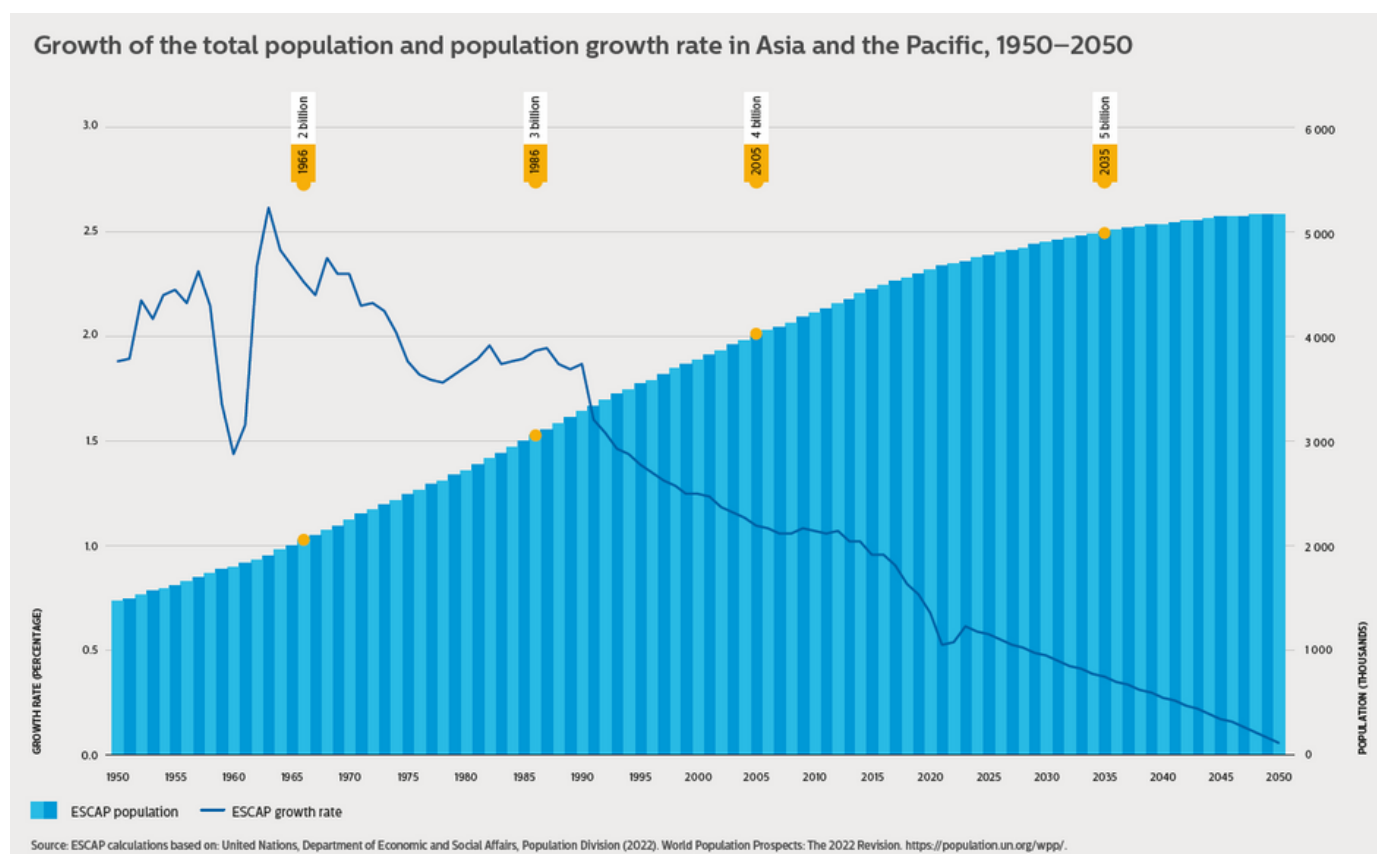


2022 ESCAP Population Data Insights



Population growth is occurring at a declining rate

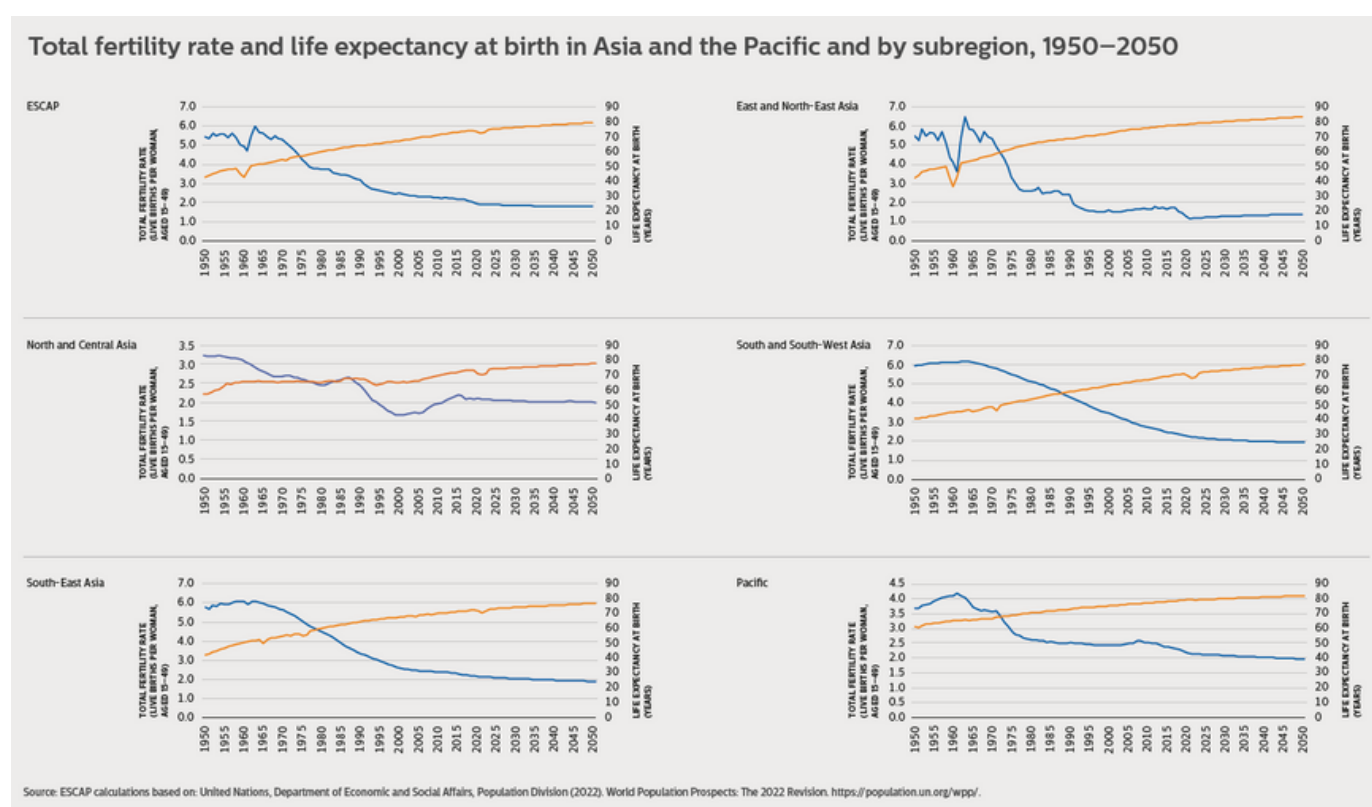
The population in Asia and the Pacific continues to grow, but at a declining rate. Currently, there are 4.7 billion people living in the region, about 60.0 per cent of the global total. By 2050, it is projected that there will be 5.2 billion people in Asia and the Pacific, about 54 per cent of all people in the world. In 2023, for the first time, the population of India will outnumber that of China.



Fertility and mortality decline are shaping future population change

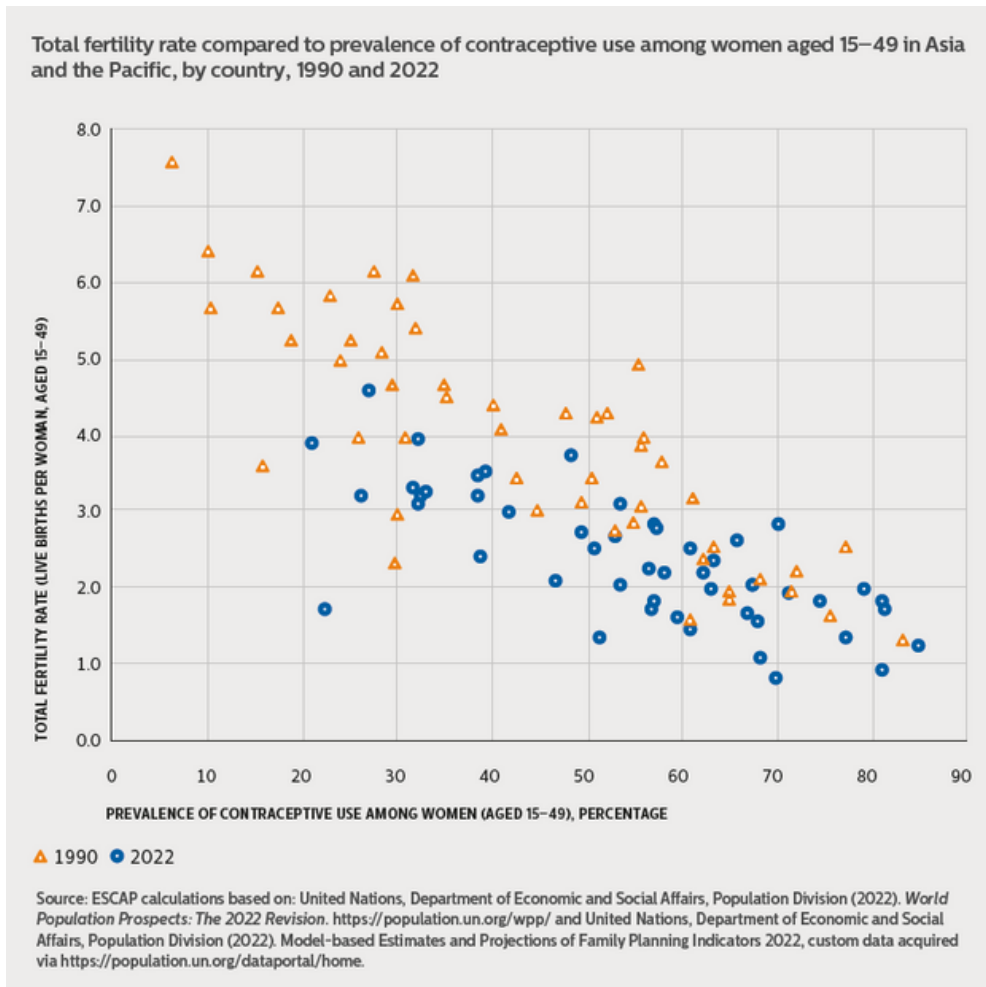
The slow-down in population growth in Asia and the Pacific is due to declining fertility. Total fertility, or the number of live births per woman, 15-49 years, peaked in 1960, at 6 children per woman, and declined to 1.9 children per woman in 2022. Some of the factors that have contributed to the decline in fertility are delayed age at marriage, use of family planning methods, rural to urban migration, and more women seeking higher levels of education and working outside the home.

At the same time, life expectancy at birth has increased from 42.9 years in 1950 to 73.0 years in 2022, or by about half a year per year over a 72-year period. On average, women can now expect to live about 5 years longer than men ($e(0)$, males: 70.5 years; $e(0)$, females: 75.7 years).

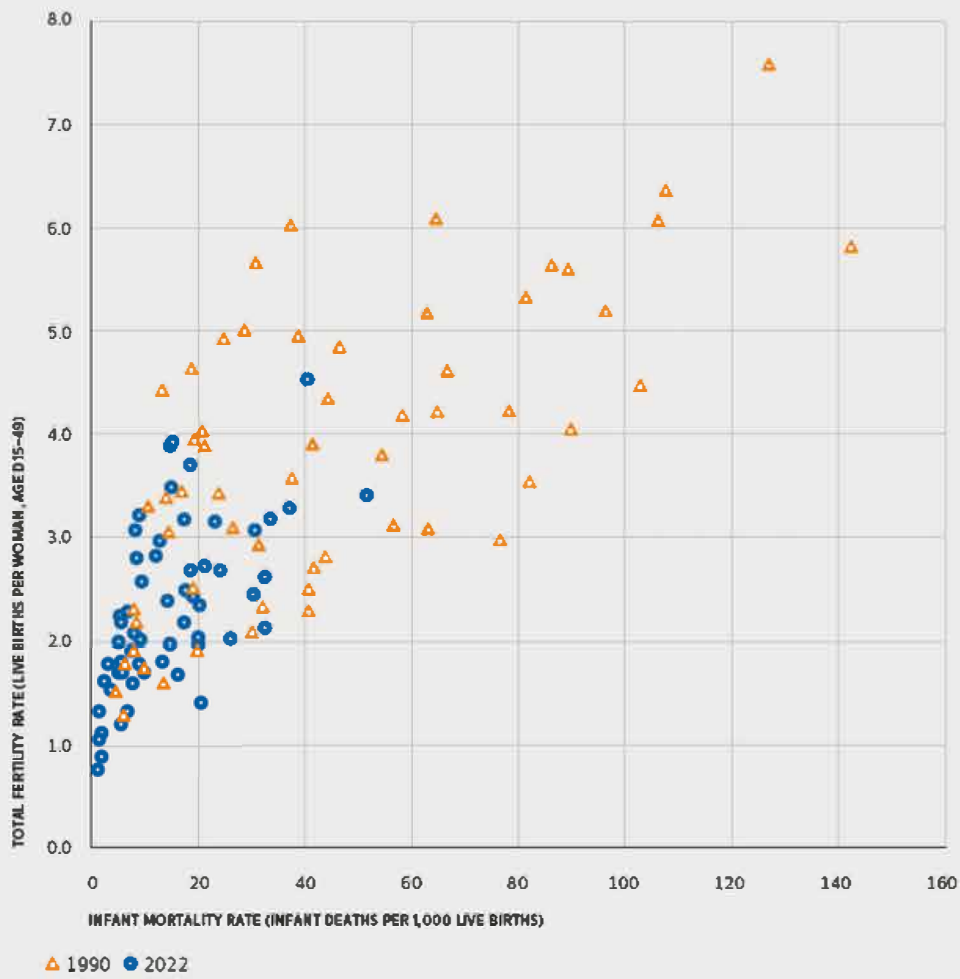


Family planning has increased over time

In most countries in Asia and the Pacific, women who want to avoid pregnancy have increasingly used modern contraceptive methods. In general, there is an inverse relationship between the proportion of women using contraception and fertility levels. Countries where fertility rates are lower also tend to have lower infant mortality rates, and, over time, both fertility and infant mortality have declined. However, there are still countries in Asia and the Pacific where they remain relatively high.



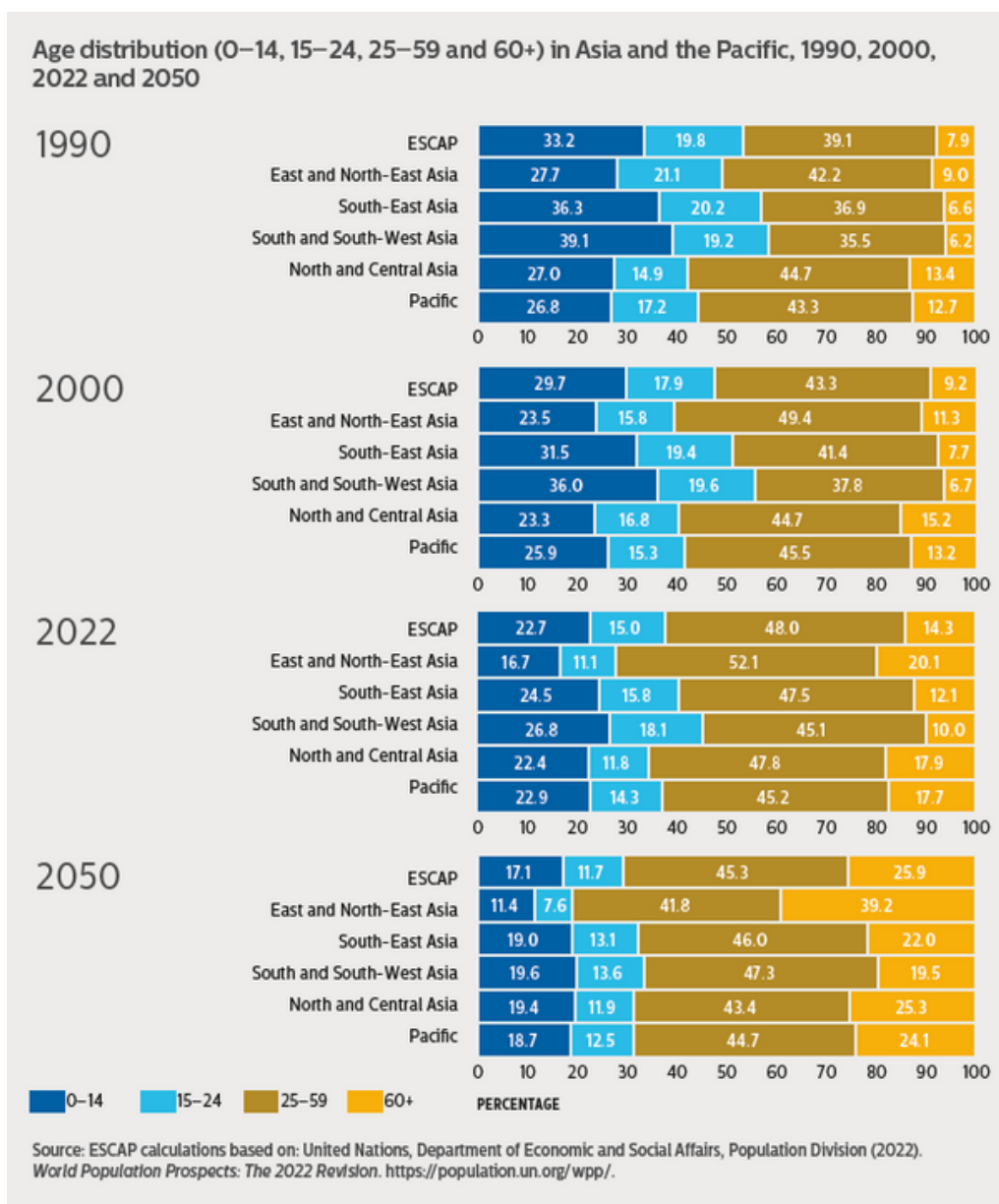
Total fertility rate compared to infant mortality rate in Asia and the Pacific, by country, 1990 and 2022



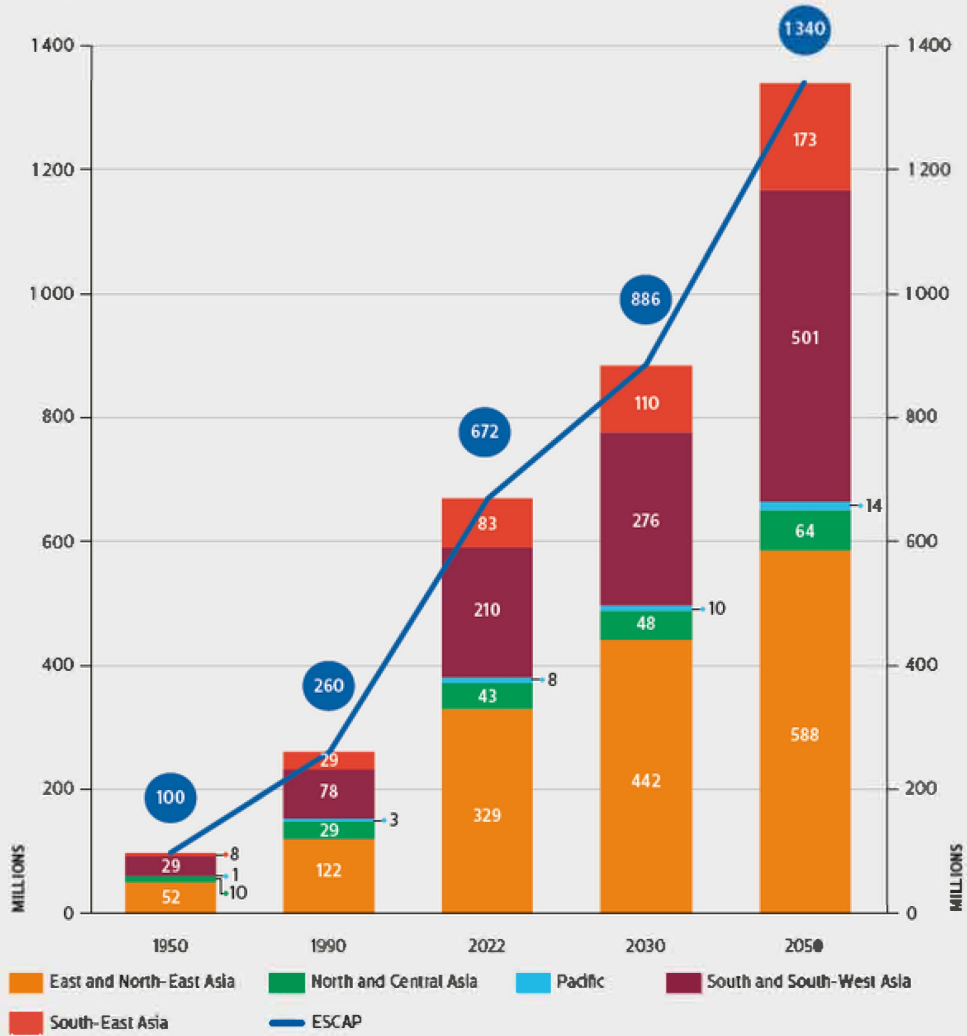
ESCAP calculations based on: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). *World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision*. <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

Populations are ageing rapidly

As countries have undergone the demographic transition, their age structures have changed. As a result, the number and share of older persons has increased. Currently, 672 million people are aged 60 years or older in Asia and the Pacific, representing 14.3 per cent of the total population. By 2050, the number of older persons is projected to double to 1.3 billion or 25.9 per cent of the total population. Population ageing has been particularly rapid in Asia and the Pacific due to the rapid decline in fertility, giving countries less time to develop and implement policies to address the resulting challenges and opportunities.



Number of people aged 60 years or over in Asia and the Pacific and by subregion, 1950, 1990, 2022, 2030 and 2050

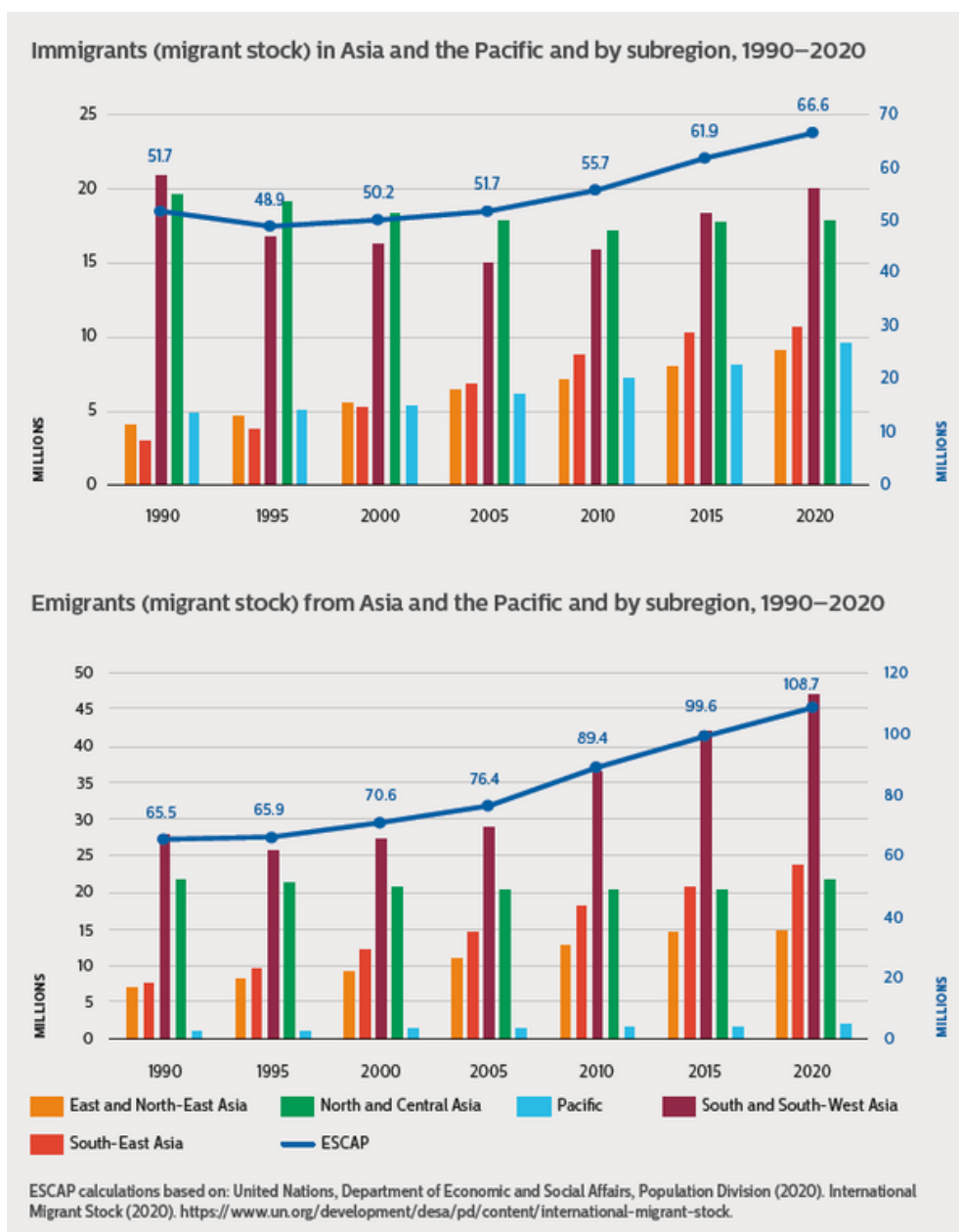


Source: ESCAP calculations based on: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). *World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision*. <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

Migration remains an important demographic factor

The number of international migrants in the region has grown from 51.7 million in 1990 to 66.6 million in 2020, representing about a quarter of the 2020 global international migrant stock of 281 million. In 2020, migrants made up 1.4 per cent of the region's total population, in contrast to 3.6 per cent of the global total. Nevertheless, significant variations existed between subregions: migrants represented 0.5 of the population in East and North-East Asia and 22.0 per cent in the Pacific.

At the same time, almost 109 million people from the region lived outside their country of birth, about 39.0 per cent of all the world's migrants. That amounts to 2.3 per cent of the region's total 2020 population of over 4.6 billion. The rise in emigrant numbers was largely driven by emigration from South-East Asia, and South and South-West Asia.



COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the population

Covid-19 has had a devastating effect on the lives and well-being of the people of Asia and the Pacific. Many countries experienced excess deaths between 2020 and 2021 due to the direct effects of the disease. In addition, the pandemic contributed to increases in deaths from other causes, as a consequence of reduced access to care.. The impact, however, varied by country due to population age structures, underlying health conditions of the population, social and economic conditions, health infrastructure and pandemic-related containment measures.

