



World Population Prospect 2022: release note about major differences in total population estimates for mid-2021 between 2019 and 2022 revisions

Release date: 11 July 2022

Technical correction: 14 July 2022:

The population density for a subset of aggregates (21 sub-regions and Northern America) was updated to correct some computational issue. Results for other aggregates and all other locations are unchanged.

One Excel files and three CSV files have been updated to correct these problems for population density.

Excel file updated:

- WPP2022_GEN_F01_DEMOGRAPHIC_INDICATORS.xlsx

ASCII files updated:

- WPP2022_Demographic_Indicators_Medium.csv
- WPP2022_Demographic_Indicators_OtherVariants.csv
- WPP2022_TotalPopulationBySex.csv

Initial release date: 11 July 2022:

World Population Prospects 2022 is the 27th edition of the official estimates and projections of the global population that have been published by the United Nations since 1951. The estimates are based on all available sources of data on population size and levels of fertility, mortality and international migration for 237 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 estimation period between 1950 and 2022, data from 1,758 censuses were considered in the present evaluation. In some countries, population registers based on administrative data systems provide the necessary information. Population data from censuses or registers referring to 2015 or later were available for 152 countries or areas, representing 64 per cent of the 237 countries or areas included in this analysis. For 74 countries or areas, the most recent available population count was from the period 2005-2014. For the remaining 11 countries or areas, the most recent available census data were from before 2005. In addition, information on births and deaths from civil registration and vital statistics systems for 169 countries, and demographic indicators from 2,890 surveys, were considered in the present evaluation.

Due to the new information available, there are differences between the revisions in population estimates of countries or areas, regions and the world. According to the *2022 revision*, the world population as of 1 July 2021 is 7,909.3 million, which is about 34.3 million (0.44 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the *2019 revision*. Among regions, the highest absolute differences are in Central and Southern Asia (27.7 million, 1.36 per cent higher than in the 2019 revision), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (-18.5 million, -0.78 per cent) and sub-Saharan Africa (15.1 million, 1.34 per cent).

Table 1. Absolute and percentage differences between the 2019 and 2022 revisions in total population size for mid-2021, world and by regions, ranked by absolute difference

Region	WPP 2019 (millions)	WPP 2022 (millions)	Absolute difference (millions)	Percentage difference (per cent)
World	7,875.0	7,909.3	34.3	0.44
Central and Southern Asia	2,037.7	2,065.4	27.7	1.36
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	2,358.0	2,339.5	-18.5	-0.78
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,122.9	1,137.9	15.1	1.34
Northern Africa and Western Asia	534.6	545.5	10.8	2.03
Latin America and the Caribbean	659.7	656.1	-3.6	-0.55
Europe and Northern America	1,118.9	1,120.5	1.6	0.14
Oceania	43.2	44.5	1.3	2.94

There are 40 countries or areas (with 100,000 or more inhabitants) where the difference in total population estimates for mid-2021 between the 2019 and 2022 revisions is more than 5 per cent (Figure 1). Table 2 provides a brief summary of the reasons for the major differences in total population estimates for mid-2021 between the 2019 and 2022 revisions for ten countries with the largest relative difference in population size. There are also 27 countries for which the total population for 2021 was revised by more than one million people between the 2019 and 2022 revision (Figure 2). Table 3 provides a brief summary of the reasons for the major differences in total population estimates for mid-2021 between the 2019 and 2022 revisions for ten countries with the largest absolute difference in population size.

Figure 1: Countries or areas with the relative difference in population size for mid-2021 between the 2019 and 2022 revisions greater than 5 per cent, ranked by percentage difference

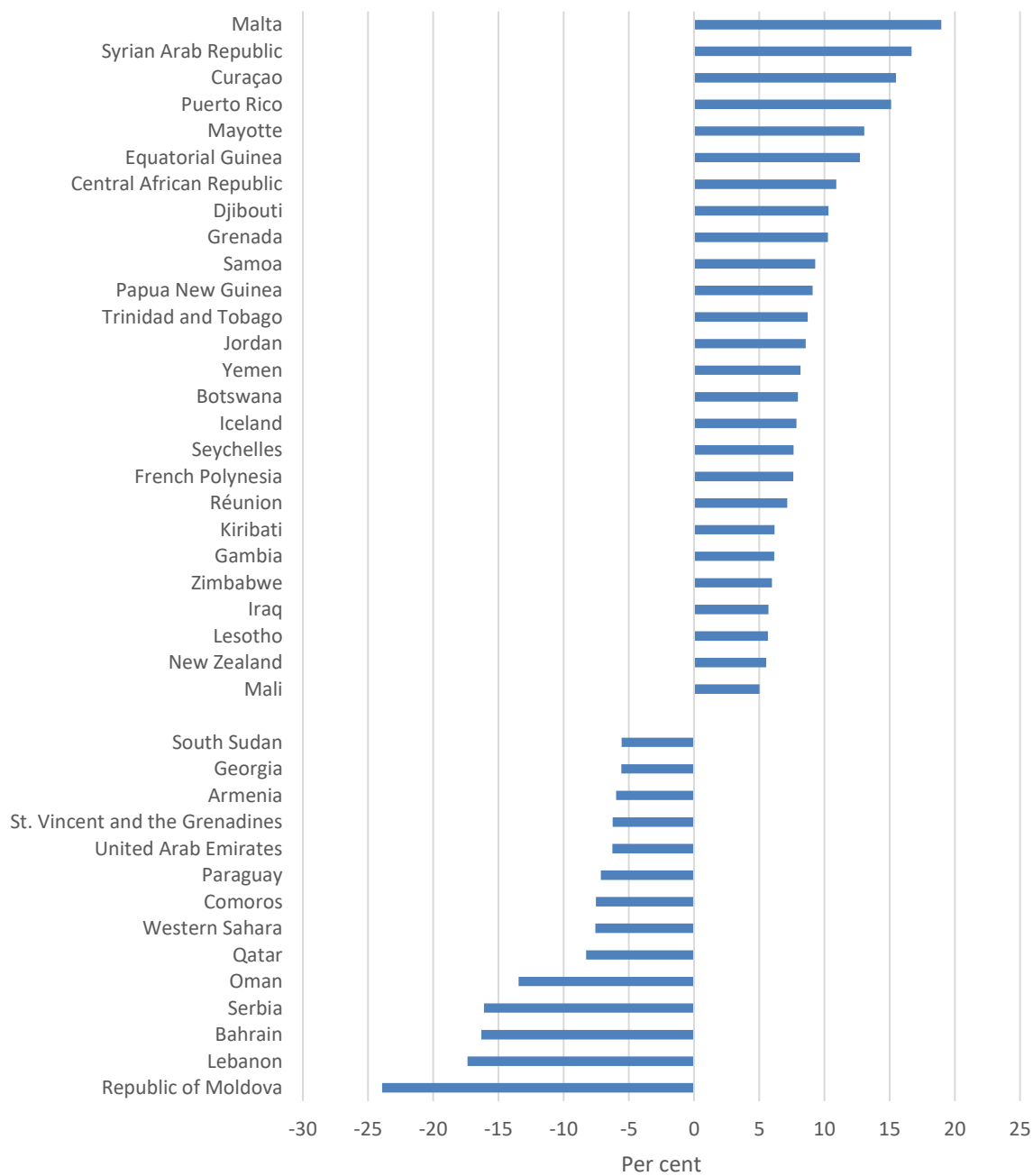


Table 2. Top ten countries or areas with the largest relative difference in population size for mid-2021 between the 2019 and 2022 revisions, ranked by percentage difference

Country/Area	Summary of revisions in total population estimates for mid-2021 between 2019 and 2022 revisions
Republic of Moldova	The population of Republic of Moldova in 2021 is 3.0 million, which is about 0.96 million (23.9 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised using new official population estimates for years 2014 to 2020 based on the usual resident population and revised fertility and net migration estimates since 2000. The population estimates include Transnistria.
Malta	The population of Malta in 2021 is 0.53 million, which is about 0.08 million (19 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. This increase results from upward revision of estimates of in-migration.
Lebanon	The population of Lebanon in 2021 is 5.6 million, which is about 1.2 million (17.4 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. This decrease is largely due to increased estimates of out-migration in the period 2015-2020, mostly related to the return of refugees from Syrian Arab Republic.
Syrian Arab Republic	The population of Syrian Arab Republic in 2021 is 21.3 million, which is about 3.0 million (16.7 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. This increase is largely due to increased estimates of in-migration in the period 2015-2020, mostly related to the return of refugees to the country.
Bahrain	The population of Bahrain in 2021 is 1.5 million, which is about 0.3 million (16.3 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on the new results of the 2020 census. This decrease results mostly from net out-migration of labour migrants since 2018.
Serbia	The population of Serbia in 2021 is 7.3 million, which is about 1.4 million (16.1 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. This decrease is due to a change in the territorial definition used for statistical purposes. The 2022 revision presents separately Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council resolution 1244), that was in the 2019 revision included in the population of Serbia.
Curaçao	The population of Curaçao in 2021 is 0.19 million, which is about 0.03 million (15.5 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. Previous estimates of net migration were revised to incorporate the refugees and asylum seekers from Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
Puerto Rico	The population of Puerto Rico in 2021 is 3.3 million, which is about 0.4 million (15.1 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on the new results of the 2020 census. The previous assessment of the out-migration following Hurricane Maria in 2017 were revised downward.
Oman	The population of Oman in 2021 is 4.5 million, which is about 0.7 million (13.5 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on the new results of the 2020 census as well as population registers for 2021. This decrease results mostly from net out-migration of labour migrants since 2018.
Mayotte	The population of Mayotte in 2021 is 0.3 million, which is about 0.04 million (13.1 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The increase is due to upward revision of total fertility based on new registration data available from 2015 onward. Previous assessments of migration were also revised to reflect increased in-migration between 2013 and 2021.

Figure 2: Countries or areas with the absolute difference in population size for mid-2021 between the 2019 and 2022 revisions greater than 1 million, ranked by absolute difference

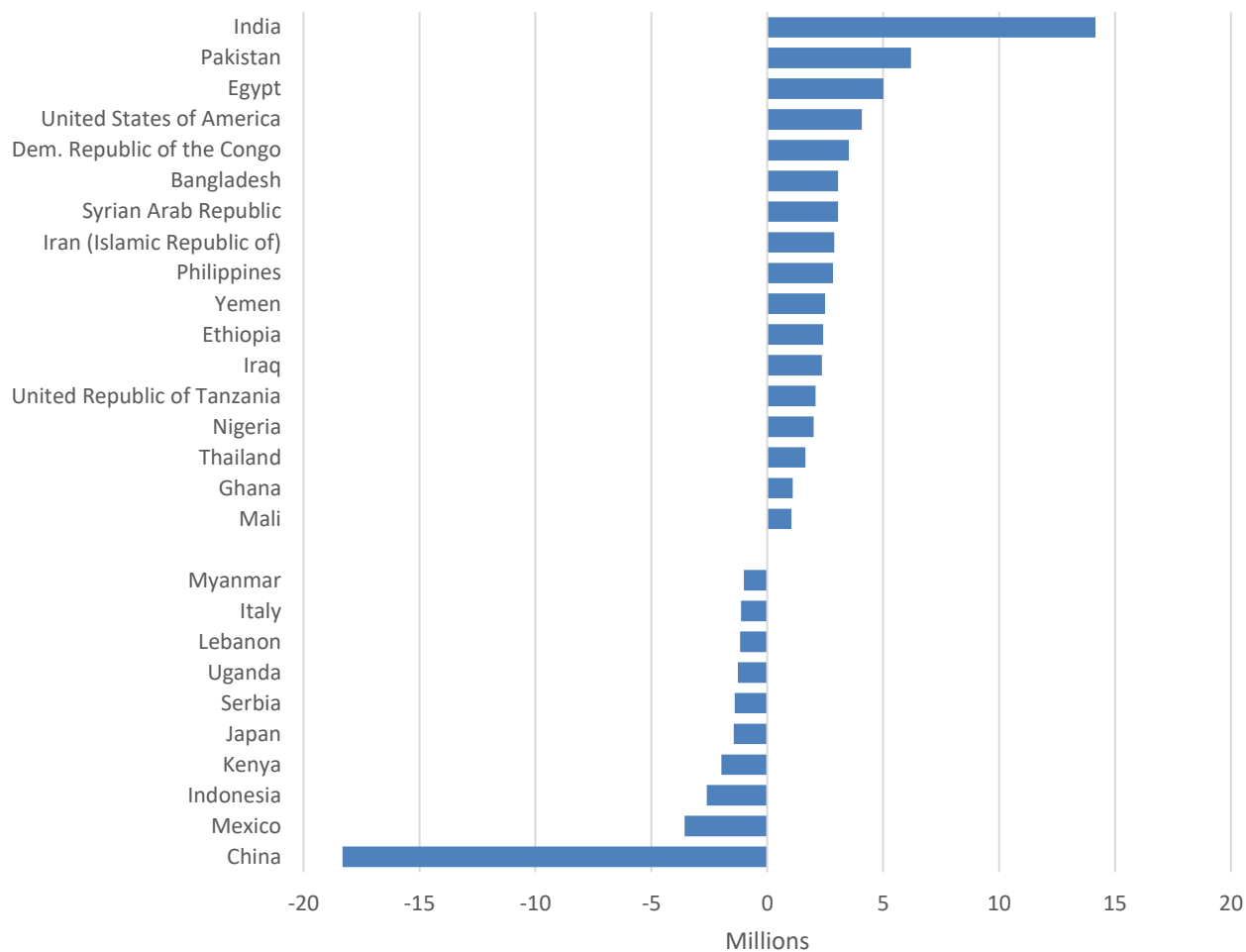


Table 3. Top ten countries or areas with the largest absolute change between the 2019 and 2022 revisions in total population size for mid-2021, ranked by absolute difference

Country/Area	Summary of revisions in total population estimates for mid-2021 between 2019 and 2022 revisions
China	The population of China in 2021 is 1.43 billion, which is 18.3 million (1.3 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on the results of the 2020 Census. The levels of total fertility rate were revised downward based on the results of the 2020 census and the availability of new estimates from the register data up to 2020.
India	The population of India in 2021 is 1.41 billion, which is 14.2 million (1.0 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The levels of mortality were revised downward, in particular for the period 2014 to 2019, based on new information from the Sample Registration System. The population estimate includes the population residing in the Indian-administered part of Jammu and Kashmir.
Pakistan	The population of Pakistan in 2021 is 231 million, which is 6.2 million (2.8 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on a reassessment of Pakistan's censuses, including the final results of the 2017 census, as well as to include the population residing in the Pakistani-administered part of Jammu and Kashmir. Previous assessments of total fertility were revised upward.
Egypt	The population of Egypt in 2021 is 109 million, which is 5 million (4.8 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on a reassessment of past censuses. The previous assessment of out-migration was revised downward.
United States of America	The population of the United States in 2021 is 337 million, which is 4.1 million (1.2 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on the new results of the 2020 Census. The previous assessment of in-migration was revised upward for the period since 2010.
Mexico	The population of Mexico in 2021 is 127 million, which is 3.6 million (2.7 per cent) less than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The population was revised based on the new results of the 2020 Census. The decrease results from lower levels of total fertility starting in 2015 based on the new registration data available up to 2020.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	The population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2021 is 96 million, which is 3.5 million (3.8 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. Previous assessments of total fertility were revised upward based on the availability of new estimates from the 2017-2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Previous assessment of migration was also revised to account better for the refugees and asylum seekers.
Bangladesh	The population of Bangladesh in 2021 is 169 million, which is 3.1 million (1.8 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The previous assessment of out-migration was revised downward.
Syrian Arab Republic	The population of Syrian Arab Republic in 2021 is 21.3 million, which is about 3.0 million (16.7 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. This increase is largely due to increased estimates of in-migration in the period 2015-2020, mostly related to the return of refugees to the country.
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	The population of Iran in 2021 is 88 million, which is 2.9 million (3.4 per cent) more than the previous estimate from the 2019 revision. The previous assessment of net migration was revised upward according to a reassessment of the 2016 census.

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This note has been issued without formal editing.



Prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Further information about the *World Population Prospects 2022* is available online at <https://population.un.org/wpp/>. More work of the Population Division is available at www.unpopulation.org.