

Part of ...  
**CHAPTER 2**  
Our 2030 World

In a world where the POTUS and Mega Millions jackpots are larger than life and continually changing, being able to predict the immediate future seems preposterous. So, to be able to foresee how an entire industry and the professionals in it will progress over the next decade? Maybe pointless. Yet prognosticating about the imminent years ahead for the design and construction industry, may be the only best way to prepare for, experience, and positively influence the A/E's future.

Let's first look at the world—both the U.S. and globally—that architecture, engineering and environmental consulting professional will support with their work by the year 2030. The United States' diverse population is a globally connected minority population who live online. They shed their heavy laptop computers, tablets, and cell phones as their clothes and trendy accessories link them effortlessly and continuously to the Internet. And the data generated with incessant interaction (that they may or may not be aware of) will lead to intuitive supercomputers with algorithms that learn and anticipate your every need and want.

### **Demographics**

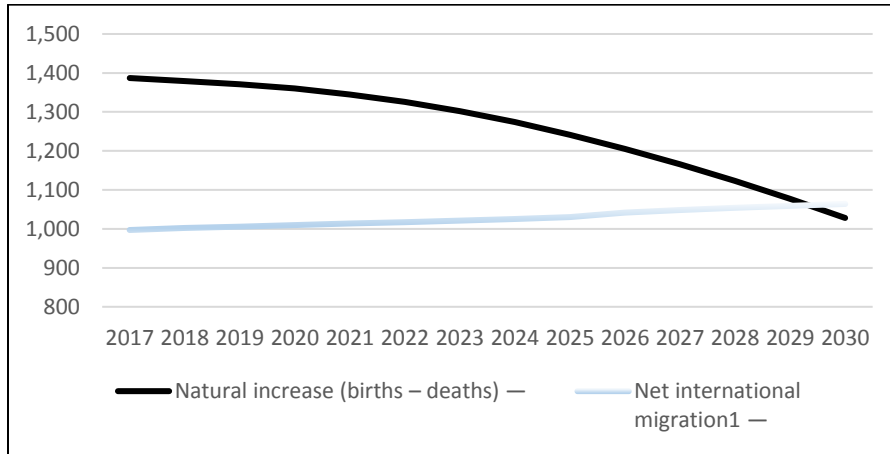
What can we expect in 2030 when it comes to population, age, and diversity? First, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs predicts the world population to reach 8.6 billion by 2030—a quick billion people added globally.

Today, India and China hold nearly 40 percent of the total world population. By 2024, India will surpass China as the world's largest population center. The UN also reports that the fastest population growth will be in the world's least developed countries (LDC). The combined population of the LDCs, roughly one billion in 2017, will increase by a third by 2030.

The U.S. will mark several milestones of its own by 2030. The U.S. Census Bureau says all baby boomers—accounting for about 20 percent of the population—will be over 65 by the end of the next decade. The aging of baby boomers means older people will outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history, says Jonathan Vespa, a demographer with the bureau. “By 2035, there will be 78.0 million people 65 years and older compared to 76.7 million under the age of 18.”

The U.S. population will also grow at a slower pace and by 2030 the primary driver of population growth in the U.S. will come from outside its borders. For the first time since the nation's founding, the net number of migrants to the U.S. will exceed the natural increase (domestic births minus deaths).

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### U.S. Population 2017-2030, Natural Increase vs. Net International Migration\*

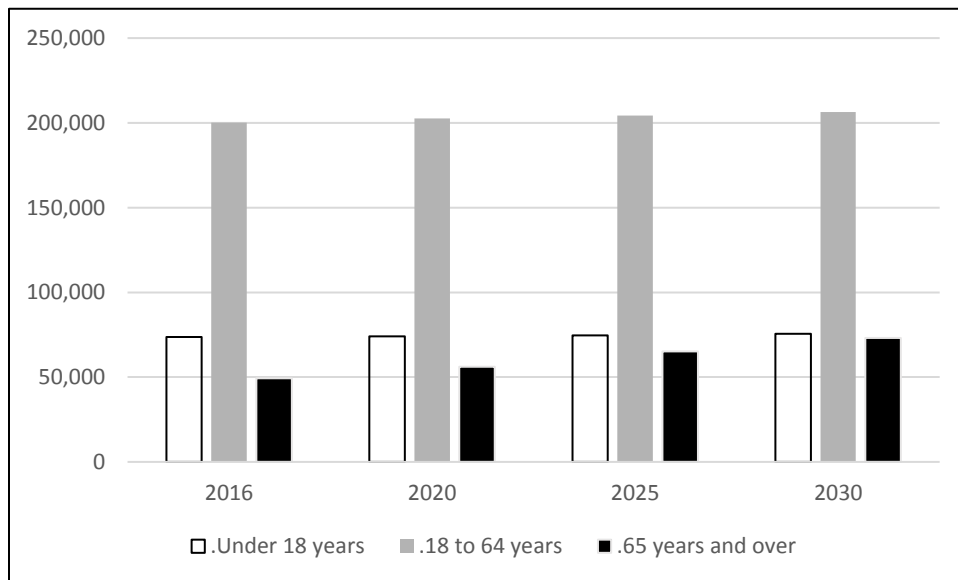
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\*Population numbers are in 1000s. Natural Increase = domestic births minus domestic deaths

Experts predict the number of births to be nearly four times larger than the level of net international migration in coming decades, but a rising number of deaths will increasingly offset how much births are able to contribute to population growth.

### U.S. Population 2016-2030, Ages Under 18, 18-64 & 65+\*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



\*Population numbers are in 1000s.

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The ongoing shifts in the racial composition of the country will continue and accelerate. Demographer William H. Frey, points out, “America reached an important milestone in 2011. That occurred when, for the first time in the history of the country, more minority babies than white babies were born in a year. Soon, most children will be racial minorities: Hispanics, blacks, Asians, and other nonwhite races.”

The Census Bureau’s data figures prominently in Frey’s thinking. It projects that the non-Hispanic White-alone population will shrink in the coming decades, from 199 million in 2020 to 179 million in 2060. Falling birth rates and a rising number of deaths among non-Hispanic Whites as that population ages drives the decline. In comparison, the population among whites who don’t identify as “non-Hispanic” will grow from about 253 million to 275 million over the same period. The multi-racial population will be the fastest growing over the next several decades, reports the Census Bureau. According to Frey, more than one in every seven marriages in the U.S. involves a multiracial couple.