

CAMEROON

Capital

Yaounde

Ethnic Groups

Bamileke-Bamu 24.3%, Beti/Bassa, Mbam 21.6%, Biu-Mandara 14.6%, Arab-Choa/Hausa/Kanuri 11%, Adamawa-Ubangi, 9.8%, Grassfields 7.7%, Kako, Meka/Pygmy 3.3%, Cotier/Ngoe/Oroko 2.7%, Southwestern Bantu 0.7%, foreign/other ethnic group 4.5%

Languages

24 major African language groups, English (official), French (official)

Religions

Roman Catholic 38.3%, Protestant 25.5%, other Christian 6.9%, Muslim 24.4%, animist 2.2%, other 0.5%, none 2.2%

Population

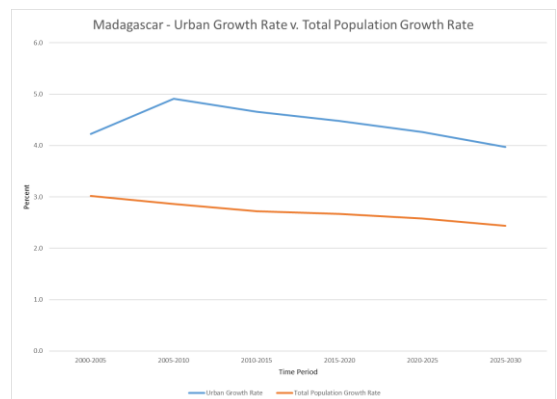
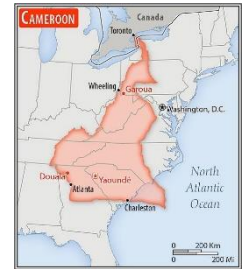
Total: 30.1 million
Median age: 18.5 years
Population growth rate: 2.73%
Urban: 59.3%
Rural 40.7%

Fertility

Birth rate: 35.13 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 4.5 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.99 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 7.54 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 63.74 years
Maternal mortality rate: 529 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 47.4 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -0.3 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 3.8% of GDP

Physician density: 0.13 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 11.4%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 4.09 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 3.2% of GDP

Literacy: 77.1%

Population Distribution

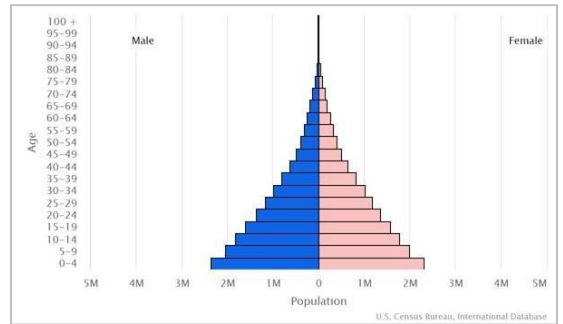
population concentrated in the west and north, with the interior of the country sparsely populated

Demographic Profile

Cameroon has a large youth population, with more than 60% of the populace under the age of 25 as of 2020. Fertility is falling but remains at a high level, especially among poor, rural, and uneducated women, in part because of inadequate access to contraception. Life expectancy remains low at about 55 years due to the prevalence of HIV and AIDs and an elevated maternal mortality rate, which has remained high since 1990. Cameroon, particularly the northern region, is vulnerable to food insecurity largely because of government mismanagement, corruption, high production costs, inadequate infrastructure, and natural disasters. Despite economic growth in some regions, poverty is on the rise, and is most prevalent in rural areas, which are especially affected by a shortage of jobs, declining incomes, poor school and health care infrastructure, and a lack of clean water and sanitation. Underinvestment in social safety nets and ineffective public financial management also contribute to Cameroon's high rate of poverty. The activities of Boko Haram, other armed groups, and counterinsurgency operations have worsened food insecurity in the Far North region.

International migration has been driven by unemployment (including fewer government jobs), poverty, the search for educational opportunities, and corruption. The US and Europe are preferred destinations, but, with tighter immigration restrictions in these countries, young Cameroonians are increasingly turning to neighboring states, such as Gabon and Nigeria, South Africa, other parts of Africa, and the Near and Far East. Cameroon's limited resources make it dependent on UN support to host more than 480,000 refugees and asylum seekers as of December 2022. These refugees and asylum seekers are primarily from the Central African Republic and Nigeria. Internal and external displacement have grown dramatically in recent years. Boko Haram's attacks and counterattacks by government forces in the Far North since 2014 have increased the number of internally displaced people. Armed conflict between separatists and Cameroon's military in the Northwest and Southwest since 2016 have displaced hundreds of thousands of the country's Anglophone minority.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

