

## MOROCCO

### Whole country

Morocco illustrates how the fertility transition can onset and accelerate without all the essential preconditions being present. In the Arab world, Morocco's transition began earlier due to its early exit from a rent-seeking economy, steadily increasing the female labour force participation rate, especially in export-oriented sectors. Finally, close links with Europe through the

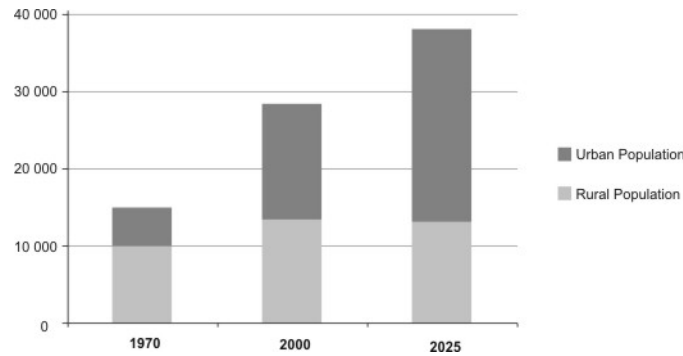


emigrant population created an environment conducive to small families. Each population projection produced in Morocco since the 80s has revised the previous one downwards. This one is no exception.

The overall fertility decline, which began in the mid-1970s, mainly from the combination of rising educational levels and fertility decline in each female sub-group, has continued unbroken. Morocco was close to natural fertility in the 60s with 7.2 children per woman. By the early 70s, fertility had peaked at 7.4 children per woman. The economic recession (falling phosphate prices) and political crisis (tensions in the Sahara), however, led to a sharp drop in fertility from 5.9 children per woman in 1977 to 5.5 in 1982, 4.4 in 1988, 3.3 in 1994, and 3.1 in 1996. Fertility decline affected all population groups including illiterate women. Between 1977 and 1993, female fertility halved among those with only primary education, and dropped by 54% among the secondary-educated. Most striking of all is the sharp fall among illiterate women (-36% in 16 years), which accelerated rapidly in the early part of the decade: -17% between 1991 and 1993. In 2000, fertility stands at 2.35 children per woman. It could decline further to 2.00 in 2025 with rapidly rising educational levels - especially among women - as a result of the government's making education for all a priority. The spread of education and fertility decline are projected to produce a population of 38.2 million by 2025, not far off the UN's 1998 projection of 38.7 million. The Blue Plan's 1992 projections of 40.0 million in 2025 carried out to the same methodology require revisiting, therefore, confirming Morocco's very rapid fertility decline.

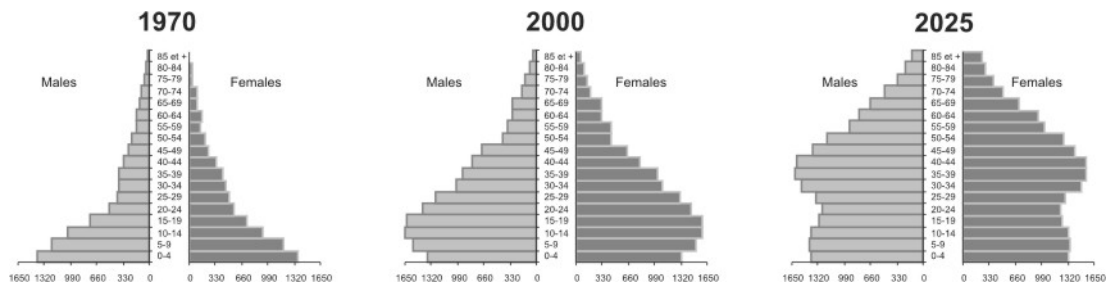
The urban population (in urban areas of over 10 000 people) will grow from 15 to 25 million, outpacing rest-of-country growth between 2000 and 2025. This will significantly increase the pace of fertility decline. The urban population will rise from one in two people (52.8%) in 2000 to two in three (65.6%) by 2025. Despite the quickening pace of fertility decline, however, population growth will remain high throughout the period: 13 per thousand in 2000, 10 per thousand by 2020-25. Zero growth will not be achieved until thirty-odd years after that date.

**Figure 108. Rural population and urban population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**



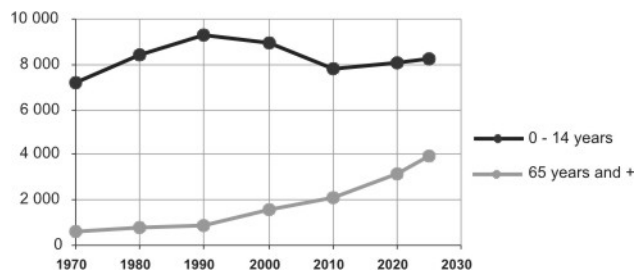
The age structure will steadily change as the bottom contracts and the intermediate ages grow: 31.5% aged under 15 in 2000, 21.6% by 2025. By contrast, the burden of young people will be replaced by that of older people, whose relative share will double between 1995 and 2025, to top 10% by the end of the period. Meanwhile, the purely demographic demand for basic education will decrease, followed within a matter of years by that for secondary then higher education. The added costs in the public education system will no longer be from population pressure but from social development: the gradual elimination of illiteracy for the younger generations, and an expansion of basic education.

**Figure 109. Population age structure (by 5-year age groups) 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**



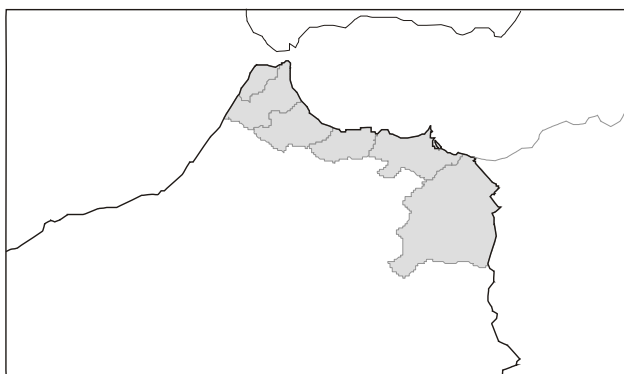
Labour force accessions will increase up to 2005-10, when they will level off, and then decline from 641 000 to 499 000 by 2020-25. The changes will be more visible still in terms of net entries: from 1 exit for 4.6 entries in 2000, the ratio will fall to 1 to 1.4 by 2025. This is a significant demographic constraint on labour force supply written into the population age structure.

**Figure 110. Populations aged 15-and-under and 65-and-over, 1970-2025 (in thousands)**



## Mediterranean coastal regions

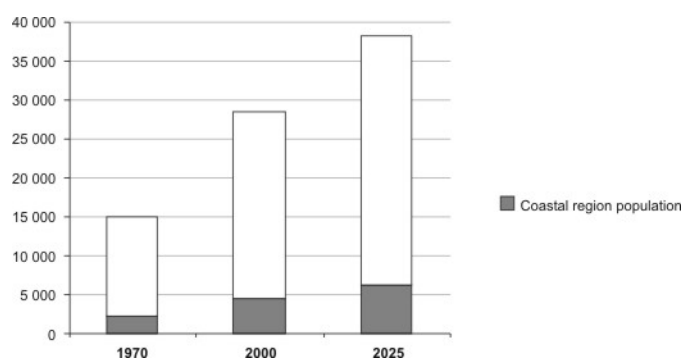
Morocco's coastline is mainly Atlantic-facing, so the population of its Mediterranean regions (increased as a result of deconcentration) was only 4.156 million in 1995 - 15.6% of the total population. Population growth in these Mediterranean provinces matched the rest-of-country rate: a mean annual rate of 2.3% between 1970 and 1995, but the components of growth



were different. Very high international emigration from these provinces, especially the Rif and Nador mountains, offset significantly higher fertility than elsewhere in the country. The province of Tangier, whose boundaries are near coterminous with its eponymous city, grew at the mean annual rate of 3.4% between 1970 and 1995, evidence of its strong pull factor for in-migration from its hinterland and the rest of the country. Nador (1.5%) and Al-Hoceima (1.9%), by contrast, grew at significantly below their rates of natural increase, pointing to out-migration and especially international emigration. While Chefchaouen (2.5%) also lost some of its population to emigration, it was able to maintain a high rate of natural increase by the highest fertility of all Moroccan provinces. The populations of Tétouan (and more recently Larache province) and Oujda (as well as Berkane and Taourirt provinces) grew at rates close to their rates of natural increase, 2.6 and 2.2%.

The Mediterranean provinces will add 1.880 million people between 2000 and 2025 at the mean annual rate of growth of 1.4%. Their proportion of the total population will hold steady at around 16%, continuing to account for a fairly minor share of Morocco's total population.

**Figure 111. Mediterranean coastal regions population as a share of total population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**



Mediterranean coastal urban areas of over 10 000 people experienced very rapid growth during the period 1970-1995, their mean annual rate of 4.37% being well above the 3.9% a year of urban settlements in the rest of the country (which includes, amongst others, the heavily-populated cities of Casablanca and Rabat-Salé). There are five coastal metropolitan areas of over 100 000 people. The population of Tangier (517 000 people in 1995) has grown at a mean annual rate of 4.15% since 1970. Oujda (population 360 000), Tétouan (332 000) and Ksar el Kébir (110 000) have been migrant receivers, but not in significant proportions to judge by their mean annual rates of growth of 3.0, 3.5 and 3.4% respectively. Nador, by contrast, grew at the substantial mean annual rate of 5.3% as a result of very high internal migration (itself a result of international migration).

The population of coastal urban areas of over 10 000 people will grow significantly between 2000 and 2025 from 2.473 to 4.095 million people - a gain of 1.622 million people at the mean annual rate of growth of 2.0%. Although much slower at about half the rate of the previous period, it remains very close to that of urban areas of over 10 000 people in the rest of Morocco.

**Figure 112. Rural and urban population of the Mediterranean coastal regions 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)**

