

EGYPT

Capital

Cairo

Ethnic Groups

Egyptian 99.7%, other 0.3% (2006 est.)

Languages

Arabic (official), English, and French widely understood by educated classes

Religions

Muslim (predominantly Sunni) 90%, Christian (majority Coptic Orthodox, other Christians include Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, Maronite, Orthodox, and Anglican) 10%

Population

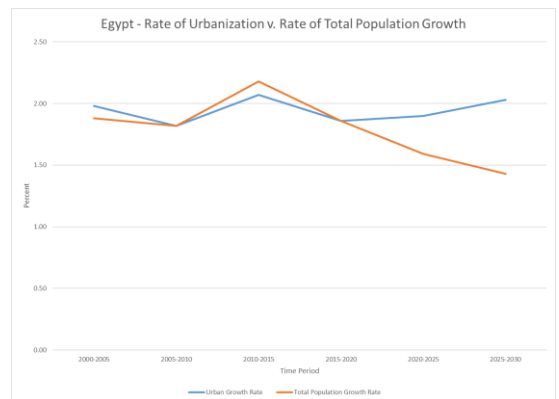
Total: 109.5 million
Median age: 24.1 years
Population growth rate: 1.59%
Urban: 43.1%
Rural 56.9%

Fertility

Birth rate: 20.48 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 2.76 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 1.06 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 4.32 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 74.72 years
Maternal mortality rate: 37 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 17.27 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -0.29 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 4.4% of GDP

Physician density: 0.75 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 32%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 0.14 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 2.5% of GDP

Literacy: 71.2%

Population Distribution

approximately 95% of the population lives within 20 km of the Nile River and its delta; vast areas of the country remain sparsely populated or uninhabited

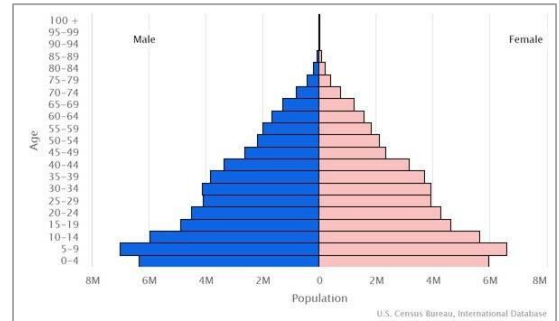
Demographic Profile

Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and the third-most-populous country in Africa, behind Nigeria and Ethiopia. Most of the country is desert, so about 95% of the population is concentrated in a narrow strip of fertile land along the Nile River, which represents only about 5% of Egypt's land area. Egypt's rapid population growth – 46% between 1994 and 2014 – stresses limited natural resources, jobs, housing, sanitation, education, and health care.

Although the country's total fertility rate (TFR) fell from roughly 5.5 children per woman in 1980 to just over 3 in the late 1990s, largely as a result of state-sponsored family planning programs, the population growth rate dropped more modestly because of decreased mortality rates and longer life expectancies. During the last decade, Egypt's TFR decline stalled for several years and then reversed, reaching 3.6 in 2011, and is under 3 as of 2022. Contraceptive use has held steady at about 60%, while preferences for larger families and early marriage may have strengthened in the wake of the recent 2011 revolution. The large cohort of women of or nearing childbearing age will sustain high population growth for the foreseeable future (an effect called population momentum).

Nevertheless, post-MUBARAK governments have not made curbing population growth a priority. To increase contraceptive use and to prevent further overpopulation will require greater government commitment and substantial social change, including encouraging smaller families and better educating and empowering women. Currently, literacy, educational attainment, and labor force participation rates are much lower for women than men. In addition, the prevalence of violence against women, the lack of female political representation, and the perpetuation of the nearly universal practice of female genital cutting continue to keep women from playing a more significant role in Egypt's public sphere.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

