

# Abstracts of Articles Published in the Journal *Demografie* in 2025 (Nos. 1–3)

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## SENIORS IN THE SOUTH KOREAN WORKFORCE: THE CHALLENGES OF AN AGEING POPULATION

Population ageing is associated with many challenges, one of those most frequently discussed is the sustainability of social and pension systems. In the context of increasing life expectancy, a common issue, for example, is the age of entitlement to retirement pensions and the possibility of motivating people to stay longer in the labour market. The population of South Korea, one of the fastest ageing populations in the world, which also has a high level of senior participation in the labour market, can serve as an important inspiration and source of information for European populations. The aim of this paper is to provide a brief description of the labour market position of the elderly in South Korea, along with identifying key factors that can influence the economic activity of older people. Using data from the Korean Longitudinal Study of Ageing sample survey and applying binary logistic regression analysis, the research this article is based on, confirms that the high labour market participation of Korean seniors is likely associated more with their need to improve their financial security than with a personal interest or need for self-fulfilment. This can be seen as a reflection of the pension and welfare systems' inadequate preparedness for a fundamental change in the age structure. The chances of participating in the labour market are lower for women, people with poor health, and, logically, older people. It is these groups of the population that are at increased risk of poverty. European countries can take advantage of the lower pace of population ageing to prepare more effectively for the challenges that this process is likely to bring in terms of financial security once the workforce is no longer economically active.

**Keywords:** South Korea, population ageing, economic activity, pension systém

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### FERTILITY FACTORS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MOTHERS OF LARGE FAMILIES

This study investigates the perceptions of fertility factors among highly educated and Catholic mothers living in Slovak cities who have large families, which are defined as families with three or more children. While considerable research has focused on the determinants of fertility, particularly in relation to the first and second child, the factors influencing the decision to have a larger family remain underexplored. I seek to fill this gap in part by examining how Slovak mothers of large families perceive various fertility factors that have contradictory effects on reproductive behaviour. Using in-depth interviews, the study reveals several heterogeneous perceptions within my homogenous population, especially in the case of factors such as financial costs and institutional childcare. However, the perceived benefits of having children, rooted in religious beliefs, clearly outweighed concerns about career impacts or family budget constraints.

**Keywords:** large family, fertility, religiosity, female education, family policy

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### RELIABILITY OF CAUSES OF DEATH RECORDED BETWEEN 1842 AND 2006: A COMPARISON OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND WRITTEN SOURCES FROM CENTRAL BOHEMIA

Determining the causes of death in the past on the basis of historical-demographic research encounters the problem of the credibility of extant sources. However, interdisciplinary collaboration between historical demographers and physical anthropologists presents a unique opportunity to verify their informative value. The aim of this study is to verify to what extent the cause of death stated in historical written records corresponds with the finding on the skeleton. The studied sample consists of skeletal remains of 97 individuals from Bohemia, Czech Republic, died between 1842 and 2006 from the genealogically documented collection of the Department of Anthropology in the National Museum in Prague. The results showed a significant disproportion between the information recorded in vital records and the results of anthropological analysis. These were mainly unrecognized ethnic diseases that left clear marks on the skeleton as a result of osteolytic metastases. The disparities found illustrate the need for interdisciplinary cooperation in researching past mortality.

**Keywords:** cause of death, credibility, historical-demography, paleopathology, vital records

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## MATERNAL EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCES IN POLAND AND SLOVAKIA

This study examines the preferences of men and women towards maternal employment, focusing on mothers with pre-school-age and school-age children in Poland and Slovakia and utilising data from the Family and Changing Gender Roles V module (2022) in the International Social Survey Programme. Despite progress in achieving gender-equal access to paid leave and the increasing number of pre-school facilities, maternal employment has remained low in these countries, especially among mothers with children aged 0–2. The results indicate that Poles exhibit a stronger preference for mothers with a child under school age staying at home, while Slovaks are more supportive of maternal employment, particularly on a part-time basis. For mothers with school-age children, full-time employment is broadly supported in both countries. These findings highlight persistent cultural barriers in Poland and the positive impact of policy measures implemented in Slovakia to increase and support maternal employment.

**Keywords:** maternal employment, gender roles, traditional and egalitarian attitudes, parental leave, pre-school facilities, family policy, work-life balance

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## PROBABILISTIC INTERVALS AROUND POPULATION FORECASTS: A NEW APPROACH WITH A SUBNATIONAL EXAMPLE USING WASHINGTON STATE COUNTIES

Population forecasts produced by governments at all levels are used in the public sector, the private sector, and by researchers. They have been primarily produced using deterministic methods. This paper shows how a method for producing measures of uncertainty can be applied to existing subnational population forecasts while meeting several important criteria, including the concept of utility. The paper includes an assessment of the efficacy of the method by: (1) examining the change in uncertainty intervals it produces by population size and population growth rate; and (2) comparing the width and temporal change of the uncertainty intervals it produces to the width and temporal change of uncertainty intervals produced by a Bayesian approach. The approach follows the logic of the Espenshade-Tayman method for producing confidence intervals in conjunction with ARIMA equations to construct a probabilistic interval around the total populations forecasted from the Cohort Component Method, the typical approach used by demographers. The paper finds that population size and population growth rate are related to the width of the forecast intervals, with size being the stronger predictor, and the intervals from the proposed method are not dissimilar to those produced by a Bayesian approach. This approach appears to be well-suited for generating probabilistic population forecasts in the United States and elsewhere where these forecasts are routinely produced. It has a higher level of utility, is simpler, and is more accessible to those tasked with producing measures of uncertainty around population forecasts.

**Keywords:** ARIMA, Bayesian Methods, Cohort Forecasting Methods, Espenshade-Tayman Method, Forecast Uncertainty, Utility

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