

Demographic Essay on Economics Behavior of Old-aged Person in Southwest of Brazil

Mauro Barcellos Sopena¹
Lauro Müller Brinck²

Abstract: The aim of this demographic essay is to show some aspects of the economics behavior of old-aged person and their familiar income in southwest of Brazil, based on research project held at *Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul – Uruguaiana*. The study tries to investigate in what extent the old-aged person participation on the familiar income determines his condition in the family. The paper is divided into three parts: the first part describes the data source of research; the second debates the main data; the last part is more conclusive and shows aspects about the old-aged person within his family. Based on *Uruguaiana* population, it was possible to register important data on the participation of old-aged person in the familiar income.

Keywords: Demographic; Old-aged person; Population; Familiar Income.

Introduction

This paper analyses the old-aged population of Uruguaiana. The city is located in the south of Brazil, border with Argentina. With 126,6 thousand residents, a yearly rate of population growth of 1,71% and a density of population of 22,19 persons per Km², the city has an increasing percent rate of old-aged people (60 years or more) in its population grand total since 1920. The population composition in terms of age shows, between 1920 and 1996, a common phenomenon within others countries: the aging population.

The first table shows the percent of age population composition in Uruguaiana. We can see that youth population decreases (%T) while the older population increases (T%) more and more. There was near 4% of population with 60 years or more on 1920. This same percent

¹ Economist, Master in Economics, Researcher and Professor at PUCRS Campus Uruguaiana. sopena@pucrs.campus2.br

² Research assistantship holder of PUC RS Campus Uruguaiana. lauro.brinck@uol.com.br. The authors thank the contribution of the Prof. Hilário Petry in the ordinance of the data.

increases, year by year, and in 1996 (last data), there was 7,80% of old-aged people in the city as follow.

TABLE 1. POPULATION COMPOSITION IN TERMS OF AGE - URUGUAIANA - %T

Date	0-19 years		20-59 years		60 years or more	
1920	53.32		42.50		4.18	
1940	47.54	-	47.34	+	5.12	+
1960	50.09	+	44.11	-	5.80	+
1970	50.29	+	43.66	-	6.05	+
1980	46.34	-	46.45	+	7.21	+
1991	42.94	-	49.52	+	7.54	+
1996	41.14	-	51.06	+	7.80	+

Data Source: FEE/RS: Um Século de População do Rio Grande do Sul. Porto Alegre: 2001

Fundamentally, the aging population is determined through fecundity. The persistent decreasing of fecundity in Brazil proves this phenomenon, see for example, MOREIRA, M. 1998 and WONG, R. ; MOREIRA, M. 2000. The analysis of old-aged people in this demographic set is very important. The old-aged person interest in his familiar income permits to appreciate his economics behavior by analysis of some expenses. This paper deals with this aspect considering that the old-aged person is also a purveyor in his family.

1. Data Source Analysis

Based on scientific research of Campus II PUCRS, it was possible to test the hypothesis that the old-aged person is also a purveyor in his family. Using the questionnaires as a data source, the following variables were searched³:

1. total familiar income.
2. number of members in the family.
3. income of old-aged people.
4. expenses of old-aged people.

³ About some data source in this research: Incomes and expenses researched are reputed in monthly data.

There was, in Uruguaiana, 7,80% of people with 60 years or more in 1996, something like 9,740 old-aged people. Questionnaires were used as sample, it was researched 95 families with old-aged people between July and August of 2003, and tried to answer various questions about the old-aged people living condition.

The distribution of data of this research is the following: Analysis of the population composition in terms of age in the first table. Table 2 shows the participation of income of old-aged people in familiar income. Types of expenses of old-aged people by income level are registered in table 3 and the last table shows the number of people living with the old-aged person by income level.

2. Income and Expenses

The interest of income of an old-aged person in his family income is an important data within this study. First of all, we can observe that the income of old-aged people is present in various levels of familiar income. In fact, we can notice an increase in level < 350,00, while level 551 - 1000 is almost the same as level 1001 - 2000. It would be important to appreciate this data:

TABLE 2. INTEREST OF INCOME OF OLD-AGED IN FAMILIAR INCOME - %T

Total Familiar Income by Level	Number of old-ageds by Income Level										
	< 350		351 - 550		551 - 1000		1001 - 2000		2001 or more		Total
200,00 - 500,00	27	28,42%	2	2,11%						30,53%	
501,00 - 1.000,00	20	21,05%	5	5,26%	10	10,53%					36,84%
1.001,00 - 2.000,00	6	6,32%	4	4,21%	1	1,05%	4	4,21%			15,79%
2.001,00 - 2.500,00	-	-	-	-	3	3,16%	3	3,16%	-	-	6,32%
2.501,00 - 3.000,00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,05%	1,05%
3.001,00 or more	1	1,05%	-	-	1	1,05%	1	1,05%	6	6,32%	9,47%
Total	56,84%		11,58%		15,79%		8,42%		7,37%		100%

Data Source: Research/PUCRS

The data suggests two fundamental issues: (1) the retirement system in Brazil is very important to the formation of the income of old-aged people. Moreover (2) in majority levels it presents some registers. Hence, the data proves that the old-aged people participation is

important on the family's researched, therefore in the researched families the old-aged people contributed with some types of income.

Other data show aspects on the interest of old-aged person's income in his family and may enrich the understanding of his condition in the family. Table 3 organizes information about the expenses of old-aged people by income level. An important fact, which is showed in this research, is that the old-aged assumes different expenditures, despite of the considered level of income. However, it is observed that the expenditures with habitation and food are considered the most representative ones. Parallel to the increase of these expenses, there is also an increase in the transportation and breeding whenever the income increases.

TABLE 3. TYPE OF EXPENSES REGISTERED OF OLD-AGED BY INCOME LEVEL - %T

Expenses↓	Income→	< 350		351 - 550		551 - 1000		1001 - 2000		2001 or more		Total
Habitation		46	14,5	14	4,4	26	8,2	14	4,4	14	4,4	35,9%
Transportation		2	0,6	-	-	5	1,6	-	-	4	1,3	3,5%
Health		28	8,8	6	1,9	5	1,6	5	1,6	5	1,6	15,5%
Food		32	10,1	8	2,5	13	4,1	8	2,5	7	2,2	21,4%
Breeding		-	-	-	-	3	0,9	1	0,3	4	1,3	2,5%
Wearing		11	3,5	4	1,3	7	2,2	4	1,3	6	1,9	10,2%
Taxes		11	3,5	4	1,3	9	2,8	4	1,3	7	2,2	11,1%
Total			41,00%		11,40%		21,40%		11,40%		14,90%	100%

Data Source: Research/PUC RS

According to the situation, it was possible to conclude that many familiar expenses are assumed by old-aged people. It is important to show that their incomes are present in the total income of the family, in fact, these data also suggest the existence of transference of income inside of the family.

3. Purveyor or Dependent?

The population aging and their consequences change the position of the old-aged people which is not the same anymore. These data describe this change and show the old-aged people as participant of the process. It is easier to notice that their expenditures and their incomes are significant for the family and, that nowadays, the incomes of retirement or work assist the

expenses of all individuals of the family. Another data that prove the condition of supplier are the number of individuals who forms the family.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF PERSONS LIVING WITH THE OLD-AGED BY INCOME LEVEL- %T

Persons	< 350		351 - 550		551 - 1000		1001 - 2000		2001 or more		Total
1	17	17,89%	4	4,21%	6	6,32%	4	4,21%	2	2,11%	34,7%
2	16	16,84%	1	1,05%	3	3,16%	1	1,05%	1	1,05%	23,2%
3	6	6,32%	1	1,05%	1	1,05%	2	2,11%	-	-	10,5%
4	9	9,47%	3	3,16%	1	1,05%	1	1,05%	2	2,11%	16,8%
5	1	1,05%	-	-	2	2,11%	-	-	1	1,05%	4,2%
6	1	1,05%	1	1,05%	2	2,11%	-	-	-	-	4,2%
7	1	1,05%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,05%	2,1%
8 or more	3	3,16%	1	1,05%	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,2%
Total	54	56,84%	11	11,58%	15	15,79%	8	8,42%	7	7,37%	100%

Data Source: Research/PUC RS

The analysis of the frequency of people living with old-aged people is not usual. Even so, this is a possible theoretical approach because the number of people living with old-aged people by income level is also an indicative to their condition in the family. The general data show that more than a half of old-aged people live with one or two people (34,7% and 23,2%). On the other hand, in the band of inferior income R\$ 350,00 the percentage is still bigger. There is no register of families with more than 4 people in the band of income R\$ 1.001,00 or R\$ 2.001,00. When we look at the previous table we conclude that:

1. in the first level of income, the expenses with habitation and food are important and 33/54 old-aged people live only with one or two people.
2. In high levels of income (R\$ 2001,00 or more), transport and breeding increase the expenses, at the same time, from the 7 cases registered, the size of the family is not influenced significantly.

Thus, it is important to observe that although the types of expenses can change with the income level, the family structure is not always modified.

It is also perceived that the old-aged person participates economically in all the income levels and in any familiar structure. We must keep in mind that the results should not be interpreted as definitive because they only supply subsidies for other analysis.

This work deals with the ample question, in the direction to detach the debate in Brazil. The central objective was to open the debate and to supply the researched data so that new researches can appear. Finally, we suggest that this phenomenon should be analyzed more particularly in some other aspects.

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