Population ageing in aged population.
A focus on Italian retired

Cecilia REYNAUD[1] , Sara BASSO[2], Sara MICCOLI[3]

[1]Roma Tre University, via G. Chiabrera, 199, 00145 Rome,
cecilia.reynaud@uniroma3.it
[2]ISTAT, via Cesare Balbo 16, 00184 Roma, basso@istat.it
[3]Sapienza University of Rome, via del Castro Laurenziano 9, 00161 Rome,
sara.miccoli@uniroma1.it

Abstract

Italy is the oldest countries in Europe and is the second in the world after Japan. The share of population 65+ aged was in Italy, in 2017 and its increase in the future is already written. The weight of ageing depends both on the pensions and the cost of maintaining an elderly population. The age structure of the working age population is already changed and is changing. In light of these changes, it is important to analyse the distributed retired people and retirement benefits. We aim to analyse the elderly population distinguishing by retired and not retired people. Data on retirement benefits are available thanks to our research project at the Italian Social Security Institute (INPS). We want to classify retired people on basis of the retirement characteristic describing the elderly population on the basis of the classification proposed. We want to analyse the "weight" of retired people in every generation. The analysis by generation allows to highlight how the propensity to retire is changing in passage of time by eliminating the external and economic influence.

The awareness that the elderly population of fifty or thirty years ago can not be considered equal to that of today, leads to the need for analyses that allow to deepen the study of ageing.

These analyses will make it possible to highlight the impact of increasing ageing and its sustainability.

1   Introduction

In the last decades, demographic transformations have quietly changed the population structure and consequently the roles of people. It does not actually represent a negative result, but it requires an adjustment for all aspects of our society, social and economic (Golini, 2000).

Population ageing, both in absolute and relative terms, and its increase in the future, at least for the next 25 years – excluding migration component – is already written by the populations' inertia: the potential mothers have already been born, in fewer numbers

than their mothers, and mortality levels are not subject to considerable fluctuations (Reher, 2015).

The share of population 65+ aged was in Italy, in 2017, 22.3% while in 1985 (more or less one generation before) 12.9%. The increasing percentage of the elderly population has already caused and will do family and economic and welfare imbalances (Schoeni, Ofstedal, 2010). Welfare systems have to face the question related to the ageing and try to change and adapt their own framework.

The weight of ageing depends both on the pensions, since "the social security burden will tend to weigh increasingly on a gradually decreasing number of workers" (Garibaldi, Makovec, 2000), and the cost of maintaining an elderly population, with important health and assistance needs, which falls almost entirely on families (Del Boca, Rosina, 2009).

The age structure of the working age population is already changed but also the pension system, as the downside, needs to be change. In light of these changes, it is important to analyse the distributed retirement benefits, their typologies and amounts. This analysis allows to understand the economic status, retirement choices for the generations.

We aim to analyse the elderly population distinguishing by retired and not retired people. We want to classify retired people on basis of the retirement characteristic. In order to quantify the "weight" of retired people, we study ageing population trend in Italy and in sub-national area in three specific date from 1.1.1996 until now.

Furthermore, we want to analyse the "weight" of retired people in every generation. The analysis by generation allows to highlight how the propensity to retire is changing in passage of time by eliminating the external and economic influence.

2 Data and methods

Data on retirement benefits are available thanks to the VISITINPS ("VisitInps scholars" programme) research project (started on 10.10.2009) of the Italian Social Security Institute (INPS). Data are available from 1996 to 2017. We use also Istat data of Inter-census population estimates from 1.1.1996 to 1.1.2011 and population registers from 1.1.2012 to 1.1.2018 by age and sex and by major socio-economic region (NUTS1).

The first step is to categorize retired by generation and/or age group, gender and distribution.

The aim is to classify the elderly population into 3 groups. *Group 1*: people who receive a retirement benefits for previous jobs; *group 2*: people who receive retirement benefits by welfare; *group 3*: those who do not receive a retirement benefits. This last group is obtained as a complement to the total population of retired people.

The aim is to describe the elderly population on the basis of the classification proposed on three dates (1.1.1996, 1.1.2006 and 1.1.2016) by age, sex and major socio-economic region. The aim is to calculate the ageing indicators – proportion of over65 and old-age dependency ratio – using our classification in order to investigate the 'weight' of people without retirement benefits on the rest of the population and on the population of working age. We want to consider also the 'weight' of the retired population on workers. Similarly, we want to calculate the 'weight' of the three groups within each generation that we can follow in passage of time from 1996 (where the youngest cohort was born in 1936) to 2017 (where the youngest was born in 1957).

3 Expected results

The classification of the elderly population on the three selected dates shows an increasing but differential ageing process by retirement benefits' characteristics. The percentage of retired within each generation has increased over time. In Italy, the higher participation of women in the labour market can only be seen from the generations of the 1950s onwards. The INPS data allow us to analyse the transition to retirement of the generations of the 1940s.

In Italy (such as in many couuntries), pension system is based on intergenerational solidarity, so the size of different generations can be an important source of social inequality (Kholi, 2015). The importance of studying retired people by generation is also due to fact that cohorts entering older age are healthier than previous ones and they have a longer survival (Bloom et al., 2015).

The awareness that the elderly population of fifty or thirty years ago can not be considered equal to that of today, for living conditions, health and economic, leads to the need for analyses that allow to deepen the study of aging.

These analyses will make it possible to highlight the impact of increasing ageing and its sustainability.

4 References

Bloom, D. E., Chatterji, S., Kowal, P., Lloyd-Sherlock, P., McKee, M., Rechel, B., & Smith, J. P. (2015). "Macroeconomic implications of population ageing and selected policy responses." *The Lancet*, 385(9968), 649-657.

Del Boca D., Rosina A. (2009) *Famiglie sole. Sopravvivere con un welfare inefficiente.* Il Mulino, Bologna.

Garibaldi P., Makovec M, (2000), Chi lavora nel mondo" *I box della fondazione Rodolfo De Benedetti.*

Golini A. (2000), "Possible policy responses to population ageing and population decline. The case of Italy", Policy responses to population decline and ageing, *Population Bullettin of the United Nations* Special issue 44-45.

Kohli, M. (2015). Generations in aging societies: Inequalities, cleavages, conflicts. In Challenges of Aging (pp. 265-288). Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Reher, D. S. (2015), "Baby booms, busts, and population ageing in the developed world". *Population studies*, 69(sup1), S57-S68.

Schoeni R.F., Ofstedal M.B. (2010), "Key Themes in Research on the Demography of Aging", *Demography*, 47, Supplement, S5-S15.