

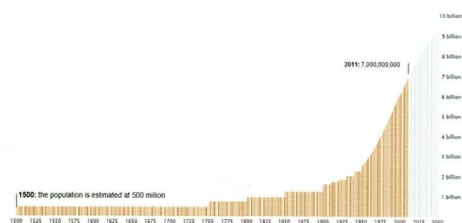
# It's getting crowded

Cover Story - A summary of the World's population

Stephen McMahon Editor

**A hundred years ago, in the beginning of the 20th century the entire world population was less than 2 billion people. The planet officially reached 6 billion inhabitants on October 12, 1999. 12 years later, the United Nations has now announced October 31, 2011 as the *Day of 7 Billion*.**

If you were born before or around 1970, the world's population has doubled in your lifetime.



Population growth Since the 1500s – source of graph [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

If we could shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

- 61 villagers would be Asian (of that, 20 would be Chinese and 17 would be Indian), 14 would be African, 11 would be European, 9 would be Latin or South American, 5 would be North American, and none of the villagers would be from Australia, Oceania, or Antarctica.
- Over a quarter (27) of the villagers would be under 15 years of age and 7 would be over 64 years old:
- By the end of a year, one villager would die and two new villagers would be born so the population would climb to 101.
- 75 would be non-white, while 25 would be white.
- 33 villagers would be Christians, 20 would be Muslims, 13 would be Hindus, 6 would be Buddhists, 2 would be atheists, 12 would be non-religious, and the remaining 14 would be members of other religions.
- 17 would speak Chinese, 8 would speak Hindustani, 8 would speak English, 7 would speak Spanish, 4

would speak Arabic, 4 would speak Russian, 3 would speak Bengali, 2 would speak Malay-Indonesian, 2 would speak French and 45 would speak other languages.

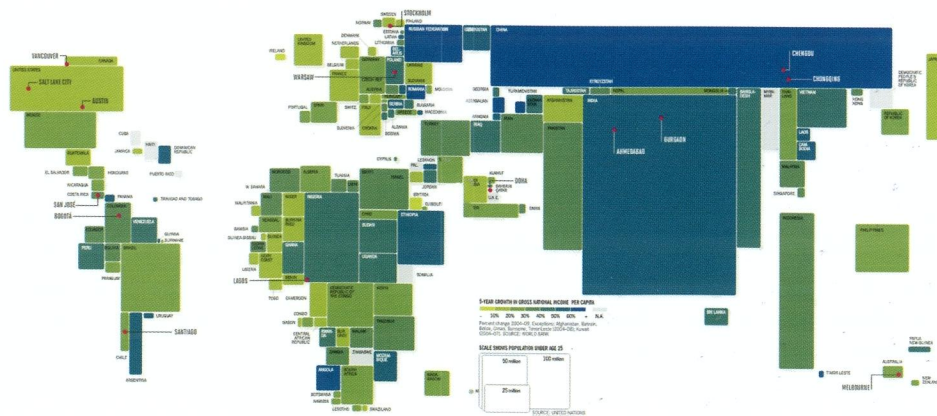
- 50 would be female, and 50 would be male.
- 89 would be heterosexual and 11 would be homosexual.
- The village would have 6 acres of land per person, 600 acres in all of which 33% is cropland and pasture, 29% is woodland and 33% is desert, tundra, urban pavement, and other unusable land. 0.13% of the woodland would be deforested each year.
- 50 would rely in some manner on coastal and marine habitats for food, building sites, transportation, recreation, and waste disposal.
- 50 would be urban dwellers.
- 60 would live within 62 miles of a coastline.
- 25 would live in substandard housing or have no home at all.
- 48 would lack access to basic sanitation and 16 would lack access to safe drinking water.
- 14 would suffer from malnutrition.
- One villager would have AIDS, 26 villagers would smoke, and 14 villagers would be obese.
- Only half the children would be immunized against the preventable infectious diseases such as measles and polio.
- 20 villagers would consume 80% of the village's energy supplies.
- There would be 18 cars in the village.
- 48 would not be able to speak or act according to their faith and conscience

due to harassment, imprisonment, torture or death.

- 81 would be from less developed areas with a gross income per capita and year of US\$ 3,580, 19 would be from developed areas with a gross income per capita and year of US\$ 22,060.
- 48 would live on less than US \$2 a day; while 20 would live on less than US \$1 a day.
- At least 18 villagers would be unable to read or write but 33 would have cellular phones and 16 would be online on the Internet.
- 30 villagers would be unemployed or underemployed while of those 70 who would work, 28 would work in agriculture (primary sector), 14 would work in industry (secondary sector), and the remaining 28 would work in the service sector (tertiary sector).
- Only 1 would have a college education.
- 20 people would be receiving almost 90% of the village's total income while 50% of the entire village's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people, and most of them would be citizens of the United States.
- Of the village's total annual expenditures of just over 6% would go for weapons and warfare, 5% for education and 4.5% for health care.

Source: [www.nationsonline.org](http://www.nationsonline.org) and [www.geography.about.com](http://www.geography.about.com).

PS in the minute it took you to read this page the world's population has increased by another 142 persons. By the time you finish reading this edition of the New Planner there will be over one thousand four hundred additional persons on the globe. ■



World by Population Location – source of graph [www.w-uh.com](http://www.w-uh.com)