

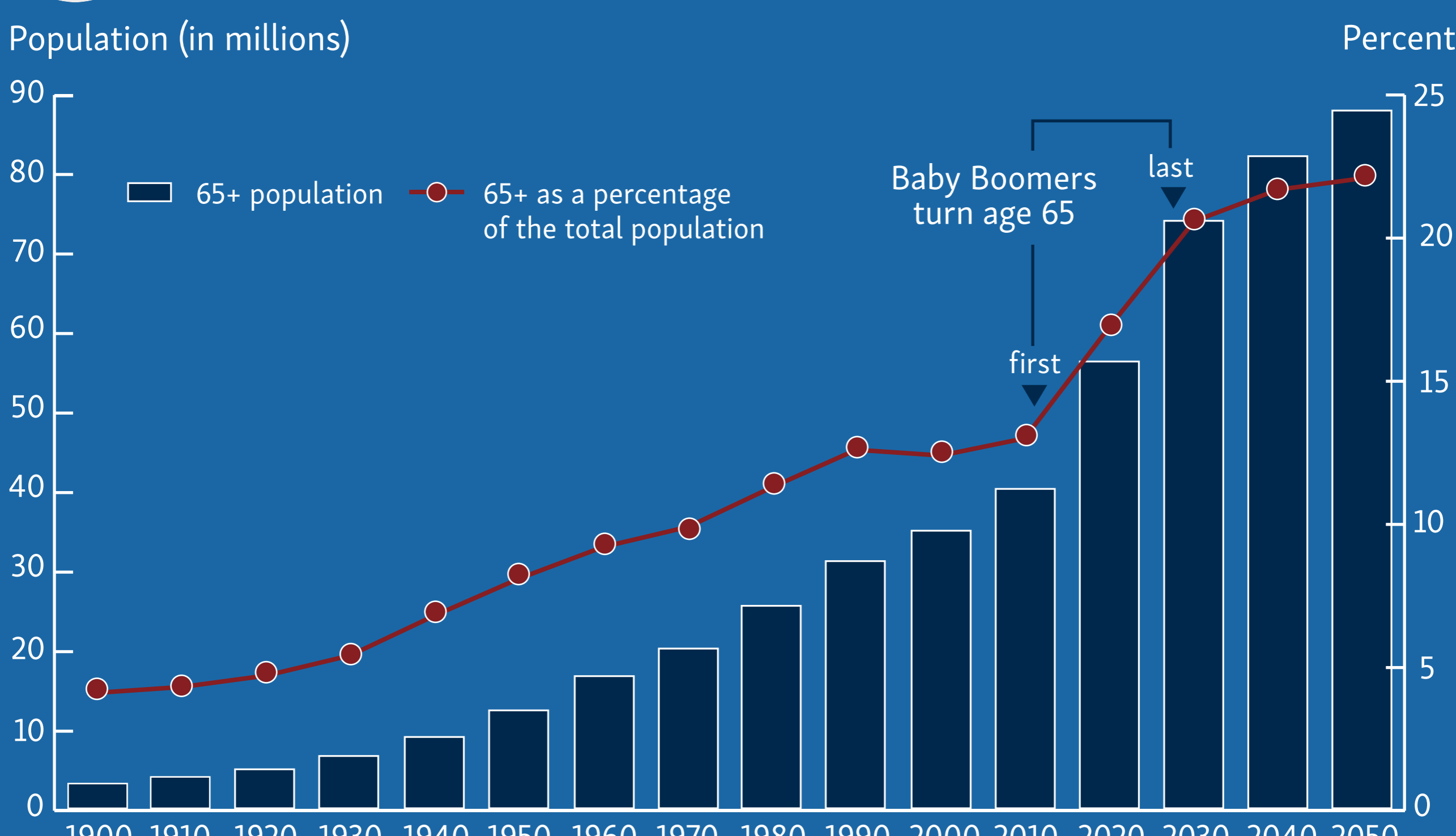
Population Aging in the United States

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The U.S. population is aging. To better understand the increase in the size and proportion of the older population in our society, it is important to know why the population is aging and what we can anticipate in the future. How the United States compares with other countries puts its aging in a broader global perspective. Answers to these questions can help policy makers, the private sector, and individuals better prepare for the challenges and opportunities from population aging.

What is the impact of the Baby Boom generation on U.S. aging?

The United States has been aging steadily over the past century, a trend that increased more rapidly as Baby Boomers turned 65 years old. The impact of the Baby Boom generation (born in 1946-1964) is reflected not only in the overall size of the older population and its growing proportion of the total population from 2011 through 2029, but also in its relative leveling off thereafter once the youngest Boomers reach age 65.



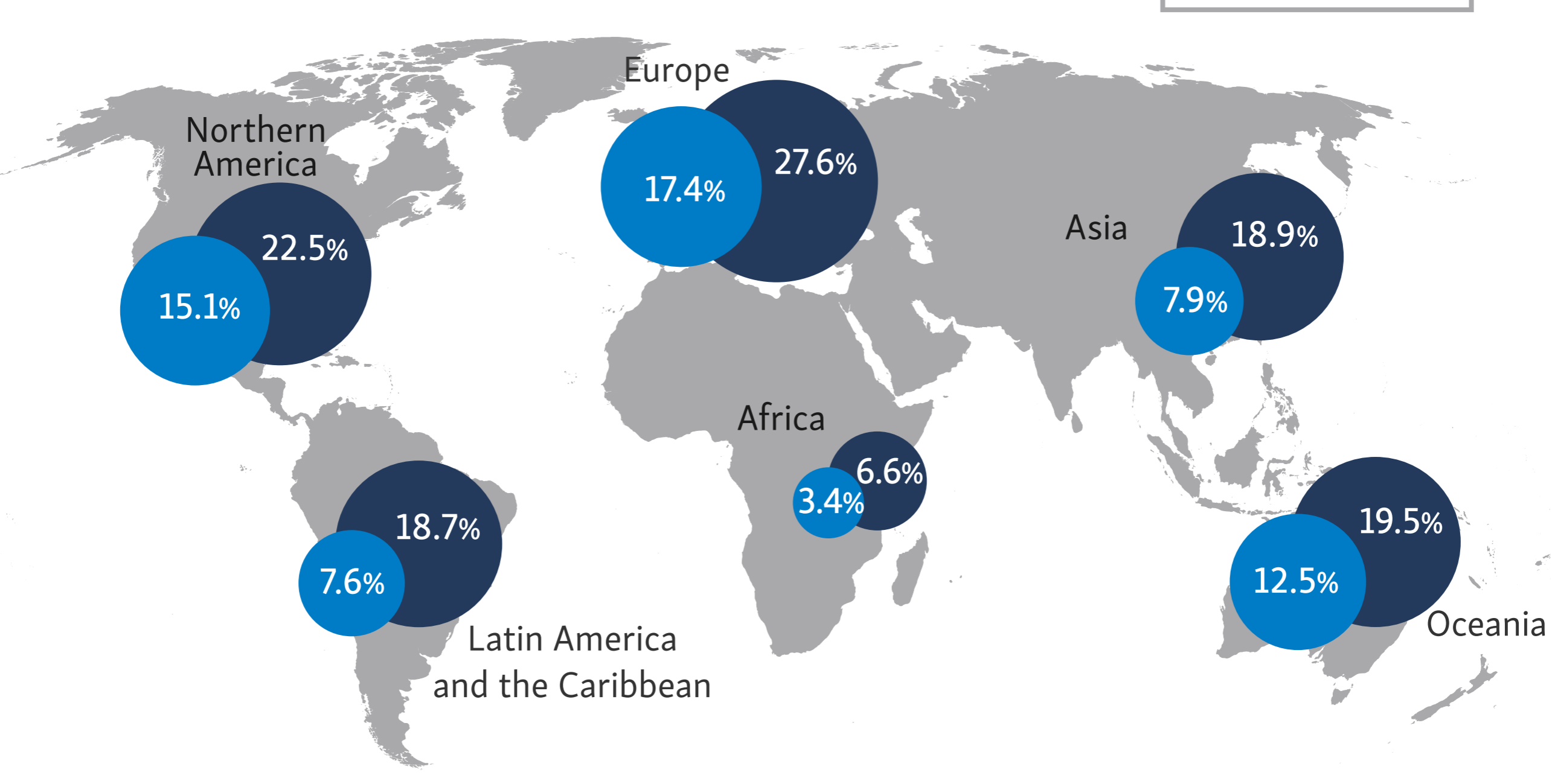
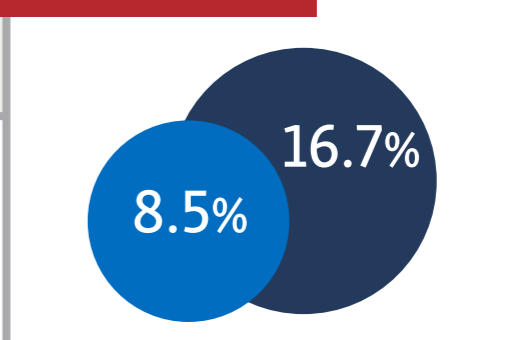
Are all countries aging at the same pace?

The pace of aging is not the same around the world. Regions vary in the size and projected growth of their populations age 65 and older. Many of the oldest countries are in Europe, a trend that will continue through 2050. The older population in Asia and Latin America will more than double between 2015 and 2050, and will also increase in Northern America.

World

Percentage of people age 65+

● 2015 ● 2050



Where does the United States stand among the world's oldest countries?

Even though the United States will become older by 2050, it will still be a younger population than many countries. In fact, the U.S. ranking among the world's oldest countries, as determined by the percentage of the population age 65 and older, will decline from 34th in 2015 to 56th in 2050. Some Asian countries such as China and South Korea, and Latin American and Caribbean countries such as Chile and Cuba, were less old than the United States in 2015, but are projected to surpass the U.S. in 2050.

2015

- 1 Japan 26.6%
- 2 Germany 21.5%
- 3 Italy 21.2%
- ...
- 33 Hong Kong 15.3%
- 34 United States 14.9%**
- 41 South Korea 13.0%
- 42 Cuba 12.9%
- 52 Chile 10.2%
- 53 China 10.1%
- ...
- 141 Mozambique 2.9%
- 154 Zambia 2.4%
- 158 Uganda 2.0%
- 159 United Arab Emirates 1.0%
- 160 Qatar 0.9%

2050

- 1 Japan 40.1%
- 2 South Korea 35.9%
- 3 Hong Kong 35.3%
- 15 Italy 31.0%
- 19 Germany 30.1%
- 27 Cuba 28.3%
- 33 China 26.8%
- ...
- 51 Chile 23.2%
- 56 United States 22.1%**
- ...
- 153 Qatar 4.2%
- 157 Uganda 3.4%
- 158 Mozambique 3.3%
- 159 Zambia 3.3%
- 160 United Arab Emirates 3.3%

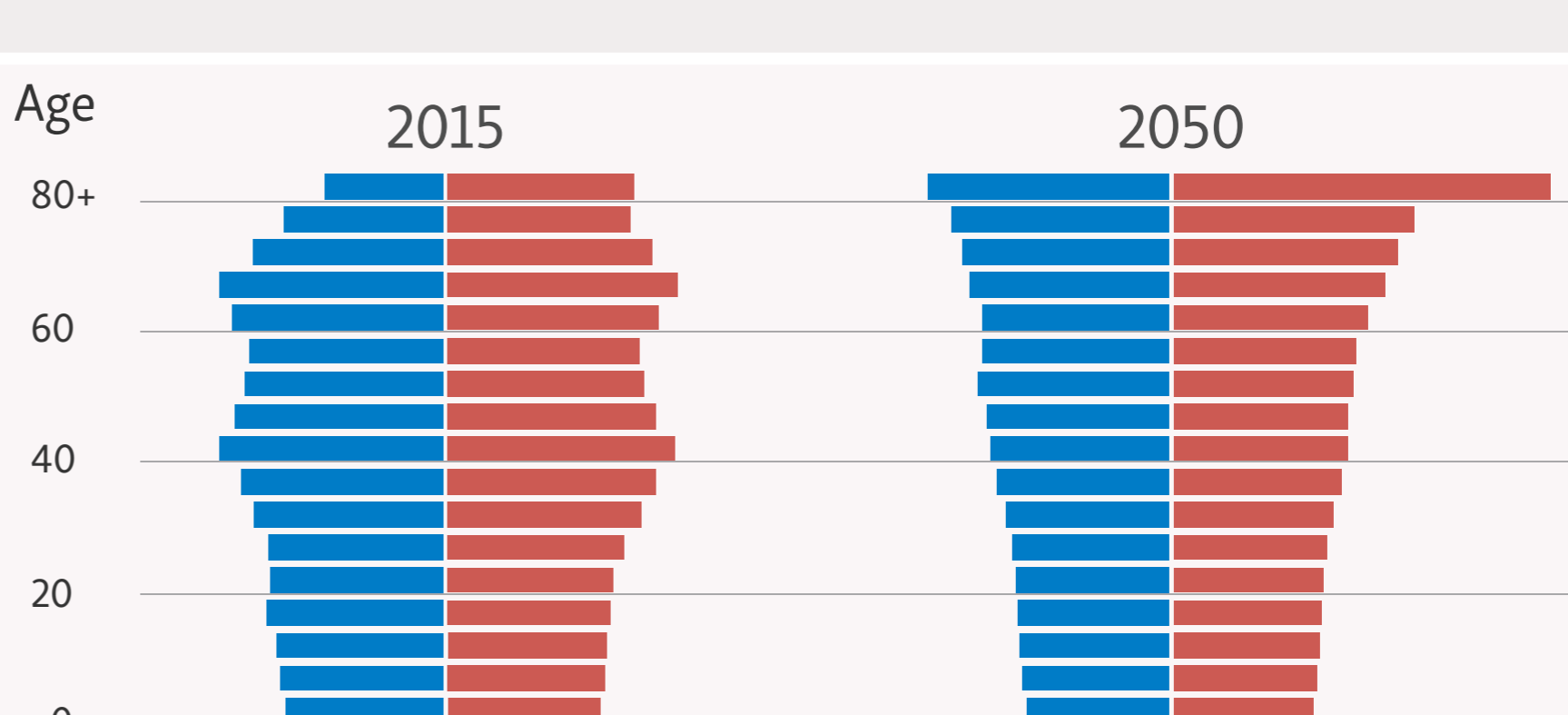
Note: The list includes countries and areas with a total population of at least 1 million in 2015.

Why is the population aging?

People are having fewer children and also living longer. This leads to population aging – the disproportionate growth of older age groups.

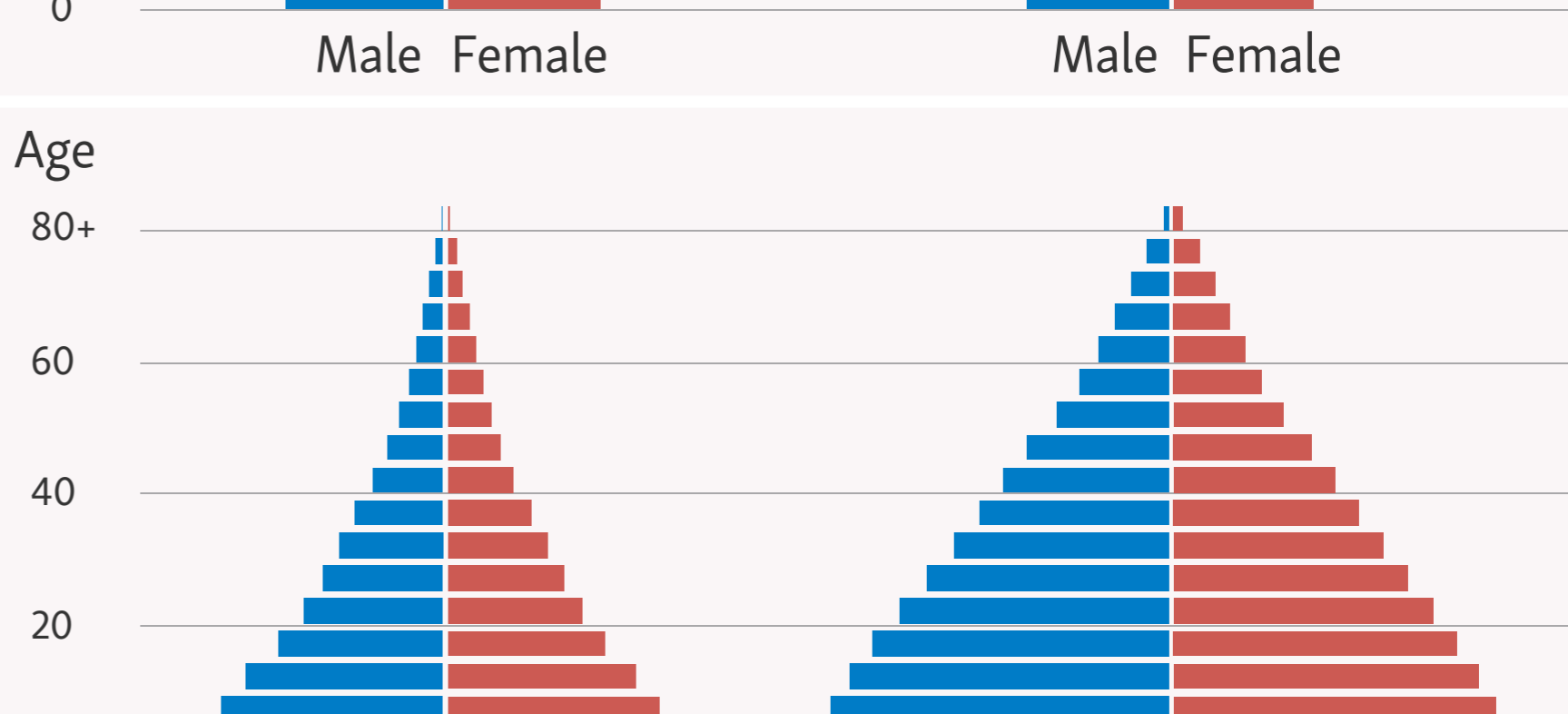
Japan OLDER

Japan already has a population concentrated in the middle and older age groups, and the base will further constrict in the next few decades, leading to a population distribution in an inverted pyramid shape.



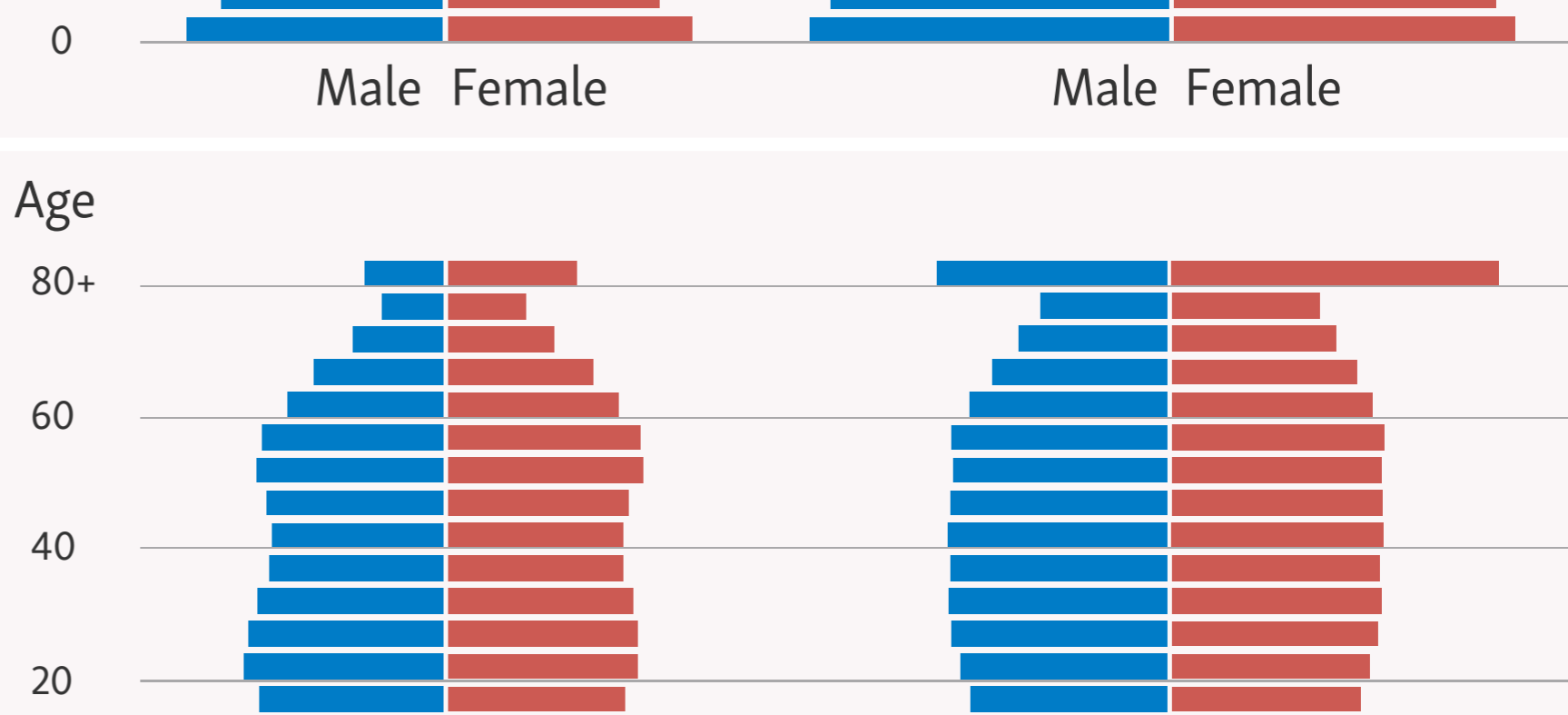
Nigeria YOUNGER

Like most Sub-Saharan African countries, Nigeria will maintain a very young age structure in the traditional pyramid shape because of high fertility levels.



United States

The United States is projected to maintain its mostly rectangular population distribution, with an increasingly heavy top from the Baby Boom generation.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base, decennial censuses, and 2014 National Population Projections. For more information, see Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Related Statistics (www.agingstats.gov); Older Americans 2016; and U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov): An Aging World: 2015, 65+ in the United States: 2010, and The Older Population: 2010.