



$$\frac{\% \text{ pop aged } 0 - 14 + \% \text{ pop aged } 65+}{\% \text{ of population aged } 15-65} \times 100$$

- ▶ The ratio for an MDC usually lies between 0.5 and 0.75.
 - The UK had a ratio of 0.49 in 2010 meaning that for every young or old dependent person there were approximately 2 working age people
- ▶ The higher ratio, the greater the number of dependents that have to be provided for from the taxes on the workforce.
- ▶ The ratio for an LDC is typically higher. Mexico, with a youthful population structure, has a dependency ratio of 1.04. A ratio of 1 means that for every working age person there is one dependent person.

Stage 1 – High Fluctuating

A population pyramid with a wide base and a concave profile, representing a high fluctuating stage. The x-axis is labeled 'Population (n)' and the y-axis is labeled 'Age'.

- ▶ expectancy and concave profile
- ▶ No significant population growth
- ▶ No countries still in this phase
- ▶ Reflects tribal society
- ▶ Children not expected to survive so families breed spares
- ▶ No family planning
- ▶ Poor hygiene & nutrition
- ▶ Large families may be seen as a sign of virility

A population pyramid typical of stage 1 - note the wide base, low life expectancy and concave profile

Tribal societies of Amazon rainforest but no countries

Stage 2 – Early Expanding

A population pyramid with a tall, narrow shape, representing an early expanding stage. The x-axis is labeled 'Population (n)' and the y-axis is labeled 'Age'.

- ▶ Taller pyramid means population surviving longer
- ▶ Better healthcare (modernization)
- ▶ Improved sanitation
- ▶ Higher standard of living
- ▶ high dependency ratio
- ▶ Strain on resources
- ▶ Low status of women (not part of the economy)

A population pyramid typical of stage 2 - note the wide base, lengthening life expectancy and pyramidal profile

Very few people survive to old age (the average life expectancy in Sudan was 52 years in 2010)

Stage 3 – Late Expanding

Population (in %)

A population pyramid typical of stage 3 - note the narrowing base, increasing life expectancy and rocket shaped profile

- ▶ Expanding workforce
- ▶ industrialization
- ▶ Family planning
- ▶ Better education
- ▶ Lower infant mortality
- ▶ Youthful population, which can spark creativity, adaptability, emigration
- ▶ Less need for immigrant labor
- ▶ Less need for elder social supports

China, India & Cuba

Stage 4 – Low Fluctuating

Population (in %)

A population pyramid typical of stage 4 - note the narrowing base, long life expectancy and vase shaped profile

- ▶ Educated workforce
- ▶ Discretionary income does not need to be spent on education
- ▶ Might need immigrant labor: allows citizens to take higher-order jobs
- ▶ Improved education of women, more women working, delays in starting families
- ▶ Children are an economic liability in MDCs, too expensive to have several, societal norms
- ▶ Birth control
- ▶ More urban societies: less need for kids to work farm
- ▶ government and private pensions reduce "children as pension"

Switzerland, Japan, U.S.

Stage 5 – Population Decline - Ageing

Population (in %)

A population pyramid typical of stage 5 - note the ever diminishing base and very long life expectancies

- ▶ Negative growth rate meaning there are less births than deaths so that the country's population size is decreasing
- ▶ Financial & social independence of women
- ▶ Increased economic pressure on the labor force (dependency ratio-elderly)
- ▶ Economic pressure on adult children
- ▶ Possible future labor shortage
- ▶ Rise of single sex relationships

A country such as Sweden is currently entering into the negative growth rate meaning that leading to problems.

1. Sketch and explain the shapes of the profiles
2. What would stage 5s pyramid look like?