

Population Projections for the Republic of China (Taiwan): 2018-2065

Department of Human Resources Development
National Development Council

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Declining marriage and fertility rates

- Increasing education and job opportunities for women, together with changing family values, have led to increased prevalence of late marriage and delayed childbearing. This not only shortens a woman's reproductive timeline, but reduces the number of children born in Taiwan.

Year	Median age at first marriage of women (years)	Percentage of currently married women to total women (%)				
		Total	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-49
1977	23.3	59.9	23.0	85.6	93.4	89.8
1997	26.7	56.0	10.2	67.2	82.8	82.7
2015	29.7	42.8	2.4	38.7	65.5	68.8
2016	29.7	42.5	2.5	37.9	65.0	68.0
2017	29.6	42.3	2.5	36.6	64.5	67.1

Source: Ministry of the Interior, 2017 Demographic Fact Book R.O.C.

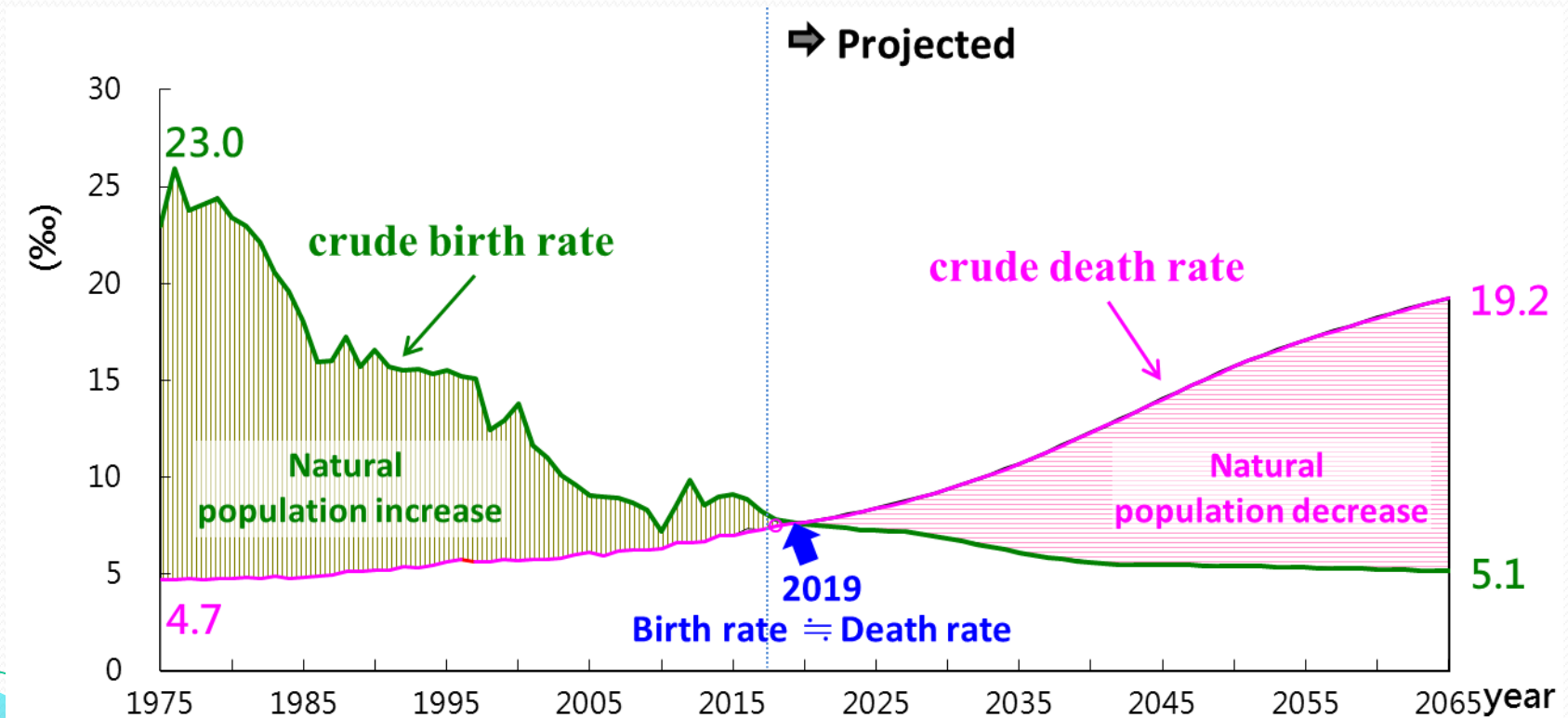
Year	Average age at birth of first child (years)	Peak period of women's childbearing age (years)	Total fertility rate (per female)	Percentage distribution of births by birth order (%)		
				1st born	2nd born	3rd born
1977	23.1	25~29	2.7	36.2	29.2	34.6
1997	26.4	25~29	1.8	43.3	37.1	19.6
2015	30.6	30~34	1.2	51.3	38.0	10.7
2016	30.7	30~34	1.2	50.9	37.8	11.3
2017	30.8	30~34	1.1	50.5	37.8	11.7

Source : As above.



Trends in the birth rate and death rate

- If population changes from international migration are not included, then after the curves of the crude birth rate and crude death rate intersect in 2019, the population will shift from natural increase to natural decrease.
- With net immigration of approximately 12,000-13,000 people, the change from positive to negative growth of the total population will be delayed.

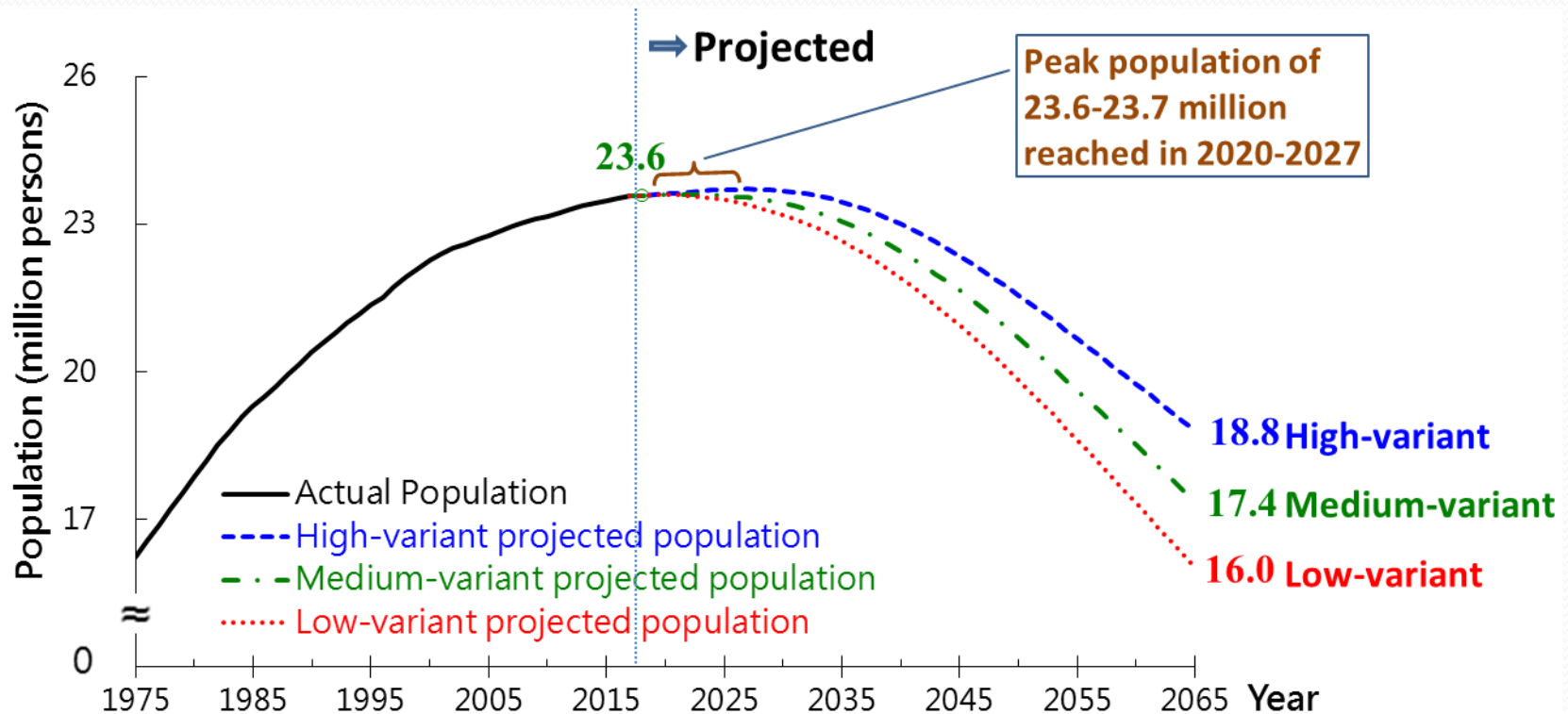


Note: This graph shows the results of medium-variant projections.



Trends in total population growth

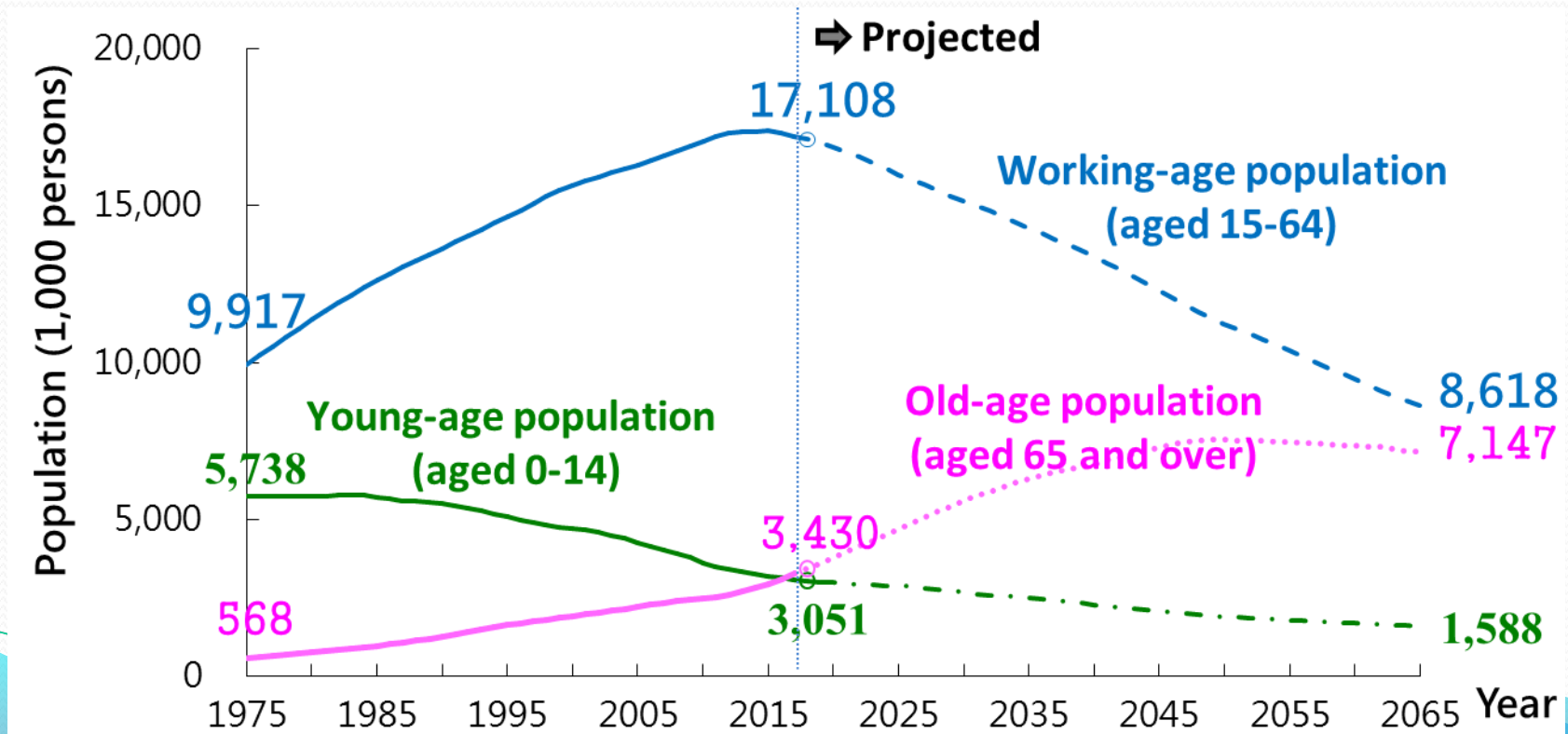
- Negative population growth will occur in 2020 at the earliest and in 2027 at the latest.
- The population will reach 23.6-23.7 million at its peak, representing growth of 11,000-125,000 over 2018.
- By 2065, the population will have fallen to approximately 16.0-18.8 million, approximately 67.9%-79.7% of the population in 2018.





Trends in population of broad age groups

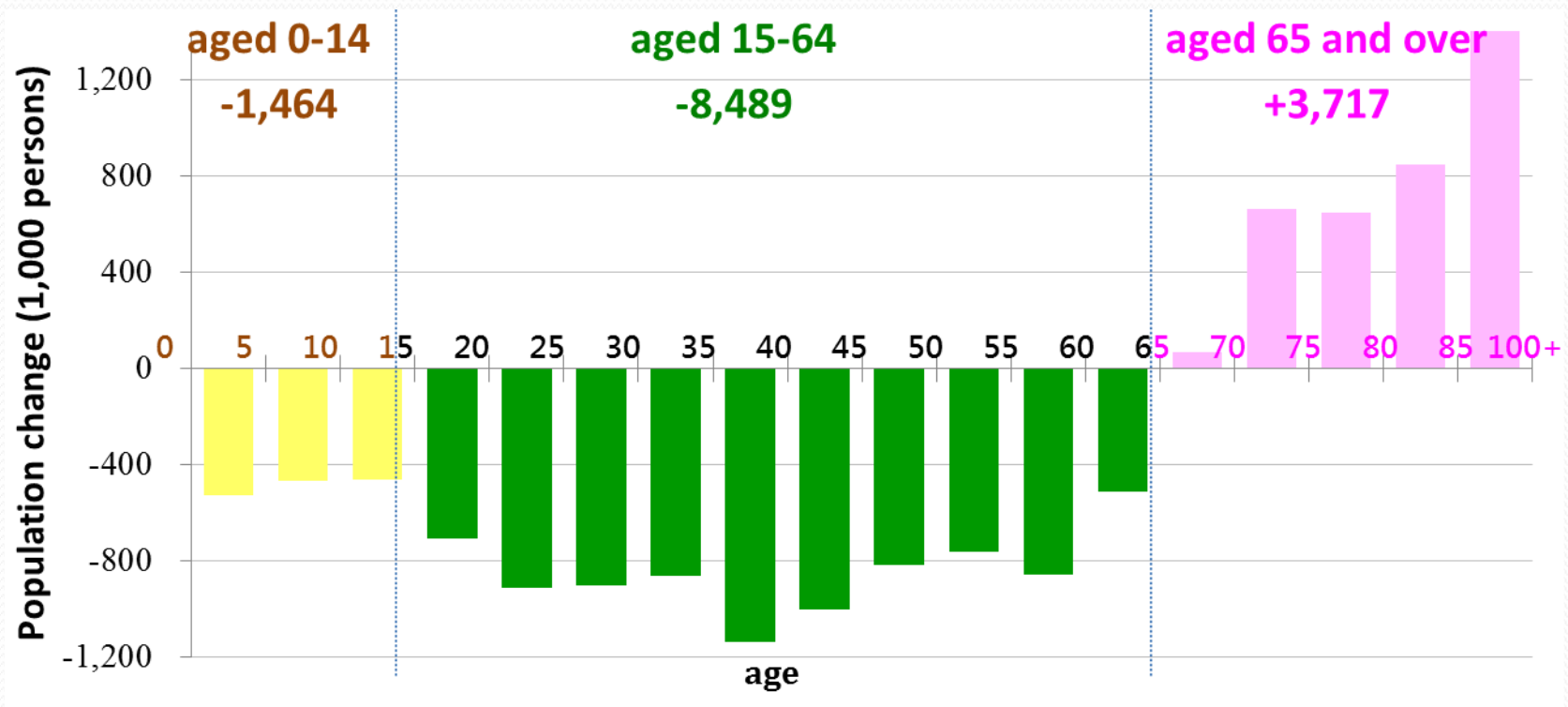
- The population aged 15-64 years peaked in 2015 and began to fall in 2016.
- The old-age population exceeded young-age population in 2017 and is continuing to rise.
- In comparison with 2018, the total population in 2065 will be reduced by 26.4%, with the population of children and those in their prime years falling by 48.0% and 49.6%, and the elderly population increasing by 108.4%.



Note: This graph shows the results of medium-variant projections.

Projected demographic change, 2018-2065

- By 2065, Taiwan's population will decrease by 6.2 million people.
- Within this decrease, the population aged 0-14 will fall by 1.5 million and the population aged 15-64 will fall by 8.5 million, while the population aged 65 and over will increase by 3.7 million.

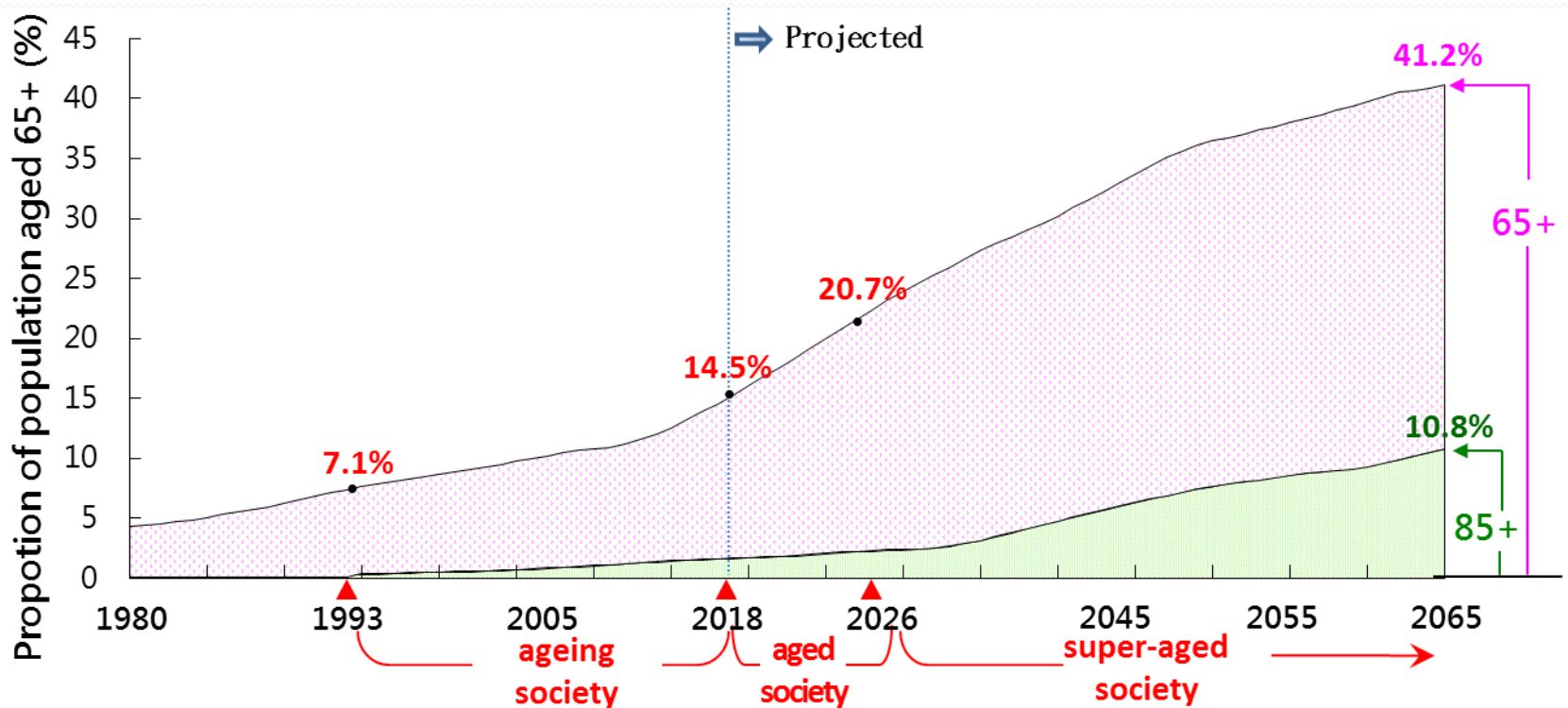


Note: This graph shows the results of medium-variant projections.



Speed of population aging

- Societies in which those aged 65 years and older account for **7%**, **14%**, and **20%** are referred to internationally as **aging societies**, **aged societies**, and **super-aged societies** respectively.
- Taiwan became an aging society in **1993**, has become an aged society in **2018**, and is projected to become a super-aged society in **2026**.

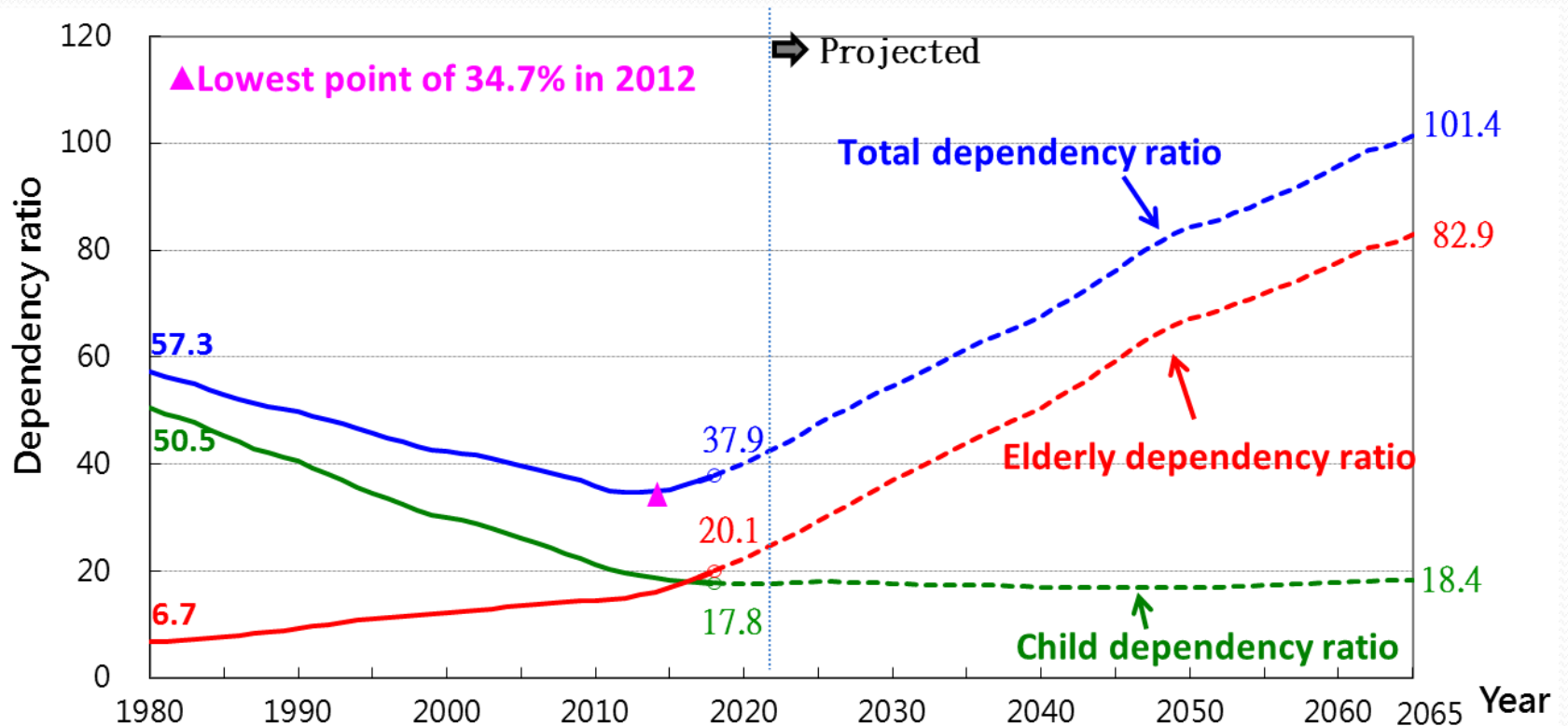


Note: This graph shows the results of medium-variant projections.



Trends in the dependency ratios

- In 2018, every 100 working-age population need to support approximately 38 dependents. With the rapid growth of the elderly population, that number of dependents will increase to 101.4 by 2065.



Note: This graph shows the results of medium-variant projections.



Fewer young people to support the elderly

- The total dependent population that every 100 working-age people need to support is approximately **38 people in 2018**. With the rapid growth of the elderly population, this figure will increase to approximately **101 people by 2065**.
- In 2018, there are approximately **5.0 people** in their prime to support one elderly person; by 2065, the number will have fallen to **1.2 people** in their prime to support one elderly person

1985

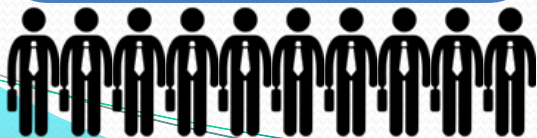


Dependency ratio

53.0

Potential support ratio

12.9



2018



Dependency ratio

37.9

Potential support ratio

5.0



2065



Dependency ratio

101.4

Potential support ratio

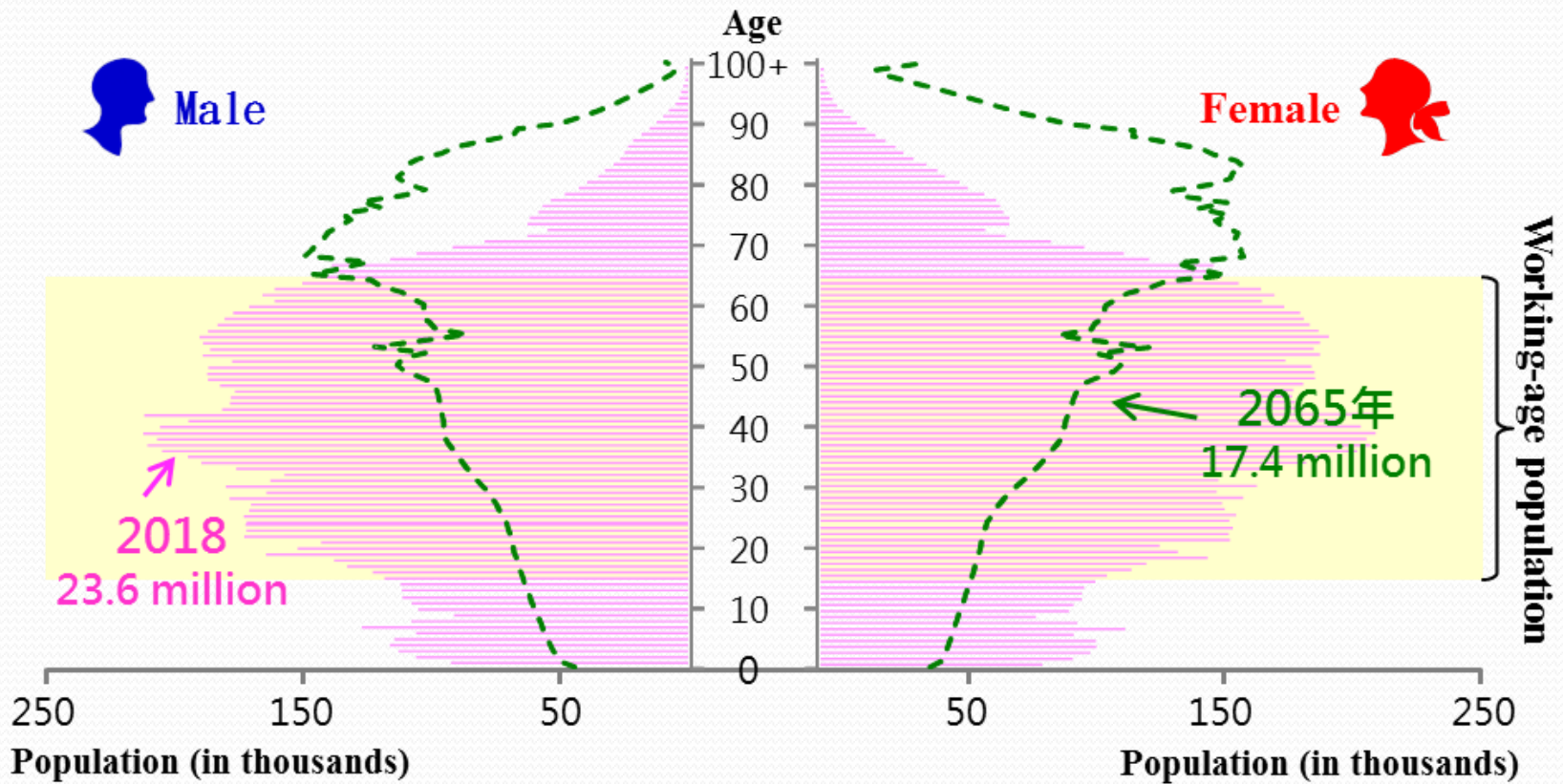
1.2





Population pyramid

- The **2018** population pyramid is **lantern-shaped**, being small at the upper and lower ends and large in the middle, indicating a plentiful labor supply.
- The **2065** population pyramid takes the **shape of an inverted bell**, being wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, indicating a heavier burden on society.

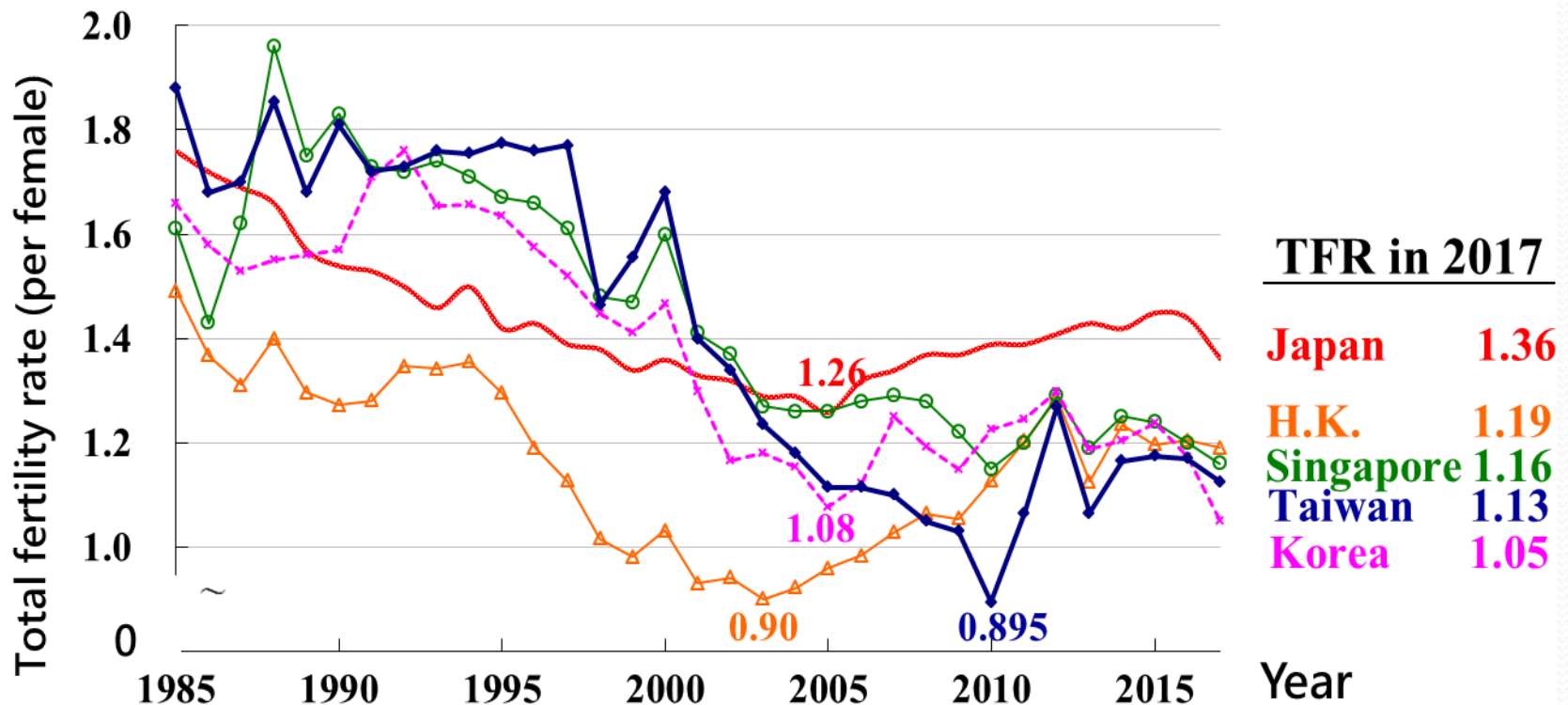


Note: This graph shows the results of medium-variant projections.



Trends in total fertility rates

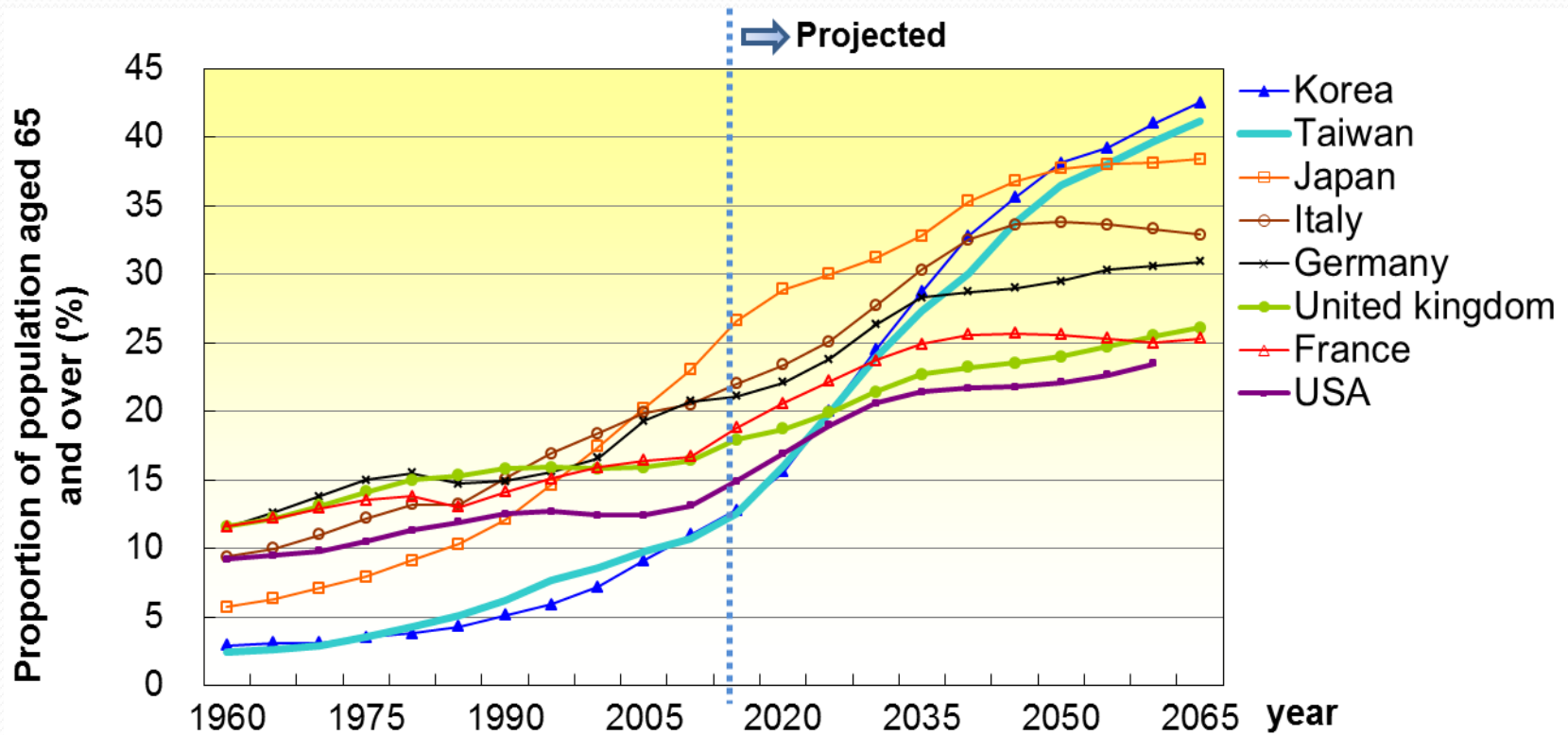
- The fertility rates of Japan, Korea and Hong Kong showed an upturn in the first decade of this century, but have fallen again in recent years.
- In 2017, Taiwan's total fertility rate fell to 1.13 births per woman, which is just higher than Korea and lower than the other countries in this graph.



Sources: Republic of China: *Statistical Yearbook of Interior*; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: National Statistical Office; Singapore: Singapore Department of Statistics; Hong Kong: Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Proportion of population aged 65 and over

- From 1960 to 2015, the proportion of the elderly in Taiwan was similar to that of Korea, and lower than the other countries in the graph.
- In 2065, the proportion of the elderly in Taiwan, Japan and Korea will be higher than the other countries in the graph.

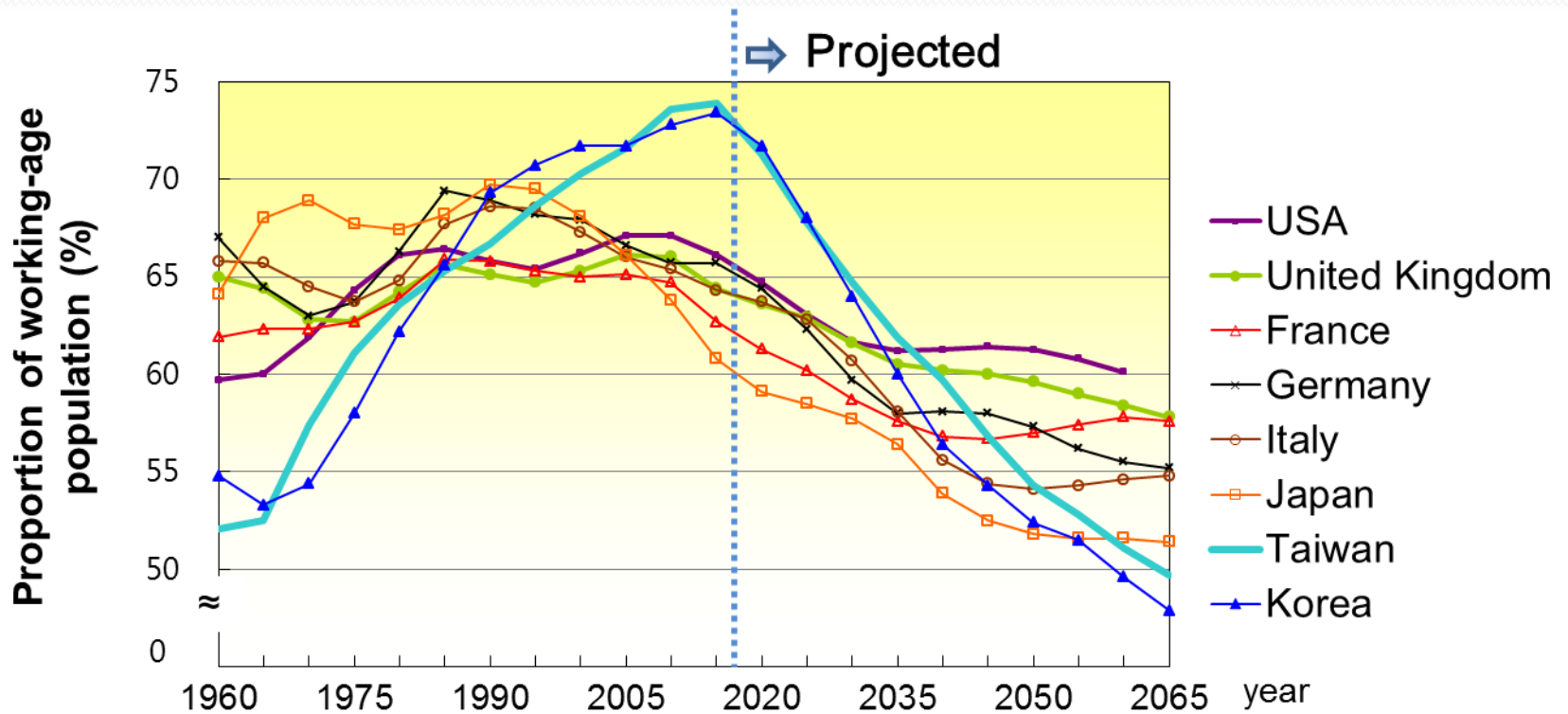


Sources: Republic of China: this report; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: National Statistical Office; United States: US Census Bureau; United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy: Eurostat.



Proportion of working-age population

- Compared with other countries, the proportion of population aged 15-64 years is still at its peak in Taiwan and Korea.
- In the future, the proportion of working-age population in Taiwan will fall drastically. It will be among the lowest around 2045, and along with Japan and Korea will be the lowest of all in 2065.

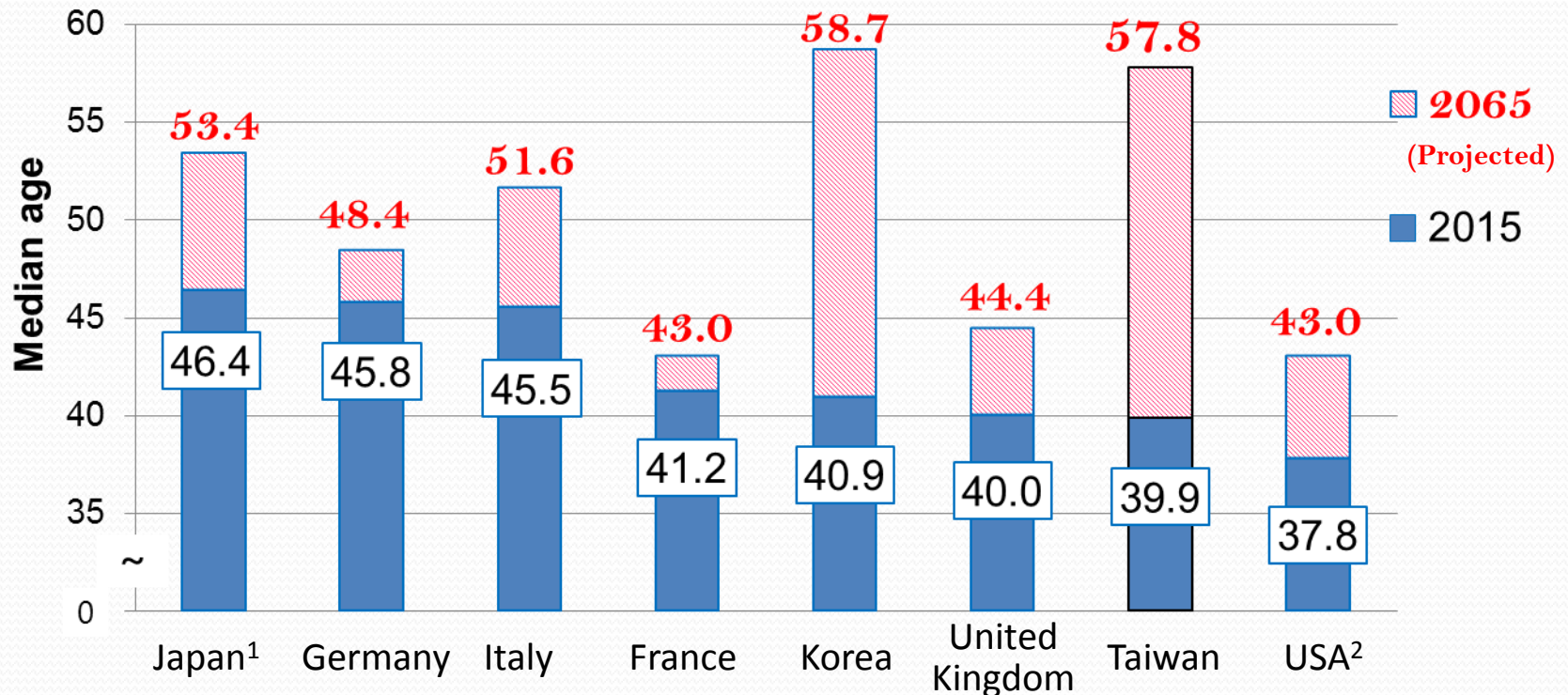


Sources: Republic of China: this report; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: National Statistical Office; United States: US Census Bureau; United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy: Eurostat.



Median age of population

- In 2015, the median age of the population of Taiwan was 39.9 years old, ranking seventh among the countries depicted in the graph.
- In 2065, the median age of the population of Taiwan will be 57.8 years old, higher than all in the graph except Korea.



Sources: Republic of China: this report; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: National Statistical Office; United States: US Census Bureau; United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy: Eurostat.

Note: 1. The data for Japan is average age.

2. The date of the projection for the USA is 2060.



Policy Implications

Raising the birth rate

- ☞ **Enhancing the childbearing and child-rearing environment, to make people more willing to have children.**
- Executive Yuan approval of 2018-2022 program of measures for responding to the low birthrate, aiming for a fertility rate of 1.4 in 2030.

Raising labor productivity

- ☞ **Catering to future industry needs, promoting economic development, and upgrading and transforming industry.**
- Promoting the 5 + 2 Industrial Innovation Plan, the Industrial Innovation & Transformation Fund, the Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, and the in-the-planning New Economic Immigration Bill, etc.

Society friendly to older people

- ☞ **In view of the speed of Taiwan's population aging, creating a society that is friendly to older people is a task that brooks no delay.**
- Ministry of Labor drafting Act for Employment of Middle-aged and Older People, to help them secure employment.

Other related policies

- ☞ **Industrial, financial, land-use, social, medical care, retirement, housing, pluralistic social development, and other relevant policies need to be planned to match demographic change.**
- Implementing Long-Term Care Plan 2.0