

SENEGAL

Capital

Dakar

Ethnic Groups

Wolof 39.7%, Pular 27.5%, Serer 16%, Mandinka 4.9%, Jola 4.2%, Soninke 2.4%, other 5.4% (includes Europeans and persons of Lebanese descent)

Languages

French (official), Wolof, Pular, Jola, Mandinka, Serer, Soninke

Religions

Muslim 97.2% (most adhere to one of the four main Sufi brotherhoods), Christian 2.7% (mostly Roman Catholic)

Population

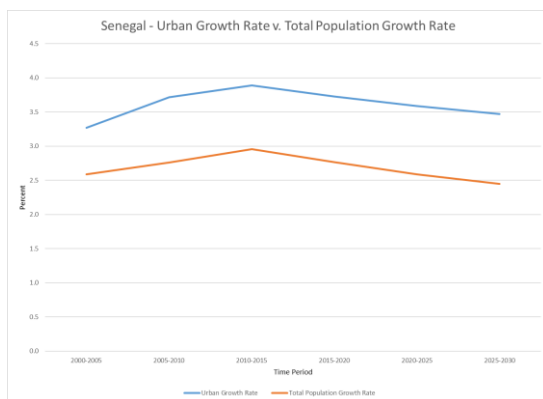
Total: 18.4 million
Median age: 19.4 years
Population growth rate: 2.52%
Urban: 49.6%
Rural 50.4%

Fertility

Birth rate: 30.84 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 4.17 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.97 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 5 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 70.25 years
Maternal mortality rate: 315 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 31.75 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: -0.69 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 5.2% of GDP

Physician density: 0.09 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 8.8%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 0.25 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 5.5% of GDP

Literacy: 51.9%

Population Distribution

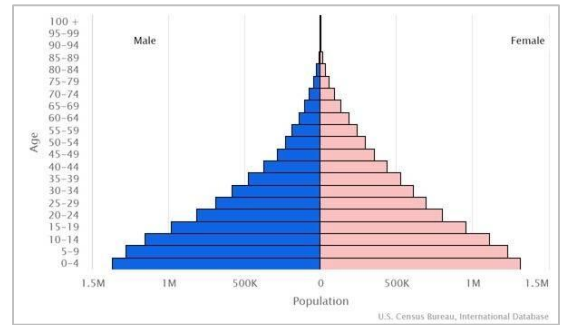
the population is concentrated in the west, with Dakar anchoring a well-defined core area; approximately 70% of the population is rural

Demographic Profile

Senegal has a large and growing youth population but has not been successful in developing its potential human capital. Senegal's high total fertility rate of almost 4.5 children per woman continues to bolster the country's large youth cohort – more than 60% of the population is under the age of 25 as of 2020. Fertility remains high because of the continued desire for large families, the low use of family planning, and early childbearing. Because of the country's high illiteracy rate (more than 40%), high unemployment (even among university graduates), and widespread poverty, Senegalese youths face dim prospects; women are especially disadvantaged.

Senegal historically was a destination country for economic migrants, but in recent years West African migrants more often use Senegal as a transit point to North Africa – and sometimes illegally onward to Europe. The country also has been host to several thousand black Mauritanian refugees since they were expelled from their homeland during its 1989 border conflict with Senegal. The country's economic crisis in the 1970s stimulated emigration; departures accelerated in the 1990s. Destinations shifted from neighboring countries, which were experiencing economic decline, civil wars, and increasing xenophobia, to Libya and Mauritania because of their booming oil industries and to developed countries (most notably former colonial ruler France, as well as Italy and Spain). The latter became attractive in the 1990s because of job opportunities and their periodic regularization programs (legalizing the status of illegal migrants)..

Age Structure



Population Distribution

