INTRODUCTION

The graphs presented show the trends of different aspects important for the socio-demographic analysis, which are: total population, population density, number of immigrants (because it influences both the total pop. and the pop. density), poverty rate, and lastly life expectancy.

The graphs are constructed all in similar ways, on the x axis there are always the years, instead on the y axis there are different measurement units based on what we are observing, for example we have number of people in millions, or percentages, or also years.

These kinds of graphs allow us to see and understand easily not only the evolution of these socio-demographic aspects but also significant fluctuations and changes that characterized the period analyzed.

DATA DESCRIPTION

TOTAL POPULATION

Analyzing this graph, we can see a constant growth until 1914 where the number of people went up reaching 6 million people, then the trend slows down for a few years, then showing continuous accelerations and breakings until the 2000s. After those years we can notice a stabilization of the total population of around 10 million people.

The graph shows also a few turning points, like for example in the early and middle of the 1900s where the line first slows down, then has a rapid growth with a strong acceleration. These changes are represented with line bends, that indicates that in those years the number of people was first smaller than the number of people in the years before, and then greater than the number of people in the years before.

POPULATION DENSITY

The graph shows a constant growth until 1950 reaching up to 90 people per km^2, after this acceleration period, it shows a more fluctuating trend that lasts until the present day, with stronger ups and downs. We also have a sort of prediction about the future density of people, characterized by a constant decreasing density, going from 115 people per km^2 in the 2000s to 95 people per km^2 in the 2100s.

Also, this graph shows a few accelerations and breaks. There are, in the early and middle 1900s, periods in which the line slows down for then giving a great acceleration upwards, represented by first a horizontal or almost horizontal line, followed by rapid increase. There are also periods in which the line is a little bit more unpredictable, from 1980 to 2020, where it goes up and down without following a path.

IMMIGRATION

Starting from 1990 we always have a positive sloped line, stating that the number of immigrants always kept increasing until the present days, going from a little more than 400000 in 1990, to almost a million in 2020.

The trend is not linear, so there are years in which the immigration stopped of even decreased, this is the case of years between 2005 and 2010, where the trend shows a decreasing slope, affirming that the number of immigrants in those years even went down.

Then after 2010 the trend started once again to go up but not at the same pace as before 2005 and after 2015, in fact it is clear that the two portions of the line are not linear meaning that in those years the number of immigrants still went up, but after 2015 started increasing more rapidly.

POVERTY RATE

The graph tendentially shows a downward sloping trend, until presents days it also shows an almost linear path. In fact, from 2003 to circa 2011, the poverty rate goes from 22% in 2003 to 17% in 2011. After this constant trend, we have a moment of stalemate, in which the line goes up again till reaching almost 20%, meaning that there has been something that made the poverty rate increase rapidly until 2017.

After that the trend becomes more unpredictable, going way up or way down in just a few years, like the case of the years between 2018 and 2021, where the trend makes this wavy motion, moving from 17% to 16%, then from 16% to 19% and then back to 16% in 2021.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The tendency of the graph is always moving upwards following a linear trend. We can actually divide the graph in three different sections, the first is the smallest one and goes from 1940 to 1950, the second one goes from 1950 to1970, and the last one goes from 1970 to present days.

The first section of the graph is the most instable one, because we start from 52 years and then instantly dropped to 47 years old in 1943, then we a rapid increase of the expectancy till reaching almost 56 years old.

The second section of the graph shows continuous ups and downs but of a small dimension but still moving upwards, stating that the expectancy was still increasing but a really slow pace. There are still small but violent up and down but nothing that impactive on the total movement of the graph.

The third and last section is the most regular one, always increasing, maybe slowing down a little bit but still moving upwards, here we don’t have even the smallest but violent impact on the linear trend, it only moves up linearly, without external movements.

INTERPRETATION

As we already noticed above, all the graphs we analyzed, present a positive description of the situation in Portugal in the last century or more, that is because Portugal has raised his standard in different areas of the social and political world.

More specifically Portugal improved their health system, educational system, political system, it has a constant economic growth, immigration policies.

Health system:

During the 1900s there have been significant improvements in the heath sector, both including infants, so reducing infant mortality, and curing diseases, so researching for vaccines and campaigns against infections. These improvements created a situation where people could live longer and in a healthier way, so both life expectancy and child mortality went down.

Economic growth:

Starting from the 50s Portugal had a huge economic growth because of the industrialization and the improvements made in the agricultural sector, that created new jobs, guarantying to more people a higher salary. Higher salaries caused an internal immigration towards the big cities and caused also a boost in natality, because parents could afford to take care of more children.

Not only has the agricultural sector improved, but also, after Portugal entered in the EU in 1986, the tourism and the service sectors. This created a great immigration flow from the other EU member states, because people saw in Portugal an opportunity to find jobs that weren’t accessible in their country, causing also a boost in immigration.

Immigration:

During the 1900s Portugal has been the subject of great immigration flows, both internal and external. Internal because people, looking for jobs, moved from rural places to the big cities, and external because the expansion of different sectors attracted foreigners from nearby countries searching for job opportunities.

Portugal attracts a lot of immigrants also because of its political position in favor of immigration, recognizing the value, culturally and economically, that these immigrants can bring.

Portugal made the process of becoming a Portuguese citizen easier, making stabilizing yourself in Portugal more attractive to foreigners.

Political stability:

Portugal is considered a relatively stable and safe country, with a high quality of life. This perception has attracted many immigrants looking for a quiet and welcoming environment to live and work.

In a global context of political uncertainties and conflicts, Portugal has established itself as a preferred destination for those seeking a better life, further increasing migration flows.

Investments in education:

In the last decades Portugal spent a lot of the public budget for educational improvements. Improving access to education helped to solve the problem of youth unemployment and help reduce general unemployment.

A more educated population tends to earn more and not being subject to poverty, reducing also the rate of general poverty of the country.

The educational system influenced also life expectancy. Better access to education brought a better understanding of a healthy lifestyle, nutrition and disease prevention. All the sensibilization campaigns about healthy habits encouraged healthier behaviors, that caused an increment in life expectancy.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion all these graphs give us a clear and accurate illustration of the socio-demographic aspects of Portugal in last century. Generally speaking, we have a constant growth until the 1990s then a few breaking and then other accelerations, marking the dynamism of these aspects.

Still remains fundamental to learn and understand these data and graphs to be able to analyze future expectations of the Portuguese society.