



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**FAO**  
**Statistical  
Pocketbook**  
World food  
and agriculture

2015



# FAO Statistical Pocketbook

2015

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# Foreword

2015 is a pivotal year as we look back on the progress we have made on the development agenda, and forward on what we must still accomplish.

This is the end of a 15-year cycle where the international community partnered with developing countries to tackle the Millennium Development Goals. We are now taking stock of what we can learn from that effort. For example we know that the commitment to halve the percentage of hungry people, that is, to reach the MDG 1c target, has been almost met at the global level. Indeed, 72 of the 129 countries monitored for progress have reached that MDG target, while 29 of them also reached the more ambitious WFS goal by at least halving the number of undernourished people in their populations.

This year also marks the beginning of the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. Again the international community will unite around new priorities for the future.

Clear indicators to measure progress towards these international goals is of paramount importance. Timely and robust statistics are the fundamental tool in monitoring the myriad efforts being made, both with an eye to early detection of problems and the recognition of success. The better the data, the better the policies that can be designed. And the better the data, the easier it is to measure the impact of policies or to hold governments accountable for the pledges they make.

This publication presents selected key indicators related to agriculture and food security that the international community, governments, the private sector and civil society can use to assess current trends and prioritize their actions. It is divided into two main sections, one thematic and one country-specific. It presents a variety of dimensions of agriculture and food security along four main focus areas:

**The setting** measures the state of the agricultural resource base by assessing the supply of land, labour, capital and inputs, and examining the pressure on the world food system stemming from demographic and macroeconomic change.

**Hunger dimensions** gauges the state of food insecurity and malnutrition, and highlights the four dimensions – availability, access, stability and utilization – that determine the scale of hunger and the shape of undernourishment.

**Food supply** evaluates the past and present productive capacity of world agriculture, together with the role of trade, in meeting the world's demand for food, feed and other products.

**Environment** examines the sustainability of agriculture in the context of the pressure it exerts on its ecological surroundings, including the interaction of agriculture with climate change.

This Pocketbook is part of the FAO Statistical Yearbook suite of products and is just one of the tools that can be used as building blocks for monitoring progress and formulating policy. It includes data from FAOSTAT, other FAO databases and international organizations.

FAO is deeply committed to helping countries strengthen their statistical systems to improve the timeliness and quality of their data. And it will continue to do so through the SDG process.

Pietro Gennari

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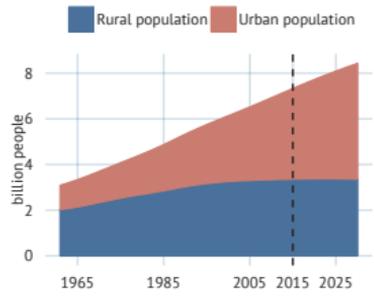
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## Demographics

A combination of declining mortality rates, prolonged life expectancy and younger populations in regions with high fertility contributes to population growth in the world. While growth rates have been slowing since the late 1960s, the world's population has nevertheless doubled since then, to over 7 billion people. Population growth is generally highest where income levels are low. This is especially true in cities. Since 2008, there have been more people living in cities than in rural areas.

CHART 1: World rural and urban population (1961 to 2030)



Data after 2010 are projections.

CHART 2: Population, average annual growth (2004-2014)



CHART 3: Life expectancy at birth, countries with the highest and lowest values (2013)

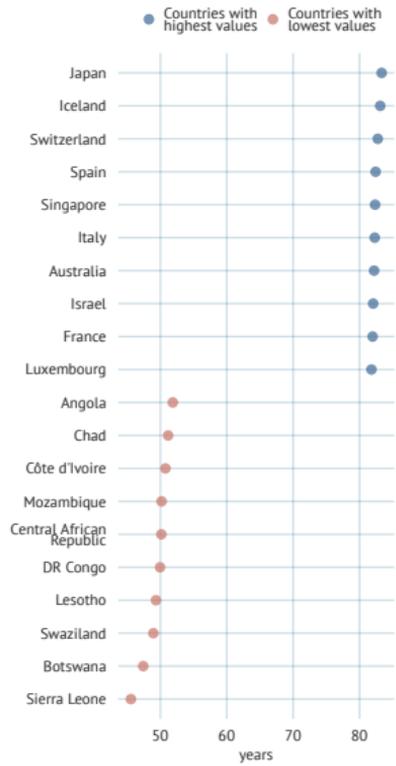


CHART 4: Total economically active population in Asia (2000 to 2014)

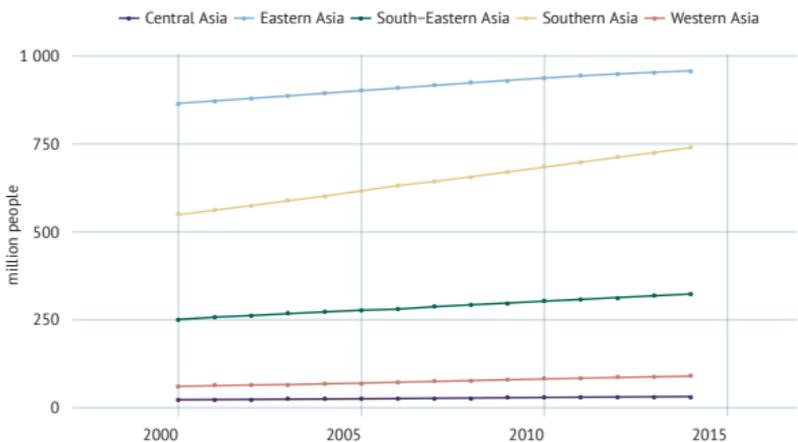
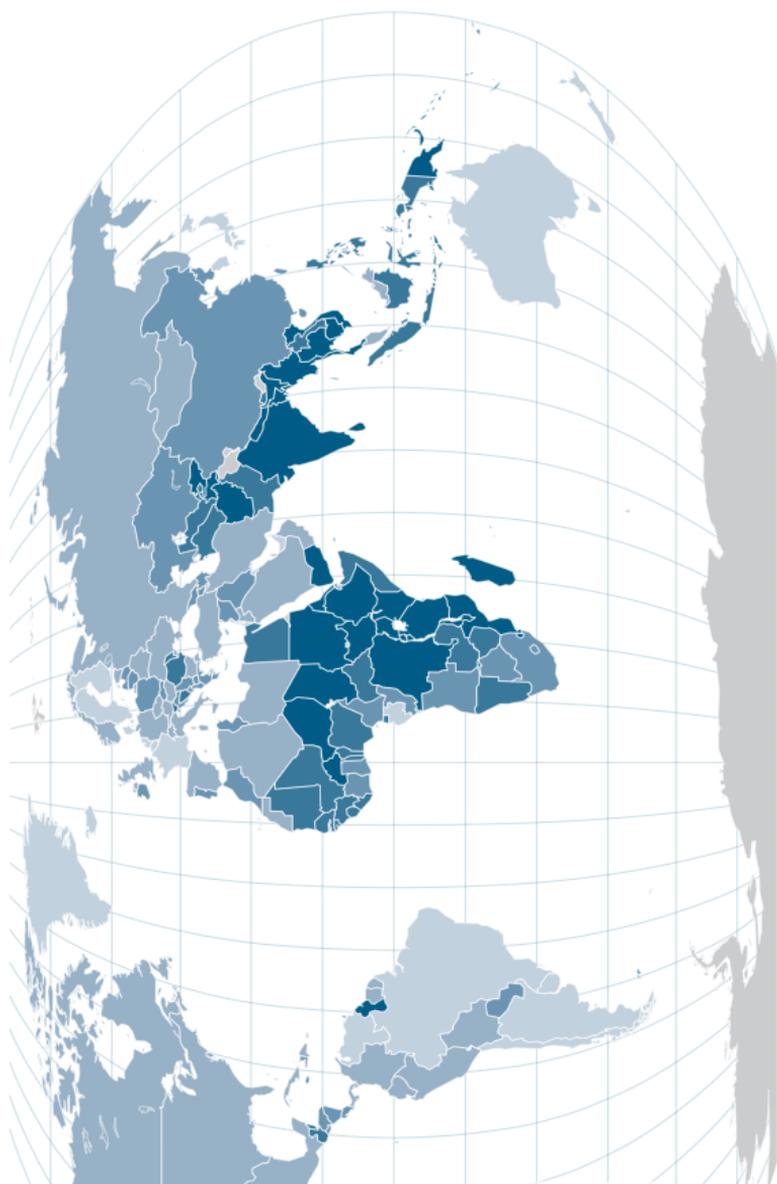


FIGURE 1: Rural population, share of total population (percent, 2014)



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