

## FRANCE

### *Past trends*

Between 1950 and 1965, the total fertility rate in France remained above 2.7 children per woman, but later dropped by 40 per cent, from 2.85 in 1960-1965 to 1.72 in 1990-1995. During that period the life expectancy at birth, for both sexes combined, increased from 66.5 years in 1950-1955 to 77.1 years in 1990-1995. One of the consequences of these changes was that the proportion of the population aged 65 or older increased from 11.4 per cent in 1950 to 15.0 per cent in 1995, while the proportion of the population aged 15-64 remained nearly constant at nearly 66 per cent. France was the country with the oldest population at the turn of the century. In 1901 the potential support ratio was 7.8 persons aged 15-64 for each person aged 65 or older. It declined further to 5.8 in 1950 and to 4.4 in 1995.

### *Scenario I*

Scenario I, the medium variant of the 1998 United Nations projections, assumes a total of 525,000 net immigrants from 1995 to 2020 and none after 2020. It projects that the total population of France would increase from 58.0 million in 1995 to 61.7 million in 2025, and decline to 59.9 million in 2050 (The results of the 1998 United Nations projections are shown in the annex tables). At that date 525,000 persons (0.9 per cent of the total population) would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. The population aged 15-64 would increase from 38.0 million in 1995 to 39.9 million in 2010, and then decrease to 34.6 million in 2050. The population aged 65 or older would keep increasing, from 8.7 million in 1995 to 15.4 million in 2040, before declining slightly to 15.3 million in 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would decrease by nearly half, from 4.4 in 1995 to 2.3 in 2050.

### *Scenario II*

Scenario II, which is the medium variant with zero migration, uses the fertility and mortality assumptions of the medium variant of the 1998 United Nations projections, but without any migration to France after 1995. The results are very similar to those of scenario I. The total population of France would increase from 58.0 million in 1995 to 61.1 million in 2025, and then start decreasing, to 59.4 million in 2050. The population aged 15-64 would increase from 38.0 million in 1995 to 39.6 million in 2010, and then decrease to 34.3 million in 2050. The population aged 65 or older would keep increasing, from 8.7 million in 1995 to 15.3 million in 2040, before declining slightly to 15.2 million in 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would decrease by nearly half, from 4.4 in 1995 to 2.3 in 2050.

### *Scenario III*

Scenario III keeps the size of the total population constant at its maximum of 61.1 million in 2025. In order to do so, it would be necessary to have 1.5 million immigrants between 2025 and 2050, an average of 60,000 per year. By 2050, out of a total population of 61.1 million, 1.8 million, or 2.9 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

### *Scenario IV*

Scenario IV keeps the size of the population aged 15-64 constant at its maximum of 39.6 million in 2010. In order to do so, 5.5 million immigrants would be needed between 2010 and 2050, an average of

136,000 per year. By 2050, out of a total population of 67.1 million, 7.8 million, or 11.6 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

#### *Scenario V*

Scenario V keeps the potential support ratio at its 1995 value of 4.4. In order to do so, 32.1 million immigrants would be needed from 2000 to 2025, an average of 1.3 million per year, and 60.9 million immigrants from 2025 to 2050, an average of 2.4 million per year. By 2050, out of a total population of 187 million, 128 million, or 68.3 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

#### *Discussion*

As a point of comparison, the official net immigration recorded in France was an average of 76,000 per year for 1990-1994 and an average of 39,000 per year for 1995-1998. Thus, the number of migrants needed to prevent a decline in the total size of the population (scenario III) would be comparable to past experience of immigration to France. Furthermore, the number of migrants that would be needed to keep constant the size of the population in labour-force age (scenario IV) is about double the level experienced in the early 1990s. In addition, under scenario IV, in 2050 the proportion of post-1995 immigrants and their descendants within the total population (11.6 per cent) would be comparable to the proportion of foreign-born that exists currently (10.4 per cent in 1990). Figure IV.4 shows, for scenarios I, II, III and IV, the population of France in 2050, indicating the share that are post-1995 migrants and their descendants.

However, the number of immigrants needed to keep the potential support ratio at its 1995 level would be vastly larger than any previously experienced migration flow, 20 to 40 times the annual numbers of the last 10 years. Furthermore more than two thirds of the resulting population in 2050 would be composed of post-1995 immigrants and their descendants.

In absence of migration, the figures show that it would be necessary to raise the upper limit of the working-age to about 74 years in order to obtain in 2050 the same potential support ratio observed in 1995 in France, i.e. 4.4 persons of working-age per each older person past working-age.

TABLE IV.12. POPULATION INDICATORS FOR FRANCE BY PERIOD FOR EACH SCENARIO

Scenario	I	II	III	IV	V
Period	Medium variant	Medium variant with zero migration	Constant total population	Constant age group 15-64	Constant ratio 15-64/65 years or older
<i>A. Average annual number of migrants (thousands)</i>					
1995-2000	40	0	0	0	842
2000-2025	13	0	0	114	1 282
2025-2050	0	0	59	105	2 301
2000-2050	7	0	29	109	1 792
1995-2050	10	0	27	99	1 705
<i>B. Total number of migrants (thousands)</i>					
1995-2000	200	0	0	0	4 210
2000-2025	325	0	0	2 838	32 054
2025-2050	0	0	1 473	2 621	57 530
2000-2050	325	0	1 473	5 459	89 584
1995-2050	525	0	1 473	5 459	93 794
<i>C. Total population (thousands)</i>					
1950	41 829	-	-	-	-
1975	52 699	-	-	-	-
1995	58 020	-	-	-	-
2000	59 080	58 879	58 879	58 879	63 310
2025	61 662	61 121	61 121	64 442	105 188
2050	59 883	59 357	61 121	67 130	187 193
<i>D. Age group 0-14 (thousands)</i>					
1950	9 498	-	-	-	-
1975	12 594	-	-	-	-
1995	11 326	-	-	-	-
2000	11 047	11 009	11 009	11 009	12 182
2025	10 588	10 495	10 495	11 399	21 788
2050	10 012	9 924	10 393	11 572	38 396
<i>E. Age group 15-64 (thousands)</i>					
1950	27 569	-	-	-	-
1975	33 004	-	-	-	-
1995	37 986	-	-	-	-
2000	38 620	38 488	38 488	38 488	41 593
2025	37 686	37 355	37 355	39 625	67 847
2050	34 586	34 282	35 493	39 625	121 047
<i>F. Age group 65+ (thousands)</i>					
1950	4 762	-	-	-	-
1975	7 101	-	-	-	-
1995	8 708	-	-	-	-
2000	9 413	9 381	9 381	9 381	9 535
2025	13 388	13 271	13 271	13 417	15 554
2050	15 285	15 151	15 234	15 932	27 750
<i>G. Potential support ratio 15-64/65+</i>					
1950	5.79	-	-	-	-
1975	4.65	-	-	-	-
1995	4.36	-	-	-	-
2000	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.36
2025	2.81	2.81	2.81	2.95	4.36
2050	2.26	2.26	2.33	2.49	4.36

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Figure IV.3. Age-sex structures by scenario for 2000, 2025 and 2050  
(Population in millions)

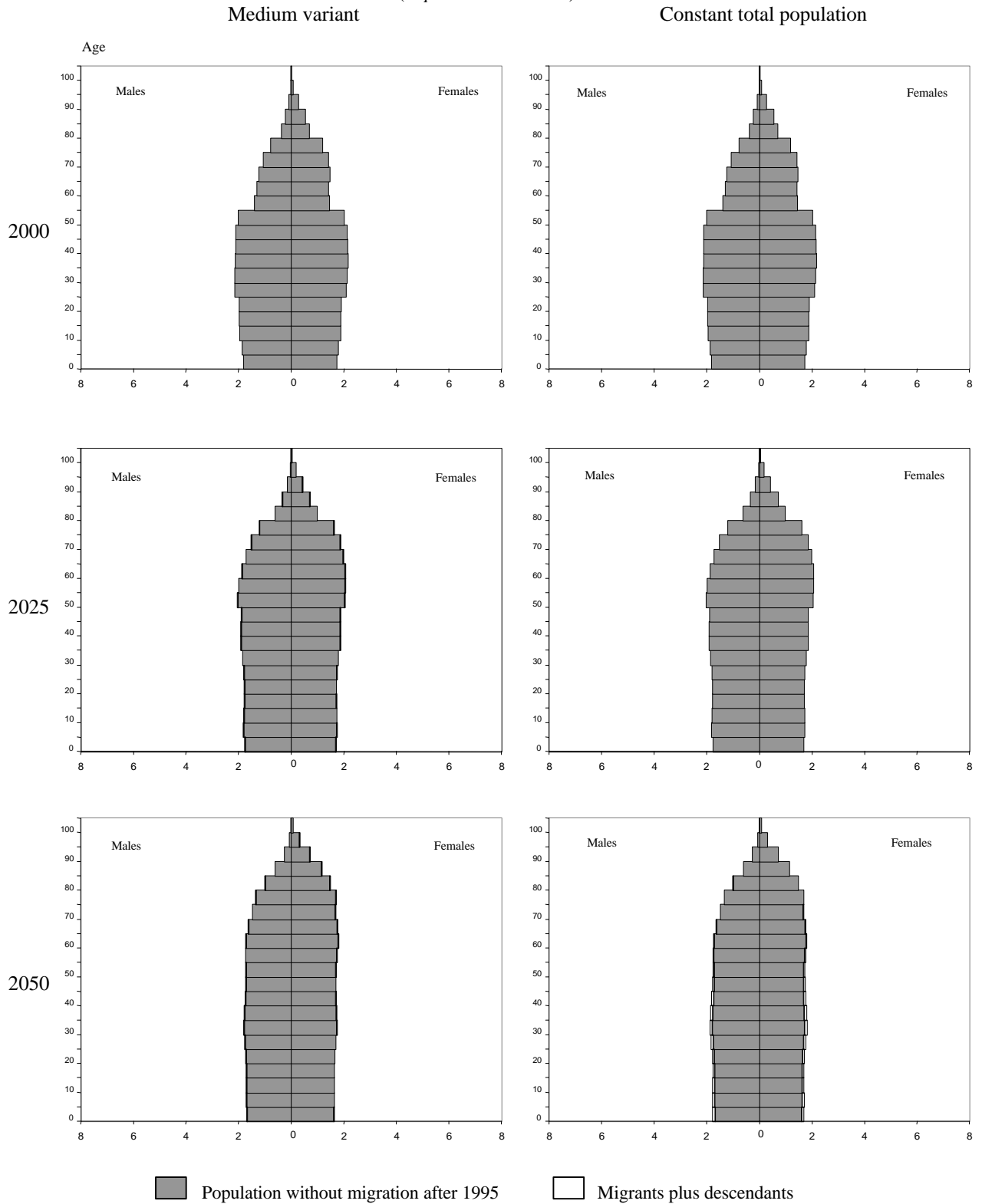
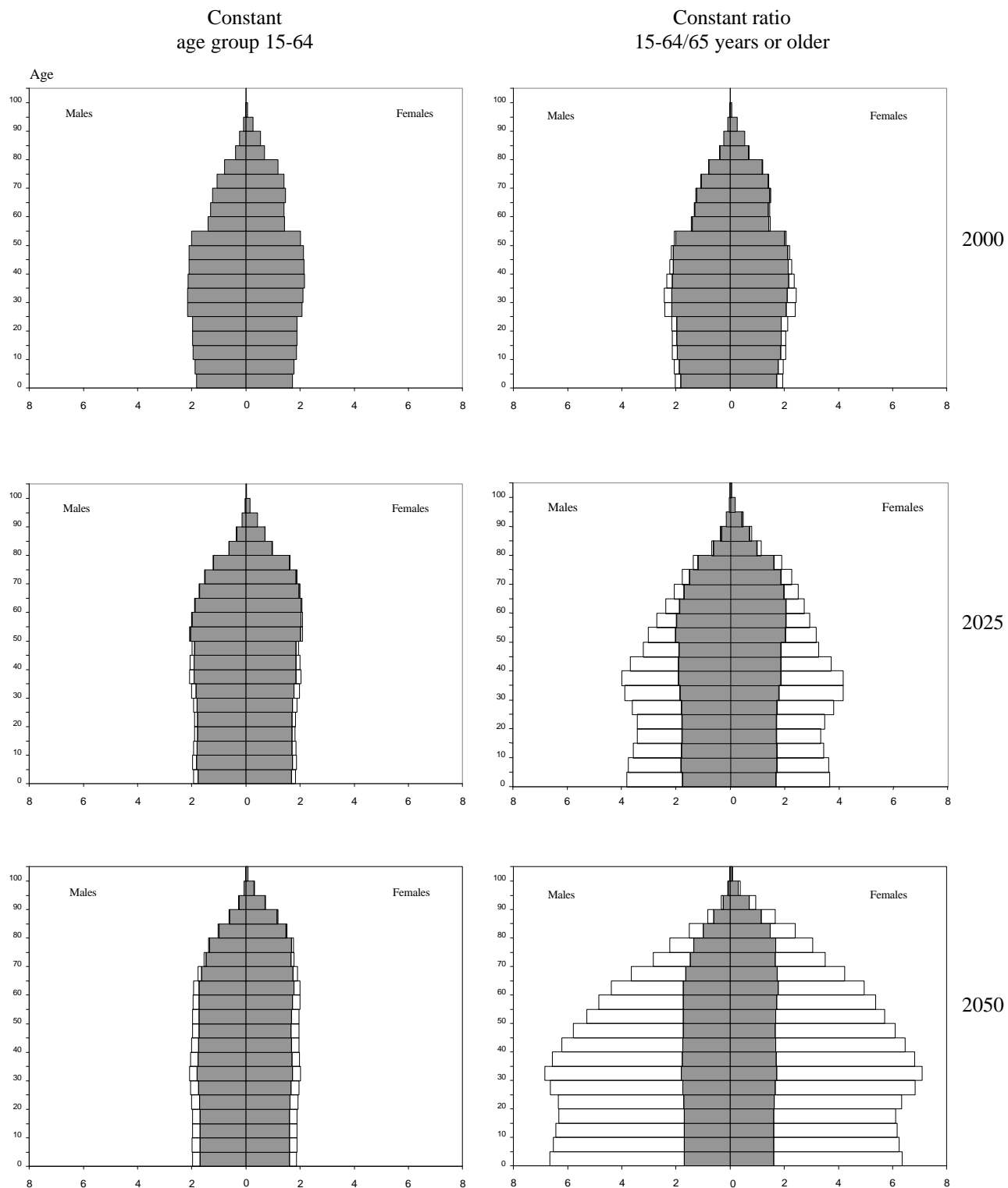


Figure IV.3 (continued)



**Figure IV.4. Population of France in 2050, indicating those who are post-1995 migrants and their descendants, by scenario**

