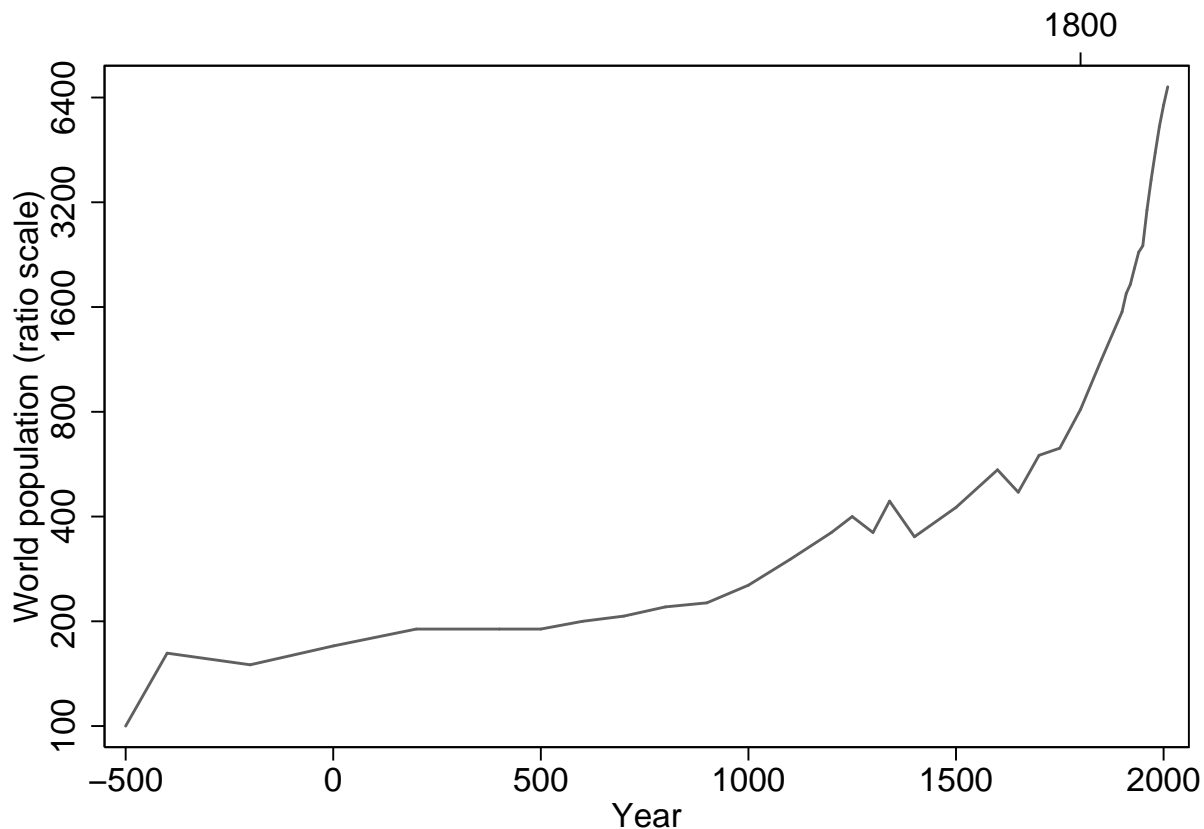


EC120 The World Economy in Historical Perspective

World population over the long period



The above graph plots estimates of world population from 500BCE to 2010 (forecast). Prior to 1950, upper (+) and lower (x) estimates are shown.

Notice that the vertical axis plots population on a *ratio scale* (i.e. it plots the logarithm of population). Equal *absolute* distances, e.g. 400 to 800, 800 to 1600, plot equal *proportional* changes, i.e. doubling from 400 to 800, and 800 to 1600.

Some rough estimates of world population growth:

Year	Population	Growth rate
1500	500m	1000–1500 \approx 0.1% per year
1750	800m	1500–1750 \approx 0.2% per year
1900	1660m	1750–1900 \approx 0.5% per year
2000	6089m	1900–2000 \approx 1.3% per year

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/worldhis.html>.