



## Population Everywhere

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If you've ever been curious about how the world's population is distributed, but the raw numbers kind of bounce off your head, then perhaps a visual representation will bring home where the people are. A new project, called The Pudding ([https://pudding.cool/2018/10/city\\_3d/](https://pudding.cool/2018/10/city_3d/)) lets you look at a global map, all at once or up close, and see needles whose height and number represent the population in any particular area. For instance, if you look at tiny Bangladesh, and see the huge number of tall needles all over the country, you can see how such a small country could have a larger population than the enormous land area of Russia (which, as the map shows, has many fewer high-density population areas). You can see large population centers emerging in southern China, much lower population concentrations in Europe, Africa, North, and South America—and how the area west of the Mississippi before you get to the U.S. West Coast is practically unpopulated. Did you know that Kinshasa in the Republic of Congo has a higher population than Paris, France? Looking at India, you see population 'needles' sticking up everywhere, while the nearby countries of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Burma are relatively unpopulated.

You can go to the site and zoom in and zoom out, looking for the county you grew up in, and see the population change between 1990 and today. (Orange bars represent declines, and green ones represent growth.) You can see those certain cities, like Cincinnati, OH and St. Louis, Mo—and areas (like most of Russia)—are in serious population decline. Look at Detroit and you see red (decline) bars everywhere in and around the city.

Why is this important? Growth in a country's (or region, or county's) GDP is a function of population growth times increases in worker productivity. The countries with more people will inevitably take their place among the largest economies in the world. But even if you aren't looking at the map in purely economic terms, the data is really interesting, and very interestingly presented.

If you have any questions about this article or want to discuss your family finances, investment portfolio, or financial planning advice, please call on me anytime at my number [\(215\) 325-1595](tel:2153251595) or you can [click here to schedule a meeting](#).

Please feel free to forward this article and offer to anyone you know who might have financial questions or need some unbiased advice. Most financial advice is sales advice. In stark contrast, we are fee-only (non-commissioned) fiduciary advisors. We just provide truthful, unbiased advice to our clients.



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