

Dear All,

The world population crosses 8 billion tomorrow on 15<sup>th</sup> November. This has implications and I tried to pick up as much as I could on this population topic:

1. The world population was 1 billion in 1800. It reached 2 billion in 1925, at the start of the great depression and it reached 3 billion in 1960. After that the world has been adding a billion people every 15 years or so. The world population grew at 1 pc last year, it declined during covid.
2. People are living longer now, infant mortality is down, better health systems prevail. Life expectancy was 63.8 in 1990, in 1991 it was 72.8, 9 years were added in 30 years
3. In the 1950s, women typically had 5 kids, now women are marrying late, some women don't want kids and some families are happy with a single kid. Women are prioritizing economic progress these days.
4. The fertility rate required to keep zero population growth is about 2.1
5. However, 60 countries have a declining population trend between 2002 and 2050. We are seeing the slowest pace of population growth now. The China reversal of one child policy will see population growth in China.
6. This means that the number of children in the world today is at its highest ever, before today and after today, we will never have so many kids in the world ever again.
7. The world population will be 9 billion in 2050 and will be about 10 billion by 2100. After 2080 or so, the world population is set to decline. The population increase in the next 30 years will come from 8 countries – Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, and Tanzania. Some Emerging markets will be challenged because of the population growth.
8. Scientists opine that the world can at best handle a population of 9 to 10 billion. The challenges will be freshwater, food supply, nitrogen cycle, available phosphorus quantities etc.
9. The world is growing with the cities. Today 56 % of the world lives in cities, the crossover between urban and rural happened in 2005 when urban overtook rural. As cities grow, they use up more arable, agricultural land and put pressure on food supply.
10. As the world gets older, there will be fewer people able to work, savings will drop, investment will be challenged. As people get older, families get smaller, and size of homes becomes smaller. The population above 65 is 771 million people in 2022 and is expected to be 994 million by 2030 and 1.6 billion by 2050. Europe and North America will have 27% of population above age 65 by 2050.
11. As the world gets older, we will see more automation, robotics, AI etc. We will see more caring jobs and facilities for the 60 plus in every community building.
12. We will see more gated communities, more security in a future world.
13. Climate change, the extinction crisis etc. are real challenges as we will see more greenhouse effects with a higher population and its habits.
14. Consumption habits will have to change and will change in the coming decades.
15. Countries will have to change their immigration policies if they want people in the service sector. Brexit and what's happening in the UK is a good example where immigrants earlier did a lot of low wage roles. The workplace will change, there will be fewer people at work, smaller offices.

Feedback welcome,

Shiv