

Anatomy: Labor Demographics

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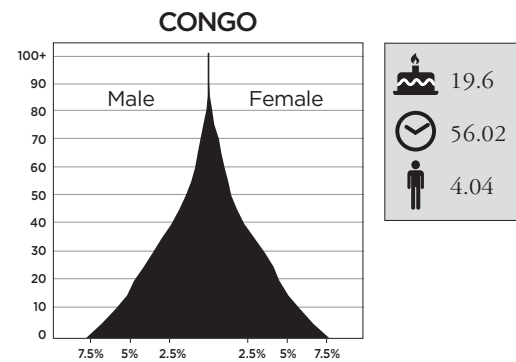
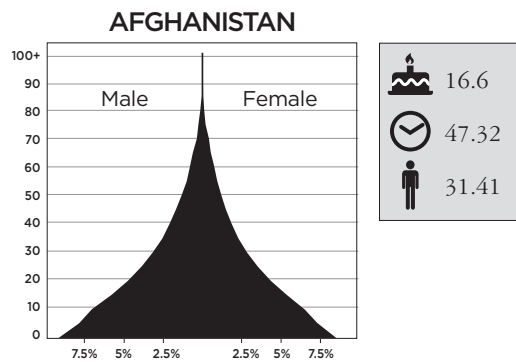
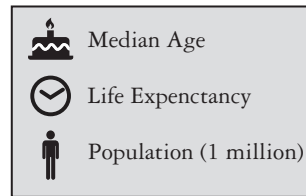
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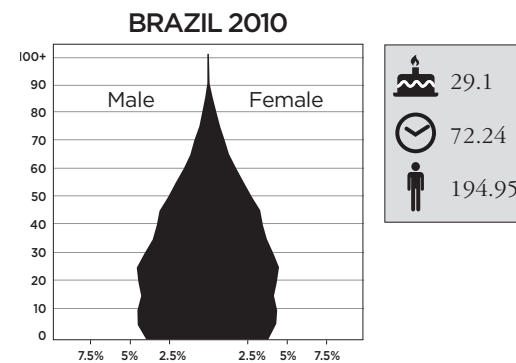
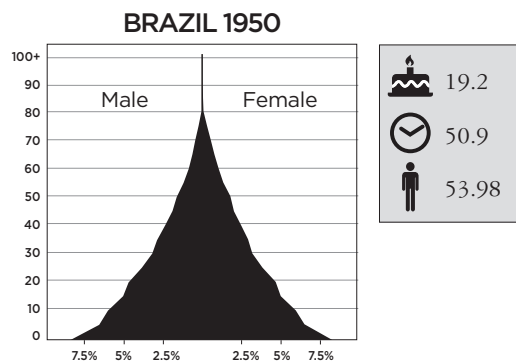
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ANATOMY Labor Demographics

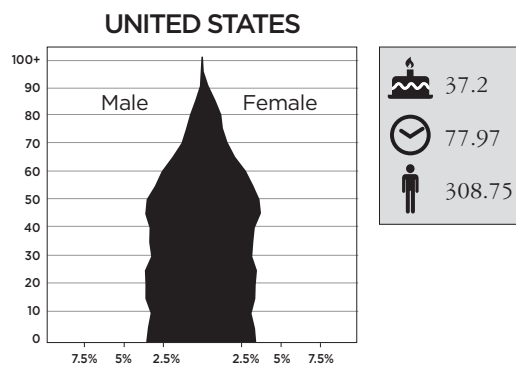
Demographics show the way labor forces develop and place burdens on workers that dramatically affect a country's quality of life. Using population pyramids, *World Policy Journal* has highlighted how demographics can govern the challenges facing a country's workforce.



In Afghanistan and the Congo, poverty, war, and disease kill some 10 percent of children under the age of five, severely limiting workforce development.



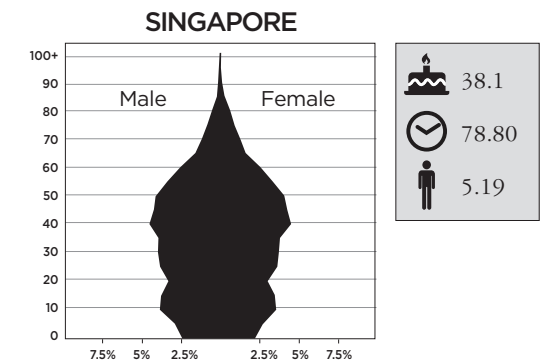
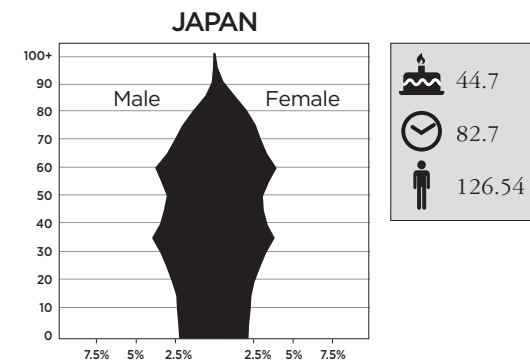
Brazil faced similar problems in the 1950s, but increasing political stability and economic growth led to a greater percentage of the population reaching its most productive years.



A developed country such as the United States has a pillar-shaped population pyramid, signifying that birth and mortality rates have stabilized over time. Outside of a visible baby-boom bulge, a steady workforce supports the country's elderly and children.

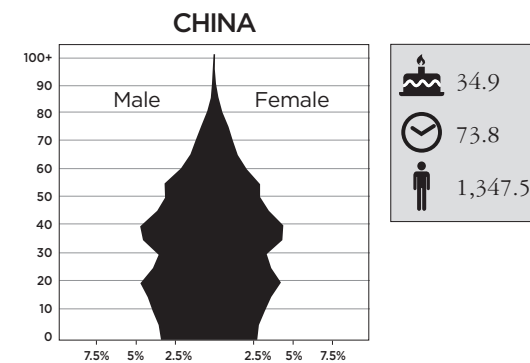
Compiled by Tanu Kumar and Robert Joyce
Designed by Meehyun Nam-Thompson

SOURCE: UN World Population Prospects,
2010 Revision

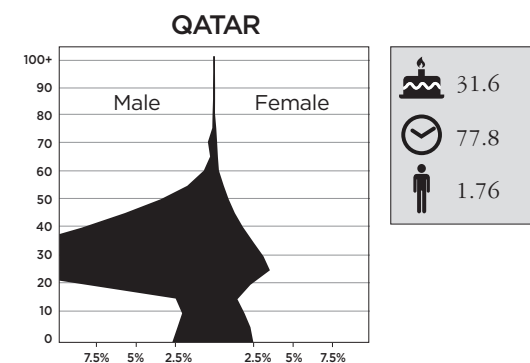


With 21 percent of the population over 65, Japan's aging and shrinking working force struggles to support a growing number of the elderly.

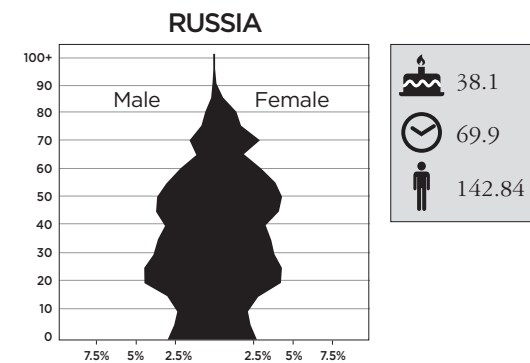
Similarly, low birth rates in Singapore have led the government to try to reverse this trend, using tax incentives and more creative solutions, such as state-sponsored speed dating nights.



China stands to face similar challenges due to the one-child policy that is being gradually weakened in an effort to avoid Japan's demographic strains.



Rapid development in the Gulf states, funded by oil and natural gas sales, has pushed such emirates as Qatar to import workers, mostly men, from South Asia, Europe, and the United States leading to a bizarre male-dominated demographic bulge. A similar trend is apparent in neighboring Bahrain, Oman, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.



On the other hand, rampant alcoholism has led to a significant shrinkage in the population of older men in Russia. While the life expectancy for women is 76, the average male lives until 64.