POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE MALDIVES

An analysis from Census 2022

Maldives Bureau of Statistics
Ministry of Housing, Land & Urban Development

UNFPA

CENSUS count me in... 2022

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Written by:	Ms. Fathimath Yania Hassan
Checked by:	Ms. Aishath Shahuda
Proof Read by:	Professor
Layout design by:	Mohamed Irfan
Photography:	Blinx Media Group, UNFPA

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

COVID-19	Corona virus disease 2019
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
ICSE-18	International Classification of Status in Employment 2018
IE	Inclusive Education
NDR	National Disability Register
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NSPA	National Social Protection Agency
NTA	National Transfer Account
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WB	World Bank
WG-SS	Washington Group Short Set of disability questions
WHO	World Health Organization

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINTION
ENUMERATED POPULATION	Refers to the island where the person was found on census night (13 September 00.00 hrs)
RESIDENT POPULATION	Population who have been living in Maldives for more than one year or intends to live in Maldives for 1 year or more. This includes Resident Maldivian Population and Resident Foreign Population
RESIDENT MALDIVIAN	Maldivian who have been living in Maldives for more than one year or intends to live in Maldives for 1 year or more. Maldivians who are permanently living abroad is excluded from here
RESIDENT FOREIGNERS	Foreigners who have living in Maldives for more than one year or intends to live in Maldives for 1 year or more. Foreigners such as tourists, short term stay is excluded from this count
MAALE	Includes the 4 wards of Maale (Henveiru, Galolhu, Machchangoalhi, Maafannu), Hulumaale, Villimaale, and K. Hulhule with harbour of these areas
ATOLLS	Include administrative islands and non-administrative islands
ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS (ADMIN ISLANDS)	These are islands with islands/city councils
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS (NON-ADMIN ISLANDS)	Includes resorts, industrial islands, and other islands. Industrial islands and other islands include resorts under development, islands leased out for agricultural, fisheries purposes, etc. These islands are included if anyone lives and sleeps there. It also includes Thilafushi and Gulheefalhu
SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH ATOLL)	The count of population in South Thiladhunmathi is including Kulhudhufushi City
MAALE ATOLL (K)	Maale Atoll includes only administrative islands within the atoll and excludes Maale (Maale', Villimaale, Hulhumale, Hulhule)
POPULATION DENSITY	Population density refers to the number of people living in an area per square kilometer or other unit of land area

MEDIAN AGE	Median age is the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups - that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older. It is a single index that summarizes the age distribution of a population
GROWTH RATE	The rate at which a population is increasing (or decreasing) in a given year due to natural increase and net migration, expressed as a percentage of the base population. Formula: = LN (current census year population/ Previous census year population)/ time in between 2 census *100, where: Current census =382639 Previous census=338434 Time= 7.99
DEPENDENCY RATIO	The demographic dependency ratio is a measure showing the number of dependents, aged 0-14 years and over the age of 65, to the working age group 15 to 64 years
CHILD DEPENDENCY RATIO	The child dependency ratio is the ratio of the population aged 0-14 to the population aged 15-64, presented as the number of dependents per 100 persons of working age (15-64)
AGED DEPENDENCY RATIO	The old-age-dependency ratio is the ratio of the number of elderly people at an age when they are generally economically inactive (i.e. aged 65 and over), compared to the number of people of working age (i.e. 15-64 years old).

FOREWORD

The Population and Housing Census of Maldives stands as the most extensive national statistical undertaking, offering a highly comprehensive source of data on the population and households. Maldives has been conducting censuses since 1911 with the first modern census conducted in 1977. Censuses were conducted every five years since between 1985 and 2000. The 2005 census was postponed to 2006 due to tsunami of 2004, resulting in an eight-year gap between the last two censuses. The 2022 represents a significant milestone as the 30th census conducted in the Maldives owing to a gap of 8 years.

This series of statistical releases aim to provide an in-depth view of what is behind the census figures, shedding light on the fundamental population issues that underlie them. It is our goal to enhance the understanding of population and development issues within the country, providing a comprehensive view of the data. Additionally, the census plays a crucial role in reporting on numerous SDG indicators by providing essential updates and with necessary disaggregation of data.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and organisations whose contributions made it possible for us to present the census findings to the public. Specials thanks are due to United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) for providing financial support throughout the process and for facilitating the technical input from consultants, whose expertise and guidance were invaluable in successfully completing these releases. I would like to start by thanking Mr. Andreas Kutka and Mr. Peter Bruekmann for the continuous support they provided our team for the implementation of the census, from designing stage to the release of census preliminary results. My thanks go out to Professor Lakshman Dissanayake and Dr. Liwan Liyanage, for overseeing the progress of each chapter, and guiding the chapter writers and enhancing their capacities throughout the process. Lastly, the success of this census releases owes much to the tireless effort and dedication of the Maldives Bureau of Statistics staff, and I take this moment to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of them.

This information is accessible through our website www.statisticsmaldives.gov.mv. We believe in the dissemination of reliable statistics in an unbiased manner to the general public. We encourage data users to utilize the Census results effectively, promoting a culture of decision-making in the country.

I am hopeful that the information in this Release and other subsequent census related publications, would be very useful for evidence based decision-making and formulation of policies and plans. Both the national and local level could use the census information to define service areas, identify current requirement of services and infrastructure, and future demands. Further, it would serve as the basis for measuring progress towards the achievement of key national targets as well as other time-bound targets of the country as we undergo a new phase in administration.

Aishath Hassan
Chief Statistician

Maldives Bureau of Statistics
Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The conduct of the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Maldives entailed nationwide coordination and collaboration. The Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS), would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the agencies and individuals who contributed immensely to the success of the Census.

We are truly indebted to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the immense support provided throughout the process, from census planning stage to the publication of these census Releases. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to UNICEF, UNDP, ADB, World Bank, PARIS21 and IOM for their support in the implementation of a successful census. Our sincere appreciation also goes to Ministries, Agencies, CSOs for their cooperation and contribution to complete the census operation across the country. We are indeed grateful to City Councils, Atoll Councils, Island Councils, Atoll Census Managers, island census focal points for their support and leadership in ensuring the successful completion of census in their respective communities. We would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the government for funding and providing other financial support when needed. We would like to thank Maldives Police Services for arranging security services during the entire enumeration process, MTCC for transport arrangement and local media for their coverage and dissemination of census announcements in a timely manner.

We also wish to acknowledge and earnestly thank the 3,974 enumerators and supervisors for their hard work and sincerity. Supervisors and enumerators worked from the early hours of the morning till late in the evening during the census enumeration period. The commitment and dedication shown by the supervisors and enumerators are exemplary and inspiring. We would like to sincerely thank the general public for the unprecedented support and cooperation extended to the census supervisors and enumerators during the enumeration. The support and enthusiasm displayed by the general public were heartfelt and gratifying.

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

This statistical release discusses the basic demographic characteristics of the total Maldivian population enumerated in the population and housing census of 2022 while shedding light on the changes that have occurred over time. This release will include references to the resident population and the foreign population in the nation.

The chapter commences with a concise historical overview of the demographic transformations and population expansion that have transpired. A comprehensive examination of the population dispersion across the nation is conducted, encompassing both administrative and non-administrative islands. A meticulous analysis of inhabited islands, categorized by their population sizes, is undertaken to elucidate the evolving patterns of population distribution within the Maldives. Comparative assessments are drawn between the current and preceding census years to underscore the temporal shifts.

Beyond merely enumerating the population, the chapter also scrutinizes growth rates and their spatial allocation. Paramount among the census outcomes is the detailed information pertaining to age and gender. The age-sex composition holds pivotal significance for informed policymaking and strategic planning, serving as a cornerstone for allocating resources, services, and information tailored to distinct age cohorts. Furthermore, the exploration of the gender composition of the population facilitates a nuanced comprehension of historical demographic dynamics within a societal context.

1.1 Population growth of the Maldives in recent years

The total population enumerated in the population and housing census 2022 is 515,132, of which 382,639 is the resident Maldivian population and 132,493 is the resident foreign population. Out of the resident Maldivian population, 188,077 are females and 194,562 are males. Similarly, for the resident foreign population, there are 15,061 females and 117,432 males. Between 2014 and 2022, the total Maldivian population has increased by 107,472 which is a 26% increase from 2014.

CENSUS		TOTAL MALDIVIAN POPULATION			PERCENT		SEX RATIO (MALES PER 100 FEMALES)	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
NO	YEAR	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE		
1	1911	72,237	39,244	32,993	54.3	45.7	119	-
2	1921	70,413	38,174	32,239	54.2	45.8	118	-0.27
3	1931	79,281	43,235	36,046	54.5	45.5	120	1.18
4	1946	82,068	44,308	37,760	54	46	117	0.23
5	1953	77,273	41,656	35,617	53.9	46.1	117	-0.86
6	1957	83,075	44,614	38,461	53.7	46.3	116	1.81
11	1962	92,744	49,454	43,290	53.3	46.7	114	2.2
16	1967	103,801	55,346	48.455	53.3	46.7	114	2.25
21	1972	122,673	64,924	57,749	52.9	47.1	112	3.34
23	1977	142,832	75,224	67,608	52.7	47.3	111	2.77
24	1985	180,088	93,482	86,606	51.8	48.1	108	3.2
25	1990	213,215	109,336	103,879	51.3	48.7	105	3.43
26	1995	244,814	124,622	120,192	50.9	49.1	104	2.73
27	2000	270,101	137,200	132,901	50.8	49.2	103	1.96
28	2006	298,968	151,459	147,509	50.7	49.3	103	1.69
29	2014	344,023	174,666	169,357	50.8	49.2	103	1.65
30	2022	382,639	188,077	194,562	49.2	50.8	97	1.56

Table 1 : Census Populations for Total Maldivian Population by Sex and Intercensal Growth Rates

The population growth rate has decreased during the past 20 years, even though the population is still growing. The growth rate in the last century peaked between 1985 and 1990 at 3.43 percent, and it has been declining ever since. According to Table 1, there is a 1.56 percent annual average growth rate between 2014 and 2022.

1.2 History of Population growth in Maldives

In 1911, the population of Maldives was 72,237, and over the recent decades, this number has burgeoned. The 20th century saw two distinct patterns in the country's population growth, a slow expansion in the first half of the century and a rapid expansion in the second half.
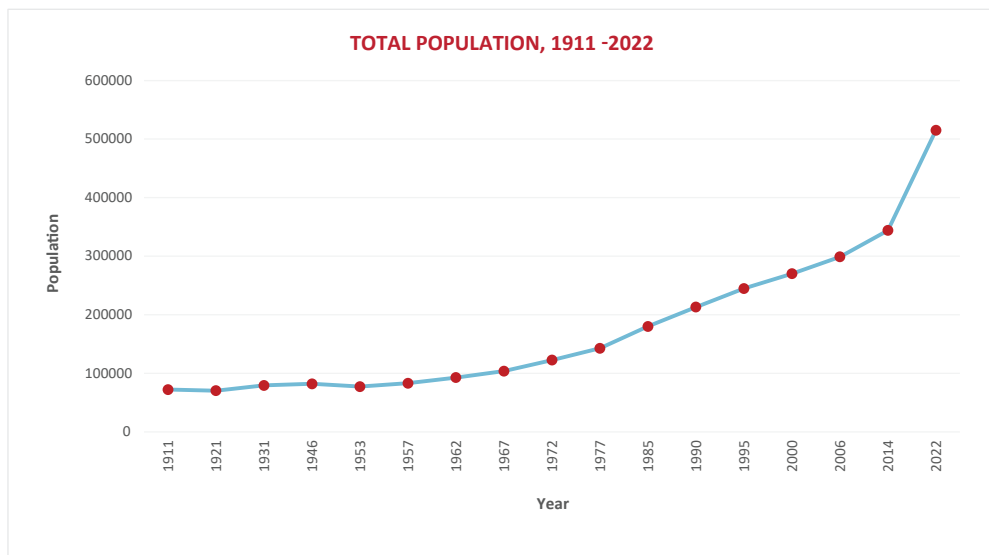
Note: for 2022 resident Maldivian has been shown in this graph

Figure 1: Total Population, 1911 -2022

Between 1911 and 1953, the population stayed very steady, ranging from 70,000 to 80,000. From the start of 1911 to 1977, the population nearly doubled to 142,832 in 60 years. Before 1958, when the population reached 87,582, the population grew at a pace of one percent per year or less. Furthermore, there were negative growth rates of -0.27 and -0.86 percent annually during the years 1911 to 1921 and 1946 to 1953. 1921–1931 saw the highest growth rate throughout this time, 1.18 percent. This time frame followed the conclusion of World War I. These decades' poor growth rate was caused by high mortality rates that outpaced high levels of uncontrolled childbearing.

During World War II, the 1930s and 1940s saw the modest development rate continue. The population began to rise in the late 1950s and continued to do so in the ensuing decades (see Figure 1). This was the baby boom era when worldwide fertility rates and the total number of newborns increased dramatically in the years after World War II (1946–1964). 1958 saw the greatest average annual growth rate (5.28%). On the other hand, growth rates declined from 1961 to 1964. The population began to increase at an unprecedented rate (about 3 percent) from 1965 onwards due to changes in fertility and mortality rates.

Throughout the 1960s and 1980s, the phenomenon persisted. However, in the 1990s, the growth rate began to decline, and it stands at 1.56 percent annually at this point (see Table 1). A notable drop in fertility during the 1990s and 2000s was the primary factor contributing to the dip in the population growth rate during that time. The total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.7 in the 2022 census, compared to approximately 6.4 in the 1990s. Due to the declining fertility, growth has been declining during the last 20 years. Since 2000, the pace of decline has decreased and is still less than 2%.

CHAPTER 2
RESIDENT POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

2. RESIDENT POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

One distinguishing characteristic of the Maldives is its geographical dispersion, making it one of the most spread-out countries in the world. Consequently, the population is spread over both administrative and non-administrative islands. The Population and Housing Census 2022 enumerated population from 187 inhabited islands, 168 resorts, and 106 industrial islands which is a quite significant change from the previous Census of 2014 where the population was enumerated from 188 inhabited islands, 109 resorts, and 128 industrial islands. Distribution of population by admin islands and non-admin islands shows that the majority of the population lives in Addu City (S) followed by those living in South Thiladhunmathi (Hdh).

MAP OF MALDIVES

14,623 (3%) HA. Atoll
22,440 (4%) HDh. Atoll
13,698 (3%) Sh. Atoll
12,503 (2%) N. Atoll
17,581 (3%) R. Atoll
8,992 (2%) Lh. Atoll
10,631 (2%) B. Atoll
8,017 (2%) AA. Atoll
17,749 (3%) K. Atoll
10,540 (2%) ADh. Atoll
1,995 (1%) V. Atoll
4,869 (1%) F. Atoll
5,490 (1%) M. Atoll
6,637 (1%) Dh. Atoll
10,260 (2%) Th. Atoll
14,699 (3%) L. Atoll
9,190 (2%) GA. Atoll
12,758 (2%) GDh. Atoll
9,177 (2%) Gn. Atoll
25,062 (5%) Addu City

Figure 2: Map of Maldives

TOTAL RESIDENT POPULATION

14,623
HA. Atoll

22,440
HDh. Atoll

13,698
Sh. Atoll

12,503
N. Atoll

17,581
R. Atoll

8,992
Lh. Atoll

10,631
B. Atoll

8,017
AA. Atoll

17,749
K. Atoll

10,540
ADh. Atoll

1,995
V. Atoll

4,869
F. Atoll

5,490
M. Atoll

6,637
Dh. Atoll

10,260
Th. Atoll

14,699
L. Atoll

9,190
GA. Atoll

12,758
GDh. Atoll

9,177
Gn. Atoll

25,062
Addu City

Less than 2000	
2000 - 4999	
5000 - 9999	
10000 - 14999	
More than 15000	

Figure 3A: Resident Population by population size class, 2022

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RESIDENT MALDIVIANS

13,341 HA. Atoll
20,230 HDh. Atoll
12,687 Sh. Atoll
11,202 N. Atoll
16,006 R. Atoll
7,954 Lh. Atoll
9,162 B. Atoll
13,512 K. Atoll
6,776 AA. Atoll
8,540 ADh. Atoll
1,453 V. Atoll
4,458 F. Atoll
4,751 M. Atoll
5,673 Dh. Atoll
9,148 Th. Atoll
12,972 L. Atoll
7,975 GA. Atoll
11,222 GDh. Atoll
7,907 Gn. Atoll
20,343 Addu City

Less than 2000
2000 - 4999
5000 - 9999
10000 - 14999
More than 15000

Figure 3A: Resident Population by population size class, 2022

RESIDENT FOREIGNERS

1,282
HA. Atoll

2,210
HDh. Atoll

1,011
Sh. Atoll

1,301
N. Atoll

1,575
R. Atoll

1,038
Lh. Atoll

1,469
B. Atoll

1,241
AA. Atoll

4,237
K. Atoll

2,000
ADh. Atoll

542
V. Atoll

411
F. Atoll

739
M. Atoll

964
Dh. Atoll

1,112
Th. Atoll

1,727
L. Atoll

1,215
GA. Atoll

1,536
GDh. Atoll

1,270
Gn. Atoll

4,719
Addu City

Less than 500
500 - 999
1000 - 1999
2000 - 2999
More than 3000

Figure 3A: Resident Population by population size class, 2022

2.1 Resident Maldivian Population in Administrative Islands

The Resident Maldivian population has increased from 213215 in 1990 to 382639 in 2022. Table 2 gives a quick glimpse of the total picture where nearly 87 percent of the population lives in administrative islands. It can also be seen that the Resident Maldivian population in the Administrative islands increased by 157076 between 1990 and 2022. From 1995 onwards, the female population outnumbered the male population in the administrative islands. This outcome was caused by the outmigration of males for employment

MAIN FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY OF ENUMERATION AND SEX	CENSUS YEAR					
	1990	1995	2000	2006	2014	2022
MALDIVIAN POPULATION						
BOTH SEXES	213,215	244,814	270,101	298,968	344,023	382,639
MALE	109,336	124,622	137,197	151,459	174,666	194,562
FEMALE	103,879	120,192	132,904	147,509	169,357	188,077
MALDIVIAN POPULATION IN ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS (INCLUDING MALE')						
BOTH SEXES	208,423	239,212	262,186	288,101	330,468	365499
MALE	104,622	119,070	129,407	140,914	161,518	178367
FEMALE	103,801	120,142	132,779	147,187	168,950	187132
MALDIVIAN POPULATION IN RESORTS AND INDUSTRIAL ISLANDS						
BOTH SEXES	4,792	5,602	7,915	10,867	13,555	17140
MALE	4,714	5,552	7,790	10,545	13,148	16195
FEMALE	78	50	125	322	407	945

Note: for 2022 resident Maldivian has been shown in this table

Table 2 : Total Maldivian Population by Major Categories, 1990-2022

ATOLL	POPULATION		NUMERICAL CHANGE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	2014	2022	2014-2022	2014-2022
NORTH THILADHUNMATHI (HA)	12939	13,341	402	3.1
SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH)	18515	20,230	1,715	9.3
NORTH MILADHUNMADULU (SH)	12091	12,687	596	4.9
SOUTH MILADHUNMADULU (N)	10483	11,202	719	6.9
NORTH MAALHOSMADULU (R)	14862	16,006	1,144	7.7
SOUTH MAALHOSMADULU (B)	8878	9,162	284	3.2
FAADHIPPOLHU (LH)	7905	7,954	49	0.6
MALE' ATOLL (K)	12166	13,512	1,346	11.1
NORTH ARI ATOLL (AA)	5905	6,776	871	14.8
SOUTH ARI ATOLL (ADH)	8145	8,540	395	4.8
FELIDHU ATOLL (V)	1601	1,453	(148)	-9.2
MULAKATHOLHU (M)	4705	4,751	46	1.0
NORTH NILANDHE ATOLL (F)	4119	4,458	339	8.2
SOUTH NILANDHE ATOLL (DH)	5305	5,673	368	6.9
KOLHUMADULU (TH)	8901	9,148	247	2.8
HADHDHUNMATHI (L)	11795	12,972	1,177	10.0
NORTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GA)	8334	7,975	(359)	-4.3
SOUTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GDH)	11587	11,222	(365)	-3.2
GNAVIYANI (GN)	7984	7,907	(77)	-1.0
ADDU (S)	19319	20,343	1,024	5.3

Table 3 : Resident Maldivian Population Change in Atolls, 2014 – 2022

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION BY ATOLLS, 2022
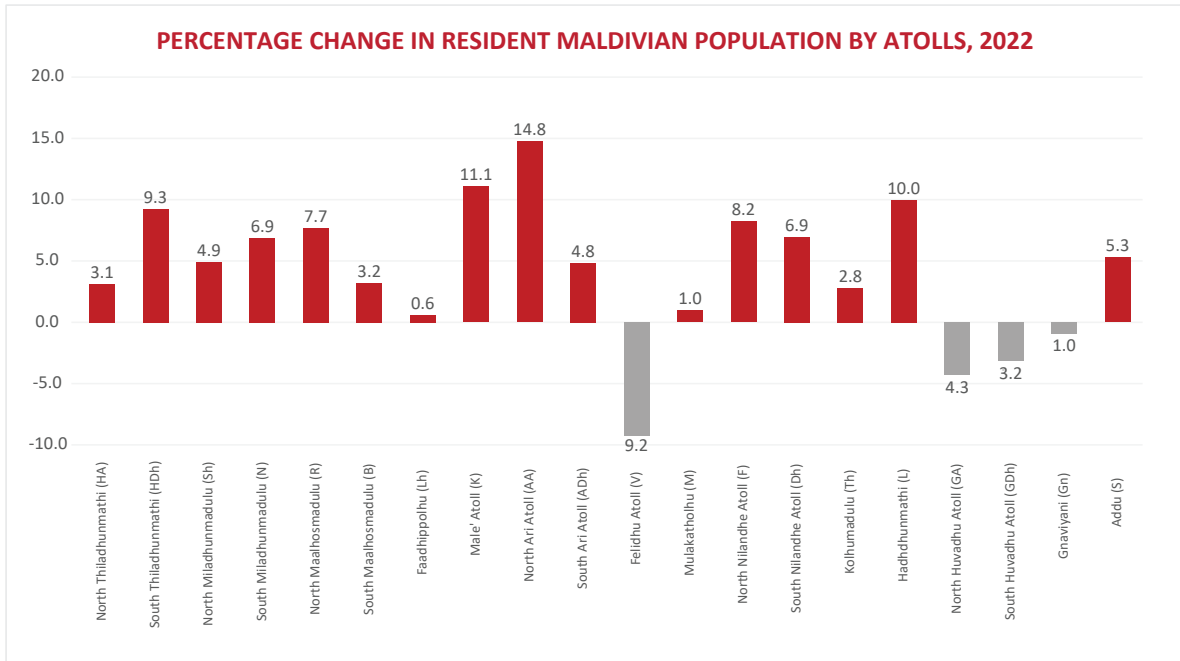
Note: for 2022 Resident Maldivian has been shown in this graph

Figure 4: Percentage Change in Resident Maldivian Population by Atolls, 2022

PERCENTAGE CHANGE = (2022 RESIDENT POPULATION – 2014 RESIDENT POPULATION) / 2014 RESIDENT POPULATION * 100

In 2022, the atoll population ranged from a low of 1601 in Vaavu Atoll to 19319 in Addu Atoll. Most of the atolls were characterized by an increase in population size. The percentage increase in atoll populations ranged from 1-15 percent. Among the 21 atolls, Felidhu Atoll (V), North Huvadhu Atoll (GA) , South Huvadhu Atoll (GDh), Gnaviyani (Gn) experienced a decline in the population between 2014 and 2022.

2.2 Growth Rate by Atolls

GROWTH RATE: THE RATE AT WHICH A POPULATION IS INCREASING (OR DECREASING) IN A GIVEN YEAR DUE TO NATURAL INCREASE AND NET MIGRATION, EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE BASE POPULATION

Formula:
= LN (current census year population/ Previous census year population)/ time in between 2 censuses *100, where:
Current census =382639
Previous census=338434
Time= 7.99

The population growth rates were highest in North Ari Atoll (AA) which was 1.7% closely followed by Male" Atoll (K) at 1.3%. In contrast to this, the population growth rates of Felidhu Atoll (v) and North Huvadhu Atoll (GA) declined the most, with South Huvadhu Atoll (Gdh) and Gnaviyani Atoll (Gn) following suit.

At the atoll level, South Thiladhunmathi (HDh) saw the largest numerical resident Maldivian population growth, rising from 18,515 in 2014 to 20,230 in 2022. Male' Atoll (K) and Hadhdhunmathi (L), with increases of 1,346 and 1,177, respectively, were the next two atolls. The primary cause of Kaafu Atoll's population growth is the location of the capital, Male, and the established tourism in the centralmost atolls of Maldives.

Additionally, some atolls experienced negative growth rates as well. Between 2014 and 2022, the Resident Maldivian population of North Huvadhu Atoll (GA) had a negative growth of 359, while South Huvadhu Atoll (GDh) had a negative growth of 365. In terms of numbers, North Huvadhu Atoll (GA) saw the most fall.

The number of persons migrating to the capital in search of better prospects is directly correlated with changes in the Atolls' population size and growth between 2014 and 2022. There may have been a significant influx of residents from the Atolls to Male' thanks to the construction of the new residential islands Villingilli and Hulhulmale', which helped relieve the housing shortage in Maale.

ATOLL	RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION		GROWTH RATE (FOR RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION - 2014 TO 2022)
	2014	2022	2014 - 2022
NORTH THILADHUNMATHI (HA)	13,341	12,939	0.4
SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH)	20,230	18,515	1.1
NORTH MILADHUNMADULU (SH)	12,687	12,091	0.6
SOUTH MILADHUNMADULU (N)	11,202	10,483	0.8
NORTH MAALHOSMADULU (R)	16,006	14,862	0.9
SOUTH MAALHOSMADULU (B)	9,162	8,878	0.4
FAADHIPPOLHU (LH)	7,954	7,905	0.1
MALE' ATOLL (K)	13,512	12,166	1.3
NORTH ARI ATOLL (AA)	6,776	5,905	1.7
SOUTH ARI ATOLL (ADH)	8,540	8,145	0.6
FELIDHU ATOLL (V)	1,453	1,601	-1.2
MULAKATHOLHU (M)	4,751	4,705	0.1
NORTH NILANDHE ATOLL (F)	4,458	4,119	1.0
SOUTH NILANDHE ATOLL (DH)	5,673	5,305	0.8
KOLHUMADULU (TH)	9,148	8,901	0.3
HADHDHUNMATHI (L)	12,972	11,795	1.2
NORTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GA)	7,975	8,334	-0.6
SOUTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GDH)	11,222	11,587	-0.4
GNAVIYANI (GN)	7,907	7,984	-0.1
ADDU (S)	20,343	19,319	0.6

**Table 4 : Resident Maldivian Population by Atolls and Growth Rates 2014 – 2022**

2.3 Resident Foreign Population

ATOLL	2014	2022	NUMERICAL CHANGE
NORTH THILADHUNMATHI (HA)	733	1,282	549
SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH)	1,026	2,210	1,184
NORTH MILADHUNMADULU (SH)	545	1,011	466
SOUTH MILADHUNMADULU (N)	746	1,301	555
NORTH MAALHOSMADULU (R)	957	1,575	618
SOUTH MAALHOSMADULU (B)	723	1,469	746
FAADHIPPOLHU (LH)	475	1,038	563
MALE' ATOLL (K)	1,926	4,237	2,311
NORTH ARI ATOLL (AA)	570	1,241	671
SOUTH ARI ATOLL (ADH)	941	2,000	1,059
FELIDHU ATOLL (V)	210	542	332
MULAKATHOLHU (M)	317	739	422
NORTH NILANDHE ATOLL (F)	246	411	165
SOUTH NILANDHE ATOLL (DH)	481	964	483
KOLHUMADULU (TH)	755	1,112	357
HADHDHUNMATHI (L)	881	1,727	846
NORTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GA)	887	1,215	328
SOUTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GDH)	1,103	1,536	433
GNAVIYANI (GN)	526	1,270	744
ADDU (S)	1,956	4,719	2,763

Note: Male Atoll does not include the greater male region (Male', Hulhumale or Villimale)

Table 5: Resident Foreign Population by Atolls 2014 – 2022

As seen in Table 5, the resident foreign population has increased in all the Atolls. The highest numerical increase can be seen in Addu City (S) closely followed by Male Atoll (K). The lowest numerical increase was recorded in North Huvadhu Atoll (GA). This can be further illustrated in the figure below (Figure 4)

RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION BY ATOLLS, 2014 & 2022
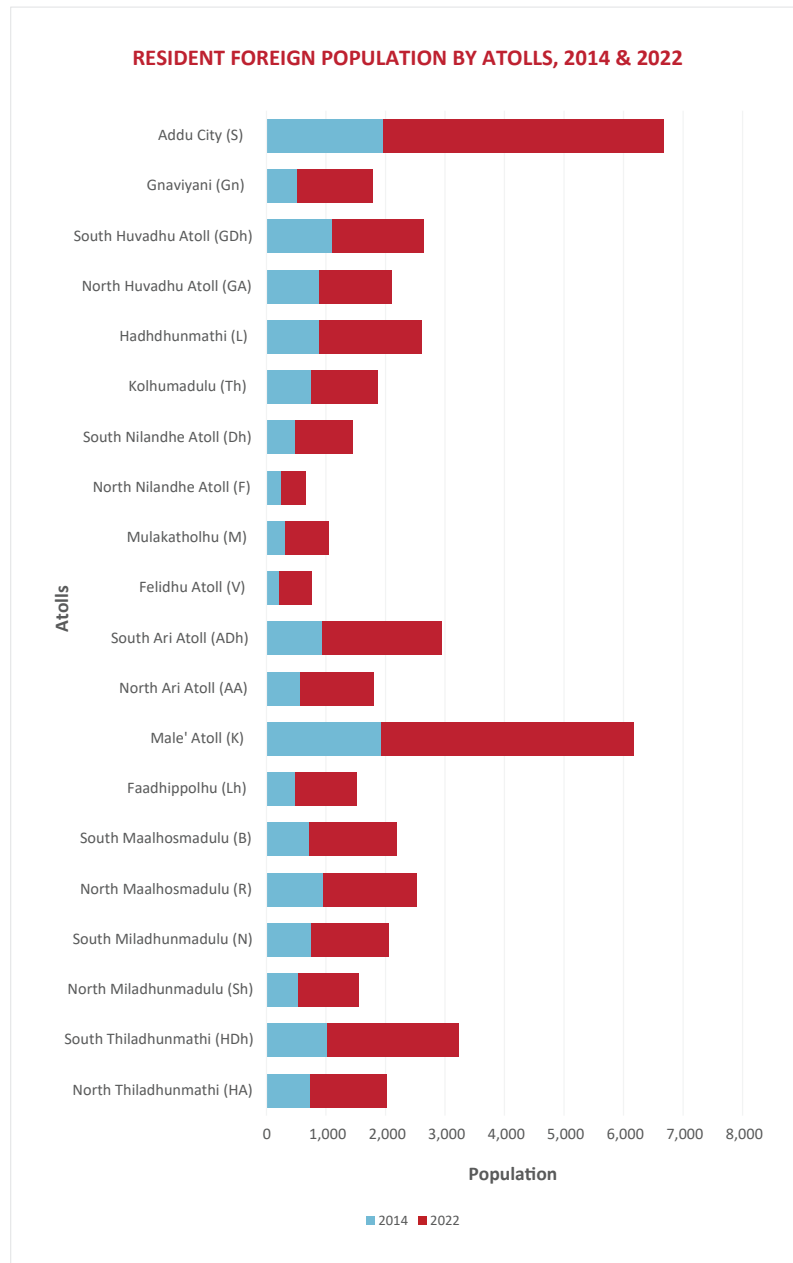
Figure 4: Resident Foreign Population by Atolls, 2014 & 2022

PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGN POPULATION
THE PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGN POPULATION CAN BE CALCULATED USING THE FOLLOWING FORMULA

PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGN POPULATION = RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION / RESIDENT POPULATION * 100

LOCALITY	RESIDENT POPULATION 2022	RESIDENT FOREIGNERS 2022	PERCENTAGE OF FOREIGN POPULATION
REPUBLIC	515,132	132,493	25.7
MALE' (INCLUDING VILLIMALE AND HULHUMALE)	211,908	51,721	24.4
ATOLLS	303,224	80,772	26.6
ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS	236,911	31,599	13.3
NORTH THILADHUNMATHI (HA)	14,623	1,282	8.8
SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH)	22,440	2,210	9.8
NORTH MILADHUNMADULU (SH)	13,698	1,011	7.4
SOUTH MILADHUNMADULU (N)	12,503	1,301	10.4
NORTH MAALHOSMADULU (R)	17,581	1,575	9.0
SOUTH MAALHOSMADULU (B)	10,631	1,469	13.8
FAADHIPPOLHU (LH)	8,992	1,038	11.5
MALE' ATOLL (K)	17,749	4,237	23.9
NORTH ARI ATOLL (AA)	8,017	1,241	15.5
SOUTH ARI ATOLL (ADH)	10,540	2,000	19.0
FELIDHU ATOLL (V)	1,995	542	27.2
MULAKATHOLHU (M)	5,490	739	13.5
NORTH NILANDHE ATOLL (F)	4,869	411	8.4
SOUTH NILANDHE ATOLL (DH)	6,637	964	14.5
KOLHUMADULU (TH)	10,260	1,112	10.8
HADHDHUNMATHI (L)	14,699	1,727	11.7
NORTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GA)	9,190	1,215	13.2
SOUTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GDH)	12,758	1,536	12.0
GNAVIYANI (GN)	9,177	1,270	13.8
ADDU (S)	25,062	4,719	18.8
NON ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS	66,313	49,173	74.2
RESORTS	52,482	36,885	70.3
INDUSTRIAL ISLANDS	13,831	12,288	88.8

Table 6: Percentage of Foreign Population by Locality 2022

According to Table 6, for the Republic, the percentage of the foreign population stands at approximately 26% which means that almost 1 in 4 people are foreigners. In Atolls, the percentage of foreigners is the highest in the central atolls which are Male Atoll ('K) and Felidhu Atoll (V). It can also be seen that the atolls have the major cities (Male Atoll, North Thiladhunmathi Atoll, and Addu Atoll) the resident foreign population is higher.

2.4 Population in Non-Administrative Islands

Over the years, the government's expanding economic development initiatives have spurred a significant increase in the population shift from administrative islands to non-administrative ones. As seen in Table 7, the total number of Maldivian residents residing in non-administrative islands has risen from 13,514 in 2014 to 17140 in 2022. This growth can be attributed to the increasing number of operational resorts, agricultural islands, and other ongoing projects in these areas.

The hospitality industry has played a crucial role in the country's economic growth, with more and more resorts being built in non-administrative islands. In addition, the government has been investing in infrastructure development in these areas, such as improving transportation and communication networks.

The 2022 Census recorded 49173 foreign residents in non-administrative islands, which is significantly higher than the total number of resident Maldivians enumerated in non-administrative islands, standing at 17,140. Overall, the significant population shift to non-administrative islands reflects the Maldives' ongoing economic and social transformation. As the government continues to prioritize development in these areas, likely, further growth and diversification in the country's economy and society can be seen.

	RESIDENT MALDIVIANS 2022			RESIDENT MALDIVIANS 2014		
	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE	BOTH SEXES	MALE	FEMALE
RESORTS	15,597	14,706	891	11,609	11,269	340
OTHER INDUSTRIAL ISLANDS	1,543	1,489	54	1,905	1,851	54
TOTAL	17,140	16,195	945	13,514	13,120	394

Table 7: Resident Maldivian Population in Non-Administrative Islands by sex, 2014 & 2022

**RESIDENT POPULATION IN RESORTS (2006,2014 &2022)**
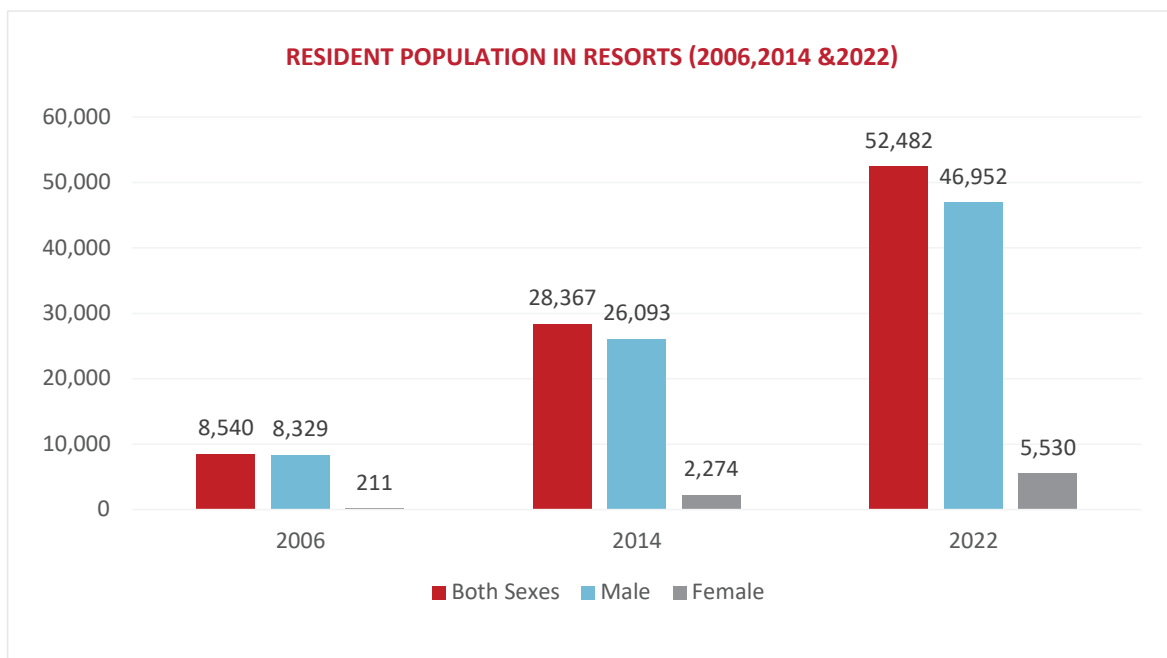
Figure 5: Resident Population in Resorts (2006,2014 &2022)

The Maldives has seen remarkable growth in the tourism sector over the past decade. A direct consequence of this growth has been the influx of a significant number of people who have either moved to or taken up residence in the resorts for employment. Between 2006 and 2022, the number of residents in resorts increased by 43,942, which is a considerable figure. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that the female population, which was low in 2006, experienced a rise of 5,319 in 2022. This increase could be attributed to the growth and development of the hospitality sector, which has provided more employment opportunities for women in the Maldives

2.5 Population in Maale

Malé, the capital city of Maldives, has experienced significant growth in its population since the 2014 Census. This can be seen in the figure below

RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX IN GREATER MALE' (2014 & 2022)
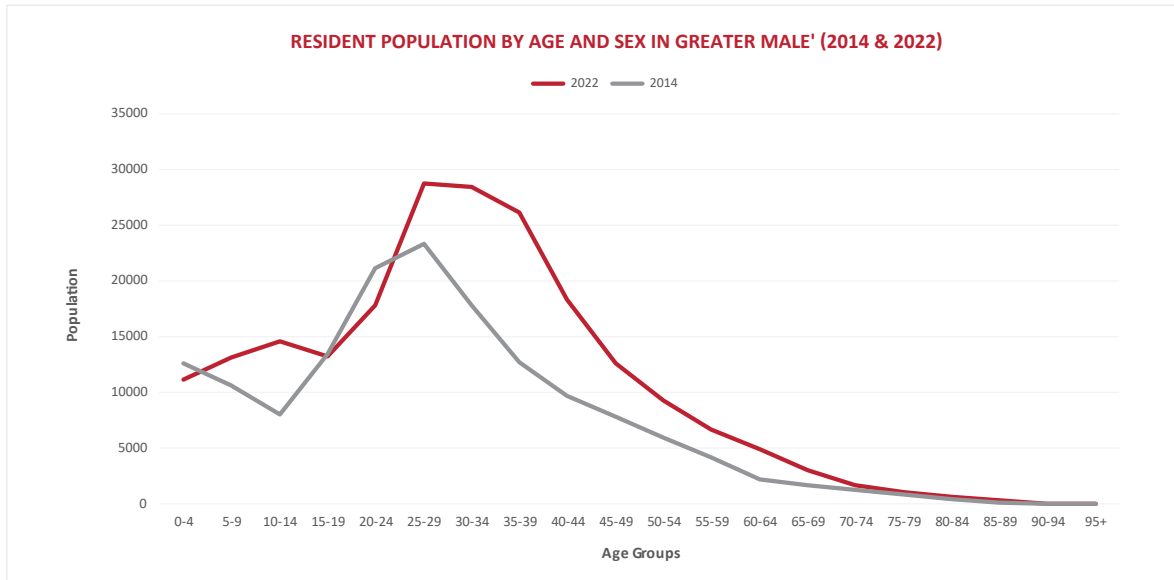
Figure 6: Resident Population by age and sex in greater Male' (2014 & 2022)

The graph illustrates a notable surge in the population of the greater Malé region across a majority of age groups between 2014 and 2022. As seen in Figure 6, in 2014 there is an increase in the population between the age groups of 10-14 and 25-29. The same increase is seen in 2022 between the age groups of 20-24 and 35-39 thus illustrating how the population has aged between the 2014 and 2022 Censuses. It can also be seen that there is a growth in the number of people between the age groups of 20-24 and 35-39. This rapid growth can be attributed primarily to urbanization, which has led people from atolls to migrate to the greater male region (Male., Hulhumale and Villimaale) in pursuit of better job opportunities and more favorable living standards. The population boom has resulted in an increase in population density in Malé, which is one of the most densely populated cities globally, with an area of just 5.8 square kilometers.

CHAPTER 3
POPULATION STRUCTURE

3. POPULATION STRUCTURE

A population pyramid is a graphical representation of the age and gender distribution of a population. It is a widely used and effective tool to present the age-sex composition of a population in a pictorial form. Its use provides a clear picture of the age-sex structure of the population and helps to analyze the population growth and changing demographics of a region. The Maldives' population pyramids for the years 2014 and 2022 are shown below, highlighting the changes in the population's age-sex distribution.
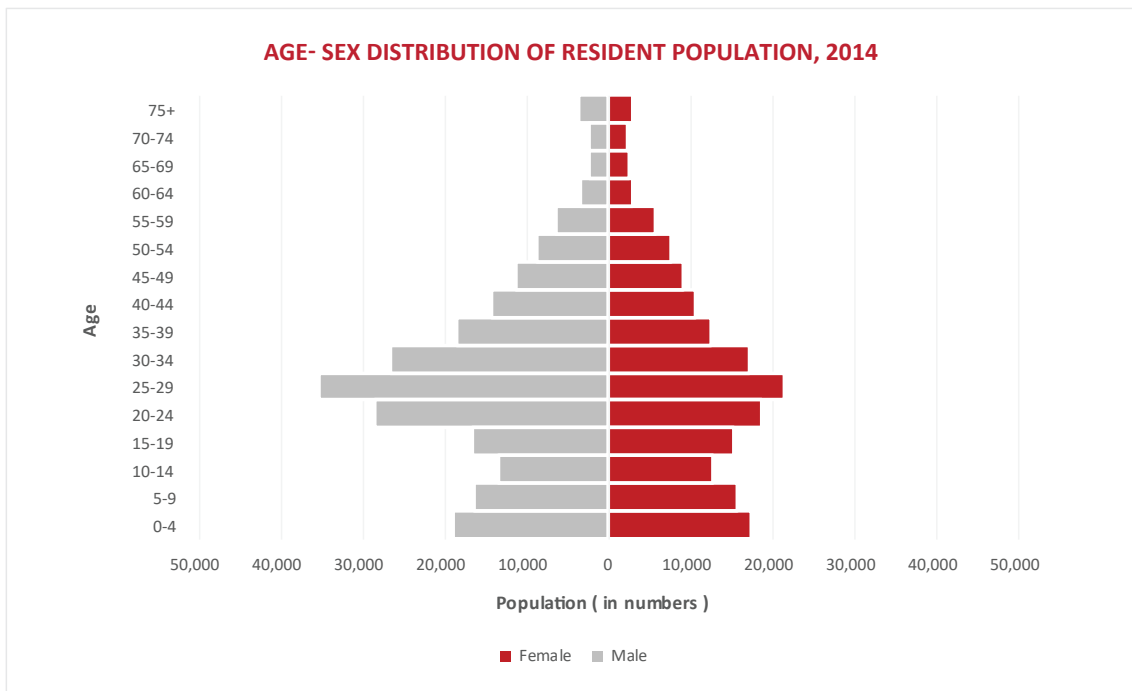
Figure 7: Age- sex distribution of Resident Population,2014

AGE- SEX DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDENT POPULATION, 2022
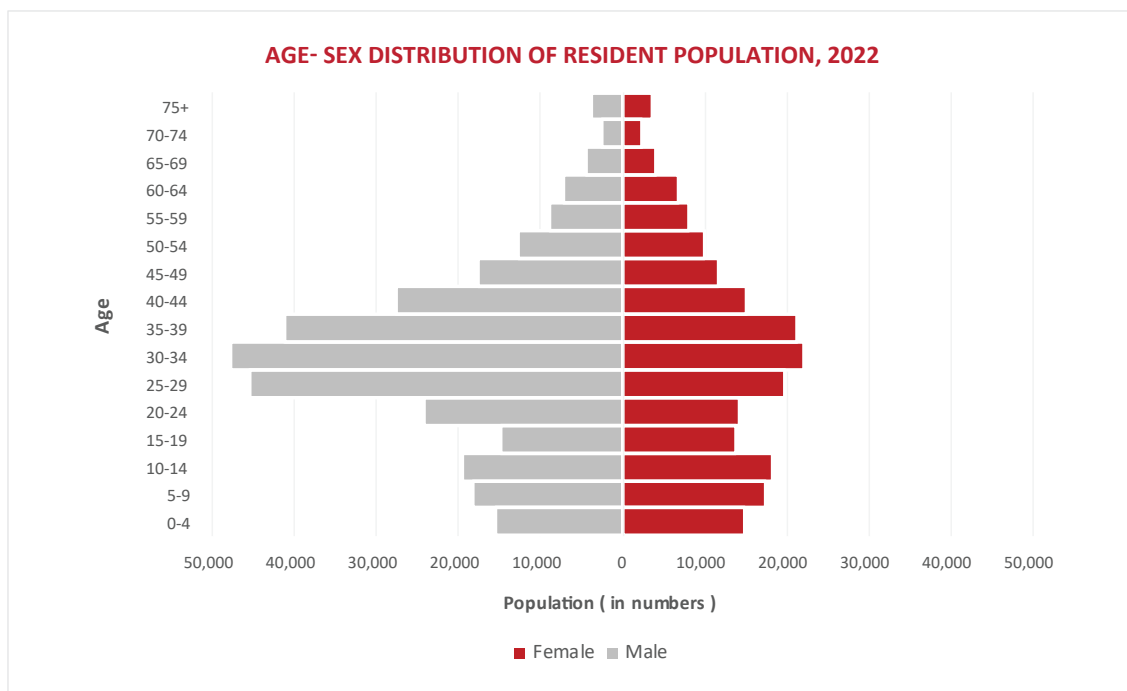
Figure 8: Age-sex distribution of Resident population,2022

The overall shape of the pyramid and the size of the bars depict the changes. The population pyramids of the Resident population for the years 2014 and 2022 are shown in figure 7 & 8. The general shape of the pyramid has changed significantly in 2022. The age and sex composition of the Maldives in 2022 continued to resemble that of a developing country with a broad base, a relatively large proportion of people in the adult age categories (below 30 years of age), and a relatively small proportion of people in the older age categories (above 60 years). When comparing figure 7 & 8 it can also be seen that the male population in the age groups 20-24 and 45-49 has seen a drastic change between 2014 and 2022. This could be due to the increase in the number of male foreign workers between the two censuses. The reasons for this change can be explored further.

Furthermore, the largest population is in the age group of 25-29 which is a total of 56706 people in 2014. This changed in 2022, where the largest population is in the age group of 30-34 with a total of 69862.

Photography by Shaari, UNFPA

CHAPTER 4
AGE DISTRIBUTION AND THE CHANGES IN SEX RATIO

4. AGE DISTRIBUTION AND THE CHANGES IN SEX RATIO

AGE GROUP	RESIDENT MALDIVIANS 2014				
	MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE	PERCENT	BOTH SEXES
0-4	15,433	51	14,886	49	30,319
5-9	18,318	51	17,467	49	35,785
10-14	19,608	52	18,201	48	37,809
15-19	14,898	52	13,789	48	28,687
20-24	24,215	63	14,271	37	38,486
25-29	45,522	70	19,820	30	65,342
30-34	47,753	68	22,109	32	69,862
35-39	41,296	66	21,186	34	62,482
40-44	27,645	65	15,006	35	42,651
45-49	17,555	60	11,618	40	29,173
50-54	12,797	56	9,984	44	22,781
55-59	8,940	53	7,988	47	16,928
60-64	7,261	52	6,716	48	13,977
65-69	4,406	52	4,014	48	8,420
70-74	2,455	51	2,391	49	4,846
75 OR OLDER	3,892	51	3,692	49	7,584

Table 8: Percentage Distribution of Resident Population by Age Group and Sex 2022

Age and sex composition is an essential parameter in determining the demographic situation of a country. Table 8 shows the distribution of the Resident population by Age and Sex. The Census reveals that there are more Males than Females in all the age groups.

RESIDENT POPULATION BY BROAD IN PERCENTAGE, 2014 AND 2022
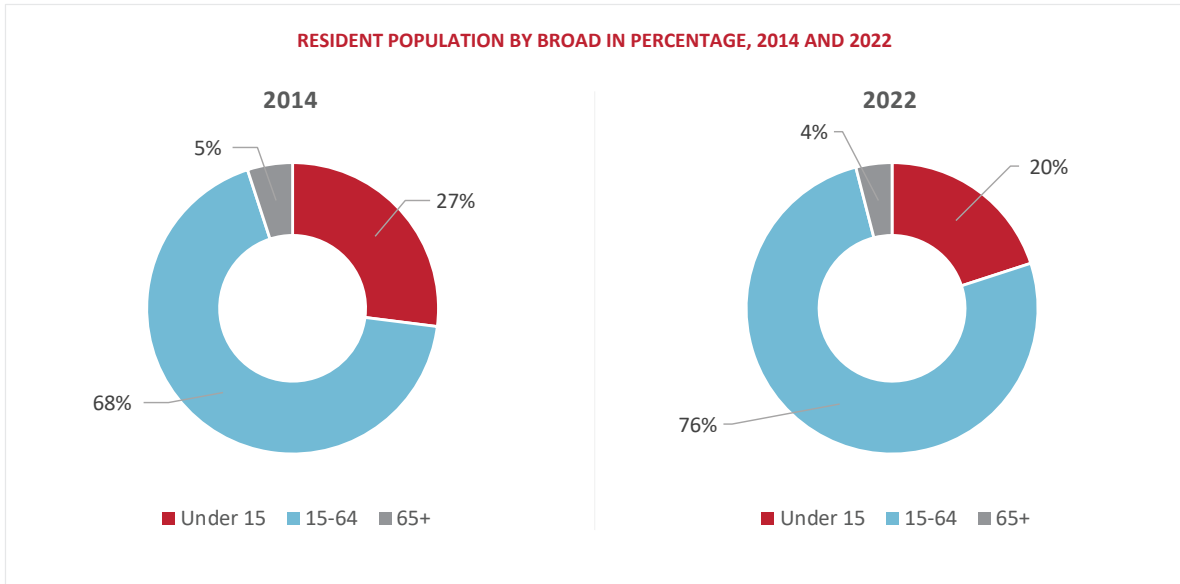
Figure 9: Resident Population by broad in percentage, 2014 and 2022

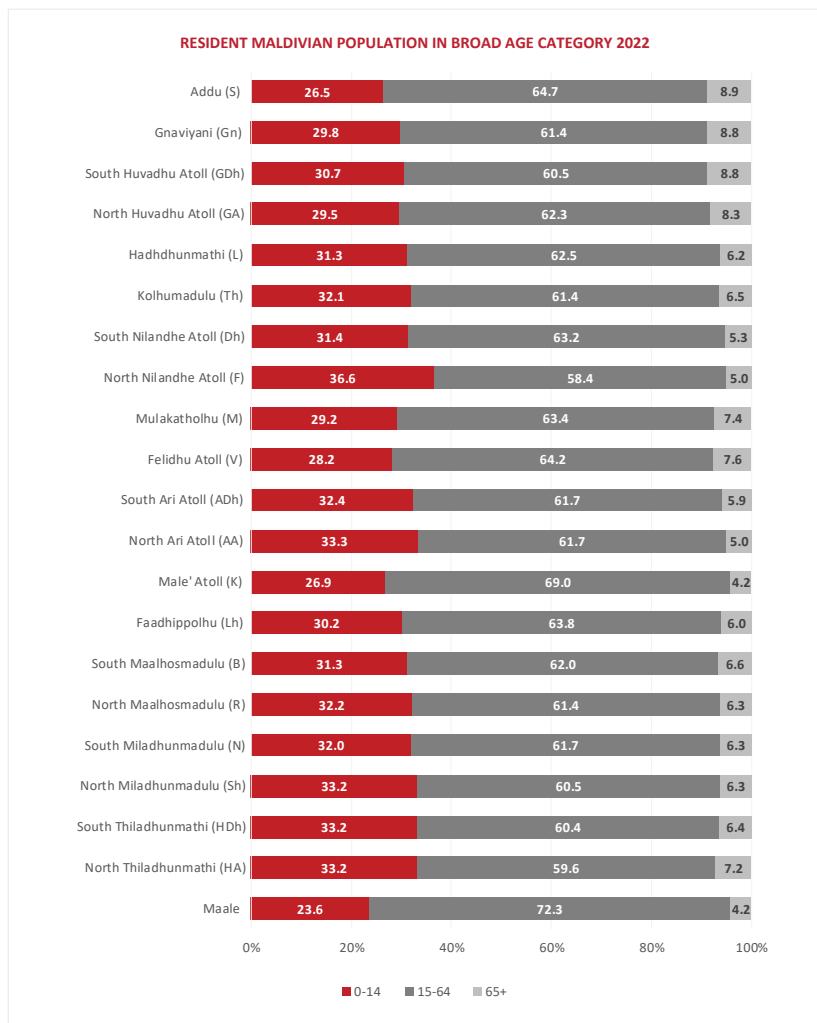## 4.1 Population under 15 years

It can be observed from the charts that the percentage of the under-15 population has decreased from 27 percent to 20 percent. There were 103,913 children in this age group, with 50,554 females and 53,359 males.

4.2 Population from 15 to 64 years

The age range group consisting of 50 single-year age categories is the largest and encompasses youth, young adults, and mature adults. This demographic contributes the most to the economic capacity of every nation. According to the 2022 census, the population aged between 15-64 years was 390,369, representing 76 percent of the total population. This figure marks an increase of 8 percent since the 2014 census when the working-age population was 228,619 and constituted 68 percent of the total population. The demographic cohort of 15-64 years is a crucial component of the workforce and the backbone of the economy of every nation.

4.3 Population above 65 years

Individuals aged 65 years or older accounted for 4% of the total population. Within this age group, the total number of individuals amounted to 20850, with males comprising 10,753 and females 10,097. In comparison, the total figure for this age group was 16,337 in 2014. The decline in numbers can be attributed to a reduction in mortality rates, which in turn can be traced to the availability of better health facilities and increased awareness among people about the significance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. numbers of males than females in each age group. In terms of the sex ratio for the country, there are 103 males for every 100 females.

RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION IN BROAD AGE CATEGORY 2022

Region	0-14	15-64	65+
Addu (S)	26.5	64.7	8.9
Gnaviyani (Gn)	29.8	61.4	8.8
South Huvadhu Atoll (GDh)	30.7	60.5	8.8
North Huvadhu Atoll (GA)	29.5	62.3	8.3
Hadhdhunmathi (L)	31.3	62.5	6.2
Kolhumadulu (Th)	32.1	61.4	6.5
South Nilandhe Atoll (Dh)	31.4	63.2	5.3
North Nilandhe Atoll (F)	36.6	58.4	5.0
Mulakatholhu (M)	29.2	63.4	7.4
Felidhu Atoll (V)	28.2	64.2	7.6
South Ari Atoll (ADh)	32.4	61.7	5.9
North Ari Atoll (AA)	33.3	61.7	5.0
Male' Atoll (K)	26.9	69.0	4.2
Faadhippolhu (Lh)	30.2	63.8	6.0
South Maalhosmadulu (B)	31.3	62.0	6.6
North Maalhosmadulu (R)	32.2	61.4	6.3
South Miladhunmadulu (N)	32.0	61.7	6.3
North Miladhunmadulu (Sh)	33.2	60.5	6.3
South Thiladhunmathi (HDh)	33.2	60.4	6.4
North Thiladhunmathi (HA)	33.2	59.6	7.2
Maale	23.6	72.3	4.2

Figure 10: Resident Maldivian Population in broad age category 2022

CHAPTER 5
SEX RATIO AND THE CHANGES IN SEX RATIO

5. SEX RATIO AND THE CHANGES IN SEX RATIO

The sex ratio is a valuable tool for summarizing the population balance between males and females. A sex ratio of 100 indicates gender balance, while ratios above 100 points to a larger number of males, and ratios below 100 indicate a larger number of females.

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	% MALES	% FEMALES	SEX RATIO
1911	39,244	32,993	54.33	45.67	119
1921	38,174	32,239	54.21	45.79	118
1931	43,235	36,046	54.53	45.47	120
1946	44.308	37,760	53.9	46.01	117
1953	41.666	35,617	63.91	46.09	117
1957	44,614	38,461	53.7	46.3	116
1958	46,888	40,694	53.54	46.46	115
1959	47,505	41,705	53.2	46.8	114
1960	49,640	42,607	53.81	46.19	117
1961	49,006	42,887	53.78	46.22	116
1962	49,454	43,290	53.32	46.68	114
1963	50,274	44,253	53.18	46.82	114
1964	50,276	43,684	63.51	46.49	115
1965	51,964	45,779	63.16	46.84	114
1966	53,938	46,945	53.47	46.53	115
1967	55,346	48,455	53.32	46.68	114
1968	56,983	49,996	53.27	46.73	114
1969	58,897	51,873	63.17	46.83	114
1970	60,975	53,494	53.27	46.73	114
1971	63,188	55,630	53.18	46.82	114
1972	649,024	57,749	52.92	47.08	112
1974	68.301	60,396	53.07	46.93	113
1977	75,224	67,608	52.67	47.33	111
1985	93,482	86,606	51.84	48.16	108
1990	109,336	103,879	51.2	48.72	106
1995	124,622	120,192	50.9	49.1	104
2000	137,200	132,901	50.8	49.2	103
2006	151,459	147,509	50.7	49.3	103
2014	171,962	166,472	50.8	49.2	103
2022	194,562	188,077	50.8	49.2	103

Table 9: Sex Ratio 1911- 2022

The sex ratio is determined by factors that influence population change, including natural increase and net migration. It is primarily the result of the interplay of sex differentials in mortality, sex-selective migration, the sex ratio at birth, and sometimes the sex differential in population enumeration. Changes in sex composition largely mirror the underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of society in various ways. Therefore, the sex ratio is a significant social indicator that measures the level of gender equity prevailing in a community at a given time. According to the 2022 census, Maldives had a sex ratio of 103 males per 100 females, indicating a surplus of males in the population.

The Maldives has encountered a persistent gender imbalance in its population, with males constituting a larger share than females. This can be attributed to the historical patterns of female mortality in the country. Furthermore, empirical research has shown that societies with lower median ages tend to exhibit higher sex ratios than those with more advanced age structures. In this context, the Maldives still harbors a predominantly youthful population, which could account for its skewed sex ratio. However, with the improvements in the Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR), life expectancy and the situation of women over time, the ratio of men to women is becoming balanced.

5.1 Sex Ratio by Atolls

According to the 2022 census conducted nationally, there were 103 males per 100 females. However, this ratio varied significantly across the different atolls in the country. The sex ratios among the atolls ranged from a low of 83 to a high of 225. Interestingly, the different atolls displayed distinctive patterns in their sex ratios, with variations observed in the central, southern, and northern atolls.

The atolls, Kaafu, AA, ADh, and Vaavu, exhibited an exceptionally large number of males over females. This phenomenon is primarily attributed to the nature of the labor markets and the youthful composition of the population in these regions. On the other hand, Hdh Atoll and Gn Atoll recorded the lowest sex ratio among all the atolls. The reasons for this remain unclear and require further investigation. Overall, the census data provides valuable insights into the demographic composition of the country and highlights the significant variations that exist among different regions.

It is worth noting that the sex ratio in Male' has seen a significant decline from 109 in 2000 to a low of 98 in 2022. This suggests that the recent migration to Male' from the atolls is not limited to men alone - an equal proportion of women are also relocating to the capital. The recent surge in Male' population also lends credence to the proposition that larger groups are migrating to the capital, and the availability of more housing units in Male' may have contributed to the draw of the city.

SEX RATIO BY ATOLLS, 2022
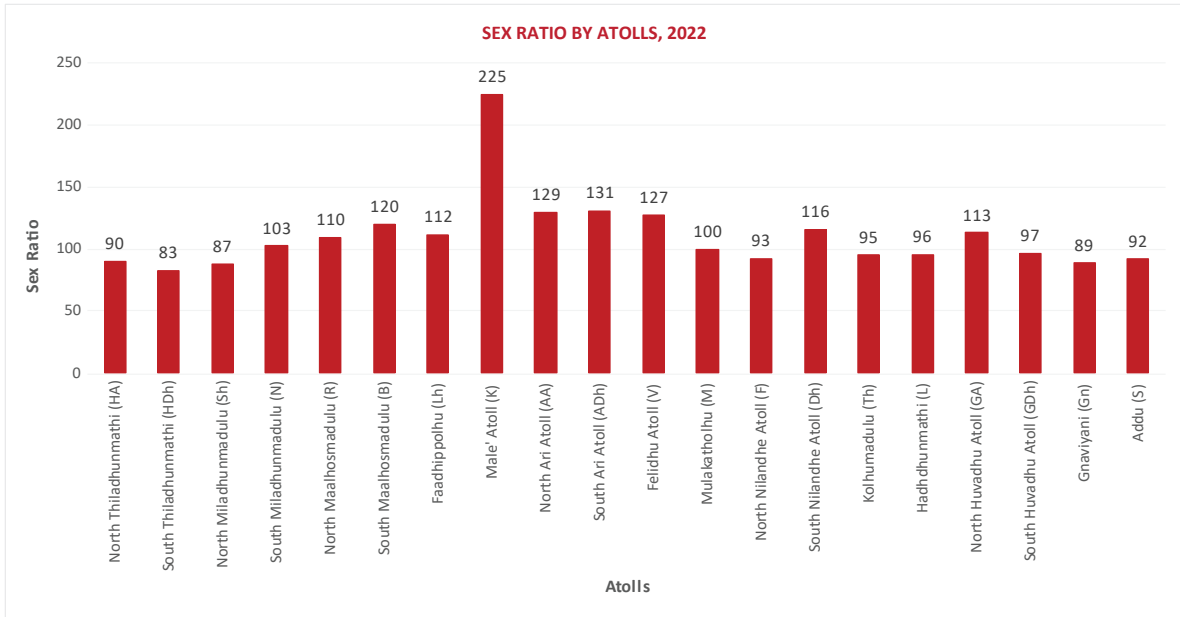
Note: for 2022 Resident Maldivian has been shown in this graph

Figure 11: Sex Ratio by atolls, 2022

5.2 Sex Ratio by Age Groups

The sex ratio in the Maldives by five-year age groups largely differs from the typical pattern, where older populations tend to have lower sex ratios than young populations. In general, from Figure 12 the ratio of the male population to the female population is higher in younger years between 0-4 and 20-24. From ages 20-24 to 35-39 there was a decrease in the ratio of males per 100 females. However, the excess of men over women increased with age owing to the cumulative effects of higher death rates of females over time.

At younger ages the Sex Ratio was in the range of 103-107, reflecting the fact that more boys than girls are born every year and that boys continue to outnumber girls through childhood and adolescence. In contrast to in the working age group the sex ratio is relatively low at barely 100 males per 100 females.
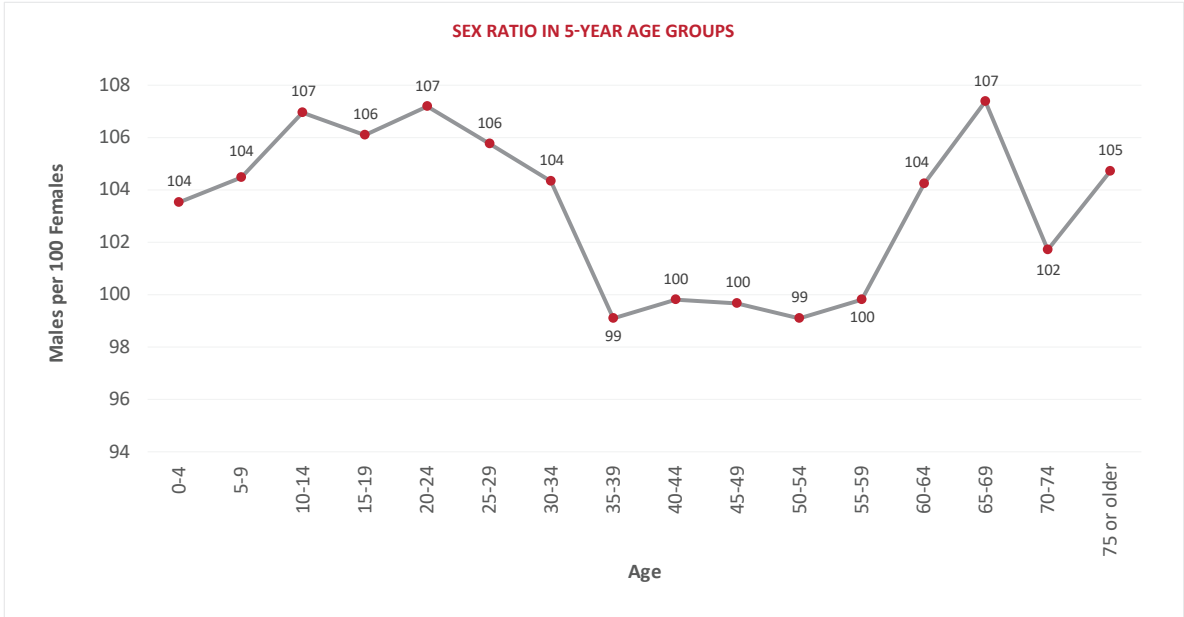
Note: for 2022 resident Maldivian has been shown in this graph

Figure 12: Sex ratio in 5-year age groups

Photography by Shaari, UNFPA

CHAPTER 6
MEDIAN AGE

6. MEDIAN AGE

The median age of a population is a commonly used measure to assess the age distribution of a population. It represents the age at which half of the population is younger and half is older. This measure is useful in determining whether a population is relatively young or old. For example, if the median age is below 20 years, it indicates that the population is predominantly composed of young individuals. Conversely, if the median age is 30 years or above, it suggests that the population is relatively old. By analyzing the median age of a population, we can gain insights into the potential demographic challenges and opportunities that may arise in the future

MEDIAN AGE OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION, 1990-2022
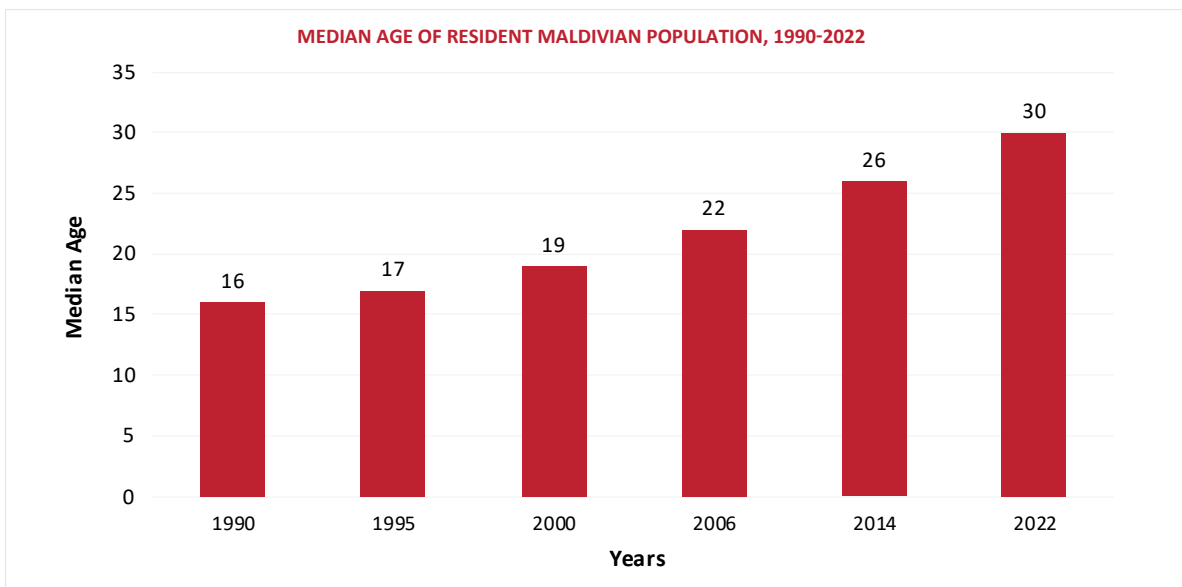
Figure 13: Median Age of Resident Maldivian Population, 1990-2022

Over the past three decades, the demographic makeup of the population has significantly shifted in terms of age distribution. According to the census records of 1990 and 2022, the median age of the population increased from 16 years to 30 years, indicating a substantial rise in the average age of individuals. It is noteworthy that the 2022 census possibly captured the maximum number of elderly people compared to previous censuses, as the increase in the median age was the most significant change in the century.

One of the primary reasons behind this demographic shift is the aging of the baby boomer generation - those born between 1980 and 1990. Over the last 30 years, this generation has transitioned from being below the median age to being mostly above it, with the majority now in the 30-34 age group. Additionally, the decrease in the number of births since 1990 has contributed to the record-low population growth in the 2000s and the corresponding increase in the median age.

Furthermore, the aging process has been reinforced by the increasing life expectancy of older individuals, which has improved over the past few years. However, this trend is expected to continue, and the population will continue to age in the future.

Photography by Shaari, UNFPA

CHAPTER 7
AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

7. AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

The age dependency ratio is a crucial indicator that measures the proportion of dependent individuals, such as children and elderly people, in the working-age population. This ratio is a significant factor in determining a country's ability to support the young and old. A high age dependency ratio suggests that a country has a greater number of children and elderly people, which puts a burden on the working-age population. In contrast, a low age dependency ratio indicates that a country has a smaller proportion of dependents and a larger proportion of people who are capable of working. This usually signifies a better chance for rapid socio-economic development.

YEAR	DEPENDENCY RATIOS (PER 100 PERSONS AGES 15-64)		
	TOTAL	CHILD	OLD
1995	98.4	92.3	6.1
2000	80.6	73.8	6.7
2006	56.9	49.4	7.5
2014	48.0	40.9	7.1
2022	46.8	39.0	7.9

Table 10: Age dependency ratios 1995-2022

According to demographic statistics from 2022, the total dependency ratio was 46.8. While the child dependency ratio decreased to 39 per hundred people aged 15-64 years, the old age dependency continued to rise to 7.9 per hundred persons in the same age group. The decline in the child dependency ratio can be attributed to the decrease in fertility rates and the movement of baby boomers into the workforce. Conversely, the rise in old age dependency reflects the aging population. Overall, the age dependency ratios experienced a gradual decline, with a significant drop in the total age dependency ratio between 2000 and 2022. This could be due to the large number of children who moved into the 15 and above age group during this period.

7.1 Age Dependency Ratio by Atolls

| ATOLLS | YEAR | DEPENDENCY RATIO | | | PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY 2014-2022 |
		DEPENDENCY RATIO	CHILD DEPENDENCY RATIO	AGED-DEPENDENCY RATIO	
MALE	2022	38	33	6	3.3
	2014	37	32	5	
ATOLLS	2022	54	44	10	-3.7
	2014	56	47	9	
NORTH THILADHUNMATHI (HA)	2022	68	56	12	3.5
	2014	65	55	11	
SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH)	2022	66	55	11	0.3
	2014	65	54	10	
NORTH MILADHUNMADULU (SH)	2022	65	55	10	1.5
	2014	64	58	10	
SOUTH MILADHUNMADULU (N)	2022	62	52	10	-8.0
	2014	67	53	10	
NORTH MAALHOSMADULU (R)	2022	63	52	10	-0.9
	2014	63	56	9	
SOUTH MAALHOSMADULU (B)	2022	61	50	11	-6.2
	2014	65	50	9	
FAADHIPPOLHU (LH)	2022	57	47	9	-4.0
	2014	59	48	10	
MALE' ATOLL (K)	2022	45	39	6	-22.6
	2014	58	42	6	
NORTH ARI ATOLL (AA)	2022	62	54	8	30.3
	2014	48	57	7	
SOUTH ARI ATOLL (ADH)	2022	62	53	10	-2.0
	2014	63	50	7	
FELIDHU ATOLL (V)	2022	56	44	12	-1.7
	2014	57	42	10	

		2022				
MULAKATHOLHU (M)	2022	58	46	12		
	2014	51	45	10		12.8
NORTH NILANDHE ATOLL (F)	2022	71	63	9		
	2014	55	61	8		29.2
SOUTH NILANDHE ATOLL (DH)	2022	58	50	8		
	2014	69	52	8		-15.4
KOLHUMADULU (TH)	2022	63	52	11		
	2014	60	53	10		4.7
HADHDHUNMATHI (L)	2022	60	50	10		
	2014	63	50	9		-4.1
NORTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GA)	2022	61	47	13		
	2014	59	51	11		2.7
SOUTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GDH)	2022	65	51	15		
	2014	62	54	13		4.7
GNAVIYANI (GN)	2022	63	49	14		
	2014	66	62	13		-5.2
ADDU (S)	2022	55	41	14		
	2014	75	47	13		-27.2

Table 11: Age Dependency Ratios by Atolls (Administrative Islands)

Overall dependency ratios in atolls show that the ratio is highest in South Thiladhumathi Atoll (Hdh) and it is the lowest in Male Atoll in 2022. However, when looking into the aged dependency ratio, it is the highest in South Huvadhu Atoll (Gdh), Gnaviyani Atoll (Gn), and Addu (S). According to Table 11, between 2014 and 2022, the highest increase in percentage change can be observed in South Ari Atoll (AA) while the highest decrease percentage can be seen in Addu Atoll (S).

CHAPTER 8
AGING POPULATION TRENDS

8. AGING POPULATION TRENDS

The Maldives is currently undergoing a significant demographic shift, characterized by a noticeable increase in the number of elderly citizens. This trend is not unique to the Maldives and is witnessed globally, influenced by various factors, including improved healthcare and medical advancements. Traditionally known for its youthful population, the Maldives is witnessing a considerable rise in the proportion of elderly citizens, leading to a shift in the country's age structure. This demographic shift is defined by an increase in the median age and a decrease in the youth dependency ratio. The aging population constitutes individuals aged 65 and above, and their numbers are constantly on the rise. As a result, the social structure and public policies of the Maldives are being influenced by this demographic shift, leading to important implications that require careful consideration and planning.

8.1 Factors Contributing to Population Aging

The demographic shift towards an aging population in the Maldives is primarily due to three factors. Firstly, the rise in life expectancy is a result of improved healthcare services, better nutrition, and higher overall living standards. Secondly, there has been a decline in birth rates, which can be attributed to changing family structures and the rising cost of child-rearing. Lastly, migration from atolls to the greater male region has led to an older population in atolls as younger individuals seek education and employment opportunities in the greater Maale region.

8.2 Implications for Healthcare, Social Services, and Pension System

The aging population is often associated with increased demand for healthcare services, as elderly individuals tend to require more medical attention. As such, it becomes imperative for the Maldivian government to invest in healthcare infrastructure, such as hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities, to cater to these growing demands.

Social services, such as home care, assisted living, and elder care centers, are crucial to the well-being and quality of life of elderly citizens. As the elderly population grows, it is increasingly necessary to expand and enhance these services to meet their needs. An aging population often strains pension systems, and it is incumbent upon the government to ensure that they are sustainable and adequately funded to provide financial security for retirees. Adjustments may be necessary to accommodate the increasing number of retirees.

The aging population may also lead to a shrinking workforce, which can have a negative impact on economic productivity. Measures such as encouraging older workers to remain in the labor force and supporting intergenerational partnerships can mitigate this impact. Changes in demographics can also influence social and family dynamics. Younger generations may need to take on caregiving responsibilities, which may impact their own careers and lifestyles.

The aging population trend in the Maldives presents both challenges and opportunities for the nation. While it places additional demands on healthcare, social services, and pension systems, it also signifies progress in healthcare and overall quality of life. The government and society must adapt to this demographic shift by implementing policies that support the elderly, encourage active aging, and ensure the sustainability of social safety nets. With the right strategies and investments, the Maldives can navigate the challenges of an aging population while embracing the potential contributions of its older citizens to society and the economy.

CHAPTER 9
AGE DATA ACCURACY

9. AGE DATA ACCURACY

Age is considered one of the most important demographic variables in census data. Nonetheless, it is often susceptible to errors and inconsistencies due to various challenges, including recall bias, preference for specific digits, and misreporting of the correct age. In addition to these issues, the failure to report age is another major challenge associated with age data. The quality of age reporting has a significant impact on the overall quality of census data, making it crucial to examine the accuracy of age data. One of the key methods of assessing the quality of census age-sex data is by analyzing summary age accuracy indices, such as age-sex ratios and age-sex accuracy indices like Whipple's Index.

In demographic studies, Whipple's index is a widely used measure for assessing age heaping. It identifies a tendency towards reporting ages ending in '0', '5', or both, which may indicate inaccuracies or biases in age reporting. The following table presents a comprehensive comparison of Whipple's indexes by sex.

	WHIPPLES INDEX				MAALE		ATOLLS	
	2000	2006	2014	2022	2014	2022	2014	2022
BOTH SEXES	106.9	103.8	99.6	103.0	99.3	103.4	99.8	101.5
MALE	109.5	104.9	100.8	105.0	99.7	104.0	101.6	101.6
FEMALE	104.3	102.7	98.3	101.0	98.9	102.8	97.9	101.3

Table 12: Whipple's Index 2000-2022

The UN recommended standard for measuring age heaping using Whipple's Index is if the figure is less than 105 the quality of data is Highly Accurate and this means that the deviation from perfect is less than 5%. Figure between 105 and 109.9 means that the data is fairly accurate and the deviation from perfect is between 5% and 9.99%, a figure of 110 to 124.9 means approximate where the deviation from perfect is between 10% and 24.99%, and figures above 125 means that the deviation from perfect is greater than 25% which is a very rough figure. According to Whipple's Index, the age data accuracy is highly accurate for the Maldives as the figure for Males stands at 105, females stand at 101, and the total for both sexes stands at 103 for the data of population and housing census of 2022.

CHAPTER 10
YOUTH BULGE PHENOMENON IN THE MALDIVES

10. YOUTH BULGE PHENOMENON IN THE MALDIVES

A youth bulge is a demographic phenomenon characterized by a disproportionately large population of young individuals within a given country or region. This trend is typically observed when the percentage of individuals aged between 15 and 29 significantly exceeds that of other age groups. The emergence of a youth bulge results from several factors, including declining mortality rates and increased life expectancy.

This demographic pattern has far-reaching implications for businesses and policymakers, as it can significantly impact economic growth, labor markets, and social stability. Understanding the drivers of a youth bulge and its potential consequences is therefore crucial for organizations seeking to operate in or engage with countries or regions experiencing this trend.

10.1 Explanation of the Youth Bulge Phenomenon

In recent years, the Maldives has seen a surge in its youth population, which is a common trend in many countries. One of the reasons for this is the reduction in mortality rates due to the advancements in medical services and healthcare facilities. As a result, more children are surviving into adolescence and adulthood, contributing to the population's overall well-being. Additionally, the life expectancy of the Maldivian people has increased thanks to advancements in healthcare and living standards. This has led to a larger number of young people transitioning into adulthood.

10.2 Implications of the Youth Bulge in the Maldives

The Maldives is currently grappling with the challenge of providing quality education and meaningful employment opportunities to its burgeoning youth population. It is vital to ensure that young people acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in a competitive job market, as this could unlock their full potential. To meet the needs of the expanding youth population, the government must invest in healthcare, housing, and social services, as adequate infrastructure, and support systems are crucial to ensuring the well-being of young people. Moreover, the youth bulge has the potential to lead to increased political engagement and demands for change. It is, therefore, essential for the government to engage with young people, listen to their concerns, and involve them in decision-making processes to promote social stability.

The youth bulge, referring to a demographic trend where a large proportion of a country's population is made up of young people, can bring about significant benefits if managed effectively. One of these benefits is the demographic dividend, which boosts a country's economic growth and development resulting from a young, well-educated, and skilled workforce. Investing in education and skills training for young people is a crucial step that a country can take to create a capable workforce that can drive economic progress. This can lead to increased productivity, innovation, and competitiveness, which in turn can create new industries and economic opportunities.

Furthermore, young people often bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to various sectors. Encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation can lead to the creation of new businesses, products, and services that can help to drive economic growth and development. The youth bulge can also contribute to cultural vibrancy and diversity. A young population can bring new energy and vitality to a country's social and artistic landscapes, creating new opportunities for cultural exchange and creativity. By supporting the arts and cultural sectors, a country can tap into the potential of its young population to enrich its cultural heritage and identity.

The youth bulge phenomenon in the Maldives represents a unique demographic challenge and opportunity for the nation. While it poses challenges related to education, employment, and social services, it also offers the potential for economic growth, innovation, and cultural enrichment. To harness this demographic dividend, the Maldivian government must adopt policies and initiatives that empower its young population, ensuring their active participation in the nation's development while addressing the challenges associated with their growing numbers. With the right strategies in place, the Maldives can navigate the youth bulge phenomenon successfully and pave the way for a brighter future for its youth and the entire nation.

11. CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Maldives had a population of just over half a million in the 2022 Census, with an average annual growth rate of 1.56 percent. The population growth of the Maldives is declining with each census. These characteristics reflect the narrowing gap between births and deaths. These traits mirror the decreasing difference in the number of births and deaths. Considering the closing birth-to-death ratio, population growth may eventually slow down significantly. The likelihood of decreased development is not assured, though. Modifications in reproductive trends could cause a sudden acceleration of population growth in the future.

The Maldives is facing significant challenges and responsibilities in addressing the ongoing and future demands created by its relatively young population in terms of health, education, and employment. While the large working-age population presents an opportunity for economic growth, it also poses challenges in terms of creating productive employment opportunities and reducing unemployment. The demographic characteristic of the Atolls and Male' also presents challenges due to social and economic reasons. The population growth, size, age structure, sex ratio, and the dependency ratio for the Atolls and Male' vary significantly, with the Atoll populations being much younger than the Male population and having larger proportions of older people. Additionally, the excess of females over males in the Atoll population is another salient feature that could create social problems.

The migration of people from the rural atolls to Male' has had a positive impact on the economy and the people themselves. However, accommodation of people in the already densely populated Male' is not possible and is bound to lead to a major catastrophe. Therefore, the development of regional urban centers within the Atolls is the only policy option for addressing the current problems and beyond. To integrate the population variables into social and economic planning, it is essential to acknowledge that the needs of the Male' and Atoll populations are different. Catering to these specific needs will remain a challenge unless the demographic imbalances between the Atolls and Male' are weighed out by creating equitable social and economic benefits among the populations. Urgency must permeate efforts to address challenges and opportunities presented by the population changes.
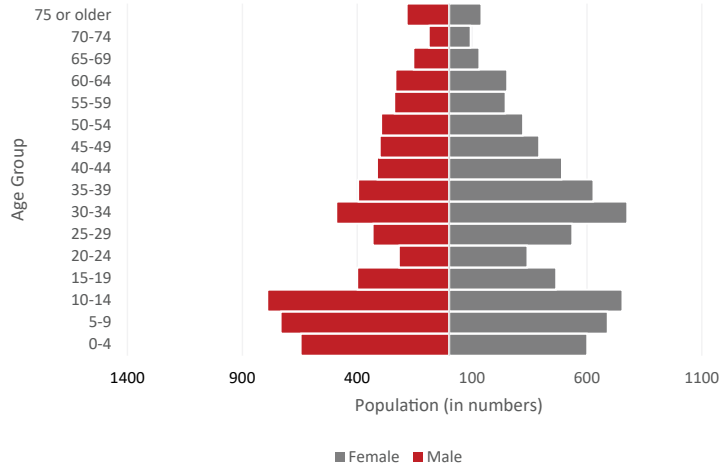
POPULATION PYRAMIDS BY ATOLLS 2022

POPULATION PYRAMIDS BY ATOLLS 2022

Note: Data for these pyramids is from the resident maldivian population

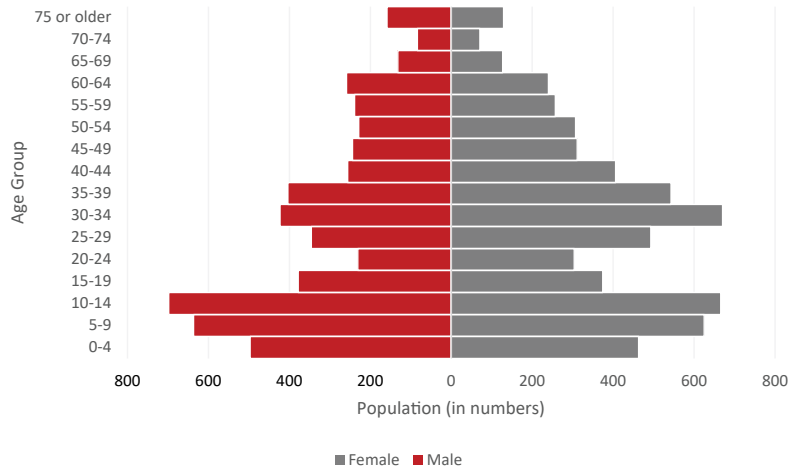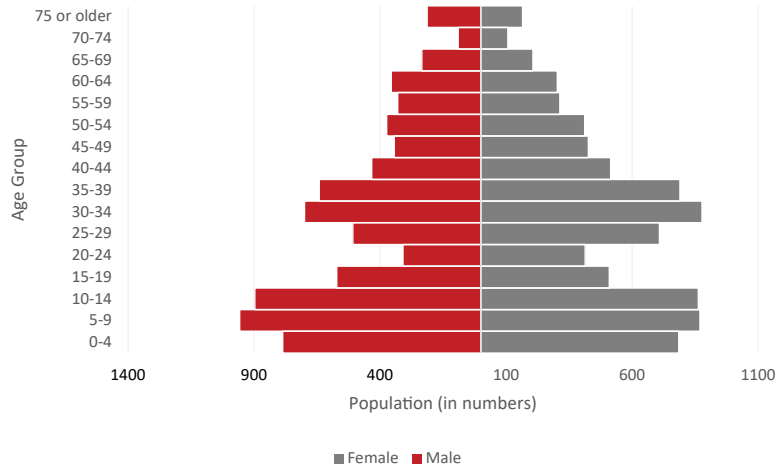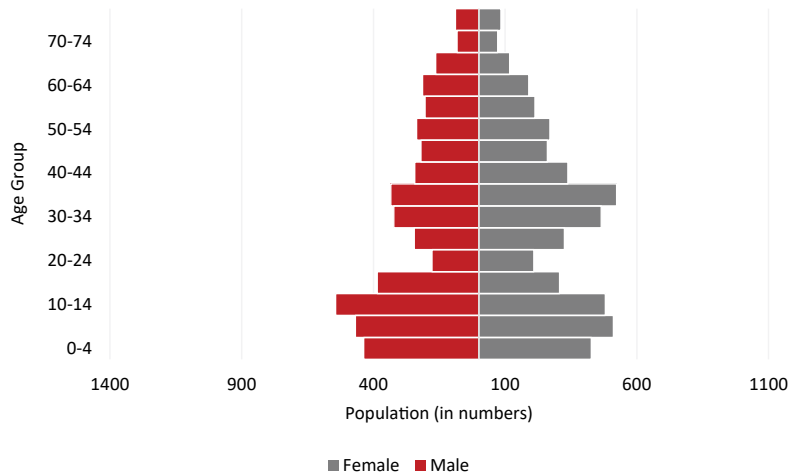

NORTH THILADHUNMATHI (HA) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

SOUTH THILADHUNMATHI (HDH) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID
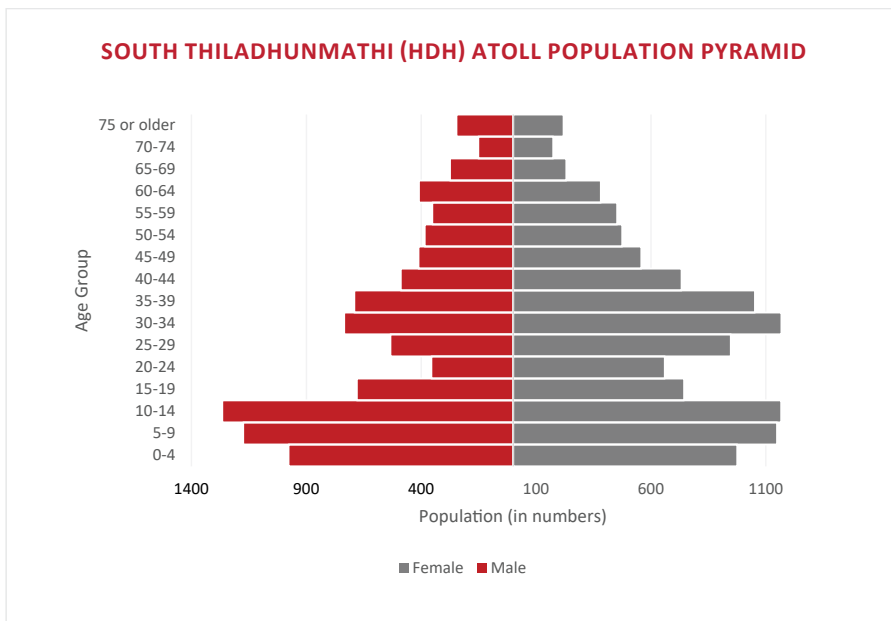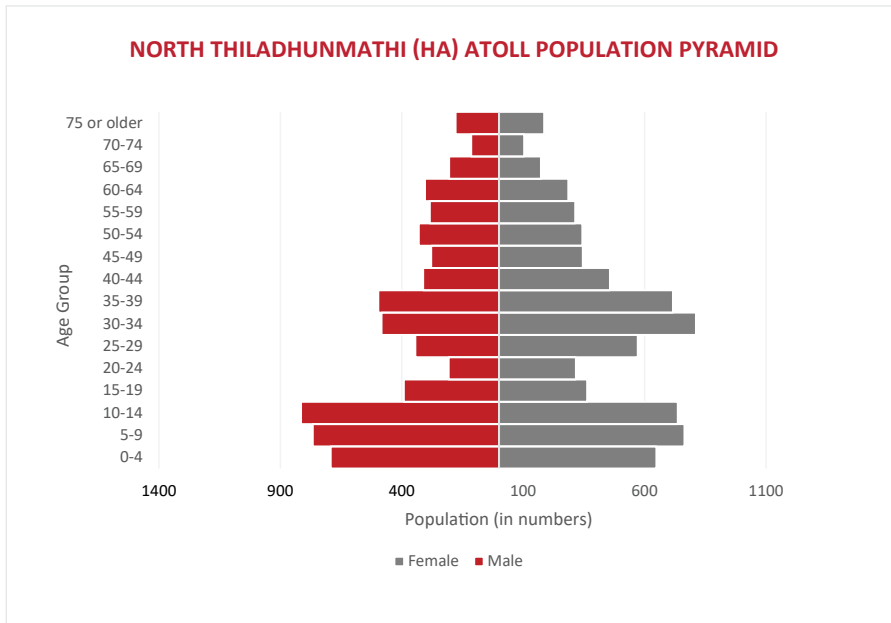
NORTH MILADHUNMADULU (SH) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Population (in numbers)

Age Group

■ Female ■ Male

SOUTH MILADHUNMADULU (N) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Population (in numbers)

Age Group

■ Female ■ Male

NORTH MAALHOSMADULU (R) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age groups: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75 or older

X-axis: Population (in numbers) — 1400, 900, 400, 100, 600, 1100

Legend: Female, Male

SOUTH MAALHOSMADULU (B) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age groups: 0-4, 10-14, 20-24, 30-34, 40-44, 50-54, 60-64, 70-74

X-axis: Population (in numbers) — 1400, 900, 400, 100, 600, 1100

Legend: Female, Male

FAADHIPPOLHU (LH) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age Group (y-axis): 70-74, 60-64, 50-54, 40-44, 30-34, 20-24, 10-14, 0-4

Population (in numbers) (x-axis): 1400, 900, 400, 100, 600, 1100

Legend: Female, Male
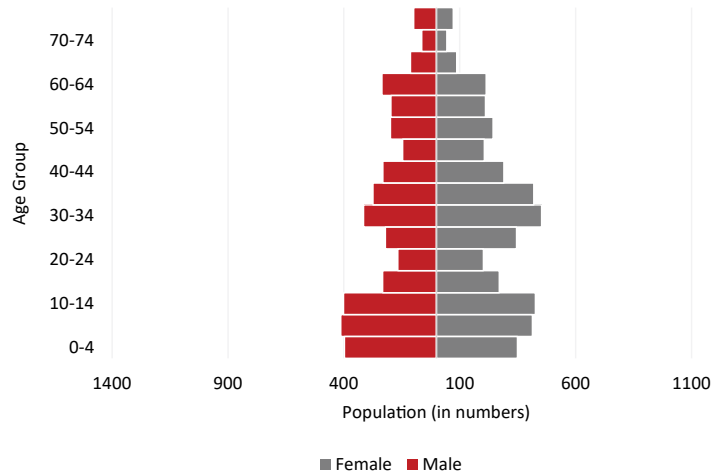
MALE' ATOLL (K) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age Group (y-axis): 70-74, 60-64, 50-54, 40-44, 30-34, 20-24, 10-14, 0-4

Population (in numbers) (x-axis): 1400, 900, 400, 100, 600, 1100

Legend: Female, Male
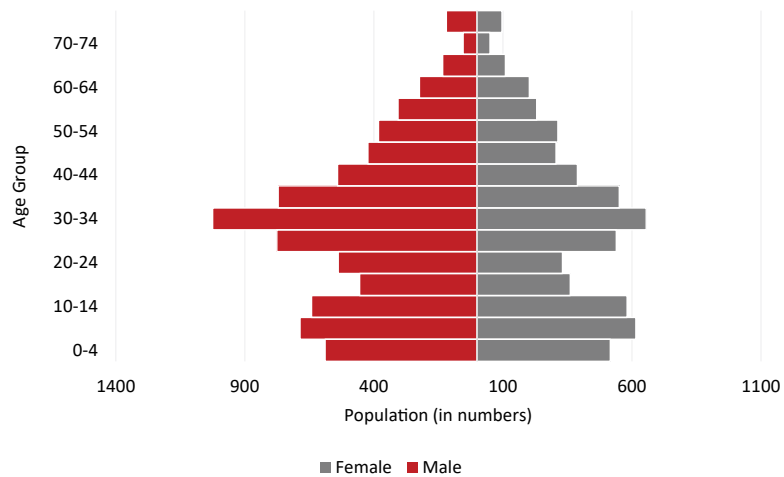
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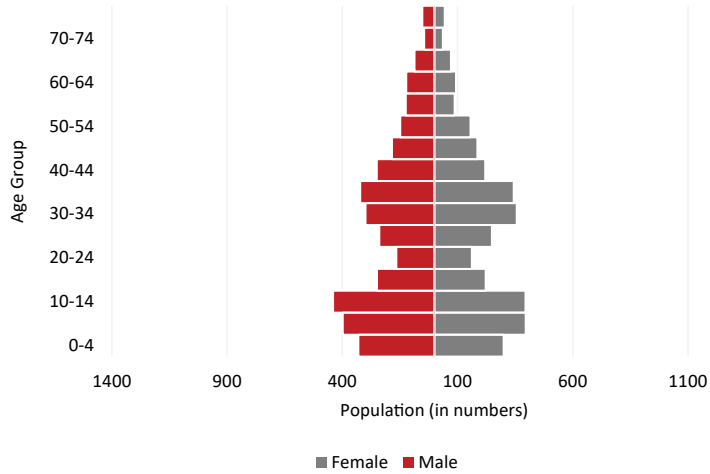
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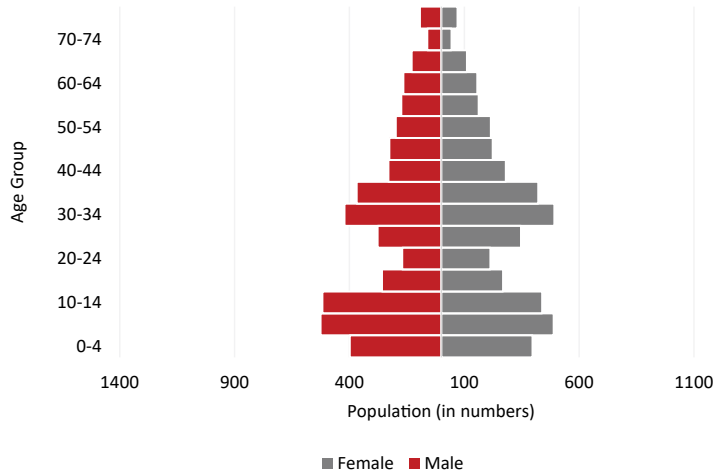
FELIDHU ATOLL (V) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID
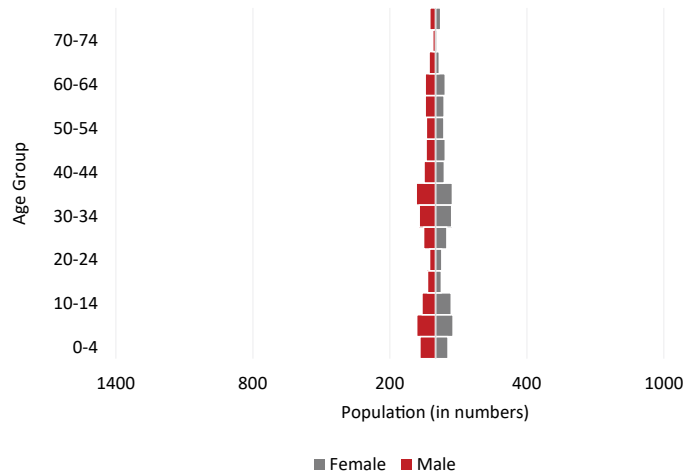
MULAKATHOLHU (M) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID
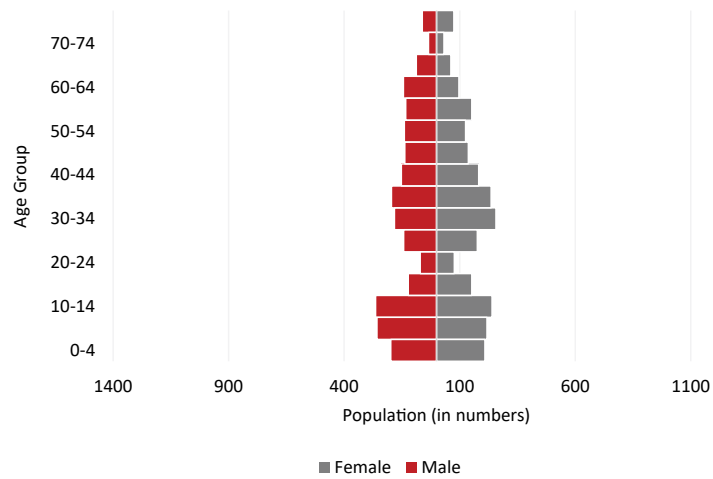
NORTH NILANDHE ATOLL (F) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID
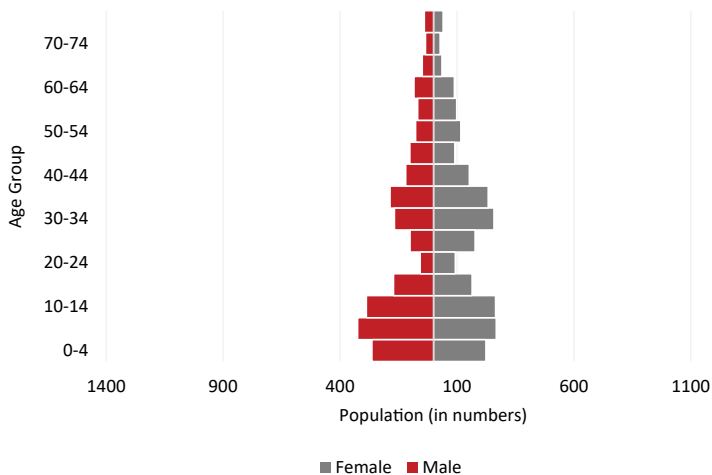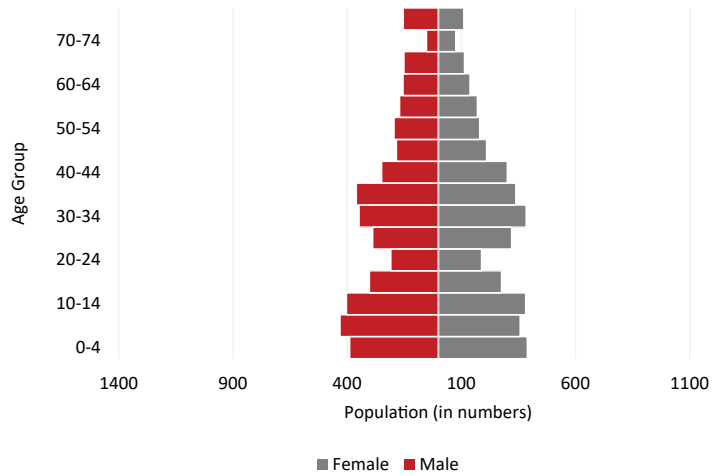

SOUTH NILANDHE ATOLL (DH) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID
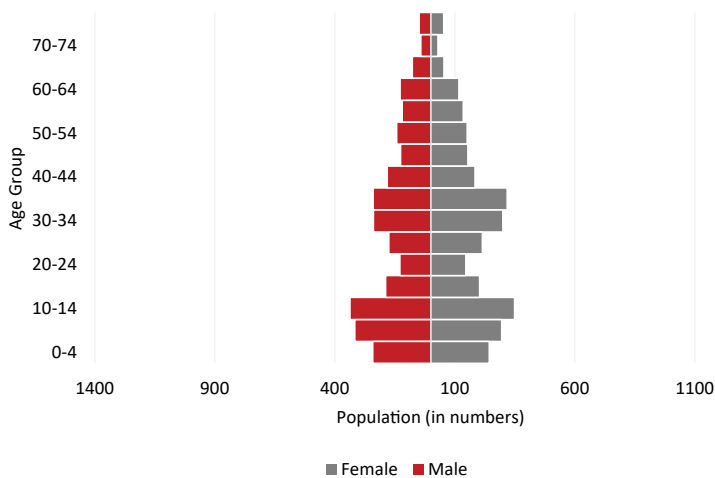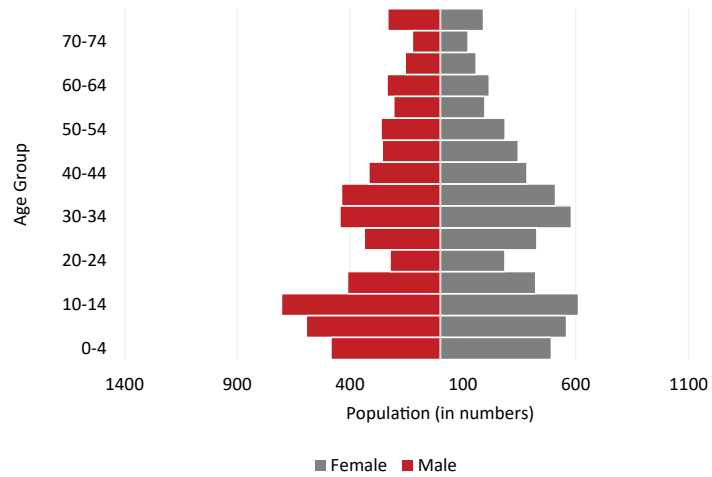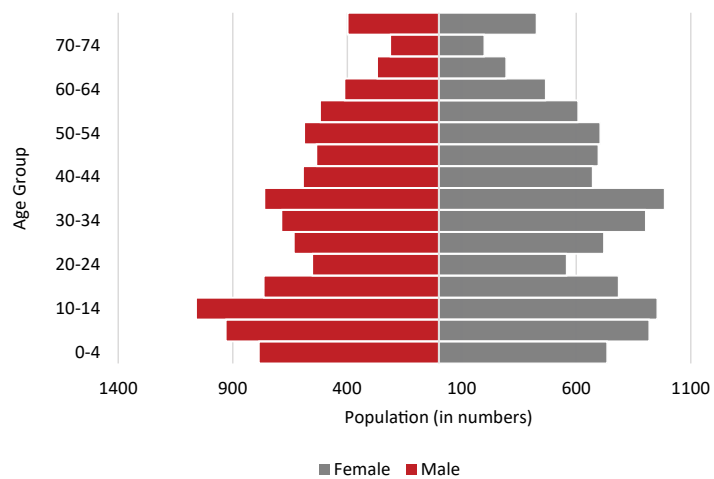
KOLHUMADULU (TH) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age Group / Population (in numbers)

■ Female ■ Male
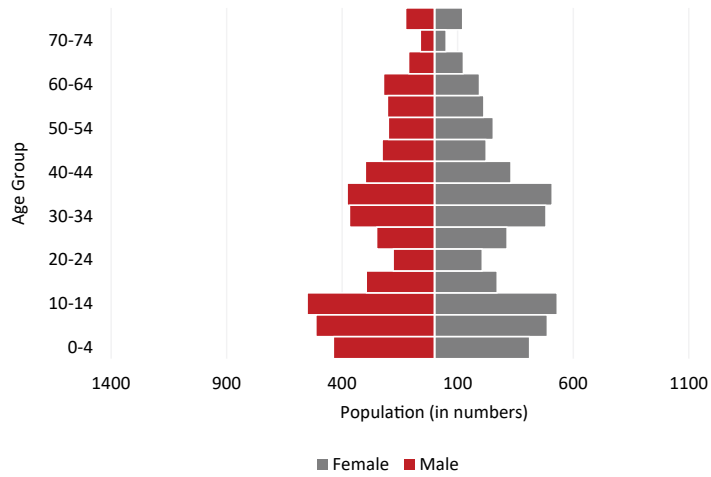
HADHDHUNMATHI (L) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age Group / Population (in numbers)

■ Female ■ Male
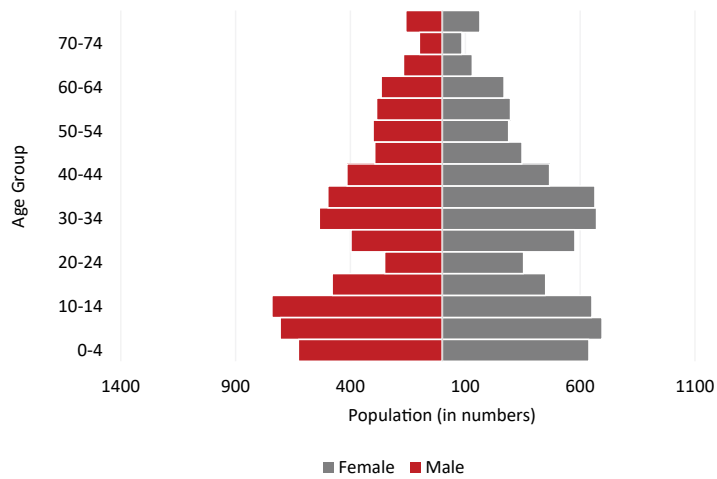
NORTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GA) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Population (in numbers)

Age Group

■ Female ■ Male

SOUTH HUVADHU ATOLL (GDH) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Population (in numbers)

Age Group

■ Female ■ Male

GNAVIYANI (GN) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age Group — Population (in numbers)

■ Female ■ Male
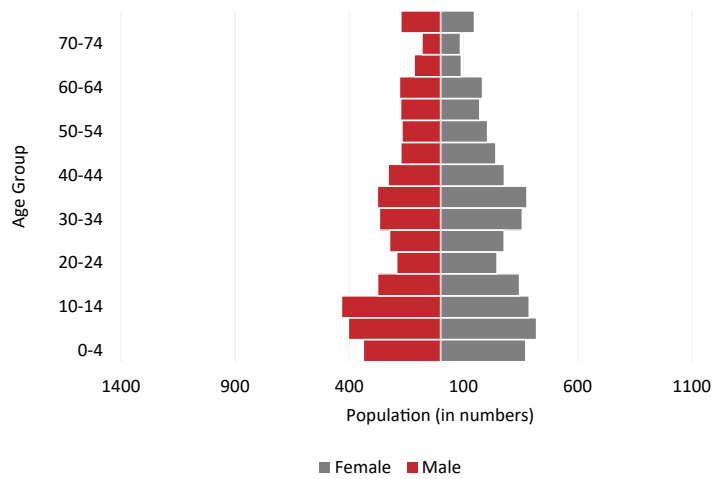
ADDU CITY (S) ATOLL POPULATION PYRAMID

Age Group — Population (in numbers)

■ Female ■ Male

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MALDIVES BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Ministry of Housing, Land & Urban Development,
Dharul Eman Building (7, 8, 9th Floor),
Majeedhee Magu,
Maafannu,
Male 20345,
Republic of Maldives

info@stats.gov.mv
http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv

statsmaldives

UNFPA Maldives Country Office

Shinetree Building,
3rd Floor,
Boduthakurufaanu Magu,
Maafannu,
Male' 20184,
Republic of Maldives

maldives.office@unfpa.org
http://maldives.unfpa.org

UNFPAMaldives