



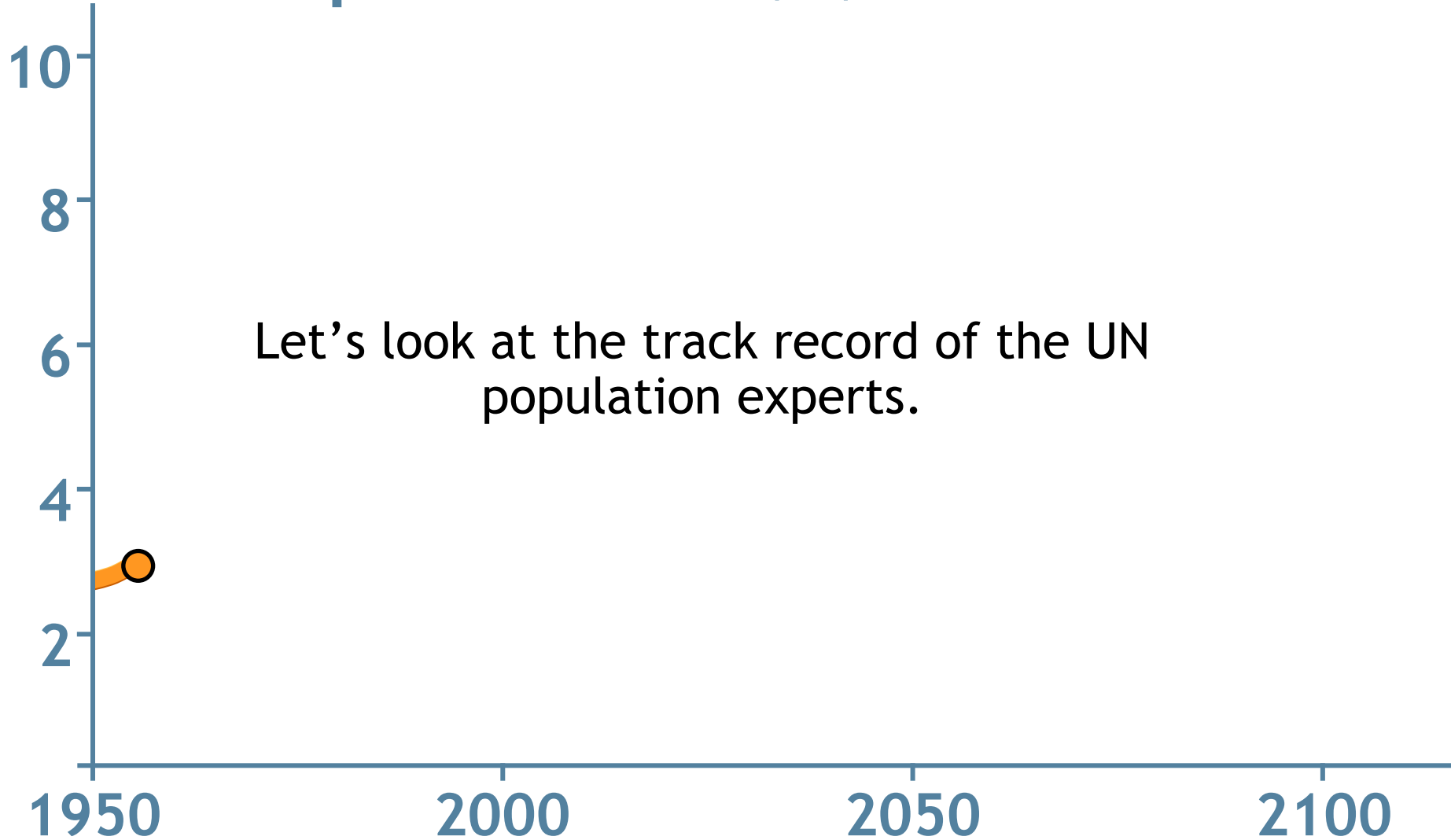
# GAPMINDER ANSWER 4

## — How Reliable is the World Population Forecast?

Short answer — Very reliable

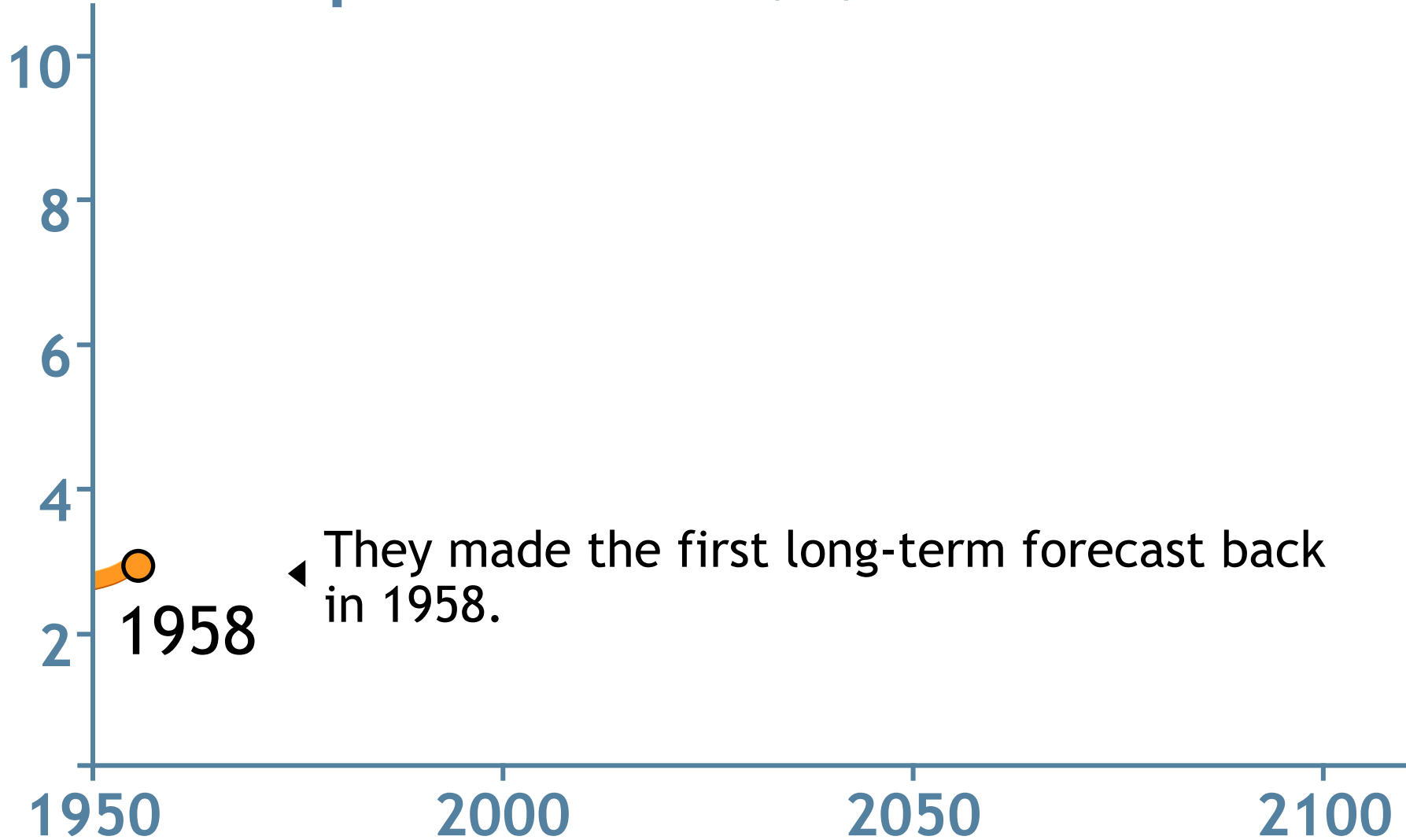
[www.gapminder.org/answers](http://www.gapminder.org/answers)

# World Population Billion people



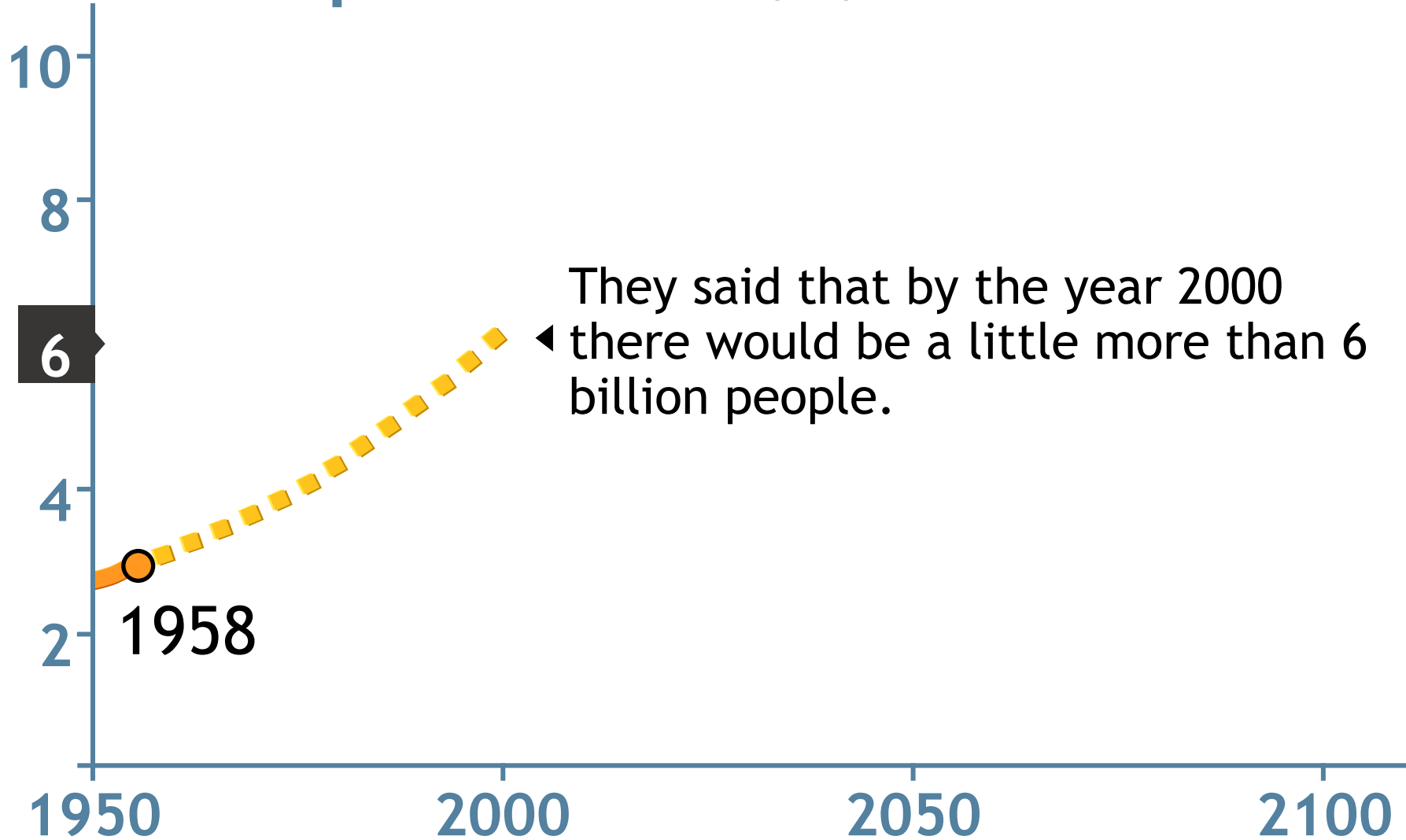
Sources: Nico Keilman "Data quality and accuracy of United Nations population projections, 1950-95"; UN World Pop. Prosp. 2010 & 2012.

# World Population Billion people



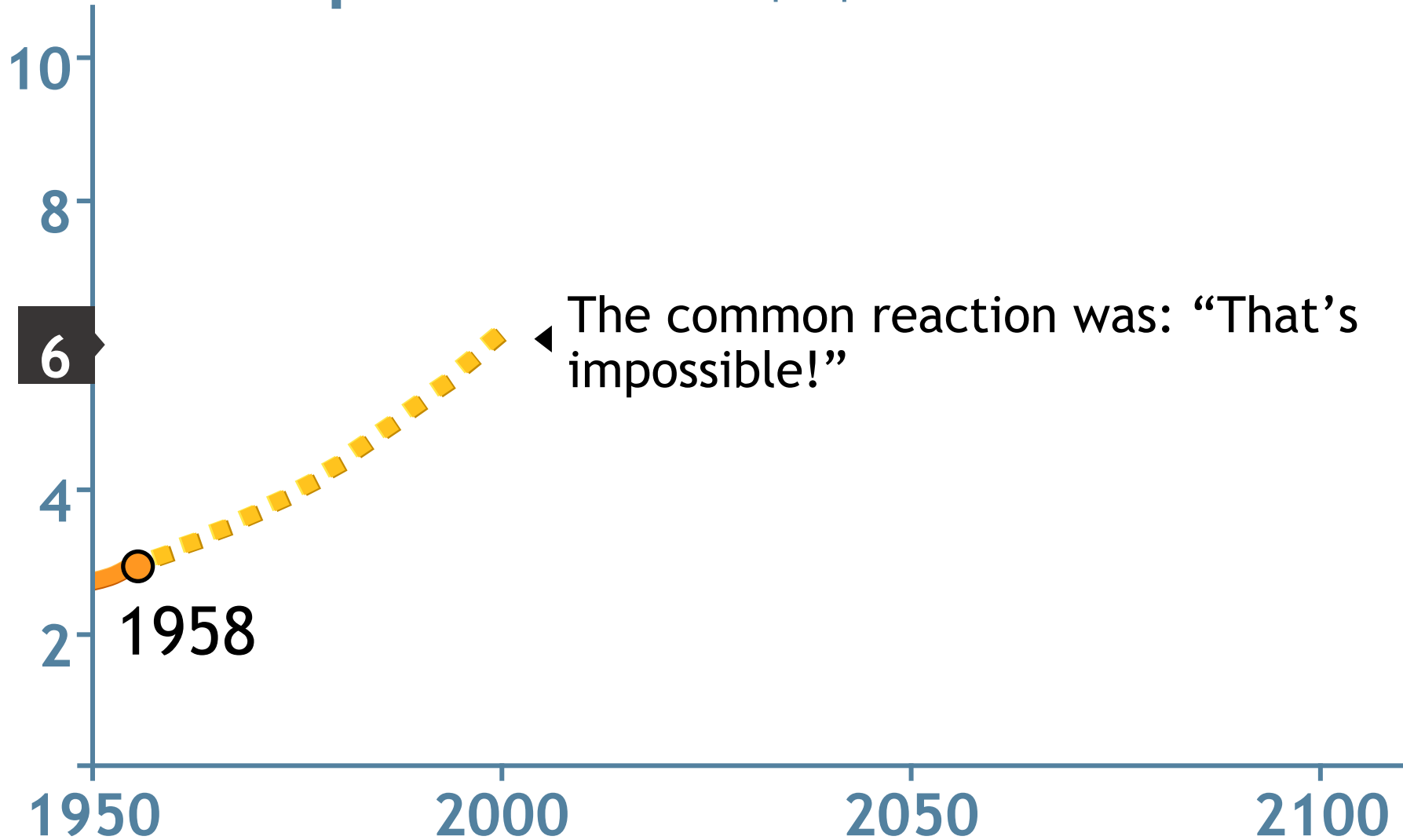
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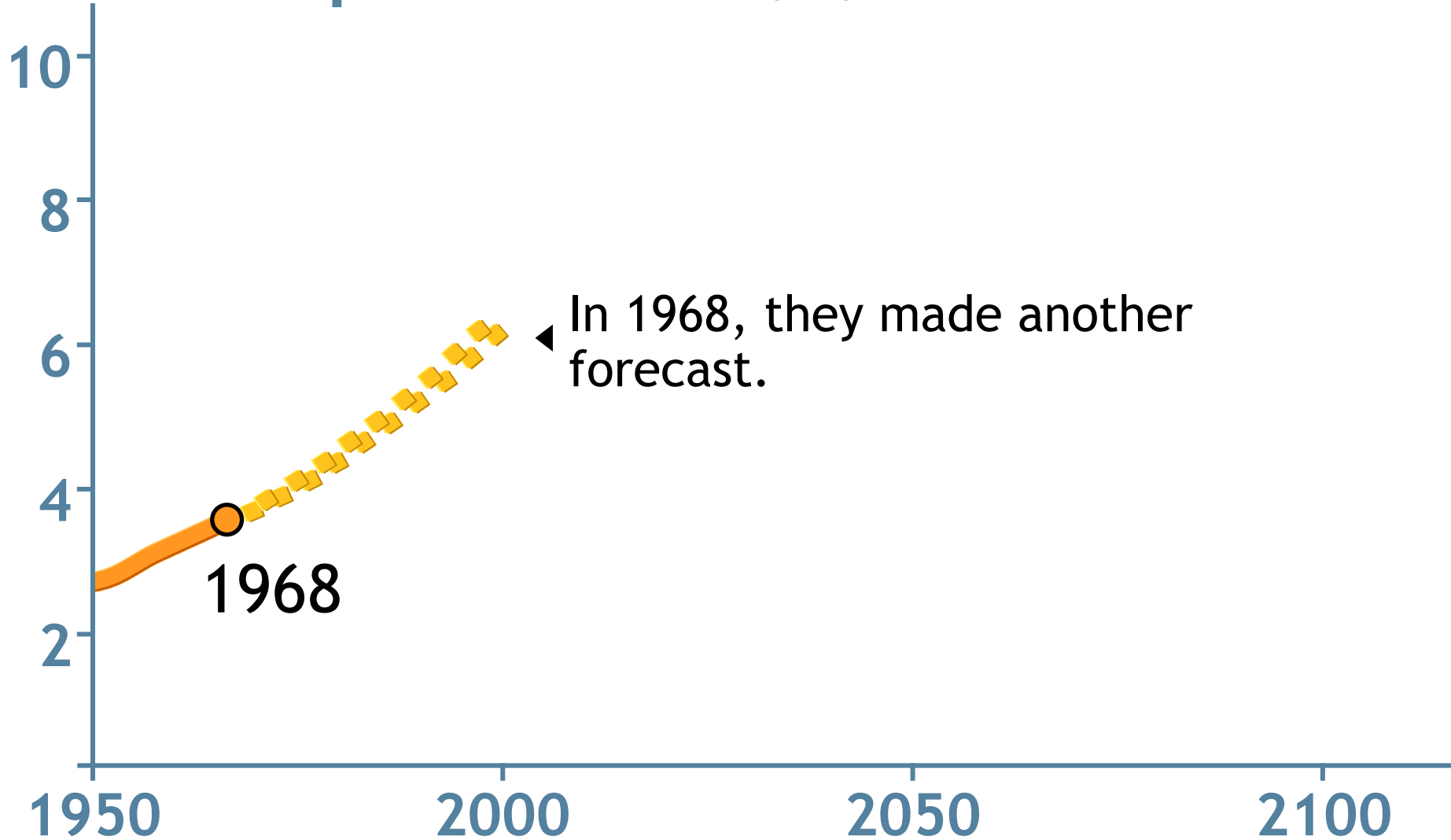
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# World Population Billion people



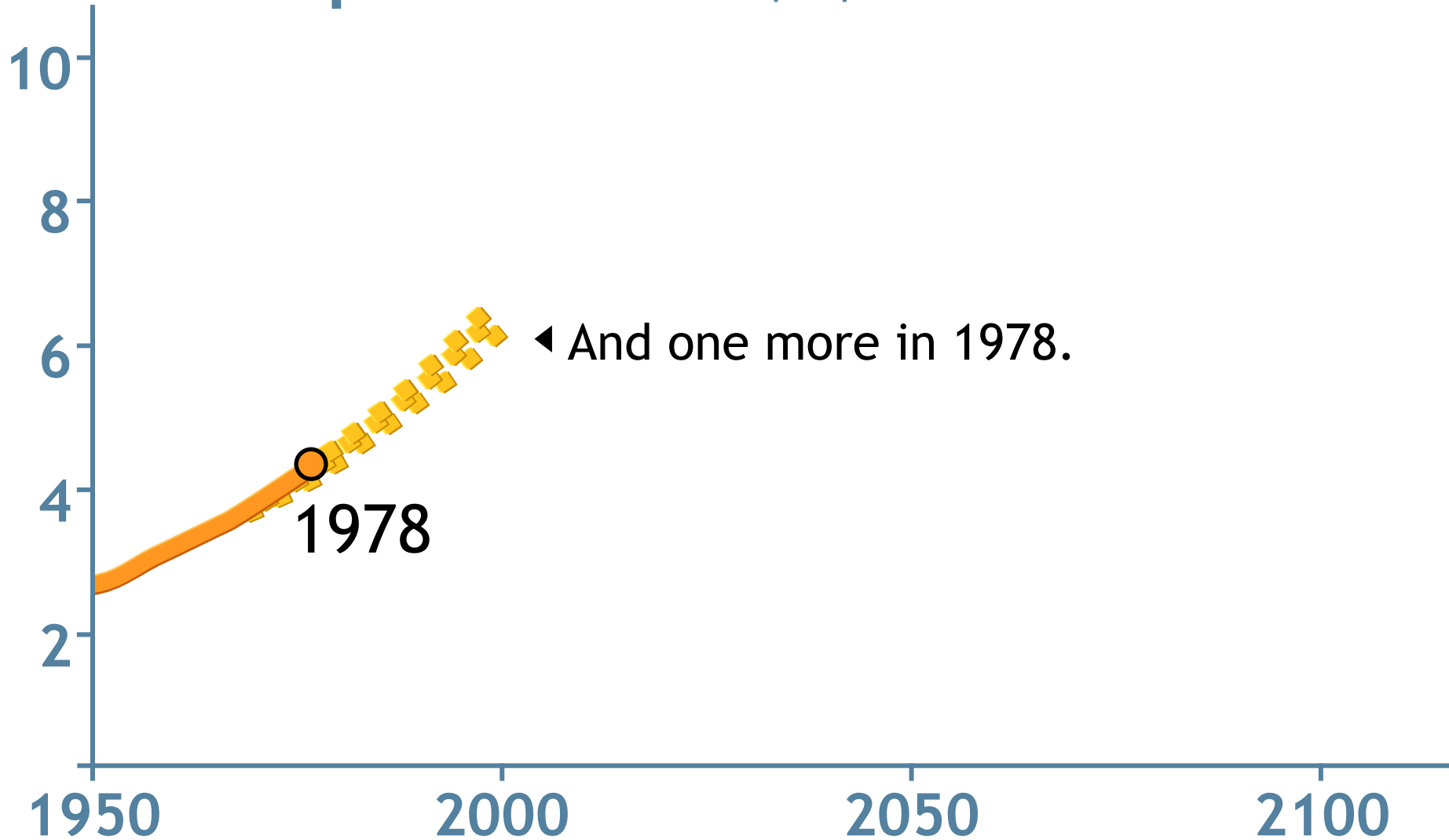
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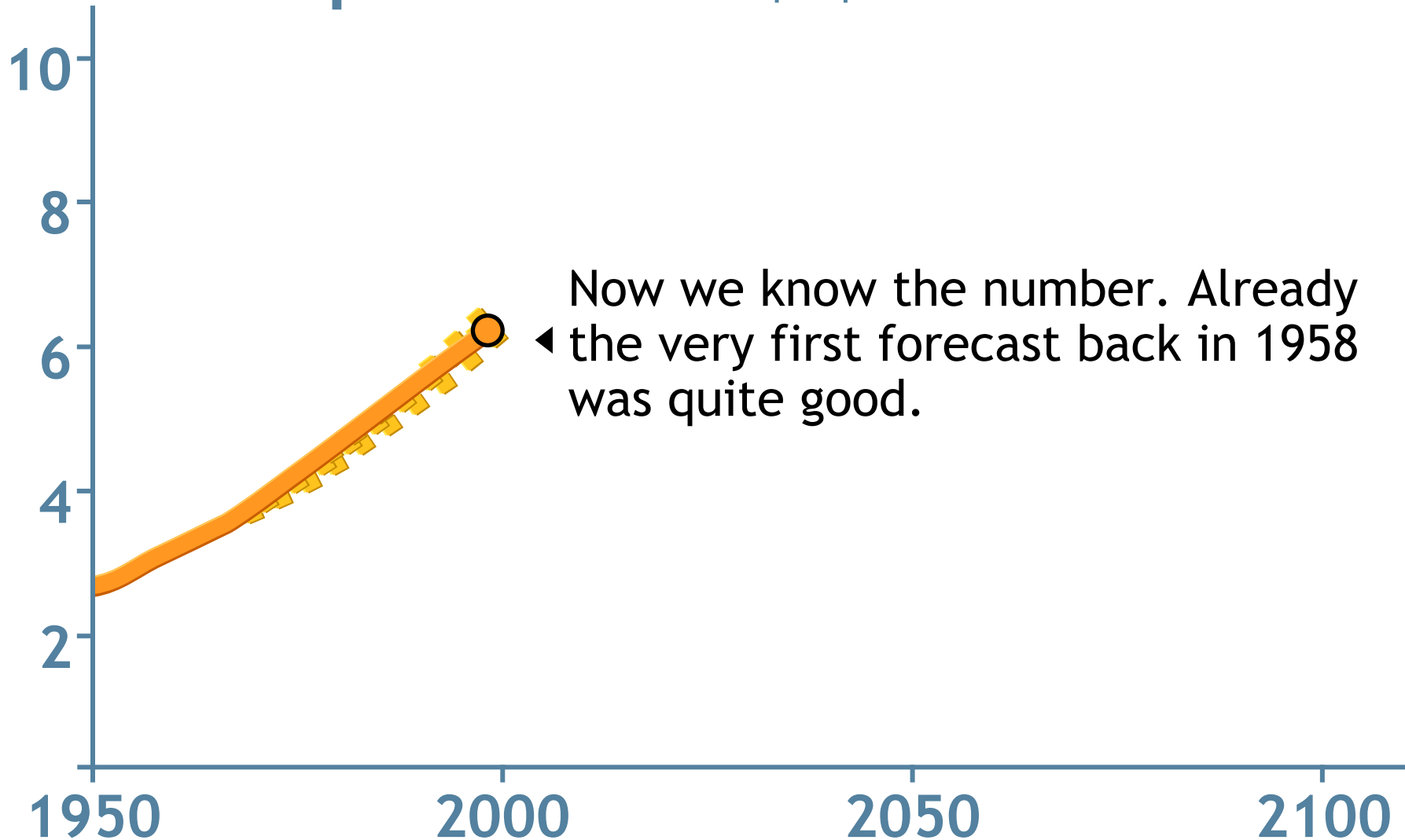
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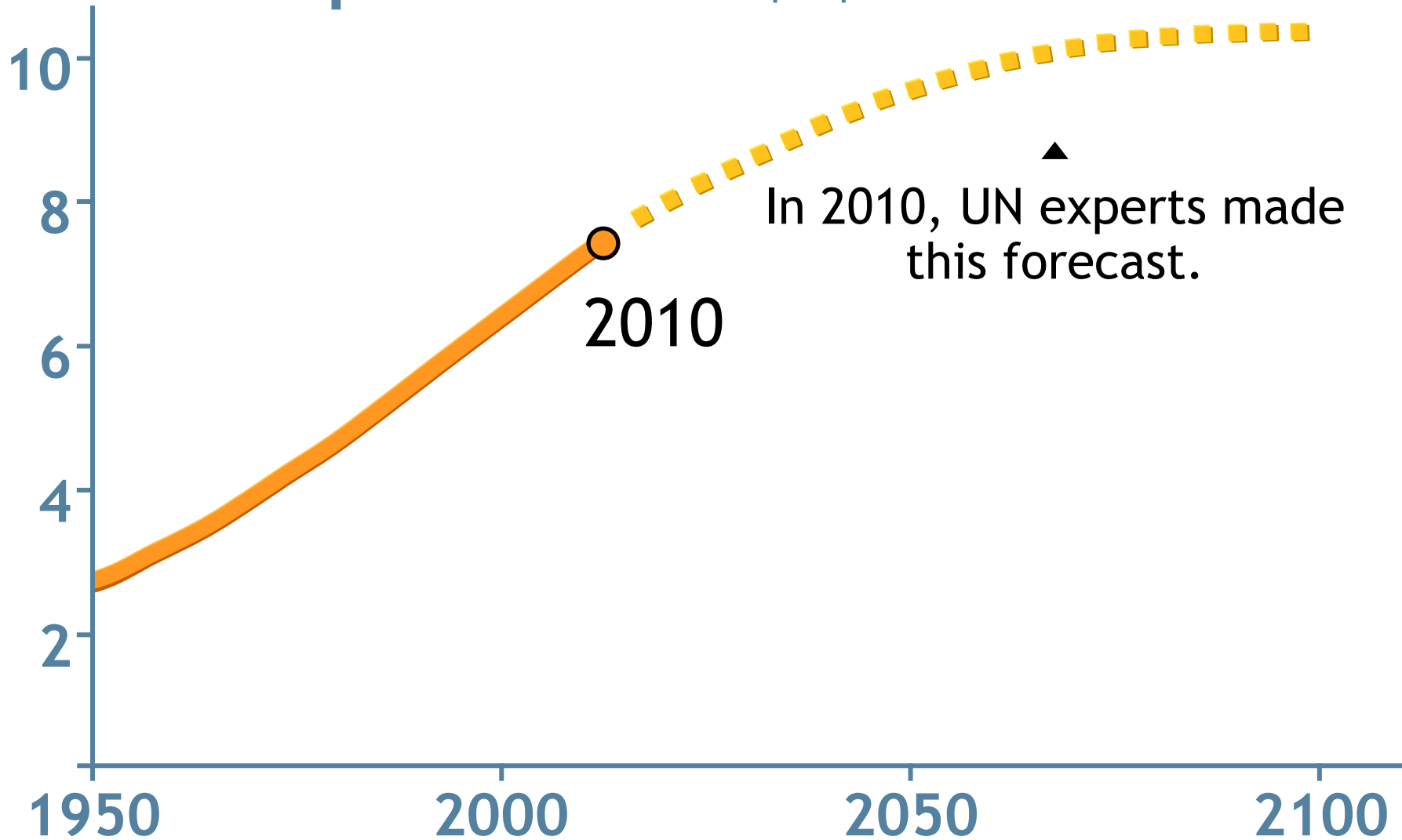
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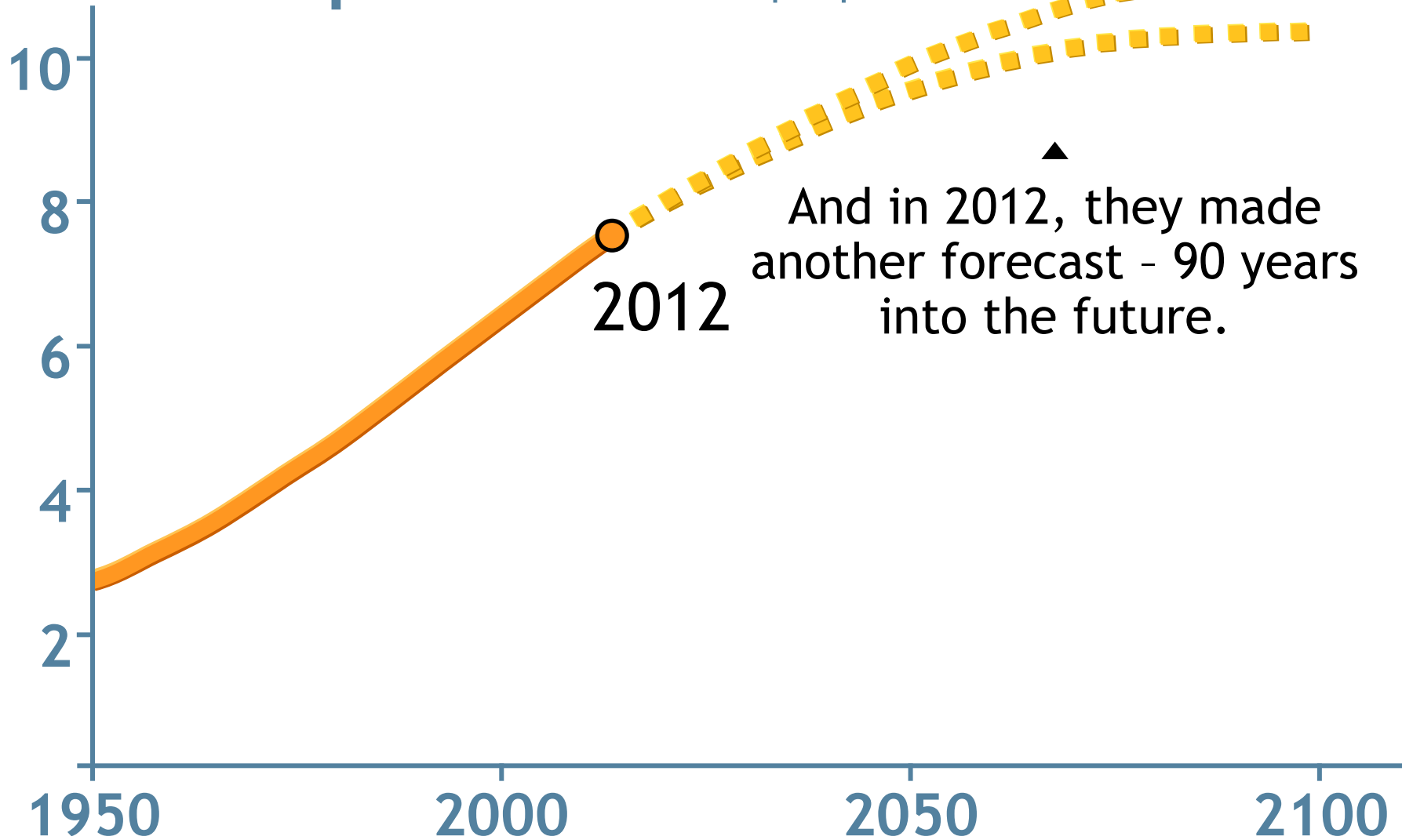


# World Population Billion people



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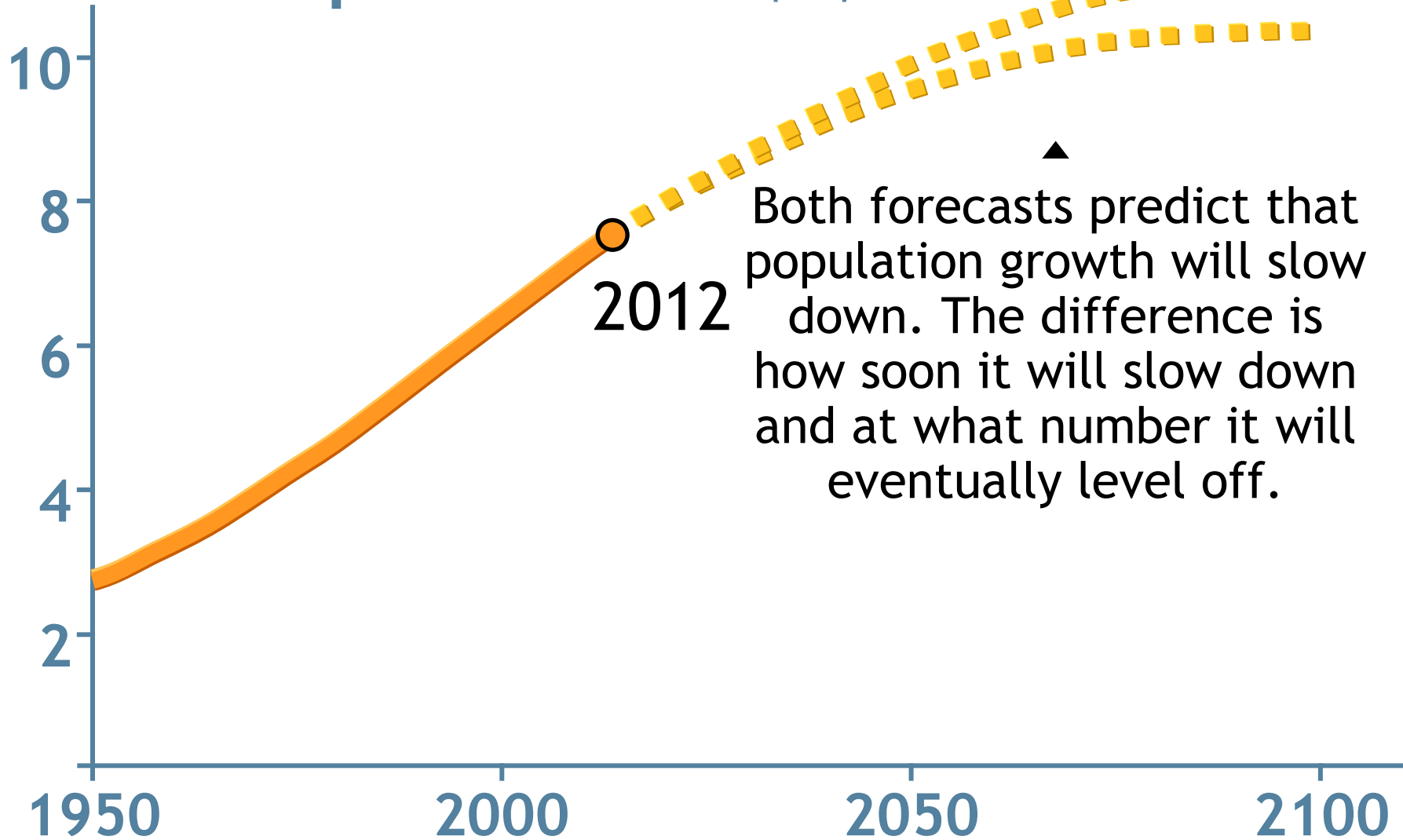
# World Population Billion people



And in 2012, they made another forecast - 90 years into the future.

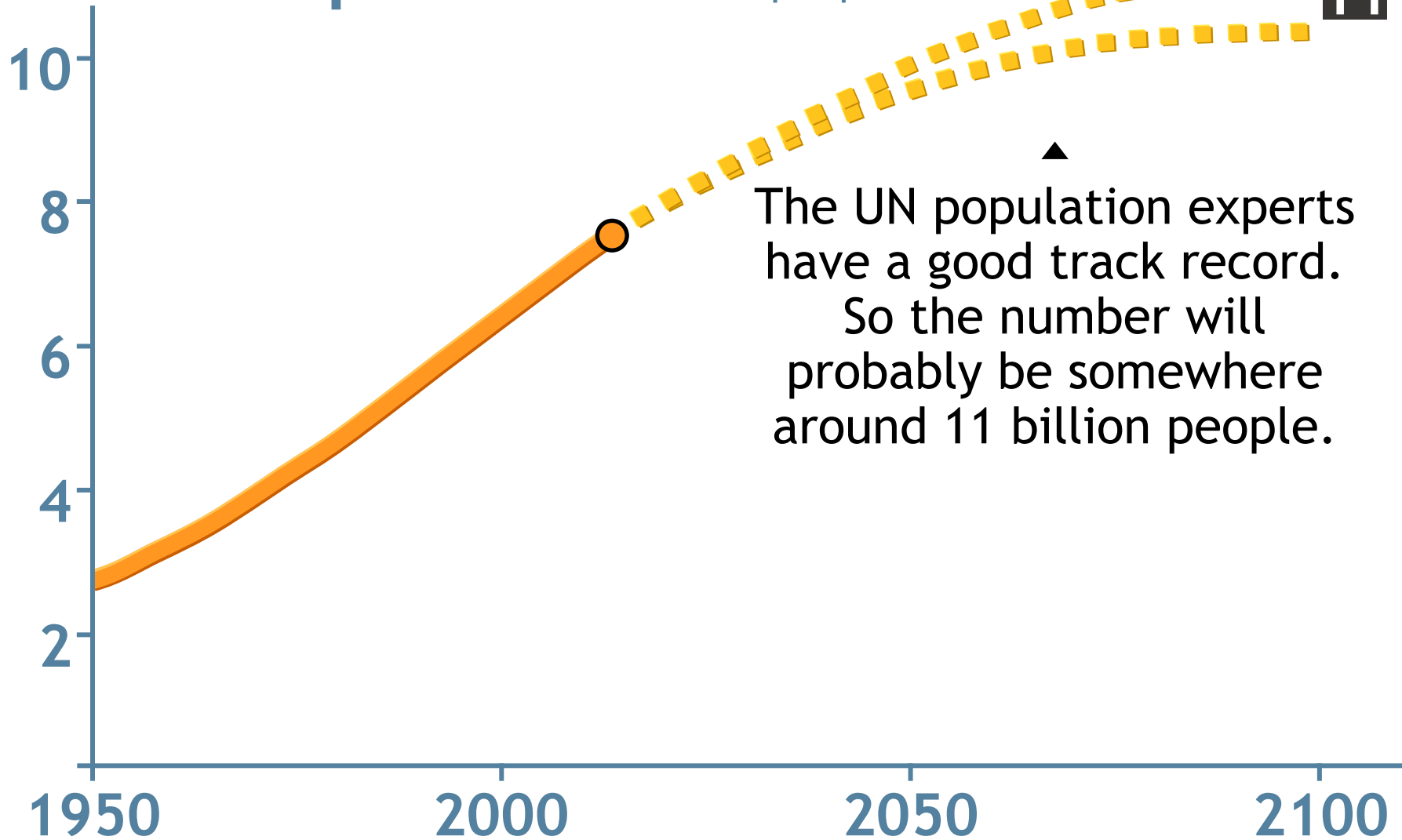
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# World Population Billion people



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# RELATED QUESTIONS



## How did Babies per Woman change in the world?

Short answer – It dropped

Throughout history, women on average have given birth to more than 5 babies. But in the 1960's the number suddenly started dropping. Today it's down to less than three. Most likely it will continue to drop down to two or even below.



## How did the world population change?

Short answer – First slowly. Then fast.

In this short video Professor Hans Rosling shows how the size of the world population has changed over time. From the beginning of agriculture to the industrial revolution the population growth was very slow. Then the population started to grow rapidly because fewer died young. Today, most women have fewer children and therefore the rapid growth will soon be slowing down. World population will most likely stabilise around 11 billion towards the end of the century.



## How can the world population forecasts be so good?

Short answer – Births & deaths can be predicted

The UN population forecasts can be very accurate. This is because the future population is determined by factors that are quite predictable, namely births and deaths. We know that people grow older, and the approximate death rates of different age groups. The number of adults and old people are therefore relatively easy to predict. It is harder to predict how many children there will be, but knowing the number of adults in reproductive age makes it possible to estimate how many babies will be born.

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