

Focus: Declining Population and Emerging Countries' Principles of Action (Summary)

Essay: What Shifts will Short-term Demographic Changes Prompt?

Hiroshi Kito (Professor Emeritus, Sophia University)

Global population trends in the 21st century are expected to be extremely complex. The total population continues to climb despite a diminishing rate of increase and should peak in 2086 before it starts declining. However, population changes vary from region to region. While populations in some regions such as Africa will rise throughout the 21st century, populations in former Soviet republics and Eastern European countries will continue to fall. Differences in population trends will not only affect the sizes of populations but also their age structures through declining birthrates and population aging, which will have different impacts on each society and lead to different forms of international migration. These complex demographic changes are characteristic of a civilization in transition. It is necessary to envisage a new world system by succeeding in a smooth transition from an industrial society to a post-industrial society, sometimes labeled Society 5.0.

1 China: Examining Challenges to Sustainable Economic Growth from the Perspective of Demographic Dynamics: Policy for Population Bulge is Concerned

Keiichiro Oizumi (Professor, Asia Research Institute, Asia University)

This paper reviews the current state of the Chinese economy from the perspective of demographic trends and presents some of the challenges being faced.

China's population is expected to begin declining soon while the aging of the population is expected to accelerate, and there is growing interest in the economic and social impacts of these trends. However, China's aging, described as "aging before becoming rich," is the type of aging seen in developing countries, and there are various difficulties that differ from those in developed countries. Among them, the population bulge formed by the one-child policy will reach 55-64 years of age in 2030, and whether this population bulge remains in the vital working-age population or becomes supported elderly will have an impact on the medium- to long-term shape of the economy and society. In other words, the long-term outlook may drastically change by the measures to be taken for this population bulge in the next 10 years.

2 The Population Powerhouse of India and Its Omnidirectional Diplomacy

Masanori Kondo (Senior Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts, International Christian University)

With a population of 1.412 billion, India is the world's second most populous country. According to UN estimates, India will become the world's most populous country by 2023, with 1.668 billion inhabitants by 2050, moving it far ahead of China's expected 1.317 billion.

India is currently in the midst of a "demographic dividend period". One in three people in India is currently between the ages of 10 and 24, and the demographic dividend period is expected to last into the 2040s. However, the creation of jobs and the development of skilled workers are issues that must be addressed if India is to enjoy the benefits of this demographic dividend period.

India's population control measures rely indirectly on women's education and health policies instead of contraception, but there are significant regional and gender disparities.

Wealth inequality is also severe. The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred a concentration of assets in the hands of the super-wealthy and left an increasing number of people impoverished, but the Modi government aims to reduce poverty through economic growth rather than increased subsidies.

The caste problem is still serious and is often politicized over preferential quotas accorded to low-caste people.

Despite these challenges, India will continue to consolidate its position as a world power. In part due to historical factors, it is unlikely that India will effect a change in its omnidirectional diplomacy. In the future, however, India will have a significant advantage as the world's most populous country, with a population far greater than that of China. Japan should further strengthen its relations with India based on a full understanding of India's neutral diplomacy.

3 Population Decline and Acceptance of Foreign Labor in Russia: Immigration Policy from Russia's Perspective

Kazuhiro Kumo (Professor, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University)

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia took various measures to cope with a population decline driven by a rapidly dropping birthrate and a rising death rate. In the medium to long term, measures such as dramatic increases in childcare allowances and maternity benefits were taken in order to stabilize the population itself. Moreover, introduction of measures to encourage overseas compatriots in former Soviet republics to return and introduce foreign labor on a large scale has effects reaching beyond Russia's borders.

However, this regime is not always consistent in that it alternately accepts and restricts foreigners, and the dynamics of accepting labor immigrants fluctuate accordingly. It undoubtedly represents an undetermined approach to the challenge of assimilation versus segregation that must be faced by countries considering accepting immigration. This paper presents an outline of the legal system and describes changes in the scale of actual labor immigration over time.

4 Brazil's Declining Birthrate/Aging Population and Domestic Political Stability: A Growing Elderly Population and an Increasingly Interested Youth Population Ahead of the Presidential Election

Ryohei Konta (Director, Latin America Research Group, Institute of Developing Economies)

Japan is the most advanced country in the world in terms of birthrate decline and population aging, trends that have also become evident in Brazil in recent years. Although Japan and Brazil have different political systems, a low birthrate and an aging population in general can change the number of voters and affect how the politics is conducted. Brazil's presidential election is scheduled for October of this year. In the last presidential election in 2018, the public's political polarization was marked by a conflict between "fear" of former military officer Bolsonaro, considered to be on the far right, and "antipathy" toward the leftist Workers' Party, ousted from power due to economic stagnation and corruption. In this article, I focus on the political trends and movements among young people in Brazil, looking first at Brazil's declining birthrate and aging population and then at the domestic political destabilization brought about by the inauguration of the Bolsonaro administration. I then point out that, while young people's interest in politics is increasing in the run-up to the 2022 presidential election, their influence is decreasing, and consider the future of Brazil inclusive of the presidential election.

Independent Articles:

**1 A Study on Population Decline and Economic Growth:
The Case of Japan**

Kazumasa, Oguro (Professor, Hosei University)

This paper briefly analyzes the relationship between population decline and economic growth. First, the total factor productivity (TFP) growth rate, which has a large impact on the potential growth rate, may be affected by the size of the population. This is called the scale effect. In an analysis using time-series panel fixed-effects analyses of data from 1985 to 2003 for five developed countries in which only the trend factors of TFP growth were extracted, the coefficient for the size of the population reached a significance level of 1%. This estimate suggests that TFP growth may decline by 0.82% if Japan's population of about 120 million is halved to 60 million in 100 years, as per the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research's "Future Population Estimates" (moderate-range projections). On the other hand, if the average working hours in Japan were to remain the same as in 1990 and the real GDP per capita of countries in 1990 were indexed at 1, a standardized display would put Japan's real GDP per capita in 2019 at 1.58, higher than both the United States' 1.55 and the United Kingdom's 1.52. As the ratio for France stands at 1.36, Germany at 1.47, and Sweden and the Netherlands at 1.49 respectively, Japan may actually have the highest ratio among these countries.