

Population projections

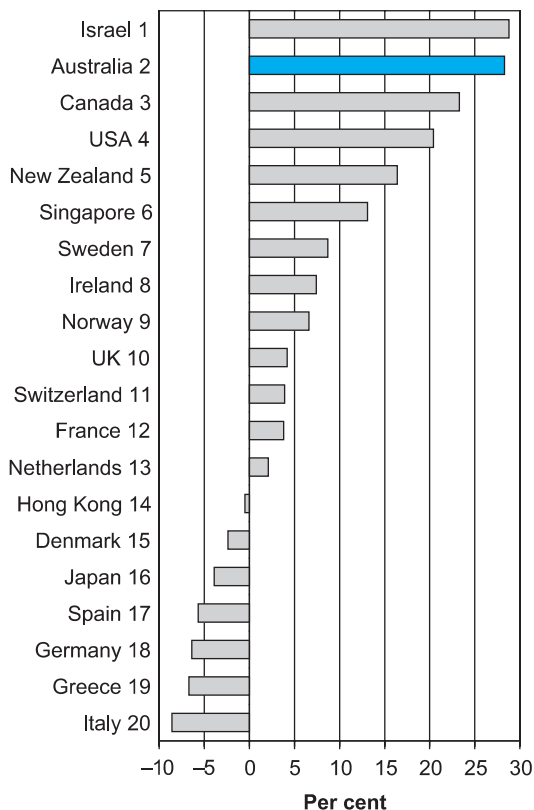


Figure 1: Projected changes in population numbers, 2000 to 2025

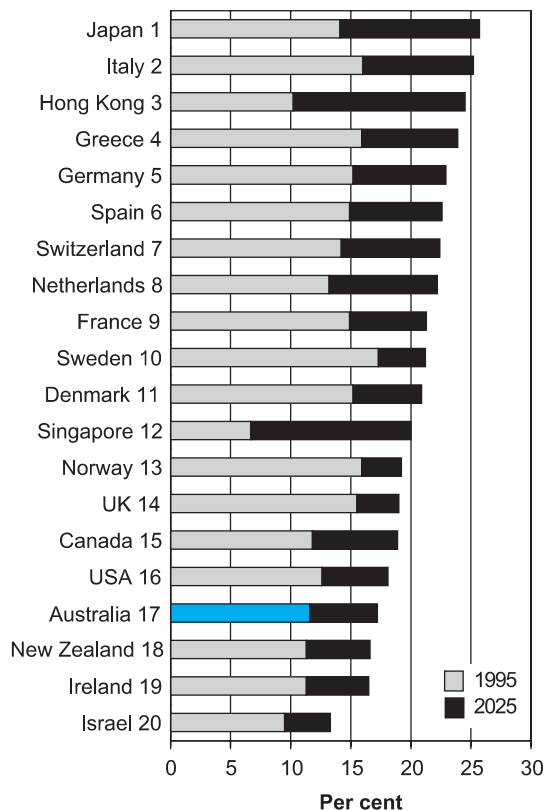


Figure 2: Proportion of population aged 65 years and over, 1995 and projections for 2025

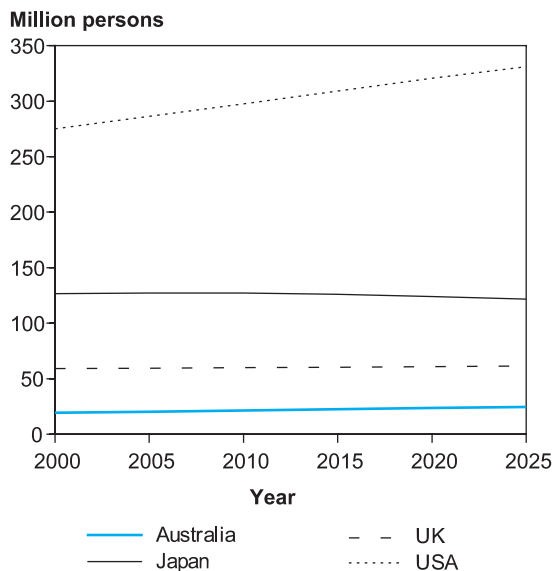


Figure 3: Population projections, 2000 to 2025

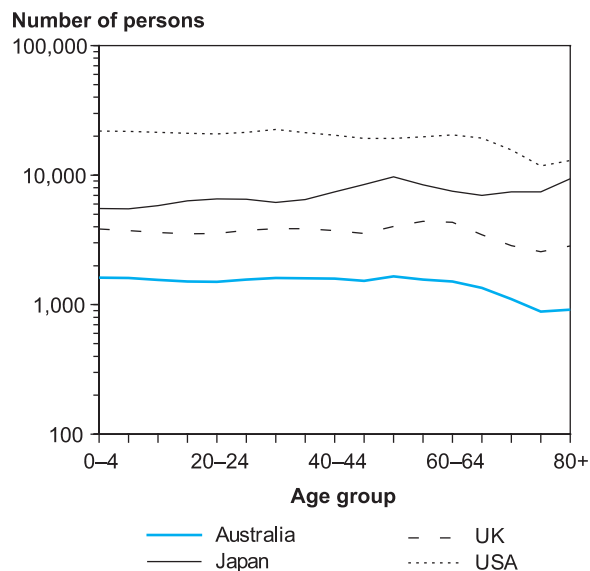


Figure 4: Projected age-specific population distributions, 2025

Population projections

Projected population, 2000 to 2025 ('000 persons)

Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	% change 2000 to 2025
Australia	19,222	20,296	21,367	22,466	23,586	24,667	28.3
Canada	31,029	32,504	33,946	35,425	36,887	38,266	23.3
Denmark	5,207	5,202	5,173	5,140	5,113	5,081	-2.4
France	59,024	59,684	60,130	60,535	60,920	61,247	3.8
Germany	81,700	81,285	80,466	79,331	77,936	76,442	-6.4
Greece	10,573	10,577	10,458	10,284	10,080	9,868	-6.7
Hong Kong	5,968	6,016	6,039	6,039	6,007	5,936	-0.5
Ireland	3,616	3,694	3,777	3,842	3,876	3,882	7.4
Israel	6,062	6,481	6,833	7,159	7,488	7,808	28.8
Italy	57,254	56,819	55,985	54,905	53,649	52,324	-8.6
Japan	126,472	127,265	127,152	125,946	123,973	121,594	-3.9
Netherlands	15,934	16,167	16,239	16,267	16,286	16,276	2.1
New Zealand	3,759	3,912	4,034	4,153	4,269	4,376	16.4
Norway	4,427	4,500	4,556	4,611	4,670	4,719	6.6
Singapore	2,967	3,061	3,144	3,221	3,295	3,355	13.1
Spain	39,848	39,806	39,514	39,002	38,348	37,571	-5.7
Sweden	8,972	9,124	9,266	9,420	9,592	9,751	8.7
Switzerland	7,494	7,666	7,717	7,747	7,774	7,786	3.9
UK	59,022	59,513	59,919	60,398	60,935	61,476	4.2
USA	275,119	286,256	297,486	309,128	320,551	331,152	20.4

Source: United Nations 1994.

- Population projections are estimates of future populations based on assumptions about demographic trends, and in particular three main components – fertility, mortality and overseas migration. Projections of Australia's population are calculated by both the ABS and United Nations.
- Australia's population has increased from around 4 million at the turn of the century to over 18 million now. The United Nations projects an Australian population of almost 25 million by the year 2025, somewhat higher than the 23 million projected by ABS (ABS 1998a).
- No developed country is expected to show an increase in population numbers above 30% between 2000 and 2025. Australia is projected to show an increase of 28% during the first quarter of the twenty-first century, compared with 70% growth between 1950 and 1975, and a projected 38% growth between 1975 and 2000. Israel, Canada and the United States are also likely to add more than 20% to their numbers during the same period (Figure 1).
- No developed European country is projected to show an increase greater than 10% between 2000 and 2025. Several countries, including Italy, Greece, Germany and Spain are likely to experience net decreases in numbers (Figure 1).
- A major issue for many developed countries is the projected increase in the proportion of aged persons over the next several decades. This has significant implications for health care resources and social expenditure, and implies a growing dependency of the aged population on a smaller proportion of working-age persons. In 1995, 11.6% of the Australian population was aged 65 years and over. This proportion is projected to rise to 17.2% in 2025. However, some of the increase in the dependency ratio contributed by an ageing population may be offset by declines in the child dependency ratio.
- In comparison with other developed countries, Australia is projected to have a low proportion of elderly persons by 2025, with only Israel, Ireland and New Zealand likely to have lower proportions. Japan, Italy, Hong Kong and Greece are projected to have proportions of older persons in excess of 23%. Several Asian countries including Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore are projected to have increases of 10% or more in the proportion of their populations aged 65 years and over between 1995 and 2025 (Figure 2).

For more information, see:

United Nations 1994. The sex and age distribution of the world populations: the 1994 revision. New York: United Nations.
 Australian Bureau of Statistics 1998. Population projections, 1997 to 2051. ABS Cat. No. 3222.0. Canberra: ABS.