# The United States in 

The United States is the third most populous country on Earth. Even so, it comprises less than 5 percent of the world's population and accounts for an even smaller fraction of global population increase.

During the decade of the 1990s, the population of the United States grew by some 13 percent. This change is five times the average percentage increase of other industrialized countries during the same period.

Though it has only about one-fourth the total population of India, the United States has more people ages 80 and over. At the same time, the United States has more than twice the total population of Nigeria but fewer children under the age of 5 .
Census 2000 improves our understanding of the ways in which the U.S. population is evolving as we enter the new millennium. It also underscores the commonalities, and a number of important differences, between the United States and other national populations. Recognizing the differences between U.S. population size, growth, and structure and those of other world regions and countries strengthens our understanding of America's place in today's world and the relative opportunities, constraints, and challenges we will face in coming years.

This brief, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, compares the U.S. population in 2000 with those of other countries and major world regions, focusing on population size, growth, and agesex composition. It provides some expla-

All modern censuses collect information on the age and sex composition of population. Most countries take a census and collect age-sex data once every 10 years. This brief combines age-sex data from Census 2000 with figures prepared by the Census Bureau for other countries to compare the population compositions of the United States, other countries, and world regions.
nation for major differences in population size and structure among countries. It also underscores differences in national population growth between the United States, other more developed countries (MDCs), and the world's less developed countries (LDCs),' and links these to the same population dynamics underlying age composition differences.

## Population size and composition

 together help explain global change and national challenges.With a total of 281 million people, the United States had a larger population in 2000 than all countries except China and India. However, the size of a country's total population tells only a small part of its demographic story. A country's population growth rate and its age-sex composition indicate the challenges it faces in providing health care for its children and elderly, providing education to its youth,

[^0] Economics and Statistics Administration u.s. Census bureau
providing employment opportunities for its young adults, and supporting its elderly population. Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of global population in 2000 where people lived - and that part of growth during the 1990s that was accounted for by a handful of countries, as well as their contribution to change in the children (under 15) and elderly (65 and over) age groups.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of global population in 2000 living in the five most populous countries and the remaining countries of the world. The second and third bars show where the world's children and elderly populations lived, again focusing on the five countries accounting for the largest shares of these age groups globally. The United States ranked third in terms of total population size in 2000, with just under 5 percent of world population. It also accounted for large shares of the world's children (ranking fourth among all countries with 3 percent of the world's under15 population) and elderly (ranking third among countries with 8 percent of the total).

The distribution of population of specific age groups across countries - where the world's children live, or the world's elderly, or any other age-specific population depends entirely on the total population size of individual countries and on the age composition of each country. For example, because of higher fertility in the recent past, Pakistan and Indonesia had larger proportions of their population under age 15 than the United States in 2000. However, the United States' overall larger size offset the younger age distributions of Pakistan and Indonesia so that each country accounted for a roughly similar share of the

Figure 1.
Distribution of the World's Population: 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sfl.pdf)


Source : U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1; United Nations, 1999, World Population Prospects. The 1998 Revision, ST/ESA/SER.A/1 80, New York, for the age-sex distribution of some countries in 1990.
world's under-15 population (Figure 1). Similarly, more developed countries such as the United States have somewhat lower fertility and mortality than countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and consequently somewhat larger proportions of their populations were elderly in 2000. Countries with the largest shares of the world's elderly included three of these MDCs - the United States, Japan, and Russia plus China and India which, because of their overall size, account for large shares of the elderly globally.
During the 1990s, the United States, along with India, China, Nigeria, and Indonesia accounted for nearly half of all global population increase (Figure 2). The importance of these countries to world
population change is attributable to a combination of (1) their population size in 1990 and (2) their respective rates of growth during the decade. Each of these countries is large in both absolute terms and relative to other countries in their region. The similarity in size of shares of global population increase of the United States, on the one hand, and Nigeria and Indonesia, both which have smaller populations than the United States, on the other, is due to the much lower growth rates of the United States in comparison with Nigeria and Indonesia. (From 1990 to 2000, Indonesia's population increased by 19 percent and Nigeria's by 33 percent, compared with the United States' 13 percent.) The same effect explains the similar proportions of global population increase account-

Figure 2.
Contribution to World Population Increase: 1990 to 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sfl.pdf)
Percent


Source : U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1) ; United Nations, 1999, World Population Prospects. The 1998 Revision, ST/ESA/SER.A/180, New York, for the age-sex distribution of some countries in 1990.
ed for by China and the slightly smaller but more rapidly growing India. The distribution of global population increase is important because it indicates those parts of the world with the largest absolute increases in needs for food, housing, social services such as health care, and employment, as well as the potential for regional and global environmental impact.

At the turn of the millennium, populations are aging - median ages of national populations are rising - in every major world region. More developed countries (MDCs) with low fertility and low mortality are contributing heavily to this process, but so are some less developed countries (LDCs), such as China, which have seen their birth rates fall dramatically over the past two decades. China, Japan, Indonesia,
and the United States are four of the five countries that contributed most to the growth of the world's elderly population between 1990 and 2000 by virtue of their relatively low mortality and relatively large overall populations (Figure 2, third bar).

At the other end of the age range, the United States and other MDCs contributed relatively little to the growth of the world's under-15 population during the past decade. Ninety percent of the world's children lived in LDCs in 2000, and most of the increase in this age group during the 1990s occurred in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Five developing countries accounted for about 60 percent of the growth of the world's under-15 population during the decade (Figure 2, second bar). The United States
ranked sixth among countries in contributing to the growth of the under-15 population during the 1990s (7 percent); no other MDC was among the top 50 countries in this respect.

## The United States differs from LDCs, but also from most MDCs, in its growth.

For the past 50 years, the United States and other MDCs have differed from the world's LDCs in their fertility, their mortality, and in their overall growth. MDCs typically have had lower fertility, mortality, and population growth rates; LDCs have had generally higher levels of fertility, mortality, and population growth. This broad generalization is less true today than in the past. Some demographic differences are emerging between the United States and other MDCs combined. The U.S. contribution to total global population change discussed earlier partially reflects the fact that the U.S. population is growing faster than most MDCs: from 1990 to 2000 the U.S. population increased by 13 percent compared with 2.5 percent for other MDCs combined. As a result of its somewhat higher fertility - women in the United States give birth to more than two children on average over the course of their reproductive lives, while women in most other MDCs have lower fertility - and substantial immigration, the United States added more people to its population than all other MDCs combined during the decade. Eleven MDCs in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union actually lost population during the decade of the 1990s. The generally higher rates of population growth characteristic of the less developed countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America during the 1990s and the generally lower rates of growth characteristic of MDCs are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3.
Percent Change in Total Population: 1990 to 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, General Population Characteristics, United States (1990 CP-1-1).

A closer look at the age-sex structure of the United States and other populations reveals important differences and similarities.

Table 1 summarizes the key age and sex compositional differences between the U.S. population and those of major world regions. The last two columns of the table show, respectively, the percentage of each regional population falling into a specific age group and the percentage contributed by the United States or a region to that age group for the world as a whole.

Notice that:

- About 20 percent of world population, but over 40 percent of the world's elderly, lived in the United States and other MDCs in 2000.
- Relatively small percentages of LDC regional populations were of working age (ages 15 to $64^{2}$ proportions ranged from 53 percent to 64 percent) compared with the situation in more developed countries (66 percent for the United States, 68 percent for other MDCs) with the smallest percentage being that of the world's least developed major world region, Sub-Saharan Africa.
- A greater number of elderly women than men were living in each region in 2000. In general, the largest percentage differences were found in the United States and other MDCs.

The U.S. population was older meaning it had larger proportions of people in older age groups (ages 65 or older and 80 or older) - than much of the rest of the world in

[^1]2000 (Table 1, column 4). However, the United States also had a slightly younger population than most other developed countries for two reasons. First, U.S. fertility is slightly higher than that of other MDCs, as mentioned earlier. Second, about 10 million more people entered the United States than left the country during the 1990-2000 period, adding to the young adult age groups of our population.

## Which countries are demographically "young" . . .

 Countries differ in age structure as a result of past fertility, mortality, and migration. In particular, countries with a history of higher fertility tend to have younger populations than countries with a history of lower fertility. The United States, like other MDCs, has a history of relatively low fertility. Consequently, in 2000, it was among the lowest third of countries ( 175 th out of 224) in terms of percentage of population under age 15 . Countries with higher percentages of population under age 15 are heavily concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and, to a lesser extent, in other developing regions; countries with lower percentages are other MDCs.
## . . . and which countries are

 older?Figure 4 shows the percentage of national population ages 65 and over. Countries with high percentages of elderly are essentially the world's MDCs - the United States, Canada, the European countries, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand and a small handful of other countries with a history of relatively low fertility and mortality. The United States was among the top third of countries (ranking 41 st out of 224) on percentage of population ages 65 and over in 2000.

Age composition matters because it is indicative of a country's support burden.
A useful way of comparing the age compositions of different countries is to look at the ratios of children, of the elderly, or of both, to work-ing-age population. Such ratios, referred to as support ratios or dependency ratios, are meant to represent the average number of dependents each working adult must support in a population. ${ }^{3}$ In 2000, the U.S. population was heavily concentrated in the 15 to 64 year old population (Table 1 and Figure 5), with about half as many children and elderly as working-age population. In both its age structure and dependency ratio, the United States was similar to other more developed countries and differed markedly from many developing countries in 2000 (Table 2 and Figure 5). LDCs as a group had a broadly based age structure reflecting a larger share of population under age 15 (33 percent compared with 21 percent for the United States) and a smaller share at ages 65 and above (5 percent compared with 12 percent for the United States).

Table 2 presents the child, elderly, and total dependency ratios ${ }^{4}$ for the United States, other more developed countries, and the world's developing regions in 2000. Most countries had a larger child dependency ratio

[^2]Table 1.
The Population of the United States and Major World Regions by Selected Age
Groups: 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Age and country or region | Population (In thousands) |  |  | Percent of |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Both sexes | Male | Female | Total population of the region or country | World population in the specified age group |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |
| World. | 6,067,418 | 3,053,701 | 3,013,717 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| United States | 281,422 | 138,054 | 143,368 | 100.0 | 4.6 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 909,710 | 440,216 | 469,494 | 100.0 | 15.0 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. | 656,682 | 327,320 | 329,362 | 100.0 | 10.8 |
| Near East and North Africa . | 313,780 | 160,331 | 153,449 | 100.0 | 5.2 |
| Asia and Oceania | 3,314,435 | 1,695,445 | 1,618,990 | 100.0 | 54.6 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 518,301 | 256,579 | 261,721 | 100.0 | 8.5 |
| Other Less Developed Countries. | 73,089 | 35,756 | 37,332 | 100.0 | 1.2 |
| Under-5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| World. | 610,222 | 312,823 | 297,398 | 10.1 | 100.0 |
| United States | 19,176 | 9,811 | 9,365 | 6.8 | 3.1 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 46,929 | 24,073 | 22,857 | 5.2 | 7.7 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. | 110,883 | 55,910 | 54,973 | 16.9 | 18.2 |
| Near East and North Africa | 38,593 | 19,711 | 18,882 | 12.3 | 6.3 |
| Asia and Oceania | 331,899 | 171,320 | 160,579 | 10.0 | 54.4 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 55,354 | 28,240 | 27,113 | 10.7 | 9.1 |
| Other Less Developed Countries. | 7,388 | 3,759 | 3,629 | 10.1 | 1.2 |
| Children (under-15) |  |  |  |  |  |
| World. ....... | 1,819,689 | 933,370 | 886,320 | 30.0 | 100.0 |
| United States | 60,253 | 30,854 | 29,399 | 21.4 | 3.3 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 158,391 | 81,138 | 77,253 | 17.3 | 8.7 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. | 290,982 | 146,434 | 144,548 | 44.3 | 16.0 |
| Near East and North Africa | 111,957 | 57,127 | 54,830 | 35.7 | 6.2 |
| Asia and Oceania . | 1,009,435 | 521,690 | 487,745 | 30.5 | 55.5 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 164,580 | 83,889 | 80,692 | 31.8 | 9.0 |
| Other Less Developed Countries. | 24,091 | 12,238 | 11,853 | 33.0 | 1.3 |
| Working-age population (15-64) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3,829,791 | 1,937,461 | 1,892,330 | 63.1 | 100.0 |
| United States | 186,177 | 92,790 | 93,387 | 66.2 | 4.9 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 616,036 | 306,336 | 309,700 | 67.7 | 16.1 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. . . . . . . . . . . | 346,562 | 172,115 | 174,448 | 52.8 | 9.0 |
| Near East and North Africa . | 188,308 | 96,898 | 91,410 | 60.0 | 4.9 |
| Asia and Oceania | 2,122,749 | 1,087,005 | 1,035,744 | 64.0 | 55.4 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 325,490 | 160,522 | 164,968 | 62.8 | 8.5 |
| Other Less Developed Countries. | 44,469 | 21,794 | 22,674 | 60.8 | 1.2 |
| Elderly (65+) |  |  |  |  |  |
| World..... | 417,938 | 182,870 | 235,068 | 6.9 | 100.0 |
| United States | 34,992 | 14,410 | 20,582 | 12.4 | 8.4 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 135,283 | 52,742 | 82,541 | 14.9 | 32.4 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. | 19,137 | 8,771 | 10,366 | 2.9 | 4.6 |
| Near East and North Africa | 13,515 | 6,305 | 7,210 | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| Asia and Oceania | 182,251 | 86,750 | 95,501 | 5.5 | 43.6 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 28,231 | 12,168 | 16,062 | 5.4 | 6.8 |
| Other Less Developed Countries. | 4,529 | 1,724 | 2,805 | 6.2 | 1.1 |
| Oldest old (80+) |  |  |  |  |  |
| World. . | 70,172 | 25,113 | 45,059 | 1.2 | 100.0 |
| United States | 9,185 | 3,062 | 6,123 | 3.3 | 13.1 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 27,634 | 8,277 | 19,358 | 3.0 | 39.4 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. . . . . . . . . . . . | 2,215 | 967 | 1,247 | 0.3 | 3.2 |
| Near East and North Africa . | 1,867 | 800 | 1,067 | 0.6 | 2.7 |
| Asia and Oceania | 23,811 | 10,024 | 13,787 | 0.7 | 33.9 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 4,797 | 1,806 | 2,991 | 0.9 | 6.8 |
| Other Less Developed Countries. | 663 | 178 | 485 | 0.9 | 0.9 |

[^3]Figure 4.

## Percentage of Population Ages 65 and Older: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Figure 5.

## Percentage Distribution of Population by Age and Sex: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)


Other more developed countries


Less developed countries


[^4]Table 2.
Dependency Ratios, the United States and Other World Regions: 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Country or region | Child | Elderly | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| World. | 48 | 11 | 58 |
| United States | 32 | 19 | 51 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 26 | 22 | 48 |
| All Less Developed Countries. | 53 | 8 | 61 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. | 84 | 6 | 89 |
| Near East and North Africa | 59 | 7 | 67 |
| Asia and Oceania | 48 | 9 | 56 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 51 | 9 | 59 |
| Other Less Developed Countries . | 54 | 10 | 64 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Table 3.
Top Ten Countries in Population Under Age 5 and Age 80 and Over: 2000
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Country | Population under age 5 |  | Population 80 and older |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number (In thousands) | Percent of world total | Country | Number (In thousands) | Percent of world total |
| India. | 116,779 | 19.1 | China ................. | 11,823 | 16.8 |
| China | 99,643 | 16.3 | United States.......... | 9,185 | 13.1 |
| Indonesia. | 24,071 | 3.9 | India | 6,110 | 8.7 |
| Nigeria. | 20,921 | 3.4 | Japan. | 4,621 | 6.6 |
| Pakistan. | 20,539 | 3.4 | Russia . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 2,953 | 4.2 |
| United States | 19,176 | 3.1 | Germany | 2,893 | 4.1 |
| Brazil | 16,453 | 2.7 | United Kingdom . . . . . . . | 2,352 | 3.4 |
| Bangladesh.... | 14,628 | 2.4 | Italy................... . | 2,291 | 3.3 |
| Ethiopia . . . . . . . | 11,830 | 1.9 | France . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 2,201 | 3.1 |
| Mexico . . . . . . . . . | 11,405 | 1.9 | Spain ................. | 1,461 | 2.1 |
| Top ten countries. |  | 58.2 | Top ten countries . . . . . . |  | 65.4 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1.
than elderly dependency ratio, and this was uniformly true of the developing countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Developing countries as a group had a larger total dependency ratio and a much larger child dependency ratio than the United States, reflecting the greater number of children being supported by working-age adults in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The United States differed less from most other developed countries in levels of child and elderly dependency. The average child dependency ratio for all other MDCs was 26 in 2000; the elderly dependency ratio, 22. The U.S. child dependency
ratio of 32 was somewhat higher than that of other MDCs, and our elderly support ratio was slightly smaller in 2000 because of America's higher fertility and the volume of immigration into the United States, as mentioned earlier.

## The youngest and oldest populations foretell the future.

The distributions of the world's children and its oldest old (population ages 80 and above) indicate where in the world the needs for children and elderly health care services are greatest in the current time period, and where needs for schooling and elderly support will be greatest in
the coming years. The United States' or any country's age structure and its support ratios, together with its national wealth, indicate the extent to which it is likely to be able to address those needs in the current period. Countries with rapidly growing under-5 and oldest-old populations are likely to face additional challenges in the decades ahead.

- Nearly 60 percent of the world's children under age 5 lived in just ten countries in 2000 (Table 3). The United States is the only MDC among these countries; in 2000 about 3 percent of the world's under-5 population lived
in the United States. A majority of the world's population under 5 lived in less developed countries; over a third lived in India and China, and another 20 percent were found in the remaining seven developing countries shown in Table 3.
- In contrast, 65 percent of the world's oldest old lived in ten countries comprised primarily of MDCs. The United States accounted for 13 percent of the world's oldest old. China had the largest percentage of the world's oldest old (almost 17 percent) primarily because its overall population size dwarfs that of most other countries. Except for the world's two largest countries, no other LDCs made the top ten list for the oldest old.

Over the course of the next quarter century (from 2000 to 2025), world population is expected to increase by 29 percent, with nearly all growth occurring in less developed countries; to grow older (rising median age and larger proportions of population at ages 80 and above); and to become slightly less male-dominant (a lower male-tofemale ratio ${ }^{5}$ ) than in 2000. Census Bureau projections indicate that:

- The U.S. population will be 23 percent larger by 2025, compared with 2000. ${ }^{6}$ Excluding the United States, MDCs as a group are likely to see a decrease in population of about 1 percent, and the age distribution of this group of countries will change substantially. LDCs as a group

[^5]will grow by 35 percent over the 2000-2025 period.

- In 2000, there were about 101 men for every 100 women worldwide. The ratio of men to women was lower in the world's more developed regions ( 96 for the United States and 94 for other MDCs) than in LDCs (103). Associated differences in numbers surviving become more pronounced in relatively low mortality, older populations such as in the United States. By 2025, the male-to-female ratio worldwide and for LDCs will decline very slightly as the world's population ages. There will be approximately equal numbers of men and women globally and about 101 men per 100 women in the world's LDCs. Little change is expected in the ratio of men to women for the United States and other MDCs.
- Between now and 2025, as fertility continues to decline and relatively large adult cohorts grow older, the world's population will continue to "age," resulting in a higher proportion elderly and a smaller proportion children. By 2025, the number of elderly will nearly double, a percentage increase about three times that of the working-age population, while the number of children globally will be just 3 percent larger than in 2000. Population aging will occur in both MDCs and LDCs. The United States is expected to have nearly 80 percent more elderly than in 2000 but just 15 percent more work-ing-age adults and 15 percent more children. Other MDCs as a group are expected to have a smaller but still substantial increase in elderly population (46 percent over 2000) combined with sharp decreases in child and working-age populations
(17 percent and 7 percent, respectively). LDCs should see their elderly grow by 130 percent, or over twice as fast as the growth of the elderly in more developed countries, between 2000 and 2025. LDCs will experience an increase of 5 percent in under- 15 population and an increase of 44 percent in work-ing-age population.
- As a result of these shifts in age structure, the world's elderly dependency ratio will be about 50 percent higher in 2025 than in 2000 ( 16 compared with 11 dependents per 100 workingage adults, Tables 4 and 2, respectively) but global total dependency will decline from about 58 to 53. Elderly support ratios will be higher in the United States and other MDCs in 2025 (30 and 34, respectively, compared with 13 for the LDCs). Over the coming quarter century, as a result of the aging of MDC populations, the historically higher total dependency ratios of less developed regions will be eclipsed by those of more developed countries.

During the coming quarter century, prevailing low fertility will account for declining proportions of MDC populations in the under-5 and under-15 age groups and, in some countries, for absolute declines in the size of the under- 5 population. It also will account for the coming decline in working-age population in MDCs as a group.

The shifting age structures of the United States and other MDCs evident in the declining under-5 populations in the late 1990s mark the advent of a demographic challenge that will confront low-fertility countries during the coming decades.?

[^6]Table 4.
Dependency Ratios, the United States and Other World Regions: 2025
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

| Country or region | Child | Elderly | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| World. | 36 | 16 | 53 |
| United States | 32 | 30 | 62 |
| Other More Developed Countries. | 23 | 34 | 57 |
| All Less Developed Countries. | 38 | 13 | 51 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa. | 66 | 6 | 72 |
| Near East and North Africa | 42 | 11 | 53 |
| Asia and Oceania | 33 | 15 | 47 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean. | 34 | 15 | 49 |
| Other Less Developed Countries | 42 | 12 | 54 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.

More industrialized nations as a group will be forced to support a growing elderly population even as smaller cohorts of workers enter the labor force. However, if present trends continue, the impact of population aging is likely to be less severe in the United States than in other MDCs because immigration and fertility both serve to replenish our younger population age groups to a greater extent than in other MDCs.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on U.S. population within the global context, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's

Internet site at www.census.gov/ $i p c / w w w / i n d e x . h t m l$. The recent past, current status, and future of global population are discussed in the Census Bureau's Global Population Profile: 2000 (forthcoming 2002). The Census Bureau's most recent estimates of the size, age-sex structure, growth, and other demographic characteristics of 227 countries and areas of the world are available from the International Data Base at www.census.gov/ipc/www/ idbnew.html.

Census 2000 data are available on the Internet via factfinder.census.gov and may be
purchased on DVD. Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/ www/cen2000/briefs.html. This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ More developed countries include all of North America and Europe, as well as Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The remaining countries of the world are considered less developed countries.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ While mean age at entry into the labor force, mean age at retirement, and thus actual labor force, or working ages vary from country to country, the convention of ages 15 to 64 is often used for international comparisons.

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ The commonly used age dependency ratio is the number of people ages under 15 and 65 and over per 100 people ages 15 to 64. A dependency ratio of 50 means that there are twice as many people ages 15 to 64 as under 15 and 65 and over. This ratio is sometimes used as a surrogate for the economic dependency ratio, number of people not working per 100 people working in a population. The age dependency ratio is often used because it eliminates differences in definition between countries.
    ${ }^{4}$ The child dependency ratio (number of people under age 15 per 100 people ages 15 to 64) and elderly dependency ratio (number of people ages 65 and over per 100 people ages 15 to 64) are also useful in better understanding the age composition of the population.

[^3]:    Note: Non-U.S. population figures are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's International Data Base but have been adjusted to April 1, 2000 to be consistent with dating of Census 2000 figures. Asia and Oceania exclude Japan, Australia, and New Zealand (which are more developed countries). Three Oceania countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Wallis and Futuna) are excluded because the Census Bureau has not prepared estimates of the population of these countries by age and sex. The Other Less Developed Countries group includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The Other More Developed Countries group excludes the United States.

    Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1.

[^4]:    Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base; Census 2000 Summary File 1.

[^5]:    ${ }^{5}$ Male-to-female ratio refers to the number of people in a population who are male relative to those who are female.
    ${ }^{6}$ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; Projections of the Total Resident Population by 5-Year Age Groups, and Sex with Special Age Categories: Middle Series, 2025 to 2045 (NP-T3-F; January 13, 2000 Internet release).

[^6]:    ${ }^{7}$ United Nations, 2000, Replacement Migration, ESA/P/WP/160, New York.

