



Population Projections for the Republic of China (Taiwan): 2024-2070



National Development Council

October 2024



Agenda

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Taiwan's Population Status

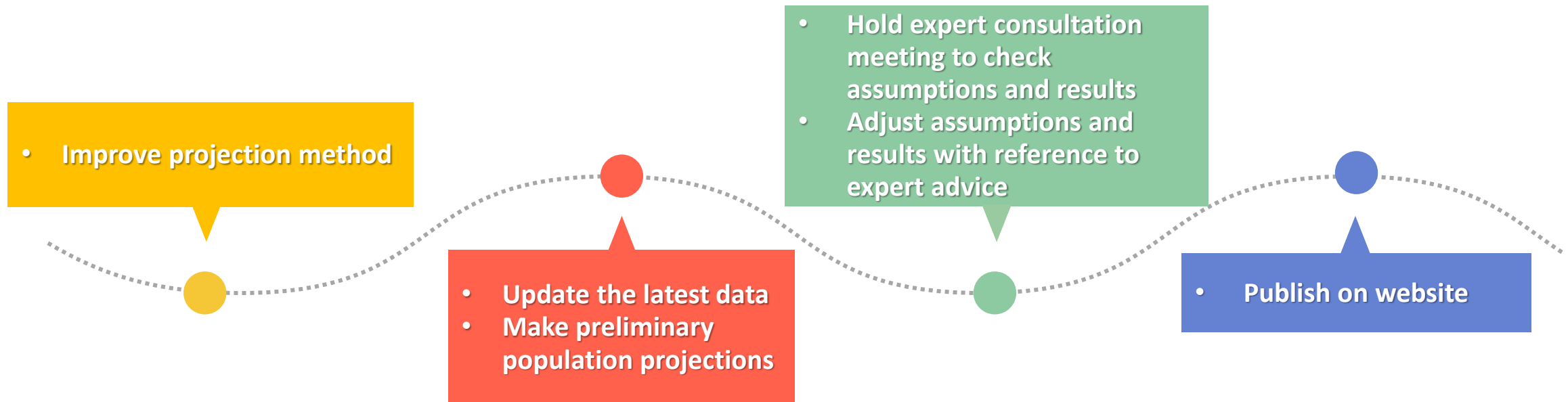
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Preface

Population is a foundational element of nation-building, and changes in population size and age structure are key factors in national development. To help policymakers understand future demographic trends in Taiwan and formulate concrete strategies in advance, the National Development Council (NDC) prepares long-range population projections biennially.



Note: More information on website: <https://pop-proj.ndc.gov.tw/>



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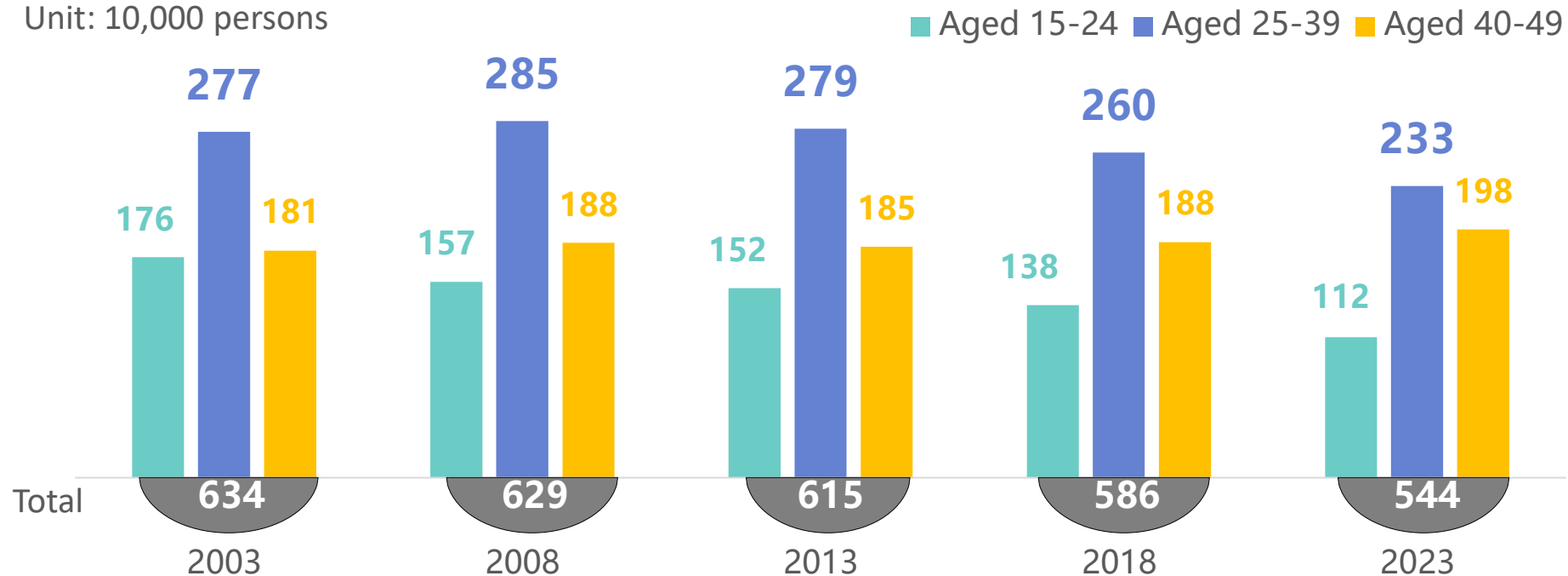
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Decline in Women of Childbearing Age

- The number of women aged 15 to 49 in Taiwan peaked in 2000 and has declined each subsequent year.
- The number of women aged 25 to 39, representing the prime childbearing years, is also decreasing.

The population of women of childbearing age

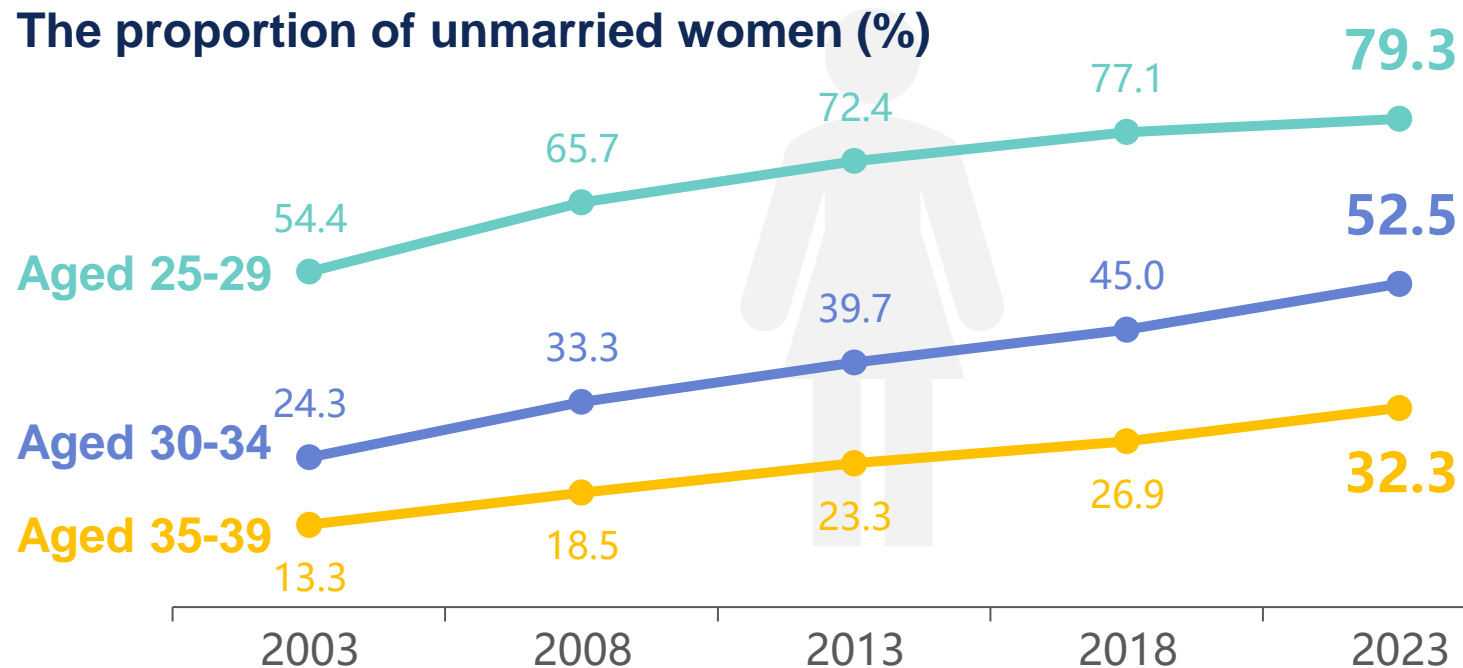
Unit: 10,000 persons



Source: Ministry of the Interior

Low Birth Rate (1/3)

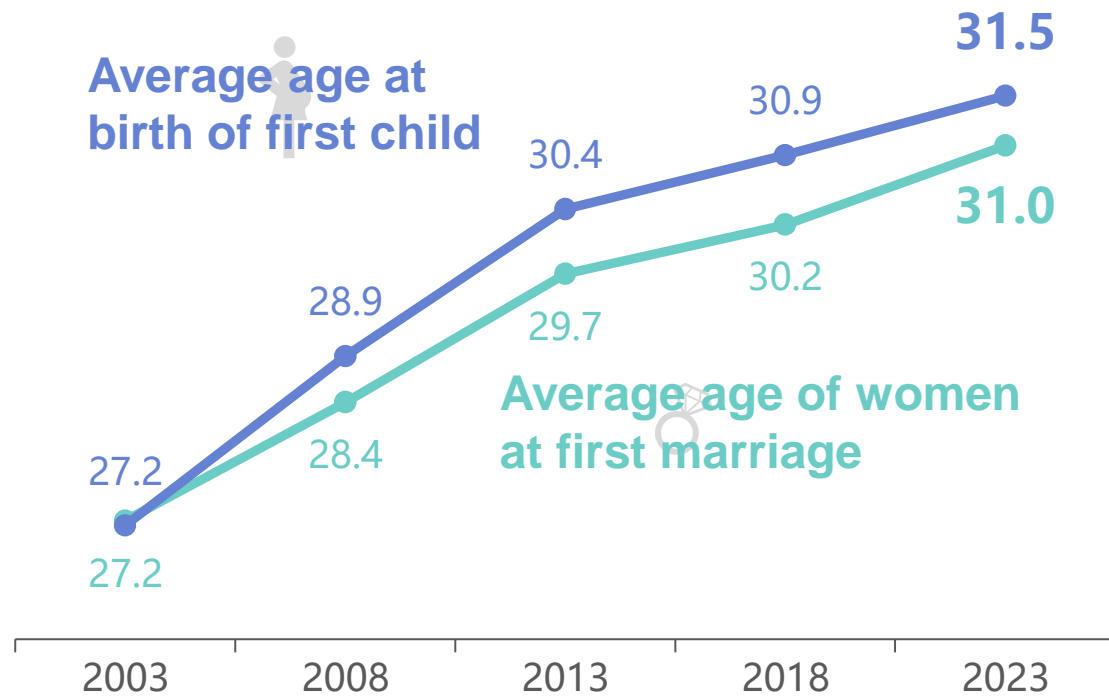
- Marital births remain the norm in Taiwan, with non-marital births accounting for only 3-4%.
- The percentage of unmarried women aged 25 to 39 rose from 30.6% in 2003 to 54.0% in 2023. Unmarried rates are increasing across all age groups.
- The decline in the number of women of prime childbearing age, coupled with the rising rate of unmarried women, is reducing the number of potential births.



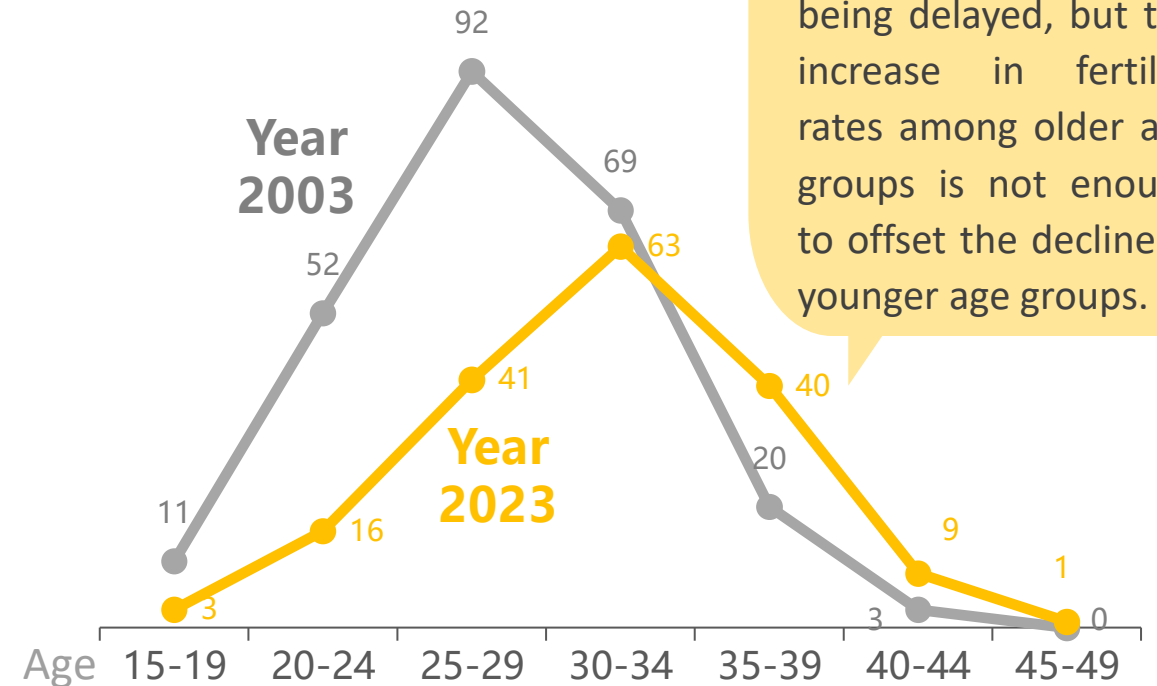
Source: Ministry of the Interior

Low Birth Rate (2/3)

- As women continue to delay their first marriage, this also postpones the age of first childbearing and further shortens their reproductive period.
- Delaying childbearing reduces both the likelihood and the desire to have children due to physiological and physical limitations, making it challenging for the birth rate to recover.



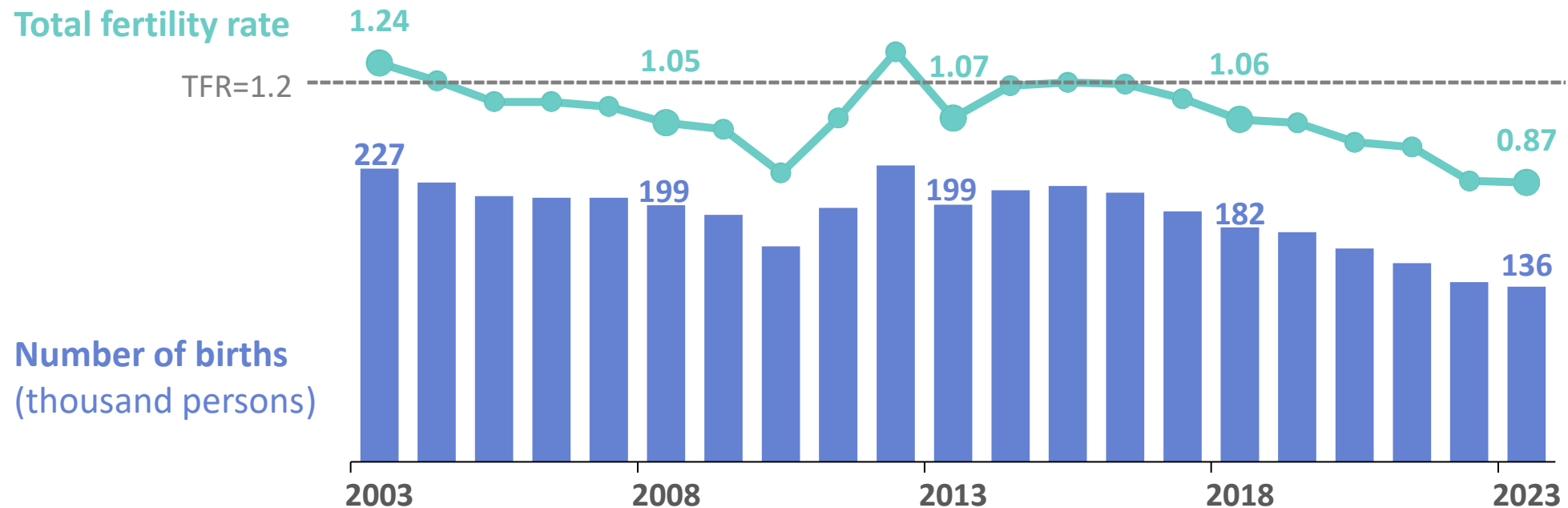
Age-specific fertility rates (‰)



The childbearing age is being delayed, but the increase in fertility rates among older age groups is not enough to offset the decline in younger age groups.

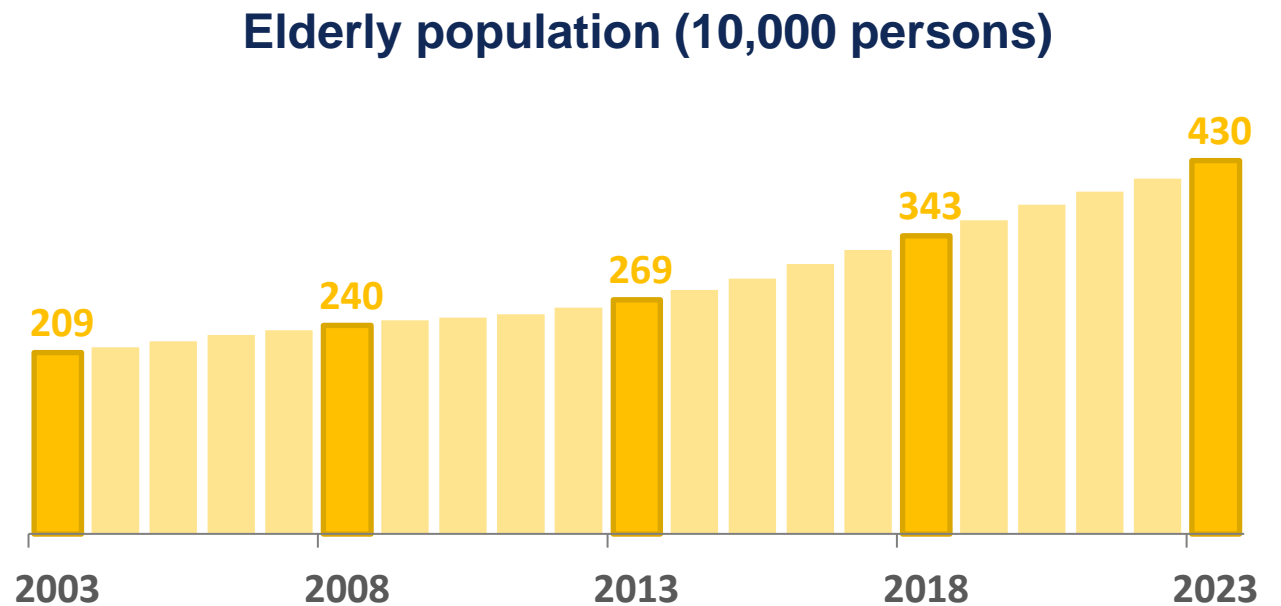
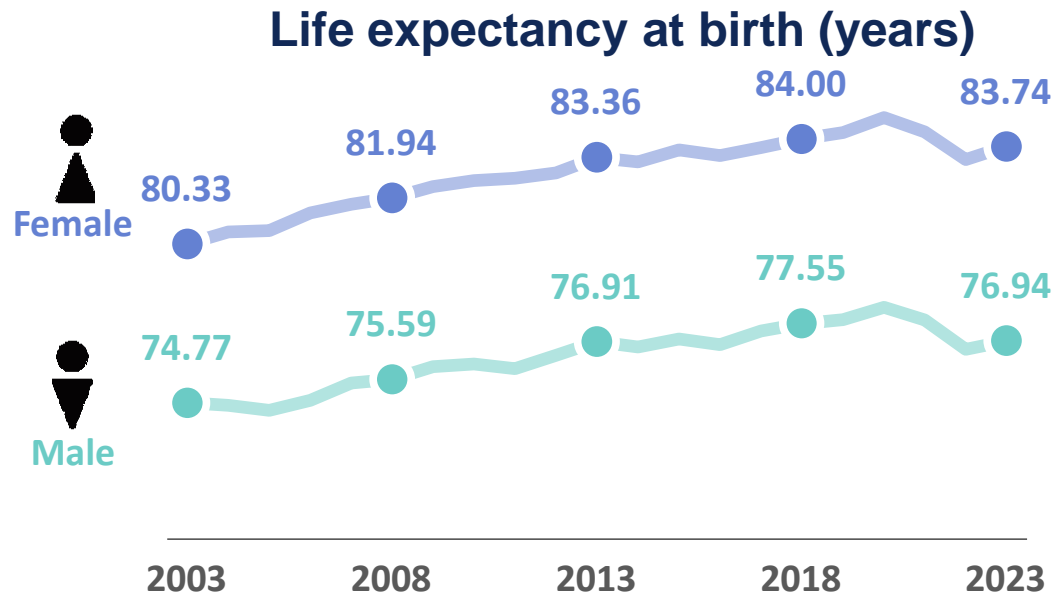
Low Birth Rate (3/3)

- Due to the aforementioned factors, the total fertility rate has remained below 1.2 since 2004, with the exception of the Year of the Dragon (2012), and dropped to 0.87 in 2023.
- With declines in both the total fertility rate and the number of women of childbearing age, the number of births fell from 227,000 in 2003 to 136,000 in 2023.



Population Aging

- With life expectancy continuing to rise, the elderly population will keep growing. In the past 20 years, life expectancy at birth in Taiwan increased by 2.2 years for males and 3.4 years for females. During this period, the elderly population (aged 65 and over) has doubled.
- As the number of births has declined, the significant increase in the elderly population has raised their proportion of the total population.



Source: Ministry of the Interior



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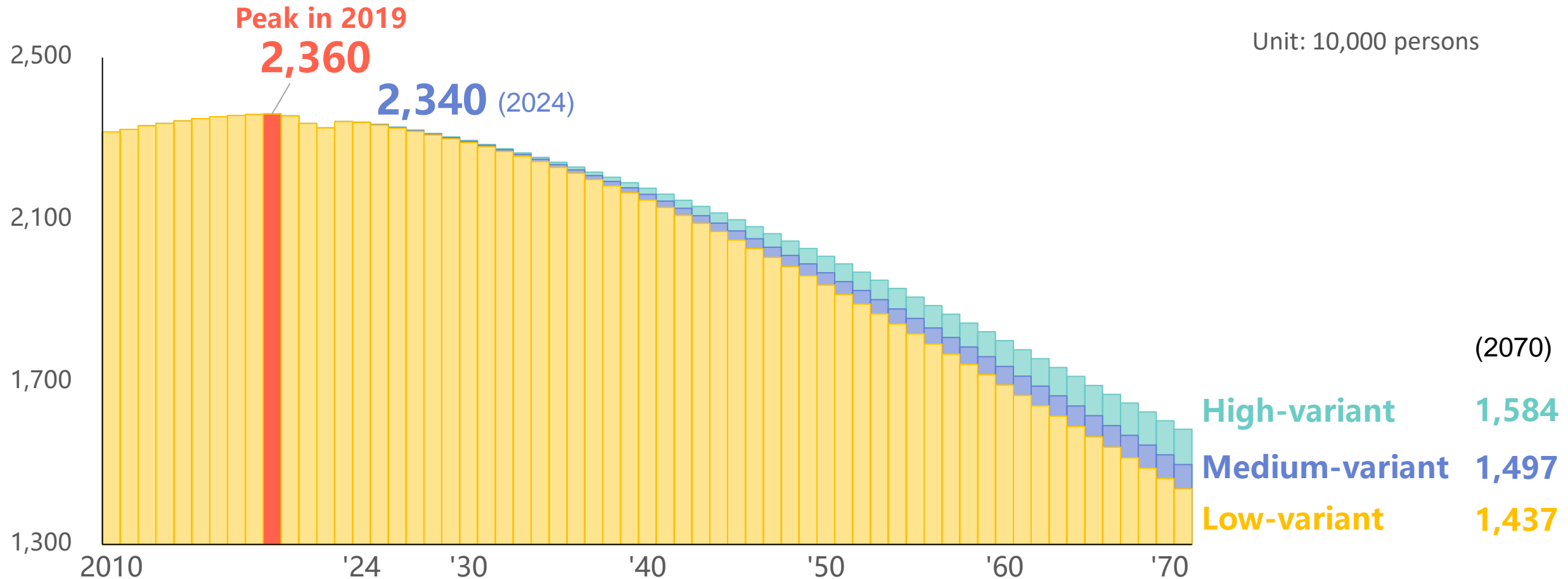
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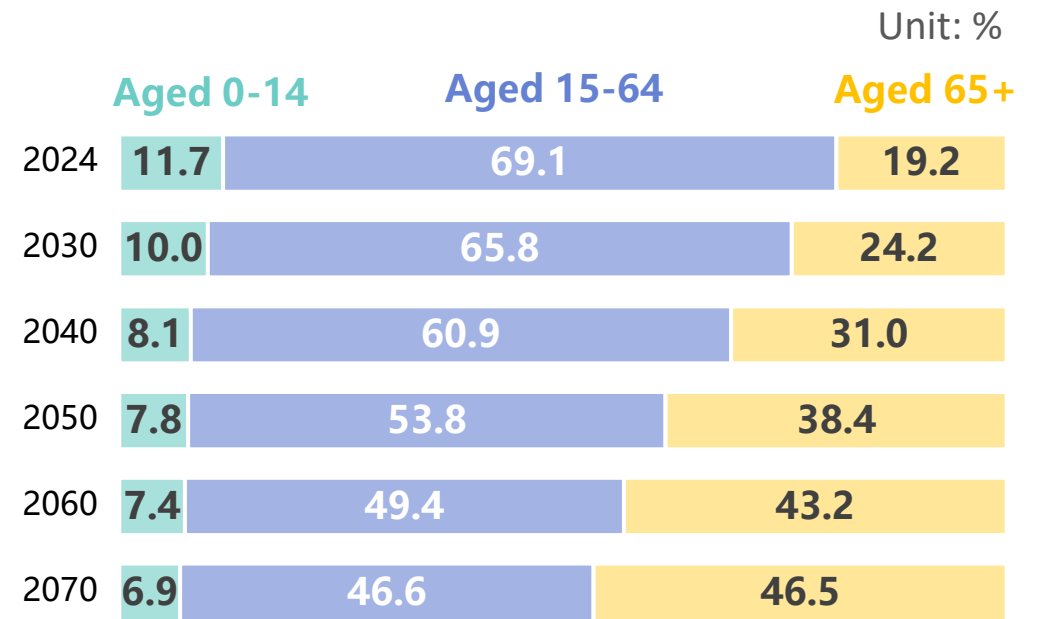
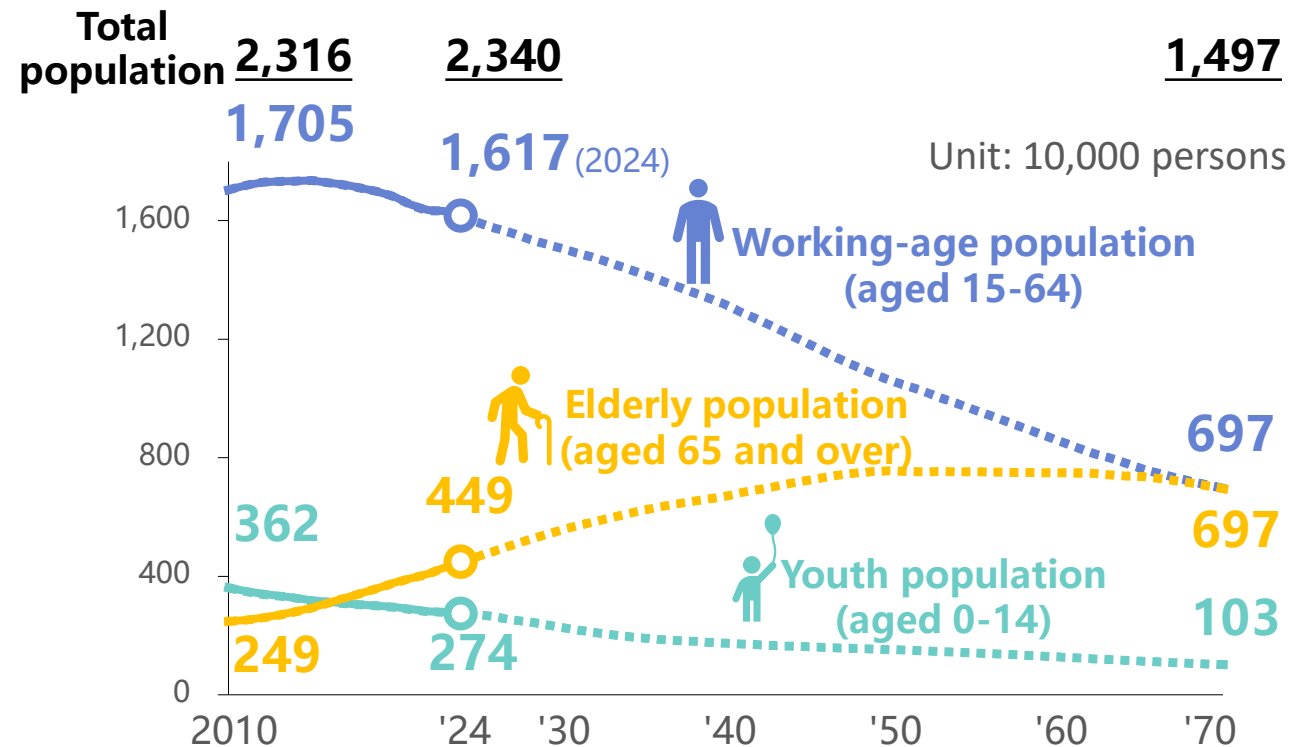
Total Population

- The total population peaked at 23.6 million in 2019 and is expected to decline to approximately 14.4-15.8 million by 2070, which is about 61.4%-67.7% of the 2024 population.



Demographic Structure

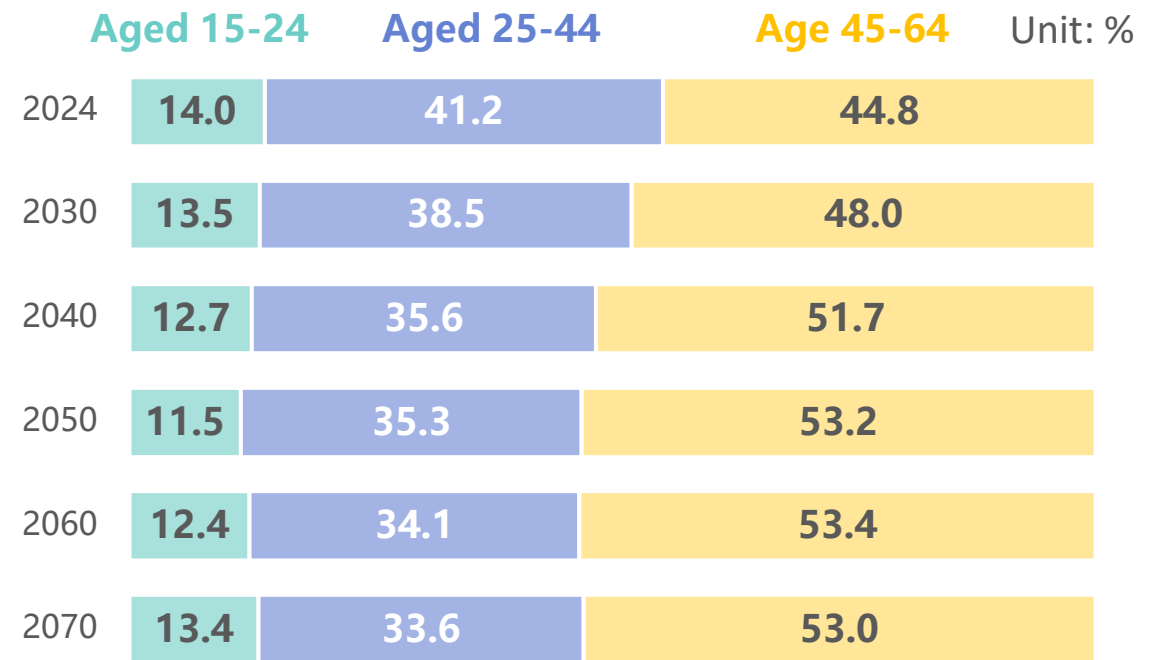
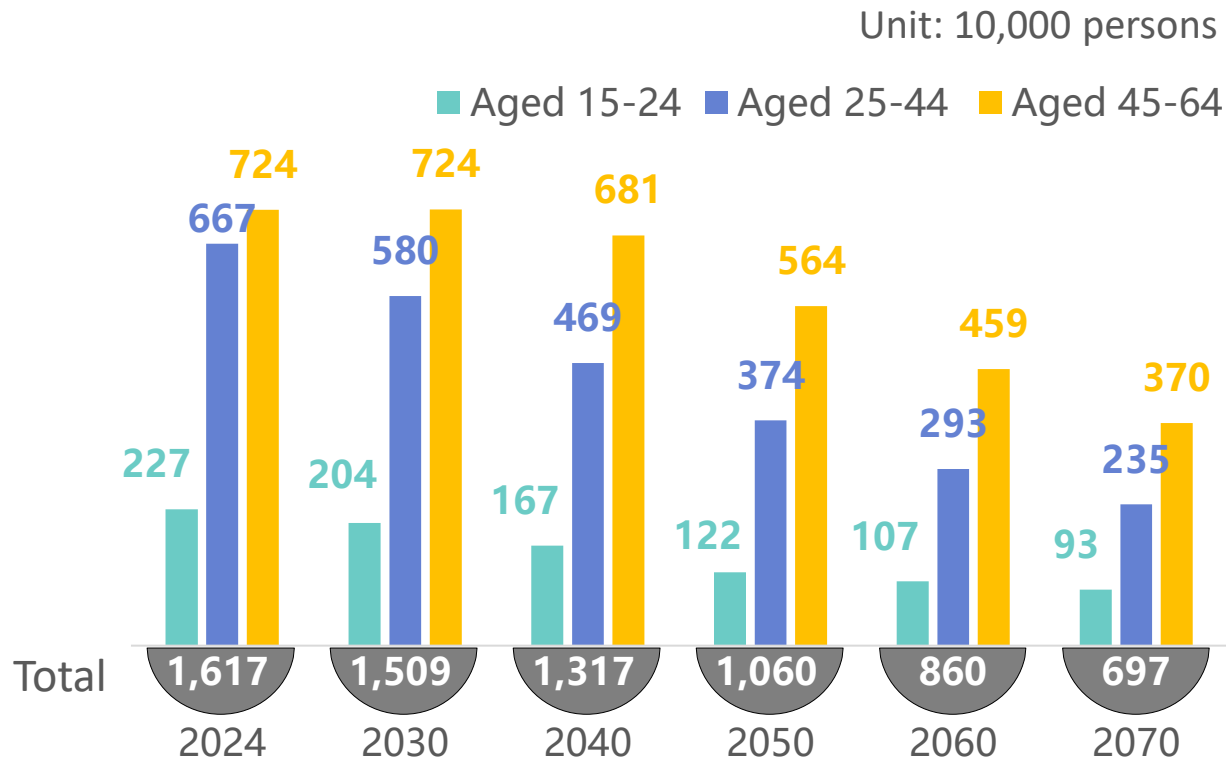
- The working-age population (aged 15-64) peaked in 2015 and started to decline in 2016. The elderly population surpassed the youth population in 2017 and will continue to grow until 2050.
- By 2070, the population aged 0-14 is projected to decrease by 1.7 million (-62.6%), and the population aged 15-64 will decline by 9.2 million (-56.9%). In contrast, the population aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 2.5 million (+55.2%).



Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections. 11

Working-age Population

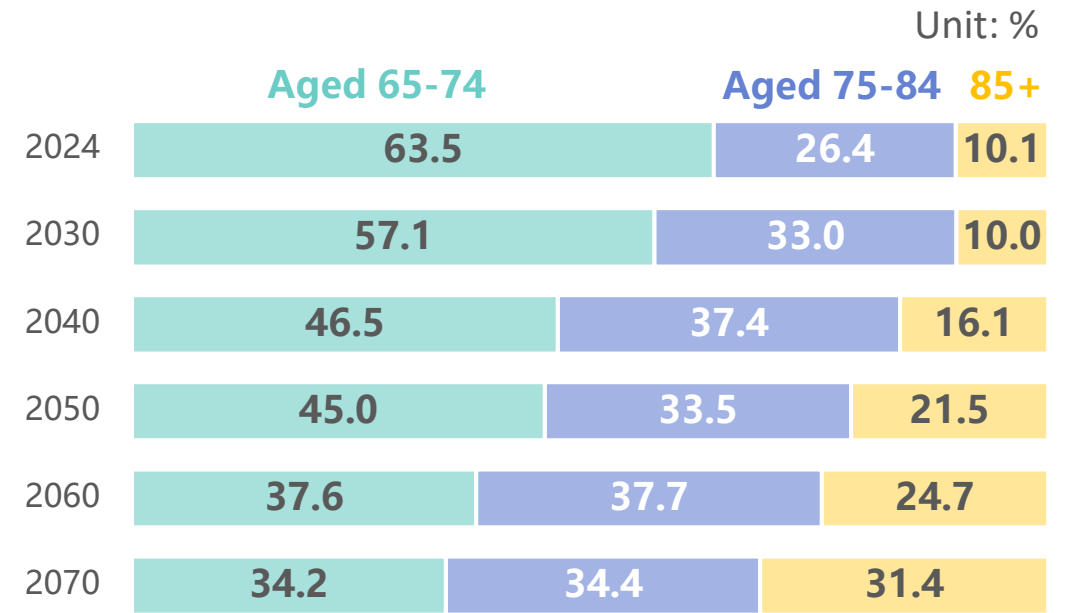
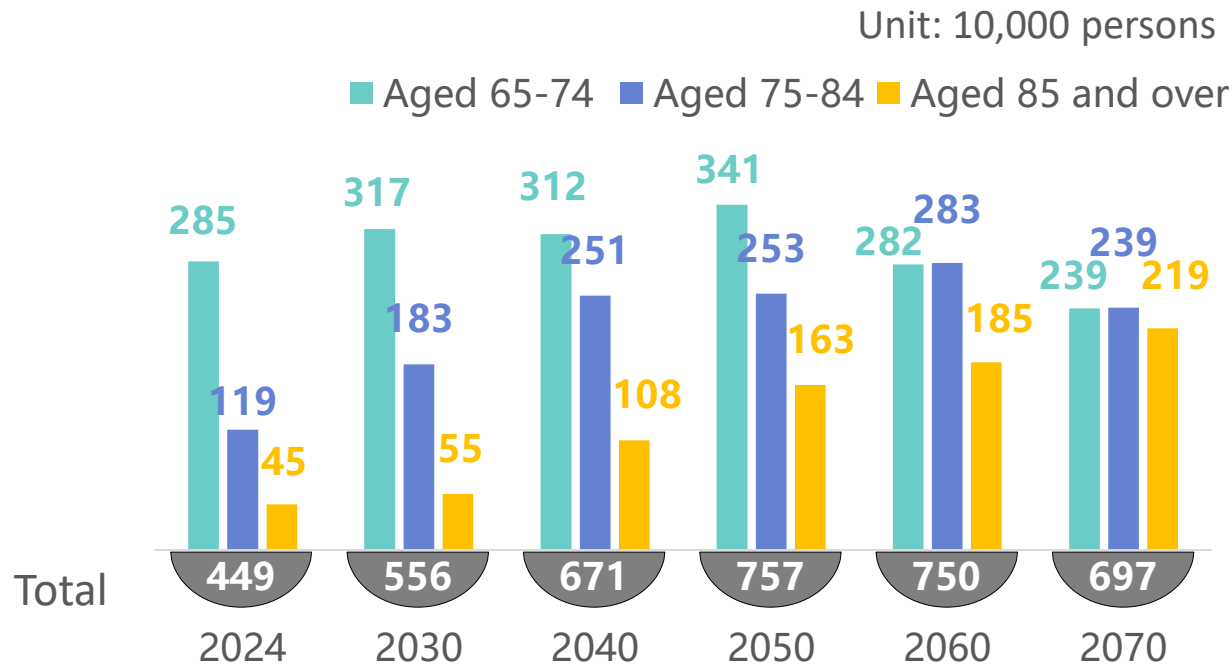
- People aged 45-64 have become the main age group within the working-age population. Their proportion is projected to exceed 50% starting in 2037, leading to concerns about the aging of the workforce.



Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections.

Elderly Population

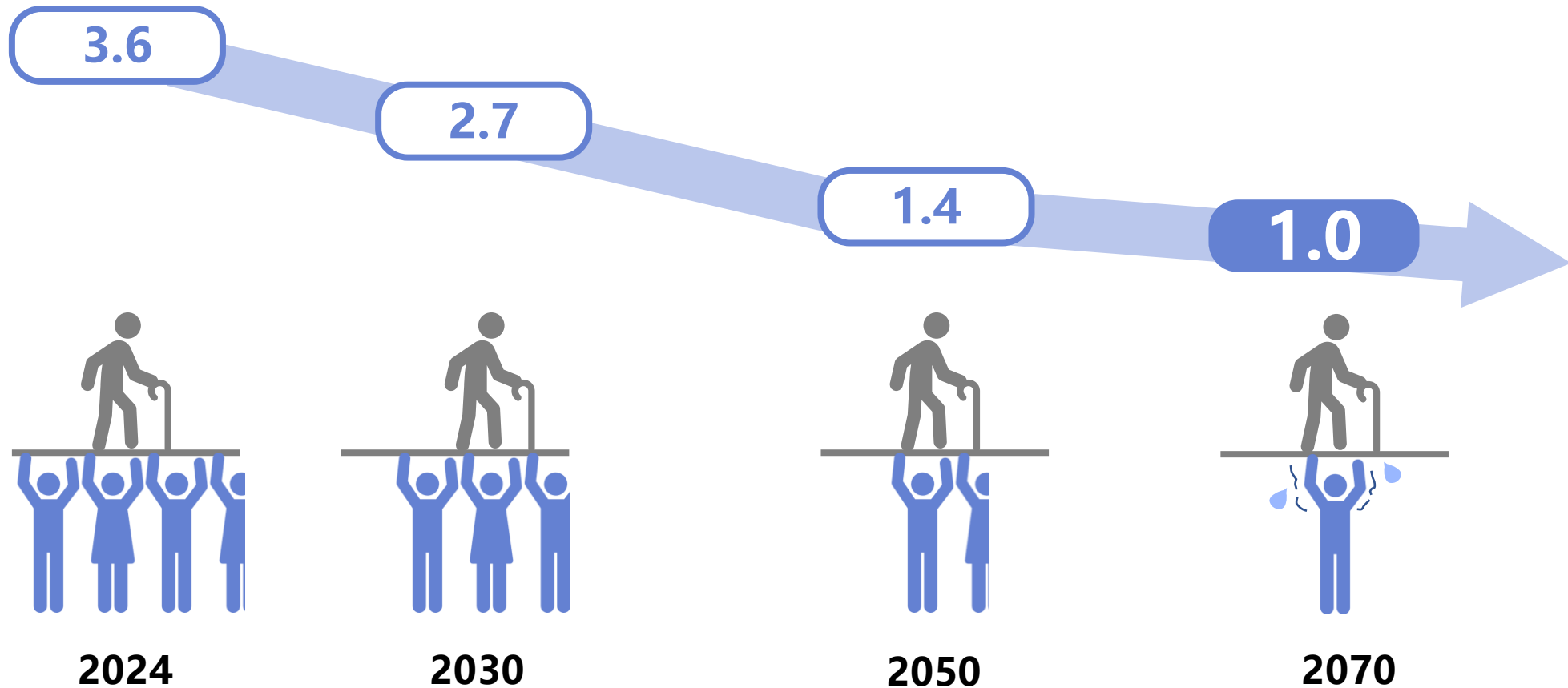
- After reaching its peak in 2050, the elderly population will begin to decline due to an increase in deaths among the elderly.
- The extension of life expectancy is resulting in a more aged structure within the elderly population, with the number and proportion of people aged 85 and above rising rapidly.



Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections.

Potential Support Ratio (working-age population ÷ elderly population)

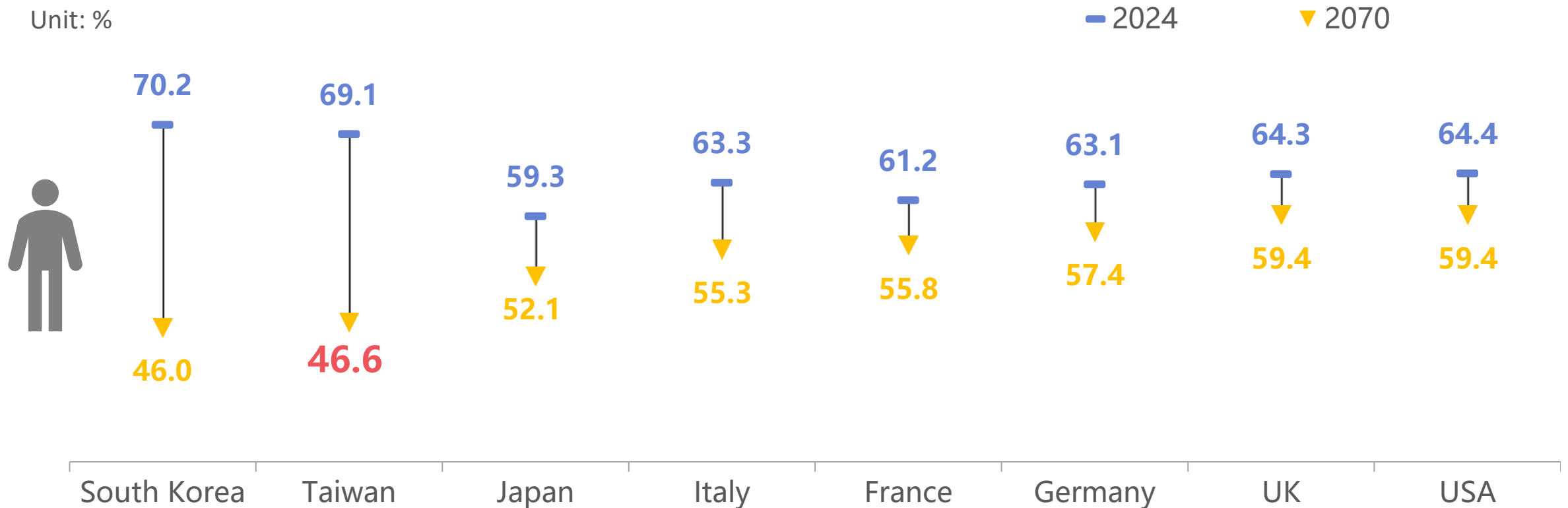
- The number of working-age individuals supporting each elderly person will steadily decline, and the burden on the working-age population is expected to continue increasing in the future.



Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections.

International Comparison: % of Population Aged 15-64

- In 2024, Taiwan's proportion of population aged 15-64 is second-highest to South Korea's among the countries shown in the graph below. By 2070, this proportion is projected to be the second-lowest, again after South Korea.



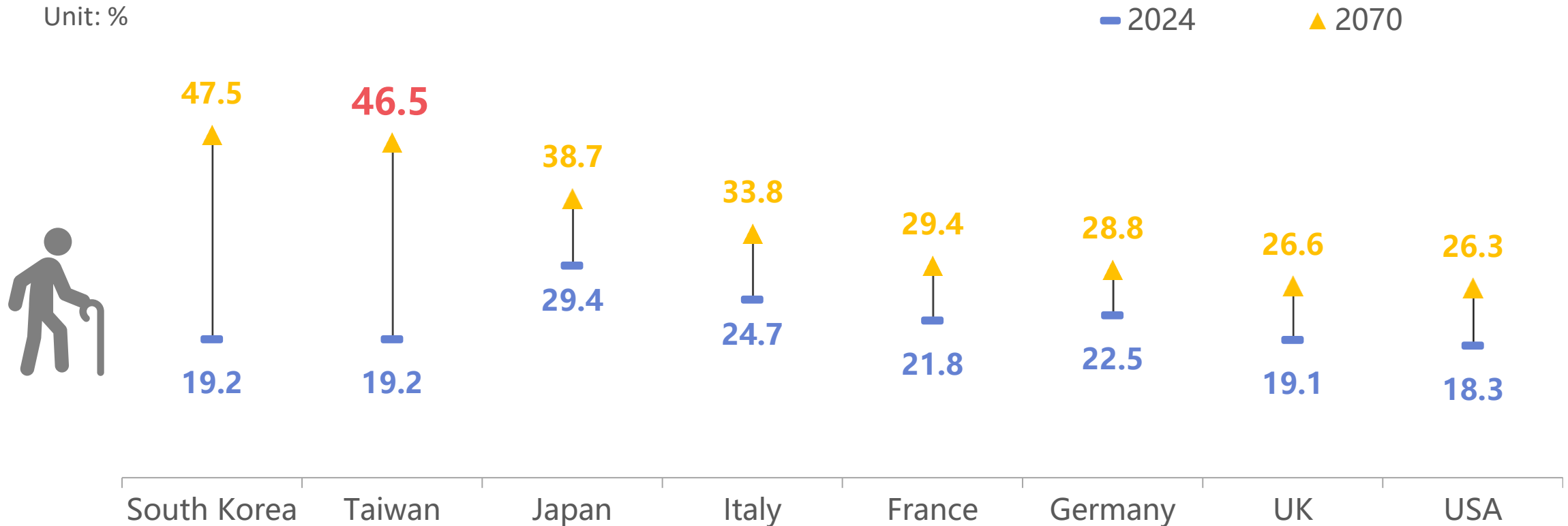
Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections.

Sources: Taiwan: this report; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: KOSIS; USA: US Census Bureau; France, Germany and Italy: Eurostat; UK: Office for National Statistics.

International Comparison: % of Population Aged 65+

- In 2024, Taiwan's proportion of population aged 65 and over is the third-lowest among these countries, above only the USA and UK. By 2070, it is projected to become the second-highest, after South Korea.

Unit: %



Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections.

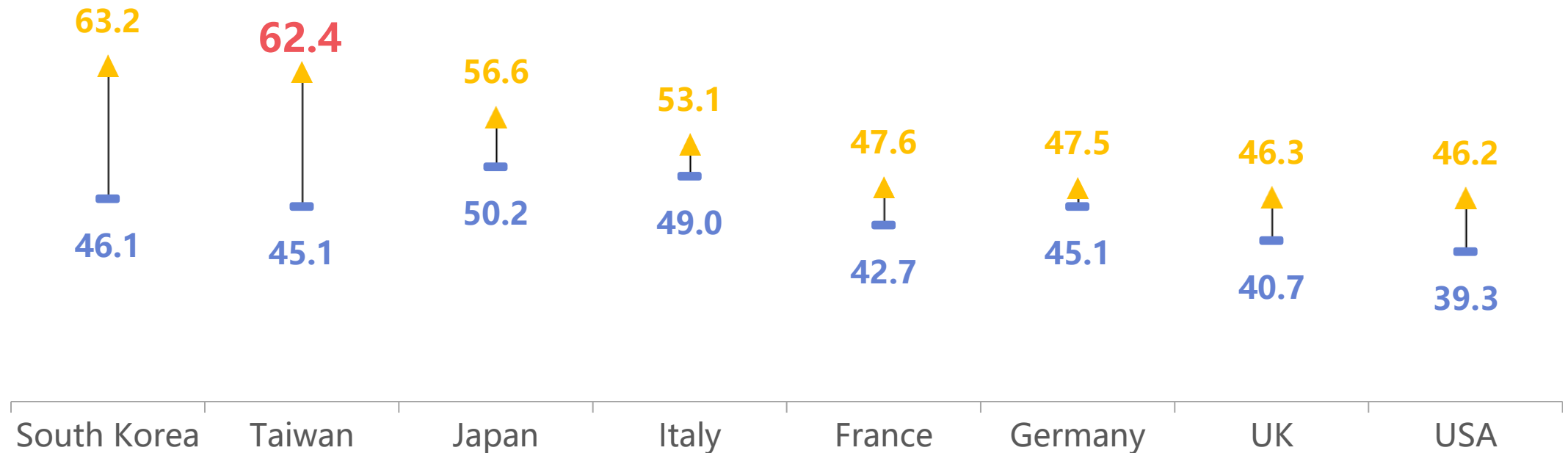
Sources: Taiwan: this report; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: KOSIS; USA: US Census Bureau; France, Germany and Italy: Eurostat; UK: Office for National Statistics.

International Comparison: Median Age

- In 2024, Taiwan's median age is the fourth-highest among these same countries. By 2070, it is projected to rise to the second-highest, again after South Korea.

Unit: years

— 2024 ▲ 2070



Note: The values are the results of medium-variant projections.

Sources: Taiwan: this report; Japan: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research; Korea: KOSIS; USA: US Census Bureau; France, Germany and Italy: Eurostat; UK: Office for National Statistics.



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- Population Projections for Taiwan: 2024-2070 are based on the results of the 2023 population statistics, which consist of **register-based statistics** and **year-end data**.
- The **cohort-component method** (based on number of births, deaths, and international migrations) projects population change by applying the demographic balancing equation. Population projections are made by adding births and net international migration to the base population, and subtracting deaths.
- Since the fertility rate is the most important factor influencing Taiwan’s future population trend, we set three scenarios for the future total fertility rate, with life expectancy at birth and international migration remaining a single assumption.

| Assumptions | | Scenario | 2023 | 2070 |
|--|---------|----------|------|------|
| Total fertility rate | | High | 0.87 | 1.3 |
| | | Medium | | 1.0 |
| | | Low | | 0.8 |
| Life expectancy at birth (years) | Males | — | 76.9 | 84.4 |
| | Females | | 83.7 | 90.5 |
| International migration (thousand persons) | | — | 226* | 16 |

Note: As the COVID-19 pandemic subsided and border restrictions were gradually relaxed, net international migration increased significantly in 2023.