Projections illustrate possible courses of population growth.

The Census Bureau’s latest population projections illustrate the future size and composition of the United States, by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, under three assumptions about fertility, life expectancy, and net immigration:

Fertility in the middle series was assumed to remain almost constant, near the current fertility level of about 2.1 births per woman. For the low and high assumptions, levels of 1.9 and 2.6 births per woman were used, respectively.

Life expectancy is projected in the middle series to increase from 76.0 years in 1993 to 82.6 years in 2050. In 2050, life expectancy in the low assumption would be 75.3 years and in the high assumption would be 87.5 years.

Net immigration for the middle series remains constant at 880,000 per year. A wide range between the high (1,370,000) and low (350,000) net immigration figures reflects uncertainty concerning the future flow of immigrants.

The U.S. population is growing larger.

Based on the middle-series projections, the Nation’s population is projected to increase to 392 million by 2050 — more than a 50 percent increase from the 1990 population size. During the 1990’s, the population is projected to grow by 27 million, a 10.8 percent increase. This assumes that fertility, mortality, and net immigration would continue to reflect recent trends. Only during the 1950’s were more people added to the Nation’s population than are projected to be added during the 1990’s. Using the lowest assumptions, the population would grow more slowly than ever before in its history.

The U.S. population will be older than it is now.

In all of the projection series, the future age structure of the population will be older than it is now. In the middle series, the median age of the population will steadily increase from 34.0 in 1994 to 35.5 in 2000, peak at 39.1 in 2035, then decrease slightly to 39.0 by 2050. This increasing median age is driven by the aging of the population born during the Baby Boom after World War II (1946 to 1964). About 30 percent of the population in 1994 were born during the Baby Boom. As this population ages, the median age will rise. People born during the Baby Boom will be between 36 and 54 years old at the turn of the century. In 2011, the first members of the Baby Boom will reach age 65, and the Baby Boom will have decreased to 25 percent of the total population (in the middle series). The last of the Baby-Boom population will reach age 65 in the year 2029. By
that time, the Baby-Boo
pulation is projected to be only
about 16 percent of the total
population.

The U.S. population is
becoming more diverse by
color and Hispanic origin.
The race and Hispanic-origin" distribution of the U.S. popu-
lation is projected to become
more diverse. As the Black,
Asian and Pacific Islander;
American Indian, Eskimo, and
Aleut; and Hispanic-origin pop-
ulations increase their propor-
tions of the total population, the non-Hispanic White popu-
alation proportion would de-
crease. By the turn of the
century, the non-Hispanic
White proportion of the popu-
alation would be Hispanic origin;
about 1 percent would be American Indian, Eskimo,
and Aleut. By 2050, the pro-
ditional shares shift quite
dramatically. Less than
53 percent would be non-
Hispanic White; 16 percent
would be Black; 23 percent
would be Hispanic origin; 10 percent would be Asian
and Pacific Islander; and
about 1 percent would be American Indian, Eskimo,
and Aleut.

Non-Hispanic Whites, the
slowest growing group, are
likely to contribute less and
less to the total population
growth in this country. Al-
though non-Hispanic Whites
make up almost 75 percent
of the total population, they
would contribute only 35 per-
cent of the total population
growth between 1990 and
2000. This percentage of
growth would decrease to
23 percent between 2000
and 2010, and 14 percent
from 2010 to 2030. The non-
Hispanic White population
would contribute nothing to
growth after 2030 because it would be declining
in size.

According to the middle-
series projection, the Black
population would increase al-
most 5 million by 2000, almost
10 million by 2010, and over
20 million by 2030. The Black
population would double its
present size to 62 million by
2050.

The fastest growing race
groups will continue to be
the Asian and Pacific Islander
population with annual growth
rates that may exceed 4 per-
cent during the 1990's. By the
turn of the century, the Asian
and Pacific Islander population
would expand to over 12 mil-
ion, double its current size by
2010, triple by 2020, and in-
crease to more than 5 times
its current size, to 41 million
by 2050.

Growth of the Hispanic-
origin population probably be a major element of
the total population growth.

According to the middle-
series, the Hispanic-origin popu-
lation would be the largest
growing group. By 2000, the
Hispanic-origin population may
increase to 31 million, double
its 1990 size by 2015, and
quadruple its 1990 size by
the middle of the next century.
In fact, the Hispanic-origin population would contribute
32 percent of the Nation's
population growth from 1990
to 2000, 39 percent from 2000
to 2010, 45 percent from 2010
to 2030, and 60 percent from
2030 to 2050.

Future fertility and
immigration may play
major roles in the
Nation's growth.
The two major components
driving the population growth are fertility (births) and net
immigration. In the middle
series, the number of births
is projected to decrease slight-
ly as the century ends and
then increase progressively
throughout the projection
period. After 2011, the num-
ber of births each year would
exceed the highest annual
number of births ever
achieved in the United States.
Almost one-third of the current
population growth is caused
by net immigration. By 2000,
the Nation's population is pro-
jected to be 8 million larger
than it would have been if
there were no net immigration
after July 1, 1992. By 2050,
this difference would increase
to 82 million. In fact, about
86 percent of the population
growth during the year 2050
may be due to the effects of
post-1992 net immigration.

For Further Information
See: Current Population
Reports, Series P25-1104,
Population Projections of the
United States, by Age, Sex,
Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2050.

Contact: Data Requests:
Statistical
Information
Staff
301-457-2422
Methodology:
Population
Projections
Branch
301-457-2428