

CHINA CROSSROADS

Thursday, May 14th, 2026, 19:30 – 21:00

Global Demographic Decline? The Economic Effects of a New Reality

Marc Canal

Associate Partner and Senior Fellow

McKinsey Global Institute

McKinsey and Company

**McKinsey
& Company**

Supported by:

McKinsey Global Institute

Shanghai

WhiteSpace | Jianing Building 5F | 500 Yanan Xi Lu
200rmb admission with drink | FREE for members
Scan to RSVP or email editor@shanghai-review.org



In much of the world, fertility rates have fallen below the replacement rate required to maintain a stable population, and, despite increasing longevity, some countries have already started to see population decline. Our current economic systems and social contracts have developed over decades of growing populations, in particular working-age populations that drive economic growth and support and sustain people living longer lives. This calculus no longer holds. This talk explores the demographic shifts driven by falling fertility rates and provides a comprehensive analysis of the potential economic consequences of falling fertility rates combined with longer life spans. The first wave of aging economies has started to feel the impacts on economic growth, labor markets, consumption, and public finances. Later waves of aging will hit emerging economies, which are expected to face a similar fate just one to two generations later. The talk will conclude with implications and recommendations for policy-makers, businesses, and society.

[Marc Canal](#) is an Associate Partner and Senior Fellow at the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) in Barcelona, leading research on productivity and prosperity, ranging from global progress to economic growth to demographics, skills, innovation, and technology. Marc speaks about these topics and broader global trends around the world, including in Europe, the United States, and Latin America. Prior to joining MGI, he was a consultant at McKinsey, working in industries such as banking, retail, and the public sector. He holds a degree in business administration from ESADE Barcelona, a master's in financial economics from HEC Paris, and an MBA from the London Business School.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.