



Reporting Resources on Population and Natural Resources

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Robert Engelman

Senior Fellow

Worldwatch Institute

rengelman@worldwatch.org

Global and international population data

<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>

The Population Division of the United Nations' [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) is the leading authority for demographic data worldwide. Roughly every two years, the Division issues new estimates of past and present population for every country in the world, along with projections for future population to 2100. Estimates and projections are included for growth rates, population density, fertility rates, age structures, sex ratios and such more obscure topics as dependency and potential support ratios. The site makes publicly available dozens of Excel workbooks, maps and graphics illustrating the extensive data on the site.

<http://www.prb.org>

An alternative authority for population data is the journalists-friendly [Population Reference Bureau](#) in Washington, DC. PRB publishes an annual [data sheet](#) with a selection of indicators in addition to estimates of population size and projections of future growth. Digital visualizations of the data are available on the website.

<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/WorldPopulation/The-Wittgenstein-Centre.en.html>

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis ([IIASA](#)) in Laxenburg, Austria, together with the [Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital](#), produces yet another set of world population estimates and projections. These emphasize the interaction of population and educational attainment, but the data include numerous other demographic and related social indicators.

Global and international urban population data

The UN Population Division publishes periodic revisions of its World Urbanization Prospects series, posted at <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/>

Urban population data is also available at the World Bank at

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL> and at the World Health Organization at

http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en/.

International migration data

The UN Population Division publishes periodic revisions of its International Migrant Stock series at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/index.shtml>. As record-keeping of international migration varies by country (illegal migration data especially are based on estimates of varying reliability), these data usually are less recent and authoritative than other population data.

U.S. population data

For consistency in comparing U.S. national population to that of other countries, consider using the UN Population Division's data, described above. If combining state data and national data or looking at other state and local data, rely first on the [U.S. Census Bureau](http://www.census.gov), with data at <http://www.census.gov/data.html>. Many states, counties and municipalities also have demographic offices. Education departments frequently employ demographers to project future school enrollment. Search on-line for "demography office" or "demography center" for the geographic unit of interest. Numerous think tanks also produce demographic data, including the [Pew Research Center](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/) at <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/> and the [Brooking Institution](http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/demographics) at <http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/demographics>. (Brookings demographer [William H. Frey](#) has been for several decades the most quoted demographer on changing U.S. ethnic composition.) Several think tanks in the United States produce data on U.S. immigration and domestic (i.e., interstate or intrastate) migration; check their mission statements when considering use of their data.

Land, water and related natural resource data

With its broad mandate, the [UN Food and Agriculture Organization](http://www.fao.org) is a hub for natural-resource data. [FAOSTAT](http://www.fao.org), its data website at <http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>, provides data on production, economics, and such indicators as agricultural land as a percentage of total land in countries over time and even the average carbon content of the soils of selected countries. For water data, see <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm>. For fisheries data, see FAOSTAT and the agency's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department data page at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/collections/en>. For forestry data, see FAOSTAT and <http://www.fao.org/forestry/databases/en/>. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service offers food production data at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/>.

One non-governmental source on water resources is [Peter Gleick](#)'s periodically updated book, *The World's Data*. Some information and data are available on the Web: <http://worldwater.org/water-data/>