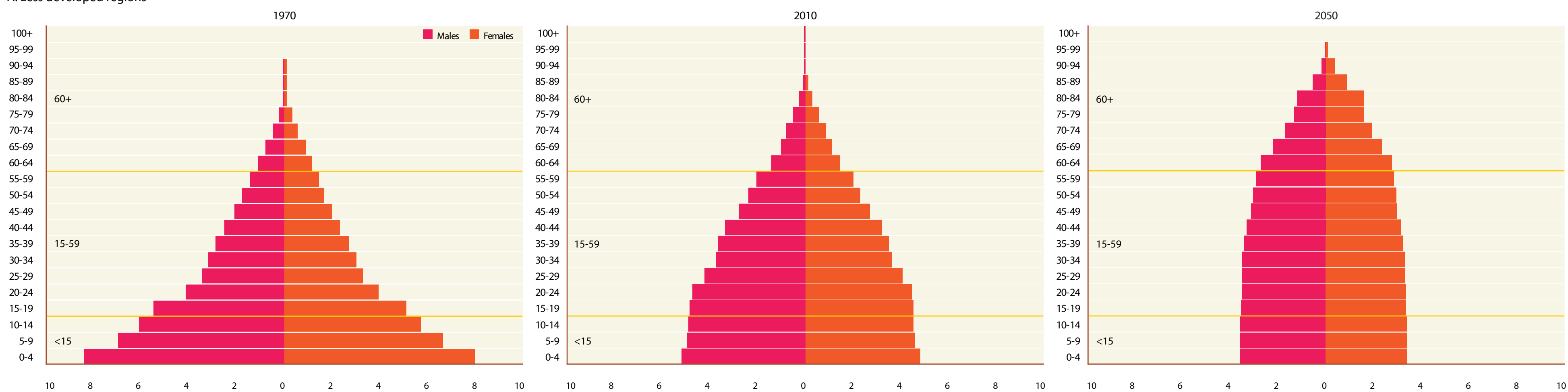




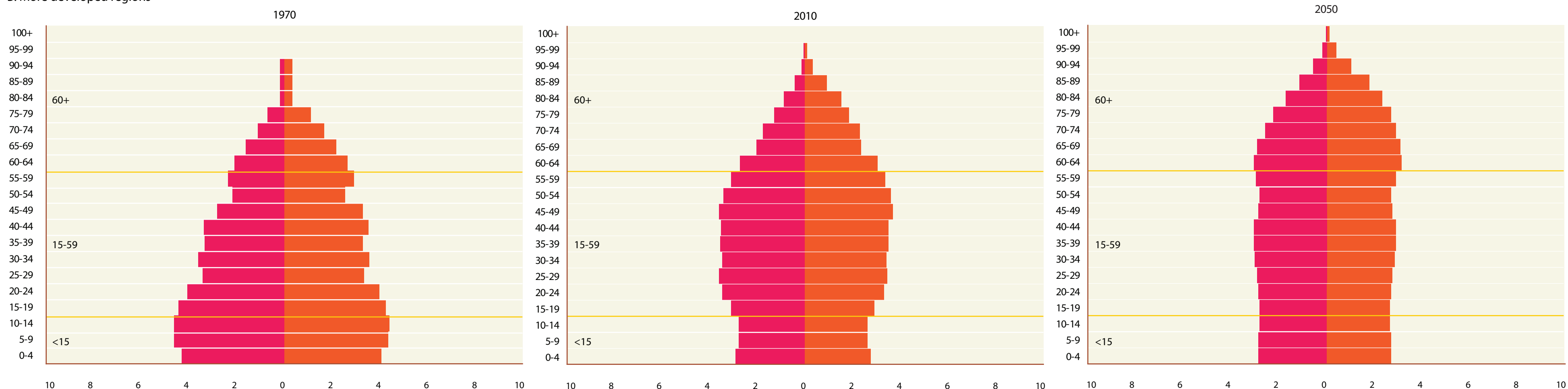
A. Less developed regions



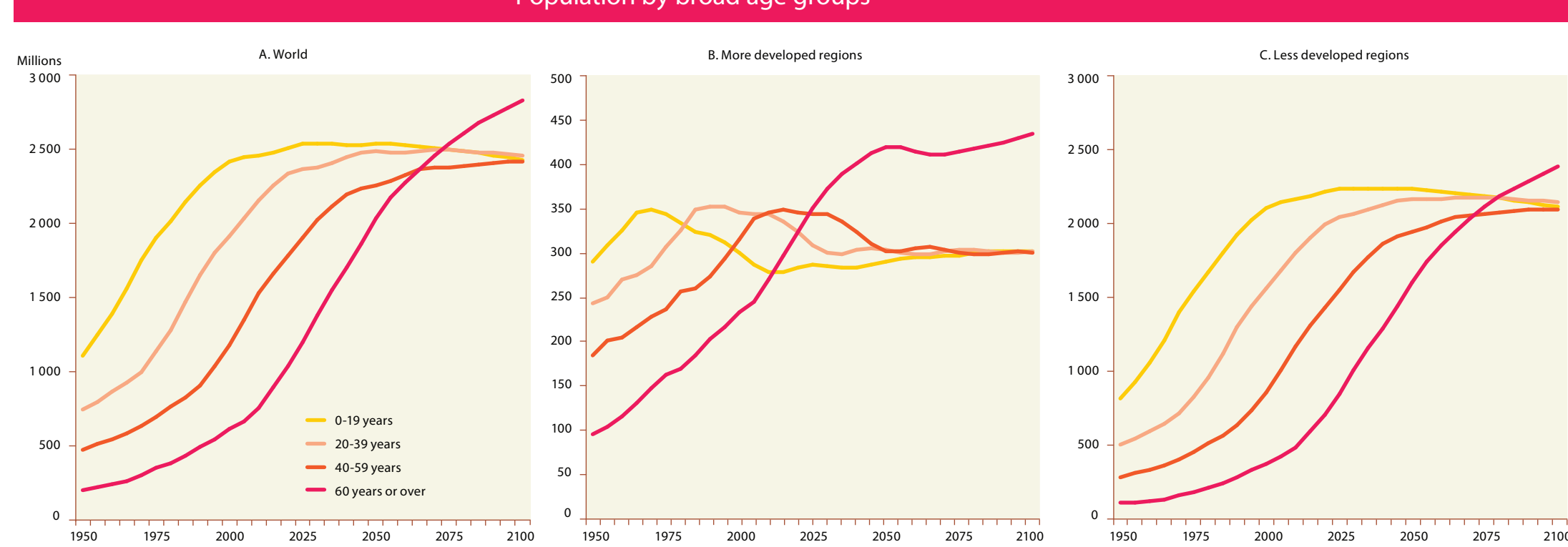
The population of the world is changing dramatically in both size and age composition

The population pyramids for the less developed regions are transitioning from a triangular, wide-based shape (associated with a youthful age structure) to a more rectangular shape (associated with an older age structure). The age composition of the more developed regions is also in a transitional state, from the somewhat more rectangular shape of 1970, to the even more rectangular structure in 2050.

B. More developed regions



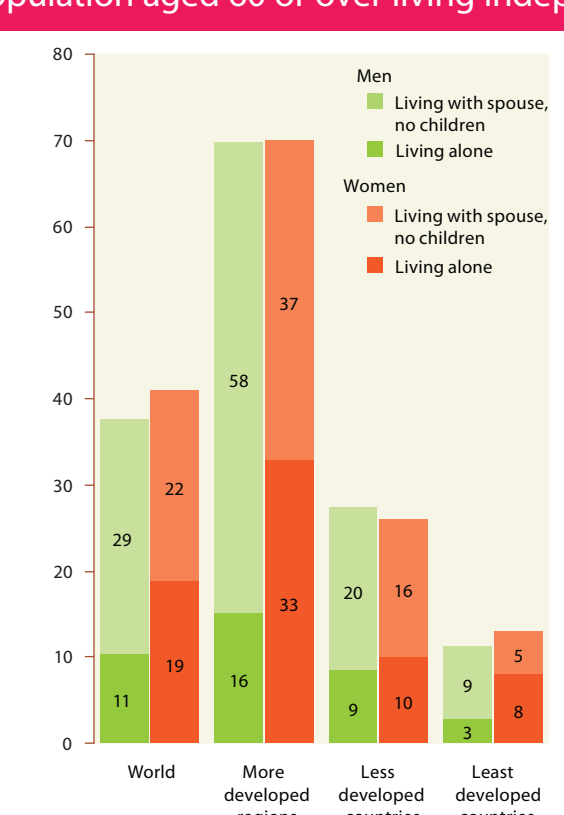
Population by broad age groups



**Cohort sizes will become balanced before the end of the twenty-first century**

Historically, the population of older persons in the world was small compared to the population of younger adults or children. As a consequence of population ageing, by 2070, the group of older persons is projected to surpass the three younger 20-year age groups: children and adolescents under 20 years, young adults from 20 to 39 years, and middle-aged adults from 40 to 59 years. Moreover, older persons aged 60 years or over will outnumber children (persons under the age of 15) by 2050. Older persons already outnumber children in the more developed regions.

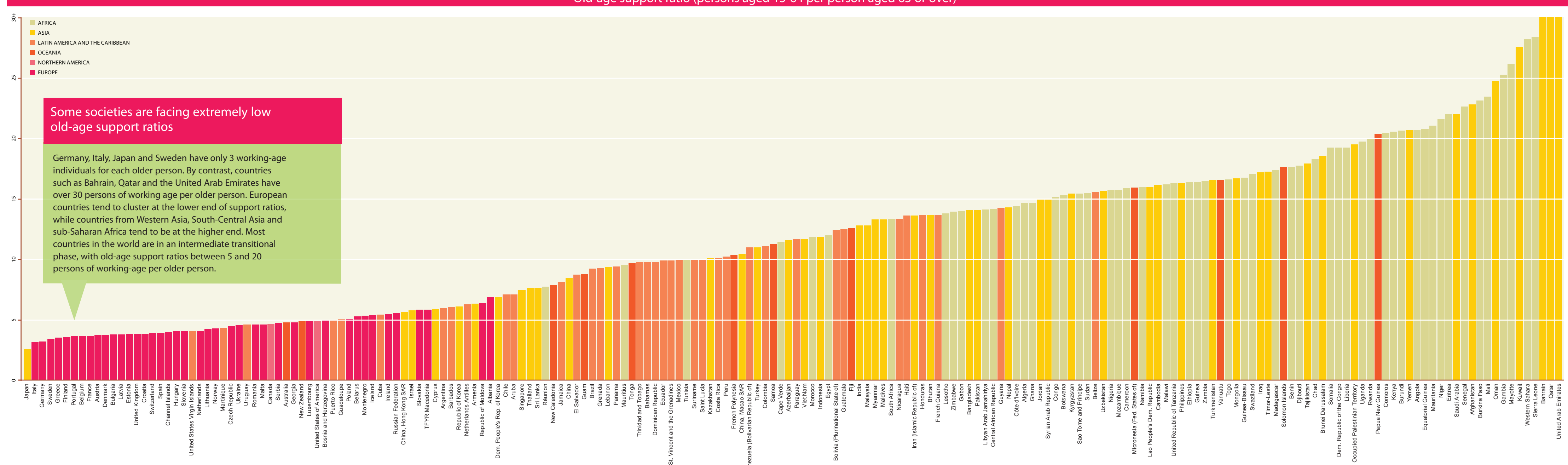
Percentage of population aged 60 or over living independently (latest available data)



**Older persons are more likely to live independently in developed countries**

Living independently, that is, either alone or only with one's spouse is rare among older people in developing countries, but is the dominant living arrangement in developed countries. Older persons who live independently represent almost three quarters of all older persons in the more developed regions compared to only just over 10 per cent in the least developed countries and just over a quarter in the less developed regions. At the world level, 40 per cent of the older population live alone or only with their spouse. Independent older men live predominantly with a spouse, while independent older women more commonly live alone.

Old-age support ratio (persons aged 15-64 per person aged 65 or over)



**Some societies are facing extremely low old-age support ratios**

Germany, Italy, Japan and Sweden have only 3 working-age individuals for each older person. By contrast, countries such as Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have over 30 persons of working age per older person. European countries tend to cluster at the lower end of support ratios, while countries from Western Asia, South-Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa tend to be at the higher end. Most countries in the world are in an intermediate transitional phase, with old-age support ratios between 5 and 20 persons of working age per older person.

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