

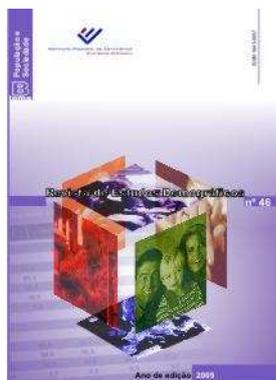
Population

Nº. 46 – November 2009

Demographic Studies Review

Demographic Studies Review, Nº. 46 – November 2009

Number 46 of the Demographic Studies Review includes four articles:



- ↪ Impact of parental ages at childbearing on infant morbidity and mortality. An overview of epidemiologic and demographic evidence
Authors: *Catherine Gourbin* and *Guillaume Wunsch*
- ↪ Fertility Postponement in Portugal (1980-2008)
Author: *Isabel Tiago de Oliveira*
- ↪ The economic and social situation in the European Union: analysis of some indicators
Author: *Patrícia Pereira*
- ↪ The Demographic Changes in Portugal
Authors: *Maria José Carrilho* e *Lurdes Patrício*

Statistics Portugal has just published the number 46 of Demographic Studies Review.

This journal has a long tradition in the field of demographic studies in Portugal. The first number was published in 1945 and since then it became a reference in the field of demographic studies for those who intends to analyze the demographic trends in both national and international levels.

After some years without being edit the Review was re-edited in 2002 and since then has been issued every six months, with the first number based on specific theme, whilst the second issue was of a general nature.

This number of the Demographic Studies Review which is now coming out, publishes four articles of which abstracts are presented down:

IMPACT OF PARENTAL AGES AT CHILDBEARING ON INFANT MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY. AN OVERVIEW OF EPIDEMIOLOGIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

After recalling that maternal and paternal fertility, and in particular the first birth, are occurring later and later in life in all developed countries, the paper examines the relation between parental ages at childbearing on the one hand and morbidity and mortality of the child on the other hand, on the basis of an overview of epidemiologic and demographic research. Age of mother at childbearing has an impact on child mortality and morbidity. Similarly, a late paternal age at childbearing, controlling for mother's age, has a statistically significant impact on neonatal mortality and on late foetal mortality, as well as on the risk for the child of suffering from various congenital anomalies. One still lacks a full understanding of the biological mechanisms involved.

FERTILITY POSTPONEMENT IN PORTUGAL (1980-2008)

This research about fertility postponement in Portugal, between 1980 and 2006, is based in a birth order perspective. The birth order analysis reveals a larger fertility postponement in the specific birth orders than the one found in the overall mean age at childbirth. The greater expression of the fertility postponement is also confirmed by the analysis of the median age at childbirth, with more significant increases than the mean age during the same period. On the other hand, the analysis on the diversity of mother's age reveals a two step process in the Portuguese fertility postponement: whereas during the first phase there is an increase in the ages at childbirth not associated with any tendency regarding dispersion, in a second stage the global increase in the ages at childbirth is associated with a significant trend of greater diversity in ages at childbirth.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: ANALYSIS OF SOME INDICATORS

At a time of continual changes and new social economic demands, several important sectors became vulnerable. At the level of the labour market the increased need for higher levels of productivity and competitiveness led to the emergence of new skills which increased unemployment among those who had not adjusted to the changes and among those who invested in their training but had entered in the labour market later and later.

The inequalities increased thus swelling the number at risk of poverty. The demographic pictures also reflected these changes, on the one hand marked by lower rates of fertility and on the other hand by an evidently ageing population. This situation has had two consequences; first a worrying increase in the degree of dependence of the aged population; second a consequent decline in the proportion of employed people in relation to the number of pensioners, thus contributing to an increase in the cost of social contributions.

This research aimed to compare the 27 member states of the European Union in terms of a number of socio-economics indicators, attempted to discover groups of countries which were similar, and groups which were dissimilar in terms of these indicators. It's concerned with a summary of the methodology that was developed and the results achieved on a Master dissertation in Prospecting and Analysis of Data (Quantitative Methods), presented in July 2009 to ISCTE.

The research was carried out through out the use of multivariate statistical methods, namely, Principal Components Analysis which was used to reduce and establish the analysis dimensions, and two Cluster Analyses applied to define two sets of groups of European Union countries, one based on the Human Development Index (HDI) and the other based on expenditure on social contributions. Following, Discriminant Analysis was used to

determine which dimensions best distinguished the two groups of countries and MANOVA was applied to assess the extent to which the groups differed in terms of the impact of social economics indicators used in the study

THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN PORTUGAL

In the 2001-2008 period Portugal experienced a continuous growth of the population, at a weak and decreasing rate. This growth results almost exclusively of the net migration, since the natural change is very low, becoming even negative in 2007. Fertility remains at levels far below those necessary to renew the generations, longevity increases, and both these factors intensify the process of demographic ageing.

The new family models in Portugal are the result of the significant fall in the number of marriages and the strong rise of the number of wedlock births, the number of divorces and the average age at marriage.

This paper intends to study the patterns of demographic variables responsible for the major changes in both population size and age structure of the population and culminating in its significant ageing.