

Economics 125 – Demographic Analysis and Forecasting, Spring 2010

Location/Time	Center Hall, Room 109; T/TH 3:30 pm – 4:50 pm
Instructor	Jeff Tayman Email: jtayman@ucsd.edu
Office Location/Hours	Economics Annex #103; T/TH 2:10 pm – 3:10 pm Map of office location at the end of the syllabus
Class Web Site	webct.ucsd.edu
Teaching Assistants	Kelly Paulson, Econ #113; Wed 11:00 am – 1:00 am Email: kcpaulson@ucsd.edu ,

Course Objectives

This course is designed to teach you the foundations of demographic analysis and forecasting. You will learn: (1) the terminology, methods, and practical guidance needed to create, evaluate, interpret, and use forecasts; (2) fundamental demographic concepts including population size, composition, and change; (3) the measurement, and interpretation of trends and patterns in fertility, mortality, and migration; (4) key relationships between economic and demographic process; and (5) the implications of demographic changes for the social security system.

Required Readings

1. Stanley K. Smith, Jeff Tayman, & David A. Swanson (2001). *State and Local Population Projections: Methodology and Analysis*. New York, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.
2. Articles/Internet links on Electronic Reserve and the course Web page (see page 6 of syllabus).

Academic Integrity

Students found to have violated the Policy on Integrity of Scholarship will face administrative sanctions imposed by their college Dean of Student Affairs and academic sanctions imposed by me. Administrative sanctions can range from disciplinary probation to suspension and dismissal from the university; those are not at my discretion. Academic sanctions can range from 0 points on an assignment to an F in the class.

If you have any questions about academic integrity policy, call (858)-822-2163 or visit the Website (http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/_organizations/academic-integrity-office/).

Course Assessment

Problem Sets— There are seven problem sets. All assignments can be done with an electronic spreadsheet. (Microsoft Excel is available in the computer lab). Inputs to the assignments are on the class Website in the Folder labeled **Assignment/Inputs**. The URL <http://www.usd.edu/trio/tut/excel/index.html> is a link to an Excel tutorial.

Research Paper— A research paper is required (details on page 7-8 of the syllabus).

Exams— There is one mid-term exam and a final exam. The final exam is not cumulative. If you miss the mid-term because of a compelling and fully documented medical excuse or family emergency, your Final will count for 50% of your grade instead of 33%. Missing the midterm for any other reason will result in zero points. There will be no alternate date/time for the final exam. A make-up final will be given in case of a fully documented medical excuse or family emergency.

Pop Quizzes— There are four pop quizzes given randomly, with no make up provision.

Grading— You can earn a maximum of 300 points as follows: Assignments (55 points, 18%), first exam (50 points, 17%), final exam (100 points, 33%), pop quizzes (20 points, 7%), and research paper (75 points, 25%).

You will receive no lower than: an (A-) with 270 points; a (B-) with 240 points; a (C-) with 210 points; and a (D) with 180 points. Depending on the distribution of class points, the above breakpoints may be lowered.

Assessment Expectations

Assignments are due at the start of class; assignments submitted later than 15 minutes after class starts or by email will receive a score of zero.

You have two choices for doing the problem sets and research paper: 1) do them independently without assistance; or 2) do them as a group no larger than **6** people. Each member of the group will receive the same score and all names of the group must be typed on the submission when it is turned in. Group members with handwritten names will receive a score of zero.

It is expected that the problem sets/research paper be completed on your own or as a group and in your own or the group's computations, graphs, tables, and words. You must not use the answers or spreadsheets developed by another person/group, including assignments from previous Econ 125 classes; or copy the work completed by others, including the Economics Tutor; or write the research paper with another person unless he/she is part of your group.

Any individual or group assignment that shares too many similarities with the assignment submitted by another or assignments from past Econ 125 classes will be further investigated to determine if cheating occurred. All suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office according to university policy. If you do not understand these expectations please see me as soon as possible.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings
Mar. 30	Overview and Introduction	Chapter 1
Apr. 1	Fundamentals of Population Analysis	Chapter 2; SANDAG <i>INFO</i> (2006)
Apr. 6	Mortality	Chapter 4; Rogers (1995)
Apr. 8	Fertility	Chapter 5 Jacoby (2008); Demeny (1993); Easterlin (1978)
Apr. 13	Finish Fertility and Migration	Chapter 6
Apr. 15	Migration	Assignment 1 due
Apr. 20	Finish Migration & Exam Review	
Apr. 22	Exam	
Apr. 27	Demographic Change and Social Security	Research Paper Readings Assignment 2 due
Apr. 29	Cohort-Component Method	Chapter 3; Chapter 7; Isserman (1993)
May 4	Cohort-Component Method	
May 6	Trend Extrapolation	Chapter 8 Assignment 3 due
May 11	Trend Extrapolation	
May 13	Economic-Demographic Models	Chapter 9; Hunt (1993) Assignment 4 due
May 18	Economic-Demographic Models	Paper Due
May 20	Special Adjustments to Forecasts	Chapter 11, pp. 239-246 and 248-266 Assignment 5 due
May 25	Special Adjustments to Forecasts	
May 27	Forecast Errors	Chapter 13; Swanson and Tayman (1995) Assignment 6 due
June 1	Forecast Errors	
June 3	Evaluating Projections Final Exam Review	Chapter 12 Assignment 7 due
June 7	Final Exam	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Problem Sets

Assignment 1 (5 pts)

1. Project to the year 2015 San Diego County age specific birth rates (ASBR) and total fertility rate using the targeting method, assuming a 30% convergence to California fertility rates by 2025. (2 pts)
2. Project to the year 2015 age specific survival rates using the synthetic method based on projections for the U.S. (2 pts)
3. Describe the changes in San Diego County ASBR and TFR from 2010 to 2015. (1 pt)

Assignment 2 (10 pts)

1. For San Diego County females, calculate total net migration between 2005 and 2010. (1 pt)
2. For San Diego County females, calculate net migration by age between 2005 and 2010. (4 pts)
3. For San Diego County females, calculate domestic gross in- and out- migration rates by age between 2005 and 2010. (2 pts)
4. For San Diego County females, calculate age-specific cohort change ratios (CCR) between 2005 and 2010. (1 pts)
5. Migration rather than natural increase has been cited as contributing more to recent population growth in San Diego. Based on your results for question 1, would you support or refute this argument? (1 pt)
6. Based on the 2005 to 2010 CCR, what is the main drawback of using the CCR to measure survival probabilities? What is the reason for this drawback? (1 pt)

Note: the 2005-10 domestic in- and out-migration data are only for use in question #3

Assignment 3 (10 pts)

1. Create a 2015 population projection by age for San Diego County females using the cohort-component method (CCM). (5 pts)
2. Compute the components of the female population change from 2010 to 2015. (1 pt)
3. Create a 2015 population projection by age for San Diego County females using the Hamilton-Perry (HP) method. (2 pts)
4. Explain the demographic reasons behind the change in female population from 2010-2015. (1 pt)
5. Describe the difference in the 2015 total female population between the HP and CCM methods? What factor might account for the difference in the two projection methods? (1pt)

Assignment 4 (10 pts)

1. Using 1980 to 2000 as the base period, create population projections for the year 2010 for each geographic subregion in San Diego County using five extrapolation methods: 1) Linear Trend (LINE); 2) Exponential Trend (EXPO); 3) Shift-Share (SHIFT); 4) Share of Growth (SHARE); and 5) Constant Share (CONSTANT). (Use a bottom-up approach for creating the population projection for San Diego County for LINE and EXPO). (4 pts)
2. Describe why the 2010 projections vary across methods. (6 pts)

Problem Sets (Cont.)

Assignment 5 (5 pts)

1. Estimate a regression equation to project net domestic migration based on job change lagged 2-years, using time series data from 1981 to 2009. (1 pts)
2. Using that equation, project net domestic migration for the years 2010 and 2011. (1 pt)
3. Interpret the slope of the equation. (1 pt)
4. How could the equation be improved? (2 pts)

Assignment 6 (5 pts)

1. Create an independent net migration projection for San Diego County females using the 2015 total population projection from the HP method and the birth and death projections from the CCM. (1 pt)
2. Control the 2010-2015 female gross migration projection by age from the CCM to the independent net migration projection. (3 pts)
3. Why did you select that particular controlling method over the other alternatives? (1 pts)

Assignment 7 (10 pts)

1. Using the population forecasts by geographic subregion for 2010, calculate algebraic and absolute percentage errors for each geographic subregion and trend extrapolation method. (2 pts)
2. Calculate the following summary measures for each trend extrapolation method: MALPE, %Pos, MAPE, MEDAPE, and PRE (for the MAPE and MALPE using the naïve forecast). (2 pts)
3. Evaluate the precision, bias, utility, and shape of the error distribution of the trend extrapolation methods. Which method(s) do the best and worst? (6 pts)

Articles/Internet Links on Electronic Reserve/Class Web Site

Fundamentals of Population Analysis	SANDAG. 2006. San Diego region demographic and economic characteristics http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1232_5564.pdf
Mortality	R. Rogers. 1995. Socio-demographic characteristics of long-lived and healthy individuals. <i>Population and Development Review</i> , 21:33-58.
Fertility	J. Jacoby. 2008. A world without children & The coming population bust. The Boston Globe. (On class Website) P. Demeny. 2003. Population policy dilemmas in Europe at the dawn of the twenty-first century. <i>Population and Development Review</i> , 29:1-28 R. Easterlin. 1978. What will 1984 be like? Socioeconomic implications of recent twists in age structure. <i>Demography</i> , 15: 397-432.
Cohort-Component Method	A. Isserman. 1993. The right people, the right rates: Making population estimates and forecasts with an interregional cohort-component model. <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> , 59: 45-64.
Economic-Demographic Models	G. Hunt. 1993. Equilibrium and disequilibrium in migration modeling. <i>Regional Studies</i> , 27: 341-49.
Forecast Error	D. Swanson and J. Tayman. 1995. Between a rock and a hard place: the evaluation of demographic forecasts. <i>Population Research and Policy Review</i> , 14:233-249
Research Paper	B. Beergmann. 2005. Could social security go broke? The Economist Voice, 2(1): Article 10. (On class Website) M. Boskin. 2005. Straight talk on social security. The Economist Voice, 2(1): Article 11. (On class Website) J. Calmes. 2005. How social security might change. The Wall Street Journal. http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB110703449985340148.html P. Diamond and P. Orszag. 2005. Social security: The Diamond-Orszag plan. The Economist Voice, 2(1): Article 8. (On class Website) R. Lee, M. Andersen, and S. Tuljapurkar. 2003. Stochastic forecasts of the social security trust fund. http://repositories.cdlib.org/iber/ceda/papers/2003-0005CL/ D. Myers. 2007. Testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary Ellis Island New York and New Jersey. (On class Website) J. Siegel. 2002. Demographic aspects of selected public policy issues, pp 595-605 in <i>Applied Demography: Applications to Business Government, Law, and Public Policy</i> . Academic Press, San Diego, CA (On class Website) Social Security Administration (SSA). 2009. OASDI Trustees Report (Sections I, II, and V.A, V.B, and V.I.E). http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/TR/2009/trTOC.html R. Weaver. 2008. Bridging the Social Security Divide: Lessons from Abroad. Brooking Policy Brief # 166 http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/06_social_security_weaver.aspx

Research Paper: Topic, Questions, and Scoring

This research paper provides the “real world” opportunity to analyze and evaluate population projections and the impact that fertility, mortality, and migration assumptions can have on the future size of a population and its demographic make-up. The topic of the paper is *U.S. Demographics to the Year 2050 and the Outlook for Social Security*. I hope this will be a challenging and rewarding exercise. Good luck.

The paper should not be based only on data/information from a published source that has already analyzed. It must analyze and draw conclusions from original data, which are national population projections prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau. They are contained in an Excel spreadsheet (US_Pop2000-2050.xls) on the class Website. The **Projections Tab** contains population by selected age groups for the launch year 2000, four horizon years (2010-2050 in 10-year time increments), and four alternatives (low, middle, highest, and no immigration series) The **Assumptions Tab** shows the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions for each alternative. Articles on electronic reserve, the Internet, and the class website are available as resources.

The paper must address these questions (points are shown in parenthesis):

1. What segments of the age distribution most influence the social security system? What measures have been used to relate these segments? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these measures? What one measure is going to be used and why? (10 pts)
2. Based on the selected measure, how does the age distribution vary under the different projection alternatives and why? Which alternatives are the most and least favorable to the social security system and why? (20 points)
3. Based on the selected measure, how does the age distribution vary within the 50-year forecast horizon? What are the reasons for these trends? (5 pts)
4. How would the demographic outlook for social security change if the retirement age was increased to 70 years in the year 2020 and held at that age until the year 2050? (5 points)
5. Which one of the four projection alternatives is most likely to occur (i.e., as a forecast) and why (i.e. specify and justify the total fertility rate, life expectancy, and immigration assumptions)? You may also create assumptions by combining elements from the alternate scenarios or specifying and justifying assumption values not in any scenario. (15 points)
6. Playing the role as president, what strategies would be implemented to address the social security system problem? Why would these be selected over the other strategies being considered? (10 points)
7. Overall Quality: organization; including an Introduction and Conclusion; spelling and grammar; professional looking graphs/tables; proper citations and bibliography; well articulated, concise, supported, and documented arguments (10 pts)

Research Paper: Guidelines

DO

- Include a cover page
- A hands-on analysis of population projections based on the U.S. projection data provided.
- Include an Introduction to provide background information and motivation for the topic (answer the “why we should care” question) and Conclusion summarizing the implications of your findings.
- Proofread the paper carefully. Make sure the paper is well-organized (do an outline before writing word one), has proper grammar and spelling, and effectively communicates your ideas.
- Think about the reader when making tables and graphs. Are they easy to read? Is there a better, cleaner way to display the same information? Does the information help support or clarify the analysis and conclusions? Learning to do this well is an invaluable skill.
- Label and number tables and graphs properly (see SANDAG publication for examples); Include a proper source at the bottom, telling where the data came from; All tables and figures should be cited in the text (e.g. As shown in Figure 1). Don’t split tables and figures across pages.
- Cite all data and references completely (for Websites, this means the complete URL, the date, the organization publishing it). Consult a style manual for the proper way to cite a source.
- Give the analysis the “common-sense” test. It is very possible to make computing mistakes that yield improbable results.

DON'T

- Exceed more than five double-spaced typewritten pages, excluding references, figures, and tables.
- Rely exclusively on data analyzed by others. (Information can be cited from external sources, but the paper must include the analysis of the U.S. projection data).
- Write a boring paper.
- Include extraneous information (verbiage, tables, and charts) that are not helpful in answering the questions, defending a position, or supporting a claim.
- Wait until the last minute to start your paper.
- Plagiarize. If the ideas, data, and findings, etc. come from other sources they must be cited and given appropriate credit.

Professor Tayman Office Location- Economics Annex #103

