life expectancy at birth and reduced estimates of out-migration.
Germany	The population of Germany in 2019 is 83.5 million, which is 1.1 million (1.3 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . This increase results from higher levels of total fertility rate and increased estimates of in-migration.
Mozambique	The population of Mozambique in 2019 is 30.4 million, which is 1.0 million (3.3 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the <i>2017 revision</i> . The population was revised based on the new results of the 2017 census (provisional total), and lower levels of total fertility rate.