

POPULATION PROJECTION

A Summary reports

Population Projections by age and
sex: National level (2022 - 2050) and
Municipality level (2022 - 2030)

2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census



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Introduction

Population projection is the procedure for calculating the likely demographic situation that will emerge based on base year population and assumed levels and patterns in fertility, mortality and migration. Results of population projection are useful to policy makers and development planners in order to make the necessary interventions that are required to meet the needs of the anticipated future population. This summary presents main results of the projected 2022 Timor-Leste population and their policy implications.

Summary of methodology

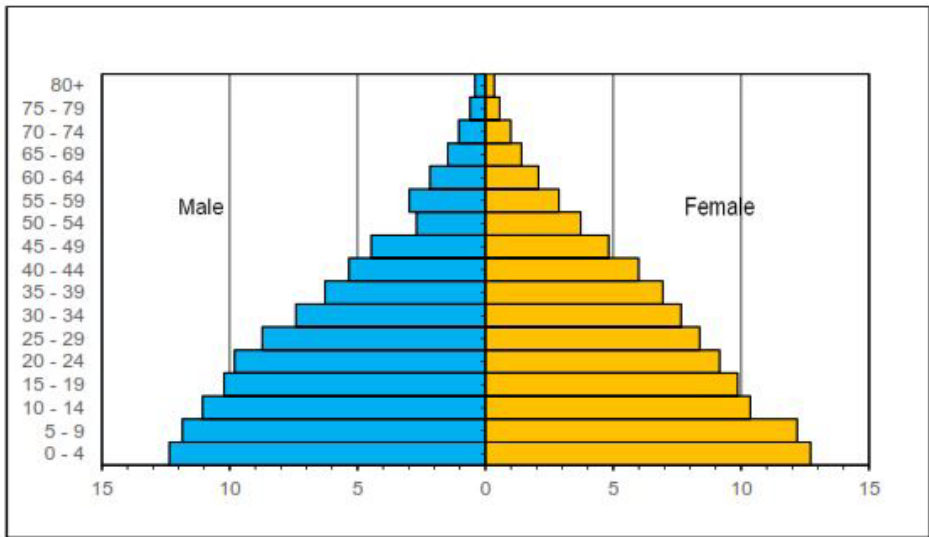
- Cohort component method was utilized to prepare the present population projections. This is the most commonly used technique for these exercises.
- Its basic principle is that each five-year cohort from a base population (usually from the most recent census) is advanced through time in five-year increments.
- In order to make the base population for these projections, the people who were counted by the 2022 Population housing census formed the basis.
- This population was adjusted according to several considerations explained elsewhere.
- This adjusted population was projected up to year 2050 at the national level and at the municipality level, up to year 2030.
- A software developed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census was used to conduct this projection. This program is the Demographic Analysis and Population Projection System (DAPPS).

Key population projection results

National level

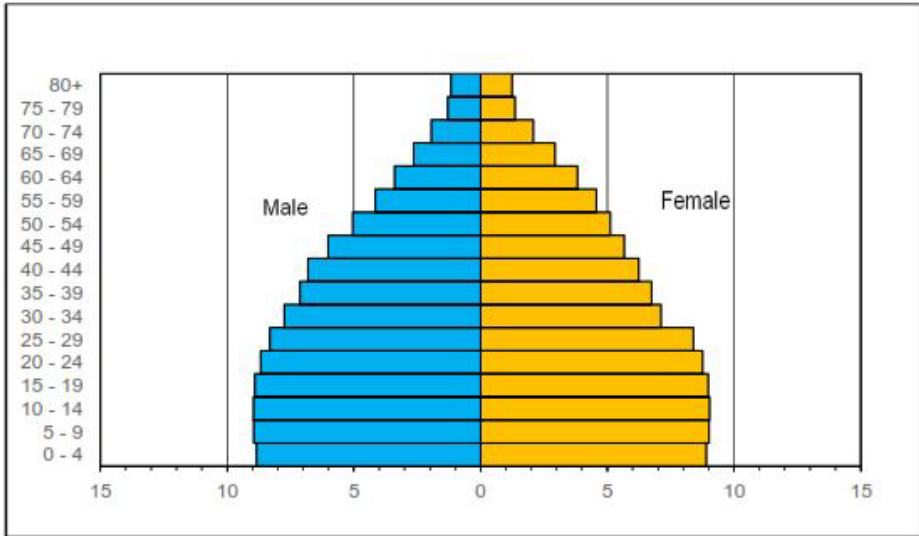
The total population of Timor-Leste will nearly double in size in the next 28 years. The national population is projected to increase from 1.361 million in 2022 to 1.648 million in 2030 and to 2.344 million in 2050. By 2030 the age and sex distribution of the population as shown by the population pyramid in Figure 1 will not differ much from the 2022 age and distribution, having the broad base typical of populations experiencing high fertility level (see Figure 1)

Figure 1: Base population Pyramid, Timor-Leste, 2022



However, the share of the population in young age will have substantially declined by 2050 as evidenced by the narrow base of the population pyramid in Figure 2, resulting from reductions in fertility and mortality levels in the country.

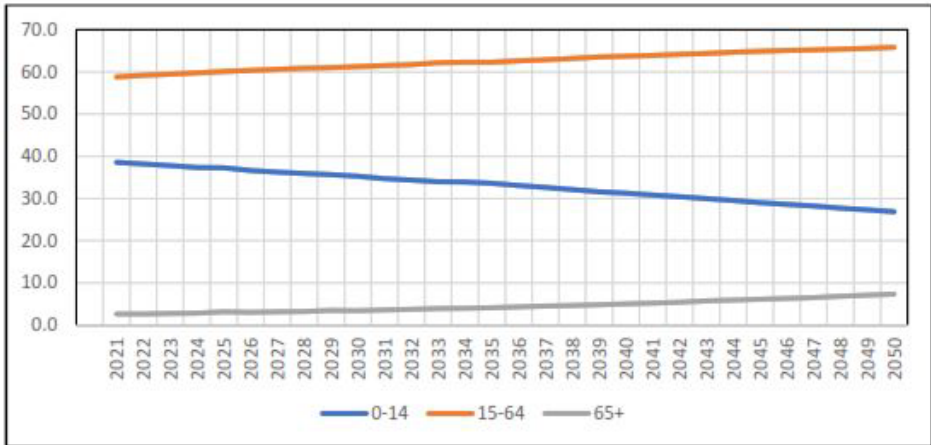
Figure 2: Population Projection Pyramid, Timor-Leste, 2050



The proportion of the population in age group 0-14 will decline from 38.6 percent in 2022 to 26.9 percent in 2050. In contrast, the working age population, 15 to 64 is projected to increase from 55.8 percent in 2022 to 65.8 percent in 2050. The population, 65 and over, is also projected to increase from 2.6 in 2022 to 7.3 percent in 2050, Figure 3



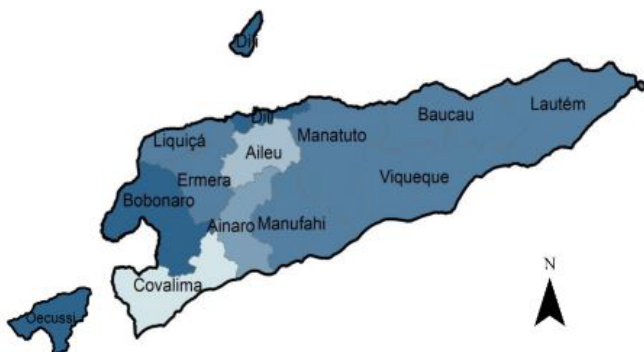
Figure 3: Changes in the age structure, Timor Leste, 2022-2050



The growth and changes in the age distribution during the 2022-2050 period will affect the dependency ratio. Though not a perfect measure of economic burden, the dependency ratio is the number of dependent populations, usually those 0-14 and 65 years and over, per 100 working age population, 15-64. The projections show that the dependency ratio will decrease from 74 dependents per 100 working age population in 2022 to 52 dependents per 100 working age population in 2050

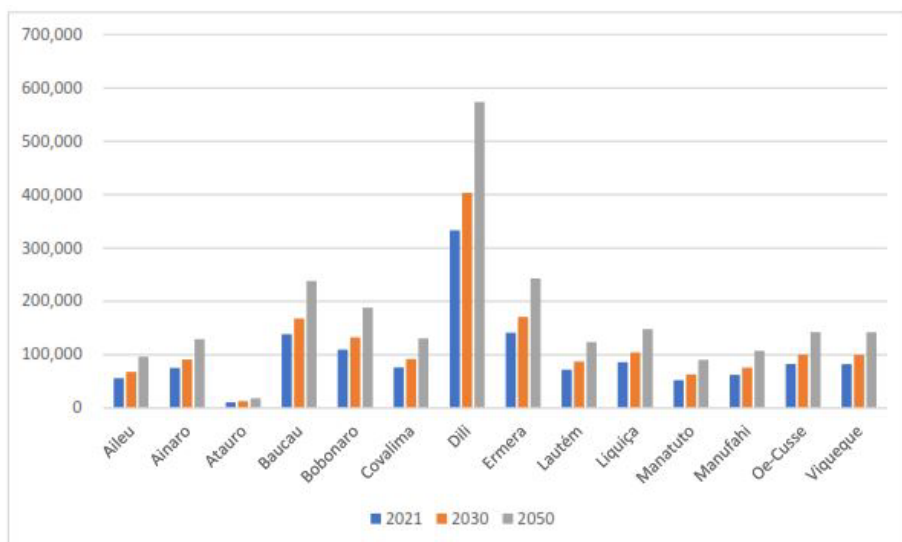
Municipality projection

Timor-Leste is administratively divided into 14 municipalities. The population of each municipality was projected by age and sex using also the component method. As in the national projection, the base population was from the 2022 Timor-Leste Population.



The population of every municipality is projected to increase in size. Dili municipality is projected to have the largest population in 2050 while the least populated municipality will be Atauro. Figure 4 shows trends in population growth according to municipalities between 2022 and 2050.

Figure 4: Projected population by municipalities, years 2022, 2030 and 2050



Policy implications

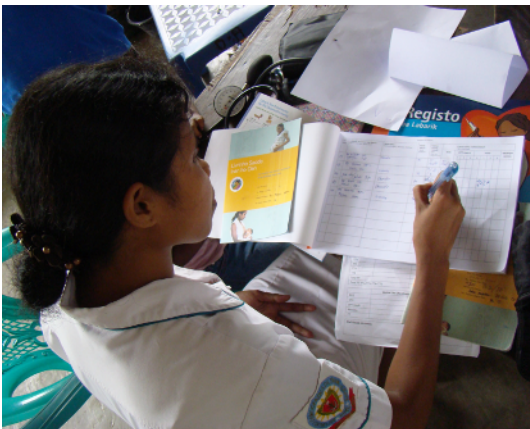
A growing population will result in increased demand on land, housing, jobs, schooling and health services, food security, greenhouse emissions and energy needs. Policy makers will need to address such issues.

- The age structure of a population affects key socioeconomic issues in a country.
- Nations with young populations (high percentage under age 15) need to invest more in schools; as the population gets older, while countries with older (increasing percentage ages 65 and over) need to invest more in the health sector.
- The age structure can also be related to potential political issues.
- For example, the rapid growth of a young adult population unable to find employment can lead to unrest.
- The changing age structure towards the working age population requires policy makers to invest in skills development to increase the country's prospect of realizing the benefits of demographic dividend that can be harnessed in the coming 20 years. Investment in skills development should be complemented with sound economic policy to spur job creation.
- More educational and housing infrastructure are needed to meet the needs of the growing population.



Recommendations

It is recommended that, when formulating and revising the development policies and programmes for the country, the Government and its development partners should consider the increasing population size, the proportion of youth in the population, working-age groups and the aged. Priority should be given to satisfying the basic needs of the population through the provision of safe drinking water and adequate shelter. More educational and primary health care infrastructure and services are needed. There should be training and job assistance for persons in the working-age group entering the labour force, and full employment, giving the opportunity to actively participate in the political, cultural, social and economic life in Timor-Leste.



SENSUS POPULASAUN NO UMA-KAIN TIMOR-LESTE



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INETL, I.P. = Instituto Nacional de Estatística de Timor-Leste,
Instituto Publico

Contact

Telephone: +670 3311348

E-mail: dge@mof.gov.tl

Website: <https://inetl-ip.gov.tl>