In the previous post, we looked at the changes in Ukraine’s youth (ages 0-14) demographic from 1993 to the present. The general direction was a downward trend with a slight uptick between 2010 and 2020. The UN projection for this demographic until 2040 corroborated this trend.

This statistic along suggests Ukraine may be facing a youth deficiency in the coming years and decades. This resembles a trend similar to more developed countries such as Japan and Germany. To understand the impact of the country’s changing population as a contributing factor to the economy, it is essential to analyze all demographic changes.

For this post, we’re going to look at the middle age and aging demographics as well Ukraine’s total population trajectory to gain a complete understanding of the role population will have in the near future.

Using the same World Bank dataset from the previous post, I created segments for three new demographic categories: All Ages, Ages 15-64 and Ages 65+. We will begin by getting an idea of the changes of these three age ranges over the past 25 years, or two years after Ukrainian Independence. I chose a new visual style to plot these segments. Matplotlib’s FiveThirtyEight style graph, modeled after the visual styles of famous statistics website, allows us to easily look at multiple segments.

**Graph 1**

The general trajectory for all of Ukraine’s population has been in a relatively gradual decline since 1993. The total population decline is happening faster than that of the 15-64 demographic because of the slightly steeper decline of the youth population discussed in the previous post. Interestingly, the older demographic has remained relatively consistent.

Looking to the future, we know that Ukraine’s labor force is going to be smaller in the next 25 years than it was in the previous 25. To get a complete picture, however we need to look at the total projected population trend over this same time span as well.

**Graph 2**

The United Nations’ prediction for Ukraine’s population follows the same general decline we saw when looking at the trajectory for the youth demographic.

Population change is not inherently good nor bad for economic growth. As demographics change and countries become wealthier, families tend to have fewer children. In the case of Ukraine, we can see that the 65+ age group has been the most consistent in retaining its numbers. A declining youth and productive age population generally does not bode well for economic prosperity due to the lower projected numbers in Ukraine’s labor force paying into the system which supports the elderly. This indicator is the most significant takeaway from analyzing population change.

**Graph 3**

The graph above plots both of the World Banks’ data on population change. The UN’s projection for Ukraine’s population after 2018 is represented by the dotted line.

Next, we will look at more direct economic indicators such as changes in GDP, GDP per capita and foreign direct investment to make more accurate predictions for the future of Ukraine’s economy.