



## **Society / Population Studies**

China's population contraction continued in 2025 for the fourth straight year, reflecting deep structural demographic stress. Persistently low birth rates combined with a rising death rate have pushed the country into what is described as a demographic winter.

This phase is characterised by sustained population decline, rapid ageing and a narrowing labour base. Over time, it increases dependency ratios and creates economic and social pressures, particularly on growth prospects and welfare systems.

### **APSC relevance**

Relevant for GS on global demographic transitions, ageing populations and economic consequences.