



ASEAN+6 Population Forecast: Global Share, Aging and Dependency Ratio

Based on the World Population data prepared by United Nations Population Division, the population of ASEAN will increase from **633 million people in 2015 to 717 million in 2030** and 741 million people in 2035, **a rate of 0.85% per annum**.

In 2030, **three countries in ASEAN will a population of over 100 million people**: Indonesia (284 million); Philippines (127 million) and Viet Nam (103 million).

Population growth in ASEAN is slightly lower than the global growth (0.98%). Hence, the **share of ASEAN population in the world will reduce from 8.55% in 2015 to 8.37% in 2035**.

Population Forecast for ASEAN+6

	Unit: thousand					
	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	Avg. Annual Growth Rate
Brunei Dar.	437	470	501	530	560	1.40%
Cambodia	15,087	15,978	16,799	17,509	18,100	1.00%
Indonesia	254,156	265,558	275,575	284,128	291,686	0.74%
Lao PDR	6,666	7,088	7,479	7,815	8,085	1.06%
Malaysia	30,916	33,271	35,549	37,783	39,887	1.45%
Myanmar	50,305	52,115	53,669	54,934	55,926	0.56%
Philippines	101,938	110,402	118,937	127,428	135,860	1.66%
Singapore	5,498	5,757	6,008	6,276	6,518	0.93%
Thailand	72,306	73,836	74,866	75,724	76,519	0.29%
Viet Nam	93,823	97,904	101,036	103,490	106,038	0.65%
ASEAN	633,148	664,399	692,446	717,645	741,214	0.85%
China	1,392,080	1,414,082	1,425,626	1,432,149	1,436,685	0.16%
Japan	135,957	136,262	135,826	135,462	133,238	-0.10%
Korea	50,492	51,641	52,425	52,961	53,298	0.28%
CJK	1,578,529	1,601,986	1,613,877	1,620,573	1,623,221	0.14%
India	1,318,439	1,399,518	1,473,953	1,541,760	1,604,128	1.08%
Australia	24,713	26,275	27,802	29,342	30,691	1.21%
New Zealand	4,767	5,016	5,258	5,496	5,697	0.98%
IAN	1,347,919	1,430,810	1,507,013	1,576,598	1,640,515	1.09%
ASEAN+6	3,559,596	3,697,195	3,813,335	3,914,816	4,004,950	0.63%
Others	3,847,898	4,102,477	4,350,929	4,601,970	4,852,631	1.31%
World	7,407,495	7,799,672	8,164,264	8,516,786	8,857,581	0.98%

Source: The World Population Prospect: The Revision 2010, UN Population Division

The population of India is growing at 1.08% per annum as China grows at only 0.16%. By 2025, India will overtake China as the world's most populous country.

By 2035, the ASEAN+6 or members of the ASEAN Regional Economic Partnership (RCEP) will have a combined population of 4 billion, roughly 45% of global population.



Aging Population and Higher Dependency

As the population growth rate slows down in most countries in Asia in the next two decades, the portion of the young population will decrease over time while improved healthcare services and medical technologies extend the Asia's life expectancy. Consequently, the proportion of aging population (over 65 years old) will grow larger.

In ASEAN, the proportion of the **aging population nearly doubled over two decades**, from 7.73% in 2015 to **15.49% in 2035** (equal to the global average). The two countries with the largest portion of aging population are Singapore with 31.74% and Thailand with 23.39% and the two countries with the lowest proportion of aging population are Lao PDR (8.38%) and the Philippines (8.72%). In the case of the Philippines, the high birth rates increased the total number of population, which keeps the proportion of aging population low.

The most important change is in China, Japan and Korea where the proportion of aging population will increase from 12.87% to 24.88%, i.e., about a quarter of the population will be elderly. This will have implications on the demand for healthcare services and social organization.

Table 2: Proportion of Aging Population

Aging Population percentage (% of pop higher than 65 years old)					
	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Brunei Dar.	5.28%	7.06%	8.92%	11.29%	13.64%
Cambodia	4.90%	5.66%	6.66%	7.87%	9.17%
Indonesia	6.86%	8.03%	9.79%	11.90%	14.44%
Lao PDR	4.66%	5.22%	5.99%	7.05%	8.38%
Malaysia	6.36%	7.90%	9.57%	11.53%	13.17%
Myanmar	6.39%	7.71%	9.21%	10.93%	13.11%
Philippines	4.53%	5.49%	6.48%	7.53%	8.72%
Singapore	13.70%	17.67%	22.30%	26.95%	31.74%
Thailand	11.97%	14.39%	17.22%	20.18%	23.39%
Viet Nam	7.76%	9.47%	11.69%	14.48%	17.76%
ASEAN	7.13%	8.49%	10.24%	12.26%	15.49%
China	10.94%	13.63%	15.84%	18.75%	23.27%
Japan	31.62%	34.41%	36.12%	38.13%	39.76%
Korea	15.53%	18.69%	22.95%	27.14%	31.14%
CJK	12.87%	15.56%	17.78%	20.64%	24.88%
India	6.12%	7.15%	8.21%	9.36%	10.74%
Australia	18.16%	19.67%	21.53%	23.77%	25.37%
New Zealand	17.58%	19.36%	21.47%	24.12%	26.01%
IAN	6.38%	7.42%	8.51%	9.68%	11.07%
ASEAN+6	6.42%	11.14%	12.75%	14.69%	17.32%
Others	12.50%	10.95%	11.84%	12.96%	13.99%
World	9.79%	11.04%	12.27%	13.76%	15.49%

Source: The World Population Prospect: The Revision 2010, U.N. Population Division



Dependency Ratio

Another implication of a growing aging population is increasing burden on the working population. The dependency ratio measures the amount of people one working individual can support. In ASEAN, this ratio will increase from 0.48 to 0.59. The highest will be in Singapore, where one working person will have to support 0.83 persons in 2035.

It is interesting to note that there are three countries where the Dependency Ratio is decreasing, i.e., the burden of the working population is declining – Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines.

The dependency ratio is declining in India due to high population growth rates. Meanwhile, the ratio is increasing for China because of low population growth.

Table 3: Dependency Ratio

Dependency Ratio					
	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Brunei Dar.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.44	0.46
Cambodia	0.52	0.49	0.47	0.45	0.43
Indonesia	0.47	0.45	0.45	0.46	0.49
Lao PDR	0.55	0.50	0.47	0.46	0.44
Malaysia	0.52	0.51	0.53	0.54	0.56
Myanmar	0.42	0.42	0.43	0.44	0.45
Philippines	0.61	0.58	0.57	0.56	0.56
Singapore	0.39	0.45	0.56	0.69	0.83
Thailand	0.44	0.45	0.49	0.53	0.60
Viet Nam	0.43	0.44	0.44	0.46	0.50
ASEAN	0.48	0.47	0.48	0.49	0.59
China	0.40	0.43	0.45	0.49	0.58
Japan	0.78	0.85	0.90	0.97	1.03
Korea	0.42	0.48	0.58	0.68	0.79
CJK	0.42	0.46	0.49	0.53	0.61
India	0.53	0.52	0.50	0.49	0.49
Australia	0.58	0.62	0.66	0.71	0.74
New Zealand	0.59	0.64	0.68	0.74	0.78
IAN	0.53	0.52	0.50	0.49	0.49
ASEAN+6	0.52	0.48	0.49	0.51	0.54
Others	0.56	0.61	0.62	0.62	0.62
World	0.54	0.55	0.56	0.57	0.59

Source: The World Population Prospect: The Revision 2010, U.N. Population Division