Table 1 presents for the world, major areas and regions estimates of the order of magnitude of population size, rates of population increase, crude birth and death rates, surface area as well as population density.


All population estimates and rates presented in this table were prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and have been published in World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, vol. I, Comprehensive Tables.

The scheme of regionalization used for these estimates is described below. Although some continental totals are given, and all can be derived, the basic scheme presents six major areas that are so drawn as to obtain greater homogeneity in sizes of population, types of demographic circumstances and accuracy of demographic statistics. Five of the major areas are subdivided into a total of 20 regions, which are arranged within the major areas; these regions together with Northern America, which is not subdivided, make a total of 21 regions.

The major areas of Northern America and Latin America were distinguished, rather than the conventional continents of North America and South America, because population trends in the middle American mainland and the Caribbean region more closely resemble those of South America than those of America north of Mexico. Data for the traditional continents of North and South America can be obtained by adding Central America and Caribbean region to Northern America and deducting from Latin America. Latin America, as defined here, has somewhat wider limits than it would be if defined only to include the Spanish-speaking, French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The average annual percentage rates of population growth were calculated by the Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, using an exponential rate of increase.

Crude birth and crude death rates are expressed in terms of the average annual number of births and deaths, respectively, per 1,000 mid-year population. These rates are estimated.

Surface area totals were obtained by summing the figures for individual countries or areas shown in table 3.

Computation: Density, calculated by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs, is the number of persons in the 2003 total population per square kilometer of total surface area.

Reliability of data: With the exception of surface area, all data are set in italic type to indicate their conjectural quality.

Limitations: The estimated orders of magnitude of population and surface area are subject to all the basic limitations set forth in connection with table 3, and to the same qualifications set forth for population and surface area statistics in sections 3 and 2.4 of the Technical Notes, respectively.

Likewise, the rates of population increase and the density index are affected by the limitations of the original figures. However, it may be noted that, in compiling data for regional and major areas totals, errors in the components may tend to compensate each other and the resulting aggregates may be more reliable than the quality of the individual components would imply.

Because of their estimated character, many of the birth and death rates shown should also be considered only as orders of magnitude, and not as measures of the true level of natality or mortality. Rates for 2002-2005 published in this Demographic Yearbook were estimated on the basis of the data available in 2004 and are, therefore, based on newer information than previously published estimates for the same years. As a result they may be different from the rates published in previous issues of the Demographic Yearbook.
Because surface area totals were obtained by summing the figures for individual countries or areas shown in table 3, they exclude places with a population of less than 50, for example, uninhabited polar areas.

In interpreting the population densities, one should consider that some of the regions include large segments of land that are uninhabitable or barely habitable, and density values calculated as described make no allowance for this, nor for differences in patterns of land settlement.

### Composition of macro geographical regions and sub-regions

**AFRICA**

**Eastern Africa**
- Burundi
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Réunion
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**Middle Africa**
- Angola
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Sao Tome and Principe

**Northern Africa**
- Algeria
- Egypt
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Morocco
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Western Sahara

**Southern Africa**
- Botswana
- Lesotho
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Swaziland

**Western Africa**

**Asia**

**Eastern Asia**
- China
- China - Hong Kong SAR
- China - Macao SAR
- Japan
- Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
- Korea, Republic of
- Mongolia

**South-central Asia**
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

**South-eastern Asia**
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia

**Western Asia**
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Cyprus
- Georgia
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Occupied Palestinian Territory
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

**Europe**

**Eastern Europe**
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Poland
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Slovakia
- Ukraine

**Northern Europe**
- Åland Island
- Channel Islands
- Denmark
- Estonia
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