

## Table 5 - Demographic Yearbook 2000

Table 5 presents estimates of mid-year population for as many years as possible between 1991 and 2000.

Description of variables: Mid-year population estimates refer to the de facto population on 1 July.

Unless otherwise indicated, all estimates relate to the population within present geographical boundaries. Major exceptions to this principle have been explained in footnotes. On the other hand, the disposition of certain major segments of population (such as armed forces) has been indicated, even though this disposition does not strictly constitute disagreement with the standard.

In some cases the mid-year population has been calculated by the Statistics Division of the United Nations as the mean of two year-end official estimates. Mid-year estimates, calculated in this manner, are assumed to be sufficiently similar to official estimates for the population on 1 July; they, therefore, have not been footnoted.

Mid-year estimates of the total population are those provided by national statistical offices, unless otherwise indicated. As needed, these estimates are supplemented by mid-year population estimates prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat<sup>26</sup> when for example, official mid-year estimates of the total population are either not available or have not been revised to take in to account the results of a recent population census sample survey. The United Nations Secretariat estimates are identified with a superscript (x) and are based on data available in 2000 including census and survey results, taking into account the reliability of available base data as well as available fertility, mortality, and migration data.

The policy of using United Nations Population Division estimates is designed to produce comparable mid-year estimates for population for the period 1991 to 2000 which are in accord with census and survey results shown in table 3. Unrevised official estimates as well as results of censuses or surveys and estimates for dates other than the mid-year have been eliminated in favour of the United Nations Population Division consistent mid-year estimates.

All figures are presented in thousands. The data have been rounded by the Statistics Division of the United Nations.

Reliability of data: Reliable mid-year population estimates are those which are based on a complete census (or on a sample survey) and have been adjusted by a continuous population register or adjusted on the basis of the calculated balance of births, deaths and migration. Reliable mid-year estimates appear in roman type. Mid-year estimates which are not calculated on this basis are considered less reliable and are shown in italics. Estimates for years prior to 2000 are considered reliable or less reliable on the basis of the 2000 quality code and appear in roman type or in italics accordingly.

Limitations: Statistics on estimates of the mid-year total population are subject to the same qualifications as have been set forth for population statistics in general in section 3 of the Technical Notes.

A most important limitation affecting mid-year population estimates is the variety of ways in which they have been prepared. The quality code for the 2000 estimates, presented in table 3, and the technical notes for table 3 deal with the subject in detail. In brief, these estimates are affected by the accuracy and recentness of the census, if any, on which estimates are based and by the method of time adjustment. However, the policy of replacing out-of-line estimates and scattered census results by an internally consistent series of mid-year estimates constructed by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat should increase comparability.

Because the reliability of the population estimates for any given country or area is based on the quality code for the 2000 estimate, the reliability of estimates prior to 2000 may be overstated.

The mid-year estimates prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, used to supplement official data in this table, have the advantage of being prepared by a consistent methodology. However, it is very important to note that, among countries or areas, the actual amount of data and the quality of those data upon which the estimates were based vary considerably.

International comparability of mid-year population estimates is also affected because some of these estimates refer to the de jure, and not the de facto, population. Individual cases, when known, are footnoted. The difference between the de facto and the de jure population is discussed at length in section 3.1.1 of the Technical Notes.

Coverage: Estimates of the mid-year population are shown for 227 countries or areas, with a population of 1000 or more.

Earlier data: Estimates of mid-year population have been shown in previous issues of the Demographic Yearbook. For information on specific years covered, readers should consult the Index.