

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



New Mexico



Comparison at same scale

New Mexico
Area: 121,593 sq. miles
Population: 1.7 million

Pakistan
Area: 307,374 sq. miles
Population: 137.8 million



Pakistan

Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996):
Albuquerque (670,092), Las Cruces (163,849),
Santa Fe (137,223)

Largest urban areas by population (1995):
Faisalabad (1,845,000), Gujranwala (1,635,000),
Hyderabad (1,088,000)

New Mexico's motto, *crescit eundo* (it grows as it goes), could also apply to Pakistan. In this decade, New Mexico has been the ninth fastest growing U.S. state. Pakistan, currently the world's seventh most populous country, is projected to be the fifth most populous country by 2010. Rapid growth is just one of the many similarities between New Mexico and Pakistan. Both areas share turbulent histories, large sizes, high levels of poverty, and environmental challenges.

In 1846, New Mexico came into existence amidst violent struggle when it became part of the United States after the Mexican War. Similarly, Pakistan was formed because of strife between Muslim and Hindu communities. When Great Britain granted independence to its Indian empire in 1947, the predominately Hindu region became India while the two Muslim regions flanking India became Paki-

stan. Today, the western region is known as Pakistan, but the eastern region has become the independent country Bangladesh.

Today, both New Mexico and Pakistan have strong minority populations. Nearly one-half of New Mexico's population is Hispanic and 9 percent is American Indian. Similarly, many Pakistanis have a strong Afghan heritage.

With an area of 121,593 square miles, New Mexico has the fifth largest land area of any U.S. state. Plains are found in the east, mountains in the center, and high plateaus in the west. The Rio Grande flows south out of Colorado through the center of the state, while the Pecos River runs south to western Texas and the Canadian River flows east toward the Texas Panhandle. Pakistan's land mass, two and one-half times the size of New Mexico, is similarly diverse. The Indus Plains stretch in the east, mountains and

highlands rise in the north and south, and plateaus dominate the west. Despite an arid climate, Pakistan is one of the best-endowed countries in the developing world in terms of water resources. This water surplus is attributable to the huge watershed of the Himalayas to Pakistan's north and west. The three main river basins—the Indus, Kharan, and Mekran—feed more than 16 million hectares of irrigated land.

New Mexico and Pakistan both have high poverty and growth rates relative to their respective regions. The median income in New Mexico was \$26,800 from 1994 to 1996, the second lowest in the nation and 23 percent below the U.S. average. Nearly one in four New Mexicans is poor. Similarly, 30 percent of Pakistanis live on less than US\$1 a day. New Mexico's growth rate of 1.8 percent

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NEW MEXICO

Demographic and Health Trends

- In the 1990s, New Mexico's population grew 14.2 percent. "The Land of Enchantment" grew by about 215,000 persons from 1990 to 1997.
- Unlike most other fast-growing states, New Mexico owes most of its growth to an excess of births over deaths. Only about 46 percent of its growth since 1990 has been a result of net migration, with roughly two-thirds of new migrants coming from other states.
- From 1996 to 1997, New Mexico's growth rate was only slightly higher than that of the nation as a whole because of the net loss of about 4,600 residents to other states.
- The fastest growing areas were

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- The condition of New Mexico's 1.6 million acres of wilderness has become an increasing concern in recent years. While many of the state's wild lands remain pristine, others are in poor condition because of overuse and overgrazing.
- Many conservationists want New Mexico's wilderness preserves expanded to include more deserts, prairies, and barren lands. They argue that such an action would promote biological diversity, thus helping the larger ecosystem.
- The reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf to the high country in

Socioeconomic Factors

- Economically, New Mexico's counties provide a study of extremes. Los Alamos County is one of the wealthiest U.S. counties, with a median household income of more than

around the state's three largest cities—Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. Seven counties, including Dona Ana (Las Cruces) and Santa Fe, have grown by more than 20 percent since 1990. By contrast, several counties in the state's northeast have seen their populations stagnate or decline.

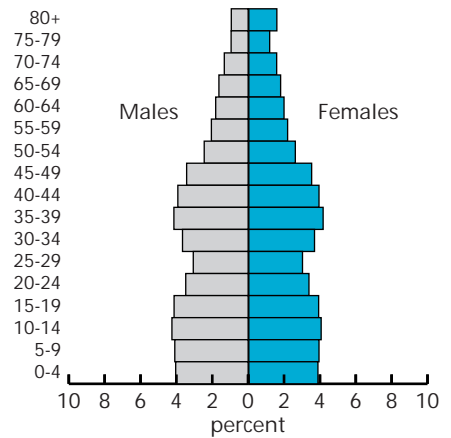
- In 1997, New Mexico was just one of two states (Hawaii being the other) where non-Hispanic whites represented less than half (49 percent) of the state's population. An estimated 677,000 New Mexicans—40 percent of the state's residents—were of Hispanic/Latino origin. New Mexico also has the fourth largest American Indian population of all the states.

the Blue Range area along the Arizona-New Mexico border is attracting controversy, as state officials fear that the future management of a viable, self-sustaining wolf population is not being addressed by federal officials.

- The Mexican spotted owl, the whooping crane, the New Mexican ridge-nosed rattlesnake, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the jaguar are among New Mexico's 24 endangered and threatened animals. Seven of the state's 14 endangered and threatened plants are cacti species.

\$66,000 in 1993. By contrast, half of the households in mostly Hispanic Mora County made just \$14,300 in 1993, making it one of the nation's poorest counties.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

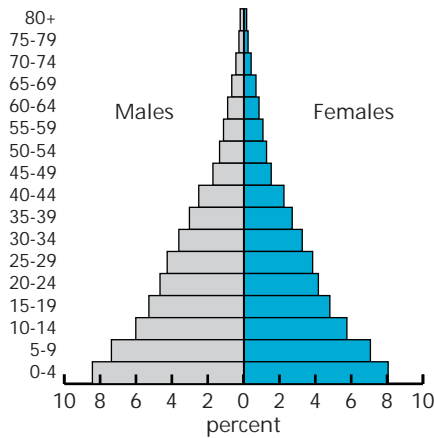


NEW MEXICO FACTS

Population, 1997: 1.7 million
Projected population, 2025: 2.6 million
Annual growth rate: 1.1%
Doubling time (at current rate): 64 years
Average number of children per woman: 2.3
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 6.2
Life expectancy: 72 (male), 79 (female)
Persons per square mile: 14
Percent urban: 73
Endangered/threatened animals: 24 species
Endangered/threatened plants: 14 species
Percent of land protected: 3
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 33%
Daily water use per capita: 2,077 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 10%
Water use for agriculture: 86%
Water use for industry: 2%
Water use for energy production: 2%
Cropland per capita: 40.6 acres
Energy use per capita: 58.7 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.1
Adults who are high school graduates: 77%
Elected officials who are women: 25%
Labor force in agriculture: 4%
Labor force in industry: 15%
Labor force in services: 82%
Gross State Product, 1994: \$22,801 per capita

PAKISTAN

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



PAKISTAN FACTS

Population, 1997: 137.8 million

Projected population, 2025: 232.9 million

Annual growth rate: 2.2%

Doubling time (at current rate): 32 years

Average number of children per woman: 5.6

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 91

Life expectancy: 61 (male), 61 (female)

Persons per square mile: 463

Percent urban: 28

Threatened animals: 45 species

Threatened plants: 12 species

Percent of land protected: 4.7

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: 74%

Percent with access to safe water: 74

Percent with adequate sanitation: 47

Daily water use per capita: 1,482 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 1%

Water use for agriculture: 98%

Water use for industry: 1%

Cropland per capita: 0.4 acres

Energy use per capita: 1.5 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 121

Percent of girls in secondary school: 13

Percent of boys in secondary school: 28

Women as % of national legislature: 3

Labor force in agriculture: 47%

Labor force in industry: 20%

Labor force in services: 23%

GDP per capita, 1995: US\$468

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Pakistan has a high fertility level, even for southcentral Asia. The annual rate of population growth from an excess of births over deaths (not including immigration) is 2.8, compared to 2.0 for the region. Pakistani couples today have an average of 5.6 children.

■ High fertility has produced a population with a high proportion under age 15 (see pyramid). Pakistan will continue to grow rapidly as those youth reach childbearing age and have their own families.

■ Thirty-eight percent of children under age 5 are underweight. One-quarter of infants are underweight at birth. Immunization rates for children younger than age 1 are much lower in Pakistan than the average for South Asia.

■ Just over one-quarter of Pakistanis live in urban areas. Seventy-seven percent of urban dwellers have access to adequate sanitation, compared with only 22 percent of rural inhabitants. Urban residents are also more likely to have access to safe water.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Pakistan's per capita energy consumption is about 3 percent of U.S. consumption. Although three-quarters of Pakistan's energy comes from commercial sources, Pakistanis supplement this energy by using fuels such as charcoal, wood, and cattle dung. A shortage of energy (of all forms) is a major constraint to Pakistan's economic development.

■ Pakistan has precious little excess water to meet the country's needs and much of the water supply is polluted

by raw sewage, industrial wastes, and agricultural runoff.

■ Soil resources are threatened by desertification, soil erosion, and deforestation.

■ Threatened animals in Pakistan include the woolly flying squirrel, smooth-coated otter, blackbuck, wild goat, white-headed duck, greater spotted eagle, imperial eagle, cheer pheasant, dalmatian pelican, lesser white-fronted goose, Pallas's sea-eagle, Madagascar fish-eagle, and lesser kestrel.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Thirty-eight percent of adults in Pakistan are literate; one-half of men and only one-quarter of women can read and write. About half of Pakistani children who begin primary school reach the fifth grade.

■ Agriculture accounted for 26 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 1995 and industry ac-

counted for 24 percent. Wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton are the main crops. The basmati variety of rice is a major export crop.

■ Pakistan's agricultural sector faces major problems. Eighty percent of the country's crops need to be irrigated, but past irrigation has led to waterlogging and salinity of more than half the cropland.

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from 1990 to 1997 is nearly twice the U.S. average. Over one-half of this growth was the result of an excess of births over deaths. Yet Pakistan's annual growth rate, at 2.2 percent, is twice New Mexico's annual rate. Fertility is so high in Pakistan that it is barely checked by high out-migration and a high infant mortality rate (one of every 11 infants dies). With a population of almost 138 million, Pakistan's growth is stretching land and water resources to their limits and affecting human welfare.

The main environmental problems facing New Mexico and Pakistan are land degradation through over-exploitation, poor air and water quality, and the transportation and treatment of waste.

New Mexico's Santa Teresa area suffers from neighboring industrialization, declining freshwater levels, and poor air quality. Before 1991, hazardous waste generation had been decreasing in the state, but it increased 35 times between 1991 and 1995.

Land degradation in Pakistan results from population pressure, land over-use, and poor irrigation practices. In the country nicknamed "The Land of the Pure," nearly all surface water is unfit for human consumption and only 74 percent of the population has access to safe water. Urban areas, which ac-

count for 28 percent of the population, suffer from poor air quality as a result of congestion and the use of poorly maintained auto-rickshaws. Only 77 percent of urban dwellers have access to sanitation, and 25 percent to 30 percent of their waste still goes in open pits or bodies of water.

Responding to Challenges

In New Mexico, a partnership effort called the Pollution Prevention Program has been established by the New Mexico Environmental Alliance to promote the efficient use of natural resources and the reduction of waste generated by human activities. It includes state agencies, federal laboratories, nonprofit organizations, and private industry. It has initiated a technical assistance program designed to assist businesses in identifying and implementing pollution prevention and energy efficiency opportunities to reduce waste.

Over the last four years, 163 million rupees (US\$3.3 million at current rates) have been spent in Pakistan un-

der a Social Action Program to target health, education, and welfare issues. The government and international donors have pledged \$8 billion and \$2 billion respectively to a second phase of the program. Local initiatives, such as the Network for Community Empow-

People in New Mexico and Pakistan, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

derment that runs 37 projects offering health, education, environmental management, and disaster relief services, help improve conditions in the country. Until 1991, a total of 551 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers worked in Pakistan. ■

DEFINITIONS: Doubling Time: The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. Average Number of Children Per Woman: Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. Endangered Species: Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. Threatened Species: Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. Gross State Product (GSP): The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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