

ALGERIA

Whole country

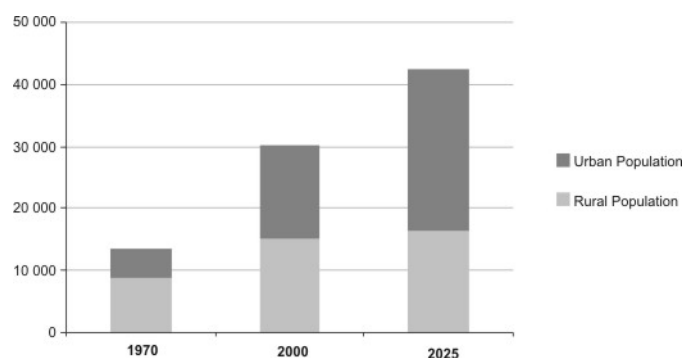
Interestingly, the onset of Algerian fertility decline coincided with the 1986 oil price reversal. But signs of a downturn were in evidence even before the birth control programme was launched in 1983, by when there were as many married women contraceptive users as in Morocco with its much longer-established programme (1966).



Fertility dropped from over 7.0 children per woman in 1978-82, to 6.32 in 1982-1987, then again to 4.38 in 1987-92. Within a few years, therefore, Algeria had almost closed the gap with its neighbours.

In 1992, Algeria was plunged into a state of virtual civil war with far-reaching demographic consequences. The birth rate and natural increase rate have both declined. The birth rate fell from 30.4 to 28.8 per thousand (a 5.3% drop) between 1992 and 1993, and continued to decline, slipping from 28.2 per thousand in 1994 to 25.3 in 1995, and again to 22.9 per thousand in 1996. The natural increase rate fell to 1.89% in 1995. In the space of 2 years, fertility declined by nearly one child per woman: 3.97 in 1994, 3.14 in 1996. The pace of this transition is in part due to the releasing effect of the oil-price slump which loosened the rent-seeking economy's hold on population processes, allowing full play to the socio-economic factors previously held in check. Fundamentalism, often a conservative force in family matters, was unable to turn the tide. Also, education generally, and women's education in particular, in which Algeria has invested heavily¹², encouraged fertility decline. Illiteracy among reproductive age women has dropped sharply. Also, fertility has declined among women in all educational subgroups: by 5.8% a year among primary-educated women, and by 2.8% among women with secondary or higher education from what was already fairly low levels at the start of the Eighties. A 5.4% a year decline in illiterate women's fertility reflects the take-up of the small family model among uneducated women. In 2000, Algerian fertility at 2.66 is still higher than Tunisia or Morocco, reflecting its late-onset transition notwithstanding its advance in female education in particular. By 2025, however, Algeria's TFR will be very akin to those of its neighbours. The connection between rising female enrolments and declining fertility among women at all educational levels has produced much lower population growth than previously projected.

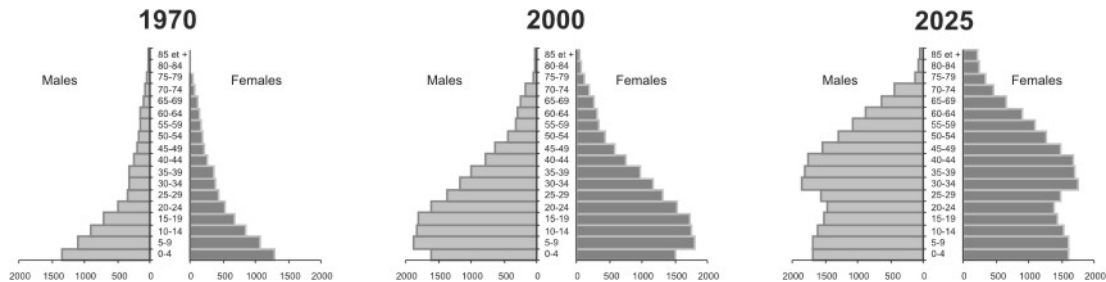
Figure 103. Rural population and urban population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



¹² Up to 10% of GDP and a third of the national budget

By 2025, Algeria's population will be 42.3 million. The United Nations' projected 46.6 million over-estimates its future growth. Oddly, the UN 1994 estimate of 45.5 millions was closer to the mark¹³. The Blue Plan 1992 projection using the same methodology but on different data also scaled the figure down to 44.8 million. By 2025, Algeria will have 4 million more people than Morocco, when at independence (1962) it had 1 million fewer. Population growth will remain high at around 15 per thousand in 2000, and 12 per thousand by 2025.

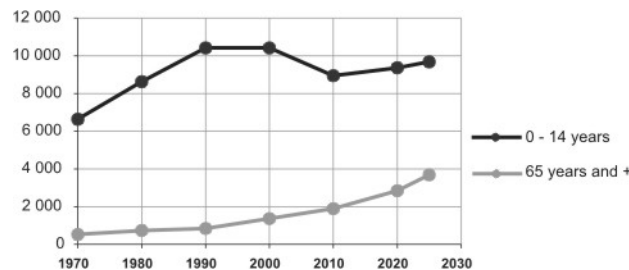
Figure 104. Population age structure (by 5-year age groups) 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



Algeria's urban population of 15.3 million in 2000 (living in urban areas of over 10 000 people) is roughly equal to its rural population: 50.5% and 49.5% respectively. By 2025, the urban population will have almost doubled to 25.852 million, with an urbanization rate of 61.1%.

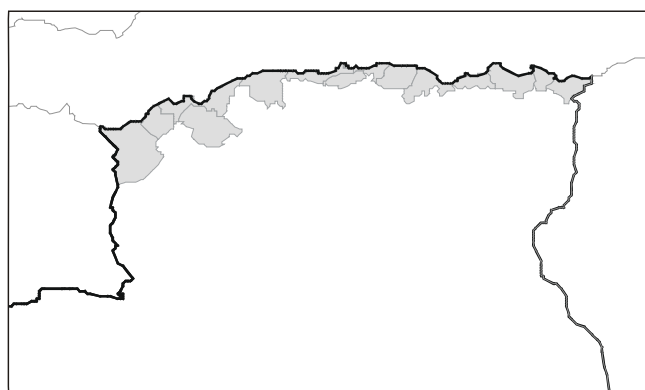
A change in the age structure will see a sharp drop in the proportion of under-15s, falling from a still high 34.2% in 2000 down to 23% by 2025, while the population aged 65 and over will almost double its share (4.5% in 2000 and 8.6% in 2025) and triple in size. The number of labour force entries will increase until 2015-20, rising from 627 to 729 000 a year, contracting thereafter down to 574 000 by 2020-25.

Figure 105. Populations aged 15-and-under and 65-and-over, 1970-2025 (in thousands)



Mediterranean coastal regions

The population of Algeria's Mediterranean willayas - 11.391 million in 1995, twice the 25-year-before total (5.794 million in 1970) - has increased at a particularly high 2.7% mean annual rate of growth, though still short of the 3.1% recorded by the non-Mediterranean willayas. Oddly enough, Algiers has the lowest pull factor of the Mediterranean willayas, with a mean annual rate of



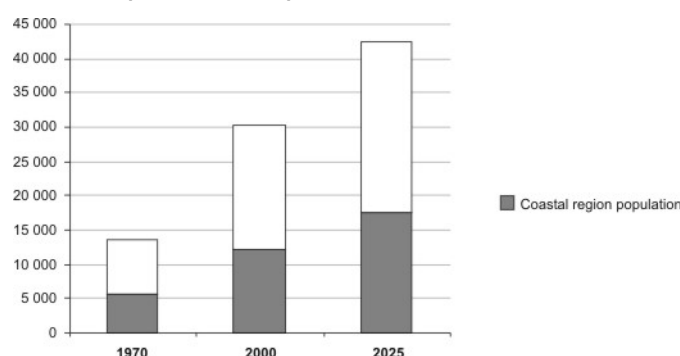
growth of just 1.9% between 1970 and 1995. Likewise Aïn Temouchent. The other Mediterranean willayas, by contrast, have had zero net migration or net in-migration exchanges

¹³ Although the confirmed fertility decline since then should have led to a downwards revision.

with the rest of the country. Tizi Ouzou, Tlemcen and Bejaia grew at fairly high rates of increase, of the order of 2.5-2.6%. Oran, Chlef, Tipaza, Mostaganem, Jijel and Annaba, with high growth rates (from 2.9% to 3.3%) have been high in-migration receivers. The biggest pull-factor willayas are Boumerdes (3.7%) and El Tarf (3.5%).

In the next 25 years, Algeria's seaboard will hold approximately four in ten of the population, growing significantly, though much less rapidly than in the past. It is projected to rise from 12.271 million people in 2000 to 17.669 million in 2025, adding 5.398 million people at a mean annual rate of growth of 1.47%.

Figure 106. Mediterranean coastal regions population as a share of total population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



In recent decades, the population of Mediterranean urban areas of over 10 000 people has more than doubled from 2.749 million people in 1970 to 6.240 million in 1995 - a mean annual rate of growth of 3.3%, but still well below the 5.1% of the non-Mediterranean urban areas. The city of Algiers, with a population of 2.414 million in 1995, has one of the lowest growth rates of all metro areas of over 100 000 people; its mean annual rate of 2.2% is barely equal to the rate of natural increase. Oran (735 000 people in 1995), by contrast, has grown at the faster rate of 2.6%. Likewise Annaba (population 351 000 in 1995, 2.4% growth), Tlemcen (158 000, 2.7%), Skikda (156 000, 3.1%) and Mostaganem (137 000, 2.7%). Urban growth has been exceptionally rapid in Chlef (172 000, 4.2%) and Bejaia (147 000, 3.7%). The growth of Algeria's 82 urban areas of under 100 000 people in 1995 has been a key determinant of urban growth on the Mediterranean coast, with a mean annual rate of growth above 5.0% a year.

Over the period 2000-2025, the population of urban areas of over 10 000 people will continue to grow at steady annual rate of 1.6%, although half that of the previous period, and below the 2.4% of the non-Mediterranean urban areas of over 10 000 people. The proportion of the population living in Mediterranean urban areas of over 10 000 people will increase from 55.0% to 57.4%.

Figure 107. Rural and urban population of the Mediterranean coastal regions 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)

