

ITALY

Past trends

The total fertility rate in Italy went up from 2.3 in 1950-1960 to 2.5 in 1960-1970, and has been declining ever since. It has been below replacement level since 1975, and in 1995-2000 it is estimated at 1.20 children per woman, one of the lowest in the world. Since 1950 mortality has declined consistently, resulting in an increase in life expectancy for both sexes from 66.0 years in 1950-1955 to 77.2 years in 1990-1995. Despite an estimated net annual immigration of 70,000 in 1995-2000, the population of Italy declined during 1995-2000. Among the consequences of these demographic changes is the more than doubling of the proportion of the population aged 65 or older, from 8.3 per cent of the population in 1950 to 16.8 per cent in 1995.

As a result of these changes, the potential support ratio for Italy has declined from 7.9 persons aged 15-64 for each person aged 65 or older in 1950 to 4.1 in 1995.

Scenario I

This scenario, which is the medium variant of the United Nations *1998 Revision*, assumes that there will be 660,000 net immigrants between 1995 and 2020, after which there would be no more migration to Italy. Under this scenario, the population of Italy would decline by 28 per cent, from 57.3 million in 1995 to 41.2 million in 2050 (The results of the 1998 United Nations projections are shown in the annex tables). The population aged 15-64 would decline by 44 per cent over the same period, while the population over 65 years old would increase by 49 per cent, from 9.6 million to 14.4 million. Persons aged 65 or older would constitute more than one-third of the population of Italy by 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would decrease by 63 per cent from 4.1 in 1995 to 1.5 in 2050.

Scenario II

Scenario II, which is the medium variant with zero migration, assumes that fertility and mortality will change according to the medium variant projections of the United Nations *1998 Revision*, but that there will be no migration into Italy after 1995. The results are very similar to those in Scenario I. Italy's population in 2050 would be 40.7 million, only 475,000 persons less than under Scenario I. There would be 21.6 million and 14.2 million persons aged 15-64 and 65 or older, respectively, in 2050. As in Scenario I, the potential support ratio would decrease by 63 per cent from 4.1 in 1995 to 1.5 in 2050.

Scenario III

It is assumed, for Scenario III, that between 1995 and 2050 the total population of Italy will remain constant at its 1995 size of 57.3 million persons. A total of 12.9 million net migrants between 1995 and 2050 would be required to attain this goal. The annual net immigration would increase steadily from 75,000 in 1995-2000 to 318,000 in 2045-2050. Under this scenario, by 2050, 16.6 million persons, or about 29 per cent of the population, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

Scenario IV

This scenario assumes that Italy's population aged 15-64 would remain constant at its 1995 level of 39.2 million, stopping the decline in the size of this age group. To achieve this objective, 19.6 million immigrants would be needed between 1995 and 2050. The average annual number of migrants would vary, reaching a peak of 613,000 persons per year between 2025 and 2030 and then declining to 173,000 per year in 2045-2050. Under this scenario, the population of Italy would grow by 16 per cent from 57.3 million in 1995 to 66.4 million in 2050. By the year 2050, 39 per cent of the population would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. The potential support ratio would decrease from 4.1 in 1995 to 2.2 in 2050.

Scenario V

Scenario V keeps the potential support ratio at its 1995 level of 4.08. A total of 120 million immigrants between 1995 and 2050 would be required to maintain this constant ratio, yielding an overall average of 2.2 million immigrants per year. The resultant population of Italy in 2050 under this scenario would be 194 million, more than three times the size of the 1995 Italian population. Of this population, 153 million, or 79 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

Discussion

In 1995-2000, Italy's population growth rate is estimated at -0.01 per cent. This decline in population is expected despite a net immigration of 70,000 persons per year. The numbers of foreign-born in Italy have almost doubled from 821,000 in 1965 (1.6 per cent of the total population) to 1.5 million in 1995 (2.7 per cent of the population). According to Scenario III, to keep Italy's population from declining from its 1995 size, annual migration flows would have to be more than three times as large, on average, between 1995 and 2050 as was the case between 1990 and 1995. To keep the population in working-age from declining would require more than five times the 1990-1995 annual level of migration. In addition, for scenarios III and IV, the proportions of Italy's population in 2050 that would be made up of post-1995 immigrants or their descendants, 29 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively, are more than 10 times the proportion of the foreign-born population in 1995. Figure IV.8 shows, for scenarios I, II, III and IV, the population of Italy in 2050, indicating the share that are post-1995 migrants and their descendants.

The demographic changes are even greater in scenario V. This scenario requires more than twice as many immigrants between 1995 and 2050 as the total 1995 population of the country. Moreover, nearly four fifths of the resulting 2050 population of 194 million would be made up of post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

In the absence of migration, the figures show that in order to maintain in 2050 the 1995 ratio of 4.1 persons in working-age for each older person past working-age, would require increasing by 2050 the upper limit of the working-age span to 77 years.

TABLE IV.14. POPULATION INDICATORS FOR ITALY BY PERIOD FOR EACH SCENARIO

<i>Scenario</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>	<i>V</i>
<i>Period</i>	<i>Medium variant</i>	<i>Medium variant with zero migration</i>	<i>Constant total population</i>	<i>Constant age group 15-64</i>	<i>Constant ratio 15-64/65 years or older</i>
<i>A. Average annual number of migrants (thousands)</i>					
1995-2000	70	0	75	203	1 261
2000-2025	12	0	214	315	1 310
2025-2050	0	0	289	428	3 225
2000-2050	6	0	251	372	2 268
1995-2050	12	0	235	357	2 176
<i>B. Total number of migrants (thousands)</i>					
1995-2000	350	0	375	1 015	6 305
2000-2025	310	0	5 340	7 887	32 759
2025-2050	0	0	7 229	10 709	80 622
2000-2050	310	0	12 569	18 596	113 381
1995-2050	660	0	12 944	19 610	119 684
<i>C. Total population (thousands)</i>					
1950	47 104	-	-	-	-
1975	55 441	-	-	-	-
1995	57 338	-	-	-	-
2000	57 298	56 950	57 338	58 000	63 477
2025	51 270	50 679	57 338	61 064	96 664
2050	41 197	40 722	57 338	66 395	193 518
<i>D. Age group 0-14 (thousands)</i>					
1950	12 397	-	-	-	-
1975	13 436	-	-	-	-
1995	8 483	-	-	-	-
2000	8 165	8 116	8 214	8 380	9 760
2025	5 871	5 802	7 246	8 013	15 280
2050	4 945	4 888	8 124	9 717	35 615
<i>E. Age group 15-64 (thousands)</i>					
1950	30 817	-	-	-	-
1975	35 326	-	-	-	-
1995	39 234	-	-	-	-
2000	38 721	38 486	38 762	39 234	43 139
2025	32 026	31 659	36 506	39 234	65 358
2050	21 875	21 623	32 985	39 234	126 808
<i>F. Age group 65+ (thousands)</i>					
1950	3 890	-	-	-	-
1975	6 678	-	-	-	-
1995	9 621	-	-	-	-
2000	10 412	10 349	10 362	10 386	10 578
2025	13 373	13 218	13 586	13 817	16 026
2050	14 377	14 211	16 230	17 444	31 094
<i>G. Potential support ratio 15-65/65+</i>					
1950	7.92	-	-	-	-
1975	5.29	-	-	-	-
1995	4.08	-	-	-	-
2000	3.72	3.72	3.74	3.78	4.08
2025	2.39	2.40	2.69	2.84	4.08
2050	1.52	1.52	2.03	2.25	4.08

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Figure IV.7. Age-sex structures by scenario for 2000, 2025 and 2050
(Population in millions)

Medium variant

Constant total population

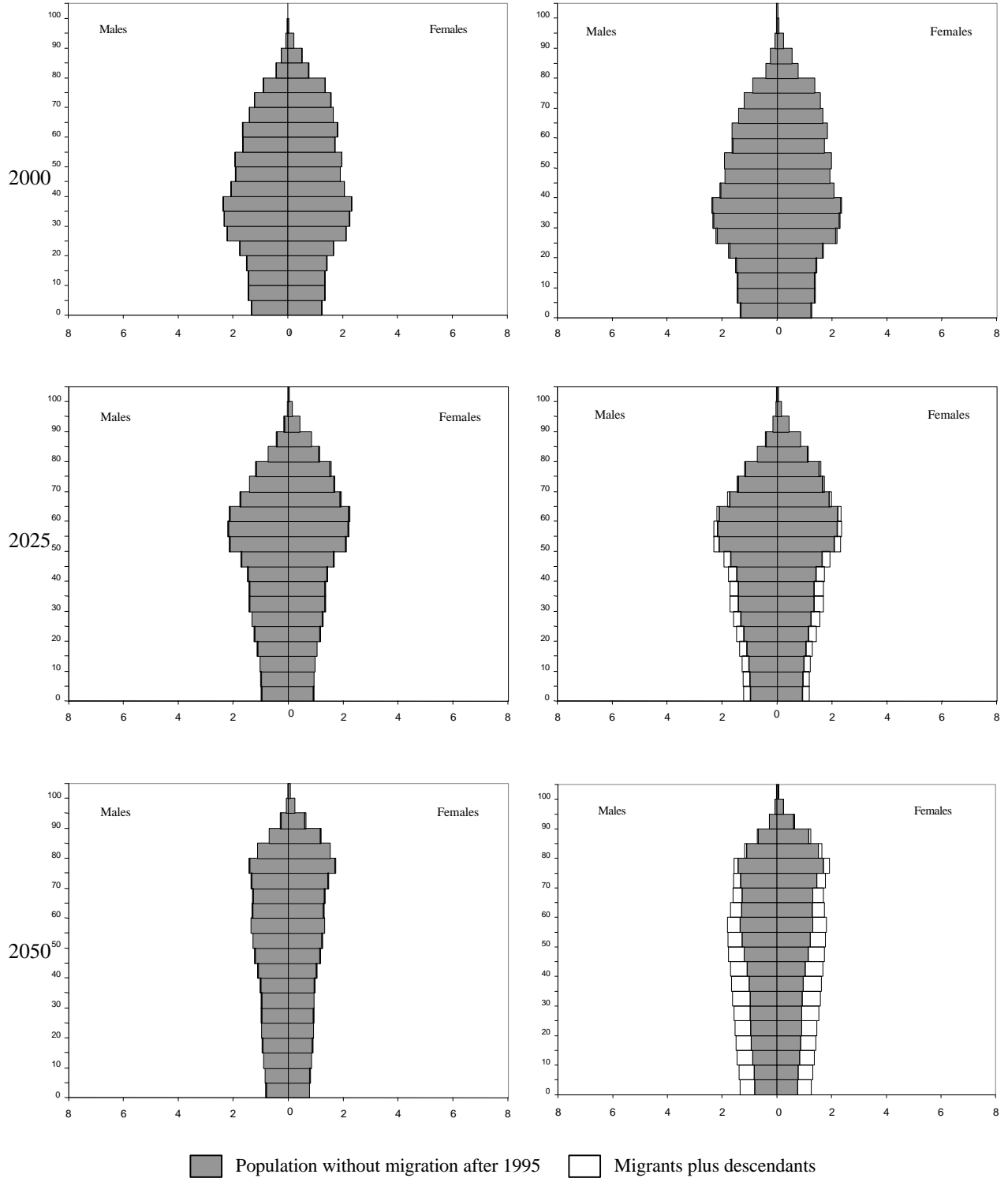


Figure IV.7 (continued)

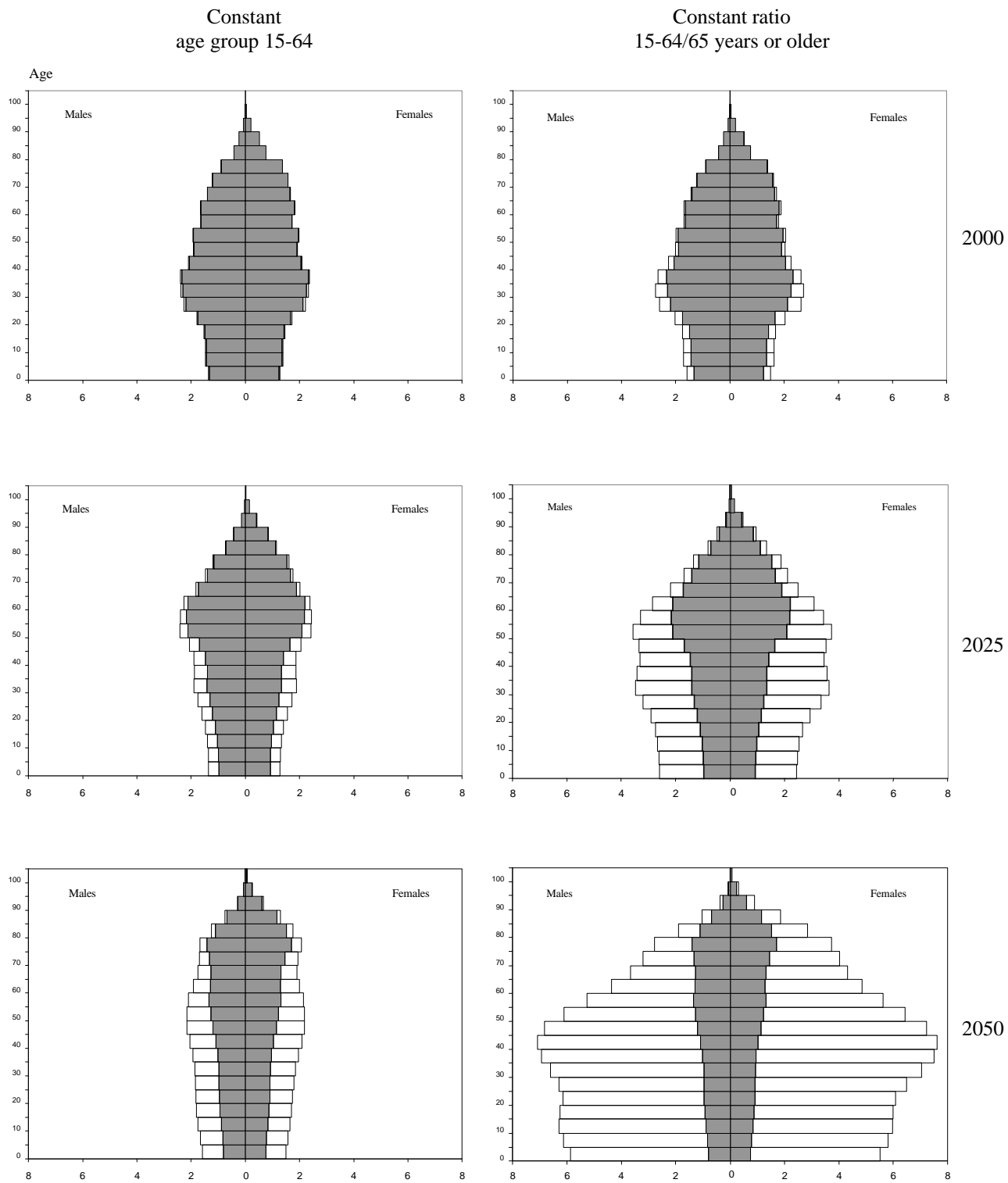


Figure IV.8. Population of Italy in 2050, indicating those who are post-1995 migrants and their descendants, by scenario

