Fertility Patterns in Portugal

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Live Births and Female Population (15-49), in Portugal, 1950-2009
PTFRs and MACs, in Portugal, 1950-2009

- Total Fertility Rate
- Mean Age of the mother
- Mean Age at Childbearing
- Mean age at first birth
TEMPO EFFECT
Age-specific fertility rates, by age
Age-specific fertility rates over age and over time
FERTILITY PATTERNS

How does the usual five-year age groups behaved differently?
Fertility Rates by age, from 1950 to 2009
Fertility Rates by age
Fertility Rates by age
FERTILITY PATTERNS

The behavior of parity fertility in the last decade
Parity - TFR and MAC

[Graphs showing trends in Total Period Fertility Rates (TFR) and Mean Age at First Birth, Second Birth, and Third Birth over calendar years.]
Parity-specific fertility rates
Which factors did influence the fertility decisions of the couples?

Macro social and economical factors related to:
- Per capita income
- Unemployment
- General wealthy
- Women education level
  - More educated women have more children
- Women's participation in the labor market
  - Employed women have more children
- Gender equality
Which factors did influence the fertility decisions of the couples?

- **Gender inequality**
  - Increase in employment of women without a symmetrical division of housework (a double burden for women with children)

- **Level of women education**
  - *Higher income (higher capacity for outsourcing)*
Socio-economic factors

Some authors state that fertility in the early twenty-first century will depend on:

– Society’s ability to mitigate the personal cost (direct or in terms of lost opportunities) felt by mothers with children
What else did change?
The influence of the Immigration on the TFRs

- The living births of foreign mothers raised:
  - From 2.3% (1995) to 10.5% (2009)
  - Without the contribution of immigrants the current values of TFRs would be even lower
  - The low number of foreign women did not influence the mean age of childbearing
Decline in the desired number of children

• According to the Fertility and Family Survey, the average number of desired children was:
  • 2.29 (1980)
  • 1.97 (1997)

• According to the 2006 Eurobarometer data for Portugal there was:
  – An average value of 2.09 desired children but only 1.11 were born
European Social Survey, round 2 (2005)

• Question: “Do you plan to have children in the next 3 years?”

• Conclusion of data analysis:
  
  – Spaniards always had shown higher probabilities of being parents than the Portuguese for all the fertile age groups.

  – So, we expected that the fertility rates in Spain will attain higher values than in Portugal till 2008 … what really happened.
Difference between the desired and the actual number of children

Young people are having fewer children than those they would like to have

If this is true, then the public policies, either national or at local level, could have some success

However, final choices are influenced mostly by the circumstances
POLICY MEASURES

• Policy measures aiming a strong economy with low unemployment and good prospects for the young will stimulate fertility.

• The consequences of the actual economical and financial crises on fertility rates are still unpredictable...

• ... but we expect that Portuguese fertility will (slightly) increase in the near future caused by a change in postponement behavior of older women.
Fertility Rates by age