A Rapidly Changing World:

Looking at Population Growth and the Increasing Emission Levels in our Atmosphere Since 1960*

The United States has only seen a population increase of 35% and a CO_2 increase of 45% since 1960. While this is not as dramatic as much of the rest of the world, it still accounts for a good portion of the total CO_2 emissions in the world today.

Honduras has seen the largest increase in population (298%) and CO_2 emissions (362%) out of all countries in Central and South America.

Bulgaria has seen the greatest decrease in population with a percent change of -8%. It has also seen a decrease in CO_2 emissions with a percent change of -39%.

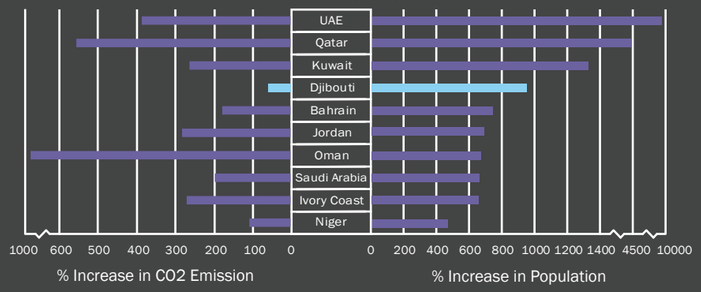
Africa is seeing the most massive growth out of all regions. It currently accounts for 15% of the population and is expected to account for 25% of the world population by 2050.

The UAE has seen the largest population growth at a 9710% increase. This is likely to be due in part to the booming oil industry that has come about in past century.

China is currently the most polluting country in the world. It has seen a 521% increase in CO_2 emissions since 1960. While this is not the greatest increase out of all countries, it still acounts for the majority of CO_2 emissions in our world today.

Top 10 Largest Increases in Population

and their correspoding changes in CO_2



Countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia are where the largest growths in population are found. The growth in these regions of the world can be partialy attributed to the lower rates of education and lack of access to contraceptives. Medical advances and increasing life expectancies also contributes to the population growth. Along with this growth in population comes increases in carbon dioxide emissions as well as other greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. methane, nitrous oxide). Together, both the increasing population and rising levels of green-house gases are putting a strain on the earth and its inhabitants. The earth has a limit to how many people it can support. This is doubly true when we are pumping huge quantities of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. We do not currently know what the carrying capacity of the earth is, but if the rate of growth and expansion does not stop or slow down we will find out.

No Data

0 1,250 2,500 Miles

*Changes in CO_2 emissions and population were calculated by comparing data from 1960, or data from the closest available date, and data from 2014.

Data from naturalearth.com, data.worldbank.org

Projection: Goode homolosine

Created by Duncan McFarlane