

ALGERIA

Capital

Algiers

Ethnic Groups

Arab-Berber 99%, European less than 1%

Languages

Arabic (official), French (lingua franca), Berber or Tamazight (official); dialects include Kabyle Berber (Taqbaylit), Shawiya Berber (Tacawit), Mzab Berber, Tuareg Berber (Tamahaq)

Religions

Muslim (official; predominantly Sunni) 99%, other (includes Christian, Jewish, Ahmadi Muslims, Shia Muslims, Ibadi Muslims) <1%

Population

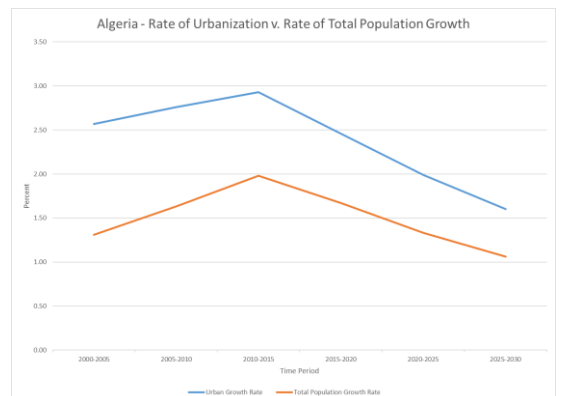
Total: 44.8 million
Median age: 28.9 years
Population growth rate: 1.27%
Urban: 75.3%
Rural 24.7%

Fertility

Birth rate: 17.84 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 2.47 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 1.03 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 4.33 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 78.27 years
Maternal mortality rate: 112 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 19.22 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -0.81 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 6.3% of GDP

Physician density: 1.72 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 27.4%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 0.59 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 7% of GDP

Literacy: 81.4%

Population Distribution

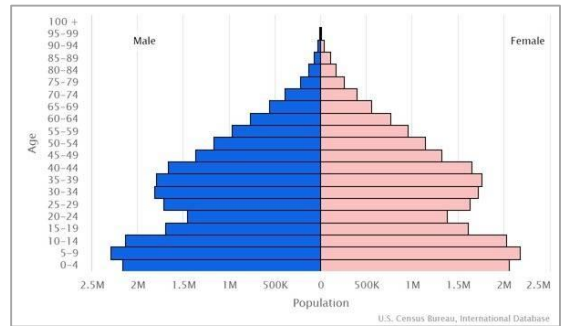
the vast majority of the populace is found in the extreme northern part of the country along the Mediterranean Coast

Demographic Profile

For the first two thirds of the 20th century, Algeria's high fertility rate caused its population to grow rapidly. However, about a decade after independence from France in 1962, the total fertility rate fell dramatically from 7 children per woman in the 1970s to about 2.4 in 2000, slowing Algeria's population growth rate by the late 1980s. The lower fertility rate was mainly the result of women's rising age at first marriage (virtually all Algerian children being born in wedlock) and to a lesser extent the wider use of contraceptives. Later marriages and a preference for smaller families are attributed to increases in women's education and participation in the labor market; higher unemployment; and a shortage of housing forcing multiple generations to live together. The average woman's age at first marriage increased from about 19 in the mid-1950s to 24 in the mid-1970s to 30.5 in the late 1990s.

Algeria's fertility rate experienced an unexpected upturn in the early 2000s, as the average woman's age at first marriage dropped slightly. The reversal in fertility could represent a temporary fluctuation in marriage age or, less likely, a decrease in the steady rate of contraceptive use.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

