

The Future of Economics

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Economics has been defined as The Social Science, concerned with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

In constructing likely baseline scenarios for: ***Economics – the Next 100+ Years***, the following six alternatives stand out:

- 1) Scarcity with large population growth.
- 2) Scarcity with moderate population growth.
- 3) Scarcity with negative population growth.
- 4) Abundance with large population growth.
- 5) Abundance with moderate population growth.
- 6) Abundance with negative population growth.

In the past, Scarcity has been the major paradigm driving economic theory. In the future, accelerating technological and scientific breakthroughs may make a paradigm of Abundance possible. Because it is uncertain as to which scenario is most likely to occur it is necessary to delineate some of the forces of change that will affect these alternative futures.

This paper is being presented in order to stimulate discussion, which could lead to future actions being taken, by those most affected by these baseline scenarios.

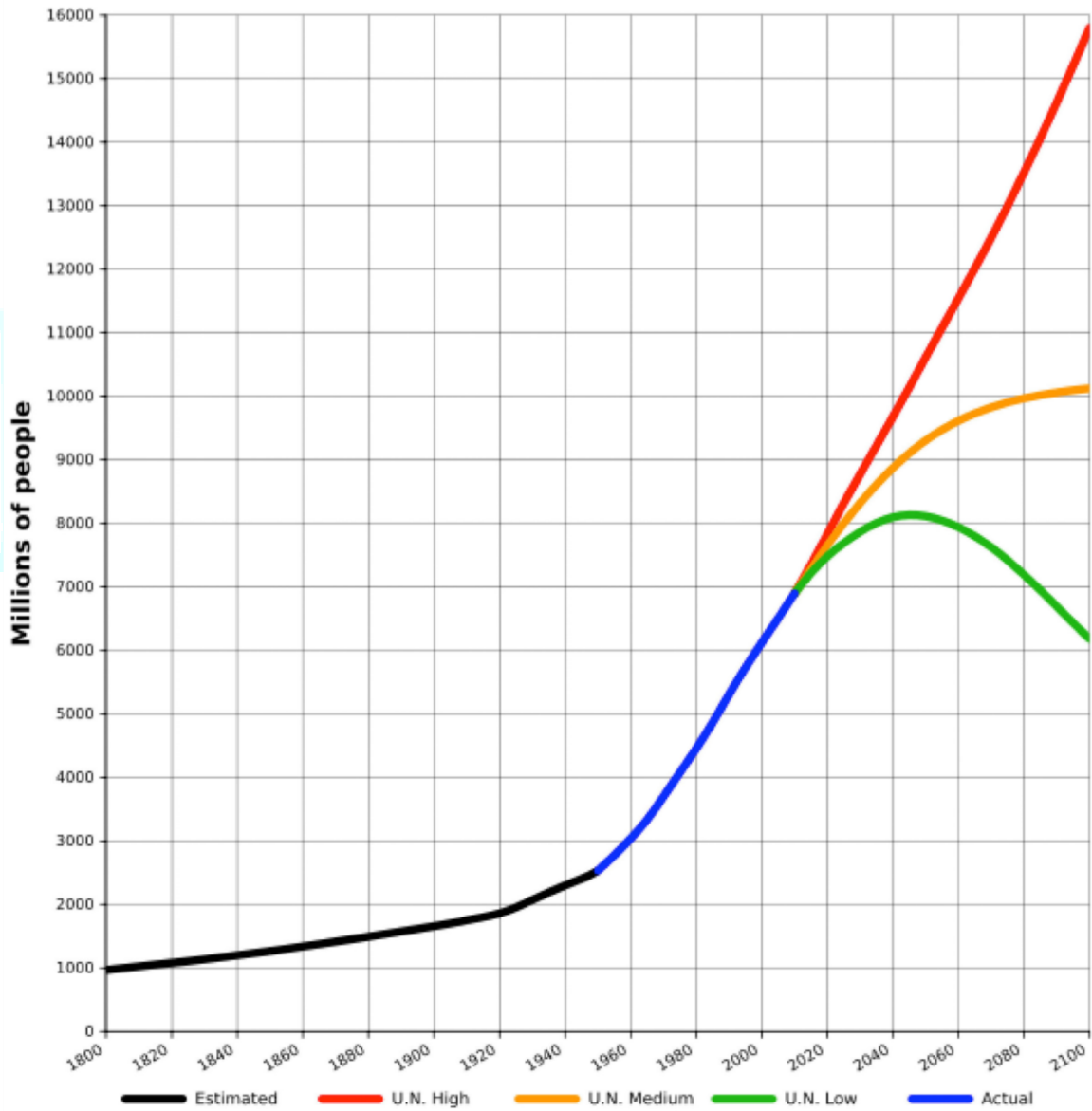
Although Automation has now been with us for many years, in scenarios 1 – 3, the major force of change will likely be advanced technology in the form of Singularity, Artificial Intelligent Robots and Nanotechnology. Large standing armies and navies may well become a thing of the past. In the short-term (30–80 years) hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of unemployable individuals – those illequipped for a high-tech economy – may be the norm.

In scenario 3, in the long-term (2100-2400), the problem of vast unemployment might be ameliorated due to population decline. The likely driving force for this decline would be Demographic Transition, in particular: (A) increasing urbanization, (B) the effect of the direction

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and magnitude of intergenerational wealth flows, and (C) the effect of widespread family planning programs in underdeveloped countries, which could include the increase in contraceptive technology.

If under Demographic Transition, the world's fertility rate approached 1.0 per female by the end of the 21st century, then by 2400 the population of the world would be about the size it was in 1800.



UN projection's of world's population 2000- 2100

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Before the present generation the direction of the flow of wealth was from children to parents, that is from the younger generation to the older generation. Wealth being defined here as money, goods, and resources. In scenarios 1 – 3 the future flow will likely be from parents to children. Demographic Transition is more likely to occur in scarcity scenarios 1 – 3; in abundance scenarios, fertility rates might increase significantly.

In scenarios 4 – 6 the major forces of change will also be advanced technology including Singularity and Artificial Intelligent Robots, but in addition will likely have reached the level where Nanotechnology Factories, Molecular Assemblers, Fusion Power Generators, Wireless Energy Transfer, and Solar Power Satellites may be in use throughout the world.

As in scenarios 1-3, in the short-term (30 – 80 years) worldwide unemployment may initially be a major problem, but will be less so as scarcity diminishes.

This new economic paradigm might place less value on energy, natural resources, food and material objects; thereby placing greater value on an individual's interests, status, and reputation.

In scenarios 4 – 6 (abundance economics), what might happen to monetary systems and the value of real estate will differ greatly according to an **increase** or **decrease** in the total population of the world.

In all six scenarios, the major conundrum needing to be addressed may likely be that of massive worldwide unemployment in the middle to late years of the 21st century, until lower fertility rates and/or abundance occur.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_prell

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-scarcity_economy

