# The 3rd millennium, so far

*The genome read, rockets that land, and machines that think.*

The first quarter of the new millennium. Science read the human genome and learned to edit it. Rockets began to come home and fly again. Computers learned to see, speak and reason. People went back around the Moon. At the same time, birth rates across the West fell well below replacement.

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## What rose

2003. The Human Genome Project finishes reading the human genome. Source: Human Genome Project

2007. The iPhone puts the internet in every pocket. Source: iPhone

2012. CRISPR gene editing is described; the first CRISPR medicine is approved in 2023. Source: CRISPR gene editing

2015. A Falcon 9 first stage lands upright after launch, the start of reusable rockets. Source: Falcon 9

2020. mRNA vaccines are developed and approved in under a year. Source: mRNA vaccine

2021–22. The James Webb Space Telescope launches and sends back the deepest images of the universe yet. Source: James Webb Space Telescope

2026. Artemis II flies four people around the Moon, the first crewed lunar flight since 1972. Source: Artemis II

## What fell or stalled

Births per woman fell well below the replacement level of about 2.1 across nearly every Western country. Source: Our World in Data

The 2008 financial crisis brought the deepest recession in the West since the 1930s. Source: Great Recession

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*Version 1, November 22, 2026. Drafted with AI from public sources and checked against the source linked for each entry. Not yet reviewed by Nicholas Niehaus. Corrections are welcome and are logged publicly.*
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