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Sommario/riassunto	Population ageing is often viewed as an impending threat to the economic and social stability of post-industrial societies. Forecasters expect people aged 65 and over to make up 30% of the European Union population by 2060 – almost double today's figure of 17%. At the same time, the working age population (aged 15–64 years) peaked in 2010 at 67% and is predicted to decline steadily to 59% by 2060. The upshot of the demographic shift is that social protection systems may become unsustainable as the demands upon them intensify while the number of net contributors declines. [Ed.]