

## Population size and regional distribution

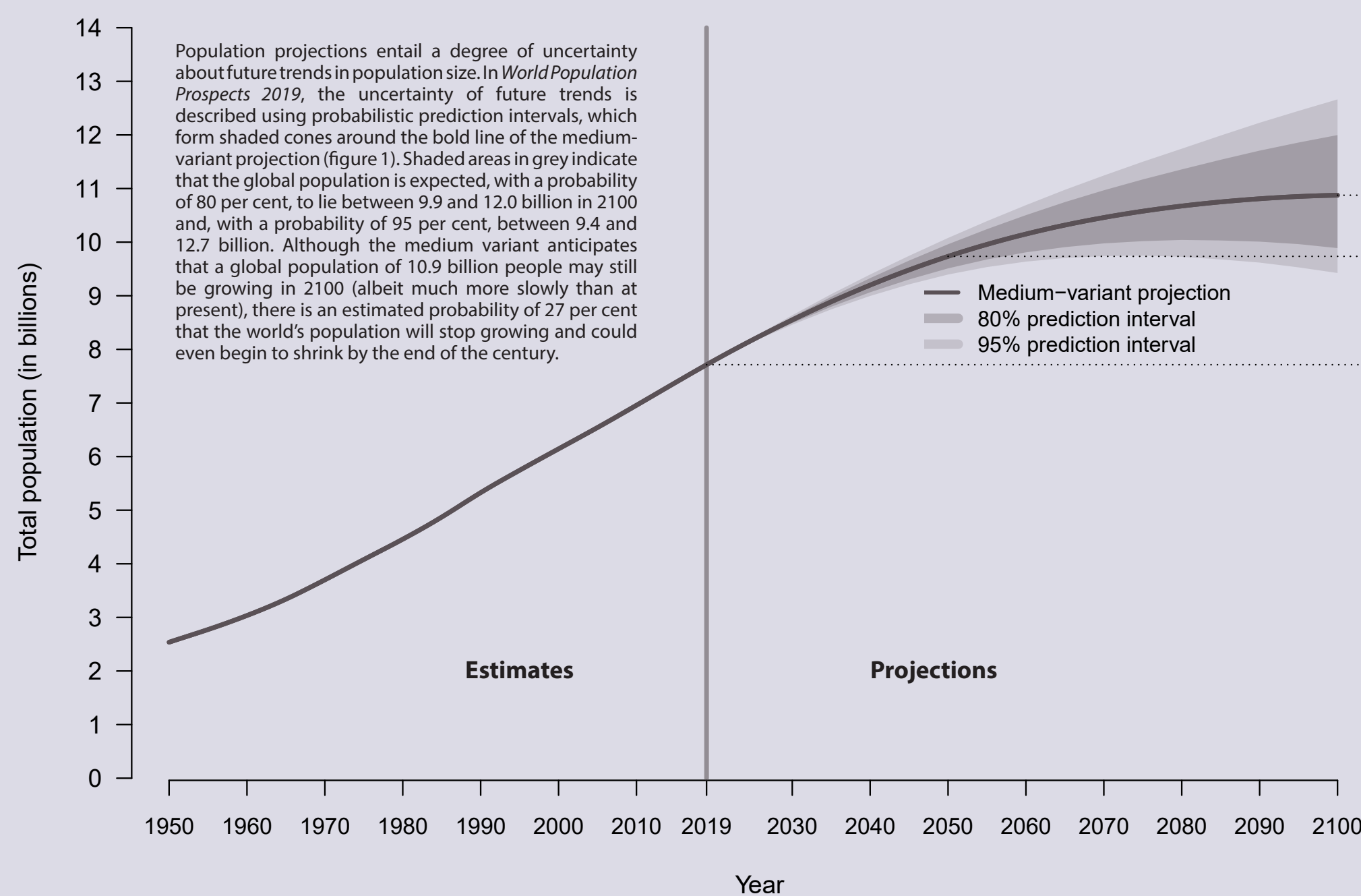


Figure 1. World population estimates and projections, 1950 to 2100 (billions)

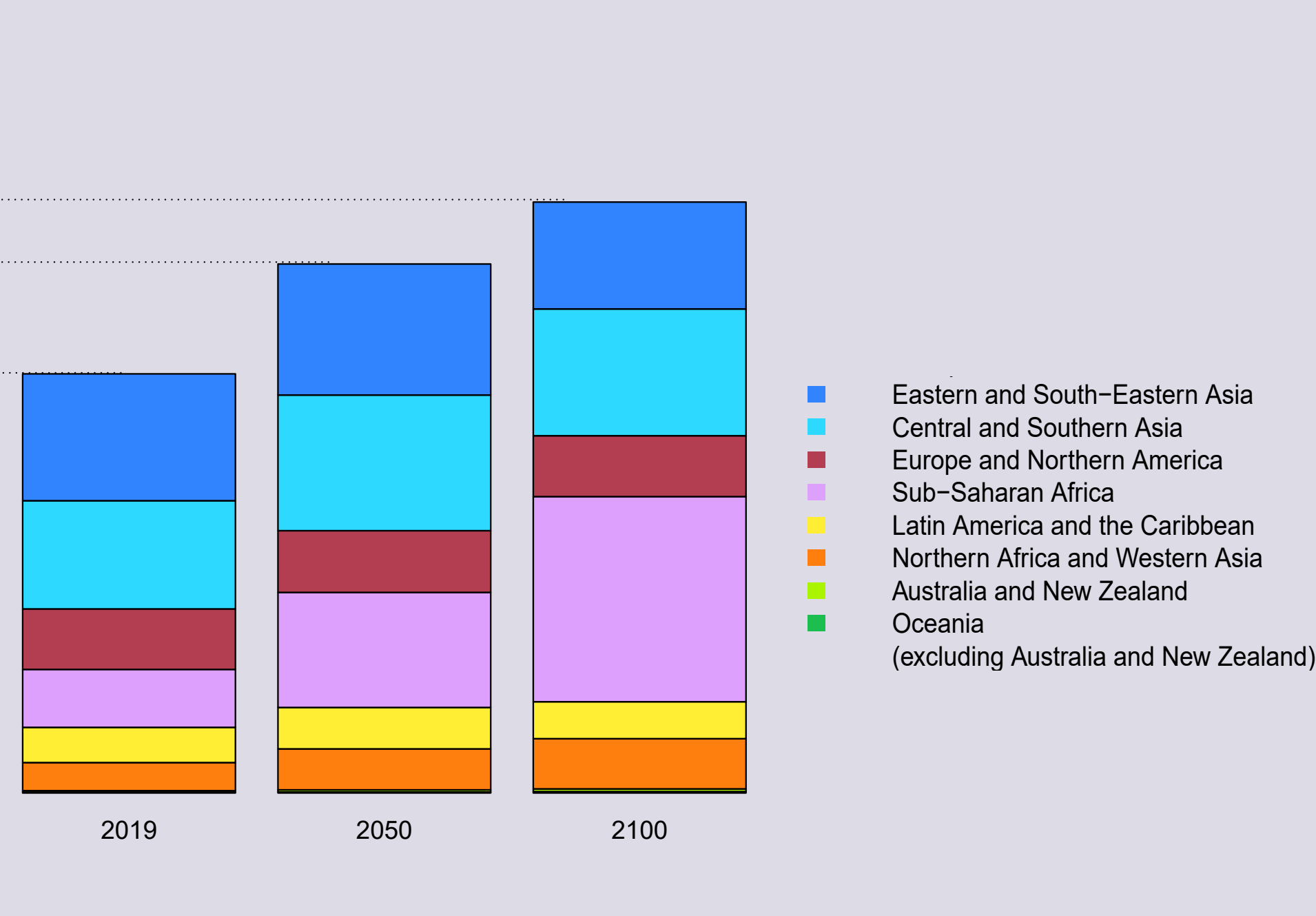


Figure 2. Population size by region, 2019, 2050 and 2100 (billions)

According to the medium variant of *World Population Prospects 2019*, the global population is projected to continue to grow, rising from 7.7 billion in 2019 to 10.9 billion at the end of the century (bold line of figure 1). The world's population, which is currently growing at a pace of 1.1 per cent per year, is expected to stop growing sometime around the end of the century and to stabilize at nearly 11 billion people. The anticipated change in population size differs greatly by region. While population growth will continue in most regions, the population of Europe is expected to decline from 0.75 billion in 2019 to 0.63 billion in 2100. Sub-Saharan Africa will experience the fastest growth, with its population projected to increase from just over a billion inhabitants in 2019 to around 3.8 billion in 2100 (figure 2).

## Declining fertility and increasing longevity

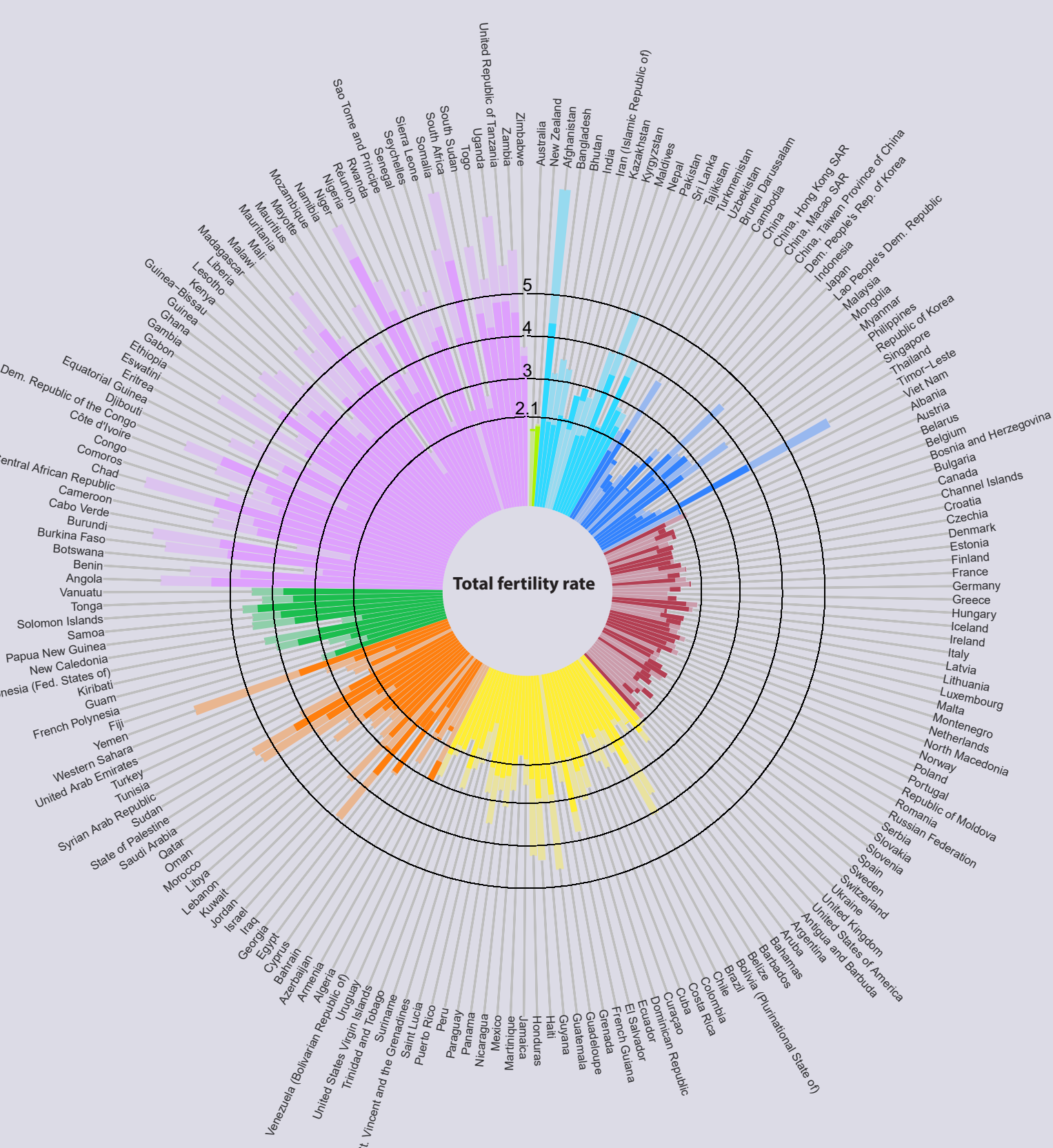


Figure 3. Average number of live births per woman over a lifetime, 2000 and 2019

The fertility level of a population is often described by the total fertility rate, which equals the average number of live births per woman over a lifetime (figure 3), while the mortality level can be summarized by life expectancy at birth, or the average age at death resulting from mortality conditions observed in a given year or period (figure 4). In most situations, fertility and mortality are the main components of population change over time. In recent decades, there have been substantial declines in fertility in many parts of the world. Globally in 2019 the total fertility rate was 2.5, compared to 2.7 in 2000. In 2019, about one-fifth of countries or areas had a fertility level of four or more (figure 3); most of these countries were in sub-Saharan Africa. Almost half of countries globally had a total fertility rate lower than 2.1, the level required to achieve a long-run growth rate of zero for populations with low levels of mortality. Improvements in living conditions have contributed to lower mortality and increased life expectancy around the world. Globally, life expectancy at birth reached 72.6 years in 2019, up from 69.9 years in 2000. The largest gains in life expectancy at birth during this period occurred in sub-Saharan Africa (figure 4). Although the gap in longevity between less developed and more developed countries has been closing, life expectancy at birth in the least developed countries is still 7 years below the global average.

- Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
- Central and Southern Asia
- Europe and Northern America
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Australia and New Zealand
- Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)

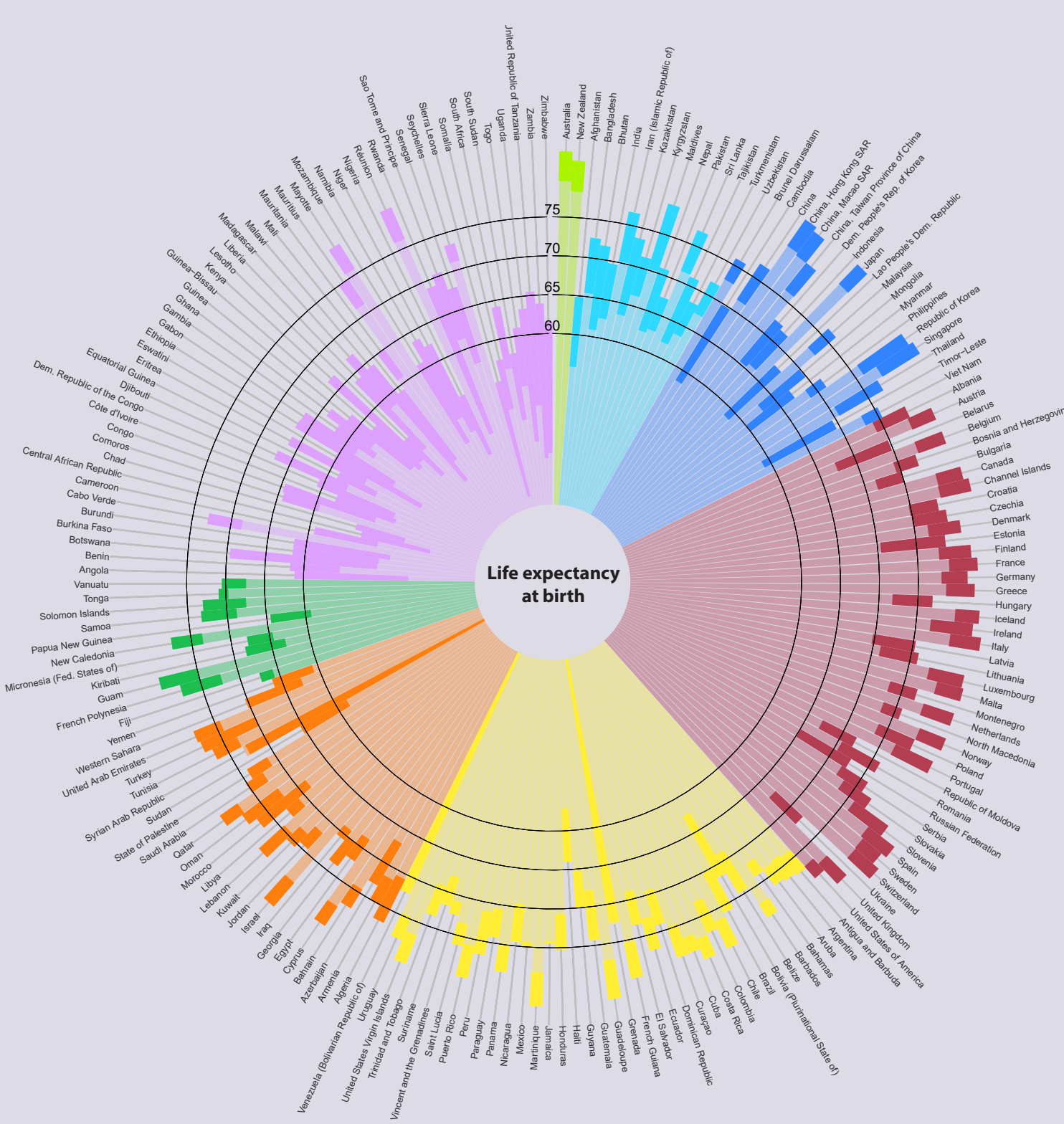


Figure 4. Life expectancy at birth in years, 2000 and 2019

## Population ageing and components of change

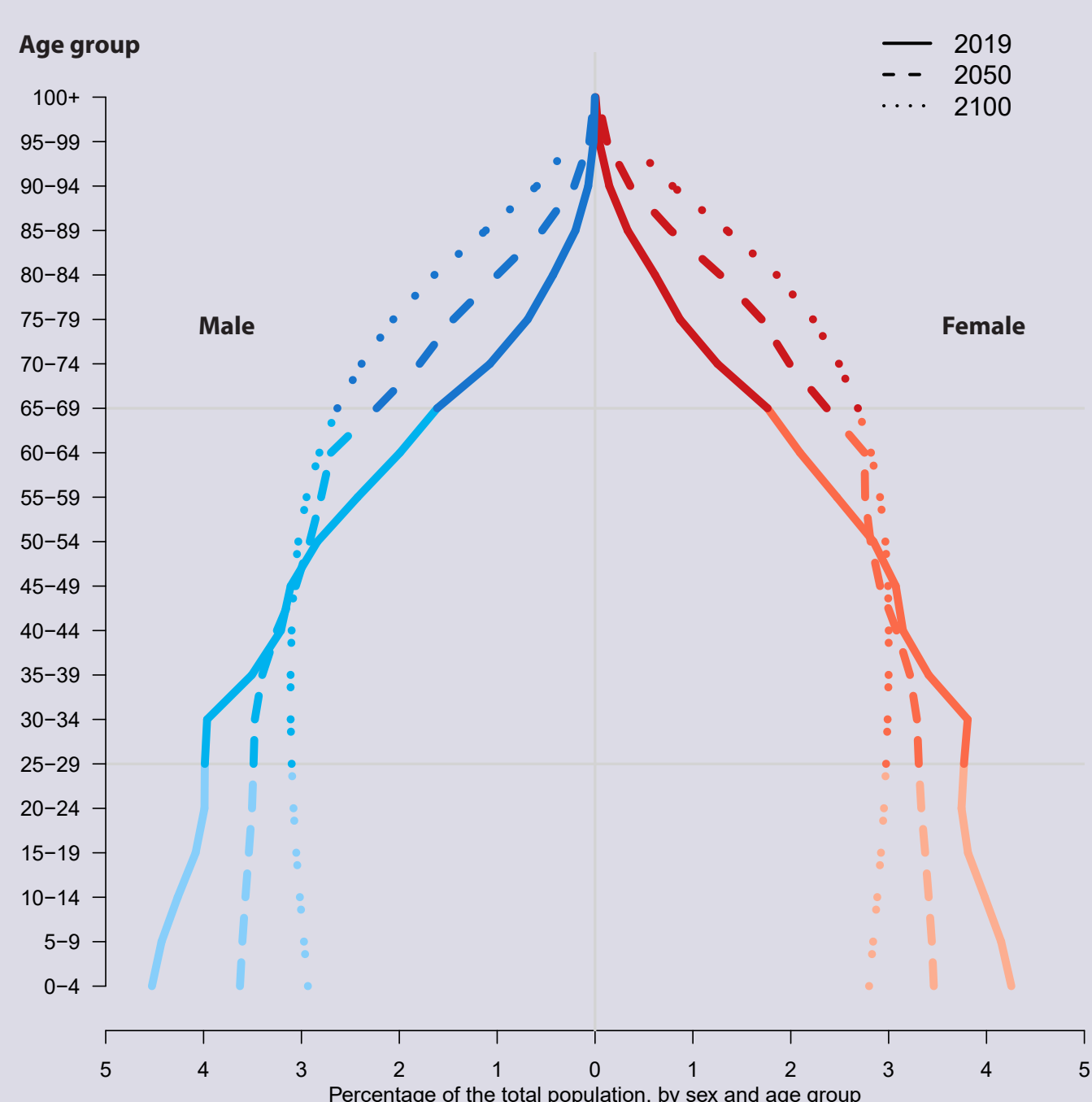


Figure 5. Population by age and sex, 2019, 2050 and 2100

Changing levels of fertility, mortality and migration influence the age composition of populations. Globally and for individual countries or areas, the share of population above the age of 65 years is projected to increase, while the share below age 25 is projected to decrease between 2019 and the end of the century (figure 5). Already, most populations face decreasing numbers of working-age persons (from 25 to 64 years) relative to the number of older persons (65 years and over), and within a few decades this trend is expected for all countries and areas of the world. Globally, the potential support ratio, which equals the number of persons aged 25 to 64 years divided by the number aged 65 or over, is projected to decline from 6.3 in 2019 to 3.5 in 2050 and to reach 2.4 at the end of the century.

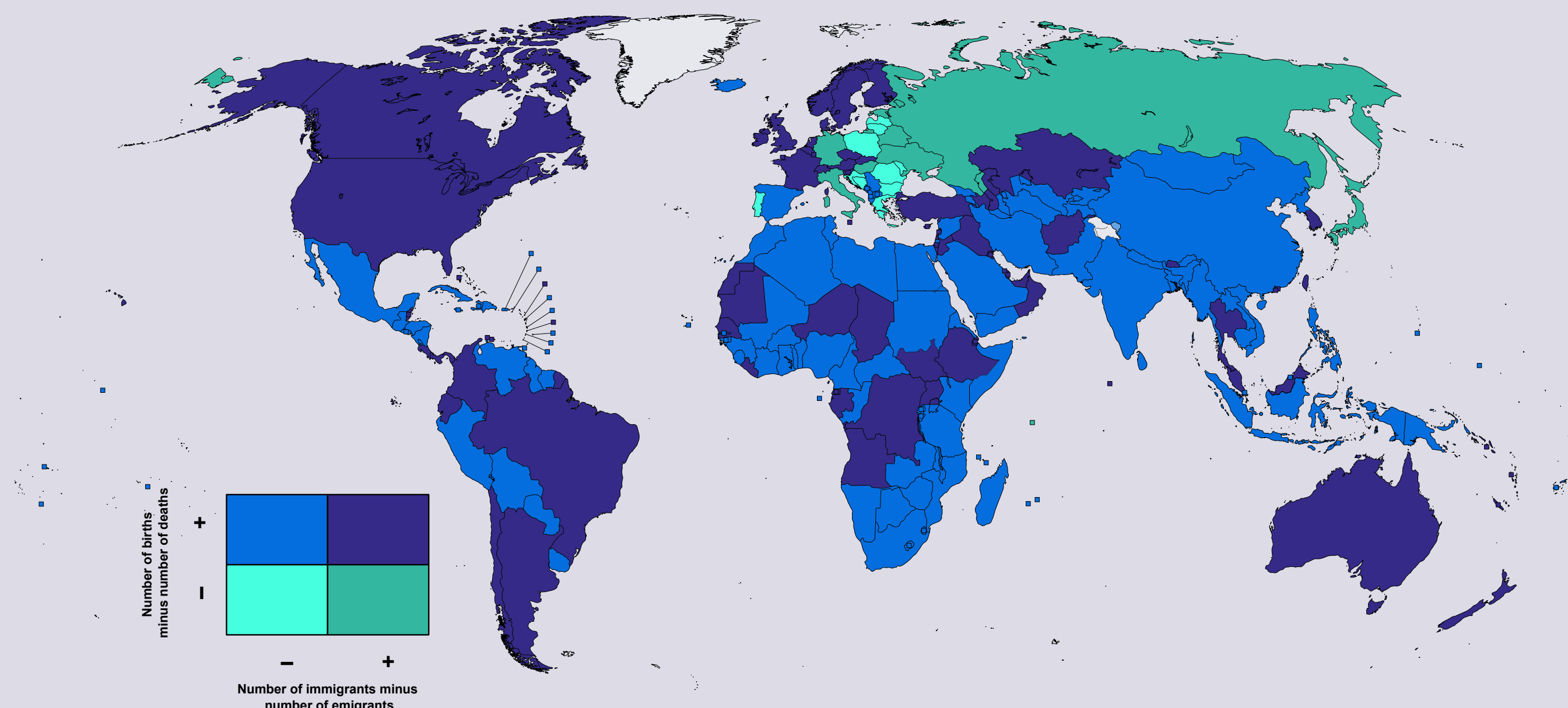


Figure 6. Components of population change, 2010-2020

The map shows the relationship between two components of population change for the period 2010-2020: net migration (the difference in numbers of immigrants and emigrants) and natural increase (the difference in numbers of births and deaths). A majority of countries or areas experienced positive natural increase combined with either net emigration (108 countries or areas shown in light blue on the map) or net immigration (74, shown in dark blue). A smaller set of countries experienced negative natural increase together with either net emigration (10, shown in light green) or net immigration (9, shown in dark green). Thus, in 108 countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Portugal and Romania), a net outflow of persons through international migration added to the impact of an excess of deaths over births, while in 9 countries (Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine), a net inflow of migrants helped to offset an excess of deaths over births.



Table with columns for Region, subregion, country or area, 2019, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, and population indicators.

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Notes section containing various footnotes and explanatory text regarding data sources, methodologies, and abbreviations.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social, and environmental spheres and national action.

World Population 2019 Wall Chart

