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**1. Introduction**

The aim of this study is to highlight the population changes for the Republic of Ireland. Fifteen datasets are available to complete this study and here it goes some detail about how they are formed:

* Population changes we have seven datasets organized in: four types of datasets, first one we have age group by sex, second age group by sex and region, third one year by component as in *“Annual births”, “Annual deaths” ….* Last type goes year by sex and nationality. This data will be used to understand how the population grew and is distributed in Ireland.
* Migratory flows, there are four datasets each one of them has a distinct attribute, first type age group by sex, second one country by sex, third education level and fourth one economic status. These datasets are key to identify which type of immigrants or emigrants get in and out of the country.
* Three datasets explain emigration, attributes across the datasets are almost the same, year by sex and nationality, the only difference between them is year length, 1996-2022, 2006-2022 and 2006-2023. I will be using one of the datasets to see if during *“The Celtic Tiger”* people living in Ireland decided to stay.
* One dataset is exclusively for immigration having year by sex and citizenship, I will be also using this data to get more clarity on *“The Celtic Tiger”* study.

We will not go beyond 1923, however we do have until 2023. In my opinion this is enough time to get a picture of the current demographics. We will get into detail in each of the sections.

**2. Data preparation and visualization**

2.1. EDA

2.2. Method justification

2.3. Visualizations

2.3.1 *Population overview*

It is interesting to study population growth in the Republic Ireland by looking at this figure:

A graph with a line graph and numbers

Description automatically generated

Figure 1: Population Growth

A series of factors are behind the population growth, starting in 1926, population was less than 3 million, and it remained the same until mid-70’s, from there until now population has consistently grow year by year, let me enumerate relevant dates that have shaped these trends:

* Anglo Irish Treaty 1921, Ireland splits from Great Britain, they have shared currency, legal system, and other institutions (O’Rourke, 2017). Economically that had a negative impact on the Irish economy and consequently also affected the population.
* Irish Civil war 1922-1923 (John\_Dorney, 2012), we know that when a country is in conflict, birth rates decrease, and death rates go the opposite way.
* Anglo-Irish economic war (1932-1938), Ireland had introduced protectionist policies that generated an economic war with Britain (cain.ulster.ac.uk, n.d.).
* Mass emigration 1945-1960 (www.encyclopedia.com, n.d.), we can also see a drop during that time in Figure 1.
* 1973 Ireland joins the EU (European Commission, n.d.), this will have beneficial effects on the population from the graph is visible that from that year onwards the population constantly has been growing.
* *“The Celtic Tiger”*, years 1995 to 2007 period of huge economic grow, implementation of low corporate taxes (Investopedia., n.d.).

In a nutshell these are the factors that explain Figure 1, I know I am referring very often to economic factors also, but I firmly believe that economy and population go hand in hand.

To end this subsection, I would like to highlight that average age for 2023 in the ROI is 38.62:

*A graph with a line going up

Description automatically generated*

Figure 2: Average age trend

2.3.2 *Population growth*

In this section we will dig deeper into population growth as we have data from 1987 with several *components* such as *annual births* and *annual deaths* that will allow us to calculate the natural increase rate (NIR):

A white background with black text

Description automatically generated

Figure 3: NIR, CBR and CDR formulas

Also, we will be looking at population growth rate, percentual interannual population variation:

A black text on a white background

Description automatically generated

Figure 4: Population growth rate formula

After processing our data here are the plots:

A graph showing the growth of the country

Description automatically generated

Figure 5: NIR plot

A graph showing the growth of the country

Description automatically generated

Figure 6: Population growth rate plot

The difference between the two is the *net migration*, that is only considered in the population growth rate. In section 2.3.5 we will see that from 1987 to 2023 *immigration* prevail over *emigration* and that being a key factor for population growth rate in the ROI.

2.3.3 *Population pyramids*

Population pyramid charts are an essential tool when analyzing demographics, we can visualize the age and gender distribution of a population. To plot this, we use horizontal bars by gender and age group (coderzcolumn.com, n.d.).

Here I wanted to see pyramid shape for 1926 being the first year with data, 1996 being at the beginning of the *“The Celtic Tiger”*, years 1995 to 2007 (Investopedia., n.d.) and 2023 being the current year.

Here are the results:

A chart with a pyramid shape

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 7: 1926 Pyramid Chart

A chart of a pyramid

Description automatically generated

Figure 8: 1996 Pyramid Chart

A chart with a pyramid shape

Description automatically generated

Figure 9: 2023 Pyramid Chart

The first figure depicts a wide base, showing a big number of young people in the country however it shrinks quickly when climbing up into the older age groups, and it is very thin at the top, this pyramid shape relates to developing countries, making totally sense as the Republic of Ireland had experienced a civil war from 1922-1923 (John\_Dorney, 2012) and was still far from economic growth.

The second pyramid from 1996, has more population in the middle, age groups from 10-14 to 50-54, pyramid shape is starting to look like developed country where we can see wide concentration in the middle (Geography from KS3 to IB, 2019). However, the final pyramid is the one that gives a sense of how the Republic of Ireland is doing in 2023, there is a huge concentration in the middle that means people aged (15-19 to 60-64) to be in the workforce or ready to start. This tells us that the job market demand is being covered by these age groups. And that is a good indicator for this country. As final observation from my graphs gender distribution looks balanced. Please note that I have got inspired on how to produce the pyramids thanks to an online vlog (coderzcolumn.com., n.d.)

2.3.4 *Population density maps*

In this section we are going to study datasets *“PEA04”* and *“PEA07”* composition is nearly the same, however *“Year”* attributes are different (2011-2023) and (1996-2017). The population is distributed according *“NUTS3”* that means *“Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics”* and it was created by Eurostat, to define territorial units across Europe (www.cso.ie, n.d.). To compare how population has changed across regions I will be looking at population per squared kilometer for year 1996 and 2023:

A map of ireland with blue shades

Description automatically generated

Figure 10: 1996 Population density map

Dublin and Mid-East are the most densely populated areas, followed by the Midlands and South-East, the rest of the regions are close to the last two. We already have mentioned that the *“The Celtic Tiger”* started in 1995 and that would encourage to people to move where industries and big corporations are, leaving primary sector areas for more developed ones:

A map of ireland with blue and white colors

Description automatically generated

Figure 11: 2023 Population density map

There is a clear shift of people heading to well-invested areas looking for more opportunities. We must also consider that the high density for Dublin, Mid-East, South-East and South-West is also a consequence of immigration, not only nationals moving to those areas. Important to note that Dublin most of the time will prevail in terms of population density due to its small size compared to the rest.

2.3.5 *Migration analysis*

Examining migration datasets, I have got interesting visuals, as a starter I have migration from 1987 to 2023 divided in two categories, *emigrants*, and *immigrants*, I also plotted a trend line for *net migration*:

A graph of migration from ireland to ireland

Description automatically generated

Figure 12: Migration area plot

Immigration flows are predominant except in three periods 1987-1991, 1993-1995 and 2010-2014. I have clear that last period was triggered by the Irish economic crisis (Piola, 2015).

A natural question to these migration flows is what are the destinations/origins for these fluxes of people transitioning? I have some graphs that will help us to understand this, starting with the emigrants:

A graph of different colored lines

Description automatically generated

Figure 13: Emigration grouped stacked bar

Preferred destination from 1987 to 2001 was *UK*, that shifted to *Australia* from 2002 to 2011 and for the remaining period 2012 to 2023 *UK* regained its dominant position.

Immigrants coming to the Republic of Ireland:

A graph of different colored lines

Description automatically generated

Figure 14: Immigrants grouped stacked bar

The *UK* was the top nationality from 1987 to 2001, *Other countries* seem to be the origin from 2002 to 2023, except for period 2007 to 2011 where *EU15 to EU27(membership after 2004)* have a high number of people coming into Ireland. I did some research for the composition of these categories, and I could find information about *EU15 to EU27(membership after 2004)* countries like Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia fall under this category (European Commission, 2023). For *Other countries* this includes the rest of the world, India and Brazil had a huge increase in 2016 (www.cso.ie, 2023).

Another question that can be answered is which *education level* and *economic status* migrants have?

Starting with *emigrants* numbers for *education level* and *economic status* we have:

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 15: Emigrants by *education level* bar graph

A graph of a number of emigrants

Description automatically generated

Figure 16: Emigrants by *economic status* bar graph

Great insights when looked aside both graphs, because the same datasets *“PEA19”* and *“PEA20”* contain the same total number of people per year, I am going to assume that the same individuals were asked by education and economic status. According to this I see that mainly people who leaves Ireland are *Persons at work* and hold *Third level* education, as well as *Students or pupil* that are at *Higher secondary and below.*

In the other hand we have *immigrants* by *education level* and *economic status*:

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 17: Immigrants by *education level* bar graph

A graph of the republic of ireland immigration

Description automatically generated

Figure 18: Immigrants by *economic status* bar graph

*Persons at work* that hold *Third level* education have the highest number coming into Ireland, followed by *High and secondary and below* that are *Students or pupil.*

It seems that regardless of country of origin/destination migration flows have pretty much the same situation when they decide to migrate.

2.4. Tuft Principles

**3. Statistical Analysis**

As a starter for this section, we will be using dataset PEA11, to find out the standard deviation for population age, also we will plot population distribution and we will see the ratio male/female for this dataset.  
Second dataset to be looked at is PEA18, here the analysis is focused on migration origin/destination.  
The third dataset is PEA19, migration by education level is displayed using box plots.   
The last dataset is PEA20, migration by economic status will be analyzed using trend lines.

3.1. Dataset summary

* **Dataset PEA11:** we find out that standard deviation is very stable for period 1926 to 2023, my interpretation of this result is that there are no outliers, and the data is consistently dispersed around the mean. Regarding the outliers, we must consider that dataset PEA11 is labelling higher group age as *99 years and over*, to keep things simpler I have relabeled this group as *99 years*. Let us see the plot:

A graph of a number of years

Description automatically generated

Figure 19: Standard deviation plot

Starting in 1926 with an average age of 30.65 and a standard deviation of 21.66 all the way to 2023 with average age of 38.62 and standard deviation of 22.80. This is how years are distributed around the mean for this given period. Please note that *“.describe()”* cannot be used to work out the average age for this graph, this function only considers column values. To work out yearly population age average, we required to multiply each age group by its population and add them up, finally dividing by total year population, all calculations are in *CA1\_Code\_sba23021.*

After plotting the population, we have the following:

A graph showing the growth of population

Description automatically generated

Figure 20: Population histogram

We have a skewed left distribution, and this is because we have uninterrupted data entries from 1996 to 2023. From 1926 to 1996, we have data entries every 5 or 10 years getting a low frequency for period 1926-1991 (www.census.nationalarchives.ie, n.d.). If we would have more entries for 1926-1991 this plot would have changed drastically.

Another fact about this dataset is gender distribution:

A blue and red pie chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 21: Gender pie

I find this very interesting as this dataset follows R.A. Fisher principle of *“50:50 sex ratio is almost universal in nature”* (www.blackwellpublishing.com, n.d.). This result backs up findings in *“Figure 1: Population Growth”* there we can also see that both genders go hand in hand.

* **Dataset PEA18:** here we have a couple of figures to illustrate migration destinations and origins:

A pie chart with different colored circles

Description automatically generated

Figure 22: Emigration pie

Obvious that top destinations for Irish emigrants are English-speaking countries. Emigrating flows are 20% higher to country where your language is spoken, compared to a country where our language is not understood (Adserà, 2015).

A pie chart with numbers and a number of people with Crust in the background

Description automatically generated

Figure 23: Immigration pie

Immigrant origin is mainly coming from the rest of the world and European countries, however English-speaking countries are still important.

* **Dataset PEA19:** I have plotted migration by education level using box plots, this kind of graph might be not very descriptive offering exact values or interpretations however we can determine data spread, skewness and finding outliers (Anon, 2021).

**A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated**

Figure 23: Emigration by education level box plot

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 24: Immigrants by education level box plot

* **Dataset PEA20:** Trend lines are very effective methods of visualization, here a couple of examples:

A graph of different colored lines

Description automatically generated

Figure 25: Emigrants by economic status line graph

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated

Figure 26: Immigrants by economic status line graph

In both graphs *Persons at work* and *student or pupil* have the highest numbers overall.

3.2. Binomial and Poisson Distribution

3.2.1 *Binomial*

In this section we will discuss Binomial and Poisson distributions, starting with Binomial distribution we can map this process:

* The sum of all probabilities is one, Iantorno, M. (2023)
* We must find a success to work on.
* Determining success probabilities as *p* is required.
* Number of trials to be set, as *n.* We can also refer to *n* as the sample size.
* We will be defining X as the number of successes:

A black and white math equation

Description automatically generated

Figure 27: Binomial probability formula for the number of successes.

(Weiss et al., 2017, p.264)

Dataset PEA19 suits our needs to model binomial distribution, preparing the dataset we have excluded *“Both sexes”* from column “*Sex”*, also not considered *“Net migration”* and *“Immigrants: All origins”* from column “*Inward\_or\_Outward\_Flow”,* lastly *“All persons”* from column *“Education\_Level”* was drop. This had a subset with the following attributes, *“Year”* from *“2009”* to *“2022”*, *“Sex”* had *“Male”* and *“Female”*, *“Education Level”* had four categories *“Higher secondary and below”, “Post leaving cert”, “Third level”* and *“Not stated”,* as “*Inward\_or\_Outward\_Flow”* we selected *“Emigrants: All destinations”* and finally our *n* would be column *“VALUE”* this is the numbers of individuals leaving Ireland.  
Important to note that I did not use column *“UNIT”* to get the values in thousands, otherwise I had big numbers for *n* and graphs were not working out, I can say that I have done scaling but without doing it, I have literally took the values without any transformation.

Continuing with our success I determined the following: *“Knowing that 4.85% of male emigrants hold post leaving cert. What is the probability of selecting four male emigrants holding leaving cert???*

We have:

*p =* 4.85%

*n =* 41

*x =* 4 and applying binomial distribution we get the following:

A graph with numbers and lines

Description automatically generated

Figure 28: Binomial distribution plot.

We can see that *P(X=4) =* 8.71%.

3.2.2 *Poisson*

In the other hand if we look at Poisson distribution, we have the mean as our parameter commonly denoted by *λ* this is our probability. This distribution is not based on number of trials, instead will use averages (Weiss et al., 2017, p.275).

For the case scenario I considered the same subset as Binomial, however I formulated a different success: *“Knowing that in average 15.15% of female emigrants hold third level education. What is the probability of selecting less than twelve female emigrants holding third level education???*

We have:

*λ =* 15.15 %

*x =* 12 and applying Poisson distribution we get the following:

A graph of a number of female emitting

Description automatically generated

Figure 29: Poisson distribution plot.

We can see that *P(X ≤ 12)* = 25.53%.

3.2.3 *Increasing sample size for Binomial and Poisson distributions.*

I have increased the size sample in both distributions, starting with Binomial:

A graph of a number of male emigrants with leaving lines with Ryugyong Hotel in the background

Description automatically generated

Figure 30: Binomial distribution plot.

Having increased the *n* to 300 probabilities for the number of successes *x =* 4 have decreased from 8.71% to 0.083%. Also, the mean has changed, from 1.97 to 14.40. As this distribution is based on *n,* we can see that by changing it impacts the mean and reduces the probabilities of selecting four male emigrants holding leaving cert.

In the other hand we have Poisson increased from an *x* of 12 to 30. Now the probability of selecting less than 12 females that hold third level education has increased from 25.53 to 99.97%, which makes totally sense as looking at the graph the mean remains constant, however *x* has moved from 12 to 30. That means it is practically covering all the area under the bell 99.97%.

If we increase both sample sizes for Binomial and Poisson, their distributions will look like Normal distributions. I will discuss that further in the next sections.

3.3. Normal distribution

We already saw in the section above how a normal distribution looks like, literally is a bell shape. Looking to find the right dataset to see if I could apply normal distribution or if the data looks normally distributed, I opted to compare a perfectly distributed dataset with a couple of selections I did. Let me explain normal distribution properties (Corporate Finance Institute, n.d.):

* It is symmetric.
* Mean, median, and mode are equal. Mean is zero and standard deviation is one.
* Empirical rule, it describes the behavior of data within a normal distribution. We have three brackets for the data to fall under. First bracket determined by the mean and standard deviation (added and subtracted), µ ± σ, 68% of data are in this range.  
  Second bracket µ ± 2σ, 95% of data is in this range. Third bracket µ ± 3σ, nearly all data lies here, 99.7%
* Skewness and kurtosis coefficients. Skewness to measure the symmetry and kurtosis to measure tail ends thickness against tail ends thickness normally distributed.

To start the analysis, I need it to find a model dataset to plot a normal distribution, I found this great tool online *“statology.org”* (Zach, 2020). It gave a dataset with a thousand records with a mean close to zero and standard deviation close to one:

A diagram of a normal distribution with Ryugyong Hotel in the background

Description automatically generated

Figure 31: Almost a perfectly distributed dataset

I have spent a significant amount of time trying to match this shape with combinations of the fifteen datasets handed over for this assignment, almost impossible. Here are my findings:

A diagram of birth rate distribution

Description automatically generated

Figure 32: Histogram with a Gauss bell for birth rate

This data comes from PEA15, and I calculated the birth rate for the period 1987 and 2023. The length of the sample is thirty-seven and it does not look like figure 31.

Another choice that could have been normally distributed is population average age, from dataset PEA11 and years 1926 to 2023:

A graph of a graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 33: Histogram with a Gauss bell for population average age

Sample size is thirty-nine, by the look of it is not clear if the data follows a normal distribution.

There is method that can help us to determine this, and that is the empirical rule mentioned above. I have tried to implement and proof *“Shapiro-Wilk”* and *“Kolmogorov–Smirnov”* tests (Gupta et al., 2019) without success. For *“Shapiro-Wilk”* I was getting inconsistent results for “*H0 hipothesis”* that is because my datasets where not suitable for this function, every time I run it, hypothesis could be right or wrong. For *“Kolmogorov–Smirnov”* my choices were not designed to fit this test.

Applying normal distribution empirical rule to our model dataset we have:

A diagram of a normal distribution with Ryugyong Hotel in the background

Description automatically generated

Figure 34: Empirical rule histogram model normal distribution

Criteria is met in this scenario, σ₁ = 69.25%, σ₂ = 95.87% and σ₃ = 99.78%.

Empirical rule for the birth rate:

A graph of birth rate distribution

Description automatically generated

Figure 35: Empirical rule histogram birth rate

Criteria is not met in this scenario, σ₁ = 12.46%, σ₂ = 24.62% and σ₃ = 36.20%.

Empirical rule for Population average age:

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated

Figure 36: Empirical rule histogram population average age

Criteria is met in this scenario, σ₁ = 97.61%, σ₂ = 100% and σ₃ = 100%.

I find this method a good choice to determine whether our data is normally distributed or not. Due to the size of our datasets and the number of labels each attribute has, I found it difficult to find normal distribution across the datasets.

3.4. Importance of Binomial and Poisson and variable justification. Discrete variables in a Normal Distribution

Binomial distribution fits perfectly the nature of these datasets, it is doable to calculate probabilities for a certain event and fixing trials. I picked the event for emigrants that hold leaving cert, but many other combinations are possible to apply and demonstrate Binomial.

Likewise, Poisson was easy to apply I did not consider fixed trials, just the average of certain thing happening.

Discrete variables in normal distribution, we already saw it that is possible to approximate them to a normal distributed variable, this happens when sample size *n* was increased. This fact is tied to the *“Central Limit Theorem”* regardless of how data is distributed by increasing sample size discrete variables will tend to normal distribution (LaMorte, 2016).

**4. ML**

4.1. Project management framework CRISP-DM, KDD and SEMMA.

As a project management framework, we are going to discuss each of them in detail. We have CRISP-DM (Cross Industry Standard Process project), KDD (Knowledge Discovery in Databases) and SEMMA (Sample, Explore, Modify, Model, Assess) models.

CRISP-DM has six phases, business/research understanding, data understanding, data preparation, modeling phase, evaluation, and deployment. A real-world example for this framework would be a hospital predicting the length of stay for its patients, based on a series of indicators. This method was conducted using Average Prediction, Multiple Regression, Decision Tree, Artificial Neural Network ensemble, Support Vector Machine and Random Forest. The implementation of this model lead to building successful predictions for the hospitals (Caetano et al., 2015).

A diagram of a data flow

Description automatically generated

Figure : CRISP-DM Flow

KDD in this framework we retrieve and analise the data stored in databases, the entire process consists of seven steps, data cleaning, data integration, data selection, data transformation, data mining, pattern evaluation and knowledge representation. A good example of this method is the use of machine learning in the prediction of sports results. A recent study has been conducted to predict football matches (Głowania et al., 2023).

**A diagram of data processing

Description automatically generated**

Figure : KDD Flow

SEMMA entails five steps, sample, explore, modify, model and assess. This method has been used for Crime Prediction and conducted using article neural networks machine learning concept (Forradellas et al., 2020).

A blue rectangle with white text

Description automatically generated

Figure: SEMMA flow

In PEA20.20231004T131025.csv we have labelled data that is why I have selected supervised machine learning techniques, we can train the model in regard to migration flows depending on people economic status, sex and inward or outward flow.

4.2. ML models

In this section we are going to discuss supervised ML models such as decision tree, random forest, K-nearest neighbor and hyperparameter tunning for support vector classifier.

To implement ML models, I am going to formulate three scenarios:

* First scenario population prediction being our target variable *“Sex”*. Dataset used “*PEA11”*.
* The second scenario comes after the first scenario results. I would like to demonstrate how by changing target variable ratio ML models can give better results.
* Last scenario is created to find out if by using a dataset with more features the same ML can give better results than scenario one. Dataset used *“PEA18”.*

4.3. Results of ML models selected

1. Programming
   1. Programming paradigms used