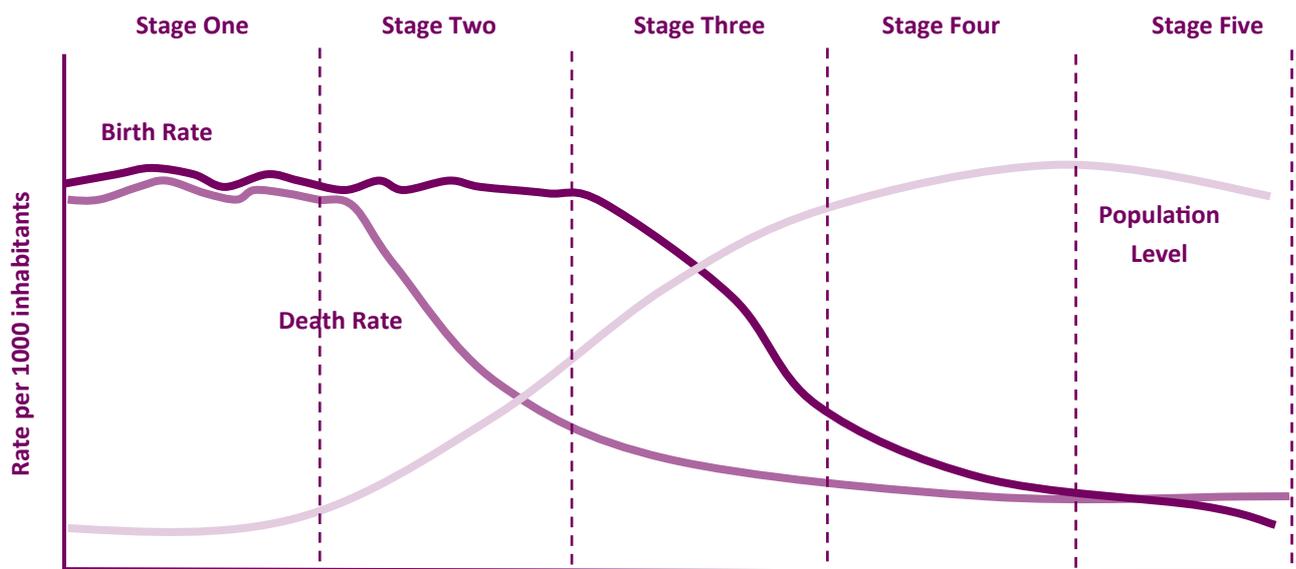


The Demographic Transition Model

Definition

The Demographic Transition Model (DTM) is a graph that represents population change over time. It looks at how birth and death rate affect population levels.



Birth Rate	High and fluctuating	High and fluctuating	High and falling	Low	Very Low
Death Rate	High and fluctuating	Falling rapidly	Falling steadily	Low	Low
Natural Increase	Low and stable	Very rapid increase	Steady increase	Stable or slow increase	Slow decrease
Examples (at different levels in each stage)	Burkina Faso and Chad	Bolivia, Nigeria and India	Argentina and China	USA and UK	Japan and Sweden

Stage Five

The 'final stage' of the demographic transition model suggests that birth rate may decrease to a level below death rate and create a natural decrease; something which over time (discounting the impact of any migration) could cause a total population decrease. Few countries have reached this stage, meaning any analysis of it is based on very limited evidence.

Limitations of the DTM

As with any model, the DTM has a number of limitations:

- The model was created in the 1920s and only studied population patterns in Western Europe and North America. Therefore patterns experienced today in many different countries may be different.
- The exact nature of stage five is a much debated. Technological developments and scientific research is likely to have an impact on population levels in the twenty first century.
- Social changes, such as increased migration play no part in the DTM yet although other evidence suggests that migration can have a profound impact on a country's birth rate.
- The model does not suggest any time scale and some countries will spend very little time in some stages compared to others.