



10/26/11: World Population BOOM

The world's population has exploded in the last 50 years with unprecedented growth that will catapult our numbers over the 7 billion mark this fall. Some recent articles which you may have seen are even identifying a day, Oct. 31, as THE day we are expected to reach this milestone. But birthrates aren't up, longevity is. With life expectancy rising, a global aging trend-accompanied by social, economic, and political, consequences-is here to stay.

Global Aging: Average life expectancy for a human being born today is 67.6 years. In 1950 it was 46.6 years; in 2050 it will be 75.5. People 60+ will outnumber those under 15 for the first time in 2045. 35.6 million people have dementia today, a number projected to grow to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million by 2050.

Past and Future:

1800: 1 billion people

1900 1.6 billion

2000: 6.0 billion

2100: 10+ billion

Earth is home today to almost 7 billion people-that's almost triple the population of 1950. By 2050, the 60+ population will grow from over 750 million to 2 billion, and rise from 10.7% to 22% of people on earth.

Gender Gaps: The ratio of women to men age 60+ is 100 to 83. That means there are 66 million more women age 60+ than men in the world. Eighty percent of men age 60+ are married, but only 48% of older women are. Nineteen percent of older women live alone; just 9% of older men do. (Proof of our being more independent; we don't need them as much as they need us!)

Economic Status: Today, 64% of people 60+ live in less developed countries. By 2050, it will be 80%. The number of older poor will grow from 342 million today to 1.2 billion in 2050. People 65+ are more likely to be retired if living in a more developed country (USA, England, Switzerland) rather than a less developed one (Brazil, China).



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Oldest Old: The number of people 100+ will increase 900% between now and 2050, from 455,000 to 4.1 million. Women make up 81% of the world's centenarians. Among those 60+, the fastest growing population is the oldest old-that is, those age 80 and older. That group is growing 4% annually.

Investment Implications: There are numerous investment implications for our population growth including health care, retirement services, travel, and the expected continued growth in those countries we refer to as "emerging" (China, India, Brazil, Indonesia) since those countries are expected to house more than 80% of the entire world's population by the year 2050. Their growing middle class is clamoring for things we have taken for granted during our lives (homes, TV's, nice furniture, electronics, heating and air conditioning, etc.), and these trends will continue as their wealth increases.

This population explosion is one of the most important events facing our world today. Managing our world's resources, improving the quality of life for those who live in poverty, and continuing to march forward with new technologies and inventions is one of the biggest challenges our generation faces.

Margie