

Allianz Pension Index Pillar I: Basic conditions

Aging hasn't stopped

Covid-19 caused millions of premature deaths and wiped out nearly a decade of life-expectancy gains. But the latest data show that life expectancy will return to its previous trend⁸, rising from a global average of 73.4 years in 2023 to 77.2 years in 2050.

In Africa, Latin America and Asia, the average life expectancy of a newborn might increase by around five years. Thus, by mid-century, it could already pass the 80-year threshold (80.6 years) in Latin America, and reach 79.5 years in Asia, i.e. the same level as in Europe today. For Africa, demographers expect an increase from 63.0

to 68.3 years, which would be just about what it was in North America in the 1950s. The development will probably be less dynamic in Europe and North America as well as in Australia and New Zealand, where the average life expectancy today is already markedly above global average. For Europe and North America, UN demographers expect an increase by around four years, which will make the average life expectancy at birth 84.0 years in 2050. In Australia and New Zealand, life expectancy is expected to rise by 3.4 years to 87.0 years (see Figure 2).

⁸ In fact, compared to the 2019 edition of its World Population prospects, the UN has adjusted its forecasts for Asia, Europe and Northern America slightly upward, from 78.2 years to 79.5 years, from 83.0 to 83.8 years and from 83.8 to 84.0 years, respectively. In contrast, the expectations for Africa were revised downward from 70.1 years to 68.3 years. See United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition and ibid (2022): World Population Prospects 2022, Online edition.