

Latin American fertility decline: Differences and commonalities

Guiomar Bay

Tim Miller

CELADE- Population Division of ECLAC

Can we classify Latin American countries based on their fertility trajectories?

- The main objective of this presentation is answer that question.
- Does each country have its own unique experience of fertility decline?
- Or do countries share a common experience?
- We analyze fertility levels using TFR and the age-specific fertility rates based on the most recent UN population estimates and projections for the 1950-2010 period.

Classifying countries according their fertility level (TFR) in 1950-1955 and in 1970-1975:

Distinctive paces in decline:
some **slower**, some **more rapid**.

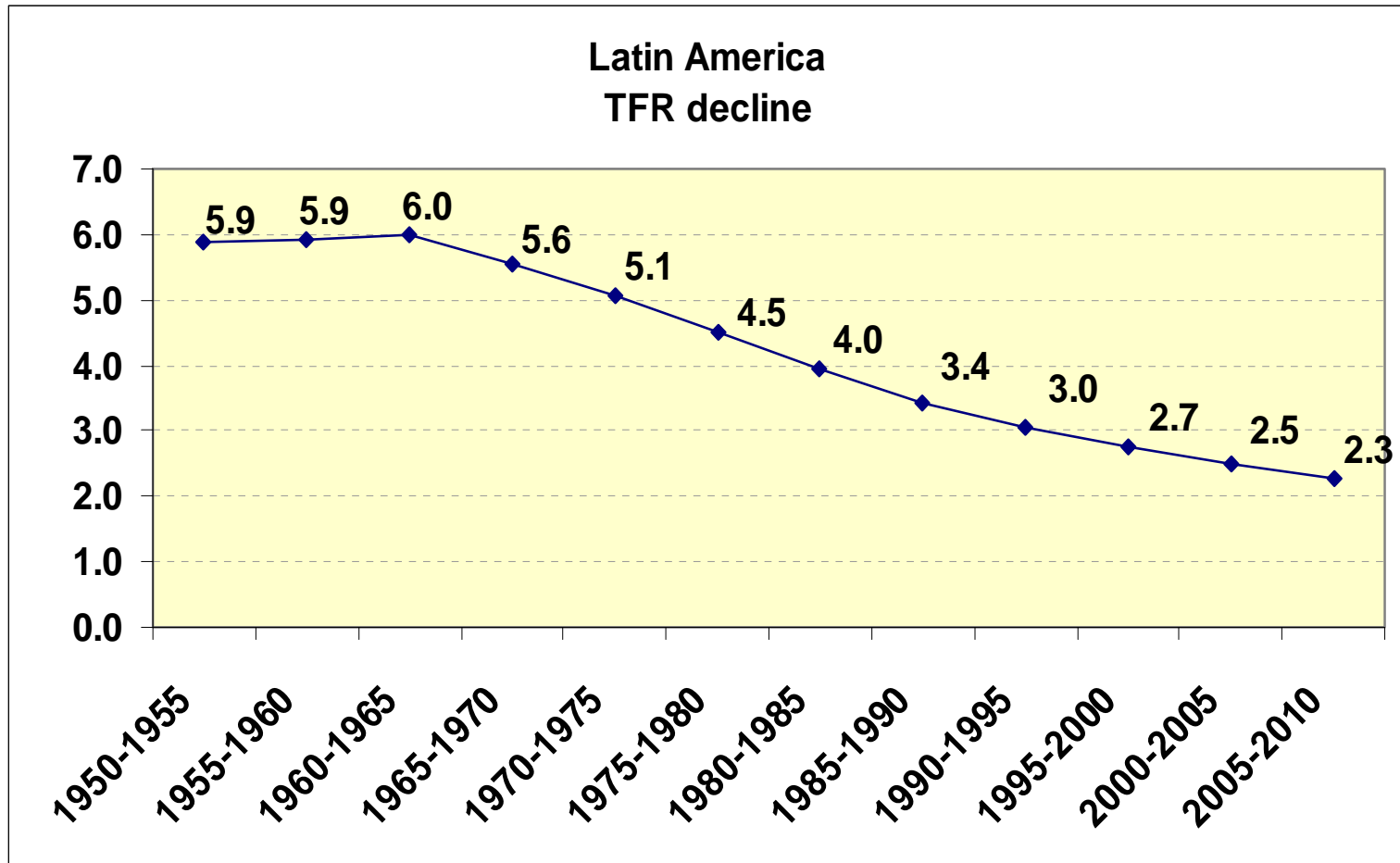
		TFR (children per woman) 1970-1975			
		TFR \geq 5.5 (9 countries)	5.5 > TFR \geq 4.5 (6 Countries)	4.5 > TFR \geq 3.5 (3 countries)	TFR < 3.5 (2 Countries)
TFR (children per woman) 1950-1955	TFR \geq 7 (4 countries)	Honduras Nicaragua Guatemala	Dominican Rep		
	7 > TFR \geq 6.0 (11 countries)	Peru Bolivia Ecuador Mexico Haiti El Salvador	Colombia Paraguay Venezuela Brazil	Costa Rica	
	6 > TFR \geq 4 (3 countries)		Panama	Chile Cuba	
	TFR < 4 (2 countries)				Argentina Uruguay

Classifying countries according their fertility level (TFR) in 1970-1975 and in 2005-2010:

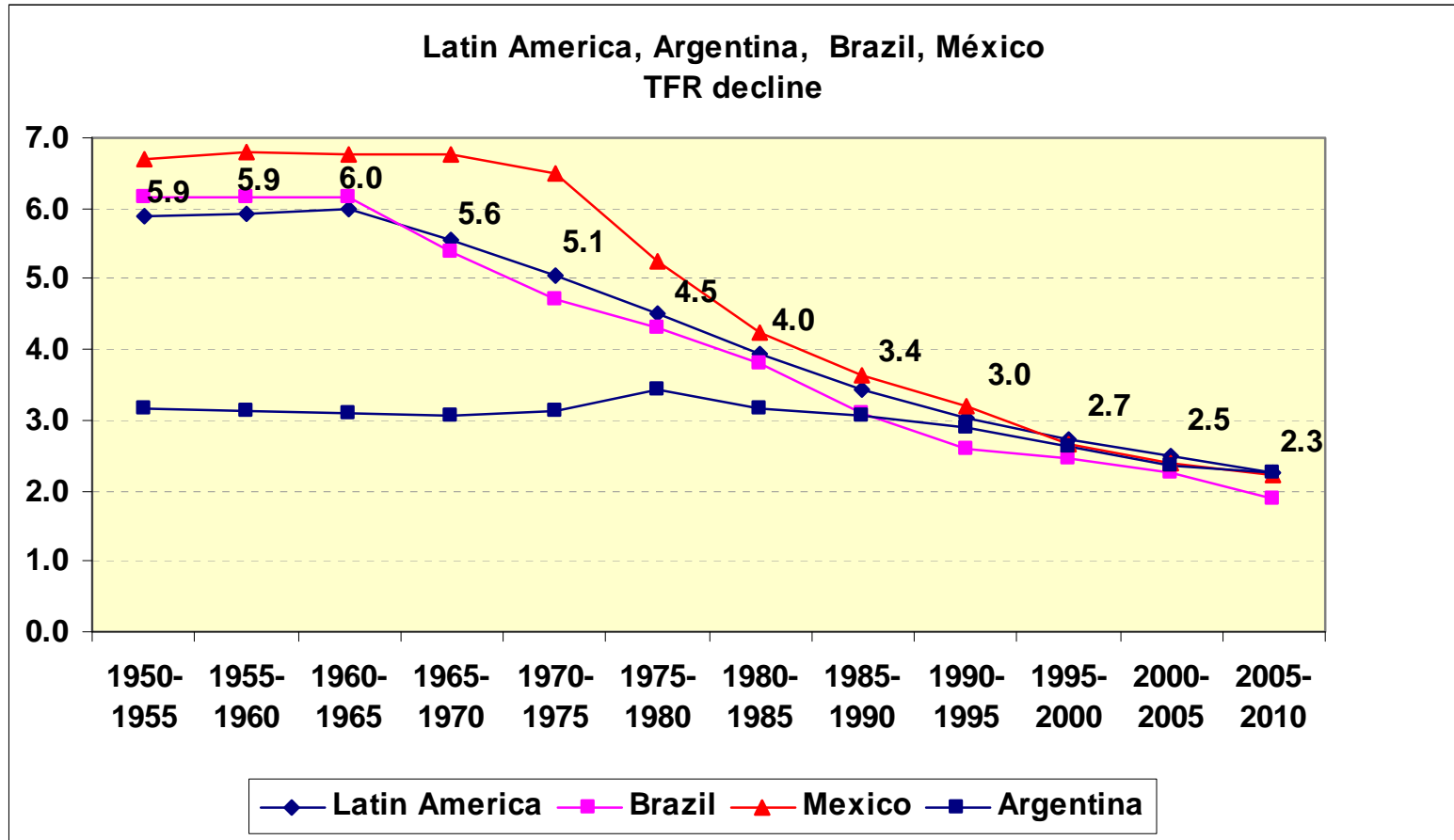
Distinctive paces in decline:
 some **slower**, some **more rapid**.

		TFR(children per woman) 2005-2010			
		TFR ≥ 3.5 (3 Countries)	3.5 > TFR ≥ 3.0 (2 countries)	3.0 > TFR > 2.1 (11 countries)	TFR ≤ 2.1 (4 countries)
TFR(children per woman) 1970-1975	TFR ≥ 5.5 (9 countries)	Guatemala Bolivia Haiti	Honduras	Ecuador El Salvador Mexico Nicaragua Peru	
	5.5 > TFR ≥ 4.5 (6 Countries)		Paraguay	Colombia Dominican Rep. Panama Venezuela	Brazil
	4.5 > TFR ≥ 3.5 (3 countries)				Chile Costa Rica Cuba
	TFR < 3.5 (2 countries)			Argentina Uruguay	

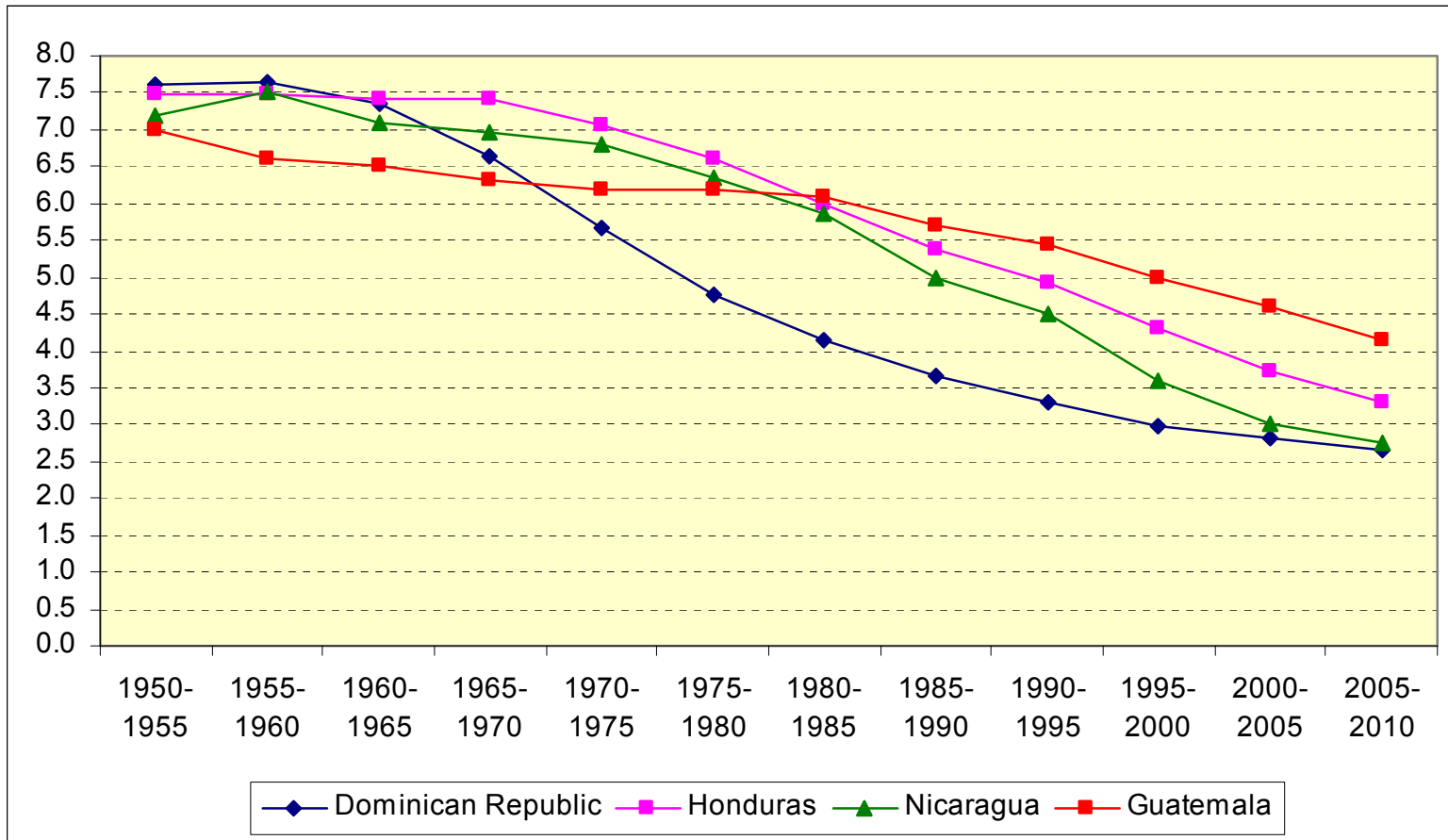
The trajectory of TFR decline in the region



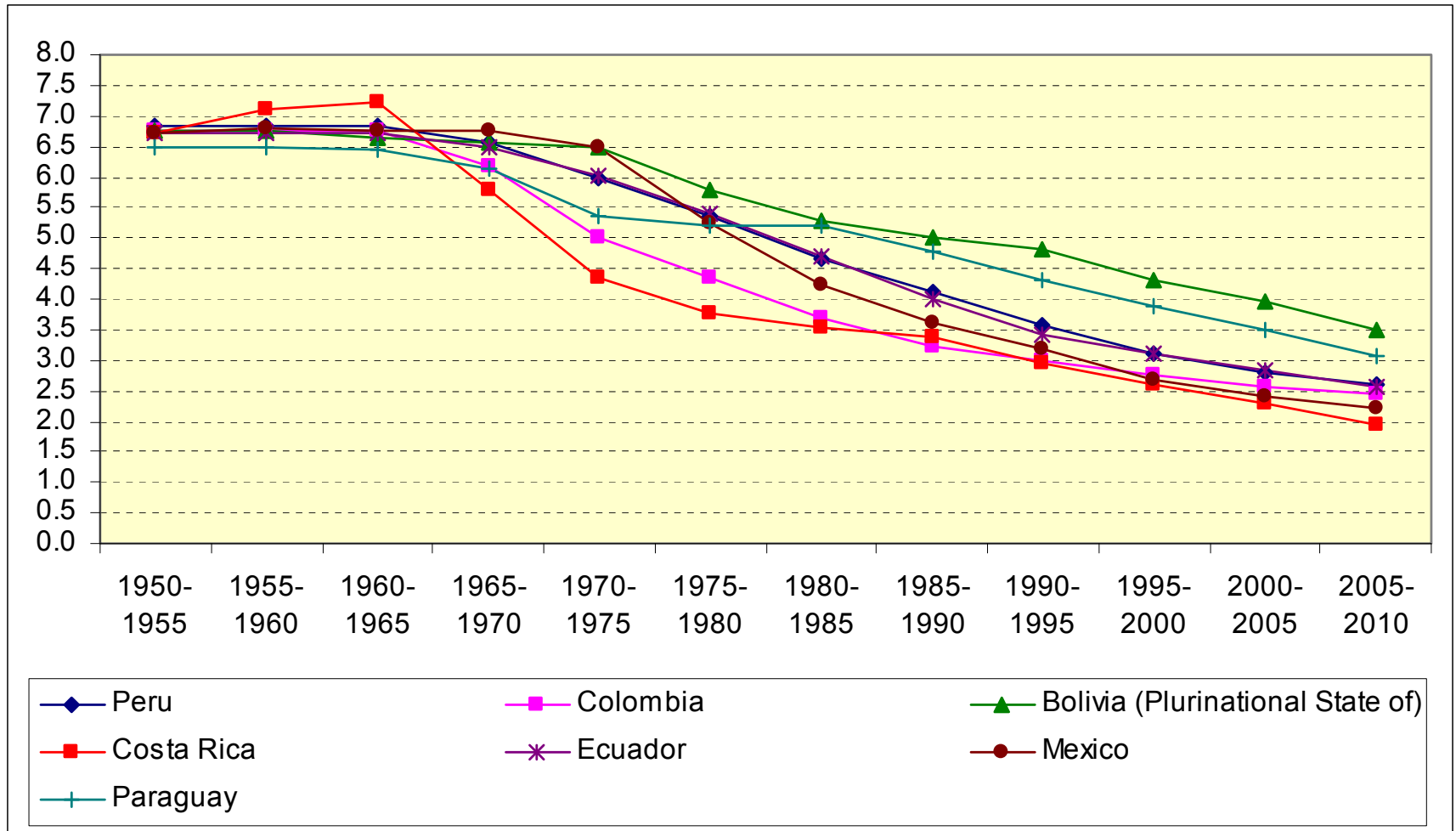
The regional average masks the distinctive patterns of individual countries.



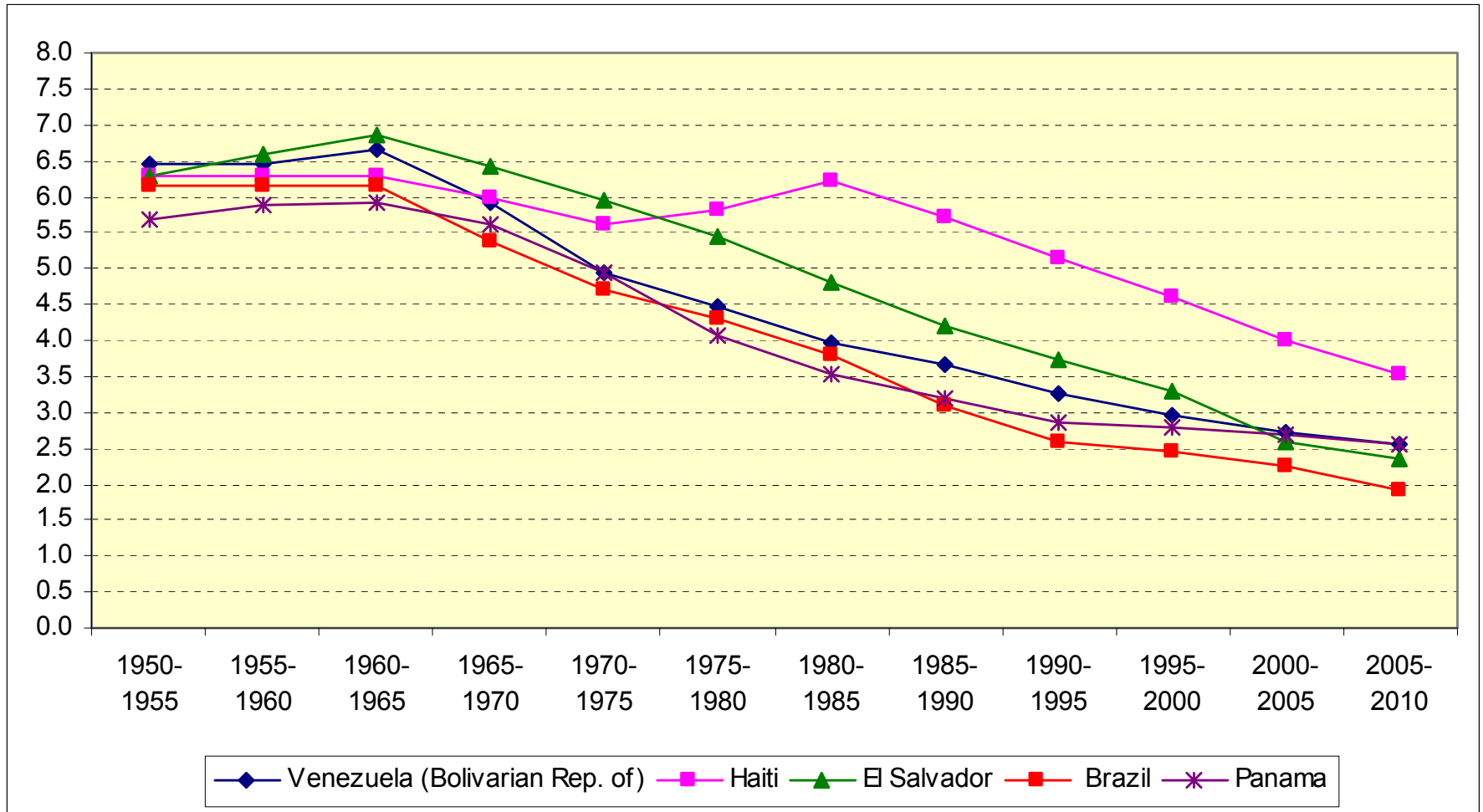
The countries with highest TFR (≥ 7 children per woman) in 1950-1955



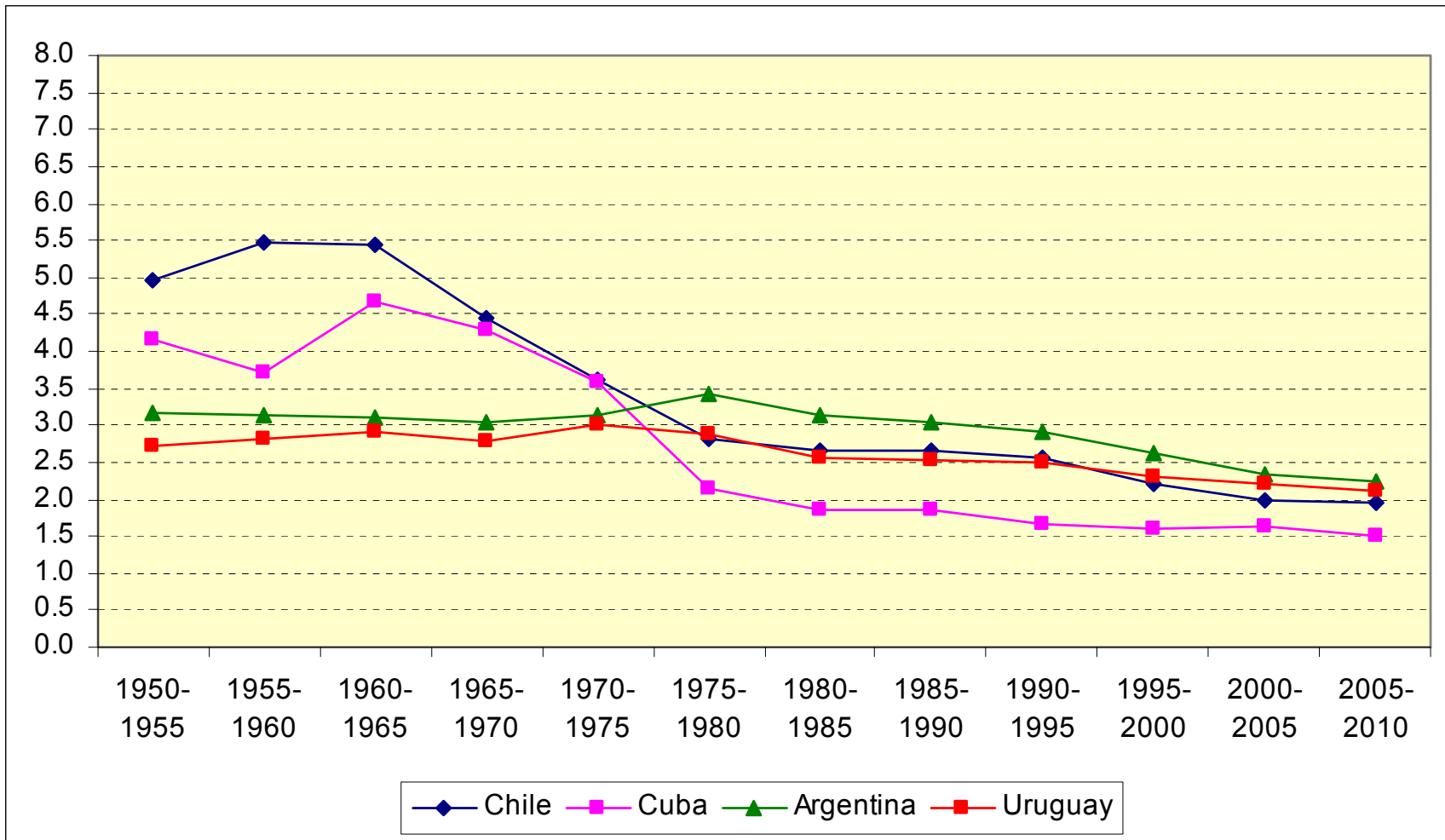
7.0 > TFR ≥ 6.5 in 1950-1955



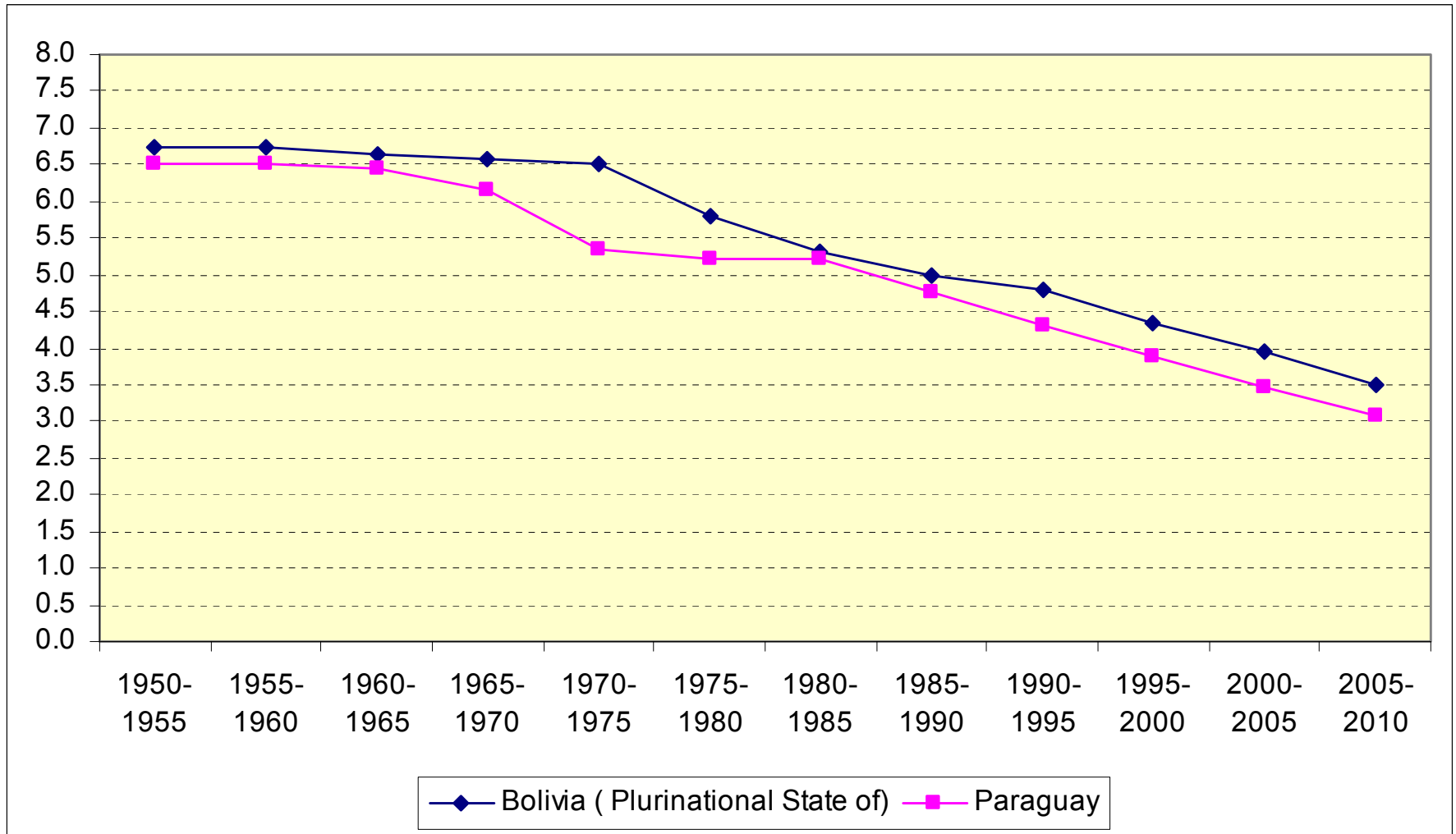
6.5 > TFR ≥ 5.5 in 1950-1955



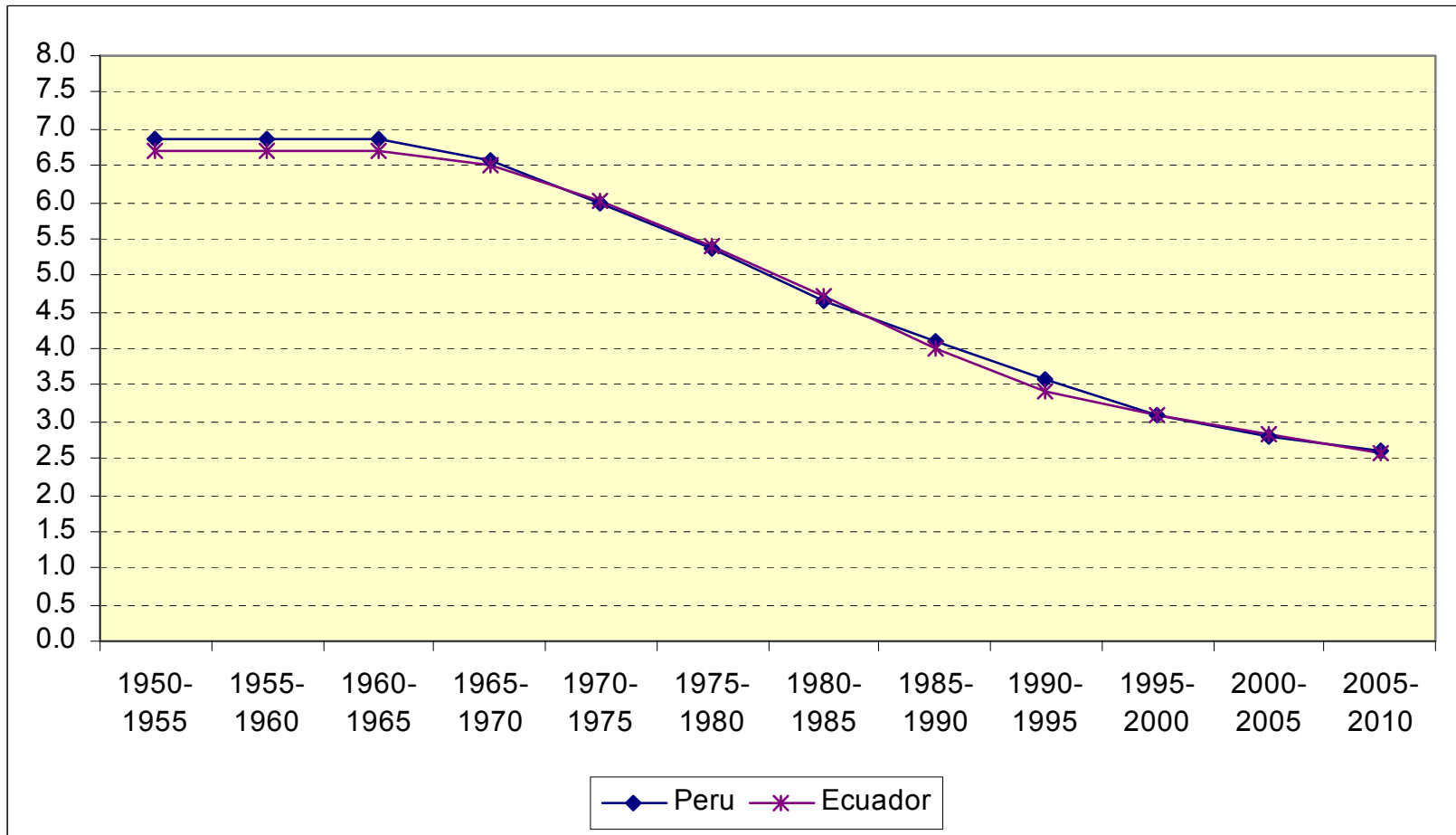
5.5 > TFR in 1950-1955



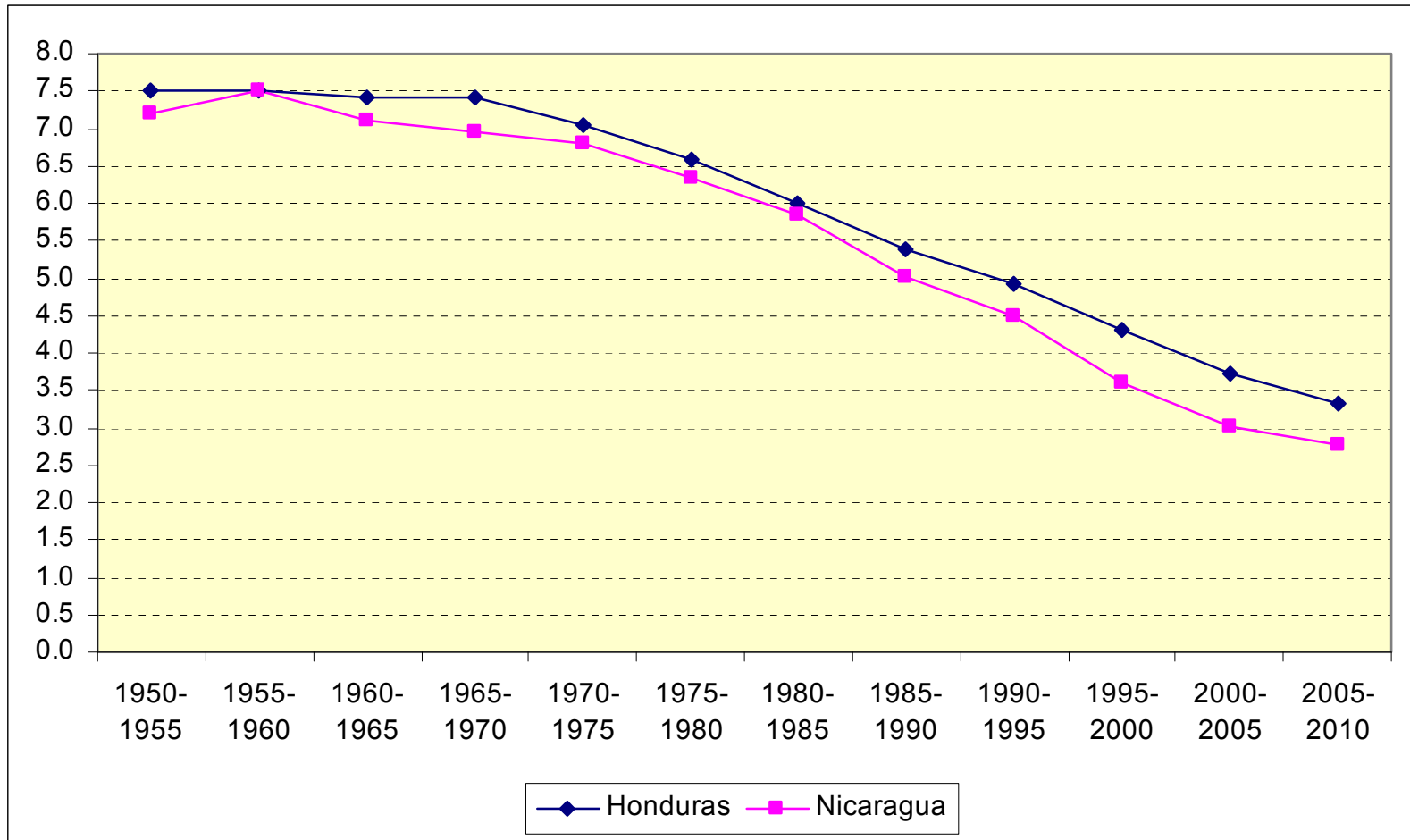
Similar trajectories in neighboring countries



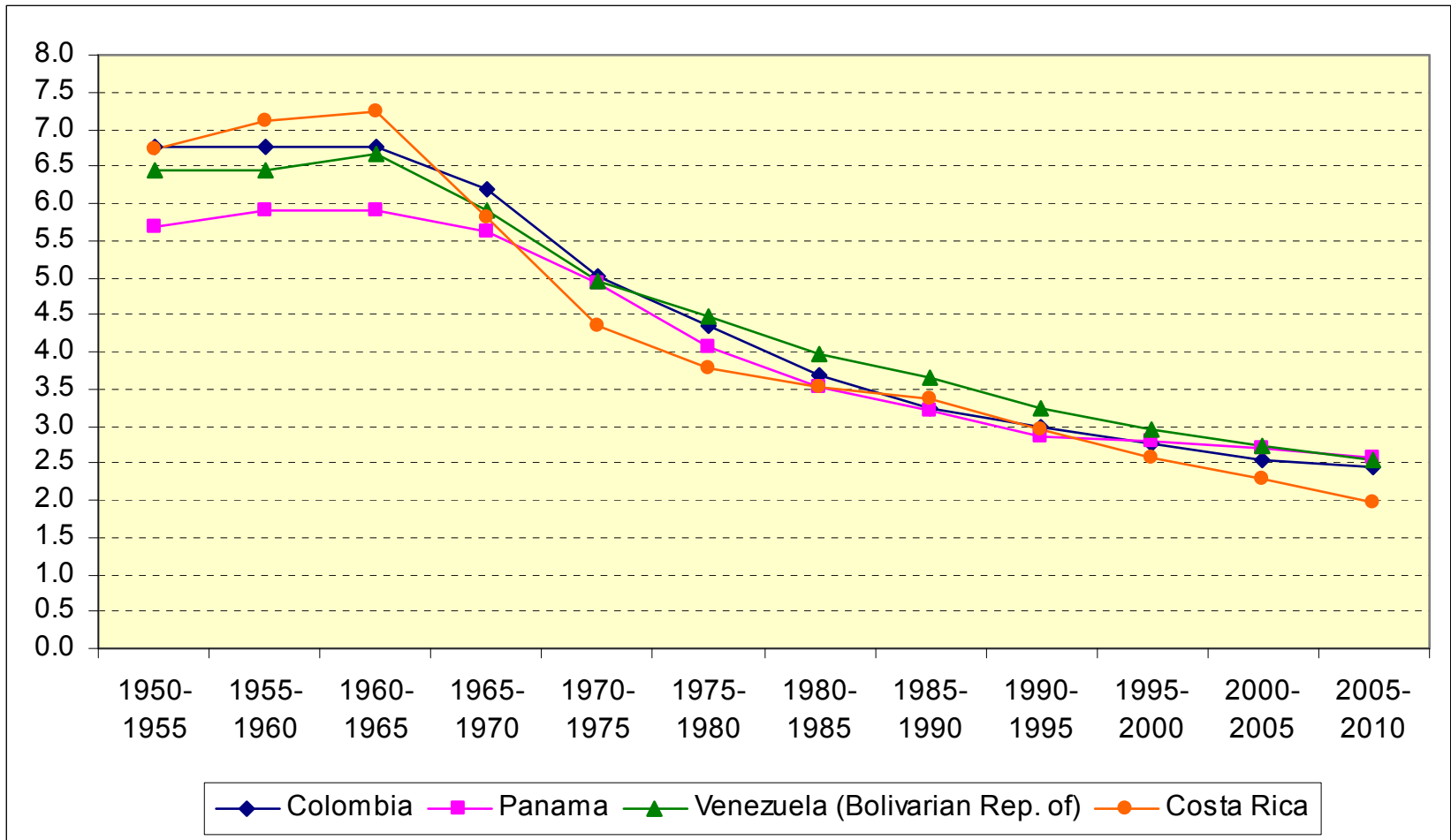
Similar trajectories in neighboring countries



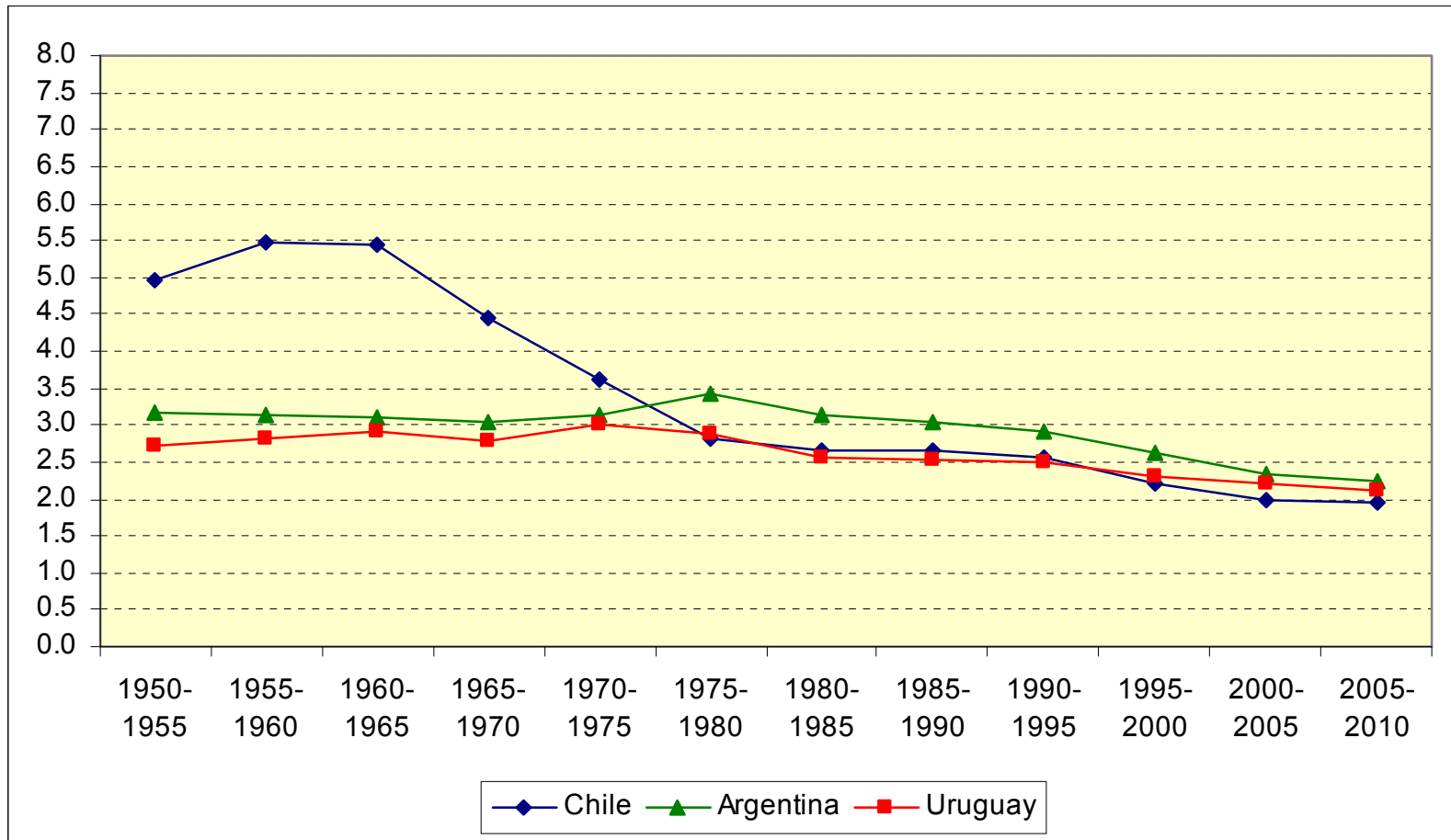
Similar trajectories in neighboring countries



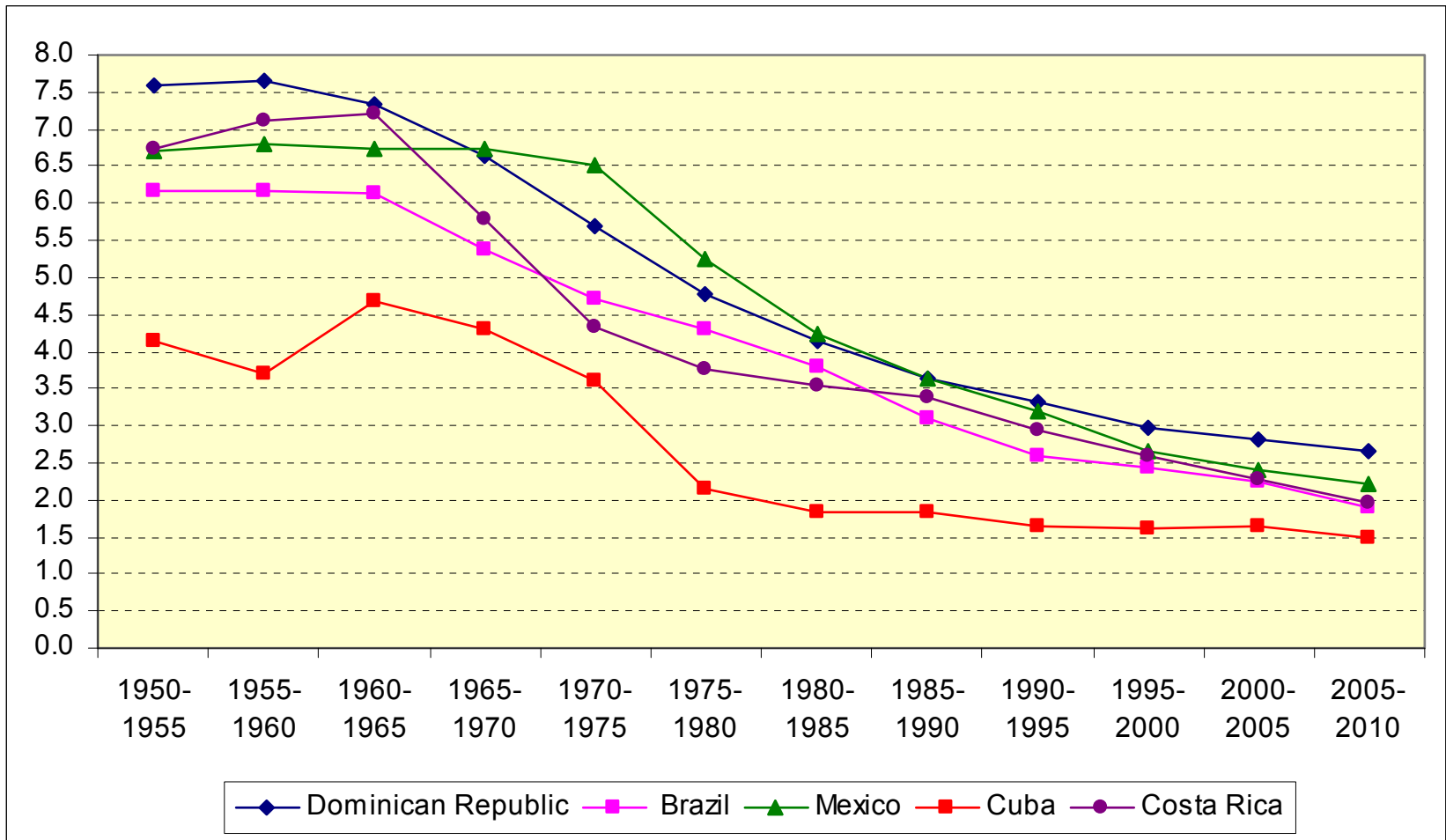
Similar trajectories in neighboring countries



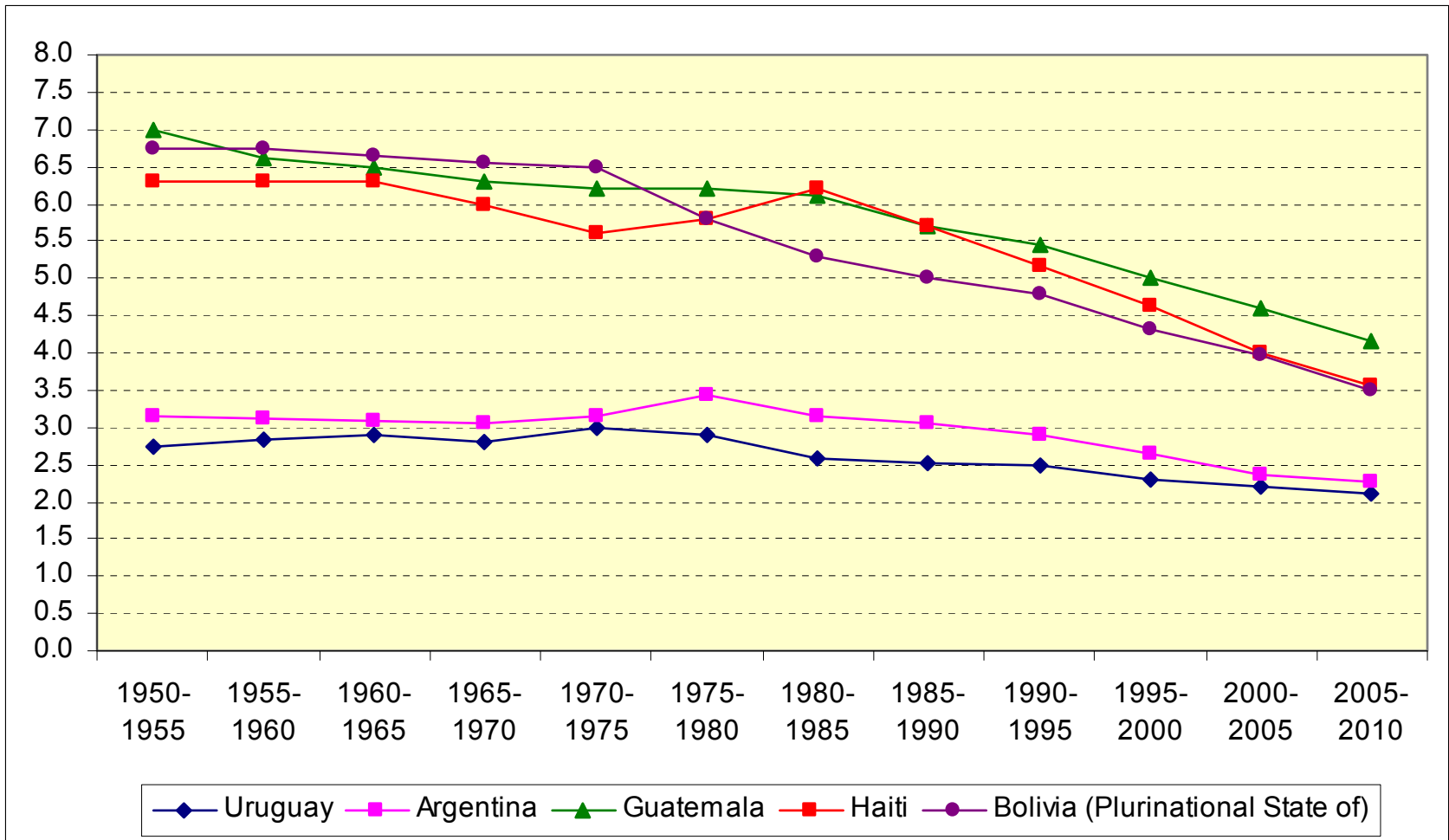
Similar trajectories in neighboring countries



Countries with the largest reduction between 1950-55 and 2005-10



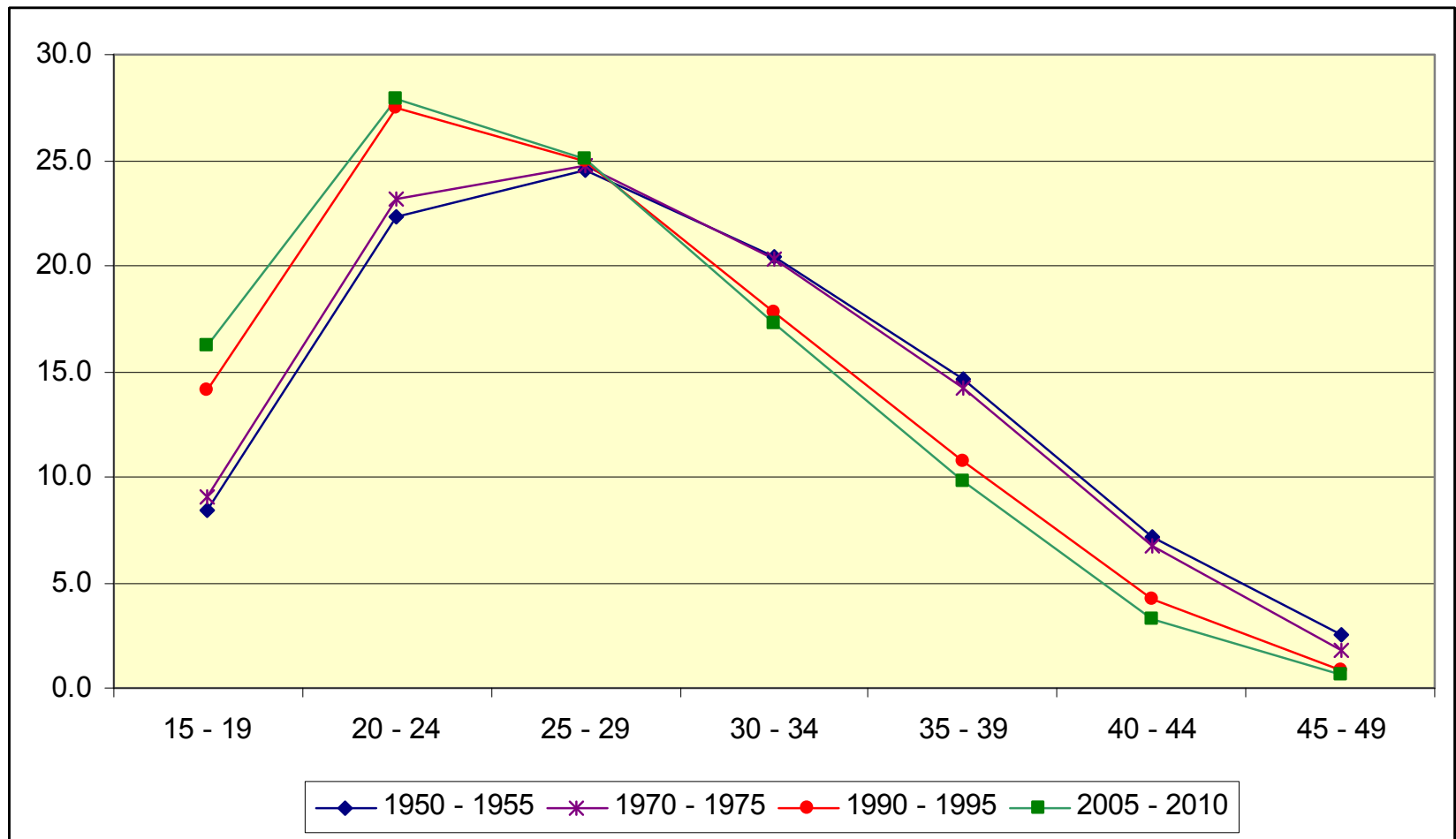
Countries with the least reduction between 1950-55 and 2005-10



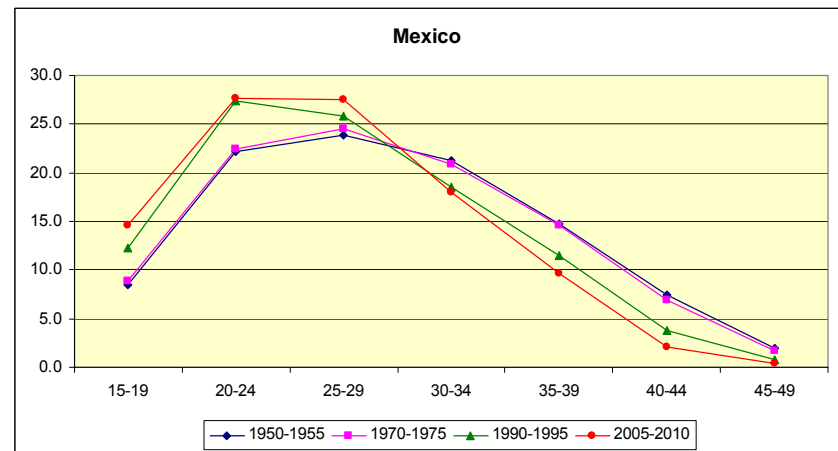
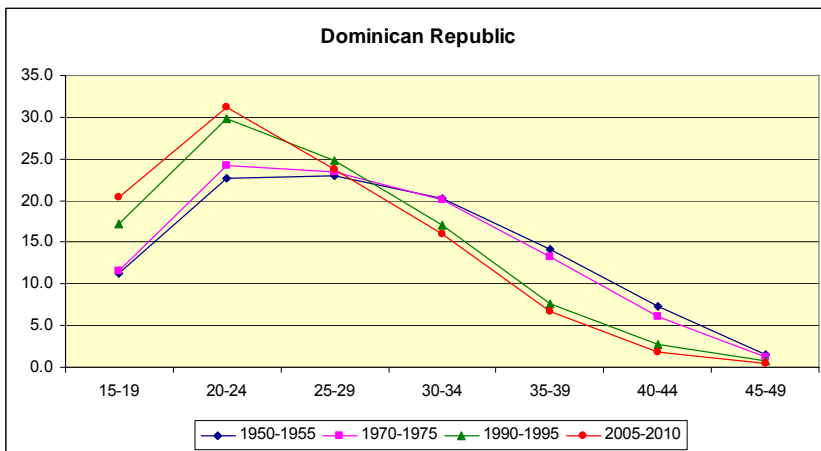
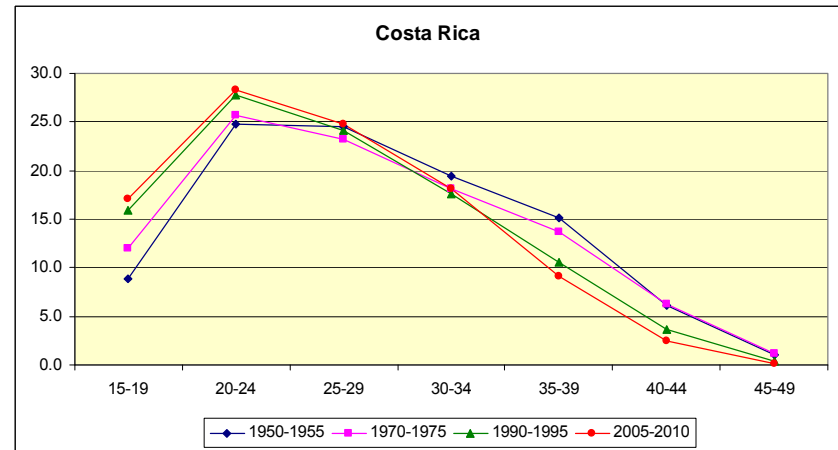
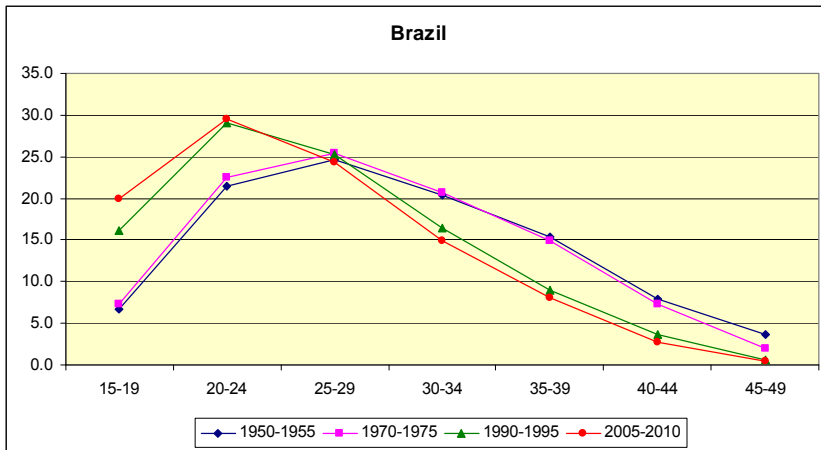
And what happened to changes in age-specific fertility rates?

- We had assumed that fertility reduction would concentrate fertility in the age group 25-29.
- But what happened really?

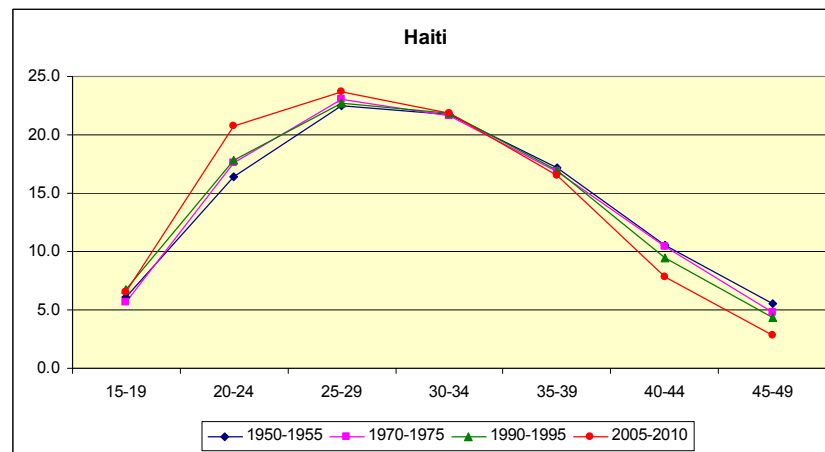
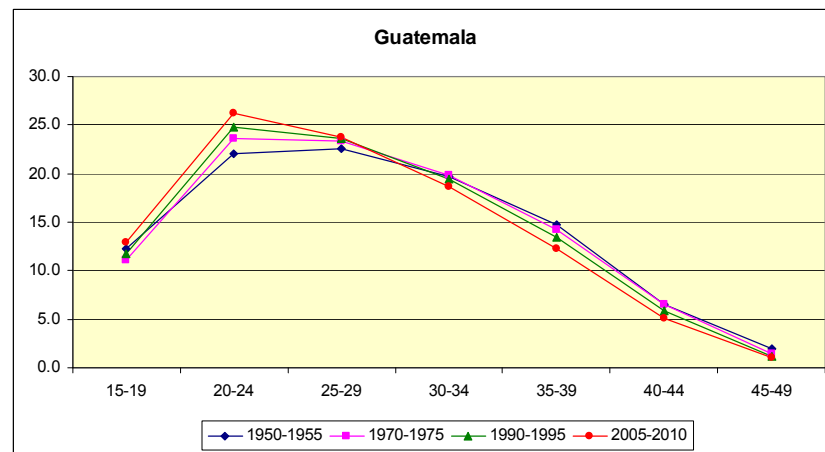
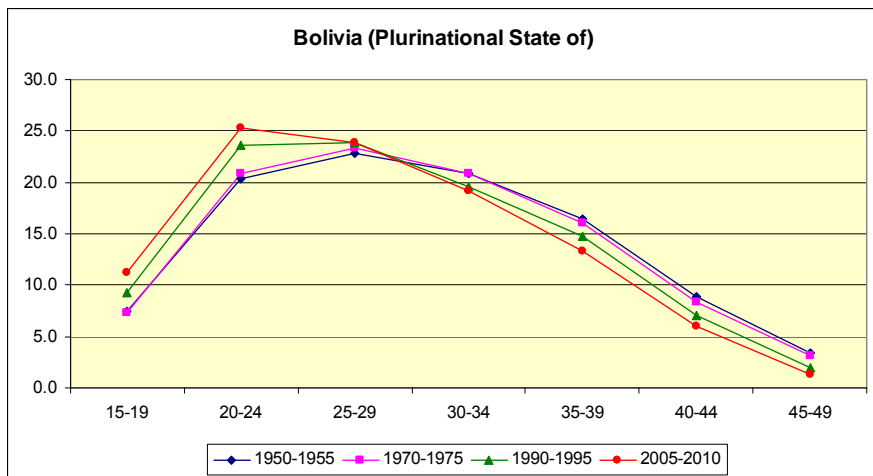
Relative distribution of age-specific rates in Latin America



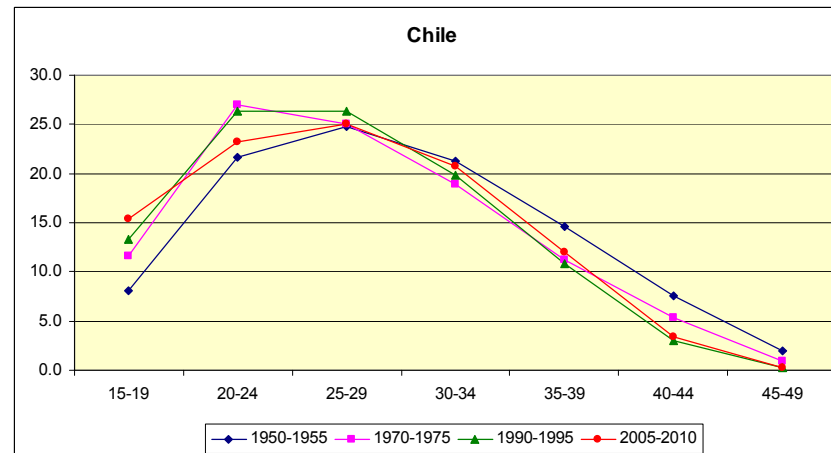
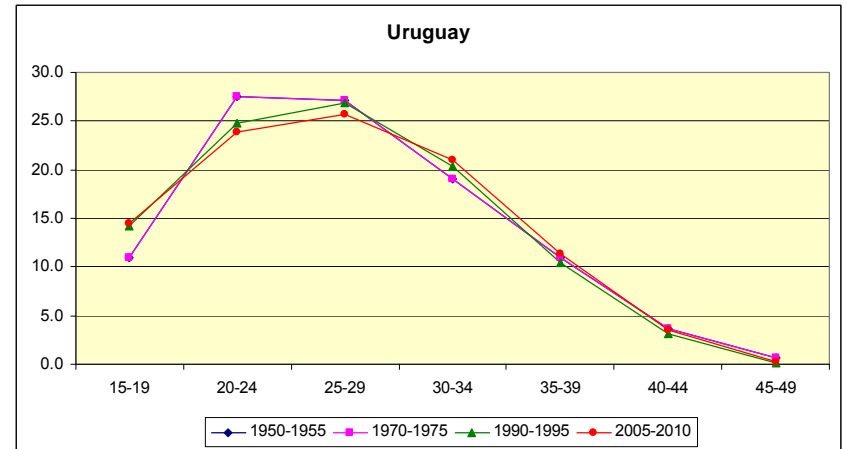
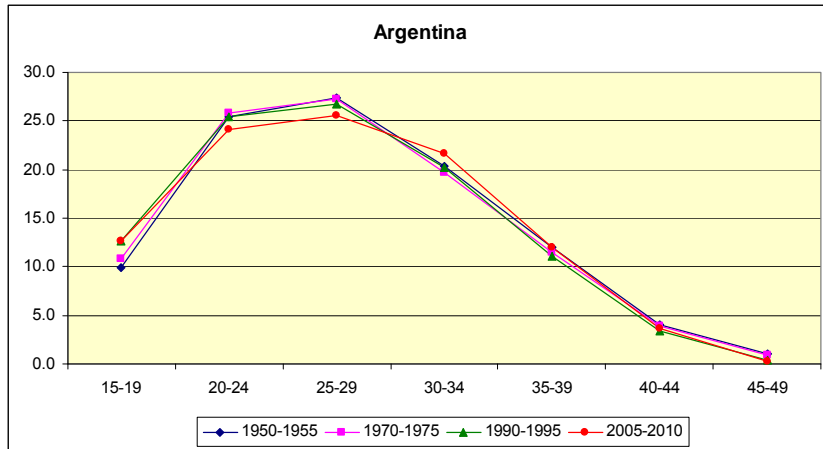
Relative distribution of age-specific rates in countries with largest reduction in TFR



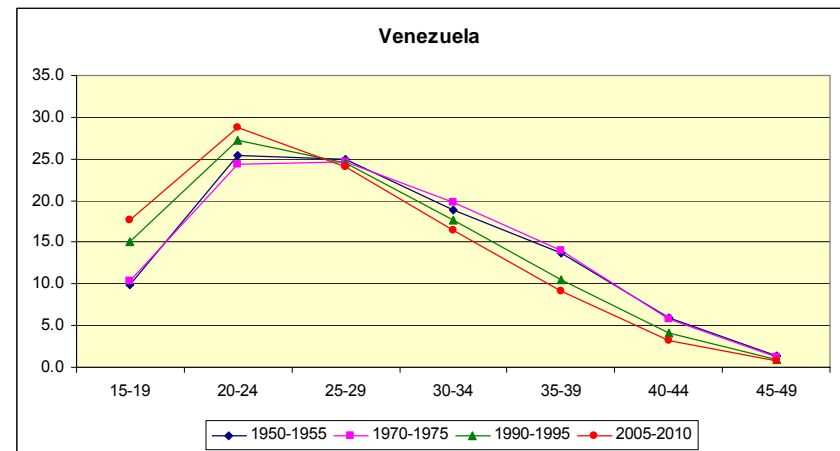
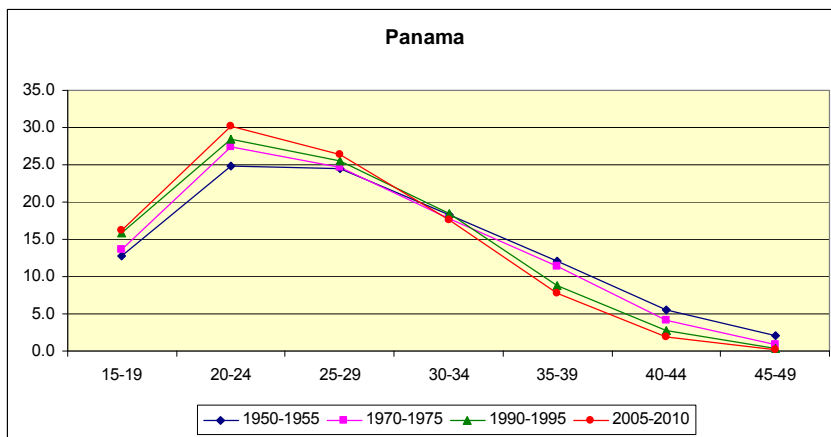
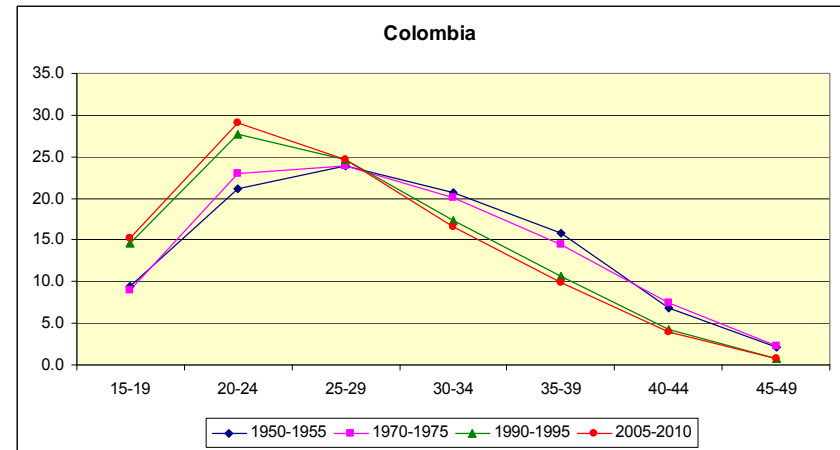
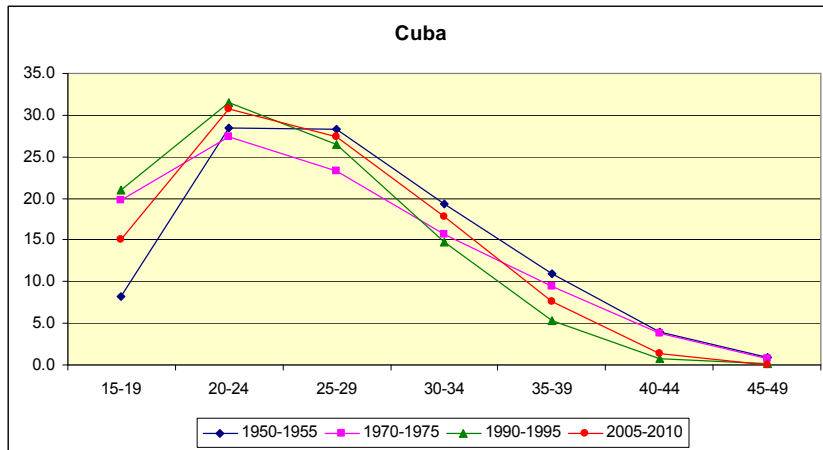
Relative distribution of age-specific rates in countries with least reduction in TFR



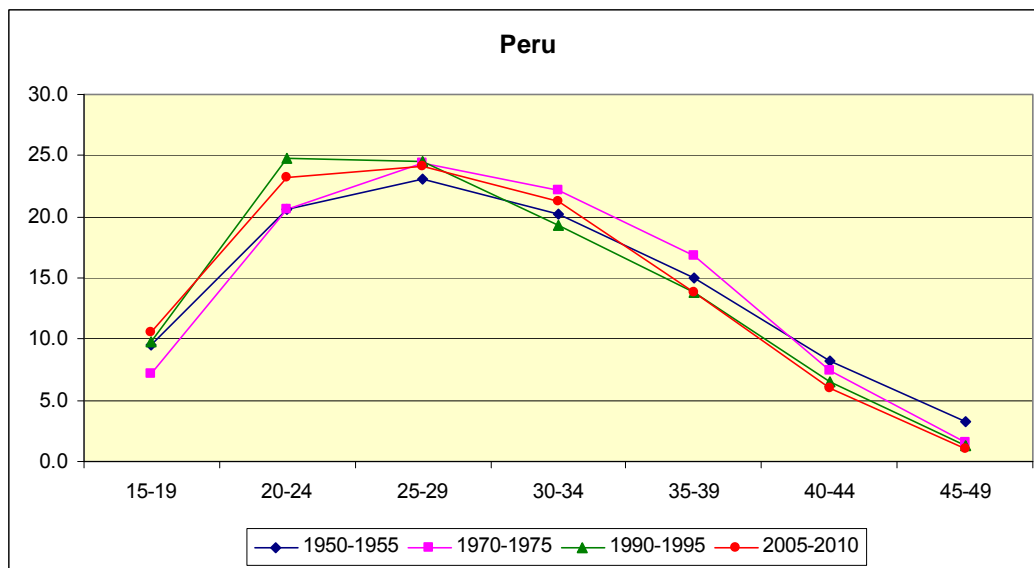
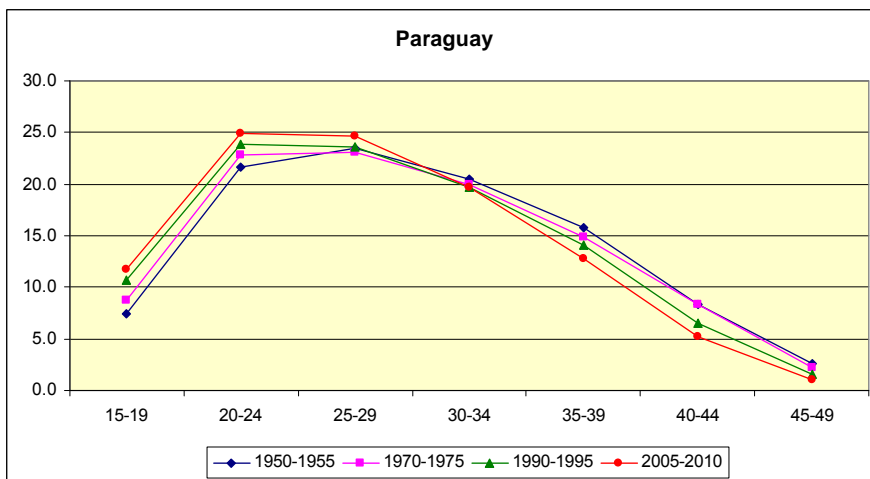
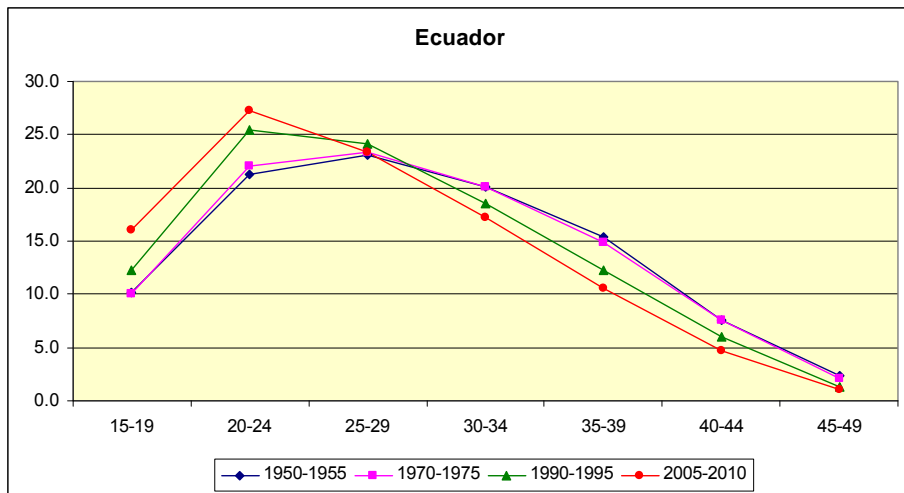
Relative distribution of age-specific rates in Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile



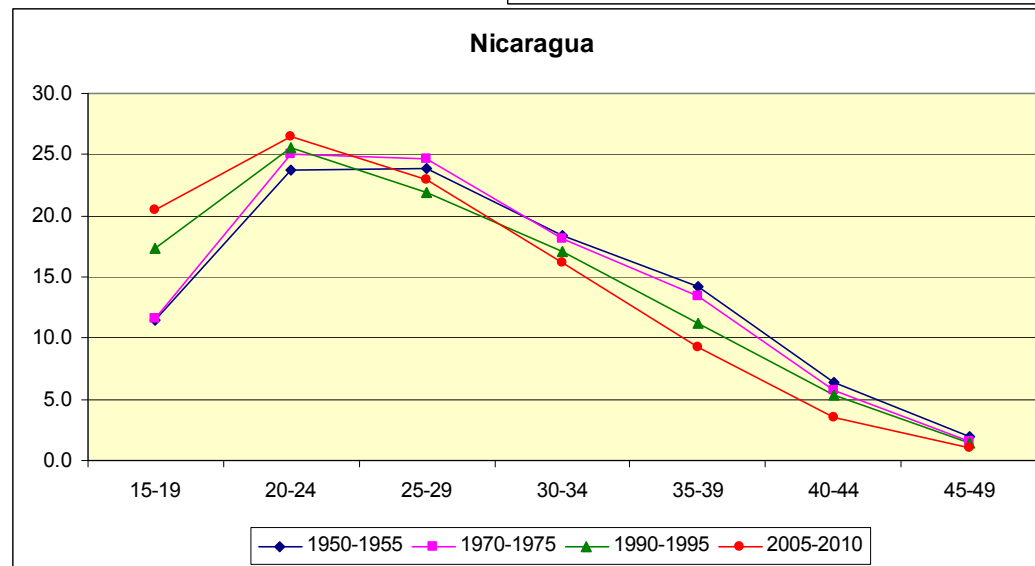
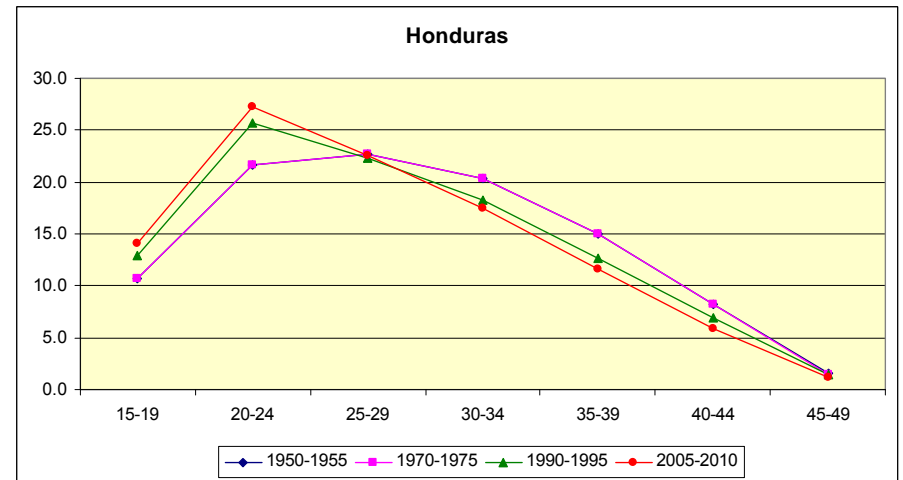
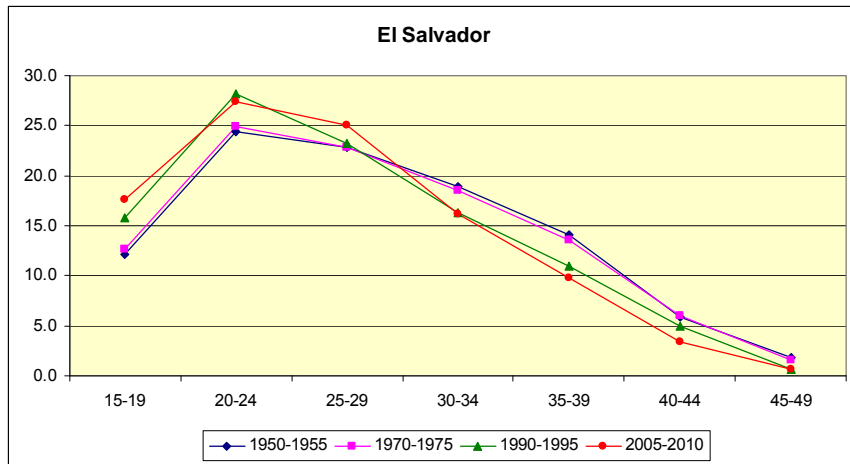
Relative distribution of age-specific rates in Cuba, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela



Relative distribution of age-specific rates in Ecuador, Peru and Paraguay



Relative distribution of age-specific rates in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua



Some aspects to think about

- Socioeconomic factors
 - Labor force participation
 - Cultural aspects
 - Economic and political crises
 - Educational transition
- Demographic factors
 - Infant mortality
 - Migration
 - Urbanization
- Proximate determinants
 - Contraception
 - Abortion policies

Conclusion or questions?

- Many (neighboring) countries share a similar pattern of decline. However, there has been a lot of diversity in the rate of decline. For this reason, probabilistic projections are a good option.
- Is there any reason to expect that all countries in the region will stabilize at the same fertility levels and patterns in the future?